

Shropshire Economic Assessment 2008

South Shropshire
District

Economy,
Labour Market,
Learning
and Skills



June 2008

South Shropshire

- South Shropshire has a population density of 0.41 people per hectare.

Table 1: Population and Areas of South Shropshire in 2006

	Population			Area		Density	
	Number	Annual Change 2005 - 2006		Hectares*	Sq. miles	Persons per hectare	Persons per sq. mile
South Shropshire	42,300	200	0.5	102,726	397	0.41	106.5
South Area	94,100	130	0.1	166,043	641	0.57	146.1
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-2006 National Statistics. © Crown Copyright 2007

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

- Population in South Shropshire since 1991 has increased at a faster rate than England.

Table 2: Population in South Shropshire 1991 and 2006

	Mid Year Population			2006 Mid Year Population by Age		
	1991	2006	Change 1991- 2006	0-15	16- Retirement Age	Retirement Age+
South Shropshire	38,300	42,300	10.4	7,200	23,400	11,700
South Area	88,900	94,100	6.0	15,800	54,500	23,800
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: 2006 Mid Year Estimates, Office for National Statistics, © Crown Copyright 2007

Travel to Work

In South Shropshire 31.1% of those employed work from home, this is much higher than the national and regional figures. The largest group of people travel less than 2km to work in South 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 South Shropshire, 2001.

	% Work from home	% Travel less than 2 KM	% Travel 2-5 KM	% Travel 5-10KM	% Travel 10- 20KM	% Travel more than 20KM
South Shropshire	31.1%	26.2%	6.3%	9.3%	12.8%	14.3%
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 2,615 businesses registered for VAT in South Shropshire; this figure represents 20% 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 South Shropshire is found in Agriculture, 34.0%
- The next highest is in Wholesale and retail, followed by Real estate.

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

	South Shropshire		Shropshire		England		South Area	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
AB - Agriculture; fishing	890	34.0	3,045	22.9	94,170	5.6	1,380	26.5
CE - Mining; energy/water	0	0.0	10	0.1	1,235	0.1	0	0.0
D - Manufacturing	175	6.7	875	6.6	134,205	8.0	375	7.2
F - Construction	235	9.0	1,495	11.2	192,945	11.6	505	9.7
G - Wholesale & retail	425	16.3	2,540	19.1	346,280	20.7	925	17.8
H - Hotels & restaurants	165	6.3	960	7.2	116,755	7.0	380	7.3
I - Transport & communication	100	3.8	600	4.5	73,275	4.4	190	3.6
J - Finance	10	0.4	90	0.7	18,815	1.1	30	0.6
K - Real Estate	435	16.6	2,755	20.7	534,640	32.0	1,050	20.2
LO - Public admin; other	150	5.7	760	5.7	131,390	7.9	315	6.0
MN - Education; health	30	1.1	190	1.4	26,640	1.6	60	1.2
Total	2,615	100.0	13,320	100.0	1,670,350	100.0	5,210	100.0

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

VAT Registrations and Deregistrations 2006

During 2006 there were 160 VAT Registrations and 160 Deregistrations in South Shropshire, giving a net gain off of 0. 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, South Shropshire 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 2006	VAT Deregistrations During 2006	VAT Stock at the end of 2006	New Business Start-up Rate 2006	Business Closure Rate 2006
South Shropshire	160	160	2,615	6.1	6.1
Shropshire	1,035	745	13,320	7.8	5.6
South Area	380	305	5,210	7.3	5.9
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 2006¹

Table 6 shows the net change in VAT registered businesses in South Shropshire 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 South Shropshire the actual number of business registered for VAT peaked in 2005 at 2,510.
- The new business start-up rate was highest in 1988 when it reached 9.8% considerably lower than the 1989 peak in Shropshire, the West Midlands and Great Britain. Recently the start-up rates have stabilised at 5.6% – 6.3%, much lower than the county, regional or national rates.
- The business closure rate peaked in 1988 when the rate in South Shropshire was 8.0%, lower than the peak that occurred in 1992 in Shropshire, the West Midlands and Great Britain. Recently the closure rate have been around 5 – 6%.

