



ESTD 1920

INSTITUTE  
OF THE MOTOR  
INDUSTRY



# Automotive Education Report

Analysis of those undertaking automotive qualifications

Edition 3

2022 Q4



+44 (0) 1992 511521



[info@theimi.org.uk](mailto:info@theimi.org.uk)



[www.theimi.org.uk](http://www.theimi.org.uk)



# Automotive Education Report

## Introduction

The aim of this report is to analyse the numbers of those undertaking automotive qualifications, and those starting automotive apprenticeships in the UK. The report takes data released by the four nation's regulatory bodies:

- OfQual - The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation [England]
- SQA - The Scottish Qualifications Authority [Scotland]
- QiW – Qualifications Wales [Wales]
- CCEA - The Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment [Northern Ireland]

These datasets hold data on the number of certifications awarded for each qualification. This data is released on a quarterly basis, with the most recent being 2022 Q1 (January - March).

Regarding qualification level, the analysis uses England & Wales's qualification levels, and Scottish levels have been mapped to match these.

For apprenticeship starts, we use data released from the Department of Education (DfE) regarding apprenticeship starts and achievement rates in England. Data is released on a monthly basis, although achievement rates are only updated on an annual basis, the most recent was released 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

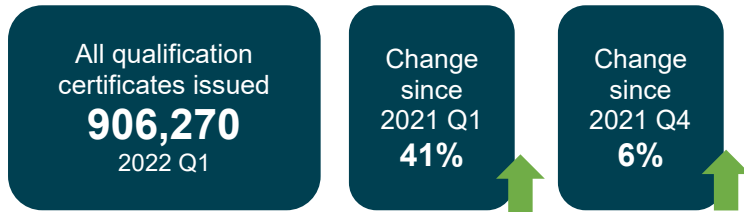
## Summary of findings

- Overall, all vocational qualifications have decreased by 41% when compared to the same period in 2021
- The total number of automotive certificates issued in 2022 Q1 was 9464. Comparing to 2021 Q1, certificates are 58% higher
- In 2022 Q1, the largest proportion (55%) of automotive qualifications were at Level 3 (or equivalent)
- The top qualification in 2021 q4 was IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid vehicle system repair and replacement with 2139 certificates issued, which is 23% of all automotive qualification certificates
- 44% of automotive qualification certificates issued this quarter are for electric/hybrid qualifications. The second most popular subject is MOT (19%) followed by refrigerant handling (11%) and light vehicle maintenance (8%)
- A record number of technicians took electric vehicle qualifications eligible to obtain TechSafe™ professional recognition, in the first five and half months of 2022, some 7150. This is the highest amount since its introduction in 2016
- The number of technicians now qualified to work safely on electric vehicles is estimated at 31,700 the equivalent of 14% of technicians in the UK
- There were 5,709 automotive apprenticeship starts in the first 8 months of the academic year 2020/21, which is 58% higher than the same time period in 2020 and 18% lower than 2019

- Comparing the first 8 months of the academic year 2020/21, to the same period last year, those in industries reporting high vacancy rates have seen significant increases in the number of starts. Travel and Tourism has seen a 2200% increase. Automotive has seen the 5th highest increase of the subjects analysed
- In the first eight months of 2021/22 saw Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) the most popular pathway with 2589 starts, as it has been for the past 3 years. Comparing the same time period this pathway has increased 62% from last year and 23% from 2019/20
- The largest increase since 2019/20 has been Vehicle Damage Paint Technician which has doubled the number of starts
- Overall achievement rates of standards are significantly lower than that of frameworks. The highest achievement rate in 2020/21 was for vehicle maintenance and repair level 3 (framework) with a 77.1 achievement rate. The pathways which have a higher than the average rate are all level 3 frameworks
- All automotive framework pathways have a pass rate higher than the average for all frameworks. The only automotive standard with a higher than average pass rate is Autocare Technician
- New DfE employer and apprentice surveys reveal the reasons behind the huge drop-out rate. Apprenticeship-related factors for withdrawals, the most common reasons were that apprentices felt they did not have enough time for training, poor quality training, and badly run programmes

