

Six Month Offer Official Statistics

Publication Date:
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Summary

This publication contains official statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including October 2009. **Annex A provides provisional statistics for November 2009.**

The key statistics are:

Between April 2009 and October 2009:

- **15,530** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **5,310** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit
- **4,710** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement

Recruitment Subsidy demographics:

- **10,490** are male and **3,410** are female
- **3,610** are aged under 25, **7,990** are aged 25 to 49 and **2,300** are aged 50 or over
- **1,980** are recorded as having a disability and **11,910** are recorded as not having a disability
- **11,930** are from a white background and **1,090** are from an ethnic minority background

Self Employment Credit demographics:

- **4,440** are male and **790** are female
- **230** are aged under 25, **3,730** are aged 25 to 49 and **1,270** are aged 50 or over
- **720** are recorded as having a disability and **4,520** are recorded as not having a disability
- **4,660** are from a white background and **270** are from an ethnic minority background

Please note: this publication does not yet include statistics on the Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer. An annex to this publication will be released on the 17th February 2010 providing statistics on the Work Focused Training strand of this offer. Further details are available from:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/6month_offer.asp

The provisional headline figures for November 2009 are:

- **1,400** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy
- **1,100** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit
- **1,550** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement

Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including October 2009 with provisional figures for November 2009 (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), 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. Statistics on the Work Focused Training strand for England and Scotland will be published as an annex to this publication on the 17th February 2010 and will cover the period April to October 2009. From April 2010 this release will include statistics on Work Focused Training.

Policy Description

5. The Six Month Offer was announced in January 2009 as a support package offering up to 500,000 opportunities 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.
7. The New Deal for Young People currently delivers support similar to the Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment opportunities so it is expected that young people will access this type of support through the New Deals rather than the Six Month Offer.
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 could affect take up of the Six Month Offer by young people.

Recruitment Subsidy:

9. 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:

10. Customers moving into self employment receive a Self Employment Credit worth £50 per week for the first 16 weeks of trading. In addition, Business Link (England), Business Gateway/Training for Work (Scotland) and Flexible Support for Business (Wales) offer information, advice and practical support to customers interested in becoming self employed.

Volunteering:

11. 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

12. The Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer is delivered by BIS, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government. It offers training to JSA customers who would benefit from significant up-skilling or re-skilling in order to re-enter the local job market. The training is short-term, full or part time, and is focused to meet both the individual's work aspirations and employer demand. There are some differences in the support offered in England, Scotland and Wales.

Technical Overview

13. These statistics are derived from a range of administrative data sources which include DWP financial systems, Jobcentre Plus administrative systems and provider administrative systems. 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. As part of the general quality assurance we cross check our data systems where possible.
14. The information on demographics in some cases is obtained by merging data from separate administrative systems which sometimes results in unknown values. This is because either we are unable to find a match or the information has not been recorded for the particular customer.
15. We are in the process of acquiring customer level data for the volunteering starts to obtain demographic breakdowns for this strand.

16. Please note that figures reported in the previous release (October 2009) for the period April 2009 to July 2009 have been revised in this release and therefore may differ.

Recruitment Subsidy:

17. The statistics include both the number of self marketed vouchers used and the number of customers recruited via the bulk billing arrangements.
18. The number of self marketed vouchers is based on payments made on DWP's financial systems and is reported against the month the payment was invoiced. The data is cleaned to remove erroneous records according to agreed processes.
19. The number of customers recruited through bulk billing is based on administrative records of eligibility checks conducted by Jobcentre Plus. Only the customers who were eligible are counted in the statistics and are reported under the month they started employment as recorded by the employer. Employers can only claim for employees starting after terms and conditions are agreed.
20. Statistics for recent months may be updated in subsequent publications because of the time lag between the employer submitting the voucher and the payment record appearing on DWP financial systems.
21. There have been difficulties matching demographic information for self marketed voucher payments made in the North East region. This has caused the "unknown" categories to be larger than expected. We have taken action to address this issue but changes cannot be back dated.

Self-Employment Credit:

22. The statistics count the number of first payments made by invoice month. If a customer has already left JSA and begun trading they can receive back payments up to a maximum of 5 weeks since leaving JSA. The statistics will retrospectively update when this happens.

