

Analysis of apprenticeship take-up in West Yorkshire in 2021/22 academic year

Summary

- Apprenticeship starts grew by 9% in West Yorkshire in 2021/22 academic year, the same rate of growth as nationally, but remain 16% below pre-pandemic levels.
- Starts grew for all age groups year on year and under-19 starts grew at the strongest rate after several years of decline.
- There was growth for all levels of apprenticeship, with Advanced seeing the highest rate of growth.
- There was year on year growth in starts in all five West Yorkshire local authorities, with Wakefield and Calderdale seeing the fastest rates of growth.
- All broad subject areas saw growth in 2021/22 – the biggest increases in starts were for *Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies, Construction, Planning and the Built Environment* and *Information and Communication Technologies*.

The following analysis focuses on take-up of apprenticeships in West Yorkshire¹ during the 2021/22 academic year. It is based on recently finalised (R14) data provided by Education and Skills Funding Agency via gov.uk.

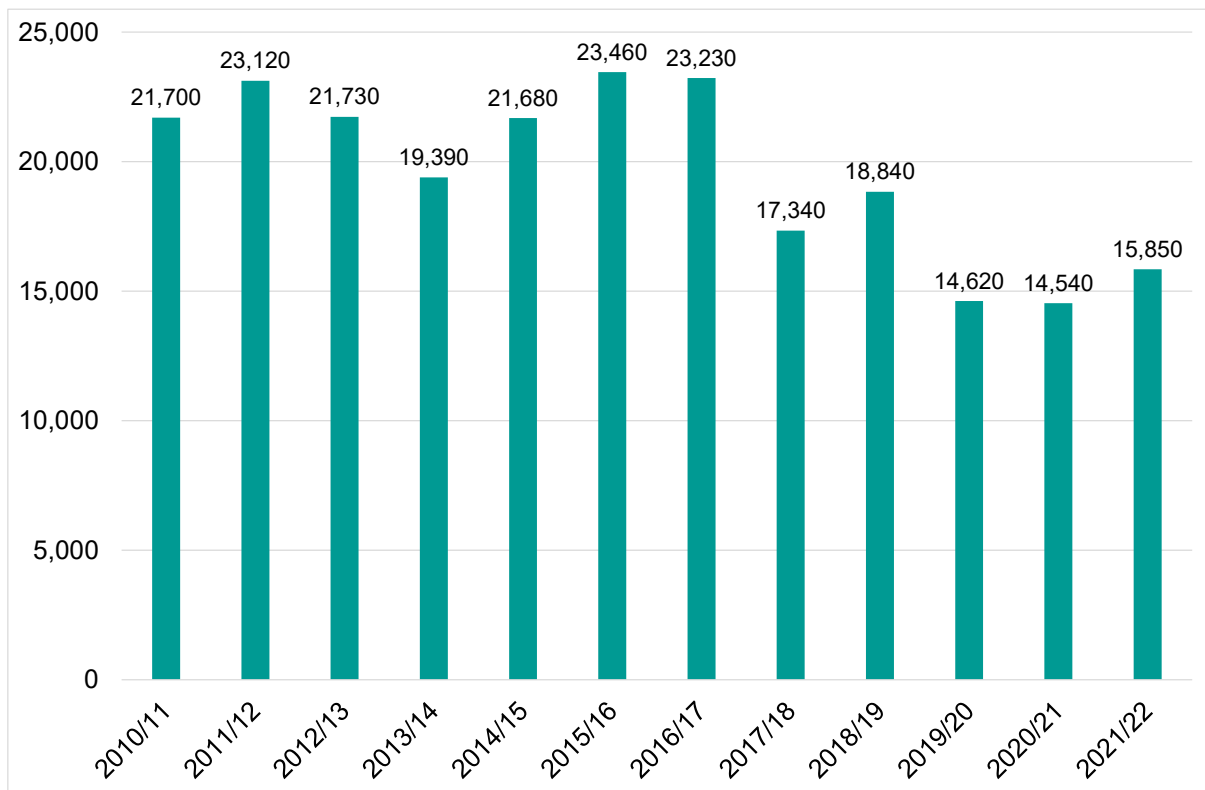
Overall starts and achievements

There were 15,849 apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire during the academic year. Starts grew by 1,310 (9%) compared with the previous year; this is similar to the national average picture, which also saw growth of 9%. Starts in West Yorkshire in 2021/22 remained almost 3,000 (or 16%) below their pre-pandemic level of 2018/19 compared with a deficit of .

During 2021/22, there were 6,470 apprenticeship achievements, a decrease of 12% on 2020/21, the same rate of decline as nationally.

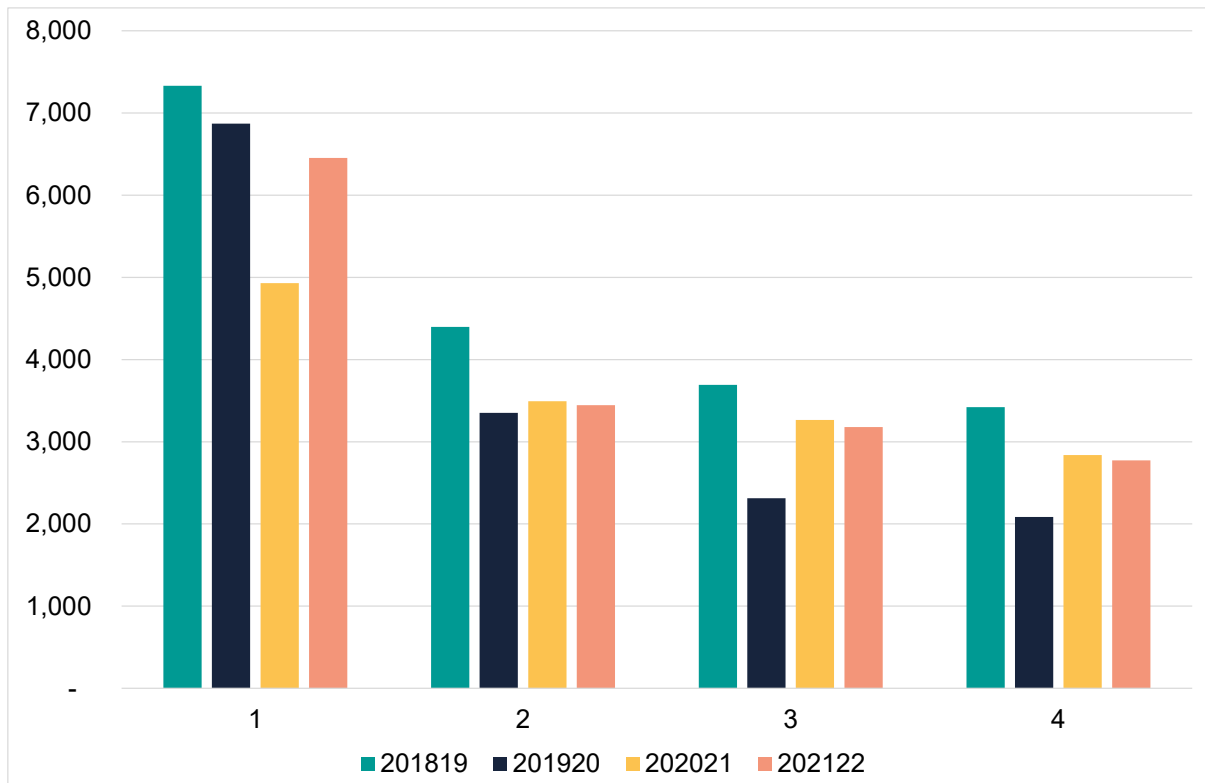
¹ Unless otherwise stated, the analysis relates to all apprentices whose home address lies within one of the 5 local authorities of West Yorkshire.

