

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 2008/09

COMMENTARY, PUBLISHED ON 25 MARCH 2010

INTRODUCTION

This commentary updates the information presented in the 'Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 2007/08' commentary, published as part of the Post-16 Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held Statistical First Release DS/SFR2 on 26 March 2009 and concentrates purely on the achievement of accredited vocational qualifications.

Information on awards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), and Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs) is taken from the Vocational Qualifications Database held by DCSF and from information supplied by Ofqual.

There are 2 major differences from last year's commentary:

- Table 3, a time series of NVQ achievements by framework code has been replaced by one on sector subject area, as Ofqual no longer supports framework code; and
- Ofqual also no longer supports the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC), so this analysis has been removed from tables 4 and 6 and the local level tables 8 to 10.

KEY POINTS

- The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in the UK has risen again to 959 thousand in 2008/09, an increase of 24% when compared to 2007/08, following an increase of 15% between 2006/07 and 2007/08 (Table 1).
- 61% of all NVQ/SVQ awards in the UK go to people aged 25 and over, an increase of 4% from 2007/08 (Table 4).
- Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs) are becoming increasingly important. 2.1 million VRQ awards were reported by 50 awarding bodies to the Vocational Qualifications Database in 2008/09, compared with 1.7 million awards reported by the same number of awarding bodies to the Vocational Qualifications Database last year (Table 1).
- Almost 459 thousand of these awards were full VRQs¹, around 22% of the total. Of these, 269 thousand were at Level 2 and 138 thousand at Level 3 (Table 6).

AWARDS OF NVQs/SVQs, UK (See Tables 1 to 5)

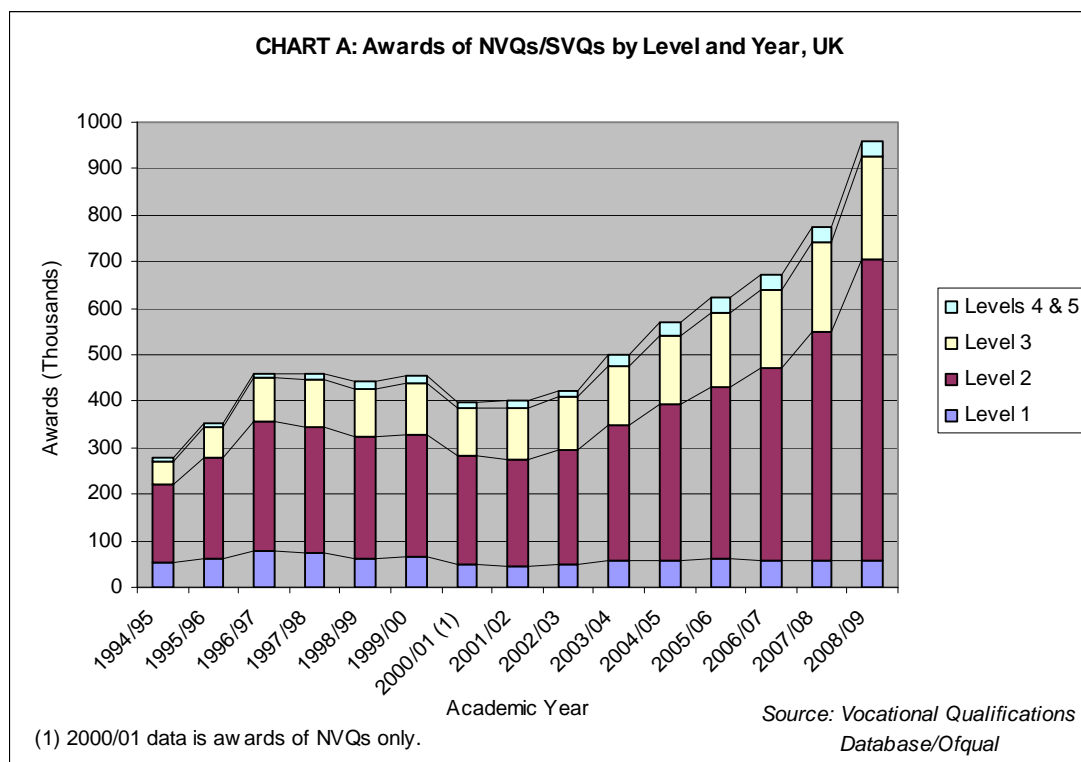
NVQ/SVQ Awards over Time (See Table 1 and Chart A below)

Between their introduction in 1987 and the end of September 2009, 8.5 million NVQs/SVQs have been awarded in the UK. The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded has increased from 773 thousand in 2007/08 to 959 thousand in 2008/09 – an

¹ See Technical Notes: Definitions, paragraph 19.

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increase of 24%, compared with increases of 10% between 2004/05 and 2005/06, 8% between 2005/06 and 2006/07 and 15% between 2006/07 and 2007/08.



2008/09 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Academic Age, Level and Gender (See Table 4)

In 2008/09, 589 thousand NVQs/SVQs awards (61%) were made to people aged 25 and over, 29% were to people aged over 40, an increase of 4% and 3% respectively on last year's figures.

