

Statistical Bulletin
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Vocational Qualifications in the UK
1997/98

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VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 1997/98

Introduction

1 This Bulletin presents information on awards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs), General Scottish Vocational Qualifications (GSVQs). It presents information on other full awards of vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs), awarded by four of the largest awarding bodies: City & Guilds, Edexcel (formerly BTEC), OCR (formerly RSA) and SQA.

2 It also presents information on the number of people holding and studying towards NVQ/SVQs, and the characteristics of these people. This Bulletin updates the information in DfEE Statistical Bulletin Issue No 5/98, May 1998, although the presentation of analyses of NVQ/SVQ qualifications are now UK estimates, which has been made possible by the improvements made to the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ), which includes a further 9 awarding bodies supplying information on NVQs¹.

3 QCA have endorsed the improvements made to NISVQ: "We have been working with the DfEE to centralise, improve and share information about candidates achieving vocational qualifications. We are pleased that the efforts made to date have come to fruition and have resulted in a substantial increase in NVQ coverage as shown in this bulletin. We particularly welcome the improvement in coverage by NVQ framework area and level which – together with additional information gathered on candidates achieving qualifications – already means that it has been possible to analyse NVQs awarded by gender, age and centre type more reliably than has previously been possible from earlier data sources. We will be using this new data to improve our understanding of the demand for particular qualifications and to analyse trends and take-up in particular sectors. We congratulate our DfEE colleagues on the progress made already and we look forward to further improvements as additional awarding bodies are brought into the system and the supply of unit level and other candidate data improves further. We will continue to give our help and support to improve the position further – particularly through the inclusion of additional awarding bodies and Other VQs – however we already feel that the improvements made so far have been substantial."

Summary

4 Information on awards of NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs, GSVQs, and Other VQs² made by UK awarding bodies in 1997/98 has been taken from the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) held by DfEE. Information on total awards of NVQs is provided by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides estimates on numbers of people holding/studying towards NVQs/SVQs and the GNVQ database gives the number of registrations on GNVQs in England. Additional information on employers' awareness and involvement in vocational qualifications is provided by Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland 1998³.

5 There was little change in the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded in the UK in 1997/98 when compared with the previous year: 459 thousand in 1996/97 and 458 thousand in 1997/98.

6 The numbers of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1997/98 has continued to increase at a steady rate when compared with earlier years: 84 thousand in 1995/96, 93 thousand in 1996/97 and 103 thousand in 1997/98.

7 NISVQ collects information on other full vocational qualifications (Other VQs) outside the National Framework (i.e. not NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs) from Edexcel, City & Guilds, OCR, and SQA. The total number of these awards for 1997/98 was 447 thousand, a slight rise compared to the 439 thousand in 1996/97.

8 Since their introduction, approximately 2.4 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded up to the end of December 1998. Nearly 60% of these were at level 2. About 21% were at level 1, 17% were at level 3 and about 3% were at levels 4 and 5. Compared with the early 1990s the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1997/98 at level 2 have increased three-fold and awards at level 3 have increased over eight-fold.

9 Of the GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1997/98: 9% were at Foundation level (level 1), 48% at Intermediate level (level 2) and 43% at Advanced level (level 3). Advanced level awards account for 80% of the total increase in awards since 1996/97.

10 In 1997/98, about 251 thousand (56%) of Other VQs on NISVQ were at the notional level of an NVQ level 1, about 82 thousand (18%) were at notional level 2, 65 thousand (15%) at notional level 3, and 48 thousand (11%) at notional levels 4/5. (Within NISVQ, a *notional* level is estimated for each Other VQ for analytical purposes.)

1 All 1997/98 analyses of NVQ/SVQ awards made in the UK are based on grossed up NVQ returns from 12 awarding bodies plus all SVQs accredited by SQA. The National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) received information about 83% of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1997/98.

2 Throughout this Bulletin, figures from NISVQ showing the number of Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs) are awards other than NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs made by Edexcel, City & Guilds, OCR and SQA only, and are not grossed up UK estimates.

3 Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland 1998, IFF Research Ltd.

11 The Autumn 1998 LFS provides an estimate of 2.4 million people for the number of people holding an NVQ/SVQ. For a sample survey this estimate compares favourably with QCA's official figure for the total number of NVQ/SVQ awards made. A further 678 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held an NVQ/SVQ unit.

12 An estimated 834 thousand people, according to the LFS, were working towards an NVQ/SVQ in Autumn 1998, which is a slight fall of nearly 50 thousand compared with the comparable survey in Autumn 1997: three-quarters of these people were working towards their first NVQ/SVQ.

13 The trend in the number of people registering to take a GNVQ in England has remained fairly constant for the last three years, according to the GNVQ Student Database: 196 thousand registered in 1995/96, 211 thousand registered in 1996/97 and nearly 209 thousand registered in 1997/98.

Background

14 Information on the total number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1997/98 has been taken for the first time from NISVQ. In 1997/98 NISVQ contains information on 83% of all NVQs awarded. In order to obtain 1997/98 UK estimates, NVQs held on NISVQ have been grossed-up to QCA's NVQ totals by framework area and level. QCA's totals are based on quarterly returns sent to QCA by all NVQ awarding bodies. 1997/98 UK analyses of NVQs/SVQs contained in this bulletin are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs. Information on awards of GNVQs, GSVQs, and Other VQs is also from NISVQ and their presentation has not changed since the last bulletin.

15 As in previous years NISVQ received information on awards of NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs and Other VQs made by four of the largest awarding bodies: City and Guilds, Edexcel (formerly BTEC), OCR (formerly RSA) and SQA⁴. Information on GNVQs/GSVQs is complete, because all the relevant awarding bodies are included. SQA also provides complete information on SVQs.

16 This year NISVQ also received information on NVQs awarded in 1997/98 by: Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT); Council for Award's in Children's Care & Education (CACHE); Construction Industry Training Board (CITB); EMTA Awards Limited (EMTAAL); Fibreboard Awarding Body (FAB); London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board (LCCI); NCC Education Services Ltd (NCC); National Examining Board for Supervision and Management (NEBSM) and Telecommunications Vocational Standards Council (TVSC). The data collected from all awarding bodies involved with NISVQ covered full awards made at centres in the United Kingdom only.

17 Information on people holding/studying towards NVQs/SVQs is from the Autumn 1998 LFS. Analysis based on the numbers of people holding an NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year they were gained. Additional information on NVQs/SVQs is from the Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland 1998.

Improvements to NISVQ

18 Since the last bulletin was published NISVQ has been developed to improve the information available about those obtaining vocational qualifications. The first phase of development has seen an increase in both the coverage (i.e. more awarding bodies contributing to NISVQ) and scope, in terms of information collected on each award. This has greatly improved NISVQ's ability to produce more comprehensive and useful statistical analyses about vocational qualifications, in particular NVQs.

19 These improvements have been made in the light of findings from a joint DFEE/QCA consultation exercise of data providers and users. The consultation exercise was DFEE's response to recommendations made by both the Beaumont⁵ and Dearing⁶ reports which said that information about vocational qualifications should be improved and that a management information system should be established.

20 The first phase of development has seen an additional 9 awarding bodies supply information on NVQs to NISVQ. The 9 awarding bodies were those who after the initial consultation exercise and proposal stage were in the best position to submit data in the specified format to the agreed timescales.

21 As a result of the increase from 4 to 13 awarding bodies submitting information to NISVQ, the overall coverage of NVQs, as measured against the total number of NVQs accredited by QCA, has increased by 18 percentage points to over 83% in 1997/98. Coverage in 8 of the 11 NVQ framework areas has also improved considerably.

22 The parallel stream of development looked at improving the scope of information collected about each award. The consultation exercise asked data users to rank information in order of usefulness, and asked data providers what information they could supply in the specified format. The result of this has seen the information on awards increased to include qualification title, units taken, registration date, ethnicity, special needs and centre type.

23 Future developments will include improving the coverage of NVQs in framework areas with low coverage and improving the quality and timeliness of the data provided. For more information see the future developments section of this bulletin.

4 Prior to 1993/94 data were obtained from six of the largest awarding bodies.

5 Review of 100 NVQs and SVQs, Beaumont (January 1996).

6 Review of Qualifications for 16-19 Year Olds, Dearing (March 1996).

New analyses available from NISVQ

24 In past bulletins, UK level analyses of NVQs/SVQs have not been possible from NISVQ because the coverage of NVQs did not allow robust estimates to be produced. The increase in coverage to over 83% makes it possible for the first time to give estimates of the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded in the UK by age, gender, occupation group, centre type, subject area and Government Office Region⁷. Unfortunately UK estimates by ethnicity and special needs are still not possible because of the small amount of data returned for these data items. In 1997/98 these variables were collected on a voluntary basis, but from 1 October 1998 it has been **mandatory** for an awarding body to collect this information and supply it to a central point.

COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY TYPE

25 This section of the bulletin compares the characteristics of NVQs/SVQs and GNVQs/GSVQs with full Other VQs outside the National Framework. This analysis should be seen as illustrative because NISVQ only collect information on Other VQs from 4 of the largest awarding bodies and therefore may not be representative of all Other VQs awarded in the UK.

