

Statistical Release

Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly April – June 2015

Contents

Key points.....	1
Introduction.....	2
Key statistics.....	4
External influences.....	6
Analysis.....	10
Background notes.....	22
Glossary of terms.....	30
Your feedback.....	32
Appendix.....	33

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Key points

This release presents information on the range and number of, and certificates issued for, regulated qualifications during April – June 2015 (2015 Q2), excluding GCSEs and A levels. The key findings are:

- Just under 1.9 million certificates were issued – a decrease of 13 per cent on the same quarter of 2014.
- The number of available qualifications this quarter increased slightly from 21,043 in the previous quarter to 21,214, the highest number recorded in the last five years.
- The number of certificates awarded for BTEC qualifications at Level 1 / Level 2 has increased greatly compared to the same quarter of 2014 (from 7,400 to 74,000), having been added to the performance tables for 2015.
- The number of certificates awarded for qualifications in construction, planning and the built environment has increased by 24 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 (from 52,550 to 65,150), with most of the increase being for qualifications in health and safety in a construction environment.
- The number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above has increased by 19 per cent on the same quarter in 2014 (from 24,300 to 28,950). The increase was mainly in qualifications in business management (from 6,900 to 10,000).
- Certificates awarded in arts, media and publishing have decreased this quarter (from 252,600 to 201,150) due to the fact that a number of BTEC Level 2 qualifications are no longer delivered.

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 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 April – June 2015 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of June 2015.

This release does not include the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A levels qualifications, 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 (also known as IGCSEs) and BTECs.

Key statistics

Available qualifications

During April – June 2015 (2015 Q2), the number of available qualifications (see glossary) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland increased slightly to 21,214, from 21,043 in the previous quarter. This is the highest number recorded in the last five years. This increase was driven by qualifications offered on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). For all other types of qualifications, the number of available qualifications decreased or stayed the same.

Certifications

Just under 1.9 million vocational and other qualifications were awarded this quarter. This is a decrease of 13 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2014. The number of certificates issued in the 12-month period to June 2015 decreased by 7 per cent compared with the 12 months to June 2014.

BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 qualifications

The number of certificates awarded in BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 has greatly increased this quarter compared to the same quarter of 2014 (from 7,400 to 74,000). This is due to the introduction of 34 BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 qualifications in the performance tables² for the academic year 2014/15.

Construction, planning and the built environment

The number of certificates awarded for qualifications in construction, planning and the built environment has increased by 24 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 (from 52,550 to 65,150). The increase is almost entirely a consequence of the introduction of qualifications for Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (for which the number of certificates awarded increased from fewer than 50 to 13,400). These are relatively new qualifications and have been developed to fulfil the requirement of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) for workers to have a health and safety qualification when applying for a green CSCS card – labourer card.³

² 2015 Key Stage 4 Performance Tables: Inclusion of 14–16 Non-GCSE Qualifications:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381074/2015_KS4_list.pdf

³ www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/green-card-changes/card-type/labourer

Qualifications at Level 4 and above

The number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above has increased by 19 per cent compared to the same quarter of 2014 (from 24,300 to 28,950). This increase is largely due to growth in the number of certificates awarded for qualifications in the business, administration, finance and law sector (from 11,450 to 14,750).

Information and communication technology and art, media and publishing

There has been a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in the information and communication technology and the art, media and publishing sector subject areas.

In the information and communication technology sector subject area, the 40 per cent decrease compared to the same quarter of 2014 (from 143,250 to 86,300) is mostly due to a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in two qualifications delivered by OCR that have now expired: OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT (from 25,000 to 0) and OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT (from 25,000 to 50).

In art, media and publishing, the 20 per cent decrease (from 252,600 to 201,150) is due to a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in BTEC Level 2 qualifications (from 32,200 to 2,900), most of which were on the performance tables in 2013/14 but are no longer delivered.

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 Agency⁴

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.⁵ 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, normally known as Years 10 and 11) or take a study programme that includes a qualification of the size and difficulty of an A level (aged 16 to 18).⁶ Students aged 16 to 19 are still undertaking learning programmes but may no longer

⁴ 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.

⁵ *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

⁶ *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

be taking as many qualifications as in the past. There has been a decline in the number of vocational qualifications taken in schools since the academic year 2012/13.

School performance tables⁷

There has been a considerable change in the way that qualifications are used in schools following the *Wolf Report*.⁸ In 2013, any qualification on the section 96⁹ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ *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

⁹ 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 for vocational qualifications

	January-March 2015	April-June 2015	% change on previous qtr
Number of available qualifications	21,043	21,214	1
Number of awarding organisations			
with available qualifications this quarter	159	159	0
with available qualifications this quarter and certificates awarded in the last 12 months	155	157	1
Basic skills	10	10	0
English for speakers of other languages	195	195	0
Entry level	165	164	-1
Free-standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0
Functional skills	215	215	0
Higher level	109	104	-5
Key skills	116	115	-1
NVQ	94	86	-9
Occupational qualification	1	0	-100
Other general qualification	559	553	-1
QCF	19,141	19,337	1
Vocationally related qualification	424	421	-1
Number of available qualifications by level			
Entry level	2,708	2,747	1
Level 1	2,961	2,977	1
Level 1/2	164	164	0
Level 2	6,636	6,693	1
Level 3	6,024	6,060	1
Level 4	1,431	1,446	1
Level 5	683	681	0
Level 6	238	245	3
Level 7	191	194	2
Level 8	7	7	0
Number of available qualifications by sector subject area			
Health, Public Services and Care	2,300	2,348	2
Science and Mathematics	175	181	3
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	832	801	-4
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	2,135	2,141	0
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	1,354	1,337	-1
Information and Communication Technology	428	433	1
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	2,414	2,439	1
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	918	921	0
Arts, Media and Publishing	1,505	1,519	1
History, Philosophy and Theology	47	47	0
Social Sciences	22	22	0
Languages, Literature and Culture	1,291	1,298	1
Education and Training	1,159	1,185	2
Preparation for Life and Work	4,030	4,083	1
Business, Administration, Finance and Law	2,433	2,459	1

