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## **Cost and red tape prevent tradespeople hiring apprentices**

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- **Two thirds of tradespeople turning down work as they are so busy**
  - **Affordability concerns are the top reason stopping tradespeople hiring apprentices**
  - **Trade apprentices avoid costs associated with university and benefit from earning whilst they learn**
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Tradespeople are missing out on growth opportunities from hiring an apprentice because of perceived costs and red tape, new research from Screwfix has revealed.

Despite two thirds (66%) of builders, plumbers, electricians and other tradespeople turning down work because they are too busy, just 5% of those surveyed, currently hire an apprentice. Half of those said having an extra pair of hands has helped them take on additional work.

Research has found that the top reasons for not employing an apprentice were due to cost (33%), too much red tape (24%) and concerns about finding the right person to work with the team (17%).

John Mewett, CEO of Screwfix, commented: "These results show there is much more to do to help tradespeople overcome perceived challenges to hiring an apprentice.

"We know from our customers, that having an apprentice on site can be a real opportunity and support business growth. It allows tradespeople to take on more work while investing in the future generation, who will hopefully go on to become long-term employees. What's more, apprentices can earn while they learn and avoid costs associated with university, it's a great way to start a fulfilling career. Without opportunities for apprentices we will face a potential skills gap in the UK.

“As a company, we’re dedicated to supporting both the future generation and the seasoned professionals. It’s for this reason, we’ve just launched our sixth annual Screwfix Trade Apprentice competition, where we are on the lookout to crown an apprentice who is going above and beyond the call of duty and will be lucky enough to walk away with a career boosting trade bundle, worth £10,000.

“It’s important that we not only shine a light on the benefits of apprenticeships, but also the strength and depth of apprentice talent out there.”

Screwfix Trade Apprentice is a national competition open to trade apprentices. The top entries from across the UK will be invited to an exclusive final at Global Radio HQ, where one outstanding individual will be crowned Screwfix Trade Apprentice 2020.

Up for grabs at the final is a career boosting prize package worth £10,000. This includes everything a future tradesperson may need to kick-start their career - £5,000 of tools, a £3,000 training budget and £2,000 worth of technology. The winner will also get £2,000 for the college where they study. In addition to all of this, the Screwfix Trade Apprentice 2020 will be invited to meet a team of experts behind **Capital XTRA’s** Homegrown Live, at the event this spring.

All finalists will also be invited to attend a Business start-up day at the Global Academy, a University Technical College specialising in the fast paced and exciting broadcast and digital media industry. They will learn how to market themselves, promote their business through social media from media industry professionals and will also meet **Capital XTRA’s** Robert Bruce.

Entries are open between 3 February – 1 March 2020. To find out more, visit [screwfix.com/sfta](http://screwfix.com/sfta).

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#### **About Screwfix:**

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company with over 1,300 stores in 9 countries across Europe, Russia and Turkey, supported by a team of over 77,000 colleagues. It operates under retail brands including B&Q, Castorama, Brico Dépôt,

Screwfix and Koçtaş. It offers home improvement products and services to nearly six million consumers and trade professionals who shop in its stores and through its digital channels every week.

It believes everyone should have a home they feel good about, so its purpose is to make home improvement accessible for everyone. [www.kingfisher.com](http://www.kingfisher.com)

Screwfix is convenient, straightforward and affordably-priced, helping its trade customers get the job done quickly, affordably and right first time. Tradespeople can shop 33,000 products over the phone, online, via their mobile or in-person from their local store.

- From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, Screwfix offers over 11,000 products available to pick up from over 640 UK stores nationwide.
- Over 33,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with orders taken up until 8pm (weekdays) for next day delivery to home or site.
- Screwfix.com attracts over 5.8 million visits per week.
- We have over 8 million active customers a year.
- The Screwfix Click & Collect service, which enables customers to pick-up their goods in as little as one minute after ordering online or over the phone, is used more than 10 million times a year.
- UK-based Screwfix Contact Centre open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including bank holidays) on 03330 112 112.
- See [www.screwfix.com/stores](http://www.screwfix.com/stores) for store opening information.
- Next day delivery is available within store opening hours.
- World leading customer satisfaction levels.
- Screwfix was awarded Glassdoor's Best Places to Work in 2017 and 2018.
- Screwfix was awarded Retail Week's 'Best Retailer over £250m' and 'Digital Pioneer' awards in 2018
- Screwfix was awarded in the A-Z of Recognised Retailers in the Retail Top 100 Movers & Shakers Report 2019
- Screwfix was awarded Retail Week's 'Mark of Excellence' for Best Place to Work in 2019
- The Screwfix and Wincanton team came highly commended in the **Chep Award for Supply Chain Strategy and Design** at the Logistics Manager Supply Chain Excellence Awards 2019.
- For more information about Screwfix please visit our media centre:  
[www.screwfixmedia.co.uk](http://www.screwfixmedia.co.uk)

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