

# Shropshire Economic Assessment 2008

## North Shropshire District

Economy,  
Labour Market,  
Learning  
and Skills



June 2008

## North Shropshire

- North Shropshire has a low population density of 0.88 people per hectare.

**Table 1: Population Density of North Shropshire in 2006**

	Population			Area		Density	
	Number	Annual Change 2005 - 2006		Hectares*	Sq. miles	Persons per hectare	Persons per sq. mile
<b>North Shropshire</b>	59,500	600	1.0	67,922	262	0.88	226.9
<b>North Area</b>	99,200	1200	1.2	93,530	361	1.1	274.8
<b>Shropshire</b>	289,300	1500	0.5	319,736	1,235	0.90	234.3
<b>West Midlands</b>	5,366,700	16,000	0.3	1,299,800	5,020	4.13	1069.3
<b>England</b>	50,762,900	297,300	0.6	13,042,300	50,357	3.89	1,008.1

Source: Population Estimates Mid-2006 National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2007

\* A hectare is 10,000 square metres. There are 100 hectares to a square kilometre.

- Population in North Shropshire since 1991 has increased at a higher rate than England and the West Midlands.

**Table 2: Population 1991 and 2006**

	Mid Year Population			2006 Mid Year Population by Age		
	1991	2006	Change 1991- 2006	0-15	16- Retirement Age	Retirement Age+
<b>North Shropshire</b>	53,500	59,500	11.2	11,100	35,300	13,000
<b>North Area</b>	87,800	99,200	13.1	18,700	58,900	21,600
<b>Shropshire</b>	268,700	289,300	7.7	52,700	170,500	66,100
<b>West Midlands</b>	5,229,700	5,366,700	2.6	1,057,500	3,281,800	1,027,400
<b>England</b>	47,875,000	50,762,900	6.0	9,674,000	32,626,700	9,462,300

Source: 2006 Mid Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2007

## Travel to Work

In North Shropshire 22.6% of those employed work from home, this is higher than the national and regional figures. The largest group of people travel less than 2km to work in North Shropshire, compared to nationally and regionally where the highest percentage of people travel 2-5km to work. Table 3.

**Table 3. Distances travelled to work in North Shropshire, 2001.**

	% Work from home	% Travel less than 2 KM	% Travel 2-5 KM	% Travel 5-10KM	% Travel 10- 20KM	% Travel more than 20KM
<b>North Shropshire</b>	22.6%	27.7%	8.3%	12.5%	15.0%	13.8%
<b>Shropshire</b>	19.9%	26.9%	14.1%	11.8%	13.7%	13.6%
<b>West Midlands</b>	12.8%	20.2%	22.6%	19.3%	14.2%	11.0%
<b>England</b>	13.6%	20.0%	20.2%	18.3%	15.3%	12.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): 2001 Census, © Crown Copyright 2006.

Travel to work information is explored further in Shropshire's Travel to Work Report.

For further information on Shropshire  
<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/index.nsf>  
The labour market <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>  
The Economy, Population and Society for the UK <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>  
Local level economic information on Shropshire <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>  
Tourism Research and Tourism <http://www.staruk.org.uk/>  
Shropshire Tourism <http://www.shropshiretourism.info/shropshire-visitor-attractions/>  
Shropshire Tourism Research Unit <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/tourism.nsf>

## VAT Stocks 2006

At the end of the year 2006 there were 2,865 businesses registered for VAT in North Shropshire; this figure represents 22% of the total in Shropshire. Nationally 1.8 million of the estimated 4.3 million enterprises in the UK were VAT-registered in 2006.

The industrial structure of VAT registered businesses is illustrated in Table 4.

- The highest concentration in North Shropshire is found in Agriculture and fishing 27.6%, much higher than in the West Midlands and England.
- The next highest is in Wholesale and retail, followed by Real estate.
- These proportions are similar in the North Area as a whole.

**Table 4: VAT Stocks at the End of 2006 by Industry**

	North Shropshire		Shropshire		England		North Area	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
AB - Agriculture; fishing	790	27.6	3,045	22.9	94,170	5.6	1,105	25.0
CE - Mining; energy/water	5	0.2	10	0.1	1,235	0.1	5	0.1
D - Manufacturing	180	6.3	875	6.6	134,205	8.0	295	6.7
F - Construction	300	10.5	1,495	11.2	192,945	11.6	510	11.5
G - Wholesale & retail	555	19.4	2,540	19.1	346,280	20.7	845	19.1
H - Hotels & restaurants	185	6.5	960	7.2	116,755	7.0	305	6.9
I - Transport & communication	125	4.4	600	4.5	73,275	4.4	235	5.3
J - Finance	15	0.5	90	0.7	18,815	1.1	25	0.6
K - Real Estate	515	18.0	2,755	20.7	534,640	32.0	810	18.3
LO - Public admin; other	150	5.2	760	5.7	131,390	7.9	220	5.0
MN - Education; health	45	1.6	190	1.4	26,640	1.6	65	1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,320</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,670,350</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,420</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis) VAT Registrations and Deregistrations, © Crown Copyright 2007

### VAT Registrations and Deregistrations 2006

During 2006 there were 220 VAT Registrations and 165 Deregistrations in North Shropshire giving a net gain of 55. This is not a true representation of business start-ups and closures because a businesses may have crossed the VAT threshold or fallen below it. However, an estimated rate of new business start-ups or closures can be calculated by showing new business registrations or deregistrations during 2006 against the total number of registered businesses at the end of 2005. This figure will only cover businesses which register for VAT, so very small businesses and those exempt will not be included.

- During 2006, North Shropshire had a lower rate of business start-up and a lower closure rate than the West Midlands and England. Table 5.
- The South Area as a whole had similar rates.

**Table 5: New Business Start-up Rates and Business Closure Rates 2006**

	VAT Registrations During 2006	VAT Deregistrations During 2006	VAT Stock at the end of 2006	New Business Start-up Rate 2006	Business Closure Rate 2006
North Shropshire	220	165	2,865	7.7	5.8
Shropshire	1,035	745	13,320	7.8	5.6
North Area	350	245	4,420	7.9	5.5
West Midlands	14,795	11,845	164,805	9.0	7.2
Great Britain	177,765	139,205	1,892,215	9.4	7.4

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis) VAT Registrations and Deregistrations, © Crown Copyright 2007

## Net Change 1980 to 2006

Table 6 shows the net change in VAT registered businesses in North Shropshire since 1980<sup>1</sup>; as with the County; the down turn in the mid 80's, boom years of the early and late 1980's and recession of the early 1990's can be seen. The net changes in the 1990's were more erratic, a trend continuing into the 2000's.

