

Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly: Quarter 2 (April – June 2022) for Wales



16 September 2022

About this release

This release presents data collected from awarding bodies on vocational and other qualification certificates issued in Wales during April to June (quarter 2) of 2022. This release no longer includes Welsh Bacculaureate or Skills Challenge Certificate qualifications. More information on this change can be found in the background notes, as well as information on how COVID-19 has affected these statistics. At the time of publication, data had not been submitted by one awarding body. Typically, this awarding body makes up less than 0.1% of certificates in any given quarter. Historic figures (from quarter 3 of 2018 to quarter 1 of 2022) may differ to previous releases due to updated data from an awarding body.

Highlights

-6.7%

48,155 certificates were awarded in quarter 2 of 2022. This is a **6.7%** decrease compared to the same quarter in 2021.

3.3%

Between July 2021 and June 2022, **247,420** certificates were awarded, an increase of **3.3%** compared to the previous year.



Between Q2 2021 and Q2 2022 nine of the fifteen sectors saw a decrease in certificates. The largest decrease in certificates was in Preparation for Life and Work



Between Q2 2021 and Q2 2022 five of the ten levels saw a decrease in certificates and no certificates were awarded at level 8. Level 2 saw the largest decrease in the number of certificates.

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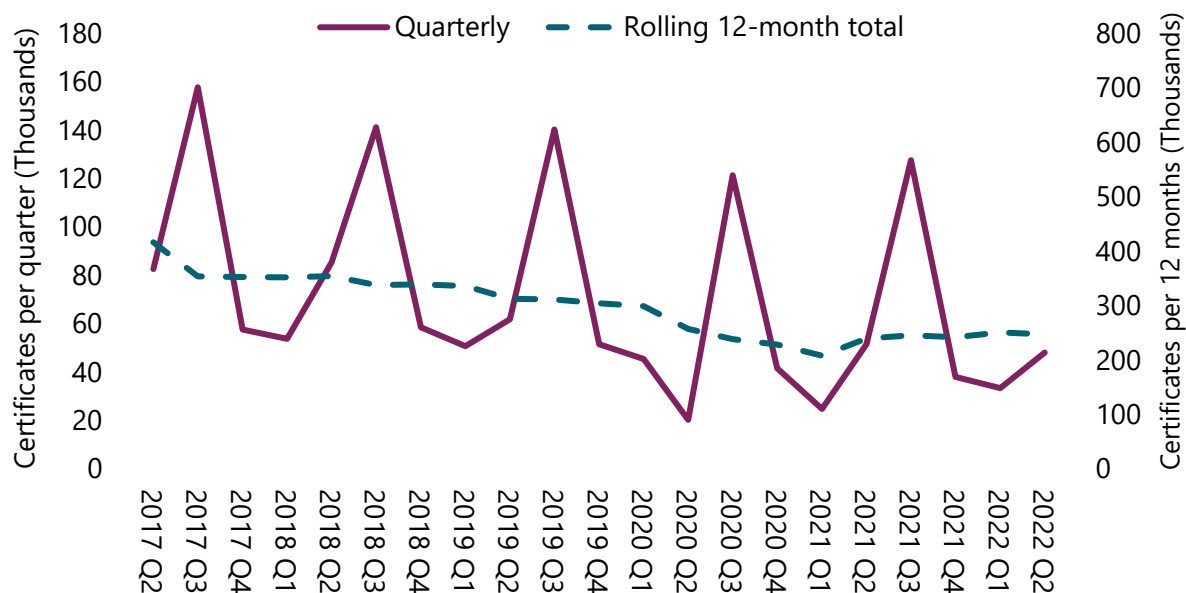
Next update: November 2022

Statistics

Total certificates and historical trends

Figure 1: Number of certificates awarded in the past 5 years

Quarterly and annual certificates awarded for vocational and other qualifications



Source: Qualifications Wales VQ data collection from awarding bodies
Full data can be found in table 1 of the data tables published alongside this release
Historic data may differ to previous releases due to updated data from an awarding body.

Quarterly Comparison

48,155 certificates were awarded in quarter 2 (Q2) of 2022. This is a 6.7% decrease compared to Q2 2021.

Annual Comparison

Between July 2021 and June 2022, 247,420 certificates were awarded, an increase of 3.3% compared to the previous year. Details of external factors which have likely contributed to changes can be found in the background notes.

