

## Official Statistics Release

Policy area:	Learning and skills inspections and outcomes
Theme:	Education, children's services and skills
Published on:	21 March 2013
Coverage:	England
Period covered:	1 September 2012 to 31 December 2012
Status:	Provisional
Issued by:	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) 125 Kingsway London WC2B 6SE
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Link to official statistics release web page:	<a href="http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-learning-and-skills-inspections-and-outcomes">http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-learning-and-skills-inspections-and-outcomes</a>
Publication medium:	Ofsted website
Publication frequency:	Quarterly

## Introduction

This official statistics release reports on learning and skills inspections that occurred between 1 September 2012 to 31 December 2012 under the *Common inspection framework for further education and skills 2012*.

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## Key findings

### Latest inspection outcome

- At 31 December 2012, there were 381 colleges which had received an Ofsted inspection and were in receipt of funding<sup>1</sup>. Three per cent of the 381 colleges were inadequate for overall effectiveness at their latest inspection. A further 68% were either good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. The remaining 29% were judged satisfactory or to require improvement at their most recent inspection<sup>2</sup>.
- Variations exist amongst outcomes for different types of college: 37% of sixth form colleges were judged outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection, compared to 17% of general further education college/tertiary colleges and 13% of independent specialist colleges. Independent specialist colleges also had the highest proportion of inadequate providers, with 4% inadequate compared to 3% of general further education college/tertiary colleges.
- At 31 December 2012, there were 427 independent learning providers which had received an Ofsted inspection and were in receipt of funding. Of these, 12% were outstanding for overall effectiveness at their most recent inspection and 53% were good. A further 31% were judged to be satisfactory or to require improvement, and 3% were found to be inadequate.
- At 31 December 2012, there were 253 community learning and skills providers which had received an Ofsted inspection and were in receipt of funding. Although a high proportion, 71%, of community learning and skills providers are good or outstanding, only 6% are outstanding. A further 27% of community learning and skills providers were judged satisfactory or found to require improvement. Community learning and skills providers have the lowest proportion of inadequate providers at 2%.

### Inspection year 1 September 2012 to 31 December 2012

- From 1 September 2012 Ofsted has been inspecting against a new common inspection framework. In the inspection year between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, there have been 143 inspections of learning and skills providers. This included 33 inspections of colleges, 67 inspections of independent learning providers, 38 inspections of community learning and skills providers and five inspections of further education in higher education institutions.

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<sup>1</sup>The Common Inspection Framework applies to the inspection of provision either wholly or partly funded by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) or Education Funding Agency (EFA). For colleges this includes general further education/tertiary colleges, specialist further education colleges, sixth form colleges and independent specialist colleges.

<sup>2</sup>From September 2012 the new inspection framework reports on judgements of outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate. Judgements of satisfactory relate only to inspections prior to this date.

- Of the 33 colleges inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, 3% were outstanding for overall effectiveness, 52% were good and 42% were judged to require improvement. The remaining 3% were inadequate.
- Of the 67 independent learning providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, 1% were judged outstanding for overall effectiveness, 45% were good, 43% were found to require improvement and 10% were inadequate.
- Of the 38 community learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, 58% of providers were judged good or outstanding for overall effectiveness. A further 29% were found to require improvement and 13% were found to be inadequate.
- One sixth form college was judged outstanding for the quality of teaching, learning and assessment. Six were judged to be good and seven were judged to require improvement. Of the 15 general further education college/tertiary colleges, nine were judged good for the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and six were judged to require improvement.
- The quality of teaching, learning and assessment was found to be good or outstanding in more than half (52%) of the 67 independent learning providers inspected in 2012/13. It was found to require improvement in 40% of providers, and was inadequate in 7%.
- Eleven prison inspection reports were published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012. Of these, Ofsted found that four were good for the leadership and management of learning and skills and work, and five were found to require improvement. The remaining two prisons were judged inadequate for the leadership and management of learning and skills and work.

