

Statistics Bulletin

Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly:

January – March 2013



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Executive summary

We regulate qualifications, exams and assessments in England, and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland.

In this bulletin we present data on certificates for all regulated¹ qualifications (except GCSEs and GCEs) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the January – March 2013 quarter and the 12 months to March 2013.

By the end of March 2013, the number of qualifications currently available continued to rise to over 18,000 showing a net increase of 12 per cent on the same quarter in 2012 (16,853). The majority of this growth was in qualifications on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)² and also in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and in other general qualifications³ at level 1/level 2. The number of qualifications is almost three times as many as five years ago.

Over half of the available qualifications during January to March 2013 had certificates awarded in the 12 months to March 2013 (10,717 out of 18,921). Of the ones with no certificates, more than 70 per cent were qualifications less than three years old (5,809), and 95 per cent of these were QCF qualifications (5,517). Other, older, qualifications include key skills qualifications, which are being phased out and increasingly replaced by functional skills.

During January to March 2013, there was also a net increase (of 3 per cent on the same quarter of 2012) in the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications, approximately 1.4 million in total for the quarter. Approximately 70 per cent of these certificates are awarded on the QCF. After a period of significant

¹ An accredited qualification is one that has met the relevant criteria as set by the regulators of qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. On accreditation a qualification will be issued with a Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN), and specific dates set for the period for which the qualification will be accredited. The qualification is then said to be regulated.

² The QCF is a framework that is designed to provide students, learning providers and employers with an inclusive and flexible regulated qualifications framework containing units and qualifications that recognise the widest possible range of quality-assured student achievements. There are three sizes; award (1-12 credits), certificate (13-36 credits) or diploma (37 or more credits).

³ Other general qualifications are qualifications that assess a particular subject area, such as music or art, other than GCSEs, GCEs and GNVQs. These qualifications are not directly work-related but may support career development. They are often structured against graded examinations. The category also includes qualifications at level 1/level 2, also known as IGCSEs.

growth, the rate of increase in QCF certificates is stabilising, with an increase of 20 per cent in January to March 2013 compared to the same quarter in 2012, and in previous quarter-on-quarter comparisons the increases were 26 per cent (comparing October to December quarters), 75 per cent (July to September quarters) and 70 per cent (April to June quarters). There is a significant increase in the number of certificates awarded in functional skills qualifications (41 per cent rise). This is particularly true in English, for which 37,400 certificates were awarded in January to March 2013 compared to 19,800 in January to March 2012. This increase is probably because functional skills qualifications are requirements of Apprenticeship frameworks and have replaced key skills qualifications from October 2012.

The number of certificates awarded in other general qualifications has also increased. The number of certificates rose in qualifications at level 1/level 2 (from 1,200 in January to March 2012 to 8,850 this quarter) and by almost five times as many when comparing 12-month periods between March 2012 and March 2013 (from 9,150 in 2012 to 45,100 in 2013). This increase is mainly in English, mathematics, biology and chemistry (so the sector of science and mathematics has grown in terms of the number of certificates issued). These trends are possibly due to increased demand for alternatives to GCSE qualifications in schools.

Two of Pearson Education Ltd's⁴ Edexcel BTEC level 2 qualifications (in applied science and sport) saw a large increase in the number of certificates during the 12 months to March 2013 compared to the previous reporting period (127,050 compared to 24,900 in 2012). Both of these qualifications became available from September 2010. They are on the QCF and contribute to the rise in the number of certificates on the framework.

The number of certificates awarded in NCFE vocational qualifications has increased by 66 per cent to 377,750 certificates in the 12 months to March 2013. NCFE offers a range of short vocational courses for schools.

⁴ Pearson Education Ltd. was previously known as Edexcel. Qualifications from Pearson Education Ltd. will appear as Edexcel in data tables and this will change in the next bulletin.

Regulated qualifications

Qualifications available

The number of regulated qualifications available continued to rise this quarter. In January – March 2013, there were 18,921 qualifications⁵: a net⁶ increase of 12 per cent on the same quarter in 2012 (16,853).

This continued consistent increase seen over the past five years led to the number of vocational qualifications almost tripling, from just over 6,500 in 2008 to 18,921 this quarter.

Figure 1: Number of available qualifications by type, January – March 2013

Qualification type	Number of available qualifications			
	January to March 2012	January to March 2013	% of available 2012	% of available 2013
QCF	11,069	14,204	65.7	75.1
Vocationally related qualification	2,010	1,408	11.9	7.4
NVQ	1,355	939	8.0	5.0
Other general qualification	696	744	4.1	3.9
Higher level	446	411	2.6	2.2
Key skills	377	368	2.2	1.9
Entry level	321	292	1.9	1.5
Functional skills	202	193	1.2	1.0
ESOL	183	191	1.1	1.0
Basic skills	88	80	0.5	0.4
Occupational qualification	86	77	0.5	0.4
Free-standing mathematics qualification	20	14	0.1	0.1
Total number of qualifications	16,853	18,921	100	100

Key: QCF: Qualifications and Credit Framework; NVQ: National Vocational Qualification; ESOL: English for Speakers of Other Languages.

The number of qualifications available on the QCF continues to increase: 14,204 this quarter compared with 11,069 for the same quarter in 2012 (a net increase of 28 per

⁵ For the purpose of this bulletin, regulated qualifications (other than GCSEs, A levels and the Diploma) are considered to be available either until they pass their certification end date or if they have made an award during the reporting period (see figure 1 and table 1 in the appendix).

⁶ Taking account of qualifications entering and exiting the market during the quarter January – March 2013.

cent). This growth is across all levels and all sectors, and across a number of recognised⁷ awarding organisations.

Factors contributing to the increase in the number of QCF qualifications are the Skills Funding Agency’s preference to fund qualifications on the QCF and to fund the revision of qualifications to fit with the Apprenticeship frameworks.

There was a small increase in the number of other general qualifications, mainly due to an increase in level 1/level 2 Edexcel qualifications and one from Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), plus Edexcel Awards in Statistical Methods at levels 1, 2 and 3.

Of the 18,921 qualifications shown in figure 1, 1,032 new ones were added between this quarter and the last (October to December 2012) and 639 expired (now no longer available for any award). The breakdown by type is given below.

Figure 2: The number of new and expired qualifications by type, between this quarter (January – March 2013) and the previous (October – December 2012)

Qualification type	Change in qualifications since previous quarter	
	new	expired
QCF	967	89
Vocationally related qualification	20	280
NVQ	4	214
Other general qualification	16	30
Higher level	5	8
Key skills	-	-
Entry level	2	7
Functional skills	12	3
ESOL	6	-
Basic skills	-	-
Occupational qualification	-	8
Free-standing mathematics qualification	-	-
Total number of qualifications	1,032	639

We continue to see a high number of vocationally related qualifications⁸ and NVQs⁹ expiring and a high number of qualifications becoming available on the QCF. Of the

⁷ Recognition is the formal process, operated by Ofqual, whereby applicants who wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they meet the Recognition Criteria. It is a robust gateway into the regulated market place. Only applicants who meet the criteria in full will be recognised.

⁸ Vocationally related qualifications are work-related, competence-based qualifications designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to do a job. They are related to employment but, unlike NVQs, do not necessarily require a work placement.

new qualifications, 122 (12 per cent of the total) are from City and Guilds of London Institute (City & Guilds) with 116 being new QCF qualifications. Of these 116 qualifications, 46 (40 per cent) are in the arts, media and publishing sector (levels 1, 2 and 3).

There were also more qualifications in functional skills and ESOL introduced compared to the number of qualifications which expired this quarter. This may be in response to the report by the Department for Business and Innovation Skills¹⁰ entitled *New Challenges, New Chances* (December 2011), which supports awarding organisations to provide qualifications that help students to progress towards achieving a GCSE in English or mathematics at grade C or above or a level 2 functional skills qualification in English and mathematics. This funding has been available from August 2012 for English and mathematics QCF qualifications, from entry level to level 2.

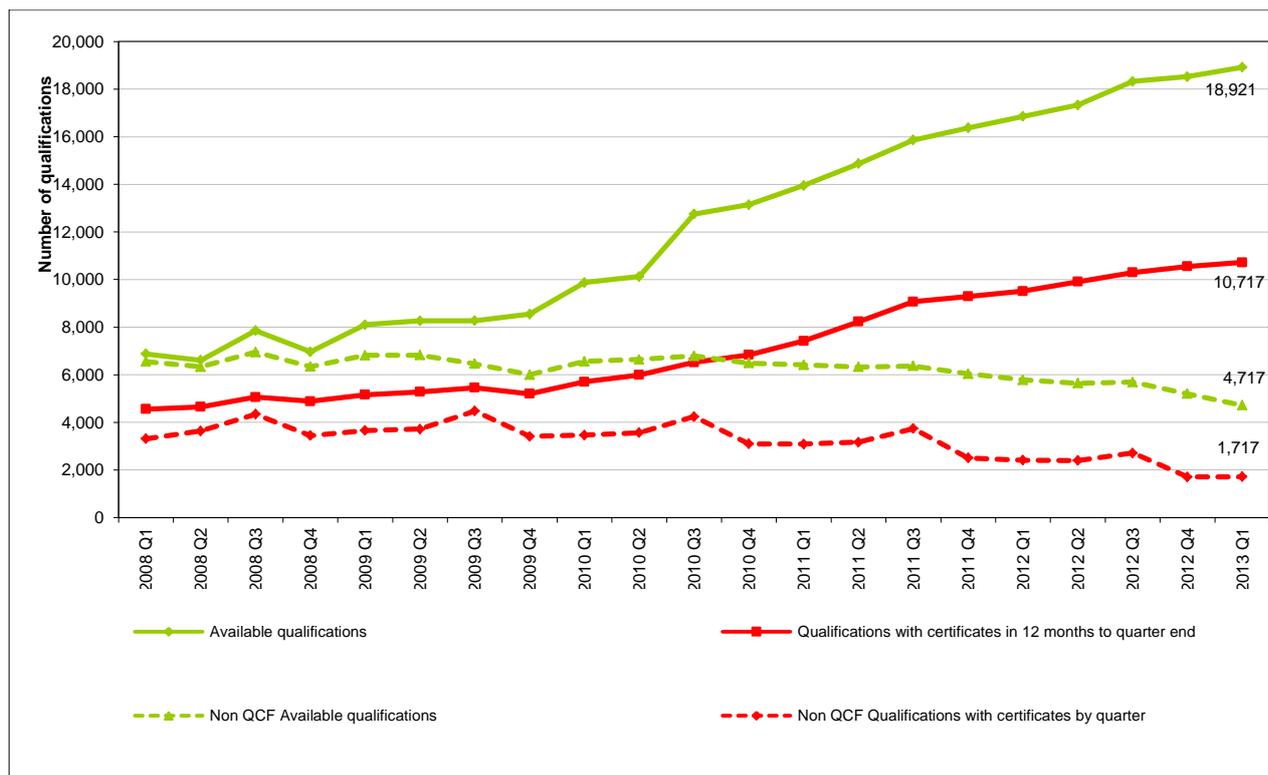
⁹ NVQs are work-related, competence-based qualifications that cover a broad range of industry sectors and occupations and are delivered in a workplace setting.

¹⁰ Following the Wolf Review of Vocational Education and BIS's review of adult literacy and numeracy provision, BIS stated in *New Challenges, New Chances* (December 2011) that it will fund GCSE English and maths qualifications for adults from August 2012. Functional English and maths qualifications from entry level up to and including Level 2 will also be funded: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/32313/11-1380-further-education-skills-system-reform-plan.pdf

Qualifications available and awarding

Figure 3 shows the number of available qualifications and how many of these have certificates in the last 12 months to the end of the quarters shown. The figure illustrates the important proportion of qualifications on the QCF.

Figure 3: Number of available qualifications and the number with certificates, January – March 2008 (2008 Q1) to January – March 2012 (2013 Q1)



The solid lines in figure 3 show that the number of available qualifications and the number of qualifications with certificates have grown consistently from the end of 2008. This increase is partly explained by old qualifications being restructured into new ones onto the QCF (as shown in figures 1 and 2 above). The dashed lines show qualifications that are not on the QCF (these are a subset) and this illustrates the decline in the availability of non-QCF qualifications.

- The largest growth occurred in available qualifications around quarter 3 of 2010, when many qualifications were introduced onto the QCF. At that time, publicly funded qualifications were “fast-tracked” onto the QCF.¹¹ As the QCF offers

¹¹ Ten sector skills councils, working with their awarding organisations, were supported by consultants to develop priority QCF qualifications in a fast-track programme to build the volume of qualifications accredited on the QCF (2007/08).

three different sizes of qualification (award, certificate and diploma), there is potential for more qualifications as each size is counted as a separate qualification.

- In September 2010, new qualifications in functional skills were developed and introduced in English, mathematics, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at entry level, level 1 and level 2. Functional skills qualifications are requirements of Apprenticeship frameworks¹² and have seen a rapid growth since 2009/10.¹³
- However, over time the number of qualifications with certificates has not grown at the same rate as the number of qualifications becoming available. There were 57 per cent of qualifications with certificates during January to March 2013 (10,717 out of 18,921), compared with 66 per cent in the same quarter of 2008 (4,556 out of 6,875).
- Looking at the growth in available qualifications, we see an almost threefold increase from approximately 7,000 qualifications in 2008 to almost 19,000 in 2013.

