

QUARTERLY ECONOMIC BULLETIN

An Economic Summary for Herefordshire

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Key Points for Herefordshire:

- Numbers of unemployed have increased from last quarter (page 3).
- Mean household annual income across Herefordshire was £28,700 in 04/05 (page 4).
- Herefordshire is close to being the least affordable authority for housing in the West Midlands region (page 5).
- Median weekly earnings for people who work full time in Herefordshire was £384.40 in 2007, 17% lower than earnings across England as a whole (page 6).
- Of Herefordshire's 74,300 workers, 20% of them were employed in the wholesale, retail and repair trade sector in 2006 (page 8).
- Indices of Deprivation 2007 - there are more areas in Herefordshire that are within the top 25% most deprived across England than in 2004 (page 10).

NEWS SOURCED FROM LOCAL PRESS

Job Creation

Since the last issue, a grant of over £20,000 has been awarded for the conversion of a redundant building behind Albion House, Bridge Street, Kington. This will allow the accountancy firm Davies Edwards to expand and create another 2.5 jobs, and will also safeguard 18 jobs for Sun Care, a domestic home help business which was considering relocating outside of the county.

13 new jobs have been created over the last 3 months by previously completed projects assisted by the Redundant Building Grant Scheme.

Job Losses

Cost saving measures by the British Wool Marketing Board are resulting in the closure of the grading function at their wool depot in Bromyard. Wool collection will still be available at the current site or in the near vicinity. There have also been reductions in numbers of staff at the Brecon and Port Madoc sites.

Development and Investment

Outline planning permission has been given to convert 25 acres of agricultural land for commercial use in Ross-on-Wye. The new site will include zones identified for office space, research and development, general industry, storage and distribution centres.

A new free service is available for businesses in Herefordshire to enable them to compete for top-tier and lower-tier contracts stemming from the London 2012 Olympics. Advantage West Midlands funded an online 'dating agency' allowing smaller businesses to join forces and bid for larger contracts. Business Link West Midlands is also offering workshops to help prepare businesses for this 'CompeteFor' process.

Scottish and Newcastle plc, parent company of Bulmers, have been taken over by Heineken and Carlsberg for £7.8 billion. The new take-over will not affect current contracts with local fruit growers.

NEWS (CONT.)

Health and Social Care

The Fownhope Medical Trust have awarded £3,900 to Fownhope Medial Centre for a small van which will deliver prescriptions to residents throughout the area.

Education and training

Plans are being pulled together to build a campus in Herefordshire to develop the 'University of the Marches', providing university-level education for approximately £8 million. The idea is to have a base for distance and virtual learning which then channels learning out to further satellite units around Herefordshire in smaller community buildings such as village halls. Suggested locations for the campus are the Morton Business Park or the Leominster Enterprise Park. The bid is being backed by the Robert Owen Society in Leominster and other supporters are Birmingham City University and the Open University.

Housing

Key workers in Herefordshire, such as nurses, police and teachers, could soon be eligible for priority status when applying for low cost home ownership programmes within the West Midlands. Schools, hospitals, fire and police services will provide information to employees as part of a £679 million regional investment.

A block of nine apartments is planned for the grounds of a nursing home in Hereford City. The scheme will involve parking and will utilise solar energy. The developers have also agreed to donate £35,000 towards education, public open space and sustainable transport.

Plans for 35 new homes in Shobdon have been approved, 12 of them will be 'affordable housing'. The new development will also include a new access road, landscaping and a children's play area.

A £5.25 million housing project has started in Ross-on-Wye. The scheme from Herefordshire Housing plans to replace the current stock of 43 houses in poor repair with 53 modern, eco-friendly, affordable homes.

Transport

Network Rail are planning 3 new signals for the Hereford - Birmingham rail line during 2008, which should improve rail services.

Tourism and Culture

A new scheme promoting the use of the county's library and heritage sites has been launched. Visitors collect stamps every time they visit one of Herefordshire Council's libraries or heritage sites which they can exchange for gifts after visiting on 3, 6 or 10 occasions.

Agriculture and Environment

Welsh Water have started a £300,000 scheme to keep the River Lugg cleaner by stopping waste water seeping into the river in bad weather. Work will involve installing a storm overflow facility at Presteigne and screens near the Tanyard Pumping Station to stop larger waste debris from entering the river. Meanwhile the waste water system will be improved to further separate its contents from the Lugg during severe weather conditions.

Welsh Water are also planning to upgrade Ross-on-Wye's drinking water supply. This £2.25 million scheme will upgrade the water mains in the area.

Community and Voluntary Groups

The Kingspan Insulation Community Trust has made more than £27,000 available to community projects. The projects have to meet at least one of their priorities of road safety, healthy recreation for young people, environmental conservation and encouraging biodiversity. Pembridge village green received £12,000 to develop access and maintain it as a conservation area. Others to receive this grant were Kingsland CE Primary School, Wigmore High School, Lady Hawkins' High School and Luctonians Youth Sport Club.

Miscellaneous

Arts Council England has awarded £30,000 in grants for 3 arts projects in Herefordshire: an artist from Herefordshire Art College, a Herefordshire Sculptor and the Three Choirs Festival Association.

Information for this news article has been sourced from local press, mainly the Hereford Times.