## Vocational qualification certifications

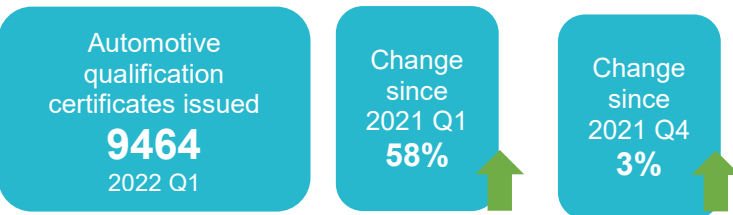
### All vocational qualifications



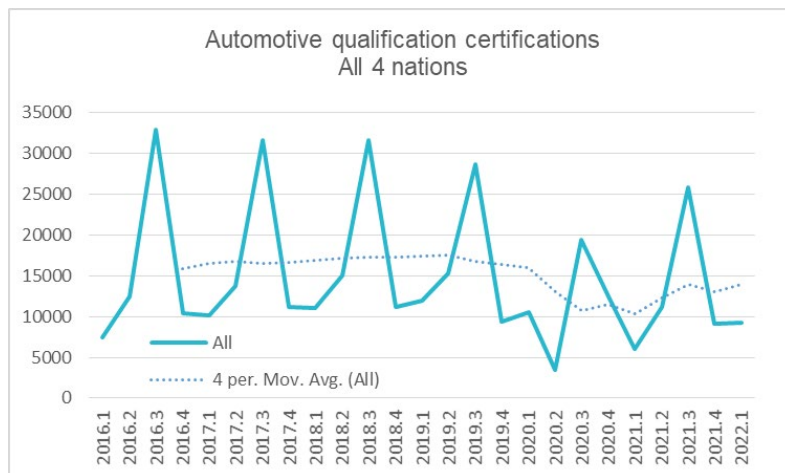
	No.	%chg 2021 Q1
England	835,020	42%
Scotland	25,684	27%
Wales	32,180	37%
N.I	<i>Data not available</i>	

The total number of vocational certificates issued in 2022 Q1 was 906,270. This is 41% higher than the same period last year.

### Automotive qualification certifications



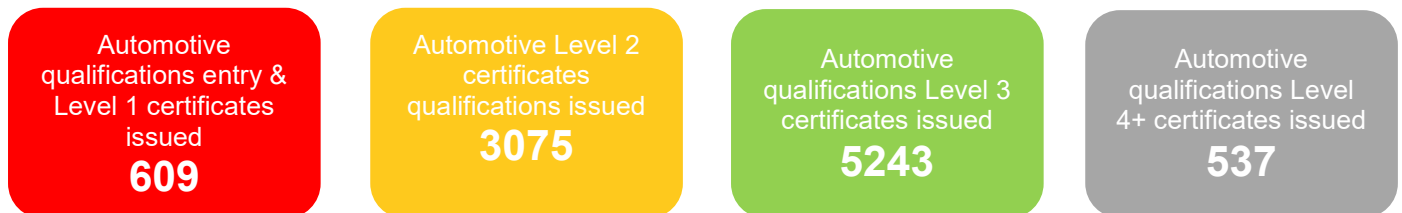
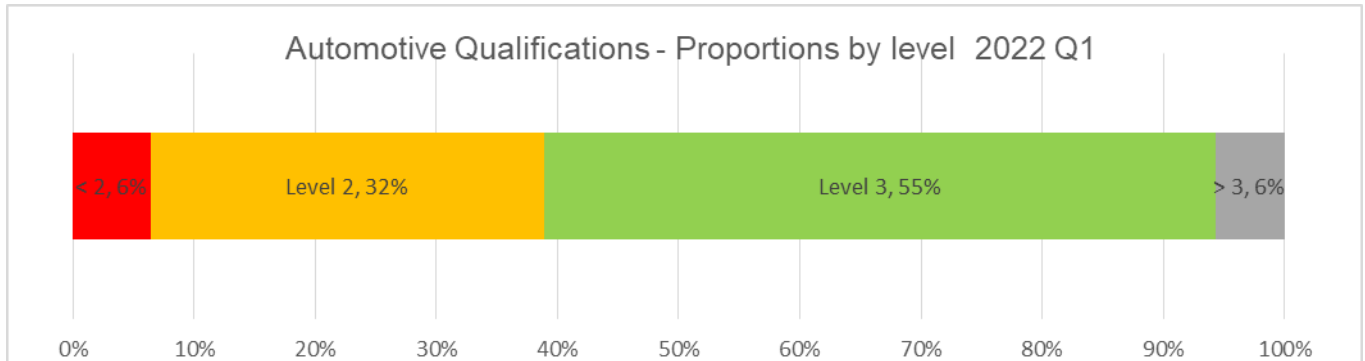
	No.	%chg 2020 Q4
England	8365	58%
Scotland	635	106%
Wales	255	24%
N.I	<i>Data not available</i>	