Figure 1: Trend in total apprenticeship starts, West Yorkshire



Apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire are well below their peak – falling by nearly a third between 2015/16 and 2021/22. This is due to introduction of apprenticeship reforms in 2016/17, followed by the impact of the health crisis from 2019/20 onwards.

Figure 2: Apprenticeship starts by quarter, West Yorkshire

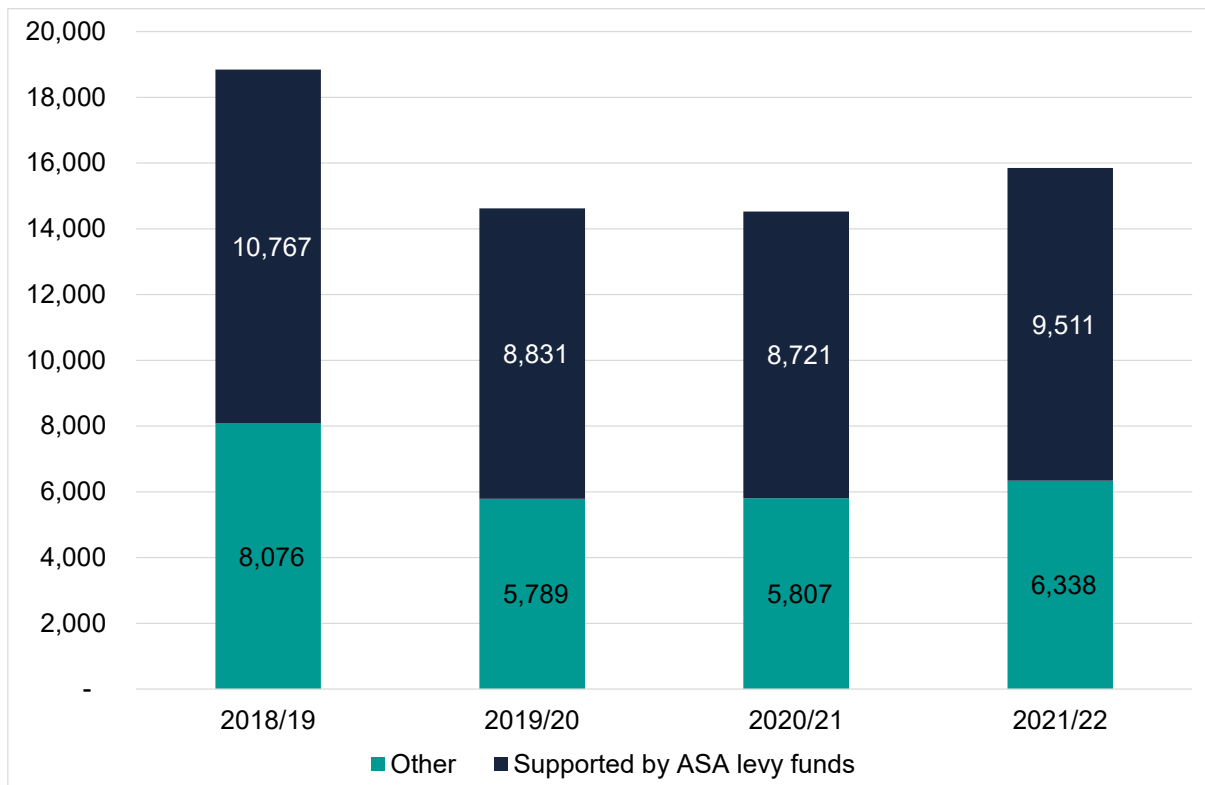


Most of the year on year growth in starts in 2021/22 was generated in the first quarter of the academic year. Performance then fell back to levels similar to the previous year in the remaining three quarters of 2021/22.

Funding

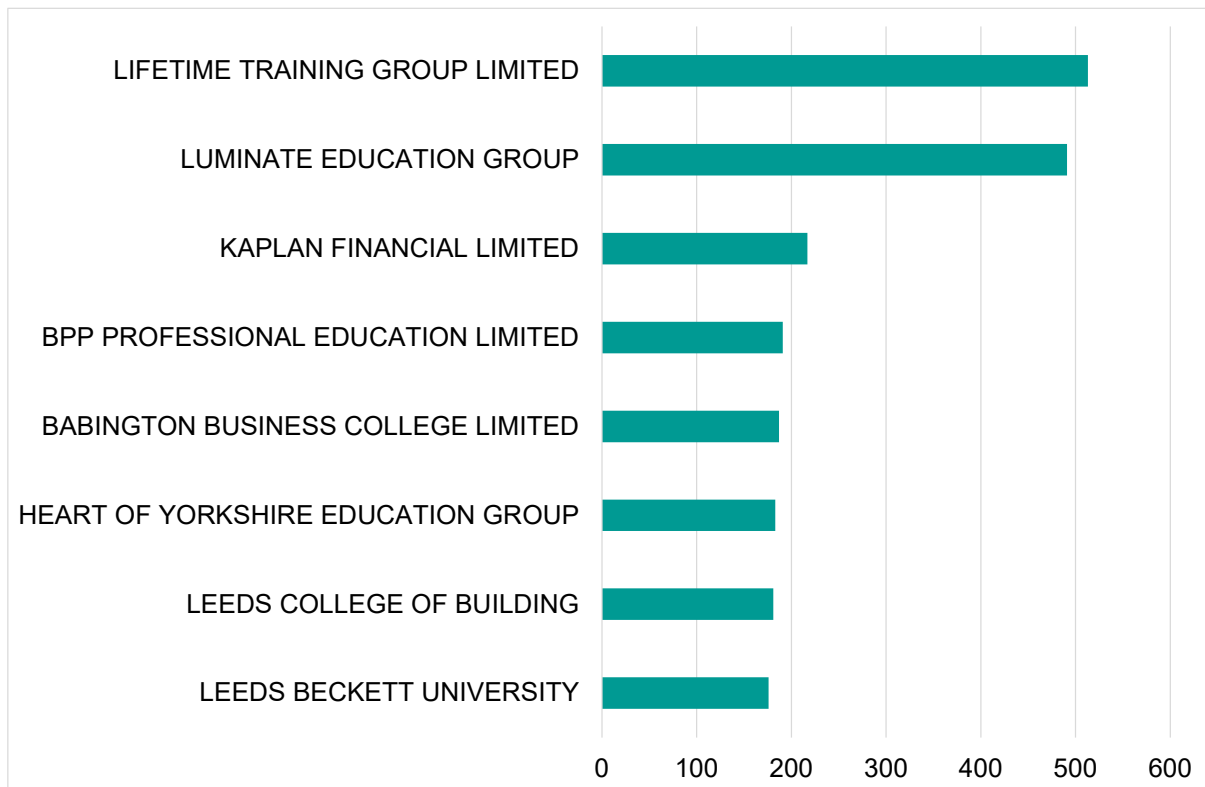
Levy-funded starts now account for the majority of starts in West Yorkshire, contributing 60% of the total. Levy and non-levy starts saw the same year on year growth in 2021/22 of 9%. Although levy starts in 2021/21 were 19% down on 2018/19 (pre-pandemic), non-levy starts fell by 28% over the same period.