Statistical Release
Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly: April – June 2015

	April - June 2014	April - June 2015	% change on previous qtr	July - June 2014	July - June 2015	% change on previous 12 months
Overall number of certificates awarded	2,143,150	1,874,900	-13	8,791,600	8,188,300	-7
Number of certificates by type of qualification						
Basic skills	1,050	0~		24,750	750	-97
English for speakers of other languages	96,450	51,350	-47	321,400	329,800	3
Entry level	12,650	7,900	-38	100,350	72,650	-28
Free-standing mathematics qualification	500	550	10	23,100	35,950	56
Functional skills	286,500	281,550	-2	1,014,600	1,014,500	0
Higher level	1,050	1,250	19	5,750	5,950	3
Key skills	38,700	32,600	-16	252,400	107,100	-58
NVQ	1,450	600	-59	11,450	3,700	-68
Occupational qualification	0~	0		150	0~	
Other general qualification	89,700	137,350	53	682,250	876,800	29
QCF	1,539,600	1,349,450	-12	6,092,600	5,635,200	-8
Vocationally related qualification	75,500	12,300	-84	262,800	105,950	-60
Number of certificates by qualification level						
Entry level	230,100	226,450	-2	969,100	969,450	0
Level 1	504,600	453,800	-10	2,165,650	1,887,150	-13
Level 1/2	8,350	75,000	798	184,750	430,100	133
Level 2	1,061,500	781,150	-26	4,067,300	3,413,300	-16
Level 3	314,300	309,550	-2	1,288,900	1,360,950	6
Level 4	12,100	14,600	21	61,800	62,150	1
Level 5	8,800	10,050	14	37,450	47,300	26
Level 6	2,350	2,800	19	9,800	11,400	16
Level 7	1,050	1,350	29	6,500	6,200	-5
Level 8	50	100	100	350	350	0
Number of certificates by sector subject area						
Health, public services and care	308,600	293,750	-5	1,161,200	1,189,150	2
Science and mathematics	47,200	34,850	-26	242,400	271,850	12
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	28,750	29,900	4	114,150	115,250	1
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	90,250	94,450	5	417,650	402,350	-4
Construction, planning and the built environment	52,550	65,150	24	228,750	268,600	17
Information and communication technology	143,250	86,300	-40	547,300	405,500	-26
Retail and commercial enterprise	167,350	155,050	-7	717,600	658,600	-8
Leisure, travel and tourism	137,400	101,700	-26	496,150	420,500	-15
Arts, media and publishing	252,600	201,150	-20	877,550	842,650	-4
History, philosophy and theology	8,700	3,950	-55	49,700	26,150	-47
Social sciences	50	0~		4,500	6,000	33
Languages, literature and culture	63,250	42,850	-32	442,450	414,000	-6
Education and training	22,550	20,650	-8	105,000	93,250	-11
Preparation for life and work	650,600	609,450	-6	2,726,550	2,488,650	-9
Business, administration, finance and law	170,100	135,600	-20	660,550	585,800	-11
Number of certificates by country						
England	1,873,000	1,633,800	-13	7,892,950	7,365,100	-7
Wales	182,450	164,600	-10	669,800	605,900	-10
Northern Ireland	87,700	76,500	-13	228,900	217,300	-5

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 less than 1 per cent compared to the previous quarter, from 21,043 to 21,214 (see table of key statistics on page 8). This is the highest number of available qualifications recorded in the last five years. The number of available qualifications decreased or stayed the same for all types of qualifications (except those on the QCF). Nine of the ten levels and 13 of the 15 sectors had a similar or higher number of available qualifications this quarter compared to last quarter. The overall increase resulted from 520 new qualifications becoming available (492 on the QCF) and 349 qualifications expiring (most of these being QCF, vocationally related qualifications and NVQs). More than half of the qualifications (53 per cent) that expired had no certifications in the 12 months to the end of March 2015. The 520 newly available qualifications are delivered by 60 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 (159) offering regulated qualifications is the same as in the previous quarter. The number of organisations that issued certificates this quarter was broadly unchanged at 157 (from 155).

