

Statistical Release

Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly October to December 2016

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Vikas Dhawan
Head of Profession

statistics@ofqual.gov.uk

Key points

This release presents information on the number of certificates issued for regulated qualifications during October to December 2016 (2016 Q4), excluding GCSEs and A levels. The key findings are:

- Nearly 1.1 million certificates were awarded in 2016 Q4, a decrease of 7% on the same quarter of 2015 and the lowest number of certificates awarded during Q4 in the past five years. This decline is mostly due to a decrease in the number of certificates in functional skills and QCF qualifications.
- The number of available qualifications in Q4 decreased by 5% from 31,340 in the previous quarter to 29,866.
- The qualification with the highest number of certificates this quarter was CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF) with 24,600 certificates awarded.
- The number of certificates issued for Level 1 qualifications decreased by 12% on the same quarter in 2015 (from 286,800 to 251,200), mostly due to a decrease in the number of certifications for functional skills and QCF qualifications.
- The number of certificates issued for Level 2 qualifications decreased by 5% compared to the same quarter the previous year (from 523,550 to 499,100). The number of Level 3 certifications increased by 5% (from 176,800 to 186,300) compared to the same quarter the previous year.
- The highest number of certificates awarded by sector subject area of qualification in this quarter was for health, public services and care (234,450), closely followed by preparation for life and work (228,800).

Introduction

Ofqual regulates qualifications and assessments in England. Until May 2016, it also regulated vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. This bulletin includes data on vocational and other qualifications awarded in England as well as data on qualifications taken in Wales and Northern Ireland collected on behalf of Qualifications Wales, the regulator in Wales, and CCEA, the regulator in Northern Ireland.

Regulated qualifications are classified into 19 qualification types with an associated 'level', which is indicative of the level of demand. The table below shows the current levels for each type of qualification and the relationship between them. Level 3 is at about the same level of demand, but not necessarily the same size, as an A level, and Level 2 is at about the same level of demand as a GCSE at grade C or above.

On 1 October 2015, Ofqual withdrew the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) requirements. From that date, the QCF type has ceased to exist. However, for administrative reasons, until our new system was introduced in summer 2016, awarding organisations could still use the QCF type on the system for new qualifications when no other type was appropriate.

Table of qualification types and levels

Qualification type	Current levels
Advanced Extension Award	Level 3
Basic skills	Entry Level, Levels 1 and 2
CVET	Levels 1 to 6
English for speakers of other languages	Entry Level, Levels 1, 2 and 3
Entry Level	Entry
Essential skills Wales	Entry Level, Levels 1 to 3
Free-standing mathematics qualification	Levels 1, 2, 3
Functional skills	Entry Level, Levels 1 and 2
GCE A level	Level 3
GCE AS qualification	Level 3
GCSE (9 to 1)	Level 1/Level 2
GCSE	Level 1/Level 2
Higher level	Levels 4 to 8
IVET	Entry Level, Levels 1 to 5
Key skills	Levels 1 to 4
NVQ	Levels 1 to 5
'Other general' qualification	Levels 1, 1/2, 2 and 3
Occupational qualification	Levels 1 to 4
Principal learning	Levels 1 to 3
Project	Levels 1 to 3
QCF	Entry Level, Levels 1 to 8
Vocationally related qualification	Entry Level, Levels 1 to 8
Welsh Baccalaureate	Levels 1, 1/2, 2 and 3

This release presents data on regulated vocational and other qualifications¹ (coloured blue in the table above) for both the October to December 2016 quarter and the 12-month period ending December 2016.

Qualification types used to describe the nature of qualifications are used in the Registers of both Qualification Wales and Ofqual. However there are some that are present only in the Qualification Wales Register and therefore only contain qualifications offered in Wales. These qualification types were incorporated in to the Ofqual systems from July 2016 for the 2016 quarter 2 data collection.

This release does not include the rest of the qualifications given in the above on which data are published separately. Neither does it include university degrees, which Ofqual does not regulate.

¹ Vocational and other qualifications are taken in order to develop and demonstrate the skills needed for a particular job, to improve career progression, or for personal growth or leisure purposes. They include some qualifications taken in schools, sixth forms and colleges, for example Level 1/ Level 2 Certificates and BTECs.

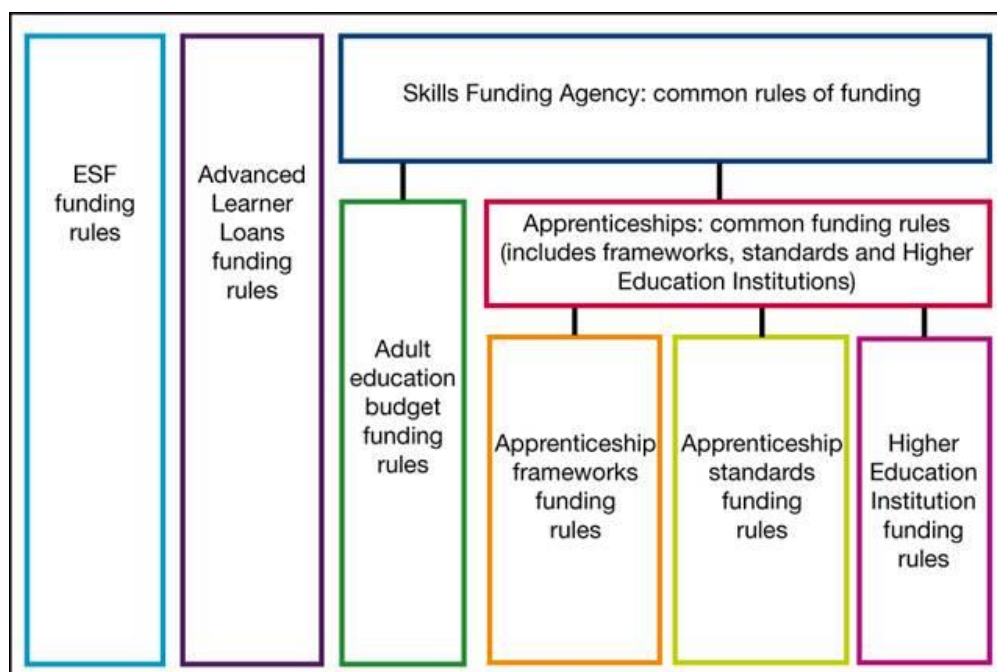
External influences

Changes in the number of qualifications available and the number of certifications are likely to be influenced by changes to government policies in England. This includes changes in government funding, performance tables and study programmes.

Public funding changes by the Skills Funding Agency²

In the last few years, the funding rules for vocational qualifications aimed at students who are over 19 years of age have seen a number of changes that are likely to have had some effect on the number of certificates awarded each year. The new funding rules introduced for 2016 to 2017 funding year³ are summarised below.

Funding rules for 2016/17



Another significant development was the introduction of 'trailblazer apprenticeships' (new apprenticeship standards developed by employer groups known as

² The Skills Funding Agency funds adult skills training for further education in England. It supports over 1,000 colleges, private training organisations and employers with more than £4 billion of funding each year.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfa-funding-rules>

'trailblazers')⁴. It is too early to find any visible impact of these funding rules or the new apprenticeship standards on the statistics reported in this bulletin.

Legal entitlement and local flexibility

Only certain qualifications are now eligible for funding through the legal entitlement⁵ for 2016 to 2017. This applies to learners aged 16 to 23 who are studying their first qualification at Level 2 and/or Level 3. These include the qualifications that are included in the performance tables.

The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) is working towards devolution, putting greater power in the hands of local authorities to meet skills gaps for their area. The latest changes, for 2016 to 2017⁴, set out how qualifications that do not qualify for legal entitlement, outside of apprenticeships, are eligible for funded delivery as part of its 'local flexibility' policy. The local flexibility policy is based on the view that local areas, colleges and other training organisations are best placed to decide on the most appropriate type of training provision to respond to local needs. To support local area needs and deliver agreed local outcomes, funding allocations will be decided by local authorities; colleges and other training organisations will decide on the most appropriate form of training provision. This may or may not include qualifications.

Advanced learner loans are now available for all learners aged 24 and over, and for learners aged 19+ for Level 3 to Level 6 qualifications⁶.

These changes are beginning to have an impact on types of qualifications taken, the numbers of certifications and the risks those qualifications face.

Changes to qualifications in Wales

Qualifications Wales (QW) have developed their own IT systems to support regulation and funding of qualifications in Wales. As a result, their qualification records are maintained separately and qualifications have a different method of identification (a QW Approval/Designation Number) to the approach used by Ofqual (a Qualification Number). This means the same qualification can have two different identifiers in the different jurisdictions. The vast majority of qualifications in Qualification Wales's system are the same as a qualification regulated by Ofqual. We

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-standards>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-getting-approval-for-funding>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-learner-loans-qualifications-catalogue>

are currently collecting data on behalf of Qualifications Wales⁷ and incorporate these Qualification Wales records into our figures in this publication. The overall number of available qualifications has shown a large increase in recent quarters as it has been necessary to preserve the differentiation between achievements in Wales and those in England and Northern Ireland.