- In North Shropshire the actual number of business registered for VAT is at its highest in 2006 2,865.
- The new business start-up rate was highest in 1989 when it reached 11.1%; lower than 15.5% in the West Midlands and 16.6% in Great Britain. Recently rates have stabilised at 7.2% – 7.8%.
- The business closure rate peaked in 1992 when the rate in North Shropshire was 9.9%, lower than the West Midlands and Great Britain. Rates have stabilised in North Shropshire at around 6 or 7%

**Table 6. VAT Registrations and Deregistrations in North Shropshire 1980 – 2006.**

Date	Registrations	Deregistrations	Total Stocks	Net Change
1980	190	150	2,205	40
1981	155	140	2,245	15
1982	170	140	2,260	30
1983	215	150	2,290	65
1984	195	155	2,355	40
1985	170	175	2,395	-5
1986	200	175	2,385	25
1987	225	180	2,410	45
1988	245	185	2,455	60
1989	280	170	2,515	110
1990	245	215	2,620	30
1991	210	210	2,655	0
1992	195	255	2,565	-60
1993	200	230	2,510	-30
1994	170	180	2,590	-10
1995	205	185	2,615	20
1996	145	180	2,580	-35
1997	170	185	2,565	-15
1998	210	150	2,625	60
1999	190	180	2,635	10
2000	195	165	2,665	30
2001	200	170	2,690	30
2002	195	210	2,675	-15
2003	205	205	2,675	0
2004	205	160	2,720	45
2005	180	180	2,720	0
2006	220	165	2,865	55

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis) VAT Registrations and Deregistrations, © Crown Copyright 2007

<sup>1</sup> Increases in the VAT registration threshold in 1991 and 1993 mean that only broad comparisons should be made across the period from 1980 to current.

## Average Earnings

- Male workers in North Shropshire earn £45.00 per week more than male full time workers in Shropshire.
- North Shropshire has lower weekly pay for full time workers than the West Midlands and England.
- Full-time workers in North Shropshire work more hours than in the West Midlands and England.

**Table 7. Pay and Hours for North Shropshire, 2007.**

	Male Full Time Workers	Female Full Time Workers	Full Time Workers	Part Time Workers
<b>Weekly Pay – Gross £</b>				
North Shropshire	£474.6	#	£379.3	£133.6
Shropshire	£429.2	£343.1	£400.2	£144.0
West Midlands	£467.4	£369.7	£430.0	£140.4
England	£505.5	£399.2	£462.0	£143.9
<b>Hourly Pay – Excluding Overtime £</b>				
North Shropshire	10.19	8.87	9.35	6.16
Shropshire	10.01	8.87	9.61	6.94
West Midlands	11.10	9.71	10.53	6.99
England	12.11	10.55	11.50	7.29
<b>Hours Worked - Total</b>				
North Shropshire	40.0	36.0	40.0	39.0
Shropshire	40.0	37.0	39.1	20.0
West Midlands	39.4	37.0	37.6	19.0
England	39.0	37.0	37.5	19.0

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, © Crown Copyright 2007.  
# Data statistically unreliable.

## Personal Annual Income

The HM Revenue and Customs carry out a personal income survey every year to assess incomes eligible for tax, Table 8. North Shropshire has a median annual total personal income similar to the West Midlands, and lower than England.

**Table 8. Personal Income, 2004 / 2005**

	Tax Paying Individuals	Median Annual Total Income	Median Tax
North Shropshire	31,000	£15,800	£1,920
Shropshire	159,000	£15,700	£1,900
West Midlands	2,640,000	£15,900	£1,990
England	25,400,000	£16,600	£2,140

Source: HM Revenue and Customs, © Crown Copyright 2007

For more information on Average Earnings in Shropshire

Information on Tax and Benefits, Revenue and Customs <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk>

The labour market <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

The Economy, Population and Society for the UK <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

Local information on Shropshire <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

## Labour Market in North Shropshire Annual Population Survey

- North Shropshire has a high economic activity rate of 80.5%. Table 9.
- In 2006, there were 32,900 residents of working age living in North Shropshire, of these 26,500 were economically active.
- Men of working age in North Shropshire have an economic rate nearly 13% higher than females. This trend is consistent with regional and national figures.

**Table 9. Economic Activity, Residence Based, North Shropshire, 2006/7.**

	North Shropshire		North Area		Shropshire		England	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Economic activity rate - working age	26,500	80.5	44,100	79.4	134,600	81.4%	24,120,800	78.6
Economic activity rate males - working age	15,100	86.8	24,700	85.1	74,900	87.3%	13,207,400	83.6
Economic activity rate females - working age	11,500	73.6	19,400	73.3	59,700	75.0%	10,913,400	73.3

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis). Annual Population Survey April 2006 - March 2007, © Crown Copyright 2008

- In North Shropshire people aged between 25 and 34 years have the highest economic activity rates at 86.2%, higher than the figures regionally and nationally. Table 10.
- North Shropshire has an economic rate of 73.6% for those over 50; this is similar to the national and regional average.

**Table 10. Economic Activity by Age, Residence based, 2006/7.**

	North Shropshire		North Area		Shropshire		England	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Economic activity rate - 16-19	3,200	58.7	3,500	65.2	8,200	65.0	1,410,400	54.5
Economic activity rate - 20-24	2,000	72.6	3,200	80.6	11,500	88.4	2,354,400	76.2
Economic activity rate - 25-34	3,900	86.2	6,200	82.6	26,500	87.7	5,339,400	83.9
Economic activity rate - 35-49	13,300	84.6	19,000	84.8	51,800	86.9	9,374,300	85.1
Economic activity rate - 50-retirement age	10,600	81.5	12,200	74.9	36,600	73.3	5,642,400	73.9

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis). Annual Population Survey April 2006 - March 2007, © Crown Copyright 2008

In North Shropshire the highest numbers are employed in the Public admin, education and health industry, followed by manufacturing, Distribution, hotels and restaurants.

