

## Statistics of Education:

### Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 2001/02



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# VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 2001/02

## Introduction

**1** This bulletin presents information on awards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), General National Vocational Qualifications/Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (GNVQs/VCEs)<sup>1</sup>, Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), and non-accredited full vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs). Information is presented for the first time on Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs)<sup>2</sup>, these were previously counted alongside Other VQs. Information on awards of NVQs/SVQs, Other VQs and VRQs made by UK awarding bodies has been taken from the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) held by DfES. Information on awards of GNVQs/VCEs is taken from the Secondary School and College Performance Table database.

**2** In addition, the bulletin also presents information on the numbers and characteristics of people holding and studying towards NVQs/SVQs, plus a comparison of vocational and academic awards in England by age group. This bulletin updates the information in DfES Statistical Bulletin Issue No 04/02, May 2002.

**3** Seventeen awarding bodies currently submit data to NISVQ (see Technical Notes paragraphs 1 to 8). The data collected from all awarding bodies involved with NISVQ covers full awards made at centres in the United Kingdom plus a small number of overseas centres.

**4** NVQ/SVQ estimates in this bulletin are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs. In 2001/02 NISVQ collected detailed information on almost 93 per cent of all NVQs (see Technical Notes paragraph 5 for more detail on the grossing of NVQs on NISVQ).

**5** The Autumn Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides estimates of the numbers of people holding/studying towards NVQs/SVQs. LFS analyses based on the numbers of people holding an NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year they were gained. The Secondary School and College Performance Table database gives the number of people achieving GCE A levels and GCSEs in England. Additional information on employers' awareness and involvement in vocational qualifications is provided by the Learning and Training at Work Survey 2002<sup>3</sup>.

**6** In previous years' publications the age at date of award has been used to analyse achievements of vocational qualifications. In 2001/02 academic age was used in order to create consistency throughout the

bulletin. Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, for example academic age in 2001/02 would be the age of the person calculated against 31st August 2001. Academic age 15 is the last year of compulsory education. Throughout it is assumed that people will be one year older than their academic age when achieving an award. Therefore all analyses by age in this bulletin are not directly comparable with figures for previous years' bulletins.

## Summary

**7** Since their introduction in 1987, over 4 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded in the United Kingdom up to the end of September 2002.

**8** There was a 5 per cent decrease in the number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in the United Kingdom in 2001/02 when compared with the previous year: 428 thousand in 2000/01 and 408 thousand in 2001/02.

**9** Of the NVQs awarded in 2001/02 the majority (57 per cent) were at level 2; a further 28 per cent were at level 3; with 11 per cent at level 1 and 4 per cent at levels 4 and 5.

**10** The Autumn 2002 LFS provides an estimate of over 3.8 million people holding an NVQ/SVQ. This estimate is close to QCA's official figure for the total number of NVQ awards made. The survey also estimates that a further 704 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held an NVQ/SVQ unit.

**11** 944 thousand people, according to the Autumn 2002 LFS estimate, were working towards an NVQ/SVQ; an increase of 30 thousand compared with the survey in Autumn 2001. Two-thirds (68 per cent) of these people were working towards their first NVQ/SVQ.

**12** According to the Autumn 2002 LFS estimate, of the people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, 87 per cent were economically active. The majority of the 818 thousand economically active people were employees (87 per cent), with 5 per cent being unemployed (ILO definition) and a further 5 per cent on government supported training and employment programmes.

**13** There were 128 thousand awards of GNVQs/Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE) awards in England in 2001/02 compared to 87 thousand in 2000/01. These figures are based on the Secondary School and College Performance Table database given the changing nature of the GNVQ qualification and the introduction of the VCE. The increase is predominantly due to an increase in awards at level 2 from 36 thousand in 2000/01 to 72 thousand in 2001/02.

*1 See Technical Notes (paragraph 21).*

*2 See Technical Notes (paragraph 32).*

*3 Learning and Training at Work Survey 2002, IFF Research Ltd. This survey replaced the Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1999.*

**14** In 2001/02 56 per cent of GNVQ/VCE awards in England were made at level 2 (intermediate level), 31 per cent at level 3 (advanced level) and 13 per cent at level 1 (foundation level).

**15** In 2001/02 NISVQ collected information on other full vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs) from seven awarding bodies<sup>4</sup>. The total number of these awards in the UK for 2001/02 was 474 thousand. In 2001/02 NISVQ collected information on a further 25 thousand Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs) – these were combined with Other VQs in 2000/01. Combining VRQ with Other VQ awards for 2001/02 gives 499 thousand awards in 2001/02, a 10 per cent fall when compared to 553 thousand awards in 2000/01.

**16** Of the total number of Other VQs awarded in 2001/02<sup>5</sup>: 242 thousand (51 per cent) were at the *notional* level 1, 113 thousand (24 per cent) were at *notional* level 2 and 119 thousand (25 per cent) at *notional* level 3 or above.

**17** In 2001/02 approximately 461 thousand level 2 awards (academic and vocational) were made to young people of academic age 15-18: this compares with 434 thousand in 2000/01 (see Table 2). The number of level 3 awards for people aged 15-18 has fallen from 348 thousand in 2000/01 to 346 thousand in 2001/02.

## COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC AWARDS IN ENGLAND

**18** 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 qualification awards at levels 2 and 3 collected through NISVQ. For this purpose the definition of level 2 and level 3 is as follows: level 2 can be achieved by having 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C, Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs, NVQ 2 or any equivalent Other VQ or VRQ; level 3 can be achieved by having 2 or more GCE A levels, Advanced GNVQs/VCEs, NVQ 3 or any equivalent Other VQ or VRQ. These are the definitions used by the Department and the LSC to monitor progress towards targets for 2004.

**19** 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 seven awarding bodies in England (see Technical Notes paragraph 7) and are not England estimates. Further, this analysis does not take account of people gaining 5 GCSEs A\* to C over more

than one year, for example those gaining 4 GCSEs at academic age 15 and a further GCSE at academic age 16 would not be included. Those people gaining level 2 via a combination of qualifications, by gaining a combination of GCSEs and a Part One GNVQ for example, would also not be included. People gaining 4 AS levels at academic age 16 who then convert these to A levels at academic age 17 would be counted as achieving a level 3 academic qualification in both years.

### Awards at level 2

**20** Table 1 shows that the vocational proportion of the total number of level 2 awards i.e. Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs, NVQs, Other VQs or VRQs at level 2 has fallen slightly in recent years from 57 per cent in 1997/98 to 53 per cent in 2001/02.

**21** Table 2 contains academic and vocational awards at level 2 by academic age group. In 2001/02 nearly all people (96 per cent) academic age 15 (the last year of compulsory education) who obtained a level 2 award did so by the academic GCSE route. Nearly all people (99 per cent) who obtain level 2 awards aged 16 and over do so by the vocational route.

### Awards at level 3

**22** As a consequence of the Qualifying for Success reforms (introduced in September 2000) Tables 3 and 4 include those young people achieving 2 or more full A levels (academic age 17) and those young people achieving 4 or more 'new' advanced subsidiary (AS) examinations (academic age 16). Table 3 shows a slight fall in the number of level 3 qualifications awarded from 481 thousand in 2000/01 to 476 thousand in 2001/02. 41 per cent of level 3 qualifications awarded in 2001/02 were achieved through the vocational route i.e. Advanced GNVQs/VCEs, NVQs, Other VQs or VRQs at level 3.

**23** Table 4 contains academic and vocational awards at level 3 by academic age group. In 2001/2002 most people (80 per cent) who obtained a level 3 award aged 16-18 did so by the academic GCE A level route. The vast majority of people (98 per cent) aged 19 and over who obtain an award at level 3 do so by the vocational route. Table 4 gives a full breakdown of level 3 awards by age group for 2000/01 and 2001/02.

## COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY TYPE, ENGLAND

**24** This section of the bulletin compares the characteristics of those gaining awards in NVQs and GNVQs/VCEs in England. Full Other VQs outside the

<sup>4</sup> See Technical Notes paragraph 7.

<sup>5</sup> Excluding 25 thousand VRQs

**TABLE 1:**  
Number of level 2 awards for all ages by type and year, England

Qualification/Award type	Academic year qualification was issued					
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
	5 or more GCSEs at A* to C only (i)	267	268	280	286	300
Intermediate GNVQ/VCE (ii)	43	45	48	50	36	72
NVQ Level 2(iii)	232	232	220	222	199	177
Other VQ Level 2(iv) (v)	65	72	80	96	114	98

Awards (thousands)

Sources: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) For National Learning Targets purposes 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.  
(ii) Numbers of GNVQs are not consistent over time, figures for 2000/01 and 2001/02 are taken from the Secondary School and College Performance Tables database, figures for earlier years are taken from NISVQ. 2000/01 figure differs from number published in previous bulletin as was previously based on NISVQ.  
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.  
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by 7 awarding bodies (see technical notes paragraph 7).  
(v) Numbers of Other VQ awards in 2001/02 include 5.6 thousand Vocationally Related Qualifications at level 2.

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

Academic Age(i) (iii)	2000/01				2001/02			
	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C) (ii)	Intermediate GNVQ/VCEs (iv)	NVQ (v) Level 2	Other VQ (vi) Level 2	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C) (ii)	Intermediate GNVQ/VCEs (iv)	NVQ (v) Level 2	Other VQ Level 2 (vi) (vii)
	14 and under	2	0	-	-	2	0	-
15	296	2	-	1	302	12	-	1
16	3	22	13	9	3	26	10	10
17	0	8	32	8	0	25	27	7
18	0	2	25	12	0	6	22	11
19	0	1	16	5	0	2	14	5
20	0	0	12	4	0	1	10	3
21-24	0	0	25	9	0	2	22	8
25 & over	0	1	73	65	0	0	71	54
Not classified	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>98</b>

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 2001/02 would be age on 31 August 2001.  
(ii) For National Learning Targets purposes 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.  
(iii) 2000/01 awards of GNVQs, NVQs and Other VQs may differ from those of previous years as academic age has been used here.  
(iv) Numbers of GNVQs for 2000/01 and 2001/02 are taken from the Secondary School and College Performance Tables database; figures in previous Bulletins were taken from NISVQ. 2000/01 figures differ from that published in previous bulletin as previously based on NISVQ.  
(v) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.  
(vi) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by 7 awarding bodies (see technical notes paragraph 7).  
(vii) Numbers of Other VQ awards in 2001/02 include 5.6 thousand Vocationally Related Qualifications at level 2.

