



# 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 of people completing automotive qualifications and starting automotive apprenticeships in the UK. The report uses data from 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 give quarterly insights on the number of certifications awarded for each qualification, with the latest data from 2023 Q2 (April - June).

For qualification level, we align Scottish levels with those of England and Wales.

The latest quarterly EV TechSafe forecasts are included.

For apprenticeship data, we use monthly reports from the Department of Education (DfE) about starts and achievement rates in England.



# Summary findings

## Overall Qualification Trends:

- Vocational qualifications across all subjects rose by 15% compared to 2022 Q2.
- Automotive certificates issued in 2023 Q2 saw a 14% decrease year-on-year. This marks the weakest Q2 performance in eight years, except for 2020 Q2 at the pandemic peak.

## Rise of Electric/Hybrid Qualifications:

- The IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement is the leading automotive qualification, making up 15% of all automotive certificates issued in 2023 Q2.
- Electric/Hybrid qualifications now account for 37% of all automotive qualification certificates. Notably, the IMI awards 90% of these.
- Other noteworthy subjects include Light Vehicle (13%), Refrigerant Handling (11%), and General Maintenance (10%).

## Downturn in EV Qualification Uptake:

- Interest in EV qualifications is waning, showing a 36% decrease in certifications between Q2 2023 to Q2 2022.
- A six-month view reveals a 26% decrease in certifications.
- Unofficial IMI data suggests a further 7% drop in the second quarter.

## Upward Trajectory in Automotive Apprenticeships:

- The 2022/23 academic year saw a 15% rise in automotive apprenticeship starts year-over-year, totalling 7,800.
- Unlike other industries, the automotive sector is among only 14 subjects with increased apprenticeship starts compared last year.

- A notable 61% of automotive apprenticeships benefit from levy-funding, while the overall apprenticeship figure stands at 68%.

## Preferred Apprenticeship Pathways and Transformations:

- Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) is the top pathway in the academic year 2022/23, with 3,719 starts.
- The Vehicle Damage Assessor pathway has grown the most by 53% year-over-year, though with a relatively smaller volume.
- In contrast, the Bus and Coach Engineering Technician pathway decreased by 21% for apprenticeship starts.

These findings highlight the evolving nature of automotive qualifications and apprenticeships in the UK, pinpointing both areas of growth and those needing improvement.

# Vocational qualification certifications

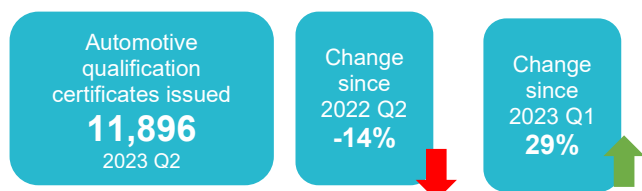
## All vocational qualifications



	No.	%chg 2022 Q2
England	1,112,885	14%
Scotland	27,497	3%
Wales	54,390	16%
N.I	57,627	34%

In total, the UK issued 1,252,000 vocational certificates in 2023 Q2, marking a 15% rise from the previous year.

