



Statistical Release

Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly October – December 2014

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Key points

This release presents information on the range and number of, and certificates issued for, regulated qualifications during October – December 2014 (2014 Q4) for qualifications at all levels, excluding GCSEs and A levels. The key findings are:

- Just under 1.3 million certificates were issued, an increase of 0.2 per cent on the same quarter of 2013. October to December is the quarter with the fewest certificates awarded.
- Certificates awarded in Northern Ireland have increased by 36 per cent this quarter (from 28,350 to 38,400), with an increase in the number of certificates awarded for CCEA's occupational studies qualifications.
- The number of certificates awarded for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications this quarter increased by 49 per cent to 62,400.
- The number of available qualifications rose slightly this quarter to their highest level in five years.
- The number of certificates awarded for qualifications in first aid at work and paediatric first aid have both increased this quarter.

Introduction

Ofqual regulates qualifications and assessments in England, and vocational qualifications in Northern Ireland. Ofqual also collects and publishes data for vocational and other qualifications on behalf of the regulator in Wales and for other general qualifications (see glossary) and entry level qualifications for the regulator in Northern Ireland (CCEA). Ofqual's objectives include promoting public confidence in and awareness of regulated qualifications.

Regulated qualifications are classified into 19 qualification types with an associated 'level', which is indicative of difficulty. The table below shows the current levels for each type of qualification and the relationship between them. Level 3 is at about the same level of demand, but not necessarily the same size, as an A level, and Level 2 is at about the same level of demand as a GCSE at grade C or above.

Table of qualification types and levels

Qualification type	Current levels
Advanced Extension Award	Level 3
Basic skills	Entry level, Levels 1 and 2
English for speakers of other languages	Entry level, Levels 1, 2 and 3
Entry level	Entry
Free-standing mathematics qualification	Levels 1, 2, 3
Functional skills	Entry level, Levels 1 and 2
GCE A level	Level 3
GCE AS qualification	Level 3
GCSE (9 to 1)	Level 1/2
GCSE	Level 1/2
Higher level	Levels 4 to 8
Key skills	Levels 1 to 4
NVQ	Levels 1 to 5
Other general qualification	Levels 1, 1/2, 2 and 3
Occupational qualification	Levels 1 to 4
Principal learning	Levels 1 to 3
Project	Levels 1 to 3
QCF	Entry level, Levels 1 to 8
Vocationally related qualification	Entry level, Levels 1 to 8

This release presents data on vocational and other qualifications¹ (coloured green in the table above) for both the October – December 2014 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of December 2014.

This release does not include the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS qualifications, A levels, or the Diploma and its components – project and principal learning (coloured grey in the table). Neither does it include university degrees, which Ofqual has no power to regulate.

¹ Vocational and other qualifications are taken in order to develop and demonstrate the skills needed for a particular job, to improve career progression, or for personal growth or leisure purposes. They include academic qualifications taken in schools, sixth forms and colleges, for example Level 1/2 Certificates (also known as IGCSEs) and BTECs.

Key statistics

Available qualifications

During October – December 2014 (2014 Q4), the number of available qualifications (see glossary) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland increased slightly to 21,008, from 20,992 in the previous quarter. This is the highest number recorded in the last five years. This increase was driven by qualifications offered on the QCF. For all other types of qualifications, the number of available qualifications decreased or stayed the same.

Certifications

Just under 1.3 million vocational and other qualifications were of 2013. Historically, the quarter October to December has always been awarded this quarter. This is an increase of 0.2 per cent compared with the same quarter the quarter with the fewest certificates awarded. The number of certificates issued in the 12-month period to December 2014 decreased by 6 per cent compared with 2013.

English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) qualifications

The number of certificates issued for ESOL qualifications (62,400) increased by 49 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2013. This is the fourth consecutive quarter where the number of ESOL certificates issued has increased.

This increase is mainly driven by an increase in the number of certificates awarded by Trinity College London (from 7,650 to 16,400), Cambridge English Language Assessment (from 23,200 to 29,300) and Pearson Education Ltd (from 3,800 to 8,750).

This increase was expected. The Department for Work and Pensions had already identified the increase in demand for ESOL qualifications. As a result, the Skills Funding Agency announced additional funding from April 2014 for the delivery of ESOL provision to new claimants accessing Job Seeker's Allowance and Universal Credit. Further information is available in the *Skills Funding Statement*.² Also, since 28th October 2013, non-English-speaking applicants for settlement and citizenship in

² *Skills Funding Statement 2013 to 2016*: www.gov.uk/government/publications/skills-funding-statement-2013-to-2016

Britain must complete an approved English qualification such as an ESOL qualification at Entry Level 3 and above.³

Northern Ireland

The number of certificates awarded in Northern Ireland increased by 36 per cent this quarter compared to the same quarter last year (from 28,350 to 38,400), while there was no real difference in the number of certificates awarded in England and Wales. This rise is accounted for by an increase in the number of certificates awarded for 6 of CCEA's occupational studies qualifications that began awarding in 2013 (from 0 to 7,050).

First aid qualifications

This quarter, there was an increase in the number of certificates awarded in first aid at work and paediatric first aid qualifications. This increase reflects the recent requirement by the Health and Safety Executive for first aiders at work to complete a regulated qualification as one of the ways to comply with the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981. The increase in paediatric first aid qualifications is because a requirement set out by the practice guidance in the Early Years Foundation Stage for Ofsted-regulated child-care setting has come into effect. This requirement states that when children are present at least one person with a paediatric first aid qualification gained through a regulated qualification or other (renewed every three years) must be on the premises and available at all times.⁴

³ *Knowledge of Language and Life in the UK for Settlement and Naturalisation:*

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182545/statement-of-intent-koll.pdf

⁴ *Statutory Framework for the Early Stage Foundation Stage:*

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335504/EYFS_framework_from_1_September_2014_with_clarification_note.pdf

External influences

The change in the number of qualifications available and in the number of certifications is likely to be influenced by changes to government policies in England, including changes in government funding, performance tables and study programmes.

Public funding changes by the Skills Funding Agency⁵

In the last few years, the funding rules for vocational qualifications post-19 years of age have seen a number of changes that are likely to have had some effect on the number of certificates awarded each year. The Skills Funding Agency introduced new business rules in September 2013 to target funding on qualifications that most closely align with the government skills policy.⁶ A particular aspect of these rules is the withdrawal of funding for qualifications with low enrolment. The funding rule changes for 2014/15 include a requirement that qualifications have at least 15 credits for adult learning and have clear outcomes for progression to employment or the next level of learning. (There are some areas where these rules do not apply, such as qualifications to help the unemployed. Full details of the changes are published by the Skills Funding Agency.⁷) Throughout these statistics, there are examples of decline in the number of certifications for qualifications from which funding has been removed.

School funding and study programmes in England

Previously, for post-16 education, schools and colleges in England received funding based on the qualifications that students took. This has now changed and schools and colleges receive funding per student. According to the new funding criteria, students are expected to either participate in a Key Stage 4 programme of learning (the two years of school education that incorporate GCSEs, and other exams, in maintained schools, normally known as Years 10 and 11) or take a study programme

⁵ The Skills Funding Agency funds skills training for further education in England. It supports over 1,000 colleges, private training organisations and employers with more than £4 billion of funding each year.

⁶ *Skills Funding Statement 2013–2016*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278529/bis-14-p172a-skills-funding-statement-2013-2016.pdf

⁷ *Qualifications Information Guide 2014 to 2015*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/340925/Qualifications_Information_Guide_2014_to_2015.pdf

that includes a qualification of the size and difficulty of an A level (aged 16 to 18).⁸ Students aged 16 to 19 are still undertaking learning programmes but may no longer be taking as many qualifications as they may have been in the past. Since the academic year 2012/13, there has been a decline in the number of vocational qualifications taken in schools.

School performance tables⁹

There has been a considerable change recently in the way that qualifications are used in schools following the *Wolf Report*.¹⁰ In 2013, any qualification on the section 96¹¹ funding list could count towards the school performance tables. For 2014, while a large number of qualifications are still funded, only a small number of non-GCSEs or A levels are included in performance tables. This is likely to have created changes within the school system, with more focus on those qualifications included in the performance tables. Moreover, qualifications in the tables were previously weighted – larger qualifications gained a higher rating and could be worth more than one qualification in the performance table. This is no longer the case and all qualifications now count as one qualification. Within these statistics there are examples of decline in the number of certificates for qualifications where these changes can be seen.

⁸ *Study Programmes for 16- to 19-Year-Olds*:

www.education.gov.uk/consultations/downloadableDocs/1.%20Government%20response%20to%20consultation%20on%20study%20programmes%20for%2016-%20to%2019-year-olds%20for%20publication%20july%202012.pdf

⁹ The key government benchmark for the attainment of Key Stage 4 pupils (aged 15 to 16) is the percentage of pupils gaining the equivalent of at least five A* to C GCSE passes, including English and mathematics. In the tables, vocational qualifications such as BTECs and NVQs are given equivalency scores to GCSEs.

¹⁰ *Review of Vocational Education – The Wolf Report* (March 2011) considered how the Department for Education can improve vocational education for 14 to 19 year olds:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180504/DFE-00031-2011.pdf

¹¹ Where section 96 approval has been awarded to a qualification, it enables that qualification to be taught in funded institutions, such as maintained schools, academies and post-16 institutions, and for public funds to be used for these courses and qualifications.

