

# Statistical Release

## Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly January to March 2016

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### Key points

This release presents information on the range and number of, and certificates issued for, regulated qualifications during January to March 2016 (2016 Q1), excluding GCSEs and A levels. The key findings are:

- Just under 1.3 million certificates were awarded, a decrease of 5% on the same quarter of 2015 and the lowest number of certificates awarded during quarter 1 since 2011.
- The number of available qualifications this quarter decreased by 1% from 21,924 in the previous quarter to 21,676.
- The qualification with the most certificates this quarter was Cambridge International Level 1/ Level 2 certificate in First Language English with 37,700 certificates awarded.
- The number of certificates issued for Level 1 qualifications decreased by 8% (from 325,500 to 299,750) and Level 2 qualifications decreased by 9% (from 629,000 to 571,100) on the same quarter in 2015. The number of certificates issued for Level 3 qualifications increased by 2% (from 187,400 to 191,300).
- The number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above has decreased by 2% on the same quarter in 2015 (from 26,250 to 25,600). The decrease was mainly in qualifications in the sector of Education and training.
- The highest number of certificates awarded by Sector Subject Area of qualification in this quarter was for Preparation for Life and Work (374,500 certificates).

## Introduction

Ofqual regulates qualifications and assessments in England and until May 2016 (that is, including the period covered by this bulletin), it also regulated vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. This bulletin includes data on vocational and other qualifications on behalf of Qualifications Wales, the regulator in Wales, and on 'other general' qualifications (see glossary) and entry level qualifications on behalf of the regulator in Northern Ireland (CCEA). Ofqual's objectives include promoting public confidence in and awareness of regulated qualifications.

Regulated qualifications are classified into 19 qualification types with an associated 'level', which is indicative of the level of demand. The table below shows the current levels for each type of qualification and the relationship between them. Level 3 is at about the same level of demand, but not necessarily the same size, as an A level, and Level 2 is at about the same level of demand as a GCSE at grade C or above.

On 1 October 2015, Ofqual withdrew the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) requirements. This means that from that date, the QCF type has ceased to exist. However, for administrative reasons, awarding organisations can still use the QCF type on the system for new qualifications when no other type is appropriate, until our new system is introduced this summer.

### Table of qualification types and levels

Qualification type	Current levels
Advanced Extension Award	Level 3
Basic skills	Entry level, Levels 1 and 2
English for speakers of other languages	Entry level, Levels 1, 2 and 3
Entry level	Entry
Free-standing mathematics qualification	Levels 1, 2, 3
Functional skills	Entry level, Levels 1 and 2
GCE A level	Level 3
GCE AS qualification	Level 3
GCSE (9 to 1)	Level 1/Level 2
GCSE	Level 1/Level 2
Higher level	Levels 4 to 8
Key skills	Levels 1 to 4
NVQ	Levels 1 to 5
'Other general' qualification	Levels 1, 1/2, 2 and 3
Occupational qualification	Levels 1 to 4
Principal learning	Levels 1 to 3
Project	Levels 1 to 3
QCF	Entry level, Levels 1 to 8
Vocationally related qualification	Entry level, Levels 1 to 8

This release presents data on regulated vocational and other qualifications<sup>1</sup> (coloured blue in the table above) for both the January to March 2016 quarter and the 12-month period ending March 2016.

This release does not include the rest of the qualifications given in the above table - Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A levels, project and principal learning, on which data are published separately. Neither does it include university degrees, which Ofqual does not regulate.

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<sup>1</sup> Vocational and other qualifications are taken in order to develop and demonstrate the skills needed for a particular job, to improve career progression, or for personal growth or leisure purposes. They include some qualifications taken in schools, sixth forms and colleges, for example Level 1/ Level 2 Certificates and BTECs.

## External influences

Changes in the number of qualifications available and the number of certifications are likely to be influenced by changes to government policies in England, including changes in government funding, performance tables and study programmes.

### Public funding changes by the Skills Funding Agency<sup>2</sup>

In the last few years, the funding rules for vocational qualifications aimed at students who are over 19 years of age have seen a number of changes that are likely to have had some effect on the number of certificates awarded each year. The Skills Funding Agency (SFA) introduced new business rules<sup>3</sup> in September 2013 to target funding at qualifications that most closely align with the government's skills policy. A particular aspect of these rules was the withdrawal of funding for qualifications with low enrolment. The funding rule changes for 2014/15 included a requirement that qualifications have at least 15 credits for adult learning and have clear outcomes for progression to employment or the next level of learning. New funding rules<sup>4</sup> have been introduced during 2015/16. However, it is too early to find any visible impact of the new rules on the statistics reported in this bulletin. Throughout these statistics, there are examples of continued declines in the numbers of certifications for qualifications which do not meet these rules, and from which funding has therefore been removed.

### Legal entitlement and local flexibility

Only certain qualifications are now eligible for funding through the legal entitlement<sup>5</sup> for 2016 to 2017. This is for learners aged 16 to 23 who are studying their first qualification at level 2 and/or level 3. These include the qualifications that are included in the Performance Tables.

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<sup>2</sup> The Skills Funding Agency funds adult skills training for further education in England. It supports over 1,000 colleges, private training organisations and employers with more than £4 billion of funding each year.

<sup>3</sup> Skills Funding Statement 2013–2016: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfa-funding-rules>

<sup>4</sup>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/414800/Funding\\_Rules\\_v2\\_summary\\_of\\_changes\\_March\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414800/Funding_Rules_v2_summary_of_changes_March_2015.pdf)

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/510279/TheLegalEntitlements\\_v2\\_Mar2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/510279/TheLegalEntitlements_v2_Mar2016.pdf)

The SFA is working towards full devolution, putting greater power in the hands of local authorities to meet skills gaps for their area. The latest changes, for 2016 to 2017<sup>6</sup>, set out how qualifications that do not qualify for legal entitlement, outside of apprenticeships, are eligible for funded delivery as part of its 'local flexibility' policy. The local flexibility policy is based on the view that local areas, colleges and other training organisations are best placed to decide on the most appropriate type of training provision to respond to local needs. To support local area needs and deliver agreed local outcomes, funding allocations will be decided by local authorities - and colleges and other training organisations will decide on the most appropriate form of training provision. This may or may not include qualifications.

Advanced learner loans are now available for all learners aged over 24, and will be available for learners aged 19+ from 1 August 2016 for level 3 to level 6 qualifications<sup>7</sup>.

These changes are beginning to have an impact on types of qualifications taken, the numbers of certifications and the risks those qualifications face.

### **School performance tables<sup>8</sup>**

Over the last few years, there has been a considerable change in the way that qualifications are used in schools following the Wolf Report<sup>9</sup>. In 2013, any qualification on the section 96<sup>10</sup> funding list could count towards the school and

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<sup>6</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/510278/Qualification\\_Eligibility\\_Principles\\_v1.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/510278/Qualification_Eligibility_Principles_v1.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-learner-loans-qualifications-catalogue>

<sup>8</sup> The key government benchmark for the attainment of Key Stage 4 pupils (aged 15 to 16) is the percentage of pupils gaining the equivalent of at least five A\* to C GCSE passes, including English and mathematics, though this is changing. Some other qualifications can also be counted in performance tables.

<sup>9</sup> Review of Vocational Education – The Wolf Report (March 2011) considered how the Department for Education can improve vocational education for those aged 14 to 19:  
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/180504/DFE-00031-2011.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180504/DFE-00031-2011.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Where section 96 approval has been awarded to a qualification, it enables that qualification to be taught in funded institutions, such as maintained schools, academies and post-16 institutions, and for public funds to be used for these courses and qualifications.

college performance tables at key stage 4 and key stage 5. Since 2014, only a small number of non-GCSEs or A levels have been included in performance tables. This is likely to have led to changes in schools' and colleges' curriculum and qualifications choices, away from qualifications that are not included in performance tables.

Moreover, qualifications in these tables were previously weighted; larger qualifications gained a higher rating and could be worth more than one qualification in the performance table. This is no longer the case and all qualifications now count as one qualification, making larger qualifications less attractive. Examples of declines in numbers of certifications for some qualifications as a result of these changes can be seen in these statistics.

