

# Industrial Sector Summary Bulletin for Shropshire

March 2023

## Key Points

- The number of Shropshire residents employed remained virtually unchanged between 2011 and 2021. However, the types of industries in which people are employed have changed, with some sectors having experienced strong growth over the last decade and others declining.
- There has been a strong up-lift in employment in health and social care, construction, information and communication and in administration and support services.
- Numbers employed in accommodation and food services fell substantially; this will have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had a disproportionately adverse impact on the hospitality trade.
- The fall in employment in manufacturing may also have been affected by social distancing regulations which limited the number of people that could be working together on site. Increased levels of automation in this sector may also have had an impact.
- Census data relates to the industry in which Shropshire residents are employed rather than the key industry sectors which make up the Shropshire economy. While there is undoubtedly commonality between the two, there are some sectors where there is an over-supply of workers and where out-commuting is high (education, public administration, construction) and others where Shropshire is reliant on in-commuters to fill local need (agriculture, accommodation and food services).



## Industrial Structure

The total number of Shropshire people in employment rose only very marginally between 2011 and 2021. However, over the decade, the industrial structure changed significantly, with a strong increase in some sectors and declining employment in others. Fastest employment growth has been in health and social work, with an additional 3,566 employments (+17.2%), with construction, information and communication and administration and support also achieving double digit employment growth. In contrast, there is now significantly less employment in manufacturing, transport and storage and accommodation and food services than there was in 2011.