¹² The *Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE)* sets out the minimum requirements to be included in a recognised Apprenticeship framework:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/137960/bis-13-686-specification-of-apprenticeship-standards-for-england-sase.pdf

¹³ Reported in *The Quarterly Statistical First Release* published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills reports on apprenticeship volumes:

www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/6DC3ED54-696B-4082-B059-9509815F9008/0/SFR_commentary_January_2013.pdf

Inactive qualifications

To understand the gap between the number of available qualifications and the number of qualifications with certificates (in the 12 months to March 2013), we need to examine the differences between these numbers. The qualifications that fall into this gap are classed as inactive qualifications. These are qualifications that were available during January – March 2013 but had no certificates in the 12 months to the end of March 2013.

Figure 4 shows the number of inactive qualifications by type of qualification.

Figure 4: The number of available qualifications this quarter with no certificates in the last 12 months, January – March 2013 (January – March 2012 shown for comparison)

Qualification type	Number of inactive qualifications (available Jan to Mar but no awards in the past 12 months)				
	Jan to Mar 2012	Jan to Mar 2013	% change	% of total type 2012	% of total type 2013
QCF	5,549	6,358	15	50	45
Vocationally related qualification	752	748	-1	37	53
NVQ	336	303	-10	25	32
Other general qualification	175	250	43	25	34
Higher level	198	211	7	44	51
Key skills	145	155	7	38	42
Entry level	65	58	-11	20	20
ESOL	43	52	21	23	27
Occupational qualification	18	30	67	21	39
Functional skills	39	21	-46	19	11
Basic skills	21	15	-29	24	19
Free-standing mathematics qualification	1	3	200	5	21
Total number of qualifications	7,342	8,204	12	43.6	43.4

Key: QCF: Qualifications and Credit Framework; NVQ: National Vocational Qualification; ESOL: English for Speakers of Other Languages.

From figure 4 we can see that there was an increase in the number of inactive qualifications (12 per cent) in this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2012.

Of the qualification types with a large number of inactive qualifications, QCF, other general, higher level and key skills qualifications, all saw a rise in the number of inactive qualifications when compared to the same quarter of 2012. However, given the increase in the number of available QCF qualifications, the actual percentage of inactive qualifications has fallen this quarter. We would expect to see an increase in

the number of key skills qualifications becoming inactive as they are now partly replaced by new functional skills qualifications.¹⁴

By contrast, the numbers of inactive vocationally related and NVQ qualifications have fallen slightly, so more of their qualifications have certificates (53 and 32 per cent of inactive qualifications, respectively). This means that around half of all current vocationally related qualifications and two-thirds of current NVQs have had certificates in the last 12 months. However, given that the number of available NVQs and vocationally related qualifications has fallen this quarter, the associated percentage of inactive qualifications has in fact risen.

Functional skills and basic skills qualifications have the smallest proportions of inactive qualifications (11 and 19 per cent, respectively), meaning that the majority of these qualifications have had certificates in the last 12 months.

¹⁴ From 1 October 2012 Functional Skills qualifications replaced Key Skills, as a mandatory component of all Apprenticeship frameworks:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Partners/KeySkillsExtension.aspx

Figure 5 shows the percentage of inactive qualifications by the length of time they have been available.

Figure 5: Proportion of inactive qualifications by the length of time they have been available

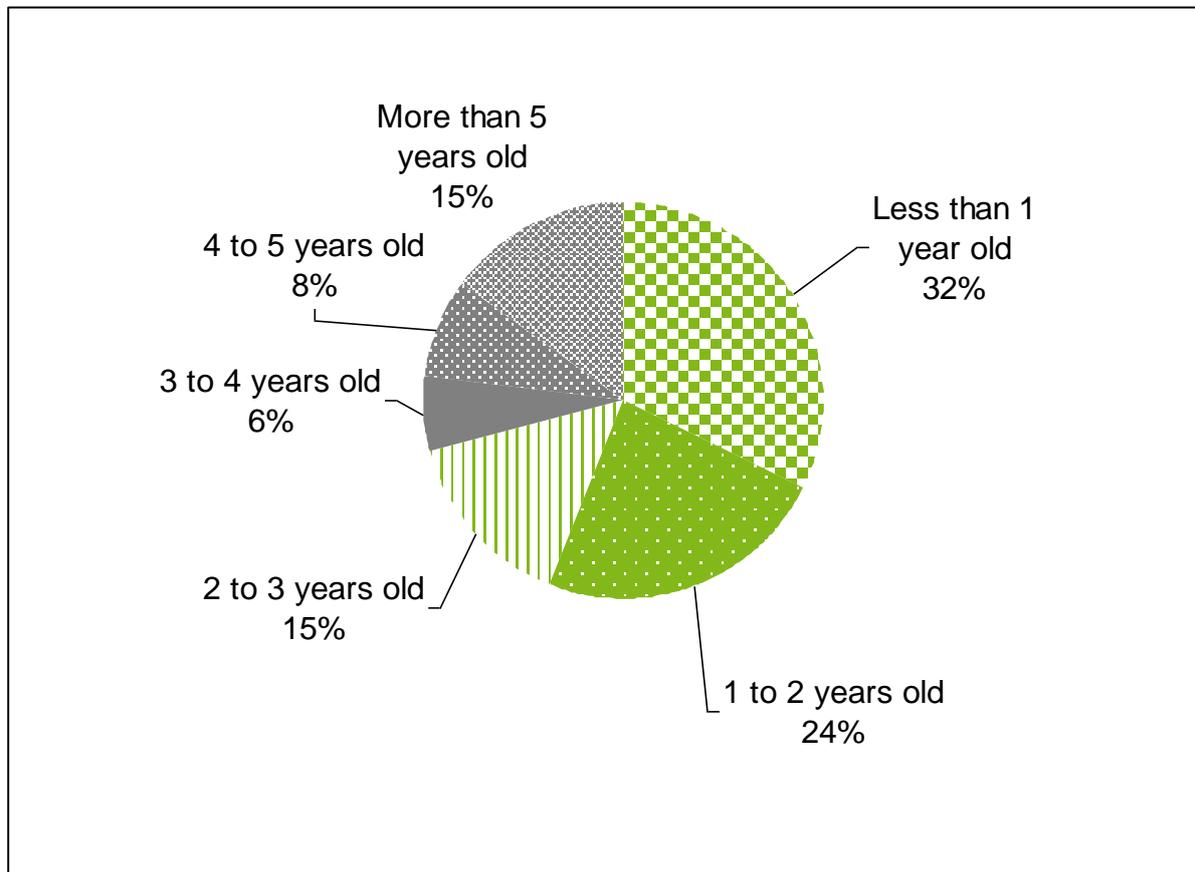
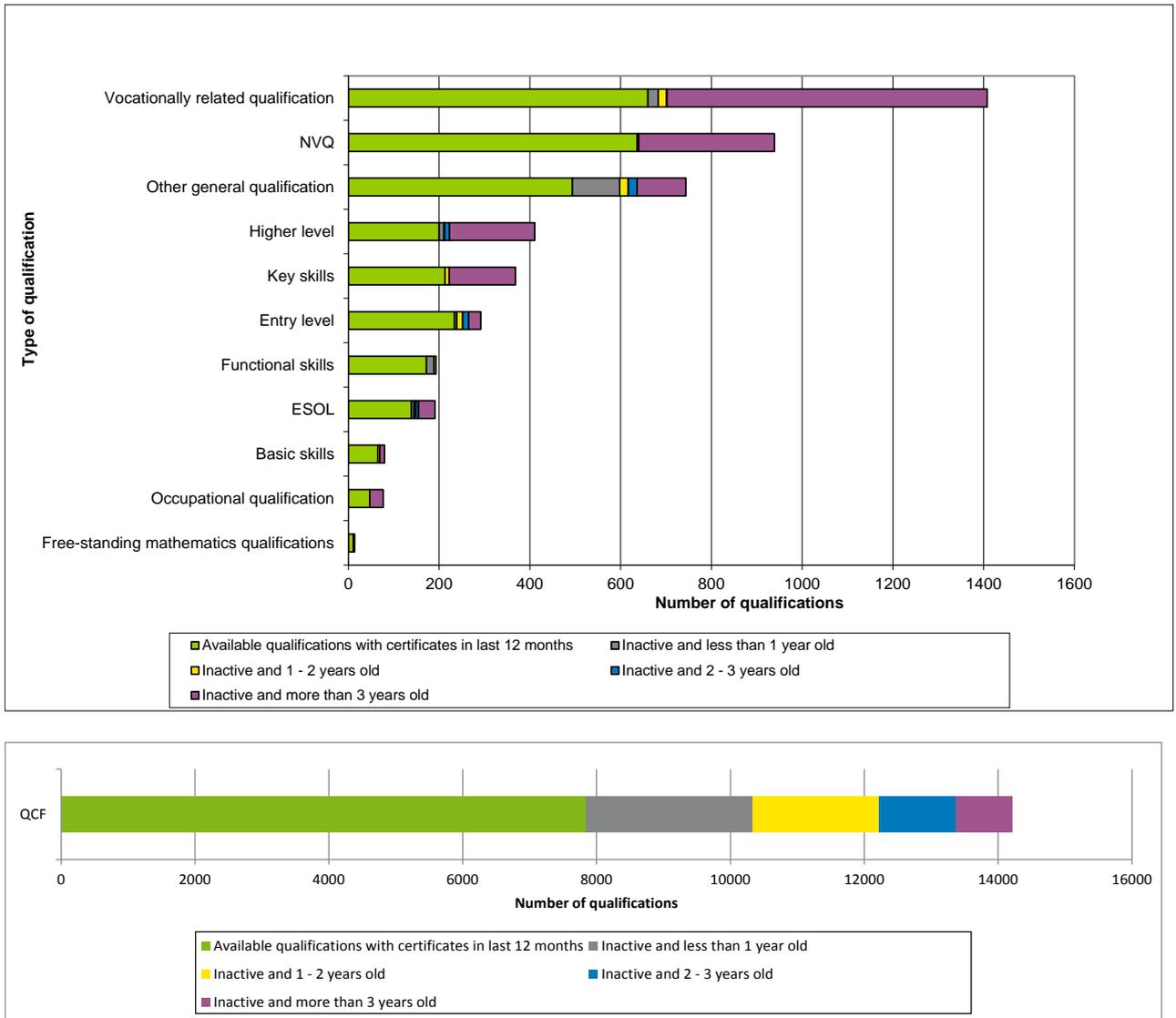


Figure 5 shows that more than 70 per cent of the inactive qualifications have been available for less than 3 years; most of these were new qualifications introduced onto the QCF. The remaining 30 per cent have been available for more than three years.

Figure 6 shows the number of available and inactive qualifications by the length of time they have been available and by type of qualification.

Figure 6: Number of available and inactive qualifications by the length of time they have been available for each type of qualification and for each type of qualification, January – March 2013 (2013 Q1)



Many of the qualifications that are more than three years old and with no certificates in the last 12 months are vocationally related qualifications and NVQs. We can see that more than a third of the key skills qualifications are inactive and have been available for more than three years, which is consistent with the fact that they are being phased out.

Figure 7 shows the number of inactive qualifications by sector subject area and their breakdown by the length of time they have been available.

The majority of sector subject areas saw an increase in the number of inactive qualifications. The exceptions were retail and commercial enterprise (which has the highest number of inactive qualifications); engineering and manufacturing technologies; leisure, travel and tourism; and (with a very small decrease) science and mathematics.

There was a significant 58 per cent increase in the number of inactive qualifications in preparation for life and work, the majority of which are QCF and key skills qualifications. Although there were also large increases for history, philosophy and theology and social sciences, the total numbers of qualifications were very low.

We analysed data to determine if each sector subject area has more or fewer inactive qualifications than expected, given its number of available qualifications. The analysis assumes that all sector subject areas should have the same proportion of inactive qualifications, which means that sector subject areas with more available qualifications should have more inactive qualifications. However, although some of the inactive qualifications are being replaced by new qualifications, they have not been removed from the database and are still classified as available. For that reason, the results of this analysis should be interpreted with caution.

The sector subject areas highlighted in blue have fewer inactive qualifications given the number of available qualifications compared to the sector subject areas highlighted in red which show the contrary.

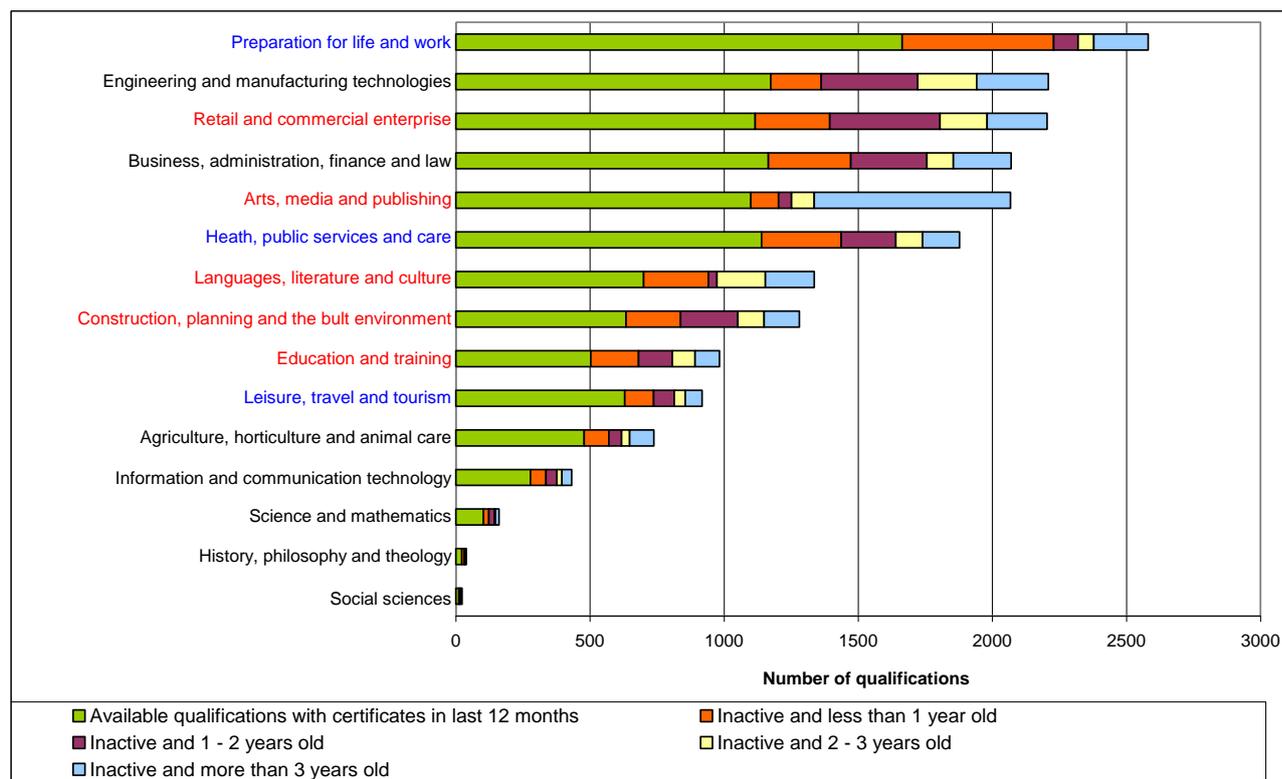
Figure 7 shows that the sector for retail and commercial enterprise had the most inactive qualifications and more than would be expected, given the number of available qualifications in this sector (assuming all sector subject areas have a similar proportion of inactive to active). Of these, over 70 per cent have been available for less than three years. Further analyses show that within this set of qualifications, three awarding organisations contribute approximately 40 per cent (these are City and Guilds, ITEC and VTCT).

