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Introduction

1. On 1 September 2013 learning and skills was renamed further education and skills. This official statistics release reports on inspections of further education and skills providers that occurred between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014. Providers were inspected against the *Common inspection framework for further education and skills 2012*. This framework sets out the judgements that inspectors will make during inspection and the principles that apply to further education and skills inspections under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The inspection framework can be found at www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120062.
2. There are four main areas against which a provider is assessed:
 - a. Overall effectiveness
 - b. Outcomes for learners
 - c. The quality of teaching, learning and assessment
 - d. The effectiveness of leadership and management
3. There are four judgements a provider can receive against these areas: outstanding, good, requires improvement and inadequate. Further information can be found on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/120062.
4. The overall aim of inspection is to evaluate how efficiently and effectively the education and training provision meets learners' needs. Inspection arrangements – together with other government initiatives – are intended to speed up improvement in the quality of the further education and skills sector.
5. Data on inspection outcomes as at 31 March 2014 use a snapshot of data to identify providers wholly or partly funded by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) or the Education Funding Agency (EFA) at that point. This information is provided to Ofsted on a monthly basis by Information Management Services.
6. Additional tables providing more detailed breakdowns are available here: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-further-education-and-skills-inspections-and-outcomes>
7. Data and information prior to April 2013 can be found here: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/official-statistics-learning-and-skills-inspections-and-outcomes>

Key findings

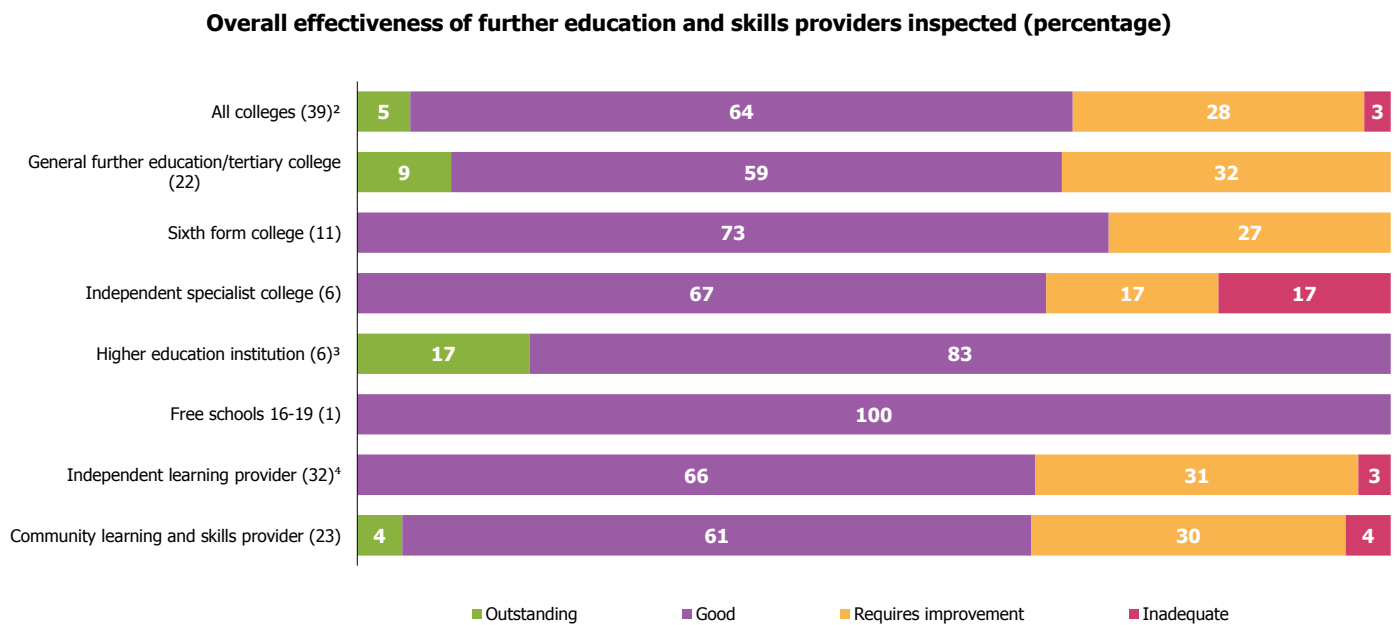
- From 1 September 2012 Ofsted has been inspecting against a new common inspection framework. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, there have been 101 inspections of further education and skills providers. This consisted of 39 inspections of colleges, 32 inspections of independent learning providers and 23 inspections of community learning and skills providers. Ofsted has also carried out one inspection of Free schools 16-19 and six inspections of further education in higher education institutions. Ofsted also contributed to the inspection of 13 prison and young offender institutions where the reports were published between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014.
- Ofsted continues to select a proportion of providers for inspection based on concerns about their current performance. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, 21% of the providers inspected were selected for this reason. This is lower than the 32% of inspections that were selected through risk assessed over the same period last year.
- During the period 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, four providers (four per cent) were judged outstanding, consisting of one community learning and skills provider, two general further education (GFE) colleges and one provider inspected for further education provision in higher education¹. However, three providers (three per cent) were judged inadequate, consisting of an independent specialist college, a community learning and skills provider and an independent learning provider.
- GFE colleges are the largest providers of further education and skills in terms of their learner numbers. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 Ofsted inspected 22 such colleges. Of these, nine per cent were outstanding, 59% were judged good. The proportion of good or outstanding GFE colleges has been maintained at a similarly high rate to the previous quarter. Of the remaining GFE colleges 32% were judged as requires improvement and none was inadequate.
- Ofsted's new approach to grading identifies grade 3 providers as 'requires improvement'. These providers are now subject to interventions aimed at supporting them to improve their provision quickly. The proportion of previously grade 3 providers improving at their most recent inspection is now higher compared to 2012/13. Between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, 71% of providers previously judged as satisfactory/requires improvement have improved at their latest inspection.
- Ofsted has increased the focus on the quality of teaching and learning in its new framework. Of the 101 inspections carried out in this reporting period, four providers were judged outstanding for this aspect of their provision. Overall in the period being reported 73% of providers were judged to have good or outstanding teaching and learning making this the most positively judged aspect of the inspections.

