

Six Month Offer Experimental Statistics

Publication Date:
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Summary

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

The key statistics are:

Between April 2009 and July 2009:

- **5,990** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy;
- **1,460** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit; and
- **1,200** JSA customers have taken up a volunteering placement.

Recruitment Subsidy Characteristics:

- **4,100** are male and **1,240** are female
- **1,510** are aged under 25, **3,000** are aged 25 to 49 and **850** are aged 50 or over
- **790** are recorded as having a disability and **4,570** are recorded as not having a disability.
- **4,500** are from a white background and **390** are from an ethnic minority background

Self Employment Credit Characteristics:

- **1,230** are male and **210** are female
- **40** are aged under 25, **1,040** are aged 25 to 49 and **360** are aged 50 or over
- **220** are recorded as having a disability and **1,220** are recorded as not having a disability.
- **1,280** are from a white background and **20** are from an ethnic minority background

Please note: this publication does not yet include starts on the Work Focused Training strand of the Six Month Offer. The systems to robustly capture these figures from training providers will be in place from November 2009, following which we will review the data quality with the expectation of publishing statistics on this strand from April 2010.

The provisional headline figures for August 2009 are:

- **1,500** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy;
- **920** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit; and
- **930** JSA customers have taken up a volunteering placement.

Introduction

1. This publication contains statistics on the Six Month Offer (6MO) up to and including July 2009 with provisional figures for August 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. This first publication is released as experimental statistics as set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Any feedback or suggestions to improve this publication are welcomed. 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. We plan to review the format of this publication for future releases.
4. Please note: this publication does not yet include starts on the Work Focused Training strand, as data will not be available until November 2009. Once this data is available, we will review the data quality with the intention of including statistics on Work Focused Training in the April 2010 quarterly publication.

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 6 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.

Recruitment Subsidy:

8. 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** where 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:

9. 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:

10. Customers with an interest in volunteering to develop their work skills are directed to a third sector broker who will find them a suitable volunteering placement.

Work Focused Training

11. 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 slight differences in the support offered in England, Scotland and Wales.

Technical Overview

12. These experimental statistics are derived from a range of administrative data sources. These include DWP financial systems, Jobcentre Plus administrative systems and provider administrative systems. Some of which have not been used to produce national or official statistics before. Therefore, this publication should be treated as experimental statistics. The process for producing these statistics will be kept under review and refined as appropriate as more data becomes available.
13. As part of the general quality assurance we cross check our data systems where possible. For example, starts recorded on Jobcentre Plus administrative systems with records on financial systems. We are in the process of acquiring customer level data for the volunteering starts to enable more thorough quality assurance.
14. The characteristics information is obtained by matching payments data with data from the administrative systems. Therefore, unknown characteristics will be due to one of three reasons. (1) No personal identifier is recorded against the payment record. (2) The payment record does not match any record on the administrative system to obtain the characteristics, or (3) The payment record matches to a record on the administrative system but the information is missing on the administrative system.

Recruitment Subsidy:

15. The statistics include both the number of self marketed vouchers used and the number of customers recruited via the bulk billing arrangements.
16. The number of self marketed vouchers is calculated by counting the number of first payments made on DWP's financial systems. The data is quality assured by removing payments believed to be incorrect based on a set criteria e.g. the amount paid is not £500. To give the most accurate start date the Self Marketed Vouchers are reported against the month in which the voucher was invoiced to DWP.
17. The number of customers recruited through bulk billing is drawn from Jobcentre Plus administrative records of eligibility checks and payments. 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.
18. Under the bulk billing arrangement, employers could only claim for recruits starting after the terms and conditions were agreed. Not all employers agreed the terms and conditions in April 2009.
19. There is a time lag between the employer submitting (invoicing) the voucher and the payment being made and appearing on DWP financial systems. As the statistics report by invoice date we have a time lag in the statistics which means the recent months will be updated retrospectively in subsequent publications.

