



AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION REPORT

Analysis of Automotive Qualifications and Apprenticeships in the UK



Executive Summary

Introduction

The aim of this report is to analyse the numbers 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 2023 Q1 (January – March).

This edition does not include data from Northern Ireland (CCEA) as Q1 data has been delayed release, however historical numbers have been updated.

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

The most recent quarterly EV TechSafe forecasts are included, as well as new ADAS model.

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.

Summary of findings

Here are the key conclusions drawn from the analysis:

Overall Qualification Trends:

- Vocational qualifications across all sectors have shown a 7% increase compared to the same period in 2021.
- However, the total number of automotive certificates issued in 2023 Q1 has fallen by 7% compared to the previous year.

Dominance of Electric/Hybrid Qualifications:

- The IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement is the most popular automotive qualification, with 22% of all automotive certificates issued in 2023 Q1.
- Electric/Hybrid qualifications comprise 56% of all automotive qualification certificates, with the IMI awarding 94% of these qualifications.
- Other popular subjects include MOT (12%), Refrigerant Handling (11%), and Accident Repair (6%).

Decline in EV Qualification Uptake:

- In 2023 Q1, over 3,300 EV qualifications (eligible for TechSafe) were certificated, marking a 10% decrease compared to the same period in the previous year.
- Unofficial IMI data suggests that the second quarter may see a further decline of 31% in EV qualification uptake, with estimates indicating that the number of qualified technicians working on electric vehicles currently stands at 45,000, representing 18% of all technicians in the UK.

Shortage of ADAS-Certified Technicians:

- Currently, there are only 3,000 ADAS-certified technicians in the UK, but a total of 9,000 are needed to service the current vehicle parc. This number is projected to rise to 106,000 by 2030.
- The shortage of skills to work on Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) poses risks to road users and undermines the overall mobility in the UK.
- 59% of automotive apprenticeships are levy funded, whereas the overall apprenticeship figure stands at 67% levy funded.

Positive Trends in Automotive Apprenticeships:

- There has been a 12% increase in automotive apprenticeship starts in the first 8 months of the academic year 2022/23 compared to the previous year. This growth is particularly notable in November.
- In contrast to other industries, the automotive sector is among the few subjects that have witnessed an increase in the number of apprenticeship starts.
- 59% of automotive apprenticeships are levy funded, whereas the overall apprenticeship figure stands at 67% levy funded.

Popular Pathways and Changes:

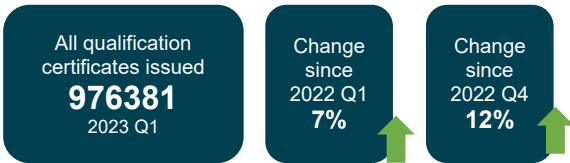
- The Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) pathway has been the most popular, with 3,141 apprenticeship starts in the first 8 months of the academic year 2022/23.
- The Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician pathway has seen the largest increase over the past year, rising by 37%.
- Conversely, the Bus and Coach Engineering Technician pathway has experienced the largest decline, with a 20% decrease in apprenticeship starts.

In summary, the analysis highlights a mixed picture for the automotive industry in the UK. While overall qualification numbers have increased, there has been a decline in EV qualification uptake. The shortage of ADAS-certified technicians poses challenges to the industry, although there is a positive trend in automotive apprenticeships. These findings emphasise the importance of addressing skills gaps and promoting training initiatives to meet the evolving needs of the automotive sector.



