

CITB

TRAINEE NUMBERS SURVEY

2002/2003

Introduction

Each year CITB conducts a survey to measure the numbers of people entering construction training. Data is collected from colleges, private training providers and construction industry training centres across Great Britain. These include those coming through CITB's own managing agency and those entering other formal certificated training at craft and technical level. In all training for 17 different occupations is covered, providing a greater level of detail than is available from the Learning and Skills Council. The results are used (together with separately sourced figures on higher-level construction courses) to compare with estimates of skill demand contained in CITB's Skills Foresight Report.

Summary

- First year intake in 2002/2003 stands at just under 49,000. This represents a further rise on previous year's figures

- The overall occupational pattern of training has remained broadly similar to previous years with Carpenters and Joiner, Bricklayers, Technical, Mechanical Engineering and Painters being the most numerous

- There has been a growth in training in areas outside of the main building trades

- Approximately half of all first year trainees are undertaking an S/VQ Level 2 or Intermediate Construction Award

- The North West has more trainees than the other 10 areas.

- Of the total first year trainees, 37% are following a Modern Apprenticeship programme

- There are 1,555 female trainees (3% of total)

- Ethnic minority trainees account for 4% of the total, but there is a strong variation between regions – rising to 30% in London.

- Adult training has grown by 12% from 22,716 in 2001/2002 to 25,405 in 2002/2003 and now accounts for 52% of total.

The National Picture

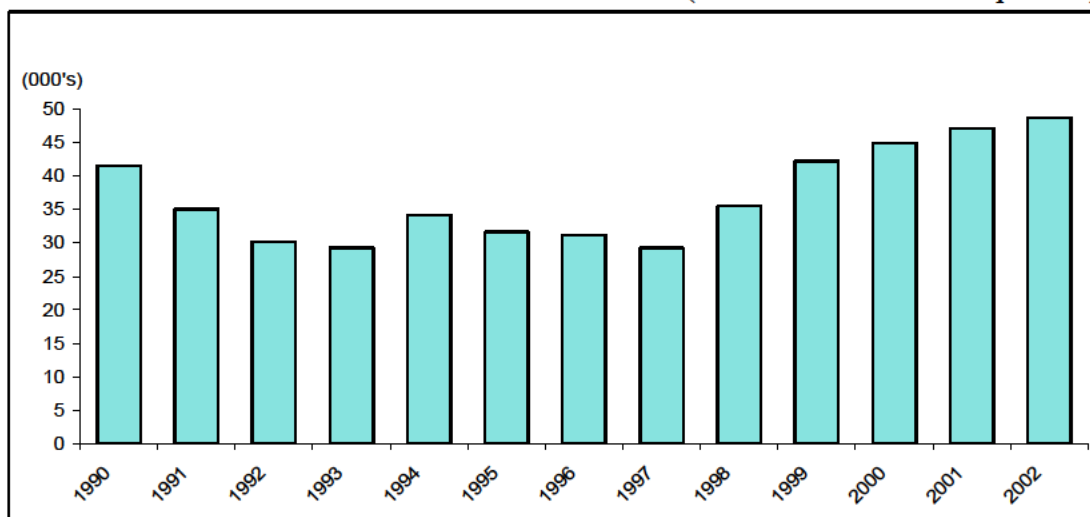
The overall first year intake for the 17 occupations covered by the survey is 48,744.

Table 1 - Numbers of First Year Trainees 2002/2003 (Great Britain)

Occupations	Trainees		Total
	Under 18	Over 18	
Technicians	2,029	5,441	7,470
Carpenters & Joiners	9,177	5,513	14,690
Bricklayers	5,029	3,370	8,399
Painters	2,143	1,898	4,041
Plasterers	813	813	1,626
Roofers	248	108	356
Floorers	119	260	379
Glaziers	54	38	92
Other Specialist Builders	26	164	190
Scaffolders	189	447	636
Plant Operatives	51	2,046	2,097
Plant Mechanics	154	60	214
Steel Erectors/Structural	0	42	42
Other Civil Engineers	0	274	274
General Operatives	521	1,908	2,429
Maintenance Workers	35	20	55
Mechanical Engineering	2,751	3,003	5,754
Total	23,339	25,405	48,744

The number of first year trainees has increased again in 2002/2003 for the fifth year running. This is highlighted in Chart 1 below, which shows the trend of first year trainees over a thirteen-year period (1990 – 2002). As the chart shows, throughout much of the 1990's the numbers were around 30,000, down by around 10,000 on the pre-recession level of the late 1980's. It should be noted that during the '90s the industry underwent a prolonged period of low activity, with a contracting workforce, and low levels of recruitment. The years since 1998 have seen a recovery in the levels of training as the industry continues to grow.

