

Statistical Release

Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly October to December 2015

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Key points

This release presents information on the range and number of, and certificates issued for, regulated qualifications during October to December 2015 (2015 Q4), excluding GCSEs and A levels. The key findings are:

- Just under 1.2 million certificates were awarded – a decrease of 11 per cent on the same quarter of 2014 and the lowest number of certificates awarded during quarter 4 since 2010.
- The number of available qualifications this quarter decreased by 1 per cent from 22,140 in the previous quarter to 21,924.
- The qualification with the most certificates this quarter was CIEH Level 2 award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF) with 28,500 certificates awarded.
- The number of certificates issued for Level 1 (from 333,300 to 286,850) and Level 2 (from 598,650 to 523,550) qualifications has declined year-on-year for the tenth consecutive quarter (compared to the same quarter the year before). The highest number of certificates awarded by sector subject area of qualification in this quarter was for Preparation for Life and Work (304,450 certificates).
- The number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above has increased by 11 per cent on the same quarter in 2014 (from 24,700 to 27,450). The increase was mainly in qualifications in the sectors of business, administration, finance and law and in health, public services and care.

Introduction

Ofqual regulates qualifications and assessments in England, and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. Ofqual also collects and publishes data for vocational and other qualifications on behalf of Qualifications Wales, the regulator in Wales, and for other general qualifications (see glossary) and entry level qualifications for 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 the 1st October 2015, Ofqual withdrew the QCF requirements. This means that from that date, the QCF type has ceased to exist. However, for administrative reasons, awarding organisations can still use the QCF type on the system for new qualifications when no other type is appropriate, until our new system is introduced.

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 qualifications¹ (coloured green in the table above) for both the October to December 2015 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of December 2015.

This release does not include the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A levels, project and principal learning (coloured grey in the table). Neither does it include university degrees, which Ofqual does not regulate.

¹ Vocational and other qualifications are taken in order to develop and demonstrate the skills needed for a particular job, to improve career progression, or for personal growth or leisure purposes. They include academic qualifications taken in schools, sixth forms and colleges, for example Level 1/2 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 Agency²

In the last few years, the funding rules for vocational qualifications aimed at students who are over 19 years of age have seen a number of changes that are likely to have had some effect on the number of certificates awarded each year. The Skills Funding Agency introduced new business rules in September 2013 to target funding at qualifications that most closely align with the government's skills policy.³ A particular aspect of these rules is the withdrawal of funding for qualifications with low enrolment. The funding rule changes for 2014/15 include a requirement that qualifications have at least 15 credits for adult learning and have clear outcomes for progression to employment or the next level of learning. Throughout these statistics, there are examples of declines in the number of certifications for qualifications from which funding has been removed.

School funding and study programmes in England

Schools and colleges in England previously received funding for post-16 education based on the qualifications that students took. This has now changed and schools and colleges receive funding per student. According to the new funding criteria, students are expected to either participate in a Key Stage 4 programme of learning (the two years of school education that incorporate GCSEs, and other exams, in maintained schools) or take a study programme that includes a qualification of the size and difficulty of an A level (aged 16 to 18).⁴ Students aged 16 to 19 may therefore not be taking as many qualifications as in the past.

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

³ *Skills Funding Statement 2013–2016:*

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278529/bis-14-p172a-skills-funding-statement-2013-2016.pdf

⁴ *Study Programmes for 16- to 19-Year-Olds:*

www.education.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/1.%20Government%20response%20to%20consultation%20on%20study%20programmes%20for%2016-%20to%2019-year-olds%20for%20publication%20july%202012.pdf

School performance tables⁵

There has been a considerable change in the way that qualifications are used in schools following the *Wolf Report*.⁶ In 2013, any qualification on the section 96⁷ funding list could count towards the school and college performance tables at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5. Since 2014, only a small number of non-GCSEs or A levels have been included in performance tables. This is likely to have led to changes in schools' and colleges' curriculum and qualifications choices, away from qualifications that are not included in performance tables.

Moreover, qualifications in these tables were previously weighted; larger qualifications gained a higher rating and could be worth more than one qualification in the performance table. This is no longer the case and all qualifications now count as one qualification, making larger qualifications less attractive. Examples of declines in some qualifications as a result of these changes can be seen in these statistics.

⁵ The key government benchmark for the attainment of Key Stage 4 pupils (aged 15 to 16) is the percentage of pupils gaining the equivalent of at least five A* to C GCSE passes, including English and mathematics. In the tables, vocational qualifications such as BTECs and NVQs are given equivalency scores to GCSEs.

⁶ *Review of Vocational Education – The Wolf Report* (March 2011) considered how the Department for Education can improve vocational education for 14 to 19 year olds:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180504/DFE-00031-2011.pdf

⁷ Where section 96 approval has been awarded to a qualification, it enables that qualification to be taught in funded institutions, such as maintained schools, academies and post-16 institutions, and for public funds to be used for these courses and qualifications.

Tables of key statistics

	July- September 2015	October- December 2015	% change on previous qtr
Number of available qualifications	22,140	21,924	-1
Number of awarding organisations			
with available qualifications this quarter	160	158	-1
with available qualifications this quarter and certificates awarded in the last 12 months	156	145	-7
Number of available qualifications by type			
Basic skills	12	6	-50
English for speakers of other languages	186	169	-9
Entry level	194	173	-11
Free-standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0
Functional skills	215	203	-6
Higher level	108	86	-20
Key skills	113	97	-14
NVQ	84	94	12
Occupational qualification	5	7	40
Other general qualification	663	660	0
QCF	20,019	19,855	-1
Vocationally related qualification	527	560	6
Number of available qualifications by level			
Entry level	2,851	2,706	-5
Level 1	3,089	3,023	-2
Level 1/2	171	181	6
Level 2	6,987	6,953	0
Level 3	6,355	6,373	0
Level 4	1,492	1,496	0
Level 5	710	709	0
Level 6	262	256	-2
Level 7	216	220	2
Level 8	7	7	0
Number of available qualifications by sector subject area			
Health, Public Services and Care	2,430	2,449	1
Science and Mathematics	188	194	3
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	848	849	0
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	2,247	2,245	0
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	1,376	1,348	-2
Information and Communication Technology	465	469	1
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	2,581	2,628	2
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	942	957	2
Arts, Media and Publishing	1,565	1,567	0
History, Philosophy and Theology	49	46	-6
Social Sciences	27	27	0
Languages, Literature and Culture	1,304	1,177	-10
Education and Training	1,215	1,218	0
Preparation for Life and Work	4,290	4,184	-2
Business, Administration, Finance and Law	2,613	2,566	-2

