



# AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION REPORT

Analysis of automotive qualifications and apprenticeships in the UK



# Executive summary

## Introduction

This report analyses the number of people who complete in automotive qualifications and start automotive apprenticeships in the UK. We use data from the regulatory bodies of the four nations:

- OfQual - The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation [England]
- The Scottish Qualifications Authority [Scotland]
- Qualifications Wales [Wales]
- CCEA Regulation [Northern Ireland]

These datasets give quarterly updates on certifications awarded for each qualification, with the latest data up to 2023 Q4 (Oct-Dec).

We align Scottish qualification levels with those in England and Wales for consistency.

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

## Summary findings

### Vocational Qualifications:

The automotive sector saw a 5% decrease in certificates issued during Q4 2023, with Wales experiencing the largest drop.

Level 3 qualifications dominated the automotive sector, comprising 51% of all automotive certifications in Q4 2023. There is a noticeable shift towards foundational automotive education, with entry-level and Level 1 qualifications increasing by 1% each quarter.

The IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement was the top qualification in Q4 2023, representing 17% of automotive certificates. Certifications for electric and hybrid vehicles now make up 45% of all automotive qualifications, indicating a

significant trend towards electrification in the industry. This trend contrasts with the recent decrease in uptake reported in earlier periods.

### TechSafe:

In 2023, the IMI issued 12,900 EV TechSafe certifications, down 14% from 2022 but up 43% from 2021. The number of certified EV technicians in the UK now totals 52,400. Projections suggest a significant growth in the number of qualified technicians, with estimates reaching 109,000 by 2030 and 146,000 by 2035. However, this falls short of the forecasted demand, indicating a potential skills gap of up to 20,500 by 2035.

In Q4 2023, the industry awarded 330 ADAS-related certifications, bringing the total number of certified ADAS technicians to 3,770. Despite the increasing autonomy of vehicles, the exact role of technicians in diagnostics remains unclear, highlighting the need for ongoing training in ADAS technologies to keep pace with future automotive trends.

### Automotive Apprenticeships:

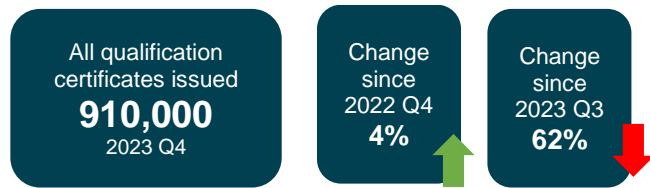
Automotive apprenticeship starts dropped by 6% in the first half of the academic year 2023/24 compared to the previous year but remain significantly higher at 8% above the 2021/22 period.

A high proportion (72%) of these apprenticeships are at an advanced level, highlighting a trend towards more specialised technical training in the automotive industry.

ASA levy funds supported 65% of all apprenticeship starts, but only 51% of automotive apprenticeship starts, representing a decrease from the previous year.

# Vocational qualification certifications

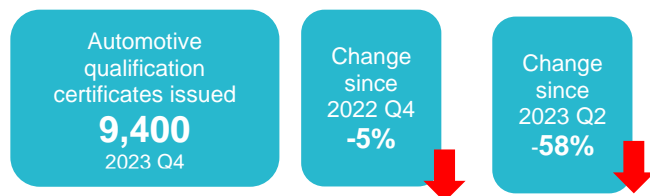
## All vocational qualifications



	No.	%chg 2022 Q4
England	811,000	3%
Scotland	25,700	-0.3%
Wales	53,100	42%
N.I	20,200	-2%

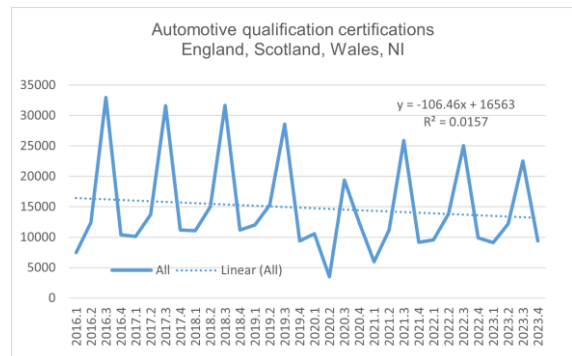
In Q4 2023, the automotive sector issued a total of 910,000 vocational certificates, marking a 4% increase from the same period last year.

