

Statistical Release

Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly July – September 2015

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Key points

This release presents information on the range and number of, and certificates issued for, regulated qualifications during July – September 2015 (2015 Q3), excluding GCSEs and A levels. The key findings are:

- Just under 3.8 million certificates were awarded – an increase of 3 per cent on the same quarter of 2014.
- The number of available qualifications this quarter increased by 4 per cent from 21,214 in the previous quarter to 22,140, the highest number of available qualifications recorded.
- The qualification with the most certificates this quarter was Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English with 189,700 certificates awarded.
- The number of certificates awarded for Level 1/Level 2 has increased greatly compared to the same quarter of 2014 (from 318,650 to 776,200).
- The number of certificates awarded for qualifications in languages, literature and culture has increased by 49 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 (from 268,450 to 400,700), with most of the increase being for Level 1/ Level 2 qualifications in English language and English literature.
- The number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above has increased by 15 per cent on the same quarter in 2014 (from 47,650 to 54,800). The increase was mainly in qualifications in the sub-sector of accounting and finance and marketing and sales.

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.

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 July – September 2015 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of September 2015. The period covered by this report is when many academic qualifications, such as Level 1/Level 2 certificates, were assessed and awarded. Typically, nearly half of the certifications each year are in this quarter.

This release does not include the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A levels, or the Diploma and its components – 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 in 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 Stages 4 and 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

	April-June 2015	July-September 2015	% change on previous qtr
Number of available qualifications	21,214	22,140	4
Number of awarding organisations			
with available qualifications this quarter	159	160	1
with available qualifications this quarter and certificates awarded in the last 12 months	157	156	-1
Basic skills	10	12	20
English for speakers of other languages	195	186	-5
Entry level	164	194	18
Free-standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0
Functional skills	215	215	0
Higher level	104	108	4
Key skills	115	113	-2
NVQ	86	84	-2
Occupational qualification	0	5	
Other general qualification	553	663	20
QCF	19,337	20,019	4
Vocationally related qualification	421	527	25
Number of available qualifications by level			
Entry level	2,747	2,851	4
Level 1	2,977	3,089	4
Level 1/2	164	171	4
Level 2	6,693	6,987	4
Level 3	6,060	6,355	5
Level 4	1,446	1,492	3
Level 5	681	710	4
Level 6	245	262	7
Level 7	194	216	11
Level 8	7	7	0
Number of available qualifications by sector subject area			
Health, Public Services and Care	2,348	2,430	3
Science and Mathematics	181	188	4
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	801	848	6
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	2,141	2,247	5
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	1,337	1,376	3
Information and Communication Technology	433	465	7
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	2,439	2,581	6
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	921	942	2
Arts, Media and Publishing	1,519	1,565	3
History, Philosophy and Theology	47	49	4
Social Sciences	22	27	23
Languages, Literature and Culture	1,298	1,304	0
Education and Training	1,185	1,215	3
Preparation for Life and Work	4,083	4,290	5
Business, Administration, Finance and Law	2,459	2,613	6

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	July - September 2014	July - September 2015	% change on previous year's same quarter	Oct 2013 - Sept 2014	Oct 2014 - Sept 2015	% change on previous 12 months
Overall number of certificates awarded	3,695,100	3,793,500	3	8,532,950	8,286,200	-3
Number of certificates by type of qualification						
Basic skills	700	0~		4,600	150	-97
English for speakers of other languages	143,450	85,950	-40	356,250	272,300	-24
Entry level	58,200	58,600	1	80,800	73,050	-10
Free-standing mathematics qualification	34,800	49,800	43	35,800	50,950	42
Functional skills	390,750	368,450	-6	1,021,350	992,150	-3
Higher level	1,650	4,700	185	5,250	9,000	71
Key skills	54,750	47,550	-13	122,800	99,900	-19
NVQ	1,400	500	-64	7,800	2,750	-65
Occupational qualification	0	0		100	0~	
Other general qualification	633,450	1,022,250	61	834,200	1,265,600	52
QCF	2,297,150	2,135,700	-7	5,884,300	5,473,250	-7
Vocationally related qualification	78,850	20,000	-75	179,700	47,100	-74
Number of certificates by qualification level						
Entry level	455,700	465,700	2	972,600	979,400	1
Level 1	780,900	703,200	-10	1,991,600	1,809,250	-9
Level 1/ Level 2	318,650	776,200	144	364,650	887,600	143
Level 2	1,410,100	1,094,950	-22	3,749,300	3,098,000	-17
Level 3	682,100	698,700	2	1,339,050	1,377,450	3
Level 4	22,900	29,750	30	58,500	68,950	18
Level 5	18,750	17,150	-9	41,350	45,700	11
Level 6	4,050	5,750	42	9,800	13,150	34
Level 7	1,850	2,050	11	5,700	6,400	12
Level 8	50	100	100	300	350	17
Number of certificates by sector subject area						
Health, public services and care	393,500	235,150	-40	1,183,050	273,800	-77
Science and mathematics	233,200	49,550	-79	287,800	116,800	-59
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	48,000	159,100	231	111,450	399,650	259
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	161,800	117,550	-27	401,000	275,750	-31
Construction, planning and the built environment	110,400	308,950	180	232,500	483,850	108
Information and communication technology	230,600	196,700	-15	480,050	621,200	29
Retail and commercial enterprise	233,900	210,700	-10	687,600	424,350	-38
Leisure, travel and tourism	206,800	389,150	88	475,000	834,800	76
Arts, media and publishing	397,050	23,950	-94	882,500	28,750	-97
History, philosophy and theology	21,350	8,700	-59	30,200	8,850	-71
Social sciences	5,850	400,700	6,750	6,000	546,300	9,005
Languages, literature and culture	268,450	35,100	-87	433,350	90,200	-79
Education and training	38,200	1,035,350	2,610	99,650	2,419,900	2,328
Preparation for life and work	1,103,800	229,250	-79	2,575,400	572,800	-78
Business, administration, finance and law	242,200	229,250	-5	647,450	572,800	-12
Number of certificates by country						
England	3,345,150	3,421,150	2	7,672,900	7,440,600	-3
Wales	278,850	298,800	7	642,700	625,900	-3
Northern Ireland	71,100	73,300	3	217,350	219,450	1