Tables of key statistics for vocational qualifications

	July-September 2014	October- December 2014	Change on previous qtr
Number of available qualifications	20,992	21,008	0
Number of awarding organisations			
with available qualifications this quarter	161	161	0
with available qualifications this quarter and certificates awarded in the last 12 months	146	147	1
Basic skills	22	10	-55
English for speakers of other languages	191	186	-3
Entry level	195	186	-5
Free-standing mathematics qualification	14	14	0
Functional skills	239	215	-10
Higher level	144	125	-13
Key skills	135	125	-7
NVQ	197	142	-28
Occupational qualification	1	1	0
Other general qualification	598	595	-1
QCF	18,745	18,911	11
Vocationally related qualification	511	498	-3
Number of available qualifications by level			
Entry level	2,657	2,675	1
Level 1	3,056	2,987	-2
Level 1/2	158	164	4
Level 2	6,568	6,587	0
Level 3	6,073	6,091	0
Level 4	1,393	1,417	2
Level 5	664	656	-1
Level 6	230	240	4
Level 7	187	185	-1
Level 8	6	6	0
Number of available qualifications by sector subject area			
Health, Public Services and Care	2,171	2,169	0
Science and Mathematics	164	172	5
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	768	823	7
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	2,161	2,142	-1
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	1,340	1,334	0
Information and Communication Technology	469	462	-1
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	2,427	2,423	0
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	934	934	0
Arts, Media and Publishing	1,603	1,630	2
History, Philosophy and Theology	46	47	2
Social Sciences	22	22	0
Languages, Literature and Culture	1,392	1,333	-4
Education and Training	1,142	1,157	1
Preparation for Life and Work	3,965	3,942	-1
Business, Administration, Finance and Law	2,388	2,418	1

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	October - December 2013	October - December 2014	Change on previous qtr	January - December 2013	January - December 2014	Change on previous 12 months
Overall number of certificates awarded	1,279,450	1,281,750	0.2	9,118,850	8,535,550	-6
Number of certificates by type of qualification						
Basic skills	1,850	50	-97	70,150	2,800	-96
English for speakers of other languages	41,800	62,400	49	283,700	376,850	33
Entry level	4,600	3,400	-26	104,050	79,650	-23
Free-standing mathematics qualification	0	0		23,150	35,800	55
Functional skills	149,700	163,050	9	927,050	1,034,700	12
Higher level	1,650	1,650	0	7,250	5,200	-28
Key skills	8,250	3,100	-62	445,950	117,700	-74
NVQ	3,000	1,000	-67	20,000	5,800	-71
Occupational qualification	50	0	-100	400	0	-100
Other general qualification	29,400	31,350	7	651,500	836,200	28
QCF	1,026,700	1,007,550	-2	6,246,300	5,865,450	-6
Vocationally related qualification	12,400	8,150	-34	339,450	175,450	-48
Number of certificates by qualification level						
Entry level	123,800	138,900	12	933,300	987,750	6
Level 1	352,550	333,450	-5	2,349,650	1,972,700	-16
Level 1/2	7,700	3,750	-51	155,300	360,700	132
Level 2	606,050	598,750	-1	4,300,850	3,742,050	-13
Level 3	166,600	182,350	9	1,258,250	1,354,850	8
Level 4	11,750	12,600	7	66,250	59,350	-10
Level 5	7,200	8,700	21	37,150	42,850	15
Level 6	1,950	1,900	-3	10,450	9,750	-7
Level 7	1,750	1,350	-23	7,200	5,300	-26
Level 8	100	50	-50	450	250	-44
Number of certificates by sector subject area						
Health, public services and care	221,750	242,200	9	1,071,000	1,203,700	12
Science and mathematics	4,950	1,600	-68	283,250	284,450	0
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	16,800	17,950	7	118,850	112,600	-5
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	74,650	72,950	-2	433,050	399,300	-8
Construction, planning and the built environment	36,200	45,500	26	237,100	241,800	2
Information and communication technology	52,100	40,050	-23	625,000	468,050	-25
Retail and commercial enterprise	146,000	135,950	-7	740,100	677,300	-8
Leisure, travel and tourism	71,100	60,450	-15	537,750	464,350	-14
Arts, media and publishing	131,500	136,700	4	896,150	887,700	-1
History, philosophy and theology	50	300		41,200	30,400	-26
Social sciences	0	50		4,600	6,050	32
Languages, literature and culture	34,500	33,050	-4	441,250	431,900	-2
Education and training	19,000	16,850	-11	106,650	97,550	-9
Preparation for life and work	358,450	368,750	3	2,896,150	2,585,900	-11
Business, administration, finance and law	112,400	109,400	-3	686,700	644,450	-6
Number of certificates by country						
England	1,182,500	1,174,650	-1	8,841,950	8,239,400	-7
Wales	68,600	68,700	0	641,500	642,750	0
Northern Ireland	28,350	38,400	35	208,300	227,500	9

Analysis

This section presents figures on the number of qualifications that are available for students to enrol on (even if only for one day during the quarter), as well as those that may have expired (where students can no longer enrol) but remain active until the final certificate has been issued.

Qualifications available

This quarter, the number of available qualifications increased by less than 1 per cent compared to the previous quarter, from 20,991 to 21,008 (see key statistics on page 8). The number of available qualifications decreased or stayed the same for all types of qualifications (except QCF). Seven of the ten levels and eight of the 15 sectors had a similar or higher number of available qualifications this quarter compared to last quarter. The increase was due to 575 new qualifications becoming available (498 on the QCF) and 559 qualifications expiring (most of these being vocationally related qualifications, QCF and NVQs). The majority of the qualifications (67 per cent) that expired had no certifications in the 12 months to the end of September 2014. The 575 newly available qualifications are delivered by 77 awarding organisations.

Table 1 of the appendix presents the number of available qualifications over the past five years, broken down by type.

Awarding organisations

The number of recognised awarding organisations (161) offering regulated qualifications remained unchanged from the previous quarter. The number of organisations that issued certificates this quarter was broadly unchanged at 147 (from 146).

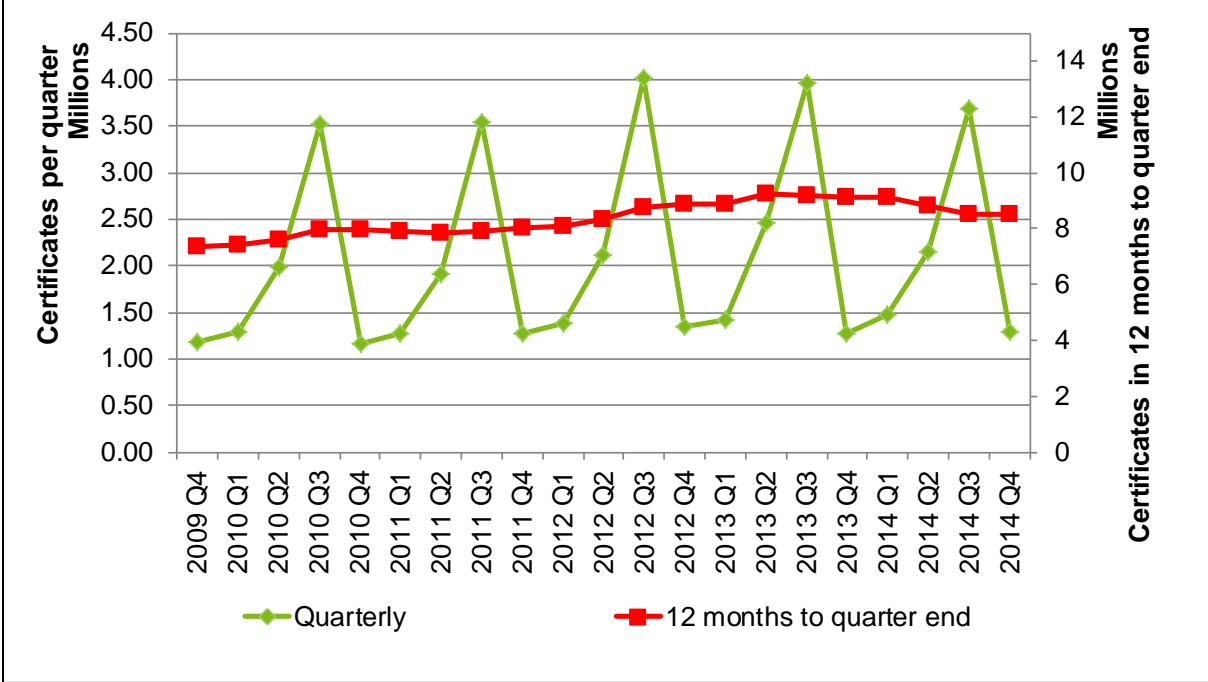
Certificates issued

This quarter saw an increase of 0.2 per cent in the number of certificates issued compared with the same quarter of 2013 (from just under 1.28 million to just over 1.28 million).

Figure 1 illustrates that, over the past five years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of certificates awarded, but over the past 12 months there has been a slight decline. The overall number of certificates issued has risen from just under 8 million in the 12 months to the end of December 2010 to over 8.5 million by the end of December 2014. There was a decrease of 6 per cent in the 12 months to the end of December 2014 compared with the 12 months to the end of December 2013 (from 9.1 million to 8.5 million).

The number of certificates issued in this quarter, and in the 12-month period to each quarter end, is presented in table 2 of the appendix.

Figure 1: Number of certificates issued, October - December 2009 (2009 Q4) to October - December 2014 (2014 Q4)



Certificates by country

This quarter, 92 per cent of all certificates issued were in England, 5 per cent were in Wales and 3 per cent were in Northern Ireland (see figure 2). This distribution is consistent with previous quarters (and is consistent with the split of populations between the three countries).

Figure 2: Number of certificates issued in the quarter and in the 12 months to December 2014 by geographical area (with % change on previous period)

Country	Proportion of total	October - December 2014	% change on same qtr 2013	12 months to December 2014	% change in 12 months
England	92	1,174,650	-1	7,665,300	-7
Wales	5	68,700	0	642,750	0
Northern Ireland	3	38,400	36	227,500	9
Total number of certificates issued	100	1,281,750	0.2	8,535,550	-6

There was a 36 per cent increase in the number of certificates issued in Northern Ireland this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2013. The number of certificates issued in the 12 months to quarter end increased by 9 per cent. As mentioned previously, this is in part due to an increase in certificates awarded in a suite of CCEA Level 2 awards in occupational studies. The number of certificates issued in Wales this quarter is similar to the number of certificates issued in the same quarter of 2013, while in England it is 1 per cent lower than the same quarter last year.

Certificates by type of qualification

Figure 3 presents the number of certificates issued in this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2014. Table 3 of the appendix presents the number of certificates issued since 2009/10 by type of qualification. Most certificates issued this quarter were for QCF qualifications (1 million out of 1.28 million, or 79 per cent). Since the QCF was introduced in 2010, the number of certificates meeting QCF requirements has grown rapidly. This growth followed the Skills Funding Agency's preference to mainly fund qualifications on the QCF.

