

# First Release

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**AWARDS OF KEY SKILLS QUALIFICATIONS: 2004/05**

This Statistical First Release updates the figures presented in 'Awards of Key Skills Qualifications: 2003/04' – SFR15/2005, published on 21 April 2005.

Key Skills qualifications were introduced in September 2000. Consisting of Communication, Application of Number and Information Communication Technology they are available at levels 1 to 4 and are normally offered as part of a wider programme (e.g. alongside an AS/A level or as part of an apprenticeship).

The SFR covers awards from the introduction of Key Skills qualifications in September 2000 to September 2005. These statistics are collated from information supplied by Awarding Bodies. For the first time, this SFR includes information on wider Key Skills qualifications which became qualifications from September 2004.

**KEY POINTS**

- Up to September 2005, almost 1.5 million Key Skills qualifications had been awarded.
- There were 544 thousand Key Skills qualification awards in 2004/05 alone. 439 thousand of these were main Key Skills qualifications – up by a third on the previous year.
- In 2004/05, there were 166 thousand Communication awards compared to 142 thousand ICT awards. Application of Number is still the fastest growing qualification – up by a 44% on the previous year to 131 thousand.
- Almost 105 thousand of the awards made in 2004/05 were wider Key Skill qualifications, with 43% of these being awarded in the Improving Own Learning and Performance wider Key Skill.
- In 2004/05, as in previous years, almost two-thirds of all Key Skills qualification awards were to 16-18 year olds. However, increasing numbers are going to those aged 19 and over – up by almost three quarters on the previous year.

### **Key Skills Awards by type, level, academic age and gender (Tables 1 to 4 and 6)**

- Over the whole period, there have been roughly as many Communication awards (511 thousand) as ICT awards (493 thousand). Although Application of Number awards lag behind (377 thousand), they are growing faster – up by 44% in 2004/05.
- The majority of qualifications awarded were to 16-18 year olds again (around two-thirds). However, this proportion has decreased slightly this year, as in previous years, with an increasing proportion being attained by those aged 19 and over (12% in 2000/01 compared to 30% in 2004/05). This general trend is true for each of the three main Key Skills.
- Since their introduction in September 2000, through to September 2003, there have been more awards to women than men. However, this trend was reversed last year, and in 2004/05, 55% of awards were to men. This increase in the proportion of males is reflected in each of the three main Key Skills, with Application to Number having the greatest male to female ratio in 2004/05 (57 to 43).
- The majority of qualifications awarded were at level 2 again in 2004/05 (around 48%). Whilst this proportion has remained roughly constant over the past few years, awards at level 1 have become more popular each year (35% of qualifications were level 1 in 2001/02 compared to 44% in 2004/05); awards at level 3 less so (19% and 8% respectively). This is true for each of the 3 main Key Skills.

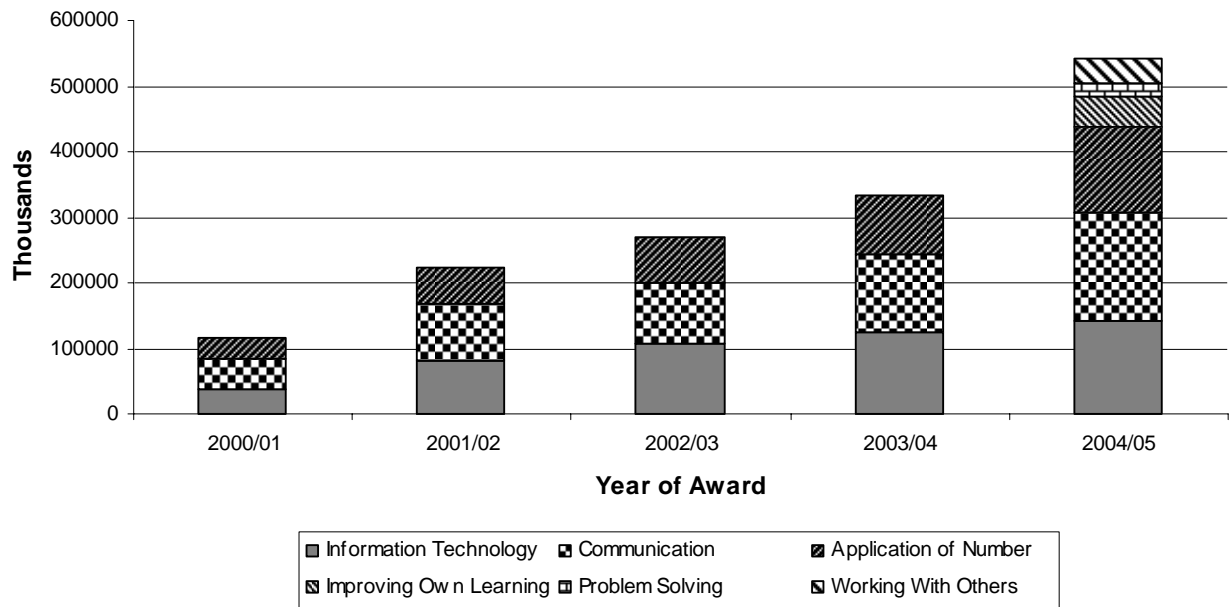
### **Wider Key Skills (Tables 1 and 5)**