The total number of automotive certificates issued in 2022 Q1 was 9464.

This is 58% higher than the same period last year.

## Automotive qualification certifications – Levels



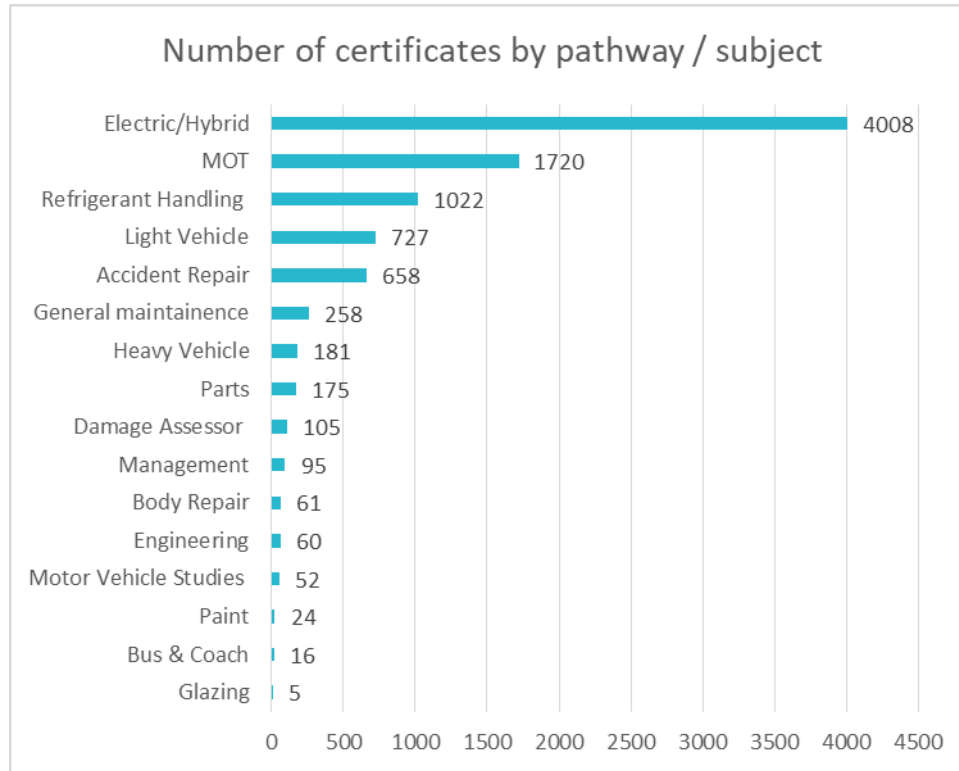
In 2022 Q1, the largest proportion (55%) of automotive qualifications were at Level 3 (or equivalent) with 5243 qualifications at this level, 32% were at Level 2, and 6% were at entry and Level 1.

