

Statistics of Education:

Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 2000/01



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VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 2000/01

Introduction

1 This Bulletin presents information on awards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), General National Vocational Qualifications/Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (GNVQs/VCEs)¹, Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), General Scottish Vocational Qualifications (GSVQs) and non-accredited full vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs). All information on awards of NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs and Other VQs made by UK awarding bodies has been taken from the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) held by DfES.

2 In addition it also presents information on the numbers and characteristics of people holding and studying towards NVQs/SVQs, plus a comparison of vocational and academic awards in England by age group. This bulletin updates the information in DfES Statistical Bulletin Issue No 05/01, May 2001.

3 Since 1997/98 NISVQ has received detailed information on NVQs awarded by: City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR, Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), Council for Awards 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), National Examining Board for Supervision and Management (NEBSM) and Intellect Ltd (formerly TVSC). In 1998/99 two additional awarding bodies started participating in the NISVQ project by submitting detailed NVQ award information to DfES. These were: The Institute of Management (IM) and The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI). The data collected from all awarding bodies involved with NISVQ covers full awards made at centres in the United Kingdom plus a small number of overseas centres.

4 NISVQ also collects information on awards of General National Vocational Qualifications/Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (GNVQs/VCEs) and non-accredited full vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs) from City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR. A small amount of information on Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs, GSVQs etc.) has been obtained from SQA.

5 NVQ/SVQ estimates in this Bulletin are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs. In 2000/01 NISVQ collected detailed information on almost 92 per cent of all NVQs. Information on GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs

is complete, because all the relevant awarding bodies are included. SQA also provides complete information on SVQs (see sources section in the Technical Notes for more detail on the grossing of NVQs on NISVQ).

6 The Autumn Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides estimates of the numbers of people holding/working towards NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs and Other VQs, the 'Database assembled for the publication of Secondary School and College Performance Tables' gives the number of people achieving GCE A levels and GCSEs in England, and the GNVQs/VCEs student database gives the number of registrations on GNVQs/VCEs in England. LFS analyses based on the numbers of people holding an NVQ/SVQ cover all awards irrespective of the year they were gained. Additional information on employers' awareness of and involvement in vocational qualifications is provided by the Learning and Training at Work Survey 2001².

Summary

7 Since their introduction in 1987, over 3.5 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded up to the end of September 2001. The majority of these were at level 2 (59 per cent), with about 18 per cent at level 1 and 23 per cent at level 3 or above.

8 There was a 6 per cent decrease in the number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 2000/01 when compared with the previous year: 454 thousand in 1999/00 and 428 thousand in 2000/01.

9 The number of GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs awarded in 2000/01 fell considerably from 117 thousand in 1999/00 to almost 66 thousand in 2000/01.

10 In 2000/01 NISVQ collected information on other full vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs) from Edexcel, City & Guilds and OCR. The total number of these awards for 2000/01 was 553 thousand, a 10 per cent rise when compared to 502 thousand, which is the comparable figure for the same three awarding bodies in 1999/00.

11 Of the NVQs awarded in 2000/01 the majority (58 per cent) were at level 2; a further 26 per cent were at level 3; with 12 per cent at level 1 and 4 per cent at levels 4 and 5.

12 In 2000/01 approximately 391 thousand level 2 awards (academic and vocational) were made to young people aged 15-18: this compares with 436 thousand in 1999/00 (see Table 2). Similarly, the number of level 3 awards has increased to approximately 322 thousand in 2000/01 compared with 261 thousand in 1999/00 (see Table 4). (The increase in awards at level 3 is due to

1 See Technical Notes (paragraph 20).

2 Learning and Training at Work Survey 2001, IFF Research Ltd. This survey replaced the Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1999.

counting those young people achieving 2 or more full 'A' levels *as well* as those achieving 4 or more AS levels in the first year of their continuing further education.)

13 Of the GNVQs/VCEs awarded in 2000/01: 8 per cent were at Foundation level (level 1) compared with 11 per cent in 1999/00; 26 per cent at Intermediate level (level 2) compared with 47 per cent in 1999/00 and 66 per cent at Advanced level (level 3) compared with 42 per cent in 1999/00.

14 In 2000/01 awards of Other VQs³ on NISVQ showed an increase at both *notional* levels 1 and 2 when compared to 1999/00 whereas awards made at *notional* levels 3 and 4 or above were down on the previous year. Of the total number of Other VQs awarded in 2000/01: 299 thousand (54 per cent) were at the *notional* level 1, 134 thousand (24 per cent) were at *notional* level 2 and 120 thousand (22 per cent) at *notional* level 3 or above.

15 The Autumn 2001 LFS provides an estimate of almost 3.6 million people holding an NVQ/SVQ. This estimate is close to QCA's official figure for the total number of NVQ/SVQ awards made. The survey also estimates that a further 677 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held an NVQ/SVQ unit.

16 914 thousand people, according to the Autumn 2001 LFS estimate, were working towards an NVQ/SVQ, which is a fall of 34 thousand compared with the survey in Autumn 2000: two-thirds of these people were working towards their first NVQ/SVQ.

17 According to the Autumn 2001 LFS estimate, from 914 thousand people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, 695 thousand (just over three quarters) were in employment, 59 thousand (6 per cent) were on a Government supported training and employment programme, 34 thousand (4 per cent) were registered unemployed and 124 thousand (14 per cent) were registered economically inactive.

COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC AWARDS IN ENGLAND

18 This section of the Bulletin compares the numbers of people who were awarded academic qualifications at levels 2 and 3 with the numbers of vocational qualification awards at levels 2 and 3 collected through NISVQ. For this purpose the definition of level 2 and level 3 is as follows: level 2 can be achieved by having 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs, NVQ 2 or any equivalent Other VQ; level 3 can be achieved by having 2 or more GCE A levels, Advanced GNVQs/VCEs, NVQ 3 or any equivalent Other VQ. These are the definitions used for the

National Learning Targets for 2002. All of the following analyses should be seen as illustrative since the numbers of awards on NISVQ do not necessarily equate to numbers of people, since it is possible that one person could gain more than one award in a year, and the number of Other VQ awards only represents those made by 3 of the largest awarding bodies in England and are not England estimates.

Awards at level 2

19 Table 1 shows that the vocational proportion of the total number of level 2 awards made in a year has remained fairly constant over the last 5 years. In 2000/01 52 per cent of all level 2 awards were vocational, i.e. Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs, NVQs at level 2 or Other VQs at level 2.

20 Table 2 contains academic and vocational awards at level 2 by academic age group; throughout it is assumed that people will be one year older than their academic age when achieving an award. In 2000/01 nearly all people (99 per cent) aged 16 who obtained a level 2 award did so by the academic GCSE route (most people of academic age 15 in 2000/01 will have turned 16 when they actually achieve their award in 2001). Nearly all people (99 per cent) who obtain level 2 awards aged 17 and over do so by the vocational route. It will be the performance of the cohort who turned 18 in 2001, whose achievements are highlighted for both 1999/00 and 2000/01, which will determine whether the National Learning Targets for 2002, in England for 19 year olds qualified to level 2⁴ will be achieved. Significantly, in 2000/01 97 per cent of all level 2 awards made to people aged 17-19 (academic age 16-18) were vocational and predominantly NVQs.

Awards at level 3

21 As a consequence of the Qualifying for Success reforms (introduced in September 2000) Tables 3 and 4 include those young people achieving 2 or more full A levels (academic age 17) *and* those young people achieving 4 or more 'new' advanced subsidiary (AS) examinations (academic age 16).

22 Table 4 contains academic and vocational awards at level 3 by academic age group; throughout it is assumed that people will be one year older than their academic age when achieving an award. In 2000/01 most people (86 per cent) who obtained a level 3 award aged 16-18 did so by the academic GCE A level route (e.g. most people of academic age 17 in 2000/01 will have turned 18 when they actually achieved their award in 2001). The vast majority of people (97 per cent) aged 19 and over who obtain an award at level 3 do so by the vocational route. It will be the performance of the cohort who turned 20 in 2001, whose achievements are highlighted

³ Throughout this bulletin, figures showing numbers of Other VQ awards from NISVQ in 2000/01 are awards other than NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs made by Edexcel, City and Guilds and OCR, and are *not* grossed up UK estimates.

⁴ National Learning Targets for 2002 for Young People in England: 85 per cent of 19 year olds with a "level 2" qualification.

TABLE 1:
Number of level 2 awards for all ages by type and year, England

Qualification/Award type	Academic year qualification was issued				
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
5 or more GCSEs at A* to C only (i)	267	268	280	286	300
Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs	43	45	48	50	15
NVQ Level 2 (ii)	232	232	220	222	199
Other VQ Level 2 (iii)	65	72	80	96	114

Awards (thousands)

Sources: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) For National Learning Targets purposes 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.
(ii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iii) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

TABLE 2:
Comparison of level 2 awards by academic age group, England

Academic Age (i)	Awards (thousands)							
	1999/00				2000/01			
	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C) (ii)	Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs	NVQ Level 2 (iii)	Other VQ Level 2 (iv)	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C) (ii)	Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs	NVQ Level 2 (iii)	Other VQ Level 2 (iv)
14 and under	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
15	281	10	-	-	296	2	-	-
16	3	26	17	11	3	10	3	2
17	-	8	35	8	-	1	21	11
18	-	2	27	6	-	1	33	8
19	-	-	17	4	-	-	21	11
20	-	-	12	3	-	-	14	5
21-24	-	-	26	7	-	-	29	10
25 & over	-	-	85	56	-	-	76	66
Not classified	0	-	2	1	-	-	1	1
Total	286	50	222	96	300	15	199	114

- less than 1,000

Sources: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 2000/01 would be age on 31 August 2000.
(ii) For National Learning Targets purposes 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

TABLE 3:
Number of level 3 awards for all ages by type and year, England

Qualification/Award type	Academic year qualification was issued				
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
2 or more GCE A levels (i) (ii)	183	188	189	187	280
Advanced GNVQs/VCEs	32	39	42	44	37
NVQ Level 3 (iii)	79	90	89	97	90
Other VQ Level 3 (iv)	67	58	61	71	69

Awards (thousands)

Sources: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) The GCE A levels figures include people who achieved 4 or more AS level passes.
(ii) For National Learning Targets purposes 2 A levels/4 AS levels are equivalent to a level 3 award.
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

TABLE 4:
Comparison of level 3 awards by academic age group, England

Academic Age (i)	1999/00				2000/01			
	2 or more GCE	Advanced	NVQ	Other VQ	2 or more GCE	Advanced	NVQ	Other VQ
	A levels (ii)	GNVQs/VCEs	Level 3 (iii)	Level 3 (iv)	A levels (ii)	GNVQs/VCEs	Level 3 (iii)	Level 3 (iv)
15 and under	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
16	2	-	-	-	85	1	-	-
17	163	22	3	17	173	4	1	2
18	17	13	10	12	16	18	4	17
19	2	4	11	7	2	9	10	10
20	-	2	8	4	1	3	9	6
21-24	-	1	16	7	1	2	19	9
25 & over	-	1	47	23	-	1	47	23
Not classified	0	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Total	187	44	97	71	280	37	90	69

- less than 1,000

Sources: Secondary School and College Performance Tables database and NISVQ

(i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 2000/01 would be age on 31 August 2000.

