

Statistical Release

Higher Level Qualifications Quarterly: April – June 2013

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Key points

This release provides information on the range and volume of regulated qualifications at level 4 and above (equivalent to post A level) and certificates issued during April – June 2013. It also reports on comparisons and trends over the past five years.

The key findings for this release are:

- In this quarter, 24,900 certificates were issued for higher level qualifications, a decrease of 8 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2012.
- The number of available higher level qualifications continues to increase from 2,206 in the same quarter in 2012 to 2,552 this quarter (16 per cent increase).
- There is a continuing growth in the number of qualifications with no achievements; only 29 per cent of all available qualifications have been issued this quarter.
- This quarter, 129 awarding organisations are offering regulated higher level qualifications, a 9 per cent increase when compared to Q2 2012.
- Business, administration, finance and law continues to be the biggest sector subject area (41 per cent of all certificates).

Introduction

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

In this release, we present data on available regulated qualifications and the number of awards of these qualifications. When a qualification is approved for accreditation, it is classified as one of 18 qualifications types. Here we present figures on seven¹ of these qualification types. The data cover qualifications of all types at level 4 and above, known as higher level qualifications, (equivalent to post A level) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It does not include qualifications such as university degrees, which are regulated by the Quality Assurance Agency for higher Education (QAA). The figures represent both the quarter April – June 2013 and the 12 month period to June 2013.

A glossary of terms is available towards the end of this release, for assistance in interpreting the content, followed by the data tables in the appendix.

¹ English for speakers of other languages, higher level, key skills, National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ), occupational qualifications, Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), vocationally related qualifications.

Key statistics

In the quarter April – June 2013, 24,900 certificates were issued for higher level qualifications, compared to 27,050 certificates issued in April – June 2012, a decline of 8 per cent.

There was a continued increase in the number of available qualifications, from 2,206 qualifications in April – June 2012 to 2,552 this quarter (a 16 per cent increase). Numbers have risen since Q4 2009 and this may be due to the increase in the number of qualifications available in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF).

Of the 2,552 qualifications available this quarter, 732 did not have certificates in this quarter (29 per cent) and 1,387 did not have any certificates issued in the last 12 months (54 per cent). This pattern is similar to previous quarters with about 50 per cent of qualifications without certificates in the preceding 12 months to the quarter end. The majority of these inactive qualifications are in the QCF, and we may see certificates issued in more of these qualifications over the next one to two years.

Over the past five years there has been a continual growth in the number of awarding organisations offering and awarding higher level qualifications, with a 9 per cent increase in the number of awarding organisations offering these qualifications since quarter 2 of 2012 (129 awarding organisations compared with 118) and a 6 per cent increase in the number awarding (88 compared with 83).

The two sector subject areas with the most certificates issued were business, administration, finance and law (10,450 certificates, 42 per cent of all certificates) and education and training (7,550 certificates, 30 per cent of all certificates).

There was an increase of 10 per cent in the education and training sector (6,850 certificates issued in April – June 2012 compared to 7,550 certificates this quarter). This can largely be explained by the greater number of students taking the qualification in preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector.

In contrast, the business, administration, finance and law sector declined in the number of certificates issued by 16 per cent when comparing this quarter with the same quarter in 2012 (12,500 certificates in April – June 2012 to 10,450 in April – June 2013). This could be as a result of the Retail Distribution Review, carried out by the Financial Services Authority, which required financial advisers to have, at least, a qualification at level 4 by the end of 2012, where previously it was at level 3 – this pressure now having worked through the market.

Qualifications regulated

In this release we consider all higher level regulated qualifications that are available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. When a qualification is approved for accreditation, it is classified as one of 18 qualification types. Here we present figures on seven of these types: English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), higher level, key skills, National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ), occupational qualifications, Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), and vocationally related qualifications.

Qualifications available

The number of available regulated higher level qualifications continues to rise. In April – June 2013, there were 2,552 qualifications, an increase of 16 per cent on the same quarter of 2012 (see figure 1).

The continual ‘quarter-on-quarter’ increase has seen more than double the number of higher level qualifications on offer over the past three years, from 1,142 in April – June 2010.

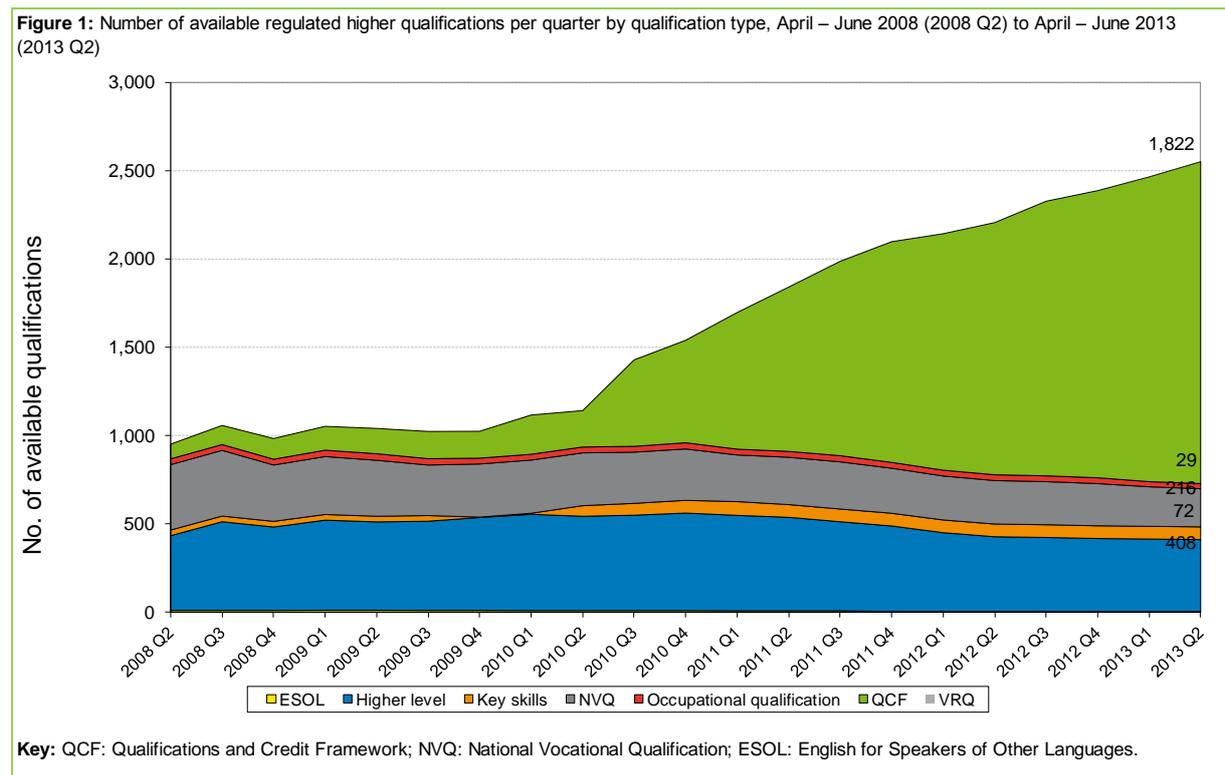


Figure 1 shows that the continued growth in numbers of these qualifications is mainly in QCF qualifications. The QCF began in 2008, after tests and trials; from 2010, qualifications began to be restructured in order to be accredited into the QCF. The QCF offers up to three different sizes of qualification (award, certificate and diploma) so there are more qualifications and associated certificates, as each size is counted as a separate qualification. Figure 1 shows the gradual decline (in the last few

quarters) of numbers of NVQs and qualifications categorised as higher level, suggesting that these qualifications have been restructured and their original forms have no longer continued.

For more detailed information on the number of available qualifications, see table 1 in the appendix.

During this quarter, 109 new QCF qualifications and 1 new higher level type qualification were added to the list of available regulated higher level qualifications. The highest number of new qualifications was in the business, administration and law sector subject area, with 60 qualifications (28 of these were from the awarding organisation, SFEDI Awards, which specialises in qualifications in business and enterprise). We also saw that 11 QCF, 8 NVQ and 4 higher level qualifications are no longer available to be awarded.

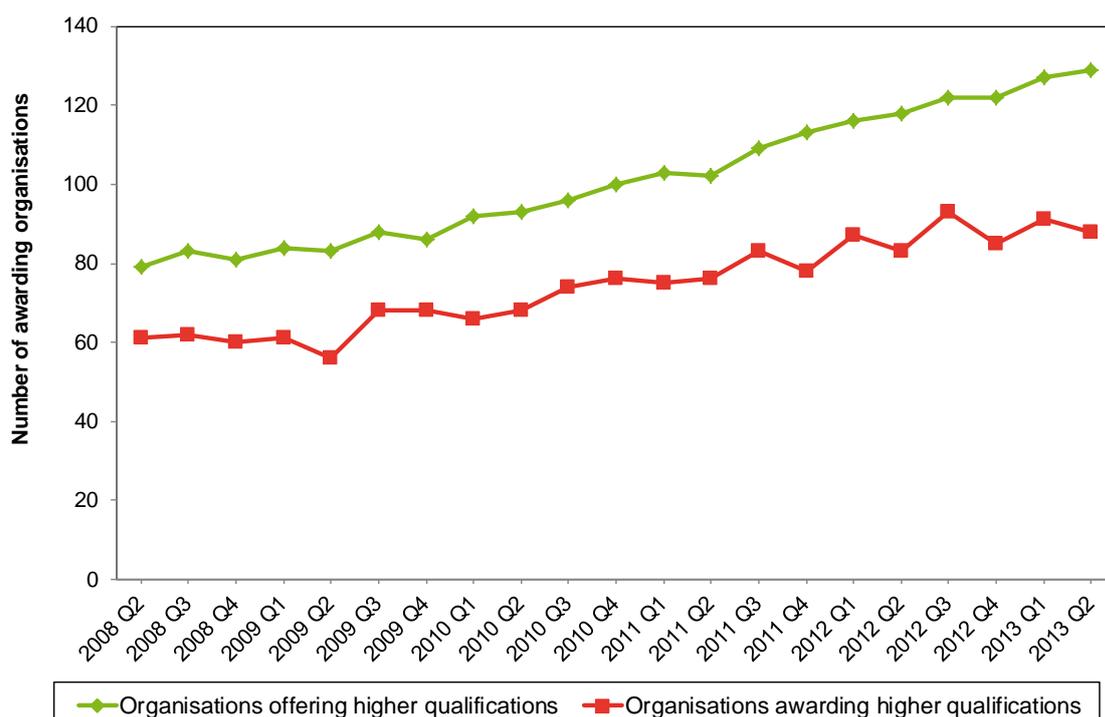
Awarding organisations

There are 129 recognised awarding organisations that offer regulated higher level qualifications. In April – June 2013, 88 of those awarding organisations awarded higher level qualifications.