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), as well as 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 increased by 4 per cent compared to the previous quarter, from 21,214 to 22,140 (see table of key statistics on page 6). This is the highest number of available qualifications recorded in the last five years. The number of available qualifications increased or stayed the same for all types of qualifications, except for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications, key skills and NVQ qualifications. All levels of qualifications and all sectors had a similar or higher number of available qualifications this quarter compared to last quarter. The overall increase resulted from 1,139 new qualifications becoming available (847 on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)) and 213 qualifications expiring (most of these being QCF and vocationally related qualifications). More than half of the qualifications (62 per cent) that expired had no certifications in the 12 months to the end of June 2015. The 1,139 newly available qualifications are delivered by 85 awarding organisations.

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

Awarding organisations

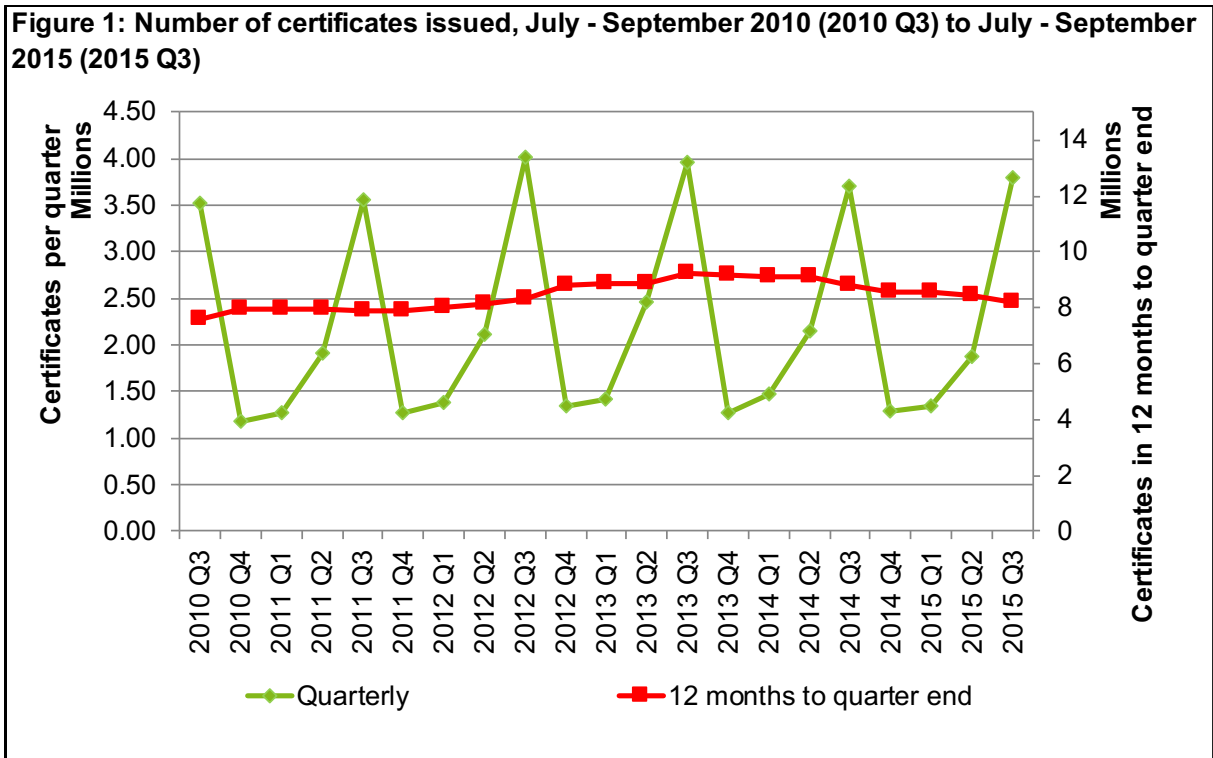
The number of recognised awarding organisations (160) offering regulated qualifications is slightly higher than in the previous quarter (159). The number of organisations that issued certificates this quarter was 150 (from 146 last quarter).