Number of certificates awarded

	October - December 2014	October - December 2015	% change on previous year's same quarter	Jan 2014 - Dec 2014	Jan 2015 - Dec 2015	% change on previous 12 months		
Overall number of certificates awarded	1,281,600	1,139,650		-11	8,535,100	8,144,050		-5
Number of certificates by type of qualification								
Basic skills	50	0~			2,800	100		-96
English for speakers of other languages	62,400	40,300		-35	376,850	250,200		-34
Entry level	3,400	2,050		-40	79,650	71,650		-10
Free-standing mathematics qualification	0	0			35,800	50,950		42
Functional skills	163,050	150,900		-7	1,034,700	979,900		-5
Higher level	1,650	1,050		-36	5,200	8,450		63
Key skills	3,100	1,850		-40	117,650	98,600		-16
NVQ	1,000	1,100		10	5,800	2,800		-52
Occupational qualification	0	0			0~	0~		
Other general qualification	31,300	16,800		-46	836,150	1,251,050		50
QCF	1,007,500	920,450		-9	5,865,050	5,386,150		-8
Vocationally related qualification	8,150	5,200		-36	175,450	44,150		-75
Number of certificates by qualification level								
Entry level	138,900	113,800		-18	987,700	954,200		-3
Level 1	333,300	286,850		-14	1,972,350	1,762,700		-11
Level 1/ Level 2	3,750	4,700		25	360,700	888,600		146
Level 2	598,650	523,550		-13	3,741,900	3,022,800		-19
Level 3	182,300	183,300		1	1,354,750	1,378,350		2
Level 4	12,600	14,900		18	59,400	71,300		20
Level 5	8,850	9,650		9	43,000	46,600		8
Level 6	1,900	1,700		-11	9,750	12,950		33
Level 7	1,350	1,200		-11	5,300	6,250		18
Level 8	50	0~			250	300		20
Number of certificates by sector subject area								
Health, public services and care	242,100	242,350		0	1,203,450	1,189,500		-1
Science and mathematics	1,600	2,050		28	284,450	274,250		-4
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	17,950	18,550		3	112,600	117,400		4
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	72,950	69,350		-5	399,250	396,100		-1
Construction, planning and the built environment	45,500	48,650		7	241,800	278,900		15
Information and communication technology	40,050	34,700		-13	468,000	478,500		2
Retail and commercial enterprise	136,000	118,600		-13	677,550	603,750		-11
Leisure, travel and tourism	60,450	57,300		-5	464,350	421,200		-9
Arts, media and publishing	136,700	123,700		-10	887,700	821,750		-7
History, philosophy and theology	300	500		67	30,400	29,000		-5
Social sciences	50	50		0	6,050	8,900		47
Languages, literature and culture	33,050	23,800		-28	431,900	537,000		24
Education and training	17,000	16,750		-1	97,700	90,050		-8
Preparation for life and work	368,600	304,450		-17	2,585,600	2,355,550		-9
Business, administration, finance and law	109,400	78,850		-28	644,400	542,250		-16
Number of certificates by country								
England	1,174,450	1,054,750		-10	7,664,850	7,320,900		-4
Wales	68,800	60,050		-13	642,850	617,300		-4
Northern Ireland	38,400	24,850		-35	227,400	205,900		-9

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 per cent compared to the previous quarter, from 22,140 to 21,924 (see the table of key statistics on page 6). The number of available qualifications decreased or stayed the same for all types of qualifications, except for occupational, NVQ and vocationally related qualifications. The overall increase in the number of available qualifications resulted from 530 new qualifications becoming available (of which 433 were classified as Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications, and 54 were vocationally related qualifications) and 746 qualifications expiring (most of these being QCF (597)). More than two thirds (69 per cent) of the qualifications that expired had no certifications in the 12 months to the end of September 2015. The 530 newly available qualifications are delivered by 64 awarding organisations.

Table 1 of 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 (158) offering regulated qualifications is slightly lower than in the previous quarter (160). The number of organisations that issued certificates this quarter was 145 (from 156 last quarter, which included the summer period when many awards for some types of qualifications are made – see figure 1 below). This is similar to the number of awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications that issued certificates in quarter 4 of 2014 (147).

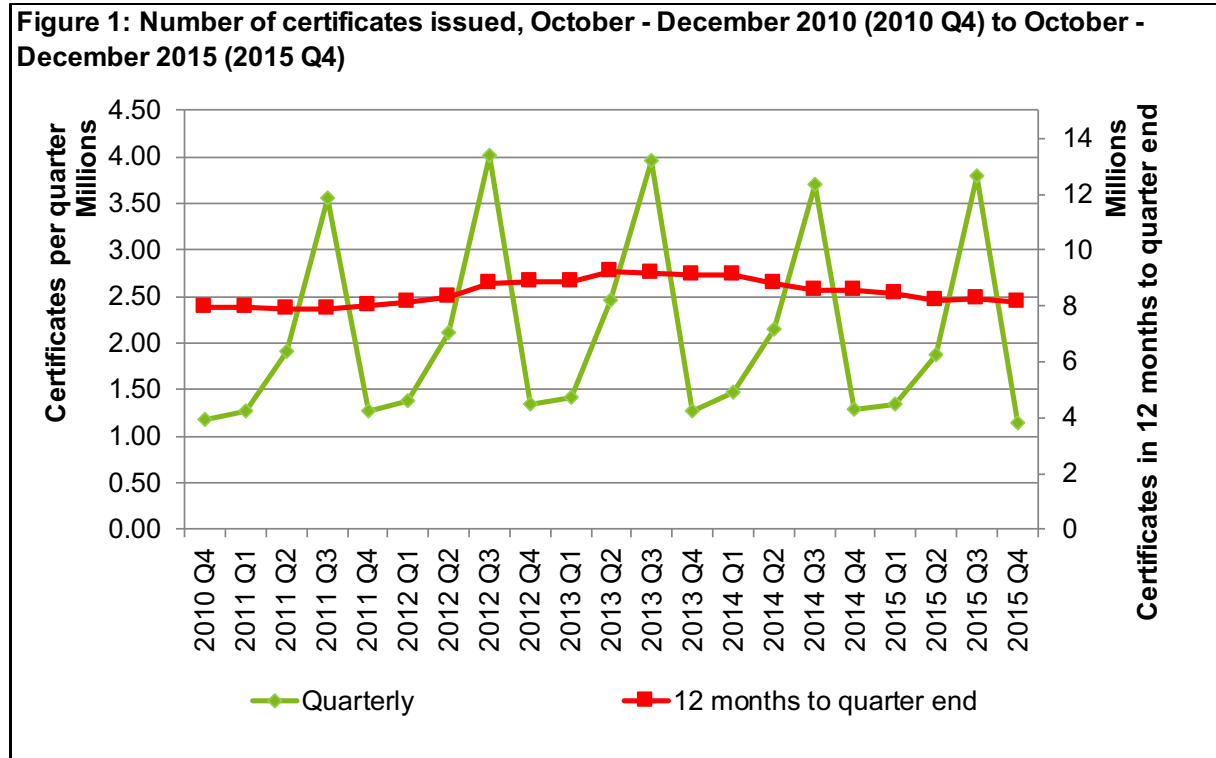
Certificates issued

There was a decrease of 11 per cent in the number of certificates issued compared with the same quarter of 2014 (from 1.3 million to 1.1 million). The number of certificates awarded this quarter is the lowest for quarter 4 (October to December) since 2010.

Figure 1 illustrates that, over the past five years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of certificates awarded, but over the past 18 months there has been a decline back to the level of 2012. The overall number of certificates issued has risen from 7.9 million in the 12 months to the end of December 2010 to 8.5 million in the 12

months to the end of December 2014 and 8.1 million in the 12 months to the end of December 2015. The figure for the 12 months to the end of December 2015 is therefore a 2 per cent increase on five years earlier, but a decrease of 5 per cent compared to the same period in 2014.

