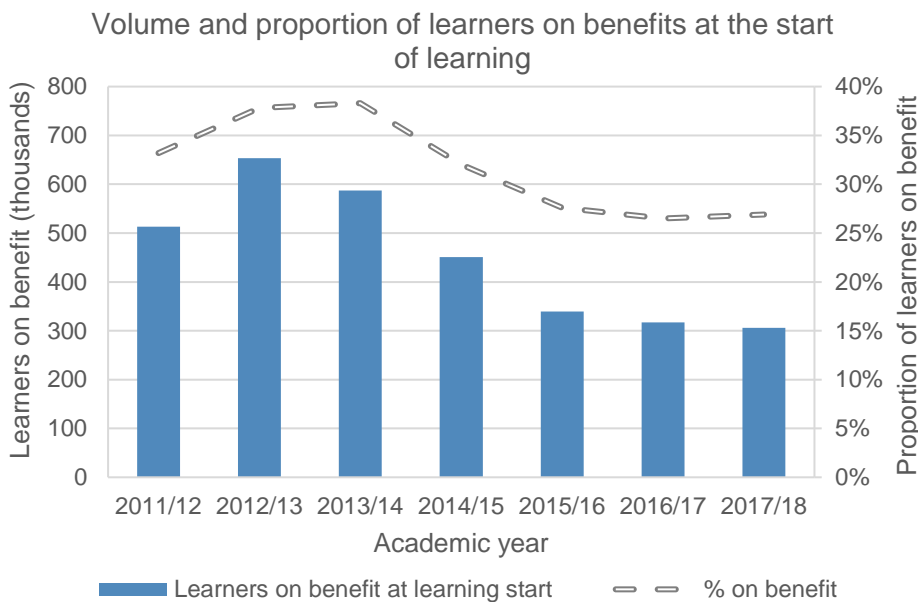




27 June 2019

Experimental Statistics

In 2017/18, there was a small increase in the proportion of adult further education learners on benefit at the start of learning compared with the previous year



Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets

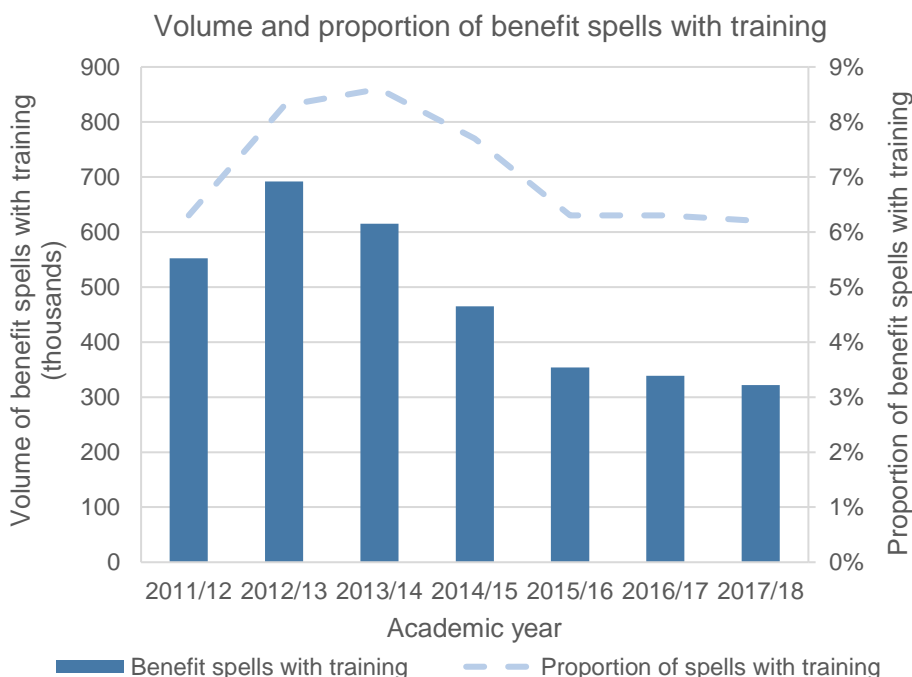
In 2017/18, 26.9 per cent of adult (19-64) learners were on benefit at the start of learning.

This is a small increase of 0.4 percentage points (ppts) on 2016/17 (26.5 per cent) but 11.4 ppts lower than the peak in 2013/14 (38.3 per cent).

The volume of learners on benefit at the start of learning fell to 306,200 in 2017/18. A decrease of 3.5 per cent from 2016/17 (317,240).

The trends in recent years reflect changes in the overall number of benefit claimants. See section 3 for more information.

The proportion of benefit spells that included training has remained relatively stable in recent years



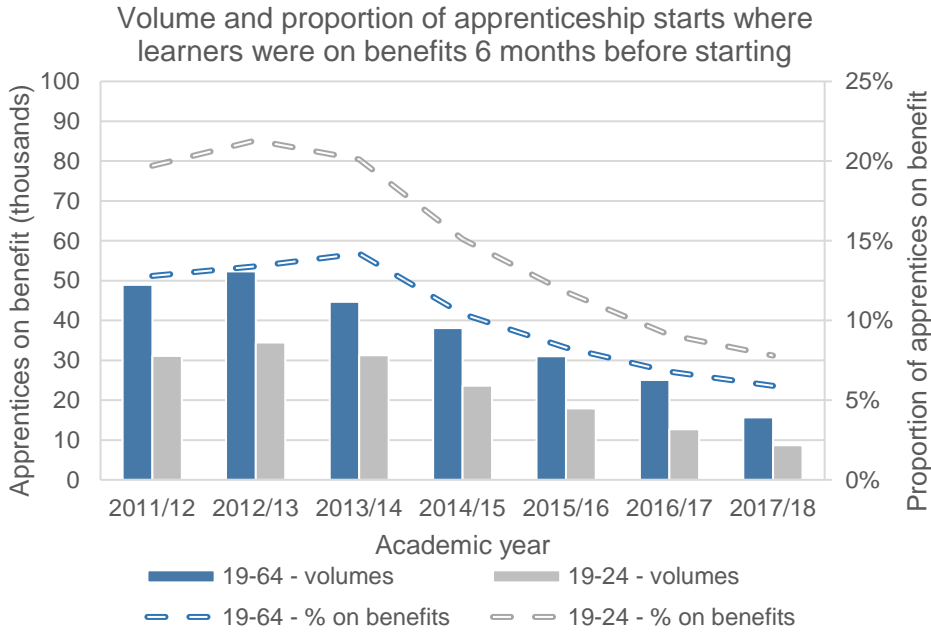
Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets

In 2017/18, 6.2 per cent of adult benefit spells included training. This has remained relatively steady since 2015/16; 6.3 per cent in both 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Since 2011/12 the number of benefit spells which included training have fallen from 552,190 to 321,780 in 2017/18 – a decline of 41.7 per cent.

