

Statistics Bulletin

Higher Qualifications Quarterly:
July–September 2012



November 2012

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Executive summary

We regulate qualifications, exams and assessments in England, and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland.

This bulletin covers achievements awarded for qualifications of all types at level 4 and above (equivalent to post A level) that we regulate, but it excludes university degrees, which are regulated by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA). In this bulletin, qualifications at level 4 and above are known as higher qualifications, and we present the achievements awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the July–September 2012 quarter.

Each quarter, awarding organisations submit data to us about the number of achievements they have awarded. Achievements are included in the quarter when the final qualification certificate is issued. All regulated qualifications except GCSEs and GCEs are included, regardless of the age of the student, the type of school or college and the funding status of the qualification.

Figures in the commentary and tables for the number of achievements awarded are rounded to the nearest 50. This reflects the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale data collection and also provides an ease of reading. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in pie charts may not add up to 100 per cent.

The key findings relating to higher qualifications this quarter are set out below.

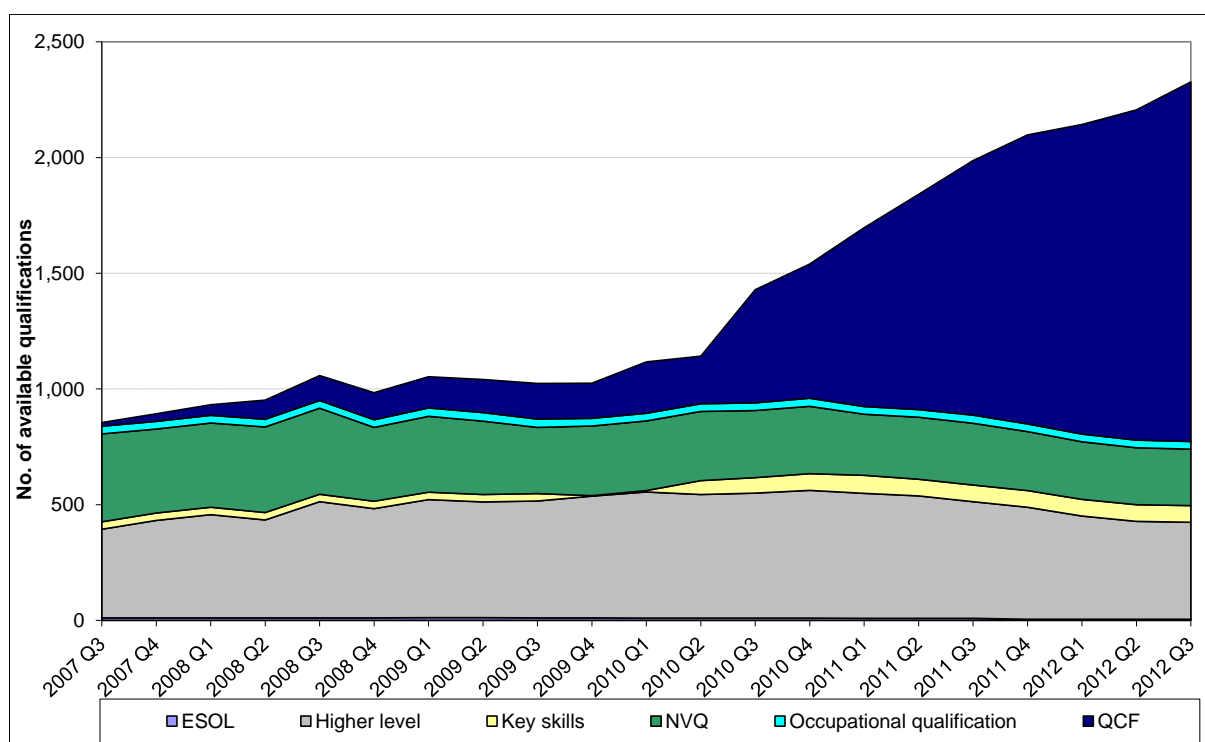
- There has been an increase of 17 per cent in the number of available higher qualifications compared with the same quarter last year (2,327 compared with 1,987 last year).
- Compared with the same quarter last year, there has been a decrease of 3 per cent in the number of higher qualification achievements awarded over quarter 3 of this year. There were 48,200 higher qualification achievements awarded between July and September 2012 compared with 49,850 last year.
- Ninety-three awarding organisations awarded higher qualification achievements between July and September 2012. The awarding organisation that awarded the most achievements was Pearson Education Limited (Edexcel) with 13,750, representing 29 per cent of all achievements awarded this quarter.
- The higher qualification with the greatest number of achievements awarded was the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (qualifications and credit framework, QCF) with 3,050 achievements awarded, representing 6 per cent of the total number of achievements awarded.

- The level with the most achievements awarded was level 4. There were 28,150 achievements awarded at this level, which is 58 per cent of the total number of achievements awarded.
- The type of higher qualification with the greatest number of achievements awarded was the QCF with 40,000 achievements awarded. This is 83 per cent of all higher qualification achievements awarded.
- The sector subject area with the most achievements awarded was business, administration and law with 21,600 achievements awarded. This is 45 per cent of the total number of higher qualification achievements awarded.

Regulated higher qualifications

In this quarter, there were 2,327 available regulated higher qualifications. This is an increase of 17 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. These comprise 1,554 QCF qualifications, 419 higher level qualifications, 244 National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), 72 key skills qualifications, 33 occupational qualifications and five English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) qualifications (see figure 1). For more detailed information see table 1 in the appendix.

Figure 1: Number of available regulated higher qualifications per quarter by qualification type, July–September 2007 (2007 Q3) to July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)



The continual growth of available regulated higher qualifications is in part due to the introduction of the QCF. The QCF began in 2008 after tests and trials, and from 2010, qualifications began to restructure to the framework. This is shown in figure 1 by the gradual decline of the other qualification types in the last few quarters.

During this quarter, 73 new QCF and four new higher level qualifications were added to the list of available regulated higher qualifications.

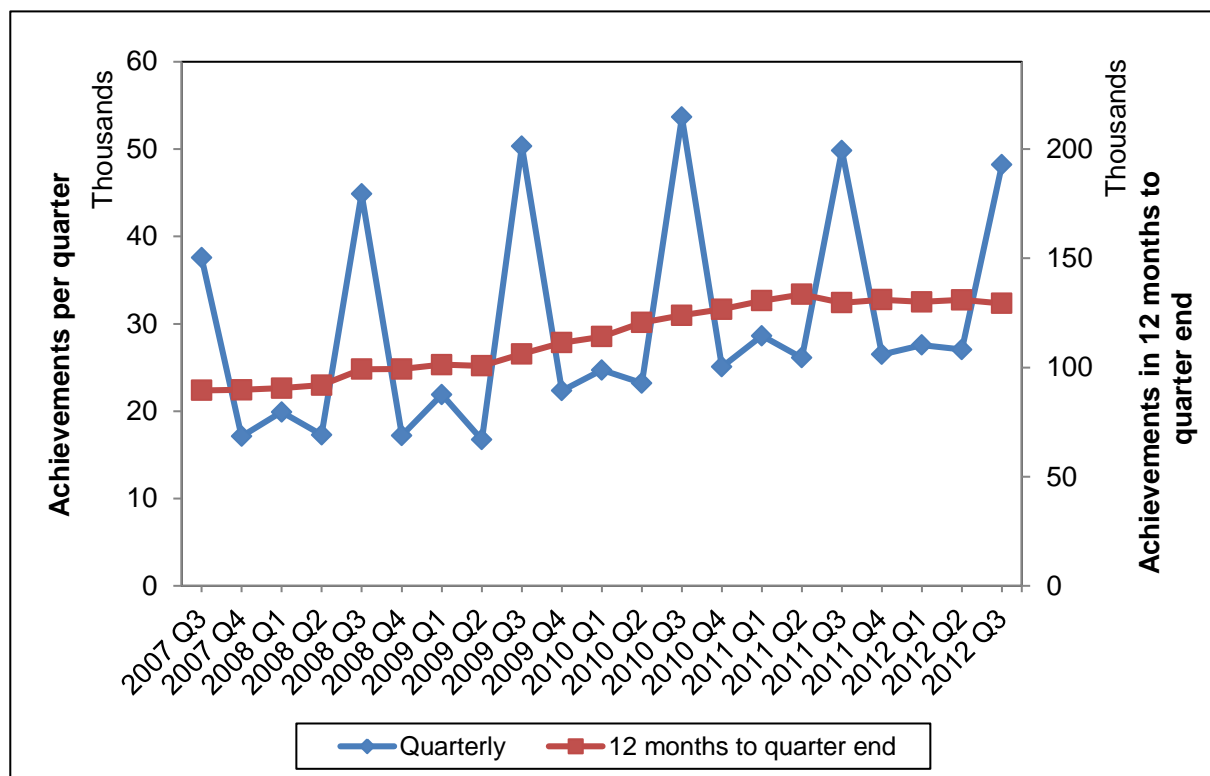
No existing regulated higher qualifications were re-categorised to a different type or level, but two changed sector subject area code. These two qualifications are NCFE Level 4 NVQ Diploma in Advice and Guidance (QCF) and City & Guilds Level 4 NVQ

Diploma in Advice and Guidance, which moved from health, public services and care to education and training.

Achievements

There were 48,200 achievements (see table 2 in the appendix) awarded for regulated higher qualifications in July–September 2012, a decrease of 3 per cent on the same quarter of 2011 (see figure 2). This decline in achievements awarded is present although the number of available qualifications has increased in the same period. For more information see tables 1 and 2 in the appendix.

