

Statistics of Education:

Vocational Qualifications in the United Kingdom 1998/99

Issue No 05/00
June 2000



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ISBN 0 11 271087 5

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Contact points

For enquiries about this publication, contact:

Kevan Barber

Tel: 0114 259 3765

E-mail: kevan.barber@dfee.gov.uk

Fax: 0114 259 4371

Letters: Room E637, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ

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VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 1998/99

Introduction

1 This bulletin presents information on awards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) and General Scottish Vocational Qualifications (GSVQs). It presents information on other full awards of vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs), awarded by four of the largest awarding bodies: City & Guilds, Edexcel (formerly BTEC), OCR (formerly RSA) and SQA.

2 It also presents information on the number of people holding and studying towards NVQs/SVQs, and the characteristics of these people. All information presented is for the UK unless stated otherwise. This bulletin updates the information in DfEE Statistical Bulletin Issue No 9/99, June 1999 and also includes a new section which compares vocational and academic awards in England.

Summary

3 There was a 3% decrease in the number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1998/99 when compared with the previous year: 458 thousand in 1997/98 and 442 thousand in 1998/99.

4 The number of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1998/99 has continued to increase at a steady rate when compared with earlier years: 93 thousand in 1996/97, 103 thousand in 1997/98 and 113 thousand in 1998/99.

5 NISVQ collects information on other full vocational qualifications (Other VQs) outside the National Framework (i.e. not NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs) from Edexcel, City & Guilds, OCR, and SQA. The total number of these awards for 1998/99 was 501 thousand, a 12% rise compared to the 449 thousand in 1997/98.

6 Since their introduction in 1987, just over 2.8 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded up to the end of December 1999. The majority of these were at level 2 (59%), with about 14% at level 1 and 27% were at level 3 or above.

7 In 1998/99 people aged 25 and over accounted for the biggest proportion of NVQ/SVQ awards. Half of all awards made to females are to those aged 25 and over compared to 39% for males.

8 Of the GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1998/99: 11% were at Foundation level (level 1), 47% at Intermediate

level (level 2) and 42% at Advanced level (level 3). Intermediate level awards accounted for 45% of the total increase in awards since 1997/98.

9 In 1998/99 awards of Other VQs have increased at all levels when compared to 1997/98: about 279 thousand (56%) of Other VQs on NISVQ in 1998/99 were at the *notional* level of an NVQ level 1, about 96 thousand (19%) were at *notional* level 2, 126 thousand (25%) at *notional* level 3 or above. The most sizeable growth in Other VQ awards was at *notional* levels 1 and 2. (Within NISVQ, a *notional* level is estimated for each Other VQ for analytical purposes.)

10 The Autumn 1999 LFS provides an estimate of just under 2.8 million people for the number of people holding an NVQ/SVQ. This estimate is close to QCA's official figure for the total number of NVQ/SVQ awards made. The survey also estimates that a further 726 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held an NVQ/SVQ unit.

11 Nearly 900 thousand people, according to the Autumn 1999 LFS estimate, were working towards an NVQ/SVQ, which is a rise of nearly 70 thousand compared with the survey in Autumn 1998: over two-thirds of these people were working towards their first NVQ/SVQ.

12 The trend in the number of people registering to take a GNVQ in England has remained fairly constant for the last three years, although the growth rate is now beginning to level off. According to the GNVQ Student Database: 189 thousand registered in 1996/97, almost 187 thousand registered in 1997/98 and nearly 190 thousand registered in 1998/99.

Background

13 Information on awards of NVQs/SVQs¹, GNVQs/GSVQs, and Other VQs² made by UK awarding bodies has been taken from the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) held by DfEE. As part of the NISVQ project the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) provides annual totals (October–September) of NVQ awards by framework area and level, which are used for grossing up the more detailed NVQ award information, collected from the awarding bodies who participate in NISVQ, in order to produce UK NVQ estimates. QCA's totals are based on quarterly returns sent to QCA by all NVQ awarding bodies. UK NVQ/SVQ estimates are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs. The presentation of analyses on awards of NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs and Other VQs has changed since last year to include comparisons between 1997/98 and 1998/99.

1 All 1998/99 analyses of NVQ/SVQ awards made in the UK are based on grossed up NVQ returns from 14 awarding bodies plus all SVQs accredited by SQA. The National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) received information on nearly 90% of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1998/99.

2 Throughout this bulletin, figures from NISVQ showing the number of Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs) are awards other than NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs made by Edexcel, City & Guilds, OCR and SQA only, and are not grossed up UK estimates.

14 As in previous years NISVQ received detailed information on awards of NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs and Other VQs made by four of the largest awarding bodies: City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA³. Information on GNVQs/GSVQs is complete, because all the relevant awarding bodies are included. SQA also provides complete information on SVQs.

15 For the second consecutive year NISVQ also received detailed information on NVQs awarded by: Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT); Council for Award's in Children's Care & Education (CACHE); Construction Industry Training Board (CITB); EMTA Awards Limited (EMTAAL); Fibreboard Awarding Body (FAB); London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board (LCCI); NCC Education Services Ltd (NCC); National Examining Board for Supervision and Management (NEBSM), Ntotelecom (formerly TVSC).

16 In 1998/99 two new awarding bodies participated in the NISVQ project by submitting detailed NVQ award information to DfEE, these were: The Institute of Management (IM) and The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI). (The data collected from all awarding bodies involved with NISVQ covered full awards made at centres in the United Kingdom and small number of overseas centres).

17 The overall coverage of NVQs on NISVQ, as measured against the total number of NVQs accredited by QCA in a year, has increased by 6 percentage points from over 83% in 1997/98 to almost 90% in 1998/99. This year's increase follows a substantial improvement in NVQ coverage of 18 percentage points in 1997/98. The increase in NVQ coverage in 1998/99 is mainly a result of an increase in the number of awarding bodies submitting information to NISVQ (from 13 to 15). The recent improvements in NVQ coverage have allowed UK NVQ/SVQ estimates to be produced from NISVQ for 1997/98 and 1998/99. For the first time it is possible to make comparisons at UK level between 1997/98 and 1998/99 by age, gender, level, occupation group, centre type, subject area, framework area, Government Office Region and Country⁴. This year's bulletin contains some of these comparisons.

18 In January 1999, DfEE and QCA jointly wrote to awarding bodies taking part in NISVQ to ask why they had not been sending full equal opportunities information as part of their quarterly data submissions. The responses were mixed ranging from technical difficulties to awarding bodies not collecting the data from assessment centres for their own purposes. In 1999/2000 DfEE/QCA will be working with the existing awarding bodies who contribute to NISVQ to resolve

problems surrounding collecting equal opportunities data.

19 This bulletin contains Labour Force Survey (LFS) data that has been regressed based on new population figures. Minor discrepancies will be present when comparing historic LFS data in this bulletin with previous issues of the bulletin.

20 The Autumn Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides estimates of the numbers of people holding/studying towards NVQs/SVQs, the 'Database assembled for the publication of secondary school and college Performance Tables' gives the number of people achieving GCE A levels and GCSEs in England, and the GNVQ database gives the number of registrations on GNVQs in England. Analysis based on the numbers of people holding an NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year they were gained. Additional information on employers' awareness and involvement in vocational qualifications is provided by the Learning and Training at Work Survey 1999⁵.

COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC AWARDS IN ENGLAND

21 This section of the bulletin compares the numbers of people who were awarded academic qualifications at levels 2 and 3 with the numbers of vocational awards at levels 2 and 3 collected through NISVQ. All of the following analyses should be seen as illustrative since the numbers of awards on NISVQ do not necessarily equate to numbers of people, since it is possible that one person could gain more than one award in a year, and the numbers of Other VQ awards only represents those made by 3 of the largest awarding bodies in England and are not England estimates.

Awards at level 2

22 Table A shows that the vocational proportion of the total number of level 2 awards made in a year has remained fairly constant over the last 5 years. In 1998/99 55% of all level 2 awards were vocational, i.e. Intermediate GNVQs, NVQs at level 2 or Others VQs at level 2, compared with 53% in 1994/95.

23 Table B shows that in 1998/99 nearly all people (97%) who obtained a level 2 qualification aged 16 and under did so by the academic GCSE route (in Table B most people of academic age 15 in 1998/99 will have turned 16 when they actually obtain their award in 1999). Nearly all people (99%) who obtain level 2

³ Prior to 1993/94 data were obtained from six of the largest awarding bodies.

⁴ Comparisons between GO Region/Country by year should be treated with caution because 1998/99 was the first year that NISVQ collected information on awards made at overseas centres and therefore allowed an estimate of the total number of overseas awards to be made.

⁵ Learning and Training at Work Survey 1999, IFF Research Ltd. This survey replaced the Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

TABLE A:
Numbers of level 2 awards by type and year, England

Qualification/Award type	Academic year qualification was issued				
	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
5 or more GCSEs at A* to C only(i)	254	267	267	268	280
Intermediate GNVQ	29	39	43	45	48
NVQ Level 2(ii)	143	186	232	232	220
Other VQ Level 2(iii)	110	77	65	72	80

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) For National Learning Target purposes 5 GCSE's at grades A*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.
(ii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iii) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

TABLE B:
Comparison of level 2 awards by academic age group, England

Academic Age(i)	1997/98				1998/99			
	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C)(ii)	Intermediate GNVQ	NVQ Level 2(iii)	Other VQ Level 2(iv)	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C)	Intermediate GNVQ	NVQ Level 2	Other VQ Level 2
	15 and under	265	5	-	-	276	8	-
16	3	25	21	7	3	26	19	8
17	-	10	38	6	-	10	36	6
18	-	2	27	4	-	2	26	5
19	-	-	15	3	-	-	15	3
20	-	-	10	2	-	-	9	2
21-24	-	-	30	6	-	-	24	6
25 & over	-	-	89	43	-	-	87	49
Not classified	0	-	2	-	0	-	2	-
Total	268	45	232	72	280	48	220	80

- less than 1,000

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 1997/98 would be age on 31 August 1997.
(ii) For National Learning Target purposes 5 GCSE's at grades A*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

qualifications aged 17 and over do so by the vocational route. It will be the performance of the cohort who turned 16 in 1999 (highlighted) that will determine whether the 2002 National Learning Target in England for 19 year olds qualified to level 2⁶ will be achieved. Significantly, in 1998/99 98% of the total level 2 awards made to people aged 17–19 (academic age 16–18) were vocational; predominantly NVQs.

Awards at level 3

24 Table C shows that the vocational proportion of the total number of level 3 awards made in a year has remained fairly constant over the last 5 years. In 1998/99 half of all level 3 awards were vocational, i.e. Advanced GNVQs, NVQs at level 3 or Others VQs at level 3, compared with 49% in 1994/95.

25 In 1998/99 most people (81%) who obtained a level 3 qualification aged 16–18 did so by the academic GCE A level route (in Table D most people of academic age 17 in 1998/99 will have turned 18 when they obtained their award in 1999). The vast majority of people (88%) who obtain a level 3 qualification aged 19 and over do so by the vocational route. It will be the performance of the cohort who turned 18 in 1999 (highlighted) that will determine whether the 2002 National Learning Target in England for 21 year olds qualified to level 3⁷ has been achieved. Significantly, in 1998/99 more than three quarters (76%) of the total level 3 awards made to people aged 19–21 (academic age 18–20) were vocational. Table D gives a full breakdown of level 3 qualifications by age group for 1997/98 and 1998/99.