The number of certificates issued in each quarter since October to December 2010, and in the 12-month period to each quarter end, is presented in table 2 of the appendix.



Certificates by country

This quarter, 93 per cent of all certificates issued were in England, 5 per cent were in Wales and 2 per cent were in Northern Ireland (see figure 2). This distribution is similar to the same quarter of 2014.

Figure 2: Number of certificates issued in the quarter and in the 12 months to December 2015 by geographical area (with % change on previous year's same period)

Country	Proportion of total	October - December 2015	% change on previous year's same quarter	12 months to December 2015	% change in 12 months
England	93	1,054,750	-10	7,320,900	-4
Wales	5	60,050	-13	617,300	-4
Northern Ireland	2	24,850	-35	205,900	-9
Total number of certificates issued	100	1,139,650	-11	8,144,050	-5

There was a decrease in the number of certificates awarded this quarter in all three countries compared with the same quarter in 2014. Over the 12 months to December 2015, there was a decrease of 4 per cent in England and Wales and 9 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Certificates by type of qualification

Figure 3 presents the number of certificates issued by qualification type in this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2015. Table 3 of the appendix presents the number of certificates issued each quarter since October to December 2010 by type of qualification. Most certificates issued this quarter were for QCF qualifications (920,450 certificates out of 1.14 million, or 81 per cent). Since the QCF was introduced in 2010, the number of certificates meeting QCF requirements has grown rapidly. This growth followed the Skills Funding Agency's preference to mainly fund qualifications on the QCF.

The number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications decreased by 9 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2014. This is the seventh consecutive quarter where the number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications has decreased, compared to the same quarter the year before. Ofqual withdrew the QCF requirements at the beginning of this quarter, and the SFA its preference for funding them.

Figure 3: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to December 2015 by qualification type (with % change on previous year's same period)

Qualification type	October - December 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to December 2015	% change in 12 months
Basic skills	0~	-100	100	-97
ESOL	40,300	-35	250,200	-34
Entry level	2,050	-40	71,650	-10
Free-standing mathematics qualification	0		50,950	42
Functional skills	150,900	-7	979,900	-5
Higher level	1,050	-36	8,450	62
Key skills	1,850	-40	98,600	-16
NVQ	1,100	10	2,800	-51
Occupational qualification	0		0~	
Other general qualification	16,800	-46	1,251,050	50
QCF	920,450	-9	5,386,150	-8
Vocationally related qualification	5,200	-36	44,150	-75
Total number of certificates	1,139,650	-11	8,144,050	-5

Key: ESOL: English for speakers of other languages; NVQ: National vocational qualification; QCF: Qualifications and credit framework.

The number of certificates awarded for ESOL qualifications decreased by 35 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2014. It is the fourth quarter where the number of certificates for ESOL qualifications has decreased. The 12-month trend shows a decrease of 35 per cent compared to the 12 months to the end of December 2014. This is likely to be due to a change in the funding arrangements for ESOL qualifications. From December 2014, the Skills Funding Agency stopped funding the existing ESOL qualifications. From January 2015, funding for ESOL qualifications is only available when a student completes a QCF ESOL Skills for Life qualification.⁸

Certificating awarding organisations

Over the last 12 months, 145 awarding organisations issued certificates, representing 92 per cent 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 64 per cent of all awards during this quarter (727,100 out of 1.14 million certificates).

⁸ 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 December 2015 for the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates (with % change on previous year's same period)

Awarding organisation	October – December 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to December 2015	% change in 12 months
City and Guilds of London Institute	186,950	-17	1,290,050	-7
Pearson Education Ltd	175,000	-18	1,684,800	-18
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	64,950	-3	252,800	-5
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	56,900	-25	260,000	-14
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	55,150	-13	264,100	1
Qualsafe Awards	41,700	19	154,600	17
Trinity College London	41,600	27	190,200	2
NCFE	41,300	-6	268,450	-7
OCR	37,850	-33	583,600	-7
Cambridge English Language Assessment	25,650	-16	292,350	46
Total number of certificates for the 10 awarding organisations	727,100	-14	5,241,000	-8

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Edexcel and Education Development International (EDI).

Eight of the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates recorded decreases this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014.

- OCR had a decrease of 33 per cent in the number of certificates awarded (from 56,050 to 37,850). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 40,550 to 25,200).
- City and Guilds of London institute also had a decrease in the number of certificates they awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter of 2014 (from 227,100 to 186,950). A large part of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in the sub-sector of Foundations for Learning and Life (from 102,350 to 74,200).
- The increase in certificates awarded this quarter by Trinity College London (from 32,700 to 41,600) is mainly due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded for qualifications at entry level (from 15,950 to 27,450).

- The number of certificates awarded by Qualsafe Awards increased by 19 per cent this quarter (from 35,150 to 41,700). Some of this increase is due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded for QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF) (from 18,600 to 22,150).

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

Certificates by level of qualification

This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2015, by level of qualification. Each regulated qualification has a level between Entry level and Level 8, which indicates the broad level of demand of the qualification.⁹

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

Figure 5: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to December 2015 by qualification level (with % change on previous year's same period)

Qualification type	October – December 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to December 2015	% change in 12 months
Entry level	113,800	-18	954,200	-3
Level 1	286,850	-14	1,762,700	-11
Level 1/ Level 2	4,700	25	888,600	146
Level 2	523,550	-13	3,022,800	-19
Level 3	183,300	1	1,378,350	2
Level 4	14,900	18	71,300	20
Level 5	9,650	9	46,600	8
Level 6	1,700	-11	12,950	33
Level 7	1,200	-11	6,250	18
Level 8	0~		300	20
Total number of certificates	1,139,650	-11	8,144,050	-5

The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications has declined year-on-year for the tenth consecutive quarter (compared to the same quarter the year before). The decline in both levels this quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2014, is partly because of a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF (from 232,400 to 203,200 for level 1 and from 500,650 to 444,950 for level 2).

Compared to the same quarter last year, there was an increase of 25 per cent in the number of certificates awarded for Level 1/ Level 2 qualifications (from 3,750 to

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

4,700). There was a very large increase in the number of Level 1/Level 2 qualifications awarded in the last 12 months compared to 2014, reflecting the switch by many schools to Level 1/2 certificates instead of GCSEs.

As mentioned at the start of this report, the number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above increased by 11 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 (from 24,700 to 27,450). The number of certificates awarded increased mainly in business, administration, finance and law (from 13,600 to 14,900), and health, public services and care (from 2,800 to 4,150).

Table 5 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded by qualification level in each quarter from October to December 2010 to this quarter.

Certificates by qualification

This quarter 8,805 qualifications had certificates issued, representing 40 per cent of all available qualifications. This is similar to the same quarter of 2014. The 50 qualifications with the most certificates awarded this quarter are listed in table 6 of the appendix.

The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2015 are shown in figure 6.

