

Work Programme Official Statistics to June 2014

Work Programme was launched throughout Great Britain in June 2011. It is part of a number of welfare to work reforms¹ aimed at getting unemployed people into lasting work. Claimants are transferred to private and public companies, called providers from Jobcentre Plus at specified points in their claim². Providers are paid when an individual reaches six months in work, or three months for those expected to require more assistance. Providers are also paid for further work beyond this, usually up to a maximum of an additional one year or a little over a year and a half for the harder to help groups. An overview of the official statistics and key measures is on page 3. An overview of programme itself is on page 9.

Summary

Results against the Department's measures have generally improved since the start of the scheme. Outcomes for those joining the Programme more recently are now above minimum expected levels.

Over 1.6 million people have joined Work Programme. Whilst the numbers joining each month usually decrease, the proportion expected to require more assistance has been around 3 times higher in those joining in the second 18 months of the scheme, compared to the first.

Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants joining the scheme have shown increasing results over time, with levels around twice as high as those for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) new claimants.

Nearly 850 thousand individuals have completed their allotted time on the scheme.

Key findings

- Overall, more than 1 in 5 of those with sufficient time on the programme to do so spent at least six months in work (or three for the harder to help). Over 330 thousand individuals in total.
- More than 1 in 8 of the most recent participants to complete a year on the scheme had at least six months in work (or three if they are expected to need more help). This is over one and a half times the levels of the Work Programme earliest joiners. The minimum expected level is a little over 1 in 9.
 - For JSA claimants levels are now around twice as high as for earliest joiners. 1 in 5 of the most recent 18 to 24 year old JSA participants to complete a year had at least six months in work, 1 in 6 for those aged 25 and over and other JSA groups. Minimum expected levels are around 1 in 7 and 1 in 9 respectively.
 - A little less than 1 in 10 of the most recent ESA new claimants (excluding 12 month prognosis claimants) to complete a year on the scheme had at least 3 months in work. Minimum expected levels are around 1 in 14. For those in the other ESA group, outcomes are well below minimum expected levels.
- Those with at least six (or three) months in work after a year have on average a further eleven months in work at the two years point.
- Of those completing the programme, approaching a quarter were still in work at the two year point (or providers had received the maximum payments). Around 7 in 10 returned to Jobcentre plus.

Please send your comments or suggestions regarding this publication to stats-consultation@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

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¹ For more information on the full range of schemes see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employment-programme-official-statistics>

² For further information see Work Programme Official Statistics background information note accessed via: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/work-programme-statistics--2>

Introduction

This release contains the latest Work Programme Official Statistics on people joining and those gaining sustained employment up to 30 June 2014. This statistics have been developed in accordance with the Code of Practice and supporting Principles.

In this document

We have simplified this summary based on your feedback. All tables previously contained within the summary are available via accompanying excel tables. Following our public consultation, a measure relating to those staying in work beyond three/six months is included on page 6 of this summary. The measure tracks those who had at least three/six months in work after a year on the scheme and compares the average further weeks in work by the end of their second year.

This release contains minimum expected levels of people achieving 3/6 months in employment at various points in the scheme against key measures. This is in response to recommendations from an [independent review](#). For more details see the overview on page 3.

Claimants are assigned to one of nine Payment Groups and randomly allocated to a provider in their area. To reflect your needs and DWP contracts with providers, throughout this summary document JSA Claimants aged 18 to 24 (Payment Group 1), JSA Claimants aged 25 and over (Payment Group 2)) and ESA new customers (Payment Group 6) are presented individually. Payment Group 6 is presented excluding 12 month prognosis claimants. These have been grouped with Payment Groups 5, 7, and 8 and presented together as "Other ESA/IB". Payment Groups 3, 4 and 9 are presented together as "other JSA". Providers are paid when an individual reaches six months in work for JSA ages 18-24 and JSA aged 25 plus (and most of the JSA other groups) or three months for the ESA groups (and some limited other JSA groups).

The statistics are released quarterly in September, December, March and June and are primarily sourced from data originally collected via administrative systems. To reflect any updates, the full historical statistical series is refreshed with each release and so previous figures may be updated based on new data. Each scheduled release of Work Programme Official Statistics is subject to a complete historical revision to previous figures as well as entirely new records relating to the latest time period i.e. they are fully retrospective. The Department's [policy statement](#) describes more generally how DWP will handle revisions.

For more details see our [background information note](#).

Future Releases

The next release will be on 18th Dec 2014 and contain data to 30th September 2014. We have now published our [response](#) to the Work Programme Official Statistics consultation which outlines our future plans.