Certificates issued

There was an increase of 3 per cent in the number of certificates issued compared with the same quarter of 2014 (from 3.7 million to 3.8 million).

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 8.0 million in the 12 months to the end of September 2010 to 8.5 million in the 12 months to the end of September 2014 and 8.3 million in the 12 months to the end of September 2015. The figure for the 12 months to the end of September 2015 is therefore a 4 per cent increase on five years earlier, but a decrease of 3 per cent compared to the same period a year earlier.

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



Certificates by country

This quarter, 90 per cent of all certificates issued were in England, 8 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 September 2015 by geographical area (with % change on previous year's same period)

Country	Proportion of total	July - September 2015	% change on previous year's same quarter	12 months to September 2015	% change in 12 months
England	90	3,421,400	2	7,440,850	-3
Wales	8	298,800	7	625,900	-3
Northern Ireland	2	73,300	3	219,450	1
Total number of certificates issued	100	3,793,500	3	8,286,200	-3

There was an increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter in all three countries compared with the same quarter in 2014. Over the 12 months to September 2015, there was a decrease of 3 per cent in both England and Wales and a small increase in Northern Ireland.

Certificates by type of qualification

Figure 3 presents the number of certificates issued in this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of September 2015. Table 3 of the appendix presents the number of certificates issued each quarter since October – December 2010 by type of qualification. Most certificates issued this quarter were for QCF qualifications (2.1 million out of 3.8 million, or 56 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 7 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2014. This is the sixth consecutive quarter where the number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications has decreased.

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

Qualification type	July - September 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to September 2015	% change in 12 months
Basic skills	0~	-93	150	-97
ESOL	85,950	-40	272,300	-24
Entry level	58,600	1	73,050	-10
Free-standing mathematics qualification	49,800	43	50,950	42
Functional skills	368,450	-6	992,150	-3
Higher level	4,700	185	9,000	71
Key skills	47,550	-13	99,900	-19
NVQ	500	-64	2,750	-65
Occupational qualification	0~		0~	-100
Other general qualification	1,022,250	61	1,265,600	52
QCF	2,135,700	-7	5,473,250	-7
Vocationally related qualification	20,000	-75	47,100	-74
Total number of certificates	3,793,500	3	8,286,200	-3

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 40 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2014. It is the third quarter in the last 12 months where the number of certificates for ESOL qualifications has decreased. The 12-month trend shows a decrease of 24 per cent compared to the 12 months to the end of September 2014. This is 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 However, continuing students will be able to complete their existing qualifications. When figures for the ESOL and QCF ESOL qualifications are merged there is, in fact, a 58 per cent increase in the number of certificates awarded compared to the same quarter in 2014 (from 146,550 to 231,550).

There was a 61 per cent increase in the number of certificates awarded in other general qualifications this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014 (from 633,450 to just over 1 million). The five qualifications with the most certificates this quarter are all from this qualification type. These qualifications have increased by 74 per cent compared to the same quarter last year, from 186,500 to 429,200 certificates. They are mainly taken in schools and are part of the qualifications that count towards the schools' performance tables. The number of certificates awarded

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

in other general qualifications in the last 12 months has increased by 52 per cent (from 834,200 to 1,265,600).

Certificating awarding organisations

Over the last 12 months, 156 awarding organisations issued certificates. This represents 98 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 74 per cent of all awards during this quarter (2.8 million out of 3.8 million certificates).

Figure 4: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to September 2015 for the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates (with % change on previous year's same period)

Awarding organisation	July – September 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to September 2015	% change in 12 months
Pearson Education Ltd	898,000	-10	1,722,750	-18
City and Guilds of London Institute	528,300	-7	1,330,550	-5
OCR	373,550	25	601,850	-5
Cambridge International Examinations	253,200	80	281,150	70
AQA Education	231,900	24	255,350	19
Cambridge English Language Assessment	140,650	86	297,200	53
WJEC-CBAC	118,700	-27	212,300	-19
NCFE	113,150	-5	270,900	-10
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	88,300	-10	255,050	-5
Trinity College London	75,600	4	181,150	6
Total number of certificates for the 10 awarding org:	2,821,350	4	5,408,300	-5

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

Half of the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates recorded increases and half recorded decreases this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014.

- OCR had an increase of 25 per cent in the number of certificates awarded (from 297,900 to 373,550). Most of this increase is due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded in OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT (from 38,000 to 128,800).
- The increase in certificates awarded this quarter by Cambridge International Examinations (from 140,350 to 253,200) is mainly due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded in Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English (from 105,200 to 189,700).

- The number of certificates awarded by Pearson Education Ltd decreased by 10 per cent this quarter (from 999,900 to 898,000). Most of this decrease is due to the decline in the number of certificates awarded to seven BTEC Level 2 extended certificate qualifications.
- 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 567,800 to 528,300). A large part of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in the sub-sector of preparation for work (from 28,050 to 4,000).

