



Department  
for Education

## Further Education and Skills, England: 2018/19 academic year



28 November 2019

This release includes summary statistics from three previously standalone publications: **Further Education and Skills in England; Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics and Public Sector Apprenticeships in England.**

These statistics have been combined into one document as a transitional approach while we move all our further education and apprenticeship releases to a new dissemination platform planned for January 2020.

Please see section on changes in the next release for more information.

This release contains full final figures for the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to July 2019) for England for all adult Further Education and Skills learning, and incorporates an update to the July Apprenticeships and Traineeships quarterly release which also includes 16-18 year olds on those programmes.

Latest data on the number of registrations, commitments and transfers from the Apprenticeship Service are also provided. These data have previously been published in the monthly 'Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics' release.

Additionally, progress towards the public sector apprenticeship target in the second year of the four-year measure is reported, covering the periods 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. Data for the first year of the target was published in November 2018.

Previous releases for all three publications can be found here:

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

## 1. Summary statistics

### Apprenticeships

#### Impact of the apprenticeship levy

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

Starts (FE & skills table 2 <sup>1</sup> )	393,400 apprenticeship starts have been reported in 2018/19, compared with 375,800 in 2017/18, an increase of 4.7 per cent. This is 22.8 per cent below the number in 2015/16 (509,400) prior to introduction of the apprenticeship levy.
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<sup>1</sup> See section 2 for a list of tables in this release. The starts since May 2010 and since May 2015 figures and Level 6+ starts can be found in the associated tables here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>.

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Starts on higher apprenticeships (Level 4 and above) increased by 55.9 per cent to 75,100 compared to 48,200 in 2017/18. 80.9 per cent of starts in 2018/19 were either intermediate (Level 2) or advanced (Level 3) apprenticeships, this compares to 87.2 per cent in 2017/18. Starts at Level 6 and above doubled to 22,500 in 2018/19 from 10,900 in 2017/18.

24.8 per cent of starts (97,700) were for learners aged under 19 and 75.2 per cent (295,700) were aged 19 and over.

There have been 1.9 million apprenticeship starts since May 2015 and 4.3 million starts since May 2010.

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<b>Standards</b> (FE & skills table 2)	63.1 per cent of all starts were on apprenticeship standards (248,100) in 2018/19. There have now been 441,100 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction in September 2014.
<b>Levy supported starts</b> (FE & skills table 2)	Since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017 there have been 431,100 levy-supported starts, of which 223,900 were started in 2018/19, representing 56.9 per cent of all starts in that year.
<b>BAME and LDD</b> (FE data library <sup>2</sup> )	<p>48,400 apprenticeships were started by individuals from a black, asian or minority ethnic (BAME) group. This is 12.5 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2018/19, compared to 11.4 per cent in 2017/18.</p> <p>46,300 apprenticeships were started by individuals who reported having a learning difficulty and/or disability (LDD). This is 12.0 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2018/19, compared to 11.6 per cent for 2017/18.</p> <p>The BAME/LDD targets (previously set out in the Benefits Realisation Strategy<sup>3</sup>) have been revised upwards from 11.9 per cent to 12.1 per cent to reflect a change made in July 2019 to the way we calculate proportions which excludes unknown ethnicity/disability statuses<sup>4</sup>.</p>
<b>Achievements</b> (FE & skills table 2)	185,100 apprenticeship achievements have been reported in 2018/19, compared with 276,200 in 2017/18, a decrease of 33.0 per cent. This is 31.8 per cent below the number in 2015/16 (271,700) prior to introduction of the apprenticeship levy.
<b>Participation</b> (FE & skills table 1)	In 2018/19, apprenticeship participation decreased to 742,400 compared with 814,800 in 2017/18, a decrease of 8.9 per cent. This is 17.5 per cent below the number in 2015/16 (899,400) prior to introduction of the apprenticeship levy.
<b>Duration<sup>5</sup></b> (table 2 in this document)	Expected duration for apprentices (excluding re-starters) was 611 days in 2018/19, compared to 581 days in 2017/18, an increase of 5.3%.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>. The percentage calculation for the BAME and LDD measures here are based on excluding instances of unknown ethnicity and unknown learning difficulty/disability. The figures shown for 2018/19 and 2017/18 both have this approach.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-reform-programme-benefits-realisation-strategy>

<sup>4</sup> See the technical information section of the July release:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/815291/Apprenticeships\\_and\\_Traineeships\\_release\\_July19\\_main\\_text.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/815291/Apprenticeships_and_Traineeships_release_July19_main_text.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Expected duration is based on learning start date and planned end date as recorded on the ILR. Re-starting learners who may have returned from a planned break were excluded. These learners were identified as 're-starters' due to having a different original start date, and were excluded from calculation as they tend to have a shorter duration due to prior learning.

For official statistics relating to off-the-job training hours for apprenticeships (page 8); progress towards the public sector apprenticeship target (page 5) and analysis of Key Stage 4 cohorts starting an apprenticeship (page 10), please see the respective sections later in this release.