Vocational qualification certifications

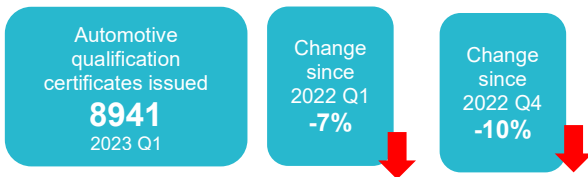
All vocational qualifications



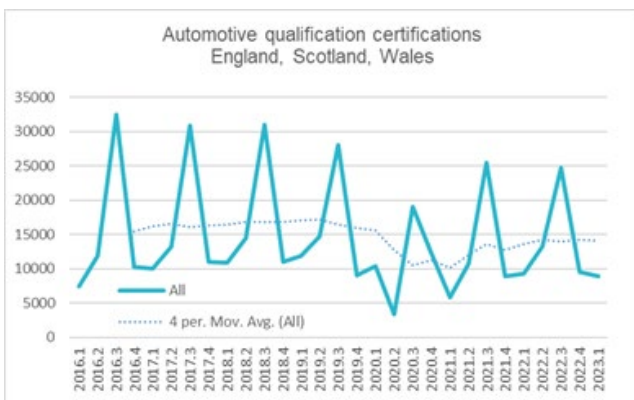
	No.	%chg 2022 Q1
England	904590	8%
Scotland	35881	40%
Wales	35910	12%
N.I		

The total number of vocational certificates issued in 2023 Q1 was 976,000. This is 7% higher than the same period last year.

Automotive qualifications

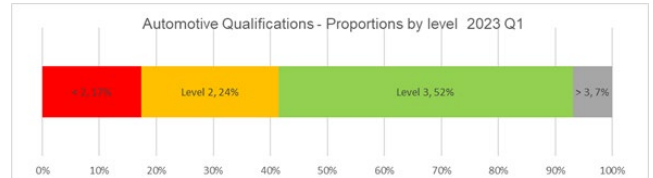


	No.	%chg 2022 Q1
England	8120	-3%
Scotland	621	-2%
Wales	200	-22%
N.I		

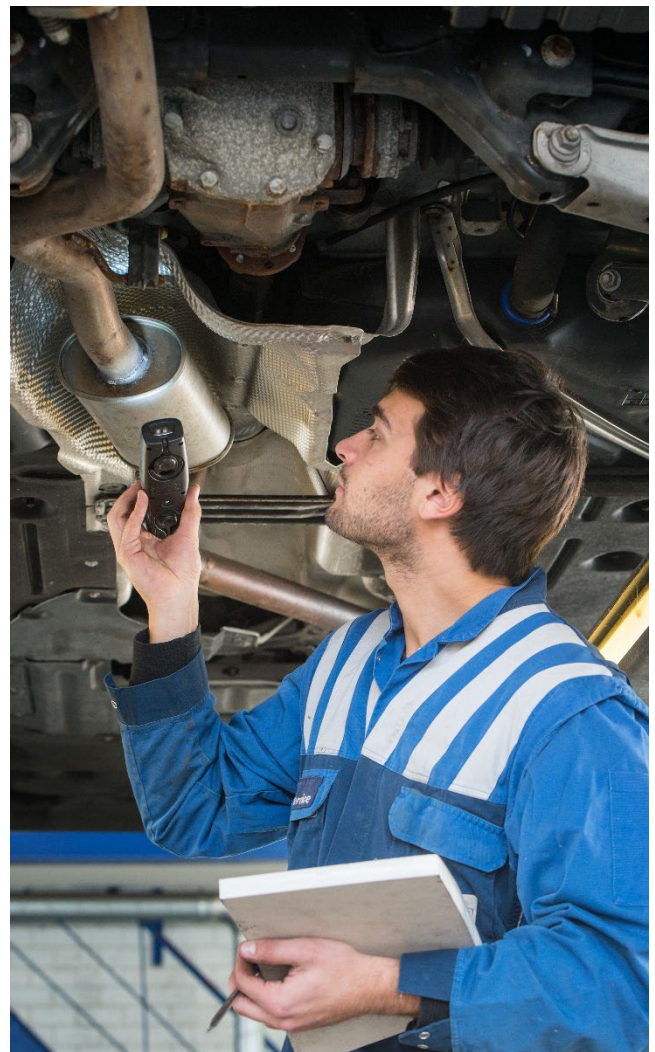


The total number of automotive certificates issued in 2023 Q1 was just over 8,941, which is 7% lower than the same period the last year. Wales has seen the largest percentage fall.

Automotive qualification certifications - Levels



In 2023 Q1, the largest proportion (52%) of automotive qualifications were at Level 3 (or equivalent) with 4,613 qualifications at this level, 24% were at level 2 and 17% at entry and Level 1.