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 September 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 September 2015 by qualification level (with % change on previous year's same period)

Qualification type	July – September 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to September 2015	% change in 12 months
Entry level	465,700	2	979,400	1
Level 1	703,200	-10	1,809,250	-9
Level 1/ Level 2	776,200	144	887,600	143
Level 2	1,094,950	-22	3,098,000	-17
Level 3	698,700	2	1,377,450	3
Level 4	29,750	30	68,950	18
Level 5	17,150	-9	45,700	11
Level 6	5,750	42	13,150	34
Level 7	2,050	11	6,400	12
Level 8	100	100	350	17
Total number of certificates	3,793,500	3	8,286,200	-3

The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications has declined year-on-year for the ninth consecutive quarter. The decline in Level 1 qualifications

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

this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014 is because of a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in preparation for life and work qualifications (from 339,500 to 308,350), languages, literature and culture (from 70,000 to 51,100) and health, public services and care (from 28,050 to 19,600). For certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 2, most of the decline is in qualifications delivered by Pearson Education Ltd (from 382,650 to 171,000) and OCR (from 108,850 to 45,700).

Compared to the same quarter last year, there was an increase of 144 per cent in the number of certificates awarded for Level 1/ Level 2 qualifications (from 318,650 to 776,200). The five qualifications with the most certificates this quarter were all Level 1/Level 2 qualifications and together, they had an increase of 130 per cent compared to the same quarter of 2014 (from 186,500 to 429,200).

As mentioned at the start of this report, the number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above increased by 15 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 (from 47,650 to 54,800). The number of certificates awarded increased mainly in business, administration, finance and law (from 18,250 to 25,000), especially in the accounting and finance sub-sector (from 4,250 to 7,700), and the marketing and sales sub-sector (from 250 to 3,300).

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

Certificates by qualification

This quarter, 10,993 qualifications had certificates issued, representing 50 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 September 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 September 2015 (figures for the 12 months to the end of September 2014 shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates					
	July – September 2014	July – September 2015	% change quarter	12 months to the end of September 2014	12 months to the end of September 2015	% change 12 months
Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English	105,200	189,650	80	129,850	215,850	66
OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT*	38,000	128,800	200	39,350	129,850	200
AQA Level 1/2 Certificate in English Literature*	150	37,900	200	400	37,900	200
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport*	3,000	37,500	200	4,400	49,500	200
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science	40,200	35,350	-12	49,300	48,150	-2
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	30,300	33,950	12	68,350	78,400	15
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	30,500	31,850	4	69,450	75,200	8
BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)*	1,800	30,650	200	4,250	55,150	200
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	33,250	29,150	-12	154,650	136,550	-12
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Application of Science	28,350	26,500	-7	28,350	34,400	21

* indicates qualifications with an increase larger than 200 per cent

The qualification with the most certificates issued this quarter was the Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English with 189,650 certificates awarded. This is an increase of 80 per cent compared to the same quarter of 2014 when there were 105,200 certificates awarded. Six of the qualifications in the list were Level 1/Level 2 qualifications, of which three were BTEC qualifications. The qualification with the largest increase, based on the number of certificates awarded, was OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National in ICT, with an increase of more than 90,000 certificates (from 38,000 in 2014 to 128,800 in 2015).

Certificates by sector subject area of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 15 sector subject areas (see Ofqual's statistical publications glossary¹⁰ for further details). This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of September 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 (1,035,350, 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 September 2015). However, this sector had the largest decrease in the actual number of certificates awarded this

¹⁰ Glossary: Statistical Publications:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140813095715/http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf>

quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014, with a 6 per cent decrease (From 1.1 million to just over 1 million). The majority of this decrease is for certificates awarded by WJEC-CBAC (from 148,350 to 104,000) and Pearson Education Limited (from 259,300 to 223,800).

The largest increase in the actual number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 was in languages, literature and culture (from 268,450 to 400,700). This is due to the increase in a number of Level 1/Level 2 qualifications in English Language and English Literature.

The second largest increase was in information and communication technology (from 230,600 to 309,000). Most of this increase is due to the number of certificates awarded in OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT (from 38,000 to 128,800) and in BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF) (from 1,800 to 30,650).

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

Sector subject area	July - September 2015	% change for quarter	12 months to the end of September 2015	% change for 12 months
Preparation for life and work	1,035,350	-6	2,419,900	-6
Health, public services and care	393,600	0	1,189,250	1
Arts, media and publishing	389,150	-2	834,750	-5
Retail and commercial enterprise	196,700	-16	621,200	-10
Business, administration, finance and law	229,250	-5	572,800	-12
Languages, literature and culture	400,700	49	546,300	26
Information and communication technology	308,950	34	483,850	1
Leisure, travel and tourism	210,700	2	424,350	-11
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	159,100	-2	399,650	0
Construction, planning and the built environment	117,550	6	275,750	19
Science and mathematics	235,150	1	273,800	-5
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	49,550	3	116,800	5
Education and training	35,100	-8	90,200	-9
History, philosophy and theology	23,950	12	28,750	-5
Social sciences	8,700	49	8,850	48
Total number of certificates	3,793,500	3	8,286,200	-3

Table 7 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by sector subject area by quarter from October – 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 in England and Wales but increased in Northern Ireland for the 12-month period to September 2015 (see figure 2).

