

Survey carried out over 3 weeks during May and June 2025.

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

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*Business sentiment in Q2 remains fundamentally subdued, following last autumn's tax increase announcements and the more recent introduction of global tariffs.*

*April's rise in National Insurance contributions has cemented tax as the dominant concern for firms. Businesses are entering a new employment landscape marked by structurally higher labour costs and administrative requirements, fuelling increased anxiety about redundancies.*

*While there has been some easing in our price expectations indicator, this follows a spike to near historic highs in Q1 and may indicate that firms already baked in the recent NICs increase. Inflation is likely to remain volatile in the short term, as any escalation in global conflict could trigger renewed shocks to commodity and shipping prices. SMEs are operating in an increasingly unpredictable world and have limited capacity to absorb further disruption.*

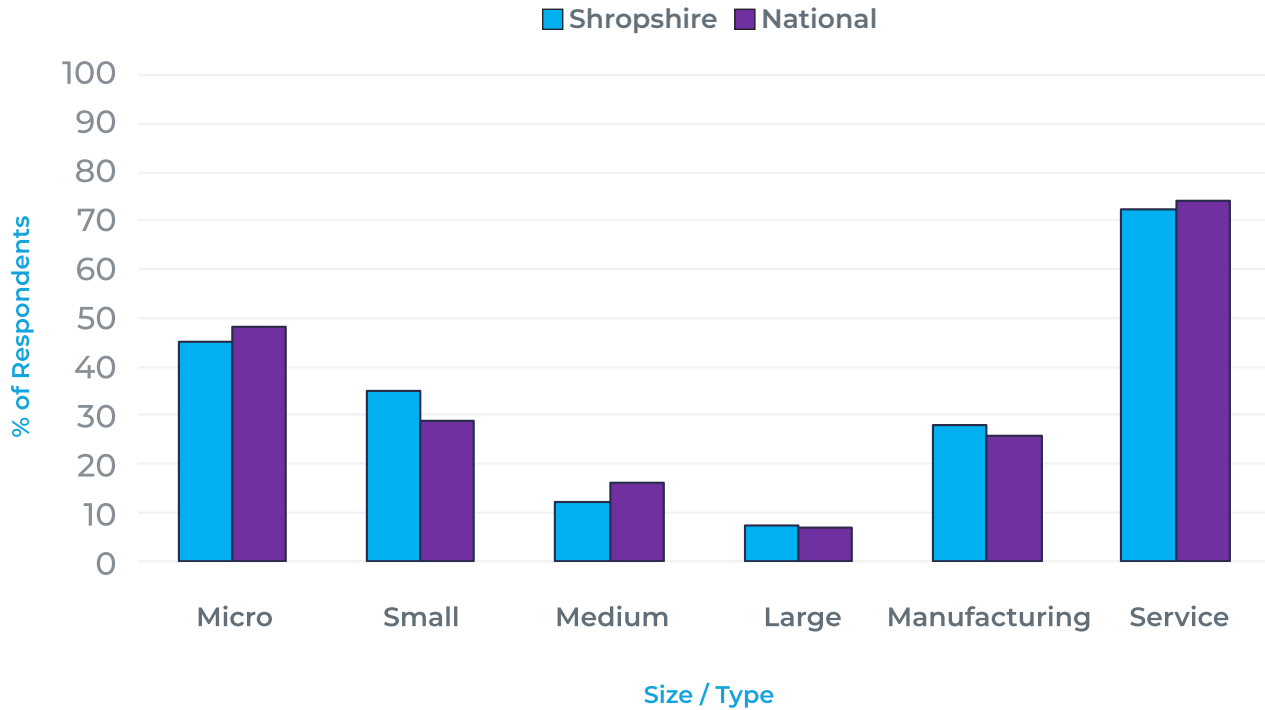
*A meaningful improvement in business conditions will depend on a roadmap to ease the tax and admin burden, de-escalation of geopolitical tensions, implementing improvements to the UK-EU trading deal, and further mitigation of US tariffs.*