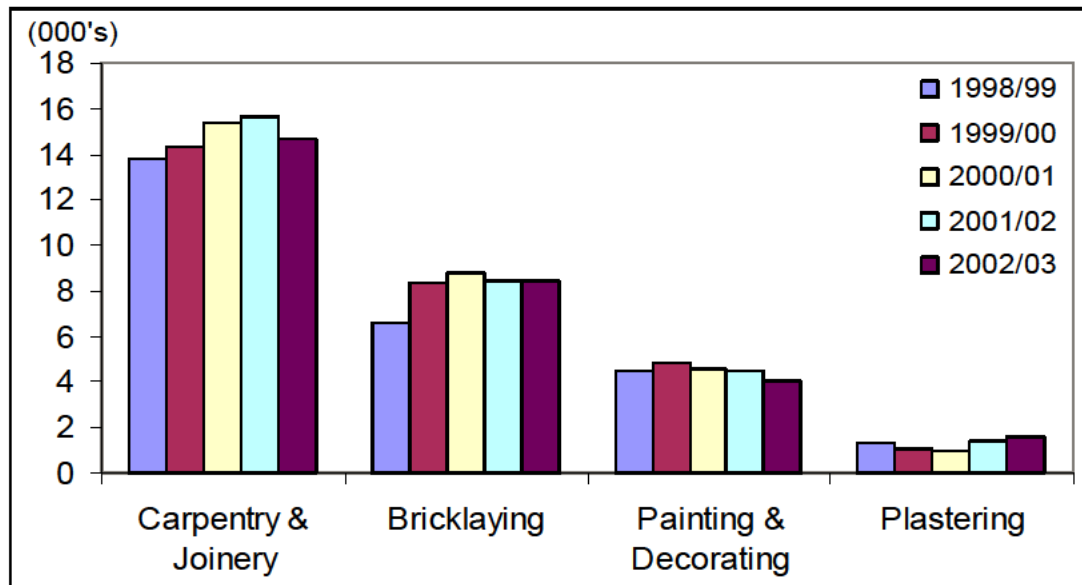
Chart 1 - Numbers of First Year Trainees 1990-2002 (Great Britain: All Occupations)



Training by Occupation

As with previous years Carpentry & Joinery and Bricklaying dominate the first year training figures with 14,690 (30%) and 8,399 (17%) of the total respectively. The five-year trend in the number of first year trainees entering building craft occupations is shown in Chart 2 below.

Chart 2 - Number of First Year Trainees 1997-2002 (Great Britain: Building Craft Occupations)



The academic year 2002/2003 has seen a slight decrease across all the building trades with the exception of plastering, which has seen an increase of 13%. In fact these decreases are the exception to the majority of occupations, which have increased their number of first year trainees between the academic years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003, as shown in Table 2 below.

Those occupations which have witnessed an increase in the numbers of trainees have been shaded. Out of the 17 occupations listed, 12 have more first year trainees this year than the previous year. The biggest increase has been in the number entering Plant Operative training. This can be explained by the inclusion of a number of private plant training providers in this year's survey sample.

Table 2 - Comparison of number of First Year Trainees by Occupation in Academic Years 2002/2003 and 2001/2002 (Great Britain)

Occupations	2002/2003	2001/2002
Technical	7,470	7,037
Carpenters & Joiners	14,690	15,604
Bricklayers	8,399	8,402
Painters	4,041	4,525
Plasterers	1,626	1,444
Roofers	356	409
Floorers	379	370
Glaziers	92	128
Other SB Operatives	190	147
Scaffolders	636	530
Plant Operatives	2,097	306
Plant Mechanics	214	205
Steel Erectors/Structural	42	11
Other CE Operatives	274	12
General Operatives	2,429	1,300
Maintenance Workers	55	0
Mechanical Engineering	5,754	6,680
Total	48,744	47,110

