

# Statistical Release

## Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly July to September 2016

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### Key points

This release presents information on the number of certificates issued for regulated qualifications during July to September 2016 (2016 Q3), excluding GCSEs and A levels. The key findings are:

- Nearly 3.3 million certificates were awarded in 2016 Q3, a decrease of 13% on the same quarter of 2015 and the lowest number of certificates awarded during quarter 3 in the past five years. The decline is mostly due to the decrease in the number of Other general qualifications and QCF qualifications.
- The number of available qualifications this quarter decreased by 1% from 31,600 in the previous quarter to 31,211.
- The qualification with the most certificates this quarter was Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English with 196,100 certificates awarded.
- The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications both decreased by 17% on the same quarter in 2015 (to 590,600 and 924,050 respectively). The decline is mostly due to the decrease in the number of functional skills and QCF qualifications.
- The number of certificates issued for Level 3 qualifications increased by 2% (from 687,100 to 699,700).
- The highest number of certificates awarded by sector subject area of qualification in this quarter was for Preparation for Life and Work (867,200 certificates).

## 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 on behalf of Qualifications Wales, the regulator in Wales, and on 'other general' qualifications (see glossary) and Entry Level qualifications on behalf of the regulator in Northern Ireland (CCEA). Ofqual's objectives include promoting public confidence in and awareness of regulated qualifications.

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. This means that from that date, the QCF type has ceased to exist. However, for administrative reasons, awarding organisations could – until our new system was introduced in summer 2016 – 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    |
| English for speakers of other languages | Entry Level, Levels 1, 2 and 3 |
| Entry Level                             | Entry                          |
| 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                  |
| 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     |

This release presents data on regulated vocational and other qualifications<sup>1</sup> (coloured blue in the table above) for both the July to September 2016 quarter and the 12-month period ending September 2016.

This release does not include the rest of the qualifications given in the above table - Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A levels, project and principal learning, on which data are published separately. Neither does it include university degrees, which Ofqual does not regulate.

Note: Ofqual has changed the name of its Official Statistics publication Enquiries about Results for GCSE and A level to Reviews of Marking and Moderation for GCSE and A level. The next release of the publication is scheduled for 15 December 2016. The change of name was required to reflect recent changes in rules for reviewing candidate results which came into effect in August 2016. Ofqual made changes to the rules following two user consultations published in [May](#) and [July](#) 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> 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, including changes in government funding, performance tables and study programmes.

### Public funding changes by the Skills Funding Agency<sup>2</sup>

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. New funding rules<sup>3</sup> have been introduced during 2015/16, but it is too early to find any visible impact of these particular new rules on the statistics reported in this bulletin.

### Legal entitlement and local flexibility

Only certain qualifications are now eligible for funding through the legal entitlement<sup>4</sup> 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 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 2017<sup>4</sup>, 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.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-funding-rules-2015-to-2016>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifications-getting-approval-for-funding>

Advanced learner loans are now available for all learners aged over 24, and for learners aged 19+ for Level 3 to Level 6 qualifications<sup>5</sup>.

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 that 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. Ofqual are currently collecting data on behalf of Qualifications Wales and we have incorporated these Qualification Wales records in to 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.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-learner-loans-qualifications-catalogue>

## Table of key statistics

|  | April-June 2016 | July-September 2016 | % change on previous qtr |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Number of available qualifications</b>  | 31,600          | 31,211              | -1                       |
| <b>Number of awarding organisations</b>  |                 |                     |                          |
| <b>with available qualifications this quarter</b>  | 157             | 157                 | 0                        |
| <b>with available qualifications this quarter and certificates awarded in the last 12 months</b> | 152             | 154                 | 1                        |
| <b>Number of available qualifications by type</b>  |                 |                     |                          |
| Basic skills   | 4               | 5                   | 25                       |
| English for speakers of other languages  | 171             | 175                 | 2                        |
| Entry level  | 298             | 314                 | 5                        |
| Free-standing mathematics qualification  | 14              | 14                  | 0                        |
| Functional skills  | 221             | 222                 | 0                        |
| Higher level   | 116             | 110                 | -5                       |
| Key skills   | 158             | 157                 | -1                       |
| NVQ  | 69              | 83                  | 20                       |
| Occupational qualification   | 13              | 40                  | 208                      |
| Other general qualification  | 1,100           | 1,117               | 2                        |
| QCF  | 28,542          | 27,693              | -3                       |
| Vocationally related qualification   | 894             | 1,281               | 43                       |
| <b>Number of available qualifications by level</b>   |                 |                     |                          |
| Entry level  | 3,535           | 3,486               | -1                       |
| Level 1  | 4,210           | 4,121               | -2                       |
| Level 1/2  | 318             | 321                 | 1                        |
| Level 2  | 10,343          | 10,169              | -2                       |
| Level 3  | 9,537           | 9,500               | 0                        |
| Level 4  | 2,137           | 2,111               | -1                       |
| Level 5  | 939             | 922                 | -2                       |
| Level 6  | 323             | 321                 | -1                       |
| Level 7  | 252             | 253                 | 0                        |
| Level 8  | 6               | 7                   | 17                       |
| <b>Number of available qualifications by sector subject area</b>                                 |                 |                     |                          |
| Agriculture, horticulture and animal care  | 1,277           | 1,213               | -5                       |
| Arts, media and publishing   | 2,171           | 2,172               | 0                        |
| Business, administration, finance and law  | 3,653           | 3,594               | -2                       |
| Construction, planning and the built environment   | 2,164           | 2,119               | -2                       |
| Education and training   | 1,632           | 1,640               | 0                        |
| Engineering and manufacturing technologies   | 3,617           | 3,628               | 0                        |
| Health, public services and care   | 3,508           | 3,421               | -2                       |
| History, philosophy and theology   | 68              | 69                  | 1                        |
| Information and communication technology   | 733             | 754                 | 3                        |
| Languages, literature and culture  | 1,500           | 1,382               | -8                       |
| Leisure, travel and tourism  | 1,482           | 1,487               | 0                        |
| Preparation for life and work  | 5,579           | 5,502               | -1                       |
| Retail and commercial enterprise   | 3,890           | 3,881               | 0                        |
| Science and mathematics  | 289             | 310                 | 7                        |
| Social sciences  | 37              | 39                  | 5                        |