## Automotive qualifications



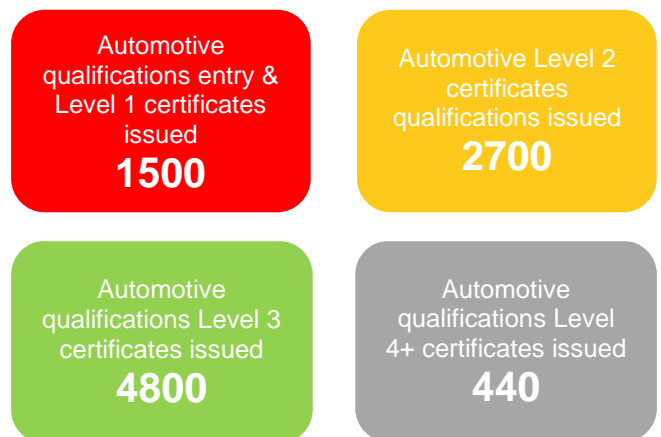
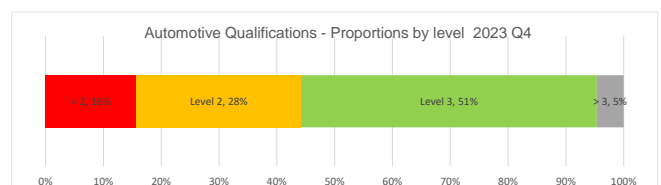
	No.	%chg 2022 Q4
England	8070	-5%
Scotland	600	1%
Wales	300	-34%
N.I	430	35%

In 2023 Q3, the automotive sector issued 9,400 certificates, a 5% decrease from the same period last year, with Wales having the largest percentage fall.

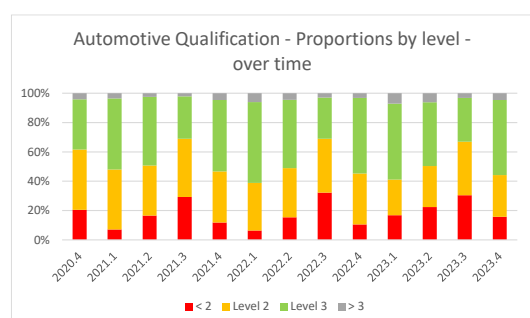


Examining trends, the number of automotive qualifications is decreasing by an average 100 per quarter.

## Automotive qualification certifications – levels



In 2023 Q4, Level 3 (or equivalent) automotive qualifications lead with 4,800 qualifications (51%), while 28% are at level 2.

