

Drive Forward

in Motor Industry Skills Training - November
2009

Welcome to the Motor Industry Skills e-newsletter produced by the IMI, the Sector Skills Council for the retail motor industry.

We would like to send it to as many people and organisations as possible - if you know anyone who may like to receive it, please ask them to email anns@motor.org.uk with their details.

In this newsletter...

[Latest Quarterly Industry Update](#)

[UK Nations' Employer Skills Surveys](#)

[IMI Qualifications and Credit Framework \(OCF\) Update](#)

[LSIS Qualification and Credit Framework \(OCF\) Readiness Provider Support Programme](#)

[Government funding for the automotive retail sector](#)

[Showcase skills and passion with Skillauto](#)

[Training and Funding Support - East of England](#)

[Top Technician 2010](#)

[Yellow Pages help show 'You're OK with ATA'](#)

[It's not too late to register for Business Interchange!](#)

[Welsh Learning & Skills Network helps steer Year 10 pupils into successful motor vehicle careers](#)

[Careers Event](#)

[Motor Industry Magazine](#)

[Latest Motor Industry News](#)

[Drive Forward Archive](#)

Latest Quarterly Industry Update

The quarterly industry update report aims to give an up to date view of the sector analysing employment and vehicle sales figures amongst other key performance indicators.



The automotive sector is showing some signs of recovery which has given cause for some cautious optimism around the industry at this time. In September new car registrations were up 11.4% on the same month a year previously, this followed rises of 6% in August and 2.4% in July. In terms of the workforce, redundancies were down almost a third on the same quarter a year ago (31%) reversing the increases of the previous year on year changes.

[Read the latest reports by clicking here](#)

[Back to top...](#)

UK Nations' Employer Skills Surveys

Prior to the launch of our own automotive employer skills survey, separate research of each of the UK nations' own skills surveys was completed. This report summarises these surveys from an automotive retail sector point of view. The research found that skills shortages and skills gaps in the sector are broadly in line with the UK economy.



[Read the latest Employer Skills Surveys here](#)

The IMI's own automotive employer skills survey will be published shortly.

[Back to top...](#)

IMI Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) Update

The first key milestone for QCF development is scheduled to take place on the 2nd November. This review of QCF units, derived from newly developed National Occupational Standards (NOS), will result in units for use in a number of qualifications, including those contained within the new Framework 5 Apprenticeships.

The first meeting will focus on the Light Vehicle - Maintenance & Repair suite. The further 17 suites will also be reviewed in the same way between Nov 2009 and Feb 2010.

The QCF units convert NOS into learning outcomes and assessment criteria and will also give details around the complexity of the activity (level) and an indication of learning and assessment time (credit). The review groups consist of Practitioners, Awarding Bodies and the IMI NOS Managers who led the original employer based expert-working groups.

If you need more information, please contact Jenny Snelders, Project Co-ordinator for QCF development: jennys@motor.org.uk

[Back to top...](#)

LSIS Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) Readiness Provider Support Programme

A webpage outlining the Learning and Skills Improvement Service QCF Readiness Provider Support Programme is now live on the Excellence Gateway. The programme is open to both managers and practitioners and includes a consultancy service for QCF action planning, professional development opportunities, events, resources and funded action research projects.

More information on the programme activities can be found by visiting www.excellencegateway.org.uk/qcfprovidersupport

For further information on QCF please visit:

- QCF website: http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_8150.aspx
- QCF Interactive animation: http://www.qca.org.uk/qca_22623.aspx
- Step-by step guide to writing units of assessment for QCF: <http://www.qcda.gov.uk/22678.aspx>

[Back to top...](#)

Government funding for the automotive retail sector

The IMI Funding Advice Service has been developed to assist employers to find out more about the Government funding available across all four nations and to provide guidance on how it can be accessed.



The IMI completed an in depth review to see how much support is available through regional and local agencies that can be accessed by businesses to support the automotive retail sector. The support is different in terms of amounts and structure, dependent on where you are based in the United Kingdom.

[Click here](#) to find a summary and some guidance regarding the funding available.

[Back to top...](#)

Showcase skills and passion with Skillauto



Outstanding automotive technicians who wish to showcase their skills can now put themselves to the test by entering the Skillauto 2010 competition.

The aim of Skillauto is to identify and promote the exceptional talent of people working in the automotive industry and for successful technicians; the rewards can be fantastically self satisfying giving them the confidence to pursue their career to the highest level. As a training provider, Skillauto allows you to demonstrate the quality of training and shows you produce students of the highest calibre.

Skillauto's search for the best is through national automotive technician competitions, which we run in the following disciplines: Automobile Technology, Autobody Repair and Car Painting.

If you know someone that has no more than 3 years experience including training and would like more information about taking part, then please visit www.skillauto.co.uk or contact John Sillars at the IMI on johns@motor.org.uk or call 01992 511521.

[Back to top...](#)

Training and Funding Support - East of England

'Beyond 2010' is a new initiative assisting small to medium-sized businesses in the East of England to give their staff new skills to move business forward.

The project works alongside Train to Gain to ensure that businesses can get the skills training that they need.

Businesses employing up to 250 staff can contact specialist sector advisors who are able to discuss training needs in detail and agree with the business which training course will best meet their needs. Beyond 2010 can provide up to 50% of the cost of training from the East of England Development Agency and the European Social Fund.



