

Six Month Offer Official Statistics
Publication Date: 9:30am Wednesday 13th October 2010

Summary

This publication contains official statistics on the Six Month Offer up to and including July 2010. **Annex A provides provisional statistics for August 2010.** The key statistics are:

From April 2009 up to and including July 2010:

- **45,570** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **27,410** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)
- **2,820** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (three month eligibility)
- **17,610** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement
- **63,070** JSA customers have taken up a Work Focused Training placement

The provisional headline figures for August 2010 are:

- **2,600** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility)

Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including July 2010 with provisional figures for August 2010 (see **Annex A**). Figures for more recent months may be subject to small changes as more complete data becomes available.
2. This is a joint statistical publication between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Scottish Government.
3. Every effort has been made to ensure the quality of these statistics is of the highest standard. However, it may be necessary to revise the statistics in subsequent publications when more complete data becomes available. This will be carried out in line with the Code of Practice. The format of this publication will be kept under review and any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed.
4. Please note that this publication does not include statistics on Work Focused Training for Wales. The support on offer in Wales is different to that in England and Scotland and we are not able to separately identify 6MO Work Focused Training starts in Wales.

Policy Background

5. The Six Month Offer was announced in January 2009 as a support package for Jobseeker's Allowance customers reaching six months unemployment. The Six Month Offer was introduced nationally from the 6th April 2009.
6. There are four strands to the Six Month Offer: (1) Recruitment Subsidy, (2) Self Employment, (3) Volunteering and (4) Work Focused Training. A more detailed description of each of the strands can be found in **Annex B** of this document.
7. In Flexible New Deal Phase 2 areas the New Deal for Young People currently delivers support similar to the Self Employment and Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer. It is expected that young people will use this support where it is available. From January 2010 the New Deal employment subsidy was withdrawn and the Six Month Recruitment Subsidy was available to all customers, including young people, in Phase 1 and Phase 2 areas
8. From October 2009 elements of the Young Person Guarantee were introduced, including Future Jobs Fund, Routes into Work and Work Focused Training. The Young Person Guarantee applied nationally from 25th January and could affect take up of the Six Month Offer by young people.
9. From the 22nd February 2010, customers in receipt of JSA for three or more months became eligible for Self Employment Credit instead of the usual six or more months.
10. The Recruitment Subsidy was withdrawn from 30th June 2010. Employers had until 30th July in which to submit a claim for any employment starts before the 30th June 2010.

Technical Overview

11. These statistics are derived from a range of administrative data sources some of which have not been used to produce official statistics before. The process for producing these statistics will be kept under review and refined as appropriate as more data becomes available.
12. Please note that figures in previous releases have been updated in this release as more complete data has become available. Similarly, statistics in this publication may be updated in future publications.

Recruitment Subsidy:

13. The statistics include both the number of self marketed vouchers used and the number of customers recruited via the bulk billing arrangements.
14. The number of self marketed vouchers is based on DWP financial payments data and is reported against the month the payment was invoiced. The data is cleaned to remove erroneous records according to agreed processes.
15. The number of customers recruited through bulk billing is based on administrative records of eligibility checks conducted by Jobcentre Plus. A start is recorded under the month in which they started employment as declared by the employer.

16. There have been difficulties matching demographic information for self marketed voucher payments made in the North East region. As a result the “unknown” categories are larger than expected. We have taken action to address this issue but changes cannot be back dated.
17. There have been unusually large retrospective updates in November, December and January. This maybe caused by employers returning a back log of vouchers before the deadline of end of July. There are some residual Recruitment Subsidy starts in July because DWP report by the date the payment is invoiced on their financial system which is not necessarily the employment start date.
18. All vouchers have been processed in time for this publication; however, data quality was affected resulting in a larger proportion of unknowns in the demographic breakdowns than in previous publications. There will be no further updates on the number of Recruitment Subsidies taken up in future publications.

