

European Social Fund Cohort Study: Wave 1

by Emma Drever and Cheryl Lloyd



Department for Work and Pensions

Research Report No 647

European Social Fund Cohort Study: Wave 1

Emma Drever and Cheryl Lloyd

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First Published 2010.

ISBN 978 1 84712 738 9

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Acknowledgements

This report was commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The evaluation was part-funded by European Social Fund (ESF) technical assistance under the 2007-2013 England and Gibraltar ESF programme evaluation strategy.

We would like to thank Ellenor Brooks and Simon Marlow in DWP's ESF Evaluation Team for their helpful guidance and suggestions throughout the project. Thank you also to the members of the Research Steering Group and the ESF Evaluation Committee for their ongoing advice and expertise throughout the evaluation.

We are grateful to the interviewers who worked on this study, as well as Chris Massett (Telephone Unit Manager at National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)) and Sonia Shirvington (Deputy Telephone Unit Manager) for their help and support through the project.

We extend our thanks to all the respondents who took part in the interviews, without whom this research would not have been possible.

John De Souza (a Senior Statistician at NatCen) and Steven Finch (Director of Performance and Operations at NatCen) have provided valuable input at all stages of this project.

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Glossary

Carer	Respondents who have any caring responsibilities for a member of their immediate family or a close relative who has any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity. This may be a member of the household or someone who lives elsewhere.
Computer assisted telephone interview (CATI)	The mode of interview used. The questionnaire is a computer program that specifies the questions, range and structure of permissible answers and instructions for navigating through the questionnaire.
Disability or Long-term limiting illness (LTLI)	Respondents who report a long-standing illness, health problem, mental or physical disability or infirmity, which limits their daily activities or the work they can do.
Employment status	Measures based on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of economic activity and European Social Fund (ESF) targets. Status is derived based on respondent's main activity.
NEET and aged 16-19	Not in employment, education or training and aged 16 to 19 years.
Long-term unemployed	Unemployed for 12 months or more and aged 20 years or over.
Unemployed (less than 12 months)	Unemployed for less than 12 months and aged 20 years or over.

Economically inactive	People who are neither in employment or unemployment (only if aged over 20) and includes students. This includes those looking after a home, retired and permanently unable to work.
In employment	People who are employees, self-employed, on a government supported training scheme or an unpaid family worker.
Ethnic minority groups	Results from this survey combine the 16-point census classification into two summary groups. All non-white ethnic groups are included in the 2-group classification as 'ethnic minority groups'.
Full-time work	Respondents who work 31 hours or more per week.
Lone parents	People who said that they did not live with a husband, wife or partner and who had children living with them.
Multiple disadvantages	The number of 'disadvantaged groups' that a respondent belongs to. These include people from an ethnic minority group, those who do not normally speak English at home; those with a disability or long-term limiting illness; lone parents; those with caring responsibilities; those aged over 50; long-term unemployed people (for 12 months or more); young people classified as NEET; returners to the labour market; Offenders and ex-offenders; those with issues with alcohol or substance abuse; and those with citizenship and visa issues.
NVQ equivalent qualification Level	Most qualifications can be assigned to a standardised qualification level, often referred to as an NVQ-equivalent level.
Part-time work	Respondents who work less than 31 hours per week.

Summary

The European Social Fund (ESF) Cohort Study involves a large scale quantitative survey with two waves of interviews. The survey is designed to evaluate the longer term outcomes of the training and advice provided through the ESF programme. It will also be used to measure a number of indicators and targets that cannot be captured through respondent monitoring information.

Wave 1 of the ESF Cohort Study took place between April and September 2009, and included interviews with 10,947 ESF and match participants. Most participants were interviewed by phone, although a small number of face-to-face interviews took place with more vulnerable respondents.

This report contains the findings of Wave 1 of the ESF Cohort Study 2008-2010. Survey data has been weighted so that it is representative of the profile of ESF and match participants according to management information available in April 2009, when the sample for the study was drawn.

The study covered four of the ESF priorities, including: Priorities 1 and 4, which have a focus on extending employment opportunities and tackling barriers to employment; and Priorities 2 and 5, which aim to develop and improve the skills of the workforce.

Respondent characteristics

ESF funding is targeted towards groups that are disadvantaged in the labour market, such as people with disabilities, lone parents, and people aged over 50. The ESF Cohort Study (Wave 1) found that:

- 37 per cent of participants were female;
- 15 per cent of all participants were aged over 50;
- 18 per cent were from an ethnic minority group;
- 32 per cent said that they had a disability or long-term limiting illness (LTLI);
- eight per cent of participants were lone parents, while seven per cent had caring responsibilities for a sick, disabled or elderly person.

Projects under Priorities 1 and 4 had an objective to support participants who were out of work, including those who were unemployed, economically inactive and young people who were not in employment, education or training (NEET). The survey found that 95 per cent of Priority 1 participants and 93 per cent of Priority 4 participants were out of work, including ten per cent in Priority 1 who were NEET and four per cent in Priority 4 in the week prior to starting their course.

By contrast, the majority of Priority 2 (78%) and Priority 5 (89%) participants were in employment, in line with the objective of these priorities to develop the skills of the workforce. Twenty-one per cent of employees worked part time, around three-quarters (73%) earned less than £15,000 per year and most (85%) worked for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Expectations and experiences of ESF

Most participants felt that their ESF course was helping them to gain or improve the skills needed for work and that it was boosting their self-confidence about working. The ESF Cohort Study found that:

- in terms of work skills gained, 49 per cent of participants were gaining practical skills relating to a particular job, 34 per cent were improving their basic computing or IT skills and the same proportion (34%) were gaining reading and writing skills;
- 66 per cent of participants said that the course was improving their motivation about working, while 63 per cent said it was helping them with communication skills;
- ten per cent of participants who were parents were receiving help with their childcare responsibilities.

Satisfaction levels with ESF provision were relatively high, with 78 per cent of participants saying that the course was relevant to their needs, 57 per cent saying that the level was 'about right' and 73 per cent confirming that they were 'very or fairly satisfied' with the course.

There were some differences in expectations and experiences of the course among different priorities, funding streams and demographic groups. For example, younger people and women tended to be more satisfied with their course. Generally, people from ethnic minority groups were more positive than White people about their experiences of the course, while people with a disability or LTLI tended to have more negative views.

Qualifications

Before starting the course, 17 per cent of participants had no qualifications, while a further 26 per cent had qualifications below Level 2 or had 'other' qualifications. Participants who were lone parents or disabled were less likely to have qualifications.

Thirty-eight per cent of participants were studying towards qualifications through the course, although this figure was higher in Priority 2 (78%) and Priority 5 (74%). Of these, most were studying towards NVQs (71%). Other qualifications that participants were studying towards included City and Guild qualifications (20%), GCSEs (6%), A Levels (5%), OCR qualifications (5%) and BTECs (4%).

Six per cent of participants were studying towards 'other work-related qualifications'. Three per cent were doing basic skills qualifications.

Outcomes

The majority of participants (82%) had already finished the course when they took part in the Wave 1 ESF Cohort Study, and the report looks at early outcomes of these participants.

The study found that the rate of unemployment among Priority 1 and 4 participants fell from 70 per cent in the week before the course to 50 per cent at the time of the interview, while the employment rate rose from five per cent to 22 per cent in the same period. However, the rate of unemployment at the time of interview was not as low as it had been among these participants 12 months before the course (41%). As the courses funded by the ESF programme by definition target a group of the population that have become unemployed and have been identified as potentially benefiting from these courses this is not unexpected. It is also important to note that interviews took place during the economic recession, which may also account for this. Participants with disabilities and no qualifications were less likely than other groups to have moved into work.

Of those participants who were in employment at the time of the interview and who had been out of work in the week before the course, 52 per cent said that the course had helped them to find a job. Younger people were more likely to say that the course had helped them to find work.

Of those who remained unemployed, most had made job applications (68%) while around one-third had been to job interviews (34%). Thirty per cent of unemployed participants had used contacts from the course in their job search, while 24 per cent said that someone on the course had suggested that they apply for particular jobs.

Forty-one per cent of those participants who were employees said that, since they had been on the course, they had improved their job security. Of these, a high proportion (86%) agreed that the course had helped them in this area. The course also seemed particularly beneficial to those employees who had taken on higher skilled work for an existing employer (21%) – with 81 per cent acknowledging that the course had helped them to do this work.

1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of European Social Fund programme

The European Social Fund (ESF) is one of the Structural Funds designed to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union. The current programme runs from 2007 to 2013 and geographically covers England and Gibraltar.

The programme supports European Union (EU), national and regional strategies to tackle weaknesses in the labour market. These include: low employment rates and high inactivity rates amongst disadvantaged groups; and, poor basic skill levels and a high number of individuals who lack level 2 qualifications.

The overall strategic objective of the programme is to support sustainable economic growth and social inclusion in England by contributing to policies to increase the employment rate and to develop a skilled and adaptable workforce.

The ESF programme includes both the Convergence Objective (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly) and the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective (the rest of England and Gibraltar)¹. Within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, Merseyside and South Yorkshire receive ring-fenced funding in view of their transitional 'phasing-in' status². The programme's budget is £5 billion (€6 billion) of which the contribution of the ESF is £2.5 billion (€3 billion). Of the ESF funding £164 million (€196 million) is ring-fenced for Cornwall and the Isles of

¹ Convergence regions are those eligible for a higher level of funding because their gross per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is less than 75 per cent of the average of the EU25. In England, the only convergence area is Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Regions eligible for funding from the Structural Funds at a lower intensity than those in Convergence areas are covered by the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective.

² 'Phasing in' areas are those with Objective 1 status in the 2000-2006 programming period whose per capita GDP exceeds 75% of the average GDP of the EU15. These areas are eligible for regional competitiveness and employment funding at a higher level until 2010.

Scilly and £305 million (€386 million) for the 'phasing-in' areas of Merseyside and South Yorkshire³.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has overall responsibility for ESF funds in England and manages this ESF programme at a national level. The programme is managed at regional level by Government Offices (except in London where the London Development Agency performs this role) and is overseen by ESF Regional Committees.

At the regional level, ESF funds are distributed through Co-financing Organisations (CFOs). The Learning and Skills Councils and DWP are the main co-financing organisations. A small number of other organisations are CFOs (for example, some Regional Development Agencies and local authorities). CFOs bring together ESF and domestic funding for employment and skills so that ESF complements domestic programmes. The Co-financing Organisations contract with the organisations or 'providers' that deliver ESF projects on the ground.

CFOs are required to match ESF with domestic funding. The intention is that this leads to a more strategic approach to ESF delivery and ensures better alignment of ESF with EU and national employment and skills strategies.

1.2 Aims and objectives of the evaluation

The ESF Cohort Study (2008-2010) is a survey of participants of projects funded by the ESF. The study covers England and aims to provide evidence on the longer term outcomes of the support provided by the 2007-2013 ESF programme. The Cohort study will also be used to measure a number of indicators and targets that cannot be captured through respondent monitoring information.

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To acquire more detailed information on respondents which enables analysis of sub-groups and multiple disadvantages.
- To obtain more detail on the type of support offered and the views of respondents on the support they receive.
- To understand how individuals come to be on ESF training courses.
- To understand what activities they are engaged in on their course.
- To understand their aspirations for their training.

The following research questions will also be addressed:

- What difference has ESF made to the employability and skills of respondents?
- What 'soft outcomes' did respondents gain, in addition to jobs and qualifications?

³ In Merseyside, a Complementary Strand of delivery also exists, involving six contracts with the Merseyside local authorities that are outside co-financing.

- What are the outcomes six months after respondents leave ESF and have employment outcomes been sustained?
- How effective is ESF for particular disadvantaged groups (e.g. people with a disability or long-term limiting illness, people from ethnic minority groups)?
- Has ESF supported progression at the workplace (e.g. to more skilled and better paid jobs)?

1.3 Evaluation methodology

The ESF Cohort Study involves a large scale longitudinal quantitative survey with two waves of interviews. These are mainly telephone interviews supplemented by a small number of face-to-face interviews with more vulnerable respondents. Wave 1 took place between April and September 2009, during which 10,947 ESF (and match) respondents were interviewed. In Wave 2, which will take place between January and March 2010, all respondents from the first wave will be contacted again, with the aim of carrying out at least 6,000 interviews. (Information about Wave 1 response rates can be found in Appendix B).

All differences commented on this report have been found to be significant at the 95 per cent level. The estimates given represent the mid-point of a range given by their confidence intervals which indicate the range within which the true population value falls. The ESF Cohort Study Technical Report will provide more details about the standard errors for survey estimates.

1.4 Report structure

This report presents the results of the Wave 1 survey. The report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 presents an overview of the characteristics of ESF respondents.
- Chapter 3 considers respondents' expectations and experience of ESF support.
- Chapter 4 explores the qualifications that respondents studied for as part of ESF training.
- Chapter 5 reviews any outcomes of ESF provision, looking at whether ESF respondents found jobs or progressed in their existing employment following their participation in ESF training.

2 Respondent characteristics

This chapter considers the characteristics of respondents supported by projects funded by European Social Fund (ESF). The chapter begins with an overview of the ESF Priorities, then looks at the profile of respondents, including:

- Gender and age (see Section 2.2).
- Ethnicity (see Section 2.3).
- Language spoken at home (see Section 2.4).
- Disability and Long-term limiting illness (see Section 2.5).
- Lone parenthood (see Section 2.6).
- Caring responsibilities (see Section 2.7).
- Ex-offenders, problems with alcohol or substance abuse, citizenship and visa issues (see Section 2.8).
- Employment status prior to starting the course (see Sections 2.9 to 2.11).
- Multiple disadvantages (see Section 2.12).

2.1 Overview of ESF priorities

The ESF programme contains six priorities. There are three key priorities for the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective, which cover the whole of England and Gibraltar except Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. There are also three priorities for the Convergence Objective area or Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. The broader scope of the Convergence Objective priorities reflects the wider range of activities that are eligible within Convergence areas and the higher intensity of Convergence funding.

The ESF Cohort Study covers Priorities 1, 2, 4 and 5. Priorities 3 and 6, which cover technical assistance, are not a focus of the survey.

Priorities 1 and 4 aim to improve the employability and skills of unemployed and inactive people, and tackle barriers to work faced by people with disabilities or health conditions, lone parents, people aged 50 and over, ethnic minorities, people with no or low qualifications, young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) and other disadvantaged groups, including people experiencing multiple disadvantages.

The aim of Priorities 2 and 5 is to improve the qualifications and skills of workers without basic skills and with no or low qualifications. These priorities also have a focus on developing managers and workers in small enterprises. Priority 5 also supports Cornwall's Higher Education and skills strategy.

	Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective (England except Cornwall)	Convergence Objective (Cornwall and Isles of Scilly)
Worklessness	Priority 1: Extending employment opportunities	Priority 4: Tackling barriers to employment
Workforce skills	Priority 2: Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce	Priority 5: Improving the skills of the local workforce
Technical assistance	Priority 3: Technical assistance	Priority 6: Technical assistance

Most of the delivery of the ESF programme takes place at a regional level. Each region has its own ESF allocation to fund projects to address its regional jobs and skills needs, within the framework of the two priorities in the England ESF programme.

Table 2.1 presents the distribution of ESF Cohort Study respondents by region within priority at the time the sample for the study was drawn. Survey data has been weighted so that it is representative of the profile of participants, according to management information available in April 2009 when the sample for this study was drawn.

Table 2.1 ESF priority by region

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Region	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
East of England	5	5	N/A	N/A	5	852
East Midlands	8	2	N/A	N/A	7	570
London	17	1	N/A	N/A	14	562
North East	8	2	N/A	N/A	7	555
North West	15	47	N/A	N/A	19	1,689
South East	7	4	N/A	N/A	6	736
South West	10	3	N/A	N/A	8	802
West Midlands	10	10	N/A	N/A	10	1,121
Yorkshire and the Humber	8	1	N/A	N/A	7	515
Merseyside	8	20	N/A	N/A	10	1,217
South Yorkshire	4	5	N/A	N/A	4	772
Cornwall	N/A	N/A	100	100	3	1,554
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,533</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>10,947</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.2 Region by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Region	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
East of England	5	5	0	3	2	100	5
East Midlands	7	9	0	6	0	0	7
London	9	19	0	2	0	0	14
North East	9	7	0	5	0	0	7
North West	13	15	10	11	60	0	19
South East	5	8	0	4	4	0	6
South West	9	10	0	8	0	0	8
West Midlands	19	8	0	27	2	0	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	5	10	0	0	1	0	7
Merseyside	4	4	90	20	18	0	10
South Yorkshire	9	3	0	0	7	0	4
Cornwall	6	1	0	16	6	0	3
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,462</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>2,514</i>	<i>1,684</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,945</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.2 shows a regional breakdown of cases by funding stream within priority. Three types of funding stream have been identified: ESF, match and 'other'. Participants in the 'other' category are on projects funded jointly by ESF and match funding, managed by CFOs other than DWP and the Learning and Skills Council.

Within Priority 1, more match cases than ESF cases were available when the sample was drawn. As such, Priority 1 totals (which use weighted data) will be weighted towards the match, rather than the ESF sample. It is expected that, as the programme progresses, the proportion of ESF and match cases will even out, and so the final totals for Priority 1 may be less close to the match totals than is currently suggested in the report. Breakdowns by funding stream are presented throughout the report (as in Table 2.2), drawing attention to the main differences between the ESF and match samples.

The availability of Priority 2 match cases was limited at the time when the sample was drawn (in May 2009) – hence, 60 per cent of cases came from the North West region which comprised mostly very young participants. Eighteen per cent of Priority 2 match cases were from Merseyside.⁴ Very few Priority 2 match cases were available in London, the East Midlands, the North East or the South West. This point should be borne in mind when considering the Priority 2 match totals throughout the report – they will be currently weighted towards the results for the North West.

These points about the characteristics of the available management information at the time the sample was drawn mean that as the final participant totals for priorities, funding streams and regions change so too will progress towards achieving specific targets.

2.2 Gender and age profile of participants

The ESF programme 2007-2013 has a particular objective to support women in the labour market. Although the unemployment rate for women (6.9%) is less than that for men (9.1%), women's rate of economic inactivity is much higher (at 42.9% compared with 29.5% for men)⁵.

The gender profile of ESF Cohort Study respondents is shown in Table 2.3. As noted above, survey data has been weighted so that it is representative of the profile of ESF participants (according to management information available in April 2009 when the sample for this study was drawn).

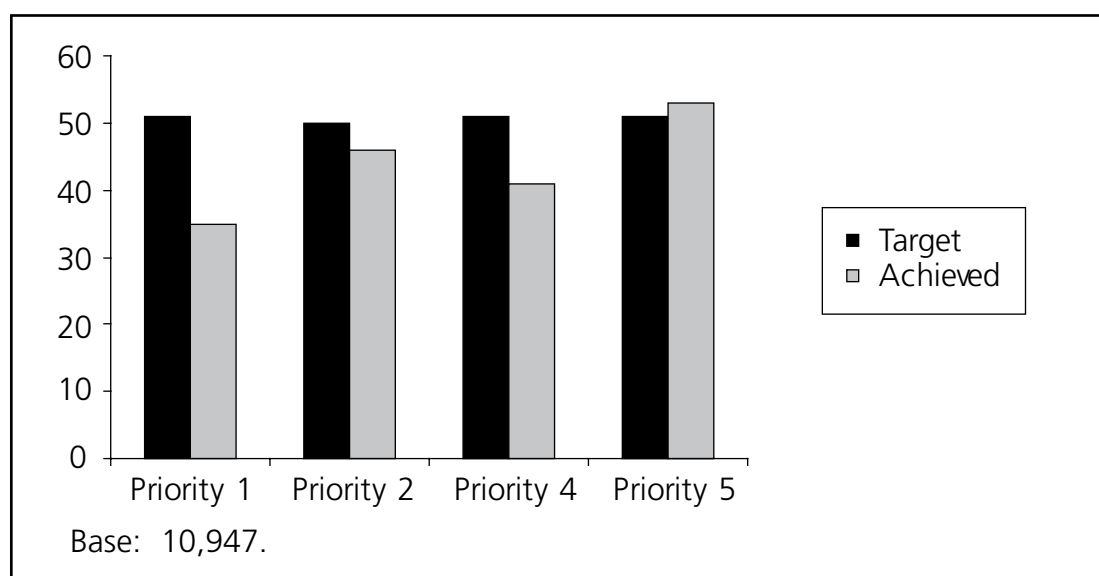
⁴ Management information from January 2010 showed that the North West and Merseyside were still the largest regions in terms of participant numbers, comprising around one third of Priority 2 participants. (However, in terms of participant targets these regions represent only about a fifth of Priority 2 participants).

⁵ Labour Force Survey (August-October 2009).

The specified target is for at least 51 per cent of Priority 1, 4 and 5 participants, and at least 50 per cent of Priority 2 participants, to be women.

The rate of participation among women is lower than the targets set in three priorities: Priority 1 (35%), Priority 2 (46%) and Priority 4 (41%). Only Priority 5, with 53 per cent of participants being women, has exceeded the target. (See Figure 2.1 and Table 2.3). There were slightly more males than females engaged in the ESF funding stream (38%) in Priorities 1 and 4 compared with the match funding stream (35%). By contrast, more men than women had been engaged in the match funding stream (49%) in Priorities 2 and 5 compared with the ESF funding stream (44%; see Table 2.4).

Figure 2.1 Participants who are women by priority



There was some variation by region: for example, within Priority 1, London (41%), the East Midlands (41%) and the South West (40%) had relatively higher rates of participation among women, while the North East (26%), Yorkshire and the Humber (30%) and the South East (31%) had lower rates. Within Priority 2, there were higher rates of female participation in the South East (64%), South West (62%) and London (60%), while women had lower rates of participation in Yorkshire and the Humber (13%) and the West Midlands (20%; see Tables A.1 and A.2).

Nearly three quarters of the national Jobseeker's Allowance recipients are male, therefore the high male participation rate in Priority 1 is primarily due to the high volume of unemployed participants, who are mostly men. In addition, the current economic recession has impacted heavily on the unemployment rate among men in the UK. The male unemployment rate has risen from 5.6 per cent in 2007 (when the objectives for the ESF programme were agreed) to 9.1 per cent in 2009. (The unemployment rate among women rose from 5.3 per cent to 6.9 per cent in the

same period)⁶. It is possible that this could account for the relatively high participation rate among men, particularly in Priorities 1 and 4 programmes, which have a focus on supporting unemployed people into jobs. If the programme continues to reach many unemployed people then the indicator for this group will remain below the target.

Table 2.3 Age and gender by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Age and gender	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
16-19	14	25	8	9	15	1,826
20-24	24	26	13	11	24	1,527
25-34	18	14	17	23	17	1,854
35-49	28	24	40	39	28	3,497
50+	16	11	23	18	15	2,214
Male	65	54	59	47	63	5,844
Female	35	46	41	53	37	5,103
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,535</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.4 Age and gender by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Age and gender	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
16-19	14	14	7	1	35	1	15
20-24	12	28	17	7	33	5	24
25-34	20	17	32	21	12	23	17
35-49	37	26	31	46	14	43	28
50+	16	16	13	24	6	28	15
Male	62	65	61	56	51	68	63
Female	38	35	39	44	49	32	37
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,462</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,514</i>	<i>1,684</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,947</i>

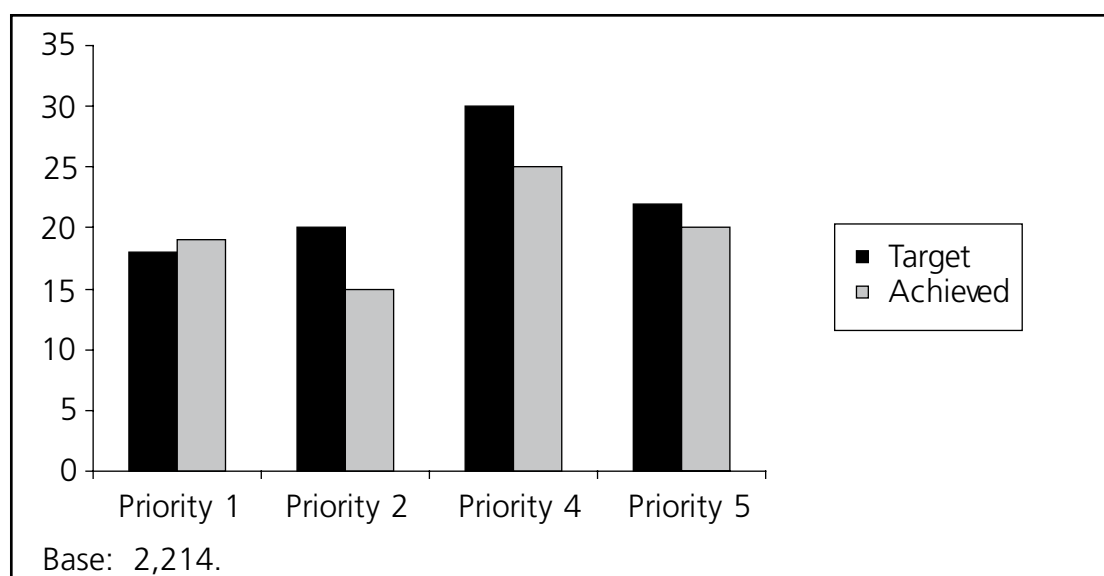
Missing values have been excluded.

⁶ Labour Force Survey (August-October 2009).

