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Traineeships

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Statistical Fact Sheet
Level 2 Traineeships NI, 2022/23

Traineeships

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1. Introduction

Level 2 (L2) Traineeships were introduced in Northern Ireland in academic year 2021/22. This official statistics release presents analysis of L2 Traineeships delivered by the six Further Education Colleges in Northern Ireland, with support for work based learning being provided by local employers. Traineeships provide participants with the opportunity to achieve a full level 2 outcome equivalent to up to five GCSEs at grades A* to C (including English and Mathematics qualifications at level 2).

Key Points

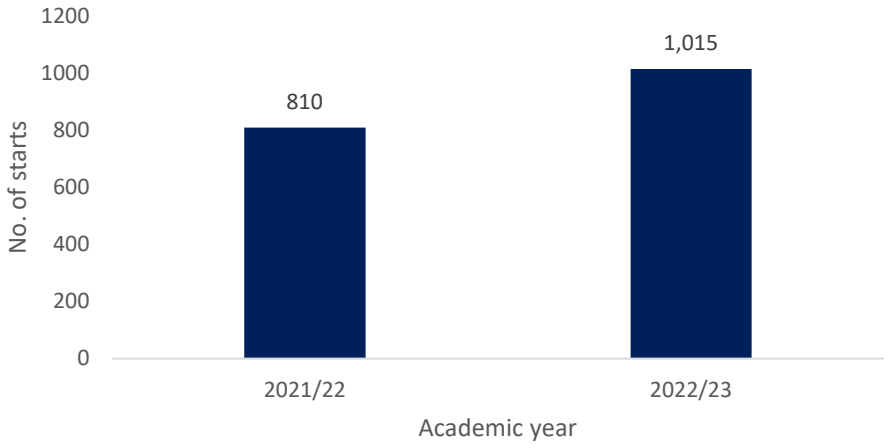
- In 2022/23, there were a total number of 1,370 students on Traineeships across the six FE colleges. This included 1,015 starts and 355 in the second year of their Traineeship.
- Traineeships recorded a 25% increase in starts over the previous year; increasing from 810 in 2021/22 to 1,015 in 2022/23.
- Approximately four in five (83%) Traineeship starts were male in 2022/23.
- The performance rates for the Traineeship vocational qualification were all over 80%, with an achievement rate of 94%.

2. Traineeships starts[1]

In the second year of the Traineeship programme, Traineeships recorded a 25% increase in starts over the previous year; increasing from 810 in 2021/22 to 1,015 in 2022/23.

Figure 2.1: 25% increase in Traineeship starts from 2021/22 to 2022/23

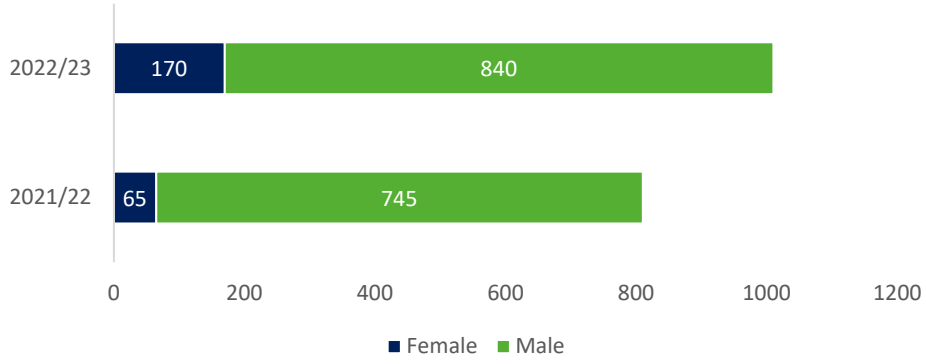
Number of Traineeship starts, 2021/22 to 2022/23



Approximately, four in five (83%) Traineeship starts were male in 2022/23. However, the proportion of female starts increased by nine percentage points in 2022/23, going from 8% in 2021/22 to 17% in 2022/23.

Figure 2.2: Approximately four in five Traineeship starts were male in 2022/23

Number of Traineeship starts by sex, 2021/22 to 2022/23

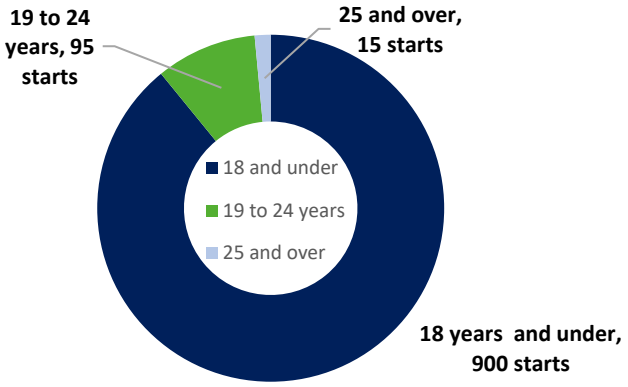


The majority (89%) of Traineeship starts were aged 18 or under, 9% were aged 19 to 24 years and only 2% fell into the oldest category aged 25 or over.

