

Employment Service Support Statistical Factsheet

Statistics from June 2014 to March 2015

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The Employment Service Support (ESS) was designed to assist those unemployed or economically inactive, to find employment at the earliest opportunity. It was introduced in June 2014 as an interim measure, to facilitate the transition between the Steps to Work and Steps 2 Success employment programmes. Provision was tailored to individual needs and all participation on the programme was voluntary.

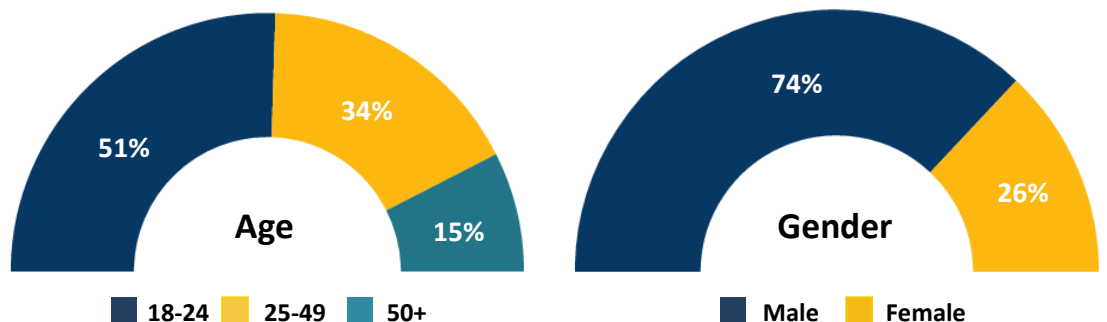
This factsheet and associated tables are the first statistical release of ESS data; they provide key statistics on the number of starts and those assisted into employment.

Starts

A total of 5,400 participants started ESS over its duration (June 2014 – March 2015). Of those participants, 53% had previously been on the Steps to Work programme, which ran from September 2008 to March 2015.

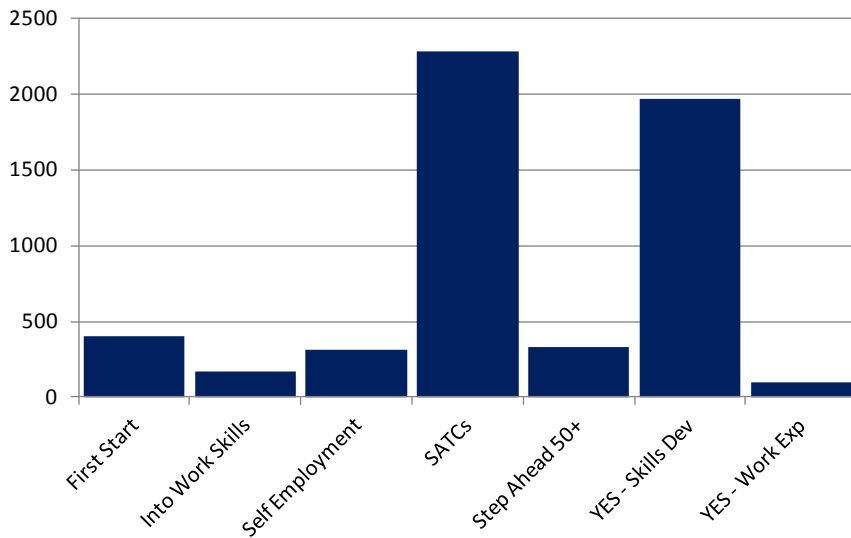
Figure 1 below illustrates the proportion of participants starting by gender and age category. The 18-24 age group account for half of all starts. This can be attributed to the fact that the unemployment rate is higher for this age group, and that ESS provides a number of measures specifically targeted at this age group.

Figure 1 – Starts by Age and Gender



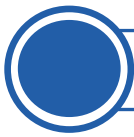
As can be seen above, males account for almost three quarters of all starts. This follows the trend of Jobseekers Allowance claimants, of which an average of 70% were male, over the period June 2014 – March 2015.

Figure 2 – Number of Starts by Strand



Participants starting ESS could avail of up to 7 different strands, providing a range of measures to help them find employment, including work placements, and qualifications.

Figure 2 shows the most popular strand was the Short Accredited Training Course (SATC), which gave participants the opportunity to develop new vocational skills or obtain a recognised qualification. This strand accounted for 41% of all starts. The Skills Development strand which ran as part of the Youth Employment Scheme (YES) was also popular, accounting for 35% of all starts. This was targeted at the 18-24 age group and offered an accredited qualification.



Found Work

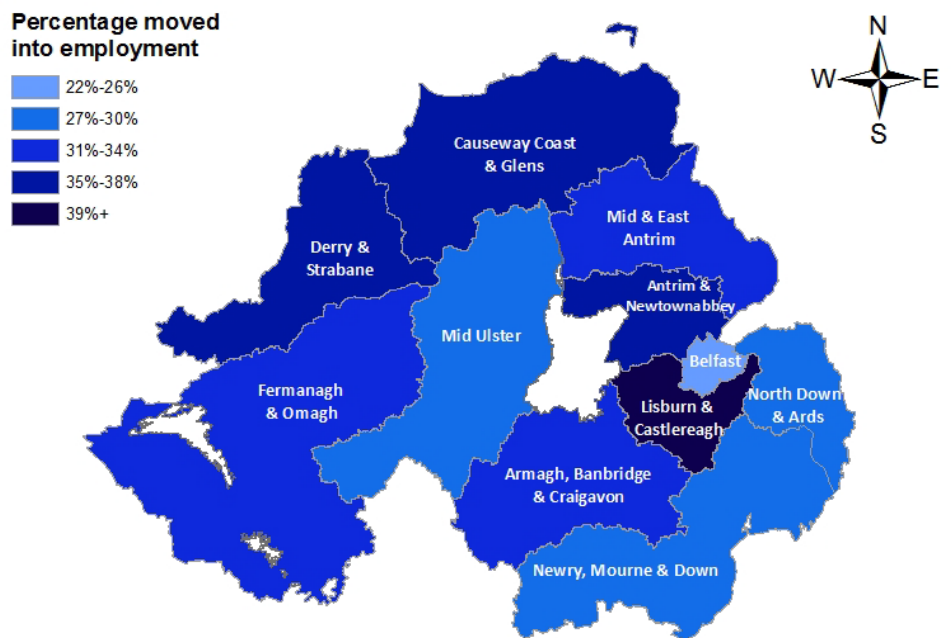
The following statistics report on those clients who found unsubsidised employment on leaving ESS. They show the percentage of participants who move into employment within 13 weeks of leaving and those who sustain employment for 13 weeks or more.

In the period up to December 2014, a total of 1,949 participants left ESS, of which 31% moved into unsubsidised employment.

Figure 3 shows the variation in the proportion of participants finding employment across the 11 local district councils. Lisburn & Castlereagh outperform the other council areas, with 39% of participants finding employment, compared to the lowest figure of 26% recorded for Belfast.

YES – Skills Development and First Start had the highest proportion of leavers moving into employment with 46% and 45% of leavers finding employment respectively. Both these strands were created specifically for 18-24 year olds. This group are perceived to be closer to the labour market as generally, they have been unemployed for shorter periods and are more likely to be recently qualified.

Figure 3 - Percentage of participants who moved into unsubsidised employment from Employment Service Support (June 2014 – December 2014)



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Of those who left ESS, 24% sustained employment for 13 weeks or more, with both Causeway Coast & Glens and Derry and Strabane district councils reporting the highest proportion at 31%.