(ii) The GCE A level figures for 1999/00 and 2000/01 include students who achieved 4 or more AS level passes. For National Learning Target purposes 2 A levels/4 AS levels are equivalent to a level 3 award.

(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.

(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

for both 1999/00 and 2000/01, which will determine whether the National Learning Targets for 2002 in England for 21 year olds qualified to level 3⁵ has been achieved. Significantly, in 2000/01 82 per cent of the total level 3 awards made to people aged 19-21 (academic age 18-20) were vocational. Table 4 gives a full breakdown of level 3 awards by age group for 1999/00 and 2000/01.

COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY TYPE

23 This section of the Bulletin compares the characteristics of NVQs and GNVQs/VCEs. Full Other VQs outside the National Framework are also included, but care should be taken with these figures because in 2000/01 NISVQ only collected information on Other VQs from City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR and therefore may not be representative of all Other VQs awarded in the UK. Information from SQA, which shows about 29 thousand SVQ awards in 2000/01 and about 2 thousand GSVQ awards in 2000/01 *do not appear in the tables or any of the analysis unless otherwise stated.*

24 Chart A⁶ shows that the proportion of each level of award varies greatly across the three types of vocational qualifications. The most popular *notional* level of award for Other VQs is level 1 (54 per cent). In contrast the most common level for NVQ is level 2 and for GNVQ/

VCE is level 3 which is also the qualification type with the biggest proportion of awards made at level 3 (66 per cent), followed by NVQ (26 per cent) and Other VQ (15 per cent). The proportion of level 4 & 5 qualifications is highest for Other VQs at 7 per cent compared with NVQs where 4 per cent were awarded at levels 4 & 5. (GNVQs/VCEs are only available at levels 1, 2 and 3.)

25 In 2000/01 people aged 25 and over accounted for 43 per cent of NVQ awards and 61 per cent of Other VQ awards. Just under half (49 per cent) of all NVQ awards made to females were made to those aged 25 and over compared to 36 per cent for males. In comparison, 67 per cent of all Other VQs awarded to females were to those aged 25 and over compared to 55 per cent of males. Chart B⁶, later in the Bulletin, illustrates this. Unsurprisingly, because of the target group, GNVQs/VCEs are predominantly awarded to people aged 18 and under (72 per cent).

26 Chart C⁶ shows that the proportion of Other VQs awarded to those aged under 25 has decreased over time from 73 per cent in 1992/93 to 39 per cent in 2000/01. In the same period the proportion of NVQ awards made to the same age group has remained fairly constant: around 57 per cent.

27 Table 5 below shows that the most popular major occupation group, as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2000)⁷ currently included on NISVQ, for GNVQs/VCEs are

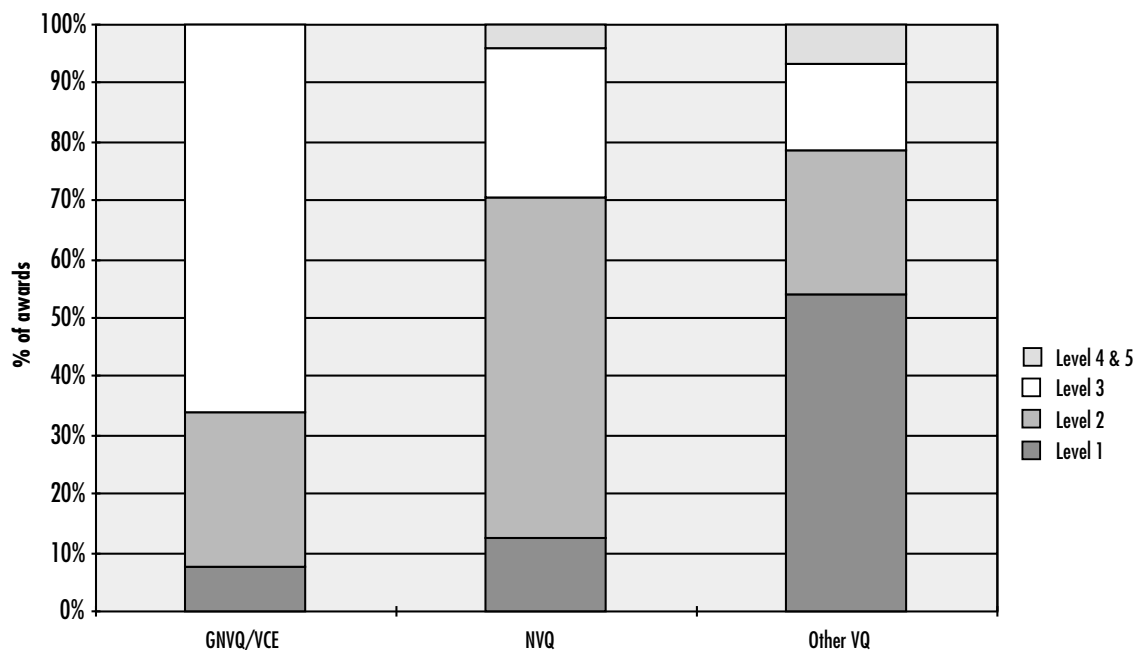
⁵ 2002 National Learning Target for Young People in England: 60 per cent of 21 year olds with a "level 3" qualification.

⁶ Colour versions of charts A, B and C can be viewed by accessing www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SBU/b0337.html

⁷ SOC 2000 has slightly different major occupational classifications to those reported in previous publications, which used SOC 1995 (2nd Edition 1995), therefore comparisons over time need to be made with care.

CHART A:

Comparison of qualification type by level 2000/01



Source: NISVQ

Administrative & Secretarial Occupations (37 per cent); for NVQs are Skilled Trades Occupations (23 per cent) and for Other VQs are Associate Professional & Technical Occupations (16 per cent), although it should be noted that 57 per cent of Other VQs do not have a major occupational group identified. SOC 2000 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.

28 According to NISVQ, there is a significant difference between the gender breakdown by level when comparing NVQs with Other VQs. Females attained more NVQ awards at all levels except at level 1 in contrast to awards of Other VQs where females gained the majority of awards at levels 1 and 2 with males gaining more awards at levels 3 and 4 or above. Chart D⁸ illustrates this in more detail.

TABLE 5:
Comparison of qualification type by SOC 2000/01

Major Occupation Group (SOC 2000)	Awards (percentage)		
	GNVQs	NVQs	Other VQs (i)
Managers & Senior Officials	10%	9%	1%
Professional Occupations	0%	7%	3%
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	31%	4%	16%
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	37%	17%	6%
Skilled Trades Occupations	5%	23%	10%
Personal Service Occupations	17%	22%	1%
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	0%	6%	0%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	0%	3%	2%
Elementary Occupations	0%	6%	4%
Not classified	0%	2%	57%
Total (ii)	100%	100%	100%

Source: NISVQ

(i) Other VQ awards made in 2000/01 by City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.
(ii) Percentages may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

AWARDS OF NVQs/SVQs

NVQ/SVQ awards over time

29 Since their introduction in 1987, over 3.5 million NVQs/SVQs have been awarded by the end of September 2001. The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 2000/01 has dropped from 454 thousand in 1999/00 to 428 thousand in 2000/01. See Table 6 and Chart E⁸ for further information.

30 Looking at NVQs alone, there has also been a drop: 398 thousand in 2000/01 compared with just under 439 thousand in 1999/00. For more detailed information on NVQs awarded by NVQ level, framework area, academic year and quarter see Tables 12 and 13 later in this Bulletin.

NVQ awards by level over time

31 Almost 30 per cent of all NVQs awarded in 2000/01 were at level 3 or above, compared with 25 per cent of NVQs/SVQs in 1997/98 and 21 per cent of NVQs/SVQs in 1994/95. The proportion of awards made at level 2 has remained fairly constant over time and were 58 per cent

⁸ Colour versions of Charts D & E can be viewed by accessing www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SBU/b0337.html

TABLE 6:
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level and year

						Awards (thousands)	
Year (i)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total (ii)	Cumulative total	
Prior to 1994/95	199	421	66	34	720	720	
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	62	261	104	15	442	2,713	
1999/00	65	262	113	15	454	3,167	
2000/01 (iii)	50	231	103	15	428	3,595	

Source: QCA/NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

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

(iii) Numbers do not add to the row total because SVQ data is excluded from individual levels.

in 2000/01. The proportion of NVQs made at level 1 continues to decrease steadily: nearly 20 per cent of NVQs/SVQs in 1994/95 compared with 16 per cent of NVQs/SVQs in 1997/98 and 13 per cent of NVQs in 2000/01. This is illustrated in Table 6 and Chart E.

32 The cumulative number of level 3 NVQ awards made up to the end of December 2001, ie 2001/02 quarter 1, continues to be greater than the cumulative number of level 1 awards: 703 thousand level 3 awards compared to 638 thousand level 1 awards.

NVQs awarded in 2000/01 compared with 1999/00

33 There was an overall decrease of almost 41 thousand (9 per cent) in the number of NVQ awards made in 2000/01 compared to 1999/00. The drop was spread across levels 1 (22 per cent), 2 (8 per cent) and 3 (6 per cent). Levels 4 and 5 however showed an increase of 5 per cent.

34 11 per cent fewer awards were made to males and 8 per cent fewer were made to females in 2000/01 compared to 1999/00. The decrease was spread across all age groups and ranged from 4 per cent fewer in the '21-24' age group to 14 per cent fewer for those aged 17.

35 42 per cent of awards made in 2000/01 were made in FE/Tertiary Colleges. Private training providers accounted for almost 33 per cent of all awards made, whilst employers accounted for just over 9 per cent of awards made.

2000/01 NVQ awards by age, level and gender

36 In 2000/01, 171 thousand NVQs (43 per cent) were made to people aged 25 and over, compared with 62 thousand (16 per cent) for people aged 21-24 and 163 thousand (41 per cent) for people aged 20 and under.

