

Survey carried out over 3 weeks during February and March 2026.

The following statistics look at the UK National vs. Local results for Shropshire including Telford & Wrekin.

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Even before the latest escalation in the Middle East, business sentiment remained fragile and stuck in a low growth phase.

Most SMEs continue to report no improvement in key indicators such as investment and cash flow. Sentiment remains largely unchanged since the 2024 Budget, which saw a permanent increase in the labour cost base for firms.

Businesses face a fresh wave of employer costs and burdens from this month, causing further pressure and uncertainty.

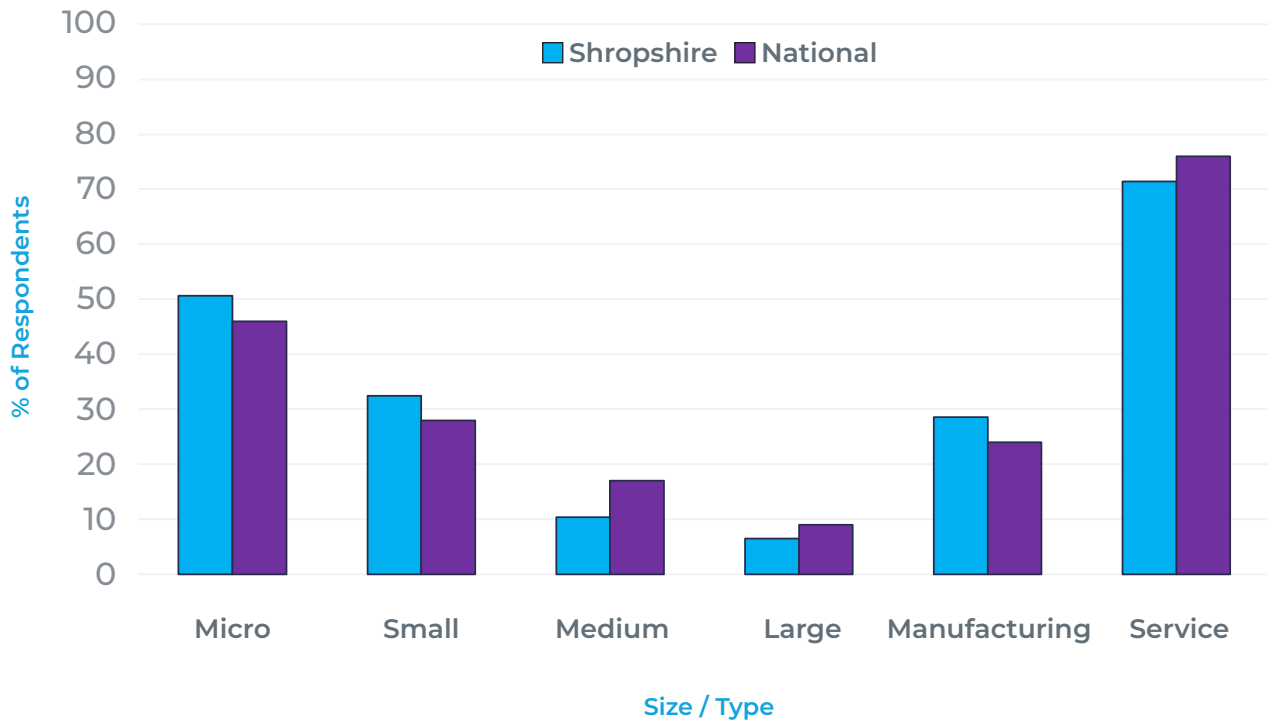
But the Iran conflict is now the major factor that could derail fragile progress. De-escalation is the only way to prevent a deeper economic crisis. As energy costs rise the Government should keep all options on the table to help businesses.

