



BRIEFING PAPER

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Apprenticeship Statistics: England

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Summary

Apprenticeship starts in 2017/18

In 2017/18, there were 814,800 people participating in an apprenticeship in England, with 375,800 apprenticeship starts and 276,200 apprenticeship achievements.

The number of starts fell following the introduction of a new apprenticeship funding system in May 2017. There were 119,100 fewer starts in 2017/18 than in 2016/17. Starts at intermediate level and by apprentices aged 25 and over were particularly affected.

94,000 fewer people were participating in an apprenticeship in 2017/18 than in 2016/17.

Constituency data on apprenticeship starts are available in the [Constituency Apprenticeship Statistics spreadsheet](#) accompanying this Briefing Paper.

Starts by apprentice characteristics

The **age profile** of people starting apprenticeships changed between 2016/17 and 2017/18, with a higher proportion of starts from younger apprentices.

41% of the apprenticeships started in 2017/18 were by people over the age of 24 and a further 30% were started by those aged between 19 and 24, meaning that 71% of apprenticeships were started by people aged 19 or over. In 2016/17, 75% of apprenticeships were started by those aged 19 or over.

The **gender profile** also changed.

In 2017/18, 49% of apprenticeships starts were by women and 51% by men. This was the first time that more apprenticeships have been started by men than women since 2009/10.

Starts by apprenticeship characteristic

Apprenticeship starts were more likely to be at a **higher level** in 2017/18.

44% of apprenticeships started in 2017/18 were at advanced level, with 13% started at higher level. In 2016/17, 40% of apprenticeship starts were at advanced level and 7% were at higher level.

The number of starts at intermediate level in 2017/18 were the lowest in any year since 2009/10.

There were 11,000 level 6 and 7 starts in 2017/18. In 2016/17 there were only 2,000 starts at these levels.

The number of starts on **apprenticeship standards** increased by over 60,000 between 2016/17 and 2017/18, while the number of framework starts fell by almost 260,000. 25% of apprenticeship starts were on standards in 2017/18, up from just 2% in 2016/17.

83% of all starts were in four **subject areas**: Business, Administration and Law; Health, Public Services and Care; Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies and Retail & Commercial Enterprise.

Policy Developments

In May 2017 the apprenticeship funding system was revised, and the apprenticeship levy was introduced. A summary of significant policy developments is provided in section 5 of this paper.

1. Overview of apprenticeships in England

Skills and training are devolved policy areas. This Briefing Paper covers apprenticeships in England. Sources of information on apprenticeships in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are included in the [Commons Briefing Paper, Apprenticeships Policy in England](#).¹

Apprenticeships are paid jobs that incorporate on and off the job training. A successful apprentice may qualify with a nationally recognised qualification on completion of their contract.

In 2017/18, there were **814,800** people participating in an apprenticeship in England, with **375,800** apprenticeship starts and **276,200** apprenticeship achievements.

Over 3.8 million apprenticeships were started between 2010/11 and 2017/18, with 2.1 million apprenticeship achievements.

Apprenticeships can be studied at different qualification levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above

There are two different types of apprenticeship schemes, frameworks and standards. Apprenticeship frameworks are being progressively phased out and replaced by the newer apprenticeship standards, which were introduced in 2014. For further information see the [Commons Briefing Paper, Apprenticeships Policy in England](#).

Constituency data on apprenticeship starts are available in the [Constituency Apprenticeship Statistics](#) spreadsheet accompanying this Briefing Paper.

Changes to the funding system for apprenticeships

The way in which the government funds the training and assessment costs of apprenticeships was revised in May 2017, and the apprenticeship levy was introduced.

Prior to the changes being introduced the majority of apprenticeship starts were on apprenticeship frameworks. For this type of apprenticeship, the government paid all the training costs for 16-18 year olds, half the training costs for 19-23 year olds and up to half for apprentices aged 24 and over. Extra support was provided to apprentices living in the most deprived parts of the country or those in areas where training costs were higher.

¹ Data in this paper is taken from the Department for Education's [Apprenticeships and traineeships data](#).

The Apprenticeship Levy

All UK employers with a pay bill of over £3 million per year pay the apprenticeship levy. The levy is set at 0.5% of the value of the employer's pay bill, minus an apprenticeship levy allowance of £15,000 per financial year. The funds generated by the levy have to be spent on apprenticeship training costs. The government tops up the funds paid by the employer by 10%.

Since May 2017, apprentices on both apprenticeship frameworks and apprenticeship standards have been funded in the same way. Employers who pay the apprenticeship levy will pay for their training costs from their levy funds, while employers who do not pay the levy will generally pay 10% of the cost of training with the government contributing the remaining 90%. The government will provide additional payments, mainly targeted at younger apprentices.

A full description of the funding changes and the apprenticeship levy is available in the library briefing note [Apprenticeships Policy in England: 2017](#).