## **Methodology**

1. The data in this release are from inspections undertaken between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012. These inspections were undertaken under the *Common Inspection Framework for further education and skills*. There are four main areas against which a provider is assessed:
  - a. Overall effectiveness
  - b. Outcomes for learners
  - c. The quality of teaching, training and assessment
  - d. The effectiveness of leadership and management

There are four main judgements a provider can receive against these areas: outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate. Further information can be found on the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/common-inspection-framework-for-further-education-and-skills-2012>

2. Statistics relating to inspections undertaken in this year are provisional.
3. The quarterly selection of learning and skills providers for inspection comprises three elements: compulsory inspections, inspections resulting from risk assessment, and a random selection:
  - The compulsory inspections are carried out for providers that have reached the end point of their inspection window (For example a good provider must be inspected every six years). New providers will also be subject to a compulsory inspection after their first year of operation but within three years.
  - The second element of the year's selection comprises providers selected through risk assessment. This risk assessment looks at a number of current performance measures, and also trends in these performance measures.
  - Finally, random selection is used to try to maintain a balance in the year's inspection programme, and resulting inspection judgements.

Only providers who consistently perform at a high level tend to reach the end point of their inspection window. Risk assessment enables Ofsted to optimise the use of resources, concentrating inspection activity in areas where it is likely to add most value. The result of using a risk based approach to selection is that inspection judgements for providers, in any given year, can look slightly more pessimistic than we know the national picture to be.

4. In September 2012 Ofsted introduced a new common inspection framework for further education and skills. For more information about the framework and how Ofsted inspects learning and skills providers, please go to the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/common-inspection-framework-for-further-education-and-skills-2012>

5. Since 1 January 2012, Ofsted has not produced its own summary report for prison inspections. Ofsted continues to report within the HMI Prisons report and in line with the *Common Inspection Framework for further education and skills*. Ofsted statistics will now report on prison inspections which have been published within the reporting period of the official statistics. Further information on how Ofsted inspects prisoner education and training in the further education and skills sector can be found on the Ofsted website:

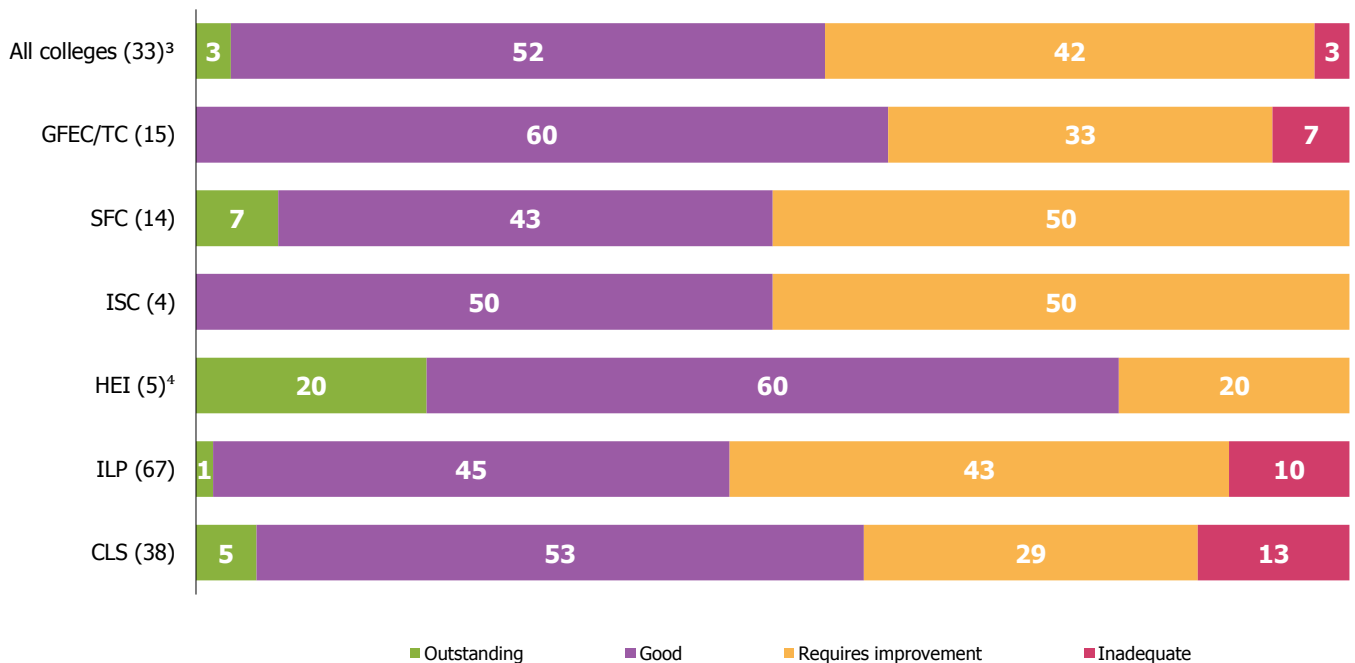
<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/handbook-for-inspection-of-learning-and-skills-training-for-young-adults-and-adults-custody>