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Work Programme Official Statistics: overview and measures

Statistical products

The statistical summary gives an overview. We present key points and trends using charts and commentary. We make the information underlying the charts available as excel tables. Alongside this we publish a large number of tables and animated charts which enable you to get much more detail by provider, contract, personal characteristics and geography. These are provided via the [DWP Tabulation Tool](#) and [data visualisation tools](#). [Underlying data](#) is also available.

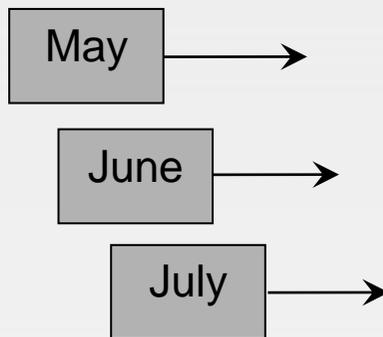
A [background information note](#) provides you with supplementary information on the processes involved in developing and releasing the official statistics including information on the quality, revisions and known issues. The [Work Programme statistics](#) page provides links to these and other related statistics and research.

The release enables you to examine information on the Work Programme in two main ways

Compare monthly intakes over time

Those joining the Work Programme in a particular month compared by total, by group and tracked over the same duration of support.

Since providers are paid when individuals reach three or six months in work, this approach avoids comparisons which would include those who have not had long enough to achieve this.



Key Measure (transparency)

The Department publishes a range of [measures](#) to support transparency of public information.

For the Work Programme the **transparency indicator** is [the proportion of individuals in each monthly intake to reach three/six months in work in their first year on the scheme](#).

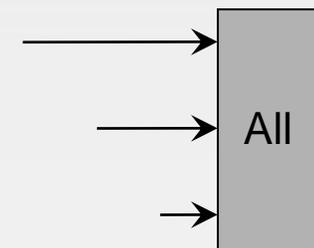
For example, for those joining to the Work Programme in June 2011 this is the proportion with at least three/six months in work by the end of June 2012. A two year equivalent is also published.

Minimum expected levels are calculated for the **actual** number and makeup of those joining based on expected movement into work in the absence of the Work Programme. This is in response to an [independent review](#) of Work Programme measures. For further information see our [background information note](#).

Examine all those joining to date

All of those to have joined the Work Programme up to the reference date of the publication.

Includes totals joining the programme; totals reaching three/six months in work and those staying in work longer. Also includes time series of payments to providers by month of payment and information regarding the current status of individuals (linked to the Work Programme overview on page 10).



Key Measure (contracts)

The Department uses measures when working with providers based on the number of individuals reaching to reach three/six months work in a **financial year** in relation to the number joining the scheme. This measure is only updated at the end of each financial year.

Contractual minimum performance levels (MPLs) are set out that providers are required to deliver. These are based on the ratio of those reaching three/six months work in a financial year to the **expected** number joining in that year. They are calculated based on expected movement into work in the absence of the Work Programme.

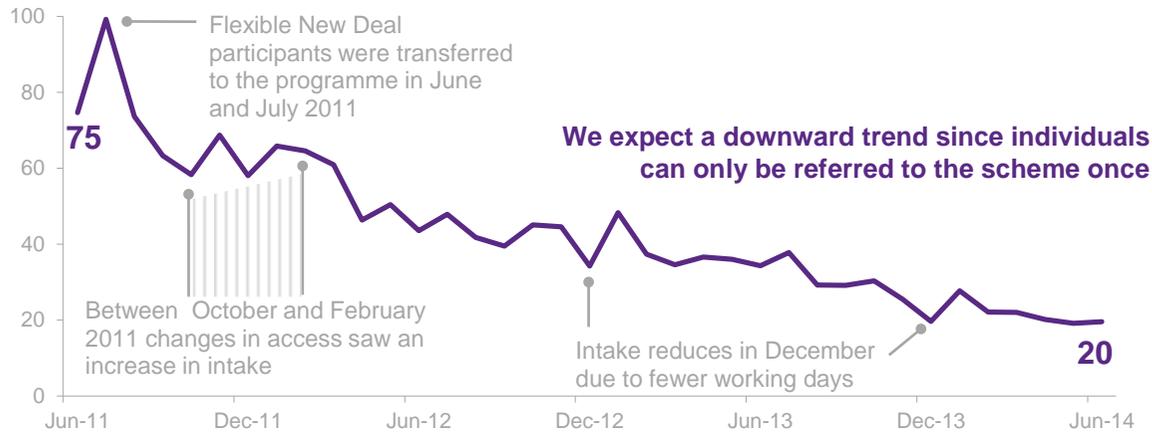
The contractual MPLs have limitations; notably that some of those joining would not have had long enough to reach three/six months in work and also the impact of changes between expected and actual intake patterns. Figures on contractual MPLs can be found on page 88 and **table 1.9**.

