

This is a look at the education levels of the adult population of the UK and my own education

All the data comes from Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom published by the national statistics agency and the department for education and skills from the years 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2009 and 2017.

The data is very in depth for every year apart from 2017 where there is hardly any information at all apart from to say that in that year nearly 50% of the adult population had a level 4+ qualification and that was all it said.

In 1998 I had a science degree and an HND which would have qualified me in the top 18% statistically, as they were both level 4 qualifications in the NQF system, only 4% of adults had a post graduate education at that time. I became a postgraduate in 2001 with a postgraduate diploma in business administration which qualified me in about the top 4.4% of the adult population in that year, I was 33 years old at that time. I gained another postgraduate qualification in 2003 with a PCET PGCE at M level, this qualified me in the top 5% of the adult population in that year I was 35 years old at the time. Even in 2009 only 7% of the adult population had a post graduate qualification as measured by the national statistics agency. I was 41 years old in 2009.

Something notable from the 1998 statistics is that 4% of men were qualified to NQF level 5 and only 3% of women. I was studying towards an MBA by distance learning in 1998 I passed the postgraduate diploma in 2001, both my mother and my wife were postgraduate qualified at that time.

Mark Benniman 2019

4.8

QUALIFICATIONS

Highest qualification held by people of working age(1), by gender, age, ethnicity, region, economic activity and for employees of working age(1) by occupation, 1998

United Kingdom

Thousands and percentages

	All people of working age(1) (000s)	Percentage of people of working age					
		NVQ level 5(2)	NVQ level 4(3)	NVQ level 3(4)	NVQ level 2(5)	Below NVQ level 2(6)	No qualifications
Personal and economic characteristics							
By gender							
Males	18,738	4	18	22	22	18	15
Females	17,068	3	18	12	22	25	21
By age							
16-19	2,895	*	1	16	39	23	21
20-24	3,457	1	18	31	22	20	8
25-29	4,305	4	23	17	21	26	10
30-39	9,206	4	21	17	21	25	12
40-49	7,714	5	20	17	20	19	20
50-59	6,872	3	16	15	19	17	30
60-64	1,359	3	15	21	21	10	30
By ethnic origin							
White	32,552	3	18	18	22	21	17
Non-white	2,256	4	17	14	20	23	22
of which:							
Black	638	4	20	14	21	25	17
Indian, Pakistani & Bangladeshi	1,062	4	15	13	18	21	29
Other non-white	555	6	17	16	22	23	16
By Government Office region(7)							
United Kingdom	35,807	3	18	18	22	21	18
North East	1,562	2	13	18	22	21	23
North West & Merseyside	4,185	3	17	19	22	20	20
North West	3,361	3	17	19	22	20	19
Merseyside	824	2	14	18	23	21	22
Yorkshire & the Humber	3,064	3	16	17	21	22	20
East Midlands	2,553	3	16	18	22	22	19
West Midlands	3,224	3	15	17	22	22	22
Eastern	3,257	3	17	17	24	24	15
London	4,457	6	22	15	20	21	16
South East	4,750	4	21	19	23	21	13
South West	2,886	3	19	19	23	22	14
England	29,938	3	18	17	22	22	17
Wales	1,734	3	16	17	22	19	22
Scotland	3,143	3	20	20	21	19	17
Northern Ireland	991	3	15	17	23	15	27
By economic activity							
Employees(8)	22,861	4	21	18	23	22	12
of which:							
Managers & administrators	3,453	6	32	21	21	15	5
Professional	2,360	26	59	7	5	3	*
Associate professional & technical	2,208	5	53	16	14	9	2
Clerical & secretarial	3,763	1	13	17	30	31	9
Craft & related	2,360	*	7	35	26	18	14
Personal & protective services	2,689	*	9	18	29	28	15
Sales	1,907	1	9	17	30	26	17
Plant & machine operatives	2,282	*	3	16	23	34	23
Other	1,832	*	3	11	22	30	34
Self-employed(8)	3,057	4	20	23	22	16	14
ILO unemployed(9)	1,746	1	10	14	22	27	26
Inactive(10)	7,886	1	9	16	19	20	35
Time series							
1996	35,535	3	17	16	21	20	22
1997	35,678	3	17	17	22	22	19
1998	35,807	3	18	18	22	21	18