Figure 3: Apprenticeship starts by funding source, West Yorkshire



Nearly 80% of Higher Apprenticeships were funded through the levy, compared with just under a half of Intermediate Apprenticeships. More than three quarters of starts for 25+ year olds but only 31% of starts for under-19s were levy-funded.

Figure 4: Levy-funded apprenticeship starts by provider



Lifetime Training Group and Luminate Education Group delivered the biggest volumes of levy-funded apprenticeship starts to West Yorkshire residents in 2021/22.

Sex

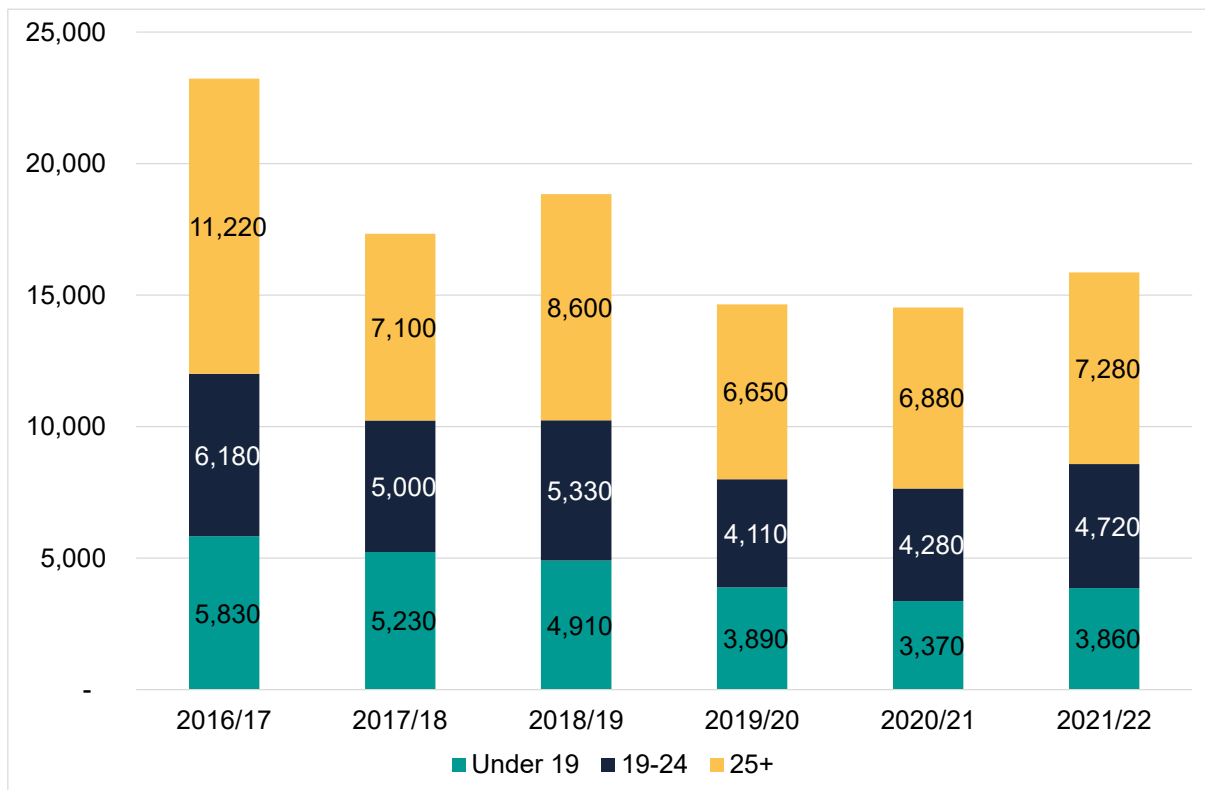
Fifty-two per cent (8,310) of apprenticeship starts were for females, slightly down on the 55% seen in 2020/21.

Age

During 2021/22, 46% of starts were for apprentices aged 25 and over, with 30% aged 19-24 and 24% aged under 19.

Starts grew year-on-year for all broad age groups. Under-19 starts recovered somewhat during the year, growing by 15% but are still one-fifth (21%) lower than in 2018/19. 19-24 starts grew by 10% and starts for those aged 25+ grew by 6%.