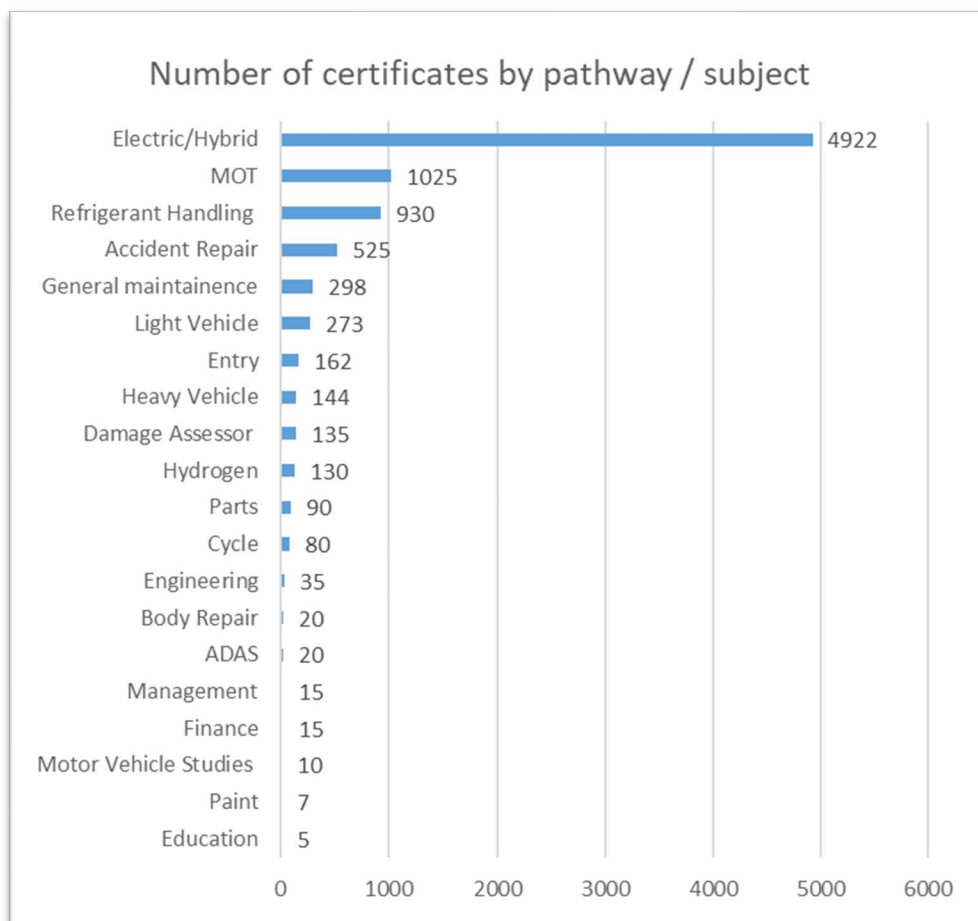


Top 10 automotive qualifications

Qualification title	No.
IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	1955
IMI Level 2 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Routine Maintenance Activities	1035
IMI Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006) (VRQ)	930
IMI Level 1 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Awareness	845
IMI Level 2 Award in MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7)	445
IMI Level 4 Award in the Diagnosis, Testing and Repair of Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and Components	340
SEG Awards ABC Level 3 Award In MOT Test Centre Management (VRQ)	250
IMI Level 3 Award in MOT Test Centre Management	210
City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Accident Repair Paint Competence	190
City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Accident Repair MET Competence	170

The top qualification in 2023 Q1 was IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement with 1955 certificates issued, which is 22% of all automotive qualification certificates. 71% of all automotive certificates issued this quarter were from these top 10 qualifications.

Automotive qualification certifications – pathways / subject areas



56% of automotive qualification certificates issued this quarter are for Electric/Hybrid qualification, with the IMI awarding 94% of these qualifications. The second most popular subject is MOT (12%) followed by Refrigerant handling (11%) and Accident Repair (6%).

