



INSTITUTE  
OF THE MOTOR  
INDUSTRY



# Apprenticeship starts

September 2020  
(2019/20 full academic year)

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# Apprenticeship Starts – 2019/20 academic year

## Introduction

The following examines data released from the Department of Education (DfE) regarding apprenticeship starts in England. This release is a summary of the full 2019/20 academic year.

## Summary results

- Overall apprenticeships starts are 19% lower than last year and 36% lower than 5 years previous.
- Automotive apprenticeship starts have fallen by almost a third (31%) in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.
- Some automotive apprenticeships have seen an increase in starts this year, including Heavy vehicle service & maintenance technician and Autocare technician.
- Automotive apprenticeships have been falling since 2016/17.
- Comparing the second half of the year clearly shows the impact of Covid-19 on apprentice starts when monthly starts have been the lowest ever rates in automotive apprenticeship starts.
- Indications are that supporting occupation apprenticeship starts are 25% lower in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.
- Supporting occupation apprenticeships had been on a positive trajectory until 2019/20 however Covid-19 has significantly impacted starts in the second half of 2019/20.
- On average, the largest proportion of automotive apprenticeship starts are the under 19s - 57% of starts. The reverse is the case for supporting occupations where on average 77% of starts are over 25.
- Proportionally, the age makeup of both automotive and supporting occupation apprenticeship starts has not significantly changed in 2019/20. This indicates that Covid-19 has not disproportionality affected any particular age group.

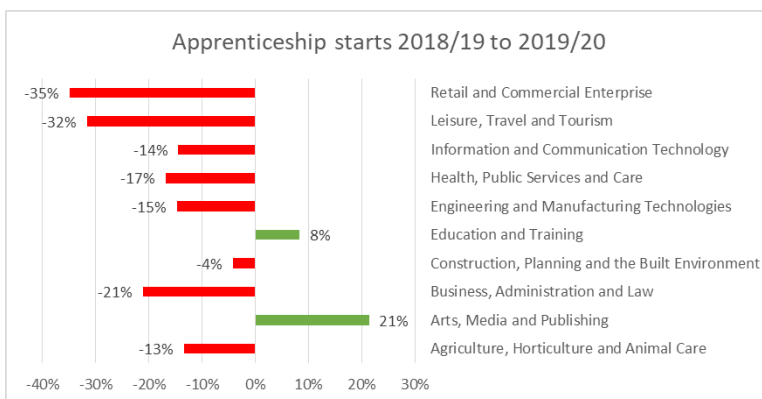
## High level subject area

### Apprentice starts – Year on Year comparison

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	7005	8188	7387	6641	6649	5754
Arts, Media and Publishing	1459	1248	870	952	996	1209
Business, Administration and Law	142978	143188	138481	111100	118646	93676
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	18291	21456	21210	22662	22533	21597
Education and Training	7452	8298	8917	5613	7109	7704
<b>Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies</b>	<b>74057</b>	<b>78479</b>	<b>75021</b>	<b>61398</b>	<b>59968</b>	<b>51189</b>
Health, Public Services and Care	129885	132442	138850	88319	97715	81233
Information and Communication Technology	15662	16021	15473	18484	21111	18056
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	13070	14858	13790	8750	7216	4937
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	89570	84683	74590	51650	51303	33356
Science and Mathematics	384	499	293	192	129	183
<b>Total</b>	<b>499894</b>	<b>509361</b>	<b>494882</b>	<b>375761</b>	<b>393375</b>	<b>318983</b>

In 2019/20 there were 318,983 apprenticeship starts in England. 51,189, 16%, were Engineering and manufacturing technologies (the high level subject automotive apprenticeships fall under) apprenticeships. Business, administration and Law had the most apprenticeship starts in 2019/20. 93,676, 29%, of all apprenticeships.

Overall apprenticeships starts are 19% lower than last year and 36% lower than 5 years previous.