26 Chart A shows that the proportion of each level of award varies greatly across the three qualification types. The most common notional level of award for Other VQs is level 1 (56%), which accounts for more awards than

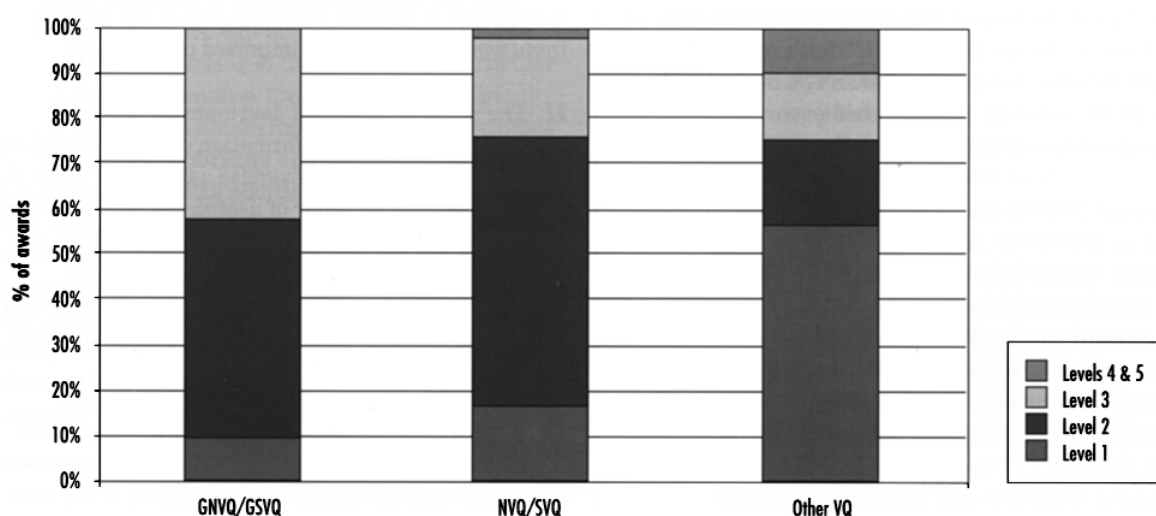
the other levels put together. In contrast the most common level for GNVQ/GSVQ and NVQ/SVQ is level 2. The qualification type which has the biggest proportion of awards made at level 3 is GNVQ (43%), followed by NVQ/SVQ (22%) and Other VQ (15%). The proportion of levels 4 & 5 qualifications is highest for Other VQs (11%). (GNVQs/GSVQs are only available at levels 1, 2 and 3.)

27 People aged 25 and over account for the biggest proportion of awards made for both NVQ/SVQ (44%) and Other VQs (55%). Chart 1 later in the bulletin illustrates this. Unsurprisingly, because of the target group GNVQs/GSVQs are predominantly awarded to people aged 18 and under.

28 Table A below shows that the most common major occupation group, as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), for all three types of vocational qualifications is 'Clerical and Secretarial': 34% of GNVQs/GSVQs, 23% of NVQs/SVQs and 56% of the Other VQs currently included on NISVQ. SOC is used for analytical purposes on NISVQ to identify the major occupation group where the qualification best fits. This does not mean that the person who holds the award works in the occupational area.

29 According to NISVQ, there is a significant difference between the gender breakdown by level when comparing NVQs/SVQs with Other VQs. Females are in the majority for the number of awards made at every NVQ/SVQ level except level 1, whereas the opposite is true for Other VQs. Chart 2 illustrates this in more detail.

CHART A:
Comparison of qualification type by level 1997/98



Source: NISVQ

⁷ UK estimates should be treated with caution as the QCA totals used for grossing-up NVQs contain a small number of overseas awards.

TABLE A:
Comparison of qualification type by SOC 1997/98

Major Occupation Group (SOC)	Awards (percentage)		
	GNVQs/GSVQs	NVQs/SVQs	Other VQs
Management and Administration	3%	15%	2%
Professional	0%	5%	4%
Associate Professionals	30%	6%	19%
Clerical and Secretarial	34%	23%	56%
Craft and Related	2%	19%	12%
Personal and Protective Services	23%	20%	2%
Sales	0%	5%	0%
Plant and Machine Operation	0%	4%	2%
Miscellaneous	1%	3%	2%
Unknown	7%	0%	1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

Source: NISVQ

AWARDS OF NVQs/SVQs

NVQ/SVQ awards over time

30 Since their introduction, approximately 2.4 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded by the end of December 1998. Table B (and Chart 3) shows that growth in the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded each year appears to be levelling off: 354 thousand in 1995/96, 459 thousand in 1996/97, and 458 thousand in 1997/98.

31 Looking at NVQs alone, there has been a slight increase since last year: nearly 446 thousand in 1997/98 compared with 444 thousand in 1996/97. For more detailed information on NVQs awarded by NVQ level, framework area, academic year, and quarter see Tables 1 and 2 later in this bulletin.

NVQ/SVQ awards by level

32 Compared with previous years awards at levels 1 and 2 have decreased, loosely offset by an increase at level 3.

Despite a small increase the number of awards at levels 4 and 5, where relatively few qualifications are available, has remained small. This is illustrated in Table B and Chart 3.

33 The number of awards made at NVQ/SVQ level 1 has decreased from its highest level of about 79 thousand in 1996/97 to about 72 thousand in 1997/98. Awards made at NVQ/SVQ level 2 have also decreased, but continue to be the most common: nearly 60% of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1997/98 were at level 2. The number of NVQ/SVQ level 3 awards have increased more than eight-fold since the early nineties: 12 thousand in 1991/92 compared to over 102 thousand in 1997/98. Only a small proportion of NVQs/SVQs awarded (less than 3% in 1997/98) were at levels 4 and 5.

34 In 1997/98 NISVQ collected information on approximately 83% of all NVQ/SVQ awards. This increase in coverage has enabled UK estimates to be produced for NVQ/SVQ awards by age, gender, level, occupation group, centre type, subject area and framework area. In the following, comparisons with 1996/97 figures should be seen as illustrative because in 1996/97 NISVQ did not contain sufficient coverage of NVQs/SVQs to produce robust UK estimates. Future bulletins will contain more analysis by year.

NVQ/SVQ awards by age and gender

35 In 1997/98, almost 45% of NVQs/SVQs were made to people aged 25 and over, compared with over 40% of NVQs/SVQs awarded to people aged under 21. Nearly 53% of NVQs/SVQs were made to females, 4 percentage points less than the estimates from NISVQ in 1996/97. Almost 60% of males and females gained NVQs/SVQs at level 2, with slightly more men achieving level 1 and more women achieving level 3. A more detailed breakdown of NVQs/SVQs by age and gender is given in Table 3C.

TABLE B:
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level

Year (i)	Awards (thousands)					
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total (ii)	Cumulative total
Prior to 1991/92	46	68	13	8	136	136
1991/92	48	86	12	7	152	288
1992/93	49	119	16	8	194	482
1993/94	56	148	25	11	240	722
1994/95	55	165	49	8	278	1,000
1995/96	62	218	65	9	354	1,354
1996/97	79	277	93	10	459	1,813
1997/98	72	271	102	12	458	2,271
1998/99 (Q1)	14	55	21	2	93	2,364

(i) Academic years from October to September.

(ii) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

Source: OCA/NISVQ

NVQ/SVQ awards by major occupation group (SOC)

36 Table 3D shows the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded by major occupation group and gender. For NISVQ purposes SOC is used to classify the occupational area where the qualification would best fit⁸. Over 60% of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1997/98 fell in 3 occupational groups: 'Clerical and Secretarial' (23%), 'Personal and Protective Services' (20%) and 'Craft and Related' (19%). The occupation groups with the biggest gender imbalance are 'Craft and Related' (90% male), and 'Personal and Protective Services' (73% female).

NVQ/SVQ awards by centre type and level

37 According to NISVQ, over 80% of all NVQs/SVQs awarded were made through either Further Education Colleges or private training providers, including 69% of all level 1, over 83% of level 2 and nearly 85% of levels 3, 4 and 5. It should be noted that both FE colleges and training providers frequently provide assessment and certification services to employers where candidates are based. Of the remainder by far the biggest proportion were made directly through employers where level 2 qualifications were most common. For a complete breakdown of NVQs/SVQs by centre type by level see Table 3E.

NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area

38 Over three quarters of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in the most popular subject area 'Business/ Management/ Office Studies' were made to women. Of the other popular subject areas, 'Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety' was also dominated by females, whereas Manufacturing/Production Work and Construction & Property (Built Environment) were male dominated. Table 3F contains a breakdown of subject area by level.

NVQ/SVQ awards by framework area

39 Of the NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1997/98, over 156 thousand (34%) were in the Framework area 'Providing Business Services' and over 137 thousand (30%) were in the area 'Providing Goods and Services'. Less than 1.5% of awards were in the areas of 'Communicating' and 'Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill'. These figures are contained within Table 3G. There has been very little change from 1996/97.

NVQ/SVQ by Government Office Region and Country

40 In 1997/98, 87% of NVQs/SVQs were made in England compared to approximately 5% in both Scotland and Wales and just under 3% in Northern Ireland. For a more detailed breakdown by Government Office region and country see Table 3H.

