



Leading learning and skills

First Release

Publish date
10 April 2008

Reference
ILR/SFR15

Coverage
England

Theme
Education and Training

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Publication reference number
LSC-P-NAT-080048

Thursday 10 April 2008
Ref: ILR/SFR15

Embargoed until 9:30am Thursday 10 April 2008

FURTHER EDUCATION, WORK BASED LEARNING, TRAIN TO GAIN AND ADULT SAFEGUARDED LEARNING - LEARNER NUMBERS IN ENGLAND: OCTOBER 2007

INTRODUCTION

1. This Statistical First Release (SFR) presents early year estimates of the number of learners in post-16 education and training in England funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who were in learning in October 2007.
2. Early year estimates give some measure of participation at a particular point in time, but are not directly comparable with the full year figures published each December. We have, therefore, compared volumes at the same point in time in previous academic years.
3. The content of the SFR is similar to that of previous SFRs on learner numbers, with two exceptions: learners engaged in learndirect activity have been included in the FE data; and Tables 1 and 2 additionally include Train to Gain (TtG) learners.
4. Equality and Diversity dimensions of this data are available from the LSC Website at; www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/sfr/
5. The source data for this SFR is the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) 2006/07 and 2007/08.
6. This publication was delayed from its original release date of 18 March 2008 on the advice of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills Senior Statistician.

KEY POINTS

Overall

1. Table 1 shows numbers of learners on full level 2 programmes have increased by 24.2% to 598,200. Of these, 363,500 are adult learners, an increase of 45.1% between 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2007.
2. Numbers of learners on full level 3 programmes has increased by 7.4% to 560,900.
3. Young people aged under 19 participating on Skills for Life programmes have decreased by 16.9%.
4. There were 2.46 million LSC-funded learners on 1 October 2007 in Further Education (FE), Work Based Learning (WBL), Train to Gain (TtG) and Adult Safeguarded Learning (ASL), a decrease of 2.4% on the 1 October 2006 figure.
5. The number of learners aged under 19 has increased by 2.5% to 852,400.

Further Education

6. Table 1 shows that in areas of priority provision, full level 2, full level 3 and Skills for Life;
 - the number of learners on full level 2 programmes – 5 GCSEs, an NVQ level 2 or the equivalent – increased by 4.1%,
 - the number of learners on full level 3 programmes increased by 5.6%
 - the numbers of learners under 19 on programmes contributing to the Skills for Life target decreased by 18.5%.
7. The number of learners aged under 19 increased by 3.3% between 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2007 from 684,000 to 706,000. The number of adults (aged 19 and over) decreased by 12.7% to 1.04 million, however, adult full level 2 and full level 3 programmes have increased by 3.8% and 2.8% respectively.
8. There were 1.75 million learners in LSC-funded FE on 1 October 2007. This is a decrease of 6.9% on the 2006 figure.

Apprenticeships

9. Table 4 shows that a total of 83,200 Apprenticeship starts between August and October 2007, with an additional 600 learners starting NVQ programmes delivered through work based learning. This is a very slight fall (0.1%) in the volume of Apprenticeship starts between 2006/07 and 2007/08.
10. The number of Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3) starts is 27,100, an increase of 1.0% from 2006/07. The number of level 2 Apprenticeship starts is 56,100, a decrease of 0.6% from 2006/07.
11. Apprenticeship starts for adults have increased by 3.4% to 29,600 from 2006/07. Apprenticeship starts for 16 to 18 year olds have decreased by 2.0% from 2006/07.

Entry to Employment

12. As seen in Table 4, 17,100 young people started Entry to Employment programmes in the first quarter of 2007/08. This is a 9.2% increase on the same time last year.

Train to Gain

13. TtG was launched in April 2006 and a full rollout commenced from August 1 2006.
14. Table 1 shows that in October 2006 43,400 people were participating in TtG, this has risen to 168,000 in October 2007, an increase of 287%
15. Learners on full level 2 programmes account for 88% of TtG participants

Adult Safeguarded Learning

16. Table 2 shows that a total of 259,600 learners were enrolled on ASL programmes on 1 October 2007. This is a decrease of 17.5% from 1 October 2006.

