

# Statistics Bulletin

Higher Qualifications Quarterly:  
October to December 2011



February 2012

Ofqual/12/5131

Version 2

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## **Key findings**

This bulletin covers qualifications of all types at level 4 and above (equivalent to post A level), excluding university degrees, which are regulated by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) rather than the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). There is some overlap between the figures in this bulletin and those in the Vocational Qualifications Quarterly, which covers National Vocational qualifications (NVQ), Vocationally Related qualifications (VRQ), Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications and Occupational qualifications (OQ) at all levels.

Since 2010 there has been a large growth in available higher qualifications. This increase is in line with the transition of qualifications to the QCF, which started to see large growth at the beginning of 2010.

There were 26,150 higher qualification achievements in October to December 2011, an increase of 5% on the same quarter of 2010. This figure covered 638 different qualifications, an increase of 27% on the previous year. The individual qualification with the greatest number of achievements was CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF), with 1,900 achievements.

While there has been a growth in the number of available qualifications – 2,100 in October to December 2011 compared to 1,540 in 2010 (representing 36% growth), a trend which began in 2010 – there has not yet been a sizeable increase in the number of achievements. This is probably due to higher level qualifications generally taking a long period of time to complete. As a result of this we may expect to see a growth in the number of achievements from 2012 onwards, following on from the increase in the number of qualifications available.

In October to December 2011 achievements for higher qualifications were recorded by 78 awarding organisations. The awarding organisation that recorded the most achievements was Pearson Education Ltd. (Edexcel), with 4,850 achievements.

The sector subject area (SSA) with the most achievements was business, administration and law, with 13,500 achievements, which represents 52 per cent of the total higher achievements.

The higher qualification type with the greatest number of achievements was the QCF type, with 18,450 achievements, representing 71 per cent all higher achievements.

The level with the most achievements was level 4, which recorded 15,000 achievements, representing 57 per cent of the total higher achievements.

## Introduction

This statistical bulletin is published by Ofqual. We regulate qualifications, examinations and assessments in England and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. In this bulletin we present data on achievements for regulated higher qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the October to December 2011 quarter.

This bulletin is one of a suite of three publications presenting quarterly data on achievements for regulated qualifications, excluding GCSEs, GCEs<sup>1</sup> and the Diploma. The other two bulletins are:

- Vocational Qualifications Quarterly (covers NVQ, VRQ, OQ and QCF qualifications at all levels)
- Supplemental Qualifications Quarterly (covers Entry to level 3 for Basic Skills, Entry level, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Free-standing Mathematics Qualifications, Functional Skills, Key Skills and other general qualifications)

Each quarter awarding organisations submit to us data on the number of achievements for regulated qualifications (excluding GCSE and GCE) during the quarter. Achievements are recorded in the quarter during which the final certificate is issued. This bulletin presents this data, giving information on the number of achievements recorded by awarding organisations and the SSA, qualification type and level of achievements. All regulated qualifications are included, regardless of age of learner, centre type and funding status of the qualification.

## Geographical coverage

This bulletin covers the regulated qualifications of all recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Only one figure for the total number of achievements for each qualification is available, so it is not currently possible to present the data at country level. We have now started collecting more comprehensive data and eventually expect to be able to present data at country level.

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<sup>1</sup> Data for GCSEs and GCEs can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) website at [www.jcq.org.uk/national\\_results/index.cfm](http://www.jcq.org.uk/national_results/index.cfm) or at [www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/statistics/general-data](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/statistics/general-data)

## **Qualification type**

At the point of accreditation, regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 18 qualification types, which are used to classify qualifications in this bulletin. We recognise that the classification system is not ideal, as very similar qualifications may appear under different types, for example NVQ and QCF, and some qualifications are miscoded. We are working with experts to investigate how this situation might be improved in the future.

## **Revisions**

Once published, data on the number of certifications for any qualification is not usually subject to revision. However, data may be revised in subsequent bulletins due to late-received data or if an error is identified. Qualifications may also be re-categorised to a different type, level, SSA or awarding organisation. In some cases, this may result in previous data being amended to reflect the new categorisation.

In this bulletin some figures have been revised since the quarter 3 2011 bulletin. These revisions were due to historical updates from two awarding organisations.

## **Completeness of the data**

Awarding organisations send us data every quarter. We contact any awarding organisation that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period to ensure the data is as complete as possible. For this quarter, we received data from all the awarding organisations.

Figures in the commentary and the tables for the number of achievements recorded are rounded to the nearest 50. This reflects the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale data collection. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in pie charts will not necessarily sum to 100%.

Due to seasonal variation in the number of achievements over the year, comparisons in this bulletin are only made to data in the same quarter of the previous year.

The raw data, since 1989, is available in the Regulated Qualifications Activity data set in the statistics section of our website: [www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/statistics/vocational-data](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/statistics/vocational-data)

## **Definitions**

A glossary is available as a separate document in the statistics section of our website: [www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/165/411](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/165/411) , which has further details on SSA classifications, qualification types and levels.

In the charts in this bulletin quarter numbers refer to calendar quarters. So, Q1 refers to January to March, Q2 to April to June, Q3 to July to September and Q4 to October to December.

We welcome any suggestions or comments regarding this bulletin. Our contact details are at the back of this document.

## Achievements this quarter

To provide an overall perspective on achievements during the latest quarter, this section presents figures for all qualification types, except GCE, GCSE and Diploma types. Further details for types not included in this bulletin can be found in the companion bulletins on vocational and supplemental qualifications.

The total number of achievements across all qualification types for the period October to December 2011 is shown in the table below (with October to December 2010 shown for comparison).

Qualification	October to December 2010	October to December 2011	% change	Direction of change
Basic Skills	126,650	99,650	(-21)	↓
ESOL	42,750	52,250	22	↑
Entry level	4,650	3,450	(-26)	↓
Free-standing Mathematics Qualification	0	0	0	
Functional Skills	13,300	70,600	431	↑
Higher level	6,800	4,000	(-41)	↓
Key Skills	120,500	108,050	(-10)	↓
NVQ	179,600	50,950	(-72)	↓
OQ	6,200	2,000	(-68)	↓
Other general qualifications	108,250	17,050	(-84)	↓
QCF	274,750	803,550	192	↑
VRQ	285,750	55,600	(-81)	↓
<b>Total number of achievements</b>	<b>1,169,250</b>	<b>1,267,100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>↑</b>

From the table above we can see the impact of qualifications being restructured onto the QCF, with an increase of over 190% in the number of achievements for these qualifications. Qualifications in ESOL also increased, by 22%.

We also see an increase of 431% in Functional Skills achievements, a qualification type which replaces Key Skills and Basic Skills. Key Skills and Basic Skills have a corresponding decline of 12,450 (10%) and 27,000 (21%) on the achievements given in October to December 2010. The increase in Functional Skills could also be attributed in part to the increase in Apprenticeships. In 2010/11 academic year, there were 200,300 apprenticeship achievements compared with 171,500 in 2009/10.<sup>2</sup>

With qualifications being restructured onto the QCF we see a decline in all other qualification types, with the largest decreases in achievements reported in other general qualifications (84%), VRQs (81%), NVQs (72%) and OQs (68%). The decrease in other general qualifications is largely impacted upon by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) transferring their qualifications onto the QCF.

Those with a rather smaller decline were higher level (41%) and Entry level (26%) qualifications.

As with the same quarter of last year, no awards were reported in Free-standing Mathematics Qualifications.

The 20 qualifications with the highest number of achievements across all qualification types, for the period October to December 2011, are shown in the table below.

<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Qualification type</b>	<b>Number of achievements</b>
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	QCF	50,900
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	QCF	17,450
Skillsfirst Level 2 Diploma in Retail Skills (QCF)	QCF	15,600
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	QCF	12,700
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	QCF	12,600
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3) (QCF)	QCF	10,600

<sup>2</sup> [www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr\\_current](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current)

