



2011 Census Digest: Qualification Levels

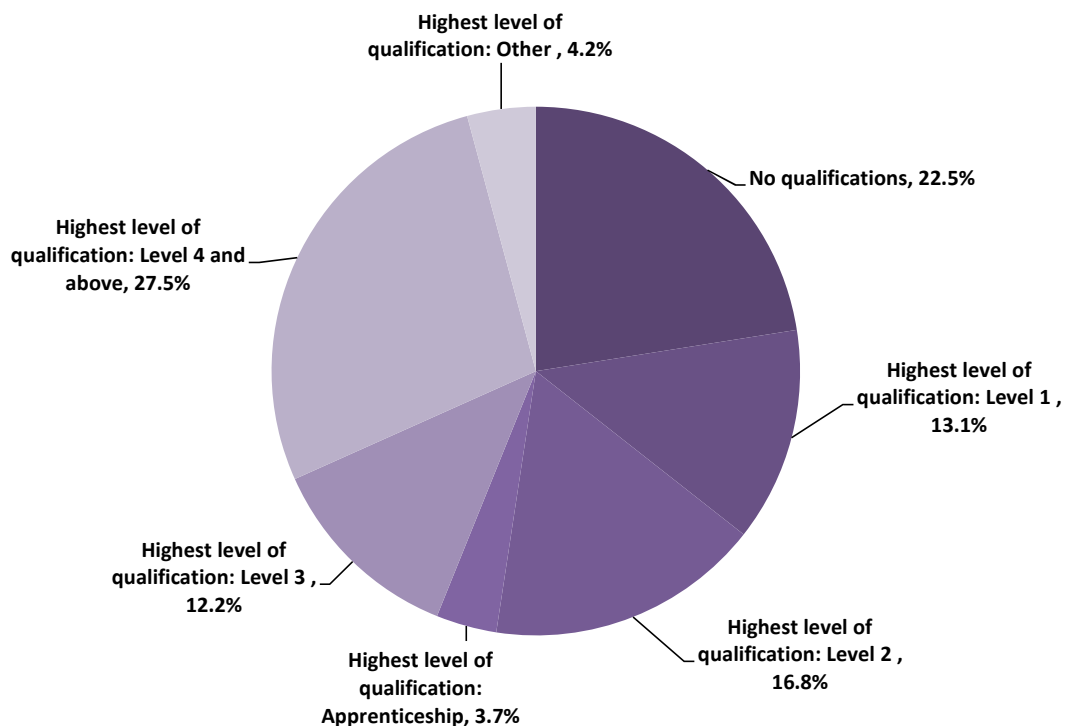
Introduction

At the time of the 2011 Census, more people in Shropshire held the highest levels of qualification (level 4 and above) than had no qualifications at all. The former accounted for 27.5% of the over 16 population (69,558 people) while the latter accounted for 22.5% (56,943 people).

For 13.1% of the over 16 population, the highest qualification held was level 1, while 16.8% held level 2 qualifications. 3.7% were undertaking apprenticeships, 12.2% were educated or trained to level 3 while 4.2% had other qualifications.

For more details on how different qualifications are classified into each level, please refer to the note at the end of this digest.

Breakdown of Population Qualification Levels, Shropshire, 2011



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

How Shropshire compares

The proportion of the Shropshire population which is qualified to level 4 or higher is comparable with the national average and very marginally higher than its statistical neighbour¹ or Marches Local Enterprise Partnership² averages. At the other end of the scale, the proportion with no qualifications is comparable to the England and Wales average and 1% lower than the England average (22.5% in England).

