



Department
for Education

Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England: January 2020



30 January 2020

This release includes summary statistics on apprenticeships and traineeships in England. This document is a transitional approach while we move all our further education and apprenticeship releases to a new dissemination platform, which we plan to do during 2020.

Please see section on ‘changes in the next release’ on page 8 for more information.

This release contains provisional data for all age apprenticeship and traineeship learning in England for the first quarter of the 2019/20 academic year (August 2019 to October 2019). It also includes monthly apprenticeship statistics and registrations and commitments on the Apprenticeship Service.

Previously published data for the latest full, final year can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2019>.

Please note: all apprenticeships and traineeships data tables are located alongside the latest in year data for wider further education and skills learning, published on the 30th January 2020 and can be found here (see ‘Further Education and Skills, England: January 2020’):

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

1. Summary statistics

Apprenticeships

Impact of the apprenticeship levy

As of May 2017, reforms have been made to how apprenticeship funding works, including the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and apprenticeship service. The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly since the introduction of the levy which, along with the introduction of apprenticeship standards (that are replacing frameworks), has impacted on the number and nature of apprenticeship starts and participation. Care should be taken in comparing and interpreting data presented in this release.

Headline statistics

(Tables 1 and 2¹)

Latest figures for the first quarter of the 2019/20 academic year show that:

- Apprenticeship starts have decreased to 125,800 from 132,000 in quarter 1 of 2018/19, a decrease of 4.7 per cent (between equivalent points in 2017/18 and 2018/19, starts had increased by 15.4 per cent).
- Only higher level (level 4 and above) apprenticeship starts increased, to 29,800 from 23,100, an increase of 29.1 per cent.

¹ See section 6 for a list of tables in this release. The starts since May 2010 and since May 2015 figures and Level 6+ starts can be found in the associated tables here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>.

- Starts since May 2015 and May 2010 are now at 2,014,500 and 4,392,000 (respectively).
- Apprenticeship participation has increased compared to this time last year, to 562,700 from 529,900, an increase of 6.2 per cent.
- Apprenticeship achievements² stand at 30,300 reported so far.

Learner characteristics summary

(Table 2, supplementary tables and tools)

Out of 125,800 apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2019/20:

- Males account for 54.7 per cent (68,800 starts).
- Under 19s account for 32.3 per cent (40,700).
- 19 to 24-year-olds account for 29.3 per cent (36,800).
- Those aged 25 and over account for 38.4 per cent (48,300).
- Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities (BAME) represent 11.6 per cent (14,200).
- Those declaring a learning difficulty or disability (LLDD) account for 12.8 per cent (15,700).

Quarter 1 starts at this point are provisional. Comparisons and trends are more robust using full-year annual figures. See below for further detailed learner statistics and comparisons to previous years.

Subject and level summary

(Table 2, supplementary tables and tools)

Out of 125,800 apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2019/20:

- Apprenticeship standards represent 74.3 per cent (93,400 starts).
- Since their introduction in September 2014, the number of starts on standards has now been 534,600 (22.6 per cent of total starts since that point).
- Starts supported by ASA levy funds^{3,4} represent 63.5 per cent (79,900).
- Intermediate (level 2) and advanced (level 3) apprenticeships together make up over three-quarters of starts (32.6 per cent intermediate and 43.8 per cent advanced – 96,000 starts in total).
- Higher (level 4 and above) starts represent 23.7 per cent (29,800) and those at level 6 and above represent 11.0 per cent (13,800).
- Science, technology, engineering and manufacturing (STEM) subjects represent 34.1 per cent (42,900).
- Business, administration and law related subjects continue to be most popular, accounting for 28.3 per cent of starts (35,600).

See below for further detailed subject and level statistics and comparisons to this time last year.

² We have changed our approach to calculating apprenticeship achievements, see the 'changes in this release' section for further information.

³ We have changed our approach to both our 'levy supported' terminology and how we calculate this measure, see the 'changes in this release' section for further information.

⁴ During this reporting period a very small number of apprentices employed by employers that do not pay the levy were funded using the apprenticeship service system. This was part of testing in preparation for the extension of the service to all employers that do not pay the levy which happened on 9 January 2020. For future publications, apprentices in this group will be separately reported to reflect the development of the apprenticeship service which has now been delivered.

