



24 January 2019

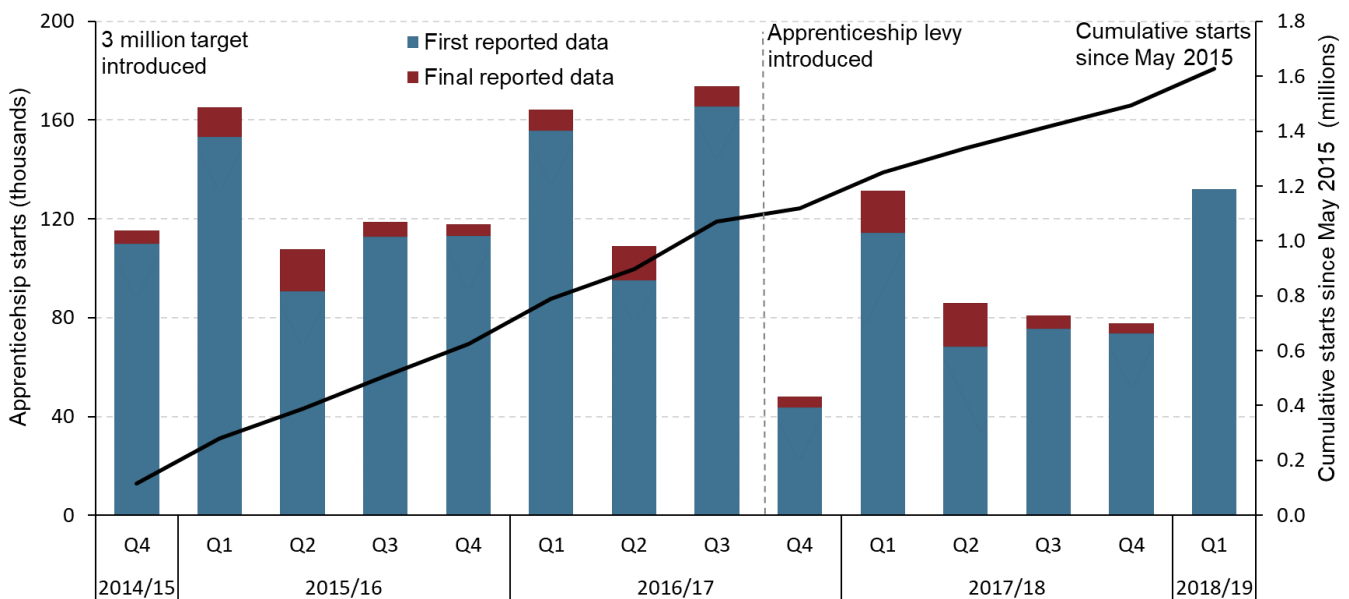
This statistics publication contains provisional figures for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to October 2018) for England.

Data are subject to change until final data is published in November 2019 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, and this is likely to have impacted on apprenticeship starts and participation as the new approach beds in, so care should be taken in comparing and interpreting data presented in this release.

**Apprenticeship starts in the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year have increased in comparison to figures reported at this time in 2017/18, but are below equivalent figures reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16.**

**Figure 1: All age apprenticeship starts, England<sup>1,2</sup>**



Source: Individualised Learner Record

There were **132,000 apprenticeship** starts reported so far for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year, an increase of 15.4 per cent from 114,400 reported at this time in 2017/18. The 132,000 starts represents a decrease of 15.2 and 13.8 per cent compared to the 155,600 and 153,100 reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16, before the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.

