

Survey carried out over 3 weeks during May and June 2024.

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

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*The latest results from our QES show that both business conditions and business confidence have improved, albeit from a relatively low base.*

*The last four years have seen SMEs deal with one crisis after the other, from Covid lockdowns to supply chain breakdowns and new trade barriers with the EU. As some of these crises have ebbed, more SMEs are regaining confidence and reporting increased sales and cash flow.*

*The data also shows that concern about inflation among businesses has dropped to levels last seen in 2021 as fewer firms expect to raise prices. A Bank rate cut later this year will help bring down borrowing costs.*

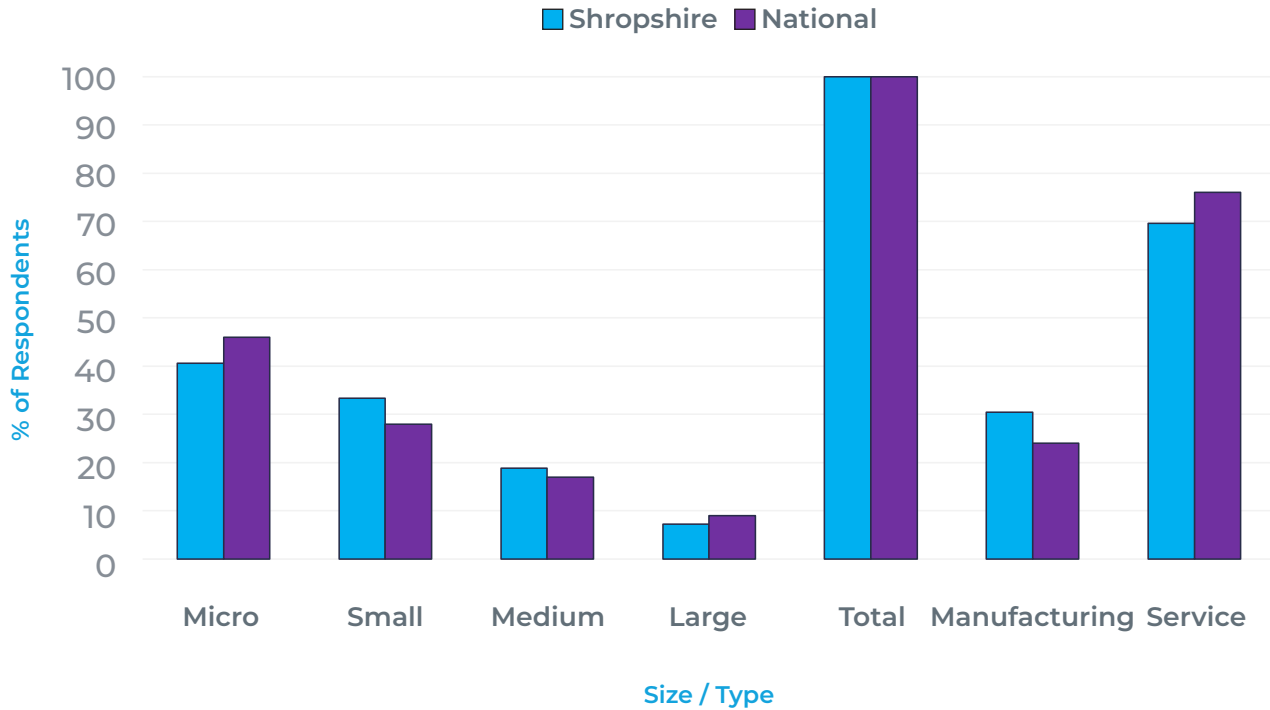
*However, investment levels remain a long-term concern and significant sectoral divergences remain, as sectors such as hospitality and retail continue to report far tougher trading conditions.*