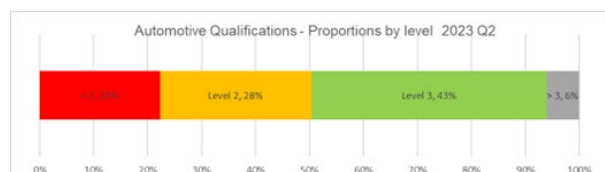
## Automotive qualifications



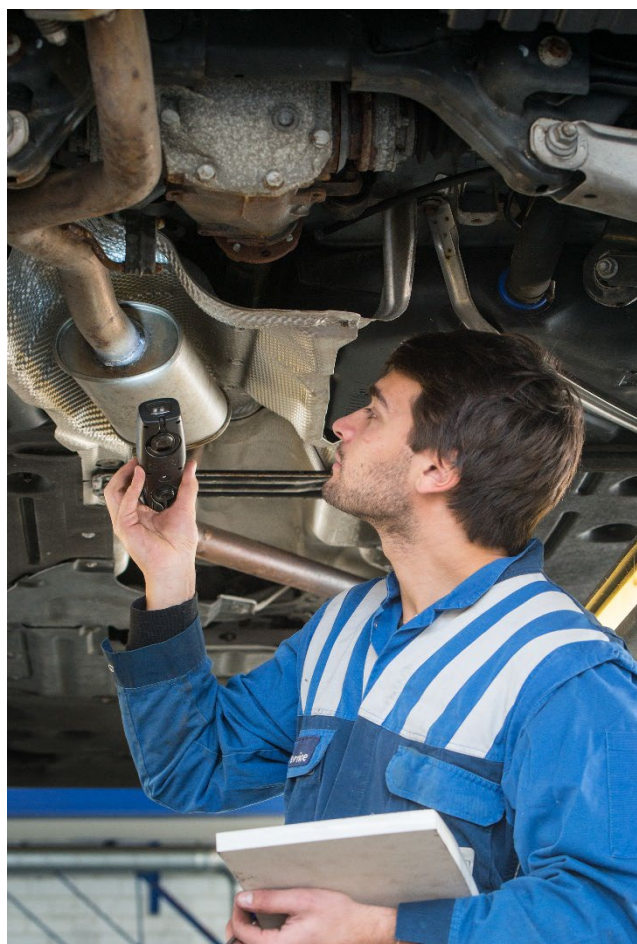
	No.	%chg 2022 Q2
England	9885	-17%
Scotland	872	73%
Wales	430	-41%
N.I	709	12%

Learners gained just over 11,800 automotive certificates in 2023 Q2, a decline of 14% year-on-year. Wales experienced the steepest drop, while Scotland saw a 73% surge.

## Automotive qualification certifications – Levels



In 2023 Q2, the largest proportion (43%) of automotive qualifications were at Level 3 (or equivalent) with 5,174 qualifications at this level. 28% were at level 2 and 22% at entry and Level 1.

