



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 2007/08

COMMENTARY, PUBLISHED ON 26th MARCH 2009

INTRODUCTION

This commentary updates the information presented in the Statistical First Release 'Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 2006/07', SFR 03/2008, published on 26 February 2008 and concentrates purely on the achievement of accredited vocational qualifications. This commentary now forms part of a wider SFR titled "Post-16 Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held in 2007/08".

Information on awards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), and Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs) is taken from the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) held by DCSF and from information supplied by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA).

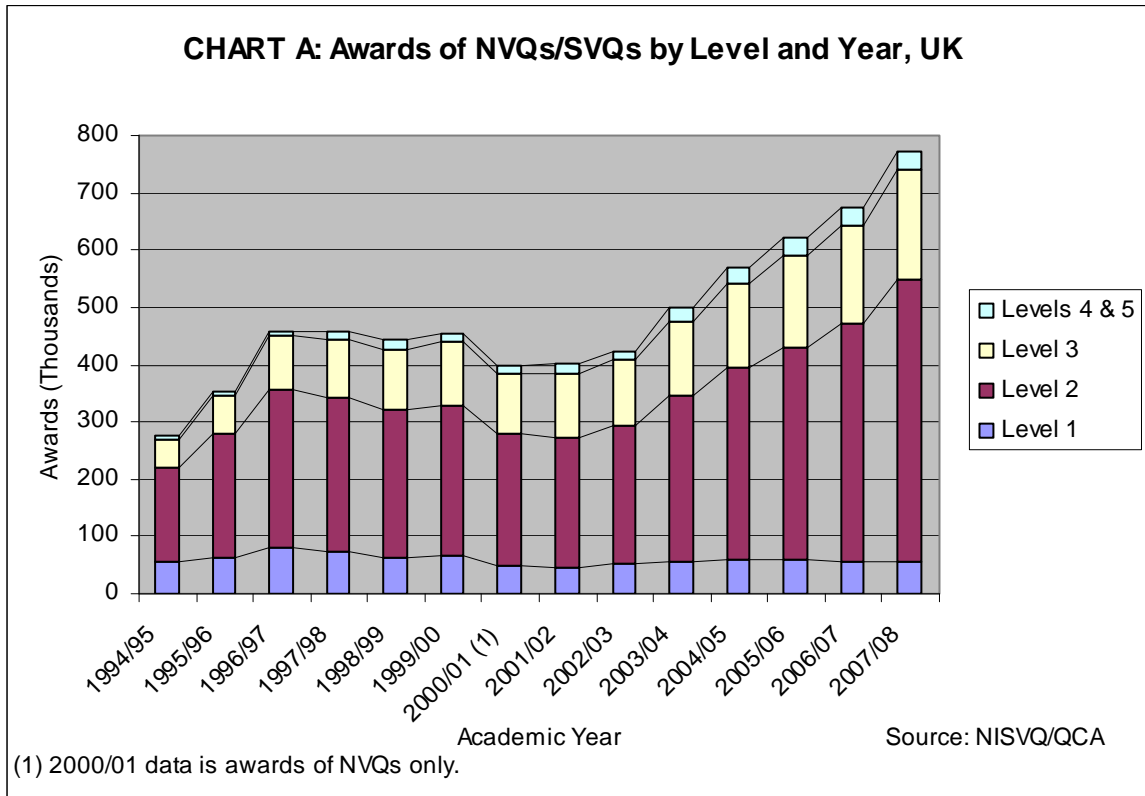
KEY POINTS

- The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in the UK has risen again to 773 thousand in 2007/08, an increase of 15% when compared to 2006/07, following an increase of 8% between 2005/06 and 2006/07 (Table 1).
- 57% of all NVQ/SVQ awards in the UK go to people aged 25 and over (Table 4), an increase of 2% from 2006/07.
- Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs) are becoming increasingly important. 1.7 million VRQ awards were reported by 50 awarding bodies to NISVQ in 2007/08, (Table 6), compared with 1.4 million awards reported by 47 awarding bodies to NISVQ last year.
- Almost 391 thousand of these awards were full VRQs (where Guided Learning Hours were at least 80% of hours recommended), around 23% of the total. Of these, 228 thousand were at Level 2 and 119 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 2008, 7.6 million NVQs/SVQs have been awarded in the UK. The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded has increased from 673 thousand in 2006/07 to 773 thousand in 2007/08 – an increase of 15%, compared with increases of 14% between 2003/04 and 2004/05 and 10% between 2004/05 and 2005/06 and 8% between 2005/06 and 2006/07.



2007/08 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Academic Age, Level and Gender (See Table 4)

Over half of all NVQ/SVQ awards go to people aged 25 and over. In 2007/08, 444 thousand NVQs/SVQs awards (57%) were made to people aged 25 and over, 26% were to people aged over 40, an increase of 2% and 1% respectively on last year's figures.

The higher the NVQ/SVQ level, the more likely it has been awarded to a learner from the older age group – 22% of level 1s (down from 31% last year), 60% of level 2s (up from 55% last year), 57% of level 3s (same as last year) and 87% of level 4/5s (down from 89% last year) went to the 25 and over age group.

More women get NVQ/SVQs than men – this is particularly true for higher levels – for example at level 3, 61% of awards were to women, although this is down from 62% last year.

2007/08 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Centre Type (See Table 4)