Figure 3: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to December 2014 by qualification type (with % change on previous period)

Qualification type	October - December 2014	% change on same qtr 2013	12 months to December 2014	% change in 12 months
Basic skills	50	-97	2,800	-96
ESOL	62,400	49	376,850	33
Entry level	3,400	-26	79,650	-23
Free-standing mathematics qualification	0		35,800	55
Functional skills	163,050	9	1,034,700	12
Higher level	1,650	0	5,200	-28
Key skills	3,100	-62	117,700	-74
NVQ	1,000	-67	5,800	-71
Occupational qualification	0	-100	0	-100
Other general qualification	31,350	7	836,200	28
QCF	1,007,550	-2	5,865,450	-6
Vocationally related qualification	8,150	-34	175,450	-48
Total number of certificates	1,281,750	0	8,535,550	-6

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

However, this quarter, the number of certificates awarded for QCF qualifications decreased by 2 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2013. This is the third consecutive quarter where the number of certificates for QCF qualifications has decreased.

The number of certificates awarded for ESOL qualifications increased by 49 per cent compared with the same quarter of 2013. It is the fourth consecutive quarter where there has been an increase in the number of certificates awarded. This is partly due to the increase in awards at Entry Level 3, particularly in ESOL International – Speaking and Listening and Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening). As mentioned on page 4, the Department for Work and Pensions identified the increase in demand for participation in ESOL qualifications and as a result, the Skills Funding Agency announced additional funding from April 2014 and changes to non-English-speaking applicants for settlement and citizenship in Britain.

There was also an increase in the number of certificates awarded in other general qualifications this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2013 (from 29,400 to 31,350). It is the eighth consecutive quarter where there has been an increase in the number of certificates awarded for other general qualifications. The majority of this increase was in Northern Ireland (from 3,950 to 12,000 – mainly occupational studies qualifications) and Wales (from 10,800 to 14,500 – mainly in essential skills qualifications). In England, there was a 67 per cent decrease this quarter (from 14,650 to 4,900) in other general qualifications – mainly in BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 and ESOL International qualifications. The decrease in the number of certificates awarded in ESOL International might be due to the new Skills Funding Agency

funding rules starting in January 2015, which require an ESOL qualification to be on the QCF to be funded.

There was also a large increase in the number of certificates awarded for functional skills qualifications this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2013 (from 149,700 to 163,050). This increase was for qualifications at Level 1 and Level 2 mainly in English (from 54,850 to 65,650). Level 1 and Level 2 functional skills qualifications are available in English, mathematics (required within apprenticeship frameworks) and ICT. The increase this quarter may therefore be a result of the apprenticeship requirements.¹² It is the ninth consecutive quarter where there has been an increase in the number of certificates awarded for functional skills qualifications, reflecting the withdrawal of other similar qualifications.

Certificating awarding organisations

This quarter, 147 awarding organisations issued certificates. This represents 91 per cent of the awarding organisations with available qualifications.

Figure 4 shows the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates this quarter, with figures for the 12 months to quarter end. The certificates issued by these ten organisations combined represent 66 per cent of all awards during this quarter (845,250 certificates in total).

Figure 4: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to December 2014 for the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates (with % change on previous period)

Awarding organisation	October – December 2014	% change on same qtr 2013	12 months to December 2014	% change in 12 months
City and Guilds of London Institute	227,400	-2	1,392,550	-2
Pearson Education Ltd	213,000	-12	2,060,700	-17
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	76,100	-2	303,650	0
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	67,200	-3	265,000	0
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	63,500	10	262,400	24
OCR	56,050	-10	626,050	-22
NCFE	43,750	-23	289,750	-32
Qualsafe Awards	35,150	29	132,100	122
Trinity College London	32,550	96	186,550	54
Cambridge English Language Assessment	30,500	27	200,550	17
Total number of certificates for the 10 awarding organisations	845,250	-2	5,719,300	-9

Note: Pearson Education Ltd includes awards from Edexcel and Education Development International (EDI).

Four of the ten awarding organisations that issued the most certificates had increases this quarter:

¹² Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE):

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/403095/bis-15-14-specification-of-apprenticeship-standards-for-england-SASE.pdf%20

- The increase in certificates awarded by Trinity College London (from 16,500 to 32,600) was mainly in ESOL International and graded examinations in music performance.
- The increase in the number of certificates awarded by Qualsafe Awards (from 27,200 to 35,150) was mainly due to the increase of certificates awarded for Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF) (from 0 to 5,250).
- The increase in certificates awarded by Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2013 (from 57,600 to 63,500) was for qualifications in health and social care (from 23,950 to 30,700) and in preparation for work (1,300 to 2,600).
- The growth in certificates awarded this quarter by Cambridge English Language Assessment compared with the same quarter in 2013 was partly due to an increase in the number of certificates awarded in four Certificate in English (IELTS) (ESOL) qualifications (from 19,950 to 25,850).

Given the very small increase in the number of certificates this quarter, a number of awarding organisations awarded fewer certificates this quarter compared to the same quarter last year:

- For Pearson Education Ltd, the number of BTEC certificates awarded has decreased. These qualifications will have been impacted by changes to school performance tables. In the previous school performance tables, some BTEC qualifications that were large in terms of teaching hours were worth more than one GCSE. In the new tables, all qualifications are worth the same as one GCSE irrespective of size. Pearson Education Ltd has brought new qualifications onto the market that now match the size of GCSE qualifications. There was also a large decrease in the number of certificates awarded for qualifications previously delivered by EDI, which are in the process of being integrated with those of Pearson Education Ltd.
- For NCFE, the majority of the decrease in the number of certificates awarded was in preparation for life and work qualifications (from 26,250 to 15,250). Some of the decline was due to the withdrawal of funding for a number of qualifications. The largest decline in the preparation for life and work sector is for the NCFE Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of End of Life Care (QCF) (from 3,450 to 50). This qualification has seen declines each quarter for the last year.

The 50 organisations that awarded the highest numbers of qualifications this quarter are shown in table 4 of the appendix.

Certificates by level of qualification

This section presents figures on the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2014, by level of qualification. Each regulated qualification has a level between entry level (which is split into three, although the figures in this document do not distinguish between the entry levels) and Level 8 – which indicates the broad level of demand of the qualification.¹³

Figure 5 gives a breakdown of the number of certificates by level of qualification.

Figure 5: Number of certificates issued in this quarter and in the 12 months to December 2014 by qualification level (with % change on previous period)

Qualification type	October – December 2014	% change on same qtr 2013	12 months to December 2014	% change in 12 months
Entry level	138,900	12	987,750	6
Level 1	333,450	-5	1,972,700	-16
Level 1/2	3,750	-51	360,700	100*
Level 2	598,750	-1	3,742,050	-13
Level 3	182,350	9	1,354,850	8
Level 4	12,600	7	59,350	-10
Level 5	8,700	21	42,850	15
Level 6	1,900	-3	9,750	-7
Level 7	1,350	-23	5,300	-26
Level 8	50	-50	250	-44
Total number of certificates	1,281,750	0.2	8,535,550	-6

* Percentage is greater than 100 per cent

A considerably higher number of certificates was issued for qualifications at entry level this quarter. This increase was mainly due to the increased number of certificates issued in ESOL qualifications at Entry Level 3 (see page 13 for a summary).

The number of certificates issued for Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications has declined for the sixth consecutive quarter. The decline in Level 1 qualifications this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2013 is from the number of certificates awarded in Level 1 QCF qualifications in the preparation for life and work sector subject area (from 81,650 to 60,100). Most of this decline was seen in qualifications delivered by NOCN and NCFE. The same pattern was present in certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 2, with a decrease of 38 per cent in QCF qualifications in the preparation for life and work sector subject area (from 26,100 to 16,250). Most of this

¹³ Further details on comparing qualification levels are available on Ofqual's website:

www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean

decline was seen in qualifications delivered by NOCN, NCFE and Pearson Education Ltd.

Compared to the same quarter last year, there was a sharp drop in the number of certificates awarded for Level 1/2 qualifications. This is mainly due to a decrease in six BTEC qualifications (from 4,050 to 550) and in the Cambridge International Certificate in First Language English (from 3,650 to 500).

The number of certificates awarded for qualifications at Level 3 increased by 9 per cent this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2013 (from 166,600 to 182,350). The increase was mainly in health, public services and care qualifications (from 49,300 to 65,900), more specifically in first aid at work qualifications and paediatric first aid qualifications. As mentioned previously on page 5, the increase in first aid at work qualifications is due to the recent requirement by the Health and Safety Executive for first aiders at work and the increase in paediatric first aid qualifications is due to the requirement set out by the practice guidance in the Early Years Foundation Stage for Ofsted-regulated child-care.¹⁴

The number of certificates awarded for Level 4 qualifications increased mainly in business, administration, finance and law (from 4,400 to 6,750), especially in the accounting and finance (from 2,900 to 4,200) and business management (from 1,100 to 2,150) sectors.

The number of certificates awarded for Level 5 qualifications increased this quarter (from 7,200 to 8,700). This increase is in teaching ESOL qualifications (possibly following the increase in certificates for ESOL qualifications over the last few quarters), leadership and management qualifications, and diplomas in leadership for health and social care and children and young people's services. This qualification fulfils the regulatory requirement for those looking to become managers of children's homes or adult residential and domiciliary services. This latter qualification replaces Level 4 NVQ in Leadership and Management for Care Services and Level 4 NVQ in Health and Social Care .

Table 5 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by qualification level from 2009/10 to this quarter.

¹⁴ *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage:*
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335504/EYFS_framework_from_1_September_2014_with_clarification_note.pdf

Certificates by qualification

This quarter, 8,502 qualifications had certificates issued, representing 41 per cent of all available qualifications. This is slightly higher than for the same quarter of 2013 when it was around 36 per cent. The 50 qualifications with the most certificates awarded this quarter are listed in table 6 of the appendix.

The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates issued this quarter and in the 12 months to the end of December 2014 are shown in figure 6.

Figure 6: The ten qualifications with the highest number of certificates in the 12 months to the end of December 2014 (figures for the 12 months to the end of December 2013 shown for comparison)

Qualification	Number of certificates					
	October – December 2013	October – December 2014	% change quarter	12 months to the end of December 2013	12 months to the end of December 2014	% change 12 months
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	41,170	37,820	-8	168,527	151,280	-10
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	15,836	18,613	18	34,471	74,488	116
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	15,431	15,429	0	59,855	62,176	4
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	12,730	14,948	17	30,408	58,869	94
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	11,949	13,712	15	30,223	52,292	73
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	10,124	13,410	32	56,183	64,953	16
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	9,183	12,835	40	43,417	72,005	66
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	10,517	12,578	20	59,899	70,578	18
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	10,833	12,162	12	57,521	70,770	23
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	11,449	10,750	-6	45,522	45,061	-1

The qualification with the most certificates issued this quarter was the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF). The number of certificates awarded for that qualification have decreased this quarter, but in 12 of the last 13 quarters it has been the qualification with the most certificates awarded.