The ESF programme also has a target to engage participants aged 50 or over, in line with a European Employment Strategy objective to increase by five years, at European Union (EU) level, the effective average exit age for the labour force. Although the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of unemployment is relatively low for this group in the UK (currently 4.9% compared with an average for all groups of working age of 8.3%), people aged over 50 are more likely to be inactive – just over one quarter of older people are inactive, compared with about one fifth in the wider working age population⁷.

Priority 1 had met its targets for engaging people aged over 50 in its provision; 19 per cent of Priority 1 participants were aged over 50, compared with a target of 18 per cent⁸. There was some shortfall against this target in the other priorities. Priority 4 projects had a target for 30 per cent of participants to be aged over 50, while the achieved number is 25 per cent. Fifteen per cent of Priority 2 participants are aged over 50, against a target of 20 per cent, while Priority 5 has so far achieved a total of 20 per cent against a target of 22 per cent (see Figure 2.2 and Table 2.3). A significantly higher proportion of people aged over 50 were engaged in the ESF funding stream (24%) in Priorities 2 and 5 compared with the match funding stream (6%). The Priority 2 and 5 match sample was younger in profile, with almost 70 per cent of respondents aged under 25 (see Table 2.4). Overall, the match sample was much younger, driven by the young age profile in the North West Region.

Figure 2.2 Participants aged over 50



The recession may be a factor here – indeed, the unemployment rate has risen more sharply among younger age groups, who may therefore be more inclined towards ESF support. Moreover, the programme is currently still in its relatively early stages and any shortfalls against targets may be made up as it progresses.

⁷ Labour Force Survey (August-October 2009).

⁸ Targets for the proportions of participants aged over 50, who are engaged in ESF provision, exclude young people aged 16-19.

ESF also aims to engage young people who are NEET. This will be considered in Section 2.9.

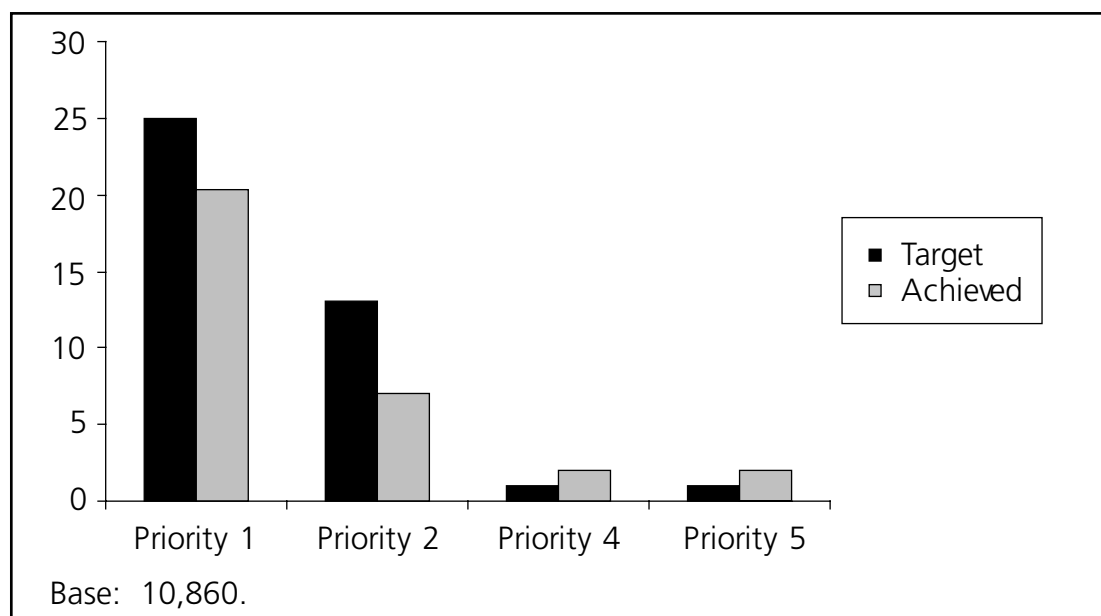
2.3 Ethnicity profile of participants

The ESF programme aims to promote employment among people from ethnic minority groups, who tend to have high rates of unemployment and economic inactivity. Indeed, the percentage of ethnic minority people of working age in England who are economically inactive is 32 per cent, compared with a national average of 21 per cent⁹.

The majority of ESF participants (82%) were White (Table 2.5). Those who classified themselves as being from an ethnic minority group accounted for 18 per cent of participants. Seven per cent of participants were Asian or Asian British and the same proportion of people were Black or Black British (7%). Two per cent of participants were Mixed Race.

The proportion of ethnic minority groups varied by priority (see Figure 2.3). Priority 1 projects had the highest proportion of participants from ethnic minority groups (20 per cent, compared with a target of 25 per cent). (There were similar proportions of ethnic minorities among ESF and match participants in Priorities 1 and 4; see Table 2.6). Seven per cent of participants from Priority 2 were from an ethnic minority group, compared with a target of 13 per cent. A higher proportion of ethnic minority participants had been engaged in the ESF funding stream in Priorities 2 and 5, compared with the match funding stream – 10% of ESF participants were ethnic minorities, compared with only five per cent in the match funding stream (Table 2.6). Two per cent of participants in both Priorities 4 and 5 were from ethnic minority groups, exceeding the target of one per cent.

Figure 2.3 Participants from an ethnic minority group by priority



⁹ NOMIS: Annual population survey, 2009.

Table 2.5 Ethnicity by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Ethnic group	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
White	80	93	98	98	82	9,240
Indian	2	2	0	0	2	210
Pakistani	3	2	0	0	3	308
Bangladeshi	1	0	0	0	1	105
Other Asian	1	1	0	0	1	113
All Asian	8	4	0	0	7	736
Black Caribbean	3	1	0		3	212
Black African	5	1	0	0	4	309
Other Black	0	0	0	0	0	29
All Black	9	1	0	0	7	551
Mixed race	3	1	1	1	2	214
Chinese	0	0	0	0	0	21
Other	1	0	0	0	1	98
All Ethnic Minority Groups	20	7	2	2	18	1,620
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,493</i>	<i>3,826</i>	<i>1,048</i>	<i>492</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.6 Ethnicity by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Ethnicity	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
White	79	80	85	90	95	92	82
Indian	2	2	3	2	1	6	2
Pakistani	4	4	0	2	1	0	3
Bangladeshi	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Other Asian	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
All Asian	8	8	4	6	3	6	7
Black Caribbean	3	4		1	0	0	3
Black African	5	4	8	1	0	0	4
Other Black	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
All Black	8	9	9	3	1	0	7
Mixed race	3	3	1	1	1	1	2
Chinese	0	0	1	0		1	0
Other	2	1	0	1	0	0	1
All Ethnic Minority Groups	21	20	15	10	5	8	18
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,439</i>	<i>2,898</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>2,487</i>	<i>1,673</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>10,860</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

The proportion of participants from ethnic minority groups also varied by region (see Tables 6.3 and 6.4, see Appendix A). This reflects the varying composition of the populations in the English regions and the distinct targets sets for ethnic minority engagement in the different regional programmes. Unsurprisingly, London had the highest rate of ethnic minority engagement (55 per cent in Priorities 1 and 2) followed by the West Midlands (33% in Priority 1 and 19% in Priority 2).

2.4 Participants for whom English was not the language usually spoken at home

Respondents were asked which language they usually speak at home. In total, 95 per cent of participants said they spoke English at home, with the remaining five per cent of participants mentioning another language. The proportion of participants whose main language at home was not English, was higher within

Priority 1 (6%) than in any of the other priorities (see Table 2.7). Within Priorities 2 and 5, the proportion of participants whose main language was not English was higher in the ESF funding stream (4%), compared with the match funding stream (1%) (see Table 2.8).

Table 2.7 Language by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Language	Priority				Total
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Main language at home is English	94	98	100	98	95
Main language at home not English	6	2	0	2	5
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,509</i>	<i>3,849</i>	<i>1,051</i>	<i>494</i>	<i>10,903</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.8 Language by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Language	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Main language at home is English	94	94	94	96	99	98	95
Main language at home not English	6	6	6	4	1	2	5
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,445</i>	<i>2,909</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,504</i>	<i>1,679</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,903</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

There were no significant differences in the proportion of women who spoke another language at home compared with men. The proportion of people speaking another language at home did vary by age with people aged 25 and over being more likely to speak a different language at home (between 6% and 8%) than people in the 16-19 age group (3%) (see Table 2.9).

Table 2.9 Language by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Language	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Main language at home is English	97	96	92	94	94	95	94	95
Main language at home not English	3	4	8	6	6	5	6	5
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,813</i>	<i>1,524</i>	<i>1,844</i>	<i>3,487</i>	<i>2,207</i>	<i>5,821</i>	<i>5,082</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.5 Participants with a disability or LTLI

Another important group of interest for the ESF programme is participants with a disability or long-term limiting illness. About 18 per cent of the working age population in England have a disability (either day-to-day activity disabled or work-limiting or both), and over 2.5 million people are on Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance¹⁰.

Of the total sample, 32 per cent of participants had a long-term illness, health problem or disability which limited their daily activities or the work that they could do. The proportion of participants with a disability or long-term limiting illness (LTLI) varied by priority, with Priority 1 (37% compared with a target of 22%) and Priority 4 (60% compared with a target of 27%) exceeding their targets in this area.¹¹ Six per cent of Priority 2 participants and seven per cent of Priority 5 participants had a disability or long-term limiting illness, compared with targets of 15 per cent and 17 per cent respectively (see Figure 2.4 and Table 2.10).

Of those participants who had a disability or long-term limiting illness, 47 per cent had a physical disability, 37 per cent had a long-term illness and 27 per cent had a mental health problem (see Table 2.10).

¹⁰ Nomis, 2009.

¹¹ A higher proportion of participants are recorded as having a disability in the ESF Cohort Study compared with current Management Information. It is thought that this is due to differences in the questions asked of participants about disability. Appendix C provides details of the definition of disability used in the ESF Cohort Study.

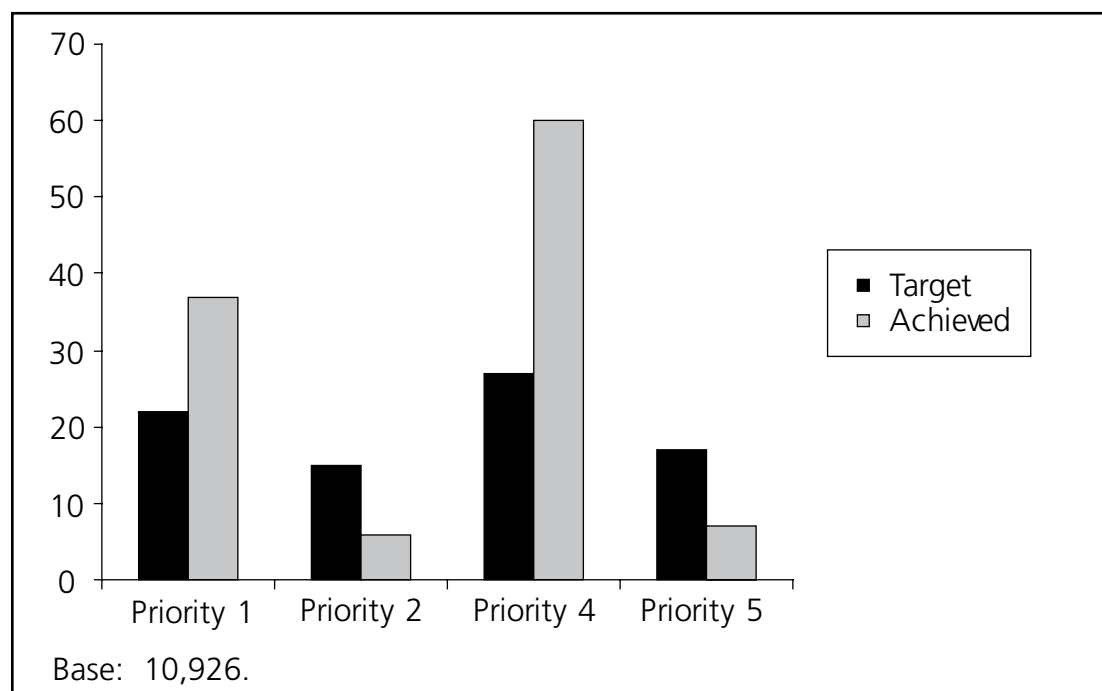
Table 2.10 Participants with a disability or LTLI by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Disability	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
No disability or LTLI	63	94	40	93	68	8,370
Physical disability	47	42	53	62	47	1271
Learning disability/difficulty	5	11	7	0	5	172
Mental health problem	27	10	30	20	27	608
Long-term illness	37	37	31	30	37	878
Another type of disability or LTLI	4	11	4	0	4	110
Any disability or LTLI	37	6	60	7	32	2,556
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,528</i>	<i>3,851</i>	<i>1,053</i>	<i>494</i>		<i>10,926</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of disabilities and illnesses so percentages sum to more than 100.

Figure 2.4 Participants with a disability or LTLI by priority



A higher proportion of match participants (41%) in Priorities 1 and 4 had a disability or long-term limiting illness, compared with ESF participants (28%). By contrast, the Priority 2 and 5 ESF sample had a higher proportion of participants with a disability or long-term limiting illness than the match sample (8% compared with 5%) – this is perhaps related to the younger age profile of the Priority 2 match sample (as there tends to be a lower incidence of disability among younger people; see Table 2.12). However, it is important to note that differences in the proportion of participants with a disability or long-term limiting illness by funding stream may also be linked to the type of courses being run by particularly providers and potentially in specific regions to target people who are economically inactive. Disability and long-term limiting illness status is a complex issue, which can be associated with gender and economic activity in addition to age.

Table 2.11 Disability and LTLI by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Disability	Funding stream within priority						Total
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
No disability or LTLI	72	59	81	92	95	96	68
Physical disability	48	47	48	56	35	56	47
Learning disability/ difficulty	9	4	3	4	15	0	5
Mental health problem	23	28	22	14	10	0	27
Long-term illness	33	38	41	39	35	55	37
Another type of disability or LTLI	6	4	5	8	11	0	4
Any disability or LTLI	28	41	19	8	5	4	32
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,455</i>	<i>2,919</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,504</i>	<i>1,682</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>10,926</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of disabilities and illnesses so percentages sum to more than 100.

Disability was associated with gender and age (see Table 2.12). Female participants were more likely than male participants to have a disability (35% compared with 31%). Older people were also more likely to say they had a disability or LTLI – for example, 58 per cent of those aged over 50 had a disability or LTLI, compared with nine per cent of those aged 16-19.

Table 2.12 Disability and LTLI by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Disability	Age					Gender	
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No disability or LTLI	91	81	71	55	42	69	65
Any disability or LTLI	9	19	29	45	58	31	35
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,824</i>	<i>1,525</i>	<i>1,852</i>	<i>3,494</i>	<i>2,206</i>	<i>5,832</i>	<i>5,094</i>

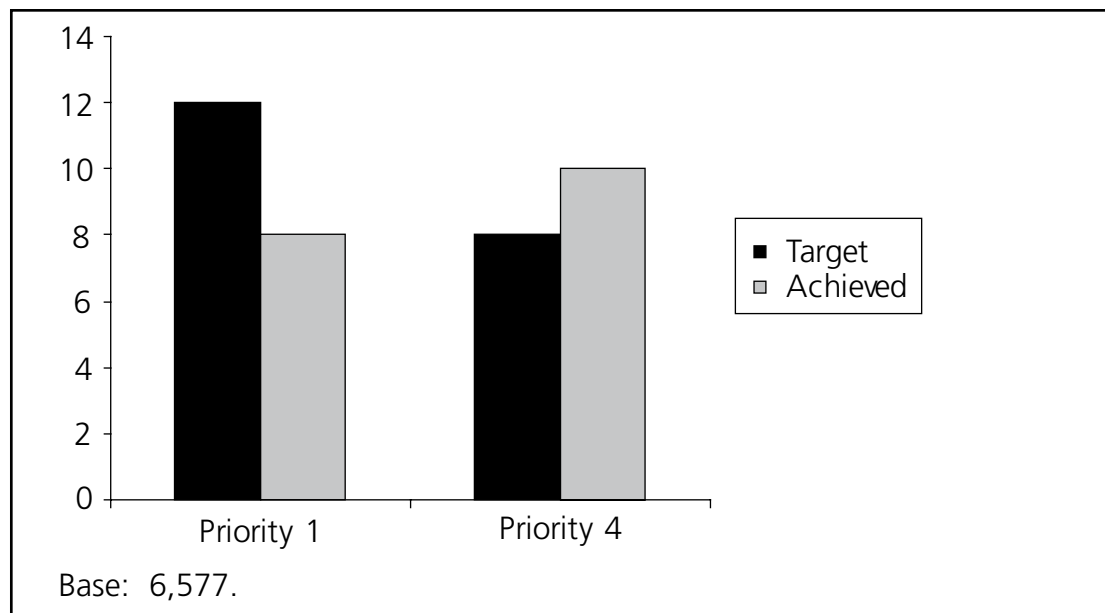
Missing values have been excluded.

The proportion of people with a disability or LTLI also varied by region. For example, in Priority 1, Merseyside (19%), the North East (21%) and South Yorkshire (23%) had the smallest proportions of participants with a disability or LTLI, while London (51%), the South West (47%) and the East Midlands (45%) had the highest proportions. The proportions of participants with a disability or LTLI in Priority 2 ranged from three per cent in the South West to 13 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber (see Tables 6.5 and 6.6, and Appendix A).

2.6 Participants who are lone parents

Lone parents constitute another demographic group that is targeted by the ESF programme, with an employment rate that tends to lag behind the general employment rate of 73 per cent in England. Lone parents were identified as those saying that they did not live with a husband, wife or partner and who had children living with them.

Overall, eight per cent of ESF participants were lone parents (see Table 2.13). The proportion of participants who were lone parents varied by priority. Eight per cent of Priority 1 participants were lone parents, compared with a target of 12 per cent. Ten per cent of Priority 4 participants were lone parents, exceeding the target of eight per cent (see Figure 2.5). While Priorities 2 and 5 did not have targets for engaging lone parents, the survey found that four per cent of participants in these priorities were lone parents.

Figure 2.5 Participants who are lone parents by priority**Table 2.13 Lone parent status by priority**

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Lone parent status	Priority				Total	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
Not lone parent	92	96	90	96	92	9,947
Lone parent	8	4	10	4	8	967
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,525</i>	<i>3,845</i>	<i>1,052</i>	<i>492</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Within Priorities 1 and 4, a higher proportion of ESF participants were lone parents (13%), compared with match participants (7%; see Table 2.14).

Table 2.14 Lone parent status by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Lone parent status	Funding stream within priority						Total
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF	Match	Other	ESF	Match	Other	
Not lone parent	87	93	90	95	97	100	92
Lone parent	13	7	10	5	3	0	8
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,452</i>	<i>2,918</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,497</i>	<i>1,681</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>10,914</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.15 Lone parent status by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Lone parent status	Age					Gender	
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not lone parent	98	96	90	85	97	98	82
Lone parent	2	4	10	15	3	2	18
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,826</i>	<i>1,527</i>	<i>1,845</i>	<i>3,488</i>	<i>2,203</i>	<i>5,831</i>	<i>5,083</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

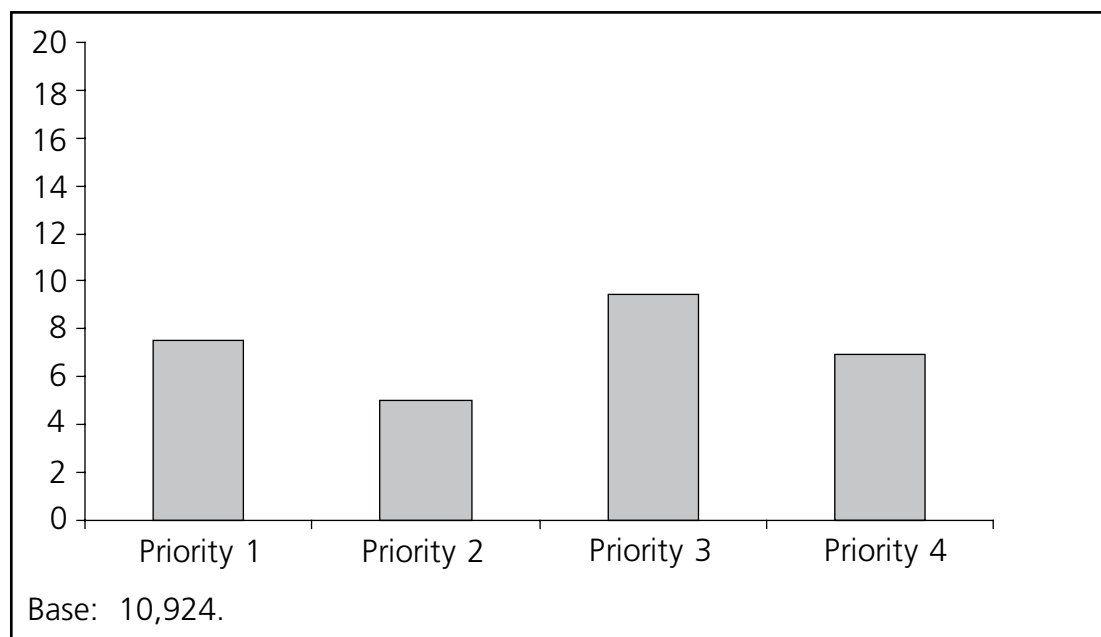
Unsurprisingly, participants who were lone parents were more likely to be female than male; 18 per cent of female participants were lone parents, compared with only two per cent of male participants. In addition, the incidence of lone parents was higher among those of 25 to 34 (10%) and 35 to 49 (15%) than among those in other age groups (see Table 2.15).

There was also some variation in the proportion of participants who were lone parents by region, ranging in Priority 1 from six per cent in the East of England to 12 per cent in the East Midlands (see Table A.7).

2.7 Participants with caring responsibilities

The ESF programme has an objective to support people with caring responsibilities¹². Of the total sample, seven per cent of ESF participants claimed to have caring responsibilities, ranging from five per cent in Priority 2 to nine per cent in Priority 4 (see Figure 2.6 and Table 2.16).

¹² Carers are defined as 'people who were looking after, or providing some regular service for, a sick, disabled or elderly person living in their own or another household'.

Figure 2.6 Participants who are carers by priority

No targets for engaging participants with caring responsibilities have been established, although output indicators without targets do exist and the ESF Cohort Study is tasked with measuring the proportion of participants who receive support with caring responsibilities (see Section 3.9).

Table 2.16 Caring responsibility status by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Caring responsibilities	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
Not carer	92	95	91	93	93	10,016
Carer	8	5	9	7	7	908
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,529</i>	<i>3,850</i>	<i>1,053</i>	<i>492</i>		<i>10,924</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

The proportion of carers among ESF and match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 was similar. Within Priorities 2 and 5, the proportion of carers was higher in the ESF funding stream (9%) compared with the match funding stream (3%, see Table 2.17). This may be due to the younger age profile of the Priority 2 match sample.

Table 2.17 Caring responsibility by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Caring responsibilities	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Not carer	92	93	92	91	97	96	93
Carer	8	7	8	9	3	4	7
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,459</i>	<i>2,917</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,501</i>	<i>1,682</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>10,924</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Participants aged 35 and over were more likely to be carers; 11 per cent of this age group were carers compared with between four per cent and five per cent of people aged 34 and below (see Table 2.18). There was also a small variation by gender, with women participants being more likely to be carers than men (9% compared with 6%).

Table 2.18 Caring responsibility status by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Caring responsibilities	Age					Gender	
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %
Not carer	95	96	95	89	89	94	91
Carer	5	4	5	11	11	6	9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,824</i>	<i>1,527</i>	<i>1,849</i>	<i>3,490</i>	<i>2,209</i>	<i>5,831</i>	<i>5,093</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.8 Offenders, substance abuse, citizenship issues

Respondents to the ESF Cohort Study who were looking for work were asked whether their status as an offender or ex-offender constituted a barrier to finding a job. They were also asked whether problems with alcohol or substance abuse, or citizenship or visa issues, were barriers to employment.

In total, seven per cent of participants indicated that they were offenders and ex-offenders, (eight per cent in Priority 1 and 5 per cent in Priority 4)¹³. Participants involved in National Offender Management Service (NOMS) ESF and match provision were not included in the Cohort Study, as NOMS ESF provision did not start until after the sample for the survey had been drawn. However, if they had been included this may have led to a higher proportion of offenders or ex-offenders among surveyed participants.

¹³ Tables 2.19 and 2.20 includes those with missing data about offending (including those in employment who were not asked specifically about this issue).

Alcohol or substance abuse was a less common barrier to work, mentioned by three per cent of participants¹⁴, while only two per cent of participants had issues with citizenship and visas (see Table 2.19)¹⁵. There were no significant differences between the ESF and match samples in either Priorities 1 and 4 or Priorities 2 and 5 (see Table 2.20).

Table 2.19 Offenders, substance abuse, citizenship issues by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Barrier to employment	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
Offender or ex-offender	8	0	5	0	7	350
Alcohol or substance abuse	3	0	5	0	3	169
Citizenship or visa issues	2	0	1	0	2	148
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,533</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.20 Offenders, substance abuse, citizenship issues by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Barrier to employment	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Offender or ex-offender	7	8	4	0	0	0	7
Alcohol or substance abuse	2	3	1	0	0	0	3
Citizenship or visa issues	3	2	3	0	0	1	2
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,462</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,514</i>	<i>1,684</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

¹⁴ Tables 2.19 and 2.20 includes those with missing data about alcohol and substance abuse (including those in employment who were not asked specifically about this issue).

