Apprenticeship statistics

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Section: Economic Policy and Statistics

This note provides statistics on people starting apprenticeships in England.

In the 2013/14 academic year (August-July):

- There were 440,000 apprenticeship starts in England.
- This is 70,000 fewer than the number of starts in the 2012/13 academic year, but 161,000 more than in the 2009/10 academic year.
- The number of apprenticeship starts by people aged 25 and over fell by 69,000 compared to 2012/13, but was still 112,000 higher than in 2009/10.
- The number of apprenticeship starters aged 24 and under was about the same as in 2012/13 and was 48,000 higher than in 2009/10.
- The majority of people starting apprenticeships chose frameworks in the service sectors. Almost three quarters of starts were in three sectors: Business, administration & law; health, public services & care; and retail & commercial enterprise.
- 233,000 apprenticeships were started by women (53% of the total) and 207,000 by men (47%).

Further House of Commons Library Standard Notes that may be of interest include:

- *Apprenticeships policy*
- *Apprenticeships and small businesses*

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1 Overview of apprenticeships

Skills and training are devolved policy areas. This Note deals with apprenticeships statistics for England only.

Apprenticeships are paid jobs that incorporate on and off the job training. A successful apprentice will qualify with a nationally recognised qualification on completion of their contract.

The government pays a proportion of the training costs for apprentices, depending on their age. The apprentice's employer will normally cover any remaining training costs.

The government contributes:

- 100% of the training costs if the apprentice is aged 16-18.
- 50% of the training costs if the apprentice is aged 19-24.
- Up to 50% of the training costs if the apprentice is aged over 25.[1]

1.1 Apprenticeship funding

The table below shows the budget for apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships budget
£ millions - Financial years (1 April - 31 March) - England

Age of apprentice	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	*2013/14**	*2014/15**
16-18 (DfE)	688	751	764	679	*728*	-
19+ (BIS)	384	451	625	756	*759*	*770*
Total apprenticeships budget	1,072	1,202	1,389	1,435	*1,487*	-

Sources: SFA, *Annual report and accounts 2013/14* , June 2014, p 74
Young People's Learning Agency, *Funding statement* , December 2011, p 5
BIS, *Skills funding statement 2013-16* , February 2014, p 26
Education Funding Agency, f*unding allocation letter from Peter Mucklow,* March 2013

Notes: * Minimum expected budgets for apprenticeships
2012/13 figure includes £32 million for AGE 16-24
2013/14 figure includes £42 million available as FE loans and £13 million for AGE 16-24
Includes money allocated to the Employer Ownership Pilot and traineeships
"-" figures not yet available

The BIS apprenticeship budget is intended to increase between 2012/13 and 2014/15, despite the total adult skills budget (including apprenticeships) falling from £2.7 billion to £2.3 billion over the same period.[2] Part of the adult apprenticeships budget has been allocated to the Employer Ownership of Skills Pilot (further information is provided in the Library's standard note on *Apprenticeships Policy*).

[1] National Apprenticeship Service website, *Training and funding*
[2] BIS, *Skills Funding Statement 2013-16*, February 2014

2 Government ambitions for apprenticeship starts

Over the first financial year of the current Parliament, the Government targeted 50,000 more apprenticeship starts by people aged 19 and over compared to the previous financial year, a total of 203,000 adult apprenticeship starts. There were 256,000 adult apprenticeship starts during the period, 53,000 more than the Government's target.

In August 2014 the Queen's Speech[3] set a target to "increase the total number of apprenticeship places by two million by the end of the Parliament." The Business Secretary Vince Cable announced in December 2014 that this target had been reached in August earlier that year.[4]

