



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Youth Contract Official Statistics: April 2012 to November 2014

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Summary

1. The Youth Contract is a cross-Government package of support launched in April 2012 across Great Britain as a response to high youth unemployment during the recession. It provides help and support through a range of programmes, primarily targeted at 18- to 24-year-olds. Further information about the Youth Contract is available in the policy descriptions and on <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/youth-contract/>
2. This publication contains official statistics on Youth Contract work experience and sector-based work academies up to and including November 2014. On Youth Contract Wage Incentive job starts it includes management information up to and including August 2014. A separate Excel file is available which contains copies of these tables and geographical breakdowns of total starts on work experience and sector-based work academies. There is currently no update available on Wage Incentives payment experimental statistics while data is undergoing quality assurance. This data will be released as soon as it is available in a separate publication.
3. The Youth Contract provides funding for an extra 250,000 work experience or sector-based work academy places for 18- to 24-year-olds from April 2012. While not funded by the Youth Contract, under-18s and over-25s can also take part in work experience and sector-based work academies where local funding and availability exists. To give a view of overall performance of the programmes, all starts are outlined in **Annex A**.
4. Work experience consists of a 2-to-8 week placement with a host employer. It aims to provide young people with work-related experience and skills, and can be a route into an apprenticeship. Between April 2012 and November 2014 there have been 198,080 starts to a work experience placement by 18- to 24-year-olds.
5. Sector-based work academies are made up of pre-employment training, work experience placements and a guaranteed job interview. From April 2012 up to and including November 2014 there have been 83,530 starts on sector-based work academy pre-employment training by 18- to 24-year-olds.
6. Wage Incentives were a temporary measure to encourage employers to offer sustained paid employment to young people during the recession. They could be claimed by employers that recruited young people who had been unemployed for more than six months. The incentive was paid after the young person had remained in work for 26 weeks. Small employers could choose to receive an interim incentive payment when a young person had completed eight weeks of employment. A balance payment was received when the young person completed the remaining 18 weeks employment. Between April 2012 and August 2014 there have been 116,140 Wage Incentive job starts, where a job start represents a form having been issued to an employer for taking on an eligible young person. Payment data will be published shortly in a separate publication.
7. The publication timetable for Youth Contract measures is outlined in **Annex B**.

Official Statistics

Table 1: Take up of Youth Contract measures by month (18- to 24-year-olds)

	Work Experience starts	Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts
Total	198,080	83,530
Apr-2012	4,030	1,310
May-2012	4,460	1,510
Jun-2012	3,460	1,280
Jul-2012	4,790	1,900
Aug-2012	4,000	1,730
Sep-2012	4,550	1,830
Oct-2012	6,360	2,240
Nov-2012	5,410	1,910
Dec-2012	2,990	860
Jan-2013	4,750	1,990
Feb-2013	5,160	2,310
Mar-2013	4,800	2,300
Apr-2013	5,110	2,320
May-2013	4,700	2,010
Jun-2013	4,300	2,250
Jul-2013	5,650	2,640
Aug-2013	4,510	2,040
Sep-2013	5,740	2,800
Oct-2013	7,450	3,130
Nov-2013	7,960	3,320
Dec-2013	5,180	1,470
Jan-2014	8,060	3,210
Feb-2014	9,240	4,060
Mar-2014	9,910	4,210
Apr-2014	7,400	2,860
May-2014	7,890	3,400
Jun-2014	9,250	4,640
Jul-2014	8,200	3,810
Aug-2014	7,070	3,100
Sep-2014	9,020	4,300
Oct-2014	8,510	3,570
Nov-2014	8,200	3,240

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Due to rounding totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

The Youth Contract was rolled out in April 2012. Prior to this, work experience and sector-based work academies were funded as part of Get Britain Working, which came to an end in March 2013. Between April 2012 and March 2013, funding for young people could be from either source.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database December 2014.