- There were almost 105 thousand wider Key Skills awards made in 2004/05; 43% in Improving Own Learning and Performance; 36% in Working with Others and 20% in Problem Solving.
- The majority of all wider Key Skills were achieved at level 2 (55%), by those aged 16-18 (65%) and by men (59%).

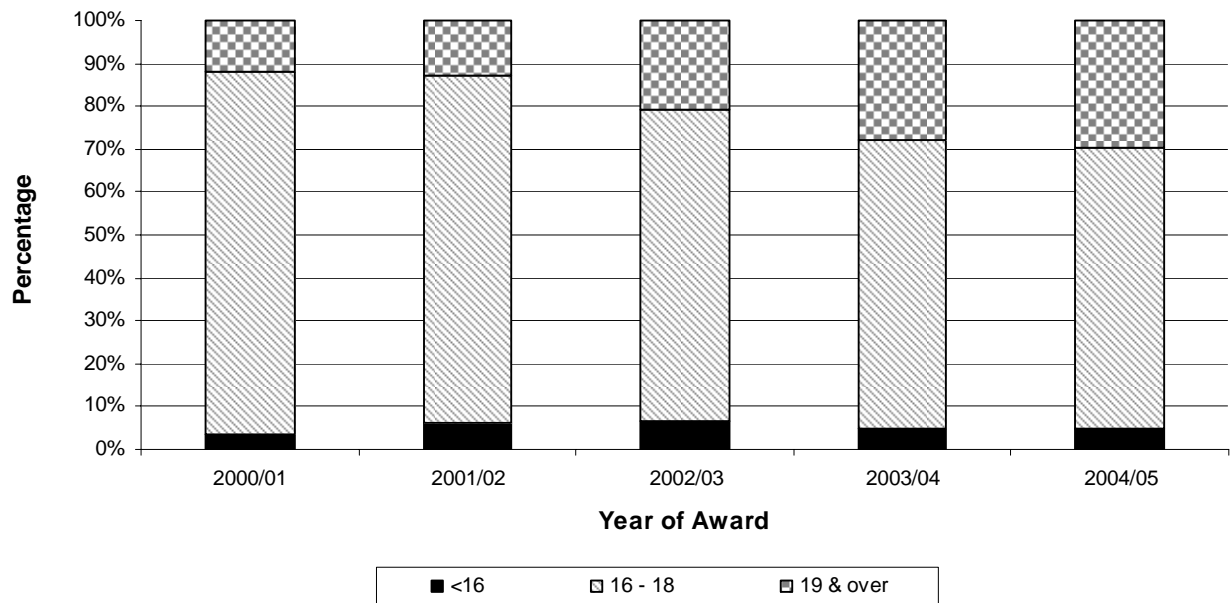
### **Key Skills Qualification Awards by centre type (Table 7)**

- In 2004/05, 52% of all Key Skills qualification awards were made in FE/Tertiary Colleges, and a further 21% at private training providers.
- For ICT awards, schools become more prominent – 16% of all awards in 2004/05 and private training providers less so – 15% of all awards in 2004/05.
- At higher levels, schools become more important. For levels 3 and 4, FE/Tertiary colleges account for 38% of all awards, Sixth Form Colleges for 29% and schools for 22%.

**Chart 1: Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications, Qualification Type by Year of Award**



**Chart 2: Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications, Academic Age by Year of Award**



## **TABLES**

**Table 1** - Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Type, Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2005. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Table 2** - Awards of Communication Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2005. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Table 3** - Awards of Application of Number Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2005. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Table 4** - Awards of Information Communication Technology Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2005. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Table 5** - Awards of Wider Key Skills Qualifications in 2004/05, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Table 6** - Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications in 2004/05, Qualification Type by Academic Age by Qualification Level. England, Wales & Northern Ireland

**Table 7** - Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications in 2004/05, Qualification Type, by Centre Type by Qualification Level. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Awarding Bodies Involved**

The collection of Key Skills qualifications data is a joint project between the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), which as a result reduces the burden on data providers. There are 16 Awarding Bodies contributing to the Key Skills database. The Awarding Bodies contributing to the Key Skills database are: London Qualifications Ltd (formerly Edexcel), City & Guilds of London Institute (CAG), Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examination Board (OCR), Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), Education Development International plc (formerly LCCI), EMTA Awards Ltd (EAL), Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA), Awards Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN), Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT), Welsh Joint Examination Council (WJEC), Hospitality Awarding Body (HAB), Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education (CACHE), NCFE, British Horseracing Education & Standards Trust (BHEST), and Qualifications For industry (QFI).