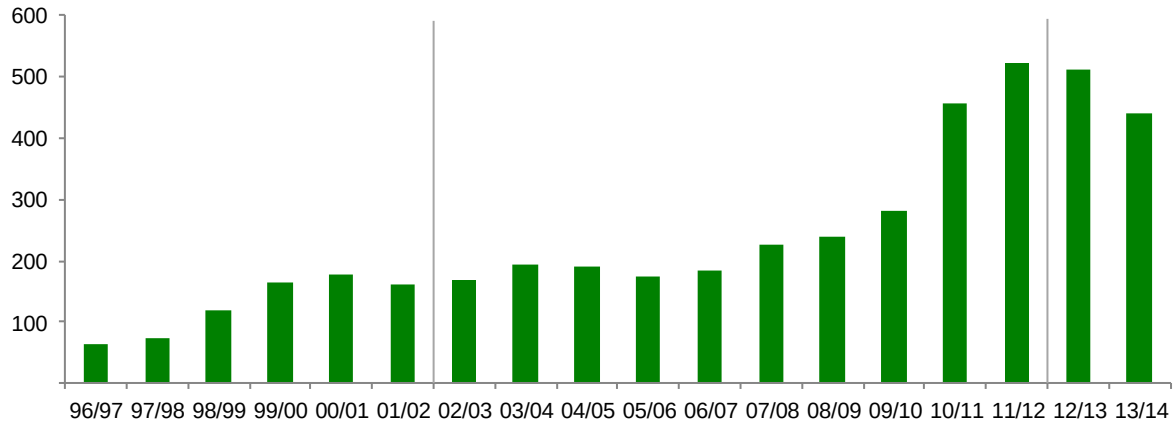
The Government committed to providing an additional £40 million for 20,000 more new higher apprenticeship starts over the 2013/14 and 2014/15 academic years in the 2013 Autumn Statement.[5]

3 Apprenticeship starts since 1996/97

There were 440,400 apprenticeship starts in the 2013/14 academic year, 69,800 (14%) less than the number of starts in the previous year but 160,700 more (57%) than in 2009/10.

There was a large jump in the number of apprenticeship starts between 2009/10 and 2010/11 (see section 4 for further discussion).

Apprenticeship starts (thousands)



Notes

Data prior to 2002/03 is not directly comparable to later years.

Data from 2011/12 onwards is not directly comparable to earlier years. Small technical changes have been made leading to a reduction in overall learner numbers of approximately 2 percent.

Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Figures prior to 2002/03 are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Data are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st)

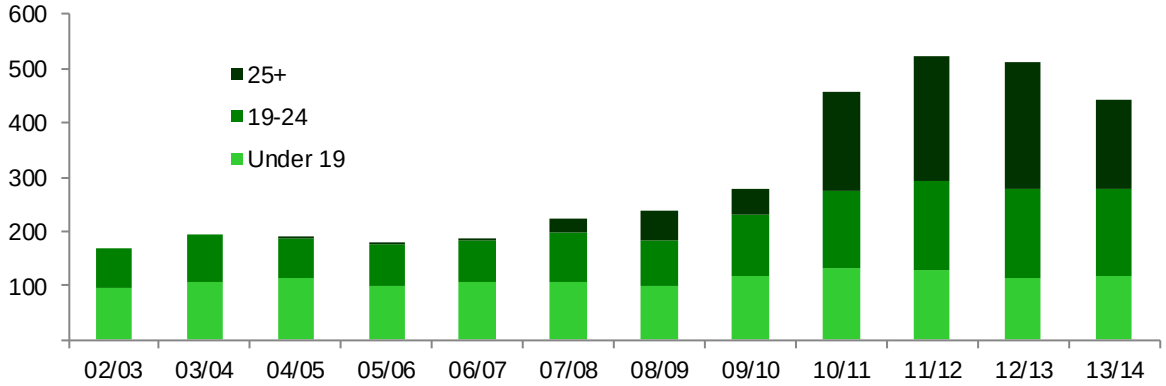
Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships* and HC Deb 14 Feb 2011c560-1W (PQ38062)

[3] Prime Minister's Office, *The Queen's Speech 2014*, 4 June 2014
[4] BIS, *Vince Cable celebrates two million apprenticeships*, 9 December 2014
[5] HM Treasury, *Autumn Statement 2013*, December 2013

4 Apprenticeship starts by age

The table below shows total apprenticeship starts for academic years since 2002/03. Before 2004/05, apprenticeships were not available for people over the age of 24.