**David Bharier**

Head of Research, British Chambers of Commerce

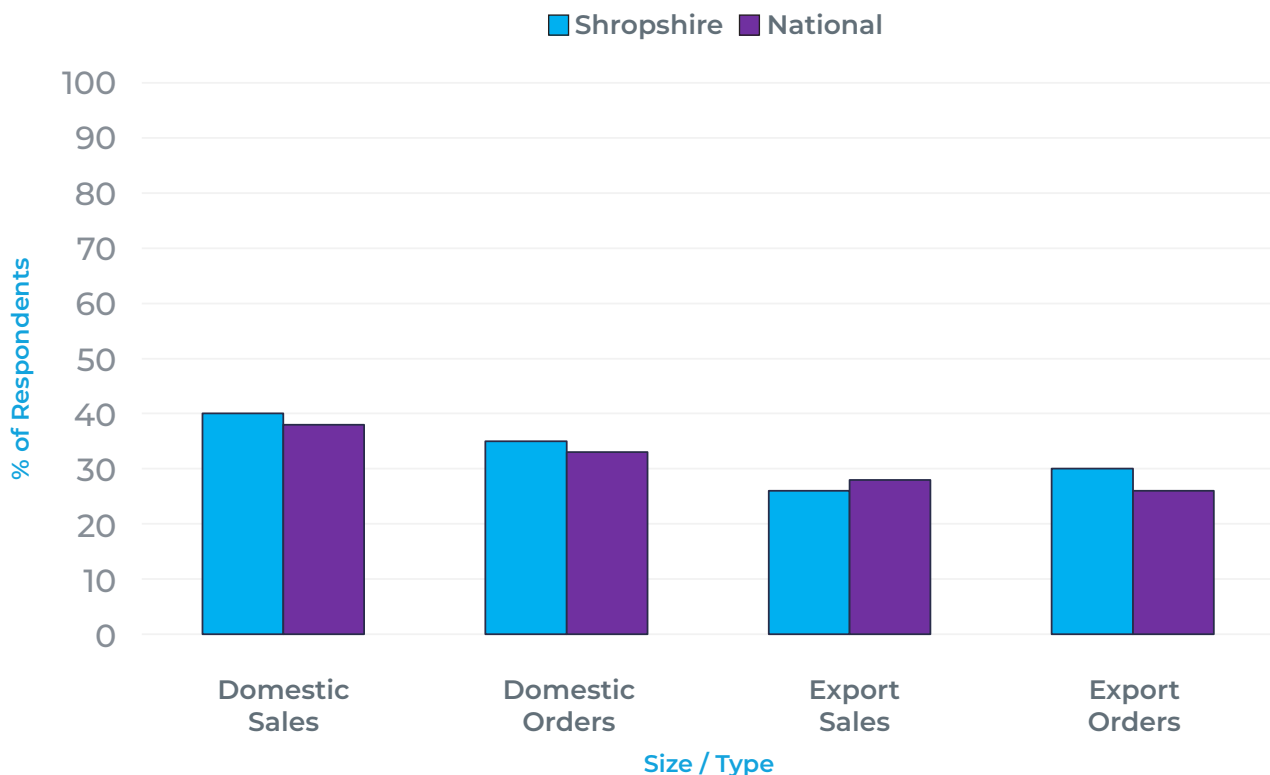
## INTERVIEW SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



