



# AUTOMOTIVE EDUCATION REPORT

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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 Q2 (April to June).

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 Q2 key findings

- 14,785 certificates issued, up 69% from last quarter and 21% year-on-year.
- General vocational qualifications grew by 9%.
- 27% of all automotive certificates are in EV and hybrid qualifications.
- EV certification dropped by 13%, with a potential skills gap of 21,100 by 2035.
- England issued 87% of certificates, with declines in Scotland.
- Apprenticeship starts are 5% lower than in 2019/20 and one-third lower than in 2018/19.
- 72% of automotive apprenticeships are advanced, down 6%.
- Light Vehicle pathway saw an 18% decline.

## Top qualifications

The IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement led with 1,477 certificates. Four of the top ten qualifications focused on electric and hybrid vehicles, marking a major shift.

## TechSafe EV

2,970 technicians gained EV certification in Q2 2024, bringing the total to 59,150, though this dropped by 13% on Q2 2023. The IMI now predicts a skills gap of 2,100 by 2032, widening to 21,100 by 2035.

## TechSafe ADAS

Q2 2024 saw 580 ADAS-related certificates, totalling 4,187. IMI analysis shows a decline, with 238 awards issued, bringing the total number of those qualified to 4,800, or 2% of UK technicians.

## Automotive apprenticeships in England

In the 2023/24 academic year, there were 7,372 automotive apprenticeship starts, 6% lower than the previous year but 9% higher than in 2021/22.

## Apprenticeship levels and age

In the 2023/24 academic year, 72% of automotive apprenticeships were at advanced level, compared to 43% for all apprenticeships, down from 78% last year.

Under-19s accounted for 62% of automotive starts, compared to 23% for all apprenticeships.

## Funding

In the 2023/24 academic year, ASA levy funds supported 68% of all apprenticeship starts but only 55% of automotive starts, down from 62% last year.

## Pathways and subject areas

The Light Vehicle pathway declined 18%, while the Autocare Technician pathway grew by 20% on last year, accounting for 27% of all automotive starts.

# Vocational qualification certifications

## Automotive qualifications

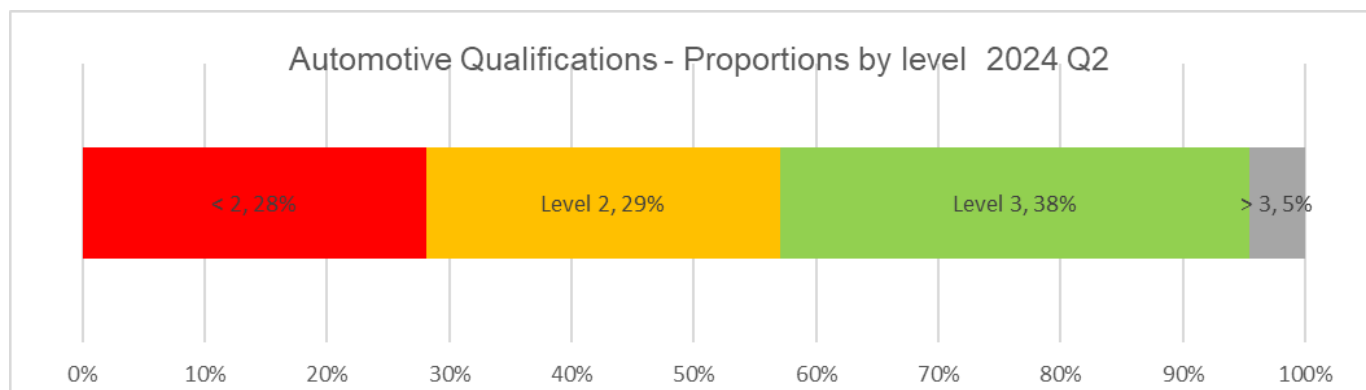
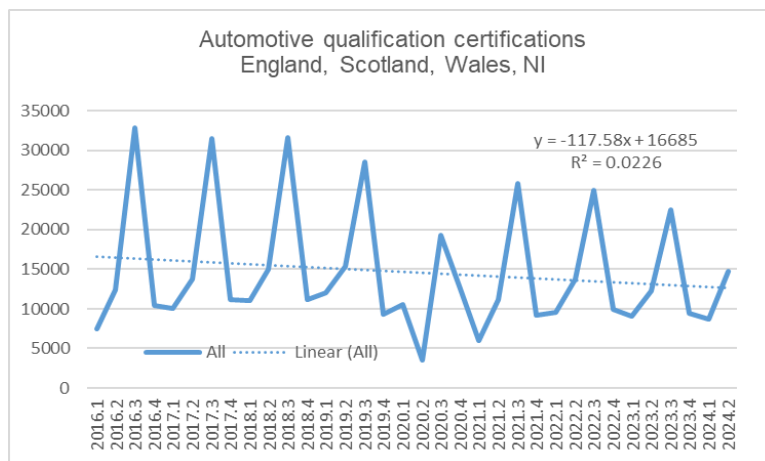
Automotive qualification certificates issued:

**14,785**

2024 Q2

In Q2 2024, the automotive sector issued 14,785 certificates, a 69% rise from the last quarter and a 21% increase from the same time last year, as we near the peak certification period in Q3.

At the same time, general vocational qualification certifications grew by 9% compared to the same period last year. However, the number of automotive qualifications is decreasing by an average of 118 per quarter.



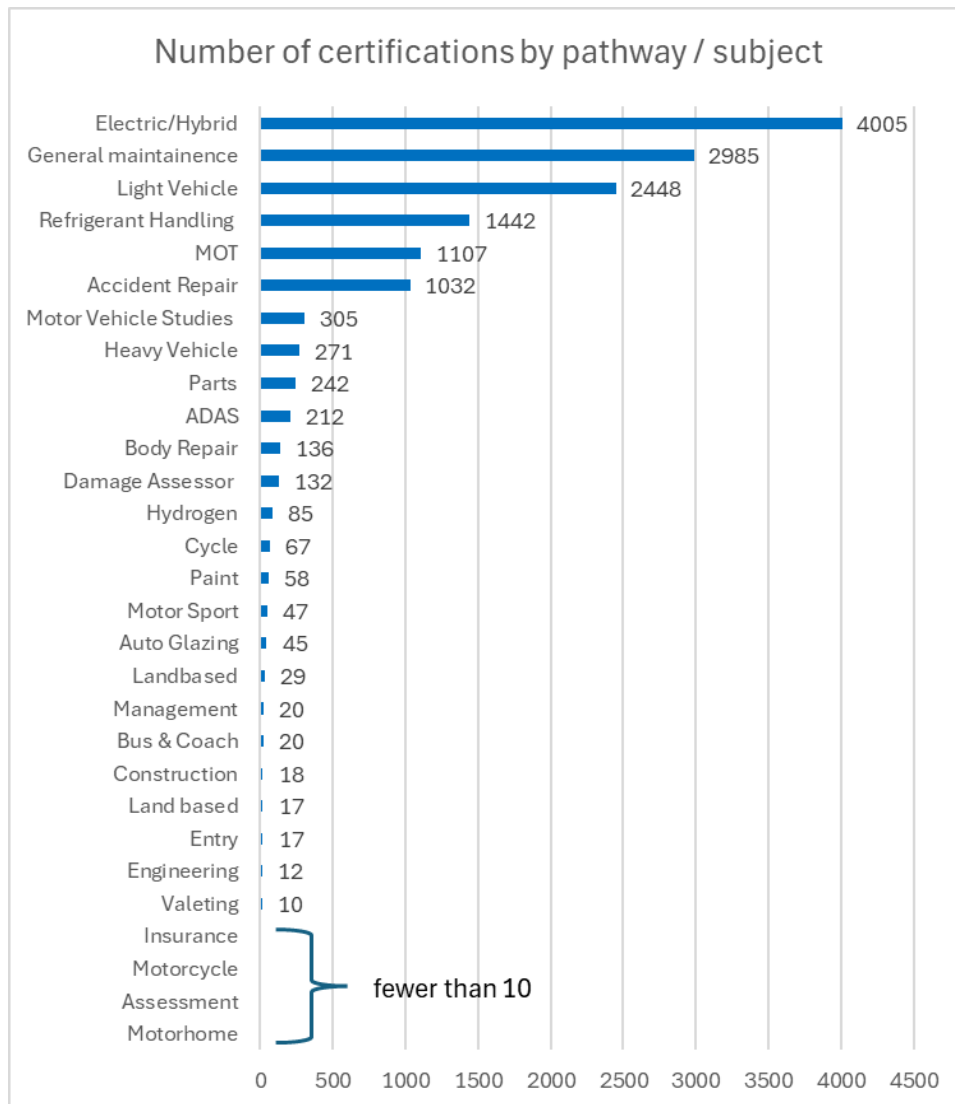
In Q2 2024, Level 3 automotive qualifications led with 5,670 (38%), while Level 2 qualifications made up 29%.