Over 53 per cent of all NVQs awarded in 2000/01 were made to females, although males were predominant (52 per cent) in the 24 and under age group. 49 per cent of all NVQs awarded to females were made to those aged 25 and over compared with only 36 per cent for males. A more detailed breakdown of NVQs by age and gender is given in Table 16.

37 Females were more likely than males to be awarded NVQs at levels 3 and above: 33 per cent of females and 25 per cent of males were awarded NVQs at level 3 or above. Consequently, 60 per cent of all NVQs awarded at level 3 or above were made to females.

38 Level 2 is the most common NVQ award in all age groups except the small number of awards made to those aged 16 and under where level 1 was the most common. More than half (56 per cent) of all NVQs at level 3 or above are made to those aged 25 and over.

2000/01 NVQ awards by major occupation group (SOC)

39 Table 17 shows the numbers of NVQs awarded by major occupation group and gender. For NISVQ purposes SOC is used to classify the occupational area where the qualification would best fit⁹. Almost 63 per cent of NVQs awarded in 2000/01 fell in 3 occupational groups: 'Skilled Trades Occupations' (23 per cent), 'Personal Service Occupations' (22 per cent) and 'Administrative & Secretarial Occupations' (17 per cent). The occupation groups with the biggest gender imbalance are 'Process, Plant & Machine Operatives' (93 per cent male), 'Skilled Trades Occupations' (89 per cent male) and 'Personal Service Occupations' (83 per cent female).

40 Almost a quarter (24 per cent) of all NVQ awards at level 3 and above were made in 'Administrative &

⁹ The person who achieved the NVQ will not necessarily work in the same occupational area.

Secretarial Occupations'. The proportion of both level 1 and level 2 NVQ awards were biggest in 'Skilled Trades Occupations', which had 32 per cent of level 1 and 26 per cent of level 2 awards.

2000/01 NVQ awards by centre type

41 According to NISVQ, nearly 75 per cent of all NVQs awarded were made through either Further Education Colleges or private training providers: 79 per cent of level 1, 74 per cent of level 2 and 76 per cent of all level 3 or above. 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 (9 per cent) were made directly through employers where level 2 qualifications were most common (58 per cent). For a complete breakdown of NVQs by centre type and level see Table 18.

2000/01 NVQ awards by subject area

42 Almost 29 per cent of all NVQ awards at level 3 or above were in 'Business/Management/Office Studies'. Levels 1 and 2 awards were more evenly distributed between subject areas: almost 57 per cent of all level 1 awards spread between 'Sales Marketing & Distribution', 'Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance', 'Catering/Food/Leisure Services & Tourism' and 'Construction & Property'; and 54 per cent of all level 2 awards spread between 'Business/Management/Office Studies', 'Sales Marketing & Distribution', 'Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety' and 'Manufacturing/Production Work'. Table 19 contains a full breakdown of subject area by level.

43 The majority of all NVQs awarded in the three most popular subject areas were made to females: 'Business/Management/Office Studies' (75 per cent), 'Sales Marketing & Distribution' (61 per cent) and 'Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety' (91 per cent). In the next two most popular subject areas, awards were made predominantly to males: 'Construction & Property' (98 per cent) and 'Manufacturing/Production Work' (77 per cent).

2000/01 NVQ awards by framework area

44 Of the NVQs awarded in 2000/01, just under 110 thousand (28 per cent) were in the framework area 'Providing Business Services', of which 5 per cent were at level 1, almost 53 per cent were at level 2 and 42 per cent were at level 3 or above. The next largest framework area 'Providing Goods and Services' had 107 thousand awards (27 per cent of total), of which over 22 per cent were at level 1, 64 per cent were at level 2 and nearly 14 per cent were at level 3 or above. These figures are all contained within Table 20.

45 The majority of all NVQ awards made in the three most popular framework areas were made to females: 'Providing Business Services' (71 per cent), 'Providing Goods and Services' (65 per cent) and 'Providing Health, Social & Protective Services' (87 per cent). Awards made in the fourth and fifth largest framework areas were predominantly made to males: 'Engineering' (97 per cent) and 'Construction' (98 per cent).

2000/01 NVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country

46 In 2000/01, 87 per cent of NVQs were made in England compared to approximately 6 per cent in Wales, 2 per cent in Scotland and 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. From NISVQ it is estimated that 1 per cent of all NVQ awards were made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. For a more detailed breakdown by Government Office region and country see Table 21.

People holding NVQs/SVQs

47 The Autumn 2001 LFS estimated that almost 3.6 million people held an NVQ/SVQ¹⁰. Of these 53 per cent were female compared to 52 per cent in Autumn 2000. A further 677 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held one or more NVQ/SVQ units.

48 Of those people holding an NVQ/SVQ, nearly 9 in 10 (88 per cent) were economically active (Autumn 2001 LFS), which has not changed significantly from the survey in the previous year. The majority of the 3.2 million economically active people were employees (88 per cent), with 6 per cent being unemployed (ILO definition). Table 7 gives a full breakdown of economic activity for those holding NVQs/SVQs for the last two Autumn LFSs.

49 Table 8 shows the estimated proportions of the working age population who hold an NVQ/SVQ by age group from the last two Autumn LFSs. In 2001 it is estimated that 10 per cent of the working age population held an NVQ/SVQ, which is an increase of one percentage point from 2000. The age group with the greatest proportion of people with an NVQ/SVQ was the 21-24 age band (22 per cent).

50 The proportion of people in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by the Standard Major Occupational Classification (SOC 2000) of their main job are shown in Table 14 from the Autumn 2001 LFS. The major occupation group having the greatest proportion of people holding NVQs/SVQs was 'Personal Service Occupations', with 22 per cent of people employed holding an NVQ/SVQ in 2001. The major occupation group with the smallest proportion of its employees holding NVQs/SVQs was the 'Professional Occupations' group (5 per cent).

¹⁰ Analysis of numbers of people holding an NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year awarded.

TABLE 7:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

Status	Autumn 2000	Autumn 2001
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)
Economically Active	2,783	3,166
of which:		
employee	2,420	2,778
self-employed	140	161
government supported training and employment programmes	36	31
unpaid family worker	-	-
ILO unemployed	181	195
Economically Inactive	349	413
Total (i)	3,132	3,579

- less than 10,000 Source: LFS, Autumn 2000 & 2001
(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 8:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by age group and year

Age Band	Autumn 2000	Proportion	Autumn 2001	Proportion
	Number (thousands)	of Age Band Population (i)	Number (thousands)	of Age Band Population (i)
16-20	405	11%	404	11%
21-24	537	19%	622	22%
25-40	1,374	9%	1,611	11%
41-59	779	5%	896	6%
60 or over	38	3%	46	3%
Total (ii)	3,132	9%	3,579	10%

Source: LFS, Autumn 2000 & 2001
(i) Working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).
(ii) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

51 Table 15 gives the Autumn 2001 LFS Government Office regional breakdown of the number of people holding NVQs/SVQs. Of those holding NVQs/SVQs, 84 per cent were living in England, 6 per cent in Wales, 8 per cent in Scotland and 2 per cent in Northern Ireland. The Government Office region containing the largest number of people holding NVQs/SVQs was the North West with 495 thousand people. The Government Office region with the greatest proportion of its working age population holding an NVQ/SVQ was the North East with 14 per cent, while the smallest proportion, with 6 per cent holding an NVQ/SVQ, was London.

People working towards NVQs/SVQs

52 According to the LFS, in Autumn 2001 there were 914 thousand people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, a fall of 34 thousand from Autumn 2000. Of these, only 151 thousand (17 per cent) were full-time students, a slight increase from Autumn 2000. Two-thirds (67 per

TABLE 9:
People working towards NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

Status	Autumn 2000	Autumn 2001
	Number (thousands)	Number (thousands)
Economically Active	833	790
of which:		
employee	692	676
self-employed	21	19
government supported training and employment programmes	72	59
unpaid family worker	-	-
ILO unemployed	46	34
Economically Inactive	115	124
Total (i)	948	914

- less than 10,000 Source: LFS, Autumn 2000 & 2001
(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

cent) of those working towards an NVQ/SVQ did not already have one.

53 Of the people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, 86 per cent were economically active. The majority of the 790 thousand economically active people were employees (86 per cent), with 4 per cent being unemployed (ILO definition) and a further 7 per cent on government supported training and employment programmes. Table 9 gives a full breakdown by year of the economic activity of people working towards NVQs/SVQs.

AWARDS OF GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs

GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs awards over time

54 Table 10 (and Chart F¹¹), based on NISVQ data, shows the numbers of GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs awarded by level over time. There have been over 640 thousand GNVQ/VCE/GSVQ awards made since their introduction in 1992. 2000/01 saw a large fall (44 per cent) in the number of GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs awarded from 117 thousand in 1999/00 to 66 thousand. This is partly due to the changing nature of the GNVQ qualification and the introduction of the Vocational Certificate of Education. The new VCE is reported on differently to the older 'legacy' GNVQs.

GNVQs/VCEs by level over time

55 As a result of the changes described above comparisons with earlier years are difficult. Up to 1999/00 all levels of GNVQ/VCE awards showed a continuous increase each year since their introduction. Awards made at level 2 (Intermediate level) had always represented the majority share within each year, although the percentage share of awards at level 2 had shown a gentle decline over time which has been offset

11 A colour version of Chart F can be viewed by accessing www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SBU/b0337.html

TABLE 10:
Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by level and year

Year (i)	Awards (thousands)			
	Level 1 / Foundation	Level 2 / Intermediate	Level 3 / Advanced	Total (ii) (iii)
Prior to 1995/96	4	49	14	67
1995/96	6	44	34	84
1996/97	9	48	36	93
1997/98	9	49	44	103
1998/99	12	54	47	113
1999/00	13	55	49	117
2000/01 (iv)	5	17	42	66

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.

(iv) Numbers do not add to the row total because GSVQ data is excluded from individual levels.

with the increase in the numbers of level 1 (Foundation) awards. In 2000/01 almost 66 per cent of the awards made were at level 3 (Advanced level), with 26 per cent being made at level 2 (Intermediate level) and almost 8 per cent at level 1 (Foundation level).

2000/01 GNVQs/VCEs by age, level and gender

56 In 2000/01 females achieved marginally more awards than males, almost 33 thousand compared to 31 thousand. The majority of awards made at levels 2 and 3 were to females, with males achieving the majority of awards at level 1.

