

# **Census 2011 Profile Number Four**

## **The Swindon Labour Market**

### **Summary**

According to the 2011 Census, there were 117,039 economically active people in Swindon aged 16-74, equivalent to 76 per cent of the population in that age group. Aside from the Isles of Scilly this is highest rate among unitary authorities in the South West Region and comparative unitary authorities. Nationally Swindon had the fourteenth highest rate of economic activity.

As originally expected the rate of growth over the last ten years in the local labour force (economically active) at 20.1% has been well above that recorded at either a regional (13.6%) or national level (14.4%). This is due not only to rising activity rates but also the rapid increase in the borough's population.

There has been a significant increase in local part time working and the proportion of full-time workers has declined as part-time workers have increased. Self-employment rates in Swindon are lower than in the South West and England but have increased since 2001.

Employment in Swindon broadly reflects the industrial pattern seen across the South West and England as a whole. The largest sectors in terms of employment are Manufacturing, Retail and Health.

When compared to the national and regional averages, higher proportions of Swindon residents can be found in associate professional and technical occupations, administrative and secretarial occupations, sales and customer services, as process and plant operatives and in elementary occupations.

Since 2009 unemployment has continued to decline. Between June 2011 and June 2014 unemployment in Swindon decreased by 36% to stand at 2,810 persons. This compares with a decrease within the South West Region of 37% and 30% for Great Britain. The Borough's unemployment rate at 2.0% remained below the national average (2.4%) but above that of the South West Region (1.5%). Male unemployment has decreased more sharply than for women.

Whilst overall, short term unemployment has steadily reduced, it is those who are long and very long-term unemployed, who often experience the greatest difficulties getting back into employment as economic conditions recover. Young people aged 18 to 24 remain significantly over-represented among the unemployed.

The 2011 Census shows that disparities in unemployment rates have remained within the borough with highest levels of unemployment recorded for Central, Penhill and Upper Stratton, Walcot and Park North, Gorsehill and Pinehurst and Mannington and Western wards.

The 2011 Census confirms that two thirds of Swindon residents travel to work by car. This is a similar proportion to that in 2001 but there has been a decline in numbers who travel to work as a passenger in a car or van which has been offset by an increase in those who travel as drivers.

Between 2001 and 2011 there has been a significant increase in the numbers of Swindon residents working from home and travelling to work by bus or coach or train. The number of people travelling to work by motor or pedal cycle declined.

Overall Swindon residents are more likely to be employed full time than the regional or national average However Swindon residents are less likely to be employed in roles requiring 49 hours or more.

The proportion of the population in Swindon holding a qualification at Level 4 or above is significantly below the regional and national averages. Swindon also has a higher proportion of people without at least a Level 2 qualification, generally considered to be the minimum for employability.

There is projected to be a significant increase in economically active people above the age of 65 in 2021. This is likely to be a combined effect of the increasing number of people in older age groups due to demographic trends and a trend towards later retirement and changes in benefit entitlement.

The likelihood of older people remaining in the paid labour force is influenced by a large number of past and current life course experiences including health status and those with no qualifications being far more likely to be economically inactive.

Data recently released from the Census now also provides information on how commuting patterns have changed within the Borough during the last decade. The content of this data is currently being reviewed and a new section of the Profile will be populated shortly.

# **1. THE PAST DECADE 2001 - 2011**

## **a. Labour Supply and Activity Rates**

### **Economic Activity**

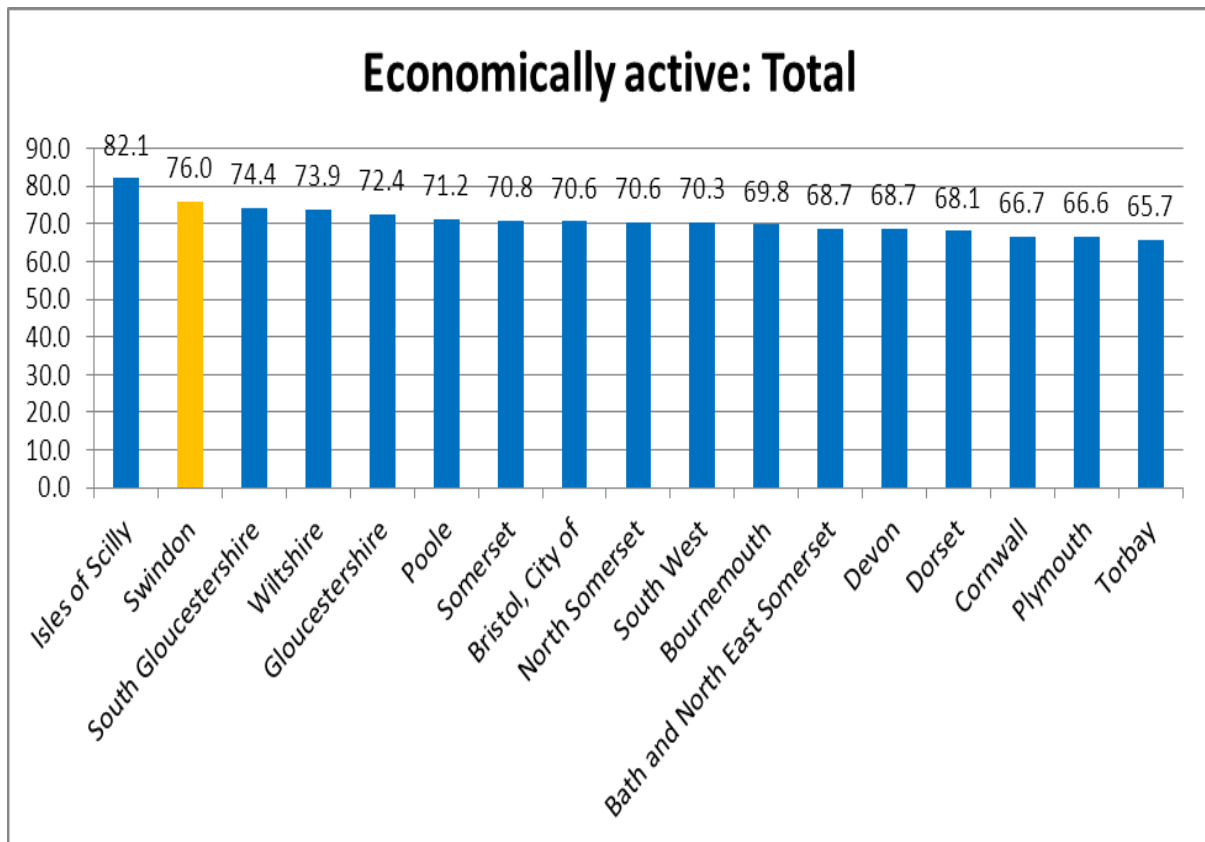
Traditionally, analysis on economic activity has centred on the segment of the population that is of working age, previously aged up to 64. However, the tendency to focus primarily on this age group has become less prevalent. This is because, with increasing life expectancy and a growing number of people exceeding working age, the segment of the population that lies above working age is expected to play an increasingly active role in the labour market.