## Table of key statistics

	October - December 2015	January - March 2016	% change on previous qtr
<b>Number of available qualifications</b>	21,924	21,676	-1
<b>Number of awarding organisations</b>			
<b>with available qualifications this quarter</b>	160	155	-3
<b>and certificates awarded in the last 12 months</b>	154	150	-3
<b>Number of available qualifications by type</b>			
Basic skills	6	4	-33
English for speakers of other languages	169	142	-16
Entry level	173	175	1
Free-standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0
Functional skills	203	221	9
Higher level	86	81	-6
Key skills	97	91	-6
NVQ	94	48	-49
Occupational qualification	7	11	57
Other general qualification	660	663	0
QCF	19,855	19,669	-1
Vocationally related qualification	560	557	-1
<b>Number of available qualifications by level</b>			
Entry level	2,706	2,666	-1
Level 1	3,023	2,991	-1
Level 1/2	181	194	7
Level 2	6,953	6,888	-1
Level 3	6,373	6,246	-2
Level 4	1,496	1,496	0
Level 5	709	708	0
Level 6	256	255	0
Level 7	220	225	2
Level 8	7	7	0
<b>Number of available qualifications by sector subject area</b>			
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	849	840	-1
Arts, media and publishing	1,567	1,503	-4
Business, administration, finance and law	2,566	2,555	0
Construction, planning and the built environment	1,348	1,367	1
Education and training	1,218	1,207	-1
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	2,245	2,210	-2
Health, public services and care	2,449	2,473	1
History, philosophy and theology	46	46	0
Information and communication technology	469	475	1
Languages, literature and culture	1,177	1,070	-9
Leisure, travel and tourism	957	942	-2
Preparation for life and work	4,184	4,170	0
Retail and commercial enterprise	2,628	2,597	-1
Science and mathematics	194	194	0
Social sciences	27	27	0

## Number of certificates awarded

	January - March 2015	January - March 2016	% change on previous year's same quarter	April 2014 - March 2015	April 2015 - March 2016	% change on previous 12 months
<b>Overall number of certificates awarded</b>	1,362,600	1,296,050	-5	8,631,800	8,109,800	-6
<b>Number of certificates by type of qualification</b>						
Basic skills	50	0		1,800	50	-97
English for speakers of other languages	72,650	52,850	-27	374,950	230,450	-39
Entry level	3,150	2,300	-27	85,400	72,750	-15
Free-standing mathematics qualification	550	450	-18	35,900	37,250	4
Functional skills	186,100	158,650	-15	1,067,100	995,150	-7
Higher level	1,450	2,950	103	5,750	9,950	73
Key skills	16,650	15,700	-6	113,200	97,650	-14
NVQ	700	200	-71	4,550	2,300	-49
Occupational qualification	0	0		0-	0-	
Other general qualification	93,700	95,600	2	948,800	1,262,100	33
QCF	981,050	960,550	-2	5,825,300	5,357,750	-8
Vocationally related qualification	6,650	6,850	3	169,150	44,400	-74
<b>Number of certificates by qualification level</b>						
Entry level	148,400	146,050	-2	981,100	953,750	-3
Level 1	325,500	299,750	-8	1,972,100	1,767,500	-10
Level 1/ Level 2	46,100	62,250	35	439,150	894,050	104
Level 2	629,000	571,100	-9	3,749,300	2,994,200	-20
Level 3	187,400	191,300	2	1,367,300	1,364,650	0
Level 4	12,050	13,050	8	59,650	71,400	20
Level 5	9,750	9,300	-5	46,150	46,000	0
Level 6	2,700	2,450	-9	10,950	12,600	15
Level 7	1,600	750	-53	5,850	5,350	-9
Level 8	100	50	-50	300	250	-17
<b>Number of certificates by sector subject area</b>						
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	19,400	7,800	-60	114,100	105,800	-7
Arts, media and publishing	107,750	128,050	19	894,100	837,050	-6
Business, administration, finance and law	98,600	78,550	-20	620,300	512,900	-17
Construction, planning and the built environment	47,600	48,600	2	256,000	279,900	9
Education and training	17,600	17,150	-3	95,300	89,150	-6
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	73,150	68,550	-6	398,250	391,550	-2
Health, public services and care	259,800	253,700	-2	1,203,950	1,175,850	-2
History, philosophy and theology	550	600	9	33,950	31,250	-8
Information and communication technology	48,900	63,200	29	490,900	423,700	-14
Languages, literature and culture	78,200	78,650	1	484,850	595,550	23
Leisure, travel and tourism	51,550	50,000	-3	456,700	411,300	-10
Preparation for life and work	413,550	374,500	-9	2,577,350	2,359,150	-8
Retail and commercial enterprise	133,600	114,850	-14	670,850	584,550	-13
Science and mathematics	12,250	11,800	-4	328,750	302,500	-8
Social sciences	100	100	0	6,400	9,600	50
<b>Number of certificates by country</b>						
England	1,237,250	1,181,800	-4	7,775,100	7,301,500	-6
Wales	94,050	86,200	-8	627,950	606,600	-3
Northern Ireland	31,300	28,100	-10	228,750	201,700	-12

Note: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50. Figures are rounded independently and may not sum to the total.

## Analysis

This section presents figures on the number of qualifications that are available for students to enrol on (even if only for one day during the quarter), and those that may have expired (where students can no longer enrol) but which remain active until the final certificate has been issued.

### Qualifications available

This quarter, the number of available qualifications decreased by 1% compared to the previous quarter, from 21,924 to 21,676 (see the table of key statistics on page 7). The number of available qualifications decreased or stayed the same for all types of qualifications, except for entry level, functional skills and occupational qualifications. The change in the number of available qualifications resulted from 412 new qualifications becoming available (of which 302 were classified as Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) qualifications, and 54 were vocationally related qualifications) and 660 qualifications expiring (most of these being QCF (488)). Nearly two thirds (63%) of the qualifications that expired had no certifications in the 12 months ending December 2015. The 412 newly available qualifications are offered by 62 awarding organisations.

Table 1 of the appendix presents the number of available qualifications over the past five years, broken down by type.

### Awarding organisations

The number of recognised awarding organisations (155) offering regulated qualifications is slightly lower than in the previous quarter (160). The number of organisations that issued certificates this quarter was 150 (from 154 last quarter). This is similar to the number of awarding organisations offering regulated qualifications that issued certificates in quarter 1 of 2015 (156).

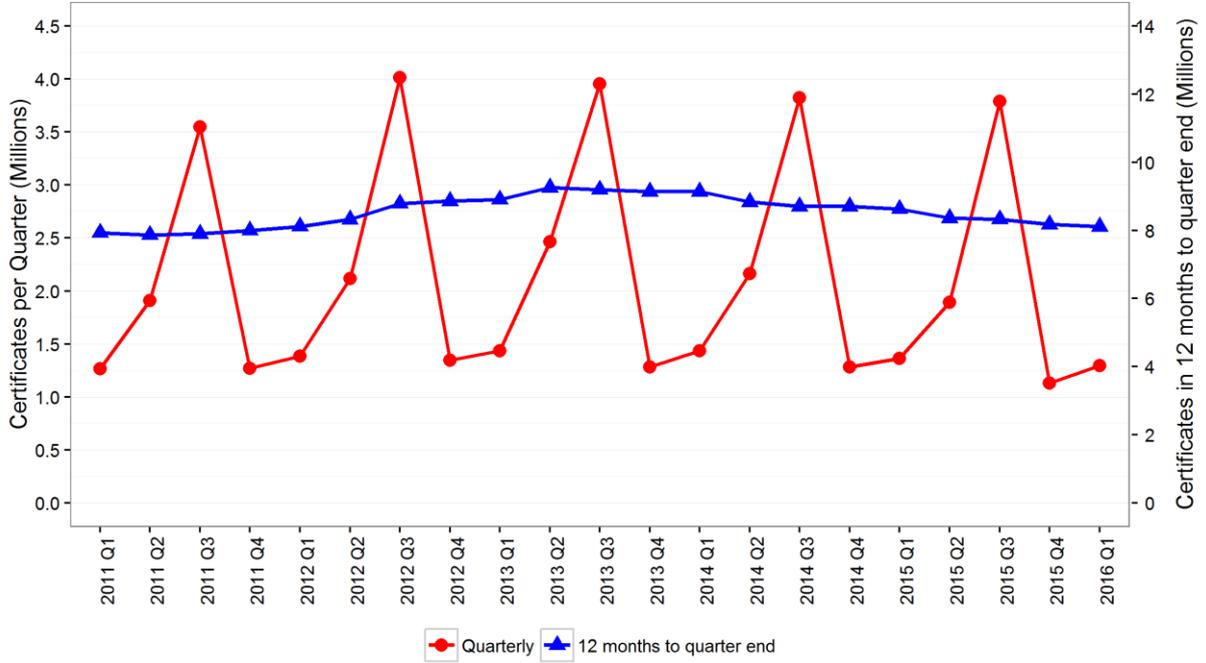
### Certificates issued

There was a decrease of 5% in the number of certificates issued compared with the same quarter of 2015 (from 1.4 million to 1.3 million). The number of certificates awarded this quarter is the lowest for quarter 1 (January to March) since 2011.

Figure 1 illustrates that, over the past five years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of certificates awarded, but over the past 21 months there has been a decline back to the level of 2012. The overall number of certificates issued has risen from 7.9 million in the 12 months ending March 2011 to 8.6 million in the 12 months ending March 2015 and 8.1 million in the 12 months ending March 2016. The figure for the 12 months ending March 2016 is therefore a 2% increase on five years earlier, but a decrease of 6% compared to the same period a year earlier.

The number of certificates issued in each quarter since January to March 2011, and in the 12-month period to each quarter end, is presented in table 2 of the appendix.

Figure 1: Number of certificates issued, January - March 2011 (2011 Q1) to January - March 2016 (2016 Q1)



## Certificates by country

This quarter, 91% of all certificates issued were in England, 7% were in Wales and 2% were in Northern Ireland (see figure 2). This distribution is similar to the same quarter of 2015.

