

Statistics of Education:

Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 1999/00



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VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS IN THE UK: 1999/00

Introduction

1 This bulletin presents information on awards of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs), General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs), General Scottish Vocational Qualifications (GSVQs) and non-accredited full vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs). All information on awards of NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs, and Other VQs made by UK awarding bodies has been taken from the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ) held by DfEE.

2 In addition it also presents information on the numbers and characteristics of people holding and studying towards NVQs/SVQs, plus a comparison of vocational and academic awards in England by age group. This bulletin updates the information in DfEE Statistical Bulletin Issue No 05/00, June 2000.

3 As in previous years NISVQ received detailed information on awards of NVQs/SVQs and GNVQs/GSVQs made by four of the largest UK awarding bodies: City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). However, in 1999/00 the SQA were unable to provide detailed information on their Other VQ awards to NISVQ in time for the publication of this bulletin. Therefore, all analyses of 1999/00 Other VQ awards in this bulletin only relates to awards made by City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR.

4 Since 1997/98 NISVQ has also received detailed information on NVQs awarded by: Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT); Council for Award's in Children's Care & Education (CACHE); Construction Industry Training Board (CITB); EMTA Awards Limited (EMTAAL); Fibreboard Awarding Body (FAB); London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board (LCCI); NCC Education Services Ltd (NCC); National Examining Board for Supervision and Management (NEBSM), Intellect (formerly TVSC). In 1998/99 two additional awarding bodies also participated in the NISVQ project by submitting detailed NVQ award information to DfEE, these were: The Institute of Management (IM) and The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI). (The data collected from all awarding bodies involved with NISVQ covered full awards made at centres in the United Kingdom plus a small number of overseas centres).

5 NVQ/SVQ estimates in this bulletin are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs. In 1999/00 NISVQ collected detailed information on almost 90 per cent of all NVQs. Information on GNVQs/GSVQs is complete, because all the relevant awarding bodies are

included. SQA also provides complete information on SVQs. (see sources section in the technical notes for more detail on the crossing of NVQs on NISVQ).

6 The Autumn Labour Force Survey (LFS) provides estimates of the numbers of people holding/studying towards NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs and other VQs, the 'Database assembled for the publication of secondary school and college Performance Tables' gives the number of people achieving GCE A levels and GCSEs in England, and the GNVQ student database gives the number of registrations on GNVQs in England. LFS analyses based on the numbers of people holding an NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year they were gained. Additional information on employers' awareness and involvement in vocational qualifications is provided by the Learning and Training at Work Survey 2000¹.

Summary

7 Since their introduction in 1987, just under 3.2 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded up to the end of September 2000. The majority of these were at level 2 (59 per cent), with about 19 per cent at level 1 and 22 per cent at level 3 or above.

8 There was a 3 per cent increase in the number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1999/00 when compared with the previous year: 442 thousand in 1998/99 and 454 thousand in 1999/00.

9 The number of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1999/00 has continued to increase although the growth rate is beginning to decline: 117 thousand GNVQs/GSVQs were awarded in 1999/00 compared with 113 thousand in 1998/99 and 103 thousand in 1997/98.

10 In 1999/00 NISVQ collected information on other full vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs) from Edexcel, City & Guilds and OCR. The total number of these awards for 1999/00 was 502 thousand, a 4 per cent rise when compared to 483 thousand, which is the comparable figure for the same three awarding bodies in 1998/99.

11 In 1999/00 people aged 25 and over accounted for 44 per cent of NVQ/SVQ awards. Over half (52 per cent) of all NVQ/SVQ awarded in 1999/00 were made to females compared to 48 per cent to males. More males attained an NVQ/SVQ award at level 1 however females attained more awards at levels 2 and above.

12 Of the GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1999/00: 11 per cent were at Foundation level (level 1), 47 per cent at Intermediate level (level 2) and 42 per cent at Advanced level (level 3). All levels showed an increase compared to 1998/99 with awards made at Foundation level reflecting the largest rise at over 8 per cent.

1 Learning and Training at Work Survey 2000, IFF Research Ltd. This survey replaced the Skill Needs in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in 1999.

13 In 1999/00 awards of Other VQs² on NISVQ showed an increase at both *notional* levels 2 and 3 when compared to 1998/99 whereas awards made at notional levels 1 and 4 or above were down on the previous year. Of the total number of Other VQs awarded in 1999/00: about 266 thousand (53 per cent) were at the *notional* level 1, about 114 thousand (23 per cent) were at *notional* level 2 and 122 thousand (24 per cent) at *notional* level 3 or above. The most sizeable growth in Other VQ awards was at *notional* level 2. (Within NISVQ, a notional level is estimated for each Other VQ in line with the NVQ national framework for analytical purposes.)

14 The Autumn 2000 LFS provides an estimate of just over 3.1 million people for the number of people holding an NVQ/SVQ. This estimate is close to QCA's official figure for the total number of NVQ/SVQ awards made. The survey also estimates that a further 729 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held an NVQ/SVQ unit.

15 946 thousand people, according to the Autumn 2000 LFS estimate, were working towards an NVQ/SVQ, which is a rise of nearly 57 thousand compared with the survey in Autumn 1999: over two-thirds of these people were working towards their first NVQ/SVQ.

16 According to the Autumn 2000 LFS estimate, from 946 people working towards an NVQ/SVQ, 712 thousand (three quarters) were in employment, 72 thousand (8 per cent) were on a Government supported training and employment programme, 46 thousand (5 per cent) were registered unemployed and 115 thousand (12 per cent) were registered economically inactive.

17 Almost 1.2 million people have now registered to take a GNVQ in England since GNVQs were first introduced. The majority of people, 47 per cent were registered to take a GNVQ at Intermediate level (level 2), compared to 41 per cent at Advanced level (level 3) and 12 per cent at Foundation level (level 1)

18 The growth rate in the number of people registering to take a GNVQ in England has shown a steady increase in the last two years, following a slight fall in 1997/98. According to the GNVQ Student Database: nearly 189 thousand registered in 1997/98, 194 thousand registered in 1998/99 and nearly 203 thousand registered in 1999/00.

COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC AWARDS IN ENGLAND

19 This section of the bulletin compares the numbers of people who were awarded academic qualifications at

levels 2 and 3 with the numbers of vocational awards at levels 2 and 3 collected through NISVQ. For this purpose the definition of level 2 and level 3 is as follows; level 2 can be achieved by having 5 or more GCSEs at grades A-C, Intermediate GNVQ, NVQ 2 or any equivalent Other VQ; level 3 can be achieved by having 2 or more GCE A levels, Advanced GNVQ, NVQ 3 or any equivalent Other VQ. These are the definitions used for the National Learning Targets. All of the following analyses should be seen as illustrative since the numbers of awards on NISVQ do not necessarily equate to numbers of people, since it is possible that one person could gain more than one award in a year, and the numbers of Other VQ awards only represents those made by 3 of the largest awarding bodies in England and are not England estimates.

Awards at level 2

20 Table 1 shows that the vocational proportion of the total number of level 2 awards made in a year has remained fairly constant over the last 5 years. In 1999/00 56 per cent of all level 2 awards were vocational, i.e. Intermediate GNVQs, NVQs at level 2 or Other VQs at level 2, compared with 55 per cent in 1998/99 and 53 per cent in 1995/96.

21 Table 2 contains academic and vocational awards at level 2 by academic age group; throughout it is assumed that people will be one year older than their academic age when achieving an award. In 1999/00 nearly all people (96 per cent) who obtained a level 2 award aged 16 did so by the academic GCSE route (most people of academic age 15 in 1999/00 will have turned 16 when they actually achieve their award in 2000). Nearly all people (99 per cent) who obtain level 2 awards aged 17 and over do so by the vocational route. It will be the performance of the cohort who turned 17 in 2000, whose achievements are highlighted for both 1998/99 and 1999/00, that will determine whether the 2002 National Learning Target in England for 19 year olds qualified to level 2³ will be achieved. Significantly, in 1999/00 98 per cent of the total level 2 awards made to people aged 17-19 (academic age 16-18) were vocational; predominantly NVQs.

Awards at level 3

22 Table 3 shows that the vocational proportion of the total number of level 3 awards made in a year has risen slightly when compared with previous years. In 1999/00 just over half of all level 3 awards (53 per cent) were vocational, i.e. Advanced GNVQs, NVQs at level 3 or Other VQs at level 3, compared with 50 per cent in 1995/96.

23 Table 4 contains academic and vocational awards at level 3 by academic age group; throughout it is assumed that people will be one year older than their academic age when achieving an award. In 1999/00 most people

2 Throughout this bulletin, figures showing numbers of Other VQ awards from NISVQ in 1999/00 are awards other than NVQs/SVQs, GNVQs/GSVQs made by Edexcel, City and Guilds and OCR, and are not grossed up UK estimates.

3 2002 National Learning Target for Young People in England: 85% of 19 year olds with a "level 2" qualification.

TABLE 1:
Number of level 2 awards for all ages by type and year, England

| Qualification/Award type | Academic year qualification was issued | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
| 5 or more GCSEs at A* to C only (i) | 267 | 267 | 268 | 280 | 286 |
| Intermediate GNVQ | 39 | 43 | 45 | 48 | 50 |
| NVQ Level 2(ii) | 186 | 232 | 232 | 220 | 222 |
| Other VQ Level 2(iii) | 77 | 65 | 72 | 80 | 96 |

Awards (thousands)

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) For National Learning Target purposes 5 GCSE's at grades A*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.
(ii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iii) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

TABLE 2:
Comparison of level 2 awards by academic age group, England

| Academic Age(i) | 1998/99 | | | | 1999/00 | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | 5 or more GCSEs (A* to C)(ii) | Intermediate GNVQ | NVQ Level 2(iii) | Other VQ Level 2(iv) | 5 or more GCSEs (A* to C) | Intermediate GNVQ | NVQ Level 2 | Other VQ Level 2 |
| 14 and under | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 15 | 274 | 8 | - | - | 281 | 10 | - | - |
| 16 | 3 | 26 | 19 | 8 | 3 | 26 | 17 | 11 |
| 17 | - | 10 | 36 | 6 | - | 8 | 35 | 8 |
| 18 | - | 2 | 26 | 5 | - | 2 | 27 | 6 |
| 19 | - | - | 15 | 3 | - | - | 17 | 4 |
| 20 | - | - | 9 | 2 | - | - | 12 | 3 |
| 21-24 | - | - | 24 | 6 | - | - | 26 | 7 |
| 25 & over | - | - | 87 | 49 | - | - | 85 | 56 |
| Not classified | 0 | - | 2 | - | 0 | - | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 280 | 48 | 220 | 80 | 286 | 50 | 222 | 96 |

Awards (thousands)

- less than 1,000

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 1998/99 would be age on 31 August 1998.
(ii) For National Learning Target purposes 5 GCSE's at grades A*-C are equivalent to a level 2 award.
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel

TABLE 3:
Numbers of level 3 awards for all ages by type and year, England

| Qualification/Award type | Academic year qualification was issued | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 |
| 2 or more GCE A levels (i) (ii) | 169 | 183 | 188 | 189 | 187 |
| Advanced GNVQ | 30 | 32 | 39 | 42 | 44 |
| NVQ Level 3(iii) | 56 | 79 | 90 | 89 | 97 |
| Other VQ Level 3(iv) | 84 | 67 | 58 | 61 | 71 |

Awards (thousands)

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

- (i) The GCE A levels figures include people who achieved 4 or more AS level passes.
(ii) For National Learning Target purposes 2 A levels/4 AS levels are equivalent to a level 3 award.
(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.
(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

TABLE 4:
Comparison of level 3 awards by academic age group, England

| Academic Age(i) | Awards (thousands) | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| | 1998/99 | | | | 1999/00 | | | |
| | 2 or more GCE A levels(ii) | Advanced GNVQ | NVQ Level 3(iii) | Other VQ Level 3 (iv) | 2 or more GCE A levels | Advanced GNVQ | NVQ Level 3 | Other VQ Level 3 |
| 15 and under | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 16 | 2 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - |
| 17 | 165 | 20 | 4 | 15 | 163 | 22 | 3 | 17 |
| 18 | 17 | 13 | 9 | 11 | 17 | 13 | 10 | 12 |
| 19 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 11 | 7 |
| 20 | - | 1 | 6 | 3 | - | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| 21-24 | - | 1 | 16 | 6 | - | 1 | 16 | 7 |
| 25 & over | - | 1 | 44 | 19 | - | 1 | 47 | 23 |
| Not classified | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - |
| Total | 189 | 42 | 89 | 61 | 187 | 44 | 97 | 71 |

- less than 1,000

Sources: Secondary school and college Performance Tables database and NISVQ

(i) Academic age is the age of the person at the start of the academic year, e.g. academic age in 1998/99 would be age on 31 August 1998.

(ii) The GCE A level figures for 1998/99 and 1999/00 include students who achieved 4 or more AS level passes. For National Learning Target purposes 2 A levels/4 AS levels are equivalent to a level 3 award.

(iii) Numbers of NVQ awards are estimates for England.

(iv) Numbers of Other VQ awards are only those made by City & Guilds, OCR and Edexcel.