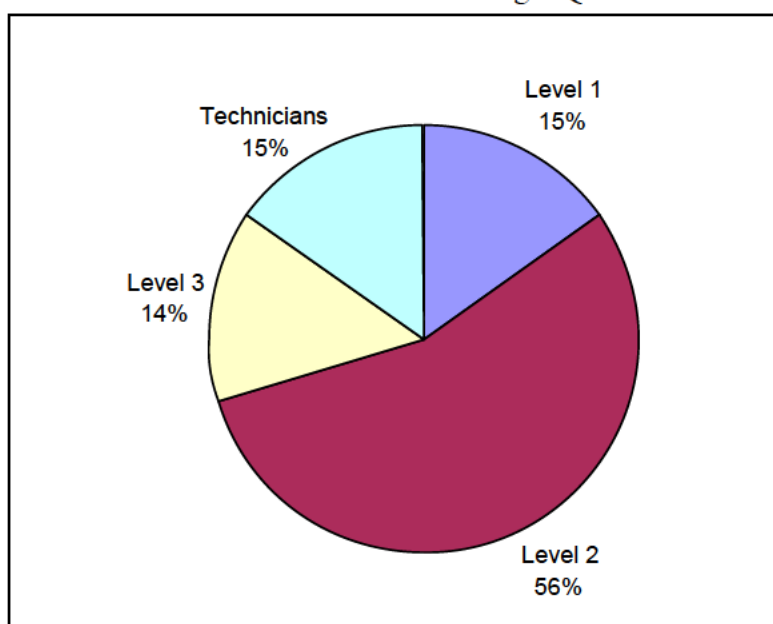
Training by Qualification

Data is collected on trainees starting construction qualifications in each of the following levels:

- S/NVQ Level 1 or Foundation Construction Award
- S/NVQ Level 2 or Intermediate Construction Award
- S/NVQ Level 3 or Advanced Construction Award
- Further & Higher Education Courses
(National Certificate/Diploma & Higher National Certificate/Diploma)

The percentage of first year trainees on a qualification within each of these levels for the whole of Great Britain is shown below

Chart 3 - First Year Trainees undertaking a Qualification in Each Level (Great Britain)



Within Great Britain, just over half (56%) of the first year trainees are undertaking a qualification on S/NVQ Level 2 or an Intermediate Construction Award. With the remaining 44% spread between the other 3 levels.

This pattern is consistent across all the Regional Development Areas of England and Wales, with the highest proportion of first year trainees undertaking a Level 2 or equivalent qualification. However, the exception to this is Scotland, where the majority of trainees are on an SVQ Level 3 as opposed to a Level 2. Chart 4 below highlights this.

This is supported by data from Futureskills Scotland who state that “Scotland has a higher level of SVQ/NVQ level 3+.... qualifications than the GB average.”¹

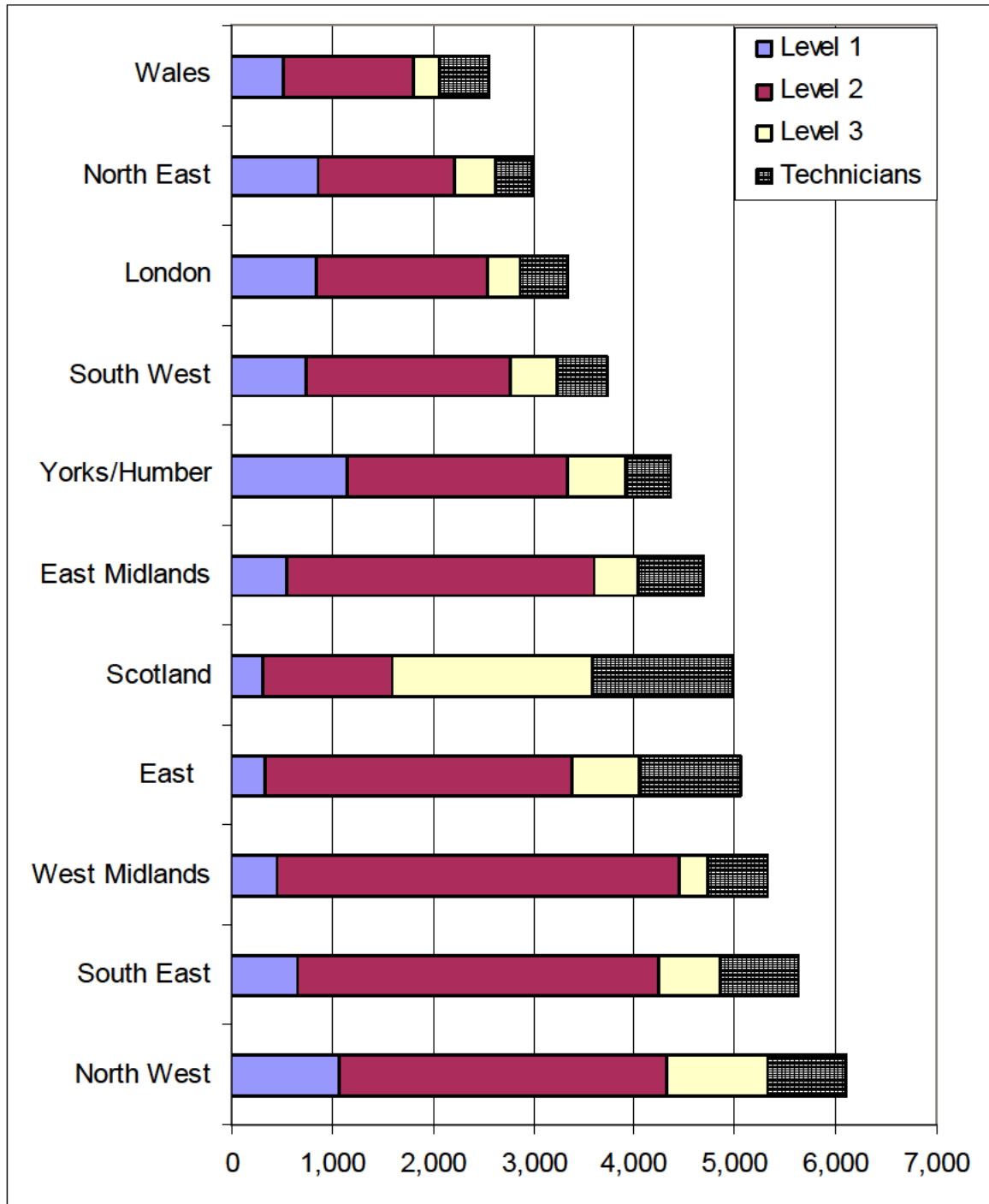
¹ Futureskills Scotland: The Scottish Labour Market 2002 (page 50)

