



6 December 2018

This release contains full final figures for the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to July 2018) for England. It provides data for all adult Further Education and Skills and incorporates an update to the July Apprenticeships and Traineeships quarterly release which also includes 16-18 year olds on those programmes.

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). The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly in the run up to the introduction of the levy and beyond and this is likely to have impacted on apprenticeship starts and participation as the new approach beds in, so care should be taken in comparing and interpreting data presented in this release.

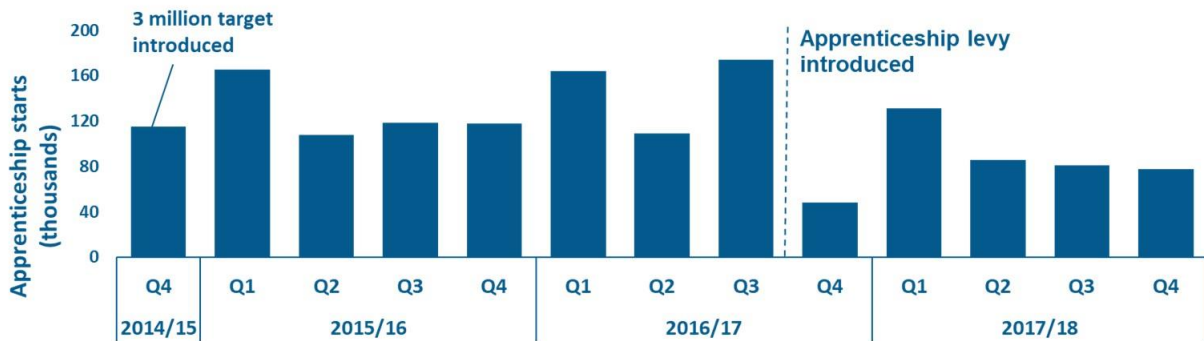
Summary and key headlines – 2017/18

Apprenticeship participation	In 2017/18, apprenticeship participation decreased to 814,800 compared with 908,700 and 899,400 in 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 10.3 and 9.4 per cent respectively.
Apprenticeship starts	375,800 apprenticeship starts have been reported in 2017/18, compared with 494,900 in 2016/17 and 509,400 in 2015/16, a decrease of 24.1 and 26.2 per cent respectively. Since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017, there have been 207,200 levy-supported starts, of which 186,000 were levy-supported starts in the 2017/18 academic year. There have been 1,495,300 apprenticeship starts since May 2015 and 3,872,900 starts since May 2010.
Traineeships	There were 17,700 Traineeship starts in 2017/18, a decrease from 20,300 (12.8 per cent) in 2016/17.
Adult (19+) further education and skills	Participation in government-funded adult further education fell to 2,179,100 in 2017/18 from 2,236,800 in 2016/17. The number of learners participating on Full level 2 courses declined to 286,100 from 426,700 the previous year, and the number of participants on Full level 3 courses declined to 373,500 from 454,300 in 2016/17.
English and maths	664,200 adult learners participated on English and maths courses in 2017/18, a decrease from 755,300 (12.1 per cent) on 2016/17.
Education and Training	1,131,700 learners participated in Education and Training, an increase of 4.8 per cent from 1,080,400 in 2016/17.
Community learning	In 2017/18, there were 504,500 adult learners participating on a Community Learning course, a decrease from 535,800 (5.8 per cent) in 2016/17.



Department
for Education

Apprenticeship starts for the 2017/18 academic year (England)



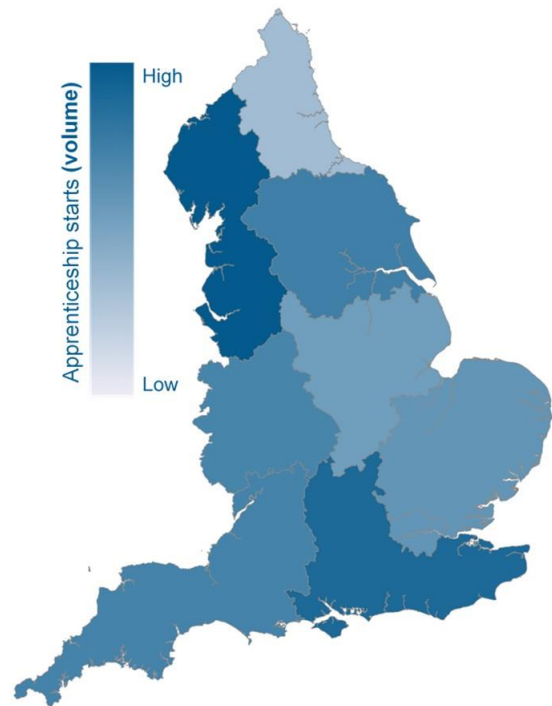
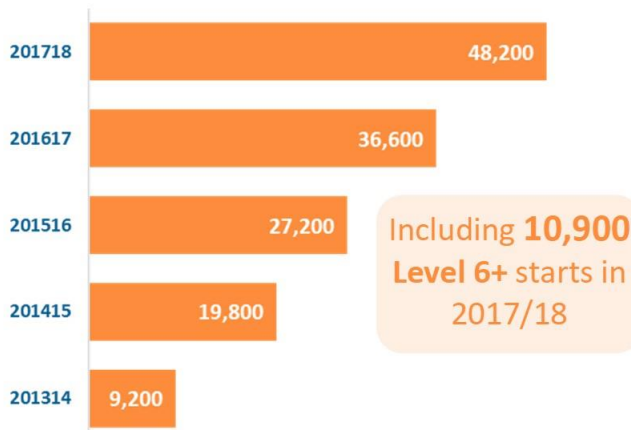
Apprenticeship starts by level and age:



375,800 Apprenticeship starts in 2017/18

1,495,300 Apprenticeship starts since May 2015

Higher level (level 4+) starts since 2013/14:



43.6% of starts on employer defined standard programmes (163,700)

49.5% of starts supported by the apprenticeship levy (186,000)

Demographic percentages for starts:



Source: Department for Education (DfE) "Further education and skills: November 2018"

LLDD = Learning difficulty/disability
BAME = Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic groups

This infographic is also published as a separate document alongside this release. To download it, please go to the Further Education and Skills release published in December 2018 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr>

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About this release

This statistical release presents information on:

- Adult (aged 19+) government-funded further education (excluding schools and higher education) comprising:
 - Education and training, including offender learning (18+)
 - Apprenticeships
 - English and maths
 - Community learning
 - Traineeships (16-24)
- All age (16+) apprenticeships in England.

Final data are presented for further education and apprenticeships between 2010/11 and 2017/18.

Changes included in this release

This release includes final figures for 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 October 2018.

We have also included data on the apprenticeship levy supported starts since the changes to apprenticeship funding from May 2017 onwards following the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.

We made the following changes to this statistical release as set out in the change notes in our November 2017 and October 2018 releases here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661130/Annex_further_education_and_skills_changes_November_2017.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750455/Annex_further_education_and_skills_changes-2018.pdf

As part of this release we have added more granularity to various data products following user feedback, including:

- Adding sector subject area tier 2, routes and levy supported information to the 'apprenticeships by framework/standard' pivot table (which already includes age, detailed level, gender and sector subject area tier 1).
- Adding provider name and provider reference number (UKPRN) to the current 'apprenticeships by sector subject area and provider type' pivot table.
- Updating the 'apprenticeship duration' tables introduced in March. We are also publishing an updated version of the IfA's 'training hours' data in the further education data library. We are exploring other measures that help show the trend towards longer and higher level apprenticeships.
- Publishing new tables of further education and apprenticeship data by 'indices of multiple deprivation' to expand on the ad-hoc tables published earlier in 2018 here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-indices-of-deprivation-england-2015-to-2016>

In addition to the more detailed breakdowns outlined above, we have also made the following changes:

- Offender learning tables will be included in the further education data library for the last time in 2018, as both budget and delivery have transferred to the Ministry of Justice, although associated learners will continue to be included in our overall Further Education and Skills national figures.
- Contextual data on Advanced Learner Loan application information has been uploaded to the further education data library as part of the data cascade associated with this release.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-further-education-and-skills>

This information reports on data provided by the Student Loans Company and was previously released as a stand-alone publication: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education>

- Information on Further Education and Skills participation with an Advanced Learner Loan¹ based on data from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) has been uploaded to the further education data library. This was previously included in the main table pack accompanying this release.
- Tables no longer being updated due to being more historical in nature: Apprenticeship Grant for Employers, Employer Ownership Pilots, and Workplace Learning tables.
- Tables that provide more contextual data around further education are no longer being updated in this release, although users can still obtain related data from Ofqual (vocational qualifications achievements data) and UK labour market statistics through Nomis provided by the Office for National Statistics (level of highest qualification held by economically active adults in the population).
- Qualification achievement rates tables are no longer included in this release, but are available as part of the National Achievement Rate publication: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sfa-national-success-rates-tables>

¹ Please note the 'Advanced Learner Loan application Information' and 'Further Education and Skills participation with an Advanced Learner Loan' report from separate data sources, therefore are not comparable. Please see the accompanying Quality and Methodology document for further details.

Changes in the next release

The next Further Education and Skills release will be in March 2019 and provide provisional data for the first half of the 2018 to 2019 academic year.

The next release containing apprenticeships and traineeships statistics will be the Apprenticeships and Traineeships Release in January 2019. This will include provisional data for the first quarter of the 2018/19 academic year (August 2018 to October 2018). The Apprenticeship and Traineeships Release will be released twice per year (January and July) as a stand-alone document, and will be subsumed and combined into this Further Education and Skills publication each March and November. Please see the previous Apprenticeships and Traineeships release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/apprenticeships-and-traineeships-january-2018>

In this publication

The following tables are included in this release:

- 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>

The accompanying technical document provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Monthly Apprenticeship and Levy Statistics release

On 6 December 2018, the latest monthly statistics were released providing registration and commitments data on the apprenticeship service and headline monthly data on apprenticeship starts. 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.

