



26 March 2020

This release includes summary statistics on apprenticeships and traineeships in England. This document is a transitional approach while we move all our further education and apprenticeship releases to a new dissemination platform, which we plan to do during 2020. Please see section on ‘changes in the next release’ on page 11 for more information.

This release contains provisional data for all age apprenticeship and traineeship learning in England for the first two quarters of the 2019/20 academic year (August 2019 to January 2020). In year information is subject to ‘data lag’ due to providers submitting information after the period it relates to. This information is subsequently attributed to the correct time period, however in year data are subject to data lag until the final data returns for the academic year are made by providers after the end of the academic year. For example, at this point in 2018/19, data for apprenticeship starts was nearly 9 per cent lower than final year figures, and this can vary between years and also for different returns during the year.

This release also includes monthly apprenticeship statistics, and registrations and commitments on the Apprenticeship Service based on data returned to March 2020.

Previously published data for the latest full, final year can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2019>.

Please note: apprenticeships and traineeships data tables for this publication are located alongside the latest in year data for wider further education and skills learning (see ‘Further Education and Skills, England: March 2020’).

1. Summary statistics¹

Apprenticeships

Impact of the apprenticeship levy

As of May 2017, reforms have been made to how apprenticeship funding works, including the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and apprenticeship service. The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly since the introduction of the levy which, along with the introduction of apprenticeship standards (that are replacing frameworks), has impacted on the number and nature of apprenticeship starts and participation. Care should be taken in comparing and interpreting data presented in this release.

Headline statistics

(Tables 1 and 2²)

Latest figures for the first two quarters of the 2019/20 academic year show:

- Apprenticeship starts reported to date have decreased to 198,600 from 214,200 in the first two quarters of 2018/19, a decrease of 7.3 per cent (compared to the same point in 2017/18 this is an increase of 2.3 per cent from 194,100).
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¹ All percentage calculations in this document are based on unrounded figures.

² See section 8 for a list of tables in this release. The starts since May 2010 and since May 2015 figures and Level 6+ starts can be found in the associated tables here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>.

- Starts since May 2015 and May 2010 are now at 2,087,300 and 4,464,900 (respectively).
- Apprenticeship participation has increased compared to this time last year, to 627,700 from 602,400, an increase of 4.2 per cent.
- Apprenticeship achievements³ stand at 59,200 reported so far.

Learner characteristics summary

(Table 2, supplementary tables and tools)

Out of 198,600 apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2019/20:

- Males account for 52.8 per cent (104,800 starts).
- Under 19s account for 29.2 per cent (58,100).
- 19 to 24-year-olds account for 29.3 per cent (58,300).
- Those aged 25 and over account for 41.4 per cent (82,300).
- Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities (BAME) represent 12.3 per cent (23,900).
- Those declaring a learning difficulty or disability (LLDD) account for 12.6 per cent (24,400).

Starts for the first two quarters at this point are provisional. Comparisons and trends are more robust using full-year annual figures. See below for further detailed learner statistics and comparisons to previous years.

Subject and level summary

(Table 2, supplementary tables and tools)

Out of 198,600 apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2019/20:

- Apprenticeship standards represent 74.3 per cent (147,600 starts); since their introduction in September 2014, the number of starts on standards has now been 588,800 (24.2 per cent of total starts since that point).
- Starts supported by ASA levy funds^{4,5} represent 64.9 per cent (128,900).
- Intermediate (level 2) and advanced (level 3) apprenticeships together make up over three-quarters of starts (32.7 per cent intermediate and 44.1 per cent advanced – 152,600 starts in total).
- Higher (level 4 and above) starts represent 23.2 per cent (46,000) and those at level 6 and above represent 9.6 per cent (19,100).
- Science, technology, engineering and manufacturing (STEM) subjects represent 31.3 per cent (62,100).
- Business, administration and law related subjects continue to be most popular, accounting for 29.2 per cent of starts (58,100).

Starts for the first two quarters at this point are provisional. Comparisons and trends are more robust using full-year annual figures. See below for further detailed subject and level statistics and comparisons to this time last year.

³ We have recently changed our approach to calculating apprenticeship achievements, see the 'changes in this release' section of the February 2020 release for further information.

⁴ We have recently changed our approach to both our 'levy supported' terminology and how we calculate this measure, see the 'changes in this release' section of the February 2020 release for further information: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868456/2020-february-apprenticeships-and-traineeships-commentary_final-2.pdf.