For NVQ/SVQs, Further Education/Tertiary Colleges and Private Training Providers continue to dominate – 39% of all NVQ/SVQs awarded were made through Further Education Colleges (40% in 2006/07) and 38% through Private Training Providers (39% in 2006/07).

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

2007/08 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area (See Table 5)

23% of all NVQ/SVQ awards were in 'Health, Public Services & Care' (the same as last year) – with as many as 37% of all level 3 NVQ/SVQs in this sector subject area (up from 33% in 2006/07). The next most important subject areas were 'Retail & Commercial Enterprise' (21% of all awards – up from 20% in 2006/07) and 'Business Administration & Law' (17% of all awards – up from 16% last year).

There are big differences between men and women in sector subject areas. In 'Health, Public Services & Care' there were 150 thousand awards made to women compared to 29 thousand for men; in 'Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies' 96 thousand awards to men and 9 thousand to women and in 'Construction, Planning & the Built Environment' 106 thousand awards were made to men and a negligible amount to women.

People holding NVQs/SVQs

The Quarter 4 2008 Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimated that 5.7 million people held an NVQ/SVQ - irrespective of the year awarded. Of these 57% were female - the same as in Quarter 4 2007. A further 482 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 2008 there were just over 1 million people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, an increase of 74 thousand from Quarter 4 2007. Of these only 236 thousand people (23%) were full-time students, an increase from 22% in Quarter 4 2007. 61% 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 2007/08, NISVQ collected and processed information on awards of Vocationally Related Qualifications from 50 awarding bodies, compared to 47 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 awards (ie full = width of 80-100%).

2007/08 VRQ Awards by Age, Level and Gender (See Table 6)

37% of all the recorded VRQ awards in 2007/08 were to people aged 25 and over, compared to 44% last year, with 16% to people aged over 40 (19% in 2006/07). Awards of full VRQs,¹ account for 23% of all recorded VRQs; about 35% of these have been achieved by those aged 16 and under.

As in earlier years, in 2007/08 more men than women achieved a VRQ – unlike NVQs, men are more likely to get a VRQ at all levels than women – for example, at

¹ See Notes to Editors: Definitions, paragraph 18.

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level 2 and 3 52 and 51% of all VRQ awards went to men respectively.

2007/08 VRQs by Centre Type (See Table 6)

46% of all recorded VRQ awards were through Further Education/Tertiary Colleges, with a further 17% being through Private Training Providers. Last year these figures were 48% and 19% respectively.