The December release also includes a new section that brings together a number of existing tables and new measures that provide insight to the impact of apprenticeship reforms on planned duration, training hours and other apprenticeship characteristics. There is also a new section which provides indicative ratios of public sector apprenticeships based on the ILR which complement the public sector apprenticeship release published on 22 November 2018: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-sector-apprenticeships-in-england-2017-to-2018>.

The Apprenticeship and Levy Statistic release is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2018-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

New Public sector apprenticeships release

We published statistics relating to public sector apprenticeships in the first year of the target (covering 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018).

Note: the public sector apprenticeships target was introduced in April 2017. Public bodies in scope of the target are required annually to publish their progress annually and send a report to Department for Education outlining their progress and the steps they took to meet the target. The reports for the first year were due by 30 September.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-sector-apprenticeships-in-england-2017-to-2018>

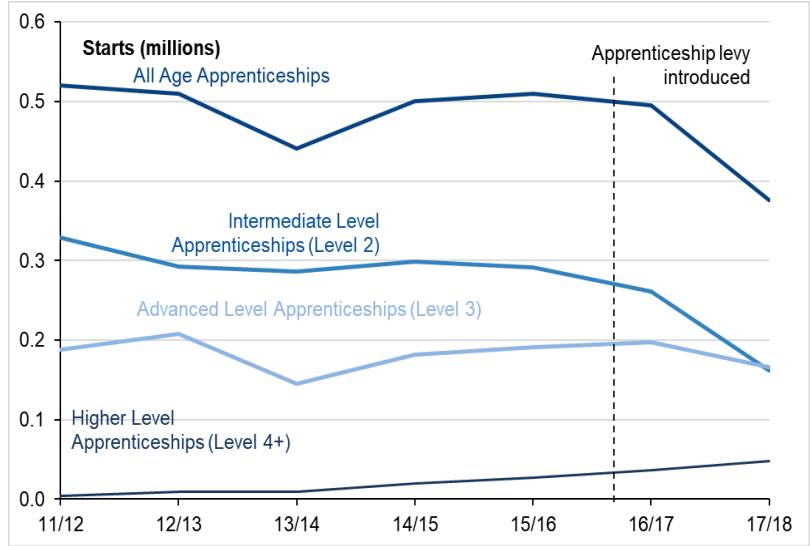
Feedback

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

1. Further Education Statistics for England 2017/18

Apprenticeship starts decreased overall in the 2017/18 academic year compared to 2016/17, although higher level apprenticeship starts increased

Apprenticeship starts by level, England, 2011/12 to 2017/18



Source: Individualised Learner Record

There were **375,800 apprenticeship starts** in the 2017/18 academic year, compared to 494,900 and 509,400 in 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of **24.1** and **26.2 per cent** respectively.

Level 4 and above starts increased by 31.7 per cent to 48,200 compared to 36,600 in 2016/17 and by 77.3 per cent from 27,200 in 2015/16.

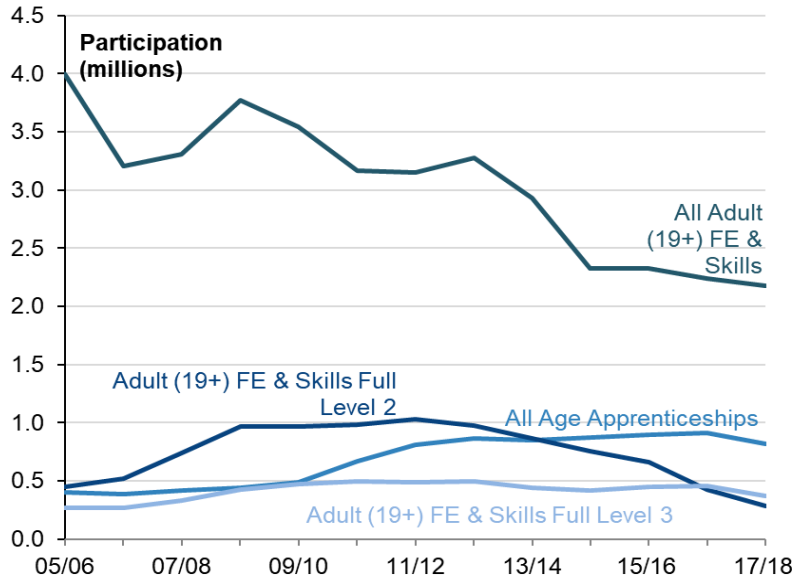
Starts on **standards** increased over six fold to 163,700 from 24,600 in 2016/17.

Nearly half (49.5 per cent) of starts in 2017/18 (186,000) are **levy supported**.

There have been **1,495,300 apprenticeship starts** since May 2015, and 3,872,900 starts since May 2010.

Participation in all age government funded apprenticeships and adult (19+) further education decreased in 2017/18 in comparison to 2016/17.

