

Skills for Life 2010 Target Definition

Introduction

This article clarifies the methodology used to calculate the Skills for Life 2010 target definition. This is used to calculate target-bearing Skills for Life achievements, which are included in the quarterly Statistical First Releases that the Data Service produce. This methodology is published in the definitions section of the Data Service Website

<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/datadictionary>. The Skills for Life 2010 target data published in the December 2009 Statistical First Release has been recalculated based on the methodology described below. This includes a revision to the method that we use to count SFL achievements. For more information on this revision, please see

[http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdoonlyres/01602CFB-7F0D-48D5-BB27-635C08273420/0/Revisions to Skills for Life.pdf](http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/NR/rdoonlyres/01602CFB-7F0D-48D5-BB27-635C08273420/0/Revisions%20to%20Skills%20for%20Life.pdf)

The Targets

Skills for Life (SfL) is the name of the Government's national strategy for improving the literacy, language and numeracy skills of adults aged 16 and upwards, through the delivery of literacy, language (English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)) and numeracy provision. The Skills for Life strategy is aimed at widening participation, and has key Government targets that monitor performance against this. The Public Service Agreement (PSA) Skills for Life target, set from 2001, was to improve the basic skills of 2.25 million learners by 2010, by achieving an appropriate qualification, with learners only counted once.

Further information on 2010 Skills for Life target and related background information can be found on the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) website <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/readwriteplus/>.

Measurement against target

The target measures those learners who have achieved the appropriate Skills for Life qualification for the first time. It is not possible from the ILR to determine accurately which of these learners are achieving the threshold level or above for the first time. The national achievement count is therefore adjusted down by 10% to remove estimated repeat learners.

Skills for Life achievements at Entry Level 3 count towards the Skills for Life target. The ILR outcome field for Skills for Life achievements is not yet fully

completed by all providers, so it is not possible to accurately determine the volume of Entry Level 3 achievements. We therefore apply an assumption to all Entry Level achievements; assuming that 50% of all Entry Level achievements are at Entry Level 3.

There are a number of types of approved qualifications and provision that are funded as Skills for Life which can be found in <http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/pre2005/funding/providers/delivering-skills-for-life-factsheet-1-recording-adult-literacy-2004.pdf>. The Learner Aims Database (LAD) contains a flag which indicates whether an aim counts toward the 2010 Skills for Life target.

The target includes those learners recorded on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) or in the Higher Education Student Collection who are funded by the LSC. Each learner is counted only once based on the highest Skills for Life aim they have achieved in the current academic year.