This is consistent with a fall in all benefit spells over the same period.

There has been a decrease in apprenticeship starts by adults claiming benefit in the 6 months before starting



In 2017/18, 5.9 per cent of adult apprenticeship starts were by apprentices on benefit in the 6 months before starting. This is a decrease of:

- 0.9 percentage points (ppts) on 2016/17 (6.8 per cent).
- 8.3 ppts from the peak in 2013/14 (14.2 per cent).

The volume of apprenticeship starts by adults on benefit fell to 15,660 in 2017/18. This is a decrease of:

- 37.6 per cent from 2016/17 (25,100).
- 70.1 per cent from the peak in 2012/13 (52,330).

Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets

1. Summary and Headline Results

Further education learners on benefit at the start of learning	26.9 per cent of learners who started in 2017/18 were on benefit at the start of learning, an increase of 0.4 ppts on 2016/17 but 11.4 percentage points lower than the peak of 38.3 per cent in 2013/14.
	306,200 government funded further education learners aged 19-64 were on benefit at the start of their learning in 2017/18, a decrease of 3.5 per cent from 317,240 in 2016/17.
	69,680 government funded further education learners aged 19-24 were on benefit at the start of their learning in 2017/18, a decrease of 7.7 per cent from 75,460 in 2016/17.
	In 2017/18, 128,350 (41.9 per cent) learners on benefits aged 19-64 were on JSA/ESA (WRAG) at the start of their learning, 93,560 (30.6 per cent) were on UC and 84,280 (27.5 per cent) were on other benefits.
	In 2017/18, 167,470 (54.7 per cent) learners on benefit undertook training at below level 2 as their highest level of study, 112,970 (36.9 per cent) were at level 2, and 21,790 (7.1 per cent) were at level 3.
Benefit spells with training	In 2017/18, 6.2 per cent of adult (19-64) benefit spells included training. This has remained relatively steady since 2015/16; 6.3 per cent in 2015/16 and 2016/17, respectively.
	The number of benefit spells which included training have fallen from 552,190 in 2011/12 to 321,780 in 2017/18 – a decline of 41.7 per cent. This is consistent with a fall in all benefit spells by 41.4 per cent over the same period.
	In over a quarter (26.7 per cent) of benefit spells which included training, the claimant received their training within 3 months of the start of their claim in 2017/18.
Further education learning aims started by benefit claimants	740,540 learning aims were started by benefit claimants aged 19-64 in 2017/18, which is an increase of 3.8 per cent from 713,680 in 2016/17.
	In 2017/18, 69.1 per cent of learning aims started were below level 2, and 22.7 per cent were English and maths.
Apprenticeships starts	5.9 per cent of adult apprenticeship starts in 2017/18 were made by learners on benefit in the 6 months before starting, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points from 6.8 per cent in 2016/17.
	In 2017/18, 15,660 apprenticeship starts were made by learners aged 19-64 on benefit in the 6 months before starting, a decrease of 37.6 per cent on 25,100 apprenticeships in 2016/17.
Traineeship starts	In 2017/18, 3,730 traineeships were started by learners on benefit, a decrease of 36.8 per cent on 5,900 traineeships in 2016/17.

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About this release

This statistical release provides information on further education activity funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency for adult (aged 19-64) benefit claimants in England. These are experimental statistics produced using the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets. These statistics are being published as experimental statistics in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to further improve the use of the data in the future. We are currently reviewing the status of the release and will be considering the appropriate timeframe for putting the statistics forward for National Statistics assessment by the UK Statistics Authority. The publication includes figures from the academic years 2011/12 to 2017/18.

This release presents information on:

- Learners on benefit at the start of their learning by:
 - Benefit type.
 - Highest level of training.
 - Characteristics including age, sex, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and ethnicity.
 - Region and local authority district.
- Learning aims by:
 - Level of learning.
 - Monthly starts.
- Apprenticeship starts where the learner claimed benefit 6 months prior to starting (aged 16-64) by:
 - Age.
 - Level of study.
 - Sector subject area.
- Traineeship starts (aged 16-24) by benefit type.

The benefits included in this publication are:

- Universal Credit (from 2015/16 onwards) Conditionality Groups:
 - Work Focused Interview
 - Work Preparation
 - Light Touch
 - Intensive Work Search
- Jobseeker's Allowance including Training Allowance.
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Incapacity Benefit
- Passported Incapacity Benefit
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Pension Credit

Of the benefits included in this publication, JSA and UC – Intensive Work Search are considered unemployment benefits i.e. claimants of these benefits are expected to take action to secure work. Those claimants on the other benefits described here are not considered unemployed.

This statistical release excludes: community learning, non-apprenticeship learning for those aged under 19, and further education and training not funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Changes included in this publication

This publication includes new data on further education for benefit claimants in the 2017/18 academic year and also includes revised data for previous academic years (2011/12 to 2016/17) where the following revisions have been made:

- Data for previous academic years have been revised to align definitions of funded learning activity with the 'Further Education and Skills: March 2019' release¹.
- The benefit spells with training measure for academic years 2011/12 to 2014/15 has been revised so that it is now also based upon the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) datasets, in line with later years. This replaces the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) - Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) dataset which was used to produce this measure in previous releases. For the statistics outside of Tables 3 and 4, the LEO datasets were first used in the release covering the 2015/16 academic year. This change improved the match rates between benefit and learner datasets from around 90% to around 96%. More information about the source data and matching process can be found in the technical note accompanying this release.
- For the June 2018 release the Department for Work and Pensions were investigating an issue in how Universal Credit claims by individuals with multiple spells were selected for inclusion in their statistics. A temporary solution was used to minimise the effect of this issue in the statistical release subsequently published in July 2018².

This issue has now been resolved for 2016/17 and subsequent academic years for statistics contained in Tables 3 and 4 but remains for 2015/16 as it was not possible to correct claims for that academic year. The effect of this fix was a downward revision of the number of people on Universal Credit of a few percent. In this release, for UC breakdowns outside of Tables 3 and 4, this temporary solution remains in place, but is expected to be resolved for the next update of these statistics in Spring 2020. More information about the revision to UC numbers can be found in the statistical notice published by the DWP Data and Analytics, Digital Group³.