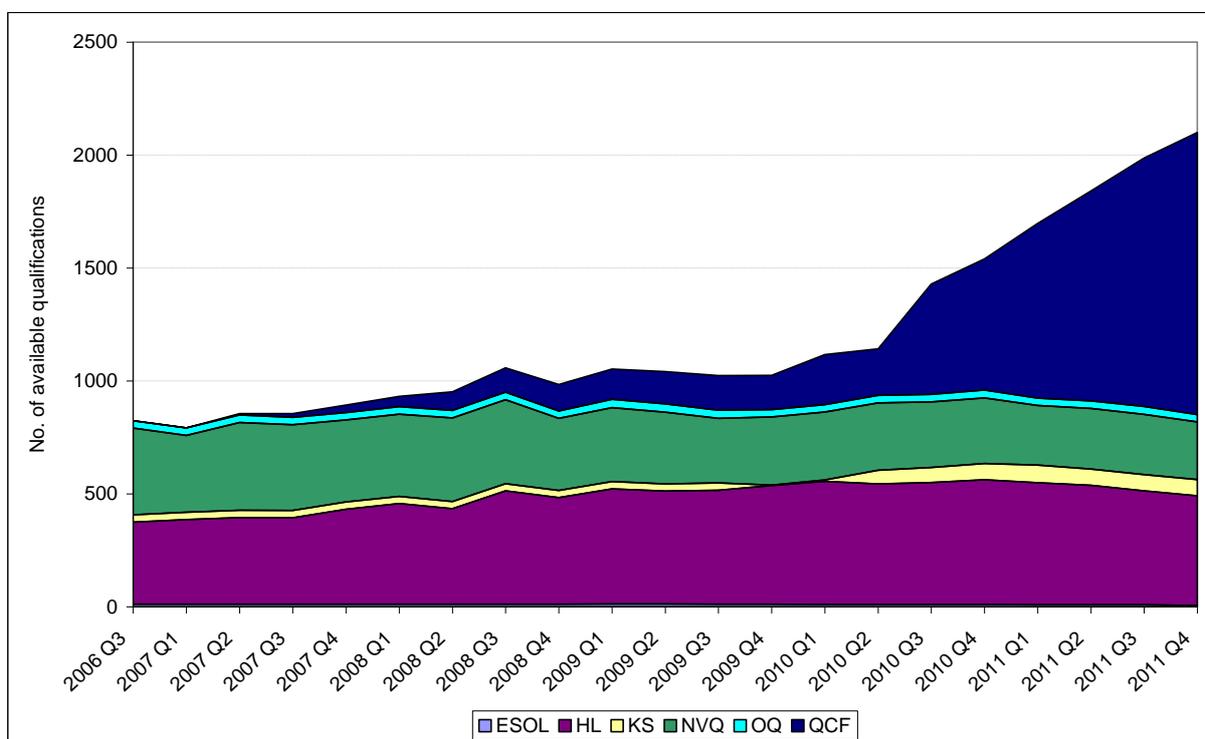
<b>Qualification</b>	<b>Qualification type</b>	<b>Number of achievements</b>
Cambridge ESOL Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 6/6.5)	ESOL	10,300
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	BS	10,200
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	BS	10,100
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	OG	10,100
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	KS	9,300
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	BS	9,300
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Literacy	BS	9,250
Skillsfirst Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	QCF	8,650
Cambridge ESOL Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5/5.5)	ESOL	8,500
BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety at Work (QCF)	QCF	8,350
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 4) (QCF)	QCF	8,250
EDEXCEL Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	KS	8,100
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	KS	8,100
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	QCF	8,000

(Key: Basic Skills (BS); other general (OG); Functional Skills (FS); Key Skills (KS))

## Regulated higher qualifications

There are currently 2,100 available regulated higher qualifications, an increase of 36% on the same quarter of 2010. These comprise 1,249 QCF type, 486 higher level, 255 NVQ, 72 Key Skills, 33 OQ and 5 ESOL qualifications (see figure 1 and table 1). Available qualifications are those that are listed in the Register of Regulated Qualifications as available for awarding, that is to say that they have passed their start or effective date but have not yet passed their final certification end date.

**Figure 1:** Number of available regulated higher qualifications per quarter by qualification type, October–December 2006 to October–December 2011



The continual growth of available qualifications could be due in part to higher qualifications being available on the QCF. Before 2006 higher qualifications were limited in their availability, with VRQs available up to level 3 only, level 4 NVQs equivalent to achievement at levels 4, 5 and 6 and level 5 NVQs equivalent to levels 6, 7 and 8 (although the higher level NVQs have made up a consistently small part of the total NVQ achievements, ranging between 3 per cent and 6 per cent over the past six years; for more information see the Vocational Qualifications Quarterly). Between 2006 and 2008 the QCF was piloted and the Regulatory Arrangements for the QCF were published in 2008. The large increase in available qualifications since 2010 is in line with the transition of qualifications to the QCF. Although we do not see a steep, corresponding decline in the number of available qualifications in the other types, we do see the decline in the number of achievements.

During the last quarter, 150 new higher qualifications were added to the list of available regulated qualifications. All but two of these were QCF type.

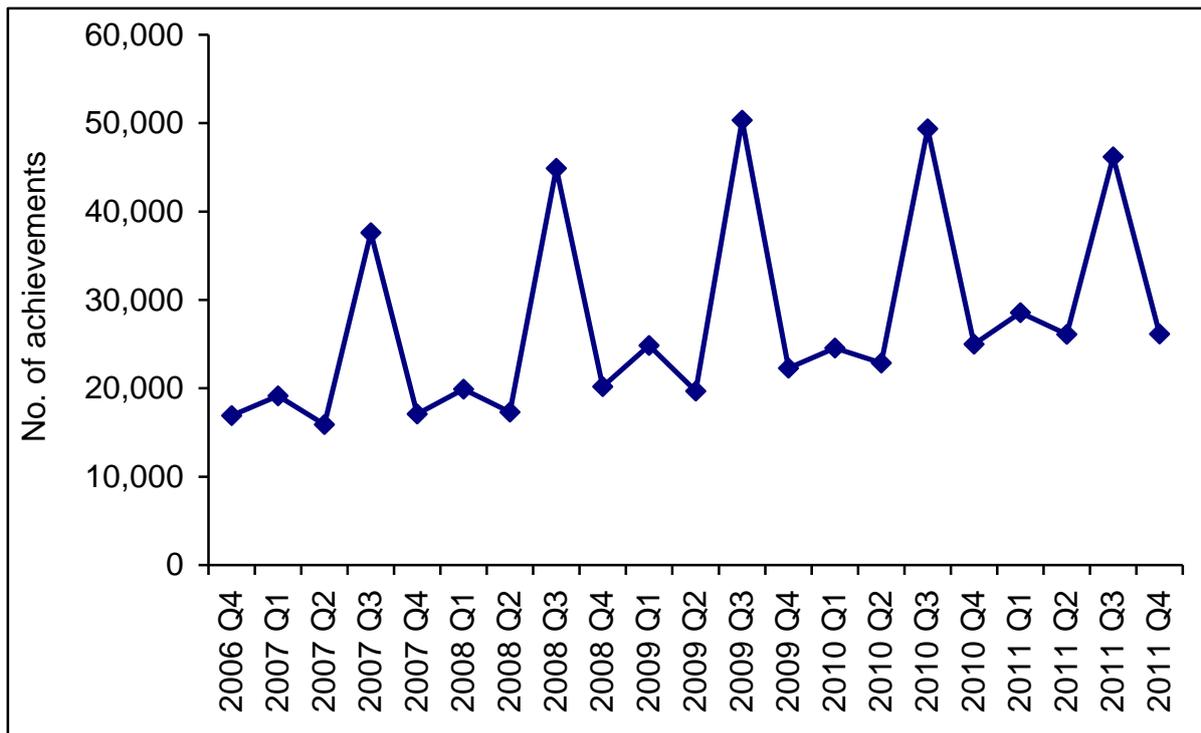
During the last quarter, no existing higher qualifications were re-categorised to a different type, level or SSA.

Since the previous quarter, no qualifications have transferred between awarding organisations.

## Achievements

There were 26,150 achievements recorded for regulated higher qualifications in October to December 2011, an increase of 5% on the same quarter of 2010 (see table 2 and figure 2).

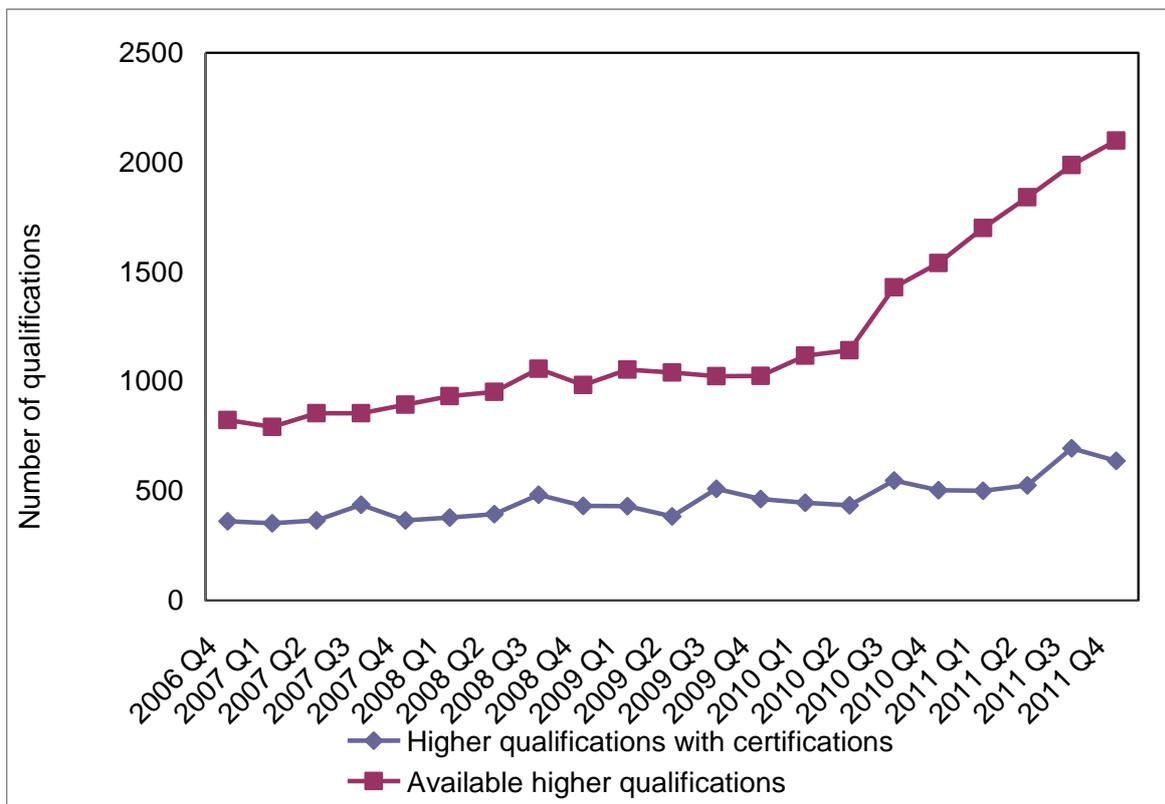
**Figure 2:** Total number of higher qualification achievements per quarter, October–December 2006 to October–December 2011



From figure 2 we can see that there has been a consistent increase in the number of achievements in each corresponding quarter since 2006. This is due to the growing number of achievements in QCF qualifications.

