



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 2024 Q1 (Jan-Mar).

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 of Q1 key findings

- 8,741 certificates, a 7% increase from the previous quarter but a 4% drop from last year.
- General vocational qualifications grew by 3%.
- Level 3 leads with 55% of certifications, while Level 2 accounts for 28%.
- 50% of certifications are in electric and hybrid qualifications.
- England issued 89% of certificates, with Northern Ireland seeing growth.

Top qualifications

Level 3 qualifications led with 4,800 certifications (55%), followed by Level 2 at 28%. The top ten qualifications accounted for 71% of all certifications, with six focused on electric and hybrid vehicles.

Pathways and subject areas

Electric and hybrid vehicle qualifications made up 50% of certifications, followed by Refrigerant Handling and MOT at 13% each. England issued 89% of certificates, with an increase in Northern Ireland.

TechSafe EV

3,373 technicians achieved EV certification, bringing the total to 55,531. By 2031, the IMI predicts a skills gap of 121,000, rising to 150,000 by 2035.

TechSafe ADAS

Q1 2024 saw 414 ADAS-related certificates, totalling 4,187, with a drop to 238 in Q2, totalling 4,425 (2% of UK technicians). The IMI estimates that the sector will need an estimated 156,000 by 2032.

Automotive apprenticeships in England

In the first six months of 2023/24, there were 6,320 automotive apprenticeship starts, 7% lower than last year but 6% higher than 2021/22.

Apprenticeship levels and age

In the first nine months of 2023/24, 73% of automotive apprenticeships were at advanced level, compared to 42% for all apprenticeships, down from 79% last year.

Under-19s accounted for 64% of automotive starts, compared to 24% for all apprenticeships.

Funding

In the first half of 2023/24, ASA levy funds supported 67% of all apprenticeship starts but only 53% of automotive starts, down from 61% last year.

Popular pathways

The Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) pathway, the most popular with 2,648 starts, saw a 20% decline.

The Motorcycle Technician pathway saw the largest increase, and the Autocare Technician pathway increased by 18%, making up 27% of all starts.

Vocational qualification certifications

Automotive qualifications

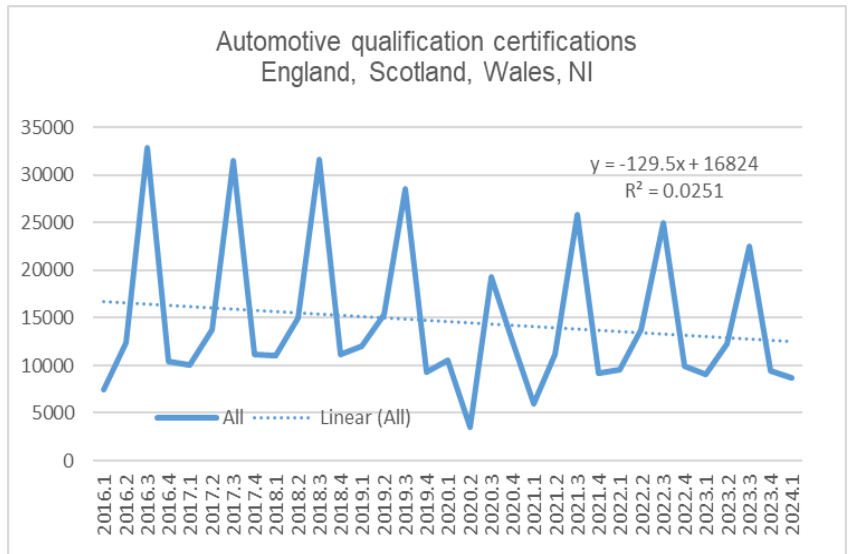
In Q1 2024, the automotive sector issued 8,741 certificates, a 7% increase from last quarter but a 4% drop from the last year.