6 2002 National Learning Target for Young People in England: 85% of 19 year old with a "level 2" qualification.

7 2002 National Learning Target for Young People in England: 60% of 21 year olds with a "level 3" qualification.

TABLE C:
Numbers of level 3 awards by type and year, England

Qualification/Award type	Academic year qualification was issued				
	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
2 or more GCE A levels(i) (ii)	165	169	183	188	188
Advanced GNVQ	11	30	32	39	42
NVQ Level 3(iii)	43	56	79	90	89
Other VQ Level 3(iv)	102	84	67	58	61

Awards (thousands)

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) The GCE A levels figures include people who achieved 4 or more AS level passes.
(ii) For National Learning Target purposes 2 A levels/4 AS levels are equivalent to a level 3 award.
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

TABLE D:
Comparison of level 3 awards by academic age group, England

Academic Age(i)	1997/98				1998/99			
	2 or more GCE	Advanced	NVQ	Other VQ	2 or more GCE	Advanced	NVQ	Other VQ
	A levels(ii)	GNVQ	Level 3(iii)	Level 3 (iv)	A levels	GNVQ	Level 3	Level 3
15 and under	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
17	165	18	4	14	165	20	4	15
18	16	12	9	10	17	13	9	11
19	2	5	8	5	2	5	9	6
20	-	1	6	3	-	1	6	3
21-24	-	1	16	6	-	1	15	6
25 & over	-	1	45	19	-	1	44	19
Not classified	0	-	1	-	0	-	-	-
Total	188	39	90	58	188	42	89	61

Awards (thousands)

- less than 1,000

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 1997/98 would be age on 31 August 1997.
(ii) The GCE A level figures for 1997/98 and 1998/99 include students who achieved 4 or more AS level passes. For National Learning Target purposes 2 A levels/4 AS levels are equivalent to a level 3 award.
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY TYPE

26 This section of the bulletin compares the characteristics of NVQs/SVQs and GNVQs/GSVQs; full Other VQs outside the National Framework are also included, but care should be taken with these figures because NISVQ only collect information on Other VQs from 4 of the largest awarding bodies and therefore may not be representative of all Other VQs awarded in the UK.

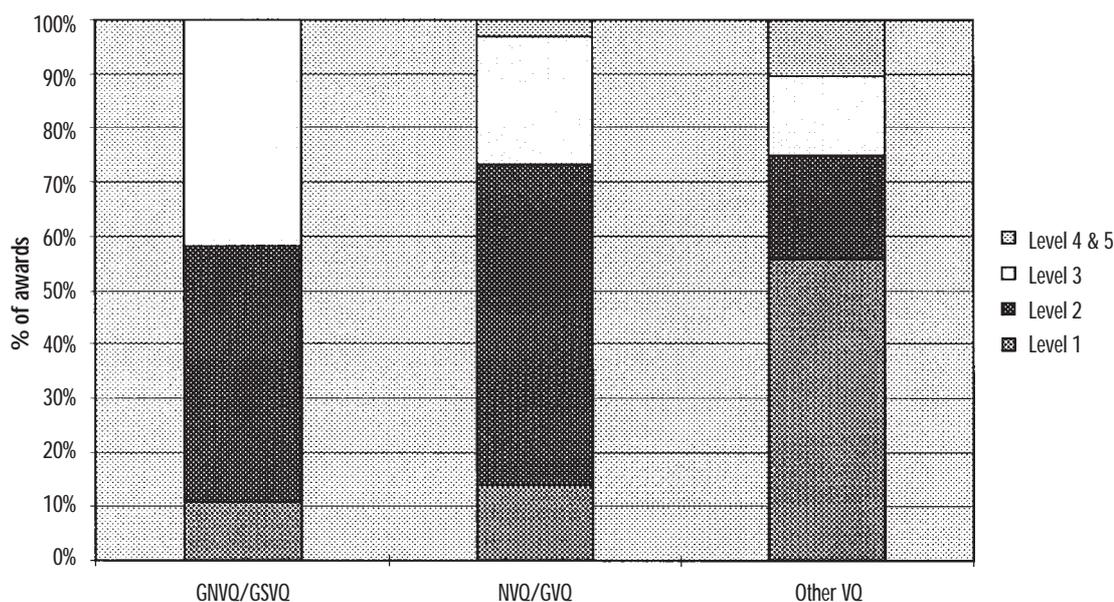
27 Chart A shows that the proportion of each level of award varies greatly across the three qualification types. The most common *notional* level of award for Other VQs is level 1 (56%), which accounts for more awards than the other levels put together. In contrast the most common level for GNVQ/GSVQ and NVQ/SVQ is level 2. The qualification type which has the biggest

proportion of awards made at level 3 is GNVQ/GSVQ (42%), followed by NVQ/SVQ (24%) and Other VQ (15%). The proportion of level 4 & 5 qualifications is highest for Other VQs (10%). (GNVQs/GSVQs are only available at levels 1, 2 and 3.)

28 In 1998/99 people aged 25 and over accounted for the biggest proportion of awards made for both NVQ/SVQ (44%) and Other VQs (56%). Half of all NVQ/SVQ awards made to females are to those aged 25 and over compared to 39% for males. In comparison, 61% of all Other VQs awarded to females are to those aged 25 and over compared to 49% for males. Chart 1, later in the bulletin, illustrates this. Unsurprisingly, because of the target group GNVQs/GSVQs are predominantly awarded to people aged 18 and under (78%).

29 Chart 2 shows that the proportion of Other VQs awarded to those aged under 25 has decreased from 73% in 1992/93 to 44% in 1998/99. In the same period the

CHART A:
Comparison of qualification type by level 1998/99



Source: NISVQ

proportion of NVQ/SVQ awards made to this age group has remained fairly constant: 57% in 1992/93 and 56% in 1998/99.

30 Table E below shows that the most common major occupation group, as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)⁸, for all three types of vocational qualifications is 'Clerical and Secretarial': 35% of GNVQs/GSVQs, 24% of NVQs/SVQs and 56% of the Other VQs currently included on NISVQ. SOC is used for analytical purposes on NISVQ to identify the major occupation group where the qualification best fits. This does not mean that the person who holds the award works in the occupational area.

TABLE E:
Comparison of qualification type by SOC 1998/99

Major Occupation Group (SOC)	Awards (percentage)		
	GNVQs/GSVQs	NVQs/SVQs	Other VQs
Management and Administration	4%	15%	2%
Professional	0%	6%	4%
Associate Professionals	27%	6%	19%
Clerical and Secretarial	35%	24%	56%
Craft and Related	3%	22%	12%
Personal and Protective Services	22%	17%	2%
Sales	0%	4%	0%
Plant and Machine Operation	0%	3%	2%
Miscellaneous	0%	3%	2%
Not classified	10%	2%	1%
Total(i)	100%	100%	100%

Source: NISVQ

(i) Percentages may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

8 SOC, 2nd Edition (1995)

31 According to NISVQ, there is a significant difference between the gender breakdown by level when comparing NVQs/SVQs with Other VQs. Females are in the majority for the number of awards made at every NVQ/SVQ level except level 1, whereas the opposite is true for Other VQs. Chart 3 illustrates this in more detail.

AWARDS OF NVQs/SVQs

NVQ/SVQ awards over time

32 Since their introduction in 1987, just over 2.8 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded by the end of December 2000. Table F (and Chart 4) shows that the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded each year has declined slightly following rapid rises up to 1996/97: 459 thousand in 1996/97, 458 thousand in 1997/98, and just over 442 thousand in 1998/99.

33 Looking at NVQs alone, there has also been a decrease since 1997/98: just over 428 thousand in 1998/99 compared with almost 446 thousand in 1997/98. For more detailed information on NVQs awarded by NVQ level, framework area, academic year, and quarter see Tables 1 and 2 later in this bulletin.

NVQ/SVQ awards by level over time

34 Over a quarter of all NVQ/SVQ awarded in 1998/99 (27%) were at level 3 or above, compared with only 1 in 8 in 1991/92. Awards made at NVQ/SVQ level 2 have decreased, but continue to be the most common: nearly 59% in 1998/99, which is the same proportion as in the previous year. The proportion of NVQs/SVQs made at

TABLE F:
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level and year

Year (i)						Awards (thousands)	
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total (ii)	Cumulative total	
Prior to 1991/92	46	68	13	8	136	136	
1991/92	48	86	12	7	152	288	
1992/93	49	119	16	8	194	482	
1993/94	56	148	25	11	240	722	
1994/95	55	165	49	8	278	1,000	
1995/96	62	218	65	9	354	1,354	
1996/97	79	277	93	10	459	1,813	
1997/98	72	271	102	12	458	2,271	
1998/99	62	261	104	15	442	2,713	
1999/00 (Q1)	13	54	23	3	93	2,806	

Source: OCA/NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

(ii) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

level 1 has been continually decreasing since 1991/92: nearly 32% in 1991 compared with 14% in 1998/99. This is illustrated in Table F and Chart 4.

35 The number of awards made at NVQ/SVQ levels 1 and 2 have decreased since 1997/98: over 10 thousand (14%) for level 1 and just under 10 thousand (4%) for level 2 when compared with 1997/98. The number of NVQ/SVQ level 3 awards has more than doubled in the last 5 years: 49 thousand in 1994/95 compared to over 104 thousand in 1998/99. Although still relatively small in number, awards made at levels 4 and 5 have increased by 25% since 1997/98.

36 In 1998/99 NISVQ collected information on almost 90% of all NVQ/SVQ awards. This coverage has enabled UK estimates to be produced for NVQ/SVQ awards by age, gender, level, occupation group, centre type, subject area and framework area and Government Office Region/Country. In the following section, comparisons with 1997/98 figures are reasonable because the 1997/98 NISVQ also contained sufficient NVQ/SVQ coverage (83%) to produce robust UK estimates.

NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1998/99 compared with 1997/98

37 The number of males obtaining an NVQ/SVQ at levels 1 and 2 dropped by over 11 thousand (7%) compared to a drop of just under 9 thousand (5%) for females. This contrasts with increases in the numbers of NVQs/SVQs at level 3 or above of well over 2 thousand (6%) for males and almost 2 thousand (3%) for females.

38 The number of people aged 21–24 who were awarded an NVQ/SVQ decreased by nearly 6 thousand (9%) when compared to 1997/98.

39 The number of awards made in the 'Professional' occupational group rose by almost a fifth (19%) compared with a drop of roughly the same proportion (20%) in 'Personal and Protective Services'. Numbers of awards in the largest occupational group 'Clerical and Secretarial' remained constant due to a large drop in levels 1 and 2 (of almost 9 thousand) being offset by an increase in levels 3 and above.

40 The number of NVQ/SVQ awards made in private training providers has gone down by 11% (over 20 thousand) since 1997/98.

41 Awards made in the most popular subject area 'Information Technology and Information' dropped by over 7%, which is higher than the average decrease for all NVQ/SVQ subjects (–3%). However, the number of awards in 'Engineering' rose by over 17%, which was largely due to an increase of awards made at level 3 or above.