**Table 11. Employment by Industry – Residence based, North Shropshire, 2006/7.**

Industry	North Shropshire		North Area		Shropshire		England	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Agriculture and fishing	1,200	6.3	1,800	5.7	4,100	4.1	285,100	1.6
Energy and water	!	!	!	!	700	0.7	217,000	1.2
Manufacturing	5,300	27.9	7,500	23.9	17,700	17.6	3,118,100	17.1
Construction	1,600	8.4	3,300	10.5	11,100	11.0	1,872,600	10.3
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	5,200	27.4	9,400	29.9	27,600	27.5	4,515,600	24.8
Transport and communications	1,900	10.0	2,700	8.6	6,900	6.9	1,619,300	8.9
Banking, finance and insurance	2,400	12.6	3,200	10.2	15,300	15.2	3,924,100	21.5
Public admin. education and health	7,600	40.0	13,300	42.4	42,300	42.1	6,645,500	36.5
Other services	1,800	9.5	2,700	8.6	8,300	8.3	1,514,600	8.3
Total	19,000	100.0	31,400	100.0	100,500	100.0	18,219,100	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis). Annual Population Survey April 2006 - March 2007, © Crown Copyright 2008

Table 12 shows the occupation of residents in North Shropshire.

- North Shropshire has higher percentages of people employed as process plant and machinery occupations and in elementary occupations.
- North Shropshire has low percentages of people employed in professional occupations than nationally.



**Table 12. Employment by Occupation Residence Based, 2006/7.**

Variable	North Shropshire		North Area		Shropshire		England	
	number	percent	Percent		number	percent	number	percent
<b>Managers and senior officials</b>	3,800	13.9	4,900	11.2	17,200	12.8	3,683,200	15.5
<b>Professional occupations</b>	2,900	10.7	4,100	9.4	17,200	12.8	3,109,000	13.1
<b>Associate prof &amp; tech occupations</b>	2,700	10.0	5,200	11.9	17,800	13.2	3,422,600	14.4
<b>Administrative and secretarial occupations</b>	2,300	8.4	4,400	10.0	13,400	10.0	2,865,700	12.0
<b>Skilled trades occupations</b>	3,700	13.5	6,400	14.7	19,200	14.3	2,569,100	10.8
<b>Personal service occupations</b>	2,900	10.8	5,000	11.5	12,400	9.2	1,892,600	7.9
<b>Sales and customer service occupations</b>	1,000	3.7	2,800	6.5	8,800	6.5	1,802,800	7.6
<b>Process, plant and machine operatives</b>	4,300	15.8	5,700	13.1	12,800	9.6	1,684,000	7.1
<b>Elementary occupations</b>	3,600	13.2	5,200	11.9	14,900	11.1	2,711,300	11.4

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis). Annual Population Survey April 2006 - March 2007, © Crown Copyright 2008

### Employment patterns

North Shropshire has a slightly lower percentage of self employed residents, compared to the West Midlands and England. Table 13.

**Table 13. Residents Employed and Self Employed, 2006/7**

Area	Employees (16+)		Self Employed (16+)	
	number	percent	number	percent
North Shropshire	23,100	86.0	3,500	13.0
Shropshire	111,400	83.0	21,300	15.9
North Area	37,500	85.0	6,000	13.7
West Midlands	2,135,000	87.0	291,100	11.9
England	20,480,000	86.0	3,172,400	13.3

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis). Annual Population Survey April 2006 - March 2007, © Crown Copyright 2008

- North Shropshire full-time males make up the majority of the workforce, this is similar to the West Midlands and England. Table 14.
- Females working full-time account for 20.0% of the workforce.

**Table 14. Workforce by Gender and Type, Residence Based, 2006/7**

Area	Males Full-time		Males Part-time		Females Full-time		Females Part-time	
	number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%
North Shropshire	13,700	52.6	800	3.0	5200	20.0	6300	24.2
Shropshire	64,500	50.2	7,200	5.5	29,800	23.2	27,000	21.0
North Area	21,500	51.0	1,700	4.0	8,800	21.0	10,100	24.0
West Midlands	1,171,600	50.2	118,000	5.1	599,900	25.7	445,400	19.1
England	11,268,000	49.4	1,177,600	5.2	6,086,000	26.7	4,263,600	18.7

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis). Annual Population Survey April 2006 - March 2007, © Crown Copyright 2008

*Technical note – Annual Population Survey.*

- *The Annual Population Survey has replaced the LFS and provides information on the labour market.*
- *The APS has a larger sample of 65,000 households, 500,000 people a year to achieve a minimum sample of 500 economically active adults in each local authority district in England.*
- *The APS provides information about individual's circumstances and experiences on a range of subjects including housing, employment and education.*
- *The Economic Activity Rate provides a measure of the proportion of the population who are active, or potentially active members of the labour market, a low activity rate would indicate a high proportion of people who are unavailable for work or training.*
- *Economic activity rates are the number of people of working age who are in employment or unemployed expressed as a percentage of the working age population.*

*For more information on the Labour Market in Shropshire*

The labour market <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

The Economy, Population and Society for the UK <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

Local information on Shropshire <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

Information on Tax and Benefits, Revenue and Customs <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk>

**Annual Business Inquiry, 2006**

- In 2006 there were 20,100 employee jobs located in North Shropshire and of these 10,900 were occupied by men and 9,100 by women. Table 15.
- Male full-time jobs account for 47.0% of the total, male part-time 7.0%, female full-time 22.0% and female part-time 23.0%.

**Table 15. Employment Structure by Type of Job, North Shropshire, 2006**

	Employee Jobs						
	Male Full-time	Male Part-time	Total Male	Female Full-time	Female Part-time	Total Female	Total
North Shropshire	9,400	1,500	10,900	4,500	4,700	9,100	20,100
North Area	15,600	2,800	18,400	8,200	9,000	17,200	35,700
Shropshire	45,900	9,300	55,200	26,000	29,100	55,100	110,300
West Midlands	1,031,900	180,400	1,212,300	604,900	561,000	1,165,900	2,378,132
Great Britain	11,195,700	2,034,700	13,230,400	6,927,500	6,540,200	13,090,100	26,320,600
	% of Total Employee Jobs						
North Shropshire	47	7	54	22	23	45	100
North Area	44	8	52	23	25	48	100
Shropshire	42	8	50	24	26	50	100
West Midlands	43	8	51	25	24	49	100
England	43	8	50	26	25	50	100

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Annual Business Inquiry 2005 Crown Copyright 2007