In the Census, economic activity relates to whether or not a person who was aged 16 to 74 was working or looking for work in the week before the Census. Rather than a simple indicator of whether or not someone was currently in employment, it provides a measure of whether or not a person was an active participant in the labour market.

The census concept of economic activity is compatible with the standard for economic status defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). It is one of a number of definitions used internationally to produce accurate and comparable statistics on employment, unemployment and economic status.

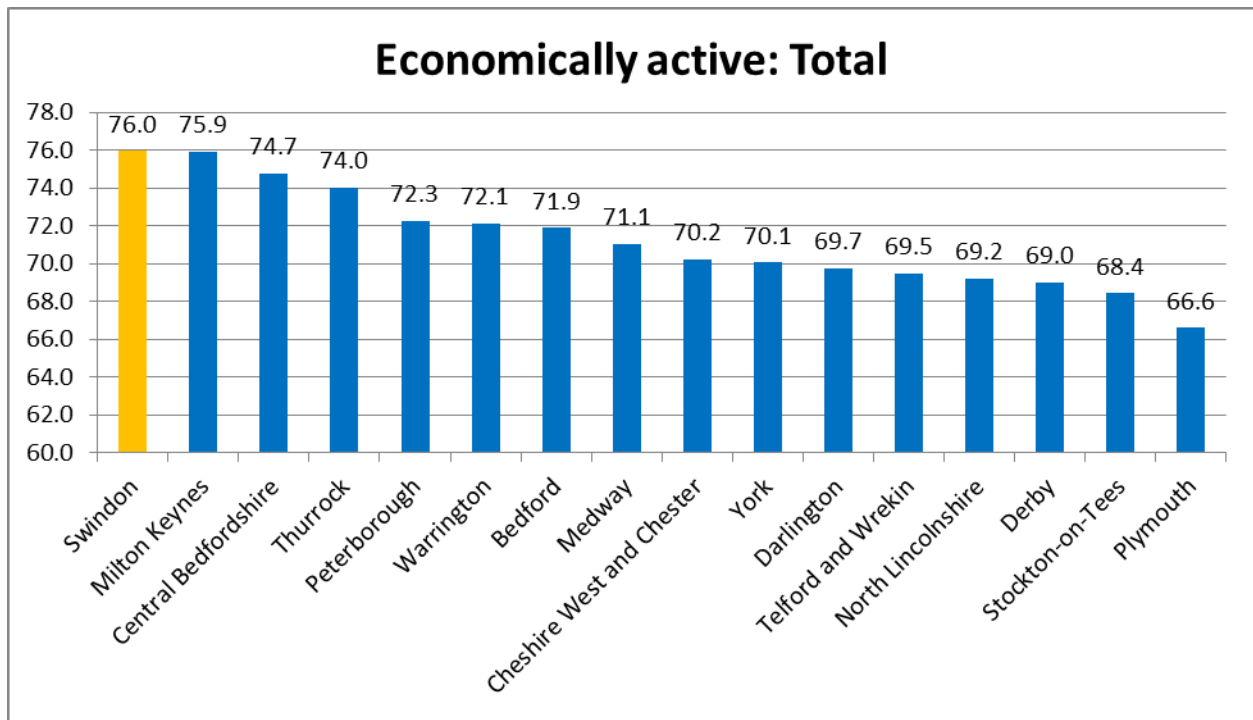
According to the 2011 Census, there were 117,039 economically active people in Swindon aged 16-74, equivalent to 76 per cent of the population in that age group. Aside from the Isles of Scilly this is highest rate among unitary authorities in the South West Region. Swindon also has the highest rate compared to fifteen nearest neighbour authorities, just ahead of Milton Keynes. Nationally Swindon had the fourteenth highest rate of activity.

**Figure 1: Resident economic activity rate of the population aged 16-74, South West Region, per cent**



Source: ONS Census Copyright Reserved (from NOMIS)

**Figure 2: Resident economic activity rate of the population aged 16-74, nearest neighbour authorities, per cent**



Source: ONS Census Copyright Reserved (from NOMIS)

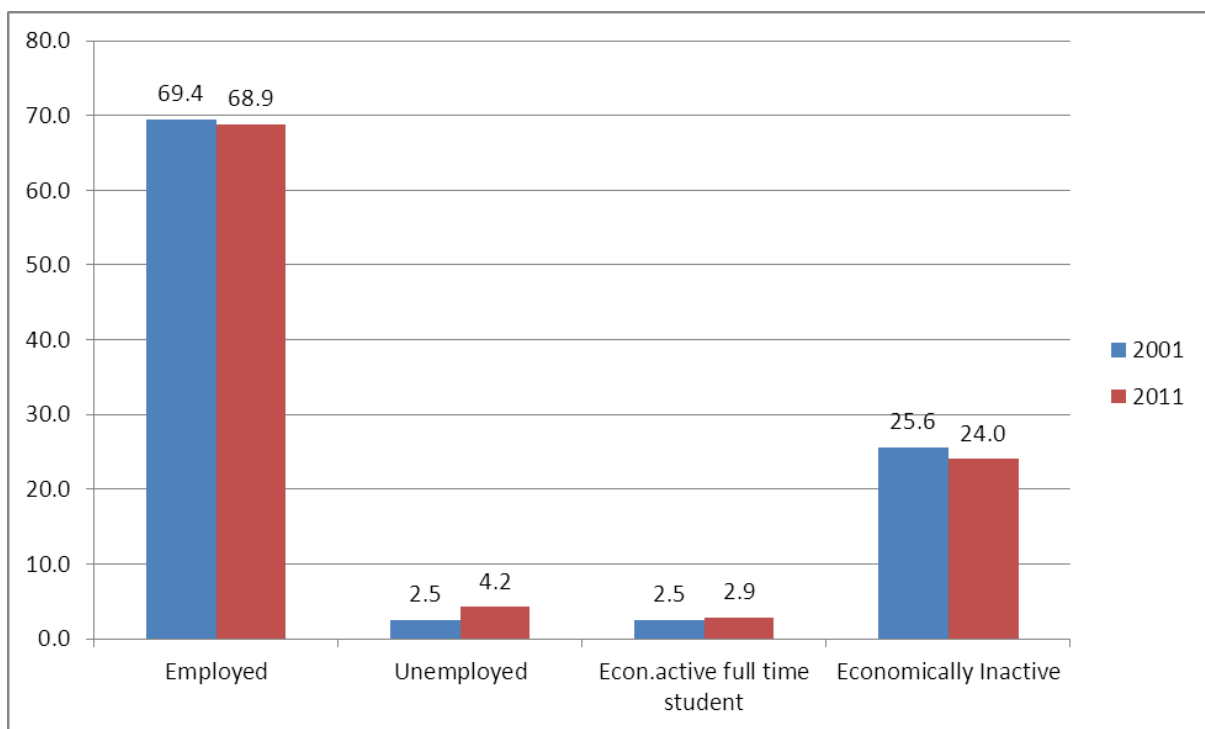
### Proportion of economically active who are employed/unemployed