The Regional Picture

As mentioned at the beginning of the report, the numbers of first year trainees is collected from colleges, private training providers and construction industry training centres across Great Britain. This data is then analysed by the numbers in the training establishments within each Regional Development Agency (RDA) Area and Scotland and Wales.

Chart 4 below shows the numbers of first year trainees by each level of qualification in the 9 RDA areas and Scotland and Wales.

Chart 4 – First Year Trainees by Level of Qualification and Area: 2002/2003



As is highlighted in this chart above and mentioned earlier – Scotland differs to the other regions by having its largest proportion of trainees on an SVQ Level 3 qualification compared to all the other areas which have the majority of trainees on Level 2.

The explanation for this lies in the fact that in England and Wales, an NVQ Level 2 is regarded as the normal skill level for crafts people. Whereas in Scotland an SVQ Level 3 is the expected level of skill required.

As Chart 4 also shows, the North West has the largest share of first year trainees at just over 6,000 while Wales has the smallest share at approximately 2,500.

Modern Apprenticeships

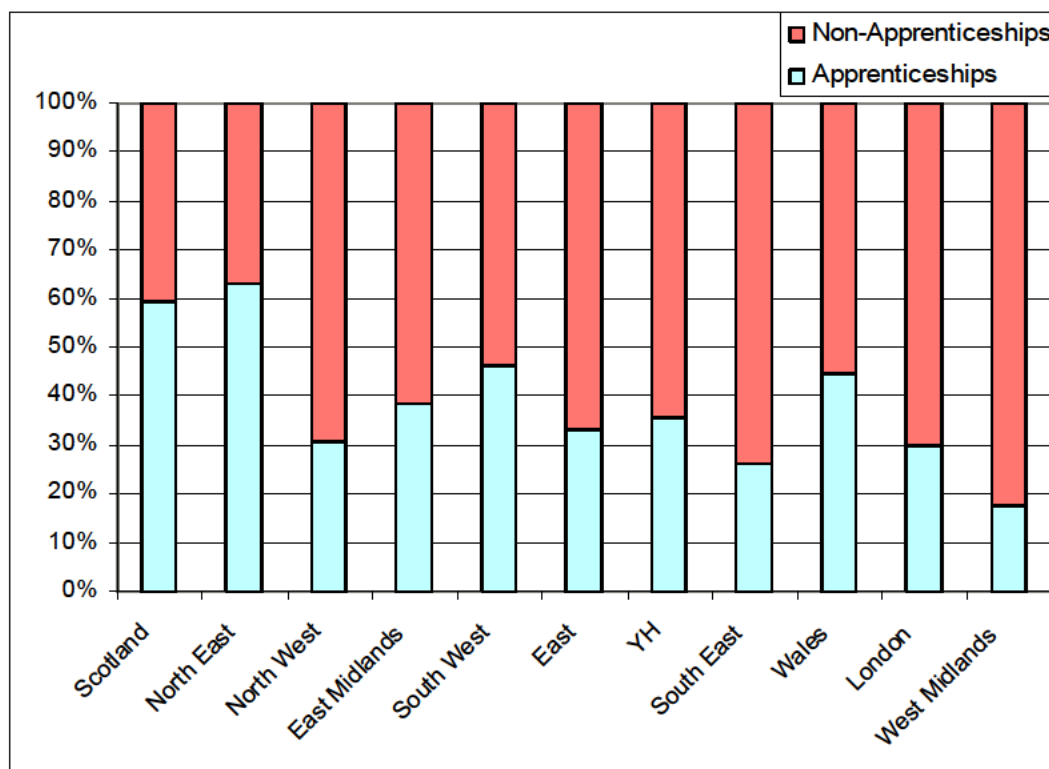
In previous years the survey asked how many of the first year trainees were on “apprentice type” training. This year the questionnaire was altered to be more specific and asked for the number of trainees on Modern Apprenticeship training.