People holding NVQs/SVQs

41 According to the Autumn 1998 LFS, it is estimated that over 2.4 million people held an NVQ/SVQ⁹. Of these 51% were female compared to 53% in Autumn 1997. A further 678 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held one or more NVQ/SVQ units.

42 Of those people holding an NVQ/SVQ, nearly 9 in 10 were economically active (Autumn 1998 LFS), which has not changed significantly from the survey in the previous year. The majority of these economically active people were employees (86%), with 8% being unemployed (ILO definition). Table C below gives a full breakdown of economic activity for those holding NVQs/SVQs for the last two Autumn LFS.

TABLE C:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

Status	Autumn 1997	Autumn 1998
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)
Economically Active	1,750	2,134
of which:		
employee	1,450	1,831
self-employed	70	82
government supported training and employment programmes	50	38
unpaid family worker	-	-
ILO unemployed	180	180
Economically Inactive	220	257
Total	1,970	2,391

Source: LFS, Autumn 1997 & 1998

43 Table D below shows the proportion of NVQs/SVQs held by people in each age group for the last two Autumn LFS. Of those people who have an NVQ/SVQ, approximately 15% are aged 20 or less, a slight fall from last year's survey. This corresponds to 65% for those aged 25 and over, a rise of 3 percentage points from Autumn 1997 LFS.

44 The proportion of people holding NVQs/SVQs by the Standard Major Occupational Groups of their main job are shown in Table 3A from the LFS. Of those people who held NVQs/SVQs: 16% had their main job in clerical or secretarial occupations, and 14% had their main job in personal or protective services occupations. The smallest proportion with an NVQ/SVQ were working in professional occupations (4%).

45 Table 3B from the Autumn 1998 LFS gives a Government Office regional breakdown of the number of

8 The person who achieved the NVQ/SVQ will not necessarily work in the same occupational area.

9 Analysis of numbers of people holding a NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year awarded.

TABLE D:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by age group and year

Age Band	Autumn 1997		Autumn 1998	
	Number (thousands)	Percentage	Number (thousands)	Percentage
16-20	330	17%	364	15%
21-24	420	21%	467	20%
25-40	790	40%	986	41%
41-59	410	21%	547	23%
60 or over	20	1%	27	1%
Total	1,970	100%	2,391	100%

Source: LFS, Autumn 1997 & 1998

people holding NVQs/SVQs. Of those holding NVQs/SVQs, 85% were living in England, 6% in Wales, 7% in Scotland and 3% in Northern Ireland. The region containing the largest number of people holding NVQs/SVQs was the North West with 287 thousand people.

People studying towards NVQs/SVQs

46 According to the LFS, in Autumn 1998, there were 834 thousand people studying towards an NVQ/SVQ, and of these only 138 thousand (17%) were full-time students, a slight rise from last year. Nearly three quarters of those studying towards an NVQ/SVQ did not already have one.

47 Of the people studying towards an NVQ/SVQ, 88% were economically active. The majority of these economically active people were employees (83%), with 5% being unemployed (ILO definition) and a further 8% on government supported training and employment programmes. Table E below gives a full breakdown by year of the economic activity of people studying towards NVQs/SVQs.

TABLE E:
People studying towards NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

Status	1997	1998
	Number (Thousands)	Number (Thousands)
Economically Active	780	730
of which:		
employee	620	608
self-employed	20	16
government supported training and employment programmes	100	69
unpaid family worker	-	-
ILO unemployed	40	37
Economically Inactive	100	104
Total	880	834

- less than 1,000

Source: LFS, Autumn 1997 & 1998

AWARDS OF GNVQs/GSVQs

Growth in GNVQ/GSVQ awards

48 Table F (and Chart 4), based on NISVQ data, shows the numbers of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded by level over time. The number of GNVQ/GSVQ awards has grown significantly since their introduction, from under 1 thousand awards in 1992/93 to nearly 103 thousand awards in 1997/98. In the last academic year awards of GNVQs/GSVQs rose again by nearly 11%, the same rise as the previous year.

GNVQs/GSVQs by level

49 Awards at level 2 (Intermediate level) and level 3 (Advanced level) have shown continuous increases since 1992/93, however the number of awards at level 1 (Foundation level) remained constant in 1997/98 compared with last year. Although awards at level 2 continue to represent the highest share of GNVQs/GSVQs in 1997/98, the proportion of level 2 awards has shown a decrease each year (from 84% in 1993/94 to 48% in 1997/98). This has been due to the steady growth in the proportion of level 3 awards (from 11% in 1993/94 to 43% in 1997/98).

TABLE F
GNVQs/GSVQs awards by level

Year ⁽ⁱ⁾	Awards (thousands)			
	Level 1 / Foundation	Level 2 / Intermediate	Level 3 / Advanced	Total ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾
1992/93	0	1	0	1
1993/94	1	16	2	19
1994/95	3	32	12	47
1995/96	6	44	34	84
1996/97	9	48	36	93
1997/98	9	49	44	103

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

(ii) Awards are excluded if the centre or qualification was not identified.

(iii) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

GNVQs/GSVQs by age and gender

50 More awards of GNVQs/GSVQs were made to females (51%) than males (49%) in 1997/98. Marginally more awards were made to males at level 1 and level 2, however slightly more awards were made to females at level 3. Three-quarters (75%) of GNVQs/GSVQs were awarded to people aged 18 and under with only 7% of awards made to people aged at 21 and over. These figures are contained within Table 4A.

GNVQs/GSVQs by major occupation group (SOC)

51 Over one third of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1997/98 were made in the occupational area 'Clerical and Secretarial', with more awards being made to males

(58%)¹⁰. Of these, slightly more awards made at level 2 (47%) compared to level 3 (45%).

52 Almost 31 thousand awards were made in the area 'Associate Professionals', with 59% of these awards being made to females. There were more awards in this area made at level 2 (48%) compared to level 3 (43%) and level 1 (9%). More detailed occupation group by gender figures for GNVQs/GSVQs are contained in Table 4B.

GNVQs/GSVQs by centre type and level

53 According to NISVQ, over a half, (54%) of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded were made at Further Education Colleges, while 34% were made at schools. The majority of those awarded at school were made at level 2 (60%), while of those awarded at Further Education Colleges the majority were made at level 3 (50%). These figures are contained within Table 4C.

GNVQs/GSVQs by subject area

54 Nearly a third (33 thousand) of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1997/98 were made in the subject area 'Business and Management'. There were slightly more awards in this area at level 3 (48%) compared to level 2 (44%) and level 1 (8%). The majority of these awards were made to males (54%).

55 Over one in five awards (19,800) were made in the area 'Health Care, Medicine, Health & Safety'. The majority of awards were at level 2 (50%) compared to level 3 (37%) and level 1 (14%). Significantly 92% of these awards were made to females. A similar number of awards (18,400) were made in the area 'Catering, Food, Leisure Services and Tourism', with awards at level 3 only marginally more than at level 2. (47% as opposed to 46%). Slightly more awards were made to males (53%) compared to females (47%). More detailed subject area by level figures for GNVQs/GSVQs are contained in Table 4D.

56 Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by vocational area followed an almost identical pattern to the subject area breakdown.

GNVQs/GSVQs by Government Office Region and Country

57 In 1997/98, 90% of all GNVQ/GSVQ awards were made in England, compared to 5% in Wales, 3% in Northern Ireland and 1% in Scotland. The region containing the largest number of GNVQ/GSVQ awards was Eastern with 14,800 awards (16% of the total awards for England). These figures are contained within Table 4E.

Number of people registered on GNVQs

58 The trend in the number of people registering to take a GNVQ in England has remained fairly constant for the

last three years. According to the GNVQ Student Database: 196 thousand registered in 1995/96, 211 thousand registered in 1996/97 and nearly 209 thousand registered in the latest year. Chart 5 shows how the number of registrations by level grew in the early nineties and now appears to be levelling off.

59 The number of males registering in 1997/98 to take GNVQs in England has remained the same as 1996/97 (109 thousand), whereas the number of females has dropped from 102 thousand in 1996/97 to 99 thousand in 1997/98. Table 4F shows the number of GNVQ registrations by age and level for the last two academic years.

AWARDS OF OTHER VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

60 NISVQ receives information on awards of full other vocational qualifications (Other VQs) from four of the largest awarding bodies in the UK. Analysis presented in this bulletin relates *only* to awards made by these bodies and are *not* UK estimates of Other VQs. QCA estimate a *notional* NVQ level to Other VQs for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.

61 Between 1993/94 and 1995/96 there had been a marked reduction in the number of Other VQs awarded: from about 580 thousand in 1993/94 to about 423 thousand in 1995/96. Since then the trend seems to be have levelled out with 439 thousand in 1996/97 and 447 thousand in 1997/98. Chart 6 illustrates this.

Other VQs by level

62 Table G, below, shows that of the 447 thousand Other VQs awarded in 1997/98, 251 thousand (56%) were at notional level 1; 82 thousand (18%) were at notional level 2; 65 thousand (15%) at notional level 3; and 48 thousand (11%) at notional levels 4 and 5.

63 Although there was a slight rise in the total number of Other VQs awarded in 1997/98 compared to last year (8 thousand more), there was a fall in Other VQs made at level 4 & 5 (down 11% on last year), and at level 3 (down 13% on last year). Awards made at level 2 were up on last year by 9% and awards made at level 1 were up by 7%.

