Quarterly Statistics Report

A report on accredited qualifications and related labour market intelligence

January to March 2011

Contents

Executive summary

This report provides an overview of qualification activity for SQA Accreditation approved awarding bodies for Quarter 4 2010 (January 2011–March 2011). The data is obtained directly from awarding bodies as part of their quarterly submission requirements and awarding bodies are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the data submitted.

Currently accredited qualifications

During the last quarter of 2010 there were 887 qualifications accredited by us. These are made up of 773 SVQs (87%), 35 Regulatory and Licensing qualifications (4%) and 79 'other' accredited qualifications (9%). The number of qualifications accredited has risen from 813 in Q4 2009, to 887 in Q4 2010 — a nine per cent increase. This increase has come from all qualification types.

- The number of SVQs accredited has increased by five per cent.
- The number of Regulatory and Licensing Qualifications has increased by six per cent.
- The number of 'other' qualifications accredited has increased by 75 per cent.

Analysis by qualification type

SQA Accreditation collects quarterly registration and certification data from all its approved awarding bodies. The following summarises this data for Q4 2010:

Scottish Vocational Qualifications — During the last quarter of 2010 (Jan–Mar), 11,866 SVQ registrations were received, across all levels. This is a decrease of 30 per cent compared to the same time last year. During the same period 8,361 SVQ certifications were submitted across all levels. This is an increase of 15 per cent compared to the same quarter last year. SVQ levels 2 and 3 had the highest number of registrations and certifications, reflecting the volume of qualifications at these levels compared to other levels.

Regulatory and Licencing Qualifications — During the last quarter of 2010, 4,154 Regulatory and Licencing registrations were submitted to SQA Accreditation. During the same period, 3,739 Regulatory and Licencing certifications were submitted to SQA Accreditation.

'Other' qualifications — During the last quarter of 2010, 4,007 'other' qualification registrations were submitted to SQA Accreditation. During the same period 3,446 'other' certifications were submitted.

NB SQA Accreditation does not yet have data to compare Regulatory and Licencing and 'Other' qualifications to the same period of 2009.

Analysis by awarding body

During Q4 2010 (Jan–Mar), the awarding body with the highest number of SVQ registrations overall was the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) with 8,298 registrations (70 per cent of all SVQ registrations). This awarding body also experienced the highest number of certifications overall with 7,083 certifications (85 per cent of all SVQ certifications). For Regulatory and Licencing qualifications the top registering and certificating qualification was offered by BIIAB with 1,681 registrations (40 per cent of all Regulatory and Licencing registrations) and 1,681 certifications (45 per cent of all Regulatory and Licencing

certifications). NEBOSH was the top registering and certificating awarding body for 'other' qualifications with 3,684 registrations (92 per cent of all 'other' registrations) and 3,205 certifications (93 per cent of all 'other' certifications).

Analysis by area of competence

Areas 007 Providing Goods and Services and 008 Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services demonstrate the highest level of registrations and certifications for all qualification types.

Introduction

This statistical report is published by SQA Accreditation — the national accrediting body for Scotland. We set and specify the requirements for accrediting qualifications in order to support the needs of learners and employers in Scotland. We do this by promoting and maintaining public confidence in accredited qualifications and approved awarding bodies.

The figures shown have been produced from data provided to SQA Accreditation by the respective awarding bodies. Data covers SQA accredited qualifications during the last quarter of 2010 (January to March) and focuses on those candidates who were:

♦ registered for an SQA accredited qualification
♦ certificated for an SQA accredited qualification

At the point of accreditation, all qualifications are allocated a **qualification type** and an **area of competence**, which are used to classify qualifications in this report. This report provides information on the number of registrations and certifications according to awarding body, area of competence, qualification type and level.

Data may be revised in subsequent reports due to late submission or if any errors are identified. Furthermore, we did not collect data before April 2010 for Regulatory and Licensing qualifications and all 'other' accredited qualifications, therefore some analysis will be omitted until a full data set is available for comparison.

For upcoming data submissions the following deadline dates apply and must be adhered to by all awarding bodies in order to ensure consistency and accuracy of data in future reports:

♦ 15 July 2011 for Q1 data (April to June 2011)
♦ 14 October 2011 for Q2 data (July to September 2011)
♦ 20 January 2012 for Q3 data (October to December 2011)
♦ 13 April 2012 for Q4 data (January to March 2012)