⁵ During this reporting period a very small number of apprentices employed by employers that do not pay the levy were funded using the apprenticeship service system. This was part of testing in preparation for the extension of the service to all employers that do not pay the levy which happened on 9 January 2020. For future publications, apprentices in this group will be separately reported to reflect the development of the apprenticeship service which has now been delivered.

2. Apprenticeship learner characteristics

Comparisons of learner characteristics using in-year data are less reliable than using full-year final data. Quarter 1 and 2 starts at this point are provisional and will be revised as providers continue to record starts for this period in later collections of the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). For example, the first quarter 1 reported starts in 2018/19 were 12 per cent lower than the final quarter 1 figures; starts reported for the first 2 quarters of 2018/19 were nearly 9 per cent lower than final starts for the first two quarters, and so on. The difference between provisional and final figures can vary throughout the year and between years. Additionally, breakdowns of learner characteristics can vary within the academic year and between academic years.

For example, proportions in different age groups varies in-year and between years, and by quarter and compared to full, final year data.

In-year: Based on final year data for 2018/19, the proportion of quarter 1 starts (Aug-Oct 2018) for under 19 and over 25 year olds was 34.4 per cent and 35.4 per cent, respectively; in quarter 4 (May-July 2019) the proportions were 17.4 per cent and 54.0 per cent.

Between years:

Based on final year data for 2017/8, the proportions of quarter 1 starts for under 19 and over 25 years were 40.6 per cent and 28.6 per cent, respectively; for quarter 4 this was 19.0 per cent and 52.6 per cent, respectively.

Full, final year data:

In full, final year data for 2018/19, the proportion of starts for under 19 and over 25 year olds were 24.8 per cent and 45.7 per cent, respectively. Using full, final data for 2017/18 the proportions were 28.4 per cent and 41.4 per cent.

Compared to provisional data for the first two quarters at this point in earlier years:

- Starts by under 19s have seen a fall of 12.1 per cent from 2018/19, while those aged 19 and over fell by 5.1 per cent.
- Since 2017/18, starts by adults (19+) have grown by 12.9 per cent, while those for under 19s have fallen by 16.6 per cent. The 25 and over group have seen an increase of 24.4 per cent over this period.

Annual trends

The following information is based on latest full, final year data as at end of 2018/19 and is intended to draw out full-year, longer-term trends.

Gender

There was an even split between males and females starting apprenticeships in 2018/19. Prior to this:

- Females had a greater share (around 53 per cent) between 2014/15 and 2016/17.
- Starts dropped sharply in 2017/18 but much more so for females. Females saw 30.3 per cent fewer starts in 2017/18 compared to the previous year. Male starts dropped by 16.9 per cent in the same period.

Age

Those aged 25 and over have consistently had the highest share of starts each year over the period 2014/15 to 2018/19.

However, comparing 2017/18 with 2016/17:

- Overall starts fell but the aged 25 and over group saw a disproportionate drop of a third (32.4 per cent) compared to other age-groups.
- Under 19s fell by 13.2 per cent and 19-24s by 20.0 per cent.
- Over 25s share of starts consequently fell from 46.5 per cent to 41.4 per cent.

The final 2018/19 figures show that the ratio of starts across age-groups have been restored to 2016/17 levels with the share of over 25s returning to 45.7 per cent.

Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups (BAME)⁶

The share of apprentices from BAME backgrounds has been rising gradually since 2015/16. The latest full-year data for 2018/19 shows the largest single year rise, moving from 11.4 per cent in 2017/18 to 12.5 per cent.

Learners with a learning difficulty or disability

The share of starts by LLDD learners has risen year-on year from 8.9 per cent in 2014/15 to 12.0 per cent in 2018/19.

3. Apprenticeship subjects and levels

Compared to provisional data for the first two quarters at this point in earlier years:

- Starts on standards have risen by 15.2 per cent in the last year and more than doubled since 2017/18.
- Advanced apprenticeship starts have fallen by 6.9 per cent in the last year and intermediate starts have fallen by nearly a fifth (19.7 per cent).
- Higher level starts have increased by 17.3 per cent in the last year and more than doubled since 2017/18.
- Level 6 and 7 starts have increased by 36.3 per cent since 2018/19 and are nearly five times higher than in 2017/18.
- Starts in business, administration and law (the most popular subject area) have seen a 7.7 per cent fall in starts overall but there are large differences by level:
 - Intermediate level starts in business decreased by 30.9 per cent with falls in both standards and frameworks.
 - Advanced level starts decreased by 10.9 per cent.
 - Higher level starts increased by 13.4 per cent.
- Starts in retail have seen a 16.2 per cent decline with the largest fall seen at level 2 (20.8 per cent)
- Engineering starts have seen an 8.3 per cent decline; level 2 fell by 20.1 per cent and level 3 by 2.5 per cent.