## Number of certificates awarded

|  | July-<br>September<br>2015 | July-<br>September<br>2016 | % change on<br>previous year's<br>same quarter | October 2014-<br>September<br>2015 | October 2015-<br>September<br>2016 | % change on<br>previous 12 months |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Overall number of certificates awarded</b>          | 3,789,200                  | 3,293,650                  | -13  | 8,326,100                          | 7,375,050                          | -11                               |
| <b>Number of certificates by type of qualification</b> |                            |                            |  |                                    |                                    |                                   |
| Basic skills   | 50                         | 0                          |  | 150                                | 0                                  | -98                               |
| English for speakers of other languages                | 85,950                     | 77,100                     | -10  | 272,350                            | 225,400                            | -17                               |
| Entry level  | 60,550                     | 61,050                     | 1  | 75,000                             | 72,300                             | -4                                |
| Free-standing mathematics qualification                | 36,200                     | 35,000                     | -3   | 37,350                             | 35,900                             | -4                                |
| Functional skills                                      | 385,900                    | 285,400                    | -26  | 1,034,800                          | 831,700                            | -20                               |
| Higher level   | 4,700                      | 4,500                      | -4   | 9,000                              | 11,850                             | 32                                |
| Key skills   | 47,550                     | 38,000                     | -20  | 99,900                             | 70,950                             | -29                               |
| NVQ  | 500                        | 150                        | -66  | 2,750                              | 1,650                              | -39                               |
| Occupational qualification                             | 0                          | 50                         | 336  | 50                                 | 150                                | 238                               |
| Other general qualification                            | 1,014,900                  | 864,150                    | -15  | 1,277,200                          | 1,052,100                          | -18                               |
| QCF  | 2,132,850                  | 1,901,050                  | -11  | 5,470,350                          | 5,019,900                          | -8                                |
| Vocationally related qualification                     | 20,100                     | 27,100                     | 35   | 47,250                             | 53,150                             | 12                                |
| <b>Number of certificates by qualification level</b>   |                            |                            |  |                                    |                                    |                                   |
| Entry level  | 467,550                    | 409,900                    | -12  | 981,250                            | 884,050                            | -10                               |
| Level 1  | 715,600                    | 590,600                    | -17  | 1,839,800                          | 1,572,300                          | -15                               |
| Level 1/ Level 2                                       | 752,050                    | 614,650                    | -18  | 876,850                            | 713,850                            | -19                               |
| Level 2  | 1,112,150                  | 924,050                    | -17  | 3,127,300                          | 2,711,700                          | -13                               |
| Level 3  | 687,100                    | 699,700                    | 2  | 1,366,250                          | 1,353,800                          | -1                                |
| Level 4  | 29,700                     | 28,700                     | -3   | 68,950                             | 73,400                             | 6                                 |
| Level 5  | 17,150                     | 19,000                     | 11   | 45,800                             | 47,500                             | 4                                 |
| Level 6  | 5,750                      | 5,850                      | 2  | 13,150                             | 14,250                             | 8                                 |
| Level 7  | 2,050                      | 1,150                      | -44  | 6,400                              | 4,050                              | -37                               |
| Level 8  | 100                        | 50                         | -32  | 350                                | 100                                | -64                               |
| <b>Number of certificates by sector subject area</b>   |                            |                            |  |                                    |                                    |                                   |
| Agriculture, horticulture and animal care              | 49,500                     | 46,850                     | -5   | 116,750                            | 97,750                             | -16                               |
| Arts, media and publishing                             | 384,200                    | 372,650                    | -3   | 829,800                            | 810,400                            | -2                                |
| Business, administration, finance and law              | 220,700                    | 189,250                    | -14  | 565,050                            | 458,900                            | -19                               |
| Construction, planning and the built environment       | 117,500                    | 117,950                    | 0  | 275,700                            | 280,850                            | 2                                 |
| Education and training                                 | 35,100                     | 29,750                     | -15  | 90,350                             | 83,350                             | -8                                |
| Engineering and manufacturing technologies             | 159,200                    | 149,350                    | -6   | 399,750                            | 369,350                            | -8                                |
| Health, public services and care                       | 393,100                    | 356,700                    | -9   | 1,188,750                          | 1,129,500                          | -5                                |
| History, philosophy and theology                       | 26,200                     | 22,800                     | -13  | 31,000                             | 25,350                             | -18                               |
| Information and communication technology               | 239,550                    | 187,050                    | -22  | 414,750                            | 392,700                            | -5                                |
| Languages, literature and culture                      | 450,250                    | 388,900                    | -14  | 604,350                            | 531,950                            | -12                               |
| Leisure, travel and tourism                            | 202,350                    | 177,950                    | -12  | 416,050                            | 372,100                            | -11                               |
| Preparation for life and work                          | 1,052,150                  | 867,200                    | -18  | 2,461,100                          | 2,042,800                          | -17                               |
| Retail and commercial enterprise                       | 196,150                    | 177,600                    | -9   | 620,650                            | 544,450                            | -12                               |
| Science and mathematics                                | 253,800                    | 198,900                    | -22  | 302,500                            | 224,650                            | -26                               |
| Social sciences  | 9,450                      | 10,700                     | 13   | 9,600                              | 10,900                             | 13                                |
| <b>Number of certificates by country</b>               |                            |                            |  |                                    |                                    |                                   |
| England  | 3,420,900                  | 2,926,200                  | -14  | 7,484,100                          | 6,622,750                          | -12                               |
| Wales  | 295,900                    | 300,950                    | 2  | 623,400                            | 561,950                            | -10                               |
| Northern Ireland                                       | 72,400                     | 66,550                     | -8   | 218,600                            | 190,350                            | -13                               |

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 that are 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 1% compared to the previous quarter, from 31,600 to 31,211 (see the table of key statistics given earlier).

The change in the number of available qualifications resulted from 734 new qualifications becoming available (of which 430 were vocationally related qualifications, 125 were other general qualifications and 100 were QCFs) and 1,123 qualifications expiring (of which 934 were classified as Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications). 53% of the qualifications that expired had no certificates in the 12 months to the end of September 2016. The 734 newly available qualifications are delivered by 69 awarding organisations.

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

### Awarding organisations

The number of recognised awarding organisations (157) 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 154, similar to quarter 2 of 2016 (152).

### Certificates issued

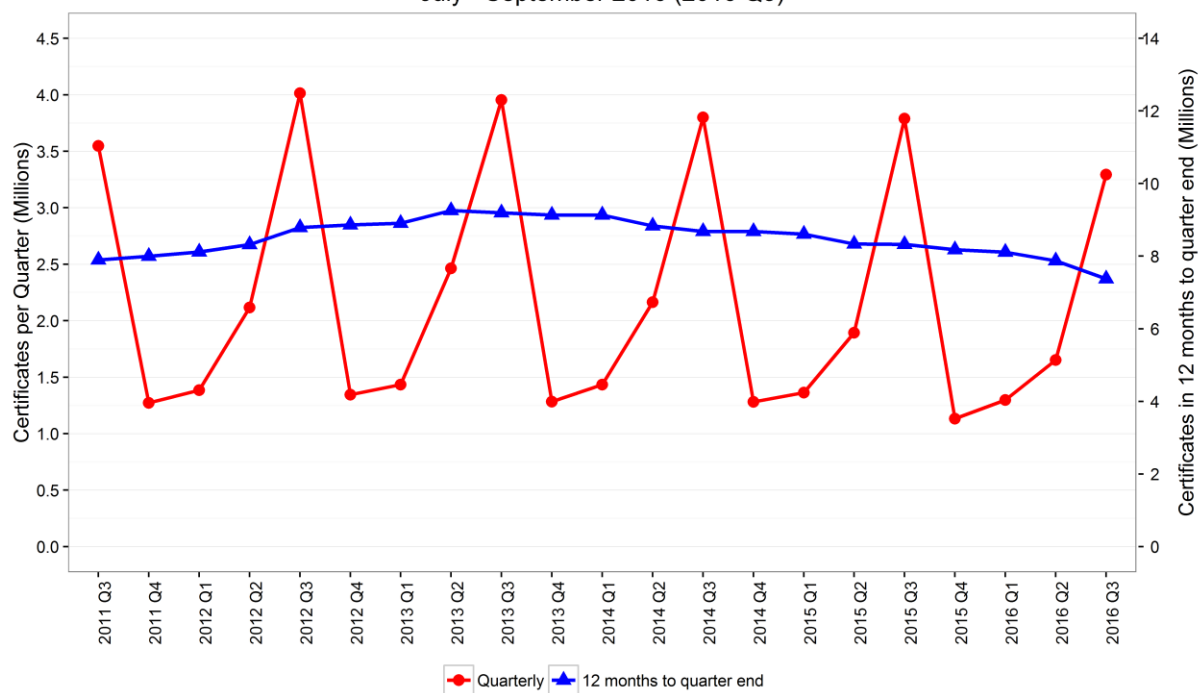
There was a decrease of 13% in the total number of certificates issued compared with the same quarter of 2015 (from 3.8 million to 3.3 million). The number of certificates awarded this quarter is the lowest for quarter 3 (July to September) in the period from 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates that there was a gradual increase in the number of certificates awarded between 2011 and 2013, but over the past 3 years there has been a decline. The overall number of certificates issued has fallen from 8.3 million in the 12 months to the end of September 2015 to 7.4 million in the 12 months to the end of September 2016, a decrease of 11%.

The number of certificates issued in each quarter since July to September 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, July - September 2011 (2011 Q3) to July - September 2016 (2016 Q3)



## Certificates by country

This quarter, 89% of all certificates issued were in England, 9% 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 September 2016 by geographical area (with % change on previous year's same period)**

| Country                                    | Proportion of total | July-September 2016 | % change on previous year's same quarter | 12 months to September 2016 | % change in 12 months |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| England                                    | 89                  | 2,926,200           | -13                                      | 6,622,750                   | -11                   |
| Wales                                      | 9                   | 300,950             | 2  | 561,950                     | -10                   |
| Northern Ireland                           | 2                   | 67,050              | -7                                       | 190,350                     | -13                   |
| <b>Total number of certificates issued</b> | <b>100</b>          | <b>3,293,650</b>    | <b>-13</b>                               | <b>7,375,050</b>            | <b>-11</b>            |

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

Over the 12 months to September 2016, there was a decrease of 11% in England, 10% in Wales and 13% 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 September 2016. Table 3 of the appendix presents the number of certificates issued each quarter since July to September 2011 by type of qualification. Most certificates issued this quarter were for QCF qualifications (1,901,050 certificates out of 3,293,650, or 58%).

