

Youth Employment Scheme Statistical Factsheet

Northern Ireland Statistics from August 2012 to March 2015

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The Youth Employment Scheme (YES) was launched by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in July 2012, with the aim of assisting young people aged 18-24 to find work. The scheme was entirely voluntary and gave young people the opportunity to gain work experience, develop additional skills and achieve recognised qualifications. The scheme was originally launched as a three year initiative intended to run until the end of March 2015.

There were three strands to the scheme:

- **Work Experience Programme (WEP)** - real work experience opportunities with an employer for between two and eight weeks (revised to three to eight weeks in September 2013). WEP offered participants the chance to try particular types of work, improve confidence and develop skills to gain employment.
- **Skills Development Programme (SDP)** - work placement opportunities for between six and nine months (amended to 6 month maximum in September 2013), focusing on job specific skills training and opportunities to achieve accredited qualifications.
- **Enhanced Employer Subsidy (EES)** - subsidised employment for participants for up to twelve months.

This factsheet is the first statistical release of YES data by Analytical Services; providing key statistics on participation on the scheme since its inception.

Section 1: Young people starting the scheme

Figure 1: Number of Starts on YES by Strand (August 2012 – March 2015)¹

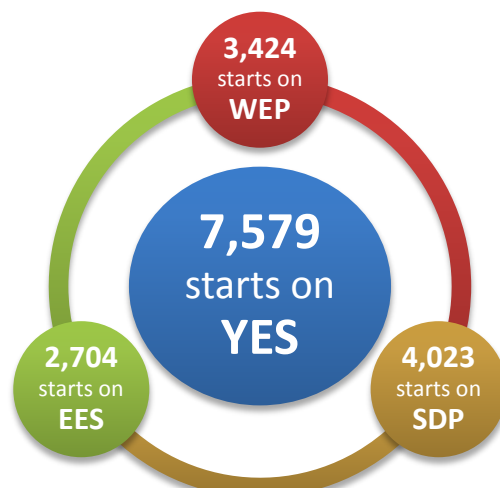
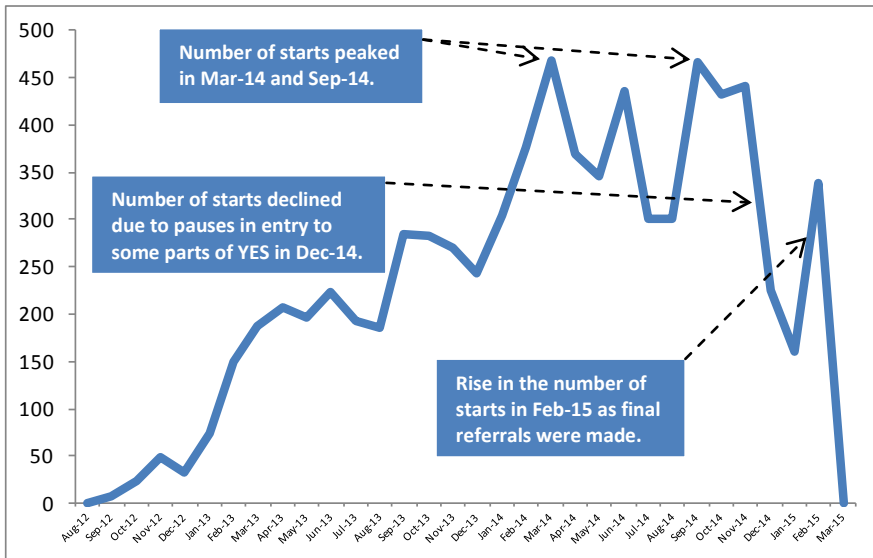


Figure 1 shows that 7,579 young people started the Youth Employment Scheme since referrals began in August 2012 up to 31st March 2015.

There have been 3,424 starts on WEP (operational from August 2012); 4,023 on SDP (operational from December 2012) and 2,704 on EES (operational from October 2012).¹

¹Note: as a young person could participate in more than one strand the number of starts on each strand do not add to give the total number of young people starting the scheme.