Table 7 of the appendix shows the 20 qualifications with the most and least growth in terms of number of certificates awarded this quarter and the percentage change from the same quarter in 2013.

Certificates by sector subject area of qualification

Regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 15 sector subject areas (see Ofqual's statistical publications glossary¹⁵ for further details). This section presents figures on

¹⁵ Glossary: Statistical Publications:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140813095715/http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf>

the number of certificates issued this quarter and during the 12 months to the end of December 2014, by the sector subject area of the qualification.

Figure 7 shows the sectors ordered by size, in terms of the number of certificates issued, with the largest sector subject area first.

The greatest number of certificates was issued in the sector subject area of preparation for life and work (368,750, representing 29 per cent of the total issued this quarter and 30 per cent of the total issued in the 12 months to the end of December 2014). This quarter, there was a 3 per cent increase in the number of certificates awarded. This increase is mainly due to more students completing ESOL, functional skills and other general qualifications.

Seven sector subject areas saw an increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter of 2013: health, public services and care; preparation for life and work; construction, planning and the built environment; arts, media and publishing; social sciences; agriculture, horticulture and animal care; and history, philosophy and theology.

Figure 7: Number of certificates by sector subject area of qualification in the quarter (October - December 2014) and in the 12 months to the end of December 2014

Sector subject area	Number of certificates			
	October - December 2014	% change for quarter	12 months to the end of December 2014	% change for 12 months
Preparation for life and work	368,750	3	2,585,900	-11
Health, public services and care	242,200	9	1,203,700	12
Arts, media and publishing	136,700	4	887,700	-1
Retail and commercial enterprise	135,950	-7	677,350	-8
Business, administration, finance and law	109,400	-3	644,450	-6
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	72,950	-2	399,300	-8
Leisure, travel and tourism	60,450	-15	464,350	-14
Construction, planning and the built environment	45,500	26	241,800	2
Information and communication technology	40,050	-23	468,050	-25
Languages, literature and culture	33,050	-4	431,900	-2
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	17,950	7	112,600	-5
Education and training	16,850	-11	97,550	-9
Science and mathematics	1,600	-68	284,450	0
History, philosophy and theology	300	500	30,400	-26
Social sciences	50		6,050	32
Total number of certificates	1,281,750	0.2	8,535,550	-6

The largest increase this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2013 was in health, public services and care qualifications (from 221,750 to 242,200). Again, the increase in that sector is due to the increase in the number of certificates awarded in first aid at work qualifications and paediatric first aid qualifications (see page 17).

The 4 per cent increase in the arts, media and publishing sector is mainly due to an increase in the number of certificates in graded examination in dance and music

performance for qualifications offered by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and Trinity College London.

The construction, planning and the built environment sector subject area has seen a 26 per cent increase in the number of certificates awarded this quarter compared with the same quarter in 2013 (from 36,200 to 45,500). The biggest increase is a consequence of the introduction of a number of Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment qualifications (from 0 to 9,000). These are relatively new qualifications and have been developed to fulfil the requirement of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) for workers to have a health and safety qualification when applying for a green CSCS card – labourer card.¹⁶

Table 8 of the appendix presents the number of certificates awarded in vocational qualifications by sector subject area from 2009/10 to this quarter. Table 9 of the appendix gives a breakdown of the number of certificates issued this quarter, with a more detailed breakdown of the sector subject areas.

Certificates issued in England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The overall number of certificates awarded in England has decreased slightly, but in Wales and Northern Ireland it has increased for the 12-month period to December 2014 (see figure 2).

Table 10 of the appendix shows the same details broken down by the sector subject area of the qualifications.

From figure 8, it can be seen that the QCF qualifications dominate in England (71 per cent), Wales (41 per cent) and Northern Ireland (61 per cent). These figures have decreased in Wales and Northern Ireland compared with the same period in 2013 and increased slightly in England.

The number of certificates issued for functional skills qualifications and free-standing mathematics qualifications in England and Wales increased in the 12 months to the end of December 2014 compared with the same period in 2013.

¹⁶ www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/green-card-changes/card-type/labourer

Figure 8: Number of certificates in the 12 months to the end of December 2014, by country and type of qualification

Qualification type	England			Wales			Northern Ireland		
	Number	% of total	12 month % change	Number	% of total	12 month % change	Number	% of total	12 month % change
Basic skills	2,100	0.0	-96	0	0.0	-100	700	0.3	318
English for speakers of other languages	368,250	4.8	33	5,050	0.8	27	3,600	1.6	73
Entry Level	53,850	0.7	-23	16,550	2.6	-1	9,200	4.0	3
Free-standing mathematics qualification	35,550	0.5	55	250	0.0	246	0	0.0	0
Functional skills	1,025,100	13.4	12	9,500	1.5	98	150	0.1	-8
Higher level	5,000	0.1	-28	50	0.0	-65	150	0.1	-47
Key skills	19,750	0.3	-74	86,850	13.5	-7	11,100	4.9	147
NVQ	5,100	0.1	-71	400	0.1	-78	300	0.1	-65
Occupational qualification	0	0.0	-97	0	0.0	-100	0	0.0	-100
Other general qualification	529,000	6.9	28	248,000	38.6	14	59,250	26.0	32
QCF	5,460,750	71.2	-6	265,500	41.3	-8	139,150	61.2	-2
Vocationally related qualification	160,850	2.1	-48	10,650	1.7	-31	3,950	1.7	-6
Total number of certificates awarded	7,665,300	100.0	-6	642,750	100.0	0	227,500	100.0	9

Notes:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

The number of certificates issued for other general qualifications for the 12 months to the end of December 2014 represents 7 per cent of the total in England, 39 per cent in Wales and 26 per cent in Northern Ireland. However, the figures are rising for this category of qualification in each country. The majority of these qualifications in Wales and Northern Ireland are in essential skills. Essential skills qualifications are the replacement qualifications for key skills and basic skills qualifications in literacy, numeracy and ICT and can be taken up to Level 2. In Northern Ireland, the increase in certificates in this category also includes occupational studies offered by CCEA (as mentioned above).

The number of ESOL certificates issued this quarter increased by 33 per cent in England, 27 per cent in Wales and 73 per cent in Northern Ireland, compared with the same period in 2013.

Tables 11 to 13 of the appendix present the 50 organisations that awarded the most qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in January – December 2014.

Background notes

This release presents data on available regulated vocational and other qualifications and the number of certificates issued for these (except the Advanced Extension Award, GCSEs, AS qualifications, A levels and the Diploma). The number of certificates awarded for these qualifications can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website.¹⁷

The data cover regulated qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, whether regulated by Ofqual, the Welsh government or CCEA (Northern Ireland regulator). The figures represent both the October – December 2014 quarter and the 12-month period to the end of December 2014.

This document is in line with Ofqual's statistics policies¹⁸ and the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.¹⁹

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

Data source

Information on qualifications is taken from Ofqual's Register of Regulated Qualifications.²⁰ The Register is used by awarding organisations to submit qualifications and maintain details of these qualifications. Ofqual uses 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. Further information on the administrative sources is available within Ofqual's statistical policies.

Each quarter, all recognised awarding organisations submit data to Ofqual 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, level of qualification and country.

¹⁷ www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

¹⁸ www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

¹⁹ www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk

²⁰ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

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.

The main source of potential error²¹ is in the information provided by awarding organisations. Ofqual cannot guarantee that the number of certificates submitted is correct and there may be systematic bias when the information is sent, although awarding organisations are expected to provide the correct data. Ofqual compares the data over time and checks for systematic issues. Summary data are then sent back to awarding organisations to be checked and confirmed. The figures reported in this release reflect the certificates issued by awarding organisations at the time of data collection.

Quality assurance procedures are carried out as explained in the *Quality Assurance Framework for Statistical Publication* and the *Data Audit Framework*²² to ensure the accuracy of the data and challenge or question it, where necessary. Ofqual continually manages this process by:

- ensuring that data suppliers are clear about what is required of them, in part achieved by consulting providers during the initial design and any subsequent change phases;
- reminding all providers (if appropriate) that, as a condition of being regulated, all data must be completely accurate;
- being alert to unexpected changes in the data submitted by comparing individual returns over time from the same supplier;
- actively challenging any unexpected results with data providers;
- seeking explanations for changes and trends in the data;

²¹ *Statement of Administrative Sources* includes information about the potential sources of error and how Ofqual mitigates these:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/387635/2014-12-16-statement-of-administrative-sources.pdf

²² www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofquals-statistics-policies-and-procedures

- checking the data provided against other data either within Ofqual or available from third parties such as the Department for Education’s National Pupil Database;²³
- having a proportionate data auditing framework in place allowing for auditing of providers, information collection, collation and delivery processes as necessary, using a wide range of tools from questionnaires to on-site process audits.

Publication may be deferred 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.

After data collection, the trends are interpreted by a group of colleagues from Ofqual who are aware of the latest changes in policies. Before being released, the publication has to be signed off by the Head of Profession for Statistics who confirms the quality of the release.

Geographical coverage

In this release, Ofqual presents data on certificates issued for all regulated qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS and A levels, Advanced Extension Award and the Diploma²⁴) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the October – December 2014 quarter.

Statistics for Scotland are on the Scottish Qualifications Authority website.²⁵

Ofqual started to collect data for England, Wales and Northern Ireland individually in 2011. This release includes data about certificates awarded by country.

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

²³ The National Pupil Database contains detailed information about pupils in schools and colleges in England.

²⁴ Data for GCSEs, AS and A levels can be found on the Joint Council for Qualifications website: www.jcq.org.uk/examination-results

²⁵ The Scottish Qualifications Authority is the national accreditation and awarding organisation in Scotland: www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.4239.html

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 EDI merged to form Pearson Education Ltd, so qualifications by EDI no longer appear separately.

In this release, previous years' figures from one awarding organisation have been revised: City and Guilds of London Institute. The table of revision, published alongside this publication, shows the changes for each quarter by level, type of qualification and sector subject area.

Completeness of the data

Awarding organisations send data to Ofqual each quarter. Any awarding organisation that does not return a complete set of data within the collection period is contacted to make sure that the data are as complete as possible. For this quarter, Ofqual received data from all the awarding organisations that were in a position to award qualifications.