**Figure 2: Number of certificates issued in the quarter and in the 12 months to March 2016 by geographical area (with % change on previous year's same period)**

Country	Proportion of total	January - March 2016	% change on previous year's same quarter	12 months to March 2016	% change in 12 months
England	91	1,181,800	-4	7,301,500	-6
Wales	7	86,200	-8	606,600	-3
Northern Ireland	2	28,100	-10	201,700	-12
<b>Total number of certificates issued</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,296,050</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>8,109,800</b>	<b>-6</b>

There was a decrease in the number of certificates awarded this quarter in all three countries compared with the same quarter in 2015. Over the 12 months to March 2016, there was a decrease of 6% in England, 3% in Wales and 12% in Northern Ireland.

## Certificates by type of qualification

Figure 3 presents the number of certificates issued by qualification type in this quarter and during the 12 months ending March 2016. Table 3 of the appendix presents the number of certificates issued each quarter since January to March 2011 by type of qualification. Most certificates issued this quarter were for QCF qualifications (960,550 certificates out of 1.30 million, or 74%). Since the QCF was introduced in 2010, the number of awards of qualifications meeting QCF requirements has grown rapidly. This growth followed the SFA's preference to mainly fund qualifications on the QCF.

The number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications decreased by 2% this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2015. This is the eighth consecutive quarter where the number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications has decreased, compared to the same quarter the year before. Ofqual withdrew the QCF requirements at the beginning Q3 2015, and the SFA withdrew its preference for funding them.

**Figure 3: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to March 2016 by qualification type (with % change on previous year's same period)**

Qualification type	January - March 2016	% change on same qtr 2015	12 months to March 2016	% change in 12 months
Basic skills	0	-100	50	-98
ESOL	52,850	-27	230,450	-39
Entry level	2,300	-27	72,750	-15
Free-standing mathematics qualification	450	-21	37,250	4
Functional skills	158,650	-15	995,150	-7
Higher level	2,950	107	9,950	73
Key skills	15,700	-6	97,650	-14
NVQ	200	-72	2,300	-49
Occupational qualification	0~	100	0~	-50
Other general qualification	95,600	2	1,262,100	33
QCF	960,550	-2	5,357,750	-8
Vocationally related qualification	6,850	3	44,400	-74
<b>Total number of certificates</b>	<b>1,296,050</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>8,109,800</b>	<b>-6</b>

Key: ESOL: English for speakers of other languages; NVQ: National vocational qualification; QCF: Qualifications and credit framework.

The number of certificates awarded for English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) qualifications decreased by 27% compared with the same quarter of 2015. It is the fifth quarter where the number of certificates for ESOL qualifications has decreased, compared to the same quarter the year before. The 12-month trend shows a decrease of 39% compared to the 12 months ending March 2015. This is likely to be due to a change in the funding arrangements for ESOL qualifications. From December 2014, the SFA stopped funding the existing ESOL qualifications. From January 2015, funding for ESOL qualifications is only available when a student completes a QCF ESOL Skills for Life qualification.<sup>11</sup>

### Certificating awarding organisations

Over the last 12 months, 150 awarding organisations issued certificates, representing 97% of the awarding organisations with available qualifications.

Figure 4 shows the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates this quarter, along with figures for the 12 months to quarter end. The combined total number of certificates issued by these ten organisations represents 61% of all awards during this quarter (784,150 out of 1.30 million certificates).

<sup>11</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/esol-qualifications-interim-arrangements/new-qualifications-and-credit-framework-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-skills-for-life-qualifications-funding-arrangements-for-2014-to-2015](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esol-qualifications-interim-arrangements/new-qualifications-and-credit-framework-english-for-speakers-of-other-languages-skills-for-life-qualifications-funding-arrangements-for-2014-to-2015)

**Figure 4: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to March 2016 for the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates (with % change on previous year's same period)**

Awarding organisation	January – March 2016	% change on same qtr 2015	12 months to March 2016	% change in 12 months
City and Guilds of London Institute	196,600	-18	1,283,800	-9
Pearson Education Ltd	174,350	-24	1,795,950	-17
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	61,150	-14	250,350	-15
NCFE	58,000	-5	331,400	-7
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	57,000	-13	255,500	-3
Cambridge English Language Assessment	53,500	2	293,250	36
OCR	52,650	-25	440,600	-27
Trinity College London	46,050	64	208,100	16
Qualsafe Awards	45,700	15	160,700	17
Cambridge International Examinations	39,200	41	292,450	74
<b>Total number of certificates for the 10 awarding organisations</b>	<b>784,150</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>5,312,050</b>	<b>-9</b>

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Edexcel and Education Development International (EDI).

Six of the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates recorded decreases this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015.

- OCR had a decrease of 25% in the number of certificates awarded (from 70,500 to 52,650). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 46,950 to 34,050).
- Pearson Education Ltd had a decrease of 24% in the number of certificates awarded (from 228,650 to 174,350). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 118,350 to 81,150) and functional skills (82,000 to 62,250).
- City and Guilds of London institute also had a decrease in the number of certificates they awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter of 2015 (from 238,650 to 196,600). Most of this decrease is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded in QCF qualifications (from 151,450 to 122,200).
- The increase in certificates awarded this quarter by Trinity College London (from 28,150 to 46,050) is mainly due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded in QCF (from 12,650 to 22,700) and ESOL (from 15,500 to 23,350) qualifications.
- The increase in certificates awarded this quarter by Cambridge International Examinations (from 27,900 to 39,200) is mainly due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded for the Level 1/ Level 2 certificate in first language English (from 26,200 to 37,700).

- The number of certificates awarded by Qualsafe Awards increased by 15% this quarter (from 39,650 to 45,700). This increase is mainly due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded in the sub-sector of health and social care (37,700 to 43,100).

The 50 organisations that awarded the highest numbers of qualifications this quarter are shown in table 4 of the appendix.

### Certificates by level of qualification

This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months ending March 2016, by level of qualification. Each regulated qualification has a level between Entry level and Level 8, which indicates the broad level of demand of the qualification.<sup>12</sup>

Figure 5 gives a breakdown of the number of certificates by level of qualification.

**Figure 5: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to March 2016 by qualification level (with % change on previous year's same period)**

Qualification type	January – March 2016	% change on same qtr 2015	12 months to March 2016	% change in 12 months
Entry level	146,050	-2	953,750	-3
Level 1	299,750	-8	1,767,500	-10
Level 1/ Level 2	62,250	35	894,050	104
Level 2	571,100	-9	2,994,200	-20
Level 3	191,300	2	1,364,650	0
Level 4	13,050	8	71,400	20
Level 5	9,300	-4	46,000	0
Level 6	2,450	-9	12,600	15
Level 7	750	-54	5,350	-8
Level 8	50	-61	12,600	-16
<b>Total number of certificates</b>	<b>1,296,050</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>8,109,800</b>	<b>-6</b>

The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications has declined year-on-year for the eleventh consecutive quarter (compared to the same quarter the year before). The number of certificates issued for Level 1 decreased by 8 percent and the number of certificates issued for Level 2 decreased by 9%. The decline in both levels this quarter, compared to the same quarter in 2015, is partly because of a decrease in the number of certificates awarded in Functional skills (from 86,550 to 72,150 for level 1) and QCF (from 505,000 to 470,350 for level 2).

<sup>12</sup> Further details on comparing qualification levels are available on Ofqual's website: [www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean](http://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean)

Compared to the same quarter last year, there was an increase of 35% in the number of certificates awarded for Level 1/ Level 2 qualifications (from 46,100 to 62,250). There was a very large increase in the number of Level 1/Level 2 qualifications awarded in the last 15 months compared to 2014, reflecting the switch by many schools to Level 1/Level 2 certificates instead of GCSEs.

As mentioned at the start of this report, the number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 4 and above decreased by 2% this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015 (from 26,250 to 25,600), with the decrease mainly occurring in education and training (from 3,600 to 3,200).

Table 5 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded by qualification level in each quarter from January to March 2011 to this quarter.

### Certificates by qualification

This quarter 8,805 qualifications had certificates issued, representing 41% of all available qualifications. This is similar to the same quarter of 2015. The 50 qualifications with the most certificates awarded this quarter are listed in table 6 of the appendix.

The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued this quarter and in the 12 months ending March 2016 are shown in figure 6.

**Figure 6: The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates awarded this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of March 2016 (figures for the 12 months to the end of March 2015 shown for comparison)**

Qualification	Number of certificates					
	January – March 2015	January – March 2016	% change quarter	12 months to the end of March 2015	12 months to the end of March 2016	% change 12 months
Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English	26,200	37,700	44	131,400	227,350	73
CIEH Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	34,250	29,250	-15	146,050	122,200	-16
BCS Level 2 Certificate In IT Application Skills (QCF)	9,650	28,850	199	16,350	78,450	380
QA Level 2 Award In Emergency First Aid At Work 2013 (QCF)	20,900	24,050	15	75,200	86,300	15
TCL Entry Level Certificate In ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3) (ESOL)	8,250	19,700	139	39,900	50,800	27
Pearson Level 1 Award In Mathematics at Level 1 (FS)	16,200	15,400	-5	70,550	75,650	7
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	15,300	15,350	0	54,400	56,950	5
BIIAB Level 2 Award For Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	11,750	11,800	0	41,400	34,800	-16
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	14,900	11,600	-22	58,600	49,800	-15
City & Guilds Level 1 Award In Mathematics at level 1 (FS)	13,500	11,000	-19	69,300	67,150	-3

The qualification with the most certificates issued this quarter was the Cambridge International Examinations Level 1/ Level 2 certificate in first language English with 37,700 certificates awarded. This is an increase of 44% compared to the same quarter of 2015 when there were 26,200 certificates awarded.