Apprenticeship starts by age (thousands)



Notes
Academic years (1st August - 31 July)

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

There has been a sharp rise in the number of apprenticeship starts by people aged 25 and over since 2009/10. 161,600 people aged 25 or over started apprenticeships in 2013/14, a 30% fall on 2012/13 but more than three times as many as in 2009/10. The table shows the number of apprenticeship starts by age group and as a proportion of all apprenticeship starts over the past five academic years:

Apprenticeship starts by age, thousands

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	Change since 2009/10	
							%
Level							
Under 19	117	132	130	115	120	3	3%
19-24	114	143	161	165	159	45	40%
25+	49	182	229	230	162	112	229%
Proportion							
Under 19	42%	29%	25%	22%	27%	-	-
19-24	41%	31%	31%	32%	36%	-	-
25+	18%	40%	44%	45%	37%	-	-

Notes
Data from 2011/12 onwards is not directly comparable to earlier years. Small technical changes have been made leading to a reduction in overall learner numbers if approximately 2 per cent
Proportion is the percentage of all apprenticeship starts made by an age group.
Rounded to nearest 10.
Academic year (August 1st to July 31st)

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

37% of all apprenticeship starts in 2013/14 were by people aged 25 and over, a lower proportion than in 2012/13 but up from 18% in 2009/10. Starts by people aged under 19 have declined as a share of total starts since 2009/10, but the actual number of starts by this age group has seen a slight increase over the period.

The table below provides data on starts for more specific age groups.

Apprenticeship starts by age, thousands

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	Change since 2009/10	
						Level	%
Level							
Under 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	-50%
16	29	30	30	25	26	-4	-13%
17	41	45	43	36	39	-2	-4%
18	46	56	57	53	55	9	19%
19-24	114	143	161	165	159	45	40%
25-34	25	73	97	101	74	49	195%
35-44	14	54	66	65	43	29	213%
45-59	10	50	62	61	42	32	327%
60+	0	4	4	3	2	2	520%
Proportion							
Under 16	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-	-
16	11%	7%	6%	5%	6%	-	-
17	15%	10%	8%	7%	9%	-	-
18	17%	12%	11%	11%	13%	-	-
19-24	41%	31%	31%	32%	36%	-	-
25-34	9%	16%	19%	20%	17%	-	-
35-44	5%	12%	13%	13%	10%	-	-
45-59	4%	11%	12%	12%	10%	-	-
60+	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	-

Notes

Data from 2011/12 onwards is not directly comparable to earlier years. Small technical changes have been made leading to a reduction in overall learner numbers if approximately 2 per cent

Proportion is the percentage of all apprenticeship starts made by an age group.

Rounded to nearest 10.

Data are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st)

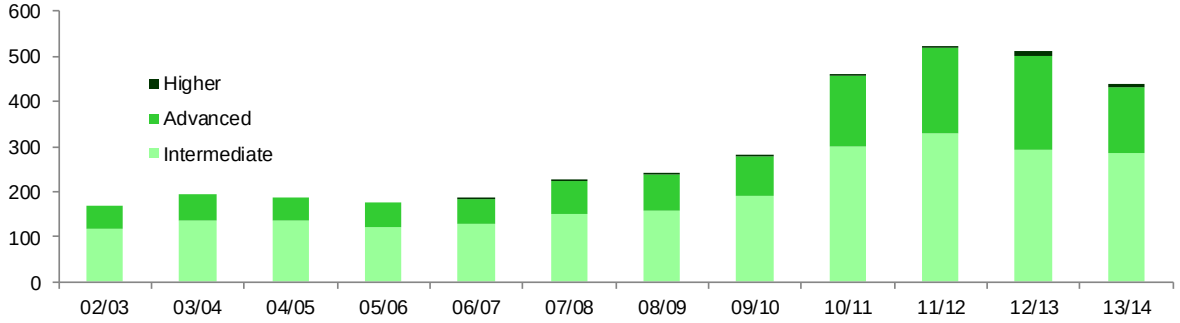
Under 500 people aged under 16 started an apprenticeship in every academic year since 2009/10.

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

5 Apprenticeship starts by qualification level

Apprenticeship starts by qualification level are shown by the chart below.[6] The majority of apprenticeship starts are for Intermediate Level apprenticeships.