## Traineeships

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Traineeships (FE & skills table 3)	<p>There were 14,900 traineeship starts in 2018/19, a decrease from 17,700 (16.3 per cent) in 2017/18.</p> <p>81.2 per cent of learners who started a traineeship in the first two quarters of 2018/19 completed them by the end of the year (completion rates for the provisional full academic year will be published in March 2020, with final figures published in November 2020).</p> <p>The provisional full year completion rate for traineeships started in 2017/18 was 77.1 per cent (published in March 2019). Using final 2018/19 data for these 2017/18 starts, gives a final 2017/18 completion rate of 79.1 per cent. This is 0.8 percentage points higher than the completion rate of 78.3 per cent for traineeships started in 2016/17. The completion rate for learners starting traineeships between 2014/15 and 2017/18 has increased year-on-year.</p> <p>24.9 per cent of traineeships started in the 2017/18 academic year led to an apprenticeship start before the end of 2018/19. This is a 0.4 percentage-point fall from the conversion rate seen for traineeship starts in 2016/17 (25.3 per cent).</p>
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## Adult further education (including apprenticeships)

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Adult (19+) further education and skills (including apprenticeships) (FE & skills table 4)	<p>2,068,200 learners aged 19 and over participated in government-funded further education in 2018/19, compared to 2,179,100 reported in 2017/18, a decrease of 5.1 per cent.</p> <p>Of the 2,068,200 participants, 573,500 participated on a English and Maths course; 695,600 on a Level 2 course (217,800 were Full Level 2); 422,400 on a Level 3 course (356,500 were Full Level 3) and 133,100 participated on a Level 4 or above course.</p> <p>Achievements in further education and skills fell by 6.8 per cent to 1,467,600 in 2018/19 from 1,574,400 in 2017/18.</p> <p>1,302,700 learners funded by the Adult Education Budget<sup>6</sup> (AEB) participated in 2018/19, compared to 1,331,800 in 2017/18, a decrease of 2.2 per cent.</p>
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<sup>6</sup> The scope of adult skills funding has changed over the years to reflect funding settlements. For many years there were separate funding lines for offender learning and Community Learning and the previously named Adult Skills Budget, which included funding for apprenticeships (19+). In addition, a separate funding line was introduced for advanced learner loans. However, more recently both the budget and responsibility for delivery of offender learning transferred to the Ministry of Justice (in October 2016) and since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy (in May 2017), apprenticeships (19+) are no longer included. From 2016/17, the Adult Education Budget (AEB) has covered adult (19+) non apprenticeship learning (excluding advanced learner loans), Community Learning and 19-24 traineeships.

	Achievements in further education and skills funded through the AEB fell by 0.1 per cent to 1,119,700 in 2018/19 from 1,120,900 in 2017/18.
English and maths  (FE & skills table 6)	573,500 adult learners participated on English and maths courses in 2018/19, a decrease from 664,200 (13.7 per cent) on 2017/18.  Of the 573,500 participants, 360,300 participated on an English course; 364,000 on a Maths course and 120,500 on an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course.  Achievements in English and maths fell by 13.1 per cent to 363,800 in 2018/19 from 418,500 in 2017/18.
Education and Training (excluding apprenticeships)  (FE & skills table 5)	1,083,700 adult learners participated in Education and Training in 2018/19, a decrease of 4.2 per cent from 1,131,700 in 2017/18.
Community learning  (FE & skills table 9)	490,300 learners participated on a Community Learning course in 2018/19, a decrease from 504,500 (2.8 per cent) in 2017/18.  Of the 490,300 participants, 385,500 took a Personal and Community Development Learning course; 45,500 took a Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities course; 26,500 took a Family English, Maths and Language course; 46,900 took a Wider Family Learning course.  Achievements in community learning fell by 1.7 per cent to 422,500 in 2018/19 from 430,000 in 2017/18.

## Apprenticeship service account registrations and commitments

The following statistics are classified as official statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, rather than being classed as national statistics and approved as such by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

For further information and background on apprenticeship service data, please see the Apprenticeship and Levy Statistics releases here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>.

Registrations	As at 31 October 2019 there have been a total of 19,300 Apprenticeship Service Accounts (ASAs) registered <sup>7,8</sup> . Please see the note below on registrations and their revision in this release.
Apprenticeship commitments  (Apprenticeships and levy statistics tables 1,2)	As at 31 October 2019, 217,100 commitments had been recorded for the 2018/19 academic year and 58,700 for the 2019/20 academic year (of which 214,500 and 51,200 were fully agreed for 2018/19 and 2019/20 respectively).

<sup>7</sup> These are accounts set up by employers allowing them to utilise levy funds. They have associated Pay As You Earn (PAYE) / funding details and a signed legal agreement recorded on the digital apprenticeship service system.

<sup>8</sup> There is no direct relationship between apprenticeship service accounts and employers, as an account can be associated with more than one PAYE scheme, whilst an employer may have more than one apprenticeship service account.

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Of the 217,100 commitments recorded in 2018/19, 118,000 were for apprentices aged 25 and over; 67,300 were for intermediate apprenticeships and 94,100 were for advanced apprenticeships<sup>9</sup>.

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Apprenticeship transfers  
(Apprenticeships and levy statistics tables 1,2)

As at 31 October 2019, there were 1,710 commitments entered into the apprenticeship service where the transfer of funds between apprenticeship service accounts has been approved, with 80 commitments pending approval for the transfer of funds. Of the 1,710 fully agreed transferred commitments, there were 830 that have so far been recorded as apprenticeship starts in the 2018/19 academic year on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).<sup>10</sup>

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### Registrations revision

In June 2019 it became possible for apprenticeship service accounts with a basic functionality to be created, allowing employers to save searches on the system for example. These cannot be used by employers to utilise their levy funds and are not what we would class as a 'full' registration. However, these registrations with a basic functionality were included in registration numbers previously reported in the monthly Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics releases here:

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

Therefore we are providing a revised time series here to give the number of registered accounts with full functionality. Please see table 1 below.