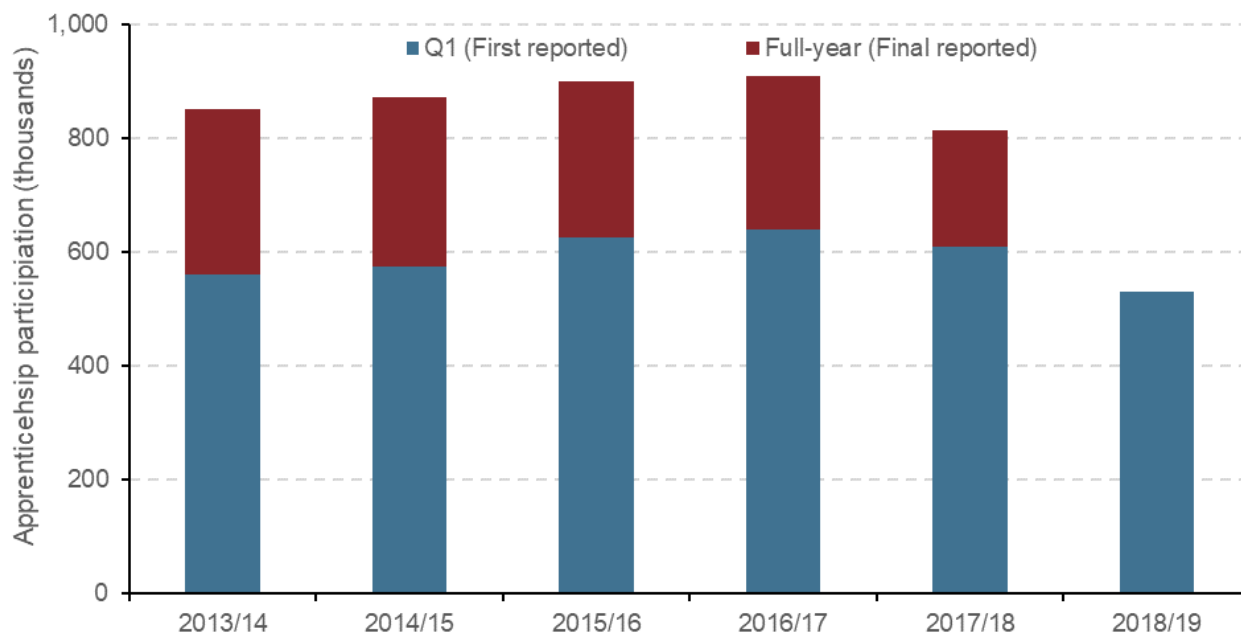
There were 1,627,300 apprenticeship starts reported to October 2018 since May 2015, and 4,004,900 starts reported to October 2018 since May 2010.

<sup>1</sup> Final data for the full 2018/19 academic year will be published in November 2019.

<sup>2</sup> First reported data are those initially reported in-year, and final reported data are those submitted in October for each 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 2018/19 academic year is lower than equivalent figures reported at this time in the last five years**

**Figure 2: All age apprenticeship participation, England<sup>1,3</sup>**



Participation measures the total number of apprenticeships that were active for at least one day in the academic year. A full year participation figure will be made up of all starts in that year and those continuing learning from the previous year(s). Estimates for 2018/19 will only include starts in the first quarter and learners continuing from previous years, therefore care should be taken in comparing years.

**529,900** participants on an apprenticeship have been reported in the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year based on provisional data, compared to 608,900, 638,700 and 626,600 reported at this time in 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 13.0, 17.0 and 15.4 per cent respectively.

<sup>3</sup> 2018/19 data show in-year data reported so far for 'August to October'. The chart shows full final year data for previous years as well as a breakdown for the period 'August to October' 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 2018/19 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.<sup>4</sup>

### Changes included in this release

This release includes provisional figures for the first quarter of the academic year 2018/19 based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by further education colleges and providers in December 2018. The data will change as further data returns relating to the period are received later in the year.

### 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 statistics release each March and November.

The next release containing apprenticeships and traineeships statistics will be included in the Further Education and Skills release in March 2019. This will contain provisional mid-year data for the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to January 2019). From this March 2019 publication onwards we are planning to change how we present traineeship figures, specifically traineeship completions and progressions, to better utilise administrative data. Further details can be found in the [traineeships section](#) and the Traineeship measures change note that accompanies this publication.

The next apprenticeships and traineeships release in this format will be in July 2019 and will provide provisional data for the first three-quarters of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to April 2019).

### In this publication

The following tables are included in this release:

- 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/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>

### Other related publications

The next release of updated apprenticeship starts statistics will be the Apprenticeship and levy statistics: January 2019 statistics publication on 31 January 2019, when provisional apprenticeship starts figures for the first four months of the 2018/19 academic year will be provided (August 2018 to November 2018). This monthly transparency publication provides timely insight of headline apprenticeship starts, giving transparency on the development of the apprenticeships levy and the apprenticeship system as a whole, and is published while the levy system is bedding in.

### 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](mailto:FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk).