Figure 2: Total regulated higher qualification achievements awarded per quarter and total achievements awarded in the 12 months to the end of each quarter, July–September 2007 (2007 Q3) to July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)



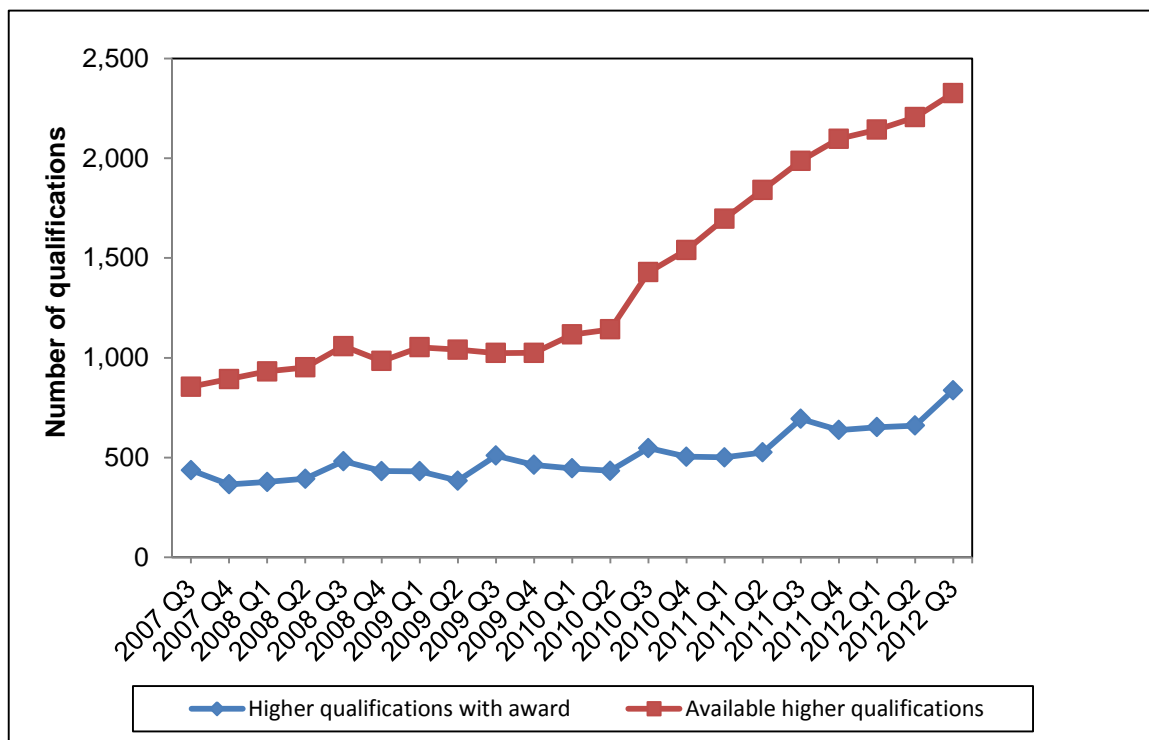
From figure 2, we can see that quarter 3 is the quarter with the most achievements awarded each year. There was a general increase in the number of achievements awarded per quarter from 2007 (partly due to the increasing number of QCF qualifications) until quarter 2 of 2011, when the number of achievements awarded began to decline. It is the second year in a row where the achievements awarded in quarter 3 have decreased with a decline of 10 per cent compared with the same quarter in 2010. (See table 6 in the appendix.)

The 12 months to quarter end series shows clearly the overall increase in achievements awarded over the last five years, but it is again clear that the increase has been less significant over the past year (the quarter with the highest 12-month sum of achievements awarded was quarter 2 of 2011).

The achievements awarded in July–September 2012 covered 837 individual qualifications, with a wide range in the number of achievements awarded per qualification. From these 837 qualifications, five had at least 1,000 achievements awarded and 100 had at least 100 achievements awarded.

If we look at the number of higher qualifications that have been awarded (figure 3), we see that there has been a steady increase in the last five years. Since quarter 3 of 2009, the number of available qualifications has more than doubled, going from 1,000 to 2,350. In this quarter, 837 higher qualifications had achievements awarded out of 2,350 available higher qualifications, representing 36 per cent.

Figure 3: Total available higher qualifications per quarter, and total number of higher qualifications with award, July–September 2007 (2007 Q3) to July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)



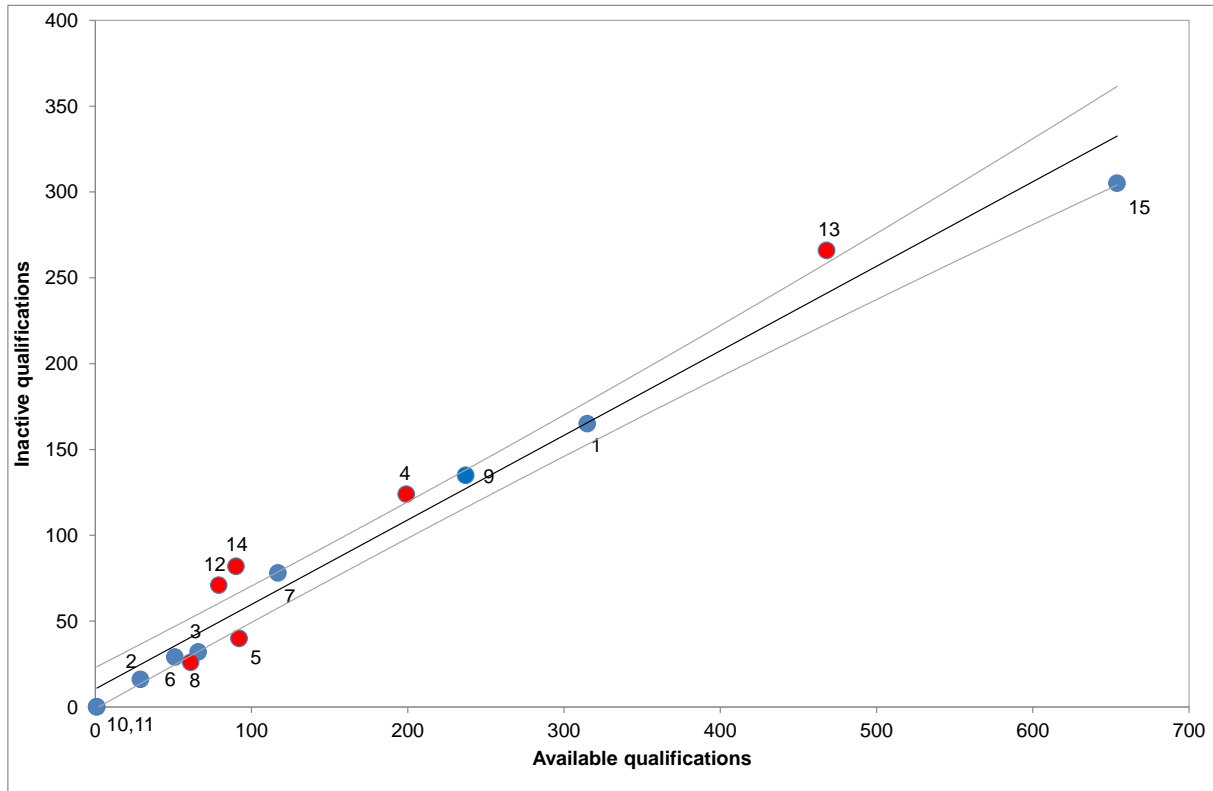
Inactive qualifications

Inactive qualifications are those that are available for award but where no award was made in the last 12 months ending September 2012. The majority (66 per cent) of qualifications that were available but inactive in this quarter were QCF qualifications (990 out of 1490 or 66 per cent). There were also a significant number of inactive higher level qualifications (18 per cent), NVQs (9 per cent) and key skills qualifications (5 per cent), and very few occupational qualifications (22 qualifications) and ESOL qualifications (just five qualifications).

The sector subject areas with the highest number of qualifications that were available but inactive in this quarter was in business, administration and law (sector subject area 15) and education and training (sector subject area 13), with 22 per cent and 19 per cent of the total inactive qualifications in this quarter respectively. There were also more than 100 inactive qualifications in each of health, public services and care (sector subject area 1), engineering and manufacturing technologies (sector subject area 4) and arts, media and publishing (sector subject area 9). These were also the sector subject areas with the largest number of available higher qualifications. In order to understand if each sector subject area has more or less inactive qualifications than you would expect given its number of available qualifications, figure 4 (see page 9) shows the relationship between the total number of available qualifications and the number of inactive qualifications for each sector subject area. This figure shows that the number of inactive qualifications is largely related to the number of available qualifications for each sector subject area ($R^2 = 0.97$). The solid black line represents the linear relationship between these two variables for the 15 sector subject areas, and the two grey lines represent the confidence interval within which we expect the data points to fall. The red data points are the ones that are outside the expected area.

Engineering and manufacturing (sector subject area 4), languages, literature and culture (sector subject area 12), education and training (sector subject area 13) and preparation for life and work (sector subject area 14) have more inactive qualifications than you would expect, given the number of available qualifications in these sector subject areas, while construction, planning and the built environment (sector subject area 5) and leisure, travel and tourism (sector subject area 8) have less inactive qualifications than would be expected, given the number of available qualifications in these sector subject areas.

Figure 4: Number of inactive qualifications as a function of the total number of available higher qualifications for each sector subject area, July–September 2007 (2007 Q3)



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Health, public services and care | 8 Leisure, travel and tourism |
| 2 Science and mathematics | 9 Arts, media and publishing |
| 3 Agriculture, horticulture and animal care | 10 History, philosophy and theology |
| 4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies | 11 Social sciences |
| 5 Construction, planning and the built environment | 12 Languages, literature and culture |
| 6 Information and communication technology | 13 Education and training |
| 7 Retail and commercial enterprise | 14 Preparation for life and work |
| | 15 Business, administration and law |

Achievements by qualification

Figure 5 shows the five higher qualifications with the highest number of achievements awarded.

Figure 5: Five higher qualifications with the highest number of achievements awarded, July–September 2012 (July–September 2011 figures shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of achievements		% change
	July to September 2011	July to September 2012	
AAT Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF)	2,450	3,050	24
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	2,050	2,550	24
CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	1,100	2,000	82
CILEx Level 6 Certificate in Law (QCF)	1,450	1,400	-3
IFS Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers (QCF)	300	1,100	267

All five of the above qualifications are on the QCF.

The Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF) showed a 24 per cent increase in the number of achievements awarded, but this may be a deceptive figure as the majority of the achievements awarded for this qualification could have been awarded to students who would previously have taken the AAT Level 4 NVQ in Accounting. If we look at the figures for both qualifications, there were 3,400 achievements awarded in quarter 3 of 2011 and 3,050 in quarter 3 of 2012.

A large increase (82 per cent) was also seen in the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF) with 2,000 achievements awarded in July – September 2012. A factor that is likely to have increased the uptake of this qualification is the Retail Distribution Review, carried out by the Financial Services Authority. The Financial Services Authority requires financial advisers to have at least a qualification at level 4 by the end of 2012, where previously it required a qualification at level 3.

The Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) Level 6 Certificate in Law (QCF) was the only qualification, in the five qualifications with the highest achievements, to see a decline, albeit very small (3 per cent), in the number of achievements awarded when compared with the same quarter in 2011.

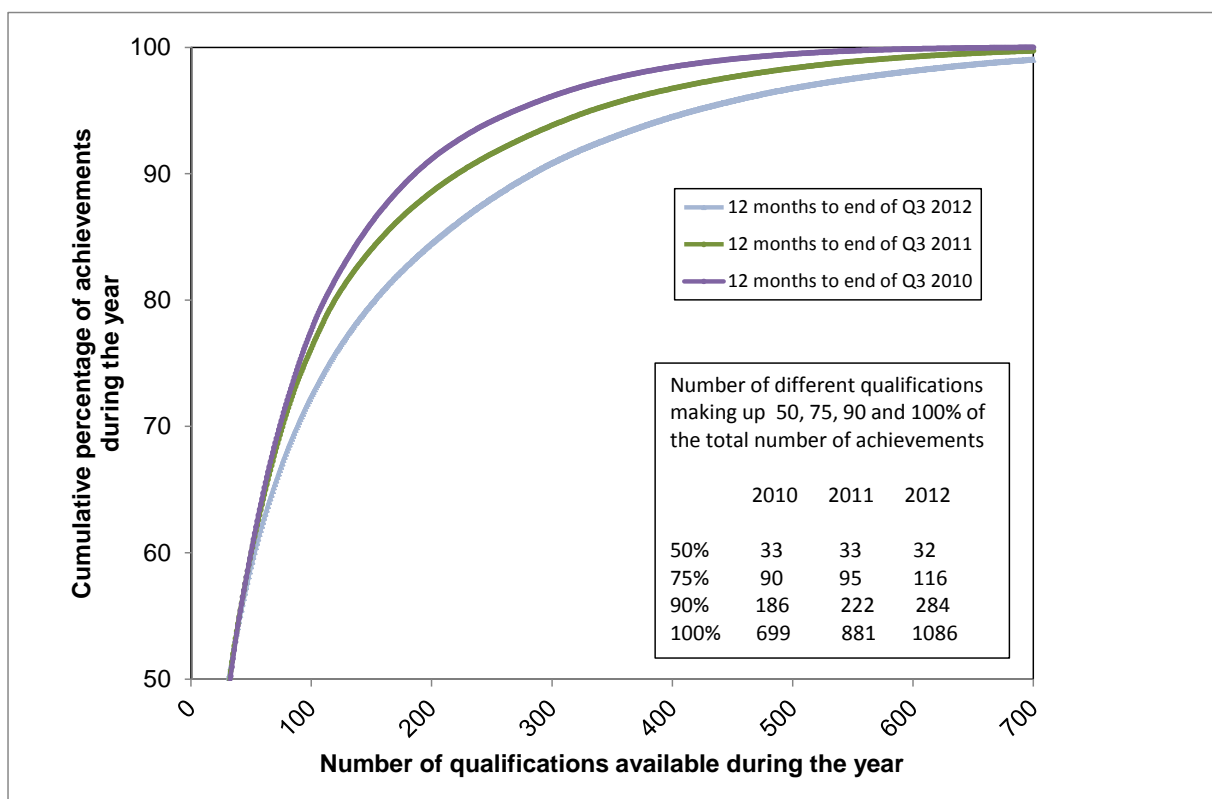
The Institute of Financial Services (IFS) Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers (QCF) showed a large increase in achievements: more than two and a half times as many in July–September 2012. This qualification was, until the end of 2010, a higher level qualification. Since quarter 3 of 2010, the qualification is now available as a QCF qualification with an increasing number of achievements awarded each quarter.

The 50 qualifications with the highest number of achievements awarded are listed in table 3 in the appendix.

Number of qualifications accounting for total qualifications

Figure 6 shows the number of available qualifications by cumulative percentage of achievements awarded during each 12-month period to the end of quarter 3 for the years from 2010–12. There seems to be a trend for an increase in the number of available qualifications accounting for a similar percentage of the total achievements awarded. This shows that more of the available qualifications have awarded in 2012 compared with 2011 and 2010.

Figure 6: Number of available qualifications accounting for different percentages of the total number of qualifications for the last three 12-month periods to the end of quarter 3



Awarding organisations

There are 122 recognised awarding organisations that offer regulated higher qualifications.

In July–September 2012, 93 awarding organisations awarded achievements in higher qualifications.

It is clear from figure 7 below that there has been a gradual increase in the number of awarding organisations offering and awarding higher qualifications over the last five years. There also seems to be a trend, since quarter 2 of 2011, for a greater number of awarding organisations awarding higher qualifications in quarters 1 and 3.

Figure 7: Total number of awarding organisations with at least one available higher qualification per quarter, and awarding organisations that have awarded at least one qualification, July–September 2007 (2007 Q3) to July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)

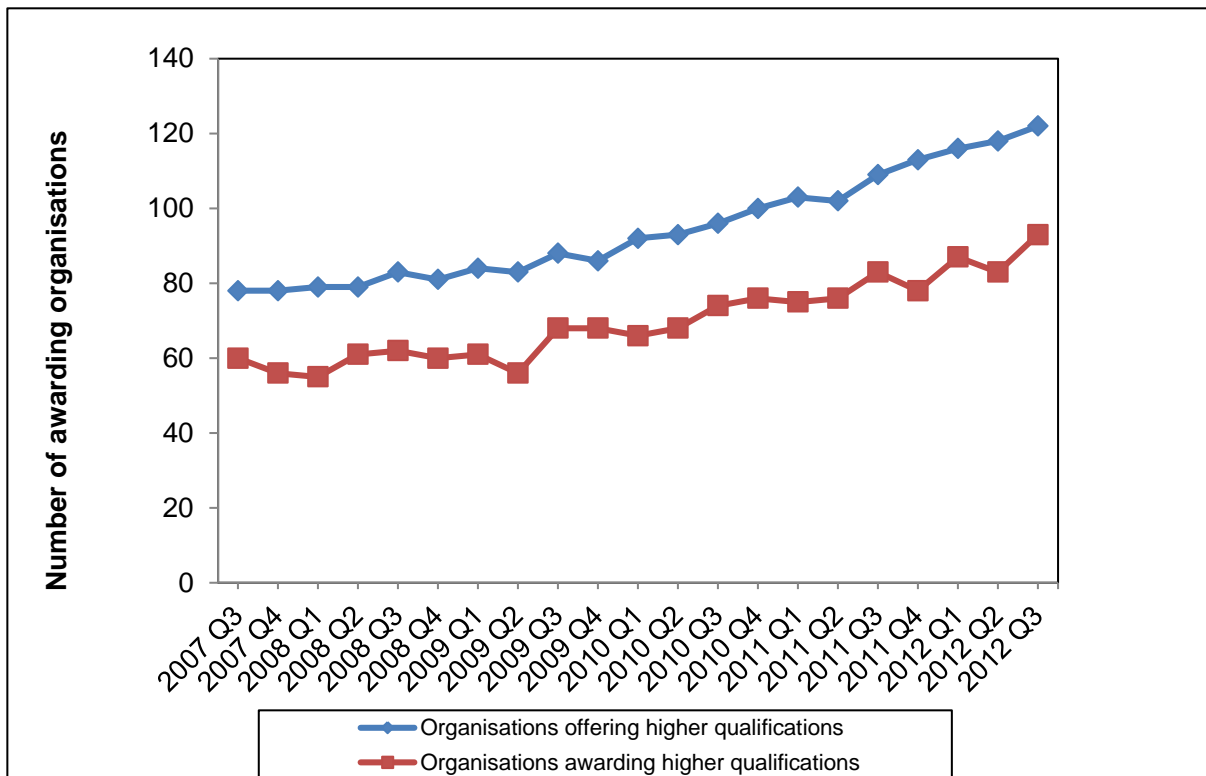


Figure 8: The ten awarding organisations that awarded the highest number of achievements in higher qualifications, July–September 2012 (July–September 2011 figures shown for comparison)

