

Shropshire Economic Assessment 2008

Shrewsbury & Atcham District

Economy,
Labour Market,
Learning
and Skills



June 2008

Shrewsbury and Atcham

- Shrewsbury and Atcham has a population density of 1.59 people per hectare.

Table 1: Population and Areas of Shrewsbury and Atcham in 2006

	Population			Area		Density	
	Number	Annual Change 2005 - 2006		Hectares*	Sq. miles	Persons per hectare	Persons per sq. mile
Shrewsbury and Atcham	95,900	100	0.1	60,163	232	1.59	413.3
Shropshire	289,300	1500	0.5	319,736	1,235	0.90	234.3
West Midlands	5,366,700	16,000	0.3	1,299,800	5,020	4.13	1069.3
England	50,762,900	297,300	0.6	13,042,300	50,357	3.89	1,008.1

Source: Population Estimates Mid-2005 National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2006

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

- Population in Shrewsbury and Atcham since 1991 has increased at a slower rate than England.

Table 2: Population in Shrewsbury and Atcham 1991 and 2006

	Mid Year Population			2005 Mid Year Population by Age		
	1991	2005	Change 1991- 2005	0-15	16- Retirement Age	Retirement Age+
Shrewsbury and Atcham	92,100	95,900	4.1	18,100	57,100	20,700
Shropshire	268,700	289,300	7.7	52,700	170,500	66,100
West Midlands	5,229,700	5,366,700	2.6	1,057,500	3,281,800	1,027,400
England	47,875,000	50,762,900	6.0	9,674,000	32,626,700	9,462,300

Source: 2004 Mid Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2006

Travel to Work

In Shrewsbury and Atcham 14.7% 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 Shrewsbury and Atcham, 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 Shrewsbury and Atcham, 2001.

	% Work from home	% Travel less than 2 KM	% Travel 2-5 KM	% Travel 5-10KM	% Travel 10- 20KM	% Travel more than 20KM
Shrewsbury and Atcham	14.7%	24.6%	22.5%	10.8%	12.7%	14.6%
Shropshire	19.9%	26.9%	14.1%	11.8%	13.7%	13.6%
West Midlands	12.8%	20.2%	22.6%	19.3%	14.2%	11.0%
England	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 3,680 businesses registered for VAT in Shrewsbury and Atcham; this figure represents 28% of the total in Shropshire. Nationally 1.8 million of the estimated 4.3 million enterprises in the UK were VAT-registered in 2005.

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

- The highest concentration in Shrewsbury and Atcham is found in Real Estate, 24.3%.
- The next highest is in Wholesale and retail, followed by Agriculture and fishing.

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

Industry	Shrewsbury and Atcham		Shropshire		England	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
AB - Agriculture; fishing	565	15.4	3,045	22.9	94,170	5.6
CE - Mining; energy/water	0	0.0	10	0.1	1,235	0.1
D - Manufacturing	205	5.6	875	6.6	134,205	8.0
F - Construction	475	12.9	1,495	11.2	192,945	11.6
G - Wholesale & retail	770	20.9	2,540	19.1	346,280	20.7
H - Hotels & restaurants	270	7.3	960	7.2	116,755	7.0
I - Transport & communication	175	4.8	600	4.5	73,275	4.4
J - Finance	35	1.0	90	0.7	18,815	1.1
K - Real Estate	895	24.3	2,755	20.7	534,640	32.0
LO - Public admin; other	230	6.3	760	5.7	131,390	7.9
MN - Education; health	60	1.6	190	1.4	26,640	1.6
Total	3,680	100.0	13,320	100.0	1,670,350	100.0

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

VAT Registrations and Deregistrations 2006

During 2006 there were 305 VAT Registrations and 195 Deregistrations in Shrewsbury and Atcham, giving a net gain of 110. 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, Shrewsbury and Atcham had a lower rate of business start-up and a lower closure rate than the West Midlands and England. Table 5.

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

	VAT Registrations During 2005	VAT Deregistrations During 2005	VAT Stock at the end of 2005	New Business Start-up Rate 2005	Business Closure Rate 2005
Shrewsbury and Atcham	305	195	3,680	8.3	5.3
Shropshire	1,035	745	13,320	7.8	5.6
West Midlands	14,795	11,845	164,805	9.0	7.2
United Kingdom	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 2006¹

Table 6 shows the net change in VAT registered businesses in Shrewsbury and Atcham since 1980¹; 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 Shrewsbury & Atcham the actual number of business registered for VAT is at its highest in 2006.
- The new business start-up rate was highest in 1989 when it reached 13.4%, higher than the rate of 11.8% in Shropshire but still lower than the rates in the West Midlands and Great Britain. Recently the start-up rates have stabilised at around 7.0, similar to Shropshire but lower than the regional rates.
- The business closure rate peaked in 1992 when the rate in Shrewsbury & Atcham was 10.6%, which is comparable to Shropshire but lower than the West Midlands and Great Britain. Recently the rates have stabilised at 6% – 8%, comparable to Shropshire's rates.