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

Date	Registrations	Deregistrations	Total Stocks	Net Change
1980	165	135	1,895	30
1981	135	80	1,920	55
1982	150	95	1,975	55
1983	160	120	2,035	40
1984	175	125	2,070	50
1985	140	145	2,120	-5
1986	155	135	2,115	20
1987	210	145	2,140	65
1988	215	175	2,200	40
1989	195	150	2,245	45
1990	180	130	2,290	50
1991	180	185	2,340	-5
1992	125	180	2,270	-55
1993	150	170	2,210	-20
1994	140	150	2,375	-10

1995	140	140	2,370	0
1996	140	145	2,370	-5
1997	180	145	2,405	35
1998	180	140	2,450	40
1999	150	140	2,460	10
2000	130	130	2,460	0
2001	155	150	2,465	5
2002	140	120	2,490	20
2003	155	160	2,485	-5
2004	160	145	2,500	15
2005	150	140	2,510	10
2006	160	160	2,615	0

Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis) VAT Registrations and Deregistrations, © Crown Copyright 2008
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

- South Shropshire has a lower weekly pay for full time workers than the West Midlands, Shropshire and England.
- South Shropshire has the lowest full time weekly wages compared to all Shropshire districts.
- Full-time workers in South Shropshire work slightly more hours than in the West Midlands and England.

Table 7. Pay and Hours for South Shropshire, 2007.

	Male Full Time Workers	Female Full Time Workers	Full Time Workers	Part Time Workers
Weekly Pay – Gross £				
South Shropshire	£374.4	£289.0	£335.0	£115.1
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 £				
South Shropshire	8.43	8.36	8.49	6.39
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				
South Shropshire	#	35.0	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 2006.
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. South Shropshire 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
South Shropshire	23,000	£14,000	£1,560
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 South Shropshire

Annual Population Survey

- South Shropshire has an economic activity rate of 73.5%. Table 9.
- In 2006/7, there were 24,100 residents of working age living in South Shropshire, of these 17,700 were economically active.
- Men of working age in South Shropshire have an economic rate 25% higher than females. This trend is greater than regional and national figures.

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

	South Shropshire		South Area		Shropshire		England	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Economic activity rate - working age	17,700	73.5	42,600	79.2	134,600	81.4%	24,120,800	78.6
Economic activity rate males - working age	10,900	85.1	25,100	88.5	74,900	87.3%	13,207,400	83.6
Economic activity rate females - working age	6,800	60.5	17,500	68.8	59,700	75.0%	10,913,400	73.3

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

- In South Shropshire people aged between 25 and 34 years have the highest economic activity rates at 92.2%, higher than the figures regionally and nationally. Table 10.
- South Shropshire has an economic rate of 65.2% for those over 50 – retirement age, this is lower than the national and regional average.

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

	South Shropshire		South Area		Shropshire		England	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Economic activity rate - 16-19	!	!	1,300	48.6	8,200	65.0	1,410,400	54.5
Economic activity rate - 20-24	700	72.7	3,600	87.6	11,500	88.4	2,354,400	76.2
Economic activity rate - 25-34	2,200	92.2	7,500	81.3	26,500	87.7	5,339,400	83.9
Economic activity rate - 35-49	7,300	85.0	16,700	89.2	51,800	86.9	9,374,300	85.1
Economic activity rate - 50-retirement age	7,100	65.2	13,500	89.2	36,600	73.3	5,642,400	73.9

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

- In South Shropshire the highest numbers are employed in the distribution, hotels and restaurants sector followed by public admin, education and health industry, followed by banking and finance.

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

Industry	South Shropshire		South Area		Shropshire		England	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Agriculture and fishing	!	!	1,100	3.4	4,100	4.1	285,100	1.6
Energy and water	!	!	!	!	700	0.7	217,000	1.2
Manufacturing	2,000	14.5	5,600	17.4	17,700	17.6	3,118,100	17.1
Construction	1,600	11.6	3,900	12.1	11,100	11.0	1,872,600	10.3
Distribution, hotels and restaurants	4,600	33.3	9,600	29.8	27,600	27.5	4,515,600	24.8
Transport and communications	900	6.5	2,000	6.2	6,900	6.9	1,619,300	8.9
Banking, finance and insurance	2,500	18.1	5,400	16.8	15,300	15.2	3,924,100	21.5
Public admin. education and health	4,200	30.4	12,400	38.5	42,300	42.1	6,645,500	36.5
Other services	1,600	11.6	2,800	8.7	8,300	8.3	1,514,600	8.3
Total	13,800	100.0	32,200	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 2007

Table 12 shows the occupation of residents in South Shropshire.

- South Shropshire has higher percentages of people employed in Skilled trade occupations and in personal service occupations than the West Midlands and England.

