



Attainment Statistics (August) by Education Authority Skills for Work and Other Methodology

This document forms part of the SQA methodology document releases designed to supplement and support our Official Statistics publications.

Source Data and Definitions

Attainment in this publication is defined by:

- **Skills for Work**
The recorded statistical qualification results as extracted annually in July as part of the SQA statistical data pertaining to certification entries and awards.
- **Awards, National Progressions Awards and National Certificates**
The recorded statistical qualification results as extracted on a monthly basis as part of the SQA statistical data pertaining to certificated entries between 1st August YYYY and 30th June YYYY+1 (e.g. 1st August 2020 to 30th June 2021).

Education Authority reference data pertaining to the current status of each centre is used to supplement the attainment data by taking a statistical extract of the *live SQA reference data* annually in July each year. At the point the **education authority reference (statistical) data** is taken it will agree with the *live SQA reference data* held at that particular time point.

Methodology

The development work required to undertake this reporting was undertaken in-house.

The *attainment* data is supplemented (through a merge operation) with the additional *education authority reference data*.

Attainment allocated to a centre of centre_type (3 or 5) correspond to 'Education Authority' centres. Any *Attainment* allocated to an 'Education Authority' centre was assigned to the specific education authority as indicated by the *education authority reference data*.

For each level, total attainment is calculated for each qualification type contained in the report: Skills for Work, Awards, National Progressions Awards and National Certificates.

For ungraded qualifications (Skills for Work, Awards, National Progressions Awards and National Certificates) attainment is reported as the number of candidates attaining the qualification.

Full details of the format and content can be found within the 'Tables Format and Content' tab of the publication.

Publication History

'*Attainment Statistics (August) by Education Authority Skills for Work and Other*' was published for the first time in September 2021. A similar publication, '*Attainment Statistics (December) by Education Authority Skills for Work and Other*', is published on an annual basis in April using December data, after the conclusion of the Post Result Services (PRS) procedure.

The December publication included three additional EA categories (Independent, FE College and Other) that are published separately ('*Attainment Statistics (August) [Centre Type]*') in September and as a result have been removed from the '*Attainment Statistics (August) by Education Authority Skills for Work and Other*' publication. The separate publications are able to provide an additional level of detail for the Skills for Work and Other qualifications that would not be feasible in this publication.

Processing Notes/Exceptions

From 2016, Skills for Work and Personal Development courses are reported separately. Personal Development Courses fall within the SQA 'Award' qualifications, previously being part of SQA National Qualification provision.

Information Governance Notes

All of the data in this publication is defined as being 'statistical' for the purposes of information governance and data protection purposes. This primarily means that the associated processing is not carried out for the purposes of measures or decisions with respect to a particular data subject. Please see the appropriate legislation linked at the end of this document for details of this processing category.

Statistical disclosure control

No statistical disclosure control is applied to these published tables as data is provided at an aggregated national level.

Quality Assurance

Quality assurance procedures include the checking of published figures using different statistical programs by individual members of the statistical team.

References

Data Protection Act 2018, Processing for archiving, research and statistical purposes (Section 19) <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/section/19/enacted>