Confidentiality

To ensure confidentiality of the published accompanying data in accordance with Ofqual's *Statement on Confidentiality*,²⁶ 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

In accordance with Ofqual's *Rounding Policy*,²⁷ 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 because there is no issue with confidentiality and also because the numbers are so small that it aids the user to have actual figures.

²⁶ *Statement on Confidentiality*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380973/2014-02-14-statement-on-confidentiality.pdf

²⁷ *Rounding Policy*:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380971/2014-02-14-rounding-policy.pdf

Users of these statistics

This publication attracts a wide variety of users who use the statistics in various ways:

- Internal (Ofqual) users use the statistics to monitor the market, to target the organisations' resources and for input into analysis and reports.
- Central government officials use the statistics for policy implementation and ministerial briefings about government-funded further education and to draw on for their own publications.
- Awarding organisations use the statistics and underlying data as market intelligence, to monitor market share and to understand more about their competitors and product availability.
- Sector skills councils use the statistics to understand training uptake within their sectors and to assist them in understanding how the qualifications are meeting employer demand.
- Other users have varying needs, from using the information to assist in research projects to focusing on individual qualifications within their industry.

Users from central government and internal users focus on the detailed published data, as do some awarding organisations. Others draw on the aggregate official statistics and commentary to provide context.

Related statistics and publications

There are a number of related statistical releases and publications:

- The *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2012/13*,²⁸ published by the Department for Education, covers students' achievements in GCSEs and equivalent regulated qualifications in schools at the end of Key Stage 4.
- The *Statistical First Release: A level and Other Level 3 Results in England, Academic Year 2012 to 2013*²⁹ covers achievements for 16 to 18 year olds at

²⁸ *Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2012/13 (Revised)*:
[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274497/SFR01_2014_FINAL.p
df](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274497/SFR01_2014_FINAL.pdf)

²⁹ *Statistical First Release: A level and Other Level 3 Results in England, Academic Year 2012 to 2013 (Revised)*:

schools and colleges in all Level 3 qualifications. These releases can be used to add context to the trends seen in Level 2 and Level 3 GCE and GCSE equivalent qualifications.

- The quarterly *Statistical First Release*,³⁰ 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 Ofqual and through the National Vocational Qualifications Database.

Useful information

The data behind these statistics (from July 1998 to present) are published alongside this statistical release at 9.30am on the day of release³¹. The data set is not revised until the next publication is released. You can find the publication schedule for the next releases on the GOV.UK website.³² Ofqual's *Glossary: Statistical Publications*³³ provides further details on sector subject area classifications and qualification types and levels.

The Register gives information on regulated qualifications and recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.³⁴

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/285082/SFR02_January_2014_FINAL_REVISED.pdf

³⁰ *Statistical First Release: Further Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held:*

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/378730/learner-participation-outcomes-and-level-of-highest-qualification-release-nov14.pdf

³¹ www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vocational-qualifications-dataset

³²

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements?utf8=%E2%9C%93&organisations%5B%5D=ofqual

³³ *Glossary: Statistical Publications:*

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140813095715/www.ofqual.gov.uk/files/2010-11-26-statistics-glossary.pdf>

³⁴ <http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>

User feedback

Ofqual has recently asked its user groups for feedback on this publication. Here is a summary of the improvements suggested, organised into those that have already been put in place, those that Ofqual is currently investigating and those that Ofqual will not be able to accommodate. Ahead of each publication, user feedback is reviewed to determine the content that should be included in the publication.

Ofqual has already put in place a number of suggestions:

- Round the raw data to the nearest five – rounding is needed for confidentiality. Following feedback from users that they needed the numbers of certificates to be as close to the actual figures as possible, rounding was reduced to the nearest five.
- Keep the breakdown by type of qualifications – although the majority of qualifications and certificates were for qualifications on the QCF, users still found the detailed breakdown useful.
- Provide more analysis outside the ten awarding organisations with the most certificates – comment will be made where an awarding organisation has had a significant change in certifications in relation to all certifications. Tables and published data give details on all awarding organisations.
- Provide more analysis of the major growth areas.
- Present the number of certificates awarded by second-tier sector subject area.
- List the qualifications with the strongest growth – provided in table 6 of the appendix.
- Present the number of certificates by the size of qualifications (award, certificate, diplomas) – this can be found in Ofqual's *Annual Qualifications Market Report*.³⁵

Ofqual will be unable to implement the following suggestions:

- Present data on graded qualifications – Ofqual does not collect information on certifications by grade achieved.

³⁵ *Annual Qualifications Market Report*:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140813095715/http://ofqual.gov.uk/standards/statistics/annual-qualification-market-report-england-wales-northern-ireland>

- Present data on the progression between award, certificate and diploma – Ofqual does not collect the necessary candidate-level data.
- Present the number of registrations as well as certificates – Ofqual collects the number of registrations from awarding organisations on a voluntary basis and does not have complete information.
- Present shared unit data – the data needed to carry out this analysis are not currently available.
- Present data broken down by regions within the UK – regional information is not mandatory as part of the data collection process and would add considerable burden to some awarding organisations.
- Present more information for the smaller awarding organisations on the state of the market – there are too many organisations to cover within the commentary but Ofqual does provide raw data for each qualification to enable users to do their own analysis.
- Track the effectiveness of the QCF – the data currently collected do not allow for this type of analysis.
- Present the breakdown of key awarding organisations in each sector based on the number of certificates – this is already published by Ofqual in the Annual Qualification Market Report.

The Skills Funding Agency's Individual Learner Record Database³⁶ and the Department for Education's National Pupil Database provide data on graded qualifications and data broken down by region. The latter also provides data on progression between award, certificate and diploma, and number of registrations.

³⁶ The Individualised Learner Record Database is the primary data collection on funded further education and work-based learning in England.

Glossary of terms

A levels – also known as General Certificates of Education, are currently 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. Ofqual no longer requires all regulated qualifications to have been accredited.

Accredited qualification – this is an old term that is sometimes used to mean ‘regulated qualification’ (see below). Ofqual now allows awarding organisations to submit most qualifications for regulation without having been accredited, so it is strictly incorrect to refer to regulated qualifications as 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, Wales and Northern Ireland. 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), indicating the broad level of demand of the qualification.

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 /2, also known as IGCSEs.

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) – a set of regulatory rules for vocational qualifications that Ofqual plans to start withdrawing from 2015 in England and Northern Ireland.

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 that Ofqual operates, whereby applicants who wish to offer regulated qualifications can demonstrate that they meet the recognition criteria.³⁷ The scope of recognition is the qualifications or types of qualification that the awarding body is recognised to offer, which may be quite narrow or very broad depending on the type of body and the qualifications it wishes to offer. Recognition 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 is offered by a recognised awarding body within the scope of its recognition, it has to be added to the Register of qualifications and has to meet Ofqual’s requirements. It is then said to be regulated. Some qualifications are subject to an accreditation requirement and have to be checked by the regulator before they can be offered as regulated qualifications.

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.

³⁷ www.gov.uk/awarding-organisations-understanding-our-regulatory-requirements

Your feedback

Ofqual is conducting a rolling series of online surveys to help statistical releases meet your needs.

Ofqual would especially like to invite you to take part in the online survey for this release.

<http://surveys.ofqual.gov.uk/s3/vocational-and-other-qualifications-quarterly-v1>

It will take about ten minutes to complete. Your responses will remain entirely confidential in any reports published 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.

Appendix

Table 1	Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications, from 2009/10 to October – December 2014
Table 2	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end
Table 3	Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014
Table 4	The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October – December 2014 (October – December 2013 shown for comparison)
Table 5	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014
Table 6	The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October – December 2014 (October – December 2013 shown for comparison)
Table 7	The 20 qualifications with the most and least growth in terms of number of certificates awarded for the quarter October – December 2014 (with the percentage change from October – December 2013)
Table 8	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014
Table 9	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter October – December 2014 (October – December 2013 shown for comparison)
Table 10	Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by country and sector subject area, for the 12 months to the end of December 2014

[Table 11](#)

England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2014

[Table 12](#)

Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2014

[Table 13](#)

Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2014

Table 1: Number of regulated vocational and other qualifications, from 2009/10 to October – December 2014

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Basic skills	English for speakers of other languages	Entry level	Free-standing mathematics qualification	Functional skills	Higher level	Key skills	National vocational qualification	Occupational qualification	Other general qualification	QCF	Vocationally related qualification	Total number of qualifications
09 – 10	83	174	340	22	235	578	356	1,761	95	732	6,072	2,779	13,227
10 – 11	88	186	367	22	208	554	377	1,606	94	762	9,693	2,395	16,352
11 – 12	88	187	341	20	211	493	377	1,440	87	804	12,758	2,157	18,963
12 – 13	80	193	302	14	235	421	368	1,162	85	831	16,732	1,702	22,125
13 – 14	10	186	186	14	215	125	125	142	1	595	18,911	498	23,477
Oct – Dec 2009	83	158	287	22	96	533	356	1,736	95	641	2,667	2,762	9,436
Jan – Mar 2010	83	162	287	22	96	562	356	1,696	94	637	2,864	2,711	9,570
Apr – Jun 2010	83	162	287	22	96	563	356	1,685	94	637	3,136	2,700	9,821
Jul – Sep 2010	83	172	334	22	235	576	356	1,673	94	726	6,067	2,672	13,010
Oct – Dec 2010	83	170	324	22	181	552	356	1,604	94	715	6,678	2,388	13,167
Jan – Mar 2011	83	185	330	22	182	544	356	1,556	94	712	7,564	2,325	13,953
Apr – Jun 2011	88	185	340	22	189	533	362	1,537	94	712	8,607	2,306	14,975
Jul – Sep 2011	88	185	362	22	201	506	377	1,518	94	754	9,622	2,277	16,006
Oct – Dec 2011	88	177	334	20	208	487	377	1,432	87	722	10,416	2,112	16,460
Jan – Mar 2012	88	183	321	20	208	447	377	1,349	86	693	11,050	2,006	16,828
Apr – Jun 2012	88	186	316	20	207	422	368	1,305	86	678	11,663	1,972	17,311
Jul – Sep 2012	88	187	319	20	206	418	368	1,282	86	752	12,606	1,960	18,292
Oct – Dec 2012	80	185	297	14	193	414	368	1,148	85	758	13,281	1,664	18,487
Jan – Mar 2013	80	191	292	14	202	411	368	939	77	739	14,151	1,401	18,865
Apr – Jun 2013	80	191	292	14	222	408	359	841	77	737	14,931	1,285	19,437
Jul – Sep 2013	80	192	296	14	232	405	359	788	71	785	16,295	1,270	20,787
Oct – Dec 2013	32	191	279	7	238	355	191	652	68	774	17,031	1,034	20,852
Jan – Mar 2014	22	193	274	7	237	221	165	391	20	740	17,349	578	20,197
Apr – Jun 2014	22	190	196	7	239	140	133	240	9	564	17,505	486	19,731
Jul – Sep 2014	22	191	195	14	239	144	135	197	1	588	18,745	511	20,992
Oct – Dec 2014	10	186	186	14	215	125	125	142	1	595	18,911	498	21,008

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
3. Annual data are for academic years, that is October to September.

