

NATIONAL **vs** LOCAL RESULTS

Quarter Three 2025

Survey carried out over 3 weeks during August and September 2025.

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

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Ahead of the Chancellor's statement next month, our survey shows many firms remain bruised and are not ready for another Budget battering.

The research reveals no clear improvements to key indicators we track. For twelve months, SMEs have told us the same story: rising costs, weak investment, and little sense of relief on the horizon.

The Employer NICs increase has been the most widely cited source of pressure, hitting investment and pushing up prices. The proportion of businesses expecting to raise prices remains worryingly high, driven primarily by labour costs. Inflation now sits alongside taxation as a top concern. The global shift towards protectionism and tariffs has also been a major compounding factor.

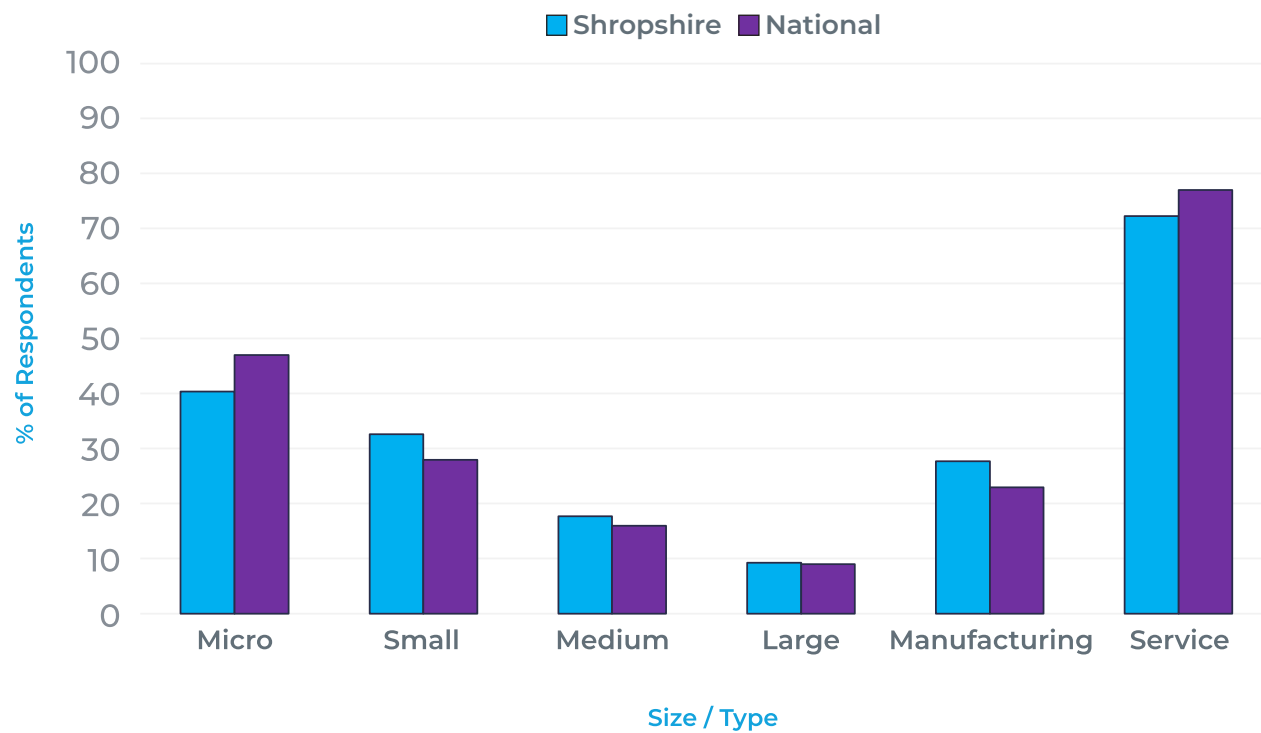
Persistent weak sentiment this quarter may suggest that many firms have already priced in a tough Budget. But further surprise measures that hit business, like those seen in 2024, could drive confidence even lower.

