

Occupation Summary Bulletin for Shropshire

March 2023

Key Points

- The number of Shropshire residents employed remained virtually unchanged between 2011 and 2021. However, the types of occupations in which people are employed have changed significantly.
- There has been a strong up-lift in employment in managerial, professional and associate professional occupations, and these now account for 43.7% of all Shropshire working people. This proportion is slightly lower than in England, but marginally higher than for the West Midlands.
- Numbers employed in occupations which traditionally require lower skills levels and fewer qualifications have mostly declined – this aligns with the growing proportion of the population which is educated to level 3 or 4 or above.
- Skilled trades occupations account for a disproportionately large share of Shropshire employment (resident based).

Occupational Structure

The total number of Shropshire people in employment rose only very marginally between 2011 and 2021. However, over the decade, the occupation structure changed significantly, with a strong increase in managerial and professional occupations and a decline in numbers working in lower skilled employment.

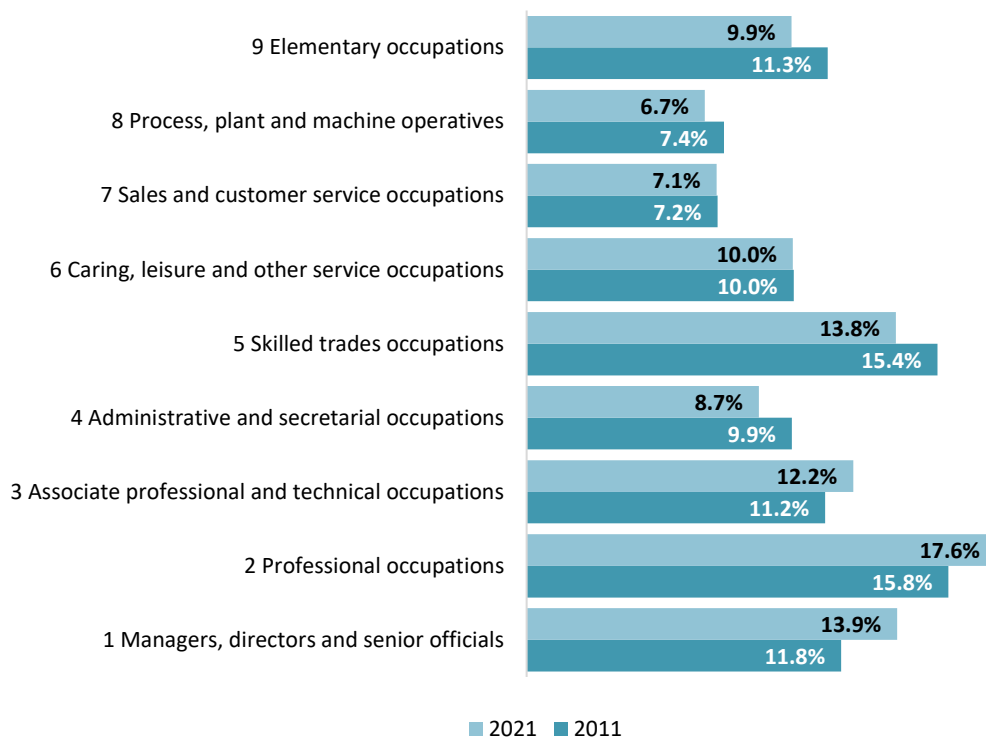
Numbers in Employment by Occupation

	2011	2021	% change
1 Managers, directors and senior officials	17,954	21,180	18.0%
2 Professional occupations	24,084	26,819	11.4%
3 Associate professional and technical occupations	17,055	18,664	9.4%
4 Administrative and secretarial occupations	15,145	13,271	-12.4%
5 Skilled trades occupations	23,468	21,109	-10.1%
6 Caring, leisure and other service occupations	15,249	15,219	-0.2%
7 Sales and customer service occupations	10,898	10,852	-0.4%
8 Process, plant and machine operatives	11,270	10,178	-9.7%
9 Elementary occupations	17,186	15,132	-12.0%
Total	152,309	152,424	0.1%



Of the nine main occupations, professional occupations account for the highest proportion of people in employment, its share rising from 15.8% to 17.6% between 2011 and 2021. Also accounting for more than a tenth of Shropshire people in employment are managers, directors and senior officials (13.9%), associate professional and technical occupations (12.2%) and skilled trades occupations (13.8%). The latter now accounts for a smaller share of employment than in 2011.