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<sup>4</sup> Further details are available in the Quality and Methodology document which accompanied the Further Education and Skills: November 2018 statistics publication:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/761443/Quality\\_and\\_Methodology\\_Dec-version\\_2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761443/Quality_and_Methodology_Dec-version_2.pdf)

# 1. In-year apprenticeships and traineeships for England, 2018/19

Figures for the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to October 2018) are based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in December 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, 2018/19 figures are referred to as *reported so far* or *reported to date* to reflect this. This release reports on the provisional first quarter of the 2018/19 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 2018/19 to the equivalent reporting periods in 2017/18 and earlier<sup>5</sup>.

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. More accurate comparisons can be made once final returns for the academic year are made, due to be returned in October 2019 and due to be published in November 2019.

## Summary and key headlines – 2018/19 (data reported so far)

Apprenticeship participation	529,900 participants on an apprenticeship have been reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 608,900, 638,700 and 626,600 reported at this time in 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 13.0, 17.0 and 15.4 per cent respectively.
Apprenticeship starts	<p>132,000 apprenticeship starts have been reported so far in 2018/19, compared with 114,400 reported at this time in 2017/18, an increase of 15.4 per cent. These 132,000 starts represent a decrease of 15.2 and 13.8 per cent compared to the 155,600 and 153,100 reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16, before the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.</p> <p>There have been 1,627,300 apprenticeship starts since May 2015, and 4,004,900 starts since May 2010.</p> <p>61,400 levy-supported starts were reported in the first quarter of 2018/19, representing 46.5 per cent of total starts. There have now been 268,500 levy-supported starts recorded since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.</p> <p>76,300 apprenticeship starts on the new apprenticeship standards were reported in the first quarter of 2018/19, representing 57.8 per cent of total apprenticeship starts. There have now been 269,400 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction.</p>
Traineeships	5,900 traineeship starts have been reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 6,800 at this time in 2017/18, a decrease of 13.4 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 accompanied the Further Education and Skills: November 2018 release.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/761443/Quality\\_and\\_Methodology\\_Dec-version\\_2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761443/Quality_and_Methodology_Dec-version_2.pdf)

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2018>

<sup>5</sup> Please refer to the Quality and Methodology document that accompanied the November Further Education and Skills release for more information:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/761443/Quality\\_and\\_Methodology\\_Dec-version\\_2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761443/Quality_and_Methodology_Dec-version_2.pdf)

## Apprenticeship participation (Table 1)

Apprenticeship participation data reported for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year show that there were:

- **529,900 participants** on an apprenticeship, a decrease of 13.0 per cent from 608,900 reported for Q1 2017/18, a decrease of 17.0 per cent from the 638,700 reported for Q1 2016/17 and a decrease of 15.4 per cent from the 626,600 reported for Q1 2015/16.

Of the 529,900 participants in Q1 2018/19:

199,900 were at intermediate level, a decrease of 30.5 per cent from 287,500 in Q1 2017/18

255,800 were at advanced level, a decrease of 6.6 per cent from 273,800 in Q1 2017/18

77,000 were at higher level, an increase of 50.1 per cent from 51,300 in Q1 2017/18

110,600 were aged under 19, a decrease of 7.3 per cent from 119,300 in Q1 2017/18

419,300 were aged 19 and over, a decrease of 14.4 per cent from 489,600 in Q1 2017/18

## 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 1 of 2018/19 (August to October 2018) to starts in quarter 1 of 2016/17 (August to October 2016), as the profile of apprenticeship starts in the second half of the 2016/17 academic year was atypical when compared to previous years, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

For further details on monthly apprenticeship starts please refer to the Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics releases, the first publication covering the 2018/19 academic year being on 31 January 2019:

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

Apprenticeship starts data reported so far for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year show that there were<sup>6</sup>:

- **132,000 apprenticeship starts**, an increase of 15.4 per cent from 114,400 reported at this time for Q1 2017/18, but a decrease of 15.2 per cent from 155,600 reported at this time for Q1 2016/17 and a decrease of 13.8 per cent from 153,100 reported at this time for Q1 2015/16.