¹⁰ As part of NISVQ, the Standard Occupational Classification is used to identify a major occupational group where a qualification best fits. It does not mean that the person who holds the qualification works in the occupational area.

TABLE G:
Other vocational awards by level

Year ⁽ⁱ⁾	Awards (thousands)				Total ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ ^(iv)
	Notional Level 1 ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Notional Level 2	Notional Level 3	Notional Levels 4 & 5	
1991/92	211	127	159	56	553
1992/93	150	174	191	72	586
1993/94	208	171	138	63	580
1994/95	173	126	115	47	460
1995/96	188	89	94	53	423
1996/97	235	75	75	54	439
1997/98	251	82	65	48	447

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

(ii) For Other VQs, notional NVQ levels are estimated by OCA for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.

(iii) Awards are excluded if the centre or qualification was not identified.

(iv) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

Other VQs by age and gender

64 In 1997/98, more Other VQs were made to females (53%). One third of all Other VQs were awarded to people aged between 25 and 40 (Table 5A).

Other VQs by major occupation group (SOC)

65 Over half (252 thousand) of the Other VQs recorded on NISVQ were made in the occupational area 'Clerical and Secretarial'. With 68% of these awards made to females¹¹. Significantly, 8 out of 10 awards in this area were made at level 1.

66 Over 86 thousand awards were made in the area 'Associate Professionals', with the majority of awards made to males (61%). More awards in this area were made at level 3 (43%), compared to level 4 & 5 (27%), level 2 (25%), and level 1 (5%). Table 5B shows more information on occupational area by gender.

Other VQs by centre type and level

67 According to NISVQ, 94% of Other VQs were made through education establishments or private training providers: 52% through Further Education Colleges. Over 40% of those awarded at Further Education Colleges were made at level 3 or above. Of those awarded at Sixth Form Colleges, 84% were made at level 1. These figures are contained within Table 5C.

Other VQs by subject area

68 The most dominant subject area in terms of awards recorded on NISVQ, is 'Information Technology and Information', with 198 thousand (44%) of the total number of all Other VQs awarded. Nearly two thirds of awards made in this area were achieved by females and 9 out of 10 (185 thousand) of these were made at level 1.

69 Nearly 10% of Other VQs, as recorded on NISVQ, were made in the subject area 'Engineering', with 97% of these awards made to males. Over half of all awards made in this area were at level 3 or above. Table 5D provides more details of subject area by level.

Other VQs by Government Office Region and Country

70 In 1997/98, 87% of all Other VQs awards on NISVQ were made in England, compared to 5% in Scotland, 4% in Northern Ireland and 4% in Wales. The Government Office Region containing the largest number of Other VQ awards was the North West with 45 thousand awards (12% of the total awards for England). These figures are contained within Table 5E.

Employers' awareness/involvement in vocational qualifications

71 Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland indicated that 96% of employers in Great Britain had heard of NVQ and SVQs. This is the same as last year. The survey also indicated that 84% of employers were now aware of GNVQs/GSVQs (compared with only 54% in 1994) and 92% of employers were aware of other nationally recognised qualifications (referred in this bulletin as Other VQs).

72 Of those employers who were aware of the above groups of qualifications 52% had been involved with NVQ/SVQs over the last 12 months, compared with 19% and 10% of employers being involved with GNVQs/GSVQs and Other VQs.

Questions regarding NVQ/SVQs only

73 The survey shows that 41% of employers currently offer NVQ/SVQs (this is up two percentage points from last year) covering 47% of employees (down from 52% last year). The survey also shows that the larger the employer the higher the proportion of employees NVQs/SVQs are on offer to. For example, NVQ/SVQs are on offer to 45% of employees in organisations with 25-49 employees compared with 53% for larger employers (i.e. those with over 200 employees).

74 88% of employers were either fairly or very satisfied with the NVQ/SVQs on offer. The main reasons quoted by employers for being satisfied were: the relevance which employers felt that NVQ/SVQs had to the needs of their workforce on an individual basis; improved staff motivation; the relevance and focus of training offered had improved.

75 Of those employers who were dissatisfied with NVQ/SVQs the main reason given was they were too bureaucratic.

¹¹ As part of NISVQ, SOC is used to identify a major occupational group where a qualification best fits. It does not mean that the person who holds the qualification works in the occupational area.

76 Of those employers offering an opinion 83% felt the quality of NVQ/SVQ assessment was either very or fairly good. 12% said the quality neither good nor bad and 6% thought the quality of assessment was poor. Of those 6% the main reason given was the poor quality of assessors.

Future developments to NISVQ

77 In the second phase of NISVQ development DfEE/QCA will be contacting those awarding bodies who were identified in the initial consultation exercise and proposal stage as being in a position to supply data to NISVQ, but were later found to be not quite in a position to supply information in the specified format to the agreed timescales. They will be asked whether they are now in a position to supply 1998/99 award level data in the correct format to NISVQ.

78 We are going to collect information on NVQs awarded at centres overseas.

79 DfEE/QCA will also be looking at ways of improving the information available on Other VQs. Awarding bodies who are seeking to accredit their Other VQs with QCA

will submit information on these qualifications to QCA and also supply candidate level data on these awards to NISVQ. The accreditation schedule is starting on a sector by sector basis.

80 Finally, we will be looking to improve the timeliness and quality of data submitted to NISVQ. For 1998/99 it is mandatory to collect information on ethnicity and special needs and send it to a central point. We will be working with QCA to ensure that data requirements are specified and met in accordance with QCA's Common Code of Practice.

Further information

81 Enquiries about the contents of this bulletin should be addressed to Analytical Services: Qualifications, Pupil Assessment and Information technology support Division (AS:QPAID 1), Department for Education and Employment, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ (Telephone 0114-259-3765). Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT (Telephone 0171-925-5615).

TABLE 1:
Awards of NVQs by academic year and level

		Numbers of full NVQ certificates ⁽ⁱ⁾					
Year ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Quarter	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total
Prior to 1991/92		46,134	68,142	13,288	8,505	0	136,069
1991/92	Q1	18,042	13,451	2,040	165	0	33,698
	Q2	8,047	14,907	3,025	2,281	0	28,260
	Q3	7,715	14,272	1,744	117	0	23,848
	Q4	13,988	43,434	4,944	4,081	118	66,565
Total 1991/92		47,792	86,064	11,753	6,644	118	152,371
1992/93	Q1	10,234	19,662	3,165	304	107	33,472
	Q2	11,769	26,807	3,616	2,476	50	44,718
	Q3	9,510	22,555	2,936	271	35	35,307
	Q4	16,248	48,073	6,519	4,795	352	75,987
Total 1992/93		47,761	117,097	16,236	7,846	544	189,484
1993/94	Q1	10,730	29,156	4,535	921	173	45,515
	Q2	13,634	34,863	4,612	3,518	54	56,681
	Q3	13,538	27,937	5,070	729	124	47,398
	Q4	16,907	52,242	10,897	5,609	308	85,963
Total 1993/94		54,809	144,198	25,114	10,777	659	235,557
1994/95	Q1	10,498	29,709	9,102	1,015	200	50,524
	Q2	14,080	39,916	14,367	3,606	165	72,134
	Q3	10,334	29,853	8,212	744	158	49,301
	Q4	17,384	64,846	17,001	1,857	379	101,467
Total 1994/95		52,296	164,324	48,682	7,222	902	273,426
1995/96	Q1	10,714	35,636	11,384	1,393	228	59,355
	Q2	15,270	56,018	15,889	1,831	248	89,256
	Q3	13,211	40,946	11,248	2,013	223	67,641
	Q4	21,179	80,906	25,273	2,559	359	130,276
Total 1995/96		60,374	213,506	63,794	7,796	1,058	346,528
1996/97	Q1	17,576	54,394	16,628	1,538	305	90,441
	Q2	18,862	67,332	22,067	2,023	206	110,490
	Q3	14,889	52,633	17,798	1,576	301	87,197
	Q4	25,218	93,037	33,892	3,482	360	155,989
Total 1996/97		76,545	267,396	90,385	8,619	1,172	444,117
1997/98	Q1	15,882	57,184	19,700	1,894	253	94,913
	Q2	17,497	69,649	26,867	3,188	231	117,432
	Q3	13,166	46,292	16,834	1,553	243	78,088
	Q4	24,116	89,898	36,846	4,322	356	155,538
Total 1997/98		70,661	263,023	100,247	10,957	1,083	445,971

Source: OCA

- (i) Includes awards of expired NVQs
(ii) Academic years from October to September
(iii) 1996/97 Level 2 qualifications has been amended since the last bulletin