Figure 2 shows that there is a trend, evident since quarter 2 of 2011, for a greater number of awarding organisations to award higher level qualifications in quarters 1 and 3 of each year.

Compared with the same quarter of 2012, there was a 9 per cent increase in the number of awarding organisations offering regulated higher level qualifications (118 in April – June 2012 compared with 129 in this quarter). There was also a 6 per cent increase in the number awarding higher level qualifications (83 in April – June 2012 compared with 88 in this quarter).

Figure 2: Total number of awarding organisations with at least one available higher qualification per quarter, and awarding organisations that have awarded at least one certificate, April - June 2008 (2008 Q2) to April - June 2013 (2013 Q2)



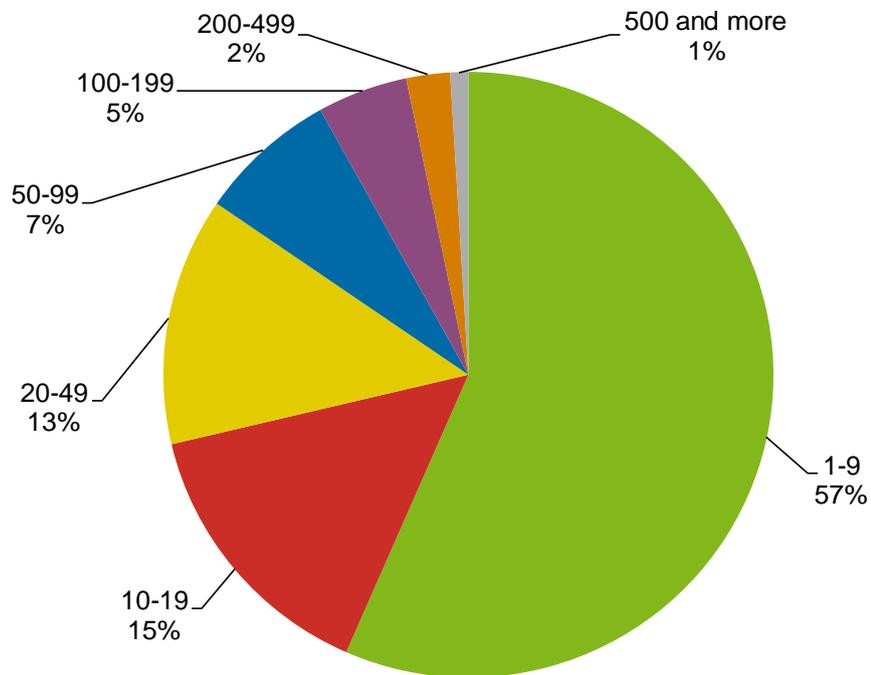
Qualifications available and awarding

In this quarter, only 29 per cent of available qualifications had certificates (732 of 2,552). In the last 12 months to June 2013, of all the qualifications that were available, 1,165 qualifications had certificates (46 per cent).

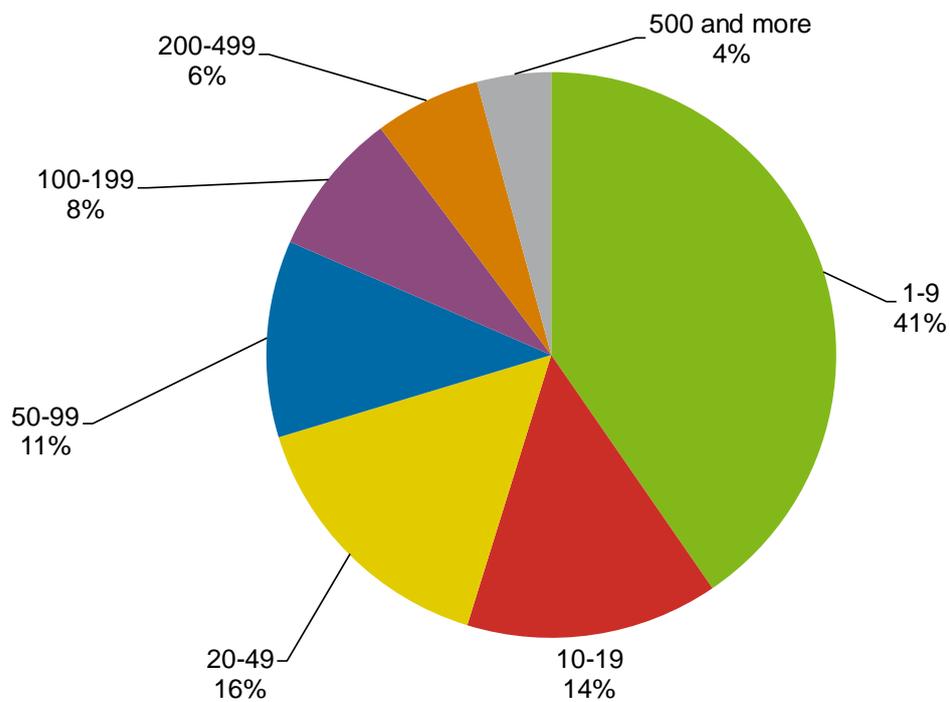
These available qualifications that are being certificated generally have low numbers of certificates compared with qualifications below level 4. Figure 3 shows the number of qualifications with different levels of certificates in April – June 2013.

Figure 3: Active higher qualifications by the number of certificates awarded:

a) during the quarter



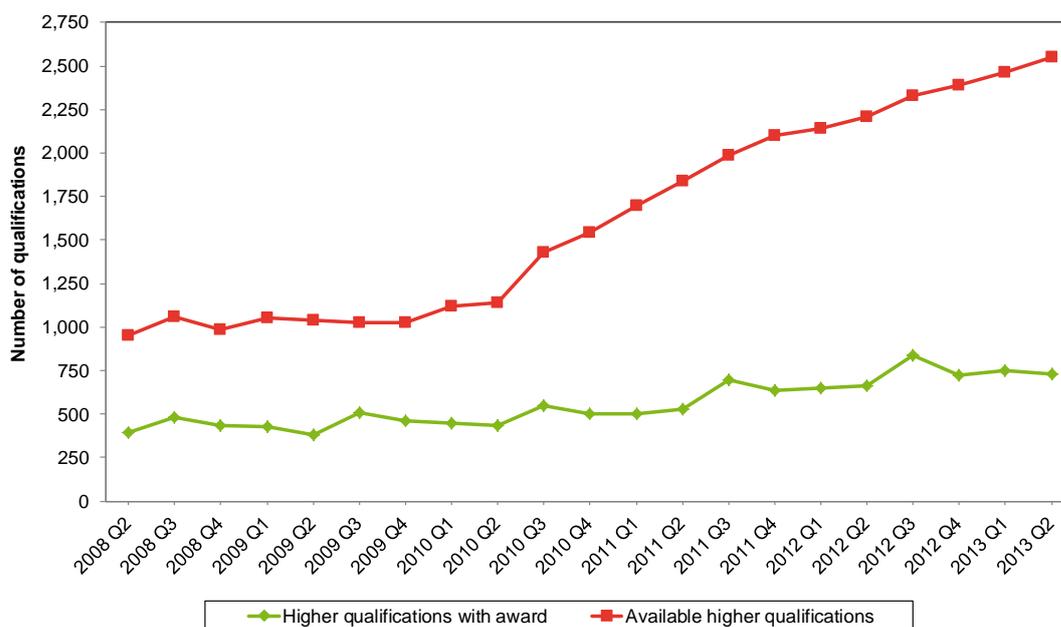
b) in the past 12 months to quarter end



It should be noted that, of the qualifications available this quarter, 1,820 had no achievements this quarter and 1,387 had no achievements in the past 12 months.

The continued increase in the number of higher level qualifications is evident from figure 4. We can see that from 2010 the gap between the number of available qualifications and the number of higher level qualifications with awards has increased.

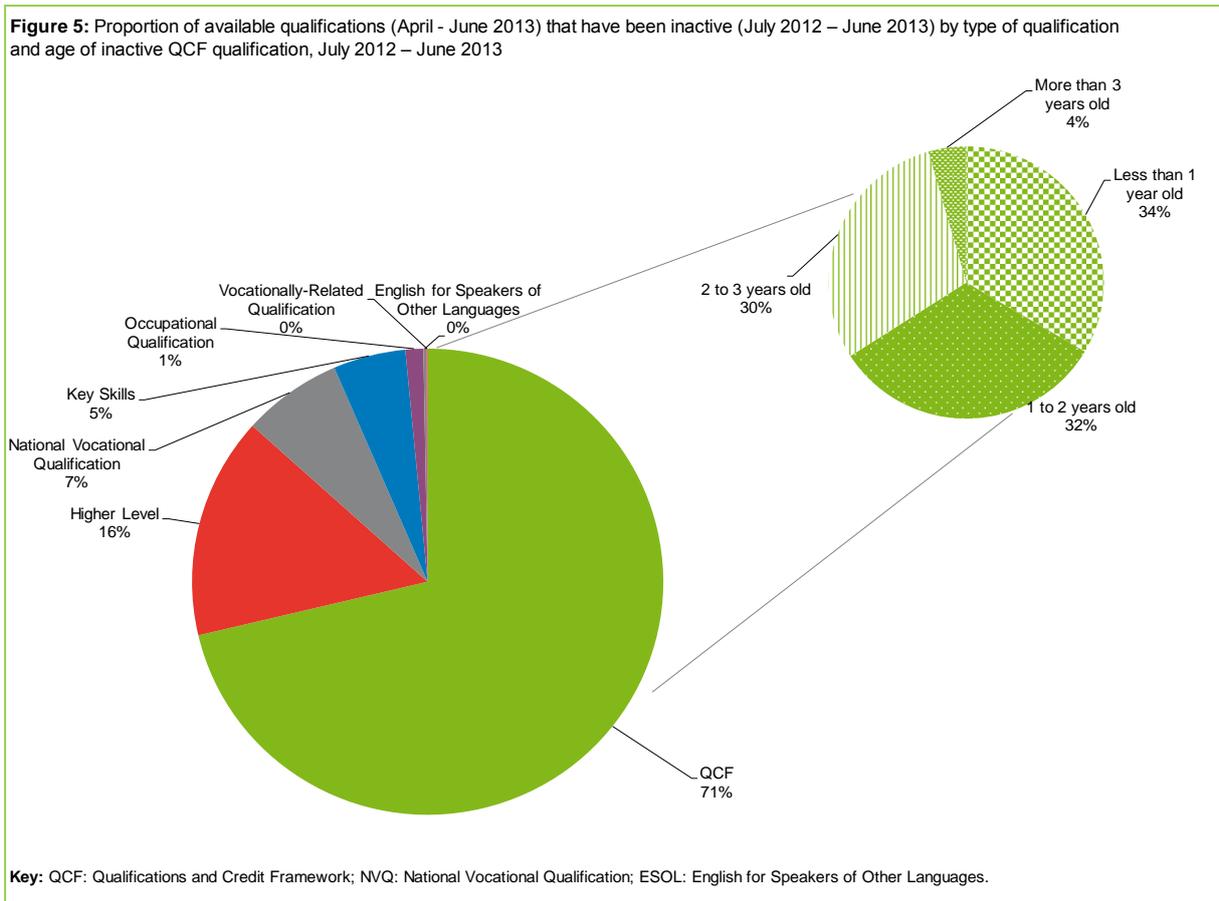
Figure 4: Total number of available higher qualifications per quarter, and total number of higher qualifications with awards, April – June 2008 (2008 Q2) to April – June 2013 (2013 Q2)