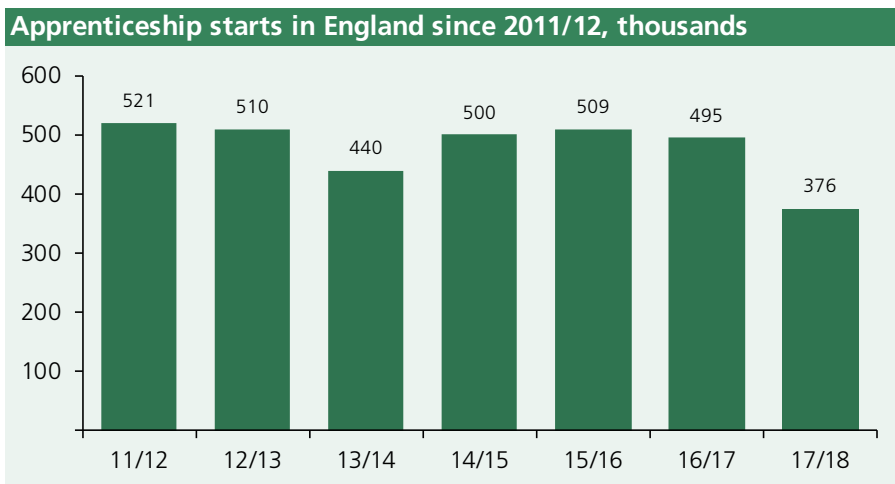
2. Total number of starts

This section provides a summary of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, and the trends over time.²

2.1 Starts in 2017/18

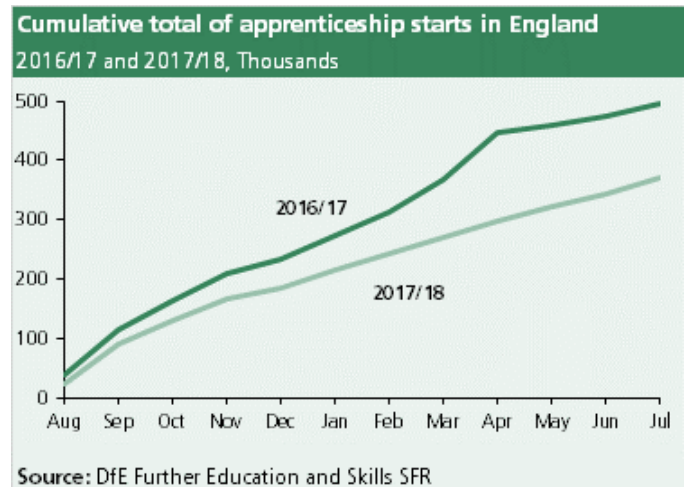
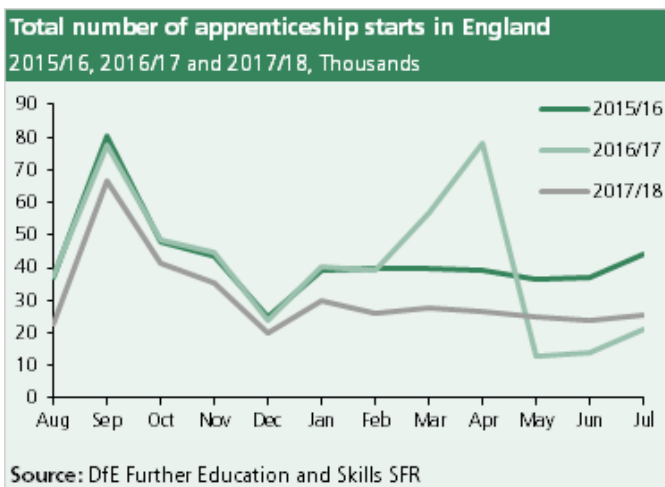
Between August 2017 and July 2018 (the 2017/18 academic year), there were 375,800 apprenticeship starts in England, 119,100 fewer than in 2016/17.

There were 375,800 apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, 119,100 fewer than in 2016/17.



The number of starts fell following the introduction of a new apprenticeship funding system in May 2017. This led to a large fall in starts in the final quarter of 2016/17, and the lower number of starts continued in 2017/18. The impact of the new funding system is explained in detail in [Section 2.2](#) of this note.

The chart to the left below shows the number of apprenticeship starts in each month of the 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 academic years, while the cumulative total of starts in 2016/17 and 2017/18 are shown in the chart to the right.³



² Unless otherwise stated, the statistics within this paper are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st)

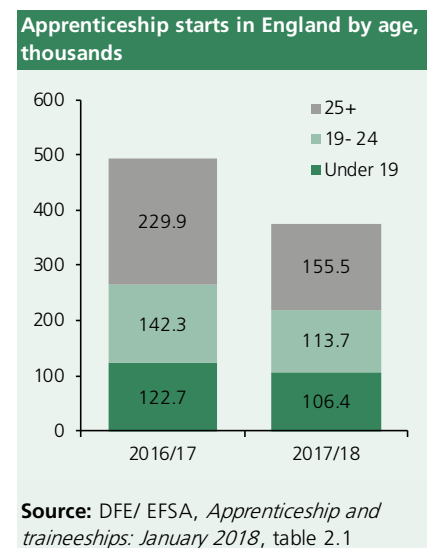
³ DfE/ EFSa, Apprenticeship and traineeships: January 2018, table 2.1

By age

The age profile of people starting apprenticeships changed between 2016/17 and 2017/18. In 2017/18, a higher proportion of starters were aged under 19 than the year before and a lower proportion were over 24.

