

**Six Month Offer Official Statistics**

**Publication Date:**  
**9:30am Wednesday 21st April 2010**

**Summary**

This publication contains official statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including January 2010. **Annex A provides provisional statistics for February 2010.** Please note this publication now includes Work Focused Training for England and Scotland. The key statistics are:

Between April 2009 and January 2010:

- **22,990** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **9,760** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit
- **8,670** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement
- **29,770** JSA customers have taken up a Work Focused Training placement

Recruitment Subsidy demographics:

- **15,420** are male and **5,170** are female (2,410 are unknown)
- **5,060** are aged under 25, **12,040** are aged 25 to 49 and **3,480** are aged 50 or over (2,410 are unknown)
- **3,440** are recorded as having a disability and **17,150** are recorded as not having a disability (2,410 are unknown)
- **17,580** are from a White ethnic group and **1,760** are from an ethnic minority group (3,650 are unknown)

Self Employment Credit demographics:

- **8,070** are male and **1,550** are female (150 are unknown)
- **420** are aged under 25, **6,870** are aged 25 to 49 and **2,320** are aged 50 or over (150 are unknown)
- **1,590** are recorded as having a disability and **8,020** are recorded as not having a disability (150 are unknown)
- **8,500** are from a White ethnic group and **580** are from an ethnic minority group (690 are unknown)

Work Focused Training demographics:

- **22,720** are male and **7,050** are female
- **4,640** are aged under 25, **19,990** are aged 25 to 49 and **5,140** are aged 50 or over
- **3,040** are recorded as having a disability and **24,980** are recorded as not having a disability (1,750 are unknown)
- **23,960** are from a White ethnic group and **4,710** are from an ethnic minority group (1,090 are unknown)

The provisional headline figures for February 2010 are:

- **2,550** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **2,130** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit
- **1,840** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement

## Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including January 2010 with provisional figures for February 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), the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly 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: this publication does not yet 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. The Welsh Assembly Government is exploring options for separately identifying 6MO Work Focused Training starts to include in future 6MO Statistics publications.

## 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. More detailed descriptions of the strands can be found in **Annex B** of this document.
7. The New Deal for Young People currently delivers support similar to the Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment opportunities. It is expected that young people will use New Deal for Young People rather than the Six Month Offer where available.
8. From October 2009 elements of the Young Person Guarantee were introduced, including Future Jobs Fund (FJF), Routes into Work and Work Focused Training. The Young Person Guarantee applied nationally from 25 January and could affect take up of the six month offer by young people.

## Technical Overview

9. 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.

10. 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.
11. DWP have now acquired customer level data for the Volunteering strand. DWP intend to use this new data source with effect from the next publication in July 2010 to provide the monthly and demographic breakdowns.

***Recruitment Subsidy:***

12. The statistics include both the number of self marketed vouchers used and the number of customers recruited via the bulk billing arrangements.
13. 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.
14. The number of customers recruited through bulk billing is based on administrative records of eligibility checks conducted by Jobcentre Plus. Only eligible customers are counted in the statistics and are recorded under the month in which they started employment as declared by the employer.
15. 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. We will continue to monitor progress.

***Self-Employment Credit:***

16. The statistics count the number of first payments made by the month in which the first payment was invoiced.

***Volunteering:***

17. The statistics are based on records kept by the brokering organisations and report the number of customers starting a volunteering placement by month. In some circumstances there can be a delay in confirming the placement start so retrospective figures could be updated.
18. This publication uses the figures provided by the volunteering placement brokers and are based on their records. DWP have now acquired customer level data from the brokers and intend to use it for the next publication in July 2010 to provide monthly and demographic breakdowns. A reconciliation exercise will be undertaken and the volunteering statistics could be revised.

***Work Focused Training:***

19. Data on Work Focused Training in England is sourced from training provider returns through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) database. The ILR holds data from all Further Education Colleges and training providers on learners and their learning aims.

20. 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.
21. 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.

### **Job Outcomes**

22. 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**

23. 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 1: Starts**

Great Britain	Recruitment Subsidy <sup>1</sup>	Self Employment Credit <sup>2</sup>	Volunteering Placement Starts <sup>3</sup>	Work Focused Training Starts <sup>4</sup>
<b>Total</b>	22,990	9,760	8,670	29,770
Apr 2009	450	30	-	640
May 2009	1,490	190	90	250
Jun 2009	2,590	460	360	740
Jul 2009	2,690	780	730	1,290
Aug 2009	2,860	970	930	3,130
Sep 2009	3,800	1,360	1,230	4,620
Oct 2009	2,920	1,550	1,350	4,520
Nov 2009	2,290	1,190	1,550	6,240
Dec 2009	1,190	480	1,070	2,460
Jan 2010	2,720	2,750	1,340	5,890

**Notes:** Figures are for Great Britain. 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 March 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 March 2010. Reports the number of initial payments against the date the first payment was invoiced.