Figure 5: Trend in apprenticeship starts by age, West Yorkshire

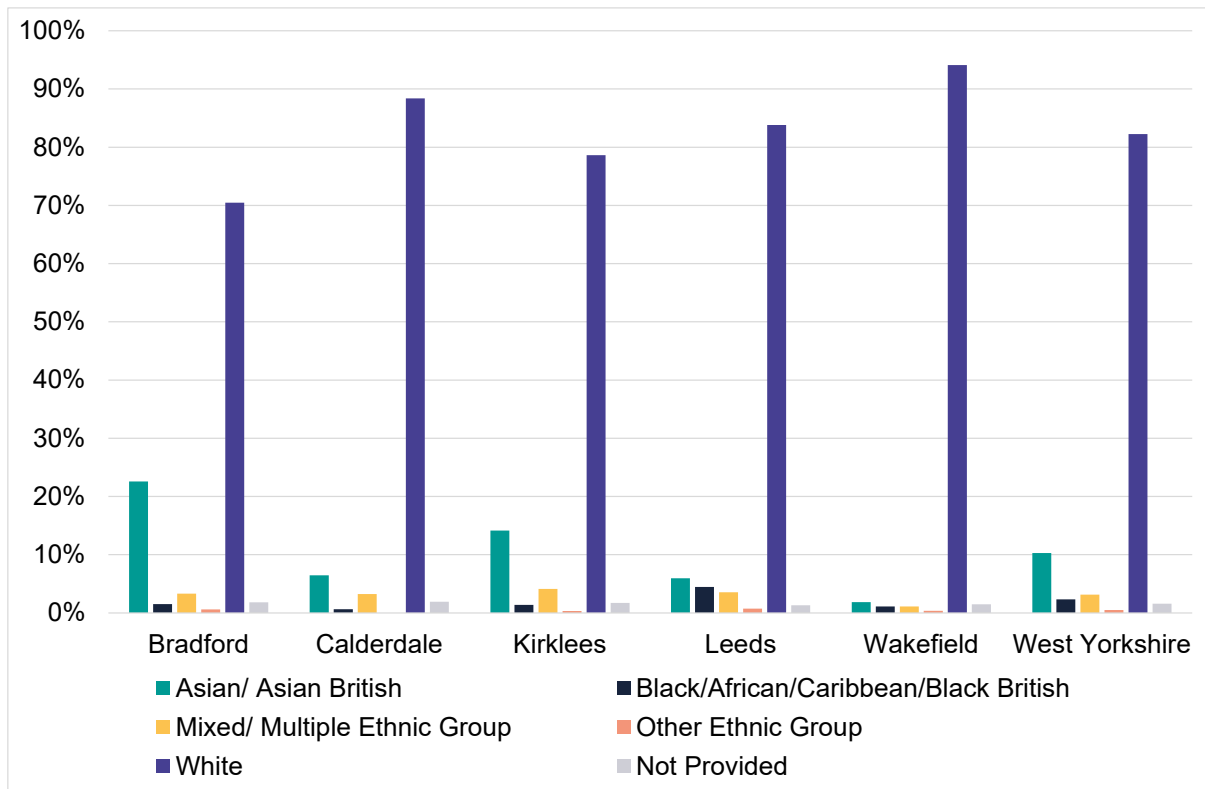


Ethnicity

There were around 2,800 starts on apprenticeships by people from an ethnic minority during 2021/22, 18% of total starts.

This proportion is an increase on the 16% recorded in 2020/21.

Figure 6: Proportion of total apprenticeship starts by ethnicity and local authority, West Yorkshire



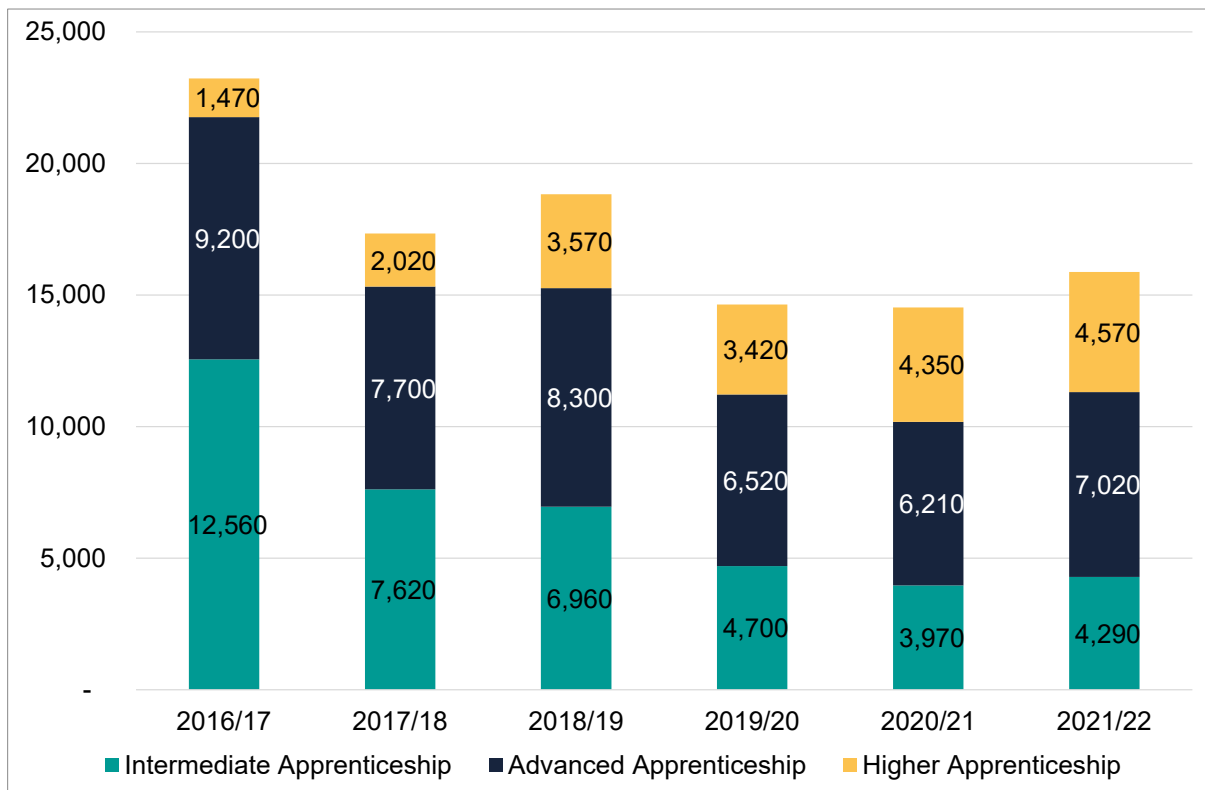
Ethnic minority participation varies at local authority level, from 6% in Wakefield to 22% in Kirklees and 30% in Bradford.

People from an Asian / Asian British background formed the largest minority group, with around 10% of total starts (rising to 23% in Bradford and 14% in Kirklees).

Level

During 2021/22, starts on Intermediate apprenticeships accounted for 27% of total starts (the same proportion as 2020/21 but down from 37% in 2018/19), Advanced apprenticeship starts contributed 44% (similar to the previous year) and Higher apprenticeships 29% (similar to the previous year but up from only 19% in 2018/19).