[1] Starts are defined as students in the first year of a L2 Traineeship.

Figure 2.3: Nine in Ten (89%) of Traineeship starts are aged 18 years or under

Number of Traineeship starts by age group, academic year 2022/23

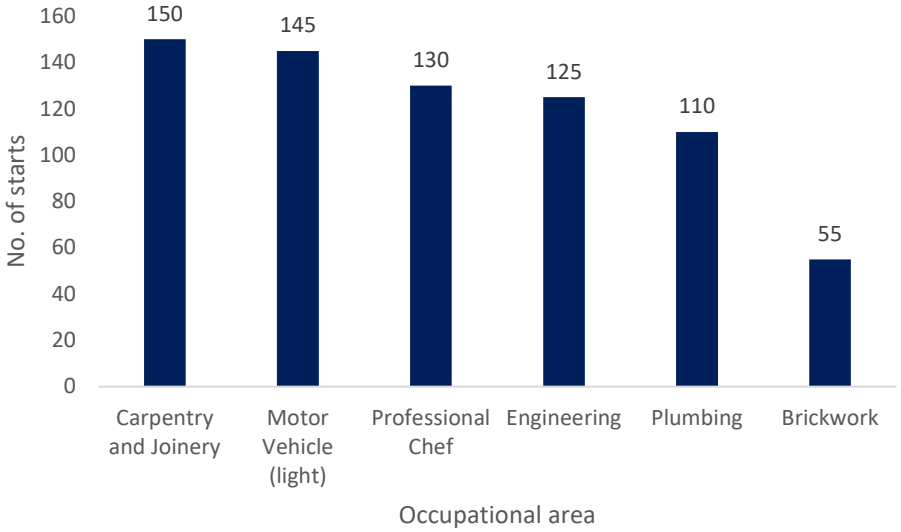


Occupational Area

Traineeships are offered in a range of professional/technical areas. In 2022/23, Carpentry and Joinery recorded the greatest proportion of starts, 15%. This was closely followed by Motor Vehicle (Light), 14%.

Figure 2.4: Carpentry and Joinery records the highest number of Traineeships starts in 2022/23

Number of Traineeship starts for the six most popular occupational areas, academic year 2022/23

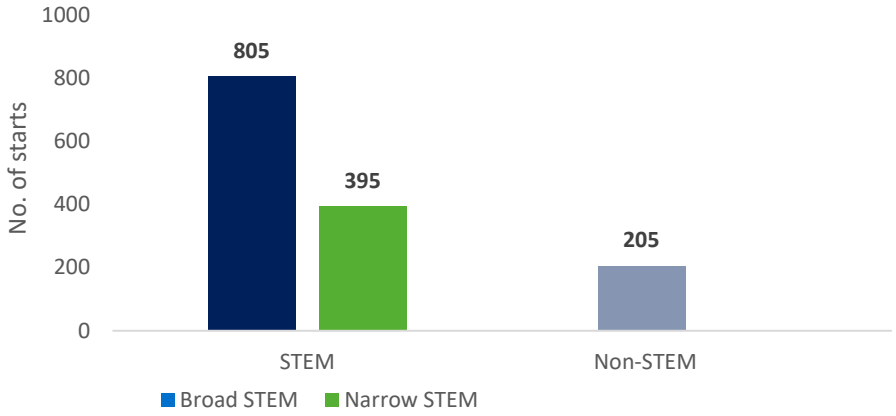


Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM)

The majority (80%) of traineeship starts fall into the Broad STEM Indicator.

Figure 2.5: 80% of Traineeships are grouped under the Broad STEM indicator

Number of Starts by STEM Indicator, academic year 2022/23



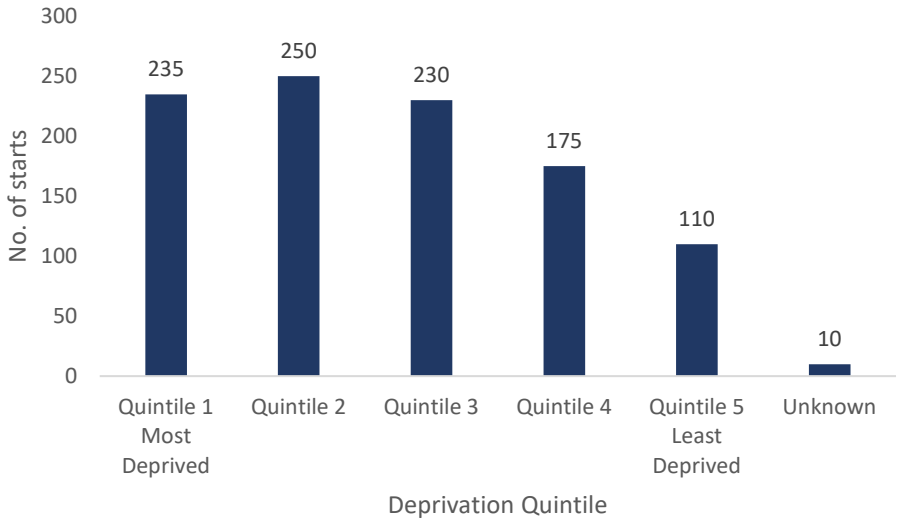
Deprivation Quintile

Quintile 1 is the most deprived group of areas and Quintile 5 is the least deprived group of areas. Any enrolments which have either a non-NI address or no NI postcode are classified as 'unknown'.

