



**INSTITUTE OF THE  
MOTOR INDUSTRY**

IMI RESEARCH  
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# EV TECHSAFE TECHNICIAN FORECASTS

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# Accelerating Ahead

## UK's Electric Vehicle Qualifications Fall Behind, Forecasts Warn of Looming Skills Gap

In the ever-evolving landscape of electric vehicles (EVs), the demand for skilled technicians who can safely work on these innovative vehicles is crucial. This report provides an overview of the current take-up of EV qualifications in the UK and highlights the anticipated numbers needed in the future.

### Current Position:

During the first quarter of 2023, the education regulators Ofqual, SQA, CCEA, and Qualifications Wales certified 3,345 skilled technicians. This achievement has significantly boosted the total count of qualified technicians capable of working on electric vehicles to an impressive 42,400 individuals, representing 18% of all technicians in the UK.

However, a concerning trend emerges when we compare the certification numbers from the first quarter of 2023 to the same period last year. Take-up of EV qualifications in 2023 quarter one is 10% lower than the previous year, indicating a potential slowdown in the adoption of these qualifications. Additionally, using data from the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI), projections for the second quarter of 2023 suggest an even more substantial decline of 31% in certifications.

### Reasons for the Decline:

The decline in EV qualification uptake can be attributed to two main factors. Firstly, the current economic pressures raise concerns that training budgets could be among the first to face cuts. Organisations may prioritise cost-saving measures, potentially impacting the investment in training initiatives.

Secondly, the automotive sector is grappling with a significant vacancy issue, with a vacancy rate of 5.1 equivalent to 26,000 unfilled positions. This situation has shifted the sector's focus towards recruitment and filling vacancies, diverting attention and resources away from training efforts. Current technicians are being deployed to cover the existing vacancies rather than receiving additional training.

### Future Needs:

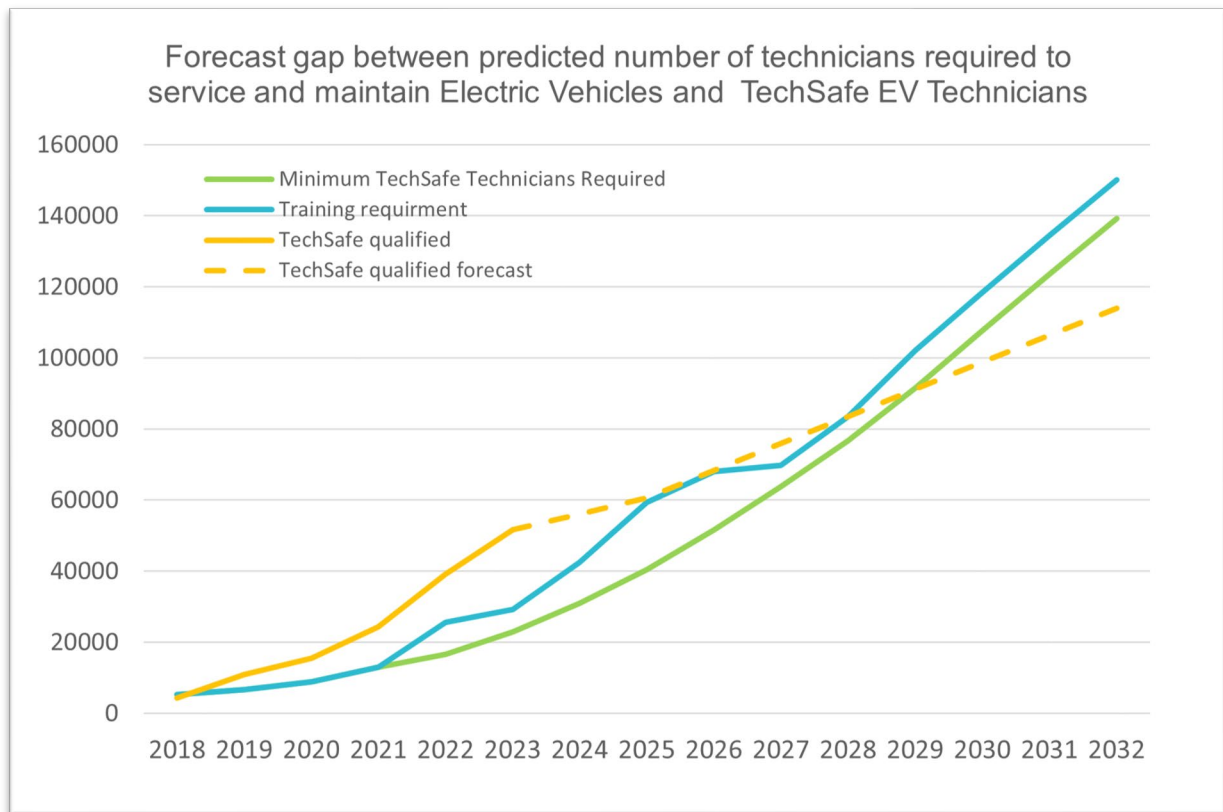
Looking ahead, the IMI predicts a substantial increase in the demand for qualified EV technicians. By 2030, the UK will require 107,000 TechSafe qualified technicians to meet the evolving demands of electric vehicles. This figure rises to 139,000 by 2032. Notably, these numbers have been revised upwards due to new data incorporating the average age of the UK car parc. As the average age of vehicles increases, the time required by technicians working on internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles also rises, necessitating a greater number of EV technicians to address this growing demand.

### Adjusted Forecast:

Considering the current challenges posed by vacancies and economic pressures, our forecast for the take-up of EV qualifications eligible for TechSafe has been adjusted. 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, a new training requirement line has been added to the model, 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. Unfortunately, this additional requirement exacerbates the skills gap, with 20,000 EV technicians needed by 2030, and this number escalating to 36,000 by 2032.





### Size of EV qualified technician gap

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Minimum TechSafe Technicians Required				348	8902	17179	25201
Training requirement				10892	19594	28008	36156

## Conclusion:

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.

## 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 – 2023Q1.
- GiPA age of car parc forecasts

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