



Traineeship Data

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1. This note is being published separately to the SFR entitled “Further Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held”: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held>.
2. Further Education data are drawn from a funding system that does not provide a complete record of delivery until after the end of the academic year. In-year data is published in the interests of transparency and is subject to a varying degree of revision. As a new programme, Traineeship¹ data will be more incomplete than mature programmes.
3. Users should note the issues below that may affect the reliability of this reported number, which may be a potential undercount. We hope to provide data, subject to quality, in the remaining in-year release before we publish final data for 2013/14 in the November 2014 Statistical First Release (SFR).
4. Based on provisional Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data, providers reported **7,400 Traineeship starts** in the first three quarters of the 2013/14 academic year (August 2013 to April 2014).
5. This figure does not provide a full picture of performance on the Traineeship programme to date for the following reasons:
 - All provisional data for 2013/14 provide an early view of performance. Providers may not have reported all their information relating to this period and it is not possible to determine how incomplete the information is.
 - All new programmes take time to develop over their first year. In addition, new reporting systems typically present issues in terms of completeness and accuracy as the sector adjusts to new funding and reporting rules. Analysis of ILR data shows that there is potential for a larger undercount for Traineeships compared to other provision.
 - Whilst analysis has shown that there are improvements in reporting of Traineeships across age and component aims in recent periods, breakdowns of the overall figure may present unreliable and misleading comparisons. We will look to provide such breakdowns once we have reliable estimates at that level.
6. By the end of 2013/14, we expect FE reporting to provide a more complete picture especially for new programmes. However, given user interest we are working with the sector to address any reporting issues as soon as possible.
7. The next SFR will be in October 2014.

¹ Traineeships were introduced from August 2013 for young people aged 16-23 (inclusive) funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Education Funding Agency. They provide work preparation training, maths and English and work experience needed to get an Apprenticeship or other job.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships-programme>