All age apprenticeship participation and adult (19+) participation in further education, England, 2005/06 to 2017/18



Source: Individualised Learner Record

814,800 learners participated on an apprenticeship in 2017/18, compared to 908,700 and 899,400 for 2016/17 and 2015/16, a decrease of 10.3 and 9.4 per cent respectively.

Participation in government funded **adult (19+) further education** fell to 2,179,100 in 2017/18, compared to 2,236,800 in 2016/17, a decrease of 2.6 per cent.

The number of learners participating on Full level 2 courses declined to 286,100 and the number on Full level 3 courses declined to 373,500 in 2017/18.

Apprenticeship Participation (Table 1)

Figure 1 shows that all age apprenticeship participation fell in 2017/18 to 814,800 following an upward trend between 2013/14 and 2016/17. The highest number was for 2016/17 when there were 908,700 apprenticeships.

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

- **814,800 participants** on an apprenticeship, a decrease of 10.3 per cent from 908,700 reported for 2016/17 and a decrease of 9.4 per cent from 899,400 reported for 2015/16

Of which:

374,400 at intermediate level

372,400 at advanced level

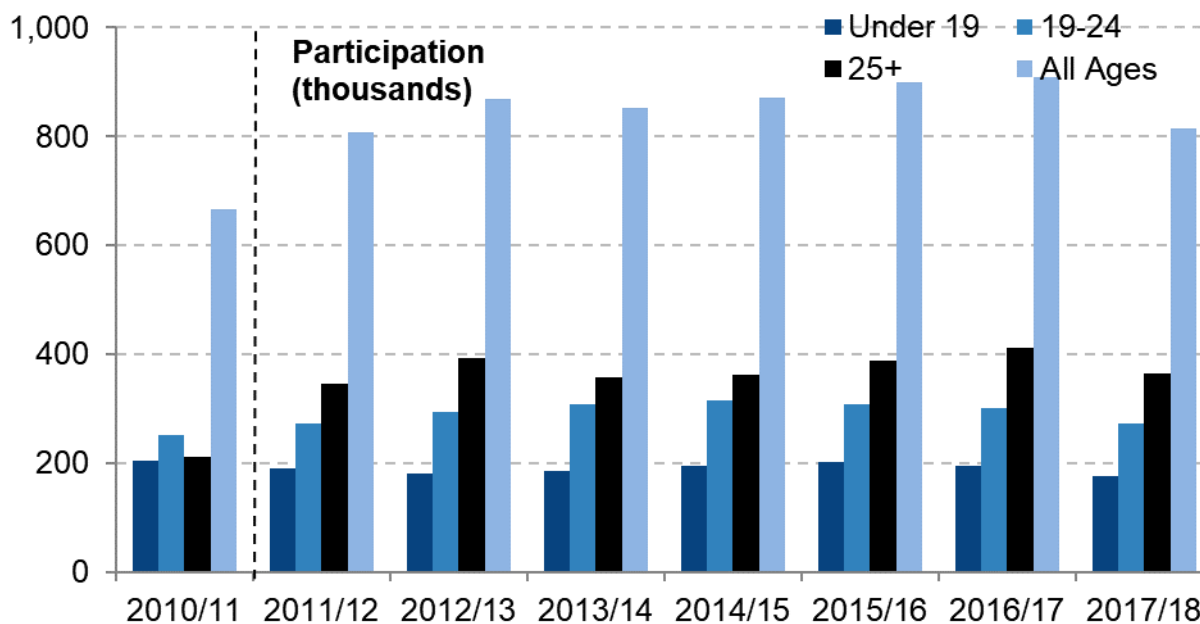
84,200 at higher level

176,500 were aged under 19

638,200 aged 19 and over

- 49.7 per cent were female and 50.3 per cent were male.
- 10.4 per cent declared a learning difficulty and/or disability, an increase from 9.8 per cent in 2016/17.
- 11.1 per cent were from a Black or Minority Ethnic background (including Mixed, Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group learners), an increase from 10.9 per cent in 2016/17.

Figure 1 : Apprenticeship participation by age
England, 2010/11 to 2017/18



Source: Individualised Learner Record

Apprenticeship Starts (Table 2.1)

Apprenticeship Levy

The profile of apprenticeship starts changed significantly in the run up to the introduction of the levy and beyond, therefore care should be taken when comparing individual quarters with previous years, as they are unlikely to provide a meaningful year on year trend.