¹⁵ Tables 2.19 and 2.20 includes those with missing data about citizenship and visa issues (including those in employment who were not asked specifically about this issue).

2.9 Employment status of participants

All respondents were asked about what they were doing in the week prior to starting the ESF course¹⁶. This section examines each employment status in turn, first focusing on young people not in employment, education or training. Respondents were categorised based on what their main activity was in the week before the course (for more details please see Appendix C).

2.9.1 Young people not in employment, education or training

Young people NEET are included in the target relating to the proportion of young people who are NEET or at risk of being NEET in the ESF programme. This group has a relatively high unemployment rate, which has been exacerbated by the economic recession. (The unemployment rate for 16 to 24 year olds is 20 per cent, compared with an average of 7.9 per cent)¹⁷. This analysis focuses on the young people who were NEET, and does not attempt to estimate the proportion of young people at risk of being NEET, therefore, figures for are not compared to the ESF programme targets in this area.

Nine per cent of ESF participants were NEET and aged 16 to 19 years in the week before training, accounting for 58 per cent of participants aged 16 to 19 (see Tables 2.21, 2.22 and 2.23). There was some variation in the proportion of NEET young people by priority; in Priorities 1 and 4, the proportions of young people who were NEET were ten per cent and four per cent respectively. In Priorities 2 and 5, the proportions were five per cent and four per cent respectively (see Table 2.21).

Table 2.21 Employment status by priority (in week before course)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Employment status	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
NEET and aged 16-19 years	10	5	4	4	9	947
Long-term unemployed (aged 20+)	35	2	14	0	30	1,692
Unemployed (less than 12 months) (aged 20+)	24	6	19	2	21	1,795
Economically inactive (aged 20+)	25	9	56	5	23	2,126
In employment	5	78	7	89	17	4,187
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,535</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

¹⁶ Information about employment status by region is available in Tables 6.8 and 6.9 in Appendix A.

¹⁷ ONS, 2009.

Among ESF and match participants in Priorities 1 and 4, the proportion of young people who were NEET was similar. However, in Priorities 2 and 5, the proportion of young people who were NEET was higher in the match sample (7%) compared with the ESF sample (0%; see Table 2.22). As described in Section 2.2, there was a higher proportion of young people aged 16 to 19 in the Priority 2 and 5 match sample, compared with the ESF sample, so this difference is unsurprising.

**Table 2.22 Employment status by funding stream
(in week before course)**

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Employment status	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
NEET and aged 16-19 years	9	10	6	0	7	0	9
Long-term unemployed (aged 20+)	27	38	26	1	2	0	30
Unemployed (less than 12 months) (aged 20+)	34	21	40	14	1	30	21
Economically inactive (aged 20+)	23	27	18	4	12	3	23
In employment	7	5	11	82	79	67	17
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,462</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,514</i>	<i>1,684</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

There were no statistically significant differences in the proportions of NEET young people according to gender (see Table 2.23).

Table 2.23 Employment status by age (in week before course)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Employment status	Age					Gender	
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %
NEET and aged 16-19 years	58	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	9
Long-term unemployed (aged 20+)	N/A	37	37	34	31	33	24
Unemployed (less than 12 months) (aged 20+)	N/A	35	25	19	20	27	12
Economically inactive (aged 20+)	23	11	20	30	33	18	32
In employment	19	17	18	17	16	15	22
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,826</i>	<i>1,527</i>	<i>1,854</i>	<i>3,497</i>	<i>2,214</i>	<i>5,844</i>	<i>5,103</i>

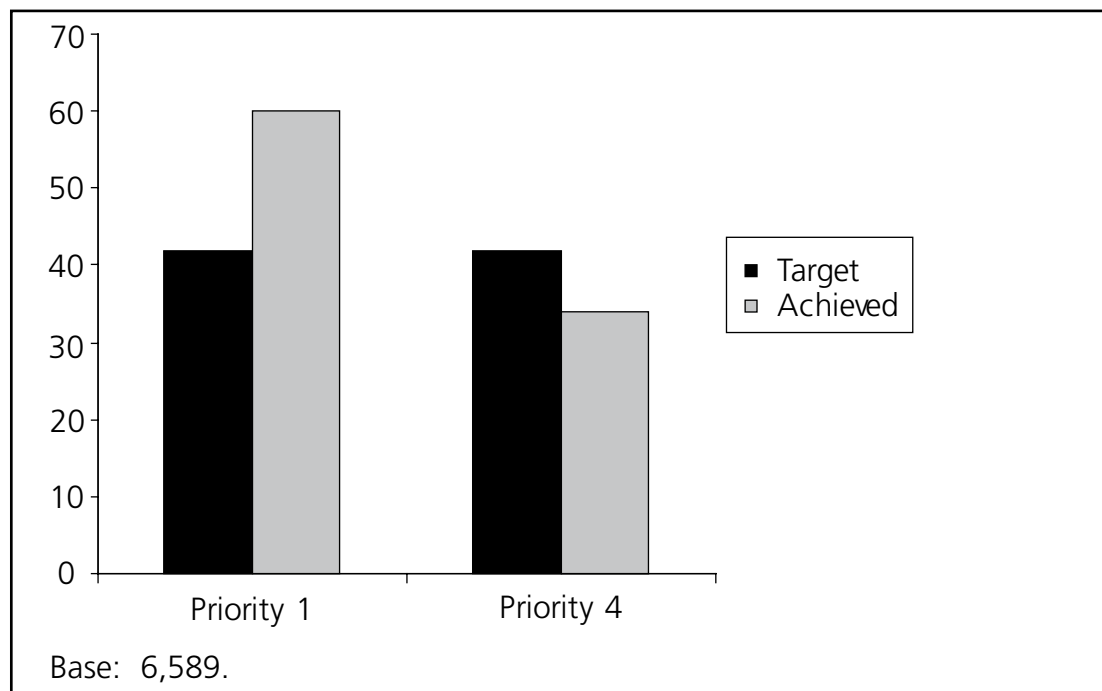
Missing values have been excluded.

2.9.2 Unemployment

Fifty-one per cent of participants were unemployed (30% were long-term unemployed, while 21% had been unemployed for less than 12 months)¹⁸.

Sixty per cent of Priority 1 participants were unemployed, exceeding the target of 42 per cent. Against a similar target (42%), 34 per cent of Priority 4 participants were unemployed. Levels of unemployment within the Priority 1 and 4 ESF and match samples were similar (61% compared with 59%), although a higher proportion of match participants were long-term unemployed (38%) compared with ESF participants (27%). There were no targets for engaging unemployed people within Priorities 2 and 5 (see Figure 2.7 and Table 2.21).

¹⁸ The unemployed category included those who were actively looking for work or wanting a job, and who were aged over 20. (Unemployed people aged 16 to 19 were classified as NEET). The long-term unemployed included those who had been out of work for more than 12 months.

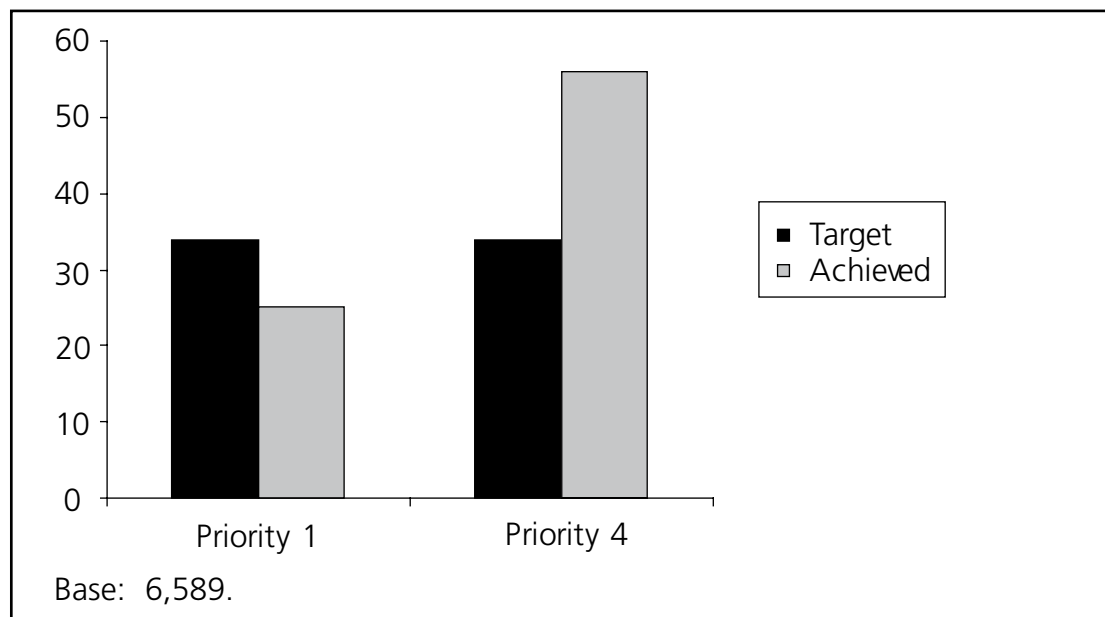
Figure 2.7 Participants who were unemployed by priority

Unemployment varied by gender, with men (59%) more likely than women (37%) to be unemployed. There was also a higher incidence of unemployment among younger people (see Table 2.23).

2.9.3 Economic inactivity

Participants who were not in employment or unemployment were categorised as economically inactive. This group includes those who were in education and training (such as students), as well as those who were looking after the home or family full-time and those who could not work due to a disability or illness but excludes young people (aged 16-19 years) who were NEET.

Priorities 1 and 4 had a target for 34 per cent of participants to be economically inactive. In fact, totals of 25 per cent and 56 per cent were achieved for these priorities respectively. The Priority 1 and 4 match sample had a slightly higher proportion of participants who were economically inactive (27%) compared with the ESF sample (23%). There were no targets for engaging economically inactive people in Priorities 2 and 5 (see Figure 2.8 and Table 2.21).

Figure 2.8 Participants who are economically inactive by priority

Women (32%) were more likely than men (18%) to be economically inactive.¹⁹ Economic inactivity also varied by age, with lower rates amongst those aged 25 to 49 years (see Table 2.23).

2.9.4 Returners to the labour market

Participants were asked what they were doing both 12 months before and in the week prior to starting the course. All those who said that they had been looking after the home or family full-time either 12 months previously or in the week before the course (and who were aged 20 or over) were defined as returners to the labour market.

Nineteen per cent of participants were returners to the labour market by this definition, with higher proportions in Priority 1 (21%) and Priority 4 (48%; see Table 2.24). A higher proportion of Priority 1 and 4 match participants were returners to the labour market (24%) compared with ESF participants (16%). There were no significant differences between ESF and match participants in Priorities 2 and 5 (see Table 2.25).

¹⁹ Notably, some of the regions with relatively higher proportions of economically inactive participants – as set out in Table 6.8 – also had relatively higher proportions of female participants.

Table 2.24 Returners to the labour market by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Employment status	Priority				Total
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Not a returner	79	98	52	98	81
Returner	21	2	48	2	19
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>4,149</i>	<i>3,485</i>	<i>991</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>9,092</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.25 Returners to the labour market by funding stream (in week before course)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Employment status	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Not a returner	84	76	90	97	98	99	81
Returner	16	24	10	3	2	1	19
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,890</i>	<i>2,055</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>2,461</i>	<i>1,332</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>9,092</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Participants who were returning to the labour market were more likely to be women (29%) than men (12%). There was also a higher incidence of returners among those aged 25 to 34 and 35 to 49 than in other age groups (see Table 2.26).

Table 2.26 Returners to the labour market by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Employment status	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Not a returner	94	84	74	70	81	88	71	81
Returner	6	16	26	30	19	12	29	19
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,527</i>	<i>1,854</i>	<i>3,497</i>	<i>2,214</i>	<i>2,207</i>	<i>4,775</i>	<i>4,317</i>	<i>9,092</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.9.5 Employment status by disadvantaged groups

There was some variation in employment status among people with certain characteristics which are often considered as disadvantages in the labour market (see Table 2.27). Generally, participants from disadvantaged groups – in this instance, lone parents, carers, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities or a long-term limiting illness – were less likely to be in employment than their counterparts.

Participants who were lone parents were less likely to be unemployed than those who were not lone parents (39% compared with 52%), but were more likely to be economically inactive (47% compared with 21%).

There was also a higher rate of economic inactivity among carers (31%) compared with non-carers (22%) and among people with a disability or long-term limiting illness (45%) compared with people without a disability (13%).

Table 2.27 Employment status by disadvantaged groups

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>									
Employment status	Disadvantage								Total %
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	Not ethnic minority %	Ethnic minority %	No disability or LTLI %	Has disability or LTLI %	
NEET and aged 16-19	9	2	9	7	9	8	11	3	9
Long term unemployed (aged 20+)	30	30	29	33	28	36	29	31	30
Unemployed (less than 12 months) (aged 20+)	22	9	22	16	21	22	25	14	21
Economically inactive (aged 20+)	21	47	22	31	23	25	13	45	23
In employment	18	12	18	13	19	9	22	7	17
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>9,947</i>	<i>967</i>	<i>10,016</i>	<i>908</i>	<i>9,240</i>	<i>1,620</i>	<i>8,370</i>	<i>2,556</i>	<i>1,0947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.10 Profile of participants in employment

This section presents a profile of participants in employment, looking at the types of jobs they were doing. Seventeen per cent of ESF participants were in

employment, although this figure was much higher in Priority 2 (78%) and Priority 5 (89%; see Table 2.21).

It may have been expected that the proportion of participants in employment in Priority 2 (and to a lesser extent in Priority 5) would have been even higher, given the focus of these priorities on developing the skills of the workforce. It should be noted, however, that those regions with the highest numbers of Priority 2 participants (particularly, the North West, the West Midlands and Merseyside) had relatively lower rates of employment compared with some of the other regions, which could be skewing results (see Table 6.9).

Furthermore, the lower than expected employment rate of Priority 2 participants could be due in part to the presence in the sample of participants of Response to Redundancy projects, who may have become recently redundant. (Indeed, Priorities 2 and 5 had an objective to target people facing redundancy, which may have become an increasing focus during the economic recession.)

This section considers the profile of participants in employment, and displays results for participants in Priorities 2 and 5 only.

2.10.1 Employment Status- socio-economic group

In total, around a quarter (23%) of Priority 2 and 5 participants who were employed were in occupations classified as managerial or professional occupations (see Table 2.28). Forty per cent of participants were in lower supervisory and technical or semi-routine occupations while 18 per cent were employed in routine occupations.

Table 2.28 Socio-economic group by priority (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>			
Socio-economic group	Priority		Total
	2	5	
Higher/lower managerial and professions	22	29	23
Intermediate occupations/small employers	19	21	19
Lower supervisory and technical/Semi-routine	40	39	40
Routine occupations	18	11	18
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,214</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>3,661</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

The proportion of participants in 'higher/lower managerial and professional' occupations was higher in the ESF sample (39%) than in the match sample (14%) – perhaps due to the older age profile. Moreover, a smaller proportion of ESF, compared with match, participants were employed in intermediate occupations, lower supervisory and technical/semi-routine jobs and routine occupations (see Table 2.29). (This may be a result of ESF in Priorities 2 and 5 increasingly targeting people facing redundancy, including those in managerial positions.)

There was some difference in socio-economic status of employed participants by gender and priority. Generally, men were more likely than women in Priorities 2 and 5 to be in lower supervisory and technical or semi-routine occupations (44% compared with 37% of women) and routine occupations (21% compared with 14%) of women. Meanwhile, women were more likely than men to be in higher or lower managerial occupations and professions (24% compared with 21% of men) and intermediate occupations (24% compared with 14% of men; see Table 2.30).

Table 2.29 Socio economic group by funding stream (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Socio-economic group	Funding stream within priority			Total %
	Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Higher/lower managerial and professions	39	14	58	23
Intermediate occupations/small employers	17	20	16	19
Lower supervisory and technical/semi-routine	34	44	23	40
Routine occupations	9	22	3	18
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,128</i>	<i>1,429</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>3,661</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.30 Socio-economic group by priority and gender (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>									
Socio-economic group	Priority 2			Priority 5			Total		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Higher/lower managerial and professions	21	24	22	26	31	29	21	24	23
Intermediate occupations/small employers	14	24	19	16	26	21	14	24	19
Lower supervisory and technical/Semi-routine	44	37	40	42	36	39	44	37	40
Routine occupations	22	15	18	17	7	11	21	14	18
Never worked/long-term unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full-time students or student and not any paid work in week	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not stated/classified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,648</i>	<i>1,566</i>	<i>3,214</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>1,846</i>	<i>1,815</i>	<i>3,661</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.10.2 Income

Most participants reported an income which was the equivalent of between £5,000 and £10,000 (32%) or £10,000 to £15,000 (30%) per year (see Table 2.31). There were few differences in banded income, by priority.

Table 2.31 Income by priority (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>			
Socio-economic group	Priority		Total
	2	5	
	%	%	%
Under £5,000	12	8	11
£5,000-£9,999	32	31	32
£10,000-£14,999	31	29	30
£15,000-£19,999	12	15	12
£20,000-£29,999	9	11	10
£30,000-£49,999	4	4	4
£50,000-£74,999	0	0	0
£75,000 or more	0	0	0
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,757</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>3,139</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

ESF participants tended to earn more than match participants, reflecting the generally higher socio-economic status of this group. For example, only five per cent of ESF participants earned under £5,000 per year, compared with 15 per cent of match Participants. Moreover, 26 per cent of ESF participants earned over £20,000 per year, compared with only seven per cent of match participants (see Table 2.32).

Table 2.32 Income by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Income	Funding stream within priority			Total
	Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF	Match	Other	%
	%	%	%	%
Under £5,000	5	15	0	11
£5,000-£9,999	19	39	7	32
£10,000-£14,999	30	30	30	30
£15,000-£19,999	19	9	17	12
£20,000-£29,999	18	6	18	10
£30,000-£49,999	7	1	24	4
£50,000-£74,999	1	0	3	0
£75,000 or more	0	0	2	0
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,833</i>	<i>1,233</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>3,139</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

As may be expected considering the higher proportion of women working part-time (see section below), women were more likely to report a lower income than men within Priorities 2 and 5. For example, 16 per cent of women in Priority 2 had an income of under £5,000, compared with eight per cent of men while 37 per cent of women and 27 per cent of men had an income of £5,000 to £10,000 (see Table 2.33).

Table 2.33 Income by priority and gender (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>									
Income	Priority 2			Priority 5			Total		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Under £5,000	8	16	12	6	10	8	7	15	11
£5,000-£9,999	27	37	32	17	43	31	26	38	32
£10,000-£14,999	30	31	31	27	31	29	29	31	30
£15,000-£19,999	15	9	12	22	9	15	15	9	12
£20,000-£29,999	14	5	9	18	5	11	15	5	10
£30,000-£49,999	6	2	4	9	0	4	6	1	4
£50,000-£74,999	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
£75,000 or more	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,384</i>	<i>1,373</i>	<i>2,757</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>211</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>1,555</i>	<i>1,584</i>	<i>3,139</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.10.3 Hours of Work

Seventy-nine per cent of ESF participants who were employees worked full-time, while 21 per cent worked part-time (i.e. less than 31 hours per week). Women were more likely than men to work part-time both in Priority 2 (32% compared with 10%) and in Priority 5 (38% compared with 9%; see Table 2.34). There were no significant differences in the working hours of participants in the ESF sample, compared with the match sample (see Table 2.35).

Table 2.34 Part-time/full-time employment by priority and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>									
Hours of work	Priority 2			Priority 5			Total		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Over 31 hours a week	90	68	79	91	62	75	90	68	79
Less than 31 hours a week, but more than 16 hours	8	25	16	6	33	20	7	26	17
Less than 16 hours a week	2	7	4	3	5	4	2	7	4
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,639</i>	<i>1,558</i>	<i>3,197</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>247</i>	<i>445</i>	<i>1,837</i>	<i>1,805</i>	<i>3,642</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.35 Part-time/full time (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Hours of work	Funding stream within priority			
	Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	Total %
Over 31 hours a week	80	78	89	79
Less than 31 hours a week, but more than 16 hours	17	17	10	17
Less than 16 hours a week	3	5	2	4
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,121</i>	<i>1,417</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>3,642</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.10.4 Size of employer

ESF participants were more likely to work for small and medium-sized employers, with most working at businesses with less than 250 employees. Nearly a quarter (24%) worked for micro businesses (1-9 employees). Twenty-five per cent worked for small businesses (10-24 employees) and 35 per cent worked for medium-sized businesses (25-249 employees).

There were few significant differences in size of employer by gender, although men were more likely than women to work at large businesses employing between 250 and 499 employees (9% compared with 4%; see Table 2.36).

Table 2.36 Size of employer by priority and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Size of employer	Priority		Gender		Total %
	2 %	5 %	Male %	Female %	
1-9 employees	24	23	22	26	24
10-24 employees	24	29	23	27	25
25-249 employees	35	38	36	35	35
250-499 employees	7	5	9	4	6
500 or more employees	10	6	10	9	9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,878</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>1,607</i>	<i>1,644</i>	<i>3,251</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Match participants were more likely than ESF participants to work for smaller employers. For example, while 55 per cent of match participants (who were in employment) worked for organisations employing fewer than 25 members of staff, the same was true of only 36 per cent of ESF participants (see Table 2.37).

Table 2.37 Size of employer (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Size of employer	Funding stream within priority			Total %
	Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
1-9 employees	17	27	23	24
10-24 employees	19	27	21	25
25-249 employees	42	32	46	35
250-499 employees	10	5	4	6
500 or more employees	11	8	6	9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,852</i>	<i>1,308</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>3,251</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.10.5 Type of contract

Eighty-seven per cent of ESF participants who were employees were in permanent jobs (see Table 2.38). The remaining participants were in temporary or casual jobs (7%) or had another type of contract (6%). There were no significant differences in type of contract by gender.

Table 2.38 Type of contract

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Type of contract	Priority		Gender		Total %
	2 %	5 %	Male %	Female %	
A permanent job	87	88	86	87	87
A temporary or casual job	7	5	6	8	7
Other	6	7	7	5	6
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	3,212	447	1,846	1,813	3,659

Missing values have been excluded.

Match participants were slightly more likely to have a temporary or casual job (9%) than ESF participants (4%, see Table 2.39).

Table 2.39 Type of contract (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Type of contract	Funding stream within priority			Total
	Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
A permanent job	89	86	89	87
A temporary or casual job	4	9	4	7
Other	7	5	7	6
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	2,127	1,428	104	3,659

Missing values have been excluded.

2.10.6 Length of employment

ESF Cohort Survey respondents were asked how long they had been in their current job when they started the course. Thirty-five per cent of participants had been in their current job less than one year, 44 per cent had been in their jobs between one and five years, while 21 per cent had been in their current employment for more than five years. Men (24%) were slightly more likely than women (19%) to have been working for their employers for more than five years (see Table 2.40).

Table 2.40 Length of employment by priority and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Length of employment	Priority		Gender		Total
	2	5	Male	Female	
	%	%	%	%	%
Less than 1 year	36	27	36	35	35
Between 1 and 5 years	44	43	41	47	44
More than five years	20	30	24	19	21
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,210</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>1,843</i>	<i>1,814</i>	<i>3,657</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Match participants (who tended to be younger) had generally been in their current jobs for less time than ESF participants. For example, while 22 per cent of ESF participants had been in their current jobs for less than one year, among match participants this proportion rose to 42 per cent (see Table 2.41).

Table 2.41 Length of employment by funding stream (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Type of contract	Funding stream within priority			Total
	Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF	Match	Other	
	%	%	%	%
Less than 1 year	22	42	20	35
Between 1 and 5 years	41	45	39	44
More than five years	37	13	42	21
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,126</i>	<i>1,427</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>3,657</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.11 Profile of unemployed/inactive participants

This section presents a profile of unemployed and economically inactive participants. It looks at the barriers to employment faced by participants, as well as whether they were looking for or wanting a job in the week before the course and, if so, the types of job search activities that they were involved in. The majority of participants who were not in work were taking part in projects under Priorities 1 and 4, which had a focus on promoting employability and tackling barriers to employment. Just under 20 per cent of Priority 1 and 4 participants who were not in work had been out of work for less than six months; 33 per cent had been out

of work between six months and two years; 31 per cent had been out of work for two years or more; and 16 per cent had never had a job (see Table 6.10). (Most Priority two and five participants were in employment).

2.11.1 Whether wanted work

Eighty-three per cent of ESF participants were not in employment, although this figure was higher in Priority 1 (95%) and Priority 4 (93%). Of those who were not in work, 77 per cent were looking for a job and a further 15 per cent wanted to work (but were not actively looking). Only eight per cent of participants, who were out of work, were not looking for or wanting a job (see Table 2.42).

ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 and in Priorities 2 and 5 were more likely than match participants to be looking for or wanting work. For example, in Priorities 1 and 4, 84 per cent of ESF participants were looking for a job, compared with 76 per cent of match participants, while in Priorities 2 and 5, 86 per cent of ESF participants were looking for work, compared with 49 per cent of match participants (see Table 2.43). These differences may reflect the voluntary nature of ESF provision and the fact that ESF participants were more likely to refer themselves onto training than match participants (as indicated by Table 3.9).²⁰

Table 2.42 Employment status by priority (in week before course)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Employment status	Priority				Total
	1	2	4	5	
	%	%	%	%	%
In employment	5	78	7	89	17
Not in employment (i.e. unemployed or economically inactive)	95	22	93	11	83
Whether looking for work					
Looking for work	79	62	49	51	77
Wanting work	14	28	31	32	15
Not looking for or wanting work	8	11	20	17	8
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,533</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

²⁰ This finding is also linked to participants' attitudes to work, specifically whether they viewed work as important (see Table 6.11). Match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were slightly less likely to regard work as 'very important' (71% compared with 78%).