David Bharier

Head of Research, British Chambers of Commerce

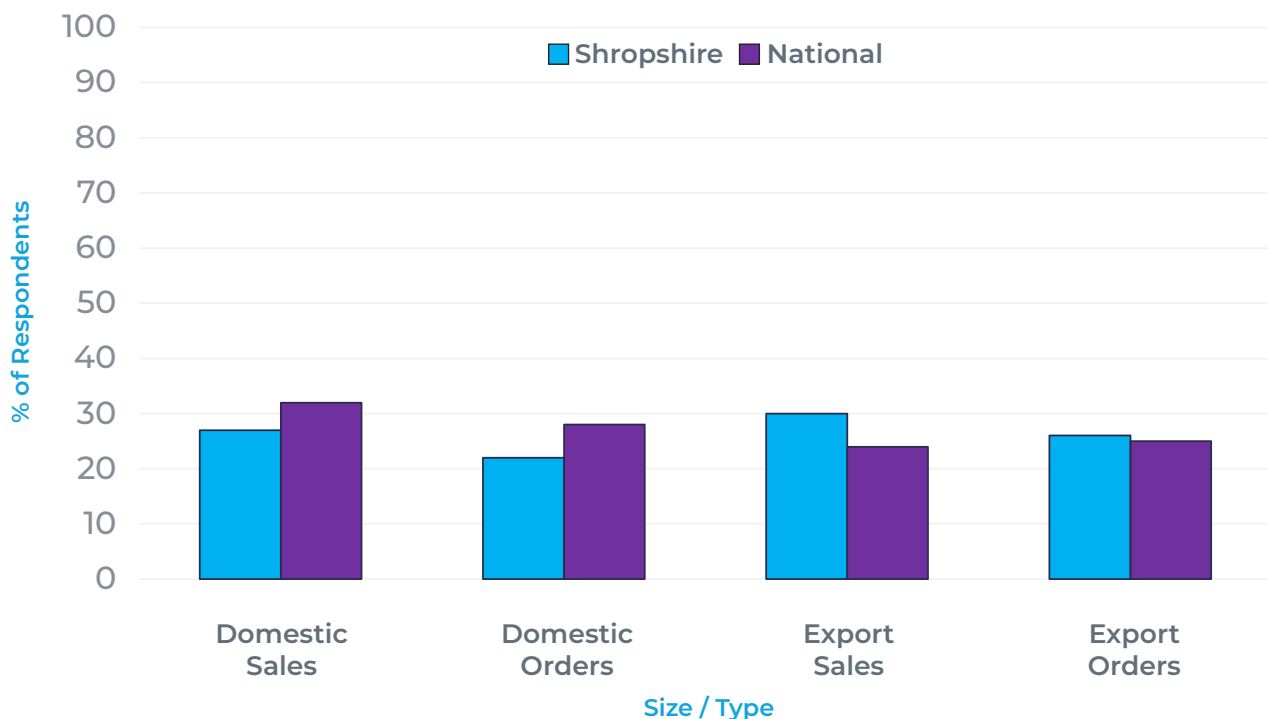
INTERVIEW SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