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

Variable	South Shropshire		South Area		Shropshire		England	
	number	percent	Percent		number	percent	number	percent
Managers and senior officials	2,600	14.5	6,400	14.9	17,200	12.8	3,683,200	15.5
Professional occupations	2,500	14.0	4,900	11.3	17,200	12.8	3,109,000	13.1
Associate prof & tech occupations	2,200	11.9	5,400	12.4	17,800	13.2	3,422,600	14.4
Administrative and secretarial occupations	1,600	8.9	4,500	10.5	13,400	10.0	2,865,700	12.0
Skilled trades occupations	3,700	20.2	8,100	18.8	19,200	14.3	2,569,100	10.8
Personal service occupations	1,400	8.0	3,100	7.2	12,400	9.2	1,892,600	7.9
Sales and customer service occupations	800	4.3	1,700	4.0	8,800	6.5	1,802,800	7.6
Process, plant and machine operatives	1,400	7.5	3,500	8.2	12,800	9.6	1,684,000	7.1
Elementary occupations	1,800	9.8	5,400	12.4	14,900	11.1	2,711,300	11.4

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

Employment patterns

South Shropshire and the south area as a whole has a higher 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
South Shropshire	12,300	68.1	5,300	29.3
Shropshire	111,400	83.0	21,300	15.9
South Area	32,700	75.9	9,700	22.5
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 2007

- South Shropshire full-time males make up the majority of the workforce, this is similar to the West Midlands and England. Table 14.
- More females work part time in South Shropshire than fulltime. The proportion of female full time workers is considerably lower than regionally and nationally.
- South Shropshire has a greater proportion of part time male workers.

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	%
South Shropshire	9,100	53.9	1,500	8.9	2,700	15.8	3,600	21.3
Shropshire	64,500	50.2	7,200	5.5	29,800	23.2	27,000	21.0
South Area	21,300	51.7	3,200	7.8	8,300	20.1	8,300	20.1
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 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 13,400 employee jobs located in South Shropshire and of these 5,500 were occupied by men and 6,600 by women. Table 15.
- Male full-time jobs account for 41% of the total, male part-time 10%, female full-time 22% and female part-time 27%.

Table 15. Employment Structure by District and Type of Job, 2006

	Employee Jobs						
	Male Full-time	Male Part-time	Total Male	Female Full-time	Female Part-time	Total Female	Total
South Shropshire	5,500	1,300	6,800	3,000	3,600	6,600	13,400
South Area	13,300	2,800	16,100	6,600	7,700	14,200	30,300
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							
South Shropshire	41	10	51	22	27	49	100
South Area	44	9	53	22	25	47	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 2005

- 74.0% of employee jobs are located in the service sector, sectors 5 to 9. Table 15 and Figure 2.

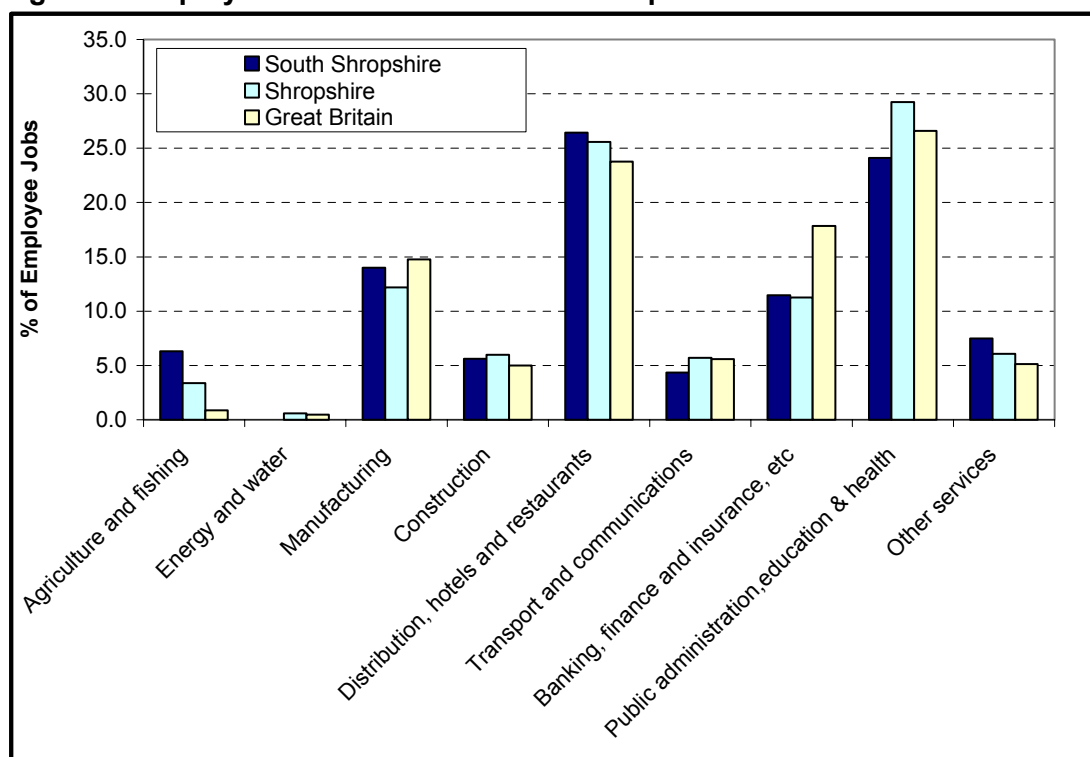
- South Shropshire has 6.3% of employees in the agriculture industry, compared to 0.9%.