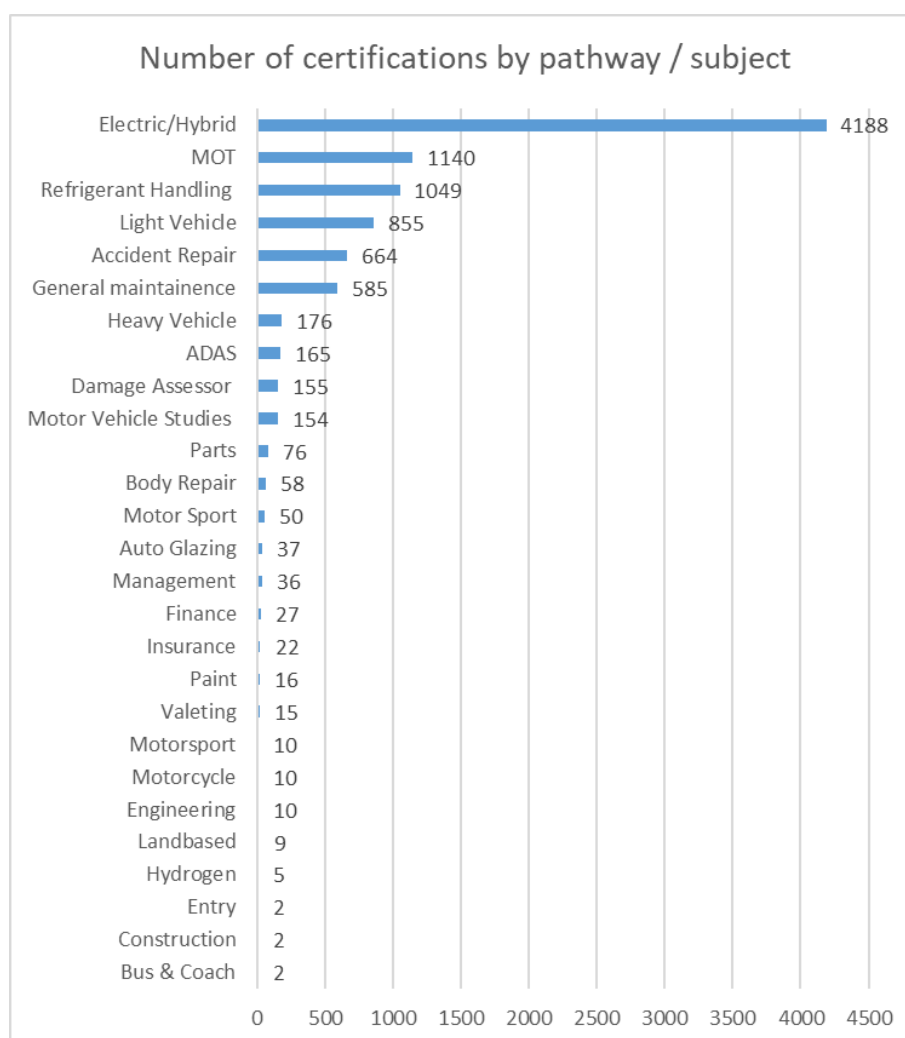


## Top 10 automotive qualifications

Qualification Title	Level	No.	Pathway
IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	Level 3	1,570	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006) (VRQ)	Level 3	1,030	Refrigerant Handling
IMI Level 2 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Routine Maintenance Activities	Level 2	765	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 1 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Awareness	Level 1	495	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 2 Award in MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7)	Level 2	435	MOT
IMI Level 4 Award in the Diagnosis, Testing and Repair of Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and Components	Level 4	275	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 3 Award in MOT Test Centre Management	Level 3	245	MOT
City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Accident Repair MET Competence	Level 3	215	Accident Repair
IMI Level 3 Award in Heavy Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	Level 3	215	Electric/Hybrid
City & Guilds Level 1 Award in Introduction to Electric and Hybrid Vehicle High Energy Systems	Level 1	210	Electric/Hybrid

In Q4 2023, the IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement emerged as the leading qualification, with 1,570 certificates issued, accounting for 17% of all automotive qualification certificates. The top 10 qualifications constituted 58% of all automotive certificates issued this quarter. Notably, six of the top ten qualifications are focused on electric and hybrid vehicles, marking a significant shift in recent reporting.

## Automotive qualification certifications – pathways / subject areas



This quarter, electric and hybrid qualifications are 45% of all automotive qualification certificates, becoming the largest category. The next subject area is MOT, which is likely to increase further next reporting quarter, accounting for 12%, following by Refrigerant handling at 11%.

