



2011 Census Digest: Unemployment

Introduction

The 2011 Census results show that:

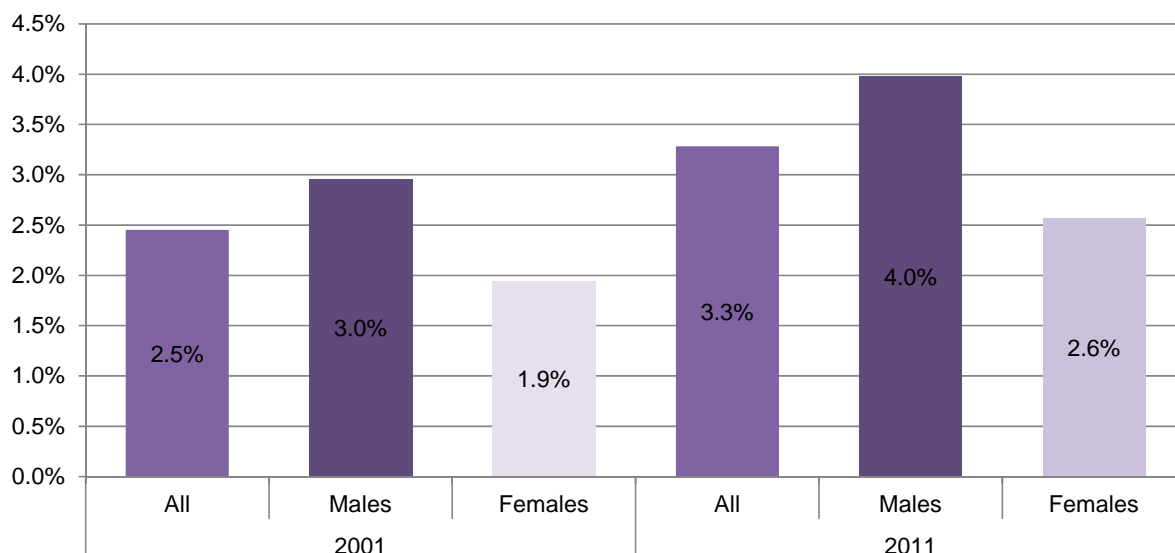
- The rate of unemployment in Shropshire is slightly lower than the England and Wales average (3.3% in 2011).
- The unemployment rate has risen significantly in accordance with the economic downturn. The number unemployed rose by almost 50% between 2001 and 2011. The number of unemployed men and women has risen at a similar rate, but men are still more likely to be unemployed than women.
- There has been a sharp rise in the number of long-term unemployed and the number of people who have never worked has doubled since the time of the last Census.

For definitions on unemployment, please refer to the note at the end of this digest.

Rate of unemployment

The number of people aged 16-74 in Shropshire who are unemployed rose by 46.1% between 2001 and 2011 to 7,350 people; this is the equivalent of 3.3% of the 16-74 year old population. 39% of all those who were unemployed were female, which is the equivalent of 2.6% of the 16-74 female population. 4% of the male 16-74 year old population was unemployed at the time of the 2011 Census, which equates with 61% of all those unemployed. Both the male and female unemployment rates have risen since 2001 – from 1.9% in the case of females and from 3% for men. There has been little difference in the rate of growth in unemployment between genders since 2001, with the number of men unemployed rising by 46.9% and the number of unemployed women rising by 44.9%. There are now an additional 1,432 unemployed men than there were in 2001 and an additional 887 unemployed women.

Percentage of the Shropshire population which is unemployed, 2001 & 2011



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

How Shropshire compares to other locations

The proportion of the Shropshire population which is unemployed is lower than the national average (4.4% in England and Wales in 2011). However, the unemployment rate has grown at a slightly faster rate over the 10 year period since the last Census, with the number looking for work increasing by 46.1% compared with a rise of 42.7% in England and Wales. The unemployment rate in Shropshire is similar to its statistical neighbour¹ average and slightly lower than the average for the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership² area.