Figure 6: The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates awarded this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2015 (figures for the 12 months to the end of December 2014 shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates					
	October – December 2014	October – December 2015	% change quarter	12 months to the end of December 2014	12 months to the end of December 2015	% change 12 months
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	37,800	28,500	-25	151,300	127,200	-16
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	18,600	22,150	19	74,500	83,150	12
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	15,450	15,400	0	62,200	61,100	-2
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	13,700	14,500	6	52,300	56,900	9
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	9,450	12,600	33	55,850	57,800	3
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	10,600	12,600	19	40,700	39,350	-3
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	8,350	10,750	29	56,400	53,850	-5
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	14,950	10,700	-28	58,850	53,150	-10
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	10,750	10,650	-1	45,050	42,600	-5
BIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	10,600	10,550	0	37,550	34,700	-8

The qualification with the most certificates issued this quarter was the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF) with 28,500 certificates awarded. This is a decrease of 25 per cent compared to the same quarter of 2014 when there were 37,800 certificates awarded. Seven of the qualifications on the list were QCF

qualifications. The qualification with the largest increase, based on the number of certificates awarded, was QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work, with an increase of more 3,550 certificates (from 18,600 in 2014 to 22,150 in 2015).

Certificates by sector subject area of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated by the awarding organisations to one of 15 sector subject areas. This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2015, 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 greatest number of certificates was issued in the Preparation for Life and Work sector (304,450, representing 27 per cent of the total issued this quarter and 29 per cent of the total issued in the 12 months to the end of December 2015). However, this sector had the largest decrease in the actual number of certificates awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014, with a 17 per cent decrease (from 368,600 certificates to 304,450). The majority of this decrease is for certificates the foundations for learning and life sub-sector (from 323,500 to 268,400).

The largest increase in the actual number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 was in construction, planning and the built environment area (from 45,500 to 48,650). This is due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded for two qualifications: City & Guilds Level 3 Award in the Requirements for Electrical Installations BS7671: 2008 (2015) (QCF) (from 0 to 3,350) and BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF) (from 3,150 to 6,150).

The largest percentage decrease was in business, administration, finance and law (from 109,400 to 78,850) and languages, literature and culture (from 33,050 to 23,800). However, the number of certificates awarded in the last 12 months (January to December 2015) has increased by 24 per cent in languages, literature and culture compared to the previous 12 months (from 431,900 to 537,000). Part of the decrease in the Business, Administration, Finance and Law sector this quarter is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded by Pearson Education Ltd (from 30,050 to 15,950).

Figure 7: Number of certificates by sector subject area of qualification in the quarter October - December 2015 and in the 12 months to the end of December 2015

Sector subject area	October - December 2015	% change for quarter	12 months to the end of December 2015	% change for 12 months
Preparation for life and work	304,450	-17	2,355,550	-9
Health, public services and care	242,350	0	1,189,500	-1
Arts, media and publishing	123,700	-10	821,750	-7
Retail and commercial enterprise	118,600	-13	603,750	-11
Business, administration, finance and law	78,850	-28	542,250	-16
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	69,350	-5	396,100	-1
Leisure, travel and tourism	57,300	-5	421,200	-9
Construction, planning and the built environment	48,650	7	278,900	15
Information and communication technology	34,700	-13	478,500	2
Languages, literature and culture	23,800	-28	537,000	24
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	18,550	3	117,400	4
Education and training	16,750	-1	90,050	-8
Science and mathematics	2,050	28	274,250	-4
History, philosophy and theology	500	67	29,000	-5
Social sciences	50	0	8,900	47
Total number of certificates	1,139,650	-11	8,144,050	-5

Table 7 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by sector subject area by quarter from October to December 2010 to this quarter. Table 8 of the appendix gives a more detailed breakdown of the 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 December 2015 (see figure 2).

Figure 8, shows that the QCF qualifications dominate in England (68 per cent), Wales (47 per cent) and Northern Ireland (73 per cent). Compared to the same period in 2014, these numbers have decreased in England but have increased in Wales and Northern Ireland.

The number of certificates issued for functional skills qualifications in Wales and Northern Ireland increased in the 12 months to the end of December 2015 compared with the same period in 2014, although the total number of certificates awarded in Northern Ireland is very small. For the same period, the number of certificates awarded in England decreased by 6 per cent.

Figure 8: Number of certificates in the 12 months to the end of December 2015, by country and type of qualification

Qualification type	England		12 month % change	Wales		12 month % change	Northern Ireland		12 month % change
	Number	% of total		Number	% of total		Number	% of total	
Basic skills	50	0.0	-98	0~	0.0		0	0.0	
English for speakers of other languages	242,650	3.3	-34	5,100	0.8	1	2,450	1.2	-31
Entry Level	52,300	0.7	-3	12,600	2.0	-24	6,750	3.3	-27
Free-standing mathematics qualification	50,600	0.7	42	350	0.1	49	0~	0.0	
Functional skills	967,550	13.2	-6	12,150	2.0	28	200	0.1	57
Higher level	7,850	0.1	57	300	0.0	385	300	0.1	82
Key skills	9,950	0.1	-50	87,800	14.2	1	850	0.4	-92
NVQ	2,700	0.0	-47	100	0.0	-78	50	0.0	-91
Occupational qualification	0~			0	0.0		0	0.0	
Other general qualification	1,002,400	13.7	89	206,500	33.5	-17	42,150	20.5	-29
QCF	4,945,300	67.6	-9	289,950	47.0	9	150,900	73.3	9
Vocationally related qualification	39,500	0.5	-75	2,450	0.4	-77	2,250	1.1	-44
Total number of certificates awarded	7,320,900	100.0	-4	617,300	100.0	-4	205,900	100.0	-9

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 December 2015 represents 14 per cent of the total in England, 34 per cent in Wales and 21 per cent in Northern Ireland. The number of certificates awarded is rising in England for this category of qualification but shows a decrease in Northern Ireland and Wales.

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

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 levels qualifications, project and principal learning. The number of certificates awarded for these qualifications can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website.¹⁰

The data cover regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, whether regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales or CCEA (Northern Ireland regulator). The figures cover both the October to December 2015 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of December 2015.

This document is in line with Ofqual's statistics policies¹¹ and the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.¹²

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.¹³ 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.

¹⁰ www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

¹¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

¹² www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

¹³ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

The main source of potential error¹⁴ 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*¹⁵ 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;¹⁶

¹⁴ *Statement of Administrative Sources* includes information about the potential sources of error and how Ofqual mitigates these: www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

¹⁵ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

¹⁶ 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 Diploma¹⁷) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the October to December 2015 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.¹⁸

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 three awarding organisations (City and Guilds of London Institute, the Institute of Leadership and Management and Trinity College London) have been revised. The table of revision, published alongside this

¹⁷ Data for GCSEs, AS and A levels can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website: www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

¹⁸ The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.4239.html

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*,¹⁹ the number of certificates awarded has been rounded to the nearest five. If the value is less than five, it is represented as 0~. A 0 represents zero achievements.

Rounding

In accordance with Ofqual's *Rounding Policy*,²⁰ figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates issued are rounded to the nearest 50 for ease of use. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in any pie charts may not necessarily add up to 100. The raw data published alongside this publication are rounded to the nearest five to protect confidentiality.

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

Users of these statistics

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

- Internal (Ofqual) users use the statistics to monitor the market, to target resources and for input into analysis and reports.
- Central government officials use the statistics for policy implementation and ministerial briefings about government-funded provision and to draw on for their own publications.

