

NATIONAL **vs** LOCAL RESULTS

Quarter Two 2026

Survey carried out over 3 weeks during May and June 2026.

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

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The continued fall in SME investment sentiment is further evidence of a longer-term pattern that no single shock explains.

Our data shows a risk-aversion cycle taking hold. Firms have not lost ambition, but years of compounding cost pressures and geopolitical shocks have produced defensive behaviour for the average SME.

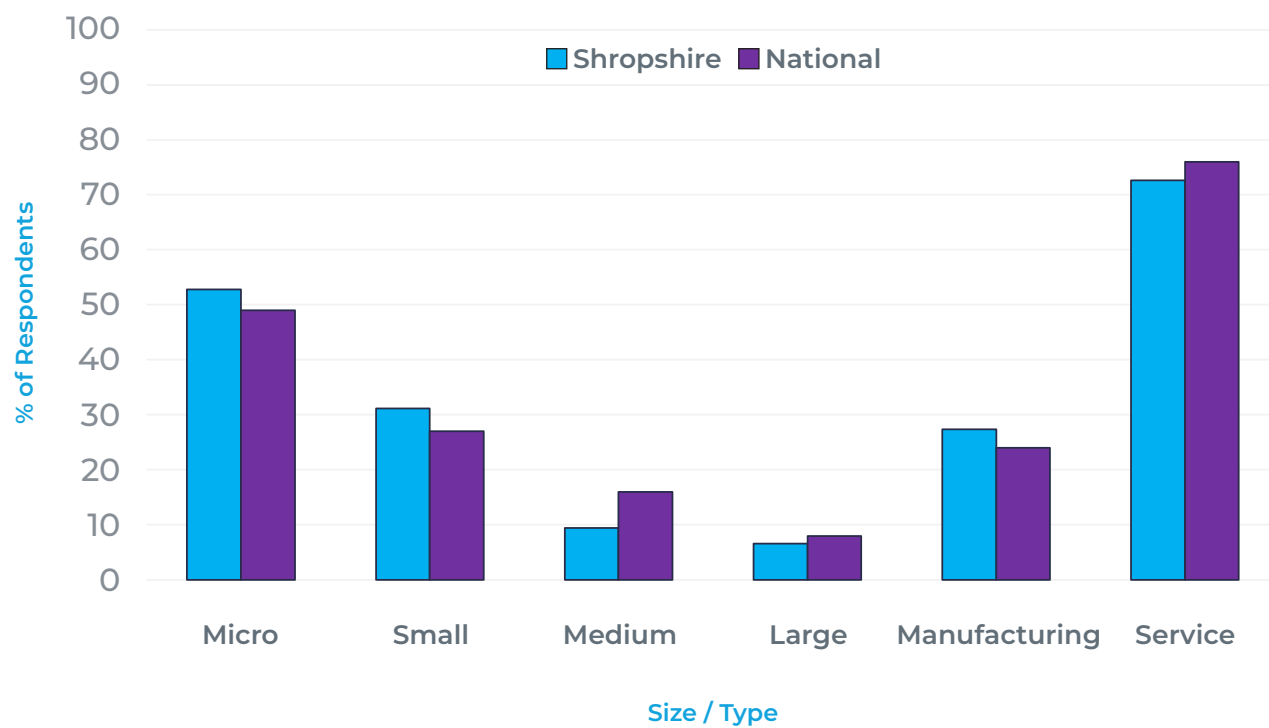
Most firms are now experiencing policy as downside risk rather than opportunity - with the rise in employer NICs a prominent example, still being felt almost two years on. Reducing the cost and complexity of the administrative burden would give many firms the space to grow.

