

Steps 2 Success Statistical Fact Sheet

Northern Ireland Statistics from October 2014 to March 2015

Date of Publication:

30th June 2015

Frequency of Publication:

Quarterly

Issued by:

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The Department for Employment and Learning's (DEL) new employment programme, Steps 2 Success (S2S), commenced on 20th October 2014. S2S replaced the Steps to Work (StW) programme which stopped taking referrals on 30th May 2014. The aim of the programme is to assist people, who are unemployed or economically inactive, to find and sustain employment. Participation on S2S is mandatory for all long-term Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) claimants. Access is also available for certain Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) claimants and to claimants of a number of other benefits. For further information on programme design see [user guidance](#).

This factsheet with associated tables is the first quarterly statistical release of S2S data. They provide key statistics on the number of referrals and starts to the programme. It is planned that statistics relating to employment outcomes will be published during Spring 2016.

Referrals and Starts by Client Category

From the inception of S2S on 20th October 2014 to 31st March 2015 there have been 21,519 referrals made to the programme; four fifths (17,247) of which started the programme within the same period.

Almost three quarters (73%) of all those clients who started S2S fell into the JSA 25+ category, another 19% fell into the JSA 18-24 category and the remaining 8% of clients were from the JSA Early Entry, ESA and Voluntary categories.

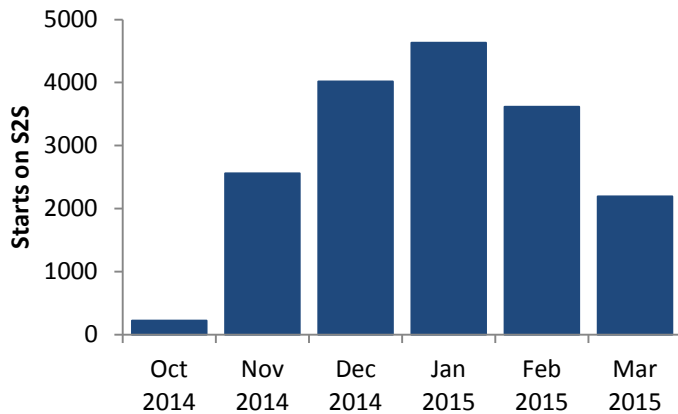
Figure 1: Number of Referrals to Steps 2 Success and Starts by Client Category (October 2014 to March 2015)



Starts by Month

As shown in Figure 2, January 2015 saw the highest volume of clients starting the programme (4,633) whilst, excluding October 2014, March 2015 saw the lowest volume to date. The large numbers experienced in the first few months was due to the phased referral of clients who became eligible for the programme before it started. See [user guidance](#) for full details.

Figure 2: Number of Starts on Steps 2 Success by Month (October 2014 to March 2015)



Starts by Area

The number of clients starting the S2S programme since its inception has been distributed fairly equally across each of the three contract areas with 6,237 (36%) starts in the Northern region, 5,633 (33%) in the Belfast region and 5,377 (31%) in the Southern Region. However analysing the number of starts on S2S at district council level shows a much greater level of variation (as shown in Figure 4 below) with clients living in the Belfast council area accounting for 23% (3,895) of all starts, whilst those clients living in the Lisburn & Castlereagh council area only accounting for 4% (652) of starts.

Figure 4: Number of Starts on Steps 2 Success by District Council of Residence (October 2014 to March 2015)

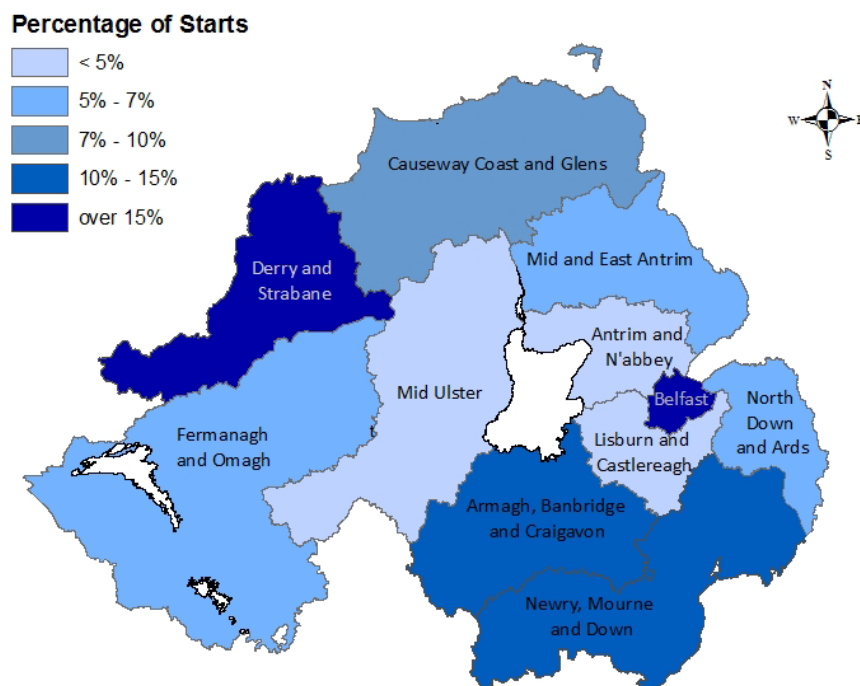


Figure 3: Number of Starts on Steps 2 Success by Equality Grouping (October 2014 to March 2015)



Starts by Equality Groupings

Figure 3 shows that a high proportion of clients starting S2S are male, accounting for approximately 72% of all starts (from October 2014 to March 2015) and that just over one in five (22%) clients have dependants.