2007/08 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' (19% last year), and 13% in 'Leisure, Travel & Tourism' (12% last year). 32% of all level 1 VRQ awards were in 'Information and Communication Technology' – down from 41% last year, 22% of all Level 2 VRQ awards were in 'Health, Public Services & Care' – down from 29% last year and 23% of all Level 3 VRQ awards were in 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies', up from 18% in 2006/07. At all levels the sector subject area with the most awards has remained the same as in 2006/07.

'Health, Public Services and Care' was the largest sector subject area for VRQ awards for women - 26% of all recorded VRQ awards to women were in this subject area, compared to 24% in 2006/07. VRQs awarded to men were more evenly spread with 21% 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.

2007/08 Awards of Full VRQs (See Tables 6 and 7)

Of the 391 thousand awards of full VRQs notified to NISVQ in 2007/08, 228 thousand (58%) were at Level 2 and 119 thousand (31%) were at Level 3. Of the level 2 awards 49% 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 – 66% of such awards at level 2 were achieved by men but at level 3 the difference was less marked with 52% of full VRQ awards being achieved by men.

The majority of awards, 68% were through FE and Tertiary Colleges. This is true at all levels (89% at level 1, 57% at level 2 and 80% at level 3).

22% of all recorded full VRQ awards were in 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment', 16% were in 'Arts, Media and Publishing' and 15% were in 'Health, Public Services & Care'. 25% 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 - 34% of all recorded full VRQ awards to women were in this subject area, with 24% in 'Arts, Publishing and Media'. For men, 34% of all recorded full VRQ awards were in 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment' and 21% in 'Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies'.

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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 Framework Area and Academic Year, UK

Table 4: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Gender, Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award, 2007/08, UK

Table 5: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area, by Level of Award and Gender, 2007/08, UK

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, 2007/08, UK

Table 7: VRQ Awards (as reported by participating awarding bodies) by Sector Subject Area, by Level of Award and Gender, 2007/08, 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, 2007/08, England.

Table 9: Awards of N/SVQs and VRQs by Local Learning and Skills Council and Government Office Region, 2007/08, England.

Table 10: Awards of N/SVQs and VRQs by Learning Partnership and Government Office Region, 2007/08, England.

These tables will be available from 0930 on 26 March 2009, at the same time as the Statistical First Release on Post-16 Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held in 2007/08 is published.

TECHNICAL NOTES

SOURCES

1. The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by QCA and DCSF. QCA statistics on the numbers of NVQs awarded are collected from all NVQ awarding bodies. The National Information System for Vocational Qualification (NISVQ) collects candidate level information on awards of all types of QCA-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 50 awarding bodies on NVQ, SVQ or VRQ awards at candidate level. Note that NISVQ counts numbers of awards of vocational qualifications not numbers of individuals receiving awards.
2. QCA are responsible for the quality assurance of NVQs i.e. accreditation and monitoring of implementation. QCA accredits proposals by over 100 awarding bodies (which include single bodies and 'joint' awarding body partnerships) to deliver NVQs. The QCA figures are based on aggregate quarterly returns of the numbers of certificates issued, sent to QCA by all NVQ awarding bodies. The awarding bodies' returns cover all certificates issued in the quarter for which payment is due to QCA.
3. The QCA 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 QCA Framework Area, which classifies NVQs into one of 11 areas of competence. Awarding Bodies do not provide information about the candidate to QCA but information needs to be available for submission to NISVQ.

NVQs/SVQs

4. As part of the NISVQ project QCA provide DCSF with annual totals (October-September) of NVQ awards by framework area and level. These are provided to QCA by awarding bodies. DCSF use these totals to gross up the more detailed NVQ award information, collected from the awarding bodies that participate in NISVQ, 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 NISVQ, which is measured against the total number of NVQs accredited by QCA 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 NISVQ.