# IMI TechSafe



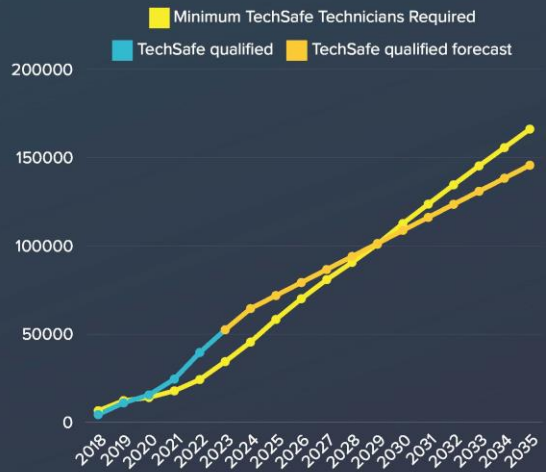
## Electric Vehicles

Technician forecasts - March 2024

**56,400**  
qualified EV technicians  
in the UK

**22%**  
of all technicians in the  
country are EV qualified

	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Technicians Required	113,000	124,000	135,000	145,000	156,000	166,000
Gap	4,000	9,500	11,000	14,500	17,500	20,500



Forecast gap between predicted number of technicians required to service and maintain Electric Vehicles and TechSafe EV Technicians



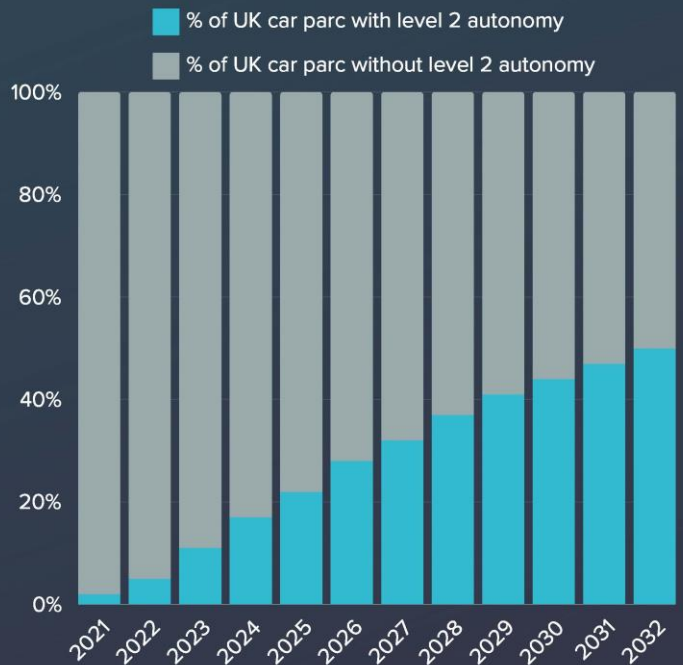
## ADAS

Technician forecasts - March 2024

**4,150**  
ADAS TechSafe eligible  
qualified

**2%**  
of all technicians in the  
country are ADAS  
qualified

**12%**  
of UK cars have  
some degree of  
level 2 autonomy

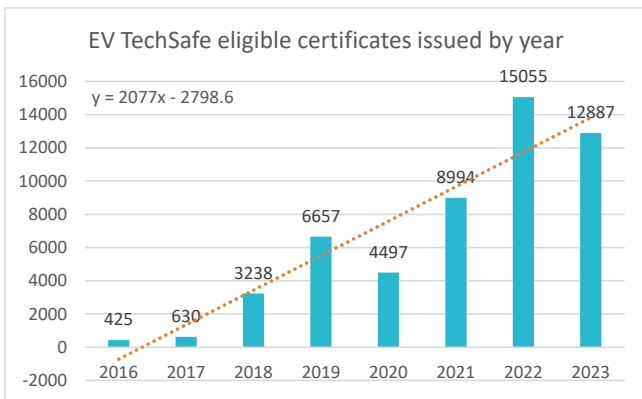


Proportion of UK car parc with level 2 autonomy

## TechSafe EV

In the fourth quarter of 2023, education regulatory authorities report that 3116 technicians achieved their Electric Vehicle (EV) certification, including those who have achieved an eligible IMI accreditation, brings the total number of certified EV technicians in the UK to 52,400.

This quarter concludes the reporting for 2023, revealing that 12,900 EV TechSafe eligible certifications were issued. This represents a 14% decrease from 2022, yet a 43% increase compared to 2021.



Examining the annual trend reveals the number of certificates is on average increasing by 2,100 per year.