Within the economically active category there are two distinct groups – those who are **employed**, and those not in employment but actively seeking and available for work -the **unemployed**. Together with the **economically inactive** population (those not in work and not seeking work or available for work), these three categories account for the entire population aged 16 – 74 (154,080, Census 2011).

Figure 3 shows the total population aged 16-74 by share of each of these three labour market status classifications, with the addition of a separate group; 'economically active full time students'. In 2011, 68.9 per cent of the population in Swindon aged 16-74 were in employment, 4.2 per cent were unemployed, 2.9 per cent were economically active full time students' and 24.0 per cent were economically inactive.

Figure 3 also compares the population aged 16-74 by labour market status across the 2001 and 2011 Censuses. Compared with Census day in 2001, and Census day in 2011, there was a 1.8 percentage point increase in the share of those who were unemployed, offset by a fall in those economically inactive. The proportion of the population who are in employment has stayed broadly consistent over this time period. It is important to note that, the statistics presented here are expressed as a percentage of the whole population aged 16 – 74.

**Figure 3 Resident population aged 16-74 by labour market status, per cent**



Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS

## Trends in the size and Composition of the Borough's Labour Force 2001 – 2011

As originally expected the rate of growth over the last ten years in the local labour force (economically active) at 20.1% has been well above that recorded at either a regional (13.6%) or national level (14.4%) This is due not only to rising activity rates but also the rapid increase in the borough's population.

**Table 1 Trends in the size and Composition of the Borough's Labour Force 2001 – 2011 Comparative Analysis**

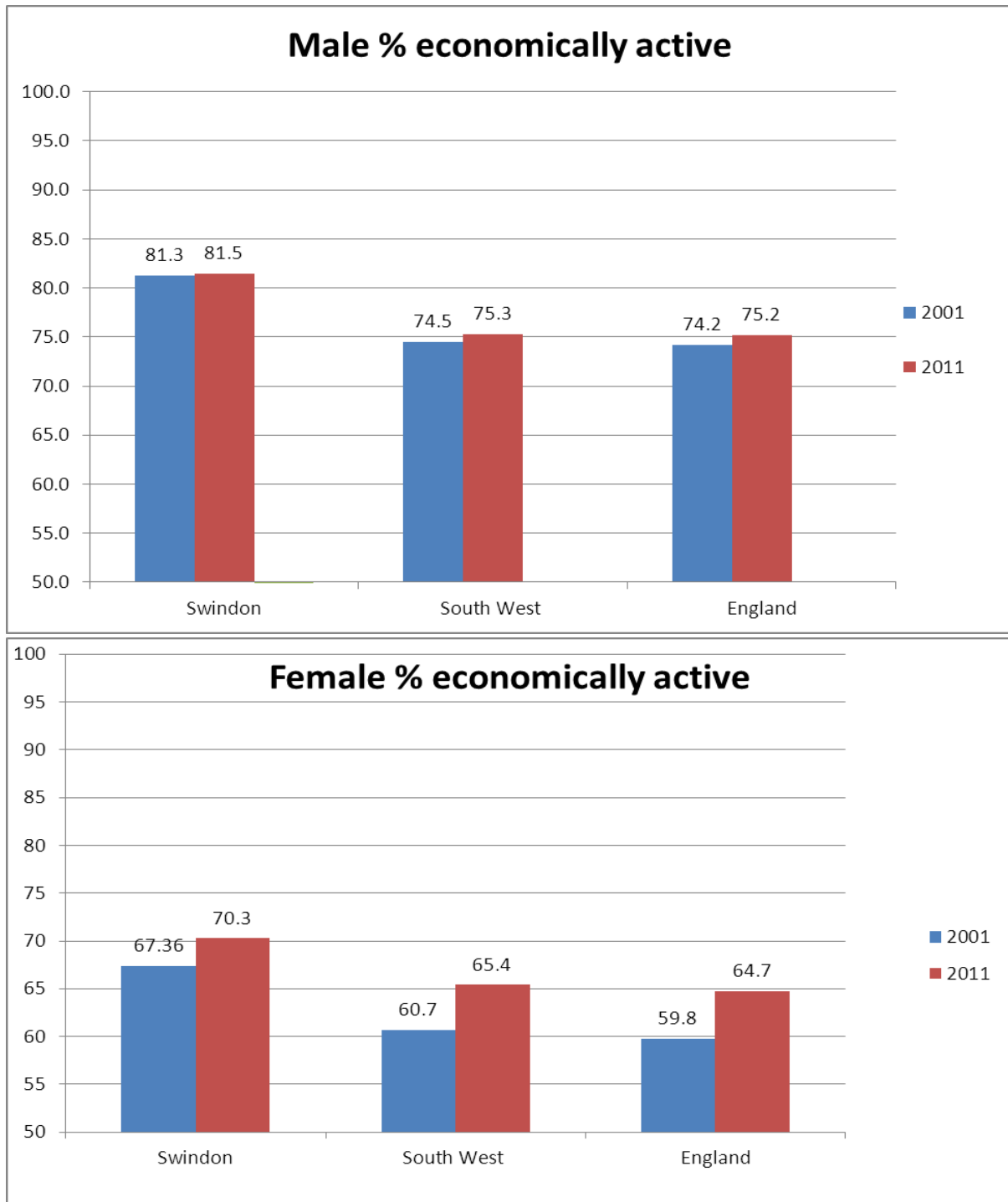
	2001	2011	Change 01- 11	
			Nos	%
<b>Swindon</b>	97,481	117,039	<b>+19558</b>	<b>+20.1</b>
<b>Male</b>	53,634	63,408	+9774	+18.2
<b>Female</b>	43,847	53,631	+9784	+22.3
<b>South West</b>	2,386,266	2,710,787	<b>+324521</b>	<b>+13.6</b>
<b>Male</b>	1,301,207	1,437,859	+136652	+10.5
<b>Female</b>	1,085,059	1,272,928	+187869	+17.3
<b>England</b>	23,756,707	27,183,134	<b>+346427</b>	<b>+14.4</b>
<b>Male</b>	12,969,059	14,493,613	+1524554	+11.8
<b>Female</b>	10,787,648	12,689,521	+1901873	+17.6

Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS



When placed in a regional or national context the 2001 local activity rates at 81% for men and 67% for women were high. In the 10 years to 2011 they have remained at a similar level for men whilst the female rate has risen although not quite as much as rates for the region or country as a whole.

**Figure 4 Trends in Economic Activity Rates 2001 – 2011 Comparative Analysis**

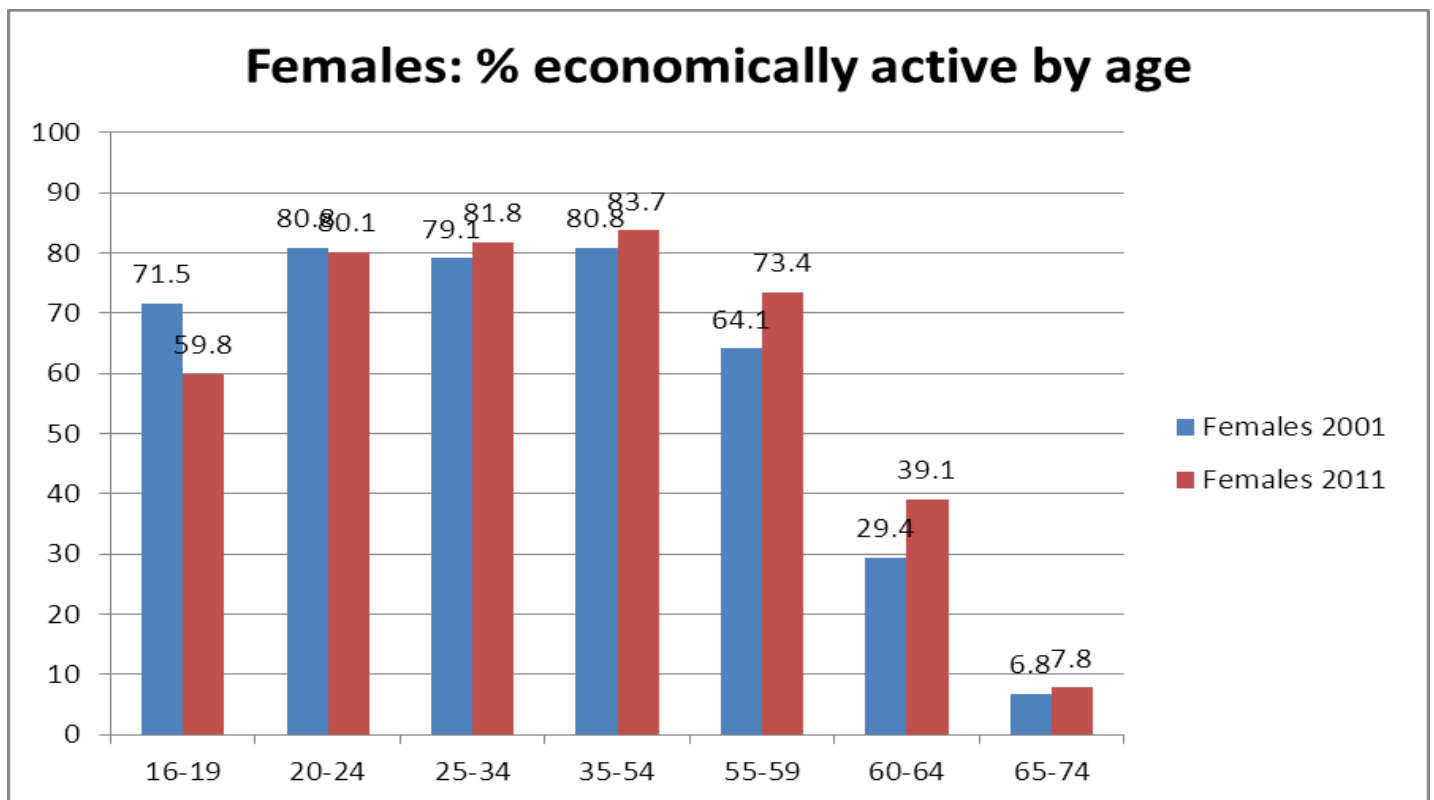
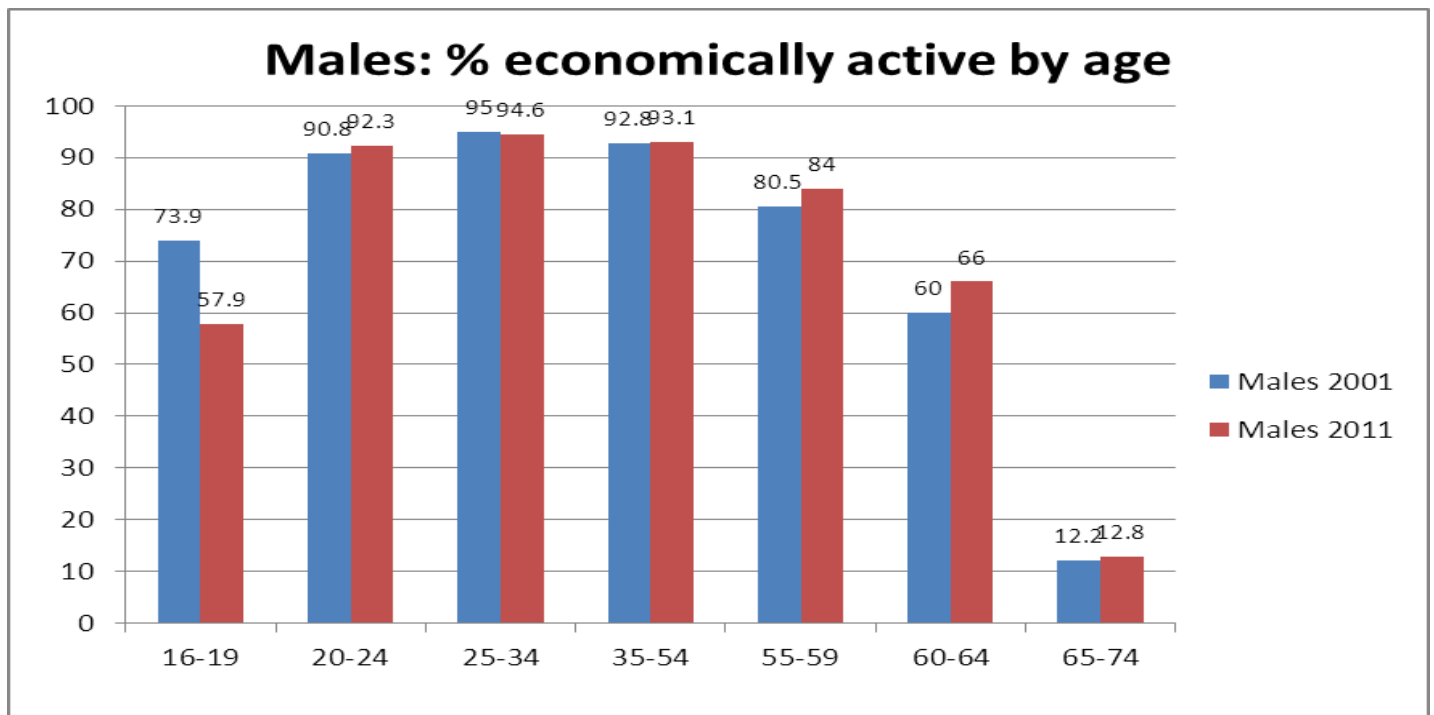


Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS

Looking at the rates over the decade in a little more detail, they reveal that activity rates have fallen significantly for both males and females aged 16 and 19, a pattern which reflects the rise in numbers of students in further education (see Figure 5)..

The greatest increase in activity rates has taken place for females aged 55 – 64; this is likely to be reflecting a trend towards later retirement and changes in benefit entitlement.

**Figure 5 Trends in Economic Activity by Age 2001 - 2011**



Source: 2001 and 2011 Census ONS

**b. Employment Trends Since 2001**

Table 2 shows the changes in the distribution of the total population aged 16 – 74 by employment status between 2001 and 2011.

During the decade from 2001

A higher proportion of the population aged 16 – 74 were in full time employment in Swindon compared with the South West or England as a whole, however there has been a significant increase in local part time working; the proportion of full-time workers has declined as part-time workers have increased.

The proportion of people working full-time fell from 50.4% in 2001 to 46.7% in 2011 whereas the proportion of part-time workers rose from 12.9% to 14.4% over the same period. In comparative terms the proportional increase in part time employment has been similar to that recorded at a regional and national level. The proportional decrease in full time employment has however been higher than that recorded either within the South West or for England as a whole .

Self-employment has risen by 1.6 percentage points over the decade to 7.8%.of the working age population. The proportion of people in self - employment is lower in Swindon than in the South West or nationally.

The proportion of the population that is retired fell by 0.4% to 12% in 2011. When placed in a regional or national context the proportion of people defining themselves as retired is lower in Swindon.

The proportion of the population who are unemployed increased from 2.5% to 4.2% over the period

**Table 2 Trends in the Employment Status - Total Population aged 16 – 74**

	Swindon 2001 - 2011		South West 2001 - 2011		England 2001 - 2011	
Economically Active: Employee: Full time	50.4	46.7	39.1	37.4	40.8	38.6
Economically Active: Employee: Part time	12.9	14.4	13.2	15.1	11.8	13.7
Economically Active: Employee: Self Employed	6.2	7.8	10.1	11.2	8.3	9.8
Economically Active: Unemployed	2.5	4.2	2.6	3.3	3.4	4.4
Economically Active: Full- time student	2.5	2.9	2.6	3.2	2.6	3.4
Economically Inactive: Retired	12	11.6	15.5	15.8	13.5	13.7
Economically In active: Student	2.0	3.2	3.9	4.9	4.7	5.8
Economically inactive: looking after home or family	5.4	4.1	6.1	3.7	6.5	4.4
Economically inactive: Long term sick or disabled	3.8	3.4	4.5	3.6	5.3	4.0
Economically inactive : other	2.5	1.8	2.5	1.7	3.1	2.2

Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS

## **Industry of Occupation**

Different “Standard Industrial Classifications” were used for the 2001 and 2011 Census’s, so apart from some high-level comparisons, direct comparisons between the two sets of census figures are not possible, as there is no direct mapping between the two standard classifications.

Employment in Swindon broadly reflects the industrial pattern seen across the South West and England as a whole. The largest sectors in terms of employment are Manufacturing, Retail and Health.