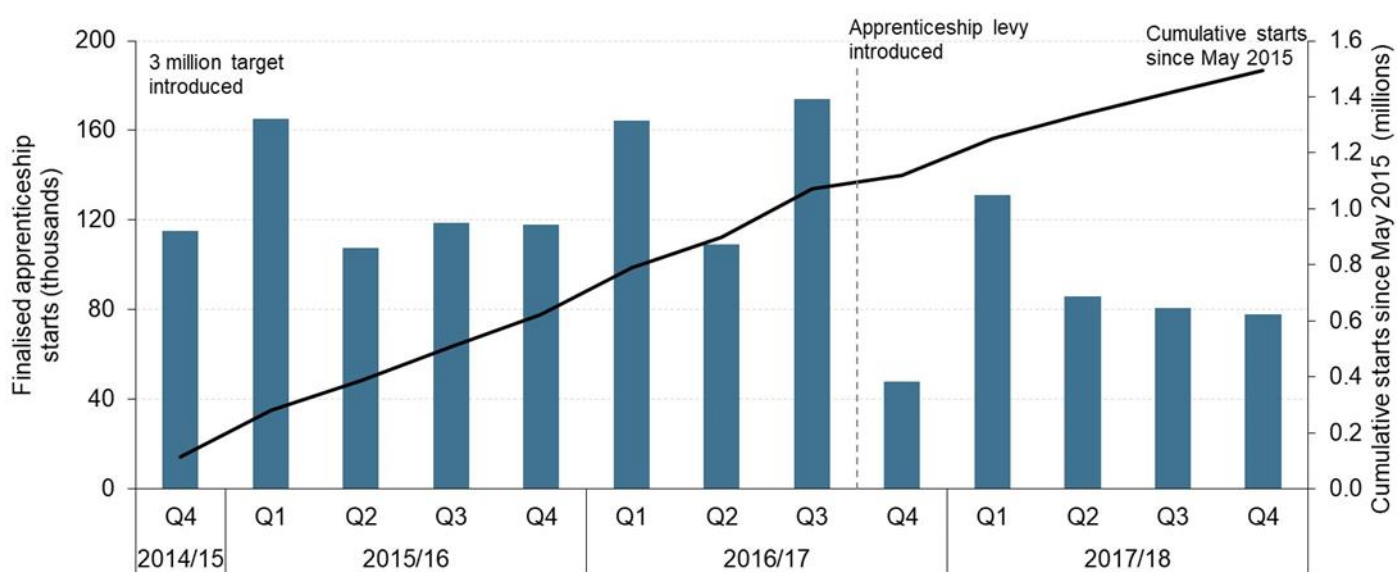
This is especially the case when trying to compare starts in quarter 3 (February to April 2018) of 2017/18 to starts in quarter 3 (February to April 2017) of 2016/17, as there was an unusually large increase in starts in March and April 2017, and then an unusually large decrease in starts in May 2017 when compared to previous years, as shown in Figure 2.

For further details on monthly apprenticeship starts please refer to the Apprenticeships and Levy Statistics release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-sfr#2018-releases>

Figure 2: Apprenticeship starts by academic year quarter since May 2015²

England



Source: Individualised Learner Record

Apprenticeship starts data for the 2017/18 academic year show that there were:

- **375,800 apprenticeship starts**, a decrease of 24.1 per cent from 494,900 in 2016/17, and a decrease of 26.2 per cent from 509,400 in 2015/16.

Of which:

161,400 were at intermediate level

166,200 were at advanced level

48,200 were at higher level

² Final reported data are shown, which is submitted in October for each academic year. The chart shows data aggregated for each quarter of the academic year, which runs from August to July.

106,600 were aged under 19

269,200 were aged 19 and over

- **163,700 starts** on the new **apprenticeship standards** in 2017/18, over a six fold increase on 2016/17 (24,600), however more standards became available in 2017/18.
- 42,200 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from a **black, asian and minority ethnic group**. This is 11.2 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, which is unchanged from 2016/17.
- 42,200 apprenticeships were started by individuals who are from the **learning difficulties and/or disabilities group**. This is 11.2 per cent of apprenticeship starts in 2017/18, compared to 10.3 per cent for 2016/17.
- **207,200 levy supported starts** were recorded following the changes to funding arrangements from May 2017 since the introduction of the apprenticeship levy.

186,000 levy supported starts were recorded in the 2017/18 academic year, nearly half (49.5 per cent) of total starts for 2017/18.

Of which:

71,400 at intermediate level

81,800 at advanced level

32,800 at higher level apprenticeships

- **163,700 apprenticeship starts** were reported on the new apprenticeship **standards** in 2017/18, compared to 24,600 reported for 2016/17.

Of the 163,700 starts on standards,

107,500 were levy supported starts

36,800 were aged under 19, compared to 6,700 in 2016/17

127,000 aged 19 and over, compared to 17,900 in 2016/17

There have now been **193,100 starts on apprenticeship standards since their introduction** in September 2014.

- There have been 1,495,300 apprenticeship starts reported to July 2018 since May 2015 (including 115,300 in quarter 4 2014/15) and 3,872,900 starts reported to July 2018 since May 2010 (including 64,500 in quarter 4 2009/10).

Apprenticeship Achievements (Table 2.2)

The length of an apprenticeship is typically more than a year and apprenticeship achievement is recorded against the year it was achieved, not the year it was started.

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

- **276,200 apprenticeship achievements**, a small decrease of 0.6 per cent from 277,800 for 2016/17 and an increase of 1.7 per cent from 271,700 in 2015/16.