TABLE 2:
Awards of NVQs by framework area and year⁽ⁱ⁾

		Numbers of full NVQ certificates ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾							
Framework area	Prior to 1991/92	1991/1992	1992/1993	1993/1994	1994/1995	1995/1996	1996/1997 ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	1997/1998	Total
Tending animals, plants and land	1,452	2,712	4,337	7,821	10,007	10,633	12,793	10,573	60,328
Extracting/providing natural resources	28	830	1,716	2,710	2,115	1,326	1,271	810	10,806
Constructing	6,418	7,018	19,186	27,741	25,960	24,013	28,319	26,948	165,603
Engineering	4,551	8,784	17,599	25,662	38,321	39,092	50,179	45,729	229,917
Manufacturing	3,817	4,194	5,164	5,563	8,949	9,904	13,177	17,442	68,210
Transporting	756	167	496	1,016	2,979	6,794	11,926	9,331	33,465
Providing goods and services	44,580	33,843	42,297	55,763	73,360	105,757	137,227	134,332	627,159
Health, social and protective services	14,032	17,175	11,381	16,803	21,325	28,188	35,886	40,468	185,258
Providing business services	60,435	77,640	87,198	92,110	89,286	116,805	147,856	153,519	824,849
Communicating	0	7	18	78	82	156	469	589	1,399
Developing/extending knowledge/skills	0	1	92	290	1,042	3,860	5,014	6,230	16,529
Total	136,069	152,371	189,484	235,557	273,426	346,528	444,117	445,971	2,223,523

Source: OCA

- (i) Academic years from October to September
(ii) Includes awards of expired NVQs
(iii) Numbers of 1996/97 qualifications have been revised down since the last bulletin

TABLE 3A:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by SOC

Major Occupation Group of main job (SOC)	Number (thousands)	Percentage
Managers and administrators	220	9%
Professional occupations	85	4%
Associate professional occupations	157	7%
Clerical and secretarial occupations	375	16%
Craft and related occupations	299	12%
Personal and protective service occupation	344	14%
Sales occupations	165	7%
Plant and machine operatives	171	7%
Other occupations	130	5%
Not classified(i)	445	19%
Total	2,391	100%

Source: LFS, Autumn 1998

(i) Comprises people who were not in employment when surveyed

(ii) Numbers may not add up to column total due to rounding

TABLE 3B:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by Government Office Region and Country

Government Office Region	Number (thousands)
United Kingdom	2,391
Great Britain	2,329
England	2,042
South East	257
London	205
Eastern	189
South West	206
West Midlands	259
East Midlands	169
Yorkshire & the Humber	238
North West and Merseyside	367
– North West	287
– Merseyside	80
North East	152
Wales	131
Scotland	156
Northern Ireland	62

Source: LFS, Autumn 1998

(i) Numbers may not add up to column total due to rounding

TABLE 3C:
NVO/SVQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1997/98

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	-	-	-
16	4.8	6.1	10.9
17	24.0	25.5	49.5
18	29.1	29.0	58.1
19	18.8	21.3	40.0
20	12.2	14.2	26.4
21-24	35.9	31.2	67.1
25-40	71.7	57.2	129.0
41-59	41.6	28.0	69.6
Over 60	-	1.1	1.9
Not Stated	2.7	2.5	5.2
Total	241.7	216.3	458.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3D:
NVO/SVQ awards by SOC and gender 1997/98

Major Occupation Group (SOC) ⁽ⁱ⁾	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Management and Administration	46.4	24.4	70.8
Professional	17.2	4.4	21.6
Associate Professionals	16.7	10.0	26.8
Clerical and Secretarial	60.8	46.0	106.8
Craft and Related	9.2	79.5	88.7
Personal and Protective Services	66.6	25.0	91.6
Sales	16.4	6.1	22.5
Plant and Machine Operation	3.2	13.3	16.4
Miscellaneous	4.8	7.4	12.2
Unknown	-	-	-
Total	241.7	216.3	458.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3E:
NVQ/SVQ awards by assessment centre and level 1997/98

Centre Type	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	All
School	2.4	8.7	2.3	-	13.4
FE College/Tertiary College	28.0	96.2	44.8	7.5	176.6
Sixth Form College	-	-	-	0	1.5
Adult Education Centre	-	2.2	1.0	0	3.9
University or other Higher Education centre	-	2.3	1.2	-	4.2
Private Training provider	21.5	129.7	41.7	2.9	195.8
Local government/Central government/NHS	2.0	3.5	1.5	-	7.1
Voluntary organisation	-	-	-	0	-
Employer	12.4	25.7	8.9	1.2	48.2
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	-	0	1.2
Armed Forces	4.1	-	-	0	4.6
Other	-	-	-	0	-
Total	72.4	271.1	102.2	12.2	458.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3F:
NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area code and level 1997/98

Subject Area	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	All
Business/Management/Office Studies	5.3	43.4	27.5	9.3	85.5
Sales Marketing & Distribution	4.1	52.2	15.4	-	71.8
Information Technology & Information	13.2	30.1	6.8	0	50.1
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0	0	0	0	0
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0	0	0	0	0
Education/Training/Teaching	0	-	5.2	1.4	6.8
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	4.7	19.4	7.7	0	31.8
Arts and Crafts	-	-	-	0	1.3
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	0	-	-	-	1.2
Performing Arts	0	0	0	0	0
Sports Games and Recreation	1.6	2.4	-	0	4.6
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	15.4	22.3	4.7	0	42.4
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	0	22.8	12.6	-	35.6
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	7.9	2.8	-	-	11.2
Sciences & Mathematics	0	-	0	0	-
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	3.4	8.0	1.6	-	13.1
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	6.8	19.9	6.6	-	33.5
Services to Industry	0	-	4.3	-	5.1
Manufacturing/Production Work	5.6	27.2	1.2	-	34.2
Engineering	3.9	12.3	6.9	-	23.2
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	-	-	-	0	-
Transport Services	-	5.2	-	0	5.5
Total	72.4	271.1	102.2	12.2	458.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3G:
NVO/SVQ awards by framework area code and level 1997/98

Framework Area	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	All
*Tending Animals, Plants and Land	3.3	6.7	1.4	-	11.4
Extracting and Providing Natural Resources	0	1.0	-	0	1.2
Constructing	6.7	15.6	6.1	0	28.4
Engineering	4.0	29.1	12.5	-	45.9
Manufacturing	3.9	13.7	-	0	18.2
Transporting	2.2	7.1	-	0	9.4
Providing Goods and Services	29.9	90.0	17.3	-	137.4
*Providing Health, Social and Protective Services	4.5	24.8	13.0	-	42.8
Providing Business Services	18.0	82.8	46.1	9.4	156.4
Communicating	0	-	-	-	-
Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill	0	-	-	1.4	6.3
Total	72.4	271.1	102.2	12.2	458.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 3H:
NVO/SVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1997/98

Government Office Region		Awards (thousands)
		All
United Kingdom		458.0
Great Britain		444.8
England		398.5
South East		50.4
London		39.7
Eastern		37.4
South West		35.4
West Midlands		51.4
East Midlands		36.4
Yorkshire & Humberside		43.0
North West and Merseyside		71.5
– North West		52.3
– Merseyside		19.2
North East		33.3
Wales		24.5
Scotland		21.8
Northern Ireland		13.2

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column total due to rounding

TABLE 4A:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1997/98

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	-	-	-
16	5.5	5.1	10.6
17	17.2	18.0	35.2
18	16.2	14.5	30.7
19	7.3	7.7	15.0
20	2.0	2.3	4.3
21-24	1.4	1.5	2.9
25-40	1.9	-	2.7
41-59	-	-	-
Over 60	0	0	0
Not Stated	-	-	-
Total	52.4	50.5	103.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4B:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by SOC and gender 1997/98

Major Occupation Group (SOC)(i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Management and Administration	-	2.6	3.0
Professional	0	0	0
Associate Professionals	18.0	12.6	30.6
Clerical and Secretarial	14.8	20.3	35.2
Craft and Related	-	2.3	2.5
Personal and Protective Services	15.2	9.0	24.1
Sales	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-
Unknown	3.7	3.1	6.7
Total	52.4	50.5	103.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area

(ii) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4C:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by assessment centre and level 1997/98

				Awards (thousands)
Centre Type	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	All
School	3.2	21.2	10.8	35.2
FE College/Tertiary College	5.3	22.6	28.1	56.0
Sixth Form College	-	4.6	5.2	10.7
Adult Education Centre	0	-	-	-
University or other Higher Education centre	0	-	-	-
Private Training provider	0	-	-	-
Local government/Central government/NHS	0	0	0	0
Employer	0	0	0	0
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	9.4	49.1	44.5	103.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4D:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by subject area and level 1997/98

				Awards (thousands)
Subject Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	2.7	14.3	16.0	33.0
Sales Marketing & Distribution	0	-	-	-
Information Technology & Information	-	5.2	3.0	8.9
Education/Training/Teaching	0	0	0	0
Arts and Crafts	-	5.0	4.6	10.0
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	0	-	1.2	2.1
Performing Arts	0	-	-	-
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	1.3	8.5	8.7	18.4
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	2.7	9.9	7.3	19.8
Sciences & Mathematics	-	1.7	1.3	3.1
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	-	0	0	-
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	-	-	-	1.9
Manufacturing/Production Work	-	-	-	1.4
Engineering	-	2.2	1.3	3.8
Total	9.4	49.1	44.5	103.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 4E:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1997/98

Government Office Region		Awards (thousands)
		All
United Kingdom		103.0
Great Britain		99.4
England		92.6
South East		14.5
London		10.4
Eastern		14.8
South West		8.4
West Midlands		11.1
East Midlands		6.4
Yorkshire & Humberside		9.5
North West and Merseyside		12.2
– North West		9.5
– Merseyside		2.7
North East		5.3
Wales		5.4
Scotland		1.4
Northern Ireland		3.6