Table 6. VAT Registrations and Deregistrations in Shrewsbury and Atcham 1980 – 2006.

Date	Registrations	Deregistrations	Total Stocks	Net Change
1980	240	235	2,525	5
1981	245	165	2,530	80
1982	270	220	2,605	50
1983	235	220	2,655	15
1984	265	195	2,670	70
1985	250	230	2,740	20
1986	300	255	2,760	45
1987	295	265	2,805	30
1988	365	250	2,840	115
1989	395	235	2,950	160
1990	340	275	3,110	65

1991	305	305	3,180	0
1992	305	325	3,065	-20
1993	290	290	3,045	0
1994	250	285	3,005	-35
1995	245	225	3,030	20
1996	215	250	3,000	-35
1997	270	225	3,040	45
1998	270	230	3,080	40
1999	255	225	3,115	30
2000	255	255	3,115	0
2001	275	215	3,175	60
2002	295	215	3,255	80
2003	310	230	3,335	80
2004	300	250	3,390	50
2005	300	215	3,470	85
2006	305	195	3,680	110

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis) VAT Registrations and Deregistrations, © Crown Copyright 2007
1 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

- Shrewsbury and Atcham has lower weekly pay for full time workers than the West Midlands and lower than England.
- Male full-time workers in Shrewsbury and Atcham and Shropshire work more hours than in England.

Table 7. Pay and Hours for Shrewsbury and Atcham, 2007.

	Male Full Time Workers	Female Full Time Workers	Full Time Workers	Part Time Workers
Weekly Pay – Gross £				
Shrewsbury and Atcham	£438.4	£366.5	£407.5	£150.4
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
Hourly Pay – Excluding Overtime £				
Shrewsbury and Atcham	10.92	9.6	10.21	7.06
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
Hours Worked - Total				
Shrewsbury and Atcham	40.0	37.1	38.0	19.5
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 2008
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. Shrewsbury and Atcham has a median annual total personal income lower than the West Midlands, and England.

Table 8. Total Income by District, 2004 / 2005

	Tax Paying Individuals	Median Annual Total Income	Median Tax
Shrewsbury and Atcham	£59,000	£15,600	£1850
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 Shrewsbury and Atcham

Annual Population Survey

- Shrewsbury and Atcham has a high economic activity rate of 85.4 greater than for England. Table 9. In 2006, there were 56,100 residents of working age living in Shrewsbury and Atcham, of these 47,900 were economically active.
- Men of working age in Shrewsbury and Atcham have an economic rate 6% higher than females. This is a smaller difference when compared to England. Female economic activity rates are higher than county and national rates.

Table 9. Economic Activity by Gender, Residence Based, 2006/7.

	Shrewsbury and Atcham		Shropshire		England	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Economic activity rate - working age	47,900	85.4	134,600	81.4%	24,120,800	78.6
Economic activity rate males - working age	25,200	88.3	74,900	87.3%	13,207,400	83.6
Economic activity rate females - working age	22,700	82.4	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 Shrewsbury and Atcham people aged between 25 and 34 years have the highest economic activity rates at 95.1%, higher than the figures regionally and nationally. Table 10.
- Shrewsbury and Atcham has an economic rate of 71.3% for those over 50, this is slightly lower than the national and regional average.

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

	Shrewsbury and Atcham		Shropshire		England	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Economic activity rate - 16-19	3,300	75.0	8,200	65.0	1,410,400	54.5
Economic activity rate - 20-24	4,800	95.2	11,500	88.4	2,354,400	76.2
Economic activity rate - 25-34	12,700	94.9	26,500	87.7	5,339,400	83.9
Economic activity rate - 35-49	16,100	87.0	51,800	86.9	9,374,300	85.1
Economic activity rate - 50-retirement age	11,000	74.5	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 Shrewsbury and Atcham the highest numbers are employed in the Public admin, education and health industry, followed by Distribution, hotels and restaurants.

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

Industry	Shrewsbury and Atcham		Shropshire		England	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Agriculture and fishing	1,300	3.5	4,100	4.1	285,100	1.6
Energy and water	500	1.4	700	0.7	217,000	1.2
Manufacturing	4,600	12.5	17,700	17.6	3,118,100	17.1
Construction	3,900	10.6	11,100	11.0	1,872,600	10.3
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	8,700	23.6	27,600	27.5	4,515,600	24.8
Transport and communications	2,200	6.0	6,900	6.9	1,619,300	8.9
Banking, finance and insurance	6,600	17.9	15,300	15.2	3,924,100	21.5
Public admin. education and health	16,600	45.0	42,300	42.1	6,645,500	36.5
Other services	2,800	7.6	8,300	8.3	1,514,600	8.3
Total	36,900	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 Shrewsbury and Atcham.