6. Revisions are published in line with Ofsted's revisions policy for official statistics which can be found on the Ofsted website:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/statistical-notice-ofsted-revisions-policy-for-official-statistics>

**Chart 1: Overall effectiveness of learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, percentage (provisional)<sup>1 2 3</sup>**

**Overall effectiveness of learning and skills providers inspected (percentage)**

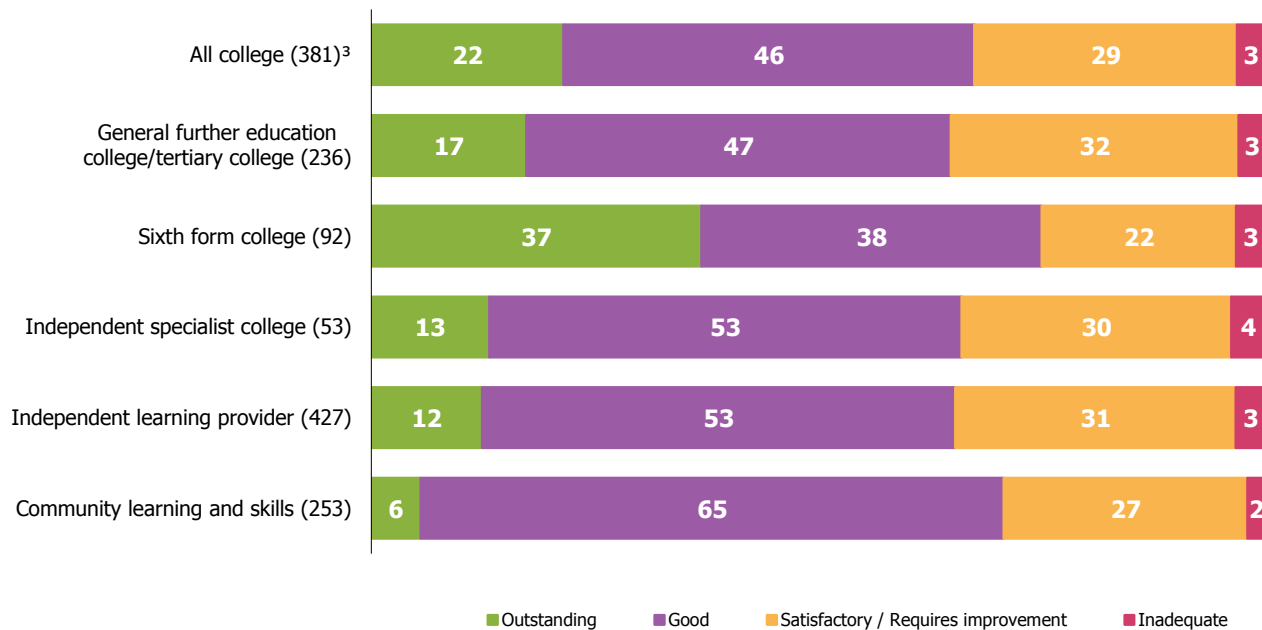


1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.  
 2. GFEC/TC: general further education college/tertiary college (includes specialist further education colleges); SFC: sixth form college; ISC: independent specialist college; HEI: Further education in higher education institutions; ILP: independent learning provider (includes employer providers); CLS: community learning and skills.  
 3. Includes general further education college/tertiary college, sixth form college, specialist further education college and independent specialist college.  
 4. Overall effectiveness grades relate to further education provision only.