UNEMPLOYMENT

This article shows levels and trends of unemployment in Herefordshire. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) supplies data on numbers and rates of unemployment (% of the working age population claiming unemployment benefits), the age of those who are unemployed and duration of their unemployment. The following is a summary of the key information from **January 2008**. All figures are un-adjusted for seasonal variation unless otherwise stated.

In January 2008:

1,517 people were claiming unemployment benefit in Herefordshire, an increase of 170 claimants from the previous quarter, October 2007 (1,347), but down from January 2007 (1,634). The unemployment rate was 1.5%, which is slightly lower than in January 2007 (1.6%), and lower than both the West Midlands region and England (See table opposite).

Over two thirds of claimants were male (71%).

Unemployment in Hereford City has decreased over the year (607 claimants in January 08 compared to 732 in April 06). Of the market towns, Leominster and Ross-on-Wye have the highest levels of unemployment (142 and 147 claimants respectively). Unemployment in Kington has varied little, remaining low throughout the last year.

Ward unemployment rates show that Ross-on-Wye West, St Nicholas, Belmont, Leominster North & South and St Martins & Hinton have the highest rates, each with over 2% of their working age population claiming unemployment benefit.

Unemployment claimant figures are released at smaller geographical areas (i.e. below ward level) which allow more detailed mapping of where clusters of unemployment are within Herefordshire.

The highest numbers of unemployment claimants occur in Ross-on-Wye, John Kyrle area (65 claimants, 4.3% of all claimants) followed by Golden Post – Newton Farm in Hereford City South of the river (47 claimants, 3.1% of all claimants) and Whitecross – Sainsbury's in Hereford City (43 claimants, 2.8% of all claimants).

The other areas with concentrations of unemployment claimants were in Bromyard, around Leominster Market Town, areas in the north of Hereford City, a SOA labelled 'Fairfields' (which includes the parishes of Blakemere, Moccas, Preston-on-Wye, Peterchurch and Tyberton), a SOA labelled Greater Weobly (including the parishes of Weobly and Dilwyn) and

	January 2008			A year ago (January 2007)
	Total	Male	Female	
Herefordshire	1,517	1,076	441	1,634
	1.5%	2.0%	0.9%	1.6%
West Midlands	3.0%	4.2%	1.6%	3.4%
England	2.2%	3.1%	1.2%	2.6%

Source: Office for National Statistics Monthly Unemployment Claimant Counts, Herefordshire Council Research Team

several SOAs in the south of the county that include the parishes of Goodrich, Lea, Lindon, Walford, Western under Penyard and Welsh Bicknor.

The highest proportion of unemployment claimants were those aged between 25 and 49 years who have been unemployed for less than 6 months (40%), up by 2% from this time last year, January 2007 (38%).

The majority of claimants have been unemployed for less than 6 months (79%), which is similar to January 2007 (77%). 54% of all claimants are aged between 25 and 49 years.

28% of claimants were classed as 'youth unemployment' (those aged under 25 years), similar to last April 2006 (29%).

The numbers of claimants who claimed unemployment benefits for 12 months or longer has increased over the last 2 years, from 110 in January 2006 to 155 in January 2008. Numbers claiming for less than 6 months have fallen since January 2006, from 1,405 claimants to only 1,180 in January 2008.