Ofqual withdrew the QCF requirements at the beginning of quarter 3 2015, and the SFA withdrew its preference for funding them. The number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications decreased by 11% this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2015. This is the tenth consecutive quarter where the number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications has decreased, compared to the same quarter the year before.

The number of certificates issued for functional skills qualifications decreased by 26% compared to the same quarter in 2015 (from 385,900 to 285,400). Most of this change was due to a decrease of in the number of functional skills certificates issued by the City and Guilds of London Institute (from 171,800 to 117,550) and Pearson Education Ltd. (from 146,700 to 115,650). 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 35% compared to the same quarter in 2015 (from 20,100 to 27,100). Most of this change was due to an increase of in the number of vocationally related qualification

certificates issued by the Amateur Swimming Association (from 0 to 2,550), VTCT (from 100 to 1,550) and NCFE (from 6,850 to 8,150).

The number of certificates awarded for English speakers of other languages (ESOL) decreased by 10% compared to the same quarter for 2015. ESOL qualifications have decreased in 6 of the 7 past quarters compared to the same quarter the year before. The 12-month trend shows a decrease of 17% compared to the 12 months ending September 2015. The SFA stopped funding existing ESOL qualifications in December 2014. From January 2015, funding for ESOL qualifications has only been available when a student completes a QCF ESOL Skills for Life qualification.<sup>6</sup>

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

| Qualification type                      | July-September 2016 | % change on same qtr 2015 | 12 months to September 2016 | % change in 12 months |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Basic skills                            | 0                   | -100                      | 0~                          | -98                   |
| ESOL                                    | 77,100              | -10                       | 225,400                     | -17                   |
| Entry level                             | 61,050              | 1                         | 72,300                      | -4                    |
| Free-standing mathematics qualification | 35,000              | -3                        | 35,900                      | -4                    |
| Functional skills                       | 285,400             | -26                       | 831,700                     | -20                   |
| Higher level                            | 4,500               | -4                        | 11,850                      | 32                    |
| Key skills                              | 38,000              | -20                       | 70,950                      | -29                   |
| NVQ                                     | 150                 | -66                       | 1,650                       | -39                   |
| Occupational qualification              | 50                  | 336                       | 150                         | 238                   |
| Other general qualification             | 864,150             | -15                       | 1,052,100                   | -18                   |
| QCF                                     | 1,901,050           | -11                       | 5,019,900                   | -8                    |
| Vocationally related qualification      | 27,100              | 35                        | 53,150                      | 12                    |
| <b>Total number of certificates</b>     | <b>3,293,650</b>    | <b>-13</b>                | <b>7,375,050</b>            | <b>-11</b>            |

Key: ESOL: English for Speakers of Other Languages; NVQ: National vocational qualification; QCF: Qualifications and Credit Framework.

## Certificating awarding organisations

Over the last 12 months, 154 awarding organisations issued certificates, representing 98% 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 73% of all awards during this quarter (2.4 million out of 3.3 million certificates).

<sup>6</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/esol-qualifications-interim-arrangements/new-qualifications-and-credit-framework-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-skills-for-life-qualifications-funding-arrangements-for-2014-to-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esol-qualifications-interim-arrangements/new-qualifications-and-credit-framework-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-skills-for-life-qualifications-funding-arrangements-for-2014-to-2015)

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

| Awarding organisation   | July-September 2016 | % change on same qtr 2015 | 12 months to September 2016 | % change in 12 months |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pearson Education Ltd   | 770,150             | -24                       | 1,426,000                   | -24                   |
| City and Guilds of London Institute                                   | 444,650             | -17                       | 1,121,500                   | -18                   |
| Cambridge International Examinations                                  | 262,300             | 4                         | 301,550                     | 7                     |
| AQA Education   | 248,350             | 7                         | 265,500                     | 4                     |
| OCR   | 181,900             | -27                       | 359,500                     | -25                   |
| WJEC-CBAC   | 141,200             | 19                        | 200,150                     | -6                    |
| Cambridge English Language Assessment                                 | 107,050             | -24                       | 245,800                     | -17                   |
| Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music                        | 93,900              | 6                         | 237,150                     | -7                    |
| Trinity College London  | 76,850              | 2                         | 223,800                     | 23                    |
| NCFE  | 70,800              | -51                       | 241,550                     | -28                   |
| <b>Total number of certificates for the 10 awarding organisations</b> | <b>2,397,150</b>    | <b>-16</b>                | <b>4,622,450</b>            | <b>-17</b>            |

Five of the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates recorded decreases this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015.

- NCFE has a decrease of 51% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 145,800 to 70,800). Most of this decrease is due to a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 131,300 to 60,900) and functional skills qualification (from 7,650 to 1,750).
- OCR had a decrease of 27% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 248,400 to 181,900). Most of this decrease is due to a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in other general qualifications (from 105,750 to 63,900) and a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 80,950 to 64,400).
- Cambridge English Language Assessment has a decrease of 24% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 140,650 to 107,050). This decrease is due to a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 90,900 to 73,050) and ESOL qualifications (from 49,750 to 34,050).
- Pearson Education Ltd had a decrease of 24% in the number of certificates awarded this quarter (from 1,019,250 to 770,150). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in other general qualifications (328,700 to 182,700), QCF (from 515,250 to 451,550) and functional skills (from 146,700 to 115,650).

- The number of certificates awarded this quarter by WJEC-CBAC increased by 19% (from 118,700 to 141,200). Most of this increase is due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded for other general qualifications (from 79,300 to 107,250).
- The number of certificates awarded this quarter by City and Guilds of London Institute decreased by 17% (from 538,050 to 444,650). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number certificates awarded of functional skills (from 171,800 to 117,550) and QCF (from 326,450 to 299,950).

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 September 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.<sup>7</sup>

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 September 2016 by qualification level (with % change on previous year's same period)**

| Qualification level                 | July-September 2016 | % change on same qtr 2015 | 12 months to September 2016 | % change in 12 months |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Entry level                         | 409,900             | -12                       | 884,050                     | -10                   |
| Level 1                             | 590,600             | -17                       | 1,572,300                   | -15                   |
| Level 1/ Level 2                    | 614,650             | -18                       | 713,850                     | -19                   |
| Level 2                             | 924,050             | -17                       | 2,711,700                   | -13                   |
| Level 3                             | 699,700             | 2                         | 1,353,800                   | -1                    |
| Level 4                             | 28,700              | -3                        | 73,400                      | 6                     |
| Level 5                             | 19,000              | 11                        | 47,500                      | 14                    |
| Level 6                             | 5,850               | 2                         | 14,250                      | 8                     |
| Level 7                             | 1,150               | -44                       | 4,050                       | -37                   |
| Level 8                             | 50                  | -32                       | 100                         | -64                   |
| <b>Total number of certificates</b> | <b>3,293,650</b>    | <b>-13</b>                | <b>7,375,050</b>            | <b>-11</b>            |

The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications has declined year-on-year for the thirteenth consecutive quarter (compared to the same quarter the year before). The number of certificates for Level 1 decreased by 17% and the number of certificates for Level 2 decreased by 17%. The decline in both levels this quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2015, is partly because of a decrease in

<sup>7</sup> Further details on comparing qualification levels are available on Ofqual's website: [www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean](http://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean)

the number of certificates awarded in Functional skills (from 133,000 to 100,500 for Level 1 and from 130,450 to 84,300 for Level 2) and QCF (from 472,200 to 400,200 for Level 1 and from 817,250 to 686,250 for Level 2).

Compared to the same quarter last year there was a decrease of 18% of the number of certificates for Level 1/Level 2 qualifications (from 752,050 to 614,650). This is the second consecutive quarter the number of these qualifications has declined following a large increase in Level 1/Level 2 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 Level 7 certificates decreased by 44% (from 2,050 to 1,150). The fall stems mostly from a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF (from 2,000 to 1,100).

Table 5 in the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded by qualification level in each quarter from July to September 2011 to this quarter.

