

# The Top Family Business Apprentice Employers 2023

Family Business United has compiled a list of the Top 15 Family Business Apprentice Employers to demonstrate the contribution that family firms across the UK are making to employing apprentices and their investment in the next generation of employees. Submissions were received from all corners of the UK and the top 15 represent the best in terms of the number of apprentices, the creation of new apprenticeships and the number of apprentices completing and graduating from their apprenticeship programme.

## Key Findings



23,125

staff are employed by  
the top 15 family business  
apprentice employers  
across the UK

**JCB**

top the list  
in terms of  
the number  
of apprentices



Bagnalls are the **top family business  
apprentice employer** in the UK



**Our apprentices bring wealth and value to our business, allowing us to grow as a company and take important steps towards becoming a learning organisation. Apprenticeships are fantastic platforms that allow individuals to upskill while continuing their daily work, and the broad range available allow us to apply apprenticeship programmes to all aspects of our diverse business.”**

**Ben Tucker**

Learning & Development Coordinator – Simpsons Malt Limited



**TOP  
15**

## The Top 15 Family Business Apprentice Employers 2023

Family Business	Business Sector	Total Staff	Number Of Apprentices*	% Of Apprentices	New Apprentices This Year**	Apprentices Graduating This Year***
1. Bagnalls	Property & Construction	618	56	9.06%	36	8
2. Hodgkinson Builders	Property & Construction	49	8	16.33%	4	4
3. JCT600	Motor Retail	2237	102	4.56%	79	41
4. Bell Contracting Ltd	Property & Construction	245	19	7.76%	12	3
5. Simpsons Malt Limited	Food & Drink	348	17	4.89%	7	16
6. Hendy Group	Motor Retail	1682	105	6.24%	56	6
7. JCB	Manufacturing & Engineering	8636	253	2.93%	176	39
8. Arco Ltd	Experts in Safety	1243	33	2.65%	19	15
9. The Clancy Group	Property & Construction	2113	44	2.08%	32	13
10. GAP Group	Property & Construction	1982	69	3.48%	22	8
11. Sound Leisure Ltd	Manufacturing & Engineering	69	5	7.25%	0	1
12. Frederick Robinson Ltd	Food & Drink	832	28	3.37%	11	4
13. Bailie Group	Consulting	420	14	3.33%	6	3
14. WH Malcolm	Transport & Distribution	2023	36	1.78%	11	0
15. Allied Vehicles Group	Specialist Vehicles Supplier	628	9	1.43%	2	3

### Notes:

\* Total number of apprentices on apprenticeships in the year to June 30, 2023

\*\* Number of apprentices that started their apprenticeship in the year to June 30, 2023

\*\*\* Number of apprentices graduating from their apprenticeship programme in the year to June 30, 2023



**Our apprentices are an investment in our future. By hiring youngsters at the start of their career, we are safeguarding not only future skills, but also the long-term growth of our business. I am proud to say that a quarter of my team, both men and women, started as apprentices with Hodgkinson Builders, and they are truly invaluable.”**

**Ian Hodgkinson**

Managing Director – Hodgkinson Builders

## Key Findings

**473** new apprenticeships started in 2023

There are **798 apprentices** employed by the top 15 family business apprentice employers

**164** apprentices graduated in 2023 from the top 15 apprentice employers

**Hodgkinsons have the highest proportion of apprentices amongst their workforce**



**Family businesses are innovative and entrepreneurial and it is great to see so many providing apprenticeships within their organisations. Our second report highlights the growing importance of apprenticeships to family firms across the UK and the continuing commitment from leading family businesses to continue to invest in the ongoing development of the next generation of their staff. There are significant numbers of apprenticeship opportunities within the family business sector in the UK today.”**

**Paul Andrews**  
Founder & CEO, Family Business United

### Methodology

Entries were open to family businesses across all sectors with a minimum of 5 apprentices employed during the year. Each employer provided data for analysis that comprised the total number of staff, total number of apprentices during the period, the number starting their apprenticeship and those graduating from their apprenticeship programme in the year to June 30, 2023. The data was then evaluated and ranked with the consolidated rankings used to compile the overall Family Business Apprentice Employers listing.

Family Business United is a global champion of the family business sector, celebrating the contribution of family firms in terms of jobs provided, income generated and wealth created. Find out more at [www.familybusinessunited.com](http://www.familybusinessunited.com)