## Employment Structure 2006

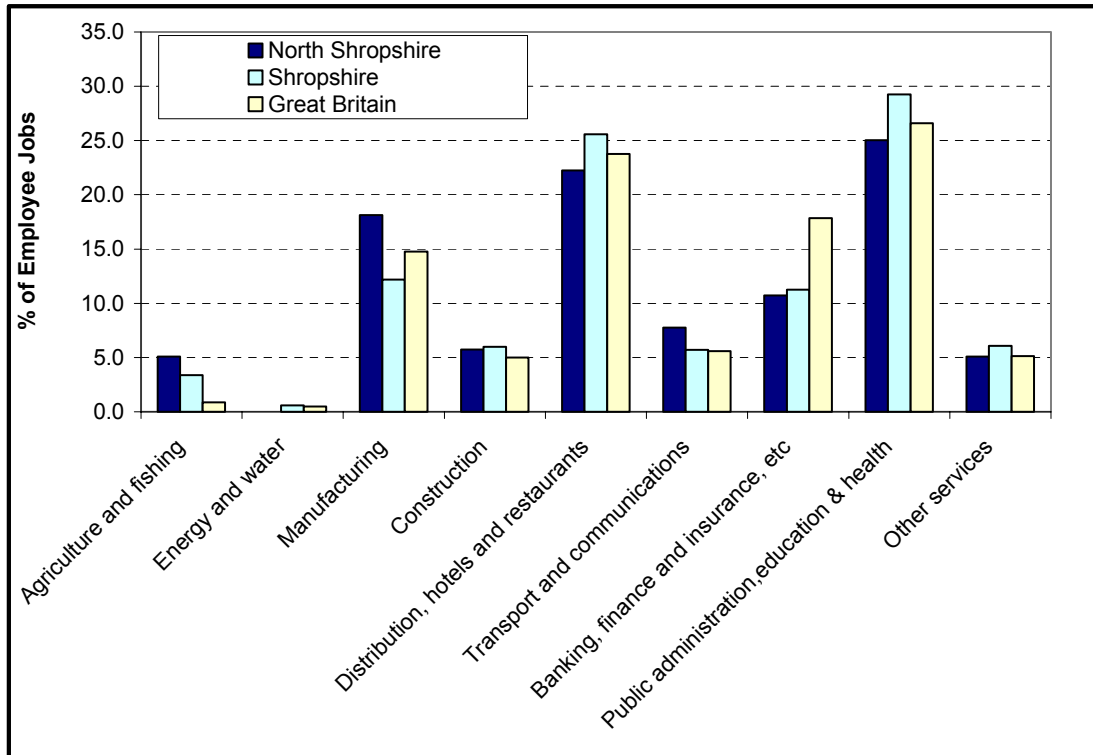
- 71.0% of employee jobs are located in the service sector, sectors 5 to 9, nearly a quarter of employees work in public administration, education and health. Table 15 and Figure 2.
- North Shropshire has 5.1% of employees in the agriculture industry, compared to 0.9% in the West Midlands and Great Britain.

**Table 16. Employment Structure, North Shropshire, 2006.**

Standard Industrial Classification (2003) (SIC)	North Shropshire	%	North Area	Shropshire	%	Great Britain %
1. Agriculture & fishing	1000	5.1	3.6	3700	3.4	0.9
2. Energy and water	*	*	0.3	700	0.6	0.6
3. Manufacturing	3700	18.1	14.9	13400	12.2	10.9
4. Construction	1100	5.7	6.1	6600	6.0	4.8
5. Distribution, hotels, restaurants	4500	22.3	24.7	28200	25.6	23.5
6. Transport & communications	1600	7.8	8.0	6300	5.7	5.9
7. Banking, finance & insurance, etc	2200	10.7	10.0	12400	11.3	21.2
8. Public admin, education & health	5000	25.0	27.6	32300	29.2	26.9
9. Other services	1000	5.1	4.8	6700	6.1	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>20100</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>110300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Annual Business Inquiry 2006, © Crown Copyright 2007  
 The figures exclude the self-employed and HM Forces. The figures have been rounded to 100 for confidentiality and may not sum due to rounding.

**Figure 1. Employment Structure in North Shropshire 2006.**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Annual Business Inquiry 2006, © Crown Copyright 2008

### Size of Workplaces 2006

The Annual Business Inquiry provides information on the size and number of workplaces in North Shropshire.

In 2006, the Annual Business Inquiry recorded 2,514 workplaces in North Shropshire, which employed 19,300 people. The majority of these workplaces fall into the small firms sector; 95.0% (2,398) had less than 25 employees and 87.7% had 10 or fewer employees, Table 16.

**Table 17: Number of Workplaces by Size of Workplace, North Shropshire, 2006**

All Industries and Services	Number of Workplaces (Defined by Data Units)					Total
	1 to 10	11 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 99	100+	
North Shropshire	2,207	191	65	26	25	2,514
North Area	3,561	353	116	49	47	4,126
Shropshire	11,336	1,014	390	187	140	13,067
West Midlands	167,416	17,021	8,159	4,412	3,394	200,402
England	1,755,389	168,706	78,335	40,337	31,915	2,074,682
	Percentage of Total Workplaces					
North Shropshire	87.8	7.6	2.6	1.0	1.0	100.0
North Area	86.3	8.6	2.8	1.2	1.1	100.0
Shropshire	86.8	7.8	3.0	1.4	1.1	100.0
West Midlands	83.5	8.5	4.1	2.2	1.7	100.0
England	84.6	8.1	3.8	1.9	1.5	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), 2006 Annual Business Inquiry, © Crown Copyright 2008. Figures exclude agriculture, the self-employed and HM Forces

Although the majority of workplaces have less than 25 employees, these workplaces account for only 47.7% of the total employees. Table 17. Workplaces with 25+ employees account for 4.6% of the total workplaces and 52.0% of employees.

**Table 18: Number of Employees by Size of Workplace, North Shropshire, 2006**

	Size of Workplaces (Defined by Number of Employees)					Total
	1 to 10	11 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 99	100+*	
<b>All Industries and Services</b>						
<b>North Shropshire</b>	6,200	3,000	2,300	1,700	6,000	19,300
<b>North Area</b>	10,100	5,700	4,000	3,400	11,500	34,600
<b>Shropshire</b>	31,900	16,400	13,700	12,900	32,300	107,200
<b>West Midlands</b>	471,900	280,200	286,900	303,200	1,019,600	2,361,800
<b>England</b>	4,749,800	2,747,700	2,745,800	2,773,400	9,624,500	22,641,300
	Percentage of Total Employees					
<b>North Shropshire</b>	32.1	15.5	12.0	9.0	31.4	100.0
<b>North Area</b>	29.2	16.4	11.6	9.7	33.2	100.0
<b>Shropshire</b>	29.8	15.3	12.8	12.0	30.1	100.0
<b>West Midlands</b>	20.0	11.9	12.1	12.8	43.2	100.0
<b>England</b>	21.0	12.1	12.1	12.2	42.5	100.0

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), 2005 Annual Business Inquiry,  
© Crown Copyright 2007. Figures exclude agriculture, the self-employed and HM Forces.  
\*The 100 – 199 and 200 + groups have been combined for confidentiality.