¹ Ofsted also judged the further education provision in one higher education institution to be outstanding.

- Independent learning providers and community learning and skills providers had the highest proportion of providers judged inadequate or requires improvement, at 34% of those inspected in the period.
- Between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 Ofsted inspected the apprenticeship provision in 54 providers. Of these, four per cent were judged outstanding, 67% were good, 26% were judged as requires improvement and four per cent were inadequate.
- Between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 Ofsted made 379 judgements across 53 sector subject areas. Six sector subject areas had 20 or more judgements, including health and social care, early years and playwork, visual arts, business management, foundation English and employability training. Quality varied across these areas, from 60% good or outstanding in business management to 85% good or outstanding in visual arts.

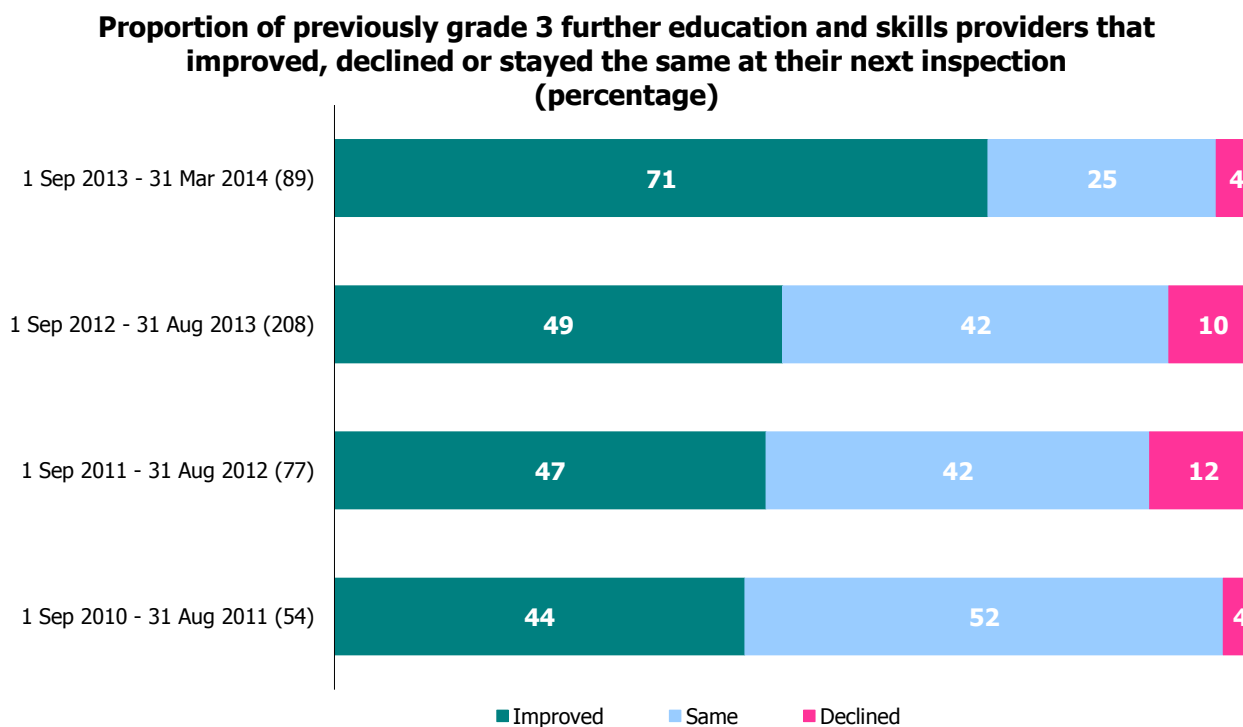
Summary of the inspection year 2013/14

Chart 1: Overall effectiveness of further education and skills providers inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, percentage (provisional)¹