TABLES

Further Education, Work Based Learning and Adult Safeguarded Learning

The tables are based on ILR data for 2006/07 and 2007/08

Table 1: LSC-funded learners on key programmes on 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2007 by age band

Table 2: LSC-funded learners on 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2007 by age group and highest qualification level

Table 3: Learners enrolled on LSC-funded FE provision on 1 November from 1996 to 2002 and on 1 October 2002 to 2007 by age, mode of attendance and gender

Table 4: Starts on LSC-funded WBL provision from October 2003 to October 2007 by programme

SUPPORTING DATA

17. Pivot tables allowing analysis of this SFR data by ethnicity, disability, age and gender and analysis by sector subject area are available on the LSC website at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/sfr/

FUTURE STATISTICAL FIRST RELEASES

18. The LSC publishes three SFR's each year:
- Early in-year information on learner numbers, derived from the ILR return relating to learners enrolled in October, published in March.
 - Whole-year information on learner numbers, derived from the ILR return relating to the end of the relevant academic year, published in December.
 - Outcomes, derived from the ILR return relating to 1 November following the end of the relevant academic year for FE and most recently available data for WBL, published in April.
19. The results of a review of the publication of SFR's are expected in early 2008. It is possible that in the future the number and timings of SFR's may change. Statistical First Releases are available on the LSC website at:

www.lsc.gov.uk/Providers/Data/Statistics/sfr/

NATIONAL STATISTICS

20. This Statistical First Release is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.
21. For general enquires about National Statistics contact: The National Statistics Public Enquiry Service on 0207 7533 588, minicom: 01633 812399, E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk, Fax: 01633 652747, Letters: Room DG/18, 1 Drummond Gate, London, SW1V 2QQ. You can also find National Statistics on the internet: www.statistics.gov.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. This SFR contains statistics on Further Education, Train to Gain, Work Based Learning and Adult Safeguarded Learning (formerly reported as Adult and Community Learning). The LSC took over responsibility for funding FE, WBL and ACL on 1 April 2001. Train to Gain was launched on 1 April 2006.
2. Further Education provision takes place primarily in colleges of further education (including sixth form colleges) and in a range of other organisations, known as 'external institutions'.
3. Train to Gain is a national service to support employers of all sizes and in all sectors to improve the skills of their employees as a route to improving their business performance. It is a commitment to jointly invest in training, by employers and government. The programme delivers for employers:
 - advice in identifying needs at all skills levels
 - help to identify and source training and qualifications
 - support to create an investment package which may include government funding for priority training
 - follow up advice and support
 - advice on wider business needs.
4. Work Based Learning for young people is a major programme of government-supported training, comprising Advanced Apprenticeships, Apprenticeships at level 2, NVQ Learning and Entry to Employment (E2E).
5. Adult Safeguarded Learning providers deliver activity formerly designated 'non schedule 2' and includes a diverse range of community-based and outreach learning opportunities, primarily taking place through local education authorities. These providers are now funded through either the FE or Adult Safeguarded Learning budget and have formerly been reported as ACL.

Source of Data

6. The source for the data for 2006/07 and 2007/08 in this SFR is the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). For the small number of institutions for which 2007/08 data was not available, data for 2006/07 has been used instead.

Classification of Data

7. Table 1 shows the numbers of learners participating in some of the LSC's priority areas. These learners could contribute to the Government's PSA targets for young people and adults. The table shows learners enrolled on:
 - full level 2 learning aims – 5 GCSEs, an NVQ level 2 or the equivalent
 - full level 3 learning aims – 2 A levels, an NVQ level 3 or equivalent; and
 - Skills for Life programmes.