### **Key Skills qualifications**

Key Skills qualifications were first introduced in September 2000 across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There is no requirement to complete a Key Skills qualification within a specific time; they are normally offered as part of a wider programme (e.g. AS/A level or an apprenticeship).

Key Skills are a range of essential skills that underpin success in education, employment, lifelong learning and personal development. Key Skills qualifications are available at levels 1-4 and can be taken in all learning routes (schools, colleges, work-based training) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

For candidates working towards the Key Skills qualifications in Communication, Application of Number or Information Communication Technology, assessment in 2003/04 comprises both an internal (portfolio) and an external (test) component. This balance of assessments instruments has been maintained in England and Northern Ireland for 2004/05.

From September 2004, the wider Key Skills qualifications (Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance, Problem Solving), became part of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Information on these qualifications is now included in this Statistical First Release.

Government's expectations for achievement in the Key Skills of Communication, Application of Number and Information Communication Technology were confirmed in the policy statement '14-19: Opportunity and Excellence' (January 2003) which included a commitment to introduce an entitlement for young people to continue studying up to age 19 until they reach the standard of a good GCSE or the corresponding Level 2 key skill qualification. Those going on to higher education or professional study after 19 should be encouraged to achieve a Level 3 qualification in at least one of these skill areas.

In Wales, Key Skills are integral to the achievement of the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualifications. As part of the Learning Core in the 14 - 19 agenda, all 14 - 16 year olds are required to develop all six Key Skills at the level appropriate to their programmes. Post-16, all learners should develop the Key Skills of Communication plus a minimum of two other Key Skills at a level appropriate to their programmes. In addition, all post 16 learners should have access to the remaining Key Skills as enhancements whilst for some learners, Key Skills will be a requirement of their programmes e.g. WBQ and some modern apprenticeships.

In Wales, the outcomes of the Future Skills Wales (FSW) Research continue to highlight the importance of Key Skills for employers whilst the Skills and Employment Action Plan 2 (SEAP 2) includes activities to further promote and support the achievement of these skills.

Updated Key Skills qualifications were introduced in September 2004. Candidates registered on programmes using the previous (2000) Key Skills specifications have until August 2006 to complete the qualifications and claim certification.

## **The UCAS Tariff**

The UCAS tariff provides a tool for applicants to Higher Education and for university admissions staff. It gives numerical values to qualifications and establishes agreed equivalences between different types of qualifications.

All six Key Skills qualifications attract UCAS points, for example, a candidate who gets level 3 in all three Key Skills qualifications will get 60 points; this is the same as for a Grade A at AS level. Further information is available on the UCAS website at [www.ucas.com/new/press/tariff.html](http://www.ucas.com/new/press/tariff.html)

## **History**

The genesis for Key Skills qualifications was concern from employers in the 1980s that their young recruits did not have the general skills needed in effective employees. The skills identified went beyond basic literacy and numeracy. Their focus was the ability to use skills in a wide range of contexts and to make judgments about what skills to use and when. The 1996 Dearing Review of Post-16 Qualifications recommended that Key Skills qualifications should be available across both work-based and academic routes.

The three main Key Skills qualifications of Communication, Application of Number and Information Communication Technology were accredited as nationally recognised qualifications and introduced across England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 1 September 2000 as part of the Qualifying for Success reforms (commonly known as 'Curriculum 2000').

In July 2001, the then Secretary of State confirmed a wish to see key skill programmes offered to all post-16 learners. Where learners have not already achieved A\*-C grades in

GCSE English, Maths, or ICT, their programmes should lead to the formal acquisition of the relevant key skills qualifications at level 2. Where young people are starting on advanced level programmes with the aim of pursuing a professional or higher qualification post-19, then institutions should support them in gaining at least one relevant key skill qualification at level 3. These expectations apply equally to apprentices and trainees on Government funded work-based programmes as well as to pupils and students in schools and colleges.

These expectations were restated in '14-19: Opportunity and Excellence' – the Government policy statement (published in January 2003) which confirmed:

- To help ensure that all young people are well equipped in literacy, numeracy and computer skills we will introduce an entitlement for them to continue studying up to age 19 until they reach the standard of a good GCSE or the corresponding Level 2 key skill qualification. Those going on to higher education or professional study after 19 should be encouraged to achieve a Level 3 qualification in at least one of these skill areas.