⁶ As stated in the release: 'Further Education and Skills, England: November 2019', the BAME/LDD targets (previously set out in the Benefits Realisation Strategy (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-reform-programme-benefits-realisation-strategy>) have been revised upwards from 11.9 per cent to 12.1 per cent. For more information, please see: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/848534/FE_and_Skills_commentary_November_2019.pdf.

Annual trends

The following information is based on latest full, final year data and is intended to draw out full-year, longer-term trends.

Levels

Higher apprenticeships have seen increases in starts in recent years. Higher apprenticeships accounted for just 4.0 per cent of starts in 2014/15, rising to nearly one-in-five by the end of 2018/19. Of starts recorded so far in 2019/20, 23.2 per cent were at higher level.

Level 6 and above starts have seen a large increase since 2016/17 when they accounted for just 0.3 per cent of all starts (1,700). By 2018/19, 5.7 per cent of starts (22,500) were at level 6+ and of starts recorded so far in 2019/20, nearly one in ten (9.6 per cent) were at these levels.

Intermediate apprenticeships have fallen over the period, particularly since 2016/17. Intermediate apprenticeships accounted for 59.7 per cent of starts in 2014/15 compared to 36.5 per cent in 2018/19.

Subject areas

The four most popular subject areas (accounting for over 80 per cent of starts each year) are:

- Business, administration and law
- Health, public services and care
- Engineering, manufacturing technologies
- Retail and commercial enterprise

The share of these subjects has declined slightly in recent years, from 87.3 per cent in 2014/15 to 83.3 per cent in 2018/19, mainly due to a decline in retail and commercial enterprise apprenticeships. Latest figures show that 80.1 per cent of starts were in these subjects in the first half of 2019/20.

Apprenticeships in construction, planning and the built environment and information and communication technology have seen a modest rise since 2014/15.

Apprenticeship standards

Since their introduction in September 2014, starts on standards are increasing rapidly as they replace apprenticeship frameworks. Standards accounted for 63.1 per cent of all starts in 2018/19 – an increase of 19.5 percentage points on 2017/18.

74.3 per cent of starts so far in 2019/20 were on standards.

4. Traineeships

Traineeship starts

Latest figures for the first two quarters of the 2019/20 academic year show that:

- Traineeship starts have decreased to 8,400 from 8,800 starts reported at the equivalent point in 2018/19, a fall of 3.8 per cent.
- Under 19s account for over four-fifths of traineeship starts (80.5 per cent – 6,800 starts).

Traineeship completion rates

The completion rate for traineeships started between 2014/15 and 2018/19 has increased year-on-year. Traineeships that were started during the 2014/15 academic year saw a completion rate of 66.5 per cent, rising to 79.1 per cent of those started in 2017/18.

Latest provisional figures for traineeships started during 2018/19 show a completion rate of 79.4 per cent, though this will be an under-estimate since some completions will not yet have been recorded in the ILR at this point.

Note: Traineeship starts and completion rates are shown in tables 3.1 and 3.2. The latest available traineeship conversion rates are shown in table 3.3 (i.e. conversion from traineeship start to apprenticeship start) and were first reported in November 2019. These remain unchanged in this release. Updated, final year completion rates will be published in November 2020, along with conversion rates into apprenticeship starts in 2019/20 for traineeships started in 2018/19.

Additional measures classified as Official Statistics

The statistics in sections 5, 6 and 7 covering Apprenticeship Service data, indicative characteristics of public sector apprenticeships and certificates awarded for apprenticeship standards are classified as official statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, rather than being classed as national statistics and approved as such by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

5. Apprenticeship service and transparency data

For further information and background on apprenticeship service data, please see the User Guide to Further Education and Skills Statistics here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>

Registrations

As at 29 February, the total number of registered Apprenticeship Service Accounts (ASAs)^{7,8} was 23,100. This includes non-levy apprenticeship service accounts (please see below).

⁷ Please note that the date of registration is the date the apprenticeship service account first registered their Pay As You Earn (PAYE) account number and a legal entity in the digital apprenticeship service system.