Further Education

8. learndirect provision is included with the data for FE in this SFR.
9. Higher Education Institutions that deliver FE provision do not return an ILR to the LSC and as a consequence, this provision is not included in the FE data.
10. Where a learner is enrolled on more than one learning aim, the level assigned to a learner in Table 2 corresponds to the highest-level qualification being undertaken
11. The figures in Table 3 for 2002/03 onwards are on a different basis from those for earlier years, so are not directly consistent with the figures for years up to 2001/02. The figures for 2002/03 onwards are more comprehensive, as they include some institutions (such as specialist designated institutions) previously excluded from statistical publications, and also take account of changes to funding arrangements made by the LSC since taking over responsibility for FE funding. Figures are included on both the old and new basis for 2002/03 for comparative purposes.
12. FE students classified for statistical purposes as full-time are defined as those enrolled on programmes of at least 450 guided learning hours per year, or for at least 150 guided learning hours per tri-annual period or more than 16 guided learning hours per week for shorter courses.
13. Full-time students who enrol on a programme of at least 450 guided learning hours per year are classified as full-time full-year. This includes those students who withdraw from the programme during the year and actually attend for less than 450 guided learning hours. Also counted as full-time full-year are students who enrol on programmes of less than 450 guided learning hours but stay longer than expected and actually attend for more than 450 guided learning hours. Full-time students who are not classified as full-time full-year are classified as other full-time. All other students are classified as part-time.

Train to Gain

14. Train to Gain provision was reported in the ILR for the first time in 2006/07. Data for the 2005/06 year was reported in a separate database established for the Employer Trainee Pilot programme.

Work Based Learning

15. Tables 1 and 2 use a measure of learning activity as at October each year to provide comparison with other programmes. As highlighted in the Apprenticeship Review, Table 4 uses the number of learners starting programmes as the key indicator of Apprenticeship performance.

Adult Safeguarded Learning

16. 2007/08 is the fifth year in which individual learner data for former ACL providers has been collected by the LSC in the ILR. Previously, aggregate data was collected by DfES through the AE1 form, and published by DfES in the statistical first release series "Adult Education

Enrolments in England". Available from the DfES website:
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/index.shtml>

Data for 2003/04 and earlier years are not comparable to data from 2004/05 onwards due to these changes in the data collection systems.

17. The numbers in this SFR for 2006/07 will not match those in earlier documents and publications. In particular, learners participating in the Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) programme form part of ASL, but these learners are not included in the ASL data where the data for their programme is not collected through the ILR. In 2006/07 data for just under 16,800 learners on NLDC programmes was not collected through the ILR.

General Notes

18. Learner numbers on Skills for Life programmes refer to only those that count towards the PSA target.
19. In the tables, numbers may not add up exactly to totals because of differential rounding. FE numbers are shown in thousands and the symbol '-' represents fewer than 50 learners. WBL numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Table 1.

LSC-funded learners (in 000's) on key programmes on 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2007 by age band

Age	Type of programme	2006			2007			% change 2006 to 2007
		Total ¹	of which FE	of which TTG	Total ¹	of which FE	of which TTG	
Under 19	Total learners	831.2	684.1	-	852.4	706.4	-	2.5%
	...of which							
	Skills for Life ³	399.8	300.4	-	332.1	244.9	-	-16.9%
	Full level 2	231.1	141.6	-	234.7	147.8	-	1.5%
	Full level 3	319.7	288.6	-	339.0	308.5	-	6.0%
19 plus	Total learners	1,685.5	1,193.2	43.4	1,603.8	1,041.9	168.0	-4.8%
	...of which							
	Skills for Life ³	260.9	158.4	3.6	262.9	156.6	10.9	0.8%
	Full level 2	250.6	147.9	38.9	363.5	153.5	147.9	45.1%
	Full level 3	202.4	129.9	1.7	222.0	133.6	16.8	9.7%
All ages	Total learners	2,516.7	1,877.3	43.4	2,456.3	1,748.4	168.0	-2.4%
	...of which							
	Skills for Life ³	660.7	458.8	3.6	595.1	401.6	10.9	-9.9%
	Full level 2	481.7	289.5	38.9	598.2	301.3	147.9	24.2%
	Full level 3	522.2	418.6	1.7	560.9	442.0	16.8	7.4%

Notes:

1. Includes FE (including learndirect), Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Entry to Employment and Adult Safeguarded Learning
2. Some learners will be in more than one sub-category
3. Skills for Life: Learners participating on Skills for Life programmes that count towards the PSA target.

