

Steps 2 Success Statistical Fact Sheet

Northern Ireland Statistics from October 2014 to September 2015

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The Department for Employment and Learning's (DEL) 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](#).

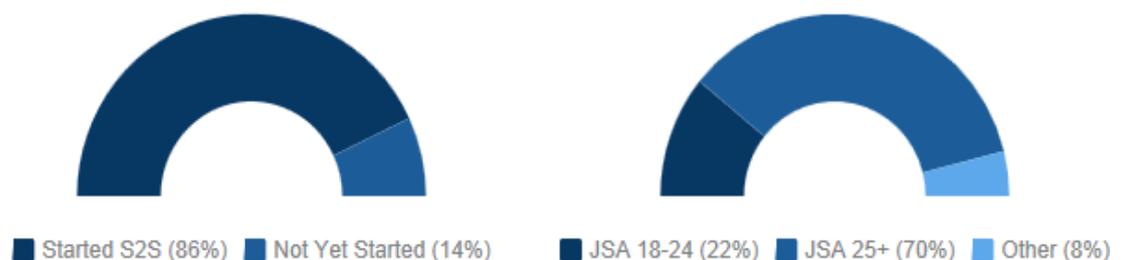
This factsheet and associated tables provide key statistics on the number of referrals and starts to the programme. It is planned that the first statistics relating to employment outcomes will be published on 25th February 2016.

Referrals and Starts by Client Category

There have been 28,620 clients referred to S2S between 20th October 2014 and 30th September 2015; 86% (24,593) of which started the programme within the same period.

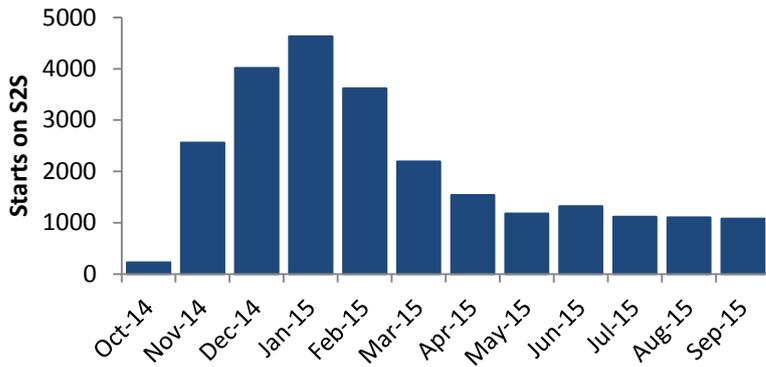
The largest proportion (70%) of clients who started S2S fell into the JSA 25+ category, another 22% fell into the JSA 18-24 category and the remaining 8% of clients were from the JSA Early Entry, ESA and Voluntary categories.

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



28,620 Referrals → 24,593 Starts

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



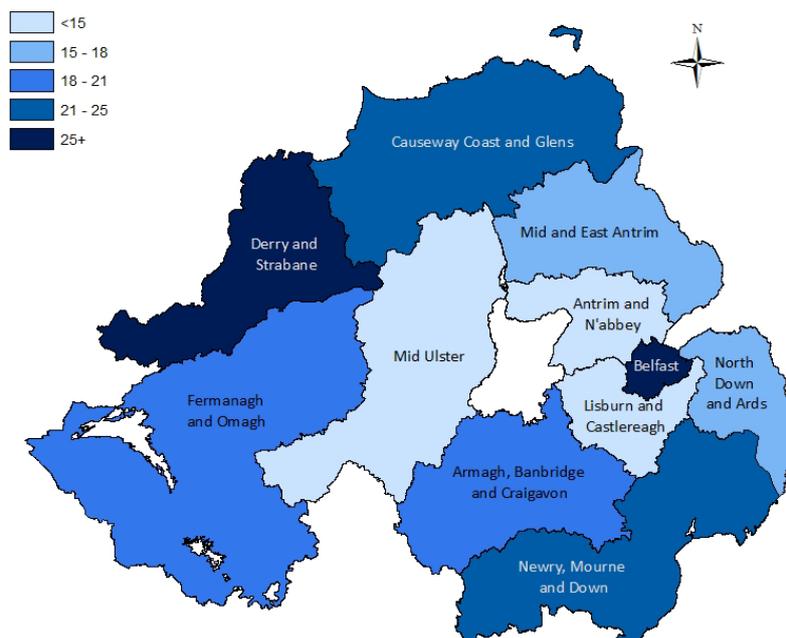
Starts by Month

As shown in Figure 2, the number of clients starting the S2S programme peaked in January 2015 with 4,633 clients and has subsequently levelled out at approximately 1,100 per month. The large numbers experienced in the first few months were due to the phased referral of clients who became eligible for the programme before it started. See [user guidance](#) for full details.

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 8,668 (35%) starts in the Belfast region, 8,605 (35%) in the Northern region and 7,320 (30%) in the Southern Region. However, analysing the number of starts on S2S per thousand population at district council level shows a much greater level of variation (as shown in Figure 4 below). Derry & Strabane had over 45 starts per 1,000 residents, whilst Lisburn & Castlereagh had just over 11 starts per 1,000 residents; this reflects the fact that these are the council areas with the highest and lowest unemployment rate respectively.

Figure 4: Number of Starts per 1,000 Population on Steps 2 Success by District Council of Residence (October 2014 to September 2015)



Starts by Equality Group

Figure 3 shows that males represent a high proportion of clients starting the S2S programme (72%) from October 2014 to September 2015 and that almost three quarters of all clients are single (73%). Less than one in four (23%) clients are aged 50+ and 15% have indicated that they have a disability.

Figure 3: Percentage of Starts on Steps 2 Success by Equality Group (October 2014 to September 2015)