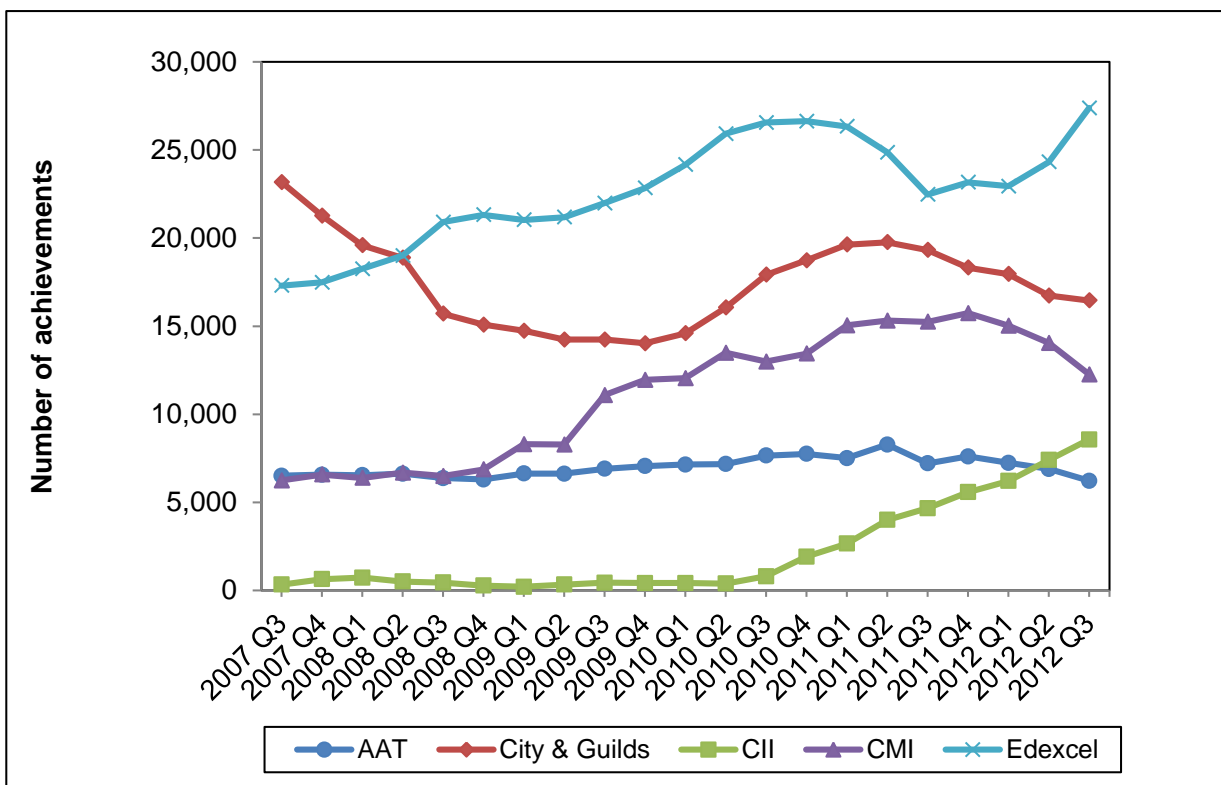
Awarding Organisation	Number of achievements		% share of total achievements	% change in achievements
	July to September 2011	July to September 2012		
Pearson Education Ltd (Edexcel)	10,700	13,750	29	29
City and Guilds of London Institute	6,100	5,800	12	-5
Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)	3,700	3,050	6	-18
Chartered Management Institute (CMI)	4,600	2,800	6	-39
Chartered Insurance Institute (CII)	1,200	2,350	5	96
Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM)	2,350	1,900	4	-19
Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx)	0	1,600	3	-
OCR	1,700	1,300	3	-24
IFS School of Finance	400	1,150	2	188
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	1,600	1,150	2	-28

The awarding organisation that awarded the most achievements in this quarter, Pearson Education Limited (Edexcel) (see figure 8), also showed an increase in the number of awards when compared with the same quarter of 2011. This increase is partly due to a greater number of achievements awarded in the Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) qualifications. The large increase in achievements awarded by IFS School of Finance is mainly due to its Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers, as seen in figure 5. This is also true of the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) with the CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning.

Of the ten awarding organisations with the highest number of achievements, six showed a decline in this quarter. The Chartered Management Institute (CMI) had the greatest decline: 39 per cent. This is partly explained by a drop in achievements awarded in eight out of its ten level 5 qualifications. The Chartered Management Institute (CMI) qualification with the greatest decline was the Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF). This qualification saw a steep increase in achievements awarded in quarter 3 of 2011, which may explain the steep drop seen for this quarter. Moreover, CMI had four of its qualifications in the 50 qualifications with highest number of achievements in this quarter (see table 3 in the appendix) and all of these show a decline in numbers.

Figure 9 shows the five-year trend for the five awarding organisations that awarded the most achievements during quarter 3 of 2012 and presents the number of achievements awarded in the 12 months to the end of each quarter. The 50 awarding organisations that awarded the most achievements are listed in table 4 in the appendix.

Figure 9: The five awarding organisations that awarded the most achievements in higher qualifications for the 12 months to the end of each quarter, showing the trend from July–September 2007 (2007 Q3) to July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)



AAT = Association of Accounting Technicians
CII = Chartered Insurance Institute
CMI= Chartered Management Institute

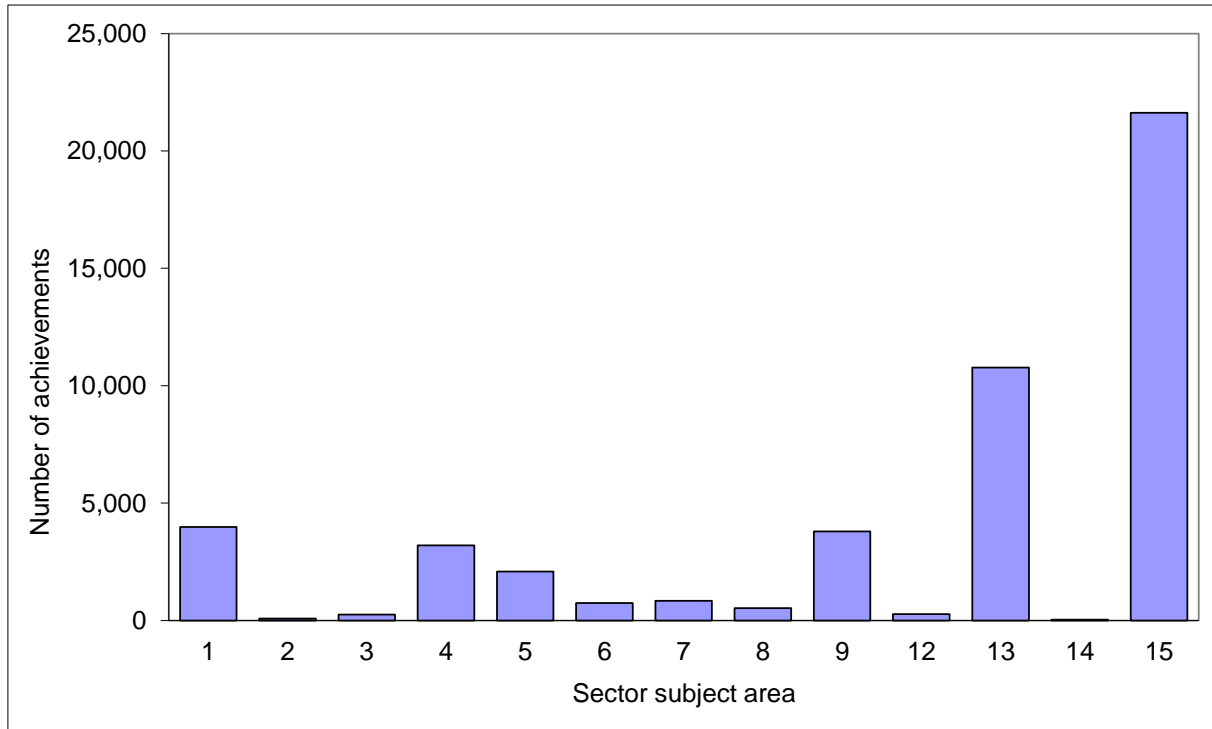
Sector subject area

Regulated higher qualifications are allocated to one of 15 sector subject area codes (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*¹ for further details.)

Figure 10 (next page) compares the number of achievements awarded for each sector subject area. The sector subject area with the most achievements awarded in higher qualifications in July–September 2012 was business, administration and law. There were 21,600 achievements awarded in this sector subject area, a small increase of 6 per cent when compared with the same quarter of 2011. The second most common sector subject area was education and training with 10,750 achievements awarded, an increase of 10 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. The third most common sector subject area was health, public services and care with 4,000 achievements awarded (see table 5 in the appendix.) Note that there were no achievements awarded in history, philosophy and theology (sector subject area code 10) and in social sciences (sector subject area code 11).

¹ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

Figure 10: Higher qualification achievements awarded by sector subject area for July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)



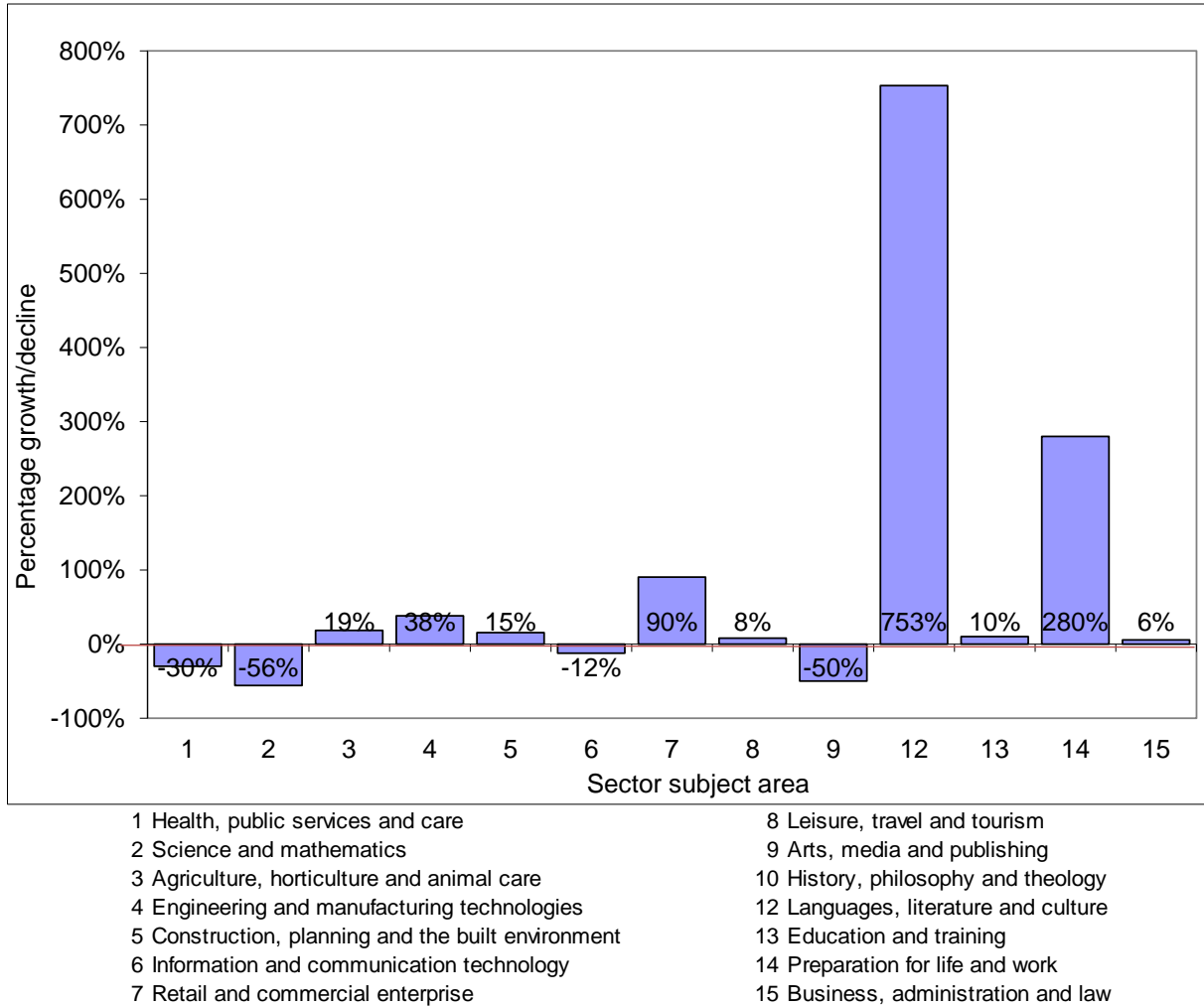
- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Health, public services and care | 8 Leisure, travel and tourism |
| 2 Science and mathematics | 9 Arts, media and publishing |
| 3 Agriculture, horticulture and animal care | 12 Languages, literature and culture |
| 4 Engineering and manufacturing technologies | 13 Education and training |
| 5 Construction, planning and the built environment | 14 Preparation for life and work |
| 6 Information and communication technology | 15 Business, administration and law |
| 7 Retail and commercial enterprise | |