1998/99 NVQ/SVQ awards by age, level and gender

42 In 1998/99, nearly 195 thousand NVQs/SVQs (44%) were made to people aged 25 and over, compared with 61 thousand (14%) for people aged 21–24 and just under 182 thousand (42%) for people aged 20 and under. Over 53% of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1998/99 were made to females, although males were predominant (53%) in the 20 and under age group. Half of all NVQs/SVQs awarded to females were made to those aged 25 and over compared with only 39% for males. A more detailed breakdown of NVQs/SVQs by age and gender is given in Table 3C.

43 Females were more likely than males to be awarded NVQ/SVQs at levels 3 and above: 30% of females and 24% of males were awarded NVQs/SVQs at level 3 or

above. Nearly 6 out of 10 (59%) of all NVQs/SVQs awarded at level 3 or above were made to females.

44 Level 2 is the most common NVQ/SVQ award in all age groups except the small number of awards made to those aged under 16 where level 1 was the most common. More than half (54%) of all NVQs/SVQs at level 3 or above are made to those aged 25 and over.

1998/99 NVQ/SVQ awards by major occupation group (SOC)

45 Table 3D shows the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded by major occupation group and gender. For NISVQ purposes SOC is used to classify the occupational area where the qualification would best fit⁹. Nearly two-thirds (62%) of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1998/99 fell in 3 occupational groups: 'Clerical and Secretarial' (24%), 'Personal and Protective Services' (17%) and 'Craft and Related' (22%). The occupation groups with the biggest gender imbalance are 'Craft and Related' (89% male), and 'Personal and Protective Services' (77% female).

46 Over half (52%) of all NVQ/SVQ awards at level 3 or above are made in either 'Management and Administration' and 'Craft and Related' occupational groups. The biggest proportion of level 1 and 2 NVQ/SVQ awards are made in the 'Clerical and Secretarial' occupation group: 30% for both levels.

1998/99 NVQ/SVQ awards by centre type

47 According to NISVQ, nearly 8 out of 10 (79%) of all NVQs/SVQs awarded were made through either Further Education Colleges or private training providers: 73% of level 1, nearly 79% of level 2 and just over 80% of all level 3 or above. It should be noted that both FE colleges and training providers frequently provide assessment and certification services to employers where candidates are based. Of the remainder by far the biggest proportion (11%) were made directly through employers where level 2 qualifications were most common (59%). For a complete breakdown of NVQs/SVQs by centre type and level see Table 3E.

1998/99 NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area

48 Almost a third of all NVQ/SVQ awards at level 3 or above were in 'Business/Management/Office Studies'. levels 1 and 2 were more evenly distributed between subject areas; the largest being: 'Sales Marketing & Distribution' for level 2 (17%) and 'Information Technology and Information' for level 1 (18%). Table 3F contains a full breakdown of subject area by level.

49 Over 70% of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in the two most popular subject areas 'Business/Management/

Office Studies' and 'Sales Marketing & Distribution' were made to females. Of the next most popular subject areas, awards in 'Information Technology & Information' were made predominantly to males (60%) and awards in 'Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety' were made predominantly to females (91%).

1998/99 NVQ/SVQ awards by framework area

50 Of the NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1998/99, just under 151 thousand (34%) were in the Framework area 'Providing Business Services', of which almost 10% were at level 1, 54% were at level 2 and 36% were at level 3 or above. The next largest framework area 'Providing Goods and Services' had almost 116 thousand awards (26% of total), of which over 20% were at level 1, just under 65% were at level 2 and nearly 15% were at level 3 or above. These figures are all contained within Table 3G.

51 Nearly two thirds (66%) of all NVQ/SVQ awards made in the two most popular framework areas 'Providing Business Services' and 'Providing Goods and Services' were made to females. Awards made in the third largest framework area 'Engineering' are predominantly (95%) made to males.

1998/99 NVQ/SVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country

52 In 1998/99, 85% of NVQs/SVQs were made in England compared to approximately 6% in Wales, 5% in Scotland and just under 3% in Northern Ireland. For the first time we can estimate that just over 1% of all NVQ/SVQ awards are made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. For a more detailed breakdown by Government Office region and country see Table 3H.

People holding NVQs/SVQs

53 According to the Autumn 1999 LFS, it is estimated that just under 2.8 million people held an NVQ/SVQ¹⁰. Of these 53% were female compared to 51% in Autumn 1998. A further 726 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held one or more NVQ/SVQ units.

54 Of those people holding an NVQ/SVQ, nearly 9 in 10 (88%) were economically active (Autumn 1999 LFS), which has not changed significantly from the survey in the previous year. The majority of the 2.5 million economically active people were employees (85%), with 8% being unemployed (ILO definition). Table G gives a full breakdown of economic activity for those holding NVQs/SVQs for the last two Autumn LFS.

55 Table H shows the estimated proportions of the working age population who hold an NVQ/SVQ by age

9 The person who achieved the NVQ/SVQ will not necessarily work in the same occupational area.

10 Analysis of numbers of people holding a NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year awarded.

TABLE G:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

Status	Autumn 1998	Autumn 1999
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)
Economically Active	2,137	2,459
of which:		
employee	1,834	2,099
self-employed	83	117
government supported training and employment programmes	37	44
unpaid family worker	-	-
ILO unemployed	181	193
Economically Inactive	258	327
Total	2,395	2,786

- less than 10,000

Source: LFS, Autumn 1998 & 1999

TABLE H:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by age group and year

Age Band	Autumn 1998	Proportion of	Autumn 1998	Proportion of
	Number (thousands)	Age Band Population (i)	Number (thousands)	Age Band Population
16-20	358	10%	413	11%
21-24	465	17%	513	19%
25-40	998	7%	1,185	8%
41-59	547	4%	637	5%
60 or over	27	2%	39	3%
Total(ii)	2,395	7%	2,786	8%

Source: LFS, Autumn 1998 & 1999

(i) Working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).

(ii) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

group from the last two Autumn LFS. In 1999 it is estimated that 8% of the working age population held an NVQ/SVQ, which is a one percentage point increase from 1998. The age-group which has the largest proportion of people with an NVQ/SVQ is the 21-24 age-band.

56 The proportion of people in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by the Standard Major Occupational Groups of their main job are shown in Table 3A from the last two Autumn LFS. The major occupation group having the greatest proportion of people holding NVQs/SVQs was 'Personal and protective service occupations', having 14% of people employed holding an NVQ/SVQ in 1999. The major occupation group with the smallest proportion of its employees holding NVQs/SVQs was the 'Professional occupations' group (3%).

57 Table 3B from the Autumn 1999 LFS gives a Government Office regional breakdown of the number of people holding NVQs/SVQs. Of those holding NVQs/SVQs, 85% were living in England, 5% in Wales, 8% in Scotland and 2% in Northern Ireland. The

TABLE I:
People studying towards NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

Status	1998	1999
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)
Economically Active	730	785
of which:		
employee	609	634
self-employed	16	21
government supported training and employment programmes	68	83
unpaid family worker	-	-
ILO unemployed	37	46
Economically Inactive	104	113
Total	834	899

- less than 10,000

Source: LFS, Autumn 1998 & 1999

Government Office region containing the largest number of people holding NVQs/SVQs was the North West (inc. Merseyside) with 385 thousand people. The Government Office region with the greatest proportion of its working age population holding an NVQ/SVQ was the North East with 11%. The smallest proportion, with 5% of the working age population holding an NVQ/SVQ, was London.

People studying towards NVQs/SVQs

58 According to the LFS, in Autumn 1999, there were nearly 900 thousand people studying towards an NVQ/SVQ, and of these only 145 thousand (16%) were full-time students, a slight fall from Autumn 1998. Over two-thirds (70%) of those studying towards an NVQ/SVQ did not already have one.

59 Of the people studying towards an NVQ/SVQ, 87% were economically active. The majority of these economically active people were employees (81%), with 6% being unemployed (ILO definition) and a further 11% on government supported training and employment programmes. Table I gives a full breakdown by year of the economic activity of people studying towards NVQs/SVQs.

AWARDS OF GNVQs/GSVQs

Growth in GNVQ/GSVQ awards over time

60 Table J (and Chart 5), based on NISVQ data, shows the numbers of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded by level over time. The number of GNVQ/GSVQ awards has grown significantly since their introduction, from under 1 thousand awards in 1992/93 to over 113 thousand awards in 1998/99. In the last academic year awards of GNVQs/GSVQs rose again by 10%, however the increased growth was slightly less when compared to the growth rate of the previous two years.

TABLE J:
GNVQs/GSVQs awards by level and year

Year(i)	Awards (thousands)			Total (ii) (iii)
	Level 1 / Foundation	Level 2 / Intermediate	Level 3 / Advanced	
1992/93	0	1	0	1
1993/94	1	16	2	19
1994/95	3	32	12	47
1995/96	6	44	34	84
1996/97	9	48	36	93
1997/98	9	49	44	103
1998/99	12	54	47	113
1999/00 (Q1)	0	3	2	5

Source: NISVQ

- (i) Academic years from October to September.
(ii) Awards are excluded if the centre or qualification was not identified.
(iii) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

GNVQs/GSVQs by level over time

61 All levels of awards have shown an annual increase since 1992/93. Awards made at level 2 (Intermediate level) continues to represent the highest share of GNVQs/GSVQs in each year, although this has decreased since 1992/93 as more awards have been made at level 1 (Foundation level) and level 3 (Advanced level). The proportion of awards made at level 1 in 1998/99 (11%) was at their highest since 1992/93. The number of awards made at level 3 have quadrupled in the last 5 years.

GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1998/99 compared with 1997/98

62 The number of awards made at level 1 increased by a third (33%) when compared to 1997/98. Awards made at level 2 showed a 10% increase and awards made at level 3 were up by 7% compared to 1997/98.

63 The number of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded to 16 year olds in 1998/99 increased by nearly half when compared to 16 year olds in 1997/98.

64 When compared to 1997/98 the number of awards gained through Schools rose by 16%. Awards gained at level 1 in Schools increased by a third on 1997/98.

65 One of the fastest growing subject areas when compared to 1997/98 was 'Information Technology and Information', which showed a rise of 42%.

1998/99 GNVQs/GSVQs by age, level and gender

66 Over three quarters (76%) of GNVQs/GSVQs were awarded to people aged 18 and under with the majority (32%) of awards gained by 17 year olds, compared to 29% made to 18 year olds and 15% made to those aged

16 and under. More awards were made to males aged 17, whereas females gained the majority of their awards at ages 16 and 18. For those people aged 19 and above, slightly more awards were made to males (51%) than females (49%). Table 4A provides a more detailed breakdown on GNVQs/GSVQs by age and gender.

67 In 1998/99 more awards were made to males at level 1 (55%) and level 2 (52%), however slightly more awards were made to females at level 3 (53%).

68 For the number of GNVQ/GSVQ awards attained by 17 year olds, four out of five (80%) were made at level 2 whereas the highest proportion of awards made to 18 year olds were attained at level 3 (84%).

1998/99 GNVQs/GSVQs by major occupation group (SOC)

69 According to NISVQ 'Clerical and Secretarial', continues to be the most dominant occupational group with over a third of GNVQs/GSVQs made in this group in 1998/99. Most of these awards were made to males (59%) compared to females (41%)¹¹. The second most popular occupation group was 'Associate Professionals', with just over a quarter of awards (nearly 31 thousand) made in 1998/99. More females gained an award in this group 59% compared to 41% to males. Over 24 thousand awards were made in the group 'Personal and Protective Services' with the majority of these awards attained by females (63%) compared to males (37%). More detailed occupation group by gender figures are contained in Table 4B.