⁷ Though some regulated Welsh qualifications will not be included in the data with the introduction of QiW

Table of key statistics

	July-September 2016	October- December 2016	% change on previous qtr
Number of available qualifications	31,340	29,866	-5
Number of awarding organisations			
with available qualifications this quarter	157	157	0
and certificates awarded in the last 12 months	154	153	-1
Number of available qualifications by type			
Basic skills	5	1	-80
CVET	48	106	
English for speakers of other languages	175	185	6
Entry level	314	229	-27
Essential skills Wales	16	16	
Free-standing mathematics qualification	14	10	-29
Functional skills	222	222	0
Higher level	110	114	4
IVET	49	94	
Key skills	157	115	-27
NVQ	83	67	-19
Occupational qualification	40	70	75
Other general qualification	1,117	1,078	-3
QCF	27,696	26,093	-6
Vocationally related qualification	1,286	1,458	13
Welsh Bacallaureate	8	8	
Number of available qualifications by level			
Entry level	3,496	3,329	-5
Level 1	4,154	3,919	-6
Level 1/2	323	322	0
Level 2	10,200	9,592	-6
Level 3	9,545	9,172	-4
Level 4	2,117	2,083	-2
Level 5	924	909	-2
Level 6	321	323	1
Level 7	253	210	-17
Level 8	7	7	0
Number of available qualifications by sector subject area			
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	1,214	1,252	3
Arts, media and publishing	2,184	2,070	-5
Business, administration, finance and law	3,610	3,419	-5
Construction, planning and the built environmer	2,143	2,077	-3
Education and training	1,640	1,575	-4
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	3,641	3,513	-4
Health, public services and care	3,435	3,362	-2
History, philosophy and theology	69	63	-9
Information and communication technology	758	727	-4
Languages, literature and culture	1,388	1,266	-9
Leisure, travel and tourism	1,498	1,436	-4
Preparation for life and work	5,530	5,046	-9
Retail and commercial enterprise	3,881	3,721	-4
Science and mathematics	310	302	-3
Social sciences	39	37	-5

Number of certificates awarded

	October- December 2015	October- December 2016	% change on previous year's same quarter	January 2015- December 2015	January 2016- December 2016	% change on previous 12 months
Overall number of certificates awarded	1,131,950	1,053,900	-7	8,176,450	7,356,850	-10
Number of certificates by type of qualification						
Basic skills	0	0	-100	100	0	-100
CVET	0	150	100	0	150	100
English for speakers of other languages	40,300	39,850	-1	250,200	224,900	-10
Entry level	2,050	1,000	-51	73,650	71,250	-3
Essential skills Wales	0	0	0	0	400	100
Free-standing mathematics qualification	0	0		37,350	35,900	-4
Functional skills	150,900	122,350	-19	1,022,650	813,750	-20
Higher level	1,050	300	-73	8,400	11,100	32
IVET	0	0	0	0	0	0
Key skills	1,850	950	-49	98,600	70,000	-29
NVQ	1,100	550	-48	2,800	1,150	-59
Occupational qualification	0	250	765	150	400	208
Other general qualification	18,300	17,100	-7	1,264,200	1,050,950	-17
QCF	911,250	854,050	-6	5,374,050	5,000,450	-7
Vocationally related qualification	5,200	17,450	235	44,350	71,450	61
Welsh Baccalaureate	0	0	0	0	4,850	100
Number of certificates by qualification level						
Entry level	113,800	88,000	-23	956,100	862,500	-10
Level 1	286,800	251,200	-12	1,793,300	1,557,200	-13
Level 1/ Level 2	4,700	2,800	-40	877,850	711,950	-19
Level 2	523,550	499,100	-5	3,052,200	2,719,400	-11
Level 3	176,800	186,300	5	1,360,750	1,366,350	0
Level 4	14,000	13,150	-6	70,400	72,550	3
Level 5	9,500	10,300	8	46,450	48,300	4
Level 6	1,600	1,650	5	12,850	14,300	11
Level 7	1,200	1,300	9	6,250	4,150	-33
Level 8	0	50	196	300	150	-47
Number of certificates by sector subject area						
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	18,600	18,100	-3	117,450	97,300	-17
Arts, media and publishing	123,700	128,200	4	816,750	821,950	1
Business, administration, finance and law	78,700	71,600	-9	534,400	455,000	-15
Construction, planning and the built environment	48,650	56,650	16	278,850	289,050	4
Education and training	16,250	16,900	4	89,600	85,800	-4
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	69,350	64,550	-7	396,200	365,950	-8
Health, public services and care	235,450	234,450	0	1,182,000	1,146,900	-3
History, philosophy and theology	500	450	-8	31,200	25,300	-19
Information and communication technology	34,700	46,800	35	409,400	405,100	-1
Languages, literature and culture	23,800	22,850	-4	595,100	531,000	-11
Leisure, travel and tourism	57,300	53,700	-6	412,900	372,300	-10
Preparation for life and work	304,350	228,800	-25	2,396,750	1,989,550	-17
Retail and commercial enterprise	118,600	110,200	-7	603,250	537,500	-11
Science and mathematics	2,050	750	-64	302,950	223,300	-26
Social sciences	50	0	-76	9,650	10,850	12
Number of certificates by country						
England	1,047,400	969,450	-7	7,357,050	6,599,800	-10
Wales	59,850	59,250	-1	614,500	566,800	-8
Northern Ireland	24,750	25,200	2	204,950	190,250	-7

Note: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50. Figures are rounded independently and may not sum to the total.

Analysis

This section presents figures on the number of qualifications available for students to enrol on (even if only for one day during the quarter), and those that may have expired (where students can no longer enrol) but remain active until the final certificate has been issued.

Qualifications available

This quarter, the number of available qualifications decreased by 5% compared to the previous quarter, from 31,340 to 29,866 (see the table of key statistics given earlier).

The change in the number of available qualifications mainly resulted from 2,186 qualifications expiring (of which 1,902 were classified as Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications). In this quarter, 712 new qualifications became available (of which 190 were vocationally related qualifications and 318 were QCFs). Nineteen qualifications previously classified as QCF qualifications were reclassified as a different qualification type this quarter. Of the qualifications that expired in this quarter 87% had no certificates in the 12 months to the end of December 2016. The 712 newly available qualifications are delivered by 84 awarding organisations.

Table 1 in the appendix presents the number of available qualifications over the past five years, broken down by qualification type.

Awarding organisations

The number of recognised awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications is identical to the previous quarter (157). The number of organisations with available qualifications this quarter and certificates awarded in the last 12 months was 153, similar to quarter 3 of 2016 (154).

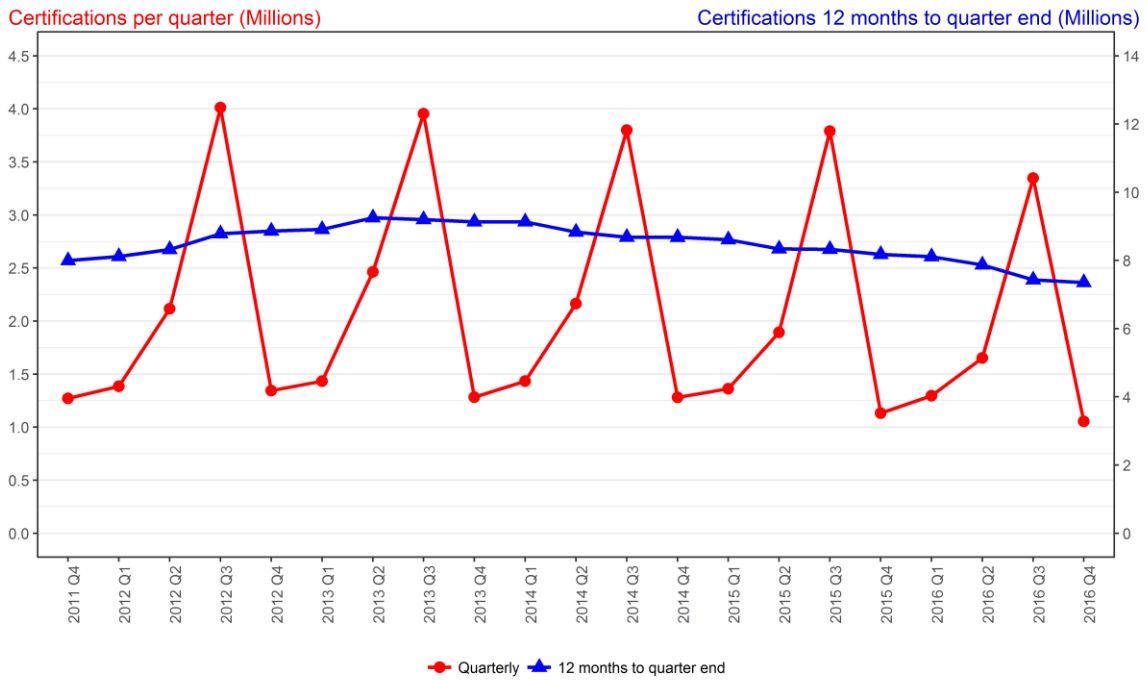
Certificates issued

There was a decrease of 7% in the total number of certificates issued compared with the same quarter of 2015 (from 1.13 million to 1.05 million). The number of certificates awarded this quarter is the lowest for quarter 4 (October to December) in the period from 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates that the overall number of certificates issued has fallen from 8.2 million in the 12 months to the end of December 2015 to 7.4 million in the 12 months to the end of December 2016, a decrease of 10%, continuing the trend of decline over the past 3 years.