David Bharier

Head of Research, British Chambers of Commerce

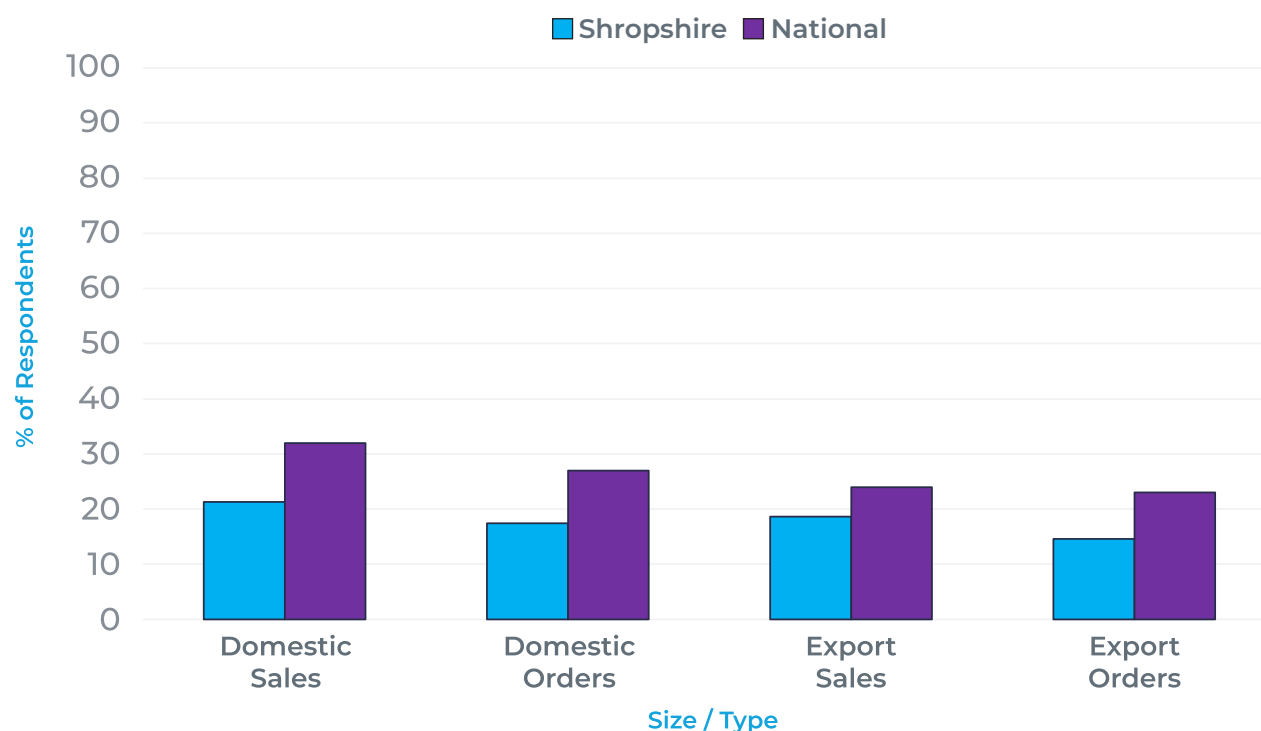
INTERVIEW SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



