



28 March 2019

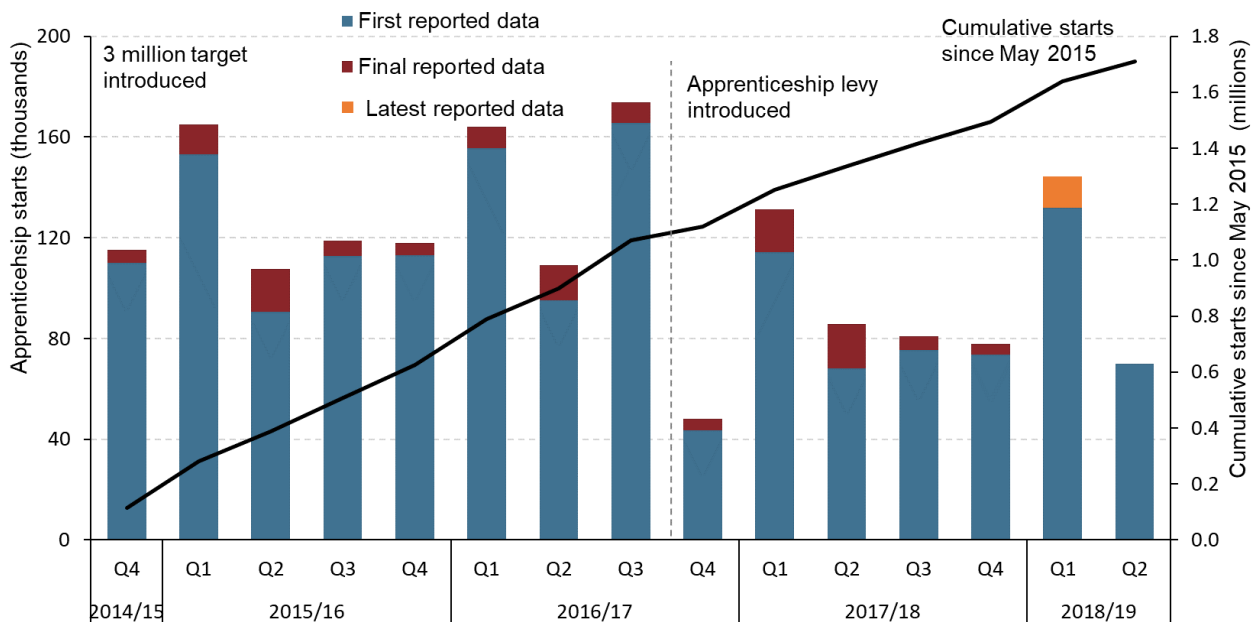
This statistics publication contains provisional figures for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to January 2019) for England. It provides data for all adult Further Education and Skills and incorporates an update to the January Apprenticeships and Traineeships quarterly release which also includes 16-18 year olds on those programmes.

Data are subject to change until final data is published in November 2019 as some learning providers report some of their data for this period later in the year. Provider behaviour in reporting can also change from year to year.

As of May 2017 there were significant changes to how apprenticeship funding works including the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and Apprenticeship Service (please see section 4 for more detail). The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly in the run up to the introduction of the levy and beyond, and this is likely to have impacted on apprenticeship starts and participation as the new approach beds in, so care should be taken in comparing and interpreting data presented in this release.

Apprenticeship starts in the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year have increased in comparison to figures reported at this time in 2017/18, but are below equivalent figures reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16.

Figure 1: All age apprenticeship starts, England<sup>1,2</sup>



Source: Individualised Learner Record

<sup>1</sup> Final data for the full 2018/19 academic year will be published in November 2019.