The number of certificates issued in each quarter since October to December 2011, and in the 12-month period to each quarter end, is presented in table 2 in the appendix.

Figure 1: Number of certificates issued, October to December 2011 (2011 Q4) to October to December 2016 (2016 Q4)



Certificates by country

This quarter, 92% of all certificates issued were in England, 6% were in Wales and 2% were in Northern Ireland (see Figure 2). This distribution is similar to the same quarter of 2015.

Figure 2: Number of certificates issued in the quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2016 by geographical area (with % change on previous year's same period)

Country	Proportion of total	October-December 2016	% change on previous year's same quarter	12 months to December 2016	% change in 12 months
England	92%	969,450	-7	6,599,800	-10
Wales	6%	59,250	-1	566,800	-8
Northern Ireland	2%	25,200	2	190,250	-7
Total number of certificates issued	100	1,053,900	-7	7,356,850	-10

There was a decrease in the number of certificates awarded this quarter in England and Wales compared with the same quarter in 2015 and some increase in the number of certificates awarded in Northern Ireland.

Over the 12 months to December 2016, there was a decrease of 10% in England, 8% in Wales and 7% in Northern Ireland.

Certificates by type of qualification

Figure 3 presents the number of certificates issued by qualification type in this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2016. Table 3 in the appendix presents the number of certificates by type of qualification, issued each quarter since October to December 2011. Most certificates issued this quarter were for QCF qualifications (854,050 certificates out of 1,053,900, or 81%).

Ofqual withdrew the QCF requirements at the beginning of quarter 3 2015, and the SFA changed its funding system regarding them. The number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications decreased by 6% this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2015. This is the eleventh consecutive quarter where the number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications has decreased, compared to the same quarter the year before.

For Functional Skills qualifications, the number of certificates issued decreased by 19% compared to the same quarter in 2015 (from 150,900 to 122,350). Most of this change was due to a decrease in the number of functional skills certificates issued by

Pearson Education Ltd.⁸ (from 68,200 to 42,750) and OCR (from 11,250 to 9,050). This is most likely due to recent changes in policy around GCSE English and mathematics resits.

The number of certificates issued for vocationally related qualifications increased by 235% compared to the same quarter in 2015 (from 5,200 to 17,450). A significant proportion of this change was due to an increase in the number of certificates issued by 1st4sport Qualifications (from 0 to 3,450), the Amateur Swimming Association (from 0 to 2,250), and NCFE (from 450 to 2,400).

The number of certificates awarded for Entry level qualifications decreased by 51% compared to the same quarter for 2015 (from 2,050 to 1,000). Entry level qualifications have decreased in 10 of the 11 past quarters compared to the same quarter the year before. This is potentially due to changes in funding. The 12-month trend ending December 2016 shows a decrease of 3% compared to the 12 months ending December 2015.

Figure 3: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2016 by qualification type (with % change on previous year's same period)

Qualification type	October-December 2016	% change on same qtr 2015	12 months to December 2016	% change in 12 months
Basic skills	0	-100	0	-100
CVET	150	100	150	100
ESOL	39,850	-1	224,900	-10
Entry level	1,000	-51	71,250	-3
Essential skills Wales	0	-100	400	100
Free-standing mathematics qualification	0		35,900	-4
Functional skills	122,350	-19	813,750	-20
Higher level	300	-73	11,100	32
IVET	0		0	
Key skills	950	-49	70,000	-29
NVQ	550	-48	1,150	-59
Occupational qualification	250	765	400	208
Other general qualification	17,100	-7	1,050,950	-17
QCF	854,050	-6	5,000,450	-7
Vocationally related qualification	17,450	235	71,450	61
Welsh Baccalaureate	0	-100	4,850	100
Total number of certificates	1,053,900	-7	7,356,850	-10

Key: CVET: Continuing Vocational Education and Training; ESOL: English for Speakers of Other Languages; IVET: Initial Vocational Education and Training; NVQ: National vocational qualification; QCF: Qualifications and Credit Framework.

⁸ In this report Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Edexcel and Education Development International (EDI).

Certificating awarding organisations

Over the last 12 months, 153 awarding organisations issued certificates, representing 97% of the awarding organisations with available qualifications.

Figure 4 shows the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates this quarter, along with figures for the 12 months to quarter end. The combined total number of certificates issued by these ten organisations represents 63% of all awards during this quarter (0.66 million out of 1.05 million certificates).

Figure 4: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2016 for the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates (with % change on previous year's same period)

Awarding organisation	October- December 2016	% change on same qtr 2015	12 months to December 2016	% change in 12 months
City and Guilds of London Institute	188,300	-3	1,115,350	-16
Pearson Education Ltd	120,400	-31	1,371,400	-26
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	59,200	-9	231,400	-8
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	51,800	-6	220,150	-17
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	51,150	-10	220,850	-15
Qualsafe Awards	45,700	10	175,250	13
NCFE	44,950	-10	291,100	-13
Trinity College London	42,400	2	224,550	18
OCR	29,250	-23	350,900	-23
First Aid Awards Ltd	28,150	15	105,400	14
Total number of certificates for the 10 awarding organisations	661,250	-11	4,306,350	-17

Seven of the ten awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates recorded decreases this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015.

- Pearson Education Ltd has a decrease of 31% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 175,000 to 120,400). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in functional skills (68,200 to 42,750), QCF (from 97,650 to 73,000) and other general qualifications (from 7,500 to 3,400).
- OCR had a decrease of 23% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 37,850 to 29,250). Most of this decrease is due to a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 25,200 to 19,550) and functional skills (from 11,250 to 9,050).
- Qualsafe Awards has an increase of 10% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 41,700 to 45,700). Most of this increase is due to an increase in the number of qualifications in the health and social care sector area (from 39,300 to 43,000).

- First Aid Awards Ltd has an increase of 15% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 24,450 to 28,150). Most of this increase is due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded at either at level 2 (from 17,400 to 19,150) or Level 3 (from 6,900 to 8,600). All qualifications by First Aid Awards Ltd were QCF qualifications.
- The number of certificates awarded this quarter by City and Guilds of London Institute decreased by 3% (from 194,400 to 188,300). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 129,150 to 122,550).

The 50 organisations that awarded the highest numbers of qualifications this quarter are shown in table 4 in the appendix.

Certificates by level of qualification

This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2016, by level of qualification. Each regulated qualification has a level between Entry Level and Level 8, which indicates the broad level of demand of the qualification.⁹

Figure 5 gives a breakdown of the number of certificates by level of qualification.

Figure 5: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2016 by qualification level (with % change on previous year's same period)

Qualification level	October-December 2016	% change on same qtr 2015	12 months to % change in 12 December months 2016	
			Number	% change
Entry level	88,000	-23	862,500	-10
Level 1	251,200	-12	1,557,200	-13
Level 1/ Level 2	2,800	-40	711,950	-19
Level 2	499,100	-5	2,719,400	-11
Level 3	186,300	5	1,366,350	0
Level 4	13,150	-6	72,550	3
Level 5	10,300	8	48,300	4
Level 6	1,650	5	14,300	11
Level 7	1,300	9	4,150	-33
Level 8	50	196	150	-47
Total number of certificates	1,053,900	-7	7,356,850	-10

The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications has declined year-on-year for the fourteenth consecutive quarter (compared to the same quarter the year before). The number of certificates for Level 1 decreased by 12% and the

⁹ Further details on comparing qualification levels are available on Ofqual's website: www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean

number of certificates for Level 2 decreased by 5%, compared to the same quarter in 2015. The decline in both levels this quarter is partly because of a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in Functional Skills (from 67,350 to 52,500 for Level 1 and from 63,150 to 51,750 for Level 2) and QCF (from 203,150 to 180,550 for Level 1 and from 444,950 to 425,050 for Level 2).

Compared to the same quarter last year there was a decrease of 40% in the number of certificates for Level 1/Level 2 qualifications (from 4,700 to 2,800). This is the third consecutive quarter the number of these qualifications has declined compared to the same quarter the previous year, after a large increase in the qualifications during 2015 and the first quarter of 2016, which reflected many schools switching to Level 1/Level 2 certificates instead of GCSEs.

The number of certificates awarded by qualification level in each quarter from October to December 2011 to this quarter is shown in Table 5 in the appendix.

Certificates by qualification

This quarter 10,820 qualifications had certificates issued, representing 36% of all available qualifications. This is less than the same quarter in 2015, which saw 50% of available qualifications certificated. This decrease is likely due to changes in the way Welsh qualifications are recorded (see the External Influences section for more detail). The 50 qualifications with the highest number certificates awarded this quarter are listed in Table 6 in the appendix.