70 Almost half of the awards made in 'Clerical and Secretarial' were at level 2 which represented over a third of all GNVQs/GSVQs awards made at level 2 in 1998/99. The occupation group 'Craft and Related' had the largest proportion of level 1 awards, representing over half (52%) of awards made within this group. Awards made in the occupational group 'Management and Administration' were all at level 3.

1998/99 GNVQs/GSVQs by centre type

71 Table 4C provides the numbers of GNVQs/GSVQs by centre type and level. Nearly two thirds (63%) of GNVQs/GSVQs were made at either Further Education Colleges or Six Form Colleges, while 36% awards were made at Schools. Only 1% of the total number of GNVQs awarded in 1998/99 were made at either Private Training Providers or Employers. Just under half (49%) of awards gained through either Further Education Colleges or Six Form Colleges were made at level 3. The majority of awards gained through Schools were at level 2 (59%).

¹¹ As part of NISVQ, the Standard Occupational Classification is used to identify a major occupational group where a qualification best fits. It does not mean that the person who holds the qualification works in the occupational area.

1998/99 GNVQs/GSVQs by subject area

72 The most popular subject area continues to be 'Business and Management' with over one in three (35 thousand) of GNVQs/GSVQs awards made in this area in 1998/99. More awards were made at level 3 (48%) compared to level 2 (44%) and level 1 (8%). Over 20 thousand GNVQs/GSVQs awards were made in the subject area 'Catering, Food, Leisure, Services and Tourism'. Marginally more of these awards were made at level 2 (47%) compared to level 3 (46%), Only 8% were made at level 1. A similar number of awards were made in the subject area 'Health Care, Medicine, Health and Safety' (almost 20 thousand). There were also more awards made at level 2 (49%) compared to level 3 (37%) and level 1 (14%). More detailed subject area by level figures for GNVQs/GSVQs are contained in Table 4D.

73 Over 93% of awards made in the area "Health Care, Medicine, Health and Safety were made to females. From almost 13 thousand awards made in the area "Information Technology and Information": 80% were made to males.

74 Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by vocational area followed an almost identical pattern to the subject area breakdown.

1998/99 GNVQs/GSVQs by Government Office Region and Country

75 In 1998/99, 9 out of 10 (90%) of all GNVQ/GSVQ awards were made in England, compared to 5% in Wales, 3% in Northern Ireland and less than 1% in Scotland. The Government Office region containing the largest number of GNVQ/GSVQ awards was South East with nearly 16 thousand awards (14% of the total awards for England). All other regions except Eastern have shown an increase in the amount of awards compared to 1997/98. These figures are contained within Table 4E.

Number of people registered on GNVQs

76 According to the GNVQ Student Database the number of people registering to take a GNVQ in England has grown significantly since 1992/93 from just over 5 thousand in 1992/93 to over 190 thousand in 1998/99, however the rate of growth each year since 1995/96 has declined. Since 1992/93 the proportion of registrations at level 1 has increased every year where as the number of registrations at level 3 has shown a marginal decrease up until this year when they rose again very slightly. Registrations at level 2 have continued to represent the highest proportion by level since 1993/94 although they have also shown a gradual decrease in proportion since 1993/94. Chart 6 shows the number of registrations by level over time.

77 In 1998/99 over half (54%) of GNVQ registrations were aged 16. For those aged 16 and under Intermediate was the most popular level, whereas Advanced level was the most common amongst those aged 17 and over. Table

4F shows the number of GNVQ registrations by age and level for the last two academic years.

AWARDS OF OTHER VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

78 NISVQ receives information on awards of full other vocational qualifications (Other VQs) from four of the largest awarding bodies in the UK. Analysis presented in this bulletin relates **only** to awards made by these bodies and are not UK estimates of Other VQs. QCA estimate a *notional* NVQ level to Other VQs for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.

Other VQ awards over time

79 Between 1992/93 and 1995/96 there had been a marked reduction in the numbers of Other VQs awarded: from about 586 thousand in 1992/93 to about 423 thousand in 1995/96. Since then the trend has been upwards with 439 thousand in 1996/97, 449 thousand in 1997/98 and 501 thousand in 1998/99. This is illustrated in Table K and Chart 7.

TABLE K:
Other vocational awards by level and year

Year (i)	Awards (thousands)				Total (iii) (iv)
	Notional Level 1(ii)	Notional Level 2	Notional Level 3	Notional Levels 4 & 5	
1991/92	211	127	159	56	553
1992/93	150	174	191	72	586
1993/94	208	171	138	63	580
1994/95	173	126	115	47	460
1995/96	188	89	94	53	423
1996/97	235	75	75	54	439
1997/98(v)	252	82	66	48	449
1998/99	279	96	74	52	501
1999/00 (Q1)	7	7	8	0	28

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

(ii) For Other VQs, notional NVQ levels are estimated by QCA for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.

(iii) Awards are excluded if the centre or qualification was not identified.

(iv) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

(v) The number of Other VQ awards made in 1997/98 has been revised since the last bulletin

Other VQs by level over time

80 Table K also shows that three quarters of all Other VQs awarded in 1998/99 were at *notional* levels 1 and 2 compared with 65% in 1994/95. The upward trend in the proportion of awards in a year made at *notional* level 1, which started in 1993/94, appears to be levelling off: 56% in both 1997/98 and 1998/99.

81 The number of awards made at all levels has increased since 1997/98: 27 thousand (11%) at *notional* level 1, 14 thousand (17%) at *notional* level 2 and 12 thousand (11%) at *notional* level 3 or above. The number of awards at *notional* level 3 or above has returned to

roughly the same level as it was in 1996/97: 126 thousand in 1998/99 and 129 thousand in 1996/97.

Other VQs awarded in 1998/99 compared with 1997/98

82 The number of females who achieved a *notional* level 2 award rose by nearly 8 thousand (21%), which represented the largest proportional increase for any level.

83 The number of awards made at *notional* level 1 in the 'Associate Professionals' occupational group rose by over 2 thousand (60%), whilst the number of awards at *notional* level 2 in 'Plant Machine Operation' dropped by over one third (1,500). Awards made at *notional* level 3 in 'Clerical and Secretarial' rose by over 2 thousand (50%), whereas awards in 'Management and Administration' fell by 10 per cent (900).

84 The number of awards made at *notional* levels 1 and 2 in Sixth Form Colleges rose by over a quarter (27%) to almost 22 thousand.

85 Awards made in the most popular subject area 'Information Technology and Information' rose by over 28 thousand (14%), which is slightly higher than the average increase for all Other VQ subjects (12%).

1998/99 Other VQ awards by age, level and gender

86 In 1998/99, nearly 270 thousand Other VQs (56%) were made to people aged 25 and over, compared with nearly 165 thousand Other VQs (34%) for people aged 20 and under. Over 52% of all Other VQs awarded in 1998/99 were made to females, although males were predominant (55%) in the under 25 age group. More than 60% of all Other VQs awarded to females were made to those aged 25 and over compared with 49% for males. A more detailed breakdown of Other VQs by age and gender is given in Table 5A.

87 Females were more likely than men to be awarded an Other VQ at levels 1 and 2: 81% of females and 68% of males were awarded Other VQs at levels 1 and 2. Over 60% of all Other VQs at *notional* level 3 or above were made to males.

88 Level 1 is the most common Other VQ award in all age groups. Over 58% of all Other VQs at *notional* level 3 or above were made to those aged under 25.

1998/99 Other VQs by major occupation group (SOC)

89 Over half (283 thousand) of the Other VQs recorded on NISVQ were made in the occupational area 'Clerical and Secretarial', of these 68% were made to females¹². The occupation groups with the biggest gender imbalance are 'Plant and Machine Operation' (92%

male) and 'Craft and Related' (91% male). Table 5B shows more information on occupational area by gender.

90 Nearly two thirds of *notional* level 3 or above awards were made in either 'Associate Professionals' or 'Professionals' occupational groups. More than 8 out of 10 (83%) of all *notional* level 1 awards were made in the 'Clerical or Secretarial' occupation group.

1998/99 Other VQs by centre type

91 According to NISVQ, 92% of Other VQs were made through education establishments or private training providers: 62% of which were through Further Education Colleges. Of those awarded at FE Colleges: 47% were at *notional* level 1, 20% were at *notional* level 2 and 33% were at *notional* level 3 or above. For a complete breakdown of Other VQs by centre type by level see Table 5C.

1998/99 Other VQs by subject area

92 The largest subject area with over 45% of all Other VQs was 'Information Technology and Information'; nearly 94% of these awards were at *notional* level 1. Over three quarters of all Other VQs at *notional* level 1 were made in 'Information Technology and Information'. Over half (56%) of all Other VQs at *notional* level 2 were made in either 'Business/Management/Office Studies' or 'Services to Industry' and over a third of all *notional* level 3 or above were made in either 'Engineering' or 'Business/Management/Office Studies'. Table 5D provides more details of subject area by level.

93 Two thirds of the Other VQs made in the two most popular subject areas, 'Information Technology and Information' and 'Business/Management/Office Studies', were made to females. In the next two most popular subject areas, 'Engineering' and 'Construction and Property (Built Environment)', awards were made predominantly to males (97% and 87% respectively).

1998/99 Other VQs by Government Office Region and Country

94 In 1998/99, 85% of all Other VQs awards on NISVQ were made in England, compared to just over 4% in Wales, 4% in Scotland and just under 4% in Northern Ireland. The Government Office Region containing the largest number of Other VQ awards was the North West (inc. Merseyside) with 69 thousand awards (14% of the total awards for England). For the first time we can estimate that just over 3% of all Other VQ awards are made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. These figures are contained within Table 5E.

¹² As part of NISVQ, SOC is used to identify a major occupational group where a qualification best fits. It does not mean that the person who holds the qualification works in the occupational area.

Employers' awareness/involvement in vocational qualifications

95 In 1999 the Learning and Training at Work (LTW) survey replaced the Skill Needs in Britain (SNIB) survey. The scope of these two surveys is different, the LTW survey covers all employers in England regardless of their size or industry sector. The scope of the SNIB survey was employers with more than 25 employees in the UK, in all industry sectors except from those in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sectors. In the analyses below the 1997 and 1998 SNIB data has been re-analysed to produce figures for England only and the LTW figures have been analysed so that comparisons can be made with the 1997 and 1998 SNIB, e.g. only including employers with more than 25 employees.

96 Learning and Training at Work indicated that 96% of employers in England had heard of NVQ/SVQs. This is slightly lower than in 1998 (97%).

97 Of all employers, 58% had been involved with NVQs/SVQs over the last 12 months, compared with 50% in 1998. The survey also shows that 47% of employers, who are aware of NVQs/SVQs, offer them to their employees, which is up 6 percentage points from 1997 (no data available from 1998 study).

98 81% of employers, who are currently offering NVQs/SVQs were either fairly or very satisfied with the NVQ/SVQs on offer. The main reasons quoted by employers for being satisfied were: the relevance and focus of training offered had improved; they improve the knowledge of employees and the relevance which employers felt that NVQ/SVQs had to the needs of their workforce on an individual basis.