Table 2.
LSC-funded learners (in 000's) on 1 October 2006 and 1 October 2007
by age group and highest qualification level

Age	Qualification Level	2006			2007			% change 2006 to 2007
		Total ¹	of which FE	of which ASL	Total ¹	of which FE	of which ASL	
Under 19	Level 1 and entry	117.7	95.9	0.3	130.2	105.7	0.1	10.6%
	Level 2	269.6	179.5	0.1	261.1	173.7	0.1	-3.2%
	Level 3	438.0	406.4	0.0	455.4	424.7	0.0	4.0%
	Level 4, 5 and HE	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.7	0.6	0.0	-21.0%
	Level not specified	5.0	1.5	3.5	5.0	1.7	3.3	0.4%
	All levels	831.2	684.1	3.8	852.4	706.4	3.5	2.5%
19 plus	Level 1 and entry	441.7	420.8	18.8	389.0	373.5	12.4	-11.9%
	Level 2	519.4	411.9	3.1	563.9	350.2	1.9	8.6%
	Level 3	355.4	281.5	0.5	345.7	256.0	0.3	-2.7%
	Level 4, 5 and HE	45.9	44.4	0.0	34.2	32.7	0.0	-25.6%
	Level not specified	323.1	34.6	288.4	271.2	29.5	241.5	-16.1%
	All levels	1,685.6	1,193.2	310.8	1,603.9	1,041.9	256.1	-4.8%
All Ages	2,516.8	1,877.3	314.6	2,456.2	1,748.4	259.6	-2.4%	

Notes:

1. Includes FE (including learndirect), Apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Entry to Employment and Adult Safeguarded Learning

Table 3.

Learners (in 000's) enrolled on LSC-funded FE provision on 1 November from 1996 to 2002 and on 1 October 2002 to 2007 by age, mode of attendance and gender

			1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	% change 2006 to 2007
Original basis ¹	age	under 19	597.7	579.4	569.6	574.2	565.4	574.1	588.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
		19-59	1,513.8	1,470.4	1,466.8	1,464.3	1,432.8	1,457.4	1,457.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
		60 and over	78.3	81.1	85.9	100.7	126.1	157.6	177.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Age unknown	38.3	27.7	21.3	18.3	18.5	13.5	8.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	by mode of attendance	Full-time full-year	682.4	659.4	642.8	649.2	630.1	623.1	658.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Other full-time	32.7	34.1	32.5	34.5	38.4	43.1	42.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Part-time	1,513.0	1,465.2	1,468.3	1,473.8	1,474.4	1,536.5	1,530.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	by sex	Female	1,299.6	1,260.0	1,260.5	1,284.6	1,286.4	1,334.1	1,351.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Male	928.5	898.7	883.3	872.9	856.5	868.5	879.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total			2,228.1	2,158.6	2,143.8	2,157.5	2,142.9	2,202.6	2,231.5	-	-	-	-	-
New basis ²	age	under 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	604.0	615.0	635.2	657.1	684.1	706.4	3.3%
		19-59	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,499.7	1,465.6	1,456.2	1,305.1	1,091.0	962.0	-11.8%
		60 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	201.1	202.1	193.0	146.1	98.5	76.0	-22.9%
		Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.3	8.2	6.1	3.9	3.7	4.0	6.4%
	by mode of attendance	Full-time full-year	-	-	-	-	-	-	675.4	686.6	710.1	731.7	765.8	792.8	3.5%
		Other full-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	42.3	40.8	37.9	34.7	32.6	27.8	-14.8%
		Part-time	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,596.5	1,563.7	1,542.5	1,346.0	1,078.9	927.8	-14.0%
	by sex	Female	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,406.5	1,404.3	1,409.1	1,281.8	1,113.5	1,023.4	-8.1%
		Male	-	-	-	-	-	-	907.7	886.6	881.5	830.5	763.8	725.0	-5.1%
	Total			-	-	-	-	-	2,314.2	2,290.9	2,290.6	2,112.3	1,877.3	1,748.4	-6.9%

Notes:

1. Figures for 1996 to 2002 are based on a first census date of 1 November and exclude learners in specialist designated institutions
2. Figures for 2002 to 2007 are based on a first census date of 1 October and include learners in specialist designated institutions
3. FE numbers include learndirect provision

Table 4.
Starts (in 000's) on LSC-funded WBL provision at the end of each quarter from October 2003 to October 2007
by programme

