

Statistics Bulletin

Supplemental Qualifications Quarterly:
January to March 2012



May 2012

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Contents

Key findings	2
Introduction.....	3
Geographical coverage	4
Qualification type	4
Revisions	4
Completeness of the data	4
Definitions	5
Achievements this quarter	6
Regulated supplemental qualifications	10
Achievements	12
Sector subject area.....	19
Type of qualification.....	22
Level of qualification	25

Key findings

There were 475,950 supplemental qualification achievements awarded in January to March 2012, a decrease of less than 1 per cent on the same quarter of 2011.

The achievements for supplemental qualifications covered 840 individual qualifications. The qualification with the greatest number of achievements was the Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy, with 12,000 achievements.

In January to March 2012 achievements for supplemental qualifications were awarded by 27 awarding organisations. The awarding organisation that awarded the greatest number of achievements was City & Guilds, with 118,650 achievements. This was a decrease of 3 per cent on the same period of last year.

The sector subject area (SSA) with the greatest number of achievements was preparation for life and work, with 429,850 achievements, representing 90 per cent of the total supplemental achievements.

The qualification type with the highest number of achievements was key skills, with 130,650 achievements, representing 27 per cent of the total supplemental achievements.

The most common level was level 2, with 195,150 achievements, representing 41 per cent of the total supplemental achievements.

Introduction

This statistical bulletin is published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). We regulate qualifications, examinations and assessments in England, and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland.

Under the new Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, one of our key objectives is to improve public confidence in regulated qualifications and assessments, by raising awareness and understanding of the qualifications we regulate. This bulletin will be used to inform that future work.

In this bulletin we present achievements for regulated supplemental qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the quarter January to March 2012.

Supplemental qualifications cover qualifications up to level 3 or A level equivalent for basic skills, entry level, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), free-standing mathematics qualifications, functional skills, key skills and other general (OG) qualifications. It does not include vocational qualifications, which are dealt with in a companion bulletin entitled *Vocational Qualifications Quarterly*. Nor does it include GCSE, GCE or Diploma qualifications.¹

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

- *Vocational Qualifications Quarterly* (covers national vocational qualifications (NVQs), vocationally-related qualifications (VRQs), Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications and occupational qualifications (OQ) at all levels)
- *Higher Qualifications Quarterly* (covers all qualifications at level 4 and above).

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

¹ 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 or at www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/statistics/general-data .

Geographical coverage

This bulletin covers the achievements in regulated qualifications of all recognised² awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland that are regulated by us. Since 2011 we have begun to collect data for England, Wales and Northern Ireland individually. As of this quarter we are publishing a quarterly bulletin for Northern Ireland.

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 this classification system is not ideal, as very similar qualifications may be classified under more than one type, for example NVQs and the QCF, and some qualifications are miscoded. We are working with experts to investigate how this situation might be improved in the future.

This bulletin presents figures on seven of these types: ESOL, key skills, basic skills, entry level, free-standing mathematics qualifications, functional skills and OG qualifications. Note the figures relate to qualifications in these types that are up to level 3 or A level equivalent.

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of achievements 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 4 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 to ensure that the data is as complete as possible. For this quarter we received data from all the awarding organisations.

² We recognise awarding organisations against the Criteria for Recognition (www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2011-05-16-criteria-for-recognition.pdf). This is required before they can begin awarding regulated qualifications.

Figures in the commentary and the tables for the number of achievements awarded 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 per cent.

Due to seasonal variation in the number of achievements over the year, comparisons in this bulletin are only made with 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 .

Definitions

Definitions of some of the key terms used in this bulletin are:

Accreditation – a process that reviews and confirms achievement to specific criteria and standards

Achievements – any award that is not graded as U or Absent or X

Available qualification – a qualification eligible for an award

Awarding organisation – organisations recognised to develop, deliver and award descriptions of qualifications

Active qualification – a qualification eligible for learners to be awarded upon, even if the qualification is no longer available for enrolment

Certificating – a formal recognition of learner achievement

Recognition – an evidence-based process of achieving compliance to the Criteria for Recognition

A glossary is available on our website at: www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/165/411 with further details on SSA classifications, and qualification types and levels.

In this bulletin 'quarter' refers 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 qualification types not included in this bulletin can be found in the companion bulletins on vocational and higher qualifications.

The total number of achievements across all qualification types for the period January to March 2012 is shown in the table below (with January to March 2011 shown for comparison).

Qualification	January to March 2011	January to March 2012	% change	Direction of change
Basic skills	170,800	127,500	(-25)	↓
ESOL	62,350	67,950	9	↑
Entry level	7,350	6,100	(-17)	↓
Free-standing mathematics qualifications	1,550	500	(-68)	↓
Functional skills	63,000	96,800	54	↑
Higher level	7,450	3,600	(-52)	↓
Key skills	124,050	130,650	5	↑
NVQ	154,950	31,350	(-80)	↓
OQ	4,050	1,000	(-75)	↓
OG	49,700	46,450	(-7)	↓
QCF	455,400	817,950	80	↑
VRQ	165,150	51,100	(-69)	↓
Total number of achievements	1,265,800	1,380,900	9	↑

From the table above we can see the impact of qualifications being restructured onto the QCF, with an increase of 50 per cent in the number of achievements for these qualifications. Qualifications in ESOL also increased, by 9 per cent. The increase in QCF achievements could be due to a variety of reasons, including:

- The Skills Funding Agency’s preference to fund qualifications on the QCF
- The revisions of qualifications to fit with the Apprenticeship framework
- The QCF offers three different sizes of a qualification (award, certificate and diploma), creating potential for a greater number of qualifications and associated achievements
- Awarding organisations engaging with sectors to offer new, innovative qualifications based on subject content.

We also see an increase of 54 per cent in functional skills achievements, a qualification type that will replace key skills and basic skills. Basic skills has a corresponding decline of 43,300 (25 per cent) on the achievements given in January to March 2011, although key skills sees a slight increase of 5 per cent. This increase is partly due to the increase in Apprenticeships, which require functional skills and key skills qualifications, as well as the discontinuation of key skills qualifications, which were postponed to September 2012. In the 2010/11 academic year there were 200,300 Apprenticeship achievements compared with 171,500 in 2009/10.³

With qualifications being restructured onto the QCF, we see a decline in all other qualification types, with the largest decreases in achievements reported in NVQs (80 per cent), OQs (75 per cent), free-standing mathematics qualifications (68 per cent), VRQs (69 per cent) and higher level (52 per cent).

The one remaining qualification type, OG, had a considerably smaller decline, of 7 per cent.

The 20 qualifications with the highest number of achievements across all qualification types, for the period January to March 2012, are shown in the table below.

Qualification	Qualification type	Number of achievements
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	QCF	44,400

³ www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current .

HABC Level 2 Award in Door Supervision (QCF)	QCF	12,150
Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	BS	12,000
Skillsfirst Level 2 Diploma in Retail Skills (QCF)	QCF	11,900
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	FS	11,750
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	BS	11,200
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	BS	11,000
Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	BS	10,850
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	QCF	10,750
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Literacy	BS	10,350
BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) (ITQ) (QCF)	QCF	10,250
OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT	VRQ	9,750
Edexcel Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	KS	9,550
Skillsfirst Level 2 Certificate in Retail Knowledge (QCF)	QCF	9,450
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	QCF	9,250
Cambridge ESOL Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-8.0)	ESOL	9,200
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	BS	9,050
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	FS	9,050
BCS Level 1 Award in IT User Skills (ECDL Essentials) (ITQ) (QCF)	QCF	9,000
BIIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders	QCF	8,850

(QCF)

(Key: basic skills (BS); other general (OG); functional skills (FS); key skills (KS))

Regulated supplemental qualifications

There are currently 1,810 available regulated supplemental qualifications: qualifications that are available to be awarded. These comprise 696 OG qualifications, 321 entry level, 305 key skills, 202 functional skills, 178 ESOL, 88 basic skills, and 20 free-standing mathematics qualifications (see figure 1 and table 1).

Figure 1: Number of available regulated supplemental qualifications per quarter, January to March 2007 (2007 Q1) to January to March 2012 (2012 Q1)