From figure 8, it can be seen that the QCF qualifications dominate in England (68 per cent), Wales (47 per cent) and Northern Ireland (70 per cent). Compared to the same period in 2014, these numbers have decreased in England and Wales but have increased in 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 September 2015 compared with the same period in 2014, although the increase in certificates awarded in Northern Ireland is quite small.

Figure 8: Number of certificates in the 12 months to the end of September 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	England	% of total	Wales	% of total	NI	% of total	NI	% of total	NI	% of total
Basic skills	150	0.0	-96	0.0	0	0.0	-100	0.0	0	0.0	-100	0.0
English for speakers of other languages	264,750	3.6	-24	0.7	4,550	0.7	2	1.4	3,000	1.4	2	1.4
Entry Level	52,850	0.7	-3	2.1	13,400	2.1	-20	3.1	6,800	3.1	-28	3.1
Free-standing mathematics qualification	50,600	0.7	42	0.1	350	0.1	49	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Functional skills	980,050	13.2	-3	1.9	11,850	1.9	38	0.1	250	0.1	8	0.1
Higher level	8,400	0.1	68	0.0	300	0.0	388	0.1	300	0.1	78	0.1
Key skills	10,200	0.1	-58	14.0	87,400	14.0	-1	1.0	2,250	1.0	-78	1.0
NVQ	2,550	0.0	-63	0.0	150	0.0	-73	0.0	50	0.0	-87	0.0
Occupational qualification	0	0.0	-100	0.0	0	0.0	-100	0.0	0	0.0	-100	0.0
Other general qualification	1,001,800	13.5	86	34.0	212,550	34.0	-13	23.4	51,300	23.4	0	23.4
QCF	5,027,250	67.6	-8	46.8	292,700	46.8	9	69.9	153,300	69.9	1	69.9
Vocationally related qualification	42,200	0.6	-74	0.4	2,650	0.4	-75	1.0	2,250	1.0	-42	1.0
Total number of certificates awarded	7,440,850	100.0	-3	100.0	625,900	100.0	-3	100.0	219,450	100.0	1	100.0

Notes:

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

The number of certificates issued for other general qualifications for the 12 months to the end of September 2015 represents 14 per cent of the total in England, 34 per cent in Wales and 23 per cent in Northern Ireland. The number of certificates awarded is rising in England for this category of qualification but shows no change in Northern Ireland and a decrease in Wales. It should be noted that some qualifications are classified as other general qualifications in Wales and Northern Ireland but their equivalents in England are part of another category.

Tables 9 to 11 of the appendix present the 50 organisations that awarded the most qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively, in October 2014 – September 2015.

Background notes

This release presents data on available regulated vocational and other qualifications and the number of certificates issued for these (except the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A levels qualifications and the Diploma). The number of certificates awarded for these qualifications can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website.¹¹

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

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

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

Data source

Information on qualifications is taken from Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications.¹⁴ The Register is used by awarding organisations to submit qualifications and maintain details of these qualifications. Ofqual uses the Register for regulatory activity. 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 associated certificates awarded. Further information on the administrative sources is available within Ofqual's statistical policies.

Each quarter, all recognised awarding organisations submit data to Ofqual about the number of certificates they have awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of the age of the student and the type of school or college. Certificates are counted in the quarter when the qualification was awarded. This release shows the number of awards broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification, level of qualification and country.

¹¹ www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

¹² www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

¹³ www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html

¹⁴ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

Limitations of data

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

The main source of potential error¹⁵ is in the information provided by awarding organisations. Ofqual cannot guarantee 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*¹⁶ to ensure the accuracy of the data and 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 providers (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 providers;
- seeking explanations for changes and trends in the data;

¹⁵ *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

¹⁶ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

- checking the data provided against other data either within Ofqual or available from third parties such as the Department for Education’s National Pupil Database;¹⁷
- having a proportionate data auditing framework in place allowing for auditing of providers, 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 the Head of Profession for Statistics who confirms the quality of the release.

Geographical coverage

In this release, Ofqual presents data on certificates issued for all regulated qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS and A levels, Advanced Extension Award and the Diploma¹⁸) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the July – September 2015 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.¹⁹

Ofqual started to collect data for England, Wales and Northern Ireland individually in 2011. This release includes data about certificates awarded by country.

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

¹⁷ The National Pupil Database contains detailed information about pupils in schools and colleges in England.

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

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

different type, level, sector subject area or awarding organisation. In some cases, data may be amended to reflect the new categorisation.

The awarding organisations Edexcel and EDI merged to form Pearson Education Ltd, so qualifications by EDI no longer appear separately.