Table 16. Employment Structure 2006

Standard Industrial Classification (2003) (SIC)	South Shropshire	%	South Area	Shropshire	%	Great Britain %
1. Agriculture & fishing	800	6.3	6.1	3700	3.4	0.9
2. Energy and water	*	*	0.3	700	0.6	0.6
3. Manufacturing	1900	14.0	14.3	13400	12.2	10.9
4. Construction	800	5.6	6.6	6600	6.0	4.8
5. Distribution, hotels, restaurants	3500	26.4	25.4	28200	25.6	23.5
6. Transport & communications	600	4.3	3.7	6300	5.7	5.9
7. Banking, finance & insurance, etc	1500	11.5	12.9	12400	11.3	21.2
8. Public admin, education & health	3200	24.1	23.5	32300	29.2	26.9
9. Other services	1000	7.5	7.3	6700	6.1	5.3
Total	13400	100.0	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 2. Employment Structure in South Shropshire 2006.



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

Size of Workplaces 2006

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 2,145 workplaces in South Shropshire, which employed 12,600 people. The majority of these workplaces fall into the small firms sector; 96% (2,067) had less than 25 employees and 89.5% had 10 or fewer employees, Table 16.

Table 17: Number of Workplaces by Size of Workplace, 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+*	
South Shropshire	1,919	148	44	34	*	2,145
South Area	4,194	299	108	45	29	4,675
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						
South Shropshire	89.5	6.9	2.1	1.6	*	100.0
South Area	89.7	6.4	2.3	1.0	0.6	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. Figures exclude agriculture, the self-employed and HM Forces

Although the majority of workplaces have less than 25 employees, these workplaces account for only 61.0% of the total employees. Table 17. Workplaces with 25+ employees account for 3.6% of the total workplaces and 38.9% of employees.

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

All Industries and Services	Size of Workplaces (Defined by Number of Employees)					Total
	1 to 10	11 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 99	100+*	
South Shropshire	5,300	2,400	1,600	3,300	*	12,600
South Area	11,300	4,800	3,900	3,200	5,500	28,700
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						
South Shropshire	41.6	19.2	12.9	26.3	*	100.0
South Area	39.4	16.7	13.6	11.1	19.2	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), 2007 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 South Shropshire is 5.9 people, compared to 11.8 in the West Midlands and 12 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 South Shropshire is low when compared with the figures for the West Midlands and England.
- In December 2007 the claimant count unemployment rate in South Shropshire was 1.1% compared to 2.9% in the West Midlands and 2.1% in England. Similarly, male and female unemployment rates in South Shropshire are lower than the regional and national averages.
- In December 2007 there were 250 people claiming unemployment benefits in South Shropshire, of which 181 were men and 69 women.

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

Table 19. Claimant Count Unemployment in South Shropshire, December 2007

Districts	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)	No.	Rate (%)
South Shropshire	181	1.5%	69	0.6%	250	1.1%
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 South Shropshire has decreased by 27 or 9.7% lower than the West Midlands and England. Table 19.
- The number of men unemployed has decreased by 8 or 4.2% this is a lower rate than nationally and regionally.
- Female unemployment has fallen by 19 or 21.6%.