Table 2.43 Whether looking for/wanting work by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Whether looking for/ wanting work	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Looking for work	84	76	86	86	49	93	77
Wanting work	10	15	10	9	37	2	15
Not looking for or wanting work	5	9	4	5	14	4	8
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,893</i>	<i>2,640</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>334</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>6,306</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

The majority of participants who were not looking for or wanting work had a disability or long-term limiting illness (73% compared with 27%; see Table 2.44).

Table 2.44 Whether wanted work by disability/LTLI status

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Disability or LTLI status	Employment status			Total
	Looking for work %	Wanting work %	Not looking for or wanting work %	
No disability or LTLI	72	36	27	64
Has a disability or LTLI	28	64	73	36
<i>Bases</i>	<i>4,592</i>	<i>1,110</i>	<i>598</i>	<i>6,714</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.11.2 Barriers to employment

As part of the questionnaire, participants who were looking for work before they started the course were asked what, if anything, made it difficult for them to find work.

Some of the reasons can be referred to as human capital shortcomings, for example where people do not have the right skills for work (including problems with literacy, numeracy or the use of English) or where they lack of recent work experience.

Of participants who were looking for work, 56 per cent said that they did 'not have the right skills', while a similar proportion (56%) said that they 'did not have any recent experience of working'. An even higher proportion, 66 per cent, said that there 'weren't any jobs where they lived'. Thirty-eight per cent faced problems with transport and 16 per cent of those with children could not find suitable or affordable childcare (see Table 2.45).

Table 2.45 Human capital shortcomings by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Shortcomings	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Did not have the right skills	57	42	44	51	56
Weren't any jobs where I live	67	51	60	51	66
No recent experience of working	57	41	38	48	56
Could not find suitable/affordable childcare (parents of dependent children only)	16	18	19	0	16
Problems with transport or the cost of transport	39	20	37	42	38
Other	10	7	9	10	10
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>4,898</i>	<i>610</i>	<i>941</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>6,499</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 and in Priorities 2 and 5 were more likely than match participants to say that they 'did not have the right skills' and that there 'weren't any jobs' where they lived. By contrast, match participants were more likely to say that they did not have any recent experience of working (see Table 2.46).

Table 2.46 Human capital shortcomings by funding stream with priority

ESF Cohort Survey

Shortcomings	Funding stream within priority						Total
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Did not have the right skills	61	56	52	55	39	51	56
Weren't any jobs where I live	71	65	75	74	44	74	66
No recent experience of working	53	58	45	29	48	10	56
Could not find suitable/affordable childcare (parents of dependent children only)	24	13	23	16	24	13	16
Problems with transport or the cost of transport	39	40	25	17	24	9	38
Other	41	42	54	36	42	71	42
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,953</i>	<i>2,691</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>361</i>	<i>245</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>6,484</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Male participants (91%) were more likely to face any of these shortcomings than females (85%). In particular, men were more likely than women to say that there 'weren't any jobs where they live' (70% compared with 57%) and that they faced problems with transport (40% compared with 35%). By contrast, women were more likely than men to have problems finding suitable or affordable childcare (6% compared with 1%; see Table 2.47).

Table 2.47 Human capital shortcomings by age and gender

Shortcomings	ESF Cohort Survey						
	Age					Gender	
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %
Did not have the right skills	62	60	66	50	42	57	54
Weren't any jobs where I live	65	72	70	61	60	70	57
No recent experience of working	68	66	55	49	39	54	57
Could not find suitable/affordable childcare (parents of dependent children only)	11	11	24	15	14	10	24
Problems with transport or the cost of transport	37	46	42	34	30	40	35
Other	9	8	13	13	9	10	11
None of these	8	5	7	17	21	9	15
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,492</i>	<i>991</i>	<i>951</i>	<i>1,797</i>	<i>1,253</i>	<i>3,776</i>	<i>2,723</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

The incidence of human capital shortcomings was lower among participants in the older age categories. For example, young people aged 16 to 19 (68%) and 20 to 24 (66%) were more likely than people in older age groups to lack recent experience of working (between 39% and 55% of people aged 25 and over faced this barrier). People aged 35 to 49 (50%) and those aged over 50 (42%) were less likely than younger people aged 16 to 19 (62%) to feel that they did not have the right skills (see Table 2.47).

2.11.3 Job search activities

Looking at adverts (93%), going to Jobcentre Plus (91%) and using the internet (84%) were the most common forms of job search activities. Asking friends or relatives (74%) and contacting employers directly (70%) were also common job search activities. Fifty-four per cent of respondents had visited recruitment agencies as part of their job searches (see Table 2.48).

Men were more likely than women to carry out all of the job search activities listed above, including looking at adverts (94% compared with 90%) and going to recruitment agencies (58% compared with 44%). Job search activity also varied by age. Young people aged 16-19 were less likely than all other age groups to look at job adverts, visit Jobcentre Plus and to go to recruitment agencies. However, younger people were more likely than people aged 35 and over to look for jobs on the internet (see Table 2.48).

Table 2.48 Job search activities by priority, gender and age

Job search activities	ESF Cohort Survey									
	Priority		Gender		Age					
	1 %	4 %	Male %	Female %	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Total %
Looking at adverts	93	92	94	90	84	94	93	93	95	93
Going to Jobcentre Plus	91	85	92	89	83	95	91	90	94	91
Using the internet	84	78	85	81	87	93	89	78	68	84
Asking friends or relatives	75	67	76	71	74	77	74	75	71	74
Contacting employers directly	70	62	72	67	71	74	71	68	62	70
Going to recruitment agencies	54	41	58	44	38	62	55	55	48	54
Other ways	8	7	8	7	8	8	7	8	7	8
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,724</i>	<i>438</i>	<i>2,490</i>	<i>1,672</i>	<i>838</i>	<i>784</i>	<i>651</i>	<i>1,111</i>	<i>765</i>	<i>4,162</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Match participants in Priority 2 and 5 were generally less likely than ESF participants to be undertaking job search activities, for example, looking at adverts and going to the job centre. There was less variation between ESF and match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 (see Table 2.49).

Table 2.49 Job search activities by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Job search activities	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Looking at adverts	91	92	94	84	66	98	91
Going to Jobcentre Plus	90	91	96	86	58	86	90
Using the internet	82	84	85	83	68	90	83
Asking friends or relatives	73	74	81	79	61	80	74
Contacting employers directly	68	70	76	66	71	80	70
Going to recruitment agencies	53	54	60	60	34	73	53
Other ways	7	8	4	6	8	4	8
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,451</i>	<i>1,743</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>4,906</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

2.12 Participants with multiple disadvantages

The ESF programme targets those facing more than one type of labour market disadvantage. This section builds on the analysis of disadvantage by looking at the number of participants who fall into more than one disadvantaged group. Each of the following categories, which are described in more detail in the sections above, has been considered a 'disadvantaged group':

- Ethnic minorities.
- Those who do not normally speak English at home.
- Those with a disability or long-term limiting illness.
- Lone parents.
- Those with caring responsibilities.
- Those aged over 50.
- The long-term unemployed (for 12 months or more).

- Young people classified as NEET.
- Returners to the labour market.
- Offenders and ex-offenders.
- Those with issues with alcohol or substance abuse.
- Those with citizenship and visa issues.

In addition, those with no qualifications have been counted as having a disadvantage. Chapter 4 provides more information about the qualification levels of ESF participants.

Most people taking part in the ESF programme faced at least one disadvantage, including 85 per cent of Priority 1 and 87 per cent of Priority 4 participants (see Table 2.50). Fewer people in the Priority 2 (36%) and Priority 5 (39%) programmes faced disadvantages.

Over half of all participants on the Priority 1 programme (57%) faced multiple disadvantages (i.e. two or more). This figure rose to 63 per cent among Priority 4 participants (see Table 2.50).

Table 2.50 Multiple disadvantage by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Disadvantages	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
No disadvantage	15	64	13	61	23	3,273
1 disadvantage	29	26	23	30	28	3,207
2 disadvantages	25	8	32	8	23	2,335
3 disadvantages	19	2	23	1	16	1,399
4 disadvantages	9	0	7	0	8	548
5+ disadvantages	3	0	1	0	3	185
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,535</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Levels of disadvantage also varied by funding stream. Match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were slightly more likely than ESF participants to face disadvantages. For example, while 18 per cent of ESF participants faced no disadvantages, the same was true of only 13 per cent of match participants.²¹ By contrast, among Priority 2 and 5 participants, the match sample had a lower incidence of disadvantage –

²¹ This variation may be linked to the fact that ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were more likely than Match participants to say that they signed up to the course voluntarily (rather than saying that they 'were made' to go on it).

70 per cent of match participants faced no disadvantages, compared with 50 per cent of ESF participants (see Table 2.51).

There was also variation by age, with older participants facing higher numbers of disadvantages. This is perhaps unsurprising as being over 50 was itself counted as a type of disadvantage, as were several other characteristics associated with being older, such as having caring responsibilities (see Table 2.52).

Women were slightly more likely than men to have multiple disadvantages – again, this may be due to some of the types of disadvantage being associated with being female (for example, being a lone parent or a returner to the labour market; see Table 2.52).

Table 2.51 Participants with multiple disadvantages by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Multiple disadvantages	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
No disadvantage	18	13	30	50	70	59	23
1 disadvantage	30	28	33	33	23	32	28
2 disadvantages	27	26	20	13	6	8	23
3 disadvantages	16	21	11	3	1	2	16
4 disadvantages	6	10	3	1	0	0	8
5+ disadvantages	2	3	2	0	0	0	3
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,462</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,514</i>	<i>1,684</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 2.52 Participants with multiple disadvantages by age and gender

Multiple disadvantages	<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
	Age					Gender	
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %
No disadvantage	31	36	24	17	0	24	21
1 disadvantage	42	32	28	25	14	30	25
2 disadvantages	17	20	25	26	25	22	25
3 disadvantages	9	9	15	19	33	16	18
4 disadvantages	1	2	5	10	21	7	9
5+ disadvantages	0	1	3	3	8	3	3
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,826</i>	<i>1,527</i>	<i>1,854</i>	<i>3,497</i>	<i>2,214</i>	<i>5,844</i>	<i>5,103</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

A breakdown of multiple disadvantage by region is available in Appendix A (see Tables 6.14 and 6.15).

3 Expectations and experience of ESF support

This chapter considers participants' expectations and experiences of European Social Fund (ESF) support. The chapter begins with an overview of the range of activities funded by ESF, then examines the following:

- Whether participants finished the course or left it early (see Section 3.2).
- How people heard about the course (see Section 3.3).
- The length of time people spent on their courses, and the intensity of the training (see Section 3.4).
- Expectations of the course and the skills being gained or improved (see Sections 3.5 to 3.7).
- Help looking for work (see Section 3.8).
- Help received with caring responsibilities as part of the course (see Section 3.9).
- Satisfaction with the course (see Section 3.10).
- Awareness of the ESF programme (see Section 3.11).

3.1 Overview of ESF activities

This section outlines the various activities funded under each ESF priority.

Within Priorities 1 and 4, which aim to increase employment and to reduce unemployment and economic inactivity, funded activities include:

- job search help, advice and guidance;
- work preparation activities, including work placements;
- advice on self-employment and entrepreneurship;
- Skills for Life, including basic skills of literacy, numeracy, English for Speakers of Other Languages and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);

- vocational training and qualifications for employability;
- job brokerage;
- access to childcare; and
- interventions for people at risk of redundancy.

In addition, various activities are funded under Priorities 1 and 4 to support 14 to 19 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Priorities 2 and 5 have an objective to develop and improve the skills of the workforce. Specific activities include:

- supporting access to and provision of apprenticeships;
- Skills for Life, including basic skills of literacy, numeracy, English for Speakers of Other Languages and ICT;
- training leading to qualifications at levels 2 and 3; and
- activities to support access to and progression from foundation level up to level 3.

Priority 5 also supports activities to contribute to the strategy for Higher Education and Skills in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

3.2 Course completion and early leavers

The majority of participants (82%) had already finished their course when they took part in the Wave 1 ESF Cohort Survey (see Table 3.1). Most stayed to the end of their course (71%), while a smaller proportion left early (29%). There was some variation by priority with participants in Priority 2 (90%) and Priority 5 (91%) more likely to complete their courses than Priority 1 (68%) and Priority 4 (73%) participants. Priority 2 and 5 participants were mostly in employment and, in some cases, would have been attending the course as part of their job. This is a potential reason for participants from these priorities being less likely to leave courses early.

Table 3.1 Course completion by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Course completion	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Still on course	15	36	25	27	18
No longer on course	85	64	75	73	82
Early leavers					
Finished the course	68	90	73	91	71
Left the course early	32	10	27	9	29
Why left early					
I was not satisfied with the course	13	19	10	19	13
I found a job or moved jobs	34	24	31	20	34
I started a course at college or training centre	3	4	4	0	4
Financial reasons	2	0	1	8	2
Caring responsibilities	2	0	3	6	2
I had problems relating to my disability	2	0	5	0	2
I became ill	13	3	17	6	13
Other domestic or personal reasons	10	15	10	17	10
Other	25	38	25	39	26
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,535</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of reasons for leaving the course early so percentages sum to more than 100.

The differences observed in the proportion of participants completing their course by Priority is perhaps due to the fact that, in general, participants in Priorities 1 and 4 faced more disadvantages than those in Priorities 2 and 5 (see Section 2.12). Generally, the more disadvantages faced by respondents, the more likely they were to leave the course early. For example, 45 per cent of participants with five or more disadvantages left the course early, compared with 25 per cent with no disadvantages (see Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 Course completion by number of disadvantages

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Course completion	Number of disadvantages						Total %
	None %	1 %	2 %	3 %	4 %	5+ %	
Early leavers							
Finished the course	75	72	70	71	67	55	71
Left the course early	25	28	30	29	33	45	29
Why left early							
I was not satisfied with the course	13	14	12	13	14	17	13
I found a job or moved jobs	45	44	33	24	15	4	34
I started a course at college or training centre	5	5	2	2	3	4	4
Financial reasons	1	2	1	3	4	0	2
Caring responsibilities	0	2	2	0	1	10	2
I had problems relating to my disability		0	1	4	13	1	2
I became ill	9	6	15	17	23	31	13
Other domestic or personal reasons	9	8	11	14	13	3	10
Other	21	24	26	29	27	46	26
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,273</i>	<i>3,207</i>	<i>2,335</i>	<i>1,399</i>	<i>548</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of reasons for leaving the course early so percentages sum to more than 100.

Match participants in Priorities 2 and 5 were more likely than ESF participants to leave the course early (13% compared with 7%). There were no differences in the proportions of ESF and match participants leaving the course early in Priorities 1 and 4 (see Table 3.3).

Table 3.3 Course completion by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Course completion	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Still on course	19	14	17	26	41	8	18
No longer on course	81	86	83	74	59	92	82
Early leavers							
Finished the course	68	68	82	93	87	98	71
Left the course early	32	32	18	7	13	2	29
Why left early							
I was not satisfied with the course	19	12	7	12	21	0	13
I found a job or moved jobs	38	33	46	20	24	56	34
I started a course at college or training centre	4	3	0	0	5	0	4
Financial reasons	2	2	2	3	0	0	2
Caring responsibilities	2	2	0	2	1	0	2
I had problems relating to my disability	2	3	0	0	0	0	2
I became ill	7	15	7	7	2	0	13
Other domestic or personal reasons	9	10	19	16	15	0	10
Other	22	26	20	51	34	44	26
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,462</i>	<i>2,920</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,514</i>	<i>1,684</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of reasons for leaving the course early so percentages sum to more than 100.

Similarly, there were no significant differences in the proportions of men and women leaving the course early, although there was some variation by age with young people aged 16 to 19 being more likely to leave the course early than those aged 25 and over (37% of young people aged 16 to 19 left the course early compared with between 24% and 26% of those aged over 25; see Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 Course completion by age and gender

Employment status	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Early leavers								
Finished the course	63	67	75	76	74	72	70	71
Left the course early	37	33	25	24	26	28	30	29
Why left early								
I was not satisfied with the course	21	12	11	14	9	14	12	13
I found a job or moved jobs	22	38	44	33	30	35	32	34
I started a course at college or training centre	11	2	0	3	2	3	5	4
Financial reasons	2	1	0	2	3	2	2	2
Caring responsibilities	1	2	2	1	3	1	3	2
I had problems relating to my disability	0	1	4	3	5	2	2	2
I became ill	6	10	13	16	21	12	15	13
Other domestic or personal reasons	12	13	10	10	4	9	13	10
Other	30	28	23	22	27	28	23	26
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,492</i>	<i>991</i>	<i>951</i>	<i>1,797</i>	<i>1,253</i>	<i>3,776</i>	<i>2,723</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

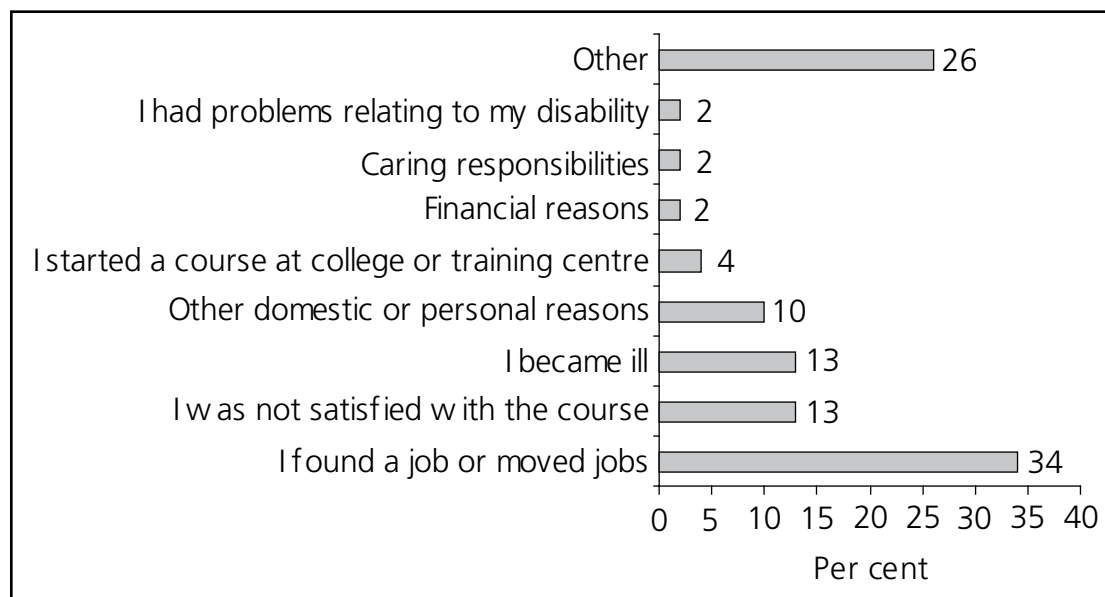
Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of reasons for leaving the course early so percentages sum to more than 100.

In terms of completing the course, there were no significant differences between participants who said that they were made to go on the course (70%), those who said that they were persuaded to go on it (69%), those who were given the opportunity to attend (73%) and those who decided to go on it themselves (72%).

The most common reason given for leaving a course early was '*I found a job or moved jobs*' (34%). This reason was more commonly cited among people with no disadvantages (45%) compared with people with two or more disadvantages

(between 4% and 33% of participants with two or more disadvantages mentioned this reason). Compared with people aged 20 to 49, younger people aged 16 to 19 were also less likely to say they left early due to finding work or moving jobs (22% compared with an average of 34%), although they were more likely to mention leaving early to start another course at a college or training centre (11% compared with an average of 4%; see Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 Reasons for leaving course early



Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of reasons for leaving the course early so percentages sum to more than 100.

Thirteen per cent of early leavers said that they left because they were not satisfied with the course. There were no significant differences in people saying that they were not satisfied according to priority, disadvantage or gender. However, young people aged 16 to 19 were more likely to cite this reason than people aged 20 to 49 (21% of 16 to 19 year olds mentioned this reason compared with between 9% and 14% of participants aged 20 to 49; see Table 3.4).

A similar proportion of participants (13%) said that they left the course because they 'became ill'. Illness was more likely to occur among people with two or more disadvantages (with between 15% and 31% of this group mentioning this reason) compared with participants with no disadvantages (9%), and among people aged 35 and over (between 16% and 21%) compared with young people aged 16 to 19 (6%; see Table 3.4).

'Other domestic or personal reasons' affected ten per cent of early leavers, while financial reasons and caring responsibilities were a problem for two per cent (see Table 3.4). There was no significant variation in the proportion of participants mentioning these reasons by gender, age or disadvantage.

3.3 How people found out about their course

The most common way in which people heard about their ESF course was from a jobcentre (64%) although the proportion saying this was far higher in Priority 1 (76%) and Priority 4 (61%) compared with Priority 2 (4%) and Priority 5 (3%; see Table 3.5). It was also higher among match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 (83%) compared with ESF participants (see Table 3.6). Women were less likely than men to hear about the course from a job centre (57% compared with 69%) as were young people aged 16 to 19 compared with those in older age groups (34% of participants aged 16 to 19 heard about the course in this way, compared with between 67% and 75% of participants aged over 20; see Table 3.7).

Priority 2 and 5 participants were most likely to hear about the course from an employer (53% of Priority 2 participants and 49% of Priority 5 participants heard about the course in this way). ESF participants (56%) in these priorities were more likely than match participants (51%) to have heard about the course in this way.

Participants in Priority 2 (13%) and Priority 5 (10%) were also likely to hear about the course from college or school – this method, unsurprisingly, was more common among young people aged 16 to 19 (18%) compared with people aged 20 and over (between 1% and 3%; see Tables 3.5 and 3.6). It was also more common among match participants (16%) from Priorities 2 and 5, who tended to be younger than ESF participants (6%).

Other relatively common ways of hearing about the course were 'from another local community organisation' (6%) or 'from a friend or family member' (5%).

A breakdown of how people found out about the course by region is available in Appendix A (see Tables 6.20 and 6.21).

Table 3.5 How people found out about course by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
How heard about the course	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
From a job centre	76	4	61	3	64
From a college/school	3	13	5	10	4
From a youth offending team/probation courts	0	0	1	0	0
From another local community organisation	6	6	11	7	6
From a friend/family member	4	7	5	10	5
From an advert	2	3	3	4	2
From an employer	1	53	2	49	9
Other	8	14	13	16	9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,503</i>	<i>3,849</i>	<i>1,047</i>	<i>497</i>	<i>10,896</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 3.6 How people found out about the course by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
How heard about the course	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
From a job centre	56	83	40	4	4	7	64
From a college/school	5	2	2	6	16	4	4
From a youth offending team/probation courts	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
From another local community organisation	11	4	14	7	5	6	6
From a friend/family member	8	3	12	6	8	6	5
From an advert	4	2	5	3	3	6	2
From an employer	2	0	6	56	51	41	9
Other	13	5	22	17	12	29	9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,440</i>	<i>2,905</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>2,506</i>	<i>1,680</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,896</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 3.7 How people found out about course by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
How heard about course	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
From a job centre	34	75	70	67	67	69	57	64
From a college/school	18	3	1	2	2	4	5	4
From a youth offending team/probation courts	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
From another local community organisation	12	2	5	6	6	5	7	6
From a friend/family member	12	4	4	3	3	5	5	5
From an advert	2	1	2	3	5	2	3	2
From an employer	8	10	10	9	7	7	12	9
Others	15	4	7	10	10	8	10	9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,813</i>	<i>1,520</i>	<i>1,844</i>	<i>3,485</i>	<i>2,205</i>	<i>5,814</i>	<i>5,082</i>	<i>10,896</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

When asked why they went on the course, roughly one third of participants (33%) said that they were 'made to go on it'. This was higher among Priority 1 (38%) and Priority 4 (22%) participants than Priority 2 and 5 participants (8%). Just under one third of participants were 'given the opportunity to go on it' (30%) or 'decided myself to go on it' (31%; see Table 3.8).

Table 3.8 Why went on course by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Why went on course	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Made to go on it	38	8	22	8	33
Persuaded to go on it	6	3	6	6	6
Given the opportunity to go on it	28	43	35	41	30
Decide myself to go on it	28	45	37	42	31
Other reason	0	1	1	2	1
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,503</i>	<i>3,849</i>	<i>1,047</i>	<i>497</i>	<i>10,936</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Reasons for going on the course varied starkly by funding stream in Priorities 1 and 4. Almost half (47%) of match participants said that they were 'made to go on the course', compared with only eight per cent of ESF participants (see Table 3.9). Conversely, ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were more likely to say that they decided to go on the course themselves (49%), compared with 20 per cent of match participants. This may be linked to the higher proportion of participants who wanted work or were looking for work amongst the ESF participants, compared to match participants (see Table 2.43) and reflects the voluntary nature of much of the ESF provision.

Table 3.9 Why went on course by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Why went on course	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Made to go on it	8	47	7	8	8	4	33
Persuaded to go on it	5	7	3	4	2	2	6
Given the opportunity to go on it	37	26	25	45	42	42	30
Decide myself to go on it	49	20	65	40	47	51	31
Other reason	1	0	0	2	1	1	1
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,458</i>	<i>2,916</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,511</i>	<i>1,684</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,936</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

3.4 Time spent on training/intensity of course

3.4.1 Average length of training course

There was some variation in the average length of participants' training course²². While the overall average course length was 5.6 months, the length of Priority 2 courses had a much higher mean (16.3 months) than Priority 1 (3.5 months), Priority 4 (4.9 months) and Priority 5 (7.6 months) courses (see Table 3.10). Looking at the length of training courses within bands shows a similar picture; most Priority 1 courses lasted less than a month (61%), as did over half (55%) of Priority 4 courses (see Table 3.10).