The average size of a workplace in North Shropshire is 7.6 and in the north area 8.4 people, compared to 11.8 in the West Midlands and 11 in England.

#### *Technical note - Annual Business Inquiry*

- *The Annual Business Inquiry is a sample survey of employers carried out by the Office for National Statistics, which gives employment information based on where people work. The figures, which are grossed up to give full results, are referred to as employee jobs.*
- *The survey records employee jobs located in Shropshire by type and industry but it excludes the self-employed and HM Forces.*
- *Figures for people employed in agriculture are provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF).*
- *The figures have been rounded to 100 for confidentiality; therefore, figures may not sum due to rounding.*
- *The Annual Business Inquiry is a sample survey of businesses, and because of this there are some issues which mean care needs to be taken when viewing the data. Due to it being a sample survey there are some sampling errors which may occur, particularly with the grossing methodologies used to model the data. Approximately 78,000 businesses are surveyed. The sample is drawn following a stratified random design with employment size band (1-9, 10-19, 20-45, 50-99, 100-249 and 250+) region and industry as its dimensions. All businesses over 250 are sampled every year and the remaining size bands are surveyed with a rotation of 50% every year.*
- *Validation carried out on the data for Shropshire has led to some queries about some of the figures produced by the ABI. In particular the consistency of business inclusion at ward level does not seem consistent with know information about the county. There have also been significant changes at ward and district levels in certain industries which do not correspond with know information about the development and business patterns. Some of these issues may be due to the ABI being derived from a sample and modelled on the economy as a country rather than taking in to account individual changes in a county, particularly Shropshire which due to its rural quality does not follow patterns of economy and development as a more urban area does. Errors may also occur if employers do not return forms, fill them incorrectly or inconsistently, or for other reasons, are completely left out of the sample. Business headquarters has also led to inconsistencies in data in how they are recorded.*
- *The Annual Business Inquiry data from Nomis has been combined into nine broad industrial groups, which been defined by amalgamating the Standard Industrial Classification (2003) Divisions. These are similar to the 1992 SIC, the main change is that the head offices are now classified to division 74 where as they used to be classified to the main activity of the business. The Divisions in each group are: Agriculture and fishing 01-05; Energy and water 10-14 & 40-41; Manufacturing 15-37; Construction 45; Distribution, hotels and restaurants 50-55; Transport and communications 60-64; Banking, finance and insurance, etc 65-74; Public administration, education & health 75-85; Other services 90-99.*
- *The district figures for Energy & Water have been combined with Manufacturing for confidentiality.*

## UNEMPLOYMENT

- Unemployment in North Shropshire is low when compared with the figures for the West Midlands and England.
- In December 2007 the claimant count unemployment rate in North Shropshire was 1.5% compared to 2.9% in the West Midlands and 2.1% in England. Similarly, male and female unemployment rates in North Shropshire are lower than the regional and national averages.
- In December 2007 there were 521 people claiming unemployment benefits in North Shropshire, of which 404 were men and 117 women.

Table 18 shows the numbers and rates of claimant count unemployed in North Shropshire by gender for December 2007.

**Table 19. Claimant Count Unemployment in North Shropshire, December 2007**

Districts	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)
North Shropshire	404	2.1%	117	0.7%	521	1.5%
Shropshire	1,705	1.9%	559	0.7%	2,264	1.3%
West Midlands	69,625	4.1%	24,428	1.6%	94,053	2.9%
England	481,282	2.9%	178,626	1.2%	659,908	2.1%
United Kingdom	580,359	3.0%	210,011	1.2%	790,370	2.1%

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Claimant Count Unemployment, © Crown Copyright 2007

### Changes in Unemployment

- During 2007 the number unemployed in North Shropshire has fallen by 43 or 7.6% which is at a lower rate than the West Midlands and England. Table 19.
- The number of men unemployed has risen by 4 or 1.0%.
- Female unemployment has fallen by 47 or 28.7%, this is a higher rate than regional and national figures.

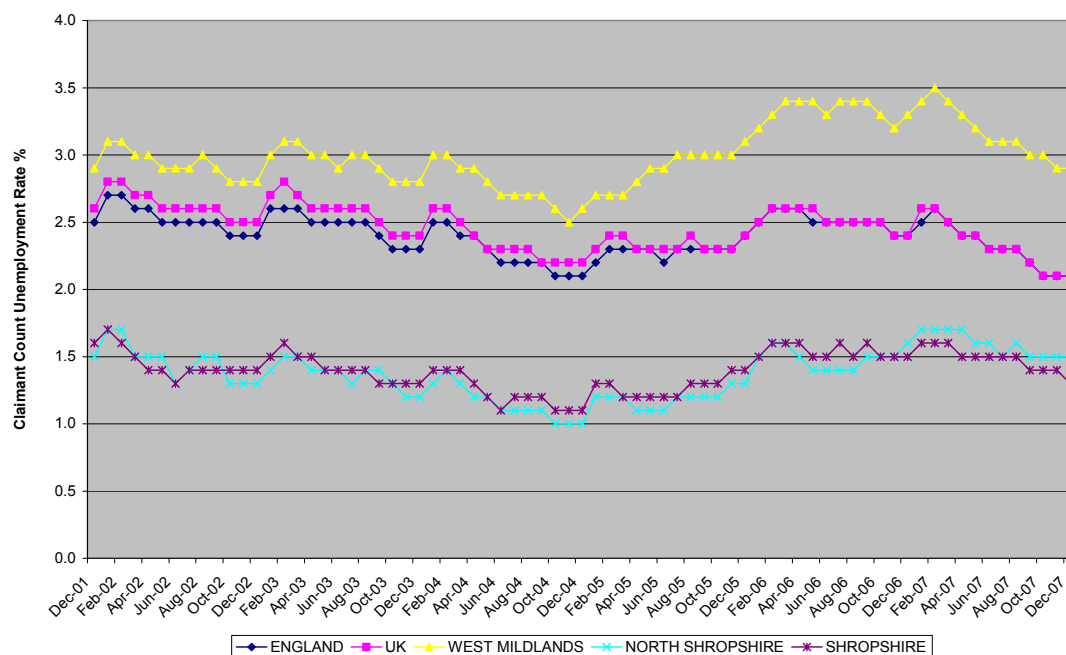
**Table 20. Claimant Count Unemployment Change between December 2006 and December 2007**

District	Male Change		Female Change		Total Change	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
North Shropshire	- 4	- 1.0%	47	28.7%	43	7.6%
Shropshire	150	8.0%	180	24.3%	330	12.7%
West Midlands	10,536	13.1%	2,919	10.7%	13,455	12.5%
England	86,150	15.1%	26,680	13.0%	112,830	14.6%
United Kingdom	101,360	14.9%	31,730	13.1%	133,090	14.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Claimant Count Unemployment. © Crown Copyright 2007.