Similarly, the languages, literature and culture sector had more inactive qualifications than expected and around 70 per cent of these have been available for less than three years. Almost half of these (45 per cent) were from Edexcel and Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR).

Arts, media and publishing also had more inactive qualifications than expected, and the majority of these have been available for more than three years old. More than half of these inactive qualifications were from City and Guilds.

Figure 7: The number of inactive qualifications by sector subject area and by the length of time they have been available, January – March 2013 (January – March 2012 shown for comparison)

Sector subject area	Number of inactive qualifications (available Jan to Mar but no awards in the past 12 months)			
	Jan to Mar 2012	Jan to Mar 2013	% change	% of total in sector
Retail and commercial enterprise	1,102	1,088	-1	49
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	1,213	1,035	-15	47
Arts, media and publishing	837	969	16	47
Preparation for life and work	580	917	58	36
Business, administration, finance and law	743	905	22	44
Health, public services and care	665	738	11	39
Construction, planning and the built environment	623	647	4	51
Languages, literature and culture	473	636	34	48
Education and training	388	480	24	49
Leisure, travel and tourism	313	288	-8	31
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	214	260	21	35
Information and communication technology	116	154	33	36
Science and mathematics	59	58	-2	36
History, philosophy and theology	8	17	113	44
Social sciences	8	12	50	52
Total number of qualifications	7,342	8,204	12	43



Certificates

This section presents figures on certificates for all qualification types, except GCSEs, GCE A levels and the Diploma, for the quarter January – March 2013 and the 12 month period to March 2013 (see figure 8).

Figure 8: Total number of certificates, January – March 2008 (2008 Q1) to January – March 2013 (2013 Q1)

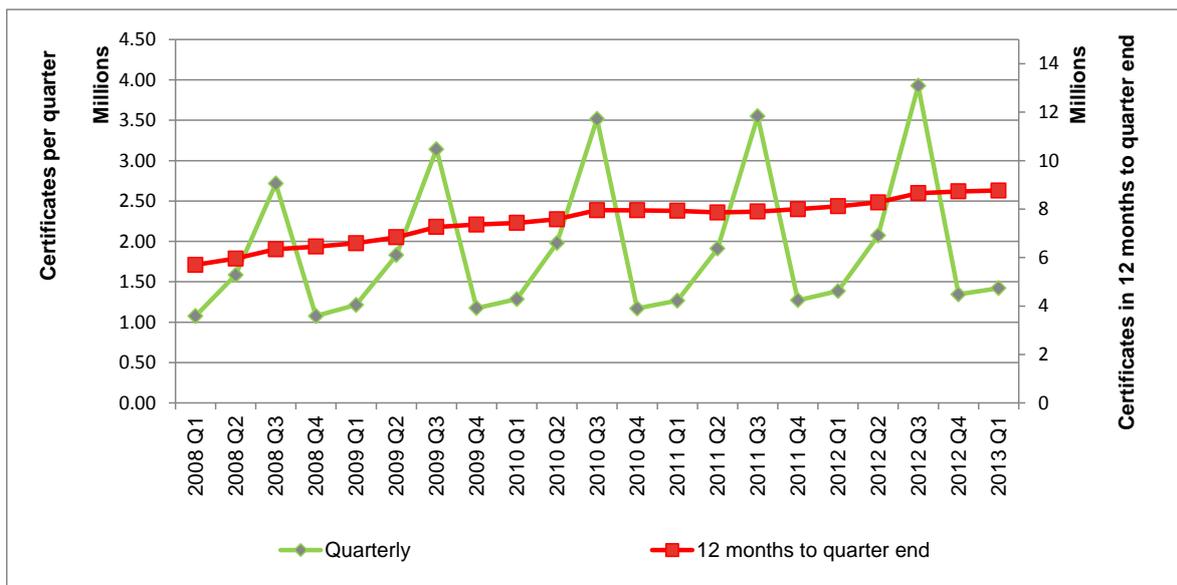


Figure 8 shows that over time there has been a gradual increase in the number of students completing vocational qualifications.

The five-year period above shows that the overall number of certificates rose from 5.7 million in the 12 months to March 2008 to around 8.8 million by the end of March 2013, an increase of 54 per cent.

If we examine the trend over time for the 12 months to quarter end, we see that after a sharp increase the line has started to flatten since quarter 3 of 2010.

Certificates by type of qualification

In this quarter, January – March 2013, we see a rise of 3 per cent (from 1.38 million in 2012 Q1 to 1.42 million in 2013 Q1). We also see an increase of 8 per cent when comparing the number of certificates issued in the 12 months to March 2013, compared to the same period ending March 2012 (see figure 9 and table 2 in the appendix).

Figure 9: Number of certificates in the quarter and in the 12 months to March 2013 (corresponding figures for 2012 are shown for comparison)

Qualification	January to March 2013	% change for quarter	12 months to March 2013	% change for 12 months to quarter end
Basic skills	23,700	-81	342,900	-37
ESOL	58,550	-14	260,050	-10
Entry level	5,050	-17	111,300	-29
Free-standing mathematics qualification	550	10	23,000	-6
Functional skills	136,850	41	721,450	10
Higher level	2,050	-43	13,250	-44
Key skills	116,300	-11	597,600	-3
NVQ	6,750	-78	65,250	-81
Occupational qualification	150	-85	1,950	-81
Other general qualification	63,900	38	460,450	-32
QCF	985,350	20	5,656,350	51
Vocationally related qualification	22,550	-56	512,350	-51
Total number of certificates	1,421,700	3	8,765,850	8

Key: ESOL: English for Speakers of Other Languages; NVQ: National Vocational Qualification; QCF: Qualifications and Credit Framework.

Despite an overall increase in the number of students completing vocational qualifications this quarter, we continue to see a steep decline in the number of students completing NVQs, vocationally related qualifications and occupational qualifications for both this quarter and for the 12 months to March 2013. These qualifications are likely to be restructured and added onto the QCF, increasing the number of QCF certificates.

The number of students completing QCF qualifications continues to rise, although after a period of significant growth, the rate of increase in QCF certificates is less dramatic this quarter. In January to March 2013, there was an increase of 20 per cent compared to the same quarter last year. In contrast, the previous three quarter-on-quarter comparisons saw increases of 26 per cent (comparing October to December quarters), 75 per cent (July to September quarters) and 70 per cent (April to June quarters).

As the QCF offers three different sizes of qualification (award, certificate and diploma), there is potential for more qualifications and associated certificates (each size is counted as a separate qualification). The growth in QCF certificates (51 per cent over 12 months and 20 per cent for the quarter alone) is likely to exceed the rate of decline in other types of qualifications that are restructured.

The number of certificates from functional skills qualifications continued to grow this quarter (41 per cent compared with the same quarter in 2012 and 10 per cent over the 12-month period). Functional skills qualifications are available in English, mathematics and ICT at entry level, level 1 and level 2. These qualifications are required elements of Apprenticeship frameworks, which have seen an increase of 14 per cent since 2011/12, reported in the *Quarterly Statistical First Release*.¹⁵

The biggest growth in the number of certificates for functional skills qualifications was in English, with an 89 per cent increase this quarter (37,400 certificates) compared to the same quarter of last year (19,800), and a 12 per cent increase for the 12-month period (to 268,850 from 239,100). This increase was seen at all levels. The growth was mainly driven by an increased uptake in functional skills qualifications offered by City and Guilds and by Pearson Education Ltd. Of the three subjects, only ICT saw a fall in the number of certificates. Functional skills ICT is not a requirement for Apprenticeship frameworks, and is only required if relevant to the occupation or sector to which the framework relates.¹⁶

Certificates in other general qualifications also increased by 38 per cent this quarter to almost 64,000. However, the 12-month period to March 2013 showed a decline. The increase in other general qualifications is largely due to a rise in the number of level 1/level2 certificates awarded (often referred as IGCSEs).

The number of certificates in basic skills showed a sharp drop (81 per cent compared to the same quarter last year and 37 per cent year-on-year). This decline can be seen at all levels (entry level, level 1 and level 2) with a more pronounced drop at level 1.

¹⁵ Reported in the *Quarterly Statistical First Release* published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills reports on apprenticeship volumes:

www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0040B9E9-3878-4015-A92A-6227FCCED092/0/SFR_commentary_March_2013.pdf

¹⁶ The agreed minimum requirement for Functional Skills qualifications in Apprenticeship frameworks is English and Mathematics at level 1 for intermediate level Apprenticeship and level 2 for an Advanced Level Apprenticeship: www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Partners/KeySkillsExtension.aspx

The number of key skills certificates also fell slightly: 11 per cent in January to March 2013 compared to the same quarter in 2012, and 3 per cent over the 12 months to March 2013. All key skills qualifications stopped being taught on 30th September 2012; there are a number of qualifications that still have students registered, so we would expect to see a gradual decline in key skills certificates over the next couple of years. Of all 403 key skills qualifications listed on our Register¹⁷, approximately 24 per cent are still taught.

Very few certificates were awarded in occupational qualifications this quarter and the number is declining, because some qualifications are approaching their expiry dates and few students are completing them. Some of these qualifications are likely to be restructured and become available on the QCF.

We also see a slight decline in ESOL certificates during January to March 2013 and during the 12 months to March 2013 (14 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively). This is the third consecutive quarter to see a fall. Previous two quarter-on-quarter comparisons showed decreases of 12 and 18 per cent, respectively. The greater restrictions on immigration may be a contributing factor, although the number of available qualifications has increased this quarter (see figures 1 and 2).

¹⁷ The Register of Regulated Qualifications contains details of Recognised Awarding Organisations and Regulated Qualifications: <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

Certificates by awarding organisation

The 50 awarding organisations that awarded the most certificates during January – March 2013 are shown in table 4 in the appendix.

During January – March 2013, 147 awarding organisations awarded certificates. This represents 82 per cent of all recognised awarding organisations. Of these organisations, almost two-thirds increased the number of certificates they issued compared to the same quarter of 2012 (see figure 10).

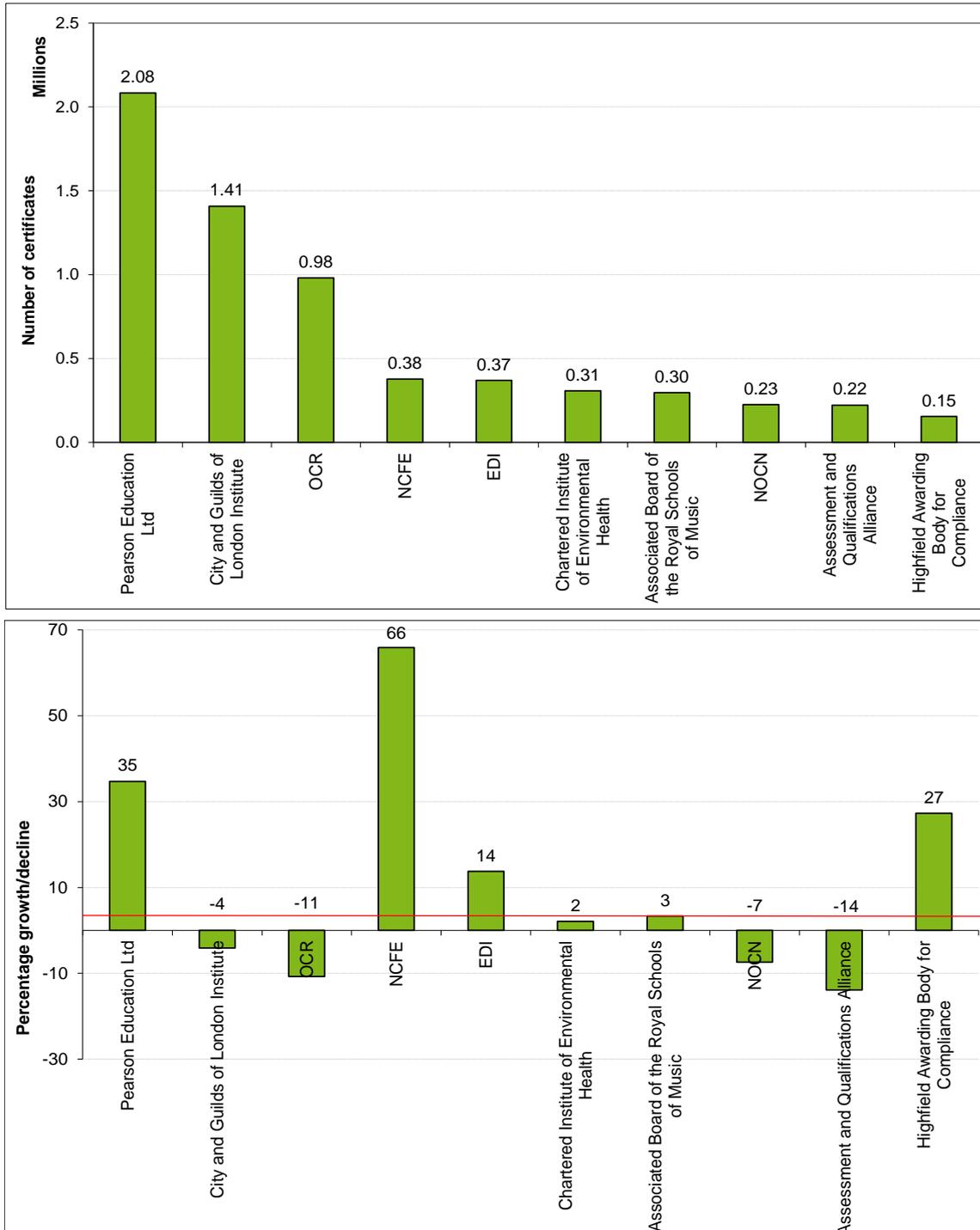
Figure 10: Change in the number of certificates awarded by the awarding organisations during the quarter January – March 2013 compared with January – March 2012