**David Bharier**

Head of Research, British Chambers of Commerce

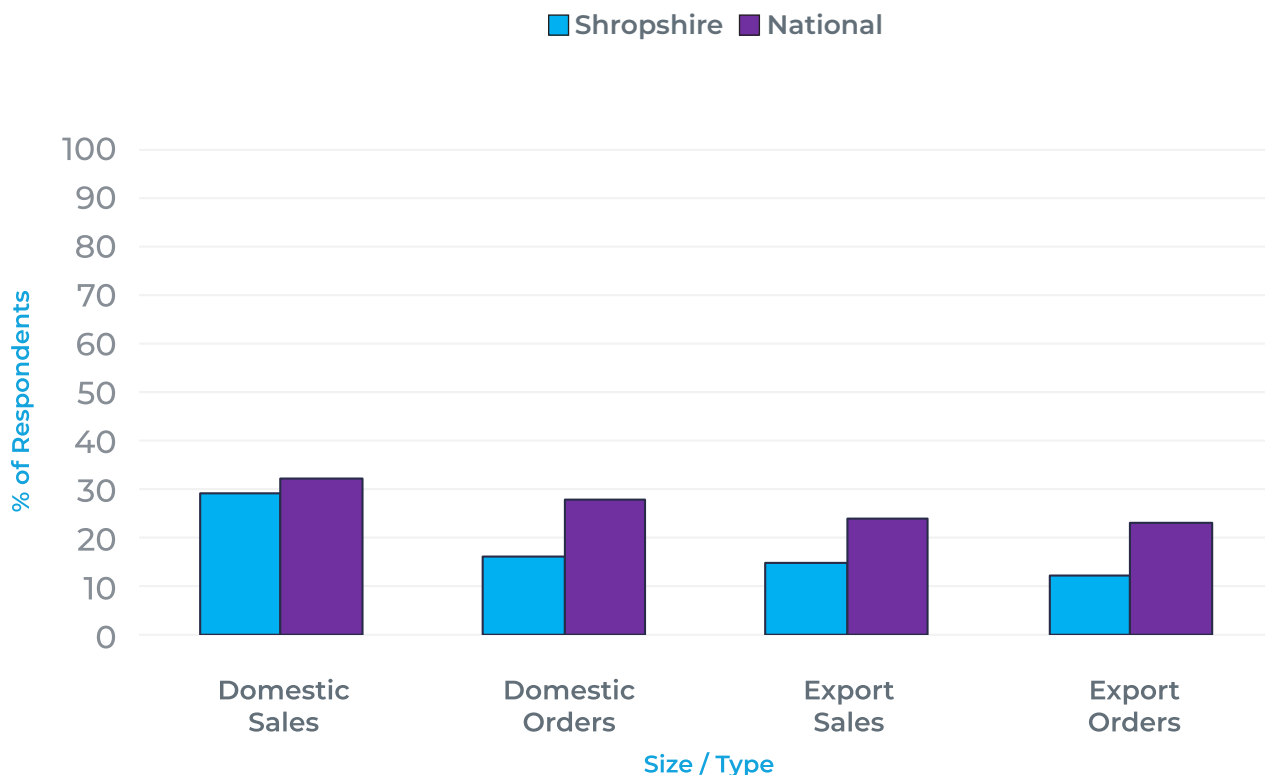
## INTERVIEW SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