Six of the qualifications on the list were QCF qualifications. The qualification with the largest increase, based on the number of certificates awarded, was BCS level 2 certificate in IT application skills with an increase of more 19,200 certificates (from 9,650 in 2015 to 28,850 in 2016).

### **Certificates by Sector Subject Area**

Regulated qualifications are allocated by the awarding organisations to one of 15 sector subject areas. This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months ending March 2016, by the sector subject area of the qualification.

Figure 7 shows the areas ordered by size, in terms of the number of certificates issued this quarter, with the largest sector subject area first.

The highest number of certificates was issued in the Preparation for Life and Work sector (374,500, representing 29% of the total issued this quarter and 29% of the total issued in the 12 months ending March 2016). However, this sector had the largest decrease in the actual number of certificates awarded this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2015, with a 9% decrease (from 413,550 certificates to 374,500). The majority of this decrease is for certificates in the foundations for learning and life sub-sector (from 370,550 to 337,450).

The largest increase in the actual number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015 was in Arts, media and publishing (from 107,750 to 128,050). This is due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded for the performing arts sub-sector (from 99,050 to 121,000). The largest percentage increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2015 was Information and communication technology (29%). This was due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded for the ICT for users sub-sector (from 43,550 to 57,750).

The largest percentage decrease was in business, administration, finance and law (from 98,600 to 78,550) and agriculture, horticulture and animal care (from 19,400 to 7,800). Part of the decrease in the business, administration, finance and law sector this quarter is due to the decrease in the number of certificates awarded by Pearson Education Ltd (from 26,400 to 12,300).

**Figure 7: Number of certificates by sector subject area of qualification in the quarter January - March 2016 and in the 12 months to the end of March 2016**

Sector subject area	January - March 2016	% change for quarter	12 months to the end of March 2016	% change for 12 months
Preparation for Life and Work	374,500	-9	2,359,150	-8
Health, Public Services and Care	253,700	-2	1,175,850	-2
Arts, Media and Publishing	128,050	19	837,050	-6
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	114,850	-14	584,550	-13
Languages, Literature and Culture	78,650	1	595,550	23
Business, Administration, Finance and Law	78,550	-20	512,900	-17
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	68,550	-6	391,550	-2
Information and Communication Technology	63,200	29	423,700	-14
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	50,000	-3	411,300	-10
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	48,600	2	279,900	9
Education and Training	17,150	-2	89,150	-6
Science and Mathematics	11,800	-4	302,500	-8
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	7,800	-60	105,800	-7
History, Philosophy and Theology	600	10	31,250	-8
Social Sciences	100	-16	9,600	50
<b>Total number of certificates</b>	<b>1,296,050</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>8,109,800</b>	<b>-6</b>

Table 7 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by sector subject area by quarter from January to March 2011 to this quarter. Table 8 of the appendix gives a more detailed breakdown of the sector subject areas for these certificates.

### Certificates issued in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The overall number of certificates awarded has decreased for all three countries for the 12-month period to March 2016 (see figure 2).

Figure 8, shows that the QCF qualifications dominate in England (67%), Wales (48%) and Northern Ireland (74%). Compared to the same period in 2015, these numbers have decreased in England but have increased in Wales and Northern Ireland.

The number of certificates issued for functional skills qualifications in Wales and Northern Ireland increased in the 12 months ending March 2016 compared with the same period in 2015, although the total number of certificates awarded in Northern Ireland is very small (because learners in Northern Ireland tend to use Essential

Skills qualifications). For the same period, the number of certificates awarded in England decreased by 7%.

**Figure 8: Number of certificates in the 12 months to the end of March 2016, by country and type of qualification**

Qualification type	England		12 month % change	Wales		12 month % change	Northern Ireland		12 month % change
	Number	% of total		Number	% of total		Number	% of total	
Basic skills	50	0	-97	0	0		0	0	-100
English for speakers of other languages	222,700	3	-39	6,100	1	17	1,650	1	-64
Entry Level	53,750	1	-11	12,400	2	-20	6,600	3	-30
Free-standing mathematics qualification	36,950	1	4	250	0	-6	0	0	50
Functional skills	982,450	13	-7	12,450	2	26	250	0	59
Higher level	9,300	0	67	350	0	412	300	0	131
Key skills	9,650	0	-49	87,150	14	4	850	0	-92
NVQ	2,250	0	-45	50	0	-73	0	0	-90
Occupational qualification	0	0	-50	0	0		0	0	
Other general qualification	1,025,950	14	59	195,200	32	-20	41,000	20	-31
QCF	4,918,900	67	-9	289,950	48	12	148,900	74	6
Vocationally related qualification	39,600	1	-75	2,600	0	-74	2,200	1	-41
<b>Total number of certificates awarded</b>	<b>7,301,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>606,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>201,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-12</b>

Notes:

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.

The number of certificates issued for 'other general' qualifications for the 12 months ending March 2016 represents 14% of the total in England, 32% in Wales and 20% in Northern Ireland. The number of certificates awarded is rising in England for this category of qualification but shows a decrease in Northern Ireland and Wales<sup>13</sup>.

Tables 9 to 11 in the appendix present the 50 organisations that awarded the most qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, respectively, during April 2015 to March 2016.

<sup>13</sup> Direct comparisons of 'other general' qualifications between England, Wales and Northern Ireland are difficult as this category includes Essential Skills, which are the Wales and Northern Ireland equivalent of functional skills.

## Background notes

This release presents data on available regulated vocational and other qualifications and the number of certificates issued. It does not include the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications, project and principal learning. The number of certificates awarded for these qualifications can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website.<sup>14</sup>

The data cover regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, whether regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales or CCEA (Northern Ireland regulator). The figures cover both the January to March 2016 quarter and the 12-month period ending March 2016.

This document is produced in line with Ofqual's statistics policies<sup>15</sup> and the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.<sup>16</sup>

A glossary of terms is available in the next section to help you interpret this release.

## Data sources

Information on qualifications is taken from Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications.<sup>17</sup> Data on available qualifications, covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level, are taken from the Register, and awarding organisations send Ofqual the number of certificates awarded. Further information on the administrative sources is available within Ofqual's statistical policies.

This release shows the number of awards broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification, level of qualification and country.

## 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.

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<sup>14</sup> [www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results](http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results)

<sup>15</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

<sup>16</sup> [www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html](http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html)

<sup>17</sup> <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

The main source of potential error<sup>18</sup> is in the information provided by awarding organisations. Ofqual cannot guarantee that the number of certificates submitted is correct and there may be systematic bias when the information is sent, although awarding organisations are expected to provide the correct data. Ofqual compares the data over time and checks for systematic issues. Summary data are then sent back to awarding organisations to be checked and confirmed. The figures reported in this release reflect the certificates issued by awarding organisations at the time of data collection.

Quality assurance procedures are carried out as explained in the *Quality Assurance Framework for Statistical Publication* and the *Data Audit Framework*<sup>19</sup> to ensure the accuracy of the data and to challenge or question it where necessary. Ofqual continually manages this process by:

- ensuring that data suppliers are clear about what is required of them, in part achieved by consulting them during the initial design and any subsequent change phases;
- reminding all suppliers (if appropriate) that, as a condition of being regulated, all data must be completely accurate;
- being alert to unexpected changes in the data submitted by comparing individual returns over time from the same supplier;
- actively challenging any unexpected results with data suppliers;
- seeking explanations for changes and trends in the data;
- checking the data provided against other data either within Ofqual or available from third parties such as the Department for Education's National Pupil Database;<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *Statement of Administrative Sources* includes information about the potential sources of error and how Ofqual mitigates these: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

<sup>19</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

<sup>20</sup> The National Pupil Database contains detailed information about pupils in schools and colleges in England.

- having a proportionate data auditing framework in place allowing for auditing of suppliers, information collection, collation and delivery processes as necessary, using a wide range of tools from questionnaires to on-site process audits.

Publication may be deferred if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

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

After data collection, the trends are interpreted by a group of colleagues from Ofqual who are aware of the latest changes in policies. Before being released, the publication has to be signed off by Ofqual's Head of Profession for Statistics who confirms the quality of the release.

### Geographical coverage

In this release, Ofqual presents data on certificates issued for all regulated qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS and A levels, Advanced Extension Award and Principal Learning<sup>21</sup>) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the January to March 2016 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.<sup>22</sup>

Ofqual started to collect data for England, Wales and Northern Ireland individually in 2011.

### Revisions

Once published, data on the number of certificates issued for any qualification are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error. 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.

In this release, previous years' figures from five awarding organisations (City and Guilds of London Institute, OCR, SFJ Awards, Pearson Education and Cambridge International Examinations) have been revised. The table of revision, published

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<sup>21</sup> Data for GCSEs, AS and A levels can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website: [www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results](http://www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results)

<sup>22</sup> The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.4239.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.4239.html)

alongside this publication, shows the changes for each quarter by level, type of qualification and sector subject area.

