

Modern Apprenticeship Statistics

Quarter 2, 2022/23 [1st April – 30th September]

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Making skills work for Scotland

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Introduction

Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) provide employed individuals (either new or existing) with the opportunity to secure industry-recognised qualifications at a range of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels while in employment.

This report provides a summary of quarter 2 (1st April to 30th September 2022) statistics for MAs where there is a public funding contribution administered by SDS, on behalf of the Scottish Government. Further analysis can be found in the [Supplementary Tables](#) on the SDS website.

Content and formatting changes have been introduced to this report to improve accessibility in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact user_feedback@sds.co.uk.

¹ [Bank of England: Monetary Policy Report \(August 2022\)](#)

Economic Outlook

Modern Apprenticeship starts continued to grow this quarter and are 13% ahead of Q2 last year and 92% of what they were in Q2 2019/20, pre-pandemic. This may give some indication that employers are refocusing on their skills pipelines and workforce development.

There is, however, growing economic uncertainty with utility costs continuing an upward trajectory, affecting some industries disproportionately. The Bank of England now forecast that the UK will be in a recession by the end of the financial year.¹ This is reflected in the fall in business confidence in Scotland, now at a 27-month low, driven by concerns about the economy and reduced levels of consumer spending.²

In these uncertain times SDS will continue to support the implementation of the Young Person's Guarantee, as detailed in the Programme for Government, and work closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that apprenticeships are a contributor to recovery, going forward.

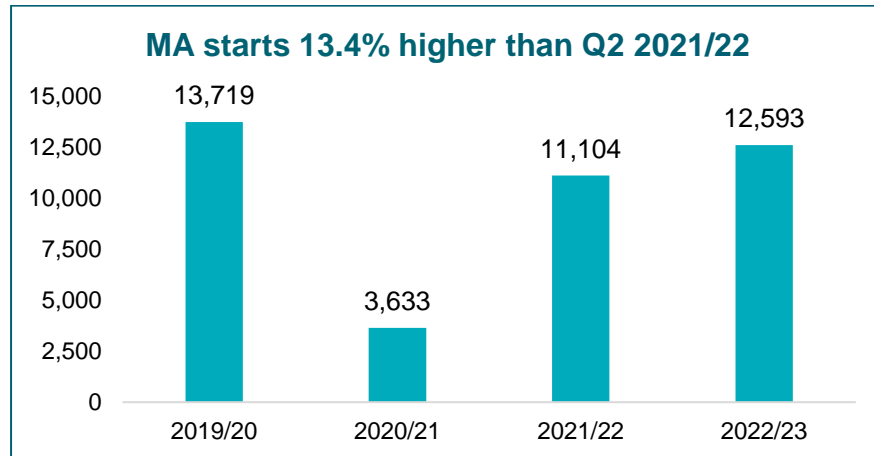
² [Royal Bank of Scotland: PMI report \(September 2022\)](#)

Modern Apprenticeship Starts

There were **12,593** Modern Apprenticeship starts in Q2.

Modern Apprenticeship starts continued to increase this quarter. Start figures rose by 13.4% (+1,489) relative to the same point last year and starts this quarter are 92% of what they were in Q2 2019/20, pre-pandemic.

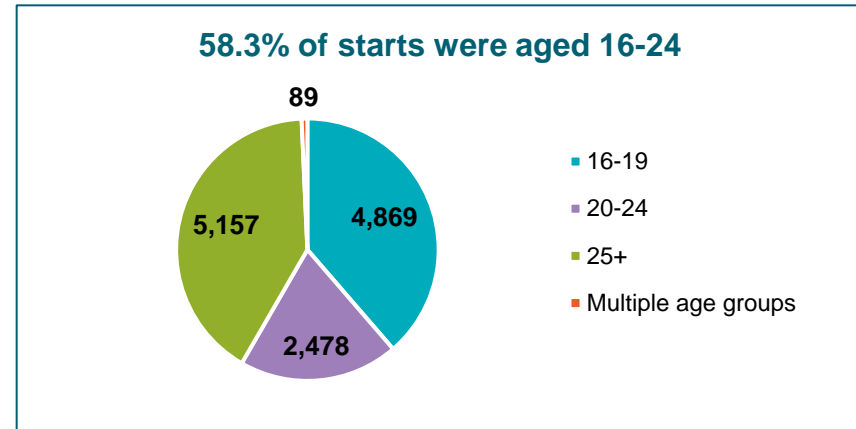
Figure 1: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts, Q2 2019/20 to Q2 2022/23



³ To reduce the risk of individual participants being identified we have amalgamated 'prefer not to say' and 'in another way' responses and have included them within figures and tables under 'Multiple'.

