

Modern Apprenticeship Statistics

Quarter 1, 2026/27 [1st April – 26th June]

Official Statistics published on 11th August 2026

Version	Published	Amendment
1	11/08/2026	Original Publication

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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 1 (1st April to 26th June 2026) 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.

We welcome feedback on the report content and format. Please contact user_feedback@sds.co.uk with any feedback or questions.

Economic Outlook

The economic outlook in Scotland remains challenging in quarter 1 2026. Inflation continued to exceed the 2% target,

while higher energy costs and global uncertainty weighed on economic activity. Growth forecasts for Scotland and the UK were downgraded during the quarter, with overall growth expectations for 2026 remaining subdued despite some resilience in labour market and consumer spending indicators.¹

Despite the challenging economic landscape, there were 3,416 Modern Apprenticeship starts in Q1 2026, 2.4% higher than last year. Over each quarter of the year, MA start volumes are influenced by several factors which affect the phasing and recruitment of starts throughout the year. There is strong demand for MAs from employers and learners.

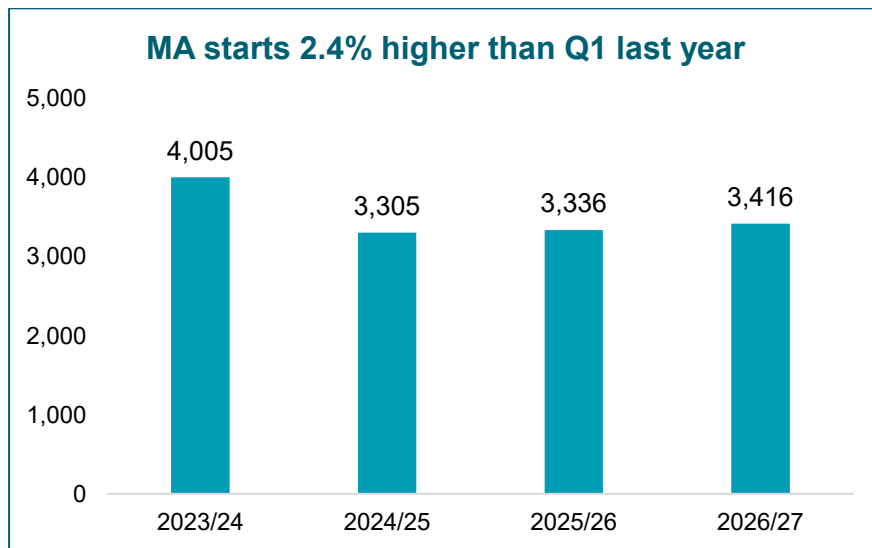
SDS will continue to work closely with the Scottish Government throughout 2026/27 to maximise delivery of high-quality apprenticeships that grow the young workforce and support economic growth, in line with the National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

¹ [Scottish Government: Economic Bulletin June 2026](#)

Modern Apprenticeship: Starts

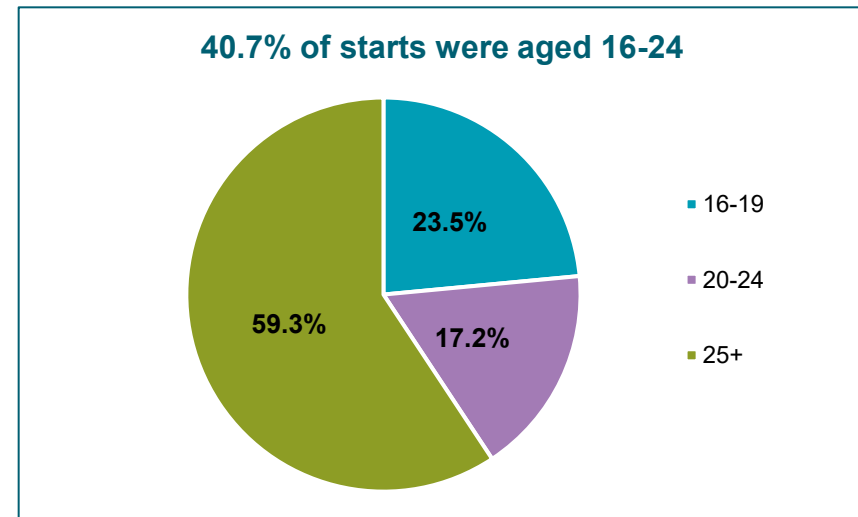
There were **3,416** Modern Apprenticeship starts in Q1, 2.4% (+80) higher than last year.