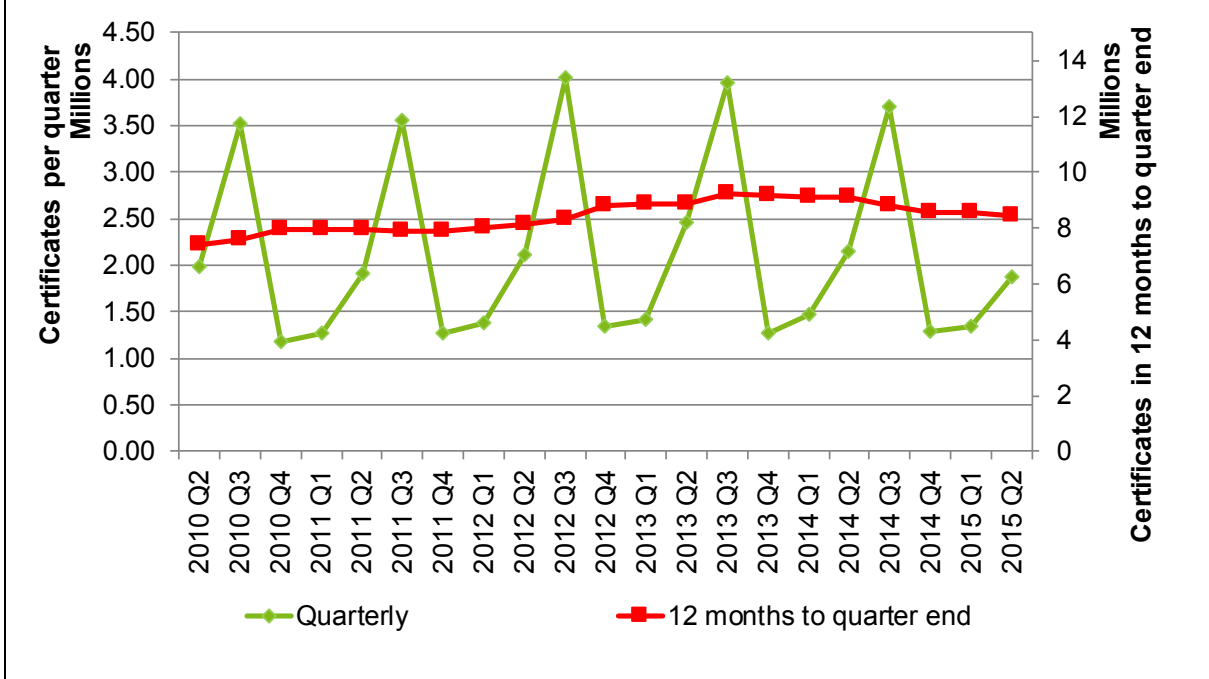
Certificates issued

There was a decrease of 13 per cent in the number of certificates issued compared with the same quarter of 2014 (from 2.1 million to 1.9 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 12 months there has been a decline back to the level at the end of 2012. The overall number of certificates issued has risen from 7.6 million in the 12 months to the end of June 2010 to over 8.2 million in the 12 months to the end of June 2015, a 12 per cent increase. There was a decrease of 7 per cent in the 12 months to the end of June 2015 compared with the 12 months to the end of June 2014 (from 8.8 million to 8.2 million).

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

Figure 1: Number of certificates issued, April - June 2010 (2010 Q2) to April - June 2015 (2015 Q2)



Certificates by country

This quarter, 87 per cent of all certificates issued were in England, 9 per cent were in Wales and 4 per cent were in Northern Ireland (see figure 2). This distribution is similar to the same quarter of 2014 (and is roughly consistent with the split of populations between the three countries).

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

Country	Proportion of total	April - June 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to June 2015	% change in 12 months
England	87	1,633,800	-13	7,365,100	-7
Wales	9	164,600	-10	605,900	-10
Northern Ireland	4	76,500	-13	217,300	-5
Total number of certificates issued	100	1,874,900	-13	8,188,300	-7

There was a decrease in the number of certificates awarded this quarter and over the 12 months to June 2015 in all three countries, with decreases ranging from 5 to 13 per cent.

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 June 2015. Table 3 of the appendix presents the number of certificates issued since October – December 2010 by type of qualification. Most certificates issued this quarter were for QCF qualifications (1.35 million out of 1.87 million, or 72 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 12 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2014. This is the fifth 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 June 2015 by qualification type (with % change on previous period)

Qualification type	April - June 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to June 2015	% change in 12 months
Basic skills	0~	-100	750	-97
ESOL	51,350	-47	329,800	3
Entry level	7,900	-38	72,650	-28
Free-standing mathematics qualification	550	10	35,950	56
Functional skills	281,550	-2	1,014,500	0
Higher level	1,250	19	5,950	3
Key skills	32,600	-16	107,100	-58
NVQ	600	-59	3,700	-68
Occupational qualification	0~		0~	-100
Other general qualification	137,350	53	876,800	29
QCF	1,349,450	-12	5,635,200	-8
Vocationally related qualification	12,300	-84	105,950	-60
Total number of certificates	1,874,900	-13	8,188,300	-7

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 47 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2014. It is the second quarter in the last 12 months where the number of certificates for ESOL qualifications has decreased. The 12-month trend shows an increase of 3 per cent compared to the 12 months to the end of June 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 learner completes a QCF ESOL Skills for Life qualification.¹⁰ However, continuing learners will be able to complete their existing qualifications. When both the ESOL and QCF ESOL qualifications are merged there is in fact a slight increase in the number of certificates awarded (from 101,950 to 114,650).

There was an increase in the number of certificates awarded in other general qualifications this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014 (from 89,700 to 137,350). This increase was partly due to a large increase in the number of certificates awarded for BTEC qualifications (from 7,400 to 74,000). This increase is more than the overall increase in other general qualifications which means that there have been some qualifications with decreases. The number of certificates awarded in other general qualifications in the last 12 months has increased by 29 per cent (from 682,250 to 876,800).

¹⁰ 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

Certificating awarding organisations

Over the last 12 months, 157 awarding organisations issued certificates. This represents 99 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 69 per cent of all awards during this quarter (1.3 million certificates in total).