¹⁹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

²⁰ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

- 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: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2014/15*,²¹ 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: A Level and Other Level 3 Results in England, Academic Year 2014 to 2015*²² 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 GCE and GCSE equivalent qualifications.
- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*,²³ published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover

²¹ *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2013/14 (Provisional)*:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015>

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015>

²³ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held

statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, achievement and success rates for further education, and apprenticeships participation and achievements for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates issued for vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

Useful information

The data behind these statistics are published alongside this statistical release at 9.30am on the day of release.²⁴ 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.²⁵

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.²⁶

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.
- Keep the breakdown by type of qualifications – although the majority of qualifications and certificates were for qualifications on the QCF, users still found the detailed breakdown useful.
- Provide more analysis outside the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates – comment will be made where an awarding organisation has had a

²⁴ www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset

²⁵ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual

²⁶ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

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 Database²⁷ and the Department for Education's National Pupil Database provide data on graded

²⁷ The Individualised Learner Record Database is the primary data collection on funded further education and work-based learning in England.

qualifications and data broken down by region. The latter also provides data on progression between award, certificate and diploma, and number of registrations.

Glossary of terms

A levels – also known as General Certificates of Education, are currently available as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS). They are the main qualifications that young people use to gain entry to university.

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 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 qualifications 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 15 to 18 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.²⁸ 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.

²⁸ www.gov.uk/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements

Your feedback

Ofqual is conducting a rolling series of online surveys to help statistical releases meet your needs.

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

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

It will take about ten 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 us at: statistics@ofqual.gov.uk.

Appendix

Table 1	Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications, from October to December 2010 to July – September 2015
Table 2	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October to December 2010 to October to December 2015, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end
Table 3	Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from October to December 2010 to October to December 2015
Table 4	The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October to December 2015 (October to December 2014 shown for comparison)
Table 5	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from October to December 2010 to October to December 2015
Table 6	The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October to December 2015 (October to December 2014 shown for comparison)
Table 7	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October to December 2010 to October to December 2015
Table 8	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter October to December 2015 (October to December 2014 shown for comparison)
Table 9	England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2015
Table 10	Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2015

[Table 11](#)

Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2015

Table 1: Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications, from October to December 2010 to October to December 2015

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
Oct-Dec 2010	83	170	324	22	183	552	356	1,604	94	715	6,678	2,388	13,169
Jan-Mar 2011	83	185	330	22	184	544	356	1,556	94	712	7,569	2,325	13,960
Apr-Jun 2011	88	185	340	22	191	533	362	1,537	94	712	8,607	2,306	14,977
Jul-Sep 2011	88	185	362	22	203	506	377	1,518	94	754	9,622	2,277	16,008
Oct-Dec 2011	88	177	334	20	208	487	377	1,432	87	722	10,410	2,112	16,454
Jan-Mar 2012	88	183	321	20	208	447	377	1,349	86	693	11,045	2,003	16,820
Apr-Jun 2012	88	185	316	20	207	422	368	1,305	86	678	11,661	1,969	17,305
Jul-Sep 2012	88	186	319	20	206	418	368	1,282	86	752	12,605	1,957	18,287
Oct-Dec 2012	80	185	297	14	193	414	368	1,148	85	758	13,278	1,662	18,482
Jan-Mar 2013	80	190	292	14	202	411	368	939	77	739	14,142	1,401	18,855
Apr-Jun 2013	80	188	292	14	222	408	359	841	77	737	14,927	1,285	19,430
Jul-Sep 2013	80	189	296	14	232	405	359	788	71	785	16,291	1,268	20,778
Oct-Dec 2013	32	189	279	7	238	355	191	652	68	774	17,026	1,032	20,843
Jan-Mar 2014	22	191	274	7	237	221	165	391	20	740	17,345	579	20,192
Apr-Jun 2014	22	187	196	7	239	140	133	240	9	564	17,501	486	19,724
Jul-Sep 2014	22	189	195	14	239	144	135	197	1	598	18,742	514	20,990
Oct-Dec 2014	10	185	186	14	215	125	125	142	1	595	18,908	501	21,007
Jan-Mar 2015	10	195	165	14	215	109	116	94	1	559	19,141	424	21,043
Apr-Jun 2015	10	195	164	14	215	104	115	86		553	19,337	421	21,214
Jul-Sep 2015	12	186	194	14	215	108	113	84	5	663	20,019	527	22,140
Oct-Dec 2015	6	169	173	14	203	86	97	94	7	660	19,855	560	21,924

Notes:

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

Table 2: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October to December 2010 to October to December 2015, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end

England, Wales and Northern Ireland		
Period	Total number of certificates issued	
	Quarter	12 months to quarter end
Oct – Dec 2010	1,169,300	7,949,300
Jan – Mar 2011	1,267,300	7,931,650
Apr – Jun 2011	1,911,100	7,863,450
Jul – Sep 2011	3,548,000	7,895,700
Oct – Dec 2011	1,271,400	7,997,800
Jan – Mar 2012	1,384,550	8,115,050
Apr – Jun 2012	2,116,500	8,320,400
Jul – Sep 2012	4,013,150	8,785,550
Oct – Dec 2012	1,345,250	8,859,400
Jan – Mar 2013	1,421,700	8,896,600
Apr – Jun 2013	2,463,950	9,244,050
Jul – Sep 2013	3,953,700	9,184,600
Oct – Dec 2013	1,279,450	9,118,850
Jan – Mar 2014	1,415,250	9,112,350
Apr – Jun 2014	2,143,150	8,791,550
Jul – Sep 2014	3,695,100	8,532,950
Oct – Dec 2014	1,281,600	8,535,100
Jan – Mar 2015	1,336,750	8,456,600
Apr – Jun 2015	1,874,450	8,187,850
Jul – Sep 2015	3,793,250	8,286,000
Oct – Dec 2015	1,139,650	8,144,050

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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.

Table 3: Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from October to December 2010 to October to December 2015