**Table 1: Cumulative apprenticeship service account registrations between June and October 2019**

Cumulative accounts registered to the end of:	Number of accounts registered
June 2019	17,800
July 2019	18,200
August 2019	18,500
September 2019	18,900
October 2019	19,300

### **Public sector apprenticeship target**

The following statistics are classified as official statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, rather than being classed as national statistics and approved as such by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

Public sector bodies in England with 250 or more staff have a target to employ an average of at least 2.3% of their staff as new apprentice starts over the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021.

For further information about the scope of the target, and how it is measured, please see:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/680544/Meeting\\_the\\_Public\\_Sector\\_Apprenticeship\\_Target.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/680544/Meeting_the_Public_Sector_Apprenticeship_Target.pdf).

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<sup>9</sup> Commitments figures are derived from unrounded data.

<sup>10</sup> Please note that providers may not record learners immediately on the ILR, so a lag may occur between a commitment being recorded in the apprenticeship service and the corresponding commitment being recorded as a start on the ILR.

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<p>Progress towards the target in the second year</p> <p>(Public sector statistics table 1)</p>	<p>Figures supplied by public sector bodies<sup>11</sup> suggest that in the first two years of the target (period covering 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An average of 1.6 per cent of employees started an apprenticeship and represents the cumulative position against the target (1.4 per cent in 2017-18 and 1.7 per cent in 2018-19)</li> <li>• A combined total of over 100,000 apprenticeship starts<sup>12</sup> have been reported</li> <li>• Apprentices are becoming more popular in the public sector workforce. The percentage of employees who were apprentices rose from 1.4 per cent to 1.9 per cent in bodies that reported in 2017-18, and from 1.8 per cent to 2.5 per cent in those that reported in 2018-19.</li> <li>• Apprentices account for around one in ten of new appointments in the public sector – 10.3 per cent in 2017-18, rising to 12.7 per cent in 2018-19.</li> </ul>
<p>Sub-sector breakdowns</p> <p>(Public sector statistics table 1)</p>	<p>Sub-sectors for public sector body returns have been estimated using Apprenticeship Service account data<sup>13</sup>.</p> <p>There is variation in the recruitment of apprentices in different parts of the public sector. Over the first two years of the target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The armed forces are by far the largest employer of apprentices with an average of 8.3 per cent of employees starting an apprenticeship since April 2017 (9.1 per cent in 2017-18, falling to 7.5 per cent in 2018-19).</li> <li>• The Civil Service<sup>14</sup>, at 1.5 per cent, is just behind the national two-year average of 1.6 per cent against the target, followed by the NHS and fire authorities (both 1.4 per cent).</li> <li>• The police have the lowest rate of apprenticeship recruitment averaging at 0.4 per cent since April 2017.</li> </ul>
<p>Schools returns</p> <p>(Public sector statistics table 1)</p>	<p>State funded schools employing more than 250 staff and not maintained by a Local Authority (e.g. academies and academy trusts) came into scope of the public sector target from 31 March 2018.</p> <p>There are 271 schools included in the national target calculation with an associated 1,590 apprenticeship starts provided in the returns.</p> <p>Data from schools that have made a return show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0.9 per cent of employees started an apprenticeship during 2018-19.</li> </ul>

<sup>11</sup> Public sector bodies with a headcount of 250 or more at 31 March prior to each reporting year.

<sup>12</sup> Different samples and coverage of the data collections mean that the number of apprentices are not directly comparable between 2017-18 and 2018-19:

<sup>13</sup> Account names, along with information about the legal entities attached to those accounts, have been used to determine which ASAs are from the public sector. These accounts have been cross-referenced with published lists of local authorities, NHS trusts, police forces, fire services, schools, Government departments, agencies and other public bodies to further refine the classification. Public sector accounts have also been verified and the mapping updated as bodies have made returns to report their progress against the public sector apprenticeship target through their ASAs.

<sup>14</sup> The Cabinet Office has published apprenticeship data for individual Civil Service bodies covering each year of the target so far: please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-apprenticeship-data-2018-to-2019> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-service-apprenticeship-data-2017-to-2018>

- 0.7 per cent of all staff employed were apprentices on 31 March 2018, rising to 1.0 per cent by 31 March 2019.
- Approximately 4 per cent of new employees were starts on apprenticeships.

These data do not include schools where the local authority is the employer.

Wider schools estimate

It is not possible to report against the target for schools as a group. Instead, the number of apprenticeship starts in schools employing over 250 has been estimated using the ILR and school employment data. This method is a change from last year<sup>15</sup>.

We estimate that there were approximately 5,600 apprenticeship starts in schools between April 2018 and March 2019.

### Caveats for public sector statistics

Public bodies who are in scope are required to submit a Data Publication and Activity return to the Department for Education each reporting year of the target.

In their returns, public bodies provide self-reported information on the employment period and headcount relating to the target. The onus is on individual bodies to be accountable for their programme and to publish this information independently as well as report progress to the DfE. The underlying data for this release exactly replicates the information supplied by public sector bodies. As such, the accuracy of these submissions cannot be completely verified in all aspects, although certain validation checks have been undertaken and some bodies removed from the calculation of aggregated numbers and flagged in the underlying data. Certain inconsistencies may appear between headcount and apprentice data submitted in each reporting year by an individual body. Some of these can be explained by a change in structure in the body (e.g. a merger).