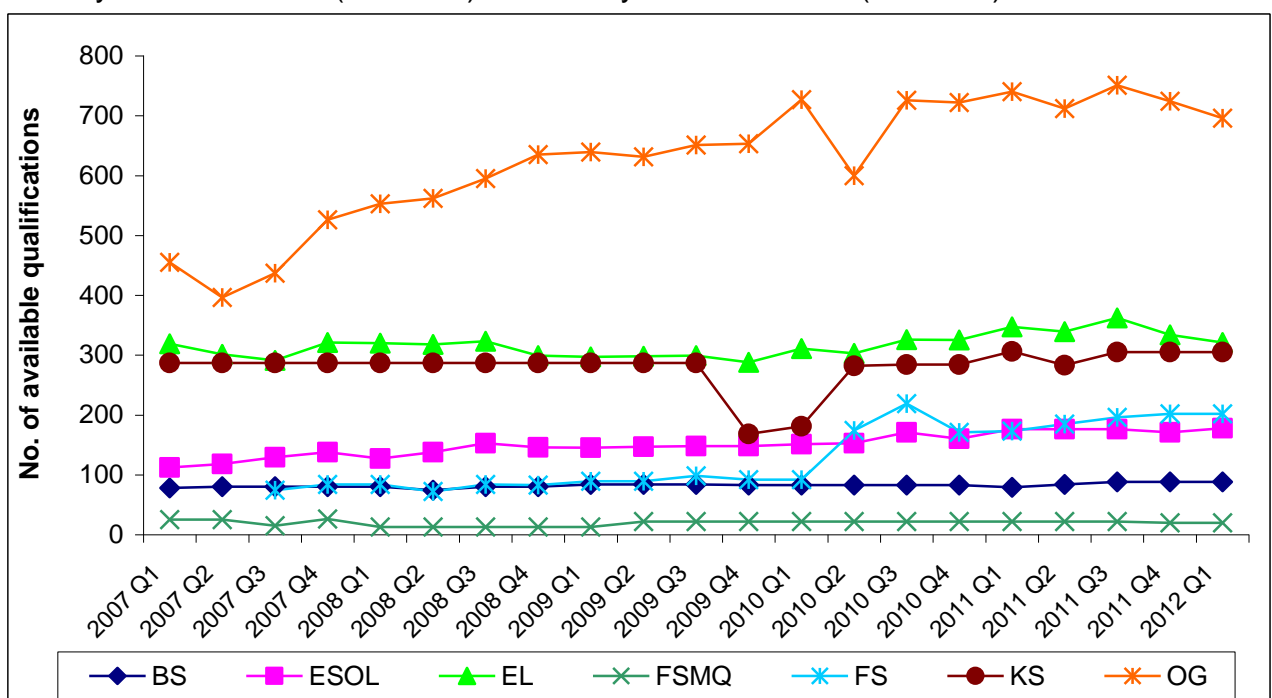


Figure 1 shows that in the past year functional skills (FS) qualifications have seen the largest growth in available qualifications (an increase of 17 per cent). There have also been increases in the number of basic skills (BS) (11 per cent), ESOL (1 per cent - an increase of two qualifications) and key skills (KS) (less than 1 per cent - an increase of only one qualification). There has been a decrease in the number of OG qualifications (by 6 per cent), entry level (EL) (7 per cent) and free-standing mathematics qualifications (FSMQ) (9 per cent, a decline of two qualifications).

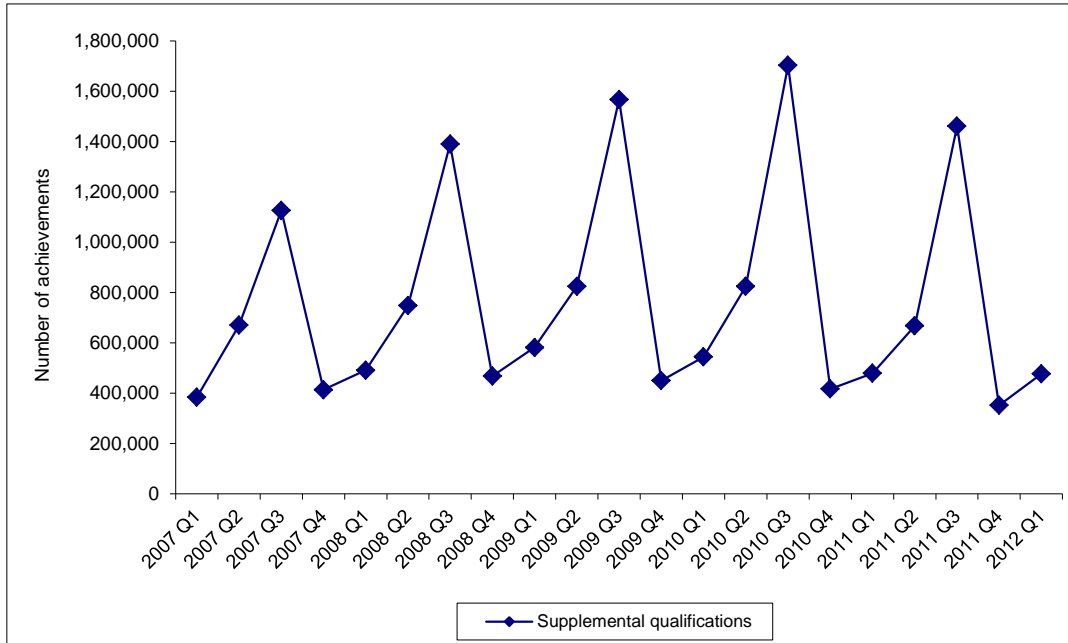
During the last quarter, 79 new supplemental qualifications were added to the list of available regulated qualifications: 62 OG, nine ESOL, six functional skills and two entry level. Of the 62 new OG qualifications, 34 were at level 1_2.

During the last quarter, no supplemental qualifications were re-categorised to a different SSA; none changed awarding organisation, qualification type or level.

Achievements

There were 475,950 achievements awarded for regulated supplemental qualifications in January to March 2012 (see table 2), a decrease of less than 1 per cent when compared with the same quarter of 2011.

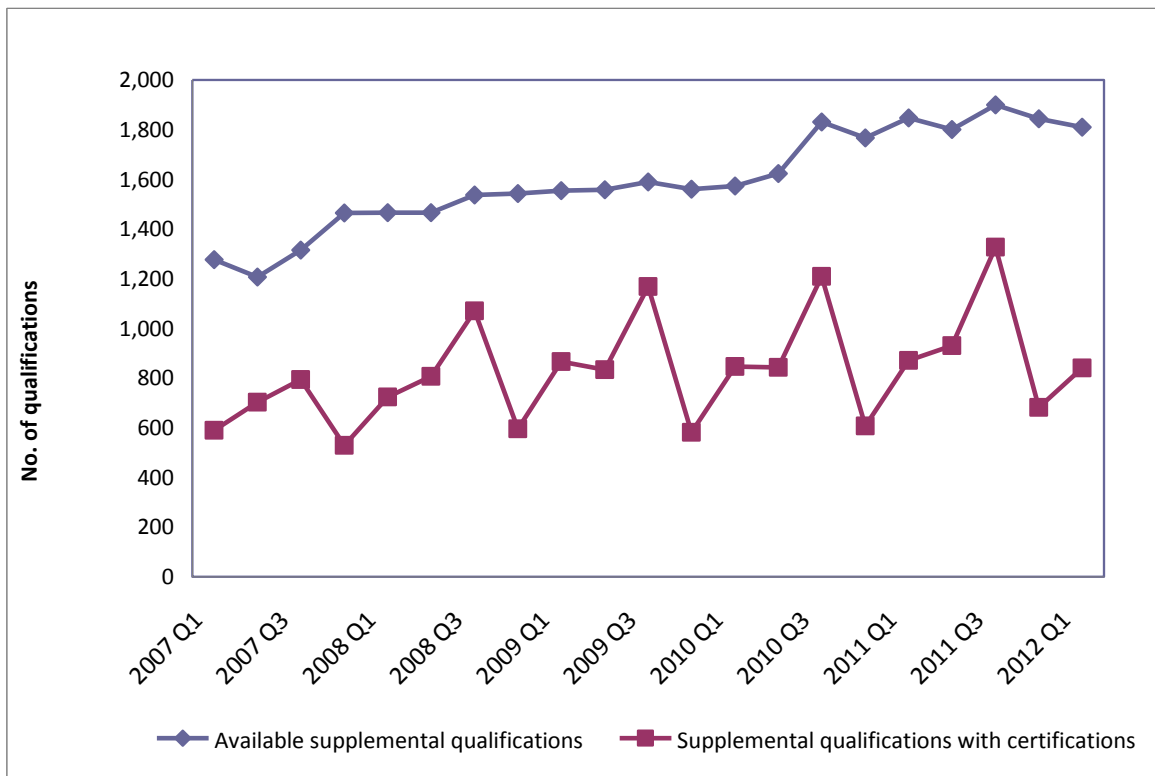
Figure 2: Total number of supplemental qualification achievements per quarter, January to March 2007 (2007 Q1) to January to March 2012 (2012 Q1)



The decline in the number of achievements this quarter is significantly less than the decline seen in the previous three quarters. This is due to the growth in functional skills, ESOL and key skills qualifications.

In figure 3 it is clear that whilst the number of available qualifications has gradually increased over the past two years this latest quarter bucks the trend. This quarter also sees the number of qualifications with at least one achievement decreasing for the first time when compared with the same quarter of the last year.

Figure 3: Total number of available supplemental qualifications per quarter, and total number of qualifications certificating, January to March 2007 (2007 Q1) to January to March 2012 (2012 Q1)



The achievements for January to March 2012 covered 840 individual qualifications, only 46 per cent of all available qualifications. There was a wide variation in the number of achievements per qualification. The data from awarding organisations showed that for 326 qualifications there were at least 100 achievements, for 104 qualifications there were at least 1,000 achievements, and for six qualifications there were at least 10,000 achievements. Of the six qualifications with more than 10,000 achievements, five were basic skills qualifications and one was a functional skills qualification.

