Apprenticeships national achievement rates tables for the 2014/2015 academic year

Guidance notes

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Contents

Section 1 – Introduction

Purpose of this document

1. This document provides information about the apprenticeships national achievement rates tables for the 2014/2015 academic year.

Purpose of the apprenticeships national achievement rates tables

2. The national achievement rates tables for apprenticeships set out levels of success, in terms of framework completions, in apprenticeships provision in England for the 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 academic years. We publish national achievement rates tables every year.

3. The information in the tables is consistent with the apprenticeships qualification achievement rates BI dashboard for 2014/2015 made available to institutions. It expands upon the national achievement rates published in the statistical first release (at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held).

4. Apprenticeships national achievement rates tables help institutions to raise the standard of their work. They allow institutions to assess their performance, and help them to plan action programmes to improve their apprentices' qualification achievement rates.

5. Throughout this guidance we refer to 'national achievement rates tables' rather than 'benchmarking data'. National achievement rates tables allow for comparison, and are not a standard of best practice.

Location of national achievement rates tables for 2014/2015

6. The national achievement rates tables for 2014/2015 are on our website (at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sfa-national-achievement-rates-tables-2014-to-2015).

Changes to the apprenticeships national achievement rates tables

7. The changes made to the apprenticeships national achievement rates tables to those produced for 2013/2014 are as follows.

- The information from the 2014/2015 apprenticeships qualification achievement rates reports has been added to the national achievement rates tables for 2014/2015.
- The information for the 2011/2012 apprenticeships qualification achievement rates has been removed from the national achievement rates tables for 2014/2015.
- The Excel format for the 2014/2015 NARTs have changed. All spreadsheets will be produced as Microsoft Excel 2010.
- The consultation on the outcome based success measures identified that there are other equally important factors that determine the successful outcome of learning. In preparation for the introduction of a broader range of success measures, we are changing the name 'Success Rates' to 'Achievement Rates.'
- UPIN is no longer the primary identifier of an institution and has been removed from the national achievement rates tables for 2014/2015.
- Percentile data does not provide essential information and has been removed from the 2014/2015 national achievement rate tables.

Section 2 – Apprenticeships national achievement rates tables worksheets

Contents of the tables

8. Our aim in publishing the apprenticeships national achievement rates tables is to provide a useful but manageable amount of information, drawing on existing statistics.

9. The information for the apprenticeships national achievement rates tables has been created from institutions' Individualised Learner Record (ILR) returns, and the tables provide a range of national-level and institution-level statistics for success. The method of calculating achievement rates is available on the gov.uk website (at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-qualification-achievement-rate-2014-to-2015).

10. The apprenticeships national achievement rates tables contain qualification achievement rates for three academic years (2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015). The information for academic years, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 are sourced from the qualification success rates dataset produced for that year, calculated using the method that applied to that year. The information for the 2014/2015 academic year is sourced from the qualification achievement rates dataset produced for 2014/2015, calculated using the method that applied to the 2014/2015 academic year.

Format of the apprenticeships national achievement rates tables

11. The apprenticeships national achievement rates tables are published as six compressed files. Each compressed file holds a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that contains a number of worksheets. The separate spreadsheets are:
    - Headline report for the overall measure;
    - Institution report for the overall measure;
    - Institution report for the timely measure;
    - Excluded framework report for the overall measure;
    - Excluded framework report for the timely measure; and
    - National achievement rates for the timely measure.

    The contents of the spreadsheets are shown below.

Headline report

12. The headline report contains separate worksheets that show an overview of all national qualification achievement rates. This report also presents the achievement rates by:
    - gender;
    - learning difficulty or disability;
    - ethnic background;
    - sector subject area tier 1 and 2;
    - framework;
    - apprentices' local authority (based on the apprentices' home postcodes);
    - apprentices 'Local Enterprise Partnership;
    - apprentices' region;
    - local authority for where the learning is delivered (based on the postcode of the institutions' delivery locations);
    - delivery Local Enterprise Partnership; and
    - delivery region.

Institution reports for overall measure and timely measure

13. The institution reports contains worksheets that show the overall qualification achievement rates and timely qualification achievement rates of each institution at headline level, which is a high-level overview of the overall qualification achievement rates for each institution, and by:
    - gender;
    - ethnic background;
    - learning difficulty or disability;
    - sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2; and
    - framework.

18. The hybrid end year (which is the actual end year or the planned end year, whichever is later) is shown for the overall qualification achievement rate and the expected end year is shown for the timely qualification achievement rate.

19. The sector subject area and framework reports are split by year over separate worksheets.

Excluded framework report for overall and timely measure

20. Due to the exclusion rules described in section 5, the full coverage of frameworks delivered nationally, and at institution level, is not available in the national- and institution-level framework spreadsheets for the overall achievement rates.