SALES & ORDERS INCREASED - DOMESTIC & EXPORT

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



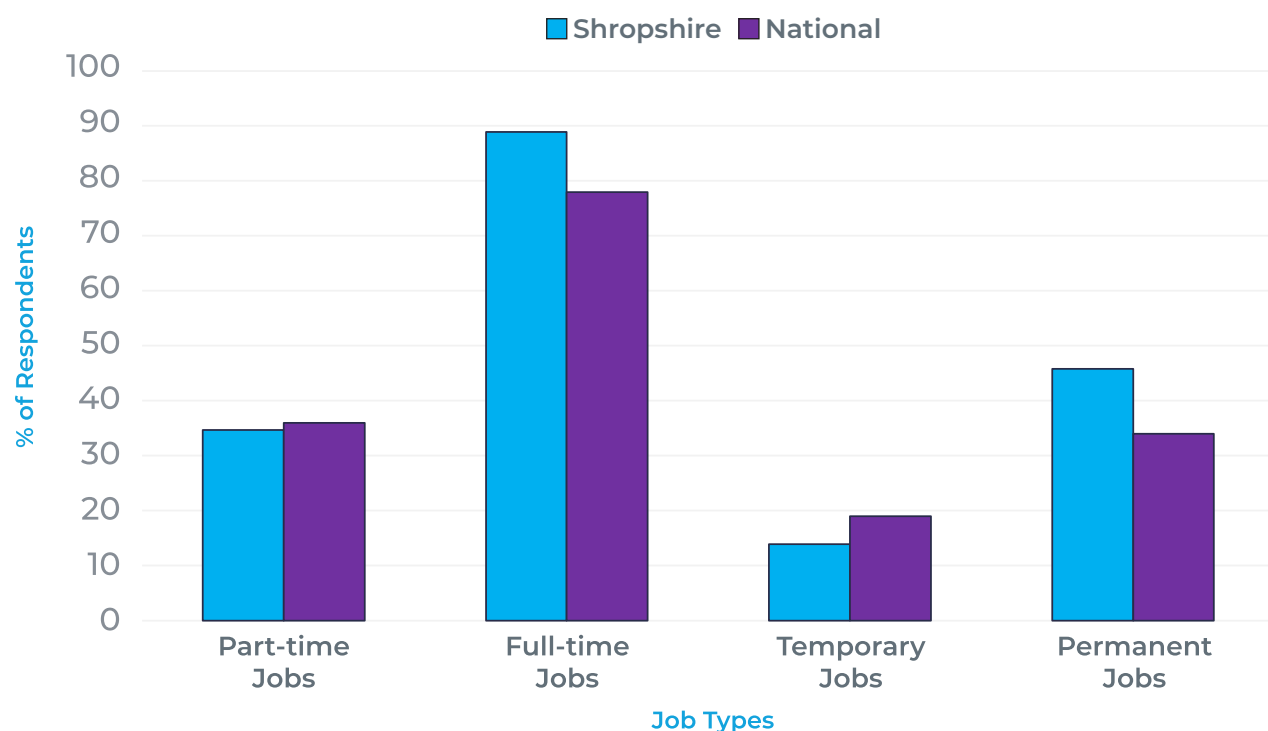
WORKFORCE INCREASES

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