Table 2: Demographic breakdown of Youth Contract starts (18- to 24-year-olds) for the period April 2012 to November 2014

		Work Experience starts	Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts
	Total	198,080	83,530
Gender	Male	112,740	54,230
	Female	85,340	29,300
Disability ¹	Yes	27,590	10,240
	No	170,500	73,280
Ethnicity ²	White	160,850	66,340
	Black or Black British	8,430	4,880
	Asian or Asian British	12,840	5,360
	Mixed	4,130	2,250
	Other/ Chinese	2,840	1,160
	Unknown	8,990	3,520
Region	North East	12,360	6,900
	North West	25,360	11,600
	Yorkshire and The Humber	22,140	9,470
	East Midlands	14,760	7,390
	West Midlands	22,940	9,560
	East	13,640	6,480
	London	24,540	11,530
	South East	17,060	6,780
	South West	12,620	4,150
	Wales	12,310	-
	Scotland	18,280	8,550
	Unknown	2,090	1,130

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding.

The Youth Contract was rolled out in April 2012. Prior to this, work experience and sector-based work academies were funded as part of Get Britain Working, which came to an end in March 2013. Between April 2012 and March 2013, funding for young people could be from either source.

Universal Credit was rolled out in the North West from June 2014. As a result, geographical breakdowns will show a small undercount in the North West region.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities and DWP Clients evaluation databases December 2014.

1. Disability status is declared by the Jobseeker during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Disability status is according to the claimant's own assessment.

2: Claimants recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown.

Management Information

Table 3: Number of Youth Contract Wage Incentive job starts by month

	YC Wage Incentive Job Starts
Total	116,140
Apr-2012	480
May-2012	710
Jun-2012	820
Jul-2012	1,040
Aug-2012	1,020
Sep-2012	1,110
Oct-2012	1,340
Nov-2012	1,190
Dec-2012	880
Jan-2013	1,150
Feb-2013	2,000
Mar-2013	2,660
Apr-2013	2,720
May-2013	4,240
Jun-2013	4,340
Jul-2013	5,750
Aug-2013	6,130
Sep-2013	7,560
Oct-2013	8,170
Nov-2013	7,430
Dec-2013	4,400
Jan-2014	5,290
Feb-2014	6,340
Mar-2014	8,010
Apr-2014	6,710
May-2014	7,630
Jun-2014	7,070
Jul-2014	6,620
Aug-2014	3,330

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding.

A job start is represented by the date a form is issued to an employer when an individual eligible for a Wage Incentive starts a job (full or part time).

Wage Incentives ended in August 2014. Consequently there have been no new job starts after August 2014.

Data Source: Management Information (from Work Programme providers and Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System)

Experimental Statistics

Table 4: Number of Youth Contract Wage Incentive payments by month (Table not updated since August 2014 publication)

	8 week interim payments	Between 14 & 25 weeks payments	18 week balance payments	26 week full payments	Individuals for whom a payment had been made
Total	8,550	2,010	3,750	9,660	20,030
Jun-2012	20	0	0	0	20
Jul-2012	70	0	0	0	70
Aug-2012	170	0	0	0	170
Sep-2012	140	10	0	0	150
Oct-2012	370	40	20	10	410
Nov-2012	160	40	100	110	300
Dec-2012	180	50	80	190	410
Jan-2013	220	80	130	380	660
Feb-2013	270	80	110	340	670
Mar-2013	190	70	120	420	670
Apr-2013	240	70	120	350	640
May-2013	240	40	130	290	570
Jun-2013	380	30	80	370	770
Jul-2013	450	50	90	270	760
Aug-2013	470	60	50	210	730
Sep-2013	460	50	110	240	740
Oct-2013	590	70	180	430	1,090
Nov-2013	620	100	240	530	1,230
Dec-2013	420	90	180	430	920
Jan-2014	730	150	260	680	1,550
Feb-2014	560	190	380	860	1,600
Mar-2014	700	350	430	1,350	2,380
Apr-2014	440	220	370	1,090	1,740
May-2014	500	190	580	1,110	1,790

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding.

The data are split by 26 week full payments, 8 week interim payments, 18 week balance payments and payments between 14 and 25 weeks. Note that 8 week interim payments could not be made until June 2012, 14 and 25 week payments until September 2012, 18 week balance payments and 26 week full payments until October 2012.

The final column - the number of individuals for whom a payment had been made - is the sum of 26 week full payments and 8 week interim payments and payments between 14 and 25 weeks where there has not been a previous 8 week interim payment.