There has also been a steady increase in the number of qualifications that these certifications cover, which is clear from figure 3. This is contrasted with the dramatic increase in the number of available higher qualifications, as already mentioned on page 9. However, we would not expect to see a significant increase in the number of certifications, or the range of qualifications certifying, until 2012 as it takes time for the new available qualifications to be taken and awarded.

**Figure 3:** Total number of available higher qualifications per quarter, and total number of qualifications certifying, October–December 2006 to October–December 2011



The achievements in October to December 2011 covered 638 different qualifications, with a wide range in the number of achievements per qualification. For 54 qualifications there were more than 100 achievements during October to December 2011, and for one qualification there were at least 1,000 achievements.

The five higher qualifications with the greatest number of achievements in October to December 2011 are shown in the table below (with October to December 2010 figures shown for comparison).

Qualification	Number of achievements	
	October to December 2010	October to December 2011
CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	1050	1900
Cambridge ESOL Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (QCF)	0	950
EDEXCEL Level 4 BTEC Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	800	850
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	900	850
CMI Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	250	800

All five of the above qualifications are on the QCF. The 50 qualifications with the greatest number of achievements are listed in table 3.

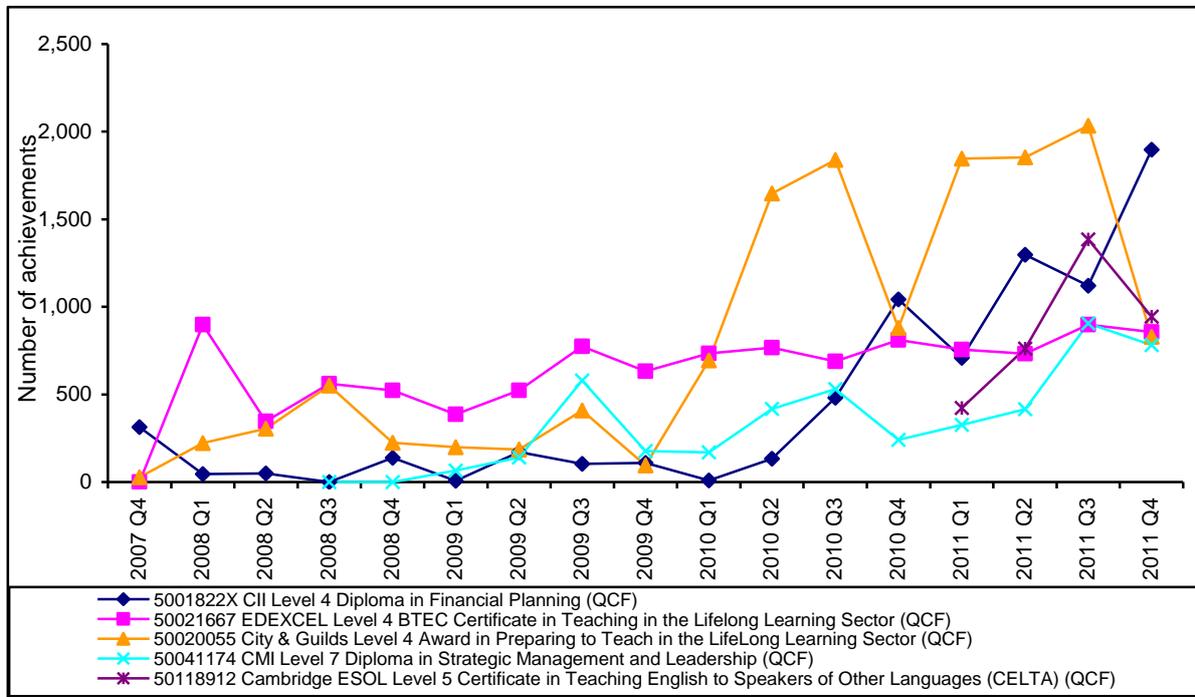
The CMI Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership has seen the greatest increase, with 800 achievements representing an increase of 220%.

The CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning has seen a huge growth in achievements when compared with the corresponding quarters in the previous two years, 1050 achievements in 2010 and 109 achievements in 2009.

In contrast City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF) is the only award in the top five to decline in the number of certifications when compared with the same quarter in 2010, despite a consistent growth during the past year.

Figure 4 shows the five-year trend for the five higher qualifications with the greatest number of achievements in October to December 2011.

**Figure 4:** The five higher qualifications with the largest number of achievements in October to December 2011, showing trend from October to December 2007



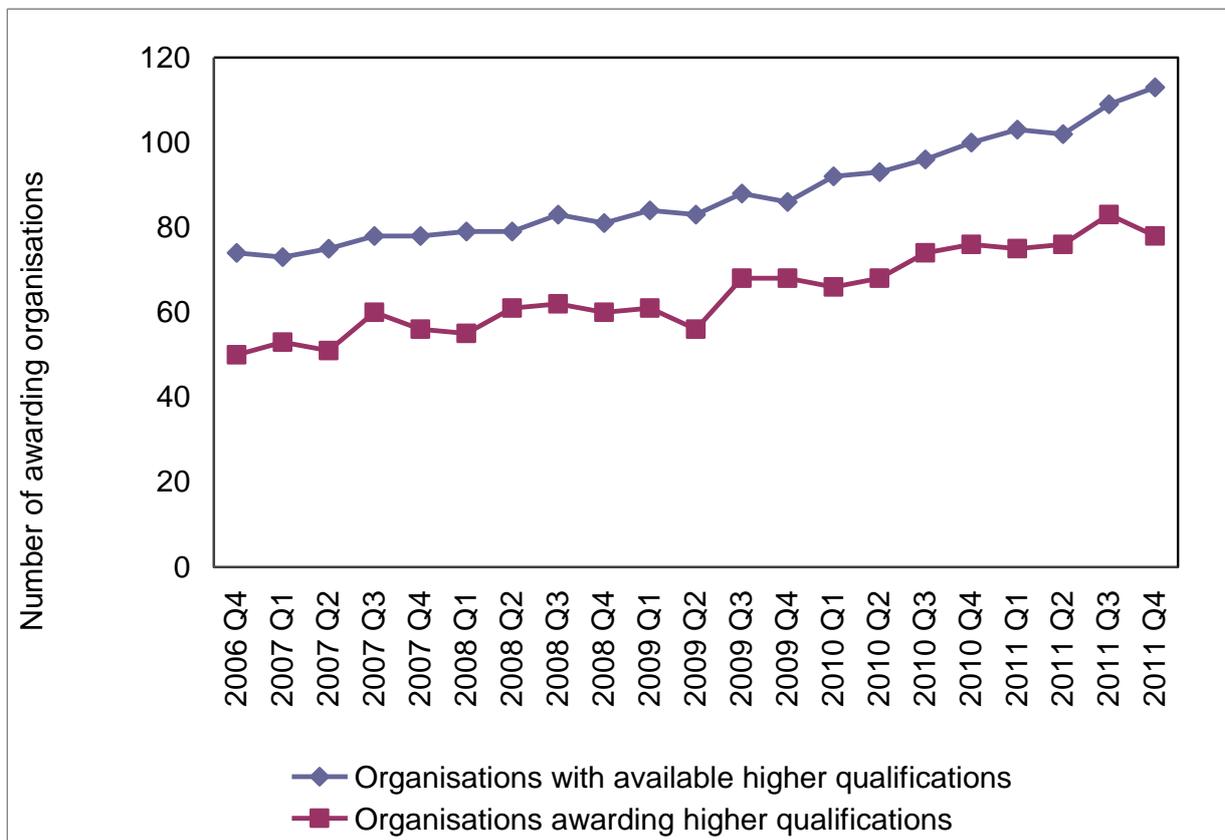
## Awarding organisations

There are currently 113 recognised awarding organisations that offer regulated higher qualifications.

In October to December 2011, 78 awarding organisations recorded achievements.

It is clear from figure 5 below that there has been a gradual increase in both the number of awarding organisations with available higher qualifications and the number of organisations awarding higher certifications.

**Figure 5:** Total number of awarding organisations with at least one available higher qualification per quarter, and awarding organisations with at least one qualification award, October–December 2006 to October–December 2011