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

Awarding organisation	April – June 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to June 2015	% change in 12 months
Pearson Education Ltd	409,100	-30	1,607,450	-14
City and Guilds of London Institute	345,750	-2	1,370,550	-3
OCR	101,700	-43	526,150	-26
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	74,550	-7	289,250	-4
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	73,800	-8	265,150	-1
Cambridge English Language Assessment	73,400	27	232,000	33
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	70,200	2	264,100	7
NCFE	63,150	-11	276,900	-23
WJEC-CBAC	56,600	6	256,900	0
Trinity College London	44,850	0	178,550	18
Total number of certificates for the 10 awarding organisations	1,290,250	-13	5,267,000	-8

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

Only three of the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates recorded increases this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014:

- The increase in the number of certificates awarded by Cambridge English Language Assessment (from 57,700 to 73,400) is mainly due to 15 new ESOL skills for life qualifications being available from January 2015 (from 0 to 35,950).
- The increase in certificates awarded this quarter by WJEC-CBAC (from 53,200 to 56,600) is partly due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded in a number of Essential Skills Wales qualifications.
- Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance had an increase of 2 per cent in the number of certificates awarded (from 68,550 to 70,200). The largest increase was in qualifications in the private security industry (from fewer than 50 to 7,450).

Given the decrease in the number of certificates this quarter, seven out of ten organisations awarded fewer certificates this quarter compared to the same quarter last year:

- For Pearson Education Ltd, the number of BTEC certificates awarded decreased from 354,350 to 255,000. These qualifications are likely to have been impacted by changes to school performance tables. There was also a large decrease in the number of certificates awarded for qualifications previously delivered by EDI, which are in the process of being integrated with those of Pearson Education Ltd (from 87,700 to 23,000).
- For OCR, the majority of the decrease in the number of certificates awarded was in two qualifications that have now expired: OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT (from 25,000 to 0) and OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT (from 25,000 to 50).

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 June 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.¹¹

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

¹¹ Further details on comparing qualification levels are available on Ofqual's website: www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean

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

Qualification type	April – June 2015	% change on same qtr 2014	12 months to June 2015	% change in 12 months
Entry level	226,450	-2	969,450	0
Level 1	453,800	-10	1,887,150	-13
Level 1/2	75,000	799	430,100	133
Level 2	781,150	-26	3,413,300	-16
Level 3	309,550	-2	1,360,950	6
Level 4	14,600	21	62,150	1
Level 5	10,050	14	47,300	26
Level 6	2,800	19	11,400	16
Level 7	1,350	29	6,200	-5
Level 8	100	100	350	0
Total number of certificates	1,874,900	-13	8,188,300	-7

The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications has declined for the eighth consecutive quarter. The decline in Level 1 qualifications 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 230,900 to 214,200), languages, literature and culture (from 30,850 to 19,300) and arts, media and publishing (from 110,350 to 98,200). For certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 2, most of the decline is in qualifications delivered by Pearson Education Ltd and OCR.

Compared to the same quarter last year, there was an increase in the number of certificates awarded for Level 1/2 qualifications. This is mainly due to an increase in BTEC certificates awarded (from 7,400 to 74,000), which are now part of the performance tables.

As mentioned previously, the number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above increased by 19 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 (from 24,300 to 28,950). The number of certificates awarded for Level 4 qualifications increased mainly in business, administration, finance and law (from 4,450 to 5,850), especially in the business management sector (from 1,250 to 2,500), and in arts, media and publishing (from 1,500 to 2,850), mainly in the crafts, creative arts and design (from 150 to 1,750). For qualifications at Level 5, the main increase was for qualifications in the business management sector (from 4,350 to 5,500).

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

Certificates by qualification

This quarter, 9,038 qualifications had certificates issued, representing 43 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 June 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 June 2015 (figures for the 12 months to the end of June 2014 shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates					
	April – June 2014	April – June 2015	% change quarter	12 months to the end of June 2014	12 months to the end of June 2015	% change 12 months
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	40,700	35,300	-13	157,000	140,600	-10
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	23,850	27,650	16	64,000	73,100	14
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	18,900	24,000	27	55,800	62,250	12
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	17,850	20,950	17	55,800	56,700	2
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	18,250	20,900	15	61,450	77,800	27
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	17,800	20,100	13	65,900	73,900	12
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	17,450	19,300	11	57,600	74,700	30
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	17,700	16,450	-7	60,350	63,050	4
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	21,400	14,900	-30	57,750	61,600	7
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	15,350	14,600	-5	52,100	57,850	11

The qualification with the most certificates issued this quarter was the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF). The number of certificates awarded for that qualification has decreased this quarter, but in 14 of the last 15 quarters it has been the qualification with the most certificates awarded. Five of the qualifications in the list were functional skills qualifications and two were first aid qualifications.

Table 7 of the appendix shows the 20 qualifications with the greatest and least change in terms of number of certificates awarded this quarter and the associated percentage change from the same quarter in 2014.

Certificates by sector subject area of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 15 sector subject areas (see Ofqual's statistical publications glossary¹² for further details). This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of June 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 (609,450, representing 33 per cent of the total issued this quarter and 30 per cent of the total issued in the 12 months to the end of June 2015). There was a 6 per cent decrease in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2014. The majority of this decrease is for certificates awarded by Pearson Education Ltd (from 178,300 to 139,150) – mainly those previously awarded by EDI (from 38,150 to 6,350).

The largest decrease in the actual number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 was in information and communication technology (from 143,250 to 86,300). As previously mentioned, this is due to the decrease in certificates awarded for two qualifications delivered by OCR that expired earlier this year.

The second largest decrease was in arts, media and publishing (from 252,600 to 201,150). Most of this decrease is due to a number of Level 2 BTEC qualifications that are no longer available to enrol on but for which certificates can still be awarded (from 55,000 to 27,500).