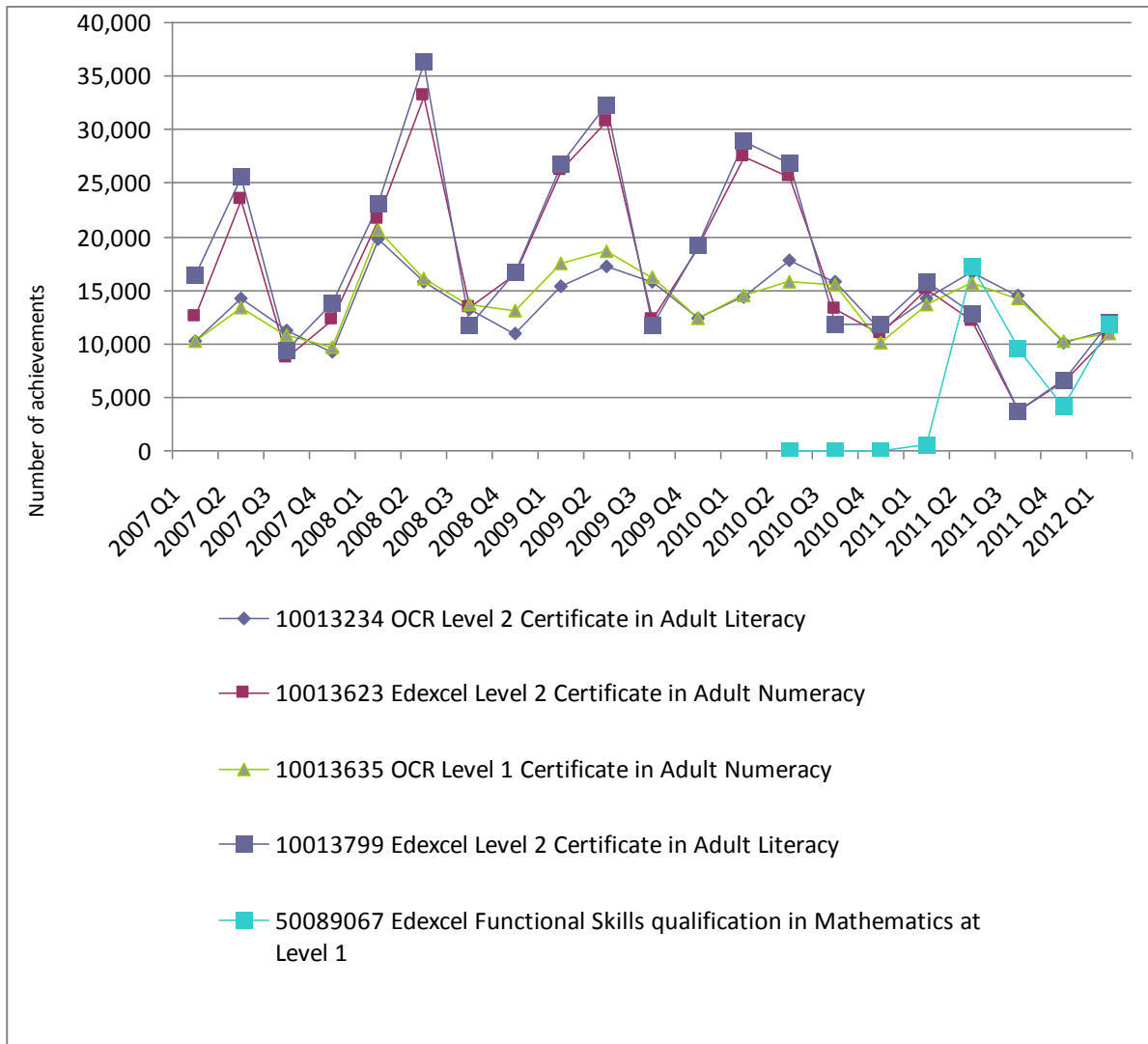
The five supplemental qualifications with the greatest number of achievements in January to March 2012 are shown in the table below (with January to March 2011 figures shown for comparison).

Qualification	Number of achievements	
	January to March 2011	January to March 2012
Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	15,750	12,000
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	600	11,750
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	14,200	11,200
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	13,600	11,000
Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	15,150	10,850

All but one of the top five qualifications showed a decline in the number of certifications (of between 19 and 28 per cent) when compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1 showed a significant increase – there were nearly 20 times more certifications in the latest quarter – although this should be considered in the context of the general rise in functional skills achievements.

The 50 supplemental qualifications with the most number of achievements are listed in table 3. Figure 4 shows the five-year trend for the five supplemental qualifications with the greatest number of achievements in January to March 2012.

Figure 4: The five supplemental qualifications with the most achievements in January to March 2012 (2012 Q1), showing the trend from the same quarter of 2007 (2007 Q1)

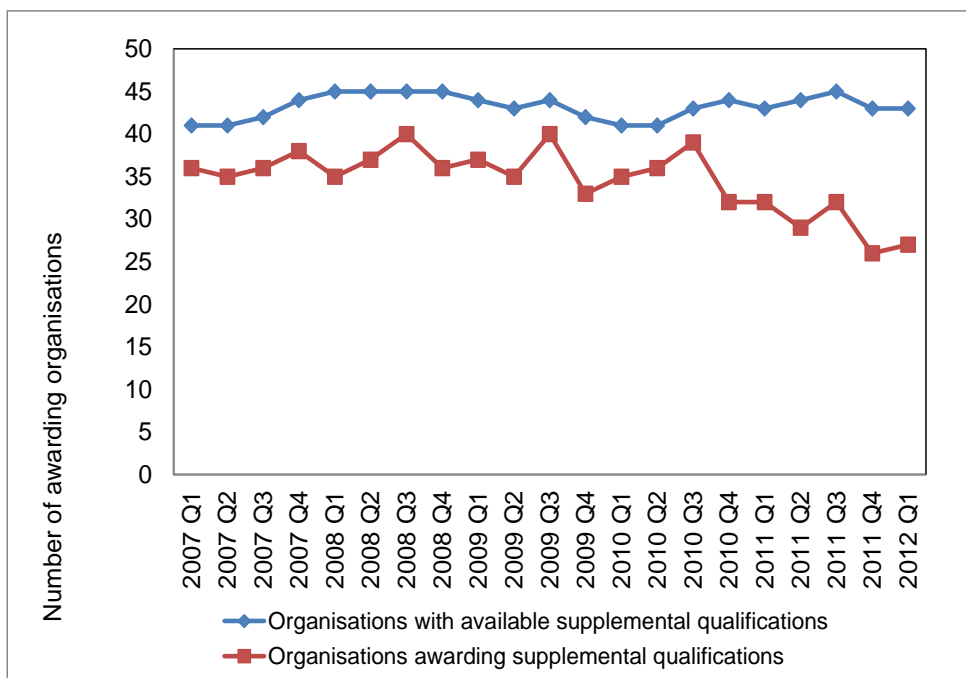


Awarding organisations

There are currently 43 recognised awarding organisations that offer regulated supplemental qualifications. In January to March 2012, 27 awarding organisations awarded achievements.

It is clear from figure 5 below that there is a seasonal pattern to the number of awarding organisations certificating supplemental qualifications (with a consistent spike in quarter 3 in recent years, relating to the summer examination series), but that there has been a general decrease in the number that have been awarding. Whilst the number of awarding organisations offering supplemental qualifications has remained relatively constant, the number awarding achievements has gradually decreased. This may in part be due to the move of qualifications to the QCF; there are a number of awarding organisations whose supplemental qualifications (on the National Qualifications Framework) are still available for certification, but whose awarding has moved entirely to replacement qualifications on the QCF.

Figure 5: Total number of awarding organisations with at least one available supplemental qualification per quarter, and awarding organisations with at least one qualification award, January to March 2007 (2007 Q1) to January to March 2012 (2012 Q1)



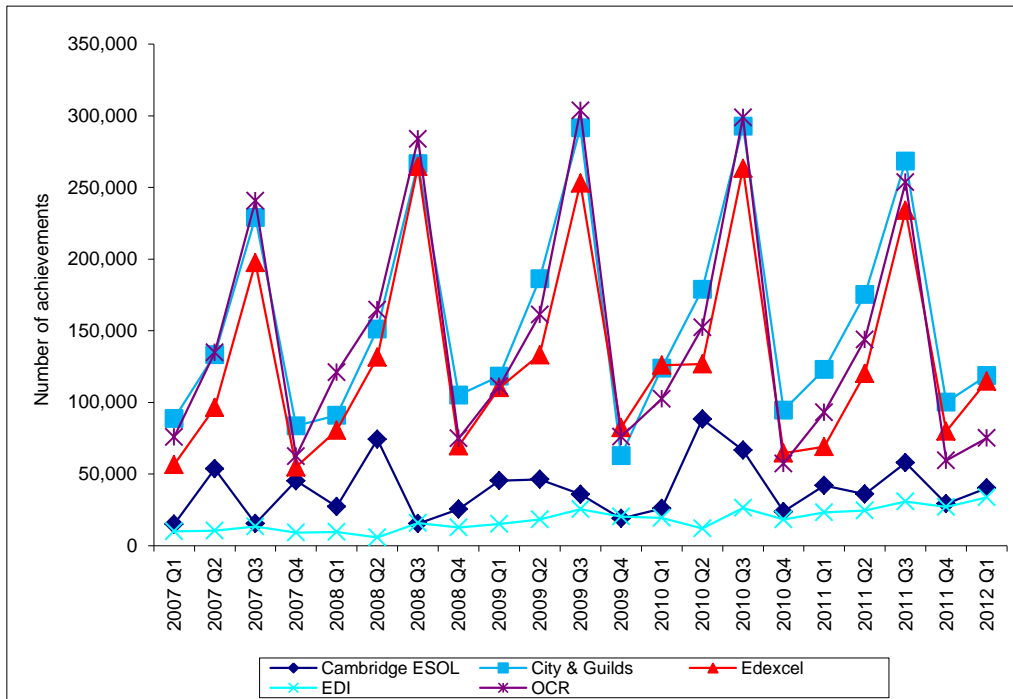
The 10 awarding organisations with the greatest number of achievements in January to March 2012 are shown in the table below (with January to March 2011 figures shown for comparison).