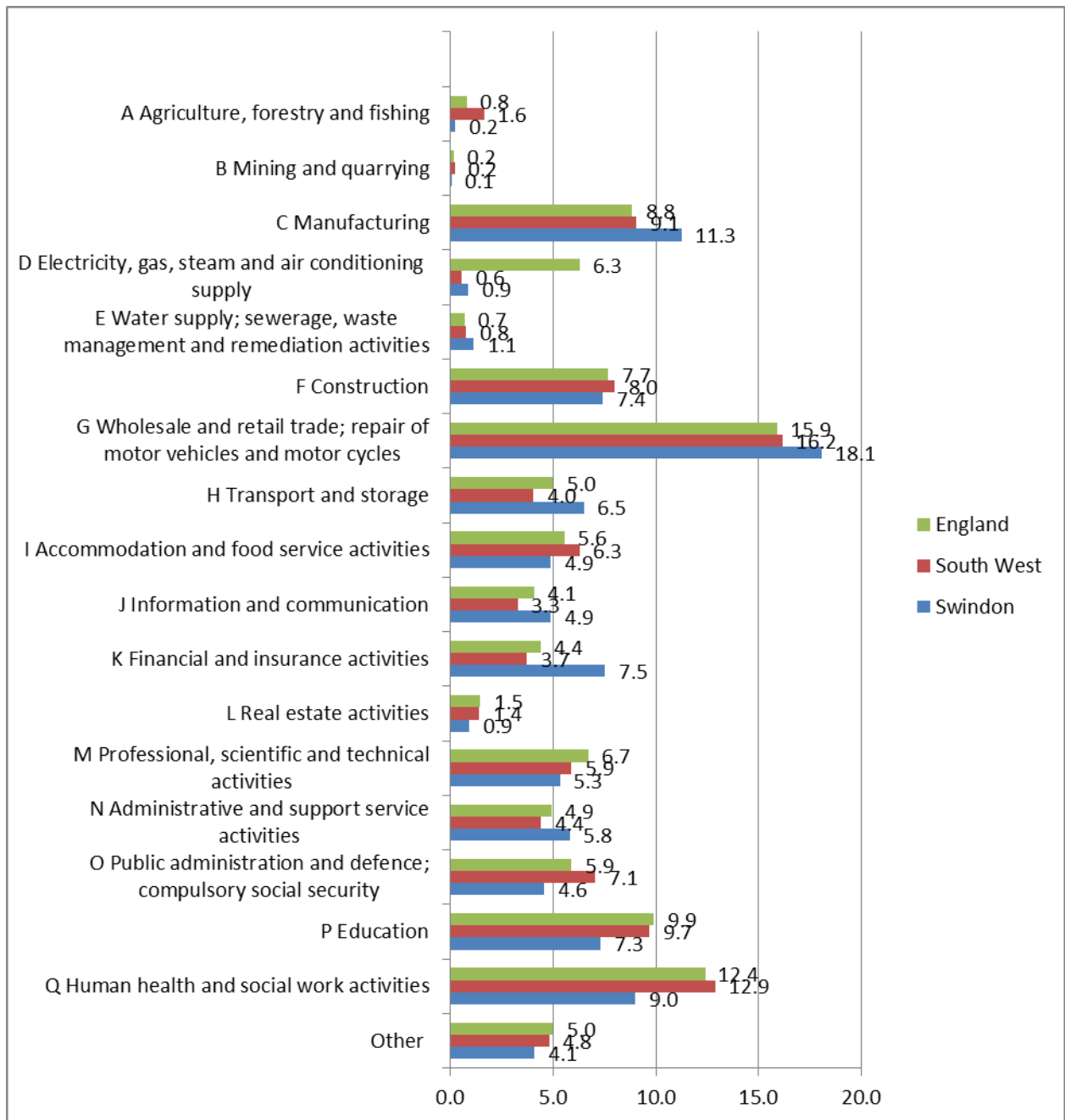
Breaking down Swindon’s employed population by industry of occupation shows that wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles (19,787) and manufacturing (12,360) are the two largest sources of employment in the borough.

In terms of share of employment, these two categories account for 18% and 11% per cent respectively, the financial and insurance services sector accounts for 7.5. % per cent of Swindon’s employed population (109,499). This category also shows the greatest difference in share when compared with the country as a whole (4%)...

Compared with the rest of South West, Swindon has slightly higher levels of employment in Manufacturing, Transport & storage, Finance & insurance and Business administration & support services

Swindon has lower than average numbers of people employed in Construction, Property services, Public administration & defence and, Education.

