



2011 Census Digest: Homeworking

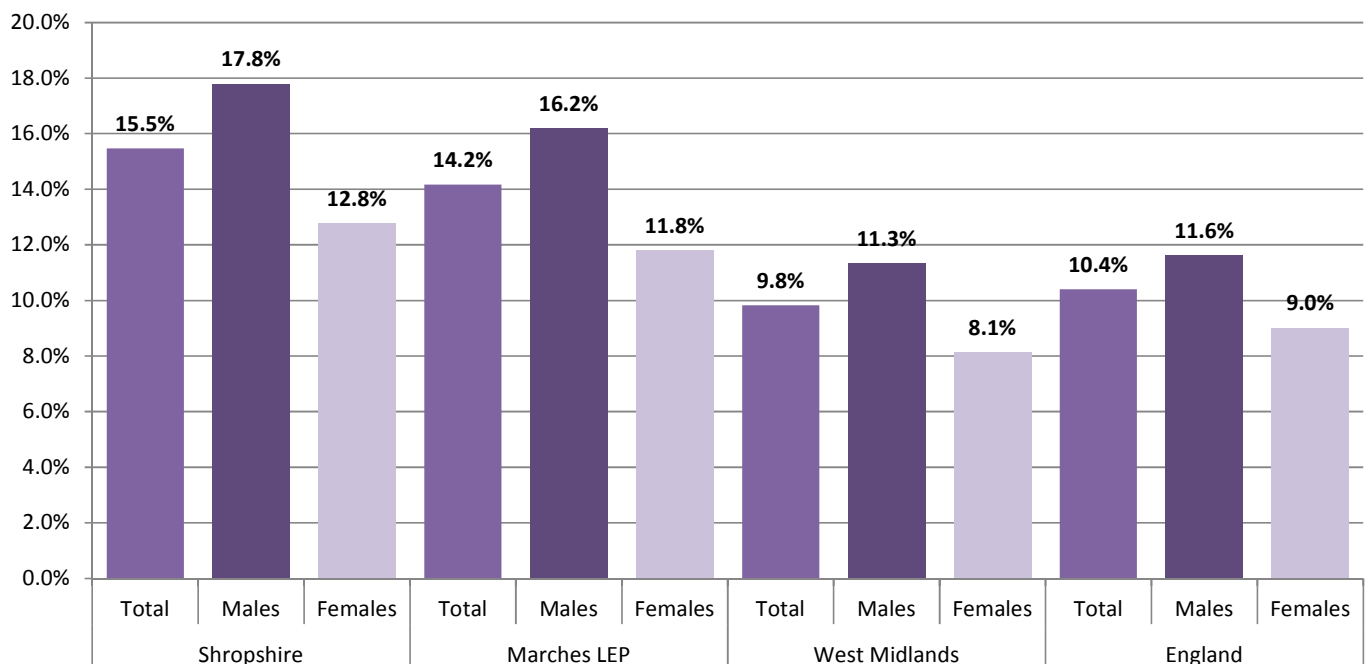
Key Findings

- More than one in six Shropshire residents that was in employment at the time of the last Census said that their home was their primary work base. This is significantly higher than is the case regionally or nationally (around a tenth of total employment in both the West Midlands and England is accounted for by homeworking).
- The majority of homeworkers are self-employed, and almost half of all self-employed people work primarily from home.
- Men are more likely to work from home than women, primarily because men are more than twice as likely as women to be self-employed. Women who are self-employed, however, are even more likely to be based at home than their male counterparts.
- The propensity to work primarily from home rises with age, with older age bands (age 50+) in Shropshire accounting for a disproportionately large percentage of all homeworkers compared with either the West Midlands or England.
- Homeworking is particularly common in the most rural parts of Shropshire and is much less common in more urban locations, especially Shrewsbury town centre and Oswestry.

