



Apprenticeships national success rates tables for the 2013/2014 academic year

Guidance notes

Date of issue 08 April 2015

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Section 1 – Introduction

Purpose of this document

1. This document provides information about the apprenticeships national success rates tables for the 2013/2014 academic year.

Purpose of the apprenticeships national success rates tables

2. The national success rates tables for apprenticeships set out levels of success, in terms of framework completions, in apprenticeships provision in England for the 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 academic years. We publish national success rates tables every year.
3. The information in the tables is consistent with the apprenticeships qualification success rates reports for 2013/2014 made available to institutions in January 2015. It expands upon the national success rates published in the January statistical first release (at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held>).
4. Apprenticeships national success rates tables help institutions to raise the standard of their work. They allow institutions to assess their performance, and help them to plan action programmes to improve their apprentices' qualification success rates.
5. Throughout this guidance we refer to 'national success rates tables' rather than 'benchmarking data'. National success rates tables allow for comparison, and are not a standard of best practice.

Location of national success rates tables for 2013/2014

6. The national success rates tables for 2013/2014 are on our website (at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sfa-national-success-rates-tables-2013-to-2014>).

Changes to the apprenticeships national success rates tables

7. The changes made to the apprenticeships national success rates tables to those produced for 2012/2013 are as follows.
 - The information from the 2013/2014 apprenticeships qualification success rates reports has been added to the national success rates tables for 2013/2014.
 - The information for the 2010/2011 apprenticeships qualification success rates has been removed from the national success rates tables for 2013/2014.
 - The age ranges shown on the report have changed to 16 to 18, 19 to 23 and 24 plus. In the national success rates tables for 2012/2013 the age bands shown were 16 to 18, 19 to 24 and 25 plus.
 - Tables have been added that show success rates by:
 - The Local Enterprise Partnership of the apprentice's home postcode;
 - The Local Enterprise Partnership of the delivery location postcode;
 - The region of the learner's home postcode; and
 - The region of the delivery location postcode.

Section 2 – Apprenticeships national success rates tables worksheets

Contents of the tables

8. Our aim in publishing the apprenticeships national success rates tables is to provide a useful but manageable amount of information, drawing on existing statistics.
9. The information for the apprenticeships national success rates tables has been created from institutions' Individualised Learner Record (ILR) returns, and the tables provide a range of national-level and institution-level statistics for success. The method of calculating success rates is available on the gov.uk website (at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-qualification-success-rates-business-rules>).
10. The apprenticeships national success rates tables contain information on qualification success rates for three academic years (2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014). The information for each academic year comes from the qualification success rates dataset produced for that year, calculated using the method that applied to that year.

Format of the apprenticeships national success rates tables

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

The contents of the spreadsheets are shown below.

Headline report

12. The headline report contains separate worksheets that show an overview of all national qualification success rates. This report also presents the success rates by:
 - gender;
 - learning difficulty or disability;
 - ethnic background;
 - sector subject area tier 1 and 2;
 - framework;
 - apprentices' local authority (based on the apprentices' home postcodes);
 - apprentices' Local Enterprise Partnership;
 - apprentices' region;
 - local authority for where the learning is delivered (based on the postcode of the institutions' delivery locations);
 - delivery Local Enterprise Partnership; and
 - delivery region.
13. The headline report also shows success rates percentiles on a separate worksheet. For a further explanation of success rates percentiles and how they are calculated, see paragraphs 42 to 45. The report shows percentiles at headline level and by:

- ethnic background;
- gender; and
- learning difficulty or disability.

Institution reports for overall measure and timely measure

14. The institution reports contains worksheets that show the overall qualification success rates and timely qualification success rates of each institution at headline level, which is a high-level overview of the overall qualification success rates for each institution, and by:
- gender;
 - ethnic background;
 - learning difficulty or disability;
 - sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2; and
 - framework.
18. The hybrid end year (which is the actual end year or the planned end year, whichever is later) is shown for the overall qualification success rate and the expected end year is shown for the timely qualification success rate.
19. The sector subject area and framework reports are split by year over separate worksheets as the volume of data goes over the Excel 2003 row limit of 65,536.

Excluded framework report for overall and timely measure

20. Due to the exclusion rules described in section 5, the full coverage of frameworks delivered nationally, and at institution level, is not available in the national- and institution-level framework spreadsheets for the overall success rates.
21. The excluded frameworks are published in the excluded framework spreadsheets to allow the full scope of frameworks delivery to be seen. The reports indicates the reasons for the particular frameworks being excluded.
22. The report for the overall measure is split into four worksheets:
- Excluded apprenticeship frameworks at national level for 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014;
 - 2011/2012 overall excluded frameworks for institutions;
 - 2012/2013 overall excluded frameworks for institutions; and
 - 2013/2014 overall excluded frameworks for institutions.
23. The report for the timely measure is split into three worksheets:
- 2011/2012 timely excluded frameworks for institutions;
 - 2012/2013 timely excluded frameworks for institutions; and
 - 2013/2014 timely excluded frameworks for institutions.
24. The excluded frameworks for institutions are split by year over separate worksheets as the volume of data exceeds the Excel 2003 row limit of 65,536.