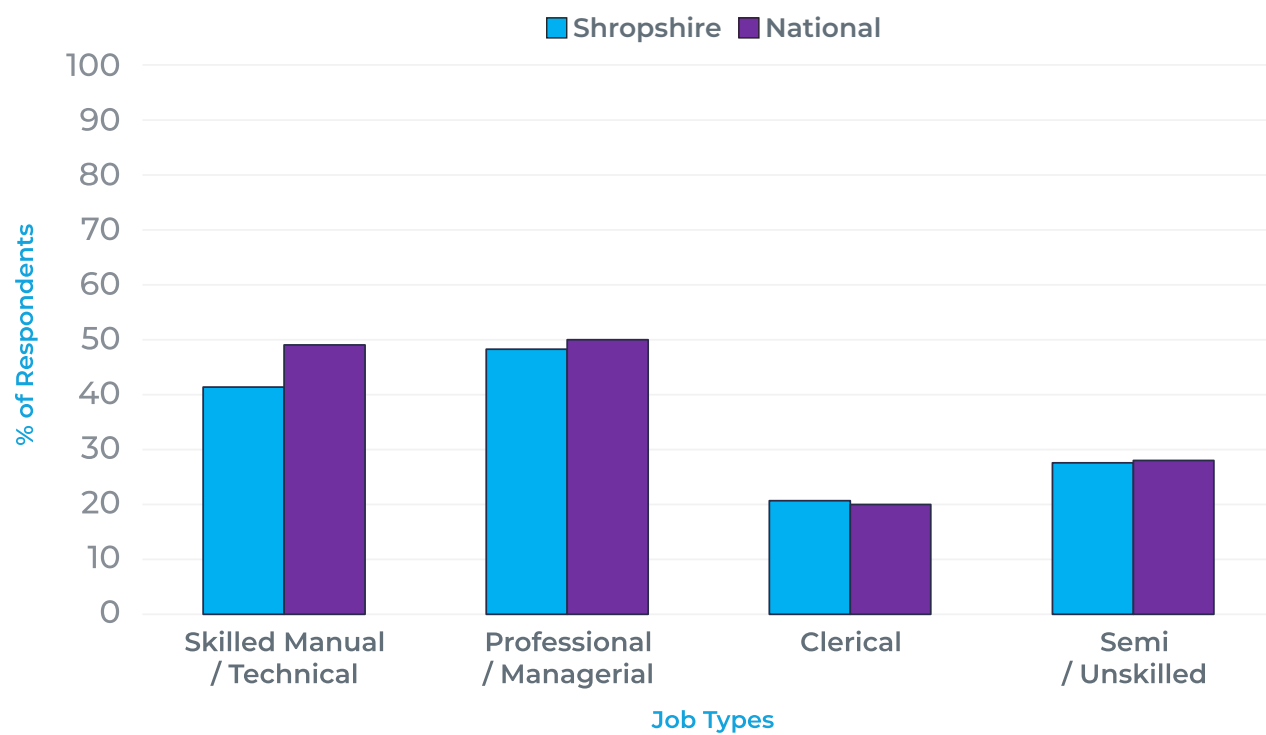
WORKFORCE RECRUITED JOB TYPES

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



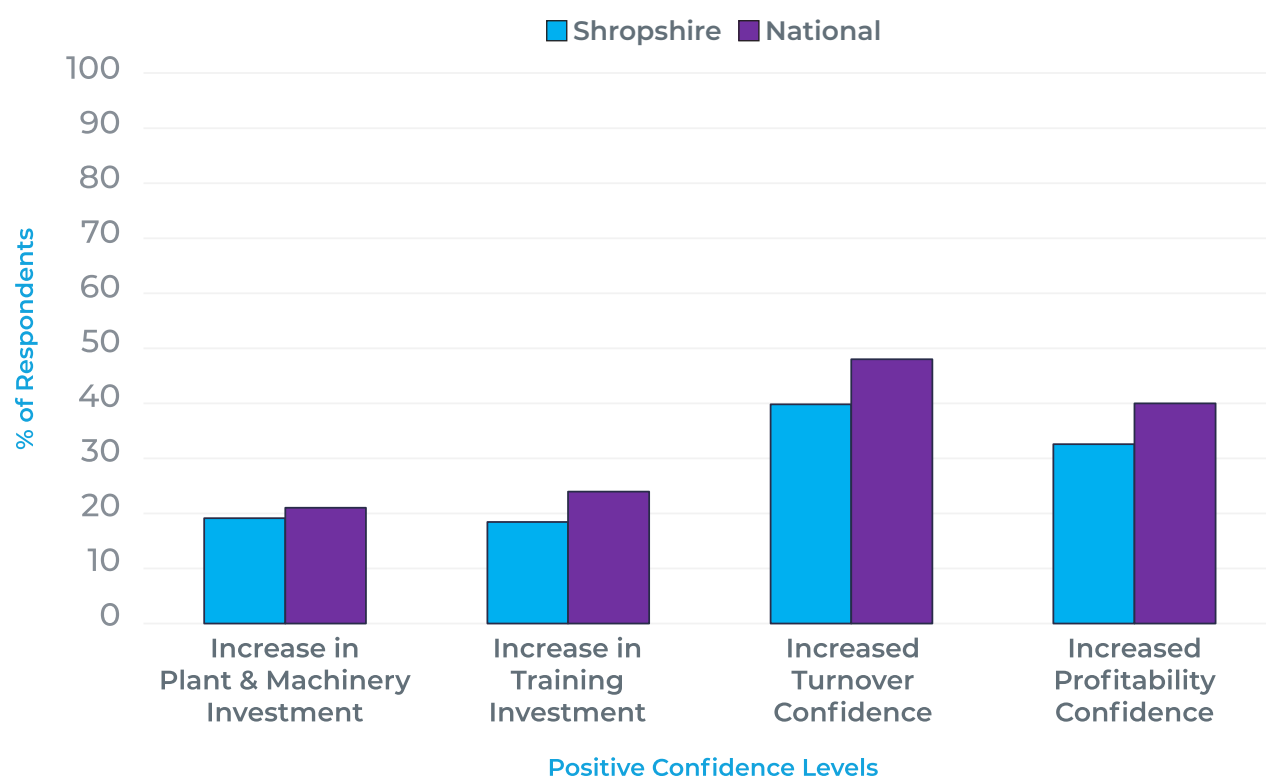
WORKFORCE RECRUITED SKILLS TYPE

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