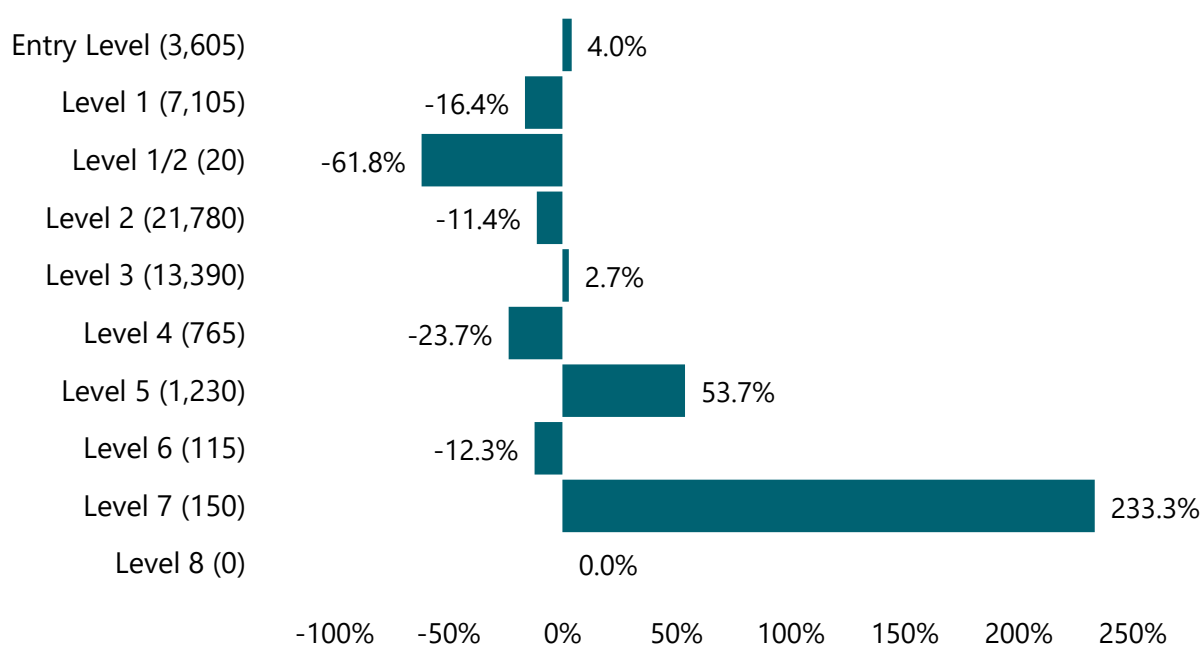
These statistics no longer include Welsh Baccalaureate (Welsh Bacc) or Skills Challenge Certificate (SCC) qualifications (see background notes). To help users with the transition to this new approach, the quarterly and annual totals calculated on the old basis (i.e., including Welsh Bacc and SCC) can be found in table 1b of the data tables published alongside this release.

Certificates by level

Figure 2: Number of certificates awarded by level

Percentage change in certificates awarded by level, Q2 2022 compared to Q2 2021

Total certificates for Q2 2022 shown in brackets



*Source: Qualifications Wales VQ data collection from awarding bodies
Full data can be found in table 2 of the data tables published alongside this release.
Historic data may differ to previous releases due to updated data from an awarding body.*

Levels 2 and 3 were the most awarded levels in Q2 2022, jointly accounting for 73.0% of all certificates. Levels 4 and above made up only 4.7% of all certificates awarded.