Table 2: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014, showing certificates issued per quarter and per 12 months to quarter end

England, Wales and Northern Ireland		
Period	Total number of certificates issued	
	Quarter	12 months to quarter end
Oct – Dec 2009	1,175,300	7,360,550
Jan – Mar 2010	1,284,950	7,431,050
Apr – Jun 2010	1,979,300	7,580,350
Jul – Sep 2010	3,515,750	7,955,300
Oct – Dec 2010	1,169,300	7,949,300
Jan – Mar 2011	1,267,300	7,931,650
Apr – Jun 2011	1,911,100	7,863,450
Jul – Sep 2011	3,548,000	7,895,700
Oct – Dec 2011	1,271,400	7,997,800
Jan – Mar 2012	1,384,550	8,115,050
Apr – Jun 2012	2,116,500	8,320,400
Jul – Sep 2012	4,013,150	8,785,600
Oct – Dec 2012	1,345,250	8,859,400
Jan – Mar 2013	1,421,700	8,896,600
Apr – Jun 2013	2,463,950	9,244,050
Jul – Sep 2013	3,953,750	9,184,650
Oct – Dec 2013	1,279,450	9,118,850
Jan – Mar 2014	1,415,250	9,112,400
Apr – Jun 2014	2,143,150	8,791,600
Jul – Sep 2014	3,695,400	8,533,250
Oct – Dec 2014	1,281,750	8,535,550

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50.

Table 3: Number of certificates issued for regulated vocational and other qualifications by type of qualification, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Period	Basic skills	English for speakers of other languages	Entry level	Free-standing mathematics qualification	Functional skills	Higher level	Key skills	NVQ	Occupational qualification	Other general qualification	QCF	Vocationally related qualification	Total number of certificates
Oct – Dec 2009	169,850	44,900	16,600	0	2,400	7,900	81,900	212,050	5,950	133,900	85,100	414,750	1,175,300
Jan – Mar 2010	214,900	52,550	19,600	850	28,500	8,250	117,150	203,950	5,150	110,850	135,450	387,750	1,284,950
Apr – Jun 2010	247,900	115,350	30,300	0	23,050	6,850	218,300	213,450	5,650	189,350	203,000	726,100	1,979,300
Jul – Sep 2010	197,200	119,650	172,850	22,900	188,300	23,650	467,900	349,550	6,450	535,000	353,650	1,078,700	3,515,750
Oct – Dec 2010	126,650	42,750	4,650	0	13,300	6,800	120,500	179,600	6,200	108,250	274,800	285,750	1,169,300
Jan – Mar 2011	170,800	62,350	7,350	1,550	62,950	7,500	124,050	155,250	4,050	49,950	455,100	166,350	1,267,300
Apr – Jun 2011	175,300	53,750	22,500	0	156,050	3,900	130,600	128,600	3,600	128,800	722,300	385,750	1,911,100
Jul – Sep 2011	138,800	115,100	125,600	23,900	334,300	12,100	243,250	124,300	3,600	480,650	1,384,650	561,800	3,548,000
Oct – Dec 2011	99,650	52,250	3,450	0	70,600	4,000	108,300	51,000	2,000	17,050	807,250	55,850	1,271,400
Jan – Mar 2012	127,550	67,900	6,100	500	96,800	3,600	130,850	31,100	1,000	46,450	821,450	51,250	1,384,550
Apr – Jun 2012	151,200	61,250	14,450	0	192,050	2,500	180,800	22,600	700	70,000	1,225,900	195,050	2,116,500
Jul – Sep 2012	134,550	94,500	90,750	22,450	305,300	6,700	239,250	24,150	900	392,250	2,428,700	273,650	4,013,150
Oct – Dec 2012	33,450	45,750	3,100	0	87,250	2,000	107,900	11,750	250	16,400	1,016,250	21,100	1,345,250
Jan – Mar 2013	23,700	58,550	5,050	550	136,850	2,050	116,300	6,700	150	63,900	985,400	22,500	1,421,700
Apr – Jun 2013	23,800	74,750	16,700	500	256,500	1,350	137,000	5,150	100	76,700	1,728,700	142,600	2,463,950
Jul – Sep 2013	20,850	108,600	77,700	22,150	383,950	2,150	184,350	5,100	50	481,500	2,505,450	161,900	3,953,750
Oct – Dec 2013	1,850	41,800	4,600	0	149,700	1,650	8,250	3,000	50	29,400	1,026,700	12,400	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	1,000	74,550	5,400	500	194,450	900	21,150	1,900	0	81,700	1,020,800	12,950	1,415,250
Apr – Jun 2014	1,050	96,450	12,650	500	286,500	1,050	38,650	1,450	0	89,700	1,539,600	75,500	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	700	143,450	58,200	34,800	390,750	1,650	54,750	1,400	0	633,450	2,297,450	78,850	3,695,400
Oct – Dec 2014	50	62,400	3,400	0	163,050	1,650	3,100	1,000	0	31,350	1,007,550	8,150	1,281,750

Notes:

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 4: The 50 awarding organisations that issued the highest number of certificates in vocational and other qualifications for the

quarter October – December 2014 (October – December 2013 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	October – December 2013	October – December 2014
City and Guilds of London Institute	232,900	227,400
Pearson Education Ltd	242,350	213,000
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	77,300	76,100
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	69,400	67,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	57,600	63,500
OCR	62,050	56,050
NCFE	56,550	43,750
Qualsafe Awards	27,200	35,150
Trinity College London	16,650	32,550
Cambridge English Language Assessment	24,100	30,500
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	1,550	28,500
First Aid Awards Ltd	17,900	22,350
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	18,800	18,250
NOCN	40,600	17,800
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	4,450	17,350
BIIAB	13,400	16,250
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	17,950	14,100
Sports Leaders UK	19,250	13,500
Cskills Awards	11,350	12,750
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	2,300	12,250
1st4sport Qualifications	12,100	12,100
Ascentis	16,850	11,700
Royal Society for Public Health	8,800	10,600
Active IQ	7,050	10,150
Institute of Leadership & Management	8,700	9,650
International Dance Teachers Association	7,950	8,650
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	11,050	8,350
Association of Accounting Technicians	5,250	7,950
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	8,900	7,700
British Safety Council	6,150	7,650
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	1,250	7,200
Rock School Ltd	7,900	7,000
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	7,400	6,800
IMI Awards Ltd	7,050	6,750
AoFA Qualifications	7,400	6,750
Lifetime Awarding	8,200	6,100
AQA Education	5,700	4,900
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	3,000	4,750
Chartered Management Institute	4,200	4,400
VTCT	4,050	4,350
Industry Qualifications	3,750	4,350
Chartered Insurance Institute	3,200	4,050
Central YMCA Qualifications	4,150	3,900
Safety Training Awards	2,900	3,900
Open College Network West Midlands Region	1,550	3,700
AIM Awards	4,450	3,650
Laser Learning Awards	4,750	3,600
University of West London	7,200	3,550
WSET Awards	3,500	3,500
Open College Network South West Region	5,150	3,400

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Table 5: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by level of qualification, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Entry level	Level 1	Level 1/2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Total number of achievements
Oct – Dec 2009	68,600	284,700	0	629,750	169,900	13,450	6,250	1,350	1,250	50	1,175,300
Jan – Mar 2010	82,800	325,350	0	693,400	158,700	16,400	5,700	1,000	1,550	50	1,284,950
Apr – Jun 2010	151,600	492,500	0	1,080,450	231,550	14,450	6,500	800	1,500	0~	1,979,300
Jul – Sep 2010	362,600	905,350	0	1,650,250	543,850	28,150	17,500	5,200	2,750	50	3,515,750
Oct – Dec 2010	61,700	317,100	0	605,400	160,100	15,700	6,200	1,650	1,450	100	1,169,300
Jan – Mar 2011	103,850	315,600	0	659,300	159,900	18,150	7,450	1,450	1,550	50	1,267,300
Apr – Jun 2011	160,250	487,700	0	1,029,900	207,100	16,750	6,350	1,850	1,150	0~	1,911,100
Jul – Sep 2011	451,200	908,450	7,950	1,614,850	515,750	27,700	15,700	4,200	2,100	100	3,548,000
Oct – Dec 2011	115,450	361,550	0	621,000	146,900	15,100	6,950	1,550	2,850	50	1,271,400
Jan – Mar 2012	128,050	394,600	1,200	682,500	150,600	15,200	7,100	2,950	2,250	100	1,384,550
Apr – Jun 2012	185,850	561,550	0	1,121,050	221,000	16,500	6,950	1,500	2,050	50	2,116,500
Jul – Sep 2012	458,050	965,750	36,200	1,900,950	603,950	28,150	13,950	3,550	2,500	50	4,013,150
Oct – Dec 2012	122,850	403,050	0	634,200	158,100	16,400	6,500	2,400	1,700	50	1,345,250
Jan – Mar 2013	134,000	421,250	8,850	671,750	159,800	14,300	7,350	2,800	1,450	100	1,421,700
Apr – Jun 2013	223,350	620,850	0~	1,295,000	299,900	14,050	7,750	1,650	1,250	100	2,463,950
Jul – Sep 2013	452,200	954,950	138,750	1,728,100	631,950	26,150	14,850	4,050	2,700	100	3,953,750
Oct – Dec 2013	123,800	352,550	7,700	606,050	166,600	11,750	7,200	1,950	1,750	100	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	163,000	353,550	29,950	671,650	176,050	11,800	6,600	1,500	1,050	50	1,415,250
Apr – Jun 2014	230,100	504,550	8,350	1,061,500	314,300	12,100	8,800	2,350	1,050	50	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	455,700	781,150	318,650	1,410,150	682,100	22,900	18,750	4,050	1,850	50	3,695,400
Oct – Dec 2014	138,900	333,450	3,750	598,750	182,350	12,600	8,700	1,900	1,350	50	1,281,750