Analysis of unofficial IMI data indicates that the first quarter of 2024 is showing positive trends, with an estimated 4,000 certifications issued. This is 24% higher than in Q1 2023 and would increase the total number of qualified technicians to 56,400, comprising 22% of all technicians in the UK.

Projecting forward based on current trends, we predict that the number of qualified technicians will reach 109,000 by 2030 and increase to 146,000 by 2035. However, the projected demand for technicians is 133,000 by 2030 and 166,000 by 2035, indicating a potential skills gap of 4,000 in 2030—increasing to 166,000 by 2035. This means a potential skills gap in 2030 of 4,000 increasing to 20,500 by 2035 and highlights the continuing need to train technicians.



## TechSafe ADAS

The IMI awarded 330 ADAS-related certificates and accreditation eligible for TechSafe in the fourth quarter of 2023; bringing the total number of certified EV technicians in the UK to 3,770.

This quarter completes reporting for 2023, which shows that we issued 1,100 ADAS TechSafe eligible certifications. This is 30% higher compared to 2022 but 11% lower than 2021.

Examining the annual trend reveals the number of certificates is on average increasing just 240 per year.

Analysis of unofficial IMI data reveals that the first quarter of 2024 could be the strongest to date, with approximately 360 certificates issued. This and would bring the total qualified to 4,150, just 2% of technicians in the UK.

12% of the current UK car parc has some degree of L2 autonomy, which is forecast to increase to 50% by 2032. As such, we estimate this would need 156,000 trained technicians to support it.

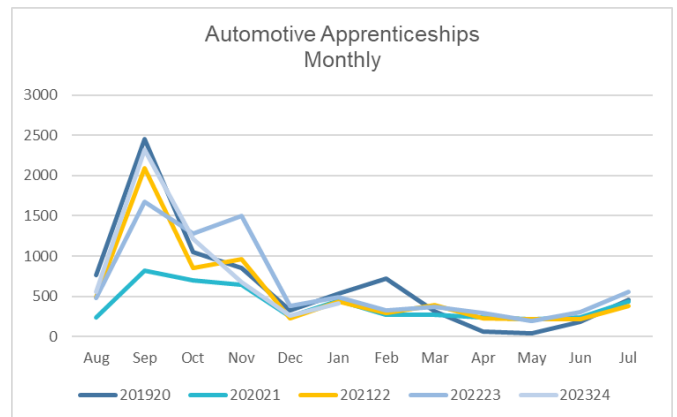
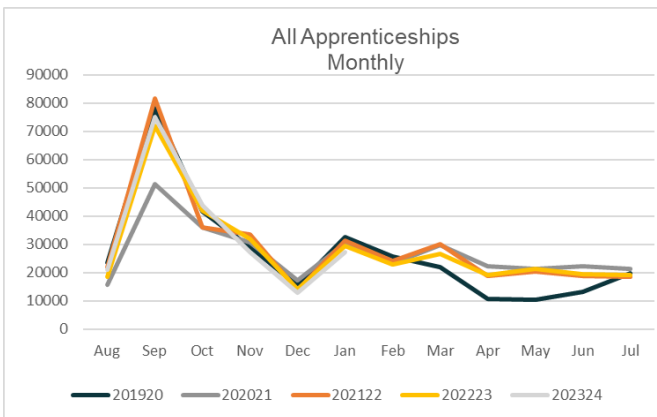
It is difficult to exactly predict the exact role technicians may play with diagnostic activities related to ADAS, given the unclear impact of increasingly software-managed diagnostic capabilities. However, regardless of remote diagnostic technology, certain roles such as body repair and glazing, are certain to need the skills, knowledge and understanding of ADAS technology in the future.