In this release, previous years' figures from two awarding organisations, City and Guilds of London Institute and the Institute of Leadership and Management, have been revised. The table of revision, published alongside this publication, shows the changes for each quarter by level, type of qualification and sector subject area.

Completeness of the data

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

Confidentiality

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

Rounding

In accordance with Ofqual's *Rounding Policy*,²¹ figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates issued are rounded to the nearest 50 for ease of use. 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 is 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 the numbers are so small that it aids the user to have actual figures.

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

²¹ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

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 further education and to draw on for their own publications.
- Awarding organisations use the statistics and underlying data as market intelligence, to monitor market share and to understand more about their competitors and product availability.
- Sector skills councils and other employer groups use the statistics to understand training uptake within their sectors and to assist them in understanding how the qualifications are meeting employer demand.
- Other users 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*,²² published by the Department for Education, covers students' achievements in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools at the end of Key Stage 4.

²² *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>

- The *Statistical First Release: A Level and Other Level 3 Results in England, Academic Year 2014 to 2015*²³ covers achievements for 16 to 18 year olds at schools and colleges in all Level 3 qualifications. These releases can be used to add context to the trends seen in Level 2 and Level 3 GCE and GCSE equivalent qualifications.
- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*,²⁴ published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, achievement and success rates for further education, and apprenticeships participation and achievements for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates issued for vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

Useful information

The data behind these statistics (from July 1998 to present) are published alongside this statistical release at 9.30am on the day of release.²⁵ 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.²⁶

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.²⁷

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.

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015>

²⁴ www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held

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

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

²⁷ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

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 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.

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 Database²⁸ and the Department for Education's National Pupil Database provide data on graded qualifications and data broken down by region. The latter also provides data on progression between award, certificate and diploma, and number of registrations.

²⁸ The Individualised Learner Record Database is the primary data collection on funded further education and work-based learning in England.

Glossary of terms

A levels – also known as General Certificates of Education, 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, also known as IGCSEs.

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 – December.

Recognition – the formal process that Ofqual operates, whereby awarding organisations that wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they meet the recognition criteria.²⁹ 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 depending on the type of organisation and the qualifications it wishes to offer. 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.

²⁹ 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 – December 2010 to July – September 2015
Table 2	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October – December 2010 to July – September 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 – December 2010 to July – September 2015
Table 4	The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter July – Sept 2015 (July – Sept 2014 shown for comparison)
Table 5	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from October – December 2010 to July – September 2015
Table 6	The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter July – September 2015 (July – September 2014 shown for comparison)
Table 7	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October – December 2010 to July – September 2015
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Table 9	England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for October 2014 – September 2015
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[Table 11](#)

Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for October 2014 – September 2015

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

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 – December 2010 to July – September 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	8,785,600
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	3,953,750	9,184,650
Oct – Dec 2013	1,279,450	9,118,850
Jan – Mar 2014	1,415,250	9,112,400
Apr – Jun 2014	2,143,150	8,791,600
Jul – Sep 2014	3,695,200	8,533,150
Oct – Dec 2014	1,281,450	8,535,200
Jan – Mar 2015	1,336,750	8,456,900
Apr – Jun 2015	1,874,900	8,188,300
Jul – Sep 2015	3,793,250	8,285,900

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 – December 2010 to July – September 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	9,600	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	62,700	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	127,500	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	2,297,300	78,850	3,695,200
Oct – Dec 2014	50	62,400	3,400	0	163,050	1,600	3,100	1,000	0	31,300	1,007,350	8,150	1,281,450
Jan – Mar 2015	50	72,650	3,150	550	179,150	1,450	16,650	700	0	74,700	981,100	6,650	1,336,750
Apr – Jun 2015	0	51,350	7,900	550	281,550	1,250	32,600	600	0	137,350	1,349,450	12,300	1,874,900
Jul – Sep 2015	0~	85,950	58,600	49,800	368,450	4,700	47,550	500	0	1,022,250	2,135,700	19,750	3,793,250

Notes:

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

Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter July – Sept 2015 (July – Sept 2014 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	July – Sept 2014	July – Sept 2015
Pearson Education Ltd	999,900	898,000
City and Guilds of London Institute	567,800	528,300
OCR	297,900	373,550
Cambridge International Examinations	140,350	253,200
AQA Education	187,300	231,900
Cambridge English Language Assessment	75,450	140,650
WJEC-CBAC	163,300	118,700
NCFE	119,100	113,150
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	98,400	88,300
Trinity College London	73,000	75,600
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	64,850	73,150
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	67,800	57,750
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	21,450	42,550
NOCN	44,950	38,450
International Baccalaureate Organisation	36,350	37,650
Qualsafe Awards	29,550	34,950
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	35,600	33,350
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	42,650	33,000
Cskills Awards	35,600	29,850
VTCT	31,350	29,150
IMI Awards Ltd	25,300	24,750
LAMDA	29,850	24,500
Sports Leaders UK	29,250	21,300
First Aid Awards Ltd	19,300	21,200
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	24,450	21,050
Ascentis	18,400	20,150
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	24,150	19,550
1st4sport Qualifications	16,500	19,000
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	16,150	17,700
University of the Arts London	7,800	17,450
Royal Academy of Dance	14,800	14,050
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	17,600	13,950
Association of Accounting Technicians	14,700	13,950
Active IQ	11,450	13,850
ABC Awards	16,950	13,600
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	5,500	13,050
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	9,650	10,900
Institute of Leadership & Management	12,050	10,150
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	7,650	10,000
British Safety Council	6,300	9,950
University of West London	7,950	9,500
Royal Society for Public Health	6,600	9,450
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	9,050	9,350
Lifetime Awarding	10,050	8,950
Rock School Ltd	9,100	8,600
International Dance Teachers Association	7,550	8,400
AoFA Qualifications	5,500	8,300
YMCA Awards	9,550	8,150
AIM Awards	9,100	7,500
Laser Learning Awards	5,350	7,100