The change in unemployment rates in North Shropshire over a longer period December 2001 to December 2007 is illustrated in Figure 3. Generally, unemployment rises in January, falls between March and June, rises again in July and August and then falls in the months up to December. However from February 2007 to the end of 2007 there has been a gradual fall in unemployment numbers in North Shropshire as well as regionally and nationally.

**Figure 2 Unemployment Claimant Count Rates, December 2001 – December 2007**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Claimant Count Unemployment, © Crown Copyright 2006.

### Unemployment Distribution

Unemployment in North Shropshire accounts for 23.0% of the total unemployed in Shropshire. Table 20.

**Table 21. Distribution of Unemployment in Shropshire, December 2007**

	% of Unemployed					
	Male		Female		Total	
<b>Bridgnorth</b>	270	15.8%	113	20.2%	383	16.9%
<b>North Shropshire</b>	404	23.7%	117	20.9%	521	23.0%
<b>Oswestry</b>	300	17.6%	115	20.6%	415	18.3%
<b>Shrewsbury and Atcham</b>	550	32.3%	145	25.9%	695	30.7%
<b>South Shropshire</b>	181	10.6%	69	12.3%	250	11.0%
<b>Shropshire</b>	1,705	100.0%	559	100.0%	2,264	100.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis) © Crown Copyright 2006

### Female Unemployment as a Proportion of Total Unemployment

The proportion of the unemployed who are female is set in Table 21, in North Shropshire, females make up a lower proportion of the unemployed than the regional and national averages.

**Table 22. Females as a Percentage of the Total Unemployed. December 2007**

District	% of Total Unemployed
North Shropshire	22.4%
Shropshire	24.7%
West Midlands	26.0%
England	27.1%
United Kingdom	26.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 2006



## Youth Unemployment

Figure 4 shows the trend of youth unemployment over the last 5 years. Since 2001 the proportion unemployed in North Shropshire fluctuated at around 35%, in 2000 the rates were higher than Shropshire and national rates.

- In December 2007 the number of claimants aged between 16 and 24 years accounted for 32.6% of the total number unemployed in North Shropshire. The actual number of claimants aged 16 – 24 has decreased by 30 between December 2006 and December 2007.

**Figure 3. Youth Unemployment in North Shropshire, 2001 – 2007**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 7

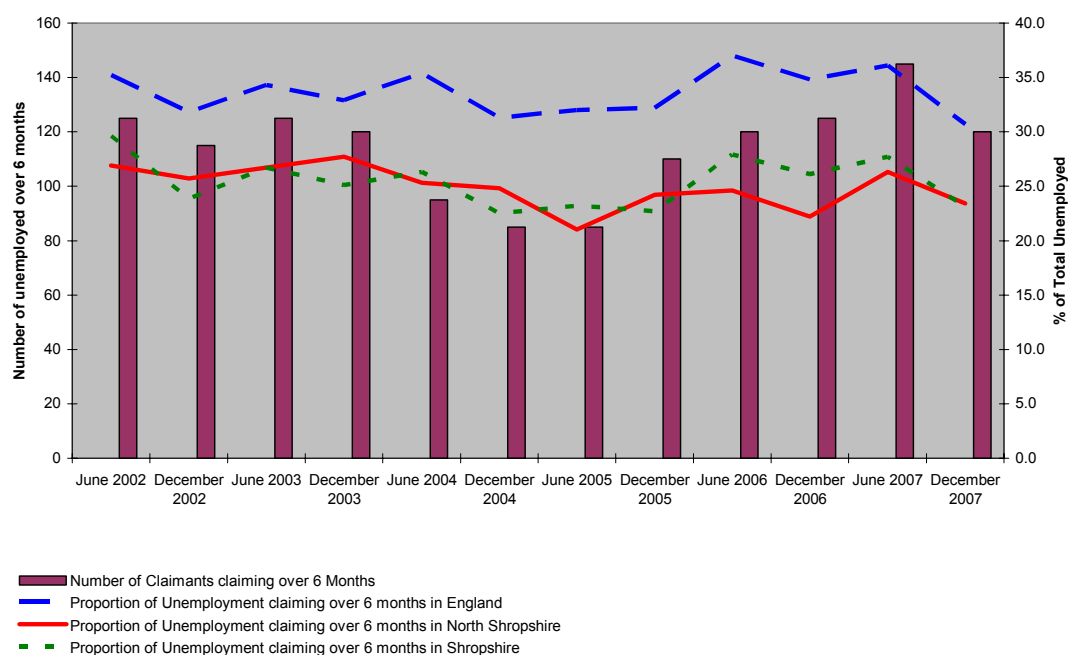
## Long Term Unemployment

In December 2007 there were 120 people classified as long term unemployed in North Shropshire (on the claimant register for 6 months or more), 23.4% compared to 36.1% in the West Midlands and 30.7% in England, figure 5.

- In North Shropshire the number of long term unemployed has increased since December 2005 by 10, the proportion has decreased by 0.8%. In the West Midlands the proportion has risen by 0.1% and England has fallen by 1.5%.

Over the past 5 years, long term unemployment in North Shropshire has been dropping at a similar rate to Shropshire and nationally.

**Figure 4. Long Term Unemployment in North Shropshire, 2001 – 2007.**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 2007.

## Occupations

- In North Shropshire the occupation with the highest number claiming unemployment is Elementary occupations, followed by process, plant and machine operatives. Table 22.

**Table 23. Claimants Usual Occupation in North Shropshire December 2007.**

	North Shropshire	Shropshire
0 : Occupation unknown	0	5
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	30	125
2 : Professional Occupations	15	60
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	20	110
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	35	180
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	65	270
6 : Personal Service Occupations	30	115
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	80	395
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	85	280
9 : Elementary Occupations	155	705
<b>Total</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>2,245</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 2007.

## Vacancies notified to Jobcentres

Information about job vacancies is supplied to Jobcentre Plus by the Department for Work and Pensions. The data should be interpreted carefully to take into account changes made in recent years to procedures for taking and handling vacancies. The Jobcentre Plus vacancies series does not cover all the vacancies in the economy. The proportion of vacancies which are notified by employers varies over time,

according to the occupation and industry of the vacancies and also by geographical area. The figures are best used to give an indication of the types of jobs currently available, rather than absolute changes over time.