Labour Force Survey, Spring Quarters(11)

- (1) Working age is defined as males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59.
- (2) Includes Higher degrees and other qualifications at Level 5.
- (3) Includes First degree, Other degree and sub-degree higher education qualifications such as teaching and nursing certificates, HNC/HNDs, other HE diplomas and other qualifications at Level 4.
- (4) Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Advanced Diploma, BTEC Nationals, ONC/ONDs, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at level 3. Academic qualifications include those with Advanced GNVQs, more than one GCE A level or SCE Highers/Scottish Certificates of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) at Level 3.
- (5) Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Diplomas, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC Firsts or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 2. Academic qualifications include those with one GCE A level, five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent or AS examinations/SCE Highers/CSYS at Level 2.
- (6) Vocational qualifications include those with BTEC general certificates, YT certificates, other RSA qualifications, other City and Guilds or other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 1. Academic qualifications include those with one or more GCSE grade G or equivalent (but less than five at grades A*-C) or AS examinations at Level 1.
- (7) Usual region of residence.
- (8) The split into employees and self employed is based on respondents own assessment of their employment status.
- (9) Unemployed according to the International Labour Office (ILO) definition.
- (10) People who are neither in employment nor ILO unemployed.
- (11) Users of these data should read the LFS entry Annex A, as it contains important information about the LFS and the concepts and definitions used.

4.9

QUALIFICATIONS

Highest qualification held by people of working age¹, by gender, age, region and economic activity and, for employees of working age¹, by occupation, 2001²

United Kingdom

Thousands & percentages

	All people of working age ¹ (000s)	Percentage of people of working age					
		NVQ level 5 ³	NVQ level 4 ⁴	NVQ level 3 ⁵	NVQ level 2 ⁶	Below NVQ level 2 ⁷	No qualifications
Personal and economic characteristics							
By gender							
Males	19,155	5	20	23	21	17	15
Females	17,399	4	19	14	22	23	18
By age							
16-19	2,910	*	1	17	41	20	21
20-24	3,537	2	19	35	21	16	8
25-29	3,913	5	27	18	20	21	9
30-39	9,447	5	22	17	21	24	11
40-49	7,991	5	22	17	19	19	17
50-64	8,756	4	17	16	19	16	27
By Government Office region⁸							
United Kingdom	36,554	4	19	19	22	20	16
North East	1,573	3	15	19	23	20	19
North West	4,185	4	18	20	22	19	17
Yorkshire & the Humber	3,087	3	17	20	21	21	19
East Midlands	2,587	3	17	19	21	21	19
West Midlands	3,246	3	17	18	22	20	20
Eastern	3,324	4	18	19	23	22	14
London	4,707	7	24	16	19	19	15
South East	4,956	5	21	19	22	21	12
South West	2,945	4	21	19	23	21	12
England	30,609	4	19	19	22	20	16
Wales	1,758	4	18	17	22	19	21
Scotland	3,164	4	23	21	20	15	17
Northern Ireland	1,023	4	15	17	23	15	26
By economic activity							
Employees ^{9,10,11}	24,056	5	23	19	22	20	11
of which:							
Managers & administrators	3,212	8	35	21	19	14	5
Professional	2,834	25	56	9	6	4	1
Associate professional & technical	3,203	5	45	19	17	11	2
Clerical & secretarial	3,478	2	16	20	29	27	6
Craft & related	2,339	*	7	37	27	17	11
Personal & protective services	1,762	1	13	19	29	25	12
Sales	2,030	1	8	19	31	26	15
Plant & machine operatives	2,109	*	4	17	24	31	23
Other	3,076	*	4	15	24	29	28
Self-employed ^{10,12}	2,963	5	22	23	21	15	14
ILO unemployed ¹³	1,390	2	11	14	22	27	23
Inactive ¹⁴	7,911	2	10	17	20	19	33
Time series							
1999	36,177	4	19	18	22	20	17
2000	36,312	4	19	19	22	20	16
2001	36,554	4	19	19	22	20	16