## SALES & ORDERS INCREASED - DOMESTIC & EXPORT

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



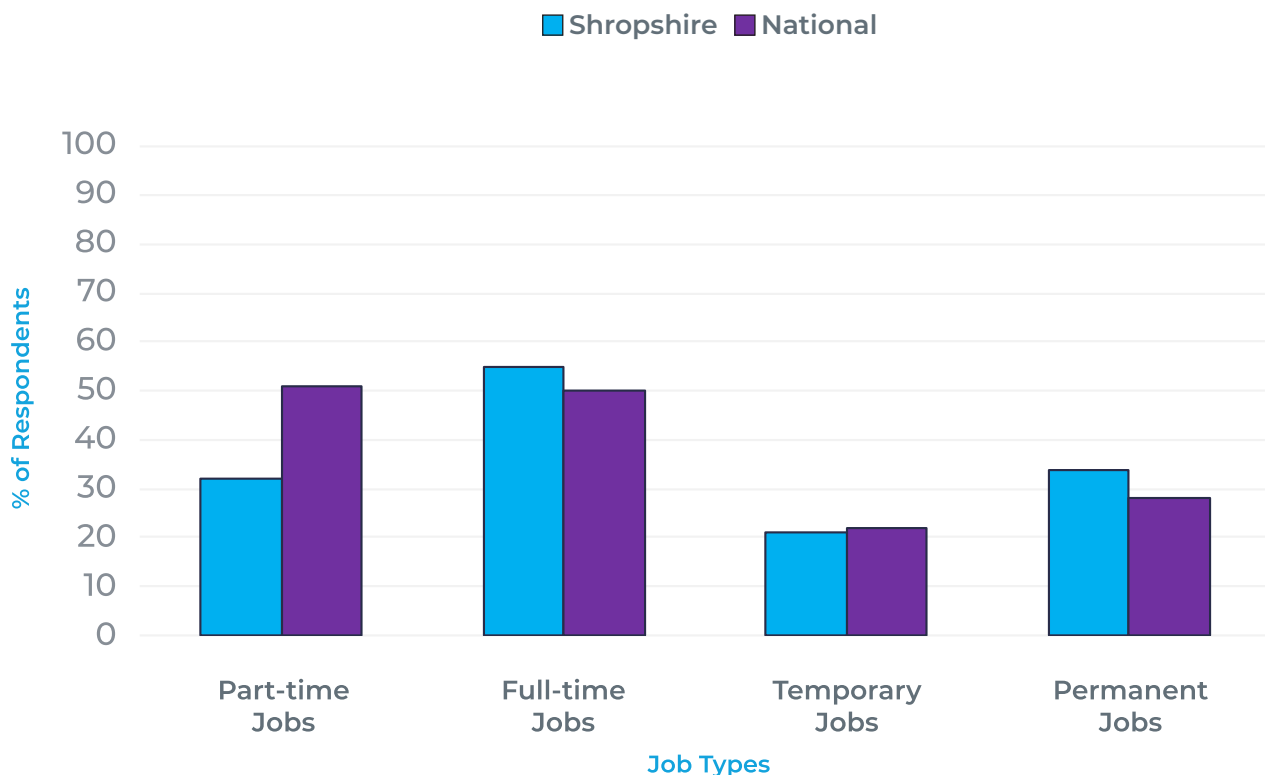
## WORKFORCE INCREASES

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