99 Of those employers who were dissatisfied with NVQ/SVQs the main reason given was they do not cover all the skills the company needs.

100 Of those employers offering an opinion 83% felt the quality of NVQ/SVQ assessment was either very or

fairly good. 13% said the quality neither good nor bad and 5% thought the quality of assessment was poor. Of those 5% the main reason given was that the NVQ/SVQ assessment was poorly structured or organised and lacked guidance.

Future developments to NISVQ

101 DfEE/QCA will also be looking at ways of improving the information available on Other VQs. Awarding bodies who are seeking to accredit their Other VQs with QCA will submit information on these qualifications to QCA and also supply candidate level data on these awards to NISVQ. The accreditation schedule is on a sector by sector basis.

102 We will also be looking to improve the timeliness and quality of data submitted to NISVQ. For 1999/2000 it is mandatory to collect information on ethnicity and special needs and send it to a central point. We will be working with QCA to ensure that data requirements are specified and met in accordance with QCA's Common Code of Practice.

Further information

103 For enquiries about the contents of this bulletin see contact points on inside cover. Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT (Telephone 020-7925-5615).

104 There are also a range of additional tables available from NISVQ on request, which include more detailed analyses by Government Office region. Also, for more information on qualifications see Statistical First Release 9/2000: 'The level of highest qualification held by Young People and Adults: England 1999'. An electronic version of the bulletin and the SFR can be accessed from the DfEE Statistical Internet Site (www.dfee.gov.uk/statistics).

TABLE 1:
Awards of NVQs by academic year and level

		Numbers of full NVQ certificates(i)					
Year(ii)	Quarter	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total
Prior to 1991/92		46,134	68,142	13,288	8,505	0	136,069
1991/92	Q1	18,042	13,451	2,040	165	0	33,698
	Q2	8,047	14,907	3,025	2,281	0	28,260
	Q3	7,715	14,272	1,744	117	0	23,848
	Q4	13,988	43,434	4,944	4,081	118	66,565
Total 1991/92		47,792	86,064	11,753	6,644	118	152,371
1992/93	Q1	10,234	19,662	3,165	304	107	33,472
	Q2	11,769	26,807	3,616	2,476	50	44,718
	Q3	9,510	22,555	2,936	271	35	35,307
	Q4	16,248	48,073	6,519	4,795	352	75,987
Total 1992/93		47,761	117,097	16,236	7,846	544	189,484
1993/94	Q1	10,730	29,156	4,535	921	173	45,515
	Q2	13,634	34,863	4,612	3,518	54	56,681
	Q3	13,538	27,937	5,070	729	124	47,398
	Q4	16,907	52,242	10,897	5,609	308	85,963
Total 1993/94		54,809	144,198	25,114	10,777	659	235,557
1994/95	Q1	10,498	29,709	9,102	1,015	200	50,524
	Q2	14,080	39,916	14,367	3,606	165	72,134
	Q3	10,334	29,853	8,212	744	158	49,301
	Q4	17,384	64,846	17,001	1,857	379	101,467
Total 1994/95		52,296	164,324	48,682	7,222	902	273,426
1995/96	Q1	10,714	35,636	11,384	1,393	228	59,355
	Q2	15,270	56,018	15,889	1,831	248	89,256
	Q3	13,211	40,946	11,248	2,013	223	67,640
	Q4	21,179	80,874	25,273	2,559	359	130,244
Total 1995/96		60,374	213,506	63,794	7,796	1,058	346,495
1996/97	Q1	17,576	54,391	16,628	1,538	305	90,438
	Q2	18,862	67,228	22,067	2,023	206	110,386
	Q3	14,889	52,600	17,798	1,576	301	87,164
	Q4	25,218	92,955	33,892	3,482	360	155,907
Total 1996/97		76,545	267,174	90,385	8,619	1,172	443,895
1997/98	Q1	15,883	57,104	19,700	1,893	253	94,833
	Q2	17,497	69,659	26,866	3,188	231	117,441
	Q3	13,167	46,314	16,835	1,553	243	78,112
	Q4	24,117	89,906	36,847	4,322	356	155,548
Total 1997/98		70,664	262,983	100,248	10,956	1,083	445,934
1998/99	Q1	13,978	53,783	20,454	2,086	213	90,519
	Q2	11,099	55,877	22,670	3,562	197	93,405
	Q3	12,659	50,795	18,552	1,944	202	84,152
	Q4	22,147	92,596	39,426	5,876	246	160,291
Total 1997/98		59,883	253,051	101,107	13,468	858	428,367
1999/00	Q1	12,853	53,468	22,925	2,324	193	91,763

Source: OCA

- (i) Includes awards of expired NVQs
(ii) Academic years from October to September
(iii) Previous year's figures have been amended slightly since the last bulletin (see Background Notes section for explanation)

TABLE 2:
Awards of NVQs by framework area and year(i)

		Numbers of full NVQ certificates(ii)								
Framework area	Prior to 1991/92	1991/1992	1992/1993	1993/1994	1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998(ii)	1998/1999	Total
Tending animals, plants and land	1,452	2,712	4,337	7,821	10,007	10,633	12,793	10,573	10,605	70,933
Extracting/providing natural resources	28	830	1,716	2,710	2,115	1,326	1,271	810	1,030	11,836
Constructing	6,418	7,018	19,186	27,741	25,960	24,013	28,320	26,993	27,788	193,437
Engineering	4,551	8,784	17,599	25,662	38,321	39,092	50,179	45,729	46,134	276,051
Manufacturing	3,817	4,194	5,164	5,563	8,949	9,904	13,177	17,442	22,532	90,742
Transporting	756	167	496	1,016	2,979	6,760	11,631	9,143	10,283	43,231
Providing goods and services	44,580	33,843	42,297	55,763	73,360	105,735	135,345	131,263	112,025	734,211
Health, social and protective services	14,032	17,175	11,381	16,803	21,325	28,188	35,877	40,436	44,270	229,487
Providing business services	60,435	77,640	87,198	92,110	89,286	116,828	149,810	156,694	147,996	977,997
Communicating	0	7	18	78	82	156	469	589	873	2,272
Developing/extending knowledge/skills	0	1	92	290	1,042	3,860	5,023	6,262	4,831	21,401
Total	136,069	152,371	189,484	235,557	273,426	346,495	443,895	445,934	428,367	2,651,598

Source: OCA

- (i) Academic years from October to September
(ii) Includes awards of expired NVQs
(iii) Numbers of qualifications in 1997/98 and previous years have been revised since the last bulletin (see Background Notes section for explanation)

TABLE 3A:
People in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by SOC

Major Occupation Group of main job (SOC)	1998 Number (thousands)	Proportion of people in employment(i)	1999 Number (thousands)	Proportion of people in employment
Managers and administrators	221	5%	267	6%
Professional occupations	84	3%	99	3%
Associate professional occupations	160	6%	208	7%
Clerical and secretarial occupations	375	9%	413	10%
Craft and related occupations	297	9%	323	10%
Personal and protective service occupations	345	12%	409	14%
Sales occupations	165	8%	213	10%
Plant and machine operatives	171	7%	173	7%
Other occupations	129	6%	150	8%
Not classified	-	-	-	-
Total(ii)	1,956	7%	2,267	8%

Source: LFS, Autumn 1998 & 1999

- (i) Economically active working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59), excluding those who are ILO unemployed.
(ii) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 3B:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by Government Office Region and Country

Government Office Region	Number (thousands)	Proportion of Regional Population (ii)
United Kingdom	2,786	8%
Great Britain	2,717	8%
England	2,357	8%
South East	316	6%
London	245	5%
East of England	227	7%
South West	241	8%
West Midlands	289	9%
East Midlands	208	8%
Yorkshire & the Humber	273	9%
North West and Merseyside	385	9%
North East	175	11%
Wales	151	9%
Scotland	209	7%
Northern Ireland	69	7%

Source - LFS, Autumn 1999

- (i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.
(ii) Working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).

TABLE 3C:
NVQ/SVQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1998/99

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	-	-	-
16	4.3	5.5	9.8
17	22.7	24.3	46.9
18	27.7	28.7	56.4
19	18.5	22.7	41.1
20	12.2	15.3	27.5
21-24	31.7	29.7	61.4
25-40	71.9	51.8	123.8
41-59	42.6	26.2	68.9
Over 60	-	1.2	2
Not stated	2.1	2.1	4.2
Total(i)	234.7	207.6	442.2

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3D:
NVQ/SVQ awards by SOC and gender 1998/99

Major Occupation Group (SOC) (i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Management and Administration	45.3	20.3	65.6
Professional	18.8	6.8	25.6
Associate Professionals	13.6	11.2	24.8
Clerical and Secretarial	63.5	43.2	106.8
Craft and Related	10.2	85.2	95.5
Personal and Protective Services	56.7	16.6	73.3
Sales	13.3	4.1	17.3
Plant and Machine Operation	1.7	10.8	12.5
Miscellaneous	5.5	7.5	13.1
Not classified	5.9	1.9	7.8
Total(ii)	234.6	207.7	442.2

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 3E:
NVQ/SVQ awards assessment centre and level 1998/99

Centre Type	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
School	1.6	8.5	1.9	-	12.1
FE College/Tertiary College	28.2	91.8	41.1	7.9	169.1
Sixth Form College	-	1.1	-	-	1.7
Adult Education Centre	-	1.8	-	-	3.0
University or other Higher Education centre	-	1.9	1.3	-	4.0
Private Training provider	16.7	111.7	43.2	3.6	175.3
Local government/Central government/NHS	1.4	3.7	1.3	-	6.6
Voluntary organisation	-	-	-	0.0	-
Employer	8.5	28.4	9.9	1.5	48.3
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	-	0.0	-
Armed Forces	2.2	-	-	-	3.2
Overseas centre	-	2.8	1.7	-	5.7
Other	-	8.2	2.5	-	11.9
Total(i)	61.9	261.3	104.4	14.6	442.2

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3F:
NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area code and level 1998/99

Subject Area	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	3.9	42.6	28.5	10.3	85.3
Sales Marketing & Distribution	3.6	43.9	13.3	-	60.9
Information Technology & Information	11.4	29.0	6.0	-	46.5
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Education/Training/Teaching	0.0	-	3.9	1.1	5.1
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	1.4	16.4	6.3	0.0	24.0
Arts and Crafts	-	-	-	0.0	1.4
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	0.0	-	-	-	1.3
Performing Arts	0.0	-	0.0	-	-
Sports Games and Recreation	1.6	2.4	-	-	4.4
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	9.1	16.9	4.5	-	30.5
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	0.0	25.3	16.3	-	42.1
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	6.5	2.3	-	1.2	10.1
Sciences & Mathematics	-	-	-	0.0	-
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	3.2	7.9	1.8	-	13.0
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	7.1	20.7	7.4	-	35.2
Services to Industry	0.0	-	3.3	-	4.4
Manufacturing/Production Work	6.0	29.5	-	-	36.5
Engineering	3.6	13.7	9.7	-	27.2
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	-	-	-	0.0	-
Transport Services	-	5.8	-	-	6.2
Not Classified	4.3	2.1	-	-	7.3
Total(i)	61.9	261.3	104.4	14.6	442.2

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3G:
NVQ/SVQ awards by framework area code and level 1998/99