**Chart 2: Overall effectiveness of learning and skills providers inspected at 31 December 2012, percentage** <sup>1 2 3</sup>

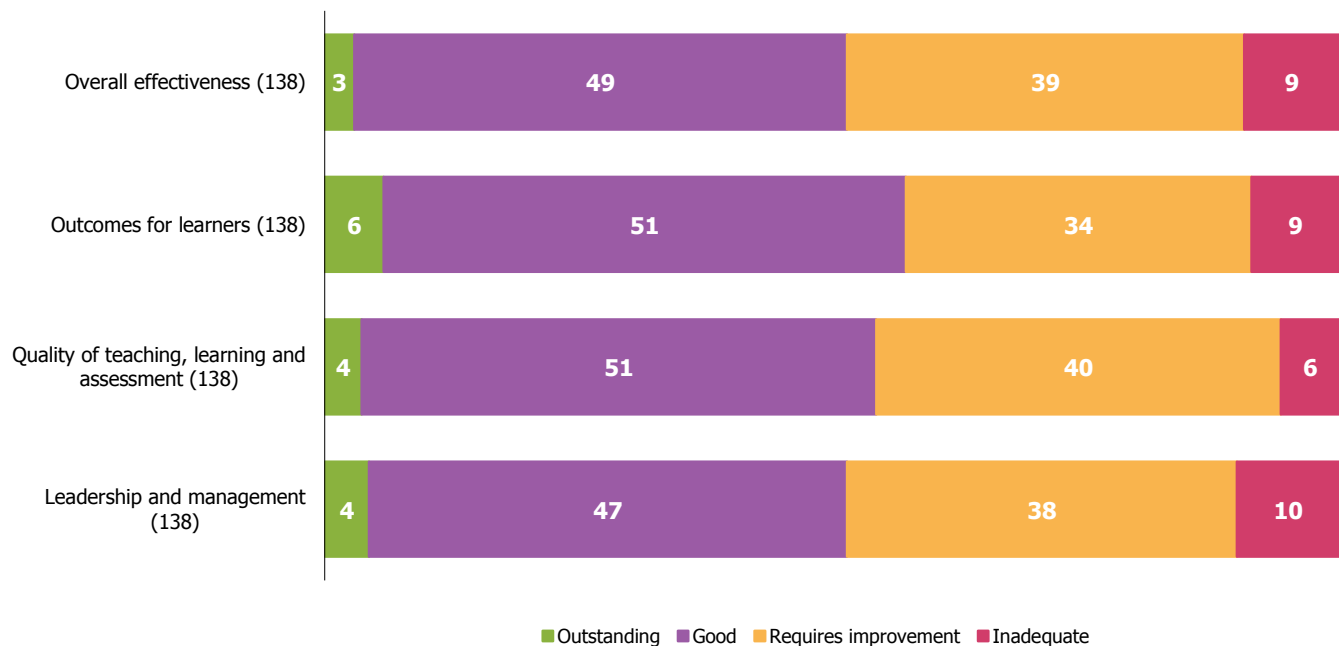
**Overall effectiveness of learning and skills providers inspected (percentage)**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.
2. As of 1 September 2012, learning and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, learning and skills providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.
3. Includes general further education college/tertiary college, sixth form college, specialist further education college and independent specialist college.

**Chart 3: Key inspection judgements of learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, percentage (provisional) <sup>1 2</sup>**

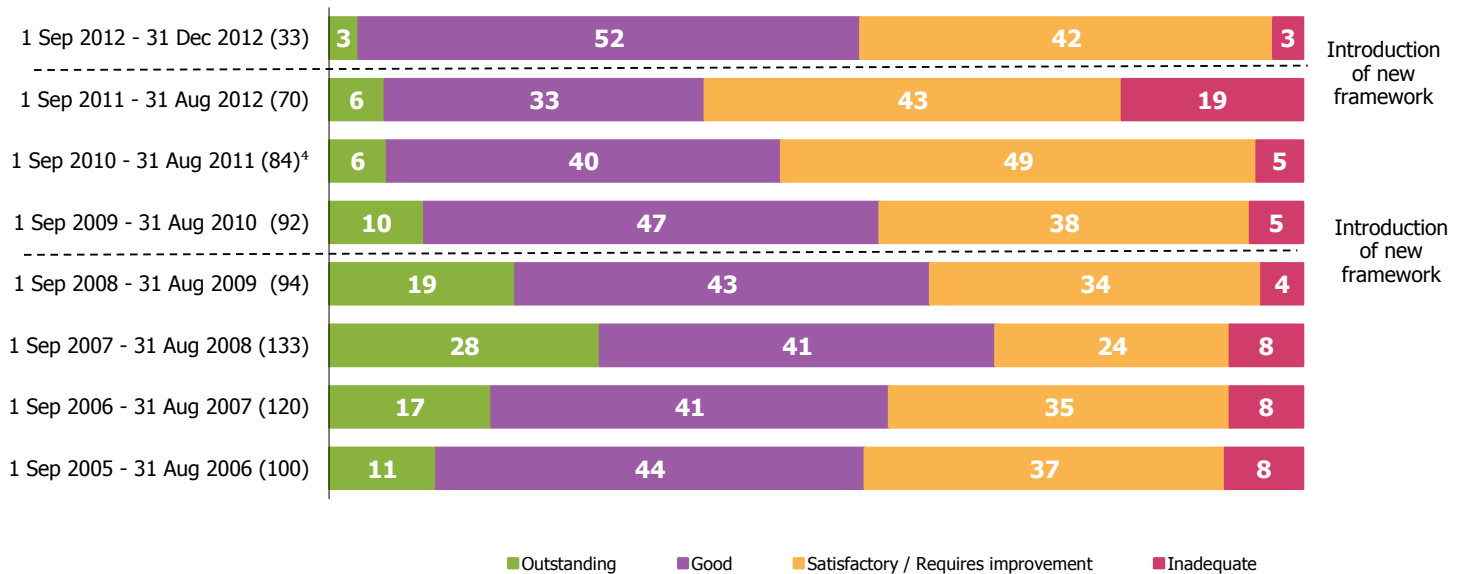
**Key inspection judgements of learning and skills providers inspected (percentage)**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.  
2. Does not include inspections of the Dance and Drama Awards scheme, further education in higher education institute inspections, or prison inspections.