- Shrewsbury and Atcham has higher percentages of people employed in professional occupations than England.
- Shrewsbury and Atcham has lower percentages of people employed in elementary occupations.

Table 12. Employment by Occupation Residence based, 2006/7.

Variable	Shrewsbury and Atcham		Shropshire		England	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Managers and senior officials	5,900	12.5	17,200	12.8	3,683,200	15.5
Professional occupations	8,200	17.4	17,200	12.8	3,109,000	13.1
Associate prof & tech occupations	7,200	15.2	17,800	13.2	3,422,600	14.4
Administrative and secretarial occupations	4,500	9.6	13,400	10.0	2,865,700	12.0
Skilled trades occupations	4,700	10.0	19,200	14.3	2,569,100	10.8
Personal service occupations	4,300	9.0	12,400	9.2	1,892,600	7.9
Sales and customer service occupations	4,200	9.0	8,800	6.5	1,802,800	7.6
Process, plant and machine operatives	3,600	7.6	12,800	9.6	1,684,000	7.1
Elementary occupations	4,300	9.1	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

Shrewsbury and Atcham has a lower percentage of self employed residents, compared to Shropshire and England. Table 13.

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

Area	Employees (16+)		Self Employed (16+)	
	number	percent	number	percent
Shrewsbury and Atcham	41,200	87.1	5,700	12.0
Shropshire	111,400	83.0	21,300	15.9
West Midlands	2,135,000	87.3	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

- Shrewsbury and Atcham 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 28.0% of the workforce, this is higher than nationally and regionally.

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	%
Shrewsbury and Atcham	21,700	47.9	2,300	5.1	12,700	28.0	8,700	19.2
Shropshire	64,500	50.2	7,200	5.5	29,800	23.2	27,000	21.0
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
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Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis). Annual Population Survey July 2005-June 2006, © Crown Copyright 2007

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 on 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.

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 44,400 employee jobs located in Shrewsbury and Atcham and of these 17,100 were occupied by men and 23,700 by women. Table 15.
- Male full-time jobs account for 39% of the total, male part-time 8.0%, female full-time 25% and female part-time 28%.

Table 15. Employment Structure by Type of Job, 2006

	Employee Jobs						
	Male Full-time	Male Part-time	Total Male	Female Full-time	Female Part-time	Total Female	Total
Shrewsbury and Atcham	17,100	3,600	20,700	11,100	12,500	23,700	44,400
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							
Shrewsbury and Atcham	39	8	47	25	28	53	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 2006, © Crown Copyright 2007

Employment Structure 2006

- 84.0% of employee jobs being located in the service sector, Table 15 and Figure 2.

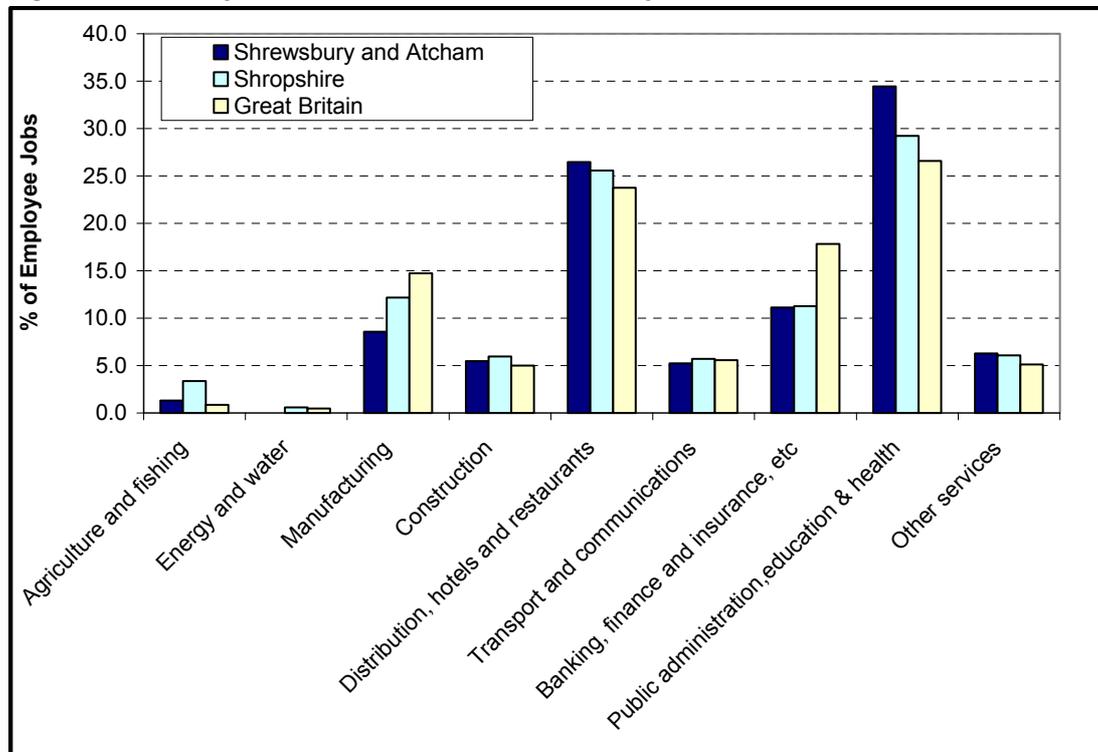
- Shrewsbury and Atcham has 1.3% of employees in the agriculture industry, compared to 0.9% in the West Midlands and Great Britain.