## Top 10 automotive qualifications

Qualification title	Level	No.
IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	level 3	2139
IMI Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006) (VRQ)	level 3	1007
IMI Level 2 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Routine Maintenance Activities	level 2	717
SEG Awards ABC Level 2 Award In MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7) (VRQ)	level 2	645
IMI Level 2 Award in MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7)	level 2	445
City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Hybrid Electric Vehicle Repair and Replacement	level 3	320
IMI Level 1 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Awareness	level 1	300
IMI Level 4 Award in the Diagnosis, Testing and Repair of Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and Components (VRQ)	level 4	270
SEG Awards ABC Level 3 Award In MOT Test Centre Management (VRQ)	level 3	240
IMI Level 3 Award in MOT Test Centre Management	level 3	210

The top qualification in 2022 q1 was IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid vehicle system repair and replacement with 2139 certificates issued, which is 23% of all automotive qualification certificates. 68% of all automotive certificates issued this quarter were from these top 10 qualifications.

### Automotive qualification certifications – pathways / subject areas



44% of automotive qualification certificates issued this quarter are for electric/hybrid qualifications. The second most popular subject is MOT (19%) followed by Refrigerant Handling (11%) and Light Vehicle Maintenance (8%).

## IMI TechSafe™

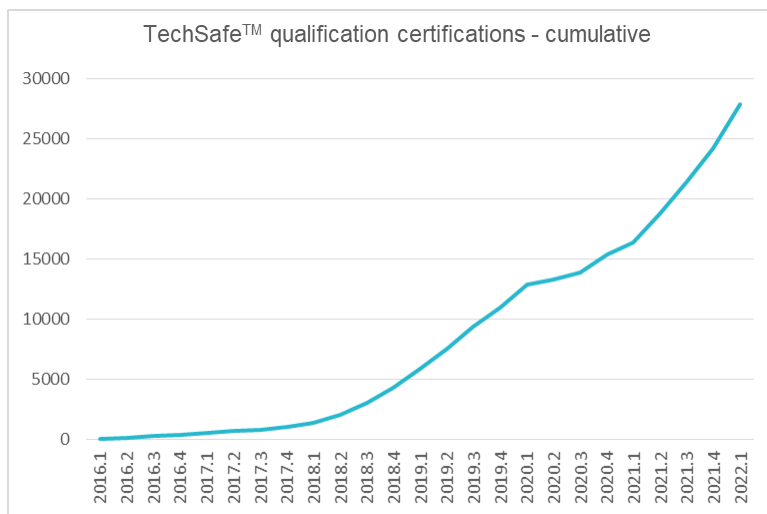
### Techsafe™ – official figures from regulators

Electric vehicle qualification certifications eligible to obtain Techsafe™ professional recognition

**3614**  
2022 Q1

Electric vehicle qualification certifications eligible to obtain Techsafe™ professional recognition

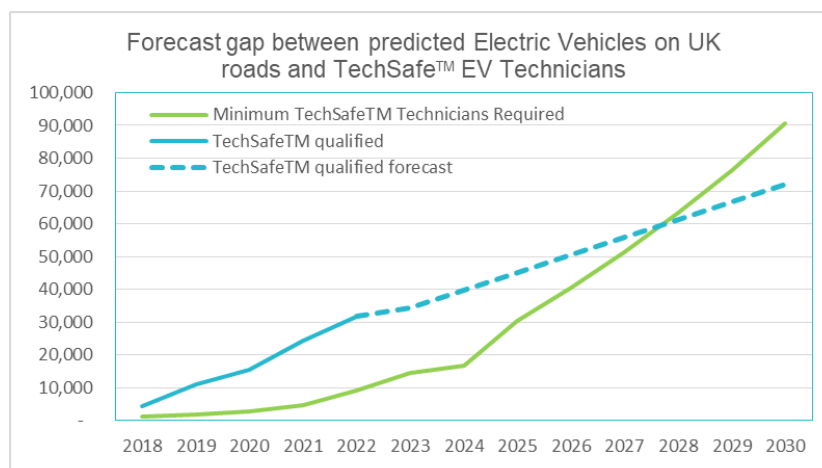
**28,133**  
In total (2016 – 2022 March)



A record number of technicians took electric vehicle qualifications eligible to obtain TechSafe™ professional recognition, in the first three months of 2022, some 3614. This is the highest amount since its introduction in 2016. The number of technicians now qualified to work safely on electric vehicles is estimated at 28,100 the equivalent of 13% of technicians in the UK.