Labour Force Survey, Spring Quarters^{15,16}

- Working age is defined as males aged 16-64 and females 16-59. These figures include unpaid family workers, those on government employment and training programmes, or those who did not answer, who are excluded from the economic activity analyses below.
- Data on Ethnic origin, previously recorded in the table, are not included due to changes in classifications in the Spring 2001 LFS resulting in a discontinuity and also missing data.
- Includes Higher degrees and other qualifications at Level 5.
- Includes First degree, Other degree and sub-degree higher education qualifications such as teaching and nursing certificates, HNC/HNDs, other HE diplomas and other qualifications at Level 4.
- Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Advanced Diploma, BTEC Nationals, ONC/ONDs, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 3. Academic qualifications include those with more than one GCE A level or SCE Highers/Scottish Certificates of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) at Level 3.
- Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Diplomas, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC Firsts or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 2. Academic qualifications include those with one GCE A level, five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent or AS examinations/SCE Highers/CSYS at Level 2.
- Vocational qualifications include those with BTEC general certificates, YT certificates, other RSA qualifications, other City and Guilds or other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 1. Academic qualifications include those with one or more GCSE grade G or equivalent (but less than five at grades A*-C) or AS examinations at Level 1.
- Usual region of residence - Government Office Regions in England and each UK country.
- Employees are those in employment excluding the self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- The split into employees and self-employed is based on respondents' own assessment of their employment status.
- Apart from rounding, figures may not sum to grand totals because of questions in the LFS which were unanswered or did not apply.
- Self-employed are those in employment excluding employees, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- Unemployed according to the International Labour Office (ILO) definition.
- People who are neither in employment nor ILO unemployed.
- Users of these data should read the LFS entry Annex A, as it contains important information about the LFS and the concepts and definitions used.
- More up-to-date information may be available through the DFES Statistics Website 'www.dfes.gov.uk/statistics'.

4.9

QUALIFICATIONS

Highest qualification held by people of working age¹, by gender, age, region and economic activity and, for employees of working age¹, by occupation, 2003

United Kingdom

Thousands and percentages

	All people of working age ¹ (000s)	Percentage of people of working age					
		NVQ level 5 ²	NVQ level 4 ³	NVQ level 3 ⁴	NVQ level 2 ⁵	Below NVQ level 2 ⁶	No qualifications
Personal and economic characteristics							
By gender							
Males	19,528	5	20	23	21	17	14
Females	17,671	4	20	15	22	22	17
By age							
16-19	3,006	*	1	21	37	21	21
20-24	3,712	2	18	35	22	16	7
25-29	3,693	7	30	19	20	16	8
30-39	9,397	6	23	16	21	23	10
40-49	8,414	6	22	18	20	19	15
50-64	8,976	5	18	17	19	16	24
By ethnic origin⁷							
White	34,057	5	20	20	22	19	15
Non-white	3,127	6	19	15	20	21	19
of which:							
Mixed	223	5	21	17	21	20	17
inc Asian or British Asian	1,567	5	18	15	19	21	22
Black or Black British	734	5	21	17	22	23	13
Chinese	184	10	24	17	18	20	12
Other Ethnic Group	420	8	18	12	20	22	20
By Government Office region⁸							
United Kingdom	37,199	5	20	19	22	19	15
North East	1,577	3	17	20	21	19	19
North West	4,228	4	18	20	22	18	18
Yorkshire & the Humber	3,120	4	17	21	22	20	16
East Midlands	2,621	4	17	21	22	19	17
West Midlands	3,258	3	18	19	22	20	18
Eastern	3,393	5	19	18	23	20	14
London	4,943	8	23	16	20	19	13
South East	5,055	6	23	20	21	20	11
South West	3,013	5	22	20	22	21	11
England	31,207	5	20	19	22	20	15
Wales	1,777	5	19	19	23	17	17
Scotland	3,172	4	24	22	20	15	15
Northern Ireland	1,042	4	16	19	24	12	24
By economic activity							
Employees ^{7,9,10}	24,413	6	24	20	22	19	10
of which:							
Managers and senior officials	3,561	8	33	21	19	14	6
Professional occupations	2,912	27	55	8	6	4	-
Associate professional and technical	3,375	6	45	19	17	11	2
Administrative and secretarial	3,392	2	17	20	30	26	6
Skilled trades	2,260	1	7	38	27	16	12
Personal service occupations	1,832	1	15	22	28	24	11
Sales and customer service occupations	2,107	1	9	22	29	25	14
Process, plant and machine operatives	1,948	*	4	18	25	32	20
Elementary occupations	3,011	*	5	15	25	29	27
Self-employed ^{8,11}	3,215	5	23	24	20	16	12
ILO unemployed ¹²	1,444	3	12	16	23	25	21
Inactive ¹³	7,966	2	10	17	20	19	31
Time series							
2001	36,759	4	19	19	22	20	16
2002	36,997	5	20	19	22	19	16
2003	37,199	5	20	19	22	19	15