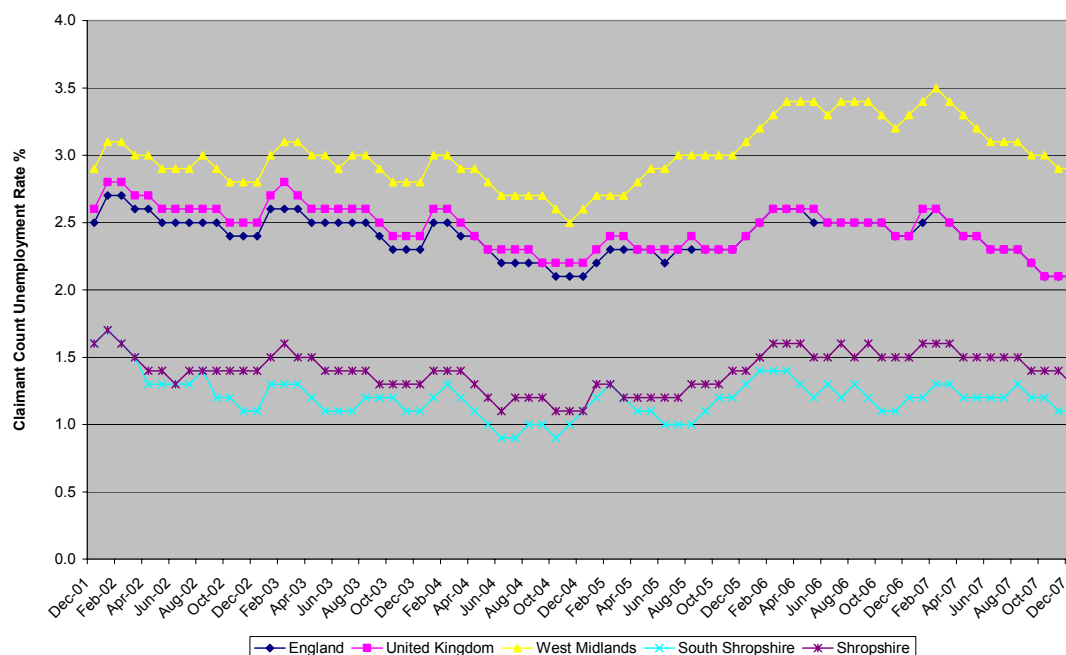
Table 20. Claimant Count Unemployment Change between December 2006 and December 2007

District	Male Change		Female Change		Total Change	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
South Shropshire	8	4.2%	19	21.6%	27	9.7%
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 South 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 in November and December 2005 unemployment continued to rise in South Shropshire as did national and regional rates.

Figure 3 Unemployment Claimant Count Rates, December 2001 – December 2007



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

Unemployment Distribution

Unemployment in South Shropshire accounts for 11.0% 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 South Shropshire, females make up a slightly higher proportion of the unemployed than the regional and national averages.

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

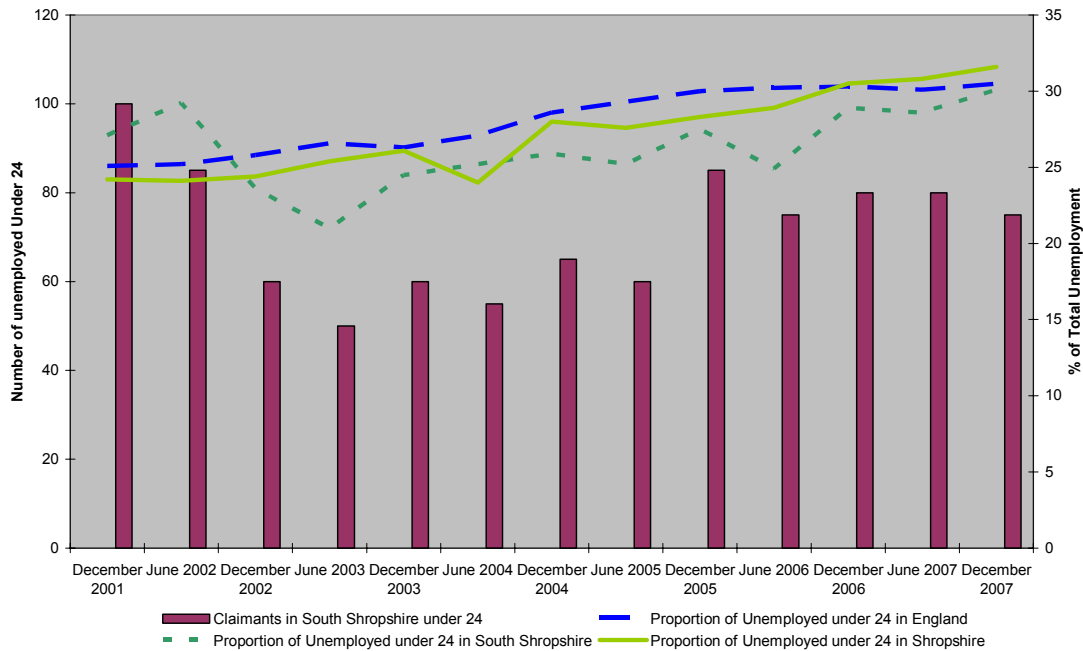
District	% of Total Unemployed
South Shropshire	27.6%
Shropshire	24.7%
West Midlands	26.0%
England	27.1%
United Kingdom	26.6%