Three sector subject areas saw an increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2014: construction, planning and the built environment; agriculture, horticulture and animal care; and engineering and manufacturing technologies.

As mentioned previously, the construction, planning and the built environment sector subject area has seen a 24 per cent increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2014 (from 52,550 to 65,150). This increase is due to the introduction of a number of qualifications for Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (from fewer than 50 to 13,400).

¹² Glossary: Statistical Publications:

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

These are relatively new qualifications and have been developed to fulfil the requirement of the CSCS for workers to have a health and safety qualification when applying for a green CSCS card – labourer card.¹³

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

Sector subject area	Number of certificates			
	April - June 2015	% change for quarter	12 months to the end of June 2015	% change for 12 months
Preparation for life and work	609,450	-6	2,488,650	-9
Health, public services and care	293,750	-5	1,189,150	2
Arts, media and publishing	201,150	-20	842,650	-4
Retail and commercial enterprise	155,050	-7	658,600	-8
Business, administration, finance and law	135,600	-20	585,800	-11
Leisure, travel and tourism	101,700	-26	420,500	-15
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	94,500	5	402,350	-4
Information and communication technology	86,300	-40	405,500	-26
Construction, planning and the built environment	65,150	24	268,600	17
Languages, literature and culture	42,850	-32	414,000	-6
Science and mathematics	34,850	-26	271,850	12
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	29,900	4	115,250	1
Education and training	20,650	-8	93,250	-11
History, philosophy and theology	3,950	-55	26,150	-47
Social sciences	0		6,000	32
Total number of certificates	1,874,900	-13	8,188,300	-7

¹³ www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/green-card-changes/card-type/labourer

Table 8 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by sector subject area from 'October – December 2010' to this quarter. Table 9 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 all three countries for the 12-month period to March 2015 (see figure 2).

From figure 8, it can be seen that the QCF qualifications dominate in England (71 per cent), Wales (41 per cent) and Northern Ireland (68 per cent). Compared to the same period in 2014, these numbers have decreased in England and Wales but have remained similar 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 June 2015 compared with the same period in 2014, despite the decrease in the quarterly figures, 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 June 2015, by country and type of qualification

Qualification type	England		Wales		Northern Ireland	
	% of total	12 month % change	% of total	12 month % change	% of total	12 month % change
Basic skills	700	0.0	0	0.0	100	0.0
English for speakers of other languages	321,500	4.4	4,200	0.7	4,100	1.9
Entry Level	51,600	0.7	13,950	2.3	7,100	3.3
Free-standing mathematics qualification	35,650	0.5	300	0.0	0	0.0
Functional skills	1,003,550	13.6	10,800	1.8	200	0.1
Higher level	5,750	0.1	100	0.0	150	0.1
Key skills	14,800	0.2	86,400	14.3	5,900	2.7
NVQ	3,400	0.0	200	0.0	100	0.0
Occupational qualification	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other general qualification	592,150	8.0	234,250	38.7	50,400	23.2
QCF	5,238,350	71.1	249,850	41.2	146,950	67.6
Vocationally related qualification	97,650	1.3	5,900	1.0	2,350	1.1
Total number of certificates awarded	7,365,100	100.0	605,900	100.0	217,300	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 March 2015 represents 8 per cent of the total in England, 39 per cent in Wales and 23 per cent in Northern Ireland. The number of certificates awarded is rising for this category of qualification in England and Wales.

The number of ESOL certificates issued this quarter increased by 2 per cent in England and 105 per cent in Northern Ireland, compared with the same period in 2014. In Wales, the number of certificates awarded decreased by 8 per cent.

The number of certificates for key skills qualifications decreased in all three countries. There was a decrease of 90 per cent in England, 14 per cent in Wales and 37 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Tables 10 to 12 of the appendix present the 50 organisations that awarded the most qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively, in July 2014 – June 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.¹⁴

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

This document is in line with Ofqual's statistics policies¹⁵ and the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.¹⁶

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.¹⁷ 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.

¹⁴ www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

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

¹⁶ www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

¹⁷ <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 error¹⁸ 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*¹⁹ 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;

¹⁸ *Statement of Administrative Sources* includes information about the potential sources of error and how Ofqual mitigates these:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387635/2014-12-16-statement-of-administrative-sources.pdf

¹⁹ 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;²⁰
- 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 Diploma²¹) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the April – June 2015 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.²²

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

²⁰ The National Pupil Database contains detailed information about pupils in schools and colleges in England.

²¹ Data for GCSEs, AS and A levels can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website: www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

²² 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 one awarding organisation have been revised: City and Guilds of London Institute. 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*,²³ 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*,²⁴ 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.

²³ *Statement on Confidentiality*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380973/2014-02-14-statement-on-confidentiality.pdf

²⁴ *Rounding Policy*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380971/2014-02-14-rounding-policy.pdf

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.

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 2013/14*,²⁵ published by the Department for Education, covers students' achievements in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools at the end of Key Stage 4.

²⁵ *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2013/14 (Revised)*:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/revised-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2013-to-2014

- The *Statistical First Release: A Level and Other Level 3 Results in England, Academic Year 2013 to 2014*²⁶ 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*,²⁷ 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.²⁸ 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.²⁹

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.³⁰

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

²⁶ *Statistical First Release: A Level and Other Level 3 Results in England, Academic Year 2013 to 2014 (Revised)*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398719/SFR03_2015_revised_A_level_and_level_3_SFR.pdf

²⁷ *Statistical First Release: Further Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held*: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held

²⁸ www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset

²⁹

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

³⁰ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

been put in place and those that Ofqual will not be able to accommodate. Ahead of each publication, user feedback is reviewed to determine the content that should be included in the publication.

