

October 2011 Statistical First Release Definitions

- 1 This document contains definitions and supporting information used in the October 2011 Statistical First Release (SFR) DS/SFR12 “Post 16 Education & Skills: Learner participation, outcomes and Level of Highest Qualifications Held”. The release was published on October 27th 2011 and is available at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/
- 2 The Statistical First Release contains information on Metrics and Definitions used in the publication. This document provides this information in greater technical detail for each table in the SFR.
- 3 The data source for the majority of the tables in the publication is the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). Information on the collection of the ILR can be found on *the information authority* website at <http://www.theia.org.uk/>. Information on the specific data sources can be found in the SFR and within Annex A of this document.
- 4 The Data Service has produced a Data Dictionary which is a central repository of information on ILR data. It is organised in a hierarchical manner allowing users to ‘drill down’ from high level business definitions to more technical sample code. The Data Dictionary is referenced throughout this document and is available at <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/>
- 5 Additional information is provided for Tables 12, 13 & 14 about the definitions used by the Labour Force Survey and Vocational Qualifications Database.
- 6 For further information or feedback on this document, please contact the Data Service Service Desk using servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk or telephone 08702 670001

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Metrics

The 'metrics' or 'measurements' used in this SFR are outlined below:

Metric	Definition
Starts	<p>The number of courses or programmes that have begun in a given time period, usually quarterly or annually.</p> <p>A start is assigned to the quarter/year that it begun and is only counted once. However, a learner undertaking more than one qualification will be counted for each qualification/programme. For example, a learner starting an Intermediate Level Apprenticeship and then starting or transferring to an Advanced Level Apprenticeship will be counted as two starts.</p> <p>Starts are a measurement that is used in Apprenticeships and Train to Gain.& Workplace Learning. It is not generally used as a metric for Learner Responsive programmes.</p> <p>This measure is helpful in determining the take-up of programmes, and is a key performance measure for Apprenticeships and Train to Gain & Workplace Learning.</p>
Learner Numbers	<p>The number of people who are undertaking learning in a given time period, usually annually, or on a fixed date. Individual learners are defined by learner reference numbers within each provider. A learner in multiple providers may be counted as multiple learners.</p> <p>This measure is helpful for quantifying the number of people that have participated in a given time period, and where a fixed date is used, can give an estimate of the percentage of people engaged in learning. Learner numbers in an academic year are historically a key performance indicator for FE colleges.</p>
Achievements	<p>Achievements refer to learning activities that have been successfully achieved and, where appropriate, the certification obtained.</p> <p>For Apprenticeship achievements 'framework achievement' requires all elements of the framework to be completed.</p> <p>This measure is useful as it shows the number of courses achieved in the sector. This measure is also a key performance measure for Apprenticeships and Train to Gain.</p>
FE / Learner Responsive Success Rates	<p>The cohort used to calculate FE success rates is based upon the academic year the learning aims are planned to finish in.</p> <p>The success rate is calculated as the number of learning aims achieved divided by the number of starters, excluding any learners who transferred onto another qualification. Where a learner does transfer to a new qualification they are treated as a start on the new qualification and not the old one. As success rates are calculated at a qualification aim level, learners with more than one qualification aim will be included more than once. Learners who leave their programmes within six weeks of starting are excluded from the calculation.</p> <p>This measure is a key performance indicator and used as part of the OFSTED inspection framework and the Framework for Excellence. It is also used by the Skills Funding Agency in monitoring the performance of providers.</p> <p>Technical information on the 2007/08 FE Success Rates methodology can be</p>

	<p>found at the following web page: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0708/summary.htm</p> <p>Technical information on the 2008/09 FE (Learner Responsive) Success Rates methodology can be found at the following web page: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/summary.htm</p> <p>Technical information on the 2009/10 Learner Responsive Success Rates methodology can be found at the following web page: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0910/index+0910.htm</p>
FE Retention Rates	<p>The Retention Rate is a measure of the ability to complete the course of study for a qualification aim in the FE sector. There are two measures of retention rate, one for completers and a superseded measure including continuing aims, which is not reported in this SFR.</p> <p>The retention rate is calculated as the number of aims that have been completed divided by the total number of aims, excluding those that were transferred out from the aim.</p> <p>The retention rate including continuers is the number of aims that have been completed or are still being continued divided by the total number of aims, excluding those that were transferred out from the aim.</p>
FE Achievement Rates	<p>The Achievement Rate is a measure of the ability to pass a FE qualification having already completed the study for it. There are two measures of achievement rate, one for all completers and a superseded measure including all aims that have been completed and have a known outcome.</p> <p>The achievement rate for all completers is calculated as the number of aims that have been fully achieved divided by the number of aims that have been completed.</p> <p>The achievement rates for known outcomes is calculated as the number of aims that have been fully achieved divided by the number of aims that have been completed and have a known outcome.</p>
Apprenticeship Success Rates	<p>The cohort used to calculate Apprenticeship framework success rates is marginally different from that used for FE/LR.</p> <p>For a given year, the cohort includes all frameworks (i.e. the combined grouping of qualifications and not each individual qualification aim), whose planned end date is during the reporting year, which were achieved on or before that planned end date, plus any programmes that went beyond the planned end date and were either achieved or withdrawn from (i.e. are not still in progress) in the reporting year.</p> <p>Where a learner transfers to another framework, they are treated as a start on the new qualification and not the old one. Learners who leave their programmes within six weeks of starting are excluded from the calculations.</p>

Learners who leave programmes to take up alternative employment are classified as not having achieved.

This measure is a key performance indicator and used as part of the OFSTED inspection framework and the Framework for Excellence. It is also used by the Skills Funding Agency in monitoring underperformance of providers.