¹ Includes Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire as well as Shropshire

² Includes Telford & Wrekin and Herefordshire as well as Shropshire

Qualification Levels; Geographic Comparisons, 2011

	All persons aged 16 and over	No qualifications		Highest level of qualification: Level 1		Highest level of qualification: Level 2		Highest level of qualification: Apprenticeship		Highest level of qualification: Level 3		Highest level of qualification: Level 4 and above		Highest level of qualification: Other	
		Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Shropshire	252,979	56,943	22.5	33,158	13.1	42,594	16.8	9,289	3.7	30,749	12.2	69,558	27.5	10,688	4.2
Marches LEP	537,381	124,400	23.1	72,609	13.5	90,647	16.9	19,112	3.6	66,183	12.3	139,050	25.9	25,380	4.7
West Midlands	4,507,405	1,196,794	26.6	616,225	13.7	695,544	15.4	150,353	3.3	553,600	12.3	1,050,404	23.3	244,485	5.4
Shropshire and Statistical Neighbours	5,044,831	1,155,693	22.9	694,799	13.8	831,277	16.5	208,832	4.1	615,553	12.2	1,297,314	25.7	241,363	4.8
England	42,989,620	9,656,810	22.5	5,714,441	13.3	6,544,614	15.2	1,532,934	3.6	5,309,631	12.4	11,769,361	27.4	2,461,829	5.7
England and Wales	45,496,780	10,307,327	22.7	6,047,384	13.3	6,938,433	15.3	1,631,777	3.6	5,617,802	12.3	12,383,477	27.2	2,570,580	5.7

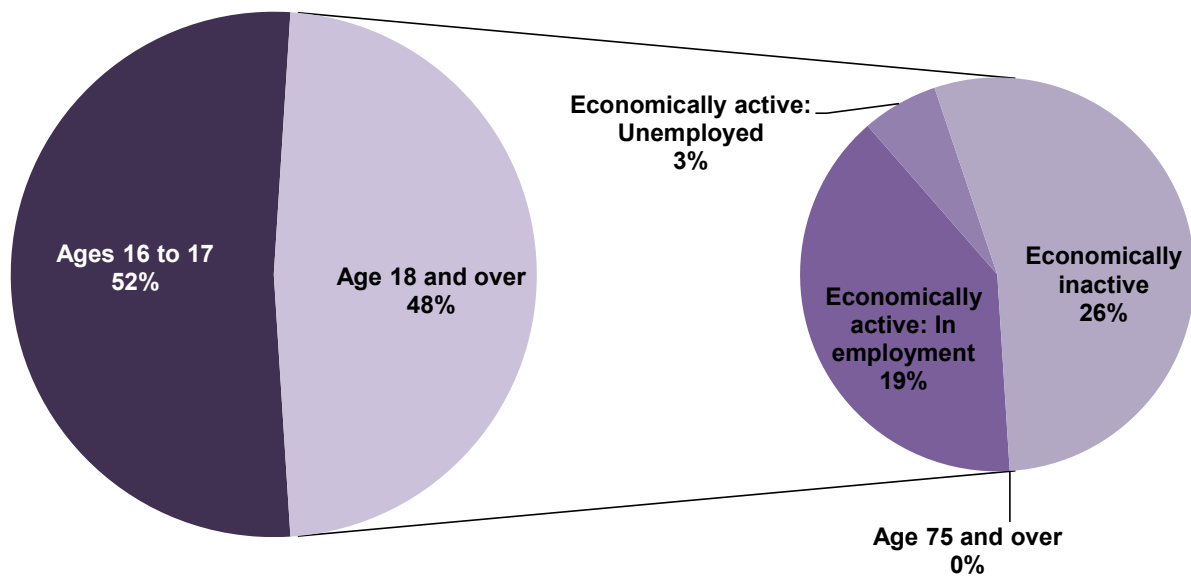
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2011 Census, © Crown Copyright 2012

Compared with all 348 district, borough and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Shropshire ranks 170th (almost exactly in the middle) for the percentage of those aged 16 and over with no qualifications and 142nd for those with level 4 and above qualifications. In terms of the percentage undertaking apprentices, Shropshire is in the bottom half of local authorities (215th).

Students

There were 13,699 Shropshire residents (aged 16 and over) in full-time education in March 2011, which is the equivalent of 5% of the total population (aged 16 and over). Just over half of these (52%) were schoolchildren/full-time students aged 16 or 17 with the remainder being aged 18 or over. Splitting the 48% who were 18 and over, 26% were economically inactive, 19% were economically active and in employment while 3% were economically active but unemployed. A very small number (31 people) in full-time education were aged 75 and above.

