



12 July 2018

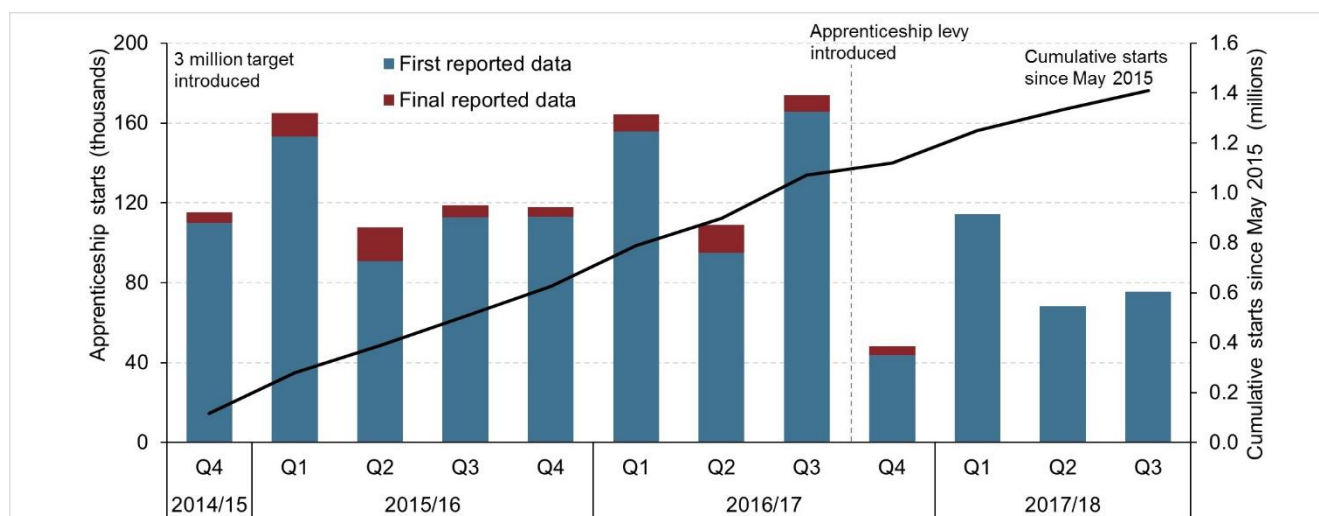
This release contains provisional figures for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to April 2018) for England.

Data are subject to change until final data is published in November 2018 as some learning providers report some of their data for this period later in the year. Provider behaviour in reporting can also change from year to year.

As of May 2017 there were significant changes to how apprenticeship funding works including the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and Apprenticeship Service (please see section 4 for more detail). The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly in the run up to the introduction of the levy and beyond, so care should be taken in comparing and interpreting in-year data presented in this release to figures reported at this time in 2016/17.

Apprenticeship starts for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year decreased in comparison to figures reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16.

Figure 1: All age apprenticeship starts, England^{1,2}



Source: Individualised Learner Record

There were **290,500 apprenticeship starts** reported so far for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year, compared to 440,300 and 384,500 reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16, a **decrease of 34.0 and 24.5 per cent respectively**. There have been **158,300 levy-supported starts so far**, of which, 137,200 were reported in the first three quarters for 2017/18.