155,500 (41%) of the apprenticeships started in 2017/18 were by people over the age of 24. A further 113,700 (30%) were started by those aged between 19 and 24, meaning that 71% of apprenticeships were started by people aged 19 or over. The remaining 106,400 (28%) apprenticeships were started by those aged under 19.

In 2016/17, 46% of apprenticeships were started by people over the age of 24, 29% by those aged 19-24 and 25% by those aged under 19. In this year 75% of apprenticeships were started by those aged 19 or over.

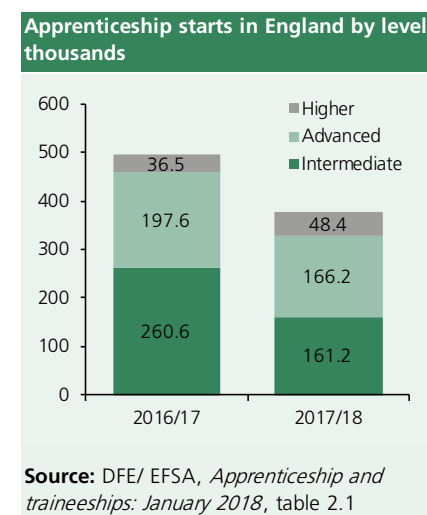


By Level

Apprenticeships starts were more likely to be at either advanced or higher level in 2017/18 than in 2016/17.

166,200 (44%) of apprenticeships started in 2017/18 were at advanced level, with 48,400 (13%) started at higher level. In 2016/17, 40% of apprenticeship starts were at advanced level and 7% were at higher level.

The proportion of apprenticeship starts at intermediate level fell from 53% in 2016/17 to 43% in 2017/18.



By Region

All of the regions have seen a fall in apprenticeship starts between 2016/17 and 2017/18, although some regions have seen larger falls than others.

The North East saw the largest fall, with the number of starts falling by 33% between 2016/17 and 2017/18. The West and East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber and the North West all also saw a fall of over 25%.

The other regions all saw falls of less than 20%, with the lowest falls in London and the South East (both 17%).

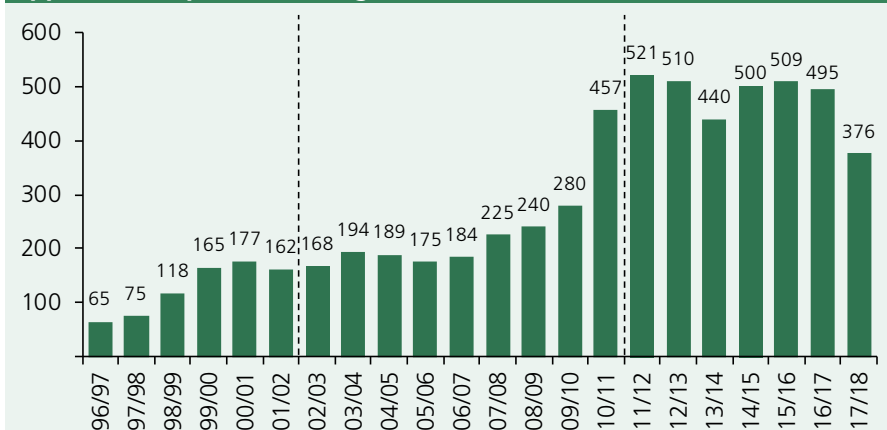
Apprenticeship starts by region in England 2016/17 to 2017/18, Thousands				
	16/17	17/18	Change since 2016/17	
			Level	%
North East	34	23	-11	-33%
West Midlands	60	43	-18	-29%
East Midlands	48	34	-14	-29%
Yorkshire and The Humber	61	45	-17	-27%
North West	80	58	-22	-27%
South West	54	43	-10	-19%
East of England	45	37	-8	-18%
South East	64	53	-11	-17%
London	44	37	-8	-17%
Other	6	5	-1	-20%

Notes: Data are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st)
Source: DfE Apprenticeships and traineeships data

2.2 Starts since 1996/97

The current apprenticeship scheme was launched in 1994 but it wasn't until 2007/08 that apprenticeship starts exceeded 200,000 per year. Between 2009/10 and 2011/12 there was a large increase in starts, and since then there had generally been around 500,000 starts each year, before the large decrease in starts in 2017/18.

Apprenticeship starts in England since 1996/97, thousands



Source: DfE/EFSA *FE data library: apprenticeships* and HC Deb 14 Feb 2011 c560-1W (PQ38062)

Notes: Dotted lines denote where changes have been made to how information on apprenticeships is collected. Data either side of the dotted lines are not directly comparable.

Apprenticeship starts increased from 279,700 in 2009/10 to 457,200 in 2010/11, an increase of 63%. There was then a further increase between 2010/11 and 2011/12. These increases can be attributed to the increase in government spending on apprenticeships between these years (see box below).