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 October – December 2010 to July – September 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.

Table 6: The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter July – September 2015 (July – September 2014 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	July – Sept 2014	July – Sept 2015
Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English	105,200	189,650
OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT	38,000	128,800
AQA Level 1/2 Certificate in English Literature	150	37,900
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport	3,000	37,500
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science	40,200	35,350
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	30,300	33,950
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	30,500	31,850
BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)	1,800	30,650
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	33,250	29,150
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Application of Science	28,350	26,500
AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics	21,300	25,600
OCR Advanced Level Free-Standing Mathematics Qualification: Additional Mathematics	15,500	24,550
OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Award in ICT	9,850	24,500
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	24,550	22,650
AQA Level 1/2 Certificate in English Language	1,750	21,600
Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Literature (English)	5,200	21,400
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	19,400	20,050
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	23,700	19,700
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	17,450	19,550
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business	2,050	19,550
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	17,450	19,250
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	20,650	18,900
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Entry 3	16,100	18,300
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology	2,450	17,800
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Entry 3	15,200	16,000
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	17,750	15,650
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Entry 3	13,100	14,500
WJEC Level 2 Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma	25,100	13,250
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	12,350	12,950
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	13,350	12,900
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts	6,550	12,750
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3) (QCF)	14,850	12,700
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	18,900	12,500
AQA Level 1 Certificate in French (FCSE) Full Course	18,000	12,300
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care	1,800	12,100
OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Business and Enterprise	950	11,900
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	17,150	11,900
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	13,700	11,600
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	12,150	11,000
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills Qualification in English at Entry 3	11,900	11,000
WJEC Level 3 Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma	19,650	10,300
Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)	9,300	10,200
TCL Level 1 Award in the Arts (QCF)	9,250	10,150
Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	9,650
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	10,450	9,600
Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport (QCF)	8,450	9,400
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 4) (QCF)	10,050	9,200
Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	9,050
Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	9,050
AQA Level 1 Certificate in Preparation for Working Life (Short Course)	15,150	8,950

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 October – December 2010 to July – September 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	407,600	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	179,500	112,250	340,100	274,900	266,050	427,950	45,800	3,750	223,100	37,100	1,283,350	261,400	4,013,150
Oct – 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	3,953,750
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	90,200	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	161,800	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	72,900	45,500	40,050	136,000	60,450	136,700	300	50	33,050	16,850	368,600	109,400	1,281,450
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	609,350	135,600	1,874,450
Jul – Sep 2015	393,600	235,150	49,550	159,100	117,550	308,950	196,700	210,700	389,150	23,950	8,700	400,700	35,100	1,035,350	229,250	3,793,500

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

Table 8: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter July – Sept 2015 (July – Sept 2014 shown for comparison)

Sector subject area	Total number of certificates issued	
	(for the quarter)	
	July – Sept 2014	July – Sept 2015
01.1 Medicine and dentistry	0	250
01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	2,100	1,700
01.3 Health and social care	287,900	302,750
01.4 Public services	57,650	50,500
01.5 Child development and well-being	45,850	38,400
02.1 Science	157,300	136,750
02.2 Mathematics and statistics	75,900	98,400
03.1 Agriculture	11,300	8,150
03.2 Horticulture and forestry	15,350	19,100
03.3 Animal care and veterinary science	19,700	20,700
03.4 Environmental conservation	1,650	1,550
04.1 Engineering	75,300	76,850
04.2 Manufacturing technologies	38,750	36,700
04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance	47,700	45,600
05.1 Architecture	0	0
05.2 Building and construction	110,400	117,550
05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning	0	0
06.1 ICT practitioners	66,150	75,450
06.2 ICT for users	164,450	233,500
07.1 Retailing and wholesaling	16,050	12,050
07.2 Warehousing and distribution	15,200	13,150
07.3 Service enterprises	82,350	67,950
07.4 Hospitality and catering	120,350	103,550
08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation	186,750	190,900
08.2 Travel and tourism	20,050	19,800
09.1 Performing arts	280,700	267,250
09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design	79,800	79,550
09.3 Media and communication	35,550	41,350
09.4 Publishing and information services	1,050	950
10.1 History	7,100	9,700
10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences	0~	0
10.3 Philosophy	1,400	4,800
10.4 Theology and religious studies	12,850	9,500
11.1 Geography	4,900	6,550
11.2 Sociology and social policy	50	1,050
11.3 Politics	50	0~
11.4 Economics	900	1,150
12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	195,000	335,250
12.2 Other languages, literature and culture	73,450	65,500
12.3 Linguistics	0	0
13.1 Teaching and lecturing	16,950	16,700
13.2 Direct learning support	21,200	18,450
14.1 Foundations for learning and life	958,600	939,600
14.2 Preparation for work	145,200	95,750
15.1 Accounting and finance	44,500	44,300
15.2 Administration	76,050	54,750
15.3 Business management	112,250	117,800
15.4 Marketing and sales	2,900	5,400
15.5 Law and legal services	6,550	7,000