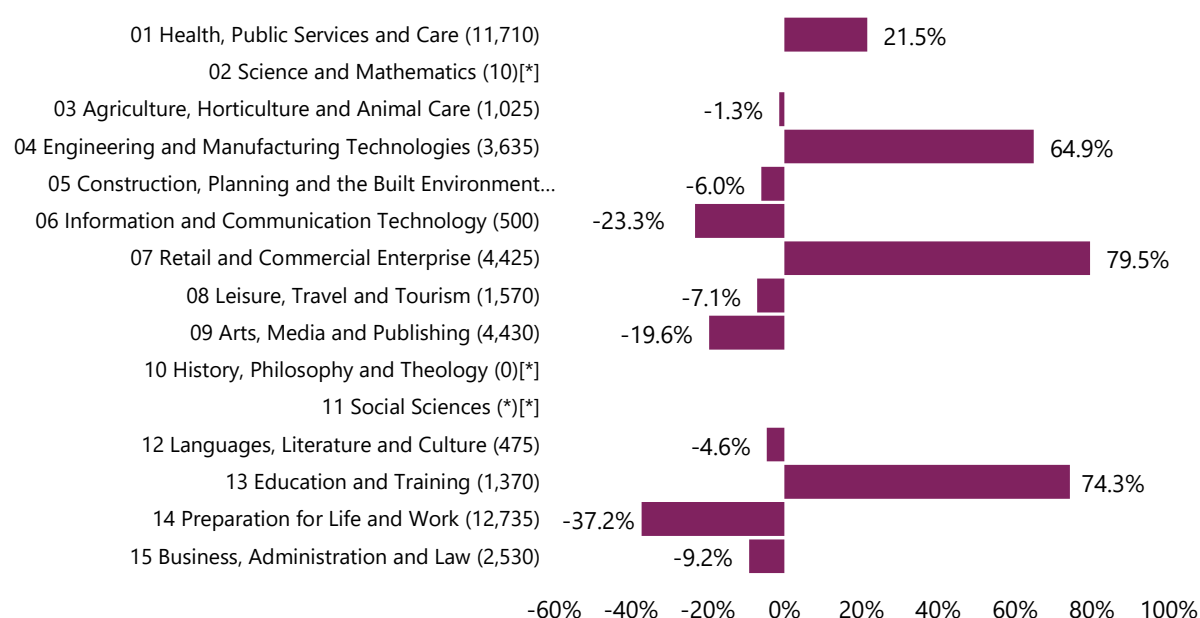
Five of the ten levels saw a quarterly decrease in certificates compared to Q2 2021 and no certificates were awarded at level 8. The largest decrease was at level 2, which decreased by 2,790 certificates. The largest proportional decrease was at Level 1/2, which decreased by 35 certificates. This represents a 61.8% decrease when compared to Q2 2021. Level 7 saw the largest proportional increase of 233.3% or 105 certificates compared to Q2 in 2021.

Certificates by sector subject area (SSA)

Figure 3: Certificates awarded by sector subject area

Percentage change in certificates awarded by SSA, Q2 2022 compared to Q2 2021

Total certificates for 2022 Q2 shown in brackets



[*] SSAs with fewer than 100 certificates in either quarter are suppressed.

Source: Qualifications Wales VQ data collection from awarding bodies

Full data can be found in table 4 of the data tables published alongside this release

Historic data may differ to previous releases due to updated data from an awarding body.

The SSA with the most certificates awarded in Q2 2022 was 'Preparation for Life and Work' which made up 26.4% of all certificates. 'Health, Public Services and Care' was the second most awarded SSA at 24.3%.

The 'Health, Public Services and Care' sector saw the largest quarterly increase in certificates, increasing from 9,635 certificates in Q2 2021 to 11,710 in Q2 2022. The sector with the largest percentage increase was 'Retail and Commercial Enterprise' which saw a quarterly increase of 79.5%.

Despite being the SSA with the highest number of certificates in Q2 2022, 'Preparation for Life and Work' saw a decrease of 37.2%, or 7,555 certificates, compared to Q2 2021.

Top 10 awarding bodies

On 1 September 2022, there were 92 recognised [awarding bodies](#) in Wales.

Table 1: Top 10 awarding bodies by number of certificates awarded between July 2021 and June 2022

Awarding Body	July 2020 to June 2021	July 2021 to June 2022	Rank July 2020 to June 2021	Rank July 2021 to June 2022	Rank Change
City & Guilds	64,085	57,070	1	1	↔ +0
Pearson	48,090	34,235	2	2	↔ +0
Highfield	12,555	23,180	5	3	↑ +2
WJEC	17,625	19,890	3	4	↓ -1
Agored Cymru	15,405	15,390	4	5	↓ -1
LIBF	11,745	11,485	6	6	↔ +0
QA	5,475	9,860	10	7	↑ +3
ABRSM	5,705	9,555	8	8	↔ +0
NCFE	8,330	6,380	7	9	↓ -2
QNUK	4,175	5,945	13	10	↑ +3

*Source: Qualifications Wales VQ data collection from awarding bodies
A full list of the top 50 awarding bodies can be found in table 8 of the data tables published alongside this release
Historic data may differ to previous releases due to updated data from an awarding body.*

Due to the variety of qualifications offered by different awarding bodies, it is likely that individual awarding bodies have been affected differently by COVID-19.