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
Oct – Dec 2010	126,650	42,750	4,650	0	13,300	6,800	120,500	179,600	6,200	108,250	274,800	285,750	1,169,300
Jan – Mar 2011	170,800	62,350	7,350	1,550	62,950	7,500	124,050	155,250	4,050	49,950	455,100	166,350	1,267,300
Apr – Jun 2011	175,300	53,750	22,500	0	156,050	3,900	130,600	128,600	3,600	128,800	722,300	385,750	1,911,100
Jul – Sep 2011	138,800	115,100	125,600	23,900	334,300	12,100	243,250	124,300	3,600	480,650	1,384,650	561,800	3,548,000
Oct – Dec 2011	99,650	52,250	3,450	0	70,600	4,000	108,300	51,000	2,000	17,050	807,250	55,850	1,271,400
Jan – Mar 2012	127,550	67,900	6,100	500	96,800	3,600	130,850	31,100	1,000	46,450	821,450	51,250	1,384,550
Apr – Jun 2012	151,200	61,250	14,450	0	192,050	2,500	180,800	22,600	700	70,000	1,225,900	195,050	2,116,500
Jul – Sep 2012	134,550	94,500	90,750	22,450	305,300	6,700	239,250	24,150	900	392,250	2,428,700	273,650	4,013,150
Oct – Dec 2012	33,450	45,750	3,100	0	87,250	2,000	107,900	11,750	250	16,400	1,016,250	21,100	1,345,250
Jan – Mar 2013	23,700	58,550	5,050	550	136,850	2,050	116,300	6,700	150	63,900	985,400	22,500	1,421,700
Apr – Jun 2013	23,800	74,750	16,700	500	256,500	1,350	137,000	5,150	100	76,700	1,728,700	142,600	2,463,950
Jul – Sep 2013	20,850	108,600	77,700	22,150	383,950	2,150	184,350	5,100	50	481,500	2,505,450	161,900	3,953,750
Oct – Dec 2013	1,850	41,800	4,600	0	149,700	1,650	8,250	3,000	50	29,400	1,026,700	12,400	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	1,000	74,550	5,400	500	194,450	900	21,150	1,900	0~	81,700	1,020,800	12,950	1,415,250
Apr – Jun 2014	1,050	96,450	12,650	500	286,500	1,050	38,700	1,450	0~	89,700	1,539,600	75,500	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	700	143,450	58,200	34,800	390,750	1,650	54,750	1,400	0	633,450	2,297,150	78,850	3,695,100
Oct – Dec 2014	50	62,400	3,400	0	163,050	1,650	3,100	1,000	0	31,300	1,007,500	8,150	1,281,450
Jan – Mar 2015	50	72,650	3,150	550	179,150	1,450	16,650	700	0~	74,700	981,050	6,650	1,336,750
Apr – Jun 2015	0~	51,350	7,900	550	281,500	1,250	32,600	600	0	137,300	1,349,100	12,300	1,874,450
Jul – Sep 2015	50	85,950	58,600	49,800	368,350	4,700	47,550	500	0	1,022,250	2,135,500	20,000	3,793,500
Oct – Dec 2015	0~	40,300	2,050	0	150,900	1,050	1,850	1,100	0	16,800	920,450	5,200	1,139,650

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 Oct – Dec 2015 (Oct – Dec 2014 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Oct – Dec 2014	Oct – Dec 2015
City and Guilds of London Institute	227,100	186,950
Pearson Education Ltd	213,000	175,000
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	67,200	64,950
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	76,100	56,900
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	63,500	55,150
Qualsafe Awards	35,150	41,700
Trinity College London	32,700	41,600
NCFE	43,750	41,300
OCR	56,050	37,850
Cambridge English Language Assessment	30,500	25,650
First Aid Awards Ltd	22,350	24,450
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	28,500	24,400
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	18,250	17,950
BIIAB	16,250	15,850
NOCN	17,800	14,400
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	14,100	13,850
Sports Leaders UK	13,500	12,900
Ascentis	14,950	12,000
1st4sport Qualifications	12,100	11,850
Cskills Awards	12,750	11,600
Royal Society for Public Health	10,600	10,100
AoFA Qualifications	6,750	9,950
British Safety Council	7,650	9,550
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	7,200	9,500
Active IQ	10,150	9,400
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	8,350	8,750
SFJ Awards	1,000	8,650
IQL	7,700	8,200
International Dance Teachers Association	8,650	7,650
Institute of Leadership & Management	9,650	7,650
University of West London	3,550	7,300
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	6,800	7,200
IMI Awards Ltd	6,750	6,350
Association of Accounting Technicians	7,950	6,150
Rock School Ltd	7,000	6,050
Innovate Awarding	6,100	6,050
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	4,750	5,600
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	17,350	4,800
Industry Qualifications	4,350	4,800
VTCT	4,350	4,750
Safety Training Awards	3,900	4,650
Chartered Insurance Institute	4,050	4,500
Laser Learning Awards	3,600	4,300
iCan Qualifications Limited	2,750	3,950
YMCA Awards	3,900	3,800
LAMDA	800	3,650
AQA Education	4,900	3,550
WSET Awards	3,500	3,200
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	1,450	3,100
Graded Qualifications Alliance	3,250	3,050

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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 Oct to Dec 2010 to Oct to Dec 2015

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 achievements
Oct – Dec 2010	61,650	317,100	0	605,400	160,100	15,700	6,200	1,650	1,450	100	1,169,300
Jan – Mar 2011	103,850	315,600	0	659,300	159,900	18,150	7,450	1,450	1,550	50	1,267,300
Apr – Jun 2011	160,250	487,700	0	1,029,900	207,100	16,750	6,350	1,850	1,150	0	1,911,100
Jul – Sep 2011	451,200	908,450	7,950	1,614,850	515,750	27,700	15,700	4,200	2,100	100	3,548,000
Oct – Dec 2011	115,450	361,550	0	621,000	146,900	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	1,271,400
Jan – Mar 2012	128,050	394,600	1,200	682,500	150,600	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	1,384,550
Apr – Jun 2012	185,850	561,550	0	1,121,050	221,000	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	2,116,500
Jul – Sep 2012	458,050	965,750	36,200	1,900,950	603,950	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	4,013,150
Oct – Dec 2012	122,850	403,050	0	634,200	158,100	16,400	6,500	2,400	1,700	50	1,345,250
Jan – Mar 2013	134,000	421,250	8,850	671,750	159,800	14,300	7,350	2,800	1,450	100	1,421,700
Apr – Jun 2013	223,350	620,850	-	1,295,000	299,900	14,050	7,750	1,650	1,250	100	2,463,950
Jul – Sep 2013	452,200	954,950	138,750	1,728,100	631,950	26,150	14,850	4,050	2,700	100	3,953,750
Oct – Dec 2013	123,800	352,550	7,700	606,050	166,600	11,750	7,200	1,950	1,750	100	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	163,000	353,550	29,950	671,650	176,050	11,800	6,600	1,500	1,050	50	1,415,250
Apr – Jun 2014	230,100	504,600	8,350	1,061,500	314,300	12,100	8,800	2,350	1,050	50	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	455,700	781,000	318,650	1,410,100	682,100	22,900	18,750	4,050	1,850	50	3,695,200
Oct – Dec 2014	138,900	333,300	3,750	598,650	182,300	12,600	8,700	1,900	1,350	50	1,281,450
Jan – Mar 2015	148,400	319,000	32,650	623,400	187,000	12,050	9,750	2,700	1,600	100	1,336,750
Apr – Jun 2015	226,450	453,800	75,000	781,150	309,550	14,600	10,050	2,800	1,350	100	1,874,900
Jul – Sep 2015	465,700	703,200	776,200	1,094,950	698,400	29,750	17,150	5,750	2,050	100	3,793,250