Section 3 – Apprenticeships national success rates tables open data files

Format of apprenticeships national success rates tables open data files

25. The apprenticeships national success rates tables are also published in a non-proprietary format to meet the ‘three-star open data standard’. The comma-separated variable (CSV) file is our preferred non-proprietary format. For more information on open data, see the

published white paper written by the Cabinet Office (at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-data-white-paper-unleashing-the-potential>).

26. The apprenticeships national success rates tables open data files are published as 32 separate compressed files. The contents of each file, and which report the information comes from, is shown below.

File number	File contents	Source report
NSRT201	Headline overall success rates	Headline
NSRT202	Headline overall percentiles	Headline
NSRT203	Overall success rates by gender	Headline
NSRT204	Overall percentiles by gender	Headline
NSRT205	Overall success rates by ethnic background	Headline
NSRT206	Overall percentiles by ethnic background	Headline
NSRT207	Overall success rates by learning difficulties or disabilities	Headline
NSRT208	Overall percentiles by learning difficulties or disabilities	Headline
NSRT209	Overall success rates by apprentices' local authority	Headline
NSRT210	Overall success rates by delivery locations' local authority	Headline
NSRT211	Overall success rates by framework	Headline
NSRT212	Overall success rates by sector subject area	Headline
NSRT213	Headline overall success rates for institutions	Overall institution
NSRT214	Overall success rates for institutions by gender	Overall institution
NSRT215	Overall success rates for institutions by ethnic background	Overall institution
NSRT216	Overall success rates for institutions by learning difficulties or disabilities	Overall institution
NSRT217	Overall success rates for institutions by sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2	Overall institution
NSRT218	Overall success rates for institutions by framework	Overall institution
NSRT219	Overall excluded national frameworks	Overall excluded frameworks
NSRT220	Overall excluded institution frameworks	Overall excluded frameworks
NSRT221	Timely excluded institution frameworks	Timely excluded frameworks
NSRT222	Timely headline success rates for institutions	Timely institution
NSRT223	Timely success rates for institutions by gender	Timely institution
NSRT224	Timely success rates for institutions by ethnic background	Timely institution
NSRT225	Timely success rates for institutions by learning difficulties or disabilities	Timely institution
NSRT226	Timely success rates for institutions by sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2	Timely institution
NSRT227	Timely success rates for institutions by framework	Timely institution
NSRT228	Overall success rates by apprentices' region	Headline
NSRT228	Overall success rates by delivery locations' local authority	Headline
NSRT230	Overall success rates by apprentices' Local Enterprise Partnership	Headline
NSRT231	Overall success rates by delivery locations' Local Enterprise Partnership	Headline
NSRT232	Timely national success rates	National timely

Section 4 – Contents of national success rates tables

27. This section describes the columns in the apprenticeships national success rates tables worksheets.

Report columns

Institution type

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

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

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

Age group

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

- 16 to 18
- 19 to 23
- 24 and over
- All ages

Apprenticeship level and type

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

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

Framework name and framework code

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

Sector subject area tier 1 and tier 2

33. The sector subject area tier 1 and sector subject area tier 2 for an apprenticeship are those recorded in LARS for 2013/2014.

Report measures

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

Overall qualification success rate

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

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

Timely qualification success rate

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

Overall and timely leavers

38. In the reports the term 'leavers' is used as shorthand for 'apprenticeships completed by, or expected to be completed by, learners'. A 'leaver' is defined as an apprenticeship:

- which is funded;
- where the apprentice has not transferred to a different programme with the same institution;
- where the apprentice has not transferred to another institution due to intervention by us or the Education Funding Agency;
- where the apprentice is not on a planned break; and
- where the apprentice has not withdrawn within the first 41 days of study.

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

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

41. The number of leavers in a sub-cohort (a distinct group of apprentices within a cohort) may not add up to the total number of apprentices in the cohort because:

- the number of leavers is rounded to the nearest 10 at all levels; and
- small cohorts of leavers (fewer than five) are not included in the published tables.

Success rates percentiles

42. Success rates percentiles allow institutions to compare their results against the range for their sector or particular types of institution. The 50th percentile is the median success rate.