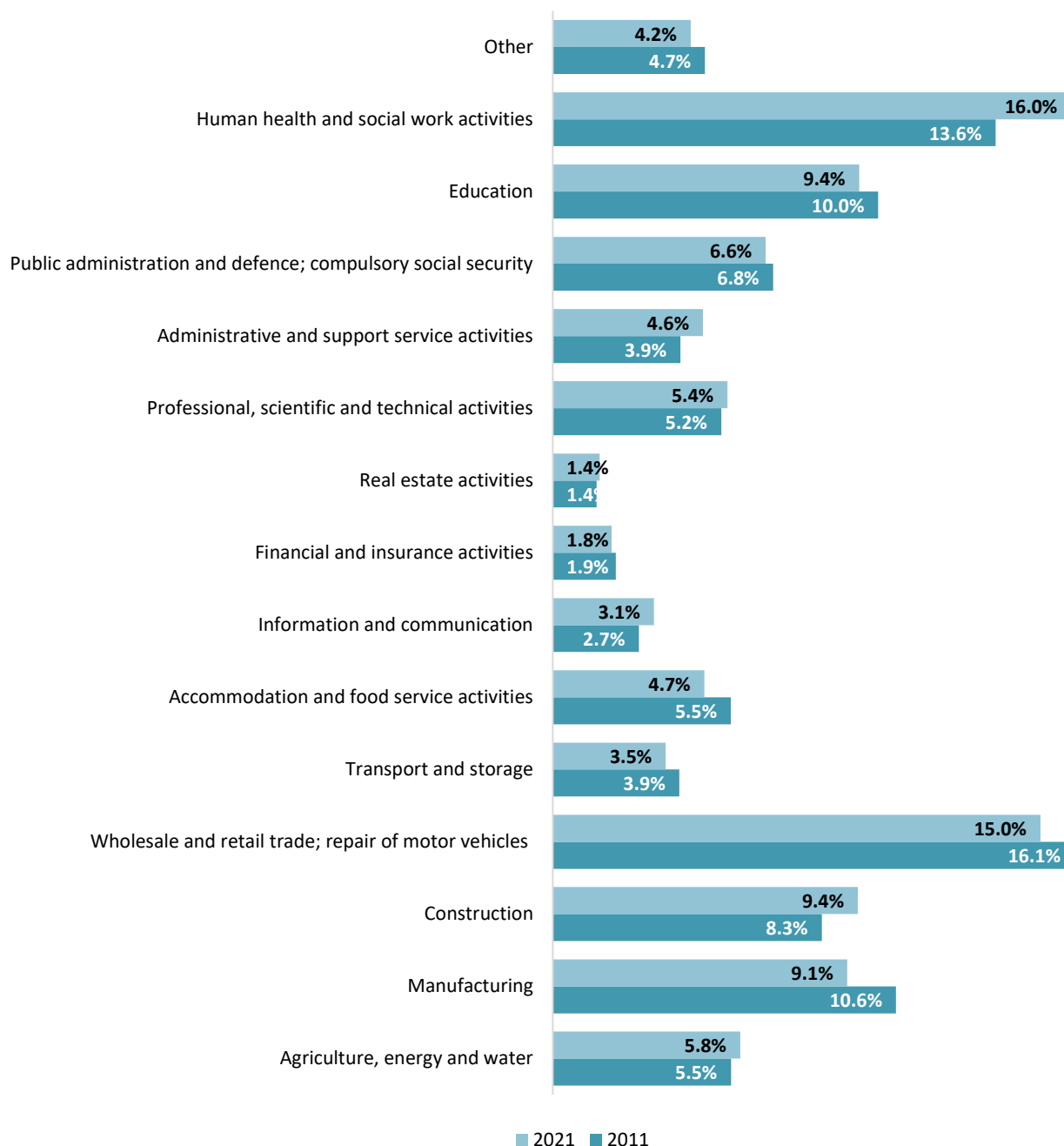
### Numbers in Employment by Occupation

	2011	2021	Change	% Change
Agriculture, energy & water	8,362	8,804	+422	+5.3%
Manufacturing	16,106	13,817	-2,289	-14.2%
Construction	12,619	14,326	+1,707	+13.5%
Wholesale & retail; repair of motor vehicles	24,474	22,894	-1,580	-6.5%
Transport & storage	5,932	5,300	-632	-10.7%
Accommodation & food services	8,353	7,117	-1,236	-14.8%
Information & communication	4,040	4,755	+715	+17.7%
Financial & insurance	2,962	2,763	-199	-6.7%
Real estate activities	2,058	2,198	+140	+6.8%
Professional, scientific & technical	7,903	8,202	+299	+3.8%
Administrative & support	5,987	7,052	+1,065	+17.8%
Public administration & defence	10,337	9,999	-338	-3.3%
Education	15,266	14,385	-881	-5.8%
Human health & social work	20,772	24,338	+3,566	+17.2%
Other	7,138	6,470	-668	-9.4%
Total	152,309	152,420	+111	0.1%

Of the main industry classifications, human health and social care accounts for the highest share of employments amongst Shropshire residents, ahead of wholesale and retail. Manufacturing, construction and education also account for approaching a tenth of Shropshire workers.