21. The excluded frameworks are published in the excluded framework spreadsheets to allow the full scope of frameworks delivery to be seen. The reports indicates the reasons for the particular frameworks being excluded.

22. The report for the overall measure is split into four worksheets:
    - Excluded apprenticeship frameworks at national level for 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015;
    - 2012/2013 overall excluded frameworks for institutions;
    - 2013/2014 overall excluded frameworks for institutions; and
    - 2014/2015 overall excluded frameworks for institutions.

23. The report for the timely measure is split into three worksheets:
    - 2012/2013 timely excluded frameworks for institutions;
    - 2013/2014 timely excluded frameworks for institutions; and
    - 2014/2015 timely excluded frameworks for institutions.

24. The excluded frameworks for institutions are split by year over separate worksheets.

Section 3 – Apprenticeships national achievement rates tables open data files

Format of apprenticeships national achievement rates tables open data files

25. The apprenticeships national achievement rates tables are also published in a non-proprietary format to meet the 'three-star open data standard'. The comma-separated variable (CSV) file is our preferred non-proprietary format. For more information on open data, see the published white paper written by the Cabinet Office (at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-data-white-paper-unleashing-the-potential).

26. The apprenticeships national achievement rates tables open data files are published as 28 separate compressed files. The contents of each file, and which report the information comes from, is shown below.

File number	File contents	Source report
NART201	Headline overall achievement rates	Headline
NART202	Overall achievement rates by gender	Headline
NART203	Overall achievement rates by ethnic background	Headline
NART204	Overall achievement rates by learning difficulties or disabilities	Headline
NART205	Overall achievement rates by sector subject area	Headline
NART206	Overall achievement rates by framework	Headline
NART207	Overall achievement rates by apprentices' Local Enterprise Partnership	Headline
NART208	Overall achievement rates by delivery locations' Local Enterprise Partnership	Headline
NART209	Overall achievement rates by apprentices' region	Headline
NART210	Overall achievement rates by delivery locations' region	Headline
NART211	Overall achievement rates by apprentices' local authority	Headline
NART212	Overall achievement rates by delivery locations' local authority	Headline
NART213	Headline overall achievement rates for institutions	Overall institution
NART214	Overall achievement rates for institutions by gender	Overall institution
NART215	Overall achievement rates for institutions by ethnic background	Overall institution
NART216	Overall achievement rates for institutions by learning difficulties or disabilities	Overall institution
NART217	Overall achievement rates for institutions by sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2	Overall institution
NART218	Overall achievement rates for institutions by framework	Overall institution
NART219	Timely headline achievement rates for institutions	Timely institution
NART220	Timely achievement rates for institutions by gender	Timely institution
NART221	Timely achievement rates for institutions by ethnic background	Timely institution
NART222	Timely achievement rates for institutions by learning difficulties or disabilities	Timely institution
NART223	Timely achievement rates for institutions by sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2	Timely institution
NART224	Timely achievement rates for institutions by framework	Timely institution
NART225	Overall excluded national frameworks	Overall excluded frameworks
NART226	Overall excluded institution frameworks	Overall excluded frameworks
NART227	Timely excluded institution frameworks	Timely excluded frameworks
NART228	Timely national achievement rates	National timely

Section 4 – Contents of national achievement rates tables

27. This section describes the columns in the apprenticeships national achievement rates table worksheets.

Report columns

Institution type

28. Each institution classified into one of six institution types. The institution types reported on are:

- General further-education or tertiary college
- Private-sector publicly funded institution
- School
- Sixth-form college
- Specialist college
- Other publicly funded institution

29. The 'specialist college' category includes agriculture and horticulture colleges, and art, design and performing arts colleges. An 'all institution type' category is also available on some of the worksheets.

Age group

30. The age group of a cohort is based on an apprentice's age on the start date of the framework aim. Apprentices of unknown age are included in the 24 and over age group. Apprentices under 16 are included in the 16 to 18 age group. All tables show information divided into age groups:
- 16 to 18
- 19 to 23
- 24 and over
- All ages

Apprenticeship level and type

31. Apprenticeships are grouped according to their level and type. The apprenticeship levels and types reported on are:

- Level 2 – intermediate apprenticeship
- Level 3 – advanced-level apprenticeship
- Level 4+ – higher-level apprenticeships (this includes level-4 and level-5 apprenticeships)
- All levels and types

Framework name and framework code

32. The framework name and framework code of an apprenticeship is in the learning aim reference system (LARS) (at https://hub.imservices.org.uk/Learning%20Aims/Pages/default.aspx).

Sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2

33. The sector subject area tier 1 and sector subject area tier 2 for an apprenticeship are those recorded in LARS for 2014/2015.

Report measures

34. The overall and timely achievement rates are calculated in line with our apprenticeship qualifications achievement rates business rules and methods. These are on the gov.uk website (at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-qualification-achievement-rate-2014-to-2015).