Note: there were no achievements awarded in history, philosophy and theology (Subject Sector Area code 10) and in social sciences (sector subject area code 11).

Figure 11 (next page) compares the percentage change in achievements awarded between July–September 2011 and July–September 2012. Some of the sector subject areas showed significant increases in the number of achievements awarded. Languages, literature and culture showed an increase of almost eight times as many awards as in 2011. This large increase is due to the achievements awarded in a qualification that didn't have any achievements awarded before quarter 2 of this year but has 241 achievements awarded this quarter (Institute of Linguists Educational Trust Level 7 Diploma in Translation (QCF)). Preparation for life and work showed an increase of almost three times as many awards as in the same quarter of 2011; although the number of achievements awarded was quite low, so significant conclusions should not be drawn. Retail and commercial enterprise showed a 90 per cent increase with 850 achievements awarded in quarter 3 of 2012.

We can see that a number of sector subject areas saw a reduction in the number of achievements awarded between July–September 2011 and July–September 2012. These were health, public service and care with a reduction of 30 per cent, science and mathematics with a reduction of 56 per cent, information and communication technology with a reduction of 12 per cent, and arts, media and publishing with a reduction of 50 per cent. This drop in arts, media and publishing is mostly attributable to a large drop in achievements awarded in University of Arts London (UAL) Level 4 Diploma in Art and Design - Foundation Studies (QCF), which saw a decline of 3,500 achievements awarded, or 99 per cent, since the same quarter of 2011.

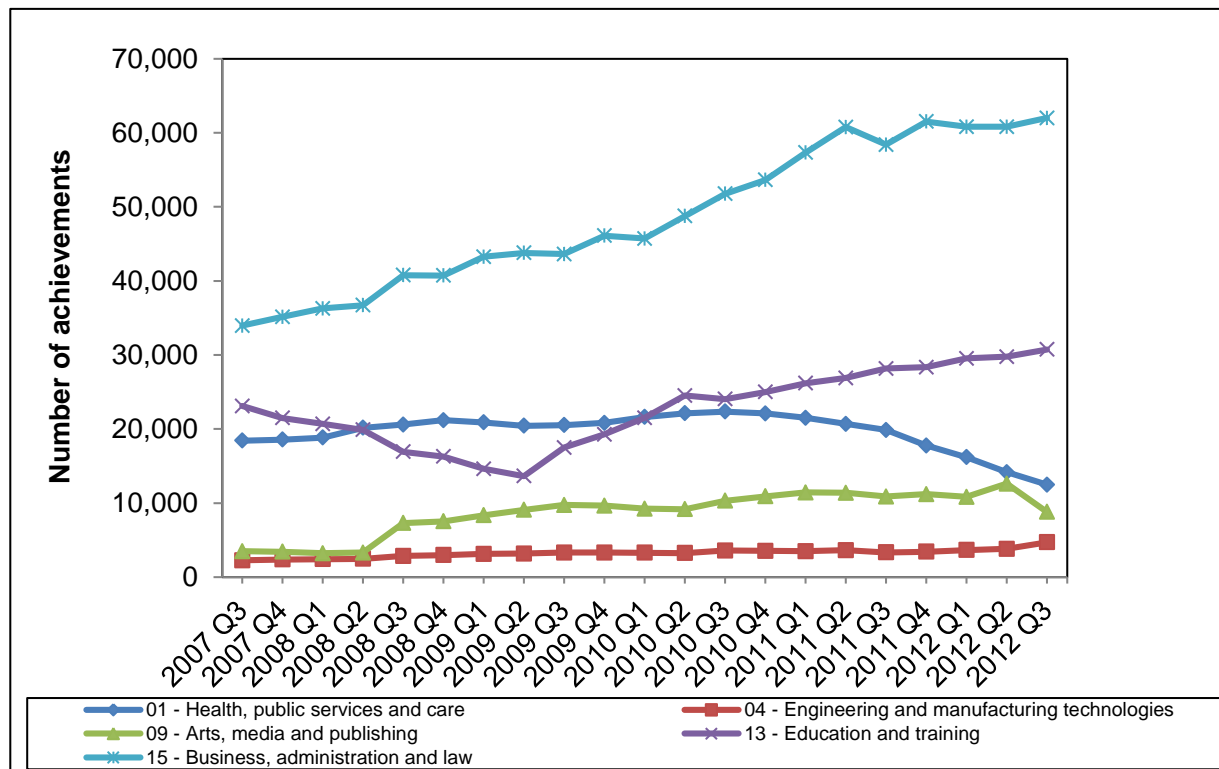
Figure 11: Percentage growth and decline in achievements awarded between July–September 2011 and July–September 2012 by sector subject area (red line showing average change for all higher qualifications (3 per cent decrease))



Note: there were no achievements awarded in history, philosophy and theology (sector subject area code 10) and in social sciences (sector subject area code 11).

Figure 12 shows the five-year trend for the five sector subject areas with the highest number of achievements awarded in July–September 2012 (see table 5 for further details). From the figure it is clear that health, public services and care is on a downward trend. This could be partly due to the large number of inactive qualifications. Business, administration and law has grown over the past few years, although the increase since quarter 2 of 2011 is not as steep.

Figure 12: Total higher qualification achievements awarded in the 12 months to the end of each quarter, July–September 2007 (2007 Q3) to July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)



Type of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 18² qualification types (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*³ for a full listing.)

The qualification type with the most achievements awarded for higher qualifications in July–September 2012 was the QCF with 40,000 achievements awarded, representing 83 per cent of the total achievements awarded. This is an increase of 27 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2011. The increase reflects the restructuring of many qualifications that were previously on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) onto the QCF.

The second most frequently awarded qualification type was the higher level, with 6,700 achievements awarded, a decrease of 45 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. The NVQ came third with 1,400 achievements awarded, a decrease of 74 per cent on the same quarter of 2011. Figure 13 (next page) shows the breakdown of achievements that were awarded in higher qualifications by qualification type for July–September 2012 (see table 6 in the appendix for more information.)

There were no achievements awarded for either the ESOL or key skills qualification at higher level, although there are available higher qualifications of both types (five and 72 respectively).

² Including GCSEs and GCEs

³ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

Figure 13: Higher qualification achievements awarded by qualification type for July – September 2012 (2012 Q3)