In May 2010 the Government [announced](#) that £150 million from the Train to Gain budget would be deployed to provide an extra 50,000 apprenticeship places.

As part of the March 2011 Spring Budget the [Plan for Growth](#) was announced which included an £180 million package for 50,000 additional apprenticeships.

Between 2011/12 and 2016/17 the volume of starts per year has been relatively steady at just above 500,000. The exception was 2013/14 when the number of starts dropped by 70,000 from the previous year. The Department for Education have attributed this fall to the introduction and subsequent withdrawal of advanced learner loans for apprentices aged 24+ (see section 6).⁴

⁴ DfE, [Further Education and Skills in England Statistical First Release](#), October 2017, pg 15

3. Starts by apprentice characteristics

This section provides a summary of apprenticeship starts broken down by the characteristics of the apprentice.

3.1 By Age

2017/18

As reported in section 2.1, the age profile of people starting apprenticeships changed between 2016/17 and 2017/18, with a higher proportion of starts from younger apprentices.

28% of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18 were from people aged under 19, up from 25% in 2016/17. Meanwhile the proportion of starts by apprentices aged 25 or over fell from 46% in 2016/17 to 41% in 2017/18.

A higher proportion of starts in 2017/18 were from apprentices aged under 19.

Apprenticeship starts by age

England, 2017/18, thousands

Age	Level	Proportion	Change in starts from 2016/17	
			Level	% change
16	25	7%	-4	-13%
17	35	9%	-6	-15%
18	46	12%	-6	-12%
19-24	114	30%	-28	-20%
25-34	80	21%	-26	-25%
35-44	42	11%	-20	-33%
45-59	32	9%	-26	-45%
60+	2	0%	-2	-50%

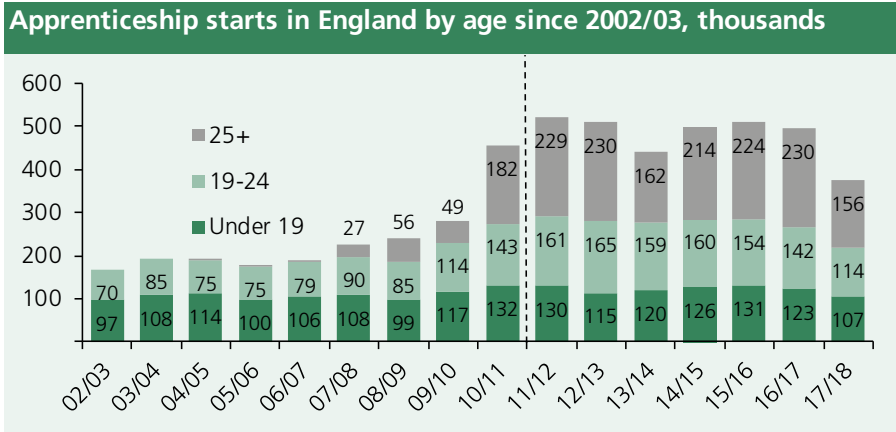
Notes

Proportion is the percentage of all apprenticeship starts made by an age group.
Under 500 people aged under 16 started an apprenticeship in 2016/17.

The decrease in starts was larger for the older age bands. The number of starts by apprentices aged 45 or over almost halved, while the number of starts by apprentices aged between 35 and 44 fell by a third.

Trend over time

The age breakdown of starts was quite stable between 2011/12 and 2016/17, with around a quarter under 19 years old, a further 30% aged between 19 and 24, and the remainder aged 25 or over. The exception was in 2013/14 when there was a large fall in the number of apprentices aged 25 or over, which can be attributed to the government's attempts in this year to make these apprentices pay for part of their apprenticeship.



Apprenticeship starts in England by age as a percentage of all starts since 2009/10

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Under 19	42%	29%	25%	22%	27%	25%	26%	25%	28%
19-24	41%	31%	31%	32%	36%	32%	30%	29%	30%
25+	18%	40%	44%	45%	37%	43%	44%	46%	41%

The growth in the number of apprenticeship starts between 2009/10 and 2011/12 was largely driven by people aged 25 and over, with the number of apprentices of this age increasing from 49,000 to 229,000 between these years.

3.2 By Gender

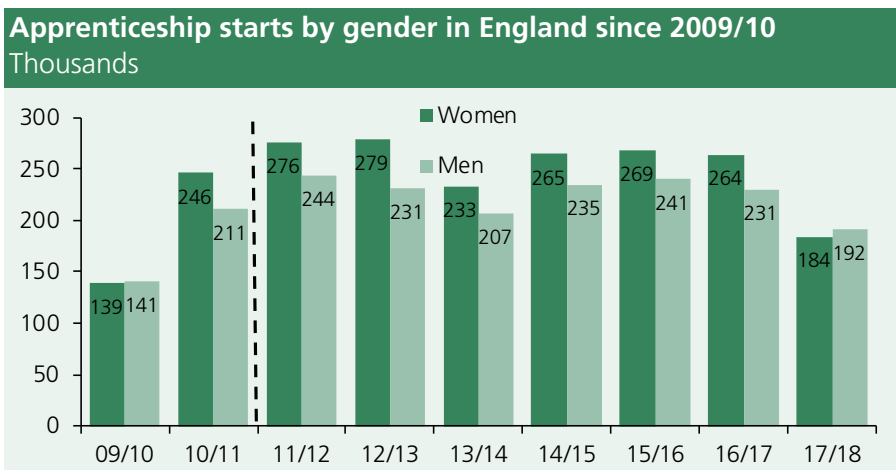
In 2017/18, 49% of apprenticeships starts were by women (184,240) and 51% by men (191,520). This was the first time that more apprenticeships have been started by men than women since 2009/10.