Table 16. Employment Structure 2006

Standard Industrial Classification (2003) (SIC)	Shrewsbury and Atcham	%	Shropshire	%	Great Britain %
1. Agriculture & fishing	600.00	1.3	3700	3.4	0.9
2. Energy and water	*	*	700	0.6	0.6
3. Manufacturing	4300.00	8.6	13400	12.2	10.9
4. Construction	2400.00	5.5	6600	6.0	4.8
5. Distribution, hotels, restaurants	11700.00	26.5	28200	25.6	23.5
6. Transport & communications	2300.00	5.2	6300	5.7	5.9
7. Banking, finance & insurance, etc	4900.00	11.1	12400	11.3	21.2
8. Public admin, education & health	15300.00	34.5	32300	29.2	26.9
9. Other services	2800.00	6.3	6700	6.1	5.3
Total	44400.00	100.0	110300	100.0	100.0

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 Shrewsbury and Atcham 2006.



Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis): Annual Business Inquiry 2006, © Crown Copyright 2007

Size of Workplaces 2005

The Annual Business Inquiry provides information on the size and number of workplaces in Shropshire. The information is only available down to district level and the figures exclude agricultural workplaces.

In 2006, the Annual Business Inquiry recorded 4,266 workplaces in Shrewsbury and Atcham, which employed 43,900 people. The majority of these workplaces fall into the small firms sector; 92.4% (3,943) had less than 25 employees and 83.9% had 10 or fewer employees, Table 16.

Table 17: Number of Workplaces by Size of Workplace, 2006

	Number of Workplaces (Defined by Data Units)					
All Industries	1 to 10	11 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 99	100+*	Total
Shrewsbury and Atcham	3,581	362	166	93	64	4,266
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					
Shrewsbury and Atcham	83.9	8.5	3.9	2.2	1.5	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

*The 100 – 199 and 200 + groups have been combined with the 50-99 age groups for confidentiality. Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), 2006 Annual Business Inquiry, © Crown Copyright 2007.

Although the majority of workplaces have less than 25 employees, these workplaces account for only 37.4% of the total employees. Table 17. Workplaces with 25 – 99 employees account for 6.1% of the total workplaces and 27.8% of employees. Workplaces with greater than 100 employees account for 1.5% of the total workplaces and 34.9% of the employees.

Table 18: Number of Employees by Size of Workplace, 2006

	Size of Workplaces (Defined by Number of Employees)					
All Industries and Services	1 to 10	11 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 99	100+*	Total
Shrewsbury and Atcham	10,500	5,900	5,800	6,400	15,300	43,900
Shropshire	31,900	16,400	13,700	12,900	32,300	107,200
West Midlands	471,900	280,200	286,900	303,200	1,019,600	2,361,800
England	4,749,800	2,747,700	2,745,800	2,773,400	9,624,500	22,641,300
	Percentage of Total Employees					
Shrewsbury and Atcham	24.0	13.5	13.1	14.5	34.8	100.0
Shropshire	29.8	15.3	12.8	12.0	30.1	100.0
West Midlands	20.0	11.9	12.1	12.8	43.2	100.0
England	21.0	12.1	12.1	12.2	42.5	100.0

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

*The 100 – 199 and 200 + groups have been combined for confidentiality.

The average size of a workplace in Shrewsbury and Atcham is 10.3 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 Shrewsbury and Atcham is low when compared with the figures for the West Midlands and England.
- In December 2007 the claimant count unemployment rate in Shrewsbury and Atcham was 1.2% compared to 2.9% in the West Midlands and 2.1% in England. Similarly, male and female unemployment rates in Shrewsbury and Atcham are lower than the regional and national averages.
- In December 2007 there were 695 people claiming unemployment benefits in Shrewsbury and Atcham, of which 550 were men and 145 women.

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

Table 19. Claimant Count Unemployment in Shrewsbury and Atcham, December 2007

Districts	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)
Shrewsbury and Atcham	550	1.8%	145	0.5%	695	1.2%
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 Shrewsbury and Atcham has risen by 184 or 20.9% higher than the West Midlands and England. Table 19.
- The number of men unemployed has fallen by 101 or 15.5% this is a higher rate than nationally and regionally.
- Female unemployment has fallen by 83 or 36.4%.