VRQs (Vocationally Related Qualifications)

6. The number of reported VRQs has grown considerably since their inception enabling more detailed analyses to be presented. In 2001/02 NISVQ received information on awards of VRQs from only 3 awarding bodies. Since then the number has increased steadily each year; this year 50 awarding bodies submitted information on awards of VRQs. NISVQ collects information for each award – classified according to the features of the qualifications, e.g. level, subject and occupational group, characteristics of candidates, and the location of the assessment centre. However, the coverage of VRQs on NISVQ is not fully comprehensive.

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Other Accredited Vocational Qualifications

7. 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 SFR.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

8. The main source for information on people holding/studying for NVQs/SVQs is the Labour Force Survey (LFS).
9. 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.
10. 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 SFR

11. This SFR has presented information on awards broken down by Sector Subject and Framework Areas. Framework area is only applicable to NVQs and SVQs but, whilst available for all NVQ awards, it is not available for some SVQ awards. Sector Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and is available for all VRQ, most NVQ and a few SVQ awards recorded on NISVQ.

DEFINITIONS

12. **Regulatory Body** - An organisation designated by Parliament to establish national standards for qualifications and to secure compliance with them. QCA regulates all external qualifications in England, and NVQs in Wales and Northern Ireland. QCA works with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to ensure that NVQs and SVQs remain aligned.
13. **Academic Age** – Academic Age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, for example, academic age in 2007/08 would be age at 31 August 2007. Academic age has been used throughout this SFR.
14. **Administering Body** - The organisation that administers an award and therefore holds records of the award. NISVQ 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 NISVQ purposes.
15. **Assessment Centre** - An organisation (such as a school, college or workplace) accountable to an awarding body for the assessment arrangements leading to an award, i.e. the centre that assessed, examined or administered the award. This is not necessarily where the training or study took place, or where the

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candidate is living.

16. **Awarding Body** - An organisation or consortium recognised by a regulatory authority for the purpose of awarding specified qualifications, e.g. 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'.
17. **Awards of NVQs** - Only certifications of NVQs are included in QCA and NISVQ 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 the reported NISVQ results. As part of the NISVQ project, a considered judgement of the size of any other qualification that appears in the awarding bodies' data is made by QCA officers who maintain the NISVQ Qualifications file, 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.
18. **Full Awards of VRQs** – Tables 6 and 7 of this SFR 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%.
19. **NVQ Framework** - The areas of competence within the NVQ framework result from analysis of work roles, and provide the initial organising structure for competence-based qualifications.
20. **NVQ: National Vocational Qualification** - National Vocational Qualifications accredited by QCA are competence-based qualifications built on national occupational standards and criteria established by QCA. The responsibility for developing national occupational standards rests with standards setting bodies - usually National Training Organisations (NTOs) - recognised by a regulatory authority responsible for formulating standards of competence for an employment sector and keeping them under review.
21. **NVQ Level** - One of the five levels in the NVQ Framework. Each competence based full qualification is assigned to just one of these levels. The following definitions of NVQ levels have been taken from QCA's 'Data News'. QCA provide them as a broad measure of the overall demand of a qualification:
 - 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.

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- 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 report, 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 Scottish Qualifications Authority.
24. **SOC: Standard Occupational Classification** - Used to classify the occupational areas of a qualification on the LFS.
25. **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.
26. **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.
27. **Vocational Qualification** - A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.

Related Publications

SFR 05/2008 – Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 2006/07
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000773/index.shtml>.

SFR02/2009 - GCSE and Equivalent Examination Results in England 2007/08 (Revised) <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000826/index.shtml>. This SFR provides information on the overall achievements of young people in GCSE and equivalent examinations in 2008 and progress against DCSF's national learning targets.

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SFR01/2009 - GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2007/08 (Revised) <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000827/index.shtml>. This SFR provides information on the overall achievements of young people in GCE/VCE A/AS and equivalent examinations in 2007.

SFR 04/2009 – Level 2 and 3 Attainment by Young People in England Measured Using Matched Administrative Data: Attainment by Age 19 in 2007(Provisional) – **available on the DCSF's Research and Statistics Gateway from 24 March 2008.** <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000835/index.shtml>.