Figure 1: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts, Q1 2023/24 to Q1 2026/27



Starts by age

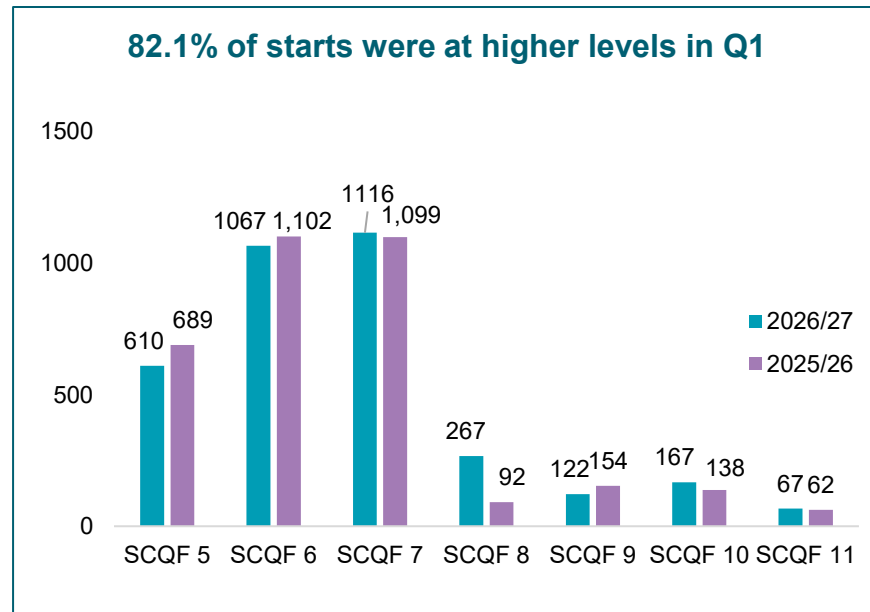
Figure 2: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by age group, Q1 2026/27



This quarter, 40.7% (1,392) of MA starts were aged 16-24 and 59.3% (2,024) were aged 25 or older.

Starts by level

Figure 3: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by SCQF level, Q1 2025/26 to Q1 2026/27



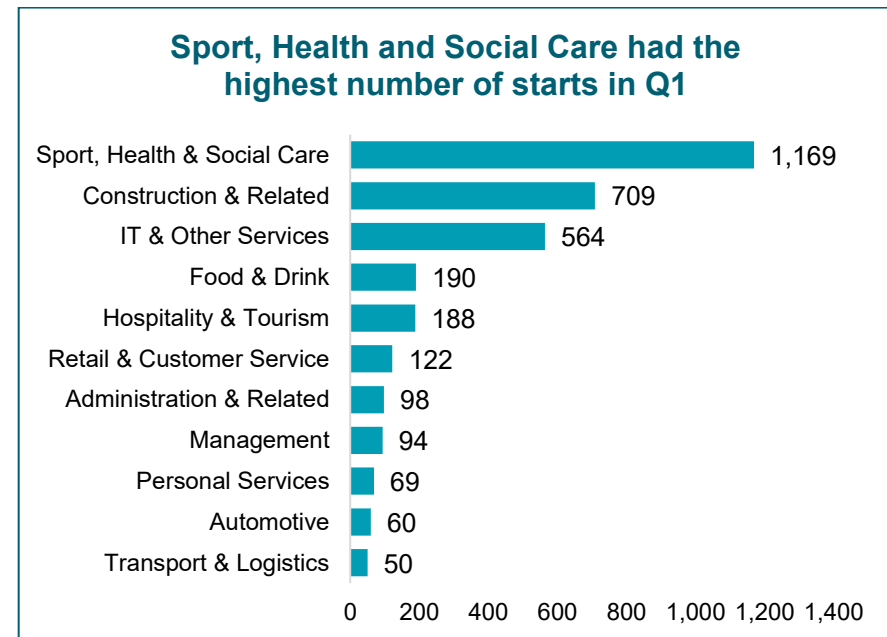
The majority of starts this quarter were at SCQF level 6 or higher (82.1%).

Starts by occupational grouping

The distribution of starts by occupational grouping can change year on year and is influenced by employer

demand, procurement policy decisions and MA places allocated, based on economic need.