National Framework and Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs) are also included, but care should be taken with these figures because in 2001/02 NISVQ only collected information on Other VQs from seven Awarding Bodies in England (see Technical Notes paragraph 7) and therefore may not be representative of all awards England.

**25** Chart A<sup>6</sup> shows that the proportion of each level of award varies greatly across the four types of vocational

qualifications. The most popular *notional* level of award for Other VQs is level 1 (53 per cent). In contrast the most common level for GNVQs/VCEs and NVQs is level 2 and for VRQs is level 3. The proportion of level 3 qualifications is the highest for VRQs at 54 per cent, followed by GNVQs/VCEs (31 per cent), NVQ (27 per cent) and Other VQ (15 per cent). The proportion of level 4 & 5 qualifications is highest for Other VQs at 9 per cent, followed by 8 per cent of VRQs and 4 per cent of NVQs.

6 A colour version of Chart A can be viewed by accessing [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/).

**TABLE 3:**  
Number of level 3 awards for all ages by type and year, England

Qualification/Award type	Academic year qualification was issued					
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
2 or more GCE A levels (i) (ii)	183	188	189	187	280	281
Advanced GNVQ (iii)	32	39	42	44	42	40
NVQ Level 3(iv)	79	90	89	97	90	85
Other VQ Level 3(v) (vi)	67	58	61	71	69	70

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 GNVQs are not consistent over time, figures for 2000/01 and 2001/02 are taken from the Secondary School and College Performance Tables database, figures for earlier years are taken from NISVQ. 2000/01 figure differs from number published in previous bulletin as was previously based on NISVQ.  
(iv) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.  
(v) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by 7 awarding bodies (see technical notes paragraph 7).  
(vi) Numbers of Other VQ awards in 2001/02 include 11.8 thousand Vocationally Related Qualifications at level 3.

**TABLE 4:**  
Comparison of level 3 awards by academic age group, England

Academic Age(i) (iii)	2000/01				2001/02			
	2 or more		NVQ (v) Level 3	Other VQ Level 3 (vi) (vii)	2 or more		NVQ (v) Level 3	Other VQ Level 3 (vi) (vii)
	GCE A levels (ii)	Advanced GNVQ/VCEs (iv)			GCE A levels (ii)	Advanced GNVQ/VCEs (iv)		
15 and under	1	0	-	-	1	0	-	-
16	85	0	-	1	85	0	-	2
17	173	22	2	16	178	22	2	14
18	16	13	8	11	14	11	7	10
19	2	4	10	6	2	4	9	6
20	1	1	8	4	1	1	7	4
21-24	1	2	16	7	-	1	15	7
25 & over	-	-	45	22	0	-	44	27
Not classified	0	-	1	2	0	-	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>70</b>

-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 2000/01 would be age on 31 August 2000.  
(ii) The GCE A level figures for 2000/01 and 2001/02 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) 2000/01 awards of GNVQs, NVQs and Other VQs may differ from those of previous years as academic age has been used here.  
(iv) Numbers of GNVQs are taken from the Secondary School and College Performance Tables database; figures in previous Bulletins were taken from NISVQ. 2000/01 figures differ from that published in previous bulletin as previously based on NISVQ.  
(v) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.  
(vi) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by 7 awarding bodies (see technical notes paragraph 7).  
(vii) Numbers of Other VQ awards in 2001/02 include 11.8 thousand Vocationally Related Qualifications at level 3.

**26** In 2001/02 people aged 25 and over accounted for 45 per cent of NVQ awards, 57 per cent of Other VQ awards and 58 per cent of VRQs. Just over half (51 per cent) of all NVQ awards made to females are made to those aged 25 and over compared to 38 per cent for males. In comparison, 68 per cent of all Other VQs awarded to females are to those aged 25 and over compared to 54 per cent of males, and 50 per cent of

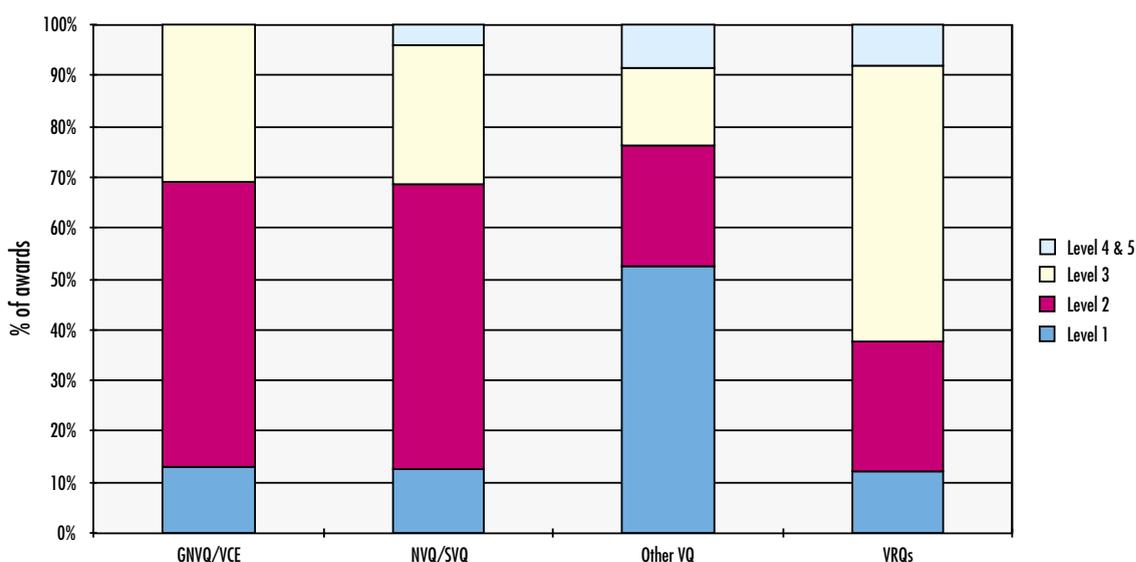
VRQs awarded to females are made to those aged 25 and over compared to 62 per cent of males. GNVQs/VCEs are predominantly awarded to people aged 18 and under (91 per cent). Chart B<sup>7</sup>, later in the bulletin, illustrates this.

**27** Table 5 below shows that the most popular major occupation group, as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2000)<sup>8</sup> currently

7 A colour version of chart B can be viewed by accessing [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/).

8 SOC 2000 has slightly different major occupational classifications to those reported in previous publications, which used SOC 1995 (2nd Edition 1995), therefore comparisons over time need to be made with care.

**CHART A:**  
Comparison of qualification type by level 2001/02, England



Source: NISVQ and Secondary School and College Performance Table database

included on NISVQ, for NVQs and VRQs is Skilled Trades Occupations (23 per cent and 61 per cent respectively). 83 per cent of Other VQs do not have a major occupational group identified. SOC 2000 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 5:**  
Comparison of qualification type by SOC, England 2001/02

Major Occupation Group (SOC 2000)	Awards (percentage)		
	NVQs/SVQs	Other VQs (i)	VRQs (ii)
Managers & Senior Officials	8%	0%	0%
Professional Occupations	9%	0%	1%
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	4%	7%	10%
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	18%	4%	8%
Skilled Trades Occupations	23%	5%	61%
Personal Service Occupations	20%	0%	0%
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	6%	0%	21%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	2%	0%	0%
Elementary Occupations	8%	0%	0%
Not classified	2%	83%	0%
<b>Total (iii)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: NISVQ

(i) Other VQ awards made in 2001/02 are by 7 awarding bodies only (see technical notes paragraph 7).

(ii) VRQ awards made in 2001/02 by City and Guilds, OCR and ASDAN.

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

**28** According to NISVQ, there is a significant difference between the gender breakdown by level when comparing GNVQs/VCEs, NVQs, Other VQs and VRQs. Females attained more NVQ awards at all levels in contrast to awards of GNVQs/VCEs where females attained more awards at level 3 with males achieving more awards at levels 1 and 2. Similarly for VRQs, females attained more awards at levels 4 and 5 with males gaining more awards at levels 2 and 3 and awards at level 1 being evenly split between males and females. In contrast for Other VQs, females gained the majority of awards at levels 1 and 2 with males gaining more awards at levels 3 and 4 or above. Chart C<sup>9</sup> illustrates this in more detail.

## AWARDS OF NVQs/SVQs, UK

### NVQ/SVQ awards over time

**29** Since their introduction in 1987, over 4 million NVQs/SVQs have been awarded in the UK by the end of September 2002. The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 2001/02 has dropped from 428 thousand in 2000/01 to 408 thousand in 2001/02. See Table 6 and Chart D<sup>9</sup> for further information.

**30** Looking at NVQs alone, there has also been a drop: 381 thousand in 2001/02 compared with just over 398 thousand in 2000/01. For more detailed information on NVQs awarded by NVQ level, framework area, academic year and quarter see Tables 11 and 12 later in this bulletin.