⁸ There is no direct relationship between apprenticeship service accounts and employers. An employer may have more than one apprenticeship service account, whilst accounts set up by levy-paying employers can be associated with more than one Pay As You Earn (PAYE) scheme.

Commitments⁹

As at 29 February, the number¹⁰ of:

- commitments recorded for the 2018/19 academic year was 203,200 (of which 200,900 were fully agreed).
- commitments recorded for the 2019/20 academic year was 143,400 (134,500 fully agreed) – up on the 141,500 recorded for the 2018/19 academic year at the equivalent point last year.

The total number of commitments recorded since the start of the apprenticeship service stands at 487,700.

Apprenticeship service for non-levy-payers¹¹

From 09 January 2020 the apprenticeship service was extended for all non-levy paying employers to register and use. Employers who do not pay the apprenticeship levy are able to make a funding 'reservation' (or have a funding 'reservation' made on their behalf) with respect to an apprenticeship planned to start in the following 3 months. This reservation is in advance of recruitment or an offer of an apprenticeship being made to an existing employee. This reservation ensures that employers can plan, and that funds will be available to pay for the training from the point the apprenticeship starts¹². It is anticipated that this new functionality will be utilised further during the academic year.

Training providers can 'support' this by making reservations on behalf of non-levy employers. Additionally, providers with reservations that have progressed to a 'commitment' (with a training provider assigned) are counted as supporting.

Registrations

Early analysis covering the period from 09 January to 29 February 2020 shows there have been 2,560 apprenticeship service accounts registered from non-levy paying employers¹³.

Reservations

Since 9 January 2020 when the Apprenticeship Service was opened for employers that do not pay the levy, as of 29 February the following activity has been recorded on the service:

- Total number of reservations made has been 2,470, of which 170 have been subsequently deleted¹⁴.
- By 1,790 non-levy paying apprenticeship service accounts.
- Supported by 335 providers.

Commitments

Between 09 January and 29 February, accounts associated with non-levy-paying employers had resulted in 1,650 commitments recorded^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} (1,200 fully agreed and 450 pending approval).

⁹ Please note, a commitment may be recorded on the apprenticeship service after the training start date has passed, therefore all data should be treated as provisional. Additionally, commitments pending approval do not require the recording of age or level. Data are fully captured when providers confirm details in the ILR.

¹⁰ Commitments now include those associated with the apprenticeship service accounts of non-levy-paying employers. Care should be taken when comparisons are made of these latest figures to those published previously.

¹¹ The apprenticeship service registrations and commitments in this non-levy section are included in the total accounts/commitments shown on page 6.

¹² For further information on reservations and apprenticeship funding see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding>

¹³ Prior to 09 January 2020 it was possible for employers that do not pay the levy to set up apprenticeship service accounts. Additionally, some employers registered accounts as part of testing in preparation for the extension of the service to all employers that do not pay the levy. These 120 accounts were registered before the 2,560 apprenticeship service accounts associated with the non-levy paying employers figure shown in the text.

¹⁴ Deleted reservations are those that have been actively withdrawn by the account holder.

Transfers

In April 2018 it became possible for levy-paying organisations to transfer up to 10 per cent of the annual value of funds entering their apprenticeship service account to other organisations via the apprenticeship service. This increased to 25 per cent from April 2019.

The breakdowns in this section may include a small number of transfers to non-levy paying employers. In future releases we may produce separate numbers for transfers to levy paying and non-levy paying employers.

As at 29 February 2020:

- the number of commitments^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} entered into the apprenticeship service where the transfer of funds between ASAs has been approved, was 3,210 - a further 30 commitments were pending approval for the transfer of funds.
- 780 of the fully agreed transferred commitments^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} have been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the ILR in the 2018/19 academic year, with a further 1,900 recorded so far in 2019/20.

Monthly apprenticeship starts

The apprenticeship starts figures reported elsewhere in this document (sections 1, 2 and 3) relate to the first two quarters of the 2019/20 academic year (August 2019 to January 2020) and are based on the sixth ILR return for the 2019/20 academic year.

Monthly apprenticeship starts figures are produced for transparency purposes but are generally less robust for making comparisons given different reporting patterns by providers during the year. The latest monthly starts figures provided here also cover August 2019 to January 2020, but are based on later ILR data (the seventh ILR return for 2019/20). These figures are summarised below and more detailed breakdowns can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>

This later return is not used for the full release due to the timing of when the data becomes available and the time required to produce the statistics for the release.