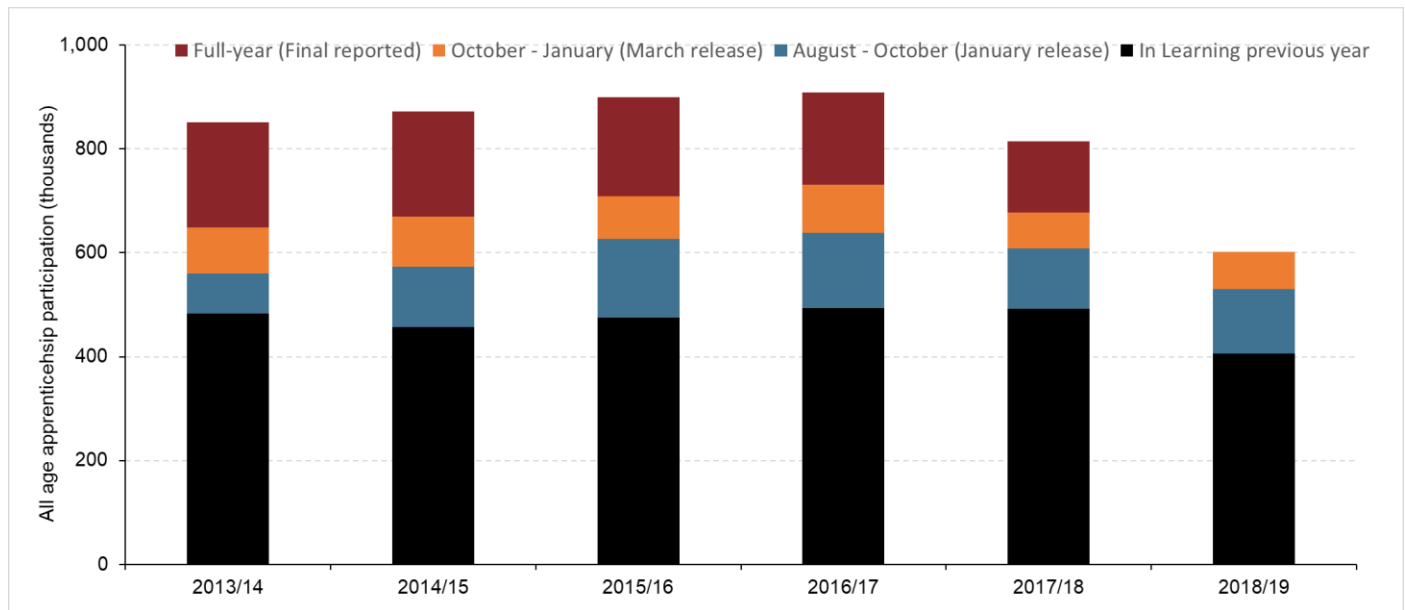
<sup>2</sup> First reported data are those initially reported in-year, and final reported data are those submitted in October for each academic year. The chart shows data aggregated for each quarter of the academic year, which runs from August to July.

There were **214,200 apprenticeship** starts reported so far for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year, an increase of 10.3 per cent from 194,100 reported at this time in 2017/18. The 214,200 starts represents a decrease of 17.2 and 14.7 per cent compared to the 258,800 and 251,100 reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16, before the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.

There were 1,709,500 apprenticeship starts reported to January 2019 since May 2015, and 4,087,100 starts reported to January 2019 since May 2010.

**All-age government funded apprenticeship participation reported so far for the 2018/19 academic year is lower than equivalent figures reported at this time in the last five years**