Change in the number of certificates awarded in Jan - March 2013 compared with Jan - March 2012	Number of awarding organisations
Increase	87
Decrease	60
Same number of certificates	0

If we look at the ten awarding organisations that awarded the most certificates in the 12 months to March 2013 (see figure 11) we see Pearson Education Ltd continues to award the largest number of certificates (over 2 million, representing 24 per cent of all certificates during the 12 months to March 2013) which is consistent with the year-on-year increase we have seen by Pearson Education Ltd (as Edexcel) reported in our previous bulletins since January to March 2012.

The ten awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates represent 69 per cent of all certificates for the 12 months to March 2013.

Figure 11: The ten awarding organisations that awarded the most certificates in the 12 months to March 2013; the second graph shows percentage growth/decline (red line showing average change for all qualifications of 3 per cent)



Key: OCR: Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations; NOCN: National Open College Network.

Figure 11 shows NCFE had the largest growth in qualifications it awarded, with a 66 per cent increase to 377,750 certificates. NCFE offers a range of short vocational courses for schools to use alongside their curriculum, and which have an increasing uptake. Of the many qualifications they offer in this area, their level 1 and level 2 awards in Learning to Learn have shown a large increase. The level 1 award had almost three times as many students during the 12 months to March 2013 compared with the same period in 2012, going from 8,900 in 2012 to 26,000 in 2013; the level 2 award had over a fivefold increase in certificates, going from 1,000 in 2012 to 6,500 in 2013. NCFE has recently developed and introduced new level 1 and level 2 vocational qualifications, so we may see further growth in this organisation's activity.

The number of certificates awarded by Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance (HABC) has increased by 27 per cent, which was mainly driven by a number of new qualifications that first awarded within the last 12 months. This included a Level 2 Award for Upskilling Door Supervisors and a Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (the latter gives students a licence to practise). Certificates in these, and other new qualifications, contributed to 22 per cent of the increase in business seen by HABC in just the 12 months to March 2013.

AQA saw the greatest decline in certificates awarded, at 222,250, which is a 14 per cent decrease compared with the 12 months to the end of March 2012. This is because of a significant decrease in the number of certificates awarded in the vocationally related qualifications, basic skills and key skills qualifications currently being phased out.

OCR has the third largest share of certificates; however, this quarter we saw a decline, mainly due to the fall in certificates in basic skills, primarily at level 1 and level 2 in adult literacy and adult numeracy. OCR also has students taking a small number of vocationally related ICT qualifications that expired over the past 12 months. This also contributed to the decline in the number of certificates. However, these qualifications have since been introduced onto the QCF and students have begun to be certificated in them.

The 50 awarding organisations that awarded the highest number of qualifications in the 12 months to March 2013 are shown in table 5 in the appendix.

Certificates by qualification

The 50 qualifications with the most certificates in the quarter January – March 2013 are given in table 6 in the appendix.

In this quarter, there were 10,717 qualifications with certificates, representing 57 per cent of all available qualifications.

The ten qualifications with the greatest number of certificates in the 12 months to March 2013 are shown in figure 12. Table 7 in the appendix presents the 50 qualifications with the greatest number of certificates this quarter.

Figure 12: The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates during the 12 months to March 2013 (figures for the 12 months to March 2012 are shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates		
	12 months to March 2012	12 months to March 2013	% change
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	186,700	179,600	-4
OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT	143,050	143,850	1
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	79,750	76,150	-5
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)	16,700	74,650	347
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	24,000	70,950	196
Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (QCF)	8,200	52,400	539
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	42,650	51,850	22
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	17,350	51,800	199
Cambridge ESOL Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5)	35,350	49,850	41
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	54,050	49,700	-8

The qualification with the greatest number of certificates was Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF), with 179,600 certificates during the 12 months to March 2013. Since quarter 4 of 2011, this qualification has consistently had the largest number of certificates.

The increase in the number of certificates for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) qualifications is due to the change in classification for this type of qualification, from other general qualification to the QCF. The figures only show the certificates in the new QCF qualification and do not include the number of certificates in the previous qualification.

From figure 12, we see that there are two Edexcel BTEC level 2 qualifications with large increases in the number of certificates during the 12 months to March 2013. Both of these qualifications became available from September 2010 and may have only just started awarding, hence the increase.

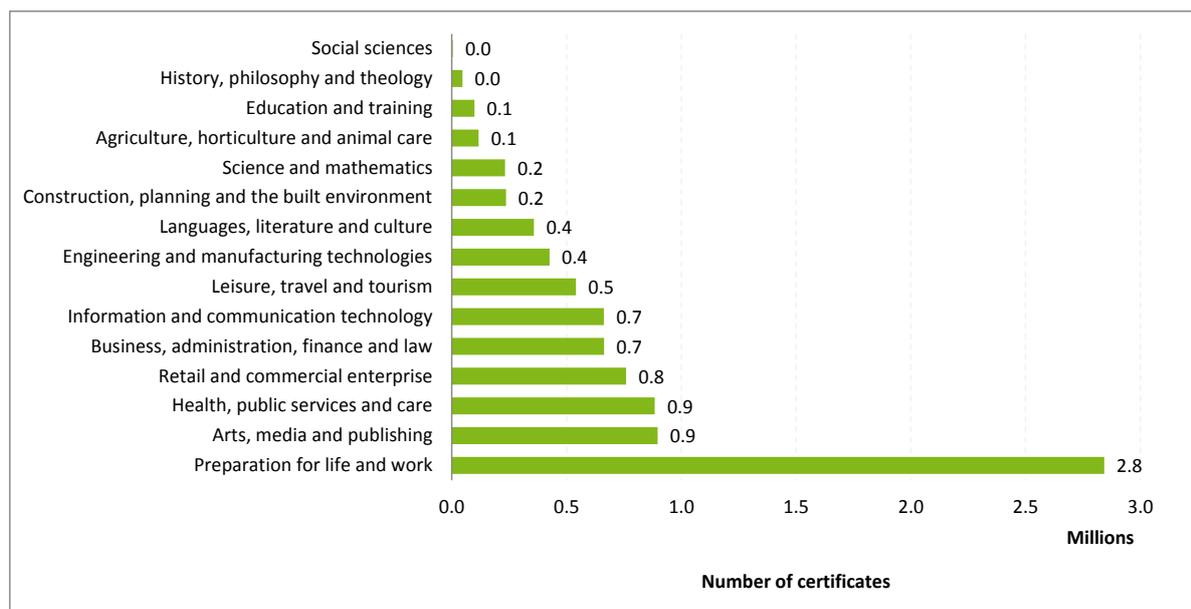
Certificates by sector subject area of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 15 sector subject area codes (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*¹⁸ on our website for further details).

The total number of certificates by sector subject area during the quarter January – March 2013 is given in table 8 in the appendix. Table 9 in the appendix gives a breakdown of the number of certificates by a more detailed breakdown of sector subject area.

Figure 13 shows the number of certificates in each sector subject area during the 12 months to March 2013. The sector subject area with the greatest number of certificates was preparation for life and work (2.8 million, representing 32 per cent of the total certificates). Qualifications in this sector subject area generally cover numeracy and literacy skills, ranging from basic skills to key skills, through to functional skills qualifications.

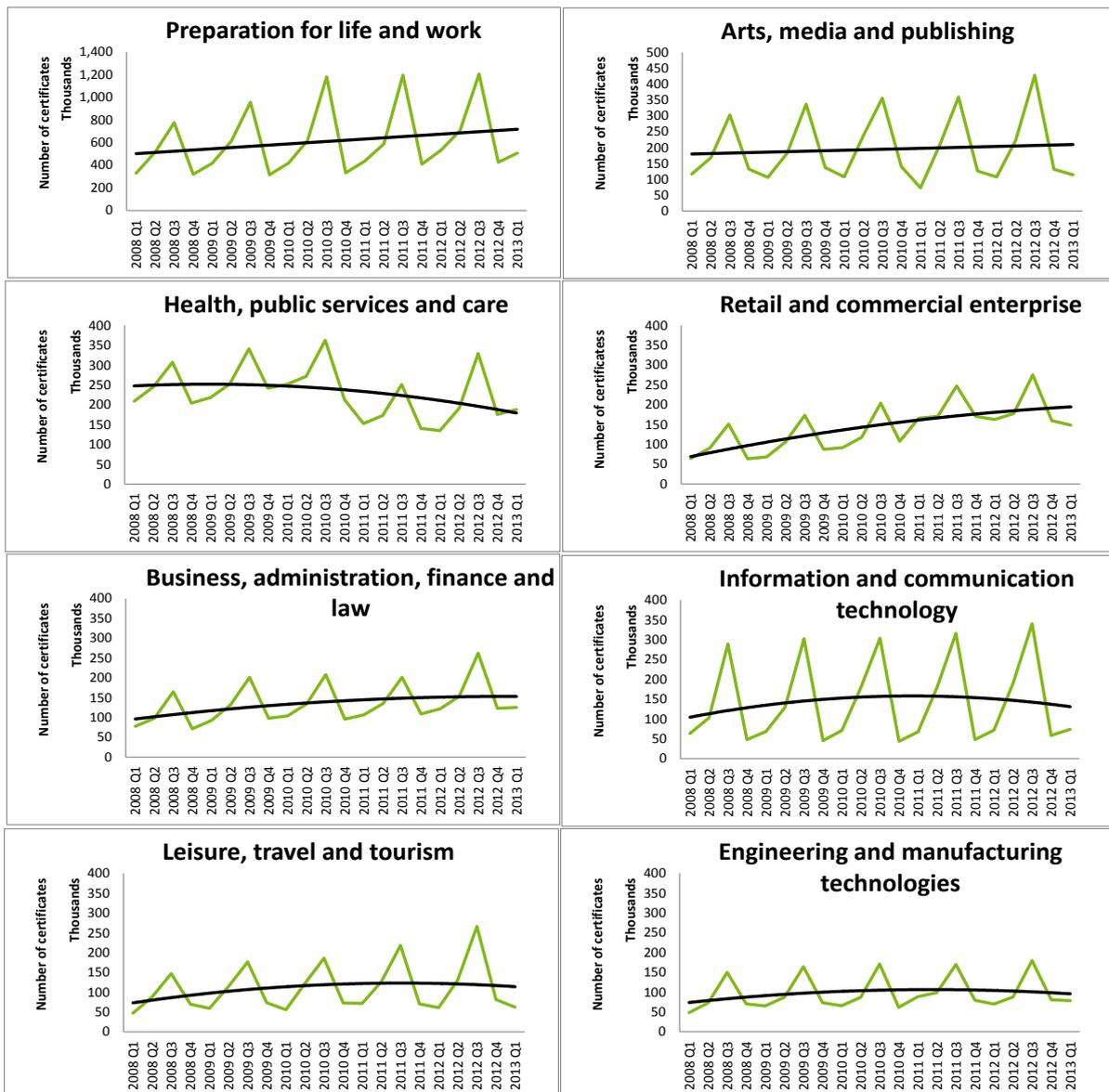
Figure 13: Number of certificates by sector subject area during the 12 months to March 2013