Self-Employment Credit:

20. Once a customer is eligible for the Self Employment Credit a reoccurring direct payment is set up on DWP's financial systems to the customer. The statistics count the number of first payments made by the month it was invoiced. It is possible for a customer to claim the Credit up to five weeks after starting self-employment and, if they receive back payments, the statistics will retrospectively update when this happens.
21. The data has been quality assured by checking the payments are weekly and amount to £50 per week.

Volunteering:

22. The volunteering brokers work directly with the volunteering organisations keeping records of customers' progress. The statistics report the number of customers starting a volunteering placement by the month they started. As it may take time to confirm the customer started the placement, these figures could be updated retrospectively.
23. For volunteering, the intention is to use customer level records, but these are not yet available. As a proxy, this release uses figures from 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 will be revised.
24. As individual customer level records are not available we are unable to provide the characteristic breakdown for volunteering placement starts. We expect this will be made available from the next publication in January 2010.

Work Focused Training:

25. Work focused training statistics for England, Scotland and Wales will be provided by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills; the Scottish Government; and the Welsh Assembly Government respectively. The systems to robustly capture these figures from training provider returns will be in place from November 2009, following which we will review the data quality with the intention of publishing statistics on this strand of the Six Month Offer from April 2010.

Job Outcomes

26. 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 survey database.

Rounding Policy

27. 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.

Experimental Statistics

Table 1: Starts

Great Britain	Recruitment Subsidy ¹	Self Employment Credit ²	Volunteering Placement Starts ³
Total	5,990	1,460	1,200
April 2009	390	30	-
May 2009	1,310	190	90
June 2009	2,220	460	360
July 2009	2,070	780	730

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 September 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 September 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: Characteristics for Starts for the period April to July 2009

Great Britain		Recruitment Subsidy	Self Employment Credit
	Total	5,990	1,460
Gender	Male	4,100	1,230
	Female	1,240	210
	Unknown	660	10
Age Group	Under 25	1,510	40
	25-49	3,000	1,040
	50+	850	360
	Unknown	660	10
	19+	5,220	1,440
Disability ¹	Yes	790	220
	No	4,570	1,220
	Unknown	660	10
Ethnicity ²	White	4,500	1,280
	Black or Black British	100	10
	Asian or Asian British	180	10
	Mixed	30	-
	Other/ Chinese	80	-
	Unknown	1,090	110
Region ³	East Midlands	520	130
	East of England	270	80
	London	260	110
	North East	n/a ⁴	80
	North West	630	180
	Scotland	590	140
	South East	380	80
	South West	450	220
	Wales	580	110
	West Midlands	770	130
	Yorkshire & Humberside	760	150
Unknown	780 ⁴	20	

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

1: Disability status is declared by the customer during a Jobcentre Plus interview

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 characteristics. Therefore most of the North East records appear under unknown.

Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1st	Wednesday 14 October 2009	(First Publication)
2nd	Wednesday 20 th January 2010	Will include characteristic breakdown for Volunteering Placement Starts for the first time subject to data quality
3rd	April 2010	Will include Skills Training data for the first time subject to data quality.

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.

Contact Details

Website: www.dwp.gov.uk

Tel: (Press Office) 0203 267 5144

DWP Statistician:

Adam Whitaker

Jobseekers & Skills Directorate

N10 Moorfoot

Sheffield

S1 4PQ

0114 2677 375

Adam.Whitaker@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A: Provisional DWP Figures for August 2009

1. In addition to the main statistics published in this document, we have also included provisional figures for August 2009. These figures may increase in the next publication due to the time it takes for starts in August to appear on our systems. Early analysis suggests the increase could be around 20 to 25 percent for Recruitment Subsidy and around 15 percent for Self Employment Credit starts.
2. Using data up to the end of September 2009, for the month of August 2009, we have recorded:
 - **1,500** JSA customers have used the Recruitment Subsidy;
 - **920** JSA customers have taken up the Self Employment Credit; and
 - **930** JSA customers have taken up a volunteering placement.