DIUS SFR DS/SFR2 - Post-16 Education & Skills: Learner Participation, Outcomes and Level of Highest Qualification Held in 2007/08– **available on the DCSF's Research and Statistics Gateway from 26 March 2009.** <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000838/index.shtml>.

Queries

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

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Telephone number: 0114 259 4426

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

Source: NISVQ/QCA

Numbers may not sum to cumulative totals due to rounding.

1. Totals reflect the number of NVQs notified to QCA plus the number of SVQs notified to NISVQ (see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraphs 4 and 5).
2. Figures may not agree with previous years' Bulletins and SFRs due to amendments to original data submitted by Awarding Bodies to QCA.
3. Totals reflect the number of VRQ awards notified to NISVQ (see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraph 6).

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 98/99²		456,374	1,323,408	369,424	68,365	5,536	2,223,107
1998/99	Q1	13,977	53,769	20,482	2,086	213	90,527
	Q2	11,099	55,853	22,653	3,562	197	93,364
	Q3	12,659	50,770	18,533	1,944	202	84,108
	Q4	22,147	92,582	39,411	5,876	246	160,262
Total 1998/99²		59,882	252,974	101,079	13,468	858	428,261
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 2006/07		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	67,425	10,781	265	288,093
Total 2007/08		55,062	470,156	171,895	30,027	1,057	728,197

Source: QCA

1. Includes awards of expired NVQs.

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

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

Framework Area	Numbers of full NVQ certificates ¹											
	Prior to 1998/99 ²	1998/99 ²	1999/2000 ²	2000/01 ²	2001/02 ²	2002/03 ²	2003/04 ²	2004/05 ²	2005/06 ²	2006/07	2007/08	Total
Tending Animals, Plants and Land	60,328	10,605	10,251	10,022	8,559	8,733	8,863	10,049	10,358	9,909	10,412	158,089
Extracting and Providing Natural Resources	10,806	1,030	767	1,485	646	568	730	819	662	603	992	19,108
Constructing	165,685	27,719	34,111	36,775	37,864	37,012	57,485	63,052	61,924	74,995	96,321	692,943
Engineering	229,925	46,178	47,097	40,215	32,713	32,380	32,188	42,200	51,313	56,966	60,609	671,784
Manufacturing	68,179	22,159	25,615	24,917	24,787	23,906	30,245	29,501	31,365	26,977	24,529	332,180
Transporting	32,948	10,283	11,546	7,586	4,720	4,017	11,463	10,208	10,164	14,391	24,325	141,651
Providing Goods and Services	621,366	111,534	112,262	106,365	105,983	110,689	115,397	128,167	147,102	145,994	160,094	1,864,953
Providing Health, Social and Protective Services	185,900	45,053	52,918	55,503	62,527	80,264	105,078	132,258	153,059	163,176	183,345	1,219,081
Providing Business Services	830,001	147,996	137,744	109,531	95,705	99,945	101,464	110,969	118,703	123,068	148,262	2,023,388
Communicating	1,399	873	1,362	965	750	618	673	772	908	812	3,060	12,192
Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill	16,570	4,831	5,143	4,718	4,286	3,643	6,533	10,504	13,028	13,528	16,248	99,032
Total	2,223,107	428,261	438,816	398,082	378,540	401,775	470,119	538,499	598,586	630,419	728,197	7,234,401

Source: QCA

1. Includes awards of expired NVQs.

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

Table 4: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Gender, Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award
Year: 2007/08
Coverage: UK