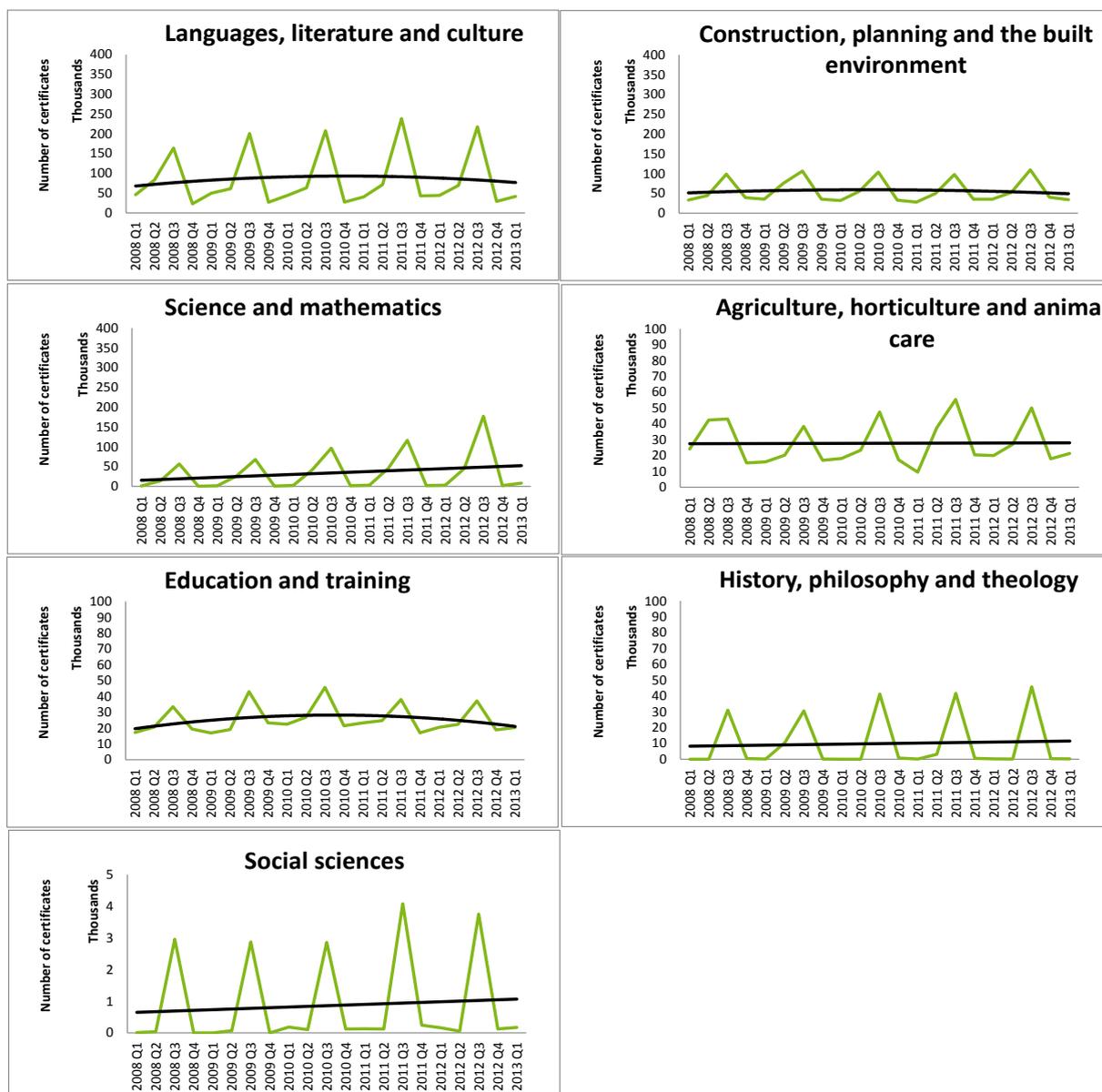


¹⁸ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

The charts in figure 14 show the trend in the number of certificates by quarter for each sector subject area since quarter 1 of 2008. Note that the vertical (y-axis) scales of the charts vary.

Figure 14: Number of certificates in each sector subject area by quarter between January – March 2008 and January – March 2013 (the black line representing average trend). Where possible, graphs have been put on a comparable axis. However, due to the size of some sectors, axes may vary.





Some key observations include:

- The science and mathematics sector subject area has seen the largest increase in the number of certificates this quarter (161 per cent) compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Looking at the trend from quarter 1 in 2008, this is the biggest increase we have seen when comparing quarter-on-quarter data. This increase is due to a greater number of certificates awarded in a range of other general qualifications, including the Cambridge International level 1/level 2 certificates in biology, chemistry and mathematics and Edexcel level 1/level 2 certificate in mathematics. AQA also had a higher number of certificates in its level 2 certificate in mathematics.

- The number of certificates in the health, public services and care sector subject area rose by 40 per cent to 188,100 certificates in January to March 2013 compared to the same quarter of 2012, continuing the upward trend seen since March 2012. However, the trend before that was one of decline. Quallsafe Awards and First Aid Awards Ltd, saw a high rise in the number of certificates during January to March 2013 compared to the same quarter in 2012 (from 300 certificates to almost 8,000 certificates for Quallsafe Awards, and from 1,000 certificates to almost 9,700 certificates for First Aid Awards Ltd). For both of these awarding organisations these certificates were new qualifications within the health, public services and care sector, and awarding their first set of certificates.
- Retail and commercial enterprise saw a fall in the number of certificates issued during January to March 2013 for the second consecutive quarter, despite an upwards trend over the past five years, although the decline was slight (9 per cent this quarter and 6 per cent the previous quarter, October to December 2012). The fall this quarter was mainly due to a decline in the number of certificates in two level 2 qualifications by Skillsfirst Awards Ltd.
- From 2008 Q1 to 2013 Q1 there has been a steady increase in the number of certificates for the arts, media and publishing; business, administration, finance and law; and social sciences sector subject areas. All of these have seen an increase in certificates when comparing this quarter with 2012 Q1 (7 per cent, 3 per cent, 4 per cent, respectively).
- Business, administration, finance and law has shown a quarter-on-quarter rise in the number of certificates issued since the beginning of 2012 and the trend appears to be continuing.
- Some sector subject areas have declined in number of certificates compared to the general trend. These include information and communication technology; leisure, travel and tourism; languages, literature and culture; and education and training. However, when comparing certificates this quarter to the same quarter last year, information and communication technology and leisure, travel and tourism have seen an increase in certifications (3 per cent for both).
- The general trend for construction, planning and the built environment; agriculture, horticulture and animal care; and history, philosophy and theology shows minimal change in the number of certificates over the last five years. There were fluctuations in the number of certificates when comparing quarters, which may explain the overall trend.

Figure 15: shows the number of certificates in each sector subject area during the 12 months to March 2013, broken down by level of qualification

Sector subject area	Number of certificates awarded in the 12 months ending March 2013 (% change from 12 months ending March 2012)													
	All Levels	% change	Entry	% change	Level 1	% change	Level 2	% change	Level 3	% change	Levels 4-8	% change	Level 1_2	% change
Preparation for life and work	2,842,500	4	674,650	9	1,128,600	9	943,300	-3	95,900	-7	100	100	-	-
Arts, media and publishing	896,550	12	19,700	0	390,050	7	307,250	18	170,200	19	8,800	-19	500	43
Health, public services and care	884,250	27	28,300	3	119,250	4	533,100	39	192,250	22	11,400	-30		
Retail and commercial enterprise	759,750	1	7,000	12	74,450	34	595,750	-3	80,450	11	2,050	28		
Business, administration, finance and law	663,300	17	8,850	108	70,350	42	334,900	16	187,400	15	61,800	2		
Information and communication technology	662,250	8	34,250	18	104,000	23	473,050	1	48,300	42	1,150	-21	1,400	133
Leisure, travel and tourism	540,950	14	8,500	-18	125,700	-8	320,650	23	84,900	25	1,250	19		
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	425,500	2	9,750	-11	46,650	18	285,150	10	79,250	-24	4,700	29		
Languages, literature and culture	357,500	-10	78,200	-18	162,900	-10	85,300	-3	8,750	-69	750	150	21,600	1,100
Construction, planning and the built environment	235,800	8	3,500	119	56,200	19	116,550	-2	55,450	19	4,150	17		
Science and mathematics	232,150	39	16,900	-18	4,800	81	155,800	40	37,250	25	200	-33	17,150	462
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	116,450	-13	550	22	23,700	-2	72,500	-21	18,950	19	750	7		
Education and training	98,600	-1					19,550	7	47,900	-8	31,200	6		
History, philosophy and theology	46,150	2	6,750	-19	13,600	-9	19,350	15	3,750	17	0	-	2,650	29
Social sciences	4,100	-11	1,800	-28	300	-45			250	25			1,700	36
Total	8,765,850	8	898,750	5	2,320,550	8	4,262,200	8	1,110,950	9	128,350	-1	45,100	393

Notes:

1. Figures for Level 1_2 are types of other general qualifications that can be awarded at level 1 or level 2.
2. All figures are rounded to the nearest 50; values less than 25 will appear as zero. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.
3. Blank cells represent no certificates

Figure 15 shows a net increase in each level of qualification compared to the same quarter last year, with the exception of level 4 to 8.

The greatest increase was in level 1/ level 2 qualifications which showed an almost fourfold increase. This was driven by the increased uptake in level 1/level 2 certificates, particularly in English language, English literature and in mathematics from several awarding organisations. These fall into the sectors of languages, literature and culture and in science and mathematics, respectively.

The previous section of this bulletin highlighted growth in science and mathematics and from figure 15 we see the growth is mainly at level 2 (level 1 has very few certificates). This growth is attributed to an increased number of level 2 certificates in further mathematics, a range of freestanding mathematics qualifications by AQA and Edexcel BTEC qualifications in applied science, including Edexcel BTEC Diploma in Applied Science (QCF) at level 2 and level 3 (increases of 1,400 and 15,400, respectively) and an increase of more than 3,500 certificates in Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science (QCF).

We know that preparation for life and work saw the biggest number of certificates during the 12 months to March 2013 (2.8 million, representing an increase of 4 per cent on the same quarter in 2012). From figure 15 we see that this growth was primarily in qualifications at entry level and level 1 and levels 4-8, which have seen increases of 9 per cent, 9 per and 100 per cent, respectively.

Business, administration, finance and law was the only sector to see growth across all levels, and examining the percentage change in level 1 alone, this sector compared to any other showed the highest growth (42 per cent to over 70,000 certificates).

Certificates by country

Awarding organisations have been providing us with a breakdown of the certificates they have awarded by country since April 2011. We now have information on the number of certificates for the full 12 months to March 2013, and this bulletin outlines the findings at country level.

Tables 10 to 12 in the appendix present the 50 awarding organisations that awarded the most qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively.

Figure 16 shows the number of certificates awarded in each of the three countries and across all the countries combined.

We know the number of certificates in QCF qualifications represents the largest proportion of the total number of certificates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland combined. From figure 16 we can see that QCF qualifications also dominate in England (65 per cent), in Wales (54 per cent) and in Northern Ireland (67 per cent).

A higher proportion of key skills qualifications were awarded in Northern Ireland (13 per cent) than in England and in Wales during the 12 months to March 2013 (7 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively). The majority of these are qualifications in essential skills (83 per cent of key skills qualifications in Northern Ireland).

The number of certificates in other general qualifications, for the 12 months to March 2013 represents 25 per cent of the total for Wales (115,050), but the proportions in England and Northern Ireland are both much smaller, 4 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively. The majority of these are qualifications in essential skills but we also see an increased number of students in Wales completing WJEC Welsh Baccalaureate Diploma qualifications in levels 1, 2 and 3. At level 1, the number of students rose from 20 to almost 300 and at each of levels 2 and 3, the number rose from 50 or less to over approximately 900. This may be caused by candidates in Wales sitting these qualifications in addition, or as alternatives, to GCSEs.

Figure 16: Number of certificates in the 12 months to March 2013, by country and type of qualification

Qualification type	Number of certificates awarded in the 12 months ending March 2013							
	England, Wales & NI	% of total	England	% of total	Wales	% of total	Northern Ireland	% of total
QCF	5,656,350	64.5	5,280,550	65.1	243,600	53.9	132,200	66.8
Functional skills	721,450	8.2	720,100	8.9	1,250	0.3	100	0.1
Key skills	597,600	6.8	529,100	6.5	43,500	9.6	25,000	12.6
Vocationally related qualification	512,350	5.8	485,900	6.0	19,900	4.4	6,550	3.3
Other general qualification	460,450	5.3	327,800	4.0	115,050	25.4	17,600	8.9
Basic skills	342,900	3.9	337,650	4.2	950	0.2	4,300	2.2
ESOL	260,050	3.0	253,900	3.1	4,050	0.9	2,100	1.1
Entry level	111,300	1.3	88,100	1.1	16,900	3.7	6,300	3.2
NVQ	65,250	0.7	56,100	0.7	6,650	1.5	2,450	1.2
Free-standing mathematics qualification	23,000	0.3	22,900	0.3	100	0.0	0	0.0
Higher level	13,250	0.2	11,700	0.1	200	0.0	1,350	0.7
Occupational qualification	1,950	0.0	1,850	0.0	100	0.0	0	0.0
Total number of certificates awarded	8,765,850	100	8,115,650	100	452,300	100	197,950	100

Notes:

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

Figure 17 shows the number of certificates during the 12 months to March 2013 by the sector subject area and the country in which the qualification was awarded.

The preparation for life and work sector subject area continued to dominate in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (32 per cent, 40 per cent and 25 per cent of the total, respectively).

In Northern Ireland, the second largest share of certificates was in arts, media and publishing, with 35,350 (18 per cent of the total). This is affected by the qualifications in essential skills discussed in the previous section, which cover the areas of communication and the application of number.

The arts, media and publishing sector subject area was also the second largest, in terms of the number of certificates across all three countries combined (10 per cent) and includes a high number of students completing graded examinations in music provided by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Edexcel BTEC qualifications in arts and design, creative media production, media, music and performing arts.

