

# Statistical Release

## Higher Level Qualifications Quarterly: January – March 2014

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### Key points

This release provides information on the range and volume of, and certificates issued for, regulated qualifications at Level 4 and above (equivalent to post A level) from January to March 2014 and their trends over the past five years.

The key findings for this release are:

- In this quarter, 21,050 certificates were issued for higher level qualifications, a decrease of 19 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2013. We have seen a decline in the number of certificates issued since 2011.
- The number of certificates awarded for all levels and all type of qualifications (except vocationally related qualifications) shows a decline this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2013.
- The number of available higher level qualifications has declined for the second quarter in a row, from 2,598 in quarter 4 of 2013 to 2,415 this quarter (a 7 per cent decrease).
- Level 4 and Level 5 certificate numbers have declined mainly in the sector subject areas of education and training, and business, administration, finance and law.

## Introduction

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

In this release, we present data on vocational qualifications. Vocational and other qualifications exclude GCSEs, AS, A levels, the Diploma and the components that make up the Diploma – project and principal learning. They are taken in order to improve career progression, personal growth or for leisure purposes. In addition they include other academic qualifications taken in schools, sixth forms and colleges, for example international GCSEs and BTECs.

We present data on available regulated qualifications and the number of awards for these qualifications. When a qualification is accredited, it is classified as one of 18 qualification types. Here we present figures on seven<sup>1</sup> of these types that cover qualifications at Level 4 and above, known as higher level qualifications (equivalent to post A level), in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There will be some overlap between the figures in this release and those in the *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly*, because the qualifications covered in this release are a subset of those covered in the other. This release does not include qualifications such as university degrees, which are regulated by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

The figures represent both the quarter January – March 2014 and the 12-month period to the end of March 2014.

To help you interpret the content, a glossary of terms is available towards the end of this release, followed by the data tables in the appendix.

We are thinking of combining this bulletin with the related *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly*. We would like your views on this change or on any other improvements. If you would like to contribute, please contact us before 18th July at: [statistics@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@ofqual.gov.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), higher level, key skills, national vocational qualifications (NVQs), occupational qualifications, Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), vocationally related qualifications.

## **Key statistics**

In the quarter January – March 2014, 21,050 certificates were issued for higher level qualifications, a decline of 19 per cent compared with 26,050 in January – March 2013.

The number of available qualifications declined, from 2,598 qualifications in October – December 2013 to 2,415 this quarter (a 7 per cent decrease). The decline was in all types of qualifications except those in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) and vocationally related qualifications.

Over the past five years, the number of awarding organisations offering and awarding higher level qualifications has grown continually, but in this quarter the number stabilised, with the same number of awarding organisations (136) now offering qualifications compared with quarter 4 of 2013.

## Tables of key statistics

### Number of awarding organisations

	October- December 2013	January- March 2014	Change on previous quarter (%)	
<b>Number of awarding organisations with</b>				
available qualifications	136	136	0	
available qualifications that have been certified in the quarter	88	92	5	
<b>Number of available qualifications</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>2,415</b>	<b>-7</b>	
<b>Number of available qualifications by type</b>				
English for speakers of other languages	3	2	-33	
Higher level	355	221	-38	
Key skills	42	36	-14	
National vocational qualification	179	105	-41	
Occupational qualification	29	6	-79	
QCF	1,987	2,038	3	
Vocationally related qualification	3	7	133	
<b>Number of available qualifications by level</b>				
Level 4	1,445	1,355	-6	
Level 5	691	622	-10	
Level 6	257	240	-7	
Level 7	199	192	-4	
Level 8	6	6	0	
<b>Number of available qualifications by sector subject area</b>				
01 - Health, public services and care	315	296	-6	
02 - Science and mathematics	29	23	-21	
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	66	62	-6	
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	209	196	-6	
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	85	69	-19	
06 - Information and communication technology	59	53	-10	
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	158	158	0	
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	76	70	-8	
09 - Arts, media and publishing	185	153	-17	
10 - History, philosophy and theology	1	1	0	
11 - Social sciences	0	0	0	
12 - Languages, literature and culture	61	52	-15	
13 - Education and training	505	496	-2	
14 - Preparation for life and work	64	58	-9	
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	785	728	-7	

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Number of certificates awarded							
	January- March 2013	January- March 2014	Change on previous quarter (%)		April- March 2013	April- March 2014	Change on previous 12 months (%)
Overall number of certificates awarded	26,050	21,050	-19		128,350	116,450	-9
Number of certificates by type of qualification							
QCF	23,200	19,700	-15	<div></div>	109,900	108,300	-1
Higher Level	2,050	900	-56	<div></div>	13,250	6,050	-54
National Vocational Qualification	750	350	-53	<div></div>	4,850	1,750	-64
Vocationally-Related Qualification	-	100	-		-	300	-
Occupational Qualification	50	0	-100	<div></div>	300	50	-83
English for Speakers of Other Languages	0	-	-		50	-	-
Key Skills	-	-	-		0	0	-
Number of certificates by qualification level							
Level 4	14,300	11,850	-17	<div></div>	75,350	63,800	-15
Level 5	7,350	6,600	-10	<div></div>	34,750	36,400	5
Level 6	2,800	1,500	-46	<div></div>	10,300	9,150	-11
Level 7	1,450	1,050	-28	<div></div>	7,700	6,750	-12
Level 8	100	50	-50	<div></div>	250	400	60
Number of certificates by sector subject area							
01 - Health, public services and care	2,400	2,500	4	<div></div>	11,000	11,750	7
02 - Science and mathematics	50	50	-		200	300	50
03 - Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	50	100	100	<div></div>	750	750	0
04 - Engineering and manufacturing technologies	400	500	25	<div></div>	4,700	4,500	-4
05 - Construction, planning and the built environment	650	650	0		4,150	4,000	-4
06 - Information and communication technology	150	100	-33	<div></div>	1,150	1,200	4
07 - Retail and commercial enterprise	350	350	0		2,050	2,050	0
08 - Leisure, travel and tourism	250	200	-20	<div></div>	1,250	1,250	0
09 - Arts, media and publishing	900	950	6	<div></div>	8,800	7,900	-10
10 - History, philosophy and theology	0	-	-		0	-	-
11 - Social sciences	-	-	-		-	-	-
12 - Languages, literature and culture	100	100	0		750	700	-7
13 - Education and training	7,400	6,050	-18	<div></div>	31,200	32,450	4
14 - Preparation for life and work	0	50	-		100	100	0
15 - Business, administration, finance and law	13,300	9,450	-29	<div></div>	62,150	49,450	-20