# Automotive apprenticeships - England

## Apprenticeship Starts – First 6 month comparison (Aug-Jan) academic year 2023/24

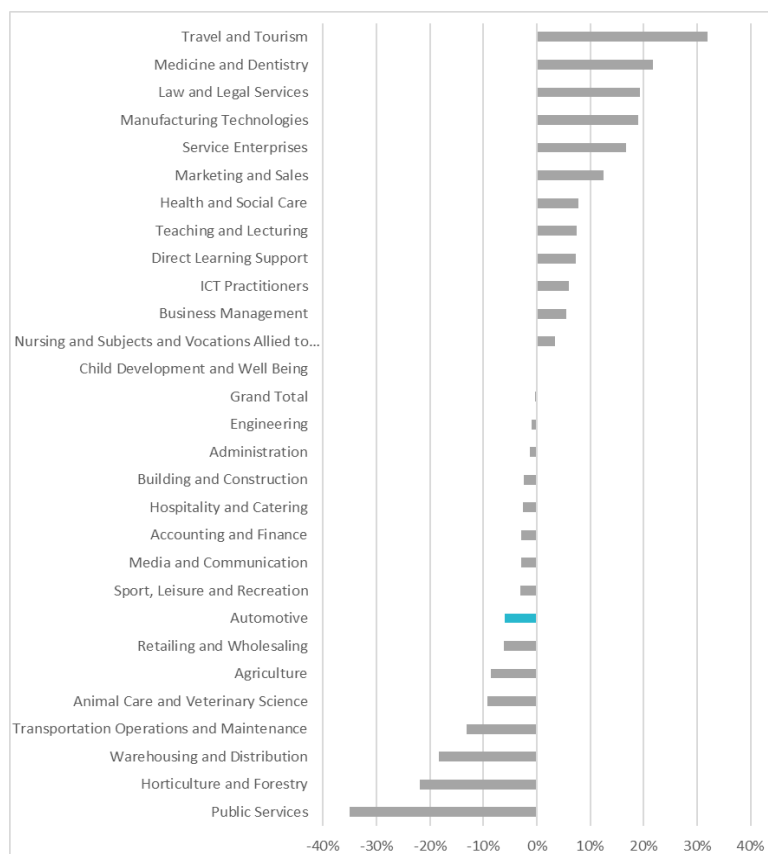
All apprenticeships  
(Aug – Jan) 2023/24  
**207,400**

Automotive apprenticeships  
(Aug – Jan) 2023/24  
**5,500**



There were 5,500 automotive apprenticeship starts in the first six months (August to January) of the academic year 2023/24. This is 6% lower than the same period last year, but 8% higher than the same period in 2021/22.

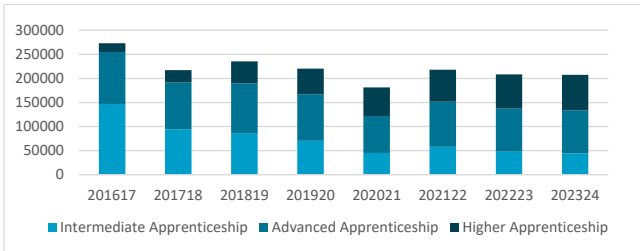
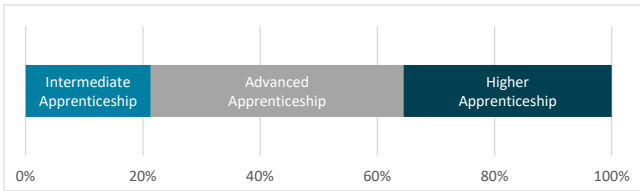
## Comparison of apprenticeship subject areas – first 6 month comparison academic year 2022/23 & 2023/24



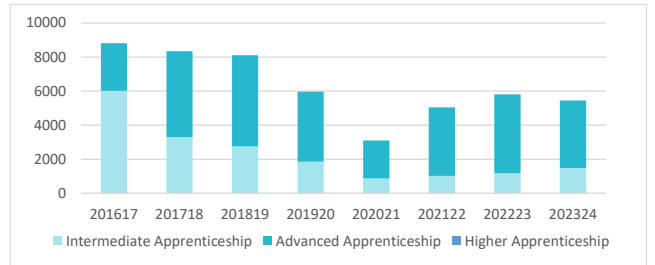
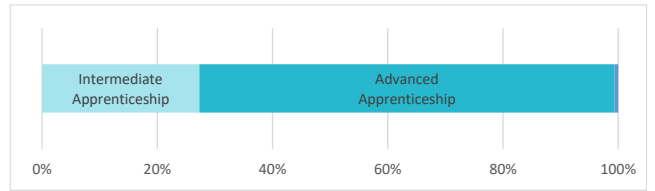
The 6% decline in automotive apprenticeships is higher than the average for all apprenticeships, which fell by just 0.3%. It is noteworthy that apprenticeship starts in retailing and wholesaling also decreased by 6%. While this sector includes roles in industries outside of automotive, it encompasses critical positions within the automotive sector too.