Figure 17: Number of certificates in the 12 months to March 2013, by country and sector subject area

Sector subject area	Number of certificates awarded in the 12 months ending March 2013							
	England, Wales & NI	% of total	England	% of total	Wales	% of total	Northern Ireland	% of total
Preparation for life and work	2,842,500	32.4	2,610,850	32.2	181,850	40.2	49,850	25.2
Arts, media and publishing	896,550	10.2	824,100	10.2	37,100	8.2	35,350	17.9
Health, public services and care	884,250	10.1	828,900	10.2	39,750	8.8	15,600	7.9
Retail and commercial enterprise	759,750	8.7	683,850	8.4	42,950	9.5	32,950	16.6
Business, administration, finance and law	663,300	7.6	619,950	7.6	30,800	6.8	12,550	6.3
Information and communication technology	662,250	7.6	621,250	7.7	22,750	5.0	18,250	9.2
Leisure, travel and tourism	540,950	6.2	515,950	6.4	17,850	3.9	7,200	3.6
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	425,500	4.9	385,550	4.8	30,000	6.6	10,000	5.1
Languages, literature and culture	357,500	4.1	343,450	4.2	9,600	2.1	4,450	2.2
Construction, planning and the built environment	235,800	2.7	213,850	2.6	16,900	3.7	5,050	2.6
Science and mathematics	232,150	2.6	220,650	2.7	9,950	2.2	1,600	0.8
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	116,450	1.3	107,000	1.3	6,950	1.5	2,500	1.3
Education and training	98,600	1.1	91,800	1.1	5,250	1.2	1,550	0.8
History, philosophy and theology	46,150	0.5	44,700	0.6	500	0.1	950	0.5
Social sciences	4,100	0.0	3,850	0.0	200	0.0	50	0.0
Total number of certificates awarded	8,765,850	100	8,115,650	100	452,300	100	197,950	100

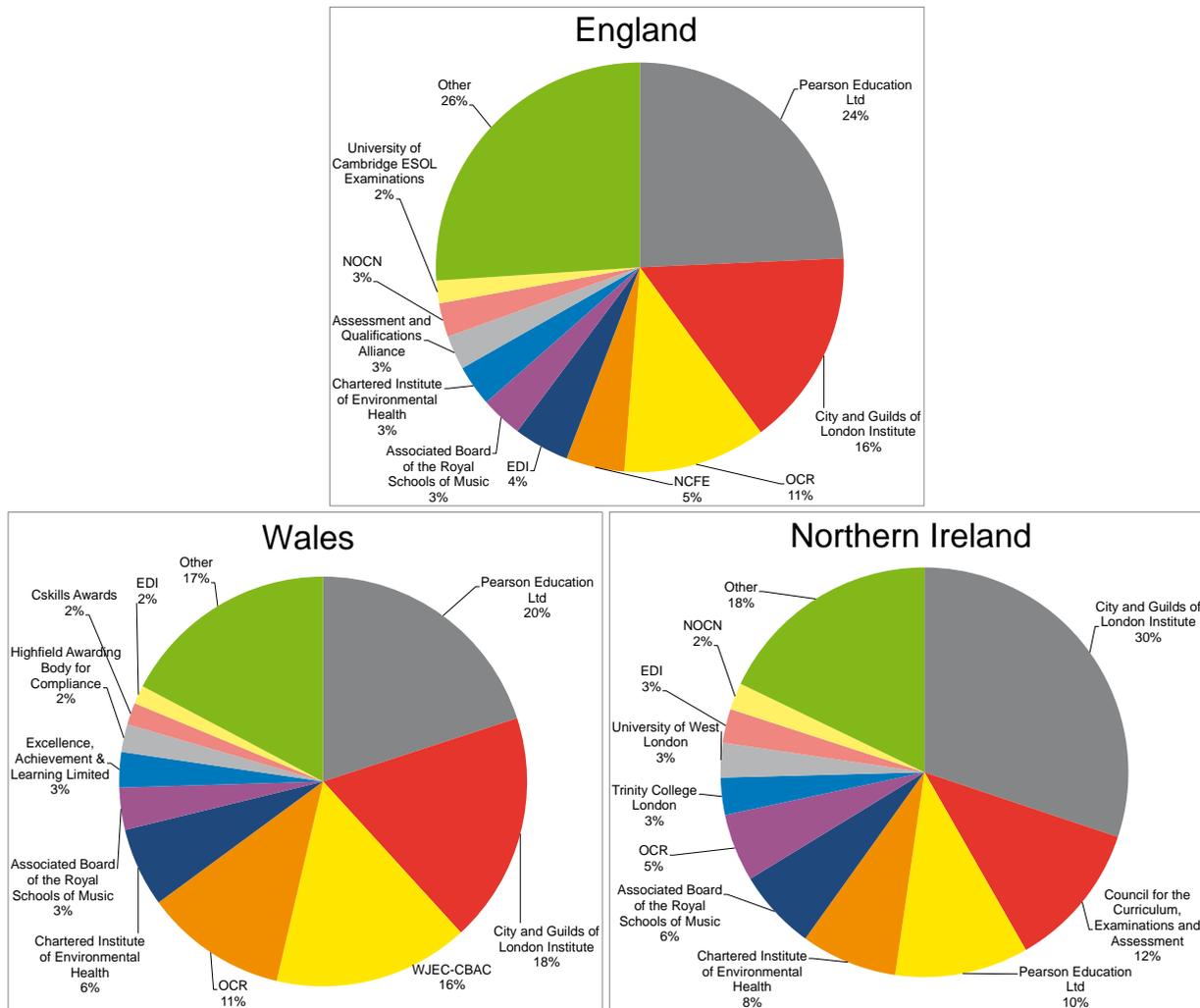
The pie charts in figure 18 show the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the 12 months to January 2013. Tables 10 to 12 in the appendix show the 50 awarding organisations that awarded the highest number of certificates in each of the three countries, respectively.

The ten awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates make up 74 per cent of all certificates in England, 83 per cent in Wales and 82 per cent in Northern Ireland.

Amongst the top ten awarding organisations in each of the three countries are:

- Pearson Education Ltd (largest in England and Wales)
- City and Guilds of London institute (largest in Northern Ireland)
- Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR)
- Education Development International (EDI)
- Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM)
- Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)

Figure 18: Ten awarding organisations that awarded the highest number of certificates in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the 12 months to March 2013



Background information

Under the *Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009* (London: HMSO), one of our objectives is to improve public confidence in regulated qualifications and assessments by raising awareness and understanding of the qualifications we regulate.

This bulletin focuses on **all** regulated qualifications except any certificates in GCSEs, GCEs or the Diploma and its components. When referring to regulated qualifications in this bulletin, GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma are excluded.

It focuses on certificates awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the January-March 2013 quarter and the 12 months to the end of March 2013. This bulletin is one of a suite of two publications that present quarterly statistics on certificates for regulated qualifications. The other bulletin is called *Higher Qualifications Quarterly*¹⁹, which covers all regulated qualifications at level 4 and above. There will be some overlap between the figures in this bulletin and those in the *Higher Qualifications Quarterly* bulletin.

Each quarter, awarding organisations submit data to us about the number of qualifications they have awarded. Certificates are included in the quarter when the final qualification certificate is issued. This bulletin shows the number of certificates broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification, level of qualification and by country. Information on the availability of qualifications is also provided. All regulated qualifications (excluding GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma) are included, regardless of the age of the student, the type of school or college and the funding status of the qualification.

Geographical coverage

In this bulletin we present data on certificates for all regulated qualifications (excluding GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma²⁰) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the quarter January – March 2013. You can find statistics for Scotland on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.²¹

¹⁹ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/150/412

²⁰ Data for GCSEs and GCEs can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website at: www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results or at www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/raw-data

²¹ The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42397.html

In 2011 we started to collect data for England, Wales and Northern Ireland individually. This bulletin includes data about certificates by country.

Qualification type

At the point of accreditation, regulated qualifications are classified into 18²² qualification types. We recognise that the classification system is not ideal, as very similar qualifications may appear under different qualification types, for example NVQs and the QCF. This bulletin presents figures on 12 of these qualification types.²³

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of certificates for any qualification are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent bulletins may be revised to insert late data or if an error is identified. Qualifications may also be re-categorised to a different type, level, sector subject area or awarding organisation. In some cases, data may be amended to reflect the new categorisation.

Pearson Education Ltd. was previously known as Edexcel. Qualifications from Pearson Education Ltd. will appear as Edexcel in data tables and this will change in the next bulletin.

Data from Pearson Education Ltd have been updated from 2012 Q3 and there have been changes for data from LAMDA Examinations from 2011 Q2 onwards.

In this bulletin some figures have been revised since the July – September 2012 bulletin. These revisions involved updates from two awarding organisations and only affected quarters 2 and 3 of 2012

Completeness of the data

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

Figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates are rounded to the nearest 50. This reflects the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale data

²² Including GCSEs and GCEs

²³ Basic skills, ESOL, entry level, free-standing mathematics qualifications, functional skills, higher level, key skills, NVQ, occupational qualification, other general qualification, QCF and vocationally related qualification

collection and also makes reading them easier. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in pie charts may not necessarily add up to 100 per cent.

Comparisons in this bulletin are only made with data from the same quarter of the previous year. This is because of seasonal changes in the number of certificates over the year.

The raw data, which covers 1989 onwards, are available on our website.²⁴

Definitions

Some of the key terms used in this bulletin are defined as follows:

- Accreditation – a process that reviews and confirms achievement to specific criteria and standards.
- Achievement – any award that is not graded as U, absent, or X (fail).
- Available qualification – a qualification eligible for an award or a qualification that has made an award.
- Awarding organisation – an organisation recognised to develop, deliver and award descriptions of qualifications.
- Active qualification – a qualification eligible for award to students, even if the qualification is no longer available for enrolment.
- Certification – a formal acknowledgement of student achievement.
- Recognition – an evidence-based process of achieving compliance with the criteria for recognition.

Our *Statistical Publications Glossary* provides further details on sector subject area classifications and qualification types and levels. It is available on our website.²⁵

In this bulletin, quarter refers to calendar quarters. So quarter 1 (Q1) refers to January – March, quarter 2 (Q2) to April – June, quarter 3 (Q3) to July – September, and quarter 4 (Q4) to October – December.

²⁴ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-data

²⁵ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

We are continually striving to improve the quality and coverage of information in these quarterly updates, and we welcome any suggestions or comments you have regarding this bulletin. Our contact details are on the last page.

Appendix

Table 1: Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications, from 2007-8 to Jan-Mar 2013

England, Wales & 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 (NQF)	FS QCF Functional Skills (QCF)	HL Higher Level	KS Key Skills	NVQ National Vocational Qualification	OQ Occupational Qualification	OG Other General Qualification	QCF QCF	VRQ Vocationally-Related Qualification	Total number of Qualifications
07-08	80	171	327	26	84			505	319	2,039	98	611	910	3,025	8,195
08-09	84	174	301	22	98			546	319	1,937	100	658	2,336	2,921	9,495
09-10	83	194	340	22	98	121		577	352	1,767	95	738	6,047	2,775	13,199
10-11	90	186	384	22	203		27	554	405	1,606	94	781	9,587	2,405	16,344
11-12	88	187	342	20	205			491	377	1,446	87	803	12,778	2,167	18,991
12-13	80	191	299	14	196			419	368	1,153	85	774	14,293	1,688	19,560
Oct-Dec 2007	80	149	321	26	84			421	319	1,874	95	526	240	2,714	6,849
Jan-Mar 2008	80	138	320	13	84			446	319	1,805	97	553	317	2,703	6,875
Apr-Jun 2008	74	149	318	13	72			423	319	1,866	87	562	273	2,455	6,611
Jul-Sep 2008	80	164	323	13	84			502	319	1,868	98	597	906	2,904	7,858
Oct-Dec 2008	80	157	299	13	83			472	319	1,653	86	635	628	2,543	6,968
Jan-Mar 2009	84	157	297	13	89			510	319	1,754	98	639	1,286	2,859	8,105
Apr-Jun 2009	84	159	298	22	89			500	319	1,778	100	631	1,442	2,843	8,265
Jul-Sep 2009	84	159	299	22	98			505	319	1,622	94	651	1,812	2,608	8,273
Oct-Dec 2009	83	159	288	22	92			526	170	1,687	91	153	2,545	2,731	8,547
Jan-Mar 2010	83	161	311	22	92			545	187	1,668	90	727	3,320	2,671	9,877
Apr-Jun 2010	83	163	303	22	98	82		534	342	1,657	90	600	3,490	2,666	10,130
Jul-Sep 2010	83	181	326	22	98	121		540	351	1,636	90	726	5,960	2,620	12,754
Oct-Dec 2010	83	170	325	22	144		27	552	356	1,604	94	722	6,659	2,388	13,146
Jan-Mar 2011	79	185	347	22	146		27	540	384	1,525	90	740	7,542	2,326	13,953
Apr-Jun 2011	84	185	339	22	185			529	355	1,530	90	712	8,544	2,296	14,871
Jul-Sep 2011	88	185	362	22	196			504	377	1,518	94	751	9,496	2,270	15,863
Oct-Dec 2011	88	176	334	20	202			494	377	1,432	87	724	10,337	2,113	16,374
Jan-Mar 2012	88	183	321	20	202			446	377	1,355	86	696	11,069	2,010	16,853
Apr-Jun 2012	88	186	315	20	201			423	368	1,305	86	678	11,690	1,971	17,331
Jul-Sep 2012	88	187	319	20	200			419	368	1,285	86	748	12,629	1,972	18,321
Oct-Dec 2012	80	185	297	14	184			414	368	1,149	85	758	13,326	1,668	18,528
Jan-Mar 2013	80	191	292	14	193			411	368	939	77	744	14,204	1,408	18,921

Source: Regulated Qualification 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 are supplied by awarding organisations
3. Annual Data are for academic years i.e. October to September

Table 2: Total achievements in vocational and other qualifications, from October - December 2007 to January-March 2013, showing achievements per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end