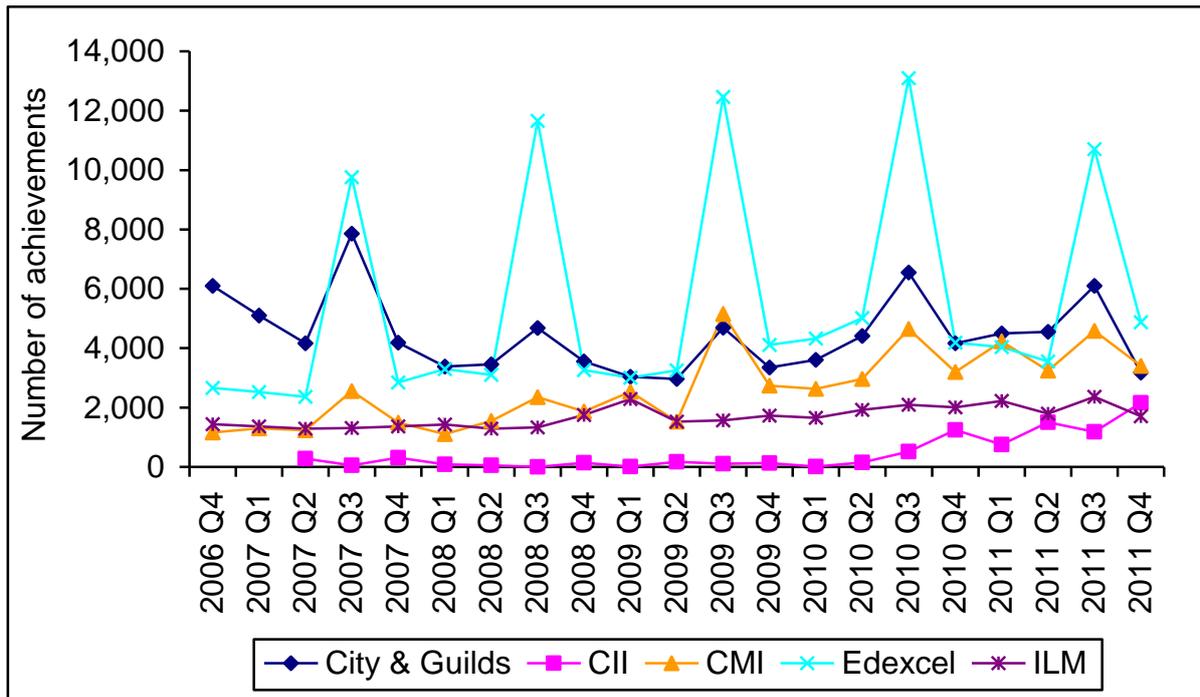
The ten awarding organisations with the greatest number of achievements in higher qualifications in October to December 2011 are shown in the table below (with October to December 2010 figures shown for comparison).

Awarding organisation	Number of achievements		Percentage change in achievements
	October to December 2010	October to December 2011	
Pearson Education Ltd	4,200	4,850	15
Chartered Management Institute	3,200	3,400	6
City & Guilds of London Institute	4,150	3,150	(-24)
Chartered Insurance Institute	1,250	2,150	72
Institute of Leadership & Management	2,000	1,700	(-15)
OCR	1,950	1,150	(-41)
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	950	1,100	16
Association of Accounting Technicians	650	1,050	62
Trinity College London	450	750	67
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply	150	500	233

The two awarding organisations with the largest number of achievements in the latest quarter showed an increase in the number of awards when compared with the same quarter of 2010. Of the top ten awarding organisations only three showed a decline in this time (bracketed).

Figure 6 shows the five-year trend for the five awarding organisations with the greatest number of achievements during October to December 2011. The 50 awarding organisations with the greatest number of achievements are listed in table 4.

**Figure 6:** The five awarding organisations with the greatest number of achievements for higher qualifications in October to December 2011, showing trends from October to December 2006

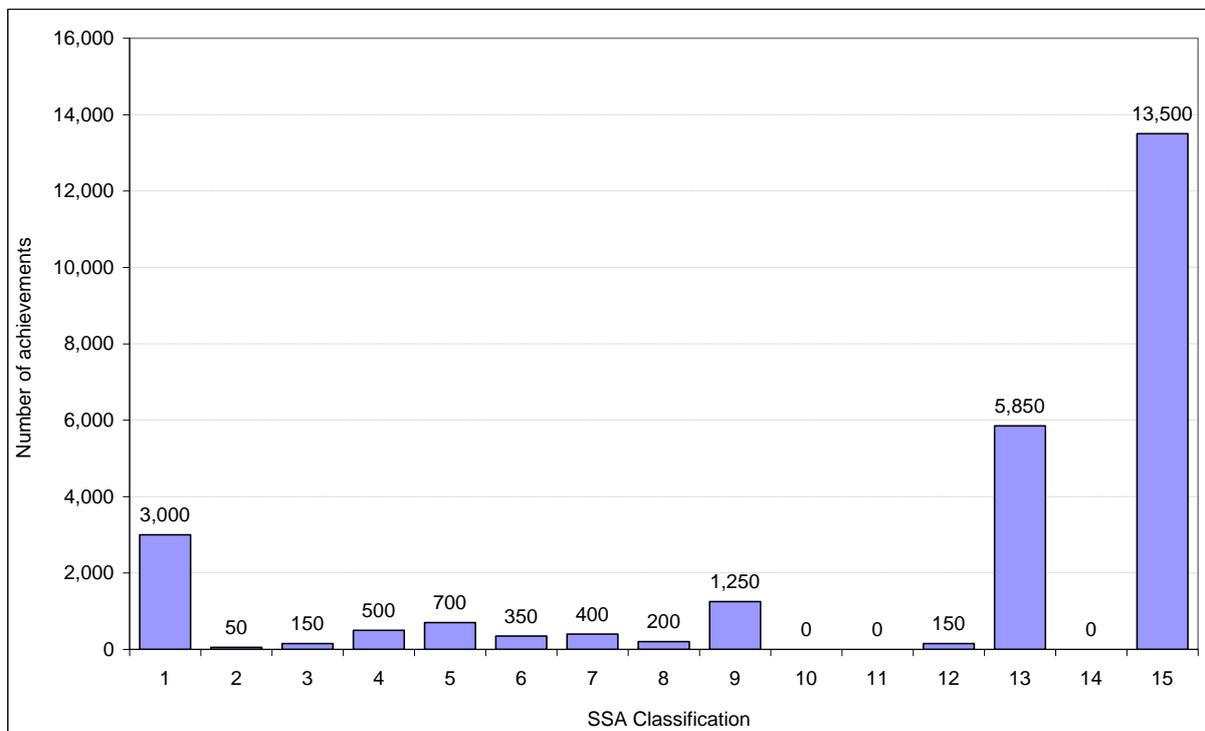


## Sector subject area

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 15 SSA codes (see glossary for further details).

Figure 7 compares the number of achievements seen in each SSA. The SSA with the greatest number of achievements for higher qualifications in October to December 2011 was business, administration and law, with 13,500 achievements – an increase of 27% when compared with the same quarter of 2010. The second most common SSA was education and training, with 5,850 achievements, an increase of 3% on the same quarter of 2010. The third most common SSA was health, public services and care, with 3,000 achievements – a decline of 42% on the same quarter of 2010. (See table 5 and figure 7.)

**Figure 7:** Higher qualification achievements by SSA for October to December 2011

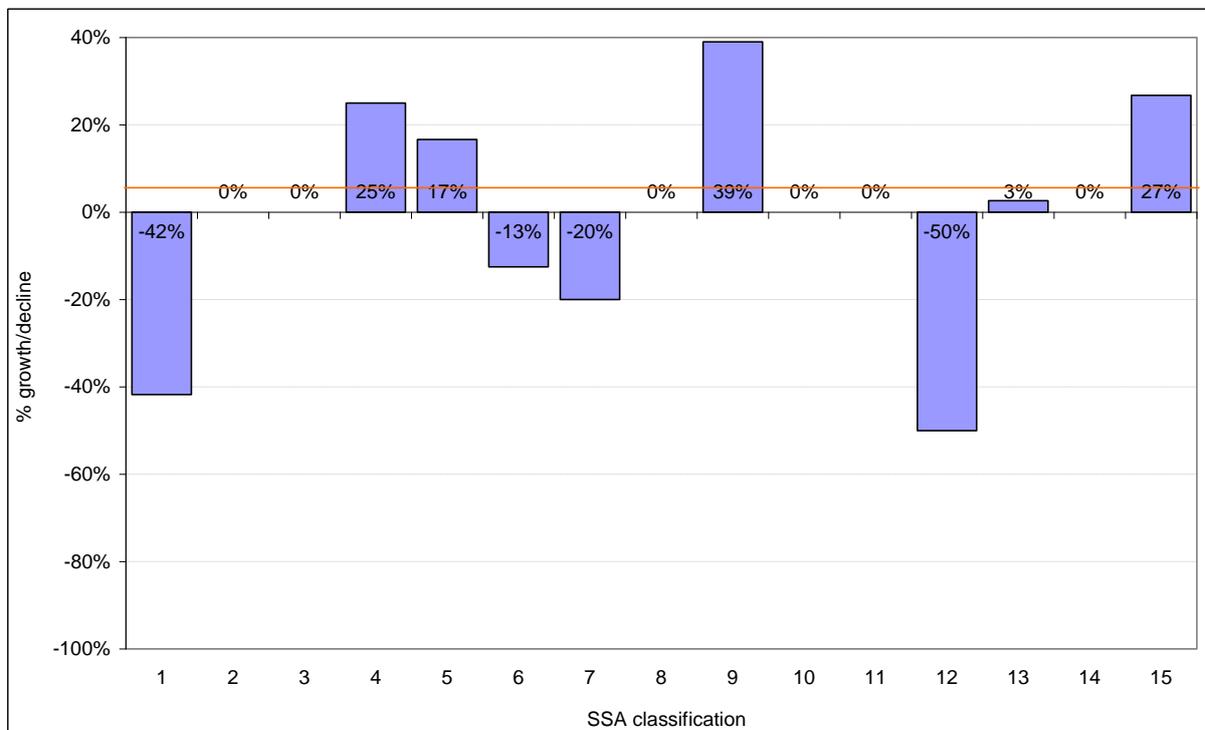


- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Health, public services and care                 | 8 Leisure, travel and tourism        |
| 2 Science and mathematics                          | 9 Arts, media and publishing         |
| 3 Agriculture, horticulture and animal care        | 12 Languages, literature and culture |
| 4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies       | 13 Education and training            |
| 5 Construction, planning and the built environment | 14 Preparation for life and work     |
| 6 Information and communication technology         | 15 Business, administration and law  |
| 7 Retail and commercial enterprise                 |                                      |

Figure 8 compares the percentage change in achievements from October to December 2010 to October to December 2011. Two of the SSAs saw a significant rise in achievements: arts, media and publishing; and engineering and manufacturing technologies – increases of 39% and 25% respectively compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

We can see that four SSA classifications saw a reduction in the number of certifications between October to December 2010 and October to December 2011. However, all of these, except health, public services and care, had very few achievements.