Framework Area	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
Tending Animals, Plants and Land	3.2	6.7	1.5	-	11.5
Extracting and Providing Natural Resources	-	1.1	-	0.0	1.3
Constructing	6.9	16.1	6.5	-	29.6
Engineering	2.2	29.3	14.6	-	46.4
Manufacturing	5.1	17.3	1.2	-	23.6
Transporting	2.8	7.5	-	-	10.5
Providing Goods and Services	23.8	74.8	16.7	-	115.5
Providing Health, Social and Protective Services	2.8	26.3	16.3	1.6	46.9
Providing Business Services	15.0	81.5	43.6	10.9	151.0
Communicating	0.0	-	-	-	-
Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill	0.0	-	3.5	1.1	4.8
Not classified	-	-	-	0.0	-
Total(i)	61.9	261.4	104.4	14.6	442.2

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 3H:
NVQ/SVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1998/99

Government Office Region and Country	Awards (thousands)	
	All	
United Kingdom	435.9	
Great Britain	423.5	
England	374.8	
South East	50.0	
London	42.3	
Eastern	32.9	
South West	34.0	
West Midlands	50.4	
East Midlands	32.4	
Yorkshire & the Humber	40.7	
North West and Merseyside	65.1	
North West	45.7	
Merseyside	19.4	
North East	27.0	
Wales	26.9	
Scotland	21.8	
Northern Ireland	12.5	
Overseas	5.7	
Not classified	-	
Total(i)	442.2	

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 4A:
GNVO/GSVQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1998/99

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	-	-	1.1
16	7.8	7.7	15.5
17	17.4	19	36.4
18	17.2	15.5	32.8
19	7.4	8.5	15.9
20	2.3	2.7	5
21-24	1.5	1.7	3.2
25-40	1.9	-	2.7
41-59	-	-	-
Over 60	-	-	-
Not stated	-	-	-
Total(i)	56.6	56.8	113.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4B:
GNVO/GSVQ awards by SOC and gender 1998/99

Major Occupation Group (SOC) (i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Management and Administration	-	3.5	4.1
Professional	-	-	-
Associate Professionals	18.1	12.7	30.7
Clerical and Secretarial	16.2	23	39.1
Craft and Related	-	2.9	3
Personal and Protective Services	15.4	9.1	24.5
Sales	-	-	-
Plant and Machine Operation	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Not classified	6.1	5	11.1
Total(ii)	56.6	56.8	113.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 4C:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards assessment centre and level 1998/99

				Awards (thousands)
Centre Type	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
School	4.3	24.1	12.3	40.7
FE College/Tertiary College	6.9	23.9	29.1	59.9
Sixth Form College	-	4.9	5.4	11.1
Adult Education Centre	-	-	-	-
University or other Higher Education centre	-	-	-	-
Private Training provider	-	-	-	-
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	-	-	-
Voluntary organisation	-	-	0.0	-
Employer	-	-	-	-
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	0.0	-
Armed Forces	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overseas centre	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total(i)	12.3	53.8	47.3	113.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4D:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by subject area code and level 1998/99

				Awards (thousands)
Subject Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	2.7	15.5	16.7	35.0
Sales Marketing & Distribution	0.0	-	-	-
Information Technology & Information	1.4	7.1	4.1	12.7
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education/Training/Teaching	0.0	-	-	-
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arts and Crafts	-	5.3	4.6	10.3
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	0.0	-	1.3	2.2
Performing Arts	-	-	-	-
Sports Games and Recreation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	1.6	9.4	9.2	20.2
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	2.8	9.7	7.3	19.8
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sciences & Mathematics	-	1.4	1.4	2.9
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	-	-	-	-
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	1.7	-	-	2.8
Services to Industry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing/Production Work	-	1.1	-	1.9
Engineering	-	2.1	1.4	3.9
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transport Services	0.0	0.0	-	-
Not Classified	-	-	0.0	1.0
Total(i)	12.3	53.8	47.3	113.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4E:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1998/99

Government Office Region and Country		All
United Kingdom		112.8
Great Britain		109.0
England		101.5
South East		15.9
London		15.7
Eastern		11.4
South West		9.1
West Midlands		12.1
East Midlands		7.5
Yorkshire & the Humber		10.4
North West and Merseyside		13.7
North West		10.9
Merseyside		2.8
North East		5.6
Wales		5.8
Scotland		1.7
Northern Ireland		3.8
Overseas		-
Not classified		-
Total(i)		113.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4F:
Number of GNVQ registrations by academic year by age

Academic Year	Age	Awards (thousands)		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
1997/98(ii)	14-15	10.2	13.7	-
	16	10.9	55.1	38.4
	17	2.4	11.2	24
	18	-	2.8	6.5
	19 & over	1.4	3.9	6.6
	Total(i)	25.6	86.7	75.7
1998/99	14-15	10.6	16.8	-
	16	11.8	51.2	40.7
	17	2.6	10.4	23.6
	18	-	2.9	6.5
	19 & over	1.7	4	6.5
	Total(i)	27.7	85.3	77.5

- less than 1000

Source: GNVQ Student Database (England only)

(i) Numbers may not add up column totals due to rounding

(ii) Numbers of 1997/98 qualifications have been revised up since the last bulletin

TABLE 5A:
Other VQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1998/99

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	5	3.3	8.3
16	11.5	10.1	21.6
17	21.6	21	42.6
18	19.1	21.1	40.3
19	11.5	17.2	28.7
20	8.8	14.4	23.2
21-24	20.4	30.3	50.7
25-40	89.3	72.3	161.6
41-59	61.7	36.8	98.5
Over 60	4.6	4.9	9.4
Not stated	10.8	5.7	16.6
Total(i)	264.4	237	501.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5B:
Other VQ awards by SOC and gender 1998/99

Major Occupation Group (SOC) (i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Management and Administration	5.4	3.9	9.3
Professional	9	9.6	18.7
Associate Professionals	37.6	58.9	96.5
Clerical and Secretarial	192.4	90.4	282.9
Craft and Related	5.4	54.4	59.8
Personal and Protective Services	7.7	3.6	11.3
Sales	-	-	-
Plant and Machine Operation	-	7	7.6
Miscellaneous	3.6	7.6	11.2
Not classified	1.9	1.3	3.2
Total(ii)	264.4	237	501.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 5C:
Other VQ awards assessment centre and level 1998/99

Centre Type	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
School	41.7	5.4	2.0	-	49.8
FE College/Tertiary College	145.9	60.9	59.7	43.0	309.5
Sixth Form College	18.6	3.2	-	-	22.7
Adult Education Centre	26.3	6.2	-	-	33.1
University or other Higher Education centre	3.7	1.5	1.3	5.3	11.8
Private Training provider	23.6	9.1	2.5	1.2	36.4
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary organisation	-	0.0	0.0	-	-
Employer	8.2	2.5	1.2	-	12.3
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	-	0.0	-
Armed Forces	2.2	-	1.1	-	4.1
Overseas centre	5.7	5.7	4.4	1.4	17.1
Other	2.8	-	-	-	3.5
Total(i)	279.3	96.1	73.8	52.2	501.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5D:
Other VQ awards by subject area code and level 1998/99

Subject Area	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	11.7	39.8	5.0	12.0	68.5
Sales Marketing & Distribution	-	-	-	-	1.8
Information Technology & Information	213.4	5.5	5.5	3.2	227.5
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	-	0.0	-	-
Area Studies/Cultural Studies/Language/Literature	-	-	-	-	-
Education/Training/Teaching	2.7	4.1	2.9	1.9	11.5
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	-	1.4	2.1	-	4.4
Arts and Crafts	3.3	3.1	7.7	3.6	17.6
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	1.7	1.3	3.5	1.7	8.2
Performing Arts	-	1.5	4.6	-	6.9
Sports Games and Recreation	2.8	-	2.4	-	6.2
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	11.2	1.8	2.1	3.3	18.3
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	3.0	1.2	9.6	1.9	15.6
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	-	-	-	-	1.4
Sciences & Mathematics	-	-	1.1	-	1.7
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	-	3.3	4.6	1.1	9.2
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	8.7	6.6	3.1	3.7	22.1
Services to Industry	1.8	14.3	1.9	-	18.9
Manufacturing/Production Work	-	-	1.6	1.2	4.0
Engineering	13.5	9.0	14.8	13.4	50.8
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	1.7	-	-	-	3.1
Transport Services	1.1	-	-	-	1.9
Not classified	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Total(i)	279.3	96.1	73.8	52.2	501.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5E:
Other VQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1998/99

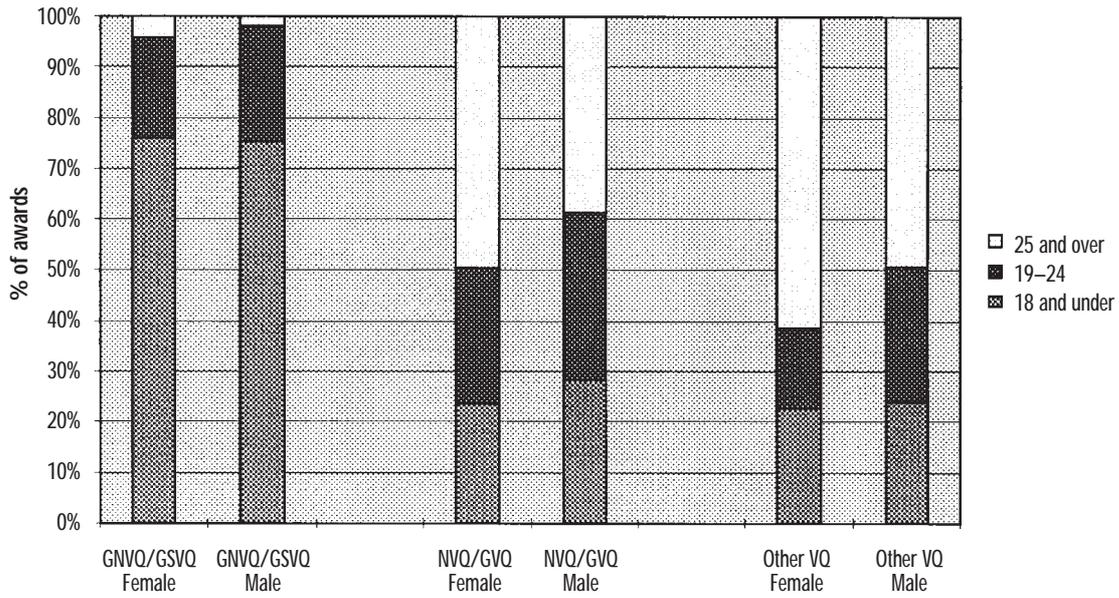
Government Office Region and Country		Awards (thousands)
		All
United Kingdom		483.9
Great Britain		465.8
	England	424.2
	South East	56.9
	London	37.0
	Eastern	39.3
	South West	48.1
	West Midlands	51.9
	East Midlands	41.4
	Yorkshire & the Humber	50.4
	North West and Merseyside	69.0
	North West	52.0
	Merseyside	17.0
	North East	30.3
	Wales	21.5
	Scotland	20.1
	Northern Ireland	18.0
Overseas		17.1
Not classified		-
Total(i)		501.4