Quarterly statistics

SQA Accreditation has always accredited SVQs. In 2006, the remit was extended to accredit Regulatory and Licensing Qualifications and later, in 2009, this remit was further opened up to include the accreditation of all qualifications excluding degrees. This report covers all qualifications types that we accredit, categorised as:
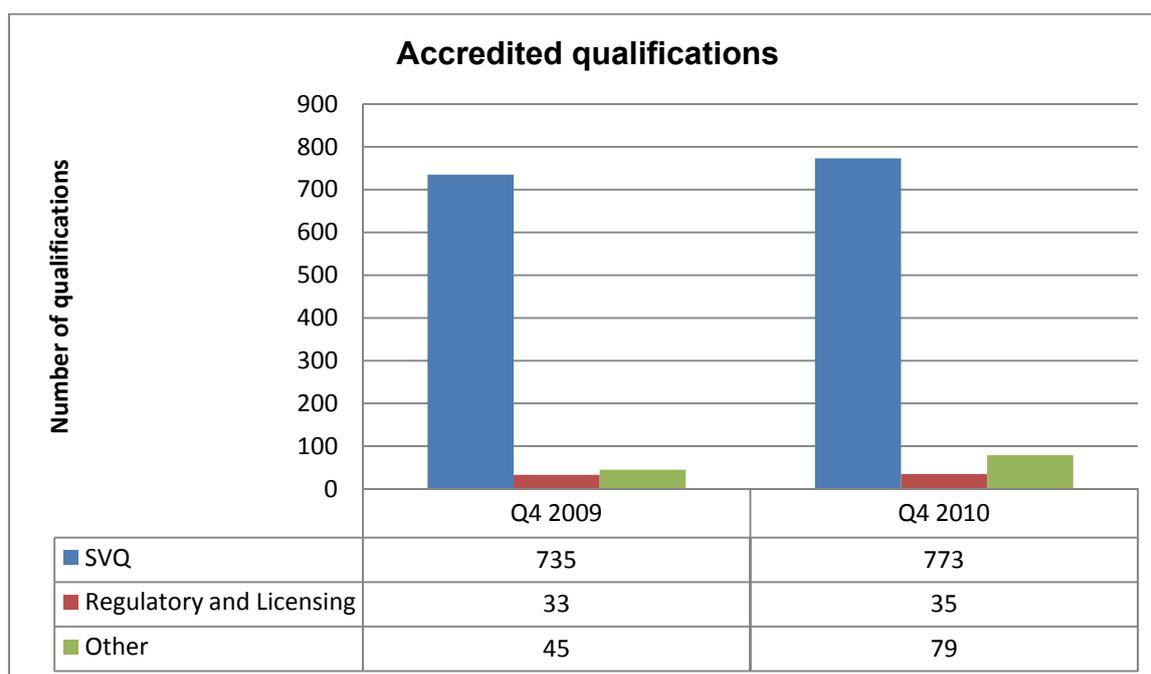
♦   Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs),
♦   Regulatory and Licensing Qualifications (R&L)
♦   'Other' accredited qualifications

The report presents an overview of accreditation activity for the Q4 of 2010 (January 2011 to March 2011). It also reports qualifications statistics based on the data submitted to us by awarding bodies. Awarding bodies have responsibility for ensuring the accuracy of the data submitted.

Currently accredited qualifications

During the last quarter of 2010 there were 887 qualifications accredited by us. These are made up of 773 SVQs (87%), 35 Regulatory and Licensing Qualifications (4%) and 79 'other' accredited qualifications (9%).

Figure 1: accredited qualifications

	Q4 2009	Q4 2010
SVQ	735	773
Regulatory and Licensing	33	35
Other	45	79

The number of qualifications accredited has risen from 813 in Q4 2009 to 887 in Q4 2010 (9%). This increase has come from all qualification types.

♦   The number of SVQs accredited has increased by five per cent.
♦   The number of Regulatory and Licensing Qualifications has increased by six per cent.
♦   The number of 'other' qualifications accredited has increased by 75 per cent.

The most substantial growth occurred in the 'other' qualifications market. The increase can be attributed to three potential factors:

- The majority of new 'other' qualifications are from awarding bodies who were approved by SQA Accreditation in the last year.
- Some four-nation awarding bodies have moved towards 'competence based qualifications' rather than SVQs because of the increased flexibility to align these qualifications with the QCF (SQA Accrediation, 2011).
- The increased awareness of SQA Accreditation's extended remit to accredit a wider range of qualifications.

The 'other' qualifications which are new for 2010 span all areas of competence; however, the areas with marginally more growth were:

- Area 007: Providing Goods and Services
- Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services
- Area 009: Providing Business Services
- Area 010: Communicating and Entertaining

Top 10 registrations and certifications

During the last quarter of 2010, the following 10 qualifications experienced the highest number of registrations across all qualification types:

Table 1: Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of registrations

Qualification title	Qualification type	No. of registrations
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	Other	2,588
Edexcel SVQ 2 in Retail Skills	SVQ	1,558
SQA SVQ 2 in Health and Social Care	SVQ	1,221
BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders	R&L	1,198
ITC Emergency First Aid at Work	R&L	1,021
SQA SVQ 3 in Health and Social Care (Adults)	SVQ	650
NEBOSH National Certificate in Construction Health and Safety	Other	487
City and Guilds Certificate for Scottish Personal Licence Holders (On Sales)	R&L	486
NEBOSH National Certificate in Fire Safety and Management	Other	444
SQA SVQ 3 in Children's Care Learning and Development	SVQ	443

During the last quarter of 2010, the following 10 qualifications experienced the highest number of certifications across all qualification types:

Table 2: Top 10 performing qualifications in terms of certifications

Qualification title	Qualification type	No. of certifications
NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety	Other	2,352
BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders	R&L	1,198
SQA SVQ 2 in Health and Social Care	SVQ	1,032
ITC Emergency First Aid at Work	R&L	872
SQA SVQ 3 in Health and Social Care (Adults)	SVQ	626
NEBOSH National Certificate in Construction Health and Safety	Other	486
City and Guilds Certificate for Scottish Personal Licence Holders (On Sales)	R&L	424
BIIAB Award in Door Supervision (Scotland)	R&L	421
SQA SVQ 3 in Driving Goods Vehicle	SVQ	389
SQA SVQ 3 in Children's Care Learning and Development	SVQ	356

Analysis by qualification type

SQA Accreditation has collected SVQ data from awarding bodies for several years and is able to present trends in this data. Since starting to collect similar data for R&L and 'Other' qualifications in April 2010 it is now possible to start providing some analysis across all qualification types without limiting statistics to SVQs. However, trends comparing the current quarter to the same time last year cannot currently be completed for R&L and 'Other' qualifications until the next quarter when SQA Accreditation will have completed a full one-year cycle of data collection for these qualifications.
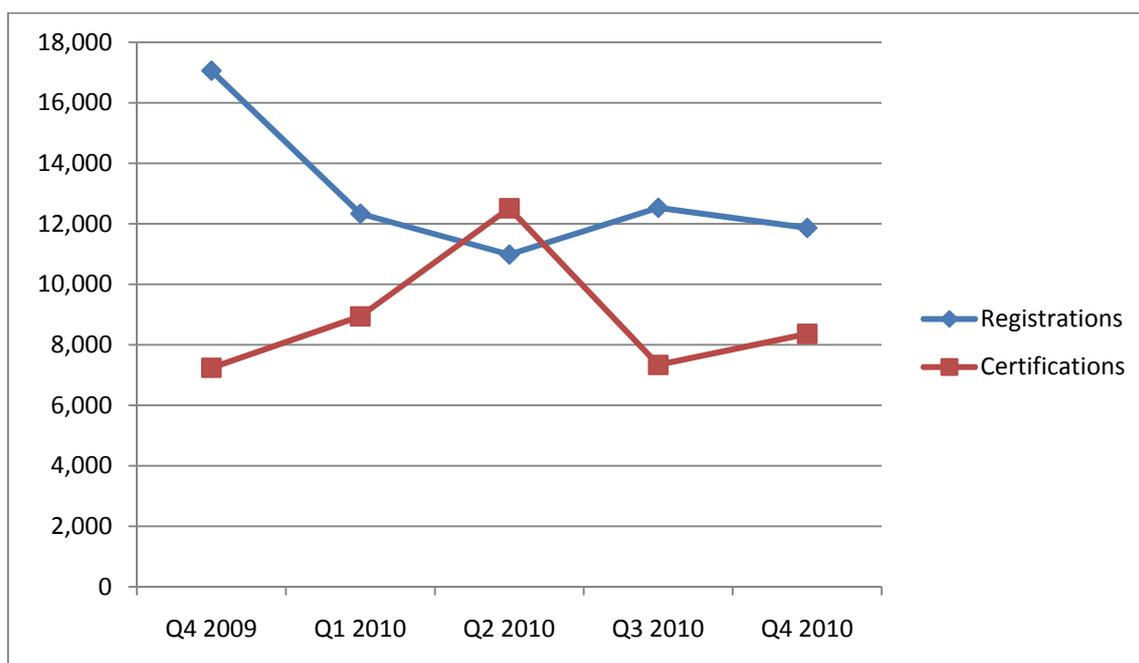
It is not considered appropriate to compare data to the previous quarter because some awarding bodies have specific registrations periods throughout the year. The data therefore resembles peaks and troughs and the comparison across two consecutive quarters would provide a skewed perspective.

Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQ)
During the last quarter of 2010, 11,866 SVQ registrations were received, across all levels. This is a decrease of 30 per cent compared to the same time last year. During the same period, 8,361 SVQ certifications were submitted across all levels. This is an increase of 15 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.

These registrations and certifications cover 430 different qualifications offered by 17 different awarding bodies. During this quarter, SVQs represented 87 per cent of all currently accredited qualifications, 59 per cent of all registrations and 54 per cent of all certifications.

Figure 2: SVQ registrations and certifications

A survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) demonstrates that work place skills were the first priority for business leaders in 2008 (Learn Direct, 2011), however over the recession the focus on skills has fallen to six in 14th Annual Global CEO Survey (PricewaterhouseCoppers, 2011). This may indicate the sharp drop in registrations over the last year as business managers have cut their training budget in light of the economic downturn. Employers indicated that they are placing "More emphasis is going on in-house development which is less costly, and actually many employers consider it to be more effective anyway." (Learn Direct, 2011)

The SVQ with the highest number of registrations this quarter was the Edexcel SVQ 2 in Retail Skills with 1,558 registrations. The SVQ with the highest number of certifications was the SQA SVQ 2 in Health and Social Care with 1,032 certifications.