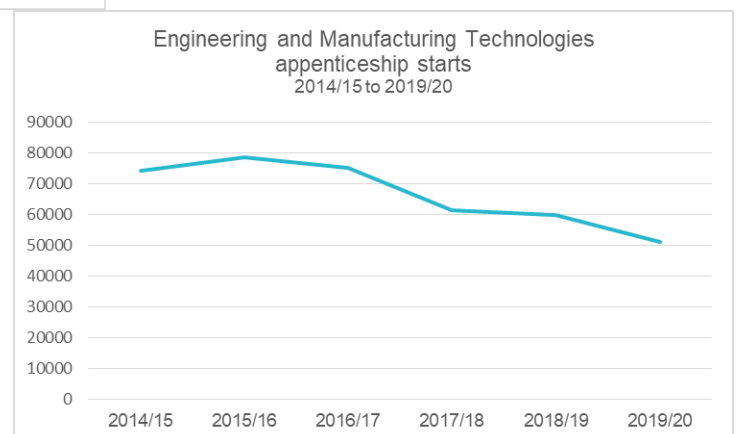


All subject areas saw significant falls in apprenticeship starts in 2019/20 compared to the previous year apart from Education & Training and Arts, Media and Publishing.

Retail & Commercial Enterprise and Leisure and Travel & Tourism saw the largest % falls - 35% and 32% respectively.

Engineering and manufacturing technologies apprenticeship starts have fallen for the past 4 years and 2019/20 starts were more than a third (35%) lower than the peak of 2015/16.

Starts fell by 15% from 2018/19 to 2019/20.