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 college/tertiary college, sixth form college, specialist further education college and independent specialist college.
3. Overall effectiveness grades relate to further education provision only.
4. Includes employer providers.

Chart 2: Proportion of previously grade 3 further education and skills providers that improved, declined or stayed the same at their next inspection at 31 March 2014 percentage (provisional) ^{1 2 3}



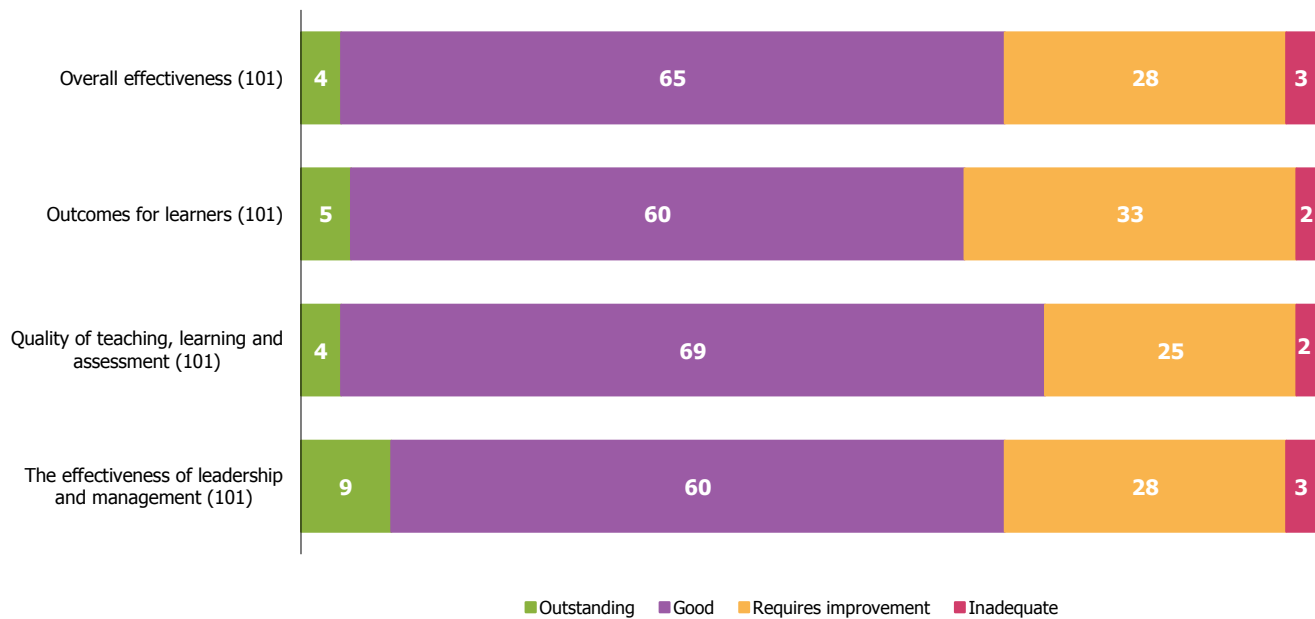
1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.
 2. As of 1 September 2012, further education and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, further education and skills providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory. We will normally inspect providers awarded a grade of satisfactory for overall effectiveness prior to September 2012 within two years from September 2012.

We will normally inspect providers awarded a grade of requires improvement for overall effectiveness again within 12–18 months.

3. Includes general further education/tertiary college (including specialist further education college), sixth form college, independent specialist college, independent learning provider (including employer providers) and community learning and skills providers.

