

SFR 07/2006**23 February 2006****Coverage: UK****Theme: Education and
Training****Issued by**Department for Education
and Skills
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT**Telephone:****Press Office**

020 7925 6789

Public Enquiries

0870 000 2288

StatisticianLouise Feebrey
louise.feebrey@dfes.gsi.gov.
uk

0114 259 3396

Email

info@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

Internet[http://www.dfes.gov.uk/
rsgateway/DB/SFR/](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/)

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 2004/05**INTRODUCTION**

This Statistical First Release (SFR) replaces and updates the information presented in the Statistical First Release 'Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 2003/04, SFR 07/2005, published on 24 February 2005. While the SFR concentrates on vocational qualifications, it does give a picture of all Level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications – including GCSEs and A levels.

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 DfES.

Information on awards of General National Vocational Qualifications/Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (GNVQs/VCEs), GCSEs and GCE A levels is taken from the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

KEY POINTS

- There was a 17% increase in the number of NVQ/SVQs awarded in the UK between 2003/04 and 2004/05; the total number awarded since their introduction in 1987 now stands at 5.5 million.
- In 2004/05, there were over half a million NVQ/SVQs awarded in the UK, more than in any previous year.
- 2004/05 saw another large increase in the number of NVQ level 2s in England (up 24% on the year) – well above the levels reached in the late 1990s.
- 55% of all NVQ/SVQ awards in the UK go to people aged 25 and over.
- In 2004/05, there were 158 thousand NVQ level 2 awards in England to those aged 25 and over – up by 32% on the previous year.
- Accredited qualifications other than NVQs/GNVQs/VCEs (called Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs)) are increasingly important. 936 thousand VRQ awards were reported to NISVQ in 2004/05 - this represents about a half of all 2004/05 VRQ awards.

QUALIFICATION AWARDS AT LEVELS 1, 2 AND 3 IN ENGLAND – THE CONTRIBUTION OF VOCATIONAL AWARDS (See Tables 1 to 3)

This section of the SFR assesses the contribution of vocational awards to the number of learners achieving qualifications in the year. For this assessment and to ease comparison,

- Level 1 is defined as gaining 5 GCSE passes (excluding 5 passes at A*-C), NVQ 1, a foundation GNVQ or a full VRQ at level 1.
- Level 2 is defined as gaining 5 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, Intermediate GNVQs/VCEs, NVQ 2 or a full VRQ at level 2.
- Level 3 is defined as gaining 2 or more GCE A levels, 4 AS Levels, Advanced GNVQs/VCEs, NVQ 3 or a full VRQ at level 3.

This assessment is difficult, because different data systems are used for different qualification types. So, the analyses should be seen as illustrative since:

- The numbers of vocational awards do not necessarily equate to numbers of people - it is possible that one person could gain more than one award in a year.
- They do not include people gaining 5 GCSEs A* to C over more than one year, for example those gaining 4 GCSEs at academic age 15 and a further GCSE at academic age 16.
- They do not include those people gaining level 2 via a combination of qualifications, a combination of GCSEs and a Part One GNVQ for example.
- People gaining 4 AS levels within the year are excluded and shown separately given that they will be double counted when they complete their full A level course.
- In addition, the numbers of VRQ awards only represent those made by 34 awarding bodies in England. The increase in VRQ awards between 2003/04 and 2004/05 will partly be a result of more awarding bodies submitting data to NISVQ and partly as a result of more qualifications becoming accredited. Consequently, comparisons over time are difficult.
- Large numbers of young people study for, take and achieve qualifications every year in schools and colleges. To a large extent, the numbers achieving qualifications is dependent on demographic and population factors.

Full Qualification Awards at Level 1

The number of 5 GCSE passes level 1 awards has remained fairly stable over recent years – in 2004/05 there were 233 thousand. Although 5 GCSE passes dominate at this level, the number of NVQ level 1 awards rose slightly to 51 thousand – this is up by over a third since 2000/01 – but still below the number in 1999/00.