### Techsafe™ – forecast

Using the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) high scenario, the IMI predicts that the number of TechSafe™ qualified technicians required to work with electric vehicles by 2030 is 90,000. As of March 2022, there were 28,100 qualified TechSafe™ technicians, and using current forecast trends, by 2030, there could be a shortfall of 18,300 qualified technicians, risking the safety of technicians and undermining confidence that consumer's electric vehicles can be serviced, maintained and repaired by a garage with the right skills. However, significant take-up of electric vehicle qualifications in 2021 and the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022 has led to readjusted forecasts that indicate that the shortfall in qualified technicians has been pushed from 2027 to 2028.

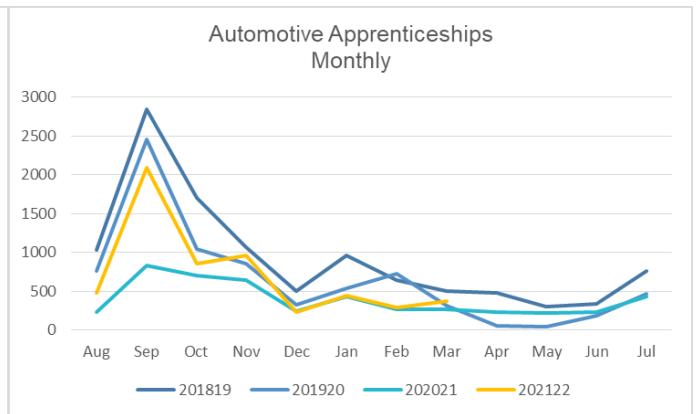
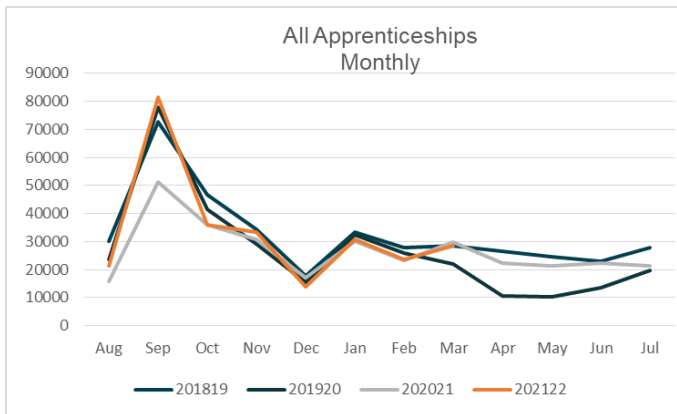


## Automotive Apprenticeships - England

### Apprenticeship Starts

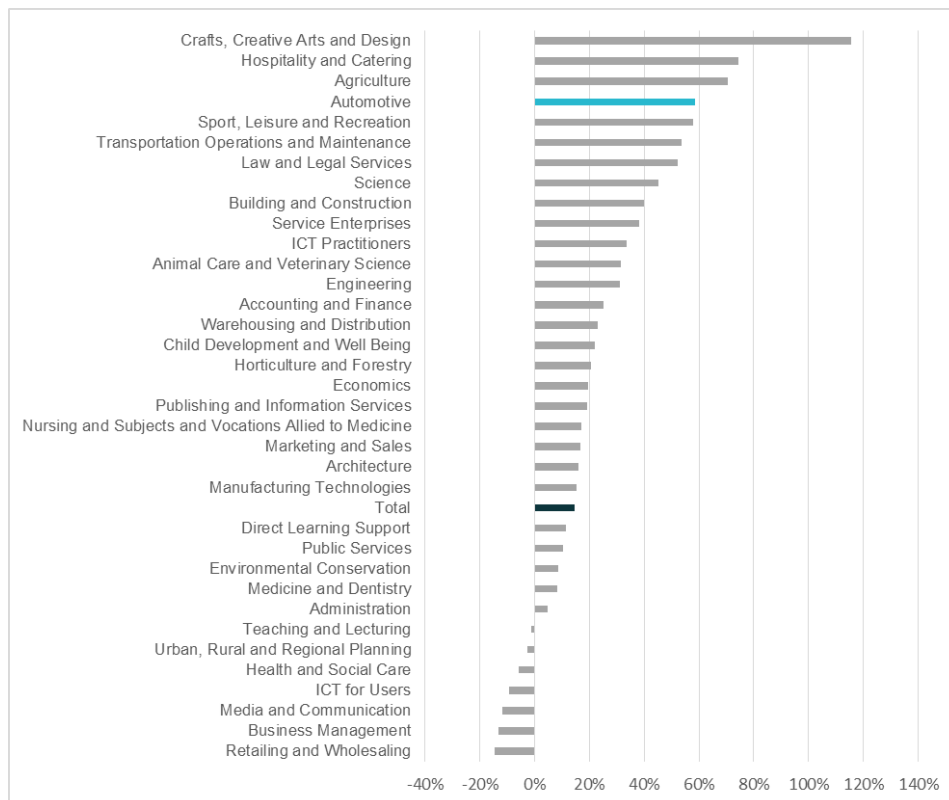
All apprenticeships  
2021/22 (Aug – Mar)  
**268,893**