Figure 4: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by occupational grouping, Q1 2026/27



For the sixth year in a row, Sport, Health & Social Care had the highest number of starts and the greatest proportion of starts (34.2%) in Q1. 99% of starts in this grouping were in Health and Social Care related frameworks.

The Construction & Related grouping had the second highest number of starts and the second greatest proportion of starts (20.8%). The IT & Other Services grouping had the third highest number of starts this quarter and accounted for 16.5% of all starts.

Starts by sex

As of Q1 2026/27 Modern Apprenticeship reporting moves from a gender-based question to a sex-based question, reflecting the recent UK Supreme Court decision regarding 'Sex' as a protected characteristic within the UK Equality Act 2010 and [updated Scottish Government guidance](#). Starts by sex will be included in our year-end report.

Starts by disability²

The proportion of starts self-identifying as disabled was 17.0% in quarter 1.

Starts by ethnicity

The proportion of starts self-identifying as Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or black; and Other ethnic group

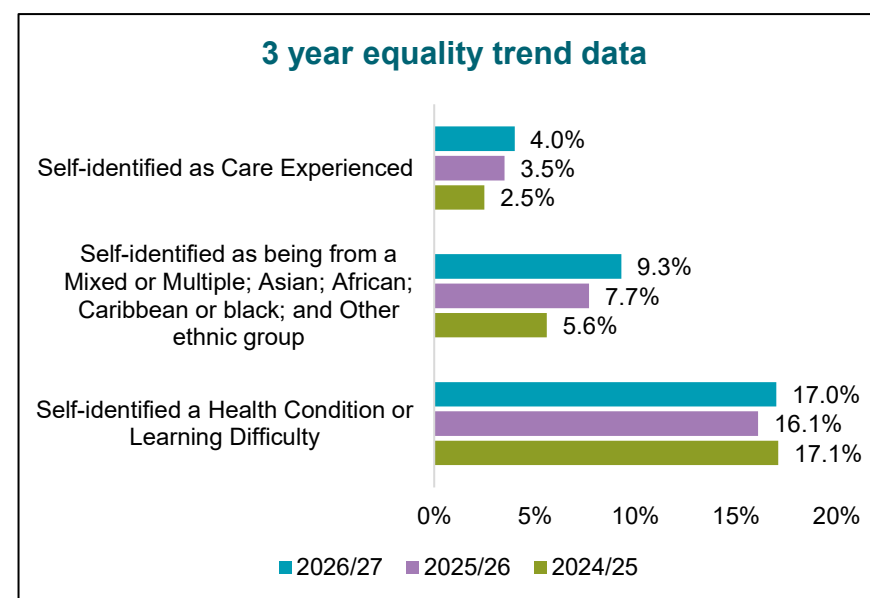
² Please note that MA equality splits fluctuate throughout the year for many reasons and are included for completeness each quarter. Given these

was 9.3% in quarter 1. When including ethnic group 'white other' the ethnicity rate is 14.3%.

Starts by care experience

The proportion of MAs self-identifying as care experienced was 4.0% in quarter 1.

Figure 5: Modern Apprenticeship equality rates, Q1 2024/25 to Q1 2026/27



fluctuations, comparisons with the same point last year should be treated with care.

Modern Apprenticeship: In Training

As at 26th June 2026, there were **37,363** Modern Apprentices in training.

Figures 6 and 7 show Modern Apprentices in training by age group and level, respectively, at Q1 2026/27.