## Top ten automotive qualifications

Qualification Title	No.	Level	Pathway
IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement	1477	Level 3	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006) (VRQ)	1440	Level 3	Refrigerant Handling
IMI Level 1 Diploma in Automotive Maintenance	965	Level 1	General maintenance
IMI Level 2 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Routine Maintenance Activities	747	Level 2	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 2 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles (VRQ)	614	Level 2	Light Vehicle
City & Guilds Level 1 Diploma in Vehicle Maintenance	605	Level 1	General maintenance
IMI Level 1 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle Awareness	605	Level 1	Electric/Hybrid
IMI Level 2 Award in MOT Testing (Classes 4 and 7)	465	Level 2	MOT
City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles	435	Level 2	Light Vehicle
IMI Level 4 Award in the Diagnosis, Testing and Repair of Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and C	346	Level 4	Electric/Hybrid

In Q2 2024, the IMI Level 3 Award in Electric/Hybrid Vehicle System Repair and Replacement was the top qualification, with 1,477 certificates issued, making up 10% of all automotive qualifications. The top ten qualifications accounted for 52% of all automotive certificates issued this quarter. Notably, four of the top ten qualifications focused on electric and hybrid vehicles, highlighting a significant shift in recent reports.

# Automotive qualification certifications – pathways / subject areas



This quarter, electric and hybrid qualifications accounted for 27% of all automotive certificates, making them the largest category. The next largest area is general maintenance (20%), followed by light vehicle qualifications (17%).

## Four Nation comparison

Nation	Number certificates			Top Qual
	issued 2024-Q2	% Chg last year	% of Level 3 & above	
England	12820	26%	43%	IMI Level 3 Award in Automotive Refrigerant Handling (EC842-2006) (VRQ)
NI	748	6%	48%	IMI Level 2 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles (VRQ)
Scotland	717	-18%	51%	Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles at SCQF Level 5
Wales	500	16%	15%	IMI Level 1 Diploma in Automotive Maintenance

England issued 87% of all automotive certificates, while Scotland was the only nation to experience a decrease in certifications compared to Q2 2023.