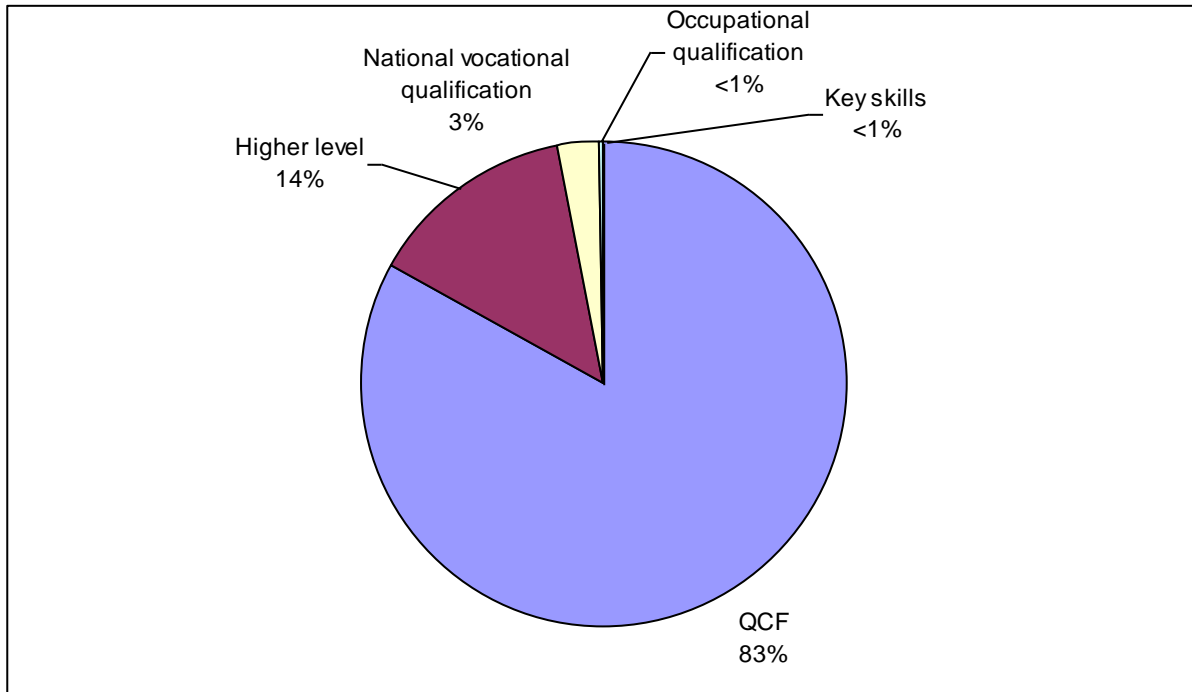
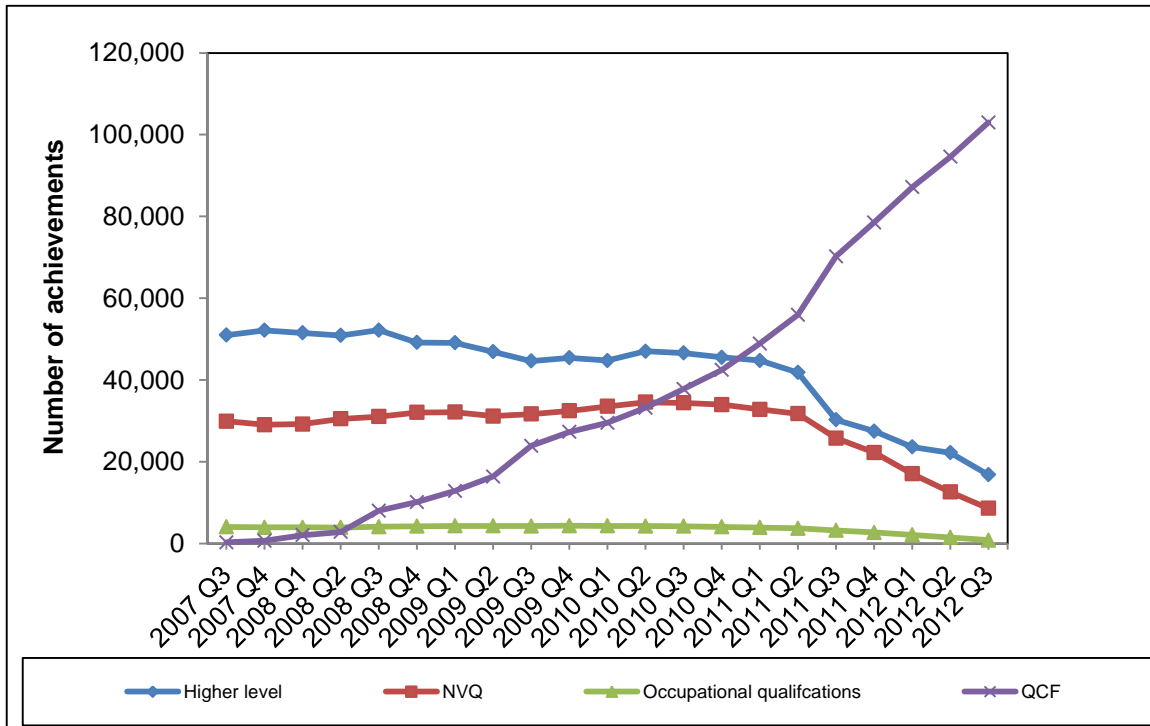


Figure 14 shows the five-year trend for all qualification types certificating during July–September 2012.

Figure 14: Total higher qualification achievements awarded in the 12 months to the end of each quarter for the four qualification types with the highest number of achievements, showing the trend from July–September 2007 (2007 Q3) to July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)



As expected, there is an upward trend in the award of achievements of QCF qualifications and a corresponding decline in those of higher level qualifications, occupational qualifications and NVQs.

Level of qualification

All regulated qualifications are assigned a level, ranging from entry, then 1 to 8 (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*⁴ for full details.) Higher qualifications are those at levels 4 to 8.

Figures 15 and 16 (see next two pages) show the large variation in the number of achievements awarded by level and the variation in change by level between July – September 2011 and this quarter. Level 4 had the most achievements awarded in this quarter with 28,150 (58 per cent of achievements awarded) (see table 7). Level 5 had the second highest number of achievements awarded with 13,950 (29 per cent), and level 6 was third with 3,550 achievements awarded (7 per cent). Of the five levels, only levels 4 and 7 showed an increase in achievements awarded since July–September 2011. Level 7 showed an increase of 19 per cent, to over 2,500 achievements awarded, while level 4 showed a small increase of 1 per cent.

Levels 5 and 6 showed a decrease of 11 per cent and 15 per cent respectively in the number of achievements awarded. Level 8 showed a 25 per cent decrease in the number of achievements compared with the same quarter of 2011. The number of achievements awarded for qualifications at level 8 has dropped for the three available qualifications that already had a small number of achievements. For level 6, the absence of achievements awarded in two qualifications explains part of the drop. The Trinity College London (TCL) Level 6 Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre (QCF) and the TCL Level 6 Diploma in Professional Dance (QCF) had no achievements awarded this quarter compared with 600 in the same quarter of 2011.

⁴ www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

Figure 15: Higher qualification achievements awarded by level for July–September 2012 (2012 Q3)

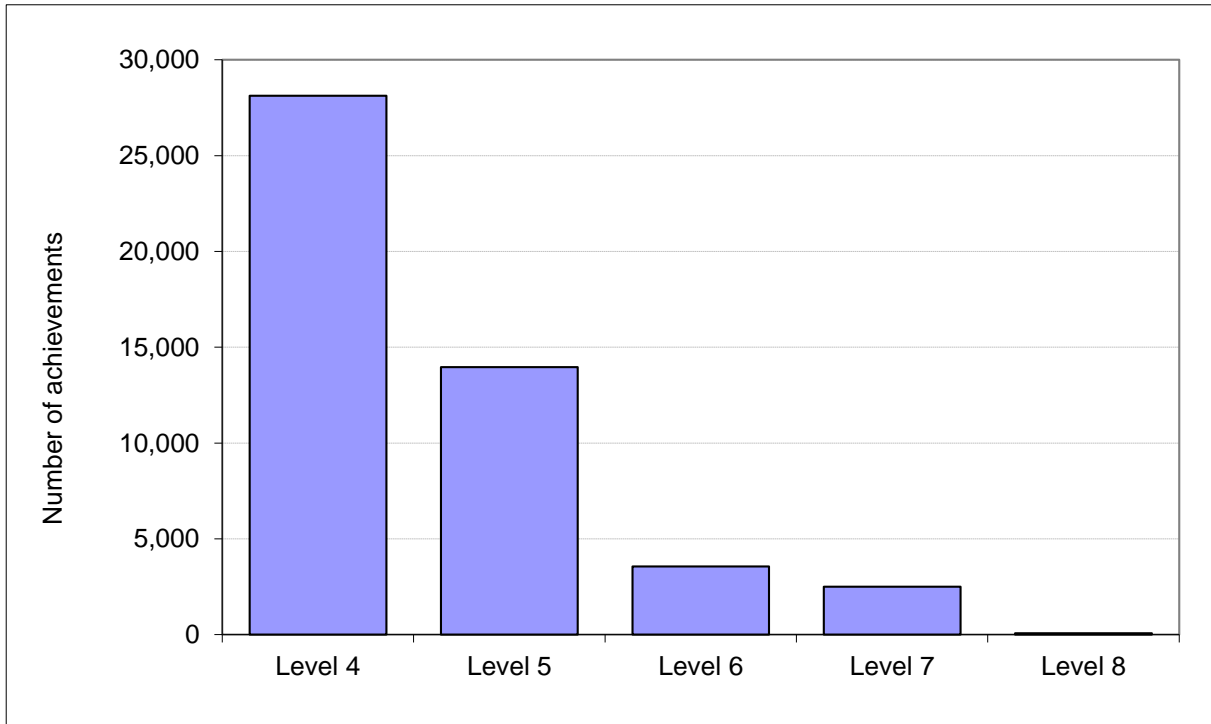
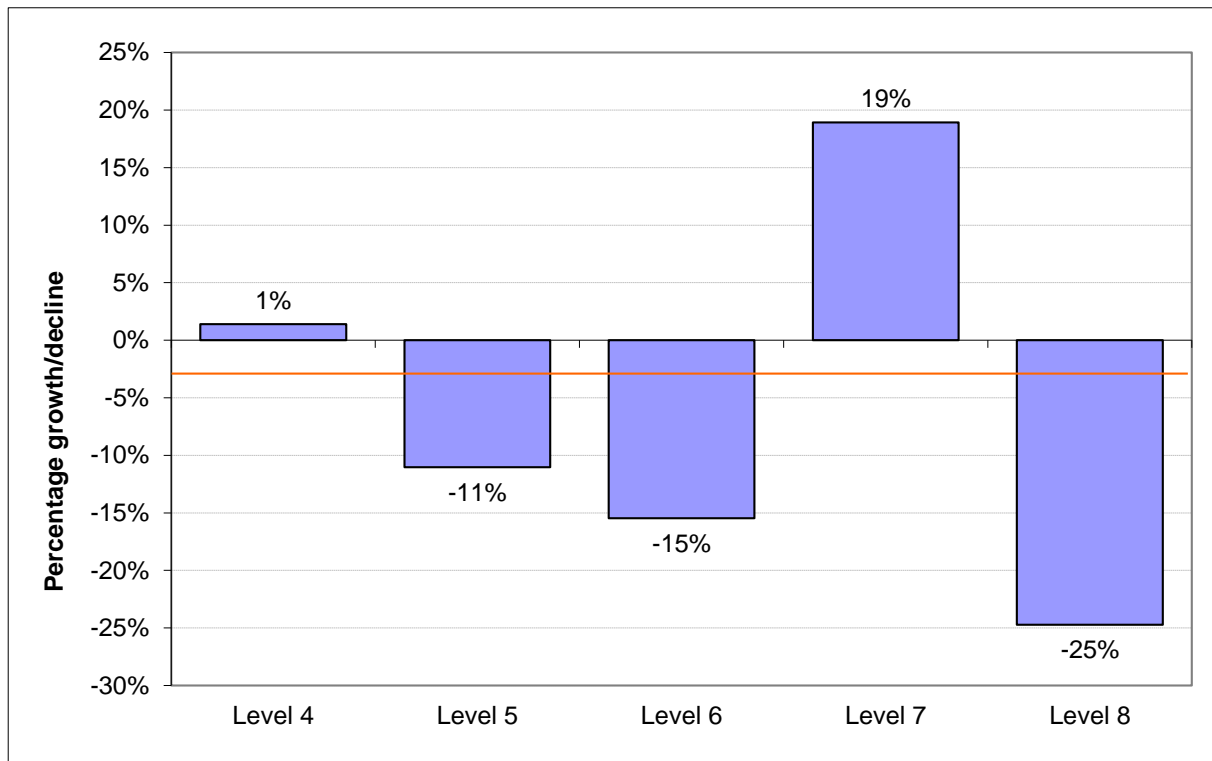


Figure 16: Percentage growth and decline in achievements awarded between July–September 2011 and July–September 2012 by level (red line showing average change for all higher qualifications (3 per cent decrease))



Background information

Under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, one of our objectives is to improve public confidence in regulated qualifications and assessments by raising awareness and understanding of the qualifications we regulate.