Starts for both men and women fell in 2017/18 from 2016/17, although the fall was far greater for women (80,000) than for men (39,000).

Trend over time

The number of women starting apprenticeships was higher than men for every year between 2010/11 and 2016/17.

For the first time since 2009/10, there were more apprenticeship starts by men in 2017/18 than starts by women.



Apprenticeship starts in England by gender since 2009/10									
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
% of total									
Women	49.6	53.8	53.1	54.7	52.9	53.0	52.8	53.5	49.0
Men	50.4	46.2	46.9	45.3	47.1	47.0	47.2	46.5	51.0

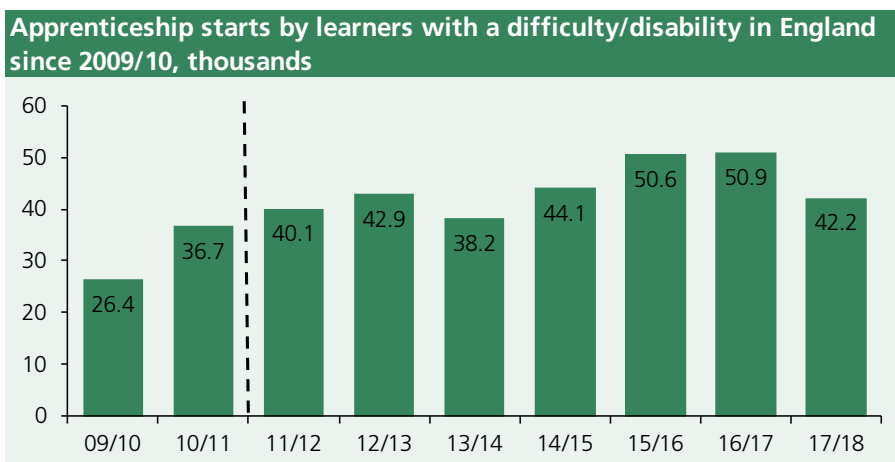
Prior to 2010/11, more men participated in apprenticeships than women. Between 2009/10 and 2011/12 there was a large increase in the number of starts for women, 35,000 higher than the increase for men.

3.3 By Disability

In 2017/18, 11% (42,000) of apprenticeship starts were learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The proportion of starts by apprentices with learning difficulties or disabilities increased from 10.3% in 2016/17 to 11.2% in 2017/18, although there was a fall in the number of starts by these learners.

The proportion of starts by apprentices with learning difficulties or disabilities has been steadily increasing since 2011/12.

The proportion of starts by apprentices with learning difficulties or disabilities increased in 2017/18.



Apprenticeship starts in England by learner difficulty/disability since 2009/10										
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	
% of total										
Learning Difficulty/Disability	9.4	8.0	7.7	8.4	8.7	8.8	9.9	10.3	11.2	
No Learning Difficulty/Disability	89.6	91.2	91.0	90.4	89.9	89.8	88.5	88.3	85.8	
Not Known	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	3.0	

3.4 By Ethnicity

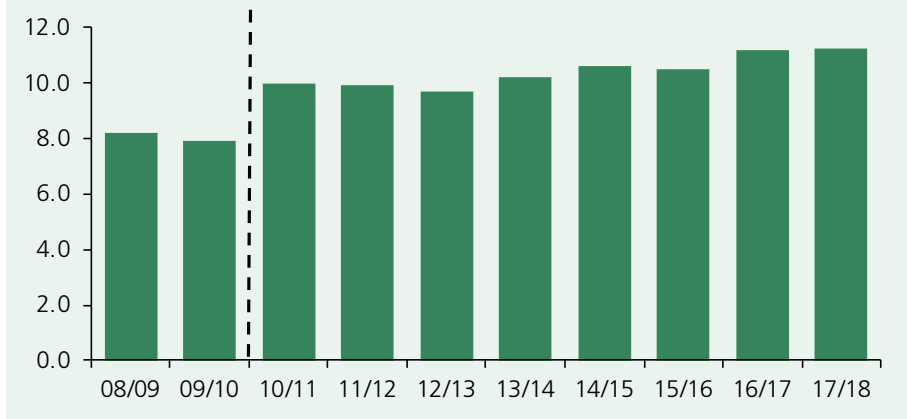
The overwhelming majority (87%) of all learners starting an apprenticeship were white in 2017/18. The proportion of starters from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) backgrounds was 11.2%, which was equal to the proportion in 2016/17.

The number of starters from a BAME background gradually increased between 2011/12 and 2016/17, from 51,350 to 55,310 in 2016/17.