2. Apprenticeship learner characteristics

Comparisons of learner characteristics using in-year data are less reliable than using full-year final data. Quarter 1 starts at this point are provisional and will be revised as providers continue to record starts for this period in later collections of the ILR. For example, equivalent starts reported at this time for quarter 1 in 2018/19 were 12 per cent lower than the final quarter 1 figures. The difference between provisional and final figures can vary throughout the year and between years. Additionally, breakdowns of learner characteristics can vary within the academic year and between academic years.

For example, proportions in different age groups varies in-year and between years, and by quarter and compared to full, final year data.

In-year: Based on final year data for 2018/19, the proportion of quarter 1 starts (Aug-Oct 2018) for under 19 and over 25 year olds was 34.4 per cent and 35.4 per cent, respectively; in quarter 4 (May-July 2019) the proportions were 17.4 per cent and 54.0 per cent.

Between years:

Based on final year data for 2017/8, the proportions of quarter 1 starts for under 19 and over 25 years were 40.6 per cent and 28.6 per cent, respectively; for quarter 4 this was 19.0 per cent and 52.6 per cent, respectively.

Full, final year data:

In full, final year data for 2018/19, the proportion of starts for under 19 and over 25 year olds was 24.8 per cent and 45.7 per cent, respectively. Using full, final data for 2017/18 the proportions were 28.4 per cent and 41.4 per cent.

Compared to provisional quarter 1 data at this point in earlier years:

- Starts by under 19s have seen a fall of 11.2 per cent from 2018/19. In contrast, starts by those aged 19 and over fell by just 1.3 per cent and there has been a small rise for those aged 25 and over of 1.2 per cent.
- Since 2017/18, starts by adults (19+) have grown by over a quarter (25.6 per cent), while those for under 19s have fallen by 12.8 per cent. The 25 and over group have seen an increase of 44.8 per cent over this period.

Annual trends

The following information is based on latest full, final year data and is intended to draw out full-year, longer-term trends.

Gender

There was an even split between males and females starting apprenticeships in 2018/19. Prior to this:

- Females had a greater share (around 53 per cent) between 2014/15 and 2016/17.
- Starts dropped sharply in 2017/18 but much more so for females. Females saw 30.3 per cent fewer starts in 2017/18 compared to the previous year. Male starts dropped by 16.9 per cent in the same period.

Age

Those aged 25 and over have consistently had the highest share of starts each year over the period 2014/15 to 2018/19.

However, in 2017/18:

- Overall starts fell but the aged 25 and over group saw a disproportionate drop of a third (32.4 per cent) compared to other age-groups.
- Under 19s fell by 13.2 per cent and 19-24s by 20.0 per cent.
- Over 25s share of starts consequently fell from 46.5 per cent to 41.4 per cent

The final 2018/19 figures show that the ratio of starts across age-groups have been restored to 2016/17 levels with the share of over 25s returning to 45.7 per cent.

Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups (BAME)⁵

The share of apprentices from BAME backgrounds has been rising gradually since 2015/16. The latest full-year data for 2018/19 shows the largest single year rise, moving from 11.4 per cent in 2017/18 to 12.5 per cent.

Learners with a learning difficulty or disability

The share of starts by LLDD learners has risen year-on year from 8.9 per cent in 2014/15 to 12.0 per cent in 2018/19.

3. Apprenticeship subjects and levels

Compared to provisional quarter 1 data at this point in earlier years:

- Starts on standards have risen by 22.4 per cent in the last year and more than doubled since 2017/18.
- Advanced apprenticeship starts have fallen by 4.8 per cent in the last year and intermediate starts have fallen by a fifth (19.9 per cent).
- Higher level starts have increased by 29.1 per cent in the last year and by over 2.5 times since 2017/18.
- Level 6 and 7 starts have increased by 49.4 per cent since 2018/19 and are nearly five times higher than in 2017/18.
- Starts in business, administration and law (the most popular subject area) have seen a modest 0.8 per cent fall in starts overall but there are large differences by level:
 - Intermediate level starts in business decreased by 30.4 per cent with falls in both standards and frameworks
 - Advanced level starts decreased by 5.5 per cent
 - Higher level starts increased by 28.5 per cent.
- Starts in retail have seen a 14.7 per cent decline with the largest fall seen at level 2 (20.1 per cent)
- Engineering starts have seen a 10.3 per cent decline; level 2 fell by 22.5 per cent and level 3 by 4.6 per cent.