## Breakdown by Industry, 2011 & 2021



## Location Quotients

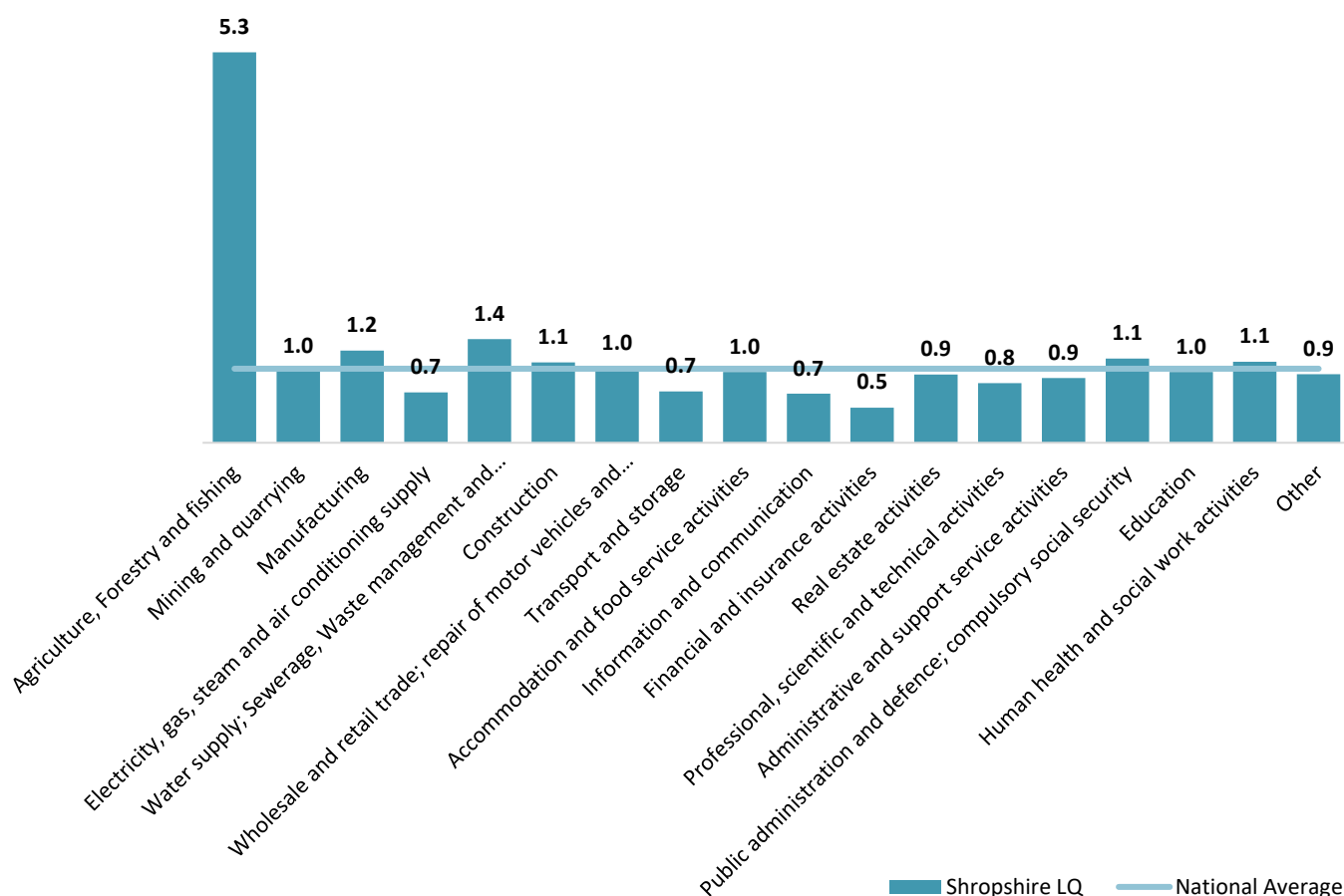
The relative importance of industries in comparison with the national average can be measured using location quotients (LQs). Any industry with a score of over 1 is more prevalent in Shropshire than it is nationally, and any score below 1 is less prevalent.

The following chart shows that there is one industry group which is significantly more important in Shropshire than it is in England – agriculture, forestry and fishing, which has an LQ of 5.3.

Other industries which are more common amongst Shropshire residents include manufacturing, water supply, construction, public administration and health and social work. Significantly less important employment sectors for Shropshire residents are finance and insurance, information and communication, transport & storage and electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning.