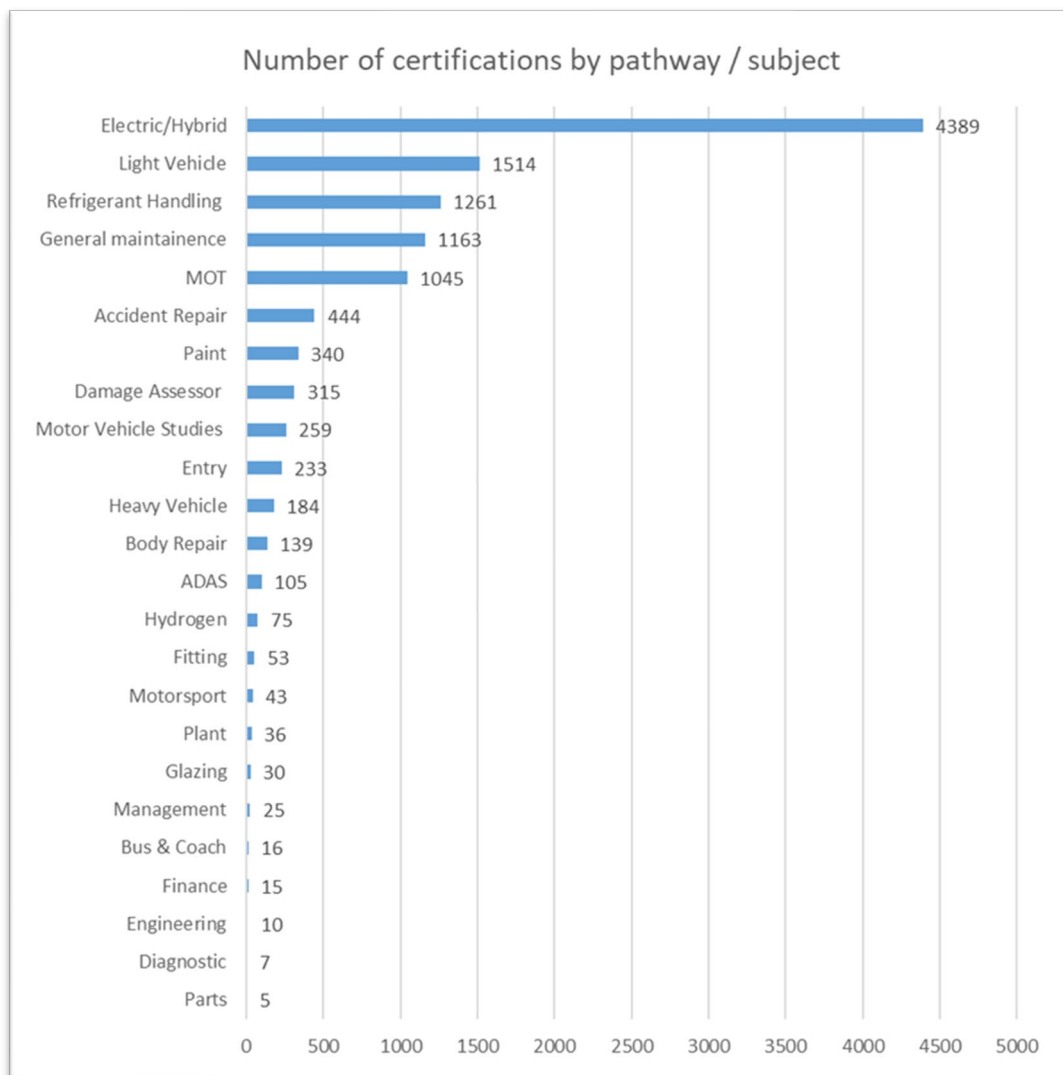


## Top 10 automotive qualifications

Qualification Title	No.
IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	1745
IMI Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006) (VRQ)	1261
IMI Level 2 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Routine Maintenance Activities	796
IMI Level 1 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Awareness	714
IMI Level 2 Award in MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7)	465
IMI Level 1 Diploma in Automotive Maintenance	455
IMI Level 4 Award in the Diagnosis, Testing and Repair of Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and Components	343
IMI Level 2 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles (VRQ)	334
City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Component Removal and Replacement in Electric and Hybrid Vehicles	265
Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles at SCQF Level 5	246

The most popular qualification in 2023 Q2 was IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement with 15% of all automotive qualification certificates issued (1,745). Notably, the top 10 qualifications made up 56% of all automotive certificates issued for this quarter.

## Automotive qualification certifications – pathways / subject areas



37% of automotive qualification certificates issued this quarter are for Electric/Hybrid qualification, with the IMI awarding 90% of them. The second most-popular subject is Light Vehicle (13%) followed by Refrigerant handling (11%) and General Maintenance (10%).

## TechSafe EV

Electric vehicle qualification certifications eligible to obtain Techsafe professional recognition

**2,900**  
2023 Q2

Electric vehicle qualification certifications eligible to obtain Techsafe professional recognition

**45,300**  
In total (2016 – June 2023)

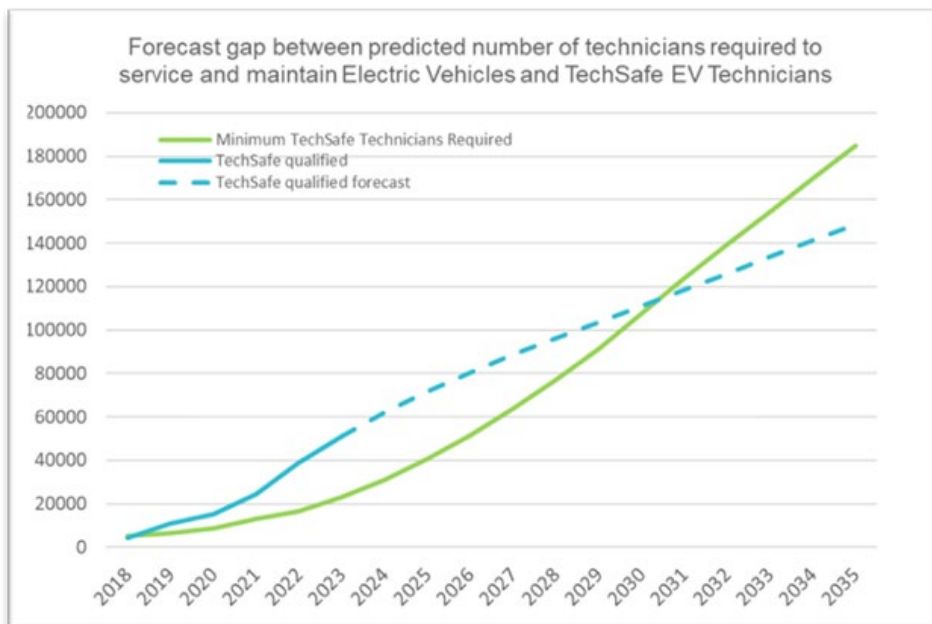
In 2023 Q2, official data from education regulators revealed that 2,900 technicians achieved EV certification—tallying the total to 45,300 qualified EV technicians in the UK, or 20% of all technicians in the country.