Full Qualification Awards at Level 2

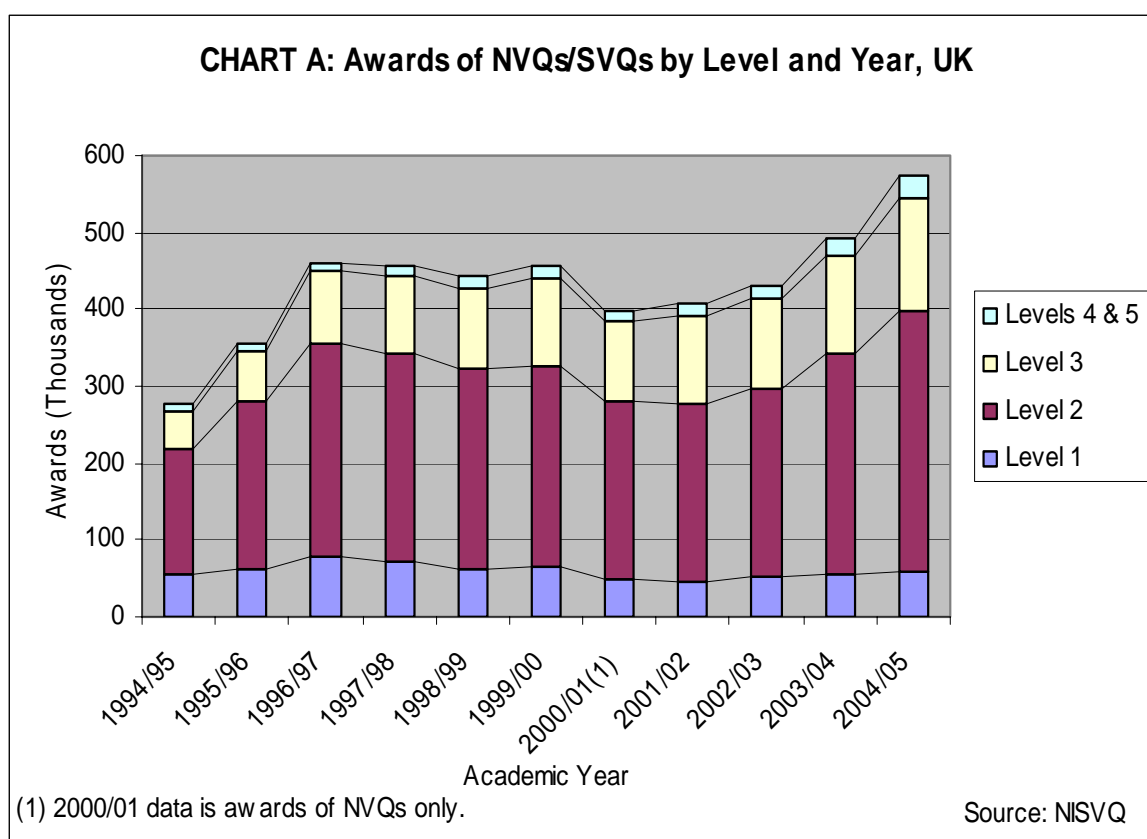
The number of 5 or more GCSE A*-C awards has risen steadily over the last 7 years to stand at 329 thousand. 2004/05 saw a significant increase in the number of NVQ level 2 awards for the second year running – reversing the generally falling numbers over previous years.

The importance of the vocational route to those aged 16 and over can clearly be seen in table 2. Virtually all 5 or more GCSE A*-C awards are to those with an academic age of 15. In 2004/05, there were 158 thousand NVQ level 2 vocational awards to those aged 25 and over – up by 32% on the previous year.

AWARDS OF NVQs/SVQs, UK (See Tables 4 to 8)

NVQ/SVQ Awards Over Time (See Table 4)

Between their introduction in 1987 and the end of September 2005, 5.5 million NVQs/SVQs have been awarded in the UK. The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded has increased from 491 thousand in 2003/04 to 574 thousand in 2004/05 – an increase of 17%.



2004/05 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Academic Age, Level and Gender (See Table 7)

Over half of all NVQ/SVQ awards go to people aged 25 and over. In 2004/05, 313 thousand NVQs/SVQs awards (55%) were made to people aged 25 and over, 24% were to people aged over 40.

The higher the NVQ/SVQ level, the more likely it has been awarded to a learner from the older age group – 37% of level 1s, 53% of level 2s, 59% of level 3s and 87% of level 4/5s went to the 25 and over age group.

More women get NVQ/SVQs than men – this is particularly true for higher levels – at level 3, nearly two-thirds of the awards are to women.

2004/05 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Centre Type (See Table 7)

For NVQ/SVQs, Further Education/Tertiary Colleges and Private Training Providers dominate – 43% of all NVQ/SVQs awarded were made through Further Education Colleges and 39% through Private Training Providers.

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

2004/05 NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area (See Table 8)

21% of all NVQ/SVQ awards were in 'Health Public Services & Care' – with as many as 29% of all level 3 NVQ/SVQs in this sector subject area. The next most important subject areas were 'Retail & Commercial Enterprise' (21% of all awards) and 'Business Administration & Law' (19% of all awards).

There are big differences between men and women in sector subject areas. In 'Health Public Services & Care' there were 108 thousand awards made to women compared to 15 thousand for men, in 'Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies' 76 thousand awards to men and 10 thousand to women and in 'Construction, Planning & the Built Environment' 52 thousand awards were made to men and a negligible amount to women.

People Holding NVQs/SVQs

The Autumn 2005 LFS estimated that 4.6 million people held an NVQ/SVQ – irrespective of the year awarded. Of these 58% were female compared to 57% in Autumn 2004. A further 526 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 Autumn 2005 there were 958 thousand people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, a fall of 41 thousand from Autumn 2004, back to a similar level seen in Autumn 2003. Of these, only 180 thousand (19%) were full-time students, which is slightly up on the figure for Autumn 2004 (17%). According to the LFS, in Autumn 2005 77% of those working towards an NVQ level 3 already had an NVQ level 2.