Generally speaking, the higher the NVQ/SVQ level, the more likely it has been awarded to a learner from the older age group – 21% of level 1s (down from 22% last year), 64% of level 2s (up from 60% last year), 61% of level 3s (up from 57% last year) and 86% of level 4/5s (down from 87% last year) went to the 25 and over age group.

Largely due to the number of men gaining qualifications at level 2 and counter to the recent trend, more men than women achieved NVQ/SVQs in 2008/09, though there were still more awards to women than men at other levels – for example at level 3, 61% of awards were to women, the same percentage as last year.

2008/09 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Centre Type (See Table 4)

For NVQ/SVQs, Private Training Providers (PTPs) and Further Education/Tertiary Colleges continue to dominate, although, unlike previous years, PTPs are the main type of provider – 40% of all NVQ/SVQs awarded were made through PTPs (38% in 2007/08) and 37% through Further Education/Tertiary Colleges (39% in 2007/08).

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It should be noted that both training providers and FE colleges frequently provide assessment and certification services to employers where candidates are based.

2008/09 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area (See Table 5)

21% of all NVQ/SVQ awards were in 'Retail & Commercial Enterprise' (the same as last year) – with as many as 22% of all level 2 NVQ/SVQs in this sector subject area (the same as last year). A further 21% of all NVQ/SVQ awards were in 'Health, Public Services and Care' (down from 23% in 2007/08) and 19% were in 'Business Administration & Law' (up from 17% last year).

There are big differences between men and women in sector subject areas. In 'Health, Public Services & Care' there were 162 thousand awards made to women compared to 38 thousand for men; in 'Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies' 131 thousand awards to men and 12 thousand to women and in 'Construction, Planning & the Built Environment' 124 thousand awards were made to men and 1 thousand to women.

People holding NVQs/SVQs

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimated that 6.4 million people held an NVQ/SVQ in Quarter 4 2009. Of these 56% were female, which is similar to estimates observed in the previous year in Q4 2008. A further 480 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held one or more NVQ/SVQ units.

People working towards NVQs/SVQs

According to the LFS in Quarter 4 2009 there were 1.1 million people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, an increase of 49 thousand from Quarter 4 2008. Of these 240 thousand people (23%) were full-time students, the same proportion as in Q4 2008. 56% of those working towards an NVQ/SVQ did not already have one.

AWARDS OF VOCATIONALLY RELATED QUALIFICATIONS (VRQs), UK (See Tables 6 and 7)

In 2008/09, the Vocational Qualifications Database collected and processed information on awards of Vocationally Related Qualifications from 50 awarding bodies, the same amount as last year. Therefore, the numbers in the tables and quoted in the text do not cover all VRQ awards – and need to be treated with some care. Analyses of VRQ awards in this SFR relate only to awards made by these 50 awarding bodies and are not complete UK estimates. Many of the awards presented here are not considered to be full VRQ awards¹ (ie full = width of 80-100%).

2008/09 VRQ Awards by Age, Level and Gender (See Table 6)

34% of all recorded VRQ awards in 2008/09 were to people aged 25 and over, compared to 37% last year and 44% in 2006/07, with 15% to people aged over 40 (16% in 2007/08 and 19% in 2006/07). Awards of full VRQs² account for 22% of all recorded VRQs, compared with 23% last year; about 37% of these have been achieved by those aged 16 and under – 35% last year.

As in earlier years, in 2008/09 more men than women achieved a VRQ at each level,

² See Technical Notes: Definitions, paragraph 19.

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- for example, at both levels 2 and 3 54% of all VRQ awards went to men, compared to 53% at level 2 and 51% at level 3 last year.

2008/09 VRQs by Centre Type (See Table 6)

40% of all recorded VRQ awards were through Further Education/Tertiary Colleges, with a further 25% being through Schools and 17% being through Private Training Providers. Last year these figures were 46%, 19% and 17% respectively.

2008/09 VRQs by Sector Subject Area (See Table 7)

18% of all recorded VRQ awards were in 'Health, Public Services & Care' (same as last year), 17% were in 'Information and Communication Technology' (same as last year), and 14% in 'Leisure, Travel & Tourism' (13% last year). 27% of all level 1 VRQ awards were in 'Leisure, Travel and Tourism' – up from 26% last year, 20% of all Level 2 VRQ awards were in 'Health, Public Services & Care' – down from 22% last year and 23% of all Level 3 VRQ awards were in 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies', the same as last year. At levels 2 and 3 the sector subject area with the most awards remained the same as in 2007/08, although at level 1 in 2007/08 'Information and Communication Technology' had the most awards.

'Health, Public Services and Care' was the largest sector subject area for VRQ awards for women - 25% of all recorded VRQ awards to women were in this subject area, compared to 26% in 2007/08. VRQs awarded to men were more evenly spread with 18% of all recorded VRQ awards to men being in 'Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies', 16% in 'Information and Communication Technology' and 15% in 'Leisure, Travel and Tourism' – the same top three as last year.

2008/09 Awards of Full VRQs (See Tables 6 and 7)

Of the 459 thousand awards of full VRQs notified to the Vocational Qualifications Database in 2008/09, 269 thousand (59%) were at Level 2 and 138 thousand (30%) were at Level 3. Of the level 2 awards 51% were to those aged 16 and under. By contrast 84% of awards at level 3 were to those aged 17 to 19.