Awarding organisation	Number of achievements		% change in achievements
	January to March 2011	January to March 2012	
City and Guilds of London Institute	122,900	118,650	-3%
Pearson Education Ltd (Edexcel)	69,100	114,800	66%
OCR	93,050	75,000	-19%
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	42,000	40,200	-4%
EDI	23,250	33,800	45%
WJEC-CBAC	20,350	22,950	13%
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	30,350	18,150	-40%
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	12,750	13,200	4%
Trinity College London	5,750	11,650	103%
EMTA Awards Limited	5,650	7,700	36%

Six of the top 10 awarding organisations are showing an increase in achievements when compared with January to March 2011. Four of these awarding organisations showed a decline in the number of achievements, with the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance in particular showing a 40 per cent decline in achievements.

Figure 6 shows the five-year trend for the five awarding organisations with the greatest number of achievements in January to March 2012. A full list of awarding organisations and their achievements can be found in table 4.

Figure 6: The five awarding organisations with the greatest number of achievements for supplemental qualifications in January to March 2012 (2012 Q1), showing the trend from January to March 2007 (2007 Q1)

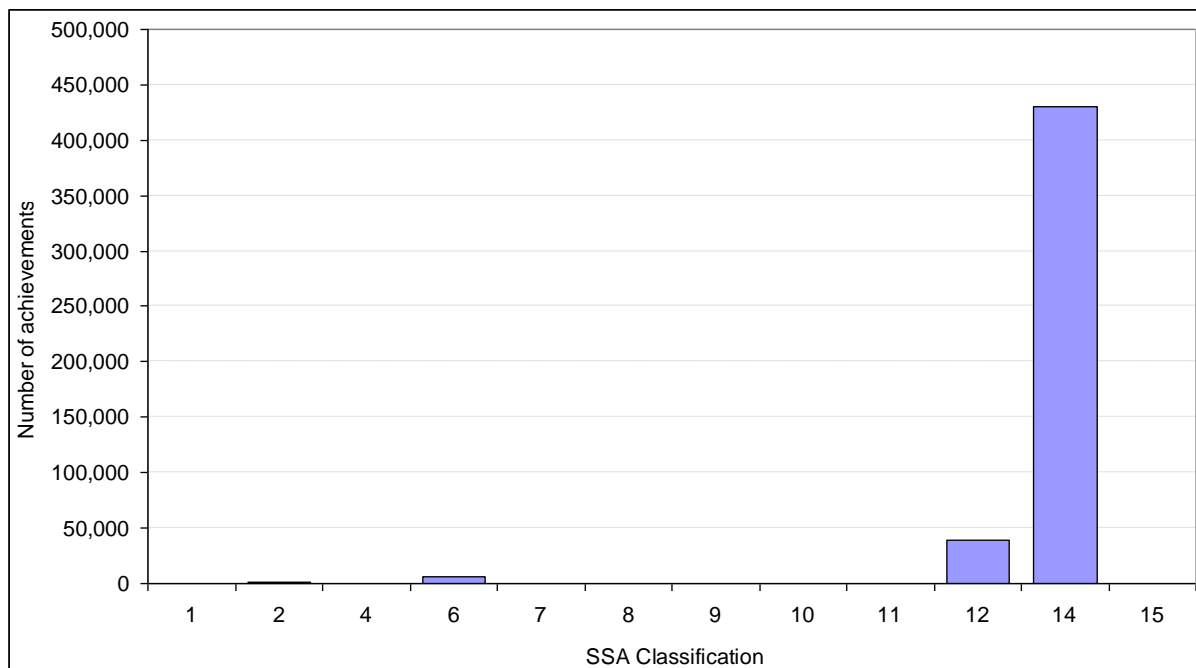


Sector subject area

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 15 SSA codes (see the glossary for a full listing).

Figure 7 compares the number of achievements seen in each SSA and figure 8 compares the percentage change in achievements from January to March 2011 to January to March 2012. The SSA with the highest number of achievements for supplemental qualifications in January to March 2012 was preparation for life and work, with 429,850 achievements, an increase of 7 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. The second most common SSA was languages, literature and culture, with 38,900 achievements, an increase of 2 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. The third most common SSA was information and communication technology, with 5,700 achievements. This figure more than doubled the achievements for the same quarter of 2011, the largest increase seen for any SSA code.

Figure 7: Supplemental qualification achievements by SSA for January to March 2012

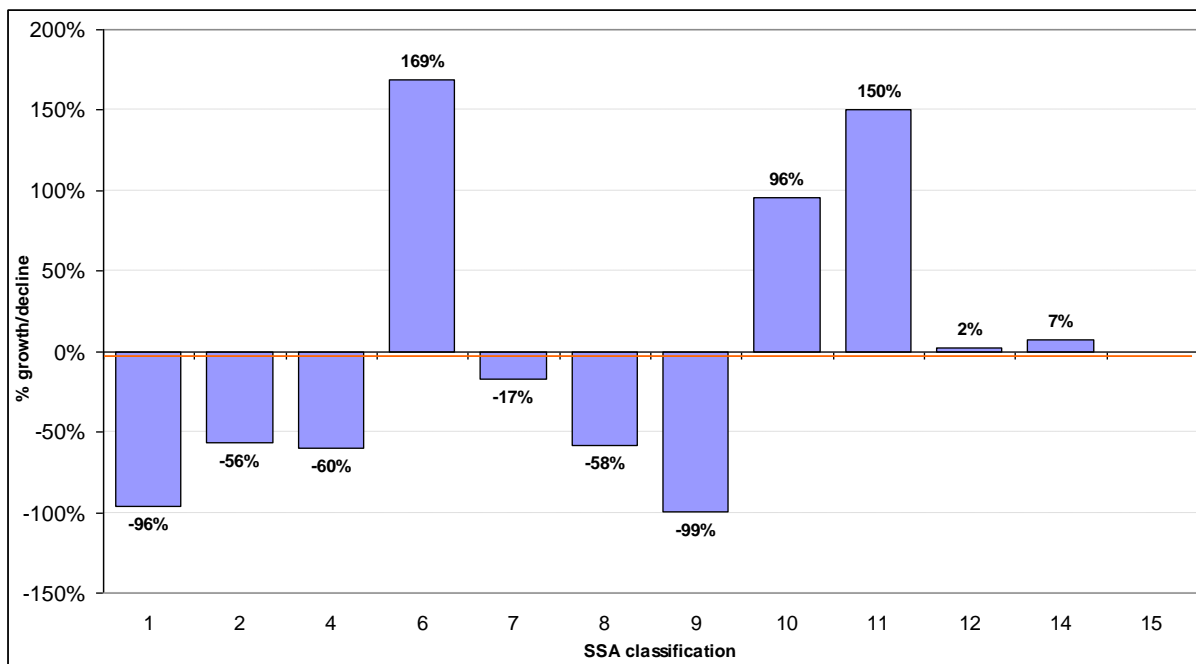


1 Health, public services and care	9 Arts, media and publishing
2 Science and mathematics	10 History, philosophy and theology
4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies	11 Social sciences
6 Information and communication technology	12 Languages, literature and culture
7 Retail and commercial enterprise	14 Preparation for life and work
8 Leisure, travel and tourism	15 Business, administration and law

Note: there are no supplemental qualifications in the SSA code construction, planning and the built environment. During January to March 2012, there were no achievements in agriculture, horticulture and animal care, nor education and training.

History, philosophy and theology, and social sciences also saw large increases in achievement numbers, although their overall total figures are still quite low (150 and 50 respectively), so this should be borne in mind when drawing any conclusions. The largest decreases in achievement numbers were for health, public services and care, and arts, media and publishing. Both these codes had significant numbers of certifications in the first quarter of 2011 (3,350 and 33,000 respectively) and now have very few. In the case of arts, media and publishing in particular, this decrease is due to the restructuring of qualifications onto the QCF.

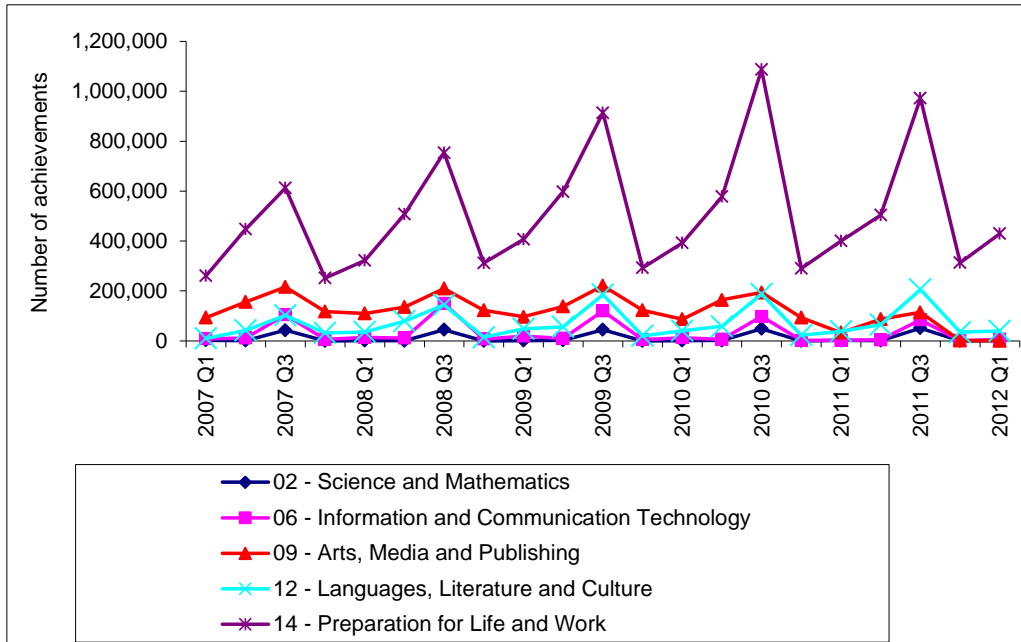
Figure 8: Percentage growth and decline in achievements between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012 by SSA. The red line shows average change (<-1 per cent)



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Health, public services and care | 9 Arts, media and publishing |
| 2 Science and mathematics | 10 History, philosophy and theology |
| 4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies | 11 Social sciences |
| 6 Information and communication technology | 12 Languages, literature and culture |
| 7 Retail and commercial enterprise | 14 Preparation for life and work |
| 8 Leisure, travel and tourism | 15 Business, administration and law |

Figure 9 shows the five-year trend in achievements for the five SSAs with the most achievements in January to March 2012.

