

Freedom of Information request 2013-1443

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Information request

(1) the number of Jobseekers Allowance claimants in Great Britain who were serving a sanction or disallowance (i.e. a varied or fixed length sanction, or a disentitlement) and consequently not receiving the contribution or income related JSA payments they were otherwise entitled to, at a single point in time for each year from 2005 to 2012 inclusive;

(2) Please split these numbers between varied length sanctions, fixed length sanctions, and disentitlements

(3) For the same points in time, please state how many of these claimants were receiving a hardship payment.

DWP response

In response to your questions the information we have readily available, on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) sanctions and disallowances and hardship payments, is given separately in the two tables below.

Please note the information provided in the first table is for the number of JSA claimants who have had a sanction or disallowance applied in each month and does not show the number of people who are not in receipt of JSA because of a sanction or disallowance in that month.

Number¹ of JSA claimants with a sanction or disallowance applied² by month of decision³ and sanction/disallowance type: 1st January 2005 to 21st October 2012³

Month of decision ³	Sanction/disallowance type		
	Sanction		Disallowance
	Varied length ⁴	Fixed length ⁵	Entitlement decision ⁶
Jan-05	6,550	2,040	9,410
Feb-05	6,680	2,390	10,970
Mar-05	7,030	2,450	11,230
Apr-05	6,900	2,410	11,140
May-05	6,440	2,260	10,700
Jun-05	6,530	2,340	12,920

Jul-05	6,140	2,280	11,920
Aug-05	6,290	2,410	12,340
Sep-05	5,920	2,210	12,080
Oct-05	5,700	2,110	11,010
Nov-05	6,100	2,300	11,800
Dec-05	5,050	2,120	7,960
Jan-06	5,420	2,140	10,520
Feb-06	5,350	2,300	11,000
Mar-06	6,450	2,860	12,590
Apr-06	4,520	2,280	10,210
May-06	4,940	2,630	11,560
Jun-06	5,090	2,960	13,730
Jul-06	4,470	2,460	13,790
Aug-06	4,860	2,770	14,350
Sep-06	4,710	2,800	13,130
Oct-06	5,300	3,070	14,770
Nov-06	5,500	3,550	15,830
Dec-06	4,470	2,820	11,160
Jan-07	5,780	3,600	16,400
Feb-07	5,520	3,560	16,040
Mar-07	5,590	4,080	18,380
Apr-07	4,430	3,580	16,050
May-07	4,960	3,770	16,870
Jun-07	4,600	3,670	18,120
Jul-07	4,970	3,770	19,050
Aug-07	5,490	4,020	18,990
Sep-07	4,930	3,350	16,250
Oct-07	5,690	3,690	18,440
Nov-07	5,810	3,600	18,720
Dec-07	4,390	2,770	10,630
Jan-08	6,310	3,600	17,770
Feb-08	5,830	3,830	19,020
Mar-08	5,230	3,340	15,960
Apr-08	5,880	3,770	18,800
May-08	5,870	3,590	18,620
Jun-08	5,630	3,820	19,540
Jul-08	6,150	3,970	20,980
Aug-08	5,200	3,400	18,380
Sep-08	5,740	3,940	20,300
Oct-08	6,170	3,980	21,110
Nov-08	5,280	3,520	19,130
Dec-08	4,980	3,660	15,050
Jan-09	5,520	3,700	19,220
Feb-09	5,400	3,810	19,760

Mar-09	5,650	4,530	24,170
Apr-09	4,470	3,830	21,680
May-09	4,410	3,650	21,410
Jun-09	4,570	5,430	26,100
Jul-09	4,360	8,110	26,990
Aug-09	3,830	7,730	25,090
Sep-09	4,090	8,770	27,580
Oct-09	4,910	8,920	28,680
Nov-09	4,810	9,000	28,160
Dec-09	4,590	8,220	23,280
Jan-10	5,100	8,530	25,660
Feb-10	5,440	9,080	30,400
Mar-10	6,330	10,760	32,960
Apr-10 ⁷	5,190	25,380	11,030
May-10	5,470	30,680	7,480
Jun-10	5,720	38,470	9,420
Jul-10	6,650	40,260	11,170
Aug-10	8,220	40,220	12,650
Sep-10	8,600	42,710	12,760
Oct-10	9,160	41,800	13,570
Nov-10	10,160	42,050	15,210
Dec-10	8,510	30,770	11,240
Jan-11	9,060	35,360	13,640
Feb-11	9,760	38,250	16,070
Mar-11	11,570	42,490	18,730
Apr-11	8,520	31,230	12,970
May-11	8,550	29,870	12,630
Jun-11	8,610	28,020	11,730
Jul-11	8,270	26,080	10,860
Aug-11	8,700	27,100	11,300
Sep-11	7,910	26,520	11,350
Oct-11	8,100	25,390	11,190
Nov-11	8,780	28,670	12,470
Dec-11	6,870	24,470	9,820
Jan-12	7,520	30,820	14,090
Feb-12	8,530	34,410	13,960
Mar-12	8,770	40,370	15,060
Apr-12	7,680	37,780	13,870
May-12	9,040	44,590	17,140
Jun-12	7,110	40,150	16,110
Jul-12	9,020	41,520	19,890
Aug-12	9,190	32,980	20,500
Sep-12	8,450	39,580	19,320
Oct-12 ³	7,040	33,000	16,910