As for all VRQ awards, at all levels more men than women achieved a full VRQ – for example, 65% of such awards at level 2 were achieved by men but at level 3 the difference was less marked, with 53% of awards achieved by men.

The majority of awards (66%) were achieved through FE and Tertiary Colleges. This is true at all levels (88% at level 1, 55% at level 2 and 78% at level 3).

21% of all recorded full VRQ awards were in 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment', 16% were in 'Arts, Media and Publishing' and 14% were in 'Health, Public Services & Care'. 24% of all full VRQ awards at level 2 were in 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment' and 31% of all full VRQ awards at level 3 were in 'Arts, Media and Publishing'.

'Health, Public Services and Care' was the largest sector subject area for full VRQ awards for women - 31% of all recorded full VRQ awards to women were in this subject area, with 24% in 'Arts, Publishing and Media'. For men, 32% of all recorded full VRQ awards were in 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment' and 20% in 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies'.

TABLES

Table 1: Awards of NVQs/SVQs and VRQs by Academic Year, UK

Table 2: Awards of NVQs by Academic Year and Level, UK

Table 3: Awards of NVQs by Sector Subject Area and Academic Year, UK

Table 4: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Gender, Academic Age, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award, 2008/09, UK

Table 5: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area, by Level of Award and Gender, 2008/09, UK

Table 6: VRQ Awards (as reported by participating awarding bodies) by Gender, Academic Age, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award, 2008/09, UK

Table 7: VRQ Awards (as reported by participating awarding bodies) by Sector Subject Area, by Level of Award and Gender, 2008/09, UK

CHARTS

Chart A: Awards of NVQs/SVQs by Level and Year, UK

ADDITIONAL TABLES (The following tables are only available via the website rather than contained within this document).

Table 8: Awards of N/SVQs and VRQs by Local Authority and Government Office Region, 2008/09, England.

Table 9: Awards of N/SVQs and VRQs by Local Learning and Skills Council and Government Office Region, 2008/09, England.

Table 10: Awards of N/SVQs and VRQs by Learning Partnership and Government Office Region, 2008/09, England.

These tables will be available from 0930 on 25 March 2010, at the same time as the Statistical First Release on Post-16 Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held in 2008/09 is published.

TECHNICAL NOTES

SOURCES

1. The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by (Ofqual) and DCSF. Ofqual statistics on the numbers of NVQs awarded are collected from all NVQ awarding bodies. The Vocational Qualifications Database (formerly known as the National Information System for Vocational Qualification) collects candidate level information on awards of all types of Ofqual-accredited vocational qualifications in the UK currently provided by three of the largest awarding bodies (City and Guilds, EDEXCEL Ltd and OCR, plus information from a further 48 awarding bodies on NVQ, SVQ or VRQ awards at candidate level. Note that the Vocational Qualifications Database counts numbers of awards of vocational qualifications not numbers of individuals receiving awards.
2. Ofqual are responsible for the quality assurance of NVQs i.e. accreditation and monitoring of implementation. Ofqual accredits proposals by around 150 awarding bodies (which include single bodies and 'joint' awarding body partnerships) to deliver NVQs. The Ofqual figures are based on aggregate quarterly returns of the numbers of certificates issued, sent to Ofqual by all NVQ awarding bodies. The awarding bodies' returns cover all certificates issued in the quarter for which payment is due to Ofqual.
3. Ofqual information is the most comprehensive and up to date source of aggregate numbers of NVQs awarded. The numbers can be broken down by NVQ level and Ofqual Sector Subject Area, which classifies NVQs into one of 15 subject areas. Awarding Bodies do not provide information about the candidate to Ofqual but information needs to be available for submission to the Vocational Qualifications Database.

NVQs/SVQs

4. As part of the Vocational Qualifications Database project Ofqual provide DCSF with annual totals (October-September) of NVQ awards by sector subject area and level. These are provided to Ofqual by awarding bodies. DCSF use these totals to 'gross up' the more detailed NVQ award information, collected from the awarding bodies that participate in the Vocational Qualifications Database, in order to produce UK NVQ estimates. UK NVQ/SVQ estimates are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs.
5. Robust UK NVQ/SVQ estimates have been possible over recent years by general increases in the coverage of NVQs on the Vocational Qualifications Database, which is measured against the total number of NVQs accredited by Ofqual in a year. This has been over 90% for a number of years and is largely as a result of the increasing number of awarding bodies submitting NVQ information to the Vocational Qualifications Database.
6. In previous years NVQ achievements (received by the Vocational Qualifications Database) have been grossed to Ofqual NVQ aggregate figures using NVQ Framework Area classifications, but because NVQ Framework Area classifications are no longer maintained by Ofqual, it has not been possible to do this for 2008/09 NVQ achievements. Consequently, this year NVQ achievements have been 'grossed' to Ofqual NVQ aggregate figures using Sector Subject Areas, which are maintained by Ofqual and provide the best means of grossing NVQs in a

nature comparable to previous years.

