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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## AWARDS OF KEY SKILLS QUALIFICATIONS: 2005/06

This Statistical First Release updates the figures presented in 'Awards of Key Skills Qualifications: 2004/05' – SFR15/2006, published on 11 April 2006.

The original 3 Key Skills qualifications (Communication, Application of Number and Information Communication Technology) were introduced in September 2000, with 3 Wider Key Skills qualifications (Improving Own Learning & Performance, Problem Solving and Working with Others) becoming available from September 2004. All Key Skills qualifications 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 2006. These statistics are collated from information supplied by Awarding Bodies.

### KEY POINTS

Up to September 2006, almost 2.2 million Key Skills qualifications had been awarded (**Table 1**).

There were 692 thousand awards of Key Skills qualifications in 2005/06 alone. 522 thousand of all Key Skills qualifications were for main Key Skills, up 19 per cent on the previous year. 170 thousand of all Key Skills qualifications were for wider Key Skills, up 61 per cent on the previous year (**Table 1 and Chart 1**).

In 2005/06, there were 206 thousand Communication awards compared to 150 thousand ICT awards. Application of Number is still the fastest growing main Key Skill qualification, up by 27 per cent on the previous year to 166 thousand (**Table 1 and Chart 1**).

Between 2004/05 and 2005/06, there was an increase of at least 60 per cent in the number of awards for each of the wider Key Skills such that wider Key Skills accounted for almost a quarter of awards of all Key Skills qualifications in 2005/06, compared with around a fifth in 2004/05 (**Table 1 and Chart 1**).

In 2005/06, as in previous years, almost two-thirds of all Key Skills qualification awards were to 16-18 year olds. However, numbers of Key Skills qualifications awarded to those aged 19 and over continue to rise faster than for other age groups (**Table 1 and Chart 2**).

In 2005/06, 55 per cent of all awards of key skills qualifications were made to males. For Wider Key Skills this increased to 60 per cent (**Tables 1 and 5**).

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

Over the whole period, there have been 716 thousand Communication awards and 643 thousand ICT awards. Although Application of Number awards lag behind (543 thousand), they are growing faster – up by 27 per cent in 2005/06 (**Table 1**).

The majority of qualifications awarded were to 16-18 year olds again (almost 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 per cent in 2000/01 compared to 31 per cent in 2005/06). Of the main Key Skills, this general trend is true for Communications and Application of Number but not for ICT, where the proportion of 16-18 year-olds has increased but the proportion of those aged 19 and over has dropped slightly (**Tables 1 to 4 and 6**).

Since their introduction in September 2000, through to September 2003, there were more awards to women than men. However, this trend was reversed in 2003/04, and in 2005/06, 55 per cent of all awards of key skills qualifications were to men. In 2005/06, for the main key skills, the proportion of males fell slightly for Communications and Application of Number but continued to increase for Information Communication Technology. (**Tables 1 to 4**).

The majority of qualifications awarded were at level 2 again in 2005/06 (47 per cent). Whilst this proportion has remained roughly constant over the past few years, awards at level 1 have become more popular each year (35 per cent in 2001/02 compared to 46 per cent in 2005/06, now almost the same proportion as level 2 awards); awards at level 3+ less so (19 per cent and 7 per cent respectively). This is broadly true for each of the 3 main Key Skills (**Tables 1 to 4 and 6**).

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

There were almost 170 thousand Wider Key Skills awards made in 2005/06; 43 per cent in Improving Own Learning & Performance; 36 per cent in Working with Others and 21 per cent in Problem Solving (**Table 1**).