57 Table 22 provides a breakdown of GNVQs/VCEs by age and gender. 51 per cent of GNVQ/VCE awards were made to people aged 18 and 19 in 2000/01. People aged 16 and under represented 28 per cent of the total awards and only 11 per cent of awards were made to people aged 20 and over.

58 Of the GNVQ/VCE awards attained by people aged 16 nearly three quarters (74 per cent) were made at level 2. For all other ages the majority achieved awards at level 3 with 17 year olds achieving 69 per cent; 18 year olds 93 per cent; 19 year olds 95 per cent and those aged 20 and over 90 per cent.

59 More females (55 per cent) aged 18 achieved a GNVQ/VCE award than males. The majority was reversed for people aged 19 with males gaining 54 per cent of awards.

2000/01 GNVQs/VCEs by major occupation group (SOC 2000)

60 According to NISVQ 'Administrative & Secretarial Occupations' remains the most popular occupational group, representing 37 per cent (23 thousand) of the total number of GNVQ/VCE awards made. 54 per cent of the awards in this occupational group were made to

males. 'Associate Professional & Technical Occupations' was the next most common occupational group with 20 thousand (31 per cent) awards made in 2000/01. 66 per cent of awards in this group were made to females. Almost 11 thousand awards were made in the occupational group 'Personal Service Occupations', with the majority (66 per cent) of these awards made to females. More detailed occupation group by gender figures are contained in Table 23.

61 The occupational group 'Administrative & Secretarial Occupations' accounted for almost 37 per cent of all GNVQ/VCE awards in 2000/01. 58 per cent of the awards made in this group were at level 3, 35 per cent at level 2 and 7 per cent at level 1. The occupational group 'Managers and Senior Officials' had the largest proportion of its awards at level 3 (89 per cent). In contrast the group with the largest proportion of awards at level 1 (26 per cent) was 'Skilled Trades Occupations'.

2000/01 GNVQs/VCEs by centre type

62 Table 24 provides the numbers of GNVQs/VCEs by centre type and level. Almost 47 per cent of all GNVQ/VCE awards in 2000/01 were made through FE colleges compared to almost 43 per cent made in schools and 8 per cent through Sixth Form colleges. Awards made at all other types of centres were less than 3 per cent of the total. Almost a half (47 per cent) of awards made at school were at level 2, whereas, attainment through FE colleges was dominated by awards at level 3 (84 per cent). Similarly the highest proportion of awards gained through Sixth Form colleges was also at level 3 (94 per cent).

2000/01 GNVQs/VCEs by subject area

63 Three out of ten (19 thousand) of GNVQs/VCEs awarded in 2000/01 were made in the subject area 'Business and Management'. More awards were made at level 3 (70 per cent) compared to level 2 (25 per cent) and level 1 (5 per cent). Almost 11 thousand GNVQ/VCE awards were made in the subject area 'Information Technology & Information' of which the majority (56 per cent) were made at level 3 compared to 39 per cent at level 2. A similar number of awards were made in the subject area 'Catering, Food, Leisure Services and Tourism' which were again predominately awards made at level 3 (68 per cent) compared to level 2 (21 per cent) and level 1 (11 per cent). More detailed subject area by level figures for GNVQs/VCEs are contained in Table 25.

64 94 per cent of awards in Health Care, Medicine, Health and Safety were made to females. The highest proportion of awards made to males (96 per cent) was in the Engineering subject area.

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

2000/01 GNVQs/VCEs by Government Office Region and Country

66 Table 26 provides the numbers of GNVQs/VCEs by Government Office region and country. In 2000/01 nine out of ten of all GNVQ/VCE awards were made in England, compared to almost 5 per cent in Wales and in Northern Ireland and less than 1 per cent in Scotland. The Government Office region with the highest attainment of GNVQ/VCE was the South East with nearly 9 thousand awards reflecting 15 per cent of the total for England.

AWARDS OF OTHER VQs

67 In 2000/01 NISVQ received detailed information on awards of full Other Vocational Qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs) made by City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR. In previous years SQA have supplied Other VQ awards data, but were not able to supply data in time for this publication. All 2000/01 analyses of Other VQ awards, plus the comparison of 2000/01 awards with 1999/00 awards, presented in this Bulletin relate *only* to awards made by these three awarding 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.

Other VQ awards over time

68 Table 11 (and Chart G¹²) shows the number of Other VQs in the last five years. Figures prior to 1998/99 include awards made by City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA. Figures for 1998/99 have been revised to exclude SQA in order to make justifiable comparisons with 1999/00 and 2000/01.

TABLE 11:
Awards of Other VQs by level and year

Year (i)	Awards (thousands)				
	Notional Level 1 (ii)	Notional Level 2	Notional Level 3	Notional Levels 4 & 5	Total (iii) (iv)
Prior to 1995/96 (v)	742	598	603	238	2181
1995/96 (v)	188	89	94	53	423
1996/97 (v)	235	75	75	54	439
1997/98 (v)	252	82	66	48	449
1998/99 (vi)	276	95	72	40	483
1999/00 (vi)	266	114	83	39	502
2000/01 (vi)	299	134	82	37	553

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

(ii) For Other VQs, *notional* NVQ levels are estimated by QCA 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.

(v) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA.

(vi) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

Other VQs awarded in 2000/01 compared with 1999/00

69 Compared to 1999/00 the total number of awards made this year to females increased by 13 per cent, compared to a 7 per cent increase for males. The number of females who achieved an award at *notional* level 2 rose significantly by almost 14 thousand (23 per cent), more than double the rise for males. Awards made at *notional* level 3 showed a slight increase (1 per cent) for females and a slight drop (2 per cent) for males. For awards made at *notional* level 4 and above there was a 12 per cent fall in awards gained by females and a slight fall (1 per cent) in awards gained by males.

70 The number of awards gained by people aged 20 and under at *notional* level 2 showed a substantial increase, 21 per cent more than in 1999/00. In contrast there was a 5 per cent fall at *notional* levels 3 or above for the 20 and under age group. Awards gained by people aged 20 and under at *notional* level 1 dropped by 21 per cent on 1999/00. In the '21-24' age group, there was a rise of 23 per cent at *notional* level 2, a rise of 17 per cent at *notional* level 1 and a fall of 1 per cent at *notional* levels 3 and above.

71 The occupational group with the highest proportion of Other VQ awards identified was 'Associate Professional & Technical Occupations' (16 per cent) although it should be noted that 57 per cent of Other VQs do not have a major occupational group identified. This, together with the change of Standard Occupational Classification from SOC 95 to SOC 2000 make comparisons over time for this type of qualification inadvisable.

72 The number of awards made at *notional* level 2 at FE colleges rose by almost 6 thousand (8 per cent), awards made at *notional* level 1 rose by almost 4 thousand (3 per cent) compared to 1999/00, whereas awards made at *notional* level 3 and above fell by almost 6 per cent. The largest rise for awards made at schools was at *notional* levels 3 and above which showed a 45 per cent rise. Awards made at school at *notional* level 1 were down by 10 per cent and awards at *notional* level 2 were down by 22 per cent when compared with 1999/00.

2000/01 Other VQ awards by age, level and gender

73 In 2000/01 nearly 329 thousand (61 per cent) of Other VQs were made to people aged 25 and over, compared to almost 208 thousand (39 per cent) of Other VQs to people aged under 25. For those people aged 25 and over, more awards were made to females (59 per cent), whereas for people aged 24 and under the majority of awards were made to males at 53 per cent. A more detailed breakdown of Other VQs by age and gender is given in Table 27.

74 Over half (54 per cent) of all Other VQs were awarded at *notional* level 1 and 62 per cent were made

12 A colour version of chart G can be seen by accessing www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics/DB/SBU/b0337.html

to females at this level. A quarter of the awards made were at *notional* level 2 and again more awards were made to females (54 per cent). 22 per cent of all Other VQs were made at *notional* levels 3 and above, where this time males were in the majority, attaining 61 per cent of awards at this level.

75 For awards made at *notional* Level 1, 71 per cent were made to people aged 25 and over. 56 per cent were made to this age group at *notional* level 2. In contrast 58 per cent of all Other VQs made at *notional* level 3 or above were made to those aged under 25.

2000/01 Other VQs by major occupation group (SOC)

76 Over half (nearly 318 thousand) of the Other VQs recorded on NISVQ were not assigned to an occupational area. Of those that were, 37 per cent were made in 'Associate Professional & Technical Occupations': of these 61 per cent were made to males. The occupational area with the largest gender disproportion is 'Skilled Trades Occupations' with 87 per cent male. Table 28 shows more information on occupational area by gender.

2000/01 Other VQs by centre type

77 According to NISVQ, 55 per cent of awards were made through Further Education colleges of which 46 per cent were at *notional* level 1, 25 per cent were at *notional* level 2 and 29 per cent were at *notional* level 3 or above. For awards gained through Further Education colleges slightly more (54 per cent) were attained by females. Awards made at schools accounted for 8 per cent of the total while awards made at private training providers made up almost 10 per cent of all Other VQs awarded in 2000/01. Awards made at *notional* level 1 were dominant in both these types of assessment centre. For a complete breakdown of Other VQs by centre type by level see Table 29.

2000/01 Other VQs by subject area

78 The largest subject representing 47 per cent of all Other VQs was 'Information Technology and Information'. 93 per cent of these awards were at *notional* level 1 which made up 80 per cent of all Other VQ awards attained at this level. Over half (54 per cent) of all Other VQs at *notional* level 2 were made in either 'Business/Management/Office Studies' or 'Arts and Crafts' and just over one in five (21 per cent) awards at *notional* level 3 and above were made in 'Engineering'. Table 30 provides more details of subject area by level.

79 72 per cent of Other VQs made in the two most popular subject areas, 'Information Technology and Information' and 'Business/Management/Office Studies', were made to females. In the next most popular subject area, 'Engineering', 97 per cent of awards were made to males.

2000/01 Other VQs by Government Office Region and Country

80 In 2000/01, 80 per cent of all Other VQ awards on NISVQ were made in England, compared with almost 5 per cent in Wales and 4 per cent in Northern Ireland. The Government Office Regions of the North West and West Midlands gained more awards when compared to other regions, both with almost 70 thousand awards (almost 15 per cent of the total awards for England). From NISVQ it is estimated that just over 1 per cent of all Other VQ awards are made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. These figures are contained within Table 31.

EMPLOYERS' AWARENESS OF AND INVOLVEMENT IN VQs

81 Learning and Training at Work (LTW) 2001 indicates that 94 per cent of employers in England had heard of NVQs/SVQs. This is similar to the 96 per cent reported in 2000 and 93 per cent in 1999.