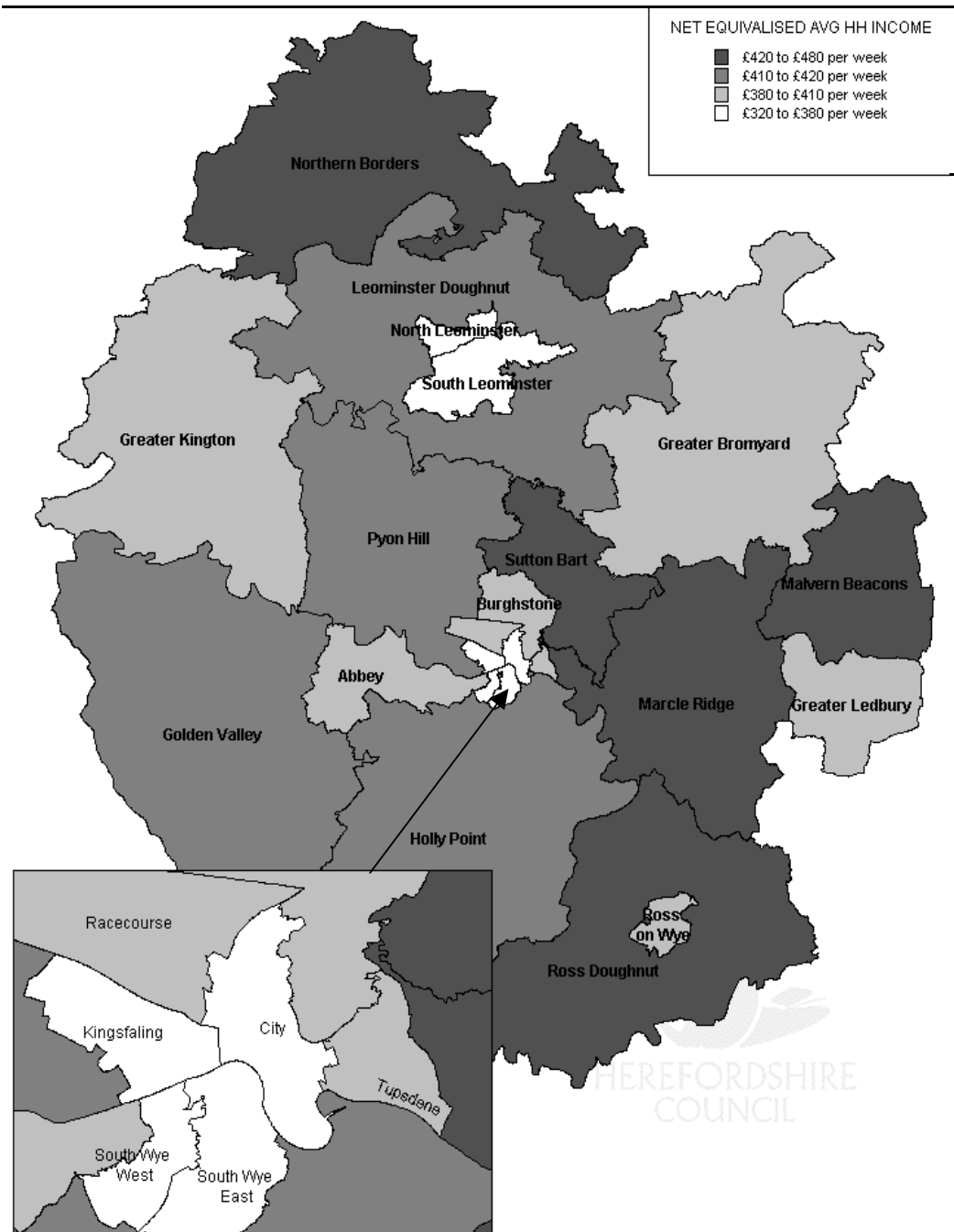
'Click here for the full article' - please note this opens a new window (2.53 MB).

Any queries contact the Herefordshire Council Research Team: 01432 383634 or researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk

¹ Lower level 'super output areas' (SOAs) are areas with fixed geographical boundaries. There are 116 of these in Herefordshire, each with a population of about 1,500.

ESTIMATES OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2004 / 5

These model-based estimates at MSOA level were released by ONS in November 2007, but cover the year 2004/5. They include gross income, net income and equivalised net income. Mean gross household income ranged from £430 per week (£22,400 per year) in the "S Wye West" MSOA to £690 per week (£36,000 per year) in the "Malvern Beacons" MSOA. The mean across the 23 MSOAs in Herefordshire was £551 per week (£28,700 per year).



Definitions

MSOAs (Mid Layer Super Output Areas) are formed by grouping several Census Output Areas to give areas whose population is at least 5000.

Equivalised household income has been adjusted to take account of household size and composition, enabling more appropriate comparisons to be made between households.



MAP SHOWING MSOA's WITHIN HEREFORDSHIRE WITH WEEKLY NET HH INCOME (EQUIVALISED)

SCALE 1:287,700
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 Herefordshire Council 100024168 (2008)

REPORT ON THE AFFORDABILITY OF PRIVATE HOUSING 2006 BY THE JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

Sub-titled “Can’t Buy, Can Rent”

As the sub title indicates, this report looks at the affordability of private renting, as well as house purchase. The study covers all local authorities in England & Wales. One of the main findings is that in the great majority of local authority areas (including all authorities within the West Midlands Region), the rental of a 2/3 bedroom dwelling is less than 25% of the mean household earnings of younger working households. A further finding is that, in most local authority areas, the costs of private rents are significantly lower than the costs of house purchase.

House price and rental data

Data on house prices and private rents, covering the whole of 2006, was provided by the organisation Hometrack. The study looks at “smaller family dwellings” defined as those with 2 and 3 bedrooms and, for the house prices, new-build dwellings were excluded from the analysis. For both prices and rental figures, the study obtained a figure for 2 bedrooms, and a figure for 3 bedrooms and then took the mean of these 2 figures.

Estimates of household earnings

The earnings data is derived from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), for 2006, and covers residence-based earnings of younger working households (those with members aged 20 to 39).

Taking the ASHE data as a starting point, regional data obtained from the national Expenditure and Food Survey was used to calculate estimates of household earnings down to District and Unitary Authority level. The resulting estimates of household earnings include earnings from self-employment, which are excluded from the ASHE figures.

House price to earnings ratios

These were calculated using the mean price for a 2/3 bed dwelling and mean household earnings for a younger working household. Herefordshire is close to being the least affordable authority in the Region with a ratio of 5.00; only Bridgnorth (Shropshire) has a worse ratio, at 5.48.