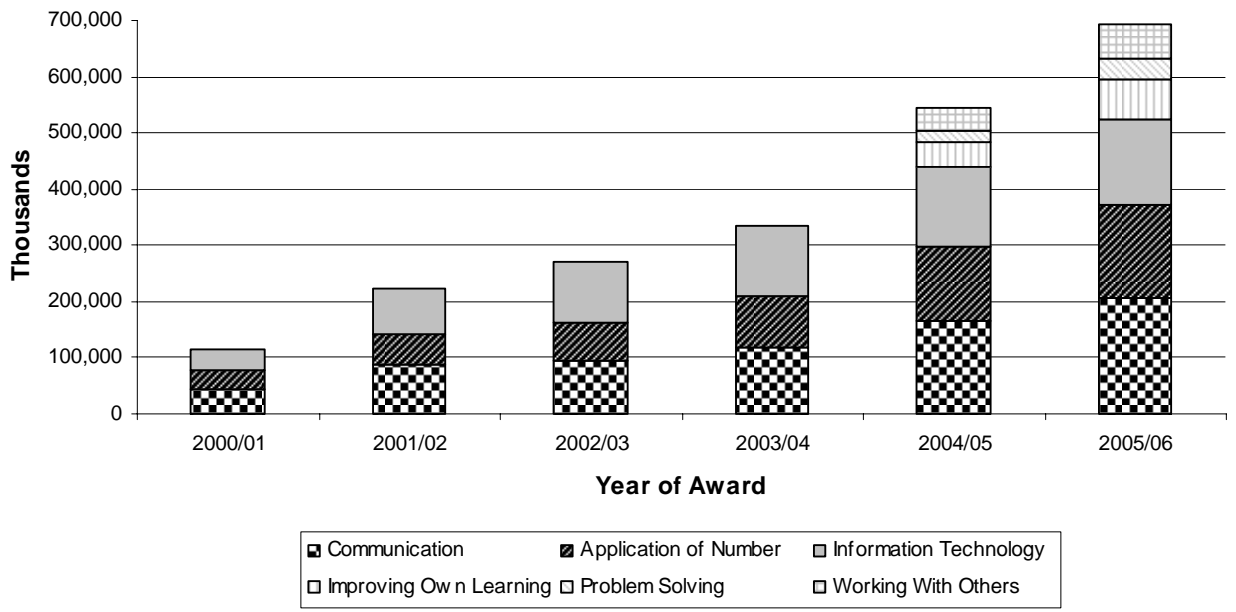
The majority of all Wider Key Skills were achieved at level 2 (55 per cent, the same as 2004/05), by those aged 16-18 (62 per cent, compared to 65 per cent in 2004/05) and by men (60 per cent, compared to 59 per cent last year) (**Table 5**).

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

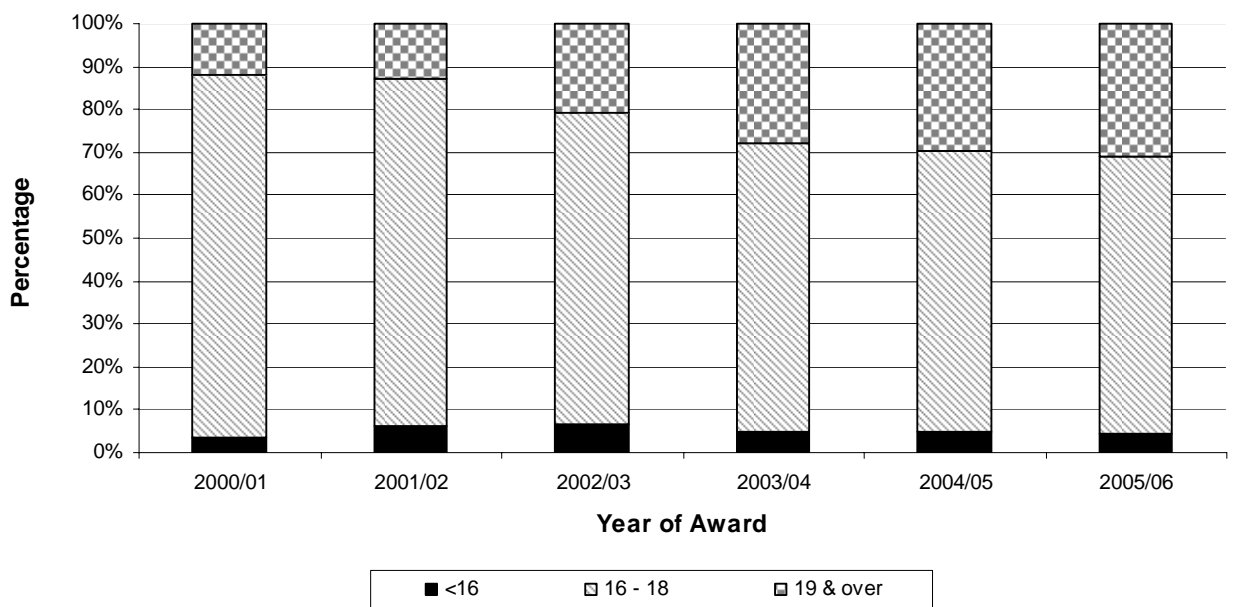
In 2005/06, 53 per cent of all Key Skills qualification awards were made in FE/Tertiary Colleges, the same as in 2004/05, and a further 24 per cent (22 per cent in 2004/05) at private training providers. This is generally true for all individual Key Skills subjects but schools continue to be prominent as well for ICT awards, 13 per cent in 2005/06, and the armed forces are prominent providers in all Wider Key Skills areas – 21 per cent for Problem Solving, 15 per cent for Working with Others and 13 per cent for Improving Own Learning & Performance.