Ofqual has already put in place a number of suggestions:

- Round the raw data to the nearest five – rounding is needed for confidentiality. Following feedback from users that they needed the numbers of certificates to be as close to the actual figures as possible, rounding was reduced to the nearest five.
- Keep the breakdown by type of qualifications – although the majority of qualifications and certificates were for qualifications on the QCF, users still found the detailed breakdown useful.
- Provide more analysis outside the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates – comment will be made where an awarding organisation has had a 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.
- List the qualifications with the strongest growth – provided in table 7 of the appendix.

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.
- Track the effectiveness of the QCF – the data currently collected do not allow for this type of 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 Database³¹ 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.

³¹ 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.³² The scope of recognition is the qualifications or types of qualification that the awarding organisation is recognised to offer, which may be quite narrow or very broad 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.

³² 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.

<http://surveys.ofqual.gov.uk/s3/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 April – June 2015
Table 2	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October – December 2010 to April – June 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 April – June 2015
Table 4	The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter April – June 2015 (April – June 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 April – June 2015
Table 6	The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter April – June 2015 (April – June 2014 shown for comparison)
Table 7	The 20 qualifications with the most and least growth in terms of number of certificates awarded for the quarter April – June 2015 (with the percentage change from April – June 2014)
Table 8	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October – December 2010 to April – June 2015
Table 9	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter April – June 2015 (April – June 2014 shown for comparison)
Table 10	England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for July 2014 – June 2015

[Table 11](#) Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for July 2014 – June 2015

[Table 12](#) Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for July 2014 – June 2015

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

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 April – June 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

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 April – June 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

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 April – June 2015 (April – June 2014 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	April – June 2014	April – June 2015
Pearson Education Ltd	581,800	409,100
City and Guilds of London Institute	351,300	345,750
OCR	179,950	101,700
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	80,300	74,550
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	80,600	73,800
Cambridge English Language Assessment	57,700	73,400
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	68,550	70,200
NCFE	70,700	63,150
WJEC-CBAC	53,200	56,600
Trinity College London	44,850	44,850
Qualsafe Awards	33,000	38,350
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	23,900	27,050
First Aid Awards Ltd	20,850	23,100
NOCN	28,600	21,850
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	19,100	19,850
BIAB	14,000	17,950
Cskills Awards	15,750	16,100
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	14,950	15,300
1st4sport Qualifications	15,700	15,300
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	16,350	14,550
Association of Accounting Technicians	12,500	13,350
Ascentis	12,650	12,700
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	5,450	12,450
Sports Leaders UK	21,900	11,600
Royal Academy of Dance	10,850	11,550
Active IQ	9,100	11,250
Royal Society for Public Health	10,200	11,200
IMI Awards Ltd	9,600	10,250
VTCT	10,500	9,650
British Safety Council	5,050	9,500
AoFA Qualifications	7,650	9,500
Institute of Leadership & Management	10,150	9,450
AQA Education	12,700	9,300
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	16,250	9,150
The Learning Machine	6,600	8,300
LAMDA	21,800	8,100
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	9,200	7,950
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	8,250	7,800
Lifetime Awarding	7,800	7,750
University of West London	6,700	7,250
International Dance Teachers Association	9,650	6,250
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	3,000	6,150
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	4,050	5,950
Safety Training Awards	4,850	5,600
Rock School Ltd	6,600	5,400
YMCA Awards	5,700	5,350
Industry Qualifications	4,700	5,000
Open College Network Northern Ireland	550	4,950
iCan Qualifications Limited	1,800	4,900
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	18,350	4,500

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 April – June 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

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 April – June 2015 (April – June 2014 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	April – June 2014	April – June 2015
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	40,700	35,300
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	23,850	27,650
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	18,900	24,000
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	17,850	20,950
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	18,250	20,900
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	17,800	20,100
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	17,450	19,300
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	17,700	16,450
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	21,400	14,900
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	15,350	14,600
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	13,000	14,150
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	14,200	14,150
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Entry 3	11,400	13,000
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	13,550	12,600
BIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	8,450	12,200
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	12,600	12,050
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science	5,200	11,950
BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)	1,950	11,900
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	13,300	11,750
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport	750	11,650
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	8,500	9,850
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3) (QCF)	11,500	9,550
CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	7,800	9,050
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	9,450	8,950
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business	650	8,950
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	9,800	8,550
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology	200	8,550
WJEC Level 2 Essential Skills Wales in Application of Number	6,600	8,250
QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (QCF)	8,400	8,150
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Application of Science	0	7,850
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Entry 3	7,350	7,600
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 4) (QCF)	7,850	7,600
Cambridge English Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-8.0) (ESOL)	9,300	7,550
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	8,900	7,500
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 1	6,150	7,450
AAT Level 2 Certificate In Accounting (QCF)	6,050	7,000
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 5) (QCF)	7,600	6,850
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	5,350	6,800
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	13,100	6,800
Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care	150	6,800
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Entry 3	6,200	6,600
WJEC Level 2 Essential Skills Wales in Information and Communication Technology	5,550	5,950
BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)	0	5,800
IQL Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue (QCF)	6,600	5,650
AOFAQ Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	4,750	5,450
TQUK Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	3,000	5,400
ABRSM Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Music Theory (Grade 5) (QCF)	6,300	5,350
Cambridge English Entry Level Certificate in English (IELTS 4.0-5.0) (Entry 3) (ESOL)	8,200	5,300
1st4sport Level 1 Award in Coaching Football (QCF)	6,250	5,250
QA Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	0	5,250