A Modern Apprenticeship is defined as:

Planned training programme and training agreement leading to the achievement of a NVQ/SVQ level 3, including the essential key/core skills, and any additional requirements of the occupation, employer and learner.

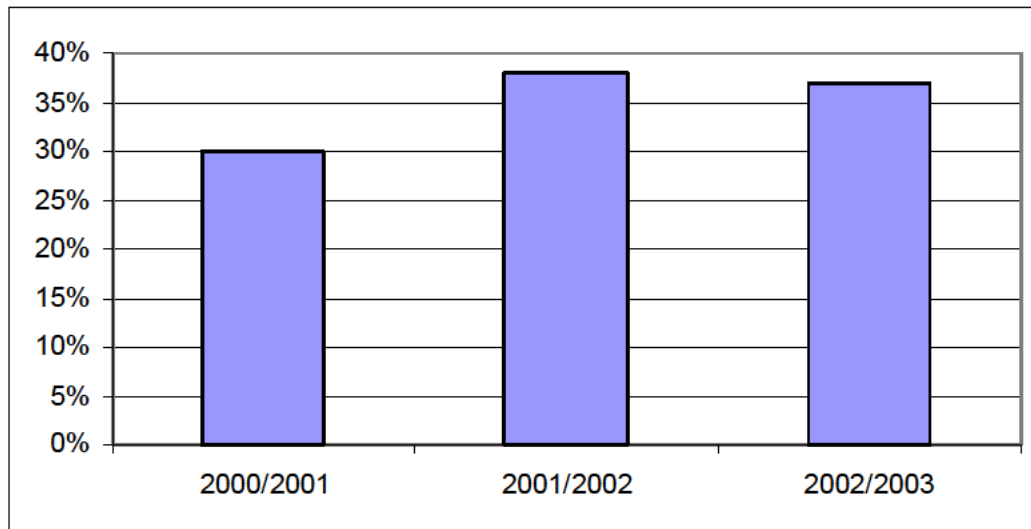
In total 18,500 (37% of the total) trainees are on a Modern Apprenticeship this year. Scotland was the region with the highest number of Modern Apprenticeships with 2,965 (60% of all Scottish first year trainees). However, as a proportion of trainees, the North East actually had more with 63%. In comparison the West Midlands had both the lowest number and the lowest proportion with 931 (18%).

Chart 5: Proportion of First-year Trainees who are undertaking a Modern Apprenticeship by Region 2002/2003



How the overall number of apprentices compares to previous years is highlighted in the following chart, which shows the three-year trend. Although, as mentioned earlier, the question was phrased differently this year, the numbers have remained fairly consistent since the 2000/2001 academic year, with the proportion staying between 30% and 40%.

Chart 6: The Proportion of Trainees Undertaking an Apprenticeship 2000-2002 (Great Britain)



First-Year Trainees Characteristics

Gender

The number of first year trainees broken down by gender is shown below.