Regulatory and Licensing Qualifications (R&L)

During the last quarter of 2010, 4,154 Regulatory and Licencing registrations were submitted to SQA Accreditation. During the same period 3,739 Regulatory and Licencing certifications were submitted to SQA Accreditation. These registrations and certifications cover 23 different qualifications offered by nine different awarding bodies.

During this quarter, the number of Regulatory and Licencing Qualifications represented four per cent of all currently accredited qualifications, 21 per cent of all registrations and 24 per cent of all certifications.

R&L qualifications have a relatively high registration to qualification ratio (4154:23) compared to SVQs (11866:450). This is related to the fact that three out of these 23 qualifications feature in the top ten qualifications in terms of registration figures. In particular it is largely attributable to BIIAB Scottish Certificate for Personal Licence Holders with 1,198 registrations (see Table 1) and 1,198 certifications (see Table 2).

All other accredited qualifications
During the last quarter of 2010, 4,007 'other' qualification registrations were submitted to SQA Accreditation. During the same period 3,446 'other' certifications were submitted. These registrations and certifications cover 21 different qualifications offered by five different awarding bodies. During this quarter, other qualifications represent nine per cent of all currently accredited qualifications, 20 per cent of all registrations and 22 per cent of all certifications.

As was the case with R&L qualifications, 'other' qualifications have a higher registration to qualification ratio than SVQs. This is linked to three of the top 10 qualifications being 'other' questions. The 'other' qualification with the highest number of registrations during this quarter was the NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety with 2,588 registrations. This qualification also experienced the highest number of 'other' certifications with 2,352.

Analysis by level: SVQ registrations and certifications by level[1]
The majority of SVQ registrations were at level 2, with 6,531 registrations representing 55 per cent of SVQ registrations during the last quarter of 2010 (Jan–Mar). The majority of SVQ certifications were at level 3, with 4,046 certifications representing 48 per cent of SVQ certifications during the last quarter of 2010 (Jan–Mar) (See Figures 3 and 4).

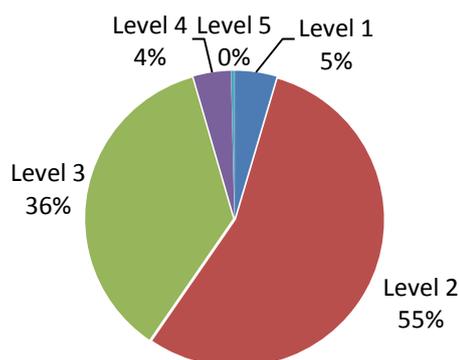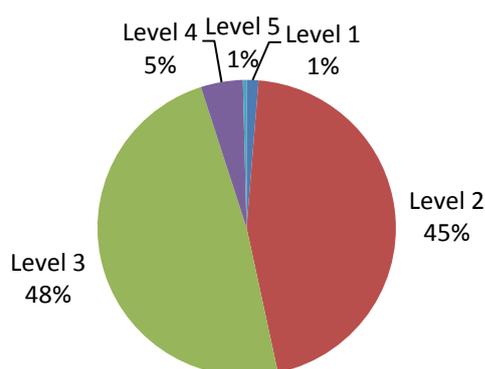**Figure 3: SVQ registrations by level**   **Figure 4: SVQ certifications by level**

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[1] This analysis is not applicable for R&L and 'Other' qualifications because they do not have levels.

It has been demonstrated that over the last decade there has been a polarisation of the European workforce whereby there is increased demand for highly skilled labour and also for 'elementary occupations', yet there has been sharp decline in intermediate jobs (CEDEFOP, 2011). In terms of decline, it is believed that intermediate jobs are those in the skilled manual and skilled non-manual occupations. To some extent this has been linked to the role of technologies in the workforce. Highly skilled labour is required to complement technological resources in the workplace, while elementary tasks are often non-routine and cannot be achieved by automated machinery. The occupations in the middle of the spectrum however have become increasingly streamlined by technology, requiring fewer employees. The increase in elementary workers is believed to be particularly prominent in the five largest European Countries (Germany, Spain, France, Italy and the UK), while the percentage of elementary workers in the other European countries remained steady. This aligns with findings that some sectors wish to upskill their workforce, eg Engineering (Warwick, The University of, 2010). The requirement for employees at both ends of the spectrum may drive the demand for qualification levels in future. Further investigation is required to predict the impact of qualification levels.

Level 2 and 3 qualifications show higher levels of registrations and certification because there are considerably more of these qualifications relative to other levels as shown below:

Level 1	47
Level 2	355
Level 3	312
Level 4	49
Level 5	9

This may be linked to the increased focus on Modern Apprenticeships (MA) for which these qualifications may form a considerable part. SQA Accreditation does not receive separate uptake figures for MAs to compare these with uptake for the same SVQ which is completed outwith an MA. However, in light of the fact that the Scottish Government marketed MAs as a flagship programme in the refreshed skills strategy (Scottish Government, 2010) it is a reasonable connection to make.