Figure 7: Trend in starts by level, West Yorkshire

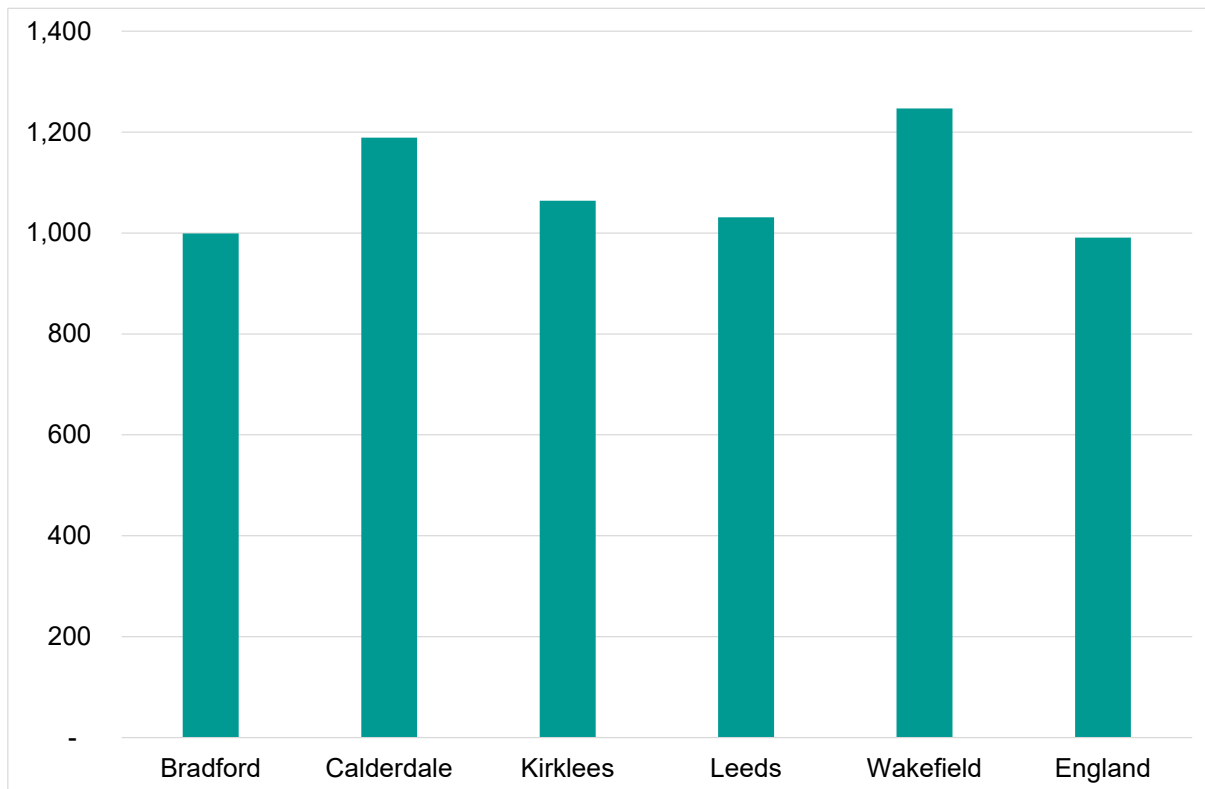


All levels of apprenticeship saw a growth in starts during 2021/22. Advanced apprenticeships increased by 13%, Intermediate by 8% and Higher by 5%.

Local authorities

Based on location of learner residence, Leeds contributed the greatest number of apprenticeship starts during 2021/22 (34% of the West Yorkshire total) followed by Bradford (21%), Kirklees (18%), Wakefield (17%) and Calderdale (10%).

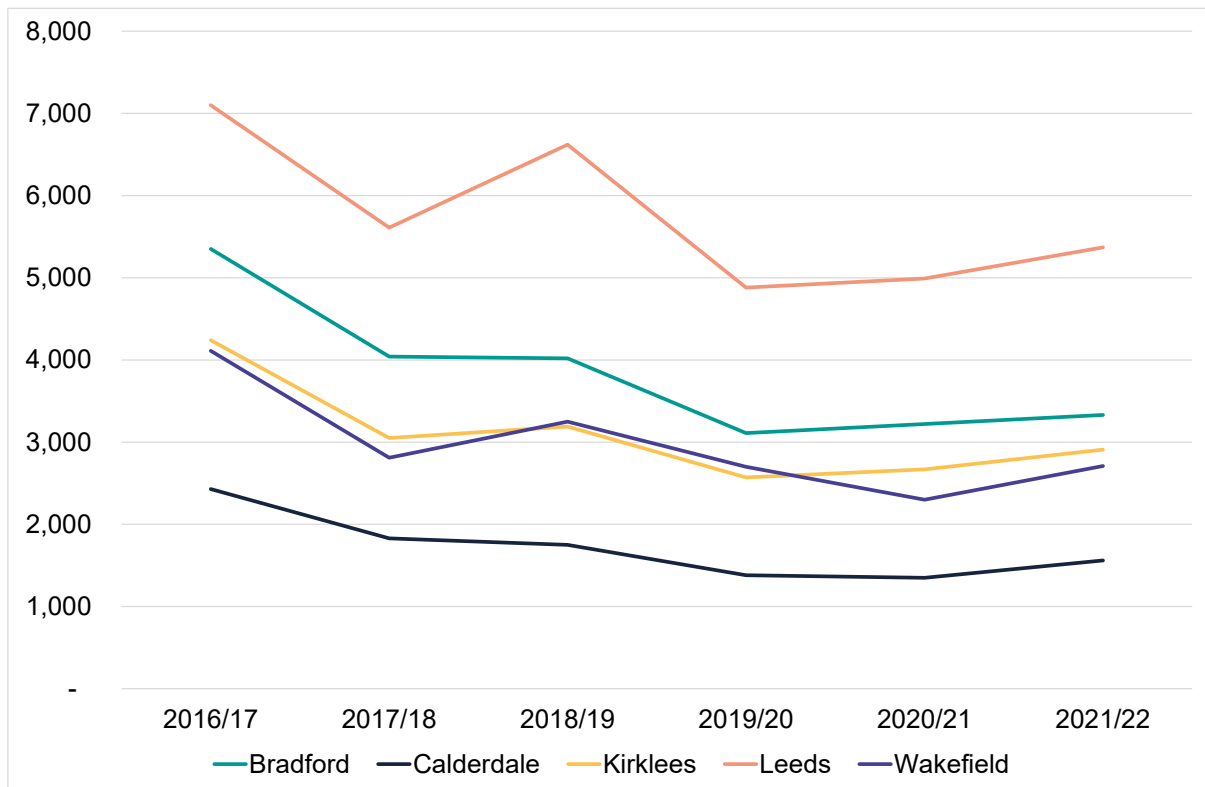
Figure 8: Apprenticeship start rate per 100,000 population



Wakefield and Calderdale have the highest rate of apprenticeship take-up relative to population, whilst Bradford and Leeds have the lowest.