SALES & ORDERS INCREASED - DOMESTIC & EXPORT

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



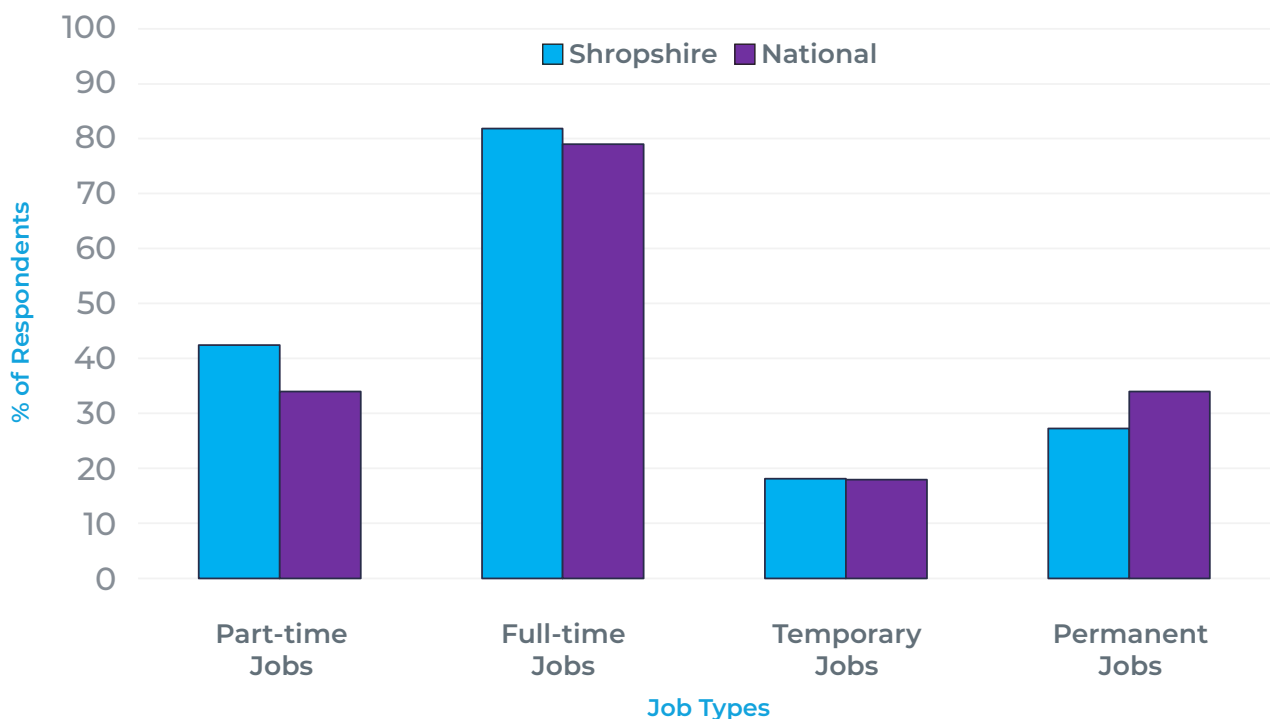
WORKFORCE INCREASES

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



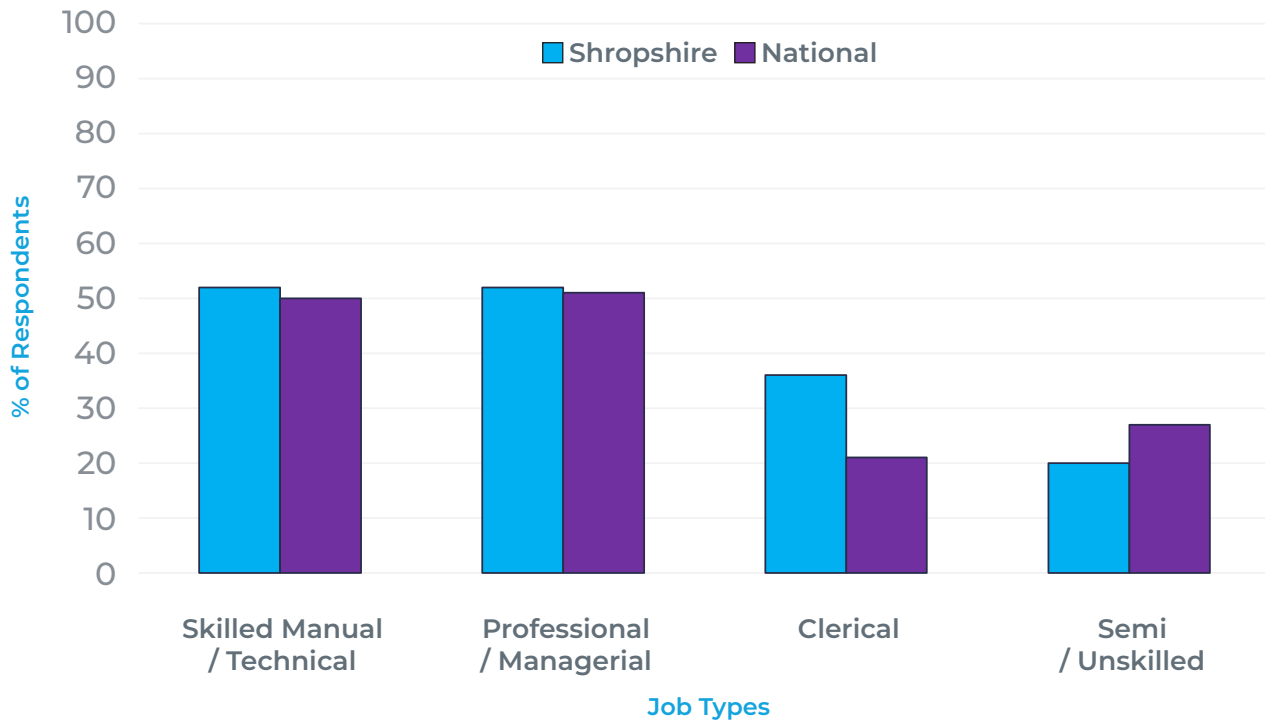
WORKFORCE RECRUITED JOB TYPES