Joining the Work Programme

The Work programme uses private and public companies, called providers to find work for claimants transferred from Jobcentre Plus at specific points in their claim.

Monthly intakes are decreasing

Intake in thousands in each month from June 2011 - June 2014



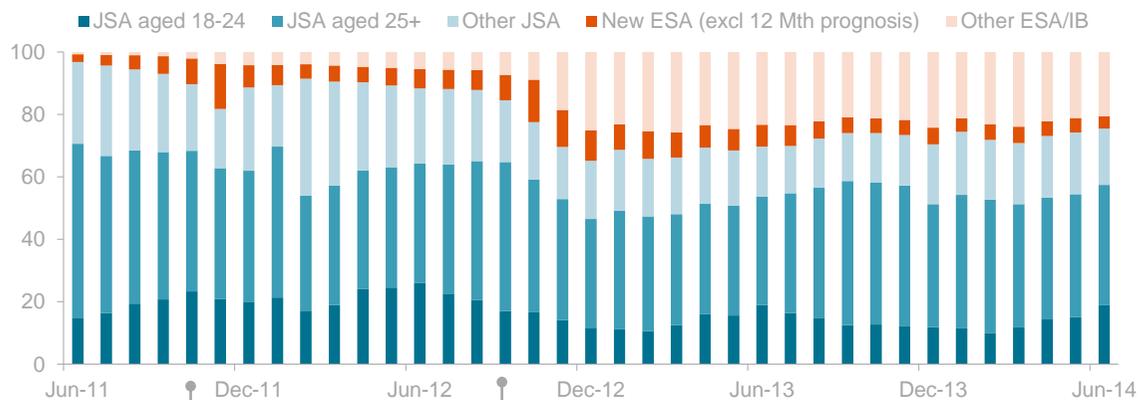
Key messages

The number of individuals joining each month has been decreasing. However since individuals generally remain on the Work Programme for 2 years, until late May 2013, the overall number being supported increased month on month. At which point the first intake began to complete the Programme.

See [Table 1.1](#) for full data.

The makeup of monthly intakes has been changing

percentage of each monthly intake made up by each customer group



From October 2011, New ESA claimants expected to be fit for work within 6 months joined immediately

differences from September 2012 reflect changes in access to the programme

More recent intakes contain a higher proportion of individuals expected to require more support and assistance. A quarter of the June 2014 intake is from ESA groups compared to less than 3% in the first intakes to the scheme.

Differences since September 2012 reflect changes in access to the Programme, especially for ESA claimants including the introduction of information sessions for potential ESA volunteers, a Jobcentre Plus exercise to identify eligible ESA Claimants who had not been referred to the Programme.

See [Table 1.2](#) for full data.

Three or six months in work

Providers are paid when an individual reaches six months in work, or three months for those expected to require more assistance. DWP have minimum expected levels.

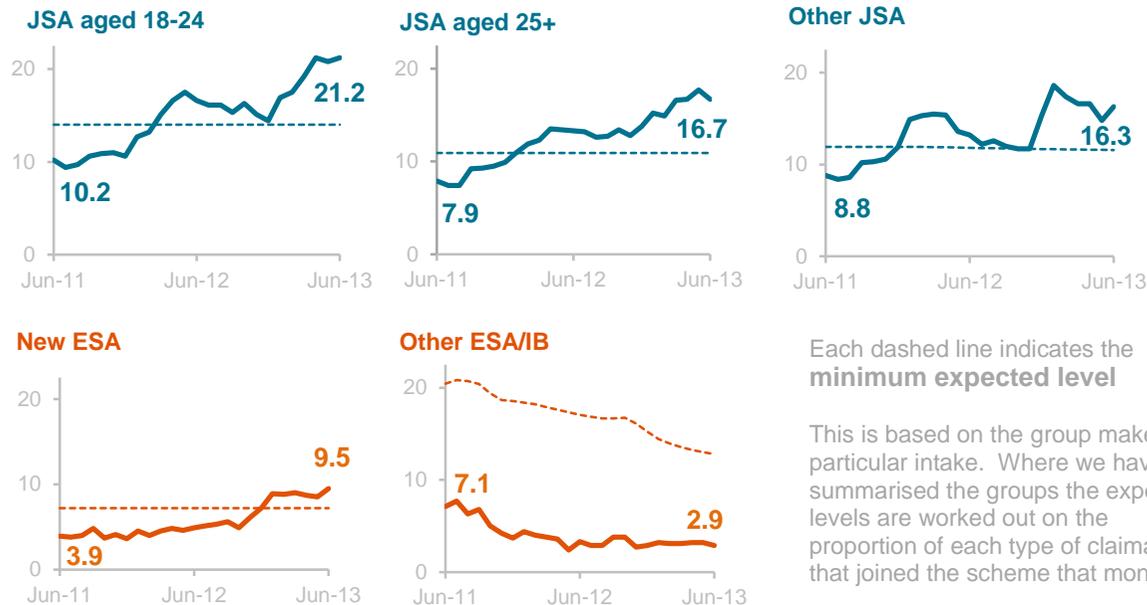
Levels for those at the 12 month point are now above the minimum expected