For details of Wage Incentive payments, see the policy description.

Data Source: Wage Incentive transactions payments data (from Work Programme and Jobcentre Plus)

Policy Description

The Youth Contract is a flexible package of support launched in April 2012 as a response to high levels of youth unemployment during the recession. It aims to support young unemployed people to move close to the labour market and gain sustained employment through a range of programmes, in addition to existing support.

Work experience

8. Work experience was launched in January 2011 and is primarily designed to help young people aged 18 to 24 with little or no work experience gain the experience they need to secure a job before they become eligible for the Work Programme. Jobcentre Plus works with employers to offer young jobseekers the opportunity to overcome barriers to employment through offering them a work experience placement lasting two to eight weeks.
9. Young people undertaking a work experience placement continue to receive their benefit and are expected to look for permanent work. There is also the opportunity for some participants to have their placement extended by up to four weeks, where an employer makes an offer to take them onto an Apprenticeship.

Sector-based work academies

10. Sector-based work academies offer pre-employment training, work experience placements and a guaranteed job interview for recipients of Jobseeker's Allowance, Universal Credit (all work-related requirements group) or Employment and Support Allowance (Work-Related Activity Group), aged 18 years or over. Sector-based work academies are developed in partnership with employers and run in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies. The scheme was introduced from 1 August 2011 in England and from 30 January 2012 in Scotland.

Wage Incentive

11. Wage incentives were a time limited element of the Youth Contract to encourage employers to offer employment opportunities to young people during the recession. The last claim forms were issued to employers on 6 August 2014 to allow final incentive payments for employing an 18-24 year old for six months by March 2015.
12. Initially, the eligibility for Wage Incentives was restricted to all 18 to 24-year-olds attached to the Work Programme (regardless of benefit claimed). From July 2012, eligibility was extended to all 18 to 24-year-old Jobcentre Plus claimants who had reached six months on benefit in 20 hot-spot areas; this eligibility was expanded nationwide to all Jobcentres from 17 December 2012.
13. The Wage Incentive was available for employment of 16 hours or more per week. When an eligible young person started a job and it was expected that the job would

last 26 weeks, the Work Programme provider or Jobcentre Plus issued a Wage Incentive claim form to the employer (a job start). The Wage Incentive was then paid to the employer after the young person had remained in work for 26 weeks (26 week full payment).

14. Payments could be for full time and part time work: the part-time rate (£1,137.50) was for employment of between 16 and 29 hours a week; the full-time rate (£2,275) was for 30 hours or more a week.
15. An employer with fewer than 50 employees could choose to receive a first £700 Wage Incentive payment (halved for part-time work) when a young person had completed eight weeks of employment (8 week interim payment). The remaining balance was then received when the young person had completed the remaining 18 weeks employment (18 week balance payment).
16. The employer was paid half of the Wage Incentive payment if an employee left work after 13 weeks but before 26 weeks had been completed (14-25 week payment). Fixed-term appointments could also attract a Wage Incentive payment where they meet the eligibility criteria and the job was expected to last for at least 26 weeks.
17. Work Programme providers and Jobcentre Plus staff were responsible for identifying 18- to 24-year-olds who could benefit from Wage Incentives, ensuring jobs are eligible and for marketing the incentive to employers. The DWP administered the incentive payments and paid them directly to employers.

Technical Overview

18. These statistics are derived using a combination of data from the Jobcentre Plus claimant management systems (the Labour Market System) and the Client database.
19. Information on demographics is obtained by merging data across these separate administrative systems which sometimes results in unknown values. This is because either we are unable to find a match or the information has not been recorded for the particular claimant.
20. The Labour Market System does not distinguish between Youth Contract and Get Britain Working funding. For these tables, 18- to 24-year-olds from April 2012 onwards are assumed to be Youth Contract-funded.
21. Universal Credit was rolled out in the North West from June 2014 to November 2014. As a result, geographical breakdowns will show an undercount in the North West region. Further information on Universal Credit statistics and rollout volumes can be found using the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/universal-credit-statistics>

22. Every effort has been made to ensure that the quality of these statistics is of the highest standard. However, it may be necessary to revise the statistics in subsequent publications when more complete data becomes available, particularly for more recent months.