England, Wales and Northern Ireland		
Period	Total number of achievements awarded	
	Quarter	12 months to quarter end
Oct-Dec 2007	966,900	5,555,350
Jan-Mar 2008	1,077,150	5,699,550
Apr-Jun 2008	1,584,450	5,961,900
Jul-Sep 2008	2,715,850	6,344,300
Oct-Dec 2008	1,077,000	6,454,400
Jan-Mar 2009	1,214,500	6,591,750
Apr-Jun 2009	1,829,950	6,837,300
Jul-Sep 2009	3,140,800	7,262,200
Oct-Dec 2009	1,175,300	7,360,550
Jan-Mar 2010	1,284,950	7,431,050
Apr-Jun 2010	1,979,300	7,580,350
Jul-Sep 2010	3,515,750	7,955,300
Oct-Dec 2010	1,169,300	7,949,300
Jan-Mar 2011	1,267,300	7,931,650
Apr-Jun 2011	1,911,100	7,863,450
Jul-Sep 2011	3,548,050	7,895,750
Oct-Dec 2011	1,271,400	7,997,800
Jan-Mar 2012	1,384,550	8,115,050
Apr-Jun 2012	2,072,900	8,276,850
Jul-Sep 2012	3,925,950	8,654,750
Oct-Dec 2012	1,345,300	8,728,650
Jan-Mar 2013	1,421,700	8,765,850

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50; values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blank cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

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Table 3: Number of achievements for regulated vocational and other qualifications, from 2007 - 8 to Jan-Mar 2013
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

period	BS Basic Skills	ESOL English for Speakers of Other Languages	EL Entry Level	FSMQ Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	FS Functional Skills	HL Higher Level	KS Key Skills	NVQ National Vocational Qualification	OQ Occupational Qualification	OG Other General Qualification	QCF	VRQ Vocationally- Related Qualification	Total number of Achievement
07-08	740,800	259,050	331,850	18,500	21,100	52,200	776,250	727,900	24,450	897,100	33,700	2,461,400	6,344,300
08-09	869,250	273,150	308,100	19,600	122,400	44,650	897,550	922,850	26,450	951,100	220,300	2,606,750	7,262,200
09-10	829,850	332,500	239,350	23,750	242,250	46,600	885,250	978,950	23,200	969,100	777,000	2,607,500	7,955,300
10-11	611,550	273,950	160,100	25,500	562,550	30,300	618,400	587,750	17,500	767,600	2,836,250	1,399,650	7,895,100
11-12	512,950	275,900	112,700	22,950	664,700	16,850	612,500	128,850	4,600	443,650	5,283,350	575,850	8,654,750
12-13	57,150	104,300	8,150	550	224,100	4,050	224,250	18,500	350	80,300	2,001,700	43,650	2,767,000
Oct-Dec 2007	114,500	55,550	13,250			10,150	105,600	128,650	4,900	124,500	1,250	408,500	966,900
Jan-Mar 2008	193,450	46,950	27,250	800	350	9,000	93,400	140,700	4,950	129,700	4,650	425,950	1,077,150
Apr-Jun 2008	249,250	94,400	54,200		1,000	6,800	181,000	170,600	6,350	169,050	8,650	643,100	1,584,400
Jul-Sep 2008	183,600	62,150	237,100	17,700	19,700	26,300	396,300	287,900	8,300	473,800	19,150	983,850	2,715,850
Oct-Dec 2008	155,850	38,500	22,550		400	7,100	119,750	164,150	5,800	130,400	16,400	416,150	1,077,000
Jan-Mar 2009	220,200	68,100	28,750	700	20,050	8,900	120,100	169,650	5,250	123,600	39,300	409,900	1,214,500
Apr-Jun 2009	276,500	78,700	43,350		8,350	4,600	247,100	216,450	6,350	170,750	62,000	715,850	1,829,950
Jul-Sep 2009	216,700	87,850	213,450	18,900	93,600	24,050	410,650	372,650	9,100	526,400	102,650	1,064,850	3,140,800
Oct-Dec 2009	169,850	44,900	16,600		2,400	7,900	81,900	212,050	5,950	133,900	85,100	414,750	1,175,300
Jan-Mar 2010	214,900	52,550	19,600	850	28,500	8,250	117,150	203,950	5,150	110,850	135,200	387,950	1,284,950
Apr-Jun 2010	247,900	115,350	30,300		23,050	6,850	218,300	213,450	5,650	189,350	203,000	726,100	1,979,300
Jul-Sep 2010	197,200	119,650	172,850	22,900	188,300	23,600	467,900	349,550	6,450	535,000	353,650	1,078,700	3,515,750
Oct-Dec 2010	126,650	42,750	4,650		9,600	6,800	120,500	179,600	6,200	108,250	274,800	285,750	1,169,300
Jan-Mar 2011	170,800	62,350	7,350	1,550	62,700	7,500	124,050	155,250	4,050	49,950	454,450	166,350	1,266,650
Apr-Jun 2011	175,300	53,750	22,500		156,050	3,900	130,600	128,600	3,600	128,800	722,300	385,750	1,911,100
Jul-Sep 2011	138,800	115,100	125,600	23,900	334,300	12,100	243,250	124,300	3,600	480,650	1,384,650	561,800	3,548,050
Oct-Dec 2011	99,650	52,250	3,450		70,600	4,000	108,300	51,000	2,000	17,050	807,250	55,850	1,271,400
Jan-Mar 2012	127,500	67,900	6,100	500	96,800	3,600	130,850	31,100	1,000	46,450	821,450	51,250	1,384,550
Apr-Jun 2012	151,200	61,250	14,250		192,050	2,500	163,750	22,600	700	43,700	1,225,900	195,050	2,072,900
Jul-Sep 2012	134,550	94,500	88,900	22,450	305,300	6,700	209,600	24,150	900	336,500	2,428,750	273,650	3,925,950
Oct-Dec 2012	33,450	45,750	3,100		87,250	2,000	107,900	11,750	250	16,400	1,016,300	21,100	1,345,300
Jan-Mar 2013	23,700	58,550	5,050	550	136,850	2,050	116,300	6,700	150	63,900	985,400	22,550	1,421,700

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years, that is October to September.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blank cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations that awarded the highest number of achievements awarded in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter Jan-Mar 2013 (Jan-Mar 2012 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Total number of achievements (for the quarter)	
	Jan-Mar 2012	Jan-Mar 2013
City and Guilds of London Institute	253,550	250,300
Pearson Education Ltd	200,000	224,350
EDI	87,600	92,600
OCR	149,200	88,150
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	73,450	79,950
NCFE	46,700	71,000
NOCN	44,300	48,750
WJEC-CBAC	22,950	42,800
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	39,200	42,800
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	41,400	38,400
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	25,300	31,850
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	20,300	25,400
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	21,950	22,600
Ascentis	17,200	20,300
Trinity College London	30,300	19,800
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	14,200	14,650
BIIAB	14,950	14,050
Cskills Awards	14,400	12,850
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	15,300	12,850
1st4sport Qualifications	11,500	11,800
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	8,050	11,400
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	32,350	10,700
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	18,550	10,500
Sports Leaders UK	12,000	10,200
LAMDA Examinations	11,850	9,900
First Aid Awards Ltd	1,050	9,650
Institute of Leadership & Management	9,300	9,450
Royal Academy of Dance	11,650	8,950
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	6,450	8,050
Qualsafe Awards	300	7,900
Active IQ	7,250	7,900
IMI Awards Ltd	8,350	7,700
British Safety Council	11,900	7,450
VTCT	5,950	7,100
Rock School Ltd	7,550	6,650
Central YMCA Qualifications	4,700	6,150
International Dance Teachers Association	0	5,950
EMD (Qualifications) Ltd	0	5,600
Lifetime Awarding	4,400	5,600
Association of Accounting Technicians	5,100	5,200
AIM Awards	700	5,050
Chartered Management Institute	6,450	4,500
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd	4,700	4,150
Royal Society for Public Health	5,100	4,150
ABC Awards	4,000	3,850
Open Awards	0	3,850
AoFA Qualifications	0	3,500
University of West London	3,950	3,000
apt awards	0	2,750
Open College Network West Midlands Region	0	2,700

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blank cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 5: The 50 awarding organisations that awarded the highest number of achievements in vocational and other qualifications for the 12 months to March 2013, April 2012-March 2013 (April 2011-March 2012 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Total number of achievements (for the quarter)	
	Apr 2011-Mar 2012	Apr 2012-Mar 2013
Pearson Education Ltd	1,546,350	2,083,000
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,469,100	1,408,350
OCR	1,098,400	980,300
NCFE	227,700	377,750
EDI	324,750	369,350
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	300,500	306,800
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	286,950	296,550
NOCN	243,250	225,250
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	258,100	222,250
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	121,350	154,450
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	168,200	149,950
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	112,400	143,900
Trinity College London	132,150	118,000
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	100,850	113,450
WJEC-CBAC	157,550	113,350
Cskills Awards	108,650	103,250
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	81,350	85,500
Sports Leaders UK	97,300	82,100
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	61,350	80,650
Ascentis	67,550	73,800
VTCT	62,850	69,000
1st4sport Qualifications	60,750	62,450
IMI Awards Ltd	59,150	61,450
British Safety Council	71,800	58,050
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	54,000	57,550
BIIAB	55,500	53,650
LAMDA Examinations	52,000	50,700
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	28,050	43,150
Institute of Leadership & Management	40,400	40,050
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	90,900	35,750
Association of Accounting Technicians	33,750	34,550
ABC Awards	34,550	34,350
Royal Academy of Dance	38,800	34,250
Rock School Ltd	31,100	33,100
Active IQ	25,350	32,000
International Baccalaureate Organisation	30,000	30,550
Central YMCA Qualifications	29,600	29,150
Royal Society for Public Health	28,550	27,900
IFS School of Finance	10,800	26,700
University of West London	5,500	25,900
Cambridge International Examinations	11,450	24,550
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	23,700	22,950
Lifetime Awarding	15,300	21,500
Chartered Management Institute	29,300	18,550
First Aid Awards Ltd	5,400	18,350
Chartered Insurance Institute	13,350	16,700
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd	16,400	15,150
Graded Qualifications Alliance	12,600	12,450
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	12,850	12,200
Open Awards	0	11,800

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blank cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 6: Top 50 qualifications by number of achievements in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter January-March 2013 (January-March 2012 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total Number of achievements (for the quarter)	
	January-March 2012	January-March 2013
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	44,400	45,200
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level	11,750	15,900
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at	7,750	12,550
Cambridge ESOL Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-	7,450	11,850
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level	9,050	11,300
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace	10,750	10,900
BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) (ITQ)	10,250	9,800
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills mathematics	3,200	9,000
BCS Level 1 Award in IT User Skills (ECDL Essentials) (ITQ)	9,000	8,750
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	9,250	8,400
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music	6,550	7,700
Edexcel BTEC Level 1 Award in WorkSkills (QCF)	3,650	7,450
BIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	8,850	7,450
EDEXCEL Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	9,550	7,250
HABC Level 2 Award in Door Supervision (QCF)	12,150	7,100
EDEXCEL Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	8,800	7,050
EDEXCEL Level 2 Award in Digital Applications for IT Users	4,200	6,700
Ascentis Level 1 Award In Internet Safety For IT Users (QCF)	-	6,600
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	7,500	6,600
WJEC Level 2 Essential Skills Wales in Application of	6,000	6,450
OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT	1,400	6,350
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	8,750	6,200
NOCN Entry Level Award in Skills Towards Enabling	7,800	6,000
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	7,550	5,850
NOCN Level 1 Award in Progression (QCF)	5,750	5,800
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music	4,700	5,800
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	-	5,650
IQL Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention,	-	5,600
Cambridge ESOL Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-	9,200	5,600
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music	4,000	5,150
EMD Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International (Entry 1)	-	5,100
NOCN Level 1 Award in Skills Towards Enabling Progression	3,250	5,100
1st4sport Level 1 Award in Coaching Football (QCF)	4,850	5,100
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and	2,550	5,100
BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety at Work (QCF)	8,450	5,050
EDI Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	6,250	4,900
EDEXCEL Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	2,000	4,900
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity (QCF)	5,000	4,800
City & Guilds Level 3 Award In Requirements for Electrical	5,150	4,700
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	5,100	4,700
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level	2,350	4,650
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	-	4,600
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at	3,850	4,600
EDI Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	4,900	4,600
City & Guilds Level 2 Key Skills in Application of Number	5,000	4,550
NCFE Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of End of Life Care	100	4,500
City & Guilds Level 2 Key Skills in Communication	5,400	4,500
Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Mathematics	-	4,400
EDEXCEL Level 2 Key Skills in Communication	4,750	4,400
EDEXCEL Level 2 Key Skills in Application of Number	4,450	4,400