Breakdown of Shropshire's Full-Time Students by Age and Economic Activity Status, 2011



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

How Shropshire compares

Shropshire has significantly fewer full-time students than is the case nationally, with 5.4% of the aged 16 and over population studying full-time compared with 8.2% nationally. The number of 16-17 year olds in full-time education is on a par with the national and regional averages, but in the 18 and over age band there are discernibly fewer full-time students in Shropshire. The absence of a university in the Shropshire Unitary Authority area undoubtedly influences this.

Full-time Students: Geographic Comparisons, 2011

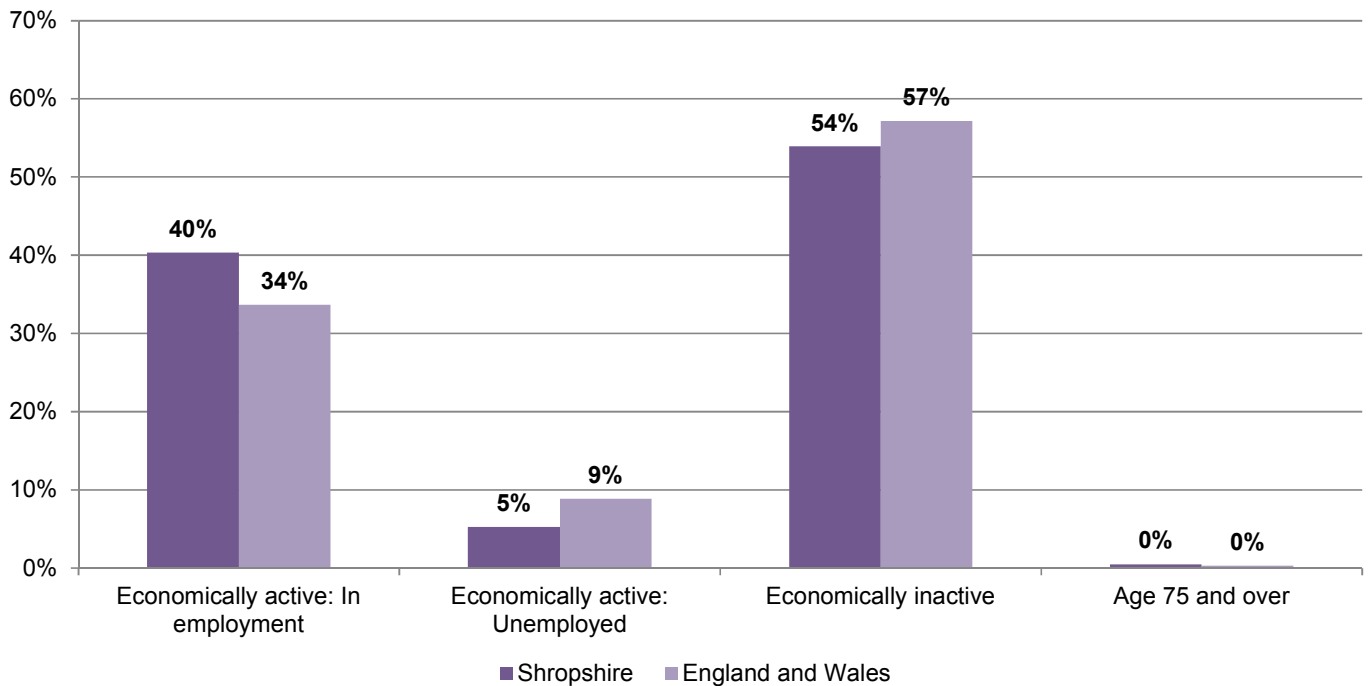
	All persons over 16	Schoolchildren and full-time students: Age 16 to 17		Schoolchildren and full-time students: Age 18 and over		All schoolchildren and full-time students: Age 16 and over	
		Persons	%	Persons	%	Persons	%
Shropshire	252,979	7,183	2.8	6,516	2.6	13,699	5.4
Marches LEP	537,381	15,139	2.8	15,781	2.9	30,920	5.8
West Midlands	4,507,405	129,028	2.9	237,823	5.3	366,851	8.1
Shropshire and Statistical Neighbours	5,044,831	133,777	2.7	153,636	3.0	287,413	5.7
England	42,989,620	1,163,148	2.7	2,348,197	5.5	3,511,345	8.2
England and Wales	45,496,780	1,230,368	2.7	2,485,001	5.5	3,715,369	8.2

