

# Working in Essex, Southend and Thurrock

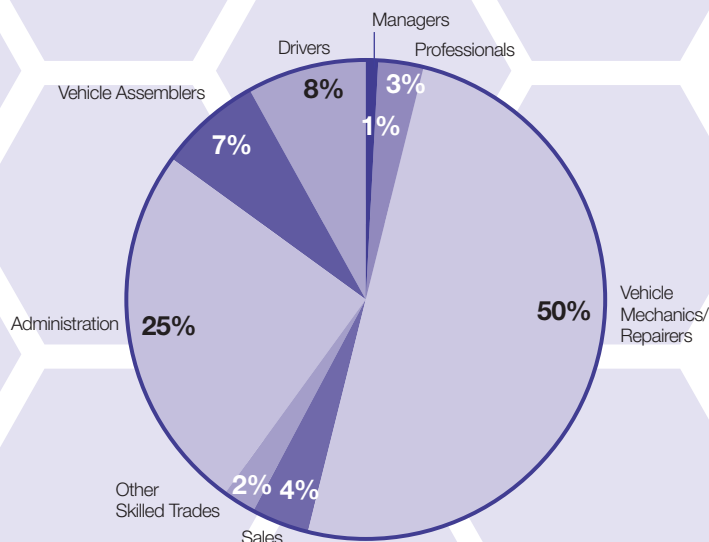


## Retail Motor Industry

### What's happening?

- Total employment in the retail motor sector is estimated to be around 580,000, or just over 2% of employment in the UK.
- The retail motor industry includes the selling, renting and repairing of cars and other vehicles.
- The industry employs approximately 70,000 employees through 9,000 businesses in the East of England. The sector has 16% vacancies.
- The most common skills lacking in applicants are technical and practical, communication and problem solving. Employers also report a shortage of staff with managerial and technical skills. (8% skills gaps and 20% internal skills gaps).
- Qualified motor vehicle fitters may become general fast-fit technicians or mobile electronics and security technicians.
- The highest concentration of workers in this sector is in the South East of England.
- 16 to 18 year olds are a key target group for recruitment, although the workforce has a relatively old age profile. Apprenticeships are expected to grow in importance as a route into the industry.
- Over the last ten years, there has been a shift towards the use of software and electronics in modern vehicles. The need for people with these skills is increasing, with less demand for mechanical skills.

### Who does what?



Source: Labour Force Survey 2006, © Crown Copyright. Figures are for England.

### How much could I earn?

Remember – many jobs will demand minimum entry qualifications. Those earning high salaries are usually well qualified and experienced and will continue to learn throughout their working life.

	Average mean salary
Auto Electrician	£24,886
Motor Mechanic/Auto Engineer	£22,543
Tyre, Exhaust and Windscreen Fitter	£17,270
Vehicle Body Builder/Repairer	£22,236
Vehicle Spray Painter	£22,103

Salary rates have been calculated using the average gross pay for full-time workers. Figures are for the UK. Averages can hide higher earnings. With training and career development, higher salaries can be achieved. Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings 2007, ONS © Crown Copyright.

### Numbers employed within sector by local businesses

Essex LSC	16,800
Essex	13,700
Southend UA	1,200
Thurrock UA	1,900
UK	506,700

Source: Annual Business Inquiry, 2007, [Nomis 17 May 2007] © Crown Copyright. Figures do not include the self-employed, people under 16 or trainees without a contract of employment. Figures are rounded to nearest hundred.



## What we think will happen

- According to the Learning and Skills Council's "Working Futures" research, the automotive retail sector will have a total 'replacement requirement' of up to 120,000 people in all disciplines across the industry over the next decade.
- In conjunction with the East of England Skills and Competitive Partnership, the retail motor sector has been identified as a key priority sector.
- Demand for general IT user skills will increase. This reflects the increasing need for employees to be able to use computerised systems including diagnostic equipment, estimating and other software.
- The demand for electronic engineers will grow. 40% of a car's value is embedded in electrical and electronic systems. Vehicle mechanics are increasingly likely to replace entire systems than repair individual parts.
- There is one car for every two people in the UK. 2.43 million new cars were registered in 2005. Motorcycle and scooter registrations are on the increase.
- Industry insiders believe that vehicle body-shops will be an increasingly tough market to compete in.
- There are increasing numbers of lorries and buses on our roads. They all need maintenance and repair. There is a shortage of people interested in training to work on these types of vehicles.
- The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI) wants 40,000 apprentices in the automotive sector by 2013. The organisation is launching a campaign in 2008 aimed at school pupils from Year 9, parents, teachers, careers advisers, colleges and training providers, as well as engaging employers across the sector.
- There will be a new qualification called a Diploma in Engineering available from September 2008. This will help people prepare for university, college or work.

## Is this you?

- Good listening and communication skills
- Always pay attention to detail
- Like practical work and using tools

## Some job suggestions

- Motor Vehicle Fitter (tyres and/or exhausts)
- Roadside Assistance Patrol Person
- Vehicle Body Repair
- Vehicle Restorer
- Vehicle Technician

## Next steps...

**If you're serious about this type of work - FIND OUT MORE!**

Use your Connexions Resource Area in School/College or visit your local Connexions Centre/One Stop Shop for information about jobs; qualifications; local training; further and higher education; skills and personal characteristics; rates of pay and working conditions.

## Really useful websites and resources!

Automotive Skills – [www.automotiveskills.org.uk/careers](http://www.automotiveskills.org.uk/careers)  
British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association – [www.bvrla.co.uk](http://www.bvrla.co.uk)  
Institute of the Motor Industry – [www.motor.org.uk](http://www.motor.org.uk)  
Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders – [www.smmf.co.uk](http://www.smmf.co.uk)  
Society of Operations Engineers – [www.soe.org.uk](http://www.soe.org.uk)  
Training for the Motor Industry – [www.carterandcartergroup.com](http://www.carterandcartergroup.com)  
The Diploma – [www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas](http://www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas)  
Apprenticeships – [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) or **call the helpline on 08000 150600**  
Jobs4u (careers database)  
– [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u)  
Working in Booklets – case studies of people in a variety of jobs. (Motor industry). Try your Connexions area, or download them from [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com). Go to careers>career resources>download publications>Working In  
For learning opportunities and course information for 14-19 year olds in Essex, Southend and Thurrock, see [www.stepon.org](http://www.stepon.org)

## What local students did in 2006

A total of 142 Year 11 local school leavers started full-time employment or work-based training in the motor industry sector in 2006. (Essex 122, Southend 8 and Thurrock 12).

Source: Connexions Essex, Southend and Thurrock 2006.

**For further information and advice please contact Connexions Direct in confidence (you don't have to give your name or personal details if you don't want to):**

**Email: via [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com) (click on the email link) • Telephone Connexions Direct on 080 800 13 2 19**

**Text Connexions Direct on 07766 4 13 2 19 • Local Connexions service [www.estconnexions.co.uk](http://www.estconnexions.co.uk)**

Certain facts and figures are produced under the HMSO Click-Use licence.

March 2008