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 October 2014 – September 2015

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end) Oct 2014 – Sept 2015
Pearson Education Ltd	1,594,250
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,160,500
OCR	548,650
Cambridge English Language Assessment	282,600
Cambridge International Examinations	280,600
NCFE	267,900
AQA Education	250,850
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	249,650
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	237,350
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	231,750
Trinity College London	169,550
Qualsafe Awards	139,850
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	105,200
NOCN	91,850
First Aid Awards Ltd	87,000
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	77,900
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	66,600
Cskills Awards	63,950
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	61,800
1st4sport Qualifications	56,850
BIIAB	56,100
Ascentis	54,650
Sports Leaders UK	51,950
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	48,450
IMI Awards Ltd	45,000
LAMDA	44,250
Active IQ	43,750
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	43,400
VTCT	42,000
Association of Accounting Technicians	39,700
Royal Academy of Dance	37,300
Royal Society for Public Health	36,900
International Baccalaureate Organisation	36,100
British Safety Council	33,150
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	31,500
Institute of Leadership & Management	31,500
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	30,650
International Dance Teachers Association	29,800
Lifetime Awarding	29,650
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	29,550
AoFA Qualifications	28,900
Rock School Ltd	25,750
ABC Awards	21,200
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	20,600
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	20,400
YMCA Awards	19,900
Industry Qualifications	19,300
University of the Arts London	19,300
Chartered Management Institute	19,050
The Learning Machine	18,650

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 zero~. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 10: Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for October 2014 – September 2015

Wales only	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Oct 2014 – Sept 2015
WJEC-CBAC	195,350
City and Guilds of London Institute	113,700
Pearson Education Ltd	105,000
OCR	42,550
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	25,250
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	19,200
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	12,500
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	10,350
Cambridge English Language Assessment	10,300
Qualsafe Awards	7,000
Agored Cymru	6,950
Trinity College London	4,700
VTCT	4,650
AoFA Qualifications	4,450
Institute of Leadership & Management	4,400
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	3,550
Cskills Awards	3,300
Safety Training Awards	3,150
Royal Society for Public Health	3,150
AQA Education	2,300
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	2,300
IMI Awards Ltd	2,250
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	2,200
First Aid Awards Ltd	2,100
1st4sport Qualifications	2,100
International Baccalaureate Organisation	2,100
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	2,000
British Safety Council	1,950
NOCN	1,900
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	1,650
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,650
Sports Leaders UK	1,600
Active IQ	1,550
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	1,500
BIAB	1,500
NCFE	1,450
Royal Academy of Dance	1,350
University of West London	1,350
YMCA Awards	1,100
Rock School Ltd	800
Amateur Swimming Association	650
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	550
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	550
ABC Awards	550
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	450
FDQ Limited	450
Chartered Management Institute	400
Industry Qualifications	400
McDonalds	350
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	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 October 2014 – September 2015

Northern Ireland only	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Oct 2014 – Sept 2015
City and Guilds of London Institute	56,400
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	31,650
Pearson Education Ltd	23,500
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	16,600
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	10,850
OCR	10,600
Open College Network Northern Ireland	8,400
Trinity College London	6,850
University of West London	5,950
Cambridge English Language Assessment	4,300
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	3,550
Cskills Awards	3,050
NOCN	2,300
AQA Education	2,200
Institute of Leadership & Management	2,200
iCan Qualifications Limited	2,100
New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd	2,050
Prince's Trust	1,600
NCFE	1,550
Active IQ	1,550
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	1,500
First Aid Awards Ltd	1,300
Qualsafe Awards	1,200
Rock School Ltd	1,150
Royal Academy of Dance	1,000
Royal Society for Public Health	1,000
ETC Awards Limited	1,000
VTCT	900
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	850
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	750
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	700
AoFA Qualifications	700
Graded Qualifications Alliance	700
IMI Awards Ltd	650
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	550
WSET Awards	500
YMCA Awards	450
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	450
FDQ Limited	450
BIIAB	400
ProQual Awarding Body	400
1st4sport Qualifications	350
Safety Training Awards	300
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	300
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	300
British Safety Council	300
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	250
Cambridge International Examinations	250
Accounting Technicians Ireland	250
Signature	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.

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