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

Looking at all 348 district, borough and unitary authorities in England and Wales, Shropshire ranks 237th for the proportion of the population aged 18 and above which is in full-time education.

Looking specifically at students aged 18 and over in full-time education, compared with the England and Wales average, a higher proportion of those studying in Shropshire are in employment, with comparatively fewer either unemployed or economically inactive.

Breakdown of Full-time Students aged 18 and above by Economic Activity Status, Shropshire and England and Wales, 2011



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

Definitions

Qualification Levels

- The highest level of qualification is derived from the question asking people to indicate all types of qualifications held. People were also asked if they held foreign qualifications and to indicate the closest equivalent.
- There were 12 response options (plus 'no qualifications') covering professional and vocational qualifications, and a range of academic qualifications. These are combined into five categories for the highest level of qualification, plus a category for no qualifications and one for other qualifications (which includes vocational or work related qualifications, and for foreign qualifications where an equivalent qualification was not indicated):
 - No Qualifications: No academic or professional qualifications
 - Level 1 qualifications: 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSEs (any grades), Entry Level, Foundation Diploma, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ, Basic/Essential Skills
 - Level 2 qualifications: 5+ O Level (Passes)/CSEs (Grade 1)/GCSEs (Grades A*-C), School Certificate, 1 A Level/ 2-3 AS Levels/VCEs, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Intermediate Diploma, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ, City and Guilds Craft, BTEC First/General Diploma, RSA Diploma Apprenticeship
 - Level 3 qualifications: 2+ A Levels/VCEs, 4+ AS Levels, Higher School Certificate, Progression/Advanced Diploma, Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3; Advanced GNVQ, City and Guilds Advanced Craft, ONC, OND, BTEC National, RSA Advanced Diploma
 - Level 4+ qualifications: Degree (for example BA, BSc), Higher Degree (for example MA, PhD, PGCE), NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, RSA Higher Diploma, BTEC Higher level, Foundation degree (NI), Professional qualifications (for example teaching, nursing, accountancy)
 - Other qualifications: Vocational/Work-related Qualifications, Foreign Qualifications (Not stated/ level unknown).

Economically active

- A person aged 16 to 74 is described as economically active if, in the week before the census, they were:
 - in employment, as an employee or self-employed
 - not in employment, but were seeking work and ready to start work within two weeks, or
 - not in employment, but waiting to start a job already obtained and available.

Full-time students who fulfil any of these criteria are classified as economically active and are counted separately in the 'Full-time student' category of economically active - they are not included in any of the other categories such as employees or unemployed.

Economically inactive

- A person aged 16 to 74 is described as economically inactive if, in the week before the census, they were not in employment but did not meet the criteria to be classified as 'Unemployed' This includes a person looking for work but not available to start work within two weeks, as well as anyone not looking for work, or unable to work - for example retired, looking after home/family, permanently sick or disabled.

Students who fulfil any of these criteria are also classified as economically inactive. This does not necessarily mean in full-time education and excludes students who were working or in some other way were economically active.

Employed (In employment)

- A person aged 16 to 74 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.

Footnote

The information in this digest relates to ONS Census 2011 key statistics table KS501EW.

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

Research & Intelligence Team,
Shropshire Council,
Shirehall,
Abbey Foregate,
Shrewsbury,
Shropshire
SY2 6ND

Tel: 01743 252562

Email: research@shropshire.gov.uk

Web: www.shropshire.gov.uk/facts-and-figures

Twitter: @ShropinFocus