IMI TechSafe

TechSafe EV

Electric vehicle qualification certifications eligible to obtain Techsafe professional recognition

3345
2023 Q1

Electric vehicle qualification certifications eligible to obtain Techsafe professional recognition

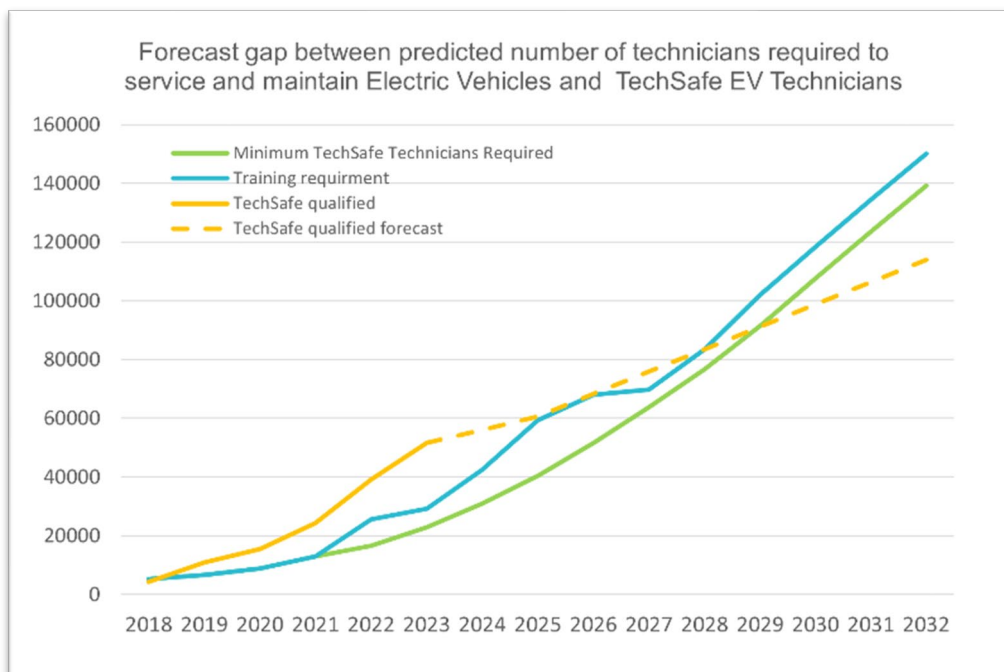
45,152
In total (2016 – June 2023 **)

Data released by the education regulators (Ofqual, SQA, CCEA, Qualifications Wales) reports that more than 3,300 EV qualifications (eligible for TechSafe) were certificated in the first quarter of 2023 (Jan-Mar), this is 10% lower than the same period the year before. Unofficial IMI data indicates that the second quarter could see an even further dampening of take up, to below 3000 for the quarter, which is 31% lower than the previous year.

This means that the first six months of 2023, saw 6065 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 45,000, the equivalent of 18% of technicians in the UK.

TechSafe – EV forecast

The IMI predicts a substantial increase in the demand for qualified EV technicians. By 2030, the UK will require 107,000 TechSafe qualified technicians to meet the evolving demands of electric vehicles. This figure rises to 139,000 by 2032. Projections indicate a potential shortfall of qualified technicians by 2029, which could reach a staggering 25,000 by 2032 if the current trends persist. Furthermore, considering factors such as training for newcomers to the sector, attrition rates, the vacancy rate, and retraining needs after a three-year Continuing Professional Development (CPD) cycle, exacerbates the skills gap, with 20,000 EV technicians needed by 2030, and this number escalating to 36,000 by 2032.