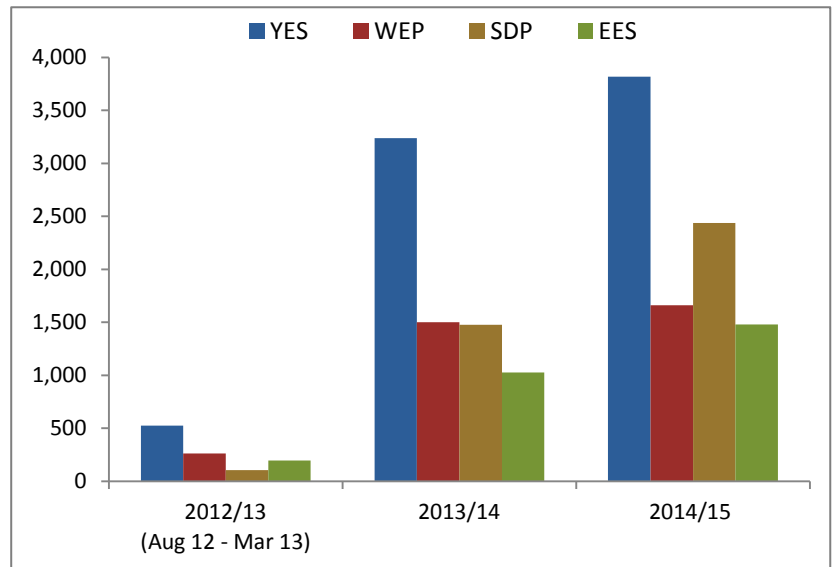
Figure 2: Number of Starts on YES by Month and Year



As shown in Figure 2, the number of young people starting YES peaked in March 2014 and September 2014, with 469 and 466 starts in these months respectively.

Budget restraints in December 2014 resulted in entries to some parts of YES being paused - this is reflected in the decline in the number of starts in December 2014 and January 2015. There was a rise in the number of starts in February 2015 as the final referrals were made to the scheme. Some participants remained on provision at 31st March 2015. (See Figure 6)

Figure 3: Number of Starts on YES by Strand and Financial Year

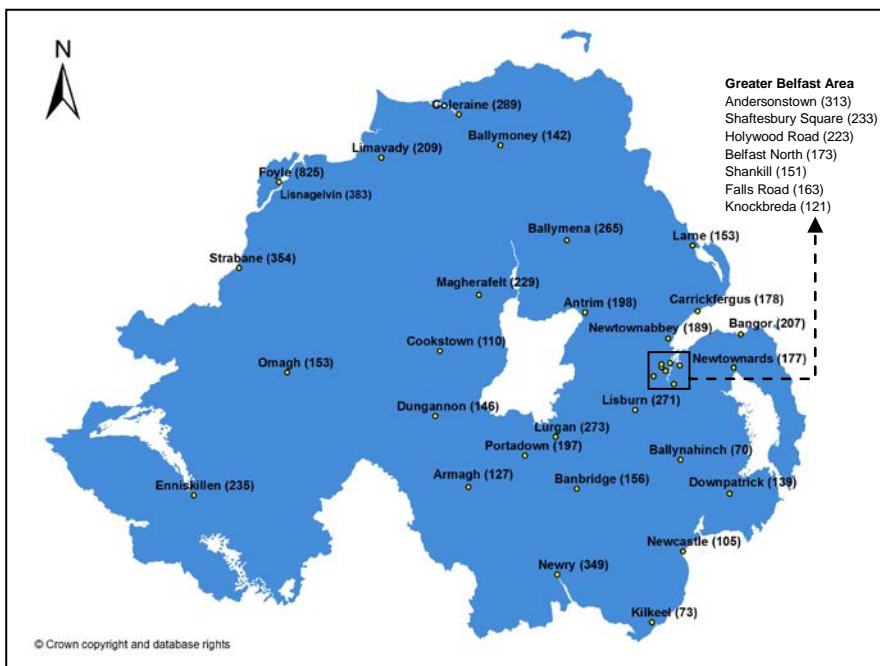


The number of young people starting YES was relatively low in the introductory year (525) but increased year-on-year, to 3,239 in 2013/14 and to 3,815 in 2014/2015.