percentage of each monthly intake with at least three/six months in work after a year



Results vary by group with JSA doing better than ESA

percentage of each intake with at least 3 (ESA groups) or 6 (most JSA groups) months in work after a year



Key messages

The proportion of the most recent participants to complete a year on the scheme with at least six months in work (or three if they are expected to need more help) are above minimum expected levels. They are also over one and a half times the levels of the earliest intakes. In general all groups of claimants have seen an increase to above minimum expected levels since the start of the scheme with the exception of the Other ESA/IB group.

The initial higher level for the Other ESA/IB group is likely a result of the comparatively smaller early intake. The size of this group has increased considerably since the start of the scheme coinciding with the changes in access to the Programme with more harder to help claimants joining; as a result of this, the minimum expected performance level has reduced.

Volumes being supported on the scheme increased until late May 2013 when the first intake began to complete. Each intake leading up to the December 2012 has at least six months on the scheme with these increasing volumes. This coincides with a decline in the proportion of those with at least three/six months in work after a year. The April 2012 intake was the first to complete before the peak volumes.

See [Table 1.3](#) for full data

In total 331 thousand individuals have at least 3 or 6 months in work whilst on the scheme. This represents 22% of all claimants who have had enough time to achieve it regardless of if they have spent a year on the scheme or if the time in work was completed after the first year.

See [Table 1.4](#) for full data.

Staying in work longer than three/six months

Providers are paid more for further employment, usually up to a maximum of an additional one year or a little over a year and a half for the harder to help groups. If individuals remain in work, providers can receive payments after the two year completion point. Payments end following a break in employment after the two year point.

Those with three/six months in work after a year have on average a further eleven months in work after two years

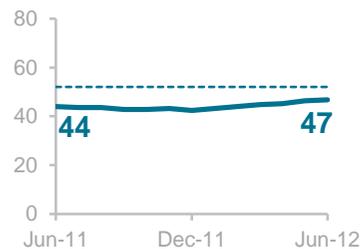
average further weeks in work at the two year point, by intake



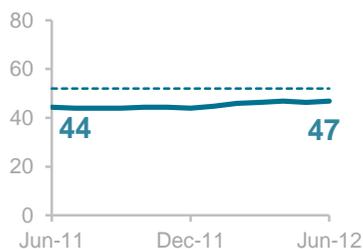
Results vary by group with JSA closer to the maximum measurable time in work

average further weeks in work at the two year point, by intake

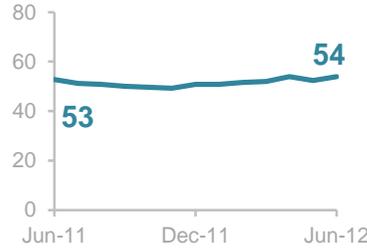
JSA aged 18-24



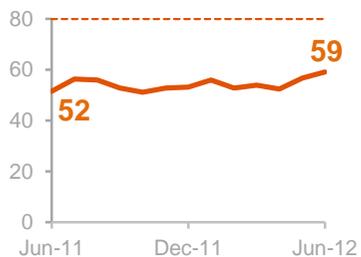
JSA aged 25+



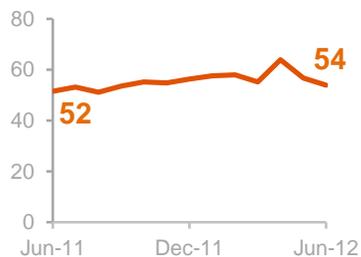
Other JSA



New ESA



Other ESA/IB



Each dashed line indicates the maximum measurable time in work

Where we have summarised groups no line is presented since the maximum number of payments varies by group.