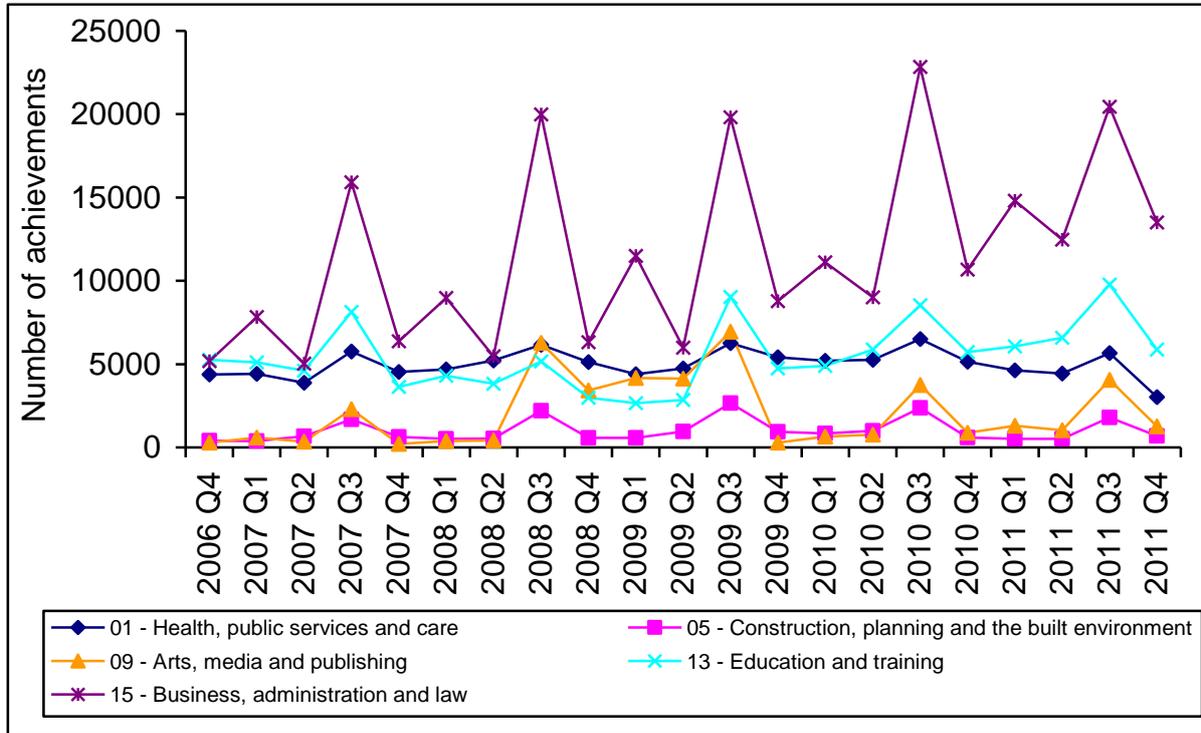
**Figure 8:** Percentage growth and decline in achievements between October to December 2010 and October to December 2011 by SSA. The red line shows average change for all higher qualifications (5%).



- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Health, public services and care                 | 8 Leisure, travel and tourism        |
| 2 Science and mathematics                          | 9 Arts, media and publishing         |
| 3 Agriculture, horticulture and animal care        | 12 Languages, literature and culture |
| 4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies       | 13 Education and training            |
| 5 Construction, planning and the built environment | 14 Preparation for life and work     |
| 6 Information and communication technology         | 15 Business, administration and law  |
| 7 Retail and commercial enterprise                 |                                      |

Figure 9 shows the five-year trend for the five largest SSAs in terms of achievements during October to December 2011.

**Figure 9:** Higher qualification achievements by SSA, October–December 2006 to October–December 2011, showing the five SSAs with the largest number of achievements (see table 5 for further details)



## **Type of qualification**

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 18 qualification types (see glossary for a full listing).

The qualification type with the greatest number of achievements for higher qualifications in October to December 2011 was the QCF type, with 18,450 achievements. This was an increase of 77% compared with the same quarter of 2010. The increase reflects the restructuring of many qualifications which were previously on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and are now on the QCF.

The second most frequently awarded qualification type was the higher level, with 4,000 achievements, a decrease of 41% on the same quarter of 2010.

The qualification type with the third highest number of achievements was the NVQ, with 3,250 achievements, a decrease of 52% on the same quarter of 2010.

Figure 10 shows the breakdown of higher qualifications by type for October to December 2011.

**Figure 10:** Higher qualification achievements by qualification type for October to December 2011

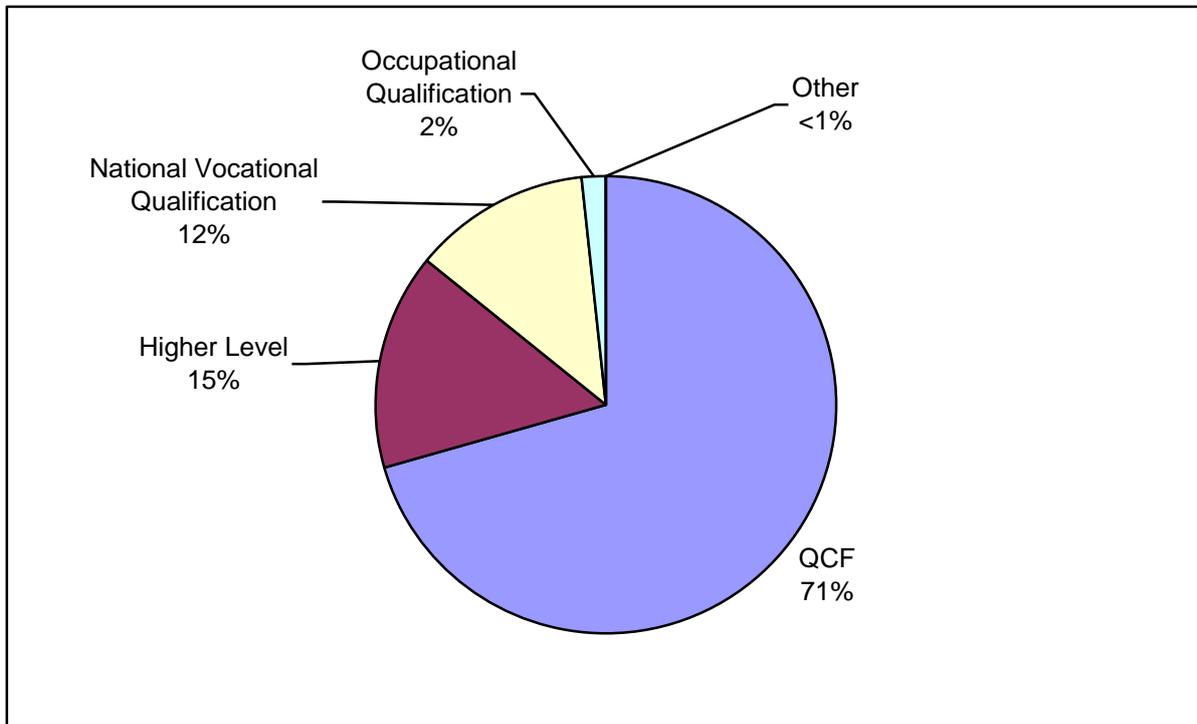
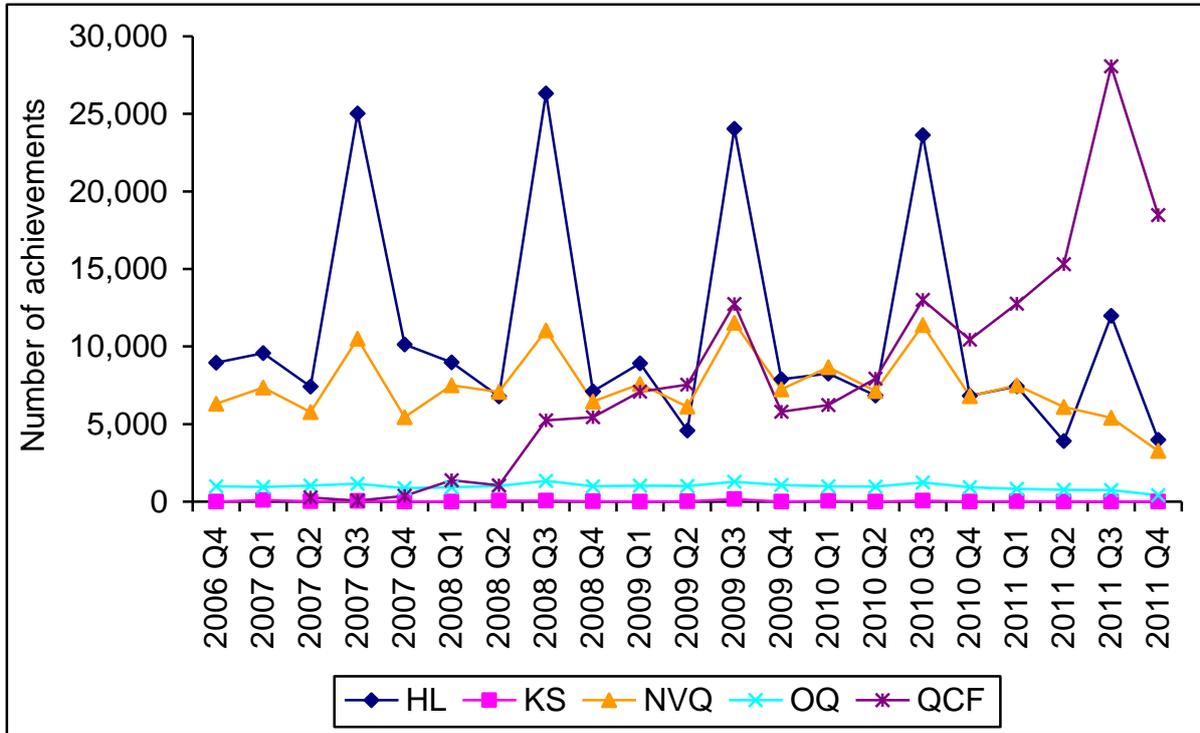


Figure 11 shows the five-year trend for the qualification types with the greatest number of achievements during October to December 2011.