Chart 3: Key inspection judgements of further education and skills providers inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, percentage (provisional) ^{1 2}

Key inspection judgements of further education and skills providers inspected (percentage)

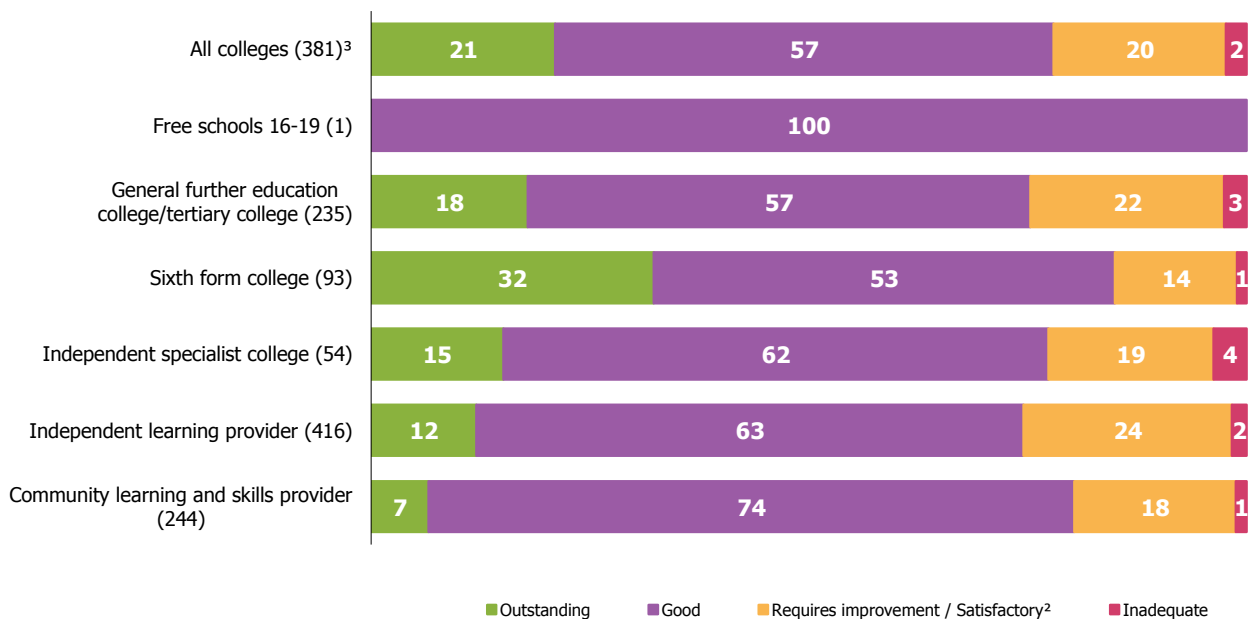


1. Percentages are rounded and may not add to exactly 100. Percentages should be viewed with caution where the number of providers is small.

2. 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 provider.

Chart 4: Overall effectiveness of all further education and skills providers inspected at 31 March 2014, percentage (provisional) ^{1 2}

Overall effectiveness of all further education 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, further education and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, further education 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.