Automotive Qualification certificates issued

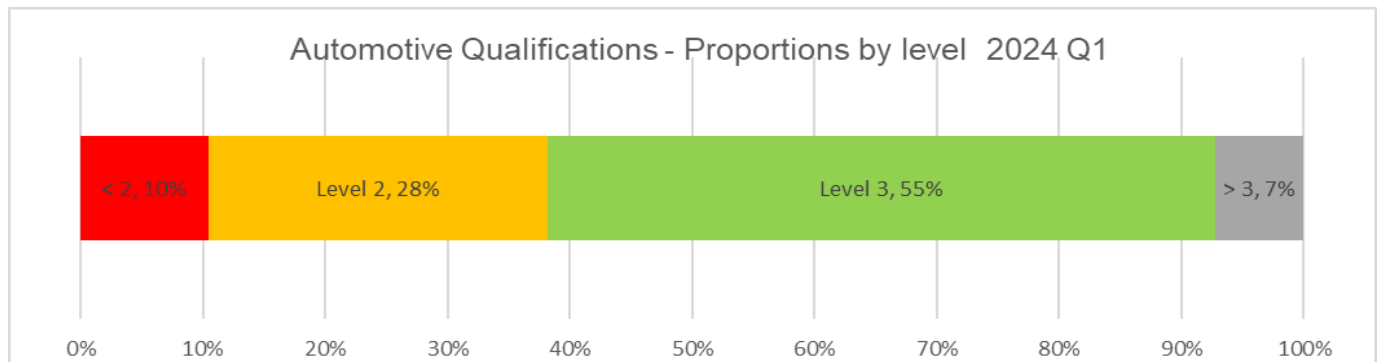
8741

2024 Q1

At the same point, general vocational qualification certifications grew by 3% compared to the same period last year. The number of automotive qualifications is falling by an average of 130 per quarter.



Top ten automotive qualifications



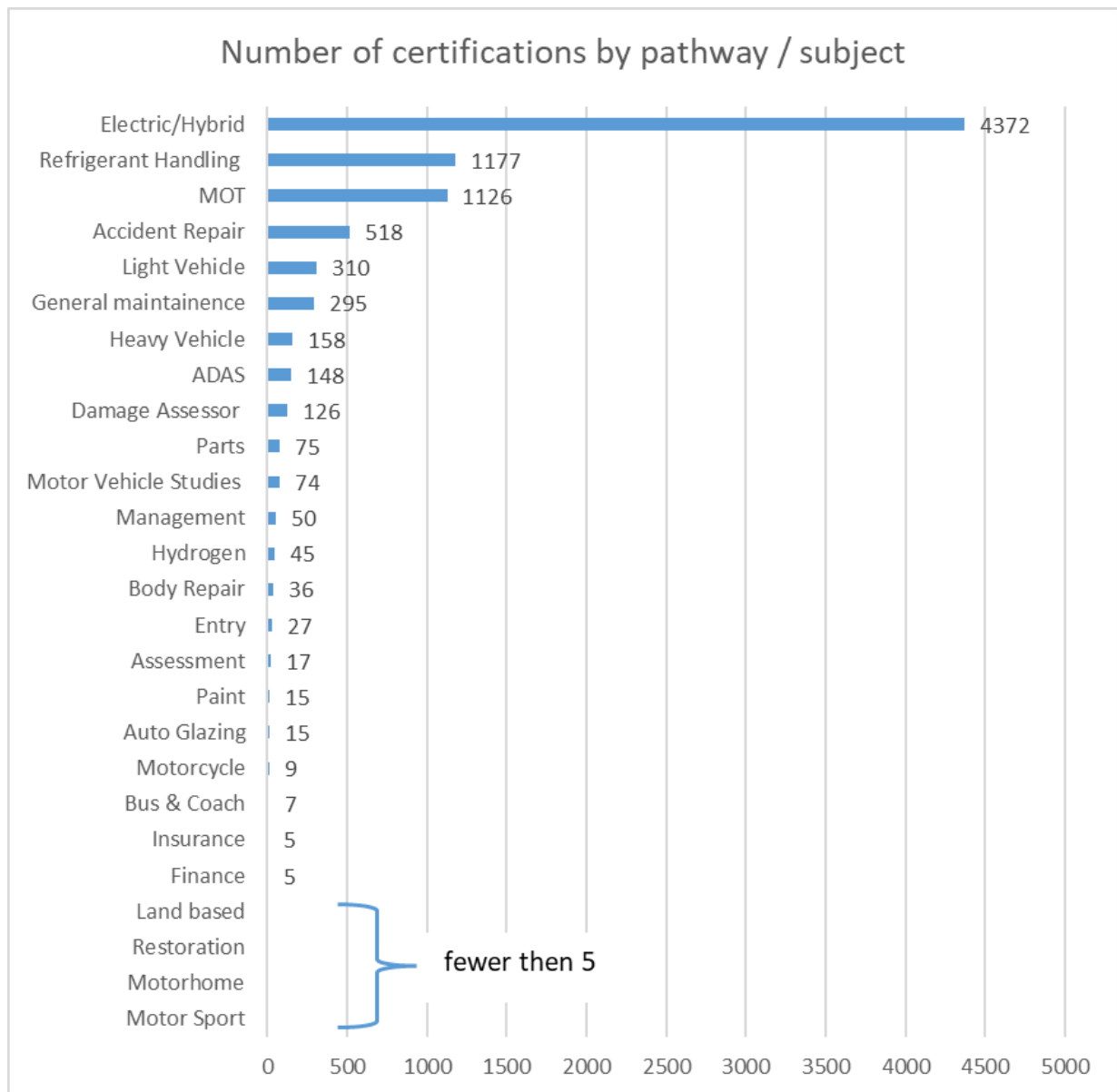
In Q1 2024, Level 3 automotive led with 4,800 qualifications (55%), while Level 2 qualifications accounted for 28%.