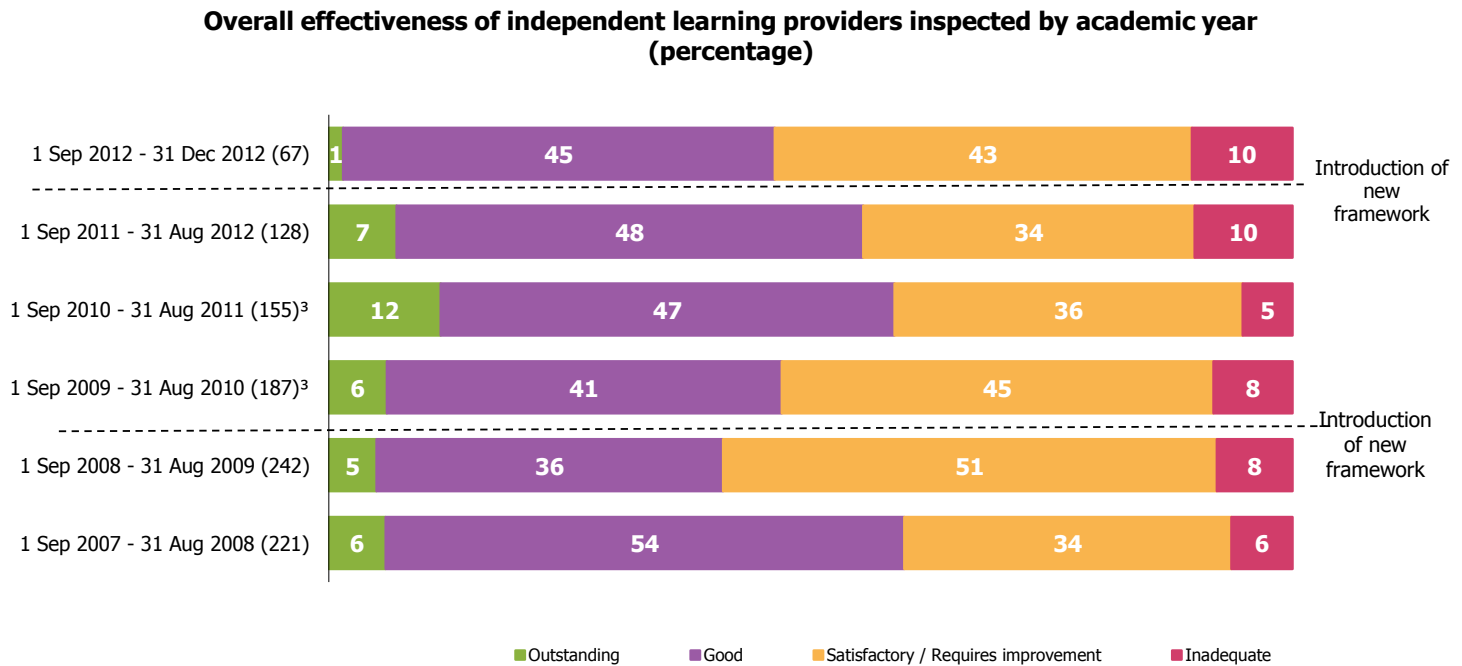
**Chart 4: Overall effectiveness of colleges inspected between 1 September 2005 and 31 December 2012, by academic year, percentage** <sup>1 2 3</sup>