## Apprenticeship starts – level

All apprenticeships (Aug – Jan) 2023/24  
**43%**  
 Advanced apprenticeship



Automotive apprenticeships (Aug – Jan) 2023/24  
**72%**  
 Advanced apprenticeship

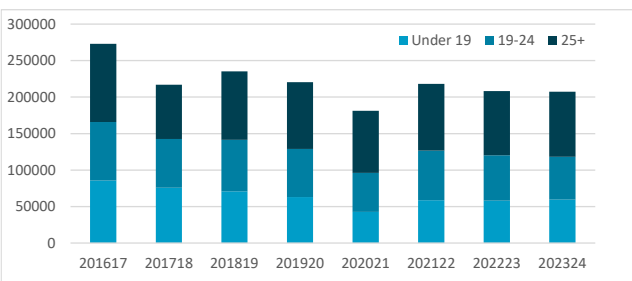
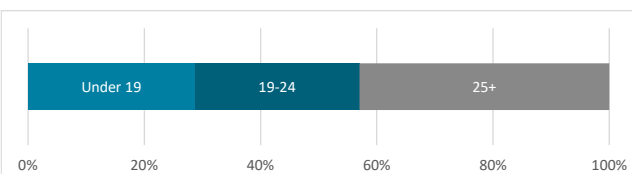


In six months of the academic year 2023/24, 43% (89,400) of all apprenticeships are at an advanced level, while a significant 72% (3,900) of all automotive apprenticeships are at this advanced level.

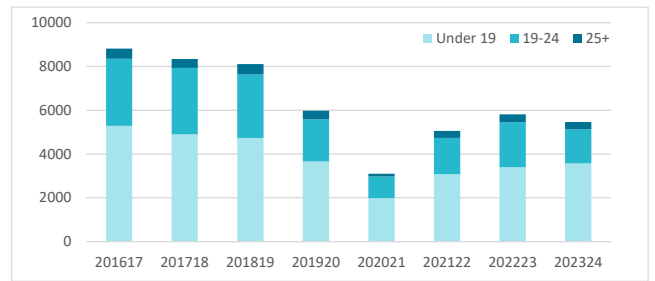
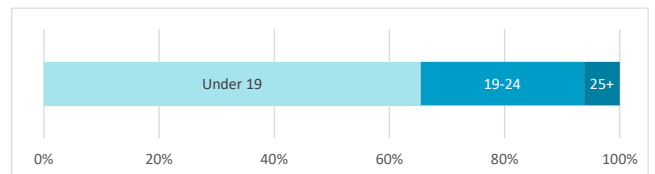
Since 2017/18, most automotive apprenticeship starts are at the advanced level. However, compared to first half of the previous year, this proportion has dropped from 79%, with an increase in intermediate apprenticeships.

## Apprenticeship starts – age profile

All apprenticeships (Aug – Jan) 2023/24  
**29%**  
 Under 19



Automotive apprenticeships (Aug – Jan) 2023/24  
**65%**  
 Under 19



In first half of 2023/24, individuals under the age of 19 make up 29% (59,600) of all apprenticeship starts, while they account for a significant 65% (3,600) of automotive apprenticeship starts.

Under-19s have consistently been the primary age group in automotive apprenticeships for the past six years, with their proportion ranging from 58% to 65%. This proportion rises to 65% in first half of 2023/24, indicating an increasing trend of younger individuals starting automotive apprenticeships.