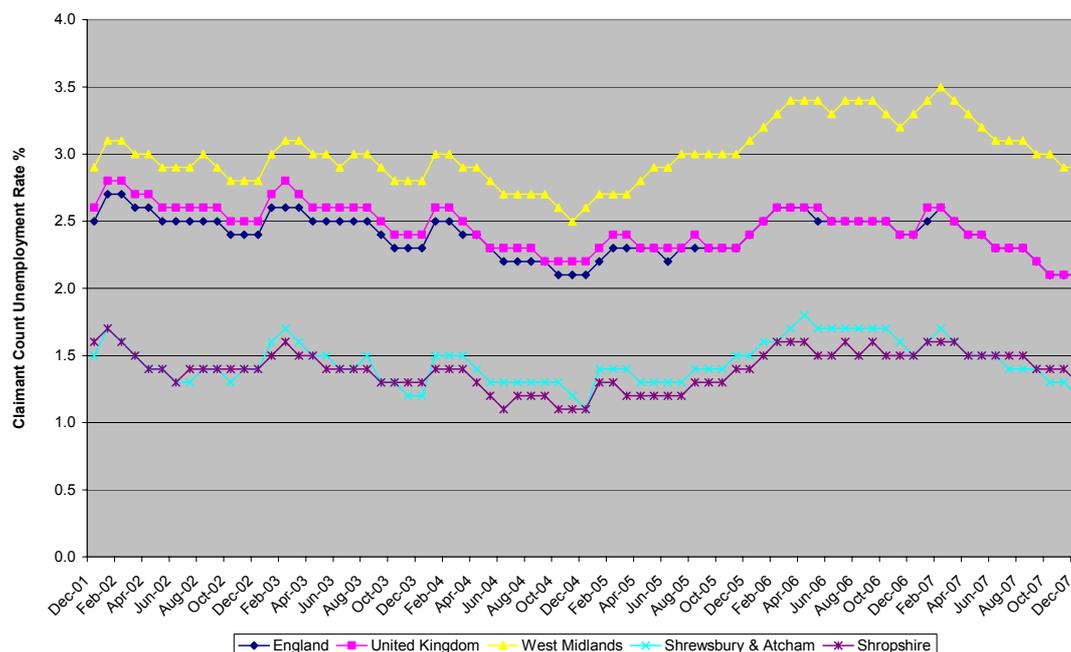
Table 20. Claimant Count Unemployment Change between December 2006 and December 2007

District	Male Change		Female Change		Total Change	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Shrewsbury and Atcham	101	15.5%	83	36.4%	184	20.9%
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 Shrewsbury and Atcham 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 in November and December 2005 unemployment continued to rise in Shrewsbury and Atcham as did national and regional rates.

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



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

Unemployment Distribution

Unemployment in Shrewsbury and Atcham accounts for 30.7% of the total unemployed in Shropshire. Table 20.

Table 21. Distribution of Unemployment in Shropshire, December 2007

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

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

Female Unemployment as a Proportion of Total Unemployment

The proportion of the unemployed who are female is set in Table 21, in Shrewsbury and Atcham, 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
Shrewsbury and Atcham	20.9%
Shropshire	24.7%
West Midlands	26.0%
England	27.1%
United Kingdom	26.6%

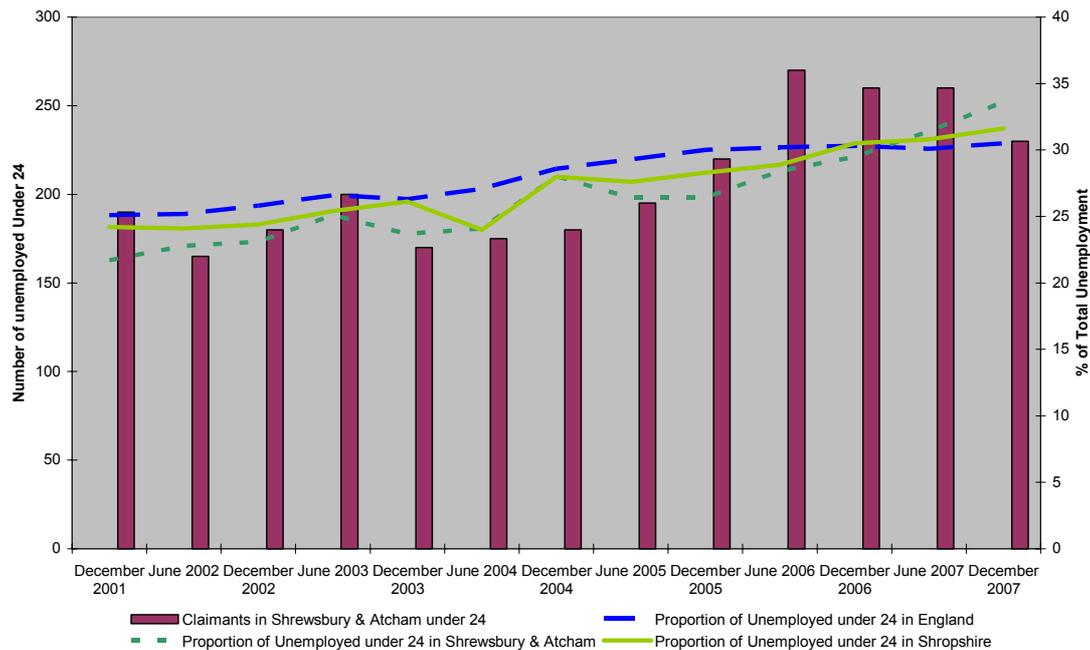
Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 2007