AWARDS OF VOCATIONALLY RELATED QUALIFICATIONS (VRQs), UK (See Tables 9 and 10)

In 2004/05, NISVQ collected and processed information on awards of Vocationally Related Qualifications from 34 awarding bodies. 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 34 awarding bodies and are not complete UK estimates. Many of the awards presented here are not considered to be full (i.e. full = width of 80-100%).

2004/05 VRQ Awards by Age, Level and Gender (See Table 9)

The picture for all VRQs is similar to that for NVQs - just over half of all the recorded VRQ awards were to people aged 25 and over – 24% were to people aged over 40. However, Full VRQs¹ (17% of all recorded VRQs) have mainly been achieved by younger people (see Tables 2 and 3).

¹ See Notes to Editors: Definitions, paragraph 20.

Unlike 2003/04, in 2004/05 more men got VRQs than women – unlike NVQs, men are more likely to get the higher level (2 and 3) awards – 54% of all VRQ awards at level 1 are to women.

2004/05 VRQs by Centre Type (See Table 9)

53% of all recorded VRQ awards were through Further Education/Tertiary Colleges, with a further 19% being through Private Training providers.

2004/05 VRQs by Sector Subject Area (See Table 10)

26% of all recorded VRQ awards were in 'Information and Communication Technology', 16% were in 'Health, Public Services & Care' and 12% in 'Leisure, Travel & Tourism' – as many as 58% of all level 1 VRQ awards were in 'Information and Communication Technology', 28% of all Level 2 VRQ awards were in 'Health, Public Services & Care' and 21% of all Level 3 VRQ awards were in 'Construction, Planning & the Built Environment'.

'Information and Communication Technology' was the largest sector subject area for VRQ awards for women - 35% of all recorded VRQ awards to women were in this subject area. VRQs awarded to men were more evenly spread with 18% of all recorded VRQ awards to men being in 'Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies', 18% in 'Information and Communication Technology' and 16% in 'Construction, Planning and the Built Environment'.

AWARDS OF GNVQs/VCEs, ENGLAND (See Tables 11 and 12)

2004/05 GNVQs/VCEs Awards

There were 127 thousand full awards of GNVQs/Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE) in England in 2004/05 – a 4% increase over the year, but below the level in 2001/02.

TABLES

Table 1: Number of Level 1, 2 and 3 Awards for All Ages by Type and Year, England

Table 2: Comparison of Level 2 Awards by Academic Age Group, England

Table 3: Comparison of Level 3 Awards by Academic Age Group, England

Table 4: Awards of NVQs/SVQs and VRQs by Year, UK

Table 5: Awards of NVQs by Academic Year and Level, UK

Table 6: Awards of NVQs by Framework Area and Year, UK

Table 7: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award, 2004/05, UK

Table 8: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area, by Level and Gender, 2004/05, UK

Table 9: VRQ Awards by Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award, 2004/05, UK

Table 10: VRQ Awards by Sector Subject Area, by Level and Gender, 2004/05, UK

Table 11: GNVQ/VCE Awards by Gender, Academic Age, Centre Type and Government Office Region, by Level of Award, 2004/05, England

Table 12: GNVQ/VCE Awards by Subject Code and Level, 2004/05, England

CHARTS

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

NOTES TO EDITORS

SOURCES

1. The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by QCA and DfES. 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 vocational qualifications in the UK currently provided by three of the largest awarding bodies (City and Guilds, London Qualifications Ltd (formerly Edexcel and BTEC), and OCR (formerly RSA), plus information from a further 36 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 numbers of certificates issued that are sent to QCA by all awarding bodies which award NVQs. 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 DfES with annual totals (October-September) of NVQ awards by framework area and level, these are provided to QCA by awarding bodies. DfES 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 at or above 95% in each of the recent years and this is largely as a result of the increasing number of awarding bodies submitting NVQ information to NISVQ.

GNVQs/VCEs

6. From 2000/01, figures for GNVQs/VCEs/GSVQs presented here are based on the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables. This covers awards gained in England. Numbers of awards in full GNVQ awards are reported at level 1 (Foundation level) and level 2 (Intermediate level). Since 2001/02 Level 3 awards consist solely of achievement in advanced VCE qualifications which include achievements in the 3 unit VCE/AS level, the 6 unit VCE A level and the 12 unit VCE Double Award.

VRQs (Vocationally Related Qualifications)

7. The number of reported VRQs has grown considerably over the last 3 years enabling more detailed analyses to be presented. In 2001/02 NISVQ received information on awards of

Vocationally Related Qualifications from only 3 awarding bodies. In 2002/03 it received information from 12 awarding bodies, in 2003/04 the figure had almost doubled to 23 and in 2004/05 it rose again to 34. 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.

Other VQs

8. For vocational qualifications other than NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs/VCEs, GSVQs and VRQs it is very difficult to establish a complete and accurate picture of the numbers of awards made. Information on awards of non-accredited Other Vocational Qualifications (OVQs) is not included in this SFR due to concerns raised by QCA over the quality of the data, specifically the accuracy of applied classifications and notional levels. QCA have undertaken an audit of all data collected by NISVQ. For further information on the audit, or for statistical data on OVQs not related to level or classifications, please e-mail stats@qca.org.uk or telephone 020 7509 5717.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Labour Force Survey

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. In addition to people living in private households, students living in halls of residence and in NHS accommodation are included to produce coverage of young people as well as the general population.