Labour Force Survey, Spring Quarters^{14,15}

- Working age is defined as males aged 16-64 and females 16-59. These figures include unpaid family workers, those on government employment and training programmes, or those who did not answer, who are excluded from the economic activity analyses below.
- Includes Higher degrees and other qualifications at Level 5.
- Includes First degree, Other degree and sub-degree higher education qualifications such as teaching and nursing certificates, HNC/HNDs, other HE diplomas and other qualifications at Level 4.
- Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Advanced Diploma, BTEC Nationals, ONC/ONDs, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 3. Academic qualifications include those with more than one GCE A level or SCE Highers/Scottish Certificates of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) at Level 3.
- Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Diplomas, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC Firsts or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 2. Academic qualifications include those with one GCE A level, five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent or AS examinations/SCE Highers/CSYS at Level 2.
- Vocational qualifications include those with BTEC general certificates, YT certificates, other RSA qualifications, other City and Guilds or other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 1. Academic qualifications include those with one or more GCSE grade G or equivalent (but less than five at grades A*-C) or AS examinations at Level 1.
- Apart from rounding, figures may not sum to grand totals because of questions in the LFS which were unanswered or did not apply.
- Usual region of residence - Government Office Regions in England and each UK country.
- Employees are those in employment excluding the self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- The split into employees and self-employed is based on respondents' own assessment of their employment status.
- Self-employed are those in employment excluding employees, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- Unemployed according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition.
- People who are neither in employment nor ILO unemployed.
- Users of these data should read the LFS entry Annex A, as it contains important information about the LFS and the concepts and definitions used.
- More up-to-date information may be available through the DFES Research and Statistics Gateway 'www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway'.

4.9

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESTINATIONS

Highest qualification held by people of working age¹, by gender, age, region and economic activity and, for employees of working age¹, by occupation, 2005

United Kingdom

Thousands and percentages

	All people of working age ¹ (000s)	Percentage of people of working age					
		NVQ level 5 ²	NVQ level 4 ³	NVQ level 3 ⁴	NVQ level 2 ⁵	Below NVQ level 2 ⁶	No qualifications
Personal and economic characteristics							
By gender							
Males	18,702	6	20	23	20	17	13
Females	17,720	5	21	16	22	21	15
By age							
16-19	3,076	*	1	21	37	21	20
20-24	3,650	2	19	34	21	17	8
25-29	3,570	8	30	19	19	16	8
30-39	8,600	7	25	17	20	21	10
40-49	8,479	6	23	17	20	20	13
50-64	9,048	5	20	17	19	16	22
By ethnic origin⁷							
White	32,980	5	21	20	21	19	14
Non-white	3,418	7	19	15	20	21	18
of which:							
Mixed	268	6	22	19	22	15	16
Asian or Asian British	1,636	7	17	14	19	20	23
Black or Black British	813	5	22	16	21	22	14
Chinese	198	16	24	17	17	15	12
Other Ethnic Group	504	8	16	12	20	26	17
By Government Office region⁸							
United Kingdom	36,422	5	21	20	21	19	14
North East	1,525	3	17	21	24	20	15
North West	4,098	5	19	20	22	19	16
Yorkshire & the Humber	3,044	5	17	20	22	21	15
East Midlands	2,587	4	19	22	20	20	15
West Midlands	3,196	4	19	20	22	18	17
Eastern	3,323	5	20	19	22	21	13
London	4,811	8	24	15	18	20	14
South East	4,953	7	23	20	21	19	10
South West	2,965	5	21	21	22	20	11
England	30,502	6	21	19	21	20	14
Wales	1,749	5	19	18	22	18	17
Scotland	3,123	5	26	22	20	15	14
Northern Ireland	1,048	4	19	17	22	13	24
By economic activity							
Employees ^{7,9,10}	23,614	7	25	20	22	18	9
of which:							
Managers and senior officials	3,438	9	35	21	18	13	4
Professional occupations	3,000	30	53	8	6	4	1
Associate professional and technical	3,282	6	46	19	16	10	2
Administrative and secretarial	3,224	2	18	21	28	25	6
Skilled trades	2,073	1	9	38	25	18	10
Personal service occupations	1,893	2	17	24	28	21	8
Sales and customer service occupations	2,056	1	10	23	29	24	13
Process, plant and machine operatives	1,784	*	4	18	27	32	19
Elementary occupations	2,842	1	5	16	25	29	25
Self-employed ^{8,11}	3,302	6	23	24	21	16	10
ILO unemployed ¹²	1,335	3	13	14	24	26	19
Inactive ¹³	7,981	2	10	17	20	20	30