Of which:

149,000 at intermediate level

111,400 at advanced level

15,800 at higher level

72,300 were aged under 19

203,900 aged 19 and over

Additional breakdowns of apprenticeship statistics are published online at the further education data library³.

Apprenticeship expected duration

In this release, expected duration is based on start date and planned end date as recorded on the Individualised Learner Record. Re-starting learners who may have returned from a planned break of stay were excluded, as they tend to have a shorter duration.

Expected duration for apprentices (excluding re-starters) is 581 days for the 2017/18 academic year compared to 511 days in 2016/17.

The apprenticeship expected duration table can be found in the further education data library²

Planned length of stay

Minimum durations have been in place for framework-based apprenticeships since August 2012. For learners aged 16 to 18, apprenticeships must last at least 12 months, but for learners aged 19 and over there is more flexibility, as some adults have prior learning / attainment and can complete more quickly (for example if the training provider can evidence prior learning the minimum duration is reduced to 6 months). For new apprenticeship standards the minimum duration is 12 months, with no exceptions.

Based on the planned end date, the number of apprenticeship starts with a planned length of stay of less than 12 months decreased sharply by 83.2 per cent between 2011/12 and 2012/13 to 34,300 and remained low in 2017/18 at 25,300.

Apprenticeship starts by age and planned length of stay data can be found in the supplementary tables of the further education data library².

Traineeships (Table 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3)

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

17,700 **traineeship starts**, a decrease of 12.8 per cent⁴ from 20,300 in 2016/17, of which:

13,100 were under 19, a decrease of 5.8 per cent from 13,900 in 2016/17

4,600 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 27.8 per cent from 6,400 in 2016/17

- 14,200 **traineeship completions**, a decrease of 17.8 per cent from 17,200 in 2016/17, of which:

9,900 were under 19, a decrease of 9.2 per cent from 10,900 in 2016/17

4,200 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 32.7 per cent from 6,300 in 2016/17

³ The further education data library can be accessed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fe-data-library-apprenticeships-and-traineeships-data> - GOV.UK.

⁴ Percentages are calculated on unrounded data.

- 8,700 **traineeship progressions** to a job, apprenticeship, further full time education or other training, a decrease of 11.1 per cent from 9,800 in 2016/17, of which:
 - 6,600 were under 19, a decrease of 1.7 per cent from 6,700 in 2016/17
 - 2,000 were aged 19 to 24, a decrease of 32.1 per cent from 3,000 in 2016/17

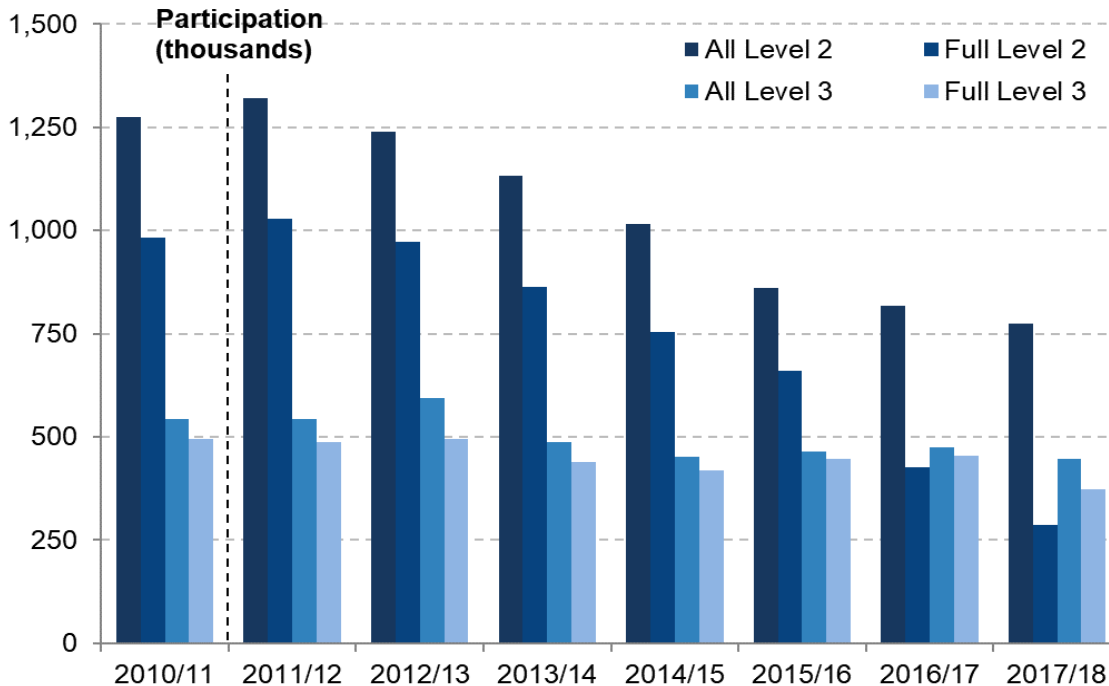
Adult (19+) Learner Participation (Table 4.1)

Figure 3 shows participation data in further education by level between 2010/11 and 2017/18. Data reported for the 2017/18 academic year show there were 2,179,100 learners aged 19 and over participating in government-funded further education, compared to 2,236,800 reported in 2016/17, a decrease of 2.6 per cent.