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blanks cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 7: Top 50 qualifications by number of achievements in vocational and other qualifications for April 2012 - March 2013 (April 2011 - March 2012 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total Number of achievements (for the 12 months to quarter end)	
	April 2011 - March 2012	April 2012 - March 2013
	CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	186,700
OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT	143,050	143,850
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	79,750	76,150
EDEXCEL BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)	16,700	74,650
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)	24,000	70,950
EDEXCEL BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Sport (QCF)	8,200	52,400
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	42,650	51,850
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)	17,350	51,800
Cambridge ESOL Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5)	35,350	49,850
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	54,050	49,700
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	45,500	43,550
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3)	14,600	43,200
EDEXCEL BTEC Level 1 Award in WorkSkills (QCF)	24,050	42,300
Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	36,250	41,400
EDEXCEL Level 2 Award in Digital Applications for IT Users	41,000	39,900
BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) (ITQ) (QCF)	41,750	39,500
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at level 1	27,600	39,000
EDEXCEL BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Sport (QCF)	14,700	38,950
HABC Level 2 Award in Door Supervision (QCF)	33,000	37,200
EDEXCEL Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	30,450	36,050
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Application of Number	40,050	35,700
EDEXCEL Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	27,400	35,000
EDEXCEL Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	26,700	34,700
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity (QCF)	21,800	34,000
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	31,350	33,650
City & Guilds Level 1 Key Skills in Communication	34,400	33,250
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	29,050	31,800
BIIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	34,350	31,650
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)	11,150	31,000
BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety at Work (QCF)	45,450	30,700
BCS Level 1 Award in IT User Skills (ECDL Essentials) (ITQ) (QCF)	27,850	30,500
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	52,450	29,400
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Entry 3	33,050	29,050
EDEXCEL BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Business (QCF)	3,700	28,600
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)	9,750	27,700
AQA Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	36,150	27,400
OCR Level 2 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	48,900	27,300
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Numeracy	51,150	26,750
1st4sport Level 1 Award in Coaching Football (QCF)	24,950	26,600
NCFE Level 1 Award in Learning to Learn (QCF)	8,900	26,000
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding the Safe Handling of Medicines (QCF)	14,150	25,700
OCR Level 1 Certificate in Adult Literacy	45,350	25,500
EDEXCEL BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)	6,350	25,400
BSC Entry Level Award in Workplace Hazard Awareness (Entry 3) (QCF)	24,000	24,850
IQL Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue	100	24,750
City & Guilds Entry Level Certificate in Adult Numeracy	30,350	24,300
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills mathematics	10,600	24,050
EDEXCEL Level 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy	34,950	23,800
AQA Level 1 Certificate in French (FCSE)	26,350	23,400
EDEXCEL Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	18,700	23,150

Notes:

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- Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

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Table 8: Total achievements in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area of qualification, from 2007 - 8 to January - March 2013

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Health, public services and care	Science and mathematics	Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Construction, planning and the built environment	Information and communication technology	Retail and commercial enterprise	Leisure, travel and tourism	Arts, media and publishing	History, philosophy and theology	Social sciences	Languages, literature and culture	Education and training	Preparation for life and work	Business, administration, finance and law	Total number of achievements
07-08	961,200	71,950	123,550	318,450	210,100	505,850	369,800	339,450	711,500	30,950	3,050	330,450	88,400	1,878,400	401,200	6,344,300
08-09	1,016,050	95,800	90,150	385,850	257,050	548,650	410,550	419,850	756,950	41,500	2,950	334,550	98,350	2,306,700	497,250	7,262,200
09-10	1,127,950	141,900	106,100	395,950	226,900	599,900	499,250	437,900	837,400	41,300	3,150	341,850	118,300	2,533,650	543,800	7,955,300
10-11	789,550	166,800	119,750	417,650	208,050	607,100	690,650	489,700	779,100	45,550	4,450	377,250	107,400	2,553,250	538,800	7,895,100
11-12	795,650	227,150	117,650	415,700	232,450	649,800	784,900	528,750	883,500	46,400	4,200	374,050	96,800	2,852,450	645,350	8,654,750
12-13	363,600	10,000	39,200	158,900	74,200	132,250	307,800	143,800	246,050	400	300	70,450	39,250	932,350	248,450	2,767,000
Oct-Dec 2007	200,000	250	13,850	48,300	33,300	49,900	65,200	57,250	124,200	0	0	37,900	17,100	258,300	61,250	966,900
Jan-Mar 2008	208,850	1,150	24,100	48,200	33,500	63,850	63,850	47,250	116,650	0	0	45,650	17,200	329,450	77,450	1,077,150
Apr-Jun 2008	244,800	13,750	42,450	72,550	44,400	103,250	89,950	88,150	168,000	0	50	82,950	20,600	515,750	97,700	1,584,400
Jul-Sep 2008	307,600	56,850	43,150	149,350	98,850	288,900	150,800	146,750	302,650	30,950	2,950	163,900	33,450	774,900	164,800	2,715,850
Oct-Dec 2008	204,250	450	15,350	70,050	39,150	48,050	63,250	69,750	132,250	450	0	22,700	19,450	320,300	71,500	1,077,000
Jan-Mar 2009	218,350	1,600	16,050	64,900	35,250	68,600	67,950	59,450	105,900	150	0	49,950	16,850	417,200	92,250	1,214,500
Apr-Jun 2009	252,100	25,850	20,250	87,000	75,950	129,200	106,300	114,400	182,050	10,450	50	61,100	19,050	614,050	132,200	1,829,950
Jul-Sep 2009	341,300	67,900	38,500	163,950	106,700	302,700	173,100	176,250	336,750	30,500	2,850	200,800	43,000	955,150	201,300	3,140,800
Oct-Dec 2009	242,000	700	17,000	73,150	35,500	45,350	86,900	73,650	137,000	50	0	26,950	23,250	316,050	97,700	1,175,300
Jan-Mar 2010	251,300	2,500	18,150	65,400	32,000	70,900	91,400	56,000	107,550	0	200	44,200	22,450	418,800	104,050	1,284,950
Apr-Jun 2010	271,700	41,950	23,350	86,750	55,250	179,950	117,400	122,350	236,850	0	100	63,350	26,850	619,300	134,150	1,979,300
Jul-Sep 2010	362,900	96,750	47,600	170,650	104,100	303,650	203,500	185,900	356,050	41,200	2,850	207,350	45,750	1,179,500	207,950	3,515,750
Oct-Dec 2010	213,400	1,500	17,350	61,550	32,700	43,750	107,500	72,850	140,450	750	100	27,300	21,500	332,750	95,900	1,169,300
Jan-Mar 2011	152,450	3,000	9,500	88,200	28,000	67,500	165,700	72,000	73,300	50	150	40,200	23,250	436,700	106,550	1,266,650
Apr-Jun 2011	172,800	45,900	37,450	98,600	49,650	179,850	170,250	126,950	206,400	3,100	100	71,350	24,650	588,750	135,150	1,911,100
Jul-Sep 2011	250,850	116,400	55,450	169,300	97,750	316,000	247,200	217,900	358,950	41,600	4,100	238,400	38,000	1,195,000	201,200	3,548,050
Oct-Dec 2011	140,250	1,900	20,400	79,450	35,600	48,150	170,300	70,700	126,000	550	250	42,950	17,000	409,250	108,700	1,271,400
Jan-Mar 2012	134,700	3,100	20,000	69,650	35,250	71,700	162,600	60,900	106,950	150	150	44,050	20,400	533,050	121,800	1,384,550
Apr-Jun 2012	191,100	45,050	27,050	87,350	52,150	189,850	177,050	131,000	222,550	50	50	69,400	22,300	705,150	152,800	2,072,900
Jul-Sep 2012	329,550	177,100	50,200	179,250	109,450	340,150	274,900	266,150	427,950	45,700	3,750	217,650	37,100	1,205,000	262,050	3,925,950
Oct-Dec 2012	175,500	1,950	17,900	80,750	40,150	58,300	159,650	81,300	131,800	250	100	29,050	18,850	426,550	123,200	1,345,300
Jan-Mar 2013	188,100	8,100	21,300	78,200	34,050	73,950	148,150	62,450	114,250	150	150	41,400	20,350	505,850	125,250	1,421,700

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data is for academic years, that is October to September.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blanks cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

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Table 9: Total number of achievements in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter January - March 2013 (January - March 2012 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Sector subject area	Total number of achievements (for the quarter)	
	January - March 2012	January - March 2013
01.1 Medicine and Dentistry	550	50
01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	750	750
01.3 Health and social care	87,850	139,850
01.4 Public services	34,500	35,750
01.5 Child development and well-being	11,050	11,650
02.1 Science	2,450	2,650
02.2 Mathematics and statistics	650	5,450
03.1 Agriculture	4,600	5,000
03.2 Horticulture and forestry	6,150	8,550
03.3 Animal care and veterinary science	4,300	3,750
03.4 Environmental conservation	4,950	4,000
04.1 Engineering	22,750	25,300
04.2 Manufacturing technologies	30,050	35,500
04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance	16,850	17,350
05.1 Architecture	1,300	0
05.2 Building and construction	33,950	34,050
05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning	0	0
06.1 ICT practitioners	4,200	4,500
06.2 ICT for users	67,500	69,450
07.1 Retailing and wholesaling	33,050	13,000
07.2 Warehousing and distribution	7,500	10,300
07.3 Service enterprises	23,200	24,600
07.4 Hospitality and catering	98,900	100,250
08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation	59,700	61,400
08.2 Travel and tourism	1,200	1,050
09.1 Performing arts	96,600	101,900
09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design	8,100	9,800
09.3 Media and communication	1,650	2,400
09.4 Publishing and information services	600	150
10.1 History	0	0
10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences	0	0
10.3 Philosophy	150	150
10.4 Theology and religious studies	0	0
11.1 Geography	0	50
11.2 Sociology and social policy	150	50
11.3 Politics	0	0
11.4 Economics	50	50
12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	33,850	34,000
12.2 Other languages, literature and culture	10,250	7,400
13.1 Teaching and lecturing	14,100	13,500
13.2 Direct learning support	6,300	6,900
14.1 Foundations for learning and life	497,900	441,000
14.2 Preparation for work	35,150	64,850
15.1 Accounting and finance	17,550	18,650
15.2 Administration	59,350	56,850
15.3 Business management	42,150	46,650
15.4 Marketing and sales	1,400	1,800
15.5 Law and legal services	1,350	1,350

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blanks cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 10: England - The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of achievements in vocational and other qualifications for April 2012 - March 2013

Awarding organisation	Total number of achievements (for the 12 months to quarter end) April 2012 - March 2013
Pearson Education Ltd	1,971,600
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,266,400
OCR	918,750
NCFE	375,700
EDI	357,400
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	268,900
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	263,400
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	218,400
NOCN	216,350
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	145,350
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	142,300
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	138,350
Trinity College London	109,650
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	100,750
Cskills Awards	92,600
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	80,650
Sports Leaders UK	79,900
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	77,400
Ascentis	73,650
VTCT	61,450
1st4sport Qualifications	60,200
IMI Awards Ltd	58,700
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	55,350
British Safety Council	52,550
BIIAB	51,850
LAMDA Examinations	47,800
WJEC-CBAC	43,350
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	39,700
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	35,750
Institute of Leadership & Management	34,900
ABC Awards	33,250
Association of Accounting Technicians	33,200
Royal Academy of Dance	32,000
Active IQ	29,850
Rock School Ltd	29,050
International Baccalaureate Organisation	29,050
Central YMCA Qualifications	27,900
IFS School of Finance	25,650
Cambridge International Examinations	24,450
Royal Society for Public Health	23,750
Lifetime Awarding	21,500
University of West London	18,900
Chartered Management Institute	18,100
First Aid Awards Ltd	17,800
Chartered Insurance Institute	16,000
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd	14,950
Graded Qualifications Alliance	12,000
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	11,350
Qualifi Ltd	11,300
AIM Awards	11,200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blanks cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 11: Wales - The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of achievements in vocational and other qualifications for April 2012 - March 2013

Wales only

Awarding organisation	Total number of achievements (for the 12 months to quarter end) April 2012 - March 2013
Pearson Education Ltd	90,450
City and Guilds of London Institute	82,300
WJEC-CBAC	69,950
OCR	51,000
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	28,300
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	15,050
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	12,600
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	9,900
Cskills Awards	7,850
EDI	6,600
VTCT	6,600
NOCN	4,750
British Safety Council	3,900
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	3,850
Institute of Leadership & Management	3,700
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	3,250
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	3,150
Royal Society for Public Health	3,050
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	2,650
Trinity College London	2,550
Rock School Ltd	2,350
IMI Awards Ltd	2,250
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	2,200
1st4sport Qualifications	2,000
Sports Leaders UK	1,950
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	1,850
Safety Training Awards	1,800
LAMDA Examinations	1,750
BIIAB	1,650
University of West London	1,600
International Baccalaureate Organisation	1,550
Royal Academy of Dance	1,500
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	1,450
NCFE	1,350
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,300
Agored Cymru	1,100
Central YMCA Qualifications	1,050
AoFA Qualifications	1,000
ABC Awards	950
IFS School of Finance	800
WAMITAB	800
Active IQ	700
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	550
Qualsafe Awards	500
Amateur Swimming Association	400
FDQ Limited	400
First Aid Awards Ltd	400
Lantra Awards	400
Chartered Insurance Institute	350
Industry Qualifications	350

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blanks cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 12: Northern Ireland - The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of achievements in vocational and other qualifications for April 2012 - March 2013

Awarding organisation	Total number of achievements (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	April 2012 - March 2013
City and Guilds of London Institute	59,600
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	22,950
Pearson Education Ltd	20,950
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	15,100
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	12,600
OCR	10,600
Trinity College London	5,800
University of West London	5,400
EDI	5,300
NOCN	4,200
Cskills Awards	2,750
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	2,450
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	2,250
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	1,850
Rock School Ltd	1,750
British Safety Council	1,600
Institute of Leadership & Management	1,500
Active IQ	1,400
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	1,350
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	1,250
New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd	1,200
LAMDA Examinations	1,150
Royal Society for Public Health	1,100
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	1,000
VTCT	950
Royal Academy of Dance	750
NCFE	700
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	700
WSET Awards	700
ETC Awards Limited	700
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	600
IMI Awards Ltd	550
Signature	500
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	500
International Association of Book-Keepers	450
Prince's Trust	400
Graded Qualifications Alliance	350
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	350
Chartered Insurance Institute	300
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	300
FDQ Limited	300
Sports Leaders UK	250
IFS School of Finance	250
Central YMCA Qualifications	200
1st4sport Qualifications	200
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development	200
BIIAB	200
Chartered Management Institute	200
ABC Awards	200
Safety Training Awards	200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data is supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Blanks cells represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

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