Figure 6: Modern Apprentices in training by age group, at Q1 2026/27

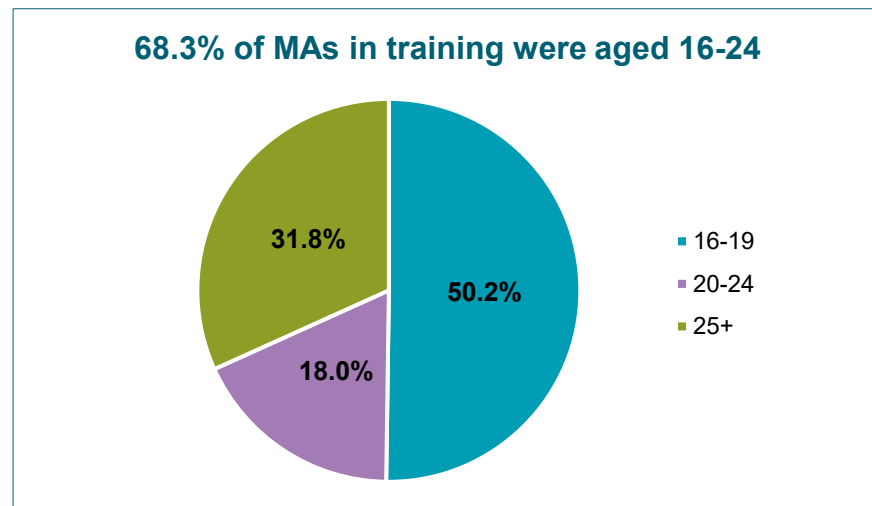


Figure 7: Modern Apprentices in training by level, at Q1 2026/27

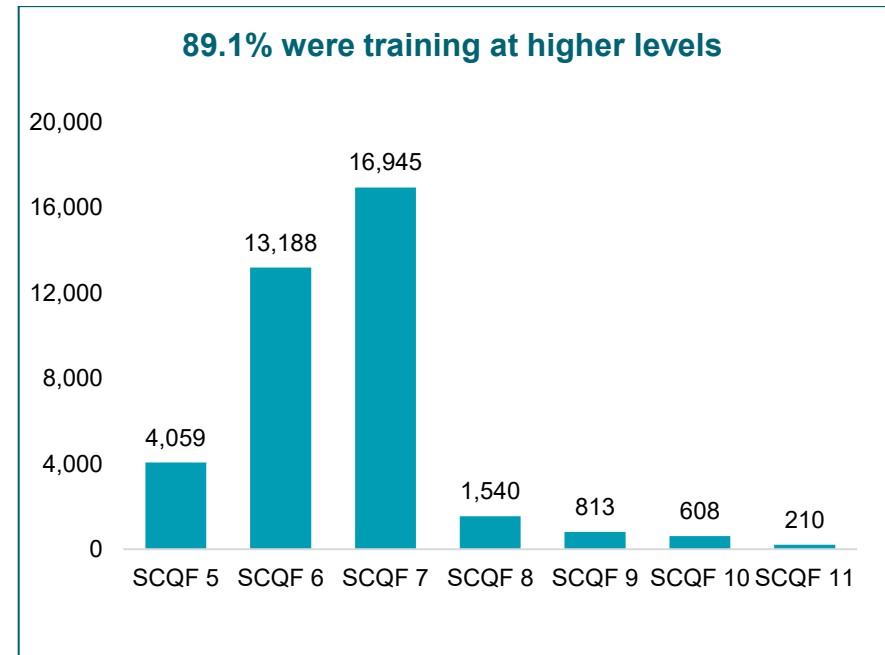


Figure 7 shows 4,059 (10.9%) apprentices were training at SCQF level 5 at the end of Q1. Almost half of those (48.6%) were aged 16-19, 18.6% were 20-24, and 32.8% were 25+. At SCQF levels 8-11, Modern Apprentices over the age of 25+ make up the majority of those in training. Further breakdowns are available in our Supplementary Tables.

Modern Apprenticeship: Achievements

In Q1 2026/27, the overall achievement rate was **80.4%**, with 4,257 of the 5,293 leavers achieving their full MA award.

Figure 8: Modern Apprenticeship achievements by age group, Q1 2024/25 to Q1 2026/27