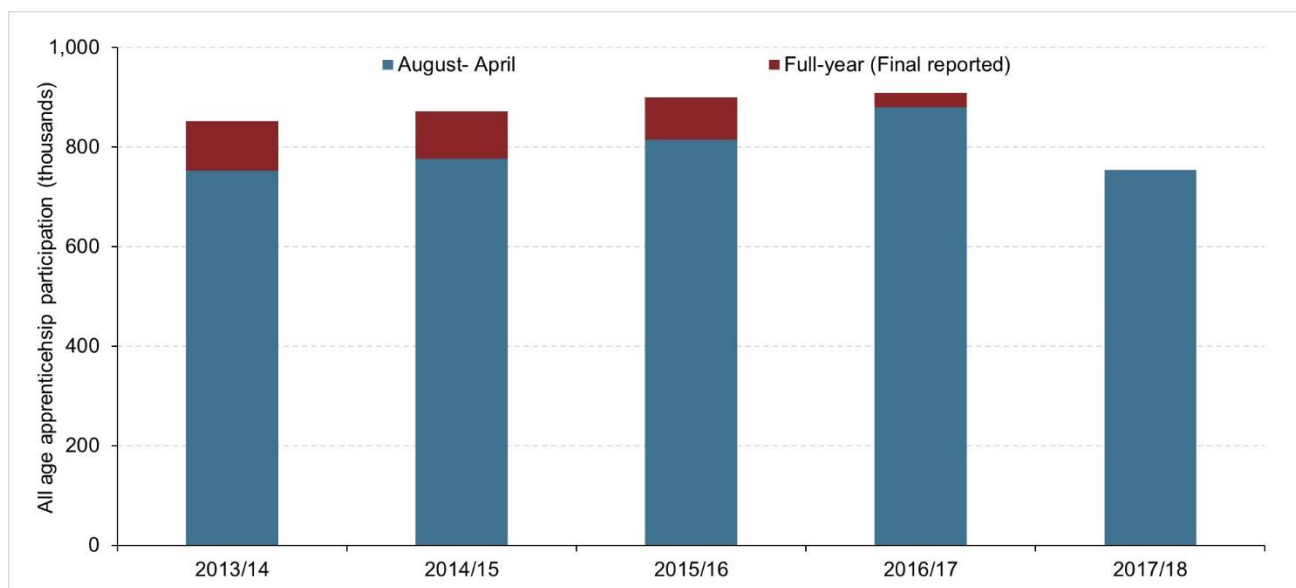
There were **1,410,000 apprenticeship starts** reported to April 2018 **since May 2015** and **3,787,600 starts** reported to April 2018 **since May 2010**.

¹ Final data for the full 2017/18 academic year will be published in November 2018.

² First reported data are those initially reported in-year, and final reported data are those submitted in October for that academic year. The chart shows data aggregated for each quarter of the academic year, which runs from August to July.

All-age government funded apprenticeship participation reported so far for the 2017/18 academic year is lower than that reported at the same point in 2016/17 and 2015/16.

Figure 2: All age apprenticeship participation, England^{1,3}



Source: Individualised Learner Record

753,200 learners participated on an apprenticeship in the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year, based on provisional data, compared to **879,500** and **814,400** reported at this time in **2016/17** and **2015/16**, a decrease of 14.4 and 7.5 per cent respectively.

³ 2017/18 data show in-year data reported so far for 'August to April'. The chart shows full final year data for previous years as well as a breakdown for the period 'August to April' as reported at the equivalent time to this publication to allow comparisons.

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About this release

This apprenticeships and traineeships release presents information on apprenticeships (16+) and traineeships (16-24) in England, reported to date for the 2017 to 2018 academic year. Apprenticeships are paid jobs that incorporate on- and off-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications. As an employee, apprentices earn as they learn and gain practical skills in the workplace. A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience. Traineeships were introduced in the 2013/14 academic year to provide young people with essential work preparation, English, maths and work experience to secure an apprenticeship or other work.⁴

Changes included in this release

This release includes provisional figures for the first three quarters of the academic year 2017/18 based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by further education colleges and providers in June 2018. The data will change as further data returns relating to the period are received later in the year.

We have also included data reported so far on the apprenticeship levy supported starts since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017.

Changes in the next release

This publication will be released twice per year (January and July) as a stand-alone document, and will be subsumed and combined into the main Further Education and Skills Release each March and November.

The next release containing apprenticeships and traineeships statistics will be the Further Education and Skills release in November 2018. This will include final full year data for the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to July 2018). The next apprenticeships and traineeships release in this format will be in January 2019 and provide provisional data for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to October 2018).

In this publication

The following tables are included in this publication:

- National tables (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

- Supplementary tables and data tools (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

Transparency data

On 12 July 2018, the latest monthly statistics were released providing registration and commitments data on the apprenticeship service (to May 2018) and headline monthly data on apprenticeship starts (to April 2018). This provides transparency on the development of the apprenticeships levy and the apprenticeship system as a whole. The monthly data provides timely insight into the headline activity and will be published while the levy system is bedding in. We will publish these statistics on a monthly basis but may adjust content and timing as feedback is assessed.

These monthly statistics are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2018-releases>

A back series of monthly apprenticeship starts from the 2014/15 academic year are available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661181/Monthly_apprenticeship_starts_from_201415_to_201617.xlsx

This apprenticeships and traineeships release provides further breakdowns on the headline apprenticeships starts initially reported as transparency data in the monthly publication.