The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2016 are shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates awarded this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2016 (figures for the 12 months to the end of December 2015 shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates					
	October-December 2015	October-December 2016	% change quarter	12 months to the end of December 2015	12 months to the end of December 2016	% change 12 months
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	28,500	24,600	-14	127,200	106,900	-16
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	22,150	23,150	5	83,150	90,700	9
BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills	7,050	20,750	195	59,250	136,700	131
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work	14,500	15,550	7	56,900	59,650	5
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking	12,600	14,150	12	39,350	69,600	77
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music	15,400	13,600	-12	61,100	55,000	-10
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	10,700	10,300	-4	53,150	43,100	-19
BIIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	10,550	10,300	-2	34,700	41,300	19
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music	10,650	9,600	-10	42,600	39,900	-6
QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (QCF)	8,800	9,500	8	33,150	35,400	7

The qualification with the most certificates issued this quarter was the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Level 2 certificate in Food Safety in Catering with 24,600 certificates awarded. This is a decrease of 14% compared to the same

quarter of 2015 when there were 28,500 certificates awarded, which is both the largest decrease in the number of certificates and the largest percentage decrease.

The qualification with the largest increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2015 was the BCS level 2 ECDL certificate in IT application skills with 20,750 awarded this quarter compared to 7,050 in the same quarter in 2015 - an increase of 195%.

Certificates by sector subject area of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated by the awarding organisations to one of 15 sector subject areas. This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2016, by the sector subject area of the qualification.

Figure 7 shows the sectors ordered by size, in terms of the number of certificates issued this quarter, with the largest sector subject area first.

The highest number of certificates was issued in the health, public services and care sector (234,450, representing 22% of the total issued this quarter and 16% of the total issued in the 12 months to the end of December 2016). This sector has a very similar number of certificates awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2015 (from 235,450 to 234,450). There has been a slight decrease in the number of certificates in the year ending December 2016 in this sector compared to the previous 12 months.

The sector with the largest increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015 was information and communication technology (ICT) (from 34,700 to 46,800). This was mainly due to an increase in the ICT for users sub-sector (from 29,150 to 41,200).

The sector with the largest decrease in number of certificates awarded compared to the same quarter the previous year was preparation for life and work (from 304,350 to 228,800), resulting from decline in number of certificates in both the subsectors under preparation for life, foundations for learning and life (from 268,350 to 203,800) and preparation for work (from 36,000 to 25,000).

The sector with the largest percentage annual decrease from the year ending December 2016 compared to the previous 12 months was the science and mathematics sector by 26% (from 302,500 to 223,300). In this quarter the number of certificates for the science and maths sector fell 64% (from 2,050 to 750) compared to the same quarter the previous year. This may be due to changes to the

qualifications contributing to school and collage performance tables, and also due to students opting to sit science GCSEs rather than alternative qualifications.

Figure 7: Number of certificates by sector subject area of qualification in the quarter October-December 2016 and in the 12 months to the end of December 2016

Sector subject area	October-December 2016	% change on same qtr. 2015	12 months to the end of December 2016	% change for 12 months
Health, Public Services and Care	234,450	0	1,146,900	-3
Preparation for Life and Work	228,800	-25	1,989,550	-17
Arts, Media and Publishing	128,200	4	821,950	1
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	110,200	-7	537,500	-11
Business, Administration and Law	71,600	-9	455,000	-15
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	64,550	-7	365,950	-8
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	56,650	16	289,050	4
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	53,700	-6	372,300	-10
Information and Communication Technology	46,800	35	405,100	-1
Languages, Literature and Culture	22,850	-4	531,000	-11
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	18,100	-3	97,300	-17
Education and Training	16,900	4	85,800	-4
Science and Mathematics	750	-64	223,300	-26
History, Philosophy and Theology	450	-8	25,300	-19
Social Sciences	0	-76	10,850	12
Total number of certificates	1,053,900	-7	7,356,850	-10

Table 7 in the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by sector subject area by quarter from October to December 2011 to this quarter. Table 8 of the appendix gives a more detailed breakdown according to the second-tier sector subject area.

Certificates issued in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The overall number of certificates awarded has decreased for all three countries for the 12-month period to December 2016 (see figure 2).

Figure 8 shows that the QCF qualifications dominate in England (69%), Wales (49%) and Northern Ireland (74%).

The number of certificates issued for Functional Skills qualifications and NVQs has decreased in all countries in the 12 months to the end of December 2016 compared with the same period in 2015. The number of certificates awarded for Functional Skills in England decreased by 21% (most likely due to recent changes in policy around GCSE English and mathematics resits), in Wales by 7% and in Northern Ireland by 69% (although the number of Functional Skills certificates issued in Northern Ireland is very small because learners in Northern Ireland tend to use Essential Skills qualifications). The number of certificates awarded for NVQs in England decreased by 59%, in Wales by 45% and in Northern Ireland by 92% although in both Wales and Northern Ireland the number of certificates in these qualifications is low.

Figure 8: Number of certificates in the 12 months to the end of December 2016, by country and type of qualification

Qualification type	England			Wales			Northern Ireland		
	Number	% of total	12 month % change	Number	% of total	12 month % change	Number	% of total	12 month % change
Basic skills	0	0	-100	0	0		0	0	
CVET	0	0		150	0	100	0	0	
English for speakers of other languages	216,400	3	-11	6,950	1	37	1,600	1	-35
Entry Level	56,550	1	4	9,500	2	-25	5,200	3	-23
Essential skills Wales	0	0		400	0	100	0	0	
Free-standing mathematics qualification	35,650	1	-4	300	0	1	0	0	-100
Functional skills	802,250	12	-21	11,450	2	-7	50	0	-69
Higher level	10,500	0	34	350	0	17	250	0	-17
IVET	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Key skills	4,500	0	-55	65,050	12	-26	450	0	-44
NVQ	1,100	0	-59	50	0	-45	0	0	-92
Occupational qualification	400	0	195	~0	0		0	0	
Other general qualification	820,050	12	-20	191,950	34	-6	38,950	20	-6
QCF	4,585,250	69	-7	273,750	49	-6	141,450	74	-6
Vocationally related qualification	67,200	1	69	2,050	0	-16	2,200	1	-1
Welsh Baccalaureate	0	0		4,850	1	100	0	0	
Total number of certificates awarded	6,599,800	100	-10	561,950	100	-9	190,250	100	-7

Notes:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

The number of certificates issued for vocationally related qualifications increased by 69% in England for the year ending in December 2016 compared to the previous 12 months. In the same period the number of certificates for these qualifications decreased in Wales by 16% and in Northern Ireland by 1%.

The number of certificates issued for other general qualifications for the 12 months to the end of December 2016 represents 12% of the total in England, 34% in Wales and 20% in Northern Ireland. The number of certificates awarded is decreasing in all regions¹⁰.

Tables 9 to 11 in the appendix present the 50 organisations that awarded the most qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively, during January to December 2016.

Background notes

This release presents data on available regulated vocational and other qualifications and the number of certificates issued. It does not include the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications, project and principal learning. The

¹⁰ Direct comparisons of 'other general' qualifications between England, Wales and Northern Ireland are difficult as this category includes Essential Skills, which are the Wales and Northern Ireland equivalent of functional skills.

number of certificates awarded for these qualifications can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website.¹¹

The data cover regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, whether regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales or CCEA (Northern Ireland regulator). The figures cover both the October to December 2016 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of December 2016.

This document is produced in line with Ofqual's statistics policies¹² and the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.¹³

A glossary of terms is available in the next section to help you interpret this release.

Data sources

Information on qualifications is taken from Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications¹⁴. Data on available qualifications (covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level) are taken from the Register and awarding organisations send Ofqual the number of certificates awarded. Further information on the administrative sources is available within Ofqual's statistical policies.

This release shows the number of awards broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification, level of qualification and country.

Limitations of data

Data are collected at the earliest point available, which is the first day of the next reporting period. This reduces the time between the activity and reporting on the activity.

The main source of potential error¹⁵ is in the information provided by awarding organisations. Ofqual cannot guarantee the number of certificates submitted is

¹¹ www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

¹³ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice>

¹⁴ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

¹⁵ *Statement of Administrative Sources* includes information about the potential sources of error and how Ofqual mitigates these: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

correct and there may be systematic bias when the information is sent, although awarding organisations are expected to provide the correct data. Ofqual compares the data over time and checks for systematic issues. Summary data are then sent back to awarding organisations to be checked and confirmed. The figures reported in this release reflect the certificates issued by awarding organisations at the time of data collection.

Quality assurance procedures are carried out as explained in the *Quality Assurance Framework for Statistical Publication* and the *Data Audit Framework*¹⁶ to ensure the accuracy of the data and to challenge or question it where necessary. Ofqual continually manages this process by:

- ensuring that data suppliers are clear about what is required of them, in part achieved by consulting providers during the initial design and any subsequent change phases;
- reminding all suppliers (if appropriate) that, as a condition of being regulated, all data must be completely accurate;
- being alert to unexpected changes in the data submitted by comparing individual returns over time from the same supplier;
- actively challenging any unexpected results with data suppliers;
- seeking explanations for changes and trends in the data;
- checking the data provided against other data either within Ofqual or available from third parties such as the Department for Education's national pupil database;¹⁷
- having a proportionate data auditing framework in place allowing for auditing of suppliers, information collection, collation and delivery processes as necessary, using a wide range of tools from questionnaires to on-site process audits.