Volunteering:

23. The statistics are based on records kept by the brokering organisations and report the number of customers starting a volunteering placement by the month they started. It may take time to confirm the customer started the placement so these figures could be updated in future publications.
24. We had planned to have customer level records available for this publication but technical difficulties meant this has not been possible. This publication uses the figures provided by the volunteering placement brokers, which are drawn from the same data source. Once the customer level data becomes available, reconciliation will be undertaken and the volunteering statistics could be revised.
25. As individual customer level records are not available we are unable to provide the demographic breakdown for volunteering placement starts.

Work Focused Training:

26. Statistics on the Work Focused Training strand covering England and Scotland will be published in an annex to this publication on the 17th February 2010.

Job Outcomes

27. Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment Credit starts are by definition employment starts. We are investigating the feasibility of reporting job outcomes for the Volunteering strand once data becomes available via the DWP longitudinal study database.

Rounding Policy

28. 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 Subsidy¹	Self Employment Credit²	Volunteering Placement Starts³
Total	15,530	5,310	4,710
April 2009	430	30	-
May 2009	1,440	190	90
June 2009	2,470	460	360
July 2009	2,530	780	730
August 2009	2,660	960	930
September 2009	3,500	1,350	1,230
October 2009	2,500	1,530	1,350

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. Due to rounding 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 December 2009. 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). Employers agreed the terms and conditions for bulk billing from April 2009.

2: Source - DWP Financial Systems (Resource Management) using payments made up to the end of December 2009. Reports the number of initial payments against the date the first payment was invoiced.

3: Source – Placement starts as reported by Volunteering Brokers

Table 2: Demographics for Starts for the period April to October 2009

Great Britain		Recruitment Subsidy	Self Employment Credit
	Total	15,530	5,310
Gender	Male	10,490	4,440
	Female	3,410	790
	Unknown	1,640	80
Age Group	Under 25	3,610	230
	25-49	7,990	3,730
	50+	2,300	1,270
	Unknown	1,640	80
	19+	13,630	5,220
Disability ¹	Yes	1,980	720
	No	11,910	4,520
	Unknown	1,640	80
Ethnicity ²	White	11,930	4,660
	Black or Black British	310	90
	Asian or Asian British	480	100
	Mixed	110	40
	Other/ Chinese	190	40
	Unknown	2,510	380
	Region ³	East Midlands	1,350
	East of England	840	330
	London	690	320
	North East	n/a ⁴	290
	North West	1,710	680
	Scotland	1,270	410
	South East	1,130	460
	South West	1,100	710
	Wales	1,290	410
	West Midlands	2,100	520
	Yorkshire & Humberside	2,010	530
	Unknown	2,050 ⁴	110

Notes: Figures are for Great Britain for the period April 2009 to October 2009 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. Demographics for Volunteering Placement Starts are not available for this publication. Recruitment Subsidy and Self Employment Credit demographics are taken from Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System (LMS).

1: Disability status is declared by the customer during a Jobcentre Plus interview. The data source used in this publication contained some errors. Tests have concluded the error is approximately + or - 3%

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

3: Some regions have greater NDYP coverage than others and therefore may appear to have proportionately fewer starts.

4: 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.

Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 st	Wednesday 14 October 2009	(First Publication)
2 nd	Wednesday 20 th January 2010	Work Focused Training statistics will be published in February as an annex to the January publication.
	Wednesday 17 th February 2010	
3 rd	April 2010	The first full publication to include all 4 strands.

Future publications will be quarterly thereafter in July 2010, October 2010, January 2011, April 2011 and July 2011. Publication dates will be announced on the UK Statistics Authority's Publication Hub for Official Statistics at least 4 weeks before publication date.

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Annex A: Provisional DWP Figures for November 2009

1. In addition to the main statistics published in this document, we have also included provisional statistics for November 2009. These statistics may increase in the next publication due to the time it takes for starts in November to appear on our systems. Analysis suggests the increase could be up to 80% for Recruitment Subsidy and between 5% and 15% for Self Employment Credit starts. We will review the benefits of providing these provisional figures for future releases.
2. Using data up to the end of December 2009, for the month of November 2009, we have recorded:
 - **1,400** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy;
 - **1,100** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit; and
 - **1,550** JSA customers have taken up a Volunteering placement.