Starts by age

Figure 2: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by age group, Q2 2022/23³



This quarter, the majority (58.3%) of MA starts were aged 16-24, while 41.0% were aged 25+. The proportion of 16-24 year olds was 2.0 pp higher than the same point last year (56.3%).⁴

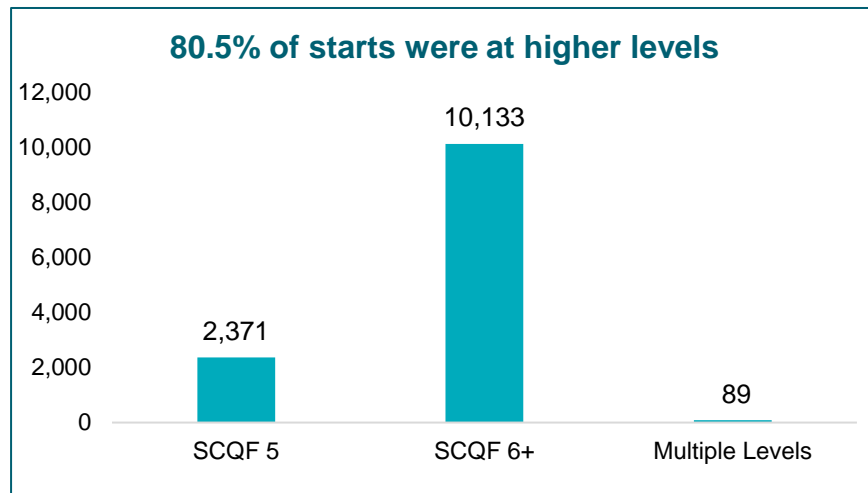
Young people were adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Encouragingly, we have seen the number of MA starts aged 16-24 increasing each year since Q2 2020/21.

⁴ In our Modern Apprenticeship Q2 2021/22 publication this figure was 56.5% as the proportion of starts by age group was calculated as a percentage of known.

For more information on the impact of the pandemic on the Scottish economy please refer to our [Economy, People and Skills](#) reports (formerly COVID-19 Labour Market Insights).

Starts by level

Figure 3: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by SCQF level, Q2 2022/23⁵



80.5% (10,133) of starts this quarter were at higher levels⁶, an increase of 1.7 pp compared to Q2 2021/22 (78.8% or 8,717 starts). 2,371 (18.8%) of starts were at lower levels, 29

⁵ To reduce the risk of individual participants being identified we have amalgamated 'prefer not to say' and 'in another way' responses and have included them within figures and tables under 'Multiple'.

more than the same point last year.

Starts by occupational grouping

Figure 4: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by occupational grouping, Q2 2022/23