Publication may be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Comparisons in this release are mainly made with data from the same quarter of the previous year and the 12-month period up to the end of the same quarter of the

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

¹⁷ The national pupil database contains detailed information about pupils in schools and colleges in England.

previous year. This is because of seasonal changes in the number of certificates issued over the year.

After data collection, trends are interpreted by a group of colleagues from Ofqual who are aware of the latest changes in policies. Before being released, the publication is signed off by Ofqual's Head of Profession for Statistics who confirms the quality of the release.

Geographical coverage

In this release, Ofqual presents data on certificates issued for all regulated qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS and A levels, Advanced Extension Award and the Diploma¹⁸) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the October to December 2016 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website¹⁹.

Ofqual started to collect data for England, Wales and Northern Ireland individually in 2011.

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of certificates issued for any qualification are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error. Qualifications may also be recategorised to a different type, level, sector subject area or awarding organisation. In some cases, data may be amended to reflect the new categorisation.

In this release, previous years' figures from two awarding organisations (the Chartered Institute of Housing and NCFE) have been revised. The table of revisions, published alongside this publication, shows the changes for each quarter by level, type of qualification and sector subject area.

Completeness of the data

Awarding organisations send data to Ofqual each quarter. Any awarding organisation that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period is contacted to make sure that the data are as complete as possible. For this quarter, Ofqual

¹⁸ Data for GCSEs, AS and A levels can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website: www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

¹⁹ The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.4239.html

received data from all the awarding organisations that were in a position to award qualifications.

Confidentiality

To ensure confidentiality of the published accompanying data in accordance with Ofqual's *Statement on Confidentiality*²⁰, the number of certificates awarded has been rounded to the nearest 50. If the value is less than 25, it is represented as 0~. A 0 represents zero achievements.

Rounding

In accordance with Ofqual's *Rounding Policy*²¹, figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates issued are rounded to the nearest 50 for ease of use. In general, we use unrounded values to derive percentages. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in any pie charts may not necessarily add up to 100. The raw data published alongside this publication are rounded to the nearest five to protect confidentiality.

The numbers of qualifications have been left as exact figures because there is no issue with confidentiality and also because some of the numbers are so small that it aids the user to have actual figures.

Users of these statistics

This publication attracts a wide variety of users who use the statistics in various ways:

- Internal (Ofqual) users use the statistics to monitor the market, to target resources and for input into analysis and reports.
- Central government officials use the statistics for policy implementation and ministerial briefings about government-funded provision and to draw on for their own publications.
- Awarding organisations use the statistics and underlying data as market intelligence, to monitor market share and to understand more about their competitors and product availability.

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

- Sector skills councils and other employer groups use the statistics to understand training uptake within their sectors and to assist them in understanding how the qualifications are meeting employer demand.
- Other users, including colleges and training providers, have varying needs, from using the information to assist in research projects to focusing on individual qualifications within their industry.

Users from central government and internal users focus on the detailed published data, as do some awarding organisations. Others draw on the aggregate official statistics and commentary to provide context.

Related statistics and publications

There are a number of related statistical releases and publications:

- The *Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England: 2015 to 2016*²², published by the Department for Education, covers students' achievements in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools at the end of Key Stage 4.
- The *A level and other 16 to 18 results: 2015 to 2016 (revised)*²³ covers achievements for 16 to 18 year olds at schools and colleges in all Level 3 qualifications. These releases can be used to add context to the trends seen in Level 2 and Level 3 AS/A level and GCSE equivalent qualifications.
- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*²⁴, published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, achievement and success rates for further education, and apprenticeships participation and achievements for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates issued for vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2015-to-2016>

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-16-to-18-results-2015-to-2016-revised>

²⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-january-2017>

Useful information

The data behind these statistics are published alongside this statistical release at 9.30am on the day of release²⁵. The data set is not revised until the next publication is released. You can find the publication schedule for the next releases on the GOV.UK website²⁶.

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England and Northern Ireland²⁷. Data on qualifications offered in Wales is available at Qualifications Wales's QiW website²⁸.

User feedback

Ofqual has recently asked its user groups for feedback on this publication. Here is a summary of the improvements suggested, organised into those that have already been put in place and those that Ofqual will not be able to accommodate. Ahead of each publication, user feedback is reviewed to determine the content that should be included in the publication.

Ofqual has already put in place a number of suggestions:

- Round the raw data to the nearest five – rounding is needed for confidentiality. Following feedback from users that they needed the numbers of certificates to be as close to the actual figures as possible, rounding was reduced to the nearest five. This raw data is published as part of this statistical release in a separate document.
- Keep the breakdown by type of qualifications – although the majority of qualifications and certificates were for qualifications on the QCF, users still found the detailed breakdown useful.
- Provide more analysis outside the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates – comment will be made where an awarding organisation has had a significant change in certifications in relation to all certifications. Tables and published data give details on all awarding organisations.

²⁵ www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset

²⁶ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual

²⁷ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

²⁸ <https://www.qiw.wales>

- Provide more analysis of the major growth areas.
- Present the number of certificates awarded by second-tier sector subject area.
- Include a table in the appendix covering the number of available qualifications by qualification level.

Ofqual will be unable to implement the following suggestions:

- Present data on graded qualifications as Ofqual does not collect information on certifications by grade achieved.
- Present data on the progression between award, certificate and diploma as Ofqual does not collect the necessary candidate-level data.
- Present the number of registrations as well as certificates as Ofqual collects the number of registrations from awarding organisations on a voluntary basis and does not have complete information.
- Present shared unit data as the data needed to carry out this analysis are not currently available.
- Present data broken down by regions within the UK as regional information is not mandatory as part of the data collection process and would add considerable burden to some awarding organisations.
- Present more information for the smaller awarding organisations on the state of the market as there are too many organisations to cover within the commentary but Ofqual does provide raw data for each qualification to enable users to do their own analysis.
- Present the breakdown of key awarding organisations in each sector based on the number of certificates as this is already published by Ofqual in the Annual Qualification Market Report.

The Skills Funding Agency's Individual Learner Record Database²⁹ and the Department for Education's national pupil database provide data on graded qualifications and data broken down by region. The latter also provides data on progression between award, certificate and diploma, and number of registrations.

²⁹ The Individualised Learner Record Database is the primary data collection on funded further education and work-based learning in England.

Glossary of terms

A levels – Also known as General Certificates of Education, the A level is an academic qualification offered by educational bodies in the UK to students completing secondary or pre-university education. At present, a combination of legacy and reformed A levels are available to students.

For legacy A levels, the qualification is generally studied for over 2 years and split into 2 parts, with one part studied in each year. The first part is known as the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and was previously known as the Advanced Supplementary, with the same abbreviation. The second part is known as the A2 level. The AS is a qualification in its own right, and the AS combined with the A2 level forms the complete A level qualification.

The new A level and AS qualifications in England are separate³⁰, meaning that AS results will no longer count towards the A level grade, as in previous qualifications. In 2015/16, thirteen new AS qualifications were offered in England.³¹ In future years, more reformed qualifications will be awarded and reported in these statistics. In this release, AS figures are included in the figures reported for A level to allow historical comparisons as data was split by AS and A level starting 2016 only.

Accreditation – a process by which Ofqual reviews and confirms that proposed qualifications meet specific criteria before they can be offered. Ofqual no longer requires all regulated qualifications to have been accredited.

Accredited qualification – this is an old term that is sometimes used to mean ‘regulated qualification’ (see below). Ofqual now allows awarding organisations to submit most qualifications for regulation without having been accredited, so it is strictly incorrect to refer to regulated qualifications as accredited.

Active qualification – a qualification where a certificate has been awarded.

Available qualification – a qualification eligible for an award or a qualification that has made an award even if it is no longer eligible (no longer available for students to

³⁰ AS and A level qualifications provided by WJEC and CCEA have not been separated.

³¹ Art and design, biology, business, chemistry, computing, economics, English language, English language and literature, English literature, history, physics, psychology, sociology. For more information on the reform timetable see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>

enrol on). For the purpose of this release, a qualification is available until the certification end date or if an award has been certified during the reporting period.

Awarding organisation – an organisation recognised by Ofqual to develop, deliver and award qualifications.

Certificate/certification – a formal acknowledgement of a student's achievement. This will be any award that is not graded as U, absent or X (fail).

Certification end date – the last date on which a student may be issued with a certificate of achievement for the qualification.

GCSEs – General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school-leaving qualification in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 16 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

Level – qualifications are assigned a level from Entry Level, then Level 1 through to Level 8 (equivalent to a doctorate), indicating the broad level of demand of the qualification.

National vocational qualifications (NVQs) – work-related, competence-based qualifications that cover a broad range of industry sectors and occupations, and are delivered in a workplace setting.

Other general qualifications – qualifications that assess a particular subject area, such as music or art, other than GCSEs, AS and A levels. These qualifications are not directly work related but may support career development. They are often graded. The category also includes qualifications at Level 1/Level 2 certificates.

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) – a set of regulatory rules for vocational qualifications that Ofqual has withdrawn from October 2015 in England and Northern Ireland.