(79 per cent) who obtained a level 3 award aged 16-18 did so by the academic GCE A level route (e.g. most people of academic age 17 in 1999/00 will have turned 18 when they actually achieved their award in 2000). The vast majority of people (89 per cent) who obtain a level 3 award aged 19 and over do so by the vocational route. It will be the performance of the cohort who turned 19 in 2000, whose achievements are highlighted for both 1998/99 and 1999/00, that will determine whether the 2002 National Learning Target in England for 21 year olds qualified to level 3⁴ has been achieved. Significantly, in 1999/00 nearly 80 per cent of the total level 3 awards made to people aged 19-21 (academic age 18-20) were vocational. Table 4 gives a full breakdown of level 3 awards by age group for 1998/99 and 1999/00.

COMPARISON OF VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS BY TYPE

24 This section of the bulletin compares the characteristics of NVQs/SVQs and GNVQs/GSVQs; full Other VQs outside the National Framework are also included, but care should be taken with these figures because in 1999/00 NISVQ only collected information on Other VQs from City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR and therefore may not be representative of all Other VQs awarded in the UK.

25 Chart A shows that the proportion of each level of award varies greatly across the three types of vocational qualifications. The most popular notional level of award for Other VQs is level 1 (53 per cent), which accounts for more awards than the other levels put together. In

contrast the most common level for GNVQs/GSVQs and NVQs/SVQs is level 2. The qualification type which has the biggest proportion of awards made at level 3 is GNVQs/GSVQs (42 per cent), followed by NVQs/SVQs (25 per cent) and Other VQs (17 per cent). The proportion of level 4 & 5 qualifications is highest for Other VQs at 8 per cent compared with NVQs/SVQs where just over 3 per cent were awarded at levels 4 & 5. (GNVQs/GSVQs are only available at levels 1, 2 and 3.)

26 In 1999/00 people aged 25 and over accounted for 44 per cent of NVQ/SVQ awards and 56 per cent of Other VQ awards. Just under half of all NVQ/SVQ awards made to females are to those aged 25 and over compared to 37 per cent for males. In comparison, 62 per cent of all Other VQs awarded to females are to those aged 25 and over compared to almost a half for males. Chart B, later in the bulletin, illustrates this. Unsurprisingly, because of the target group GNVQs/GSVQs are predominantly awarded to people aged 18 and under (77 per cent).

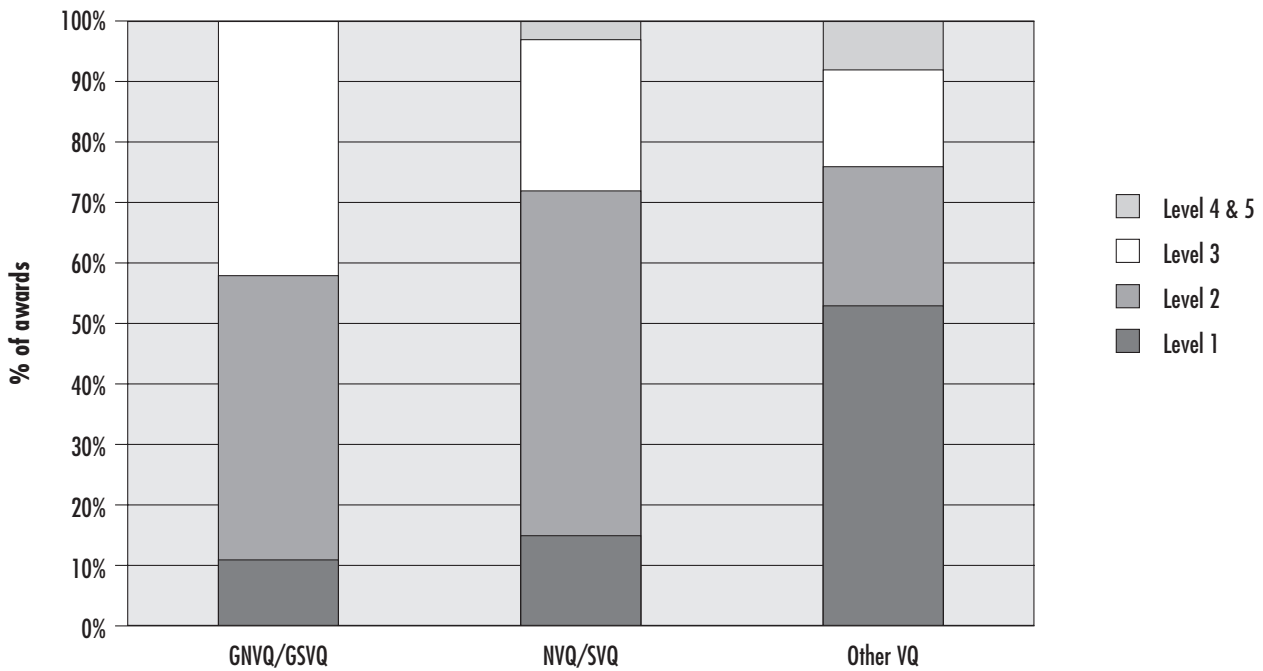
27 Chart C shows that the proportion of Other VQs awarded to those aged under 25 has decreased overtime from 73 per cent in 1992/93 to 44 per cent in 1999/00. In the same period the proportion of NVQ/SVQ awards made to the same age group has remained fairly constant: 57 per cent in 1992/93 and 56 per cent in 1999/00.

28 Table 5 over shows that the most popular major occupation group, as defined by the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)⁵, for all three types of vocational qualifications is 'Clerical and Secretarial': 39

⁴ 2002 National Learning Target for Young People in England: 60% of 21 year olds with a "level 3" qualification.

⁵ SOC, 2nd Edition (1995)

CHART A:
Comparison of qualification type by level 1999/00



per cent of GNVQs/GSVQs, 24 per cent of NVQs/SVQs and 56 per cent of the Other VQs currently included on NISVQ. SOC is used for analytical purposes on NISVQ to identify the major occupation group where the qualification best fits. This does not mean that the person who holds the award works in the occupational area.

29 According to NISVQ, there is a significant difference between the gender breakdown by level when comparing NVQs/SVQs with Other VQs. Females attained more NVQ/SVQ awards at all levels except at level 1 in contrast to awards of Other VQs where females gained the majority of awards at levels 1 and 2 with males gaining more awards at levels 3 and 4 or above. Chart D illustrates this in more detail.

TABLE 5:
Comparison of qualification type by SOC 1999/00

| Major Occupation Group (SOC) | Awards (percentage) | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | GNVQs/GSVQs | NVQs/SVQs | Other VQs(i) |
| Management and Administration | 5% | 13% | 2% |
| Professional | 0% | 6% | 3% |
| Associate Professionals | 30% | 5% | 19% |
| Clerical and Secretarial | 39% | 24% | 56% |
| Craft and Related | 4% | 23% | 11% |
| Personal and Protective Services | 22% | 19% | 2% |
| Sales | 0% | 4% | 0% |
| Plant and Machine Operation | 0% | 3% | 1% |
| Miscellaneous | 0% | 3% | 5% |
| Not classified | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| Total(ii) | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Source: NISVQ

- (i) Other VQ awards made in 1999/00 by City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.
(ii) Percentages may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

AWARDS OF NVQs/SVQs

NVQ/SVQ awards over time

30 Since their introduction in 1987, just under 3.2 million NVQs/SVQs had been awarded by the end of September 2000. The number of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1999/00 has risen after a slight decline in 1998/99: 458 thousand in 1997/98, 442 thousand in 1998/99, and 454 thousand in 1999/00. See Table 6 and Chart E for further information.

31 Looking at NVQs alone, there has also been a rise: just under 439 thousand in 1999/00 compared with just under 429 thousand in 1998/99. For more detailed information on NVQs awarded by NVQ level, framework area, academic year, and quarter see Tables 12 and 13 later in this bulletin.

NVQ/SVQ awards by level over time

32 The 3 millionth NVQ/SVQ was awarded in the fourth quarter of 1999/00. The next paragraph compares awards made in 1999/00 with 1994/95 and 1997/98 when the 1 millionth and 2 millionth NVQ/SVQ were awarded.

33 Just over 28 per cent of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1999/00 were at level 3 or above, compared with 24 per cent in 1997/98 and 20 per cent in 1994/95. The proportion of awards made at level 2 remained constant in 1994/95 and 1997/98 at just over 59 per cent, but has dropped to just under 58 per cent in 1999/00. The proportion of NVQs/SVQs made at level 1 continues to decrease steadily: nearly 20 per cent in 1994/95 compared with 16 per cent in 1997/98 and 14 per cent in 1999/00. This is illustrated in Table 6 and Chart E.

TABLE 6:
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level and year

| Year (i) | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Levels 4 & 5 | Total (ii) | Cumulative total |
|------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|------------|------------------|
| Prior to 1994/95 | 199 | 421 | 66 | 34 | 720 | 720 |
| 1994/95 | 55 | 165 | 49 | 8 | 278 | 1,000 |
| 1995/96 | 62 | 218 | 65 | 9 | 354 | 1,354 |
| 1996/97 | 79 | 277 | 93 | 10 | 459 | 1,813 |
| 1997/98 | 72 | 271 | 102 | 12 | 458 | 2,271 |
| 1998/99 | 62 | 261 | 104 | 15 | 442 | 2,713 |
| 1999/00 | 65 | 262 | 113 | 15 | 454 | 3,167 |

Source: QCA/NISVQ

- (i) Academic years from October to September.
(ii) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

34 For the first time since they were introduced, the cumulative number of level 3 awards made up to the end of December 2000, i.e. 2000/01 quarter 1, is greater than the cumulative number of level 1 awards: 615 thousand level 3 awards compared to 606 thousand level 1 awards.

NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1999/00 compared with 1998/99

35 The increase of 8 thousand (8 per cent) in the number of awards made at level 3 was predominantly due to an increase of 5 thousand in the awards made to males.

36 The number of awards made to those aged 19 and 20 rose by over 8 thousand (12 per cent), which offsets the fall of over 5 thousand (5 per cent) in the number of awards made to those aged 16 to 18. The rise of nearly 6 thousand (9 per cent) in the number of awards made to those aged 21-24 returns the number of awards to the 1997/98 level for this age group. The number of awards made to those aged 25 and over has risen by over 3 thousand (2 per cent).

37 The number of NVQ/SVQ awards made in private training providers has gone down by over 12 thousand (10 per cent) since 1998/99, which has been compensated for by a rise of over 16 thousand (10 per cent) increase in the number of awards made in FE colleges/Tertiary colleges. The number of awards made by employers has fallen by nearly 9 thousand; the largest percentage fall (18 per cent).

1999/00 NVQ/SVQ awards by age, level and gender

38 In 1999/00, nearly 198 thousand NVQs/SVQs (44 per cent) were made to people aged 25 and over, compared with 67 thousand (15 per cent) for people aged 21-24 and just over 185 thousand (41 per cent) for people aged 20 and under. Over 52 per cent of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1999/00 were made to females, although males were predominant (53 per cent) in the 24 and under age group. Just under half of all NVQs/SVQs awarded to

females were made to those aged 25 and over compared with only 37 per cent for males. A more detailed breakdown of NVQs/SVQs by age and gender is given in Table 16.

39 Females were more likely than males to be awarded NVQs/SVQs at levels 3 and above: 31 per cent of females and 25 per cent of males were awarded NVQs/SVQs at level 3 or above. Consequently, nearly 58 per cent of all NVQs/SVQs awarded at level 3 or above were made to females.

40 Level 2 is the most common NVQ/SVQ award in all age groups except the small number of awards made to those aged under 16 where level 1 was the most common. More than half (53 per cent) of all NVQs/SVQs at level 3 or above are made to those aged 25 and over.

1999/00 NVQ/SVQ awards by major occupation group (SOC)

41 Table 17 shows the numbers of NVQs/SVQs awarded by major occupation group and gender. For NISVQ purposes SOC is used to classify the occupational area where the qualification would best fit⁶. Nearly two-thirds (66 per cent) of NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1999/00 fell in 3 occupational groups: 'Clerical and Secretarial' (24 per cent), 'Personal and Protective Services' (19 per cent) and 'Craft and Related' (23 per cent). The occupation groups with the biggest gender imbalance are 'Craft and Related' (90 per cent male), and 'Personal and Protective Services' (80 per cent female).

42 Nearly half of all NVQ/SVQ awards at level 3 or above are made in either 'Management and Administration' and 'Craft and Related' occupational groups. The proportion of level 1 and 2 NVQ/SVQ awards is biggest for the 'Clerical and Secretarial' occupation group: 34 per cent of level 1 awards and 26 per cent of level 2 awards.

6 The person who achieved the NVQ/SVQ will not necessarily work in the same occupational area.

1999/00 NVQ/SVQ awards by centre type

43 According to NISVQ, nearly 77 per cent of all NVQs/SVQs awarded were made through either FE colleges or private training providers: nearly 80 per cent of level 1, 75 per cent of level 2 and just under 79 per cent of all level 3 or above. It should be noted that both FE colleges and training providers frequently provide assessment and certification services to employers where candidates are based. Of the remainder by far the biggest proportion (9 per cent) were made directly through employers where level 2 qualifications were most common (59 per cent). For a complete breakdown of NVQs/SVQs by centre type and level see Table 18.