David Bharier

Head of Research, British Chambers of Commerce

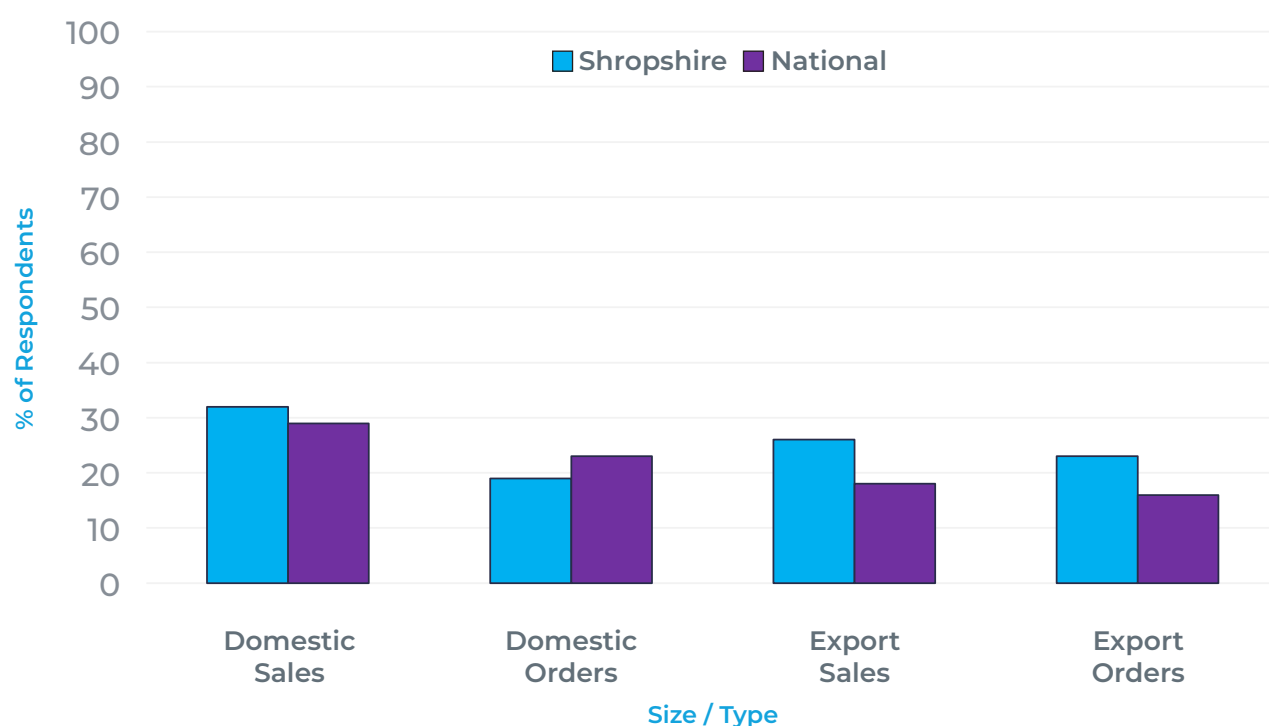
INTERVIEW SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