The final report from the 14-19 Working Group was published in October 2004. In response, the Government's White Paper "14-19: Education and Skills" (published in February 2005) showed how future provision would continue to focus on these skill areas:

- We will ensure that no-one can get a grade C or better in GCSE English or maths without mastering the functional elements.....and that these are the same in GCSEs, the key skills qualifications and the adult Skills for Life qualifications. Those who pass the functional element without succeeding in the GCSE will have their achievement in the functional unit separately recognised.
- GCSE ICT should be reviewed in a similar way to English and maths to identify a functional skills unit, building on the ICT key skills qualification and the ICT Skills for Life standards. For those not taking GCSE ICT, the functional unit should be available as a unit in its own right.
- Personal skills are those which give young people the ability to manage themselves and develop effective social and working relationships. Thinking and learning skills mean knowing how to learn independently and adapt to a range of circumstances. Together these skills are essential for raising standards, further learning, employment and dealing with a range of real-world problems.
- In order to achieve a level 2 Diploma, young people must achieve level 2 in functional English and maths.

### **Key Skills Support Programme**

In England, practitioners in Schools and Colleges can obtain good practice advice and support directly from the Learning and Skills Network (LSN). Help for practitioners in the work-based route is provided by Learning for Work (LfW). LSN and LfW together manage the Key Skills Support Programme, which is funded by DfES (with European Social Fund

support) and they can be contacted via the Programme's website at [www.keyskillssupport.net](http://www.keyskillssupport.net). The helpline number for LSN is 0845 602 3386 and LfW can be contacted on 0870 872 8081. In Wales, support for practitioners and colleges can be obtained from the KSSPC at Dysg on [www.dysg.org.uk](http://www.dysg.org.uk).

## Definitions

**Tests** – Externally set and externally marked and moderated assessments. The tests that form part of the Communication and Application of Number qualifications at Levels 1 and 2 are also used as the adult literacy and numeracy certificates.

**Candidate** – An individual student attempting one or more of the Key Skills qualifications. Candidates are identified using unique identifiers allocated by each Awarding Body. Learners achieving awards through separate Awarding Bodies will be counted more than once.

**Award** – An award is made when the candidate has completed all the assessment components of the qualification, the portfolio and the test or has satisfied the Awarding Body that they hold a **proxy** qualification that entitles them to exemption from one or both of the assessment components. The proxy list can be found on the QCA website at: [www.qca.org.uk/6446.htm](http://www.qca.org.uk/6446.htm)

## Further Information

The DfES Key Skills Policy Team can be contacted on 0114 259 3542, by email to John Mackie at [john.mackie@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.mackie@dfes.gsi.gov.uk) or by writing to the Key Skills Policy Team, East 3c, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PQ.

For queries relating to Key Skills awards in Wales, contact Luned Jones on 029 2082 5514, by e-mail at [school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:school.stats@wales.gsi.gov.uk), or by writing to School and Teacher Statistics, National Assembly for Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

Tables 6 & 7 cover Awards of Key Skills Qualifications in 2004/05, data for 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03 & 2003/04 will be made available on the internet as additional information, shortly after this SFR has been published.

There are a number of Internet sites offering information about Key Skills. These include:

Key Skills home site [www.dfes.gov.uk/keyskills](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/keyskills)

Key Skills support programme [www.keyskillssupport.net](http://www.keyskillssupport.net)

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority [www.qca.org.uk/keyskills](http://www.qca.org.uk/keyskills)

Awdurdod Cymwysterau Cwriclwm ac Asesu Cymru [www.accac.org.uk](http://www.accac.org.uk)

Key Skills Support Programme Cymru - [www.dysq.org.uk](http://www.dysq.org.uk)

Learning and Skills Council [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

## **ENQUIRIES**

Enquiries about the figures contained in this Press Release should be addressed to Andy Hesketh [andy.hesketh@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andy.hesketh@dfes.gsi.gov.uk) Department for Education and Skills, Data Services Group A3, W6, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PQ (telephone number 0114 259 3765).

Press Enquiries should be addressed to 020 7925 5109.