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



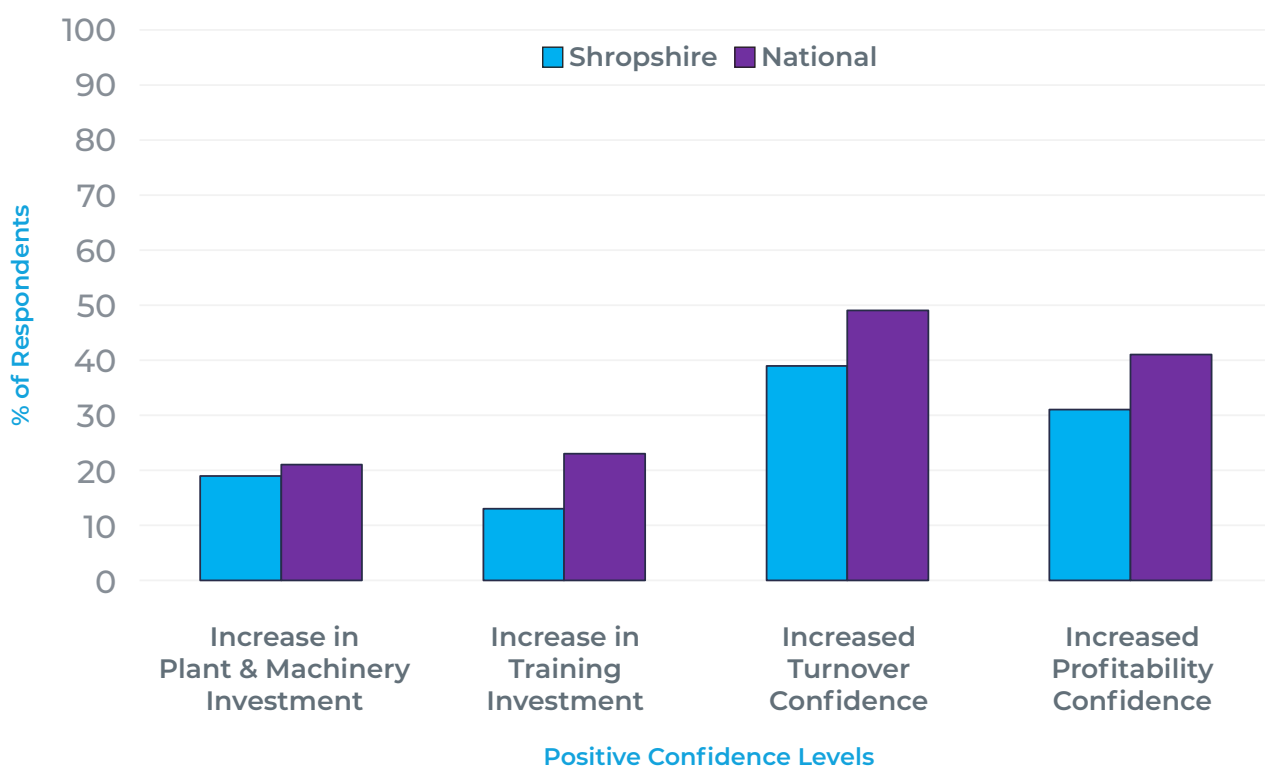
WORKFORCE RECRUITED SKILLS TYPE

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



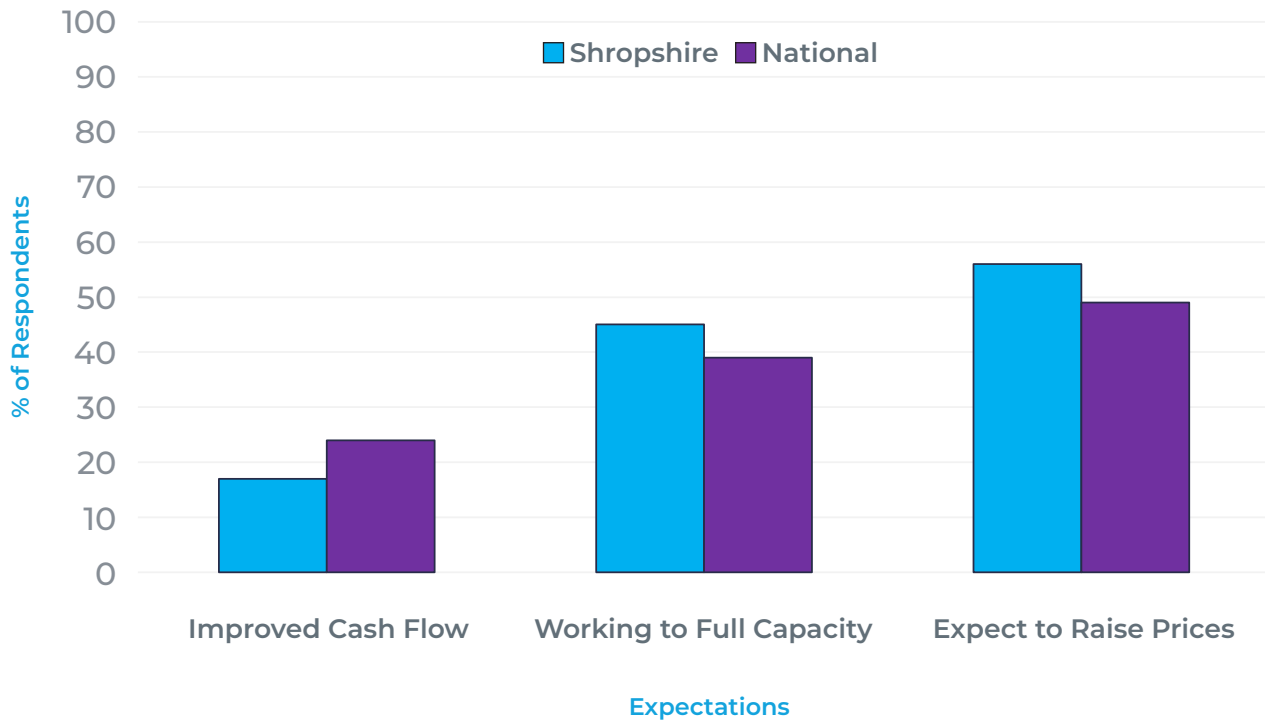
INCREASED INVESTMENT & CONFIDENCE

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