Labour Force Survey, Spring 2005^{14,15}

- Working age is defined as males aged 16-64 and females 16-59. These figures include unpaid family workers, those on government employment and training programmes, or those who did not answer, who are excluded from the economic activity analyses below.
- Includes Higher degrees and other qualifications at Level 5.
- Includes First degree, Other degree and sub-degree higher education qualifications such as teaching and nursing certificates, HNC/HNDs, other HE diplomas and other qualifications at Level 4.
- Vocational qualifications include those with International Baccalaureate, RSA Advanced Diploma, BTEC Nationals, ONC/ONDs, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 3. Academic qualifications include those with more than one GCE A level or SCE Highers/Scottish Certificates of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) at Level 3.
- Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Diplomas, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC Firsts or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 2. Academic qualifications include those with one GCE A level, five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent or AS examinations/SCE Highers/CSYS at Level 2.
- Vocational qualifications include those with BTEC general certificates, YT certificates, other RSA qualifications, other City and Guilds or other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 1. Academic qualifications include those with one or more GCSE grade G or equivalent (but less than five at grades A*-C) or AS examinations at Level 1.
- Apart from rounding, figures may not sum to grand totals because of questions in the LFS which were unanswered or did not apply.
- Usual region of residence - Government Office Regions in England and each UK country.
- Employees are those in employment excluding the self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- The split into employees and self-employed is based on respondents' own assessment of their employment status.
- Self-employed are those in employment excluding employees, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- Unemployed according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition.
- People who are neither in employment nor ILO unemployed.
- Users of these data should read the LFS entry Annex A, as it contains important information about the LFS and the concepts and definitions used.
- More up-to-date information may be available through the DfES Research and Statistics Gateway 'www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/'.

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESTINATIONS

TABLE 3.8: Highest qualification held by people of working age¹, by gender, age, region and economic activity and, for employees of working age¹, by occupation, 2009

United Kingdom

Thousands and percentages

	All people of working age ¹ (000s)	Percentage of people of working age					
		NVQ level 5 ²	NVQ level 4 ³	NVQ level 3 ⁴	NVQ level 2 ⁵	Below NVQ level 2 ⁶	No qualifications
Personal and economic characteristics							
By gender							
Males	19,804	7	22	22	21	17	12
Females	18,153	7	24	17	23	18	12
By age							
16-19	3,151	-	1	21	39	20	18
20-24	4,199	2	20	33	22	15	8
25-29	4,162	10	29	19	19	15	8
30-39	8,123	10	29	17	19	17	8
40-49	9,093	8	24	17	21	19	11
50-64	9,228	7	22	18	19	15	18
By ethnic origin⁷							
White	33,530	7	23	20	22	17	11
Non-white	4,411	10	22	15	18	19	16
of which:							
Mixed	361	6	21	19	23	18	14
Asian or Asian British	2,182	10	21	14	18	18	18
Black or Black British	963	8	25	16	19	18	14
Chinese	200	16	33	14	11	15	11
Other Ethnic Group	705	11	21	13	17	22	17
By Government Office region⁸							
United Kingdom	37,956	7	23	19	22	17	12
North East	1,600	5	19	20	24	17	14
North West	4,247	6	21	19	23	17	13
Yorkshire & the Humber	3,221	6	22	20	22	19	12
East Midlands	2,729	5	21	21	22	18	12
West Midlands	3,297	6	19	19	23	18	14
East	3,452	7	20	20	24	19	10
London	5,151	12	27	15	17	16	12
South East	5,077	7	25	20	22	18	8
South West	3,084	7	23	21	23	18	8
England	31,858	7	23	19	22	18	11
Wales	1,791	7	21	20	21	16	14
Scotland	3,212	7	27	21	20	13	13
Northern Ireland	1,096	5	20	20	22	12	21
By economic activity							
Employees ^{7,9,10}	23,852	9	27	20	22	16	7
of which:							
Managers and senior officials	3,696	12	38	19	17	11	3
Professional occupations	3,288	35	49	7	5	3	1
Associate professional and technical	3,538	9	47	18	15	9	2
Administrative and secretarial	2,893	3	22	21	29	20	4
Skilled trades	1,918	1	9	37	27	18	9
Personal service occupations	2,125	2	20	29	29	15	5
Sales and customer service occupations	1,937	1	12	24	30	23	11
Process, plant and machine operatives	1,601	1	5	18	29	31	17
Elementary occupations	2,836	1	7	16	28	29	20
Self-employed ^{9,11}	3,478	8	25	22	20	15	10
ILO unemployed ¹²	2,374	3	14	18	25	24	16
Inactive ¹³	8,084	3	13	18	22	19	26