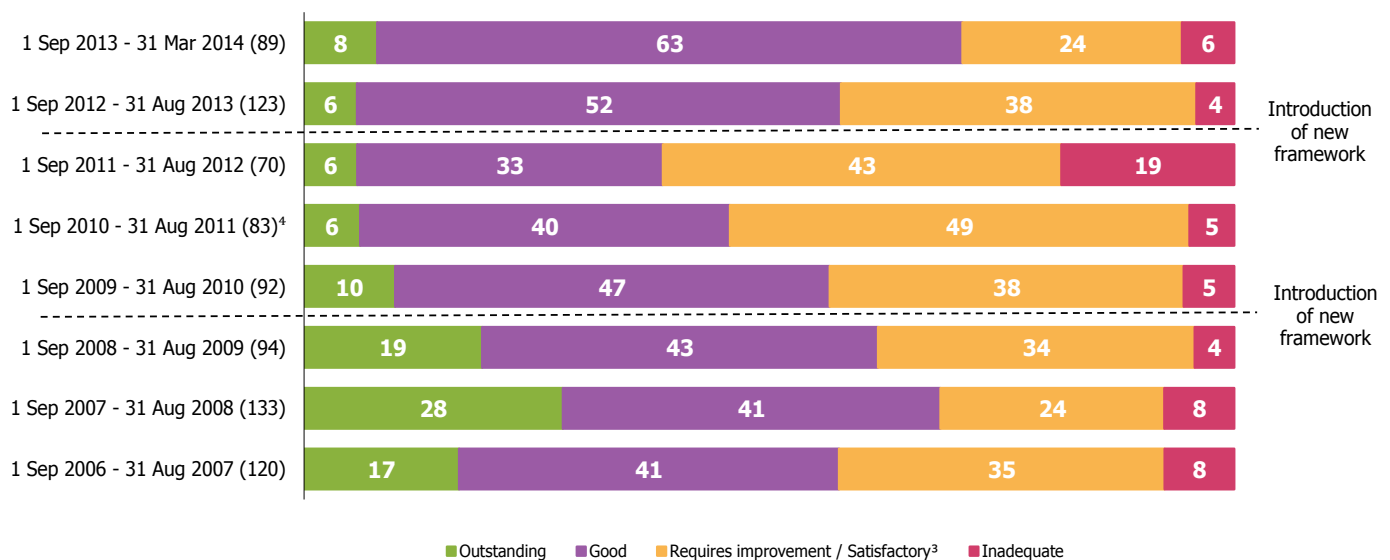
- At 31 March 2014, there were 381 colleges which had received an Ofsted inspection and were in receipt of funding². Variations exist amongst the overall effectiveness for different types of college. Sixth form colleges continue to have the highest proportion of providers currently judged to be outstanding and now also have the lowest proportion of inadequate providers.
- At 31 March 2014, 416 independent learning providers had received an Ofsted inspection and were in receipt of funding. The proportion of good and outstanding provision was 75%. Of the seven inadequate providers, none was inspected between January and March 2014.

²The 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.

- At 31 March 2014, 244 community learning and skills providers had received an Ofsted inspection and were in receipt of funding. Community learning and skills providers continue to have the lowest proportion of outstanding provision at only seven per cent although a high proportion, 74%, are good.

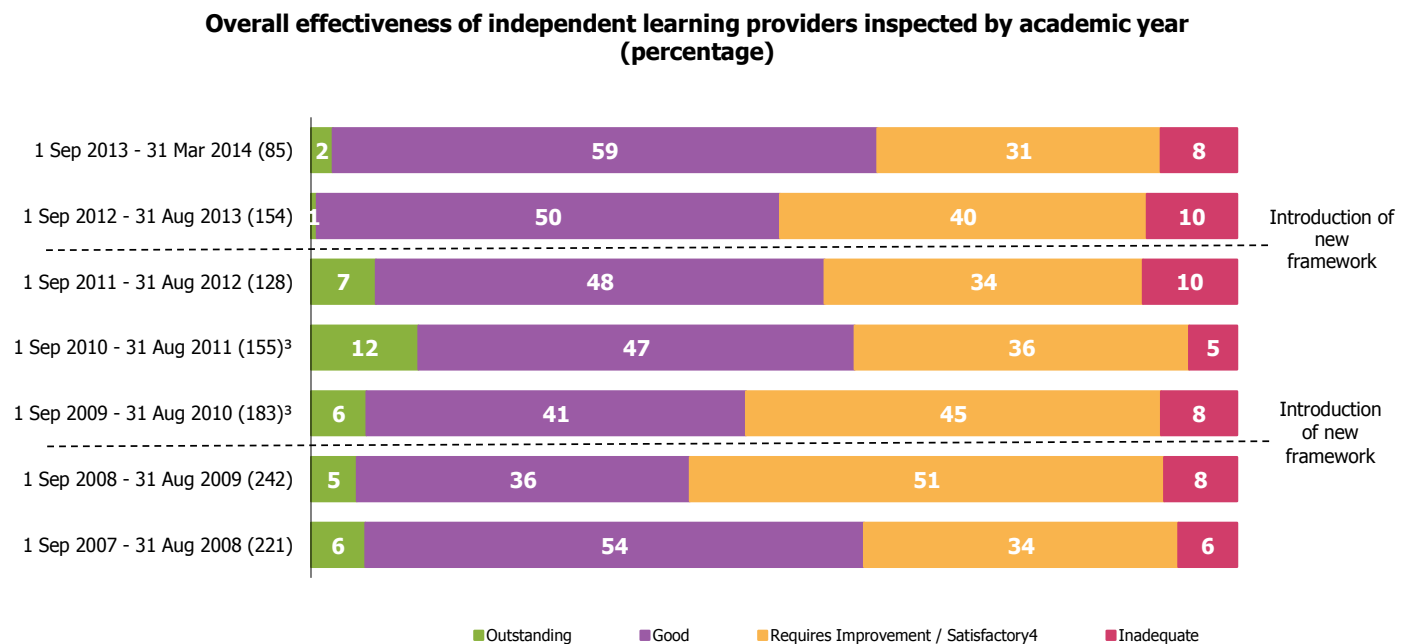
Chart 5: Overall effectiveness of colleges inspected between 1 September 2005 and 31 March 2014, by academic year, percentage (provisional) ^{1 2}

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, further education and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, further education 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.