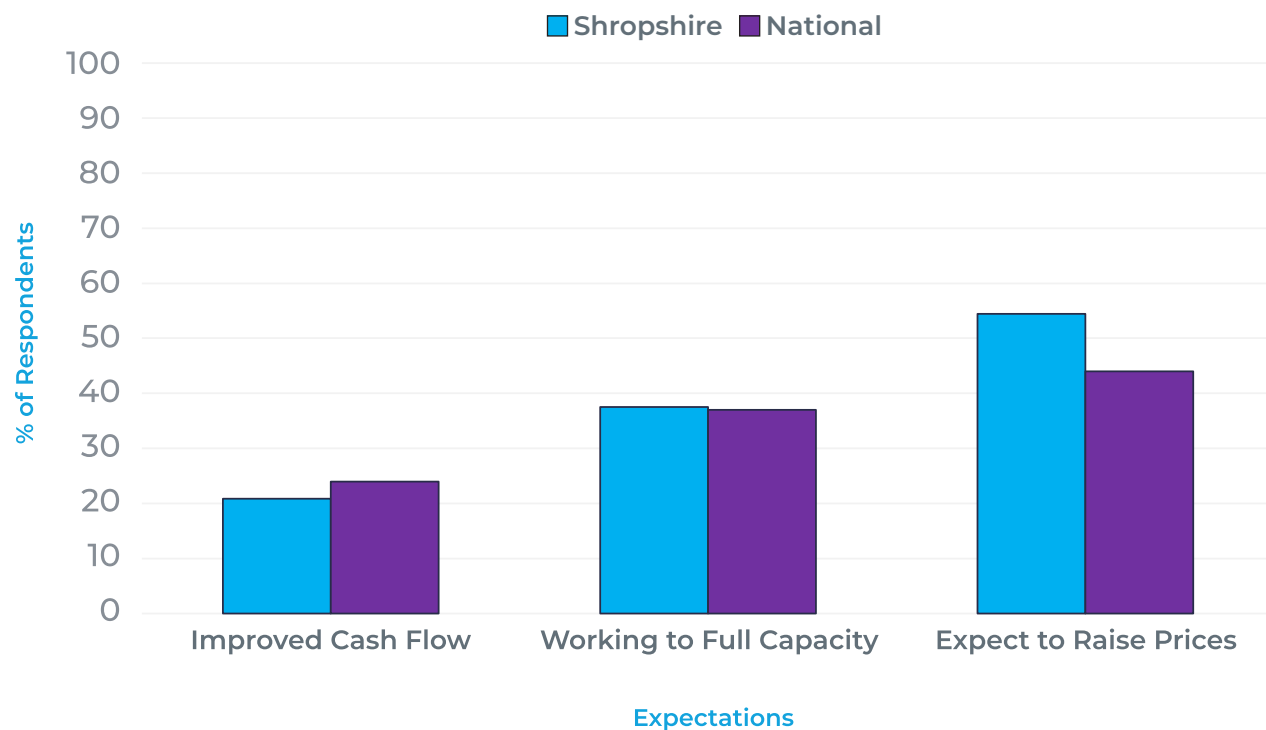
INCREASED INVESTMENT & CONFIDENCE

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



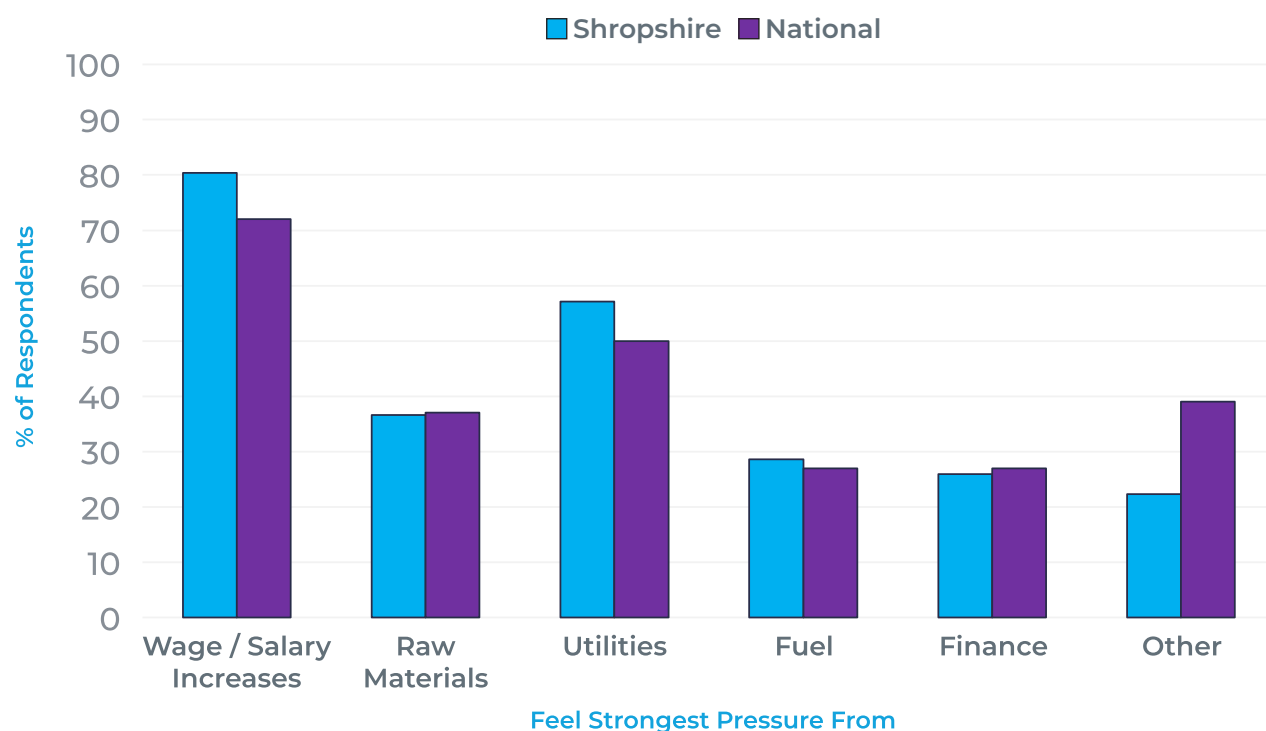
CASHFLOW, CAPACITY & PRICES

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