Using the latest ILR data available, based on returns to March 2020, between August 2019 to January 2020 reported to date there have been 209,900 starts.

Compared to the equivalent period in previous years:

- Down by 7.1 per cent from 225,800 in 2018/19.
- Up by 1.8 per cent from 206,100 in 2017/18.

6. Indicative characteristics of apprenticeship starts in the public sector

On 28 November 2019, statistics covering public sector apprenticeships in England in the second year of the public sector apprenticeship target were published¹⁵. This publication was based on returns provided by public sector bodies to the Department for Education, which did not contain information on learner demographics or apprenticeship characteristics.

We have used data held on the ILR to provide an estimate of what these demographics and characteristics look like in the public sector. These estimates will not directly match official returns as they rely on a classification of public sector bodies through linked apprenticeship service accounts to the ILR. Additionally, the ILR records the start of training and not employment as recorded in the public sector returns. Although this is an estimate, the percentages produced will be indicative of the official return.

Breakdowns are published in the supplementary tables 'Indicative characteristics of learners and apprenticeship starts in the public sector' alongside this release.

Indicative estimates show that, in the period April 2018 to March 2019 (the second year of the public sector target):

- 17 per cent of all apprenticeship starts were linked to public sector employers
- Public sector apprentices tended to be older than average – around 1 in 7 (14.7 per cent) of starts in the public sector were for those aged under 19 compared to over a quarter (27.4 per cent) for those elsewhere.
- Higher-level apprenticeship starts were more prevalent in the public sector – 29.1 per cent of public sector starts were higher apprenticeships compared to 15.9 per cent elsewhere.
- The public sector had a higher rate of apprentices from ethnic minorities – 15.0 per cent of starts in the public sector were BAME learners compared to 11.6 per cent elsewhere.
- Apprenticeship starts in Business, Administration and Law or Health, Public Services and Care were more common across the public sector accounting for over seven in ten (70.5 per cent) of starts in these two subject areas. This compares to just over half (51.5 per cent) of starts not in the public sector.

7. Certificates Awarded for Apprenticeship Standards

Apprenticeship standards are made up of two elements; the training element which is delivered by a training provider and, the end-point assessment which is the undertaken by the End-point Assessment Organisation.

The purpose of the end-point assessment (EPA) is to test that an apprentice is fully capable of doing their job before they receive their apprenticeship certificate. It also helps to demonstrate that what an apprentice has learned can be applied in the real world.

A certificate for the achievement of an apprenticeship standard is awarded following the apprentice's endpoint assessment (EPA). The end-point assessment organisation (EPAO) submits the request for the certificate through the Record Apprentice End-point Assessment Grade (RAEAG) service which, is the digital service for recording and submitting requests for certificates for apprenticeship standards.

As part of the service EPAOs are required to record the achievement date for the apprentice to be printed on the certificate. This is the date the end-point assessment is completed and passed.

The achievement date recorded by the EPAO in the service may be different to the apprenticeship achievement date collected via the ILR that training providers submit to the ESFA. This may be due to delays in the achievement being

¹⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2019>

communicated to training providers or in them recording it in the ILR. The RAEAG service also records achievement for non (government)-funded apprentices whose details may not be recorded in the ILR.

Due to differences in the timing of when data is recorded and potential differences in coverage, the number of awards may be larger than the ILR achievements data as reported in the 'Further Education and Skills: March 2020' release for the same period:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>.

ILR achievements for 2019/20 will increase with later returns from providers and will become more aligned with awards in the full, final year data for 2019/20

Table 1 shows the number of certificates issued since 1 January 2017 with achievement dates to the end of January 2020, using data from RAEAG as at 3 March 2020.

Table 1: Certificates awarded for apprenticeship standards by level and academic year

Level	Grade awarded	Number of certificates awarded since January 2017				
		2016/17 (Jan - Jul)	2017/18 (Aug - Jul)	2018/19 (Aug - Jul)	2019/20 reported to date (Aug - Jan)	Total certificates since Jan 17
Intermediate	Distinction	80	440	3,190	3,250	6,950
	Merit	-	20	1,300	1,060	2,380
	Pass	40	1,020	6,270	5,510	12,850
	Other	-	-	-	110	110
	Total	130	1,480	10,760	9,930	22,300
Advanced	Distinction	30	260	5,080	5,070	10,430
	Merit	-	60	1,350	1,980	3,380
	Pass	130	700	6,100	6,450	13,380
	Other	-	70	270	190	520
	Total	160	1,080	12,790	13,680	27,710
Higher	Distinction	10	90	940	1,240	2,280
	Merit	-	80	480	790	1,350
	Pass	-	260	1,480	2,350	4,090
	Other	-	-	10	70	80
	Total	10	430	2,910	4,450	7,800
All apprenticeships	Distinction	120	790	9,210	9,550	19,670
	Merit	10	150	3,130	3,830	7,120
	Pass	170	1,980	13,850	14,320	30,310
	Other	-	70	280	360	710
	Total	300	2,990	26,460	28,060	57,810