Table 3.10 Length of training course by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Length of course	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Less than a month	61	25	55	40	55
1 month to 6 months	18	7	17	7	16
6 months to 12 months	17	27	18	27	19
A year or more	4	40	10	25	10
	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months
Average length	3.5	16.3	4.9	7.6	5.6
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,417</i>	<i>3,846</i>	<i>945</i>	<i>481</i>	<i>10,689</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Importantly, however, the average course length among match participants in Priorities 2 and 5 was far longer than among ESF participants – 21.5 months compared with only 4.3 months (see Table 3.11). This reflects that a lot of people in the match sample were on formal courses which tend to be longer.

²² Length of course was based on the known start date for the course and date participants said they left their course, or if they were still on the course, their estimated end date. The length was derived by calculating the difference in months between start and end dates.

Table 3.11 Length of training course by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Length of course	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Less than a month	64	59	77	58	10	88	55
1 month to 6 months	13	20	6	9	6	3	16
6 months to 12 months	18	17	13	23	30	8	19
A year or more	5	3	4	9	55	1	10
	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months
Average length	3.6	3.6	2.7	4.3	21.5	1.1	5.6
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,456</i>	<i>2,729</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>2,508</i>	<i>1,665</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>10,689</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Younger participants tended to be on courses which lasted longer than older participants. For example those aged 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 years reported being on courses which were due to last 8.6 and 8.3 months respectively while for all other age groups the average course length was less than four months (see Table 3.12). This difference in course length by age is likely to reflect the higher proportion of older people participating in Priority 2 courses in the match funding stream.

Table 3.12 Length of training course by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Length of course	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Less than a month	33	56	61	60	61	57	52	55
1 month to 6 months	12	15	16	18	18	16	16	16
6 months to 12 months	29	17	18	17	18	18	20	19
A year or more	26	12	5	5	3	9	12	10
	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months
Average length	8.6	8.3	3.8	3.7	3.5	5.9	5.0	5.6
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,818</i>	<i>1,499</i>	<i>1,813</i>	<i>3,395</i>	<i>2,135</i>	<i>5,712</i>	<i>4,977</i>	<i>10,689</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

3.4.1 Time spent on course in average week

There was some variation in the time spent in an average week on ESF courses by priority (see Table 3.13).

Priority 1 participants tended to spend longer on their projects than other participants. Fifty-eight per cent of Priority 1 participants spent over two days per week on their course, compared with between 20 per cent and 23 per cent of participants in other priorities. While 71 per cent of Priority 2 and 5 participants and 67 per cent of Priority 4 participants spent one day or less on their projects in the average week, among Priority 1 participants only 36 per cent did so.

Table 3.13 Time spent on course in average week by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Time spent on course	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
Less than half a day	23	37	48	39	26	3,271
Between half and one day	12	34	19	31	16	2,440
More than one and less than two days	7	8	10	9	7	1,063
More than two and less than five days	40	13	19	14	35	3,094
More than five days	18	8	4	6	16	987
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,499</i>	<i>3,819</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>10,855</i>	<i>10,855</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 3.14 Time spent on course in average week by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Time spent on course	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Less than half a day	24	24	26	37	38	12	26
Between half and one day	20	10	27	30	36	32	16
More than one and less than two days	14	5	11	10	7	12	7
More than two and less than five days	33	42	29	15	12	33	35
More than five days	8	20	8	8	7	11	16
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,437</i>	<i>2,898</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,487</i>	<i>1,668</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>10,855</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were more likely than ESF participants to spend over two days per week on their course (62% compared with 42%). By contrast, match participants in Priorities 2 and 5 were slightly less likely than their ESF counterparts to spend over two days per week on their course (19% compared with 24%; see Table 3.14).

3.5 Expectations and experiences of ESF

Participants were asked a number of questions about their expectations and experiences of ESF provision. This section considers the responses to these questions. Overall, with the exception of receiving practical help in finding a job, participants' experiences of the course did seem to resemble their expectations of the courses.

3.5.1 Expectations and experiences by priority

Participants' expectations and experiences of the course varied by priority. Participants from Priority 2 (89%) and Priority 5 (79%) were more likely to expect the course to improve their work skills, compared with Priority 1 (69%) and Priority 4 (67%) participants. This was borne out in people's actual experiences of the course – participants from Priorities 2 and 5 were more likely to say that they were gaining or improving the skills needed for work. For example, while 91 per cent of Priority 2 participants said that they were gaining work skills, among Priority 1 participants this proportion was 65%; see Table 3.15).

Table 3.15 Expectations and experiences by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Expectations of the course	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Improve skills needed at work	69	89	67	79	72
Provide me with qualifications	49	91	50	82	55
Improve my self-confidence about working	68	80	68	65	70
Give me practical help in finding a job	80	72	73	59	78
None of these	10	1	10	4	8
Experiences of the course					
Gaining or improving skills needed for work	65	91	69	87	69
Gaining or improving self-confidence about working	69	80	70	71	70
Gaining practical help in finding a job	66	39	51	29	61
None of these	16	6	17	10	14
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,498</i>	<i>3,852</i>	<i>1,046</i>	<i>497</i>	<i>10,893</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Eighty per cent of Priority 2 participants thought that the course would improve their self-confidence about working compared with 68 per cent of Priority 1 participants. (The proportions of participants from Priorities 4 and 5 holding this view was 68% and 65% respectively.) Again, people's actual experiences reflected their expectations; Priority 2 participants (80%) being more likely than Priority 1 participants (69%) to say that the course was improving their self confidence.

Priority 1 participants were most likely to say that the course would give them practical help in finding a job – 80 per cent of Priority 1 participants said this, compared with 72 per cent of Priority 2 participants. Similarly, in terms of experiences of the course, Priority 1 participants were more likely to be gaining practical support in finding a job; 66% of Priority 1 participants said they were gaining support in this way, compared with 39% of Priority 2 participants.

Priority 2 and 5 participants were more likely to think that the course would provide them with qualifications; for example, compared with 49% of Priority 1 participants, 91% of Priority 2 participants expected that they would get qualifications through the course. Chapter 4 reviews qualifications gained in more detail.

3.5.2 Expectations and experiences by funding stream

There were also variations in expectations and experiences by funding stream. Among ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4, expectations were generally higher than among match participants. For example, 80 percent of ESF participants thought that the course would improve the skills needed at work, compared with 65 per cent of match participants. Generally, experiences of the course were also more positive among ESF participants compared with match participants – with higher proportions saying that they were gaining the skills needed for work and that they were improving their self-confidence about working (see Table 3.16).

Table 3.16 Expectations and experiences by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Expectations of the course	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Improve skills needed at work	80	65	81	84	90	90	72
Provide me with qualifications	61	44	66	78	97	59	55
Improve my self-confidence about working	75	66	71	69	83	70	70
Give me practical help in finding a job	83	78	84	60	77	59	78
None of these	4	11	4	3	1	1	8
Experiences of the course							
Gaining or improving skills needed for work	78	61	80	88	91	90	69
Gaining or improving self-confidence about working	77	66	70	72	83	73	70
Gaining practical help in finding a job	65	66	65	29	43	38	61
None of these	11	18	9	8	6	7	14
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,437</i>	<i>2,902</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>2,510</i>	<i>1,679</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,893</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Among Priority 2 and 5 participants, however, match participants were generally more positive about their expectations and experiences of the course than ESF participants. For example, higher proportions of match participants expected that the course would improve their work skills, provide them with qualifications, boost their self confidence about working and offer practical help in finding a job (see Table 3.16).

3.5.3 Expectations and experiences by gender and age

Participants' expectations of the course varied by gender and age. Women were more likely than men to expect the course to improve their self-confidence about working (77% compared with 66%) and the skills needed at work (74% compared with 70%). Similarly, women were more likely than men to be positive about their actual experiences of the course in these areas; 73 per cent of women and 67 per cent of men said that they were gaining the skills needed for work, while 75 per cent of women compared with 68 per cent of men were gaining self-confidence). By contrast, men were more likely than women to be gaining practical help in finding work (63% compared with 59%; see Table 3.17).

Younger people aged 16 to 19 had higher expectations of the course than participants in other age groups, in terms of improving skills, gaining qualifications, raising self-confidence and getting practical help in finding work. For example, while 85 per cent of 16 to 19 year olds said that the course would improve their self-confidence about working, among those aged 20 and over the proportion was between 60 per cent and 72 per cent.

In terms of their actual experiences of the course, younger people aged 16 to 19 were also more likely than other age groups to say that they were gaining skills needed for work (83% of participants in the youngest age group compared with between 60% and 72% of those in older age groups). Participants aged 16 to 19 years were also more likely than those aged over 20 to be gaining and improving self-confidence about working – 84 per cent of 16 to 19 year olds said that they were gaining confidence, compared with between 59 per cent and 72 per cent of those in other age groups.

Table 3.17 Expectations by age and gender

Expectations of the course	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Improve skills needed at work	88	69	73	69	63	70	74	72
Provide me with qualifications	76	54	58	51	42	54	57	55
Improve my self-confidence about working	85	72	69	65	60	66	77	70
Give me practical help in finding a job	88	82	80	74	67	78	78	78
None of these	3	6	5	10	17	8	8	8
Experiences of the course								
Gaining or improving skills needed for work	83	67	72	68	60	67	73	69
Gaining or improving self-confidence about working	84	72	69	68	59	68	75	70
Gaining practical help in finding a job	69	68	65	57	47	63	59	61
None of these	8	12	12	16	24	15	14	14
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,819</i>	<i>1,522</i>	<i>1,849</i>	<i>3,479</i>	<i>2,196</i>	<i>5,819</i>	<i>5,074</i>	<i>10,893</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

3.5.4 Expectations and experiences by disadvantage

There were some small differences in expectations and experiences by disadvantaged group. For example, lone parents were less likely than people who were not lone parents to expect qualifications from the course (48% compared with 56%). There were no differences in lone parents' actual experiences of the course, compared with participants who were not lone parents (see Table 3.18).

There were also no differences in expectations according to whether respondents had caring responsibilities compared with those without. However, in terms of their experiences of the course, those who were not carers were more likely to have gained practical help in finding a job (62% compared with 55%; see Table 3.18).

People from ethnic minority groups were more likely than White people to think that the course would improve the skills needed at work (76% compared with 71%) and that it would improve their self-confidence about working (77% compared with 68%). When reporting their actual experiences of the course, participants from ethnic minority groups were more likely than White people to have gained confidence (76% compared with 69%) and to have received practical help in finding work (72% compared with 59%; see Table 3.18).

People with disabilities or a long-term limited illness (LTLI) were more pessimistic about their expectations of the course than people without disabilities or a LTLI. For example, 75 per cent of people with a disability or LTLI expected practical help in finding a job compared with 80 per cent of people without a disability or LTLI. Only 43 per cent of people with a disability or LTLI thought they would gain qualifications, compared with 61 per cent of those without a disability or LTLI. Similarly, people with a disability or LTLI had more negative perceptions than participants without a disability or LTLI about their experiences of the course. For example, in terms of improving skills needed for work (74% of people without a disability or LTLI said they were gaining work skills compared with 60% of those with a disability or LTLI), gaining self-confidence (73% compared with 64%) and receiving practical help in finding work (64% compared with 56%; see Table 3.18).

There were no differences in the expectations of people without qualifications compared with those with qualifications. However, in terms of experiences, participants with no qualifications were less likely than those with qualifications to be gaining the skills needed for work (63% compared with 71%; see Table 3.18).

Table 3.18 Expectations by disadvantage

ESF Cohort Survey

Expectations of the course	Disadvantage									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Improve skills needed at work	72	71	72	71	71	76	76	63	72	70
Provide me with qualifications	56	48	55	56	55	55	61	43	56	52
Improve my self-confidence about working	70	74	70	73	68	77	73	64	70	69
Give me practical help in finding a job	78	76	78	76	78	82	80	75	79	74
None of these	8	9	8	10	8	8	6	13	7	14
Experiences of the course										
Gaining or improving skills need for work	69	71	69	72	69	73	74	60	71	63
Gaining or improving self-confidence about working	70	74	70	72	69	76	73	64	71	68
Gaining practical help in finding a job	62	59	62	55	59	72	64	56	62	59
None of these	14	14	14	16	15	10	10	22	13	20
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	9,902	959	9,973	898	9,200	1,607	8,339	2,534	9,449	1,430

Missing values have been excluded.

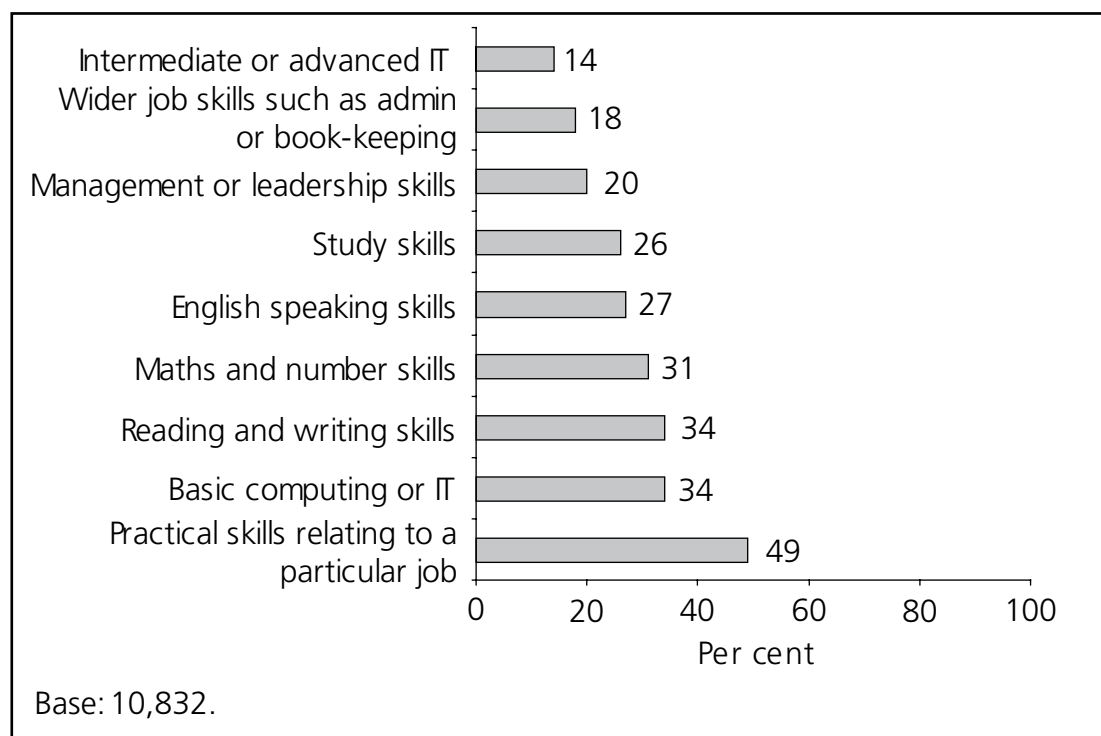
A breakdown of expectations and experiences of the course by region is available in Appendix A (see Tables 6.22 and 6.23).

3.6 Improving work skills

All participants were asked which work skills they were gaining or improving as part of the course.

The most common skill being gained as part of the course was practical skills relating to a particular job (49%). Around a third of participants were gaining skills in basic computing or IT (34%), reading and writing (34%) and maths and number skills (31%; see Figure 3.2).

Figure 3.2 Improving work skills



Participants in Priorities 2 and 5 were more likely to be gaining work skills than those in Priorities 1 and 4. For example, while only seven per cent of match participants and 11 per cent of ESF participants in Priorities 2 and 5 claimed that they were not gaining any work skills, the same was true of 24 per cent of ESF participants and 39 per cent of match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 (see Table 3.19).

In Priorities 1 and 4, ESF participants were more likely than match participants to be gaining work skills. By contrast, in Priorities 2 and 5, match participants were more likely than ESF participants to be gaining skills in this area (see Table 3.19).

Table 3.19 Work skills by funding stream

Work skills	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Practical skills relating to a particular job	55	39	60	73	82	79	49
Basic computing or IT	37	33	28	27	41	26	34
Intermediate or advanced computing or IT	14	13	11	14	22	23	14
Study skills	27	21	26	32	47	16	26
Reading and writing skills	37	31	33	32	53	13	34
Maths and number skills	32	26	29	22	58	16	31
English speaking skills	31	23	30	25	41	10	27
Wider job skills such as admin or book-keeping	18	16	17	24	31	19	18
Management or leadership skills	20	15	22	34	41	27	20
None of these	24	39	24	11	7	9	31
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,398</i>	<i>2,892</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,502</i>	<i>1,675</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>10,832</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Women were more likely than men to say that they were gaining work skills, including practical skills relating to a particular job, reading and writing skills, computing skills, English speaking skills, study skills and wider job skills, such as admin or book-keeping (see Table 3.20).

There was also a higher incidence of learning in this area among young people. Those participants aged 16 to 19 were more likely than participants from other age groups to say that they were gaining practical skills relating to a particular job, reading and writing skills, computing and IT skills (both basic level and advanced), maths and number skills, English speaking skills, study skills, leadership skills, and wider job skills such as admin or book-keeping (see Table 3.20).

Table 3.20 Work skills by age and gender

Work skills	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Practical skills relating to a particular job	70	48	50	43	38	47	52	49
Basic computing or IT	49	34	35	29	29	33	36	34
Intermediate or advanced computing or IT	24	15	16	9	9	14	15	14
Study skills	41	27	25	21	16	24	29	26
Reading and writing skills	58	36	32	27	23	32	37	34
Maths and number skills	58	33	28	22	18	30	32	31
English speaking skills	46	27	27	20	17	24	30	27
Wider job skills such as admin or book-keeping	30	19	18	15	12	17	21	18
Management or leadership skills	36	19	19	16	13	19	21	20
None of these	14	28	30	35	45	32	28	31
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,808</i>	<i>1,506</i>	<i>1,835</i>	<i>3,466</i>	<i>2,189</i>	<i>5,797</i>	<i>5,035</i>	<i>10,832</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 3.21 Work skills by disadvantage

ESF Cohort Survey

Work skills	Disadvantage									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Practical skills relating to a particular job	49	46	49	50	48	51	56	34	50	44
Basic computing or IT	34	31	34	33	33	39	38	27	34	34
Intermediate or advanced computing or IT	14	10	14	15	14	16	17	9	15	10
Study skills	26	24	25	29	25	28	29	19	26	22
Reading and writing skills	34	30	34	32	33	41	37	27	33	37
Maths and number skills	31	23	31	28	30	33	35	21	30	33
English speaking skills	27	22	26	28	24	40	30	20	26	28
Wider job skills such as admin or book-keeping	18	17	18	21	17	21	20	13	19	12
Management or leadership skills	20	18	20	19	20	20	24	11	21	14
None of these	30	35	31	32	32	26	24	46	30	32
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	9,850	950	9,915	895	9,159	1,587	8,293	2,520	9,407	1,411

Missing values have been excluded.

Participants who were lone parents were less likely than those who were not lone parents to be gaining reading and writing skills, maths and numbers skills and English speaking skills. There were no differences in the work skills being gained by carers, compared with participants who were not carers (see Table 3.21).

Participants with a disability or LTLI were less likely than those without a disability or LTLI to be gaining all the types of work skills (including practical skills relating to a particular job, reading and writing skills, computing, maths and number skills, English speaking skills, study skills, management and leadership skills and wider job skills; see Table 3.21).

By contrast, there tended to be a higher incidence of learning in this area among ethnic minority groups. For example, participants from ethnic minority groups were more likely than White people to be gaining reading and writing skills, skills in basic and advanced computing, English speaking skills and wider job skills (see Table 3.21).

Participants with no qualifications were less likely than those with qualifications to be gaining work skills, including skills in intermediate or advanced IT, management and leadership skills and wider job skills, such as admin and book-keeping (see Table 3.21).

3.7 Improving soft skills

This section presents information about the types of soft skills that participants were gaining from the course. These soft skills include improving motivation (66%), communication (63%), team working (62%), ability to work independently (60%) and problem solving (57%; see Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3 Improving soft skills

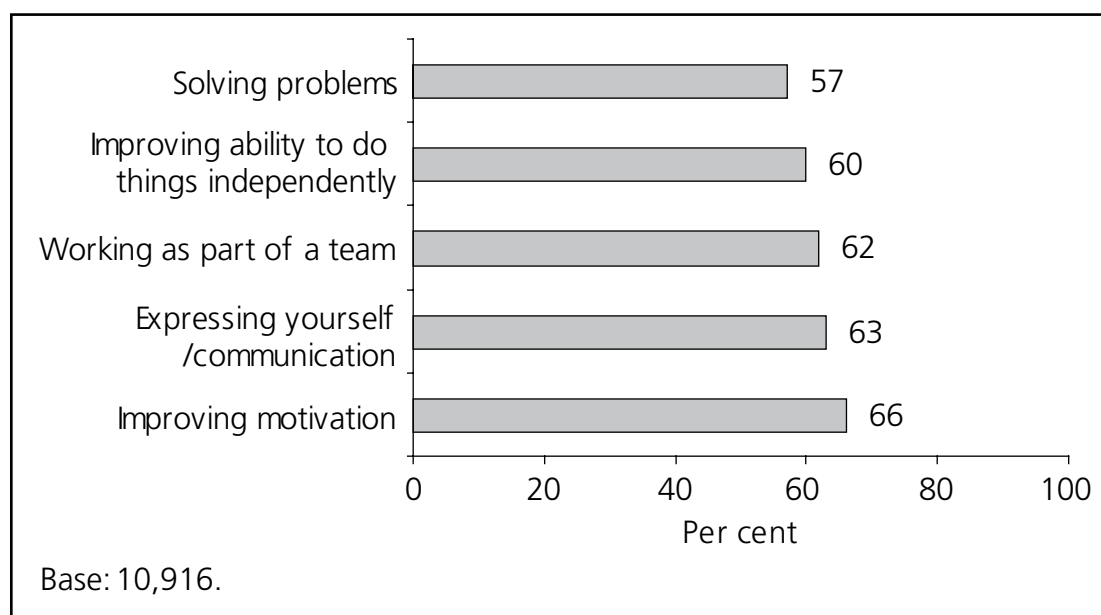


Table 3.22 Soft skills by funding stream within priority

Soft skills	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Expressing yourself/ communication	68	60	68	59	75	50	63
Working as part of a team	65	58	66	61	81	47	62
Solving problems	61	51	63	66	79	61	57
Improving motivation	71	63	70	59	80	57	66
Improving ability to do things independently	63	55	65	64	81	54	60
None of these	16	25	15	16	9	18	21
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,448</i>	<i>2,910</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,510</i>	<i>1,682</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,916</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Match participants in Priorities 2 or 5 were more likely to be gaining at least one type of soft skill (91%) than ESF participants (84%) in these priorities. By contrast, ESF participants (84%) in Priorities 1 and 4 were more likely than match participants (75%) in these priorities to be gaining soft skills (see Figure 3.4 and Table 3.22).

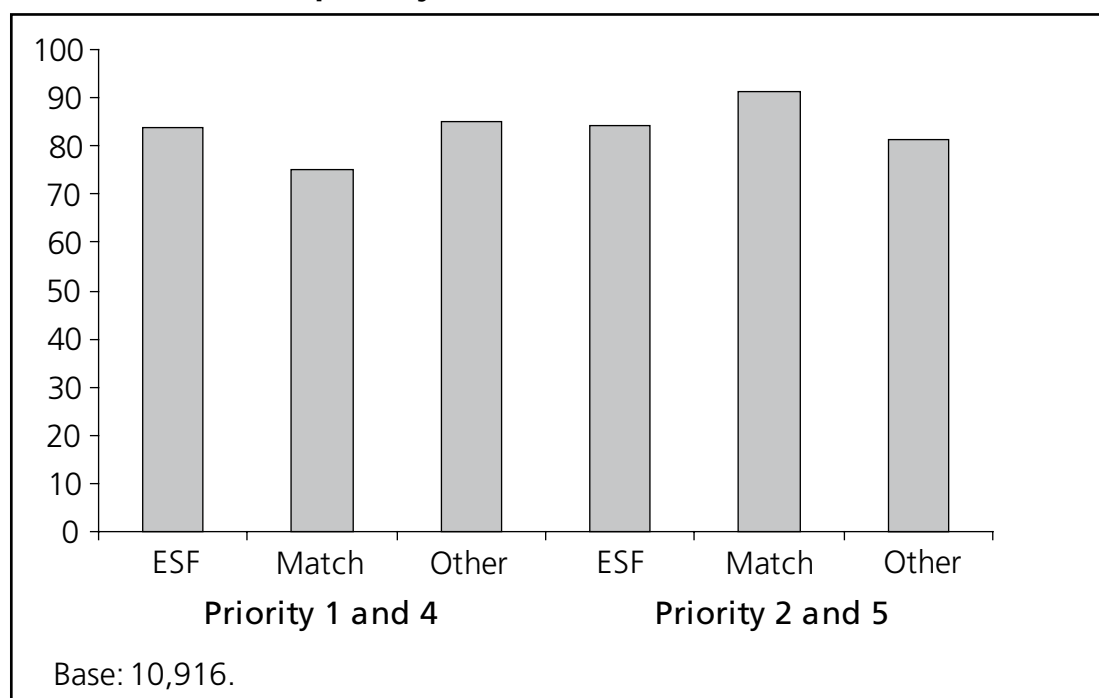
Figure 3.4 Any improvement of soft skills by funding stream within priority

Table 3.23 Soft skills by age and gender

Soft skills	<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Expressing yourself/ communication	83	68	62	56	49	60	68	63
Working as part of a team	86	69	60	54	46	60	66	62
Solving problems	76	61	56	52	43	56	59	57
Improving motivation	81	69	66	63	53	65	68	66
Improving ability to do things independently	82	64	59	54	45	57	65	60
None of these	7	17	21	26	34	23	17	21
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,824</i>	<i>1,518</i>	<i>1,849</i>	<i>3,490</i>	<i>2,207</i>	<i>5,831</i>	<i>5,085</i>	<i>10,916</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Women were more likely than men to feel that the course was helping them to improve all these soft skills, as were young people aged 16 to 19 compared with participants in older age groups (see Table 3.23).