Automotive apprenticeships  
2021/22 (Aug – Mar)  
**5,709**



There were 5,709 automotive apprenticeship starts in the first 8 months on of the academic year 2020/21, which is 58% higher than the same time period in 2020 but 18% lower than 2019.

### Comparison of apprenticeship subject areas – Percentage change 2020/21 (Aug-Mar) to 2021/22 (Aug-Mar)



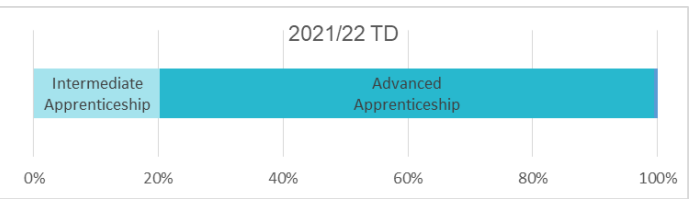
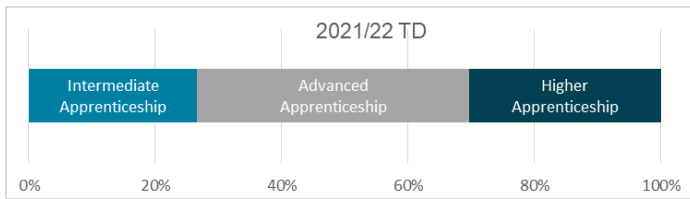
Comparing the first 8 months on of the academic year 2020/21, to the same period last year, those in industries reporting high vacancy rates have seen significant increases in the number of starts. Travel and Tourism (not shown on the chart) has seen a 2200% increase. Automotive has seen the 5<sup>th</sup> highest increase of the subjects analysed.



### Apprenticeship starts - level



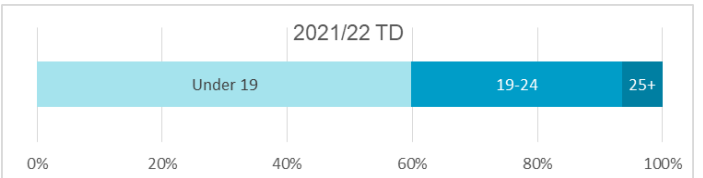
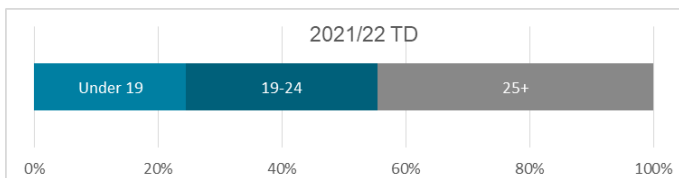
In the first eight months of 2021/22, 43% (115,728) of apprenticeships were at an advanced level, with 79% (4531) of all automotive apprenticeships at the same advanced level.