**Table 1: Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Type, Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2005. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

Key Skills Awards <sup>1</sup>	Numbers of awards within year <sup>1,2</sup>						thousands
	Award Year						
	2000/01 (Oct - Sep)	2001/02 (Oct - Sep)	2002/03 (Oct - Sep)	2003/04 (Oct - Sep)	2004/05 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2005 (Oct-Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>All Key Skills Awards<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>224.0</b>	<b>269.5</b>	<b>334.7</b>	<b>543.7</b>	<b>1,486.9</b>	
<b>Qualification Type</b>							
Communication	45.2	87.3	94.3	118.6	165.9	511.2	
Application of Number	31.7	54.7	68.2	91.5	131.3	377.4	
Information Communication Technology	38.1	81.9	106.9	124.4	141.8	493.1	
Improving Own Learning <sup>b</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	45.5	45.5	
Problem Solving <sup>b</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	21.3	21.4	
Working With Others <sup>5</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	38.0	38.2	
Total	115.0	224.0	269.5	334.7	543.7	1,486.9	
<b>Qualification Level</b>							
Level 1	48.9	78.3	105.4	140.4	237.5	610.6	
Level 2	51.3	103.4	131.6	161.4	262.5	710.3	
Levels 3 and 4	14.8	42.2	32.5	32.9	43.6	166.0	
Total	115.0	224.0	269.5	334.7	543.7	1,486.9	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>							
<14 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	1.2	1.5	4.2	7.4	
14 & 15	3.9	13.6	16.9	15.1	21.3	70.8	
16 - 18	96.8	180.5	194.2	223.8	355.7	1,051.1	
19 & over	13.6	28.8	56.3	93.2	161.5	353.5	
Total	115.0	224.0	269.5	334.7	543.7	1,486.9	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	54.7	103.5	131.3	174.6	300.2	764.4	
Female	60.3	120.4	138.1	160.1	243.6	722.5	
Total	115.0	224.0	269.5	334.7	543.7	1,486.9	
	Percentages of awards within year <sup>2</sup>						
	Award Year						
<b>Key Skills Awards <sup>1</sup></b>	2000/01 (Oct - Sep)	2001/02 (Oct - Sep)	2002/03 (Oct - Sep)	2003/04 (Oct - Sep)	2004/05 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2005 (Oct-Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Qualification Type</b>							
Communication	39	39	35	35	31	34	
Application of Number	28	24	25	27	24	25	
Information Communication Technology	33	37	40	37	26	33	
Improving Own Learning <sup>5</sup>	0	0	0	..	8	3	
Problem Solving <sup>b</sup>	0	0	0	..	4	1	
Working With Others <sup>5</sup>	0	0	0	..	7	3	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Qualification Level</b>							
Level 1	43	35	39	42	44	41	
Level 2	45	46	49	48	48	48	
Levels 3 and 4	13	19	12	10	8	11	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>							
<14 <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	1	..	
14 & 15	3	6	6	5	4	5	
16 - 18	84	81	72	67	65	71	
19 & over	12	13	21	28	30	24	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	48	46	49	52	55	51	
Female	52	54	51	48	45	49	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source: Key Skills Database

- = number less than 1,000.

.. = less than 0.5%.

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

<sup>1</sup> Includes those Key Skills Qualifications awarded by Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which have been achieved in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Overseas.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not sum to the totals and percentages may not sum to 100 due to information described as not stated or missing being omitted from the tables.

<sup>3</sup> For awards achieved in 2000/01 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2000.

For awards achieved in 2001/02 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2001.

For awards achieved in 2002/03 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2002.

For awards achieved in 2003/04 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2003.

For awards achieved in 2004/05 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Less than 14 = those with an academic age of 12 or 13.

<sup>5</sup> 'Improving Own Learning', 'Problem Solving' & 'Working With Others' are wider key skills which were accredited as key skills qualifications in September 2004.

**Table 2: Awards of Communication Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2005. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

Communication Awards <sup>1</sup>	Numbers of awards within year <sup>1,2</sup>						thousands
	Award Year						
	2000/01 (Oct - Sep)	2001/02 (Oct - Sep)	2002/03 (Oct - Sep)	2003/04 (Oct - Sep)	2004/05 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2005 (Oct - Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>All Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>118.6</b>	<b>165.9</b>	<b>511.2</b>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>							
Level 1	16.0	24.6	27.6	38.8	64.8	171.7	
Level 2	20.8	40.5	50.4	61.5	80.5	253.8	
Levels 3 and 4	8.4	22.2	16.3	18.3	20.6	85.7	
Total	45.2	87.3	94.3	118.6	165.9	511.2	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>							
<14 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14 & 15	-	1.8	2.5	2.0	2.4	9.3	
16 - 18	38.7	73.1	70.2	81.2	111.6	374.7	
19 & over	5.6	12.1	21.3	34.9	51.2	125.1	
Total	45.2	87.3	94.3	118.6	165.9	511.2	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	21.0	38.8	45.3	60.9	88.5	254.5	
Female	24.2	48.5	49.0	57.7	77.3	256.7	
Total	45.2	87.3	94.3	118.6	165.9	511.2	
	Percentages of all awards within year <sup>2</sup>						
	Award Year						
Communication Awards <sup>1</sup>	2000/01 (Oct - Sep)	2001/02 (Oct - Sep)	2002/03 (Oct - Sep)	2003/04 (Oct - Sep)	2004/05 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2005 (Oct - Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>							
Level 1	35	28	29	33	39	34	
Level 2	46	46	53	52	49	50	
Levels 3 and 4	19	25	17	15	12	17	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>							
<14 <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	
14 & 15	1	2	3	2	1	2	
16 - 18	86	84	74	68	67	73	
19 & over	12	14	23	29	31	24	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	46	44	48	51	53	50	
Female	54	56	52	49	47	50	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source: Key Skills Database

- = number less than 1,000.