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column total due to rounding

TABLE 4F:
Number of GNVQ registrations by academic year by age

Academic Year	Age	Awards (thousands)		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
1996/97	14-15	7.9	9.3	194.0
	16	11.3	59.1	38.7
	17	2.3	11.6	24.6
	18	-	2.9	6.4
	19 & over	1.4	5.0	8.0
	Total		23.7	87.9
1997/98	14-15	9.2	12.8	177.0
	16	10.7	54.9	38.3
	17	2.3	11.1	23.9
	18	-	2.8	6.5
	19 & over	1.2	3.7	6.5
	Total		24.2	85.5

- less than 1,000

Source: GNVQ Student Database (England only)

(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5A:
Other VQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1997/98

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	5.1	3.7	8.9
16	14.3	12.0	26.3
17	18.0	18.7	36.7
18	16.7	19.3	36.0
19	9.2	14.5	23.7
20	6.7	11.4	18.1
21-24	18.6	26.0	44.6
25-40	79.2	64.3	143.5
41-59	50.5	31.4	81.9
Over 60	3.4	3.4	6.8
Not Stated	14.3	5.8	20.1
Total	235.9	210.5	446.5

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5B:
Other VQ awards by SOC and gender 1997/98

Major Occupation Group (SOC) ⁽ⁱ⁾	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Management and Administration	5.9	3.7	9.6
Professional	8.4	8.9	17.3
Associate Professionals	34.1	52.3	86.4
Clerical and Secretarial	171.0	80.9	251.8
Craft and Related	4.6	46.9	51.6
Personal and Protective Services	6.7	3.5	10.2
Sales	-	-	-
Plant and Machine Operation	1.4	6.2	7.6
Miscellaneous	1.3	6.4	7.7
Unknown	2.3	1.5	3.8
Total	235.9	210.5	446.5

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area

(ii) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5C:
Other VQ awards by assessment centre and level 1997/98

					Awards (thousands)
Centre Type	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total
School	38.8	3.8	2.3	-	45.5
FE College/Tertiary College	87.9	47.7	56.0	40.4	232.0
Sixth Form College	58.1	9.1	1.2	1.0	69.4
Adult Education Centre	15.2	4.1	-	0	19.6
University or other Higher Education centre	2.2	1.1	-	4.6	8.7
Private Training provider	30.7	10.4	2.3	1.0	44.5
Local government/Central government/NHS	2.5	-	0	0	3.1
Voluntary organisation	-	-	0	-	-
Employer	7.6	2.5	-	-	11.3
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	0	0	-
Armed Forces	4.2	1.4	1.4	-	7.1
Other	3.3	-	-	0	4.2
Total	251.2	81.7	65.4	48.2	446.5

- less than 1000

Source: NISVO

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5D:
Other VQ awards by subject area and gender 1997/98

					Awards (thousands)
Subject Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	16.2	31.4	2.5	12.2	62.4
Sales Marketing & Distribution	-	1.2	0	-	1.6
Information Technology & Information	185.2	5.5	4.9	2.6	198.1
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	1.2	0	0	0	1.2
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0	-	-	-	-
Area Studies/Cultural Studies/Language/Literature	0	0	0	0	-
Education/Training/Teaching	2.4	3.9	3.2	1.9	11.4
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	0	-	-	-	1.3
Arts and Crafts	3.1	2.7	7.3	3.1	16.2
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	-	1.0	3.7	1.9	7.0
Performing Arts	-	1.3	4.3	-	6.4
Sports Games and Recreation	2.4	-	2.0	-	5.0
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	13.7	1.6	1.8	3.1	20.2
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	2.9	-	9.8	2.3	15.6
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	-	1.1	-	-	1.6
Sciences & Mathematics	0	0	-	-	1.4
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	-	2.8	4.2	1.0	8.1
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	6.4	6.0	2.9	3.8	19.1
Services to Industry	2.0	13.5	1.6	1.0	18.1
Manufacturing/Production Work	-	-	1.5	1.0	4.1
Engineering	12.1	7.6	12.9	10.8	43.5
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	1.4	-	-	-	2.6
Transport Services	-	-	-	-	-
Total	251.2	81.7	65.4	48.2	446.5

- less than 1000

Source: NISVO

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 5E:
Other VQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1997/98

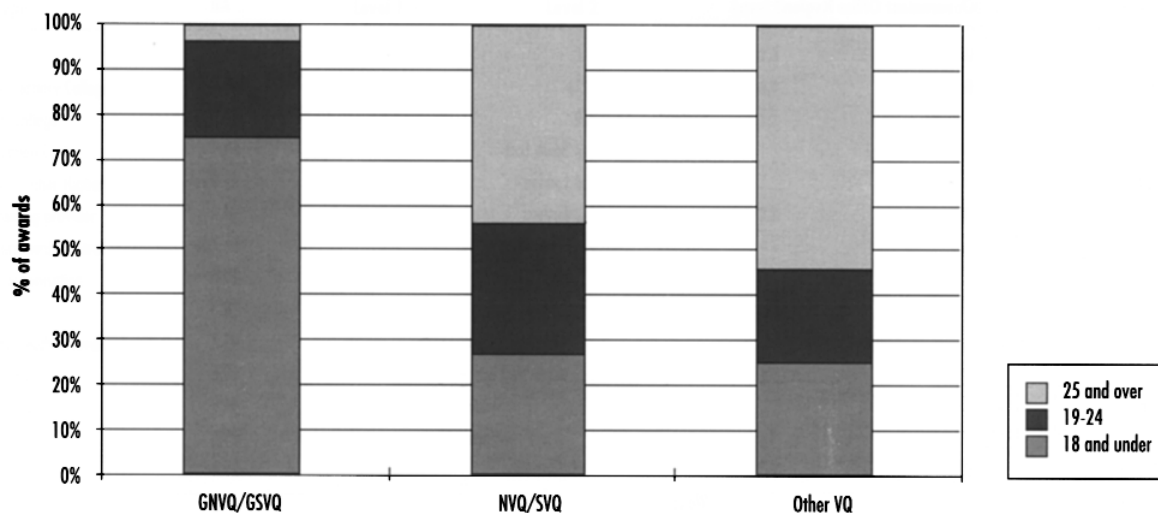
Government Office Region		Awards (thousands)
		All
United Kingdom		446.5
Great Britain		429.1
England		389.8
South East		53.0
London		35.8
Eastern		34.5
South West		44.7
West Midlands		49.0
East Midlands		38.3
Yorkshire & Humberside		44.7
North West and Merseyside		60.5
– North West		44.9
– Merseyside		15.6
North East		29.3
Wales		18.9
Scotland		20.3
Northern Ireland		17.4

- less than 1000

Source: NISVO

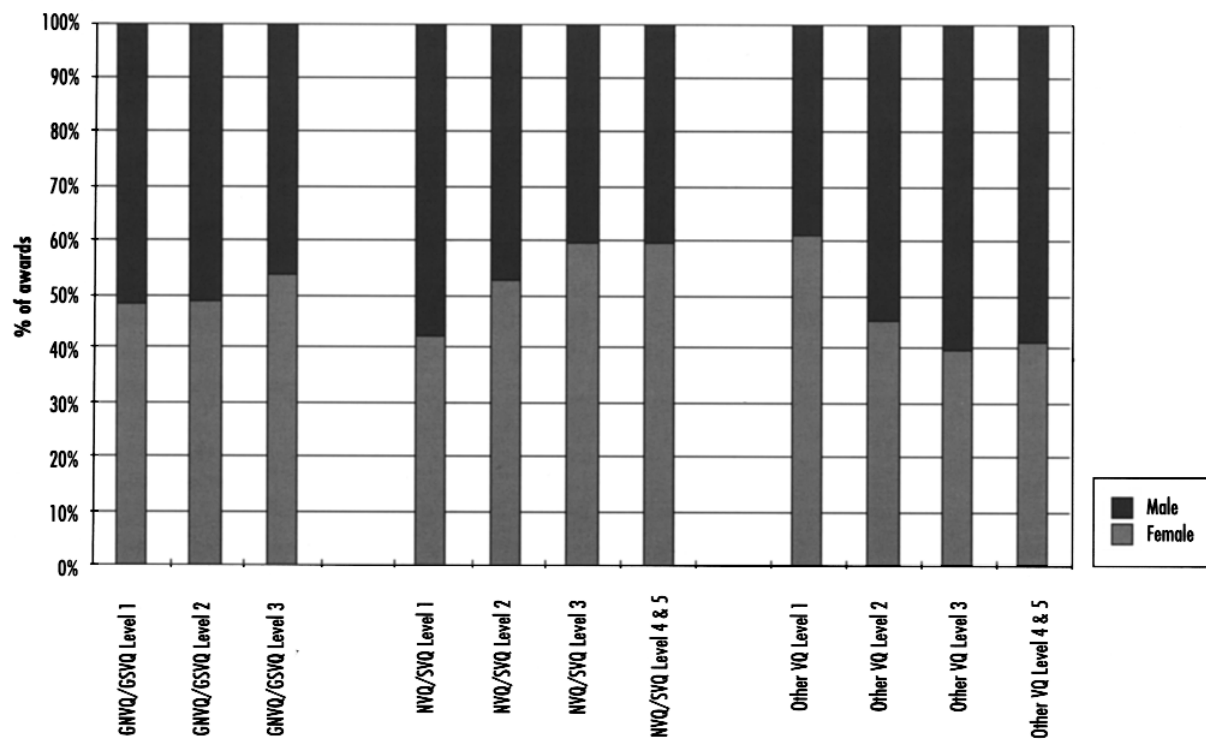
(i) Numbers may not add up to column total due to rounding