**Figure 2: All age apprenticeship participation, England<sup>1,3</sup>**

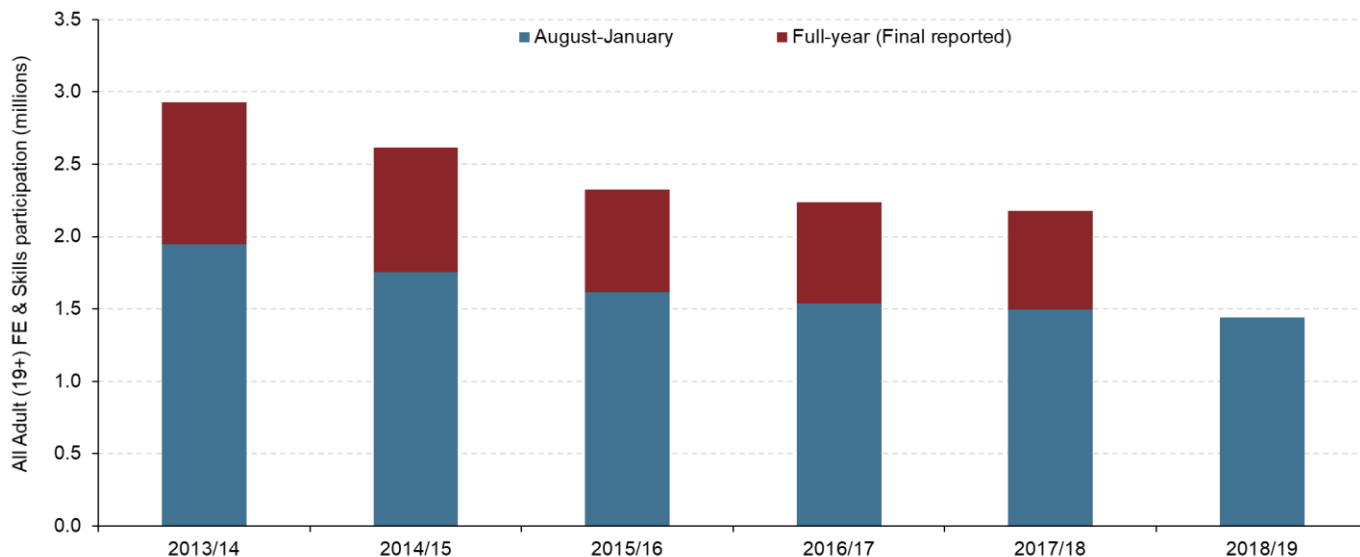


Participation measures the total number of apprenticeships that were active for at least one day in the academic year. A full year participation figure will be made up of all starts in that year and those continuing learning from the previous year(s). Estimates for 2018/19 will only include starts in the first two quarters reported to date and learners continuing from previous years, therefore care should be taken in comparing years.

**602,400** participants on an apprenticeship have been reported in the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year based on provisional data, compared to 677,300, 731,600 and 708,900 reported at this time in 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 11.1, 17.7 and 15.0 per cent respectively. 67.3% of the 602,400 participants (405,600) in the figures reported to date for the first two quarters of 2018/19 were carried over from last year. In the full final year for 2017/18 this was 60.4% (492,400).

<sup>3</sup> 2018/19 data show in-year data reported so far for 'August to January'. The chart shows full final year data for previous years as well as a breakdown for the period 'August to January' as reported at the equivalent time to this publication to allow comparisons.

**Figure 3: Adult (19+) learner participation in government-funded further education**  
 England, 2013/14 to 2018/19 (reported to date)



Participation in government-funded adult further education fell to 1,442,500 in the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year from 1,495,300 at this time in 2017/18, a decrease of 3.5 per cent. The number of learners participating on Full level 2 courses increased by 6.5 per cent from 269,400 at this point in 2017/18 to 286,900 in the first two quarters of 2018/19 and the number on Full level 3 courses declined by 37.2 per cent from 323,200 to 202,900 between these time periods. Learners participating on level 4+ courses increased by 44.8 per cent to 100,300, compared to 69,300 reported at this time in 2017/18.

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## About this release

This statistical release presents information on:

- Adult (aged 19+) government-funded further education (excluding schools and higher education) comprising:
- Education and training
- Apprenticeships
- English and maths
- Community learning
- Traineeships (16-24)
- All age (16+) apprenticeships in England.

This release presents provisional, reported to date figures for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year. Apprenticeships are paid jobs that incorporate on- and off-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications. As an employee, apprentices earn as they learn and gain practical skills in the workplace. A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience. Traineeships were introduced in the 2013/14 academic year to provide young people with essential work preparation, English, maths and work experience to secure an apprenticeship or other work.<sup>4</sup>

## Changes included in this release

This release includes provisional figures for the first two quarters of the academic year 2018/19 based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by further education colleges and providers in February 2019. The data will change as further data returns relating to the period are received later in the year.

We have changed how we present traineeship figures in this publication to make better use of administrative data.

We have replaced the current completion and progression measures and introduced two new measures:

1. **Completion rate measure** - completion volumes as a percentage of traineeship starts for a given period.
2. We also plan to replace the current progression measures that relies on self-reported outcomes<sup>5</sup> with the numbers and proportions of traineeship starts that lead to an apprenticeship start within a year to give a **new conversion rate measure**.

The completion rate measure has been included for the first time in this release using provisional mid-year data for 2018/19, and then will be updated in the: 'Further education and skills: November 2019' release using final year data for 2018/19, along with the conversion rate measure.

For further information on these new measures please see the [Traineeship measures change note](#) that accompanied the: 'Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics: February 2019' release which contained historical data for these new measures.

This release contains an updated version of the historical data for the new measures to include **provisional completion rates** based on completions to **Q1 and Q2 in 2018/19**.