### **Completeness of the data**

Awarding organisations send data to Ofqual each quarter. Any awarding organisation that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period is contacted to make sure that the data are as complete as possible. For this quarter, Ofqual received data from all the awarding organisations that were in a position to award qualifications.

### **Confidentiality**

To ensure confidentiality of the published accompanying data in accordance with Ofqual's *Statement on Confidentiality*,<sup>23</sup> the number of certificates awarded has been rounded to the nearest five. If the value is less than five, it is represented as 0~. A 0 represents zero achievements.

### **Rounding**

In accordance with Ofqual's *Rounding Policy*,<sup>24</sup> figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates issued are rounded to the nearest 50 for ease of use. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in any pie charts may not necessarily add up to 100. The raw data published alongside this publication are rounded to the nearest five to protect confidentiality.

The numbers of qualifications have been left as exact figures because there is no issue with confidentiality and also because some of the numbers are so small that it aids the user to have actual figures.

### **Users of these statistics**

This publication attracts a wide variety of users who use the statistics in various ways:

- Internal (Ofqual) users use the statistics to monitor the market, to target resources and for input into analysis and reports.
- Central government officials use the statistics for policy implementation and ministerial briefings about government-funded provision and to draw on for their own publications.

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<sup>23</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

<sup>24</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures)

- Awarding organisations use the statistics and underlying data as market intelligence, to monitor market share and to understand more about their competitors and product availability.
- Sector skills councils and other employer groups use the statistics to understand training uptake within their sectors and to assist them in understanding how the qualifications are meeting employer demand.
- Other users, including colleges and training providers, have varying needs, from using the information to assist in research projects to focusing on individual qualifications within their industry.

Users from central government and internal users focus on the detailed published data, as do some awarding organisations. Others draw on the aggregate official statistics and commentary to provide context.

### Related statistics and publications

There are a number of related statistical releases and publications:

- The *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2014/15*,<sup>25</sup> published by the Department for Education, covers students' achievements in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools at the end of key stage 4.
- The *Statistical First Release: A Level and Other Level 3 Results in England, Academic Year 2014 to 2015*<sup>26</sup> covers achievements for those aged 16 to 18 at schools and colleges in all Level 3 qualifications. These releases can be used to add context to the trends seen in Level 2 and Level 3 GCE and GCSE equivalent qualifications.
- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*,<sup>27</sup> published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover

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<sup>25</sup> *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2013/14 (Provisional)*:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/provisional-gcse-and-equivalent-results-in-england-2014-to-2015>

<sup>27</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-held)

statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, achievement and success rates for further education, and apprenticeships participation and achievements for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates issued for vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

## Useful information

The data behind these statistics are published alongside this statistical release at 9.30am on the day of release.<sup>28</sup> The data set is not revised until the next publication is released. You can find the publication schedule for the next releases on the GOV.UK website.<sup>29</sup>

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.<sup>30</sup>

## User feedback

Ofqual has recently asked its user groups for feedback on this publication. Here is a summary of the improvements suggested, organised into those that have already been put in place and those that Ofqual will not be able to accommodate. Ahead of each publication, user feedback is reviewed to determine the content that should be included in the publication.

Ofqual has already put in place a number of suggestions:

- round the raw data to the nearest five as rounding is needed for confidentiality. Following feedback from users that they needed the numbers of certificates to be as close to the actual figures as possible, rounding was reduced to the nearest five.
- keep the breakdown by type of qualifications, although the majority of qualifications and certificates were for qualifications on the QCF, users still found the detailed breakdown useful.
- provide more analysis outside the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates; comment will be made where an awarding organisation has had a

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<sup>28</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset)

<sup>29</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual)

<sup>30</sup> <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

significant change in certifications in relation to all certifications. Tables and published data give details on all awarding organisations.

- provide more analysis of the major growth areas.
- present the number of certificates awarded by second-tier sector subject area.
- include a table in the appendix covering the number of available qualifications by qualification level.

Ofqual will be unable to implement the following suggestions:

- present data on graded qualifications – Ofqual does not collect information on certifications by grade achieved.
- present data on the progression between award, certificate and diploma – Ofqual does not collect the necessary candidate-level data.
- present the number of registrations as well as certificates – Ofqual collects the number of registrations from awarding organisations on a voluntary basis and does not have complete information.
- present shared unit data – the data needed to carry out this analysis are not currently available.
- present data broken down by regions within the UK – regional information is not mandatory as part of the data collection process and would add considerable burden to some awarding organisations.
- present more information for the smaller awarding organisations on the state of the market – there are too many organisations to cover within the commentary but Ofqual does provide raw data for each qualification to enable users to do their own analysis.
- present the breakdown of key awarding organisations in each sector based on the number of certificates – this is already published by Ofqual in the Annual Qualification Market Report.

The SFA's Individualised Learner Record Database<sup>31</sup> and the Department for Education's National Pupil Database provide data on graded qualifications and data

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<sup>31</sup> The Individualised Learner Record Database is the primary data collection on funded further education and work-based learning in England.

broken down by region. The latter also provides data on progression between award, certificate and diploma, and number of registrations.

## Glossary of terms

**A levels** – also known as General Certificates of Education, were available in this quarter as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS). They are the main qualifications that young people use to gain entry to university.

**Accreditation** – a process by which Ofqual reviews and confirms that proposed qualifications meet specific criteria before they can be offered. Ofqual no longer requires all regulated qualifications to have been accredited.

**Accredited qualification** – this is an old term that is sometimes used to mean ‘regulated qualification’ (see below). Ofqual now allows awarding organisations to submit most qualifications for regulation without having been accredited, so it is strictly incorrect to refer to regulated qualifications as accredited.

**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 by Ofqual to develop, deliver and award 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.

**GCSEs** – General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school-leaving qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 15 to 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, then Level 1 through to Level 8 (equivalent to a doctorate), indicating the broad level of demand of the qualification.

**National vocational qualifications (NVQs)** – 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** – qualifications that assess a particular subject area, such as music or art, other than GCSEs, AS and A levels. These qualifications are not directly work related but may support career development. They are often graded. The category also includes Level 1/Level 2 certificates and Essential Skills.

**Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)** – a set of regulatory rules for vocational qualifications that Ofqual has withdrawn from October 2015 in England and Northern Ireland.

**Quarter** – refers to calendar quarters. 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 to December.

**Recognition** – the formal process that Ofqual operates, whereby awarding organisations that wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they meet Ofqual’s recognition criteria.<sup>32</sup> The scope of recognition is the qualifications or types of qualification that the awarding organisation is recognised to offer, which may be quite narrow or very broad. Recognition is a robust gateway into the regulated marketplace. Only applicants who meet the criteria in full will be recognised. Recognised organisations have to meet Ofqual’s Conditions of Recognition on an ongoing basis.

**Register** – the Register of Regulated Qualifications<sup>33</sup> contains details of recognised awarding organisations and the regulated qualifications they offer.

**Regulated qualification** – a qualification that is offered by a recognised awarding organisation within the scope of its recognition. Regulated qualifications must be added to the Register of qualifications and have to meet Ofqual’s requirements. Some qualifications are subject to an accreditation requirement and have to be checked by the regulator before they can be offered as regulated qualifications.

**Sector Subject Area (SSA)** - SSA code is used for classifying subjects into different sectors (for instance Arts, media and publishing). The number of sector subject areas is 15 and most of the sector subject areas have a number of secondary subject areas or tiers. For example, sector subject area Construction, planning and the built

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<sup>32</sup> [www.gov.uk/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements](http://www.gov.uk/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements)

<sup>33</sup> <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>

environment covers Architecture, Building and construction, Building services and Construction crafts. Ofqual is the lead body for managing this classification system<sup>34</sup>.

**Vocationally related qualifications** – work-related qualifications designed to give students the broad skills and knowledge they need to do a job. They are related to employment but, unlike NVQs, do not necessarily require a work placement.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/types-of-regulated-qualifications/qualification-descriptions>

## Your feedback

Ofqual is conducting a rolling series of online surveys to help statistical releases meet your needs.

Ofqual would especially like to invite you to take part in the online survey for this release.

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1473109/vocational-and-other-qualifications-quarterly-v1>

It will take about ten minutes to complete. Your responses will remain entirely confidential in any reports published about the survey.

If you would like to take part in the survey, have any questions or would prefer a paper or large-type copy, please contact us at: [statistics@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@ofqual.gov.uk).