Figure 9: Supplemental qualification achievements by SSA, January to March 2007 (2007 Q1) to January to March 2012 (2012 Q1), showing the five codes with the greatest number of achievements (see table 5 for further details)



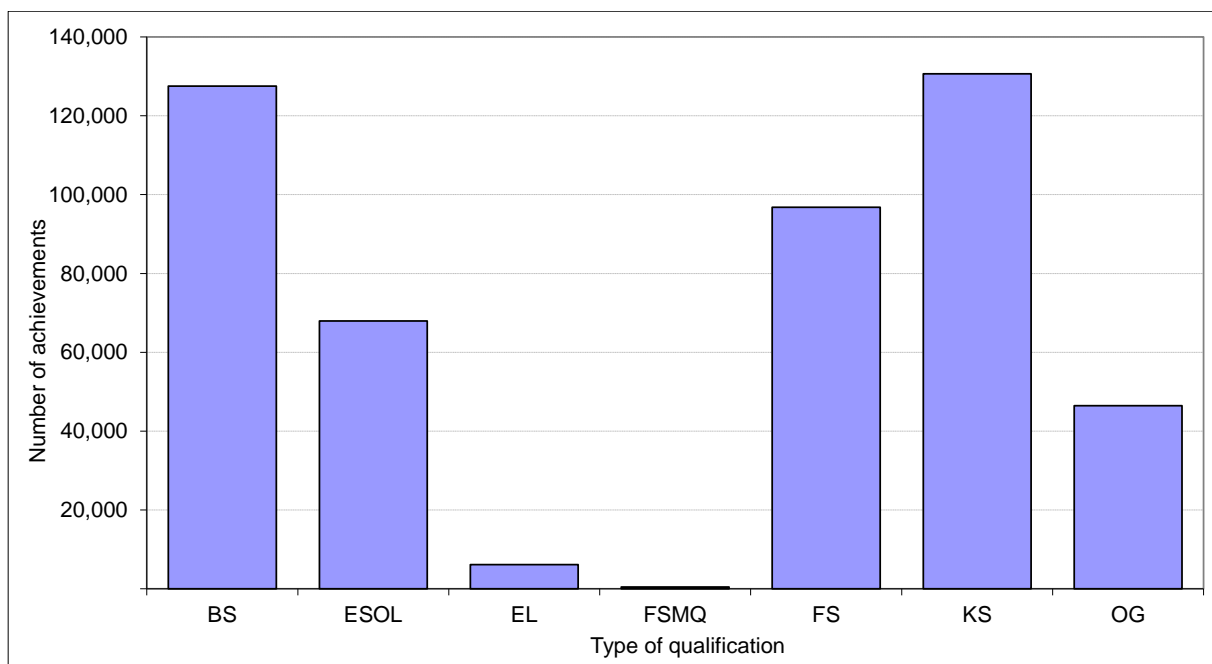
Type of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 18 qualification types (see the glossary for further details). Supplemental qualifications are seven of those types: basic skills, ESOL, entry level, free-standing mathematics qualifications, functional skills, key skills and OG qualifications.

Figure 10 shows the number of achievements by type of qualification for January to March 2012. Figure 11 shows the percentage growth and decline in this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2011.

The supplemental qualification type with the greatest number of achievements in January to March 2012 was key skills, with 130,650 achievements, an increase of 5 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. The type with the second highest number of achievements was basic skills, with 127,500 achievements, a decrease of 25 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. The third most common type was functional skills, with 96,800 achievements, an increase of 54 per cent.

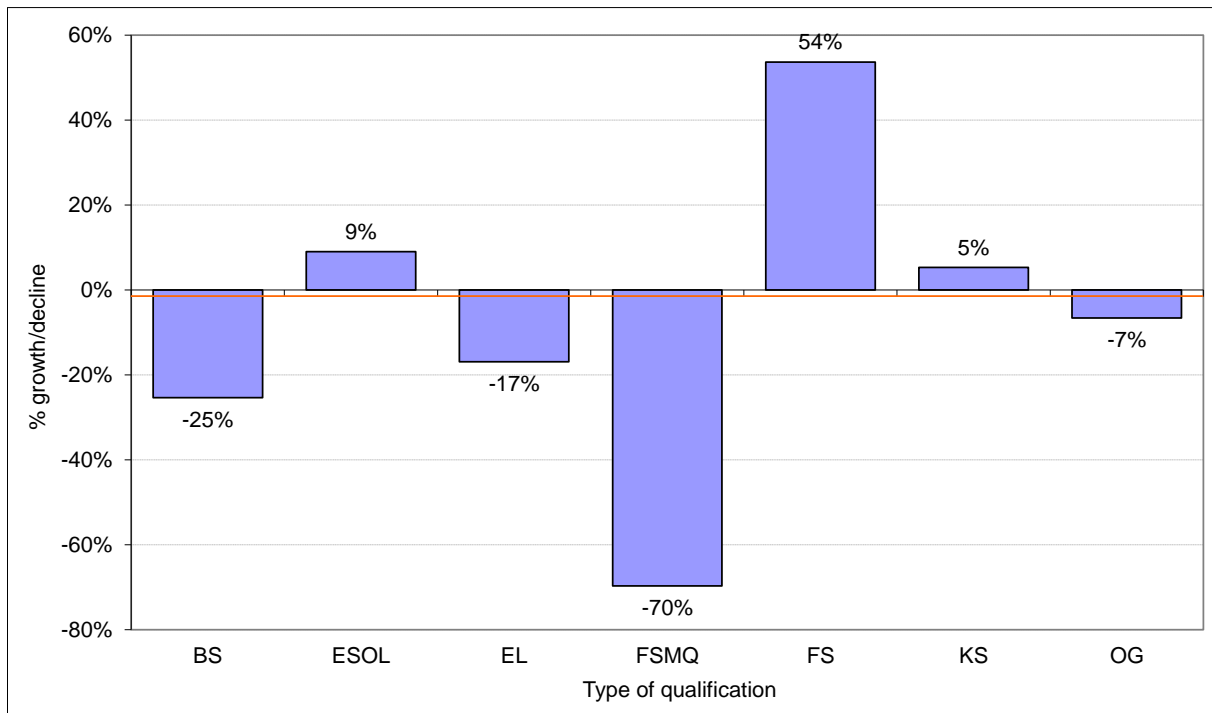
Figure 10: Supplemental qualification achievements by type for January to March 2012



BS	Basic skills	FS	Functional skills
ESOL	English for speakers of other languages	KS	Key skills
EL	Entry level	OG	Other general qualifications
FSMQ	Free-standing mathematics qualifications		

The qualification type showing the largest decrease in awards, of 70 per cent, to 500 awards, was free-standing mathematics qualifications. A significant decrease was also seen in entry level qualifications, of 17 per cent, to 6,100 achievements. This is in part due to some entry level qualifications being restructured onto the QCF.

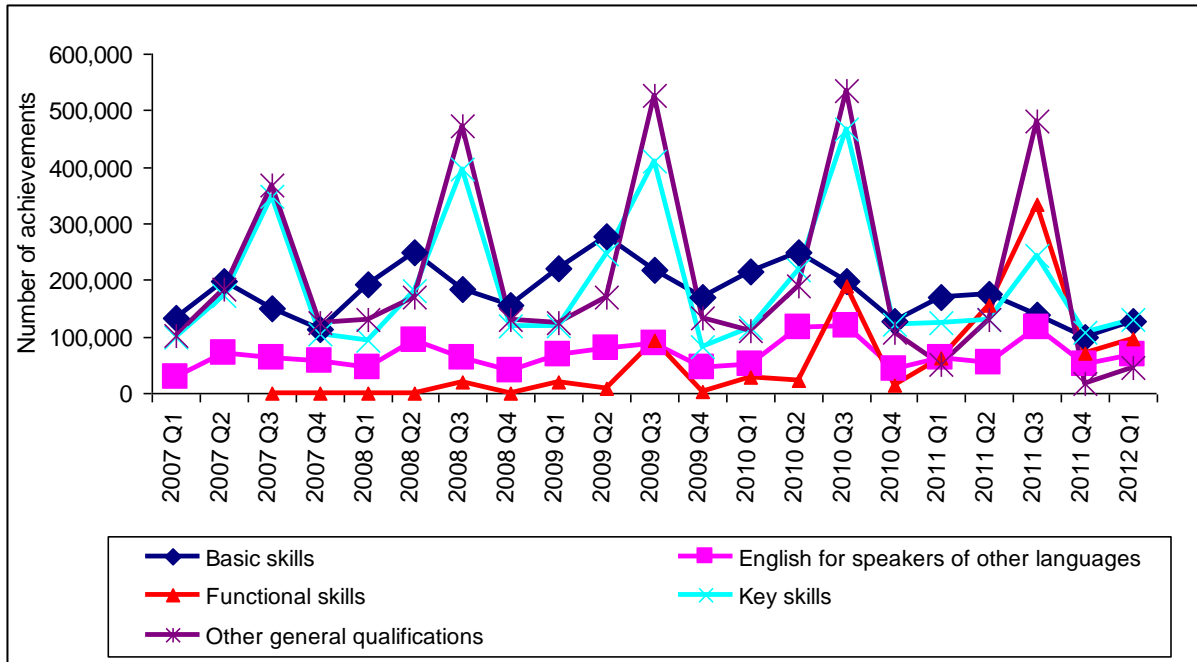
Figure 11: Percentage growth and decline in achievements between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012 by type. The red line shows average change (<-1 per cent)



BS	Basic skills	FS	Functional skills
ESOL	English for speakers of other languages	KS	Key skills
EL	Entry level	OG	Other general qualifications
FSMQ	Free-standing mathematics qualifications		

Figure 12 shows the five-year trend for the qualification types with the greatest number of achievements in January to March 2012.