- We identified an error with the total number of benefit spells and proportion of benefit spells with training for previously reported figures for academic years 2015/16 and 2016/17. The published numbers for benefit spells included only individuals who had been matched to an education record, whereas it should have included all benefit claimants. Additionally, the coverage of benefit spell numbers was for Great Britain, but should have been for England only. Both these errors have been corrected for the statistics contained in Tables 3 and 4 in this publication. More information about these changes can be found in the statistical notice published on 5 June 2019⁴.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728940/Benefit_Spells_Community_text_2016-17.pdf

³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/779465/universal-credit-statistical-notice-revisions-and-restoration-of-data.pdf

⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806716/Further_Education_for_Benefit_Claimants_notice_05062019.pdf

- The suppression and rounding of the statistics presented within this publication has been revised to minimise the risk of disclosure while maximising the amount of data published. The Code of Practice for Statistics requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality. Where appropriate we apply disclosure control to protect confidentiality. The figures presented may not sum due to rounding. Percentages are calculated using pre-rounded data.

In this publication

The following tables are included in this statistical publication:

- Further education for benefit claimants tables: 2017 to 2018 (Excel .xls)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-for-benefit-claimants-england-2017-to-2018>

The accompanying quality and methodology information document, published on the web page linked above, provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality, and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document and accompanying tables using either the [feedback survey](#)⁵ or contacting Karen.Woolgar@education.gov.uk (Department for Education) and Aniel.Anand@dwp.gov.uk (Department for Work and Pensions).

⁵ https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FEBC_user_feedback_survey

2. Introduction

The Small Business, Employment and Enterprise Act 2015 allows the sharing of data between the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The resulting matched datasets are called the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets. The privacy statement explaining how personal data in this project is shared and used is published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/longitudinal-education-outcomes-study-how-we-use-and-share-data>

The LEO datasets link information about individuals, including:

- Personal characteristics such as age, sex and ethnicity.
- Education, including schools, further education colleges and higher education institution attended, courses taken, and qualifications achieved.
- Benefits claimed.
- Employment and income.

This publication uses the link between education and benefits data to produce estimates for volumes of government funded further education where individuals were claiming benefits at the start of their learning. Work will continue to improve the statistics as knowledge of the underlying data source develops. Further information on the datasets, matching process, quality assurance and match rates are included in technical note accompanying this release.

Background and context

Unemployed adults receive full funding for training up to and including level 2 (GCSE equivalent). Benefit claimants can be referred to training by a Jobcentre Plus work coach, and have the activity captured in their 'claimant agreement', or can access training independently. They can self-declare their unemployment status and eligibility to a training provider, who will then fund their course using funding allocated via the Department for Education's Adult Education Budget (AEB). A range of training can be accessed through the AEB, including English and Maths, Traineeships for young people, vocational training modules, the Prince's Trust's Team programme, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and a range of other pre-employment support. Training should help claimants move into work or remove a barrier to getting into work.

These statistics reflect the policy and economic context during this period. The volume of benefit claimants was at a peak in 2011/12, and in recent years, DfE (and previously BIS) and DWP have worked together closely to refine and target the type of training support provided to benefit claimants. The volume of training starts provides a good indication of the demand for training (i.e. the number of benefit claimants either self-referring or referred to training by Jobcentre Plus), and particularly training provided through the skills funding entitlement for unemployed adults⁶. In addition, recent research⁷ has reinforced the importance of further education as an effective intervention to help unemployed adults into the labour market.

For more information about these statistics please see section 4 on important policy changes and the accompanying quality and methodology document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-for-benefit-claimants-england-2017-to-2018>.

⁶ More information about funding for adult education can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfa-funding-rules>.

⁷ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-impact-of-skills-and-training-on-the-unemployed>

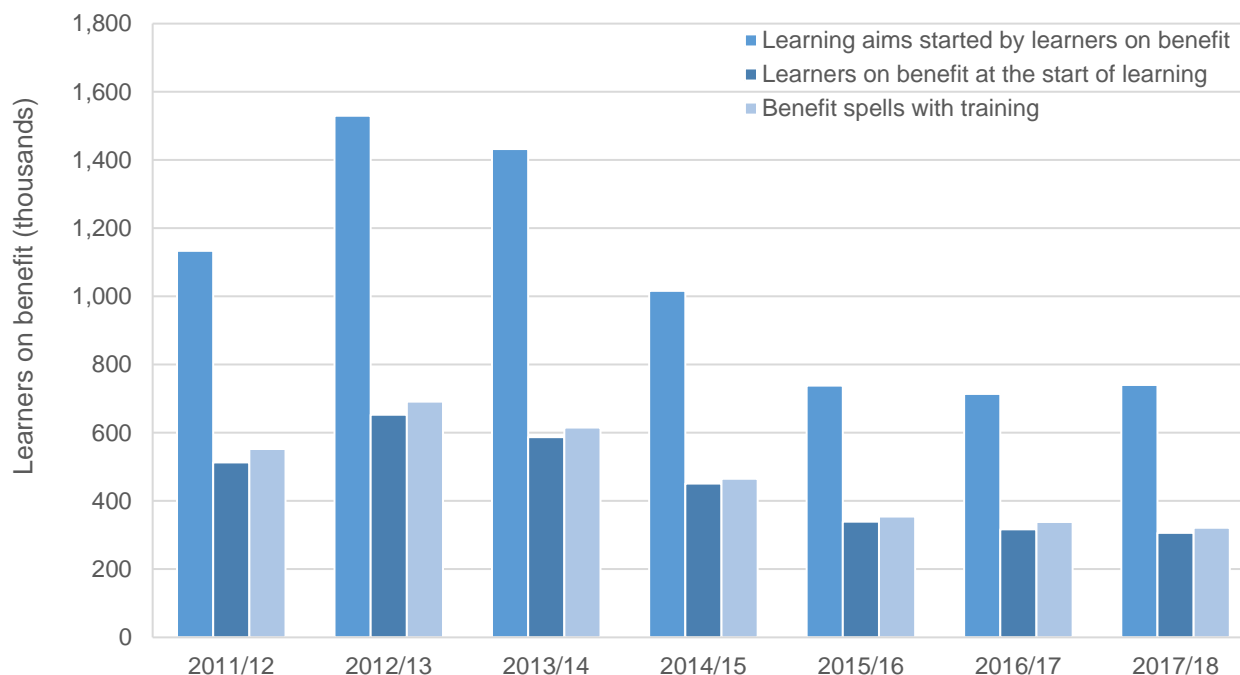
3. Further Education for Benefit Claimants – Detailed Results

Further education learners

In 2017/18, 26.9 per cent of the 1.1 million matched further education (FE) learners aged 19-64 (adult learners) were on benefit at the start of training. This is a small increase of 0.4 ppts since 2016/17 (26.5 per cent) (Table 2). The small increase reflects both a fall in the overall number of learners starting further education training, and a lesser fall in benefit spells over the same period.