School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

12. This data source is an annual collection of GCSE/GNVQ, GCE A/AS and advanced VCE qualification examination results which are derived directly from the examination boards. Data are mainly used in the compilation of the annual School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Classification Systems Used in this SFR

13. This SFR has presented information on awards broken down by Sector Subject Area, Framework Area and Vocational Area. Framework area is only applicable to NVQs and SVQs and is available for all these awards. Sector Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and is available for all awards recorded on NISVQ.

DEFINITIONS

14. **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.
15. **Academic Age** – Academic Age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, for example, academic age in 2004/05 would be age at 31 August 2004. Academic age has been used throughout this SFR.
16. **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.
17. **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 candidate is living.
18. **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'.
19. **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.
20. **Full Awards of VRQs** – Tables 1-3 of this SFR only 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%.
21. **GNVQ/VCE: General National Vocational Qualification/Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education** – In September 2002 the advanced GNVQ was replaced by the vocational A level in a series of different sizes of award to promote flexibility in the post 16 curriculum. The formal titles of the qualifications are: Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE) Advanced Subsidiary (3 units), Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE) Advanced Level (6 units) and Vocational Certificate of Education (VCE) Double Awards (12 units). Information on full level 3 awards is presented in tables 1 and 3 and includes those gaining 12 unit VCE awards, 2 VCE 6 unit qualifications or equivalent combinations of VCE 6 and 3 unit qualifications.
22. **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.

23. **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.
24. **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:
- **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.
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **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.
25. **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.
26. **SVQ: Scottish Vocational Qualification** - The Scottish equivalent of an NVQ, accredited by SQA.
27. **SOC: Standard Occupational Classification** - Used to classify the occupational areas of a qualification on the LFS.
28. **Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs)** - Vocational qualifications that have not been accredited by the Regulatory Authorities for inclusion in the National Qualifications Framework.
29. **Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs)** - are 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.

30. **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.
31. **Vocational Qualification** - A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.

FURTHER INFORMATION

32. Enquiries about the figures contained in this SFR should be addressed to Andy Hesketh, Data Services Group, Department for Education and Skills, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PQ (telephone number: 0114 259 3765). Press Enquiries should be addressed to 020 7925 5109.
33. A range of additional tables from NISVQ will be made available, in an Excel spreadsheet, which will include more detailed analyses by Government Office region, Local Learning and Skills Council, Local Education Authority and Learning Partnerships. More information on qualifications can be found in Statistical First Release 05/2006: [The level of highest qualification held by Young People and Adults: England 2005](#), also available on the DfES's Research and Statistics Gateway.

Table 1: Number of Level 1, 2 and 3 Awards for All Ages by Type and Year, England

	thousands						
Qualification/Award type	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Level 1							
5 GCSE passes ^{1, 2}	242	237	242	238	243	244	233
Foundation GNVQ ³	11	12	8	17	12	12	10
NVQ Level 1	54	56	37	39	43	49	51
Full VRQ Level 1 ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	1	4	15
Level 2							
5 or more GCSEs at A* to C only ²	280	286	300	307	313	325	329
Intermediate GNVQ ³	48	50	36	72	69	76	89
NVQ Level 2	220	222	199	177	182	235	293
Full VRQ Level 2 ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	16	31	67
Level 3							
2 or more GCE A levels ^{5, 6, 7}	188	186	193	195	207	211	214
4 AS levels ⁶	-	-	86	85	90	92	96
Advanced GNVQ/VCE ^{3, 6, 7, 8}	42	44	42	40	36	34	28
NVQ Level 3	89	97	90	85	85	100	117
Full VRQ Level 3 ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	6	42	63

Sources: School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables and NISVQ

- Less than 1,000.

¹ Excludes those who obtained 5 GCSE passes at Grades A*-C.

² Only counts learners gaining all GCSE passes within the year.

³ Numbers of GNVQs are not consistent over time, figures for 2000/01 - 2004/05 are taken from the School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables, figures for earlier years are taken from NISVQ.

⁴ Full indicates 80%+ width as assigned by QCA. See Notes to Editors: Definitions, paragraph 20.

⁵ Includes those gaining 2 or more GCE A Levels or a combination of 1 GCE A level and 2+ GCE AS levels within the year. Those gaining 4 AS levels within the year are excluded and shown separately given they will be double counted when they complete their full A level course.

⁶ Only counts learners gaining all GCE A Level/AS level/Advanced GNVQ/VCE passes within the year.

⁷ In 2004/05 there were 3,900 candidates who achieved one GCE A Level and one VCE A Level, within the year, i.e. they are not counted in the 2 GCE A Levels category. The equivalent figure for 2003/04 was 3,500.

⁸ Includes those gaining Advanced GNVQs, VCE 12 unit, 2 VCE 6 unit qualifications or equivalent combinations of VCE 6 unit and 3 unit qualifications.