Figure 12: Supplemental qualification achievements by qualification type, January to March 2007 (2007 Q1) to January to March 2012 (2012 Q1), showing the types with the largest number of achievements this quarter (see table 6 for further details)



Level of qualification

All regulated qualifications are assigned a level, ranging from entry, then 1 to 8 (see the glossary for further details). Supplemental qualifications are at entry level to level 3.

Figure 13 shows the number of achievements by level of qualification for January to March 2012.

The level with the greatest number of achievements for supplemental qualifications in January to March 2012 was level 2, with 195,150 achievements awarded. The second most frequent qualification level was level 1, with 191,000 achievements. The third most common level was entry level, with 76,050 achievements. There were two qualification levels showing significant change in their achievements awarded since the same quarter of the last year. There were no certifications for level 1/2 qualifications in January to March 2011, whereas in the most recent quarter 1,200 level 1_2 qualifications were awarded. In contrast, level 3 qualifications saw a decrease, of 39 per cent.

Figure 13: Supplemental qualification achievements by level for January to March 2012

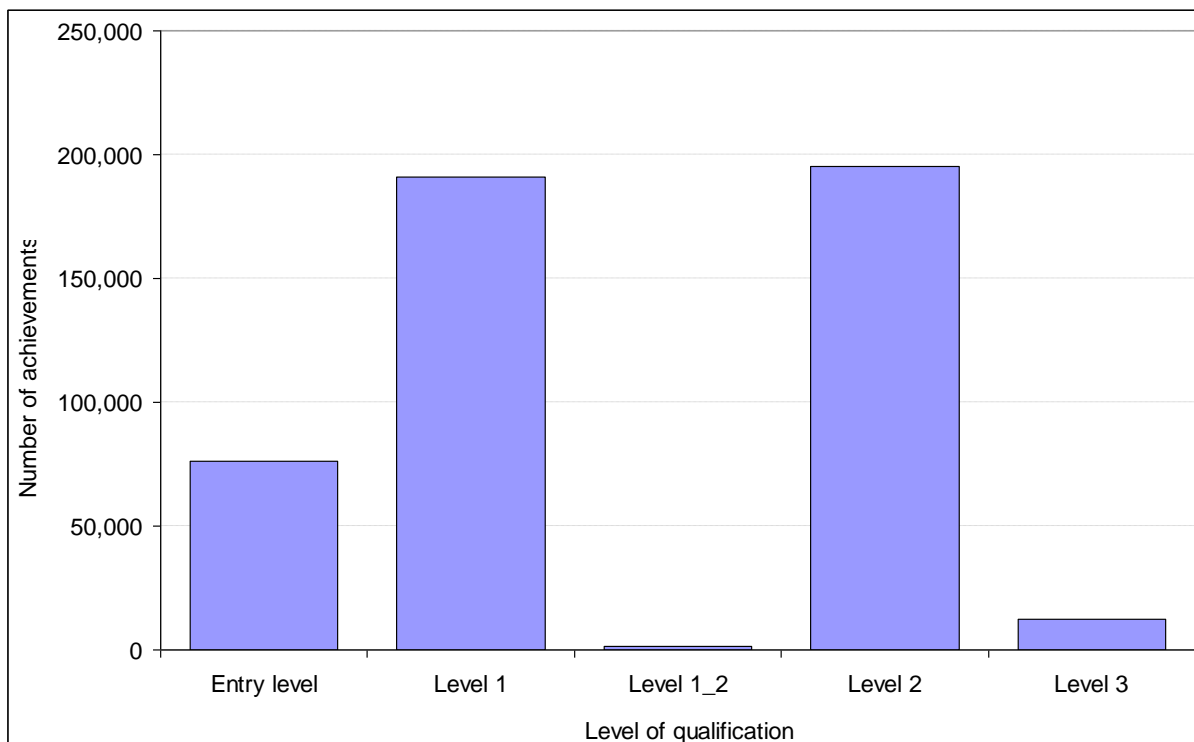


Figure 14 shows the percentage growth and decline in achievements by level, in this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2011.

Figure 14: Percentage growth and decline in achievements by level, between January to March 2011 and January to March 2012 by SSA. The red line shows average change (-1 per cent). Level 1_2 has been excluded as there were no certifications in the previous year, January to March 2011

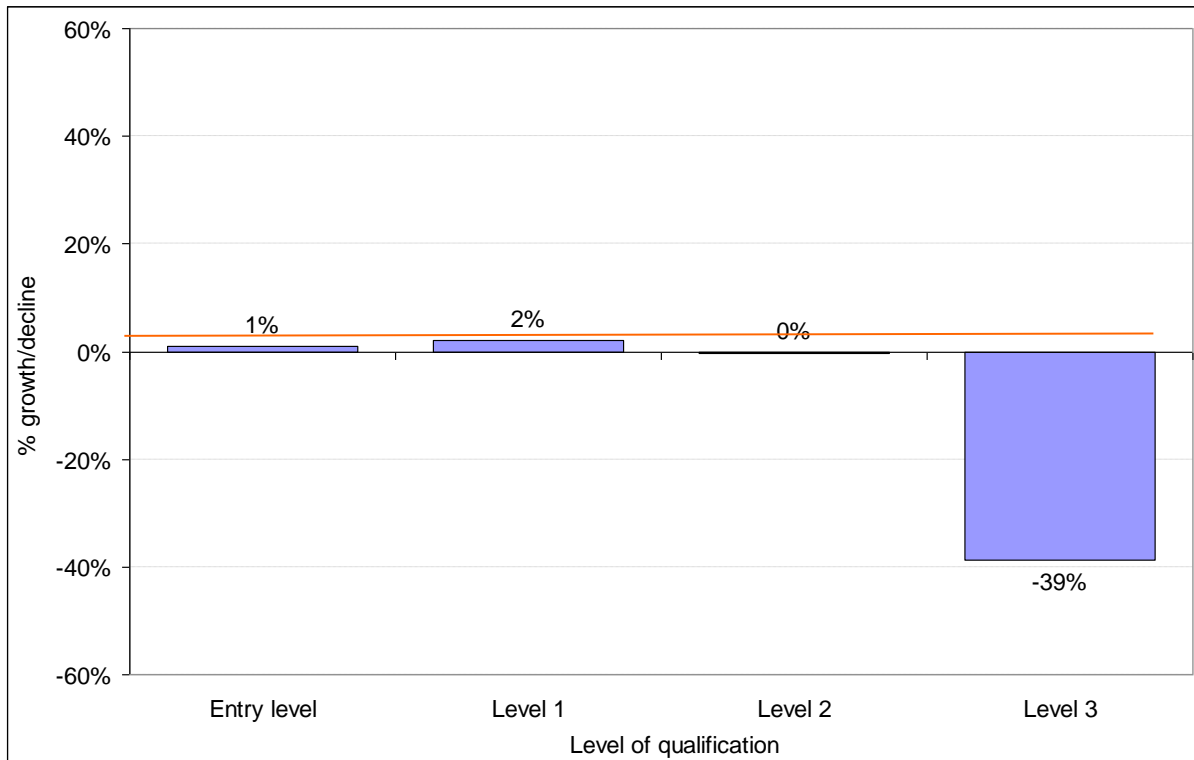
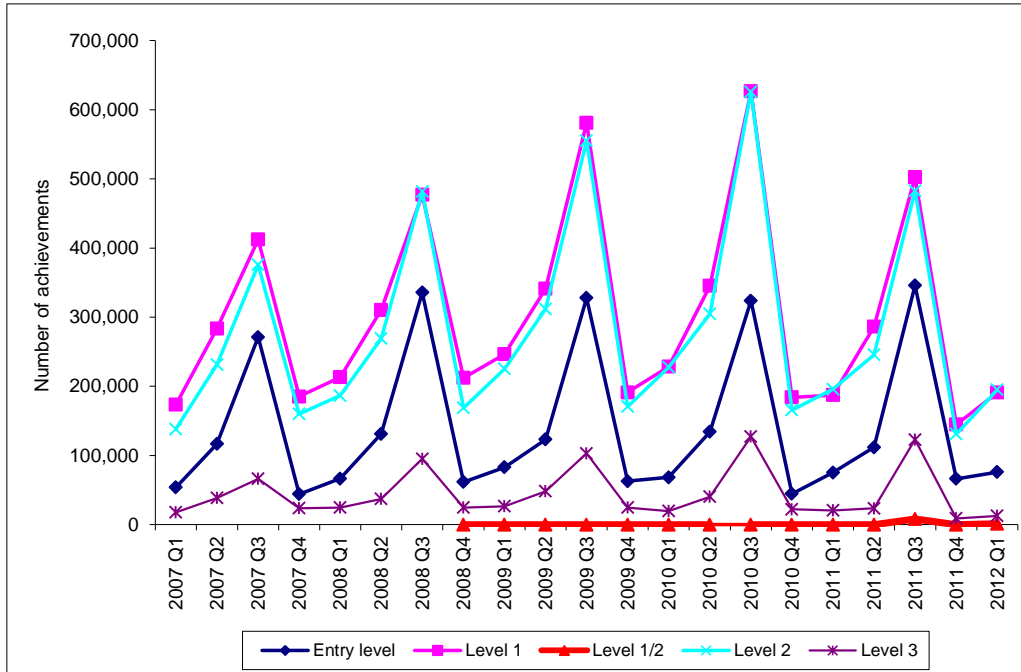


Figure 15 shows the five-year trend in achievements for each qualification level.