The number of adult learners who were on benefit at the start of training was 306,200 in 2017/18, a decrease of 3.5 per cent from 317,240 in 2016/17 (Figure 1 and Table 1). Over the same period the number of benefit spells with training fell by 5.0 per cent from 338,680 to 321,780.

Figure 1: Summary of further education for benefit claimants aged 19-64 by academic year



Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets

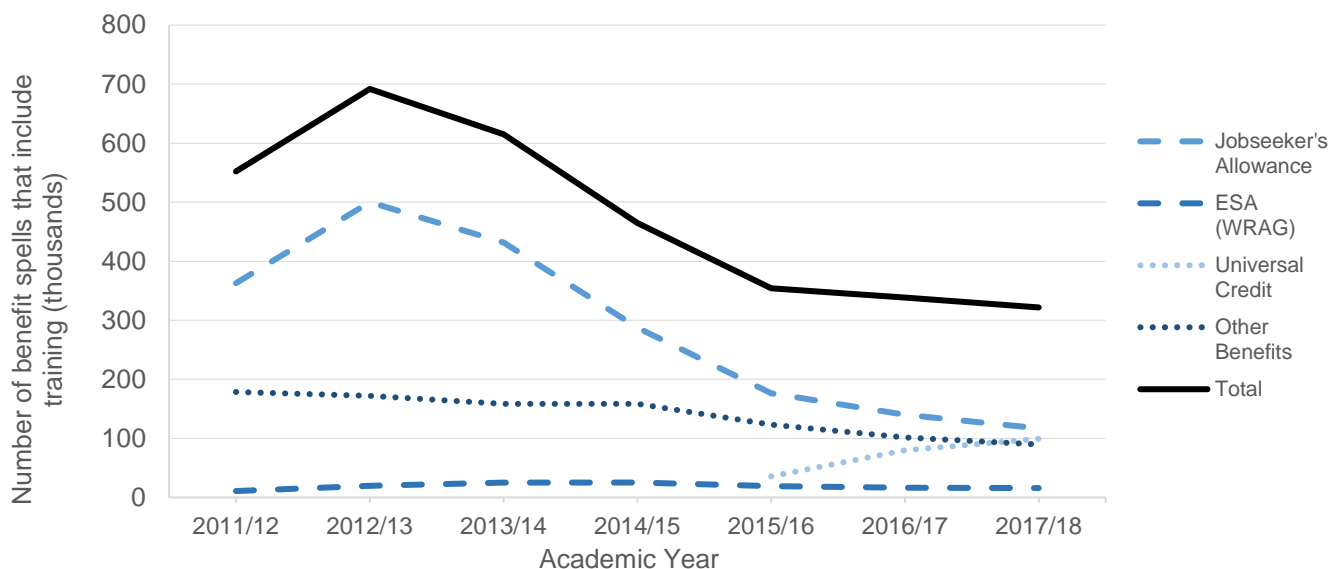
Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, there has been an increase in the number of learning aims started by benefit claimants. The number of learning aims started by adult learners on benefit was 740,540 in 2017/18, an increase of 3.8 per cent from 713,680 in 2016/17.

Benefit spells with training

The number of learners on benefit at the start of learning changes in response to the overall number of benefit claimants each year, the proportion of claimants that start training, and the make-up of the population of benefit claimants. Since 2011/12 there has been a large reduction in the number of overall benefit spells from 8.8 million in 2011/12 to 5.2 million in 2017/18 – a decline of 41.4 per cent, driven by improvements in economic conditions (Table 3).

This decrease in total benefit spells is reflected in falling numbers of benefit spells with training since 2011/12 from 552,190 to 321,780 in 2017/18 – a decline of 41.7 per cent (Figure 2). This decline has slowed in recent years, decreasing by 9.1 per cent between 2015/16 and 2017/18. This is a consequence of the slowdown in the decline in the number of total benefit spells between 2015/16 and 2017/18, which have decreased by 7.9 per cent from 5.6 million to 5.2 million.

Figure 2: Number of benefit spells with training by benefit type



Source: National Benefits Database, Universal Credit Official Statistics, Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) datasets

Between 2011/12 and 2017/18, JSA benefit spells have declined by 74.8 per cent from 3.9 million in 2011/12 to 987,450 in 2017/18, which is important as historically JSA claimants have been more likely than claimants of other benefits to start further education training (Figure 3). The decline in JSA spells from 2015/16 onwards will have been affected by the migration of legacy benefit spells to UC. In 2017/18 the number of UC spells surpassed those of JSA, though as UC is available to a wider range of claimants, including those in work, the claimant cohorts of these two benefits are not directly comparable.

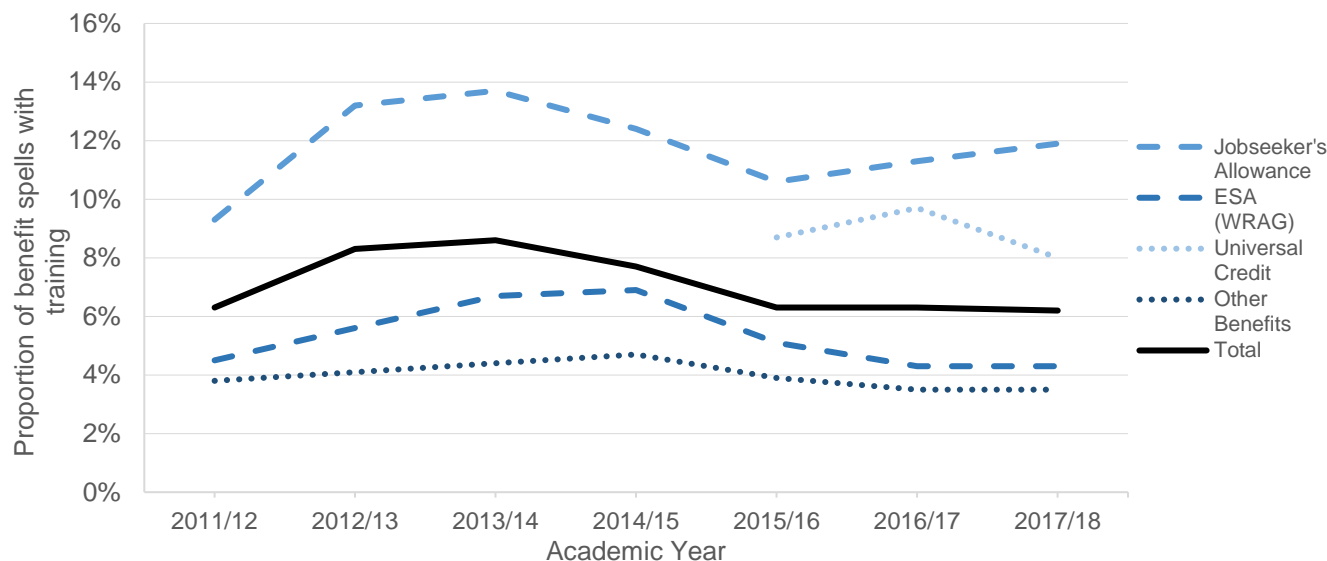
In 2017/18, 6.2 per cent of adult (19-64) benefit spells included training; this has remained relatively steady since 2015/16 (Figure 3). The proportion of benefit spells with training peaked in 2013/14 at 8.6 per cent, falling to 6.3 per cent by 2015/16. This decline has been driven by a fall in the proportion of 25-49 year-olds (the largest learner cohort across all years) taking up training over these three academic years; from 9.3 per cent in 2013/14 to 6.7 per cent in 2015/16 (Table 3).

