

First Release

DWP WORK PROGRAMME STATISTICAL RELEASE

This document contains official statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on referrals and attachments to the Work Programme which are being released for the first time on 21st February 2012 and thereafter on a quarterly basis.

Introduction

Work Programme was launched throughout Great Britain in June 2011. It provides personalised work-focused support for people who are long-term unemployed or who are at risk of becoming so. It is delivered through 40 contracts held by 18 Private, Public and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations. Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) claimants are referred to the Work Programme at specified points in their claims, depending on their circumstances. In England only, people who receive incapacity benefits who have not yet been reassessed for ESA and people who claim Income Support (IS) are also eligible to volunteer for the Work Programme. There are separate arrangements outside the Work Programme for these claimants in Scotland and Wales, commissioned and administered by the devolved administrations. Pension Credit claimants are also eligible to volunteer for the Work Programme.

Key findings

- Claimants are referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus. The total number of referrals to the Work Programme from 1st June 2011 to end of October 2011 is 370 thousand.
- Following the referral of a participant to a Work Programme provider, that provider is responsible for contacting the participant to discuss the programme and begin planning the steps needed to support them into sustained employment. Once this activity has taken place, the provider registers an 'attachment' to the Work Programme. The total number of attachments to the Work Programme from 1st June 2011 to the end of October 2011 is 332 thousand.

Information on the official statistics

The full release of figures and a background information note to provide context to the figures can be accessed by using the following link:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

The figures can be viewed by using the DWP tabulation tool which allows users to produce their own bespoke tables of referrals and attachments to the Work Programme. Figures can also be viewed graphically by using the data visualisation tool. These tools can both be accessed using the link above.

Difference between referral and attachments

The statistics on referrals record the number of eligible claimants referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus. A claimant remains on the Work Programme for 2 years from the date of their referral to the programme. The statistics on attachments record the number of people with whom a provider has completed initial engagement activity.

There will be a proportion of claimants who either sign off benefit or move into work after referral but before the point at which the provider has completed engagement activity with them. Therefore the number of attachments will always be slightly lower than the number of referrals.

Evidence from figures collected so far suggests that on average 96% of referrals are attached to the Work Programme within 3 months of being referred.

21st February 2012

Coverage: Great Britain

Theme: [People and Places](#)

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Payment Groups

There are eight separate “Payment Groups” into which claimants can be referred, based on their circumstances at the point of referral and the benefits that they receive. Section 3 of The ‘Notes’ section on page 7 contains a table which summarises the different payment groups and referral points.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this publication, please contact DWP via stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk.

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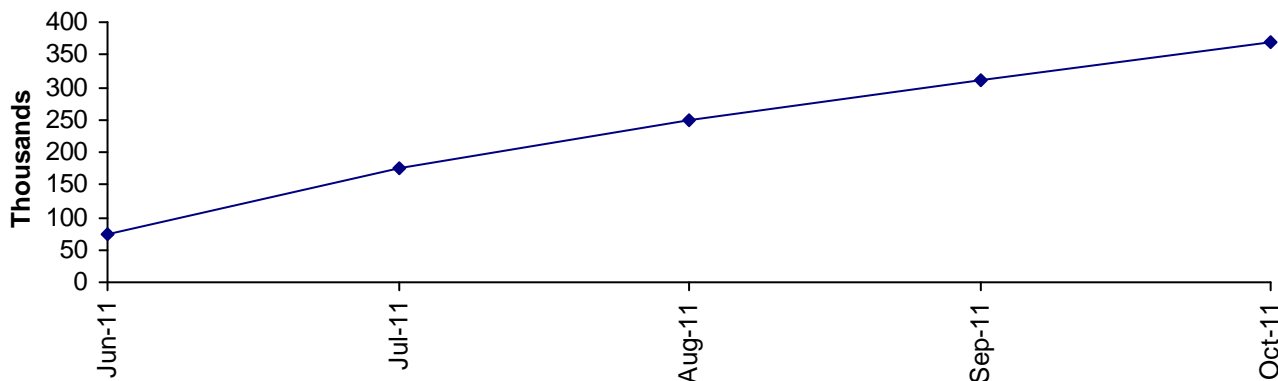
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1. Official Statistics: Referrals to the Work Programme

Claimants are referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus at a Work Programme referral interview. Jobcentre Plus randomly allocate claimants to one of the two or three providers in their area.