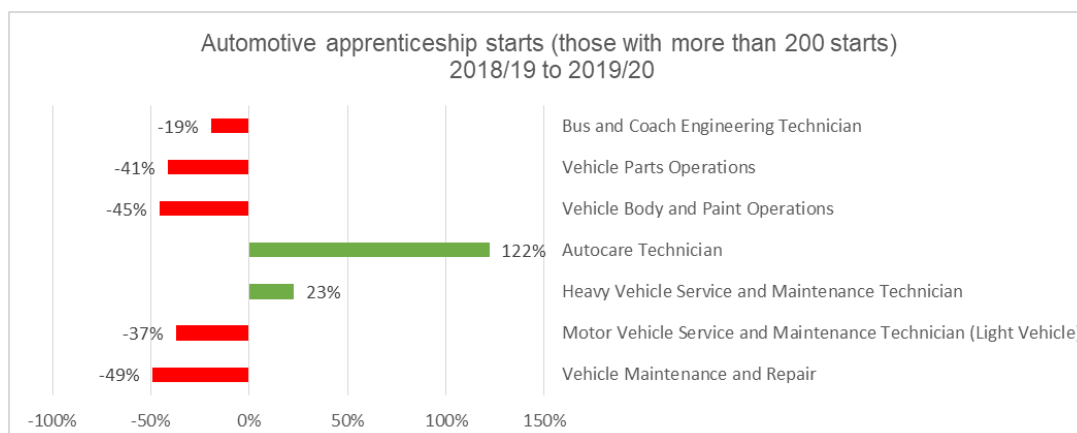
## Automotive Apprenticeships

### Apprentice starts – All Automotive Apprenticeships

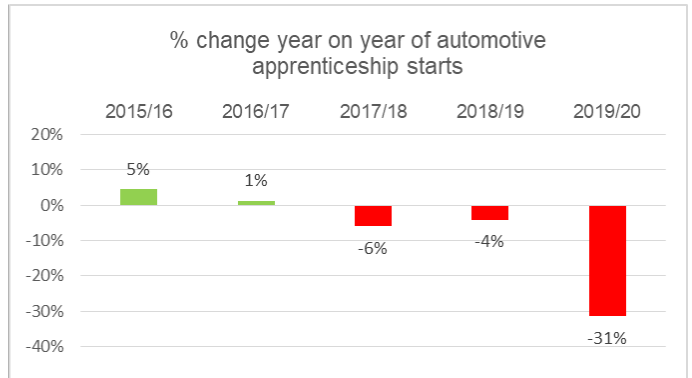
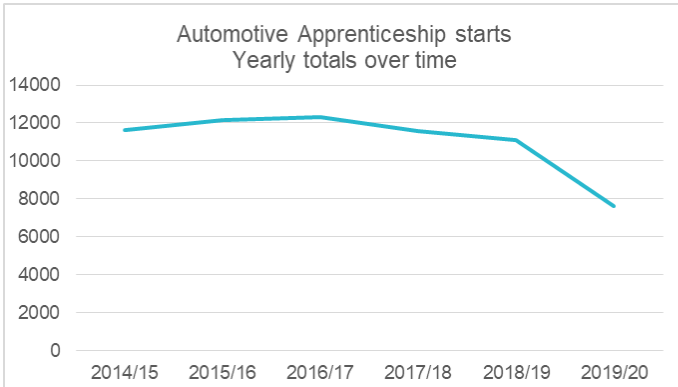
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Accident Repair Technician			*	65	66	63
Autocare Technician				30	338	751
Bus and Coach Engineering Technician			24	290	274	221
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician			*	593	787	967
Motor Finance Specialist					16	
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle)			153	2510	3422	2153
Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance)						15
Specialist Tyre Operative						20
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	1415	1539	1593	1257	1184	646
Vehicle Damage Assessor						13
Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician						25
Vehicle Damage Paint Technician					*	108
Vehicle Damage Panel Technician					*	66
Vehicle Fitting	322	305	271	265	76	28
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	9008	9495	9454	5937	4337	2199
Vehicle Parts Operations	680	643	709	568	517	303
Vehicle Restoration	13	24	27	35	18	*
Vehicle Sales	176	147	72	23	59	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11614</b>	<b>12153</b>	<b>12313</b>	<b>11573</b>	<b>11103</b>	<b>7610</b>

\*= less than 10

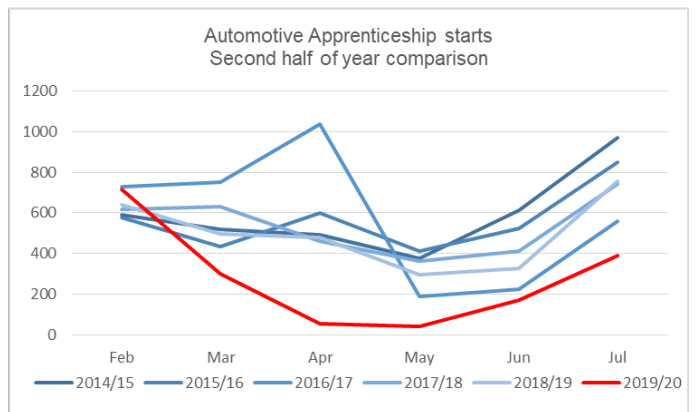
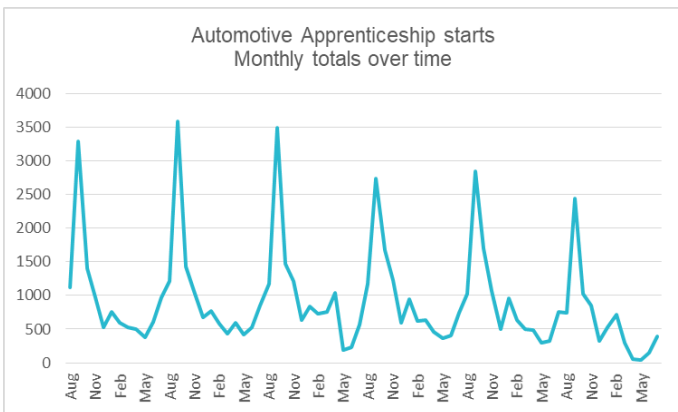
In 2019/20 there were 7,610 automotive apprenticeship starts in England. This is 15% of Engineering and manufacturing technologies apprenticeships and 2% of all apprenticeship starts.



Most automotive apprenticeship subject areas saw significant falls in apprenticeship starts in 2019/20 compared to the previous year. Biking this trend however are Autocare Technicians and Heavy Vehicle Service & Maintenance with very respectable increases. Vehicle maintenance and repair saw the most significant falls, 49%, and 2,138 fewer apprenticeship starts in 2019/20.



Automotive apprenticeship starts are almost a third lower in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19. Automotive apprenticeships have been falling since 2016/17, and 2019/20 were 38% lower.



Apprenticeship starts are very much seasonal when September has the highest amount of starts. September 2019 starts were 14% lower than September 2018.