The number of Employment and Support Allowance (Work Related Activity Group) benefit spells has remained relatively flat over the past 6 years, ranging from 355,170 in 2012/13 to 383,330 in 2016/17 (Table 3). An upturn in the proportion of ESA (WRAG) claimants undertaking training was seen between 2012/13 and 2014/15 (from 5.6 per cent to 6.9 per cent, Figure 3), corresponding to the Skills Funding Agency (now the ESFA) beginning to fund select qualifications for ESA (WRAG) claimants in January 2013 (see Section 4 for more details). Since 2014/15 the proportion of ESA (WRAG) spells with training has fallen, plateauing at 4.3 per cent in 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Young people are more likely to take up training than any other age group, with 10.2 per cent of benefit spells for 19-24 year-olds including training in 2017/18, compared to 6.6 per cent of 25-49 year-olds and 4.0 per cent of 50-64 year olds. This may be driven by training programmes aimed directly at young people, including DfE's changes to Traineeships in 2015 and DWP's introduction of the Youth Obligation Support Programme in April 2017 (see Section 4 for more details). Younger claimants are also more likely to lack basic employability skills and experience that older claimants would have gained through previous jobs.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, the proportion of benefit spells with training where the learner was on JSA rose by 0.6 ppts (from 11.3 per cent to 11.9 per cent). Over the same period, the proportion of benefit spells with training where the learner was on UC fell by 1.7 ppts (from 9.7 per cent to 8.0 per cent) (Figure 3 and Table 3) despite the number of UC benefit spells that included training increasing over this time (Figure 2). While the national roll-out of UC to all Jobcentres was completed in December 2018, the benefit was implemented in various stages across England, leading to compositional changes in the UC caseload throughout 2015/16 - 2017/18. This, coupled with the fact UC is a much younger benefit than other legacy benefits, means that the trend seen in the proportion of UC spells with training cannot be fully explained at this time.

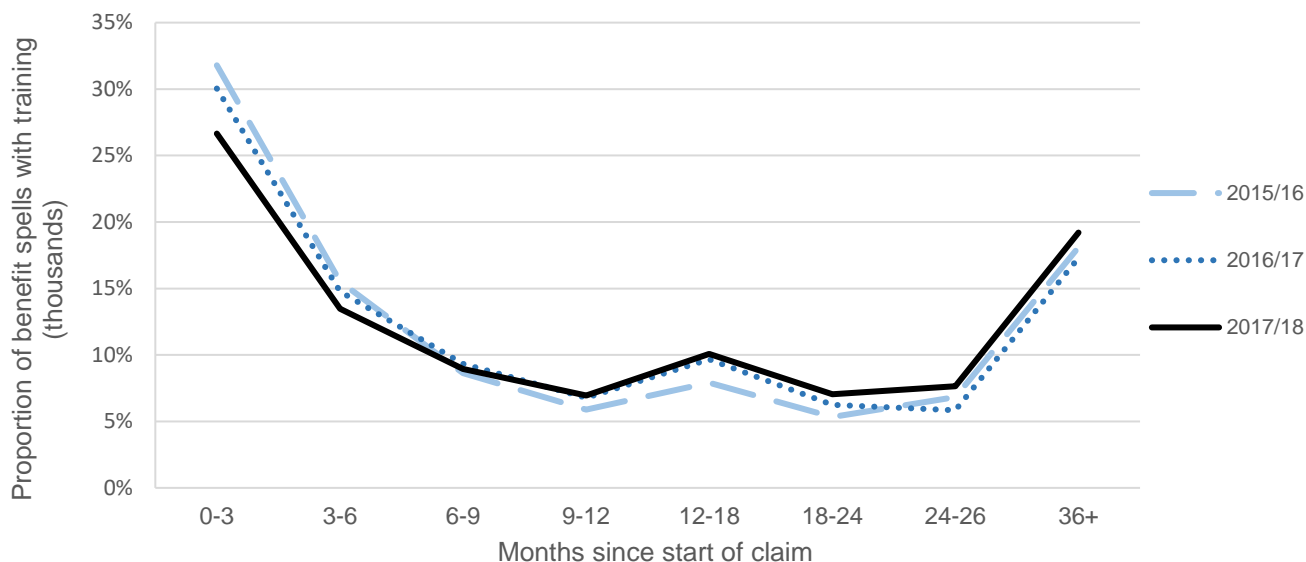
Figure 3: Proportion of benefit spells with training by benefit type



Source: National Benefits Database, Universal Credit Official Statistics, Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) datasets

Over a quarter (26.7 per cent) of benefit spells which included training received their training within 3 months of the start of their claim in 2017/18 (Figure 4). This is a fall from 2016/17, where 30.0 per cent received their training within 3 months of the start of their claim. This is partly driven by an increase in the length of UC spells. In 2016/17, when the introduction of UC was more recent, 36.1 per cent of UC benefit spells received their training within the first 3 months; this fell to 30.6 per cent in 2017/18 (Table 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of all benefits spells with training by point during benefit claim when training started