### Certificates by qualification

This quarter 10,716 qualifications had certificates issued, representing 34% of all available qualifications. This is less than the same quarter in 2015, in which certificates were issued for 50% of available qualifications. 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 most 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 September 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 September 2016 (figures for the 12 months to the end of September 2015 shown for comparison)**

| Qualification   | Number of certificates     |                            |                     |  |  |                          |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
|   | July-<br>September<br>2015 | July-<br>September<br>2016 | % change<br>quarter | 12 months<br>to the end<br>of<br>September<br>2015 | 12 months<br>to the end<br>of<br>September<br>2016 | % change<br>12<br>months |
| Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English   | 189,650                    | 196,100                    | 3                   | 215,850  | 233,750  | 8                        |
| AQA Level 1/2 Certificate in English Literature   | 37,900                     | 45,850                     | 21                  | 37,900   | 45,850   | 21                       |
| BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills   | 30,650                     | 36,400                     | 19                  | 55,150   | 122,950  | 123                      |
| OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT   | 64,400                     | 34,850                     | -46                 | 65,400   | 35,650   | -46                      |
| Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport   | 37,500                     | 29,550                     | -21                 | 49,500   | 38,100   | -23                      |
| AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics  | 25,600                     | 28,800                     | 13                  | 25,600   | 28,800   | 13                       |
| AQA Level 1/2 Certificate in English Language   | 21,600                     | 26,250                     | 21                  | 24,150   | 28,550   | 18                       |
| CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)   | 29,150                     | 24,000                     | -18                 | 136,550  | 110,850  | -19                      |
| Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF) | 21,400                     | 23,500                     | 10                  | 21,950   | 24,350   | 11                       |
|   | 22,650                     | 23,450                     | 3                   | 61,150   | 56,800   | -7                       |

The qualification with the most certificates issued this quarter was the Cambridge International Examinations Level 1/Level 2 certificate in first language English with 196,100 certificates awarded. This is an increase of 3% compared to the same quarter of 2015 when there were 189,650 certificates awarded.

The qualification with the largest increase in the number of certificates awarded was AQA Level 1/Level 2 certificate in English literature with an increase of 7,950 certificates (from 37,900 in 2015 to 45,850 in 2016).

The qualification with the largest decrease in terms of both percentage and number of certificates awarded was the OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT with a decrease of 29,550 certificates a 46% decrease in certificates issued (from 64,400 in 2015 to 34,850 in 2016).

The qualification with the largest increase in the 12 months to the end of September 2016 compared to the previous 12 months was the BCS level 2 ECDL certificate in IT application skills with 122,950 certificates awarded in over the 12 months ending September 2016. This is an increase of 123% compared to the same 12 month period ending in September 2015 when there were 55,150 certificates awarded - possibly because this qualification has recently been listed in performance tables for 2018.

### **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 September 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 Preparation for Life and Work sector (867,200, representing 26% of the total issued this quarter and 28% of the total issued in the 12 months to the end of September 2016). However, this sector had the largest decrease in the actual number of certificates awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2015, with an 18% decrease (from 1,052,150 certificates to 867,200). The majority of this decrease is for certificates in the foundations for learning and life sub-sector (from 936,800 to 795,000) with an additional decrease in the certificates for the preparation for work sub-sector (from 115,400 to 72,200).

The sector with the largest increase in certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015 was social science (from 9,450 to 10,700). This was mainly due to an increase in the geography sub-sector (from 7,300 to 8,000).



The sectors with largest percentage decrease in number of certificates awarded were information and communication technology (ICT) (from 239,550 to 187,050) and science and mathematics (from 253,800 to 198,900). Most of the decrease in ICT was due to a decrease in the ICT for users sub sector (from 164,050 to 119,850). The decrease in science and maths sector this quarter was due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded by Pearson Education Ltd (from 129,150 to 55,400).

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

| Sector subject area                              | July-September 2016 | % change on same qtr. 2015 | 12 months to the end of September 2016 | % change for 12 months |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Preparation for Life and Work                    | 867,200             | -18                        | 2,042,800                              | -17                    |
| Languages, Literature and Culture                | 388,900             | -14                        | 531,950                                | -12                    |
| Arts, Media and Publishing                       | 372,650             | -3                         | 810,400                                | -2                     |
| Health, Public Services and Care                 | 356,700             | -9                         | 1,129,500                              | -5                     |
| Science and Mathematics                          | 198,900             | -22                        | 224,650                                | -26                    |
| Business, Administration and Law                 | 189,250             | -14                        | 458,900                                | -19                    |
| Information and Communication Technology         | 187,050             | -22                        | 392,700                                | -5                     |
| Leisure, Travel and Tourism                      | 177,950             | -12                        | 372,100                                | -11                    |
| Retail and Commercial Enterprise                 | 177,600             | -9                         | 544,450                                | -12                    |
| Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies       | 149,350             | -6                         | 369,350                                | -8                     |
| Construction, Planning and the Built Environment | 117,950             | 0                          | 280,850                                | 2                      |
| Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care        | 46,850              | -5                         | 97,750                                 | -16                    |
| Education and Training                           | 29,750              | -15                        | 83,350                                 | -8                     |
| History, Philosophy and Theology                 | 22,800              | -13                        | 25,350                                 | -18                    |
| Social Sciences                                  | 10,700              | 13                         | 10,900                                 | 13                     |
| <b>Total number of certificates</b>              | <b>3,293,650</b>    | <b>-13</b>                 | <b>7,375,050</b>                       | <b>-11</b>             |

Table 7 in the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by sector subject area by quarter from July to September 2011 to this quarter. Table 8 of the appendix gives a more detailed breakdown of the second-tier sector subject areas for these certificates.

### 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 September 2016 (see figure 2).

Figure 8, shows that the QCF qualifications dominate in England (70%), Wales (49%) and Northern Ireland (74%). Compared to the same period in 2015, these numbers have decreased in all regions.

The number of certificates issued for Functional Skills qualifications in Wales increased by 1% in the 12 months to the end of September 2016 compared with the same period in 2015. For the same period, the number of certificates awarded for



functional skills in England decreased by 20% (most likely due to recent changes in policy around GCSE English and mathematics resits) and in Northern Ireland by 75% (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).

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

| Qualification type                          | England          | % of total | 12 month % change | Wales          | % of total | 12 month % change | Northern Ireland | % of total | 12 month % change |
|---|------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Basic skills                                | 0                | 0          | -99               | 0~             | 0          |                   | 0                | 0          |                   |
| English for speakers of other languages     | 216,750          | 3          | -18               | 7,050          | 1          | 55                | 1,600            | 1          | -47               |
| Entry Level                                 | 57,100           | 1          | 4                 | 9,750          | 2          | -27               | 5,400            | 3          | -20               |
| Free-standing mathematics qualification     | 35,650           | 1          | -4                | 300            | 0          | 1                 | 0                | 0          | -100              |
| Functional skills                           | 819,600          | 12         | -20               | 12,050         | 2          | 1                 | 50               | 0          | -75               |
| Higher level                                | 11,200           | 0          | 34                | 350            | 0          | 27                | 250              | 0          | -14               |
| Key skills                                  | 4,700            | 0          | -54               | 65,750         | 12         | -25               | 450              | 0          | -79               |
| NVQ   | 1,600            | 0          | -37               | 50             | 0          | -60               | 0~               | 0          | -85               |
| Occupational qualification                  | 150              | 0          | 238               | 0              | 0          |                   | 0                | 0          |                   |
| Other general qualification                 | 822,250          | 12         | -19               | 190,200        | 34         | -9                | 39,700           | 21         | -21               |
| QCF   | 4,604,550        | 70         | -8                | 274,650        | 49         | -6                | 140,650          | 74         | -8                |
| Vocationally related qualification          | 49,200           | 1          | 16                | 1,750          | 0          | -34               | 2,150            | 1          | -3                |
| <b>Total number of certificates awarded</b> | <b>6,622,750</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>-12</b>        | <b>561,950</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>-10</b>        | <b>190,350</b>   | <b>100</b> | <b>-13</b>        |

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 other general qualifications for the 12 months to the end of September 2016 represents 12% of the total in England, 34% in Wales and 21% in Northern Ireland. The number of certificates awarded is decreasing in all regions<sup>8</sup>.

Tables 9 to 11 in the appendix present the 50 organisations that awarded the most qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively, during October 2015 to September 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

<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

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 July to September 2016 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of September 2016.