## Electric Vehicles

Technician forecasts - September 2024

**61,900**  
qualified EV technicians  
in the UK

**25%**  
of all technicians in the  
country are EV qualified

	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Technicians Required	113,500	124,500	135,500	146,000	156,500	167,000
Gap			2,100	8,300	14,600	21,100



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



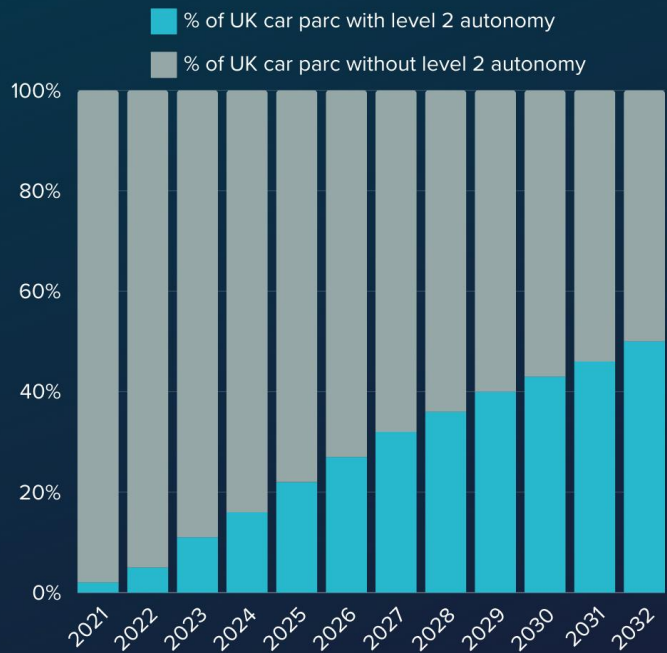
## ADAS

Technician forecasts - October 2024

**5200**  
ADAS TechSafe eligible  
qualified

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

**15%**  
of UK cars have  
some degree of  
level 2 autonomy



Proportion of UK car parc with level 2 autonomy

## TechSafe EV

In the second quarter of 2024, education regulatory authorities reported that 2,970 technicians gained their Electric Vehicle (EV) certification, including those who earned an eligible IMI accreditation. This is a 13% drop compared to Q2 2023. The total number of certified EV technicians in the UK, using confirmed figures, now stands at 59,150.

Unofficial IMI data suggests this trend continued into Q3 2024, with an estimated 2,700 certifications, 11% lower than in Q3 2023. This would bring the total number of qualified technicians to 61,850, being 25% of technicians in the UK.

Based on trends, we predict that 133,500 technicians will be qualified by 2032, rising to 146,000 by 2035. However, the projected demand for technicians is 135,500 by 2032 and 167,000 by 2035.

This points to a potential skills gap of 2,100 in 2032, widening to 21,100 by 2035, and highlights the ongoing need for technicians to continue their training.

## TechSafe ADAS

In the second quarter of 2024, regulatory authorities issued 580 ADAS-related certificates and accreditations eligible for TechSafe, bringing the total number of certified ADAS technicians in the UK to 4,187. This marks one of the strongest quarters to date.

However, analysis of unofficial IMI data shows a decline in the second quarter of 2024, with 238 awards issued. This brings the total number of qualified technicians to 4,800, being just 2% of technicians in the UK.

1% of the UK car fleet has some Level 2 autonomy, and this is forecast to rise to 50% by 2032. We estimate that the UK will need 156,000 trained technicians to support this growth.

Although it is difficult to predict the exact role of technicians in ADAS-related diagnostic activities, given the rise of software-managed diagnostics, some roles, such as body repair and glazing, will need skills, knowledge, and understanding of ADAS technology in the future.



# Automotive apprenticeships – England

## Apprenticeship Starts – academic year 2023/24 (August to July)

Automotive apprenticeships starts:

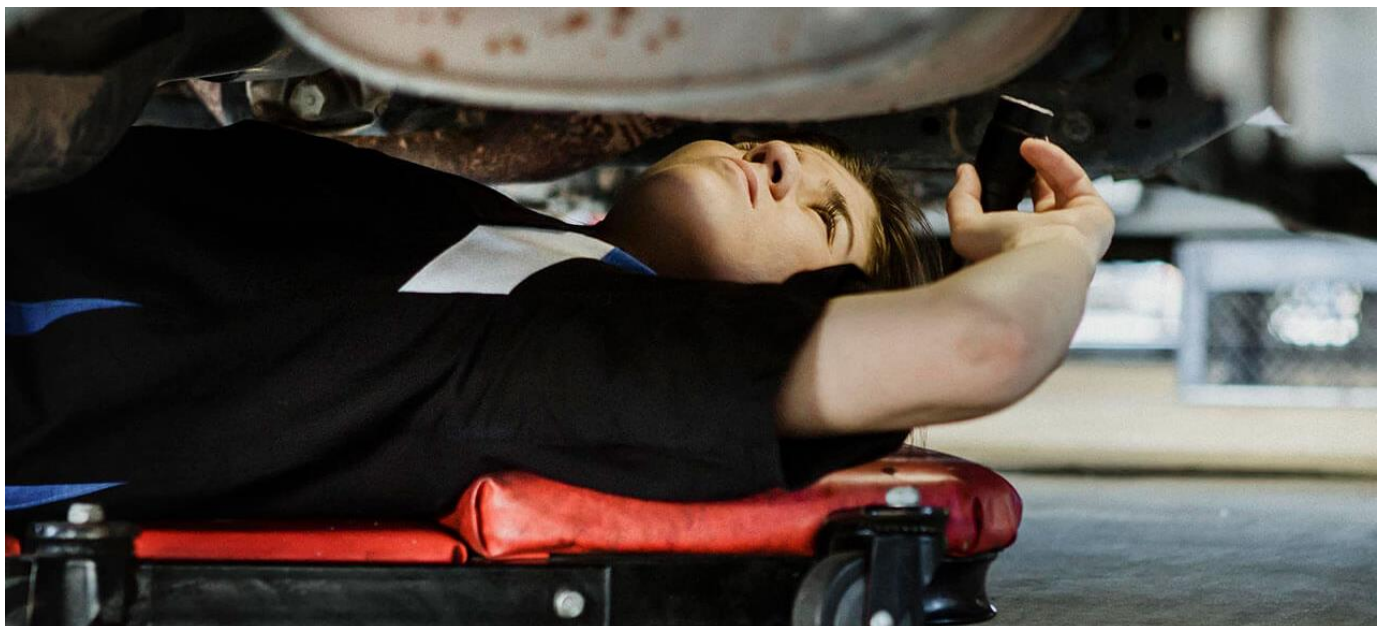
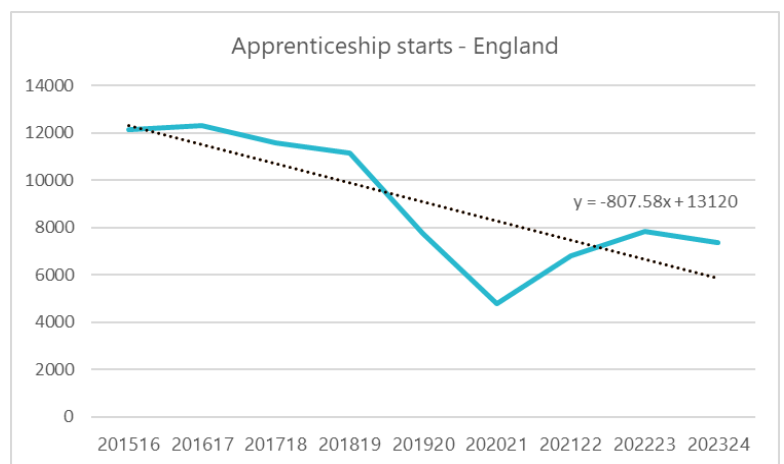
**7,372**