Cummulative Referrals to Work Programme by Month: June 2011 to October 2011



Whilst the early data series inhibits identification of definitive trends, the first few months of figures for referrals do reflect the early roll out activity. The volumes of referrals are lower in June since providers began to deliver the Work Programme at different times from the start of June 2011. The figures also reflect the referrals to the Work Programme that accumulated following the closure of the Flexible New Deal. This is seen as an increase in referrals in July.

Table 1.1: Time series of referrals to the Work Programme by Payment Group: June 2011 to October 2011

	Payment Group									<i>Thousands</i>
	Total	JSA 18 to 24	JSA 25 and over	JSA Early Entrants	JSA Ex-Incapacity Benefit	ESA Volunteers	New ESA claimants	ESA Ex-Incapacity Benefit	IB/IS Volunteers	
Jun-11	74.87	10.96	41.92	19.44	0.18	0.31	1.81	0.09	0.17	
Jul-11	99.43	16.40	49.96	28.38	0.37	0.50	3.41	0.12	0.29	
Aug-11	73.83	14.33	36.23	18.88	0.28	0.46	3.30	0.13	0.21	
Sep-11	63.38	13.17	29.88	15.65	0.24	0.48	3.56	0.18	0.23	
Oct-11	58.35	13.63	26.23	12.22	0.21	0.62	4.83	0.43	0.18	

Of the claimants referred up to the end of October 2011, 184 thousand (49.8%) were in the JSA 25 and over payment group, 95 thousand (25.6%) were JSA early entrants, and 68 thousand (18.5%) were in the JSA 18-24 payment group. Claimants in the ESA payment groups made up 20 thousand (5.5%) of all referrals to the end of October 2011.

DEFINITIONS AND CONVENTIONS: Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Figures are refreshed each quarter and are subject to change. Months are calendar months.

SOURCE: DWP: Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

Notes:

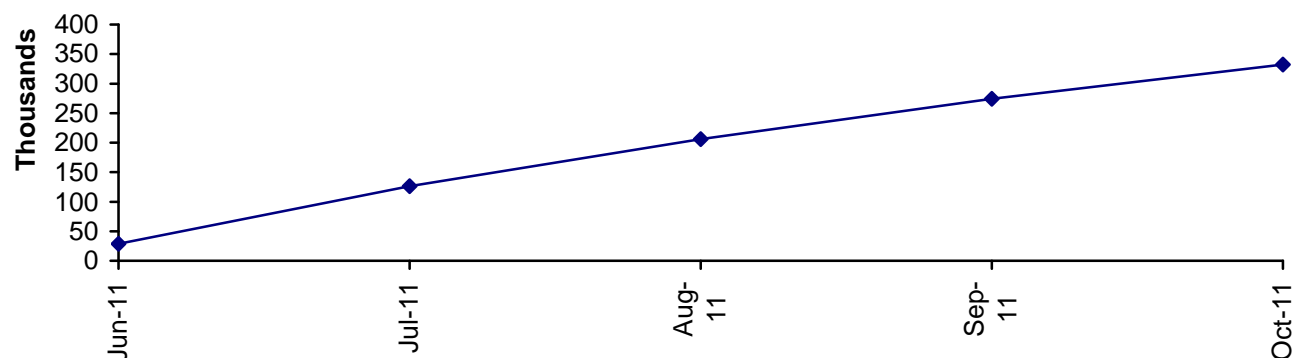
Referrals (Thousands) Referrals shown are 'net' referrals which do not include rejections or cancellations.

Payment Group Payment Groups are assigned by Jobcentre Plus, on the basis of a claimant's circumstances, and benefit they receive. For the full list of payment groups, see Work Programme detailed background information note. Due to payment groups being assigned manually until the end of January 2012, a small number of claimants appear in an incorrect group. This is most notable in the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) 18-24 and JSA 25+ payment groups, which contain some claimants who are not eligible due to their age.

2. Official Statistics: Attachments to the Work Programme

Following the referral of a participant to a Work Programme provider, that provider is responsible for contacting the participant to discuss the programme and begin planning the steps needed to support them into sustained employment. Once this activity has taken place, the provider registers an 'attachment' to the Work Programme. The date this activity takes place is recorded on the payment system by the provider.