Youth Unemployment

Figure 4 shows the trend of youth unemployment over the last 5 years. Since 2001 the proportion unemployed in South Shropshire fluctuated at around 27%, in 2007 the rates were lower than Shropshire and national rates.

- In December 2007 the number of claimants aged between 16 and 24 years accounted for 30.0% of the total number unemployed in South Shropshire. The actual number of claimants aged 16 – 24 has decreased by 5 between December 2006 and December 2007.

Figure 4. Youth Unemployment in South Shropshire, 2001 – 2007



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

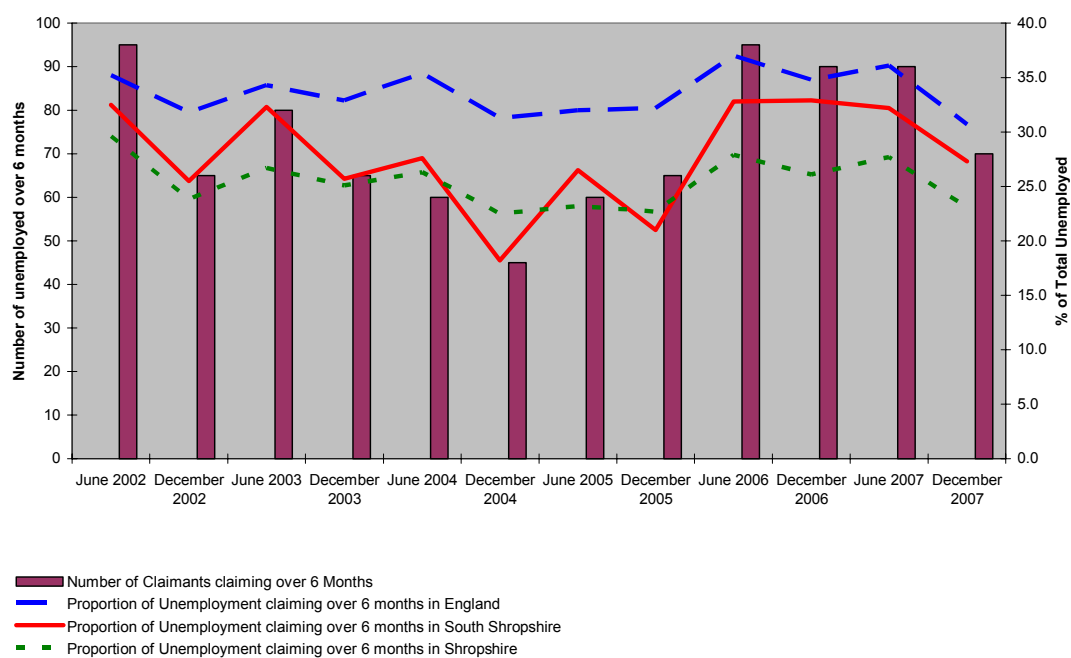
Long Term Unemployment

In December 2007 there were 70 people classified as long term unemployed in South Shropshire (on the claimant register for 6 months or more), 27.3% compared to 36.1% in the West Midlands and 30.7% in England, figure 5.

- In South Shropshire the number of long term unemployed has decreased since December 2006 by 20, the proportion has decreased by 22.2%. In the West Midlands the proportion has fallen by 3.9% and in England the proportion has fallen by 4.1%.

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

Figure 5. Long Term Unemployment in South Shropshire, 2001 – 2007.



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

Occupations

- In South Shropshire the occupation with the highest number claiming unemployment is Elementary occupations. Table 22.