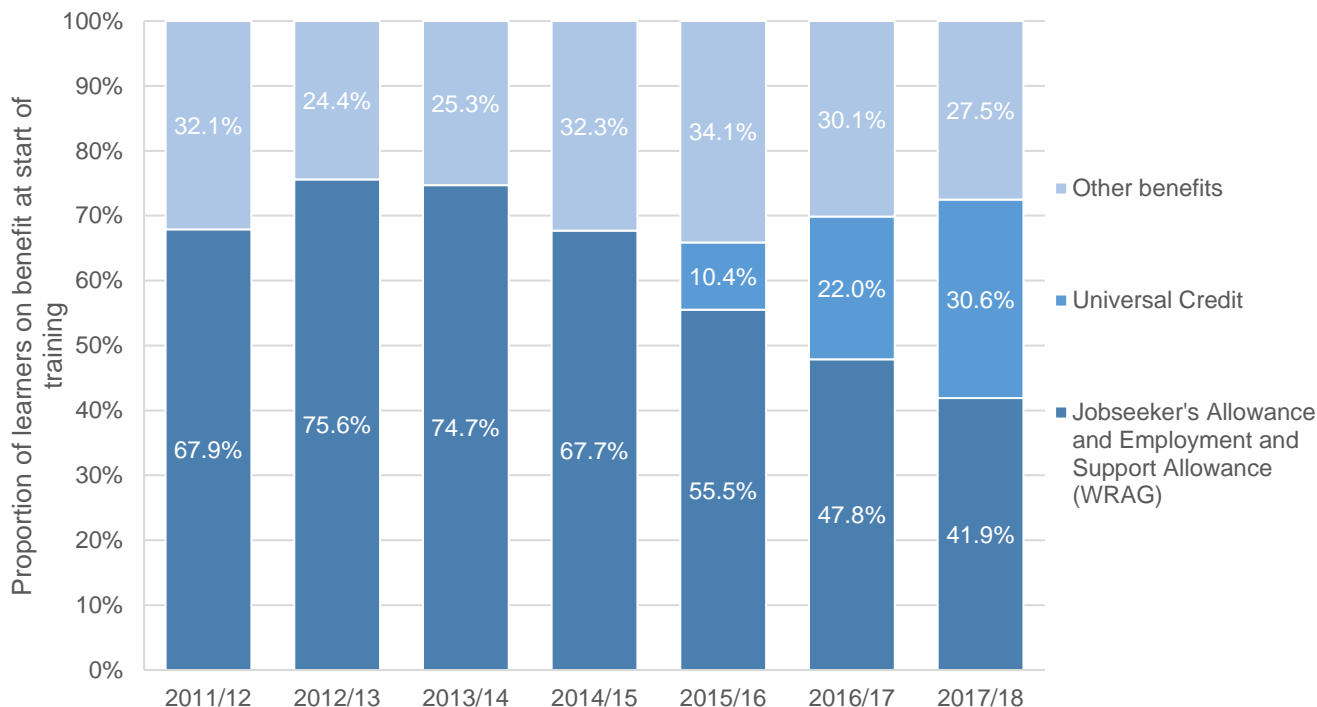
Source: National Benefits Database, Universal Credit Official Statistics, Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) datasets

The proportion of benefit spells that received training after 36 months of the start of their claim rose from 17.3 per cent in 2016/17 to 19.2 per cent in 2017/18. Policy changes associated with UC, which mean that moving into work does not automatically end entitlement to a claim – unlike JSA – mean that in the future claim duration and the point during a claim that training is undertaken, is likely to become longer on average.

Learners by benefit type

In 2017/18, 41.9 per cent of adult learners on benefit claimed JSA or ESA (WRAG), 30.6 per cent claimed UC and 27.5 per cent claimed other benefits. In 2017/18, the proportion of adult learners on benefit claiming JSA/ESA (WRAG) was 5.9 pts lower than in 2016/17 (Figure 5 and Table 5). At the same time, the proportion claiming UC has been increasing, whilst the proportion claiming other benefits has remained broadly stable. This reflects the trend observed in the wider benefit caseload of claimants moving to UC and away from legacy benefits like JSA and ESA.

Figure 5: Learners aged 19-64 on benefit at the start of learning by benefit type, academic years 2011/12 to 2017/18



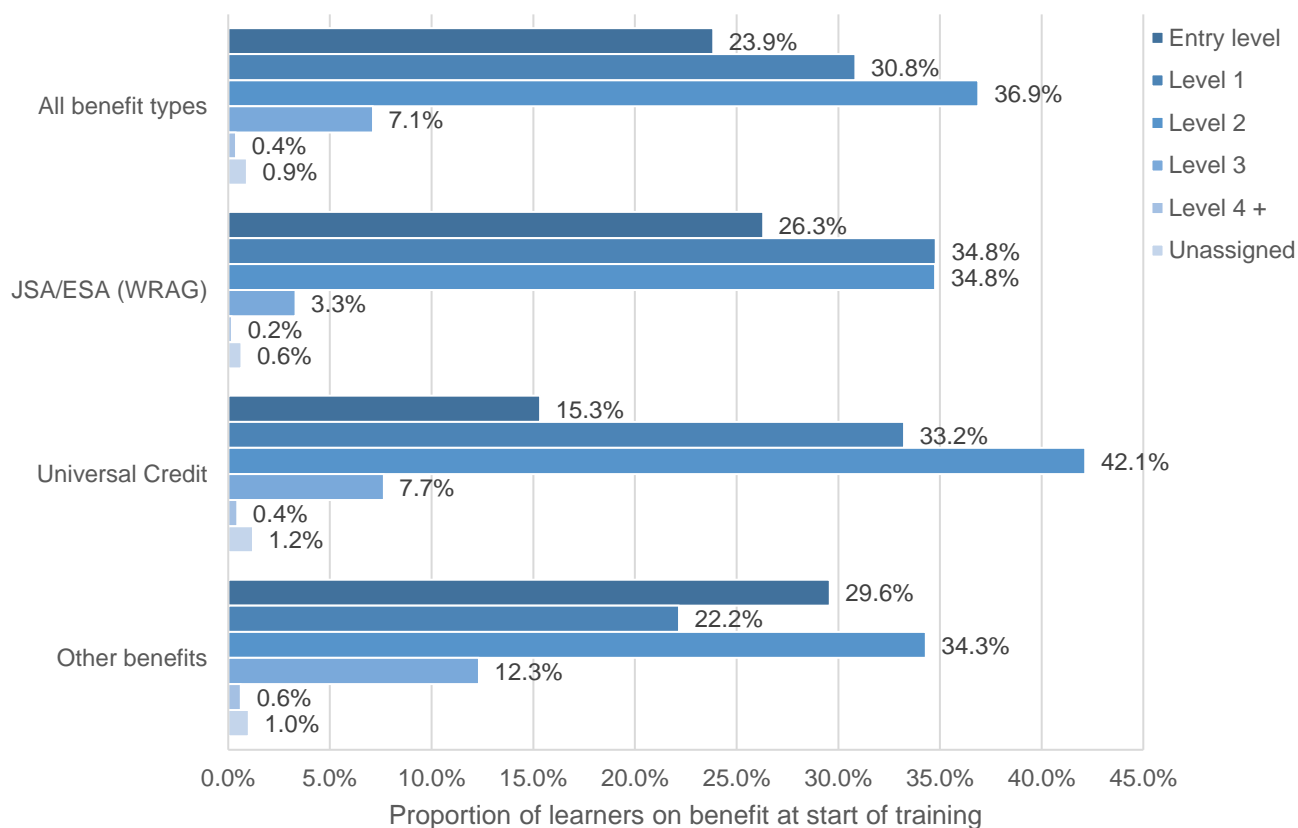
Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) Datasets

Of the 93,560 adult learners claiming UC at the start of learning in 2017/18, the majority (87.0 per cent) were in the “Intensive work search” conditionality group at some point during the benefit claim. (Table 15).