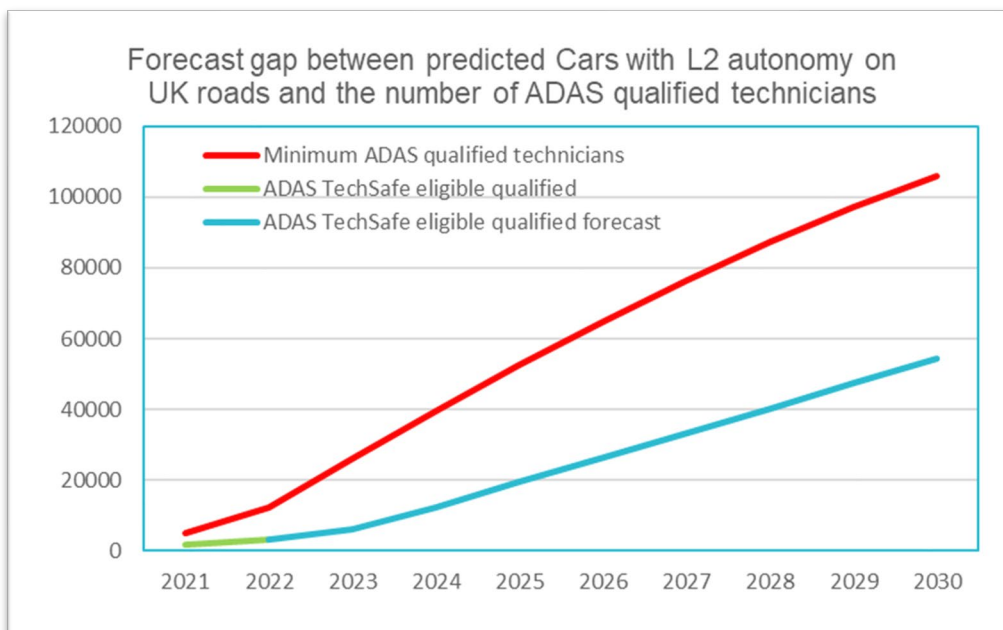
The current position of EV qualification uptake in the UK highlights a decline compared to the previous year, potentially influenced by economic pressures and the automotive sector's focus on filling vacancies. However, the future demands for EV technicians are projected to increase significantly, with substantial shortfalls predicted if the current trends persist. Urgent attention is required to address the skills gap, enhance training initiatives, and ensure an adequate supply of qualified technicians to meet the evolving demands of the rapidly growing EV sector.

TechSafe ADAS

The IMI new report - Meeting the Demand for Skilled Vehicle Technicians in the Age of ADAS – reveals there are currently 3,000 ADAS-certified technicians in the UK yet a total of 9,000 are needed to service current vehicle parc, soaring to 106,000 by 2030. This lack of skills to work on Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) is putting road users at risk and undermining UK mobility.

In the realm of automotive advancements, the UK faces a pressing challenge as emerging technologies reshape the industry. At present, approximately 5% of the UK car parc, boasts level 2 autonomy, enabling vehicles to autonomously control acceleration, braking, and steering.

However, the shortage of qualified technicians becomes evident as only 3,000 professionals hold the esteemed IMI TechSafe qualifications required to work on vehicles equipped with Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS). Alarming, the IMI predicts a shortfall of 6,000 technicians in 2023 alone to support the expanding UK car parc. Looking towards the future, by 2030, a staggering 44% of cars on UK roads will incorporate ADAS, necessitating a total of 106,000 qualified technicians. Regrettably, based on current qualification and training trends, the IMI estimates a staggering shortfall of 51,000 qualified technicians within a mere seven years.

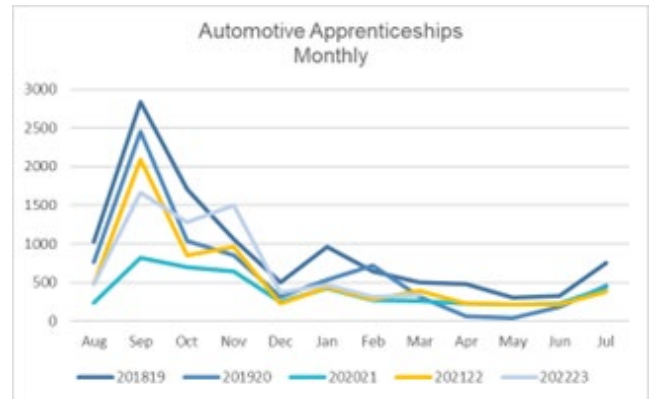


Automotive Apprenticeships - England

Apprenticeship Starts – First 8 months 2022/23 academic year (Aug-Mar)