11.2% of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18 were learners from a BAME background.

Both the number of starters from a white background and a BAME background fell between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

Proportion of total apprenticeship starts by learners from a BAME background in England since 2009/10 (%)



Apprenticeship starts in England by learner ethnicity since 2009/10

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Level (Thousands)									
Asian/Asian British	9	19	21	20	19	22	21	22	17
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	6	15	17	17	14	17	18	18	12
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group	5	8	10	10	9	11	11	11	9
White	255	407	465	455	391	442	449	431	328
Other Ethnic Group	1	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3
Not Known/Not Provided	3	5	4	5	4	4	7	6	6

4. Starts by apprenticeship characteristic

This section provides a summary of apprenticeship starts broken down by the characteristics of the apprenticeships.

4.1 By Level

2017/18

As reported in section 2.1, apprenticeship starts were more likely to be at either advanced or higher level in 2017/18 than in 2016/17.

166,200 (44%) of apprenticeships started in 2017/18 were at advanced level, with 48,400 (13%) started at higher level. In 2016/17, 40% of apprenticeship starts were at advanced level and 7% were at higher level. The proportion of apprenticeship starts at intermediate level fell from 53% in 2016/17 to 43% in 2017/18.

Between 2016/17 and 2017/18, the number of starts fell for all levels except higher, which rose by 12,000. The number of intermediate level starts fell by 99,000, while the number of advanced level starts fell by 32,000.

The number of starts at intermediate level in 2017/18 were the lowest in any year since 2009/10, and the number of advanced level starts was at its lowest since 2010/11. In contrast, the number of higher level starts were at their highest ever annual level.

There were 11,000 level 6 and 7 starts in 2017/18. In 2016/17 there were only 2,000 starts at these levels.

Trend over time

There were large increases in the number of Intermediate and Advanced Level apprenticeship starts between 2009/10 and 2011/12. Since 2011/12 the proportion of starts that are advanced level or higher has steadily been increasing, from 37% in 2011/12 to 57% in 2017/18.

Apprenticeship starts were more likely to be at advanced or higher level in 2017/18.

There was an increase in the number of higher level starts in 2017/18.

Apprenticeship starts in England by level since 2009/10, thousands									
	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Level									
Intermediate (Level 2)	191	301	329	293	286	298	291	261	161
Advanced (Level 3)	88	154	188	208	145	182	191	198	166
Higher (Levels 4-7)	2	2	4	10	9	20	27	37	48
Level 4	1	2	3	4	4	7	10	12	17
Level 5	-	-	1	6	5	13	17	23	20
Level 6	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	2	6
Level 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	5
Proportion									
Intermediate (Level 2)	68%	66%	63%	57%	65%	60%	57%	53%	43%
Advanced (Level 3)	31%	34%	36%	41%	33%	36%	37%	40%	44%
Higher (Levels 4-7)	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	4%	5%	7%	13%

Notes: Proportion is the percentage of all apprenticeship starts made at each level.

4.2 By Sector

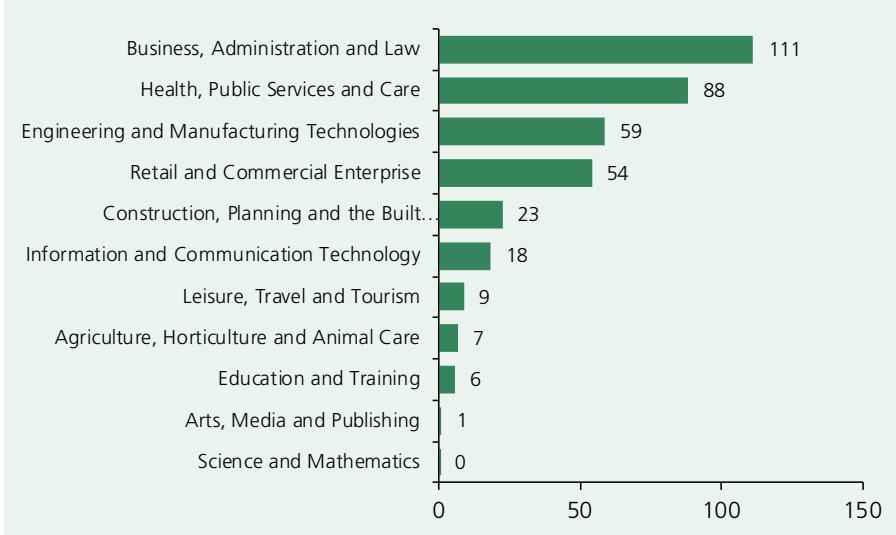
2017/18

83% of starts in 2017/18 were in the following four sector areas, with over half in the top two areas:

- Business Administration and Law: 111,000 starts (30% of all starts), down 27,000 from 2016/17.
- Health, Public Services and Care: 88,000 starts (24% of starts), down 51,000 from 2016/17.
- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies: 59,000 starts (16% of starts), down 16,000 from 2016/17.
- Retail and Commercial Enterprise: 54,000 starts (14% of starts), down 21,000 from 2016/17

Over half of the apprenticeship starts in 2017/18 were in two sector areas.