**TABLE 6:**  
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by year, UK

Year (i)	Awards (thousands)	
	Total	Cumulative total
Prior to 1994/95	720	720
1994/95	278	1,000
1995/96	354	1,354
1996/97	459	1,813
1997/98	458	2,271
1998/99	442	2,713
1999/00	454	3,167
2000/01	428	3,595
2001/02	408	4,003

Source: QCA/NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

### NVQs/SVQs awarded in 2001/02 compared with 2000/01

**31** There was an overall decrease of almost 20 thousand (5 per cent) in the number of NVQ/SVQ awards made in 2001/02 compared to 2000/01. See Table 6 and Chart D.

### 2001/02 NVQ/SVQ awards by academic age, level and gender

**32** In 2001/02, 177 thousand NVQs (43 per cent) were made to people aged 25 and over, compared with 56 thousand (14 per cent) for people aged 21-24 and 172 thousand (42 per cent) for people aged 20 and under. 55 per cent of all NVQs awarded in 2001/02 were made to females, although NVQs/SVQs were proportioned equally between males and females amongst those aged 24 and under. 49 per cent of all NVQs/SVQs awarded to females were made to those aged 25 and over compared with only 36 per cent for males. A more detailed breakdown of NVQs by age and gender is given in Table 15.

**33** Females were more likely than males to be awarded NVQs/SVQs at levels 3 and above: 34 per cent of females and 29 per cent of males were awarded NVQs/SVQs at level 3 or above. Consequently, 59 per cent of all NVQs/SVQs awarded at level 3 or above were made to females.

**34** Level 2 is the most common NVQ/SVQ award in all age groups except the small number of awards made to those aged 16 and under where level 1 was the most common. Just under half (49 per cent) of all NVQs/SVQs at level 3 or above are made to those aged 25 and over.

### 2001/02 NVQ/SVQ awards by major occupation group (SOC)

**35** Table 16 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 fit<sup>10</sup>. Over half (54

per cent) of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 2001/02 fell in 3 occupational groups: 'Skilled Trades Occupations' (20 per cent), 'Personal Service Occupations' (18 per cent) and 'Administrative & Secretarial Occupations' (17 per cent). The occupation groups with the biggest gender imbalance are 'Process, Plant & Machine Operatives' (93 per cent male), 'Skilled Trades Occupations' (84 per cent male), and 'Personal Service Occupations' (94 per cent female).

**36** Almost a quarter (24 per cent) of all NVQ/SVQ awards at level 3 and above were made in 'Administrative & Secretarial Occupations'. 'Skilled Trades Occupations', principally accounted for lower level awards: 34 per cent of all level 1 and 25 per cent of all 2 awards.

### 2001/02 NVQ/SVQ awards by centre type

**37** According to NISVQ, 73 per cent of all NVQ/SVQs awarded were made through either Further Education Colleges or private training providers: 77 per cent of level 1, 73 per cent of level 2 and 72 per cent 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. For a complete breakdown of NVQ/SVQs by centre type and level see Table 17.

### 2001/02 NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area

**38** 25 per cent of all NVQ awards at level 3 or above were in 'Business/Management/Office Studies'. Levels 1 and 2 awards were more evenly distributed between subject areas: 48 per cent of all level 1 awards spread between 'Sales Marketing & Distribution', 'Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance', 'Catering/Food/Leisure Services & Tourism' and 'Construction & Property', and almost 68 per cent of all level 2 awards spread between 'Business/Management/Office Studies', 'Sales Marketing & Distribution', 'Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance', 'Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety' 'Construction and Property' and 'Manufacturing/Production Work'. Table 18 contains a full breakdown of subject area by level.

**39** The majority of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in the three most popular subject areas were made to females: 'Business/Management/Office Studies' (77 per cent), 'Sales Marketing & Distribution' (62 per cent) and 'Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety' (91 per cent). 98 per cent of awards in the next highest subject area 'Construction and Property' were made predominantly to males.

### 2001/02 NVQ/SVQs awards by framework area

**40** Of the NVQs/SVQs awarded in 2001/02, 115 thousand (28 per cent) were in the Framework area 'Providing Goods and Services', of which 23 per cent

<sup>10</sup> The person who achieved the NVQ/SVQ will not necessarily work in the same occupational area.

were at level 1, 62 per cent were at level 2 and 15 per cent were at level 3 or above. The next largest framework area 'Providing Business Services' had 100 thousand awards (25 per cent of total), of which 5 per cent were at level 1, 52 per cent were at level 2 and 43 per cent were at level 3 or above. These figures are all contained within Table 19.

**41** The majority of all NVQ/SVQ awards made in the three most popular framework areas were made to females: 'Providing Business Services' (72 per cent), 'Providing Goods and Services' (70 per cent); and 'Providing Health, Social & Protective Services' (87 per cent). Awards made in the fourth largest framework area 'Construction' were predominantly made to males (98 per cent).

### 2001/02 NVQ/SVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country

**42** In 2001/02, 82 per cent of NVQs/SVQs were made in England compared to approximately 7 per cent in Wales, 8 per cent in Scotland and 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. From NISVQ it is estimated that 1 per cent of all NVQ awards were made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. For a more detailed breakdown by Government Office region and country see Table 20.

### People holding NVQs/SVQs

**43** The Autumn 2002 LFS estimated that just over 3.8 million people held an NVQ/SVQ<sup>11</sup>. Of these 54 per cent were female compared to 53 per cent in Autumn 2001. A further 704 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held one or more NVQ/SVQ units.

**44** Of those people holding an NVQ/SVQ, nearly 9 in 10 (88 per cent) were economically active (Autumn 2002 LFS), which has not changed from the survey in the

previous year. The majority of the 3.4 million economically active people were employees (88 per cent), with 5 per cent being unemployed (ILO definition). Table 7 gives a full breakdown of economic activity for those holding NVQs/SVQs for the last three Autumn LFSs.

**45** Table 8 shows the estimated proportions of the working age population who hold an NVQ/SVQ by age group from the last three Autumn LFSs. In 2002 it is estimated that one in ten of the working age population held an NVQ/SVQ, representing no change from 2001. Those aged 21-24 were approximately twice as likely to hold an NVQ/SVQ than 16-20 year olds or those aged 25-40.

**46** The proportion of people in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by the Standard Major Occupational Classification (SOC 2000) of their main job are shown in Table 13 from the Autumn 2002 LFS. The major occupation group having the greatest proportion of people holding NVQs/SVQs was 'Personal Service Occupations', with 23 per cent of people employed holding an NVQ/SVQ in 2002. People employed in 'Professional Occupations' were least likely to have an NVQ/SVQ (5 per cent).

**47** Table 14 gives the Autumn 2002 LFS Government Office regional breakdown of the number of people holding NVQs/SVQs. Of those holding NVQs/SVQs, 83 per cent were living in England, 6 per cent in Wales, 8 per cent in Scotland and 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. This distribution is similar to that on NISVQ. The North had the greatest proportion of its working age population holding an NVQ/SVQ (39 per cent) compared with 26 per cent of those living in the South.

### People working towards NVQs/SVQs

**48** According to the LFS, in Autumn 2002 there were 944 thousand people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, an

**TABLE 7:**  
People holding NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year, UK

	Autumn 2000 Number (thousands)	Autumn 2001 Number (thousands)	Autumn 2002 Number (thousands)
Economically Active	2,783	3,166	3,364
of which:			
employee	2,420	2,778	2,967
self-employed	140	161	189
government supported training and employment programmes	36	31	21
unpaid family worker	-	-	-
ILO unemployed	181	195	182
Economically Inactive	349	413	458
<b>Total (1)</b>	<b>3,132</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>3,822</b>

- less than 10,000

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

Source: LFS, Autumn 2000, 2001 & 2002

<sup>11</sup> Analysis of numbers of people holding a NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year awarded.

**TABLE 8:**  
People holding NVQs/SVQs by age group and year, UK

Age Band	Autumn 2000 Number (thousands)	Proportion of Age Band Population (i)	Autumn 2001 Number (thousands)	Proportion of Age Band Population (i)	Autumn 2002 Number (thousands)	Proportion of Age Band Population (i)
16-20	405	11%	404	11%	379	10%
21-24	537	19%	622	22%	618	21%
25-40	1,374	9%	1,611	11%	1,748	12%
41-59	779	5%	896	6%	1,019	7%
60 or over	38	3%	46	3%	59	4%
<b>Total (ii)</b>	<b>3,132</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>3,822</b>	<b>10%</b>

Source: LFS, Autumn 2000, 2001 & 2002

(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.

**TABLE 9:**  
People working towards NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year, UK

Status	Autumn 2000 Number (thousands)	Autumn 2001 Number (thousands)	Autumn 2002 Number (thousands)
Economically Active	833	790	818
of which:			
employee	692	676	714
self-employed	21	19	23
government supported training and employment programmes	72	59	40
unpaid family worker	-	-	-
ILO unemployed	46	34	39
Economically Inactive	115	124	126
<b>Total (i)</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>944</b>

- less than 10,000

Source: LFS, Autumn 2000, 2001 & 2002

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

increase of 30 thousand from Autumn 2001. Of these, only 154 thousand (16 per cent) were full-time students, a slight fall in this proportion from Autumn 2001. Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of those working towards an NVQ/SVQ did not already have one.

**49** Of the people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, 87 per cent were economically active. The majority of the 818 thousand economically active people were employees (87 per cent), with 5 per cent being unemployed (ILO definition) and a further 5 per cent on government supported training and employment programmes. Table 9 gives a full breakdown by year of the economic activity of people working towards NVQs/SVQs.

## AWARDS OF GNVQs/VCEs, ENGLAND

### 2001/02 GNVQs/VCEs awards

**50** There were 128 thousand awards of GNVQs/Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE) in

England in 2001/02. This is a 48 per cent increase compared to 87 thousand GNVQ/VCE awards in 2000/01.

### 2001/02 GNVQs/VCEs by level

**51** In 2001/02 56 per cent of awards were made at level 2 (intermediate level), 31 per cent at level 3 (advanced level) and 13 per cent at level 1 (foundation level).