**Figure 11:** Higher qualification achievements by qualification type for October–December 2006 to October–December 2011, showing the five types with the largest number of achievements (see table 6 for further details)



## Level of qualification

All regulated qualifications are assigned a level, ranging from Entry, then 1 to 8 (see glossary for full details). Higher qualifications are those at levels 4 to 8.

Figure 12 shows the number of achievements by level of qualification.

**Figure 12:** Higher qualification achievements by level for October to December 2011

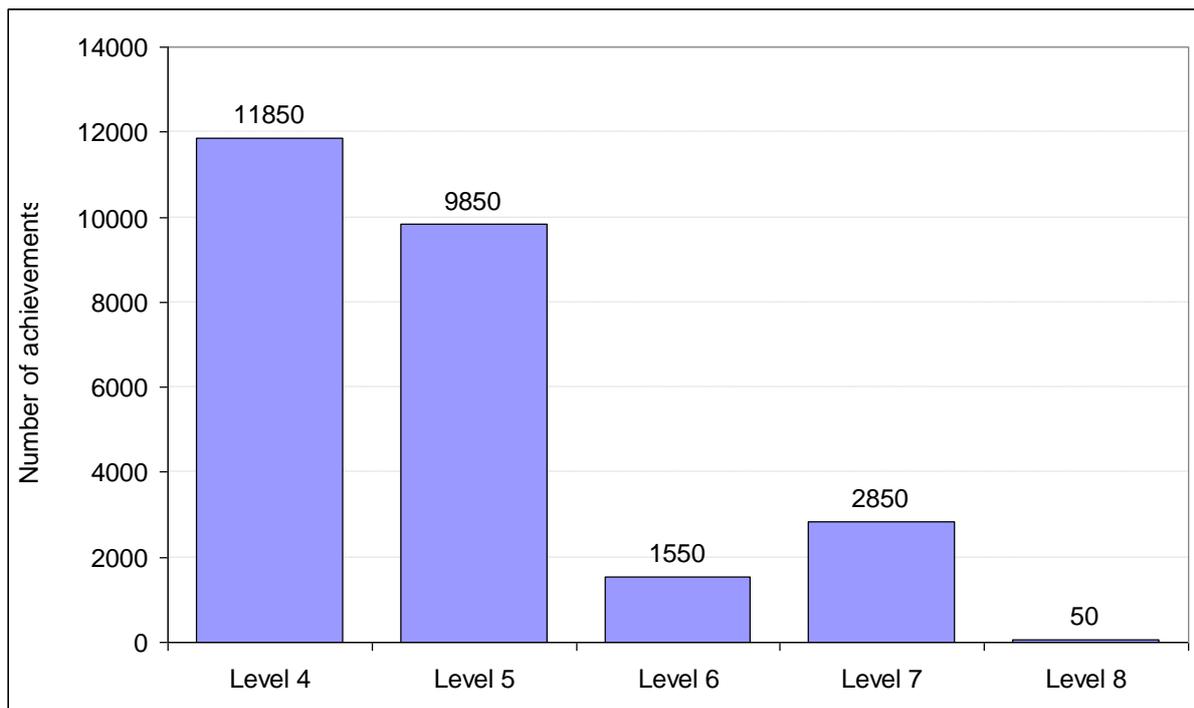


Figure 13 shows the large variation in the number of achievements by level and also the variation in change between October to December 2010 and the latest quarter. Of the five levels, only level 4 and level 7 showed an increase in achievements. Level 8 saw the largest decline, however the number of achievements overall was very low. Levels 5 and 6 showed a decrease in the number of achievements, 20% and 6% respectively.

**Figure 13:** Percentage growth and decline in achievements between October to December 2010 and October to December 2011 by level. The red line shows average change for all higher qualifications (5%).

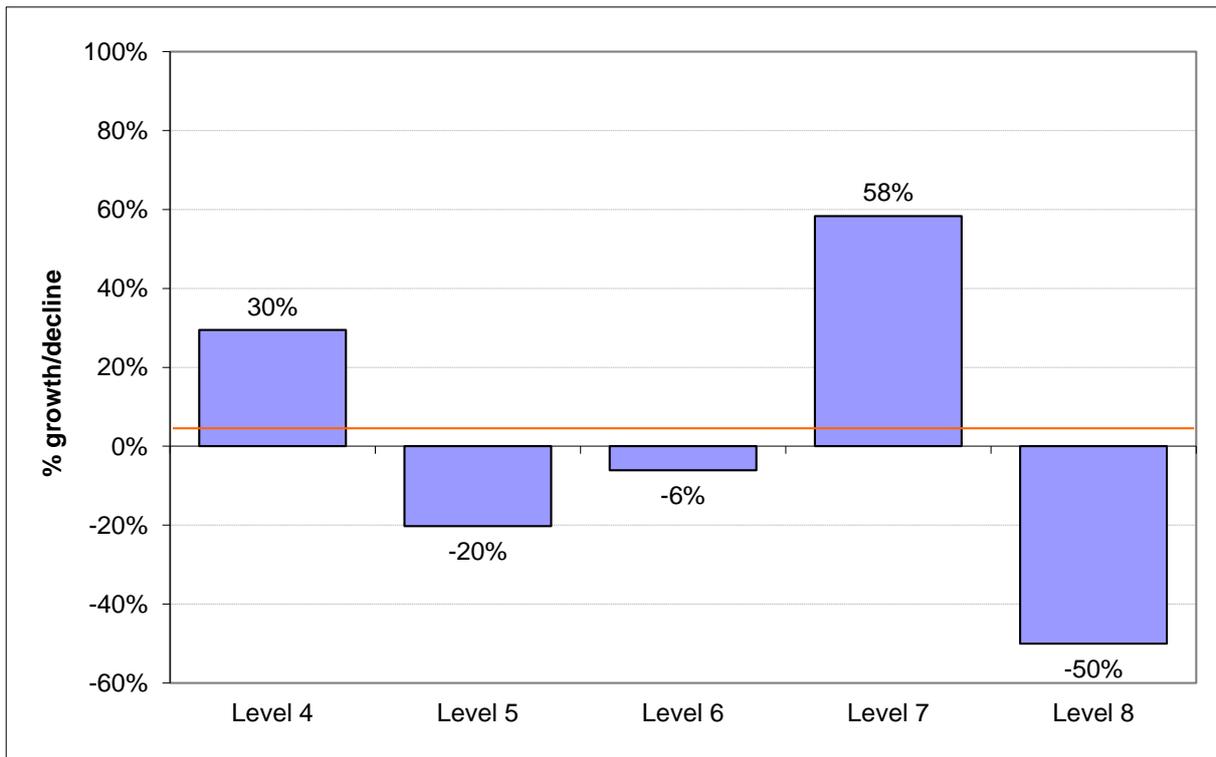
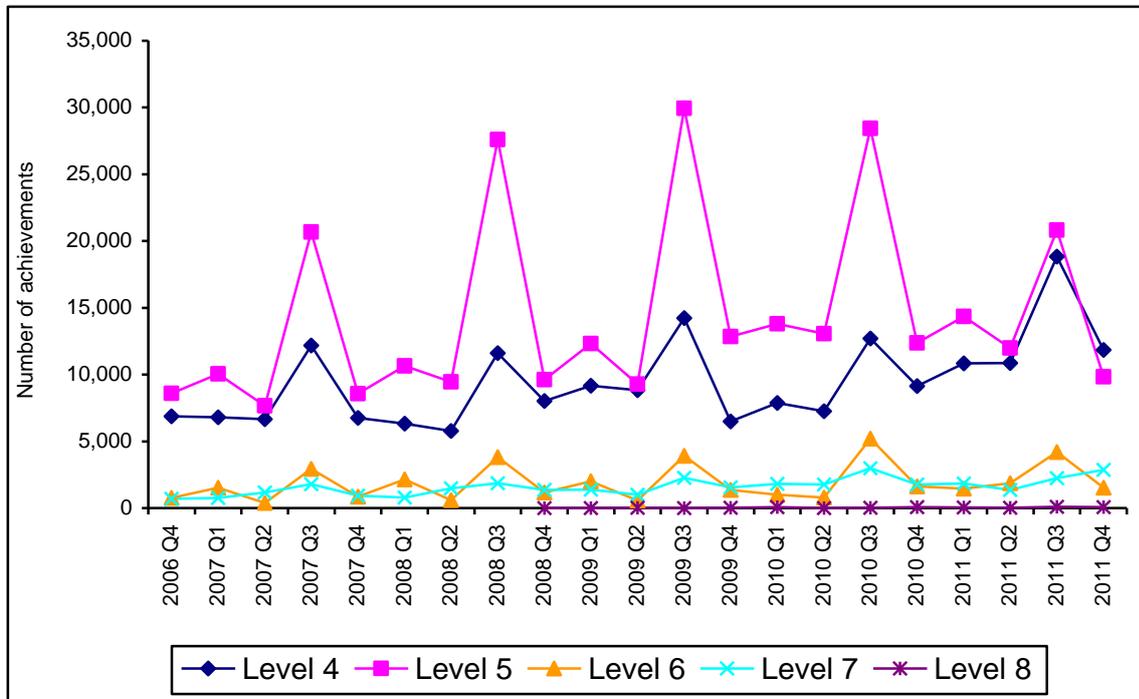


Figure 14 shows the trend in the number of achievements awarded since 2006 for each qualification level.