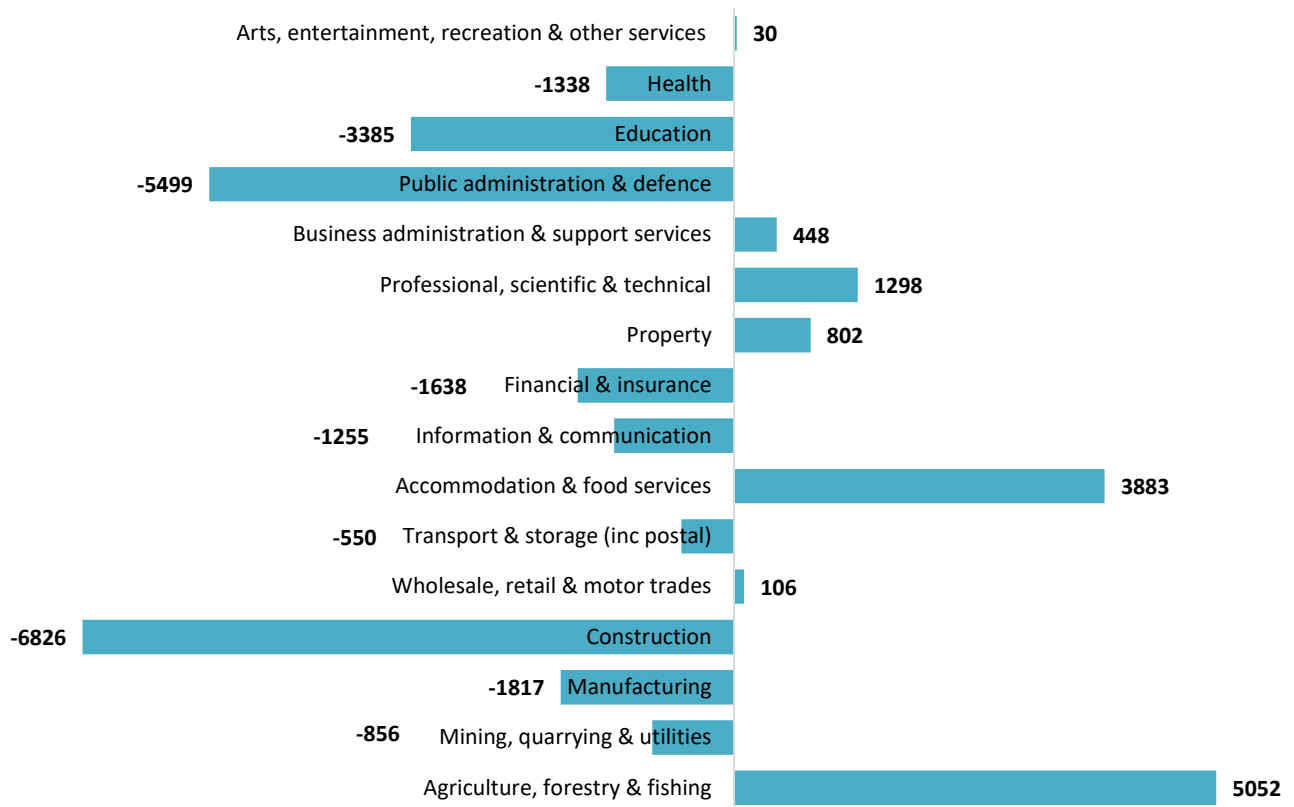
## Relative Importance of Industries by LQ, 2021



There are more resident workers in Shropshire than there are employments. Looking at Census data, which is resident focused, in conjunction with the ONS Business Register of Employment Survey (BRES), which is workplace focused, suggests that there are roughly 11,500 more workers in the county than there are jobs. Supply and demand varies according to sector, however. The data suggests that Shropshire is heavily reliant on in-commuters to fill jobs in agriculture, accommodation and food services and professional, scientific and technical. Significant numbers of residents who work in public administration and defence, construction and education commute out of Shropshire for work.



## Difference between Shropshire Resident and Shropshire Workforce Employment Sectors



## Definitions

### Employed (In employment)

- A person aged 16+ is defined as employed (or in employment) if in the week before the census they carried out at least one hour's paid work, either as an employee or self-employed.

This includes casual or temporary work, on a government-sponsored training scheme, doing paid or unpaid work for their own or family business, being away from work ill, on maternity leave, or on holiday or temporarily laid off.

### Main job

- The 'Main job' of a person aged 16+ is the job in which they usually work the most hours. For people not working at the time of the census the main job relates to the person's last job. Topics based on employment all relate to a person's main job.

### Industry

- The industry in which a person works relates to their main job and is derived from the description of the main activity of the employer. This is used to assign responses to an industrial code based on the Standard Industry Classification 2007 (SIC2007).

*The data in this bulletin have been extracted from 2021 Census table TS060 and from 2011 Census DC6602EW and from ONS Business Register of Employment Survey (BRES) 2021*

For more information please contact: [BusinessIntelligence@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:BusinessIntelligence@shropshire.gov.uk)

Or refer to ONS website:

[Labour market and travel to work: Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