## Appendix

<a href="#">Table 1</a>	Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016
<a href="#">Table 2</a>	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end
<a href="#">Table 3</a>	Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016
<a href="#">Table 4</a>	The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter January to March 2016 (January to March 2015 shown for comparison)
<a href="#">Table 5</a>	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016
<a href="#">Table 6</a>	The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter January to March 2016 (January to March 2015 shown for comparison)
<a href="#">Table 7</a>	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016
<a href="#">Table 8</a>	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter January to March 2016 (January to March 2015 shown for comparison)
<a href="#">Table 9</a>	England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for April 2015 to March 2016
<a href="#">Table 10</a>	Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for April 2015 to March 2016
<a href="#">Table 11</a>	Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for April 2015 to March 2016

**Table 1: Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Basic skills	English for speakers of other languages	Entry level	Free-standing mathematics qualification	Functional skills	Higher level	Key skills	National vocational qualification	Occupational qualification	Other general qualification	QCF	Vocationally related qualification	Total number of qualifications
Jan-Mar	83	185	330	22	184	544	356	1,556	94	712	7,569	2,325	<b>13,960</b>
Apr-Jun	88	185	340	22	191	533	362	1,537	94	712	8,607	2,306	<b>14,977</b>
Jul-Sep	88	185	362	22	203	506	377	1,518	94	754	9,622	2,277	<b>16,008</b>
Oct-Dec	88	177	334	20	208	487	377	1,432	87	722	10,410	2,112	<b>16,454</b>
Jan-Mar	88	183	321	20	208	447	377	1,349	86	693	11,045	2,003	<b>16,820</b>
Apr-Jun	88	185	316	20	207	422	368	1,305	86	678	11,661	1,969	<b>17,305</b>
Jul-Sep	88	186	319	20	206	418	368	1,282	86	752	12,605	1,957	<b>18,287</b>
Oct-Dec	80	185	297	14	193	414	368	1,148	85	758	13,278	1,662	<b>18,482</b>
Jan-Mar	80	190	292	14	202	411	368	939	77	739	14,142	1,401	<b>18,855</b>
Apr-Jun	80	188	292	14	222	408	359	841	77	737	14,927	1,285	<b>19,430</b>
Jul-Sep	80	189	296	14	232	405	359	788	71	785	16,291	1,268	<b>20,778</b>
Oct-Dec	32	189	279	7	238	355	191	652	68	774	17,026	1,032	<b>20,843</b>
Jan-Mar	22	191	274	7	237	221	165	391	20	740	17,345	579	<b>20,192</b>
Apr-Jun	22	187	196	7	239	140	133	240	9	564	17,501	486	<b>19,724</b>
Jul-Sep	22	189	195	14	239	144	135	197	1	598	18,742	514	<b>20,990</b>
Oct-Dec	10	185	186	14	215	125	125	142	1	595	18,908	501	<b>21,007</b>
Jan-Mar	10	195	165	14	215	109	116	94	1	559	19,141	424	<b>21,043</b>
Apr-Jun	10	195	164	14	215	104	115	86		553	19,337	421	<b>21,214</b>
Jul-Sep	12	186	194	14	215	108	113	84	5	663	20,019	527	<b>22,140</b>
Oct-Dec	6	169	173	14	203	86	97	94	7	660	19,855	560	<b>21,924</b>
Jan-Mar	4	142	175	14	221	81	91	48	11	663	19,669	557	<b>21,676</b>

Notes:

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

**Table 2: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end**

England, Wales and Northern Ireland		
Period	Total number of certificates issued	
	Quarter	12 months to quarter end
Jan – Mar 2011	1,267,300	7,931,650
Apr – Jun 2011	1,911,100	7,863,450
Jul – Sep 2011	3,548,000	7,895,700
Oct – Dec 2011	1,271,400	7,997,800
Jan – Mar 2012	1,384,550	8,115,050
Apr – Jun 2012	2,116,500	8,320,400
Jul – Sep 2012	4,013,150	8,785,550
Oct – Dec 2012	1,345,250	8,859,400
Jan – Mar 2013	1,433,200	8,908,100
Apr – Jun 2013	2,463,950	9,255,550
Jul – Sep 2013	3,953,850	9,196,250
Oct – Dec 2013	1,283,500	9,134,550
Jan – Mar 2014	1,433,350	9,134,700
Apr – Jun 2014	2,163,750	8,834,450
Jul – Sep 2014	3,823,850	8,704,450
Oct – Dec 2014	1,281,600	8,702,550
Jan – Mar 2015	1,362,600	8,631,800
Apr – Jun 2015	1,892,700	8,360,800
Jul – Sep 2015	3,789,200	8,326,150
Oct – Dec 2015	1,131,850	8,176,400
Jan – Mar 2016	1,296,050	8,109,800

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50.

**Table 3: Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from January to March 2011 to January to March 2016**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Basic Skills	English for Speakers of Other Languages	Entry Level	Free Standing Mathematics Qualification	Functional Skills	Higher Level	Key Skills	National Vocational Qualification	Occupational Qualification	Other General Qualification	QCF	Vocationally-Related Qualification	Total number of certificates
Jan – Mar 2011	170,800	62,350	7,350	1,550	62,950	7,500	124,050	155,250	4,050	49,950	455,100	166,350	<b>1,267,300</b>
Apr – Jun 2011	175,300	53,750	22,500	0	156,050	3,900	130,600	128,600	3,600	128,800	722,300	385,750	<b>1,911,100</b>
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	<b>3,548,000</b>
Oct – Dec 2011	99,650	52,250	3,450	0	70,600	4,000	108,300	51,000	2,000	17,050	807,250	55,850	<b>1,271,400</b>
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	<b>1,384,550</b>
Apr – Jun 2012	151,200	61,250	14,450	0	192,050	2,500	180,800	22,600	700	70,000	1,225,900	195,050	<b>2,116,500</b>
Jul– Sep 2012	134,550	94,500	90,750	22,450	305,300	6,700	239,250	24,150	900	392,250	2,428,700	273,650	<b>4,013,150</b>
Oct – Dec 2012	33,450	45,750	3,100	0	87,250	2,000	107,900	11,750	250	16,400	1,016,250	21,100	<b>1,345,250</b>
Jan – Mar 2013	23,700	58,550	5,050	550	136,850	2,050	116,300	6,700	150	75,350	985,400	22,500	<b>1,433,200</b>
Apr – Jun 2013	23,800	74,750	16,700	500	256,500	1,350	137,000	5,150	100	76,700	1,728,700	142,600	<b>2,463,950</b>
Jul – Sep 2013	20,850	108,600	77,700	22,150	383,950	2,150	184,350	5,100	50	481,650	2,505,450	161,900	<b>3,953,850</b>
Oct – Dec 2013	1,850	41,800	4,600	0	153,800	1,650	8,250	3,000	50	29,400	1,026,700	12,400	<b>1,283,500</b>
Jan – Mar 2014	1,000	74,550	5,400	500	204,050	900	21,150	1,900	0~	90,200	1,020,800	12,950	<b>1,433,350</b>
Apr – Jun 2014	1,050	96,450	12,650	500	307,050	1,050	38,700	1,450	0~	89,700	1,539,600	75,500	<b>2,163,750</b>
Jul – Sep 2014	700	143,450	66,150	34,800	410,850	1,650	54,750	1,400	0	734,100	2,297,150	78,850	<b>3,823,850</b>
Oct – Dec 2014	50	62,400	3,400	0	163,050	1,600	3,100	1,000	0	31,300	1,007,500	8,150	<b>1,281,600</b>
Jan – Mar 2015	50	72,650	3,150	550	186,100	1,450	16,650	700	0~	93,700	981,050	6,650	<b>1,362,600</b>
Apr – Jun 2015	0~	51,350	7,900	550	299,750	1,250	32,600	600	0	137,300	1,349,100	12,300	<b>1,892,700</b>
Jul – Sep 2015	50	85,950	60,550	36,200	385,900	4,700	47,550	500	0	1,012,450	2,135,400	20,000	<b>3,789,200</b>
Oct – Dec 2015	0~	40,300	2,050	0	150,900	1,050	1,850	1,100	0	16,800	912,700	5,200	<b>1,131,850</b>
Jan – Mar 2016	0	52,850	2,300	450	158,650	2,950	15,700	200	0~	95,600	960,550	6,850	<b>1,296,050</b>

Notes:

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as 0~. Zero represent no achievements.

Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

**Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter Jan to Mar 2016 (Jan to Mar 2015 shown for comparison)**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Jan – Mar 2015	Jan – Mar 2016
City and Guilds of London Institute	238,650	196,600
Pearson Education Ltd	228,650	174,350
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	70,800	61,150
NCFE	60,900	58,000
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	65,550	57,000
Cambridge English Language Assessment	52,600	53,500
OCR	70,500	52,650
Trinity College London	28,150	46,050
Qualsafe Awards	39,650	45,700
Cambridge International Examinations	27,900	39,200
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	24,250	38,450
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	25,750	33,950
WJEC-CBAC	36,950	29,150
First Aid Awards Ltd	23,750	26,800
BIAB	18,700	16,850
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	16,950	16,850
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	15,500	16,200
LAMDA	10,850	15,600
Ascentis	13,000	15,500
NOCN	18,000	14,400
Royal Academy of Dance	12,700	14,100
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	11,350	13,400
1st4sport Qualifications	12,850	12,400
AoFA Qualifications	9,500	11,700
British Safety Council	8,250	11,200
Royal Society for Public Health	9,750	10,850
Cskills Awards	11,600	10,700
IQL	6,750	10,050
Active IQ	11,600	10,000
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	7,550	8,950
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	4,000	8,150
International Dance Teachers Association	6,700	7,750
Rock School Ltd	6,650	7,450
Innovate Awarding	6,800	7,200
Association of Accounting Technicians	6,200	7,150
AQA Education	9,300	7,000
The Learning Machine	3,700	6,900
Sports Leaders UK	7,350	6,500
The Institute of the Motor Industry	6,200	6,300
Safety Training Awards	4,000	5,750
Laser Learning Awards	2,400	5,100
Industry Qualifications	4,500	4,250
VTCT	4,350	4,200
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	5,500	4,150
AIM Awards	2,900	3,850
iCan Qualifications Limited	3,200	3,850
Chartered Insurance Institute	2,600	3,800
University of West London	5,100	3,550
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd	4,400	3,400
ITC First	2,300	3,100