At higher levels, schools and Sixth Form colleges become more important, although less so than in 2004/05. For levels 3 and 4, in 2005/06, FE/Tertiary colleges account for 45 per cent of all awards (34 per cent in 2004/05), Sixth Form Colleges for 27 per cent (32 per cent in 2004/05) and schools for 16 per cent (25 per cent in 2004/05).

**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 2006. 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 2006. 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 2006. 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 2006. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Table 5** - Awards of Wider Key Skills Qualifications in 2005/06, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. England, Wales and Northern Ireland

**Table 6** - Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications in 2005/05, Qualification Type by Academic Age by Qualification Level. England, Wales & Northern Ireland

**Table 7** - Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications in 2005/06, 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:

- London Qualifications Ltd (formerly Edexcel)
- City & Guilds of London Institute
- Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examination Board
- Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
- Education Development International plc (formerly LCCI)
- EMTA Awards Ltd
- Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessment
- Awards Scheme Development and Accreditation Network
- Vocational Training Charitable Trust
- Welsh Joint Examination Council, Hospitality Awarding Body
- Institute of the Motor Industry
- Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education
- NCFE
- British Horseracing Education & Standards Trust
- Qualifications For Industry

These awarding bodies account for all awards of key skills qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

### **Key Skills Qualifications**

The Key Skills are a range of essential skills that underpin success in education, employment, lifelong learning and personal development. They cover a spectrum of cognitive, personal and social skills. 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. 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).

The three 'main' Key Skills qualifications of Communication, Application of Number and Information Communication Technology were introduced across England, Wales and Northern Ireland on 1 September 2000 as part of the 'Curriculum 2000' reforms. The skills identified go beyond basic literacy and numeracy; they focus on the ability to use and adapt skills in a wide range of contexts and to make judgments about what skills to use and when.

In September 2004, the 'wider' Key Skills qualifications (Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance, Problem Solving) also became part of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Achievement data on these is also included in this Statistical First Release. The 'wider' Key Skills qualifications are used to complement other learning programmes. They provide the major building block for the framework of Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills announced in the 14-19 White Paper.

A non-statutory entitlement, introduced in September 2004, allowed 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, with those going on to higher education or professional study encouraged to achieve a Level 3 qualification in at least one of these skill areas. As announced in the 14-19 White Paper (February 2005), this entitlement will become statutory from September 2013.

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.

### **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)

### **Key Skills Support Programme**

In England, the KSSP (managed by the Quality Improvement Agency) will continue to offer best practice advice, materials and training to practitioners. The KSSP can be contacted via its own website at [www.keyskillssupport.net](http://www.keyskillssupport.net) or via the QIA helpline number. In Wales, similar services are provided via KSSP Cymru, now part of the Welsh Assembly Government.