Table 23. Claimants Usual Occupation in South Shropshire December 2007.

	South Shropshire	Shropshire
0 : Occupation unknown	0	5
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	20	125
2 : Professional Occupations	5	60
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	15	110
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	15	180
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	25	270
6 : Personal Service Occupations	10	115
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	45	395
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	30	280
9 : Elementary Occupations	80	705
Total	250	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 South Shropshire for December 2007 Banking, finance and insurance had the highest number of notified vacancies, 82, 64.1% of the total notified vacancies. Table 23.

Table 24. Notified Vacancies by Industry.

	South Shropshire	%	Shropshire	%
1 : Agriculture and fishing (SIC A,B)	0	0	3	0.2
2 : Energy and water (SIC C,E)	0	0	37	2.1
3 : Manufacturing (SIC D)	6	4.7	48	2.8
4 : Construction (SIC F)	1	0.8	22	1.3
5 : Distribution, hotels and restaurants (SIC G,H)	19	14.8	403	23.3
6 : Transport and communications (SIC I)	1	0.8	18	1.0
7 : Banking, finance and insurance, etc (SIC J,K)	82	64.1	916	52.9
8 : Public administration, education & health (SIC L,M,N)	19	14.8	243	14.0
9 : Other services (SIC O,P,Q)	0	0	41	2.4
Total	128	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 sales and customer service occupations.

Table 25. Vacancies by Occupation.

	South Shropshire	%	Shropshire	%
1 : Managers and Senior Officials	8	6.2	58	3.4
2 : Professional Occupations	5	3.9	77	4.4
3 : Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	13	10.2	248	14.3
4 : Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	12	9.4	133	7.7
5 : Skilled Trades Occupations	12	9.4	281	16.2
6 : Personal Service Occupations	6	4.7	123	7.1
7 : Sales and Customer Service occupations	34	26.6	238	13.7
8 : Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	12	9.4	204	11.8
9 : Elementary Occupations	26	20.3	369	21.3
Total	128	100.0	1,731	100.0

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

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 South 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 South Shropshire 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 South Shropshire.

Literacy Levels	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills		Level 2 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
South Shropshire	2,260	9%	11,010	46%	10,730	45%
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 South Shropshire is 47% at entry level, this is similar to the West Midlands and England. Table 26.

Table 27. Numeracy Levels in South Shropshire.

Numeracy Levels	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills		Level 2 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
South Shropshire	11,310	47%	7,655	32%	5,030	21%
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 South Shropshire Entry Level for ICT is 62%, higher than regional and national rates. Table 27.

Table 28. ICT Levels in South Shropshire

ICT Skills	Total Entry Level		Level 1 Skills	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
South Shropshire	14,920	62%	9,075	38%
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

- South Shropshire has a much higher proportion of detached houses 51.2%, than the West Midlands, 23.8%, or England, 22.5%. Table 28.
- South Shropshire has a much lower proportion of terraced houses than the West Midlands or England.

Table 29. Household Type in South Shropshire, 2001.

Housing Type	South Shropshire		Shropshire		West Midlands		England	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Households	18611	100.0	117,304	100.0%	2,153,672	100.0%	20,451,427	100.0%
Detached	9525	51.2	47,782	40.7%	518,363	24.1%	4,648,476	22.7%
Semi-detached	4663	25.1	40,445	34.5%	821,628	38.2%	6,562,542	32.1%
Terraced	2979	16.0	18,999	16.2%	511,046	23.7%	5,250,702	25.7%
Flats, maisonette or apartment	1226	6.6	9,274	7.9%	291,569	13.5%	3,843,340	18.8%
Non-permanent accommodation	218	1.2	654	0.6%	7,454	0.3%	80,369	0.4%

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

Tenure

- South Shropshire has a higher level of owner occupied dwellings than regionally and nationally.

Table 30. Tenure of Dwellings in South Shropshire 2001.

Households	South Shropshire		Shropshire		West Midlands		England	
	No.	% of	No.	%	No.	% total	No.	%
Owner Occupied	12519	72.5	85,411	72.8%	1,498,066	69.6%	14,054,122	68.7%
Rented	2746	15.9	15,938	13.6%	211,962	9.8%	2,456,577	12.0%
Social Housing	1997	11.6	15,955	13.6%	443,644	20.6%	3,940,728	19.3%
Total	17262	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
South Shropshire	£313,053	£185,583	£161,635	£142,655	£242,207
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 South Shropshire.