It is difficult to give a completely accurate measure of the coverage of submission received. An internal mapping based on Apprenticeship Service account names has identified those that appear to be public sector but not all those flagged will be in scope (e.g. some will have fewer than 250 staff).

Comparing the 2018-19 submissions with our mapping of accounts suggest that at least 63% of public sector bodies have made an official return. Further to this, linking accounts to starts recorded on the ILR suggests that around 94% of all public sector starts were in the bodies that have made an official return.

The group of public sector bodies making a data return in 2018-19 is different to those that responded in 2017-18 for a number of reasons:

- multi-academy trusts were not in scope in the first year of the target;
- some bodies that submitted in 2017-18 have not supplied data for 2018-19;
- some bodies are submitting for the first time in the 2018-19 returns; and
- some bodies have either fallen in or out of scope of the target based on the 250 headcount threshold.

As such, the aggregate totals for headcount and apprentices as at 31 March 2018 (the end- point of the 2017-18 collection and the start point of the 2018-19) will differ between collections. Aggregate headcount and apprentice figures and associated percentages are shown separately for the start and end of each reporting year.

<sup>15</sup> We provided a schools estimate last year in <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-sector-apprenticeships-in-england-2017-to-2018>. This gave a figure for the 'total apprenticeship activity' in schools. This new estimate aims to provide a more target-centred number by removing schools based on the headcount criteria for the target. We plan to review and further refine the methodology for producing this estimate for our next publication.

In addition, an average percentage of employees starting an apprenticeship over the period of the target is calculated as a weighted average of the two reporting years so far:

$$= \frac{\text{total apprenticeship starts in first year} + \text{total apprenticeship starts in second year}}{\text{total headcount at 31 March 2017} + \text{total headcount at 31 March 2018}}$$

Further information about the data collection process, the public bodies in scope and the mapping of Apprenticeship Service Accounts to sectors, can be found in the technical information section of the [November 2018 release](#).

## Average apprenticeship duration and total expected training hours

The following statistics are classified as official statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, rather than being classed as national statistics and approved as such by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

For further information and background on apprenticeship service data, please see the Apprenticeship and Levy Statistics releases here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

Average duration of apprenticeship (table 2 below)	The average expected duration of apprenticeships continues to rise. The expected time to complete frameworks/standards has increased year-on-year to 611 days in 2018/19 from 498 days in 2015/16.
Expected training hours (table 3 below)	<p>The number of apprenticeship starts has increased by 6.8 per cent between 2017/18 and 2018/19 (from 339,250 to 362,440) but the estimated total expected off-the-job training hours has increased at a higher rate (14.7 per cent) in the same period, from 212 million to 243 million.</p> <p>The greater increase in training hours is mainly due to the rise in starts on higher-level apprenticeships, which have greater training requirements and take longer to complete on average.</p> <p>The average expected duration of apprenticeships increased by 5.3 per cent in the last year, from 581 days in 2017/18 to 611 days in 2018/19. The average associated expected off-the-job training hours have increased by 7.3 per cent from 630 hours to 670 hours.</p>

**Table 2: Apprenticeship starts and expected duration, 2015/16 to 2018/19**

Level	Apprenticeship starts				Expected apprenticeship duration (days)			
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Level 2	273,330	242,280	143,730	130,980	448	456	487	495
Level 3	177,050	183,050	150,320	159,820	562	566	615	626
Level 4	9,090	11,230	15,840	23,720	596	587	614	605
Level 5	15,550	20,650	18,520	25,610	538	553	657	664
Level 6	740	1,610	6,340	10,700	1,446	1,390	1,326	1,298
Level 7	30	50	4,500	11,620	1,359	1,739	958	989
<b>All levels</b>	<b>475,800</b>	<b>458,860</b>	<b>339,250</b>	<b>362,440</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>611</b>

**Note:**

(1) Expected duration is based on learning start date and planned end date as recorded on the ILR. Re-starting learners who may have returned from a planned break were excluded. These learners were identified as 'restarters' due to having a different original start date, and were excluded from calculation as they tend to have a shorter duration due to prior learning.

(2) For further breakdowns of expected apprenticeship durations by sector subject area please see the FE data library:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships>

**Table 3: Total expected off-the-job training hours and average off-the-job training, 2015/16 to 2018/19**

Level	Total expected off-the-job-training hours (millions)				Average off-the-job training (hours) per apprentice			
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Level 2	117.8	107.7	73.7	68.5	430	440	510	520
Level 3	99.9	102.6	100.9	109.0	560	560	670	680
Level 4	5.4	6.6	9.7	14.3	600	590	610	600
Level 5	4.5	6.2	6.6	9.2	290	300	360	360
Level 6	1.8	3.7	13.9	23.0	2,400	2,300	2,200	2,150
Level 7	0.1	0.1	7.1	19.0	2,250	2,880	1,590	1,640
<b>All levels</b>	<b>229.5</b>	<b>227.0</b>	<b>212.0</b>	<b>243.1</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>670</b>

**Note:**

(1) Figures cover the same cohort of apprentices as shown in Table 2 above

(2) Total estimated off-the-job training (hours) are derived using weekly training hours estimates published in the [Apprenticeship Evaluation Learner Survey 2017](#) research report

(3) The derivation of Total expected off-the-job training hours and Average off-the-job training (hours) per apprentice is detailed in the Technical information section of [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/837900/Apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-October-2019-main-text-2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/837900/Apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-October-2019-main-text-2.pdf)

(4) Average expected off-the-job training hours are rounded to the nearest 10. The percentage changes quoted in this document are derived from unrounded figures.