The qualifications making up the difference in numbers between the available higher level qualifications and higher level qualifications with awards are the inactive qualifications (qualifications with no certificates in the past 12 months).

Inactive qualifications

Inactive qualifications are those that were available for award during this quarter but where no award was made in the 12 months to June 2013. Figure 5 shows the number of inactive qualifications by type and by age (how long they have been available). In April – June 2013, 2,552 qualifications were available, of which 1,387 were inactive (54 per cent).



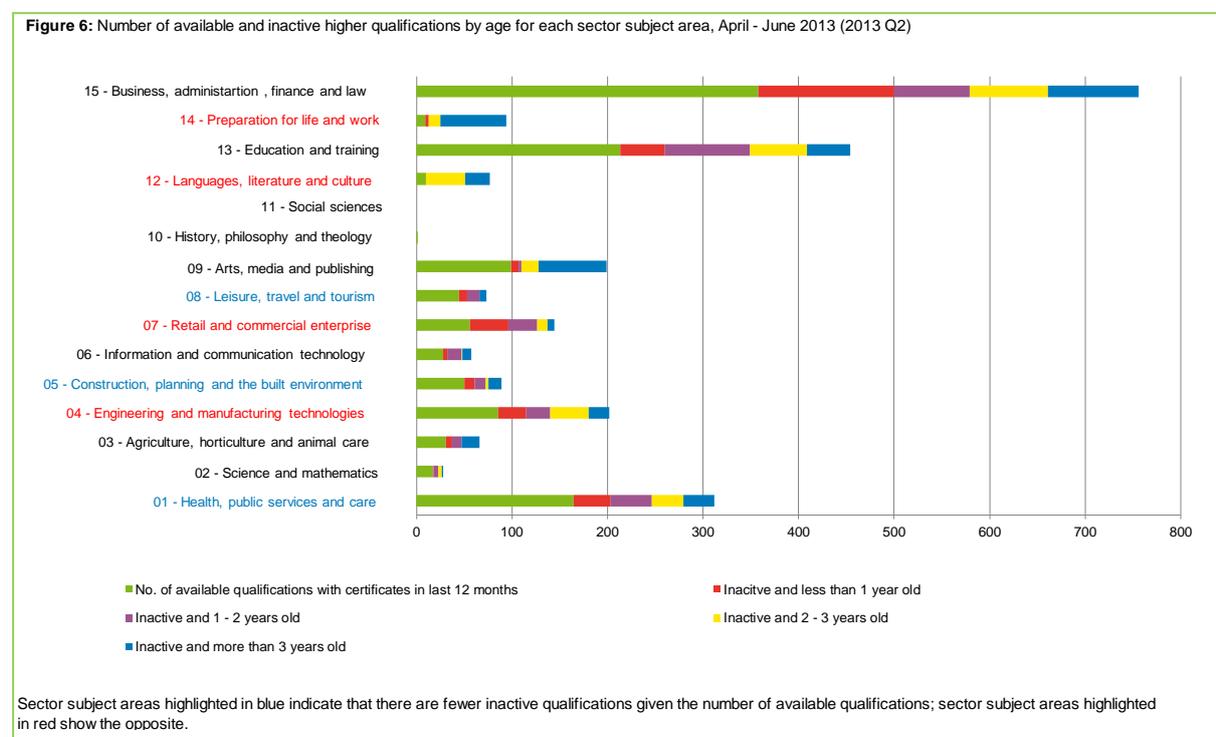
Two-thirds of the inactive QCF qualifications are less than two years old. It may take one to two years before we see qualifications being awarded after they become available so we might expect some of these inactive qualifications to be awarded in the coming quarters.

Simple regression model analysis has been used to evaluate if each sector subject area has more or fewer inactive qualifications than expected, given its number of available qualifications. The number of inactive qualifications has a very good relationship to the number of available qualifications for each sector subject area – that is, the greater the number of qualifications in a sector, the larger the number of inactive qualifications.

The model 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.

Figure 6 shows the number of available qualifications with achievements for each sector subject area, broken down by the length of time they have been available.

Sector subject areas are highlighted in blue (on left side of the chart) to show where there are fewer inactive qualifications than expected given the number of available qualifications; sector subject areas highlighted in red show the opposite pattern.



Four sector subject areas had more inactive qualifications given the number of available qualifications (highlighted in red). All inactive qualifications in the languages, literature and culture sector are more than a year old and no certificates have been issued in more than two years. Of the 67 qualifications in the languages, literature and culture sector, 63 are from Oxford, Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR) (94 per cent of qualifications); all qualifications from OCR in this sector are inactive. Similarly, around 95 per cent of all inactive qualifications in the preparation for life and work sector have been available for more than two years (81 of the 85 inactive qualifications). All inactive qualifications in this sector subject area are level 4 qualifications. In the retail and commercial enterprise sector subject area, 92 per cent

of inactive QCF qualifications have been available for at least three years (81 of 88 inactive qualifications).

On the other hand, for the sector subject areas with fewer inactive qualifications than expected (highlighted in blue), more than 55 per cent of qualifications have been available for less than two years. The majority of these are QCF qualifications but there are also some NVQs and higher level type qualifications.

Certificates issued by awarding organisations

There were 24,900 certificates (see table 2 in the appendix) issued in higher level qualifications during April – June 2013, a decrease of 8 per cent on the same quarter of 2012 (see figure 7). This is the lowest number of certificates issued in a quarter since April – June 2011.

The majority of the certificates are for QCF qualifications (22,950 certificates, 92 per cent). The decline in the overall number of certificates for this quarter can be mainly attributed to the fall in certifications for NVQ qualifications compared to April – June 2012. For more information see tables 2 and 6 in the appendix.

Figure 7: Total number of certificates per quarter and in the 12 months to the end of each quarter, April – June 2008 (2008 Q2) to April – June 2013 (2013 Q2)

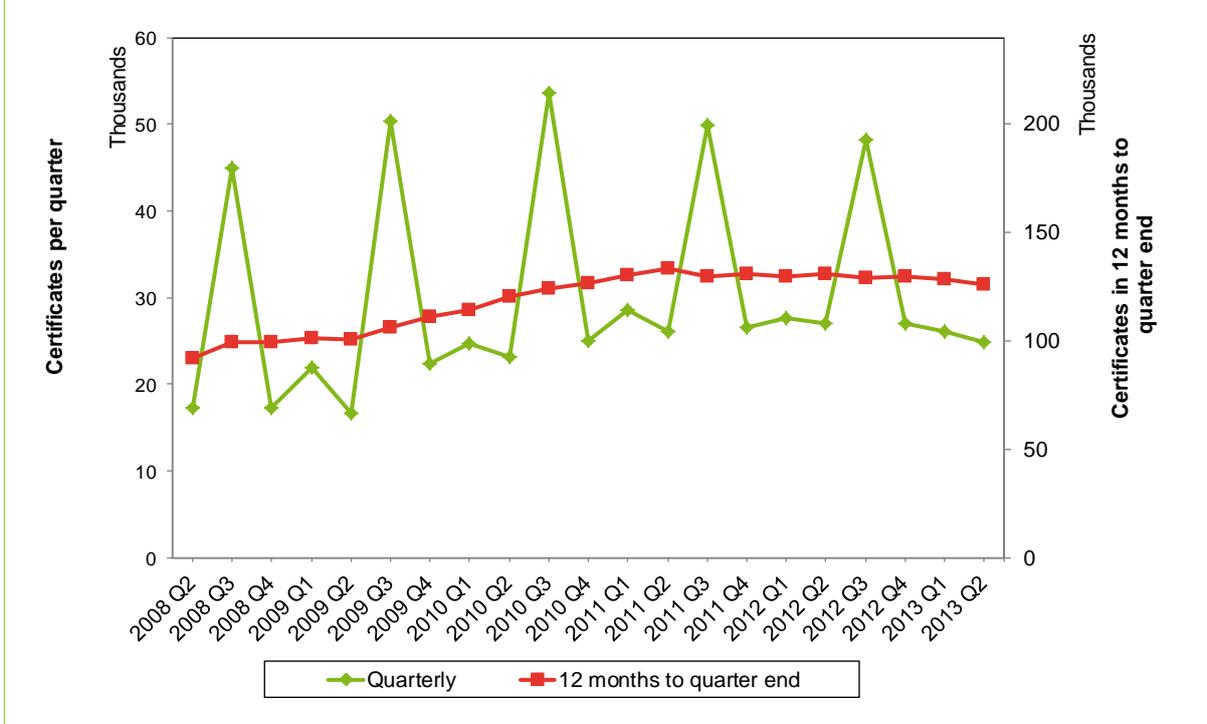


Figure 7 shows that the 12 months to quarter end series has an overall increase in certificate numbers over the last five years, although the increase has been less significant over the past two years (the quarter with the highest 12-month sum of certificates was quarter 2 of 2011) and in fact, there is a slight decrease over the past few quarters.