82 Of all employers, one in three (34 per cent) reported that they offered the qualification to one or more of their employees. This compares with the 31 per cent in 2000 and with the 30 per cent found in 1999.

83 Employers offering NVQs/SVQs were asked to estimate the proportion of employees at their establishment to whom they were on offer. In 2001, NVQs/SVQs were offered to 42 per cent of employees in establishments offering NVQs/SVQs. This compares with the 38 per cent found in 2000 (no data available for 1999). These figures equate to 21 per cent and 18 per cent of all employees respectively.

84 Eight out of ten employers (82 per cent), who are currently offering NVQs/SVQs were either fairly or very satisfied with the NVQs/SVQs on offer: this compares with the 81 per cent who felt this way in the 2000 study and the 80 per cent who did so in the 1999 study.

85 Of the 10 per cent of employers who were dissatisfied with NVQs/SVQs, the main reasons given were: they do not meet the company's business needs (39 per cent) and that they proved too bureaucratic (32 per cent).

86 Of those employers offering NVQs/SVQs, 73 per cent felt the quality of NVQ/SVQ assessment was either very or fairly good: this figure is higher than those reported in the 2000 and 1999 studies (65 per cent and 68 per cent respectively).

87 The figures from the survey relate to employers in England with five or more employees. All business sectors, private and public, with the exception of schools and LEAs were covered. It should be noted that due to changes in the coverage of the survey the figures published here are not comparable with those published in previous editions of this Bulletin.

88 More results from this survey are available in a Statistical First Release 01/2002, available from the DfES statistical website at: www.dfes.gsi.gov.uk/statistics/ and a Research Report, available from the DfES Research website at: www.dfes.gov.uk/research.

FURTHER INFORMATION

89 For enquiries about the contents of this Bulletin see contact points on inside cover. Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at Sanctuary

Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT
(Telephone 020-7925-5615).

90 HTML and PDF versions of this Bulletin are available on the website www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics. A range of additional tables from NISVQ will be made available, in an Excel spreadsheet, which will include more detailed analyses by Government Office region, Local Learning and Skills Council, Local Education Authority and Learning Partnership. More information on qualifications can be found in Statistical First Release 06/2001: The level of highest qualification held by Young People and Adults: England 2001, which is also available on the DfES's statistical website.

TABLE 12:
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 1996/97		309,166	793,298	178,867	48,790	3,281	1,333,402
1996/97	Q1	17,576	54,391	16,628	1,538	305	90,438
	Q2	18,862	67,228	22,067	2,023	206	110,386
	Q3	14,889	52,600	17,798	1,576	301	87,164
	Q4	25,218	92,955	33,892	3,482	360	155,907
Total 1996/97		76,545	267,174	90,385	8,619	1,172	443,895
1997/98	Q1	15,883	57,104	19,700	1,893	253	94,833
	Q2	17,497	69,659	26,866	3,188	231	117,441
	Q3	13,167	46,314	16,835	1,553	243	78,112
	Q4	24,117	89,906	36,847	4,322	356	155,548
Total 1997/98		70,664	262,983	100,248	10,956	1,083	445,934
1998/99	Q1	13,978	53,783	20,459	2,086	213	90,519
	Q2	11,099	55,877	22,670	3,562	197	93,405
	Q3	12,659	50,795	18,552	1,944	202	84,152
	Q4	22,147	92,596	39,426	5,876	246	160,291
Total 1998/99		59,883	253,051	101,107	13,468	858	428,367
1999/00	Q1	12,853	53,468	22,925	2,324	193	91,763
	Q2	16,273	64,020	26,574	3,265	239	110,371
	Q3	12,071	47,288	19,642	2,098	228	81,327
	Q4	22,142	87,169	39,839	6,083	216	155,449
Total 1999/00		63,339	251,945	108,980	13,770	876	438,910
2000/01	Q1	11,583	52,463	22,515	2,718	293	89,572
	Q2	10,791	64,422	27,069	3,341	200	105,823
	Q3	7,456	37,218	16,908	2,486	215	64,283
	Q4	19,552	76,722	36,228	5,850	249	138,601
Total 2000/01		49,382	230,825	102,720	14,395	957	398,279
2001/02	Q1	8,883	46,212	21,307	2,699	158	79,259

Source: QCA

- (i) Includes awards of expired NVQs.
(ii) Academic years from October to September.

TABLE 13:
Awards of NVQs by framework area and year (i)

Framework area	Numbers of full NVQ certificates (ii)						
	Prior to 1996/97	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	Total
Tending animals, plants and land	36,962	12,793	10,573	10,605	10,251	10,022	91,206
Extracting/providing natural resources	8,725	1,271	810	1,030	804	1,619	14,259
Constructing	110,336	28,320	26,993	27,788	34,622	37,345	265,404
Engineering	134,009	50,179	45,729	46,134	46,547	39,618	362,216
Manufacturing	37,591	13,177	17,442	22,532	26,089	25,573	142,404
Transporting	12,174	11,631	9,143	10,283	11,546	7,634	62,411
Providing goods and services	355,578	135,345	131,263	112,025	113,124	107,455	954,790
Health, social and protective services	108,904	35,877	40,436	44,270	51,678	53,796	334,961
Providing business services	523,497	149,810	156,694	147,996	137,744	109,534	1,225,275
Communicating	341	469	589	873	1,362	965	4,599
Developing/extending knowledge/skills	5,285	5,023	6,262	4,831	5,143	4,718	31,262
Total	1,333,402	443,895	445,934	428,367	438,910	398,279	3,488,787

Source: QCA

- (i) Academic years from October to September.
(ii) Includes awards of expired NVQs.

TABLE 14:
People in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by SOC

Major Occupation Group (SOC 2000)	Autumn 2001 Number (thousands)	Proportion of people in employment (i)
Managers & Senior Officials	292	7%
Professional Occupations	155	5%
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	380	10%
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	490	14%
Skilled Trades Occupations	422	13%
Personal Service Occupations	425	22%
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	258	12%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	231	10%
Elementary Occupations	313	10%
Not classified	-	-
Total (ii)	2,971	11%

Source: LFS, Autumn 2001

(i) Economically active working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59), excluding those who are ILO unemployed.

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

TABLE 15:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by Government Office Region and Country

Government Office Region	Number (thousands) (i)	Proportion of Regional Population (ii)
United Kingdom	3,579	10%
Great Britain	3,491	10%
England	3,003	10%
South East	394	8%
London	314	6%
East of England	286	9%
South West	331	11%
West Midlands	351	11%
East Midlands	263	10%
Yorkshire & the Humber	345	11%
North West and Merseyside	495	12%
North East	223	14%
Wales	200	11%
Scotland	288	9%
Northern Ireland	88	9%

Source - LFS, Autumn 2001

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

(ii) Working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).

TABLE 16:
NVQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 2000/01

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	-	-	-
16	3.2	4.2	7.4
17	18.3	19.1	37.3
18	24.0	24.9	48.9
19	17.1	21.8	39.0
20	13.0	16.6	29.6
21-24	31.3	30.7	62.0
25-40	63.9	43.7	107.6
41-59	39.5	22.1	61.6
Over 60	-	1.1	2.0
Not stated	1.7	1.4	3.1
Total (i) (ii)	213.1	185.8	398.8

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 29 thousand SVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 17:
NVQ awards by SOC and gender 2000/01

Major Occupation Group (SOC 2000) (i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Managers & Senior Officials	20.7	14.7	35.4
Professional Occupations	20.6	9.1	29.6
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	6.7	9.6	16.3
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	49.4	20.0	69.4
Skilled Trades Occupations	10.6	82.6	93.2
Personal Service Occupations	72.1	15.2	87.3
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	17.4	6.1	23.5
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	-	9.7	10.5
Elementary Occupations	9.1	14.8	23.9
Not classified	5.9	3.8	9.7
Total (ii) (iii)	213.1	185.8	398.8

- 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. SOC 2000 has slightly different major occupational classifications to those reported in previous publications, which used SOC 1995 (2nd Edition 1995), therefore comparisons over time need to be made with care.

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

(iii) A further 29 thousand SVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 18:
NVQ awards by assessment centre and level 2000/01

Centre Type	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total
School	-	7.7	1.5	-	10.0
FE College/Tertiary College	30.5	90.2	40.0	7.3	168.0
Sixth Form College	-	-	-	-	1.7
Adult Education Centre	-	1.2	-	-	2.5
University or other Higher Education centre	-	1.7	1.3	-	3.7
Private Training provider	8.8	79.7	38.1	3.8	130.4
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	1.7	-	-	3.0
Voluntary organisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Employer	4.5	21.0	9.2	1.7	36.4
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	-	-	1.2
Armed Forces	-	2.0	-	-	3.0
Overseas centre	0.0	1.2	-	-	2.3
Other	2.9	23.3	9.0	1.4	36.6
Total (i) (ii)	49.6	231.2	102.8	15.3	398.8

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 29 thousand SVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 19:
NVQ awards by subject area code and level 2000/01

Subject Area	Awards (thousands)				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	3.2	32.4	23.5	10.3	69.4
Sales Marketing & Distribution	6.6	38.5	10.8	-	56.0
Information Technology & Information	2.6	9.2	2.1	-	14.0
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Education/Training/Teaching	0.0	0.0	3.6	1.0	4.7
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	6.3	19.4	5.8	0.0	31.5
Arts and Crafts	-	-	-	0.0	1.1
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	0.0	-	-	-	1.6
Performing Arts	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	-
Sports Games and Recreation	1.7	3.7	-	-	5.4
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	6.9	19.3	5.7	-	32.0
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	0.0	27.3	24.5	1.5	53.2
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	2.5	2.4	-	-	5.7
Sciences & Mathematics	-	-	-	0.0	-
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	2.6	6.2	1.7	-	10.6
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	8.3	23.0	7.9	-	39.4
Services to Industry	-	1.6	2.6	1.0	5.3
Manufacturing/Production Work	5.9	26.4	-	0.0	32.8
Engineering	1.3	12.5	11.5	-	25.5
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	0.0	-	-	0.0	-
Transport Services	-	5.5	-	-	6.4
Not classified	1.4	1.8	-	-	3.7
Total (i) (ii)	49.6	231.2	102.8	15.3	398.8

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 29 thousand SVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 20:
NVQ awards by framework area code and level 2000/01