However, there's a concerning 36% dip in certifications year-on-year, with the past six months showing a 26% decline. Unofficial data from the IMI suggests a possible 7% drop in the upcoming quarter.

## TechSafe – EV forecast

By 2030, The IMI anticipates a need for 107,000 EV-trained technicians, escalating to 126,000 by 2032 and possibly 185,000 by 2035 (to be taken with caution).

Given the recent decline in the adoption of EV qualifications and the ongoing challenges from job vacancies and economic strains, we have revised our forecast for the take-up of EV qualifications eligible for TechSafe. Projections suggest a potential shortage of qualified technicians by 2030, which could amount to 13,000 by 2032 if current trends continue. For full analysis please see [EV TechSafe Technician Forecasts - October 2023](#).

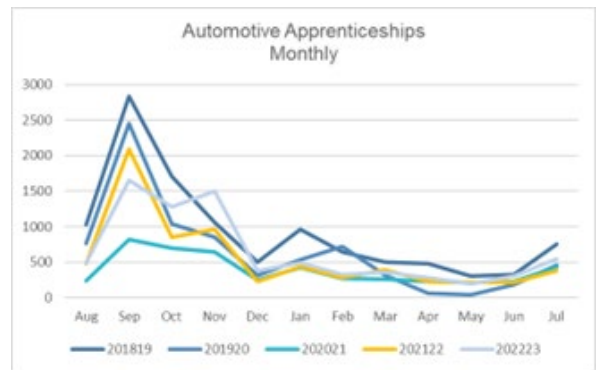


# Automotive Apprenticeships - England

## Apprenticeship Starts –2022/23 academic year

All apprenticeships  
2022/23  
**336,500**

Automotive apprenticeships  
2022/23  
**7,800**

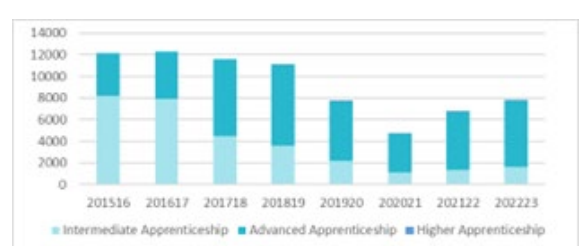
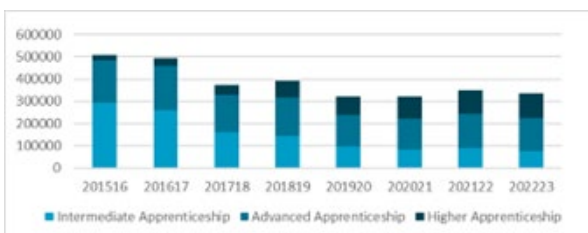
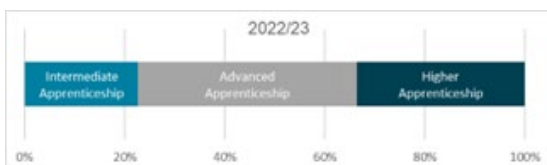


In the academic year 2022/23, there were 7,800 automotive apprenticeship starts, marking a 15% increase year-on-year. An especially strong November drove this surge, but month on month starts have surpassed those of last year.