There were no differences in the proportions of lone parents (compared with those who were not lone parents) and carers (compared with those who were not carers) reporting that they were gaining soft skills in these areas (see Table 3.24).

Table 3.24 Soft skills by disadvantage

ESF Cohort Survey

Work skills	Disadvantage									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Expressing yourself/communication	63	65	63	60	61	71	67	55	63	62
Working as part of a team	62	62	63	58	61	70	69	49	63	60
Solving problems	57	55	57	57	57	59	62	46	58	53
Improving motivation	66	67	66	66	65	74	70	58	68	59
Improving ability to do things independently	60	62	60	59	59	66	65	50	61	57
None of these	21	20	21	23	22	14	17	30	20	28
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	9,923	961	9,992	902	9,218	1,613	8,354	2,542	9,462	1,440

Missing values have been excluded.

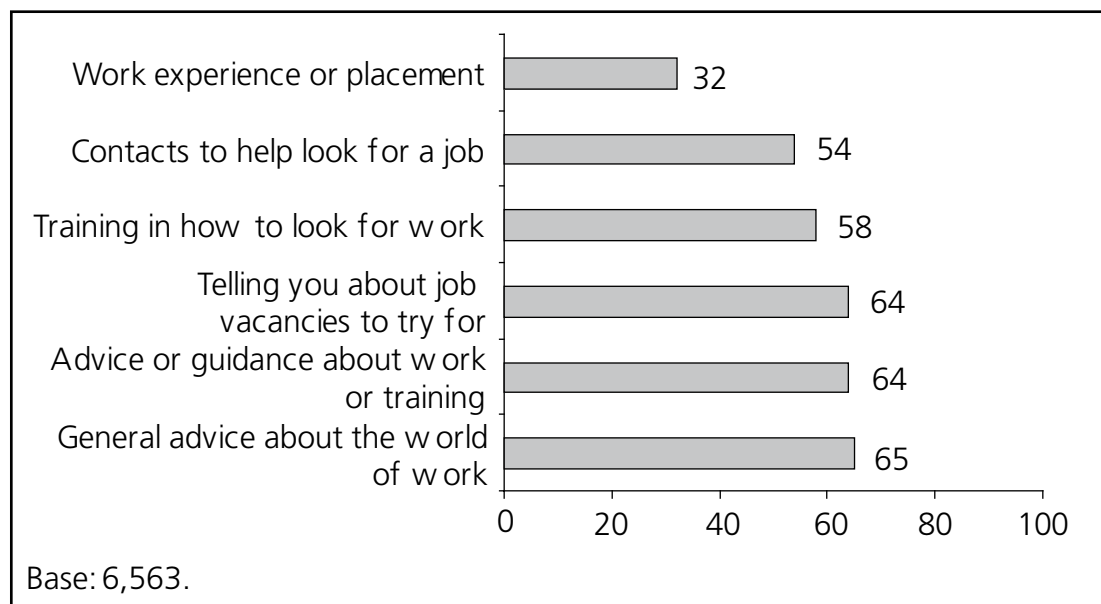
However, participants from ethnic minority groups were more likely than White people to be gaining soft skills in most areas (with the exception of solving problems), while people with disabilities or a LTLI were less likely to be gaining all types of soft skills. Those with no qualifications (53%) were less likely to be gaining problem solving skills than participants with qualifications (58%; see Table 3.24).

3.8 Help looking for work

All participants were asked about whether the course was providing them with practical support in finding work. Results are presented in this section. Only those results for participants in Priorities 1 and 4 – which have a focus on providing practical support with finding a job – are included in this analysis.

Most commonly, participants were receiving general advice about the world of work (65%), advice or guidance about what work or training they could do (64%) and information about vacancies to try for (64%). Other types of support received included training in how to look for work (58%), contacts to help look for a job (54%) and work experience (32%; see Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5 Help looking for work (Priority 1 and 4)



Match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were generally more likely than ESF participants to be gaining support in looking for work. For example, while 35 per cent of Match participants had been on work experience or work placement through the course, the same was true of only 24 per cent of ESF participants. Moreover, slightly more match participants than ESF participants had been provided with contacts to help them look for a job, and had been told about employment opportunities to go for (see Table 3.25).²³

Table 3.25 Help looking for work by funding stream (Priorities 1 and 4)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Funding stream within priority				
Priority 1 and 4				
Help looking for work	ESF	Match	Other	Total
	%	%	%	
Work experience or placement	24	35	18	32
General advice about the world of work	62	66	60	65
Advice or guidance about work or training	62	65	65	64
Training in how to look for work	54	59	43	58
Contacts to help look for a job	50	56	42	54
Telling you about job vacancies to try for	54	67	55	64
None of these	17	11	17	13
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,445</i>	<i>2,911</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>6,563</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Men were more likely than women to be getting information about job vacancies to try for through their courses. Young people aged 16 to 19 were more likely than participants in older groups to be receiving general advice about work, as well as advice about the types of work or training that they could do. They were also more likely to be receiving the other forms of support, including training in how to look for work and work experience opportunities (see Table 3.26).

²³ These results may be somewhat surprising as a smaller proportion of Match participants said that the course was helping them to gain work skills compared with ESF participants (see Table 3.19). It should be noted, however, that the range of work skills reviewed in Section 3.6 (such as study skills, IT skills and management skills) was quite different from the practical support in finding a job referred to in this section.

Table 3.26 Help looking for work by age and gender (Priorities 1 and 4)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Help looking for work	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Work experience or placement	48	41	31	23	20	32	31	32
General advice about the world of work	78	71	65	59	52	64	65	65
Advice or guidance about work or training	76	69	65	59	54	63	66	64
Training in how to look for work	72	65	59	52	43	58	57	58
Contacts to help look for a job	64	61	58	48	39	54	54	54
Telling you about job vacancies to try for	71	76	68	55	53	66	61	64
None of these	6	8	11	17	21	12	14	13
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,426</i>	<i>1,009</i>	<i>1,033</i>	<i>1,862</i>	<i>1,216</i>	<i>3,505</i>	<i>3,058</i>	<i>6,563</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Participants who were lone parents were less likely to be receiving advice about vacancies than those who were not lone parents. They were also less likely to be doing work placements. Participants with a disability or long-term limiting illness were less likely than people without a disability or LTLI to be receiving any type of practical help in looking for work, while those with no qualifications were less likely to be getting information about vacancies, training in how to look for work and work contacts (compared with participants with qualifications; see Table 3.27).

By contrast, ethnic minority participants were more likely than their White counterparts to be obtaining general work-related advice, information about vacancies, support in looking for work, and information about work contacts (see Table 3.27).

Table 3.27 Help looking for work by disadvantage (Priorities 1 and 4)

Help looking for work	ESF Cohort Survey									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Work experience or placement	33	23	32	26	32	33	39	20	32	33
General advice about the world of work	64	66	65	59	63	72	67	60	65	60
Advice or guidance about work or training	64	66	65	60	63	68	67	59	65	61
Training in how to look for work	58	55	58	52	57	62	63	48	59	52
Contacts to help look for a job	54	52	54	49	52	62	60	43	55	49
Telling you about job vacancies to try for	65	52	64	62	63	71	71	53	65	60
None of these	13	15	12	17	13	10	10	18	12	17
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	5,796	755	5,996	560	5,260	1,258	4,334	2,221	5,487	1,071

Missing values have been excluded.

3.9 Help with caring responsibilities

All participants with children under the age of 16 (for whose care and/or support they were responsible) were asked about whether the course provided them with help with their childcare responsibilities.

In total, ten per cent of participants with children under the age of 16 received help with childcare. The proportion of participants who were receiving help was higher in Priorities 1 and 4 (5% and 6% respectively), than Priorities 2 and 5 (1% and 3% respectively). Most frequently, participants were getting help with the cost of childcare (8%), while four per cent were able to take advantage of the childcare facilities of their course provider. Two per cent of participants received other types of help with childcare (see Table 3.28).

Table 3.28 Help with childcare responsibilities by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Help with childcare responsibilities	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Provided childcare facilities	5	1	6	3	4
Helped with the cost of childcare	9	2	9	2	8
Other help with childcare	2	1	2	0	2
None of these	89	97	88	97	90
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,245</i>	<i>1,194</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>2,873</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Compared with match participants in Priorities 1 and 4, ESF participants in these priorities were more likely to have been provided with childcare facilities (7% compared with 3%; see Table 3.29).

Table 3.29 Help with childcare responsibilities by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Help with childcare responsibilities	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Provided childcare facilities	7	3	13	2	1	0	4
Helped with the cost of childcare	9	9	12	2	2	0	8
Other help with childcare	2	2	0	1	1	0	2
None of these	87	90	83	97	96	100	90
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>964</i>	<i>491</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>888</i>	<i>427</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>2,873</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, women were more likely than men to say that they had received help with childcare (16% compared with 3%). Younger parents were more likely to receive support than older parents (for example, while between 12% and 14% of those aged 16 to 34 received help with childcare, among those aged over 35 the proportion fell to between 1% and 6%). This may be due to the fact that younger parents are more likely to have young children.

Table 3.30 Help with childcare by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Help with childcare	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Any support received	17	14	18	6	1	3	16	10
Provided childcare facilities	3	6	8	2	0	2	6	4
Helped with the cost of childcare	14	12	14	4	1	3	12	8
Other help with childcare	4	3	2	1	1	0	3	2
None of these	83	86	82	94	99	97	84	90
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>1,625</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>1,191</i>	<i>1,682</i>	<i>2,873</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Parents who had a disability or long-term limiting illness (6%) were less likely to receive help with childcare than parents without a disability or LTLI (12%). Lone parents (17%) were more likely than those who were not lone parents to have received help with childcare (5%; see Table 3.31).

Table 3.31 Help with childcare by disadvantage

ESF Cohort Survey

Help with childcare	Disadvantage									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Any support received	5	17	10	9	9	11	12	6	10	9
Provided childcare facilities	3	6	4	4	4	5	5	2	4	5
Helped with the cost of childcare	4	13	8	5	7	9	9	4	8	7
Other help with childcare	1	4	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1
None of these	95	83	90	90	91	89	88	94	90	91
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,909</i>	<i>962</i>	<i>2,566</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>2,301</i>	<i>555</i>	<i>2,274</i>	<i>597</i>	<i>2,527</i>	<i>341</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Participants who cared for a sick, disabled or elderly person were asked whether they received help with their caring responsibilities through their course. Overall, ten per cent of participants who were carers received support with these responsibilities (see Table 3.32). There were no significant differences in help received between priorities.

Table 3.32 Help with other caring responsibilities by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Help with caring responsibilities	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Receives help	11	7	16	6	10
Does not receive help	89	93	84	94	90
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>460</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>905</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

There were no significant differences in whether participants had received help with caring responsibilities by funding stream (see Table 3.33).

Table 3.33 Help with other caring responsibilities by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Help with childcare responsibilities	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Receives help	8	12	–	5	8	–	10
Does not receive help	92	88	–	95	92	–	90
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>328</i>	<i>216</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>905</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

3.10 Satisfaction with the course

This section considers levels of satisfaction with ESF provision. Generally, satisfaction levels were relatively high, with 78 per cent of participants saying that the course was relevant to their needs, 57 per cent saying that the level was ‘about right’ and 73 per cent confirming that they were very or fairly satisfied with the course (see Table 3.34).

There was some variation by priority. Priority 1 (75%) participants were less likely than participants of projects in other priorities to say that the course was relevant to their needs (for example 91% of Priority 2 participants said the course was relevant). Priority 1 participants were also less likely to say that the level of the course was 'about right', with 43 per cent feeling that the course was 'too basic' (compared with between 19 per cent and 28 per cent of participants in other priorities). General satisfaction levels were also lower among Priority 1 participants; 70 per cent said that they were very or fairly satisfied with the course, compared with 90 per cent of Priority 2 participants (see Table 3.34).

Table 3.34 Satisfaction with the course by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Satisfaction	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Not relevant to needs	25	9	20	11	22
Relevant to needs	75	91	80	89	78
Too basic	43	19	28	21	39
About right	53	79	69	75	57
Too advanced	5	3	3	4	4
Very or fairly satisfied	70	90	79	89	73
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11	5	10	7	10
Fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	20	5	11	4	17
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5,533</i>	<i>3,863</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>495</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Satisfaction levels were generally higher among ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 than among match participants in these priorities. For example, compared with match participants, more ESF participants felt that the course was relevant to their needs (82% compared with 72%), that the level of the course was 'about right' (60% compared with 50%) and acknowledged that they were 'very satisfied' with the quality of the course (80% compared with 66%). There were few differences in satisfaction levels between ESF and match participants in Priorities 2 and 5 (see Table 3.35).

Table 3.35 Satisfaction with course by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Satisfaction	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Not relevant to needs	18	28	11	10	8	9	22
Relevant to needs	82	72	89	90	92	91	78
Too basic	34	45	29	17	20	10	39
About right	60	50	68	80	78	84	57
Too advanced	5	4	3	3	2	6	4
Very or fairly satisfied	80	66	86	91	90	93	73
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	12	7	5	5	5	10
Fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	13	22	6	4	5	2	17
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,447</i>	<i>2,904</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,507</i>	<i>1,681</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,906</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Women were slightly more likely to express satisfaction with the course than men. Eighty per cent of women said that the course was relevant to their needs compared with 76 per cent of men. Men were more likely than women to say that the level of the course was 'too basic' (42% compared with 33%), and were less likely to be 'very or fairly satisfied' with the course (71% compared with 77%; see Table 3.36).

Levels of satisfaction tended to decrease with age. While 85 per cent of 16 to 19 year olds felt that the course was relevant to their needs, this proportion fell to 73 per cent among those aged over 50. The 16 to 19 age group were also more likely to say that the course level was 'about right' and that they were 'very or fairly satisfied with the course' – for example, while 82 per cent of 16 to 19 year olds were 'very or fairly satisfied' only 68 per cent of those aged 20 to 24 were of the same opinion (see Table 3.36).

Table 3.36 Satisfaction by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Satisfaction	Age					Gender		Total
	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-49	50+	Male	Female	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Not relevant to needs	15	24	23	23	27	24	20	22
Relevant to needs	85	76	77	77	73	76	80	78
Too basic	32	46	37	37	39	42	33	39
About right	64	51	57	59	57	54	63	57
Too advanced	4	3	6	4	4	4	4	4
Very or fairly satisfied	82	68	74	74	71	71	77	73
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	13	9	10	10	10	10	10
Fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	12	20	17	16	19	19	14	17
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,824</i>	<i>1,518</i>	<i>1,849</i>	<i>3,490</i>	<i>2,207</i>	<i>5,831</i>	<i>5,085</i>	<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Levels of satisfaction were lower where participants had been 'made to go on the course'. For example, only 63 per cent of participants who were made to go on the course agreed that it was relevant, compared with 76 per cent who were persuaded to go on it and 87 per cent who were given the opportunity to go on it. Fifty-five per cent of participants who were made to go on the course said that it was too basic, compared with 45 per cent who were persuaded to go on it and 27 per cent who were given the opportunity to go on it.

There was some variation in satisfaction among people with disadvantages. For example, participants who were lone parents were more likely to say that the course level was 'about right' (64% compared with 57% of participants who were not lone parents) and that they were very or fairly satisfied with the course (82% compared with 72%; see Table 3.37).

Ethnic minority participants (73%) were more likely than White participants (59%) to say that the level of the course was 'about right' (see Table 3.37).

Participants with a disability or long-term limiting illness tended to be less satisfied with the course. For instance, they were less likely than people without a disability or LTLI to say that the course was relevant to their needs (70% compared with 81%) and that they were 'very or fairly satisfied' with the course (67% compared with 76%; see Table 3.37).

Table 3.37 Satisfaction by disadvantage

Satisfaction	ESF Cohort Survey									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Not relevant to needs	23	18	22	27	23	21	19	30	22	24
Relevant to needs	77	82	78	73	77	79	81	70	78	76
Too basic	39	30	39	36	41	20	38	40	40	30
About right	57	64	57	59	59	73	58	55	57	61
Too advanced	4	6	4	5	0	6	4	5	3	8
Very or fairly satisfied	72	82	73	73	73	73	76	67	73	73
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10	8	10	8	10	11	9	12	10	8
Fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	18	10	17	18	17	16	15	22	17	19
<i>Unweighted base</i>	9,923	961	9,992	902	9,218	1,613	8,354	2,542	9,462	1,440

Missing values have been excluded.

3.11 Awareness of ESF

Projects that receive funding from the European Social Fund have an obligation to tell their participants that their course is financed through ESF, for example, at an induction session. In total, 46 per cent of participants were aware that their course had been financed through ESF²⁴. Priority 1 participants were less likely than those in other priorities to know that their course had been funded by ESF (see Table 3.38).

Table 3.38 Awareness of ESF by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Satisfaction	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
Aware of ESF	42	60	52	60	46
Not aware of ESF	58	40	48	40	54
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,204</i>	<i>2,337</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>6,315</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Unsurprisingly, awareness of the ESF was higher among ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 and Priorities 2 and 5 (see Table 3.39).

Table 3.39 Awareness of ESF by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Awareness	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Aware of ESF	45	25	28	59	35	68	31
Not aware of ESF	55	75	72	41	65	32	69
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,447</i>	<i>2,903</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>2,502</i>	<i>1,680</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>10,898</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

A breakdown of participants' awareness of ESF by region is available in Appendix A (see Tables 6.26 and 6.27).

²⁴ Respondents taking part in projects funded through Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)-Match or Learning and Skills Council (LSC)-Match have been filtered out of the analysis.

4 Qualifications

This chapter explores the qualifications held by European Social Fund (ESF) participants. The chapter reviews:

- the qualification levels of participants before they began the course (see Section 4.1);
- the range of qualifications that participants were studying towards as part of the course (see Section 4.2); and
- participants' future studying intentions (see Section 4.3).

4.1 Qualification level before training

All participants were asked about what qualifications they held before starting the course. The ESF Cohort Study provides an opportunity to obtain more detail about the level and types of qualifications held by participants, over and above the information that is collected in the management information, including previous academic qualifications which may or may not be vocationally relevant.

The majority of participants (57%) were educated to Level 2 (or equivalent) or above, with 13 per cent educated to Level 3 and 11 per cent educated to Level 4. Seventeen per cent of participants had no qualifications. Participants in Priority 1 were more likely to have no qualifications than those in the other priorities. For example, while only seven per cent of Priority 2 participants had no qualifications, this proportion rose to 19 per cent among Priority 1 participants (see Table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Qualification level by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Qualification level	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
Level 4 and above	10	11	18	25	11	1,569
Level 3 – A Level or equivalent	11	21	16	23	13	1,622
Level 2 – GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent	32	45	28	32	34	3,455
Below Level 2	21	12	22	12	20	2,144
Foreign and other qualifications	7	3	4	4	6	699
No qualifications	19	7	12	4	17	1,444
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>5,530</i>	<i>3,849</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>500</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

The proportion of participants with no qualifications was slightly higher among Priority 1 and 4 match participants (20%) than among ESF participants (16%). Among ESF participants in Priorities 2 and 5, a higher proportion were educated to Level 4 and above (27%) compared with match participants (5%). A large proportion of match participants (53%) in Priorities 2 and 5 were educated to Level 2 (see Table 4.2).

Table 4.2 Qualification level by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Qualification level	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Level 4 and above	11	10	12	27	5	35	11
Level 3 – A Level or equivalent	12	11	12	22	21	20	13
Level 2 – GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent	30	33	35	27	53	19	34
Below Level 2	22	21	21	12	12	17	20
Foreign and other qualifications	8	6	9	6	2	5	6
No qualifications	16	20	10	6	7	5	17
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>3,459</i>	<i>2,919</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,510</i>	<i>1,681</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>10,933</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Priorities 2 and 5 have a specific objective to develop and improve the skills of the workforce, and have specific targets for the proportions of participants taking part in ESF courses at different qualification levels.

For example, Priority 2 projects have a target to ensure that 41 per cent of participants do not have relevant Level 2 qualifications. ESF Cohort Survey data suggests that 22 per cent of Priority 2 participants did not have a full Level 2 qualification, although many more may have been educated to Level 2 or above, but without Level 2 qualifications that were relevant to their occupation or sector. Another objective is for 12 per cent of Priority 2 participants to be at Level 2 (but without a relevant Level 3 qualification). Forty-five per cent of Priority 2 participants were educated to Level 2 (but without a full Level 3).

As well as targets for engaging participants without relevant Level 2 and 3 qualifications, Priority 5 has a target to ensure that eight per cent of participants have a Level 3 qualification (but not a full Level 4). Evidence from the ESF Cohort Study indicates that 23 per cent of Priority 5 participants meet this criterion (see Table 4.1).

Table 4.3 Qualification by age and gender

Qualification level	<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Level 4 and above	2	7	13	16	13	9	13	11
Level 3 – A Level or equivalent	8	17	16	12	9	13	13	13
Level 2 – GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent	52	44	35	25	18	34	35	34
Below Level 2	24	18	14	21	23	20	18	20
Foreign and other qualifications	1	3	9	8	10	7	5	6
No qualifications	12	12	14	18	28	17	16	17
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>1,826</i>	<i>1,527</i>	<i>1,847</i>	<i>3,491</i>	<i>2,214</i>	<i>5,838</i>	<i>5,095</i>	<i>10,933</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

There were no differences in the levels of qualifications held by male and female participants, although this did vary by age. Younger people were less likely to have no qualifications (for example, while 12% of those aged 16 to 19 had no qualifications, among those aged 50 and over this proportion was 28%). Younger participants were also less likely than older age groups to be educated to Level 4 and above, although they were more likely to have Level 2 qualifications (see Table 4.3).

Table 4.4 Qualification by disadvantaged group

Qualification level	Disadvantage							
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	Not ethnic minority %	Ethnic minority %	No disability or LTLI %	Has disability or LTLI %
Level 4 and above	11	10	10	14	10	12	9	13
Level 3 – A Level or equivalent	13	12	13	13	13	11	14	9
Level 2 – GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent	35	29	34	31	36	28	38	27
Below Level 2	20	21	20	18	20	17	19	21
Foreign and other qualifications	6	6	6	5	4	17	6	7
No qualifications	16	23	16	19	17	15	13	23
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>9,935</i>	<i>966</i>	<i>10,003</i>	<i>907</i>	<i>9,233</i>	<i>1,614</i>	<i>8,357</i>	<i>2,555</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

There were small differences in levels of qualifications according to whether the participant was from a disadvantaged group (see Table 4.4). For example, participants who were lone parents were less likely than those who were not lone parents to have qualifications (23% of lone parents had no qualifications, compared with 16% of non lone parents). Similarly, those with a disability or long-term limiting illness were less likely to have qualifications than those without (13% compared with 23%).

4.2 Qualifications studying towards on the course

A substantial section of the ESF Cohort Survey questionnaire was devoted to asking participants which, if any, qualifications they were studying for as part of their course. Unsurprisingly, given the varying objectives of the priorities, participants in Priorities 2 (78%) and Priority 5 (74%) were more likely to be studying towards qualifications as part of the course, compared with those in Priorities 1 (30%) and Priority 4 (33%; see Table 4.5)²⁵.

²⁵ Where the total percentage of participants studying towards a qualification type was less than 0.5, the qualification has not been shown in the table.

ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were more likely than match participants to be studying towards qualifications (41% compared with 27%), while ESF participants in Priorities 2 and 5 were less likely than match participants to be studying towards qualifications (61% compared with 87%; see Table 4.6).

Of those participants studying towards qualifications as part of the course, most were studying towards NVQs (71%). Other qualifications that participants were studying towards included City and Guild qualifications (20%), GCSEs (6%), A Levels (5%), OCR qualifications (5%) and BTECs (4%). Six per cent of participants were studying towards 'other work-related qualifications', while three per cent were doing basic skills qualifications (see Table 4.5).

Table 4.5 Qualifications studied by priority²⁶

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Whether studying towards qualifications	Priority				Total %
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %	
No qualifications studied	70	22	67	26	62
Any qualifications studied	30	78	33	74	38
A Level	8	3	6	4	5
AS Level	2	1	1	2	1
GCSE	10	2	13	3	6
Short course GCSE	5	1	6	3	3
NVQ	51	91	42	83	71
BTEC	6	3	7	5	4
EdExcel	4	1	7	2	3
City and Guilds	29	10	25	8	20
OCR	7	2	6	4	5
GNVQ	2	1	2	0	1
AVCE/Vocational A Level	1	0	2	1	1
Access	2	1	5	2	2
HNC	0	1	2	2	1
IT or computing	1	1	3	0	1
Basic skills	4	2	2	1	3
Other work-related qualification	7	4	7	3	6
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,138</i>	<i>1,959</i>	<i>149</i>	<i>264</i>	<i>3,510</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

²⁶ Where the total percentage of participants studying towards a qualification type was less than 0.5, the qualification has not been shown in the table.