2023/4

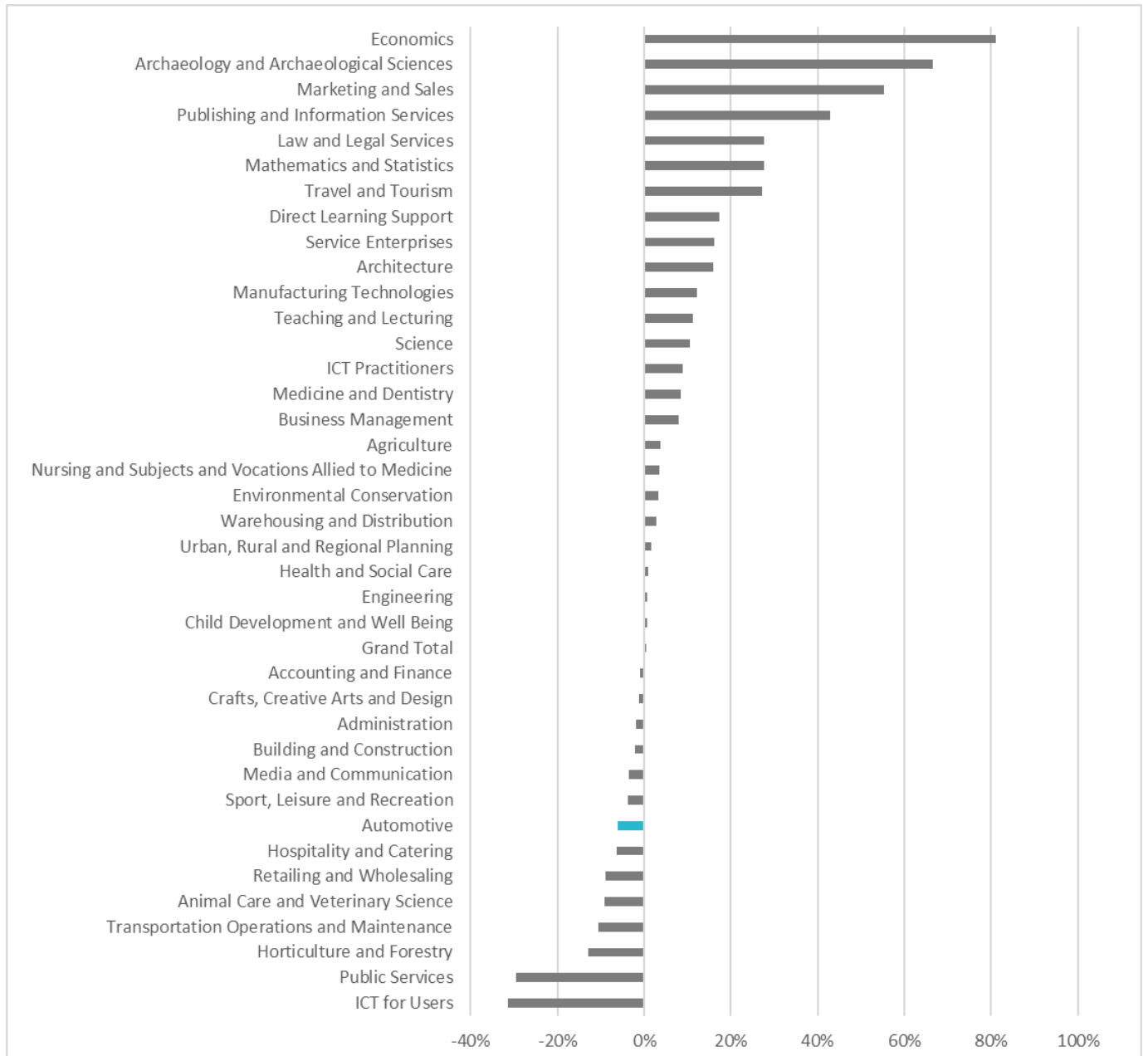
**Note:** Although we have data for all 12 months of the 2023/24 academic year, we will not finalise the full-year statistics until November 2024.

In the 2023/24 academic year, there were 7,372 automotive apprenticeship starts. This is 6% lower than the previous year but 9% higher than in 2021/22.