Youth Unemployment

Figure 4 shows the trend of youth unemployment over the last 5 years. Since 2001 the proportion of unemployed in Shrewsbury and Atcham fluctuated at around 25%, in 2005 the rates were higher than Shropshire and national rates.

- In December 2007 the number of claimants aged between 16 and 24 years accounted for 33.6% of the total number unemployed in Shrewsbury and Atcham. The actual number of claimants aged 16 – 24 has decreased by 30 between December 2006 and December 2007.

Figure 3. Youth Unemployment in Shrewsbury and Atcham, 2001 – 2007



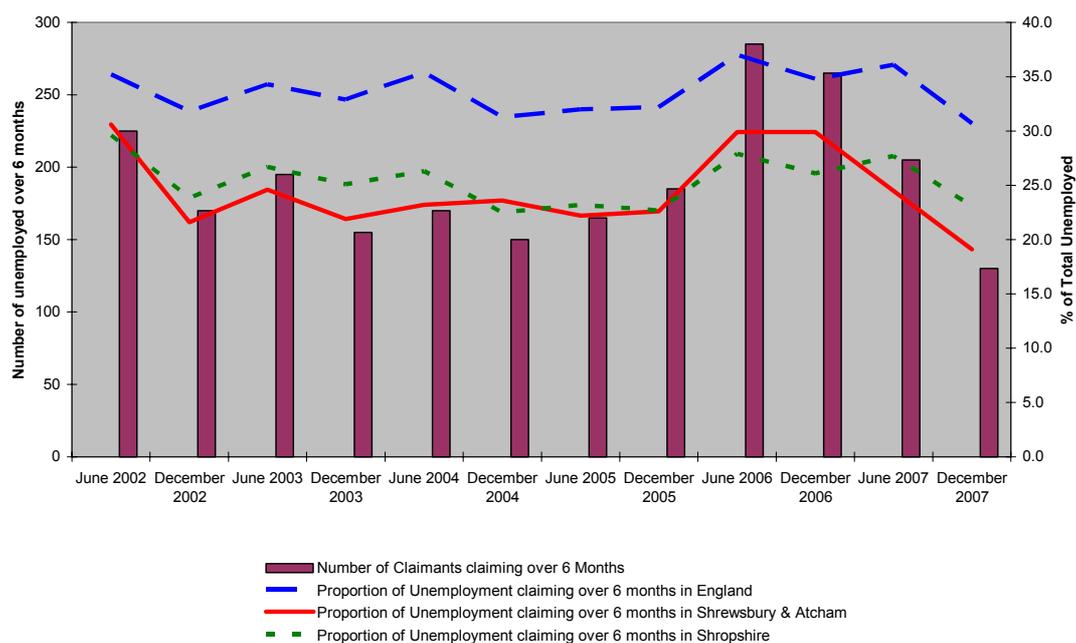
Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis), © Crown Copyright 2007.

Long Term Unemployment

In December 2007 there were 130 people classified as long term unemployed in Shrewsbury and Atcham (on the claimant register for 6 months or more), 19.1% compared to 36.1% in the West Midlands and 30.7% in England, figure 5.

- In Shrewsbury and Atcham the number of long term unemployed has decreased since December 2006 by 135, the proportion has decreased by 10.8%. In the West Midlands the proportion has risen by 4.0% and England has increased by 2.6%.

Figure 4. Long Term Unemployment in Shrewsbury and Atcham, 2002 – 2007.



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

Occupations

- In Shrewsbury and Atcham the occupation with the highest number claiming unemployment is Elementary occupations. Table 22.

Table 23. Claimants Usual Occupation in Shrewsbury and Atcham December 2007.

	Shrewsbury and Atcham	Shropshire
0 : Occupation unknown	0	5
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	30	125
2 : Professional Occupations	20	60
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	30	110
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	65	180
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	80	270
6 : Personal Service Occupations	30	115
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	140	395
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	50	280
9 : Elementary Occupations	245	705
Total	690	2,245

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

Information about the jobs people are seeking and the jobs they are usually employed in is gathered during the signing on process by the Jobcentre plus. This enables us to see if there is a major difference in jobs people are becoming unemployed from, those they are seeking.