Unemployment levels; geographic comparisons, 2001 & 2011

| | 2001 | | | 2011 | | | % change 2001-2011 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| | All persons Aged 16-74 | Number of unemployed persons | % of persons who are unemployed | All persons Aged 16-74 | Number of unemployed persons | % of persons who are unemployed | |
| Shropshire | 205,069 | 5,031 | 2.5% | 223,892 | 7,350 | 3.3% | 46.1% |
| Marches LEP | 444,118 | 12,172 | 2.7% | 479,613 | 17,509 | 3.7% | 43.8% |
| West Midlands | 3,780,784 | 142,782 | 3.8% | 4,067,119 | 207,415 | 5.1% | 45.3% |
| Shropshire and Statistical Neighbours | 4,088,587 | 105,644 | 2.6% | 4,438,356 | 148,536 | 3.3% | 40.6% |
| England | 35,532,091 | 1,188,855 | 3.3% | 38,881,374 | 1,702,847 | 4.4% | 43.2% |
| England and Wales | 37,607,438 | 1,261,343 | 3.4% | 41,126,540 | 1,799,536 | 4.4% | 42.7% |

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

Composition of Shropshire's unemployed population

The proportion of the Shropshire unemployed population which is classified as long-term unemployed has risen by 88% since the 2001 Census, which is the equivalent of an additional 1,328 people. 2,837 people are now classified as long-term unemployed, and this group now accounts for 38.6% of all those who are unemployed (compared with 30% in 2001).

There has also been a very sharp rise in the number who have never worked – between 2001 and 2011 the number almost doubled to 856 people, which is the equivalent of 11.6% of all those who are unemployed and 0.4% of the 16-74 aged population.

Despite these strong rises, Shropshire still has relatively few people who are long-term unemployed or who have never worked, with the authority ranked 224th and 225th respectively out of 348 district, borough and unitary authorities.

Almost 30% of the unemployed are aged 16 to 24. This compares with 22.8% in 2001. This constitutes a 90.8% increase, which takes the total in this age group to 2,187 – 1,041 more young people than in 2001. Growth in the number of 50 to 74 year olds who are unemployed has been much more muted, at 43.4%, which is the equivalent of 475 more people.

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

²Includes Telford and Wrekin and Herefordshire as well as Shropshire

Breakdown of Shropshire's unemployed by age and length of unemployment, 2001 & 2011

| | 2001 | | | 2011 | | | % change 2001-2011 |
|--------------------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Number | % of 16-74 population | % of unemployed | Number | % of 16-74 population | % of unemployed | |
| All ages 16-74 | 205,069 | 100.0% | n/a | 223,892 | 100.0% | n/a | 9.2% |
| Unemployed | 5,031 | 2.5% | 100.0% | 7,350 | 3.3% | 100.0% | 46.1% |
| Unemployed: Age 16 to 24 | 1,146 | 0.6% | 22.8% | 2,187 | 1.0% | 29.8% | 90.8% |
| Unemployed: Age 50 to 74 | 1,094 | 0.5% | 21.7% | 1,569 | 0.7% | 21.3% | 43.4% |
| Unemployed: Never worked | 287 | 0.1% | 5.7% | 856 | 0.4% | 11.6% | 198.3% |
| Long-term unemployed | 1,509 | 0.7% | 30.0% | 2,837 | 1.3% | 38.6% | 88.0% |

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

Note: Totals do not add up to 100%

Definitions

Unemployed

- A person aged 16 to 74 is classified as unemployed if they are not in employment, are available to start work in the next two weeks, and either looked for work in the last four weeks or are waiting to start a new job.

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.

Footnote

The information in this digest relates to ONS Census 2011 key statistics tables KS601EW, KS602EW and KS603EW and ONS Census 2001 key statistics tables KS09a, KS09b and KS09c.

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