The quarterly figures show significant peaks in quarter 3 each year, although this pattern has started to diminish over the last two years.

Certificates by awarding organisation

The ten awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates represent 75 per cent of all certificates issued in April – June 2013 (Figure 8).

Figure 8: The ten awarding organisations with the most certificates in higher qualifications, April – June 2013 (April – June 2012 figures shown for comparison)

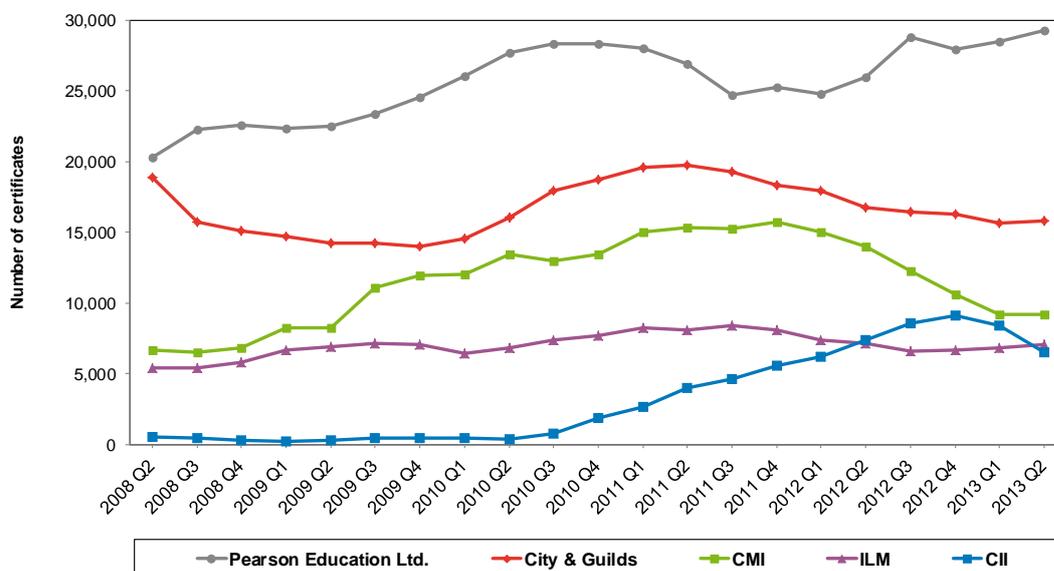
Awarding Organisation	Number of certificates		% share of total certificates	% change in certificates
	April to June 2012	April to June 2013		
Pearson Education Ltd	0 ¹	6,100	25	-
City and Guilds of London Institute	3,350	3,500	14	4
Chartered Management Institute	2,250	2,200	9	-2
Institute of Leadership & Management	1,550	1,750	7	13
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	1,100	1,300	5	18
OCR	850	1,100	4	29
Association of Accounting Technicians	900	950	4	6
Chartered Insurance Institute	2,700	850	3	-69
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply	350	550	2	57
Cskills Awards	350	500	2	43

¹ Due to the merger of EDI and Pearson Education Ltd the number of certificates awarded are shown as zero for April – June

Pearson Education Ltd (which now offers qualifications from both Edexcel and EDI) continues to issue the highest number of certificates: 6,100 awards in April – June 2013. In April to June 2012, Edexcel issued 4,900 certificates, and EDI issued 400, so there has been an overall increase for these organisations since the same quarter of last year.

The number of certificates issued by OCR had been declining. However, we see an increase of 29 per cent this quarter compared to April – June 2012 (1,100 certificates compared to 850 certificates in 2012), mainly due to an increased number of QCF qualification certificates.

Figure 9: The five awarding organisations with the most certificates in higher qualifications for the 12 months to the end of each quarter, showing the trend from April - June 2008 (2008 Q2) to April - June 2013 (2013 Q2)



Key: CII: Chartered Insurance Institute; CMI: Chartered Management Institute; ILM: Institute of Leadership and Management.

Prior to the merger of Pearson Education Ltd. and EDI (this quarter), the number of certificates for Pearson Education Ltd. only includes certificates awarded by Pearson Education Ltd. (Edexcel)

Figure 9 shows that the number of certificates for Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) qualifications has started to decline in the 12 months to quarter end. The same pattern also occurs for the ifs School of Finance (figures not shown) which can be explained by the decline in the number of certificates issued for ifs Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers qualification. These could both be a result of the Retail Distribution Review, carried out by the Financial Services Authority, which required financial advisers to have, at least, a qualification at level 4 by the end of 2012, where previously it was at level 3 – this pressure having worked its way through the market.

The numbers of certificates issued by the City and Guilds of London Institute and the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) had been falling if the above trends are considered; however, there has been an increase in numbers of certificates issued this quarter compared to same quarter in 2012, which bucks these trends. The biggest increase in awards for the City and Guilds of London Institute was seen for its Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF) (from 350 certificates issued in April to June 2012 to 1,950 certificates this quarter). The increase in numbers of ILM certificates issued can be attributed to its business management qualifications (a 13 per cent increase this quarter compared to April – June 2012, from 1,550 certificates issued to 1,750 certificates).

The 50 awarding organisations with the most certificates issued are listed in table 4 in the appendix.

Certificates by qualification

The five qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued make up 21 per cent of all certificates during the April – June 2013 period.

Qualifications in preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector have seen large increases in the number of certificates issued this quarter (figure 10). This is because they are now the minimum requirements for those who wish to gain the full qualification to reach qualified teacher status in the lifelong learning sector.² Ten of the 50 qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued, shown in table 3 in the appendix, are in preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector.

Figure 10: The five higher qualifications with the most certificates, April – June 2013 (April – June 2012 figures shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates		% change
	April to June 2012	April to June 2013	
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	350	1,950	457
Cambridge ESOL Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (QCF)	900	1,200	33
AAT Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF)	850	950	12
Pearson BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	650	650	0
Pearson BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Business (QCF)	200	550	175

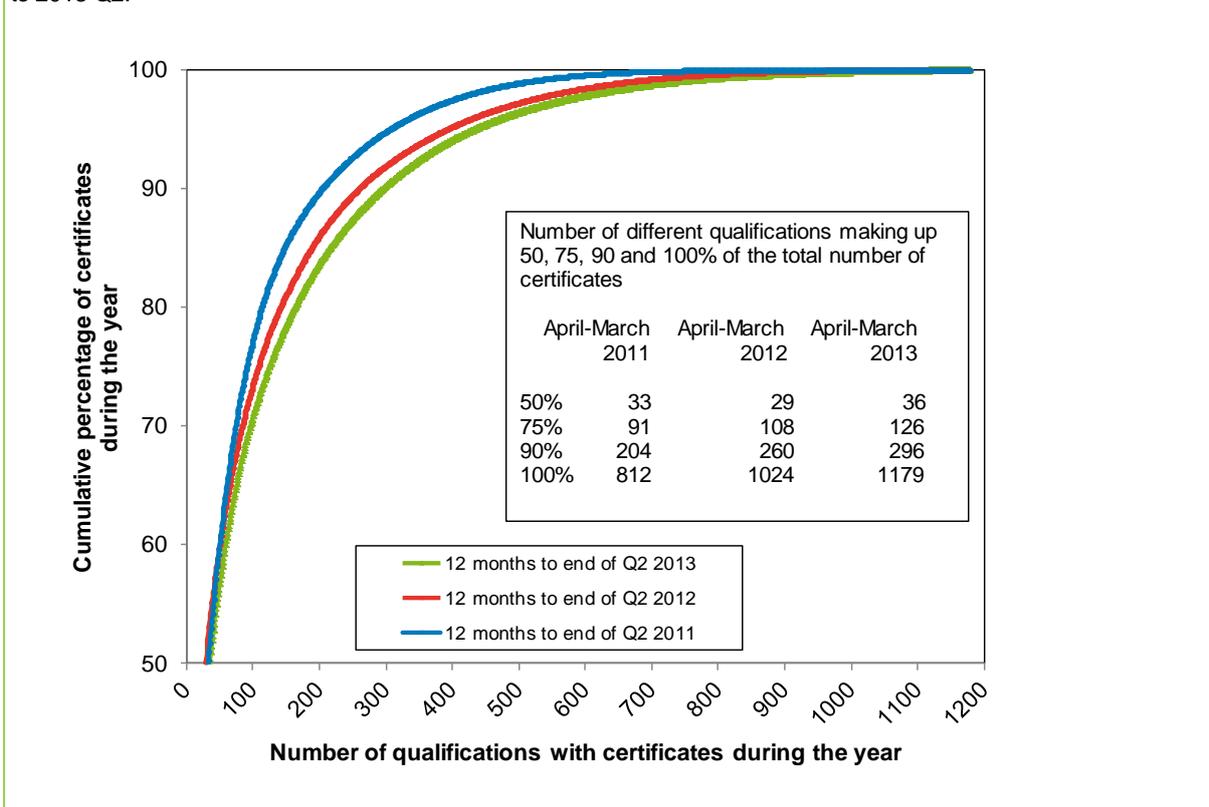
The CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF) (shown in table 3 in the appendix) had high numbers of certificates issued in the past, but the number fell this quarter from 2,200 certificates issued in April – June 2012 to 350 this quarter, a decrease of 84 per cent. Again, this could be affected by the Retail Distribution Review, carried out by the Financial Services Authority (see above).

² Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector, University of Cambridge:
www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-qualifications/celta/ptlls

Number of qualifications by percentage of all certificates

Figure 11 shows an overall growth in the number of qualifications being awarded compared to previous years. 75 per cent of certifications in April – March 2011 were made up from 91 qualifications whereas in April – March 2013 this had increased to 126. This reflects the decline in the average number of certificates issued per qualification (figure 12) and the general increase in the number of available higher level qualifications.