All local authorities saw growth in starts during the year, ranging from a 3% increase in Bradford to 18% growth in Wakefield and 16% in Calderdale. The rate of growth in Kirklees (9%) and Leeds (8%) were similar to the West Yorkshire average.

Figure 9: Change in total apprenticeship starts by local authority



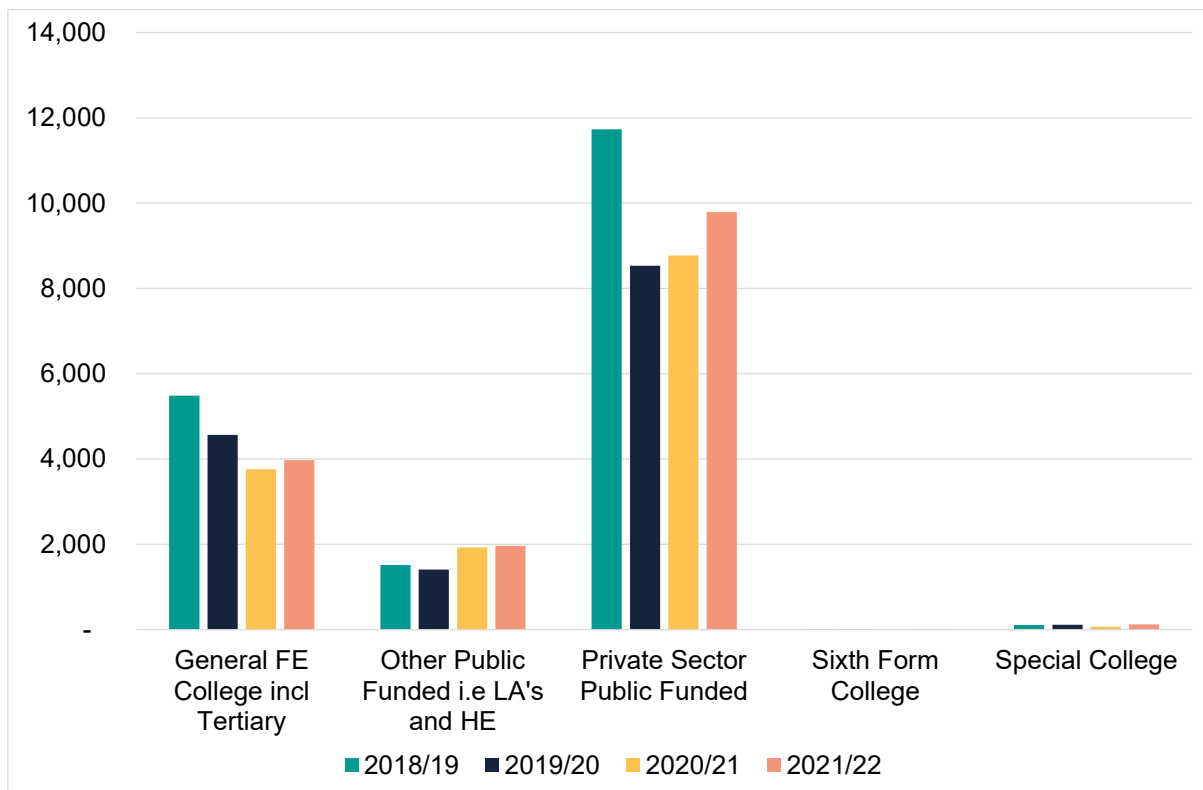
Provider type

Private-sector public funded providers delivered 9,789 apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire in 2021/22, a majority (62%) of total starts.

General FE colleges contributed 3,975 starts, 25% of the total and a similar share to the previous year.

Other publicly funded providers (including local authorities and HEIs) were responsible for 12% of total starts.

Figure 10: West Yorkshire apprenticeship starts by provider type



Note: figures relate to apprenticeship starts by West Yorkshire residents

Subject area

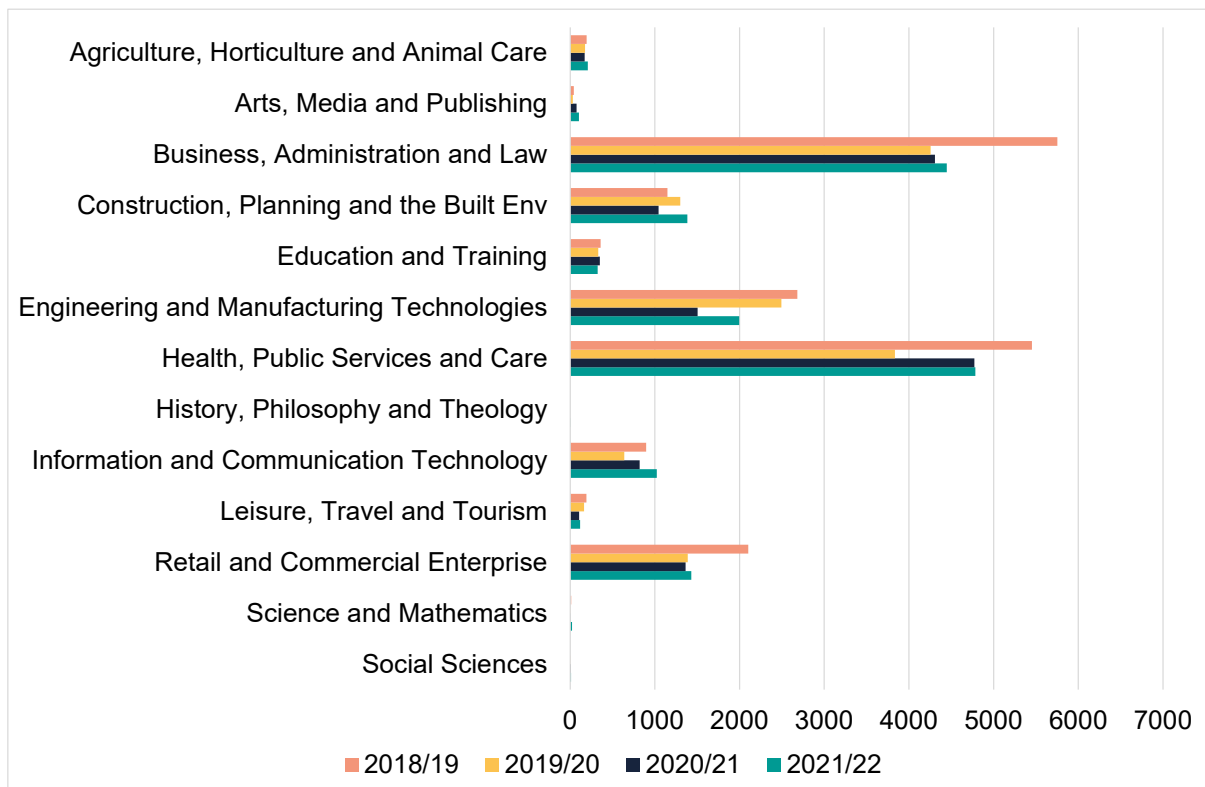
All subjects except one had more starts in 2021/22 than in 2020/21. The biggest increases were for *Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies* (+492; +33%); *Construction, Planning and the Built Environment* (+340; +33%); and *Information and Communication Technology* (+201; +24%). The only subject to see a small decline in starts was *Education and Training*.

