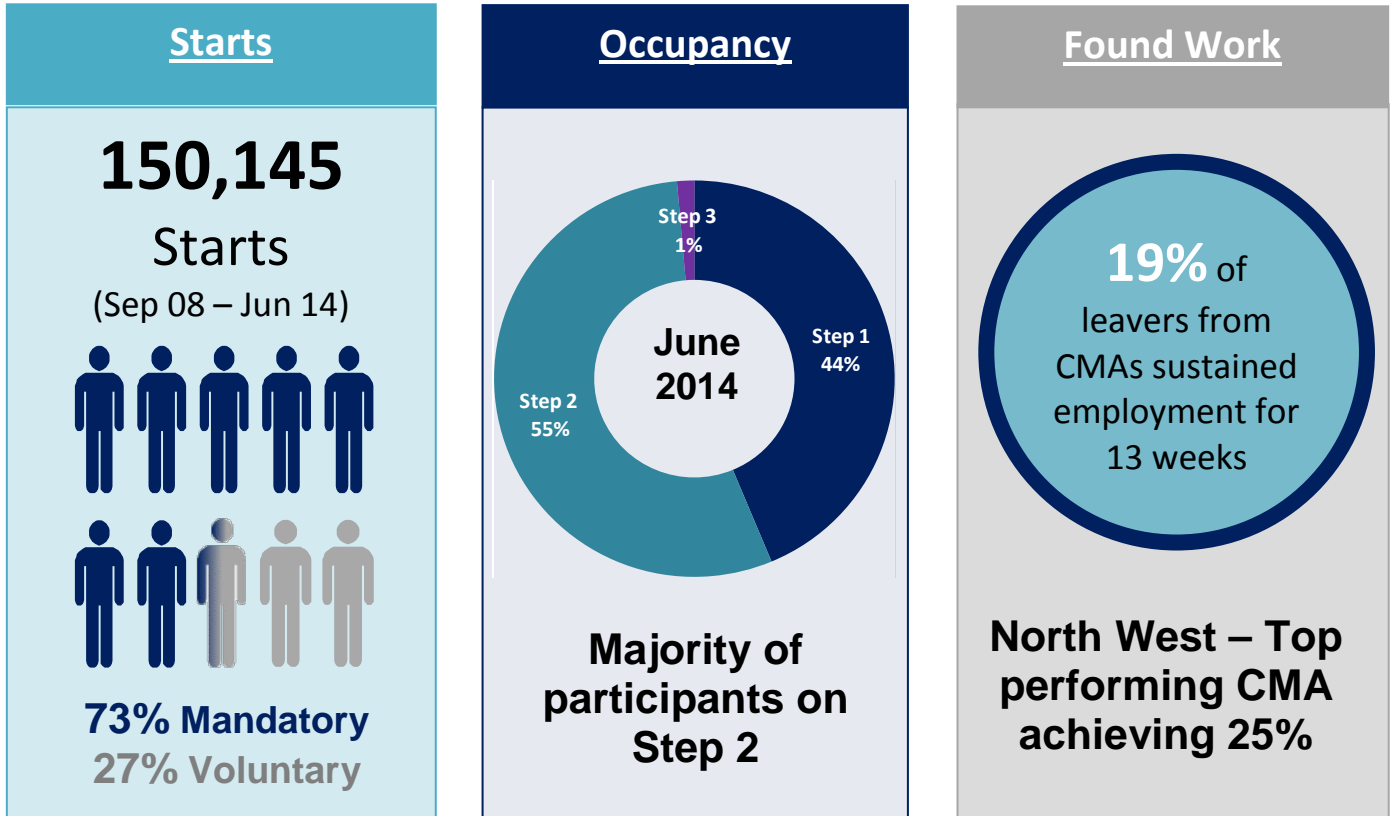


# Steps to Work Statistical Factsheet

Northern Ireland Statistics from September 2008 to June 2014

Steps to Work (StW) is the Department for Employment and Learning's (DEL) main return to work programme. The aim of the programme is to assist people who are unemployed or economically inactive to find and sustain employment. Participation in StW is mandatory for all long-term Jobseeker's Allowance claimants. Access is also available to participants on a voluntary basis. For further information on programme design see user guidance. This factsheet and associated tables provide key statistics on starts, leavers, occupancy and [Contract Management Areas \(CMA\)](#).



## Starts

StW will be replaced by DEL's new employment programme Steps 2 Success later this year, therefore referrals onto StW ended on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (with the exception of the Employer Subsidy strand). Since the inception of StW in September 2008 up to June 2014 a total of 150,145 participants started the programme. As shown above the majority of starts are mandatory (73%). There is also a large proportion of starts in the under 25 category which can be partially explained by the fact that those aged 18-24 are eligible for StW after only 6 months, compared with 18 months for those aged 25 and over.

The latest financial year recorded the highest number of participants starting the programme with 30,920 starts.