This document is in line with Ofqual's statistics policies<sup>10</sup> and the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.<sup>11</sup>

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 Qualifications<sup>12</sup>. 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.

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<sup>9</sup> [www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results](http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice>

<sup>12</sup> <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

The main source of potential error<sup>13</sup> is in the information provided by awarding organisations. Ofqual cannot guarantee that the number of certificates submitted is 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*<sup>14</sup> 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;<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *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>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

<sup>15</sup> The national pupil database contains detailed information about pupils in schools and colleges in England.

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

After data collection, the trends are interpreted by a group of colleagues from Ofqual who are aware of the latest changes in policies. Before being released, the publication has to be 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 Diploma<sup>16</sup>) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the July to September 2016 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website<sup>17</sup>.

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 re-categorised 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 one awarding organisation (City and Guilds of London Institute) have been revised. The table of revisions, published

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<sup>16</sup> Data for GCSEs, AS and A levels can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website: [www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results](http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results)

<sup>17</sup> The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.4239.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.4239.html)

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 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*<sup>18</sup>, 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*<sup>19</sup>, 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.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures>

- 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.
- 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 *Statistical First Release: Provisional GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2015 to 2016* <sup>20</sup>, 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 *Statistical First Release: Provisional A level and other 16-18 results in England, 2015/2016* <sup>21</sup> 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* <sup>22</sup>, published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, achievement

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/gcse-and-equivalent-results-2015-to-2016-provisional>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-level-and-other-level-3-results-2015-to-2016-provisional>

<sup>22</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held)

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.

## Useful information

The data behind these statistics are published alongside this statistical release at 9.30am on the day of release<sup>23</sup>. 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 website<sup>24</sup>.

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England and Northern Ireland<sup>25</sup>. Data on qualifications offered in Wales is available at Qualifications Wales's QiW website<sup>26</sup>.

## 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.

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<sup>23</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset)

<sup>24</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual)

<sup>25</sup> <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.qiw.wales>

- 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.
- 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 – Ofqual does not collect information on certifications by grade achieved.
- Present data on the progression between award, certificate and diploma – Ofqual does not collect the necessary candidate-level data.
- Present the number of registrations as well as certificates – Ofqual collects the number of registrations from awarding organisations on a voluntary basis and does not have complete information.
- Present shared unit data – the data needed to carry out this analysis are not currently available.
- Present data broken down by regions within the UK – 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 – 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 – this is already published by Ofqual in the Annual Qualification Market Report.



The Skills Funding Agency's Individual Learner Record Database<sup>27</sup> 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.

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<sup>27</sup> 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 separate<sup>28</sup>, 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.<sup>29</sup> 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

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<sup>28</sup> AS and A level qualifications provided by WJEC and CCEA have not been separated.

<sup>29</sup> 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.<sup>30</sup> 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.

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<sup>30</sup> [www.gov.uk/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements](http://www.gov.uk/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements)

## **User feedback**

Ofqual is running a rolling series of online surveys to make sure its statistical releases meet your needs.

Ofqual would like to invite you to take part in the online survey for this release.

<https://www.surveymoz.com/s3/1473109/vocational-and-other-qualifications-quarterly-v1>

It will take about 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain entirely confidential in any reports published about the survey.

If you would like to take part in the survey, have any questions or would prefer a paper or large-type copy, please contact Ofqual at: [statistics@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@ofqual.gov.uk).

## Appendix

|                          |   |
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**Table 1: Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications by qualification type, from July to September 2011 to July to September 2016**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

| Period          | Basic skills | English for speakers of other languages | Entry level | Free-standing mathematics qualification | Functional skills | Higher level | Key skills | National vocational qualification | Occupational qualification | Other general qualification | QCF    | Vocationally related qualification | Total number of qualifications |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-------------|---|-------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Jul to Sep 2011 | 88           | 185                                     | 362         | 22                                      | 203               | 506          | 377        | 1,518                             | 94                         | 754                         | 9,622  | 2,277                              | <b>16,008</b>                  |
| Oct to Dec      | 88           | 177                                     | 334         | 20                                      | 208               | 487          | 377        | 1,432                             | 87                         | 722                         | 10,410 | 2,112                              | <b>16,454</b>                  |
| Jan to Mar      | 88           | 183                                     | 321         | 20                                      | 208               | 447          | 377        | 1,349                             | 86                         | 693                         | 11,045 | 2,003                              | <b>16,820</b>                  |
| Apr to Jun 2012 | 88           | 185                                     | 316         | 20                                      | 207               | 422          | 368        | 1,305                             | 86                         | 678                         | 11,661 | 1,969                              | <b>17,305</b>                  |
| Jul to Sep 2012 | 88           | 186                                     | 319         | 20                                      | 206               | 418          | 368        | 1,282                             | 86                         | 752                         | 12,605 | 1,957                              | <b>18,287</b>                  |
| Oct to Dec      | 80           | 185                                     | 297         | 14                                      | 193               | 414          | 368        | 1,148                             | 85                         | 758                         | 13,278 | 1,662                              | <b>18,482</b>                  |
| Jan-Mar 2013    | 80           | 190                                     | 292         | 14                                      | 202               | 411          | 368        | 939                               | 77                         | 739                         | 14,142 | 1,401                              | <b>18,855</b>                  |
| Apr to Jun 2013 | 80           | 188                                     | 292         | 14                                      | 222               | 408          | 359        | 841                               | 77                         | 737                         | 14,927 | 1,285                              | <b>19,430</b>                  |
| Jul to Sep 2013 | 80           | 189                                     | 296         | 14                                      | 232               | 405          | 359        | 788                               | 71                         | 785                         | 16,291 | 1,268                              | <b>20,778</b>                  |
| Oct to Dec      | 32           | 189                                     | 279         | 7                                       | 238               | 355          | 191        | 652                               | 68                         | 774                         | 17,026 | 1,032                              | <b>20,843</b>                  |
| Jan to Mar      | 22           | 191                                     | 274         | 7                                       | 237               | 221          | 165        | 391                               | 20                         | 740                         | 17,345 | 579                                | <b>20,192</b>                  |
| Apr to Jun 2014 | 22           | 187                                     | 196         | 7                                       | 239               | 140          | 133        | 240                               | 9                          | 564                         | 17,501 | 486                                | <b>19,724</b>                  |
| Jul to Sep 2014 | 22           | 189                                     | 195         | 14                                      | 239               | 144          | 135        | 197                               | 1                          | 598                         | 18,742 | 514                                | <b>20,990</b>                  |
| Oct to Dec      | 10           | 185                                     | 186         | 14                                      | 215               | 125          | 125        | 142                               | 1                          | 595                         | 18,908 | 501                                | <b>21,007</b>                  |
| Jan to Mar      | 10           | 195                                     | 165         | 14                                      | 215               | 109          | 116        | 94                                | 1                          | 559                         | 19,141 | 424                                | <b>21,043</b>                  |
| Apr to Jun 2015 | 10           | 195                                     | 164         | 14                                      | 215               | 104          | 115        | 86                                |                            | 553                         | 19,337 | 421                                | <b>21,214</b>                  |
| Jul to Sep 2015 | 12           | 186                                     | 194         | 14                                      | 215               | 108          | 113        | 84                                | 5                          | 663                         | 20,019 | 527                                | <b>22,140</b>                  |
| Oct to Dec      | 6            | 169                                     | 173         | 14                                      | 203               | 86           | 97         | 94                                | 7                          | 660                         | 19,855 | 560                                | <b>21,924</b>                  |
| Jan to Mar      | 4            | 142                                     | 175         | 14                                      | 221               | 81           | 91         | 48                                | 11                         | 664                         | 19,668 | 557                                | <b>21,676</b>                  |
| Apr to Jun 2016 | 4            | 171                                     | 298         | 14                                      | 221               | 116          | 158        | 69                                | 13                         | 1100                        | 28,542 | 894                                | <b>31,600</b>                  |
| Jul to Sep 2016 | 5            | 175                                     | 314         | 14                                      | 222               | 110          | 157        | 83                                | 40                         | 1117                        | 27,693 | 1281                               | <b>31,211</b>                  |

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 July to September 2011 to July to September 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 |
| Jul to Sep 2011                     | 3,548,000                           | 7,895,700                |
| 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                     | 1,652,450                           | 7,870,550                |
| Jul to Sep 2016                     | 3,293,650                           | 7,375,050                |