The table below shows the 15 West Midlands authorities with the worst house price to earnings ratio

Authority	Mean household earnings (younger working hh)	Mean house price for a 2/3 bed dwelling	House price to earnings ratio
Birmingham	34,723	131,042	3.77
Coventry	32,207	123,553	3.84
Staffordshire Moorlands	35,484	136,960	3.86
Redditch	34,142	133,253	3.90
North Warwickshire	36,228	143,125	3.95
South Staffordshire	36,950	151,350	4.10
Stratford-on-Avon	48,164	198,999	4.13
Warwick	45,903	191,528	4.17
Wychavon	39,580	165,734	4.19
Oswestry	30,463	133,725	4.39
South Shropshire	42,478	190,189	4.48
Malvern Hills	39,832	184,673	4.64
Shrewsbury & Atcham	33,190	160,491	4.84
Herefordshire	33,944	169,865	5.00
Bridgnorth	33,943	185,897	5.48

‘Click here for the full article’ - please note this opens a new window (63.2 KB). Any queries contact the Herefordshire Council Research Team: 01432 260464 or researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk

EARNINGS & HOURS WORKED 2007

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) provides information about the levels and range of earnings and hours worked, for employees in all industries and occupations. The latest data was released in **November 2007** and relates to employees who were employed on the 18th April 2007. This excludes employees not paid during the pay period including 18th April 2007 and those who are self-employed. The survey is based on a random 1% sample of employees (using their national insurance number), via a postal questionnaire to their employer. Methodological changes were introduced in 2007 with retrospective changes made to the 2006 figures, therefore these are not directly comparable with data from previous years.

The ASHE survey provides data on earnings for employees: gross annual, weekly and hourly pay and hours worked (including and excluding overtime). It also provides a breakdown by gender and full/part-time workers. There are two sets of figures of earnings data for Herefordshire:

- **Work based** – all people who work in Herefordshire regardless of which county they live in, and
 - **Residence based** – people who live in Herefordshire i.e. includes those working outside the county.
- This article focuses on ‘work based median’ earnings - this figure provides a mid-point for earnings such that half the workers earn more than this and half earn less. Unless otherwise stated figures are gross weekly earnings for full-time adults.

It is important to use **confidence intervals** when making comparisons using results drawn from sample surveys, as differences seen between the published figures may not be statistically significant. For example, if the ranges of the confidence interval for each of the estimates overlap with each other then it is possible that the ‘true values’ are actually the same. When confidence intervals are referred to they will be shown as $\pm \text{£}0.00$, i.e. plus or minus however many pounds from the published figure.

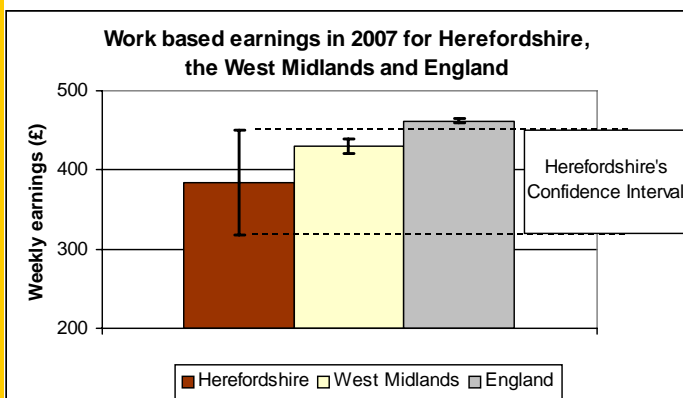
Average WORK BASED earnings for full-time employees

In 2007, the **median weekly earnings** for people who work in Herefordshire were **£384.40** ($\pm \text{£}66.30$).

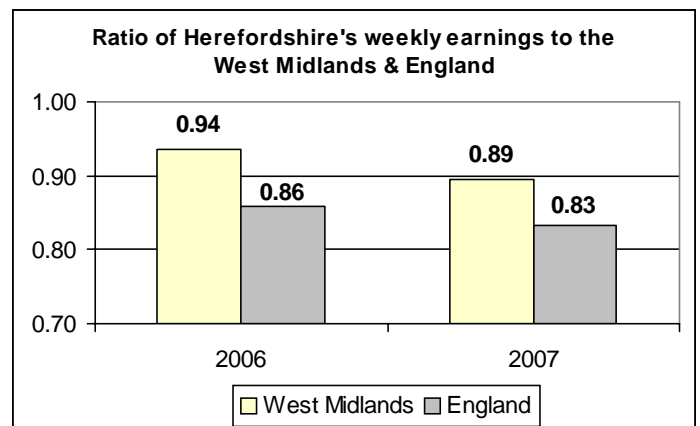
Comparatively, median weekly gross earnings were $\text{£}430.00$ ($\pm \text{£}8.40$) in the West Midlands

In 2007, Herefordshire’s work based gross **median annualised¹ earnings** were **£20,043.71** ($\pm \text{£}3,457.14$) compared with $\text{£}22,421.43$ ($\pm \text{£}439.46$) for the West Midlands and $\text{£}24,090.00$ ($\pm \text{£}141.60$) for England.

Median hourly earnings (excluding overtime) for people working in Herefordshire were **£8.99** ($\pm \text{£}0.88$) compared with $\text{£}10.53$ ($\pm \text{£}0.19$) in the West Midlands region and $\text{£}11.50$ ($\pm \text{£}0.05$) in England.



region and $\text{£}462.00$ ($\pm \text{£}2.70$) in England. Herefordshire’s published earnings appear lower than those in the West Midlands region and England, however, the observed difference between Herefordshire and the West Midlands is not statistically significant.



Ratios of earnings

The ratio of Herefordshire’s earnings compared to regionally and nationally over the past two years allows us to monitor whether the gap between earnings in Herefordshire and elsewhere has got larger or smaller.