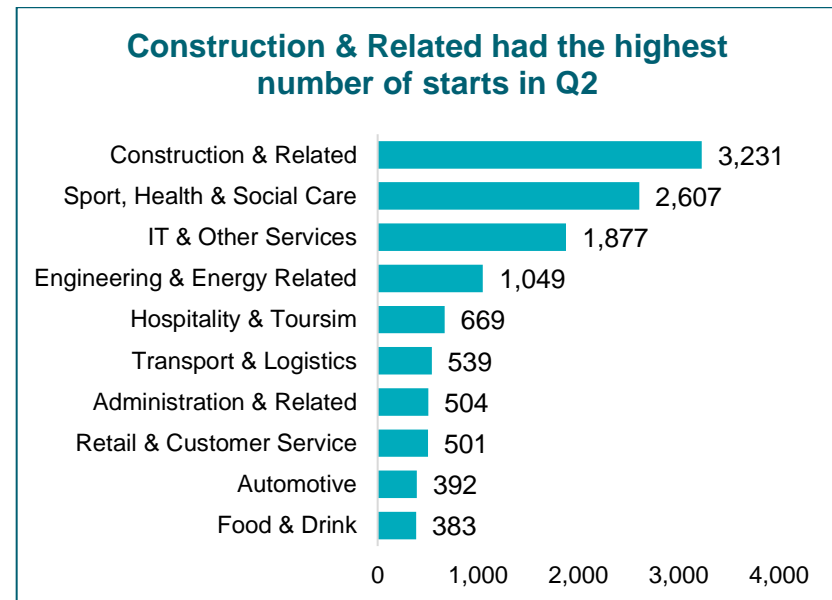


Figure 4 shows the top ten occupational groupings by number of starts. Construction & Related had the highest number of starts (3,231) and the greatest proportion of starts

⁶ SCQF level 6 or above.

(25.7%) in Q2. Starts to this grouping also increased by 529 (+19.6%) with *Construction: Building* and *Construction: Professional Apprenticeship* frameworks contributing +269 (+41.7%) and +277 starts⁷, respectively.

The Sport, Health and Social Care grouping had the second largest increase in absolute starts (+370) and the second highest number of starts overall (2,607) in Q2 2022/23. Much of this increase came from starts to *Social Services (Children and Young People)* (+20.5% or +175 starts) and *Dental Nursing* (+75.2% or +79 starts).

Other occupational groupings that saw an increase in the number of starts this quarter, when compared to Q2 2021/22, include IT & Other Services with +353 starts (+23.2%) and Engineering & Related with +301 starts (+40.2%).

The Hospitality and Tourism and Retail and Customer Service groupings were badly affected by the pandemic and experienced marked declines in starts in 2020/21.⁸ Starts to these groupings began to improve last year and continued to improve this quarter. Hospitality and Tourism had +97 starts

⁷ [Professional Apprenticeship in Construction at SCQF 10](#) is a new framework introduced by SDS in May 2022

(+17.0%) and Retail and Customer Service +105 starts (+26.5%) relative to the same point last year. These figures, however, remain only 62.1% and 61.2% (respectively) of what they were in Q2 2019/20, pre-pandemic.

Three occupational groupings saw a notable decline in starts this quarter: Financial Services (-34.5% or -58 starts), Personal Services (-34.1% or -106 starts), and Transport and Logistics (-30.3% or -234 starts). The logistics sector has experienced significant disruption in the past few years with increasing demand for freight, as well as a tightening labour market leading to critical shortages of those with core skills.⁹ According to Logistics UK, employee retention and wellbeing are top HR priorities for employers in 2022 as labour shortages are expected to continue.

Starts by gender

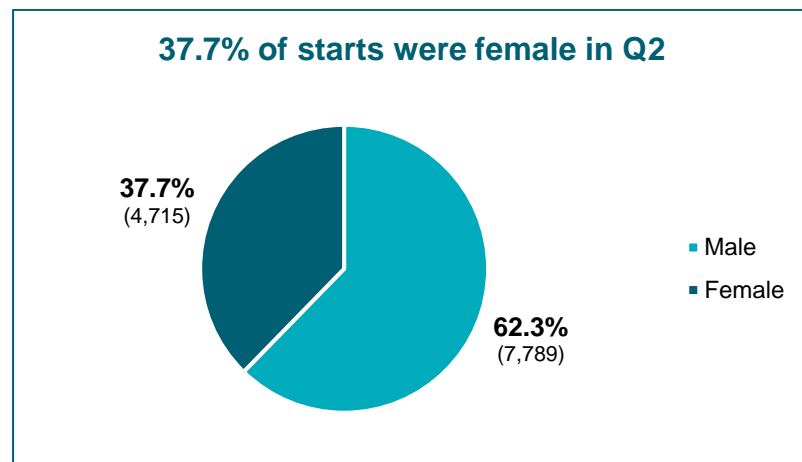
Female starts (as a proportion of male + female starts) decreased from 37.8% to 37.7%, only 0.1 pp lower than the

⁸ [Scottish Government: Scotland's Wellbeing: The Impact of Covid-19 \(December 2020\)](#)

⁹ [Logistics UK: The Logistics Report Summary 2022](#)

same point last year. The gender balance continues, for a second year, to mirror that of Q2 2019/20, pre-pandemic.