Top ten automotive qualifications

Qualification Title	Level	No.	Pathway
IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	Level 3	1736	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006) (VRQ)	Level 3	1177	Refrigerant Handling
IMI Level 2 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Routine Maintenance Activities	Level 2	1144	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 2 Award in MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7)	Level 2	457	MOT
IMI Level 4 Award in the Diagnosis, Testing and Repair of Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and Components	Level 4	450	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 1 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Awareness	Level 1	413	Electric/Hybrid
SEG Awards ABC Level 3 Award In MOT Test Centre Management (VRQ)	Level 3	255	MOT
IMI Level 3 Award in MOT Test Centre Management	Level 3	233	MOT
IMI Level 3 Award in Heavy Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	Level 3	186	Electric/Hybrid
City & Guilds Level 3 Award in Component Removal and Replacement in Electric and Hybrid Vehicles	Level 3	185	Electric/Hybrid

In Q1 2024, the IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement was the top qualification, issuing 1,780 certificates, representing 20% of all automotive qualification certificates. The top ten qualifications accounted for 71% of all automotive certificates issued this quarter. Notably, six of the top ten qualifications focused on electric and hybrid vehicles, marking a significant shift in recent reports.

Automotive qualification certifications – pathways / subject areas



This quarter, electric and hybrid qualifications made up 50% of all automotive qualification certificates, becoming the largest category. The next subject area is Refrigerant Handling, followed by MOT, both accounting for 13% of all automotive certifications this month.

Four Nation comparison

Nation	Number certificates			Top Qual
	issued 2024-Q1	% Chg last year	% of Level 3 & above	
England	7800	-3%	63%	IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement
NI	335	22%	64%	IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement
Scotland	439	-29%	40%	Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles at SCQF Level 5
Wales	167	-17%	41%	IMI Level 2 Award in MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7)

89% of automotive certificates were issued in England. Northern Ireland is the only nation to see certifications increase compared to 2023 Q1.