	Level of Award				Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	
thousands					
Total UK Awards	56.6	492.4	190.9	33.2	773.2
Gender					
Male	25.1	254.7	74.9	10.3	364.9
Female	31.6	237.8	116.0	22.9	408.3
Academic Age Groups¹					
Less than 16 ²	11.3	1.3	-	0.0	12.6
16	16.8	17.5	-	-	34.9
17	7.5	42.3	5.5	-	55.4
18	3.3	34.7	11.2	-	49.4
19	1.5	26.2	15.9	-	44.0
20	1.0	19.3	14.6	-	35.6
21-24	2.9	56.5	34.6	3.2	97.1
25-40	6.9	155.5	63.1	15.5	241.0
41-59	4.9	128.9	43.9	12.8	190.6
60 and over ³	-	9.8	1.3	-	12.0
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-
Occupation⁴					
Management & Senior Officials	-	3.1	5.1	6.0	14.9
Professional Occupations	-	26.7	12.2	-	40.4
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	6.8	91.7	46.6	7.8	152.8
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	4.3	51.2	26.7	11.3	93.4
Skilled Trades Occupations	4.7	57.7	18.0	-	80.5
Personal Service Occupations	17.0	38.0	13.5	-	68.7
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	2.1	41.7	8.2	-	52.1
Plant & Machine Operatives	-	15.9	2.5	0.0	18.5
Elementary Occupations	15.2	33.1	2.4	-	51.1
Not classified	5.1	133.4	55.9	6.4	200.7
Centre Type					
School	2.7	2.5	1.7	-	7.0
FE College/Tertiary College	38.3	176.3	72.2	11.5	298.2
Sixth Form College	-	1.4	-	-	2.8
Adult Education Centre	-	11.9	2.9	-	15.1
University or other Higher Education centre	-	1.5	1.4	-	3.5
Private Training provider	8.8	205.2	69.6	13.0	296.6
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	5.7	3.5	-	9.9
Voluntary organisation	-	-	1.1	-	2.1
Employer	1.6	51.1	23.9	4.1	80.8
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	1.2	-	-	-	2.1
Armed Forces	-	10.0	2.9	-	13.5
Overseas centres	-	1.2	1.1	-	3.0
Other/Not Known	3.1	24.4	9.4	1.7	38.6
Government Office Region and Country					
England	49.0	432.9	155.4	28.0	665.2
of which:					
North East	3.7	35.4	10.9	2.4	52.4
North West	7.6	70.9	25.7	4.1	108.3
Yorkshire & The Humber	6.8	55.0	15.6	2.6	79.9
East Midlands	4.6	50.2	15.9	2.5	73.2
West Midlands	6.3	53.0	21.4	3.6	84.2
East	6.2	36.4	12.3	2.0	56.9
London	4.1	33.7	16.9	2.9	57.6
South East	5.6	60.2	21.7	4.7	92.2
South West	4.1	38.1	15.1	3.2	60.4
Wales	4.9	26.9	12.9	2.2	46.9
Scotland	1.5	23.7	17.3	2.2	44.6
Northern Ireland	-	7.3	4.1	-	12.7
Overseas	-	1.2	1.1	-	3.0
Channel Isles/Isle of Man/Unknown	-	-	-	-	-

Source: NISVQ

- Less than 1,000.

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

- Academic Age is age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2007/08 would be age on 31 August 2007.
- Includes those with an academic age of 12 to 15.
- Includes those with an academic age of 60 to 90.
- NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the same occupational area.

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

Year: 2007/08

Coverage: UK

Sector Subject Area	Total Awards	Level of Award				Gender	
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Male	Female
		thousands					
Total UK Awards	773.2	56.6	492.4	190.9	33.2	364.9	408.3
Health, Public Services and Care	179.2	-	90.9	70.8	17.5	29.2	150.0
Science and Mathematics	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	15.3	3.2	9.3	2.3	-	10.9	4.3
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	104.8	10.6	67.4	26.7	-	95.7	9.1
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	106.5	1.7	87.9	15.6	1.2	105.6	-
Information and Communication Technology	28.7	2.8	21.4	4.5	-	13.7	15.1
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	164.0	31.1	108.7	24.1	-	51.3	112.7
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	25.0	1.8	20.4	2.7	-	15.8	9.2
Arts, Media and Publishing	1.6	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Languages, Literature and Culture	2.2	2.1	-	0.0	0.0	1.2	-
Education and Training	16.0	0.0	7.5	8.0	-	1.0	15.0
Preparation for Life and Work	1.2	0.0	-	1.0	-	-	1.0
Business, Administration and Law	128.5	3.3	78.0	34.4	12.8	39.2	89.3