Key messages

On average those with three/six months in work within a year have a further eleven months in work by the two year point.

We use data on payments to track further work. Providers are paid for further work after the six (or three) month point up to a **maximum** of a year (a little over a year and a half for the harder to help groups). Therefore the ESA groups and the Other JSA group have a higher average further time in work although JSA aged 18-14 and 25 plus groups have an average closer to the maximum.

We track those who had three/six months work after a year for a further year. When payments stop, either because the maximum is reached or payments end following a break in employment after the two year point, we can no longer track. Therefore tracking those reaching three/six months in work after the one year point would be on a different basis.

See **Table 1.5** for full data. Currently data is limited to that included in this statistical summary. We plan to publish further information in future releases including data on those reaching three/six months after the one year point.

In total there were 2.8 million payments made to providers, each equating to a 4 week spell in work after the three/six month point. Three quarters of these were for JSA claimants aged 18-24 or 25 plus.

See **Table 1.1** and **Table 1.2** for full data.

103 thousand people so far have generated the maximum payments possible.

See **Table 1.7** for full data

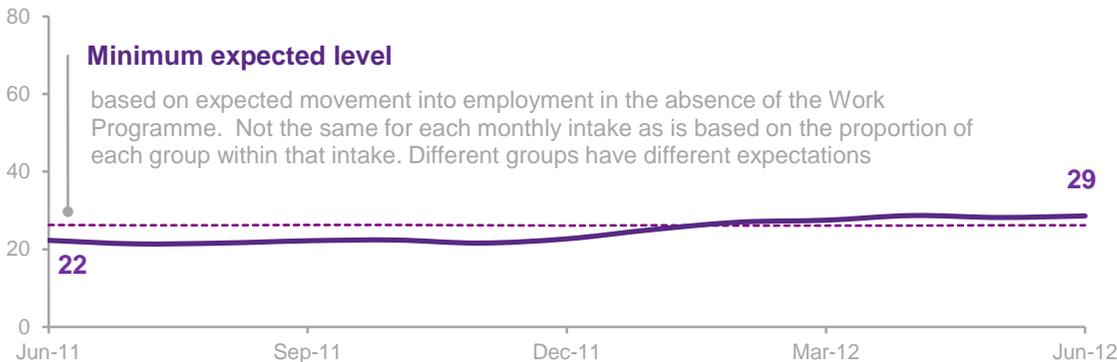
Completing the Work Programme

Once referred, individuals generally remain on the scheme for two years. Those out of work at this point return to Jobcentre Plus. Providers can continue to receive payments after this, up to the maximum allowable, if individuals remain in work. Payments end following a break in employment after the two year point.

After two years.

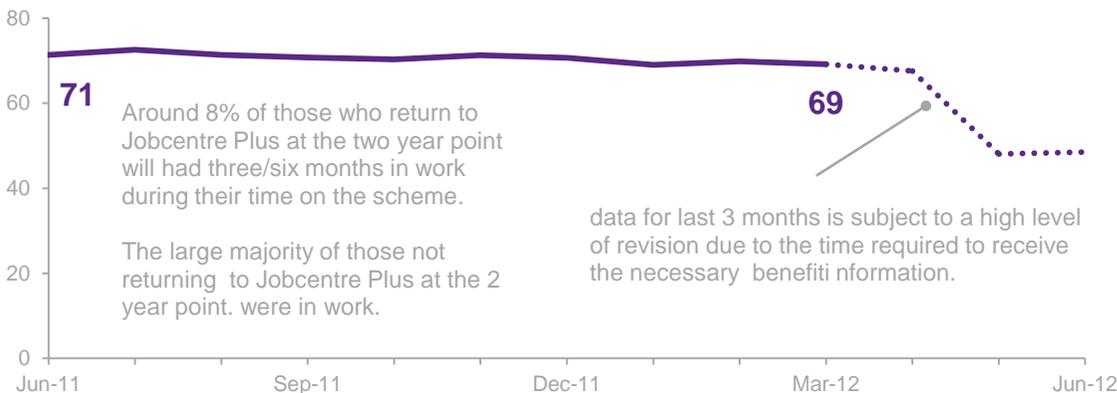
Around a quarter have at least three/six months in work

percentage of each monthly intake with at least three/six months in work after two years



Around 70% return to Jobcentre Plus

percentage of each monthly intake returning to JCP at the two year point



Key messages

29% of the most recent participants to complete two years on the scheme had a minimum of six months in work (three for the harder to help). This is higher than the level of the earliest intakes which was around 22%.