The **November release** will contain **final completion rates** based on completions to **Q4 in 2018/19** and also **conversion rates** based on **apprenticeship starts** to the **end of Q4 2018/19**.

Additional information about the characteristics of learners completing traineeships and their subsequent employment and learning is published in 'Further Education: Outcome based success measures, academic years 2010/11 to 2015/16': <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-outcome-based-success-measures-2015-to-2016>

<sup>4</sup> Further details are available in the Quality and Methodology document which accompanies this Further Education and Skills: March 2019 statistics publication: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

<sup>5</sup> FE providers contact learners to collect destination information following completion of the traineeship or withdrawal from the learning. The data therefore only reflects the learner's position at that point and does not necessarily reflect their final destination. This can be misleading, particularly for in-year reporting.

### Changes in the next release

The next Further Education and Skills release will be in November 2019 and will provide final full year data for the 2018/19 academic year.

The next release containing apprenticeships and traineeships statistics will be the Apprenticeships and Traineeships release in July 2019. This will include provisional data for the first three quarters of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to April 2019). The Apprenticeship and Traineeships release is released twice per year (January and July) as a stand-alone document, and is subsumed and combined into this Further Education and Skills publication each March and November. Please see the previous Apprenticeships and Traineeships release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeships-and-traineeships-january-2019>

### In this publication

The following tables are included in this release:

- National tables (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

- Supplementary tables and data tools (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

### Other related publications

The Apprenticeship and levy statistics: March 2019 statistics publication has also been released today (28 March 2019) and provides provisional apprenticeship starts figures for the first six months of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to January 2019) recorded on the ILR in March 2019. This monthly transparency publication provides timely insight of headline apprenticeship starts, giving transparency on the development of the apprenticeships levy and the apprenticeship system as a whole, and is published while the levy system is bedding in. Both the monthly release and this publication include apprenticeship starts for the first 6 months of 2018/19, however in the monthly return we are using a later ILR data return. The quarterly publication includes the standard R06 return, which is comparable to previous quarterly returns, whilst using a later return for the monthly enables us to publish more recent figures for the time period. This later return was not available in time for this release due to production deadlines.

### Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document and accompanying tables, please contact: [FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk](mailto:FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk).

# 1. Further Education and Skills statistics for England, 2018/19

The data in this statistical release provides an early view of performance and will change as further data returns are received. Since providers report some of their data for this period later in the year, the data are subject to change (in either direction) until final data is received.

At this point in the year, 2018/19 figures are referred to as *reported so far* or *reported to date* to reflect this. This release reports on the provisional first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year.

It is not possible to determine how complete or incomplete the information returned so far is, therefore care should be taken when comparing data reported so far in 2018/19 to the equivalent reporting periods in 2017/18 and earlier<sup>6</sup>.

This is particularly the case as provider reporting behaviour may change year to year. In addition, provider reporting behaviour may have particularly been affected since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017. More accurate comparisons can be made once final returns for the academic year are made, due to be returned in October 2019 and due to be published in November 2019.

## Summary and key headlines – 2018/19 (data reported so far)

Apprenticeship participation	602,400 participants on an apprenticeship have been reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 677,300, 731,600 and 708,900 reported at this time in 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 11.1, 17.7 and 15.0 per cent respectively.
Apprenticeship starts	<p>214,200 apprenticeship starts have been reported so far in 2018/19, compared with 194,100 reported at this time in 2017/18, an increase of 10.3 per cent. These 214,200 starts represent a decrease of 17.2 and 14.7 per cent compared to the 258,800 and 251,100 reported at this time in 2016/17 and 2015/16, before the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.</p> <p>There have been 1,709,500 apprenticeship starts since May 2015, and 4,087,100 starts since May 2010.</p> <p>105,700 levy-supported starts were reported in the first two quarters of 2018/19, representing 49.4 per cent of total starts. There have now been 312,900 levy-supported starts recorded since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.</p> <p>128,100 apprenticeship starts on the new apprenticeship standards were reported in the first two quarters of 2018/19, representing 59.8 per cent of total apprenticeship starts. There have now been 321,200 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction in September 2014.</p>
Traineeships	<p>8,800 traineeship starts have been reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 10,800 at this time in 2017/18, a decrease of 18.6 per cent.</p> <p>For learners starting traineeships between 2014/15 and 2016/17, the completion rate has increased year-on-year. 66.5 per cent of learners starting a traineeship during the 2014/15 academic year completed them, rising to 71.3 per cent of those starting in 2015/16 and 78.3 per cent in 2016/17. Provisional figures for traineeships started in 2017/18 show a completion rate of 77.1%.</p> <p>25.3% of traineeships started in the 2016/17 academic year led to an apprenticeship start before the end 2017/18. This is a 1 percentage-point fall from the conversion rate seen from traineeship starts in 2015/16 (26.3%) and 3.6 percentage points below the rate from 2014/15 starts.</p>