Of the 132,000 apprenticeship starts in Q1 2018/19:

51,100 were at intermediate level, a decrease of 1.6 per cent from 52,000 in Q1 2017/18

57,800 were at advanced level, an increase of 13.9 per cent from 50,800 in Q1 2017/18

23,100 were at higher level, an increase of 99.7 per cent from 11,600 in Q1 2017/18

45,800 were aged under 19, a decrease of 1.8 per cent from 46,600 in Q1 2017/18

86,300 were aged 19 and over, an increase of 27.3 per cent from 67,800 in Q1 2017/18

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<sup>6</sup> All percentages shown are calculated from unrounded data.

- **76,300 apprenticeship starts** were reported on the new apprenticeship **standards** so far in Q1 2018/19, compared to 40,900 reported at this time last year, however more standards became available in 2017/18.

Of the 76,300 starts on standards:

43,500 were levy supported starts

23,200 were aged under 19, compared to 15,200 in Q1 2017/18

53,100 were aged 19 and over, compared to 25,700 in Q1 2017/18

- Apprenticeship standards reported so far in the first quarter of 2018/19 represent 57.8 per cent of total apprenticeship starts
- There have now been **269,400 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction** in September 2014. This represents 13.6 per cent of total apprenticeship starts since September 2014.
- 13,400 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a **black, asian and minority ethnic group**. This is 10.1 per cent of apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 9.3 per cent reported at the same point in 2017/18<sup>7</sup>.
- 16,200 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from the **learning difficulties and/or disabilities group**. This is 12.2 per cent of apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 11.8 per cent reported at the same point in 2017/18<sup>8</sup>.
- **268,500 levy supported starts** have been recorded following the changes to funding arrangements from May 2017 since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy, representing 48.3 per cent of total apprenticeship starts.
- **61,400 levy supported starts** were reported in Q1 2018/19, representing 46.5 per cent of total starts reported so far in 2018/19.

Of the 61,400 levy supported starts reported in Q1 2018/19:

20,200 were intermediate level

25,800 were advanced level

15,300 were higher level apprenticeships

- There have been 1,627,300 apprenticeship starts reported to October 2018 since May 2015 (including 115,300 in Q4 2014/15) and 4,004,900 starts reported to October 2018 since May 2010 (including 64,500 in Q4 2009/10).

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<sup>7</sup> Full final year starts proportion for black, asian and minor ethnic group was 11.2 per cent for 2017/18.

<sup>8</sup> Full final year starts proportion for learners with learning difficulty and/or disability was 11.2 per cent for 2017/18.

## Apprenticeship achievements (Table 2.2)

The length of an apprenticeship is typically more than a year and apprenticeship achievement is recorded against the year it was achieved, not the year it was started. Care should be taken in comparing in-year achievements and interpreting overall change. In year estimates will be affected by historic fluctuations in when starts occur within the academic year (and therefore when they finish). Additionally, the picture of how participation and achievements are changing will be further complicated by the increase in starts on apprenticeship standards and changes in the level of provision.

Apprenticeship achievements data reported for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year show that there were<sup>9</sup>:

- **39,600 apprenticeship achievements**, a decrease of 29.3 per cent from 56,000 reported at this time last year for 2017/18, a decrease of 31.5 per cent from 57,800 reported at this time in 2016/17 and a decrease of 25.1 per cent from 52,900 reported at this time in 2015/16.

Of the 39,600 achievements in Q1 2018/19:

19,700 were at intermediate level, a decrease of 38.2 per cent from 31,800 in Q1 2017/18

17,600 were at advanced level, a decrease of 18.9 per cent from 21,700 in Q1 2017/18

2,400 were at higher level, a decrease of 7.1 per cent from 2,600 in Q1 2017/18

13,300 were aged under 19, a decrease of 24.2 per cent from 17,500 in Q1 2017/18

26,300 were aged 19 and over, a decrease of 31.6 per cent from 38,500 in Q1 2017/18

Additional breakdowns of apprenticeship statistics are published online at the further education data library<sup>10</sup>.

## Traineeships (Tables 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3)

Data reported for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year show that<sup>9</sup>:

- **5,900 traineeship starts** were reported in Q1 2018/19, decreases of 13.4, 19.0 and 22.0 per cent from the 6,800, 7,300 and 7,600 traineeship starts reported in Q1 of 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16 respectively.