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document and accompanying tables, please contact: FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk

⁴ Further details are available in the Quality and Methodology document which accompanied the Further Education and Skills: March release: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694344/SFR23_2018_QualityandMethodology.pdf

1. In-year apprenticeships and traineeships for England, 2017/18

Figures for the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to April 2018) are based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in June 2018 by further education colleges and providers. The data provide an early view of performance and will change as further data returns are received. Since providers report some of their data for this period later in the year, the data are subject to change (in either direction) until final data is received.

At this point in the year, 2017/18 figures are referred to as *reported so far* or *reported to date* to reflect this. This release reports on the provisional first three quarters for the 2017/18 academic year.

It is not possible to determine how complete or incomplete the information returned so far is, therefore care should be taken when comparing data reported so far in 2017/18 to the equivalent reporting period in 2016/17⁵.

This is particularly the case as provider reporting behaviour may change year to year. In addition, provider reporting behaviour may have particularly been affected since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017. Therefore, the equivalent reporting period for the 2015/16 academic year has also been included in this release.

More accurate comparisons can be made once final returns for the academic year are made (data returned in October 2018, due to be published in November 2018).

Summary and key headlines – 2017/18 (data reported so far)

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Apprenticeship participation | 753,200 participants on an apprenticeship have been reported so far in 2017/18, compared with 879,500 and 814,400 at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 14.4 and 7.5 per cent respectively. |
| Apprenticeship starts | 290,500 apprenticeship starts have been reported so far in 2017/18, compared with 440,300 and 384,500 at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 34.0 and 24.5 per cent respectively. Since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017, there have been 158,300 levy-supported starts, of which 137,200 were levy-supported starts in the first three quarters of the 2017/18. There have now been 1,410,000 apprenticeship starts reported to April 2018 since May 2015 and 3,787,600 starts reported to April 2018 since May 2010. |
| Traineeships | 15,000 traineeship starts have been reported so far in 2017/18, compared with 17,000 at this time in 2016/17, a decrease of 11.4 per cent. |

As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic. In order to understand the impact of policy and methodology changes on any data published in this release, details are provided in the quality and methodology document that accompanies the Further Education and Skills: March release.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694344/SFR23_2018_QualityandMethodology.pdf

For more information, please see the latest version of the Further Education and Skills release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2018-releases>

⁵ Please refer to the Quality and Methodology document which accompanies the March Further Education and Skills release for more information:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694344/SFR23_2018_QualityandMethodology.pdf

Apprenticeship participation (Table 1)

Apprenticeship participation data reported for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

- **753,200 participants** on an apprenticeship, a decrease of 14.4 per cent from 879,500 reported at this time in 2016/17 and a decrease of 7.5 per cent from 814,400 reported at this time in 2015/16.

Of the 753,200 participants,

349,600 were at intermediate level

342,700 were at advanced level

73,600 were at higher level

160,500 were aged under 19

592,700 were aged 19 and over

Apprenticeship starts (Table 2.1)

Apprenticeship Levy

The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly in the run up to the introduction of the levy and beyond, therefore care should be taken when comparing individual quarters with previous years, as they are unlikely to provide a meaningful year on year trend.

This is especially the case when trying to compare starts in quarter 3 of 2017/18 to starts in quarter 3 of 2016/17, as there was an unusually large increase in starts in March and April 2017, and then an unusually large decrease in starts in May 2017 when compared to previous years. This can be seen in [Figure 1](#) where the increase in starts between quarter 3 2015/16 and quarter 3 2016/17 can be directly visualised.

For further details on monthly apprenticeship starts please refer to the Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2018-releases>

Apprenticeship starts data reported so far for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

- **290,500 apprenticeship starts**, a decrease of 34.0 per cent from 440,300 reported at this time in 2016/17 and a decrease of 24.5 per cent from 384,500 reported at this time in 2015/16.

Of the 290,500 starts,

127,000 were at intermediate level

127,900 were at advanced level

35,600 were at higher level

90,300 were aged under 19

200,200 were aged 19 and over

- 31,800 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a black, asian and minority ethnic group. This is 11.0 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, compared to 11.2 per cent for the same time in 2016/17⁶.

⁶ Full final year starts proportion for black, asian and minority ethnic group was 11.2 per cent for 2016/17.

- 32,500 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from the learning difficulties and/or disabilities group. This is 11.2 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, compared to 10.2 per cent for the same time in 2016/17⁷.
- **158,300 levy supported starts** were recorded since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017. **137,200 levy supported starts** were recorded in the first three quarters of 2017/18.