Introduction

23,567 Shropshire residents aged 16 and over claimed to work mainly from home at the time of the March 2011 Census. This is the equivalent of 15.5% of all those in employment. The proportion working primarily from home is higher for men than women (17.8% compared with 12.8%), as it is nationwide. Proportionally, there are more homeworkers in Shropshire than there are regionally (9.8%) or nationally (10.4%) and working mainly from home is also slightly more widespread in Shropshire than it is in the wider Marches Local Enterprise Partnership area.

Percentage of those in employment who work primarily from home, 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2013

Change

In 2011, there were 20,252 home workers in Shropshire of working age (with an additional 3,315 aged 65 and above). This means that there are now an additional 3,432 people aged 16-64 who work primarily from home than there were a decade ago. This equates with a rise of 20.4%, which is more than double the rise in the number of people who are in employment (+9.8% between 2001 and 2011). The rise in the number of people working primarily from home has been much sharper than it has regionally or nationally.

Change in the number of homeworkers of working age, 2001-2011

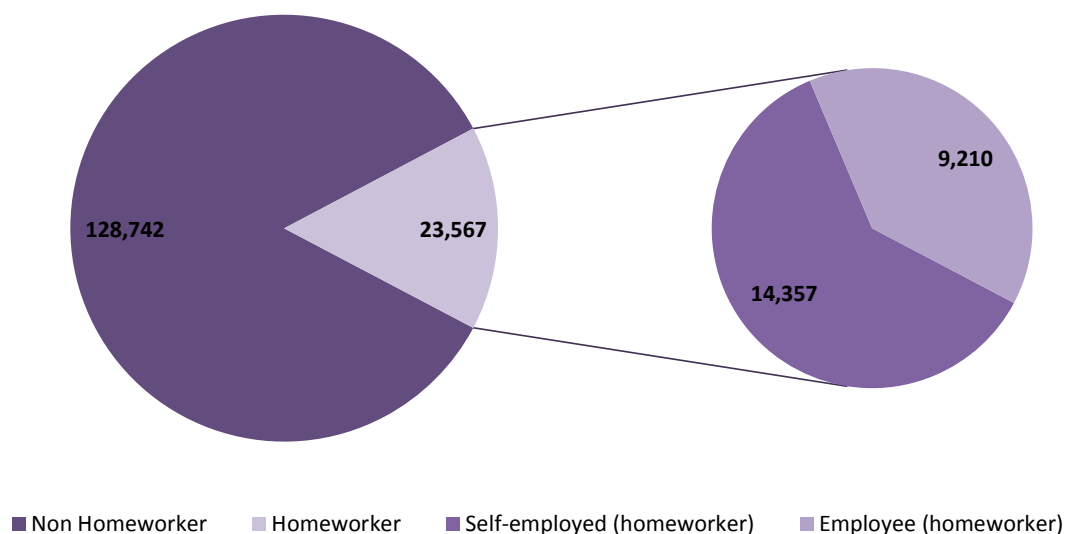
	Number of home workers aged 16-64			
	2001	2011	Net change	% change
Shropshire	16,820	20,252	+3,432	20.4%
Marches LEP	33,833	39,436	+5,603	16.6%
West Midlands	199,499	226,583	+27,084	13.6%
England	2,068,325	2,387,430	+319,105	15.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2013

Employment status of homeworkers

60.9% of Shropshire residents who primarily work from home are self-employed while the remaining 39.1% are employees. In total the number of self-employed Shropshire residents aged 16 and over at the time of the Census was 29,490. Almost half (48.7%) of self-employed people, therefore, work predominantly from home. In contrast, just 7.5% of employees (9,210 people) have their home as their principal work base.

Breakdown of homeworkers by employment status, 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2013

Compared with the West Midlands and England, a higher proportion of homeworkers in Shropshire are self-employed. Self-employed homeworkers are also significantly more likely to work full-time than their regional and national counterparts, with 67.4% working full-time in Shropshire compared with 61.3% in England and 63.2% in the West Midlands.

Around two-thirds of employees who work mainly from home in Shropshire are also full-time – in the case of home-based employees, the split between full and part-time in Shropshire is much more closely aligned to the regional and national averages.