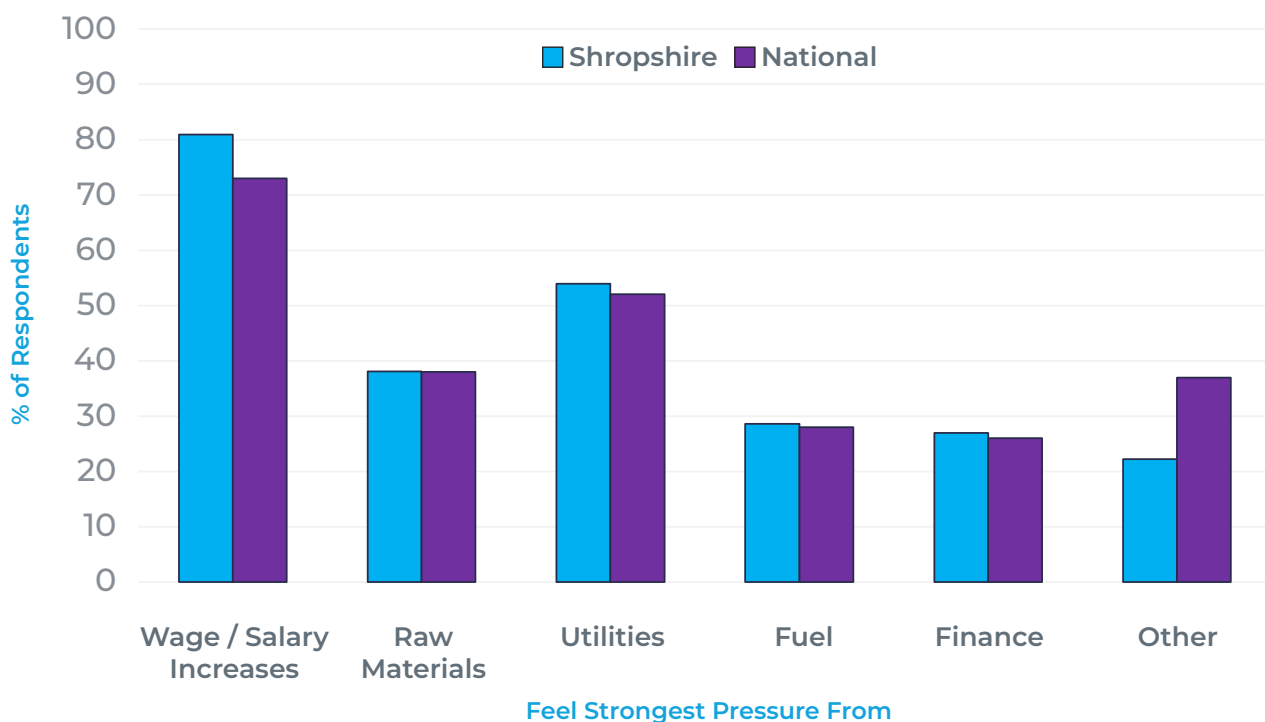
CASHFLOW, CAPACITY & PRICES

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



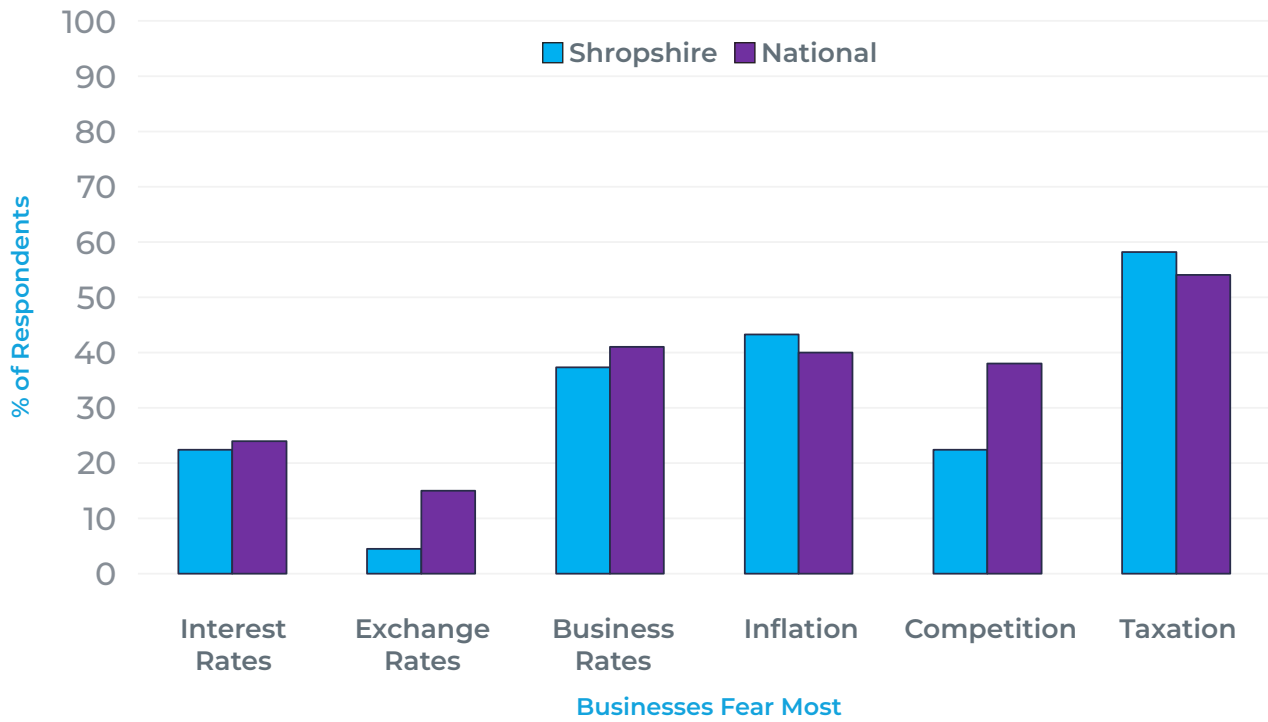
BUSINESS PRESSURES

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



BUSINESS FEARS

QES Quarter 1 - 2026



The QES (Quarterly Economic Survey) is carried out every year, four times per year.

The interview fieldwork is carried out over 3 weeks.

Quarter 1: February / March

Quarter 2: May / June

Quarter 3: August / September

Quarter 4: November

For further details and to receive invitations to take part in the surveys please email:

policy@shropshire-chamber.co.uk