SALES & ORDERS INCREASED - DOMESTIC & EXPORT

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



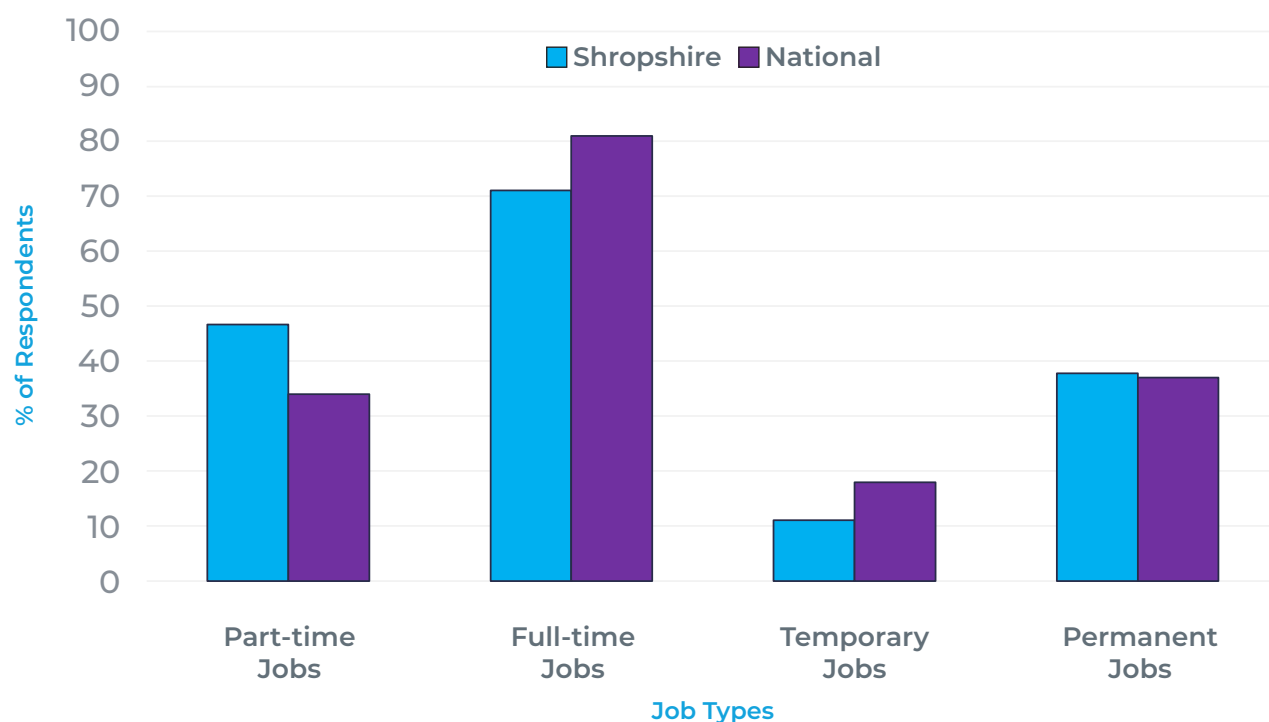
WORKFORCE INCREASES

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