See [Table 1.6](#) for full data.

847 thousand individuals have now completed the scheme. Around 70% (568 thousand people) returned to Jobcentre Plus at the end of their two years on the programme.

1.5% of completers (around 16 thousand individuals) did not attach to the programme or completed early. The remainder were in employment at the end of their 2 years.

See [Table 1.7](#) for full data.

The most recent participants to complete two years on the scheme spent on average a third of their time on the Work Programme off benefit. This is higher than the level of the earliest intakes where the figure was around a quarter.

See [Table 1.8](#) for full data.

Contracts and Providers

There are 18 private and public companies called providers holding 40 contracts which are assessed in financial years against Minimum Performance Levels.

Key messages

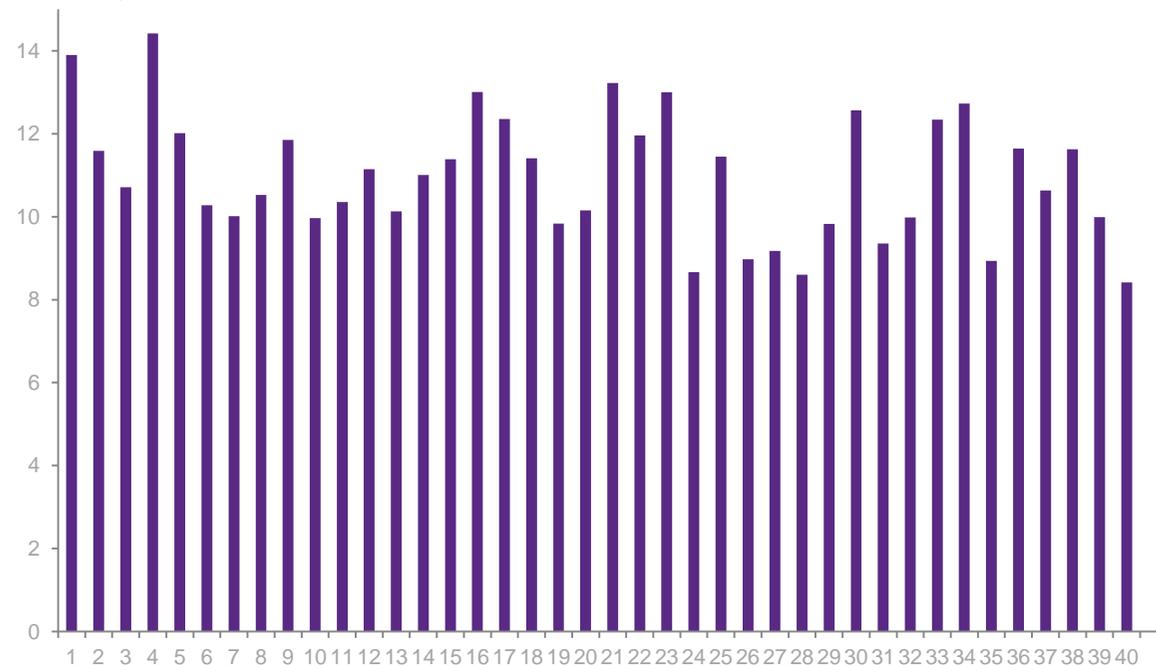
All contracts achieved minimum performance levels for each group in the last full financial year (April 2013 to March 2014). Contracts are assessed against JSA aged 18-24, JSA aged 25 plus and New ESA claimant groups. See **Table 1.9** for full data.

Over 1 in 9 of those with a year on the scheme had at least three/six months in work at that point.

There is a distinct variation across contracts ranging from 8.4% to 14.4% across providers. For all those to have completed a year on the scheme 11.1% have at least three/six month in work by that point. See **Table 1.10** for full data.