Apprenticeship starts by level (thousands)



Notes
Academic years (1st August - 31 July)

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

The number of Intermediate Level apprenticeship starts has more than doubled since 2002/03, while the number of Advanced Level apprenticeship starts has almost tripled. There were large increases in the number of starts between 2009/10 and 2010/11 for both Intermediate and Advanced Level apprenticeships.

Higher Level apprenticeships did not exist before 2006/07. There were 9,200 Higher Level apprenticeship starts in 2013/14, 2% of all starts.

Apprenticeship starts by level, thousands

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	Change since 2009/10	
						Level	%
Level							
Intermediate	191	301	329	293	287	96	50%
Advanced	88	154	188	208	145	57	65%
Higher	2	2	4	10	9	8	513%
Proportion							
Intermediate	68%	66%	63%	57%	65%	-	-
Advanced	31%	34%	36%	41%	33%	-	-
Higher	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	-	-

Notes
Data from 2011/12 onwards is not directly comparable to earlier years. Small technical changes have been made leading to a reduction in overall learner numbers if approximately 2 per cent
Proportion is the percentage of all apprenticeship starts made at each level.
Rounded to nearest 100.
Data are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st)

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

[6] Qualification levels are explained in the House of Commons Library Standard Note on *Training*

6 Apprenticeship starts by sector and framework

6.1 Starts by sector

There was an increase in the number of people starting apprenticeships in nearly all broad sectors in 2013/14 compared with 2009/10, with the exception of construction, planning & the built environment and leisure, travel and tourism. Sectors that already had a high number of apprenticeship starts, such as the business administration or retail sectors, still saw large increases.

Apprenticeship starts by sector subject area, thousands

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	Change since 2009/10	
						Level	%
Business, Administration and Law	77	134	165	160	126	49	64%
Health, Public Services and Care	44	90	109	123	109	64	146%
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	62	103	108	101	87	26	42%
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	43	55	70	66	65	22	52%
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	21	22	14	14	16	-5	-23%
Information and Communication Technology	13	20	19	14	13	0	4%
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	15	22	20	14	11	-3	-23%
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	6	7	8	7	7	1	24%
Education and Training	1	4	8	8	5	4	452%
Arts, Media and Publishing	0	1	1	1	1	1	220%
Science and Mathematics	-	0	0	0	0	0	n/a

Notes

Data from 2011/12 onwards is not directly comparable to earlier years. Small technical changes have been made leading to a reduction in overall learner numbers if approximately 2 per cent

Data rounded to nearest 10

Data are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st)

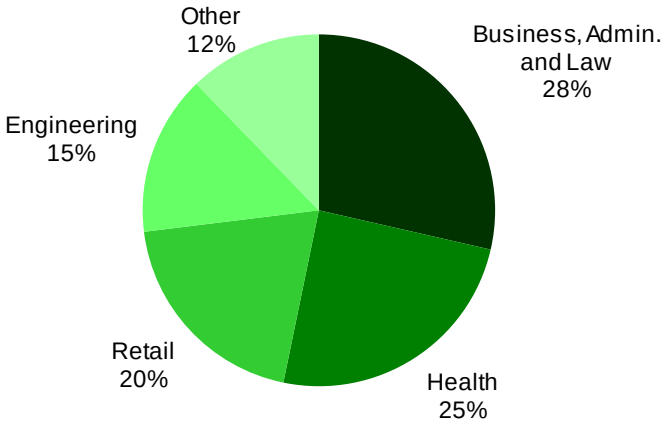
Under 500 people started an apprenticeship in Science and Mathematics for every academic year since 2009/10.

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

More than half (53%) of all apprenticeship starts in 2013/14 were in the business administration sector or the health, public service and care sector. Including retail and commercial enterprises the top three sectors made up almost three-quarters (73%) of apprenticeship starts in 2013/14.