**Figure 14:** Higher qualification achievements by level, October–December 2006 to October–December 2011 (see table 7 for further details)



## Tables

Table 1: Number of available regulated qualifications for higher level qualifications, covering higher, supplemental and vocational qualifications  
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	ESOL English for Speakers of Other Languages	HL Higher Level	KS Key Skills	NVQ National Vocational Qualification	OQ Occupational Qualification	QCF Qualifications and Credit Framework	Total number of qualifications
06-07	11	413	32	414	33	17	<b>920</b>
07-08	11	505	32	399	33	108	<b>1,088</b>
08-09	12	545	32	365	37	160	<b>1,151</b>
09-10	11	577	68	315	35	496	<b>1,502</b>
10-11	10	554	78	291	35	1,117	<b>2,085</b>
11-12	5	486	72	255	33	1,249	<b>2,100</b>
Oct-Dec 2006	11	364	32	384	33		<b>824</b>
Jan-Mar 2007	11	375	32	341	33		<b>792</b>
Apr-Jun 2007	11	384	32	389	33	6	<b>855</b>
Jul-Sep 2007	11	383	32	380	33	16	<b>855</b>
Oct-Dec 2007	11	421	32	363	33	33	<b>893</b>
Jan-Mar 2008	11	446	32	364	33	46	<b>932</b>
Apr-Jun 2008	11	423	32	370	33	83	<b>952</b>
Jul-Sep 2008	11	502	32	372	33	108	<b>1,058</b>
Oct-Dec 2008	11	472	32	319	33	117	<b>984</b>
Jan-Mar 2009	12	510	32	328	36	135	<b>1,053</b>
Apr-Jun 2009	12	500	32	317	37	143	<b>1,041</b>
Jul-Sep 2009	11	505	32	286	36	154	<b>1,024</b>
Oct-Dec 2009	11	526	2	301	33	152	<b>1,025</b>
Jan-Mar 2010	10	545	6	301	33	222	<b>1,117</b>
Apr-Jun 2010	10	534	60	299	33	206	<b>1,142</b>
Jul-Sep 2010	10	540	67	290	33	489	<b>1,429</b>
Oct-Dec 2010	10	552	72	291	35	580	<b>1,540</b>
Jan-Mar 2011	9	540	78	264	33	773	<b>1,697</b>
Apr-Jun 2011	9	529	72	268	33	930	<b>1,841</b>
Jul-Sep 2011	9	504	72	267	35	1,100	<b>1,987</b>
Oct-Dec 2011	5	486	72	255	33	1,249	<b>2,100</b>

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Secondary qualifications represent qualifications from Entry level to level 3. Higher qualifications represent qualifications from level 4 to level 8.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years i.e. October to September.

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

Table 2: Total achievements for higher level, supplemental and vocational qualifications  
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	Total number of achievements
06-07	89,550
07-08	99,200
08-09	115,100
09-10	119,050
10-11	125,800
11-12	26,150
Oct-Dec 2006	16,900
Jan-Mar 2007	19,150
Apr-Jun 2007	15,900
Jul-Sep 2007	37,600
Oct-Dec 2007	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	20,200
Jan-Mar 2009	24,850
Apr-Jun 2009	19,700
Jul-Sep 2009	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	22,300
Jan-Mar 2010	24,550
Apr-Jun 2010	22,850
Jul-Sep 2010	49,350
Oct-Dec 2010	25,000
Jan-Mar 2011	28,550
Apr-Jun 2011	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	46,200
Oct-Dec 2011	26,150

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Secondary qualifications represent qualifications from Entry level to level 3. Higher qualifications represent qualifications from level 4 to level 8.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years i.e. October to September.

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

Table 3: Top 50 qualifications, by achievements, for higher level , supplemental and vocational qualifications – quarter 4 2011 (quarter 4 2010 shown for comparison)

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of achievements	
	Q4 2010	Q4 2011
CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	1050	1900
Cambridge ESOL Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages	0	950
EDEXCEL Level 4 BTEC Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	800	850
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the LifeLong Learning Sector (QCF)	900	850
CMI Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	250	800
AAT Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF)	50	700
CMI Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	550	600
Edexcel BTEC Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	0	500
CFA UK Level 4 Certificate in Investment Management (QCF)	200	500
IFS Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers (QCF)	0	500
CMI Level 5 Certificate in Management and Leadership (QCF)	700	450
ILM Level 5 Award in Management (QCF)	500	400
City & Guilds Level 4 NVQ in Health and Social Care	500	350
TCL Level 5 Certificate In Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Cert TESOL)	0	350
CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	150	350
CMI Level 5 Award in Management and Leadership (QCF)	250	300
City & Guilds Level 4 NVQ in Leadership and Management for Care Services	450	300
EDEXCEL Level 4 NVQ in Leadership and Management for Care Services	250	300
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 (QCF)	300	300
Edexcel BTEC Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	0	300
CIPS Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Purchasing and Supply	100	300
AAT Level 4 NVQ in Accounting	450	300
Edexcel BTEC Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector	150	300
CIPD Level 7 Postgraduate Certificate in Personnel and Development	50	250
EDEXCEL Level 5 BTEC Higher National Diploma in Business	200	250
EDEXCEL Level 4 NVQ in Health and Social Care	250	250
City & Guilds Level 4 Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning sector (QCF)	400	250
CIM Level 4 Professional Certificate in Marketing	200	200
ILM Level 5 Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring in Management (QCF)	200	200
CIM Level 6 Professional Diploma in Marketing	150	200
CISI Level 6 Certificate in Private Client Investment Advice & Management (QCF)	50	200
BCS Level 4 Certificate in IT	250	200
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Conducting Internal Quality Assurance of the Assessment	400	200
Edexcel BTEC Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	0	200
OCR Level 5 Certificate in Teaching Learners with Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia)	100	200
CII Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	200	200
CMI Level 6 Certificate in Management and Leadership (QCF)	200	200
City & Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	200	150
CIPS Level 5 Advanced Diploma in Purchasing and Supply	50	150
CPCAB Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling	150	150
CISI Level 4 Diploma in Investment Advice (QCF)	0	150
ILM Level 4 Award in Management (QCF)	300	150
TCL Level 4 Diploma In Music Performance (QCF)	0	150
EDEXCEL Level 4 NVQ in Supply Chain Management	150	150
City & Guilds Level 4 NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	200	150
TCL Level 4 Diploma In Performing (QCF)	0	150
OCR Level 4 NVQ in Policing	550	100
CMI Level 5 Award in Management Coaching and Mentoring (QCF)	50	100
ABC Level 4 Diploma in The Theory and Practice of Counselling	100	100
Cambridge ESOL Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector	100	100

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Secondary qualifications represent qualifications from Entry level to level 3. Higher qualifications represent qualifications from level 4 to level 8.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years i.e. October to September.

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

Table 4: Top 50 awarding organisations, by achievements, for higher level qualifications, covering higher, supplemental and vocational qualifications – quarter 4 2011 (quarter 4 2010 shown for comparison)

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Awarding organisation	Number of achievements	
	Q4 2010	Q4 2011
Pearson Education Ltd	4,200	4,850
Chartered Management Institute	3,200	3,400
City and Guilds of London Institute	4,150	3,150
Chartered Insurance Institute	1,250	2,150
Institute of Leadership & Management	2,000	1,700
OCR	1,950	1,150
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	950	1,100
Association of Accounting Technicians	650	1,050
Trinity College London	450	750
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply	150	500
IFS School of Finance	200	500
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	400	500
CFA Society of UK	200	500
Chartered Institute of Marketing	300	450
EDI	500	400
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development	200	350
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	50	350
Cskills Awards	200	300
ABC Awards	200	250
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	300	250
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	150	200
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	100	200
Signature	50	150
NCFE	100	150
Ascentis	200	100
Institute of Administrative Management	0	100
WAMITAB	100	100
National Open College Network	0	100
EMTA Awards Limited	50	100
Graded Qualifications Alliance	0	100
Organisation for Tourism and Hospitality Management	100	100
VTCT	50	50
Royal Academy of Dance	50	50
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	50	50
Institute of Commercial Management	100	50
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	350	50
British Wheel of Yoga Qualifications	0	50
London Centre of Marketing	100	50
IMI Awards Ltd	0	50
The Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality	250	50
University of West London	0	50
Active IQ	0	50
Chartered Institute of Building	50	50
British Institute of Facilities Management	0	50
The Pensions Management Institute	0	50
Chartered Institute of Housing	0	50
Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in the UK	0	50
Mineral Products Qualifications Council	50	50
Royal Society for Public Health	100	50
NCC Education Services	50	50

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Secondary qualifications represent qualifications from Entry level to level 3. Higher qualifications represent qualifications from level 4 to level 8.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years i.e. October to September.