The top 10 awarding bodies shown in table 1 accounted for 78.0% of all certificates awarded between July 2021 and June 2022. City & Guilds continues to award the most certificates despite an annual decrease of 10.9%. Pearson remain in second place despite an annual decrease of 13,855 certificates. Highfield moved up two ranks due to an increase of 10,625 certificates. WJEC dropped one places in the top 10, despite an annual increase of 2,265 certificates.

Top 10 qualifications

Table 2: Top 10 qualifications by certificates awarded in this quarter

Qualification	2021 Q2	2022 Q2
NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity	3,050	2,560
Highfield Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (RQF)	1,250	1,910
QA Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (RQF)	1,150	1,625
Highfield Level 2 Award in Food Safety for Catering (RQF)	670	1,170
City & Guilds Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core	680	1,085
City & Guilds Level 2 Essential Digital Literacy Skills	950	1,015
QNUK Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (RQF)	420	595
Cambridge English Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA)	15	555
QA Level 3 Award in First Aid at Work (RQF)	425	470
RSPH Level 2 Award in Food Safety and Hygiene	95	430

Source: Qualifications Wales VQ data collection from awarding bodies

A full list of the top 50 qualifications can be found in table 9 of the data tables published alongside this release

Historic data may differ to previous releases due to updated data from an awarding body.

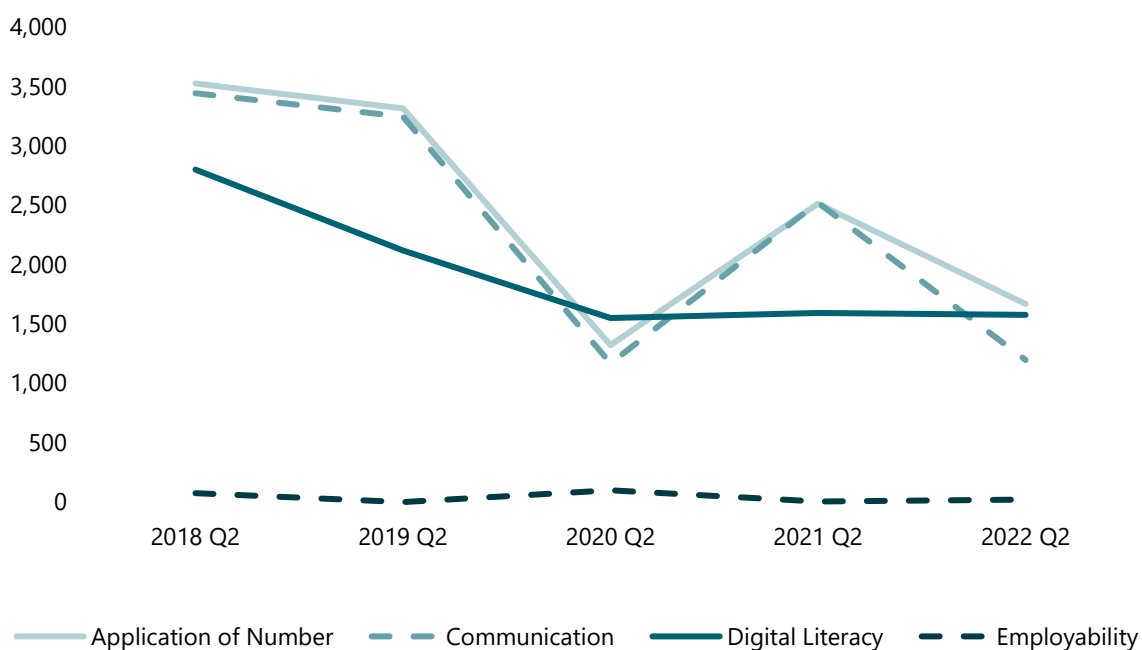
The top 10 qualifications accounted for 23.7% of all certificates awarded in Q2 2022. Of these top 10 qualifications, compared to Q2 2021, Highfield Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (RQF) saw the largest increase of 660 certificates.

Cambridge English Level 5 Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) had the largest proportional increase of 4,176.9%. NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity was the only qualification in the top 10 which decreased, by 16.1% or 490 certificates.