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

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

Table 7: The 20 qualifications with the most and least growth in terms of number of certificates awarded for the quarter April – June 2015 (with the percentage change from April – June 2014)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland		Number of certificates		Percentage change (from April - June 2014)
Qualification title		April – June 2014	April – June 2015	
Less than 500 certificates	NOCN Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)	0	500	
	Cambridge English Entry Level Certificate In ESOL Skills for Life (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	500	
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Certificate in Sport	0~	500	
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Certificate in Business	0~	500	
	IQ Functional Skills Qualification in Mathematics at Entry Level 3	0~	500	
	CMI Level 3 Diploma in First Line Management (QCF)	0~	500	
	Pearson BTEC Entry Level 6-credit Award in WorkSkills (Entry 3) (QCF)	0~	500	
	CACHE Level 2 Certificate for the Children and Young People's Workforce (England) (QCF)	0	500	
	CACHE Level 3 Award in Preparing to Work in Home Based Childcare (QCF)	0	500	
	City & Guilds Level 1 Award in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (QCF)	0	500	
	OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	25,050	0	-100
	OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT	25,000	50	-100
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Health and Social Care (QCF)	9,250	450	-95
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)	7,100	300	-96
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Art and Design (QCF)	6,700	300	-96
	HABC Level 2 Award in Door Supervision (QCF)	5,300	0	-100
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Creative Media Production (QCF)	5,300	400	-92
LAMDA Level 1 Award in Performance (QCF)	4,900	0	-100	
Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	4,750	250	-95	
LAMDA Level 1 Award in Communication (QCF)	4,450	0	-100	
Between 500 - 4,999 certificates	HABC Level 2 Award for Working as a Door Supervisor within the Private Security Industry (QCF)	0	4,250	
	Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Award in ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	4,200	
	City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Employability Skills (QCF)	0	4,000	
	Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	4,000	
	Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	4,000	
	Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	4,000	
	Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (reading) (Entry 2) (QCF)	0	3,200	
	Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (speaking and listening) (Entry 2) (QCF)	0	3,200	
	Cambridge English Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (writing) (Entry 2) (QCF)	0	3,200	
	City & Guilds Level 3 Award In The Requirements for Electrical Installations BS7671: 2008 (2015) (QCF)	0	3,000	
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (QCF)	27,000	1,250	-95
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)	20,950	2,250	-89
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Business (QCF)	14,000	650	-95
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in IT (QCF)	11,100	700	-94
	Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at level 1	7,200	900	-88
	Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	7,200	1,550	-78
	BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) (ITQ) (QCF)	8,750	3,300	-62
Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Level 2	5,900	850	-86	
Pearson BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Engineering (QCF)	5,150	800	-84	
Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	5,750	1,450	-75	
5,000 certificates and above	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport	750	11,650	>200
	BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)	1,950	11,900	>200
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology	200	8,550	>200
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business	650	8,950	>200
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Application of Science	0	7,850	
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science	5,200	11,950	130
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care	150	6,800	>200
	BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)	0	5,800	
	QA Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	0	5,250	
	City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	18,900	24,000	27
	Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	21,400	14,900	-30
	Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	13,100	6,800	-48
	CIEH Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	40,700	35,300	-13
	Cambridge English Entry Level Certificate in English (IELTS 4.0-5.0) (Entry 3) (ESOL)	8,200	5,300	-35
	ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3) (QCF)	11,500	9,550	-17
	Cambridge English Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-8.0) (ESOL)	9,300	7,550	-19
	ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	13,300	11,750	-12
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	8,900	7,500	-16	
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	17,700	16,450	-7	
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	9,800	8,550	-13	

Table 8: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October – December 2010 to April – June 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	60,850	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	221,750	4,950	16,800	74,650	36,200	52,100	146,000	71,100	131,500	50	0	34,500	19,000	358,450	112,400	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	259,350	2,400	17,900	74,350	33,350	54,100	140,250	59,650	101,350	100	100	67,150	19,950	462,500	122,700	1,415,250
Apr – Jun 2014	308,600	47,200	28,750	90,250	52,550	143,250	167,300	137,400	252,600	8,700	50	63,250	22,550	650,600	170,100	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	393,600	233,200	48,000	161,800	110,400	230,600	233,800	206,800	397,050	21,350	5,850	268,450	38,200	1,103,900	242,200	3,695,200
Oct – Dec 2014	242,150	1,600	17,950	72,900	45,500	40,050	135,900	60,450	136,700	300	50	33,050	16,850	368,600	109,400	1,281,450
Jan – Mar 2015	259,900	2,200	19,400	73,150	47,600	48,600	133,550	51,550	107,750	550	100	69,650	17,600	406,650	98,600	1,336,750
Apr – Jun 2015	293,800	34,850	29,900	94,500	65,150	86,300	155,000	101,700	201,150	3,950	0	42,850	20,650	609,450	135,600	1,874,900