Breakdown by Occupation, 2011 & 2021



Location Quotients

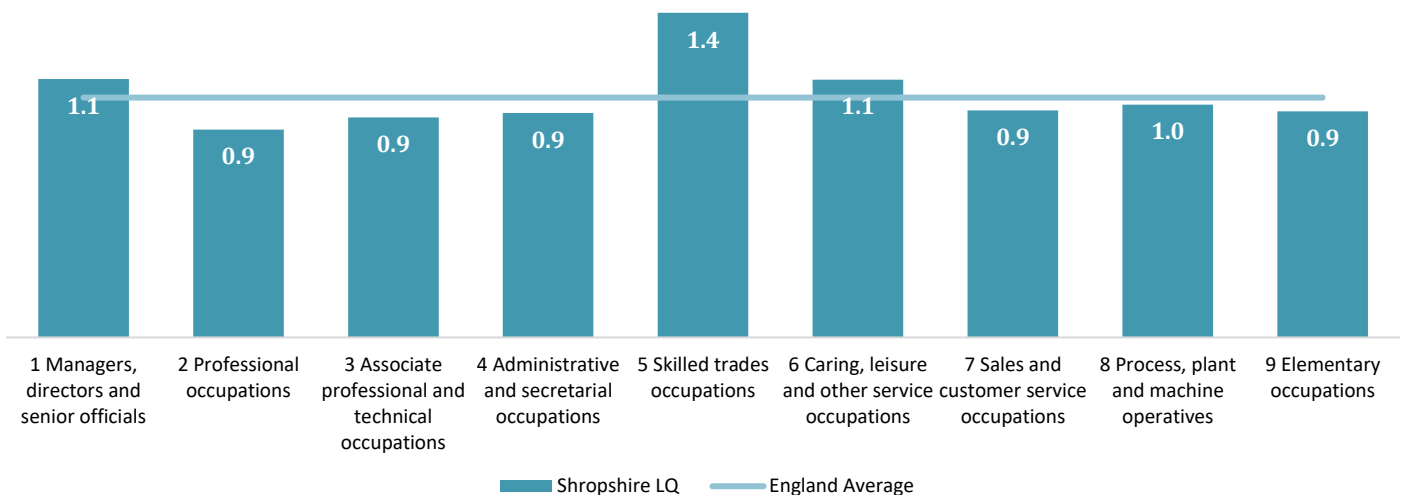
The relative importance of occupations in comparison with the national average can be measured using location quotients (LQs). Any occupation with a score of over 1 is more prevalent in Shropshire than it is nationally, and any score below 1 is less prevalent.

The following chart shows that there is one occupation group which is significantly more important in Shropshire than it is in England – skilled trades occupations, which has an LQ of 1.4. Despite this, the number employed in this occupation has fallen by 10.1% since 2011 (2,359 fewer people).

Other occupations which are more common amongst Shropshire residents are managers, directors and senior officials and caring, leisure and other service occupations. Process, plant and machine operatives are on a par with the national average while all other occupations have an LQ of less than 1, meaning that they are less common in Shropshire than in England, albeit only marginally so.



Relative Importance of Occupations by LQ, 2021



Broad Occupational Groups

The occupation composition of economies can also be considered by grouping the nine main occupations into three groups which reflect the skills and qualifications needed to pursue these occupation types. These are categorized as:

- SOC 1-3: Managers, directors and senior officials; professional; associate professional and technical
- SOC 4-7: Administrative and secretarial; skilled trades; caring, leisure and other service; sales and customer service
- SOC 8-9: Process, plant and machine operatives; elementary occupations

The number of people employed in SOC 1-3 occupations has risen across the country, albeit at a lower rate in Shropshire than in either the West Midlands or England. There are now 7,570 more Shropshire residents working in these occupations than there were in 2011.