Notes:

- (1) Volumes have been rounded to the nearest ten, with "-" representing fewer than 5 awards.
- (2) One certificate has an achievement date prior to 1st January 2017; all other certificates have achievement dates between March 2017 and January 2020.
- (2) 'Other' includes awards where there was a credit or where no grade was awarded.
- (3) 'Pass' includes awards where there was a pass awarded or where the award was a pass with excellence.
- (4) EPAOs may not submit requests for certificates until their internal moderation and governance processes have been completed. This may result in a gap between the achievement and submission date.
- (5) Data has been captured since 1 January 2017 when the ESFA took over the responsibility for the operational delivery of certificates for apprenticeship standards.
- (6) A small number of duplicate certificates may be included in these figures.

About this release

This statistical release presents information on all age (16+) apprenticeships and traineeships in England for the first two quarters of the 2019/20 academic year, covering August 2019 to January 2020.

This release also contains later data on registrations and commitments from the apprenticeship service. These official statistics are produced to provide transparency with regards to the apprenticeship service, an online service implemented in May 2017 that allows employers to choose and pay for apprenticeship training more easily, and its usage.

These statistics will continue to evolve over time as more data are collected and their relationships to other further education measures becomes more established. Caution should be taken interpreting what apprenticeship service data may mean for the overall apprenticeship programme given this is intended to grow over coming years. It has the potential to be affected by other factors, for example, users typically take time to adjust to recording data on a new system.

Please see the User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics that accompanies this release for links to data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>

Please see the previous statistical release (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-november-2019>) for:

- Progress towards the public sector apprenticeship target;
- Average apprenticeship duration and total expected training hours;
- Key stage 4 cohort analysis on learners starting apprenticeships

Changes included in this release

We are also including updated apprenticeship service registrations and commitments data based on data returned to the end of November 2019. The number of transferred commitments and transferred commitments that have so far been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the ILR have also been updated.

We are also providing 'indicative' ratios for the characteristics of learners associated with public sector returns received for the second year of the public sector apprenticeship target, and new statistics showing information on certificates awarded for apprenticeship standards the end point assessment.

New Apprenticeship Service data is also provided following the extension of the Service to allow non-levy paying organisations to make funding reservations.

Changes in the next release

The DfE is changing how we release our statistics to further modernise our approach to dissemination. This will be through a new DfE statistics dissemination platform known as 'Explore Education Statistics' (EES) to make our data and statistics easier to find, access, navigate and understand. Please see here for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics>. We are hoping to move to the new platform as soon as possible in 2020 but cannot confirm this as yet.

The EES system offers a step change for users in making data and releases easier to find and through use of a new table tool, giving more interactive access to our data. We are also adopting a more concise and user-friendly presentation of commentary and headline data. In addition, the move to EES will, over time, make production and dissemination of statistical releases more efficient and flexible.

We will also seek to improve navigation to our data by consolidating releases and providing more seamless links to all supporting tables. In EES we hope to have two releases; a Further education and skills release, and an Apprenticeships and traineeships release. The latter will bring all apprenticeship data together in one place and update relevant sections on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. For example, the next update of progress towards the public sector apprenticeships target will be November 2020.

We are looking to run webinars on the new EES release via sector bodies before launch.

There will be on-going developments to the platform over time as well as how we use it to release our statistics, therefore we would welcome feedback on what users find helpful or not.

In this publication

NOTE: all apprenticeships and traineeships main data tables can be found in the 'Further Education and Skills: March 2020' release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>

The following tables are included in this release:

- National tables (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

- Supplementary tables and data tools (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

- Underlying comma separated value (CSV) datasets along with metadata

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

Please see the 'Accompanying tables' section below for the full list of supplementary tables and data tools published with this release including the csv files.

The User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics published alongside this release provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Apprenticeship service and levy statistics

This publication contains updated apprenticeship service registrations and commitments data based on data returned to the end of February 2020. The number of transferred commitments and transferred commitments that have been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the ILR have also been updated.