Table 2: Comparison of Level 2 Awards by Academic Age Group, England

thousands									
2003/04					2004/05				
Academic Age ¹	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C) ²	Intermediate GNVQ	NVQ Level 2	Full VRQ ³ Level 2	5 or more GCSEs (A* to C) ²	Intermediate GNVQ	NVQ Level 2	Full VRQ ³ Level 2	
14 and under	1	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	
15	321	45	-	-	324	63	-	1	
16	3	22	10	12	3	18	10	23	
17	0	5	26	7	-	4	29	15	
18	0	2	23	3	-	1	26	8	
19	-	-	16	1	-	-	19	4	
20	-	-	11	-	-	-	14	2	
21-24	-	-	29	1	-	-	36	4	
25 & over	-	-	119	5	-	-	158	11	
Not classified	-	-	1	-	0	0	-	-	
Total	325	76	235	31	329	89	293	67	

Sources: Secondary School and College Performance Tables Database and NISVQ

¹ Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 2004/05 would be age on 31 August 2004.

² Only counts learners gaining all GCSE passes within the year.

³ Full indicates 80%+ width as assigned by QCA. See Notes to Editors: Definitions, paragraph 20.

Table 3: Comparison of Level 3 Awards by Academic Age Group, England

thousands										
2003/04						2004/05				
Academic Age ¹	2 or more GCE A Levels ^{2,3,4}	4 AS Levels ³	VCEs ^{3,5}	NVQ Level 3	Full VRQ ⁶ Level 3	2 or more GCE A Levels ^{2,3,4}	4 AS Levels ³	VCEs ^{3,5}	NVQ Level 3	Full VRQ ⁶ Level 3
15 and under	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	3	88	0	-	-	4	92	-	-	-
17	186	3	20	2	18	187	3	18	2	24
18	18	0	10	5	10	19	-	7	6	17
19	3	0	2	8	4	3	-	2	9	8
20	1	0	1	7	2	-	-	-	8	3
21-24	-	-	-	18	3	-	-	-	21	4
25 & over	-	-	-	59	4	-	-	-	71	5
Not classified	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-
Total	211	92	34	100	42	214	96	28	117	63

Sources: Secondary School and College Performance Tables Database and NISVQ

¹ Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 2004/05 would be age on 31 August 2004.

² Includes those gaining 2 or more GCE A Levels or a combination of 1 GCE A level and 2+ GCE AS levels within the year. Those gaining 4 AS levels within the year are excluded and shown separately given they will be double counted when they complete their full A level course.

³ Only counts learners gaining all GCE A Level/AS level/Advanced GNVQ/VCE passes within the year.

⁴ In 2004/05 there were 3,900 candidates who achieved one GCE A Level and one VCE A Level, within the year,

i.e. they are not counted in the 2 or more GCE A Levels category. The equivalent figure for 2003/04 was 3,500.

⁵ Includes those gaining Advanced GNVQs, VCE 12 unit, 2 VCE 6 unit qualifications or equivalent combinations of VCE 6 unit and 3 unit qualifications.

⁶ Full indicates 80%+ width as assigned by QCA. See Notes to Editors: Definitions, paragraph 20.

Table 4: Awards of NVQs/SVQs and VRQs by Year, UK

Year	NVQs/SVQs	Cumulative Total NVQs/SVQs	thousands	
			VRQs ¹	Cumulative Total VRQs
Prior to 1994/95	720	720	N/A	N/A
1994/95	279	1,000	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	427	4,423	217	241
2003/04	491	4,915	482	724
2004/05	574	5,489	936	1,660

Source: NISVQ/QCA

¹ Awards of VRQs in 2001/02 are for 3 awarding bodies (see Notes to Editors paragraph 7).

Awards of VRQs in 2002/03 are for 12 awarding bodies (see Notes to Editors paragraph 7).

Awards of VRQs in 2003/04 are for 23 awarding bodies (see Notes to Editors paragraph 7).

Awards of VRQs in 2004/05 are for 34 awarding bodies (see Notes to Editors paragraph 7).

Numbers may not sum to cumulative totals due to rounding.

Table 5: Awards of NVQs by Academic Year ¹ and Level, UK

		Numbers of full NVQ certificates ²					
Year ¹	Quarter	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Total
Prior to 97/98 ³		385,711	1,060,417	269,208	57,409	4,453	1,777,198
1997/98	Q1	15,883	57,159	19,696	1,893	253	94,884
	Q2	17,497	69,647	26,848	3,188	231	117,411
	Q3	13,166	46,288	16,831	1,553	243	78,081
	Q4	24,117	89,897	36,841	4,322	356	155,533
Total 1997/98 ³		70,663	262,991	100,216	10,956	1,083	445,909
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 1998/99 ³		59,882	252,974	101,079	13,468	858	428,261
1999/00	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 1999/2000 ³		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 2000/01 ³		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 2001/02 ³		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 2002/03 ³		49,798	231,414	103,735	15,947	881	401,775
2003/04	Q1	9,909	54,106	25,379	3,734	165	93,293
	Q2	9,570	53,980	23,891	4,603	243	92,287
	Q3	10,886	55,147	23,810	4,076	167	94,086
	Q4	25,158	106,904	43,055	8,156	269	183,542
Total 2003/04 ³		55,523	270,137	116,135	20,569	844	463,208
2004/05	Q1	9,732	67,688	27,390	4,811	220	109,841
	Q2	8,422	60,867	26,829	5,525	229	101,872
	Q3	11,365	71,688	28,723	5,251	291	117,318
	Q4	26,993	125,525	50,046	9,157	287	212,008
Total 2004/05		56,512	325,768	132,988	24,744	1,027	541,039

Source:QCA

¹ Academic years from 1 October to 30 September.