## SALES & ORDERS INCREASED - DOMESTIC & EXPORT

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



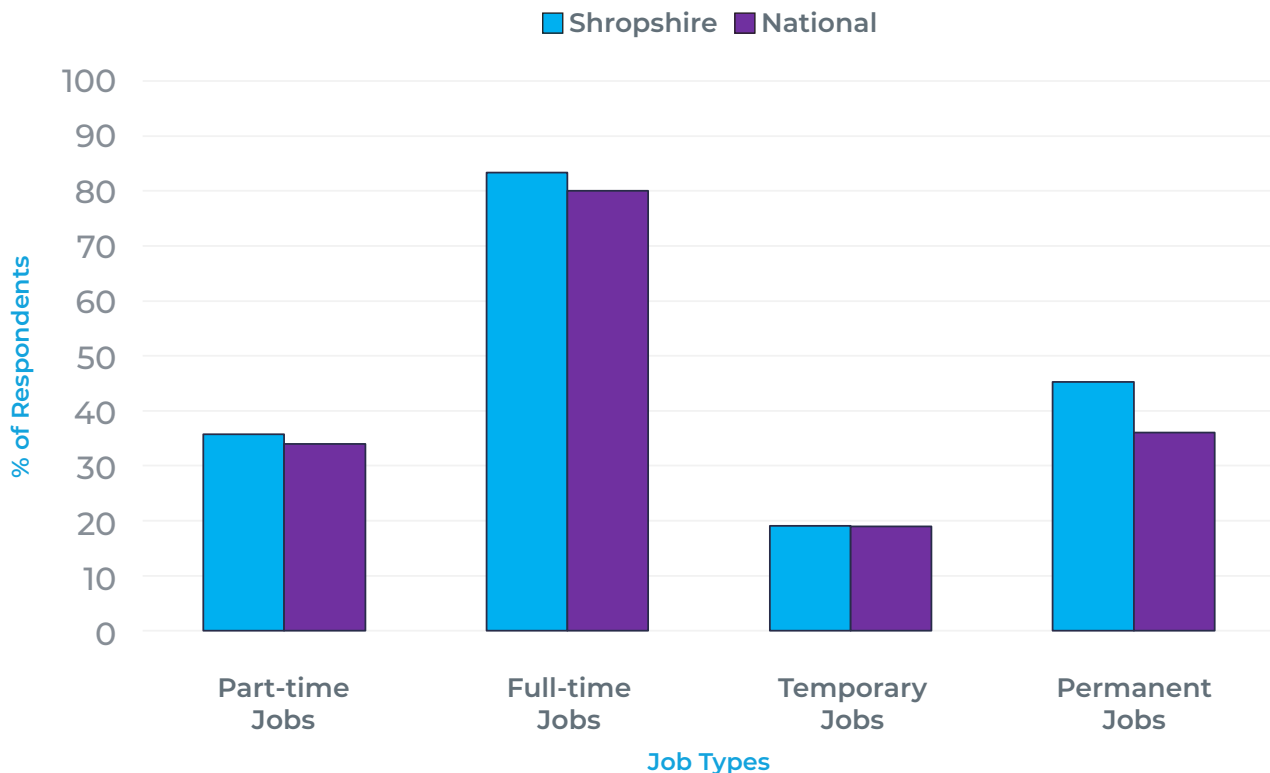
## WORKFORCE INCREASES

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



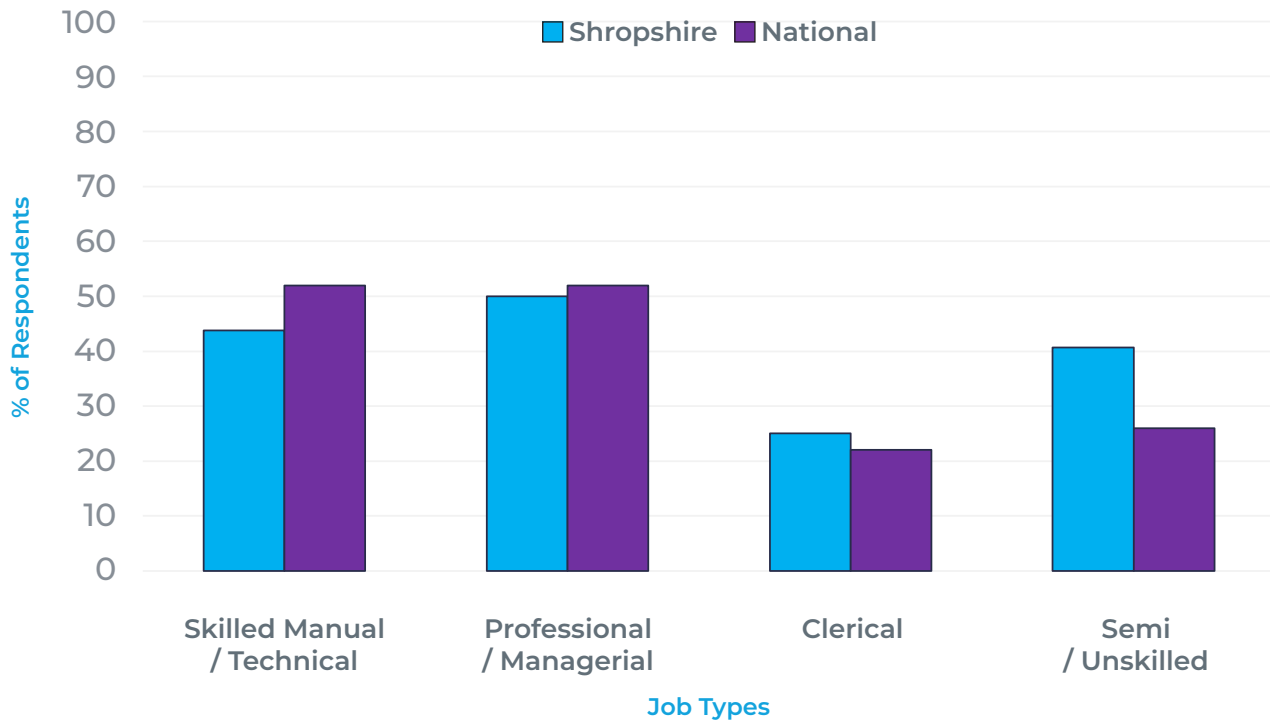
