Participation in Education Statistics

The Department for Education have released the latest participation in education statistics.


- Adult government-funded further education and skills decreased by 15.6% compared to 2018/19, from 2,068,200 to 1,745,800.
- Higher level (level 4 or above) participation increased by 30.9%, from 133,100 to 174,100 from last year.
- During the period since the start of lockdown (23 March to 31 July 2020), enrolments started on adult education and training were 208,790, a 50.4% drop compared to the same period in 2018/19 (420,910).
- Females account for 60.9% (1,063,700).
- Learners aged 19-24, 25-49, and 50 and over accounted for 25.8% (451,100), 55.9% (975,300) and 18.3% (318,800) respectively.
- Learners declaring themselves as black, Asian, or other minority ethnic groups (BAME) represented 23.8% (404,600).
- Those declaring a learning difficulty or disability (LLDD) account for 17.5% (295,600).
- Science, technology, engineering and manufacturing (STEM) subjects represent 12.0% (190,350).
- Preparation for life and work was the sector subject area with the most enrolments (734,700), followed by health, public services and care (263,420).
- Entry and Level 1 courses together make up over half of enrolments (52.8%) - 833,700 enrolments in total. A majority of these are in preparation for life (74.5%).
- Level 2 courses account for 35.9% overall – a third of which are in health, public services and care (33.3%).
- At Level 4 or above, health, public services and care (42.5%) and business, administration and law (25.2%) together make up over two-thirds of the enrolments (67.7%).
- 95,800 learners participated with an advanced learner loan in 2019/20. Most of the learners were at Level 3 (86,400). Level 4 or above participation was 9,900. Of those at Level 3, the highest participation was from the 31-40 age group (26,800) followed by the 24-30 age group (24,200).


- 322,500 starts, down from 18.0% from 2018/19
- Participation was 719,000, down 3.2% from 2018/19
• There has been a steady decline in participation since a high of 908,700 in 2016/17. This is driven by a rapid decline in participation at intermediate level. In contrast, participation in higher apprenticeships has increased steadily since 2014/15.

• Higher apprenticeship (level 4+) starts reached their highest volume, representing a quarter of all starts.

• The share of starts for under 19s fell to 23.6% from 24.8% in 2018/19.

• Total starts supported by ASA levy funds were 209,300; this accounts for 64.9% of all starts

• Apprentices who had worked for their employer for more than 12 months accounted for 40.7%

• Apprentices who had worked for up to 3 months accounted for 43.5%

• Out of the 322,500 apprenticeship starts reported in 2019/20:
  • Females account for 48.8% (157,400 starts);
  • Apprentices aged Under 19 account for 23.6% (76,300);
  • 19 to 24-year-olds account for 29.5% (95,300);
  • Apprentices aged 25 and over account for 46.8% (151,000);
  • Black, Asian, and other ethnic minorities (BAME) represent 13.3% (42,100); and,
  • Apprentices declaring a learning difficulty or disability (LLDD) account for 12.5% (39,300)
  • 12,100 traineeship starts. 9,100 under 19s, 3,000 19-24


• 51.9% of 17-30 year olds enter HE

• 41% of 18 and 19 year olds

• 59.1% females, 45.1% males (by age 30)

• 47.9% entering to do full-time study, and 4.0% to do part-time study (only 1.5% 18-19 year olds study part time)

• Learning intention- Full degree (46.6%), Foundation Degree (2%), HNDs/HNCs (1.8%), other undergraduate quals (1.4%)

• 11.8% 17-30 enter postgraduate study

**Summary provided by Dods.**