Quarter – refers to calendar quarters. Quarter 1 (Q1) refers to January – March, quarter 2 (Q2) to April – June, quarter 3 (Q3) to July – September, and quarter 4 (Q4) to October to December.

Recognition – the formal process that Ofqual operates, whereby awarding organisations that wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they

meet Ofqual's recognition criteria.³² The scope of recognition is the qualifications or types of qualification that the awarding organisation is recognised to offer, which may be quite narrow or very broad. Recognition is a robust gateway into the regulated marketplace. Only applicants who meet the criteria in full will be recognised. Recognised organisations have to meet Ofqual's Conditions of Recognition on an ongoing basis.

Register – the Register of Regulated Qualifications contains details of recognised awarding organisations and the regulated qualifications they offer.

Regulated qualification – a qualification that is offered by a recognised awarding organisation within the scope of its recognition. Regulated qualifications must be added to the Register of qualifications and have to meet Ofqual's requirements. Some qualifications are subject to an accreditation requirement and have to be checked by the regulator before they can be offered as regulated qualifications.

Vocationally related qualifications – work-related, competence-based qualifications designed to give students the skills and knowledge they need to do a job. They are related to employment but, unlike NVQs, do not necessarily require a work placement.

³² www.gov.uk/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements

User feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. Should you have any comments on this statistical release and how to improve it to meet your needs please contact us as statistics@ofqual.gov.uk.

Consultation on Ofqual's statistical releases

We are seeking views on our proposed changes to vocational quarterly and annual qualifications market report. This consultation closes at 5pm on 24 March 2017. Further information on the consultation and how to respond is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-ofquals-statistical-releases>.

Appendix

Table 1	Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications by qualification type, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016
Table 2	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end
Table 3	Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016
Table 4	The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October to December 2016 (October to December 2015 shown for comparison)
Table 5	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016
Table 6	The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October to December 2016 (October to December 2015 shown for comparison)
Table 7	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016
Table 8	Total number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter October to December 2016 (October to December 2015 shown for comparison)
Table 9	England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January 2016 to December 2016
Table 10	Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January 2016 to December 2016
Table 11	Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January 2016 to December 2016

Table 1: Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications by qualification type, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Basic skills	CVET	English for speakers of other languages	Entry level	Essential skills Wales	Free-standing mathematics qualification	Functional skills	Higher level	IVET	Key skills	National vocational qualification	Occupational qualification	Other general qualification	QCF	Vocationally related qualification	Welsh Baccalaureate	Total number of qualifications
Oct to Dec 2011	88		177	334		20	208	487		377	1,432	87	722	10,410	2,112		16,454
Jan to Mar 2012	88		183	321		20	208	447		377	1,349	86	693	11,045	2,003		16,820
Apr to Jun 2012	88		185	316		20	207	422		368	1,305	86	678	11,661	1,969		17,305
Jul to Sep 2012	88		186	319		20	206	418		368	1,282	86	752	12,605	1,957		18,287
Oct to Dec 2012	80		185	297		14	193	414		368	1,148	85	758	13,278	1,662		18,482
Jan-Mar 2013	80		190	292		14	202	411		368	939	77	739	14,142	1,401		18,855
Apr to Jun 2013	80		188	292		14	222	408		359	841	77	737	14,927	1,285		19,430
Jul to Sep 2013	80		189	296		14	232	405		359	788	71	785	16,291	1,268		20,778
Oct to Dec 2013	32		189	279		7	238	355		191	652	68	774	17,026	1,032		20,843
Jan to Mar 2014	22		191	274		7	237	221		165	391	20	740	17,345	579		20,192
Apr to Jun 2014	22		187	196		7	239	140		133	240	9	564	17,501	486		19,724
Jul to Sep 2014	22		189	195		14	239	144		135	197	1	598	18,742	514		20,990
Oct to Dec 2014	10		185	186		14	215	125		125	142	1	595	18,908	501		21,007
Jan to Mar 2015	10		195	165		14	215	109		116	94	1	559	19,141	424		21,043
Apr to Jun 2015	10		195	164		14	215	104		115	86		553	19,337	421		21,214
Jul to Sep 2015	12		186	194		14	215	108		113	84	5	663	20,019	527		22,140
Oct to Dec 2015	6		169	173		14	203	86		97	94	7	660	19,855	560		21,924
Jan to Mar 2016	4		142	175		14	221	81		91	48	11	664	19,668	557		21,676
Apr to Jun 2016	4	20	171	298	16	14	221	116	17	158	69	13	1100	28,542	894	8	31,661
Jul to Sep 2016	5	48	175	314	16	14	222	110	49	157	83	40	1117	27,696	1286	8	31,340
Oct to Dec 2016	1	106	185	229	16	10	222	114	94	115	67	70	1078	26,093	1458	8	29,866

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Table 2: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end

England, Wales and Northern Ireland		
Period	Total number of certificates issued	
	Quarter	12 months to quarter end
Oct to Dec 2011	1,271,400	7,997,800
Jan to Mar 2012	1,384,550	8,115,050
Apr to Jun 2012	2,116,500	8,320,400
Jul to Sep 2012	4,013,150	8,785,550
Oct to Dec 2012	1,345,250	8,859,400
Jan-Mar 2013	1,433,200	8,908,100
Apr to Jun 2013	2,463,950	9,255,550
Jul to Sep 2013	3,953,850	9,196,250
Oct to Dec 2013	1,283,550	9,134,550
Jan to Mar 2014	1,433,350	9,134,700
Apr to Jun 2014	2,163,750	8,834,450
Jul to Sep 2014	3,800,100	8,680,700
Oct to Dec 2014	1,281,600	8,678,800
Jan to Mar 2015	1,362,600	8,608,050
Apr to Jun 2015	1,892,700	8,337,000
Jul to Sep 2015	3,789,200	8,326,100
Oct to Dec 2015	1,131,950	8,176,450
Jan to Mar 2016	1,296,900	8,110,750
Apr to Jun 2016	1,652,500	7,870,600
Jul to Sep 2016	3,353,500	7,434,900
Oct to Dec 2016	1,053,900	7,356,850

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 3: Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Basic Skills	CVET	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Entry Level	Essential skills Wales	Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	Functional Skills	Higher Level	IVET	Key Skills	National Vocational Qualification	Occupational Qualification	Other General Qualification	QCF	Vocationally-Related Qualification	Welsh Baccalaureate	Total number of certificates
Oct to Dec 2011	99,650		52,250	3,450		0	70,600	4,000		108,300	51,000	2,000	17,050	807,250	55,850		1,271,400
Jan to Mar 2012	127,550		67,900	6,100		500	96,800	3,600		130,850	31,100	1,000	46,450	821,450	51,250		1,384,550
Apr to Jun 2012	151,200		61,250	14,450		0	192,050	2,500		180,800	22,600	700	70,000	1,225,900	195,050		2,116,500
Jul to Sep 2012	134,550		94,500	90,750		22,450	305,300	6,700		239,250	24,150	900	392,250	2,428,650	273,700		4,013,150
Oct to Dec 2012	33,450		45,750	3,100		0	87,250	2,000		107,900	11,750	250	16,400	1,016,250	21,100		1,345,200
Jan to Mar 2013	23,700		58,550	5,050		550	136,850	2,050		116,300	6,750	150	75,350	985,400	22,500		1,433,200
Apr to Jun 2013	23,800		74,750	16,700		500	256,500	1,350		137,000	5,150	150	76,700	1,728,600	142,700		2,463,950
Jul to Sep 2013	20,850		108,600	77,700		22,150	383,950	2,150		184,350	5,100	100	481,650	2,505,350	161,950		3,953,850
Oct to Dec 2013	1,850		41,800	4,600		0	153,800	1,650		8,250	3,000	100	29,400	1,026,700	12,400		1,283,550
Jan to Mar 2014	1,000		74,550	5,400		500	204,050	900		21,150	1,900	50	90,200	1,020,800	12,950		1,433,350
Apr to Jun 2014	1,050		96,450	12,650		500	307,050	1,050		38,700	1,450	0~	89,750	1,539,450	75,600		2,163,750
Jul to Sep 2014	700		143,450	66,150		34,800	410,850	1,650		54,750	1,400	0~	710,350	2,297,050	78,950		3,800,100
Oct to Dec 2014	50		62,400	3,400		0	163,050	1,650		3,100	1,000	0~	31,350	1,007,450	8,150		1,281,600
Jan to Mar 2015	50		72,650	3,150		550	186,100	1,450		16,650	700	0~	93,700	981,050	6,650		1,362,600
Apr to Jun 2015	0~		51,350	7,900		550	299,750	1,250		32,600	600	0~	137,300	1,349,000	12,400		1,892,700
Jul to Sep 2015	50		85,950	60,550		36,200	385,900	4,700		47,550	500	0~	1,014,900	2,132,850	20,100		3,789,200
Oct to Dec 2015	0~		40,300	2,050		0	150,900	1,050		1,850	1,100	0~	18,300	911,250	5,200		1,131,950
Jan to Mar 2016	0		52,850	2,300		450	158,600	2,950		15,700	200	50	95,550	961,400	6,900		1,296,900
Apr to Jun 2016	0		55,100	6,900		450	236,750	3,350		15,400	250	50	74,100	1,246,200	13,950		1,652,500
Jul to Sep 2016	0	50	77,100	61,050	400	35,000	296,050	4,500	0	38,000	150	100	864,200	1,938,800	33,200	4,850	3,353,500
Oct to Dec 2016	0	150	39,850	1,000	0	0	122,350	300	0	950	550	250	17,100	854,050	17,450	0	1,053,900