## WORKFORCE RECRUITED JOB TYPES

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



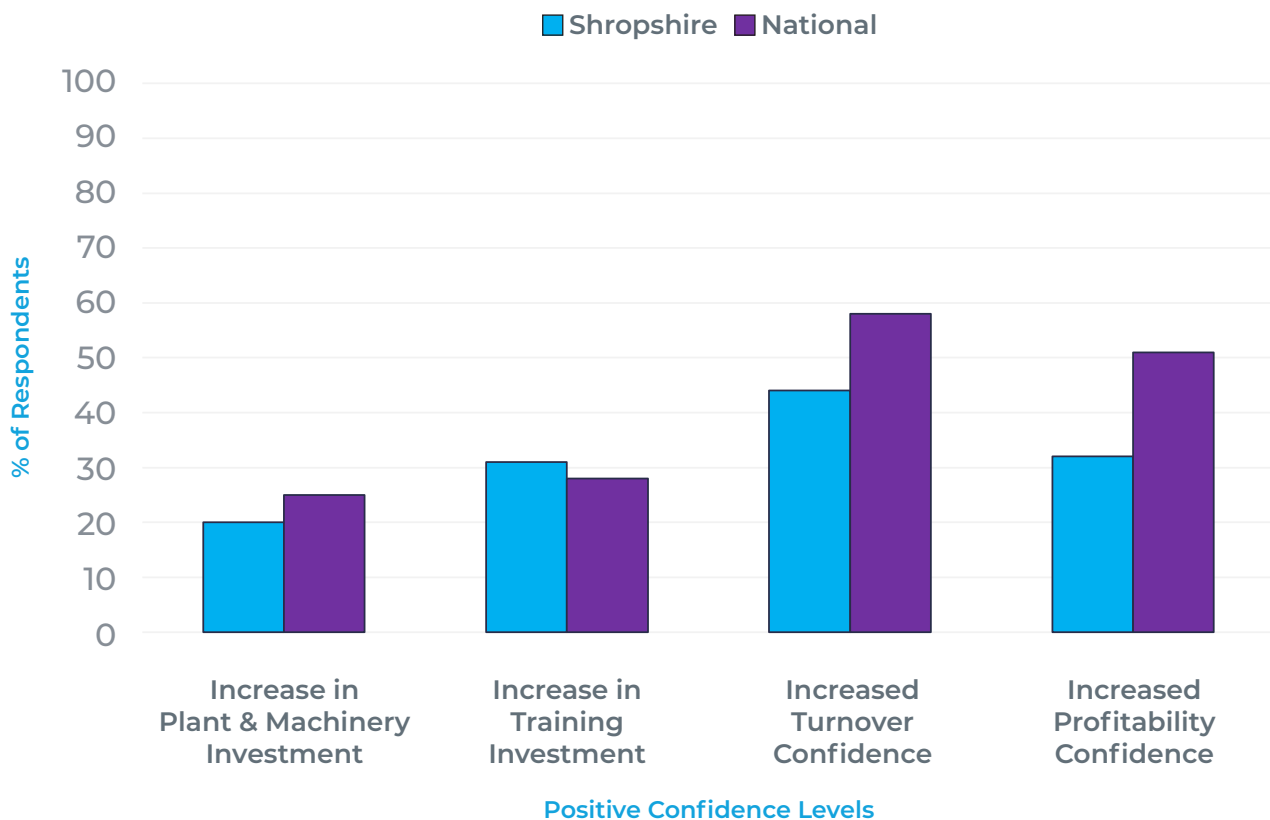
## WORKFORCE RECRUITED SKILLS TYPE

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