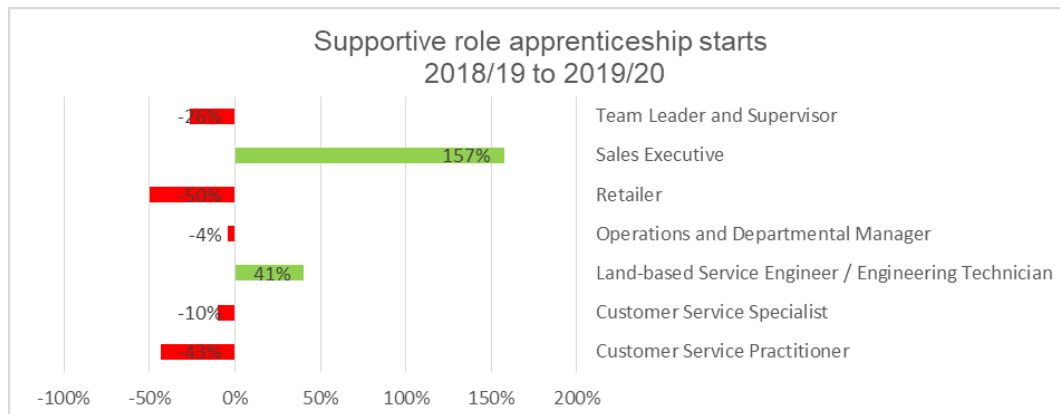
The graph comparing the second half of the year clearly shows the impact of Covid-19 on apprentice starts where monthly starts have been the lowest ever rates recorded.

## Supporting occupations

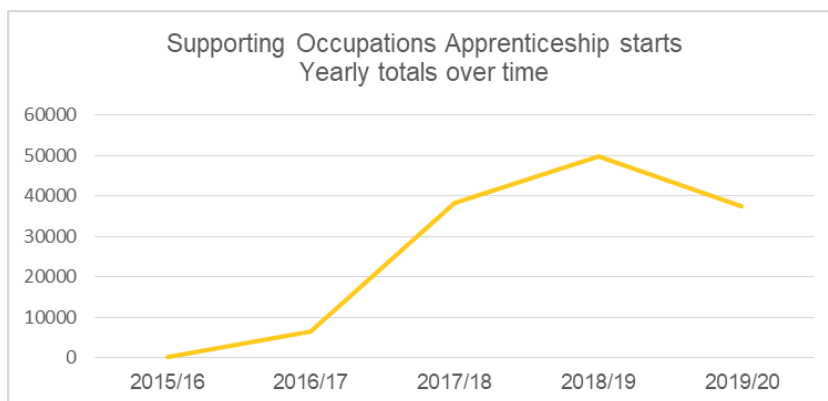
The following examines apprenticeships in supporting occupations such as sales and customer service. These, however, may not contribute directly to the automotive industry.

### Apprentice starts – Supporting occupations apprenticeships

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Customer Service Practitioner	34	1605	8301	7754	4420
Customer Service Specialist			86	1689	1521
Land-based Service Engineer / Engineering Technician	0	5	214	274	385
Operations and Departmental Manager	2	813	7958	10466	10010
Retailer	24	2180	4507	6386	3215
Sales Executive				357	919
Team Leader and Supervisor	35	1802	17261	22840	16856
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>6405</b>	<b>38327</b>	<b>49766</b>	<b>37326</b>