IMI TechSafe



Electric Vehicles

Technician forecasts - June 2024

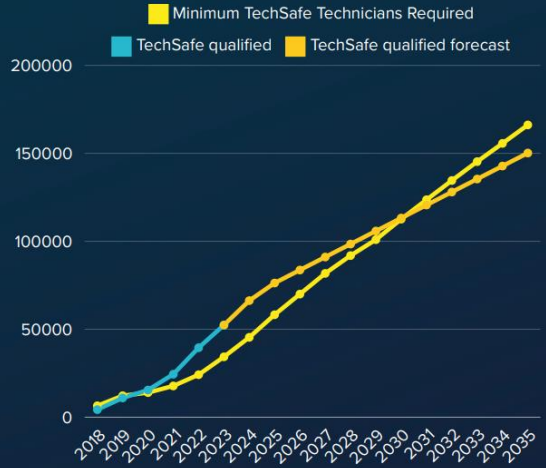
58,800

qualified EV technicians
in the UK

24%

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		3000	6600	9900	12800	16000



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



ADAS

Technician forecasts - June 2024

13%

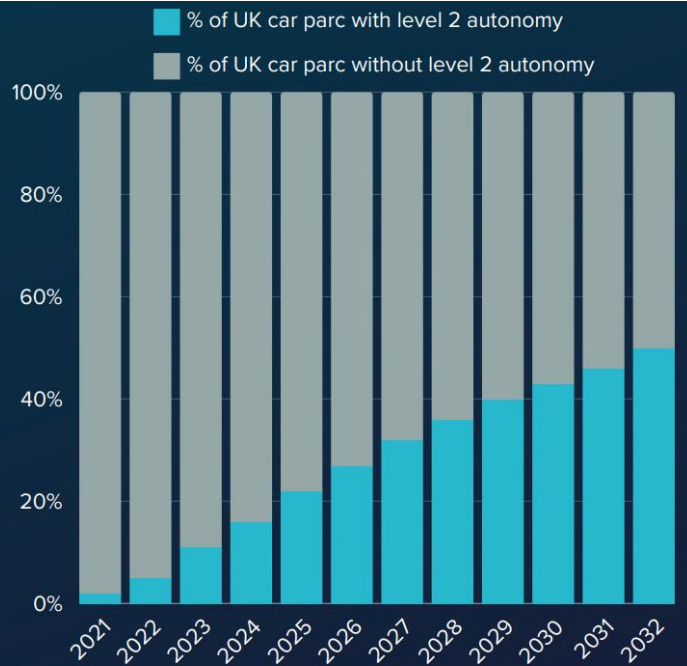
of UK cars have
some degree of
level 2 autonomy

4,425

ADAS TechSafe eligible
qualified

2%

of all technicians in the
country are ADAS
qualified



Proportion of UK car parc with level 2 autonomy

TechSafe EV

In the first quarter of 2024, education regulatory authorities reported that 3,373 technicians achieved their Electric Vehicle (EV) certification, including those who have achieved an eligible IMI accreditation, bringing the total number of certified EV technicians in the UK to 55,531.

Analysis of unofficial IMI data reveals that the first quarter of 2024 looks positive, with an estimated 3,300 certifications, like levels in Q2 2023. This would bring the total number of qualified technicians to 58,800, representing 24% of technicians in the UK.

Projecting forward on trends, we predict that 121,000 technicians will qualify by 2031, increasing to 150,000 by 2035. However, the projected demand for technicians is 124,000 by 2031 and 166,000 by 2035.

This indicates a potential skills gap of 3,000 in 2031, increasing to 20,500 by 2035, and highlights the continuing need for technicians to continually train.

TechSafe ADAS

In the first quarter of 2024, regulatory authorities issued 414 ADAS-related certificates and accreditations eligible for TechSafe, bringing the total number of certified EV technicians in the UK to 4,187. This marks one of the strongest quarters to date.

However, analysis of unofficial IMI data reveals a drop in the second quarter of 2024, with 238 awards issued. This brings the total number of qualified technicians to 4,425, representing just 2% of technicians in the UK.

13% of the UK car fleet has some degree of Level 2 autonomy, and this is forecast to increase to 50% by 2032. We estimate that 156,000 trained technicians will be needed to support this growth.

Although predicting the exact role of technicians in diagnostic activities related to ADAS is challenging due to the rise of software-managed diagnostics, certain roles, such as body repair and glazing, will need skills, knowledge, and understanding of ADAS technology in the future.