Work experience

23. A work experience start is defined as the date the claimant accepted their work experience placement with the employer. This is input by an adviser to the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System.

Sector-based work academies

24. A start is defined as the first date the claimant attended sector-based work academy pre-employment training. The number of starts was based on the individual claimant level data supplied by Further Education Colleges or training providers and entered by an adviser onto the Jobcentre Plus' Labour Market System. Further Education Colleges and training providers may submit data on starts some time after the actual event occurred.

Wage Incentives

25. Wage Incentive statistics will be provided as experimental statistics based on management information. The quality and reliability of experimental statistics is less certain than official statistics which have undergone more rigorous quality assurance processes. Due to delays in the compilation of the underlying dataset, it is not possible to include updated experimental statistics for Wage Incentive payments in this publication; these will be published shortly in a separate publication.

26. Job starts data (Table 3) rely on a combination of clerical counts of forms issued from Work Programme providers and input of a marker on the Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System by an adviser when a Wage Incentive claim form is issued for an individual. Given the clerical aspect to their collation, some caution needs to be attached to these figures.

27. Table 4 shows the number of Youth Contract Wage Incentive payments paid to employers each month from between June 2012 up to the end of May 2014. This table has not been updated since the August 2014 publication. The data are collated from a database of payment transactions. The number of payments is combined for eligible young people who had either gained employment from being on the Work Programme or identified as eligible by Jobcentre Plus.

Retrospection

28. Retrospection refers to the time period allowed for additional or updated information to be incorporated into DWP's data systems.
29. Work coaches may submit, correct or resubmit data relevant to a mentor or allowance start some time after the actual event occurred. This means that the data presented in each release is subject to some retrospection, and figures may be revised in subsequent releases.
30. Labour Market System (LMS) datasets are produced with a month delay. For example: data for September 2014 was available at the end of October 2014. Generally we see significant retrospection in the last reported month of the latest LMS dataset (to use the same example: we see significant retrospection in the data for September 2014, which was released at the end of October 2014).
31. Therefore, to ensure the data published in these Official Statistics are accurate and will not be subject to significant change in the future, the statistics are published 2 to 3 months after the reference period. That is: Statistics for September 2014 are produced using October 2014 data rather than September 2014 data. This method ensures accuracy of the data for September 2014, bypassing the retrospection we would have seen for September if the initial September data 2014 were used. The October 2014 data was released at the end of November 2014 and the Official Statistics are subsequently published in December 2014.

Revisions Policy

32. In accordance with Principle 2 of the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics¹, statistics within this publication adhere to DWP's statistics revisions policy, which explains how we will make revisions and inform users of our statistics when they occur:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions/series/dwp-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

Rounding Policy

33. To reduce the risk of inferring the identity of a claimant from these statistics and other statistics, values are rounded to the nearest ten. Values less than ten, including zeros, are suppressed and marked with a dash. Therefore totals may not equal the sum of the individual cells.

¹ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-official-statistics.pdf>

Annex A: Work experience and sector-based work academy starts (all starts)

Table 5: Take up of work experience and sector-based work academies by month for all ages

	Work Experience starts	Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts
Total	300,290	169,330
Jan-Mar 2011	1,490	
Apr-Jun 2011	6,730	
Jul-Sep 2011	13,180	1,210
Oct-Dec 2011	16,510	2,880
Jan-Mar 2012	17,220	5,660
Apr-Jun 2012	14,490	8,480
Jul-Sep 2012	16,530	11,050
Oct-Dec 2012	18,250	9,770
Jan-Mar 2013	19,680	13,650
Apr-Jun 2013	19,100	14,500
Jul-Sep 2013	20,550	15,930
Oct-Dec 2013	24,880	14,820
Jan-2014	9,600	5,990
Feb-2014	10,680	6,930
Mar-2014	11,610	7,430
Apr-2014	8,690	5,110
May-2014	9,230	5,740
Jun-2014	10,710	8,150
Jul-2014	9,590	6,610
Aug-2014	8,430	5,680
Sep-2014	11,130	7,740
Oct-2014	10,960	6,120
Nov-2014	11,060	5,880

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Due to rounding totals may not be the sum of the individual cells. Months are calendar months.