All apprenticeships
2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
254,740

Automotive apprenticeships
2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
6406

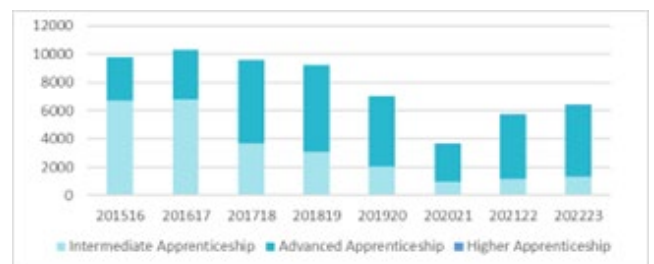
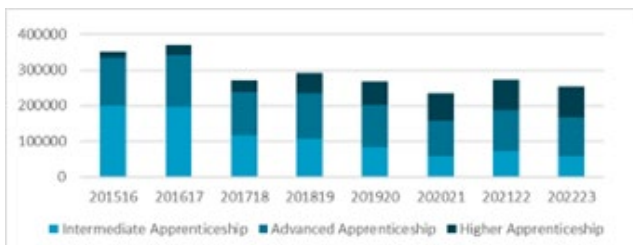
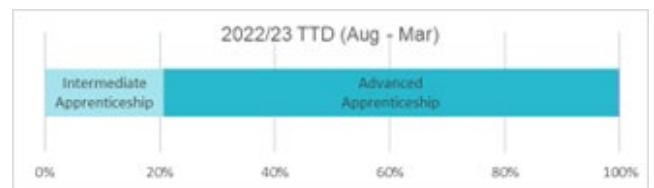


There were 6406 automotive apprenticeship starts in the first 8 months of academic year 2022/23 (August – March) which is 12% higher than the same point the previous year. This increase has been driven by a particularly strong November.

Apprenticeship Starts – Level

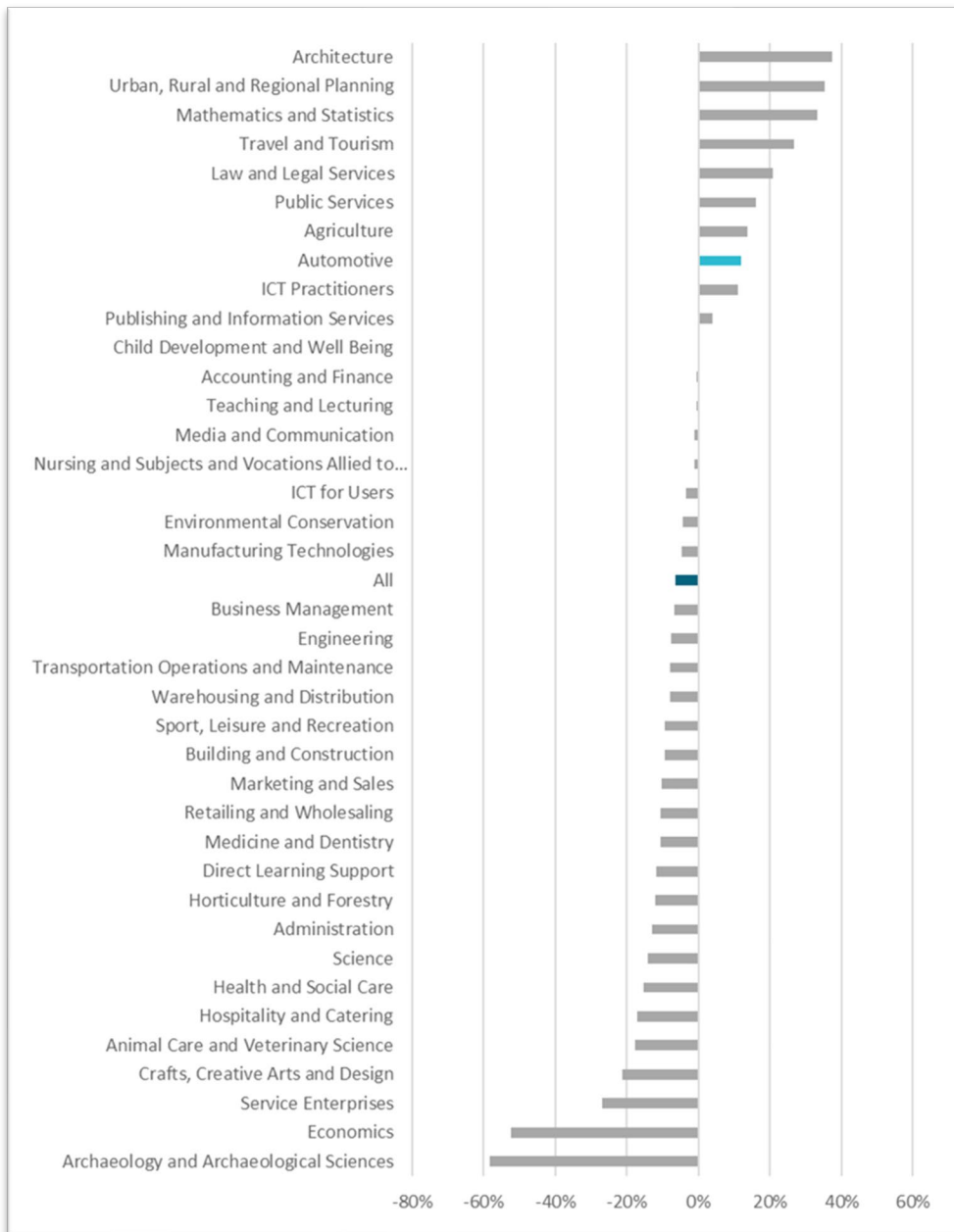
All apprenticeships 2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
43%
Advanced apprenticeship