Apprenticeship starts by sector subject area as a percentage of all starts

England (2013/14)



Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

6.2 Starts by framework

The table shows the twenty most popular apprenticeship frameworks in 2013/14 by the number of starts, as well as a comparison with previous years. Generally, the most popular frameworks were the same as for 2012/13, but there have been some notable changes since 2009/10. Health and Social Care (5th to 1st) and Management (11th to 3rd) have both risen up the list.

Apprenticeship starts by framework, thousands
20 most popular frameworks in 2013/14

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change since 2009/10	
						Level	%
Health and Social Care	18	54	71	81	70	52	292%
Business Administration	27	39	45	49	44	17	64%
Management	10	30	45	48	33	23	238%
Hospitality and Catering	21	30	36	36	32	11	49%
Customer Service	29	54	59	45	31	2	6%
Children's Care Learning and Development	20	27	26	26	24	4	21%
Retail	17	41	31	25	17	0	-2%
Engineering	15	18	13	14	16	1	4%
Construction Skills	14	16	14	14	16	1	10%
Industrial Applications	1	4	19	15	15	14	1098%
Hairdressing	16	16	17	16	15	-2	-10%
IT and Telecoms Professionals	8	12	12	9	10	2	22%
Active Leisure and Learning	11	18	16	12	9	-2	-19%
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	10	9	8	8	9	-1	-12%
Warehousing and Storage	3	6	7	7	7	4	154%
Accountancy	5	7	8	8	7	1	24%
Electrotechnical	5	6	5	5	5	0	-1%
MES Plumbing	5	5	4	5	5	-1	-12%
Public Services	2	1	3	4	4	3	181%
Sales and Telesales	2	2	4	4	4	2	96%

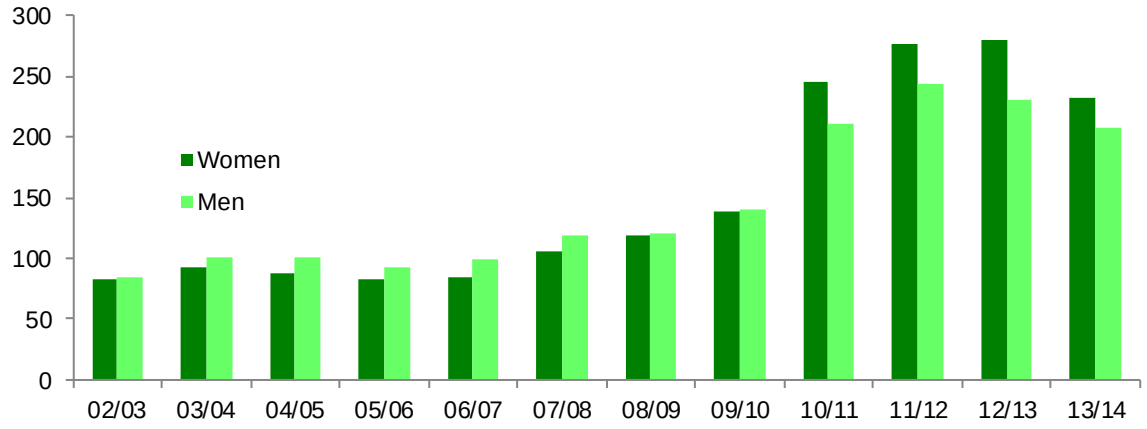
Notes
Data are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st).
Rounded to nearest 10.

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

7 Apprenticeship starts by gender

From 2010/11 onwards, more apprenticeships have been started by women than men. 232,900 apprenticeship starts were by women in 2013/14, 53% of the total number.

Apprenticeship starts by gender (thousands)



Notes
Academic years (1st August - 31July)

Source: BIS FE data library: apprenticeships

8 Apprenticeship starts by region

The table shows the number of apprenticeship starts in each region of England since 2009/10. For all regions, the number of apprenticeship starts was lower in 2013/14 than in 2012/13, but higher than in 2009/10. In London, there were almost twice as many apprenticeship starts in 2013/14 compared to 2009/10.