² Includes awards of expired NVQs.

³ Figures may not agree with previous years' Bulletins or Statistical First Releases due to amendments to original data by Awarding Bodies.

Table 6: Awards of NVQs by Framework Area and Year ¹, UK

Framework Area	Numbers of full NVQ certificates ²									Total
	Prior to 1997/98 ³	1997/98 ³	1998/99 ³	1999/2000 ³	2000/01 ³	2001/02 ³	2002/03 ³	2003/04 ³	2004/05	
Tending Animals, Plants and Land	49,755	10,573	10,605	10,251	10,022	8,559	8,733	8,777	10,040	127,315
Extracting and Providing Natural Resources	9,996	810	1,030	804	1,619	922	756	856	935	17,728
Constructing	138,657	27,028	27,752	34,622	37,345	37,986	37,097	57,642	63,657	461,786
Engineering	184,188	45,729	46,134	46,547	39,618	32,552	32,284	32,116	44,395	503,563
Manufacturing	50,939	17,248	22,160	25,615	24,918	24,790	23,908	30,240	29,453	249,271
Transporting	23,805	9,143	10,283	11,546	7,634	4,720	4,017	11,458	10,209	92,815
Providing Goods and Services	490,653	131,373	111,955	113,030	107,261	107,076	112,113	116,990	132,295	1,422,746
Providing Health, Social and Protective Services	144,781	40,459	44,642	52,152	54,451	61,194	78,690	101,480	130,471	708,320
Providing Business Services	673,306	156,695	147,996	137,744	109,531	95,705	99,916	96,443	108,275	1,625,611
Communicating	810	589	873	1,362	965	750	618	673	814	7,454
Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill	10,308	6,262	4,831	5,143	4,718	4,286	3,643	6,533	10,495	56,219
Total	1,777,198	445,909	428,261	438,816	398,082	378,540	401,775	463,208	541,039	5,272,828

Source: QCA

¹ Academic years from 1 October to 30 September.

² Includes awards of expired NVQs.

³ Figures may not agree with previous years' Bulletins or Statistical First Releases due to amendments to original data by Awarding Bodies.

Table 7: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award, 2004/05, UK

	thousands				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4 & 5	Total
Total UK Awards	57.6	341.1	147.4	27.5	573.5
Gender					
Male	25.5	164.5	53.5	8.4	251.9
Female	32.1	176.5	93.9	19.1	321.6
Academic Age Groups ¹					
Less than 16	4.6	-	-	0.0	5.0
16	13.5	12.0	-	-	25.7
17	7.8	34.6	2.9	-	45.3
18	3.4	31.0	7.6	-	42.1
19	2.0	22.7	11.7	-	36.7
20	1.3	16.3	11.1	-	29.1
21-24	3.5	42.5	26.8	2.5	75.4
25-40	10.6	101.1	51.1	12.1	175.0
41-59	9.9	75.9	34.7	11.6	132.1
Over 60	-	3.7	-	-	5.6
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1.5
Occupation ²					
Management & Senior Officials	-	4.8	6.8	6.6	18.7
Professional Occupations	1.1	37.4	27.0	-	66.4
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	-	7.5	8.0	1.7	17.6
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	2.4	20.6	12.1	1.9	37.0
Skilled Trades Occupations	11.9	45.4	7.8	-	65.2
Personal Service Occupations	10.4	67.7	28.0	3.1	109.2
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	0.0	30.8	8.6	-	39.5
Plant & Machine Operatives	-	5.8	-	0.0	6.3
Elementary Occupations	14.7	13.4	-	-	28.8
Not classified	15.9	107.6	48.2	13.1	184.8
Centre Type					
School	-	1.7	1.4	-	3.6
FE College/Tertiary College	41.8	137.1	57.4	10.6	246.9
Sixth Form College	-	-	-	-	1.5
Adult Education Centre	-	4.9	1.8	-	6.8
University or other Higher Education centre	-	-	1.1	-	2.7
Private Training provider	8.5	146.1	59.2	11.5	225.3
Local government/Central government/NHS	-	5.8	3.5	-	10.0
Voluntary organisation	-	-	-	-	1.4
Employer	1.3	22.6	14.0	2.4	40.3
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	-	-	-	-	-
Armed Forces	0.0	7.7	3.0	-	10.7
Overseas centres	-	2.2	1.2	-	4.4
Other/Not Known	4.0	10.6	3.5	-	19.0
Government Office Region and Country					
England	50.6	294.0	117.0	23.5	485.1
of which:					
North East	3.0	28.5	8.0	1.5	40.9
North West	8.5	52.2	20.4	3.4	84.5
Yorkshire & The Humber	8.4	34.8	11.7	2.1	57.0
East Midlands	4.4	25.6	11.5	2.1	43.6
West Midlands	5.9	38.5	16.2	3.5	64.1
East	4.2	26.7	10.9	2.0	43.8
London	5.8	22.6	9.9	2.3	40.6
South East	5.0	35.0	15.9	3.7	59.6
South West	5.3	30.1	12.6	2.9	51.0
Wales	3.8	21.1	9.6	1.7	36.1
Scotland	1.4	16.3	15.1	1.4	34.2
Northern Ireland	1.3	7.2	4.3	-	13.2
Overseas	-	2.2	1.2	-	4.4
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.