This bulletin presents achievements awarded for the July–September 2012 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of this quarter for higher qualifications of all types at level 4 and above (equivalent to post A level). When referring to regulated qualifications in this bulletin, GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma are excluded. This bulletin is one of a suite of two publications that present quarterly statistics on achievements awarded for regulated qualifications. The other bulletin is called *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly*⁵, and it covers achievements awarded in NVQs, vocationally related qualifications, QCF qualifications and occupational qualifications at all levels.

Each quarter, awarding organisations submit data to us about the number of achievements they have awarded. Achievements are included in the quarter when the final qualification certificate is issued. This bulletin shows the number of achievements awarded in the quarter July–September 2012 and during the 12-month period ending September 2012, broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification, level of qualification and by country. Information on the availability of qualifications is also provided. All regulated qualifications at level 4 or above (excluding GCSEs and GCEs) are included, regardless of the age of the student, the type of school or college and the funding status of the qualification.

Geographical coverage

In this bulletin we present data on achievements awarded for all regulated qualifications (excluding GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma⁶) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the quarter July–September 2012. You can find statistics for Scotland on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website⁷.

⁵ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-and-other-qualifications/

⁶ Data for GCSEs and GCEs can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website at www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results or at <http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/raw-data/>

⁷ The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland (www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42397.html)

A separate bulletin that presents achievements awarded in Northern Ireland only, called *Northern Ireland Qualifications Quarterly*⁸ is also available.

Qualification type

At the point of accreditation, regulated qualifications are classified into 18⁹ qualification types. We recognise that the classification system is not ideal, as very similar qualifications may appear under different qualification types, for example NVQs and the QCF.

This bulletin presents figures on six of these qualification types: ESOL, higher level, key skills, NVQ, QCF and occupational qualification.

This bulletin relates only to qualifications in these types that are at level 4 or above. This means there is some overlap between the figures in this bulletin and those in the *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly* bulletin¹⁰, which covers all levels.

Revisions

Once published, data on the number of achievements awarded for any qualification are not usually subject to revision. But data may be revised in subsequent bulletins due to late data or if an error is identified. Qualifications may also be re-categorised to a different type, level, sector subject area or awarding organisation. In some cases, data may be amended to reflect the new categorisation.

In this bulletin some figures have been revised since the April–June 2012 bulletin. These revisions were made because of updates from two awarding organisations. Some of these updates have affected data since quarter 4 of 2008.

Completeness of the data

Awarding organisations send us data each quarter. We contact any awarding organisation that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period to make sure that the data are as complete as possible. For this quarter, we received data from all the awarding organisations.

Figures in the commentary and tables for the number of achievements awarded are rounded to the nearest 50. This reflects the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale data collection and also provides an ease of reading. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in pie charts may not necessarily add up to 100 per cent.

⁸ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/northern-ireland-qualifications/

⁹ Including GCSEs and GCEs

¹⁰ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-and-other-qualifications/

Comparisons in this bulletin are only made with data from the same quarter of the previous year. This is because of seasonal changes in the number of achievements awarded over the year.

The raw data, which covers 1989 onwards, are available on our website¹¹.

Definitions

Some of the key terms used in this bulletin are defined as follows:

- Accreditation – a process that reviews and confirms achievement to specific criteria and standards.
- Achievement – any award that is not graded as U, absent, X or fail.
- Available qualification – a qualification eligible for an award or a qualification that has made an award.
- Awarding organisation – an organisation recognised to develop, deliver and award descriptions of qualifications.
- Active qualification – a qualification eligible for award to students, even if the qualification is no longer available for enrolment.
- Certification – a formal acknowledgement of student achievement.
- Recognition – an evidence-based process of achieving compliance with the criteria for recognition.

Our *Statistical Publications Glossary*¹² provides further details on sector subject area classifications and qualification types and levels.

In this bulletin, quarter refers to calendar quarters. So quarter 1 (Q1) refers to January–March, quarter 2 (Q2) to April–June, quarter 3 (Q3) to July–September, and quarter 4 (Q4) to October–December.

We are continually striving to improve the quality and coverage of information in these quarterly updates, and we welcome any suggestions or comments you have regarding this bulletin. Our contact details are at the end of this bulletin.

¹¹ www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-data

¹² www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf

Appendix

Table 1: Number of available regulated higher qualifications, 2006-7 to July-September 2012
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	English for speakers of other languages	Higher level	Key skills	National vocational qualification	Occupational qualification	Qualifications and credit framework	Total number of qualifications
06-07	11	413	32	414	33	17	920
07-08	11	505	32	399	33	108	1,088
08-09	12	545	32	365	37	160	1,151
09-10	11	577	68	315	35	496	1,502
10-11	10	554	78	291	35	1,117	2,085
11-12	5	491	72	256	33	1,562	2,419
Oct-Dec 2006	11	364	32	384	33		824
Jan-Mar 2007	11	375	32	341	33		792
Apr-Jun 2007	11	384	32	389	33	6	855
Jul-Sep 2007	11	383	32	380	33	16	855
Oct-Dec 2007	11	421	32	363	33	33	893
Jan-Mar 2008	11	446	32	364	33	46	932
Apr-Jun 2008	11	423	32	370	33	83	952
Jul-Sep 2008	11	502	32	372	33	108	1,058
Oct-Dec 2008	11	472	32	319	33	117	984
Jan-Mar 2009	12	510	32	328	36	135	1,053
Apr-Jun 2009	12	500	32	317	37	143	1,041
Jul-Sep 2009	11	505	32	286	36	154	1,024
Oct-Dec 2009	11	526	2	301	33	152	1,025
Jan-Mar 2010	10	545	6	301	33	222	1,117
Apr-Jun 2010	10	534	60	299	33	206	1,142
Jul-Sep 2010	10	540	67	290	33	489	1,429
Oct-Dec 2010	10	552	72	291	35	580	1,540
Jan-Mar 2011	9	540	78	264	33	773	1,697
Apr-Jun 2011	9	529	72	268	33	930	1,841
Jul-Sep 2011	9	504	72	267	35	1,100	1,987
Oct-Dec 2011	5	484	72	255	33	1,249	2,098
Jan-Mar 2012	5	446	72	249	33	1,338	2,143
Apr-Jun 2012	5	423	72	246	33	1,427	2,206
Jul-Sep 2012	5	419	72	244	33	1,554	2,327

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
 2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September
- Blank cells indicate that there were no available qualifications

Table 2: Total achievements for higher qualifications, 2006-7 to July-September 2012
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Total number of achievements
06-07	89,550
07-08	99,200
08-09	106,200
09-10	123,900
10-11	129,650
11-12	129,350
Oct-Dec 2006	16,900
Jan-Mar 2007	19,150
Apr-Jun 2007	15,900
Jul-Sep 2007	37,600
Oct-Dec 2007	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	48,200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50

Table 3: The 50 higher qualifications with the highest number of achievements, July to September 2012 (July to September 2011 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Total Number of achievements	
	July-September 2011	July-September 2012
AAT Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF)	2,450	3,050
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	2,050	2,550
CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	1,100	2,000
CILEx Level 6 Certificate in Law (QCF)	1,450	1,400
IFS Level 4 Diploma for Financial Advisers (QCF)	300	1,100
Edexcel Level 4 BTEC Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	900	950
Cambridge ESOL Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (QCF)	1,400	900
Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Business (QCF)	50	850
Edexcel BTEC Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector	400	850
City & Guilds Level 4 Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning sector (QCF)	800	750
ACCA Level 4 Diploma in Accounting and Business (QCF)	0	700
Edexcel BTEC Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	300	700
City & Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	650	650
CMI Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	850	650
IAM Level 4 Diploma in Administrative Management	750	600
Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (QCF)	50	550
Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering (QCF)	0	500
CMI Level 5 Certificate in Management and Leadership (QCF)	900	500
TCL Level 5 Certificate In Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Cert TESOL) (QCF)	550	500
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 (QCF)	450	450
CMI Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	900	450
CFA UK Level 4 Certificate in Investment Management (QCF)	400	450
CISI Level 6 Certificate in Private Client Investment Advice & Management (QCF)	300	400
CIPS Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Purchasing and Supply	200	400
Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher National Diploma in Business	500	350
ILM Level 5 Award in Management (QCF)	0	350
Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (QCF)	0	350
CMI Level 5 Award in Management and Leadership (QCF)	500	350
Edexcel BTEC Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	250	300
Edexcel BTEC Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design (QCF)	500	300
Edexcel Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	0	300
CII Level 4 Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning (QCF)	50	300
Edexcel BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Business (QCF)	100	300
CIPS Level 5 Advanced Diploma in Purchasing and Supply	150	300
Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher National Certificate in Electrical/Electronic Engineering	600	300
VTCT Level 4 Certificate in Sports Massage Therapy (QCF)	250	300
Ascentis Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	0	300
CISI Level 4 Diploma in Investment Advice (QCF)	50	250
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (QCF)	50	250
Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering	400	250
CPCAB Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling (QCF)	0	250
IoLET Level 7 Diploma in Translation (QCF)	0	250
CIPS Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Purchasing and Supply	200	250
CIM Level 4 Professional Certificate in Marketing	300	250
Edexcel BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Computing and Systems Development (QCF)	0	250
City & Guilds Level 4 NVQ in Leadership and Management for Care Services	450	250
ISTD Level 4 Diploma in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 2 (QCF)	200	250
ABRSM Level 4 Diploma in Music Performance (QCF)	0	200
Edexcel Level 5 BTEC Higher National Certificate in Construction	500	200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0'

Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of achievements in higher qualifications, July to September 2012 (July to September 2011 shown for comparison)
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Total number of achievements	
	July-September 2011	July-September 2012
Pearson Education Ltd	10,700	13,750
City and Guilds of London Institute	6,100	5,800
Association of Accounting Technicians	3,700	3,050
Chartered Management Institute	4,600	2,800
Chartered Insurance Institute	1,200	2,350
Institute of Leadership & Management	2,350	1,900
Chartered Institute of Legal Executives	0	1,600
OCR	1,700	1,300
IFS School of Finance	400	1,150
University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations	1,600	1,150
Institute of Administrative Management	850	1,100
Trinity College London	1,450	950
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply	550	950
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	0	800
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	750	750
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	400	700
ABC Awards	500	450
CFA Society of UK	400	450
Ascentis	450	400
Association of Business Executives	550	400
VTCT	300	400
Cskills Awards	250	400
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	300	350
EDI	600	350
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	250	300
NCFE	150	300
Chartered Institute of Marketing	550	250
University of West London	0	250
IoL Educational Trust	0	250
Assessment and Qualifications Alliance	400	200
The Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality	100	200
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	100	200
Association of British Dispensing Opticians	200	150
Chartered Institute of Building	200	150
Royal Academy of Dance	150	150
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	300	150
Rock School Ltd	100	150
ATHE Ltd	0	150
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	100	150
Scottish Qualifications Authority (trading as SQA)	0	100
Institute of Commercial Management	250	100
Mineral Products Qualifications Council	50	100
Active IQ	150	100
NCC Education Services	100	100
National Open College Network	50	100
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	0	100
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	50	100
Chartered Institute of Housing	150	100
Organisation for Tourism and Hospitality Management	50	100
Awarding Body for Vocational Achievement Ltd	50	100

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
 2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September
- Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0'

Table 5: Achievements in higher qualifications by sector subject area, 2006-7 to July-September 2012
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Health, public services and care	Science and mathematics	Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Construction, planning and the built environment	Information and communication technology	Retail and commercial enterprise	Leisure, travel and tourism	Arts, media and publishing	History, philosophy and theology	Social sciences	Languages, literature and culture	Education and training	Preparation for life and work	Business, administration and law	Total number of achievements
06-07	18,450	400	1,100	2,250	3,150	1,300	1,050	250	3,500			900	23,100	150	33,950	89,550
07-08	20,600	350	1,250	2,850	3,850	2,500	1,300	450	7,300			900	16,950	150	40,800	99,200
08-09	20,550	800	1,150	3,300	4,750	2,050	1,500	450	9,750		0	500	17,500	200	43,650	106,200
09-10	22,350	650	950	3,600	5,150	1,500	2,100	900	10,300	0		500	24,050	100	51,750	123,900
10-11	19,900	300	700	3,350	3,450	1,450	1,500	1,100	10,900	0	0	400	28,150	50	58,400	129,650
11-12	12,500	200	750	4,700	4,000	1,400	2,200	1,300	8,850	0	0	650	30,750	100	62,000	129,350
Oct-Dec 2006	4,400	50	250	200	400	300	150	50	300			400	5,250	0	5,200	16,900
Jan-Mar 2007	4,400	100	250	150	400	50	200	0	600			0	5,100	100	7,800	19,150
Apr-Jun 2007	3,900	50	250	150	650	250	250	0	350			400	4,600	0	5,050	15,900
Jul-Sep 2007	5,750	250	400	1,750	1,700	700	450	150	2,300			50	8,150	50	15,900	37,600
Oct-Dec 2007	4,550	50	200	350	650	350	300	0	200			400	3,650	0	6,350	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	4,700	100	300	150	500	50	300	50	400			50	4,300	0	8,950	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	5,200	50	300	200	550	400	400	50	450			400	3,850	50	5,450	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	6,150	150	400	2,150	2,200	1,650	300	350	6,300			50	5,150	50	20,000	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	5,100	100	250	450	550	200	350	50	450			300	3,000	0	6,300	17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	4,400	250	250	350	550	450	200	50	1,200			50	2,650	0	11,500	21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	4,750	0	200	250	950	100	350	50	1,150			50	2,850	50	6,000	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	6,250	400	450	2,300	2,650	1,300	600	300	6,950		0	100	9,000	150	19,800	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	5,400	50	200	500	950	400	550	100	350			350	4,750	0	8,800	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	5,200	200	250	300	850	200	600	200	800	0		50	4,900	50	11,100	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	5,250	50	150	200	1,000	50	300	150	1,100			50	5,850	0	9,000	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	6,500	350	350	2,650	2,400	850	600	450	8,100			50	8,550	50	22,850	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	5,150	50	150	400	600	400	500	200	950	0	0	300	5,700	0	10,650	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	4,650	50	100	250	550	150	350	250	1,300			50	6,050	0	14,800	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011	4,450	50	200	350	550	50	250	100	1,050			50	6,600	0	12,450	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	5,700	200	200	2,300	1,800	850	450	500	7,600			50	9,800	0	20,450	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011	3,050	50	150	500	700	350	400	200	1,250	0		150	5,900	0	13,800	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	3,050	50	150	500	500	200	500	250	950		0	100	7,250	0	14,100	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	2,400	50	250	500	700	150	450	300	2,800	0		150	6,800	0	12,500	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	4,000	100	250	3,200	2,100	750	850	500	3,800			250	10,750	50	21,600	48,200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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2. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as '0'

Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total. Blank cells indicate that no achievements were awarded

Table 6: Achievements in higher qualifications by qualification type, 2006-7 to July-September 2012
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	English for speakers of other languages	Higher level	Key skills	National vocational qualification	Occupational qualification	Qualifications and credit framework	Total number of achievements
06-07	4,050	50,950	150	29,950	4,100	350	89,550
07-08	3,600	52,200	150	31,100	4,150	8,050	99,200
08-09	1,450	44,650	200	31,650	4,300	23,900	106,200
09-10	700	46,600	100	34,450	4,250	37,800	123,900
10-11	0	30,300	50	25,800	3,250	70,250	129,650
11-12		16,850	0	8,600	900	103,000	129,350
Oct-Dec 2006	650	8,950	0	6,300	1,000		16,900
Jan-Mar 2007	1,200	9,550	100	7,350	950	0	19,150
Apr-Jun 2007	1,400	7,400	0	5,800	1,050	300	15,900
Jul-Sep 2007	850	25,000	50	10,500	1,150	50	37,600
Oct-Dec 2007	300	10,150	0	5,450	850	350	17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	1,100	9,000	0	7,500	950	1,400	19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	1,300	6,800	50	7,100	1,000	1,050	17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	900	26,300	50	11,050	1,350	5,250	44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	200	7,100	0	6,450	1,000	2,450	17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	250	8,900	0	7,600	1,000	4,100	21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	400	4,600	50	6,100	1,000	4,600	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	600	24,050	150	11,550	1,250	12,750	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	300	7,900	0	7,250	1,050	5,850	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	350	8,250	50	8,650	1,000	6,400	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	0	6,850	0	7,150	950	8,250	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	50	23,600	50	11,400	1,250	17,350	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	0	6,800	0	6,800	950	10,500	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	0	7,500	0	7,500	800	12,800	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011		3,900	0	6,100	750	15,300	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011		12,100	0	5,400	750	31,600	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011		4,000	0	3,250	400	18,800	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012		3,600		2,300	250	21,400	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012		2,500		1,650	100	22,800	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012		6,700	0	1,400	100	40,000	48,200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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Table 7: Achievements in higher qualifications by level, 2006-7 to July-September 2012
England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Total number of achievements
06-07	61,350	19,250	5,600	3,350		89,550
07-08	60,500	27,300	7,400	4,000		99,200
08-09	62,000	31,500	7,650	5,000	50	106,200
09-10	72,450	35,950	8,300	7,000	150	123,900
10-11	78,350	35,650	9,150	6,250	200	129,650
11-12	74,950	34,950	9,550	9,600	300	129,350
Oct-Dec 2006	12,900	2,800	750	450		16,900
Jan-Mar 2007	13,900	3,250	1,550	500		19,150
Apr-Jun 2007	12,150	2,450	400	900		15,900
Jul-Sep 2007	22,400	10,750	2,950	1,500		37,600
Oct-Dec 2007	12,000	3,550	850	700		17,100
Jan-Mar 2008	13,550	3,650	2,150	550		19,900
Apr-Jun 2008	12,550	3,000	600	1,150		17,300
Jul-Sep 2008	22,350	17,100	3,850	1,600		44,900
Oct-Dec 2008	11,250	3,750	1,150	1,100		17,200
Jan-Mar 2009	13,500	5,300	2,000	1,100		21,900
Apr-Jun 2009	11,800	3,500	550	850	0	16,750
Jul-Sep 2009	25,450	19,050	3,900	1,950	0	50,350
Oct-Dec 2009	13,450	6,250	1,350	1,250	50	22,350
Jan-Mar 2010	16,400	5,700	1,000	1,550	50	24,700
Apr-Jun 2010	14,450	6,500	800	1,500	0	23,200
Jul-Sep 2010	28,150	17,500	5,200	2,750	50	53,650
Oct-Dec 2010	15,700	6,200	1,650	1,450	100	25,050
Jan-Mar 2011	18,150	7,450	1,450	1,550	50	28,650
Apr-Jun 2011	16,750	6,350	1,850	1,150	0	26,100
Jul-Sep 2011	27,750	15,700	4,200	2,100	100	49,850
Oct-Dec 2011	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	48,200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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