.. = less than 0.5%.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those Key Skills Qualifications awarded by Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which have been achieved in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Overseas.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not sum to the totals and percentages may not sum to 100 due to information described as not stated or missing being omitted from the tables.

<sup>3</sup> For awards achieved in 2000/01 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2000.

For awards achieved in 2001/02 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2001.

For awards achieved in 2002/03 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2002.

For awards achieved in 2003/04 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2003.

For awards achieved in 2004/05 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Less than 14 = those with an academic age of 12 or 13.

**Table 3: Awards of Application of Number Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2005. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

Application of Number Awards <sup>1</sup>	Numbers of awards within year <sup>1,2</sup>						thousands
	Award Year						
	2000/01 (Oct - Sep)	2001/02 (Oct - Sep)	2002/03 (Oct - Sep)	2003/04 (Oct - Sep)	2004/05 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2005 (Oct-Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>All Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>131.3</b>	<b>377.4</b>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>							
Level 1	16.3	23.4	34.6	50.6	74.6	199.6	
Level 2	12.7	23.0	28.9	37.6	52.8	155.0	
Levels 3 and 4	2.7	8.3	4.7	3.3	3.8	22.9	
Total	31.7	54.7	68.2	91.5	131.3	377.4	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>							
<14 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	
14 & 15	-	-	-	-	1.5	4.2	
16 - 18	27.4	46.2	50.1	59.3	81.9	264.9	
19 & over	3.8	7.7	17.0	30.9	47.4	106.9	
Total	31.7	54.7	68.2	91.5	131.3	377.4	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	15.6	26.6	35.8	51.1	75.4	204.5	
Female	16.1	28.1	32.4	40.4	55.9	172.9	
Total	31.7	54.7	68.2	91.5	131.3	377.4	
	Percentages of all awards within year <sup>2</sup>						
	Award Year						
<b>Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2000/01 (Oct - Sep)</b>	<b>2001/02 (Oct - Sep)</b>	<b>2002/03 (Oct - Sep)</b>	<b>2003/04 (Oct - Sep)</b>	<b>2004/05 (Oct - Sep)</b>	<b>2000 to 2005 (Oct-Sep)<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>							
Level 1	52	43	51	55	57	53	
Level 2	40	42	42	41	40	41	
Levels 3 and 4	9	15	7	4	3	6	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>							
<14 <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	
14 & 15	1	1	1	1	1	1	
16 - 18	86	84	73	65	62	70	
19 & over	12	14	25	34	36	28	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	49	49	52	56	57	54	
Female	51	51	48	44	43	46	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Source: Key Skills Database

- = number less than 1,000.

.. = less than 0.5%.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those Key Skills Qualifications awarded by Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which have been achieved in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Overseas.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not sum to the totals and percentages may not sum to 100 due to information described as not stated or missing being omitted from the tables.

<sup>3</sup> For awards achieved in 2000/01 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2000.

For awards achieved in 2001/02 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2001.

For awards achieved in 2002/03 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2002.

For awards achieved in 2003/04 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2003.

For awards achieved in 2004/05 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Less than 14 = those with an academic age of 12 or 13.



**Table 5: Awards of Wider Key Skills Qualifications in 2004/05, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

		Numbers of Awards within Year <sup>1,2</sup>			thousands
		Type of Wider Key Skill Qualification			
		Improving Own Learning & Performance	Problem Solving	Working With Others	Total
<b>All Wider Key Skills Awards <sup>1</sup></b>		<b>45.5</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>104.8</b>
<b>Qualification Level</b>					
Level 1		16.1	9.7	13.7	39.5
Level 2		25.3	10.2	21.7	57.2
Levels 3 and 4		4.0	1.5	2.6	8.1
Total		45.5	21.3	38.0	104.8
<b>Academic Age <sup>3</sup></b>					
<14 <sup>4</sup>		-	1.1	-	1.1
14 & 15		1.5	1.3	1.7	4.5
16 - 18		31.3	12.8	24.1	68.1
19 & over		12.7	6.2	12.0	30.8
Total		45.5	21.3	38.0	104.8
<b>Gender</b>					
Male		25.7	13.4	22.5	61.6
Female		19.8	8.0	15.5	43.2
Total		45.5	21.3	38.0	104.8
		Percentages of all awards within year <sup>2</sup>			
		Type of Wider Key Skill Qualification			
		Improving Own Learning & Performance	Problem Solving	Working With Others	Total
<b>All Wider Key Skills Awards <sup>1</sup></b>					
<b>Qualification Level</b>					
Level 1		36	45	36	38
Level 2		56	48	57	55
Levels 3 and 4		9	7	7	8
Total		100	100	100	100
<b>Academic Age <sup>3</sup></b>					
<14 <sup>4</sup>		..	5	..	1
14 & 15		3	6	4	4
16 - 18		69	60	63	65
19 & over		28	29	31	29
Total		100	100	100	100
<b>Gender</b>					
Male		57	63	59	59
Female		43	37	41	41
Total		100	100	100	100