**Overall effectiveness of colleges inspected by academic year (percentage)**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.  
 2. Includes general further education/tertiary college (including specialist further education), sixth form college and independent specialist college.  
 3. As of 1 September 2012, learning and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, learning and skills providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.  
 4. Data vary slightly to that reported in previous years due to Ofsted's change in provider types.

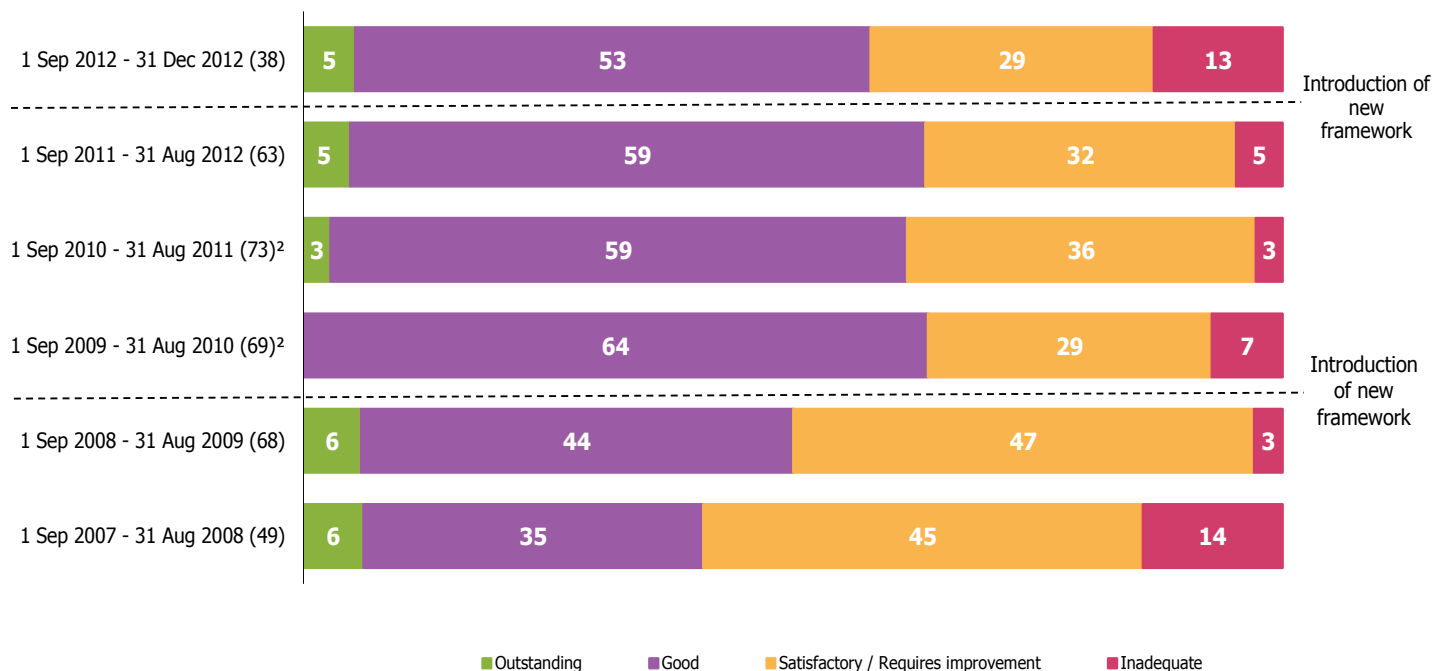
**Chart 4a: Overall effectiveness of independent learning providers inspected between 1 September 2007 and 31 December 2012, by academic year, percentage**<sup>1 2 3</sup>



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.
2. Includes employer providers.
3. As of 1 September 2012, learning and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, learning and skills providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.
4. Data vary slightly to that reported in previous years due to Ofsted's change in provider types.