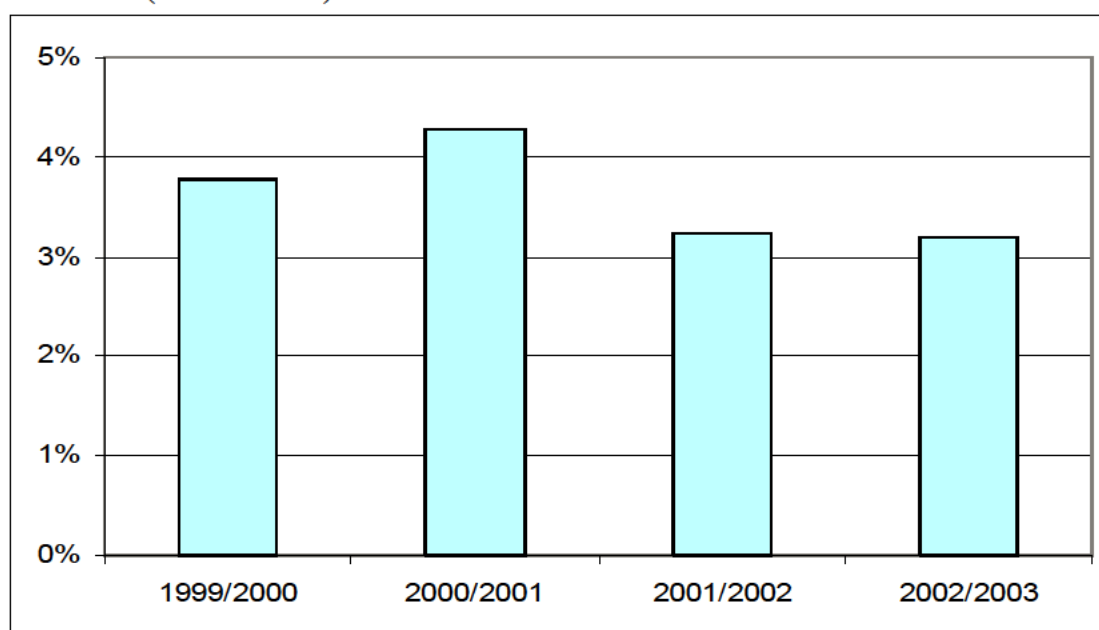
Table 3 - Number of First-year Trainees broken down by Gender and Age (Great Britain)

Under 18		18 and Over		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
22,937	402	24,252	1,153	47,189	1,555
(47%)	(1%)	(50%)	(2%)	(97%)	(3%)

As this table shows in the academic year 2002/2003 there were 1,555 (3%) female trainees compared to 47,189 (97%) male trainees. Whereas male trainees are fairly evenly divided between adults and under 18's, there are by far more female adult trainees than under 18's.

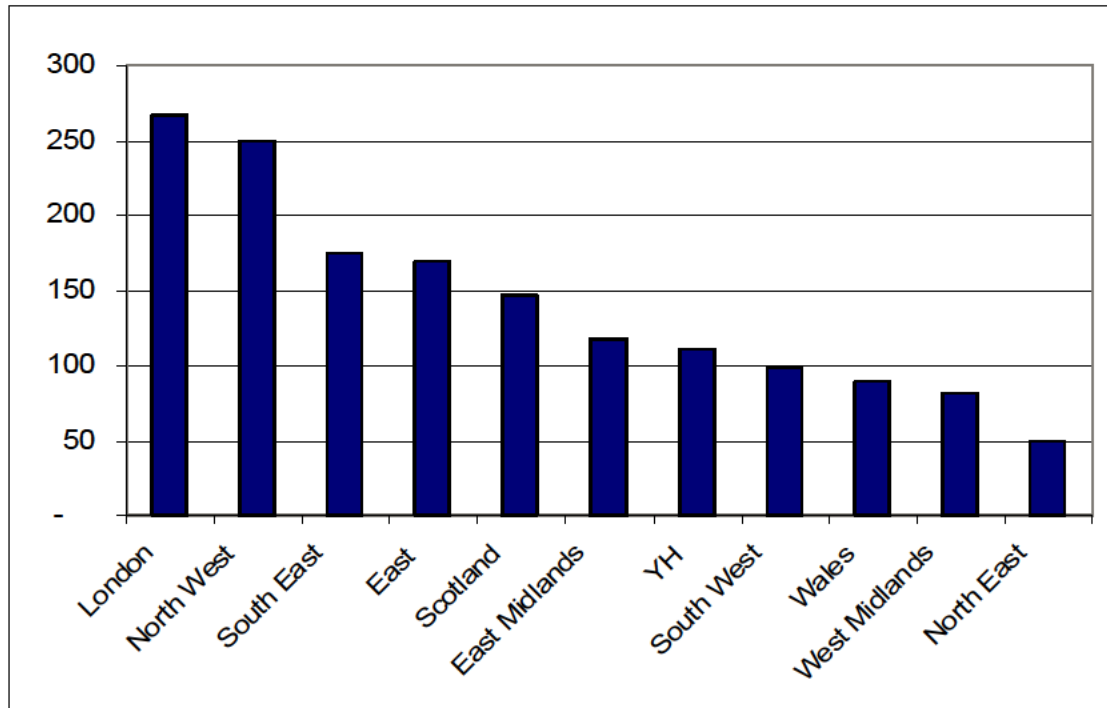
At 1,555, the actual number of female trainees has increased very slightly by 2% from 1,522 last year. However as a proportion of the overall number of first year trainees, females only make up 3% which is lower than the peak just over 4% in the academic year 2000/2001. See Chart 7 below.