Source: Key Skills Database

- = number less than 1,000.

.. = less than 0.5%.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those Wider Key Skills Qualifications awarded by Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which have been achieved in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Overseas.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not sum to the totals and percentages may not sum to 100 due to information described as not stated or missing being omitted from the tables.

<sup>3</sup> For awards achieved in 2004/05 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Less than 14 = those with an academic age of 12 or 13.

**Table 6: Awards of Key Skills Qualifications in 2004/05, Qualification Type, by Academic Age by Qualification Level. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

Qualification Level	Numbers of all awards within year <sup>1,2</sup>				Total	thousands
	Academic Age <sup>3</sup>					
	<14 <sup>4</sup>	14 & 15	16 - 18	19 & over		
<b>All 2004/05 Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	3.3	10.7	159.6	63.5	237.5	
Level 2	-	10.3	160.6	90.3	262.5	
Levels 3 & 4	-	-	35.5	7.7	43.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>355.7</b>	<b>161.5</b>	<b>543.7</b>	
<b>Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	-	1.9	46.5	15.8	64.8	
Level 2	-	-	47.7	32.3	80.5	
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	17.3	3.2	20.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>165.9</b>	
<b>Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	-	1.1	50.4	22.7	74.6	
Level 2	0.0	-	28.3	24.1	52.8	
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	3.2	-	3.8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>131.3</b>	
<b>Information Communication Technology Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	1.5	4.5	36.7	15.9	58.7	
Level 2	-	8.2	48.2	14.5	72.0	
Levels 3 & 4	-	-	9.2	1.7	11.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>141.8</b>	
<b>Improving Own Learning and Performance<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	-	1.0	11.3	3.8	16.1	
Level 2	0.0	-	16.9	8.0	25.3	
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	3.1	-	4.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>45.5</b>	
<b>Problem Solving<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	1.1	-	5.4	2.3	9.7	
Level 2	0.0	-	6.4	3.4	10.2	
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	1.0	-	1.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>21.3</b>	
<b>Working With Others<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	-	1.2	9.3	3.1	13.7	
Level 2	-	-	13.2	8.0	21.7	
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	1.7	-	2.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>	
	Percentages of all awards by age <sup>2</sup>					
<b>All 2004/05 Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	77	50	45	39	44	
Level 2	22	48	45	56	48	
Levels 3 & 4	1	2	10	5	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	100	80	42	31	39	
Level 2	..	16	43	63	49	
Levels 3 & 4	0	4	16	6	12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	100	75	62	48	57	
Level 2	0	24	35	51	40	
Levels 3 & 4	0	1	4	1	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Information Communication Technology Awards<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	61	35	39	50	41	
Level 2	37	64	51	45	51	
Levels 3 & 4	2	1	10	5	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Improving Own Learning and Performance<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	100	71	36	30	36	
Level 2	0	29	54	63	56	
Levels 3 & 4	0	..	10	7	9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Problem Solving<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	100	74	42	37	45	
Level 2	0	26	50	56	48	
Levels 3 & 4	0	..	8	7	7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Working With Others<sup>1</sup></b>						
Level 1	73	68	39	26	36	
Level 2	27	31	55	67	57	
Levels 3 & 4	0	1	7	7	7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: Key Skills Database

- = number less than 1,000.

.. = less than 0.5%.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those Key Skills Qualifications awarded by Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which have been achieved in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Overseas.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not sum to the totals and percentages may not sum to 100 due to information described as not stated or missing being omitted from the tables.

<sup>3</sup> For awards achieved in 2004/05 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Less than 14 = those with an academic age of 12 or 13.