1999/00 NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area

44 Just over 30 per cent of all NVQ/SVQ awards at level 3 or above were in 'Business/Management/Office Studies'. Levels 1 and 2 awards were more evenly distributed between subject areas: over 40 per cent of all level 1 awards spread between 'Sales Marketing & Distribution', 'Information Technology and Information' and 'Construction & Property'; and over 40 per cent of all level 2 awards spread between 'Business/Management/ Office Studies', 'Sales Marketing & Distribution' and Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety'. Table 19 contains a full breakdown of subject area by level.

45 The majority of all NVQs/SVQs awarded in the two most popular subject areas were made to females: 'Business/Management/Office Studies' (76 per cent) and 'Sales Marketing & Distribution' (62 per cent). Of the next most popular subject areas, awards in 'Manufacturing/Production Work' were made predominantly to males (75 per cent) and awards in 'Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety' were made predominantly to females (91 per cent).

1999/00 NVQ/SVQ awards by framework area

46 Of the NVQs/SVQs awarded in 1999/00, just under 141 thousand (31 per cent) were in the framework area 'Providing Business Services', of which almost 9 per cent were at level 1, 54 per cent were at level 2 and 37 per cent were at level 3 or above. The next largest framework area 'Providing Goods and Services' had almost 117 thousand awards (26 per cent of total), of which over 25 per cent were at level 1, 61 per cent were at level 2 and nearly 14 per cent were at level 3 or above. These figures are all contained within Table 20.

47 The majority of all NVQ/SVQ awards made in the two most popular framework areas were made to females: 'Providing Business Services' (70 per cent) and 'Providing Goods and Services' (62 per cent). Awards made in the third largest framework area 'Engineering' were predominantly (96 per cent) made to males.

1999/00 NVQ/SVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country

48 In 1999/00, 85 per cent of NVQs/SVQs were made in England compared to approximately 6 per cent in Wales, 4 per cent in Scotland and just under 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. From NISVQ it is estimated that just over 1 per cent of all NVQ/SVQ awards were made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. For a more detailed breakdown by Government Office region and country see Table 21.

People holding NVQs/SVQs

49 According to the Autumn 2000 LFS, it is estimated that just over 3.1 million people held an NVQ/SVQ⁷. Of these 52 per cent were female compared to 53 per cent in Autumn 1999. A further 729 thousand people, who did not hold a full NVQ/SVQ, held one or more NVQ/SVQ units.

50 Of those people holding an NVQ/SVQ, nearly 9 in 10 (89 per cent) were economically active (Autumn 2000 LFS), which has not changed significantly from the survey in the previous year. The majority of the 2.8 million economically active people were employees (87 per cent), with 6 per cent being unemployed (ILO definition). Table 7 gives a full breakdown of economic activity for those holding NVQs/SVQs for the last two Autumn LFS.

51 Table 8 shows the estimated proportions of the working age population who hold an NVQ/SVQ by age group from the last two Autumn LFS. In 2000 it is estimated that 9 per cent of the working age population held an NVQ/SVQ, which is a one percentage point increase from 1999. The age-group which has the largest proportion of people with an NVQ/SVQ is the 21-24 age-band.

52 The proportion of people in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by the Standard Major Occupational Groups of their main job are shown in Table 14 from the last two Autumn LFS. The major occupation group having the greatest proportion of people holding NVQs/SVQs was 'Personal and protective service occupations', having 15 per cent of people employed holding an NVQ/SVQ in 2000. The major occupation group with the smallest proportion of its employees holding NVQs/SVQs was the 'Professional occupations' group (4 per cent).

53 Table 15 from the Autumn 2000 LFS gives a Government Office regional breakdown of the number of people holding NVQs/SVQs. Of those holding NVQs/SVQs, 84 per cent were living in England, 5 per cent in Wales, 8 per cent in Scotland and 3 per cent in Northern Ireland. The Government Office region containing the largest number of people holding NVQs/SVQs was the North West (inc. Merseyside) with 431 thousand people. The Government Office region

⁷ Analysis of numbers of people holding a NVQ/SVQ covers all awards irrespective of the year awarded.

TABLE 7:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

| Status | Autumn 1999 Number (thousands) | Autumn 2000 Number (thousands) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Economically Active | 2,459 | 2,775 |
| of which: | | |
| employee | 2,099 | 2,414 |
| self-employed | 117 | 140 |
| government supported training and employment programmes | 44 | 36 |
| unpaid family worker | - | - |
| ILO unemployed | 193 | 179 |
| Economically Inactive | 327 | 348 |
| Total(i) | 2,786 | 3,123 |

- less than 10,000
(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

Source: LFS, Autumn 1999 & 2000

TABLE 8:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by age group and year

| Age Band | Autumn 1999 Number (thousands) | Proportion of Age Band Population (i) | Autumn 2000 Number (thousands) | Proportion of Age Band Population |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 16-20 | 413 | 11% | 405 | 11% |
| 21-24 | 513 | 19% | 538 | 19% |
| 25-40 | 1,185 | 8% | 1,364 | 10% |
| 41-59 | 637 | 5% | 778 | 5% |
| 60 or over | 39 | 3% | 38 | 3% |
| Total(ii) | 2,786 | 8% | 3,123 | 9% |

(i) Working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).
(ii) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

Source: LFS, Autumn 1999 & 2000

with the greatest proportion of its working age population holding an NVQ/SVQ was the North East with 12 per cent. The smallest proportion, with 5 per cent of the working age population holding an NVQ/SVQ, was London.

People studying towards NVQs/SVQs

54 According to the LFS, in Autumn 2000, there were 946 thousand people studying towards an NVQ/SVQ, and of these only 139 thousand (15 per cent) were full-time students, a slight fall from Autumn 1999. Over two-thirds (69 per cent) of those studying towards an NVQ/SVQ did not already have one.

55 Of the people studying towards an NVQ/SVQ, 88 per cent were economically active. The majority of the 831 thousand economically active people were employees (83 per cent), with 6 per cent being unemployed (ILO definition) and a further 9 per cent on government supported training and employment programmes. Table 9 gives a full breakdown by year of the economic activity of people studying towards NVQs/SVQs.

TABLE 9:
People studying towards NVQs/SVQs by economic activity and year

| Status | Autumn 1999 Number (thousands) | Autumn 2000 Number (thousands) |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Economically Active | 785 | 831 |
| of which: | | |
| employee | 634 | 691 |
| self-employed | 21 | 21 |
| government supported training and employment programmes | 83 | 72 |
| unpaid family worker | - | - |
| ILO unemployed | 46 | 46 |
| Economically Inactive | 113 | 115 |
| Total(i) | 899 | 946 |

- less than 10,000
(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

Source: LFS, Autumn 1999 & 2000

AWARDS OF GNVQs/GSVQs

Growth in GNVQ/GSVQ awards over time

56 Table 10 (and Chart F), based on NISVQ data, shows the numbers of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded by level over time. There have been just over 577 thousand GNVQ/GSVQ awards made since their introduction in 1992. The total number of awards made each year has continued to show an increase when compared to the previous year although the growth rate since 1997/98 has declined. This is evident in the last academic year where the number of awards of GNVQs/GSVQs only rose by 4 per cent, compared to rises of 10 per cent in 1998/99 and 11 per cent in 1997/98.

GNVQs/GSVQs by level over time

57 All levels of GNVQ/GSVQ awards have shown a continuous increase each year since their introduction. Awards made at level 2 (intermediate level) have always represented the majority share within each year, although the percentage share of awards at level 2 have shown a gentle decline over time which has been offset with the increase in the numbers of level 1 (foundation) awards. Prior to 1995/96 awards at level 3 only represented just over 20 per cent of the number of awards made, however the proportion of level 3 awards in 1999/00 is more than double, representing 42 per cent of the awards made in this year.

GNVQs/GSVQs awarded in 1999/00 compared with 1998/99

58 GNVQ/GSVQ attainment rose at all levels compared to 1998/99, with attainment at level 3 increasing by 2 thousand awards on the previous year. Awards at level 1 and level 2 both increased by 1 thousand awards when compared to the respective levels in 1998/99.

59 There was a 12 per cent increase in the number of GNVQ/GSVQ awards made to males at level 1 in

TABLE 10:
Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by level and year

| Year(i) | Awards (thousands) | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Level 1 / Foundation | Level 2 / Intermediate | Level 3 / Advanced | Total (ii) (iii) |
| Prior to 1995/96 | 4 | 49 | 14 | 67 |
| 1995/96 | 6 | 44 | 34 | 84 |
| 1996/97 | 9 | 48 | 36 | 93 |
| 1997/98 | 9 | 49 | 44 | 103 |
| 1998/99 | 12 | 54 | 47 | 113 |
| 1999/00 | 13 | 55 | 49 | 117 |

Source: NISVQ

(i) Academic years from October to September.

(ii) Awards are excluded if the centre or qualification was not identified.

(iii) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.

1998/99 compared to an increase of 4 per cent for awards made to females. There was an equal rise of 2 per cent for both males and females for awards made at level 2 similarly for awards made at level 3 there was equal rises of 4 per cent for both males and females compared to 1998/99.

60 The number of GNVQs/GSVQs awarded to people aged 16 in 1999/00 increased by a fifth compared to 1998/99. Awards made to 18 year olds also increased slightly by 3 per cent however awards made to 17 year olds were marginally down (1 per cent) on 1998/99. Awards made to people aged 20 and over were also down on the previous year.

61 When compared to 1998/99 the number of awards gained through schools rose by 11 per cent with levels 1 and 3 both showing a parallel rise of 16 per cent each. Awards gained at FE colleges fell slightly by 1 per cent on the previous year.

62 Awards made in the subject area, 'Information Technology and Information', showed an increase of 27 per cent on the previous year and continues to be the fastest growing subject area, representing 16 thousand awards, 3 thousand more than in 1998/99.

1999/00 GNVQs/GSVQs by age, level and gender

63 In 1999/00 males achieved marginally more awards than females, over 59 thousand compared to just over 58 thousand awards made to females. Awards made at level 1 and level 2 were dominated by males however females achieved the majority of awards at level 3.

64 Table 22 provides a breakdown on GNVQs/GSVQs by age and gender. Nearly three out of five (59 per cent) of GNVQ/GSVQ awards were made to people aged 17 and 18 in 1999/00. People aged 16 and under represented 17 per cent of the total awards and only one out of ten awards were made to people aged 20 and over.

65 From GNVQ/GSVQ awards attained by people aged 16, three quarters were made at level 2. The proportion

of 17 year olds gaining a level 2 award was even higher at 79 per cent. In contrast, three quarters (74 per cent) of people aged 18 attained an award at level 3. Awards at level 3 continue to be more popular at all ages above 18.

66 More males (53 per cent) at aged 17 achieved a GNVQ/GSVQ award compared to females. The majority was reversed for people aged 18 with females gaining 53 per cent more awards.

1999/00 GNVQs/GSVQs by major occupation group (SOC)

67 According to NISVQ 'Clerical and Secretarial', remains the most popular occupational group representing 39 per cent (46 thousand) of the total number GNVQ/GSVQ awards made.⁸ Three out of five (60 per cent) of these awards were attained by males compared to 40 per cent made to females. 'Associate Professionals' was the next most common occupational group with 35 thousand (30 per cent) awards made in 1999/00. 61 per cent of awards in this group were made to females compared to 39 per cent awards made to males. Over 25 thousand awards were made in the occupational group 'Personal and Protective Services' with the majority (63 per cent) of these awards attained by females. More detailed occupation group by gender figures are contained in Table 23.

68 Over half of the awards made in 'Clerical and Secretarial' were at level 2 which represented 43 per cent of all GNVQ/GSVQ awards made at level 2 in 1999/00. The occupation group 'Management and Administration' had the largest proportion of level 3 awards (87 per cent of awards within this group), while in contrast, 'Craft and Related' was the only group to be dominated by awards made at level 1 (50 per cent of awards within this group).

1999/00 GNVQs/GSVQs by centre type

69 Table 24 provides the numbers of GNVQs/GSVQs by centre type and level. Half of all GNVQ/GSVQ awards in 1999/00 were made through FE colleges compared to 39 per cent made in schools and 10 per cent through Six Form colleges. Awards made at all other types of centres were less than 2 per cent of the total. Over a half (57 per cent) of awards made at school were at level 2 whereas attainment through FE colleges was dominated by awards at level 3 (48 per cent). Similarly the highest proportion of awards gained through Six Form colleges was also at level 3.

1999/00 GNVQs/GSVQs by subject area

70 Three out of ten (35 thousand) of GNVQ/GSVQs awarded in 1999/00 were made in the subject area 'Business and Management'. More awards were made at level 3 (48 per cent) compared to level 2 (43 per cent)

⁸ As part of NISVQ, SOC is used to identify a major occupational group where a qualification best fits. It does not mean that the person who holds the qualification works in the occupational area.

and level 1 (9 per cent). Over 20 thousand GNVQ/GSVQ awards were made in the subject area 'Catering, Food, Leisure, Services and Tourism' of which the majority (46 per cent) were made at level 2 compared to 45 per cent at level 3 and 9 per cent at level 1. A similar number of awards were made in the subject area 'Health Care, Medicine, Health and Safety' (almost 20 thousand), where again predominately more awards were made at level 2 (49 per cent) compared to level 3 (37 per cent) and level 1 (14 per cent). More detailed subject area by level figures for GNVQs/GSVQs are contained in Table 25.

71 94 per cent of awards in 'Health Care, Medicine, Health and Safety' were achieved by females. The highest proportion of awards achieved by males was in the subject area 'Engineering' where 96 per cent awards were made to males.