Of which:

- 53,900 at intermediate level
- 60,300 at advanced level
- 22,900 at higher level apprenticeships

- **119,500 apprenticeship starts** were reported on the new apprenticeship **standards**, compared to 11,000 reported at this time last year for 2016/17.

Of which:

- 75,500 were levy supported starts
- 30,000 were aged under 19, compared to 3,800 in 2016/17
- 89,500 aged 19 and over, compared to 7,200 in 2016/17

- There have now been **148,900 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction** in September 2014.
- **1,410,000 apprenticeship starts** reported to April 2018 **since May 2015** and **3,787,600 starts** reported to April 2018 **since May 2010**.

Apprenticeship achievements (Table 2.2)

Apprenticeship achievements data reported for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

- **181,400 apprenticeship achievements**, an increase of 0.7 per cent from 180,100 reported at this time last year for 2016/17 and an increase of 4.8 per cent from 173,100 reported at this time in 2015/16.

Of which:

- 99,600 at intermediate level
- 72,600 at advanced level
- 9,300 at higher level
- 50,200 were aged under 19
- 131,200 aged 19 and over

Additional breakdowns of provisional apprenticeship statistics are published online at the FE Data Library⁸.

⁷ Full final year starts proportion for learners with learning difficulty and/or disability was 10.3 per cent for 2016/17.

⁸ The FE Data Library can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>.

Traineeships (Table 3.1 & 3.2)

Data reported for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

15,000 **traineeship starts**, a decrease of 11.4 per cent from 17,000 in 2016/17, of which:

11,300 were under 19, a decrease of 5.1 per cent from 11,900 in 2016/17

3,700 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 26.3 per cent from 5,000 in 2016/17

9,000 **traineeship completions**, a decrease of 17.3 per cent from 10,900 in 2016/17, of which:

6,600 were under 19, a decrease of 5.6 per cent from 6,900 in 2016/17

2,500 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 37.8 per cent from 4,000 in 2016/17⁹

2. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>.

Year to date tables

- 1 All Age Apprenticeship Participation by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 2.1 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 2.2 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Achievements by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 3.1 Traineeship Starts by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 3.2 Traineeship Completions by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 3.3 Traineeship Progressions by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18 reported to date)

Supplementary tables

Additional breakdowns of further education statistics are published online, please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>. These additional breakdowns include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, parliamentary constituency and sector subject area.

Supplementary data tools and tables

- 1 Apprenticeship demographic and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18 (reported to date)
- 2 Apprenticeship detailed demographic and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18 (reported to date)
- 3 Apprenticeship framework and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18 (reported to date)
- 4 Apprenticeship geography and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18 (reported to date)
- 5 Apprenticeships by region and sector subject area: participation 2009/10 to 2017/18 (reported to date)

⁹ Percentages are calculated on unrounded data.

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

| | |
|---|--|
| We preserve confidentiality | The Code of Practice for Official Statistics (https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/) requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality. |
| We suppress some figures | In the main tables, headline volumes below 50 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). In the supplementary tables volumes below 5 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). A percentage of less than 0.5% is suppressed. |
| We adopt symbols to help identify suppression | Symbols are used in the tables as follows: '-' indicates a headline volume with below 50 in the main tables and below 5 in the supplementary tables. ** indicates a percentage of less than 0.5%. |
| We round figures | In the main tables, headline volumes are reported rounded to the nearest 100. In the supplementary tables volumes are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages reported are calculated on pre-rounded data and given to one decimal place. |
| Coverage of the data | This release includes provisional data for the first three quarters of the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to April 2018) reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in June 2018 by further education providers. |

3. Further information is available

Additional breakdowns of apprenticeship and traineeship statistics are published online as supplementary tables. These include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, parliamentary constituency and sector subject area.

Please see the FE Data Library here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

Monthly transparency data on apprenticeship and levy statistics are also available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2018-releases>

4. The apprenticeship funding system

Changes in the way apprenticeship funding works were introduced and implemented from May 2017. Guidance about these changes and paying the apprenticeship levy can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>.

A key aspect of these changes was the introduction of the apprenticeship service, an online service to allow employers to choose and pay for apprenticeship training more easily. Levy-payers are able to register on the apprenticeship service so that they can:

1. receive levy funds to spend on apprenticeships
2. manage their apprentices
3. pay their training provider

5. Other Technical information

For more technical information, please see the latest Further Education and Skills release and the accompanying quality and methodology information document here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694344/SFR23_2018_QualityandMethodology.pdf

This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

6. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

7. Get in touch

Media enquiries

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