Self-Employment Credit:

19. The statistics count the number of first payments made by the month in which the first payment was invoiced.
20. Customers starting Self Employment Credit under the three to six month eligibility criteria are reported separately in the tables below. Extra care should be taken when using the three month eligibility figures as the policy is relatively new when compared to the other strands.
21. The date of first payment on DWP’s financial system has changed for some records between November 2009 and January 2010. There is a noticeable difference from the previous publication in the monthly figures during this period. However, the total for the period has changed only slightly.

Volunteering:

22. The number of volunteering placements is based on the individual customer level data supplied by the volunteering brokers.
23. Demographic breakdowns for the volunteering strand are produced by linking the data with the Labour Market System.

Work Focused Training:

24. The Work Focused Training statistics cover England and Scotland only. Data on Work Focused Training in England is sourced from training provider returns made through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) database. The ILR holds data on all government-funded learners studying at a Further Education College or training provider.
25. Data on training in Scotland is sourced from Skills Development Scotland (Corporate Training System). This is similar to the ILR in England, in that it is a collection of data from training providers on learners and their learning participation.

26. Training providers may submit data on learner starts some time after the actual start occurred. This means that data presented in this Release is subject to some retrospection, and figures will be revised upward in subsequent releases.
27. The numbers of Work Focused Training starts for Scotland are included in this publication, but the demographic breakdown of those starts is not included. This decision has been taken jointly by the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics in relation to Principle 6: Proportionate Burden. Demographic breakdowns for Work Focused Training in Scotland were included in previous publications and can be found at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/6month_offer/index.php?page=6month_of fer_arc

Job Outcomes

28. Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment Credit starts are by definition employment starts. We are investigating the feasibility of reporting job outcomes for the Volunteering and Work Focused Training strands by using the DWP longitudinal study database.

Rounding Policy

29. To reduce the risk of inferring the identity of a customer from these statistics and other statistics, values less than ten, including zeros, are suppressed and marked with a dash. Values above ten are rounded to the nearest ten. Therefore totals may not equal the sum of the individual cells.

Official Statistics

Table 1a: Take up of the Six Month Offer

	Recruitment Subsidy ¹ (GB)	Self Employment Credit (6 Month Eligibility) ² (GB)	Self Employment Credit (3 to 6 Month Eligibility) ² (GB)	Volunteering Placement Starts ³ (GB)	Work Focused Training Starts ⁴ (England and Scotland)
Total	45,570	27,410	2,820	17,610	63,070
Apr-09	460	30		10	640
May-09	1,510	190		140	250
Jun-09	2,650	460		360	740
Jul-09	2,770	790		720	1,290
Aug-09	3,000	980		990	3,090
Sep-09	4,170	1,380		1,320	4,650
Oct-09	3,370	1,590		1,410	4,700
Nov-09	3,470	1,720		1,590	6,370
Dec-09	1,620	1,100		1,170	2,600
Jan-10	3,080	1,600		1,370	6,210
Feb-10	3,480	2,220	10	1,730	6,230
Mar-10	4,510	3,050	220	1,700	7,030
Apr-10	3,980	3,180	530	1,320	5,460
May-10	3,490	2,930	630	1,240	5,380
Jun-10	3,860	3,400	670	1,320	5,200
Jul-10	140	2,800	750	1,230	3,240

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

1: Source - DWP Financial Systems (Resource Management) using payments made up to the end of August 2010. Includes Initial payments for Self Marketed Vouchers and payments made under the Bulk Billing arrangement. The date recorded is the date the voucher was invoiced (Self Marketed Vouchers) or the date the customer is recorded as having started employment (Bulk Billing).

2: Source - DWP Financial Systems (Resource Management) using payments made up to the end of August 2010. Reports the number of initial payments against the date the first payment was invoiced. The three and six month eligibility starts are recorded against separate account codes on Resource Management.