## Analysis

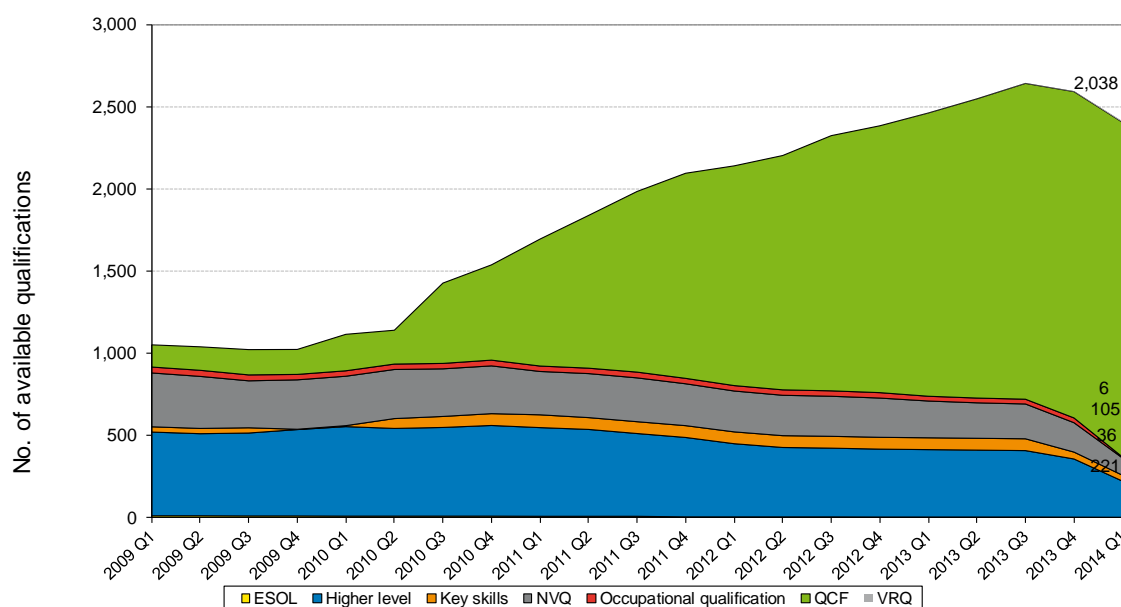
In this release, we consider all higher level regulated qualifications that are available in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. When a qualification is accredited, it is classified as one of 18 qualification types. Here we present figures on the seven types that are qualifications at Level 4 and above: English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), higher level, key skills, national vocational qualifications (NVQs), occupational qualifications, the QCF and vocationally related qualifications.

### Qualifications available

This quarter, the number of available regulated higher level qualifications declined for the second time in a row, in the last five years. In January – March 2014, there were 2,415 qualifications available, a decline of 7 per cent from October – December 2013 (see figure 1).

Compared with October – December 2013, the number of available qualifications this quarter decreased across all types, except the QCF (an increase from 1,987 to 2,038) and vocationally related qualifications (an increase from three to seven). The number of qualifications on the QCF now appears to be stabilising after growing since 2008.

**Figure 1:** Number of available regulated higher level qualifications per quarter by qualification type, January - March 2009 (2009 Q1) to January - March 2014 (2014 Q1)



**Key:** QCF: Qualifications and credit framework; NVQ: National vocational qualification; ESOL: English for speakers of other languages.

For more detailed information on the number of available qualifications, see table 1 of the appendix.

During this quarter, 96 new QCF qualifications, two new NVQs and one new vocationally related qualification were added to the list of available regulated higher level qualifications. Around 56 per cent of the new QCF qualifications were at Level 4. We also saw that 134 higher level, 76 NVQs, 45 QCF, 23 occupational qualifications, six key skills and one ESOL qualification were no longer available.

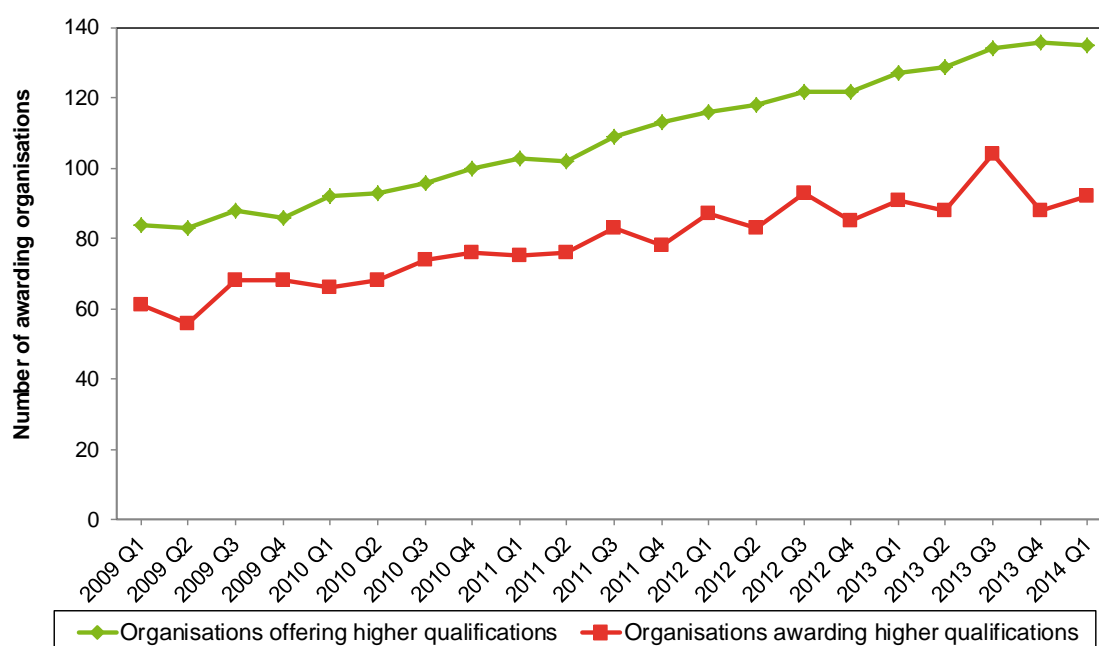
## Awarding organisations

This quarter, 136 recognised awarding organisations offered regulated higher level qualifications. This is the same number as in October – December 2013. Ninety-two of these awarding organisations issued certificates for higher level qualifications.

Compared to the previous quarter, there was one awarding organisation with certifications for the first time in higher level qualifications: the National Federation of Property Professionals, with three qualifications first taught in January 2014.

Figure 2 shows a trend, evident since quarter 2 of 2011, for a greater number of awarding organisations to award higher level qualifications in quarters 1 and 3 of each year. This may be simply because this pattern fits the academic year calendar, which dictates the activity of many of the providers of the courses that lead to these qualifications.

**Figure 2:** Total number of awarding organisations with at least one available higher level qualification per quarter, and awarding organisations that have awarded at least one certificate, January - March 2009 (2009 Q1) to January - March 2014 (2014 Q1)