The number of starts in the third year was restricted due to the pause in entry to some parts of YES in December 2014.

Each strand of YES recorded progressive annual growth in the number of starts over the three years of the scheme, with SDP experiencing the biggest increase (2,333 additional starts in 2014/15 in comparison with 2012/13).

Figure 4: Number of Starts on YES by Client Jobs and Benefits Office/JobCentre

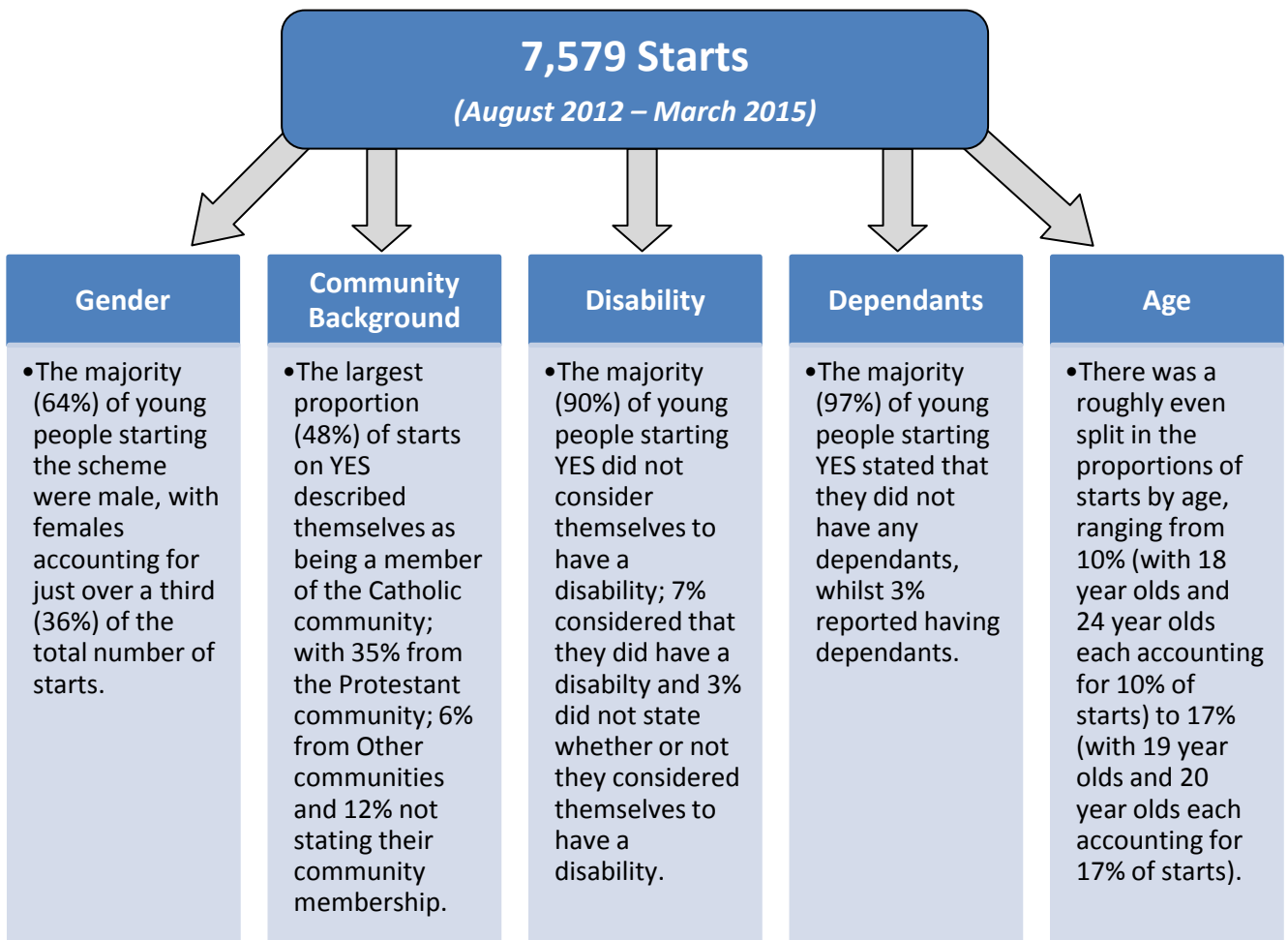


As Figure 4 shows, YES has coverage across all Jobs and Benefits Offices/JobCentres (JBo/JCs) in Northern Ireland.