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

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

**Table 5: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from Jan to Mar 2011 to Jan to Mar 2016**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland											Total number of achievements
Entry level	Level 1	Level 1/2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8		
Jan – Mar 2011	103,850	315,600	0	659,300	159,900	18,150	7,450	1,450	1,550	50	<b>1,267,300</b>
Apr – Jun 2011	160,250	487,700	0	1,029,900	207,100	16,750	6,350	1,850	1,150	0	<b>1,911,100</b>
Jul – Sep 2011	451,200	908,450	7,950	1,614,850	515,750	27,700	15,700	4,200	2,100	100	<b>3,548,000</b>
Oct – Dec 2011	115,450	361,550	0	621,000	146,900	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	<b>1,271,400</b>
Jan – Mar 2012	128,050	394,600	1,200	682,500	150,600	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	<b>1,384,550</b>
Apr – Jun 2012	185,850	561,550	0	1,121,050	221,000	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	<b>2,116,500</b>
Jul– Sep 2012	458,050	965,750	36,200	1,900,950	603,950	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	<b>4,013,150</b>
Oct – Dec 2012	122,850	403,050	0	634,200	158,100	16,400	6,500	2,400	1,700	50	<b>1,345,250</b>
Jan – Mar 2013	134,000	421,250	20,350	671,750	159,800	14,300	7,350	2,800	1,450	100	<b>1,433,200</b>
Apr – Jun 2013	223,350	620,850	0	1,295,000	299,900	14,050	7,750	1,650	1,250	100	<b>2,463,950</b>
Jul – Sep 2013	452,200	954,950	138,650	1,728,100	632,150	26,150	14,850	4,050	2,700	100	<b>3,953,850</b>
Oct – Dec 2013	123,800	354,700	7,700	608,000	166,600	11,750	7,200	1,950	1,750	100	<b>1,283,500</b>
Jan – Mar 2014	163,000	361,200	29,950	681,900	176,250	11,800	6,600	1,500	1,050	50	<b>1,433,350</b>
Apr – Jun 2014	230,100	516,700	8,350	1,069,950	314,300	12,100	8,800	2,350	1,050	50	<b>2,163,750</b>
Jul – Sep 2014	463,700	796,600	381,000	1,451,700	683,300	22,900	18,750	4,050	1,850	50	<b>3,823,850</b>
Oct – Dec 2014	138,900	333,300	3,750	598,650	182,300	12,600	8,850	1,900	1,350	50	<b>1,281,600</b>
Jan – Mar 2015	148,400	325,500	46,100	629,000	187,400	12,050	9,750	2,700	1,600	100	<b>1,362,600</b>
Apr – Jun 2015	226,400	465,400	75,050	787,500	309,450	14,600	10,050	2,800	1,350	100	<b>1,892,700</b>
Jul – Sep 2015	467,550	715,600	752,050	1,112,150	687,100	29,750	17,150	5,750	2,050	100	<b>3,789,200</b>
Oct – Dec 2015	113,800	286,800	4,700	523,400	176,800	14,000	9,500	1,600	1,200	0~	<b>1,131,850</b>
Jan - Mar 2016	146,050	299,750	62,250	571,100	191,300	13,050	9,300	2,450	750	50	<b>1,296,050</b>

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero~. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

**Table 6: The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter Jan to Mar 2016 (Jan to Mar 2015 shown for comparison)**

Table 6: The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter January– March 2016 (January – March 2015 shown for comparison)  
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Jan – Mar 2015	Jan – Mar 2016
Cambridge International Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in First Language English	26,200	37,700
CIEH Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	34,250	29,250
BCS Level 2 Certificate In IT Application Skills (QCF)	9,650	28,850
QA Level 2 Award In Emergency First Aid At Work 2013 (QCF)	20,900	24,050
TCL Entry Level Certificate In ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry)	8,250	19,700
Pearson Level 1 Award In Mathematics at Level 1 (FS)	16,200	15,400
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	15,300	15,350
BIIAB Level 2 Award For Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	11,750	11,800
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	14,900	11,600
City & Guilds Level 1 Award In Mathematics at level 1 (FS)	13,500	11,000
Pearson Level 1/2 Certificate In English Literature (OG)	7,250	10,800
Pearson Level 2 Award In Mathematics at Level 2 (FS)	10,750	10,100
City & Guilds Level 2 Award In English at Level 2 (FS)	12,300	9,500
QA Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	9,250	9,500
Pearson Level 1 Award In English at Level 1 (FS)	9,900	9,250
City & Guilds Level 2 Award In Functional Skills mathematics (FS)	10,200	9,100
ABRSM Level 1 Award In Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1)	6,600	9,000
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate In English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	14,400	9,000
Pearson Level 2 Award In English at Level 2 (FS)	8,450	8,850
City & Guilds Level 1 Award In English at Level 1 (FS)	11,100	8,500
BSC Level 1 Award In Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)	4,600	8,300
HABC Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	9,200	7,550
City & Guilds Level 2 Award In Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	5,550	7,450
IQL Level 2 Award In Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue	4,350	7,450
TQUK Level 2 Award In Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	5,450	7,150
Pearson Level 1/Level 2 Certificate in Mathematics	4,750	7,000
CIEH Level 2 Award In Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	9,050	6,800
AOFAQ Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	5,500	6,700
Cambridge English Level 2 Certificate In English (IELTS 7.0-8.0) (ESOL)	7,700	6,700
CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	7,400	6,450
ABRSM Level 1 Award In Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2)	4,600	6,400
City & Guilds Level 1 Award In Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	4,600	6,400
QA Level 3 Award In Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	5,800	6,300
Pearson Level 2 Award In Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at	6,950	6,100
WJEC Level 2 Other In Application of Number (OG)	5,300	5,250
ABRSM Level 1 Award In Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3)	3,850	5,200
City & Guilds Entry Level Award In Mathematics at Entry 3 (FS)	4,300	4,950
FAA Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	4,050	4,650
1st4sport Level 1 Award In Coaching Football (QCF)	5,200	4,550
HABC Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	4,250	4,350
RSPH Level 2 Award In Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	4,700	4,300
Pearson Level 1 Award In Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at	4,650	4,150
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award In Sports Leadership (QCF)	4,850	4,150
ISTD Level 1 Award In Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 1 (QCF)	3,850	4,000
Pearson Level 2 Award In Employment Responsibilities and Rights in Health,		
Social Care and Children and Young People's Settings (QCF)	3,550	3,950
City & Guilds Level 2 Award In Employment Responsibilities and Rights in Health,		
Social Care or Children and Young People's Settings (QCF)	3,150	3,800
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate In Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade	2,850	3,700
City & Guilds Entry Level Award In ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening)	2,500	3,700
CIEH Level 2 Award In Food Safety for Manufacturing (QCF)	4,450	3,600
TQUK Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	2,700	3,550