Figure 15: Supplemental qualification achievements by level of qualification, July to September 2007 (2007 Q1) to January to March 2012 (2012 Q1) (see table 7 for further details)



Tables

Table 1: Number of available regulated qualifications for secondary level qualifications, covering supplemental qualifications, from 06-07 to Jan-Mar 2012
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	BS Basic skills	ESOL English for Speakers of Other Languages	EL Entry level	FSMQ Free-standing mathematics qualification	FS Functional skills	FS NQF Functional skills (National Qualifications Framework)	FS QCF Functional skills (Qualifications and Credit Framework)	KS Key skills	OG Other general qualifications	Total number of qualifications
06-07	82	154	334	26	74			287	538	1,495
07-08	80	160	327	26	84			287	611	1,575
08-09	84	162	301	22	98			287	658	1,612
09-10	83	173	340	22	98	121		284	738	1,859
10-11	90	176	384	22	203		27	327	781	2,010
11-12	88	178	336	20	205			305	732	1,864
Oct-Dec 2006	73	110	314					287	449	1,233
Jan-Mar 2007	78	112	319	25				287	455	1,276
Apr-Jun 2007	80	118	301	25				287	396	1,207
Jul-Sep 2007	80	129	291	15	74			287	437	1,313
Oct-Dec 2007	80	138	321	26	84			287	526	1,462
Jan-Mar 2008	80	127	320	13	84			287	553	1,464
Apr-Jun 2008	74	138	318	13	72			287	562	1,464
Jul-Sep 2008	80	153	323	13	84			287	597	1,537
Oct-Dec 2008	80	146	299	13	83			287	635	1,543
Jan-Mar 2009	84	145	297	13	89			287	639	1,554
Apr-Jun 2009	84	147	298	22	89			287	631	1,558
Jul-Sep 2009	84	148	299	22	98			287	651	1,589
Oct-Dec 2009	83	148	288	22	92			168	153	954
Jan-Mar 2010	83	151	311	22	92			181	727	1,567
Apr-Jun 2010	83	153	303	22	98	82		282	600	1,623
Jul-Sep 2010	83	171	326	22	98	121		284	726	1,831
Oct-Dec 2010	83	160	325	22	144		27	284	722	1,767
Jan-Mar 2011	79	176	347	22	146		27	306	740	1,843
Apr-Jun 2011	84	176	339	22	185			283	712	1,801
Jul-Sep 2011	88	176	362	22	196			305	751	1,900
Oct-Dec 2011	88	171	334	20	202			305	724	1,844
Jan-Mar 2012	88	178	321	20	202			305	696	1,810

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 secondary level qualifications, covering supplemental qualifications, from 06-07 to Jan-Mar 2012

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	Total number of achievements
06-07	2,551,000
07-08	3,040,900
08-09	3,439,500
09-10	3,521,250
10-11	3,023,400
11-12	827,000
Oct-Dec 2006	373,000
Jan-Mar 2007	382,950
Apr-Jun 2007	669,400
Jul-Sep 2007	1,125,650
Oct-Dec 2007	413,100
Jan-Mar 2008	490,850
Apr-Jun 2008	747,550
Jul-Sep 2008	1,389,400
Oct-Dec 2008	467,200
Jan-Mar 2009	581,250
Apr-Jun 2009	824,300
Jul-Sep 2009	1,566,750
Oct-Dec 2009	449,300
Jan-Mar 2010	544,000
Apr-Jun 2010	824,200
Jul-Sep 2010	1,703,700
Oct-Dec 2010	416,100
Jan-Mar 2011	478,800
Apr-Jun 2011	666,950
Jul-Sep 2011	1,461,600
Oct-Dec 2011	351,050
Jan-Mar 2012	475,950

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 with the most achievements for secondary level qualifications, covering supplemental qualifications, Jan-Mar 2012 (Jan-Mar 2011 shown for comparison)

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Qualification	Number of achievements	
	Jan-Mar 2011	Jan-Mar 2012
EDEXCEL Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	15,750	12,000
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	600	11,750
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	14,200	11,200
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	13,600	11,000
EDEXCEL Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	15,150	10,850
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Literacy	12,600	10,350
EDEXCEL Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	4,400	9,550
Cambridge ESOL Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-8.0)	10,300	9,200
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	12,550	9,050
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	0	9,050
EDEXCEL Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	3,850	8,800
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	9,350	8,750
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at level 1	4,200	7,750
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	8,000	7,550
Cambridge ESOL Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5)	7,500	7,450
City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	8,150	7,400
City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	9,000	7,100
EDEXCEL Level 1 Certificate in Adult Literacy	8,000	6,750
City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	7,050	6,550
City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Adult Literacy	7,800	6,300
EDI Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	3,800	6,250
WJEC Level 2 Essential Skills Wales in Application of Number	600	6,000
EDEXCEL Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	8,250	5,600
City & Guilds Entry Level Certificate in Adult Numeracy	10,050	5,450
City & Guilds Level 2 Key Skills in Communication	7,500	5,400
EDI Level 2 Key Skills in Communication	3,300	5,250
WJEC Level 2 Essential Skills Wales in Information and Communication	350	5,200
City & Guilds Level 2 Key Skills in Application of Number	6,850	5,000
EDI Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	2,600	4,900
Cambridge ESOL Level 3 Certificate in English (IELTS 8.5-9.0)	4,800	4,850
EDEXCEL Level 2 Key Skills in Communication	2,400	4,750
EDEXCEL Level 2 Key Skills in Application of Number	2,150	4,450
EDI Level 2 Key Skills in Application of Number	2,550	4,350
EDEXCEL Level 2 Award in Digital Applications for IT Users	0	4,200
AQA Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	7,300	4,050
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Entry 3	3,050	3,850
WJEC Level 2 Essential Skills Wales in Communication	450	3,450
Cambridge ESOL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and	4,300	3,450
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry	0	3,450
AQA Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	4,750	3,400
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills mathematics	1,350	3,200
AQA Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology	5,800	3,150
EDEXCEL Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	0	3,050
WJEC Level 1 Essential Skills Wales in Application of Number	450	2,950
ASDAN Level 2 Key Skills in Improving Own Learning and Performance	2,550	2,950
EDEXCEL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening)	1,750	2,900
City & Guilds Entry Level Certificate in Adult Literacy	4,900	2,850
EDEXCEL Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication	0	2,700
OCR Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology	4,600	2,700
ASDAN Level 2 Key Skills in Problem Solving	2,300	2,650

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 4: Top 37 awarding organisations with the most achievements for secondary level qualifications, covering supplemental qualifications, Jan-Mar 2012 (Jan-Mar 2011 shown for comparison)

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Awarding organisation	Number of achievements	
	Jan-Mar 2011	Jan-Mar 2012
City and Guilds of London Institute	122,900	118,650
Pearson Education Ltd	69,100	114,800
OCR	93,050	75,000
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	42,000	40,200
EDI	23,250	33,800
WJEC-CBAC	20,350	22,950
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	30,350	18,150
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	12,750	13,200
Trinity College London	5,750	11,650
EMTA Awards Limited	5,650	7,700
NCFE	9,800	7,000
National Open College Network	4,100	2,600
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd	2,050	2,200
IMI Awards Ltd	2,050	2,100
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	750	1,500
University of Cambridge International Examinations	0	1,200
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	0	700
VTCT	850	650
International Baccalaureate Organisation	850	600
Learning Resource Network	0	350
Ascentis	3,600	300
British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust	550	200
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	0	200
Active IQ	0	200
ITEC	0	50
ABC Awards	250	0
LAMDA Examinations	150	0