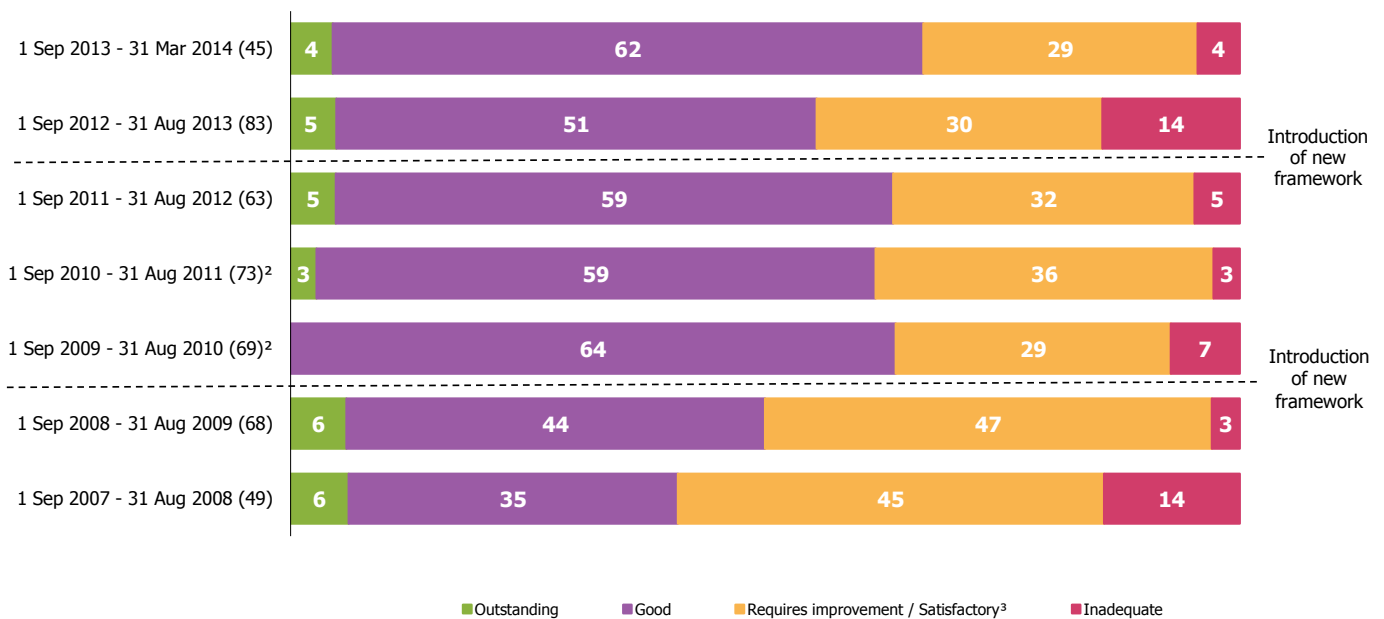
Chart 5a: Overall effectiveness of independent learning providers inspected between 1 September 2007 and 31 March 2014, by academic year, percentage (provisional) ^{1 2 3}



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. Data vary slightly to that reported in previous years due to Ofsted's change in provider types.
 4. As of 1 September 2012, further education and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, further education and skills providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.