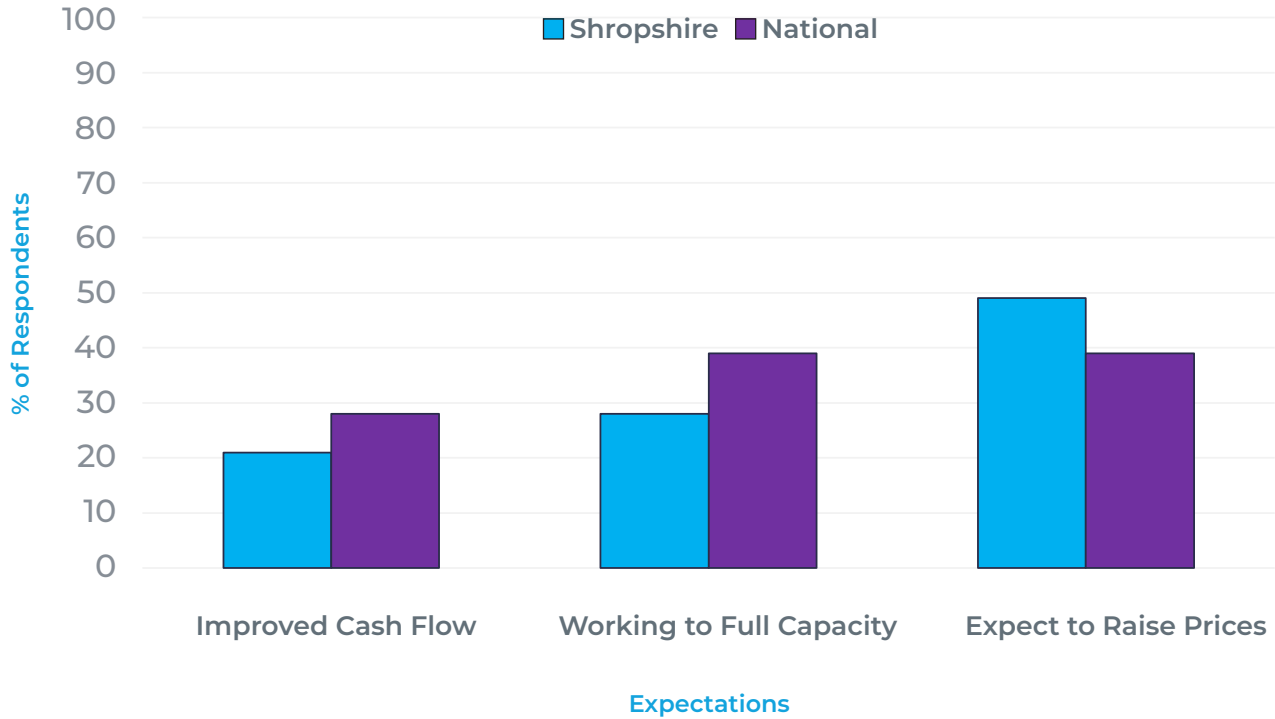
## INCREASED INVESTMENT & CONFIDENCE

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



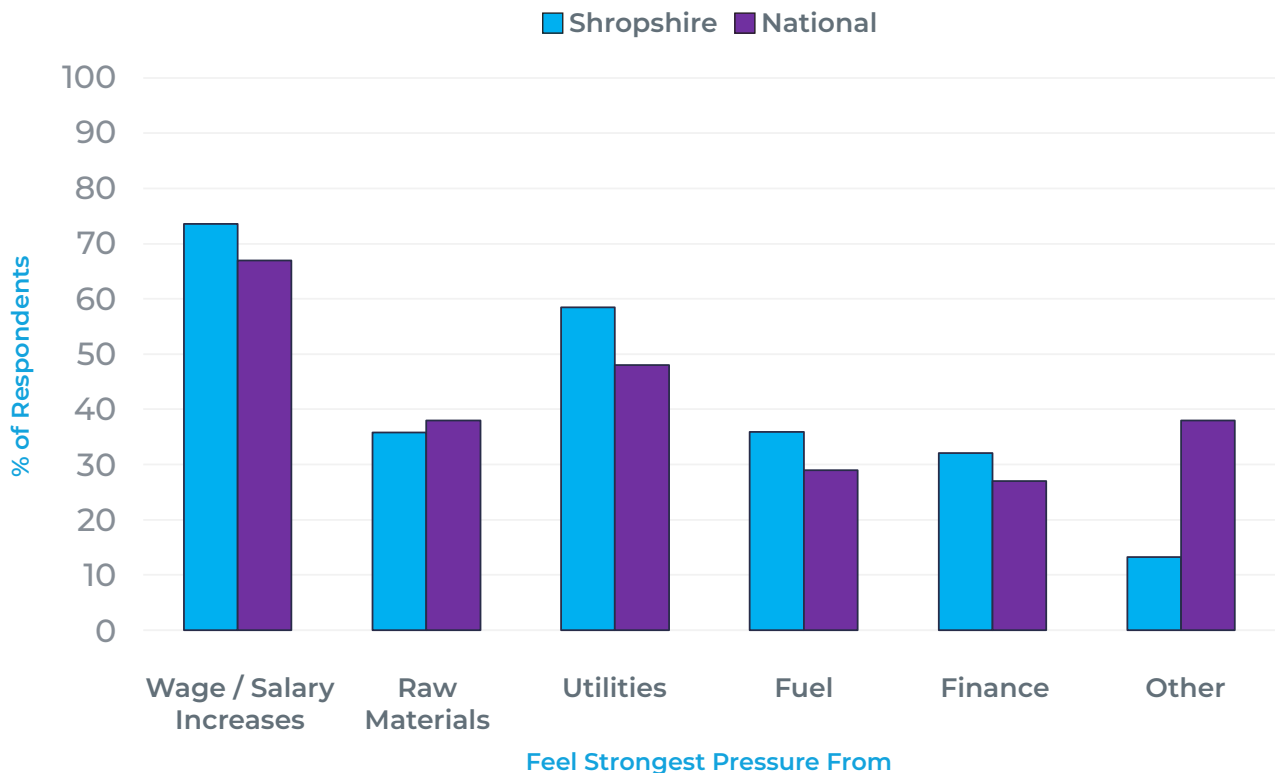
## CASHFLOW, CAPACITY & PRICES

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