<sup>6</sup> Please refer to the Quality and Methodology document that accompanies this release for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

Adult (19+) further education and skills	Participation in government-funded adult further education fell by 3.5 per cent to 1,442,500 in the first two quarters of 2018/19 from 1,495,300 in the same period in 2017/18. The number of learners participating on Full level 2 courses increased to by 6.5 per cent to 286,900 from 269,400 in the first two quarters of 2017/18, and the number of participants on Full level 3 courses declined by 37.2 per cent to 202,900 from 323,200 in the same period.
English and maths	448,700 adult learners participated on English and maths courses in the first two quarters of 2018/19, a decrease from 523,800 (14.4 per cent) in the same period of 2017/18.
Education and Training	734,900 learners participated in Education and Training in the first two quarters of 2018/19, an increase of 3.4 per cent from 710,700 in the same period in 2017/18.
Community learning	In the first two quarters of 2018/19, there were 285,100 adult learners participating on a Community Learning course, a decrease from 299,900 (4.9 per cent) in the same period in 2017/18.

As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic. In order to understand the impact of policy and methodology changes on any data published in this release, details are provided in the quality and methodology document that accompanies this release. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

For the latest full year figures (for the 2017/18 academic year), please see the November 2018 Further Education and Skills release here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2018>

## Apprenticeship participation (Table 1)

Apprenticeship participation data reported for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year show that there were:

- **602,400 participants** on an apprenticeship, a decrease of 11.1 per cent from 677,300 reported for the first two quarters of 2017/18, a decrease of 17.7 per cent from the 731,600 reported for the first two quarters of 2016/17 and a decrease of 15.0 per cent from the 708,900 reported for the first two quarters of 2015/16.

Of the 602,400 participants in the first two quarters of 2018/19:

226,700 were at intermediate level, a decrease of 28.8 per cent from 318,500 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

289,000 were at advanced level, a decrease of 6.0 per cent from 307,300 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

92,700 were at higher level, an increase of 55.7 per cent from 59,600 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

130,100 were aged under 19, a decrease of 7.8 per cent from 141,100 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

472,300 were aged 19 and over, a decrease of 11.9 per cent from 536,300 in the first two quarters of 2017/18



- Of the 602,400 participants in the first two quarters of 2018/19, 405,600 apprenticeship participants have been carried over from 2017/18. The table below shows how many apprenticeship participants have been carried over since 2013/14.

## Apprenticeship participation in Time Series

Academic Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 Q2
Number of apprenticeship participants carried over from the previous academic year	483,200	456,400	475,200	493,700	492,400	405,600
Total Apprenticeship Participants	851,500	871,800	899,400	908,700	814,800	602,400

## Apprenticeship starts (Table 2.1)

### Apprenticeship Levy

The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly in the run up to the introduction of the levy and beyond, therefore care should be taken when comparing individual quarters with previous years, as they are unlikely to provide a meaningful year on year trend.

This is especially the case when trying to compare starts in the first two quarters of 2018/19 (August 2018 to January 2019) to starts in the first two quarters of 2016/17 (August 2016 to January 2017), as the profile of apprenticeship starts in the second half of the 2016/17 academic year was atypical when compared to previous years, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

For further details on monthly apprenticeship starts please refer to the Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics releases, the latest publication covering the first six months of the 2018/19 academic year being on 28 March 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

Apprenticeship starts data reported so far for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year show that there were<sup>7</sup>:

- **214,200 apprenticeship starts**, an increase of 10.3 per cent from 194,100 reported at this time for the first two quarters of 2017/18, but a decrease of 17.2 per cent from 258,800 reported at this time for the first two quarters of 2016/17 and a decrease of 14.7 per cent from 251,100 reported at this time for the first two quarters of 2015/16.