Apprenticeship starts in England by sector subject in 2017/18, thousands



Trend over time

Between 2010/11 and 2016/17 the number of starts fell in the Business, Administration and Law and the Retail and Commercial Enterprise sectors, while they increased in the Health, Public Services and Care sector.

Apprenticeship starts in England by sector subject area since 2009/10, thousands

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Business, Administration and Law	77	134	165	160	126	143	143	138	111
Health, Public Services and Care	44	90	109	123	109	130	132	139	88
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	43	55	70	66	65	74	78	75	59
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	62	103	108	101	87	90	85	75	54
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	21	22	14	14	16	18	21	21	23
Information and Communication Technology	13	20	19	14	13	16	16	15	18
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	15	22	20	14	11	13	15	14	9
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	6	7	8	7	7	7	8	7	7
Education and Training	1	4	8	8	5	7	8	9	6
Arts, Media and Publishing	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Science and Mathematics	-	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Notes

Under 500 people started an apprenticeship in Science and Mathematics for every academic year since 2009/10.

4.3 Frameworks and standards

In 2017/18 the majority (75%) of apprenticeship starts were on frameworks, but there was a large increase in the number of starts on apprenticeship standards from 2016/17. Between 2016/17 and 2017/18 the proportion of starts on apprenticeship standards increased from just 2% to 25%.

The number of starts on apprenticeship standards increased by over 60,000 between 2016/17 and 2017/18, while the number of framework starts fell by almost 260,000.

25% of starts in 2017/18 were on apprenticeship standards. This was up from just 2% in 2016/17.

Number of framework and standards starts since 2014/15				
	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Framework	498,910	505,080	470,270	212,080
Standards	10	1,240	9,130	69,920

Source: DfE/EFSA FE data library: apprenticeships

The most popular framework in 2017/18 was Business Administration, with 29,000 starts. The highest number of starts in an apprenticeship standard was in the Team Leader/Supervisor standard with over 17,000 starts.

The table below shows starts in the 10 most popular apprenticeship frameworks and standards.

Apprenticeship starts in England by framework since 2016/17, thousands		
10 most popular frameworks in 2017/18		
	16/17	17/18
Business Administration	47	29
Children's Care Learning and Development	27	25
Construction Skills	20	18
Health and Social Care	86	17
Engineering	15	11
Management	47	11
Industrial Applications	17	10
IT and Telecoms Professionals	10	7
Care Leadership and Management	12	6
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	9	6

Source: DfE/EFSA FE data library: apprenticeships

Apprenticeship starts in England by standards since 2016/17, thousands		
10 most popular standards		
	16/17	17/18
Team Leader/Supervisor	1.8	17.3
Adult Care Worker	0.5	10.2
Lead Adult Care Worker	0.3	8.4
Customer Service Practitioner	1.6	8.3
Operations/Departmental Manager	0.8	8.0
Hair Professional	0.6	6.2
Hospitality Team Member	0.8	5.7
Installation Electrician/Maintenance Electrician	1.9	5.5
Assistant Accountant	0.4	4.9
Business Administrator	0.0	4.8

Source: DfE/EFSA FE data library: apprenticeships

5. Apprenticeship achievements and participation

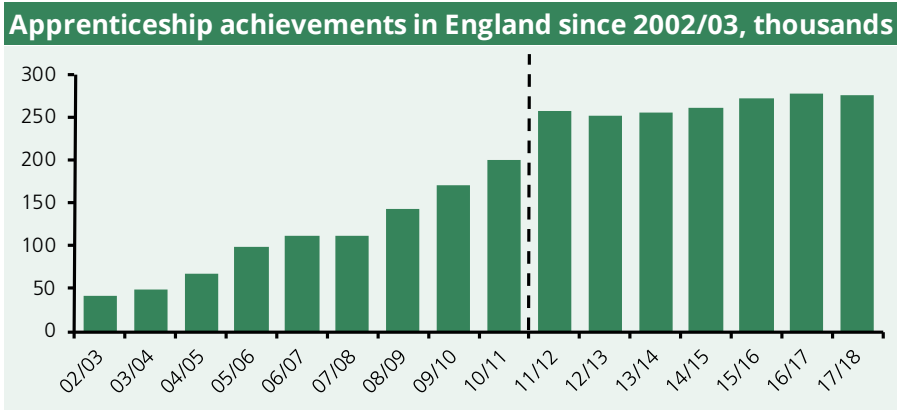
As well as statistics on apprenticeship starts, data are also available on the number of people who complete an apprenticeship (achievements) and the total number of people who were on an apprenticeship in a given year (participation).

5.1 Achievements

There were 276,200 achievements in 2017/18, down 1,600 on the previous year.

Apprenticeship achievements followed a similar trend to starts, with the number of achievements increasing up to 2011/12, but since then volumes have stayed at a similar level.

The number of apprenticeship achievements fell for the first time since 2012/13 in 2017/18.