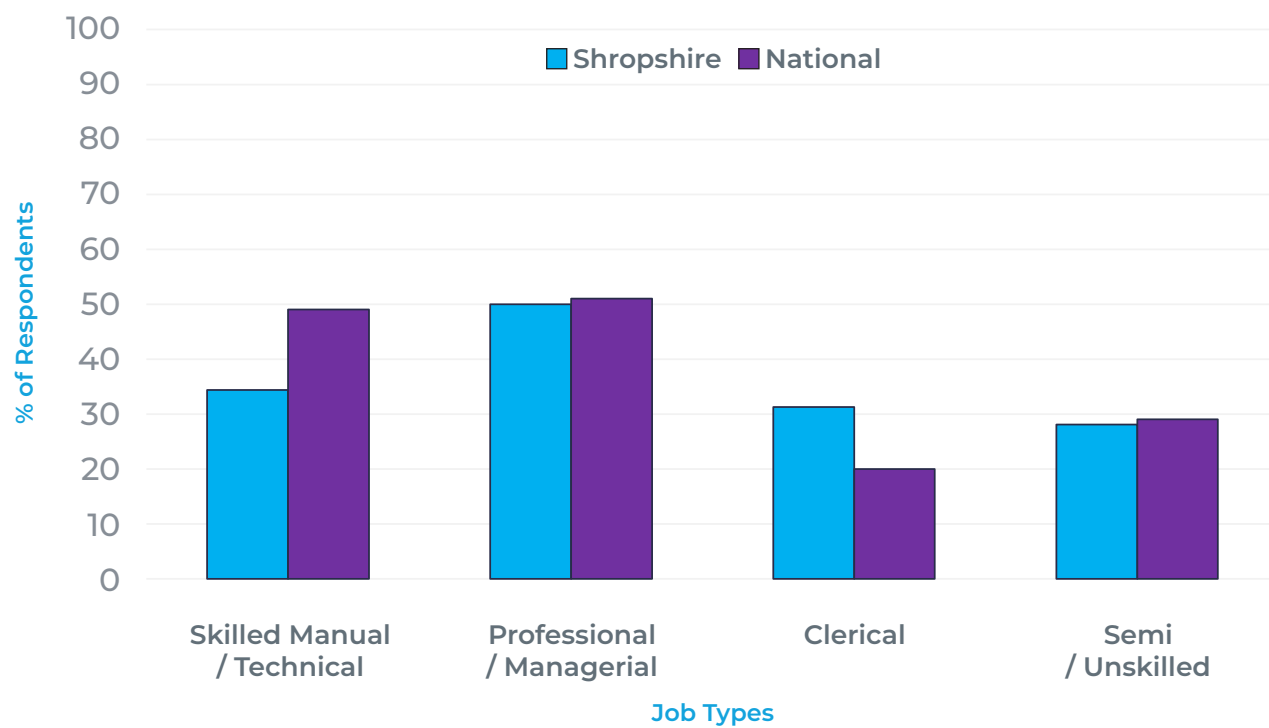
WORKFORCE RECRUITED JOB TYPES

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



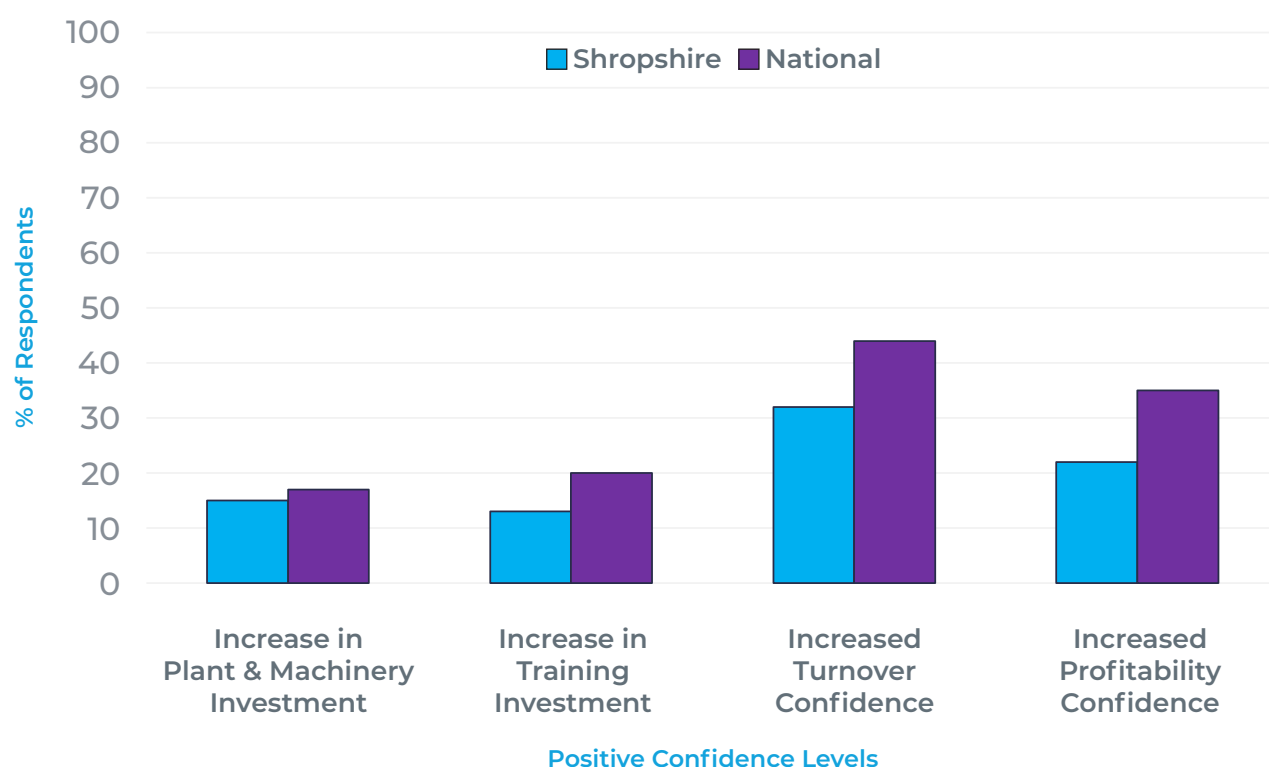
WORKFORCE RECRUITED SKILLS TYPE

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