Highest level of learning

Data for 2017/18 indicates that for the majority of adult learners on benefit their highest level of study was level 1 or below, at 54.7 per cent. The proportion is slightly higher for learners claiming JSA or ESA (WRAG), at 61.1 per cent (Figure 6 and Table 6).

Figure 6: Highest level of study for learners on benefit aged 19-64 by benefit type, 2017/18



Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets

A higher proportion of learners on benefit aged 19-24 undertake level 3 as their highest level of study (12.2 per cent) compared with older learners on benefit aged 25-49 (7.0 per cent) and aged 50-64 (1.8 per cent) (Table 6).

An assessment of the highest qualification level studied for by JSA and ESA (WRAG) claimants for 2017/18 showed that:

- 61.1 per cent studied at level 1 and entry level.
- 34.8 per cent studied at level 2.
- 3.3 per cent studied at level 3.

Of those on UC:

- 48.6 per cent studied at level 1 and entry level.
- 42.1 per cent studied at level 2.
- 7.7 per cent studied at level 3.

The differences seen in the highest level of study for claimants of UC and JSA/ESA(WRAG) could be due to the differing age profile of claimants; there are a greater proportion of learners aged 19-24 claiming UC (Table 7) and younger learners tend to undertake higher level qualifications⁸.

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

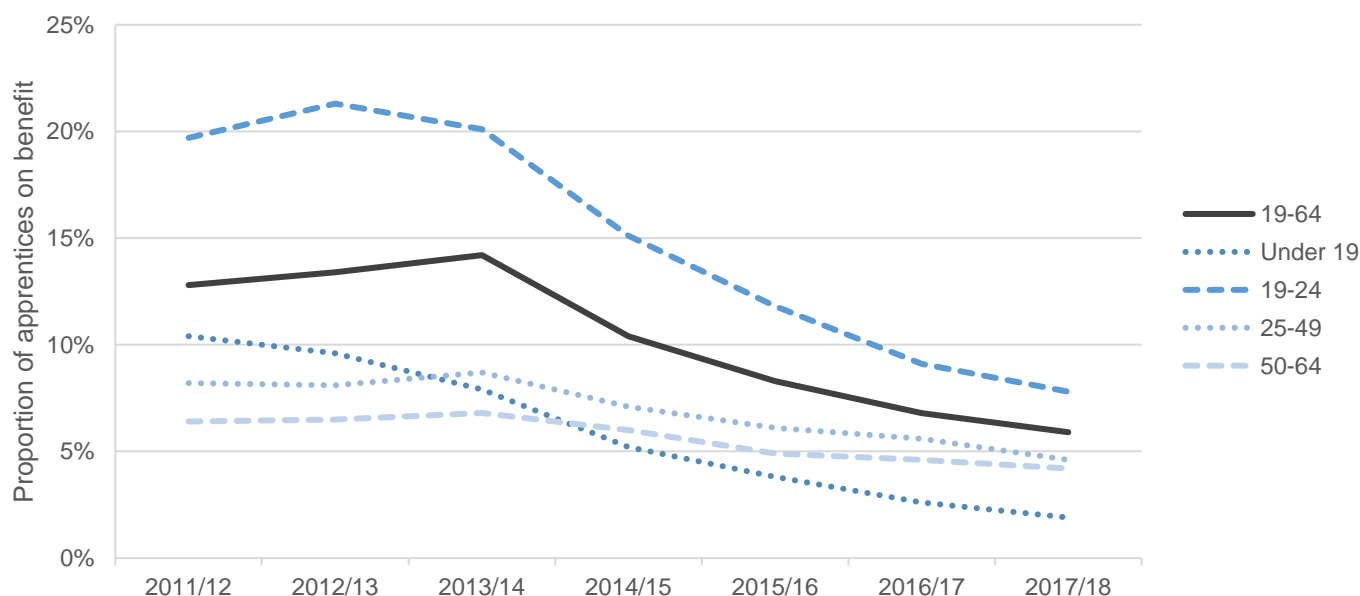
Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are paid jobs that include an off-the-job programme of learning. Many apprentices who were on benefits before starting will enter employment and cease claiming benefit before enrolling with a further education provider. For this reason the statistics presented here measure the volume of starts made by apprentices who claimed benefit in the 6 months before starting. In line with the rest of the report this section focuses on adult apprenticeships. However, for completeness, we also separately include information on apprentices aged under 19.

In 2017/18, there were 15,660 apprenticeship starts by adult (19-64) apprentices on benefit in the six months before starting their apprenticeship, this is a 37.6 per cent decrease from the number in 2016/17. Of the 265,540 matched adult apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, 5.9 per cent were made by learners on benefit in the 6 months before training, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points on 2016/17 (Figure 7 and Tables 8 and 9).

The fall in the number of apprenticeship starts on benefit reflects the overall decrease in benefit claimants over the period and falls in adult apprenticeship starts. Apprenticeship growth in recent years has predominantly been in higher apprenticeships (level 4 and above). Benefit claimants typically apply for intermediate apprenticeships (level 2), where numbers have declined. As of May 2017 there were significant structural changes to the apprenticeship funding system including the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and Apprenticeship Service. The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly in the run up to the introduction of the levy and beyond, therefore care should be taken when comparing apprenticeship numbers with previous years as they are unlikely to provide a meaningful comparison^{9 10}.

Figure 7: Proportion of all apprentices on benefit up to 6 months before their apprenticeship start by age, academic years 2011/12 to 2017/18



Source: Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) datasets

The 19-24 age group had the highest proportion of apprenticeship starts made by learners on benefit, at 7.8 per cent in 2017/18. The proportions of apprenticeship starts made by learners on benefit 6 months before starting in the other age groups are as follows (Figure 7 and Tables 8 and 9):

- 1.9 per cent for the under 19 age group.
- 4.6 per cent for the 25-49 age group.
- 4.2 per cent for the 50-64 age group.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>

Traineeships

The total number of traineeships (aged 16-24) started by benefit claimants was 3,730 in 2017/18, a decrease of 36.8 per cent from 5,900 in 2016/17 (Table 10). This is a larger fall than the total number of matched traineeship starts which has decreased by 14.5 per cent from 19,840 in 2016/17 to 16,960 in 2017/18.