Number Employed in SOC 1-3

	2011		2021		% change 2011-2021
	Number	As % all occupations	Number	As % all occupations	
Shropshire	59,093	38.8%	66,663	43.7%	+12.8%
West Midlands	944,070	37.0%	1,100,165	41.7%	+16.5%
England	10,409,584	41.1%	12,260,314	46.5%	+17.8%

The number employed in SOC 4-7 has declined at a similar rate in Shropshire as it has regionally or nationally (-6.7% or 4,309 fewer people). This consistent rate of decline is due to the nature of the occupations within this classification as they are less influenced by the industrial mix in different locations and more aligned with societal demand.



Number Employed in SOC 4-7

	2011		2021		% change 2011-2021
	Number	As % all occupations	Number	As % all occupations	
Shropshire	64,760	42.5%	60,451	39.6%	-6.7%
West Midlands	1,062,902	41.7%	989,255	37.5%	-6.9%
England	10,268,045	40.6%	9,549,405	36.3%	-7.0%

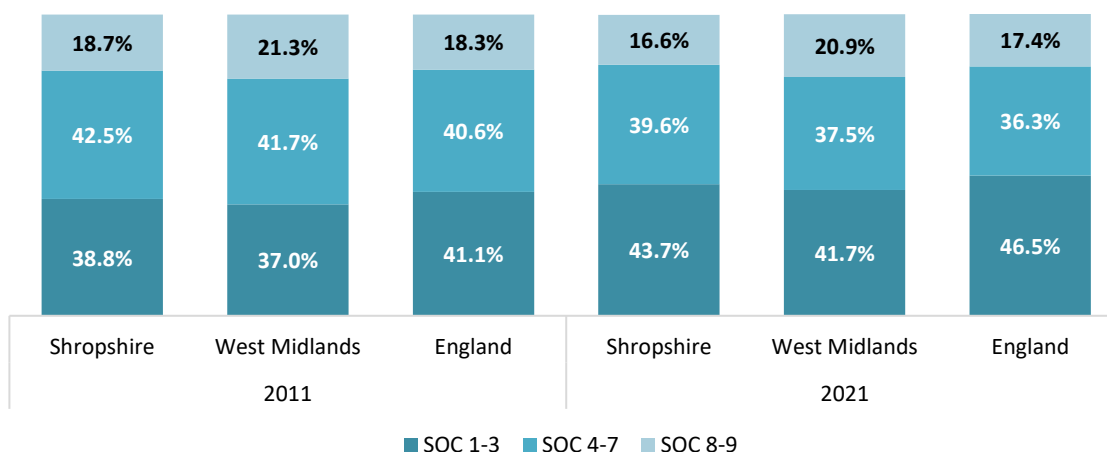
The number employed in SOC 8-9 occupations has declined much more rapidly in Shropshire than it has nationally, with a reduction of 3,146 people (-11.1%) between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses.

Number Employed in SOC 8-9

	2011		2021		% change 2011-2021
	Number	As % all occupations	Number	As % all occupations	
Shropshire	28,456	18.7%	25,310	16.6%	-11.1%
West Midlands	544,340	21.3%	549,469	20.9%	+0.9%
England	4,631,259	18.3%	4,595,495	17.4%	-0.8%

Across all geographies, a notable higher proportion of workers are now employed in SOC 1-3 occupations than they were in 2011. The share attributable to SOC 4-7 and SOC 8-9 occupations has declined everywhere, although the former continues to account for a higher share in Shropshire than either the West Midlands or England.