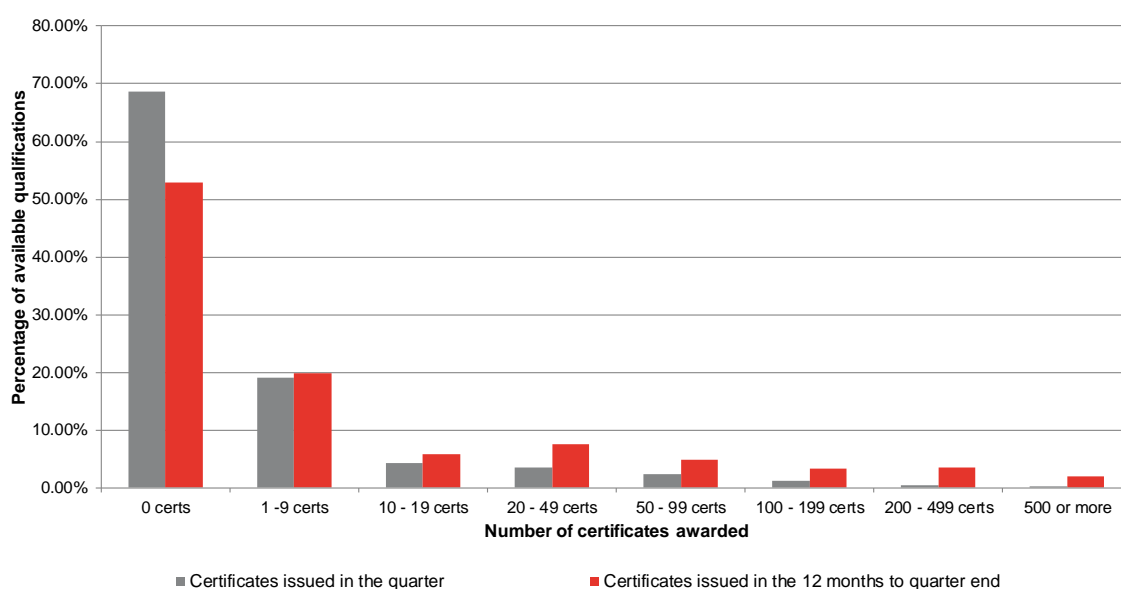


### Qualifications available and qualifications awarded

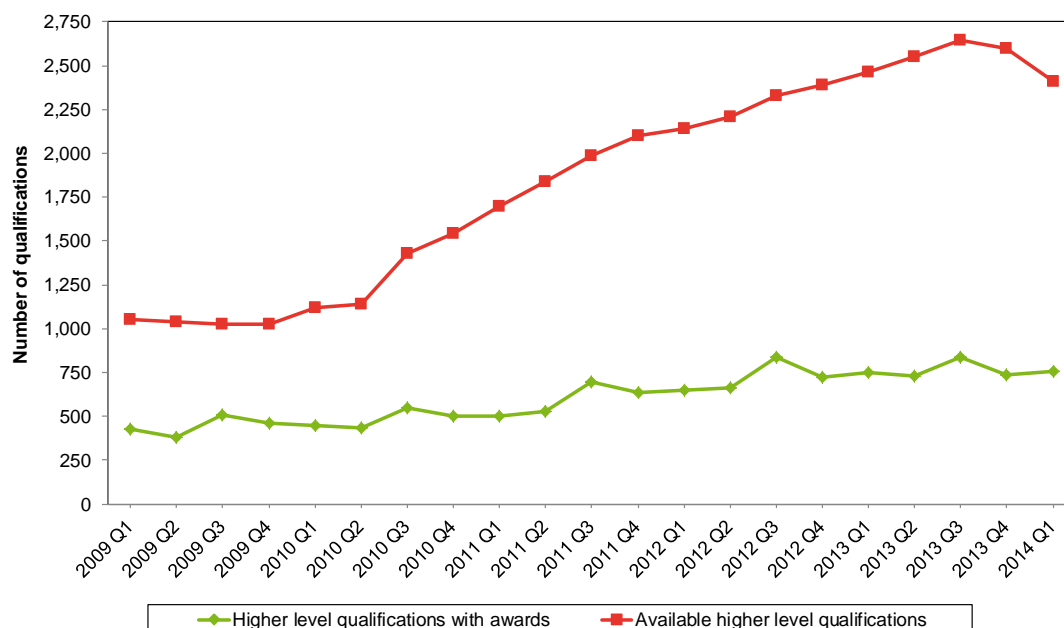
Higher level qualifications generally have fewer certificates issued than those below Level 4. This can be seen in figure 3, which shows the number of awarding qualifications by how many certificates were issued in January – March 2014.

More than two-thirds of the qualifications had no certificates issued and more than 87 per cent had awards with fewer than ten certificates issued this quarter. Over the 12-month period to the end of March 2014, more than half of the available qualifications had no certificates and more than three-quarters of the qualifications saw fewer than 20 certificates issued.

**Figure 3:** Percentage of higher level qualifications by the number of certificates they awarded in January - March 2014 and 12 months to end March 2014



**Figure 4:** Total number of available higher qualifications per quarter, and total number of higher qualifications with awards, January - March 2009 (2009 Q1) to January - March 2014 (2014 Q1)



The gap between the available higher level qualifications and the higher level qualifications with awards shows the number of inactive qualifications (qualifications with no certificates issued in the last 12 months). This can be seen in Figure 4.

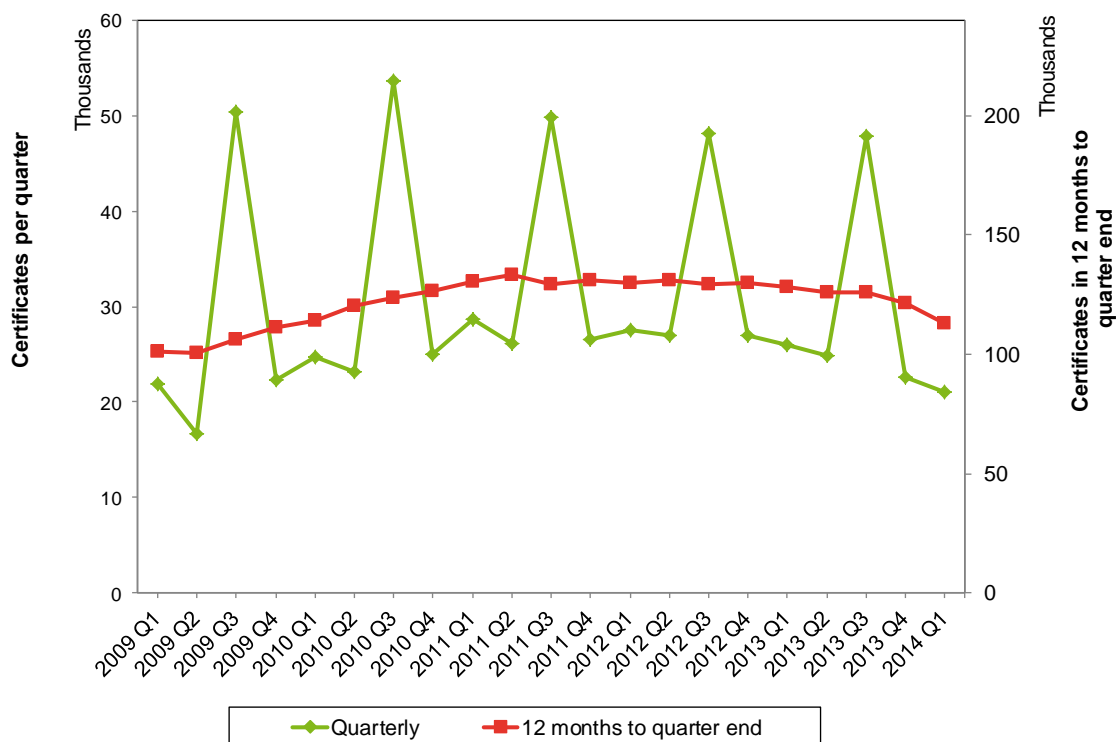
We analysed inactive qualifications in the last 12 months by sector subject area using a simple regression model. This showed that three sector subject areas had more inactive qualifications than we would expect given the number of available qualifications: engineering and manufacturing technologies; languages, literature and culture; and preparation for life and work. All of these qualifications are more than two years old.

### Certificates issued by awarding organisations

This quarter, 21,050 certificates were issued for higher level qualifications (see table 2 of the appendix), a decrease of 19 per cent on the same quarter of 2013 (see figure 5). This is the lowest number of certificates issued in quarter 1 since January – March 2008.

The majority of the certificates issued were for QCF qualifications (19,700 certificates, 94 per cent). Only vocationally related qualifications saw an increase in the number of certificates issued this quarter compared with January – March 2013 (100 certificates compared with fewer than 25). Certificate numbers in all other types of qualifications have declined (see table 6 of the appendix).

**Figure 5:** Total number of certificates issued per quarter and in the 12 months to the end of each quarter, January - March 2009 (2009 Q1) to January - March 2014 (2014 Q1)



## Certificates by awarding organisation

The ten awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates accounted for 74 per cent of all certificates issued in January – March 2014 (figure 6).

**Figure 6:** The ten awarding organisations with the most certificates in higher level qualifications, January - March 2014 (January - March 2013 figures shown for comparison)

Awarding organisation	Number of certificates		% share of total certificates	% change in certificates
	January - March 2013	January - March 2014		
Pearson Education Ltd <sup>1</sup>	4,750	4,100	19	-14
City and Guilds of London Institute	3,500	3,000	14	-14
Institute of Leadership & Management	1,650	1,900	9	15
Chartered Management Institute	2,150	1,700	8	-21
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,200	1,550	7	29
OCR	900	1,150	5	28
Cambridge English Language Assessment	1,350	850	4	-37
Trinity College London	500	500	2	0
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	200	400	2	100
Cskills Awards	500	400	2	-20

<sup>1</sup> Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Edexcel and EDI

Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance (HABC) issued a higher number of certificates this quarter compared with January – March 2013. The increase of 200 certificates can be attributed mainly to the HABC Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF) qualification.