Figure 5: Gender balance of Modern Apprenticeship starts, Q2 2022/23



Starts by disability

The disability rate was **14.7%** in quarter 2, 2.5 pp higher than the same point last year (12.2%).¹⁰ The number of starts self-identifying an impairment, health condition, or learning difficulty increased from 1,334 to 1,822 (+36.6%) compared

¹⁰ [The Scottish Health Survey 2022](#) shows 22% of those aged 16-24 have a limiting long-term condition (23% for those aged 25-34). It is worth noting that definitions of disability vary by organisation and therefore not

to the same point last year. Furthermore, the disability rate has now returned to what it was in Q2 2019/20, pre-pandemic.

Starts by ethnicity

The ethnicity rate was **3.2%** in quarter 2, 0.3 pp higher than the same point last year (2.9%). The number of starts self-identifying as Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic group increased from 321 to 404 (+25.9%) compared to the same point last year, a higher increase than those self-identifying as White (+13.3%). Furthermore, the ethnicity rate is now 0.9 pp higher than it was in Q2 2019/20, pre-pandemic (2.3%).

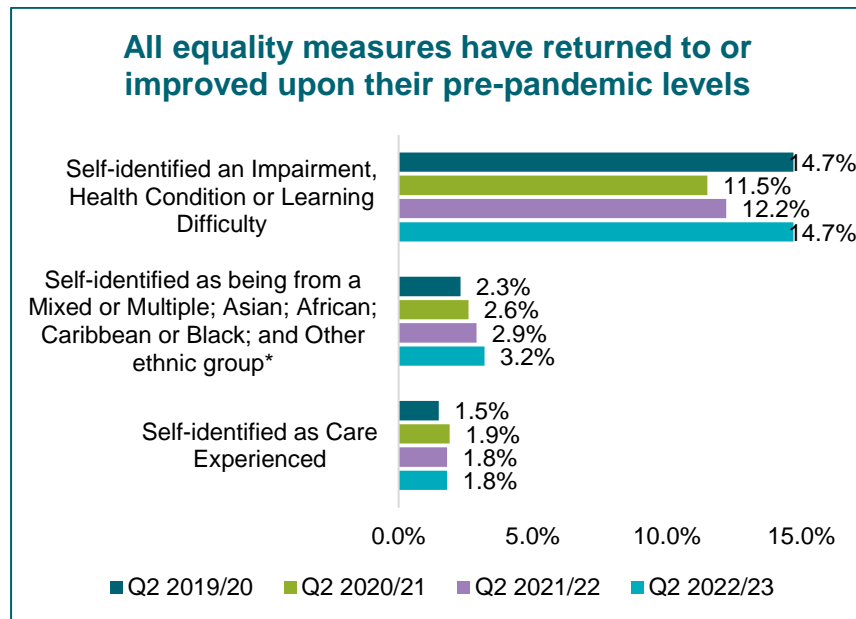
47.0% of those who self-identified being from a Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic group were aged 16-24 (-1.0 pp on Q2 2021/22), the remaining 53.0% were aged 25 or above. In comparison, 40.8% of those self-identifying as White were aged 25 or above and 59.0% were 16-24.

fully comparable. Scottish Health Survey disability definition available [here](#).

Starts by care experience

The care experienced rate was **1.8%** in quarter 2, unchanged from the same point last year. The number of starts self-identifying as care experienced increased from 192 to 226 (+17.7%) compared to the same point last year.

Figure 6: Modern Apprenticeship equality rates, Q2 2019/20 to Q2 2022/23



*When including ethnic group 'white other' the ethnicity rate is 7.1% as at Q2 2022/23.

Modern Apprenticeship In Training

As at 30th September 2022, there were **38,425** Modern Apprentices in training, 5.2% (+1,889) higher than the same point last year (36,536).

Figures 7 and 8 show Modern Apprentices in training by age group and level, respectively, at Q2 2022/23.