### 2001/02 GNVQs/VCEs by age, level and gender

**52** In 2001/02 52 per cent of awards were achieved by males. The majority of awards made at levels 1 and 2 were to males, 57 per cent and 54 per cent respectively, with the majority of awards at level 3 to females (53 per cent).

**53** Table 21 provides a breakdown of GNVQs/VCEs by age and gender. 91 per cent of GNVQ/VCE awards were made to people aged 18 and under in 2001/02.

## 2001/02 GNVQs/VCEs by centre type

54 Table 22 provides the numbers of GNVQs/VCEs by centre type and level. 52 per cent of all GNVQ/VCE awards in 2001/02 were made through Other FE Sector Colleges, compared to 37 per cent made in Schools and 11 per cent through Sixth Form Colleges. The majority of awards gained in each centre type were at level 2, 67 per cent of awards through Schools, 51 per cent of awards through Sixth Form Colleges and 50 per cent through Other FE Sector Colleges.

## 2001/02 GNVQs/VCEs by subject area

55 A quarter of GNVQs/VCEs awarded in 2001/02 were made in the subject area 'Information Technology' of which the majority were made at level 2 (65 per cent) compared to level 3 (20 per cent) and level 1 (14 per cent). A further 22 per cent of awards were in the subject area 'Business' of which the majority (52 per cent) were made at level 2. More detailed subject area by level figures for GNVQs/VCEs are contained in Table 23.

## 2001/02 GNVQs/VCEs by Government Office Region and Country

56 Table 24 provides the numbers of GNVQs/VCEs by Government Office region. The Government Office region with the highest attainment of GNVQ/VCE was London with over 23 thousand awards reflecting 18 per cent of the total for England.

## AWARDS OF OTHER VQs, UK

57 In 2001/02 there were 499 thousand awards of Other VQs. For comparison purposes with the figure for 2000/01 the total presented here for 2001/02 includes 25 thousand Vocationally Related Qualifications (the 2000/01 figure also includes VRQs) and does not include awards of Other VQs made by Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). This is a 10 per cent decrease when compared with the figure for 2000/01 (553 thousand). Table 10 shows the number of Other VQs in the last five years. Figures for 1998/99 have been revised to exclude SQA in order to make justifiable comparisons with 2001/02.

**TABLE 10:**  
Awards of Other VQs by year, UK

Year (i)	Awards (thousands)				
	1997/98(iii)	1998/99(iv)	1999/00(iv)	2000/01(iv)	2001/02(v)
Total (ii)	449	483	502	553	499

(i) Academic years from October to September.

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

(iii) Numbers of Awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA.

(iv) Number of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

(v) Numbers of awards are for 7 awarding bodies only (see technical notes paragraph 7).

Source: NISVQ

58 In 2001/02 NISVQ received detailed information on awards of full Other Vocational Qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs) made by seven awarding bodies (see technical notes paragraph 7). All 2001/02 analyses of Other VQ awards presented in this bulletin relate *only* to awards made by these seven awarding bodies and are *not* UK estimates of Other VQs. In addition, unlike previous information presented on Other VQs, the figures outlined below *do not* include Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs). These shall be presented in more detail later on. QCA estimate a *notional* NVQ level to Other VQs for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.

## 2001/02 Other VQ awards by age, level and gender

59 In 2001/02 over 271 thousand (60 per cent) of Other VQs were made to people aged 25 and over, compared to just over 181 thousand (40 per cent) of Other VQs to people aged under 25. For those people aged 25 and over, more awards were made to females (61 per cent), whereas for people aged 24 and under the majority of awards were made to males at 54 per cent. A more detailed breakdown of Other VQs by age and gender is given in Table 25.

60 Over half (51 per cent) of all Other VQs were awarded at *notional* level 1 and 63 per cent were made to females at this level. Approaching one quarter of the awards made were at *notional* level 2 and again more awards were made to females (53 per cent). 25 per cent of all Other VQs were made at *notional* levels 3 and above, where this time males were in the majority, attaining 59 per cent of awards at this level. This information is presented in Chart F<sup>12</sup>.

61 For awards made at *notional* Level 1, 71 per cent were made to people aged 25 and over. 55 per cent were made to this age group at *notional* level 2. In contrast 57 per cent of all Other VQs made at *notional* level 3 or above were made to those aged under 25.

62 Chart E<sup>13</sup> shows that the proportion of Other VQs awarded to those aged under 25 has decreased over time from 73 per cent in 1992/93 to 40 per cent in 2001/02. In

12 A colour version of chart F can be viewed by accessing [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/)

13 A colour version of chart E can be viewed by accessing [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/)

the same period the proportion of NVQ awards made to the same age group has remained fairly constant: around 57 per cent.

### **2001/02 Other VQs by centre type**

**63** According to NISVQ, 55 per cent of awards were made through Further Education Colleges of which 43 per cent were at *notional* level 1, 24 per cent were at *notional* level 2 and 33 per cent were at *notional* level 3 or above. For awards gained through Further Education Colleges slightly more (55 per cent) were attained by females. Awards made at Schools accounted for 9 per cent of the total while awards made at Private Training Providers made up almost 10 per cent of all Other VQs awarded in 2001/02. Awards made at *notional* level 1 were dominant in both these types of assessment centre. For a complete breakdown of Other VQs by centre type by level see Table 27.

### **2001/02 Other VQs by subject area**

**64** The largest subject representing 45 per cent of all Other VQs was 'Information Technology and Information'. 90 per cent of these awards were at *notional* level 1 which made up 80 per cent of all other VQ awards attained at this level. Over half (56 per cent) of all Other VQs at *notional* level 2 were made in either 'Business/Management/Office Studies' or 'Arts and Crafts' and 17 per cent of awards at *notional* level 3 and above were made in 'Engineering'. Table 28 provides more details of subject area by level.

**65** Females dominated in awards of Other VQs made in the two most popular subject areas, 'Information Technology and Information' and 'Business/Management/Office Studies' achieving 64 per cent and 71 per cent of all awards respectively. In the next most popular subject area 'Engineering' 97 per cent of awards were made to males.

### **2001/02 Other VQs by Government Office Region and Country**

**66** In 2001/02, 91 per cent of all Other VQ awards on NISVQ were made in England, compared with 5 per cent in Wales, 1 per cent in Scotland and 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. The Government Office Regions of the North West and West Midlands gained more awards when compared to other regions both with a combined total of 109 thousand awards (28 per cent of the total awards for England). From NISVQ it is estimated that just over 1 per cent of all Other VQ awards are made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. These figures are contained within Table 29.

### **AWARDS OF VOCATIONALLY RELATED QUALIFICATIONS (VRQs), UK**

**67** In 2001/02 NISVQ received information on awards of Vocationally Related Qualifications from three awarding

bodies. These were ASDAN, OCR (formerly RSA) and City and Guilds. In previous versions of the bulletin the total number of VRQs were included in the total number of Other Vocational Qualifications due to very small numbers. However, the number of VRQs has grown considerably over the last year and more detailed analyses can now be presented. All 2001/02 analyses of VRQ awards presented in this bulletin relate *only* to awards made by these three awarding bodies and are *not* UK estimates. QCA estimate a *notional* NVQ level to VRQs for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.

### **2001/02 VRQ awards by age, level and gender**

**68** In 2001/02 there were 25 thousand awards of VRQs. Over 14 thousand of these (58 per cent) were made to people aged 25 and over. For all age groups, other than those aged 16, more awards were made to males, achieving 70 per cent of the total number of awards in VRQs. Numbers of VRQs awarded by age and gender are presented in Table 30.

**69** Almost two thirds (62 per cent) of all VRQs were awarded at *notional* levels 3 and above. 71 per cent of awards at level 3 and above were made to males. A quarter of the awards made were at *notional* level 2 and again more awards were made to males (76 per cent). 13 per cent of all VRQs were made at *notional* level 1, where awards to males and females were evenly split. Numbers of VRQs awarded by level and gender are contained within Table 32.

**70** For awards made at *notional* levels 3 and above, 65 per cent were made to people aged 25 and over. For awards made at *notional* level 2 55 per cent were made to people aged under 25 and for awards made at *notional* level 1 the majority of awards were made to those aged 25 and over (51 per cent) and to those aged 17 and under (30 per cent).

### **2001/02 VRQs by centre type**

**71** 74 per cent of awards were made through Further Education Colleges of which 63 per cent were at *notional* levels 3 and above. Of those awards gained through Further Education Colleges over 2 thirds (70 per cent) were attained by males. Awards made at Private Training Providers made up a further 10 per cent of all VRQs awarded in 2001/02 with awards at levels 3 and above being dominant (78 per cent).

### **VRQs by Government Office Region and Country**

**72** In 2001/02 90 per cent of all VRQ awards on NISVQ were made in England, compared with 5 per cent in Wales, 2 per cent in Northern Ireland and 2 per cent in Scotland. The Government Office Region of the South East gained more awards compared to other regions accounting for 16 per cent of the total awards for England. These figures are contained within Table 31.

## **EMPLOYERS' AWARENESS OF AND INVOLVEMENT IN VQs**

**73** The Learning and Training at Work (LTW) 2002 survey indicates that 95 per cent of employers in England had heard of NVQs. This figure is very similar to that found in previous years.

**74** Of all employers, nearly two out of five (38 per cent) reported that they offered the qualification to one or more of their employees. This figure is steadily rising over time: up from 34 per cent in 2001, 31 per cent in 2000 and 30 per cent in 1999.

**75** Employers offering NVQs were asked to estimate the proportion of employees at their establishment to whom they were on offer. In 2002, NVQs were offered to 48 per cent of employees in those establishments offering NVQs. This is an increase on the 42 per cent found in 2001 and the 38 per cent found in 2000 (no data available for 1999). Looking at employees in all establishments, whether offering NVQs or not, this equates to 26 per cent of all employees in 2002, 21 per cent in 2001 and 18 per cent in 2000 respectively.