**Technical information**

Estimates of total off-the-job training hours are derived by combining administrative ILR data on starts and average planned duration of apprenticeships, with evaluation survey data giving estimates of the average hours of formal training apprentices undertake per week, and the reported percentage of apprentices receiving any formal training (for each apprenticeship level and sector subject area). There is currently no administrative source that collects apprenticeship training hours.

As such, this analysis is not a comprehensive estimate of off-the-job training; it is any relative change in expected training that is important, not the absolute expected training amounts. These expected off-the-job training hours are indicative as they do not account for withdrawals or other changes to apprenticeship duration. They represent the expected off-the-job training hours across the whole expected length of apprenticeships. See further technical information in

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/837900/Apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-October-2019-main-text-2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/837900/Apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-October-2019-main-text-2.pdf)

## Key Stage 4 cohort analysis

The following statistics are classified as official statistics and have been produced in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics, rather than being classed as national statistics and approved as such by the United Kingdom Statistics Authority.

This analysis is new to the release and has been included to provide wider contextual information on the apprenticeship programme as a whole.

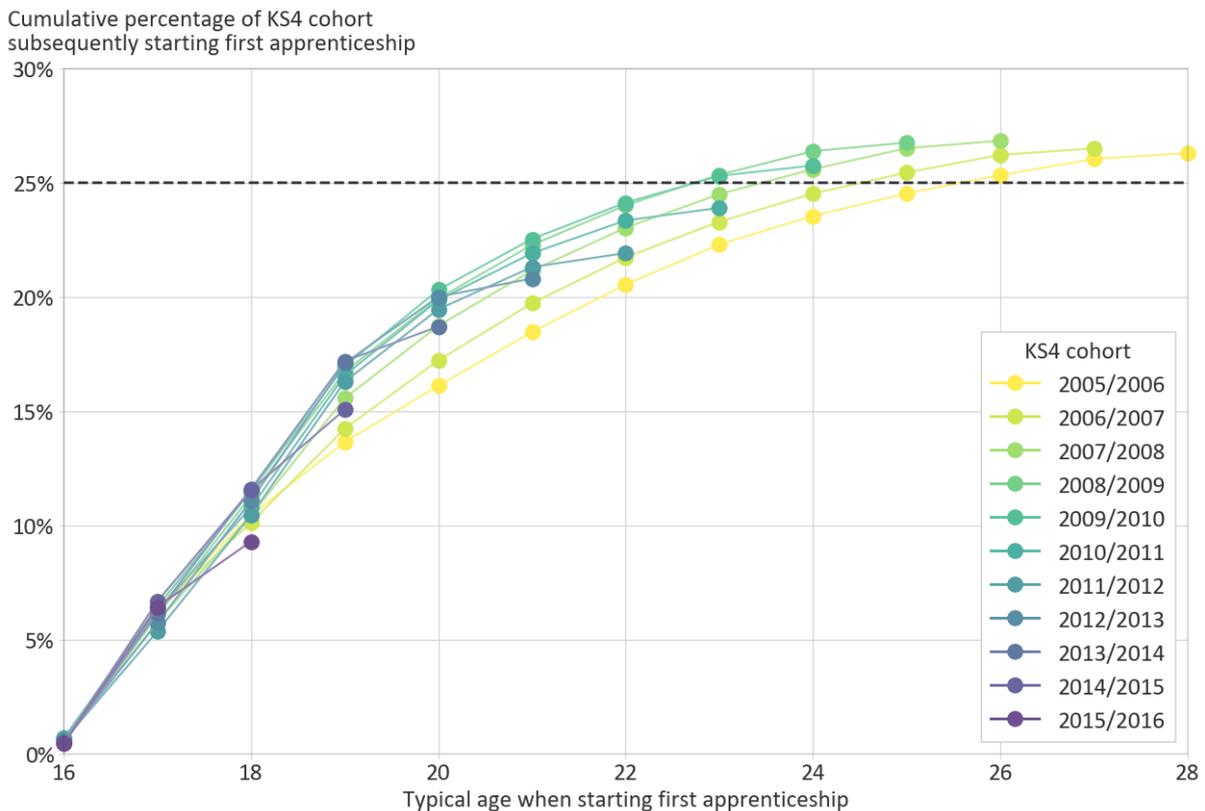
Figure 1 shows that around a quarter of the English population will start an apprenticeship in their early working lives. The figure shows the cumulative fraction of each Key Stage 4 (KS4) academic year cohort that started an apprenticeship in each year after completing KS4.

The horizontal axis shows the number of years between completing KS4 and starting the apprenticeship, but for ease of reference this is expressed in terms of the "typical age" of those in the cohort, assuming that they are all 16 years old when completing KS4. The vertical axis shows the cumulative fraction of each cohort who have since started an apprenticeship.

The chart shows that all KS4 cohorts follow a similar pattern with roughly 10 per cent of the cohort having started an apprenticeship by the typical age of 18, and by the age of 25 (for the cohorts in figure 1) we see that around 25 per cent of the cohort will have started an apprenticeship.