### **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.html](http://www.qca.org.uk/6446.html)

### **Additional tables**

The tables below covering preceding years (related to tables 5, 6 and 7) and analysis by Government Office Region and qualification level (table 8) will be made available on the internet as additional information by the end of April 2007:

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

Table 6a: Awards of Key Skills Qualifications in 2000/01, Qualification Type, by Academic Age by Qualification Level. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

*Tables b, c, d and e cover 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 respectively.*

Table 7a: Awards of Key Skills Qualifications in 2000/01, Qualification Type, by Centre Type by Qualification Level England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

*Tables b, c, d and e cover 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 respectively.*

Table 8: Awards of Key Skills Qualifications in 2005/06, Qualification Type, by Government Office Region by Qualification Level. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Table 8a: Awards of Key Skills Qualifications in 2000/01, Qualification Type, by Government Office Region by Qualification Level. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

*Tables b, c, d and e cover 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 respectively.*

## Further information

For queries relating to Key Skills awards in Wales, contact Stephanie Howarth 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.

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/603.html](http://www.qca.org.uk/603.html)

Department for Education Lifelong Learning and Skills (Welsh Assembly Government):

- Curriculum and Assessment:

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/curriculum\\_and\\_assessment](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/curriculum_and_assessment)

- Learning and Qualifications:

[http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learning\\_and\\_qualifications](http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learning_and_qualifications)

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

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

## Related Publications

**SFR 15/2006** – Awards of Key Skills Qualifications: 2004/05

## ENQUIRIES

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

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**Table 2: Awards of Communication Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2006. 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)	2005/06 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2006 (Oct - Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>All Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>87.2</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>118.2</b>	<b>165.7</b>	<b>205.8</b>	<b>716.1</b>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>								
Level 1	15.9	24.6	27.5	38.6	64.5	90.8	262.0	
Level 2	20.8	40.5	50.3	61.3	80.5	94.1	347.5	
Levels 3 and 4	8.4	22.2	16.3	18.3	20.6	20.9	106.7	
Total	45.1	87.2	94.1	118.2	165.7	205.8	716.1	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>								
<14 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	
14 & 15	-	1.8	2.5	2.0	2.4	3.0	12.4	
16 - 18	38.6	73.1	70.0	80.8	111.4	135.9	509.8	
19 & over	5.6	12.1	21.3	34.8	51.2	66.0	191.0	
Total	45.1	87.2	94.1	118.2	165.7	205.8	716.1	
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	21.0	38.8	45.3	60.9	88.7	107.9	362.5	
Female	24.1	48.4	48.9	57.3	77.0	97.9	353.6	
Total	45.1	87.2	94.1	118.2	165.7	205.8	716.1	
	Percentages of all awards within year <sup>2</sup>							
	Award Year							
	2000/01 (Oct - Sep)	2001/02 (Oct - Sep)	2002/03 (Oct - Sep)	2003/04 (Oct - Sep)	2004/05 (Oct - Sep)	2005/06 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2006 (Oct - Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>								
<b>Qualification Level</b>								
Level 1	35	28	29	33	39	44	37	
Level 2	46	46	53	52	49	46	49	
Levels 3 and 4	19	25	17	15	12	10	15	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>								
<14 <sup>4</sup>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
14 & 15	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	
16 - 18	86	84	74	68	67	66	71	
19 & over	12	14	23	29	31	32	27	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	46	44	48	52	54	52	51	
Female	54	56	52	48	46	48	49	
Total	100	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> Academic age is calculated against 31 August of the previous academic year: for example, for 2005/06, academic age is age at 31 August 2005.