This table includes all starts on the work experience and sector-based work academy schemes from the rollout of Get Britain Working. Funding may come from Get Britain Working (Jan 2011-Mar 2013) or Youth Contract (Apr 2012-present; 18-24 only). From April 2013, non-Youth Contract places are funded from Jobcentre Plus day-to-day expenses and are managed locally.

To provide a view of overall take-up of the schemes, and to allow comparison with the Get Britain Working publication series, individuals that appear in Table 1 also appear in this table.

Work experience started in January 2011. Sector-based work academies started in August 2011 in England and from 30th January 2012 in Scotland. They are not available in Wales.

Starts for 2011 to 2013 are shown as quarters in this table. Their monthly breakdown can be found in the accompanying spread sheet and the Get Britain Working series.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities evaluation database December 2014.

Table 6: Demographic breakdown of all starts for the period January 2011 to November 2014

		Work Experience starts	Sector based work academy pre-employment training starts
	Total	300,290	169,330
Gender	Male	168,720	108,880
	Female	131,580	60,440
Age Group ¹	<18	750	90
	18-24	247,020	88,440
	25-49	43,840	65,460
	50+	8,650	15,330
Disability ²	Yes	53,000	31,210
	No	247,290	138,110
Ethnicity	White	245,910	135,340
	Black or Black British	13,270	11,690
	Asian or Asian British	18,000	9,270
	Mixed	6,060	3,950
	Other/ Chinese	4,190	2,570
	Unknown	12,870	6,510
Region	North East	17,580	15,560
	North West	36,350	26,560
	Yorkshire and The Humber	31,660	17,390
	East Midlands	23,520	15,220
	West Midlands	35,360	19,820
	East	21,890	12,380
	London	35,030	21,540
	South East	28,920	13,710
	South West	20,220	9,230
	Wales	18,330	-
	Scotland	27,700	15,700
	Unknown	3,730	2,210

Notes: Values are rounded to the nearest 10. Values less than 10 are suppressed and marked with a dash. Totals may not be the sum of the individual cells due to rounding.

This table includes all starts on the work experience and sector-based work academy schemes from the rollout of Get Britain Working. Funding may come from Get Britain Working (Jan 2011-Mar 2013) or Youth Contract (Apr 2012-present; 18-24 only). From April 2013, non-Youth Contract places are funded from Jobcentre Plus day-to-day expenses and are managed locally.

To provide a view of overall take-up of the schemes, and to allow comparison with the Get Britain Working publication series, individuals that appear in Table 2 also appear in this table.

Work experience started in January 2011. Sector-based work academies started in August 2011 in England and from 30th January 2012 in Scotland. They are not available in Wales.

Universal Credit was rolled out in the North West from June 2014. As a result, geographical breakdowns will show a small undercount in the North West region.

Data Source - DWP LMS opportunities and DWP Clients evaluation databases December 2014.

1. Disability status is declared by the Jobseeker during a Jobcentre Plus interview. Disability status is according to the claimant's own assessment.

2. Claimants recording their ethnicity status as "prefer not to say" are categorised as unknown.

Annex B: Publication Timetable

Publication	Date	Notes
1 st	Tuesday 25 th February 2014	The first publication covering Youth Contract starts
2 nd	Thursday 28 th August 2014	The second Youth Contract publication
3 rd	Wednesday 25 th February 2015	The third Youth Contract publication
4 th	August 2015	The fourth Youth Contract publication

Publication dates and content will be confirmed on the Government Statistics: release calendar website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>) at least four weeks before publication date.

For general enquiries regarding Pre-Work programme measures please visit the DWP website: www.gov.uk/dwp or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

Starts on work experience and sector-based work academy were previously included in the Get Britain Working series. This series is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working>

Wage Incentive data has previously been released as management information and experimental statistics:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224573/Wage_Incentive_payment_adhoc_released.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224572/Wage_Incentive_job_starts_adhoc_released.pdf

Contact Details

For general enquiries regarding Get Britain Working Measures please visit the DWP website: www.dwp.gov.uk or contact the DWP press office on 0203 267 5144.

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