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 Shrewsbury and Atcham for December 2007 Banking, finance and insurance had the highest number of notified vacancies, 525, followed by distribution, hotels and restaurants 241 and public administration, education and health, 138, together these make up 92.3% of the total. Table 23.

Table 24. Notified Vacancies by Industry.

	Shrewsbury and Atcham	%	Shropshire	%
1 : Agriculture and fishing (SIC A,B)	0	0	3	0.2
2 : Energy and water (SIC C,E)	20	2.0	37	2.1
3 : Manufacturing (SIC D)	15	1.5	48	2.8
4 : Construction (SIC F)	13	1.3	22	1.3
5 : Distribution, hotels and restaurants (SIC G,H)	241	24.6	403	23.3
6 : Transport and communications (SIC I)	6	0.6	18	1.0
7 : Banking, finance and insurance, etc (SIC J,K)	525	53.6	916	52.9
8 : Public administration, education & health (SIC L,M,N)	138	14.1	243	14.0
9 : Other services (SIC O,P,Q)	21	2.1	41	2.4
Total	979	100.0	1,975	100.0

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, followed by the associate professional and technical occupations.

Table 25. Vacancies by Occupation.

	Shrewsbury and Atcham	%	Shropshire	%
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	30	3.1	58	3.4
2 : Professional Occupations	42	4.3	77	4.4
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	181	18.5	248	14.3
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	74	7.6	133	7.7
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	165	16.9	281	16.2
6 : Personal Service Occupations	80	8.2	123	7.1
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	141	14.4	238	13.7
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	62	6.3	204	11.8
9 : Elementary Occupations	204	20.8	369	21.3
Total	979	100.0	1,731	100.0

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 Shrewsbury and Atcham

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 Shrewsbury and Atcham only 9% 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 Shrewsbury and Atcham.

Literacy Levels	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills		Level 2 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Shrewsbury and Atcham	5,395	9%	26,260	44%	27,710	47%
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 Shrewsbury and Atcham is 46% at entry level, this is the same as in the West Midlands and England. Table 26.

Table 27. Numeracy Levels in Shrewsbury and Atcham.

Numeracy Levels	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills		Level 2 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Shrewsbury and Atcham	27,050	46%	19,020	32%	13,290	22%
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 Shrewsbury and Atcham Entry Level for ICT is 53%, similar to regional and national rates. Table 27.

Table 28. ICT Levels in Shrewsbury and Atcham

ICT Skills	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
Shrewsbury and Atcham	31,200	53%	28,155	47%
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

- Shrewsbury and Atcham has a higher proportion of detached houses 46.1%, than the West Midlands, 32.4%, or England, 22.5%. Table 28.
- Shrewsbury and Atcham has a much lower proportion of terraced houses than the West Midlands or England.

Table 29. Household Type in Shrewsbury and Atcham, 2001.

Housing Type	Shrewsbury and Atcham		Shropshire		West Midlands		England	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Households	41615	100.0	117,304	100.0%	2,153,672	100.0%	20,451,427	100.0%
Detached	13468	32.4	47,782	40.7%	518,363	24.1%	4,648,476	22.7%
Semi-detached	16007	38.5	40,445	34.5%	821,628	38.2%	6,562,542	32.1%
Terraced	7837	18.8	18,999	16.2%	511,046	23.7%	5,250,702	25.7%
Flats, maisonette or apartment	4178	10.0	9,274	7.9%	291,569	13.5%	3,843,340	18.8%
Non-permanent accommodation	125	0.3	654	0.6%	7,454	0.3%	80,369	0.4%

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

Tenure

- Shrewsbury and Atcham has a higher level of owner occupied dwellings than regionally and nationally.
- Shrewsbury and Atcham has a lower percentage of social housing than the West Midlands and England.

Table 30. Tenure of Dwellings in Shrewsbury and Atcham 2001.

Households	Shrewsbury and Atcham		Shropshire		West Midlands		England	
	No.	% of	No.	%	No.	% total	No.	%
Owner Occupied	29839	74.0	85,411	72.8%	1,498,066	69.6%	14,054,122	68.7%
Rented	4737	11.8	15,938	13.6%	211,962	9.8%	2,456,577	12.0%
Social Housing	5732	14.2	15,955	13.6%	443,644	20.6%	3,940,728	19.3%
Total	40308	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
Shrewsbury and Atcham	£267,717	£178,426	£151,244	£132,468	£188,392
Shropshire	£275,307	£170,422	£148,556	£128,119	£200,648
West Midlands	£281,192	£156,345	£128,694	£126,694	£172,534
England and Wales	£313,144	£187,717	£163,749	£189,695	£207,573

Source: HM Land Registry. © Crown Copyright 2007.

Table 30 shows average house prices for the fourth quarter in 2006 for various property types in Shrewsbury and Atcham.

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 Shrewsbury and Atcham is higher than the West Midlands and England. Table 31.