Source: NISVQ

- 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: 2007/08
Coverage: UK

thousands

	All VRQ awards				of which: Full VRQ awards			
	Level of Award				Level of Award			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Total UK Awards ¹	407.6	851.2	415.4	1,674.2	42.9	228.4	119.4	390.7
Gender								
Male	211.6	449.5	212.0	873.1	34.5	150.5	62.0	247.0
Female	196.0	401.7	203.4	801.1	8.4	77.9	57.4	143.7
Academic Age Groups ²								
Less than 16 ³	97.8	212.9	-	311.0	4.3	59.0	-	63.3
16	65.2	98.0	12.4	175.6	20.2	53.1	-	74.0
17	34.4	77.8	72.8	185.0	8.4	42.4	48.2	99.0
18	16.4	46.3	61.6	124.2	3.3	21.0	37.2	61.5
19	9.6	28.9	31.2	69.7	1.3	10.6	14.7	26.5
20	6.9	20.4	16.9	44.2	-	5.7	5.6	12.1
21-24	23.1	64.5	38.7	126.3	1.6	11.3	6.6	19.6
25-40	76.2	168.0	102.3	346.5	2.4	19.0	4.9	26.4
41-59	58.4	115.9	72.8	247.1	-	6.0	1.4	7.9
60 and over ⁴	8.1	10.8	5.0	23.9	-	-	-	-
Unknown	11.6	7.7	1.2	20.6	-	-	-	-
Occupation ⁵								
Management & Senior Officials	76.6	47.9	10.6	135.0	0.0	-	1.5	1.6
Professional Occupations	6.1	27.4	29.3	62.8	0.0	2.8	17.4	20.2
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	55.0	160.4	92.1	307.5	6.2	69.0	66.0	141.2
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	72.7	59.6	15.0	147.2	2.7	21.3	4.1	28.1
Skilled Trades Occupations	37.0	87.8	35.6	160.4	10.4	66.9	11.1	88.4
Personal Service Occupations	10.8	48.2	54.4	113.4	1.3	16.5	14.1	31.9
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	4.7	15.3	4.2	24.2	0.0	-	-	1.0
Plant & Machine Operatives	0.0	22.8	-	22.8	0.0	-	0.0	-
Elementary Occupations	23.7	57.6	6.9	88.2	19.3	6.6	3.3	29.2
Not classified	121.1	324.3	167.2	612.7	3.0	44.4	1.6	49.0
Centre Type								
School	84.6	224.5	13.2	322.3	1.6	65.2	6.3	73.0
FE College/Tertiary College	172.4	341.5	264.5	778.4	38.3	130.7	95.0	264.0
Sixth Form College	4.6	12.7	11.6	28.9	-	6.7	7.4	14.9
Adult Education Centre	10.0	10.9	4.4	25.3	-	1.1	-	1.5
University or other Higher Education centre	9.0	8.1	12.6	29.7	-	-	2.4	3.1
Private Training provider	30.7	174.4	78.2	283.3	1.3	18.3	1.2	20.8
Local government/Central government/NHS	21.6	12.0	1.8	35.3	-	-	-	-
Voluntary organisation	2.2	3.2	1.2	6.6	-	-	-	1.4
Employer	36.6	29.9	11.2	77.8	-	1.1	-	1.5
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	14.1	5.2	-	20.0	-	-	0.0	-
Armed Forces	7.1	3.4	3.2	13.7	0.0	-	-	-
Overseas centres	-	-	2.6	4.3	-	-	-	-
Other/Not Known	13.8	24.5	10.3	48.6	-	3.0	4.9	8.3
Government Office Region and Country								
England	372.4	796.5	375.7	1,544.6	39.7	214.7	109.6	364.0
of which:								
North East	23.5	53.7	21.0	98.2	2.2	13.8	6.1	22.0
North West	51.5	116.1	51.7	219.2	5.7	34.3	17.0	57.0
Yorkshire & The Humber	41.6	89.7	37.0	168.3	3.9	22.8	10.6	37.4
East Midlands	34.7	71.1	38.1	143.8	3.5	17.6	8.4	29.5
West Midlands	44.1	102.3	44.1	190.6	5.2	25.5	12.9	43.6
East	37.0	75.2	38.4	150.6	4.0	20.5	12.1	36.6
London	46.4	104.6	46.6	197.5	5.8	30.2	13.5	49.5
South East	52.6	111.1	57.5	221.2	6.1	33.2	18.0	57.4
South West	41.0	72.7	41.4	155.1	3.3	16.9	10.9	31.1
Wales	21.2	32.9	21.1	75.2	2.6	9.1	6.0	17.7
Scotland	4.1	9.2	5.5	18.7	-	-	-	1.6
Northern Ireland	8.1	10.8	9.3	28.1	-	3.1	3.0	6.2
Overseas	-	-	2.6	4.3	-	-	-	-
Channel Isles/Isle of Man/Unknown	-	1.2	1.3	3.4	-	-	-	-

