

Statistical First Release

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2011/12 QUALIFICATION SUCCESS RATES FOR ENGLISH SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS

These are experimental statistics.

INTRODUCTION

Qualification Success Rates (QSRs) measure the proportion of academic and vocational learning aims that are started, finished and completed successfully at school and academy sixth forms by 16-19 year old students. QSRs enable the comparison of success rates between providers, promoting wider improvement in the quality of education provision.

This Statistical First Release provides experimental statistics on QSRs for state-funded mainstream schools in England across academic and vocational learning aims at levels 1, 2, 3 and '4 or higher'. This is the first year that national figures for QSRs have been published.

The statistics are published as "Experimental Statistics" and do not display the National Statistics Logo. They are still being evaluated and remain subject to further testing to determine their reliability and ability to meet customer needs. The figures should be treated with caution. As improvements are made to the methodology, data quality will be assessed to establish whether the statistics meet the quality standards for National Statistics.

2011/12 QUALIFICATION SUCCESS RATES

- The national Qualification Success Rates at level 3 were 84% (based on 1,223,220 learning aims) for academic qualifications and 71% (38,076 learning aims) for vocational qualifications.
- For level 2 the national QSRs were 73% (36,953 learning aims) and 72% (12,247 learning aims), for academic and vocational qualifications respectively.
- For levels 1 and '4 or higher' the overall number of learning aims were lower and there were no recorded learning aims for academic qualifications at these levels.
 - At level 1 the national QSR for vocational qualifications was 70% (3,014 learning aims).
 - The majority of aims at level '4 or higher' had unknown qualification status; the national QSR for these aims was 78% (1,014 aims).

The table is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/series/statistics-a-as-levels-key-stage-5>

Statistical First Release

TECHNICAL NOTES

1. *Experimental Statistics*

Success rates are classified as experimental statistics as the data are still being evaluated and remain subject to further testing in terms of reliability and ability to meet customer needs. The data should be treated with caution.

2. *Cohort*

This Statistical First Release (experimental statistics) reports on 16-19 years olds completing their planned learning aims in the 2011/12 academic year only. A learning aim is the particular course or qualification that a student studies. For example, a student taking AS levels in Mathematics, History and Economics will have three learning aims recorded in the success rates dataset.

3. *Timing*

2011/12 success rates include any learning aim with a planned end date within the academic year 2011/12 (1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012). Learning aims with a planned end date outside the 2011/12 academic year have been excluded from the 2011/12 success rates.

4. *Data sources*

For 2011/12, the vast majority of data used to calculate a schools success rate were taken directly from the schools 2012 Autumn Census. In addition, data from the National Pupil Database (NPD) were used.

5. The national figures represent the totals for all types of learning aims (academic, vocational and unknown) for a given level.

6. *QSRs learning aims inclusion criteria:*

- **Qualifying period:** The qualifying period for learning aims is six weeks for long qualifications (long qualifications are ≥ 24 weeks), two weeks for short qualifications (≥ 2 weeks but < 24 weeks) and one day for very short qualifications (≤ 2 weeks).
- **Planned end dates:** Learning aims scheduled to be completed during the academic year 2011/12 (1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012) are included in the success rates.

7. *QSRs exclusion criteria:*

- **Eligibility of qualification for inclusion in the success rate:** Key skills and functional skills courses are not included in the success rates.
- **Dual registered students:** Students who are registered as 'subsidiary' at an institution are not included in the QSRs for that institution as they will be counted at their 'main' institution.
- **Transfers:** Where students transfer from one learning aim to another, the original learning aim is not included in the success rates.
- **Sponsored academies:** Sponsored academies which opened on or after 12th September 2011 are included in national totals but are not shown in the table.

8. *Symbols used in the table*

(x) At school level, learning aim values of 1 and 2 have been suppressed to preserve the confidentiality of individuals. To ensure the data are meaningful, national totals are only shown for a category where there are 6 or more learning aims. Where a category has less than 6 learning aims, the figure has been suppressed.

(-) positive % less than 0.5

(.) not applicable

Statistical First Release

9. *Data quality*

33 schools have known data quality issues as a result of input errors in the 2012 Autumn Census. Schools with known data quality issues have been highlighted with a data quality indicator in the main table.

10. *Background*

In previous years, the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) published these figures on their website but not as a Statistical First Release so this is the first year that DfE have produced this publication. There are no comparable national figures for previous years as these were not produced by the YPLA.

11. *FE colleges*

The 2011/12 Qualification Success Rates for FE colleges are published at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/success_rates/success_rates_2011-12/

Enquiries

1. Enquiries (non-media) or feedback about information contained in this document should be addressed to Data Dissemination Unit 4 Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT or e-mail QSR.REPORT@education.gsi.gov.uk. Providers must include their LAestab number in the subject of the e-mail.
2. Media enquiries about information contained in this Statistical First Release should be made to the Department's Press Office at DfE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT or telephone 020 7783 8300.