One way of interpreting percentiles is:

- Institutions with a qualification success rate on or above the 90th percentile are in the top 10% of institutions.
- Institutions with a qualification success rate on or above the 75th percentile are in the top 25% of institutions.
- Institutions with a qualification success rate on or above the 50th percentile are in the top 50% of institutions.
- Institutions with a qualification success rate on or below the 25th percentile are in the bottom 25% of institutions.
- Institutions with a qualification success rate on or below the 10th percentile are in the bottom 10% of institutions.

43. This is illustrated by the following table. An institution with a qualification success rate of 45% would be in the bottom 10% of institutions, whereas an institution with a qualification success rate of 76% would be in the top 25% of institutions.

Percentile	Example overall success rate
10	46.5%
25	59.4%
50	68.6%
75	74.5%
90	81.3%

44. An alternative way of looking at this for institution types is that:

- the top 10% of institutions in a particular category have a qualification success rate on or above the 90th percentile;
- the top 25% of institutions in a particular category have a qualification success rate on or above the 75th percentile;
- the top 50% of institutions in a particular category have a qualification success rate on or above the 50th percentile;
- the bottom 25% of institutions in a particular category have a qualification success rate on or below the 25th percentile; and
- the bottom 10% of institutions in a particular category have a qualification success rate on or below the 10th percentile.

45. Both the qualification success rate and the percentiles are valid and useful measures, depending on whether you are interested in the overall performance of the sector (consider qualification success rates) or the differences between institutions (consider percentiles).

Section 5 – Exclusions from the national success rates tables

46. The rules on excluding small cohorts, suppressing figures and rounding figures in the success rates worksheets are listed below:
- Cohorts with fewer than five leavers are not shown on any worksheets.
 - Cohorts with five or more leavers but fewer than 30 have the number of leavers replaced with a dash (–).
 - The number of leavers is rounded to the nearest 10. This prevents the possibility of individual apprentices being identified.
47. The rules on exclusions, suppressions and rounded figures on the percentiles worksheet are listed below:
- If there are 20 or more institutions, the 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentiles are shown on the worksheet.
 - If there are between 11 and 19 institutions, only the 50th percentile is shown on the worksheet.
 - If there are 10 or fewer institutions, no percentiles are shown on the worksheet.
48. Where individual framework qualification success rates are reported, if a framework is only delivered at a single institution, the framework is not included in the report. This affects the overall report (framework success rate worksheet) and the institution report (success rates for institutions by framework) worksheet for both the overall qualification success rates and timely qualification success rates.
49. Any frameworks that are excluded are listed in the excluded frameworks report worksheets, together with the reasons why they are excluded.
50. Where individual framework qualification success rates are reported, the exclusion rules mean that the total of the leavers for the individual institution types may be less than the number of leavers for the 'all institution type' row.

Section 6 – Choosing information on the national success rates tables

51. The qualification success rate data is presented as a series of rows in Excel worksheets. Each row shows the qualification success rate of a specific cohort of apprentices. Summary information is shown at many levels (for example, all ages, all apprenticeship levels, all institution types). All the columns in the worksheets contain drop-down menus that allow you to choose the information you want.
52. The screenshot below shows an example of how the information appears in the headline success rate worksheet.

	Institution Type	Hybrid End Year	Age	Apprenticeship Level	Apprenticeship Type
2					
35	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	16-18	2	Intermediate
36	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	16-18	3	Advanced
37	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	16-18	4+	Higher
38	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	16-18	All	All Levels
39	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	19-23	2	Intermediate
40	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	19-23	3	Advanced
41	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	19-23	4+	Higher
42	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	19-23	All	All Levels
43	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	24+	2	Intermediate
44	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	24+	3	Advanced
45	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	24+	4+	Higher
46	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	24+	All	All Levels
47	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	All Age	2	Intermediate
48	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	All Age	3	Advanced
49	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	All Age	4+	Higher
50	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	All Age	All	All Levels

53. The drop-down menus are used to choose the level of information. The screenshot below shows the effect of using the drop-down menus to choose success rates broken down by age for all apprenticeship levels for 2013/2014.

	Institution Type	Hybrid End Year	Age	Apprenticeship Level	Apprenticeship Type
2					
38	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	16-18	All	All Levels
42	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	19-23	All	All Levels
46	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	24+	All	All Levels
50	General FE and Tertiary College	2013/14	All Age	All	All Levels

Further information and help

54. We produce apprenticeships national success rates tables in line with our apprenticeship qualification success rates business rules. The business rules and success rates dataset production specification are on the success rate pages of the gov.uk website (at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sfa-qualification-success-rates-business-rules>).
55. If you need more information about the apprenticeship national success rates tables, please phone our service desk on 0370 267 0001 or email servicedesk@sfa.bis.gov.uk. Please provide a detailed explanation of your query.

Published by: Skills Funding Agency
Version: 1.0
Date: 08 April 2015