¹ Academic Age is age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2004/05 would be age on 31 August 2004.

² 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 8: NVQ/SVQ Awards by Sector Subject Area, by Level and Gender, 2004/05, UK

Sector Subject Area	Level of Award					Gender	
	Total Awards	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Levels 4	Male	Female
					& 5		
Total UK Awards	573.5	57.6	341.1	147.4	27.5	251.9	321.6
Health, Public Services and Care	123.0	0.0	69.5	42.5	11.0	15.2	107.8
Science and Mathematics	-	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	12.6	3.0	6.8	2.2	-	7.3	5.3
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	86.0	11.2	54.1	20.5	-	76.4	9.6
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	52.6	3.0	42.3	6.9	-	52.2	-
Information and Communication Technology	8.2	1.2	5.7	1.4	-	5.5	2.7
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	120.2	34.9	71.7	13.3	-	37.3	82.9
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	15.2	1.3	12.1	1.8	-	9.8	5.4
Arts, Media and Publishing	1.4	0.0	-	-	-	-	-
Education and Training	10.6	0.0	3.9	5.9	-	-	9.6
Preparation for Life and Work	7.6	0.0	0.0	7.6	0.0	1.5	6.1
Business, Administration and Law	106.6	2.0	60.6	31.1	12.9	30.7	75.9
Not classified	29.4	1.0	13.8	13.4	1.1	13.9	15.5

thousands

Source: NISVQ

- Less than 1,000.

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

Table 9: VRQ Awards by Academic Age, Occupation, Centre Type, Government Office Region and Country, by Level of Award, 2004/05, UK

	thousands			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Total UK Awards¹	309.9	371.7	254.3	935.9
Gender				
Male	142.7	220.8	148.6	512.1
Female	167.1	150.9	105.8	423.8
Academic Age Groups²				
Less than 16	38.9	6.6	-	45.7
16	37.4	43.5	4.0	85.0
17	20.7	34.8	35.0	90.5
18	9.9	23.1	26.1	59.0
19	6.0	13.9	15.0	34.9
20	5.0	9.7	8.3	23.0
21-24	19.2	32.2	21.6	73.0
25-40	78.7	102.6	79.6	261.0
41-59	69.9	71.8	59.3	201.0
Over 60	13.6	7.1	2.8	23.5
Unknown	10.5	26.3	2.4	39.2
Occupation³				
Management & Senior Officials	70.4	47.7	12.5	130.6
Professional Occupations	9.8	43.9	25.5	79.2
Associate Professional & Technical Occupations	33.0	37.4	53.5	123.9
Administrative & Secretarial Occupations	119.9	22.4	6.9	149.2
Skilled Trades Occupations	10.3	75.1	56.8	142.2
Personal Service Occupations	5.9	29.4	30.0	65.3
Sales & Customer Service Occupations	4.0	5.6	1.9	11.5
Plant & Machine Operatives	0.0	34.4	4.3	38.7
Elementary Occupations	1.1	30.1	2.9	34.1
Not classified	55.3	45.8	60.1	161.2
Centre Type				
School	39.9	11.3	2.9	54.0
FE College/Tertiary College	152.0	181.8	158.8	492.6
Sixth Form College	5.0	5.4	3.8	14.2
Adult Education Centre	4.5	4.8	2.0	11.4
University or other Higher Education centre	8.7	2.5	1.1	12.2
Private Training provider	26.1	99.4	55.7	181.1
Local government/Central government/NHS	15.5	6.4	-	22.6
Voluntary organisation	-	1.3	1.3	3.0
Employer	35.1	6.0	10.6	51.6
HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution	7.1	1.0	-	8.3
Armed Forces	6.5	1.1	1.8	9.4
Overseas centres	2.1	2.2	2.8	7.1
Other/Not Known	7.1	48.5	12.7	68.3
Government Office Region and Country				
England	286.0	342.3	229.4	857.7
of which:				
North East	16.1	22.2	12.1	50.4
North West	44.3	56.4	34.1	134.8
Yorkshire & The Humber	32.6	37.3	24.5	94.5
East Midlands	29.9	29.9	20.5	80.3
West Midlands	30.6	41.2	28.6	100.5
East	26.3	33.3	23.6	83.2
London	31.1	38.4	24.3	93.8
South East	39.6	45.0	37.8	122.5
South West	35.4	38.4	23.9	97.8
Wales	13.0	15.5	12.5	41.0
Scotland	2.7	6.4	3.4	12.5
Northern Ireland	5.4	4.8	5.7	15.9
Overseas	2.1	2.2	2.8	7.1
Unknown/Channel Isles/Isle of Man	-	-	-	1.7

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 Notes to Editors paragraph 7.

² Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the year, e.g. academic age in 2004/05 would be age on 31 August 2004.

³ 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 10: VRQ Awards by Sector Subject Area, by Level and Gender, 2004/05, UK

Sector Subject Area	Total Awards	Level of Award			Gender	
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Male	Female
Total UK Awards ¹	935.9	309.9	371.7	254.3	512.1	423.8
Health, Public Services and Care	154.3	6.4	102.3	45.5	71.7	82.6
Science and Mathematics	1.2	0.0	-	-	-	-
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	39.2	1.1	33.2	4.9	30.0	9.2
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	97.7	8.6	43.4	45.7	94.5	3.2
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	85.3	9.8	22.4	53.0	83.9	1.4
Information and Communication Technology	241.2	180.6	54.6	5.9	94.5	146.7
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	38.6	5.1	22.4	11.1	7.5	31.1
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	110.8	74.0	21.6	15.2	68.2	42.6
Arts, Media and Publishing	37.2	-	13.6	23.0	17.5	19.7
History, Philosophy and Theology	-	0.0	-	-	-	-
Social Sciences	-	0.0	0.0	-	-	-
Languages, Literature and Culture	4.5	3.5	-	-	1.6	2.9
Education and Training	21.2	-	8.9	12.2	4.3	16.9
Preparation for Life and Work	3.6	2.4	1.1	-	1.3	2.3
Business, Administration and Law	101.3	17.8	46.6	36.9	36.4	64.9
Not classified	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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 Notes to Editors paragraph 7.

Table 11: GNVQ/VCE Awards by Gender, Academic Age, Centre Type and Government Office Region, by Level of Award, 2004/05, England

	GNVQ		VCE			thousands
	Level 1	Level 2	VCE Double Award 12 Unit	VCE A level 6 Unit	VCE/AS 3 unit	
Total Awards	10.1	89.2	26.1	32.2	13.7	
Gender						
Male	5.6	46.4	11.6	14.9	6.5	
Female	4.5	42.8	14.5	17.2	7.2	
Academic Age Groups						
Less than 16	2.7	65.3	-	-	-	
16	4.9	17.9	-	6.0	9.9	
17	1.5	3.9	16.2	21.6	2.9	
18	-	1.2	7.1	3.5	-	
19	-	-	1.8	-	-	
20	-	-	-	-	-	
21	-	-	-	-	-	
Over 21	-	-	-	-	-	
Centre Type						
School	3.4	76.5	9.8	20.5	10.6	
Sixth Form College	-	3.7	5.3	6.1	2.2	
Other FE Sector College	5.9	9.0	11.0	5.6	-	
Government Office Region						
North East	-	7.1	1.4	2.2	-	
North West	1.6	13.6	3.7	4.7	1.8	
Yorkshire and Humberside	1.4	8.8	3.0	3.8	1.7	
East Midlands	-	6.4	1.4	2.5	1.4	
West Midlands	1.2	12.9	3.0	3.9	1.6	
East	-	9.5	2.8	3.3	1.7	
London	2.5	14.2	4.9	3.4	1.0	
South East	-	11.1	3.6	5.1	2.3	
South West	-	5.5	2.2	3.4	1.3	

Source: School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

- Less than 1,000.

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

Table 12: GNVQ/VCE Awards by Subject Code and Level, 2004/05, England

Subject Code	GNVQ		VCE Double Award 12 Unit	VCE		VCE/AS 3 unit
	Level 1	Level 2		VCE A Level 6 Unit		
Total	10.1	89.2	26.1	32.2	13.7	
Art and Design	-	3.8	2.2	-	0.0	
Business	1.5	8.8	6.3	7.2	3.5	
Health & Social Care	1.9	7.0	5.4	5.9	2.4	
Leisure & Tourism	-	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Manufacturing	-	-	-	-	0.0	
Construction	-	-	-	-	0.0	
Hospitality & Catering	-	-	-	-	0.0	
Science	-	9.5	-	-	0.0	
Engineering	-	-	-	-	-	
Information Technology	3.1	50.9	5.5	11.4	7.7	
Management Studies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Media: Communication and Production	0.0	1.5	-	-	0.0	
Retail & Distribution	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	
Land & Environment	-	-	0.0	-	0.0	
Performing Arts	-	1.8	-	-	0.0	
Leisure & Recreation	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.4	0.0	
Travel & Tourism	0.0	0.0	2.8	2.5	0.0	

thousands

Source: School and College Achievement and Attainment Tables

- Less than 1,000.

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