

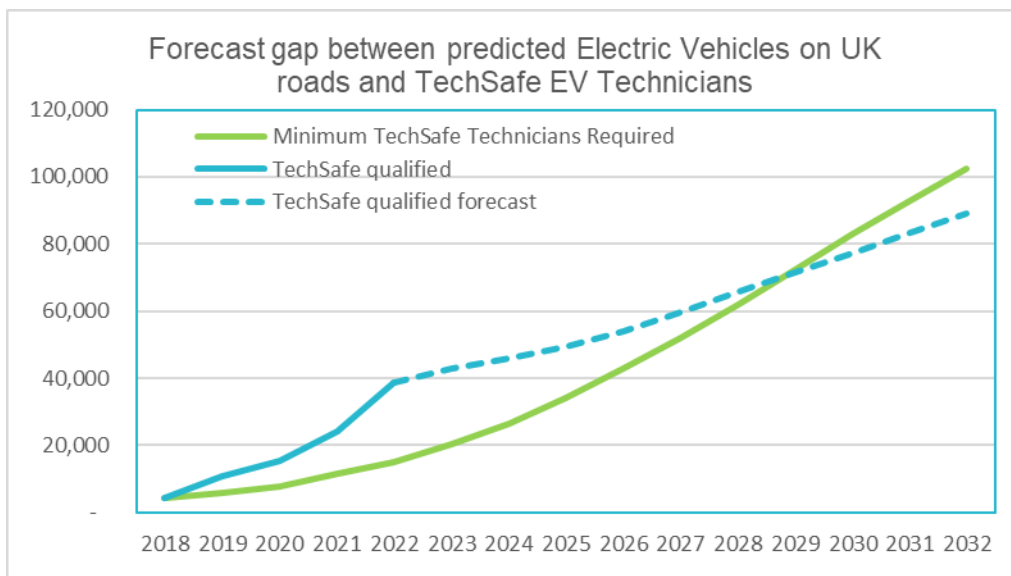
Take up of EV qualifications slows as demand for EVs dampens.

Auto Trader latest release of Road to 2030 report outlines a decline in demand for EV demand likely caused by cost-of-living crisis and doubts about Government’s electrification ambitions. This has led to Auto Trader dampening their forecast pushing back electric sales reaching 50 per cent by 2026 to 2027. Auto Trader now predict that the number of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) will make up 34%, 11.3 million vehicles (down from 12.6 million) of the total car parc by 2030 and that 24%, 7.9 million vehicle (down from 9 million)) will be pure EV.

This in turn has affected the IMI forecast of the minimum number Technicians needed to meet this demand. However, it is important to note that in previous IMI research **Automotive sector employment 2021-2031** report that the sector faces high employment replacement demand caused by an aging workforce, migration and occupation mobility. The report highlights that the sector will require just under 160,000 posts filled by 2031, 32,000 from technician roles. This demand has now been factored into the model. The IMI predicts that the number of TechSafe™ qualified technicians that will be required to work with electric vehicles by 2030 is 77,000, increasing to 89,000 by 2032.

Data released by the education regulators (Ofqual, SQA, CCEA, Qualifications Wales) reports that more than 3100 were certificated in the third quarter of 2022 (July-Sept). This means that the first nine months of 2022 saw 11,546 technicians undertaking electric vehicle qualifications eligible to obtain TechSafe™ professional recognition. This equates to the number of technicians now qualified to work safely on electric vehicles is estimated at 36,000, the equivalent of 16% of technicians in the UK.

Unofficial IMI data indicates that the fourth quarter will have the lowest take up of 2022, potentially being affected by the current economic climate. The forecast predictions for take up of EV qualifications has now been dampened for the coming 2 years. Considering this and using Auto Trader adjusted forecast by 2029, there could be a shortfall of 700 qualified technicians, increasing to 13,000 by 2032.



Size of EV qualified technician gap

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
0	0	0	0	700	5600	9700	13100

A skills gap could risk the safety of technicians and undermine confidence that consumers' electric vehicles can be serviced, maintained, and repaired by a garage with the right skills. This forecast is still reliant on the sector to continue its efforts to train and skill its workforce at the significant rates, and with current economic pressures there is concern that training budgets are often the first to be cut within business. It is also important to note that for technicians to remain skilled and to maintain TechSafe™ recognition there is a need for continued professional development (CPD) in order to keep up to date with new technology. This CPD requirement and employment churn outline above, means the 'pot' of those qualified is never truly ever growing but requires continued 'refilling' and continued commitment from the sector.

Data sources:

- Technician forecasts: IMI calculation interpreting EMSIE SOC data (2022)
- Number of AFCs - Autotrader total car parc projections – new release December 2022
- Techsafe™ figures: All 4 nation qualification regulatory board published data (Ofqual, SQA, CCEA, Qualifications Wales) 2018 – 2022Q3. 2022Q4 IMI data
- Auto Trader – The Road to 2030 <https://www.autotraderroadto2030.co.uk/>
- IMI - Automotive sector employment 2021-2031 <https://tide.theimi.org.uk/industry-latest/research/automotive-sector-employment-2021-2031>