Analysis by awarding body

During Q4 2010, the awarding body with the highest number of SVQ registrations overall was the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) with 8,298 registrations (70 per cent of all SVQ registrations). This awarding body also experienced the highest number of certifications overall with 7,083 certifications (85 per cent of all SVQ certifications). For Regulatory and Licencing qualifications the top registering and certificating qualification was offered by BIIAB with 1,681 registrations (40 per cent of all Regulatory and Licencing registrations) and 1,681 certifications (45 per cent of all Regulatory and Licencing certifications). NEBOSH was the top registering and certificating awarding body for 'other' qualifications with 3,684 registrations (92 per cent of all 'other' registrations) and 3,205 certifications (93 per cent of all 'other' certifications).

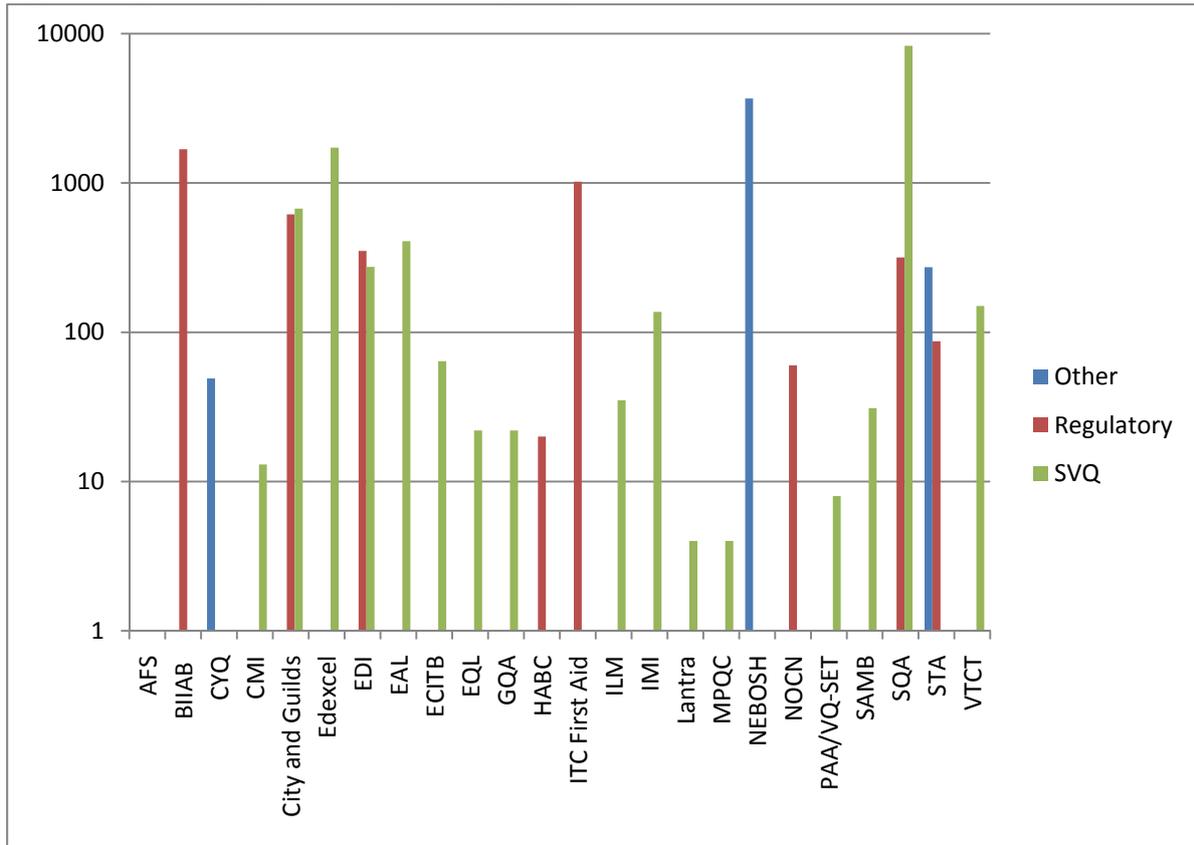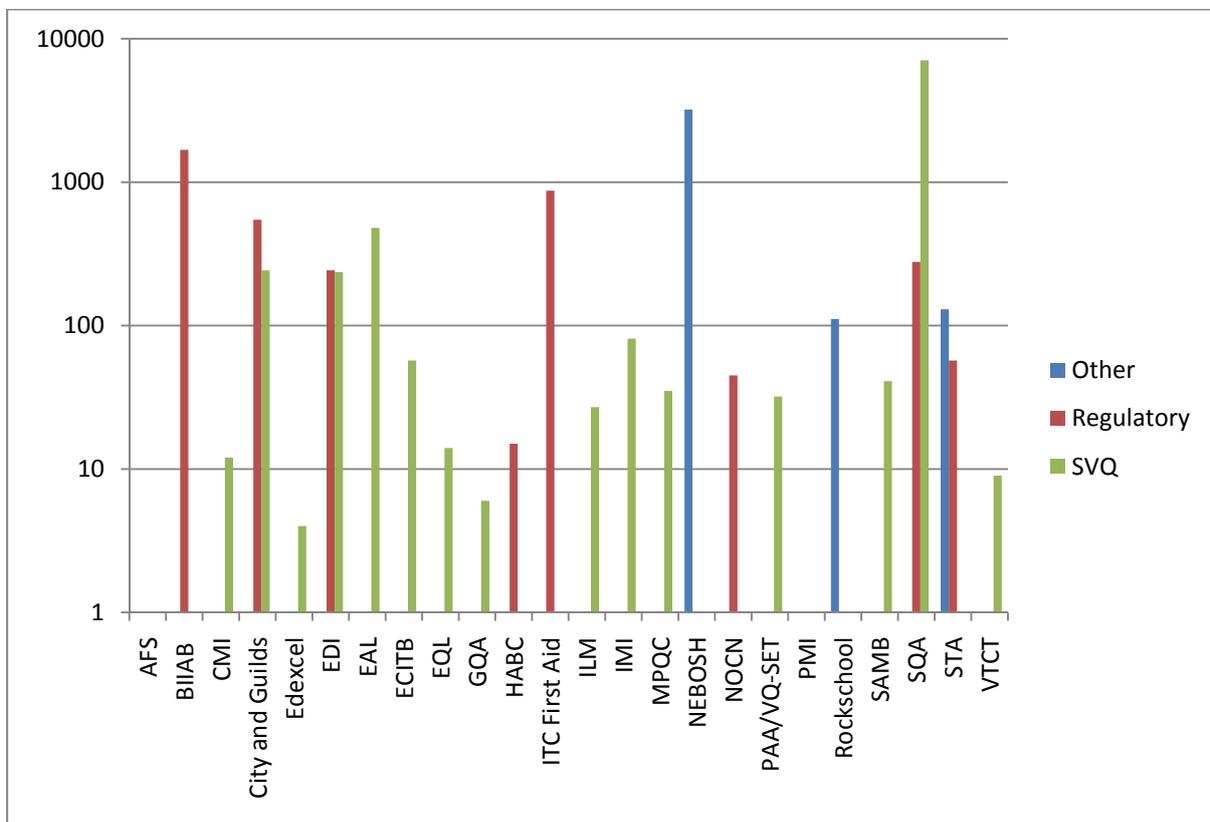**Figure 5: Types of registrations by awarding body**