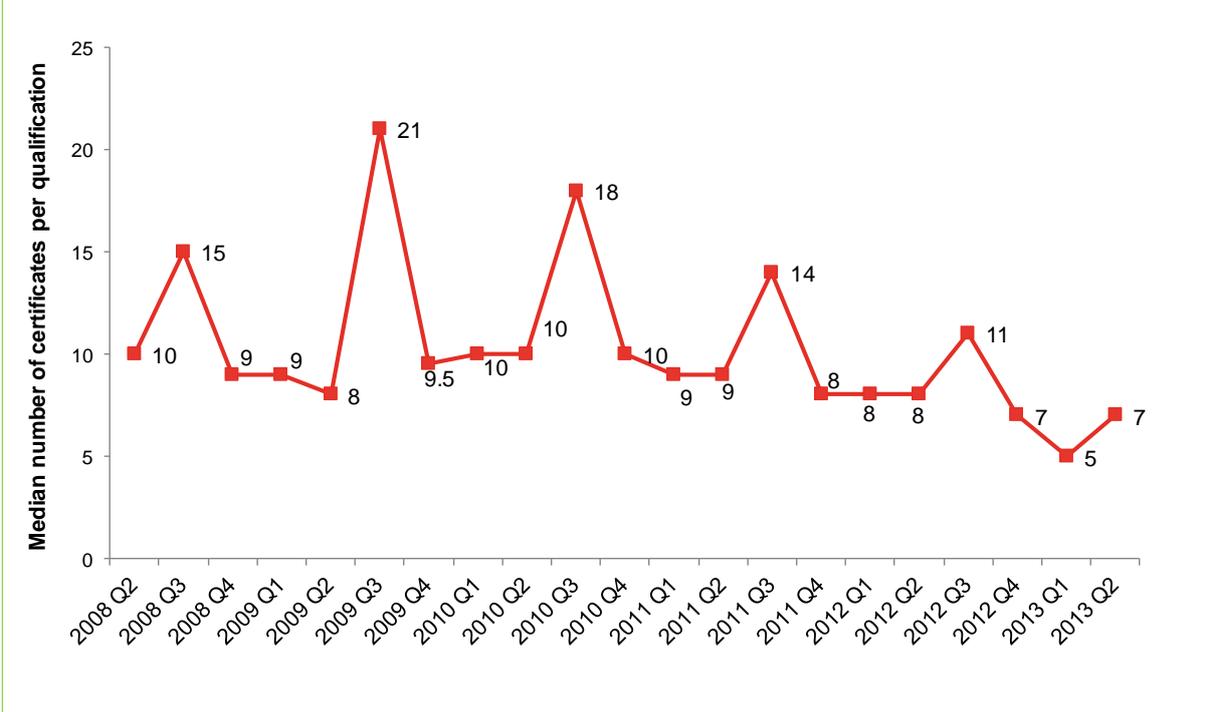
Figure 11: Number of qualifications making up the total percentage of certificates for the 12 months to end of 2011 Q2 to 2013 Q2.



When we look at the average (median³) number of certificates per qualification for available qualifications with certificates (figure 12 below), we see that the number of certificates per qualification is highest in quarter 3 every year and, generally, the rest of the quarters have the same number of certificates. Since Q3 2011, the median number of certificates has declined when looking at the general trend for each quarter. One reason is that although the number of new qualifications coming onto the QCF framework has increased the overall number of certificates issued has not.

³ The median number lies in the middle of the range when all the numbers of certificates are ordered from low to high. It gives the value representing 50 per cent of all certifications.

Figure 12: Median number of certificates per qualification for available qualifications with certificates, for 2008 Q2 to 2013 Q2.



Certificates by sector subject area of qualification

Regulated higher level qualifications are allocated to one of 15 sector subject area codes (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*⁴ for further details).

Figure 13 below shows, for the education and training sector, an increase of 10 per cent of certificates issues compared to the same quarter of last year. This can largely be explained by the greater number of students taking qualifications in preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector, as discussed in the previous section.

The business, administration, finance and law sector subject area continues to show the highest number of certificates issued. Although this sector has seen growth in the number of certificates issued in higher level vocational qualifications since 2008, it has been declining since last year. This could be partly explained by the changes in the financial services sector.

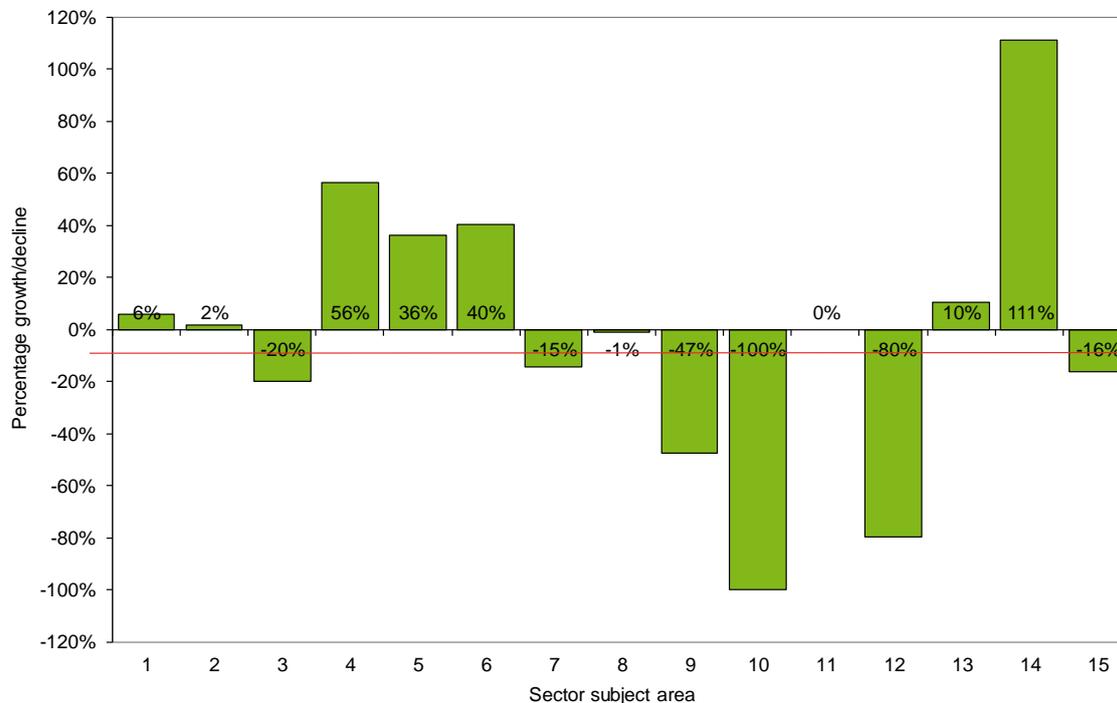
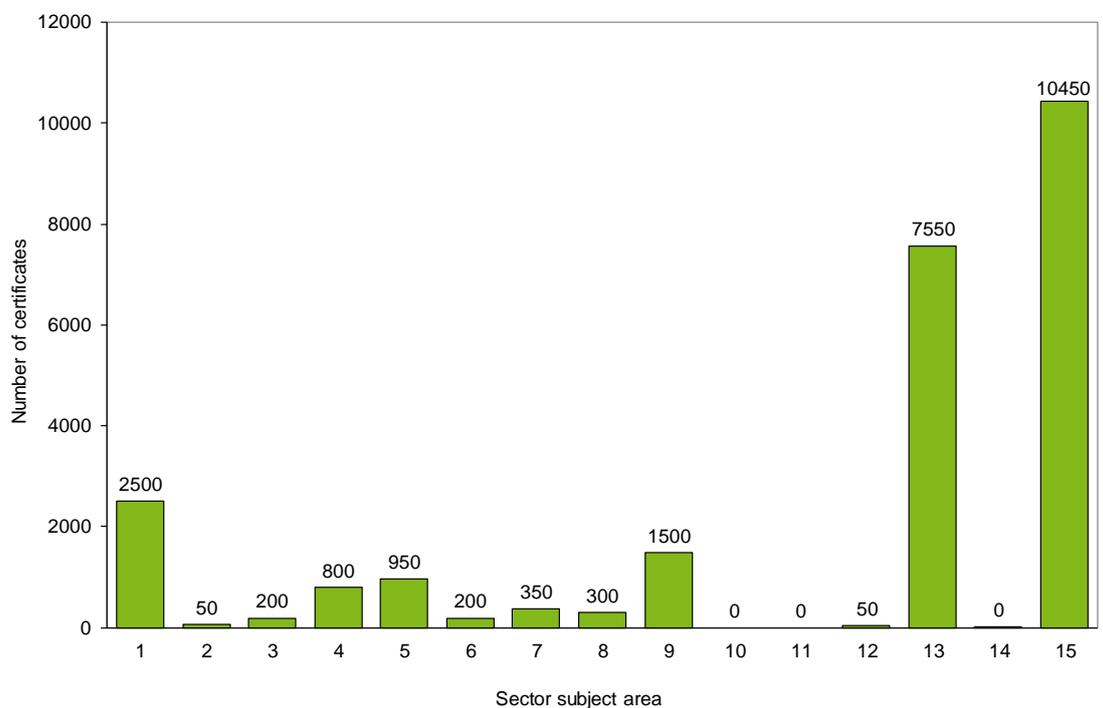
The decrease in numbers in the art, media and publishing sector subject area is partly due to the decrease in the number of certificates issued in the University of the Arts London (UAL) Level 4 Diploma in Art and Design – Foundation Studies (QCF) qualification (1,500 certificates in April – June 2012 compares to zero this quarter).

The increase in certificates issued in the construction, planning and the built environment area is in line with the increase in certificates issued for the QCF qualifications at level 5 (from 5,750 to 7,400 certificates), level 6 (from 1,200 to 1,350 certificates), and level 8 (from 50 to 100 certificates).

In a number of sector subject areas there was a reduction in the number of certificates issued between April – June 2012 and April – June 2013. There was a 100 per cent decline in the history, philosophy and theology sector, from one certificate issued in April to June 2012 to none this quarter.