Of these:

- 664,200 participated on a **English and Maths** course, compared to 755,300 in 2016/17, a decrease of 12.1 per cent
- 773,800 participated on a **Level 2** course, of which 286,100 were on a **Full Level 2** course, compared to 817,900 and 426,700 (respectively) reported in 2016/17
- 445,500 participated on a **Level 3** course, of which 373,500 were on a **Full Level 3** course, compared to 475,100 and 454,300 (respectively) reported in 2016/17
- 96,400 participated on a **Level 4+** course, an increase of 30.7 per cent compared to 73,800 reported in 2016/17
- 301,400 benefited from **support for the unemployed** (those nearest the workforce), compared to 298,600 reported in 2016/17

Figure 3: Adult (19+) learner participation in government-funded further education
England, 2010/11 to 2017/18



Source: Individualised Learner Record

Adult (19+) demographic summary of further education and skills participation (2017/18)

(Table 7)

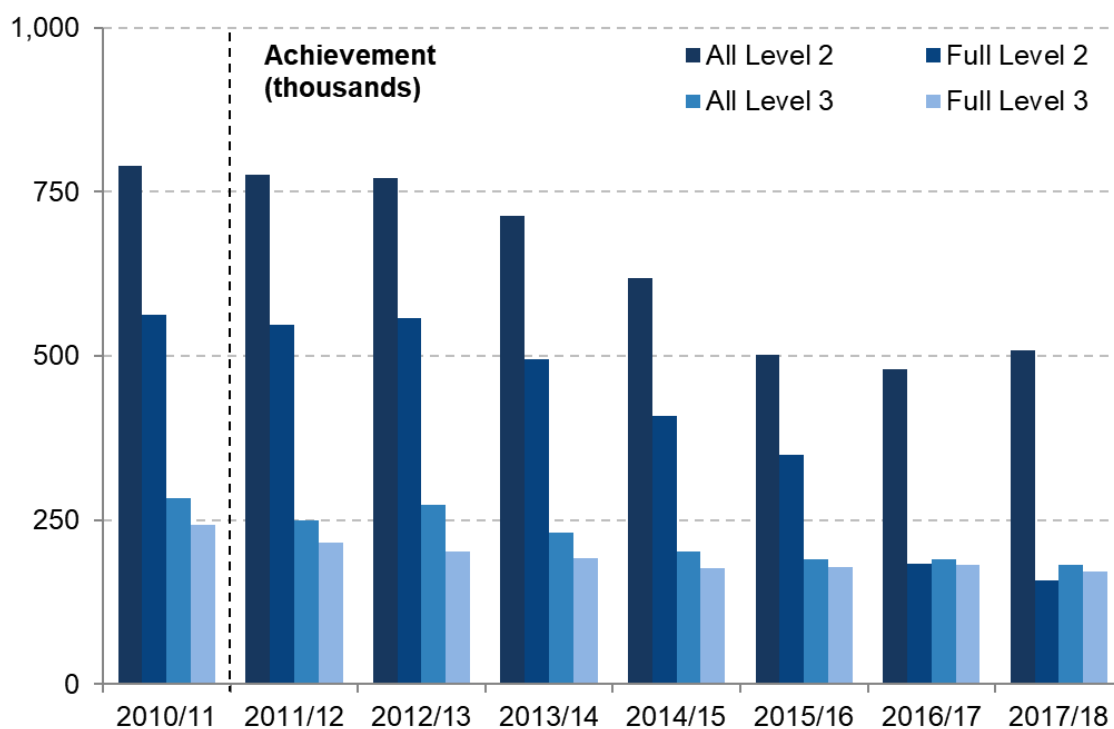
Of the 2,179,100 adult learners participating in further education in 2017/18:

- 58.1 per cent were female and 41.9 per cent were male
- 16.3 per cent declared a learning difficulty and/or disability
- 22.0 per cent were from a Black or Minority Ethnic background (including Mixed, Asian, Black and Other Ethnic Group learners)
- 301,400 learners aged 19+ benefited from support for the unemployed in 2017/18. These are defined as those learners reporting that they were in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance - Work Related Activity Group (ESA WRAG), Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit (if unemployed and looking for work).

Adult (19+) Learner achievements (Table 4.2)

Figure 4 shows achievements between 2010/11 and 2017/18 by level. There have been 1,574,400 achievements in 2017/18, a small decrease from 1,578,900 in 2016/17.