	Awards (thousands)				
Framework Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total
Tending Animals, Plants and Land	2.6	6.0	1.4	-	10.0
Extracting and Providing Natural Resources	-	1.2	-	-	1.6
Constructing	8.3	21.0	7.7	-	37.2
Engineering	1.4	23.5	14.7	-	39.7
Manufacturing	5.6	18.3	1.7	-	25.6
Transporting	-	6.1	-	-	7.7
Providing Goods and Services	24.1	68.5	14.7	-	107.5
Providing Health, Social and Protective Services	-	28.0	23.3	2.0	53.8
Providing Business Services	5.8	57.9	34.7	11.3	109.7
Communicating	0.0	-	-	-	-
Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill	0.0	-	3.4	1.1	4.7
Not classified	-	-	-	0.0	-
Total (i) (ii)	49.6	231.2	102.8	15.3	398.8

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 29 thousand SVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 21:
NVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 2000/01

	Awards (thousands)	
Government Office Region and Country	All	
United Kingdom	389.9	
Great Britain	377.4	
England	345.5	
South East	45.6	
London	33.6	
East of England	25.7	
South West	34.1	
West Midlands	47.6	
East Midlands	28.4	
Yorkshire & the Humber	41.8	
North West and Merseyside	63.3	
North East	25.4	
Wales	25.2	
Scotland	6.7	
Northern Ireland	12.5	
Overseas	4.1	
Not classified	-	
Total (i) (ii)	398.8	

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 29 thousand SVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 22:
GNVQ/VCE awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 2000/01

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	1.4	-	2.3
16	8.0	7.5	15.4
17	3.1	2.7	5.9
18	12.1	10.1	22.2
19	4.9	5.8	10.7
20	1.4	2.1	3.5
21-24	-	1.2	2.2
25-40	-	-	-
41-59	-	-	-
Over 60	-	-	-
Not stated	-	-	-
Total (i) (ii)	32.9	31.0	64.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 2 thousand GSVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 23:
GNVQ/VCE awards by SOC and gender 2000/01

Major Occupation Group (SOC 2000) (i)	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
Managers & Senior Officials	1.3	5.3	6.6
Professional Occupations	-	-	-
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	13.1	6.9	20.0
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	10.7	12.7	23.4
Skilled Trades Occupations	-	2.2	3.0
Personal Service Occupations	7.0	3.7	10.6
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	-	-	-
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	0.0	0.0	0.0
Elementary Occupations	-	-	-
Not classified	-	-	-
Total (ii) (iii)	32.9	31.0	64.0

- 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. SOC 2000 has slightly different major occupational classifications to those reported in previous publications, which used SOC 1995 (2nd Edition 1995), therefore comparisons over time need to be made with care.

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

(iii) A further 2 thousand GSVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 24:
GNVQ/VCE awards by assessment centre and level 2000/01

Centre Type	Awards (thousands)			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
School	3.7	12.7	10.7	27.2
FE College/Tertiary College	1.1	3.6	25.3	30.0
Sixth Form College	-	-	4.8	5.1
Adult Education Centre	-	-	-	-
University or other Higher Education centre	-	-	-	-
Private Training provider	-	-	-	-
Local government/Central government/NHS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Voluntary organisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Employer	0.0	0.0	-	-
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	0.0	-	0.0	-
Armed Forces	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Overseas centre	0.0	0.0	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total (i) (ii)	4.9	16.9	42.1	64.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 2 thousand GSVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 25:
GNVQ/VCE awards by subject area code and level 2000/01

Subject Area	Awards (thousands)			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Business/Management/Office Studies	1.0	4.7	13.5	19.2
Sales Marketing & Distribution	0.0	-	-	-
Information Technology & Information	-	4.2	6.0	10.8
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education/Training/Teaching	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Arts and Crafts	-	1.1	4.6	5.8
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	0.0	-	1.3	1.4
Performing Arts	-	-	-	-
Sports Games and Recreation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	1.2	2.2	7.2	10.6
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	1.2	2.9	5.6	9.7
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sciences & Mathematics	-	-	1.2	1.6
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	-	-	-	1.1
Services to Industry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing/Production Work	-	-	-	-
Engineering	-	-	1.6	2.5
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transport Services	0.0	0.0	-	-
Not classified	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (i) (ii)	4.9	16.9	42.1	64.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 2 thousand GSVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 26:
GNVQ/VCE awards by Government Office Region and Country 2000/01

Government Office Region and Country			Awards (thousands)
			All
United Kingdom			63.3
Great Britain			60.3
	England		57.0
		South East	8.8
		London	7.8
		East of England	5.7
		South West	5.3
		West Midlands	7.5
		East Midlands	4.7
		Yorkshire & the Humber	5.7
		North West and Merseyside	7.9
		North East	3.5
	Wales		3.0
	Scotland		-
	Northern Ireland		2.9
Overseas			-
Not classified			-
Total (i) (ii)			64.0

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) A further 2 thousand GSVQs were awarded in 2000/01.

TABLE 27:
Other VQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 2000/01

Age Band	Awards (thousands)		
	Female	Male	All
less than 16	4.5	3.0	7.5
16	8.0	7.4	15.4
17	14.8	15.8	30.5
18	21.1	20.5	41.5
19	16.1	18.1	34.2
20	9.7	13.9	23.6
21-24	24.1	31.0	55.1
25-40	100.5	75.4	175.8
41-59	83.8	47.5	131.3
Over 60	11.4	10.4	21.9
Not stated	10.6	5.3	15.9
Total (i) (ii)	304.5	248.3	552.8

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 28:
Other VQ awards by SOC and gender 2000/01

	Awards (thousands)		
Major Occupation Group (SOC 2000) (i)	Female	Male	All
Managers & Senior Officials	3.2	2.2	5.3
Professional Occupations	7.0	10.2	17.2
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	34.3	52.8	87.0
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	17.8	13.6	31.4
Skilled Trades Occupations	7.6	48.0	55.6
Personal Service Occupations	6.3	-	7.1
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	-	-	-
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	1.3	7.7	9.0
Elementary Occupations	13.0	8.7	21.7
Not classified	213.4	104.1	317.5
Total (ii) (iii)	304.5	248.3	552.8

- 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. SOC 2000 has slightly different major occupational classifications to those reported in previous publications, which used SOC 1995 (2nd Edition 1995), therefore comparisons over time need to be made with care.

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

(iii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 29:
Other VQ awards by assessment centre and level 2000/01

						Awards (thousands)
Centre Type	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total	
School	36.0	5.2	2.1	1.8	45.1	
FE College/Tertiary College	139.8	76.1	60.7	28.5	305.0	
Sixth Form College	12.4	3.9	1.5	-	17.9	
Adult Education Centre	27.4	8.1	1.4	-	37.0	
University or other Higher Education centre	4.1	5.8	1.4	2.5	13.7	
Private Training provider	28.0	15.2	6.5	3.3	53.0	
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	-	-	-	1.1	
Voluntary organisation	-	-	0.0	0.0	-	
Employer	10.7	4.7	2.1	-	18.1	
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	-	0.0	-	
Armed Forces	-	-	1.9	-	3.5	
Overseas centre	-	-	-	-	1.8	
Other	38.2	13.0	4.1	-	55.8	
Total (i) (ii)	299.1	134.2	82.1	37.4	552.8	

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 30:
Other VQ awards by subject area code and level 2000/01

						Awards (thousands)
Subject Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total	
Business/Management/Office Studies	8.1	56.9	8.3	6.2	79.5	
Sales Marketing & Distribution	-	-	-	-	2.1	
Information Technology & Information	238.7	10.0	5.7	3.3	257.7	
Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	
Area Studies/Cultural Studies/Language/Literature	-	-	0.0	-	-	
Education/Training/Teaching	3.2	3.6	4.6	1.4	12.7	
Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance	4.0	8.7	4.5	-	17.5	
Arts and Crafts	3.0	14.9	6.9	2.5	27.3	
Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media	2.1	1.3	3.4	-	7.7	
Performing Arts	-	1.8	5.6	-	8.3	
Sports Games and Recreation	2.5	2.1	2.0	-	6.9	
Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism	12.3	2.6	2.0	1.2	18.0	
Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety	3.6	1.6	8.8	-	14.9	
Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security	-	1.6	1.1	-	2.9	
Sciences & Mathematics	-	-	2.2	-	3.0	
Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care	-	4.1	4.1	-	9.6	
Construction & Property (Built Environment)	6.5	4.8	2.5	3.1	16.9	
Services to Industry	1.5	9.0	5.1	-	16.0	
Manufacturing/Production Work	-	-	-	-	2.5	
Engineering	8.8	9.3	13.1	12.0	43.1	
Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals	2.3	-	1.0	-	3.8	
Transport Services	-	-	-	-	1.6	
Not classified	0.0	-	-	-	-	
Total (i) (ii)	299.1	134.2	82.1	37.4	552.8	

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 31:
Other VQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 2000/01

Government Office Region and Country		Awards (thousands)
		All
United Kingdom		525.7
Great Britain		506.6
	England	479.8
	South East	63.0
	London	43.2
	East of England	42.4
	South West	54.0
	West Midlands	69.7
	East Midlands	48.1
	Yorkshire & the Humber	55.9
	North West and Merseyside	69.7
	North East	33.8
	Wales	24.9
	Scotland	1.9
	Northern Ireland	19.1
Overseas		6.9
Not classified		1.5
Total (i) (ii)		552.8

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

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

(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

CHART B:

Comparison of qualification type by age band and gender 2000/01

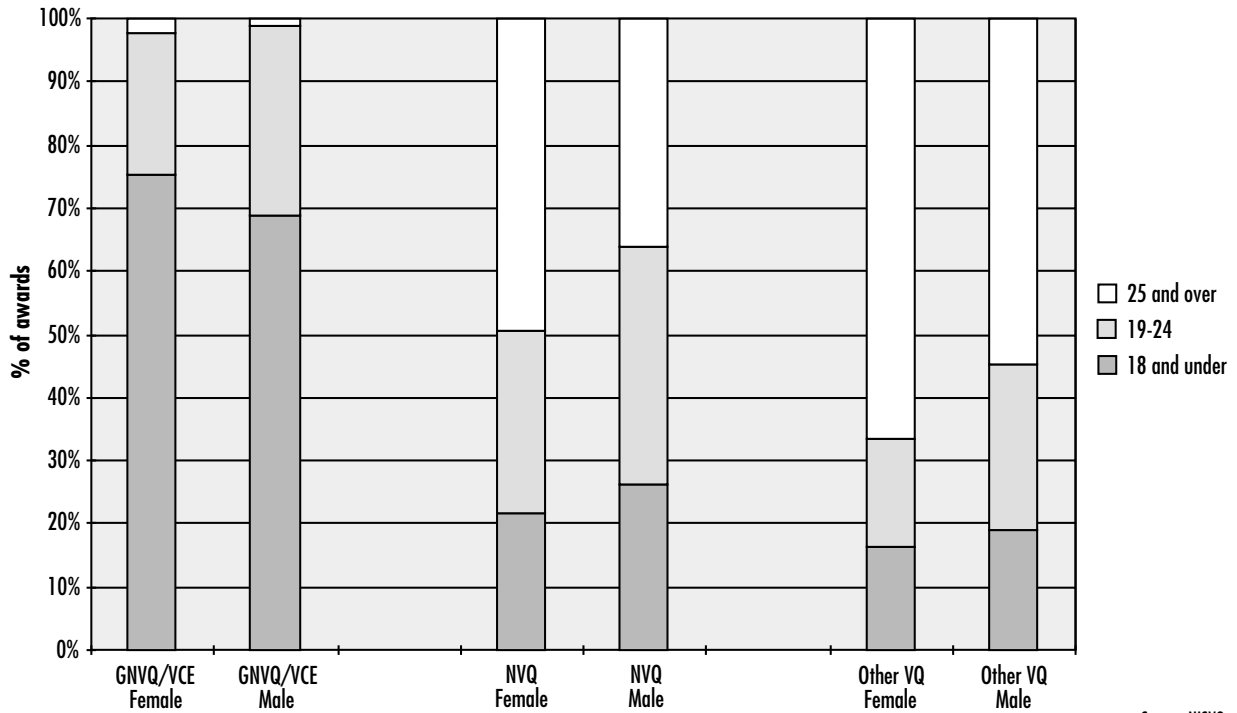
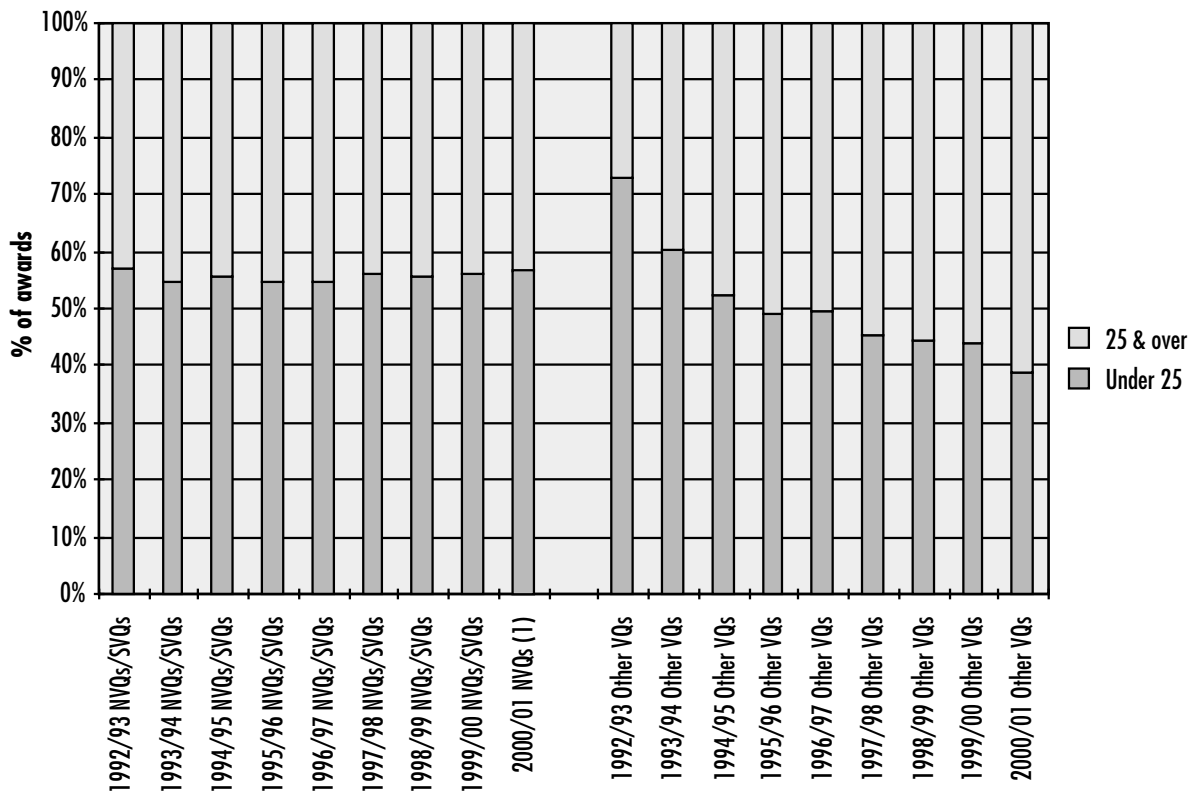


CHART C:

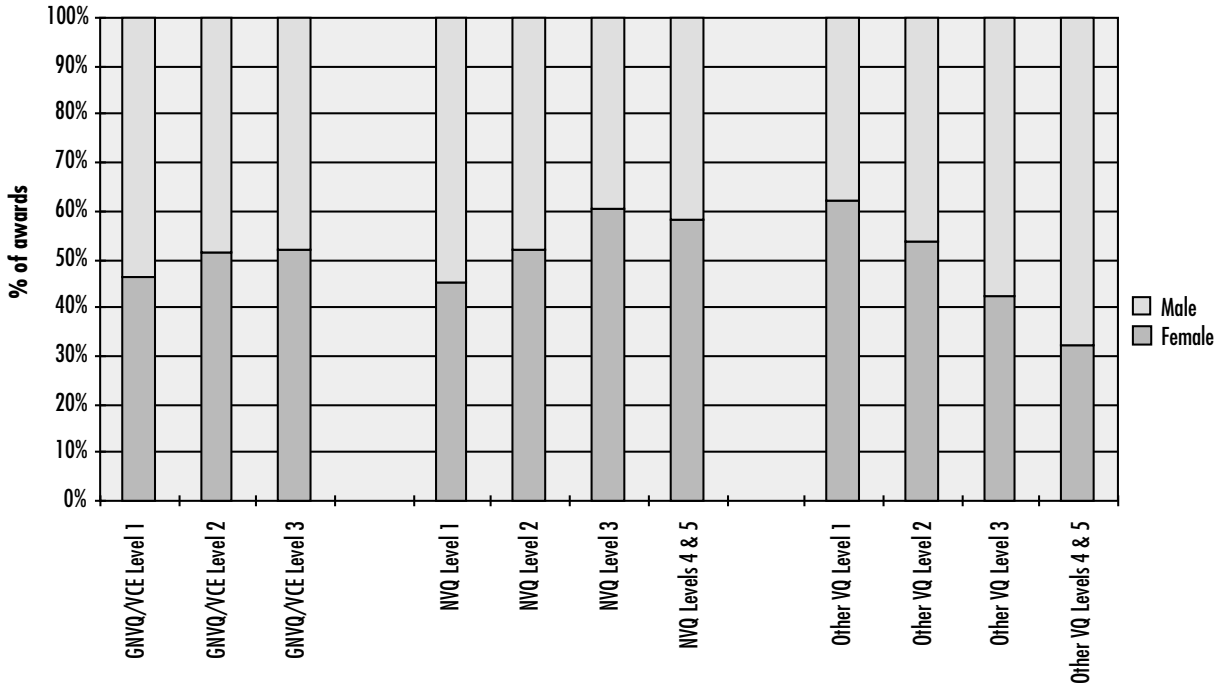
Comparison of NVQs/SVQs with Other VQs by age group and year



(1) 2000/01 data is awards of NVQs only.