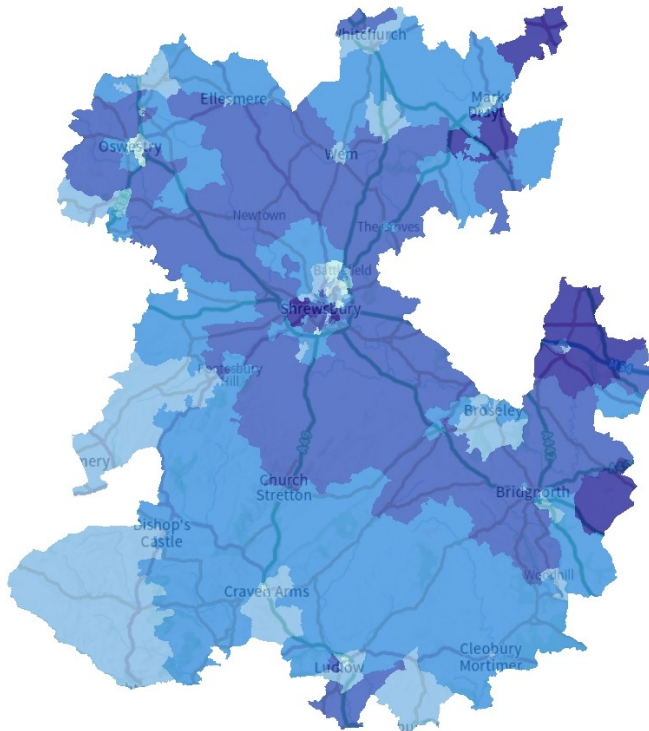
Breakdown of Employment by SOC classification



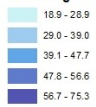
The following maps show the proportion of residents employed in SOC 1-3, SOC 4-7 or SOC 8-9 occupations. Residents in Shrewsbury and in the east of the county (where commuting to the West Midlands conurbation is common) are most likely to be employed in managerial, professional or associate professional occupations. The penetration of people employed in SOC 8-9 (process, plant and machine operative or in elementary occupations) is highest in Shrewsbury and other market towns. In contrast, people living in rural locations, especially in the south and west of Shropshire, are more likely to be employed in SOC 4-7 occupations.



Percentage Employed in SOC 1-3

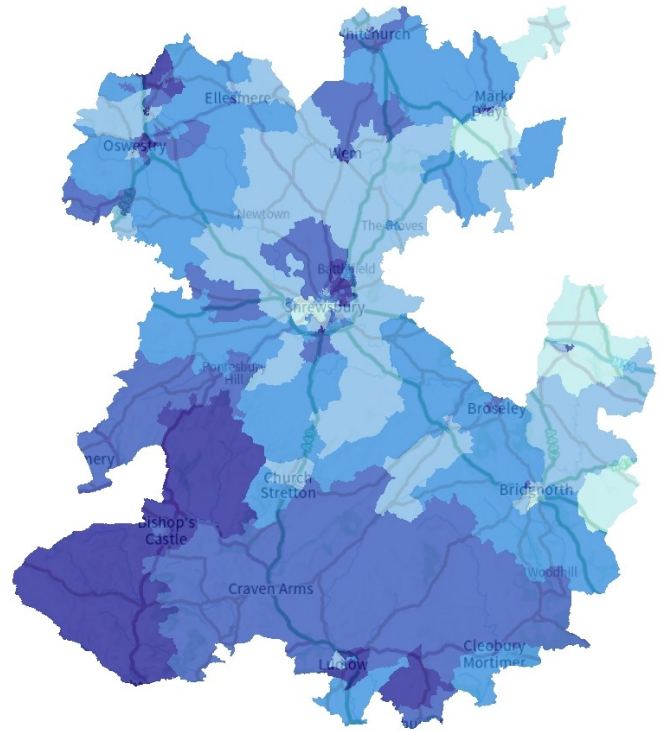


Percentage of 16+ population which is employed in SOC1-3 occupations

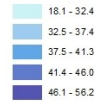


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Percentage Employed in SOC 4-7