**Figure 6: Resident employed population aged 16-74 by industry of occupation, Swindon, South West and England**



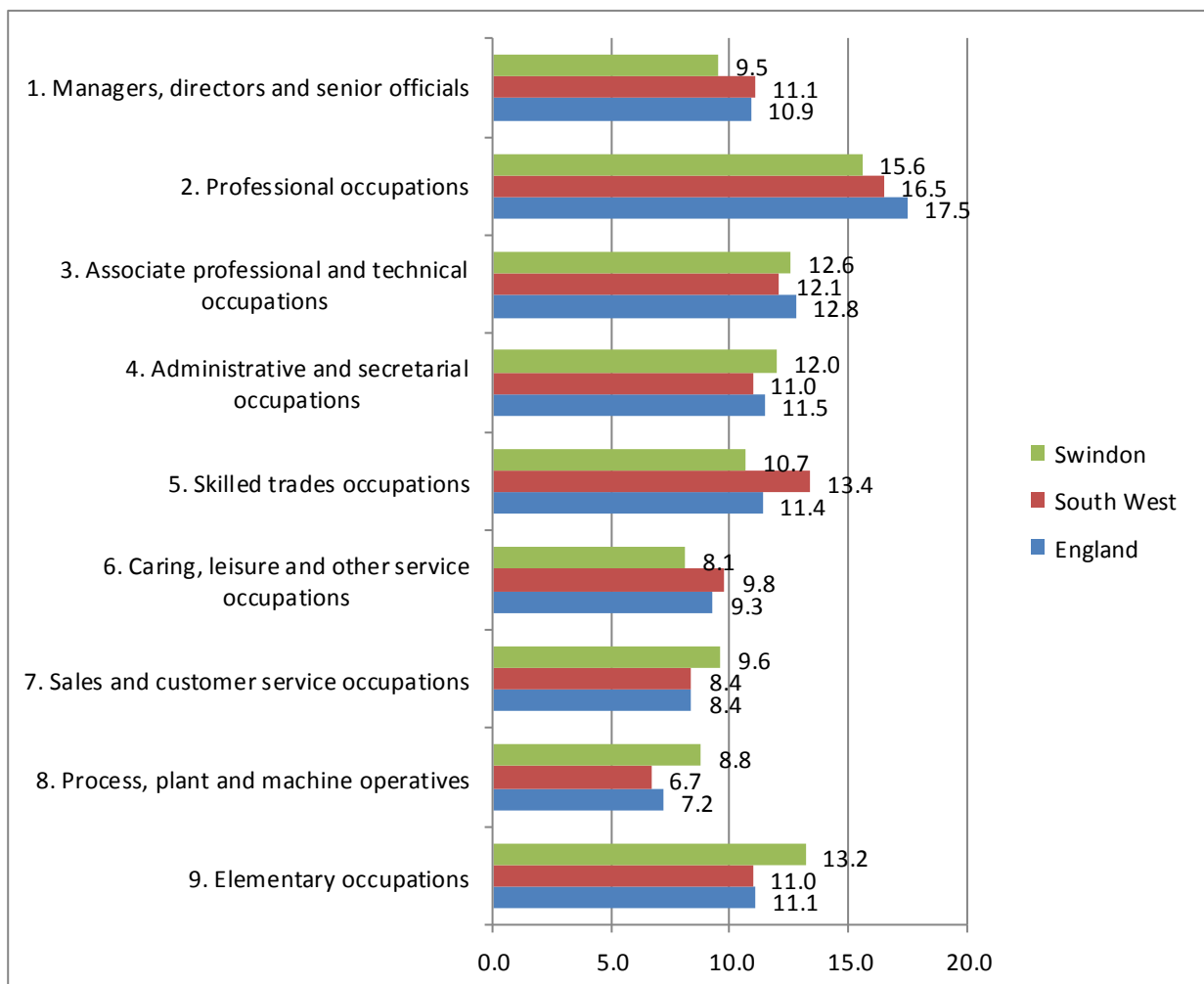
Source: 2011 Census ONS

## Occupation

A quarter of Swindon's employed population were working in senior management or professional occupations in 2011, however Swindon residents are three percentage points less likely to work in these occupations than the national average.

When compared to the national and regional averages, higher proportions of Swindon residents can be found in associate professional and technical occupations, administrative and secretarial occupations, sales and customer services, as process and plant operatives and in elementary occupations.

**Figure 7: Resident employed population aged 16-74 by occupation, Swindon, South West and England**



Source: 2011 Census ONS



**Table 3: Resident employed population aged 16-74 by occupation of employment share, Swindon 2001–2011,**

	Managers and senior officials	Professional occupations	Associate professional and technical occupations	Administrative and secretarial occupations	Skilled trade occupations	Personal service occupations	Sales and customer service occupations	Process plant and machine operatives	Elementary occupations
<b>2001</b>	13.5	10.0	13.0	14.8	10.8	5.2	9.4	9.8	13.6
<b>2011</b>	9.5	15.6	12.6	12.0	10.7	8.1	9.6	8.8	13.2
<b>Change (% point)</b>	<b>- 4.0</b>	<b>+ 5.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>+2.9</b>	<b>+0.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

*Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS*

Between 2001 and 2011, in terms of changes to occupational shares, managers and senior officials saw the largest decline at – 4 percentage points, followed by administrative and secretarial occupations (-2.8 points). Professional and personal service occupations saw the largest increases in share at +5.6 and +2.9 percentage points respectively.

### **c. Unemployment Trends**

In terms of unemployment there are two separate figures that are often discussed; the unemployment figure and the Claimant Count.

#### **Unemployment Figure - definition**

The Office for National Statistics uses the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition. This is the internationally agreed definition of unemployment. It is recommended by the ILO – an agency of the United Nations, and used by The Statistical Office of the European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other countries. As stated above the census concept of economic activity is compatible with this standard.

Under ILO guidelines, anybody who is without work, available for work and seeking work is unemployed. The UK applies this as anybody who is not in employment by the above definition, has actively sought work in the last 4 weeks and is available to start work in the next 2 weeks, or has found a job and is waiting to start in the next 2 weeks, is considered to be unemployed.

#### **The Claimant Count – definition**

Alongside the measures of unemployment an additional measure, the Claimant Count, is often quoted. The Claimant Count is the number of people who are receiving benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. Since Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was introduced in October 1996, this has consisted of those people claiming JSA or National Insurance (NI) credits. From April 2013, those people receiving Universal Credit (UC) principally for the reason of being unemployed also meet the definition of the Claimant Count.

There is a large degree of overlap between the claimant count and unemployment.

In certain circumstances people can claim benefits while they have relatively low earnings from part time work; these claimants in a paid job would not appear in other measures of unemployment. Similarly claimants of unemployment benefits may not appear in the census measure if they stated that they are not seeking, or are not available to start work.

Similarly, people who are not claimants can appear among the unemployed if they are not entitled to, or choose not to claim unemployment benefits. For example;

- People whose partner was working;
- People who are looking for work alongside full-time study;
- People beyond or around State Pension Age who are looking for work.

For recent periods the level of the Claimant Count has been shown to be much lower than the level of unemployment. Table 4 shows that the unemployment figures from the Census for Swindon (March 2011) can be seen to be some 39% higher than the official claimant figures released by DWP in March 2011, with a significant proportion of this being attributable to a 75% higher figure for women.

**Table 4 Unemployment in Swindon: March 2011**

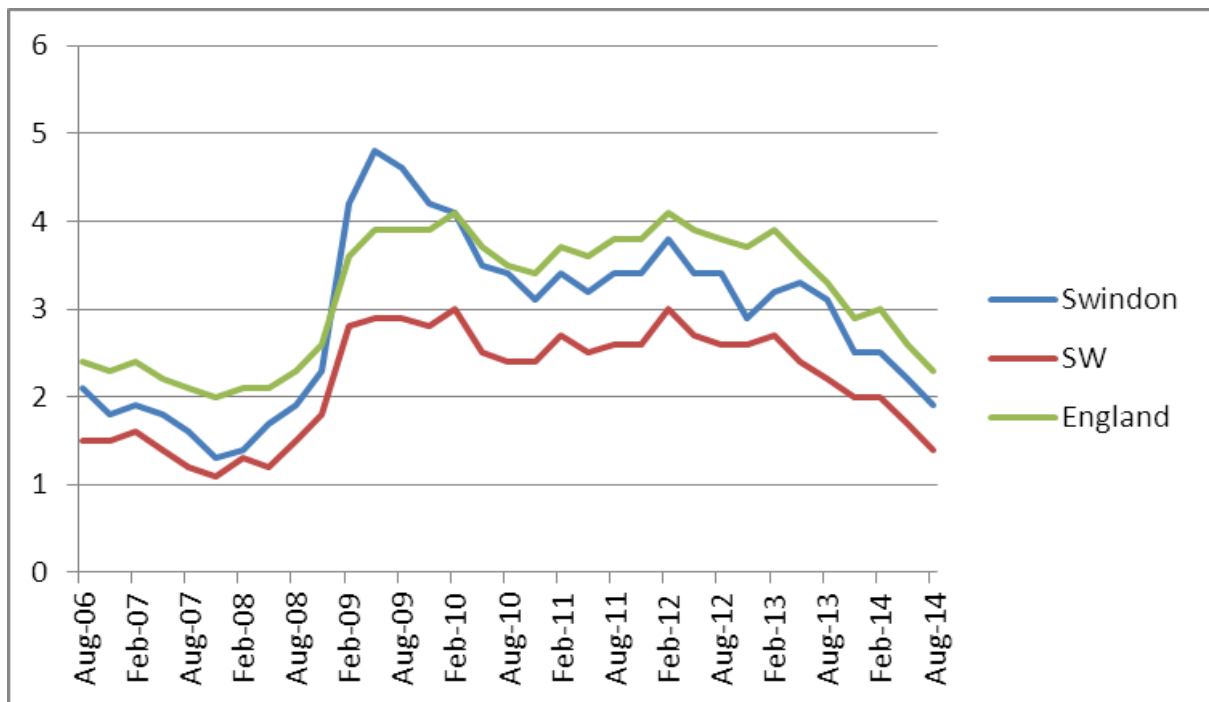
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>DWP JSA Claimant Count</b>	3,145	1,530	4,675
<b>Census 2011</b>	3,833	2,685	6,518
<b>% Difference</b>	<b>+21.9</b>	<b>+75.5</b>	<b>+39.4</b>