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills

[For more information click here](#)

[Back to top...](#)

Top Technician 2010



The annual Top Technician competition was created in 2003 to recognise and reward highly skilled technicians who face complex technology everyday in their garages. Motorists are also encouraged to nominate technicians from their local garage.

Entrants are sent a link to an online test which can be taken any time before 8th January 2010. The questions cover a broad range of topics related to the repair and maintenance of passenger cars and have been written by Chief Judge Ian Gillgrass MIMI from Top Technician's technical partner ATA.

[To find out more click here ...](#)

[Back to top...](#)

Yellow Pages help show 'You're OK with ATA'

The Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA) scheme, in partnership with the Yell Group, has announced the introduction of a new Yellow Pages Corporate Advertising Scheme (CAS) for businesses that employ ATA registered technicians.



Businesses that employ technicians who have achieved the ATA standard can attract new business and highlight the competency of their staff by including their business details within an ATA 'advertising box' in the garage services section of the Yellow Pages. Advertisers will benefit by being associated with a credible and trusted accreditation scheme and be offered the chance to appear in an ATA display advert and only pay lineage rates for it. The listing will show the ATA logo along with the caption "We employ ATA registered technicians".

The Yellow Pages is the leading business directory in the UK, and 94% of Yellow Pages directory users say CAS adverts help them to locate an accredited supplier.

To benefit from the Corporate Advertising Scheme, businesses that employ ATA technicians should call the Yellow Pages on 0808 100 7890.

[If you would like to find out more about the ATA scheme click here](#)

[Back to top...](#)

It's not too late to register for Business Interchange!

Industry placements form an important part of CPD and ensure that learning provision is relevant to today's employers. The Business Interchange programme supports participants in the arrangement and completion of placements, and IMI can even help find employer hosts if needed.



To date, 43 placements have been completed within the automotive sector this year, and there are still places remaining.

[For more information click here](#)

[Back to top...](#)

Welsh Learning & Skills Network helps steer Year 10 pupils into successful motor vehicle careers

Over a two year period, Year 10 pupils from Ynysawdre and Ogmoredale Comprehensive Schools have attended Bridgend College for one day a week to study motor vehicle maintenance. The pupils have achieved a Level 2 qualification, equivalent to five GCSEs, and have had the opportunity of 20 days work experience a year to enhance their learning experience.



The Automotive Skills Work Based Learning Pathway is a joint initiative with the IMI, Bridgend County Borough Council, Ogmoredale & Ynysawdre Comprehensive Schools and Bridgend College. This innovative partnership, the first of its kind in Bridgend, commenced in September 2007 and to mark the 100% achievement of the first cohort of students to complete the two year course, Bridgend College welcomed John Griffiths AM, Deputy Minister for Skills to a celebratory evening.

[Back to top...](#)

Careers Event

A "Talk and Walk" Careers CPD event was held in October at Thunder Road Motorcycles, Bridgend for Careers Advisors from the Mid Glamorgan and Powys region. The aim was to update the advisors with an overview of the sector, inform them of products and services available from the IMI, and to give an employers perspective on local industry and recruitment opportunities.



The IMI was represented by Colin Williams, National Manager for Wales, and Emily Smith, Careers Assistant. Colin together with Amanda Taylor from Careers Wales introduced the event and Emily demonstrated the IMI's Autocity, an online careers advice tool, and Headlight, a national schools competition.

This was followed by a behind the scenes tour of the three companies, Sinclair Audi, Thunder Road Motorcycles and Bridgend Motor Factors, which was extremely interesting and gave a valuable insight into the roles and responsibilities of employees.

Pictured is Dave Mobberley from Thunder Road Motorcycles with the Careers Advisors.

[For more information on Autocity and Headlight click here](#)

[Back to top...](#)

Motor Industry Magazine

Motor Industry Magazine (MIM) contains all the latest industry news, articles and features. MIM, published ten times a year, is available by [subscription](#) and is free to IMI Members. For information about becoming an IMI Member and other membership benefits [click here](#).



October's edition of MIM included:

Rescue Me!

Cars have never been safer for occupant protection in a crash. But all that new technology - like toughened steel and glass - can present problems for rescue services. [Read the article](#)

RVs - stars and strugglers

Depreciation is the curse of new cars whatever the make or model, but why do some lose even more value than the accepted norm? [Read the article](#)

[Back to top...](#)

Latest Motor Industry News

Volkswagen launches greenest ever Golf.

Manufacturing giant Volkswagen has launched its most environmentally-friendly Golf ever...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

Increase in personal loans reported since car scrappage scheme started.

New research has found that there has been an increase in the number of personal loans taken out since the car scrappage scheme began...

[\[Full Story \]](#)

[For more of the latest Motor Industry News click here ...](#)

[Back to top...](#)

Drive Forward Archive

To see previous editions of Drive Forward newsletters please [click here ...](#)

[Back to top...](#)

Any comments or feedback on Drive Forward are appreciated, please send to adrianl@motor.org.uk.

Regards

Adrian Lawson

Development Manager - Quality Improvement

[Follow the IMI on Twitter and keep up to date with our news](#)

 Follow Us on **Twitter**

[Back to top...](#)

[Click here to visit the IMI website ...](#)

If you would prefer not to receive further emails from us, please email imiustop@motor.org.uk