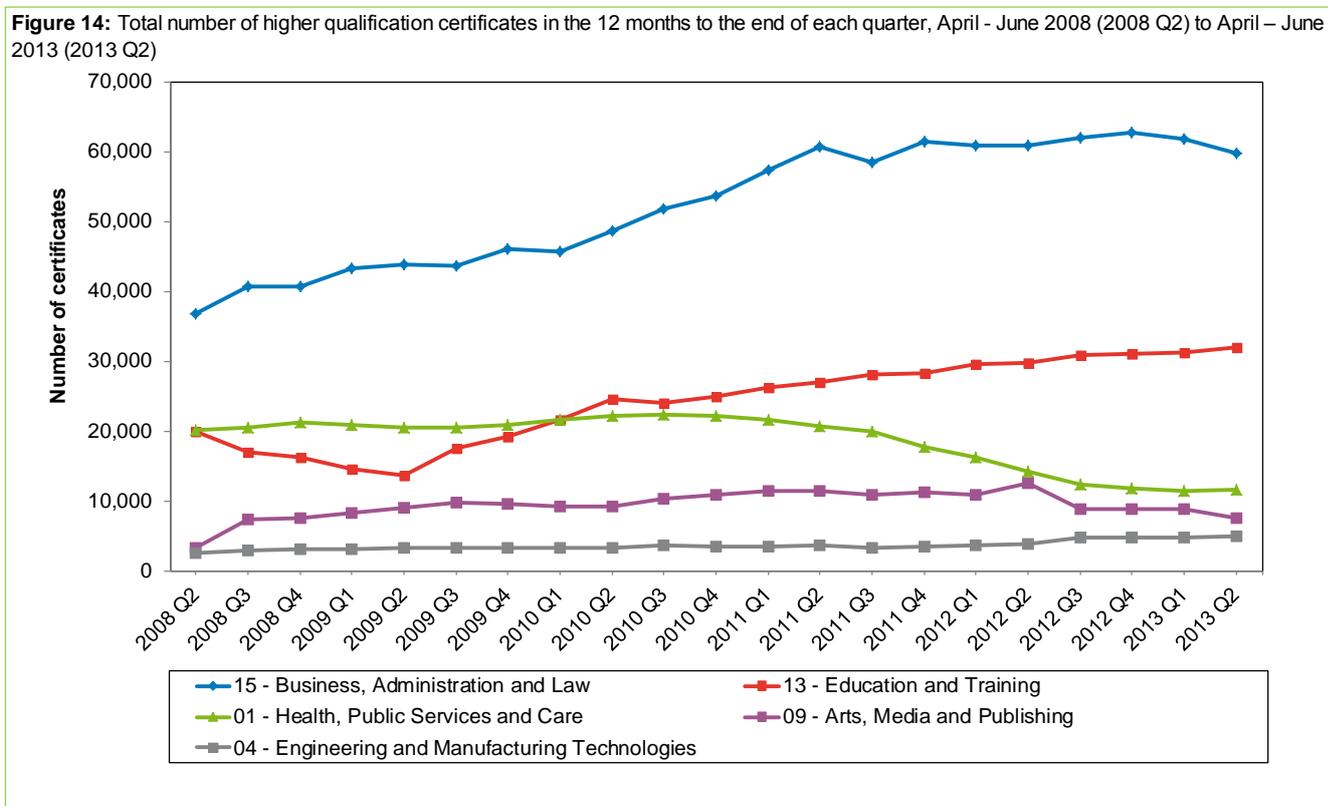
⁴ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

Figure 13: Number of higher qualification certificates by sector subject area for April - June 2013 (2013 Q1) and the percentage growth and decline between April - June 2012 and April - June 2013 (red line showing the average change for all higher qualifications (8 per cent decrease))



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Health, public services and care | 9 Arts, media and publishing |
| 2 Science and mathematics | 10 History, philosophy and theology |
| 3 Agriculture, horticulture and animal care | 11 Social sciences |
| 4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies | 12 Languages, literature and culture |
| 5 Construction, planning and the built environment | 13 Education and training |
| 6 Information and communication technology | 14 Preparation for life and work |
| 7 Retail and commercial enterprise | 15 Business, administration and law |
| 8 Leisure, travel and tourism | |

Figure 14 shows the five-year trend for the five sector subject areas with the most certificates issued in April – June 2013 (see table 5 in the appendix for further details).



The number of certificates issued in the health, public services and care sector subject area had been decreasing, but this quarter there was an increase by 6 per cent to 2,500 certificates compared to 2,350 certificates in the same quarter in 2012. This increase can be attributed to the number of certificates issued for QCF qualifications – from 850 certificates issued in April to June 2012 to 2,100 certificates this quarter. There is no particular QCF qualification that contributed to this growth.

Certificates by level of qualification

All regulated qualifications are assigned a level, ranging from entry, then 1 to 8 (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*⁵ for full details). Higher level qualifications are those at levels 4 to 8.

Figure 15 shows the large variation in the number of certificates issued by level and the variation in changes by level between April – June 2012 and this quarter. Of the five higher levels, only levels 5, 6 and 8 showed an increase in the number of certificates issued since April – June 2012. Level 5 showed an increase of 12 per cent, to 7,750 certificates, level 6 showed an increase of 10 per cent, while level 8 showed an increase of 192 per cent (but at this level only 100 certificates were issued this quarter – which accounts for the disproportionately large variation). It should be noted that qualifications at level 8 included Chartered Management Institute (CMI) Level 8 in Strategic Direction and Leadership (QCF) which is awarded in three different sizes (award, certificate and diploma).

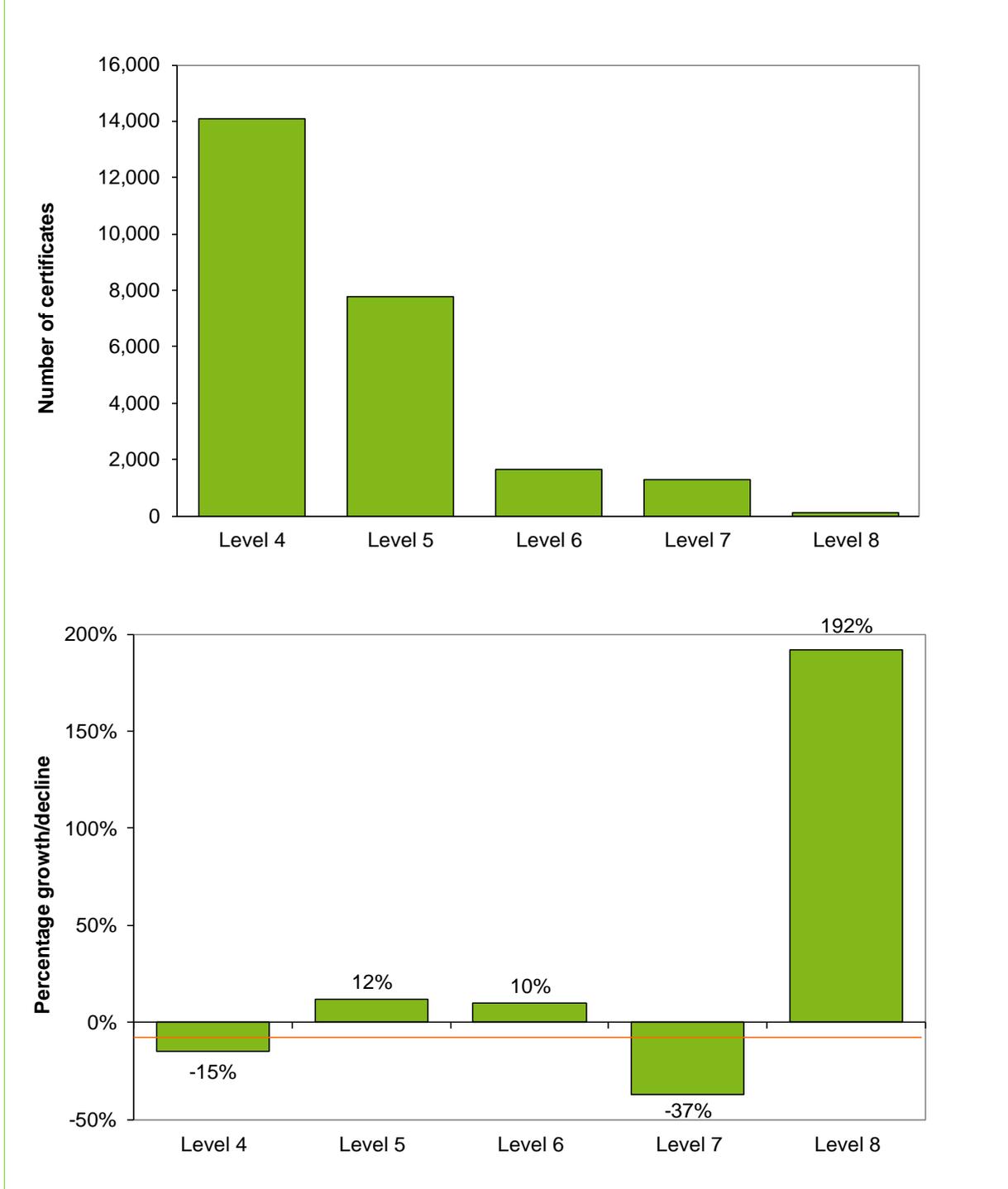
The main reason for the decline in the overall number of level 7 certificates issued can be explained by the decline in numbers taking Strategic Management and Leadership qualifications. Together, these qualifications saw a decline of over 500 certificates issued.

The decline in numbers of level 4 certificates issued is in line with a decrease of under 5,000 certificates in three particular qualifications: CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF), UAL Level 4 Diploma in Arts and Design – Foundation Studies (QCF) and City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector.

Considering this trend over the last five years (see table 7 in the appendix), it can be seen that certificate numbers issued for level 4 and level 5 qualifications reached their maximum value in the 12 months to April – June 2011 and 12 months to January – March 2011, respectively. Since then the numbers of certificates issued have been fairly stable. The number of certificates issued for level 7 qualifications has been increasing up to 12 months to quarter end Q3 2012 but this is now declining. The number of certificates issued for level 6 and level 8 qualifications continues to increase, although the numbers are small for level 8 qualifications.

⁵ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

Figure 15: Number of higher qualification certificates by level for April - June 2012 (2013 Q2) and the percentage growth and decline in certificates between April - June 2012 and April - June 2013 by level (red line showing average change for all higher qualifications (8 per cent decrease))



Background notes

In this release we present data on available regulated qualifications (except GCSEs and A levels) and the number of certificates issued for these qualifications. The data cover England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the figures represent both the quarter April – June 2013 and the 12-month period to June 2013.

Data source

Information on qualifications is taken from our Register of Regulated Qualifications. The Register is used by awarding organisations to submit qualifications for accreditation and to maintain details of their qualifications. We use the Register for regulatory activity. Data on qualifications, covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level are regarded as administrative data.