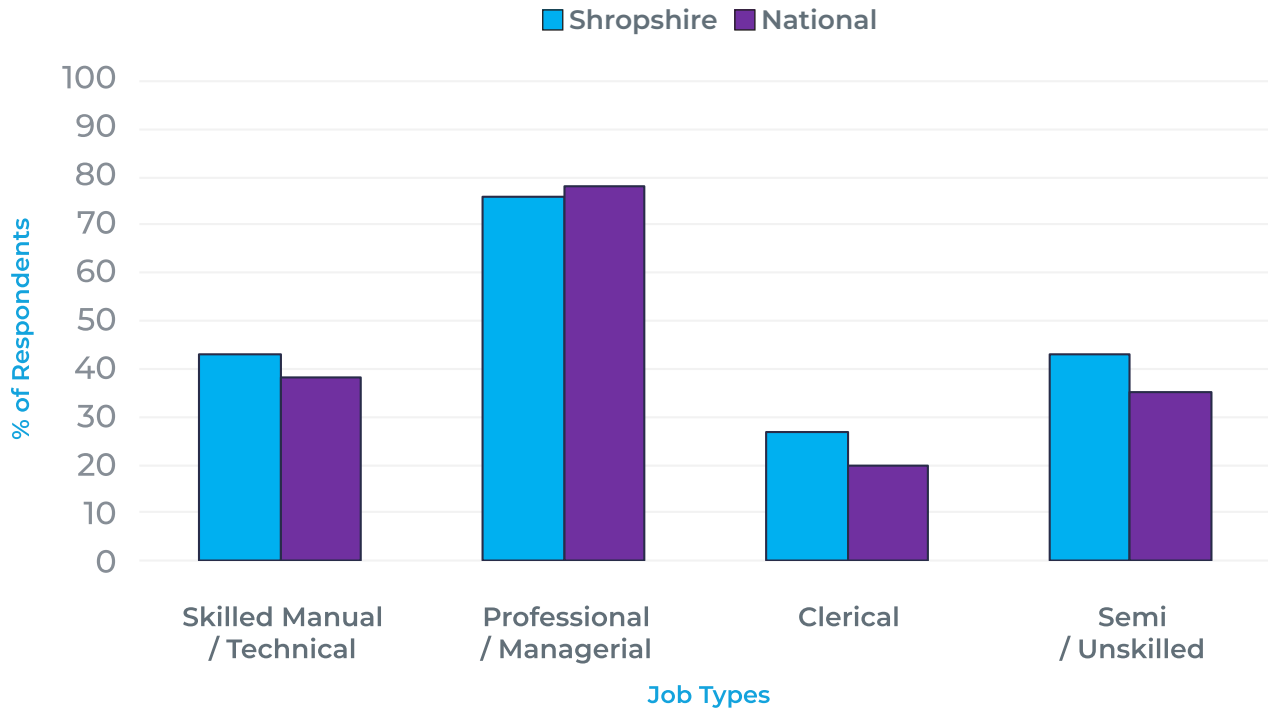
## WORKFORCE RECRUITED JOB TYPES

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



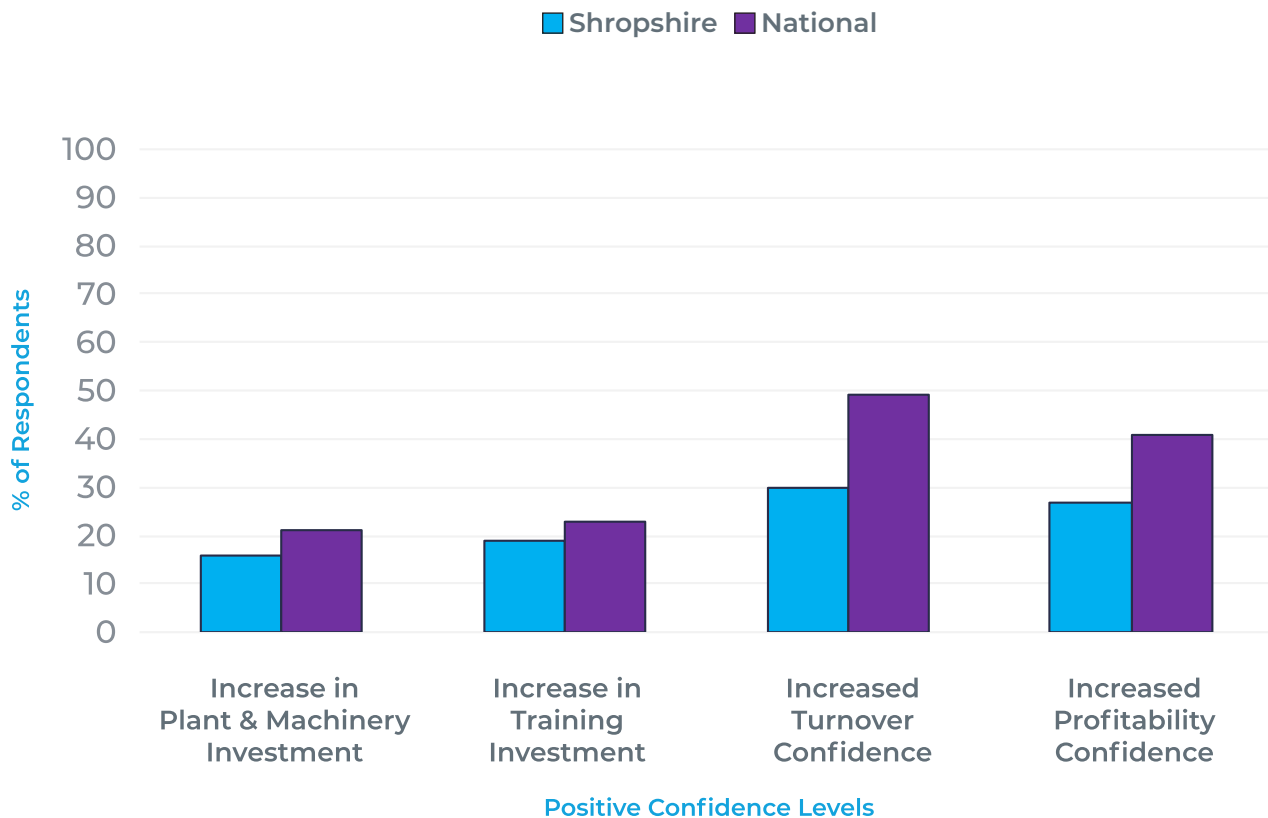
## WORKFORCE RECRUITED SKILLS TYPE

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