3: Source – Placement starts as recorded by the Volunteering Brokers

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

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

		Recruitment Subsidy <sup>1,2</sup>	Self Employment Credit <sup>1</sup>	Work Focused Training Starts <sup>3,4</sup>
<b>Total</b>		22,990	9,760	29,770
Gender	Male	15,420	8,070	22,720
	Female	5,170	1,550	7,050
	Unknown	2,410	150	-
Age Group	Under 25	5,060	420	4,640
	25-49	12,040	6,870	19,990
	50+	3,480	2,320	5,140
	Unknown	2,410	150	-
Disability	Yes	3,440	1,590	3,040
	No	17,150	8,020	24,980
	Unknown	2,410	150	1,750
Ethnicity	White	17,580	8,500	23,960
	Black or Black British	540	190	2,190
	Asian or Asian British	780	210	1,280
	Mixed	180	90	620
	Other/ Chinese	260	90	620
	Unknown	3,650	690	1,090
Region	East Midlands	1,990	1,060	3,640
	East of England	1,420	620	1,770
	London	1,280	650	3,940
	North East	n/a <sup>2</sup>	480	1,590
	North West	2,590	1,210	4,030
	Scotland	1,840	700	1,680
	South East	1,790	900	4,350
	South West	1,550	1,160	2,360
	Wales	1,710	730	n/a <sup>4</sup>
	West Midlands	2,970	1,020	2,750
	Yorkshire & Humberside	2,770	1,000	3,430
	Unknown	3,090 <sup>2</sup>	220	230

**Notes:** Figures are for Great Britain for the period April 2009 to January 2010 inclusive.

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 and Self Employment Credit 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: Figures for training starts in Wales are not yet available

**Table 2b: Work Focused Training Demographics by Nation**

		England	Scotland	Total
<b>Total</b>		28,090	1,680	29,770
Gender	Male	21,620	1,100	22,720
	Female	6,470	580	7,050
	Unknown	-	-	-
Age Group	Under 25	4,370	270	4,640
	25-49	18,820	1,170	19,990
	50+	4,900	250	5,140
	Unknown	-	-	-
	19+	27,950	n/a	n/a
Disability <sup>1</sup>	Yes	3,000	40	3,040
	No	23,420	1,560	24,980
	Unknown	1,670	80	1,750
Ethnicity <sup>2</sup>	White	22,420	1,540	23,960
	Black or Black British	2,160	30	2,190
	Asian or Asian British	1,260	20	1,280
	Mixed	610	10	620
	Other/ Chinese	620	-	620
	Unknown	1,010	80	1,090
Month	Apr 2009	470	170	640
	May 2009	120	130	250
	Jun 2009	590	150	740
	Jul 2009	1,180	110	1,290
	Aug 2009	2,940	190	3,130
	Sep 2009	4,400	220	4,620
	Oct 2009	4,370	160	4,520
	Nov 2009	5,970	270	6,240
	Dec 2009	2,380	90	2,460
	Jan 2010	5,690	200	5,890

**Notes:** Figures are the period April 2009 to January 2010 inclusive.

Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash and any figures above 10 are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding.

1: Disability status is according to the learners own assessment if a learner has a disability or disabilities.

2: Customers recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown

## Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 <sup>st</sup>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	(First Publication)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2010	Work Focused Training statistics published in February as an annex to the January publication.
	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2010	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2010	The first full publication to include all four strands.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2010	Provisional Date
5 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2010	Provisional Date
6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2011	Provisional Date

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

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## **Annex A: Provisional DWP Figures for February 2010**

1. In addition to the main statistics, provisional statistics for February 2010 are included below. These statistics are expected to increase in the next publication due to the time it takes for further starts to appear on the systems.
2. The latest data gives the following starts in February 2010:
  - **2,550** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy;
  - **2,130** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit; and
  - **1,840** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement.
3. The provisional figures for November 2009 given in the previous publication have increased in this publication by 64% (Recruitment Subsidy), 8% (Self Employment Credit) and 0% (Volunteering).

## 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 5 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 13 weeks instead of 6 months. This change falls outside the reporting period covered by this release.

### **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 BIS 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.