**Chart 4b: Overall effectiveness of community learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2007 and 31 December 2012, by academic year, percentage<sup>1 2 3</sup>**

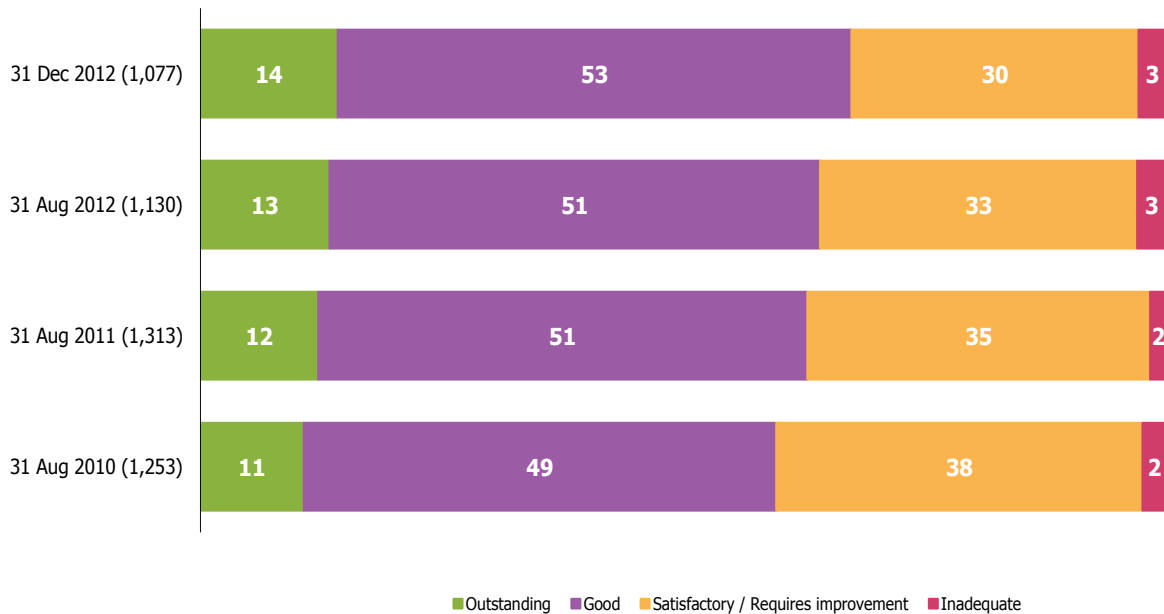
**Overall effectiveness of community learning and skills learning providers inspected (percentage)**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.
2. Data vary slightly to that reported in previous years due to Ofsted's change in provider types.
3. As of 1 September 2012, learning and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, learning and skills providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.

**Chart 5: Most recent overall effectiveness of learning and skills providers inspected at 31 December 2012 compared to the most recent overall effectiveness at 31 August 2011 and 31 August 2010, percentage (provisional) <sup>1 2 3</sup>**

**Most recent overall effectiveness of learning and skills providers inspected over time (percentage)**



1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.
2. Includes general further education/tertiary college (including specialist further education college), sixth form college, independent specialist college, independent learning provider (including employer provider), and community learning and skills providers.
3. As of 1 September 2012, learning and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, learning and skills providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.

**Table 1: Number of learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012, by provider and inspection type (provisional) <sup>1</sup>**

<b>Inspection activity</b>	<b>All learning and skills</b>	<b>All colleges</b>	<b>Further education in higher education institutions<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Independent learning provider</b>	<b>Community learning and skills</b>	<b>Prisons <sup>3</sup></b>
Full inspections	148	31	5	63	38	11
Re-inspections	6	2	0	4	0	0
Monitoring visits	1	1	0	0	0	0
Re-inspection monitoring visits	8	6	0	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>11</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Includes general further education college/tertiary college, sixth form college, specialist further education college and independent specialist college.

2. Inspection of further education provision only, not providers as a whole.

3. Prison inspections where the report has been published within the reporting period.

**Table 2: Inspection outcomes of learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) <sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Does not include inspections of further education in higher education institute inspections, prison inspections.

2. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.



**Table 2a: Inspection outcomes of colleges inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) <sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Includes general further education college/tertiary college, sixth form college and independent specialist college.

2. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 2b: Inspection outcomes of general further education colleges/tertiary college inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) <sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Includes specialist further education college.

2. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 2c: Inspection outcomes of sixth form colleges inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) <sup>1</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 2d: Inspection outcomes of independent specialist colleges inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) <sup>1</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 2e: Inspection outcomes of higher education institutes inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional)<sup>1</sup>**

**Inspection judgements relate to the further education provision only not providers as a whole**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 2f: Inspection outcomes of independent learning providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional)<sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

2. Includes employer providers.

**Table 2g: Inspection outcomes of community learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) <sup>1</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>The quality of teaching, learning and assessment</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>The effectiveness of leadership and management</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

**Table 2h: Inspection outcomes of prison and young offender institutions inspected between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional) <sup>1 2</sup>**

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Achievements of prisoners engaged in learning and skills and work (outcomes for learners)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Quality of learning and skills and work provision (The quality of teaching, learning and assessment)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Leadership and management of learning and skills and work (leadership and management)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>

*Source: Ofsted*

1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to 100. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

2. Approximate equivalent judgement in the *Common inspection framework for further education and skills* is shown in brackets.



**Table 3: Learning and skills providers judged inadequate between 1 September 2012 and 31 December 2012 (provisional)**

<b>URN</b>	<b>Provider name</b>	<b>Type of provider</b>	<b>Date of inspection</b>
53615	North West Training Council	Community learning and skills	21/09/2012
51071	Central Training UK Limited	Independent learning provider	21/09/2012
50524	Arthur Rank Training Unit	Community learning and skills	28/09/2012
58356	Arcanum Solutions Ltd	Independent learning provider	05/10/2012
58199	Superdrug Stores PLC	Employer	19/10/2012
51137	Surrey Hills Onward Learning	Community learning and skills	19/10/2012
130709	South Worcestershire College	General further education/tertiary college	26/10/2012
57820	Booths	Employer	26/10/2012
59068	Northgate Information Solutions UK Limited	Employer	02/11/2012
58152	PRESET Charitable Trust	Community learning and skills	23/11/2012
58132	Yorkshire Training Partnership Limited	Independent learning provider	30/11/2012
58173	Above Bar College Limited	Independent learning provider	30/11/2012
59120	Hillcroft College	Community learning and skills	17/12/2012

*Source: Ofsted*

## **Glossary**

From September 2011 Ofsted categorises providers in the following ways:

### Community learning and skills provider

Community learning and skills providers include local authorities, charities, voluntary and community organisations, specially designated institutions, and community interest companies. Their provision is diverse in character and aims to meet the needs and interests of a wide range of communities. Courses include those leading to qualifications; programmes leading to qualifications whilst in employment; provision for informal adult learning; provision for social and personal development.

From 1 September 2012 Ofsted categorised adult and community learning providers as community learning and skills providers.

### General further education college

General further education colleges offer a range of education and training opportunities for learners aged from 14 years upwards, including adults.

### Independent learning provider

A company which provides government funded education. The category independent learning provider includes employer providers who only offer government funded training to their own employees.

### Independent specialist college

Independent specialist colleges provide education and training for students with complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities, whose learning needs cannot be met by their local college or provider.

### Offender learning

Ofsted undertakes judicial service inspections in partnership with HMI Prisons. Ofsted HMI evaluate the quality of learning and skills in prisons, including young offender institutions and secure units for young people and also provision in community settings. Since 1 January 2012, Ofsted no longer publishes reports for prison and young offender institutions. These reports can now be found on the HMIP website:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/hmi-prisons>

Ofsted contributes to a reduced number of judgements in these reports.  
From 30 June 2012 Ofsted ceased to inspect probation trusts.

## Sector subject areas

Sector subjects are grouped into 15 areas of learning. Each area of learning has a number of tier 2 subject areas. For example area of learning 7 retail and commercial enterprise, includes 7.4 hospitality and catering, 7.2 warehousing and 7.3a hairdressing and beauty therapy. Ofsted inspects teaching and learning in a sample of tier 2 subjects during full inspections and re-inspections.

A full list of sector subject areas can be found on the Ofqual website:

<http://www2.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/142-statistics-articles/429-sector-subject-area-classification-system-ssac>

## Sixth form college

A sixth form college is an educational institution where students aged 16 to 18 typically study for advanced school-level qualifications, such as A-levels, or school-level qualifications such as GCSEs.

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