⁵ As stated in the release: 'Further Education and Skills, England: November 2019', the BAME/LDD targets (previously set out in the Benefits Realisation Strategy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-reform-programme-benefits-realisation-strategy>) have been revised upwards from 11.9 per cent to 12.1 per cent. For more information, please see: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/848534/FE_and_Skills_commentary_November_2019.pdf.

Annual trends

The following information is based on latest full, final year data and is intended to draw out full-year, longer-term trends.

Levels

Higher apprenticeships have seen increases in starts in recent years. Higher apprenticeships accounted for just 4.0 per cent of starts in 2014/15, rising to nearly one-in-five by the end of 2018/19. Of starts recorded so far in 2019/20, 23.7 per cent were at higher level.

Level 6 and above starts have seen a large increase since 2016/17 when they accounted for just 0.3 per cent of all starts (1,700). By 2018/19, 5.7 per cent of starts (22,500) were at level 6+ and of starts recorded so far in 2019/20, more than one in ten (11.0 per cent) were at these levels.

Intermediate apprenticeships have fallen over the period, particularly since 2016/17. Intermediate apprenticeships accounted for 59.7 per cent of starts in 2014/15 compared to 36.5 per cent in 2018/19.

Subject areas

The four most popular subject areas (accounting for over 80 per cent of starts each year) are:

- Business, administration and law
- Health, public services and care
- Engineering, manufacturing technologies
- Retail and commercial enterprise

The share of these subjects has declined slightly in recent years, from 87.3 per cent in 2014/15 to 83.3 per cent in 2018/19, mainly due to a decline in retail and commercial enterprise apprenticeships. Latest figures show that 78.8 per cent of starts were in these subjects in the first quarter of 2019/20.

Apprenticeships in construction, planning and the built environment and information and communication technology have seen a modest rise since 2014/15.

Apprenticeship standards

Since their introduction in September 2014, starts on standards are increasing rapidly as they replace apprenticeship frameworks. Standards accounted for 63.1 per cent of all starts in 2018/19 – an increase of 19.5 percentage points on 2017/18.

74.3 per cent of starts so far in 2019/20 were on standards.

4. Traineeships

Headline statistics

Latest figures for the first quarter of the 2019/20 academic year show that:

- Traineeship starts have decreased to 5,700 from 5,900 starts reported at the equivalent point in 2018/19, a fall of 3.3 per cent.
- Under 19s account for over four-fifths of traineeship starts (80.8 per cent – 4,600 starts).
- 7,700 learners participated in a traineeship.
- Males account for nearly three-fifths of participation on traineeships (59.3 per cent).
- BAME learners account for 29.2 per cent of participation.
- LLDD learners account for 21.9 per cent of participation.

Note: latest traineeship completion rates and traineeship conversions rates (i.e. conversion from traineeship start to apprenticeship start) were reported in November 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2019>.

The next update of these measures will be in March and will provide provisional completion rates for traineeships started in the final two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year (completed by the end of quarter 2 in 2019/20). Full, final year completion rates will be published in November 2020, along with conversion rates into apprenticeship starts in 2019/20 for traineeships started in 2018/19.

5. Apprenticeship service and transparency data

The following statistics are classified as official statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, rather than being classed as national statistics and approved as such by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

For further information and background on apprenticeship service data, please see the Apprenticeship and Levy Statistics releases here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>.

Account registrations and commitments

As at 30 November 2019, the number of:

- registered Apprenticeship Service Accounts (ASAs)^{6,7,8} was 19,700.
- commitments recorded for the 2018/19 academic year was 213,300 (of which 210,900 were fully agreed).
- commitments recorded for the 2019/20 academic year was 83,800 (77,900 fully agreed) – down on the 88,800 recorded for the 2018/19 academic year at the equivalent point last year.

The total number of commitments recorded since the start of the apprenticeship service stands at 442,300.

Commitments by age and level

Of the 83,800 commitments recorded so far for the 2019/20 academic year:

- those aged 25 and over account for 50.1 per cent compared to 47.8 per cent at the equivalent point in 2018/19.
- intermediate apprenticeships account for 25.3 per cent compared to 31.6 percent in 2018/19.
- advanced apprenticeships account for 42.1 per cent compared to 42.6 per cent at the equivalent point in 2018/19.
- higher apprenticeships account for 32.6 per cent compared to 25.7 percent at the equivalent point in 2018/19.

⁶ These are accounts set up by employers allowing them to utilise levy funds. They have associated Pay As You Earn (PAYE) / funding details and a signed legal agreement recorded on the digital apprenticeship service system.