Notes:

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as 0~. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October to December 2016 (October to December 2015 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Oct to Dec 2015	Oct to Dec 2016
City and Guilds of London Institute	194,400	188,300
Pearson Education Ltd	175,000	120,400
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	64,950	59,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	55,150	51,800
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	56,900	51,150
Qualsafe Awards	41,700	45,700
NCFE	50,050	44,950
Trinity College London	41,600	42,400
OCR	37,850	29,250
First Aid Awards Ltd	24,450	28,150
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	13,850	26,950
Cambridge English Language Assessment	25,650	22,300
BIIAB	15,850	16,050
NOCN	14,400	15,850
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	9,500	15,250
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	17,950	15,000
British Safety Council	9,550	12,450
Cskills Awards	11,600	11,550
Sports Leaders UK	12,900	11,000
AoFA Qualifications	9,950	10,800
1st4sport Qualifications	11,900	10,500
Active IQ	9,400	10,000
IQL	8,200	9,550
Royal Society for Public Health	10,100	9,350
Ascentis	12,000	9,300
International Dance Teachers Association	7,650	8,450
Gateway Qualifications Limited	24,400	8,450
The Institute of the Motor Industry	6,350	8,000
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	7,200	7,650
University of West London	7,300	7,500
Rock School Ltd	6,050	7,200
Innovate Awarding	6,050	6,850
VTCT	4,750	5,700
Association of Accounting Technicians	6,150	5,650
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	4,800	5,500
LAMDA	3,650	4,950
Safety Training Awards	4,650	4,850
Chartered Management Institute	2,300	4,450
AQA Education	3,550	4,400
Laser Learning Awards	4,300	4,250
iCan Qualifications Limited	3,950	4,050
Chartered Insurance Institute	4,500	3,650
The Learning Machine	2,800	3,650
Industry Qualifications	4,800	3,600
WSET Awards	3,200	3,450
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	3,100	3,250
AIM Awards	2,600	3,050
YMCA Awards	3,800	3,000
Amateur Swimming Association	2,550	3,000
Graded Qualifications Alliance	3,050	2,700

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Table 5: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Entry level	Level 1	Level 1/2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Total number of certificates
Oct to Dec 2011	115,450	361,550	0	621,000	146,900	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	1,271,400
Jan to Mar 2012	128,050	394,600	1,200	682,500	150,600	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	1,384,550
Apr to Jun 2012	185,850	561,550	0	1,121,050	221,000	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	2,116,500
Jul to Sep 2012	458,050	965,750	36,200	1,900,950	603,950	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	4,013,150
Oct to Dec 2012	122,850	403,050	0	634,200	158,100	16,400	6,500	2,400	1,700	50	1,345,250
Jan to Mar 2013	134,000	421,250	20,350	671,750	159,800	14,300	7,350	2,800	1,450	100	1,433,200
Apr to Jun 2013	223,350	620,850	0~	1,295,000	299,900	14,050	7,750	1,650	1,250	100	2,463,950
Jul to Sep 2013	452,200	954,950	138,650	1,728,100	632,150	26,150	14,850	4,050	2,700	100	3,953,850
Oct to Dec 2013	123,800	354,700	7,700	608,000	166,600	11,750	7,200	1,950	1,750	100	1,283,550
Jan to Mar 2014	163,000	361,200	29,950	681,900	176,250	11,800	6,600	1,500	1,050	50	1,433,350
Apr to Jun 2014	230,100	516,700	8,350	1,069,950	314,300	12,100	8,800	2,350	1,050	50	2,163,750
Jul to Sep 2014	463,700	794,500	381,000	1,439,450	673,850	22,900	18,750	4,050	1,850	50	3,800,100
Oct to Dec 2014	138,900	333,300	3,750	598,650	182,300	12,600	8,850	1,900	1,350	50	1,281,600
Jan to Mar 2015	148,400	325,500	46,100	629,000	187,400	12,050	9,750	2,700	1,600	100	1,362,600
Apr to Jun 2015	226,400	465,400	75,050	787,500	309,450	14,600	10,050	2,800	1,350	100	1,892,700
Jul to Sep 2015	467,550	715,600	752,050	1,112,150	687,100	29,700	17,150	5,750	2,050	100	3,789,200
Oct to Dec 2015	113,800	286,800	4,700	523,550	176,800	14,000	9,500	1,600	1,200	0~	1,131,950
Jan to Mar 2016	146,050	299,700	62,250	571,950	191,400	13,050	9,300	2,450	750	50	1,296,900
Apr to Jun 2016	214,350	395,250	32,200	692,150	285,900	17,650	9,700	4,350	950	0~	1,652,500
Jul to Sep 2016	414,100	611,000	614,650	956,200	702,700	28,700	19,000	5,850	1,150	50	3,353,500
Oct to Dec 2016	88,000	251,200	2,800	499,100	186,300	13,150	10,300	1,650	1,300	50	1,053,900

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, AS/A levels and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero~. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 6: The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October to December 2016 (October to December 2015 shown for comparison)

Qualification	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Oct to Dec 2015	Oct to Dec 2016
	CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	28,500
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	22,150	23,150
BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills	7,050	20,750
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work	14,500	15,550
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry)	12,600	14,150
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)	15,400	13,600
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	10,700	10,300
BIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	10,550	10,300
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)	10,650	9,600
QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (QCF)	8,800	9,500
BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)	6,150	9,300
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	9,500	8,350
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	8,450	8,350
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	12,600	8,300
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	9,900	8,250
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3)	8,850	8,150
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	10,000	8,000
TQUK Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	4,550	7,900
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	7,700	7,750
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	9,300	7,700
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	10,750	7,600
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	8,250	7,400
Cambridge English Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-8.0) (ESOL)	6,550	7,050
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	7,000	7,000
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	8,200	6,850
IQL Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue	5,900	6,450
QA Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	5,800	6,450
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)	6,700	5,900
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	6,700	5,900
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)	6,200	5,800
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	6,300	5,750
AOFAQ Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	5,900	5,700
CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	6,150	5,650
FAA Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work	4,550	5,450
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	4,750	5,150
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	5,900	5,100
Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Employment Responsibilities and Rights in Health, Safety and Environment	3,550	4,700
ABRSM Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Music Theory (Grade 5)	4,900	4,650
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	3,850	3,700
RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	4,600	3,500
HABC Level 2 Award for Working as a Door Supervisor within the Private	3,250	3,350
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Working in Medium Risk Confined Spaces (Top)	2,800	3,350
TQUK Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (QCF)	3,000	3,300
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Employment Responsibilities and Rights in Health, Safety and Environment	3,650	3,200
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Entry 3	3,200	3,150
TCL Level 1 Award in the Arts (QCF)	3,400	3,150
City & Guilds Level 3 Award In The Requirements for Electrical Installations	3,350	3,150
LASER Level 2 Award for Working as a Door Supervisor within the Private	2,650	3,100
HABC Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	3,650	3,100
Ascentis Level 1 Award In Internet Safety For IT Users (RQF)	3,150	2,800

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 7: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October to December 2011 to October to December 2016

