



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Sahaviriya Steel Industries (SSI) Redcar closure

Support activity and Jobseekers Allowance
statistics

January 2016

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Introduction

The statistics in this report present a one-off ad hoc analysis in support of an end of day adjournment debate on the post-SSI support package in Redcar, at Tuesday 19 January 2016.

Existing published DWP Official Statistics do not include benefit outcomes from former employees of specific employers and are usually produced from data sources that have an established quality assurance process. This report uses bespoke locally created data used to track the progress of individuals and support local delivery of Jobcentre Plus services to them. This source has not yet been verified by thorough comparison with the data sources usually used for benefit statistics. Some statistics are also based on aggregate counts of participants at specific events.

Some statistics are highly variable over time due to the fast changing nature of benefit claims and employment outcomes at the time.

Methodology

Jobcentre Plus created a database specifically for supporting the services they were delivering as a result of the closure of SSI, both managing support to individuals and to ensure they had up to date management information. The database was populated with records collected by Jobcentre Plus at open “Rapid Response” information sessions for those people choosing to attend. The database also included any JSA claimant who identified themselves to Jobcentre Plus as a former employee of one of SSI’s supply chain companies who had been made redundant as a result of the closure of SSI.

It has not yet been possible to verify records in the database against DWP’s usual administrative data sources. However, the way the database was created and used means it is likely (for those individuals who should be on the database) to be complete, to have unique records (i.e. no duplication) and be up to date. Some former SSI employees may have chosen not to attend a Rapid Response session because they had been re-employed at SSI, found work elsewhere, chosen to retire or some other reason. For former supply chain employees it is not possible to verify if the database is complete since some people may not have identified themselves as being a former supply chain employee.

This database was used to record JSA benefit activity and some employment and training outcomes.

For some activities it was not possible to have records at individual level. In such cases simple counts of attendees were made by Jobcentre Plus staff, counting individuals on entry to the service and keeping a running total. This applies to the number of people calling the Jobcentre Plus helpline, total vacancies reported by employers and people receiving help from the Support Hub.

Tees Valley LEP is currently tracking the outcomes of the 51 former apprentices at SSI, via the employers who agreed to find alternative placements for the individuals. This tracking information is updated as each individual is placed.

Results

Between 2/10/15 and 8/1/16 1,940 former SSI employees and former supply chain employees had made a claim for JSA. Of these, 690 had left JSA during the period. Some of these may have subsequently claimed JSA again. Over 400 former SSI employees had not claimed JSA. Some may have been immediately re-employed by SSI, some may have immediately entered work, training or education or chosen to retire.

Jobcentre Plus delivered a number of “Rapid Response” sessions. Sessions are attended by several individuals. Between 2/10/15 and 16/12/15 2000 former SSI employees and former supply chain employees had attended such sessions. The number was unchanged at 8/1/16.

Following the first Redcar jobs fair, follow-up activity with employers collected aggregate statistics of the number of people reported as having been employed as a result. The total from this was 166 people employed.

The second jobs fair on 21/11/15 was attended by 880 people. Aggregate statistics collected from employers at the event totalled more than 700 vacancies.

Between 2/10/15 and 16/12/15 the number of calls logged to the Jobcentre Plus helpline was 5,200.

2,988 people received help and advice from the Support Hub to 16/12/15.

A total of 51 apprentices (including 9 who were about to formally start their apprenticeship) were identified at the time of the closure. All 51 are in education, training or placed with an employer as at 20/1/2016. Most were already in apprenticeships with sustainable employment.

Contact Point for Further Information

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