**76** Four out of five employers (81 per cent), who are currently offering NVQs were either fairly or very satisfied with the NVQs on offer. This is very similar to the levels of satisfaction found in previous studies: 82 per cent in 2001, 81 per cent in 2000 and 80 per cent in 1999.

**77** Of the 8 per cent of employers who were dissatisfied with NVQs, the main reasons given were: that the qualifications do not cover all the skills the company needs (19 per cent), they do not meet the company's business needs (18 per cent), or that they proved too bureaucratic (16 per cent). A high proportion could not give a specific reason – they were simply dissatisfied generally (14 per cent).

**78** Of those employers offering NVQs, three quarters (75 per cent) felt that the quality of assessment was very or fairly good: this figure is similar to that found in 2001 (73 per cent) and is higher than those reported in the 2000 and 1999 studies (65 per cent and 68 per cent respectively).

**79** The figures from the survey relate to employers in England with five or more employees. All business sectors, private and public, with the exception of schools and LEAs were covered. It should be noted that due to changes in the coverage of the survey the figures published here are not comparable with those published in editions of this Bulletin prior to 2002.

**80** More results from this survey are available in a Statistical First Release 02/2003, available from the DfES statistical website at: [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics) and a Research Report, available from the DfES Research website at: [www.dfes.gov.uk/research](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research).

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**81** 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).

**82** HTML and PDF versions of this bulletin are available on the website [www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics). A range of additional tables from NISVQ will be made available, in an Excel spreadsheet, which will include more detailed analyses by Government Office region, Local Learning and Skills Council, Local Education Authority and Learning Partnerships. More information on qualifications can be found in Statistical First Release 03/2003: The level of highest qualification held by Young People and Adults: England 2002, which is also available on the DfES's statistical website.

**TABLE 11:**  
Awards of NVQs by academic year and level, UK

Numbers of full NVQ certificates(i)

Year(ii)	Quarter	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total
<b>Prior to 1997/98(iii)</b>		<b>385,711</b>	<b>1,060,415</b>	<b>269,208</b>	<b>57,409</b>	<b>4,453</b>	<b>1,777,196</b>
1997/98	Q1	15,883	57,089	19,696	1,893	253	<b>94,814</b>
	Q2	17,497	69,652	26,848	3,188	231	<b>117,416</b>
	Q3	13,166	46,310	16,831	1,553	243	<b>78,103</b>
	Q4	24,117	89,905	36,841	4,322	356	<b>155,541</b>
<b>Total 1997/98(iii)</b>		<b>70,663</b>	<b>262,956</b>	<b>100,216</b>	<b>10,956</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>445,874</b>
1998/99	Q1	13,977	53,775	20,452	2,086	213	<b>90,503</b>
	Q2	11,099	55,865	22,661	3,562	197	<b>93,384</b>
	Q3	12,659	50,780	18,548	1,944	202	<b>84,133</b>
	Q4	22,147	92,590	39,418	5,876	246	<b>160,277</b>
<b>Total 1998/99(iii)</b>		<b>59,882</b>	<b>253,010</b>	<b>101,079</b>	<b>13,468</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>428,297</b>
1999/00	Q1	12,847	53,451	22,913	2,324	193	<b>91,728</b>
	Q2	16,273	63,997	26,561	3,265	239	<b>110,335</b>
	Q3	12,071	47,281	19,635	2,098	228	<b>81,313</b>
	Q4	22,142	87,166	39,835	6,083	216	<b>155,442</b>
<b>Total 1999/00(iii)</b>		<b>63,333</b>	<b>251,895</b>	<b>108,944</b>	<b>13,770</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>438,818</b>
2000/01	Q1	11,578	52,396	22,494	2,718	293	<b>89,479</b>
	Q2	10,790	64,379	27,057	3,341	200	<b>105,767</b>
	Q3	7,455	37,197	16,899	2,486	215	<b>64,252</b>
	Q4	19,552	76,709	36,222	5,850	249	<b>138,582</b>
<b>Total 2000/01(iii)</b>		<b>49,375</b>	<b>230,681</b>	<b>102,672</b>	<b>14,395</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>398,080</b>
2001/02	Q1	8,880	46,198	21,296	2,699	158	<b>79,231</b>
	Q2	7,088	47,659	21,740	2,990	235	<b>79,712</b>
	Q3	7,408	38,780	19,111	2,329	224	<b>67,852</b>
	Q4	20,958	84,046	42,105	6,433	184	<b>153,726</b>
<b>Total 2001/02</b>		<b>44,334</b>	<b>216,683</b>	<b>104,252</b>	<b>14,451</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>380,521</b>
2002/03	Q1	9,459	51,253	25,044	2,737	184	<b>88,677</b>

Source: QCA

- (i) Includes awards of expired NVQs  
(ii) Academic years from October to September  
(iii) Figures may not agree with previous years' Bulletins as some duplicate awards were identified and have now been discounted

**TABLE 12:**  
Awards of NVQs by framework area and year, UK(i)

Numbers of full NVQ certificates(ii)

Framework area	Prior to 1997/98(iii)	1997/98(iii)	1998/99(iii)	1999/00(iii)	2000/01(iii)	2001/02	Total
Tending animals, plants and land	49,755	10,573	10,605	10,251	10,022	9,335	100,541
Extracting/providing natural resources	9,996	810	1030	804	1,619	922	15,181
Constructing	138,656	26,993	27,788	34,622	37,345	39,122	304,526
Engineering	184,188	45,729	46,134	46,547	39,618	32,567	394,783
Manufacturing	50,768	17,419	22,160	25,615	24,918	23,925	164,805
Transporting	23,805	9,143	10,283	11,546	7,634	4,720	67,131
Providing goods and services	490,822	131,203	111,955	113,032	107,259	107,122	1,061,393
Health, social and protective services	144,781	40,459	44,642	52,152	54,451	61,274	397,759
Providing business services	673,307	156,694	147,996	137,744	109,531	96,499	1,321,771
Communicating	810	589	873	1362	965	742	5,341
Developing/extending knowledge/skills	10,308	6,262	4,831	5,143	4,718	4,293	35,555
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,777,196</b>	<b>445,874</b>	<b>428,297</b>	<b>438,818</b>	<b>398,080</b>	<b>380,521</b>	<b>3,868,786</b>

Source: QCA

- (i) Includes awards of expired NVQs  
(ii) Academic years from October to September  
(iii) Figures may not agree with previous years' Bulletins as some duplicate awards were identified and have now been discounted

**TABLE 13:**  
People in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by SOC, UK

Major Occupation Group (SOC 2000)	2002 Number (thousands)	Proportion of people in employment (i)
Managers & Senior Officials	363	9%
Professional Occupations	174	5%
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	390	10%
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	475	13%
Skilled Trades Occupations	470	14%
Personal Service Occupations	472	23%
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	261	12%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	253	11%
Elementary Occupations	319	9%
Not Classified	-	-
<b>Total(ii)</b>	<b>3,182</b>	<b>11%</b>

- less than 10,000

Source: LFS, Autumn 2002

(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 14:**  
People holding NVQs/SVQs by Government Office Region and Country

Government Office Region	Number (thousands) Autumn 2002 (i)	Proportion of Regional Population (ii)
United Kingdom	3,822	10%
Great Britain	3,725	10%
England	3,182	10%
South East	451	9%
London	297	6%
East of England	313	9%
South West	344	11%
West Midlands	383	12%
East Midlands	309	12%
Yorkshire & the Humber	365	12%
North West and Merseyside	491	12%
North East	232	15%
Wales	229	13%
Scotland	312	10%
Northern Ireland	97	9%

Source: LFS, Autumn 2002

(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 15:**  
NVQ/SVQ awards by academic age band (at date of award) and gender 2001/02, UK

Academic Age Band (i) (ii)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	1.0	-	1.9
16	12.9	10.6	23.5
17	24.4	22.6	47.0
18	20.1	22.4	42.5
19	14.4	17.9	32.3
20	11.1	13.9	25.0
21-24	29.3	27.0	56.3
25-40	67.1	42.9	110.0
41-59	42.6	22.5	65.1
Over 60	-	1.1	1.8
Not stated	1.4	1.6	3.0
<b>Total (iii)</b>	<b>225.2</b>	<b>183.2</b>	<b>408.4</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 2001/02 would age on 31 August 2001.

(ii) The figures contained in this table are not directly comparable with those contained in previous years publications. In 2001/02 academic age was used instead of true age.

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

**TABLE 16:**  
NVQ/SVQ awards by SOC and gender 2001/02, UK

SOC 2000 (i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Managers & Senior Officials	16.4	9.4	25.8
Professional Occupations	25.4	11.8	37.2
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	6.2	10.4	16.6
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	49.6	18.7	68.2
Skilled Trades Occupations	13.3	67.2	80.5
Personal Service Occupations	67.4	4.4	71.8
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	17.0	5.6	22.6
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	-	6.4	6.9
Elementary Occupations	10.0	13.4	23.4
Not Classified	19.5	35.9	55.4
<b>Total (ii)</b>	<b>225.2</b>	<b>183.2</b>	<b>408.4</b>

- 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. SOC 2000 has slightly different major occupation groups.