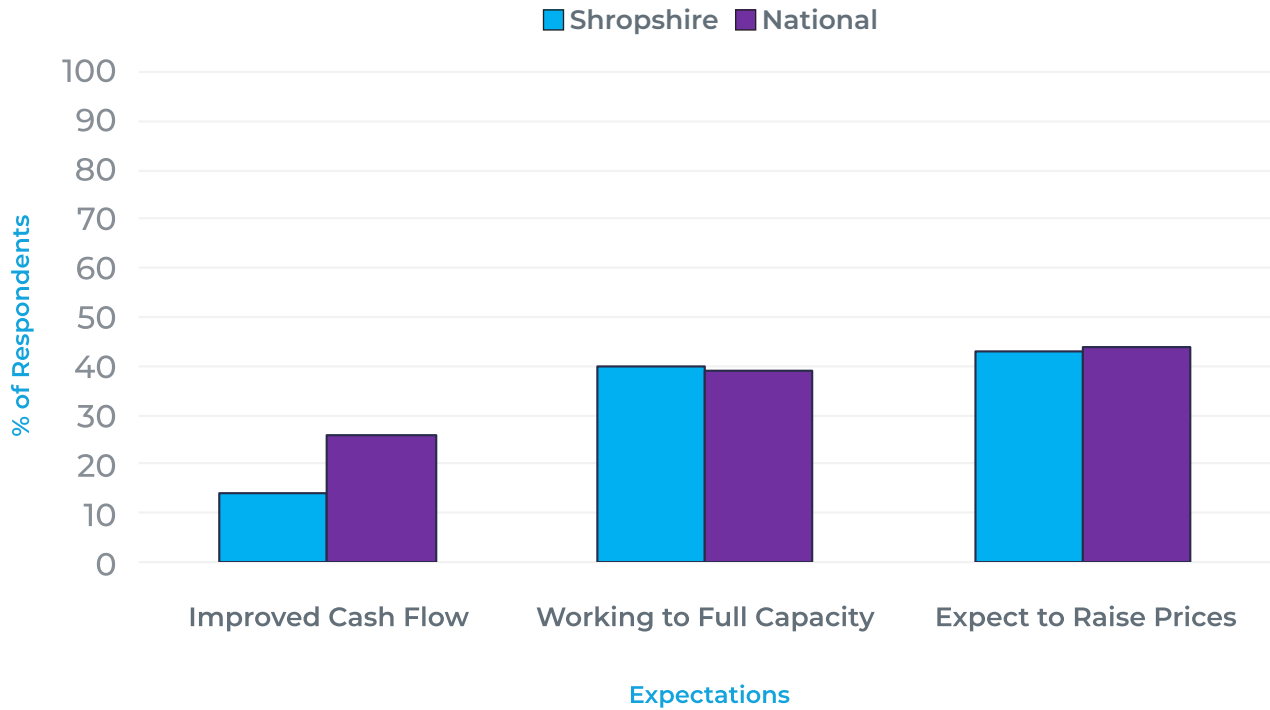
## INCREASED INVESTMENT & CONFIDENCE

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



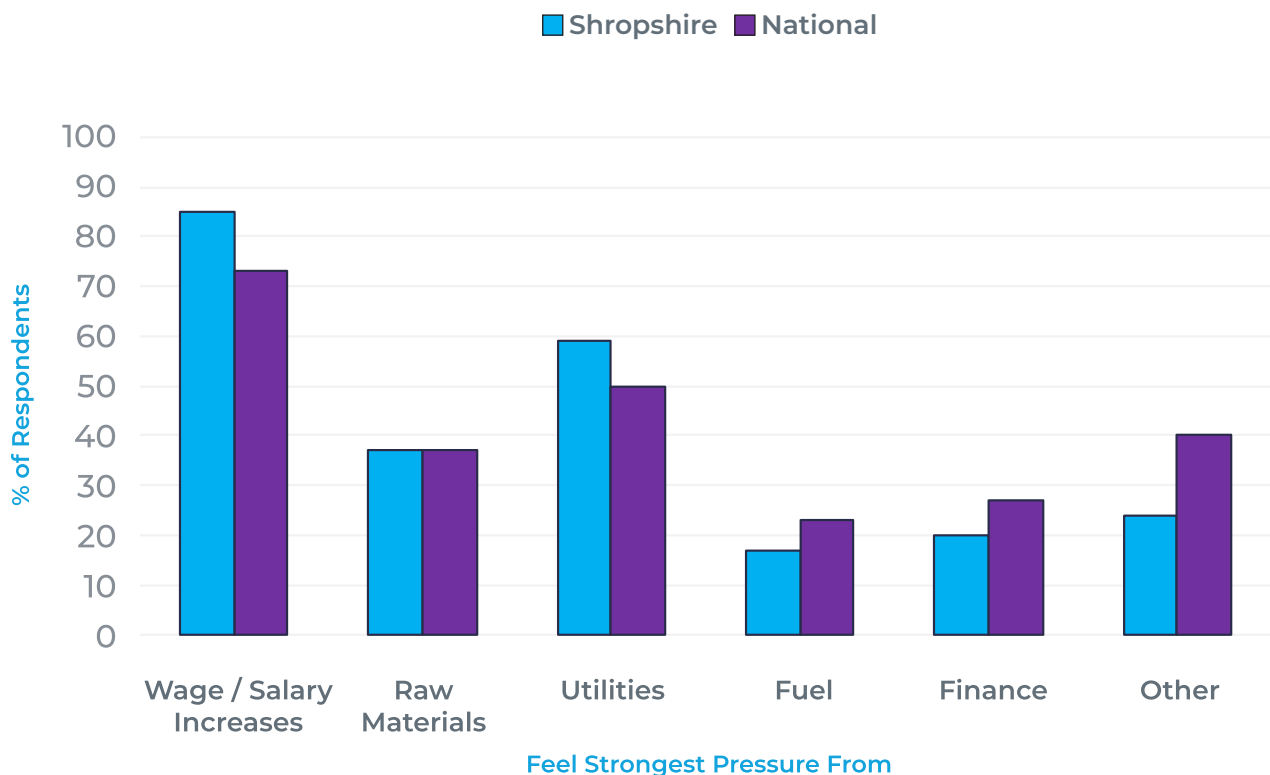
## CASHFLOW, CAPACITY & PRICES

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