3: Source – Placement starts as recorded by the Volunteering Brokers based on individual customer level data

4: Source – BIS Individual Learner Record system and Skill Development Scotland's Corporate Training System. Does not include starts in Wales

Table 1b: Starts to Routes Work Focused Training by country

Work Focused Training Starts	England	Scotland
Total	59,820	3,250
Apr-09	470	170
May-09	120	130
Jun-09	590	150
Jul-09	1,180	110
Aug-09	2,910	190
Sep-09	4,430	220
Oct-09	4,540	160
Nov-09	6,090	270
Dec-09	2,510	90
Jan-10	6,000	210
Feb-10	5,930	300
Mar-10	6,720	310
Apr-10	5,290	170
May-10	5,080	300
Jun-10	4,930	270
Jul-10	3,030	210

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

Table 2a: Demographics for Starts for the period April 2009 to July 2010

		Recruitment Subsidy ^{1,2} (GB)	Self Employment Credit (Six Month Eligibility) ¹ (GB)	Volunteering (GB)	Work Focused Training Starts ^{3,4} (England only)
	Total	45,570	27,410	17,610	59,820
Gender	Male	29,200	22,560	10,610	45,770
	Female	1,010	4,420	6,290	14,050
	Unknown	6,360	440	720	-
Age Group	18-24	8,400	1,760	2,690	8,550
	25-49	24,040	18,950	10,450	40,700
	50+	6,750	6,260	3,750	10,580
	Unknown	6,360	440	720	-
	19+	38,550	26,910	16,540	59,580
Disability	Yes	6,730	4,320	4,920	6,180
	No	32,490	22,660	11,970	50,480
	Unknown	6,360	440	720	3,160
Ethnicity	White	33,460	23,860	13,070	47,640
	Black or Black British	1,080	660	1,210	4,850
	Asian or Asian British	1,570	640	860	2,830
	Mixed	370	240	270	1,340
	Other/ Chinese	520	250	320	1,350
	Unknown	8,580	1,770	1,880	1,810
Region	East Midlands	3,490	2,660	3,200	6,680
	East of England	2,500	1,990	840	4,910
	London	3,030	2,140	2,430	8,990
	North East	n/a ²	1,130	510	3,680
	North West	5,350	3,560	1,140	8,790
	Scotland	3,960	1,870	500	n/a ⁴
	South East	3,160	2,540	730	8,560
	South West	3,240	3,050	1,330	4,670
	Wales	2,830	1,840	650	n/a ⁴
	West Midlands	5,170	2,940	2,970	6,100
	Yorkshire & Humberside	4,870	3,020	2,450	7,130
Unknown	7,980 ²	670	880	320	

Notes: Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Therefore totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Recruitment Subsidy, Self Employment Credit and Volunteering demographics are taken from Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System (LMS). n/a = "not available".

1: Disability status is declared by the customer during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Customers recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown. Some regions have greater NDYP coverage than others and therefore may appear to have proportionately fewer starts.

2: Most Recruitment Subsidy payments in the North East region do not contain a personal identifier to allow the payment to be linked with the Labour Market System to obtain demographics. Therefore most of the North East records appear under "unknown".

3: Disability status is according to the learners own assessment if a learner has a disability or disabilities. Customers recording their ethnicity as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown

4: Demographic breakdowns of figures for training starts in Scotland and Wales are not available.

Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 st	Wednesday 14 th October 2009	First Publication
2 nd	Wednesday 20 th January 2010	Work Focused Training statistics published in February as an annex to the January publication.
	Wednesday 17 th February 2010	
3 rd	Wednesday 21 st April 2010	The first full publication to include all four strands.
4 th	Wednesday 14 th July 2010	Volunteering statistics based on Individual customer level data returned by the brokers.
5 th	Wednesday 13 th October 2010	
6 th	Wednesday 19 th January 2011	Provisional Date

Publication dates will be confirmed on the UK Statistics Authority's Publication Hub (www.statistics.gov.uk/hub) at least 4 weeks before publication date.