Apprenticeship starts by region, thousands

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Change since 2009/10	
						Level	Percentage
North East	19	35	38	36	30	12	65%
North West	47	79	89	84	72	24	52%
Yorkshire and The Humber	37	56	64	60	53	17	45%
East Midlands	25	41	47	49	40	16	64%
West Midlands	32	54	60	62	52	21	65%
East of England	24	40	46	46	40	17	70%
London	20	41	47	45	40	20	97%
South East	39	58	67	69	60	21	54%
South West	35	49	56	53	46	11	31%

Notes
Data from 2011/12 onwards is not directly comparable to earlier years. Small technical changes have been made leading to a reduction in overall learner numbers if approximately 2 per cent
Data are for academic years (August 1st to July 31st)

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

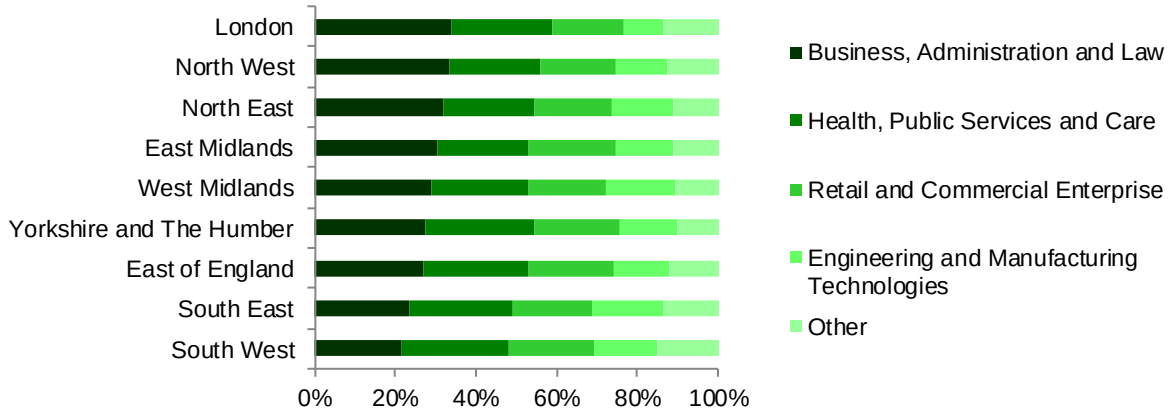
Data on the number of apprenticeship starts by **constituency** is published in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) *FE data library* on the gov.uk website: *Breakdown by geography, equality & diversity and sector subject area: starts 2002/03 to 2013/14*.

8.1 Starts by region and sector

The chart below shows starts by sector for each English region in 2013/14. Business, administration & law was the largest sector by number of starts in all but two regions; it accounted for around a third of starts in London, the North West and the North East. Health, public services & care was the largest sector in the South West and the South East, and the second largest sector in all other English regions.[7]

% of apprenticeship starts in English regions by sector

2013/14 academic year



Other' sectors are: Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care; Arts, Media and Publishing; Construction, Planning and the Built Environment; Education and Training; Information and Communication Technology; Leisure, Travel and Tourism; Science and Mathematics.

Source: BIS *FE data library: apprenticeships*

[7] Note that this analysis relies on the grouping of sectors. If sectors were grouped differently, the distribution of starts would be different in each of the regions.

9 Apprenticeship starts by employer size

The most recent breakdown of apprenticeship starts in England by employer site size is shown below. It should be noted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of apprenticeship starts since the release of this data (the table is based on provisional figures and totals will therefore vary slightly to those shown in more recent tables).[8]

Apprenticeship starts by employer-site size
2009/10 academic year - estimates

Number of employees at site	Proportion of apprenticeship starts		
	Under 19	19 and over	Total
1 to 49	47%	36%	41%
50+	34%	50%	43%
Unknown	19%	14%	16%
Total number of starts	114,000	159,800	273,900

Notes
Figures based on number of employees at local site level. A national employer that has multiple sites across the country may therefore be recorded as a site-level employer more than once.
Age based on age at start of programme.
Based on provisional figures, so totals may differ from other published figures for total number of apprenticeship starts.

Source: BIS Individualised Learner record, via HC Deb 13 Dec 2010, c586W

Further information on apprenticeships and businesses is available in the Standard Note *Apprenticeships and small businesses*.

[8] HC Deb 13 Dec 2010, c586W