Further information on Apprenticeship Success Rates can be found at the following web page:

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0910/index+0910.htm>

Table Definitions

<p>Table 1 All Age Demographic Summary of FE and Skills Participation by Funding Stream and Level (2009/10) - Learner Volumes</p>
<p>Published: March 2011 (no update in October 2011 release)</p>
<p>Data Source: ILR data for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FE/LR (2009/10 – L05 – final) • WBL/ER & TTG (2009/10 – E13 – final) • ASL (2009/10 – C05 – final) • Ufl (2009/10 – U05 – final) <p>Further information on data sources is available in Annex A.</p>
<p>Definitions Used:</p> <p>Funded learners. See definition above</p> <p>This table summarises FE and Skills provision in 2009/10 for the following funding streams and by various demographic dimensions.</p> <p>Apprenticeships – learners participating on a government funded Apprenticeship programme in 2009/10. Advanced Level Apprenticeships does not include a small number of learners participating on Higher Apprenticeships, but these are included in Total Apprenticeships.</p> <p>Learner Responsive – learners participating on government funded provision returned in the 2009/10 Learner Responsive collection.</p> <p>University for Industry – learners participating on government funded provision returned in the 2009/10 University for Industry collection.</p> <p>Train to Gain – learners participating on government funded Train to Gain aims in 2009/10.</p> <p>Adult Safeguarded Learning – learners participating on government funded provision returned in the 2009/10 Adult Safeguard Learning collection, including learners on non-safeguarded provision (First Steps).</p> <p>The overall totals shown include Other Employer Responsive provision, but this is not shown separately.</p>
<p>Age. Age is the learner’s academic age for all funding streams. More information on age is described in table 2 below.</p>
<p>Gender. Gender is based upon self-declaration by the learner.</p>
<p>Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities. Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LLDD) is based upon self-declaration by the learner.</p>
<p>Ethnicity. Ethnicity is based upon self-declaration by the learner. The ethnicity</p>

categories shown in table 4 are based on grouping the ethnicities declared by learners on the ILR as follows:

White

- White – British
- White – Irish
- White – any other White background

Mixed

- Mixed – White And Asian
- Mixed – White And Black African
- Mixed – White And Black Caribbean
- Mixed – Any Other Mixed Background

Asian or Asian British

- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British – Indian
- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – any other Asian background

Black or Black British

- Black or Black British – African
- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – any other Black background

Chinese or Other Ethnic Group

- Chinese
- Any other

Not Known/Not Provided

- Not Known/ Not Provided

Supplementary Tables. No supplementary tables are provided for table 1, although supplementary information for tables 2, 7 & 10 do include further breakdowns for 2009/10. In addition, the November 2010 Statistical First Release included a similar table for FE and Skills participation in 2008/09 and this is also available in the FE and Skills supplementary table section of the SFR website.

**Tables 2.1, 7.1, 10.1
FE and Skills Participation by Level and Age (2005/06 to 2009/10) – Learner Volumes**

Published: March 2011 (no update in October 2011 release)

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- FE/LR (2007/08 and earlier years – F05 – final, 2008/09 & 2009/10 – L05 – final)
- WBL/ER & TTG (2007/08 and earlier years – W13 – final, 2008/09 – E13 – final, 2009/10 – E15 - final)
- ACL/ASL (2006/07 and earlier years – C03 – final, 2007/08 – C03 – final, C02 – final, 2008/09 – C05 – final, C04 – final, 2009/10 – C05 final)
- Ufl (2006/07 and earlier years – U03 – final, 2007/08 – U05 – final, 2008/09 – U05 – final, 2009/10 – U05 final)

And Employer Training Pilot data.

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#)

Definitions Used:

Government Funded learners. Only learners that were funded by the Skills Funding Agency or the Young People's Learning Agency (previously the Learning and Skills Council) are included in this table. Learners are defined as funded based upon information recorded by providers in the funding stream field in the ILR. A learner will only be counted once in total learners for each funding stream they have learning aims in. Learners with aims in multiple funding streams will be counted more once for each funding stream.

For learners prior to 2008/09, technical information on government funded learners can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/L_FUND.htm

A new funding variable L_FUNDINGSOURCE has been introduced in the 2009/10 ILR collections to distinguish the sources of funding for learners. This variable has been retrospectively derived for most 2008/09 learners included in this table.

Technical information on this field can be found in the 2009/10 Derived Variables Specification at

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0910/Index+of+Derived+Variables+0910.htm>

Learners with any combination of Demand led funding (DLF), Non Formula funding and ESF (European Social Fund) co-financing are included, except for those with just ESF co-financing only. DLF learners without funding are not included.

An exception to the L_FUND and L_FUNDINGSOURCE based funding rules is University for Industry (Ufl) provision, which is block funded and not subject to normal learner funding rules.

For 2007/08 to 2009/10 all active Ufl learners are included, identified by the field L_ACTIVE. Technical information on this field can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/L_ACTIVE+P_ACTIVE+A_ACTIVE.htm.

Age. Age is 'Academic Age' which means the learner's age calculated as at 31 August of the

specified academic year. For example 31 August 2007 for the 2007/08 academic year.

Where the learner has not provided a date of birth they are recorded as 'missing age'. No academic age information is available for National Employer Service (NES) learners for the years prior to 2007/08. All NES learners are considered adults. In some supplementary tables age at start of programme is used as a proxy for academic age for NES learners.

In these tables there are two categories of age, 'young people' which includes learners aged up to 19 years exclusive (i.e. age bands 'under 16' and '16-18') and 'adults' which means learners aged 19 and over including those learners with missing age.

For the supplementary tables, age is disaggregated as follows; under 16, 16, 17, 18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-59, 60+ and unknown/missing age. All Train to Gain learners with age recorded as under-19 are assumed to be adult and included in the 19-24 category.

Technical information on how age is calculated and banded can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/AGE_DEFS.htm

Below Level 2 (excluding Skills for Life). This includes learners who are funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency and are on a qualification that is below level 2, i.e. is Entry level or level 1. This category excludes all Skills for Life qualifications, which are shown separately in the Skills for Life section.

Learners who are doing more than one 'below level 2 qualification' are counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Learners doing more than one qualification in different areas within the same funding stream would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'below level 2 qualification' and a 'level 2 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Skills for Life. This includes learners who are funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency and are on Skills for Life provision. Learners are included if they are eligible for Skills for Life funding. Learners studying approved and non-approved (internally certificated and externally accredited 'other provision') Skills for Life aims are included in the SFR.

Learners who are doing more than one 'Skills for life' qualification are counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Whereas learners doing more than one qualification in different areas would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'Skills for Life qualification' and a 'level 2 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on Skills for Life categories can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0708/Skills_for_Life+Participation+%28A_SFLP%29Data+Definition.htm

Full Level 2. This includes Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded learners who are on a Full Level 2 programme. The widths of all of a learner's aims are summed to establish whether a learner is taking a Full Level 2 programme. This would include aims such as those shown in the table below. Learners only count as 'Full Level 2' if they meet the criterion of all their aims summing to or greater than 100% of a Full Level 2 – part-level 2

learners are not included, for example those learners studying just 4 GCSE qualifications.

Aim type	Percentage of a full level 2
NVQ level 2	100%
GNVQ Intermediate (part GNVQs constitute 40%)	80%
GCSE double awards (including vocational GCSEs)	40%
GCSE (including vocational GCSEs)	20%
GCSE short courses	10%
Other Vocationally Related Qualifications which are 80% or more of a full level 2 – 325 guided learning hours or more	100%
Intermediate Level Apprenticeship	100%

The proportion of Full Level 2s that are First Full Level 2s is known as the 'Firstness Rate'. Further information on the Firstness Rate is available in a separate paper at

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodogy/>

Technical information on the calculation of Full Level 2 and 3 can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/L_FU_LLEVEL2_3.htm

Full Level 3. This includes Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded learners who are on a Full Level 3 programme. The widths of all of a learner's aims are summed to establish whether a learner is taking a Full Level 3 programme. This would include aims such as those shown in the table below. Learners only count as 'Full Level 3' if they meet the criterion of all their aims summing to or greater than 100% of a Full Level 3 – part-level 3 learners are not included, for example learners studying just 2 AS level qualifications.

Aim type	Percentage of a full level 3
AS Levels (including VCEs)	25%
A/ A2 levels (including VCEs)	50%
Advanced GNVQ	100%
Advanced pilot 6 unit GNVQ	100%
NVQ Level 3 or above	100%
International Baccalaureate	100%
Other Vocationally Related qualifications which are 80% or more of a full level 3 – 595 guided learning hours or more	100%
Advanced Level Apprenticeship	100%
Higher Apprenticeship	100%

The proportion of Full Level 3s that are First Full Level 3s is known as the 'Firstness Rate'.

Further information on the Firstness Rate is available in a separate paper at

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodology/>

Technical information on the calculation of Full Level 2 and 3 can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/L_FU_LLLEVEL2_3.htm

Level 2. The number of learners undertaking Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded level 2 qualifications. This would include all learners that are doing full level 2 programmes, as well as those that are doing part level 2 qualifications, for example one GCSE.

For 2008/09 and 2009/10, Level 2 also includes Train to Gain qualifications that are not full Level 2. Prior to 2008/09 all Train to Gain Level 2 learners were full Level 2.

Learners who are doing more than one level 2 qualification are just counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Learners doing more than one qualification at different levels would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 2 qualification' and a 'level 3 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Level 3. The number of learners undertaking Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded level 3 qualifications. This would include all learners that are doing full level 3 programmes, as well as those that are doing part level 3 qualifications, for example one AS level.

For 2008/09 and 2009/10, Level 3 also includes Train to Gain qualifications that are not full Level 3. Prior to 2008/09 all Train to Gain Level 3 learners were full Level 3.

For years prior to 2009/10, a small number of Higher Apprenticeships at level 4 are included in level 3.

Learners who are doing more than one level 3 qualification are just counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Whereas learners doing more than one qualification in different areas would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 2 qualification' and a 'level 3 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Level 4+. The number of learners undertaking Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded level 4 and above qualifications (excluding Higher Apprenticeships).

Learners who are doing more than one level 4 and above qualification are just counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Whereas learners doing more than one qualification in different areas would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 2 qualification' and a 'level 4 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

No Level Assigned. The number of learners undertaking Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded qualification that does not have a level assigned to it.

These qualifications have a level of X (not known or not applicable) or U (Unclassified) or M

(Mixed levels). The majority of these learners are studying qualifications of level X, not known or not applicable.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Supplementary Tables. There are several supplementary tables for tables 2.1, 7.1, and 10.1 (participation tables). These supplementary tables breakdown the overall figures by:

Funding Stream – the funding stream of the ILR. More details on these can be found in [Annex A](#).

In 2008/09 Demand Led Funding (DLF) was introduced and changed the way data is collected and how learners are funded. This had a significant impact on how funded learners are defined from 2008/09 onwards, and therefore figures from 2008/09 are not directly comparable to earlier years. An overview of the main changes can be found [below](#) and further information on the effects of DLF on the count of learner numbers in the SFR can be found in a separate paper at <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodology/>

Further information on demand led funding can be found at <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/businessdefinitions/Demand+Led+Funding.htm>

Firstness – alongside the funding stream split, adult figures will be published showing First Full Level 2 and First Full Level 3 participation volumes in each provision type. More information on firstness is [above](#).

Geography – learners by region and either local authority (former Local Education Authority) or parliamentary constituency. These are based upon a learner's home postcode, field L17 in the ILR, matched to a postcode file to identify the region, parliamentary constituency or LA they live in. This could differ to where the learner receives their training.

The postcode file used for academic years 2005/06 to 2009/10 is the May 2010 Office of National Statistics (ONS) postcode file. This postcode file uses the revised parliamentary constituencies, more details on this change can be found at <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/geography/beginner-s-guide/electoral/westminster-parliamentary-constituencies/index.html> .

Age – These tables show broad ages of young people and adult. The additional information breaks this down further into Under 16, 16, 17, 18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-59, 60+ & unknown age. Further information on the age calculation can be found [above](#).

Ethnicity – This is the ethnic origin of the learner as declared by the learner. It is field L12 of the ILR and the categories are based on the 2001 census.

Gender – This is the gender of the learner as declared by the learner. It is field L13 in the ILR.

Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities and/or Health Problems – This is a self declared field in the ILR which flags if the learner considers him/herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. The categories are Yes, No and No information provided. This is field L14 in the ILR.

Sector Subject Area – this is the sector subject of the learner aims as coded in the Learning Aims Database (LAD). More information on LAD is at <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/lad/>

Tables 2.2, 7.2, 10.2
FE and Skills Achievement by Level and Age (2005/06 to 2009/10) – Learner Volumes

Published: March 2011 (no update in October 2011 release)

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- FE/LR (2007/08 and earlier years – F05 – final, 2008/09 & 2009/10 – L05 – final)
- WBL/ER & TTG (2007/08 and earlier years – W13 – final, 2008/09 – E13 – final, 2009/10 – E15 - final)
- ACL/ASL (2006/07 and earlier years – C03 – final, 2007/08 – C03 – final, C02 – final, 2008/09 – C05 – final, C04 – final, 2009/10 – C05 final)
- Ufl (2006/07 and earlier years – U03 – final, 2007/08 – U05 – final, 2008/09 – U05 – final, 2009/10 – U05 final)

And Employer Training Pilot data.

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#)

Definitions Used:

All definitions are the same as table 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1 but showing achievements rather than learner numbers.

Supplementary Tables. There are several supplementary tables for tables 2.2, 7.2, and 10.2 (achievement tables). The splits are the same as for tables 2.1, 7.1 and 10.1.

Tables 2.3, 7.3 and 10.3**FE Success Rates and Apprenticeship Success Rates by Level and Age (2005/06 to 2009/10) – Percentages**

Published: January 2011 (no update in October 2011 release)

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- FE/LR (2007/08 and earlier years – F05 – final, 2008/09 & 2009/10 – L05 – final)
- WBL/ER & TTG (2007/08 and earlier years – W13 – final, 2008/09 – E13 – final, 2009/10 – E15 - final)

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#)

Definitions Used:

FE/Learner Responsive Success Rates – A summary of the definition and a link to the web page containing the detailed definition is available in the metrics section [above](#).

Apprenticeship Success Rates – A summary of the definition and a link to the web page containing the detailed definition is available in the metrics section [above](#).

Government funded - FE success rates are based on cohorts of learning aims and the cohort is included where at least one learning aim is Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded. The cohort used to calculate FE success rates is based upon the academic year the qualification aim is planned to finish in.

Age - For FE success rates, age is calculated as at 31 August on the year the qualification started. This is the same definition used for table 1.1, 2.1 and 3.1, where further information on [age](#) calculation is available.

For Apprenticeships age is calculated as at the start of the programme.

Technical information on how age is calculated and banded can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/AGE_DEFS.htm

Skills for Life – The definition for Skills for Life is set out [above](#), although in success rates only those that are coded as Skills for Life in the Learning Aims Database (LAD) are counted in the calculation. Further information on the LAD can be found at

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/lad/>

Full Level 2 - For FE success rates, as the rate is measured at learning aim level rather than learner level; only those learning aims that are full level 2 within their own right are included in the success rate. See the types of aim that are flagged as 100% of a full level 2 in the definition [above](#).

For Apprenticeships, all Apprenticeships at level 2 are 100% of a full level 2 and are therefore all included in the success rate calculation.

Full Level 3 - For FE success rates, as the rate is measured at learning aim level rather than learner level; only those learning aims that are full level 3 within their own right are included in the success rate. See the types of aim that are flagged as 100% of a full level 3 in the definition [above](#)

For Apprenticeships, all Advanced Level Apprenticeships at level 3 and Higher Apprenticeships are 100% of a full level 3, therefore all are included in the success rate.

Supplementary Tables. The breakdowns used in the supplementary tables are the same as used in tables 2.1, 7.2 and 10.3. Information on the definitions of these breakdowns are available above.

Tables 3.1, 3.2, 8.1 and 8.2
Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Age (2005/06 to 2009/10)
Apprenticeship Framework Achievements by Level and Age (2005/06 to 2009/10)

Published: January 2011 (no update in October 2011 release)

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- WBL/ER (2007/08 and earlier years – W13 – final, 2008/09 & 2009/10 – E13 – final)

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#).

Definitions Used:

Government funded. Providers are only requested to return information on funded frameworks.

Starts. The definition is available in the metrics section [above](#).

Age. Age is calculated as at the start of the programme. This differs to tables showing apprenticeship participation alongside figures for other funding streams (tables 1, 2, 4, 7 & 9 - 11) where academic age is used for consistency with other funding streams, except those showing success rates.

Age is broken down into learners aged Under 16, 16-18, 19-24 and those aged 25 and over.

Framework Achievements. Achievement of the full Apprenticeship framework is counted, which is consistent with the Apprenticeship success rate. An Apprenticeship framework consists of an NVQ, one or more Key Skills qualifications and a Technical Certificate.

Supplementary Tables. These tables have several sets of supplementary tables which break the information in the main tables into further detail. These supplementary tables are an extension to the main table and cover the years 2002/03 to 2009/10 and provisional full year for 2010/11. The definitions for [Table 18](#) include more information about 2010/11 data.

These tables detail the information by:

Quarter – Totals for the quarters of the academic year. Starts are identified by the period the learner started the programme. Achievements are identified by the period the learner finished the Framework. Academic quarters are:

- Quarter 1 - 1 August to 31 October
- Quarter 2 - 1 November to 31 January
- Quarter 3 - 1 February to 30 April
- Quarter 4 - 1 May to 31 July

Geography – learners by region and either local authority (former Local Education Authority) or parliamentary constituency. These are based upon a learner's home postcode, field L17 in the ILR, matched to a postcode file to identify the region, parliamentary constituency or the LA they live in. This could differ to where the learner receives their training. Technical information on calculation of the learners' geographies can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/L_LL_A+LSC+WA+REG.htm

Age – These tables show broad ages of young people and adult. The additional information breaks this down further into Under 16, 16, 17, 18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-59, 60+, 'missing age'. Further information on the age calculation can be found [above](#).

Ethnicity – This is the ethnic origin of the learner as declared by the learner. It is field L12 of the ILR and the categories are based on the 2001 census.

Gender – This is the gender of the learner as declared by the learner. It is field L13 in the ILR.

Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities and/or Health Problems – This is a self declared field in the ILR which flags if the learner considers him/herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. The categories are Yes, No and No information provided. This is field L14 in the ILR.

Sector Framework Code – this is the sector framework code of the programme aim of the Apprenticeship - field A26 in the ILR. In 2010/11 new frameworks were introduced that are compliant with the new Specifications for Apprenticeships Standards for England (SASE). These new frameworks have been grouped in this release's supplementary tables so that volumes may be meaningfully compared with volumes for earlier years. In general, these groups take the framework description of an earlier pre-SASE framework. A new supplementary table with apprenticeship starts and achievements by ungrouped framework for 2010/11 only has also been published.

More information on SASE frameworks is available at:

<http://www.afo.sscalliance.org/introductiontoframeworks/recentchanges.cfm>

Subject Sector Area - this is the sector subject of the learner aims as coded in the Learning Aims Database (LAD). More information on the LAD is at:

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/Services/DataCollection/software/lad/>

For 2008/09 onwards the sector subject area of an Apprenticeship framework is determined by its sector framework code's value in an index of frameworks to areas. For previous years the

sector subject area was coded on the ILR return for the programme aim.

These supplementary tables are available at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/Apprenticeship_sfr_supplementary_tables/

**Tables 4, 9 and 11
FE and Skills - Skills for Life Participation and Achievement by Level (2005/06 to 2009/10)
– Learner Volumes**

Published: March 2011 (no update in October 2011 release)

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- FE/LR (2007/08 and earlier years – F05 – final, 2008/09 & 2009/10 – L05 – final)
- WBL/ER & TTG (2007/08 and earlier years – W13 – final, 2008/09 – E13 – final, 2009/10 – E15 - final)
- ACL/ASL (2006/07 and earlier years – C03 – final, 2007/08 – C03 – final, C02 – final, 2008/09 – C05 – final, C04 – final, 2009/10 – C05 final)
- Ufl (2006/07 and earlier years – U03 – final, 2007/08 – U05 – final, 2008/09 – U05 – final, 2009/10 – U05 final)

And Employer Training Pilot data.

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#).

Definitions Used:

Government funded learners. See definition [above](#)

Skills for Life - The definition in tables 4, 9 & 11 is the same as previous tables, see definition [above](#)

Learners who are doing more than one Skills for Life qualification are counted once in the total but can be counted more than once if they are doing Skills for Life qualifications in more than one category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 1 numeracy qualification' and an 'entry level literacy qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category. Additionally, a learner participating on a 'level 1 literacy qualification' and a 'level 2 literacy qualification' would be counted in each of those categories but only once in the overall literacy category.

Learners may also be counted multiple times if they are doing qualifications in different funding streams.

Further technical information on Skills for Life can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_SFL+L_SFL.htm

Further information on Skills for Life can be found at:

<http://rwp.excellencegateway.org.uk/>

Skills for Life Types (Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL). The number of learners participating and that have achieved is broken down into Skills for Life type. Skills for Life aims can be split into three types – Literacy, Numeracy or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). An aim is considered to be the Skills for Life type if the Learning Aims Database (LAD) indicates that it is within that category.

Technical information can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_SFLTY.htm

Level: Entry, 1 and 2. The number of learners participating and that have achieved is broken down into level within each Skills for Life type. This is Entry level, level 1 and level 2. There are no Skills for Life aims at levels higher than level 2.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Supplementary Tables. Several supplementary tables breakdown the participation and achievement numbers in tables 4, 9 & 11 by:

Geography – learners by region and either local authority (former Local Education Authority) or parliamentary constituency. These are based upon a learner's home postcode, field L17 in the ILR, matched to a postcode file to identify the region, parliamentary constituency or the local authority they live in. This could differ to where the learner receives their training. Technical information on calculation of the learners' geographies can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/0809/L_LL_A+LSC+WA+REG.htm

Each geographic supplementary table is available for all ages, 16-18 and 19+ separately.

Age – This table shows broad ages of young people and adults. The additional information breaks this down further into Under 16, 16, 17, 18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-59, 60+ and 'missing age'. Further information on the age calculation can be found [above](#).

Ethnicity – This is the ethnic origin of the learner as declared by the learner. It is field L12 of the ILR and the categories are based on the 2001 census.

Gender – This is the gender of the learner as declared by the learner. It is field L13 in the ILR.

Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities and/or Health Problems – This is a self-declared field in the ILR which flags if the learner considers him/herself to have a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem. The categories are Yes, No and No information provided. This is field L14 in the ILR.

These supplementary tables are available at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/further_education_skills/

Tables 5.1 and 5.2**Train to Gain Starts by Level (2005/06 to 2009/10)****Train to Gain Achievements by Level (2005/06 to 2009/10)****Published:** January 2011 (no update in October 2011 release)**Data Source:**

ILR data for:

- WBL/ER (TTG) (2007/08 and earlier years – W13 – final, 2008/09 & 2009/10 – E13 – final)

And Employer Training Pilot data for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#).**Definitions Used:****Government funded.** All Train to Gain learners are funded.**Starts.** The definition is available in the metrics section [above](#).**Age.** Age is calculated as at the start of the programme. This differs to tables 1, 2, 4, 7 & 9 - 11 (except those showing success rates), where academic age is used for consistency with other funding streams.**Level.** Starts and Achievements are broken down into level. Information on the definition of each level is set out [above](#). Information on Skills for Life is also described in previous tables and can be found using [this link](#).

Starts and Achievements classified as 'other' are qualifications that either have no level assigned or are level 2 or 3 but not full qualifications.

ETP. Employer Training Pilot (ETP) was a programme that engaged learners within their employment and was a predecessor to the Train to Gain programme. ETP started in 2003/04 academic year when it was a pilot programme (Employer Training Pilot) and ended in April 2006. A very small number of ETP achievements were recorded in 2009/10.**Supplementary Tables.** These tables have several supplementary tables which break the information in the main tables into further detail. These supplementary tables also include provisional data for Workplace Learning in 2010/11 (see definitions of [table 19](#) for more information about this data).These tables detail the information by Quarter, Geography, Age, Ethnicity, Gender, Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities and Sector Subject Area. These breakdowns use the same definitions as the supplementary tables for Apprenticeship starts and achievements in tables 3.1, 3.2, 8.1 & 8.2 [above](#).

<p>Table 6 Adult Community Learning (2005/06 to 2007/08) and Adult Safeguarded Learning (2008/09 to 2009/10) Participation and Achievement by Type – Learner Volumes</p>
<p>Published: March 2011 (no update in June 2011 release)</p>
<p>Data Source: ILR data for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FE/LR (2007/08 and earlier years – F05 – final, 2009/10 – L05 – final) • ACL/ASL (2006/07 and earlier years – C03 – final, 2007/08 – C03 – final, C02 – final, 2008/09 – C05 – final, C04 – final, 2009/10 – C05 – final) <p>Further information on data sources is available in Annex A.</p>
<p>Definitions Used:</p>
<p>Government funded learners. See definition above</p>
<p>ASL funded learners. This table only includes learners funded from the Safeguarded Learning budget. Learners funded from the discrete First Steps budget are not included. Learners are included for the 4 types of ASL provision: Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL), Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC), Family Literacy Language and Numeracy (FLLN) and Wider Family Learning (WFL).</p>
<p>Total Learners – 2005/06 to 2007/08. Total participating and achieving learners for 2005/06 to 2007/08 are all learners returned in the ACL funding stream plus all learners returned in the FE funding stream with aims that are one of the ASL provision types, excluding all First Steps learners, except for 2006/07 where First Steps learners cannot be accurately separated from other ASL learners.</p>

Total Learners – 2008/09. Total participating and achieving learners for 2008/09 are all learners returned in the ASL funding stream with aims that are one of the ASL provision types, excluding all First Steps learners. No learners returned in the LR funding stream are included.

Total Learners – 2009/10. Total participating and achieving learners for 2009/10 are all learners returned in the ASL funding stream with aims that are one of the ASL provision types, excluding all First Steps learners. In addition 28,200 ASL learners returned in the LR collection of 5 specially designated colleges are included as, in 2009/10 only, these were funded from the Safeguarded Learning budget.

Provision Type. For the years 2006/07 and 2007/08, provision type is determined by the learning aim monitor ILR field (A46). These codes can be found in Appendix O of the 2007/08 ILR specification: http://www.theia.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7F2257E7-4774-4FE1-8EE2-5B8DF2B88332/0/natilrspecification2007_08annexosp23March2008v3.doc

The values used to identify the ASL provision types are:

- 23 – Family Literacy Language and Numeracy (FLLN)
- 24 – Wider Family Learning (WFL)
- 61 – Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL)
- 65 – Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC)

ASL provision type cannot be accurately identified in 2005/06 due to the quality of data returned in the learning aim monitor field. However, this field is used to identify ASL learners in the FE collection.

First Steps provision cannot be accurately identified for 2006/07, although other ASL provision types can be identified, including learners in the FE collection.

For 2007/08 First Steps is determined and therefore excluded from the total by counting learners in the ACL collection with aims that are not any of the four provision types listed above. No First Steps learners are returned in the FE collection.

From 2008/09 onwards, all provision types are determined by the ASL provision type ILR field (A58). The values used are:

- 01 – Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL)
- 02 – Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC)
- 03 – Family Literacy Language and Numeracy (FLLN)
- 04 – Wider Family Learning (WFL)

Supplementary Tables. No supplementary tables are provided for table 6.

Tables 12 and 13
Labour Force Survey Supplementary Tables
Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey Supplementary Tables by Local Level

Published: May 2011

Data Source: Quarter 4 2010 Labour Force Survey for national figures and 2010 Annual Population Survey for local area figures. More information on the data used is available at: http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/943FEB65-D267-4E74-8A8C-07797FB994C3/0/Summary_of_enhanced_LFS_methodology.doc

Definitions Used:

A separate document summarising the methodology used to calculate estimates of adult educational attainment using the Labour Force Survey is available at the following web page: <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodology/>
The document also provides a comparison with latest available estimates using the old methodology.

Age. Age is the age of the respondent as at the end of the week in which they were interviewed in.

Labour Force Survey Supplementary Tables These tables provide information on highest qualification levels held by people in England. These tables breakdown this information by:

Geography – Government Office Region of respondents' main address. This is the variable GOVTOR on the LFS.

Ethnicity – This is the ethnic origin of the respondent. It is the variable ETH01 on the LFS.

Gender – This is the gender of the respondent. It is the variable SEX on the LFS.

Disability Status – This is the DISCURR variable in the LFS which shows their disability status under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), based on any health problems they have reported.

These tables are available at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/labour_force_survey_sfr_supplementary_tables/

Annual Population Survey Supplementary Tables These tables provide information on highest qualification level of people held in England, broken down by Local Area District,/Unitary Authority, Local Education Authority and Government Office Region.

Geography – respondents' Government Office Region, Local Education Authority and Unitary Authority / Local Area District. These are the variables GOVTOR, LEA and UALAD on the AFS.

These tables are also available at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_supplementary_tables/labour_force_survey_sfr_supplementary_tables/

<p>Table 14 Vocational Qualification Achievements in the UK by Qualification Type, 2005 (October) to 2011 (June)</p>
<p>Published: August 26th 2011</p>
<p>Data Source: Vocational Qualifications Database</p>
<p>Definitions Used:</p>
<p>Vocational Qualifications Database. All recognised awarding organisations submit data to Ofqual each quarter on the number of achievements for regulated qualifications (excluding GCSE and GCE) during the quarter. These bulletins present this data, giving information on number of achievements recorded by awarding organisations, and the sector subject area, qualification type and level of achievements. All regulated qualifications are included, regardless of age of learner, centre type and funding status of the qualification.</p>
<p>Geographical coverage. The data covers the regulated qualifications of all recognised awarding organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Currently only one figure for the total number of achievements for each qualification is collected, so it is not possible to present the data at country level.</p>
<p>Qualification type. At the point of accreditation, regulated qualifications are allocated to one of 16 qualification types, which are used to classify qualifications in these bulletins. It is recognised that this is not currently an ideal classification system, as very similar qualifications may appear under different types, and some qualifications are miscoded. We are investigating how this situation might be improved in the future.</p>
<p>Revisions. Once published, data on the number of certifications for any qualification are not usually subject to revision. Data may be revised in subsequent bulletins due to late-received data or if an error is identified. Qualifications may also be re-categorised to a different type, level, sector subject area or awarding organisation. In some cases, this may result in previous data being amended to reflect the new categorisation.</p>
<p>Completeness of the data. Data is sent to Ofqual every quarter by each awarding organisation. Any data not returned within the collection period is chased to ensure the data is as complete as possible. For July to September 2010 data was received from all awarding organisations.</p>
<p>Raw data. The raw data, since 1989, is available in the full VQ certification data set in the statistics section of Ofqual's website: http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/research-and-statistics/statistics/vocational-data/</p>

Tables 15, 16, 17
FE and Skills Participation by Level and Age (provisional 2010/11 full year estimates) – Learner Volumes

Published: October 2011

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- FE/LR (2010/11 – LR04 – final)
- WBL/ER & TTG (2010/11 – ER12 – 05/08/11)
- ASL (2010/11 – SL04 – final)

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#)

Definitions Used:

Funded learners. Only learners that were funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency are included in this table. Learners are defined as funded based upon information recorded by providers in the Skills Funding Agency / Young People's Learning Agency funding stream field in the ILR. A learner will only be counted once in total learners for each funding stream they have learning aims in. Learners in with aims in multiple funding streams will be counted more once for each funding stream.

A new funding variable L_FUNDINGSOURCE was introduced in the 2009/10 ILR collections to distinguish the sources of funding for learners.

Technical information on this field can be found in the 2010/11 Derived Variables Specification at

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/Index+of+Derived+Variables+1011.htm>

Learners with any combination of Demand led funding (DLF), Non Formula funding and ESF (European Social Fund) co-financing are included, except for those with just ESF co-financing only. DLF learners without funding are not included.

Age. Age is 'Academic Age' which means the learner's age calculated as at 31 August of the specified academic year. For example 31 August 2010 for the 2010/11 academic year.

Where the learner has not provided a date of birth they are recorded as 'missing age'. All NES learners are considered adults. In some supplementary tables age at start of programme is used as a proxy for academic age for NES learners.

In these tables there are two categories of age, 'young people' which includes learners aged up to 19 years exclusive (i.e. age bands 'under 16' and '16-18') and 'adults' which means learners aged 19 and over including those learners with missing age.

For the supplementary tables, age is disaggregated as follows; under 16, 16, 17, 18, 19-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-59, 60+ and unknown/missing age. All Workplace Learning learners with age recorded as under-19 are assumed to be adult and included in the 19-24 category.

Technical information on how age is calculated and banded can be found at

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/Age+Data+Definition+1011.htm>

Below Level 2 (excluding Skills for Life). This includes learners who are funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People’s Learning Agency and are on a qualification that is below level 2, i.e. is Entry level or level 1. This category excludes all Skills for Life qualifications, which are shown separately in the Skills for Life section.

Learners who are doing more than one ‘below level 2 qualification’ are counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Learners doing more than one qualification in different areas within the same funding stream would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a ‘below level 2 qualification’ and a ‘level 2 qualification’ will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Skills for Life. This includes learners who are funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People’s Learning Agency and are on Skills for Life provision. Learners are included if they are eligible for Skills for Life funding by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People’s Learning Agency. Learners studying approved and non-approved (internally certificated and externally accredited ‘other provision’) Skills for Life aims are included in the SFR.

Learners who are doing more than one ‘Skills for life’ qualification are counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Whereas learners doing more than one qualification in different areas would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a ‘Skills for Life qualification’ and a ‘level 2 qualification’ will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on Skills for Life categories can be found at <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodology>

Full Level 2. This includes Skills Funding Agency or Young People’s Learning Agency funded learners who are on a Full Level 2 programme. The widths of all of a learner’s aims are summed to establish whether a learner is taking a Full Level 2 programme. This would include aims such as those shown in the table below. Learners only count as ‘Full Level 2’ if they meet the criterion of all their aims summing to or greater than 100% of a Full Level 2 – part-level 2 learners are not included, for example those learners studying just 4 GCSE qualifications.

Aim type	Percentage of a full level 2
NVQ level 2	100%
GNVQ Intermediate (part GNVQs constitute 40%)	80%
GCSE double awards (including vocational GCSEs)	40%
GCSE (including vocational GCSEs)	20%
GCSE short courses	10%
Other Vocationally Related Qualifications which are 80% or more of a full level 2 – 325 guided learning hours or more	100%
Intermediate Level Apprenticeship	100%

The proportion of Full Level 2s that are First Full Level 2s is known as the ‘Firstness Rate’. Further information on the Firstness Rate is available in a separate paper at

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodogy/>

Technical information on the calculation of Full Level 2 and 3 can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/L_FU_LLLEVEL2_3.htm

Full Level 3. This includes funded learners who are on a Full Level 3 programme. The widths of all of a learner's aims are summed to establish whether a learner is taking a Full Level 3 programme. This would include aims such as those shown in the table below. Learners only count as 'Full Level 3' if they meet the criterion of all their aims summing to or greater than 100% of a Full Level 3 – part-level 3 learners are not included, for example learners studying just 2 AS level qualifications.

Aim type	Percentage of a full level 3
AS Levels (including VCEs)	25%
A/ A2 levels (including VCEs)	50%
Advanced GNVQ	100%
Advanced pilot 6 unit GNVQ	100%
NVQ Level 3 or above	100%
International Baccalaureate	100%
Other Vocationally Related qualifications which are 80% or more of a full level 3 – 595 guided learning hours or more	100%
Advanced Level Apprenticeship	100%
Higher Apprenticeship	100%

The proportion of Full Level 3s that are First Full Level 3s is known as the 'Firstness Rate'. Further information on the Firstness Rate is available in a separate paper at <http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/methodogy/>

Technical information on the calculation of Full Level 2 and 3 can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/L_FU_LLEVEL2_3.htm

Level 2. The number of learners undertaking funded level 2 qualifications. This would include all learners that are doing full level 2 programmes, as well as those that are doing part level 2 qualifications, for example one GCSE.

Learners who are doing more than one level 2 qualification are just counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Learners doing more than one qualification at different levels would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 2 qualification' and a 'level 3 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Level 3. The number of learners undertaking funded level 3 qualifications. This would include all learners that are doing full level 3 programmes, as well as those that are doing part level 3 qualifications, for example one AS level.

A small number of Higher Apprenticeships at level 4 are included in level 3.

Learners who are doing more than one level 3 qualification are just counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Whereas learners doing more than one qualification in different areas would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 2 qualification' and a 'level 3 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Level 4+. The number of learners undertaking Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded level 4 and above qualifications (excluding Higher Apprenticeships).

Learners who are doing more than one level 4 and above qualification are just counted once in this category, unless each qualification is in a different funding stream. Whereas learners doing more than one qualification in different areas would be counted once for each category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 2 qualification' and a 'level 4 qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

No Level Assigned. The number of learners undertaking Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency funded qualification that does not have a level assigned to it.

These qualifications have a level of X (not known or not applicable) or U (Unclassified) or M (Mixed levels). The majority of these learners are studying qualifications of level X, not known or not applicable.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Supplementary Tables. No supplementary tables are provided for tables 15-17. 2010/11 data will be added to supplementary tables for tables 2, 7 & 10 when near-final full-year data is available at the end of the 2010/11 academic year.

<p>Tables 18.1 and 18.2 Apprenticeship Programme Starts by Level and Age (provisional 2010/11 full year estimates) Apprenticeship Framework Achievements by Level and Age (provisional 2010/11 full year estimates)</p>
<p>Published: October 2011</p>
<p>Data Source: ILR data for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ER (2010/11 – ER12 – 05/08/11) <p>Further information on data sources is available in Annex A.</p>
<p>Definitions Used:</p>
<p>Skills Funding Agency/YPLA funded. Providers are requested to return information on funded frameworks only.</p>
<p>Starts. The definition is available in the metrics section above.</p>
<p>Age. Age is calculated as at the start of the programme. Age is broken down into learners aged Under 16, 16-18, 19-24 and those aged 25 and over.</p>
<p>Framework Achievements. Achievement of the full Apprenticeship framework is counted, which is consistent with the Apprenticeship success rate. An Apprenticeship framework consists of an NVQ, one or more Key Skills qualifications and a Technical Certificate.</p>
<p>Supplementary Tables. Provisional Apprenticeship data for 2010/11 is included in the table 3 & 8 supplementary tables.</p>
<p>Provisional Lag. Provisional Apprenticeship numbers for 2010/11 are not comparable with previous years final data reported in tables 3 & 8. There can be significant variation between provisional and final estimates and typically these numbers can be expected to be revised upwards. While subsequent revisions to 2010/11 data may be different from previous years, in 2009/10 the final number of starts for the full year was up to approximately 2.1% higher and the final number of achievements was up to approximately 10.7% higher than the provisional numbers at a similar point. For information the corresponding rises in 2008/09 were 2.5% for starts and 13.0% for achievements.</p>

Tables 19.1 and 19.2
Workplace Learning Starts by Level (provisional 2010/11 full year estimates)
Workplace Learning Achievements by Level (provisional 2010/11 full year estimates)

Published: October 2011

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- ER (2010/11 – ER12 – 05/08/11)

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#).

Definitions Used:

Workplace Learning. This table also includes achievements for Train to Gain qualifications which were started prior to 2010/11.

Skills Funding Agency/YPLA funded. All Workplace Learning learners are funded.

Starts. The definition is available in the metrics section [above](#).

Age. Age is calculated as at the start of the programme.

Level. Starts and Achievements are broken down into level. Information on the definition of each level is set out [above](#). Information on Skills for Life is also described in previous tables and can be found using [this link](#). Starts and Achievements classified as 'other' are qualifications that either have no level assigned or are level 2 or 3 but not full qualifications.

Supplementary Tables. Provisional Workplace Learning data for 2010/11 is included in the [table 5](#) (Train to Gain) supplementary tables.

Provisional Lag. Provisional Workplace Learning numbers for 2010/11 are not comparable with the final Train to Gain data for previous years' reported in table 5. There can be significant variation between provisional and final estimates and typically these numbers can be expected to be revised upwards, although the effects of the end of the Train to Gain programme on revisions to data cannot be estimated.

Tables 20, 21, 22
FE and Skills - Skills for Life Participation by Level (provisional 2010/11 full year estimates) – Learner Volumes

Published: October 2011

Data Source:

ILR data for:

- FE/LR (2010/11 – LR04 – final)
- WBL/ER & TTG (2010/11 – ER12 – 05/08/11)
- ACL/ASL (2010/11 – SL04 – final)

Further information on data sources is available in [Annex A](#).

Definitions Used:

Funded learners. Only learners that were funded by the Skills Funding Agency or Young People's Learning Agency are included in this table. Learners are defined as funded based upon information recorded by providers in the Skills Funding Agency / Young People's Learning Agency funding stream field in the ILR. A learner will only be counted once in total learners for each funding stream they have learning aims in. Learners in with aims in multiple funding streams will be counted more once for each funding stream.

A new funding variable L_FUNDINGSOURCE was introduced in the 2009/10 ILR collections to distinguish the sources of funding for learners.

Skills for Life - The definition in tables 20-22 is the same as previous tables, see definition [above](#).

Learners who are doing more than one Skills for Life qualification are counted once in the total but can be counted more than once if they are doing Skills for Life qualifications in more than one category. For example, a learner doing a 'level 1 numeracy qualification' and an 'entry level literacy qualification' will be counted twice, once in each category. Additionally, a learner participating on a 'level 1 literacy qualification' and a 'level 2 literacy qualification' would be counted in each of those categories but only once in the overall literacy category.

Learners may also be counted multiple times if they are doing qualifications in different funding streams.

Further technical information on Skills for Life can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_SFL+L_SFL.htm

Further information on Skills for Life can be found at: <http://rwp.excellencegateway.org.uk/>

Skills for Life Types (Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL). The number of learners participating is broken down into Skills for Life type. Skills for Life aims can be split into three types – Literacy, Numeracy or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). An aim is considered to be the Skills for Life type if the Learning Aims Database (LAD) indicates that it is within that category.

Technical information can be found at:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_SFLTY.htm

Level: Entry, 1 and 2. The number of learners participating and that have achieved is broken down into level within each Skills for Life type. This is Entry level, level 1 and level 2. There are no Skills for Life aims at levels higher than level 2.

Technical information on analysing the level of the qualification can be found at http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary/technicaldefinitions/derivedvariables/1011/A_NVQLEV+L_NVQLEV.htm

Supplementary Tables. No supplementary tables are provided for table 20-22. 2010/11 data will be added to supplementary tables for table 6 when final full-year data is available after the end of the 2010/11 academic year.

<p>Table 23 Adult Safeguarded Learning Participation by Type (provisional 2010/11 full year estimates) – Learner Volumes</p>
<p>Published: October 2011</p>
<p>Data Source: ILR data for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASL (2010/11 – SL04 – Final) <p>Further information on data sources is available in Annex A.</p>
<p>Definitions Used:</p>
<p>Government funded learners. See definition above</p>
<p>ASL funded learners. This table only includes learners funded from the Safeguarded Learning budget. Learners funded from the discrete First Steps budget are not included. Learners are included for the 4 types of ASL provision: Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL), Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC), Family Literacy Language and Numeracy (FLLN) and Wider Family Learning (WFL).</p>
<p>Total Learners. Total participating and achieving learners for 2010/11 are all learners returned in the ASL funding stream with aims that are one of the ASL provision types, excluding all First Steps learners. No learners returned in the LR funding stream are included.</p>
<p>Provision type. For 2010/11, all provision types are determined by the ASL provision type ILR field (A58). The values used are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01 – Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) • 02 – Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) • 03 – Family Literacy Language and Numeracy (FLLN) • 04 – Wider Family Learning (WFL)
<p>Supplementary Tables. No supplementary tables are provided for table 23.</p>

Data Sources

Individualised Learner Record (ILR)

Data at an individual qualification aim and learner level are returned to the Data Service by FE sector partners in the form of the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). These data are then used to inform the public about performance in the sector. The following ILR data sources have been used for this publication.

Funding Stream	Data Source
FE Providers (FE)	2007/08 and earlier years – ILR F05 – final
Learner Responsive (LR)	2008/09 & 2009/10 – ILR L05 – final 2010/11 – ILR LR04 – final
Work-based learning (WBL) - including data on Apprenticeships and Train to Gain	2007/08 and earlier years – ILR W13 – final
Employer Responsive (ER) – includes data on Apprenticeships and Train to Gain/Other Employer-Based Training	2008/09 & 2009/10 – ILR E13 – final 2010/11 – ILR ER12 – 05/08/2011
Employer Training Pilot (ETP)	2006/07 and earlier years – ETP database
Ufl / Learndirect (Ufl)	2006/07 and earlier years – ILR U03 – final 2007/08 – ILR U05 – final 2008/09 – ILR U05 – final 2009/10 – ILR U05 – final Note – Ufl data is returned in the Learner Responsive collection from 2010/11 onwards.
Adult Community Learning (ACL)	2006/07 and earlier years – ILR C03 – final 2007/08 – ILR C03 – final, C02 – final
Safeguarded Adult Learning (ASL)	2008/09 – ILR C05 – final, C04 – final 2009/10 – ILR C05 – final 2010/11 – ILR SL04 – final

Geographic Reference Data

The postcode file used to determine geographic areas for 2005/06 to 2009/10 is the Office of National Statistics Postcode Directory (ONSPD). The May 2010 release of this file is used.

For 2010/11 onwards the National Statistics Postcode Lookup (NSPL) is used in response to a requirement from ONS for national statistics to use an alternative methodology for geographic allocation of postcodes. This is not used for any earlier years.

The Level of Highest Qualification Held By Adults

The statistics provided are taken from the Quarter 4 2010 Labour Force Survey (LFS) carried out by the Office for National Statistics from October to December 2010, using the information collected about the highest qualification held by individuals.

From 2004 onwards statistics relating to changes in attainment of 19 year olds at Level 2 and monitoring progress towards young people's attainment targets are based on a new administrative data source published by the Department for Education.