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

Sector subject area	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	April – June 2014	April – June 2015
01.1 Medicine and dentistry	0~	100
01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	1,750	1,300
01.3 Health and social care	243,700	242,450
01.4 Public services	44,000	32,500
01.5 Child development and well-being	19,150	17,400
02.1 Science	45,400	33,400
02.2 Mathematics and statistics	1,800	1,500
03.1 Agriculture	6,900	6,250
03.2 Horticulture and forestry	11,950	14,500
03.3 Animal care and veterinary science	8,400	7,700
03.4 Environmental conservation	1,500	1,500
04.1 Engineering	30,850	29,800
04.2 Manufacturing technologies	37,750	39,950
04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance	21,600	24,700
05.1 Architecture	0	0
05.2 Building and construction	52,550	65,150
05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning	0	0
06.1 ICT practitioners	31,800	29,600
06.2 ICT for users	111,500	56,650
07.1 Retailing and wholesaling	13,400	10,150
07.2 Warehousing and distribution	10,950	9,300
07.3 Service enterprises	34,400	30,950
07.4 Hospitality and catering	108,600	104,650
08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation	129,000	94,550
08.2 Travel and tourism	8,400	7,150
09.1 Performing arts	204,650	171,500
09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design	33,000	19,850
09.3 Media and communication	14,800	9,600
09.4 Publishing and information services	150	200
10.1 History	100	0
10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences	0~	0
10.3 Philosophy	50	450
10.4 Theology and religious studies	8,550	3,550
11.1 Geography	0~	0
11.2 Sociology and social policy	0~	0
11.3 Politics	0	0
11.4 Economics	0	0
12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	54,700	36,850
12.2 Other languages, literature and culture	8,500	6,050
12.3 Linguistics	0	0
13.1 Teaching and lecturing	12,750	11,250
13.2 Direct learning support	9,750	9,400
14.1 Foundations for learning and life	575,350	565,650
14.2 Preparation for work	75,250	43,800
15.1 Accounting and finance	26,350	25,650
15.2 Administration	63,350	44,500
15.3 Business management	75,150	59,450
15.4 Marketing and sales	2,250	2,350
15.5 Law and legal services	2,950	3,700

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: England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for July 2014 – June 2015

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end) July 2014 – June 2015
Pearson Education Ltd	1,764,850
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,188,500
OCR	478,500
NCFE	272,900
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	246,400
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	241,100
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	240,850
Cambridge English Language Assessment	223,650
AQA Education	206,550
Trinity College London	168,100
Cambridge International Examinations	168,050
Qualsafe Awards	135,100
NOCN	97,100
First Aid Awards Ltd	85,200
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	83,700
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	79,700
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	71,550
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	69,700
Cskills Awards	69,550
BIAAB	67,050
Sports Leaders UK	59,900
1st4sport Qualifications	54,200
Ascentis	52,800
LAMDA	49,550
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	46,050
IMI Awards Ltd	45,550
VTCT	43,500
Active IQ	41,500
Association of Accounting Technicians	40,500
Royal Academy of Dance	37,950
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	35,950
International Baccalaureate Organisation	35,100
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	33,800
Royal Society for Public Health	33,450
Institute of Leadership & Management	33,150
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	31,100
Lifetime Awarding	30,750
British Safety Council	29,700
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	29,450
International Dance Teachers Association	28,900
AoFA Qualifications	26,550
Rock School Ltd	26,000
ABC Awards	24,400
WJEC-CBAC	22,900
YMCA Awards	21,300
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	19,700
Industry Qualifications	19,200
AIM Awards	19,200
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	18,650
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 12: Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for July 2014 – June 2015

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	July 2014 – June 2015
WJEC-CBAC	234,000
City and Guilds of London Institute	122,900
Pearson Education Ltd	45,000
OCR	38,450
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	26,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	19,500
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	12,850
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	10,800
Qualsafe Awards	6,450
Agored Cymru	6,200
VTCT	5,400
Institute of Leadership & Management	4,500
AoFA Qualifications	4,050
Cambridge English Language Assessment	3,750
Cskills Awards	3,650
Trinity College London	3,650
Royal Society for Public Health	3,550
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	3,500
Safety Training Awards	2,950
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	2,500
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	2,400
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	2,400
NOCN	2,350
NCFE	2,250
1st4sport Qualifications	2,250
First Aid Awards Ltd	2,200
AQA Education	2,200
IMI Awards Ltd	2,150
International Baccalaureate Organisation	1,750
British Safety Council	1,700
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	1,650
Sports Leaders UK	1,650
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,650
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	1,650
BIIAB	1,600
Active IQ	1,600
University of West London	1,200
Royal Academy of Dance	1,050
Rock School Ltd	1,050
ABC Awards	750
WAMITAB	650
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	550
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	550
Amateur Swimming Association	550
FDQ Limited	450
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	450
Industry Qualifications	350
McDonalds	350
Chartered Management Institute	350
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	300

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

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

Table 13: Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for July 2014 – June 2015

Northern Ireland only	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end) July 2014 – June 2015
City and Guilds of London Institute	59,150
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	35,300
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	16,650
Pearson Education Ltd	14,850
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	11,200
OCR	9,200
Open College Network Northern Ireland	8,650
Trinity College London	6,800
University of West London	6,150
Cambridge English Language Assessment	4,550
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	3,750
NOCN	3,150
Cskills Awards	2,850
iCan Qualifications Limited	2,400
Institute of Leadership & Management	2,400
New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd	2,100
AQA Education	2,050
NCFE	1,750
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	1,650
Royal Academy of Dance	1,350
Active IQ	1,300
First Aid Awards Ltd	1,200
Royal Society for Public Health	1,150
Rock School Ltd	1,150
Qualsafe Awards	1,100
Prince's Trust	1,100
ETC Awards Limited	900
VTCT	850
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	800
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	750
IMI Awards Ltd	750
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	750
Graded Qualifications Alliance	700
AoFA Qualifications	600
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	550
ProQual Awarding Body	500
WSET Awards	500
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	500
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	400
FDQ Limited	350
1st4sport Qualifications	350
YMCA Awards	350
Safety Training Awards	300
British Safety Council	300
BIAAB	300
Signature	300
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	250
McDonalds	250
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	250
Chartered Management Institute	200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

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

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