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.
3. 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 zero~. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 6: The 50 qualifications with the most certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for the quarter October – December 2014 (October – December 2013 shown for comparison)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Qualification	Total number of certificates issued (for the quarter)	
	October – December 2013	October – December 2014
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	41,150	37,800
QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	15,850	18,600
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 1) (QCF)	15,450	15,450
HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	12,750	14,950
FAA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	11,950	13,700
Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	10,100	13,400
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	9,200	12,850
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	10,500	12,600
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	10,850	12,150
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	11,450	10,750
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	10,850	10,650
BIIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	7,250	10,600
TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	5,050	10,600
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	10,000	9,900
HABC Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	9,150	9,600
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 1	8,300	9,450
ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3) (QCF)	10,200	9,350
QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (QCF)	7,100	8,600
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	6,350	8,350
Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	11,850	8,150
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	8,250	7,950
CIEH Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	5,600	7,450
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	4,850	7,300
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 4) (QCF)	7,050	7,100
Cambridge English Level 2 Certificate in English (IELTS 7.0-8.0) (ESOL)	5,650	6,750
ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 5) (QCF)	7,450	6,700
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	5,150	6,550
Cambridge English Entry Level Certificate in English (IELTS 4.0-5.0) (Entry 3) (ESOL)	3,950	6,350
IQL Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue (QCF)	8,500	5,900
1st4sport Level 1 Award in Coaching Football (QCF)	5,200	5,550
Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 1	5,350	5,400
RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	4,950	5,350
QA Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	0	5,250
ABRSM Level 2 Award in Graded Examination in Music Theory (Grade 5) (QCF)	5,050	5,200
Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	2,450	5,050
Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at level 1	6,400	5,050
City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 1	4,500	4,950
Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	2,100	4,800
HABC Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	2,700	4,650
FAA Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	3,300	4,600
CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Manufacturing (QCF)	2,950	4,450
TCL Level 1 Award in the Arts (QCF)	3,000	4,450
HABC Level 2 Award in Door Supervision (QCF)	5,500	4,200
Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	3,250	4,150
ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 1 (QCF)	950	4,050
HABC Level 3 Award In First Aid at Work (QCF)	3,600	4,000
AOFAQ Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	4,550	3,900
Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at Level 2	4,850	3,900
Pearson EDI Level 2 Award in Employment Responsibilities and Rights in Health, Social Care and Children and Young People's Settings (QCF)	3,950	3,700
ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 2 (QCF)	900	3,650

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

- Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
- Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 7: The 20 qualifications with the most and least growth in terms of number of certificates awarded in the quarter October – December 2014 (with the percentage change from October – December 2013)

England, Wales & Northern Ireland		Number of certificates		Percentage change (from October - December 2013)
Qualification	October – December 2013	October – December 2014		
Less than 500 certificates	CCEA Level 2 Award in Occupational Studies (Design and Creativity)	0	500	
	CCEA Level 2 Award in Occupational Studies (Environment and Society)	0	500	
	CCEA Level 2 Award in Occupational Studies (Construction)	0	450	
	CCEA Level 2 Award in Occupational Studies (Business and Services)	0-	450	>150
	CCEA Level 2 Award in Occupational Studies (Engineering and Engineering Services)	50	500	>150
	CCEA Level 2 Award in Occupational Studies (Technology and Innovation)	0	450	
	CCEA Level 3 Key Skills in Information and Communication Technology	50	450	>150
	CCEA Level 1/2 Occupational Studies (Design and Creativity)	0-	450	>150
	CCEA Level 1/2 Occupational Studies (Business and Services)	0-	450	>150
	OCN NI Entry Level Award In Progression (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	400	
	Pearson EDI Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	7,250	0	-98
	NOCN Entry Level Award in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (Entry 3) (QCF)	7,050	0	-92
	NOCN Level 1 Award in Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) (QCF)	30,950	0	-97
	NCFE Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of End of Life Care (QCF)	22,400	0	-98
	QA Level 2 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	18,200	0	-99
	ASCENTIS Level 1 Award in Managing Personal Finance (QCF)	10,850	0	-97
	NOCN Level 1 Award in Progression (QCF)	8,250	0	-96
	City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (Spoken)	7,950	0	-93
	City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in ESOL International (reading, writing and listening)	7,500	0	-95
LAO Level 2 Certificate in Principles of Business and Administration (QCF)	7,400	0	-89	
Between 500 - 4,999 certificates	BSC Level 1 Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment (QCF)	0	3,150	
	ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 1 (QCF)	950	4,050	>150
	BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)	0-	2,900	>150
	BCS Level 2 ECDL Certificate in IT User Skills (QCF)	0-	2,850	>150
	ISTD Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Dance: Grade 2 (QCF)	900	3,650	>150
	Pearson Edexcel Entry Level Certificate in ESOL Skills for Life (Speaking and Listening) (Entry 3)	2,100	4,800	>150
	TQUK Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	850	3,450	>150
	City & Guilds Entry Level Certificate in Employability Skills (Entry 3) (QCF)	0	2,400	
	BCS Level 1 ECDL Award in IT User Skills (QCF)	100	2,500	>150
	City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Employability Skills (QCF)	0	2,300	
	BCS Level 1 Award in IT User Skills (ECDL Essentials) (ITQ) (QCF)	6,100	1,250	-79
	BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra) (ITQ) (QCF)	6,250	1,750	-72
	Ascentis Level 1 Award In Internet Safety For IT Users (QCF)	5,750	1,350	-76
	Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Principles of Applied Science	3,650	500	-86
	City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Employability and Personal Development (QCF)	3,400	500	-85
	Pearson BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Customer Service (QCF)	4,650	2,000	-57
	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity (QCF)	3,500	1,700	-51
	Sports Leaders UK Level 2 Award in Community Sports Leadership (QCF)	2,900	1,150	-60
	Pearson BTEC Level 1 Award in WorkSkills (QCF)	3,350	1,650	-50
NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Employability Skills (QCF)	2,400	750	-68	
5,000 certificates and above	TCL Entry Level Certificate in ESOL International - Speaking and Listening (Entry 3)	5,050	10,600	109
	QA Level 3 Award in Paediatric First Aid (QCF)	0	5,250	
	City & Guilds Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	9,200	12,850	40
	BIIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders (QCF)	7,250	10,600	46
	Cambridge English Level 1 Certificate in English (IELTS 5.5-6.5) (ESOL)	10,100	13,400	32
	QA Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	15,850	18,600	18
	Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Level 2	2,450	5,050	107
	Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in English at Level 2	4,850	7,300	50
	Cambridge English Entry Level Certificate in English (IELTS 4.0-5.0) (Entry 3) (ESOL)	3,950	6,350	61
	HABC Level 2 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (QCF)	12,750	14,950	17
	Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership (QCF)	11,850	8,150	-31
	CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering (QCF)	41,150	37,800	-8
	IQ Level 2 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, Intervention, Supervision and Rescue (QCF)	8,500	5,900	-31
	Pearson EDI Functional Skills qualification in mathematics at level 1	6,400	5,050	-21
	ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 3) (QCF)	10,200	9,350	-8
	ABRSM Level 2 Certificate in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 5) (QCF)	7,450	6,700	-10
	ABRSM Level 1 Award in Graded Examination in Music Performance (Grade 2) (QCF)	11,450	10,750	-6
	Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics at Level 2	8,250	7,950	-4
	City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Functional Skills Mathematics	10,850	10,650	-2
CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace (QCF)	10,000	9,900	-1	

Table 8: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by sector subject area, from October – December 2009 to October – December 2014

England, Wales & Northern Ireland

	Health, public services and care	Science and mathematics	Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	Engineering and manufacturing technologies	Construction, planning and the built environment	Information and communication technology	Retail and commercial enterprise	Leisure, travel and tourism	Arts, media and publishing	History, philosophy and theology	Social sciences	Languages, literature and culture	Education and training	Preparation for life and work	Business, administration, finance and law	Total number of certificates issued
Oct – Dec 2009	242,050	700	17,000	73,150	35,850	45,350	86,900	73,600	137,000	50	0-	26,950	23,250	315,700	97,700	1,175,300
Jan – Mar 2010	251,400	2,500	18,150	65,400	32,350	70,900	91,400	55,900	107,550	50	200	44,200	22,450	418,450	104,050	1,284,950
Apr – Jun 2010	271,900	41,950	23,350	86,750	56,000	179,950	117,400	122,200	236,850	0	100	75,500	26,850	606,400	134,150	1,979,300
Jul – Sep 2010	363,200	96,750	47,700	170,650	104,800	303,650	203,500	185,600	356,050	41,250	2,850	217,900	45,750	1,168,100	207,950	3,515,750
Oct – Dec 2010	213,500	1,500	17,350	61,550	32,900	43,750	107,500	72,750	140,450	750	100	27,700	21,500	332,100	95,900	1,169,300
Jan – Mar 2011	152,550	3,000	9,500	88,250	29,650	67,500	165,700	71,950	73,300	50	150	43,750	23,250	431,500	107,100	1,267,300
Apr – Jun 2011	172,950	45,900	37,500	98,600	50,550	179,850	170,250	126,850	206,400	3,100	100	74,250	24,650	584,900	135,150	1,911,100
Jul – Sep 2011	251,050	116,400	56,100	169,200	100,200	316,000	247,200	217,650	358,950	41,700	4,100	244,300	37,950	1,186,100	201,150	3,548,000
Oct – Dec 2011	140,350	1,850	20,500	79,500	36,300	48,150	170,300	70,550	126,000	550	250	43,800	17,000	407,650	108,650	1,271,400
Jan – Mar 2012	134,350	3,100	20,000	69,700	37,550	71,650	162,600	60,850	106,950	150	150	47,650	20,400	527,150	122,200	1,384,550
Apr – Jun 2012	191,200	45,050	27,100	87,450	53,000	189,850	177,050	130,850	222,550	50	50	73,100	22,300	744,150	152,700	2,116,500
Jul – Sep 2012	329,700	177,100	51,150	179,500	112,250	340,100	274,900	266,050	427,950	45,800	3,750	223,100	37,100	1,283,350	261,350	4,013,150
Oct – Dec 2012	175,400	1,950	18,050	81,500	42,150	58,300	159,650	81,150	131,800	250	100	29,750	18,850	423,700	122,600	1,345,250
Jan – Mar 2013	187,900	8,100	21,300	78,400	36,050	73,950	148,150	62,350	114,250	150	150	44,500	20,350	500,700	125,350	1,421,700
Apr – Jun 2013	289,750	82,450	30,000	101,550	58,200	201,150	182,000	176,350	258,250	150	50	84,700	23,800	782,000	193,600	2,463,950
Jul – Sep 2013	371,650	187,800	50,750	178,450	106,650	297,800	263,950	227,950	392,100	40,850	4,400	277,550	43,500	1,255,000	255,350	3,953,750
Oct – Dec 2013	221,750	4,950	16,800	74,650	36,200	52,100	146,000	71,100	131,500	50	0-	34,500	19,000	358,450	112,400	1,279,450
Jan – Mar 2014	259,350	2,400	17,900	74,350	33,350	54,100	140,250	59,650	101,350	100	100	67,150	19,950	462,500	122,700	1,415,250
Apr – Jun 2014	308,600	47,200	28,750	90,250	52,550	143,250	167,300	137,400	252,600	8,700	50	63,250	22,550	650,600	170,100	2,143,150
Jul – Sep 2014	393,600	233,200	48,050	161,800	110,400	230,600	233,850	206,850	397,050	21,350	5,850	268,450	38,200	1,104,000	242,250	3,695,400
Oct – Dec 2014	242,200	1,600	17,950	72,950	45,500	40,050	135,950	60,450	136,700	300	50	33,050	16,850	368,750	109,400	1,281,750