Chart 7 – Female Trainees as a Proportion of the Total Number of First-year Trainees 1999-2002 (Great Britain)



Regional analysis of the figures in 2002/2003 show that London has more female trainees (267) which account for the highest proportion (7%) in a region. In all the other areas female trainees account for between 1% and 3% of their total number of first-year trainees. Over the past three academic years, London has consistently had the highest number of female trainees. The following chart shows the number of female trainees in all the regions.

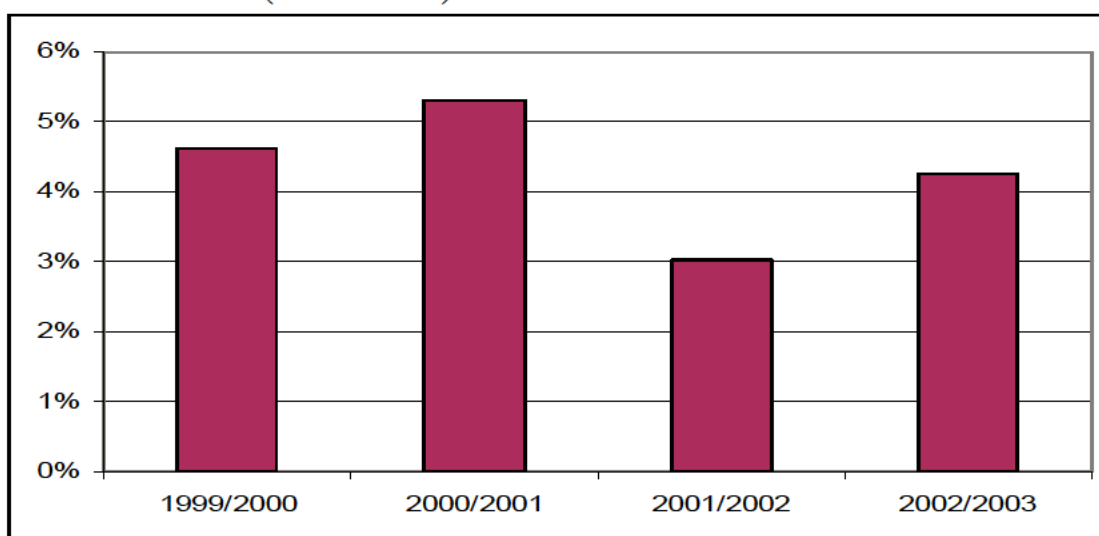
Chart 8 - Number of First-year Trainees who are Female by Region 2002/2003 (Great Britain)



Ethnic Minorities

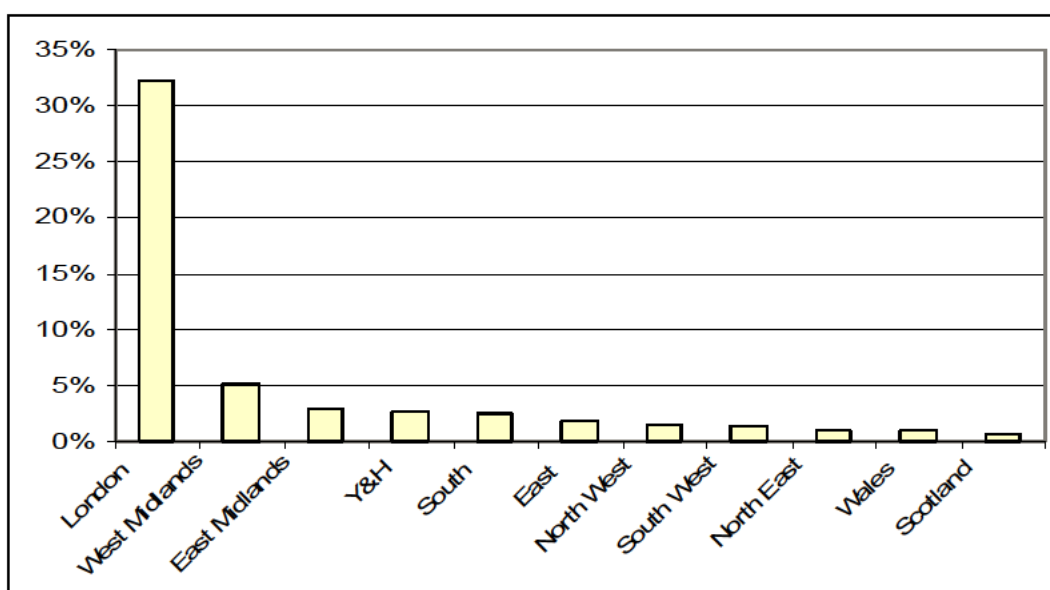
The number of first year trainees who are from an ethnic minority stands at 2,068 in 2002/2003 (4% of the total). As a proportion of the total this is an increase on the previous academic year, but not as high as two academic years ago. See following chart.