Employment status of homeworkers, 2011

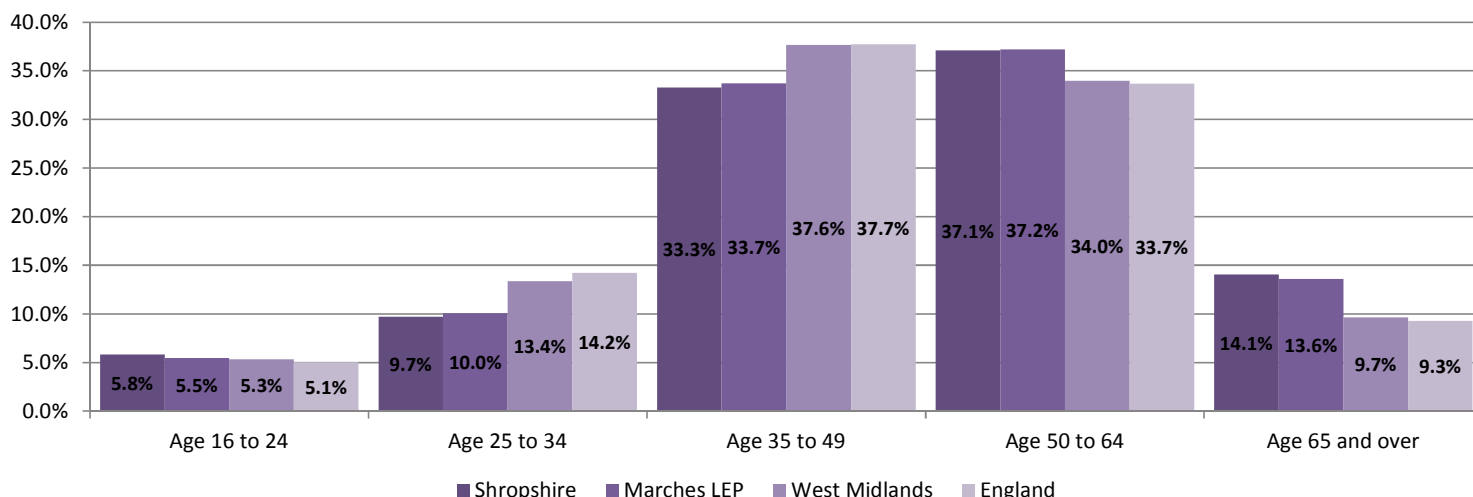
	Shropshire		Marches LEP		West Midlands		England	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
In employment	23,567	100.0%	45,647	100.0%	250,813	100.0%	2,631,930	100.0%
Employee: Total	9,210	39.1%	18,020	39.5%	114,363	45.6%	1,161,183	44.1%
<i>Employee: Part-time (including full-time students)</i>	3,038	12.9%	5,966	13.1%	38,418	15.3%	397,461	15.1%
<i>Employee: Full-time (including full-time students)</i>	6,172	26.2%	12,054	26.4%	75,945	30.3%	763,722	29.0%
Self-employed: Total	14,357	60.9%	27,627	60.5%	136,450	54.4%	1,470,747	55.9%
<i>Self-employed: Part-time (including full-time students)</i>	4,680	19.9%	9,132	20.0%	50,271	20.0%	568,558	21.6%
<i>Self-employed: Full-time (including full-time students)</i>	9,677	41.1%	18,495	40.5%	86,179	34.4%	902,189	34.3%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2013

Age profile of homeworkers

Homeworkers in Shropshire are much more likely to be aged 50 or over than homeworkers either regionally or nationally, with this age band accounting for 51.2% of all those working primarily at home (43% in England). At the other end of the scale, the 16-24 age band also accounts for a slightly higher proportion of homeworkers than is the case nationally. Proportionally, therefore, there are fewer Shropshire homeworkers aged 25-49.