Figure 7: Modern Apprentices in training by age group, at Q2 2022/23

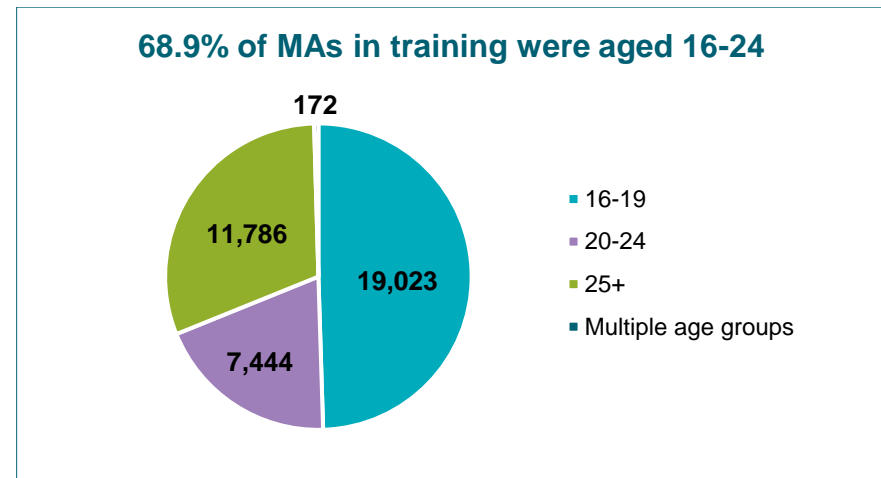
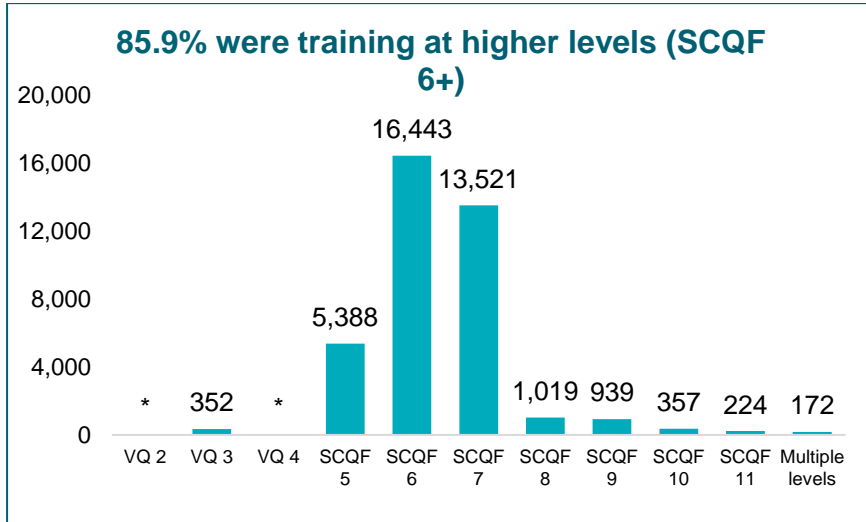


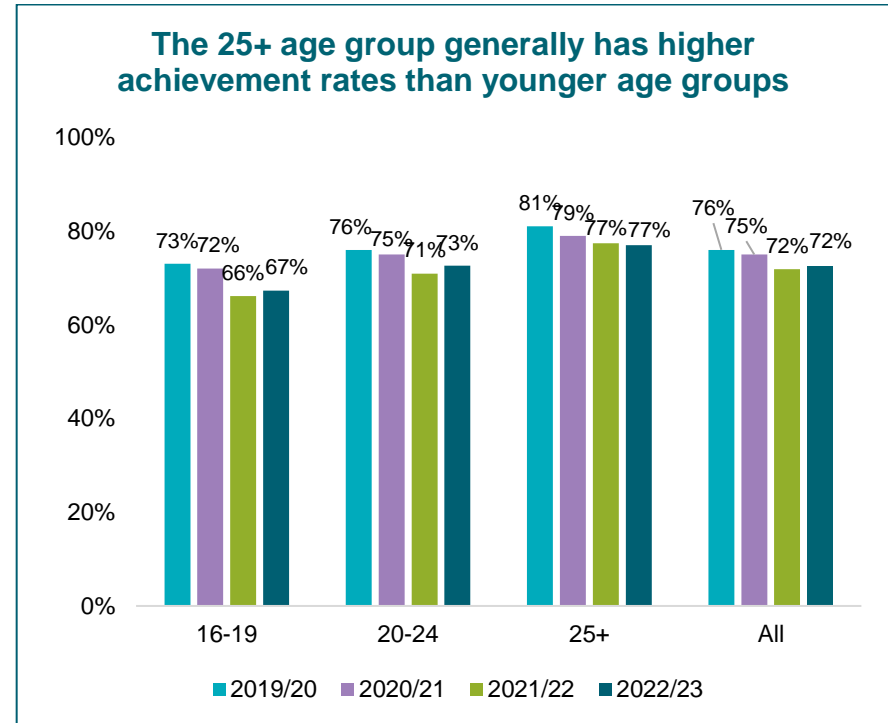
Figure 8: Modern Apprentices in training by level, at Q2 2022/23¹¹