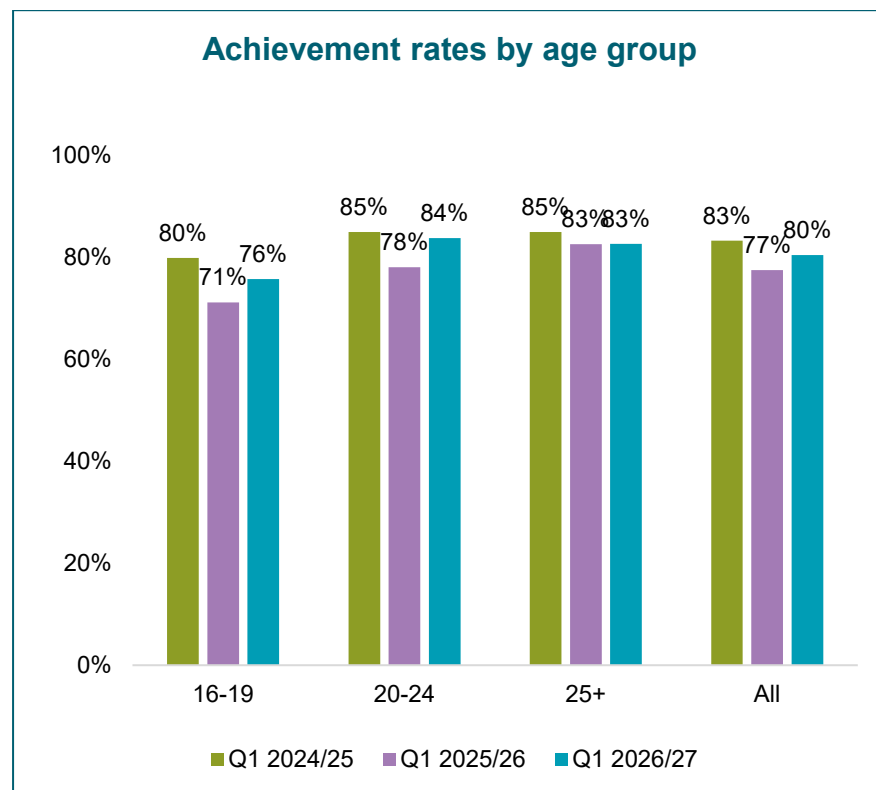


Figure 9: Modern Apprenticeship achievement rates by occupational grouping, Q1 2026/27

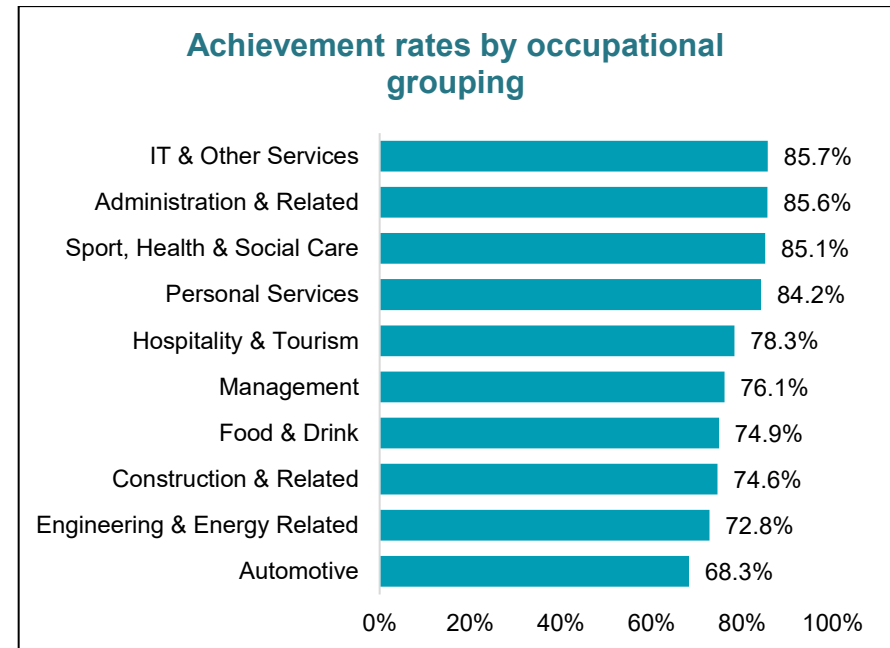


Figure 9 shows the top 10 achievement rates by occupational grouping (excluding those with fewer than 100 leavers).

Modern Apprenticeship: Redundancies

In quarter 1 2026/27, 49 Modern Apprentices were made redundant. By the end of Q1, 4 individuals had secured an alternative employer to continue their MA, with the remainder in progress.

Further Information

This report provides analysis of publicly funded Modern Apprenticeship activity in the first quarter of the 2026/27 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.

Sex

As of Q1 2026/27 Modern Apprenticeship reporting moves from a gender-based question to a sex-based question, reflecting the recent UK Supreme Court decision regarding

‘Sex’ as a protected characteristic within the UK Equality Act 2010 and updated Scottish Government guidance.

Starts by sex are not available for trend purposes for new starts in Q1-3. Starts by sex will be included in our year-end report.

Age

As programme funding is linked to the age of apprentices, 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, in 2018/19 we carried out an exercise to align MA frameworks to SCQF levels (see Appendix A for context).

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. As of 1st April 2023, all MA progressions are included as new starts. 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					

³ Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: [The SCQF Interactive Framework](#)