*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 July to September 2011 to July to September 2016**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

| Period          | Basic Skills | English for Speakers of Other Languages | Entry Level | Free Standing Mathematics Qualification | Functional Skills | Higher Level | Key Skills | National Vocational Qualification | Occupational Qualification | Other General Qualification | QCF       | Vocationally-Related Qualification | Total number of certificates |
|-----------------|--------------|---|-------------|---|-------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jul to Sep 2011 | 138,800      | 115,100                                 | 125,600     | 23,900                                  | 334,300           | 12,100       | 243,250    | 124,300                           | 3,600                      | 480,650                     | 1,384,600 | 561,800                            | <b>3,548,000</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>1,271,400</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>1,384,550</b>             |
| 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                            | <b>2,116,500</b>             |
| 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                            | <b>4,013,150</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>1,345,200</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>1,433,200</b>             |
| 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                            | <b>2,463,950</b>             |
| 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                            | <b>3,953,850</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>1,283,550</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>1,433,350</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>2,163,750</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>3,800,100</b>             |
| 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                              | <b>1,281,600</b>             |
| Jan to Mar 2015 | 50           | 72,650                                  | 3,150       | 550                                     | 186,100           | 1,450        | 16,650     | 700                               | 0~                         | 93,700                      | 981,050   | 6,650                              | <b>1,362,600</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>1,892,700</b>             |
| 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                             | <b>3,789,200</b>             |
| 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                              | <b>1,131,950</b>             |
| Jan to Mar 2016 | 0            | 52,850                                  | 2,300       | 450                                     | 158,600           | 2,950        | 15,700     | 200                               | 50                         | 95,550                      | 961,400   | 6,900                              | <b>1,296,900</b>             |
| Apr to Jun 2016 | 0            | 55,100                                  | 6,900       | 450                                     | 236,750           | 3,350        | 15,400     | 250                               | 50                         | 74,100                      | 1,246,150 | 13,950                             | <b>1,652,450</b>             |
| Jul to Sep 2016 | 0            | 77,100                                  | 61,050      | 35,000                                  | 285,400           | 4,500        | 38,000     | 150                               | 50                         | 864,150                     | 1,901,050 | 27,100                             | <b>3,293,650</b>             |

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 July to September 2016 (July to September 2015 shown for comparison)**

| England, Wales & Northern Ireland                       | Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter) |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
|   | Jul to Sep 2015                                       | Jul to Sep 2016 |
| Pearson Education Ltd                                   | 1,019,250   | 770,150         |
| City and Guilds of London Institute                     | 538,050   | 444,650         |
| Cambridge International Examinations                    | 253,200   | 262,300         |
| AQA Education   | 231,900   | 248,350         |
| OCR   | 248,400   | 181,900         |
| WJEC-CBAC   | 118,700   | 141,200         |
| Cambridge English Language Assessment                   | 140,650   | 107,050         |
| Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music          | 88,300  | 93,900          |
| Trinity College London                                  | 75,600  | 76,850          |
| NCFE  | 145,800   | 70,800          |
| Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance                  | 73,150  | 54,250          |
| Chartered Institute of Environmental Health             | 57,750  | 48,450          |
| BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT                     | 42,550  | 44,600          |
| NOCN  | 38,450  | 43,550          |
| International Baccalaureate Organisation                | 37,650  | 39,800          |
| Qualsafe Awards   | 34,950  | 39,100          |
| Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited              | 33,350  | 30,700          |
| VTCT  | 29,150  | 27,400          |
| University of the Arts London                           | 17,450  | 25,600          |
| Cskills Awards  | 29,850  | 24,250          |
| The Institute of the Motor Industry                     | 24,750  | 23,350          |
| First Aid Awards Ltd                                    | 21,200  | 23,000          |
| LAMDA   | 24,500  | 22,400          |
| Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing                 | 21,050  | 22,200          |
| Ascentis  | 25,500  | 20,050          |
| Gateway Qualifications Limited                          | 10,000  | 19,150          |
| The London Institute of Banking & Finance               | 17,700  | 16,850          |
| Sports Leaders UK                                       | 21,300  | 16,100          |
| Royal Academy of Dance                                  | 14,050  | 15,650          |
| BIAB  | 5,050   | 15,200          |
| 1st4sport Qualifications                                | 19,000  | 15,100          |
| British Safety Council                                  | 9,950   | 15,050          |
| Association of Accounting Technicians                   | 13,950  | 14,400          |
| Training Qualifications UK Ltd                          | 13,050  | 14,150          |
| IQL   | 10,900  | 13,450          |
| Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment | 13,950  | 13,250          |
| Active IQ   | 13,850  | 12,900          |
| University of West London                               | 9,500   | 10,600          |
| AoFA Qualifications                                     | 8,300   | 10,150          |
| Rock School Ltd   | 8,600   | 10,050          |
| Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network      | 19,550  | 9,900           |
| ABC Awards  | 13,600  | 9,850           |
| Skillsfirst Awards Ltd                                  | 9,350   | 8,500           |
| International Dance Teachers Association                | 8,400   | 8,450           |
| Royal Society for Public Health                         | 9,450   | 8,400           |
| Laser Learning Awards                                   | 7,100   | 6,950           |
| AIM Awards  | 7,500   | 6,850           |
| Innovate Awarding                                       | 8,950   | 6,450           |
| YMCA Awards   | 8,150   | 6,150           |
| Safety Training Awards                                  | 5,200   | 5,550           |

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 July to September 2011 to July to September 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 |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| Jul to Sep 2011 | 451,200     | 908,450 | 7,950     | 1,614,850 | 515,750 | 27,700  | 15,700  | 4,200   | 2,100   | 100     | <b>3,548,050</b>             |
| Oct to Dec 2011 | 115,450     | 361,550 | 0         | 621,000   | 146,900 | 15,100  | 6,950   | 1,550   | 2,850   | 50      | <b>1,271,400</b>             |
| Jan to Mar 2012 | 128,050     | 394,600 | 1,200     | 682,500   | 150,600 | 15,200  | 7,100   | 2,950   | 2,250   | 100     | <b>1,384,550</b>             |
| Apr to Jun 2012 | 185,850     | 561,550 | 0         | 1,121,050 | 221,000 | 16,500  | 6,950   | 1,500   | 2,050   | 50      | <b>2,116,500</b>             |
| Jul to Sep 2012 | 458,050     | 965,750 | 36,200    | 1,900,950 | 603,950 | 28,150  | 13,950  | 3,550   | 2,500   | 50      | <b>4,013,150</b>             |
| Oct to Dec 2012 | 122,850     | 403,050 | 0         | 634,200   | 158,100 | 16,400  | 6,500   | 2,400   | 1,700   | 50      | <b>1,345,250</b>             |
| Jan to Mar 2013 | 134,000     | 421,250 | 20,350    | 671,750   | 159,800 | 14,300  | 7,350   | 2,800   | 1,450   | 100     | <b>1,433,200</b>             |
| Apr to Jun 2013 | 223,350     | 620,850 | 0~        | 1,295,000 | 299,900 | 14,050  | 7,750   | 1,650   | 1,250   | 100     | <b>2,463,950</b>             |
| Jul to Sep 2013 | 452,200     | 954,950 | 138,650   | 1,728,100 | 632,150 | 26,150  | 14,850  | 4,050   | 2,700   | 100     | <b>3,953,850</b>             |
| Oct to Dec 2013 | 123,800     | 354,700 | 7,700     | 608,000   | 166,600 | 11,750  | 7,200   | 1,950   | 1,750   | 100     | <b>1,283,550</b>             |
| Jan to Mar 2014 | 163,000     | 361,200 | 29,950    | 681,900   | 176,250 | 11,800  | 6,600   | 1,500   | 1,050   | 50      | <b>1,433,350</b>             |
| Apr to Jun 2014 | 230,100     | 516,700 | 8,350     | 1,069,950 | 314,300 | 12,100  | 8,800   | 2,350   | 1,050   | 50      | <b>2,163,750</b>             |
| Jul to Sep 2014 | 463,700     | 794,500 | 381,000   | 1,439,450 | 673,850 | 22,900  | 18,750  | 4,050   | 1,850   | 50      | <b>3,800,100</b>             |
| Oct to Dec 2014 | 138,900     | 333,300 | 3,750     | 598,650   | 182,300 | 12,600  | 8,850   | 1,900   | 1,350   | 50      | <b>1,281,600</b>             |
| Jan to Mar 2015 | 148,400     | 325,500 | 46,100    | 629,000   | 187,400 | 12,050  | 9,750   | 2,700   | 1,600   | 100     | <b>1,362,600</b>             |
| Apr to Jun 2015 | 226,400     | 465,400 | 75,050    | 787,500   | 309,450 | 14,600  | 10,050  | 2,800   | 1,350   | 100     | <b>1,892,700</b>             |
| Jul to Sep 2015 | 467,550     | 715,600 | 752,050   | 1,112,150 | 687,100 | 29,700  | 17,150  | 5,750   | 2,050   | 100     | <b>3,789,200</b>             |
| Oct to Dec 2015 | 113,800     | 286,800 | 4,700     | 523,550   | 176,800 | 14,000  | 9,500   | 1,600   | 1,200   | 0~      | <b>1,131,950</b>             |
| Jan to Mar 2016 | 146,050     | 299,700 | 62,250    | 571,950   | 191,400 | 13,050  | 9,300   | 2,450   | 750     | 50      | <b>1,296,900</b>             |
| Apr to Jun 2016 | 214,350     | 395,200 | 32,200    | 692,150   | 285,900 | 17,650  | 9,700   | 4,350   | 950     | 0~      | <b>1,652,450</b>             |
| Jul to Sep 2016 | 409,900     | 590,600 | 614,650   | 924,050   | 699,700 | 28,700  | 19,000  | 5,850   | 1,150   | 50      | <b>3,293,650</b>             |

