



The Law Society

Trends in the solicitors' profession Annual Statistics Report 2013

March 2014

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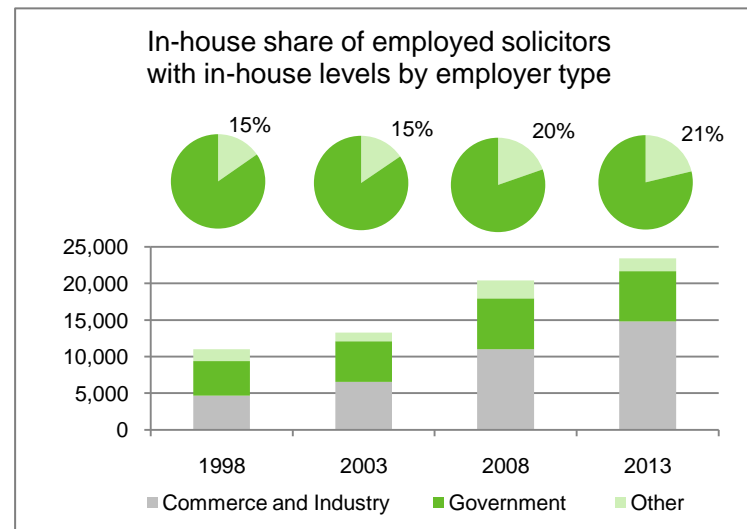
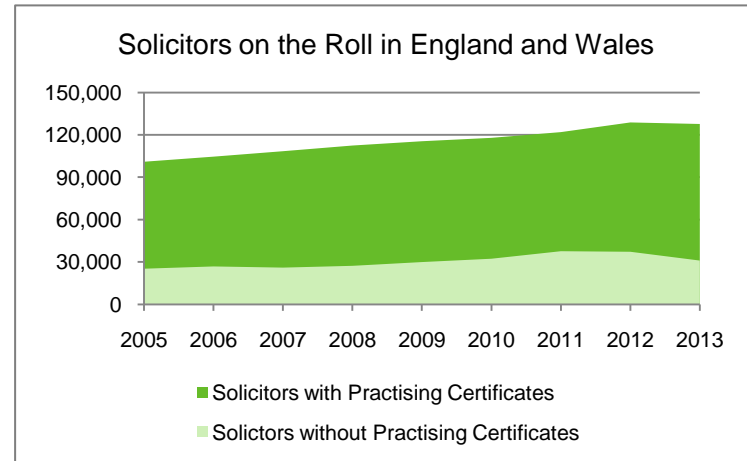
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Please contact Steve King with any queries or comments on the report: steve.king@lawsociety.org.uk

Executive Summary

Qualified solicitors and firms

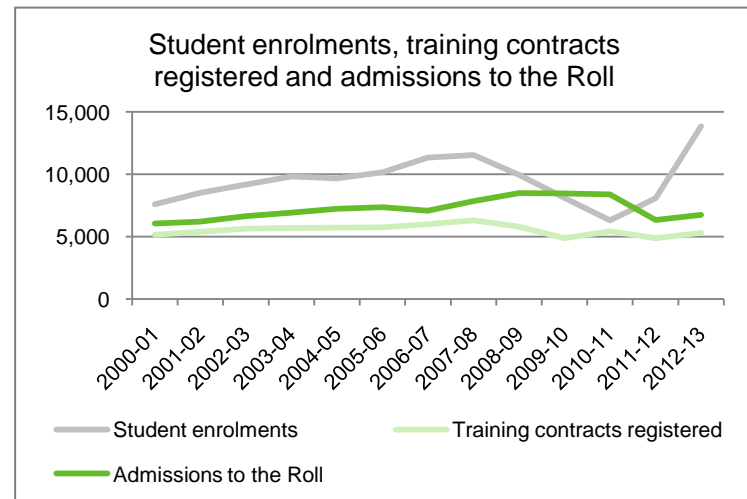
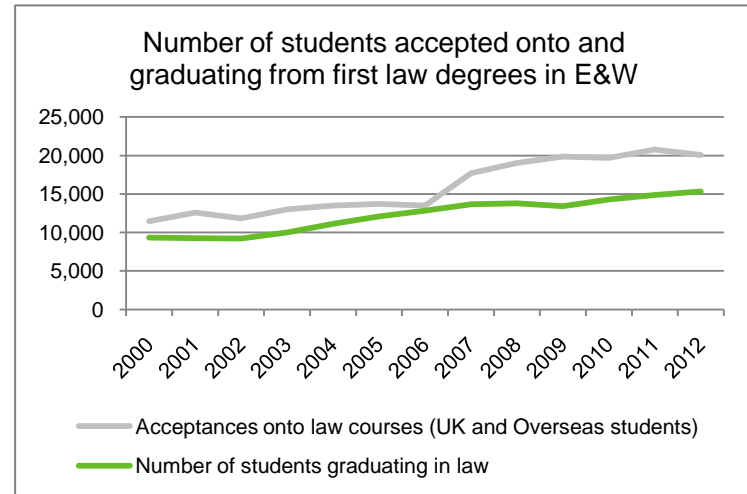
- As at 31 July 2013 there were 158,644 solicitors on the Roll, and 127,676 solicitors with practising certificates. Both figures were marginally down on 2012 – the first such reductions recorded in over twenty years. Demographic information shows that younger solicitors are more likely to be female and that Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups continue to represent a growing proportion of PC holders.
- The numbers of practising solicitors working both in-house and in private practice declined slightly on a year earlier. The long term trend is one of growth for the in-house sector but principally in commerce and industry.
- The number of private practice firms declined on a year earlier (for the third year in a row), with only very large firms (81+ partners) expanding in number.



Executive Summary

Development and entry of new solicitors

- Numbers of students graduating from first degree law courses in England and Wales continued to grow to 15,348. However, for the academic year 2012-13 the number of students accepted onto first degree law courses slipped from the previous year.
- As of 2013 those wishing to enter the profession are obliged to enrol with the Solicitors Regulation Authority before undertaking the Legal Practice Course and applying for a training contract. The number of student enrolments rose sharply for a second successive year and, at 5,302 in the period 1st August 2012 to 31st July 2013, the number of training contracts rose slightly following a drop in 2011-12.
- Admissions to the Roll rose by 6% on a year earlier following a fall in 2011-12 related to the introduction of the new Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme in September 2010.



The 2013 Annual Statistics Report has been prepared by the Law Society's Research Unit. The Unit designs, conducts and commissions research in order to provide information about the legal services market to solicitors and evidence to underpin the Society's strategy and policy development.

The main source of data used is the Law Society Group's management information database. The current set of tables was prepared using a framework developed by Bill Cole. The contents and structures of tables have remained the same during the continuing transition between data systems.

Please contact Steve King with any queries or comments: steve.king@lawsociety.org.uk

For general enquiries about the Unit, research information or other publications, please contact: EnquiriesSRU@lawsociety.org.uk

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