Essential Skills Wales (ESW)

Figure 4: Essential Skills Wales certificates by subject

Q2 Essential Skills Wales certificates by subject, 2018 to 2022



*Source: Qualifications Wales VQ data collection from awarding bodies
A full list of the top 50 qualifications can be found in table 11 of the data tables published alongside this release*

Compared to Q2 2021, total certificates for Essential Skills Wales qualifications decreased by 32.8% in Q2 2022. This was driven by decreases in Communication certificates which decreased by 52.6%, and Application of Number certificates which decreased by 33.6%.

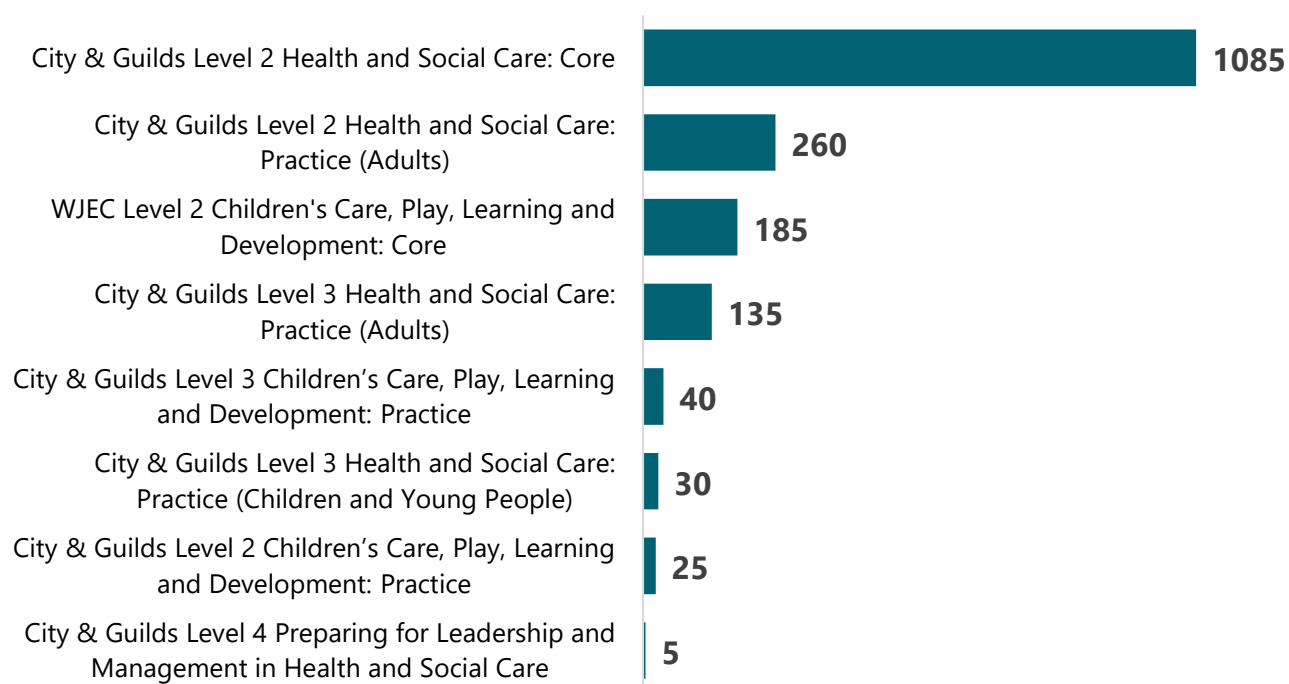
Certificates decreased at all levels apart from Entry level which increased by 3.4% or 25 certificates. Level 1 qualifications had the largest decrease of 1,385 certificates.

Approved Vocational Qualifications

Approved vocational qualifications have been designed and made for Wales. There are currently approved vocational qualifications available in the Health and Social Care sector and the Construction and Built Environment sector.

Figure 5: How many certificates were awarded in approved qualifications?

Number of certificates awarded for approved vocational qualifications that were awarded in Q2 2022.



Source: Qualifications Wales VQ data collection from awarding bodies

A full list of the top 50 qualifications can be found in table 13 of the data tables published alongside this release

In 2022 Q2 1,765 certificates were awarded across eight approved vocational qualifications, an increase of 1,075 compared to 2021 Q2 when only 695 certificates were awarded for three approved vocational qualifications.

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