However, the majority of subjects recorded fewer starts in 2021/22 than in 2018/19 (pre-pandemic). The biggest areas of deficit are:

- Business, Administration and Law (-1,305; -23%)
- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (-687; -26%)
- Retail and Commercial Enterprise (-674; -32%)
- Health, Public Services and Care (-669; -12%).

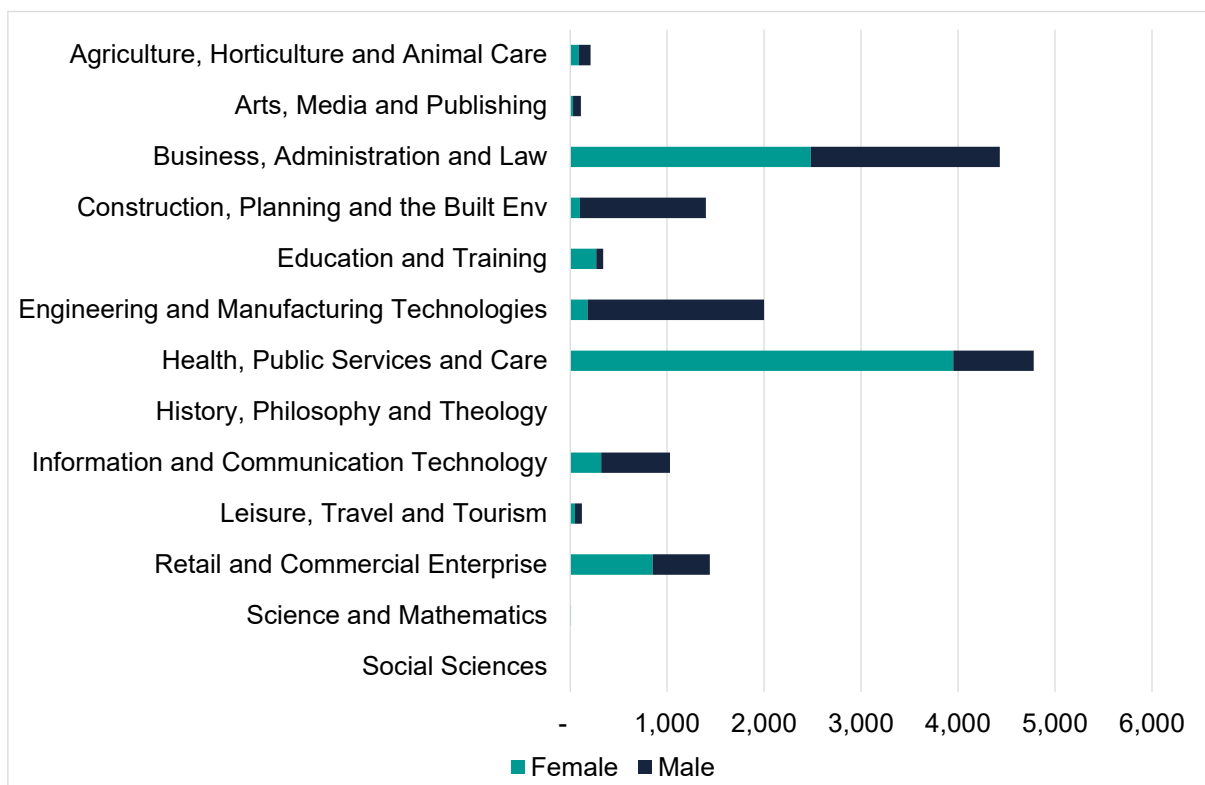
Information and Communication Technology and *Arts, Media and Publishing* are the only subjects of substantial size which have seen growth compared with 2018/19.

Figure 11: Trend in apprenticeship starts by sector subject area, West Yorkshire



There are marked differences in the subject profile of starts by sex. The largest areas in terms of volume of female starts are *Health, Public Services and Care, Business, Administration and Law* and *Retail and Commercial Enterprise*.

Figure 12: Apprenticeship starts by sex and subject, West Yorkshire



Females accounted for 83% of total starts in *Health, public services and care* but females starts were in a small minority for *Construction* (7%), *Engineering and Manufacturing* (9%), whilst in *Information Technology* they accounted for just under one-third (31% up from 24% in 2019/20).