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 July to September 2016 (July to September 2015 shown for comparison)**

Table 6: The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter July to September 2016 (July to September 2015 shown for comparison)  
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

| Qualification   | Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter) |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
|   | Jul to Sep 2015                                       | Jul to Sep 2016 |
| Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English     | 189,650   | 196,100         |
| AQA Level 1/2 Certificate in English Literature                                   | 37,900  | 45,850          |
| BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills                             | 30,650  | 36,400          |
| OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT                               | 64,400  | 34,850          |
| Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport                                 | 37,500  | 29,550          |
| AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics                                    | 25,600  | 28,800          |
| AQA Level 1/2 Certificate in English Language                                     | 21,600  | 26,250          |
| CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)                               | 29,150  | 24,000          |
| Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Literature (English)       | 21,400  | 23,500          |
| ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)          | 22,650  | 23,450          |
| QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)                             | 19,250  | 20,000          |
| City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1               | 31,850  | 19,300          |
| TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry | 11,000  | 18,900          |
| Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1             | 23,700  | 18,350          |
| ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)          | 15,650  | 17,150          |
| City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2               | 33,950  | 16,550          |
| Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business                              | 19,550  | 16,550          |
| Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1         | 16,800  | 15,950          |
| Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Entry 3         | 18,300  | 14,750          |
| ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3)          | 12,700  | 14,100          |
| Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2             | 21,900  | 14,100          |
| Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care                | 12,100  | 14,000          |
| City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1           | 20,050  | 13,550          |
| WJEC Level 2 Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma                             | 13,250  | 13,500          |
| FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)                            | 12,950  | 13,400          |
| City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Entry 3           | 15,950  | 12,650          |
| Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts                       | 12,750  | 12,550          |
| Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2         | 13,250  | 12,450          |
| City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Entry 3               | 14,500  | 12,350          |
| Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative              | 17,800  | 12,300          |
| City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics                      | 19,550  | 12,000          |
| OCR Advanced Level Free-Standing Mathematics Qualification: Additional            | 12,300  | 11,350          |
| BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)        | 6,450   | 11,350          |
| Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)           | 12,500  | 10,950          |
| Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)             | 10,200  | 10,900          |
| BIIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)                            | 250   | 10,800          |
| WJEC Level 3 Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma                                 | 10,300  | 10,600          |
| WJEC Level 3 Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma                                 | 0   | 10,600          |
| IQL Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue      | 8,400   | 10,250          |
| Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business (QCF)                         | 8,650   | 10,000          |
| ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade       | 9,200   | 9,800           |
| Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science         | 35,350  | 9,800           |
| HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)                           | 12,900  | 9,650           |
| Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (QCF)                              | 9,400   | 9,600           |
| TCL Level 1 Award in the Arts (QCF)   | 10,150  | 9,150           |
| Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in IT (QCF)                               | 8,200   | 8,950           |
| Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills Qualification in English at Entry 3             | 11,000  | 8,850           |
| Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)                        | 11,900  | 8,650           |
| ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade       | 7,600   | 8,250           |
| AQA Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Use of Mathematics                             | 5,650   | 8,200           |

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.

**Table 7: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from July to September 2011 to July to September 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 |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Jul to Sep 2011 | 251,050                          | 116,400                 | 56,100                                    | 169,200                                    | 100,200  | 316,000                                  | 247,200                          | 217,650                     | 358,950                    | 41,700                           | 4,100           | 244,350                           | 37,950                 | 1,186,100                     | 201,150                                   | <b>3,548,000</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,271,400</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,384,550</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>2,116,500</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>4,013,150</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,345,250</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,433,200</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>2,463,950</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>3,953,850</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,283,550</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,433,350</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>2,163,750</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>3,800,100</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,281,600</b>                    |
| 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                                    | <b>1,362,600</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>1,892,700</b>                    |
| 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                                   | <b>3,789,200</b>                    |
| 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                                    | <b>1,131,950</b>                    |
| Jan to Mar 2016 | 254,750                          | 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                                    | <b>1,296,900</b>                    |
| 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                 | 497,150                       | 112,100                                   | <b>1,652,450</b>                    |
| Jul to Sep 2016 | 356,700                          | 198,900                 | 46,850                                    | 149,350                                    | 117,950  | 187,050                                  | 177,600                          | 177,950                     | 372,650                    | 22,800                           | 10,700          | 388,900                           | 29,750                 | 867,200                       | 189,250                                   | <b>3,293,650</b>                    |

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 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 July to September 2016 (July to September 2015 shown for comparison)**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland+A2:C48

| Sector subject area   | Total number of certificates issued<br>(for the quarter) |                |
|---|--|----------------|
|   | Jul – Sep 2015   | Jul – Sep 2016 |
| 01.1 Medicine and dentistry                                 | 250  | 850            |
| 01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine  | 1,700  | 950            |
| 01.3 Health and social care                                 | 302,300  | 277,050        |
| 01.4 Public services  | 50,500   | 43,700         |
| 01.5 Child development and well-being                       | 38,350   | 34,200         |
| 02.1 Science  | 147,300  | 94,950         |
| 02.2 Mathematics and statistics                             | 106,500  | 103,950        |
| 03.1 Agriculture  | 8,200  | 8,450          |
| 03.2 Horticulture and forestry                              | 19,100   | 17,100         |
| 03.3 Animal care and veterinary science                     | 20,700   | 20,450         |
| 03.4 Environmental conservation                             | 1,450  | 850            |
| 04.1 Engineering  | 76,800   | 78,200         |
| 04.2 Manufacturing technologies                             | 36,800   | 30,250         |
| 04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance              | 45,600   | 40,950         |
| 05.1 Architecture   | 0  | 50             |
| 05.2 Building and construction                              | 117,500  | 117,850        |
| 05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning                     | 0  | 50             |
| 06.1 ICT practitioners                                      | 75,450   | 67,200         |
| 06.2 ICT for users  | 164,050  | 119,850        |
| 07.1 Retailing and wholesaling                              | 12,050   | 11,400         |
| 07.2 Warehousing and distribution                           | 13,150   | 9,550          |
| 07.3 Service enterprises                                    | 67,850   | 59,800         |
| 07.4 Hospitality and catering                               | 103,100  | 96,850         |
| 08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation                          | 182,550  | 160,200        |
| 08.2 Travel and tourism                                     | 19,800   | 17,750         |
| 09.1 Performing arts  | 267,250  | 268,400        |
| 09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design                       | 78,850   | 67,700         |
| 09.3 Media and communication                                | 37,950   | 36,450         |
| 09.4 Publishing and information services                    | 150  | 150            |
| 10.1 History  | 12,800   | 10,350         |
| 10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences                | 0  | 0              |
| 10.3 Philosophy   | 2,500  | 1,400          |
| 10.4 Theology and religious studies                         | 10,950   | 11,050         |
| 11.1 Geography  | 7,300  | 8,000          |
| 11.2 Sociology and social policy                            | 1,050  | 1,050          |
| 11.3 Politics   | 0  | 0              |
| 11.4 Economics  | 1,150  | 1,650          |
| 12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles | 380,900  | 337,000        |
| 12.2 Other languages, literature and culture                | 69,350   | 51,950         |
| 12.3 Linguistics  | 0  | 0              |
| 13.1 Teaching and lecturing                                 | 16,650   | 14,200         |
| 13.2 Direct learning support                                | 18,450   | 15,500         |
| 14.1 Foundations for learning and life                      | 936,800  | 795,000        |
| 14.2 Preparation for work                                   | 115,400  | 72,200         |
| 15.1 Accounting and finance                                 | 44,300   | 40,050         |
| 15.2 Administration   | 55,300   | 36,650         |
| 15.3 Business management                                    | 108,700  | 97,900         |
| 15.4 Marketing and sales                                    | 5,400  | 5,200          |
| 15.5 Law and legal services                                 | 7,000  | 9,400          |