The following tables are included as part of this release:

- Main table pack containing national tables (.xls and .ods)

Total number of commitments by training start date and age as reported at 31 January 2020

Total number of commitments by training start date and level as reported at 31 January 2020

All age monthly apprenticeship programme starts by level and age (2019/20 – reported to date)

- Monthly apprenticeship starts PivotTable tool covering breakdowns by sector subject area, framework/standard, age group, level, degree apprenticeship flag and funding type (to January 2019).

Public sector indicative characteristics

This publication contains estimates of learner demographics and apprenticeship characteristics in the public sector based on apprenticeship service account information linked to the ILR.

The following tables are included as part of this release:

- Table pack containing national tables (.xls and .ods)

Indicative characteristics of apprenticeship starts in public sector bodies (April 2018 to March 2019)

Indicative apprenticeship starts in public sector bodies, by framework/standard (April 2018 to March 2019)

Methodology and technical information

As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic. In order to understand the impact of policy and methodology changes on any data published in this release, see the User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>

Feedback

For any queries relating to changes we are planning to make to how we publish our data and statistics, please contact: FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk.

8. Accompanying tables

The following is a complete list of further education and skills tables and data tools published on the 26 March 2020 (including apprenticeships), that are located on the 'Further Education and Skills: March 2020' release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>

The following tables are available in Excel and Open Data Source (ODS) format here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>.

Further education and skills tables:

1. All age apprenticeship participation by level and age (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 2.1. All age apprenticeship programme starts by level and age (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 2.2. All age apprenticeship programme achievement by level and age (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 3.1 Traineeship starts by age (2013/14 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 3.2 Traineeship starts and completion rates, by age-group, for traineeships started between 2014/15 and 2018/19
- 3.3 Traineeship starts and apprenticeship conversion rates, by age-group, for traineeships started between 2014/15 and 2017/18
- 4.1. Adult (19+) FE and Skills participation by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 4.2. Adult (19+) FE and Skills achievement by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 5.1. Adult (19+) Education and Training participation by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 5.2. Adult (19+) Education and Training achievement by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 6.1. Adult (19+) AEB funded participation by level (2016/17 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
- 6.2. Adult (19+) AEB funded achievement by level (2016/17 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
7. Adult (19+) FE and Skills: English and maths participation and achievement by level (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)
8. All age demographic summary of apprenticeship and traineeship participation (2019/20 - reported to date)
9. Adult (19+) demographic summary of FE and Skills participation (2019/20 - reported to date)
10. Community Learning participation and achievement by type (2010/11 to 2019/20 - reported to date)

Underlying CSV data

- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship starts with various attributes such as gender, geography, sector subject area and provider (2019/20 - reported to date)
- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship participation with various attributes such as gender, geography and provider, (2019/20 - reported to date).
- Unrounded CSV apprenticeship achievements by SSA, provider, framework/standard, local authority district (2019/20 - reported to date)
- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship starts and achievements by LEP (2019/20 - reported to date).
- Unrounded CSV dataset on Further Education and Skills learner participation with various attributes such as gender, geography and provider (2019/20 - reported to date).
- Unrounded CSV dataset on Further Education and Skills aims enrolments with various attributes such as gender, geography, sector subject area and provider (2019/20 - reported to date).
- Metadata: Information about the fields in the underlying data and additional notes for users

Apprenticeship and levy statistics tables:

1. Total number of commitments by training start date and age as reported at 29 February 2020
2. Total number of commitments by training start date and level as reported at 29 February 2020
3. All age apprenticeship programme starts by start month, level and age (August 2019 to January 2020 – reported to date)

Supplementary tables

Additional breakdowns of further education statistics are published online, please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>. These additional breakdowns include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, parliamentary constituency, sector subject area and funding stream.