Higher apprenticeships

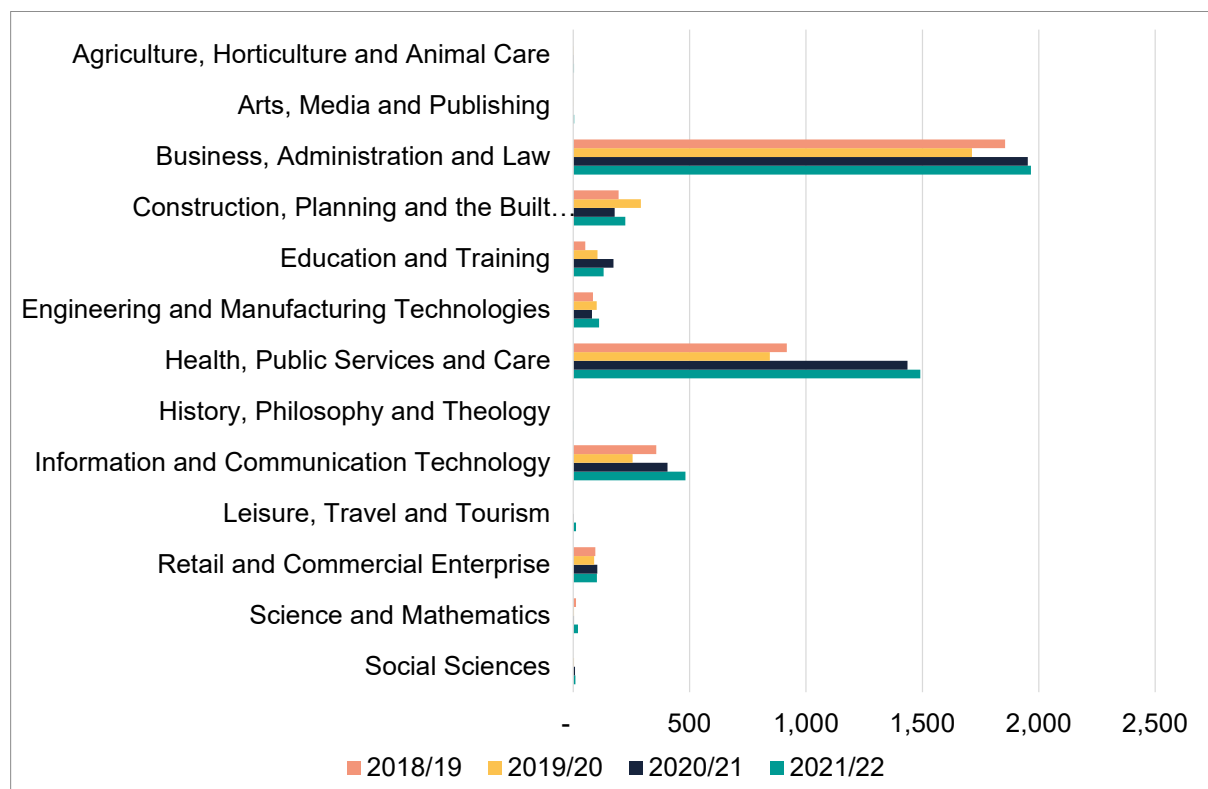
Higher apprenticeship starts continue to be strongly concentrated in two subjects in West Yorkshire: *Health, Public Services and Care* (most notably Health and Social Care and Nursing apprenticeships) and *Business, Administration and Law* (principally Business Management and Accounting and Finance apprenticeships). Together, these account for three-quarters of total starts.

As noted above, the number of higher apprenticeship starts in West Yorkshire increased by 5% in 2021/22. All subject areas shared in this growth, except *Education and Training* and *Retail and Commercial Enterprise*.

The subjects seeing the strongest growth were:

- Information and Communication Technology (+77; +19%)
- Health, Public Services and Care (+55; +4%)
- Construction, Planning and the Built Environment (+46; +26%)
- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (+30; +37%).

Figure 13: Trend in higher apprenticeship starts by sector subject area, West Yorkshire

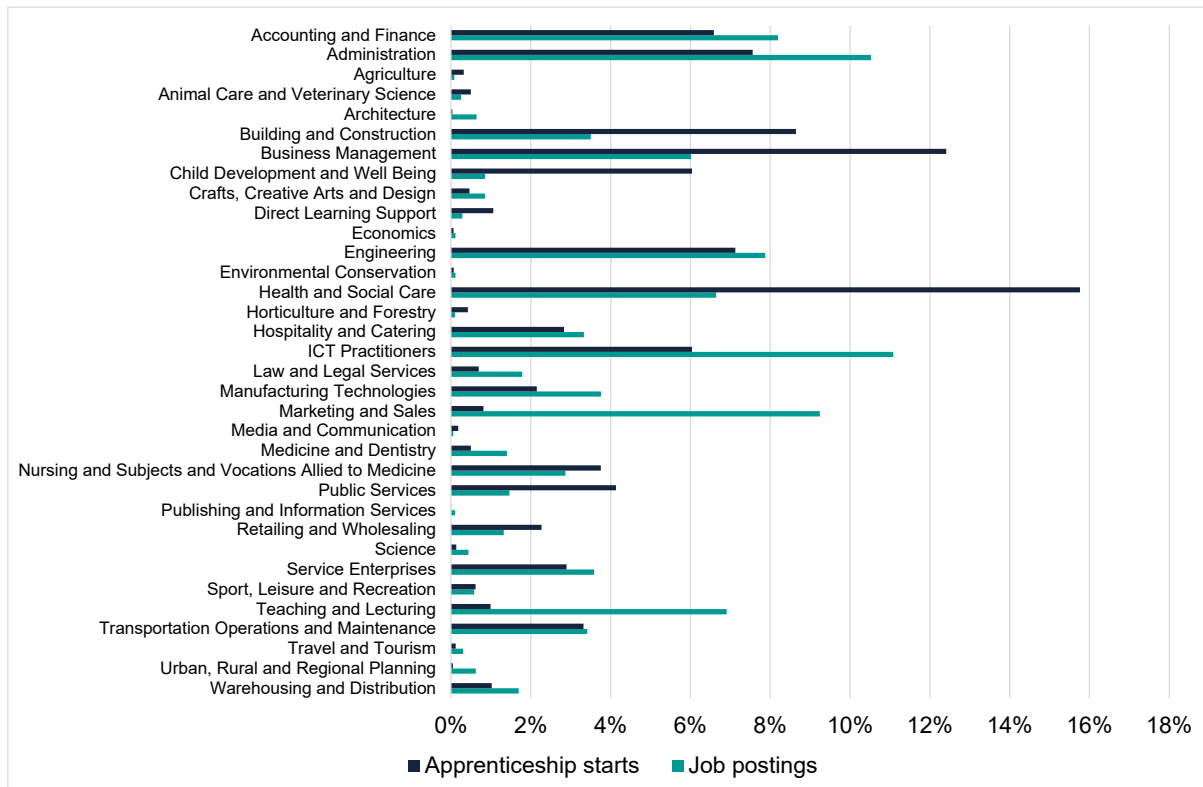


All subjects had a bigger number of starts in 2021/22 than in 2018/19, reflecting the relatively strong performance of higher apprenticeships during the pandemic. In particular, the number of starts in *Health, Public Services and Care* was 573 or 62% higher.

Profile of apprenticeships relative to labour market demand

The following figure provides a comparison of the subject profile of apprenticeships to the profile of labour market demand, based on vacancies (online job postings). To facilitate this analysis occupational categories have been mapped to associated subject categories.

Figure 14: Subject profile of apprenticeship starts mapped to associated vacancy (online job postings) profile, West Yorkshire



Source: Department for Education apprenticeship data and Lightcast job posting data

The analysis shows that there are a range of subjects which are strongly served by apprenticeships in West Yorkshire, including *Building and Construction*, *Business Management*, *Health and Social Care* and *Public Services*. Conversely there are subjects that appear to be under-served, relative to labour market demand, including *ICT Practitioners*, *Marketing and Sales*, *Manufacturing Technologies* and *Teaching and Lecturing*. Other subjects, like *Engineering* appear to be in balance.