Of the 214,200 apprenticeship starts in the first two quarters of 2018/19:

80,900 were at intermediate level, a decrease of 7.4 per cent from 87,300 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

94,100 were at advanced level, an increase of 8.9 per cent from 86,400 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

81.7 per cent of starts were at the intermediate and advanced levels, a 7.8 percentage point decrease from 89.5 per cent in the first two quarters of 2017/18.

39,300 were at higher level, an increase of 92.6 per cent from 20,400 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

<sup>7</sup> All percentages shown are calculated from unrounded data.

66,000 were aged under 19, a decrease of 5.1 per cent from 69,600 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

148,200 were aged 19 and over, an increase of 19.0 per cent from 124,500 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

- **128,100 apprenticeship starts** were reported on the new apprenticeship **standards** so far in the first two quarters of 2018/19, compared to 71,600 reported at this time last year, however more standards became available in 2017/18. Apprenticeship standards represent 59.8 per cent of total apprenticeship starts in the first two quarters of 2018/19 compared to 36.9 per cent this time last year.

Of the 128,100 starts on standards:

75,700 were levy supported starts, meaning 59.1 per cent of starts on standards were levy supported.

33,300 were aged under 19, compared to 22,600 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

94,800 were aged 19 and over, compared to 49,000 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

- There have now been **321,200 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction** in September 2014. This represents 15.6 per cent of total apprenticeship starts since September 2014.
- 23,700 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a **black, asian and minority ethnic group**. This is 11.1 per cent of apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 10.1 per cent reported at the same point in 2017/18<sup>8</sup>.
- 25,500 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from the **learning difficulties and/or disabilities group**. This is 11.9 per cent of apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2018/19, compared to 11.4 per cent reported at the same point in 2017/18<sup>9</sup>.
- **312,900 levy supported starts** have been recorded following the changes to funding arrangements since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy, representing 49.0 per cent of total apprenticeship starts since the levy was introduced in May 2017.
- **105,700 levy supported starts** were reported in the first two quarters of 2018/19, representing 49.4 per cent of total starts reported so far in the academic year.

Of the 105,700 levy supported starts reported in the first two quarters of 2018/19:

34,000 were intermediate level

44,700 were advanced level

27,000 were higher level apprenticeships

- There have been 1,709,500 apprenticeship starts reported to January 2019 since May 2015 (including 115,300 in Q4 2014/15) and 4,087,100 starts reported to January 2019 since May 2010 (including 64,500 in Q4 2009/10).

## Apprenticeship achievements (Table 2.2)

The length of an apprenticeship is typically more than a year and apprenticeship achievement is recorded against the year it was achieved, not the year it was started. Care should be taken in comparing in-year

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<sup>8</sup> Full final year starts proportion for black, asian and minor ethnic group was 11.2 per cent for 2017/18.

<sup>9</sup> Full final year starts proportion for learners with learning difficulty and/or disability was 11.2 per cent for 2017/18.

achievements and interpreting overall change. In year estimates will be affected by historic fluctuations in when starts occur within the academic year (and therefore when they finish). Additionally, the picture of how participation and achievements are changing will be further complicated by the increase in starts on apprenticeship standards and changes in the level of provision.

Apprenticeship achievements data reported for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year show that there were<sup>10</sup>:

- **74,300 apprenticeship achievements**, a decrease of 30.7 per cent from 107,200 reported at this time last year for 2017/18, a decrease of 32.6 per cent from 110,200 reported at this time in 2016/17 and a decrease of 26.7 per cent from 101,300 reported at this time in 2015/16.

Of the 74,300 achievements in the first two quarters of 2018/19:

36,800 were at intermediate level, a decrease of 39.0 per cent from 60,200 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

32,900 were at advanced level, a decrease of 21.6 per cent from 42,000 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

4,600 were at higher level, a decrease of 7.6 per cent from 5,000 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

24,400 were aged under 19, a decrease of 23.4 per cent from 31,800 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

49,900 were aged 19 and over, a decrease of 33.8 per cent from 75,400 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

Additional breakdowns of apprenticeship statistics are published online at the further education data library<sup>11</sup>.

## Traineeships (Tables 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3)

Data reported for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year show that<sup>10</sup>:

- **8,800 traineeship starts** were reported in the first two quarters of 2018/19, decreases of 18.6, 25.9 and 29.2 per cent from the 10,800, 11,800 and 12,400 traineeship starts reported in the first two quarters of 2017/18, 2016/17 and 2015/16 respectively.