Each quarter, all recognised awarding organisations submit data to us about the number of qualifications they have awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of the age of the student and the type of school or college. Awards are counted in the quarter when the qualification was awarded. This release shows the number of awards broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification and level of qualification.

Limitations of data

Data are collected at the earliest point available, which is the first day of the next reporting period. This reduces the time between the activity and reporting on the activity.

We cannot guarantee the number of certificates sent to us is correct although we expect awarding organisations to send us the correct data. We do send summary data to awarding organisations for checking and confirmation. The figures reported in this release are reflective of the certificates issued by awarding organisations at the time of data collection

We carry out quality assurance procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data and challenge/question where necessary. We may also defer publication if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Comparisons in this release are only made with data from the same period of the previous year and the 12-month periods. This is because of seasonal changes in the number of certificates over the year.

At the point of accreditation, regulated qualifications are classified as one of 18 qualification types (including GCSEs and A levels). 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 release presents figures on seven of these qualification types: English for speakers of other languages, higher level, key skills, National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ), occupational qualifications, Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), vocationally related qualifications.

Geographical coverage

In this release we present data on certificates for all regulated qualifications at level 4 and above in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the April – June 2013 quarter. Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.⁶

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of certificates for any qualification are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases 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. The awarding organisations Edexcel and EDI merged to form Pearson Education Ltd, so qualifications by EDI will no longer appear in the data published but figures presented reflect both Edexcel and EDI qualifications, from this quarter onwards.

In this release, figures from WJEC have been revised since the January – March 2013 release. These revisions affect quarters Q2 2012 onwards. Figures from Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology have also been revised since April – June 2010.

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.

Confidentiality

To ensure the statistics in this publication protect confidentiality, all figures are rounded to the nearest 50 and values less than 25 will appear as '0'. A value of zero will appear as '-'.

⁶ The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42397.html

Rounding

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 collection and 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.

Users of these statistics

These statistics are of particular interest to recognised awarding organisations, and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) in understanding the landscape of vocational qualifications in order to inform policy decisions. Awarding organisations use these statistics for commercial reasons. Other users include government policy officials, academics, researchers, members of the public, other government departments in Wales and other interested parties and individual.

Related Statistics and Publications

This release is one of a suite of two publications that present quarterly statistics on certificates for regulated qualifications. The other release is called *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly*⁷, which covers certificates in NVQs, vocationally related qualifications, QCF qualifications and occupational qualifications at all levels. There will be some overlap between the figures in this release and those in the *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly* because qualifications covered in this release are a subset of the qualifications covered in the other release.

A number of other statistical releases and publications provide contextual information to this statistical release, including:

- Wolf Review of Vocational Education and BIS's review of adult literacy and numeracy provision, *New Challenges, New Chances* (December 2011): www.gov.uk/government/uploads which covers detailed proposals of the reform of further education for adults aged 19 and over.
- The *Quarterly Statistics Report* published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/files_ccc/Quarterly covers registration and certifications for qualifications taken in Scotland.
- 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 which sets out the minimum requirements to be included in a recognised English framework.

⁷ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-and-other-qualifications

- The Statistical First Release (SFR) published by the Department for Education: *SFR: GCSE and equivalent result in England 2011/12*: www.gov.uk/government/uploads covers pupil GCSE and equivalent regulated qualifications achievement in Schools at the end of KS4; and the *SFR: A Level and equivalent result in England, 2011/12*: www.gov.uk/government/uploads covers achievements in 16–18 year old pupils at schools and colleges in all level 3 qualifications.
- *The Quarterly Statistical First Release* published by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills reports on apprenticeship volumes: www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres which covers statistics on adult (19+) government funded participation, achievement and success rate for Further Education and Apprenticeships participation and achievements for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates issued in vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

Useful information

The raw data behind these statistics are available on our website.⁸

A glossary of terms is available in the next section for assistance in interpreting this release.

Our publication schedule of the next releases can be found on our website.⁹ Our *Statistical Publications Glossary* provides further details on sector subject area classifications and qualification types and levels, and is available on our website.¹⁰

A detailed guidance document and further information on data collection is also available on our website.¹¹

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.¹²

⁸ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-data

⁹ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/

¹⁰ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

¹¹ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-data

¹² www.register.ofqual.gov.uk

This release presents a new design to improve structure and usability for our users. Please note that we will continue to make changes reflecting users' needs and in future releases may revise the title and content of this release.

Glossary of terms

A level – also known as General Certificates of Education are available as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS). They are the qualifications that the majority of young people use to gain entry to university.

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

Accredited qualification – one that has met the relevant criteria as set by the regulators of qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Once approved for accreditation a qualification will be awarded 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.

Active qualification – a qualification where a certificate has been awarded.

Available qualification – a qualification eligible for an award or a qualification that has made an award even if it is no longer eligible (no longer available for students to enrol on). For the purpose of this release, a qualification is available until the certification end date or if an award has been certified during the reporting period.

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

Certificate/Certification – a formal acknowledgement of a student's achievement. This will be any award that is not graded as U, absent, or X (fail).

Certification end date – the last date on which a student may be issued with a certificate of achievement for the qualification.

GCSE – General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school leaving qualification in England. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 15–18 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

Level – Qualifications are assigned a level from Entry, Level 1 through to Level 8. Descriptions are available in the *Statistical Publications Glossary* on our website.

National Vocational Qualification – work-related, competence-based qualifications that cover a broad range of industry sectors and occupations, and are delivered in a workplace setting.

Other general – qualifications that assess a particular subject area, such as music or art, other than GCSEs, AS and A levels 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.

Qualifications and Credit Framework – provides 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 certificates. There are three sizes: award (1-12 credits), certificate (13-36 credits) or diploma (37 or more credits).

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.

Recognition – 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.

Register – the Register of Regulated Qualifications contains details of Recognised awarding organisations and regulated qualifications: www.register.ofqual.gov.uk

Regulated – 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, and specific dates set for the period for which the qualification will be accredited. The qualification is then said to be regulated.

Vocationally related qualification – 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.

Your feedback

If you use this statistical release, we would be interested in hearing what you use the statistics for and how well they meet your requirements. We also value your feedback on any aspect of these statistics, including content, timing and format.

We are continually striving to improve the quality and content of our statistical releases and we welcome your suggestions or comments. Please send your comments to the Statistics team at statistics@ofqual.gov.uk

Appendix

Table 1	Number of available higher level qualifications by type of qualification and per quarter
Table 2	Total number of certificates for higher level qualifications per quarter
Table 3	The 50 higher level qualifications with the highest number of certificates this quarter compared to the same quarter of last year
Table 4	The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates in higher level qualifications this quarter compared to the same quarter of last year
Table 5	Total number of certificates in higher level qualifications by sector subject area
Table 6	Total number of certificates in higher level qualifications by qualification type
Table 7	Total number of certificates in higher level qualifications by level

Table 1: Number of available higher level qualifications, 2007-8 to April – June 2013

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	English for speakers of other languages	Higher level	Key skills	NVQ	Occupational qualification	QCF	Vocationally related qualification	Total number of qualifications
2007-8	11	505	32	399	33	108		1,088
2008-9	12	545	32	365	37	160		1,151
2009-10	11	577	68	315	35	496		1,502
2010-11	10	554	78	291	35	1,117		2,085
2011-12	5	491	72	256	33	1,562		2,419
2012-13	4	419	72	239	33	1,721	1	2,489
Oct-Dec 2007	11	421	32	363	33	33		893
Jan-Mar 2008	11	446	32	364	33	46		932
Apr-Jun 2008	11	423	32	370	33	83		952
Jul-Sep 2008	11	502	32	372	33	108		1,058
Oct-Dec 2008	11	472	32	319	33	117		984
Jan-Mar 2009	12	510	32	328	36	135		1,053
Apr-Jun 2009	12	500	32	317	37	143		1,041
Jul-Sep 2009	11	505	32	286	36	154		1,024
Oct-Dec 2009	11	526	2	301	33	152		1,025
Jan-Mar 2010	10	545	6	301	33	222		1,117
Apr-Jun 2010	10	534	60	299	33	206		1,142
Jul-Sep 2010	10	540	67	290	33	489		1,429
Oct-Dec 2010	10	552	72	291	35	580		1,540
Jan-Mar 2011	9	540	78	264	33	773		1,697
Apr-Jun 2011	9	529	72	268	33	930		1,841
Jul-Sep 2011	9	504	72	267	35	1,100		1,987
Oct-Dec 2011	5	484	72	255	33	1,249		2,098
Jan-Mar 2012	5	446	72	249	33	1,338		2,143
Apr-Jun 2012	5	423	72	246	33	1,427		2,206
Jul-Sep 2012	5	419	72	244	33	1,554		2,327
Oct-Dec 2012	4	414	72	239	33	1,625		2,387
Jan-Mar 2013	4	411	72	224	29	1,725	1	2,466

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
 2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to December
- Blank cells indicate that there were no available qualifications

Table 2: Total certificates for higher level qualifications, 2007-8 to April – June 2013

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Total number of certificates
2007-8	99,200
2008-9	106,200
2009-10	123,900
2010-11	129,650
2011-12	129,350
2012-13	53,100
Oct-Dec 2007	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	48,200
Oct-Dec 2012	27,050
Jan-Mar 2013	26,050