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Health, public services and care	Science and mathematics	Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Construction, planning and the built environment	Information and communication technology	Retail and commercial enterprise	Leisure, travel and tourism	Arts, media and publishing	History, philosophy and theology	Social sciences	Languages, literature and culture	Education and training	Preparation for life and work	Business, administration, finance and law	Total number of certificates issued
Oct to Dec 2011	140,350	1,900	20,500	79,500	36,300	48,150	170,300	70,550	126,000	550	250	43,800	17,000	407,650	108,650	1,271,400
Jan to Mar 2012	134,350	3,100	20,000	69,700	37,550	71,700	162,600	60,800	106,950	150	150	47,650	20,400	527,150	122,200	1,384,550
Apr to Jun 2012	191,200	45,050	27,100	87,450	53,000	189,850	177,050	130,850	222,550	50	50	73,100	22,300	744,150	152,700	2,116,500
Jul to Sep 2012	329,700	177,100	51,150	179,500	112,250	340,100	274,900	266,050	427,950	45,800	3,750	223,100	37,100	1,283,350	261,400	4,013,150
Oct to Dec 2012	175,400	1,950	18,050	81,500	42,150	58,300	159,650	81,150	131,800	250	100	29,750	18,850	423,700	122,600	1,345,250
Jan to Mar 2013	187,900	8,000	21,300	78,400	36,050	73,950	148,150	62,350	114,250	150	150	56,100	20,350	500,700	125,350	1,433,200
Apr to Jun 2013	289,750	82,450	30,000	101,550	58,200	201,150	182,000	176,350	258,250	150	50	84,700	23,800	782,000	193,600	2,463,950
Jul to Sep 2013	371,650	187,650	50,750	178,450	106,650	297,850	263,950	227,950	392,100	40,850	4,350	277,600	43,500	1,255,250	255,350	3,953,850
Oct to Dec 2013	221,700	4,950	16,800	74,650	36,200	52,100	146,050	71,100	131,500	50	0	34,500	19,000	362,500	112,400	1,283,550
Jan to Mar 2014	259,300	5,450	17,900	74,350	33,350	59,600	140,300	59,650	101,350	100	100	67,150	19,950	472,100	122,700	1,433,350
Apr to Jun 2014	308,600	47,200	28,750	90,250	52,550	143,250	167,350	137,400	252,600	8,700	50	63,250	22,550	671,200	170,100	2,163,750
Jul to Sep 2014	393,500	267,650	48,000	161,900	110,400	258,700	233,900	207,300	397,050	24,450	6,250	310,400	38,200	1,100,200	242,200	3,800,100
Oct to Dec 2014	242,100	1,600	17,950	72,950	45,500	40,050	136,000	60,450	136,700	300	50	33,050	17,000	368,600	109,400	1,281,600
Jan to Mar 2015	259,800	12,250	19,400	73,150	47,600	48,900	133,600	51,550	107,750	550	100	78,200	17,600	413,550	98,600	1,362,600
Apr to Jun 2015	293,750	34,850	29,900	94,450	65,100	86,250	154,900	101,700	201,150	3,950	0~	42,850	20,650	626,750	136,400	1,892,700
Jul to Sep 2015	393,100	253,800	49,500	159,200	117,500	239,550	196,150	202,350	384,200	26,200	9,450	450,250	35,100	1,052,150	220,700	3,789,200
Oct to Dec 2015	235,450	2,050	18,550	69,350	48,650	34,700	118,600	57,300	123,700	500	50	23,800	16,250	304,350	78,700	1,131,950
Jan to Mar 2016	254,700	11,800	7,800	68,500	48,600	63,200	114,850	50,000	128,000	600	100	78,650	17,150	374,100	78,900	1,296,900
Apr to Jun 2016	282,600	11,900	24,550	82,150	65,700	107,750	133,450	86,850	186,050	1,450	50	40,600	20,200	497,200	112,100	1,652,500
Jul to Sep 2016	375,100	198,900	46,850	150,750	118,150	187,350	179,050	181,750	379,700	22,800	10,700	388,900	31,550	889,500	192,400	3,353,500
Oct to Dec 2016	234,450	750	18,100	64,550	56,650	46,800	110,200	53,700	128,200	450	0~	22,850	16,900	228,800	71,600	1,053,900

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

- Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
- Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as 0~. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 8: Total number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter October to December 2016 (October to December 2015 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland		
Sector subject area	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Oct – Dec 2015	Oct – Dec 2016
01.1 Medicine and dentistry	300	550
01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	650	650
01.3 Health and social care	197,800	201,350
01.4 Public services	25,950	23,550
01.5 Child development and well-being	10,800	8,350
02.1 Science	2,050	750
02.2 Mathematics and statistics	0	0~
03.1 Agriculture	1,950	1,950
03.2 Horticulture and forestry	11,950	10,850
03.3 Animal care and veterinary science	3,800	4,550
03.4 Environmental conservation	900	750
04.1 Engineering	23,500	20,350
04.2 Manufacturing technologies	31,100	29,450
04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance	14,750	14,800
05.1 Architecture	0	0
05.2 Building and construction	48,650	56,650
05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning	0	0
06.1 ICT practitioners	5,550	5,550
06.2 ICT for users	29,150	41,200
07.1 Retailing and wholesaling	9,450	7,800
07.2 Warehousing and distribution	9,450	8,050
07.3 Service enterprises	16,450	15,950
07.4 Hospitality and catering	83,250	78,350
08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation	56,200	52,850
08.2 Travel and tourism	1,100	800
09.1 Performing arts	112,000	118,650
09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design	9,950	7,800
09.3 Media and communication	1,600	1,650
09.4 Publishing and information services	100	50
10.1 History	0	0~
10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences	0~	0~
10.3 Philosophy	0	0
10.4 Theology and religious studies	500	450
11.1 Geography	0	0
11.2 Sociology and social policy	50	0~
11.3 Politics	0	0
11.4 Economics	0	0
12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	21,900	21,400
12.2 Other languages, literature and culture	1,900	1,450
12.3 Linguistics	0	0
13.1 Teaching and lecturing	9,450	10,550
13.2 Direct learning support	6,800	6,350
14.1 Foundations for learning and life	268,350	203,800
14.2 Preparation for work	36,000	25,000
15.1 Accounting and finance	19,400	17,550
15.2 Administration	28,900	24,600
15.3 Business management	28,850	28,000
15.4 Marketing and sales	1,350	1,250
15.5 Law and legal services	200	250

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero~. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 9: England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January 2016 to December 2016

England only	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Jan 2016 – Dec 2016
Pearson Education Ltd	1,258,850
City and Guilds of London Institute	969,300
OCR	314,200
Cambridge International Examinations	300,700
NCFE	286,200
AQA Education	261,900
Cambridge English Language Assessment	225,850
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	211,500
Trinity College London	209,650
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	196,450
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	186,300
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	167,400
Qualsafe Awards	164,750
First Aid Awards Ltd	101,350
NOCN	88,200
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	73,300
LAMDA	62,300
BIAB	59,450
Ascentis	58,800
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	57,500
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	56,900
Cskills Awards	56,750
1st4sport Qualifications	50,200
British Safety Council	48,550
The Institute of the Motor Industry	43,800
Sports Leaders UK	43,100
Gateway Qualifications Limited	42,350
Active IQ	41,450
VTCT	40,850
IQL	40,650
Association of Accounting Technicians	40,450
Royal Academy of Dance	40,100
International Baccalaureate Organisation	38,450
AoFA Qualifications	38,150
Royal Society for Public Health	37,800
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	34,100
International Dance Teachers Association	32,150
Rock School Ltd	28,650
University of the Arts London	28,450
Innovate Awarding	28,350
The Learning Machine	26,200
University of West London	22,800
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	22,600
Laser Learning Awards	20,750
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	18,550
Safety Training Awards	18,250
AIM Awards	17,350
Industry Qualifications	16,850
ABC Awards	16,750
iCan Qualifications Limited	16,150

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

- Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
 - Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
- Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero~. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 10: Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January 2016 to December 2016

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Jan 2016 – Dec 2016
WJEC-CBAC	189,450
City and Guilds of London Institute	94,800
Pearson Education Ltd	90,250
OCR	26,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	21,400
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	18,400
Cambridge English Language Assessment	15,450
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	10,900
Qualsafe Awards	9,100
Agored Cymru	8,650
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	6,950
Trinity College London	6,350
AoFA Qualifications	5,200
VTCT	4,400
Safety Training Awards	3,650
NCFE	3,600
First Aid Awards Ltd	3,100
British Safety Council	2,900
The London Institute of Banking & Finance	2,500
Cskills Awards	2,450
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	2,300
AQA Education	2,250
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	2,150
NOCN	2,050
International Baccalaureate Organisation	1,950
1st4sport Qualifications	1,900
IQL	1,850
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	1,800
Royal Academy of Dance	1,750
The Institute of the Motor Industry	1,700
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,600
Royal Society for Public Health	1,550
University of West London	1,400
Sports Leaders UK	1,300
Active IQ	1,250
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	950
YMCA Awards	900
BIIAB	900
Rock School Ltd	850
Amateur Swimming Association	650
Cambridge International Examinations	650
LAMDA	600
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	550
Lantra Awards	500
Chartered Management Institute	450
Prince's Trust	450
Chartered Institute of Legal Executives	450
ITC First	400
ABC Awards	350
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	350

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.

2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 11: Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January 2016 to December 2016

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Jan 2016 – Dec 2016
City and Guilds of London Institute	51,250
Pearson Education Ltd	22,250
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	19,400
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	16,200
OCR	10,500
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	9,000
Trinity College London	8,550
Open College Network Northern Ireland	6,500
University of West London	6,450
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	2,250
AQA Education	2,200
NOCN	1,950
Cskills Awards	1,950
New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd	1,850
Prince's Trust	1,750
Active IQ	1,500
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	1,450
Qualsafe Awards	1,400
NCFE	1,300
AoFA Qualifications	1,250
IQL	1,200
Cambridge English Language Assessment	1,150
Royal Academy of Dance	1,100
ETC Awards Limited	1,050
First Aid Awards Ltd	950
Rock School Ltd	950
Graded Qualifications Alliance	900
VTCT	900
iCan Qualifications Limited	800
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	700
The Institute of the Motor Industry	700
BIAB	700
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	650
ProQual Awarding Body	550
WSET Awards	550
LAMDA	550
Royal Society for Public Health	500
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	450
1st4sport Qualifications	450
Sports Leaders UK	400
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	400
Accounting Technicians Ireland	350
FDQ Limited	350
ABC Awards	300
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	300
Lantra Awards	250
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	250
British Safety Council	200
Focus Awards Limited	200
Safety Training Awards	200

Source: Awarding Organisations

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at:

Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation
Spring Place
Coventry Business Park
Herald Avenue
Coventry CV5 6UB

Telephone 0300 303 3344
Textphone 0300 303 3345
Helpline 0300 303 3346