



2011 Census Digest: National Statistics Socio-Economic Classifications

Introduction

The 2011 Census results show that:

- Using the ONS National Statistics socio-economic classification system, the highest proportion of the Shropshire working age population is lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations, with semi-routine occupations, routine occupations and small employers and own account workers also accounting for more than a tenth of the population.
- Compared to the national average, Shropshire supports a significant number classified as small employers and own account workers and ranks within the top 15% of local authorities in this respect.
- Since the last Census in 2001, there has been significant growth in the number classified as never having worked and also in the number who are long-term unemployed.

For definitions on National Statistics Socio-Economic Classifications, please refer to the note at the end of this digest.

Breakdown by socio-economic classification

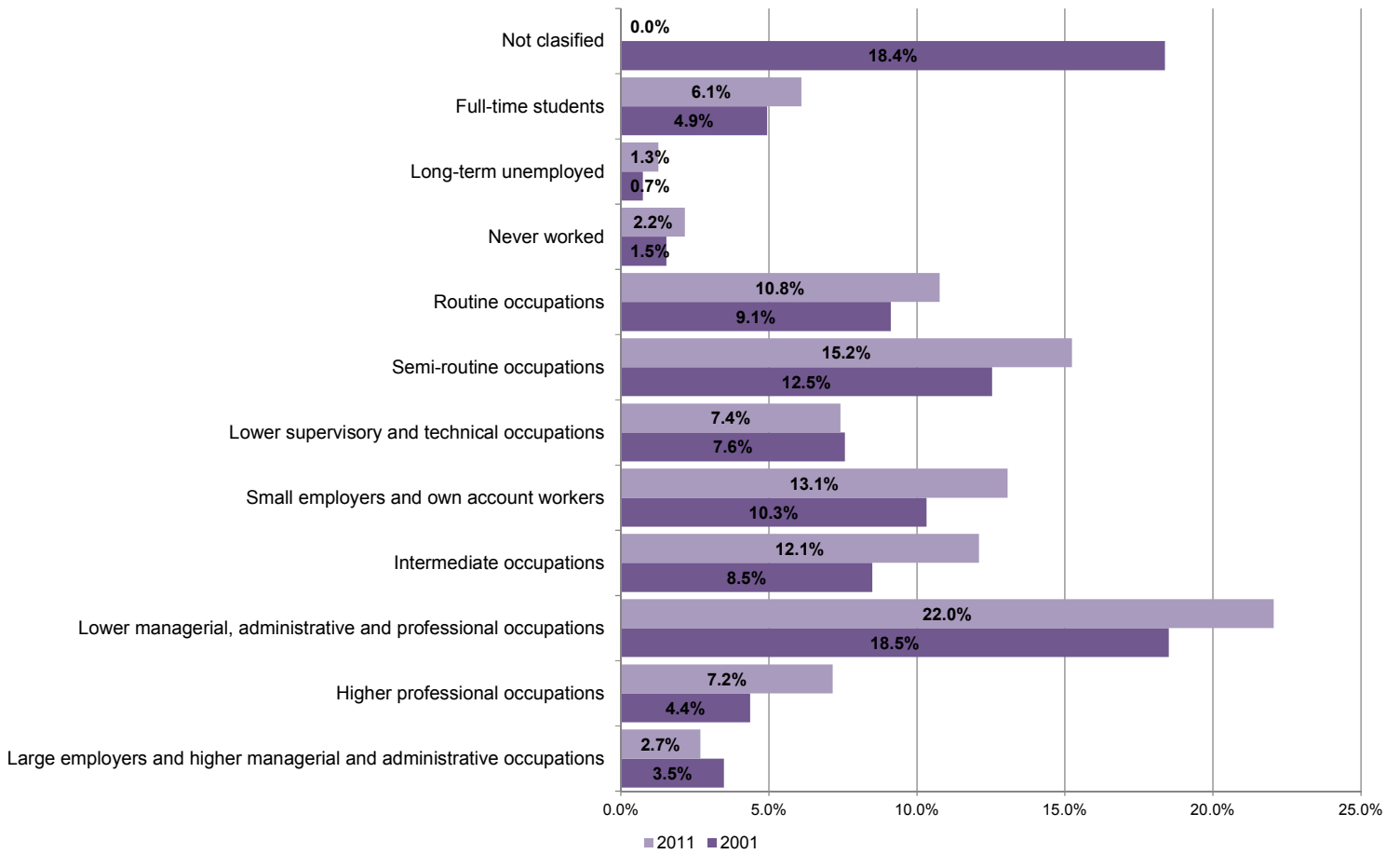
The highest proportion of the 16-74 year old Shropshire population is classified as being in lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations (22% in 2011). Semi-routine and routine occupations accounted for 15.2% and 10.8% of the working age population respectively at the time of the Census. 13.1% of the 16-74 year old population worked for small employers or were self-employed, while 12.1% had intermediate occupations. Less than 10% of the population was attributable to:

- Full-time students
- Lower supervisory and technical occupations
- Higher professional occupations
- Large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations
- Long-term unemployed
- Never worked

With the exception of the large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations category, the proportion of the population which is attributable to all classifications has risen since 2001. However, it is important to note that in this year a substantial 18.4% of the working age population was not classified (compared with 0% in 2011), and as such, any increase should be treated with caution as it is likely to be inflated.

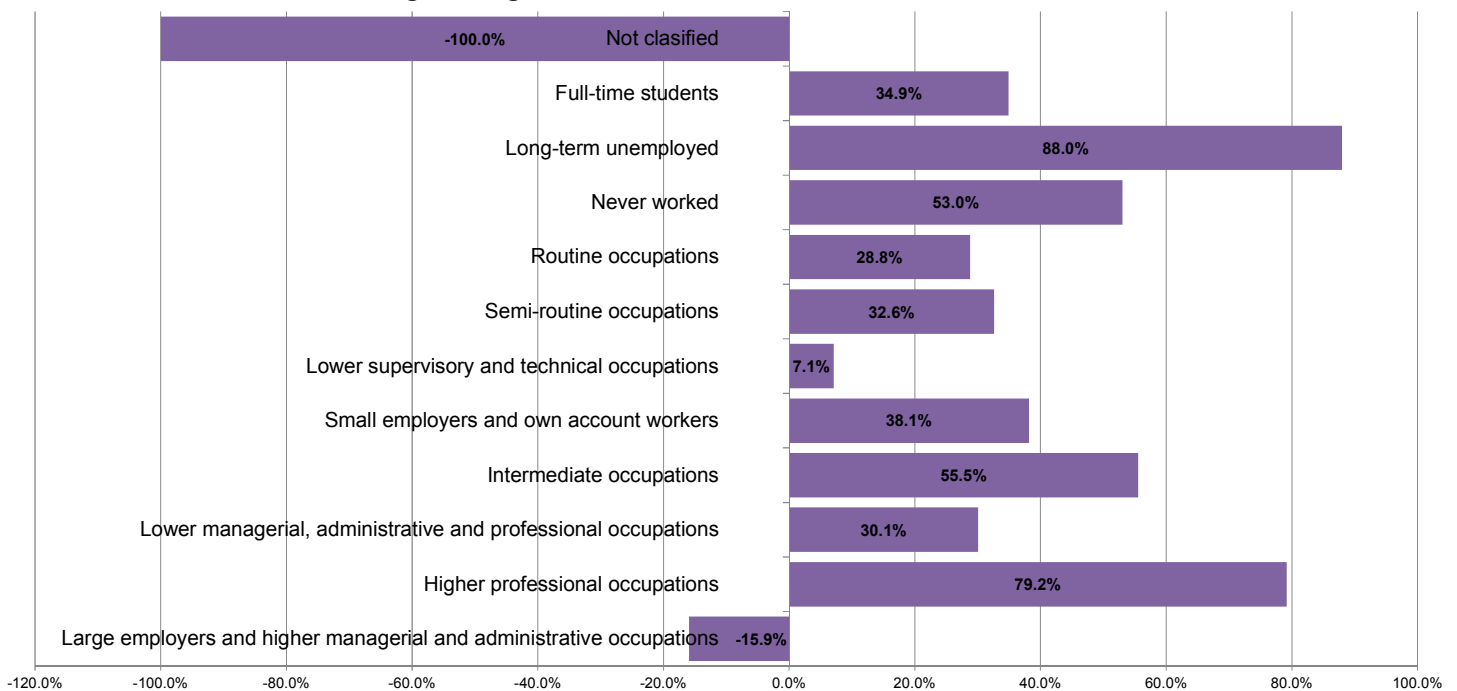
Similarly, growth in the number of people in each classification should be treated as relative rather than absolute. Highest growth was seen amongst the long-term unemployed, which is not surprising given the harsh economic conditions at the time of the 2011 Census. Also expanding strongly was the higher professional occupations category; intermediate occupations; and those who have never worked. Showing more modest growth were lower supervisory and technical occupations, with the number classified as large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations having declined by 15.9%.

Breakdown of the Shropshire population by socio-economic classification, 2001 & 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2012

Percentage change in socio-economic classifications, 2001-2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2012

Male/female split

Of the 223,892 Shropshire residents who were of working age in 2011, 50.3% were male and 49.7% were female.

Some socio-economic classifications are particularly either male or female dominated. Men account for more than two-thirds of the large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations; higher professional occupations; small employers and own account workers and lower supervisory and technical occupations classifications while women are more likely to be classified as having an intermediate occupation or a semi-routine occupation. Women are more likely never to have worked, while men are more likely to be long-term unemployed.

Socio-economic classifications in Shropshire; male and female split, 2011

	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	% of classification total	Number	% of classification total	Number	% of classification total
All categories:16-74 year olds	112,582	50.3%	111,310	49.7%	223,892	100.0%
Large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations	4,273	71.2%	1,728	28.8%	6,001	100.0%
Higher professional occupations	10,928	68.2%	5,099	31.8%	16,027	100.0%
Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	22,149	44.9%	27,216	55.1%	49,365	100.0%
Intermediate occupations	6,586	24.3%	20,488	75.7%	27,074	100.0%
Small employers and own account workers	20,127	68.8%	9,128	31.2%	29,255	100.0%
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	11,547	69.5%	5,066	30.5%	16,613	100.0%
Semi-routine occupations	12,719	37.3%	21,395	62.7%	34,114	100.0%
Routine occupations	13,874	57.6%	10,220	42.4%	24,094	100.0%
Never worked	2,025	41.8%	2,819	58.2%	4,844	100.0%
Long-term unemployed	1,603	56.5%	1,234	43.5%	2,837	100.0%
Full-time students	6,751	49.4%	6,917	50.6%	13,668	100.0%

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2012

How Shropshire compares to other locations

The following table shows how the breakdown Shropshire's working age population by socio-economic classification compares with the Marches LEP¹, the wider West Midlands region, Shropshire's statistical neighbour authorities², England and England and Wales.

¹ Includes Telford and Wrekin and Herefordshire as well as Shropshire

² Includes Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire as well as Shropshire

Socio-economic classification, geographic comparisons, 2011

	Shropshire Number	Shropshire %	Marches LEP %	West Midlands %	Shropshire and Statistical Neighbours %	England %	England and Wales %
All categories: Age 16-74	223,892	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations	6,001	2.7%	2.5%	2.1%	2.6%	2.4%	2.4%
Higher professional occupations	16,027	7.2%	6.8%	6.6%	7.1%	8.0%	7.9%
Lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations	49,365	22.0%	21.0%	18.8%	21.5%	20.9%	20.8%
Intermediate occupations	27,074	12.1%	12.0%	12.4%	12.6%	12.8%	12.7%
Small employers and own account workers	29,255	13.1%	12.0%	8.7%	11.7%	9.4%	9.4%
Lower supervisory and technical occupations	16,613	7.4%	7.6%	7.2%	7.6%	6.9%	6.9%
Semi-routine occupations	34,114	15.2%	16.0%	15.5%	15.6%	14.0%	14.1%
Routine occupations	24,094	10.8%	11.7%	12.9%	11.3%	11.0%	11.1%
Never worked	4,844	2.2%	2.6%	4.8%	2.2%	3.9%	3.9%
Long-term unemployed	2,837	1.3%	1.4%	2.1%	1.3%	1.7%	1.7%
Full-time students	13,668	6.1%	6.4%	9.0%	6.5%	9.0%	9.0%

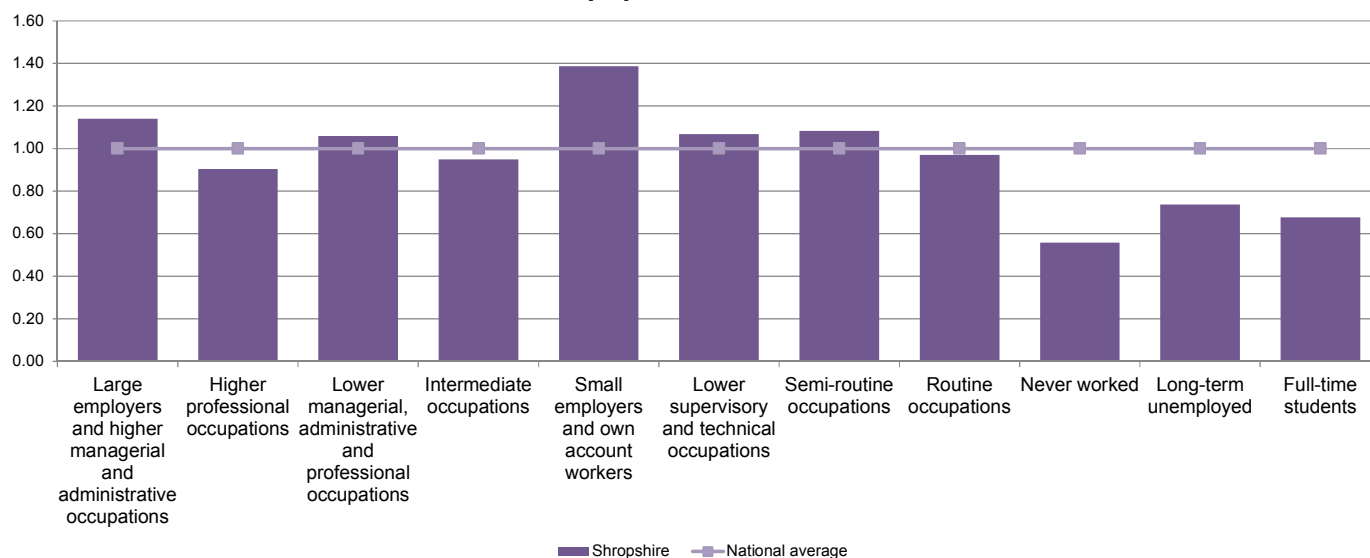
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2012

The relative importance of some classifications to the Shropshire population can be illustrated by comparing the proportion of Shropshire residents employed in a particular occupation to the national average to give a quotient figure³.

From the graph below it is clear that Shropshire supports higher numbers of people working for small employers or for themselves than is the case nationally. Out of 348 unitary, district and borough authorities, Shropshire ranks 39th for the proportion of the population classified in this way. Shropshire also supports higher than average numbers of people classified as large employers and higher managerial and administrative occupations; lower managerial, administrative and professional occupations; lower supervisory and technical occupations; and semi-routine occupations. At the other end of the scale, Shropshire supports relatively fewer who have never worked, or who are long term unemployed or full-time students. Shropshire is placed 227th, 224th and 225th for these classifications respectively.

³ The quotient figure is derived by dividing the Shropshire percentage by the national percentage.

Relative importance of socio-economic classifications to the Shropshire population, 2011



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2012
Quotient figures have been calculated using unrounded percentage figures

Definitions

Full-time student

- A full-time student is a person of any age who has indicated that they are a schoolchild or student in full-time education.

Schoolchildren and students in full-time education studying away from their family home are treated as usually resident at their term-time address.

Long-term unemployed

- A person is defined as long-term unemployed at the time of the 2011 Census if they were unemployed and the year they last worked was 2009 or earlier.

National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC)

- The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) provides an indication of socio-economic position based on occupation. It is an Office for National Statistics standard classification. To assign a person aged 16 to 74 to an NS-SEC category their occupation title is combined with information about their employment status, whether they are employed or self-employed and whether or not they supervise other employees. Full-time students are recorded in the 'full-time students' category regardless of whether they are economically active or not. The rebased version of NS-SEC used in census results uses occupation coded to SOC2010. More information about the classification can be found at <http://ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec--rebased-on-soc2010--user-manual/index.html>.

In 2011 Census results, because the census did not ask a question about the number of employees at a person's workplace, the reduced method of deriving NS-SEC (which does not require this information) is used.

Footnote

The information in this digest relates to ONS Census 2011 key statistics tables KS611EW, KS612EW and KS613EW and ONS Census 2001 key statistics tables KS14a, KS14b and KS14c.

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

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