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Annex A: Provisional DWP Figures for August 2010

1. In addition to the main statistics, provisional statistics for August 2010 are included below. These statistics are expected to increase in the next publication due to the time it takes for further starts to be recorded on the systems.
2. The latest data shows **2,600** JSA customers took up the Self Employment Credit (six month eligibility) in August 2010. The Recruitment Subsidy ended in June so no provisional figures for Recruitment Subsidy are reported in this publication.
3. The table below shows how the provisional figures for May 2010 given in the previous publication (July 2010) compare to the figures in this publication (October 2010).

	Provisional May 2010 figures given in July 2010 publication	May 2010 figures given in October 2010 publication	Absolute Increase	Percentage Increase
Recruitment Subsidy	2,320	3,490	1,170	50%
Self Employment Credit	2,230	2,930	700	31%

Annex B: Further Details on the Strands

Recruitment Subsidy:

1. The recruitment subsidy is a payment to employers for recruiting customers who have been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) for six months, where the job is for at least 16 hours per week and is expected to last at least 26 weeks. It is delivered in two ways;
 - ***Self Marketed Voucher:*** Individual customers are given a voucher when they reach six months unemployed to present to employers at interviews. If the employer recruits the customer, the employer submits the voucher to DWP and receives a £500 payment. If the customer does not return to claim benefit within 26 weeks the employer will receive a further £500 payment.
 - ***Bulk Billing:*** Involves working directly with employers who recruit in bulk. Under this arrangement the employer receives a £1000 subsidy for every six month plus unemployed customer they recruit.

Self Employment:

2. Eligible Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) customers can receive a Self-Employment Credit (SEC) worth £50 per week for up to 16 weeks once they leave benefit to help with start-up costs. Jobcentre Plus direct customers to expert enterprise help from Business Link (England), Business Gateway and Training for Work (Scotland) and Flexible Support for Business (Wales) who provide tailored information, advice and practical support to customers interested in becoming self-employed or starting a business.
3. Eligibility for SEC is not dependent upon the customer having engaged with the 'expert partner' and all claims have to be submitted within five weeks of their JSA claim ending.
4. From 22nd February 2010 the eligibility for the Self Employment support was extended to include customers with JSA claims over three months instead of the usual six months.

Volunteering:

5. Customers with an interest in volunteering to develop their work skills are directed to a broker to find and arrange a suitable volunteering placement.

Work Focused Training

6. The Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer is led and funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in England, the Scottish Government in Scotland and the Welsh Assembly Government in Wales. It offers training to Jobseeker's Allowance customers who would benefit from significant up-skilling or re-skilling in order to re-enter the local job market.
7. In England, as part of this package of enhanced support, there are 75,000 new training places on offer to jobseekers who reach the six month point on Jobseeker's

Allowance who would benefit from significant up-skilling or re-skilling in order to re-enter the local job market. Training, commissioned by the Skills Funding Agency and delivered through the Further Education sector, is focused to meet both the individual's work aspirations and employer demand, taking into account the needs of the local job market. Training will be at a range of levels, from Skills for Life to level 3 depending on need. Training can be part-time or up to eight weeks full-time provision. It must be relevant to the local labour market, be a significant uplift in skills, and allow people to progress to a full qualification. Full-time provision is supported by a Training Allowance.

8. In Scotland, the training for the Six Month Offer is provided through Training for Work, the national vocational training programme for the unemployed. Training is demand led, aimed at specific job opportunities and can vary in length from a week to a year. Support for those wishing to be self employed is also available through this programme. Training for Work can be accessed by all people seeking work who have been unemployed for three months or more. Day one access is available to those who are disadvantaged in the labour market, such as lone parents, or those with disabilities.
9. The support offered in Wales is different from both England and Scotland. The training element of the Six Month Offer is delivered by the Welsh Assembly Government's existing Skill Build programme, which continues to offer pre-employment training to Jobseeker's Allowance customers from their first day of unemployment, with additional funding for 2009-10 to meet rising demand. It has not been possible to separately identify 6MO Work Focused Training starts joining the Skill Build programme from overall Skill Build starts.