Those with at least three/six months in work after a year varies by contract

percentage of intake for each contract with three/six months in work after a year



Legend

- 1: East of England: Ingeus UK LTD
- 2: East of England: Seetec
- 3: East Midlands: A4e Ltd
- 4: East Midlands: Ingeus UK Ltd
- 5: West London: Ingeus UK Ltd
- 6: West London: Maximus Emp UK Ltd
- 7: West London: Reed in Partnership Ltd
- 8: East London: A4e Ltd
- 9: East London: Careers Development Group Ltd
- 10: East London: Seetec
- 11: North East: Avanta Enterprise Ltd
- 12: North East: Ingeus UK Ltd
- 13: Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria, Lancs: A4e Ltd
- 14: Merseyside, Halton, Cumbria, Lancs: Ingeus UK LTD
- 15: Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: Avanta Enterprise Ltd
- 16: Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: G4S
- 17: Manchester, Cheshire, Warrington: Seetec
- 18: Scotland: Ingeus UK LTD
- 19: Scotland: Working Links (Emp) Ltd
- 20: Thames Valley, Hamps, Isle of Wight: A4e Ltd
- 21: Thames Valley, Hamps, Isle of Wight: Maximus Emp UK Ltd
- 22: Surrey, Sussex, Kent: Avanta Enterprise Ltd
- 23: Surrey, Sussex, Kent: G4S
- 24: Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset: Prospects Serv Ltd
- 25: Devon, Cornwall, Dorset, Somerset: Working Links (Emp) Ltd
- 26: Glouc, Wilts, Swindon, West of England: JHP Group Ltd
- 27: Glouc, Wilts, Swindon, West of England: Rehab jobfit LLP
- 28: Wales: Rehab jobfit LLP
- 29: Wales: Working Links (Emp) Ltd
- 30: Birmingham, Solihull, Black Country: EOS-Works Ltd
- 31: Birmingham, Solihull, Black Country: NCG
- 32: Birmingham, Solihull, Black Country: Pertemps
- 33: Coventry, Warwicks, Staffs, the Marches: esg. Holdings Ltd
- 34: Coventry, Warwicks, Staffs, the Marches: Serco Ltd
- 35: West Yorkshire: Interserve Working Futures
- 36: West Yorkshire: Ingeus UK LTD
- 37: South Yorkshire: A4e Ltd
- 38: South Yorkshire: Serco Ltd
- 39: NE Yorks, The Humber: G4S
- 40: NE Yorks, The Humber: NCG

Characteristic information and supplementary tables

We make information underlying the charts within this summary available as excel tables. Further information is also available in these tables such as characteristic breakdowns

Characteristic summary

The gender, age, ethnicity and regional split of claimants joining the Work Programme are broadly in line with those for the benefits claimed by those joining.

Just under two thirds of people joining the Work Programme are male. This is a similar proportion to those claiming JSA (which is the main qualifying benefit of the Work Programme). A little over half of ESA claimants are male.

Around half of all people who join the Work Programme are under the age of 34 which is consistent with the proportion of JSA claimants as a whole. A little over a quarter of ESA claimants are under 34.

Almost 8 in 10 of individuals joining the programme view their ethnicity as “white”; roughly 1 in 15 as “Black/Black British” and just over 1 in 20 as “Asian/Asian British”. These proportions are consistent with the proportion of JSA claimants as a whole.

The proportion with at least three/six months in work split by gender, ethnicity and region are broadly in line with those joining the scheme. However a higher proportion of younger claimants go on to achieve three/six months in work compare to those that join.

Comparatively more young people have had three/six months in work than those that joined the scheme. For example 27% of all joiners to the scheme are aged 18-24 but the same age range is responsible for 36% of all those achieving three/six months in work.

See **Table 2.10** and **Table 2.11** for full data.

Summary of excel tables

All the information underlying the charts and figures featured in this summary are included in accompanying excel tables.

This includes tables on those joining the Work Programme, those that achieve three/six months in employment those that stay in employment longer, the benefit status of participants and the current status of all participants.