VRQs (Vocationally Related Qualifications)

7. The number of reported VRQs has grown considerably since their inception enabling more detailed analyses to be presented. In 2001/02 the Vocational Qualifications Database received information on awards of VRQs from only 3 awarding bodies. Up to 2007/08 the number increased steadily each year, with 50 awarding bodies submitting data for that year, a figure which has been maintained this year. The Vocational Qualifications Database collects information for each award – classified according to the features of the qualifications, e.g. level, subject, characteristics of candidates, and the location of the assessment centre. However, the coverage of VRQs on the Vocational Qualifications Database is not fully comprehensive.

Other Accredited Vocational Qualifications

8. For accredited vocational qualifications other than NVQs, SVQs and VRQs it is very difficult to establish a complete and accurate picture of the numbers of awards made. Consequently, information on other qualifications is not included in this commentary.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

9. The main source for information on people holding/studying for NVQs/SVQs is the Labour Force Survey (LFS).
10. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is used in this SFR to present information on people holding and working towards NVQs/SVQs broken down by age, gender, economic activity, regions and major occupation groups. Data in this SFR has been re-grossed based on Census 2001 population figures. Minor discrepancies will be present when comparing historic LFS data in this SFR with previous issues of the former bulletin.
11. The LFS is a quarterly sample survey carried out by interviewing people about their personal circumstances and work, and is the biggest regular household survey in this country. Each quarter approximately 150 thousand people are interviewed, living at a representative sample of some 60 thousand addresses throughout the United Kingdom.

Classification Systems Used in this Commentary

12. This commentary presents information on awards broken down by Sector Subject Area. Sector Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and is available for all VRQ, NVQ and SVQ awards recorded on the Vocational Qualifications Database.

DEFINITIONS

13. **Regulatory Body** - An organisation designated by Parliament to establish national standards for qualifications and to secure compliance with them. Ofqual regulates all external qualifications in England, and NVQs in Wales and Northern Ireland and works with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to ensure that NVQs and SVQs remain aligned.

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14. **Academic Age** – Academic Age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, for example, academic age in 2008/09 would be age at 31 August 2008. Academic age has been used throughout this commentary.
15. **Administering Body** - The organisation that administers an award and therefore holds records of the award. The Vocational Qualifications Database collects information on awards administered by a number of awarding bodies and therefore includes joint awards made in collaboration with smaller awarding bodies. This is the definition of administering body used for Vocational Qualifications Database purposes.
16. **Assessment Centre** - An organisation (such as a school, college or workplace) accountable to an awarding body for the assessment arrangements leading to an award, ie the centre that assessed, examined or administered the award. This is not necessarily where the training or study took place, or where the candidate is living.
17. **Awarding Body** - An organisation or consortium recognised by a regulatory authority for the purpose of awarding specified qualifications, eg an organisation such as City and Guilds which is responsible for awarding vocational qualifications. Where an awarding body offers an award jointly with another body, it is known as a 'Joint Awarding Body'.
18. **Awards of NVQs** - Only certifications of NVQs are included in Ofqual and Vocational Qualifications Database information, information on certifications of NVQ units is currently incomplete. Awards of single subjects, mixed level, and client-specific qualifications are identified and excluded from reported Vocational Qualifications Database results. As part of the Vocational Qualifications Database project, a considered judgement of the size of any other qualification that appears in the awarding bodies' data is made by Ofqual to identify whether the qualification is a single subject or not. This may include reviewing the content of the qualification, determining the amount of work required, and liaising with the awarding body concerned.
19. **Full Awards of VRQs** – Tables 6 and 7 of this commentary include awards of full VRQs. Full VRQs at levels 1 and 2 have been identified as those which have guided learning for 325 - 504 hours which gives a qualification width of 80-100%. Full VRQs at level 3 have been identified as those which have guided learning for 595 – 774 hours which would also give a qualification width of 80-100%.
20. **NVQ: National Vocational Qualification** - National Vocational Qualifications accredited by Ofqual are competence-based qualifications built on national occupational standards and criteria established by Ofqual.
21. **NVQ Level** - Each competence-based full qualification is assigned to one of five levels:
 - a. **NVQ Level 1**: competence, which involves the application of knowledge and skills in the performance of a range of varied work activities most of which may be routine and predictable.
 - b. **NVQ Level 2**: competence, which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a significant range of varied work activities, performed in a variety of contexts. Some of the activities are complex

or non-routine, and there is some individual responsibility or autonomy. Collaboration with others, perhaps through membership of a work group or team, may often be a requirement.

- c. **NVQ Level 3:** competence, which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a broad range of varied work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and most of which are complex and non-routine. There is considerable responsibility and autonomy, and control or guidance of others is often required.
 - d. **NVQ Level 4:** competence, which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a broad range of complex, technical, or professional work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and with a substantial degree of personal responsibility and autonomy. Responsibility for the work of others and the allocation of resources is often present.
 - e. **NVQ Level 5:** competence, which involves the application of skills and a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques across a wide and often unpredictable variety of contexts. Very substantial personal autonomy and often a significant responsibility for the work of others and for the allocation of substantial resources feature strongly, as do personal accountabilities for analysis and diagnosis, design, planning, execution and evaluation.
22. **Qualification** - In this commentary, a qualification is a certification that a person has met the required national standards of competence, or practical or theoretical knowledge.
23. **SVQ: Scottish Vocational Qualification** - The Scottish equivalent of an NVQ, accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
24. **Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs)** - Vocational qualifications which have been accredited by the Regulatory Authorities for inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework and which therefore meet the relevant criteria for approved qualifications. Accreditation of VRQs commenced in April 2000.
25. **Unit** - An NVQ/SVQ is constructed of units with content expressed as assessable outcomes of learning. A unit is the smallest part of a qualification that can be separately certified.
26. **Vocational Qualification** - A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.