The JBo/JC with the largest number of starts was Foyle with 825.

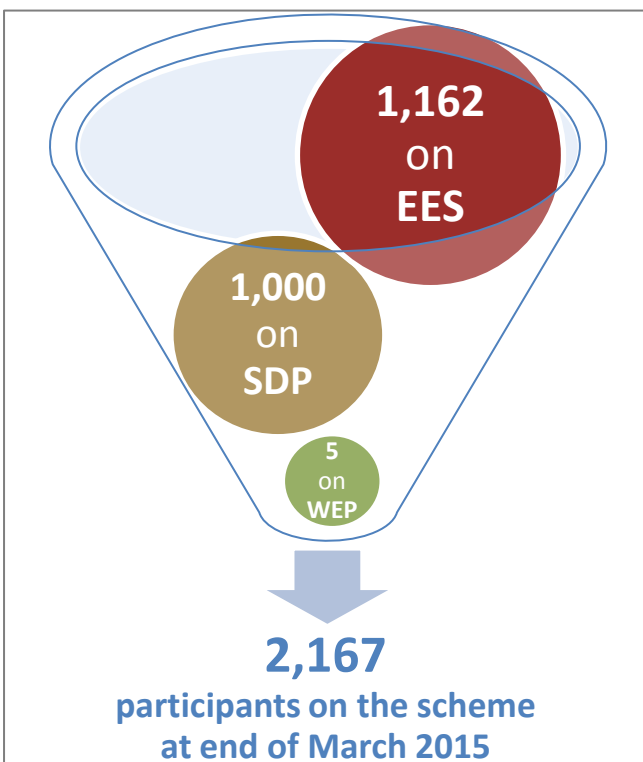
JBo/JCs in the Northern Region accounted for the largest proportion of starts on the scheme (40%). The Belfast Region accounted for 32% of starts and the Southern Region for 28% of starts.

Figure 5: Number of Starts on YES by Equality Grouping



Section 2: Young people on the scheme at end of March 2015

Figure 6: Occupancy on YES by Strand at end of March 2015



Occupancy refers to the number of participants on each strand of the scheme at a point in time.

Occupancy figures continue to fluctuate for several months after the occupancy date due to delays in recording leavers' end dates.

Although referrals to the scheme ended in March 2015, there were still some young people on provision after this.

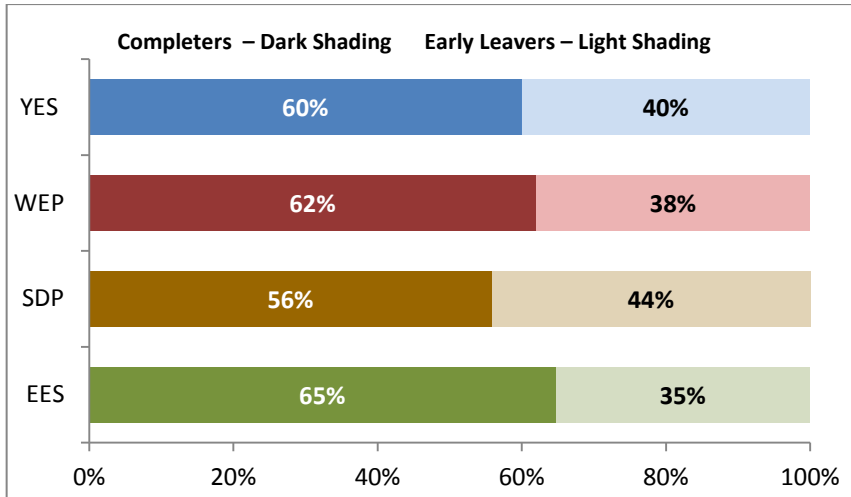
As shown in Figure 6, there was a total of 2,167 participants still on the scheme at the end of March 2015. The majority of these (54%) were on the EES, with 1,162 participants still on this strand at the end of March 2015.