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

**Table 7: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from Jan to Mar 2011 to Jan to Mar 2016**

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 certificates issued
Jan – Mar 2011	152,550	3,000	9,500	88,250	29,650	67,500	165,700	71,950	73,300	50	150	43,750	23,250	431,500	107,100	<b>1,267,300</b>
Apr – Jun 2011	172,950	45,900	37,500	98,600	50,550	179,850	170,250	126,850	206,400	3,100	100	74,250	24,650	584,900	135,150	<b>1,911,100</b>
Jul – Sep 2011	251,050	116,400	56,100	169,200	100,200	316,000	247,200	217,650	358,950	41,700	4,100	244,300	37,950	1,186,100	201,150	<b>3,548,000</b>
Oct – Dec 2011	140,350	1,900	20,500	79,500	36,300	48,150	170,300	70,550	126,000	550	250	43,800	17,000	407,600	108,650	<b>1,271,400</b>
Jan – Mar 2012	134,350	3,100	20,000	69,700	37,550	71,700	162,600	60,800	106,950	150	150	47,650	20,400	527,150	122,200	<b>1,384,550</b>
Apr – Jun 2012	191,200	45,050	27,100	87,450	53,000	189,850	177,050	130,850	222,550	50	50	73,100	22,300	744,150	152,700	<b>2,116,500</b>
Jul – Sep 2012	329,700	177,100	51,150	179,500	112,250	340,100	274,900	266,050	427,950	45,800	3,750	223,100	37,100	1,283,350	261,400	<b>4,013,150</b>
Oct – Dec 2012	175,400	1,950	18,050	81,500	42,150	58,300	159,650	81,150	131,800	250	100	29,750	18,850	423,700	122,600	<b>1,345,250</b>
Jan – Mar 2013	187,900	8,000	21,300	78,400	36,050	73,950	148,150	62,350	114,250	150	150	56,100	20,350	500,700	125,350	<b>1,433,200</b>
Apr – Jun 2013	289,750	82,450	30,000	101,550	58,200	201,150	182,000	176,350	258,250	150	50	84,700	23,800	782,000	193,600	<b>2,463,950</b>
Jul – Sep 2013	371,650	187,650	50,750	178,450	106,650	297,850	263,900	227,950	392,100	40,850	4,350	277,600	43,500	1,255,250	255,350	<b>3,953,850</b>
Oct – Dec 2013	221,700	4,950	16,800	74,650	36,200	52,100	146,050	71,100	131,500	50	0	34,500	19,000	362,500	112,400	<b>1,283,500</b>
Jan – Mar 2014	259,300	5,450	17,900	74,350	33,350	59,600	140,300	59,650	101,350	100	100	67,150	19,950	472,100	122,700	<b>1,433,350</b>
Apr – Jun 2014	308,600	47,200	28,750	90,200	52,550	143,250	167,350	137,400	252,600	8,700	50	63,250	22,550	671,200	170,100	<b>2,163,750</b>
Jul – Sep 2014	393,500	267,650	48,000	161,900	110,400	258,700	233,900	207,300	397,050	24,450	6,250	310,400	38,200	1,123,950	242,200	<b>3,823,850</b>
Oct – Dec 2014	242,100	1,600	17,950	72,900	45,500	40,050	136,000	60,450	136,700	300	50	33,050	17,000	368,600	109,400	<b>1,281,600</b>
Jan – Mar 2015	259,800	12,250	19,400	73,150	47,600	48,900	133,600	51,550	107,750	550	100	78,200	17,600	413,550	98,600	<b>1,362,600</b>
Apr – Jun 2015	293,700	34,850	29,900	94,450	65,100	86,250	154,900	101,700	201,150	3,950	0	42,850	20,650	627,600	135,550	<b>1,892,700</b>
Jul – Sep 2015	393,100	253,800	49,500	159,250	117,500	239,500	196,200	202,350	384,200	26,200	9,450	450,250	35,100	1,052,700	220,150	<b>3,789,200</b>
Oct – Dec 2015	235,300	2,050	18,550	69,350	48,650	34,700	118,600	57,300	123,700	500	50	23,800	16,250	304,400	78,650	<b>1,131,850</b>
Jan-Mar 2016	253,700	11,800	7,800	68,550	48,600	63,200	114,850	50,000	128,050	600	100	78,650	17,150	374,500	78,550	<b>1,296,050</b>

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as 0--. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

**Table 8: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter Jan to Mar 2016 (Jan to Mar 2015 shown for comparison)**

Table 8: Total number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter Jan – Mar 2016 (Jan – Mar 2015 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Sector subject area	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	Jan – Mar 2015	Jan – Mar 2016
01.1 Medicine and dentistry	0~	450
01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	1,550	1,050
01.3 Health and social care	220,200	217,800
01.4 Public services	27,350	25,150
01.5 Child development and well-being	10,650	9,200
02.1 Science	1,300	800
02.2 Mathematics and statistics	10,950	11,000
03.1 Agriculture	4,650	1,450
03.2 Horticulture and forestry	10,850	2,250
03.3 Animal care and veterinary science	2,900	3,400
03.4 Environmental conservation	1,000	750
04.1 Engineering	21,350	21,050
04.2 Manufacturing technologies	38,050	34,350
04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance	13,800	13,150
05.1 Architecture	0	0
05.2 Building and construction	47,600	48,600
05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning	0	0
06.1 ICT practitioners	5,350	5,450
06.2 ICT for users	43,550	57,750
07.1 Retailing and wholesaling	11,850	8,500
07.2 Warehousing and distribution	9,350	7,200
07.3 Service enterprises	15,850	14,900
07.4 Hospitality and catering	96,550	84,250
08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation	51,150	49,350
08.2 Travel and tourism	400	650
09.1 Performing arts	99,050	121,000
09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design	6,950	5,800
09.3 Media and communication	1,600	1,150
09.4 Publishing and information services	200	100
10.1 History	50	0~
10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences	0~	0~
10.3 Philosophy	450	450
10.4 Theology and religious studies	100	150
11.1 Geography	50	0~
11.2 Sociology and social policy	50	50
11.3 Politics	0	0
11.4 Economics	50	50
12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	75,900	76,850
12.2 Other languages, literature and culture	2,300	1,750
12.3 Linguistics	0	0
13.1 Teaching and lecturing	10,650	10,350
13.2 Direct learning support	6,950	6,800
14.1 Foundations for learning and life	370,550	337,450
14.2 Preparation for work	43,050	37,050
15.1 Accounting and finance	16,850	18,900
15.2 Administration	43,800	27,650
15.3 Business management	36,100	28,000
15.4 Marketing and sales	1,800	3,750
15.5 Law and legal services	50	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 are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero~. Zero represent no achievements.

**Table 9: England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for April 2015 to March 2016**

<b>England only</b>	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Apr 2015 – Mar 2016
Pearson Education Ltd	1,661,600
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,122,950
OCR	393,700
NCFE	324,700
Cambridge International Examinations	291,900
Cambridge English Language Assessment	279,100
AQA Education	247,250
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	237,700
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	232,550
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	212,550
Trinity College London	193,700
Qualsafe Awards	151,400
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	119,650
First Aid Awards Ltd	92,000
NOCN	85,350
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	79,000
Ascentis	68,550
Cskills Awards	62,950
1st4sport Qualifications	56,250
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	55,100
BIAB	53,850
LAMDA	51,900
Sports Leaders UK	50,400
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	48,600
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	47,900
The Institute of the Motor Industry	44,550
VTCT	42,000
Active IQ	41,650
Royal Society for Public Health	40,400
Association of Accounting Technicians	38,900
Royal Academy of Dance	37,850
British Safety Council	37,700
International Baccalaureate Organisation	36,150
IQL	34,200
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	33,400
AoFA Qualifications	33,200
Innovate Awarding	29,950
International Dance Teachers Association	29,650
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	28,350
Rock School Ltd	25,850
The Learning Machine	22,800
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	22,550
University of the Arts London	20,350
University of West London	20,150
Laser Learning Awards	20,150
ABC Awards	20,100
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	19,900
Industry Qualifications	19,600
YMCA Awards	18,700
Safety Training Awards	17,550

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.

2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

**Table 10: Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for April 2015 to March 2016**

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Apr 2015 – Mar 2016
WJEC-CBAC	188,550
Pearson Education Ltd	109,950
City and Guilds of London Institute	105,950
OCR	36,150
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	21,650
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	19,850
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	12,350
Cambridge English Language Assessment	11,350
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	8,850
<b>Qualsafe Awards</b>	<b>8,150</b>
Agored Cymru	8,000
Trinity College London	7,000
AoFA Qualifications	5,200
NCFE	4,850
VTCT	4,800
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	3,500
Safety Training Awards	3,450
Cskills Awards	2,800
First Aid Awards Ltd	2,600
<b>The Institute of the Motor Industry</b>	<b>2,450</b>
British Safety Council	2,300
AQA Education	2,250
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	2,100
International Baccalaureate Organisation	2,100
1st4sport Qualifications	2,000
Royal Academy of Dance	2,000
IQL	1,800
NOCN	1,750
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,650
<b>BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT</b>	<b>1,600</b>
Sports Leaders UK	1,600
Active IQ	1,550
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	1,450
University of West London	1,450
BIAB	1,250
YMCA Awards	1,100
Royal Society for Public Health	900
Rock School Ltd	750
Amateur Swimming Association	650
<b>ABC Awards</b>	<b>550</b>
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	550
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	550
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	450
Chartered Management Institute	400
FDQ Limited	350
McDonalds	350
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	350
Cambridge International Examinations	300
International Dance Teachers Association	300
Prince's Trust	300

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
  2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
- Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

**Table 11: Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for April 2015 to March 2016**

<b>Northern Ireland only</b>	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	Apr 2015 – Mar 2016
City and Guilds of London Institute	54,900
Pearson Education Ltd	24,400
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	20,900
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	16,150
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	10,950
OCR	10,750
Open College Network Northern Ireland	8,600
Trinity College London	7,400
University of West London	6,000
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	3,100
Cambridge English Language Assessment	2,800
Cskills Awards	2,500
AQA Education	2,250
New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd	1,950
NOCN	1,900
NCFE	1,850
Prince's Trust	1,600
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	1,500
Active IQ	1,300
Royal Academy of Dance	1,200
iCan Qualifications Limited	1,200
Qualsafe Awards	1,150
AoFA Qualifications	1,100
IQL	1,000
VTCT	950
First Aid Awards Ltd	950
Rock School Ltd	950
ETC Awards Limited	950
The Institute of the Motor Industry	650
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	650
BIAB	650
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	650
Graded Qualifications Alliance	600
YMCA Awards	500
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	450
WSET Awards	450
ProQual Awarding Body	450
FDQ Limited	400
1st4sport Qualifications	350
Sports Leaders UK	300
Royal Society for Public Health	300
British Safety Council	250
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	250
Cambridge International Examinations	250
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	250
Focus Awards Limited	250
Accounting Technicians Ireland	250
Safety Training Awards	200
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	200
ABC 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 are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero~. Zero represent no achievements.

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