



SFR 06/2018, 25 January 2018

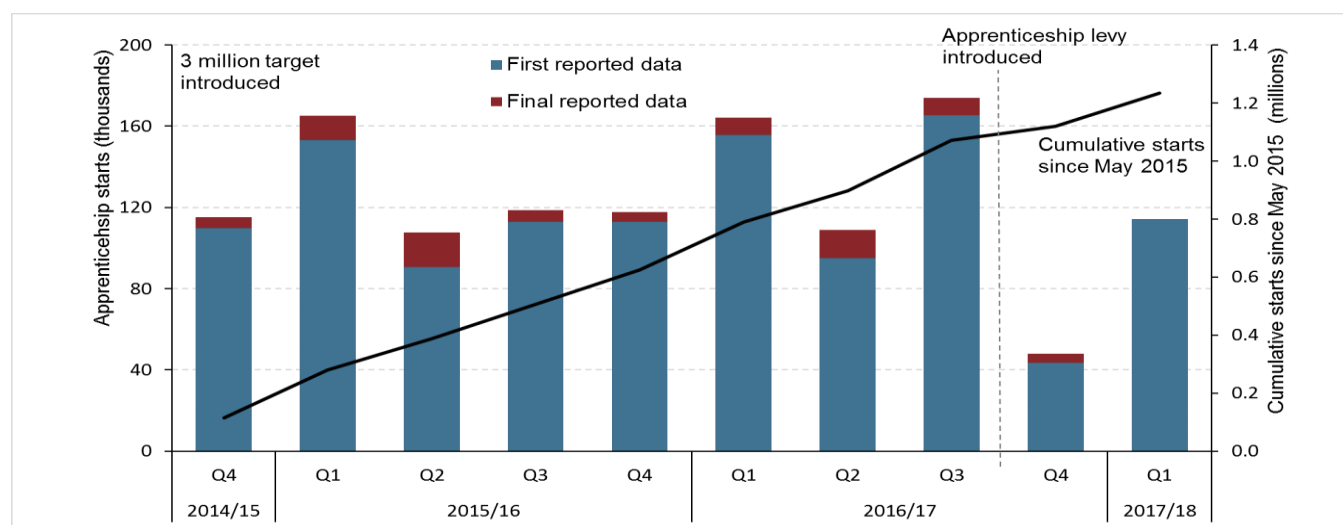
This SFR contains provisional figures for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to October 2017) for England.

As of May 2017 there were significant changes to how apprenticeship funding works including the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and Apprenticeship Service (please see section 4 for more detail). This is likely to have impacted on starts and participation as the new approach beds in, so care should be taken in comparing and interpreting data presented in this release.

Data are subject to change until final data is published in November 2018 as some learning providers report some of their data for this period later in the year. Provider behaviour in reporting can also change from year to year.

Apprenticeship starts for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year decreased compared to figures reported at this time in 2016/17. However, the decrease was not as large as the drop between quarter 4 2015/16 and quarter 4 2016/17.