Overall qualification achievement rate

35. The overall qualification achievement rate measures the percentage of apprenticeship frameworks achieved against the overall number of apprenticeship frameworks completed. The overall achievement rate is based on the hybrid end year.

36. The hybrid end year is the actual learning end year or the planned learning end year of an apprenticeship, whichever is later.

Timely qualification achievement rate

37. The timely qualification achievement rate measures the percentage of apprenticeship frameworks that were achieved by their planned end date, or within 90 days after their planned end date, against the number of apprenticeship frameworks that were expected to be completed.

Overall and timely cohorts

38. In the reports the term 'cohort' is used as shorthand for 'apprenticeships completed by, or expected to be completed by, learners'. An apprentice is included in the 'cohort' when it is:
    - which is funded;
    - where the apprentice has not transferred to a different programme with the same institution;
    - where the apprentice has not transferred to another institution due to intervention by us or the Education Funding Agency;
    - where the apprentice is not on a planned break; and
    - where the apprentice has not withdrawn within the first 41 days of study.

39. The 'overall cohort' column shows the number of apprenticeships that were planned to be completed, or have actually completed, within a given hybrid year.

40. The 'timely cohort' column shows the number of apprenticeships that are expected to be completed by their planned end date, or within 90 days of their planned end date, within a given academic year.

41. The number of apprentices in a sub-cohort (a distinct group of apprentices within a cohort) may not add up to the total number of apprentices in the cohort because:
    - the number of apprentices is rounded to the nearest 10 at all levels; and
    - small cohorts (fewer than five) are not included in the published tables.

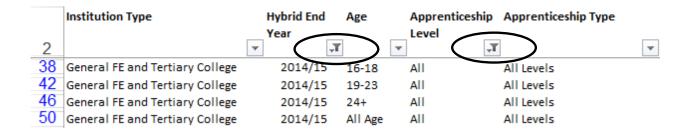## Section 5 – Exclusions from the national achievement rates tables

42. The rules on excluding small cohorts, suppressing figures and rounding figures in the achievement rates worksheets are listed below:
    - Cohorts with fewer than five apprentices are not shown on any worksheets.
    - Cohorts with five or more apprentices but fewer than 30 are replaced with a dash (–).
    - The cohort is rounded to the nearest 10. This prevents the possibility of individual apprentices being identified.

43. Where individual framework qualification achievement rates are reported, if a framework is only delivered at a single institution, the framework is not included in the report. This affects the overall report (framework achievement rate worksheet) and the institution report (achievement rates for institutions by framework) worksheet for both the overall qualification achievement rates and timely qualification achievement rates.

44. Any frameworks that are excluded are listed in the excluded frameworks report worksheets, together with the reasons why they are excluded.

45. Where individual framework qualification achievement rates are reported, the exclusion rules mean that the total cohort for the individual institution types may be less than the number of apprentices for the 'all institution type' row.

Section 6 – Choosing information on the national achievement rates tables

46. The qualification achievement rate data is presented as a series of rows in Excel worksheets. Each row shows the qualification achievement rate of a specific cohort of apprentices. Summary information is shown at many levels (for example, all ages, all apprenticeship levels and all institution types). All the columns in the worksheets contain drop-down menus that allow you to choose the information you want.

47. The screenshot below shows an example of how the information appears in the headline achievement rate worksheet.

	Institution Type	Hybrid End Year	Age	Apprenticeship Level	Apprenticeship Type
35	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	16-18	2	Intermediate
36	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	16-18	3	Advanced
37	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	16-18	4+	Higher
38	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	16-18	All	All Levels
39	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	19-23	4	Intermediate
40	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	19-23	5	Advanced
41	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	19-23	4+	Higher
42	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	19-23	All	All Levels
43	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	24+	6	Intermediate
44	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	24+	7	Advanced
45	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	24+	4+	Higher
46	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	24+	All	All Levels
47	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	All Age	8	Intermediate
48	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	All Age	9	Advanced
49	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	All Age	4+	Higher
50	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	All Age	All	All Levels

48. The drop-down menus are used to choose the level of information. The screenshot below shows the effect of using the drop-down menus to choose achievement rates broken down by age for all apprenticeship levels for 2014/2015.

	Institution Type	Hybrid End Year	Age	Apprenticeship Level	Apprenticeship Type
2					
38	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	16-18	All	All Levels
42	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	19-23	All	All Levels
46	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	24+	All	All Levels
50	General FE and Tertiary College	2014/15	All Age	All	All Levels

Further information and help

49. We produce apprenticeships national achievement rates tables in line with our apprenticeship qualification achievement rates business rules. The business rules and achievement rates dataset production specification are on the achievement rate pages of the gov.uk website (at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-qualification-achievement-rate-2014-to-2015).

50. If you need more information about the apprenticeship national achievement rates tables, please phone our service desk on 0370 267 0001 or email servicedesk@sfa.bis.gov.uk. Please provide a detailed explanation of your query.

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