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 sector subject area for secondary level, covering supplemental qualifications, from 06-07 to Jan-Mar 2012
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	00 Not set	01 - Health, public services and care	02 - Science and mathematics	03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	05 - Information and communication technology	06 - Retail and commercial enterprise	07 - Leisure, travel and tourism	08 - Arts, media and publishing	09 - History, philosophy and theology	10 - Social sciences	11 - Languages, literature and culture	12 - Education and training	13 - Preparation for life and work	14 - Business, administration and law	Total number of achievements
06-07	0	23,900	45,600	150	8,750	130,700	3,600	18,150	589,700	10,100	3,450	160,100	200	1,548,550	8,000	2,551,000
07-08	0	44,000	45,300	150	8,000	180,600	6,600	17,300	572,300	30,900	2,950	290,450	100	1,834,800	7,500	3,040,900
08-09	0	45,950	47,200	150	8,750	155,950	6,800	16,300	578,800	41,400	2,950	303,700	50	2,229,200	2,400	3,439,500
09-10	0	50,150	51,450	250	7,850	121,150	3,500	16,900	566,550	41,250	2,750	307,550	0	2,350,250	1,700	3,521,250
10-11	0	14,300	53,450	200	6,150	92,100	2,350	11,400	328,050	13,000	4,050	330,950	0	2,166,400	1,000	3,023,400
11-12	0	950	750	0	50	6,400	100	100	1,400	150	50	73,750	0	743,200	50	827,000
Oct-Dec 2006	0	4,750	0	0	300	6,100	200	1,900	124,500	0	650	5,900	50	228,250	350	373,000
Jan-Mar 2007	0	3,800	2,100	0	300	9,000	150	900	93,300	0	200	10,000	0	260,750	2,350	382,950
Apr-Jun 2007	0	5,600	1,000	0	1,150	10,850	700	1,300	155,950	1,400	200	42,300	50	447,300	1,650	669,400
Jul-Sep 2007	0	9,750	42,500	150	7,000	104,750	2,550	14,050	215,950	8,700	2,400	101,900	50	612,250	3,650	1,125,650
Oct-Dec 2007	0	5,500	0	0	200	5,950	300	800	117,100	0	0	31,300	50	251,750	150	413,100
Jan-Mar 2008	0	6,100	850	0	200	13,450	250	300	110,050	0	0	35,650	0	321,800	2,200	490,850
Apr-Jun 2008	0	10,450	50	0	350	11,500	800	1,150	135,800	0	0	79,050	0	507,200	1,200	747,550
Jul-Sep 2008	0	22,000	44,400	150	7,200	149,700	5,250	15,050	209,350	30,900	2,950	144,400	50	754,000	3,950	1,389,400
Oct-Dec 2008	0	8,750	0	0	350	7,100	650	800	123,050	400	0	14,400	0	311,450	200	467,200
Jan-Mar 2009	0	8,950	750	0	300	18,600	1,500	550	96,300	100	0	48,050	0	406,150	0	581,250
Apr-Jun 2009	0	6,350	1,850	0	1,450	10,150	1,200	500	138,200	10,400	50	56,150	0	597,900	100	824,300
Jul-Sep 2009	0	21,900	44,600	150	6,650	120,100	3,450	14,400	221,250	30,500	2,850	185,100	0	913,700	2,100	1,566,750
Oct-Dec 2009	0	7,000	50	0	250	4,750	700	1,000	122,300	50	0	20,600	0	292,500	0	449,300
Jan-Mar 2010	0	9,450	1,000	0	250	12,400	150	800	86,450	0	0	40,950	0	392,550	0	544,000
Apr-Jun 2010	0	13,350	1,600	0	750	6,250	400	1,400	164,150	0	0	58,000	0	578,300	0	824,200
Jul-Sep 2010	0	20,300	48,800	250	6,650	97,700	2,300	13,650	193,600	41,150	2,750	188,000	0	1,086,850	1,650	1,703,700
Oct-Dec 2010	0	6,150	0	0	100	1,750	150	600	93,650	750	0	23,150	0	289,800	0	416,100
Jan-Mar 2011	0	3,350	1,700	0	50	2,100	50	100	33,000	50	0	38,050	0	400,200	0	478,800
Apr-Jun 2011	0	3,200	950	0	250	4,250	250	850	87,200	1,050	50	64,550	0	504,300	50	666,950
Jul-Sep 2011	0	1,600	50,750	200	5,700	84,000	1,900	9,850	114,200	11,150	4,000	205,250	0	972,100	950	1,461,600
Oct-Dec 2011	0	850	0	0	0	750	50	100	1,100	0	0	34,800	0	313,400	0	351,050
Jan-Mar 2012	0	100	750	0	50	5,700	50	50	300	150	50	38,900	0	429,850	50	475,950

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 type of qualification for secondary level qualifications, covering supplemental qualifications, from 06-07 to Jan-Mar 2012
England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	BS Basic skills	ESOL English for Speakers of Other Languages	EL Entry level	FSMQ Free-standing mathematics qualification	FS Functional skills	FS NQF Functional skills (National Qualifications Framework)	FS QCF Functional skills (Qualifications and Credit Framework)	KS Key skills	OG Other general qualifications	Total number of achievements
06-07	576,950	183,600	255,300	17,200				731,150	786,850	2,551,000
07-08	740,800	255,450	331,850	18,500	21,100			776,150	897,100	3,040,900
08-09	869,250	271,700	308,100	19,600	122,400			897,350	951,100	3,439,500
09-10	829,850	331,800	239,350	23,750	242,250			885,150	969,100	3,521,250
10-11	611,550	273,900	160,100	25,500	562,550		4,000	618,350	767,400	3,023,400
11-12	227,200	120,200	9,550	500	167,350			238,700	63,500	827,000
Oct-Dec 2006	94,950	22,000	10,350					111,250	134,450	373,000
Jan-Mar 2007	134,050	29,250	18,500	2,000				98,600	100,600	382,950
Apr-Jun 2007	199,350	70,700	44,100					172,650	182,600	669,400
Jul-Sep 2007	148,650	61,650	182,350	15,200				348,600	369,200	1,125,650
Oct-Dec 2007	114,500	55,250	13,250					105,600	124,500	413,100
Jan-Mar 2008	193,450	45,850	27,250	800	350			93,400	129,700	490,850
Apr-Jun 2008	249,250	93,100	54,200		1,000			180,950	169,050	747,550
Jul-Sep 2008	183,600	61,250	237,100	17,700	19,700			396,200	473,800	1,389,400
Oct-Dec 2008	155,850	38,300	22,550		400			119,700	130,400	467,200
Jan-Mar 2009	220,200	67,850	28,750	700	20,050			120,100	123,600	581,250
Apr-Jun 2009	276,500	78,300	43,350		8,350			247,050	170,750	824,300
Jul-Sep 2009	216,700	87,250	213,450	18,900	93,600			410,500	526,400	1,566,750
Oct-Dec 2009	169,850	44,650	16,600		2,400			81,900	133,900	449,300
Jan-Mar 2010	214,900	52,200	19,600	850	28,500			117,100	110,850	544,000
Apr-Jun 2010	247,900	115,350	30,300		23,050			218,300	189,350	824,200
Jul-Sep 2010	197,200	119,600	172,850	22,900	188,300			467,800	535,000	1,703,700
Oct-Dec 2010	126,650	42,750	4,650		9,600		3,700	120,500	108,250	416,100
Jan-Mar 2011	170,800	62,350	7,350	1,550	62,700		300	124,000	49,700	478,800
Apr-Jun 2011	175,300	53,750	22,500		156,050			130,600	128,800	666,950
Jul-Sep 2011	138,800	115,100	125,600	23,900	334,300			243,250	480,650	1,461,600
Oct-Dec 2011	99,650	52,250	3,450		70,600			108,050	17,050	351,050
Jan-Mar 2012	127,500	67,950	6,100	500	96,800			130,650	46,450	475,950

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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Table 7: Achievements by level of qualification for secondary level qualifications, covering supplemental qualifications, from 06-07 to Jan-Mar 2012

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Period	Entry level	Level 1	Level 1_2	Level 2	Level 3	Total number of achievements
06-07	480,000	1,048,200	-	878,650	144,150	2,551,000
07-08	577,200	1,185,900	-	1,097,100	180,700	3,040,900
08-09	595,200	1,380,850	-	1,261,200	202,250	3,439,500
09-10	589,100	1,391,550	-	1,328,750	211,900	3,521,250
10-11	577,450	1,159,750	7,950	1,089,250	189,000	3,023,400
11-12	142,250	335,950	1,200	326,050	21,550	827,000
Oct-Dec 2006	38,450	179,300	-	133,500	21,750	373,000
Jan-Mar 2007	53,850	173,250	-	138,050	17,800	382,950
Apr-Jun 2007	116,550	283,300	-	231,150	38,350	669,400
Jul-Sep 2007	271,150	412,300	-	375,950	66,250	1,125,650
Oct-Dec 2007	44,100	185,200	-	159,950	23,850	413,100
Jan-Mar 2008	66,400	213,150	-	186,550	24,700	490,850
Apr-Jun 2008	131,200	310,350	-	268,950	37,000	747,550
Jul-Sep 2008	335,450	477,200	-	481,650	95,100	1,389,400
Oct-Dec 2008	61,550	212,150	-	169,000	24,500	467,200
Jan-Mar 2009	82,950	246,550	-	225,250	26,500	581,250
Apr-Jun 2009	122,950	341,300	-	311,800	48,250	824,300
Jul-Sep 2009	327,750	580,850	-	555,200	102,950	1,566,750
Oct-Dec 2009	62,750	191,250	-	170,500	24,800	449,300
Jan-Mar 2010	68,400	228,450	-	227,500	19,700	544,000
Apr-Jun 2010	134,150	345,150	-	304,750	40,200	824,200
Jul-Sep 2010	323,850	626,700	-	626,000	127,150	1,703,700
Oct-Dec 2010	44,450	184,050	-	165,500	22,100	416,100
Jan-Mar 2011	75,250	187,200	-	195,800	20,500	478,800
Apr-Jun 2011	111,750	286,350	-	245,350	23,500	666,950
Jul-Sep 2011	345,950	502,200	7,950	482,600	122,850	1,461,600
Oct-Dec 2011	66,200	144,950	-	130,900	9,000	351,050
Jan-Mar 2012	76,050	191,000	1,200	195,150	12,550	475,950

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
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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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