In 2007, earnings for Herefordshire compared to England give a ratio of 0.83 which means Herefordshire’s earnings were 83% of those nationally i.e. 17% lower.

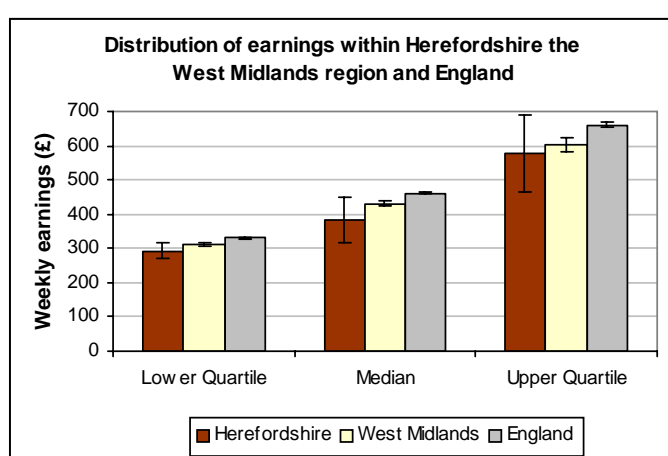
¹ Annualised earnings are derived from weekly earnings

EARNINGS & HOURS WORKED (CONT)

High and low earnings

Higher and lower levels of earnings are measured through quartile information i.e. the figures where 25% of workers earned less and 25% earned more.

In Herefordshire during 2007, 25% of adult full time workers earned less than **£292.20** and the higher earners earned more than **£575.20**. For comparison, the median is £384.40.



The only statistically significant differences are

- Herefordshire's **lower quartile earnings are lower** than England's lower quartile earnings
- and as already mentioned, Herefordshire's **median earnings are lower** than England's median earnings.

Differences in male & female earnings

Across the whole of the West Midlands region and England in 2007, median earnings for full-time female workers are lower than those of their male counterparts (ratio of 0.79 in both cases). If female and male earnings were the same the ratio would be 1.0, if females earned less the ratio is less than 1 and if females were paid more the ratio would be higher than 1. The further the ratio is from 1 the larger the gender pay gap.

Herefordshire has gone from having one of the largest pay gaps out of all neighbouring authorities and the other authorities in the West Midlands region in 2006 to having one of the smallest in 2007 (**0.81**) with only Stoke-on-Trent (0.81) and Worcestershire (0.85) with equal or smaller gaps.

Earnings by Industry

This information is only available at a national level, but it gives some insight into the level of earnings in Herefordshire when shown alongside the proportion of Herefordshire residents working in each industry.

In 2007, the UK industry with the highest median earnings is 'mining & quarrying' at £589.40 per week, 0.2% of Herefordshire's residents were employed in this sector. The largest proportion of Herefordshire's residents were employed in 'wholesale & retail trade; repair of motor vehicles', at only £365.40 per week nationwide, this is one of the sectors with lower earnings.

17.4% of Herefordshire's residents were employed in 'manufacturing' at the time of the 2001 Census (the second largest proportion of workers), earnings for this industry nationally were £460.70 in 2007.

If earnings by industry in Herefordshire follow national patterns, the local economy is made up of small proportions of residents working in industries where earnings are high and large proportions of the workforce in sectors with lower earnings.

Hours Worked

ASHE publishes information about the number of hours worked by people working in the county, providing the median figures for the **basic** hours worked and **total** hours worked (i.e. including overtime) for full-time adult workers.

Both the number of basic hours (38.9) and total hours (40) worked per week, by people in Herefordshire in 2007, are somewhat higher than the equivalent number of hours worked by those in the West Midlands, England as a whole and neighbouring counties (with exception of Shropshire and Worcestershire, where the perceived difference was not statistically significant).

ANNUAL BUSINESS INQUIRY 2006

Employment figures are sourced from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), the latest date for which was **2006** (released in January 2008). The ABI survey samples approximately 78,000 workplace units in the UK providing the best available estimates of employment at a detailed regional and industry level. There was a change in methodology with this year's data, which caused some discontinuity with previous data. Self-employed workers are not covered by the ABI which may have a larger impact on Herefordshire's figures, as 2001 Census information indicated Herefordshire had a higher proportion of self-employed than regionally and nationally (20% of Herefordshire's working population compared to 11% in the West Midlands and 12% in England). In particular people employed in the 'agricultural, forestry and fishing' industry may be under represented.

Current employment by Industry Sector

In 2006, there were an estimated **74,300 employees** in Herefordshire. The sectors which employ the most people within the county are:

- **Wholesale, retail and repair trades sector** (15,200 employees, 20% of total)
- **Manufacturing** (11,200 employees, 15% of total)
- **Health and social work** (9,700 employees, 13% of total)

These three sectors account for just under half of all employees (48%).

In spite of a possible under-estimation of employees in the **agricultural sector**, the ABI data still shows a much **higher proportion** of people employed in this sector in Herefordshire (7%) than regionally and nationally (both 1%).

Herefordshire also has a slightly **higher proportion** (13%) of people employed in **health and social work** than the West Midlands and England (both 12%).