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

Table 5: Achievements – by SSA – for higher level qualifications, covering higher, supplemental and vocational qualifications  
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	01 - Health, public services and care	02 - Science and mathematics	03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	06 - Information and communication technology	07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	09 - Arts, media and publishing	10 - History, philosophy and theology	11 - Social sciences	12 - Languages, literature and culture	13 - Education and training	14 - Preparation for life and work	15 - Business, administration and law	Total number of achievements
06-07	18,450	400	1,100	2,250	3,150	1,300	1,050	250	3,500	0	0	900	23,100	150	33,950	89,550
07-08	20,600	350	1,250	2,850	3,850	2,500	1,300	450	7,300	0	0	900	16,950	150	40,800	99,200
08-09	20,550	800	1,150	3,300	4,750	2,050	1,500	450	18,650	0	0	500	17,500	200	43,650	115,100
09-10	22,350	650	950	3,600	5,150	1,500	2,100	900	5,450	0	0	500	24,050	100	51,750	119,050
10-11	19,850	300	700	3,350	3,450	1,450	1,500	950	7,250	0	0	400	28,150	50	58,400	125,800
11-12	3,000	50	150	500	700	350	400	200	1,250	0	0	150	5,850	0	13,500	26,150
Oct-Dec 2006	4,400	50	250	200	400	300	150	50	300	0	0	400	5,250	0	5,200	16,900
Jan-Mar 2007	4,400	100	250	150	400	50	200	0	600	0	0	0	5,100	100	7,800	19,150
Apr-Jun 2007	3,900	50	250	150	650	250	250	0	350	0	0	400	4,600	0	5,050	15,900
Jul-Sep 2007	5,750	250	400	1,750	1,700	700	450	150	2,300	0	0	50	8,150	50	15,900	37,600
Oct-Dec 2007	4,550	50	200	350	650	350	300	0	200	0	0	400	3,650	0	6,350	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	4,700	100	300	150	500	50	300	50	400	0	0	50	4,300	0	8,950	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	5,200	50	300	200	550	400	400	50	450	0	0	400	3,850	50	5,450	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	6,150	150	400	2,150	2,200	1,650	300	350	6,300	0	0	50	5,150	50	20,000	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	5,100	100	250	450	550	200	350	50	3,400	0	0	300	3,000	0	6,300	20,200
Jan-Mar 2009	4,400	250	250	350	550	450	200	50	4,150	0	0	50	2,650	0	11,500	24,850
Apr-Jun 2009	4,750	0	200	250	950	100	350	50	4,150	0	0	50	2,850	50	6,000	19,700
Jul-Sep 2009	6,250	400	450	2,300	2,650	1,300	600	300	6,950	0	0	100	9,000	150	19,800	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	5,400	50	200	500	950	400	550	100	300	0	0	350	4,750	0	8,800	22,300
Jan-Mar 2010	5,200	200	250	300	850	200	600	200	650	0	0	50	4,900	50	11,100	24,550
Apr-Jun 2010	5,250	50	150	200	1,000	50	300	150	750	0	0	50	5,850	0	9,000	22,850
Jul-Sep 2010	6,500	350	350	2,650	2,400	850	600	450	3,750	0	0	50	8,550	50	22,850	49,350
Oct-Dec 2010	5,150	50	150	400	600	400	500	200	900	0	0	300	5,700	0	10,650	25,000
Jan-Mar 2011	4,650	50	100	250	550	150	350	250	1,300	0	0	50	6,050	0	14,800	28,550
Apr-Jun 2011	4,450	50	200	350	550	50	250	100	1,050	0	0	50	6,550	0	12,450	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	5,650	200	200	2,300	1,800	850	450	400	4,050	0	0	50	9,800	0	20,450	46,200
Oct-Dec 2011	3,000	50	150	500	700	350	400	200	1,250	0	0	150	5,850	0	13,500	26,150

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Secondary qualifications represent qualifications from Entry level to level 3. Higher qualifications represent qualifications from level 4 to level 8.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years i.e. October to September.

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

Table 6: Achievements – by qualification type – for higher level qualifications, covering higher, supplemental and vocational qualifications  
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	ESOL English for Speakers of Other Languages	HL Higher Level	KS Key Skills	NVQ National Vocational Qualification	OQ Occupational Qualification	QCF Qualifications and Credit Framework	Total number of achievements
06-07	4,050	50,950	150	29,950	4,100	350	<b>89,550</b>
07-08	3,600	52,200	150	31,100	4,150	8,050	<b>99,200</b>
08-09	1,450	44,650	200	31,650	4,300	32,800	<b>115,100</b>
09-10	700	46,600	100	34,450	4,250	32,950	<b>119,050</b>
10-11		30,150	50	25,800	3,250	66,600	<b>125,800</b>
11-12		4,000		3,250	400	18,450	<b>26,150</b>
Oct-Dec 2006	650	8,950		6,300	1,000		<b>16,900</b>
Jan-Mar 2007	1,200	9,550	100	7,350	950		<b>19,150</b>
Apr-Jun 2007	1,400	7,400		5,800	1,050	300	<b>15,900</b>
Jul-Sep 2007	850	25,000	50	10,500	1,150	50	<b>37,600</b>
Oct-Dec 2007	300	10,150		5,450	850	350	<b>17,100</b>
Jan-Mar 2008	1,100	9,000		7,500	950	1,400	<b>19,900</b>
Apr-Jun 2008	1,300	6,800	50	7,100	1,000	1,050	<b>17,300</b>
Jul-Sep 2008	900	26,300	50	11,050	1,350	5,250	<b>44,900</b>
Oct-Dec 2008	200	7,100		6,450	1,000	5,450	<b>20,200</b>
Jan-Mar 2009	250	8,900		7,600	1,000	7,100	<b>24,850</b>
Apr-Jun 2009	400	4,600	50	6,100	1,000	7,550	<b>19,700</b>
Jul-Sep 2009	600	24,050	150	11,550	1,250	12,750	<b>50,350</b>
Oct-Dec 2009	300	7,900		7,250	1,050	5,800	<b>22,300</b>
Jan-Mar 2010	350	8,250	50	8,650	1,000	6,200	<b>24,550</b>
Apr-Jun 2010		6,850		7,150	950	7,950	<b>22,850</b>
Jul-Sep 2010		23,600	50	11,400	1,250	13,000	<b>49,350</b>
Oct-Dec 2010		6,800		6,800	950	10,450	<b>25,000</b>
Jan-Mar 2011		7,450		7,500	800	12,750	<b>28,550</b>
Apr-Jun 2011		3,900		6,100	750	15,300	<b>26,100</b>
Jul-Sep 2011		12,000		5,400	750	28,050	<b>46,200</b>
Oct-Dec 2011		4,000		3,250	400	18,450	<b>26,150</b>

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Secondary qualifications represent qualifications from Entry level to level 3. Higher qualifications represent qualifications from level 4 to level 8.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years i.e. October to September.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '1'. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 7: Detailed achievements - by level - for higher level qualifications, covering higher, supplemental and vocational qualifications

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Total number of achievements
06-07	32,500	47,000	5,650	4,450	-	<b>89,550</b>
07-08	30,500	56,250	7,450	5,050	-	<b>99,200</b>
08-09	40,200	61,200	7,600	6,000	-	<b>115,100</b>
09-10	34,300	68,150	8,350	8,100	150	<b>119,050</b>
10-11	49,700	59,500	9,150	7,250	250	<b>125,800</b>
11-12	11,850	9,850	1,550	2,850	50	<b>26,150</b>
Oct-Dec 2006	6,850	8,600	750	700	-	<b>16,900</b>
Jan-Mar 2007	6,800	10,050	1,550	800	-	<b>19,150</b>
Apr-Jun 2007	6,650	7,650	400	1,150	-	<b>15,900</b>
Jul-Sep 2007	12,200	20,700	2,950	1,800	-	<b>37,600</b>
Oct-Dec 2007	6,750	8,550	850	950	-	<b>17,100</b>
Jan-Mar 2008	6,350	10,650	2,150	800	-	<b>19,900</b>
Apr-Jun 2008	5,800	9,450	600	1,450	-	<b>17,300</b>
Jul-Sep 2008	11,600	27,600	3,850	1,850	-	<b>44,900</b>
Oct-Dec 2008	8,050	9,650	1,150	1,350	-	<b>20,200</b>
Jan-Mar 2009	9,150	12,300	2,000	1,400	-	<b>24,850</b>
Apr-Jun 2009	8,800	9,300	550	1,000	-	<b>19,700</b>
Jul-Sep 2009	14,200	29,950	3,900	2,250	-	<b>50,350</b>
Oct-Dec 2009	6,500	12,850	1,350	1,550	50	<b>22,300</b>
Jan-Mar 2010	7,850	13,800	1,000	1,800	50	<b>24,550</b>
Apr-Jun 2010	7,250	13,050	800	1,750	-	<b>22,850</b>
Jul-Sep 2010	12,700	28,450	5,200	3,000	50	<b>49,350</b>
Oct-Dec 2010	9,150	12,350	1,650	1,800	100	<b>25,000</b>
Jan-Mar 2011	10,850	14,350	1,450	1,850	50	<b>28,550</b>
Apr-Jun 2011	10,850	12,000	1,850	1,350	-	<b>26,100</b>
Jul-Sep 2011	18,850	20,800	4,200	2,250	100	<b>46,200</b>
Oct-Dec 2011	11,850	9,850	1,550	2,850	50	<b>26,150</b>

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Secondary qualifications represent qualifications from Entry level to level 3. Higher qualifications represent qualifications from level 4 to level 8.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years i.e. October to September
4. NVQ Level 4 qualifications are included in Level 5 figures as this is their average equivalent level. NVQ Level 5 qualifications are included in Level 7 figures for the same reason. This amendment has been made since last quarter.

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

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First published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation in 2012

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