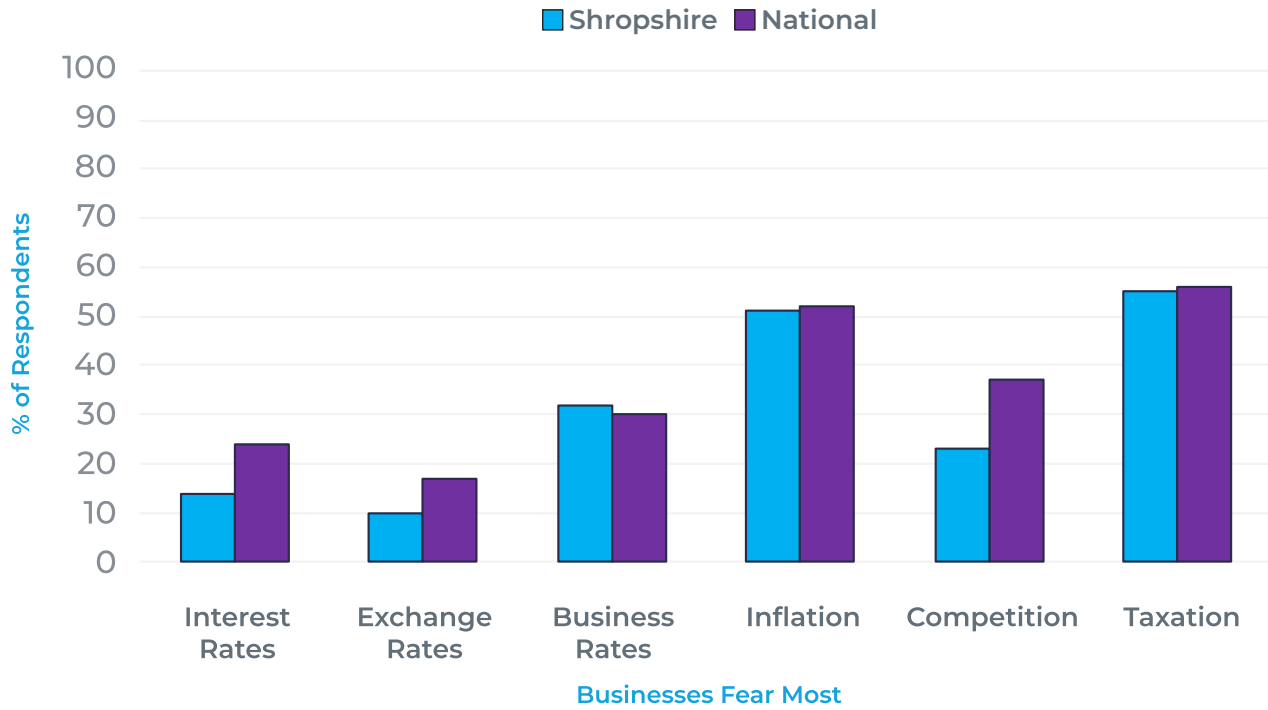
## BUSINESS PRESSURES

QES Quarter 2 - 2025



## BUSINESS FEARS

QES Quarter 2 - 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](mailto:policy@shropshire-chamber.co.uk)**