Automotive apprenticeships - England

Apprenticeship Starts – First 9 month comparison (Aug-Apr) academic year 2023/24

Automotive apprenticeships starts

6320

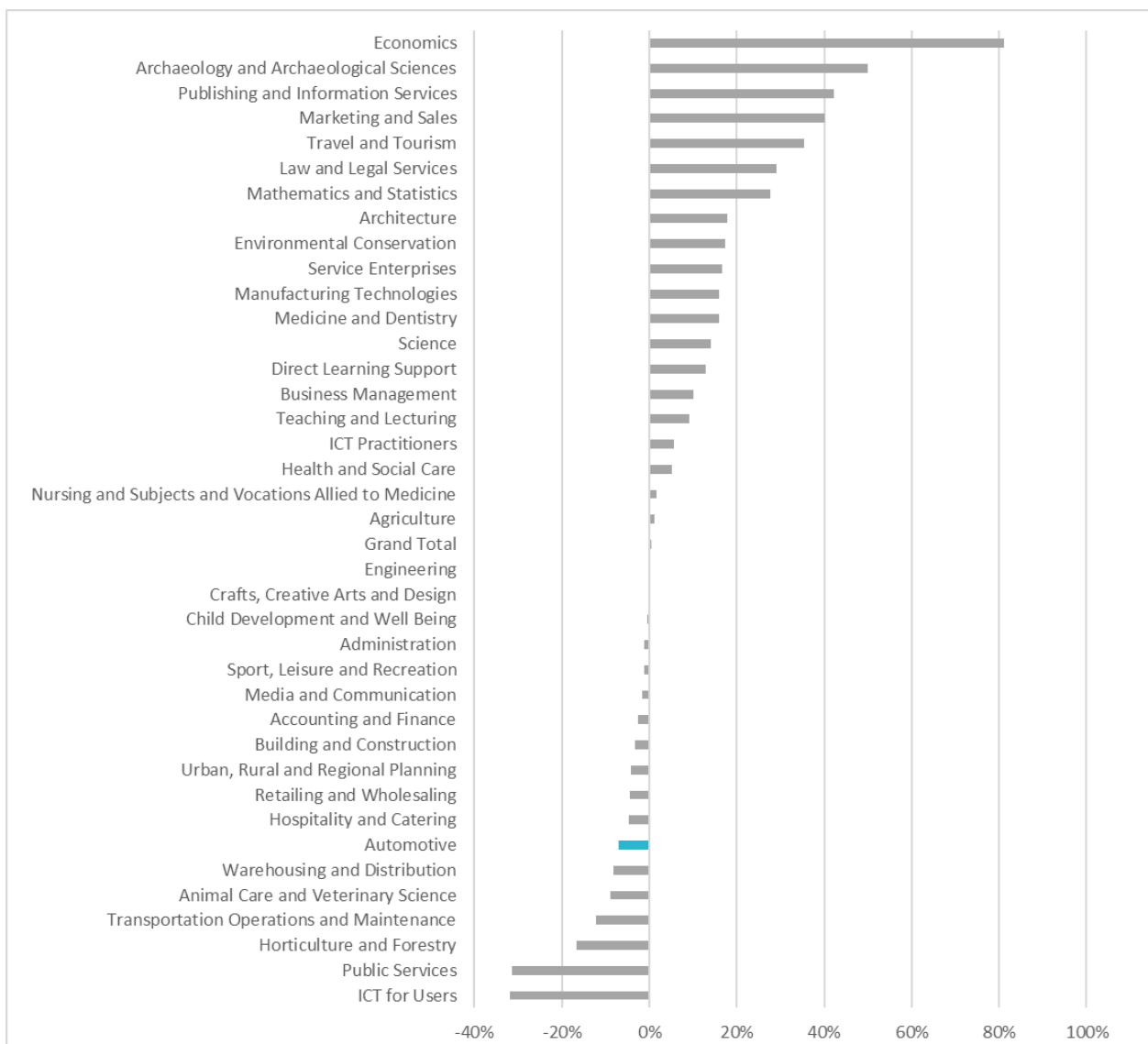
2023/4 (Aug – Apr)

In the first six months (August to April) of the academic year 2023/24, there were 6,320 automotive apprenticeship starts. This is 7% lower than the same period last year, but 6% higher than the same period in 2021/22.