Table 4.6 Qualifications studied by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Whether studying towards qualifications	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
No qualifications studied	59	73	58	39	13	58	62
Any qualifications studied	41	27	42	61	87	42	38
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,434</i>	<i>2,895</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,498</i>	<i>1,678</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>10,871</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Within Priorities 2 and 5, most participants who held qualifications below Level 2 (before starting the course) were studying towards qualifications as part of the course (59% and 50% respectively). Similarly, most participants with Level 2 qualifications (but without a full Level 3 qualification) were studying towards qualifications through the course (74% in Priority 2 and 64% in Priority 5; see Table 4.7).

Table 4.7 Whether studying towards qualifications by qualification level prior to start of course

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>					
Whether studying towards qualifications	Priority 2			Priority 5	
	Below Level 2 %	With Level 2 (but without Level 3) %	Below Level 2 %	With Level 2 (but without Level 3) %	With Level 3 (but without Level 4) %
	Not studying towards qualifications	41	26	40	36
Studying towards qualifications	59	74	60	64	62
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,177</i>	<i>1,219</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>112</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

The Priority 2 and 5 programmes have targets for the proportions of participants at these existing qualification levels attaining qualifications through the course. Whether these targets have been met will be explored in more detail after the Wave 2 survey; the Wave 1 ESF Cohort Study considered only the types of qualifications

that participants were studying towards, not those that they had gained or the level that they had achieved (which will be explored in the Wave 2 study).

Women were slightly more likely than men to be studying towards a qualification (40% compared with 37%). Those aged 16 to 19 were more likely to be studying towards a qualification (57%) than those in all other age groups (between 24% and 43% of those aged over 20 were studying towards a qualification through the course; see Table 4.8).

Table 4.8 Whether studying towards qualifications by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Whether studying towards qualifications	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Not studying towards qualifications	43	64	57	66	76	63	60	62
Studying towards qualifications	57	36	43	34	24	37	40	38
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,803</i>	<i>1,518</i>	<i>1,841</i>	<i>3,477</i>	<i>2,205</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>5,071</i>	<i>10,871</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Generally, participants from disadvantaged groups were less likely to be studying towards qualifications as part of the course. While 31 per cent of carers were studying towards qualifications, among non carers this proportion rose to 38 per cent. Participants from ethnic minority groups (33%) were less likely than White people (39%) to be studying towards qualifications, as were participants with a disability or long-term limiting illness (22%) compared with those without a disability or long-term limiting illness (45%). Participants with no previous qualifications were also less likely to be studying towards qualifications than those who had qualifications (30% compared with 39%; see Table 4.9).

Table 4.9 Whether studying towards qualifications by disadvantage

ESF Cohort Survey

Whether studying towards qualifications	Disadvantage									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Not studying towards qualifications	62	66	62	69	61	67	55	78	61	70
Studying towards qualifications	38	34	38	31	39	33	45	22	39	30
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	9,878	960	9,946	902	9,183	1,601	8,311	2,539	9,433	1,425

Missing values have been excluded.

Information about whether participants were studying towards qualifications by region is available in Appendix A (see Tables 6.28 and 6.29).

4.3 Future studying intentions

All participants were asked whether they intended to study towards any qualifications in the next year. Forty-two per cent of participants intended to study qualifications in the future, compared with 58 per cent who did not. Priority 1 participants (40%) were less likely than those from Priority 2 (51%) and Priority 4 (46%) to say that they were planning to study towards qualifications in the next year (see Table 4.10).

Table 4.10 Future studying intentions by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>			
Future studying intentions	Priority		
	1 and 4	2 and 5	Total
	%	%	%
Intends to study qualifications in the next year	40	51	42
Does not intend to study qualifications in the next year	60	49	58
GCSE	4	2	3
A Level or A2	2	2	2
NVQ	29	51	33
BTEC	3	3	3
City and Guild	4	5	5
OCR/RSA	1	0	1
Access to HE	2	1	1
Nursing qualification	1	1	1
HNC	3	6	3
Degree (Undergraduate)	4	4	4
Degree (Postgraduate)	2	2	2
Postgraduate certificate	1	1	1
IT qualification	11	5	10
Basic skills qualification	7	2	6
Other qualification	34	21	32
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,798</i>	<i>1,764</i>	<i>4,562</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Women (46%) were more likely than men (40%) to have future studying intentions, as were young people aged 16 to 19 (57%) compared with other age groups (between 25% and 45% of those aged over 20 said that they wanted to study towards more qualifications in the future; see Table 4.11).

Table 4.11 Future studying intentions by age and gender

Future studying intentions	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Intends to study qualifications in the next year	57	45	45	39	25	40	46	42
Does not intend to study qualifications in the next year	43	55	55	61	75	60	54	58
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,755</i>	<i>1,479</i>	<i>1,780</i>	<i>3,367</i>	<i>2,128</i>	<i>5,621</i>	<i>4,916</i>	<i>10,537</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

5 Outcomes

The majority of participants (82%) had already finished the course when they took part in the Wave 1 of the European Social Fund (ESF) Cohort Survey. This chapter explores the early outcomes of these participants, considering:

- whether participants had moved into work after the course (see Section 5.1);
- the profile of those participants in employment who were previously unemployed or economically inactive (see Section 5.2);
- the perceived impact of the course on those in employment both before and after the course (see Sections 5.3);
- why people have left jobs since going on the course (see Section 5.4); and
- the job search activities of participants not in employment (see Section 5.5).

5.1 Employment status of course leavers

The employment status of course leavers was gathered at three points in time: 12 months before they started the course; in the week before the course; and at the time of the interview (i.e. after they had finished the course).

The rate of unemployment among Priority 1 and 4 participants decreased by around 20 percentage points from the week before the course to the time of the interview (after they had finished the course (from 70% to 50% per cent). However, the rate of unemployment at the time of interview was not as low as it had been among these participants 12 months before the course (41%). This research was carried out during an economic recession, which could account in part for this difference. Correspondingly, the employment rate among Priority 1 and 4 participants rose from five per cent in the week before the course to 22 per cent at the time of interview (although it was not as high as the employment rate 12 months before the course, which was 26%; see Table 5.1). As Priority 1 and Priority 4 courses were aimed at people who were unemployed, including those who had recently fallen into this group, lower employment rates 12 months prior to the interview than those observed at the time of interview are to be expected, particularly given that the current economic recession has impacted heavily on the unemployment rate in the UK.

Table 5.1 Employment patterns of course leavers

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Employment status	Priorities 1 and 4			Priorities 2 and 5		
	12 months before course	Week before course	Time of interview	12 months before course	Week before course	Time of interview
	%	%	%	%	%	%
In employment	26	5	22	73	80	80
Unemployed	41	70	50	4	13	13
Economically inactive	33	25	28	23	7	7
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,377</i>	<i>5,377</i>	<i>5,377</i>	<i>3,233</i>	<i>3,233</i>	<i>3,233</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

From the week before the course to the time of the interview, rates of unemployment fell by a higher proportion among ESF participants (25%) in Priorities 1 and 4 than among match participants (19%). Correspondingly, rates of employment increased by a higher proportion among ESF participants (24%) compared with match participants (14%). However, match participants in Priorities 1 and 4 tended to start from a lower base – 12 months before the course, fewer match participants than ESF participants were in employment (22% compared with 37%) while more were unemployed (45% compared with 31%; see Table 5.2).

Table 5.2 Employment patterns of course leavers (Priorities 1 and 4)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Employment status	ESF			Match		
	12 months before course	Week before course	Time of interview	12 months before course	Week before course	Time of interview
	5	%	%	%	%	%
In employment	37	7	31	22	4	18
Unemployed	31	71	46	45	70	51
Economically inactive	33	22	23	33	26	30
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,786</i>	<i>2,786</i>	<i>2,786</i>	<i>2,418</i>	<i>2,418</i>	<i>2,418</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Rates of employment, unemployment and economic inactivity did not change among Priority 2 and 5 participants from the week before the course to the time of interview.

However, compared with 12 months before the course, rates of employment had risen from 73% to 80% (see Table 5.1). There was some difference between ESF and match participants in Priorities 2 and 5; while employment rates had risen among match participants (from 61% to 81%), they had actually fallen among ESF participants (from 92% to 79%; see Table 5.3). This reflects increasing targeting of ESF on people facing redundancy, i.e. participants who were under notice of redundancy joined ESF before they were made unemployed to ensure they received early support to up-skill or retrain.

Compared with 12 months before the interview, unemployment rates among Priority 2 and 5 participants had risen (from 4% to 13% respectively), while rates of economic inactivity had fallen (from 23% to 7%; see Table 5.1). Rates of inactivity had fallen more among match participants (from 35% to 10%) than among ESF participants (from 5% to 3%; see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Employment patterns of course leavers (Priorities 2 and 5)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
	ESF			Match		
	12 months before course	Week before course	Time of interview	12 months before course	Week before course	Time of interview
Employment status	5	%	%	%	%	%
In employment	92	79	80	61	81	80
Unemployed	3	18	15	4	9	11
Economically inactive	5	3	5	35	10	9
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,865</i>	<i>1,865</i>	<i>1,865</i>	<i>1,221</i>	<i>1,221</i>	<i>1,221</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

5.1.1 Length of time since finished the course

There were some differences in employment status at the time of the interview according to the length of time since participants had finished their courses. Participants in Priorities 1 and 4 who had finished the course seven months or more before the interview were slightly more likely to be in employment than those who had finished it six months ago or less (25% compared with 21%). Correspondingly, rates of economic activity were slightly lower among those who had finished the course seven months or more before the interview. There were no significant differences in terms of rates of unemployment (see Table 5.4).

Table 5.4 Length of time since finished course (Priority 1 and 4)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Employment status	Length of time since finished course			Total %
	0 to 3 months %	4 to 6 months %	7 months or over %	
In employment	21	21	25	22
Unemployed	50	50	49	50
Economically inactive	29	29	26	28
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,775</i>	<i>1,692</i>	<i>1,523</i>	<i>5,377</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

5.2 Profile of participants who moved into employment

This section looks in more detail at those participants who were unemployed or economically inactive in the week before the course and who had since found work. Of those who were out of work in the week before the course (and who had finished training at the time of the Wave 1 interview), 21 per cent had progressed into jobs (see Table 5.5).

ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were more likely than match participants to move into employment (29% compared with 17%). Only a relatively small proportion of Priority 2 and 5 participants were unemployed or inactive in the week before starting the course (see Figure 5.1 and Table 5.5).

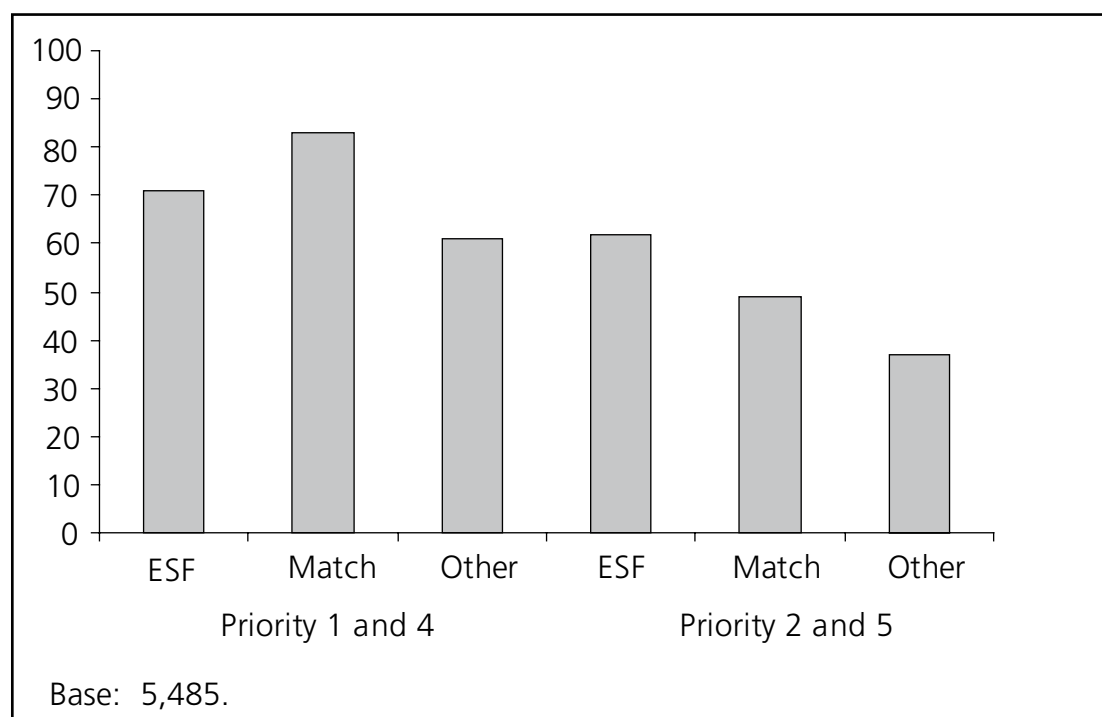
Figure 5.1 Whether moved into employment by funding stream within priority

Table 5.5 Whether moved into employment by funding stream within priority

ESF Cohort Survey

Whether studying towards qualifications	Funding stream within priority						
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			Total %
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Has not moved into employment	71	83	61	62	49	37	79
Has moved into employment	29	17	39	38	51	63	21
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,573</i>	<i>2,280</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>302</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>5,485</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Women (25%) were more likely than men (18%) to move into employment after attending the course. There were only small variations by age. Those aged 50 and over were less likely to move into employment than younger participants; between 21 per cent and 22 per cent of participants aged 16 to 49, who had been out of work in the week before the course, were in jobs at the time of the interview, compared with 16 per cent of those aged over 50 (see Table 5.6).

Table 5.6 Whether found employment by age and gender

ESF Cohort Survey

Whether found employment	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Has not moved into employment	79	78	79	78	84	82	75	79
Has moved into employment	21	22	21	22	16	18	25	21
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,068</i>	<i>866</i>	<i>882</i>	<i>1,564</i>	<i>1,090</i>	<i>3,042</i>	<i>2,443</i>	<i>5,485</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

There were no significant differences in the proportions of participants moving into jobs according to whether they were a lone parent or carer, or whether they were from an ethnic minority group. However, people with a disability or long-term limiting illness were less likely than those without to move into employment (25% compared with 13%), as were participants with no qualifications compared with those who had qualifications (12% compared with 23%; see Table 5.7).

Table 5.7 Whether found employment by disadvantage

ESF Cohort Survey

Whether found employment	Disadvantage									
	Not lone parent %	Lone parent %	Not carer %	Carer %	White %	Ethnic minority group %	No disability or LTLI %	Has a disability or LTLI %	Has qualifications %	No qualifications %
Has not moved into employment	80	76	79	84	79	81	75	87	77	88
Has moved into employment	20	24	21	16	21	19	25	13	23	12
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	4,876	600	5,013	466	4,429	1,011	3,752	1,728	4,567	913

Missing values have been excluded.

5.2.1 Perceived impact of the course on unemployed/ economically inactive participants

Participants who were in employment at the time of the interview and who had been out of work in the week before the course were asked whether the course had helped them to find a job. Fifty-two per cent of participants acknowledged that the course had 'helped a lot' or 'helped a little'. Priority 1 and 4 participants were less likely than Priorities 2 and 5 participants to say that the course had 'helped a lot' in their search for work (35% compared with 49%) and were more likely to say that it had 'not helped at all' (49% compared with 40%; see Table 5.8).

Table 5.8 Impact of course by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>			
Impact of the course	Priority		Total
	1 and 4	2 and 5	
	%	%	%
Helped a lot	35	49	36
Helped a little	17	12	17
Not helped at all	49	40	48
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>1,211</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>1,430</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

ESF participants in Priorities 1 and 4 were more likely than match participants to say that the course had 'helped a lot' in finding employment (40% compared with 33%), and were less likely to say that the course had 'not helped at all' (43% compared with 50%; see Table 5.9).

Table 5.9 Impact of course by funding stream within priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Impact of the course	Funding stream within priority						Total
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF	Match	Other	ESF	Match	Other	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Helped a lot	40	33	29	28	58	50	36
Helped a little	17	17	15	17	8	20	17
Not helped at all	43	50	57	54	34	30	48
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>751</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>1,430</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Perceptions about the helpfulness of the course did not vary by gender although there were some differences by age, with young people aged 16 to 19 being more likely to say that the course 'helped a lot'. Fifty-four per cent of 16 to 19 year olds said that the course helped them a lot in finding work, compared with between 28 per cent and 37 per cent of those in older age groups (see Table 5.10).

Table 5.10 Impact of course by age and gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>								
Whether found employment	Age					Gender		Total %
	16-19 %	20-24 %	25-34 %	35-49 %	50+ %	Male %	Female %	
Helped a lot	54	28	37	35	29	33	39	36
Helped a little	13	17	15	22	10	16	17	17
Not helped at all	33	55	48	43	61	51	44	48
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>457</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>774</i>	<i>656</i>	<i>1,430</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

There were no significant differences among disadvantaged groups in terms of whether they felt that the course had helped them to find a job (see Table 5.11).

Table 5.11 Impact of course by disadvantage

ESF Cohort Survey

Impact of the course	Not lone parent		Lone parent		Not carer		Carer		White		Ethnic minority group		No disability or LTLI		Has a disability or LTLI		Has qualifications		No qualifications	
	%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%	
Helped a lot	35	43	35	32	35	35	36	36	35	35	38	26	35	37						
Helped a little	16	21	17	6	17	15	15	16	16	19	16	19	16	19						
Not helped at all	49	36	47	62	48	49	49	48	48	55	46	55	48	44						
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	1,259	167	1,330	97	1,287	211	1,166	262	1,268	161										

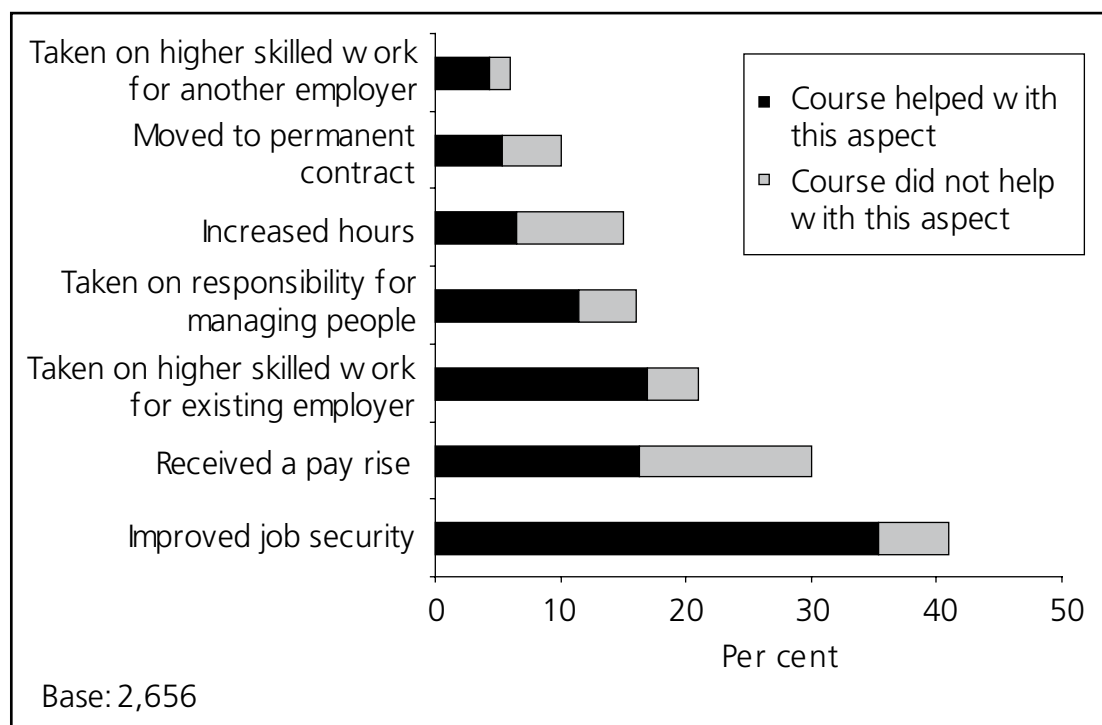
Missing values have been excluded.

5.3 Perceived impact of the course on those in employment

Most participants who were in jobs in the week before the course were also in employment at the time of the Wave 1 interview. This section looks at perceptions of whether – and in which ways – the course has impacted on those in employment.

Participants were asked whether a number of things (e.g. pay, hours of work, job security) had changed/improved in their jobs since going on the course, and where there had been a positive change, whether the course helped them to improve this aspect of their work. Forty-one per cent of participants said that, since they had been on the course, they had improved their job security. Of these, a high proportion (86%) agreed that the course has helped them in this area (with 51% saying that the course had ‘helped a lot’; see Figure 5.2 and Table 5.12).

Figure 5.2 Changes in employment status



The course also seemed particularly beneficial to those participants who had taken on higher skilled work either for an existing employer (21%) or for another employer (6%) – with 81 per cent of those who had taken on work for an existing employer, and 72 per cent of those doing higher skilled work for another employer, acknowledging that the course had helped them to do so.

A relatively high proportion of the participants who had taken on responsibility for managing people also gave credit to the course. Of the 16 per cent of participants who had taken on management responsibilities since the course, 71 per cent said that the course had helped them in this area.

Thirty per cent of participants had received a pay rise since the course, while 15 per cent had increased their hours and ten per cent had moved from a temporary to a permanent contract. In these areas, the course was deemed slightly less useful; 46 per cent of participants who had received a pay rise, 56 per cent of those who had increased their hours, and 46 per cent of those who had moved to a permanent contract felt that the course had 'not helped at all' in these areas.

Table 5.12 Impact of course on employees

ESF Cohort Survey

	Moved to permanent contract %	Received a pay rise %	Improvement			Taken on responsibility for managing people %	Improved job security %	Increased hours %
			Taken on higher skilled work for existing employer %	Taken on higher skilled work for another employer %				
Job status improved	10	30	21	6	16	41	15	
Whether course helped								
Helped a lot	34	35	55	56	40	51	28	
Helped a little	20	19	25	16	31	35	16	
Not helped at all	46	46	19	28	28	14	56	
Course helped with improvement (Total)	5	16	17	4	11	35	7	
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	168	663	453	115	391	951	317	

Missing values have been excluded.

Generally, match participants were more likely than ESF participants to have improved their employment status. For example, while 34 per cent of ESF participants had improved their job security, this proportion rose to 46 per cent among match participants (see Table 5.13).

Table 5.13 Impact of course on employees

ESF Cohort Survey

	Moved to permanent contract %	Received a pay rise %	Taken on higher skilled work for existing employer %	Taken on higher skilled work for another employer %	Taken on responsibility for managing people %	Improved job security %	Increased hours %
Job status improved (ESF)	7	22	14	5	13	34	12
Job status improved (match)	12	37	27	7	19	46	17
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	168	663	453	115	391	951	317

Missing values have been excluded.

5.4 Participants who had left work

Twelve per cent of participant had left jobs since starting the course, for a number of reasons including redundancy or end of temporary contract (51%), finding another job (18%) and health reasons (11%; see Table 5.14). Men were more likely than women to leave jobs due to redundancy or the end of contract (55% compared with 41%), while women were more likely to leave jobs to take up employment elsewhere (24% compared with 16%).

Table 5.14 Why people left jobs by gender

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>			
	Gender		Total %
	Men %	Women %	
Whether left job			
Has not left job	86	90	88
Has left job	14	10	12
Why left job			
Found another job	16	24	18
To do more education and training	3	7	4
Health reasons	9	13	11
Caring responsibilities	1	3	2
Other personal reasons	17	20	18
Redundancy/end of contract	55	41	51
Other reason	45	42	44
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	596	404	1,000

Missing values have been excluded.

Please note that participants were able to say an unlimited number of reasons for leaving their job so percentages sum to more than 100.

5.5 Job search activities of those out of work

Of those participants out of work at the time of interview, the majority (68%) had made job applications since going on the course. Men were more likely to have applied for jobs than women (74% compared with 56%) and, on average, had submitted more applications than women (14.1 compared with 12.6; see Table 5.15).

When making their job applications, 30 per cent of participants had used contacts from the course, while 24 per cent said that someone on the course suggested that they apply for any of the jobs. There were no gender differences in use of contacts from the course to apply for jobs.

Men were more likely than women to have been to job interviews than women (36% compared with 30%) and, on average, had also been to more interviews since the course (5.1 compared with 3.5).

Table 5.15 Job search activities by gender

Job search activities	<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>		
	Gender		
	Men %	Women %	Total %
Has made job applications	74	56	68
Average number of job applications	14.1	12.6	13.7
Whether someone on course suggested that apply for job	23	27	24
Whether used contacts from course	29	33	30
Has been to job interviews	36	30	34
Average number of interviews	5.1	3.5	4.6
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,494</i>	<i>1,917</i>	<i>4,411</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Men were more likely than women to have been to job interviews than women (36% compared with 30%) and, on average, had also been to more interviews since the course (5.1 compared with 3.5).