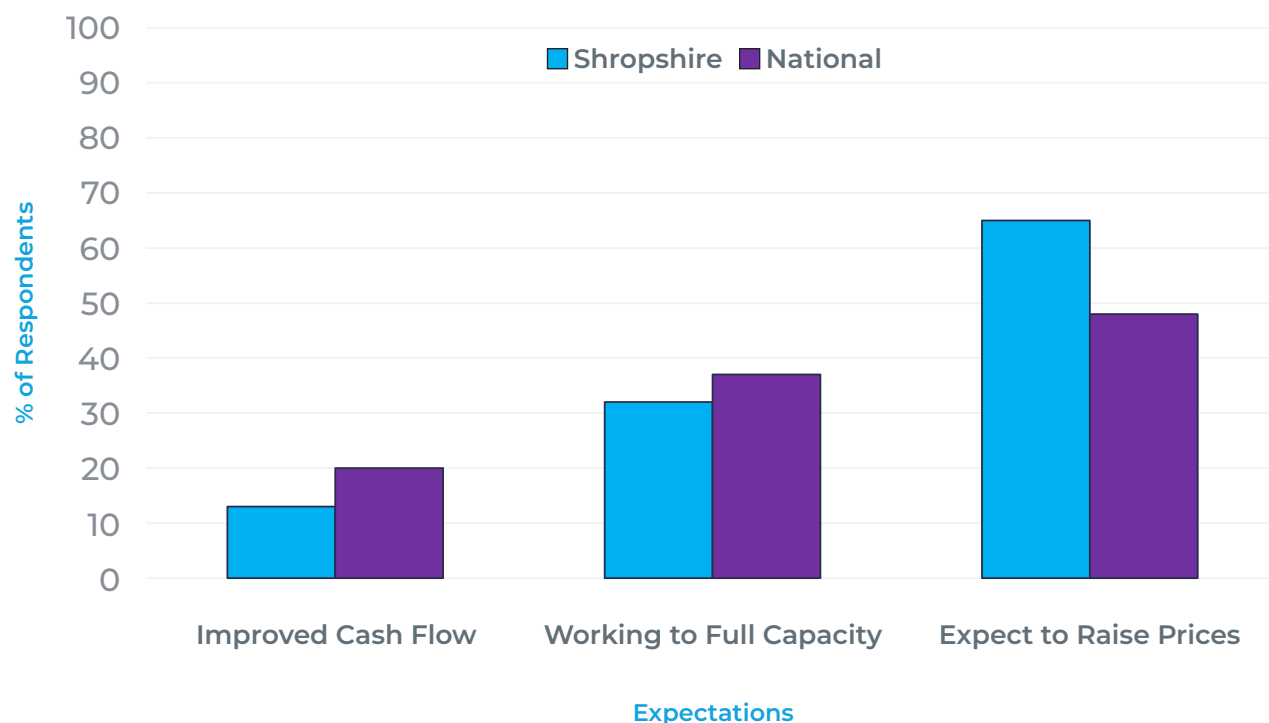
INCREASED INVESTMENT & CONFIDENCE

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



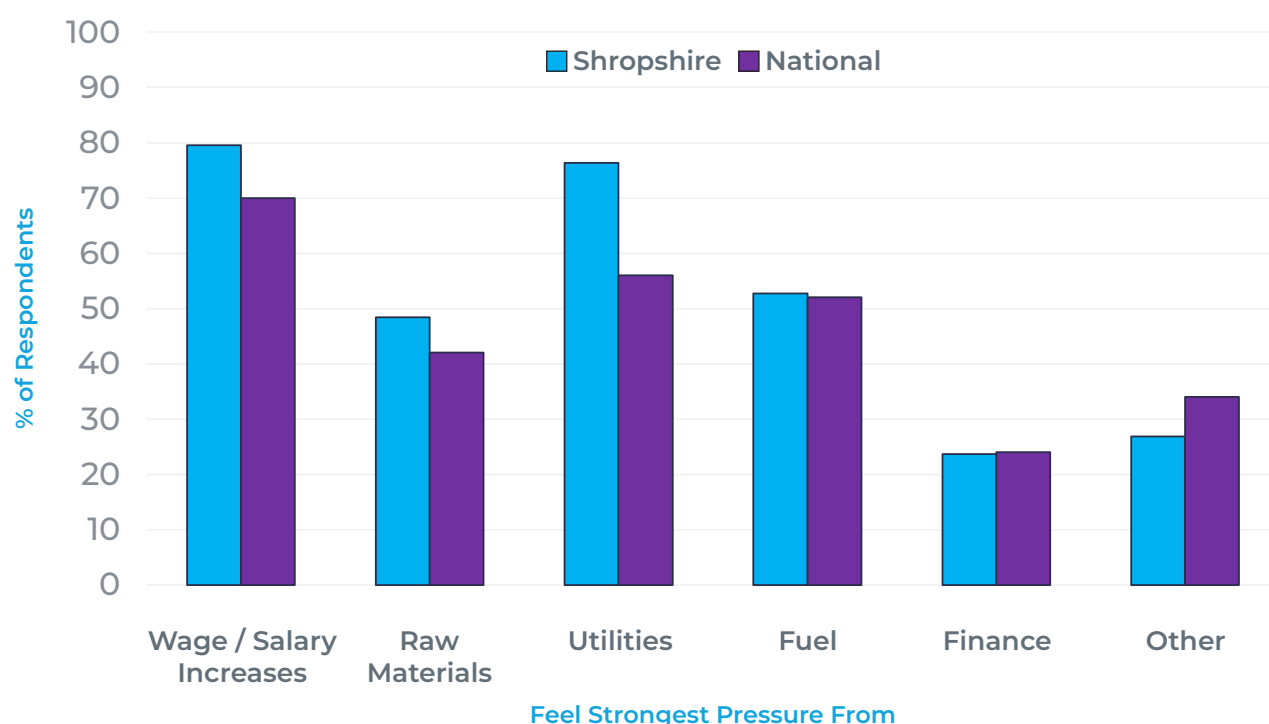
CASHFLOW, CAPACITY & PRICES