Comparison of apprenticeship subject areas

First nine month comparison academic year 2022/23 & 2023/24

The 7% decline in automotive apprenticeships is higher than the average for all apprenticeships, which increased by 1%. Of the 38 subject areas analysed, automotive had the 7th largest percentage decrease in apprenticeship starts. Notably, apprenticeship starts in retailing and wholesaling also decreased by 5%. While this sector includes roles in industries outside of automotive, it also encompasses critical positions within the automotive sector.



Apprenticeship starts – level

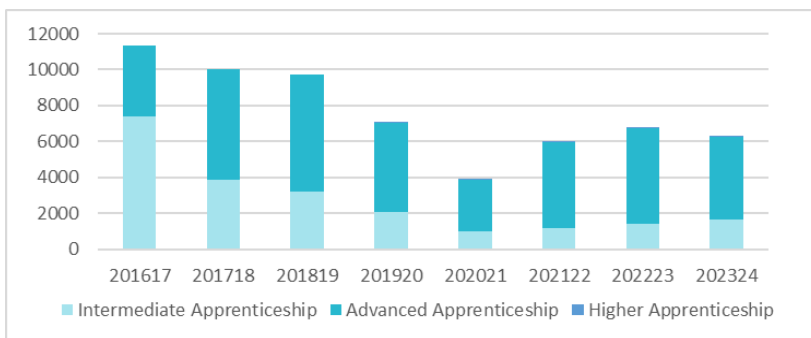
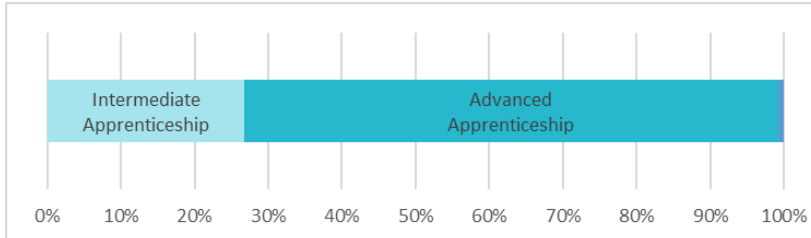
Automotive apprenticeship starts
2023/4 (Aug – Apr)

73%

Advanced apprenticeship

In the first nine months of the academic year 2023/24, 73% (4,586) of automotive apprenticeships were at an advanced level. This is significantly higher than the average for all apprenticeships, at 42%.

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



Apprenticeship starts – age profile

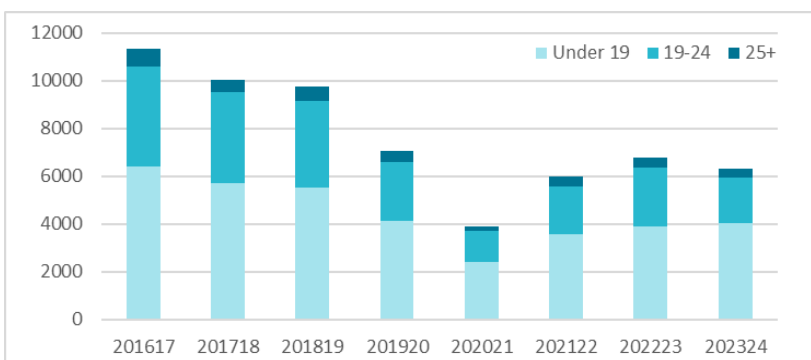
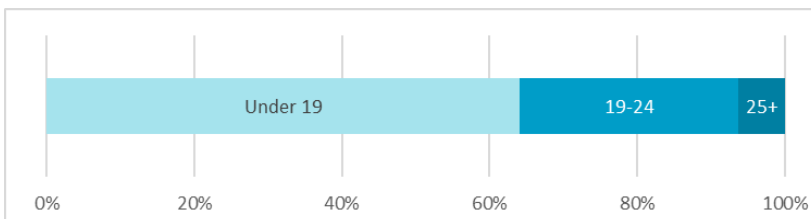
Automotive apprenticeship starts
2023/4 (Aug – Apr)

64%

Under 19

In the first nine months of the academic year 2023/24, 64% (4,052) of automotive apprenticeship starts were under 19. This is significantly higher than the average for all apprenticeships, at 24%.