## Occupancy

Occupancy is the number of participants on each stage of the programme at a point in time.

At the end of June 2014 there were a total of 10,755 participants on the programme, a decrease from 14,945 for the same period last year. This is due to the fact that referrals onto the programme stopped in May 2014. The majority of participants (55%) were on Step 2 at end of June 2014. The Back to Work and Employer Subsidy strands continue to be the most popular accounting for almost 50% of participants who are on Step 2.

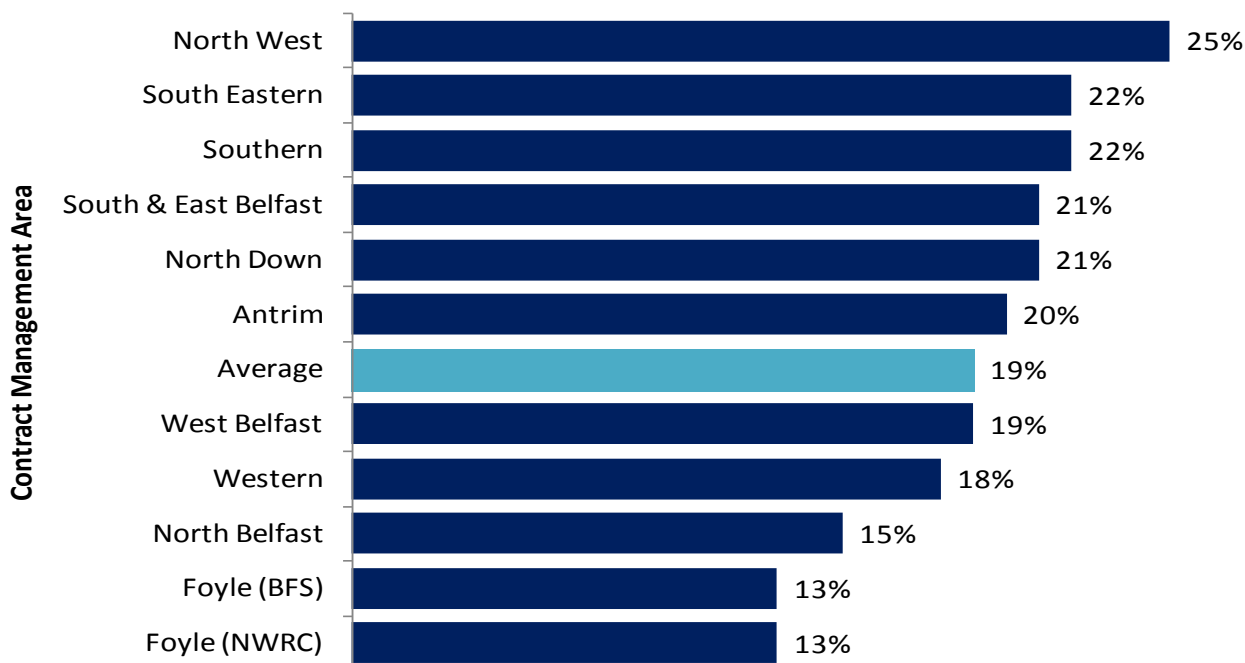
## Immediate Destination on Leaving Step 1

The immediate destination on leaving Step 1 refers to a participant's destination within 14 days of leaving Step 1 of the programme. In the latest quarter, (Apr-Jun 2014) 8,035 participants left Step 1 with a higher than average proportion of participants returning to benefits. Over a third of participants progressed onto Step 2 of the programme where they can avail of further support. The most popular provision within Step 2 remains the Back to Work strand accounting for 76% of participants moving onto Step 2. Further information on Step 2 strands can be found within the User Guidance.

## Contract Management Areas

Step 2 strands (Excluding Employer Subsidy) are delivered by Lead Contractors in 10 Contract Management Areas (CMAs) across Northern Ireland. From April 2011 (when contracts were renewed) to September 2013, 24% of participants who left Step 2 moved into employment (subsidised or unsubsidised), with 19% of leavers sustaining that employment for 13 weeks. Figure 2 shows how this varies between CMAs with North West remaining the highest achieving CMA and Foyle showing the lowest proportion of participants moving into employment for 13 weeks.

Figure 2: Percentage of participants who moved from StW Step 2 into unsubsidised or subsidised employment sustained for 13 weeks by CMA (Apr 11 to Dec 13)



1. For Antrim and South & East Belfast CMAs the new contracts were awarded in June 2011 therefore figures are from the date the new contracts were awarded. StW only commenced in Foyle (NWRC) in July 2011. Subsequently a new contract was awarded in Foyle in October 2012 and this is presented separately as Foyle (BFS).

## Sustained 26 Weeks

From April 2011 to September 2013, 84% of all participants who moved from Step 2 into sustained employment remained in employment for a further 13 weeks i.e. at least 26 weeks in total. Foyle (BFS) record the highest figure for sustaining employment for 26 weeks at 89%.

## Further Information

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