CHART 1:
Comparison of qualification type by age band 1997/98



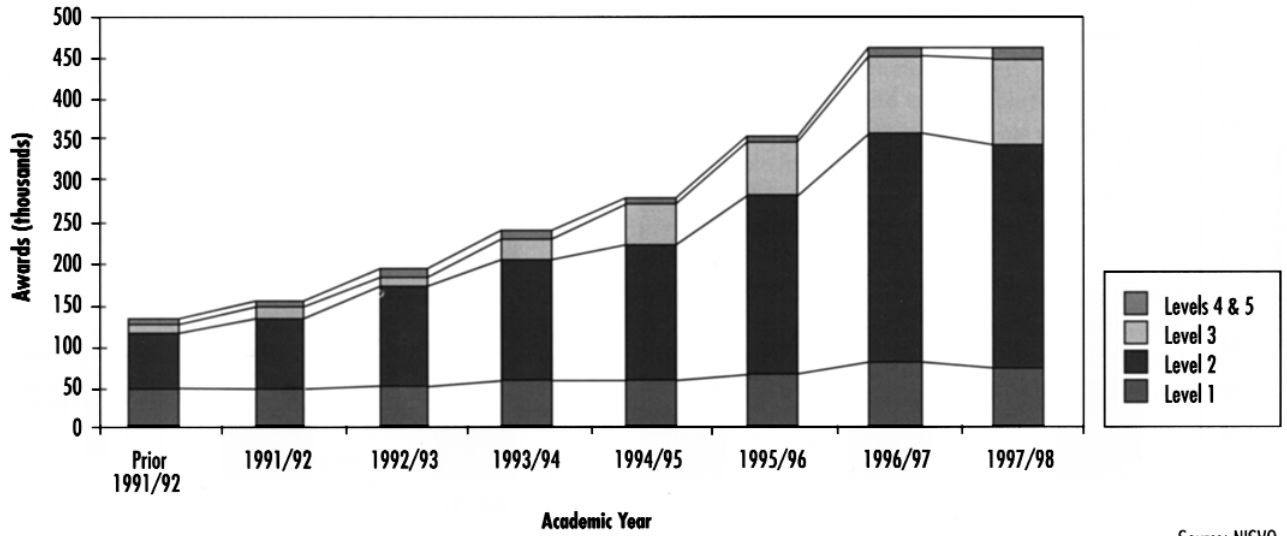
Source: NISVQ

CHART 2:
Comparison of qualification type by level and gender 1997/98



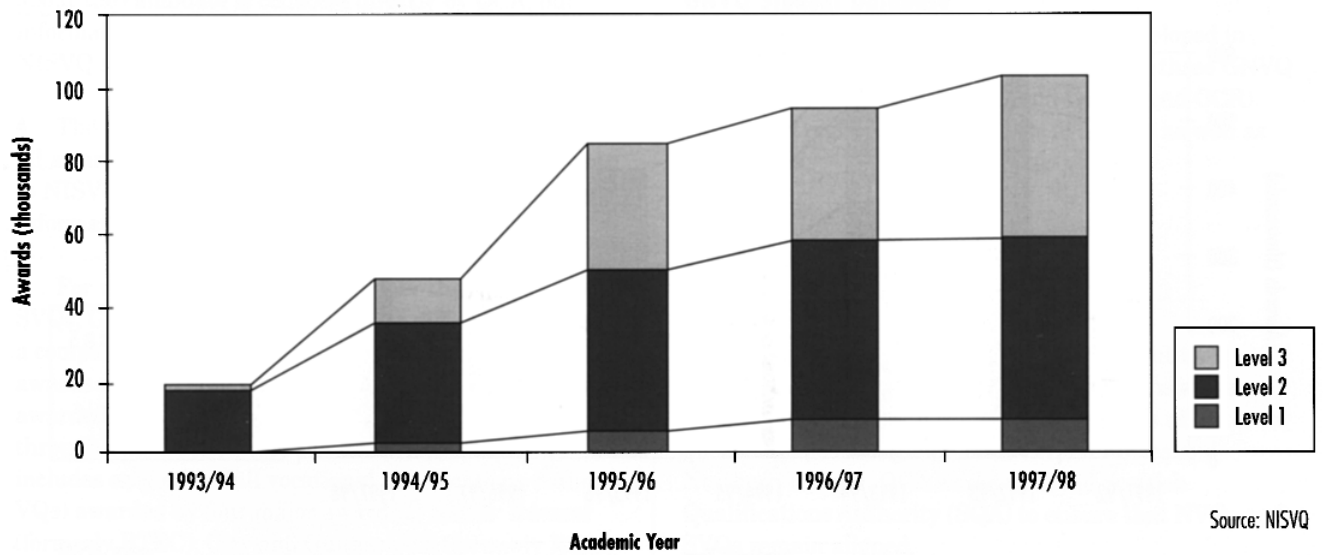
Source: NISVQ

CHART 3:
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level and year



Source: NISVQ

CHART 4:
Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by level and year



Source: NISVQ

CHART 5:
Number of registrations on GNVQs by level and year

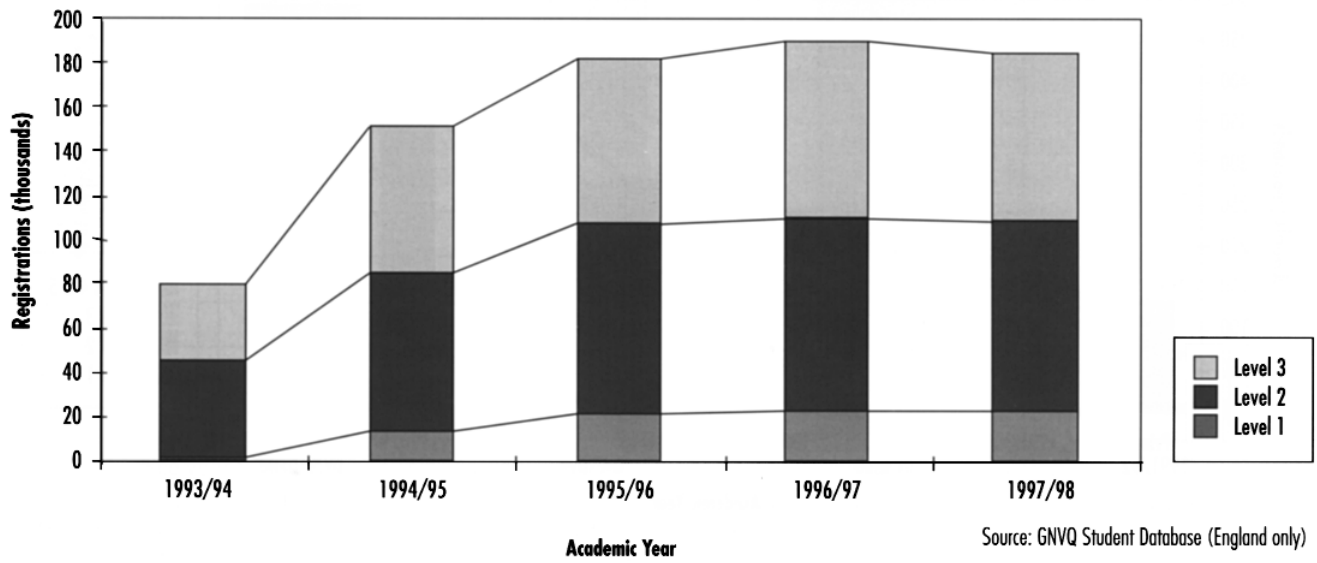
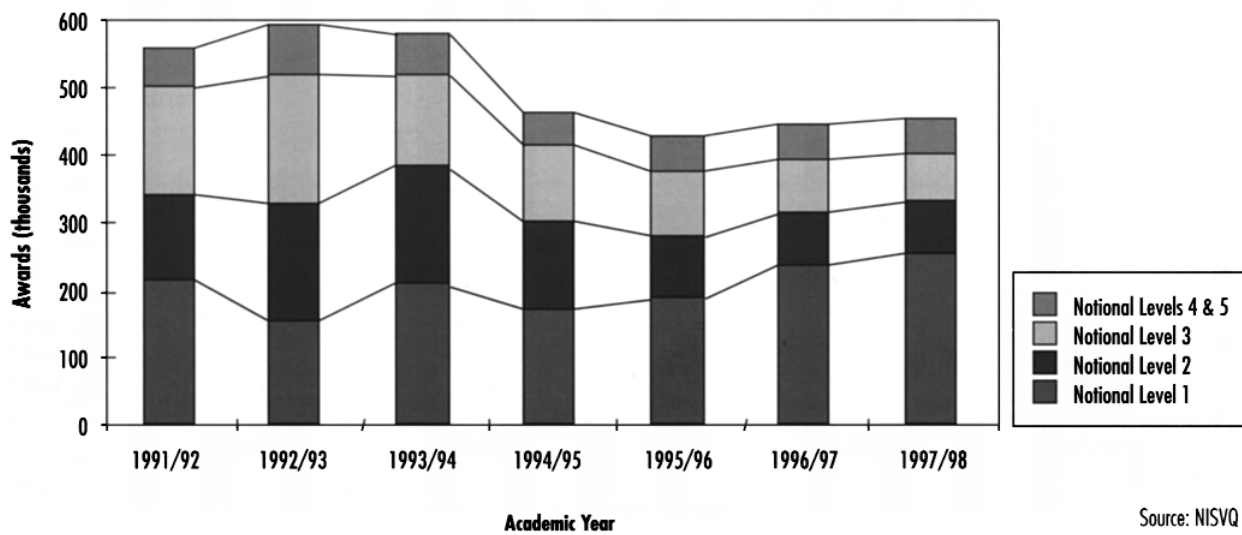