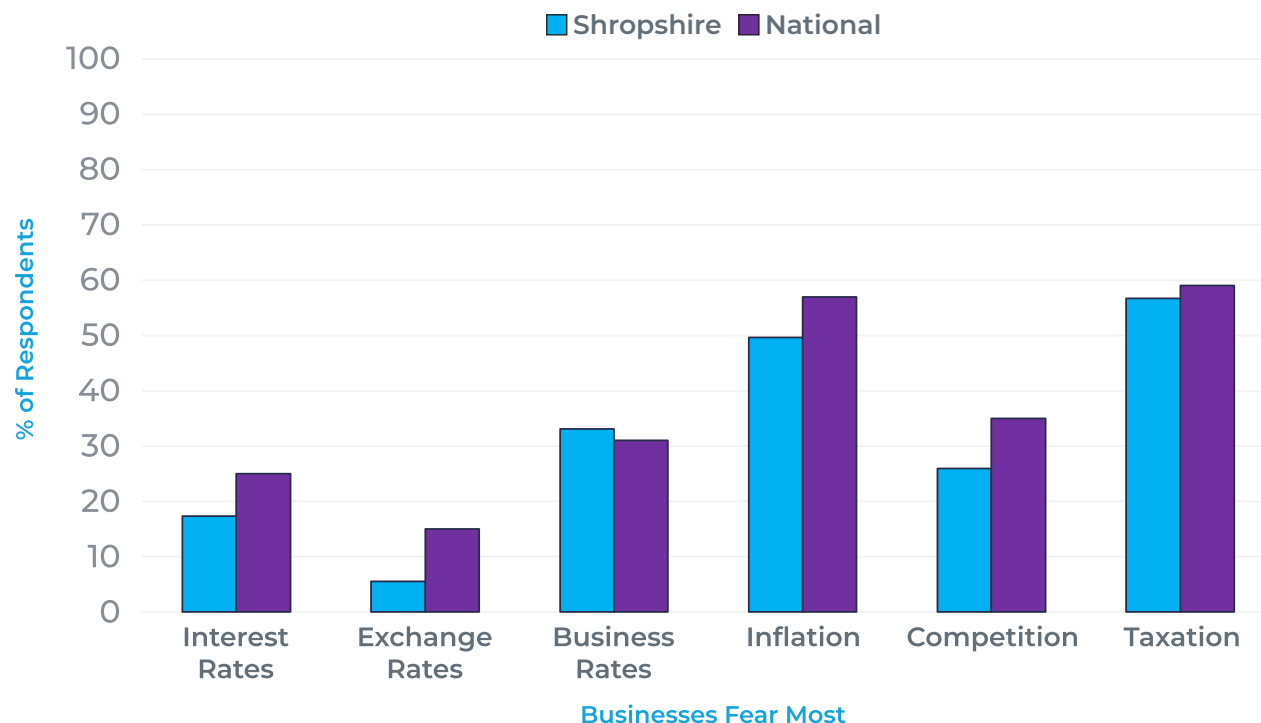
BUSINESS PRESSURES

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



BUSINESS FEARS

QES Quarter 3 - 2025



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