### Apprenticeship starts – age profile



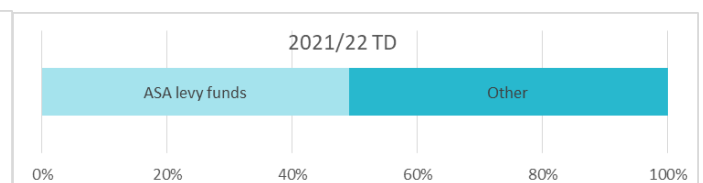
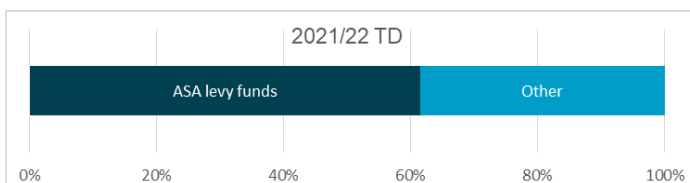
In the first eight months of 2021/22, 25% (66019) of apprenticeship starts were under the age of 19, with 60% (3417) of automotive apprenticeships starts under the age of 19.



### Apprenticeship starts – funding



In the first eight months of 2021/22, 61% of apprenticeship starts were supported by ASA levy funds compared to 49% of automotive apprenticeships starts.



## Automotive Apprenticeships Pathways

### Apprentice starts – Automotive Apprenticeships standards with more than 100 starts

	2019/20 Aug-Mar	2020/21 Aug-Mar	2021/22 Aug-Mar	% chg from last year	% chg from 2019/20
Accident Repair Technician	62	53	102	92%	65%
Autocare Technician	685	883	1144	30%	67%
Bus and Coach Engineering Technician	210	65	240	269%	14%
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician	960	632	957	51%	0%
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle)	2112	1597	2589	62%	23%
Vehicle Damage Paint Technician	100	153	337	120%	237%
Vehicle Damage Panel Technician	61	62	153	147%	151%

In the first eight months of 2021/22 saw Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) the most popular pathway with 2589 starts, as it has been for the past 3 years. Comparing the same time period this pathway has increased 62% from last year and 23% from 2019/20.

The largest increase since 2019/20 has been Vehicle Damage Paint Technician which has doubled the amount of starts.

## Automotive achievement rates

Core indicators comparison to average for all frameworks and standards. Those highlighted red, the rate is lower than the average for all rate for either framework or standard

Overall achievement rate				
	Standard / Framework	201819	201920	202021
Autocare Technician - level 2	Standard			17.9
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician - level 3	Standard			16.6
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) - level 3	Standard	61.5	44.4	30.5
Vehicle Body and Paint - level 2	Framework	67.6	63	56
Vehicle Body and Paint - level 3	Framework	79.7	81.8	75.9
Vehicle Fitting - level 2	Framework	70.6		61.5
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair - level 2	Framework	71.3	62.8	61.6
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair - level 3	Framework	84.5	80.9	77.1
Vehicle Parts - level 2	Framework	62.9	62.3	64
Vehicle Parts - level 3	Framework	84.5	84.9	75.6
<b>Average all - Standards</b>		45.3	46.0	49.5
<b>Average all - frameworks</b>		68.8	65.2	65.8

Overall achievement rates of standards are significantly lower than that of frameworks. The highest achievement rate in 2020/21 was for vehicle maintenance and repair level 3 (framework) with a 77.1 achievement rate. The pathways which have a higher than the average rate are all level 3 frameworks.

Overall retention rate				
	Standard / Framework	201819	201920	202021
Autocare Technician - level 2	Standard			18.4
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician - level 3	Standard			18.9
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) - level 3	Standard	67.1	51.8	35.5
Vehicle Body and Paint - level 2	Framework	67.9	63.8	56.8
Vehicle Body and Paint - level 3	Framework	80.5	82.1	77.9
Vehicle Fitting - level 2	Framework	70.6		63.1
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair - level 2	Framework	71.8	63.8	62.9
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair - level 3	Framework	85.4	81.7	78.3
Vehicle Parts - level 2	Framework	62.9	62.3	64.6
Vehicle Parts - level 3	Framework	84.5	84.9	75.6
<b>Average all - Standards</b>		47.2	47.9	50.8
<b>Average all - frameworks</b>		69.9	66.7	67.6

Overall retention rates for automotive pathways have been falling for the past 3 years.