A decline of 22 per cent was seen in certificates awarded in the subject sector areas of education and training (from 2,050 certificates in January – March 2013 to 1,550 this quarter) and business, administration, finance and law (from 1,800 to 1,400).

Certificates awarded by City and Guilds of London Institute also decreased in the education and training sector subject area, mainly in City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF) (from 1,850 in January – March 2013 to 1,150 this quarter).

The 50 awarding organisations that awarded the most certificates this quarter are listed in table 4 of the appendix.

## Certificates by qualification

The five qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued during January – March 2014 made up 18 per cent of all certificates issued in this quarter (figure 7).

**Figure 7:** The five higher level qualifications with the most certificates, January - March 2014 (January - March 2013 figures shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates		% change in certificates
	January - March 2013	January - March 2014	
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	1,850	1,150	-38
AAT Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF)	1,000	1,000	0
Cambridge English Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (QCF)	1,150	700	-39
AAT Level 4 Award In Tax (HMRC) (QCF)*	50	500	200
Pearson Edexcel Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	550	450	-18

\* The increase since the same quarter last year is greater than 200 per cent

Qualifications in preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector saw a decline in the number of certificates issued this quarter, whereas, until quarter 3 of 2013, there had been an increase. This is probably due to the recommendations of the Lord Lingfield review<sup>2</sup> and the fact that the legislative regulations covering qualification requirements for further education teachers were removed from September 2013.<sup>3</sup> Before this change, these qualifications were required by those who wanted to teach in further education colleges and adult and community settings, and they were the minimum requirement for gaining qualified teacher status in the lifelong learning sector, which had led to an increase in the number of certificates issued. Examining all certificates awarded for these qualifications at Level 4, we saw a 23 per cent decline this quarter compared with January – March 2013. Seven of the 50 qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued were in preparing to teach in the lifelong learning sector (see table 3 of the appendix).

<sup>2</sup> BIS (2012) Professionalism in Further Education. Available at: [www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/p/12-1198-professionalism-in-further-education-final](http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/further-education-skills/docs/p/12-1198-professionalism-in-further-education-final) (accessed 3rd June 2014).

<sup>3</sup> FE Advice (2014) FE teaching qualifications from September 2013. Available at: [www.feAdvice.org.uk/what-do-i-need/fe-teaching-qualifications-september-2013](http://www.feAdvice.org.uk/what-do-i-need/fe-teaching-qualifications-september-2013) (Accessed 3rd June 2014)

### **Certificates by sector subject area of qualification**

Regulated higher level qualifications are allocated to one of 15 sector subject areas (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*<sup>4</sup> for further details).

Figure 8, below, shows that the health, public services and care sector subject area saw an increase of 4 per cent in the number of certificates issued this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2013. This is explained largely by certificates awarded for City & Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (QCF) qualification (an increase from 200 to 300). This may be due to the fact that it now forms part of the continuing professional development evidence within the sector. This qualification replaces the Level 4 NVQ in Leadership and Management for Care Services and the Level 4 NVQ in Health and Social Care.<sup>5</sup>




The business, administration, finance and law sector subject area continued to see the highest number of certificates issued this quarter. Although this area has seen growth in the number of certificates issued in higher level vocational qualifications since 2008, it has been declining since 2012. This quarter saw a decrease of 3,850 certificates compared to the same quarter in 2013, mainly in three sub sectors: accounting and finance (a decline of 1,400 certificates); business management (1,400) and law and legal services (800). This could be a result of the Retail Distribution Review, carried out by the Financial Services Authority, which required financial advisers to have at least one qualification at Level 4 by the end of 2012, where previously it was at Level 3 – a pressure that has now worked through the market.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> University of Winchester, QCF Diploma in Health and Social Care (formerly NVQ). Available at: [www.winchester.ac.uk/academicdepartments/Interprofessionalstudies/professional\\_vocational/QCF%20Diploma%20in%20Health%20and%20Social%20Care%20\(formerly%20NVQ\)/Pages/qcfdiplomainhealthandsocialcare.aspx](http://www.winchester.ac.uk/academicdepartments/Interprofessionalstudies/professional_vocational/QCF%20Diploma%20in%20Health%20and%20Social%20Care%20(formerly%20NVQ)/Pages/qcfdiplomainhealthandsocialcare.aspx) (accessed 3rd June 2014)

**Figure 8:** Number of higher level qualification certificates by sector subject area for January - March 2014 (2014 Q1) and the growth and decline between January - March 2013 and January - March 2014

Sector subject area	Number of certificates			
	January - March 2013	January - March 2014		
Health, public services and care	2,400	2,500	4	
Science and mathematics	50	50	0	
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	50	100	100	
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	400	500	25	
Construction, planning and the built environment	650	650	0	
Information and communication technology	150	100	-33	
Retail and commercial enterprise	350	350	0	
Leisure, travel and tourism	250	200	-20	
Arts, media and publishing	900	950	6	
History, philosophy and theology	0~	0		
Social sciences	0	0		
Languages, literature and culture	100	100	0	
Education and training	7,400	6,050	-18	
Preparation for life and work	0~	50		
Business, administration, finance and law	13,300	9,450	-29	

Further details of certificates issued by sector subject area in the last five years are listed in table 5 of the appendix.

### **Certificates by level of qualification**

All regulated qualifications are assigned a level, ranging from Entry, then Levels 1 to 8 (see our *Statistical Publications Glossary*<sup>6</sup> for full details). Higher level qualifications are those at Levels 4 to 8.

Figure 9, below, shows the 12 months to quarter end trend in the number of certificates issued at Levels 4 to 8 from 2009 until quarter end March 2014.

Level 4 qualification certificate numbers have been declining, and they continued to decline this quarter. The number of certificates awarded for Level 5 qualifications decreased by 10 per cent after an increase of 11 per cent last quarter.

The number of certificates awarded for Level 4 qualifications has declined due to the decreases in numbers of certificates awarded in the subject sector areas of education and training, and business, administration, finance and law, as mentioned previously. This is also the case for Level 5 qualifications.

The number of certificates issued for Level 6 qualifications declined by 46 per cent this quarter, mainly in certificates awarded by Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (a decrease from 900 in January – March 2013 to none this quarter) and by Chartered Institute of Marketing (a decrease from 200 to less than ten).

In July – September 2013, the number of certificates awarded for Level 8 qualifications was increasing, even though the numbers were small. This quarter, there was a decline of 50 certificates, mainly due to the decline in certificates awarded for the Chartered Management Institute Level 8 Certificate in Strategic Direction and Leadership (QCF) qualification.

The trend over time of the 12 months to quarter end certificate numbers also shows a decline in the number of certificates awarded at all levels.