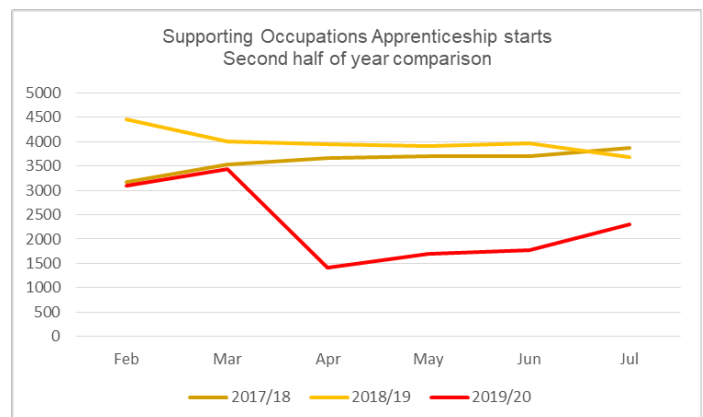
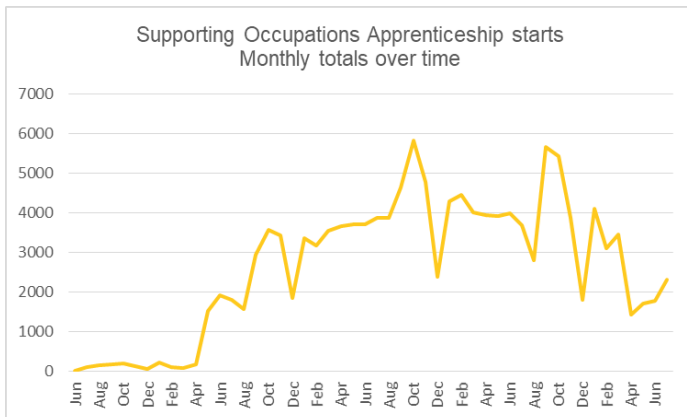


Most supportive role apprenticeship subject areas saw significant falls in apprenticeship starts in 2019/20 compared to the previous year. Biking this trend however are Sales Executive and Land-based Engineer. Retailer saw the most significant falls, 50%, and 3,171 fewer apprenticeship starts in 2019/20.



Indications are that supporting apprenticeship starts are 25% lower in 2019/20 compared to 2018/19.

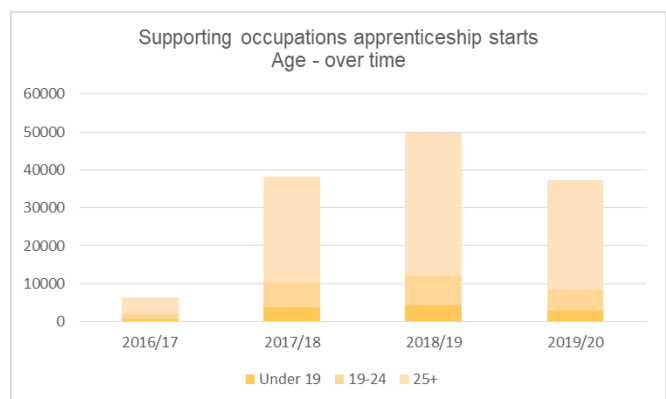
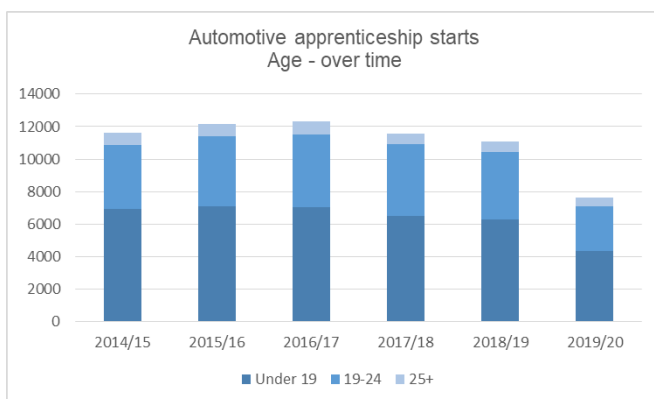
Supporting occupation apprenticeships had been on a positive trajectory until 2019/20



Supporting occupation apprenticeship starts are not as seasonal as automotive apprenticeships however peaks happen in October. October 2019 starts were however 8% lower than October 2018.

The graph comparing the second half of the year clearly shows the impact of Covid-19 on apprentice starts where monthly starts are significantly lower.

## Apprenticeship starts - comparison of age



On average, the largest proportion of automotive apprenticeship starts are the under 19s with an average of 57% starts. The reverse is the case for supporting occupations where on average 77% of starts are over 25. Proportionally, the age makeup of both automotive and supporting occupation starts have not significantly changed in 2019/20. However, the 19-24 age bracket of automotive apprenticeship starts fell the most in 2019/20 (-34%) and under 19s fell the most in supporting occupation starts (-33%).

## Data

Department of Education - Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England - data released 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.