72 Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by vocational area followed an almost identical pattern to the subject area breakdown.

1999/00 GNVQs/GSVQs by Government Office Region and Country

73 Table 26 provides the numbers of GNVQs/GSVQs by Government Office region and country. In 1999/00 nine out of ten of all GNVQ/GSVQ awards were made in England, compared to 5 per cent in Wales, 3 per cent in Northern Ireland and less than 1 per cent in Scotland. The Government Office region with the highest attainment of GNVQs/GSVQs was London with nearly 17 thousand awards reflecting 16 per cent of the total for England.

Number of people registered on GNVQs

74 According to the GNVQ Student Database almost 1.2 million people have now registered to take a GNVQ in England since introduced in 1992. The number of registrations has increased each year from when GNVQs were introduced up to 1997/98, which was the first time there was a drop in numbers when compared to the previous year. Since 1997/98 however the growth rate has recovered again and there were nearly 203 thousand registrations made in 1999/00 a rise of 4 per cent on 1998/99.

75 Registrations at level 1 have shown an increase every year, whereas the number of registrations at levels 2 and 3 have fluctuated in the last three years having shown annual rises up to 1996/97. Registrations at level 2 have continued to represent the highest proportion by level. Chart G shows the number of registrations by level over time.

76 Comparing registrations made in 1999/00 with those made in 1998/99 there was an 8 per cent increase in the number of registrations at level 2 and an 8 per cent increase at level 1, however registrations at level 3 fell slightly by 1 per cent. Comparing registrations by academic age group only ages 14 to 15 showed a rise on the previous year, all other age groups were slightly down.

77 Just over half (51 per cent) of GNVQ registrations were made by 16 year olds in 1999/00 compared to one in five registrations (20 per cent) at ages 14 to 15 and 17 per cent of registrations by 17 year olds. People aged 18 and above contributed to 10 per cent of all registrations in 1999/00. For people aged 16 and below, level 2 was the most popular level, whereas level 3 was the most common amongst those aged 17 and over. Table 27 shows the number of GNVQ registrations by age and level for the last two academic years.

AWARDS OF OTHER VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

78 In 1999/00 NISVQ received detailed information on awards of full other vocational qualifications outside the National Framework (Other VQs) made by City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR. In previous years SQA have supplied Other VQ awards data, but were not able to supply data in time for this publication. All 1999/00 analyses of Other VQ awards, plus the comparison of 1999/00 awards with 1998/99 awards, presented in this bulletin relate only to awards made by these three awarding bodies and are not UK estimates of Other VQs. QCA estimate a notional NVQ level to Other VQs for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.

Other VQ awards over time

79 Table 11 (and Chart H) shows the number of Other VQs in the last five years. Figures prior to 1998/99 include awards made by City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA. Figures for 1998/99 have been revised since the last bulletin to exclude SQA in order to make justifiable comparisons with 1999/00.

TABLE 11:
Awards of Other VQs by level and year

| Year (i) | Awards (thousands) | | | | Total (iii) (iv) |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| | Notional Level 1 (ii) | Notional Level 2 | Notional Level 3 | Notional Levels 4 & 5 | |
| Prior to 1995/96(v) | 742 | 598 | 603 | 238 | 2181 |
| 1995/96(v) | 188 | 89 | 94 | 53 | 423 |
| 1996/97(v) | 235 | 75 | 75 | 54 | 439 |
| 1997/98(v) | 252 | 82 | 66 | 48 | 449 |
| 1998/99(vi) | 276 | 95 | 72 | 40 | 483 |
| 1999/00(vi) | 266 | 114 | 83 | 39 | 502 |

Source: NISVQ

- (i) Academic years from October to September.
- (ii) For Other VQs, notional NVQ levels are estimated by QCA for analytical purposes as part of NISVQ.
- (iii) Awards are excluded if the centre or qualification was not identified.
- (iv) Numbers may not add to row totals due to rounding.
- (v) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA.
- (vi) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

Other VQs awarded in 1999/00 compared with 1998/99

80 Compared to 1998/99 the total number of awards made this year to females increased by 5 per cent, compared to a 2 per cent increase for males. The number

of females who achieved an award at *notional* level 2 rose significantly by over 13 thousand (30 per cent), more than double the rise for males. Awards made at *notional* level 3 also showed more of an increase for females, 18 per cent compared to 12 per cent for males. For awards made at *notional* level 4 and above there was a 4 per cent fall on awards gained by males whereas awards to females increased by 2 per cent.

81 The number of awards gained by people aged 20 and under at *notional* level 2 showed a substantial increase, over a third (35 per cent) more than in the previous year. There was also an 11 per cent rise at *notional* levels 3 or above for the 20 and under age group. In contrast the number of awards gained by people aged 20 and under at *notional* level 1 dropped by 9 per cent on 1998/99. There was a similar pattern for the 21 to 24 age group with rises of 22 per cent at *notional* level 2, 2 per cent at a *notional* level 3 or above and a 5 per cent fall at *notional* level 1.

82 The number of awards made in the occupational group 'Associate Professionals' rose by nearly 8 thousand (9 per cent) on 1998/99, most significantly at *notional* level 3 which increased by 13 per cent. Awards made at *notional* level 1 in the occupational group 'Clerical and Secretarial' dropped by over 10 thousand awards (4 per cent) whereas awards made at both *notional* level 2 and *notional* level 3 showed an increase (17 per cent and 26 per cent respectively).

83 The number of awards made at *notional* level 2 at FE colleges rose by over 9 thousand (16 per cent) whereas awards made at *notional* level 1 fell by just over 9 thousand (6 per cent) compared to 1998/99. Awards made at *notional* level 3 or above rose by 8 per cent when compared to the previous year. The largest rise for awards made at schools was at *notional* level 2 which showed a 36 per cent rise. Awards made at school at *notional* level 1 were down by 2 per cent compared to the previous year.

1999/00 Other VQ awards by age, level and gender

84 In 1999/00 nearly 274 thousand (56 per cent) of Other VQs were made to people aged 25 and over, compared to just over 214 thousand (44 per cent) Other VQs to people under 25. For those people aged 25 and over, more awards were made to females (62 per cent), whereas for people aged 24 and under the majority of awards were made to males at 54 per cent. A more detailed breakdown of Other VQs by age and gender is given in Table 28.

85 Over half of all Other VQs were awarded at *notional* level 1 and 61 per cent were made to females at this level. 23 per cent of the total number of awards made were at *notional* level 2 and again slightly more awards

were made to females (51 per cent). Almost a quarter of all Other VQs were made at *notional* levels 3 or above, where this time males were in the majority, attaining 61 per cent of awards at this level.

86 For awards made at *notional* level 1, 62 per cent were made to people aged 25 and over. A similar proportion (58 per cent) were made to this age group at *notional* level 2. In contrast 59 per cent of all Other VQs made at *notional* level 3 or above were made to those aged under 25.

1999/00 Other VQs by major occupation group (SOC)

87 Over half (281 thousand) of the Other VQs recorded on NISVQ were made in the occupational area 'Clerical and Secretarial', of these 68 per cent were made to females⁹. The occupation groups with the largest gender disproportion were 'Plant and Machine Operation' (93 per cent male) and 'Craft and Related' (89 per cent male). Table 29 shows more information on occupational area by gender.

88 Eight out of ten of all *notional* level 1 awards were made in the 'Clerical or Secretarial' occupation group. Almost two thirds of all awards made at *notional* level 3 were in either 'Associate Professional' or 'Professional' occupational groups.

1999/00 Other VQs by centre type

89 According to NISVQ, three out of five awards were made through FE colleges of which 45 per cent were at *notional* level 1, 23 per cent were at *notional* level 2 and 32 per cent were at *notional* level 3 or above. For awards gained through FE colleges slightly more (53 per cent) were attained by females. Awards made at schools made up nearly 10 per cent of the total while awards made at private training providers made up only 9 per cent of all Other VQs awarded in 1999/00. Awards made at *notional* level 1 were dominant in both these types of assessment centre. For a complete breakdown of Other VQs by centre type by level see Table 30.

1999/00 Other VQs by subject area

90 The largest subject area representing over 44 per cent of all Other VQs was 'Information Technology and Information'. 93 per cent of these awards were at *notional* level 1 which made up three quarters of all Other VQ awards attained at this level. Just over half (52 per cent) of all Other VQs at *notional* level 2 were made in either 'Business/Management/Office Studies' or 'Services to Industry' and just over one in five awards at *notional* level 3 and above were made in 'Engineering'. Table 31 provides more details of subject area by level.

⁹ As part of NISVQ, SOC is used to identify a major occupational group where a qualification best fits. It does not mean that the person who holds the qualification works in the occupational area.

91 Two thirds of the Other VQs made in the two most popular subject areas, 'Information Technology and Information' and 'Business/Management/Office Studies', were made to females. In the next two most popular subject areas, 'Engineering' and 'Construction and Property (Built Environment)', awards were made predominantly to males (97 per cent and 88 per cent respectively).

1999/00 Other VQs by Government Office Region and Country

92 In 1999/00, 87 per cent of all Other VQ awards on NISVQ were made in England, compared to just under 5 per cent in Wales and 4 per cent in Northern Ireland. The Government Office Region for the North West (inc. Merseyside) gained more awards when compared to other regions with almost 69 thousand awards (16 per cent of the total awards for England). From NISVQ it is estimated that about 4 per cent of all Other VQ awards are made at centres overseas, which includes the Republic of Ireland. These figures are contained within Table 32.

Employers' awareness of, and involvement in vocational qualifications

93 Learning and Training at Work (LTW) 2000 indicated that 90 per cent of employers in England had heard of NVQs/SVQs. This is slightly higher than in 1999 (86 per cent).

94 Of all employers, 18 per cent had some employees who had been on NVQs/SVQs over the last 12 months (no data available for 1999). The survey also shows that 16 per cent of employers were currently offering them to their employees, which is up 2 percentage points from 1999.

95 Employers offering NVQs/SVQs were asked to estimate the proportion of employees at their establishment to whom they were on offer. The survey shows that, on average, NVQs/SVQs were on offer to 39 per cent of employees (no data available for 1999).

96 75 per cent of employers, who are currently offering NVQs/SVQs were either fairly or very satisfied with the NVQs/SVQs on offer (c.f. 1999 : 78 per cent). The main reasons quoted by employers for being satisfied were: they improve the knowledge of their employees (22 per cent); they meet the individuals' needs (18 per cent); the relevance and focus of training offered had improved (11 per cent) and they had resulted in improved quality of work (11 per cent).

97 Of the 18 per cent of employers who were dissatisfied with NVQs/SVQs, the main reasons given were: they do not cover all the skills the company needs (31 per cent), and they do not meet the company's business needs (28 per cent).

98 Of those employers offering an opinion, 77 per cent felt the quality of NVQ/SVQ assessment was either very or fairly good. 11 per cent said the quality was neither good nor bad and 12 per cent thought the quality of assessment was poor. The equivalent figures for 1999 were 77 per cent, 13 per cent and 11 per cent respectively.

99 The LTW survey covers all employers in England regardless of their size or industry sector. It should be noted that the figures published here are not comparable with those published in previous editions of the Bulletin - due to changes in the coverage of the survey.

100 For more information on this survey, and other DfEE research, see website www.dfee.gov.uk/research.

Future developments to NISVQ

101 DfEE/QCA are currently finalising the Key Skills NISVQ data requirement with awarding bodies who offer, or intend to offer, the new qualification, which was introduced in September 2000.

102 DfEE/QCA will also be looking at how information on vocational A levels created by the Qualifying for Success reforms will be collected via NISVQ. The Qualifying for Success reforms reflect the Government's commitment to support broader A levels and upgraded vocational qualifications. The reforms aim to encourage young people to study more subjects over the two years of post-16 study than has been the norm. Academic and vocational study can be combined, and advanced GNVQs have been replaced by vocational A levels. The first results for these qualifications are expected in 2002.

Further information

103 For enquiries about the contents of this bulletin see contact points on inside cover. Press enquiries should be made to the Department's Press Office at Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT (Telephone 020-7925-5615).

104 HTML and PDF versions of this bulletin are available on the website www.dfee.gov.uk/statistics. From Summer 2001 there will also be a range of additional tables from NISVQ available in an Excel spreadsheet, which will include more detailed analyses by Government Office region, Local Learning and Skills Council and Local Education Authority. More information on qualifications can be found in Statistical First Release 06/2001: 'The level of highest qualification held by Young People and Adults: England 2000', which available is also available on the DfEE's statistical website.