The data used for the chart is shown in table 4.

**Figure 1: Fraction of KS4 cohorts entering apprenticeships**



**Table 4: Fraction of KS4 cohorts entering apprenticeships**

KS4 cohort	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
2005/2006	0.6%	6.4%	10.4%	13.6%	16.1%	18.5%	20.5%	22.3%	23.5%	24.5%	25.3%	26.0%	26.3%
2006/2007	0.6%	6.3%	10.1%	14.2%	17.2%	19.7%	21.7%	23.3%	24.5%	25.4%	26.2%	26.5%	
2007/2008	0.6%	5.8%	10.4%	15.6%	18.7%	21.2%	23.0%	24.5%	25.6%	26.5%	26.8%		
2008/2009	0.5%	6.1%	11.3%	16.7%	19.9%	22.3%	24.0%	25.3%	26.4%	26.8%			
2009/2010	0.7%	6.4%	11.5%	17.0%	20.3%	22.5%	24.1%	25.3%	25.8%				
2010/2011	0.7%	6.3%	10.8%	16.6%	19.9%	21.9%	23.4%	23.9%					
2011/2012	0.6%	5.4%	10.4%	16.3%	19.5%	21.3%	21.9%						
2012/2013	0.6%	5.7%	11.1%	17.1%	20.0%	20.8%							
2013/2014	0.5%	6.2%	11.6%	17.2%	18.7%								
2014/2015	0.5%	6.7%	11.6%	15.1%									
2015/2016	0.4%	6.4%	9.3%										

**Technical information**

The KS4 cohort analysis statistics are derived by linking the National Pupil Database (NPD) which holds data on KS4 to the ILR. Unmatched individuals are ignored from the analysis. Roughly 2 per cent of each KS4 cohort could not be linked, though for older cohorts this rate is as much as 5 per cent. These individuals are excluded from this analysis.

Individuals who start multiple apprenticeships are only counted once, using the start date of their earliest apprenticeship.

**About this release****Further education and skills**

This statistical release presents information on:

- Adult (aged 19+) government-funded further education (excluding schools and higher education) comprising:
  - Education and training
  - Apprenticeships
  - English and maths
  - Community learning
  - Traineeships (16-24)
- All age (16+) apprenticeships in England.

Final data are presented for further education and apprenticeships between 2010/11 and 2018/19.

Please see the Quality and Methodology document that accompanied the [March Further Education and Skills release](#) for links to data for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Apprenticeship service statistics**

These official statistics are produced to provide transparency with regards to the apprenticeship service, an online service implemented in May 2017 that allows employers to choose and pay for apprenticeship training more easily, and its usage. This publication contains statistics covering England.

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

## Public sector apprenticeship statistics

These statistics provide progress towards the public sector apprenticeship target in the second year of the four year target, and cumulative progress for the first two years.

As the apprenticeship target is measured over a four year period, caution should be taken interpreting what the data in the first two years will mean for the eventual outcome against the target both for individual public bodies and the public sector overall. For assessing the apprenticeship programme as a whole, please refer to the most recent statistics here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

## Changes included in this release

For planned changes to the next release, see 'changes in the next release' section.

## Further education and skills

This release includes final figures for the academic year 2018/19 based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by further education colleges and providers in October 2019.

We have also included new figures on participation of learners funded through the Adult Education Budget (AEB) in table 4 of the main tables for the FE and skills tables.

The percentage calculation for the learner characteristics in this release exclude instances of unknown categories. For example, ethnicity proportions exclude unknown ethnicity and similarly for the other learner characteristics. See the technical information section in the main commentary of the July 2019 apprenticeships and traineeships release for detail.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeships-and-traineeships-july-2019>

Additionally in this release we are providing new much more detailed, unrounded 'underlying' datasets that will allow the more experienced analytical user to access a much richer source of data to investigate as they wish, please see table list below.

## Apprenticeship service and levy statistics

This publication contains updated apprenticeship service registrations and commitments data based on data returned to the end of October 2019. The number of transferred commitments, and transferred commitments that have so far been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the ILR have also been updated.

## Public sector apprenticeship statistics

This statistics publication reports on the progress being made by public bodies towards their apprenticeship target in the second year of the target, and the progress being made by the public sector overall. It is based on self-declared information on organisation headcounts and apprentice recruitment that has been submitted to the Department by each public sector body that has determined itself to be in scope. Figures in this release cover the two reporting periods 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 .

## Changes in the next release

The DfE is changing how we release our statistics to further modernise our approach to dissemination. This will be through a new DfE statistics dissemination platform known as 'Explore Education Statistics' (EES) to make our data and statistics easier to find, access, navigate and understand. Please see here for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/statistics>. We are hoping to move to the new platform from January 2020, but cannot confirm this as yet.

The EES system offers a step change for users in making data and releases easier to find and through use of a new table tool, more interactive access to our data. We are also adopting a more concise and user friendly presentation of commentary and headline data.

Moving to EES will over time give producers more efficiency and flexibility. If we do move over to EES for January we hope to reintroduce quarterly publishing of all data. This is in contrast to this year where it was only possible to publish non-apprenticeship data biannually. We will also seek to improve navigation to our data by consolidating releases and providing more seamless links to all supporting tables. In EES therefore we hope to have two releases; a Further education and skills release and a Apprenticeships and traineeships release. The latter will bring all

apprenticeship data together in one place and update relevant sections on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. E.g. the next update of public sector data will be November 2020.