Cummulative Attachments to Work Programme by Month: June 2011 to October 2011



The volumes of attachments, as with those of referrals, reflect the staggered roll out activity and referral of ex Flexible New Deal participants with lower levels in June 2011 and a higher volume in July 2011. This effect is exacerbated since attachment activity takes place following a referral. Evidence from figures collected so far suggests that on average 96% of referrals are attached to the Work Programme within 3 months of being referred. At the end of October 2011 the total attachments to the Work Programme was 332 thousand.

Table 2.1: Time series of Attachments to the Work Programme by Payment Group: June 2011 to October 2011

Thousands

	Payment Group								
	Total	JSA 18 to 24	JSA 25 and over	JSA Early Entrants	JSA Ex-Incapacity Benefit	ESA Volunteers	New ESA claimants	ESA Ex-Incapacity Benefit	IB/IS Volunteers
Jun-11	28.64	4.17	16.85	6.73	0.08	0.10	0.61	0.03	0.07
Jul-11	97.80	15.29	50.53	28.02	0.31	0.40	2.91	0.09	0.25
Aug-11	79.36	13.87	39.56	21.67	0.28	0.49	3.12	0.13	0.23
Sep-11	68.49	13.71	33.27	16.94	0.24	0.50	3.44	0.16	0.23
Oct-11	58.16	12.78	27.04	13.09	0.24	0.50	4.04	0.30	0.18

Of the total attachments to the Work programme at the end of October 2011, 315 thousand (94.6%) were in the JSA payment groups, 17 thousand (5.1%) were in the ESA payment groups and under 1 thousand (0.3%) were in the IB/IS volunteer group.

DEFINITIONS AND CONVENTIONS: Figures are rounded to the nearest ten; some additional disclosure control has also been applied. Totals may not sum due to rounding. Figures are refreshed each quarter and are subject to change. Months are calendar months.

SOURCE: DWP: Information, Governance and Security Directorate (IGS)

Notes:

Attachments (Thousands) The date of the first engagement activity between the provider and the participant as recorded on the payment administrative system.

Payment Group Payment Groups are assigned by Jobcentre Plus, on the basis of a claimant's circumstances, and benefit they receive. For the full list of payment groups, see Work Programme detailed background information note. Due to payment groups being assigned manually until the end of January 2012, a small number of claimants appear in an incorrect group. This is most notable in the Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) 18-24 and JSA 25+ payment groups, which contain some claimants who are not eligible due to their age.

NOTES

1. Work Programme Statistics

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) publish a Work Programme Statistical Release each quarter for the Work Programme official statistics on referrals and attachments.

Alongside this, there are a large number of tables which enable the user to delve into the detail. These are provided to the user as:

- The DWP Tabulation Tool – this provides the user with an interactive tool to select one of thousands of possible tabulations.
- A data visualisation tool - this allows the user to view the figures as various animated charts.

Both tools can be found on the Work Programme Statistics web page:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

The following characteristic breakdowns will be available on those being referred to the Work Programme and attached by a provider: age, gender, disability indicator, ethnicity, primary health condition (for IB and ESA claimants) and lone parent status (for JSA and IS claimants).

Lower level geography information will be available for the participant by local authority, parliamentary constituency and Jobcentre Plus district. Tables will also contain information broken down by contract, contract package area and payment group.

Statistics will be published quarterly and the release date of future releases will be brought forward by approximately two weeks, due to improvements in the time taken to process the statistics. Therefore the next release date for Work Programme referral and attachment statistics will be 9th May 2012. For future release dates see HUB release calendar: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar>

2. Definitions

For full definitions see background information note available via this link

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

Summary of main definitions:

Referral

Claimants are referred by Jobcentre Plus at a Work Programme referral interview. Jobcentre Plus randomly allocate claimants to a provider in their area.

Attachment

Following the referral of a participant to a Work Programme provider, that provider is responsible for contacting the participant to discuss the programme and begin planning the steps needed to support them into sustained employment. Once this activity has taken place, the provider registers an 'attachment' to the Work Programme. The date the activity takes place is recorded on the payment system by the provider (this is the closest proxy for a 'start' to the Work Programme).