Modern Apprenticeship Achievements

At the end of Q2 2022/23, the overall achievement rate was **72.4%**, with 9,554 achievements out of 13,203 leavers, 0.5 pp higher than the same point last year (71.9%).

Figure 9: Modern Apprenticeship achievements by age group, Q2 2019/20 to Q2 2022/23



¹¹ Disclosure control has been applied where figures are less than 5 or where such small numbers can be identified through differencing (marked with an asterisk *).

Figure 10: Modern Apprenticeship achievement rates by occupational grouping, Q2 2021/22 to Q2 2022/23

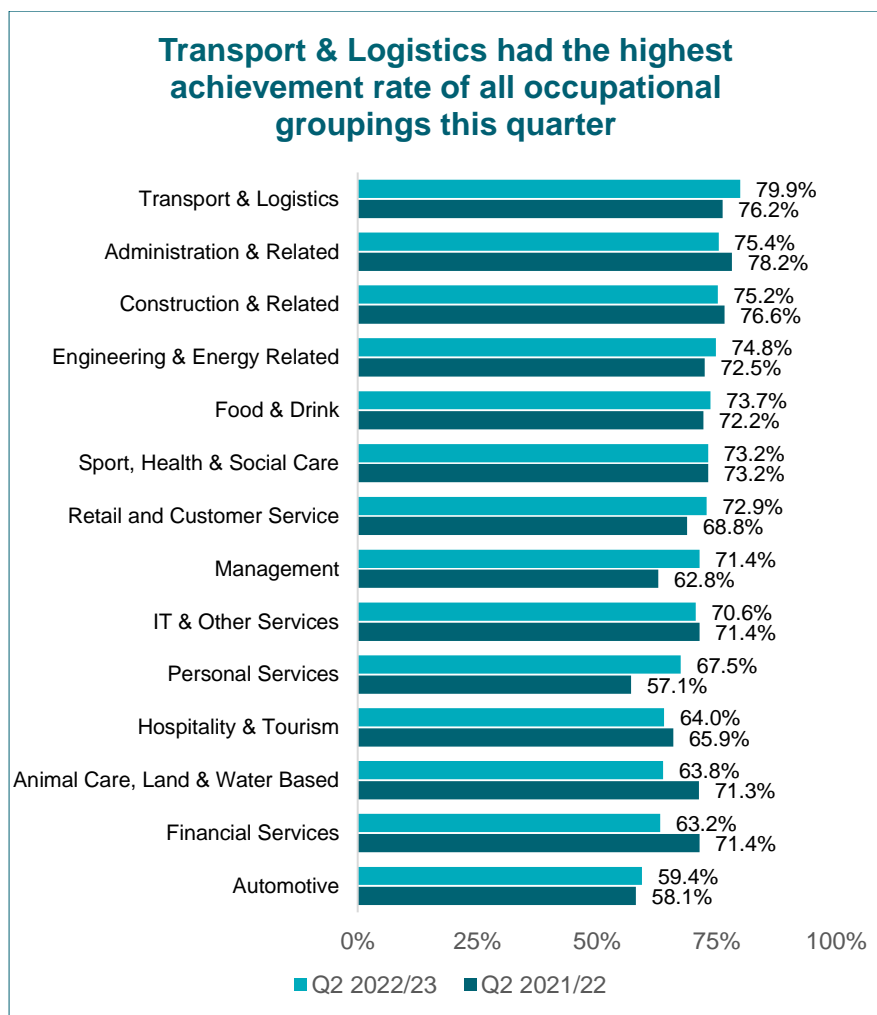


Figure 10 shows achievement rates by occupational grouping.¹² Transport and Logistics had the highest achievement rate this quarter at 79.9%, 3.7 pp higher than the same point last year.

Modern Apprenticeship Redundancies

As at quarter 2 2022/23, 142 Modern Apprentices were made redundant, 7 more than the same point last year (135). 50 individuals continued a Modern Apprenticeship with an alternative employer and 29 of those were supported via the Adopt an Apprentice initiative enabling former apprentices to complete their training.

Modern Apprentices who are made redundant can continue to positive destinations without the need for Adopt an Apprentice funding. Adopt an Apprentice information is available on the [Our Skillsforce](#) website.

¹² Excluding those with fewer than 100 leavers

Further Information

This report provides analysis of publicly funded Modern Apprenticeship activity up to the second quarter of the 2022/23 financial year.

Statistics associated with Modern Apprenticeships such as starts, in training, leavers, and achievements are provided in summary form. Further information including more detailed breakdowns of these statistics by framework, age, level, and equality characteristics can be found within our [Supplementary Tables](#) on the SDS website.

Note to Readers

Guidance on how Modern Apprenticeship data is collected and reported is available on the SDS website [here](#). We recommend that the guidance is read prior to any further analysis.

The impact of Covid-19 has had a profound impact on the economy and Modern Apprenticeship data should be considered in this context. We recommend exercising caution when comparing figures to 2019/20 and 2020/21 statistics.

Gender

To ensure that we enable apprentices to record their gender in the most appropriate way for them, we have amalgamated responses against ‘prefer not to say’ and ‘in another way’ and have included them within figures and tables under the heading “Multiple”. These apprentices have **not** been included in other categories to ensure confidentiality.

Age