Related Publications

DIUS SFR DS/SFR2 – Post-16 Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held
<http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/sfrmar09/>. The Vocational Qualifications in the UK commentary for 2007/08 is contained in this SFR.

SFR 01/2010 - GCSE and Equivalent Results in England 2008/09 (Revised)
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/index.shtml>. This SFR provides information on the overall achievements of young people in GCSE and equivalent

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examinations in 2009 and progress against DCSF's national learning targets.

SFR 02/2010 - GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2008/09 (Revised) <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000906/index.shtml>. This SFR provides information on the overall achievements of young people in GCE/VCE A/AS and equivalent examinations in 2009.

SFR 05/2010 – Level 2 and 3 Attainment by Young People in England Measured Using Matched Administrative Data: Attainment by Age 19 in 2009 (Provisional) – **available on the DCSF's Research and Statistics Gateway from 18 March 2010** <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000917/index.shtml>.

Queries

Enquiries about the figures contained in this commentary should be addressed to:

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Telephone number: 0114 259 3765

Table 1: Awards of NVQs/SVQs and VRQs by Academic Year
Years: Academic years from 1 October to 30 September each year
Coverage: UK

thousands				
Year	NVQs/SVQs ^{1, 2}	Cumulative Total NVQs/SVQs ^{1, 2}	Reported VRQs from participating awarding bodies ³	Cumulative Total VRQs ³
Prior to 1994/95	720	720	N/A	N/A
1995/96	354	1,354	N/A	N/A
1996/97	459	1,813	N/A	N/A
1997/98	458	2,271	N/A	N/A
1998/99	442	2,713	N/A	N/A
1999/00	454	3,167	N/A	N/A
2000/01	428	3,595	N/A	N/A
2001/02	402	3,997	25	25
2002/03	425	4,422	217	241
2003/04	498	4,920	482	724
2004/05	568	5,488	936	1,660
2005/06	622	6,110	1,176	2,835
2006/07	673	6,783	1,416	4,252
2007/08	773	7,556	1,674	5,926
2008/09	959	8,515	2,102	8,028

Source: Ofqual/Vocational Qualifications Database

Numbers may not sum to cumulative totals due to rounding.

1. Totals reflect the number of NVQs notified to Ofqual plus the number of SVQs notified to the Vocational Qualifications Database (see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraphs 4 to 6).

2. Figures may not agree with previous years' Bulletins and SFRs due to amendments to original data submitted by Awarding Bodies to Ofqual.

3. Totals reflect the number of VRQ awards notified to the Vocational Qualifications Database (see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraph 7).

Table 2: Awards of NVQs by Academic Year and Level
Years: Academic years from 1 October to 30 September each year
Coverage: UK

		Numbers of full NVQ certificates ¹					
Year	Quarter	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total
Prior to 1999/2000²		516,256	1,576,382	470,503	81,833	6,394	2,651,368
1999/2000	Q1	12,847	53,451	22,913	2,324	193	91,728
	Q2	16,273	63,997	26,561	3,265	239	110,335
	Q3	12,071	47,281	19,633	2,098	228	81,311
	Q4	22,142	87,166	39,835	6,083	216	155,442
Total 1999/2000²		63,333	251,895	108,942	13,770	876	438,816
2000/01	Q1	11,578	52,396	22,496	2,718	293	89,481
	Q2	10,790	64,379	27,057	3,341	200	105,767
	Q3	7,455	37,197	16,899	2,486	215	64,252
	Q4	19,552	76,709	36,222	5,850	249	138,582
Total 2000/01²		49,375	230,681	102,674	14,395	957	398,082
2001/02	Q1	8,991	46,324	21,296	2,699	158	79,468
	Q2	7,256	47,769	21,744	2,990	235	79,994
	Q3	7,613	38,857	19,135	2,325	224	68,154
	Q4	20,407	83,116	40,787	6,430	184	150,924
Total 2001/02²		44,267	216,066	102,962	14,444	801	378,540
2002/03	Q1	9,035	48,523	22,675	2,726	181	83,140
	Q2	8,768	44,186	20,461	3,032	183	76,630
	Q3	10,133	45,910	20,420	2,831	299	79,593
	Q4	21,862	92,795	40,179	7,358	218	162,412
Total 2002/03²		49,798	231,414	103,735	15,947	881	401,775
2003/04	Q1	9,909	56,233	25,769	3,757	166	95,834
	Q2	9,570	55,981	24,334	4,627	243	94,755
	Q3	10,886	56,583	24,175	4,087	167	95,898
	Q4	25,158	106,991	43,057	8,157	269	183,632
Total 2003/04²		55,523	275,788	117,335	20,628	845	470,119
2004/05	Q1	9,732	67,701	27,383	4,811	220	109,847
	Q2	8,422	60,866	26,947	5,544	229	102,008
	Q3	11,373	71,686	28,731	5,253	292	117,335
	Q4	27,127	123,314	49,423	9,158	287	209,309
Total 2004/05²		56,654	323,567	132,484	24,766	1,028	538,499
2005/06	Q1	11,050	76,677	32,243	6,386	248	126,604
	Q2	8,526	70,593	30,678	6,309	234	116,340
	Q3	11,648	73,860	29,838	5,432	243	121,021
	Q4	30,536	137,258	55,982	10,531	314	234,621
Total 2005/06²		61,760	358,388	148,741	28,658	1,039	598,586
2006/07	Q1	8,643	76,634	29,713	6,043	257	121,290
	Q2	6,885	80,347	32,016	7,090	268	126,606
	Q3	10,054	82,825	30,960	5,504	275	129,618
	Q4	28,912	153,002	60,494	10,212	285	252,905
Total 2006/07²		54,494	392,808	153,183	28,849	1,085	630,419
2007/08	Q1	6,540	85,953	30,731	5,232	217	128,673
	Q2	5,542	92,843	34,849	7,245	261	140,740
	Q3	12,614	112,104	38,890	6,769	314	170,691
	Q4	30,366	179,256	67,422	10,781	265	288,090
Total 2007/08²		55,062	470,156	171,892	30,027	1,057	728,194
2008/09	Q1	6,089	116,176	38,402	6,429	276	167,372
	Q2	4,922	118,510	38,573	7,268	267	169,540
	Q3	13,475	149,969	46,614	6,060	154	216,272
	Q4	30,847	242,972	82,661	10,956	315	367,751
Total 2008/09		55,333	627,627	206,250	30,713	1,012	920,935