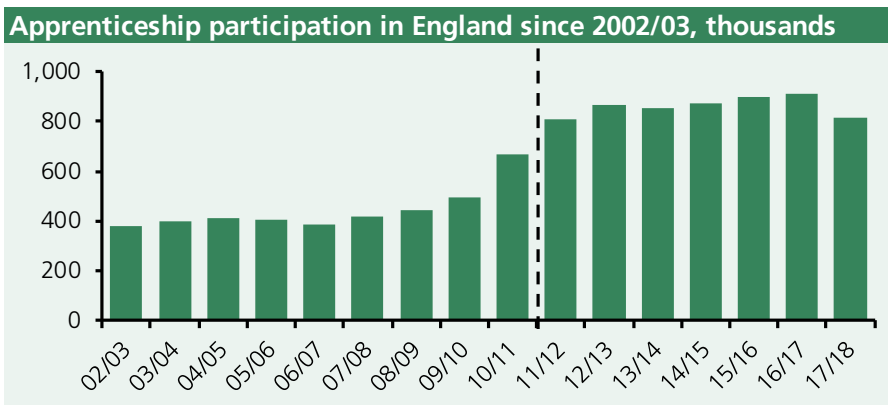


5.2 Participation

814,800 people were participating in an apprenticeship in 2017/18, the lowest annual level of participation since 2011/12. 94,000 fewer people were participating in 2017/18 than in 2016/17.

The trend for apprenticeship participation is also similar to that for starts with large increases from 2009/10 to 2011/12, and a gradual increase between 2011/12 and 2016/17.

The number of people participating in an apprenticeship fell to its lowest level since 2011/12 in 2017/18.



6. Significant apprenticeship policy developments

This section provides a summary of some of the key policy developments for apprenticeships.

1994 to 2010

A new apprenticeship scheme called “Modern Apprenticeships” was launched in 1994 which offered an opportunity to work and be paid a wage, while working towards a NVQ level 3 qualification. These were aimed at 18 and 19 year olds.⁵

Significant changes were made to the scheme in 2004 with the introduction of level 2 apprenticeships, revised level 3 apprenticeships and the removal of the upper age limit of apprenticeships, which meant that people over 25 could become apprentices. Higher level apprenticeships were introduced in 2006.⁶

In 2008, in response to the Leitch report that included a recommendation that the number of apprenticeships should be increased to 500,000 per year by 2020 (in the UK), the National Apprenticeship Service was created. It was launched in 2009. The government also committed to increase funding for apprenticeships between 2007/08 and 2010/11.⁷

2010 to 2015

In May 2010 the Government [announced](#) that £150 million from the Train to Gain budget would be deployed to provide an extra 50,000 apprenticeship places. As part of the March 2011 Spring Budget the [Plan for Growth](#) was announced which included an £180 million package for 50,000 additional apprenticeships. Also, in December 2011, the Skills System Reform Plan was launched which included an initiative to provide 40,000 incentive payments to small employers who take on apprentices.

The [Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16 to 24 year olds](#) (AGE 16-24) was introduced in February 2012, and provided £1,500 to small businesses hiring young apprentices.

In 2013/14 advanced learner loans were introduced, and individuals aged 24 and over were required to take these loans to pay half of the cost of advanced level apprenticeships. This was the first time that apprentices were expected to contribute to the costs of their learning, and led to an 88% fall in the number of people aged 25+ starting an advanced or higher apprenticeship. In February 2014 the Skills Funding

Further information on apprenticeships policy in England is covered in the library briefing paper, [Apprenticeships Policy in England](#).

⁵ House of Commons Library briefing paper, [Apprenticeships Policy, England prior to 2010](#), July 2015, p5

⁶ Ibid, p7

⁷ Ibid, p8

Agency announced that apprentices would no longer be required to take out a loan, and those who had were not required to repay them.^{8 9}

An extra £40 million was announced in the 2013 Autumn Statement to deliver an additional 20,000 higher level starts between August 2013 and July 2015.¹⁰

In 2014 apprenticeship standards were introduced, with the intention of replacing apprenticeship frameworks which are being progressively phased out.

2015 to 2017

In 2015 the Government announced a commitment to create 3 million new apprenticeships by 2020. The [Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016](#) placed an obligation on the Government to report annually on its progress towards meeting this target. The [Enterprise Act 2016](#) provided the Secretary of State with the power to set targets for apprenticeships in public bodies in England to contribute towards meeting the national targets.¹¹

In March 2015 [Degree apprenticeships](#) were launched.

The [Institute for Apprenticeships](#) was established in May 2016 and launched in April 2017 with an aim of ensuring high-quality apprenticeship standards and to advise the government on funding for each standard.

The funding system was revised in May 2017, and the Apprenticeship Levy was introduced. A brief summary of the levy and the funding changes is provided in section 1 of this paper.

⁸ BIS/SFA [Skills Funding Statement 2013-2016](#), February 2014, pg 10

⁹ Second Reading, [No more advanced learning loans for apprentices after low take up](#), February 2014

¹⁰ HM Treasury, [Autumn Statement 2013: key announcements](#), December 2013

¹¹ BIS, [Apprenticeships \(in England\): vision for 2020](#), December 2015, pg 9

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