The next Further education and skills and Apprenticeships and traineeships releases will be in January 2020 and will provide provisional data for the first quarter of the 2019 to 2020 academic year. If we cannot move to the EES we will provide another transitional product similar to the approach adopted to this release so, we may focus on making the long term move to EES which will benefit all.

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

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

## **In this publication**

### **Further education and skills**

The following tables are included in this release:

- National tables (Excel .xls):

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Quality and methodology (technical) document published alongside the March release provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

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

### **Apprenticeship service and levy statistics**

This publication contains updated apprenticeship service registrations and commitments data based on data returned to the end of October 2019. The number of transferred commitments, and transferred commitments that have been recorded as apprenticeship starts on the ILR in 2018/19 have also been updated.

The following tables are included in this release:

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

Total number of commitments by training start date and age as reported at 31 October 2019

Total number of commitments by training start date and level as reported at 31 October 2019

All age monthly apprenticeship programme starts by level and age (2018/19)

- Monthly apprenticeship starts PivotTable tool covering breakdowns by sector subject area, framework/standard, age group, level, degree apprenticeship flag and funding type from 2014/15 to 2018/19.

A back series of monthly apprenticeship starts from the 2014/15 academic year are available here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/661181/Monthly\\_apprenticeship\\_starts\\_from\\_201415\\_to\\_201617.xlsx](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661181/Monthly_apprenticeship_starts_from_201415_to_201617.xlsx)

### **Public sector apprenticeship statistics**

The following tables are included in this publication, covering the reporting periods 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 and 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019:

- Public sector apprenticeships by sector, England, 2017-18 to 2018-19: National and sub-sector table (.xls and .ods)
- Underlying data: Public sector body list and accompanying metadata (.xls and .ods)

## Methodology and technical information

As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic. In order to understand the impact of policy and methodology changes on any data published in this release, details are provided in the quality and methodology document that accompanies this release. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-october-2019>

For further information on the Public Sector statistics, please see the main commentary that accompanied this release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-sector-apprenticeships-in-england-2017-to-2018>

## Feedback

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

## 2. Accompanying tables

A list of tables published as part of this release can be found here:

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

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

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

### Final 2018/19 Tables

#### Further education and skills tables:

1. All age apprenticeship participation by level and age (2010/11 to 2018/19)
- 2.1. All age apprenticeship programme starts by level and age (2010/11 to 2018/19)
- 2.2. All age apprenticeship programme achievements by level and age (2010/11 to 2018/19)
- 3.1. Traineeship starts by age (2013/14 to 2018/19)
- 3.2. Traineeship completions by age (2013/14 to 2018/19)
- 3.3. Traineeship progressions by age (2013/14 to 2018/19)
- 4.1. Adult (19+) FE and Skills participation by level (2010/11 to 2018/19)
- 4.2. Adult (19+) FE and Skills achievement by level (2010/11 to 2018/19)
- 5.1. Adult (19+) Education and Training participation by level (2010/11 to 2018/19)
- 5.2. Adult (19+) Education and Training achievement by level (2010/11 to 2018/19)
6. Adult (19+) FE and Skills: English and maths participation and achievement by level (2010/11 to 2018/19)
7. All age demographic summary of apprenticeship participation (2018/19)
8. All age demographic summary of FE and Skills participation (2018/19)
9. Community Learning participation and achievement by type (2010/11 to 2018/19)

### Underlying CSV data

- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship starts with various attributes such as gender, geography, sector subject area and provider (2018/19)
- Rounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship starts and achievements with learner characteristics (2018/19).
- Unrounded CSV dataset on apprenticeship participation with various attributes such as gender, geography and provider, (2018/19).

- Unrounded CSV dataset on FE and Skills learner participation with various attributes such as gender, geography and provider (2018/19).
- Rounded CSV dataset on FE and Skills learner participation with learner characteristics (2018/19).
- Unrounded CSV dataset on Further Education and Skills aims enrolments with various attributes such as gender, geography, sector subject area and provider (2018/19).
- Metadata: Information about the fields in the underlying data and additional notes for users

### Apprenticeship and levy statistics tables:

1. Total number of commitments by training start date and age as reported at 31 October 2019
2. Total number of commitments by training start date and level as reported at 31 October 2019
3. All age apprenticeship programme starts by start month, level and age (2018/19)

### Public sector statistics tables:

1. Public sector apprenticeships by sector, England (financial years 2017/18 to 2018/19)
- Underlying data: Public sector target returns by individual bodies, (financial years 2017-18 to 2018-19)
  - Metadata: Information about the fields in the public sector underlying data and additional notes for users

### Supplementary tables

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

Please see the **table finder** tool published in the FE data library for further supplementary data tools and tables published along with this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fe-data-library-help-for-finding-data>