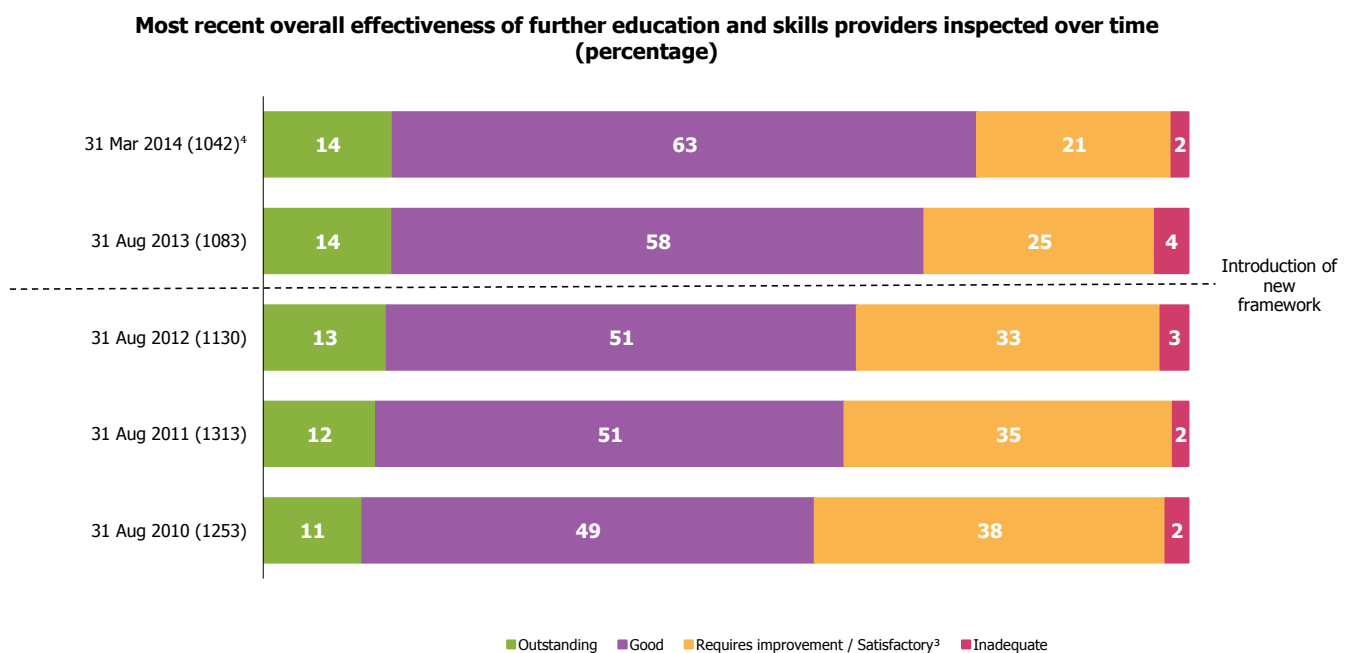
Chart 5b: Overall effectiveness of community learning and skills providers inspected between 1 September 2007 and 31 March 2014, by academic year, percentage (provisional) ^{1 2}

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, further education and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, further education providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.

Chart 6: Most recent overall effectiveness of further education and skills providers inspected at 31 March 2014 compared to the most recent overall effectiveness at 31 August 2013, 31 August 2012, 31 August 2011 and 31 August 2010, percentage (provisional) ^{1 2}



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 providers), and community learning and skills providers.
 3. As of 1 September 2012, further education and skills providers with the inspection outcome of grade 3 have been judged as requires improvement. Prior to September 2012, further education providers with an inspection outcome of grade 3 were judged as satisfactory.
 4. Based on a snapshot of providers fully or partly funded by the Education Funding Agency or Skills Funding Agency at 31 December 2013.

Table 1: Number of further education and skills providers inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014, by provider and inspection type (provisional)

Inspection activity	All further education and skills	All colleges ¹	Further education in higher education institutions ²	Free schools 16-19	National Careers Service	Independent learning provider ⁴	Community learning and skills provider	Prisons ⁵
Full inspections	110	38	6	1	0	31	21	13
Re-inspections	4	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
Monitoring visits	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Re-inspection monitoring visits	8	4	0	0	0	3	1	0
Total	132	53	6	1	0	35	24	13

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. Inspection of the Dance and Drama Awards scheme only, not providers as a whole.

4. Includes employer providers.

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

Table 2: Inspection outcomes of further education and skills providers inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	101	4	4	66	65	28	28	3	3
Outcomes for learners	101	5	5	61	60	33	33	2	2
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	101	4	4	70	69	25	25	2	2
The effectiveness of leadership and management	101	9	9	61	60	28	28	3	3

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 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 provider.