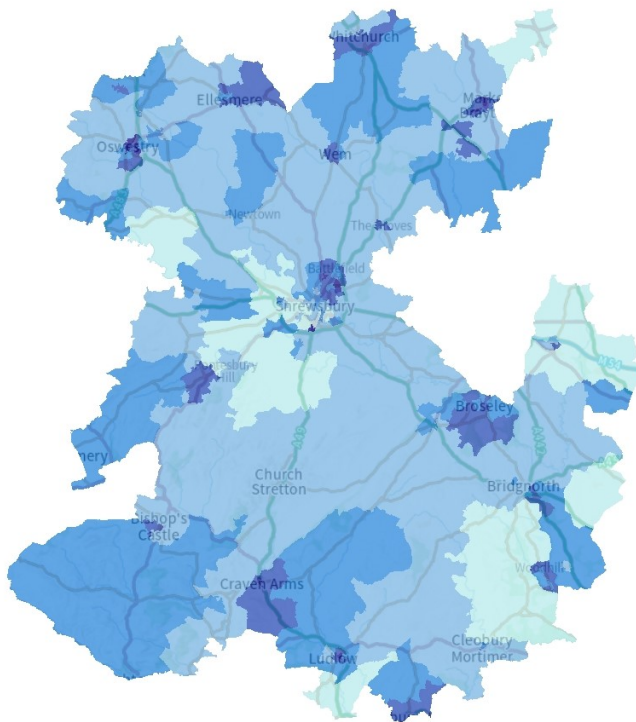


Percentage of 16+ population which is employed in SOC4-7 occupations

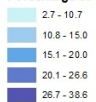


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Percentage Employed in SOC 8-9



Percentage of 16+ population which is employed in SOC8-9 occupations



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The following tables show the occupations in Shropshire which have expanded the most rapidly over the last decade, and the ones where numbers are falling most rapidly.

Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations: Shropshire

Occupation	Change 2011-2021	% Change 2011-2021
115 Managers and Directors in Retail and Wholesale	2,113	282.5%
113 Functional Managers and Directors	2,048	91.1%
613 Caring Personal Services	1,442	19.8%
122 Managers and Proprietors in Hospitality and Leisure Services	1,173	181.3%
112 Production Managers and Directors	1,098	33.5%
713 Shopkeepers and Sales Supervisors	998	126.5%
721 Customer Service Occupations	447	41.7%
124 Managers in Logistics, Warehousing and Transport	407	72.9%
222 Therapy Professionals	394	59.8%
415 Other Administrative Occupations	336	10.0%

Top 10 Fastest Declining Occupations: Shropshire

Occupation	Change 2011-2021	% Change 2011-2021
231 Teaching and other Educational Professionals	-1,722	-24.8%
121 Managers and Proprietors in Agriculture Related Services	-1,713	-61.3%
356 Public Services Associate Professionals	-1,659	-89.2%
611 Teaching and Childcare Support Occupations*	-1,497	-36.7%
123 Managers and Proprietors in Health and Care Services	-1,441	-69.2%
813 Plant and Machine Operatives	-1,224	-67.7%
421 Secretarial and Related Occupations	-1,182	-26.5%
243 Business, Research and Administrative Professionals	-1,146	-51.2%
353 Finance Associate Professionals*	-1,094	-61.4%
711 Sales Assistants and Retail Cashiers	-1,048	-12.8%

Note: * Occupational classifications do not completely align between 2011 and 2021



Definitions

Employed (In employment)

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

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

Main job

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

Occupation

- A person's occupation relates to their main job and is derived from either their job title or details of the activities involved in their job. This is used to assign responses to an occupation code based on the Standard Occupational Classification 2020 (SOC2020).

The data in this bulletin have been extracted from 2021 Census table TS063 and TS064 and from 2011 Census CT0347

For more information please contact: BusinessIntelligence@shropshire.gov.uk

Or refer to ONS website:

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

