

Garage Services

Do you enjoy working with your hands, and finding out how things work? Have you got a strong interest in motor vehicles, from cars and motorcycles to buses and trucks? If so, this career area might be the one for you.

The retail motor industry in Scotland, and across the UK, is being affected by several trends. Sales of electric and hybrid cars are growing significantly. By end of May 2020 there were 301,000 plug in cars and 8,800 plug in vans in the UK. This is partly as a result of our need to develop more fuel-efficient vehicles, which reduce carbon emissions and air pollution. But, drivers also want to cut their fuel costs.

Vehicles of all types are becoming more complex, with more onboard computers and internet access. So, diagnosing faults in vehicle computer networks and repairing electronic faults has become more important.

Around 43,000 people work in the retail motor industry in Scotland. Women are still under-represented in most sectors of the industry.

What areas can I work in?

This career area includes jobs in:

- vehicle inspection, service and repair
- diagnostics - diagnosing faults in engine management systems and vehicle computer networks
- paint and body repair
- tyre or exhaust fitting
- roadside assistance and breakdown services
- vehicle parts and distribution
- vehicle sales - see the [Buying, Selling and Related](#) Work career area for more information
- automotive glazing
- related services, such as valeting.

To see the routes to getting into each of these sectors, take a look at our [Career Pathway](#).

What kind of companies can I work for?

Possible employers include:

- independent garages
- commercial vehicle garages – buses and trucks
- car and van rental companies
- paint and body shops
- car dealerships
- roadside assistance companies
- tyre or exhaust centres
- insurance companies

- MOT centres.

You might be able to become a vehicle technician specialising in the repair and maintenance of vehicles used by emergency and rescue services, with organisations such as Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, airport fire and rescue services and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

There are also relevant opportunities in the Armed Services, particularly in the Army, for repairing and maintaining military vehicles, from light armoured vehicles to tanks.

What's the job market like?

New car sales fell in May 2020. Sales decreased by 89% due to the effects of the COVID-19..

The number of jobs dependent on the automotive sector decreased by 1% to 823,000.

Employment in parts sales and distribution is expected to be stable over the next few years.

Most young people join the industry by doing a Modern Apprenticeship, which involves on the job training and going to a college or training centre part time.

The number of Automotive Modern Apprentices in training increased slightly from 2,974 in 2018/19 to 2,986 in 2019/20. Entrance requirements vary from no formal qualifications to a group of National 4 or 5 subject including English, Maths and a science (preferably Physics) or technological subject. Full time college courses at various levels are also available.

Facts and figures

- Registration of pure-EVs in the first 5 months of 2020 are up more than 60% compared to 2019.
- There are 5,400 garage services-related businesses in Scotland, employing around 43,000 employees.
- Scotland 'leads the charge' on electrical vehicle roll-out with more charging points north of the border than anywhere outside London.

Want to find out more?

The Institute of the Motor Industry (The IMI) is the sector skills council for the motor trade. You will find useful information on their careers website [Autocity](#).

Sources

- [Next Greencar](#) (March 2020)
- SDS Modern Apprentice Statistics Full Year Report 2019/20 (June 2020)
- [The IMI in Scotland](#) (June 2020)
- [The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders](#) (June 2020)
- [Energy Voice](#) (November 2019)
- SMMT Automotive Sustainability Report (2019)