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 South Shropshire is higher than the West Midlands and England. Table 31.

Table 32. Affordability and the Intermediate Housing Market.

Local Authority	Number of Working households	Household Earned Annual Income	Mean House Prices	House Price to Income Ratios
South Shropshire	3,897	£34,939	£173,319	4.96
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 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.

Districts	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
South Shropshire	17.5%	20.3%	19.5%	17.8%	14.5%	7.0%	3.1%	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 South Shropshire. South Shropshire has the highest proportion of dwellings in bands B, the West Midlands has a higher percentage in band A.

Table 32 provides information on the percentage of dwellings per council tax band in South Shropshire. South Shropshire 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: Floor space completions 1997-2006
(See next page for 2006-2007)

	1997-1998	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
B1a	626	540	124	40	399	229	587	371	2148
B1b	0	0	0	230	121	258	0	0	59
B1c	2174	941	524	683	231	2007	0	4553	2299
B2	288	728	7107	27580	3070	1879	1884	2476	810
B8	0	677	18027	1716	450	0	6571	1938	619
Total	3088	2886	25782	30249	4271	4373	9042	9338	5935

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.

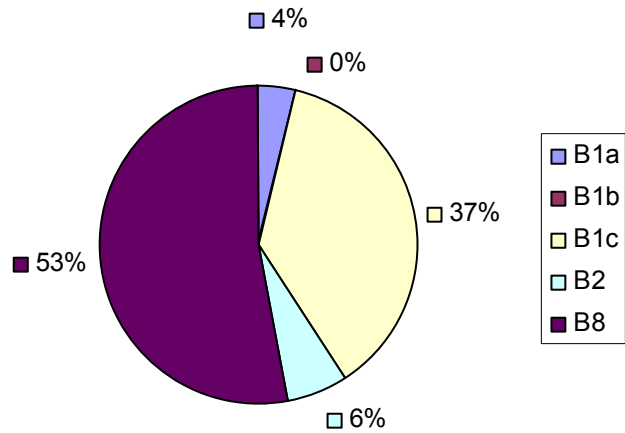
It is also permitted development for movement between the B1 Use Class Order regardless of floor space; therefore it is not possible to accurately measure separately the amount of B1a, B1b and B1c, it is of more use to look at the B1 Use Class Order as a whole.

Employment floor space completions 2006-2007

Figure 6

Table 35: Employment Floor Space SqM

2006-2007	
B1a	88
B1b	0
B1c	867
B2	142
B8	1235
Total	2332

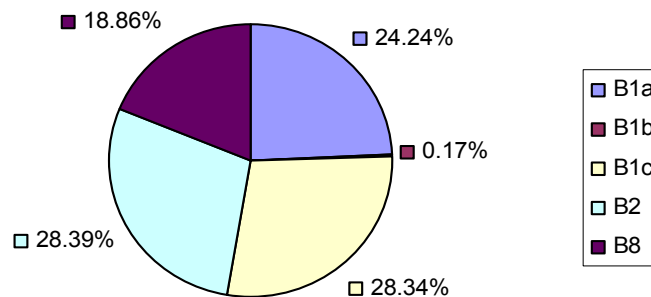


During 2006-2007 B8 saw the highest level completions with 53% of the total completed floor space. The largest individual sites were at Upper Wood Farm, Upton Cangeford to provide a scaffold compound (423sqm) and at High Meadow Farm, Ashford Carbonel for the storage of non-agricultural machinery (324sqm).

Table 36: Available employment land by type (site area in hectares)

	Outstanding permissions	Allocations (adopted)	Total
B1a	3.027	1.312	4.339
B1b	0.031	0	0.031
B1c	0.95	4.124	5.074
B2	3.94	1.142	5.082
B8	2.234	1.143	3.377
Total	10.182	7.721	17.903

Figure 7. Available employment land by type (hectares)



Of the outstanding 10.182 hectares of employment land with planning permission only 2.68 hectares was under construction at April 2007. Of the remaining 7.502 hectares 66% has full planning permission and 34% has outline permission.

Class B2 and Class B1c account for over half (almost 57%) of the total outstanding amount. The largest site being an area of 2.524ha at the junction of the A488 and B4385 at Bishops Castle.

Other large sites of interest with planning permission include 0.416ha at Foldgate Lane, Ludlow for 4no. B1 industrial units and three permissions granted on land at the Eco Park, Ludlow amounting to 1.652 for the development of office units.

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>