There were 1,000 young people still participating in the SDP at the end of March 2015 (46% of all participants still on the scheme). There were 5 participants on the WEP at the end of March 2015.

Section 3: Young people leaving the scheme

Since referrals to YES began in August 2012, 7,382 young people have left the scheme. However, some of these young people participated in the scheme more than once, resulting in a total of 9,954 participations. Leavers data is recorded for each participation and the data below therefore refers to combined participations across strands.

Figure 7: Proportion of Participants Completing YES/Leaving Early by Strand



An 'early leaver' is defined as a participant who leaves his/her placement one week or more before his/her approved duration ends.

The majority of participants (60%) on YES stayed for the full duration of their placements. The strand with the highest proportion of completers was EES (65%).

Figure 8: Immediate Destinations of Participants Leaving YES by Strand

Immediate destination statistics refer to a participant's destination as recorded in Jobs and Benefits Offices/JobCentres immediately following a participation on YES. Destination statistics provide DEL and other users with an early indicator of programme performance.

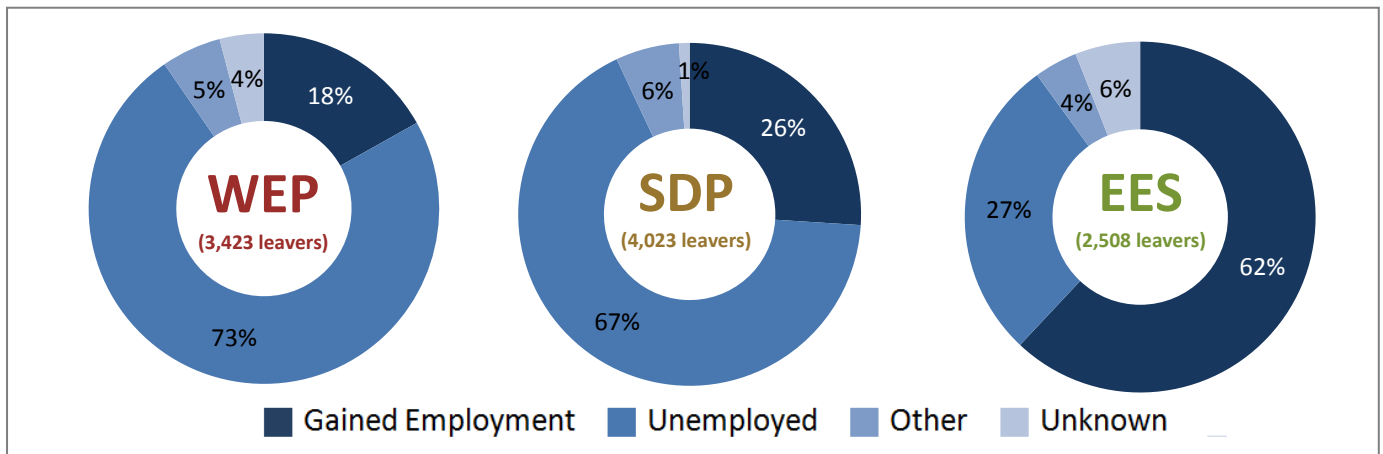


Figure 8 illustrates the difference between destinations depending on strand, with a higher proportion of leavers from EES gaining employment. Almost two thirds (62%) of leavers from the EES had an immediate destination of 'gained employment', versus 26% of those leaving SDP and 18% of those leaving WEP.

The majority of leavers from WEP and SDP returned to being unemployed (73% and 67% respectively), whereas under a third (27%) of leavers from the EES returned to unemployment.

Between 7 to 10% of leavers from each strand moved to unknown/other destinations (other destinations include education, enforced interruption and participants leaving the area).