Source: Ofqual

1. Includes awards of expired NVQs.

2. Figures may not agree with previous years' Bulletins, Statistical First Releases or commentaries due to amendments to original data by Awarding Bodies.

Table 3: Awards of NVQs by Sector Subject Area and Academic Year
Years: Academic years from 1 October to 30 September each year
Coverage: UK

Sector Subject Area	Numbers of full NVQ certificates ¹											
	Prior to 1999/2000	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Total
Health, Public Services and Care	234,131	50,273	51,387	57,874	74,886	97,639	122,735	144,737	156,590	169,958	192,659	1,352,869
Science and Mathematics	0	60	94	136	246	269	408	362	339	223	284	2,421
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	99,182	11,437	11,144	9,666	9,466	10,317	12,340	13,587	12,509	15,454	18,006	223,108
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	401,785	81,957	73,601	66,413	69,377	81,327	88,865	94,583	92,396	93,906	135,044	1,279,254
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	196,948	33,880	33,267	31,805	27,723	48,543	52,809	55,423	73,953	99,128	116,538	770,017
Information and Communication Technology	166,826	35,260	15,300	11,086	10,166	9,239	8,461	12,593	16,623	27,170	35,338	348,062
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	626,315	96,928	95,500	94,714	97,399	106,438	118,870	136,236	137,816	157,679	198,526	1,866,421
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	84,565	15,193	12,825	12,215	12,760	10,269	11,573	12,570	15,037	20,576	29,905	237,488
Arts, Media and Publishing	4,287	2,040	1,573	1,351	1,378	1,230	1,075	1,085	1,004	853	706	16,582
History, Philosophy and Theology	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Languages, Literature and Culture	0	0	0	12	16	158	300	525	556	2,818	974	5,359
Education and Training	20,566	4,672	4,344	3,847	3,240	6,254	10,277	12,713	13,068	15,861	18,832	113,674
Preparation for Life and Work	638	1,755	2,631	3,286	3,990	5,486	7,586	5,431	1,989	648	22	33,462
Business, Administration and Law	813,962	105,306	96,391	86,122	91,125	92,950	103,200	108,741	108,539	123,920	174,096	1,904,352
Unclassified	2,163	55	25	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,259
Total	2,651,368	438,816	398,082	378,540	401,775	470,119	538,499	598,586	630,419	728,194	920,935	8,155,333

Source: Ofqual

1. Includes awards of expired NVQs.

**Table 4: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Gender, Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Year: 2008/09
Coverage: UK**