Source: NISVQ

- 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 NISVQ, see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraph 6.

2. Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2007/08 would be age on 31 August 2007.

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

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

5. NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the same occupational area.

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

Year: 2007/08

Coverage: UK

							thousands
							All VRQ awards
							Level of Award
							Gender
Sector Subject Area	Total Awards	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Male	Female	
Total UK Awards ¹	1,674.2	407.6	851.2	415.4	873.1	801.1	
Health, Public Services and Care	298.7	20.4	187.2	91.2	92.7	206.1	
Science and Mathematics	26.2	-	23.1	2.4	12.4	13.8	
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	27.3	4.0	13.8	9.6	12.8	14.5	
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	188.1	18.7	73.0	96.4	181.3	6.8	
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	127.6	40.1	59.8	27.7	123.4	4.3	
Information and Communication Technology	292.0	130.3	147.9	13.8	141.7	150.3	
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	127.7	15.0	89.5	23.3	38.9	88.9	
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	225.2	107.0	86.1	32.1	130.9	94.3	
Arts, Media and Publishing	119.4	9.6	49.9	60.0	52.4	67.0	
History, Philosophy and Theology	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	
Social Sciences	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-	
Languages, Literature and Culture	18.8	12.3	5.2	-	6.7	12.1	
Education and Training	32.4	-	14.4	17.1	7.4	24.9	
Preparation for Life and Work	42.9	20.4	21.1	-	19.2	23.7	
Business, Administration and Law	147.7	28.4	80.3	39.1	53.0	94.8	
of which:							
Full VRQ awards							
Level of Award							
Gender							
Sector Subject Area	Total Awards	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Male	Female	
Total UK Awards ¹	390.7	42.9	228.4	119.4	247.0	143.7	
Health, Public Services and Care	58.4	3.7	31.6	23.1	10.1	48.2	
Science and Mathematics	10.2	-	8.2	1.9	4.8	5.4	
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	12.0	1.7	5.3	5.0	4.9	7.1	
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	53.5	10.7	33.3	9.4	51.5	1.9	
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	85.6	17.6	57.9	10.1	83.0	2.6	
Information and Communication Technology	30.6	2.7	20.5	7.4	22.2	8.3	
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	8.4	-	6.2	1.6	1.7	6.7	
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	43.2	2.8	23.6	16.8	26.4	16.8	
Arts, Media and Publishing	62.5	-	25.4	36.5	28.3	34.1	
Preparation for Life and Work	1.3	0.0	1.3	0.0	-	-	
Business, Administration and Law	25.1	2.3	15.2	7.6	13.6	11.4	

Source: NISVQ

- 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 NISVQ, see Commentary, Technical Notes paragraph 6.