TABLE 12:
Awards of NVQs by academic year and level

| | | Numbers of full NVQ certificates(i) | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Year(ii) | Quarter | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 | Level 5 | Total |
| Prior to 1995/96 | | 248,792 | 579,825 | 115,073 | 40,994 | 2,223 | 986,907 |
| 1995/96 | Q1 | 10,714 | 35,636 | 11,384 | 1,393 | 228 | 59,355 |
| | Q2 | 15,270 | 56,018 | 15,889 | 1,831 | 248 | 89,256 |
| | Q3 | 13,211 | 40,945 | 11,248 | 2,013 | 223 | 67,640 |
| | Q4 | 21,179 | 80,874 | 25,273 | 2,559 | 359 | 130,244 |
| Total 1995/96 | | 60,374 | 213,473 | 63,794 | 7,796 | 1,058 | 346,495 |
| 1996/97 | Q1 | 17,576 | 54,391 | 16,628 | 1,538 | 305 | 90,438 |
| | Q2 | 18,862 | 67,228 | 22,067 | 2,023 | 206 | 110,386 |
| | Q3 | 14,889 | 52,600 | 17,798 | 1,576 | 301 | 87,164 |
| | Q4 | 25,218 | 92,955 | 33,892 | 3,482 | 360 | 155,907 |
| Total 1996/97 | | 76,545 | 267,174 | 90,385 | 8,619 | 1,172 | 443,895 |
| 1997/98 | Q1 | 15,883 | 57,104 | 19,700 | 1,893 | 253 | 94,833 |
| | Q2 | 17,497 | 69,659 | 26,866 | 3,188 | 231 | 117,441 |
| | Q3 | 13,167 | 46,314 | 16,835 | 1,553 | 243 | 78,112 |
| | Q4 | 24,117 | 89,906 | 36,847 | 4,322 | 356 | 155,548 |
| Total 1997/98 | | 70,664 | 262,983 | 100,248 | 10,956 | 1,083 | 445,934 |
| 1998/99 | Q1 | 13,978 | 53,783 | 20,459 | 2,086 | 213 | 90,519 |
| | Q2 | 11,099 | 55,877 | 22,670 | 3,562 | 197 | 93,405 |
| | Q3 | 12,659 | 50,795 | 18,552 | 1,944 | 202 | 84,152 |
| | Q4 | 22,147 | 92,596 | 39,426 | 5,876 | 246 | 160,291 |
| Total 1998/99 | | 59,883 | 253,051 | 101,107 | 13,468 | 858 | 428,367 |
| 1999/00 | Q1 | 12,853 | 53,468 | 22,925 | 2,324 | 193 | 91,763 |
| | Q2 | 16,273 | 64,020 | 26,574 | 3,265 | 239 | 110,371 |
| | Q3 | 12,071 | 47,288 | 19,642 | 2,098 | 228 | 81,327 |
| | Q4 | 22,142 | 87,169 | 39,839 | 6,083 | 216 | 155,449 |
| Total 1999/00 | | 63,339 | 251,945 | 108,980 | 13,770 | 876 | 438,910 |
| 2000/01 | Q1 | 11,583 | 52,463 | 22,515 | 2,718 | 293 | 89,572 |

Source: QCA

- (i) Includes awards of expired NVQs
(ii) Academic years from October to September

TABLE 13:
Awards of NVQs by framework area and year(i)

| Framework area | Numbers of full NVQ certificates(ii) | | | | | | Total |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Prior to 1995/96 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | |
| Tending animals, plants and land | 26,329 | 10,633 | 12,793 | 10,573 | 10,605 | 10,251 | 81,184 |
| Extracting/providing natural resources | 7,399 | 1,326 | 1,271 | 810 | 1,030 | 804 | 12,640 |
| Constructing | 86,323 | 24,013 | 28,320 | 26,993 | 27,788 | 34,622 | 228,059 |
| Engineering | 94,917 | 39,092 | 50,179 | 45,729 | 46,134 | 46,547 | 322,598 |
| Manufacturing | 27,687 | 9,904 | 13,177 | 17,442 | 22,532 | 26,089 | 116,831 |
| Transporting | 5,414 | 6,760 | 11,631 | 9,143 | 10,283 | 11,546 | 54,777 |
| Providing goods and services | 249,843 | 105,735 | 135,345 | 131,263 | 112,025 | 113,124 | 847,335 |
| Health, social and protective services | 80,716 | 28,188 | 35,877 | 40,436 | 44,270 | 51,678 | 281,165 |
| Providing business services | 406,669 | 116,828 | 149,810 | 156,694 | 147,996 | 137,744 | 1,115,741 |
| Communicating | 185 | 156 | 469 | 589 | 873 | 1362 | 3,634 |
| Developing/extending knowledge/skills | 1,425 | 3,860 | 5,023 | 6,262 | 4,831 | 5,143 | 26,544 |
| Total | 986,907 | 346,495 | 443,895 | 445,934 | 428,367 | 438,910 | 3,090,508 |

Source: QCA

- (i) Academic years from October to September
(ii) Includes awards of expired NVQs

TABLE 14:
People in employment holding NVQs/SVQs by SOC

| Major Occupation Group of main job (SOC) | 1999 Number (thousands) | Proportion of people in employment(i) | 2000 Number (thousands) | Proportion of people in employment |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Managers and administrators | 267 | 6% | 326 | 7% |
| Professional occupations | 99 | 3% | 132 | 4% |
| Associate professional occupations | 208 | 7% | 243 | 8% |
| Clerical and secretarial occupations | 413 | 10% | 453 | 11% |
| Craft and related occupations | 323 | 10% | 381 | 12% |
| Personal and protective service occupations | 409 | 14% | 461 | 15% |
| Sales occupations | 213 | 10% | 226 | 10% |
| Plant and machine operatives | 173 | 7% | 217 | 9% |
| Other occupations | 150 | 8% | 148 | 7% |
| Not classified | - | - | - | - |
| Total(ii) | 2,267 | 8% | 2,595 | 10% |

Source: IFS, Autumn 1999 & 2000

(i) Economically active working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59), excluding those who are ILO unemployed.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 15:
People holding NVQs/SVQs by Government Office Region and Country

| Government Office Region | Number (thousands) | Proportion of Regional Population (i) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| United Kingdom | 3,123 | 9% |
| Great Britain | 3,033 | 9% |
| England | 2,622 | 9% |
| South East | 361 | 7% |
| London | 254 | 5% |
| East of England | 246 | 7% |
| South West | 277 | 9% |
| West Midlands | 321 | 10% |
| East Midlands | 231 | 9% |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 314 | 10% |
| North West and Merseyside | 431 | 10% |
| North East | 187 | 12% |
| Wales | 157 | 9% |
| Scotland | 255 | 8% |
| Northern Ireland | 90 | 9% |

Source: IFS, Autumn 2000

(i) Working age population (men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59).

TABLE 16:
NVQ/SVQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1999/00

| Age Band | Awards (thousands) | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Female | Male | All |
| less than 16 | - | - | - |
| 16 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 8.1 |
| 17 | 20.9 | 23.7 | 44.6 |
| 18 | 26.5 | 28.7 | 55.3 |
| 19 | 19.7 | 24.4 | 44.1 |
| 20 | 14.3 | 18.6 | 32.9 |
| 21-24 | 32.8 | 34.3 | 67.1 |
| 25-40 | 72.4 | 52.6 | 125.0 |
| 41-59 | 43.9 | 26.6 | 70.5 |
| Over 60 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 2.4 |
| Not stated | 2.0 | 1.6 | 3.6 |
| Total(i) | 237.3 | 216.6 | 453.9 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

TABLE 17:
NVQ/SVQ awards by SOC and gender 1999/00

| Major Occupation Group (SOC) (i) | Awards (thousands) | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Female | Male | All |
| Management and Administration | 39.8 | 19.5 | 59.4 |
| Professional | 18.4 | 8.1 | 26.5 |
| Associate Professionals | 9.3 | 11.9 | 21.3 |
| Clerical and Secretarial | 67.2 | 41.8 | 109.0 |
| Craft and Related | 10.9 | 93.9 | 104.9 |
| Personal and Protective Services | 70.1 | 18.1 | 88.2 |
| Sales | 14.6 | 5.1 | 19.6 |
| Plant and Machine Operation | 1.3 | 11.4 | 12.7 |
| Miscellaneous | 5.6 | 6.8 | 12.4 |
| Not classified | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total(ii) | 237.2 | 216.7 | 453.9 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding.

TABLE 18:
NVQ/SVQ awards by assessment centre and level 1999/00

| Centre Type | Awards (thousands) | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 & 5 | Total |
| School | - | 8.8 | 2.2 | - | 11.9 |
| FE College/Tertiary College | 38.0 | 95.8 | 43.5 | 7.9 | 185.2 |
| Sixth Form College | - | 1.0 | - | - | 1.7 |
| Adult Education Centre | - | 1.4 | - | - | 2.7 |
| University or other Higher Education centre | - | 2.0 | 1.3 | - | 4.1 |
| Private Training provider | 13.8 | 104.3 | 47.4 | 3.8 | 169.4 |
| Local government/Central government/NHS | - | 3.1 | 1.0 | - | 5.2 |
| Voluntary organisation | - | - | - | 0.0 | - |
| Employer | 5.8 | 24.5 | 9.9 | 1.6 | 41.9 |
| HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution | - | - | - | - | 1.4 |
| Armed Forces | - | 1.5 | - | - | 3.5 |
| Overseas centre | - | 3.5 | 1.0 | - | 5.2 |
| Other | 1.7 | 14.7 | 4.0 | - | 20.6 |
| Total(i) | 64.7 | 261.7 | 112.8 | 14.8 | 453.9 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

TABLE 19:
NVQ/SVQ awards by subject area code and level 1999/00

| Subject Area | Awards (thousands) | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 & 5 | Total |
| Business/Management/Office Studies | 3.9 | 41.0 | 28.5 | 9.8 | 83.2 |
| Sales Marketing & Distribution | 9.6 | 37.9 | 12.4 | - | 59.9 |
| Information Technology & Information | 8.9 | 21.6 | 4.7 | - | 35.2 |
| Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | 0.0 | - |
| Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences | 0.0 | 0.0 | - | - | - |
| Education/Training/Teaching | 0.0 | - | 4.2 | 1.2 | 5.4 |
| Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance | 5.4 | 17.9 | 5.7 | 0.0 | 29.0 |
| Arts and Crafts | - | - | - | - | 1.4 |
| Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media | 0.0 | - | - | - | 1.7 |
| Performing Arts | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | - | - |
| Sports Games and Recreation | 1.8 | 3.2 | - | - | 5.2 |
| Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism | 8.5 | 20.7 | 5.3 | - | 34.6 |
| Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety | 0.0 | 29.4 | 21.4 | - | 51.7 |
| Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security | 5.0 | 2.5 | - | 1.0 | 8.9 |
| Sciences & Mathematics | - | - | - | 0.0 | - |
| Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care | 3.0 | 7.7 | 1.6 | - | 12.3 |
| Construction & Property (Built Environment) | 8.9 | 23.2 | 8.5 | - | 40.7 |
| Services to Industry | - | - | 4.0 | - | 5.7 |
| Manufacturing/Production Work | 5.8 | 30.1 | - | - | 37.0 |
| Engineering | 3.6 | 16.5 | 12.9 | - | 33.2 |
| Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals | - | - | - | 0.0 | - |
| Transport Services | - | 6.6 | 1.1 | - | 7.8 |
| Not Classified | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total(i) | 64.7 | 261.7 | 112.8 | 14.8 | 453.9 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to row and column totals due to rounding

TABLE 20:
NVQ/SVQ awards by framework area code and level 1999/00

| | Awards (thousands) | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Framework Area | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 & 5 | Total |
| Tending Animals, Plants and Land | 3.0 | 6.7 | 1.3 | - | 11.1 |
| Extracting and Providing Natural Resources | - | 1.7 | - | 0.0 | 1.8 |
| Constructing | 8.8 | 19.7 | 7.6 | - | 36.3 |
| Engineering | 1.6 | 26.9 | 18.1 | - | 46.9 |
| Manufacturing | 5.3 | 21.0 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 27.9 |
| Transporting | 3.0 | 8.0 | - | - | 11.8 |
| Providing Goods and Services | 29.4 | 71.2 | 15.9 | - | 116.7 |
| Providing Health, Social and Protective Services | 1.1 | 29.9 | 20.8 | 1.9 | 53.7 |
| Providing Business Services | 12.5 | 75.7 | 42.1 | 10.7 | 141.0 |
| Communicating | 0.0 | - | - | - | 1.4 |
| Developing and Extending Knowledge and Skill | 0.0 | - | 3.8 | 1.1 | 5.1 |
| Not classified | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total(i) | 64.7 | 261.7 | 112.8 | 14.8 | 453.9 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

TABLE 21:
NVQ/SVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1999/00

| | Awards (thousands) | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Government Office Region and Country | All | |
| United Kingdom | 445.4 | |
| Great Britain | 432.8 | |
| England | 386.7 | |
| South East | 48.8 | |
| London | 40.3 | |
| East of England | 29.5 | |
| South West | 36.6 | |
| West Midlands | 55.5 | |
| East Midlands | 34.5 | |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 47.1 | |
| North West and Merseyside | 66.1 | |
| North East | 28.4 | |
| Wales | 26.7 | |
| Scotland | 19.3 | |
| Northern Ireland | 12.6 | |
| Overseas | 5.3 | |
| Not classified | 3.2 | |
| Total(i) | 453.9 | |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding.