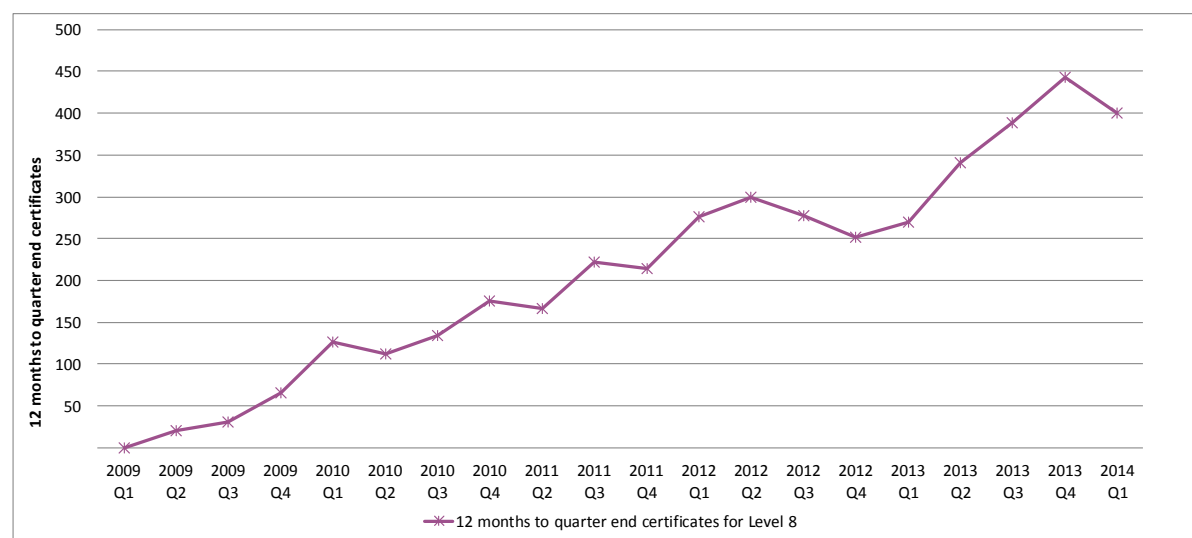
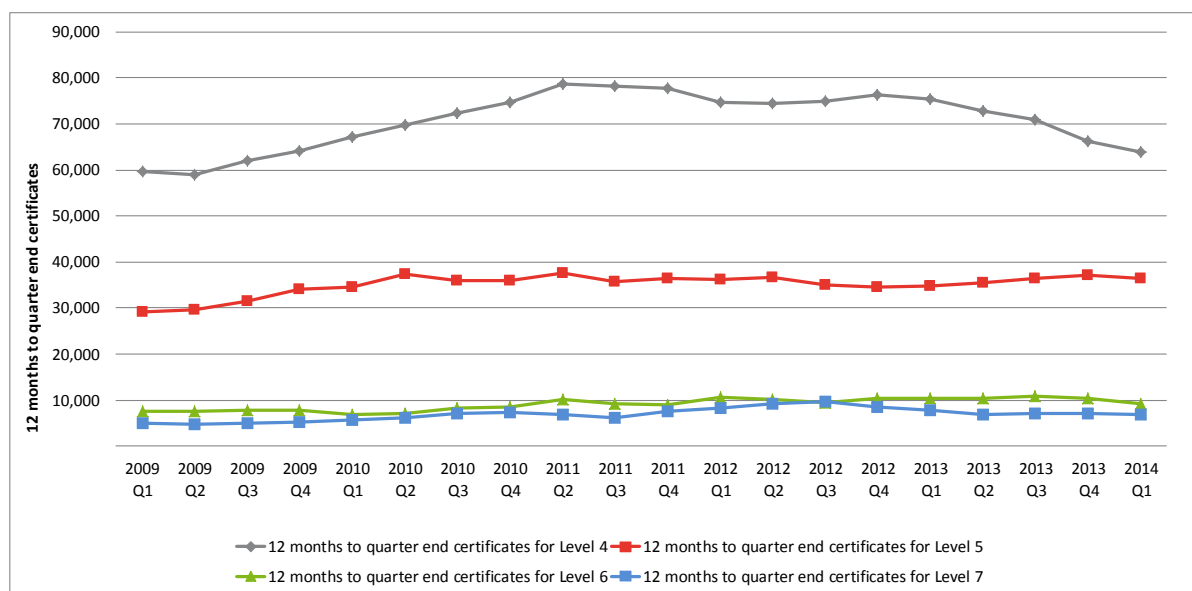
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<sup>6</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf)



**Figure 9:** The growth and decline in higher level qualification certificates between January - March 2013 and January - March 2014 by level and the 12 months to quarter end trend in the number of certificates from 12 months to quarter end March 2009 to 12 months to quarter end March 2014.

Level	Number of certificates		% change in certificates
	January- March 2013	January- March 2014	
Level 4	14,300	11,850	-17
Level 5	7,350	6,600	-10
Level 6	2,800	1,500	-46
Level 7	1,450	1,050	-28
Level 8	100	50	-50



Further details of certificates issued in the last five years by level of qualification are listed in table 6 of the appendix.

## Background notes

In this release, we present data on available regulated qualifications at Level 4 and above and the number of certificates issued for these qualifications. The data cover England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the figures represent both the quarter January – March 2014 and the 12-month period to the end of March 2014.

### Data source

Information on qualifications is taken from our Register of Regulated Qualifications. The Register is used by awarding organisations to submit qualifications for accreditation and maintain details of these qualifications. We use the Register for regulatory activity. Data on available qualifications, covering title, type, awarding organisation, sector subject area and level are taken from the Register and awarding bodies send Ofqual the associated certificates awarded.

Each quarter, all recognised awarding organisations submit data to us about the number of certificates they have awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, regardless of the age of the student and the type of school or college. Certificates are counted in the quarter when the qualification was awarded. This release shows the number of awards broken down by awarding organisation, sector subject area, type of qualification and level of qualification.

### Limitations of data

Data are collected at the earliest point available, which is the first day of the next reporting period. This reduces the time between the activity and reporting on the activity.

We cannot guarantee that the number of certificates sent to us is correct, although we expect awarding organisations to send us the correct data. We do send summary data to awarding organisations for checking and confirmation. The figures reported in this release are reflective of the certificates issued by awarding organisations at the time of data collection.

We carry out quality assurance procedures to ensure the accuracy of the data and challenge or question it, where necessary. We may also defer publication if the statistics are not considered fit for purpose.

Comparisons in this release are only made with data from the same quarter of the previous year and the 12-month period up to the end of the same quarter of the previous year. This is because of seasonal changes in the number of certificates issued over the year.

At the point of accreditation, regulated qualifications are classified as one of 18 qualification types (including GCSEs and A levels). 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 release presents figures on seven of these qualification types: ESOL, higher level, key skills, NVQs, occupational qualifications, QCF and vocationally related qualifications.

### **Geographical coverage**

In this release, we present data on certificates issued for regulated qualifications at Level 4 and above in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the January – March 2014 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.<sup>7</sup>

### **Revisions**

Once published, data on the number of certificates issued for any qualification are not usually subject to revision, although subsequent releases may be revised to insert late data or to correct an error. 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.

The awarding organisations Edexcel and Education Development International (EDI) merged to form Pearson Education Ltd, so qualifications by EDI no longer appear separately.

In this release, figures from two awarding organisations have been revised: City and Guilds of London Institute, affecting October – December 2010, July – September 2011 and January 2012 – December 2013 (total of less than 25); ABC Awards, affecting October – December 2013 (total less than 25).

### **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 the data are as complete as possible. For this quarter, we received data from all the awarding organisations that were in a position to award qualifications.

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<sup>7</sup> The Scottish Qualifications Authority. Available at: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42397.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42397.html) (accessed 3rd June 2014).

## Confidentiality

To ensure confidentiality of the published accompanying data, the number of certificates awarded has been rounded to the nearest five. If the value is less than five, it is represented as 0~ and 0 represents zero achievements.

## Rounding

Figures in the commentary and tables for the number of certificates issued are rounded to the nearest 50 for ease of use. As a result of rounded figures, the percentages shown in any pie charts may not necessarily add up to 100. The numbers of qualifications have been left as exact figures.

## Users of these statistics

These statistics are of particular interest to recognised awarding organisations and the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills to include in their statistical first releases. Awarding organisations use these statistics for product development and business development strategies, and to gain insight into market share. Other users include the Institute of the Motor Industry, sector skills councils, teachers, examiners, academics, researchers, members of the public, other government departments in Wales and other interested parties and individuals.