- less than 1000

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

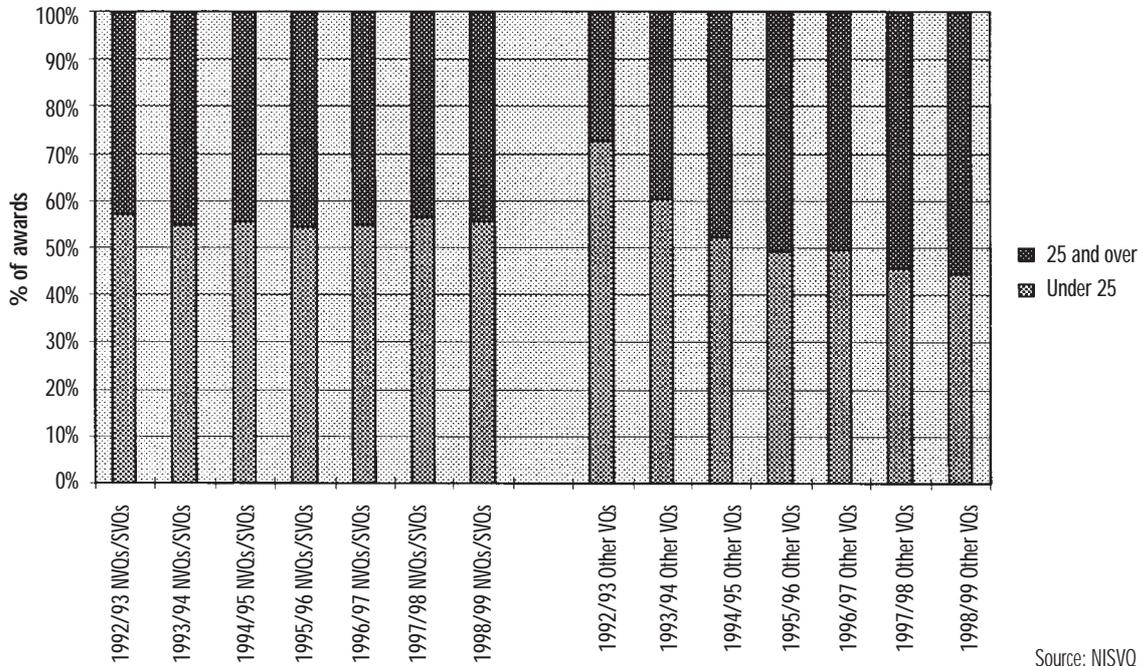
Source: NISVQ

CHART 1:
Comparison of qualification type by age band 1998/99



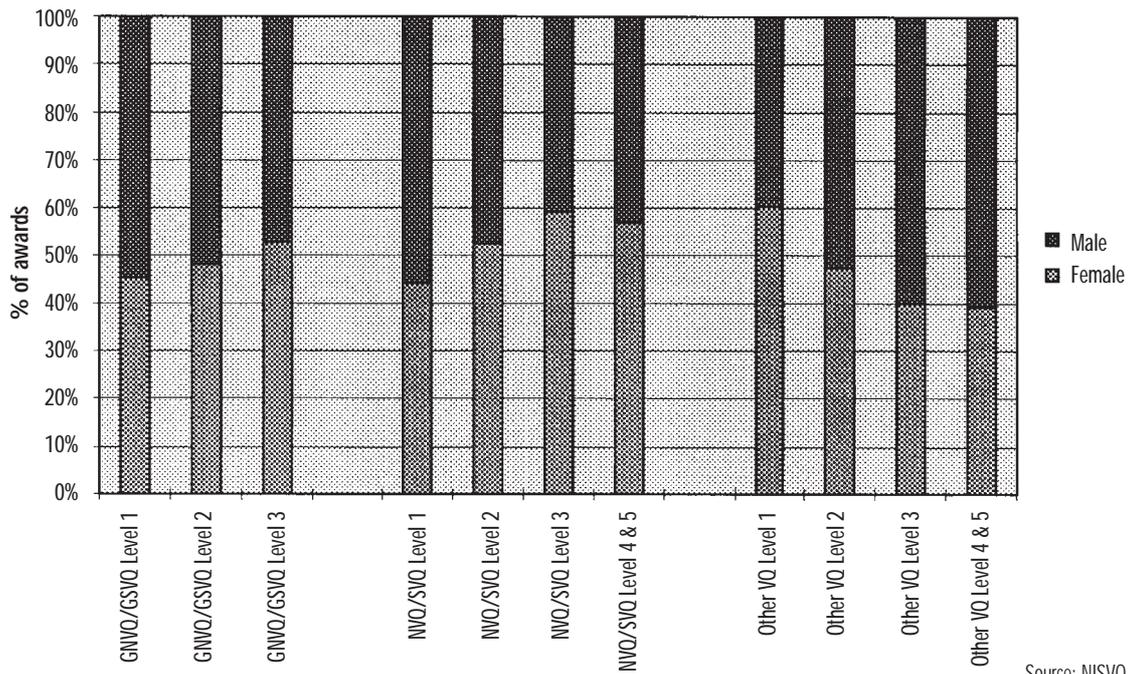
Source: NISVO

CHART 2:
Comparison of NVQs/SVQs with Other VQs by age group and year



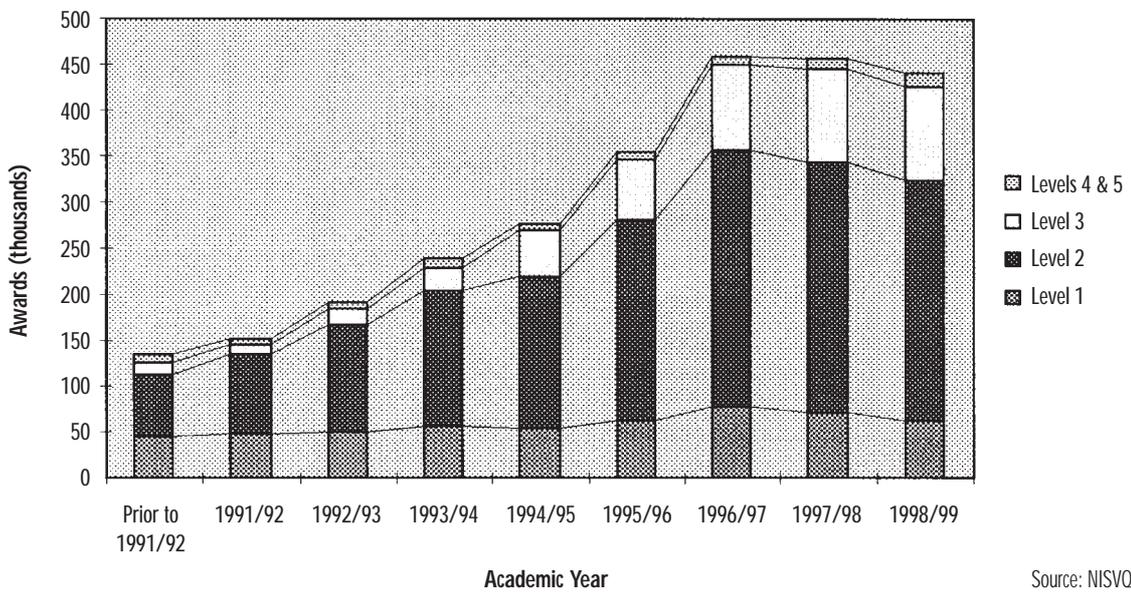
Source: NISVO

CHART 3:
Comparison of qualification type by level and gender 1998/99



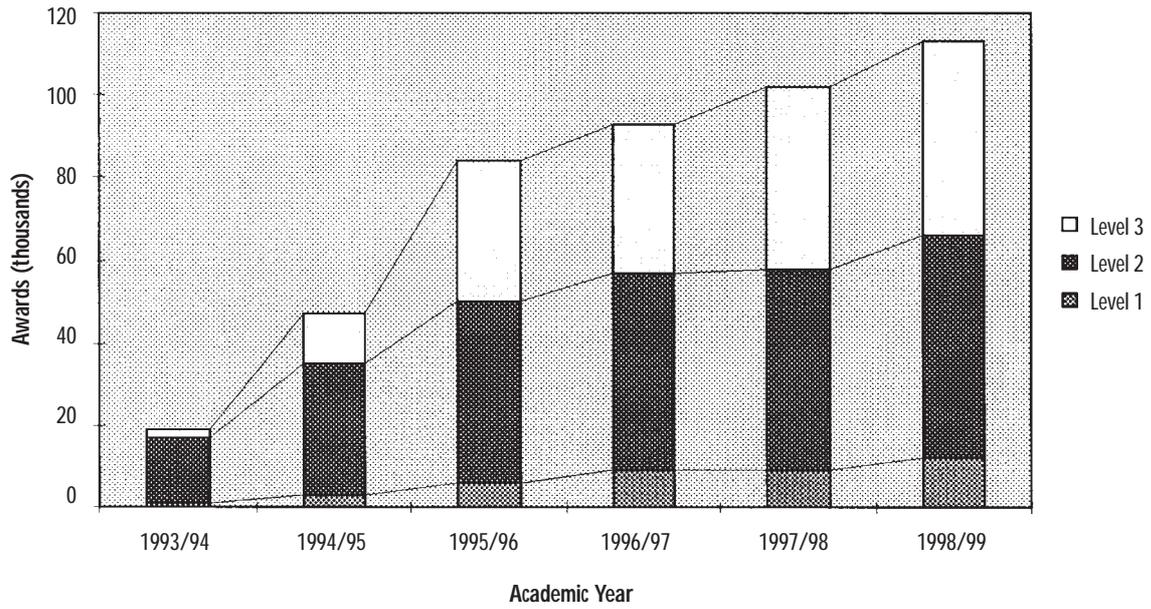
Source: NISVO

CHART 4:
Awards of NVQs/SVOs by level and year



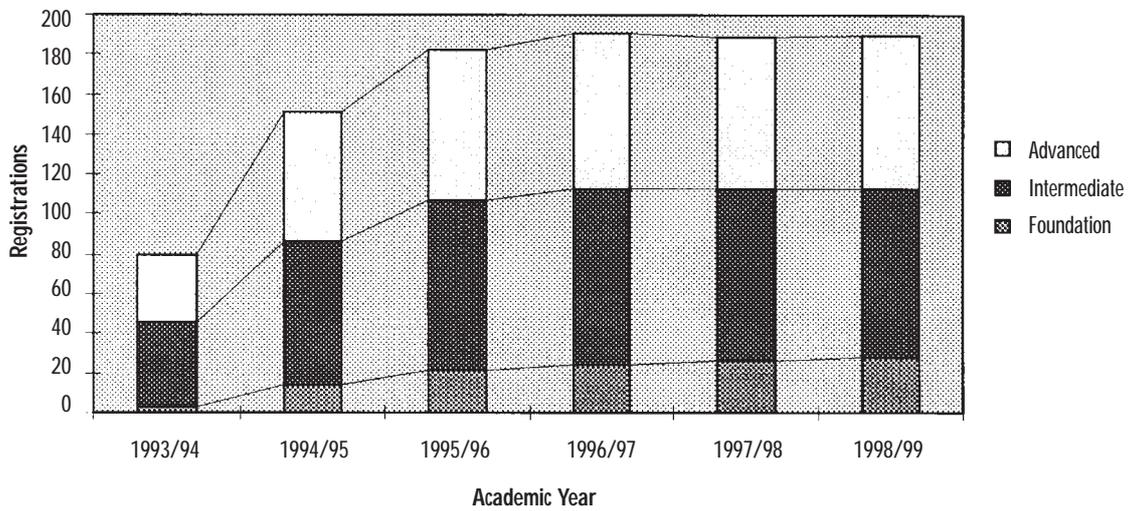
Source: NISVO

CHART 5:
Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by level and year



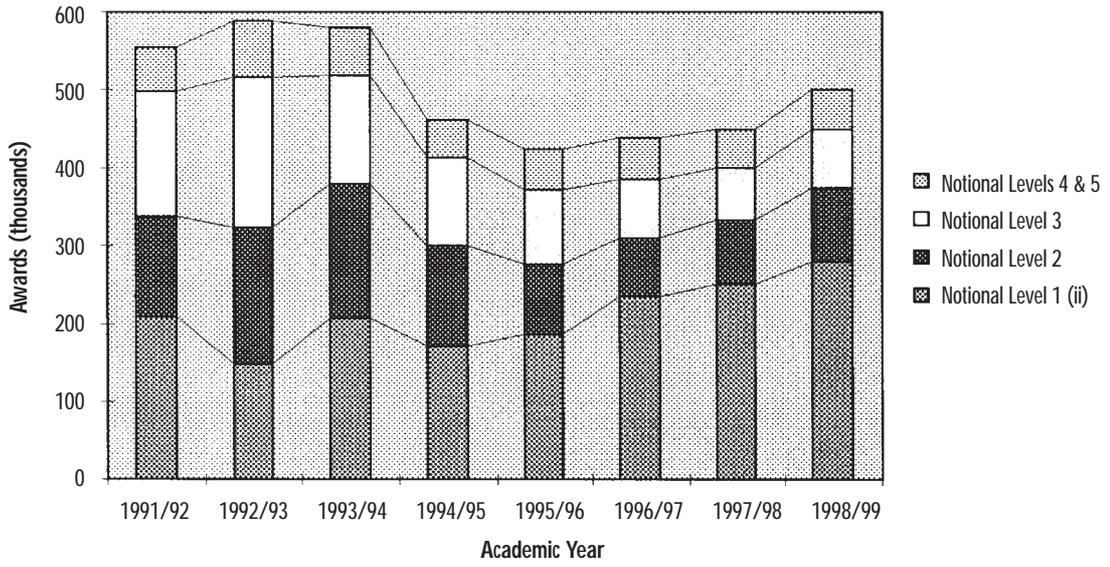
Source: NISVQ

CHART 6:
Number of registrations on GNVQs by level and year



Source: GNVQ Student Database (England only)

CHART 7:
Awards of Other VQs by level and year



Source: NISVQ

Background Notes

Sources

1 The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by QCA and DfEE (NISVQ). QCA statistics on the numbers of NVQs awarded are collected from all NVQ awarding bodies. NISVQ collects candidate level information on awards of all types of vocational qualifications currently provided by four of the largest awarding bodies, plus information from a further 11 awarding bodies on NVQ awards at candidate level. The main source for information on people holding/studying for NVQs/SVQs is the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Information on GNVQ registration in England has been taken from the GNVQ Student Database and academic data on GCE A levels and GCSEs has been taken from the 'Database assembled for the publication of secondary school and college Performance Tables', both of which are held by DfEE.

2 QCA are responsible for quality assurance of NVQs, i.e. accreditation and monitoring of implementation. QCA accredits proposals by over 124 awarding bodies (which include single bodies and 'joint' awarding body partnerships) to deliver NVQs. The QCA figures are based on aggregate quarterly returns of numbers of certificates issued that are sent to QCA by all awarding bodies which award NVQs. The awarding bodies' returns cover all certificates issued in the quarter for which payment is due to QCA.

3 The QCA information is the most comprehensive and up to date source of aggregate numbers of NVQs awarded. The numbers can be broken down by NVQ level, and QCA Framework Area which classifies NVQs into one of eleven areas of competence. No information about the candidate is collected directly by QCA, but information needs to be available for submission to NISVQ so that the data can be shared with the DfEE.

4 Some QCA figures from previous years have been revised since the last issue of the bulletin, because some awarding bodies have notified QCA that previous certificate information was incorrect, which resulted in minor amendments. And, it has been necessary for a few NVQ titles to change framework area in order to improve consistency in the NVQ framework.

5 The GNVQ/GSVQ information is complete because all awarding bodies accredited to award these contribute to NISVQ. Complete coverage of SVQs is achieved from information provided by SQA.

6 For vocational qualifications other than NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs, and GSVQs it is very difficult to establish a complete and accurate picture of the numbers of awards made. There are several thousand qualifications, awarded by over 200 Awarding and Qualifying Bodies through over 21 thousand centres. NISVQ currently includes only other full vocational qualifications (Other VQs) awarded by four major

awarding bodies: Edexcel (formerly BTEC); City and Guilds; OCR (formerly RSA); and SQA, who contribute information on awards of vocational qualifications that they administer. NISVQ collects information for each award – classified according to the features of the qualifications, e.g. level, subject and occupational group, characteristics of candidates, and the location of the assessment centre (by TEC area for instance). However, since it currently takes data on Other VQs from only four of the largest awarding bodies, NISVQ is not yet fully comprehensive.

7 Note that NISVQ counts numbers of awards of vocational qualifications not numbers of individuals receiving awards.

8 This bulletin has presented information on awards broken down by subject area, framework area and vocational area. Framework area is only applicable to NVQs and SVQs and is available for all these awards. Vocational area is only applicable to GNVQs and is available for all GNVQ awards. Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and are available for all awards recorded on NISVQ.

9 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is used in this bulletin to present information on people holding and studying towards NVQs/SVQs broken down by age, gender, economic activity, regions and major occupation groups. Labour Force Survey (LFS) data in this bulletin has been regressed based on new population figures. Minor discrepancies will be present when comparing historic LFS data in this bulletin with previous issues of the bulletin.

10 The LFS is a quarterly sample survey carried out by interviewing people about their personal circumstances and work, and is the biggest regular household survey in this country. Each quarter approximately 150 thousand people are interviewed, living at a representative sample of some 60 thousand addresses throughout the United Kingdom. In addition to people living in private households, students living in halls of residence, and in NHS accommodation are included to produce coverage of young people as well as the general population.

Other Sources of Information

GNVQ Student Database

11 A GNVQ student database has been developed in DfEE. It takes administrative data from the three GNVQ awarding bodies (Edexcel, City and Guilds, and OCR) and covers registrations and units of awards as well as full awards.

Definitions

Regulatory Body

12 An organisation designated by Parliament to establish national standards for qualifications and to

secure compliance with them. QCA regulates all external qualifications in England, and NVQs in Wales and Northern Ireland. QCA works with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to ensure that NVQs and SVQs remain aligned.