Automotive apprenticeships 2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
79%
Advanced apprenticeship



The proportion of automotive apprenticeship starts which were at advanced level has been the dominant level since 2017/18 and has been increasing over the past 8 years. Automotive had less than 40 higher apprenticeship starts.

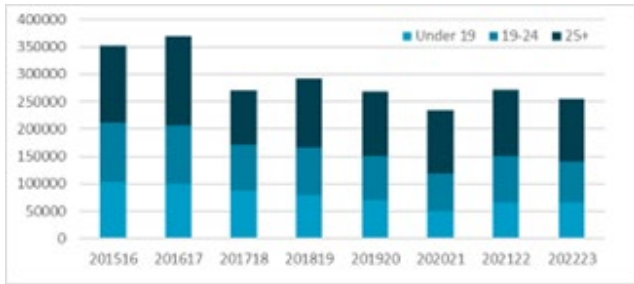
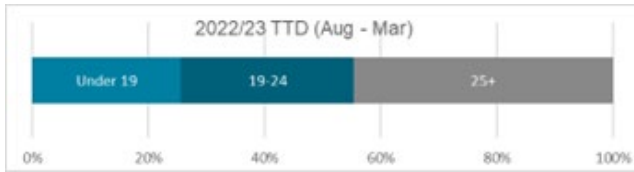
Comparison of apprenticeship subject areas – Comparison first 8 months of academic year 2021/22 & 2022/23



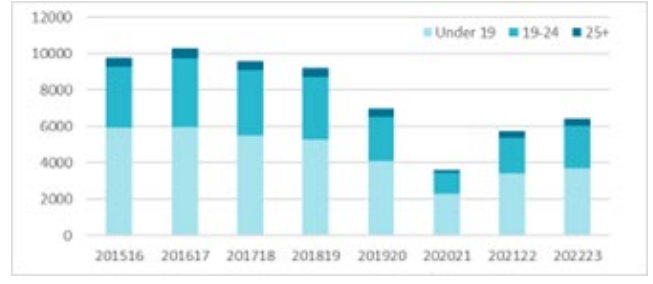
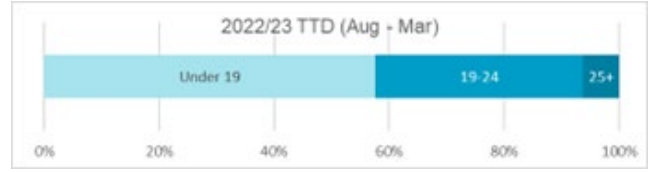
Comparing to other industries automotive are one of only 10 subjects that have seen an increase in the number of apprenticeships starts comparing the first 8 months of the past year. The all-subjects total has fallen by 6%, this indicates that automotive is bucking the national trend.