Overall pass rate				
	Standard / Framework	201819	201920	202021
Autocare Technician - level 2	Standard			97.1
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician - level 3	Standard			87.5
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) - level 3	Standard	91.7	85.8	86
Vehicle Body and Paint - level 2	Framework	99.6	98.8	98.5
Vehicle Body and Paint - level 3	Framework	99	99.7	97.3
Vehicle Fitting - level 2	Framework	100		97.6
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair - level 2	Framework	99.3	98.5	98
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair - level 3	Framework	99	99	98.4
Vehicle Parts - level 2	Framework	100	100	99.2
Vehicle Parts - level 3	Framework	100	100	100
<b>Average all - Standards</b>		95.7	95.9	97.1
<b>Average all - frameworks</b>		98.5	97.7	97.1

All automotive framework pathways have a pass rate higher than the average for all frameworks. The only automotive standard with a higher than average pass rate is Autocare Technician.

## Sector news

### Headlines from sector

#### New DfE employer and apprentice surveys reveal reasons behind huge drop-out rate

Personal or domestic factors such as a better job offer, mental health issues or caring responsibilities are among the key reasons for apprentices dropping out, new Department for Education research has found.

And when it comes to apprenticeship-related factors for withdrawals, the most common reasons were that apprentices felt they did not have enough time for training, poor quality training, and badly run programmes.

Former skills minister Gillian Keegan ordered an investigation into the “astonishingly” high drop-out rate for apprenticeships last year after original 2019/20 figures showed 39.8 percent of learners on the government’s new-style “standards” withdrew before completing. This figure was later revised up to 53.4 percent after statisticians spotted an “error”. Figures for 2020/21 show 47 percent of apprentices on standards dropped out. By comparison latest DfE data shows the drop-out rate for A-levels in 2019 was less than one in ten (8.7 percent).

The most common apprenticeship-related reasons that contributed to apprentices not completing were: not enough time for learning/training (44 percent), training not being as good as they had hoped (43 percent) and the apprenticeship being badly run or poorly organised (41 percent). The single most common main reason for not completing was being fired or made redundant (11 percent), followed by not getting on with the employer (10 percent), not having enough time for learning (9 percent), a job or career change (9 percent), the apprenticeship being stopped or cancelled (7 percent) and no longer wanting to work in the field of the apprenticeship (7 percent). And 2 percent said they left their apprenticeship because of low pay.

#### Other interesting things we learned from DfE’s surveys (apprentices)

- Apprenticeship duration increases - The average intended duration of apprenticeships was reported as just under two years (22 months), an increase of two to three months compared with 2018/19. DfE said this was a continuation of the trend for longer apprenticeships over recent years, partly a reflection of the shift towards higher-level apprenticeships.
- Over half of apprentices receiving non-compliant levels of off-the-job training –
- 1 in 12 apprentices haven’t heard of EPA

#### Other interesting things we learned from DfE’s surveys (employers)

- Big drops at Level 2 - The percentage of apprentice employers with Level 2 completer apprentices on the fall from 62 percent to 49 percent (a reduction in the absolute number of apprentices of 43 percent).
- Financial incentives didn’t encourage growth

Full article: <https://feweek.co.uk/new-dfe-employer-and-apprentice-surveys-reveal-reasons-behind-huge-drop-out-rate/>

Full survey results <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-evaluation-2021-learner-and-employer-surveys>

## Data Sources

OfQual (England) - Vocational qualifications dataset [Certificates awarded for all vocational qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS levels and A levels)] 2022 Q1. Released 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

SQA Accreditation (Scotland) – Quarterly statistical Reports. January – March 2022. Released 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022



QiW (Wales) – Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly: [A quarterly release that presents data on vocational and other qualification certifications for Wales for the latest quarter] Quarter 1 (January to March) 2022 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022

DfE - Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England - data released 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022