In North Shropshire for December 2007 banking and finance, had the highest number of notified vacancies, 183, followed by distribution, hotels and restaurants 66 and public administration, education and health 35. Together these make up 90.2% of the total notified vacancies for Shropshire. Table 23.

**Table 24. Notified Vacancies by Industry.**

	North Shropshire	%	Shropshire	%
1 : Agriculture and fishing (SIC A,B)	1	0.3	3	0.2
2 : Energy and water (SIC C,E)	5	1.7	37	2.1
3 : Manufacturing (SIC D)	4	1.3	48	2.8
4 : Construction (SIC F)	1	0.3	22	1.3
5 : Distribution, hotels and restaurants (SIC G,H)	66	22.0	403	23.3
6 : Transport and communications (SIC I)	2	0.7	18	1.0
7 : Banking, finance and insurance, etc (SIC J,K)	183	61.0	916	52.9
8 : Public administration, education & health (SIC L,M,N)	35	11.4	243	14.0
9 : Other services (SIC O,P,Q)	3	1.0	41	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 2007.

Table 24 indicates that in December 2007 there were most vacancies notified to the Jobcentre in the Elementary occupations.

**Table 25. Vacancies by Occupation.**

	North Shropshire	%	Shropshire	%
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	7	2.3	58	3.4
2 : Professional Occupations	4	1.3	77	4.4
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	28	9.3	248	14.3
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	22	7.3	133	7.7
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	54	18.0	281	16.2
6 : Personal Service Occupations	23	7.7	123	7.1
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	22	7.3	238	13.7
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	79	26.3	204	11.8
9 : Elementary Occupations	61	20.3	369	21.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,731</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 2007.

For more information on unemployment in Shropshire

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/factsfigures>

Department of Work and Pensions <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>

The labour market <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>

The Economy, Population and Society for the UK <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

Local information on Shropshire <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>

## Literacy and Numeracy levels in North Shropshire

### Adults

Adult literacy, numeracy and ICT levels were recorded in the Skills for Life Survey in 2003. Level 1 is comparable with a low level GCSE (D-G), while Level 2 is comparable with a high level GCSE (A\*-C). Entry Level is below a low level GCSE.

- In North Shropshire 13% of the population have entry level literacy, this is a lower percentage than the West Midlands and England. Table 25.

**Table 26. Literacy Levels in North Shropshire.**

Literacy Levels	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills		Level 2 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
North Shropshire	4,350	13%	14,890	43%	15,420	44%
Shropshire	25,890	9%	126,700	46%	122,700	45%
West Midlands	586,705	18%	1,366,065	42%	1,335,275	41%
England		16%		40%		44%

Source: Department for education and skills, Skills for Life Survey, 2003, © Crown Copyright 2006

- The numeracy levels for North Shropshire is 52% at entry level, this is the higher than in the West Midlands and England. Table 26.

**Table 27. Numeracy Levels in North Shropshire.**

Numeracy Levels	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills		Level 2 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
North Shropshire	18,180	52%	9,785	28%	6,700	19%
Shropshire	96,060	35%	102,200	37%	77,050	28%
West Midlands	1,541,445	47%	949,770	29%	796,830	24%
England		46%		28%		25%

Source: Department for education and skills, Skills for Life Survey, 2003, © Crown Copyright 2006

- In North Shropshire Entry Level for ICT is 58 %, similar to regional and national rates. Table 27.

**Table 28. ICT Levels in North Shropshire**

ICT Skills	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
North Shropshire	20,190	58%	14,470	42%
Shropshire	158,000	57%	117,320	43%
West Midlands	1,905,495	58%	1,382,550	42%
England		53%		47%

Source: Department for education and skills, Skills for Life Survey, 2003, © Crown Copyright 2006.

### Housing Type

- North Shropshire has a much higher proportion of detached houses 46.1%, than the West Midlands, 23.8%, or England, 22.5%. Table 28.
- North Shropshire has a much lower proportion of terraced houses than the West Midlands or England.

**Table 29. Household Type in North Shropshire, 2001.**

Housing Type	North Shropshire		Shropshire		West Midlands		England	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Households	24068	100.0%	117,304	100.0%	2,153,672	100.0%	20,451,427	100.0%
Detached	11104	46.1%	47,782	40.7%	518,363	24.1%	4,648,476	22.7%
Semi-detached	8070	33.5%	40,445	34.5%	821,628	38.2%	6,562,542	32.1%
Terraced	2992	12.4%	18,999	16.2%	511,046	23.7%	5,250,702	25.7%
Flats, maisonette or apartment	1770	7.4%	9,274	7.9%	291,569	13.5%	3,843,340	18.8%
Non-permanent accommodation	132	0.5%	654	0.6%	7,454	0.3%	80,369	0.4%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2001 Census, © Crown Copyright 2006

### Tenure

- North Shropshire has a higher level of owner occupied dwellings than regionally and nationally.
- North Shropshire has lower levels of social housing than nationally.

**Table 30. Tenure of Dwellings in North Shropshire 2001.**

Households	North Shropshire		Shropshire		West Midlands		England	
	No.	% of	No.	%	No.	% total	No.	%
Owner Occupied	16856	72.8%	85,411	72.8%	1,498,066	69.6%	14,054,122	68.7%
Rented	3304	14.3%	15,938	13.6%	211,962	9.8%	2,456,577	12.0%
Social Housing	2989	12.9%	15,955	13.6%	443,644	20.6%	3,940,728	19.3%
Total	23149	100.0%	117,304	100.0%	2,153,672	100.0%	20,451,427	100.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2001 Census, © Crown Copyright 2006

## House Prices 2006

The land registry produces the most complete set of house prices to postcode level. It includes all sales in England and Wales whether or not they have been funded by a mortgage.

**Table 31. House Prices Average House Prices October - December 2006.**

	Detached	Semi-detached	Terrace	Flat	Overall
<b>North Shropshire</b>	£263,266	£155,284	£130,799	£86,500	£199,937
<b>Shropshire</b>	£275,307	£170,422	£148,556	£128,119	£200,648
<b>West Midlands</b>	£281,192	£156,345	£128,694	£126,694	£172,534
<b>England and Wales</b>	£313,144	£187,717	£163,749	£189,695	£207,573

Source: HM Land Registry. © Crown Copyright 2007.

- Overall house prices in North Shropshire are lower than nationally for the fourth quarter of 2006. Table 30.