Herefordshire and the West Midlands region have a **higher proportion** of people employed in the **manufacturing sector** than England as a whole (15% compared to 11%).

Table 1. Employment by sector ABI 2006 (full and part time employees)	Herefordshire		West Midlands	England
	No.	%	%	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	5,500	7%	1%	1%
Mining and quarrying	0	*%	*%	*%
Manufacturing	11,200	15%	15%	11%
Electricity, gas and water supply	0	*%	*%	*%
Construction	3,800	5%	5%	5%
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods	15,200	20%	17%	17%
Hotels and restaurants	4,900	7%	7%	7%
Transport, storage and communication	3,200	4%	6%	6%
Financial intermediation	800	1%	3%	4%
Real estate, renting and business activities	7,700	10%	15%	18%
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	2,300	3%	5%	5%
Education	6,400	9%	10%	9%
Health and social work	9,700	13%	12%	12%
Other community, social and personal service activities	3,600	5%	5%	5%
Total employees	74,300		2,377,400	22,766,600

Note: - all figures are rounded to the nearest 100
 - *% refers to a figure of less than 0.5%, which would otherwise be rounded to 0%. These are presented in this way to differentiate between a very low value and zero.

ANNUAL BUSINESS INQUIRY 2006 (CONT.)

Employment Patterns

The highest proportion of workers are **full time males** (42%), which is similar to both the West Midlands and England (both 43%). Herefordshire has a slightly higher proportion of **part-time workers** (33% of the total workforce), whereas it is 31% for the West Midlands and England. For all areas, around 8% of all workers are part-time male workers, whereas over 20% of are part-time female workers.

Work place units (see Chart 1 below)

The **largest proportion** of Herefordshire's business units (site or workplace) were in **real estate, renting and business activities** (25%), followed by **wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles** (23%). 12% of Herefordshire's business units are construction and 9% were other community, social and personal service activities.

The only real difference seen between Herefordshire and regionally/nationally was in the real estate, renting and business activities sector, where Herefordshire (25%) had a **lower proportion of units** compared to across England as a whole (31%).

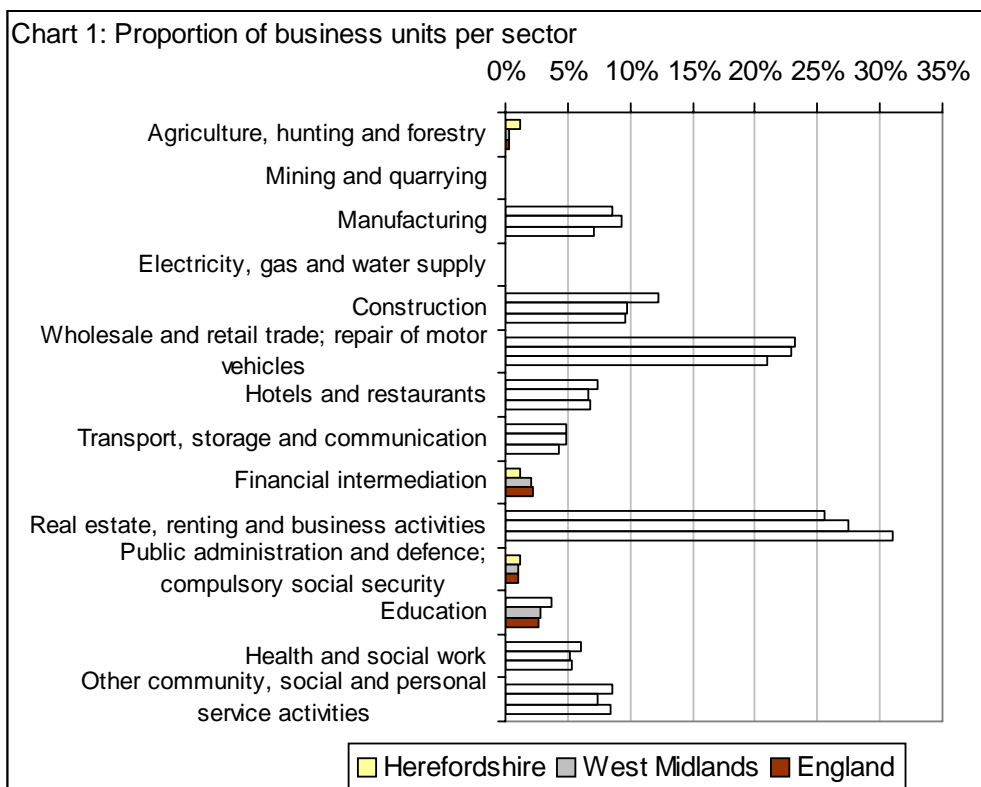
Size of companies

Herefordshire has a **similar proportion** of **smaller businesses** (1-10 employees) to regionally and nationally (86% compared to 84% regionally and 85% nationally).

Size of companies by sector

The main differences between the sectors in Herefordshire are:

- **Public administration** has the largest number of businesses (4%) with 200 or more employees.
- **Real estate, construction and other community, social and personal service activities** are the three sectors that have the highest proportion of businesses with between 1 and 10 employees - all above 90%.
- **Education, health and social work, and public administration and defence** are all sectors where the proportion of businesses with between 11-49 employees is greater than 30%.