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to December

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50

Table 3: The 50 higher level qualifications with the highest number of certificates, April – June 2013 (April – June 2012 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of certificates	
	April-June 2012	April-June 2013
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	350	1950
Cambridge ESOL Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (QCF)	900	1200
AAT Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF)	850	950
Pearson BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	650	650
Pearson BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Business (QCF)	200	550
CMI Level 5 Certificate in Management and Leadership (QCF)	800	500
Pearson Edexcel Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	50	500
Pearson BTEC Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	650	450
CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	2200	350
CMI Level 5 Award in Management and Leadership (QCF)	200	300
CFA UK Level 4 Certificate in Investment Management (QCF)	400	300
ILM Level 5 Award In Management (QCF)	150	300
Pearson BTEC Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	200	300
CIPS Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Purchasing and Supply	200	250
CMI Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	350	250
Cskills Awards Level 6 NVQ Diploma in Construction Site Management (QCF)	100	250
City & Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (QCF)	50	250
OCR Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	150	250
IFS Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers (QCF)	550	200
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 (QCF)	350	200
Ascentis Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	100	200
CII Level 6 Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	300	200
Pearson BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF)	50	200
CMI Level 5 Certificate in Police Management (QCF)	0	200
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (QCF)	150	200
HABC Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	0	200
CISI Level 4 Diploma in Investment Advice (QCF)	200	200
Pearson BTEC Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	600	150
CIPS Level 5 Advanced Diploma in Purchasing and Supply	100	150
Pearson Edexcel Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (QCF)	50	150
CIM Level 6 Professional Diploma in Marketing	150	150
ILM Level 5 Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring in Management (QCF)	150	150
Pearson Edexcel Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (QCF)	100	150
Pearson BTEC Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)	50	150
CII Level 4 Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning (QCF)	200	150
NCFE Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	0	150
Pearson Edexcel Level 4 NVQ in Supply Chain Management	100	150
Cskills Awards Level 6 NVQ Diploma in Controlling Lifting Operations - Planning Lifts (Construction)(QCF)	50	150
CIM Level 4 Professional Certificate in Marketing	100	150
City & Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	150	150
IAM Level 4 Diploma In School Business Management (QCF)	0	100
OCR Level 4 NVQ Diploma in Advice and Guidance (QCF)	100	100
ISTD Level 4 Diploma in Dance Education (QCF)	100	100
ILM Level 5 NVQ Diploma in Management (QCF)	100	100
CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	100	100
Pearson Edexcel Level 5 NVQ Diploma in Management (QCF)	100	100
NOCN Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	50	100
CMI Level 6 Award in Management and Leadership (QCF)	100	100
UWLQ Level 4 Diploma in Music Performance (QCF)	50	100
CII Level 4 Certificate in Discretionary Investment Management (QCF)	0	100

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
 2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to December
- Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0', value of 0 will appear as '-'.

Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates in higher level qualifications, April – June 2013 (April – June 2012 shown for comparison)

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates	
	April-June 2012	April-June 2013
Pearson Education Ltd	0	6,100
City and Guilds of London Institute	3,350	3,500
Chartered Management Institute	2,250	2,200
Institute of Leadership & Management	1,550	1,750
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	1,100	1,300
OCR	850	1,100
Association of Accounting Technicians	900	950
Chartered Insurance Institute	2,700	850
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply	350	550
Cskills Awards	350	500
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	600	450
Institute of Administrative Management	150	300
CFA Society of UK	400	300
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	100	300
ATHE Ltd	0	300
Chartered Institute of Marketing	250	300
Trinity College London	800	250
IFS School of Finance	600	250
Ascentis	100	250
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	500	250
National Open College Network	100	250
NCFE	100	200
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	150	200
University of West London	50	150
VTCT	150	150
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	150	150
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	50	150
Active IQ	100	150
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	150	100
ABC Awards	150	100
British Institute of Facilities Management	100	100
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	100	100
Institute of Sales and Marketing Management	0	100
International Dance Teachers Association	0	100
WAMITAB	150	100
Institute of Commercial Management	150	100
Royal Academy of Dance	100	100
Chartered Institute of Housing	0	50
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	200	50
Awarding Body for Vocational Achievement Ltd	0	50
The Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality	150	50
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	0	50
Royal Society for Public Health	50	50
Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in the UK	50	50
Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development	100	50
Mineral Products Qualifications Council	100	50
IMI Awards Ltd	100	50
London Centre of Marketing	50	50
Awarding Body for the Built Environment	0	50
NCC Education Services	0	50

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
 2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to December
- Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0', value of '0' will appear as '-'.

Table 5: Total number of certificates in higher level qualifications by sector subject area, 2007-8 to April – June 2013

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	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 certificates
2007-8	20,600	350	1,250	2,850	3,850	2,500	1,300	450	7,300	-	-	900	16,950	150	40,800	99,200
2008-9	20,550	800	1,150	3,300	4,750	2,050	1,500	450	9,750	-	0	500	17,500	200	43,650	106,200
2009-10	22,350	650	950	3,600	5,150	1,500	2,100	900	10,300	0	-	500	24,050	100	51,750	123,900
2010-11	19,900	300	700	3,350	3,450	1,450	1,500	1,100	10,900	0	0	400	28,150	50	58,400	129,650
2011-12	12,350	200	750	4,700	4,000	1,400	2,200	1,300	8,850	0	0	650	30,850	100	62,000	129,350
2012-13	5,100	50	250	1,000	1,400	300	800	450	2,200	0	-	350	13,500	50	27,700	53,100
Oct-Dec 2007	4,550	50	200	350	650	350	300	0	200	-	-	400	3,650	0	6,350	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	4,700	100	300	150	500	50	300	50	400	-	-	50	4,300	0	8,950	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	5,200	50	300	200	550	400	400	50	450	-	-	400	3,850	50	5,450	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	6,150	150	400	2,150	2,200	1,650	300	350	6,300	-	-	50	5,150	50	20,000	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	5,100	100	250	450	550	200	350	50	450	-	-	300	3,000	0	6,300	17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	4,400	250	250	350	550	450	200	50	1,200	-	-	50	2,650	0	11,500	21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	4,750	0	200	250	950	100	350	50	1,150	-	-	50	2,850	50	6,000	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	6,250	400	450	2,300	2,650	1,300	600	300	6,950	-	-	100	9,000	150	19,800	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	5,400	50	200	500	950	400	550	100	350	-	-	350	4,750	0	8,800	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	5,200	200	250	300	850	200	600	200	800	0	-	50	4,900	50	11,100	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	5,250	50	150	200	1,000	50	300	150	1,100	-	-	50	5,850	0	9,000	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	6,500	350	350	2,650	2,400	850	600	450	8,100	-	-	50	8,550	50	22,850	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	5,150	50	150	400	600	400	500	200	950	0	0	300	5,700	0	10,650	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	4,650	50	100	250	550	150	350	250	1,300	-	-	50	6,050	0	14,800	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011	4,450	50	200	350	550	50	250	100	1,050	-	-	50	6,600	0	12,450	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	5,700	200	200	2,300	1,800	850	450	500	7,600	-	-	50	9,800	0	20,450	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011	3,050	50	150	500	700	350	400	200	1,250	0	-	150	5,900	0	13,800	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	3,050	50	150	500	500	200	500	250	950	-	0	100	7,250	0	14,100	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	2,350	50	250	500	700	150	450	300	2,800	0	-	150	6,850	0	12,500	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	3,900	100	250	3,200	2,100	750	850	500	3,800	-	-	250	10,850	50	21,600	48,200
Oct-Dec 2012	2,500	0	200	600	700	150	450	200	1,300	-	-	200	6,050	0	14,550	27,050
Jan-Mar 2013	2,600	50	50	400	650	150	350	250	900	0	-	100	7,400	0	13,150	26,050

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations

2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0', value of '0' will appear as '-'.
 Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 6: Total number of certificates in higher level qualifications by qualification type, 2007-8 to April – June 2013

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	English for speakers of other languages	Higher level	Key skills	NVQ	Occupational qualification	QCF	Total number of certificates
2007-8	3,600	52,200	150	31,100	4,150	8,050	99,200
2008-9	1,450	44,650	200	31,650	4,300	23,900	106,200
2009-10	700	46,600	100	34,450	4,250	37,800	123,900
2010-11	0	30,300	50	25,800	3,250	70,250	129,650
2011-12	-	16,850	0	8,600	900	103,000	129,350
2012-13	50	4,050	-	1,750	100	47,150	53,100
Oct-Dec 2007	300	10,150	0	5,450	850	350	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	1,100	9,000	0	7,500	950	1,400	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	1,300	6,800	50	7,100	1,000	1,050	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	900	26,300	50	11,050	1,350	5,250	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	200	7,100	0	6,450	1,000	2,450	17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	250	8,900	0	7,600	1,000	4,100	21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	400	4,600	50	6,100	1,000	4,600	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	600	24,050	150	11,550	1,250	12,750	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	300	7,900	0	7,250	1,050	5,850	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	350	8,250	50	8,650	1,000	6,400	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	0	6,850	0	7,150	950	8,250	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	50	23,600	50	11,400	1,250	17,350	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	0	6,800	0	6,800	950	10,500	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	0	7,500	0	7,500	800	12,800	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011	-	3,900	0	6,100	750	15,300	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	-	12,100	0	5,400	750	31,600	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011	-	4,000	0	3,250	400	18,800	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	-	3,600	-	2,300	250	21,400	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	-	2,500	-	1,650	100	22,800	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	-	6,700	0	1,400	100	40,000	48,200
Oct-Dec 2012	0	2,000	-	1,000	50	23,950	27,050
Jan-Mar 2013	0	2,050	-	750	50	23,200	26,050

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0', value of '0' will appear as '-'.
Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 7: Total number of certificates in higher level qualifications by level, 2007-8 to April – June 2013 and vocational qualifications, from 2007-8 to April – June 2013

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Total number of certificates
2007-8	60,500	27,300	7,400	4,000	-	99,200
2008-9	62,000	31,500	7,650	5,000	50	106,200
2009-10	72,450	35,950	8,300	7,000	150	123,900
2010-11	78,350	35,650	9,150	6,250	200	129,650
2011-12	74,950	34,950	9,550	9,600	300	129,350
2012-13	30,700	13,850	5,200	3,200	150	53,100
Oct-Dec 2007	12,000	3,550	850	700	-	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	13,550	3,650	2,150	550	-	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	12,550	3,000	600	1,150	-	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	22,350	17,100	3,850	1,600	-	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	11,250	3,750	1,150	1,100	-	17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	13,500	5,300	2,000	1,100	-	21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	11,800	3,500	550	850	0	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	25,450	19,050	3,900	1,950	0	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	13,450	6,250	1,350	1,250	50	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	16,400	5,700	1,000	1,550	50	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	14,450	6,500	800	1,500	0	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	28,150	17,500	5,200	2,750	50	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	15,700	6,200	1,650	1,450	100	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	18,150	7,450	1,450	1,550	50	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011	16,750	6,350	1,850	1,150	0	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	27,750	15,700	4,200	2,100	100	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	48,200
Oct-Dec 2012	16,400	6,500	2,400	1,700	50	27,050
Jan-Mar 2013	14,300	7,350	2,800	1,450	100	26,050

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations

2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0', value of '0' will appear as '-'.
Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

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