## Housing Affordability

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation study - Affordability and the intermediate housing market provides information on the difficulties that working households aged 20-39 experience in accessing home ownership. The analysis in the report is based on house prices for two and three bedroom properties 2004, derived from the Survey of Mortgage lenders.

- The average ratio of house price to household gross earned income in North Shropshire is higher than the West Midlands and England. Table 31.

**Table 32. Affordability and the Intermediate Housing Market. 2004**

Local Authority	Number of Working households	Household Earned Annual Income	Mean House Prices	House Price to Income Ratios
<b>North Shropshire</b>	5,675	£36,738	£151,143	4.11
<b>Shropshire</b>	29,964	£34,107	£159,684	4.68
<b>West Midlands</b>	496,358	£35,088	£137,624	3.92
<b>England</b>	5,004,758	£38,996	£172,593	4.43

Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation (October 2005), © Crown Copyright 2007.

## Council Tax Bands

Dwellings are allocated to a council tax band depending on their selling value, with A being the lowest band and H the highest tax band. Council tax is made up of charges for services provided by Shropshire County Council, West Mercia Police Authority, Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority, the district council and the town or parish council.

**Table 33. Percentage of Dwellings in Each Council Tax Band.**

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>North Shropshire</b>	18.9%	24.6%	18.4%	15.2%	13.0%	6.6%	3.0%	0.2%
<b>Shropshire</b>	19.0%	25.7%	20.9%	14.5%	10.7%	5.7%	3.2%	0.3%
<b>West Midlands</b>	31.7%	25.0%	19.2%	11.0%	6.9%	3.7%	2.3%	0.2%
<b>England</b>	25.2%	19.4%	21.6%	15.2%	9.5%	5.0%	3.6%	0.6%

*Source: Valuation Office Agency 2005, 19 September 2005, © Crown Copyright 2006.*

- North Shropshire has the highest proportion of dwellings in council tax band B, the West Midlands has a higher percentage in band A. Table 32.

## Development Trends and Land Markets Completions

Class B is a combination of the Class B1- Business (which includes B1a – office, B1b – research & development e.g. laboratories, studios and B1c – light industrial), Class B2 - General Industrial and Class B8 - Storage & Distribution) use class orders.

**Table 34. Amount of floor space (sqm) developed for employment by type (B1a, B1b, B1c, B2 and B8**

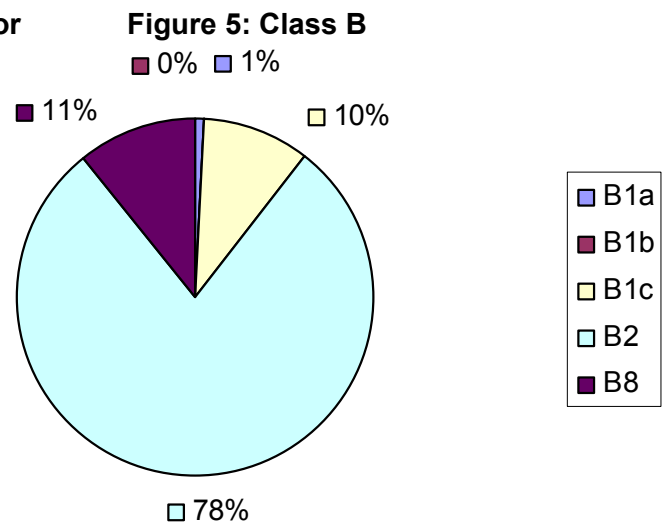
	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<b>B1a</b>	209	986	82	530	195	131	746	1328	979
<b>B1b</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>B1c</b>	1693	187	1790	386	1876	650	1966	858	3511
<b>B2</b>	16434	5261	7044	2231	14181	9103	4298	13828	3802
<b>B8</b>	436	4547	3856	540	6699	4673	9949	457	7356
<b>Total</b>	<b>18772</b>	<b>10981</b>	<b>12772</b>	<b>3687</b>	<b>22951</b>	<b>14557</b>	<b>16959</b>	<b>16471</b>	<b>15648</b>

It is permitted development for Use Class Order B1 to change to B8, B8 to change to B1 and for B2 to change to either B1 or B8 where the gross floor space is less than 235 sqm. Due to this we are unable to monitor some of the smaller developments that take place across Shropshire.

It is also permitted development for movement between the B1 Use Class Order regardless of floor space; therefore it is not possible to accurately measure separately the amount of B1a, B1b and B1c it is of more use to look at the B1 Use Class Order as a whole

**Table 35. Amount of floor space developed for employment land completions 2006-2007 (sqm)**

2006-2007	
<b>B1a</b>	194
<b>B1b</b>	0
<b>B1c</b>	1905
<b>B2</b>	15756
<b>B8</b>	2152
<b>Total</b>	<b>20007</b>



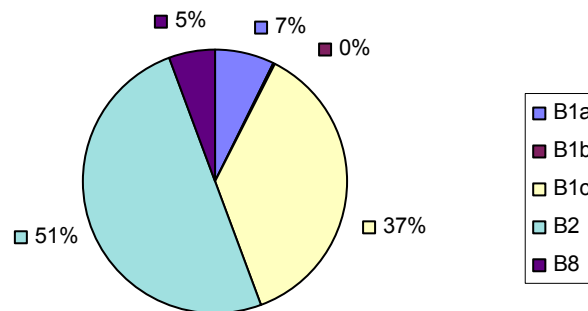
As can be seen from the above pie chart 78% of North Shropshire's District employment land is made up of B2 industrial land. The largest site was 9288 sqm at Grocontinental Ltd., Shakespeare Way, Whitchurch for a new distribution building. Another large site was for a joinery workshop in a former RAF hanger (D Site), Painsbrook Lane, Hadnall (4048 sqm).



**Table 36. Employment land available by type as at 1st April 2007 (site area hectares) this includes land which may currently be under construction.**

	<b>Outstanding Permissions</b>	<b>Allocations (adopted)</b>
<b>B1a</b>	1.84	2.5
<b>B1b</b>	0.154	0
<b>B1c</b>	5.81	16.307
<b>B2</b>	3.013	26.9
<b>B8</b>	3.262	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.079</b>	<b>45.707</b>

**Figure 6: Outstanding employment permissions and allocated for B use**



Of the outstanding permissions Class B1c accounts for 41% of the total amount. The largest sites are for two applications on vacant defence land at Warrant Road, Stoke Heath to be used for manufacturing.

Further information can be found by viewing the Annual Monitoring Reports by the Planning and Landuse Monitoring Team at:

<http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/factsfigures/developmenttrends.gov.uk>