1. Apprenticeship demographic and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2018/19)
2. Apprenticeship framework/standard and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2018/19)
3. Apprenticeship geography and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2018/19)
4. Apprenticeship provider type and age, level, sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements (2018/19)
5. Apprenticeships planned length of stay (2018/19)
6. Apprenticeship expected duration by age, sector subject area and level (2016/17 to 2018/19)
7. Further education and skills: participation with advanced learner loans (2018/19)
8. Advanced learner loans application information to (2018/19)
9. Apprenticeship starts by pathway (2018/19)
10. Indices of Multiple Deprivation on apprenticeship starts, apprenticeship participation, Education and training participation and Further Education and Skills participation (2015/16 to 2018/19)
11. Traineeships – starts by equality and diversity (2018/19)
12. Community learning – participation by region, and equality and diversity (2018/19)
13. Apprenticeship participation and achievements by delivery location and sector subject area, (2018/19)
14. Education and training participation and achievements by delivery location, (2018/19)
15. Further Education and Skills participation by provider and learner characteristics, (2018/19)
16. Further Education and Skills participation and achievements by geography, (2018/19)

17. English and maths participation and achievements by geography, (2018/19)
18. Apprenticeship starts since 2010 and 2015
19. Apprenticeships by length of employment, 2018/19
20. Apprenticeships number of unique workplaces by learners home region, 2018/19
21. Apprenticeships demographic tool by framework/standard, 2018/19
22. Apprenticeships demographic tools by local authority district, 2018/19.

Monthly apprenticeship starts PivotTable tool covering breakdowns by sector subject area, framework/standard, age group, level, degree apprenticeship flag and funding type (levy supported) (2014/15 to 2018/19).

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

We preserve confidentiality	The Code of Practice for Official Statistics ( <a href="https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/">https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/</a> ) requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.
We suppress some figures	In the main tables, headline volumes below 50 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). In the supplementary tables volumes below 5 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). A percentage of less than 0.5 per cent is suppressed.
We adopt symbols to help identify suppression	Symbols are used in the tables as follows: ‘-’ indicates a headline volume with below 50 in the main tables and below 5 in the supplementary tables. ‘*’ indicates a percentage of less than 0.5 per cent.
We round figures	In the main tables, headline volumes are reported rounded to the nearest 100. In the supplementary tables, volumes are rounded to the nearest 10. There may be exceptions to this in instances where any figure that is an exact duplicate of a value in the headline figures (e.g. Grand Totals), which are rounded to the nearest 100 and avoid contradictory figures. Percentages reported are calculated on pre-rounded data and given to one decimal place.
Coverage of the data	This release includes finalised data for the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to July 2019) reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in October 2019 by further education providers. It also includes final data for previous years for comparison where applicable.

In order to understand the impact of policy and methodology changes on any data published in this release, details are provided in the quality and methodology document that accompanies this release. As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic.

More information, please see the latest version in the most recent statistical release here:

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

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeship-and-levy-statistics-october-2019>

For further information on the Public sector statistics, please see the main commentary that accompanied this release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-sector-apprenticeships-in-england-2017-to-2018>

### 3. Further information is available

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

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

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: [Apprenticeship and levy statistics: October 2019 - GOV.UK](#)

For further information on the Public Sector statistics, please see the main commentary that accompanied this release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-sector-apprenticeships-in-england-2017-to-2018>

### 4. The apprenticeship funding system

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

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

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

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

### 5. Technical information

For further information, please see the quality and methodology document that accompanied the March release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/further-education-and-skills-march-2019>

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

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

For further information on the monthly Apprenticeship Service data, please see the main text that accompanied this release: [Apprenticeship and levy statistics: October 2019 - GOV.UK](#)

For further information on the Public Sector statistics, please see the main commentary that accompanied this release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-sector-apprenticeships-in-england-2017-to-2018>

### 6. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority (UKSA) has designated these statistics as National Statistics in January 2012 ([https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessment-report-78-further-education-and-skills\\_tcm97-35239.pdf](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessment-report-78-further-education-and-skills_tcm97-35239.pdf)), in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Since the last assessment, we have made the following improvements to these statistics to continue their compliance with the Code of Practice:

We highlighted the key methodology information in the Quality and Methodology document (see the methodology document accompanying the last [March Further Education and Skills release](#)) including data quality issues surrounding the in-year data in our releases and ensured our in-year statistics are now clearly caveated. We have improved the commentary with charts and the necessary caveats to aid interpretation and to visually reflect the variability with in-year statistics. We made a number of changes to our publication structure and publication timings from January 2018, which were outlined in the [Proposed Changes](#) document in November 2017. We have responded to various user needs by creating more data tools with the view to improving the richness of data, increasing efficiencies, and enabling re-use of those statistics, thereby improving flexibility of the statistics. We have developed a new table finder to help users navigate the tools in the further education data library. These changes, particularly those implemented for the 2017/18 academic year were informed by user feedback, an internal review of further education Official Statistics, and departmental priorities, with a view to improving consistency across our statistical publications. Furthermore, [the FE Official Statistics mailbox](#) has been introduced as the central point of contact for further engagement and to invite feedback.

Further recent correspondence from the UKSA regarding our compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics is published here: <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/compliance-check-further-education-skills/>

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

## 7. Get in touch

### Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 020 7783 8300

### Other enquiries and feedback

Praful Whiteman, Further Education Statistical Dissemination Team, Department for Education, 2 St Paul's Place, Sheffield, S1 2JF.

Email: [FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk](mailto:FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk)



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write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

Praful Whiteman, Further Education Statistical Dissemination Team, Department for Education, 2 St Paul's Place, Sheffield, S1 2JF.

Email: [FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk](mailto:FE.OFFICIALSTATISTICS@education.gov.uk)

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

Reference: [Further Education and Skills: November 2019]



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