'Click here for the full article' - please note this opens a new window (48.5 KB). Any queries contact the Herefordshire Council Research Team: 01432 261807 or researchteam@herefordshire.gov.uk

INDICES OF DEPRIVATION 2007

The Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) is a statistical measure of levels of deprivation in England published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). A number of indicators, covering a range of economic and social issues, are combined to give a single overall deprivation score for each small area: Herefordshire has 116 small areas (known as 'Super Output Areas', consisting of approximately 1,500 people each with names devised by the Research Team). Data is also available for each of the separate domains (or themes), such as income deprivation, employment deprivation, access to services, and living environment. The latest release was in December 2007. In making comparisons to the 2004 predecessor it is important to note that there have been a few changes to indicators which may account for some differences (see full article for details).

Overall rankings

In 2 domains Herefordshire had fewer SOAs in the Top 25% of deprivation nationally than in 2004 (the income deprivation affecting children index and the crime domain). One domain – the Income domain – has no net change. Most notably, in 6 domains and also for the overall index, Herefordshire had greater representation in the national Top 25% for deprivation than previously.

The position with regards to income is mixed. There are fewer SOAs in the Top 25% nationally for income deprivation affecting children in 2007 compared with 2004, but income deprivation amongst older people has worsened: 9 more SOAs in the most deprived quartile for England than before.

There were 2 more SOAs in the most deprived for employment nationally than 2004.

The Barriers domain remains Herefordshire's worst-performing domain, due to the county's rurality.

The Living Environment domain has the greatest change, 29 extra SOAs within the Top 25% nationally for deprivation here*.

SOAs in Top 25% deprivation	2007 (2004)	Change
OVERALL INDEX	8 (7)	1
Income	10 (10)	0
Income Deprivation (Older People)	14 (5)	9
Income Deprivation (Children)	7 (9)	-2
Employment	11 (9)	2
Health & Disability	9 (3)	6
Education	15 (13)	2
Barriers to Housing and Services	65 (61)	4
Crime	7 (11)	-4
Living Environment	34 (5)	29

Income deprivation - overall & children

41% of the population in **Leominster-Ridgemoor** and 37% in **Golden Post - Newton Farm** are income-deprived, and feature in the Top 10% nationally. The percentage of the population who are income deprived has increased between 2004 and 2007 for all 10 SOAs which feature in the 25% most deprived nationally in 2007. The most marked increases are in Leominster-Ridgemoor, Ross-John Kyrle, Hunderton-Bishop's Meadow and Bromyard Central*.

Income deprivation - Overall		
NAME	2007 (2004)	2007
Leominster - Ridgemoor	41% (32%)	Top 10%
Golden Post - Newton Farm	37% (34%)	Top 10%
Hunderton - Bishop's Meadow	28% (21%)	Top 20%
Bromyard Central	27% (20%)	Top 20%
Hunderton	26% (24%)	Top 20%
Redhill-Belmont Road	26% (23%)	Top 20%
Ross - John Kyrle	25% (17%)	Top 20%
Newton Farm-Brampton Road	24% (23%)	Top 25%
Courtyard	24% (20%)	Top 25%
Leominster Grange	23% (18%)	Top 25%

62% of children in **Leominster-Ridgemoor** and 49% in **Golden Post-Newton Farm** live in income deprived households, and feature in the Top 10% nationally. The percentage of children who live in income deprived households has increased in 4 of the 7 SOAs within the 25% most deprived nationally in 2007. The most marked increases are in Bromyard Central and Leominster-Ridgemoor.

Income deprivation - Children		
NAME	2007 (2004)	2007
Leominster - Ridgemoor	62% (53%)	Top 10%
Golden Post - Newton Farm	49% (49%)	Top 10%
Bromyard Central	35% (25%)	Top 25%
Hunderton - Bishop's Meadow	34% (26%)	Top 25%
Redhill-Belmont Road	34% (36%)	Top 25%
Hereford City centre	33% (30%)	Top 25%
Hunderton	31% (35%)	Top 25%

* It should be noted that there has been a change to the indicators used (see full article for details)

INDICES OF DEPRIVATION 2007 (CONT.)

Income deprivation - older people

39% of older people in **Bromyard Central** are income deprived, in the Top 10% nationally. The percentage of older people who are income deprived has increased between 2004 and 2007 in each of the 14 SOAs within the 25% most deprived nationally in 2007. The most marked increases are in Hunderton- Bishop's Meadow, Leominster-Ridgemoor, Golden Post-Newton Farm and Hunderton.

Income deprivation - Older people		
NAME	2007 (2004)	2007
Bromyard Central	39% (27%)	Top 10%
Hunderton - Bishop's Meadow	37% (23%)	Top 20%
Leominster - Ridgemoor	36% (23%)	Top 20%
Courtyard	36% (28%)	Top 20%
Leominster Grange	33% (25%)	Top 20%
Golden Post - Newton Farm	32% (19%)	Top 20%
Putson	32% (20%)	Top 20%
Hunderton	31% (18%)	Top 20%
Ross - John Kyrle	31% (20%)	Top 20%
College Estate	31% (20%)	Top 20%
Barr's Court	28% (20%)	Top 25%
Ledbury Central	28% (18%)	Top 25%
Leominster - Gateway	28% (16%)	Top 25%
Redhill-Belmont Road	27% (17%)	Top 25%

Employment deprivation

22% of the population in **Golden Post-Newton Farm** are employment deprived, in the Top 10% nationally. The percentage of people who are employment deprived has increased in 6 of the 11 SOAs which feature in the 25% most deprived nationally in 2007, but these increases are fairly small (4 percentage points or less).

