

Attention all electrical employers...



We're in a recession and there's no doubt that the electrotechnology industry is beginning to feel the effects. It seems that when it comes to taking on new apprentices, many employers are adopting a 'wait and see' approach – which has resulted in the number of new electrical apprentices entering the national training system falling dramatically.

As it stands, compared to this time last year, there's been a 55% drop in the number of people beginning an apprenticeship – which equates to a 3% reduction in the overall number of electrical apprentices in the national training system. Given this drop in new people entering the industry, it's more important than ever that we work together.

For employers who are feeling the pinch, please talk to an ETITO training manager before laying-off any apprentices. We're keen to try and make sure the investment in time and money by the apprentice, their employer and government [through ETITO] doesn't go to waste, and our training managers may be able to broker a solution, such as a secondment or apprentice-sharing arrangement.

Employers keen to continue training may find value in taking on someone who's started their apprenticeship but now needs to find a new employer. Many of these people have finished a considerable portion of their apprenticeship which means they already possess a lot of practical skills – and are passionate about pursuing a career in this industry. Our training managers may be able to help put you in touch with someone in this situation.

It's of central importance that enough qualified tradespeople are available to work when the economy recovers – as it inevitably will. Severe skill-shortages in the electrotechnology industry have hamstrung business growth in the past, and on-going, industry-wide training is the only way to solve this in future. With this in mind, we're currently working with ECANZ to explore ways to help maintain the numbers of apprentices in training.

There's no denying we're entering a critical period for training in the electrotechnology industry. The actions you take now will have an enormous impact on the ability of industry to react when the economy recovers.

If you would like to find out how you can play a critical role in ensuring the future of the industry, contact an ETITO training manager.