Overall, there were 4,580 matched traineeship starts aged 19-24 in 2017/18; 56.2 per cent of these were by learners on benefit at the start of learning. Of the 2,570 traineeship starts made by learners aged 19-24 on benefit at the start of learning in 2017/18:

- 34.2 per cent (880) were claiming JSA or ESA (WRAG).
- 51.2 per cent (1,320) were claiming UC.
- 14.6 per cent (380) were claiming other benefits.

4. Important Policy Changes

Below is a timeline of some important policy changes that will affect the content in this publication.

2011

August 2011 – Skills Conditionality launched in England for those claiming JSA and ESA (WRAG).

2013

January 2013 – Skills Funding Agency started to fund qualifications in food hygiene, health and safety at work, fork-lift truck and first aid at work for individuals in receipt of JSA and ESA (WRAG).

April 2013 – Universal Credit live service began roll out in pilot areas available only to single people or couples without children with national rollout starting in October 2013.

August 2013 – 24+ Advanced Learning Loans are introduced for learning at level 3 and higher.

October 2013 – A new Claimant Commitment for JSA claimants is introduced.

2014

March 2014 – 24+ Advanced Learner Loans are withdrawn for apprenticeships.

April 2014 – Claimants are referred to mandatory training if their level of spoken English is a barrier to work.

August 2014 – Traineeships were opened up to those aged 24.

November 2014 – A limited test of the full service for Universal Credit was launched on 26 November.

2015

March 2015 – DWP introduced regulations to allow all young people, including those described as Qualifying Young People (predominantly 16 to 18 year olds), to benefit from full-time participation in a traineeship whilst maintaining entitlement to their DWP benefit.

2016

May 2016 – Universal Credit full service began its roll out to all other Jobcentre Plus areas.

2017

April/May 2017 – Changes to how apprenticeship funding works including the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and Apprenticeship Service.

April 2017 – DWP introduced Youth Obligation Support Programme for 18-21 year-olds who make a new claim to Universal Credit and are in the All Work Related Requirements Conditionality group.

2018

August 2018 – Fully-funded training for unemployed extended to learners in receipt of low wage.

December 2018 – Universal Credit full service now available in all Jobcentres across Great Britain.

2019

January 2019 – DWP announces timetable for moving existing claimants of legacy benefits onto Universal Credit full service, starting with a year-long pilot from July 2019.

5. General Footnotes

Age is defined as the age of the learner at the start of their learning in the current academic year. When there are more learning spells in the academic year, the age at the start of the first learning spell is considered.

All learners is the number of learners starting at least one aim within the year, regardless of whether the learner was on benefit at the start. Note that only matched data is included in this publication, i.e. where a match has been found between the ILR and DWP/HMRC administrative data. Figures will differ from the DfE Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release as not all learners therein will have been matched to a benefit and/or employment record and this release excludes training under 'Community Learning' and the Employer Ownership Pilot, which is included in the First Release.

A **learning aim** is a course a learner is studying and is counted in the year the learning started.

A **benefit spell** is defined as a continuous period of time receiving the same benefit type. There can be multiple benefit spells per claimant, either because the claimant is receiving more than one benefit type, or because the same benefit type is received at different time periods, with distinctly different start dates, which differentiate them as different spells.

Universal Credit refers to Universal Credit claimants in the following conditionality groups; "Work Focused Interview", "Work Preparation", "Light Touch" and "Intensive Work Search". Universal Credit claimants are only included for the 2015/16 academic year onwards as reliable data on conditionality were not available before April 2015.

Other benefits includes: Other Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support, Severe Disablement Allowance, Pension Credit, Passported Incapacity Benefit.

For further information on different levels of qualifications see <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean>

The figures presented here may not sum due to rounding. Percentages and percentage point changes are calculated using pre-rounded data.

6. Accompanying Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-for-benefit-claimants-in-england-2017-to-2018>):

Table	Table description
1	Overview of Further Education Training for Benefit Claimants by Academic Year 2011/12 - 2017/18
2	Learners by Benefit Status and Academic Year 2011/12 - 2017/18
3	Benefit Spells by Benefit Type, Training Status and Academic Year 2011/12 - 2017/18
4	Benefit Spells with Training by Point During Benefit Claim when Training Started, Benefit Type and Academic Year 2011/12 - 2017/18
5	Learners on Benefit at the Start of Learning by Benefit Type 2011/12 - 2017/18
6	Learners on Benefit at the Start of Learning by Highest Level of Learning and Benefit Type 2017/18
7	Demographic Summary of Learners on Benefit by Benefit Type 2017/18

8	Apprenticeships Started by Learners Who Claimed Benefit 6 Months before Training by Benefit Type, Level of Learning and Academic Year 2011/12 - 2017/18
9	Apprenticeships Started by Learners Who Claimed Benefit 6 Months before Training by Benefit Type, Level of Learning and Academic Year (% of all Apprenticeships) 2011/12 - 2017/18
10	Traineeships Started by Learners on Benefit by Benefit Type 2014/15 - 2017/18
11	Aims by Highest Level of Learning, Subject Learned and Benefit Type 2017/18
12	Aims by Planned Duration, Benefit Type, Level and Subject of Learning 2017/18
13	Aims by Monthly Starts and Benefit Type 2011/12 - 2017/18
14	Apprenticeships Started by Learners Who Claimed Benefit 6 Months before Training by Sector Subject Area, Level and Age 2017/18
15	Learners on Universal Credit at the Start of Learning by Conditionality Group and Age 2017/18
16	Learners on Benefit at the Start of Learning by Region and Local Authority District 2017/18

7. Technical Information

A quality and methodology information document accompanies this statistical publication. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

8. Get in Touch

Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 020 7783 8300

Other enquiries/feedback

Karen Woolgar, Department for Education, 2 St Pauls Place, Sheffield, S1 2FJ.

Email: Karen.Woolgar@education.gov.uk

Aniel Anand, Department for Work and Pensions, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA.

Email: Aniel.Anand@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



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write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

enquiries Karen Woolgar, Department for Education, 2 St Pauls Place, Sheffield, S1 2FJ.
Karen.Woolgar@education.gov.uk

Aniel Anand, Department for Work and Pensions, Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA.

Aniel.Anand@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



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