ESF participants were more likely than match participants to have made job applications (72% compared with 67%), although match participants had made a higher number of applications on average than ESF participants (13.9 compared with 12.7). Similarly, ESF participants were more likely to have been to job interviews than match participants (38% compared with 33%), although they had been to fewer interviews on average (3.9 compared with 4.8). Match participants were more likely to have had jobs suggested to them by someone on the course (26% compared with 21%) and to have used contacts from the course in their job applications (33% compared with 21%; see Table 5.16).

Table 5.16 Job search activities by funding stream

Job search activities	<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>		
	Funding stream		
	ESF %	Match %	Other %
Has made job applications	72	67	80
Average number of job applications	12.7	13.9	14.2
Whether someone on course suggested that apply for job	21	26	12
Whether used contacts from course	21	33	21
Has been to job interviews	38	33	46
Average number of interviews	3.9	4.8	4.7
<i>Unweighted base</i>	<i>2,190</i>	<i>2,097</i>	<i>124</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Appendix A

Tables

A.1 Age and gender by region

Table A.1 Age and gender by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey																					
		Region												Priority 4									
		Priority 1						Yorkshire and the Humber						Priority 4									
Age and gender	%	East of England		East Midlands		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		South Yorkshire		Cornwall		Total	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
16-19	11	4	11	15	16	11	14	14	20	14	14	14	14	20	14	14	21	20	20	8	15		
20-24	28	20	23	34	28	23	22	34	17	22	22	22	34	21	22	34	21	27	27	13	24		
25-34	15	19	14	22	21	16	13	20	13	13	13	13	20	23	20	20	23	19	19	17	17		
35-49	31	35	28	20	20	30	34	23	34	34	34	34	23	25	23	23	25	26	26	40	28		
50+	15	21	25	10	16	20	17	9	16	17	17	17	9	10	9	9	10	9	9	23	15		
Male	68	59	59	74	67	69	60	70	63	60	60	60	70	67	70	70	67	59	59	59	63		
Female	32	41	41	26	33	31	40	30	37	40	40	40	30	33	30	30	33	41	41	41	37		
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	386	494	410	370	888	408	463	445	637	463	463	463	445	559	458	445	559	458	458	1,052	6,587		

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.2 Age and gender by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey																	
		Region												Priority 5					
		Priority 2						Yorkshire and the Humber						South Yorkshire	Cornwall	Total			
Age and gender		East of England		East Midlands		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Merseyside	South Yorkshire	Cornwall	Total
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
16-19		0	5	1	2	40	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	9	15
20-24		6	6	7	4	34	8	10	6	13	13	17	17	17	37	7	11	11	24
25-34		23	29	24	16	11	24	22	17	17	17	17	17	11	11	21	23	23	17
35-49		44	38	48	48	11	49	40	47	39	39	39	39	17	17	51	39	39	28
50+		27	22	21	30	4	19	21	30	32	32	32	32	8	8	20	18	18	15
Male		65	40	49	45	48	36	38	80	87	87	87	87	56	56	60	47	47	63
Female		35	60	51	55	52	64	62	20	13	13	13	13	44	44	40	53	53	37
<i>Unweighted bases</i>		465	64	160	185	799	327	338	482	69	69	69	69	657	657	312	499	499	4,358

Missing values have been excluded.

A.2 Ethnicity by region

Table A.3 Ethnicity by region, within priority

ESF Cohort Survey

Ethnicity	Region														Total %
	Priority 1							Priority 4							
	East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	Yorkshire %	South Yorkshire %	Cornwall %	Priority 4 %	
White	91	45	91	94	86	91	93	67	84	89	85	85	98	82	
All ethnic minority groups	9	55	9	6	14	9	7	33	16	11	15	15	2	18	
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	380	495	408	368	883	404	462	637	444	556	455	455	1,048	6,540	

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.4 Ethnicity by region, within priority

ESF Cohort Survey

Ethnicity	Region														Total %
	Priority 2							Priority 5							
	East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	Cornwall %	Total %		
White	90	45	90	98	95	86	93	81	85	97	98	98	82		
All ethnic minority groups	10	55	10	2	5	14	7	19	15	3	2	2	18		
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	461	63	158	184	790	326	331	480	68	653	307	497	4,318		

Missing values have been excluded.

A.3 Disability by region

Table A.5 Disability by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey																			
		Region						Priority 4													
		Priority 1						Priority 4													
Disability	East of England %	East Midlands %		North East %		North West %		South East %		South West %		Yorkshire and the Humber %		Merseyside %		South Yorkshire %		Cornwall %		Total %	
		London %	Midlands %	East %	North %	West %	North %	West %	East %	West %	Midlands %	West %	Yorkshire %	and the Humber %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	Cornwall %	Total %			
No disability	64	49	55	79	67	53	57	75	81	77	40	68	32	68	68	68	68	68	68	68	68
Any disability	36	51	45	21	33	47	43	25	19	23	60	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	387	498	410	367	887	464	639	446	559	460	1,053	6,579	6,579	6,579	6,579	6,579	6,579	6,579	6,579	6,579	6,579

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.6 Disability by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey																						
		Region																						
		Priority 2						Priority 5																
Disability	East of England %	London		East Midlands		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		Merseyside		South Yorkshire		Cornwall		Total %
		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%
No disability	94	89	96	88	96	90	97	87	87	96	92	93	68											
Any disability	6	11	4	12	4	10	3	13	13	4	8	7	32											
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	463	64	159	184	796	326	337	481	69	655	312	499	4,345											

Missing values have been excluded.

A.4 Lone parent status by region

Table A.7 Lone parent status by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey																				
		Region						Priority 4														
		Priority 1						Priority 4														
Employment status	East of England %	East Midlands		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		Merseyside		South Yorkshire		Cornwall		Total %
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Not lone parent	94	90	88	93	92	93	92	90	93	90	94	92	92	92	89	92	90	90	89	90	92	
Lone parent	6	10	12	7	8	7	8	10	7	10	6	8	8	8	11	8	10	11	10	10	8	
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	386	493	410	369	890	407	890	463	407	463	639	446	560	460	460	560	1,052	460	1,052	460	6,575	

Missing values have been excluded.

A.5 Employment status by region

Table A.8 Employment status by region, within priority (in week before course)

		ESF Cohort Survey																
		Region												Priority 4				
		Priority 1						Yorkshire and the Humber						South Yorkshire	Cornwall	Total		
Employment status	East of England %	East Midlands %		North East %		North West %		South East %		South West %		West Midlands %		Merseyside %	Yorkshire %	South Yorkshire %	Cornwall %	Total %
		In employment	6	4	6	5	6	7	6	4	9	4	4	4	7	9	4	4
Unemployed	75	60	84	70	70	58	61	82	72	74	82	74	36	72	74	74	36	59
Economically inactive	19	36	11	25	24	34	33	14	19	22	14	19	57	19	22	22	57	23
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	387	410	370	890	409	464	639	446	560	460	446	560	1,054	560	460	460	1,054	6,587

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.9 Employment status by region, within priority (in week before course)

		ESF Cohort Survey																
		Region												Priority 5				
		Priority 2						Yorkshire and the Humber						Merseyside	South Yorkshire	Cornwall	Total	
Employment status	%	East of England		East Midlands		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands	%	%	%	%
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
In employment	82	90	95	98	98	79	91	93	93	91	53	97	78	97	90	18		
Unemployed	16	4	3	2	7	44	3	4	3	44	3	8	2	5	59			
Economically inactive	2	6	2	1	14	3	7	3	3	14	5	23	14	1	5	23		
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	465	64	160	185	799	327	338	482	657	312	500	4,358						

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.10 Length of time out of work (Priorities 1 and 4)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Length of time out of work	Funding stream within priority			
	Priority 1 and 4			
	ESF	Match	Other	Total
	%	%	%	%
Less than 3 months	15	5	20	8
Between 3 and less than 6 months	13	11	18	12
Between 6 and less than 12 months	17	17	14	17
Between 12 months and less than 2 years	13	17	12	16
2 years or more	26	33	23	31
Never had a (full-time) job	15	17	13	16
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,868</i>	<i>2,592</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>5,634</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.11 Attitudes to work (Priorities 1 and 4)

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>				
Whether thought that work was important	Funding stream within priority			
	Priority 1 and 4			
	ESF	Match	Other	Total
	%	%	%	%
Very important	78	71	81	73
Quite important	18	23	17	22
Not important	3	4	2	4
Not at all important	1	2		2
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>2,886</i>	<i>2,627</i>	<i>177</i>	<i>5,690</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

A.6 Employment status by region (12 months before the course)

Table A.12 Employment status by region, within priority (12 months before course)

Employment status	ESF Cohort Survey													
	Region													Total %
	East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	East %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	West %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	
In employment	29	23	29	24	24	25	24	27	29	17	35	18	36	26
Unemployed	41	41	31	49	42	42	47	36	34	57	30	43	20	40
Economically inactive	30	36	40	26	33	33	29	37	36	26	34	38	44	34
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	387	498	410	370	890	890	409	464	639	446	560	460	1,054	6,589

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.13 Employment status by region, within priority (12 months before course)

		ESF Cohort Survey																					
		Region												Priority 5									
		Priority 2						Yorkshire and the Humber						Cornwall		Total							
Employment status	%	East of England		East Midlands		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		Merseyside		South Yorkshire		Total	%
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
In employment	95	83	87	96	53	90	83	91	93	63	92	85	69										
Unemployed	2	5	1	0	3	5	2	6	5	4	3	2	3										
Economically inactive	3	12	11	4	43	6	15	4	2	33	5	13	27										
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	465	64	160	185	799	327	338	482	69	657	312	500	4,358										

Missing values have been excluded.

A.6 Multiple disadvantage by region

Table A.14 Multiple disadvantage by region, within priority

Disadvantage	ESF Cohort Survey																						
	Region																						
	Priority 1				Yorkshire and the Humber				Priority 4														
	East of England		East Midlands		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		Merseyside		South Yorkshire		Cornwall		Total
	%		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
No disadvantage	20	5	11	26	15	15	15	13	14	15	13	13	15	27	13	13	23	23	23	13	13	23	23
1 disadvantage	36	17	30	32	29	26	29	23	29	37	23	23	37	37	40	23	28	28	23	40	23	23	28
2 disadvantages	24	27	23	23	27	28	26	26	30	22	26	22	22	22	23	32	23	23	23	23	32	32	23
3 disadvantages	11	26	23	14	18	18	23	23	17	20	23	20	20	10	18	23	16	16	18	23	23	23	16
4 disadvantages	8	17	8	4	9	12	13	13	8	4	13	4	4	2	4	7	8	8	4	4	7	7	8
5+ disadvantages	1	8	4	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	3
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	387	498	410	370	890	409	639	639	464	446	639	446	446	560	460	1,054	6,587	6,587	460	1,054	1,054	6,587	6,587

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.15 Multiple disadvantage by region, within priority

Disadvantage	ESF Cohort Survey																		
	Region																		
	East of England				East Midlands				North				Priority 1				Priority 4		
%	London	Midlands	East	North East	North West	South East	South West	West Midlands	West Midlands	Yorkshire and the Humber	Merseyside	South Yorkshire	Cornwall	Total	%				
No disadvantage	53	18	40	47	73	39	60	40	44	71	53	61	23						
1 disadvantage	32	51	39	38	21	39	28	33	33	25	30	30	28						
2 disadvantages	12	21	14	13	5	16	9	18	15	4	12	8	23						
3 disadvantages	3	8	5	1	1	5	2	7	5	0	4	1	16						
4 disadvantages	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	8						
5+ disadvantages	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3						
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	465	64	160	185	799	327	338	482	69	657	312	500	4,358						

Missing values have been excluded.

A.7 Benefits received by priority

Table A.16 Benefits received by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Benefits	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
Child Tax Credit	15	15	22	26	16	2,151
Working Tax Credit	7	11	12	17	8	1,267
Income Support	17	2	26	0	14	1,189
Job Seekers Allowance	44	7	16	2	38	2,408
Housing Benefit	40	3	37	3	34	2,417
Council Tax Benefit	40	5	41	4	34	2,570
Incapacity Benefit	14	1	30	1	12	906
Disability benefits	10	2	24	3	9	851
Child Benefit	17	18	24	33	17	2,551
Employment and Support Allowance	4	1	5	0	4	287
None of these	20	69	18	57	27	4,371
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,509</i>	<i>3,827</i>	<i>1,052</i>	<i>489</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Please note that as participants are able to claim more than one benefit at a time percentages in this table sum to more than 100.

Table A.17 Benefits received by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Benefits	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Child Tax Credit	21	14	19	26	12	20	16
Working Tax Credit	11	6	16	16	10	7	8
Income Support	15	18	10	2	2	1	14
Job Seekers Allowance	39	45	39	10	5	8	38
Housing Benefit	37	41	29	4	3	3	34
Council Tax Benefit	38	40	31	7	5	4	34
Incapacity Benefit	8	17	3	2	1		12
Disability benefits	9	11	3	4	2	1	9
Child Benefit	23	15	21	32	13	26	17
Employment and Support Allowance	4	5	3	1	1		4
None of these	25	17	28	52	76	60	27
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,437</i>	<i>2,919</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>2,488</i>	<i>1,670</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>10,877</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.18 Benefits received by funding stream

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>							
Benefits	Funding stream within priority						Total %
	Priority 1 and 4			Priority 2 and 5			
	ESF %	Match %	Other %	ESF %	Match %	Other %	
Receiving JSA and HB	20	21	16	2	1	1	18
Receiving JSA, HB and CTB	18	19	14	1	1	1	16
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>3,427</i>	<i>2,897</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>2,487</i>	<i>1,668</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>10,843</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

A.8 Programme of support by priority

Table A.19 Programme of support by priority

<i>ESF Cohort Survey</i>						
Benefits	Priority				Total %	Respondents
	1 %	2 %	4 %	5 %		
New Deal for Lone Parents	2	0	1	0	2	176
New Deal for Disabled People	1	0	0	0	1	46
New Deal for Young People	12	0	4	0	10	436
New Deal for 25-49	9	0	2	1	7	293
New Deal for 50+	2	0	0	0	2	126
New Deal for Partners	0	0	0	0	0	19
Pathways to Work	14	0	33	0	12	860
Entry to Employment	5	1	3	1	4	504
Train to Gain	2	3	2	4	3	361
None of these	57	94	57	94	63	8,272
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	<i>5,533</i>	<i>3,862</i>	<i>1,054</i>	<i>494</i>		<i>10,947</i>

Missing values have been excluded.

A.8 How heard about the course by region

Table A.20 How heard about the course by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey															
		Region												Priority 4			
		Priority 1						Yorkshire and the Humber						Merseyside	South Yorkshire	Cornwall	Total
How heard about course	%	East of England		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Merseyside	South Yorkshire	Cornwall	Total
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
From a job centre	82	80	79	83	87	74	66	90	53	67	61	64					
From a college/school	2	2	2	1	4	4	3	3	3	3	5	4					
From a youth offending team/ probation courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0					0
From another local community organisation	2	7	5	4	6	5	7	1	10	10	11	6					
From a friend/ family member	4	2	4	3	4	4	6	3	10	7	5	5					
From an advert	3	4	2	1	1	2	5	0	3	2	3	2					
From an employer	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	2	9					
Other	7	5	7	7	4	10	11	2	16	10	13	9					
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	385	498	405	368	883	462	636	443	557	456	1,047	6,548					

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.21 How heard about the course by region, within priority

How heard about course	ESF Cohort Survey															
	Region												Priority 4		Total %	
	Priority 1				Yorkshire and the Humber				South Yorkshire				Merseyside %	Cornwall %		
East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	South Yorkshire %	Merseyside %	Cornwall %			
From a job centre	4		1	2	4	1	12	2	4	0	0	4	3		64	
From a college/school	4	12	7	1	21	12	4	1	10	1			10		4	
From a youth offending team/probation courts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
From another local community organisation	5	9	2	3	5	9	10		6	3			7		6	
From a friend/family member	5	10	3	1	7	4	6	2	13	2			10		5	
From an advert	4	8	2	1	2	2	3	3	4	1			4		2	
From an employer	59	46	76	67	49	55	48	90	46	86			49		9	
Other	19	16	9	26	12	17	18	2	16	7			16		9	
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	464	64	160	185	797	338	477	69	657	312			497		4,346	

Missing values have been excluded.

A.9 Expectations and experiences by region

Table A.22 Expectations and experiences of the course by region, within priority

Expectations	ESF Cohort Survey															
	Region															Total %
	Priority 1					Yorkshire and the Humber					Priority 4					
East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	Yorkshire %	South %	Cornwall %	Total %			
Improve skills needed at work	66	66	66	69	71	60	67	71	68	77	75	67	72			
Provide me with qualifications	50	43	42	53	52	43	44	49	53	60	47	50	55			
Improve my self-confidence about working	64	69	67	65	73	60	68	66	67	70	78	68	70			
Give me practical help in finding a job	82	78	76	83	85	72	73	80	80	84	83	73	78			
None of these	5	11	14	9	8	10	14	10	11	3	6	10	8			

Continued

Table A.22 Continued

		ESF Cohort Survey																					
		Region																					
		Priority 1						Priority 4															
Expectations	%	East of England		East Midlands		North		South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and the Humber		Merseyside		South Yorkshire		Cornwall		Total	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Experiences of the course																							
Gaining or improving skills need for work	64	62	68	64	64	70	54	60	64	64	62	76	77	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69	69
Gaining or improving self-confidence about working	66	70	66	69	73	64	65	68	68	64	72	80	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70
Gaining practical help in finding a job	69	70	62	75	69	56	58	59	59	73	66	73	51	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
None of these	15	15	15	13	13	13	22	21	20	17	11	9	17	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	385	493	408	367	886	406	460	636	636	441	556	458	1,046	6,542	6,542	6,542	6,542	6,542	6,542	6,542	6,542	6,542	6,542

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.23 Expectations and experiences of the course by region, within priority

Expectations	ESF Cohort Survey															
	Region															Total %
	Priority 2					Yorkshire and the Humber					Priority 5					
East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	West %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	Cornwall %	Priority 5 %	Total %		
Improve skills needed at work	81	97	84	73	93	90	85	74	93	73	79	72				
Provide me with qualifications	75	87	87	81	99	73	82	92	86	91	82	55				
Improve my self-confidence about working	66	82	71	66	87	74	72	63	80	63	65	70				
Give me practical help in finding a job	60	71	57	53	78	54	82	60	68	63	59	78				
None of these	3		5	6	0	2	1	5	2	3	4	8				

Continued

Table A.23 Continued

Expectations	ESF Cohort Survey																												
	Region													Total %															
	East of England %		London %		East Midlands %		North East %		North West %		South East %		South West %		West Midlands %		Yorkshire and the Humber %		Merseyside %		South Yorkshire %		Cornwall %						
Experiences of the course	88	91	87	78	92	89	91	87	78	93	82	87	69	31	41	9	78	75	68	85	77	74	71	81	70	71	87	69	
Gaining or improving skills need for work																													
Gaining or improving self-confidence about working	73	78	75	68	85	74	77	71	68	81	70	71	70	31	41	9	78	75	68	85	77	74	71	81	70	71	87	69	
Gaining practical help in finding a job	31	41	9	78	75	68	85	77	71	68	81	70	70	31	41	9	78	75	68	85	77	74	71	81	70	71	87	69	
None of these	9	9	7	15	5	8	5	9	11	3	12	10	14	9	9	7	15	5	8	5	9	11	3	12	10	14	14	14	
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	464	63	160	185	799	326	338	481	69	656	311	497	4,349	464	63	160	185	799	326	338	481	69	656	311	497	4,349	4,349	4,349	

Missing values have been excluded.

A.10 Satisfaction with the course by region

Table A.24 Satisfaction with the course by region, within priority

Satisfaction	ESF Cohort Survey													
	Region													Total %
	Priority 1				Yorkshire and the Humber				Priority 4					
East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	Corwall %	Priority 4 %	Total %	
Not relevant to needs	28	29	22	26	20	27	31	32	16	15	20	22		
Relevant to needs	72	71	78	74	80	73	69	68	84	85	80	78		
Too basic	49	48	36	47	38	40	42	52	36	35	28	39		
About right	48	47	61	48	56	57	52	46	61	59	69	57		
Too advanced	3	5	4	5	6	3	6	2	4	6	3	4		
Very or fairly satisfied	62	65	70	65	77	73	70	63	77	80	79	73		
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	16	11	11	9	9	9	10	8	6	10	10		
Fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	29	19	18	24	14	17	21	26	15	14	11	17		
<i>Unweighted base</i>	384	495	410	370	888	461	634	445	558	457	1,046	6,556		

Missing values have been excluded.

Table A.25 Satisfaction with the course by region, within priority

Satisfaction	ESF Cohort Survey															
	Region															
	Priority 2															
	East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	Yorkshire and the Humber %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	South West %	Priority 5 Cornwall %	Total %		
Not relevant to needs	10	9	11	8	6	11	11	14	18	9	16	11	22			
Relevant to needs	90	91	89	92	94	89	86	82	91	84	89	89	78			
Too basic	18	25	17	18	20	23	17	23	17	17	19	21	39			
About right	78	70	76	80	78	74	79	77	82	77	77	75	57			
Too advanced	4	5	7	2	2	4	4	1	1	4	4	4	4			
Very or fairly satisfied	91	88	88	94	91	90	91	89	90	89	89	89	73			
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	3	9	3	5	5	5	9	5	4	7	7	10			
Fairly dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	3	9	3	4	4	6	4	2	5	7	4	4	17			
Unweighted base	464	64	158	185	798	327	481	69	656	311	498	4,348				

Missing values have been excluded.

A.11 Awareness of ESF by region

Table 6.26 Awareness of ESF by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey											
		Region											
		Priority 1						Yorkshire and the Humber			Priority 4		
Awareness	East of England %	East Midlands		North East		North West		West Midlands %	Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	Cornwall %	Total %	
		London %	Midlands %	East %	South %	West %	East %						West %
Aware of ESF	37	29	25	31	28	22	30	33	26	35	36	46	
Not aware of ESF	63	71	75	69	72	78	70	67	74	65	64	54	
<i>Unweighted base</i>	385	496	408	370	884	464	637	445	558	457	1,043	6,555	

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 6.27 Awareness of ESF by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey																	
		Region												Priority 5					
		Priority 2						Yorkshire and the Humber						Cornwall					
Awareness	%	East of England		North East		North West		South East		South West		West Midlands		Merseyside		South Yorkshire		Total	
		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%	
Aware of ESF	61	70	51	42	35	50	63	58	40	41	44	53	46						
Not aware of ESF	39	30	49	58	65	50	37	42	60	59	56	47	54						
<i>Unweighted base</i>	462	63	160	185	797	327	338	477	69	653	312	498	4,341						

Missing values have been excluded.

A.12 Whether studying towards qualifications by region

Table 6.28 Whether studying towards qualifications by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey											
Whether studying towards qualifications	%	Region											
		Priority 1						Yorkshire and the Humber			Priority 4		
		East of England	London	East Midlands	North East	North West	South West	West Midlands	Merseyside	Yorkshire	South	Cornwall	Total
No qualifications studied	26	24	30	38	29	28	30	39	39	32	33	62	
Any qualifications studied	74	76	70	62	71	72	70	61	61	68	67	38	
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	381	494	405	370	881	458	633	443	558	452	1,050	6,533	

Missing values have been excluded.

Table 6.29 Whether studying towards qualifications by region, within priority

		ESF Cohort Survey													
		Region										Priority 5			
Whether studying towards qualifications	%	Priority 2					Yorkshire and the Humber					Merseyside %	South Yorkshire %	Cornwall %	Total %
		East of England %	London %	East Midlands %	North East %	North West %	South East %	South West %	West Midlands %	West %	Yorkshire and the Humber %				
No qualifications studied	59	72	69	64	88	73	63	57	77	79	75	74	62		
Any qualifications studied	41	28	31	36	12	27	37	43	23	21	25	26	38		
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	463	64	158	185	793	324	337	478	69	654	312	499	4,336		

Missing values have been excluded.

Appendix B

Response rates

As shown in the Table B.1, from the 36,023 cases issued, a total of 10,947 interviews were achieved, comprising of 10,747 telephone and 200 face-to-face interviews. The proportion of achieved interviews, when calculated from the issued sample was 30 per cent. The response rate based on in-scope cases (i.e. total eligible cases assuming that all non contacts were eligible) was 34 per cent. Fieldwork took place between 16 April and 7 October 2009.

Table B.1 Response outcomes for all issued cases

Response outcomes	Number	Percentage of issued cases	Percentage of in-scope cases
Total issued	36,023	100	
Total ineligible respondents	3,862	11	
Total eligible (in-scope addresses)	32,161	89	100
Total direct contact	1,347	4	4
Total non contact	15,145	42	47
Total refusals	3,779	10	12
Total other unproductive	815	2	3
Total face-to-face unproductive	128	0	0
Total interviews	10,947	30	34

Missing values have been excluded.

In 2008, NatCen was commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to carry out a large scale longitudinal quantitative survey with two waves of interviews. The survey is designed to evaluate the longer term outcomes of the training and advice provided through the European Social Fund (ESF) programme. It will also be used to measure a number of indicators and targets that cannot be captured through respondent monitoring information.

Wave 1 of the ESF Cohort Study took place between April and September 2009, and included interviews with 10,947 ESF and match participants. Most participants were interviewed by phone, although a small number of face-to-face interviews took place with more vulnerable respondents.

This report contains the findings of Wave 1 of the ESF Cohort Study 2008-2010.

The evaluation was part-funded by European Social Fund technical assistance under the 2007-2013 England and Gibraltar ESF programme evaluation strategy.

For more information see www.esf.gov.uk

If you would like to know more about DWP research, please contact:
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<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp>