

Apprenticeships success rate reporting for the academic year 2008/09

Guidance notes (updated for Period 15)

Please note: the key differences between the P12 and P15 Apprenticeship QSR report are:

- *the calculation of National Comparative Success Rates Averages for 2008/09 instead of 2007/08 now that a full year's data are available.*
- *changes to learner references (L03) have been processed*

What are Qualification Success Rate Reports?

The Qualification Success Rate (QSR) report for a training provider shows the percentage of learners achieving an Apprenticeship. These percentages are calculated using two separate measures and are shown as the “overall” success rate and the “timely” success rate:

- The “overall” success rate measures the proportion of learners who achieved their Apprenticeship against the overall number of leavers. The overall success measure is based on the hybrid end year. This is the maximum of the actual learning end year or the planned learning end year
- The “timely” success rate only measures learners who achieved their Apprenticeship by no later than 31 days after their planned end date. This is expressed as a percentage of the number of learners who are expected to leave in the year

These success rates are then broken down by:

- type of Apprenticeship:
 - Apprenticeship
 - Advanced Apprenticeship
 - Higher Level Apprenticeship
- age of learner (16-18, 19-24, 25+)
- Sector Subject Area (SSA) and Sector Framework Code (SFC) (including SSA Tier 2)

The report also shows a comparison of the number of framework achievements expected for each end year versus the number actually achieved.

For providers that deliver training in more than one location, detailed success rate reports are produced at a national, regional, and Local Authority level. This is explained in more detail on page 3 in the section entitled “What does the QSR report show?”

What is the purpose of Qualification Success Rates?

Success rates help a training provider to assess the quality of the courses it provides. The data feed into the Minimum Level of Performance (MLP) report, which is used for identifying and managing underperformance and will be used by OfSTED in their inspections. The success rate is also one of the performance indicators for the Framework for Excellence.

Who are they used by?

Success rates are available for each provider of Apprenticeship training that receives funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The information is published through the Provider Gateway. The data are also used by the Office for Standards in Education (OfSTED) in inspections and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (BIS) for reviewing the performance of Apprenticeships.

How are they calculated?

They are calculated using the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data supplied by the provider in their monthly returns for the current and four previous academic years (where available). There is a detailed set of guidelines produced by the LSC for calculating success rates. For more information on this please refer to the Data Dictionary (Technical Definitions) at www.thedataservice.org.uk. The data exclude:

- learners who left within six weeks of starting the course and those on planned breaks
- learners who transfer to a different programme within the same provider

How is historic data calculated?

Success rates for all years on the report are calculated using the DLF methodology. As this methodology only has true currency for 2008/09, for previous years, the results are indicative rather than a wholly accurate measure of success. For a consistent record to assess historic performance, old style QSR reports for 2007/08 can be found on the Provider Gateway.

How often are they produced?

QSR reports are usually produced quarterly following the ILR collections for collection period 6, 9, 12 and 13. Due to the changes in this year's success rate reports the first in-year reports for 2008/09 were produced at the end of May.

What are the key differences from last year's reports?

The Apprenticeship success rates calculation and the success rate reporting requirements of the FE sector have changed in the past year. This is a result of the move to Demand-led Funding and work carried out by OfSTED, the LSC, BIS, DCSF and partner organisations to harmonise the different success rate calculations and reporting methods used across the Apprenticeships sector.

The key differences are as follows:

- a new summary report of success rates replaces the document map
- the data are presented at regional level and Local Authority level rather than by local LSC area
- each apprenticeship framework is now mapped to only one Sector Subject Area (SSA). For more information on this new mapping please refer to the **Harmonising success rates section** on the *information authority's* website
- there is an additional level of reporting by subject using SSA Tier 2
- data for 19+ are now split into 19-24 and 25+
- the report now contains national apprenticeship success rates for all providers for comparison purposes

What information do I receive?

Each provider can download their own data in a zipped file from the Provider Gateway. The zipped file contains:

- QSR reports
 - a summary report covering totals for England, Regions and Local Authorities (relating to this provider)
 - detailed separate reports for England, Regions and Local Authorities (where applicable, relating to this provider)
- a Microsoft Excel file of success rates details for all learners (relating to this provider)
- guidance information

What does the QSR summary report show?

The summary report is a summary of the success rates for the provider's learners by geographical area.

The summary report shows:

- percentage success rates for the last three full academic years:
 - for England if there are learners in more than one region. If all learners are in one region there will be no England level summary as this would be the same as the regional level
 - for each region
 - if there are learners in more than one LA
 - If all learners are in one LA area and there are fewer than 20 leavers in 2008/09
 - for each LA where there are no fewer than 20 learner frameworks for 2008/09. If there are fewer than 20 learner frameworks that area will not appear on the summary report. Learners associated with those frameworks will be included in the regional summary and England
- the number of overall leavers for each geographical area in 2008/09
- the number of overall leavers for "other Local Authorities" where no individual report for the Local Authority is available
- leavers not allocated to a Local Authority section because the delivery location postcode is outside England, unknown or not supplied. These

leavers are included in the summary for England but not in any regional or LA summary

The geographical area is determined by the Delivery Location Postcode (field A23) from the ILR. The geographical areas are:

- **England** – success rates for all learners (an example of the file name is 123456_Detail_N_England_2008_P12)
- **Government Office Regions** – success rates for learners broken down by region (an example of the file name is 123456_Detail_R_North_East_2008_P12)
- **Local Authority (LA) areas** – success rates for learners broken down by LA area (an example of the file name is 123456_Detail_L_Norfolk_2008_P12)

Detailed reports are only available for geographical areas included on the summary report.

How are the detailed reports structured?

The report has the following sections:

- Page 1 Headline actual performance
- Page 2 Success rates by Level and Age
- Next section Success rates by SSA Tier 1, SSA Tier 2 and SFC
- Final page Comparison of “Actual” and “Expected” End Dates

As mentioned above the detailed reports are only available for the geographical areas included in the summary report.

How to interpret the “Comparison of Actual and End Expected Dates” tables

The purpose of these tables is to demonstrate how the values for the overall and timely measures are calculated.

Cohort identification table

- **Actual and expected:** The first five columns show the number of leavers in terms of their **actual** and **expected** (or planned) end dates. The numbers are a count of learners who are leavers (*where in the data extract leaver = 1*), but excludes transfers (*Transfer = 1*) or those on a planned break (*Planned Break = 1*).
- **Continuing:** Those learners who have not left (*where in the data extract leaver = 0*)
- **Timely Cohort:** This is the number of planned or expected leavers for a given year. It is the sum of the actual leavers plus the number of continuing learners. The numbers in this column correspond to the “Planned Leavers” values in the Headline Actual Performance table on page 1.

- Overall Cohort:** This is the number of learners counted in the Overall analysis. This measure is based on the 'Hybrid End Year' as opposed to the 'Expected end year'. The hybrid end year is defined as the maximum of the actual end year and the expected end year. For example if we take the overall cohort for 2007/08 (shown in the table 1 below) it is the sum of all those who were expected to finish in 2007/08 who actually finished no later than 2007/08, plus all of those who were expected to finish earlier than 2007/08 who actually finished in 2007/08. (these number are circled below in a reversed 'L' shape. The number corresponds to the Overall Leavers totals on page 1.

Table 1 – example of overall cohort calculation

Comparison of Actual and Expected End Dates									
Cohort Identification									
End Year		Actual					Continuing	Timely Cohort	Overall Cohort
		Past	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09			
Expected	Past	0	7	4	0	0	37		
	2005/06	251	189	19	0	0	178	637	447
	2006/07	19	49	116	17	0	134	335	207
	2007/08	2	12	17	119	10	49	209	167
	2008/09	0	2	8	36	79	26	151	135
	Future	0	0	7	26	45	618		

Overall achievers table:

The overall achievers table shows how the overall number of achievers is calculated. The total overall achievers is calculated in the same way as the overall cohort ie using the reverse 'L' shape. The total corresponds to the Overall Achievers on page 1.

Timely achievers table:

The timely achievers table shows those learners who have achieved within 31 days of the planned end date. The total timely achievers value is the sum of the row. The total corresponds to the Timely Achievers on page 1.

The timely in year achievers column is the sum of the learners who have achieved early or within the expected academic year, regardless of whether it was within 31 days of the planned end date. The calculation doesn't count those learners who achieved in the following academic year but otherwise would be considered a timely achiever.

What data are included in the “*success rates details for all learners*” file?

Success rate data are provided in the extract as an Excel file and contains the following data:

Data Fields	Description	Example
Learner_Reference	The provider’s reference for the learner, field L03 in the ILR	40003109863
Academic_Year	The academic year	2008/09
Region	Government office region based on the delivery location postcode. This is only available if there is a valid delivery location postcode	West Midlands
Local Authority	The Local Authority area. This is only available if there is a valid delivery location postcode	Solihull
Delivery Location Postcode	This is the postcode of the address where the learning is delivered, field A23	B77 2LR
AgeGroup	The age of the learner at the start of the framework, based on the following bands: 16-18, 19-24, or 25+ (A_AGESTB in the technical definition)	16-18
Ethnicity	Ethnic origin of the learner based on the 2001 national census, field L12	White – British
Gender	The sex of the learner, field L13	Male
Programme_Type	Field A15 determines programme type classified as: Apprenticeship, Advanced Apprenticeship or Higher Level Apprenticeship	Apprenticeship
Sector_Subject_Area_Tier_1	Shows which sector the qualification relates to. This field is derived from the sector framework code	Health, Public Services and Care
Sector_Subject_Area_Tier_2	As above	Health and Social Care
Framework	Field A26 is mapped to a list of frameworks in the Learning Aim Database	Health and Social Care
Learning_Start_Date	The date on which the learning for the framework began, field A27	27-Feb-07
Learning_Planned_End_Date	The date on which the learner is due to complete the learning. This is decided between the learner and the provider, field A28	04-Jul-08
Learning_Actual_End Date	The date the learner actually completed the learning, field A31	12-Sep-08
Expected_End_Year	This is derived from field A28 and gives the academic year in which the learner is expected to complete their learning (P_EXPENDYR in the technical definition)	2007
Actual_End_Year	This is derived from field A31 and gives the academic year in which the learner actually completed their learning (P_ACTENDYR in the technical definition)	2008
Hybrid_End_Year	The latter of the expected or actual year	2008

	(P_HYBRIDENDYR in the technical definition)	
FrameWork_Achiever	This is a variable to show whether the framework was achieved by the learner 1 = achieved, 0 = not achieved. It is derived from P_PROG_STATUS	0 or 1
Leaver	This is a variable to show whether the learner has left. It is derived from field A31. 1 = leaver, 0 = continuing (P_LEAVERS in the technical definition)	0 or 1
Transfer	This is a variable to show whether the learner has transferred to a different programme from the same provider. It is derived from P_PROG_STATUS. 1 = transferred, 0 = not transferred (P_TRANS in the technical definition)	0 or 1
Planned break	When set to 1 this indicates that the learner is taking a planned break from the programme. It is derived from P_PROG_STATUS. 1=Planned Break, 0=not. (P_PLAN_BREAK in the technical definition)	0 or 1
Overall_Framework_Achiever	This variable is set to 1 if the learner is an overall leaver and achieved (P_FRM_ACH_OVERALL in the technical definition)	0 or 1
Overall_Leaver	This variable is set to 1 if the hybrid end year is in the past 5 years and the learner is flagged as a leaver, not as a transfer nor on a planned break, (P_COUNT_OVERALL in the technical definition)	0 or 1
Timely_FrameWork_Achiever	This is a variable to show whether the framework was achieved within 31 days of the planned end date. 1 = achieved, 0= not achieved (P_FRM_ACH_TIMELY in the technical definition)	0 or 1
Timely_Leaver	This variable is set to 1 if the expected end year is in the past five years and the learner has not transferred to a different provider nor on a planned break (P_COUNT_TIMELY in the technical definition).	0 or 1

Please note: This information is slightly different to last year as there are some additional fields included and some have been removed.

For more detailed definitions of data fields please refer to the [technical definitions](#) section of the Data Dictionary at www.thedata.service.org.uk.

How do I access the postcode file used in the QSR report?

The Success Rate reports use the National Statistics Postcode Directory (NSPD) May 2008 file. Unfortunately our license does not allow us to share

the file outside the Data Service. Further information on this file, including access and cost information is available on the ONS website using the following link:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/geography/products/geog-products-postcode/nspd/index.html>

Enquiries

If you would like any more information about Success Rates please contact our Service Desk on 0870 267 0001 or email servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk. Please be aware that the Data Service is responsible for producing QSR and MLP reports in accordance with the methodology approved by the LSC. The QSR methodology is produced by the LSC following the principles set out by the Harmonisation of Success Rates group see <http://www.theia.org.uk/harmonisingsuccessrates/>. The QSR methodology is available at the [Data Dictionary](#) on the Data Service website.

The Data Service is glad to receive all queries regarding success rates, but customers should note that these may need to be reviewed by different members of the Harmonisation Group, and as such may take longer to resolve. Before any such queries are logged it would therefore be useful if initial checks against the data extract supplied with the QSR report are performed to provide detailed explanation of the query being raised.