Of the 8,800 traineeship starts recorded in the first two quarters of 2018/19:

7,200 were under 19, a decrease of 14.5 per cent from 8,400 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

1,600 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 33.2 per cent from 2,400 in the first two quarters of 2017/18

For learners starting traineeships between 2014/15 and 2016/17, the **completion rate** has increased year-on-year. 66.5 per cent of learners starting a traineeship during the 2014/15 academic year completed them, rising to 71.3 per cent of those starting in 2015/16 and 78.3 per cent in 2016/17.

Provisional figures show that 77.1 per cent of learners who started traineeships in the 2017/18 academic year went on to complete them. This is lower than the final reported completion rate based on 2016/17

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<sup>10</sup> All percentages shown are calculated from unrounded data.

<sup>11</sup> The further education data library can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>

traineeship starts but is not directly comparable until final data for completions occurring in the 2018/19 academic year are available in November.

- Of the traineeships started in 2017/18, provisional completion rates reported so far are:
  - 75.4 per cent for 16-18 year olds (equivalent final completion rate for 2016/17 starts was 76.7 per cent);
  - 82.0 per cent for those aged 19 and over (completion rate for 2016/17 starts was 81.7 per cent)
- 25.3 per cent of traineeships started in the 2016/17 academic year led to an apprenticeship start before the end 2017/18. This is a 1 percentage-point fall from the conversion rate seen from traineeship starts in 2015/16 (26.3 per cent) and 3.6 percentage points below the 28.9 per cent conversion rate from 2014/15 starts.<sup>12</sup>
- Of the 20,300 traineeships started in 2016/17:
  - 32.1 per cent of these traineeship starts by those who were aged 16-18 (at the start of the traineeship) were **converted into an apprenticeship** start by the end of 2017/18. This conversion rate is a 3 percentage point drop in apprenticeship starts following from traineeship starts in 2015/16 by 16-18 year olds (35.1 per cent).
  - 10.6 per cent of 19-24 year olds went on start an apprenticeship by the end of 2017/18, a fall of 1.9 percentage points from the conversion rate of 12.5 per cent reported starting an apprenticeship within a year, following 2015/16 traineeship starts.

### Adult (19+) Learner Participation (Table 4.1)

Data reported for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year show there were 1,442,500 learners aged 19 and over participating in government-funded further education, compared to 1,495,300 reported in the first two quarters of 2017/18, a decrease of 3.5 per cent.

Of these:

- 448,700 participated on a **English and Maths** course, compared to 523,800 in the first two quarters of 2017/18, a decrease of 14.4 per cent
- 479,400 participated on a **Level 2** course, of which 286,900 were on a **Full Level 2** course, compared to 528,000 and 269,400 (respectively) reported in the first two quarters of 2017/18. This represents a decrease of 9.2 per cent and an increase of 6.5 per cent respectively.
- 347,600 participated on a **Level 3** course, of which 202,900 were on a **Full Level 3** course, compared to 369,400 and 323,200 (respectively) reported in the first two quarters of 2017/18. This represents decreases of 5.9 per cent and 37.2 per cent respectively.
- 100,300 participated on a **Level 4+** course, an increase of 44.8 per cent compared to 69,300 reported in the first two quarters of 2017/18
- 155,400 benefited from **support for the unemployed** (those nearest the workforce), compared to 158,400 reported in the first two quarters of 2017/18

### Adult (19+) English and Maths (Table 6.1 and 6.2)

Adult learner (19+) participation on English and maths courses has fallen from 523,800 in the first two quarters of 2017/18 to 448,700 in the same period for 2018/19, a decrease of 14.4 per cent.

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<sup>12</sup> Further information on the destinations of trainees can be found in the Outcome Based success measures publication: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-outcome-based-success-measures-2015-to-2016>

Of the 448,700 participants in the first two quarters of 2018/19:

- 276,200 participated on an **English** course, a decrease of 21.1 per cent from 350,200 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.
- 278,200 participated on a **Maths** course, a decrease of 18.9 per cent from 343,200 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.
- 96,000 participated on an **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** course, an increase of 5.7 per cent from 90,800 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.