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

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 achievements
Oct – Dec 2010	61,700	317,100	0	605,400	160,100	15,700	6,200	1,650	1,450	100	1,169,300
Jan – Mar 2011	103,850	315,600	0	659,300	159,900	18,150	7,450	1,450	1,550	50	1,267,300
Apr – Jun 2011	160,250	487,700	0	1,029,900	207,100	16,750	6,350	1,850	1,150	0~	1,911,100
Jul – Sep 2011	451,200	908,450	7,950	1,614,850	515,750	27,700	15,700	4,200	2,100	100	3,548,000
Oct – Dec 2011	115,450	361,550	0	621,000	146,900	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	1,271,400
Jan – Mar 2012	128,050	394,600	1,200	682,500	150,600	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	1,384,550
Apr – Jun 2012	185,850	561,550	0	1,121,050	221,000	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	2,116,500
Jul – Sep 2012	458,050	965,750	36,200	1,900,950	603,950	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	4,013,150
Oct – Dec 2012	122,850	403,050	0	634,200	158,100	16,400	6,500	2,400	1,700	50	1,345,250
Jan – Mar 2013	134,000	421,250	8,850	671,750	159,800	14,300	7,350	2,800	1,450	100	1,421,700
Apr – Jun 2013	223,350	620,850	0~	1,295,000	299,900	14,050	7,750	1,650	1,250	100	2,463,950
Jul – Sep 2013	452,150	954,950	138,750	1,728,100	631,950	26,150	14,850	4,050	2,700	100	3,953,700
Oct – Dec 2013	123,800	352,550	7,700	606,050	166,600	11,750	7,200	1,950	1,750	100	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	163,000	353,550	29,950	671,650	176,050	11,800	6,600	1,500	1,050	50	1,415,250
Apr – Jun 2014	230,100	504,550	8,350	1,061,500	314,300	12,100	8,800	2,350	1,050	50	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	455,700	780,900	318,650	1,410,100	682,100	22,900	18,750	4,050	1,850	50	3,695,100
Oct – Dec 2014	138,900	333,300	3,750	598,650	182,300	12,600	8,850	1,900	1,350	50	1,281,600
Jan – Mar 2015	148,400	319,000	32,650	623,400	187,000	12,050	9,750	2,700	1,600	100	1,336,750
Apr – Jun 2015	226,400	453,650	75,050	781,000	309,450	14,600	10,050	2,800	1,350	100	1,874,450
Jul – Sep 2015	465,600	703,200	776,200	1,094,850	698,650	29,750	17,150	5,750	2,050	100	3,793,250
Oct – Dec 2015	113,800	286,850	4,700	523,550	183,300	14,900	9,650	1,700	1,200	0~	1,139,650

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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 6: The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter Oct to Dec 2015 (Oct to Dec 2014 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Oct – Dec 2014	Oct – Dec 2015
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	37,800	28,500
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	18,600	22,150
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	15,450	15,400
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	13,700	14,500
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	9,450	12,600
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	10,600	12,600
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	8,350	10,750
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	14,950	10,700
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	10,750	10,650
BIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	10,600	10,550
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	7,300	10,000
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	12,850	9,900
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	13,400	9,500
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	7,950	9,300
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3) (QCF)	9,350	8,850
QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (QCF)	8,600	8,800
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	12,600	8,450
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	12,150	8,250
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	8,150	8,200
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	10,650	7,700
BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)	2,900	7,050
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	9,600	7,000
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 4) (QCF)	7,100	6,700
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	9,900	6,700
Cambridge English Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-8.0) (ESOL)	6,750	6,550
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	6,550	6,300
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 5) (QCF)	6,700	6,200
CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	7,450	6,150
BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)	3,150	6,150
IQL Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue (QCF)	5,900	5,900
AOFAQ Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	3,900	5,900
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	5,050	5,900
QA Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	5,250	5,800
1st4sport Level 1 Award in Coaching Football (QCF)	5,550	5,150
Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	5,400	4,950
ABRSM Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Music Theory (Grade 5) (QCF)	5,200	4,900
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 1	4,950	4,750
RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	5,350	4,600
TQUK Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	3,450	4,550
FAA Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	4,600	4,550
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 1	3,200	3,850
SFJ Awards Level 3 Certificate In Knowledge of Policing (QCF)	550	3,850
Pearson BTEC Level 1 Certificate in WorkSkills (QCF)	2,700	3,800
HABC Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	4,000	3,650
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Employment Responsibilities and Rights in Health, Social Care or Children and Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	3,350	3,650
Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Employment Responsibilities and Rights in Health, Social Care and Children	4,150	3,600
TCL Level 1 Award in the Arts (QCF)	3,300	3,550
City & Guilds Level 3 Award In The Requirements for Electrical Installations BS7671: 2008 (2015) (QCF)	4,450	3,400
HABC Level 2 Award for Working as a Door Supervisor within the Private Security Industry (QCF)	0	3,350
HABC Level 2 Award for Working as a Door Supervisor within the Private Security Industry (QCF)	0	3,250

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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 Oct to Dec 2010 to Oct to Dec 2015

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Health, public services and care	Science and mathematics	Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Construction, planning and the built environment	Information and communication technology	Retail and commercial enterprise	Leisure, travel and tourism	Arts, media and publishing	History, philosophy and theology	Social sciences	Languages, literature and culture	Education and training	Preparation for life and work	Business, administration, finance and law	Total number of certificates issued
Oct – Dec 2010	213,500	1,500	17,350	61,550	32,900	43,750	107,500	72,750	140,450	750	100	27,700	21,500	332,100	95,900	1,169,300
Jan – Mar 2011	152,550	3,000	9,500	88,250	29,650	67,500	165,700	71,950	73,300	50	150	43,750	23,250	431,500	107,100	1,267,300
Apr – Jun 2011	172,950	45,900	37,500	98,600	50,550	179,850	170,250	126,850	206,400	3,100	100	74,250	24,650	584,900	135,150	1,911,100
Jul – Sep 2011	251,050	116,400	56,100	169,200	100,200	316,000	247,200	217,650	358,950	41,700	4,100	244,300	37,950	1,186,100	201,150	3,548,000
Oct – Dec 2011	140,350	1,900	20,500	79,500	36,300	48,150	170,300	70,550	126,000	550	250	43,800	17,000	407,650	108,650	1,271,400
Jan – Mar 2012	134,350	3,100	20,000	69,700	37,550	71,700	162,600	60,800	106,950	150	150	47,650	20,400	527,150	122,200	1,384,550
Apr – Jun 2012	191,200	45,050	27,100	87,450	53,000	189,850	177,050	130,850	222,550	50	50	73,100	22,300	744,150	152,700	2,116,500
Jul – Sep 2012	329,700	177,100	51,150	179,450	112,250	340,100	274,900	266,050	427,950	45,800	3,750	223,100	37,100	1,283,350	261,350	4,013,150
Oct – Dec 2012	175,400	1,950	18,050	81,500	42,150	58,300	159,650	81,150	131,800	250	100	29,750	18,850	423,700	122,600	1,345,250
Jan – Mar 2013	187,900	8,100	21,300	78,400	36,050	73,950	148,150	62,350	114,250	150	150	44,500	20,350	500,700	125,350	1,421,700
Apr – Jun 2013	289,750	82,450	30,000	101,550	58,200	201,150	182,000	176,350	258,250	150	50	84,700	23,800	782,000	193,600	2,463,950
Jul – Sep 2013	371,650	187,800	50,750	178,450	106,650	297,800	263,950	227,950	392,100	40,850	4,400	277,550	43,500	1,255,000	255,350	3,953,700
Oct – 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	358,450	112,400	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	259,300	2,400	17,900	74,350	33,350	54,100	140,300	59,650	101,350	100	100	67,150	19,950	462,500	122,700	1,415,250
Apr – 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	650,600	170,100	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	393,500	233,200	48,000	161,750	110,400	230,600	233,900	206,800	397,050	21,350	5,850	268,450	38,200	1,103,800	242,200	3,695,100
Oct – Dec 2014	242,100	1,600	17,950	72,950	45,500	40,050	136,000	60,450	136,700	300	50	33,050	17,000	368,600	109,400	1,281,600
Jan – Mar 2015	259,800	2,200	19,400	73,150	47,600	48,600	133,600	51,550	107,750	550	100	69,650	17,600	406,650	98,600	1,336,750
Apr – 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	609,300	135,550	1,874,450
Jul – Sep 2015	393,600	235,150	49,500	159,100	117,500	308,950	196,650	210,700	389,150	23,950	8,700	400,700	35,100	1,035,200	229,250	3,793,250
Oct – Dec 2015	242,350	2,050	18,550	69,350	48,650	34,700	118,600	57,300	123,700	500	50	23,800	16,750	304,450	78,850	1,139,650