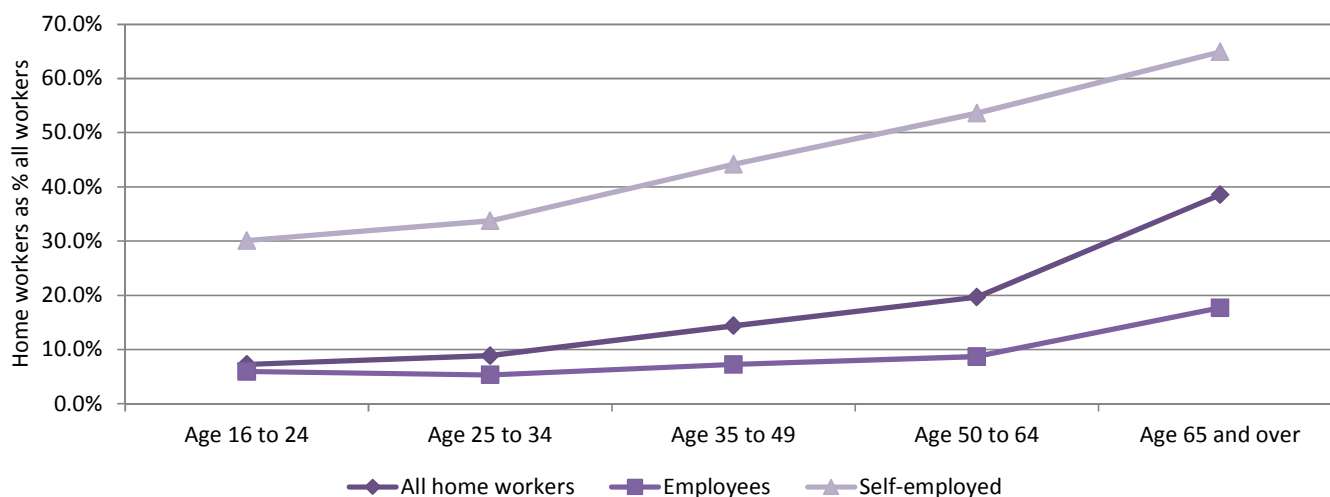
Breakdown of home workers by age, 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2013

The graph below shows that there is a direct correlation between age and the propensity to work from home. Just 7.3% of 16-24 year olds in employment work primarily from home, compared with 38.5% of those aged 65 and over. The increase in the proportion of self-employed residents working mainly from home rises from 30.1% of 16-24 year olds to 64.9% of those aged 65 and over with the bias towards homeworking rising relatively steadily across the age bands. The likelihood of employees working mainly from home also increases strongly with age, albeit from a much lower base. 5.9% of 16-24 year old employees work principally from home compared with 17.7% of employees aged 65 and above. The proportion of employees working from home more than doubles for the 65 and over age band compared with the 50-64 age bracket.

Percentage working from home by age band and employment status, 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2013