All age apprenticeship starts, England¹



Source: Individualised Learner Record

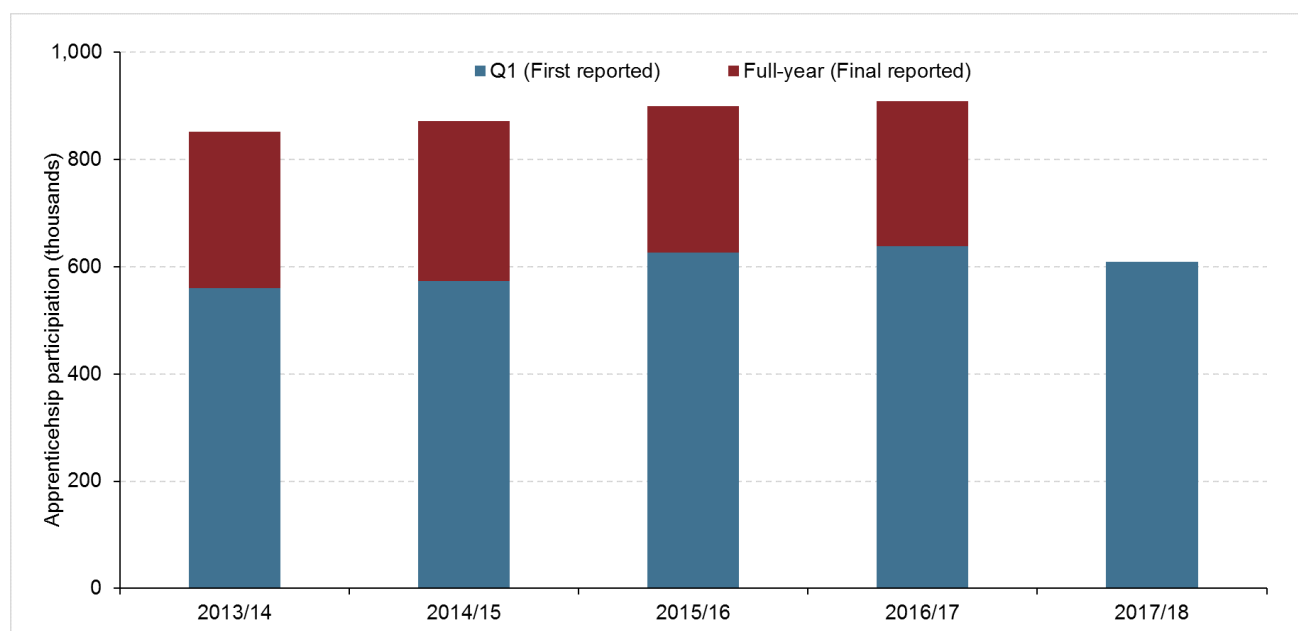
There were **114,400 apprenticeship starts** reported so far for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year, compared to 155,600 reported at this time in 2016/17, a **decrease of 26.5 per cent**. However, the decrease was not as large as the drop between quarter 4 2015/16 and quarter 4 2016/17 (59.3 per cent), which is likely to be associated with the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017. There have been **67,200 levy-supported starts so far**, of which, 46,100 were reported in the first quarter for 2017/18.

There were 1,233,900 apprenticeship starts reported to October 2017 since May 2015 and 3,611,500 starts reported to October 2017 since May 2010.

¹ First reported data are those initially reported as the year progresses, and final reported data are those submitted in October for that academic year. Final data for the full 2017/18 academic year will be published in November 2018. The chart shows data aggregated for each quarter of the academic year which runs from August to July.

All-age government funded apprenticeship participation reported so far for the 2017/18 academic year is lower than that reported at the same point in 2016/17.

All age apprenticeship participation, England²



Source: Individualised Learner Record

608,900 learners participated on an apprenticeship in the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year, based on provisional data, compared to 638,700 reported at this time in 2016/17, **a decrease of 4.7 per cent.**

² First reported data are those initially reported as the year progresses, and final reported data are those submitted in October for that academic year. Final data for the full 2017/18 academic year will be published in November 2018. The chart shows participation data for each academic year, along with quarter 1 breakdowns as first reported for each year.

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About this release

This apprenticeships and traineeships release presents information on apprenticeships (16+) and traineeships (16-24) in England, reported to date for the 2017 to 2018 academic year. Apprenticeships are paid jobs that incorporate on- and off-the-job training leading to nationally recognised qualifications. As an employee, apprentices earn as they learn and gain practical skills in the workplace. A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience. Traineeships were introduced in the 2013/14 academic year to provide young people with essential work preparation, English, maths and work experience to secure an apprenticeship or other work.³

Changes included in this release

This release includes provisional figures for the first quarter of the academic year 2017/18 based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) by further education colleges and providers in December 2017. The data will change as further data returns relating to the period are received later in the year.