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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 issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter Oct – Dec 2015 (Oct – Dec 2014 shown for comparison)

Sector subject area	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Oct – Dec 2014	Oct – Dec 2015
01.1 Medicine and dentistry	0	300
01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	1,400	650
01.3 Health and social care	199,500	197,650
01.4 Public services	31,150	32,950
01.5 Child development and well-being	10,050	10,800
02.1 Science	1,600	2,050
02.2 Mathematics and statistics	0	0
03.1 Agriculture	4,200	1,950
03.2 Horticulture and forestry	8,500	11,950
03.3 Animal care and veterinary science	4,200	3,800
03.4 Environmental conservation	1,100	900
04.1 Engineering	21,350	23,500
04.2 Manufacturing technologies	37,100	31,100
04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance	14,450	14,750
05.1 Architecture	0	0
05.2 Building and construction	45,500	48,650
05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning	0	0
06.1 ICT practitioners	5,200	5,550
06.2 ICT for users	34,850	29,150
07.1 Retailing and wholesaling	13,850	9,450
07.2 Warehousing and distribution	8,900	9,450
07.3 Service enterprises	15,950	16,450
07.4 Hospitality and catering	97,250	83,250
08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation	59,300	56,200
08.2 Travel and tourism	1,150	1,100
09.1 Performing arts	122,950	112,000
09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design	11,800	9,950
09.3 Media and communication	1,850	1,450
09.4 Publishing and information services	50	300
10.1 History	0	0
10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences	0~	0
10.3 Philosophy	0	0
10.4 Theology and religious studies	300	500
11.1 Geography	0	0
11.2 Sociology and social policy	50	50
11.3 Politics	0	0
11.4 Economics	0	0
12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	30,900	21,900
12.2 Other languages, literature and culture	2,200	1,900
12.3 Linguistics	0	0
13.1 Teaching and lecturing	9,950	9,900
13.2 Direct learning support	7,050	6,850
14.1 Foundations for learning and life	323,500	268,400
14.2 Preparation for work	45,100	36,050
15.1 Accounting and finance	19,200	19,400
15.2 Administration	50,950	28,850
15.3 Business management	36,600	28,900
15.4 Marketing and sales	2,350	1,350
15.5 Law and legal services	300	300

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

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

Table 9: England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2015

England only	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Jan – Dec 2015
Pearson Education Ltd	1,559,800
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,127,200
OCR	527,650
Cambridge International Examinations	280,600
Cambridge English Language Assessment	277,800
NCFE	265,350
AQA Education	249,550
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	241,300
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	229,850
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	220,350
Trinity College London	178,050
Qualsafe Awards	145,900
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	105,150
NOCN	88,850
First Aid Awards Ltd	88,800
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	78,300
Ascentis	66,050
Cskills Awards	63,500
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	62,150
1st4sport Qualifications	56,600
BIIAB	55,750
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	54,350
Sports Leaders UK	51,250
LAMDA	47,100
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	45,900
IMI Awards Ltd	44,500
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	44,400
Active IQ	43,150
VTCT	42,250
Royal Society for Public Health	38,000
Association of Accounting Technicians	37,900
Royal Academy of Dance	37,350
International Baccalaureate Organisation	36,100
British Safety Council	34,800
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	32,000
AoFA Qualifications	31,450
IQL	31,200
Institute of Leadership & Management	29,800
Innovate Awarding	29,600
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	29,250
International Dance Teachers Association	28,750
Rock School Ltd	24,850
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	22,100
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	21,300
University of West London	20,900
ABC Awards	20,450
University of the Arts London	20,250
Industry Qualifications	19,850
YMCA Awards	19,750
The Learning Machine	19,600

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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 January – December 2015

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)	
	Jan – Dec 2015	
WJEC-CBAC	195,350	
City and Guilds of London Institute	107,450	
Pearson Education Ltd	101,350	
OCR	44,500	
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	23,450	
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	19,250	
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	12,200	
Cambridge English Language Assessment	10,600	
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	9,700	
Qualsafe Awards	7,600	
Agored Cymru	7,350	
Trinity College London	5,750	
AoFA Qualifications	5,000	
VTCT	4,800	
Institute of Leadership & Management	4,050	
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	3,600	
Safety Training Awards	3,200	
Cskills Awards	3,050	
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	2,750	
First Aid Awards Ltd	2,500	
IMI Awards Ltd	2,350	
AQA Education	2,300	
British Safety Council	2,200	
1st4sport Qualifications	2,100	
International Baccalaureate Organisation	2,100	
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	2,050	
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	1,850	
Royal Society for Public Health	1,800	
Sports Leaders UK	1,700	
NOCN	1,700	
Active IQ	1,650	
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,650	
IQL	1,600	
NCFE	1,550	
University of West London	1,550	
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	1,450	
Royal Academy of Dance	1,350	
BIIAB	1,300	
YMCA Awards	1,100	
Rock School Ltd	850	
Amateur Swimming Association	600	
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	550	
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	550	
ABC Awards	500	
SFJ Awards	450	
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	400	
FDQ Limited	400	
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	400	
McDonalds	400	
Chartered Management Institute	350	

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

Table 11: Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2015

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Jan – Dec 2015
City and Guilds of London Institute	55,400
Pearson Education Ltd	23,700
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	20,700
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	16,200
OCR	11,450
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	10,750
Open College Network Northern Ireland	7,900
University of West London	6,700
Trinity College London	6,400
Cambridge English Language Assessment	4,000
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	3,550
Cskills Awards	2,650
AQA Education	2,200
Institute of Leadership & Management	2,150
NOCN	2,100
New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd	2,050
iCan Qualifications Limited	1,700
Prince's Trust	1,600
NCFE	1,550
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	1,500
Active IQ	1,300
First Aid Awards Ltd	1,250
Qualsafe Awards	1,150
Rock School Ltd	1,050
Royal Academy of Dance	950
ETC Awards Limited	950
VTCT	900
IQL	850
AoFA Qualifications	800
Royal Society for Public Health	700
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	700
Graded Qualifications Alliance	700
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	650
IMI Awards Ltd	650
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	600
BIAB	550
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	550
WSET Awards	500
YMCA Awards	500
ProQual Awarding Body	450
FDQ Limited	400
1st4sport Qualifications	350
British Safety Council	300
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	300
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	300
Safety Training Awards	250
Cambridge International Examinations	250
Accounting Technicians Ireland	250
McDonalds	200
Signature	200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

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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