## Related statistics and publications

This release is one of a set of two publications that present quarterly statistics on certificates issued for regulated qualifications. The other release is called *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly*,<sup>8</sup> which covers certificates awarded in NVQs, vocationally related qualifications, QCF qualifications and occupational qualifications at all levels. The qualifications covered in this release are a subset of those in the *Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly*, so there will be some overlap of figures.

A number of other statistical releases and publications relate to this one, including:

- The *Quarterly Statistics Report*,<sup>9</sup> published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, covers registration and certifications for qualifications taken in Scotland. This can be compared against certificates issued in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-and-other-qualifications](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-and-other-qualifications)

<sup>9</sup> Scottish Qualifications Authority. Available at: [www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42397.3041.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/42397.3041.html) (accessed 3rd June 2014)

- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*,<sup>10</sup> published by the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, reports on apprenticeship volumes that cover statistics on adult (19+) government-funded participation, achievement and success rates for further education, and apprenticeships participation and achievements for all ages (16+) in England. It also shows figures on certificates issued for vocational qualifications in the UK, as collected by us and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

### Useful information

The raw data behind these statistics are available on our website.<sup>11</sup> There you will also find a detailed guidance document and further information on data collection.

A glossary of terms is available in the next section to help you interpret this release.

You can find our publication schedule for the next releases on our website.<sup>12</sup> Our *Statistical Publications Glossary* provides further details on sector subject area classifications and qualification types and levels, and is available on our website.<sup>13</sup>

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.<sup>14</sup>

### User feedback

We have recently asked our user group for feedback on this publication. Two issues were covered: the level of rounding of the raw data for confidentiality and whether there is a need to present the certificates by type of qualifications. The feedback from users was that the lowest level of rounding would be preferred and that the qualification type, although overshadowed by the QCF, is still useful.

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<sup>10</sup> Skills Funding Agency and Department for Business Innovation & Skills (2014) Further Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held. Available at: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/298321/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-release-march14.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/298321/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-release-march14.pdf) (accessed 3rd June 2014)

<sup>11</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-data](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/vocational-data)

<sup>12</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics)

<sup>13</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> [www.register.ofqual.gov.uk](http://www.register.ofqual.gov.uk)

## Glossary of terms

**A levels** – also known as General Certificates of Education, are available as advanced level qualifications (A levels) and advanced subsidiary (AS). They are the main qualifications that young people use to gain entry to university.

**Accreditation** – a process that reviews and confirms certification to specific criteria and standards.

**Accredited qualification** – a qualification that has met the relevant criteria as set by the regulators of qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Once approved for accreditation, a qualification will be awarded with a Qualification Accreditation Number, and specific dates set for the period for which the qualification will be accredited.

**Active qualification** – a qualification where a certificate has been awarded.

**Available qualification** – a qualification eligible for an award or a qualification that has made an award even if it is no longer eligible (no longer available for students to enrol on). For the purpose of this release, a qualification is available until the certification end date or if an award has been certified during the reporting period.

**Awarding organisation** – an organisation recognised to develop, deliver and award descriptions of qualifications.

**Certificate/certification** – a formal acknowledgement of a student's achievement. This will be any award that is not graded as U, absent or X (fail).

**Certification end date** – the last date on which a student may be issued with a certificate of achievement for the qualification.

**GCSEs** – General Certificates of Secondary Education are the main school-leaving qualification in England. They are available in a range of subjects and can be studied alongside other qualifications. They are generally sat by 15 to 18 year olds in schools and colleges but are open to anyone who wants to gain a qualification.

**Level** – qualifications are assigned a level from entry level, then Level 1 through to Level 8 (equivalent to a doctorate).

**National vocational qualifications (NVQs)** – work-related, competence-based qualifications that cover a broad range of industry sectors and occupations, and are delivered in a workplace setting.

**Other general qualifications** – qualifications that assess a particular subject area, such as music or art, other than GCSEs, AS and A levels. These qualifications are

not directly work-related but may support career development. They are often structured against graded exams. The category also includes qualifications at Level 1/Level 2, also known as IGCSEs.

**Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)** – provides students, learning providers and employers with an inclusive and flexible regulated qualifications framework, containing units and qualifications that recognise the widest possible range of quality-assured student certificates. There are three sizes: award (1 to 12 credits), certificate (13 to 36 credits) and diploma (37 or more credits).

**Quarter** – refers to calendar quarters. 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.

**Recognition** – the formal process, which we operate, whereby applicants who wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they meet the recognition criteria<sup>15</sup>. It is a robust gateway into the regulated marketplace. Only applicants who meet the criteria in full will be recognised.

**Register** – the Register of Regulated Qualifications contains details of recognised awarding organisations and regulated qualifications.

**Regulated qualifications** – when a qualification has been accredited (see definition above), it is then said to be regulated.

**Vocationally related qualifications** – work-related, competence-based qualifications designed to give students the skills and knowledge they need to do a job. They are related to employment but, unlike NVQs, do not necessarily require a work placement.

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<sup>15</sup> [www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/criteria-for-recognition](http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/documents/criteria-for-recognition)

## Your feedback

We are conducting a rolling series of online surveys to help our statistical releases meet your needs.

We would especially like to invite you to take part in the online survey<sup>16</sup> for this release. It will take about ten minutes to complete. Your responses will remain entirely confidential in any reports we publish about the survey.

If you would like to take part in the survey, have any questions or would prefer a paper or large-type copy, please contact us at: [statistics@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@ofqual.gov.uk).

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<sup>16</sup> <http://surveys.ofqual.gov.uk/s3/higher-level-qualifications-quarterly-v1>



## Appendix

<a href="#"><u>Table 1</u></a>	Number of available higher level qualifications by type of qualification, 2008/9 to January – March 2014
<a href="#"><u>Table 2</u></a>	Total number of certificates issued for higher level qualifications, 2008/9 to January – March 2014
<a href="#"><u>Table 3</u></a>	The 50 higher level qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued, January – March 2014 (January – March 2013 shown for comparison)
<a href="#"><u>Table 4</u></a>	The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications, January – March 2014 (January – March 2013 shown for comparison)
<a href="#"><u>Table 5</u></a>	Total number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications by sector subject area, 2008/9 to January – March 2014
<a href="#"><u>Table 6</u></a>	Total number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications by type, 2008/9 to January – March 2014
<a href="#"><u>Table 7</u></a>	Total number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications by level, 2008/9 to January – March 2014

**Table 1: Number of available higher level qualifications by type of qualification, 2007/8 to January – March 2014**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	English for speakers of other languages	Higher level	Key skills	NVQ	Occupational qualification	QCF	Vocationally related qualification	Total number of qualifications
08-09	12	545	32	365	37	160		1,151
09-10	11	577	68	315	35	496		1,502
10-11	10	554	72	291	35	1,116		2,078
11-12	5	491	72	256	33	1,562		2,419
12-13	4	421	72	239	33	1,942	2	2,713
13-14	3	355	42	179	29	1,987	3	2,598
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	72	264	33	772		1,690
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
Oct-Dec 2012	4	414	72	239	33	1,625		2,387
Jan-Mar 2013	4	411	72	224	29	1,725	1	2,466
Apr-Jun 2013	4	408	72	216	29	1,822	1	2,552
Jul-Sep 2013	4	405	72	212	29	1,923	2	2,647
Oct-Dec 2013	3	355	42	179	29	1,987	3	2,598
Jan-Mar 2014	2	221	36	105	6	2,038	7	2,415

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 number of certificates issued for higher level qualifications, 2008/9 to January – March 2014**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Total number of certificates
08-09	106,200
09-10	123,900
10-11	129,650
11-12	129,350
12-13	125,800
13-14	22,600
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	49,800
Oct-Dec 2011	26,500
Jan-Mar 2012	27,600
Apr-Jun 2012	27,050
Jul-Sep 2012	48,200
Oct-Dec 2012	27,050
Jan-Mar 2013	26,050
Apr-Jun 2013	24,900
Jul-Sep 2013	47,850
Oct-Dec 2013	22,700
Jan-Mar 2014	21,050