Labour Force Survey, Quarter 2, 2009^{14,15}

- Working age is defined as males aged 16-64 and females 16-59. These figures include unpaid family workers, those on government employment and training programmes, or those who did not answer, who are excluded from the economic activity analyses below.
- Includes Higher degrees and other qualifications at Level 5.
- Includes First degree, Other degree and sub-degree higher education qualifications such as teaching and nursing certificates, HNC/HNDs, other HE diplomas and other qualifications at Level 4.
- Vocational qualifications include those with International Baccalaureate, RSA Advanced Diploma, BTEC Nationals, ONC/ONDS, City and Guilds Advanced Craft or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 3. Academic qualifications include those with more than one GCE A level or SCE Highers/Scottish Certificates of Sixth Year Studies (CSYS) at Level 3.
- Vocational qualifications include those with RSA Diplomas, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC Firsts or trade apprenticeships and other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 2. Academic qualifications include those with one GCE A level, five or more GCSE grades A*-C or equivalent or AS examinations/SCE Highers/CSYS at Level 2.
- Vocational qualifications include those with BTEC general certificates, YT certificates, other RSA qualifications, other City and Guilds or other professional or vocational qualifications at Level 1. Academic qualifications include those with one or more GCSE grade G or equivalent (but less than five at grades A*-C) or AS examinations at Level 1.
- Apart from rounding, figures may not sum to grand totals because of questions in the LFS which were unanswered or did not apply.
- Usual region of residence - Government Office Regions in England and each UK country.
- Employees are those in employment excluding the self-employed, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- The split into employees and self-employed is based on respondents' own assessment of their employment status.
- Self-employed are those in employment excluding employees, unpaid family workers and those on government employment and training programmes.
- Unemployed according to the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition.
- People who are neither in employment nor ILO unemployed.
- Users of these data should read the LFS entry in the 'Sources of Education and Training Statistics' section, as it contains important information about the LFS and the concepts and definitions used.
- More up-to-date information may be available through the DCSF Research and Statistics Gateway 'www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/'.

Highest qualification held by working age adults (Table 3.4)

In 2017, 44% of the UK population aged between 19 and 64 had a qualification at NQF level 4 or above. 42% of males aged between 19 and 64 years had a qualification at NQF level 4 or above, compared to 46% of similarly aged females. The percentage of 19-64 year olds with a qualification at NQF level 4 or above was highest among the 30-39 age group at 52%. The percentage of 19 to 64 year olds in England, Wales and Northern Ireland with a qualification at NQF level 4 or above were 44%, 37% and 34% respectively. 47% of 19 to 64 year olds in Scotland had a qualification at SCQF level 7 or better^{11,12} (Table 3.4).

¹¹ Qualification statistics for England are calculated using a different methodology to those for other UK countries and are not directly comparable.

¹² SCQF levels used in Scotland are not directly comparable to NQF levels used in England/Wales/Northern Ireland. Figures relating to level 7 have been provided as the closest match to NQF level 4. Figures for the UK have been calculated using the NQF levels assigned to Scottish qualifications in the Labour Force Survey. Further information can be found at www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean and https://www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/readyreckoner.html