Automotive apprenticeship starts have not returned to pre-pandemic levels and are 5% lower than in 2019/20 and one-third lower than in 2018/19. The trend shows an average yearly decline of 800 apprenticeship starts.



## Comparison of apprenticeship subject areas



The 6% decline in automotive apprenticeships is higher than the overall average for apprenticeships, which had a 0.5% increase. Of the 39 subject areas analysed, automotive had the eighth largest percentage decrease in apprenticeship starts. Notably, apprenticeship starts in retailing and wholesaling also dropped by 9%. While this sector includes roles in industries outside of automotive, it also covers key positions within the automotive sector.

This trend reflects broader challenges in apprenticeship funding and rising delivery costs, which continue to affect training providers. Analysis of new government data<sup>6</sup> shows apprenticeship starts fell in many key sectors last year, despite a 2023/24 emergency government funding review. For which the Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician pathway had an 18% drop in starts, even after its funding band increased from £15,000 to £16,000.

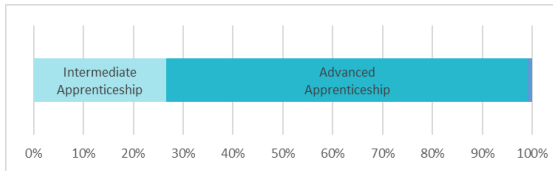


## Apprenticeship starts – level

Automotive apprenticeship starts  
2023/4:

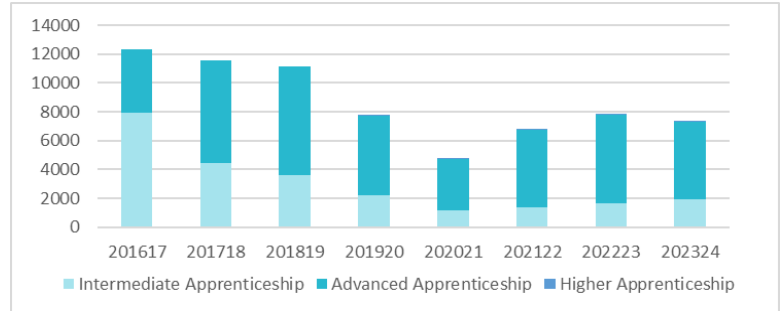
**72%**

Advanced apprenticeship



In the 2023/24 academic year, 72% (5,344) of automotive apprenticeships were at an advanced level, significantly higher than the average of 43% for all apprenticeships. Since 2017/18, most automotive apprenticeship starts are at the advanced level.

However, this proportion has dropped from 78% last year, with an increase in intermediate-level starts.

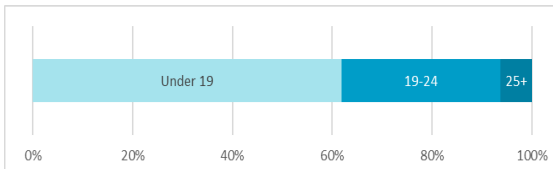


## Apprenticeship starts – age profile

Automotive apprenticeship starts  
2023/4:

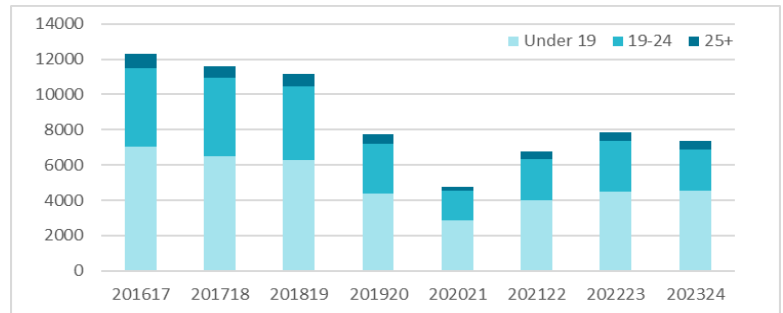
**62%**

Under 19



In the 2023/24 academic year, 62% (4,462) of automotive apprenticeship starts were under 19, significantly higher than the 23% average for all apprenticeships.