⁷ There is no direct relationship between apprenticeship service accounts and employers, as an account can be associated with more than one PAYE scheme, whilst an employer may have more than one apprenticeship service account.

⁸ Please see previous statistical release for information on the revision made to how we calculate registrations published November 2019: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2019>.

Transfers

In April 2018 it became possible for levy-paying organisations to transfer up to 10 per cent of the annual value of funds entering their apprenticeship service account to other organisations via the apprenticeship service. This increased to 25 per cent from April 2019.

As at 30 November 2019:

- the number of commitments entered into the apprenticeship service where the transfer of funds between ASAs has been approved, was 2,100 - a further 50 commitments were pending approval for the transfer of funds.
- 910 of the fully agreed transferred commitments have been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) in the 2018/19 academic year, with a further 480 recorded so far in 2019/20.

Monthly apprenticeship starts

The apprenticeship starts figures reported elsewhere in this document relate to the first quarter of the 2019/20 academic year (August 2019 to October 2019).

Monthly apprenticeship starts figures are also produced for transparency purposes but are less robust for making comparisons given different reporting patterns. The latest figures (covering August 2019 to November 2019) are summarised below and more detailed breakdowns can be found [<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>].

Using the latest ILR data available, between August 2019 to November 2019 reported to date there have been 155,700 starts.

Compared to the equivalent period in previous years:

- Down by 6.4 per cent from 166,400 in 2018/19.
- Up by 5.8 per cent per cent from 147,200 in 2017/18.

About this release

This statistical release presents information on all age (16+) apprenticeships and traineeships in England for the first quarter of the 2019/20 academic year, covering August 2019 to October 2020.

This release also contains data on registrations and commitments from the apprenticeship service. These official statistics are produced to provide transparency with regards to the apprenticeship service, an online service implemented in May 2017 that allows employers to choose and pay for apprenticeship training more easily, and its usage.

These statistics will continue to evolve over time as more data are collected and their relationships to other further education measures becomes more established. Caution should be taken interpreting what apprenticeship service data may mean for the overall apprenticeship programme given this is intended to grow over coming years. It has the potential to be affected by other factors, for example, users typically take time to adjust to recording data on a new system.

Please see the Quality and Methodology document that accompanied the [March Further Education and Skills release](#) for links to data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Please see the previous statistical release (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2019>) for:

- Progress towards the public sector apprenticeship target;
- Average apprenticeship duration and total expected training hours;
- Key stage 4 cohort analysis on learners starting apprenticeships

Changes included in this release

This release includes provisional quarter 1 data for the 2019/20 academic year based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by further education colleges and providers in December 2019.

Achievements count

A new approach for calculating the date of achievement for apprenticeship standards has been implemented in this statistical release due to the introduction of a field in the collection system to record the end point assessment (EPA) for apprenticeship standards. For standards the passing of EPA represents the achievement date.

Under the previous methodology the learner's leave month/year when learning had successfully completed and achieved was used as the date of achievement, which would normally be the same date. With the introduction of EPAs, the leave date and the EPA achievement date could span two different academic years. Therefore, a learner could have completed their learning in the 2018/19 academic year for example (and left the programme), but the EPA may not occur until the following academic year, i.e. 2019/20.

The new field enables the new method to calculate the month/year the learner successfully passed their apprenticeship programme for standards.

Levy-supported definition

We have changed our terminology from 'Levy supported starts' to 'Starts supported by ASA levy funds' in this release to better reflect what we are actually counting.

We have also changed our approach in calculating such starts. Prior to this release we have been publishing the number of levy supported starts based on a match between ILR starts data to information in an organisation's Apprenticeship Service Account (ASA) – this is known as the 'data lock', and is essential for payment of levy funds.

However, this data match does not always occur in a timely way during the early part of the academic year. This leads to an under-count when using this approach to identify whether a start is funded by the levy and can provide a misleading picture of the true level of such starts.

To improve the count for in year starts we are now using an alternative approach based on a new ILR field that records the contract type an apprentice is funded through as reported in the ILR, which can be used to identify a start as being 'supported by ASA levy funds'.

As we progress through the year, providers will update their information on the ILR and by the final ILR return the data lock issue is resolved to allow payments to be made. From January 2020 we will use this new approach for all in year reporting. There will be no back series on the new approach in year; this will only be available for the final end of year data.