For the past six years, under-19s are consistently the primary age group in automotive apprenticeships, with their proportion ranging from 57% to 62%. This rose to 64%, indicating an increasing trend of younger individuals starting automotive apprenticeships.



Apprenticeship starts – funding

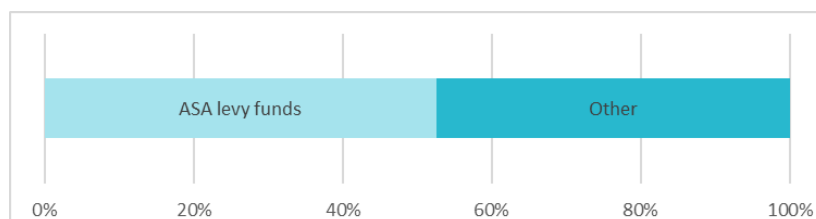
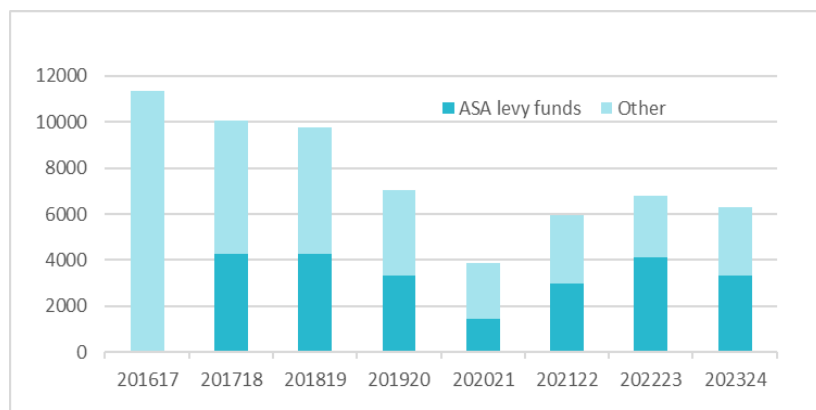
Automotive apprenticeship starts

2023/4 (Aug – Apr)

53%

Levy funded

In first half 2023/24, ASA levy funds support 67% of all apprenticeship starts, but only 53% of automotive apprenticeship starts depending on these funds. This marks a decrease from the previous year, where 61% of automotive apprenticeships were levy-funded.



Automotive apprenticeships starts by pathway

Top ten automotive qualifications

	2022/23	2023/24	% Change
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician - Light Vehicle	3315	2648	-20%
Autocare Technician	1434	1689	18%
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician	986	934	-5%
Vehicle Damage Paint Technician	309	258	-17%
Bus and Coach Engineering Technician	197	216	10%
Vehicle Damage Panel Technician	170	181	6%
Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician	139	159	14%
Accident Repair Technician	132	108	-18%
Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance)	46	59	28%
Vehicle Damage Assessor	39	45	15%
Automotive Glazing Technician	23	21	-9%
All Automotive	6799	6320	-7%

In the first nine months of 2023/24, the Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) pathway was the most popular, with 2,648 starts. However, this pathway also experienced one of the largest declines compared to last year, with a fall of 20%.

The Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance) pathway showed the largest increase compared to last year, although the volumes are relatively small. The Autocare Technician pathway saw an 18% increase from last year and accounted for 27% of all automotive apprenticeship starts.

Data sources

- OfQual (England) - Vocational qualifications dataset [Certificates awarded for all vocational qualifications (excluding GCSEs, AS levels and A levels)] 2024 Quarter 1
- SQA Accreditation (Scotland) – Quarterly statistical Reports January to March 2024.
- 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] 2024 Quarter 1
- CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland) - Technical and Professional Qualifications Bulletin: 2024 Quarter 1
- DfE - Apprenticeships and Traineeships, England - data released 18th July

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