Of the 5,900 traineeship starts recorded in Q1 2018/19:

4,800 were under 19, a decrease of 12.0 per cent from 5,500 in Q1 2017/18

1,100 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 18.9 per cent from 1,300 in Q1 2017/18

- **1,800 traineeship completions** were reported in Q1 2018/19, decreases of 11.1, 35.5 and 22.8 per cent from the 2,000, 2,700 and 2,300 completion reported in Q1 of 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16 respectively.

Of the 1,800 traineeship completions recorded in Q1 2018/19:

1,200 were under 19, a decrease of 6.8 per cent from 1,300 in Q1 2017/18

500 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 19.7 per cent from 700 in Q1 2017/18

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<sup>9</sup> All percentages shown are calculated from unrounded data.

<sup>10</sup> The further education data library can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships-and-traineeships-data> - GOV.UK.



- **900 traineeship progressions** to a job, apprenticeship, further full time education or other training were reported in Q1 2018/19, decreases of 13.4, 35.0 and 30.6 per cent from the 1,000, 1,400 and 1,300 progressions reported in Q1 of 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16 respectively.

Of the 900 traineeship progressions to a job, apprenticeship, further full time education or other training reported in Q1 2018/19:

700 were under 19, a decrease of 16.8 per cent from 800 in Q1 2017/18

200 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 1.3 per cent from 200 in Q1 2017/18

#### Changes to traineeship measures from the next release

We plan to change how we present traineeship figures in future publications to make better use of administrative data.

We intend to replace the current completion and progression measures and introduce two new measures:

1. We plan to show completion volumes as a percentage of traineeship starts to give a **new completion rate measure** for a given period.
2. We also plan to replace the current progression measures that relies on self-reported outcomes<sup>11</sup> with the numbers and proportions of traineeship starts that lead to an apprenticeship start within a year to give a **new conversion rate measure**.

The completion rate measure will be introduced for the first time in the 'Further education and skills: March 2019' release using provisional mid-year data for 2018/19, and then updated in the: 'Further education and skills: November 2019' release using final year data for 2018/19, along with the conversion rate measure.

For further information on these new measures please see the **Traineeship measures change note** that accompanies this release.

**Historical data** for these new measures will be included in an **updated version of the Traineeship measures change note**, which will be published at the same time as the monthly apprenticeship and levy release in **February 2018**. This will contain completion rates based on completions to Q4 2017/18 and conversion rates based on apprenticeship starts to the end of Q4 2017/18, both will use final year data.

The **March release** will contain an updated version of the historical data for the new measures to include **provisional completion rates** based on completions to **Q1 and Q2 in 2018/19**.

The **November release** will contain **final completion rates** based on completions to **Q4 in 2018/19** and also **conversion rates** based on **apprenticeship starts** to the **end of Q4 2018/19**.

Additional information about the characteristics of learners completing traineeships and their subsequent employment and learning is published in 'Further Education: Outcome based success measures, academic years 2010/11 to 2015/16': <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-outcome-based-success-measures-2015-to-2016>

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<sup>11</sup> FE providers contact learners to collect destination information following completion of the traineeship or withdrawal from the learning. The data therefore only reflects the learner's position at that point and does not necessarily reflect their final destination. This can be misleading, particularly for in-year reporting.

## 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 2018/19 reported to date)
- 2.1 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 2.2 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Achievements by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 3.1 Traineeship Starts by Age (2013/14 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 3.2 Traineeship Completions by Age (2013/14 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 3.3 Traineeship Progressions by Age (2013/14 to 2018/19 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, local authority district, parliamentary constituency, sector subject area and funding stream.

### Supplementary data tools and tables

- 1 Apprenticeship demographic and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2014/15 to Q1 2018/19
- 2 Apprenticeship framework and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2014/15 to Q1 2018/19
- 3 Apprenticeship geography and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2014/15 to Q1 2018/19
- 4 Apprenticeships by region and sector subject area: participation 2009/10 to 2018/19 (reported to date)

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. There may be exceptions to this in instances where any figure that is an exact duplicate of a value in the headline figures (e.g. Grand Totals), which are rounded to the nearest 100 and avoid contradictory figures.  
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 quarter of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to October 2018) returned to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in December 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, local authority district, 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>

### **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://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/761443/Quality\\_and\\_Methodology\\_Dec-version\\_2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761443/Quality_and_Methodology_Dec-version_2.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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Reference: [Apprenticeships and traineeships: January 2019]



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