Year		Advanced Apprenticeship ¹			Apprenticeship at level 2			Apprenticeship Total			NVQ Learning	Entry to Employment ²	WBL Total
		16-18	19+	Total	16-18	19+	Total	16-18	19+	Total			
2003/04	1 Aug 2003 - 31 Oct 2003	14.7	11.3	26.0	37.9	16.4	54.4	52.6	27.8	80.4	9.8	22.3	112.5
	1 Nov 2003 - 31 Jan 2004	4.4	6.7	11.1	15.2	11.4	26.6	19.6	18.1	37.6	5.9	12.5	56.1
	1 Feb 2004 - 30 Apr 2004	2.8	7.3	10.1	14.1	13.7	27.8	16.9	21.1	37.9	6.0	12.4	56.3
	1 May 2004 - 31 Jul 2004	3.4	6.4	9.7	15.8	12.1	27.9	19.2	18.4	37.6	5.0	13.9	56.6
	Total	25.2	31.7	57.0	83.0	53.6	136.6	108.3	85.3	193.6	26.8	61.1	281.5
2004/05	1 Aug 2004 - 31 Oct 2004	14.4	10.2	24.6	41.5	15.5	56.9	55.9	25.7	81.5	4.9	15.7	102.1
	1 Nov 2004 - 31 Jan 2005	3.8	6.2	10.0	15.5	10.2	25.7	19.3	16.4	35.7	2.0	11.9	49.6
	1 Feb 2005 - 30 Apr 2005	2.6	5.8	8.4	11.6	10.0	21.7	14.2	15.8	30.0	1.2	10.2	41.5
	1 May 2005 - 31 Jul 2005	5.1	5.8	10.9	19.0	11.8	30.8	24.1	17.6	41.8	0.8	14.1	56.6
	Total	25.9	28.0	53.9	87.6	47.5	135.1	113.5	75.5	189.0	8.9	51.9	249.8
2005/06	1 Aug 2005 - 31 Oct 2005	13.1	10.9	23.9	38.5	15.7	54.2	51.5	26.6	78.2	1.3	18.0	97.4
	1 Nov 2005 - 31 Jan 2006	4.2	6.9	11.1	15.3	9.8	25.0	19.5	16.6	36.1	0.4	11.4	47.9
	1 Feb 2006 - 30 Apr 2006	3.3	5.1	8.4	13.9	8.6	22.5	17.3	13.7	30.9	0.4	11.0	42.3
	1 May 2006 - 31 Jul 2006	4.3	4.3	8.6	14.4	6.7	21.1	18.7	11.0	29.7	0.3	10.4	40.4
	Total	24.9	27.2	52.1	82.1	40.8	122.8	107.0	67.9	175.0	2.4	50.8	228.0
2006/07	1 Aug 2006 - 31 Oct 2006	14.4	12.4	26.8	40.3	16.3	56.5	54.6	28.7	83.3	0.7	15.7	99.8
	1 Nov 2006 - 31 Jan 2007	4.1	6.5	10.6	14.5	9.5	24.0	18.6	16.0	34.6	0.1	10.7	45.4
	1 Feb 2007 - 30 Apr 2007	2.7	6.3	9.0	11.5	10.2	21.8	14.3	16.5	30.8	0.2	10.7	41.7
	1 May 2007 - 31 Jul 2007	3.6	6.9	10.5	14.5	10.7	25.2	18.1	17.6	35.7	0.1	13.3	49.1
	Total	24.8	32.1	56.9	80.8	46.6	127.4	105.6	78.8	184.3	1.1	50.4	157.1
2007/08	1 Aug 2007 - 31 Oct 2007	14.4	12.6	27.1	39.1	17.0	56.1	53.6	29.6	83.2	0.6	17.1	100.9
	1 Nov 2007 - 31 Jan 2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1 Feb 2008 - 30 Apr 2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1 May 2008 - 31 Jul 2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	14.4	12.6	27.1	39.1	17.0	56.1	53.6	29.6	83.2	0.6	17.1	100.9

Notes:

1. Includes Higher Apprenticeships for 2006/07

2. Entry to Employment was previously referred to as Life Skills and includes Work Based Learning Below Level 2