TABLE 22:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1999/00

| Age Band | Awards (thousands) | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Female | Male | All |
| less than 16 | - | - | 1.2 |
| 16 | 9.6 | 9.1 | 18.6 |
| 17 | 16.9 | 19.0 | 35.9 |
| 18 | 17.7 | 16.0 | 33.7 |
| 19 | 7.5 | 8.6 | 16.1 |
| 20 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 4.9 |
| 21-24 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 3.2 |
| 25-40 | 1.6 | - | 2.4 |
| 41-59 | - | - | - |
| Over 60 | - | - | - |
| Not stated | - | - | - |
| Total(i) | 58.2 | 59.1 | 117.3 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

TABLE 23:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by SOC and gender 1999/00

| Major Occupation Group (SOC) (i) | Awards (thousands) | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Female | Male | All |
| Management and Administration | 1.0 | 4.7 | 5.7 |
| Professional | 0.0 | - | - |
| Associate Professionals | 21.6 | 13.8 | 35.4 |
| Clerical and Secretarial | 18.7 | 27.1 | 45.8 |
| Craft and Related | - | 3.7 | 4.2 |
| Personal and Protective Services | 16.0 | 9.3 | 25.3 |
| Sales | - | - | - |
| Plant and Machine Operation | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - |
| Not classified | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total(ii) | 58.0 | 59.3 | 117.3 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding.

TABLE 24:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by assessment centre and level 1999/00

| | | | | Awards (thousands) |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Centre Type | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| School | 5.0 | 26.0 | 14.3 | 45.2 |
| FE College/Tertiary College | 7.3 | 23.4 | 28.7 | 59.4 |
| Sixth Form College | - | 4.8 | 5.6 | 11.2 |
| Adult Education Centre | - | - | - | - |
| University or other Higher Education centre | - | - | - | - |
| Private Training provider | - | - | - | - |
| Local government/Central government/NHS | - | - | - | - |
| Voluntary organisation | - | - | - | - |
| Employer | - | - | - | - |
| HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution | - | - | 0.0 | - |
| Armed Forces | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Overseas centre | - | - | - | - |
| Other | 0.0 | - | - | - |
| Total(i) | 13.3 | 54.9 | 49.1 | 117.3 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

TABLE 25:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by subject area code and level 1999/00

| | | | | Awards (thousands) |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Subject Area | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Total |
| Business/Management/Office Studies | 3.4 | 15.0 | 16.9 | 35.3 |
| Sales Marketing & Distribution | 0.0 | - | - | - |
| Information Technology & Information | 1.9 | 9.1 | 5.1 | 16.1 |
| Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Education/Training/Teaching | 0.0 | - | - | - |
| Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Arts and Crafts | - | 4.9 | 4.9 | 10.1 |
| Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media | 0.0 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 2.7 |
| Performing Arts | - | - | - | - |
| Sports Games and Recreation | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism | 1.9 | 9.3 | 9.0 | 20.2 |
| Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety | 2.7 | 9.7 | 7.3 | 19.7 |
| Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sciences & Mathematics | - | 1.6 | 1.5 | 3.2 |
| Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care | - | 0.0 | - | - |
| Construction & Property (Built Environment) | 1.8 | - | - | 2.9 |
| Services to Industry | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Manufacturing/Production Work | - | 1.0 | - | 1.7 |
| Engineering | - | 2.4 | 1.7 | 4.6 |
| Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Transport Services | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Not classified | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total(i) | 13.3 | 54.9 | 49.1 | 117.3 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

TABLE 26:
GNVQ/GSVQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1999/00

| Government Office Region | | All |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| United Kingdom | | 116.5 |
| Great Britain | | 112.6 |
| | England | 105.8 |
| | South East | 15.5 |
| | London | 17.4 |
| | East of England | 11.5 |
| | South West | 8.9 |
| | West Midlands | 13.0 |
| | East Midlands | 8.1 |
| | Yorkshire & the Humber | 11.2 |
| | North West and Merseyside | 14.2 |
| | North East | 6.0 |
| | Wales | 6.0 |
| | Scotland | - |
| | Northern Ireland | 3.9 |
| Overseas | | - |
| Not classified | | - |
| Total(i) | | 117.3 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding

TABLE 27:
Number of GNVQ registrations by academic year by age

| Academic Year | Age | Registrations (thousands) | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
| 1998/99(ii) | 14-15 | 11.2 | 17.6 | - |
| | 16 | 12.0 | 51.6 | 40.9 |
| | 17 | 2.7 | 10.5 | 23.8 |
| | 18 | - | 2.9 | 6.6 |
| | 19 & over | 1.7 | 4.0 | 6.6 |
| | Total(i) | 28.7 | 87.1 | 78.2 |
| 1999/00 | 14-15 | 14.7 | 26.2 | - |
| | 16 | 11.0 | 49.9 | 42.2 |
| | 17 | 2.4 | 10.3 | 22.5 |
| | 18 | - | 2.9 | 6.2 |
| | 19 & over | 1.4 | 3.5 | 5.7 |
| | Total(i) | 31.1 | 93.9 | 77.8 |

- less than 1000

Source: GNVQ Student Database (England only)

(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding

(ii) Numbers of 1998/99 registrations have been revised since the last bulletin

TABLE 28:
Other VQ awards by age band (at date of award) and gender 1999/00

| Age Band | Awards (thousands) | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Female | Male | All |
| less than 16 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 8.3 |
| 16 | 10.7 | 9.3 | 19.9 |
| 17 | 22.4 | 21.1 | 43.5 |
| 18 | 20.2 | 21.2 | 41.5 |
| 19 | 11.7 | 16.9 | 28.5 |
| 20 | 8.8 | 13.9 | 22.7 |
| 21-24 | 20.7 | 29.1 | 49.8 |
| 25-40 | 87.1 | 69.5 | 156.6 |
| 41-59 | 66.0 | 37.6 | 103.6 |
| Over 60 | 6.9 | 6.6 | 13.5 |
| Not stated | 10.3 | 4.2 | 14.6 |
| Total(i)(ii) | 269.4 | 233.0 | 502.4 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 29:
Other VQ awards by SOC and gender 1999/00

| Major Occupation Group (SOC) (i) | Awards (thousands) | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Female | Male | All |
| Management and Administration | 6.7 | 4.6 | 11.3 |
| Professional | 7.3 | 8.0 | 15.2 |
| Associate Professionals | 38.3 | 58.8 | 97.1 |
| Clerical and Secretarial | 190.1 | 90.8 | 280.9 |
| Craft and Related | 6.1 | 51.4 | 57.5 |
| Personal and Protective Services | 6.0 | 4.1 | 10.1 |
| Sales | - | - | 1.2 |
| Plant and Machine Operation | - | 5.0 | 5.4 |
| Miscellaneous | 13.4 | 10.2 | 23.7 |
| Not classified | - | - | - |
| Total(ii)(iii) | 269.3 | 233.1 | 502.4 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) NISVQ uses SOC for analytical purposes to identify the major occupation group where the qualification would best fit. It does not mean that the person who achieved the award works in the occupational area.

(ii) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding.

(iii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 30:
Other VQ awards by assessment centre and level 1999/00

| Centre Type | Awards (thousands) | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 & 5 | Total |
| School | 39.7 | 6.7 | 2.1 | - | 49.2 |
| FE College/Tertiary College | 136.0 | 70.3 | 62.9 | 31.5 | 300.7 |
| Sixth Form College | 16.7 | 4.3 | 1.6 | - | 22.7 |
| Adult Education Centre | 25.4 | 7.6 | - | - | 33.9 |
| University or other Higher Education centre | 3.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 2.7 | 9.3 |
| Private Training provider | 24.1 | 12.3 | 5.8 | 2.1 | 44.2 |
| Local government/Central government/NHS | - | - | - | - | - |
| Voluntary organisation | - | - | 0.0 | 0.0 | - |
| Employer | 10.3 | 3.6 | 2.3 | - | 16.7 |
| HM Prison/ Youth Offenders Institution | - | - | - | 0.0 | - |
| Armed Forces | 1.8 | - | 1.4 | - | 3.9 |
| Overseas centre | 6.8 | 6.6 | 4.0 | 2.0 | 19.4 |
| Other | - | - | - | - | 1.4 |
| Total(i)(ii) | 266.2 | 114.2 | 82.5 | 39.5 | 502.4 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 31:
Other VQ awards by subject area code and level 1999/00

| Subject Area | Awards (thousands) | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 & 5 | Total |
| Business/Management/Office Studies | 10.2 | 48.7 | 7.1 | 7.7 | 73.7 |
| Sales Marketing & Distribution | - | 1.1 | - | - | 1.9 |
| Information Technology & Information | 206.5 | 7.2 | 5.4 | 2.4 | 221.6 |
| Humanities-History/Archaeology/Religious Studies/Philosophy | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Politics/Economics/Law/Social Sciences | 0.0 | - | 0.0 | - | - |
| Area Studies/Cultural Studies/Language/Literature | - | - | 0.0 | 0.0 | - |
| Education/Training/Teaching | 2.4 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 11.9 |
| Family Care/Personal Development/Personal Care & Appearance | 3.6 | 8.9 | 7.0 | - | 19.8 |
| Arts and Crafts | 3.1 | 4.8 | 7.3 | 3.0 | 18.3 |
| Authorship/Photography/Publishing/Media | 2.5 | 1.4 | 3.4 | - | 7.9 |
| Performing Arts | - | 1.8 | 5.6 | - | 8.2 |
| Sports Games and Recreation | 2.8 | 1.8 | 2.7 | - | 7.5 |
| Catering/Food/Leisure Services/Tourism | 10.3 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 16.2 |
| Health Care/Medicine/Health & Safety | 1.8 | 1.1 | 8.3 | 2.5 | 13.7 |
| Environment Protection/Energy/Cleansing/Security | - | 1.6 | - | - | 2.1 |
| Sciences & Mathematics | - | - | 1.2 | - | 1.6 |
| Agriculture Horticulture & Animal Care | - | 3.7 | 4.5 | - | 9.1 |
| Construction & Property (Built Environment) | 7.3 | 5.5 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 19.1 |
| Services to Industry | 1.2 | 10.7 | 4.5 | - | 17.1 |
| Manufacturing/Production Work | - | - | 1.1 | - | 2.8 |
| Engineering | 11.1 | 8.8 | 13.7 | 12.0 | 45.6 |
| Oil/Mining/Plastics/Chemicals | 1.3 | - | - | - | 2.5 |
| Transport Services | 1.0 | - | - | - | 1.6 |
| Not classified | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total(i)(ii) | 266.2 | 114.2 | 82.5 | 39.5 | 502.4 |

- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column and row totals due to rounding

(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

TABLE 32:
Other VQ awards by Government Office Region and Country 1999/00

| Government Office Region and Country | | Awards (thousands) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| | | All |
| United Kingdom | | 480.8 |
| Great Britain | | 462.1 |
| | England | 436.7 |
| | South East | 57.6 |
| | London | 37.2 |
| | East of England | 39.4 |
| | South West | 49.5 |
| | West Midlands | 58.7 |
| | East Midlands | 42.7 |
| | Yorkshire & the Humber | 52.7 |
| | North West and Merseyside | 68.5 |
| | North East | 30.4 |
| | Wales | 23.6 |
| | Scotland | 1.8 |
| | Northern Ireland | 18.7 |
| Overseas | | 19.5 |
| Not classified | | 2.1 |
| Total(i)(ii) | | 502.4 |