**Table 7: Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications in 2004/05, Qualification Type, by Centre Type by Qualification Level  
England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

Centre Type	Numbers of all awards within year <sup>1,2</sup> (thousands)				Percentage of awards by Centre Type <sup>2</sup>			
	Qualification Level				Qualification Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Levels 3 & 4	All Levels <sup>1</sup>	Level 1	Level 2	Levels 3 & 4	All Levels <sup>1</sup>
<b>All 2004/05 Awards <sup>1</sup></b>								
School	10.7	18.8	9.7	39.2	5	7	22	7
FE College/Tertiary College	136.6	131.9	16.7	285.2	58	50	38	52
Sixth Form College	2.9	15.5	12.6	31.0	1	6	29	6
Adult Education Centre	-	3.4	-	4.3	..	1	..	1
Private Training Provider	61.6	50.2	3.1	114.9	26	19	7	21
Employer	4.1	5.2	-	9.9	2	2	1	2
Armed Forces	9.8	26.2	-	36.1	4	10	..	7
Other <sup>3</sup>	11.0	11.2	-	23.0	5	4	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>237.5</b>	<b>262.5</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>543.7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Communication Awards <sup>1</sup></b>								
School	2.0	2.2	5.1	9.3	3	3	25	6
FE College/Tertiary College	38.8	45.4	6.8	91.1	60	56	33	55
Sixth Form College	-	2.6	6.5	9.9	1	3	32	6
Adult Education Centre	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..
Private Training Provider	16.6	19.7	1.4	37.6	26	24	7	23
Employer	1.0	1.8	-	3.1	2	2	1	2
Armed Forces	2.6	4.4	-	7.0	4	5	..	4
Other <sup>3</sup>	2.8	4.2	-	7.5	4	5	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>165.9</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Application of Number Awards <sup>1</sup></b>								
School	1.3	1.9	1.1	4.3	2	4	28	3
FE College/Tertiary College	39.0	28.7	1.1	68.8	52	54	27	52
Sixth Form College	-	1.3	1.3	3.4	1	3	35	3
Adult Education Centre	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..
Private Training Provider	24.7	13.3	-	38.2	33	25	5	29
Employer	1.7	1.3	-	3.0	2	2	2	2
Armed Forces	3.2	4.0	-	7.1	4	8	..	5
Other <sup>3</sup>	3.5	2.4	-	5.9	5	4	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>131.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Information Communication Technology Awards <sup>1</sup></b>								
School	5.9	13.9	2.8	22.6	10	19	25	16
FE College/Tertiary College	34.7	33.6	4.2	72.6	59	47	38	51
Sixth Form College	-	9.1	3.3	13.3	2	13	30	9
Adult Education Centre	-	-	-	-	..	..	..	..
Private Training Provider	10.6	9.9	-	20.9	18	14	4	15
Employer	-	1.2	-	2.2	1	2	1	2
Armed Forces	3.6	1.7	-	5.3	6	2	..	4
Other <sup>3</sup>	2.0	2.4	-	4.6	3	3	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>141.8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Improving Own Learning &amp; Performance <sup>1</sup></b>								
School	-	-	-	1.1	4	1	5	2
FE College/Tertiary College	10.3	11.6	2.5	24.3	64	46	61	54
Sixth Form College	-	1.9	-	3.2	2	8	24	7
Adult Education Centre	-	1.5	-	1.6	..	6	..	3
Private Training Provider	4.1	3.1	-	7.5	26	12	8	17
Employer	-	-	-	-	1	2	..	1
Armed Forces	-	5.7	0.0	5.7	..	22	0	13
Other <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	1.4	3	3	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Problem Solving <sup>1</sup></b>								
School	-	-	-	-	4	2	6	3
FE College/Tertiary College	4.7	3.6	-	9.1	49	35	56	43
Sixth Form College	-	-	-	-	..	..	14	1
Adult Education Centre	-	0.0	0.0	-	1	0	0	..
Private Training Provider	2.3	1.0	-	3.6	24	10	18	17
Employer	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2
Armed Forces	-	4.8	0.0	5.3	5	47	0	25
Other <sup>3</sup>	1.6	-	-	2.0	16	4	4	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Working With Others <sup>1</sup></b>								
School	-	-	-	1.3	4	2	15	3
FE College/Tertiary College	9.0	9.0	1.3	19.3	66	41	51	51
Sixth Form College	-	-	-	-	1	2	11	2
Adult Education Centre	-	1.5	-	1.5	..	7	..	4
Private Training Provider	3.3	3.3	-	7.0	24	15	19	18
Employer	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
Armed Forces	-	5.7	0.0	5.7	..	26	0	15
Other <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	1.5	4	4	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Key Skills Database

- = number less than 1,000.

.. = less than 0.5%.

<sup>1</sup> Includes those Key Skills Qualifications awarded by Awarding Bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, which have been achieved in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Overseas.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers may not sum to the totals and percentages may not sum to 100 due to information described as not stated or missing being omitted from the tables.

<sup>3</sup> 'Other' includes University or other HE Centre, Local/central Government/NHS, Voluntary Organisations, HMP/YOI, Overseas Centres and those not otherwise specified.