CHART 6:
Awards of Other VQs by level and year



Background Notes

Sources

1 The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by QCA and DfEE (NISVQ). QCA statistics on the numbers of NVQs awarded are collected from all NVQ awarding bodies. NISVQ collects candidate level information on awards of all types of vocational qualifications currently provided by four of the largest awarding bodies plus, for the first time this year, information from a further 9 awarding bodies on NVQ awards at candidate level. The main source for information on people holding/studying for NVQs/SVQs is the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Information on GNVQ registration in England has been taken from the GNVQ Student Database.

2 QCA are responsible for quality assurance of NVQs, i.e. accreditation and monitoring of implementation. QCA accredits proposals by over 130 awarding bodies (which include single bodies and 'joint' awarding body partnerships) to deliver NVQs. The QCA figures are based on aggregate quarterly returns of numbers of certificates issued that are sent to QCA by all awarding bodies which award NVQs. The awarding bodies' returns cover all certificates issued in the quarter for which payment is due to QCA.

3 The QCA information is the most comprehensive and up to date source of aggregate numbers of NVQs awarded. The numbers can be broken down by NVQ level, and QCA Framework Area which classifies NVQs into one of eleven areas of competence. No information about the candidate is collected directly by QCA, but information needs to be available for submission to NISVQ so that the data can be shared with the DfEE.

4 The GNVQ/GSVQ information is complete because all awarding bodies accredited to award these contribute to NISVQ. Complete coverage of SVQs is achieved from information provided by SQA.

5 For vocational qualifications other than NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs, and GSVQs it is very difficult to establish a complete and accurate picture of the numbers of awards made. There are several thousand qualifications, awarded by over 200 Awarding and Qualifying Bodies through over 21 thousand centres. NISVQ currently includes only other full vocational qualifications (Other VQs) awarded by four major awarding bodies: Edexcel (formerly BTEC); City and Guilds; OCR (formerly RSA); and SQA, who contribute information on awards of vocational qualifications that they administer. NISVQ collects information for each award – classified according to the features of the qualifications, e.g. level, subject and occupational group, characteristics of candidates, and the location of the assessment centre (by TEC area for instance). However, since it currently takes data on Other VQs from only four of the largest awarding bodies, NISVQ is not yet fully comprehensive.

6 Note that NISVQ counts numbers of awards of vocational qualifications not numbers of individuals receiving awards.

7 This Bulletin has presented information on awards broken down by subject area, framework area and vocational area. Framework area is only applicable to NVQs and SVQs and is available for all these awards. Vocational area is only applicable to GNVQs and is available for all GNVQ awards. Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and are available for all awards recorded on NISVQ.

8 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is used in this Bulletin to present information on people holding and studying towards NVQs/SVQs broken down by age, gender, economic activity, regions and major occupation groups.

9 The LFS is a quarterly sample survey carried out by interviewing people about their personal circumstances and work, and is the biggest regular household survey in this country. Each quarter approximately 150 thousand people are interviewed, living at a representative sample of some 60 thousand addresses throughout the United Kingdom. In addition to people living in private households, students living in halls of residence, and in NHS accommodation are included to produce coverage of young people as well as the general population.

Other Sources of Information

GNVQ Student Database

10 A GNVQ student database has been developed in DfEE. It takes administrative data from the three GNVQ awarding bodies (Edexcel, City and Guilds, and OCR) and covers registrations and units of awards as well as full awards.

Definitions

Regulatory Body

11 An organisation designated by Parliament to establish national standards for qualifications and to secure compliance with them. QCA regulates all external qualifications in England, and NVQs in Wales and Northern Ireland. QCA works with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to ensure that NVQs and SVQs remain aligned.

Administering Body

12 The organisation which administers an award and which therefore holds records of the award. NISVQ collects information on awards administered by a number of awarding bodies and therefore includes joint awards made in collaboration with smaller awarding bodies. This is the definition of administering body used for NISVQ purposes.

Assessment Centre

13 An organisation (such as a school, college or workplace) accountable to an awarding body for the assessment arrangements leading to an award, i.e. the centre which assessed, examined or administered the award. This is not necessarily where the training or study took place, or where the candidate is living.

Awarding Body

14 An organisation or consortium recognised by a regulatory authority for the purpose of awarding specified qualifications, e.g. an organisation such as City and Guilds which is responsible for awarding vocational qualifications. Where an awarding body offers an award 'jointly' with another body, it is known as a 'Joint Awarding Body'.

Full award/qualification

15 The information in this report relates to awards of full vocational qualifications. Only certifications of full NVQs are included in QCA and NISVQ information, information on certifications of NVQ units is currently incomplete. Among Other VQ awards, awards of single subjects, mixed level, and client specific qualifications are identified and excluded from the reported NISVQ results. As part of the NISVQ project, a considered judgement of the size of any other qualification that appears in the awarding bodies' data is made by QCA officers who maintain the NISVQ Qualifications file, to identify whether the qualification is a single subject or not. This may include reviewing the content of the qualification, determining the amount of work required, and liaising with the awarding body concerned.

GNVQ: General National Vocational Qualification.

16 A vocational alternative to GCSEs and GCE A-levels, accredited, like NVQs, by QCA. GNVQs are allocated to one of 15 vocational areas across 3 levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced. 12 GNVQs are currently available at Foundation Level, 14 are available at Intermediate Level and 15 are available at Advanced Level.

GSVQ: General Scottish Vocational Qualification

17 The Scottish equivalent of a GNVQ, accredited by SQA. For the purposes of NISVQ analyses, a notional vocational area has been assigned to GSVQs this year for the first time.

Joint Awards

18 Two or more organisations may jointly award a qualification.

NVQ Framework

19 The areas of competence within the NVQ framework result from analysis of work roles, and provide the initial organising structure for competence-based qualifications.

NVQ: National Vocational Qualification.

20 Notional vocational qualifications accredited by QCA, are based on national occupational standards. The responsibility for developing national occupational

standards rests with standard setting bodies – usually National Training Organisations (NTOs) – recognised by a regulatory authority responsible for formulating standards of competence for an employment sector and keeping them under review.

NVQ Level

21 One of the five levels in the NVQ Framework. Each competence based full qualification is assigned to just one of these levels. The following definitions of NVQ levels have been taken from QCA's 'Data News'. QCA provide them as a broad measure of the overall demand of a qualification:

NVQ Level 1: competence which involves the application of knowledge in the performance of a range of varied work activities, most of which may be routine and predictable

NVQ Level 2: competence which involves the application of knowledge in a significant range of varied work activities, performed in a variety of contexts. Some of the activities are complex or non-routine, and there is some individual responsibility or autonomy. Collaboration with others, perhaps through membership of a work group or team, may often be a requirement.

NVQ Level 3: competence which involves the application of knowledge in a broad range of varied work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and most of which are complex and non-routine. There is considerable responsibility and autonomy, and control or guidance of others is often required.

NVQ Level 4: competence which involves the application of knowledge in a broad range of complex, technical, or professional work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and with a substantial degree of personal responsibility and autonomy. Responsibility for the work of others and the allocation of resources is often present.

NVQ Level 5: competence which involves the application of a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques across a wide and often unpredictable variety of contexts. Very substantial personal autonomy and often significant responsibility for the work of others and for the allocation of substantial resources feature strongly, as do personal accountabilities for analysis and diagnosis, design, planning, execution and evaluation.

Notional NVQ Level

22 Within NISVQ, a notional NVQ level is estimated for each Other Vocational Qualification for analytical purposes.

Qualification

23 In this report, a qualification is a certification that a person has met the required national standards of competence, or practical or theoretical knowledge.

SVQ: Scottish Vocational Qualification.

24 The Scottish equivalent of an NVQ, accredited by SQA.

SOC: Standard Occupational Classification

25 Used to classify the occupational areas of a qualification on the LFS.

SUPERCLASS

26 Used to classify the subject area of a qualification on NISVQ.

Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs)

27 Vocational qualifications that are not specifically NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs or GSVQs for example, a BTEC Higher National Diploma, or a City and Guilds Diploma in Vocational Education.

Unit

28 An NVQ/SVQ is constructed of units with content expressed as assessable outcomes of learning. A unit is the smallest part of a qualification that can be separately certified.

Vocational Qualification

29 A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.