We have also included data reported so far on the apprenticeship levy supported starts since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017.

Changes in the next release

This publication will be released twice per year (January and July) as a stand-alone document, and will be subsumed and combined into the main Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release (SFR) each March and November.

The next release containing apprenticeships and traineeships statistics will be the SFR in March 2018. This will include provisional mid-year data for the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to January 2018). The next apprenticeships and traineeships release in this format will be in July 2018 and provide provisional data for quarter 3 (August 2017 to April 2018). Final full year data will be released in the SFR in November 2018.

In this publication

The following tables are included in the SFR:

- National tables (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

- Supplementary tables and data tools (Excel .xls):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

Transparency data

On 25 January 2018, the latest monthly statistics were released providing headline monthly data on apprenticeship starts and using data from the apprenticeship service and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) schemes. This provides transparency on the development of the apprenticeships levy and the apprenticeship system as a whole.

The monthly data provides timely insight into the headline activity and will be published while the levy system is bedding in. We will publish these statistics on a monthly basis but may adjust content and timing as feedback is assessed.

These monthly statistics are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2017-releases>

A back series of monthly apprenticeship starts from the 2014/15 academic year are available here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661181/Monthly_apprenticeship_starts_from_201415_to_201617.xlsx

This apprenticeships and traineeships release provides further breakdowns on the headline apprenticeships starts initially reported as transparency data in the monthly publication.

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document and accompanying tables, please contact: Praful.Whiteman@education.gov.uk.

³ Further details are available in the Quality and Methodology document which accompanied the November SFR: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/660830/SFR62_2017_QualityandMethodology.pdf

1. In-year apprenticeships and traineeships for England, 2017/18

Figures for the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to October 2017) are based on information that has been reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in December 2017 by further education colleges and providers. The data provide an early view of performance and will change as further data returns are received. Since providers report some of their data for this period later in the year, the data are subject to change (in either direction) until final data is received.

At this point in the year, 2017/18 figures are referred to as *reported so far* or *reported to date* to reflect this. This release reports on the provisional first quarter for the 2017/18 academic year.

It is not possible to determine how complete or incomplete the information returned so far is, therefore care should be taken when comparing data reported so far in 2017/18 to the equivalent reporting period in 2016/17⁴.

This is particularly the case as provider reporting behaviour may change year to year. In addition, provider reporting behaviour may have particularly been affected since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017.

More accurate comparisons can be made once final returns for the academic year are made (data returned in October 2018, due to be published in November 2018).

Summary and key headlines – 2017/18 (data reported so far)

Apprenticeship participation	608,900 participants on an apprenticeship have been reported so far in 2017/18, compared with 638,700 at this time in 2016/17, a decrease of 4.7 per cent.
Apprenticeship starts	114,400 apprenticeship starts have been reported so far in 2017/18, compared with 155,600 at this time in 2016/17, a decrease of 26.5 per cent. Since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017, there have been 67,200 levy-supported starts, of which 46,100 were levy-supported starts in Q1 2017/18. There have now been 1,233,900 apprenticeship starts reported to October 2017 since May 2015 and 3,611,500 starts reported to October 2017 since May 2010.
Traineeships	6,800 traineeship starts have been reported so far in 2017/18, compared with 7,300 at this time in 2016/17, a decrease of 6.5 per cent.

In order to understand the impact of policy and methodology changes on any data published in this release, details are provided in the quality and methodology document that accompanies the November 2017 SFR. As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic.

For more information, please see the latest version of the November 2017 SFR release here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/660830/SFR62_2017_QualityandMethodology.pdf

Apprenticeship participation (Table 1)

Apprenticeship participation data reported for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

- **608,900 participants** on an apprenticeship, a decrease of 4.7 per cent from 638,700 reported for Q1 2016/17.