Apprenticeship Starts – age profile

All apprenticeships 2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
26%
 Under 19



Automotive apprenticeships 2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
58%
 Under 19

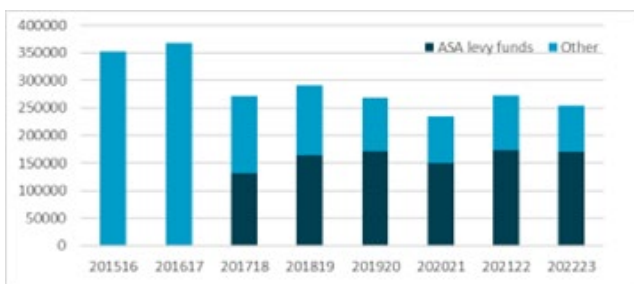
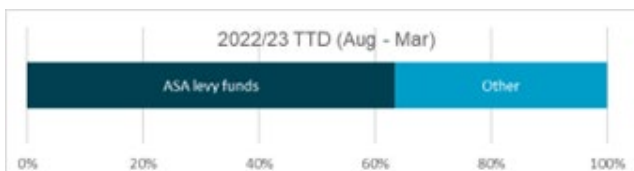


In the first 8 months of academic year 2022/23, 26% (65,157) of apprenticeship starts were under the age of 19, with 58% (3693) of automotive apprenticeships starts under the age of 19.

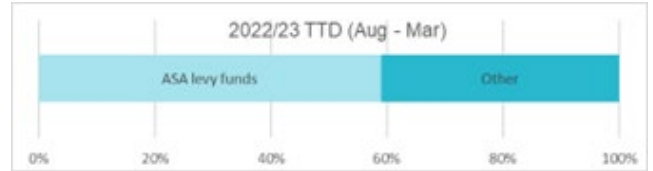
Under 19s have been the primary starters in automotive, however the proportion has been falling slightly from 60% in 2015/16 to 58% 2022/23. The proportion of starts over 25 remains 5% of automotive starts.

Apprenticeship Starts – funding

All apprenticeships 2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
67%
 Supported by ASA levy funds



Automotive apprenticeships 2022/23 (Aug – Mar)
59%
 Supported by ASA levy funds



In the first 8 months of academic year 2022/23, 67% of apprenticeship starts were supported by ASA levy funds compared to 59% of automotive apprenticeships starts.

The proportion of levy funded automotive apprentices has been increasing, from 50% last year and 36% in 2019/20.

Top 10 automotive qualifications

Apprentice starts – Automotive Apprenticeships starts by pathway

Automotive Standard	First 8 months of academic year		
	2021/22	2022/23	% Change
Accident Repair Technician	104	129	24%
Autocare Technician	1152	1324	15%
Bus and Coach Engineering Technician	243	194	-20%
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician	948	946	0%
Motor Finance Specialist	**	**	
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle)	2603	3141	21%
Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance)	46	46	0%
Vehicle Damage Assessor	27	32	19%
Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician	98	134	37%
Vehicle Damage Paint Technician	334	291	-13%
Vehicle Damage Panel Technician	150	161	7%
All Automotive	5705	6398	
<i>** Suppressed due to low counts</i>			

The first 8 months of academic year 2022/23 saw Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) the most popular pathway with 3141 starts. Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician pathway has seen the largest increase in the past year increasing by 37%. Bus and Coach Engineering Technician has seen the largest fall in apprenticeship starts, falling by 20%.

Data Sources

OfQual (England) - Vocational qualifications dataset [Certificates awarded for all vocational qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS levels and A levels)] 2023 Quarter 1

SQA Accreditation (Scotland) – Quarterly statistical Reports January - March 2023.

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] 2023 Quarter 1

DfE - Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England - data released 8th June 2023

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