Employment deprivation		
NAME	2007 (2004)	2007
Golden Post - Newton Farm	22% (21%)	Top 10%
Hunderton - Bishop's Meadow	18% (18%)	Top 20%
Redhill-Belmont Road	17% (15%)	Top 20%
College Estate	17% (17%)	Top 20%
Leominster Grange	17% (13%)	Top 20%
Hereford City centre	17% (20%)	Top 20%
Hunderton	16% (16%)	Top 20%
Leominster - Ridgemoor	16% (15%)	Top 20%
Newton Farm-Brampton Road	15% (12%)	Top 25%
Leominster - Gateway	14% (14%)	Top 25%
Putson	14% (12%)	Top 25%

Health

There are 9 SOAs in Herefordshire in the Top 25% nationally for health deprivation compared with only 3 in 2004. One SOA in the Three Elms ward and one in the Leominster South ward are new entries. One SOA in the Central ward has exited the Top 25% altogether.

Education, Skills and Training

There are 15 SOAs in Herefordshire within the Top 25% nationally for education, skills and training deprivation compared with 13 in 2004. There are 2 new entries, SOAs in Kington ward and in St Martins and Hinton ward. 5 SOAs are within the Top 10% of education deprivation, whereas there were only 2 in 2004.

Barriers to Housing and Services

65 Herefordshire SOAs – 56% of the county – are within the Top 25% most deprived in England. 45 SOAs stayed in the same percentile bracket between 2004 and 2007, with 5 new entries in the following wards: Credenhill, Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye West, Three Elms and Tupsley. An SOA in Sutton Walls ward exited the Top 25%.

Crime

7 SOAs in Herefordshire are in the Top 25% nationally, against 11 in 2004. One SOA in Ross-on-Wye West ward, and one in St Martins and Hinton ward are new entries. Both SOAs in the Leominster North ward have exited the Top 25%. One Belmont SOA rose to the Top 10% this year, suggesting crime may have increased there.

Living Environment

The Living Environment domain has 29 extra SOAs within the Top 25% nationally*. The 'houses in poor condition' aspect of the Indoors sub-domain is responsible, based upon the Decent Homes Standard which rewards energy-efficient and well-insulated homes. Many homes in rural parts of Herefordshire do not meet this standard, and hence are adjudged deprived, despite commanding high prices. This domain may give a misleading impression as a consequence.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESEARCH

National Research

Applications to University at record levels

Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (National) (February 2008)

Figures published by UCAS show that applications to universities in England for 2008 are at an all time high. Numbers are over 7 per cent higher than this time last year - that is at least 20,700 more applications. The rise follows a record number of applications for 2007 and is higher than was widely expected.

The number of applicants from lower socio-economic groups has also increased, with figures for applicants aged 18 and under showing a rise of applicants from 28.2% in 2007 to 28.9% in 2008.

These figures follow the Government's introduction of an improved student financial support package from September 2008, which will enable a further 100,000 students to benefit from a full or partial grant. Two thirds of students will now receive a full or partial grant

For more information visit: <http://www.gnn.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=352511&NewsAreaID=2>

Employment at a record high as more people move into work

Department for Works and Pensions (February 2008)

Figures show unemployment continuing to fall with 175,000 more people finding a job in the last three months. The employment level stands at a record high with almost 29.4 million in work.

At the same time new figures issued by the Office for National Statistics show the numbers claiming jobseekers allowance (JSA) is down for the 16th consecutive month, falling by 10,800 in January to 794,600, the first time it's fallen below 800,000 since 1975. The number of vacancies in the UK economy remains high at 677,400. Redundancies are at their lowest level since records began in 1995.

For more information go to: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2008/feb/stat-130208.asp>

Local Research

Housing Needs Studies continue across the county. After a survey and analysis is completed, a report is issued to the parish or town council and circulated to other interested parties both within and outside Herefordshire Council. Reports for **Bodenham parish, Brimfield & Little Hereford Group Parish and Eardisley Group Parish** were published during the last quarter, each of which show a need for affordable housing. Surveys of **Kingstone & Thruxton Group Parish and Peterchurch parish** are currently underway.

All housing needs survey reports can be accessed from www.herefordshire.gov.uk/research or can be obtained by telephoning the Research Team on 01432 260464.

Herefordshire Satisfaction Survey 2007 reports on the findings of survey responses from approximately 1,500 households in Herefordshire. The survey asks for views on a number of Council services and quality of life in the county. The report can be accessed from www.herefordshire.gov.uk/research

Latest health statistics for Herefordshire have been released in the **Director of Public Health Report 'Health in Herefordshire 2007'**.

This report can be accessed from www.herefordshire.nhs.uk

Forthcoming Articles:

- Survey of estate agents (house prices & rental levels by property size)
- GVA (Gross Value Added)
- Herefordshire population forecasts

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