Chart 9 - Ethnic Minority Trainees as a Proportion of the Total Number of First-year Trainees 1999-2002 (Great Britain)



As with the number of female trainees, London also has the highest number of ethnic minority trainees. In fact, as Chart 10 shows, there is a huge difference between the numbers of ethnic minority trainees in London compared to those in all the other areas. As a proportion of all trainees in the region, the ethnic minority trainees in London account for 32% which is much higher than the other areas which have between 1% and 5% of their trainees from an ethnic minority.

Chart 10 - Number of First-year Trainees who are from an Ethnic Minority by Region 2002/2003



Age

The survey asks respondents to breakdown the number of trainees undertaking each qualification into two broad age categories:

- Under 18
- 18 & Over.

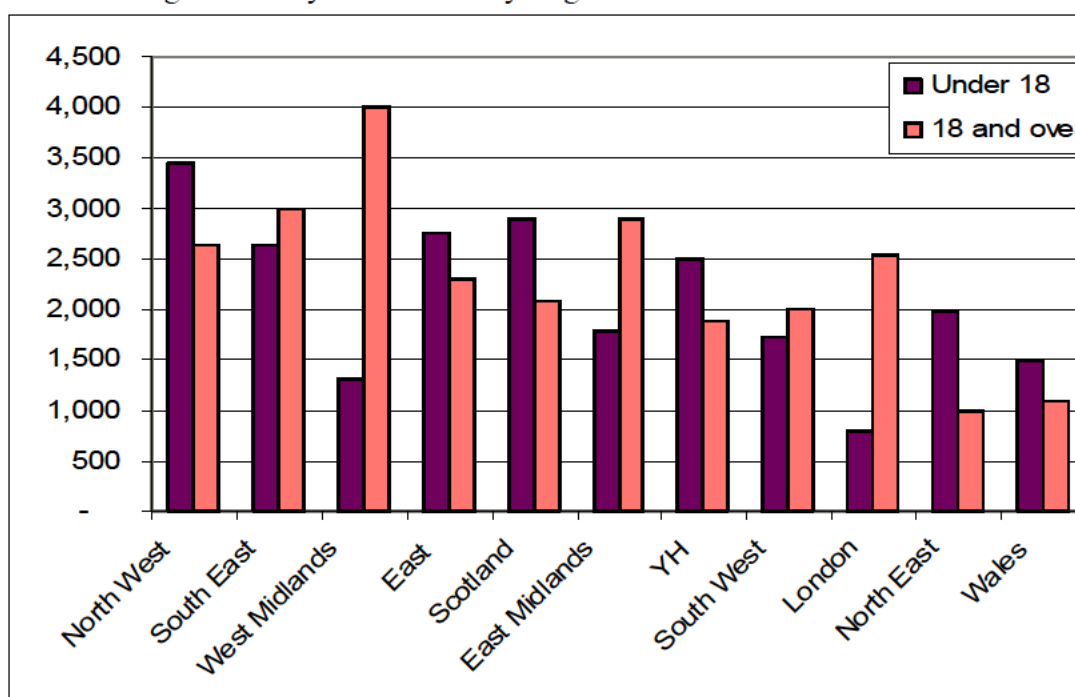
Table 4 – Breakdown of First-year trainees by Age and Level of Qualification 2002/2003 (Great Britain)

	Under 18	Over 18	Total
Level 1	5487 (74%)	1960 (26%)	7447
Level 2	13149 (49%)	13637 (51%)	26786
Level 3	2674 (38%)	4367 (62%)	7041
Technical	2029 (27%)	5441 (73%)	7470
	23339 (48%)	25405 (52%)	48744

As the table shows the breakdown of trainees by age is fairly evenly split, with there being slightly more trainees aged 18 and over. As would be expected, the younger trainees dominate in Level 1 qualifications; Level 2 is more or less half and half, while Levels 3 and Technical occupations have a higher proportion of older trainees.

Split by region, the chart below shows that the North West has the more under 18's, and the West Midlands has more aged 18 and over compared to all the other areas.

Chart 11 – Age of First-year Trainees by Region 2002/2003



On a year by year basis the age composition of trainees has changed. While the number of under 18's has been falling slightly in contrast the trainees aged 18 and over has been increasing.

Chart 12 – Age of First-year Trainees as a Proportion of Total 1999-2002 (Great Britain)