As programme funding is linked to the age of trainees, all age breakdowns in this report are based on the age of the individual when they commenced their Modern Apprenticeship.

Level

In line with Scottish Government direction, we carried out an exercise to align MA frameworks to SCQF levels (see Appendix A).

Frameworks

In this report, MA frameworks are classified as belonging to an SDS assigned occupational grouping. Details are

available [here](#) on the SDS website.

Starts

In April 2019 we adjusted the recording of starts, re-entrants, and progressions to accommodate the introduction of a new system to improve how Training Providers manage their contracts. More details can be found [here](#) on the SDS website.

Calculations

This report may refer to a percentage increase or decrease in values, which means the relative change between two numbers e.g., starts increased by 5% compared to the same quarter last year. The report may also refer to a percentage point (pp) increase or decrease, which means the absolute change between two percentages e.g., the achievement rate for MAs aged 25 or over increased by 8 pp.

Percentages in this report may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Similarly, calculating percentage point differences from the data presented in the report may differ slightly from figures cited in the text. This is also due to rounding.

Contact

Any comments or suggestions regarding the content of this report are welcome and can be emailed to user_feedback@sds.co.uk.

Appendix A – SCQF Framework

SCQF Levels	SQA Qualifications		Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions	Apprenticeships & SVQs
12			Doctoral Degree	Professional Apprenticeship
11			Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship SVQ
10			Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Professional Apprenticeship
9	Professional Development Award		Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate	Graduate Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
8	Higher National Diploma		Diploma Of Higher Education	Higher Apprenticeship Technical Apprenticeship SVQ
7	Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate	Higher National Certificate	Certificate Of Higher Education	Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
6	Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher			Modern Apprenticeship Foundation Apprenticeship SVQ
5	National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5			Modern Apprenticeship SVQ
4	National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4	National Certificate	National Progression Award	SVQ
3	National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3			
2	National 2, Awards			
1	National 1, Awards			

¹³ Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: [The SCQF Interactive Framework](#)