<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 2006. 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)	2005/06 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2006 (Oct-Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>All Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>166.4</b>	<b>542.8</b>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>								
Level 1	16.3	23.3	34.5	50.4	74.4	99.2	298.0	
Level 2	12.6	23.0	28.8	37.5	52.8	63.8	218.6	
Levels 3 and 4	2.7	8.3	4.7	3.3	3.8	3.4	26.3	
Total	31.6	54.6	68.0	91.1	131.0	166.4	542.8	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>								
<14 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 & 15	-	-	-	-	1.5	1.6	5.8	
16 - 18	27.3	46.1	49.9	59.0	81.7	102.1	366.1	
19 & over	3.8	7.7	17.0	30.9	47.4	62.1	168.8	
Total	31.6	54.6	68.0	91.1	131.0	166.4	542.8	
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	15.6	26.6	35.7	51.1	75.5	93.2	297.7	
Female	16.1	28.0	32.2	40.1	55.6	73.2	245.1	
Total	31.6	54.6	68.0	91.1	131.0	166.4	542.8	
	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>2005/06 (Oct - Sep)</b>	<b>2000 to 2006 (Oct-Sep)<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>								
Level 1	51	43	51	55	57	60	55	
Level 2	40	42	42	41	40	38	40	
Levels 3 and 4	9	15	7	4	3	2	5	
Total	100	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	1	
16 - 18	86	84	73	65	62	61	67	
19 & over	12	14	25	34	36	37	31	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	49	49	53	56	58	56	55	
Female	51	51	47	44	42	44	45	
Total	100	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> Academic age is calculated against 31 August of the previous academic year: for example, for 2005/06, academic age is age at 31 August 2005.

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

**Table 4: Awards of Information Communication Technology Key Skills Qualifications by Year of Award, by Qualification Level, Academic Age & Gender. October 2000 to September 2006. England, Wales and Northern Ireland.**

Information Communication Technology 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)	2005/06 (Oct - Sep)	2000 to 2006 (Oct-Sep) <sup>1</sup>	
<b>All Information Technology<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>106.9</b>	<b>124.3</b>	<b>141.7</b>	<b>150.2</b>	643.1	
<b>Qualification Level</b>								
Level 1	16.6	30.3	43.1	50.9	58.6	65.8	265.3	
Level 2	17.9	39.9	52.3	62.1	71.9	75.0	319.1	
Levels 3 and 4	3.7	11.7	11.5	11.3	11.2	9.4	58.6	
Total	38.1	81.9	106.9	124.3	141.7	150.2	643.1	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>								
<14 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	1.1	1.3	2.5	2.1	7.3	
14 & 15	3.0	11.2	13.4	12.3	12.9	11.4	64.2	
16 - 18	30.7	61.2	73.9	83.0	94.0	103.3	446.0	
19 & over	4.2	9.0	18.0	27.3	32.2	33.4	124.1	
Total	38.1	81.9	106.9	124.3	141.7	150.2	643.1	
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	18.1	38.0	50.2	62.5	74.7	81.4	325.0	
Female	20.0	43.8	56.6	61.8	67.0	68.8	318.1	
Total	38.1	81.9	106.9	124.3	141.7	150.2	643.1	
	Percentages of all awards within year <sup>2</sup>							
	Award Year							
<b>Information Communication Technology 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>2005/06 (Oct - Sep)</b>	<b>2000 to 2006 (Oct-Sep)<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>Qualification Level</b>								
Level 1	44	37	40	41	41	44	41	
Level 2	47	49	49	50	51	50	50	
Levels 3 and 4	10	14	11	9	8	6	9	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>								
<14 <sup>4</sup>	..	..	1	1	2	1	1	
14 & 15	8	14	13	10	9	8	10	
16 - 18	80	75	69	67	66	69	69	
19 & over	11	11	17	22	23	22	19	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	48	46	47	50	53	54	51	
Female	52	54	53	50	47	46	49	
Total	100	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> Academic age is calculated against 31 August of the previous academic year: for example, for 2005/06, academic age is age at 31 August 2005.