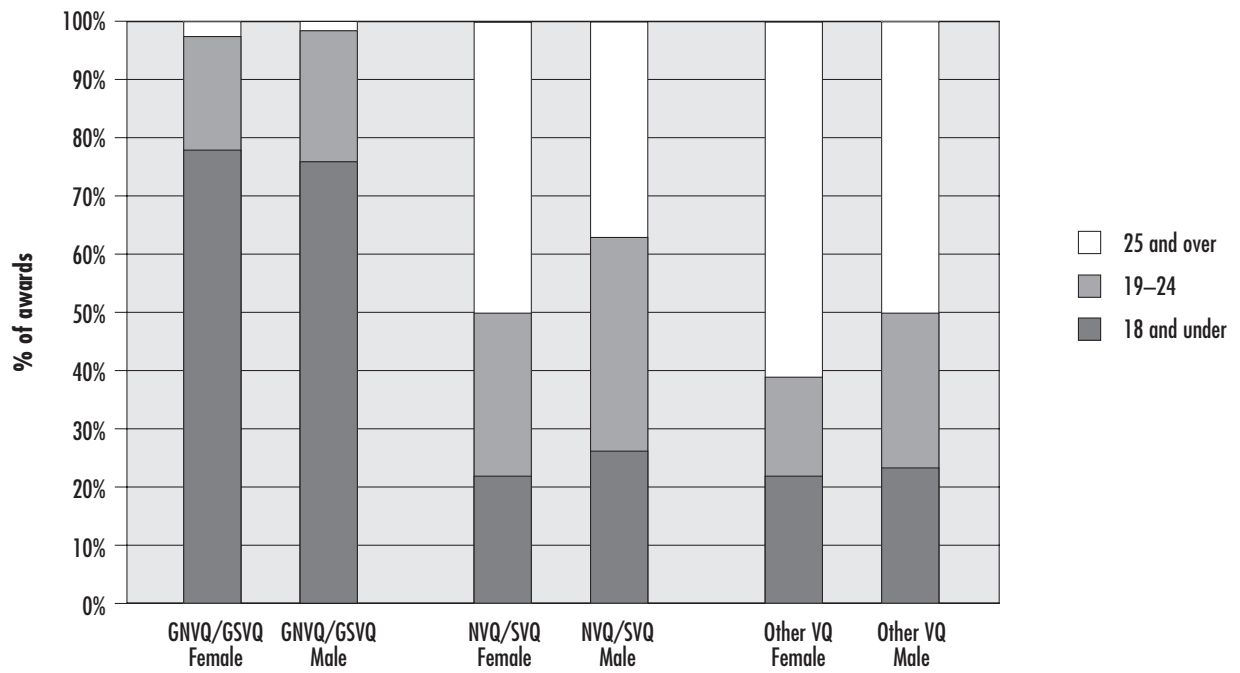
- less than 1000

Source: NISVQ

(i) Numbers may not add up to column totals due to rounding

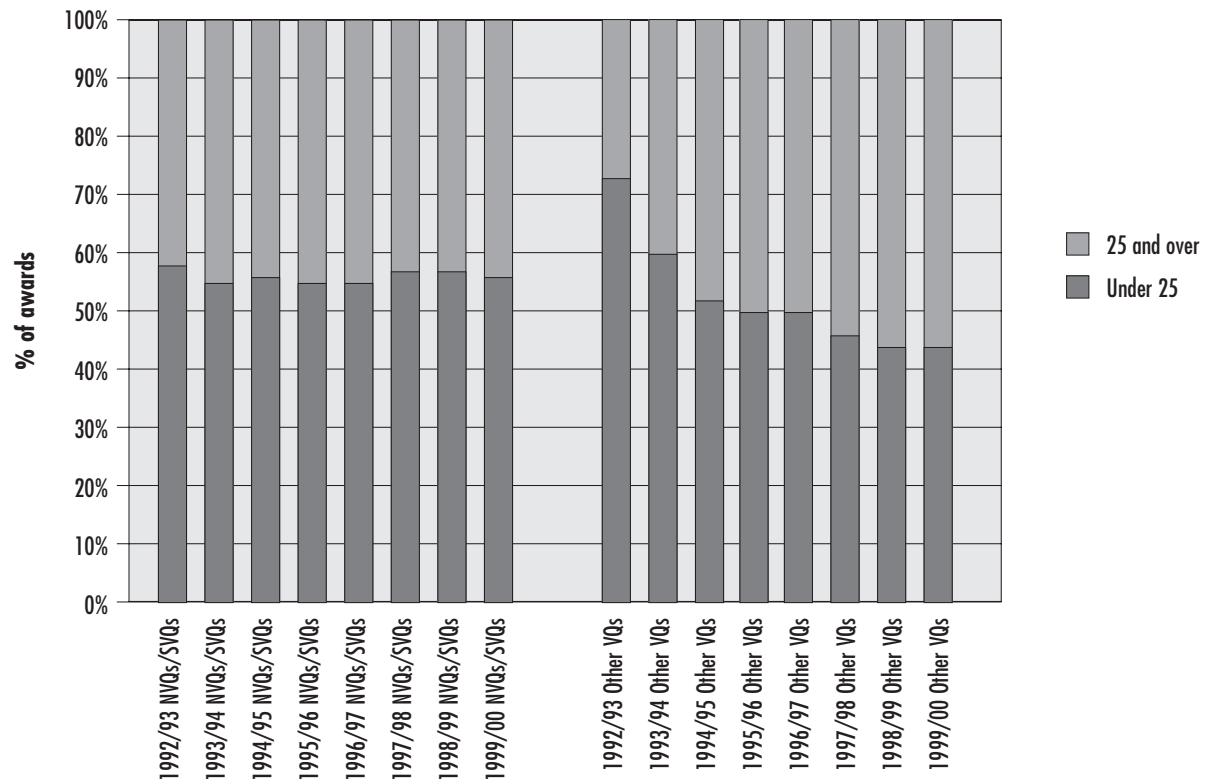
(ii) Numbers of awards are for City and Guilds, Edexcel and OCR only.