Administering Body

13 The organisation which administers an award and which therefore holds records of the award. NISVQ collects information on awards administered by a number of awarding bodies and therefore includes joint awards made in collaboration with smaller awarding bodies. This is the definition of administering body used for NISVQ purposes.

Assessment Centre

14 An organisation (such as a school, college or workplace) accountable to an awarding body for the assessment arrangements leading to an award, i.e. the centre which assessed, examined or administered the award. This is not necessarily where the training or study took place, or where the candidate is living.

Awarding Body

15 An organisation or consortium recognised by a regulatory authority for the purpose of awarding specified qualifications, e.g. an organisation such as City and Guilds which is responsible for awarding vocational qualifications. Where an awarding body offers an award 'jointly' with another body, it is known as a 'Joint Awarding Body'.

Full award/qualification

16 The information in this report relates to awards of full vocational qualifications. Only certifications of full NVQs are included in QCA and NISVQ information, information on certifications of NVQ units is currently incomplete. Among Other VQ awards, awards of single subjects, mixed level, and client specific qualifications are identified and excluded from the reported NISVQ results. As part of the NISVQ project, a considered judgement of the size of any other qualification that appears in the awarding bodies' data is made by QCA officers who maintain the NISVQ Qualifications file, to identify whether the qualification is a single subject or not. This may include reviewing the content of the qualification, determining the amount of work required, and liaising with the awarding body concerned.

GNVQ: General National Vocational Qualification.

17 A vocational alternative to GCSEs and GCE A-levels, accredited, like NVQs, by QCA. GNVQs are allocated to one of 15 vocational areas across 3 levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced. 12 GNVQs are currently available at Foundation level, 14 are available at Intermediate level and 15 are available at Advanced level.

GSVQ: General Scottish Vocational Qualification

18 The Scottish equivalent of a GNVQ, accredited by SQA. For the purposes of NISVQ analyses, a *notional* vocational area has been assigned to GSVQs this year for the first time.

Joint Awards

19 Two or more organisations may jointly award a qualification.

NVQ Framework

20 The areas of competence within the NVQ framework result from analysis of work roles, and provide the initial organising structure for competence-based qualifications.

NVQ: National Vocational Qualification.

21 National vocational qualifications accredited by QCA, are based on national occupational standards and criteria established by QCA. The responsibility for developing national occupational standards rests with Standards setting bodies – usually National Training Organisations (NTOs) – recognised by a regulatory authority responsible for formulating standards of competence for an employment sector and keeping them under review.

NVQ level

22 One of the five levels in the NVQ Framework. Each competence based full qualification is assigned to just one of these levels. The following definitions of NVQ levels have been taken from QCA's 'Data News'. QCA provide them as a broad measure of the overall demand of a qualification:

NVQ level 1: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in the performance of a range of varied work activities, most of which may be routine and predictable

NVQ level 2: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a significant range of varied work activities, performed in a variety of contexts. Some of the activities are complex or non-routine, and there is some individual responsibility or autonomy. Collaboration with others, perhaps through membership of a work group or team, may often be a requirement.

NVQ level 3: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a broad range of varied work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and most of which are complex and non-routine. There is considerable responsibility and autonomy, and control or guidance of others is often required.

NVQ level 4: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a broad range of complex, technical, or professional work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and with a substantial degree of personal responsibility and autonomy.

Responsibility for the work of others and the allocation of resources is often present.

NVQ level 5: competence which involves the application of skills and a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques across a wide and often unpredictable variety of contexts. Very substantial personal autonomy and often significant responsibility for the work of others and for the allocation of substantial resources feature strongly, as do personal accountabilities for analysis and diagnosis, design, planning, execution and evaluation.

Notional NVQ level

23 Within NISVQ, a *notional* NVQ level is estimated for each Other Vocational Qualification for analytical purposes.

Qualification

24 In this report, a qualification is a certification that a person has met the required national standards of competence, or practical or theoretical knowledge.

SVQ: Scottish Vocational Qualification.

25 The Scottish equivalent of an NVQ, accredited by SQA.

SOC: Standard Occupational Classification

26 Used to classify the occupational areas of a qualification on the LFS.

SUPERCLASS

27 Used to classify the subject area of a qualification on NISVQ.

Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs)

28 Vocational qualifications that are not specifically NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs or GSVQs for example, a BTEC Higher National Diploma, or a City and Guilds Diploma in Vocational Education.

Unit

29 An NVQ/SVQ is constructed of units with content expressed as assessable outcomes of learning. A unit is the smallest part of a qualification that can be separately certified.

Vocational Qualification

30 A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.