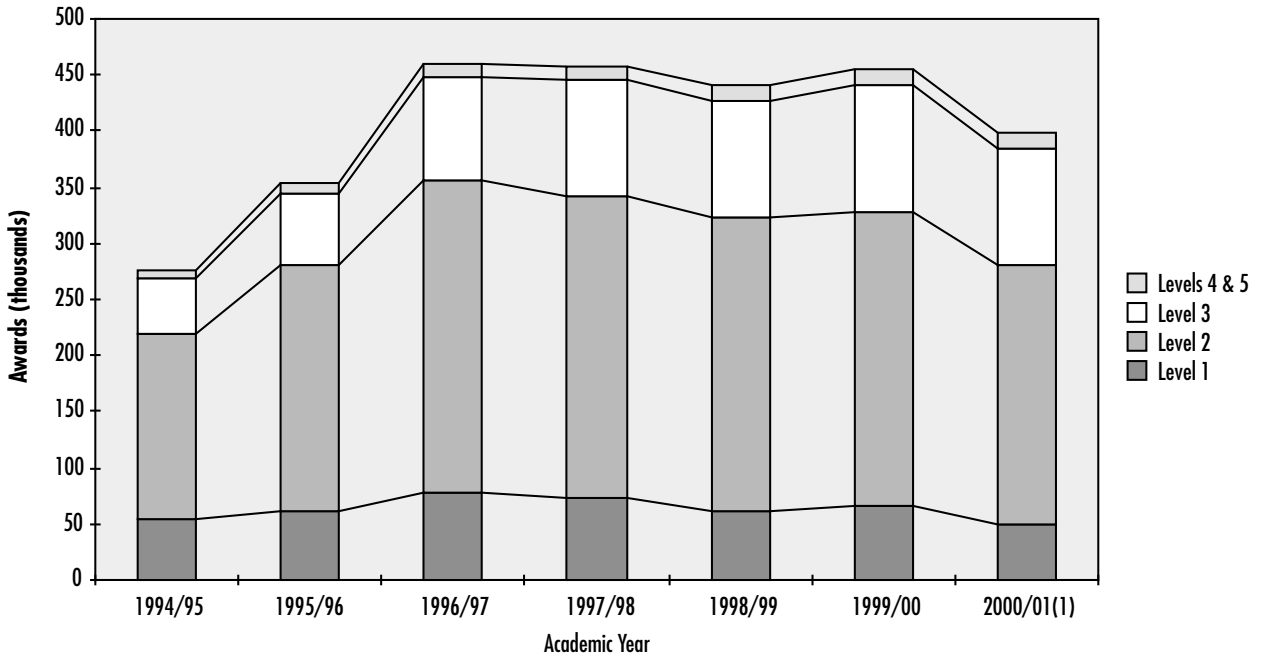
Source: NISVQ

CHART D:
Comparison of qualification type by level and gender 2000/01



Source: NISVQ

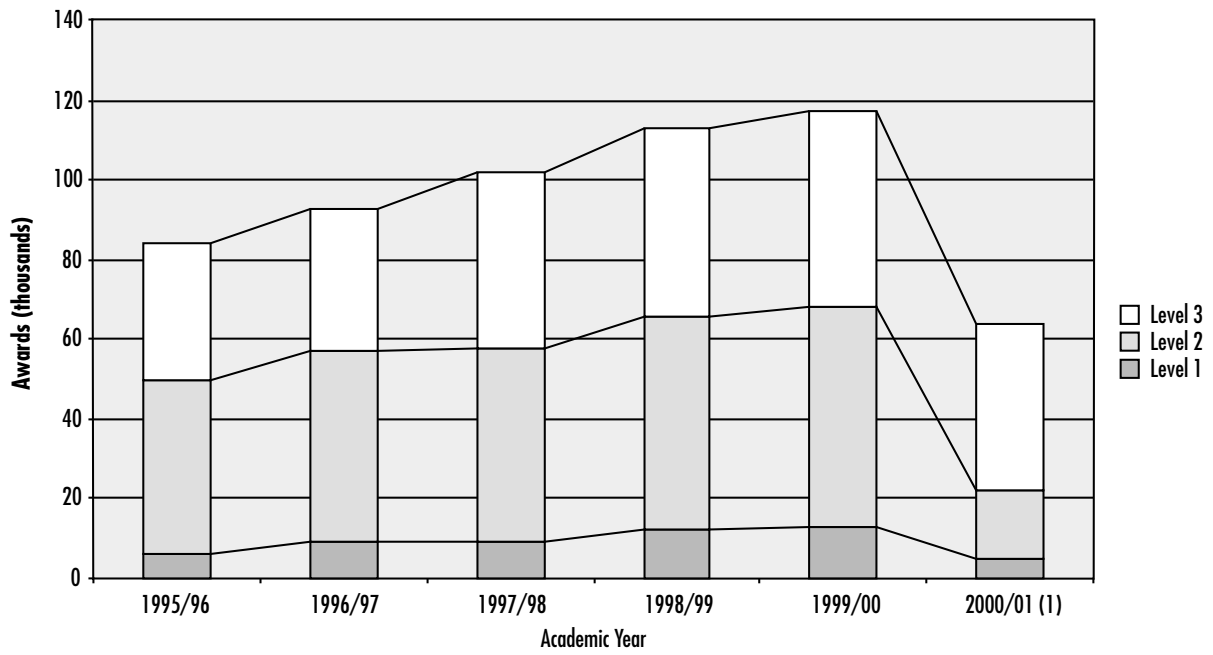
CHART E:
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level and year



(1) 2000/01 data is awards of NVQs only.

Source: NISVQ

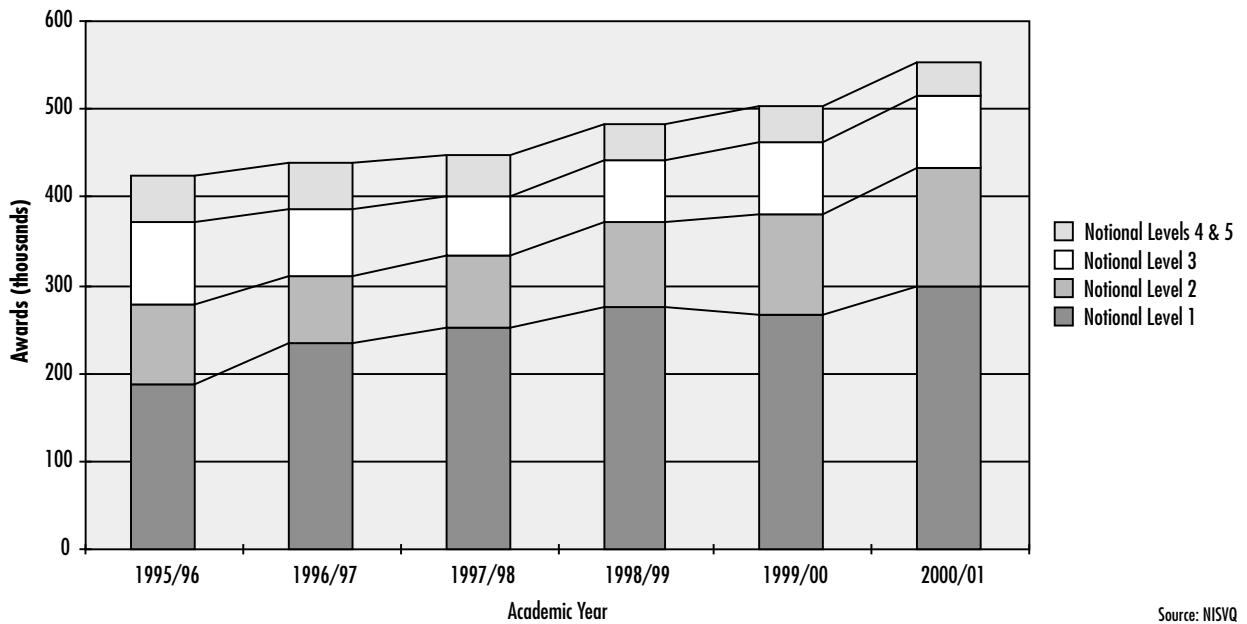
CHART F:
Awards of GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs by level and year



(1) 2000/01 data is awards of GNVQs/VCEs only.

Source: NISVQ

CHART G:
Awards of Other VQs by level and year



Source: NISVQ

TECHNICAL NOTES

Sources

1 The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by QCA and DfES. QCA statistics on the numbers of NVQs awarded are collected from all NVQ awarding bodies. The National Information System for Vocational Qualification (NISVQ) collects candidate level information on awards of all types of vocational qualifications currently provided by four of the largest awarding bodies (City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA), plus information from a further 10 awarding bodies on NVQ awards at candidate level. Note that NISVQ counts numbers of awards of vocational qualifications not numbers of individuals receiving awards.

2 QCA are responsible for the quality assurance of NVQs i.e. accreditation and monitoring of implementation. QCA accredits proposals by over 109 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 11 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 DfES.

NVQs/SVQs

4 As part of the NISVQ project QCA provide DfES with annual totals (October-September) of NVQ awards by framework area and level. DfES use these totals to gross up the more detailed NVQ award information, collected from the awarding bodies that participate in NISVQ, in order to produce UK NVQ estimates. UK NVQ/SVQ estimates are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs.

5 Robust UK NVQ/SVQ estimates have been made possible by an increase of the NVQ coverage on NISVQ. The overall coverage of NVQs on NISVQ, as measured against the total number of NVQs accredited by QCA in a year, has increased slightly to almost 92 per cent (90 per cent in 1999/00). This follows an increase in coverage of 6 percentage points in 1998/99 and a rise of 18 percentage points in 1997/98. The increase in NVQ coverage in recent years is mainly a result of an increase in the number of awarding bodies submitting information to NISVQ (from 4 in 1996/97 to 15 in 1998/99 and 1999/00). The number reduced to 14 in 2000/01 as NCC Education Services Ltd (NCC) ceased to

be an awarding body. The recent improvements in NVQ coverage have allowed UK NVQ/SVQ estimates to be produced from NISVQ since 1997/98.

GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs

6 The GNVQ/VCE/GSVQ information is complete because all awarding bodies accredited to award these contribute to NISVQ.

Other VQs

7 For vocational qualifications other than NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs/VCEs 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 three major awarding bodies: Edexcel (formerly BTEC), City and Guilds and OCR (formerly RSA), 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 LEA area for instance). However, since it currently takes data on Other VQs from only three of the largest awarding bodies, NISVQ is not yet fully comprehensive.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Labour Force Survey

8 The main source for information on people holding/working towards NVQs/SVQs is the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

9 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is used in this Bulletin to present information on people holding and working towards NVQs/SVQs broken down by age, gender, economic activity, regions and major occupation groups. Data in this Bulletin has been re-grossed based on new population figures. Minor discrepancies will be present when comparing historic LFS data in this Bulletin with previous issues of the Bulletin.

10 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.

Learning and Training at Work

11 Learning and Training at Work (LTW) 2001 is the third in an annual series of employer surveys that investigate workforce development. The survey also investigates awareness of, and involvement with, a number of training and development initiatives.

12 LTW 2001 covers employers in England, from all business sectors, private and public, with the exception of schools and LEAs. Figures published in this Bulletin refer to employers with five or more employees, although the survey also reports findings from employers with one or more employee.

Secondary School and College Performance Tables database

13 This data source is an annual collection of GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A/AS/AGNVQ examination results derived directly from the examination boards. Data are mainly used in the compilation of the annual School and College Performance Tables.

Classification systems used in this Bulletin

14 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/VCEs and is available for all GNVQ/VCE awards. Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and is available for all awards recorded on NISVQ.

Definitions

Regulatory Body

15 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

16 The organisation that administers an award and 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

17 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 that 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

18 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

19 The information in this Bulletin 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/VCE: General National Vocational Qualification/Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education

20 Advanced GNVQs were redesigned and re-launched as Vocational 'A' levels (or, more formally, Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (VCEs)) for first teaching from September 2000, as part of the Curriculum 2000 reforms. They are available as 'AS' levels (three units), 'A' levels (six units) and double awards (twelve units). Vocational 'A' levels are comparable to GCE 'A' levels, and can be taken alongside them as part of students' overall qualifications programmes. They offer students a broad introduction to a vocational area, such as health and social care or engineering, and develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding of the world of work in that sector. The qualifications are graded A-E, like GCE 'A' levels, and enable students to progress to higher education, employment or further training.

GSVQ: General Scottish Vocational Qualification

21 The Scottish equivalent of a GNVQ/VCE, accredited by SQA. For the purposes of NISVQ analyses, a *notional* vocational area has been assigned to GSVQs this year.

Joint Awards

22 Two or more organisations may jointly award a qualification.

NVQ Framework

23 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

24 National vocational qualifications accredited by QCA are based on national occupational standards and criteria established by QCA. The responsibility for developing national occupational standards rests with Standards 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

25 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 and skills 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 and skills 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 and skills 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 and skills 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 skills and a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques across a wide and often unpredictable variety of contexts. Very substantial personal autonomy and often a 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

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

Qualification

27 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.

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

SOC: Standard Occupational Classification

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

SUPERCLASS

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

Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs)

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

Unit

32 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

33 A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.