CHART B:
Comparison of qualification type by age band and gender 1999/00



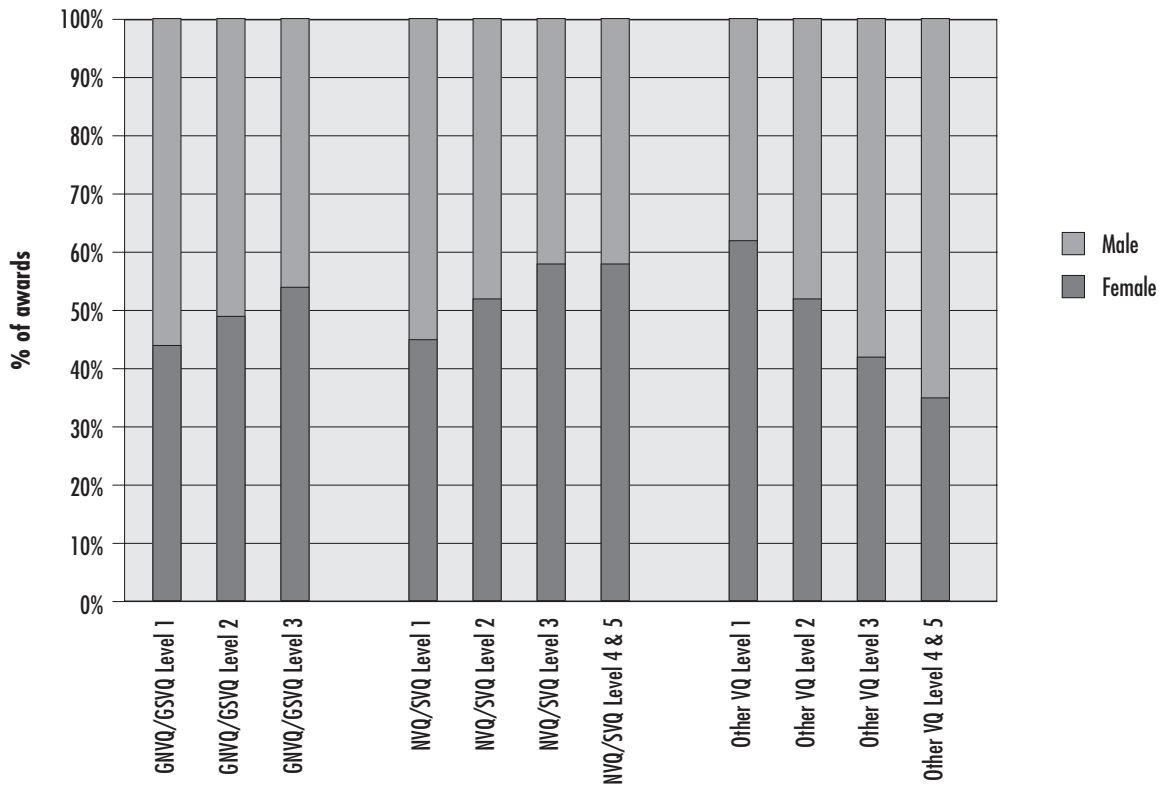
Source: NISVQ

CHART C:
Comparison of NVQs/SVQs with Other VQs by age group and year



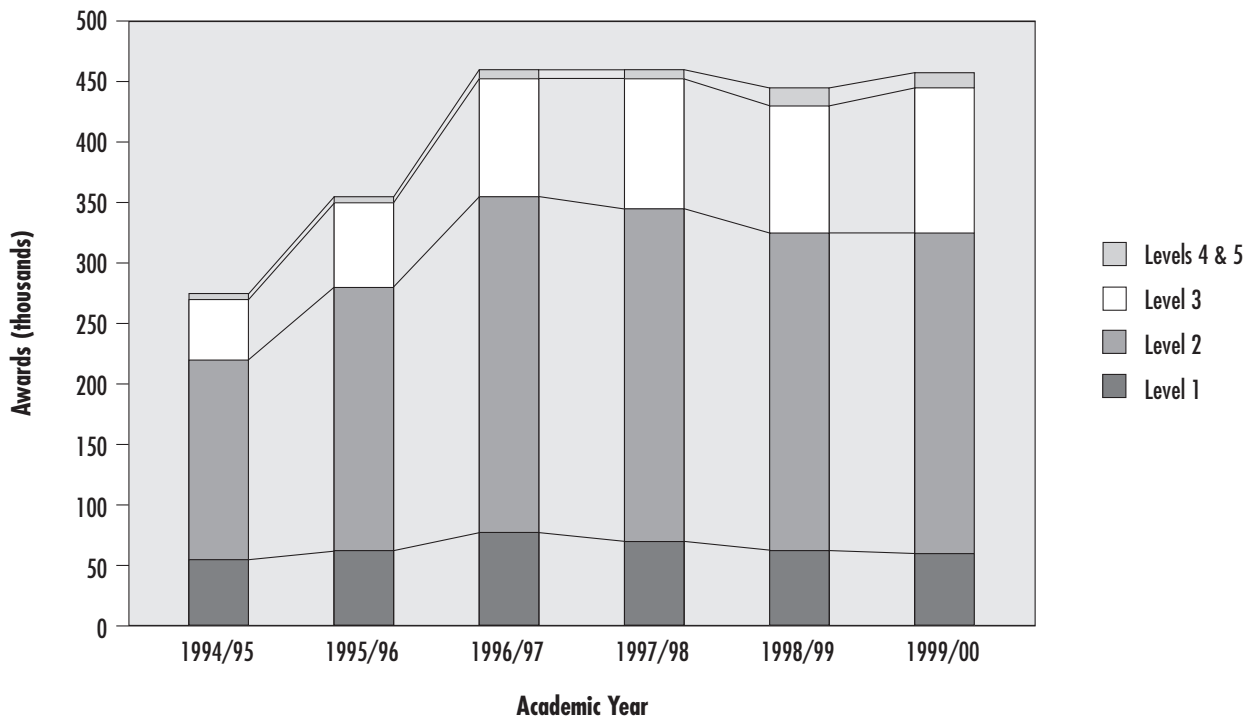
Source: NISVQ

CHART D:
Comparison of qualification type by level and gender 1999/00



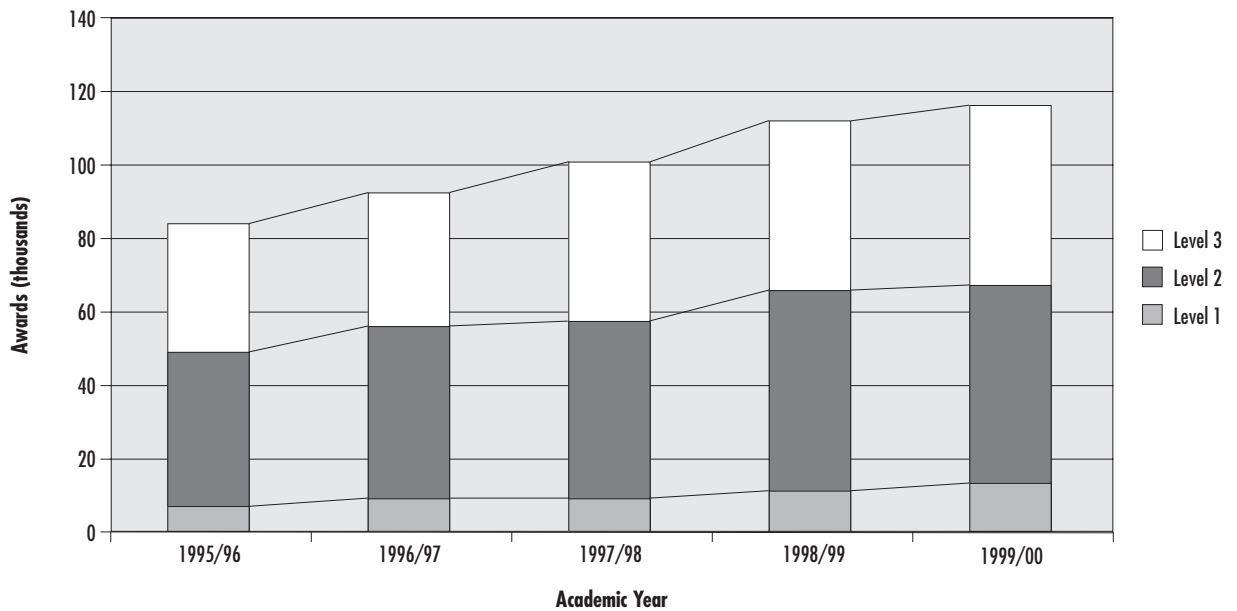
Source: NISVQ

CHART E:
Awards of NVQs/SVQs by level and year



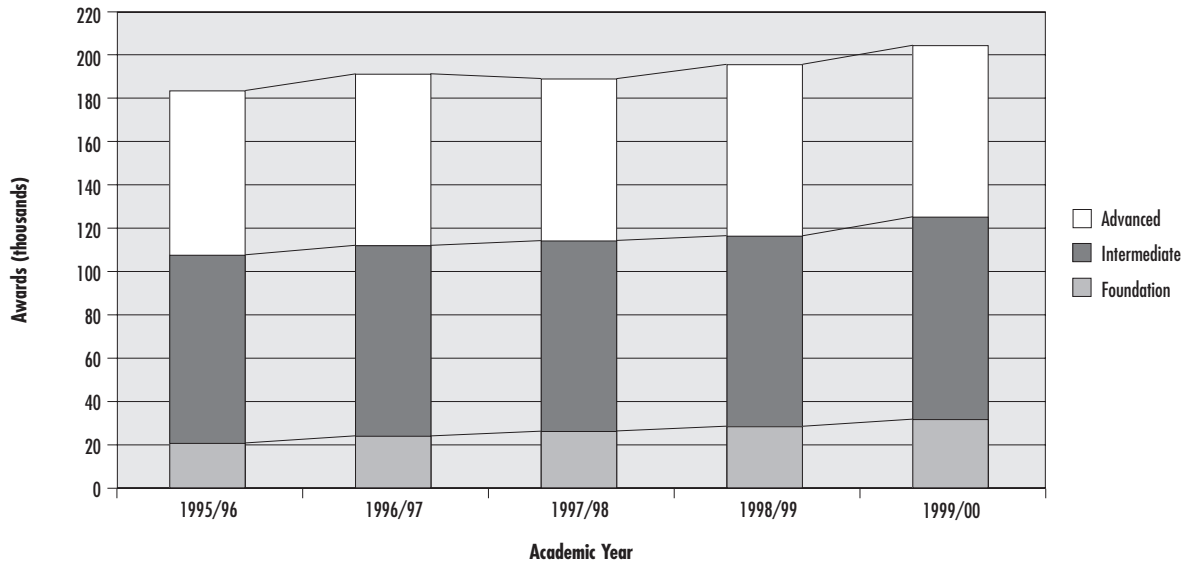
Source: NISVQ

CHART F:
Awards of GNVQs/GSVQs by level and year



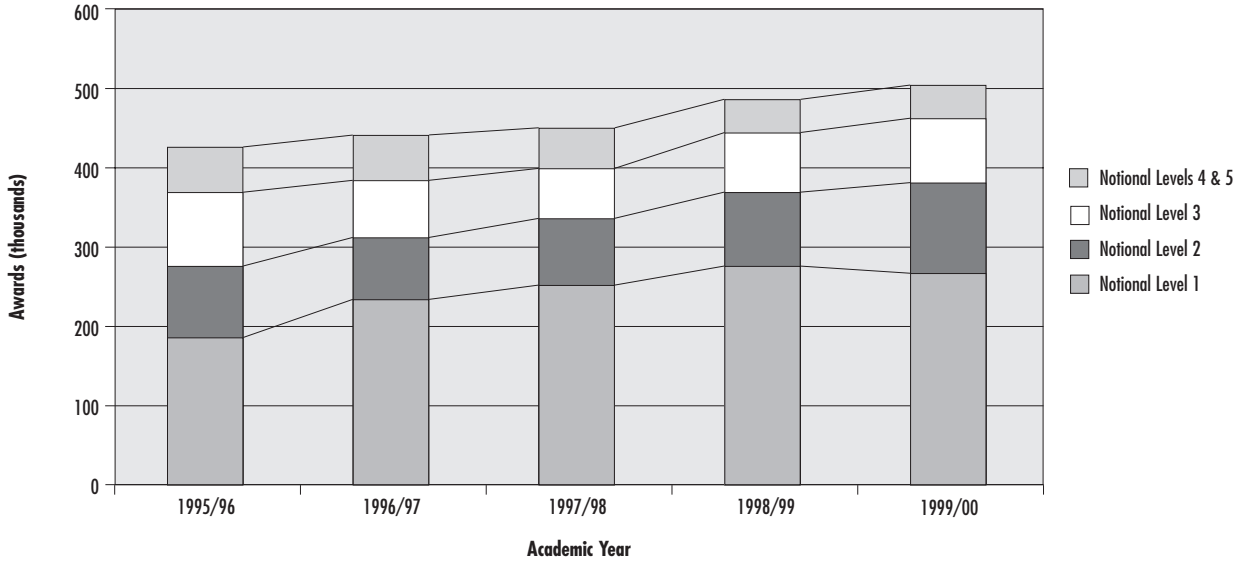
Source: NISVQ

CHART G:
Number of registrations of GNVQs by level and year



Source: GNVQ Student Database (England only)

CHART H:
Awards of Other VQs by level and year



Source: NISVQ

Technical Notes

Sources

1 The two main sources of information on numbers of awards of vocational qualifications are databases maintained by QCA and DfEE. QCA statistics on the numbers of NVQs awarded are collected from all NVQ awarding bodies. The National Information System for Vocational Qualification (NISVQ) collects candidate level information on awards of all types of vocational qualifications currently provided by four of the largest awarding bodies (City and Guilds, Edexcel, OCR and SQA), plus information from a further 11 awarding bodies on NVQ awards at candidate level. Note that NISVQ counts numbers of awards of vocational qualifications not numbers of individuals receiving awards.

2 QCA are responsible for quality assurance of NVQs, i.e. accreditation and monitoring of implementation. QCA accredits proposals by over 124 awarding bodies (which include single bodies and 'joint' awarding body partnerships) to deliver NVQs. The QCA figures are based on aggregate quarterly returns of numbers of certificates issued that are sent to QCA by all awarding bodies which award NVQs. The awarding bodies' returns cover all certificates issued in the quarter for which payment is due to QCA.

3 The QCA information is the most comprehensive and up to date source of aggregate numbers of NVQs awarded. The numbers can be broken down by NVQ level, and QCA Framework Area which classifies NVQs into one of eleven areas of competence. No information about the candidate is collected directly by QCA, but information needs to be available for submission to NISVQ so that the data can be shared with the DfEE.

NVQs/SVQs

4 As part of the NISVQ project QCA provide DfEE with annual totals (October-September) of NVQ awards by framework area and level. DfEE use these totals to gross up the more detailed NVQ award information, collected from the awarding bodies who participate in NISVQ, in order to produce UK NVQ estimates. UK NVQ/SVQ estimates are based on grossed-up numbers of NVQs plus all SVQs.

5 Robust UK NVQ/SVQ estimates have been made possible by an increase of the NVQ coverage on NISVQ. The overall coverage of NVQs on NISVQ, as measured against the total number of NVQs accredited by QCA in a year, has remained at the same level as in 1998/99 at almost 90 per cent. This follows an increase in coverage of 6 percentage points in 1997/98 and an 18 percentage point rise in 1997/98. The increase in NVQ coverage in recent years is mainly a result of an increase in the number of awarding bodies submitting information to NISVQ (from 4 in 1996/97 to 15 from 1998/99 onwards). The recent improvements in NVQ coverage have allowed UK NVQ/SVQ estimates to be produced from NISVQ since 1997/98.

GNVQs/GSVQs

6 The GNVQ/GSVQ information is complete because all awarding bodies accredited to award these contribute to NISVQ. Complete coverage of SVQs is achieved from information provided by SQA.

Other VQs

7 For vocational qualifications other than NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs, and GSVQs it is very difficult to establish a complete and accurate picture of the numbers of awards made. There are several thousand qualifications, awarded by over 200 Awarding and Qualifying Bodies through over 21 thousand centres. NISVQ currently includes only other full vocational qualifications (Other VQs) awarded by four major awarding bodies: Edexcel (formerly BTEC); City and Guilds; OCR (formerly RSA); and SQA, who contribute information on awards of vocational qualifications that they administer. NISVQ collects information for each award - classified according to the features of the qualifications, e.g. level, subject and occupational group, characteristics of candidates, and the location of the assessment centre (by LEA area for instance). However, since it currently takes data on Other VQs from only four of the largest awarding bodies, NISVQ is not yet fully comprehensive.

Other Sources of Information

8 The main source for information on people holding/studying for NVQs/SVQs is the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Information on GNVQ registration in England has been taken from the GNVQ Student Database and academic data on GCE A levels and GCSEs has been taken from the 'Database assembled for the publication of secondary school and college Performance Tables', both of which are held by DfEE.

Labour Force Survey

9 The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is used in this bulletin to present information on people holding and studying towards NVQs/SVQs broken down by age, gender, economic activity, regions and major occupation groups. Labour Force Survey (LFS) data in this bulletin has been regressed based on new population figures. Minor discrepancies will be present when comparing historic LFS data in this bulletin with previous issues of the bulletin.

10 The LFS is a quarterly sample survey carried out by interviewing people about their personal circumstances and work, and is the biggest regular household survey in this country. Each quarter approximately 150 thousand people are interviewed, living at a representative sample of some 60 thousand addresses throughout the United Kingdom. In addition to people living in private households, students living in halls of residence, and in NHS accommodation are included to produce coverage of young people as well as the general population.

GNVQ Student Database

11 A GNVQ student database has been developed in DFEE. It takes administrative data from the three GNVQ awarding bodies (Edexcel, City and Guilds, and OCR) and covers registrations and units of awards as well as full awards.

Classification systems used in this bulletin

12 This bulletin has presented information on awards broken down by subject area, framework area and vocational area. Framework area is only applicable to NVQs and SVQs and is available for all these awards. Vocational area is only applicable to GNVQs and is available for all GNVQ awards. Subject area is applicable to all types of vocational qualifications and are available for all awards recorded on NISVQ.

Definitions

Regulatory Body

13 An organisation designated by Parliament to establish national standards for qualifications and to secure compliance with them. QCA regulates all external qualifications in England, and NVQs in Wales and Northern Ireland. QCA works with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to ensure that NVQs and SVQs remain aligned.

Administering Body

14 The organisation that administers an award and therefore holds records of the award. NISVQ collects information on awards administered by a number of awarding bodies and therefore includes joint awards made in collaboration with smaller awarding bodies. This is the definition of administering body used for NISVQ purposes.

Assessment Centre

15 An organisation (such as a school, college or workplace) accountable to an awarding body for the assessment arrangements leading to an award, i.e. the centre which assessed, examined or administered the award. This is not necessarily where the training or study took place, or where the candidate is living.

Awarding Body

16 An organisation or consortium recognised by a regulatory authority for the purpose of awarding specified qualifications, e.g. an organisation such as City and Guilds which is responsible for awarding vocational qualifications. Where an awarding body offers an award 'jointly' with another body, it is known as a 'Joint Awarding Body'.

Full award/qualification

17 The information in this report relates to awards of full vocational qualifications. Only certifications of full NVQs are included in QCA and NISVQ information, information on certifications of NVQ units is currently

incomplete. Among Other VQ awards, awards of single subjects, mixed level, and client specific qualifications are identified and excluded from the reported NISVQ results. As part of the NISVQ project, a considered judgement of the size of any other qualification that appears in the awarding bodies' data is made by QCA officers who maintain the NISVQ Qualifications file, to identify whether the qualification is a single subject or not. This may include reviewing the content of the qualification, determining the amount of work required, and liaising with the awarding body concerned.

GNVQ: General National Vocational Qualification.

18 A vocational alternative to GCSEs and GCE A-levels, accredited, like NVQs, by QCA. GNVQs are allocated to one of 15 vocational areas across 3 levels: Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced. 12 GNVQs are currently available at Foundation level, 14 are available at Intermediate level and 15 are available at Advanced level.

GSVQ: General Scottish Vocational Qualification

19 The Scottish equivalent of a GNVQ, accredited by SQA. For the purposes of NISVQ analyses, a notional vocational area has been assigned to GSVQs this year for the first time.

Joint Awards

20 Two or more organisations may jointly award a qualification.

NVQ Framework

21 The areas of competence within the NVQ framework result from analysis of work roles, and provide the initial organising structure for competence-based qualifications.

NVQ: National Vocational Qualification.

22 National vocational qualifications accredited by QCA, are based on national occupational standards and criteria established by QCA. The responsibility for developing national occupational standards rests with Standards setting bodies – usually National Training Organisations (NTOs) – recognised by a regulatory authority responsible for formulating standards of competence for an employment sector and keeping them under review.

NVQ level

23 One of the five levels in the NVQ Framework. Each competence based full qualification is assigned to just one of these levels. The following definitions of NVQ levels have been taken from QCA's 'Data News'. QCA provide them as a broad measure of the overall demand of a qualification:

NVQ level 1: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in the performance of a range of varied work activities, most of which may be routine and predictable

- NVQ level 2: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a significant range of varied work activities, performed in a variety of contexts. Some of the activities are complex or non-routine, and there is some individual responsibility or autonomy. Collaboration with others, perhaps through membership of a work group or team, may often be a requirement.
- NVQ level 3: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a broad range of varied work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and most of which are complex and non-routine. There is considerable responsibility and autonomy, and control or guidance of others is often required.
- NVQ level 4: competence which involves the application of knowledge and skills in a broad range of complex, technical, or professional work activities performed in a wide variety of contexts and with a substantial degree of personal responsibility and autonomy. Responsibility for the work of others and the allocation of resources is often present.
- NVQ level 5: competence which involves the application of skills and a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques across a wide and often unpredictable variety of contexts. Very substantial personal autonomy and often significant responsibility for the work of others and for the allocation of substantial resources feature strongly, as do personal accountabilities for analysis and diagnosis, design, planning, execution and evaluation.

Notional NVQ level

24 Within NISVQ, a notional NVQ level is estimated for each Other Vocational Qualification for analytical purposes.

Qualification

25 In this report, a qualification is a certification that a person has met the required national standards of competence, or practical or theoretical knowledge.

SVQ: Scottish Vocational Qualification.

26 The Scottish equivalent of an NVQ, accredited by SQA.

SOC: Standard Occupational Classification

27 Used to classify the occupational areas of a qualification on the LFS.

SUPERCLASS

28 Used to classify the subject area of a qualification on NISVQ.

Other Vocational Qualifications (Other VQs)

29 Vocational qualifications that are not specifically NVQs, SVQs, GNVQs or GSVQs for example, a BTEC Higher National Diploma, or a City and Guilds Diploma in Vocational Education.

Unit

30 An NVQ/SVQ is constructed of units with content expressed as assessable outcomes of learning. A unit is the smallest part of a qualification that can be separately certified.

Vocational Qualification

31 A qualification designed to fit a person for employment.