



Department
for Education

Experimental statistics **Apprenticeship service: registrations and commitments**

Recorded as at 31 May 2017

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The apprentice 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:

- receive levy funds to spend on apprenticeships
- manage their apprentices
- pay their training provider

In order to provide transparency with regards to this new system and its usage, we are publishing an early experimental statistics that relates to the apprenticeship service.

Caution should be taken interpreting what this data may mean for the overall apprenticeship programme given this is a new system, intended to grow over coming year or so. 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.

This publication will evolve over time as more data are collected and their relation to other further education measures, such as those recorded by the individualised learner record (ILR), is more established.

Definitions

Apprenticeship service accounts:

In order for an apprenticeship service account to be created and registered, the user must have completed three necessary steps:

1. Registration (creating a user login)
2. Adding an organisation (legal entity)
3. Adding a valid PAYE scheme

Completing these three steps creates a unique identifier for the registered apprenticeship service account (ASA), which is our principle measure of the number of accounts. The apprenticeship service went live for registrations from 23 January 2017. All employers can use the apprenticeship service to search for apprenticeships and a training provider.

Legal entities

An organisation (legal entity) in the apprenticeship service is defined as a body that can legally employ apprentices and makes agreements with training providers; for example a company as defined under their company number.

PAYE schemes

Pay As You Earn (PAYE) schemes are defined by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) as the system to collect Income Tax and National Insurance from employment as part of their payroll. For more information on paying the apprenticeship levy can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-apprenticeship-levy>

Commitments

A commitment is where a potential apprentice, who is expected to go on to start, has been recorded in the system. The apprenticeship service provides a self-managed service on which organisations and providers can contract services to provide apprenticeship training. The organisation can add a commitment for an apprentice to the system with an expected training start date. These commitments may be either **fully agreed** or **pending approval**. These were only able to be entered from March 2017.

A **fully agreed commitment** has agreement on the apprenticeship service from both the organisation and the training provider and an apprentice can go onto start.

A **pending approval commitment** means that details of an apprentice have been added but neither the provider and/or the ASA have yet to finalise the agreement. These commitments show an intent for an apprentice to start, however may not materialise into a fully agreed commitment in the future.

Apprenticeship service data to date

Registered apprenticeship services accounts (ASA)

As at 31 May 2017, there have been 8,200 ASAs registered.

Table 1: Total number of apprenticeship service accounts registered by month

Date registered	Number of accounts registered
23 – 31 January 2017	20
February 2017	1,320
March 2017	3,390
April 2017	2,060
May 2017	1,400
Total registered	8,200

Commitments

As at 31 May 2017, there have been a total of 5,200 commitments entered into the apprenticeship service. Of these, 3,900 were fully agreed,

Table 2: Total number of commitments by training start date, as reported by 31 May 2017

Date committed to start	Fully Agreed	Pending Approval	Total
May 2017	3,580	610	4,190
June 2017	200	410	600
July 2017	120	120	250
August 2017	-	10	10
September 2017	10	80	90
No date yet recorded	-	20	20
Total commitments	3,900	1,300	5,200

Notes:

- 1) Volumes are rounded to the ten except for totals, which are rounded to the nearest hundred.
- 2) ‘-’ indicates a base value of fewer than five.
- 3) The data source for these tables is the Apprenticeship Service.
- 4) Date of registration is date the apprenticeship service account first registered their PAYE account number and a legal entity in the digital apprenticeship service system.
- 5) A commitment may be recorded on the apprenticeship system after the date has passed and therefore data should be treated as highly provisional.

Future Publications

We will publish these statistics on a monthly basis but may adjust content and timing as feedback is assessed. We will take into account what data is reported in this new system and how this is happening. We will aim to include more information, such as apprenticeship starts that have received some funding via the levy in the next [statistical first release](#) in October 2017.



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