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

**Table 5: Awards of Wider Key Skills Qualifications in 2005/06, 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>73.2</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>61.6</b>	<b>169.9</b>
<b>Qualification Level</b>					
Level 1		25.8	15.2	20.9	61.9
Level 2		40.4	17.3	36.2	94.0
Levels 3 and 4		6.9	2.7	4.4	14.0
Total		73.2	35.2	61.6	169.9
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>					
<14 <sup>4</sup>		-	1.2	-	1.6
14 & 15		3.6	2.6	3.6	9.8
16 - 18		46.8	20.6	37.2	104.6
19 & over		22.7	10.9	20.3	53.9
Total		73.2	35.2	61.6	169.9
<b>Gender</b>					
Male		42.1	22.0	37.3	101.4
Female		31.0	13.2	24.3	68.5
Total		73.2	35.2	61.6	169.9
		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		35	43	34	36
Level 2		55	49	59	55
Levels 3 and 4		9	8	7	8
Total		100	100	100	100
<b>Academic Age<sup>3</sup></b>					
<14 <sup>4</sup>		..	3	1	1
14 & 15		5	7	6	6
16 - 18		64	59	60	62
19 & over		31	31	33	32
Total		100	100	100	100
<b>Gender</b>					
Male		58	62	61	60
Female		42	38	39	40
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 2005/06 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2005.

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

**Table 6: Awards of Key Skills Qualifications in 2005/06, 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>				thousands
	Academic Age <sup>3</sup>				
	<14 <sup>4</sup>	14 & 15	16 - 18	19 & over	Total
<b>All 2005/06 Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	3.8	13.9	209.0	90.6	317.7
Level 2	1.0	11.6	197.8	116.3	326.9
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	39.0	8.5	47.8
Total	4.8	25.8	445.9	215.3	692.4
<b>Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	-	2.0	61.5	26.4	90.8
Level 2	-	-	56.4	36.7	94.1
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	18.1	2.8	20.9
Total	-	3.0	135.9	66.0	205.8
<b>Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	-	1.3	64.4	32.9	99.2
Level 2	-	-	34.8	28.6	63.8
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	2.9	-	3.4
Total	-	1.6	102.1	62.1	166.4
<b>Information Communication Technology Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	1.4	4.3	43.2	17.0	65.8
Level 2	-	7.0	52.2	15.2	75.0
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	7.9	1.3	9.4
Total	2.1	11.4	103.3	33.4	150.2
<b>Improving Own Learning and Performance<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	-	2.3	17.2	6.2	25.8
Level 2	-	1.3	24.3	14.9	40.4
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	5.3	1.6	6.9
Total	-	3.6	46.8	22.7	73.2
<b>Problem Solving<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	1.2	1.7	8.5	3.7	15.2
Level 2	-	-	10.2	6.4	17.3
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	1.9	-	2.7
Total	1.2	2.6	20.6	10.9	35.2
<b>Working With Others<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	-	2.3	14.2	4.3	20.9
Level 2	-	1.3	20.0	14.6	36.2
Levels 3 & 4	0.0	-	3.0	1.4	4.4
Total	-	3.6	37.2	20.3	61.6
	Percentages of all awards by age <sup>2</sup>				
<b>All 2005/06 Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	78	54	47	42	46
Level 2	22	45	44	54	47
Levels 3 & 4	0	1	9	4	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	99	68	45	40	44
Level 2	1	31	41	56	46
Levels 3 & 4	0	2	13	4	10
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	100	79	63	53	60
Level 2	..	20	34	46	38
Levels 3 & 4	0	1	3	1	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Information Communication Technology Awards<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	65	37	42	51	44
Level 2	35	61	50	45	50
Levels 3 & 4	0	1	8	4	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Improving Own Learning and Performance<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	94	65	37	27	35
Level 2	6	35	52	65	55
Levels 3 & 4	0	..	11	7	9
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Problem Solving<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	100	68	41	34	43
Level 2	..	31	49	58	49
Levels 3 & 4	0	2	9	7	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Working With Others<sup>1</sup></b>					
Level 1	20	64	38	21	34
Level 2	80	36	54	72	59
Levels 3 & 4	0	..	8	7	7
Total	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 2005/06 academic age is calculated against 31 August 2005.

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

**Table 7: Awards of All Key Skills Qualifications in 2005/06, 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 2005/06 Awards<sup>1</sup></b>								
School	12.4	19.8	7.8	40.0	4	6	16	6
FE College/Tertiary College	175.1	171.5	21.6	368.3	55	52	45	53
Sixth Form College	3.0	14.2	12.8	29.9	1	4	27	4
Private Training Provider	96.0	6.8	3.5	169.0	30	2	7	24
Employer	5.9	6.8	-	13.3	2	2	1	2
Armed Forces	12.1	32.2	-	44.5	4	10	1	6
Other <sup>3</sup>	13.1	13.0	1.3	27.5	4	4	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>317.7</b>	<b>326.9</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>692.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Communication Awards<sup>1</sup></b>								
School	2.3	2.3	3.9	8.5	3	2	19	4
FE College/Tertiary College	50.0	56.7	9.3	116.0	55	60	45	56
Sixth Form College	-	2.1	6.1	8.9	1	2	29	4
Private Training Provider	29.0	2.0	1.0	53.5	32	2	5	26
Employer	1.9	2.0	-	4.1	2	2	1	2
Armed Forces	3.6	3.1	-	6.8	4	3	..	3
Other <sup>3</sup>	3.3	4.4	-	8.1	4	5	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>90.8</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>205.8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Application of Number Awards<sup>1</sup></b>								
School	1.7	1.5	-	4.0	2	2	21	2
FE College/Tertiary College	49.0	37.2	-	87.2	49	58	28	52
Sixth Form College	-	1.1	1.4	3.3	1	2	40	2
Private Training Provider	36.7	17.2	-	54.1	37	27	5	32
Employer	2.7	1.5	-	4.2	3	2	3	3
Armed Forces	4.3	2.6	-	7.0	4	4	1	4
Other <sup>3</sup>	3.9	2.7	-	6.7	4	4	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>166.4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Information Communication Technology Awards<sup>1</sup></b>								
School	5.2	12.7	1.9	19.8	8	17	20	13
FE College/Tertiary College	41.7	39.1	3.4	84.2	63	52	36	56
Sixth Form College	-	8.3	3.4	12.7	1	11	36	8
Private Training Provider	12.2	1.1	-	22.8	19	2	5	15
Employer	-	1.1	-	1.9	1	2	1	1
Armed Forces	3.0	1.3	-	4.4	5	2	..	3
Other <sup>3</sup>	2.0	2.4	-	4.6	3	3	2	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.8</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>150.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Improving Own Learning &amp; Performance<sup>1</sup></b>								
School	1.2	1.0	-	2.8	5	3	8	4
FE College/Tertiary College	15.0	17.8	3.9	36.6	58	44	56	50
Sixth Form College	-	1.8	1.3	3.5	1	5	19	5
Private Training Provider	7.8	-	-	16.4	30	2	8	22
Employer	-	-	-	1.2	1	2	1	2
Armed Forces	-	9.4	-	9.5	..	23	1	13
Other <sup>3</sup>	1.1	1.5	-	3.1	4	4	7	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>40.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Problem Solving<sup>1</sup></b>								
School	-	-	-	2.0	6	5	10	6
FE College/Tertiary College	6.7	6.0	1.3	14.0	44	35	49	40
Sixth Form College	-	-	-	-	1	1	15	2
Private Training Provider	4.8	-	-	8.1	31	2	19	23
Employer	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
Armed Forces	-	6.6	-	7.5	6	38	..	21
Other <sup>3</sup>	1.7	-	-	2.2	11	2	5	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Working With Others<sup>1</sup></b>								
School	1.1	1.3	-	2.9	5	4	11	5
FE College/Tertiary College	12.8	14.7	2.7	30.3	61	41	62	49
Sixth Form College	-	-	-	-	..	1	4	1
Private Training Provider	5.6	-	-	14.1	27	3	17	23
Employer	-	-	-	1.3	1	3	2	2
Armed Forces	-	9.3	-	9.4	1	26	1	15
Other <sup>3</sup>	1.1	1.6	-	2.8	5	4	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>61.6</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 Adult Education Centre, University or other HE Centre, Local/Central Government/NHS, Voluntary Organisations, HMP/YOI, Overseas Centre and those not otherwise specified.