⁴ Please refer to the Quality and Methodology document which accompanies the November 2017 SFR for more information: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/660830/SFR62_2017_QualityandMethodology.pdf

Of which:

287,500 at intermediate level, a decrease of 14.9 per cent from 337,900 in Q1 2016/17

273,800 at advanced level, an increase of 1.4 per cent from 270,200 in Q1 2016/17

51,300 at higher level, an increase of 36.7 per cent from 37,500 in Q1 2016/17

119,300 were aged under 19, a decrease of 11.1 per cent from 134,300 in Q1 2016/17

489,600 aged 19 and over, a decrease of 2.9 per cent from 504,400 in Q1 2016/17

Apprenticeship starts (Table 2.1)

Apprenticeship starts data reported so far for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

- **114,400 apprenticeship starts**, a decrease of 26.5 per cent from 155,600 reported at this time for 2016/17.

Of which:

52,000 at intermediate level, a decrease of 38.1 per cent from 84,000 in Q1 2016/17

50,800 at advanced level, a decrease of 18.8 per cent from 62,500 in Q1 2016/17

11,600 at higher level, an increase of 26.8 per cent from 9,100 in Q1 2016/17

46,600 were aged under 19, a decrease of 20.0 per cent from 58,300 in Q1 2016/17

67,800 aged 19 and over, a decrease of 30.4 per cent from 97,400 in Q1 2016/17

- 10,700 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a black, asian and minority ethnic group. This is 9.3 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, compared to 9.7 per cent for Q1 2016/17⁵.
- 13,500 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from the learning difficulties and/or disabilities group. This is 11.8 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, compared to 10.7 per cent for Q1 2016/17⁶.
- **67,200 levy supported starts** were recorded since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017, of which **46,100** were recorded for Q1 2017/18. In quarter 1 2017/18, just under half of the levy supported starts (20,800) were at an advanced level, with 18,100 at intermediate level and 7,200 at higher level apprenticeships.

In order to be counted as a **levy supported start**, the apprenticeship must have been supported through levy funds.

- **40,900 apprenticeship starts** were reported on the new apprenticeship **standards**, compared to 4,800 reported at this time last year for 2016/17.

Of which:

23,200 were levy supported starts

15,200 were aged under 19, compared to 2,200 in Q1 2016/17

⁵ Full final year starts proportion for black, asian and minor ethnic group was 11.2 per cent for 2016/17.

⁶ Full final year starts proportion for learners with learning difficulty and/or disability was 10.3 per cent for 2016/17.

25,700 aged 19 and over, compared to 2,600 in Q1 2016/17

- There have now been **70,300 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction** in September 2014.
- **1,233,900 apprenticeship starts were reported to October 2017 since May 2015** and 3,611,500 starts were reported to October 2017 since May 2010.

Apprenticeship achievements (Table 2.2)

Apprenticeship achievements data reported for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

- **56,000 apprenticeship achievements**, a decrease of 3.1 per cent from 57,800 reported at this time last year for 2016/17.

Of which:

31,800 at intermediate level, a decrease of 3.1 per cent from 35,100 in Q1 2016/17

21,700 at advanced level, an increase of 3.0 per cent from 21,000 in Q1 2016/17

2,600 at higher level, an increase of 53.6 per cent from 1,700 in Q1 2016/17

17,500 were aged under 19, a decrease of 3.1 per cent from 19,900 in Q1 2016/17

38,500 aged 19 and over, an increase of 1.5 per cent from 37,900 in Q1 2016/17

Additional breakdowns of provisional apprenticeship statistics are published online at the FE Data Library⁷.

Traineeships (Table 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3)

Data reported for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

6,800 **traineeship starts**, a decrease of 6.5 per cent from 7,300 in Q1 2016/17, of which:

5,500 were under 19, an increase of 4.3 per cent from 5,300 in Q1 2016/17

1,300 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 34.3 per cent from 2,000 in Q1 2016/17

2,000 **traineeship completions**, a decrease of 27.5 per cent from 2,700 in Q1 2016/17, of which:

1,300 were under 19, a decrease of 12.8 per cent from 1,500 in Q1 2016/17

700 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 45.8 per cent from 1,200 in Q1 2016/17

1,000 **traineeship progressions** to a job, apprenticeship, further full time education or other training, a decrease of 24.9 per cent from 1,400 in Q1 2016/17, of which:

800 were under 19, a decrease of 41.6 per cent from 900 in Q1 2016/17

200 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 50.3 per cent from 500 in Q1 2016/17⁸

⁷ The FE Data Library can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>.