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 9: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by second-tier sector subject area, for the quarter October – December 2014 (October – December 2013 shown for comparison)

Sector subject area	Total number of certificates issued	
	(for the quarter)	
	October – December 2013	October – December 2014
01.1 Medicine and dentistry	0~	0
01.2 Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	1,100	1,400
01.3 Health and social care	174,750	199,500
01.4 Public services	34,700	31,200
01.5 Child development and well-being	11,150	10,050
02.1 Science	4,950	1,600
02.2 Mathematics and statistics	0	0
03.1 Agriculture	3,800	4,200
03.2 Horticulture and forestry	6,400	8,500
03.3 Animal care and veterinary science	4,950	4,200
03.4 Environmental conservation	1,600	1,100
04.1 Engineering	22,250	21,350
04.2 Manufacturing technologies	36,750	37,150
04.3 Transportation operations and maintenance	15,650	14,450
05.1 Architecture	0	0
05.2 Building and construction	36,200	45,500
05.3 Urban, rural and regional planning	0	0
06.1 ICT practitioners	5,350	5,200
06.2 ICT for users	46,750	34,850
07.1 Retailing and wholesaling	14,250	13,850
07.2 Warehousing and distribution	10,800	8,900
07.3 Service enterprises	21,800	15,900
07.4 Hospitality and catering	99,100	97,250
08.1 Sport, leisure and recreation	69,650	59,300
08.2 Travel and tourism	1,450	1,150
09.1 Performing arts	118,500	122,950
09.2 Crafts, creative arts and design	10,850	11,800
09.3 Media and communication	1,950	1,900
09.4 Publishing and information services	200	50
10.1 History	0	0
10.2 Archaeology and archaeological sciences	0~	0~
10.3 Philosophy	0	0
10.4 Theology and religious studies	50	300
11.1 Geography	0~	0
11.2 Sociology and social policy	0~	50
11.3 Politics	0	0
11.4 Economics	0	0
12.1 Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	30,300	30,900
12.2 Other languages, literature and culture	4,250	2,200
13.1 Teaching and lecturing	11,900	9,800
13.2 Direct learning support	7,100	7,050
14.1 Foundations for learning and life	293,350	331,950
14.2 Preparation for work	65,100	36,800
15.1 Accounting and finance	16,750	19,250
15.2 Administration	57,600	50,950
15.3 Business management	36,100	36,600
15.4 Marketing and sales	1,800	2,350
15.5 Law and legal services	150	300

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero~. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 10: Total number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications by country and sector subject area, for the 12 months to the end of December 2014

Table 10: Number of certificates in the 12 months to the end of December 2014, by country and type of qualification

Qualification type	England		12 month % change		Wales		12 month % change		Northern Ireland		12 month % change	
	Number	% of total	England	% of total	Wales	% of total	Northern Ireland	% of total	Northern Ireland	% of total	Northern Ireland	% of total
Basic skills	2,100	0.0	-96	0	0.0	-100	700	0.3	318			
English for speakers of other languages	368,250	4.8	33	5,050	0.8	27	3,600	1.6	73			
Entry Level	53,850	0.7	-23	16,550	2.6	-1	9,200	4.0	3			
Free-standing mathematics qualification	35,550	0.5	55	250	0.0	246	0	0.0	0			
Functional skills	1,025,100	13.4	12	9,500	1.5	98	150	0.1	-8			
Higher level	5,000	0.1	-28	50	0.0	-65	150	0.1	-47			
Key skills	19,750	0.3	-74	86,850	13.5	-7	11,100	4.9	147			
NVQ	5,100	0.1	-71	400	0.1	-78	300	0.1	-65			
Occupational qualification	0	0.0	-97	0	0.0	-100	0	0.0	-100			
Other general qualification	529,000	6.9	28	248,000	38.6	14	59,250	26.0	32			
QCF	5,460,750	71.2	-6	265,500	41.3	-8	139,150	61.2	-2			
Vocationally related qualification	160,850	2.1	-48	10,650	1.7	-31	3,950	1.7	-6			
Total number of certificates awarded	7,665,300	100.0	-6	642,750	100.0	0	227,500	100.0	9			

Notes:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero. Figures have been rounded independently so may not sum to the total.

Table 11: England – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2014

Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end) January – December 2014
Pearson Education Ltd	2,029,750
City and Guilds of London Institute	1,308,700
OCR	616,200
NCFE	287,800
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	279,600
WJEC-CBAC	261,000
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	254,600
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	250,400
AQA Education	211,200
Cambridge English Language Assessment	196,750
Trinity College London	178,400
Cambridge International Examinations	165,650
Qualsafe Awards	129,350
NOCN	112,250
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	88,600
First Aid Awards Ltd	81,550
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	77,750
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	76,050
Sports Leaders UK	75,200
Cskills Awards	71,000
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	70,950
LAMDA	61,050
BIIAB	59,650
1st4sport Qualifications	55,750
Ascentis	55,200
VTCT	49,650
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	47,700
IMI Awards Ltd	47,000
Open College Network Eastern Region trading as Gateway Qualifications	43,300
Association of Accounting Technicians	41,100
Institute of Leadership & Management	37,300
International Baccalaureate Organisation	37,150
Royal Academy of Dance	37,050
Active IQ	36,750
Lifetime Awarding	34,650
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	33,950
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd	33,900
Royal Society for Public Health	32,850
International Dance Teachers Association	31,200
AoFA Qualifications	28,200
ABC Awards	27,950
Rock School Ltd	27,350
British Safety Council	24,100
Central YMCA Qualifications	23,200
Open College Network South West Region	22,500
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	21,800
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	21,550
AIM Awards	20,750
Industry Qualifications	18,800
University of West London	17,350

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 12: Wales – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2014

Wales only	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	January – December 2014
WJEC-CBAC	240,700
City and Guilds of London Institute	124,500
Pearson Education Ltd	62,750
OCR	41,800
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	29,700
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	19,750
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	13,050
Excellence, Achievement & Learning Limited	10,550
Agored Cymru	7,050
Qualsafe Awards	5,650
VTCT	5,450
Cskills Awards	4,350
Cambridge English Language Assessment	4,300
Institute of Leadership & Management	4,150
Royal Society for Public Health	3,600
AoFA Qualifications	3,500
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	3,500
NOCN	3,400
Trinity College London	3,250
Safety Training Awards	3,000
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	2,900
IMI Awards Ltd	2,600
Sports Leaders UK	2,500
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	2,450
NCFE	2,400
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	2,250
AQA Education	2,200
1st4sport Qualifications	2,000
BIIAB	1,950
British Safety Council	1,900
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	1,800
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	1,800
First Aid Awards Ltd	1,800
International Baccalaureate Organisation	1,800
Association of Accounting Technicians	1,550
Active IQ	1,450
Central YMCA Qualifications	1,400
Royal Academy of Dance	1,350
Rock School Ltd	1,250
University of West London	1,200
WAMITAB	950
ABC Awards	750
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	650
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	550
Amateur Swimming Association	500
FDQ Limited	450
Scottish Qualifications Authority trading as SQA	400
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	400
Chartered Management Institute	350
Mountain Leader Training England	350

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

Table 13: Northern Ireland – the 50 awarding organisations with the highest number of certificates issued in vocational and other qualifications for January – December 2014

Northern Ireland only	
Awarding organisation	Total number of certificates issued (for the 12 months to quarter end)
	January – December 2014
City and Guilds of London Institute	62,100
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment	49,100
Pearson Education Ltd	18,050
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health	17,350
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	11,050
OCR	9,850
Trinity College London	7,600
University of West London	3,800
Open College Network Northern Ireland	3,750
NOCN	3,300
Cambridge English Language Assessment	3,200
Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance	3,150
Cskills Awards	2,650
Institute of Leadership & Management	2,450
AQA Education	2,150
New Era Academy of Drama and Music (London) Ltd	1,850
NCFE	1,800
Royal Academy of Dance	1,550
Rock School Ltd	1,300
Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network	1,300
Active IQ	1,300
Qualsafe Awards	1,150
Institute of Qualified Lifeguards	1,100
Royal Society for Public Health	1,100
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	1,000
iCan Qualifications Limited	1,000
ETC Awards Limited	850
First Aid Awards Ltd	850
IMI Awards Ltd	700
Prince's Trust	700
VTCT	650
Counselling and Psychotherapy Central Awarding Body	650
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing	600
Future (Awards and Qualifications) Ltd	550
WSET Awards	500
ifs University College (previously known as ifs School of Finance)	500
AoFA Qualifications	500
Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education	500
ProQual Awarding Body	450
Graded Qualifications Alliance	450
FDQ Limited	400
Safety Training Awards	400
British Safety Council	350
Signature	250
Equestrian Qualifications Limited	250
Chartered Management Institute	250
Training Qualifications UK Ltd	250
McDonalds	200
1st4sport Qualifications	200
Central YMCA Qualifications	200

Source: Regulated Qualifications Activity Database

Notes:

1. Vocational and other qualifications represent all regulated qualifications other than GCSEs, GCEs and the Diploma.
2. Data are supplied by awarding organisations.

Rounding: All figures are rounded to the nearest 50, values less than 25 will appear as zero-. Zero represent no achievements.

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