## Apprenticeship Starts – Level

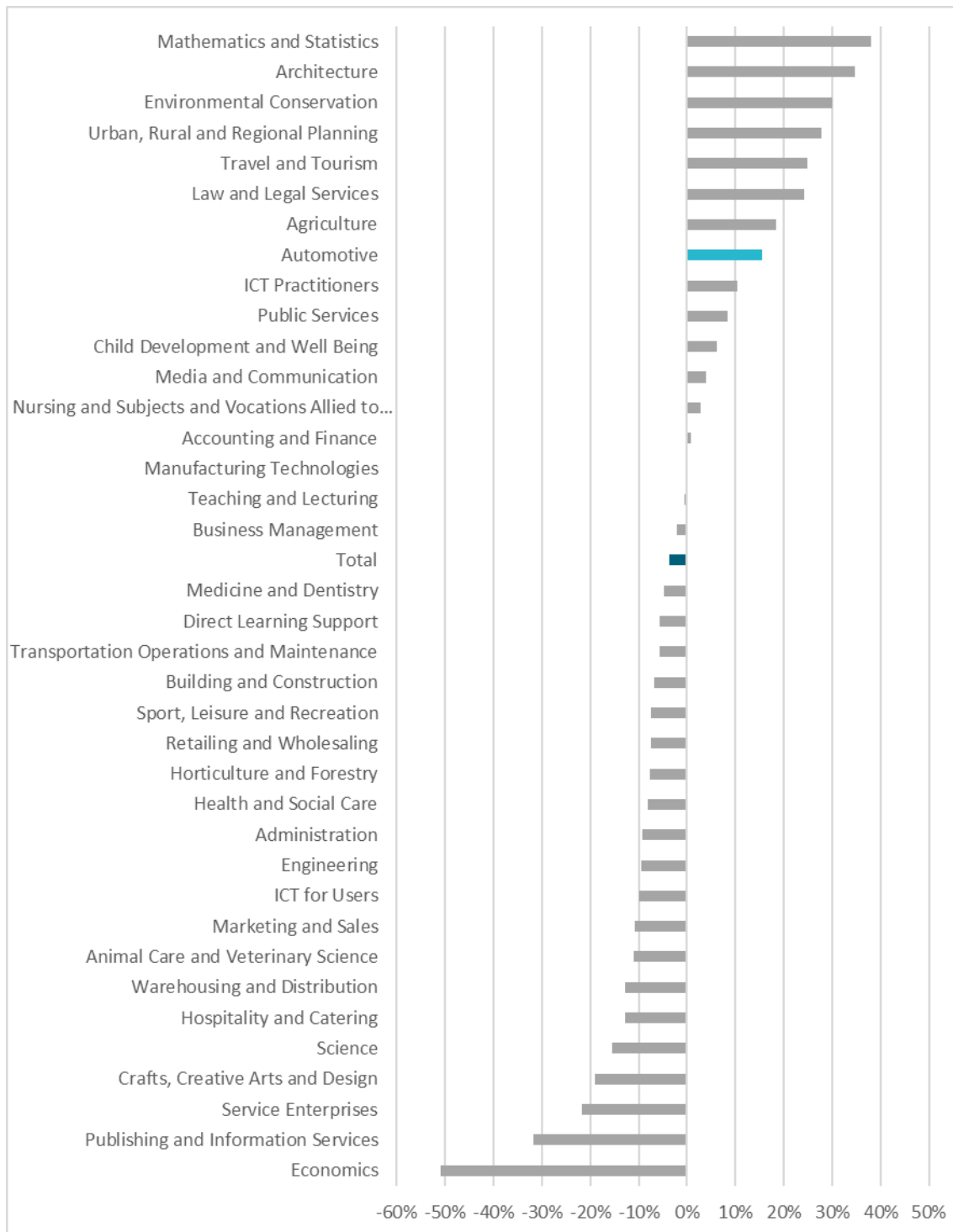
All apprenticeships 2022/23  
**44%**  
Advanced apprenticeship

Automotive apprenticeships 2022/23  
**78%**  
Advanced apprenticeship



In the 2022/23 academic year, apprenticeships at the advanced level made up 44% (147,400) of the total. The automotive sector contributed 78% (6,100) of these, totalling 6,100 automotive apprenticeships at the advanced level. Since the 2017/18 academic year, advanced-level have dominated the automotive apprenticeship landscape, with the proportion increasing steadily over the past eight years. Notably, the automotive sector saw fewer than 100 starts for higher apprenticeships.

## Comparison of apprenticeship subject areas – Comparison 2021/22 & 2022/23



Compared to other industries, the automotive sector is one of only 14 subjects that have experienced an increase in apprenticeships starts from the previous year. While the total for all subjects has decreased by 4%, the automotive industry is bucking the national trend.