Figure 6: Types of certifications by awarding body

Analysis by area of competence

SQA Accreditation developed 11 areas of competence and each qualification is assigned an area of competence at the time of accreditation as shown below.
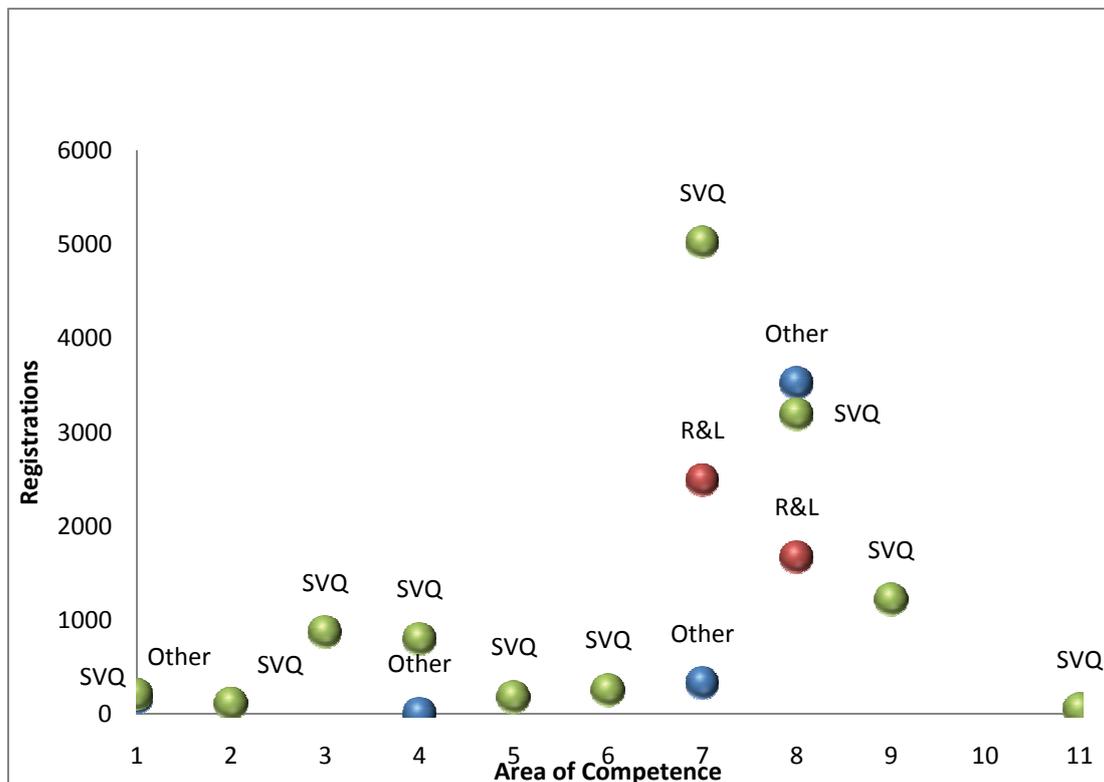
- ♦ 001 Tending Animals, Plants and Land
- ♦ 002 Extracting and Providing Natural Resources
- ♦ 003 Constructing
- ♦ 004 Engineering
- ♦ 005 Manufacturing
- ♦ 006 Transporting
- ♦ 007 Providing Goods and Services
- ♦ 008 Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services
- ♦ 009 Providing Business Services
- ♦ 010 Communicating and Entertaining
- ♦ 011 Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill

Each awarding body and sector skills council has a responsibility for verifying the allocation of these areas on a monthly basis when they are published at the following website: http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa//42336.html. These classifications are combined with registration and certification data submitted by awarding bodies to produce the statistics below.

Registrations by areas of competence

Registrations across areas of competence vary considerably. The following diagram provides an overview of the number of registrations for each area of competence further broken down by qualification type.

Figure 7: Registrations by area of competence and qualification type

The Scottish Employer Skills Survey 2010 suggests that the number of vacancies, 'hard-to-fill' vacancies and skills shortages have all fallen since 2008. Of the hard-to-fill vacancies that do exist, 52% of this are as a result of lack of skills, lack of qualifications or lack of experience. The industry with the highest skills shortage as a percentage of employees is Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry and Fishing (Area 001) and Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities (Area 009). SQA Accreditation data indicates that these areas remain under addressed for Q4 of 2010. Of the 20,027 registrations across all areas and all qualifications from January 2011 to March 2011 only 365 (1.8%) of these were for Area 001. Similarly registrations for Area 009 only made up six per cent of total registrations last quarter.

♦ The area of competence which experienced the highest number of SVQ registrations was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services with 5,022 registrations, representing 42 per cent of SVQs during the last quarter of 2010.

♦ The area of competence which experienced the highest number of Regulatory and Licencing registrations was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services with 2,488 registrations, representing 60 per cent of Regulatory and Licencing qualifications during the last quarter of 2010.
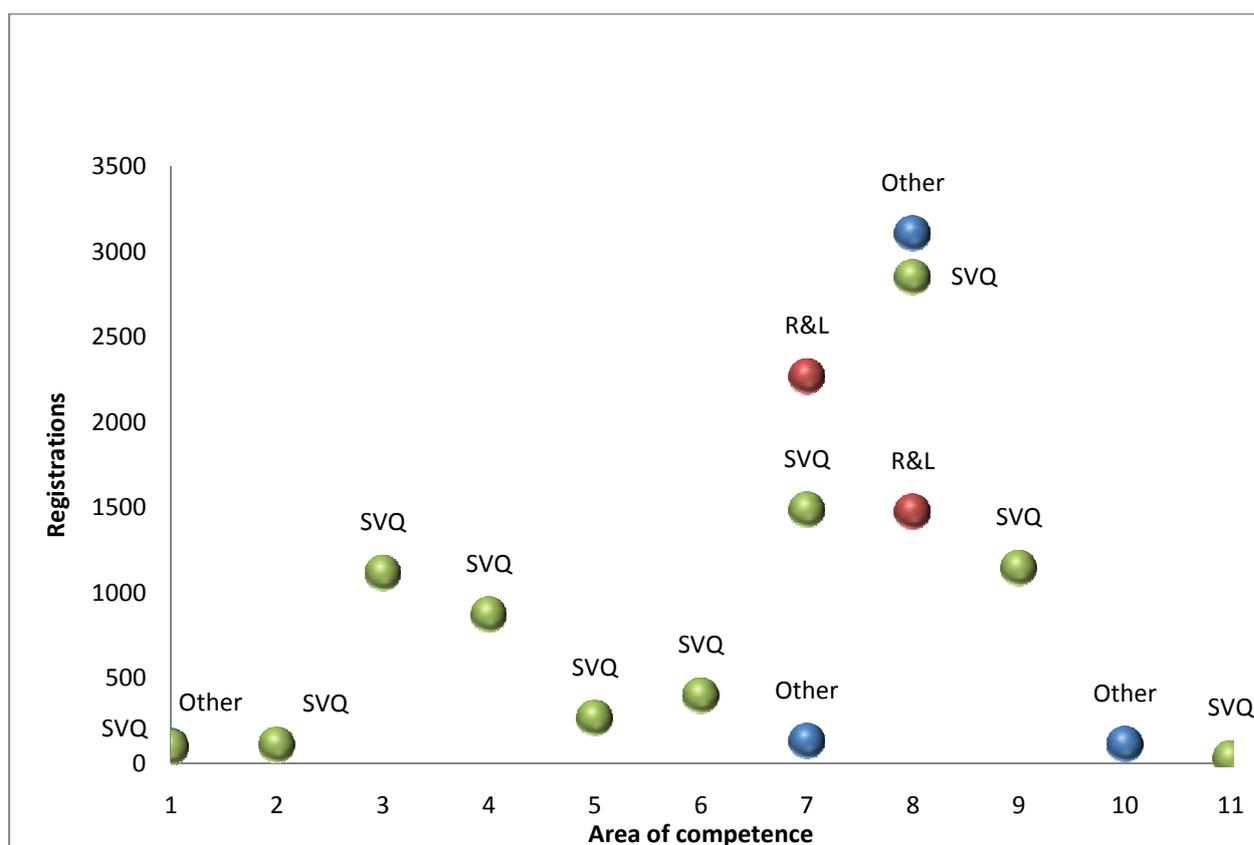
♦ The area of competence which experienced the highest number of 'other' registrations was Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services with 3,519 registrations, representing 88 per cent of 'other' qualifications during the last quarter of 2010.