Figure 4: Adult (19+) learner achievement in government-funded further education
England, 2010/11 to 2017/18



Source: Individualised Learner Record

Of the 1,574,400 achievements in 2017/18:

- 418,500 achieved on a **English and Maths** course, compared to 421,500 in 2016/17, a decrease of 0.7 per cent
- 507,600 achieved on a **Level 2** course, of which 157,400 were on a **Full Level 2** course, compared to 480,100 and 184,000 (respectively) reported in 2016/17

- 182,400 achieved on a **Level 3** course, of which 170,900 were on a **Full Level 3** course, compared to 190,800 and 182,500 (respectively) reported in 2016/17
- 21,100 achieved on a **Level 4+** course, an increase of 32.3 per cent compared to 15,900 reported in 2016/17

Adult (19+) English and Maths (Table 6.1 and 6.2)

Adult learner (19+) participation on English and maths courses has fallen from 1,083,000 in 2011/12 to 664,200 in 2017/18. The 2017/18 figure represents a decrease of 12.1 per cent from the 755,300 reported for 2016/17.

Of the 664,200 participants in 2017/18:

- 445,800 participated on an **English** course, a decrease of 16.1 per cent from 531,600 in 2016/17
- 441,500 participated on a **Maths** course, a decrease of 15.8 per cent from 524,100 in 2016/17
- 114,300 participated on an **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** course, a small increase from 114,100 in 2016/17

Achievements in English and maths fell by 0.7 per cent to 418,500 in 2017/18 from 421,500 in 2016/17.

Of the 418,500 achievements in 2017/18:

- 233,400 were on an **English** course, a small decrease from 233,500 in 2016/17
- 233,300 were on a **Maths** course, a small increase from 232,400 in 2016/17
- 100,100 were on an **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)** course, a 2.5 per cent increase from 97,700 in 2016/17

Community learning (Table 9)

In the 2017/18 academic year, 504,500 learners **participated** on a community learning course, a decrease of 5.8 per cent from 535,800 in 2016/17.

Of the 504,500 participants in 2017/18:

- 394,100 took a **Personal and Community Development Learning** course, a decrease of 5.0 per cent from 414,600 reported in 2016/17
- 45,100 took a **Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities** course, a decrease of 10.0 per cent from 50,200 in 2016/17
- 29,200 took a **Family English, Maths and Language** course, a decrease of 13.2 per cent from 33,600 in 2016/17
- 47,600 took a **Wider Family Learning** course, a decrease of 11.1 per cent from 53,500 in 2016/17

Achievements in community learning fell by 6.1 per cent to 430,000 in 2017/18 from 458,000 in 2016/17.

Of the 430,000 achievements in 2017/18:

- 328,000 were on a **Personal and Community Development Learning** course, a decrease of 4.7 per cent from 344,100 reported in 2016/17
- 42,700 took a **Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities** course, a decrease of 10.1 per cent from 47,500 in 2016/17

- 26,700 took a **Family English, Maths and Language** course, a decrease of 12.3 per cent from 30,400 in 2016/17
- 45,200 took a **Wider Family Learning** course, a decrease of 10.9 per cent from 50,700 in 2016/17

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>.

Final 2017/18 Tables

- 1 All Age Apprenticeship Participation by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 2.1 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 2.2 All Age Apprenticeship Programme Achievements by Level and Age (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 3.1 Traineeship Starts by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18)
- 3.2 Traineeship Completions by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18)
- 3.3 Traineeship Progressions by Age (2013/14 to 2017/18)
- 4.1 Adult (19+) FE and Skills Participation by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 4.2 Adult (19+) FE and Skills Achievement by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 5.1 Adult (19+) Education and Training Participation by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 5.2 Adult (19+) Education and Training Achievement by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 6 Adult (19+) FE and Skills: English and Maths Participation and Achievement by Level (2010/11 to 2017/18)
- 7 All Age Demographic Summary of Apprenticeship Participation (2017/18)
- 8 All Age Demographic Summary of FE and Skills Participation (2017/18)
- 9 Community Learning Participation and Achievement by Type (2010/11 to 2017/18)

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
- 2 Apprenticeship framework/standard and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18
- 3 Apprenticeship geography and sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18
4. Apprenticeship provider type and age, level, sector subject area PivotTable tool: starts and achievements 2017/18
- 5 Apprenticeships planned length of stay 2017/18
- 6 Apprenticeship expected duration by age, sector subject area and level 2016/17 to 2017/18
- 7 Further education and skills: participation with advanced learner loans 2017/18
- 8 Advanced learner loans application information to 2017/18
- 9 Offender learning: participation and achievement by level 2017/18

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 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. There may be exceptions to this in instances where 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 finalised data for the 2017/18 academic year (August 2017 to July 2018) reported to the Education and Skills Funding Agency in October 2018 by further education providers. It also includes final data for previous years for comparison where applicable.

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 this release. As with many policy areas, further education is a broad and changing topic.

More information, please see the latest version in the most recent statistical release here:

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

3. Further information is available

Additional breakdowns of further education 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 further education 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>

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. Technical information

A quality and methodology information document accompanies this release. 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.

For more technical information, please see the latest release here:

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

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

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

Reference: [Further Education and Skills: November 2018]



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