Please see the **table finder** tool published in the FE data library for data tools and tables with additional breakdowns for annual full year 2018/19 academic year data and previous years:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fe-data-library-help-for-finding-data>

1. Apprenticeship demographic, sector subject area and local authority district PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2019/20 - reported to date)
2. Apprenticeship framework/standard and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2019/20 - reported to date)
3. Education & Training demographic, sector subject area and local authority district PivotTable tool: enrolments and achievements (2019/20 – reported to date)
4. Education & Training aims and sector subject area PivotTable tool: enrolments and achievements (2019/20 – reported to date)
5. Apprenticeship starts since May 2010/2015 by geography
6. Apprenticeship starts and achievements by detailed LLDD, level and age group (2017/18-2018/19)
7. Indicative characteristics of learners and apprenticeship starts in the public sector (April 2018 to March 2019)
8. Adult (19+) Education and Training Participation by Level and total Community Learning Participation for active Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and Greater London Authority (GLA) (2019/20 - reported to date) - Learner Volumes
9. Education and Training enrolments by sector subject area, local authority district, provider and learning aim (2019 – reported to date)
10. Education and Training achievements by sector subject area, local authority district, provider and learning aim (2019 – reported to date)
11. Monthly apprenticeship starts PivotTable tool covering breakdowns by sector subject area, framework/standard, age group, level, degree apprenticeship flag and funding type (2014/15 to 2019/20 - reported to date)

When reviewing the FE and Skills tables, please note that:

We preserve confidentiality	The Code of Practice for Official Statistics (https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/) requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.
We round figures	Rounding is our primary approach to preserving confidentiality in our main tables, where headline volumes are reported rounded to the nearest 100. In the supplementary tables, volumes are rounded to the nearest 10. There may be exceptions to this in instances where any figure that is an exact duplicate of a value in the headline figures (e.g. Grand Totals), which are rounded to the nearest 100 and avoid contradictory figures. Percentages reported are calculated on pre-rounded data and given to one decimal place.
We suppress some figures	In the main tables, headline volumes below 50 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). In reality, very few figures in our main tables are small enough to be suppressed in this way. In the supplementary tables volumes below 5 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). A percentage of less than 0.5 per cent is suppressed.
We adopt symbols to help identify suppression	Symbols are used in the tables as follows: '-' indicates a headline volume with below 50 in the main tables and below 5 in the supplementary tables. ** indicates a percentage of less than 0.5 per cent.
Coverage of the data	This release includes provisional data for the first two quarters (August to January 2020) of the 2019/20 academic year reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in February 2020 by further education providers.

In order to understand the impact of policy and methodology changes on any data published in this release, details are provided in User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics document that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>.

9. Further information is available

Additional breakdowns of further education statistics are published online as supplementary tables. These include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, parliamentary constituency, sector subject area and funding stream.

Please see the further education data library here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see [the](#) User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics document that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>.

10. The apprenticeship funding system

Changes in the way apprenticeship funding works were introduced and implemented from May 2017. Guidance about these changes and paying the apprenticeship levy can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>.

A key aspect of these changes was the introduction of the apprenticeship service, an online service to allow employers to choose and pay for apprenticeship training more easily. Levy-payers are able to register on the apprenticeship service so that they can:

1. receive levy funds to spend on apprenticeships
2. manage their apprentices
3. pay their training provider

For more please see the User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics document that accompanied this release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>.

11. Technical information

For further information, please see the User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics document that accompanied this release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-march-2020>

This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

12. National Statistics

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The continued designation of these statistics as National Statistics was confirmed in October 2019 following a compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation

(<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/compliance-check-further-education-skills/>).

The statistics last underwent a full assessment (https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessment-report-78-further-education-and-skills_tcm97-35239.pdf, <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/statistics-on-further-education-and-skills-letter-of-confirmation-as-national-statistics/>) against the [Code of Practice](#) in 2010.

Since the latest review by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics, and have made the following improvements:

We highlighted the key methodology information in the User Guide to FE and Skills Statistics accompanying this release, including data quality issues surrounding the in-year data in our releases, and ensured our in-year statistics are now clearly caveated. We have improved the commentary with the necessary caveats to aid interpretation and to visually reflect the variability with in-year statistics. We made a number of changes to our publication structure and publication timings from January 2018, which were outlined in the [Proposed Changes](#) document in November 2017. We have responded to various user needs by creating more data tools with the view to improving the richness of data, increasing efficiencies,

and enabling re-use of those statistics, thereby improving flexibility of the statistics. We have developed a new table finder to help users navigate the tools in the further education data library. These changes, particularly those implemented from the 2017/18 academic year were informed by user feedback, an internal review of further education Official Statistics, and departmental priorities, with a view to improving consistency across our statistical publications. Furthermore, [the FE Official Statistics mailbox](#) has been introduced as the central point of contact for further engagement and to invite feedback.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

13. Get in touch

Media enquiries

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Other enquiries and feedback

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Download: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

Reference: [Apprenticeship and Traineeships: March 2020]



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