### **Community learning** (Table 7)

In the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year, 285,100 learners **participated** on a community learning course, a decrease of 4.9 per cent from 299,900 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.

Of the 285,100 participants in the first two quarters of 2018/19:

- 239,200 took a **Personal and Community Development Learning** course, a decrease of 5.2 per cent from 252,200 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.
- 16,400 took a **Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities** course, a decrease of 4.0 per cent from 17,100 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.
- 13,100 took a **Family English, Maths and Language** course, a decrease of 4.9 per cent from 13,800 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.
- 20,800 took a **Wider Family Learning** course, an increase of 0.1 per cent from 20,800 in the first two quarters of 2017/18.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> All percentages shown are calculated from unrounded data.

## 2. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>.

### Year to date tables

- 1 All Age Apprenticeship Participation by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 2.1 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 2.2 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Achievements by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 3.1 Traineeship starts by age (2013/14 to 2018/19 reported to date)
- 3.2 Traineeship starts and completion rates, by age-group, for traineeships started between 2014/15 and 2017/18 (provisional)
- 3.3 Traineeship starts and apprenticeship conversion rates by age-group, for traineeships started between 2014/15 and 2016/17
- 4.1 Adult (19+) FE and Skills Participation by Level (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date) – Learner Volumes
- 4.2 Adult (19+) FE and Skills Achievement by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18) – Learner Volumes
- 5.1 Adult (19+) Education and Training Participation by Level (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date) – Learner Volumes
- 5.2 Adult (19+) Education and Training Achievements by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18) – Learner Volumes
- 6.1 Adult (19+) FE and Skills – English and Maths Participation by Level (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date) – Learner Volumes
- 6.2 Adult (19+) FE and Skills – English and Maths Achievement by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18) – Learner Volumes
- 7 Community Learning Participation and Achievement by Type (2010/11 to 2018/19 reported to date)

### Supplementary tables

Additional breakdowns of further education statistics are published online, please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>. These additional breakdowns include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, local authority district, parliamentary constituency, sector subject area and funding stream.

### Supplementary data tools and tables

- 1 Apprenticeship demographic and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2014/15 to Q2 2018/19
- 2 Apprenticeship framework and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2014/15 to Q2 2018/19
- 3 Apprenticeship geography and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2014/15 to Q2 2018/19
- 4 Apprenticeships by region and sector subject area: participation 2009/10 to 2018/19 (reported to date)

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

- **We preserve confidentiality**  
The Code of Practice for Official Statistics (<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/>) requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.
- **We suppress some figures**  
In the main tables, headline volumes below 50 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). In the

supplementary tables volumes below 5 are suppressed (this includes values of zero).  
A percentage of less than 0.5% is suppressed.

- **We adopt symbols to help identify suppression**

Symbols are used in the tables as follows:

'-' indicates a headline volume with below 50 in the main tables and below 5 in the supplementary tables.

'\*' indicates a percentage of less than 0.5%.

- **We round figures**

In the main tables, headline volumes are reported rounded to the nearest 100. In the supplementary tables, volumes are rounded to the nearest 10. There may be exceptions to this in instances where any figure that is an exact duplicate of a value in the headline figures (e.g. Grand Totals), which are rounded to the nearest 100 and avoid contradictory figures.

Percentages reported are calculated on pre-rounded data and given to one decimal place.

- **Coverage of the data**

This release includes provisional data for the first two quarters of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to January 2019) returned to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in February 2019 by further education providers.

### 3. Further information is available

Additional breakdowns of apprenticeship and traineeship statistics are published online as supplementary tables. These include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, local authority district, parliamentary constituency and sector subject area.

Please see the FE Data Library here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

Monthly transparency data on apprenticeship and levy statistics are also available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

### 4. The apprenticeship funding system

Changes in the way apprenticeship funding works were introduced and implemented from May 2017. Guidance about these changes and paying the apprenticeship levy can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>.

A key aspect of these changes was the introduction of the apprenticeship service, an online service to allow employers to choose and pay for apprenticeship training more easily. Levy-payers are able to register on the apprenticeship service so that they can:

1. receive levy funds to spend on apprenticeships
2. manage their apprentices
3. pay their training provider

## 5. Other technical information

For more technical information, please see the latest Further Education and Skills release and the accompanying quality and methodology information published alongside it here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.



## 6. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

## 7. Get in touch

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Department  
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