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 9: England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for October 2015 to September 2016**

| <b>England only</b>                                |   |
|--|---|
| Awarding organisation                              | Total number of certificates issued<br>(for the 12 months to quarter end) |
|  | Oct 2015 – Sep 2016   |
| Pearson Education Ltd                              | 1,310,700   |
| City and Guilds of London Institute                | 978,100   |
| OCR  | 321,600   |
| Cambridge International Examinations               | 300,700   |
| AQA Education                                      | 260,900   |
| NCFE   | 235,900   |
| Cambridge English Language Assessment              | 228,650   |
| Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music     | 217,300   |
| Trinity College London                             | 209,750   |
| Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance             | 200,600   |
| Chartered Institute of Environmental Health        | 191,200   |
| Qualsafe Awards                                    | 161,100   |
| BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT                | 154,500   |
| First Aid Awards Ltd                               | 97,700  |
| NOCN   | 86,950  |
| Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited         | 75,850  |
| Ascentis   | 61,500  |
| LAMDA  | 61,200  |
| BIIAB  | 59,150  |
| Gateway Qualifications Limited                     | 58,300  |
| Cskills Awards                                     | 56,850  |
| Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing            | 56,250  |
| Training Qualifications UK Ltd                     | 51,800  |
| 1st4sport Qualifications                           | 51,500  |
| British Safety Council                             | 45,750  |
| Sports Leaders UK                                  | 44,900  |
| The Institute of the Motor Industry                | 42,100  |
| Active IQ  | 40,950  |
| Association of Accounting Technicians              | 40,900  |
| Royal Academy of Dance                             | 40,100  |
| VTCT   | 39,850  |
| Royal Society for Public Health                    | 39,650  |
| IQL  | 39,250  |
| International Baccalaureate Organisation           | 38,450  |
| AoFA Qualifications                                | 36,950  |
| Skillsfirst Awards Ltd                             | 33,650  |
| International Dance Teachers Association           | 31,250  |
| University of the Arts London                      | 28,800  |
| Rock School Ltd                                    | 27,650  |
| Innovate Awarding                                  | 27,500  |
| The Learning Machine                               | 25,400  |
| University of West London                          | 22,600  |
| The London Institute of Banking & Finance          | 22,450  |
| Laser Learning Awards                              | 21,050  |
| Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network | 19,400  |
| Safety Training Awards                             | 18,150  |
| Industry Qualifications                            | 18,150  |
| Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd             | 17,050  |
| AIM Awards   | 16,950  |
| ABC Awards   | 16,350  |

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 10: Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for October 2015 to September 2016**

| <b>Wales only</b>                                  |  |
|--|--|
| Awarding organisation                              | Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end) |
|  | Oct 2015 – Sep 2016  |
| WJEC-CBAC  | 184,200  |
| Pearson Education Ltd                              | 92,500   |
| City and Guilds of London Institute                | 91,800   |
| OCR  | 27,500   |
| Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance             | 20,300   |
| Chartered Institute of Environmental Health        | 18,800   |
| Cambridge English Language Assessment              | 15,650   |
| Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music     | 10,800   |
| Qualsafe Awards                                    | 9,050  |
| Agored Cymru                                       | 8,550  |
| Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited         | 7,350  |
| Trinity College London                             | 6,700  |
| AoFA Qualifications                                | 5,550  |
| VTCT   | 4,500  |
| NCFE   | 3,800  |
| Safety Training Awards                             | 3,550  |
| First Aid Awards Ltd                               | 3,050  |
| British Safety Council                             | 2,750  |
| Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network | 2,650  |
| The London Institute of Banking & Finance          | 2,550  |
| Cskills Awards                                     | 2,450  |
| AQA Education                                      | 2,400  |
| Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing            | 2,250  |
| 1st4sport Qualifications                           | 2,050  |
| NOCN   | 2,000  |
| International Baccalaureate Organisation           | 1,950  |
| IQL  | 1,900  |
| Royal Academy of Dance                             | 1,750  |
| The Institute of the Motor Industry                | 1,700  |
| BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT                | 1,700  |
| Association of Accounting Technicians              | 1,650  |
| Sports Leaders UK                                  | 1,500  |
| University of West London                          | 1,400  |
| Active IQ  | 1,250  |
| BIAB   | 1,000  |
| YMCA Awards  | 950  |
| Royal Society for Public Health                    | 800  |
| Rock School Ltd                                    | 750  |
| Cambridge International Examinations               | 650  |
| Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA   | 600  |
| Equestrian Qualifications Limited                  | 600  |
| Amateur Swimming Association                       | 550  |
| LAMDA  | 500  |
| Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd             | 500  |
| Chartered Management Institute                     | 450  |
| Chartered Institute of Legal Executives            | 450  |
| ABC Awards   | 400  |
| Prince's Trust                                     | 350  |
| ITC First  | 350  |
| McDonalds  | 300  |

*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 October 2015 to September 2016**

| <b>Northern Ireland only</b>                            |   |
|---|---|
| Awarding organisation                                   | Total number of certificates issued<br>(for the 12 months to quarter end) |
|   | Oct 2015 – Sep 2016   |
| City and Guilds of London Institute                     | 51,600  |
| Pearson Education Ltd                                   | 22,800  |
| Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment | 19,800  |
| Chartered Institute of Environmental Health             | 16,600  |
| OCR   | 10,350  |
| Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music          | 9,050   |
| Trinity College London                                  | 7,300   |
| University of West London                               | 6,450   |
| Open College Network Northern Ireland                   | 6,300   |
| Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance                  | 2,600   |
| AQA Education   | 2,200   |
| Cskills Awards  | 1,900   |
| NCFE  | 1,850   |
| New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd         | 1,850   |
| Prince's Trust  | 1,800   |
| NOCN  | 1,700   |
| Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network      | 1,450   |
| Cambridge English Language Assessment                   | 1,450   |
| Active IQ   | 1,400   |
| Royal Academy of Dance                                  | 1,350   |
| AoFA Qualifications                                     | 1,200   |
| IQL   | 1,200   |
| Qualsafe Awards   | 1,150   |
| ETC Awards Limited                                      | 1,000   |
| First Aid Awards Ltd                                    | 950   |
| Rock School Ltd   | 900   |
| VTCT  | 850   |
| Graded Qualifications Alliance                          | 800   |
| BIIAB   | 700   |
| The Institute of the Motor Industry                     | 700   |
| iCan Qualifications Limited                             | 650   |
| BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT                     | 650   |
| Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body     | 650   |
| WSET Awards   | 600   |
| Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd                  | 550   |
| ProQual Awarding Body                                   | 550   |
| LAMDA   | 450   |
| Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing                 | 350   |
| Training Qualifications UK Ltd                          | 350   |
| 1st4sport Qualifications                                | 350   |
| Sports Leaders UK                                       | 350   |
| FDQ Limited   | 300   |
| ABC Awards  | 300   |
| Equestrian Qualifications Limited                       | 250   |
| Accounting Technicians Ireland                          | 250   |
| Focus Awards Limited                                    | 250   |
| British Safety Council                                  | 250   |
| Safety Training Awards                                  | 200   |
| YMCA Awards   | 200   |
| Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited              | 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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