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

**TABLE 17:**  
NVQ/SVQ awards by assessment centre and level 2001/02, UK

Centre Type	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
School	-	5.8	2.0	-	8.6
FE College/Tertiary College	28.6	97.1	44.5	7.2	177.4
Sixth Form College	-	1.3	1.0	-	2.8
Adult Education Centre	-	1.5	1.1	-	3.0
University or other Higher Education centre	-	1.5	1.4	-	3.8
Private Training provider	7.5	71.8	36.7	5.2	121.2
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	1.4	-	-	2.6
Voluntary organisation	-	-	-	-	1.1
Employer	3.6	20.1	11.4	1.5	36.5
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	-	-	1.1
Armed Forces	-	1.9	-	-	3.0
Overseas centre	0.0	1.5	-	-	2.6
Other	4.0	26.4	12.9	1.2	44.6
<b>Total (i)</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>231.4</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>408.4</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

**TABLE 18:**  
NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area code and level 2001/02, UK

Subject Area	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	2.3	28.9	22.6	10.3	64.1
Sales Marketing & Distribution	3.7	34.3	9.6	-	47.6
Information Technology & Information	2.8	8.3	1.7	-	12.9
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-
Education/Training/Teaching	0.0	-	3.2	-	4.3
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	8.0	21.1	5.6	0.0	34.6
Arts and Crafts	-	-	-	-	-
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	0.0	-	-	-	1.0
Performing Arts	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Sports Games and Recreation	1.9	4.2	-	0.0	6.2
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	7.4	17.8	5.3	-	30.6
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	0.0	31.9	29.7	2.0	63.6
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	-	1.9	-	1.5	4.8
Sciences & Mathematics	0.0	-	-	0.0	-
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	2.6	6.1	1.8	-	10.6
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	3.5	21.5	12.0	-	37.2
Services to Industry	-	1.9	2.9	-	5.7
Manufacturing/Production Work	3.3	19.4	-	0.0	22.9
Engineering	-	7.4	10.0	-	17.7
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	0.0	-	-	0.0	-
Transport Services	-	4.1	-	-	4.7
Not Classified	10.4	21.2	7.2	-	39.0
<b>Total (i)</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>231.4</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>408.4</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

**TABLE 19:**  
NVQ/SVQ awards by framework area code and level 2001/02, UK

	Awards (thousands)				
Framework Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
Tending Animals, Plants and Land	2.8	6.3	1.7	-	10.8
Extracting and Providing Natural Resources	-	1.1	-	-	1.3
Constructing	5.0	25.6	13.0	-	43.8
Engineering	2.7	15.8	14.1	-	32.7
Manufacturing	4.4	19.9	1.2	1.0	26.5
Transporting	-	4.5	-	-	5.0
Providing Goods and Services	26.2	71.5	17.3	-	115.1
Providing Health, Social and Protective Services	-	32.2	29.1	2.6	64.5
Providing Business Services	5.0	51.9	32.0	11.2	100.0
Communicating	0.0	-	-	-	-
Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill	0.0	-	3.1	1.1	4.4
Not Classified	-	1.9	1.4	-	3.5
<b>Total (i)</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>231.4</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>408.4</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

**TABLE 20:**  
NVQ/SVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 2001/02

	Awards (thousands)
Government Office Region and Country	All
United Kingdom	375.8
Great Britain	364.3
England	310.6
South East	43.4
London	25.6
East of England	22.9
South West	30.8
West Midlands	40.4
East Midlands	26.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	39.8
North West and Merseyside	55.7
North East	25.6
Wales	24.7
Scotland	29.0
Northern Ireland	11.5
Overseas	3.2
Not known	29.4
<b>Total (i)</b>	<b>408.4</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

**TABLE 21:**  
GNVQ/ VCE awards by academic age and gender 2001/02, England

Academic age	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	6.4	6.8	13.2
16	15.1	17.0	32.1
17	26.4	26.6	53.0
18	8.3	10.2	18.5
19	2.4	3.3	5.7
20	-	1.2	2.1
21	-	-	-
Over 21	1.7	1.0	2.7
<b>Total(i)</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>128.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database

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

**TABLE 22:**  
GNVQ/VCE awards by assessment centre and level 2001/02, England

Centre Type	Awards (thousands)			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
School	2.7	31.6	13.0	47.2
Sixth Form College	1.3	7.1	5.5	13.9
Other FE Sector College	12.7	33.3	21.1	67.1
<b>Total(i)</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>128.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database

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

**TABLE 23:**  
GNVQ/VCE awards by subject area code and level 2001/02, England

				Awards (thousands)
Subject Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Art & Design	-	6.6	3.8	11.2
Business	2.8	15.0	10.9	28.7
Health & Social Care	3.5	9.4	6.1	19.0
Leisure & Tourism	2.0	11.6	-	14.4
Manufacturing	-	-	0.0	-
Construction	1.5	-	-	2.1
Hospitality & Catering	-	-	-	1.3
Science	-	2.1	1.0	3.4
Engineering	-	2.0	-	3.4
Information Technology	4.7	21.2	6.6	32.5
Management Studies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Media: Communication & Production	0.0	2.0	1.4	3.3
Retail & Distribution	-	-	0.0	-
Land & Environment	-	-	0.0	-
Performing Arts	-	-	-	1.6
Leisure & Recreation	0.0	0.0	2.1	2.1
Travel & Tourism	0.0	0.0	4.1	4.1
<b>Total(i)</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>128.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database

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

**TABLE 24:**  
GNVQ/VCE awards by Government Office Region and level 2001/02, England

				Awards (thousands)
Government Office Region	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
South East	1.8	9.5	6.2	17.5
London	4.1	13.5	5.9	23.5
East of England	1.6	8.3	4.4	14.4
South West	-	5.3	3.7	10.0
West Midlands	1.8	9.0	4.4	15.2
East Midlands	-	4.8	2.7	8.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	2.0	7.6	4.2	13.8
North West and Merseyside	2.4	9.4	5.7	17.6
North East	1.1	4.6	2.2	7.9
<b>Total(i)</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>128.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database

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

**TABLE 25:**  
Other VQ awards by academic age band (at date of award) and gender 2001/02, UK

Academic Age Band (i) (ii)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	7.3	6.4	13.7
16	11.1	13.2	24.3
17	16.6	16.9	33.5
18	14.7	16.2	30.9
19	8.3	12.4	20.7
20	6.2	9.7	15.9
21-24	18.5	23.6	42.1
25-40	83.7	59.1	142.8
41-59	69.7	37.7	107.4
Over 60	11.6	9.7	21.2
Unknown	13.1	8.7	21.8
<b>Total(iii)(iv)(v)</b>	<b>261.3</b>	<b>212.9</b>	<b>474.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2001/02 would be age on 31 August 2001.

(ii) The figures contained in this table are not directly comparable with those contained in previous years publications. In 2001/02 academic age was used instead of true age.

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

(iv) Numbers of awards are for 7 awarding bodies only (see technical notes paragraph 7).

(v) Excludes VRQs.

**TABLE 26:**  
Other VQ awards by SOC and gender 2001/02, UK

SOC 2000 (i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Managers & Senior Officials	-	-	-
Professional Occupations	2.4	1.0	3.4
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	20.6	12.3	32.9
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	11.9	7.5	19.5
Skilled Trades Occupations	2.0	22.7	24.7
Personal Service Occupations	1.7	-	2.0
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	0.0	-	-
Process, Plant & Machine Operatives	0.0	0.0	0.0
Elementary Occupations	4.4	4.6	9.0
Not Classified	217.9	164.1	382.0
<b>Total(ii)(iii)(iv)</b>	<b>261.3</b>	<b>212.9</b>	<b>474.2</b>

- 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.

(iii) Numbers of awards are for 7 awarding bodies only (see technical notes paragraph 7).

(iv) Excludes VRQs.

**TABLE 27:**  
Other VQ awards by assessment centre and level 2001/02, UK

Awards (thousands)					
Centre Type	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
School	33.2	5.1	1.6	-	40.6
FE College/Tertiary College	111.1	63.8	53.3	32.6	260.7
Sixth Form College	11.9	3.9	1.8	-	18.5
Adult Education Centre	25.2	7.8	1.2	-	34.8
University or other Higher Education centre	4.5	6.0	1.2	1.9	13.6
Private Training provider	26.7	12.0	4.7	2.6	46.0
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	-	-	-	-
Voluntary organisation	-	-	0.0	-	-
Employer	8.7	3.1	1.5	-	13.9
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	1.1	-	0.0	2.0
Armed Forces	-	-	1.9	-	3.5
Overseas centre	-	-	-	-	1.8
Other	17.5	9.0	5.0	6.1	37.6
<b>Total(i)(ii)(iii)</b>	<b>241.5</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>474.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Numbers of awards are for 7 awarding bodies only (see technical notes paragraph 7).

(iii) Excludes VRQs.

**TABLE 28:**  
Other VQ awards by subject area code and level 2001/02, UK

Awards (thousands)					
Subject Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4 & 5	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	7.0	48.7	8.1	5.5	69.3
Sales Marketing & Distribution	1.8	-	-	-	2.8
Information Technology & Information	192.5	8.7	3.3	9.8	214.2
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	-	0.0	-	-
Area Studies/Cultural Studies/Language/Literature	-	-	0.0	-	-
Education/Training/Teaching	4.1	3.0	4.7	1.1	12.9
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	2.2	3.9	2.2	-	8.5
Arts and Crafts	2.7	15.2	5.9	2.6	26.5
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	-	1.1	2.5	2.9	7.4
Performing Arts	-	2.2	3.8	2.4	8.5
Sports Games and Recreation	2.5	2.7	-	-	5.7
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	8.8	2.3	1.5	1.2	13.8
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	4.0	1.3	7.1	1.0	13.4
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	-	2.2	1.5	-	4.0
Sciences & Mathematics	-	-	3.6	3.2	6.9
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	-	4.2	3.6	-	8.7
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	2.7	2.2	2.9	3.7	11.5
Services to Industry	1.6	4.5	7.1	-	13.3
Manufacturing/Production Work	-	-	1.0	1.0	3.3
Engineering	8.0	9.8	11.7	8.1	37.6
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	1.4	-	-	-	2.5
Transport Services	-	-	-	-	1.0
Not classified	-	-	-	1.6	2.2
<b>Total(i)(ii)(iii)</b>	<b>241.5</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>474.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Numbers of awards are for 7 awarding bodies only (see technical notes paragraph 7).