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



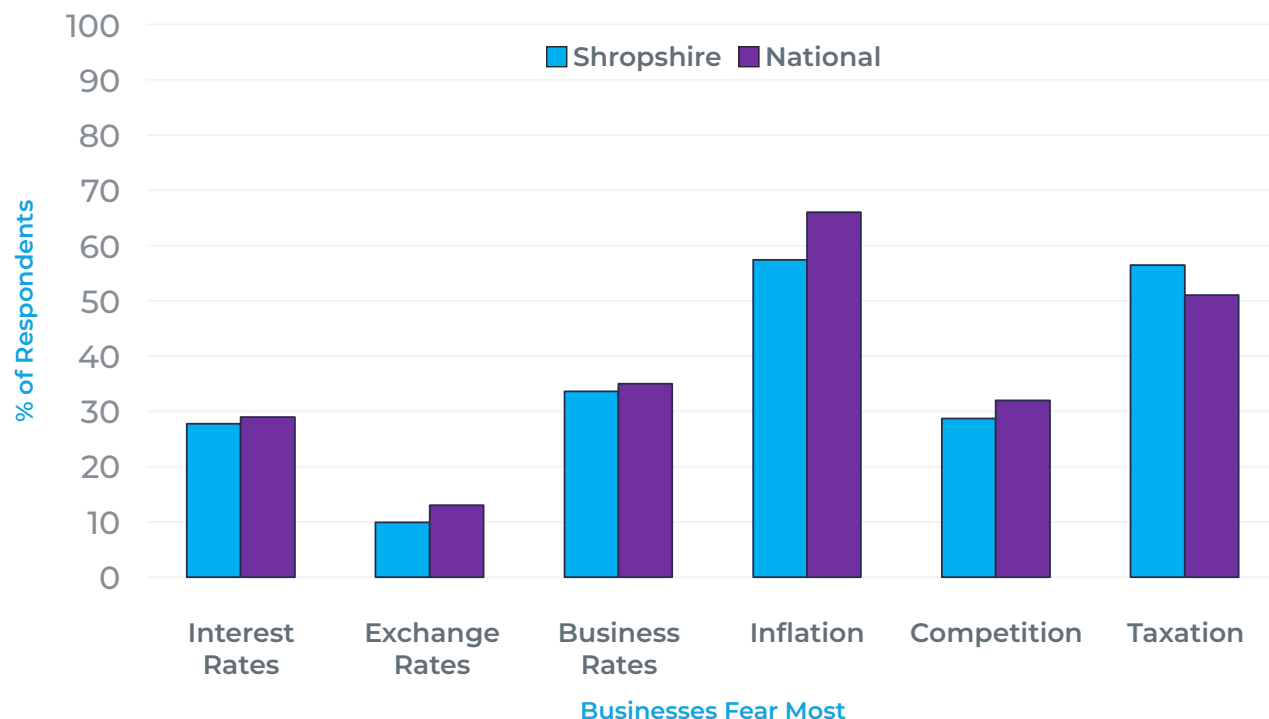
BUSINESS PRESSURES

QES Quarter 2 - 2026



BUSINESS FEARS

QES Quarter 2 - 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