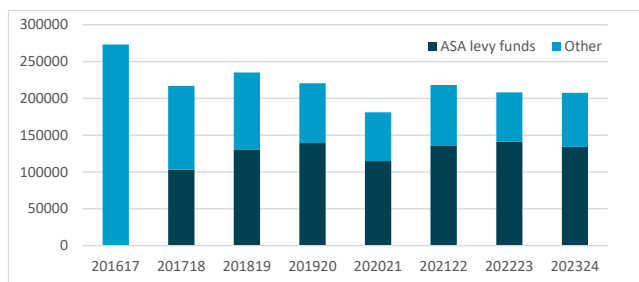
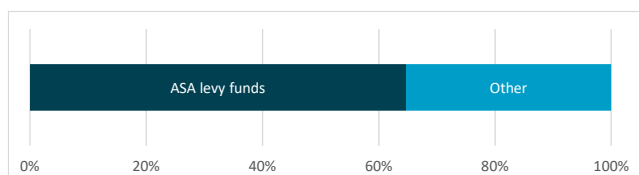


## Apprenticeship starts – funding

All apprenticeships (Aug – Jan) 2023/24

**65%**

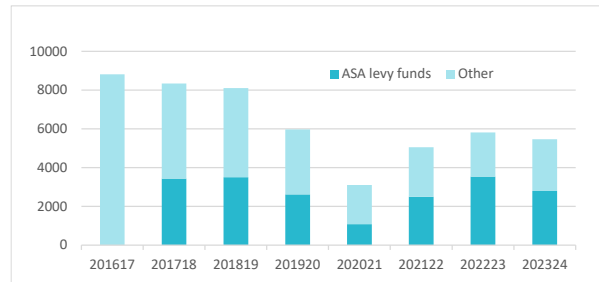
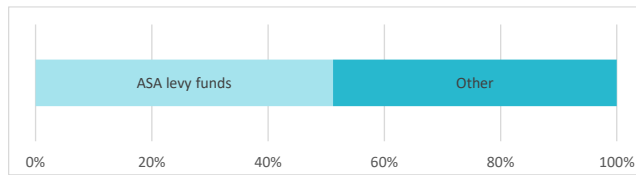
Supported by ASA levy funds



Automotive apprenticeships (Aug – Jan) 2023/24

**51%**

Supported by ASA levy funds



In first half 2023/24, ASA levy funds support 65% of all apprenticeship starts, but only 51% of automotive apprenticeship starts relying on these funds. This marks a decrease from the previous year, where 61% of automotive apprenticeships were levy-funded.

## Top 10 automotive qualifications

Apprentice starts – Automotive Apprenticeships starts by pathway

Automotive Standard	2022/23	2023/24	% Change
Accident Repair Technician	116	90	-22%
Autocare Technician	1183	1491	26%
Automotive Glazing Technician	15	11	-27%
Bus and Coach Engineering Technician	196	213	9%
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician	873	810	-7%
Motor Finance Specialist	**	**	
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician - Light Vehicle	2845	2289	-20%
Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance)	45	45	0%
Vehicle Damage Assessor	15	35	133%
Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician	123	124	1%
Vehicle Damage Paint Technician	262	206	-21%
Vehicle Damage Panel Technician	131	146	11%
<b>All Automotive</b>	<b>5804</b>	<b>5460</b>	<b>-6%</b>

In first half of 2023/24, the Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) pathway is the most popular, with 2,289 starts, however it also experienced one of the largest falls compared to last year a fall of 20%. Vehicle Damage Assessor show the largest increases compared to last year, though their volumes are relatively small. The Autocare Technician pathway experiences a 26% increase from last year and comprises 27% of all automotive apprenticeship starts.

# Data sources

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- OfQual (England) - Vocational qualifications dataset [Certificates awarded for all vocational qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS levels and A levels)] 2023 Quarter 4
- SQA Accreditation (Scotland) – Quarterly statistical Reports October - December 2023.
- Qualifications Wales (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 4
- CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland) - Technical and Professional Qualifications Bulletin: 2023 Quarter 4
- DfE - Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England - data released 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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