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50

**Table 3: The 50 higher level qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued, January – March 2014 (January – March 2013 shown for comparison)**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of certificates	
	January - March 2013	January - March 2014
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	1,850	1,150
AAT Level 4 Diploma in Accounting (QCF)	1,000	1,000
Cambridge English Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) (QCF)	1,150	700
AAT Level 4 Award In Tax (HMRC) (QCF)	50	500
Pearson Edexcel Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	550	450
Pearson BTEC Level 4 Certificate in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	700	400
ILM Level 5 Award in Leadership and Management (QCF)	0~	350
TCL Level 5 Certificate In Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (Cert TESOL) (QCF)	0	300
City & Guilds Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (QCF)	200	300
CMI Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	300	250
Pearson BTEC Level 5 Diploma in Management and Leadership (QCF)	300	250
HABC Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	50	250
CFA UK Level 4 Certificate in Investment Management (QCF)	350	250
Pearson BTEC Level 5 HND Diploma in Business (QCF)	600	250
OCR Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	100	200
Pearson Edexcel Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (QCF)	150	200
CMI Level 7 Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	100	200
CMI Level 5 Award in Management and Leadership (QCF)	150	200
ILM Level 5 Certificate in Leadership and Management (QCF)	50	200
City & Guilds Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (QCF)	200	200
ISTD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 (QCF)	200	200
Cskills Awards Level 6 NVQ Diploma in Controlling Lifting Operations - Planning Lifts (Construction)(QCF)	150	200
City & Guilds Level 4 Award In Work with Parents (Intense support for families with multiple and complex needs) (QCF)	100	150
ABRSM Level 4 Diploma in Music Performance (QCF)	150	150
CISI Level 4 Diploma in Investment Advice (QCF)	200	150
Pearson EDI Level 5 NVQ Diploma in Management (QCF)	50	150
CIM Level 4 Professional Certificate in Marketing (HL)	200	150
Pearson Edexcel Level 4 Award in the Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (QCF)	150	150
ILM Level 4 Award in Leadership and Management (QCF)	0	150
Ascentis Level 4 Award In Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (QCF)	200	150
CII Level 4 Diploma in Financial Planning (QCF)	450	150
ILM Level 5 Certificate in Service Improvement (QCF)	0~	150
Pearson Edexcel Level 4 NVQ in Supply Chain Management	100	150
CMI Level 5 Certificate in Management and Leadership (QCF)	600	150
City & Guilds Level 5 Award for Professional Recognition	0~	100
City & Guilds Level 5 NVQ Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety Practice (QCF)	100	100
Cskills Awards Level 6 NVQ Diploma in Construction Site Management (Construction) (QCF)	0~	100
Pearson EDI Level 5 Diploma In Management and Leadership (QCF)	0~	100
CII Level 4 Diploma in Regulated Financial Planning (QCF)	100	100
CMI Level 5 Award in Management Coaching and Mentoring (QCF)	100	100
Pearson BTEC Level 7 Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	350	100
ILM Level 4 Certificate in Leadership and Management (QCF)	0~	100
ILM Level 5 Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring (QCF)	0~	100
CIPS Level 4 Diploma in Procurement and Supply	0	100
CMI Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership (QCF)	150	100
RAD Level 4 Certificate in Vocational Graded Examination in Dance: Advanced 1 (QCF)	0~	100
ILM Level 5 NVQ Diploma in Management (QCF)	150	100
AQA Level 4 Diploma in Therapeutic Counselling (QCF)	100	100
OCR Level 6 Diploma in Career Guidance and Development (QCF)	50	100
OCR Level 4 NVQ Certificate in Business and Administration (QCF)	50	100

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

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

**Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications, January – March 2014 (January – March 2013 shown for comparison)**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland		
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates	
	January - March 2013	January - March 2014
Pearson Education Ltd	4,750	4,100
City and Guilds of London Institute	3,500	3,000
Institute of Leadership & Management	1,650	1,900
Chartered Management Institute	2,150	1,700
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,200	1,550
OCR	900	1,150
Cambridge English Language Assessment	0	850
Trinity College London	500	500
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	200	400
Cskills Awards	500	400
Chartered Insurance Institute	650	400
Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment	350	300
CFA Society of UK	350	250
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	300	250
Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply	450	250
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	200	200
Awarding Body for Vocational Achievement Ltd	50	200
Ascentis	200	150
VTCT	50	150
Chartered Institute of Marketing	350	150
Association of Business Executives	350	150
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	200	150
Active IQ	150	150
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	150	150
Royal Academy of Dance	0~	150
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	100	150
WAMITAB	100	100
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants	1,300	100
NCFE	200	100
British Institute of Facilities Management	100	100
AQA Education	100	100
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	100	100
Institute of Sales and Marketing Management	100	100
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	200	100
OCN Eastern Region	0	100
Signature	50	100
NCC Education Services	50	50
ATHE Ltd	150	50
Association of British Dispensing Opticians	100	50
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	50	50
Agored Cymru	0~	50
The Confederation of Tourism and Hospitality	50	50
Institute of Commercial Management	150	50
IMI Awards Ltd	0~	50
ABC Awards	100	50
Royal Society for Public Health	50	50
Chartered Institute of Housing	50	50
The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in the UK	50	50
PAA\QSET	0~	50
Organisation for Tourism and Hospitality Management	100	50

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~', value of 0 will appear as '0'

**Table 5: Total number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications by sector subject area, 2008/9 to January – March 2014**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	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, finance and law	Total number of certificates
08-09	20,550	800	1,150	3,300	4,750	2,050	1,500	450	9,750	0	0	500	17,500	200	43,650	<b>106,200</b>
09-10	22,350	650	950	3,600	5,150	1,500	2,100	900	10,300	0~	0	500	24,050	100	51,750	<b>123,900</b>
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	<b>129,600</b>
11-12	12,050	250	750	4,700	4,000	1,400	2,200	1,300	8,850	0~	0~	650	30,850	100	62,300	<b>129,350</b>
12-13	11,550	300	700	4,500	4,000	1,250	2,100	1,250	8,250	0~	0	650	34,100	50	57,000	<b>125,800</b>
13-14	4,950	100	300	1,050	1,400	250	750	400	1,850	0	0	400	11,850	50	20,450	<b>43,750</b>
Oct-Dec 2008	5,100	100	250	450	550	200	350	50	450	0	0	300	3,000	0~	6,300	<b>17,200</b>
Jan-Mar 2009	4,400	250	250	350	550	450	200	50	1,200	0	0	50	2,650	0~	11,500	<b>21,900</b>
Apr-Jun 2009	4,750	0~	200	250	950	100	350	50	1,150	0	0	50	2,850	50	6,000	<b>16,750</b>
Jul-Sep 2009	6,250	400	450	2,300	2,650	1,300	600	300	6,950	0	0	100	9,000	150	19,800	<b>50,350</b>
Oct-Dec 2009	5,400	50	200	500	950	400	550	100	350	0	0	350	4,750	0~	8,800	<b>22,350</b>
Jan-Mar 2010	5,200	200	250	300	850	200	600	200	800	0~	0	50	4,900	50	11,100	<b>24,700</b>
Apr-Jun 2010	5,250	50	150	200	1,000	50	300	150	1,100	0	0	50	5,850	0~	9,000	<b>23,200</b>
Jul-Sep 2010	6,500	350	350	2,650	2,400	850	600	450	8,100	0	0	50	8,550	50	22,850	<b>53,650</b>
Oct-Dec 2010	5,150	50	150	400	600	400	500	200	950	0~	0~	300	5,700	0~	10,650	<b>25,050</b>
Jan-Mar 2011	4,650	50	100	250	550	150	350	250	1,300	0	0	50	6,050	0~	14,800	<b>28,650</b>
Apr-Jun 2011	4,450	50	200	350	550	50	250	100	1,050	0	0	50	6,600	0~	12,450	<b>26,100</b>
Jul-Sep 2011	5,700	200	200	2,300	1,800	850	450	500	7,600	0	0	50	9,800	0~	20,450	<b>49,800</b>
Oct-Dec 2011	3,050	50	150	500	700	350	400	200	1,250	0~	0	150	5,900	0~	13,800	<b>26,500</b>
Jan-Mar 2012	2,750	50	150	500	500	200	500	250	950	0	0~	100	7,250	0~	14,400	<b>27,600</b>
Apr-Jun 2012	2,350	50	250	500	700	150	450	300	2,800	0~	0	150	6,850	0~	12,550	<b>27,050</b>
Jul-Sep 2012	3,900	100	250	3,200	2,100	750	850	500	3,800	0	0	250	10,850	50	21,600	<b>48,200</b>
Oct-Dec 2012	2,350	0~	200	600	700	150	450	200	1,300	0	0	200	6,050	0~	14,700	<b>27,050</b>
Jan-Mar 2013	2,400	50	50	400	650	150	350	250	900	0~	0	100	7,400	0~	13,300	<b>26,050</b>
Apr-Jun 2013	2,500	50	200	800	950	200	350	300	1,500	0	0	50	7,550	0~	10,450	<b>24,900</b>
Jul-Sep 2013	4,300	150	250	2,700	1,650	800	950	550	4,550	0	0	250	13,050	0~	18,550	<b>47,850</b>
Oct-Dec 2013	2,450	50	250	550	750	100	400	200	900	0	0	300	5,800	0~	10,950	<b>22,700</b>
Jan-Mar 2014	2,500	50	100	500	650	100	350	200	950	0	0	100	6,050	50	9,450	<b>21,050</b>