The difference between referral and attachments

The statistics on referrals record the number of eligible claimants referred to the Work Programme by Jobcentre Plus. A claimant remains on the Work Programme for 2 years from the date of their referral to the programme. The statistics on attachments record the number of people with whom a provider has completed initial engagement activity. There will be a proportion of claimants who either sign off benefit or move into work after referral but before the point which the provider has completed engagement activity with them. Therefore the number of attachments will be slightly lower than the number of referrals. If a claimant who has not been attached to the Work Programme makes a further claim to benefit in the two year period after they have been referred to the Work Programme, then the provider will engage with and attach the claimant at this point.

Payment Group

Claimants will have different entry points to the Work Programme, and different participation requirements, depending on their circumstances, such as age and benefit type. There is a summary of the payment groups and participants' entry points in section 3 below.

3. Work Programme referral points and payment groups.

Claimants have different referral points to the Work Programme depending on their circumstances, such as age and benefit type. See table below for a summary of the different payment groups and referral points.

Payment Group	Time of Referral	Basis for referral	Payment Group
JSA 18-24	From 9 months on JSA	Mandatory	1
JSA 25+	From 12 months on JSA	Mandatory	2
JSA Early Access	From 3 months on JSA	Mandatory or voluntary depending on circumstance	3
JSA Ex-IB	From 3 months on JSA	Mandatory	4
ESA Volunteers	At any time from point of Work Capability Assessment	Voluntary	5
New ESA claimants	Mandatory when expected to be fit for work within 3-6 months. Voluntary from point of Work Capability Assessment for specified participants.	Mandatory or voluntary depending on circumstance	6
ESA Ex-IB	Mandatory when expected to be fit for work within 3-6 months. Voluntary from point of Work Capability Assessment for participants with longer prognoses	Mandatory or voluntary depending on circumstance	7
IB/IS (England only)	From benefit entitlement	Voluntary	8

Note: Full details can be seen in Annex A at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wp-pg-chapter-2.pdf>

4. Work Programme performance outcome official statistics

The focus of the Work Programme focus is on supporting participants to achieve sustained employment. Participants are supported by the Work Programme for two years. Providers receive job outcome payments when a participant has been in work for either three or six months, depending on the participant's circumstances. Once a job outcome payment has been paid, providers will receive sustainment payments for each subsequent four week period the participant spends in employment up to a maximum of two years, depending on the participants' circumstances. Further details on the payment arrangements for each claimant group are provided above.

The Department is working to guidelines set by the UK Statistics Authority to ensure we are able to publish official statistics on the Work Programme that meet high quality standards at the earliest opportunity. Official statistics on job outcomes and sustainment payments will be released from autumn 2012.

The release strategy for statistics on job outcomes and sustainment payments is dependant on the availability, reliability, quality and accuracy of the data and the details of what we will publish are still to be finalised. When details are finalised we will make an announcement on this website:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=wp>

5. Pre-Work Programme Support measures

A new package of Pre-Work Programme Support measures were introduced between October 2010 and June 2011, including Work Clubs, Work Together, New Enterprise Allowance, Mandatory Work Activity, Service Academies and Skills Conditionality. These statistics can be found via the following link:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/pwp/index.php?page=pwp>

6. National Statistics Code of Practice

In developing The Work Programme official statistics, DWP has acted in accordance with the Code of Practice and supporting Principles. Detailed policy statements and statement of compliance with the pre-release access to official statistics order 2008 are given below:

The Work Programme official statistics will undergo the formal assessment process by the Statistic Authority to determine compliance with the Code and designation with the quality mark 'National Statistics'.

DWP policy statements

DWP would like to hear your views on our statistical publications. If you use any of our statistics publications, we would be interested in hearing what you use them for and how well they meet your requirements. Please email DWP at stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk. If you would like to receive occasional e-mails from DWP to directly inform you of documents seeking the views of users, please email general.statistics@dwp.gsi.gov.uk giving details of the DWP publications you use.

7. Other National and Official Statistics issued by the Department for Work and Pensions

Details of other National and Official Statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions can be found on the DWP website at the following links:

- A list of Tabulation Tools: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>;
- An A to Z list of DWP statistics: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=statistics_a_to_z ;
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=schedule> ;
- And a list of the most recent releases: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=recent> .
- In accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, all DWP National Statistics are also announced via the UK Statistics Authority publication hub at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/statistics-producers/publications/index.html?newquery=*%&source-agency=Work+and+Pensions&pagetype=release-landing-page

In addition, users can find links to DWP additional statistical analyses that have not been included in our standard publications at http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=adhoc_analysis.