Please note: the apprenticeship programme is largely funded by the apprenticeship levy, although an organisation can choose to fund apprenticeships themselves.

Apprenticeship service

We are also including updated apprenticeship service registrations and commitments data based on data returned to the end of November 2019. The number of transferred commitments and transferred commitments that have so far been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the ILR have also been updated.

Changes in the next release

The DfE is changing how we release our statistics to further modernise our approach to dissemination. This will be through a new DfE statistics dissemination platform known as 'Explore Education Statistics' (EES) to make our data and statistics easier to find, access, navigate and understand. Please see here for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics>. We are hoping to move to the new platform as soon as possible in 2020 but cannot confirm this as yet.

This may mean we republish some of the material in this statistical release for quarter 1 of 2019/20 during February 2020 on the new platform. The expectation is to move to a fuller release on the new platform in March 2020 for our mid-year statistical publication covering the first six months of the 2019/20 academic year.

The EES system offers a step change for users in making data and releases easier to find and through use of a new table tool, more interactive access to our data. We are also adopting a more concise and user-friendly presentation of commentary and headline data. In addition, the move to EES will, over time, make production and dissemination of statistical releases more efficiency and flexible.

We will also seek to improve navigation to our data by consolidating releases and providing more seamless links to all supporting tables. In EES therefore we hope to have two releases; a Further education and skills release and an Apprenticeships and traineeships release. The latter will bring all apprenticeship data together in one place and update relevant sections on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. For example, the next update of progress towards the public sector apprenticeships target will be November 2020.

If we cannot move to EES in March, we will provide another transitional product similar to the approach adopted in this release and continue to focus on making the long-term move to EES that will benefit all.

We are looking to run webinars on the new EES release via sector bodies before launch.

There will be on-going developments to the platform over time as well as how we use it to release our statistics, therefore we would welcome feedback on what users find helpful or not.

In this publication

NOTE: all apprenticeships and traineeships main data tables can be found in the 'Further Education and Skills: January 2020' release here:

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

The following tables are included:

- 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>

- Underlying comma separated value (CSV) datasets along with metadata

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

Please see the 'Accompanying tables' section below for the full list of supplementary tables and data tools published with this release including the csv files.

The Quality and methodology (technical) document published alongside the March release provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

Apprenticeship service and levy statistics

This publication contains updated apprenticeship service registrations and commitments data based on data returned to the end of November 2019. The number of transferred commitments and transferred commitments that have been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the ILR have also been updated.

The following tables are included as part of this release:

- Main table pack containing national tables (.xls and .ods)

Total number of commitments by training start date and age as reported at 30 November 2019

Total number of commitments by training start date and level as reported at 30 November 2019

All age monthly apprenticeship programme starts by level and age (2019/20 – reported to date)

- Monthly apprenticeship starts PivotTable tool covering breakdowns by sector subject area, framework/standard, age group, level, degree apprenticeship flag and funding type (to November 2019).

Methodology and technical information

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 this release. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-october-2019>

Feedback

For any queries relating to changes we are planning to make to how we publish our data and statistics, please contact: FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk.

6. Accompanying tables

The following is a complete list of further education and skills tables and data tools published on the 30 January 2020 (including apprenticeships), that are located on the 'Further Education and Skills: January 2020' release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-january-2020>

The following tables are available in Excel and Open Data Source (ODS) format here:

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

Further education and skills tables:

1. All age apprenticeship participation by level and age (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 2.1. All age apprenticeship programme starts by level and age (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 2.2. All age apprenticeship programme achievements by level and age (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
3. Traineeship starts by age (2013/14 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 4.1. Adult (19+) FE and Skills participation by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 4.2. Adult (19+) FE and Skills achievement by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 5.1. Adult (19+) Education and Training participation by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 5.2. Adult (19+) Education and Training achievement by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 6.1. Adult (19+) AEB funded participation by level (2016/17 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 6.2. Adult (19+) AEB funded achievement by level (2016/17 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
7. Adult (19+) FE and Skills: English and maths participation and achievement by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
8. All age demographic summary of apprenticeship participation (2019/20 - reported to date)
9. Adult (19+) demographic summary of FE and Skills participation (2019/20 - reported to date)
10. Community Learning participation and achievement by type (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)

Underlying CSV data

- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship starts with various attributes such as gender, geography, sector subject area and provider (2019/20 - reported to date)
- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship participation with various attributes such as gender, geography and provider, (2019/20 - reported to date).
- Unrounded CSV Apprenticeship achievements by SSA, provider, framework/standard, local authority district (2019/20 - reported to date)
- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship starts and achievements by LEP (2019/20 - reported to date).
- Unrounded CSV dataset on FE and Skills learner participation with various attributes such as gender, geography and provider (2019/20 - reported to date).
- Unrounded CSV dataset on Further Education and Skills aims enrolments with various attributes such as gender, geography, sector subject area and provider (2019/20 - reported to date).