Homeworking across Shropshire

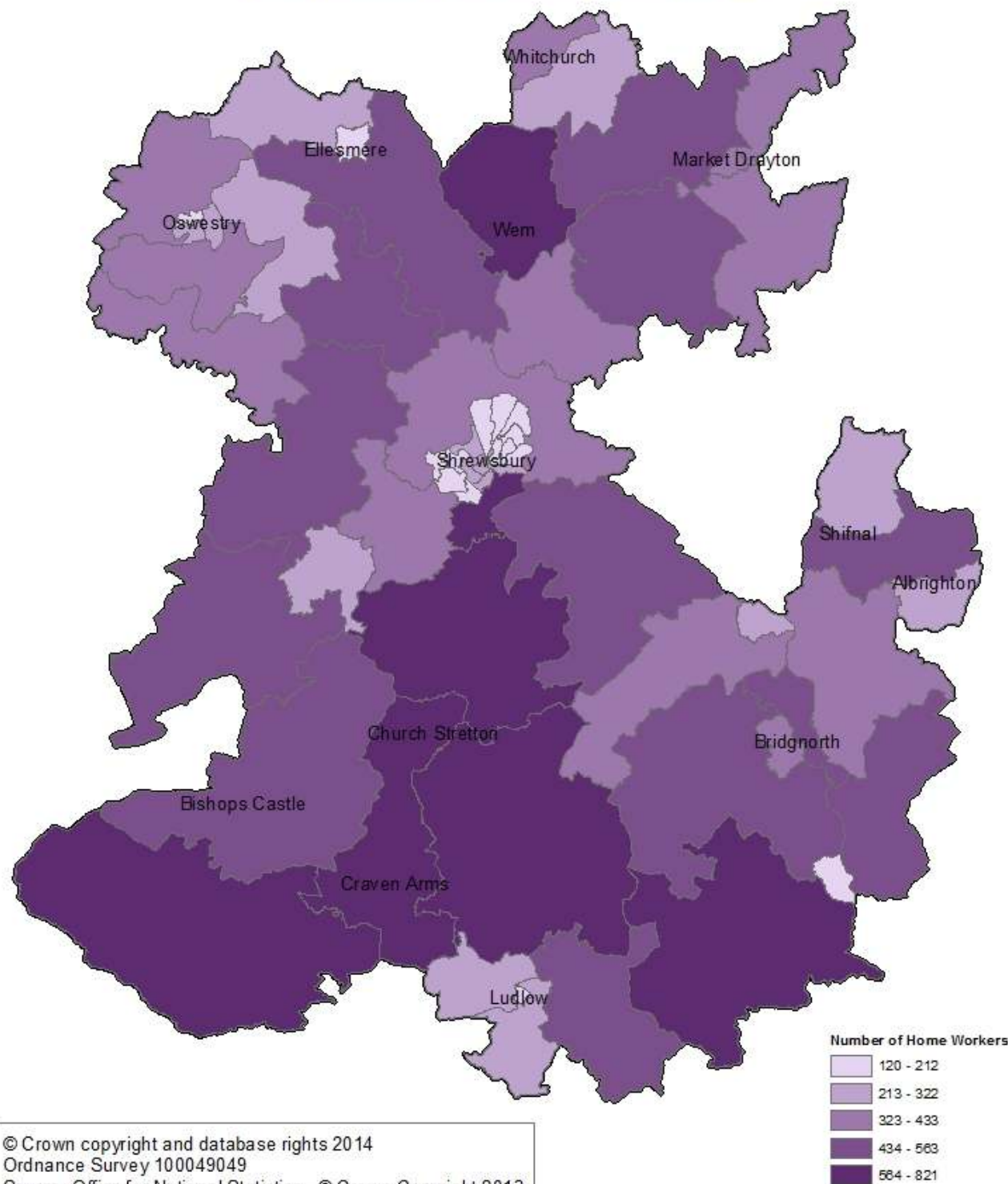
Workers who live in more rural locations in Shropshire are more likely to work primarily from home than residents of the main towns, as illustrated by the following map. 12 Shropshire electoral divisions have more than 500 homeworkers:

- Cleobury Mortimer
- Church Stretton & Craven Arms
- Corvedale
- Clun
- Wem
- Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton
- Burnell
- Hodnet
- Bishops Castle
- Loton
- Brown Clee
- The Meres

More than a fifth of those in employment in Bishops Castle, Clun and Corvedale, as well as Chirbury and Worthen, work mainly from home. In contrast, less than 5% of those in employment in the Shrewsbury wards of Monkmoor, Harlescott, Sundorne, Battlefield and Castlefields & Ditherington as well as in Oswestry East work primarily from home.

Please note: ward data refers to home workers aged 16-74

Number of Home Workers by Shropshire Electoral Division, 2011



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 Ordnance Survey 100049049
 Source: Office for National Statistics © Crown Copyright 2013
 Note: Home workers aged 16-74



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Scale : 1:375,000

Definitions

Employed (In employment)

A person aged over 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.

Homeworking

A person is defined as working mainly from home if they gave their home as their principal place of work, not only if they ticked "work mainly at home" in the travel to work question.

Footnote

The information in this digest relates to ONS Census 2011 tables DC6607EW1a, DC6107EW and CT0045.

If you require any further information, or have any other research requests, please contact:

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