Traineeship starts reported more starts from the more deprived quntile areas than the least deprived. The least deprived quintile recorded the lowest proportion of starts, 11%.

Figure 2.6: More starts are from the more deprived quintiles in 2022/23

The number of Traineeship starts by deprivation quintile, academic year 2022/23

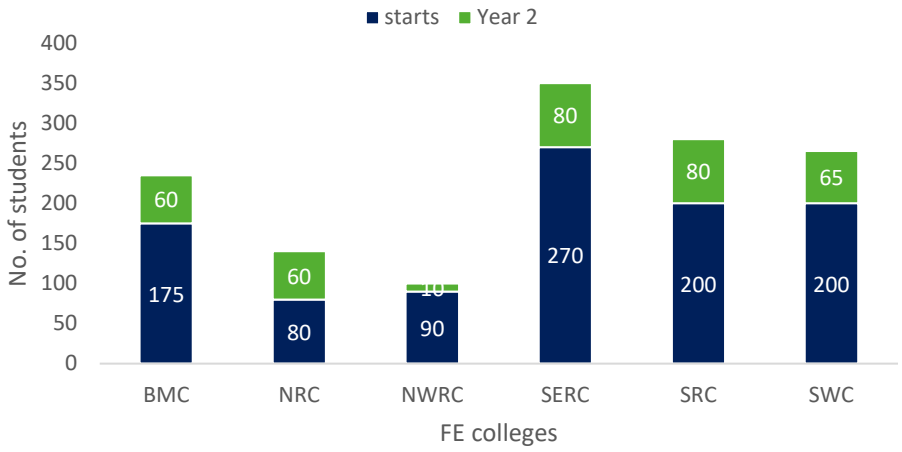


3. L2 Traineeships Participants[2]

In 2022/23 there were a total number of 1,370 students on Traineeships across the six FE colleges. This included 1,015 starts and 355 in the second year of their Traineeship. SERC recorded the highest number of Traineeship students, 270 starts and 80 in year 2.

Figure 3.1: SERC recorded the highest number of Traineeship NI students in 2022/23

L2 Traineeships NI participants by provider and year on course, academic year 2022/23



4. Performance

The Traineeship provides full-time training that combines vocational learning, structured work placement, transversal skills development and numeracy and literacy qualifications.

A participant on a L2 Traineeship programme may be enrolled in several courses, one of which will be the core full time vocational qualification.

Traineeship Vocational Qualification

The performance rates for the Traineeship vocational qualification were all over 80%, with an achievement rate of 94%.

Table 1: Traineeship Vocational Qualification performance analysis, academic year 2022/23

Final year achievement	Final Year partial achievement	Final year Enrolment	Final year completer	Retention rate	Achievement rate	Success rate
290	40	360	310	87%	94%	81%

Note: partial achievements are included in final year achievement figure which is used to calculate performance rates.

[2] Participants include students in all years of a Traineeship programme.

Essential Skills

Essential skills numeracy and literacy are offered as part of the Traineeship to support students who have not previously obtained these or equivalent qualifications at level 2. The performance rates varied for Essential Skills, with a 50% achievement rate.

Table 2: Traineeships Essential Skills numeracy and literacy performance analysis, academic year 2022/23

Final year achievement	Final Year partial achievement	Final year Enrolment	Final year completer	Retention rate	Achievement rate	Success rate
295	5	785	595	76%	50%	38%

Note: partial achievements are included in final year achievement figure which is used to calculate performance rates. Essential Skills rates include numeracy and literacy up to level 2.

5. Further Information

Traineeships provide participants with the opportunity to achieve a full level 2 outcome equivalent to up to five GCSEs at Grade C and above including in Maths and English. Further Information on Traineeships can be accessed at Traineeships explained.

The Traineeship programme will typically take up to two years to complete on a full-time basis. The current occupational areas can be accessed at Traineeships available and how to apply.

Additional Tables

Detailed additional and supplementary tables are available on the DfE web page: Level 2 Traineeship statistics.

For information regarding definitions of terms within the report, please see the document Definitions.

For information regarding 'Technical Notes' on the methodology used to produce the statistics, please see the document: Technical Notes.

A list of key statistical publications can be found at the DfE publication schedule.

This publication has been produced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics, complying with the pillars of Trustworthiness, Quality and Value and is published on an annual basis.

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