- Education & training demographic and SSA table tool: aims enrolments and achievements by local authority district (2019/20 - reported to date),
- Metadata: Information about the fields in the underlying data and additional notes for users

Apprenticeship and levy statistics tables:

1. Total number of commitments by training start date and age as reported at 30 November 2019
2. Total number of commitments by training start date and level as reported at 30 November 2019
3. All age apprenticeship programme starts by start month, level and age (2019/20 August to November 2019)

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, sector subject area and funding stream.

Please see the **table finder** tool published in the FE data library for further supplementary data tools and tables published along with this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fe-data-library-help-for-finding-data>

1. Apprenticeship demographic and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2019/20 - reported to date)
2. Apprenticeship framework/standard and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2019/20 - reported to date)
3. Apprenticeship starts since May 2010/2015 by geography
4. Adult (19+) Education and Training Participation by Level and total Community Learning Participation for active Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and Greater London Authority (GLA) (2019/20 - reported to date) - Learner Volumes
5. Home and Away tables for apprenticeships by local authority district (2018/19)
6. Home and Away tables for non-apprenticeships by local authority district, 2018/19
7. FE and skills participation by learning difficulty or disability, and level or age (2018/19)
8. Monthly apprenticeship starts PivotTable tool covering breakdowns by sector subject area, framework/standard, age group, level, degree apprenticeship flag and funding type (2014/15 to 2019/20 - reported to date)

When reviewing the FE and Skills 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 per cent 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 per cent.
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 data reported so far for the first quarter of the 2019/20 academic year (August 2019 to October 2019) reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in December 2019 by further education providers. It also includes final data for previous years for comparison where applicable.

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 this release. As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic.

More information, please see the latest version in the most recent statistical release here:

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

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-october-2019>

7. Further information is available

Additional breakdowns of further education 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, sector subject area and funding stream.

Please see the further education data library here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: [Apprenticeship and levy statistics: October 2019 - GOV.UK](#)

8. 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

9. Technical information

For further information, please see the quality and methodology document that accompanied the March release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

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.

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

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: [Apprenticeship and levy statistics: October 2019 - GOV.UK](#)

10. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics in January 2012 (https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessment-report-78-further-education-and-skills_tcm97-35239.pdf), 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.

Since the last assessment, we have made the following improvements to these statistics to continue their compliance with the Code of Practice:

We highlighted the key methodology information in the Quality and Methodology document (see the methodology document accompanying the last [March Further Education and Skills release](#)) including data

quality issues surrounding the in-year data in our releases and ensured our in-year statistics are now clearly caveated. We have improved the commentary with charts and the necessary caveats to aid interpretation and to visually reflect the variability with in-year statistics. We made a number of changes to our publication structure and publication timings from January 2018, which were outlined in the [Proposed Changes](#) document in November 2017. We have responded to various user needs by creating more data tools with the view to improving the richness of data, increasing efficiencies, and enabling re-use of those statistics, thereby improving flexibility of the statistics. We have developed a new table finder to help users navigate the tools in the further education data library. These changes, particularly those implemented for the 2017/18 academic year were informed by user feedback, an internal review of further education Official Statistics, and departmental priorities, with a view to improving consistency across our statistical publications. Furthermore, [the FE Official Statistics mailbox](#) has been introduced as the central point of contact for further engagement and to invite feedback.

Further recent correspondence from the UKSA regarding our compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics is published here: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/compliance-check-further-education-skills/>

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

11. Get in touch

Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 020 7783 8300

Other enquiries and feedback

Rick Baker, Further Education Statistical Dissemination Team, Department for Education, 2 St Paul's Place, Sheffield, S1 2JF.

Email: FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk



Department
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write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

Rick Baker, Further Education Statistical Dissemination Team, Department for Education, 2 St Paul's Place, Sheffield, S1 2JF.

Email: FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk

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

Reference: [Apprenticeship and Traineeships: January 2020]



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