Source:

DWP Information, Governance and Security Directorate: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten and will include individuals who have had more than one sanction/disallowance type applied or for the same type in a different month e.g. if an individual has a varied and fixed length sanction applied then they will appear twice.
2. **Sanction or disallowance applied:** The number of sanctions and disallowances applied is the number of referrals where the decision was found against the claimant.
3. **Month of decision:** The month in which the decision on the sanction or disallowance referral was made. The month October 2012 only includes data up to and including the 21st of October, which this is the latest date for which figures are available.
4. **Varied Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for leaving employment voluntarily without just cause, refusing employment without good cause, or losing employment through misconduct.
5. **Fixed Length sanctions:** A sanction of between 1 week and 26 weeks is imposed for refusal, without good cause, to attend an employment programme or carry out a Jobseeker's Direction.
6. **Entitlement decision:** These are questions on which entitlement to JSA depends. For example, if there is doubt around whether the Jobseeker's agreement (JSAg) is suitable, whether they are actively looking for work or making themselves available for work.
7. Prior to April 2010, a Failure to Attend Advisory Interview attracted an entitlement decision. Since then, it has attracted a fixed length sanction of between 1 and 2 weeks.

Number of JSA (Income-Based) claimants in receipt of a hardship payment by month and percentage of award in payment, Great Britain: February 2005 to August 2012

Month	Total	Hardship 20% award in payment	Hardship 40% award in payment	Unknown
Feb-05	4,600	*200	3,500	900
May-05	4,900	*300	3,500	1,100
Aug-05	5,100	*300	3,600	1,200
Nov-05	5,100	*300	3,300	1,500
Feb-06	4,900	*300	3,100	1,500
May-06	4,900	*200	2,800	1,800
Aug-06	4,400	*200	2,400	1,800

Nov-06	4,800	*200	2,600	2,000
Feb-07	4,200	*200	2,400	1,600
May-07	4,800	*200	2,300	2,400
Aug-07	4,100	*100	2,100	1,900
Nov-07
Feb-08	4,200	*300	2,900	1,100
May-08	5,000	*300	3,200	1,500
Aug-08	4,600	*200	3,100	1,300
Nov-08	5,700	*200	2,900	2,500
Feb-09	5,300	*200	3,500	1,600
May-09	5,900	*200	2,900	2,800
Aug-09	5,300	*300	2,200	2,800
Nov-09	4,900	*200	2,300	2,400
Feb-10	4,900	*200	2,700	2,000
May-10	5,500	*400	3,500	1,600
Aug-10	6,000	*500	3,800	1,800
Nov-10	7,500	*500	5,100	1,900
Feb-11	8,600	600	6,200	1,800
May-11	8,700	*500	6,300	2,000
Aug-11	8,500	600	5,700	2,200
Nov-11	7,200	600	5,300	1,300
Feb-12	10,100	*400	4,300	5,500
May-12	8,300	*500	6,000	1,800
Aug-12	8,300	600	5,700	2,000

Source: DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), Information Governance and Security Directorate, 5% samples.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and are based on 5% samples and are therefore subject to sampling variation.
2. Figures of 500 or less are denoted by "*" and are subject to a higher degree of sampling variation and therefore should be used as a guide only.
3. Figures have been uprated using 5% proportions against 100% totals.
4. ".." denotes not available.

You may also be interested to view the following published research report 313 "A review of the JSA sanctions regime" (2006):

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep313.pdf>

The research report includes the following:

"There are no reliable data on how many of those receiving a variable length sanction go on to claim hardship payments. However, JSA processing data

shows that about one third of all sanctioned jobseekers are paid JSA at the hardship rate.” – page 60

“The impact of sanctions was seen to be moderated by support from family and friends, as well as by hardship payments received (which are received by about a quarter of all those sanctioned).” – page 50

The statistics in the research report use information from snapshot 5% sample data on the number of JSA claimants who receive hardship payments and from 100% data on the numbers of sanctions applied.

Therefore in response to your specific questions I can confirm that the Department does hold some information falling within the description specified in your request. However, due to the complexity involved in linking together data from the different source systems used to administer the JSA claim process we estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further.

The JSA QSE publication you mention was replaced by the JSA Tabulation Tools at http://83.244.183.180/100pc/jsa/tabtool_jsa.html

and:

http://83.244.183.180/5pc/jsa_prim/tabtool_jsa_prim.html

However, these tools do not provide statistics about JSA claimants under sanction or disallowance or the number receiving hardship payments. This information has not been published since 2005.

The data we do have readily available on JSA sanctions and disallowances is used to publish National Statistics via the Tabulation Tool.

<http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool>

This data however only includes information on the number of sanctions and disallowances applied and does not show the number of people who are not in receipt of JSA because of a sanction or disallowance at any particular point in time.