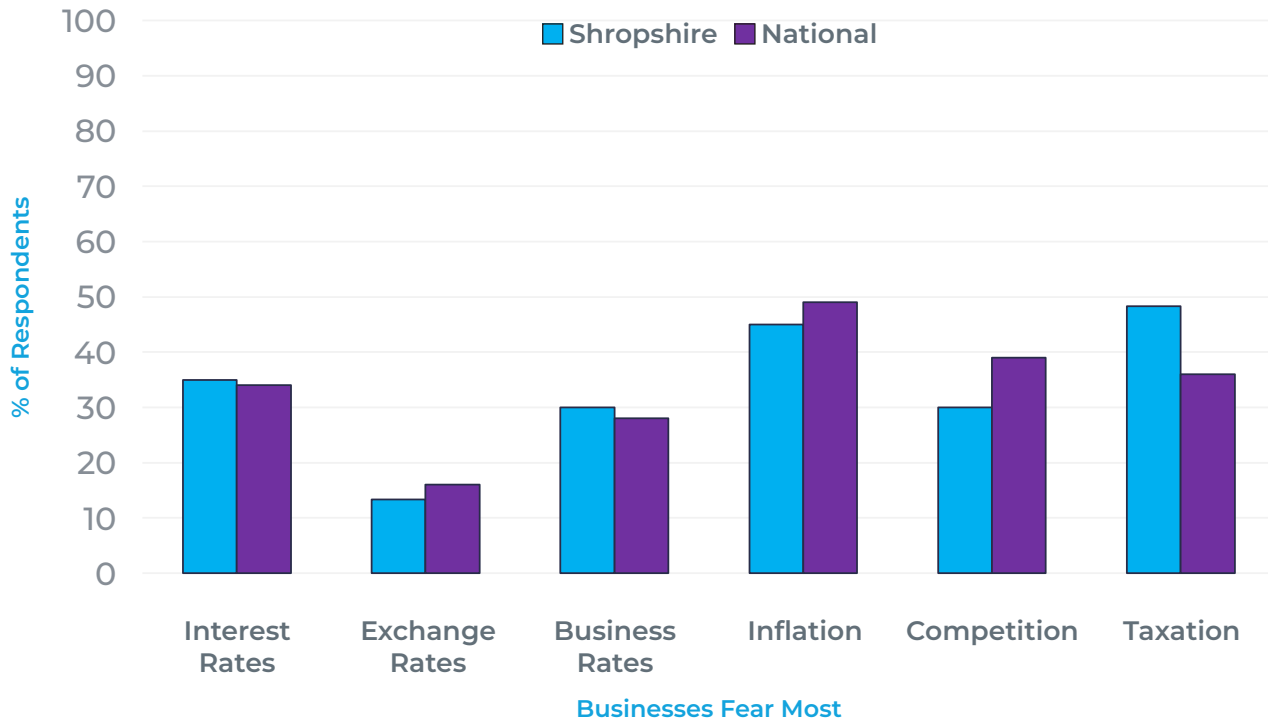
## BUSINESS PRESSURES

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



## BUSINESS FEARS

QES Quarter 2 - 2024



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](mailto:policy@shropshire-chamber.co.uk)**