Table 2a: Inspection outcomes of colleges inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	39	2	5	25	64	11	28	1	3
Outcomes for learners	39	2	5	23	59	14	36	0	0
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	39	2	5	26	67	11	28	0	0
The effectiveness of leadership and management	39	6	15	21	54	11	28	1	3

Source: Ofsted

1. Includes general further education college/tertiary college (including specialist further education colleges), 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 colleges inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional)^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	22	2	9	13	59	7	32	0	0
Outcomes for learners	22	2	9	12	55	8	36	0	0
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	22	2	9	13	59	7	32	0	0
The effectiveness of leadership and management	22	6	27	9	41	7	32	0	0

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 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	11	0	0	8	73	3	27	0	0
Outcomes for learners	11	0	0	5	45	6	55	0	0
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	11	0	0	8	73	3	27	0	0
The effectiveness of leadership and management	11	0	0	8	73	3	27	0	0

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 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	6	0	0	4	67	1	17	1	17
Outcomes for learners	6	0	0	6	100	0	0	0	0
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	6	0	0	5	83	1	17	0	0
The effectiveness of leadership and management	6	0	0	4	67	1	17	1	17

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 2e: Inspection outcomes of higher education institutions inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ¹

Inspection judgements relate to the further education provision only, and not providers as a whole.

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	6	1	17	5	83	0	0	0	0
Outcomes for learners	6	1	17	4	67	1	17	0	0
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	6	1	17	5	83	0	0	0	0
The effectiveness of leadership and management	6	1	17	5	83	0	0	0	0

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 Free schools 16-19 inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	1	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
Outcomes for learners	1	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	1	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
The effectiveness of leadership and management	1	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0

Source: Ofsted

1. Where the number of inspections is small, percentages should be treated with caution.

Table 2g: Inspection outcomes of independent learning providers inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	32	0	0	21	66	10	31	1	3
Outcomes for learners	32	1	3	20	63	10	31	1	3
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	33	23	70	8	24	1	3	1	3
The effectiveness of leadership and management	32	1	3	20	63	10	31	1	3

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 2h: Inspection outcomes of community learning and skills providers inspected between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ¹

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Overall effectiveness	23	1	4	14	61	7	30	1	4
Outcomes for learners	23	1	4	13	57	8	35	1	4
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment	23	1	4	15	65	6	26	1	4
The effectiveness of leadership and management	23	1	4	14	61	7	30	1	4

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 2i: Inspection outcomes of prison and young offender institutions from reports published between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional) ^{1 2}

	Total number inspected	Outstanding		Good		Requires Improvement		Inadequate	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Achievements of prisoners engaged in learning and skills and work (outcomes for learners)	13	0	0	5	38	7	54	1	8
Quality of learning and skills and work provision (quality of provision)	13	0	0	7	54	5	38	1	8
Leadership and management of learning and skills and work (leadership and management)	13	0	0	3	23	8	62	2	15

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: Further education and skills providers judged outstanding between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional)

URN	Provider name	Type of provider	Date of inspection
130843	Chichester College	General further education/tertiary college	07/03/2014
51535	Developing Initiatives for Support in the Community Limited	Community learning and skills provider	07/03/2014
130645	Exeter College	General further education/tertiary college	24/01/2014
133881	University of Sunderland ¹	Higher education institution	07/03/2014

Source: Ofsted

1. Judgement relates to the further education provision only, not provider as a whole.

Table 4: Further education and skills providers judged inadequate between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014 (provisional)

URN	Provider name	Type of provider	Date of inspection
50150	CTC Kingshurst Academy	Independent learning provider	31/01/2014
58851	London Skills Academy	Community learning and skills provider	28/02/2014
133036	Ruskin Mill College	Independent specialist college	21/03/2014

Source: Ofsted

Impact of revisions on key points of previous publication

The data for the state of the nation as at 31 December 2013 includes one provider which was not reported on in the provisional statistics. A further two providers were removed from the final statistics as they were later identified as not having been funded within the reporting period.

Methodology

1. The data in this release are from inspections undertaken between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014. These inspections were carried out under the *Common Inspection Framework for further education and skills*. Statistics relating to inspections carried out in this period are provisional.
2. The quarterly selection of further education 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.
 - From September 2012, we will normally inspect providers awarded a grade of 'requires improvement' for overall effectiveness again within 12–18 months.
 - 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.

3. 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 further education and skills providers, please go to the Ofsted website:

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

4. 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>

5. 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>

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, not-for-profit companies and community organisations, specialist 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 (such as apprenticeships); 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.

Higher education institution

Where higher education institutions offer further education courses these are subject to inspection by Ofsted.

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.

National Careers Service

The National Careers Service was launched on 5 April 2012. It is available in England and provides information to those over the age of 13. The service is delivered by 11 prime contractors in 12 designated areas and the adult and young person's telephone services. National Careers Service

prime contractors are subject to an Ofsted inspection, including the adult and young people's telephone service.

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.

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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