

Early Analysis of Work Experience participant outcomes

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Introduction

This publication contains statistics describing the benefit outcomes of the first cohort of participants on the Work Experience strand of Get Britain Working (GBW). It presents the proportion of Work Experience participants, from January to March 2011, who were claiming a DWP working age benefit in each of the 13 weeks following the start of their placement.

Official statistics on the numbers of Work Experience participants are being published on: <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/pwp/index.php?page=pwp>

Background

Work Experience was launched in January 2011 and is designed to help young people gain the experience they need to secure a job. 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.

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 4 weeks, where an employer makes an offer to take them onto an Apprenticeship.

Methodology

These Work Experience outcomes statistics are derived using a combination of the Jobcentre Plus claimant management systems (the Labour Market System) and the National Benefits Database.

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

To identify the outcomes of participants we have tracked the earliest possible cohort of participants who started Work Experience from the beginning of the programme in January to the end of March 2011.

This cohort of participants has been merged with the National Benefits Database to identify how many participants were claiming benefits (Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) / incapacity benefits (IB), and Income Support (IS)) at weekly intervals following their start dates. Please note this requires merging data between multiple administrative systems which may not match perfectly.

The latest release of the National Benefits Database holds complete data up to the end of June 2011. Therefore the outcomes for early Work Experience participants have been tracked for thirteen weeks.

For those individuals with multiple Work Experience starts we have only included their first Work Experience start during the cohort period, which is why the number of starts included in this analysis is slightly less than the number recorded in the Work Experience official statistics during the same period.

We note that this is early analysis based on the first cohort of Work Experience participants and may not be representative of the long-term performance of Work Experience. Further tracking of benefit records from longer cohorts and for longer periods of time will provide a more comprehensive picture of Work Experience outcomes.

Results

Table 1 shows that for an early cohort of 1,300 Work Experience starts, from the beginning of January to the end of March 2011, 49 per cent were claiming benefit, 13 weeks after starting provision.

Table 1: Proportion claiming working age benefits X weeks after starting Work Experience

| | Work Experience starts |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| On benefits at start of provision | 98% |
| On benefits 1 week after start | 95% |
| On benefits 2 weeks after start | 92% |
| On benefits 3 weeks after start | 89% |
| On benefits 4 weeks after start | 84% |
| On benefits 5 weeks after start | 80% |
| On benefits 6 weeks after start | 77% |
| On benefits 7 weeks after start | 72% |
| On benefits 8 weeks after start | 65% |
| On benefits 9 weeks after start | 59% |
| On benefits 10 weeks after start | 56% |
| On benefits 11 weeks after start | 53% |
| On benefits 12 weeks after start | 51% |
| On benefits 13 weeks after start | 49% |
| Base number of participants | 1,300 |

Source: Labour Market System Opportunities Database and National Benefits Database

Note: there is a small proportion of starts for whom their start date do not align with benefit dates or for whom we have not been able to find a benefit record. This explains why 98 per cent rather than 100 per cent of work experience participants are on benefit at the start of provision.

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