	Level of Award				Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	
thousands					
Total UK Awards	56.7	646.8	221.4	33.4	958.4
Gender					
Male	23.9	360.6	86.3	11.4	482.1
Female	32.8	286.3	135.2	22.0	476.2
Academic Age Groups¹					
Less than 16 ²	10.0	2.4	-	-	12.5
16	17.7	20.2	-	-	38.6
17	7.8	44.8	7.2	-	59.9
18	3.5	36.9	12.6	-	53.1
19	1.5	30.0	15.9	-	47.8
20	1.0	24.1	14.8	-	40.6
21-24	2.9	74.6	35.8	3.4	116.7
25-40	6.9	216.5	76.3	15.7	315.4
41-59	4.8	181.5	56.1	12.6	255.0
60 and over ³	-	15.5	2.0	-	18.4
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Centre Type					
School	1.1	2.4	1.3	-	4.9
FE College/Tertiary College	42.9	217.6	80.0	11.3	351.7
Sixth Form College	-	1.8	1.1	-	3.4
Adult Education Centre	-	15.8	3.8	-	20.0
University or other Higher Education centre	-	2.1	1.6	-	4.6
Private Training provider	7.9	280.3	82.0	12.9	383.2
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	3.6	1.6	-	5.6
Voluntary organisation	-	-	-	-	2.2
Employer	1.6	84.6	35.9	5.1	127.2
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	1.0	-	1.7	-	3.6
Armed Forces	-	10.9	3.3	-	15.0
Overseas centres	-	-	-	-	2.1
Other/Not Known	-	25.3	7.4	1.5	34.9
Government Office Region and Country					
England	48.8	585.3	186.3	28.4	848.8
of which:					
North East	3.2	48.9	13.1	2.4	67.6
North West	7.6	96.9	31.3	4.5	140.2
Yorkshire & The Humber	6.5	76.1	17.6	2.5	102.6
East Midlands	4.5	66.5	20.7	2.5	94.3
West Midlands	6.6	74.2	24.5	3.8	109.1
East	5.1	44.9	14.3	2.2	66.5
London	4.4	49.8	20.8	2.6	77.6
South East	6.1	74.5	25.4	4.9	110.8
South West	4.8	53.5	18.5	3.1	80.0
Wales	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Scotland	5.9	28.3	13.6	2.2	50.0
Northern Ireland	1.4	24.6	16.3	2.2	44.5
Overseas	-	7.5	4.3	-	12.4
Channel Isles/Isle of Man/Unknown	-	-	-	-	2.1

Source: Vocational Qualifications Database

- Less than 1,000.

Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

1. Academic Age is age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2008/09 would be age on 31 August 2008.

2. Includes those with an academic age of 12 to 15.

3. Includes those with an academic age of 60 to 90.

Table 5: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area, by Level of Award and Gender
Year: 2008/09
Coverage: UK

Sector Subject Area	Total Awards	Level 1	Level of Award			Gender	
			Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Male	Female
Total UK Awards	958.4	56.7	646.8	221.4	33.4	482.1	476.2
Health, Public Services and Care	199.8	0.0	98.6	83.7	17.5	37.9	161.9
Science and Mathematics	-	0.0	-	-	0.0	-	-
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	18.8	3.8	12.1	2.1	-	13.0	5.8
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	142.5	10.3	105.7	26.2	-	130.7	11.9
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	124.7	1.0	102.6	19.2	1.9	123.6	1.1
Information and Communication Technology	35.5	4.4	26.6	4.4	-	16.7	18.8
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	203.7	31.6	140.9	31.1	-	71.6	132.1
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	34.3	2.0	27.6	4.7	-	22.5	11.8
Arts, Media and Publishing	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
History, Philosophy and Theology	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	-
Social Sciences	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Languages, Literature and Culture	-	-	-	-	0.0	-	-
Education and Training	18.9	0.0	9.2	9.1	-	1.3	17.6
Preparation for Life and Work	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Business, Administration and Law	178.0	3.3	122.5	40.1	12.1	64.2	113.8

Source: Vocational Qualifications Database

- Less than 1,000.

Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

Table 6: VRQ Awards (as reported by participating awarding bodies) by Gender, Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award