Certifications by area of competence

Certifications by area of competence and qualification are considerably lower than registrations, yet the general trends are similar in the sense that the most certifications were for Areas 7 and 8, with fewer certifications in Areas 1, 2, 10 and 11.

♦ The area of competence which experienced the highest number of SVQ certifications was Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services with 2,849 certifications, representing 34 per cent of SVQs during this period. (See Figure 8).

♦ The area of competence which experienced the highest number of Regulatory and Licencing certifications was Area 007: Providing Goods and Services with 2,266 certifications, representing 61 per cent of Regulatory and Licencing qualifications during the same period. (See Figures 9 and 10).

♦ The area of competence which experienced the highest number of 'other' certifications was Area 008: Providing Health, Social Care and Protective Services with 3,105 certifications, representing 90 per cent of 'other' qualifications during the same period. (See Figures 11 and 12).

Figure 8: Certification by area of competence and qualification type

Reported need for skills

It is not within the remit of SQA Accreditation to conduct labour market analysis or produce labour market intelligence (LMI). However, there is a need to understand the LMI that is currently being produced and disseminated. This allows SQA Accreditation to better advise their stakeholders and make better informed decisions about qualification accreditation and approval. Thus, what is presented below is extracted from an external LMI and is not produced by SQA Accreditation.

Green sector

Establishing a 'greener' society is a global aim but a recent report suggests that the UK does not have the necessary skills or the appropriate training opportunities to develop those skills to sustain a green economy (Raingold, 2011). Raingold indicates that 'literacy skills in all sectors and businesses (such as project management and communication skills) will be vital skills for a green economy'.

The aim is not limited to ensuring a sustainable environment but it also provides an opportunity for business growth. It is considered vital to act quickly to ensure that the UK is able to obtain a share of this emerging world market which is likely to be profitable.

Sectors which have been targeted for the UK to position themselves as market leaders in creating a greener economy are:

♦ automotive
♦ aerospace
♦ construction

In particular, the UK is considered to have the second largest aerospace industry; therefore this provides a key market for developing greener processes through striving for fewer carbon emissions. The same is true for the automotive industry; however, the competition with countries like the USA is great in this area, requiring additional effort to ensure a competitive edge. Construction is linked to agenda presented in the refreshed skills strategy and is a key concern for government.

An area which has been flagged as central to the development of a green economy, but for which the UK falls behind market leaders, is Information and Communication Technologies. Developing 'smart' technologies will be a major factor to developing green economies.

'Soft' and core skills
Employers also felt that skills shortages often related to a lack of 'soft skills' and 'core skills'. The examples frequently given were planning and organising skills or customer handling skills. This data corresponds with data from the Food and Drink Manufacturing Sector (The University of Warwick, 2010).

Apprenticeships
Findings from the Scottish Employer Skills Survey (SESS) 2010 indicate that more organisations had decreased rather than increased their number of new apprentices and trainees (Scottish Government, 2011). This contrasts with the Scottish Government's new agenda to promote Modern Apprenticeships as a flagship programme. However, it should be noted that this study was completed between the periods of May 2010 and August 2010, just prior to the publication of the refreshed skills strategy and therefore it may be reasonable to predict an increase in apprenticeships in the 2011 SESS.

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Glossary

Term	Description
Area of competence	There are 11 occupational areas of competence. These range from Tending Animals, Plants and Land, to Engineering to Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill. All SVQs are organised by the area of competence to which they belong.
Certifications	The process by which a centre requests an SVQ certificate for a candidate who has completed the full SVQ.
Other accredited qualification	All other accredited qualifications which are not SVQs or regulatory and licensing qualifications.
Registrations	The process by which a centre informs an awarding body that a candidate has commenced working towards an SVQ.
Regulatory and Licensing Qualification	Qualifications which are defined or required by Industry Regulators, such as the Security Industry Authority, and often underpin licence to practice schemes.
Scottish Vocational Qualification	Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) are qualifications which combine skills, knowledge and ability within a specific occupational area and are delivered in a workplace setting. The standards for SVQs are designed by the appropriate sector skills council (SSC).