For the past six years, under-19s are consistently the largest age group in automotive apprenticeships, with their proportion ranging from 57% to 62%. This rose to 62%, showing a growing trend of younger individuals starting automotive apprenticeships.

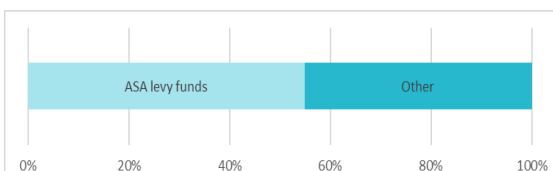


## Apprenticeship starts – funding

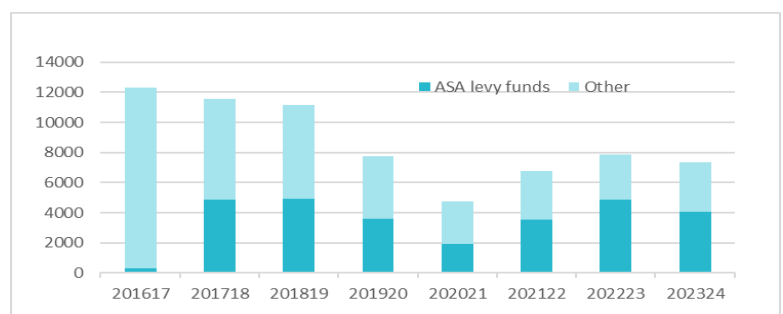
Automotive apprenticeship starts  
2023/4:

**55%**

Levy-funded



In 2023/24, ASA levy funds supported 68% of all apprenticeship starts, but only 55% of automotive apprenticeship starts relied on these funds. This marks a decrease from the previous year, when 62% of automotive apprenticeships were levy-funded.



## Automotive apprenticeships starts by pathway

	202223	202324	% Change
Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician - Light Vehicle	3728	3066	-18%
Autocare Technician	1640	1964	20%
Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician	1263	1125	-11%
Vehicle Damage Paint Technician	345	305	-12%
Bus and Coach Engineering Technician	215	222	3%
Vehicle Damage Panel Technician	212	213	0%
Vehicle Damage Mechanical, Electrical and Trim (MET) Technician	157	185	18%
Accident Repair Technician	151	110	-27%
Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance)	57	95	67%
Vehicle Damage Assessor	52	64	23%
Automotive Glazing Technician	23	21	-9%
Motor Finance Specialist	9	2	-78%
Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	2		-100%
Vehicle Parts Operations	2		-100%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7856</b>	<b>7372</b>	<b>-6%</b>

In 2023/24, 3,066 apprentices started the Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) pathway, making it the most popular. However, this pathway experienced an 18% decline compared to last year.

The Motorcycle Technician (Repair and Maintenance) pathway had the largest increase, although its numbers stay relatively small. The Autocare Technician pathway grew by 20% from last year and made up 27% of all automotive apprenticeship starts.

# Data sources

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1. OfQual (England) – Vocational Qualifications Dataset (Certificates awarded for all vocational qualifications excluding GCSEs, AS levels, and A levels), Quarter 2, 2024.
2. SQA Accreditation (Scotland) – Quarterly Statistical Reports, April to June 2024.
3. Qualifications Wales (Wales) – Vocational and Other Qualifications Quarterly: Quarter 2, 2024.
4. CCEA Regulation (Northern Ireland) – Technical and Professional Qualifications Bulletin, Quarter 2, 2024.
5. DfE (England) – Apprenticeships and Traineeships, data released October 10, 2024.
6. FE Week – "[Starts Fell for Most Apprenticeships After 'Exceptional' Funding Review](#)," published October 18, 2024.

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