Year: 2008/09

Coverage: UK

thousands

	All VRQ awards				of which: Full VRQ awards			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Total UK Awards¹	473.7	1,155.6	472.9	2,102.3	51.5	269.3	138.1	458.9
Gender								
Male	261.5	626.6	257.4	1,145.5	41.4	175.9	73.1	290.4
Female	212.2	529.0	215.6	956.8	10.1	93.4	65.0	168.5
Academic Age Groups²								
Less than 16 ³	119.7	370.7	-	491.0	5.3	83.1	-	88.4
16	79.1	111.5	18.1	208.6	24.4	54.1	-	79.3
17	39.2	98.0	89.8	227.0	10.3	48.2	55.8	114.3
18	20.6	56.8	71.1	148.5	4.4	23.8	43.3	71.5
19	11.5	34.0	33.6	79.1	1.4	11.2	16.4	29.0
20	8.8	25.7	19.2	53.7	-	6.4	6.6	13.9
21-24	29.0	80.8	44.5	154.4	1.7	13.1	7.6	22.4
25-40	85.8	206.6	109.3	401.7	2.4	21.9	5.6	29.9
41-59	63.8	150.4	79.9	294.1	-	7.2	1.8	9.6
60 and over ⁴	7.3	13.8	5.4	26.5	-	-	-	-
Unknown	8.9	7.2	1.5	17.7	-	-	-	-
Centre Type								
School	127.1	383.6	23.2	534.0	1.8	86.8	9.1	97.6
FE College/Tertiary College	184.0	386.3	280.0	850.3	45.4	147.8	108.2	301.4
Sixth Form College	4.5	14.2	16.3	35.0	-	6.7	9.1	16.6
Adult Education Centre	9.6	8.9	4.0	22.5	-	-	-	1.1
University or other Higher Education centre	9.7	8.4	15.8	33.9	-	-	2.9	3.7
Private Training provider	36.7	219.4	91.6	347.6	2.5	19.4	2.5	24.4
Local government/Central government/NHS	16.5	11.9	2.0	30.4	-	-	-	-
Voluntary organisation	2.9	4.6	3.6	11.1	-	-	-	1.6
Employer	44.4	52.3	12.4	109.1	-	1.9	-	2.5
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	17.1	6.9	-	24.3	-	-	-	-
Armed Forces	6.1	5.1	5.6	16.9	0.0	-	-	-
Overseas centres	4.4	3.7	3.3	11.4	-	-	-	-
Other/Not Known	10.5	50.4	14.9	75.8	-	3.1	3.7	7.3
Government Office Region and Country								
England	430.1	1,080.4	422.6	1,933.1	47.4	251.9	127.3	426.6
of which:								
North East	30.6	78.9	24.2	133.6	2.6	16.1	6.8	25.4
North West	55.0	159.4	59.2	273.6	7.3	39.8	19.7	66.8
Yorkshire & The Humber	47.1	128.7	42.1	217.9	5.0	28.6	12.5	46.1
East Midlands	44.3	89.2	39.9	173.5	4.6	20.1	10.3	35.0
West Midlands	51.2	139.1	49.6	239.9	6.0	30.3	15.1	51.5
East	42.9	103.5	42.9	189.2	4.8	24.7	13.4	42.9
London	55.6	136.8	55.4	247.9	6.4	35.1	16.2	57.6
South East	58.9	152.6	66.6	278.1	6.7	37.4	20.2	64.4
South West	44.5	92.3	42.7	179.5	4.1	19.8	13.0	36.8
Wales	22.3	41.0	23.5	86.8	3.1	10.6	6.4	20.1
Scotland	7.1	11.1	6.9	25.0	-	1.2	-	2.0
Northern Ireland	8.6	17.8	10.4	36.8	-	4.8	3.3	8.4
Overseas	4.4	3.7	3.3	11.4	-	-	-	-
Channel Isles/Isle of Man/Unknown	1.3	1.6	6.2	9.1	-	-	-	-

Source: Vocational Qualifications Database

- Less than 1,000.

Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

1. Numbers of awards are only for those awarding bodies submitting VRQ data to the Vocational Qualifications Database, see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraph 7.

2. Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2008/09 would be age on 31 August 2008.

3. Includes those with an academic age of 12 to 15.

4. Includes those with an academic age of 60 to 90.

Table 7: VRQ Awards (as reported by participating awarding bodies) by Sector Subject Area, by Level of Award and Gender
Year: 2008/09
Coverage: UK

thousands

Sector Subject Area	All VRQ awards					
	Total Awards	Level of Award			Gender	
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Male	Female
Total UK Awards ¹	2,102.3	473.7	1,155.6	472.9	1,145.5	956.8
Health, Public Services and Care	374.4	48.2	236.7	89.6	139.5	234.9
Science and Mathematics	47.2	-	42.7	3.6	22.7	24.6
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	57.5	5.6	42.3	9.6	38.6	18.9
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	210.4	22.6	79.7	108.2	201.1	9.3
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	143.0	42.4	68.9	31.6	138.2	4.7
Information and Communication Technology	349.7	111.7	219.6	18.4	182.1	167.7
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	136.8	15.4	102.3	19.1	48.2	88.6
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	283.9	128.6	118.0	37.3	168.0	115.9
Arts, Media and Publishing	158.7	16.4	69.7	72.6	69.6	89.1
History, Philosophy and Theology	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Social Sciences	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Languages, Literature and Culture	16.5	10.7	4.6	-	5.9	10.6
Education and Training	32.9	1.5	12.0	19.4	9.3	23.6
Preparation for Life and Work	68.2	33.6	32.6	-	31.0	37.1
Business, Administration and Law	222.9	35.9	126.5	60.4	90.0	132.8
of which:						
Sector Subject Area	Full VRQ awards					
	Total Awards	Level of Award			Gender	
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Male	Female
Total UK Awards ¹	458.9	51.5	269.3	138.1	290.4	168.5
Health, Public Services and Care	65.7	4.2	36.5	25.1	13.3	52.4
Science and Mathematics	15.2	-	12.6	2.4	7.2	8.0
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	13.5	2.1	5.6	5.7	5.4	8.1
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	60.7	12.9	37.6	10.2	58.3	2.4
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	96.5	20.5	63.8	12.2	93.6	3.0
Information and Communication Technology	40.4	2.8	27.5	10.2	29.3	11.1
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	11.3	1.8	7.8	1.7	2.7	8.5
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	50.2	2.7	28.1	19.4	31.3	18.8
Arts, Media and Publishing	73.3	1.9	29.1	42.3	32.9	40.4
Education and Training	-	0.0	-	0.0	-	-
Preparation for Life and Work	2.6	-	2.5	-	-	1.9
Business, Administration and Law	29.3	2.4	18.0	8.9	15.6	13.7

Source: Vocational Qualifications Database

- Less than 1,000.

Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding.

1. Numbers of awards are only for those awarding bodies submitting VRQ data to the Vocational Qualifications Database, see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraph 7.