Table 32. Affordability and the Intermediate Housing Market. 2005

Local Authority	Number of Working households	Household Earned Annual Income	Mean House Prices	House Price to Income Ratios
Shrewsbury and Atcham	12,454	£35,425	£156,778	4.43
Shropshire	29,964	£34,107	£159,684	4.68
West Midlands	496,358	£35,088	£137,624	3.92
England	5,004,758	£38,996	£172,593	4.43

Source: Joseph Rowntree Foundation (October 2005), © Crown Copyright 2006.

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.

Districts	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Shrewsbury and Atcham	17.3%	31.0%	23.0%	13.3%	8.4%	3.9%	2.9%	0.2%
Shropshire	19.0%	25.7%	20.9%	14.5%	10.7%	5.7%	3.2%	0.3%
West Midlands	31.7%	25.0%	19.2%	11.0%	6.9%	3.7%	2.3%	0.2%
England	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.

Table 32 provides information on the percentage of dwellings per council tax band in Shrewsbury and Atcham. Shrewsbury and Atcham has the highest proportion of dwellings in bands B, the West Midlands has a higher percentage in band A.

Development Trends and Land Markets Completions

Class B employment land is a combination of the Class B1 (business) which includes B1a – office, B1b – Research and Development (Laboratories, Studios) and B1c – Light Industry), Class B2 (general industrial) and Class B8 (storage & distribution) Use Class Orders.

Table 34. Class B Employment Land Completions

	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
B1a	1426	4282	1540	574	12751	4182	9338	6635	4083
B1b	0	0	73	0	0	354	0	0	0
B1c	1694	3784	3234	60	3051	5015	4712	1799	2299
B2	4620	3787	2459	587	16191	5460	3726	3109	1810
B8	297	9445	3930	808	6435	7130	11237	1808	7185
Total	8037	21298	11236	2029	38428	22141	29013	13351	15377

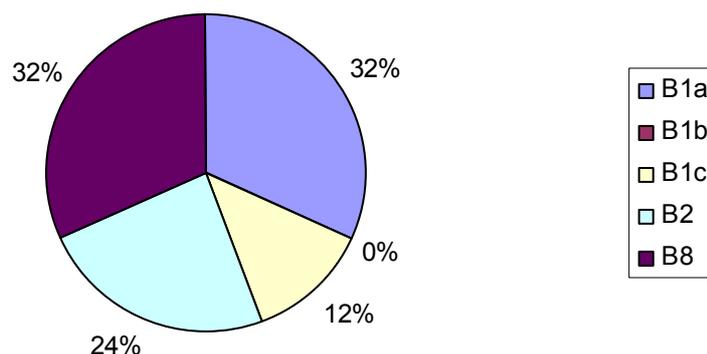
It should be noted that it is permitted development for Use Class Order B1 to change to B8, B8 to change to B1 and for B2 to change to either B1 or B8 where the gross floor space is less than 235 sqm. Due to this we are unable to monitor some of the smaller developments that take place across Shropshire.

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.

Figure 5: Employment Land Completions

Table 35. Class B employment land completions 2006-2007

2006-2007	
B1a	8041
B1b	0
B1c	3137
B2	5984
B8	8092
Total	25254



During 2006-2007 the high level of class B1a and B8 completions were partly due to continued development on the Battlefield Enterprise Park and Shrewsbury Business Park. On Battlefield a total of 4084 sqm of floor space was completed for B8 use and at the Shrewsbury Business Park a total of 5223 sqm of floor space was completed for B1 office use.

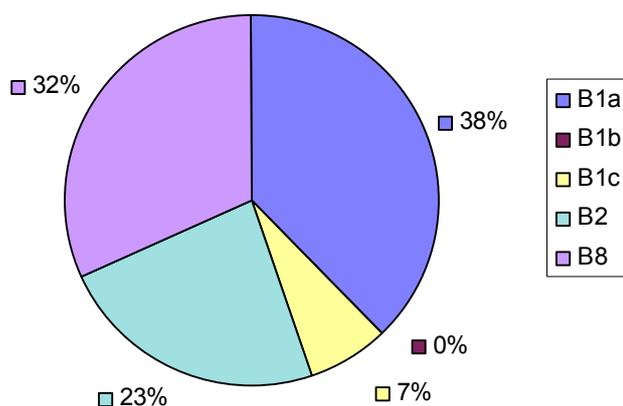
Employment land available by type as at 1st April 2007 (site area hectares)
 This includes land which may currently be under construction

Table 36. Outstanding employment land

	Outstanding permissions	Allocations (adopted)	Total
B1a	15.364	6.815	22.179
B1b	0.011	0	0.011
B1c	3.504	0.586	4.09
B2	12.019	1.791	13.81
B8	11.924	6.89	18.814
Total	42.822	16.082	58.904

Of the 42.822 hectares of outstanding permissions for employment, 54% have full planning permission (including approval of reserved matters and appeal allowed full).

Figure 6: Outstanding employment permissions and allocated for B use employment land.



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>