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~', value of 0 will appear as '0'  
Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total

**Table 6: Total number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications by type, 2008/9 to January – March 2014**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	English for speakers of other languages	Higher level	Key skills	NVQ	Occupational qualification	QCF	Vocationally related qualification	Total number of certificates
08-09	1,450	44,650	200	31,650	4,300	23,900	0	<b>106,200</b>
09-10	700	46,600	100	34,450	4,250	37,800	0	<b>123,900</b>
10-11	0~	30,300	50	25,800	3,250	70,250	0	<b>129,600</b>
11-12	0	16,850	0~	8,600	900	103,000	0	<b>129,350</b>
12-13	50	7,600	0~	2,800	150	115,250	0	<b>125,800</b>
13-14	0	2,550	0	750	0~	40,200	300	<b>43,750</b>
Oct-Dec 2008	200	7,100	0~	6,450	1,000	2,450	0	<b>17,200</b>
Jan-Mar 2009	250	8,900	0~	7,600	1,000	4,150	0	<b>21,900</b>
Apr-Jun 2009	400	4,600	50	6,100	1,000	4,550	0	<b>16,750</b>
Jul-Sep 2009	600	24,050	150	11,550	1,250	12,750	0	<b>50,350</b>
Oct-Dec 2009	300	7,900	0~	7,250	1,050	5,850	0	<b>22,350</b>
Jan-Mar 2010	350	8,250	50	8,650	1,000	6,400	0	<b>24,700</b>
Apr-Jun 2010	0~	6,850	0~	7,150	950	8,250	0	<b>23,200</b>
Jul-Sep 2010	50	23,650	50	11,400	1,250	17,350	0	<b>53,650</b>
Oct-Dec 2010	0~	6,800	0~	6,800	950	10,500	0	<b>25,050</b>
Jan-Mar 2011	0~	7,500	0~	7,500	800	12,800	0	<b>28,650</b>
Apr-Jun 2011	0	3,900	0~	6,100	750	15,300	0	<b>26,100</b>
Jul-Sep 2011	0	12,100	0~	5,400	750	31,600	0	<b>49,800</b>
Oct-Dec 2011	0	4,000	0~	3,250	400	18,800	0	<b>26,500</b>
Jan-Mar 2012	0	3,600	0	2,300	250	21,400	0	<b>27,600</b>
Apr-Jun 2012	0	2,500	0	1,650	100	22,800	0	<b>27,050</b>
Jul-Sep 2012	0	6,700	0~	1,400	100	40,000	0	<b>48,200</b>
Oct-Dec 2012	0~	2,000	0	1,000	50	23,950	0	<b>27,050</b>
Jan-Mar 2013	0~	2,050	0	750	50	23,200	0	<b>26,050</b>
Apr-Jun 2013	0	1,350	0	550	50	22,950	0	<b>24,900</b>
Jul-Sep 2013	0	2,150	0~	500	0~	45,200	0	<b>47,850</b>
Oct-Dec 2013	0	1,650	0	400	0~	20,500	150	<b>22,700</b>
Jan-Mar 2014	0	900	0	350	0~	19,700	100	<b>21,050</b>

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~', value of 0 will appear as '0'

Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total

**Table 7: Total number of certificates issued in higher level qualifications by level, 2008/9 to January – March 2014**

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Total number of certificates
08-09	62,000	31,500	7,650	5,000	50	<b>106,200</b>
09-10	72,450	35,950	8,300	7,000	150	<b>123,900</b>
10-11	78,300	35,650	9,150	6,250	200	<b>129,600</b>
11-12	74,950	34,950	9,550	9,600	300	<b>129,350</b>
12-13	70,900	36,450	10,900	7,150	400	<b>125,800</b>
13-14	23,550	13,800	3,450	2,800	150	<b>43,750</b>
Oct-Dec 2008	11,250	3,750	1,150	1,100	0~	<b>17,200</b>
Jan-Mar 2009	13,500	5,300	2,000	1,100	0~	<b>21,900</b>
Apr-Jun 2009	11,800	3,500	550	850	0~	<b>16,750</b>
Jul-Sep 2009	25,450	19,050	3,900	1,950	0~	<b>50,350</b>
Oct-Dec 2009	13,450	6,250	1,350	1,250	50	<b>22,350</b>
Jan-Mar 2010	16,400	5,700	1,000	1,550	50	<b>24,700</b>
Apr-Jun 2010	14,450	6,500	800	1,500	0~	<b>23,200</b>
Jul-Sep 2010	28,150	17,500	5,200	2,750	50	<b>53,650</b>
Oct-Dec 2010	15,700	6,200	1,650	1,450	100	<b>25,050</b>
Jan-Mar 2011	18,150	7,450	1,450	1,550	50	<b>28,650</b>
Apr-Jun 2011	16,750	6,350	1,850	1,150	0~	<b>26,100</b>
Jul-Sep 2011	27,700	15,700	4,200	2,100	100	<b>49,800</b>
Oct-Dec 2011	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	<b>26,500</b>
Jan-Mar 2012	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	<b>27,600</b>
Apr-Jun 2012	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	<b>27,050</b>
Jul-Sep 2012	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	<b>48,200</b>
Oct-Dec 2012	16,400	6,500	2,400	1,700	50	<b>27,050</b>
Jan-Mar 2013	14,300	7,350	2,800	1,450	100	<b>26,050</b>
Apr-Jun 2013	14,050	7,750	1,650	1,250	100	<b>24,900</b>
Jul-Sep 2013	26,150	14,850	4,050	2,700	100	<b>47,850</b>
Oct-Dec 2013	11,750	7,200	1,950	1,750	100	<b>22,700</b>
Jan - Mar 2014	11,850	6,600	1,500	1,050	50	<b>21,050</b>

*Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database*

Notes:

1. Data are supplied by awarding organisations
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