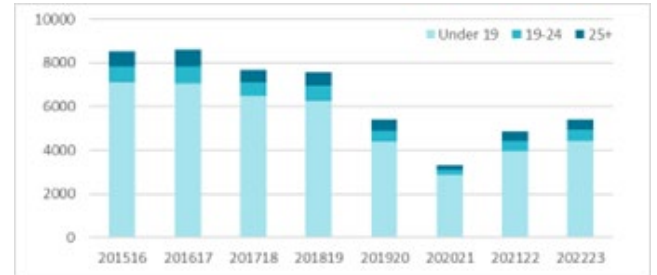
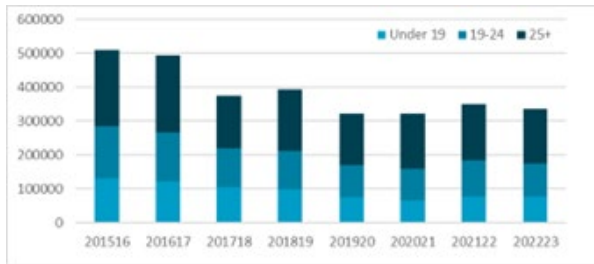
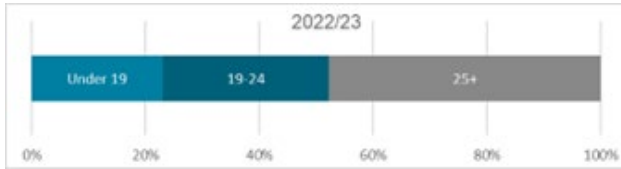
## Apprenticeship Starts – age profile

All apprenticeships 2022/23

**23%**  
Under 19

Automotive apprenticeships 2022/23

**57%**  
Under 19



During the 2022/23 academic year, 23% (77,500) of apprenticeship starts were individuals under the age of 19. In the automotive sector, 57% (4,400) of the automotive apprenticeships starts were under the age of 19.

For the past 6 years, those under 19 have consistently made up the most starters in the automotive sector, with percentages ranging from 56% to 61%.

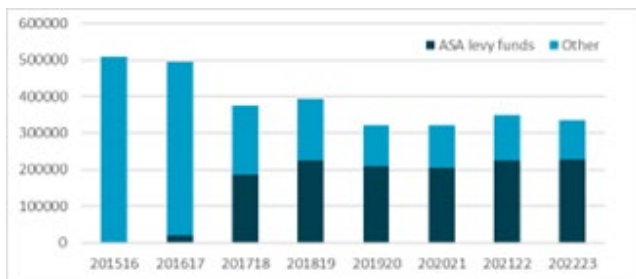
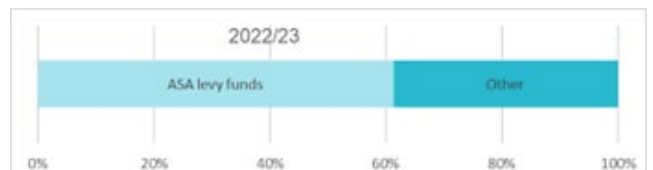
## Apprenticeship Starts – funding

All apprenticeships 2022/23

**68%**  
Supported by ASA levy funds

Automotive apprenticeships 2022/23

**61%**  
Supported by ASA levy funds



During the 2022/23 academic year, 68% of apprenticeship starts benefited from ASA levy funds, 61% of automotive apprenticeships starts did the same.

The percentage of automotive apprentices funded by the levy has seen a rise from 52% the previous year and 40% in 2019/20 academic year.

## Top 10 automotive qualifications

Apprentice starts – Automotive Apprenticeships starts by pathway

Automotive Standard	2021/22	2022/23	% Change
Accident Repair Technician	120	148	23%
Autocare Technician	1367	1627	19%
Bus and Coach Engineering Technician	275	217	-21%
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician	1128	1271	13%
Motor Finance Specialist	**	**	
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician - Light Vehicle	3077	3719	21%
Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance)	59	56	-5%
Vehicle Body and Paint Operations	**	**	
Vehicle Damage Assessor	34	52	53%
Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician	111	155	40%
Vehicle Damage Paint Technician	398	342	-14%
Vehicle Damage Panel Technician	181	211	17%
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	**	**	
Vehicle Parts Operations	**	**	
Vehicle Restoration	**	**	
<b>All Automotive</b>	<b>6767</b>	<b>7811</b>	<b>15%</b>
<i>** Supressed due to low counts</i>			

In the 2022/23 the academic year, learners favoured the “Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle)” pathway, 3719 starts. While the “Vehicle Damage Assessor” pathway witnessed the most significant growth the past year, surging by 53%, although its overall volume stays relatively modest. On the other hand, the “Bus and Coach Engineering Technician” pathway has experienced the steepest decline, dropping by 21%.

## Data Sources

OfQual (England) - Vocational qualifications dataset [Certificates awarded for all vocational qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS levels and A levels)] 2023 Quarter 2

SQA Accreditation (Scotland) – Quarterly statistical Reports April - June 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 2

Cea (Northern Ireland) - Technical and Professional Qualifications Bulletin: 2023 Quarter 2

DfE - Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England - data released September 2023

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