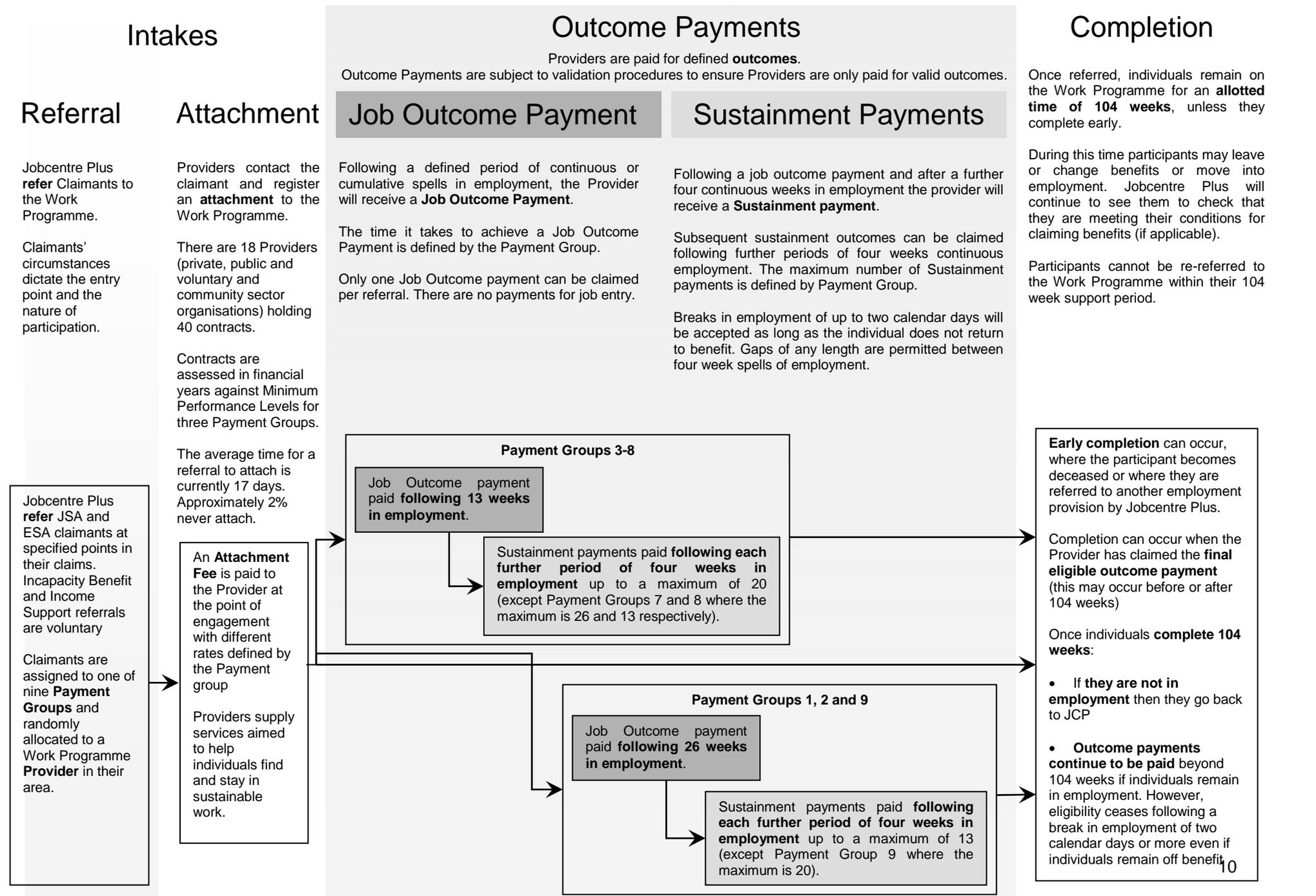
The other statistical products we release include further breakdowns by age, gender, disability indicator, ethnicity, primary health condition (for IB and ESA Claimants) and lone parent status (for JSA and IS Claimants).

Lower level geography information is available by local authority, parliamentary constituency and Jobcentre Plus district. Information is also broken down by contract, contract package area and Payment Group.

This summary provides an overview. The presentation in the other statistical products are more detailed and reflect the terminology used in the Work Programme process. The following page provides an overview of the Work Programme and key terminology.

Work Programme: overview and terminology

The statistical summary presents an overview. The other statistical products contain terminology which reflects the Work Programme processes. These are explained here.



Notes

Work Programme Statistics

Our background information note provides further information on the Work Programme and Work Programme official statistics. A technical annex in this note provides information on some of the processes involved in developing and releasing official statistics on the Work Programme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/work-programme-official-statistics-background-information-note>

Employment Programme Statistics

Statistics and future release dates for Work Programme and pre-Work Programme employment support are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employment-programme-official-statistics>

Other National and Official Statistics

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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-tabulation-tool>;
- A schedule of statistical releases over the next 12 months and a list of the most recent releases: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/about/statistics> ;
- 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 <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/ad-hoc-statistical-publications-list>

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.

Profiles

The Office of Budget Responsibility produces an independent aggregate Claimant count projection that is the basis of the Department's forecasting of Jobseeker's Allowance. The Department produces inflow and off-flow projections consistent with this overall projection, including splits into over and under 25 age groups, using assumptions based on trends in historical data.

Indicative Claimant volumes attaching to the Work Programme from the jobseeker's allowance (JSA) 18-24 group are profiled by applying an assumption about the rate of attachment of eligible Claimants to the Department's forecast volumes of JSA 18-24 year olds that reach the 9 month threshold stage of their claims.