⁸ Percentages are calculated on unrounded data.

2. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>.

Year to date tables

- 1 All Age Apprenticeship Participation by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 2.1 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 2.2 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Achievements by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 3.1 Traineeship Starts by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 3.2 Traineeship Completions by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18 reported to date)
- 3.3 Traineeship Progressions by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18 reported to date)

Supplementary tables

Additional breakdowns of further education statistics are published online, please see here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>. These additional breakdowns include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, parliamentary constituency, sector subject area and funding stream.

Supplementary data tools and tables

- 1 Apprenticeship demographic and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18 (reported to date)
- 2 Apprenticeship framework and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18 (reported to date)
- 3 Apprenticeship geography and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18 (reported to date)
- 4 Apprenticeships by region and sector subject area: participation 2009/10 to 2017/18 (reported to date)

When reviewing the tables, please note that:

We preserve confidentiality	The Code of Practice for Official Statistics (https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/monitoring-and-assessment/code-of-practice/) requires us to take reasonable steps to ensure that our published or disseminated statistics protect confidentiality.
We suppress some figures	In the main tables, headline volumes below 50 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). In the supplementary tables volumes below 5 are suppressed (this includes values of zero). A percentage of less than 0.5% is suppressed.
We adopt symbols to help identify suppression	Symbols are used in the tables as follows: '-' indicates a headline volume with below 50 in the SFR main tables and below 5 in the supplementary tables. ** indicates a percentage of less than 0.5%.
We round figures	In the main tables, headline volumes are reported rounded to the nearest 100. In the supplementary tables volumes are rounded to the nearest 10. The exception to this is any figure that is an exact duplicate of a value in the headline figures (e.g. Grand Totals), which are rounded to the nearest 100 and avoid contradictory figures. Percentages reported are calculated on pre-rounded data and given to one decimal place.
Coverage of the data	This release includes provisional data for the first quarter of the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to October 2017) reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in December 2017 by further education providers.

3. Further information is available

Additional breakdowns of apprenticeship and traineeship statistics are published online as supplementary tables. These include breakdowns by age, gender, ethnicity, learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, region, local authority, parliamentary constituency, sector subject area and funding stream.

Please see the FE Data Library here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fe-data-library>

Monthly transparency data on apprenticeship and levy statistics are also available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2017-releases>

4. The apprenticeship funding system

Changes in the way apprenticeship funding works were introduced and implemented from May 2017. Guidance about these changes and paying the apprenticeship levy can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work/apprenticeship-levy-how-it-will-work>.

A key aspect of these changes was the introduction of the apprenticeship service, an online service to allow employers to choose and pay for apprenticeship training more easily. Levy-payers are able to register on the apprenticeship service so that they can:

1. receive levy funds to spend on apprenticeships
2. manage their apprentices
3. pay their training provider

5. Other Technical information

For more technical information, please see the latest SFR release and the accompanying quality and methodology information document here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/660830/SFR62_2017_QualityandMethodology.pdf

This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

6. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

7. Get in touch

Media enquiries

Press Office News Desk, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

Tel: 020 7783 8300

Other enquiries and feedback

Praful Whiteman, Further Education Statistical Dissemination Team, Department for Education, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT.

Email: Praful.Whiteman@education.gov.uk



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write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

Enquiries: Praful Whiteman, Further Education Statistical Dissemination Team, Department for Education, St Paul's Place, 123 Norfolk Street, Sheffield S1 2FJ.

Email: Praful.Whiteman@education.gov.uk

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