(iii) Excludes VRQs.

**TABLE 29:**  
Other VQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 2001/02

		Awards (thousands)
<b>Government Office Region and Country</b>		<b>All</b>
United Kingdom		429.5
Great Britain		415.7
England		390.0
South East		51.9
London		38.1
East of England		35.0
South West		44.9
West Midlands		52.3
East Midlands		41.6
Yorkshire and the Humber		44.5
North West and Merseyside		57.2
North East		24.4
Wales		22.2
Scotland		3.4
Northern Ireland		13.8
Overseas		4.0
Not classified		40.7
<b>Total(i)(ii)(iii)</b>		<b>474.2</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Numbers of awards are for 7 awarding bodies only (see technical notes paragraph 7).

(iii) Excludes VRQs.

**TABLE 30:**  
VRQ awards by academic age (at date of award) and gender 2001/02, UK

		Awards (thousands)		
<b>Academic Age Band (i)</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>All</b>	
less than 16	-	-	-	
16	1.3	1.1	2.4	
17	-	1.2	2.1	
18	-	1.2	1.6	
19	-	-	-	
20	-	-	-	
21-24	-	1.7	2.3	
25-40	2.5	7.0	9.5	
41-59	1.3	3.5	4.8	
Over 60	-	-	-	
Unknown	-	-	-	
<b>Total(ii)(iii)</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>24.9</b>	

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2001/02 would be age on 31 August 2001.

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

(iii) Number of awards are for ASDAN, OCR and City and Guilds Only.

**TABLE 31:**  
VRQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 2001/02

		Awards (thousands)
Government Office Region and Country		All
United Kingdom		24.1
Great Britain		23.6
England		21.8
South East		3.6
London		3.0
East of England		2.0
South West		2.1
West Midlands		3.0
East Midlands		1.7
Yorkshire and the Humber		2.4
North West and Merseyside		2.8
North East		1.3
Wales		1.3
Scotland		-
Northern Ireland		-
Overseas		-
Not classified		-
<b>Total(i)(ii)</b>		<b>24.9</b>

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Number of awards are for ASDAN, OCR and City and Guilds Only.

**TABLE 32:**  
VRQ awards by level of award and gender 2001/02

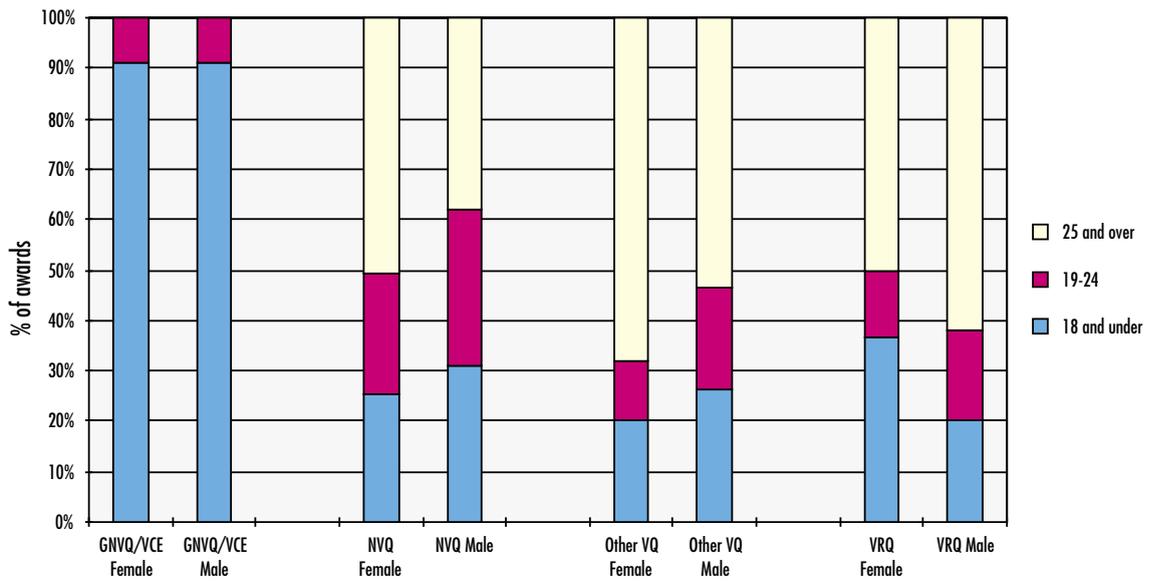
Level of Award	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Level 1	1.6	1.6	3.3
Level 2	1.4	4.7	6.1
Level 3	3.3	10.4	13.7
Levels 4 & 5	1.2	-	1.8
<b>Total (i) (ii)</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>24.9</b>

- less than 1000

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

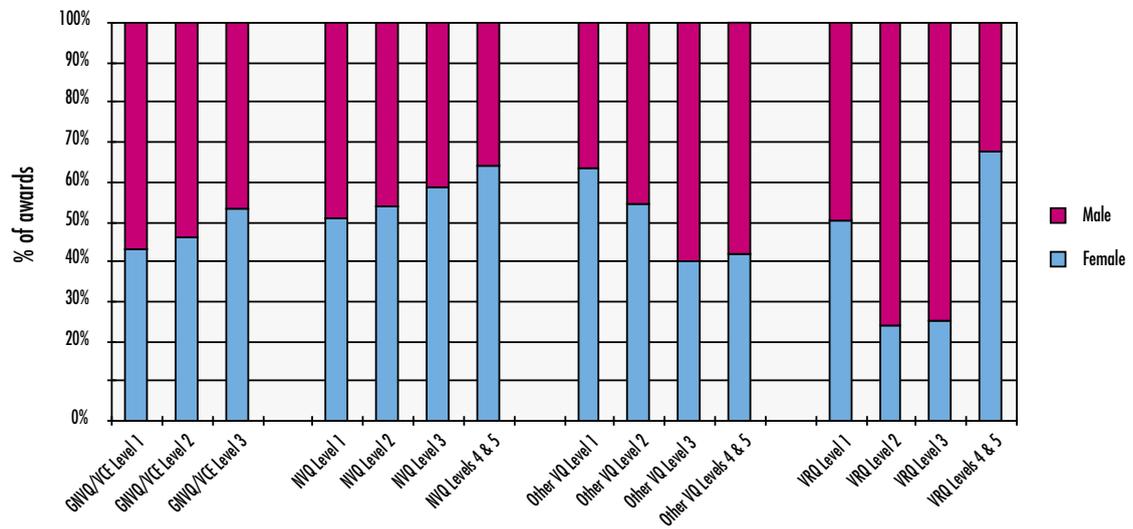
(ii) Number of awards are for ASDAN, OCR and City and Guilds Only.

**CHART B:**  
Comparison of Qualification type by age band and gender 2001/02, England



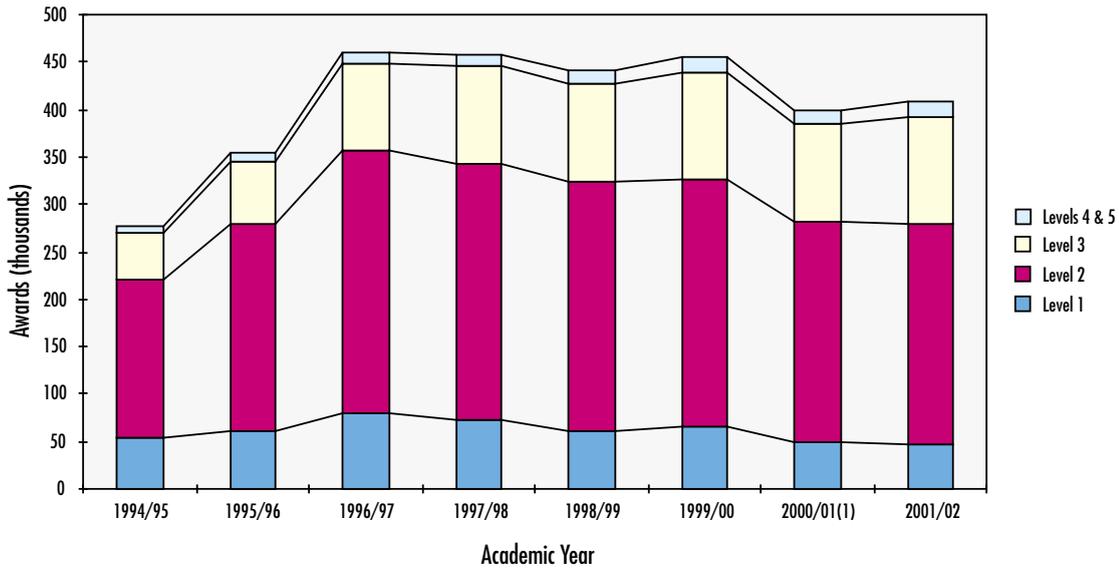
Source: NISVQ and Secondary School and College Performance Table database

**CHART C:**  
Comparison of qualification type by level and gender 2001/02, England



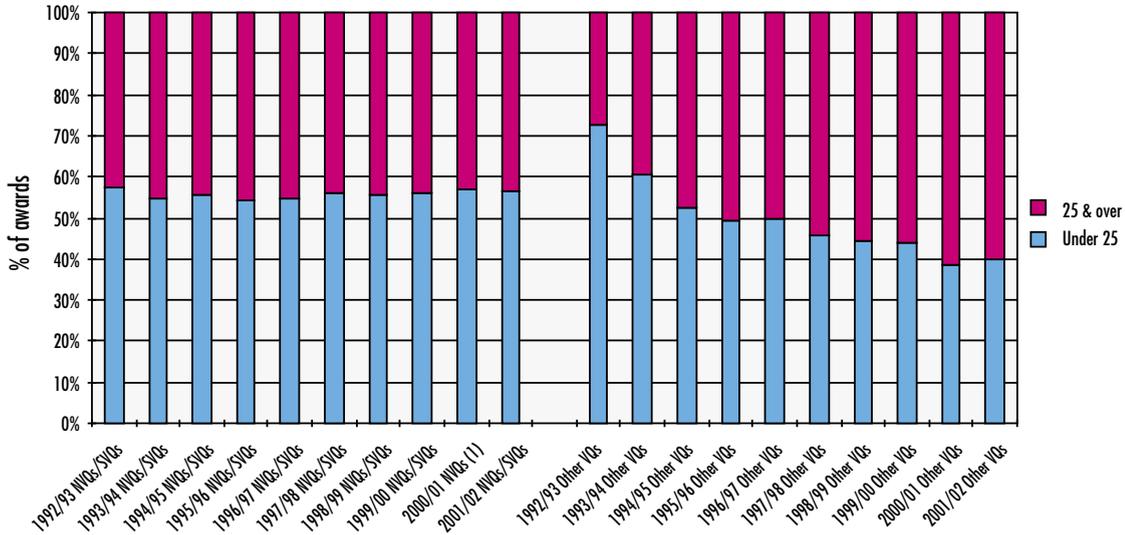
Source: NISVQ and Secondary School and College Performance Table database

**CHART D:**  
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level and year, UK



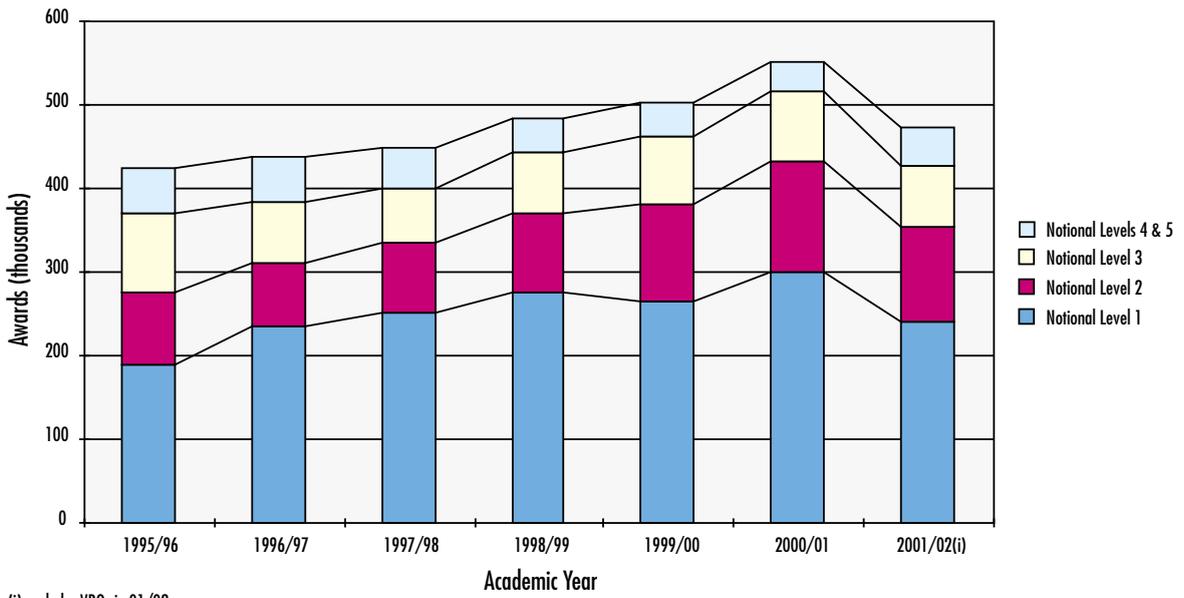
(1) 2000/01 data is awards of NVQs only.  
Source: NISVQ

**CHART E:**  
Comparison of NVQs/SVQs with Other VQs by age group and year, UK.



(1) 2000/01 data is awards of NVQs only.  
Source: NISVQ

**CHART F:**  
Awards of Other VQs by level and year, UK



(i) excludes VRQs in 01/02  
Source: NISVQ

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Sources

1 The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by QCA and DfES. QCA statistics on the numbers of NVQs awarded are collected from all NVQ awarding bodies. The National Information System for Vocational Qualification (NISVQ) collects candidate level information on awards of all types of vocational qualifications currently provided by four of the largest awarding bodies (City and Guilds, London Qualifications Ltd (formerly Edexcel and BTEC), OCR (formerly RSA) and SQA), plus information from a further 12 awarding bodies on NVQ awards at candidate level. Note that NISVQ counts numbers of awards of vocational qualifications not numbers of individuals receiving awards.

2 QCA are responsible for the quality assurance of NVQs i.e. accreditation and monitoring of implementation. QCA accredits proposals by over 100 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 11 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 DfES.

### NVQs/SVQs

4 As part of the NISVQ project QCA provide DfES with annual totals (October-September) of NVQ awards by framework area and level. DfES use these totals to gross up the more detailed NVQ award information, collected from the awarding bodies that participate in NISVQ, in order to produce UK NVQ estimates. UK NVQ/SVQ estimates are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs.

5 Robust UK NVQ/SVQ estimates have been made possible by an increase of the NVQ coverage on NISVQ. The overall coverage of NVQs on NISVQ, as measured against the total number of NVQs accredited by QCA in a year, has increased slightly to almost 93 per cent (92 per cent in 2000/01). This follows an increase in coverage of 6 percentage points in 1999/00 and a rise of 18 percentage points in 1998/99. The increase in NVQ coverage in recent years is mainly a result of an increase in the number of awarding bodies submitting information to NISVQ (from 4 in 1996/97 to 15 in 1998/99 and 1999/00 and 17 in 2001/02). The recent

improvements in NVQ coverage have allowed UK NVQ/SVQ estimates to be produced from NISVQ since 1997/98.

### GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs

6 In previous years GNVQ/VCE/GSVQ information was taken from NISVQ. The new VCE is reported on differently to the older 'legacy' GNVQs, therefore figures for 2000/01 and 2001/02 presented here are based on the Secondary School and College Performance Tables database – see below. Number of awards in Full GNVQ awards are reported at level 1 (Foundation level), level 2 (Intermediate level) and level 3 (Advanced level). Level 3 awards include awards in Advanced 12 unit VCEs.

### Other VQs

7 For vocational qualifications other than NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs/VCEs, GSVQs and VRQs 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 other full vocational qualifications (Other VQs) awarded by seven major awarding bodies: London Qualifications Ltd (formerly Edexcel and BTEC), City and Guilds, OCR (formerly RSA), CITB, IMI, EDI (formerly LCCI) and SQA. These awarding bodies 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 LEA area for instance). However, since it currently takes data on Other VQs from only seven awarding bodies, NISVQ is not yet fully comprehensive.

### VRQs (Vocationally Related Qualifications)

8 In previous years' publications any information that was collected by NISVQ on VRQs was included in the total number of Other VQs as the numbers of VRQ awards were very small. However, the number of VRQs has grown considerably over the last year and more detailed analyses can now be presented. In 2001/02 NISVQ received information on awards of Vocationally Related Qualifications from 3 awarding bodies: these were ASDAN, OCR (formerly RSA) and City and Guilds, who contribute information on awards 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. However, since it currently takes data on VRQs from only three awarding bodies, NISVQ is not yet fully comprehensive.

## OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

### Labour Force Survey

9 The main source for information on people holding/studying for NVQs/SVQs is the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

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

11 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.

### Learning and Training at Work

12 Learning and Training at Work (LTW) 2002 is the fourth in an annual series of employer surveys that investigate workforce development. The survey also investigates awareness of, and involvement with, a number of training and development initiatives.

13 LTW 2002 covers employers in England, from all business sectors, private and public, with the exception of schools and LEAs. Figures published in this Bulletin refer to employers with five or more employees, although the survey also reports findings from employers with one or more employee.

### Secondary School and College Performance Tables database

14 This data source is an annual collection of GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A/AS/AGNVQ examination results derived directly from the examination boards. Data are mainly used in the compilation of the annual School and College Performance Tables.

### Classification systems used in this bulletin

15 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. Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and are available for all awards recorded on NISVQ.

## DEFINITIONS

### Regulatory Body

16 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

17 The organisation that administers an award and 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

18 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 that 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

19 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

20 The information in this bulletin 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/VCE: General National Vocational Qualification/Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education**

**21** Advanced GNVQs were redesigned and re-launched as Vocational 'A' levels (or, more formally, Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (VCEs)) for first teaching from September 2000, as part of the Curriculum 2000 reforms. They are available as 'AS' levels (three units), 'A' levels (six units) and double awards (twelve units). Vocational 'A' levels are comparable to GCE 'A' levels, and can be taken alongside them as part of students' overall qualifications programmes. They offer students a broad introduction to a vocational area, such as health and social care or engineering, and develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding of the world of work in that sector. The qualifications are graded A-E, like GCE 'A' levels, and enable students to progress to higher education, employment or further training.

### **Joint Awards**

**22** Two or more organisations may jointly award a qualification.

### **NVQ Framework**

**23** 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**

**24** National Vocational Qualifications accredited by QCA, are competence-based qualifications built 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**

**25** 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 a 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**

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

### **Qualification**

**27** 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.**

**28** The Scottish equivalent of an NVQ, accredited by SQA.

**SOC: Standard Occupational Classification**

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

**Superclass**

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

**Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs)**

**31** Vocational qualifications that have not been accredited by the Regulatory Authorities for inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework.

**Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs)**

**32** Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs) are vocational qualifications which have been accredited by the Regulatory Authorities for inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework, and which therefore meet the relevant criteria for approved qualifications. Accreditation of VRQs commenced in April 2000.

**Unit**

**33** 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**

**34** A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.