*Source 2011 Census ONS/ ONS claimant count with rates and proportions*

## The Claimant Count in Swindon: Unemployment as JSA Claimants

Unemployment rates based on this measure are calculated by expressing claimant count unemployment as a percentage of the population aged 16 to 64 as given in the Office for National Statistics mid-year Population Estimates.

**Figure 8: Claimant rate, August 2006 – August 2014**



Source: ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

Figure 8 (above) shows unemployment trends in Swindon, the South West and England using the Claimant Count measure. In Swindon, unemployment rose faster than the regional or national rates during the first half of the recession before starting to fall back at a steady rate from August 2009. This gradual fall continued through 2010, taking the rate for Swindon to below the national average for the first time since the start of 2009.

Unemployment has continued to decline. Between June 2011 and June 2014 unemployment in Swindon decreased by 36% to stand at 2,810. This compares with a decrease within the South West Region of 37% and 30% for Great Britain. The Borough's unemployment rate at 2.0% remained below the national average (2.4%) but above that of the South West Region (1.5%).

Male unemployment decreased more sharply than for women. In the three years to March 2014 it decreased by 42% for men to reach a rate of 2.4%. During the same period female unemployment declined by 24%% to a rate of 1.6%

**Table 5 Unemployment Claimant Trends- Comparative Analysis**

	June 2001	June 2011	June 2014	% change 2011-14	Unemp. Rate (%) June 2014
Swindon	1,840	4,370	2,810	-35.7	2.0
Male	1,370	2,940	1,720	-41.5	2.4
Female	470	1,430	1,090	-23.8	1.6
South West	49,365	79,930	50,615	-36.7	1.5
Great Britain	900,325	1,383,950	966,415	-30.2	2.4

*ONS claimant count with rates and proportions*

### **Long Term Unemployment – people claiming JSA for more than six months.**

Figure 9 shows how the proportion of all people claiming JSA who had been claiming for more than six months has changed over the last five years.

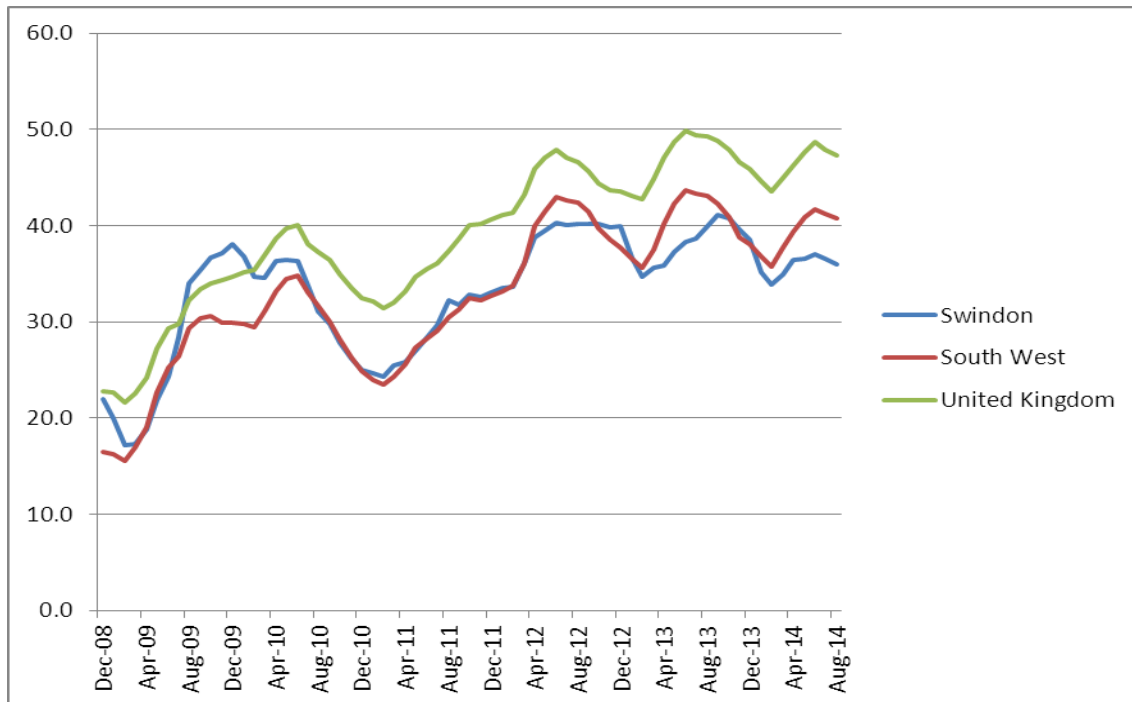
In December 2008, 21.9% of JSA claimants in Swindon had been claiming for six months or longer, significantly above the regional figure (16.4%) but below the national average (22.8%).

Conversely between December 2009 and December 2010, the percentage of all claimants who were long-term unemployed in Swindon fell by 11.9 percentage points to 26.1%. This was a much faster rate of decline than was seen either regionally (3.7 percentage points) or nationally (1.6 percentage points).

However from 2010 this trend reversed to reach a high of 40.2% in August 2012, since when it has largely remained at above 35%, and although below that for both regional and the national average, it indicates that whilst overall, short term unemployment has steadily reduced, it is those who are long and very long-term

unemployed, who often experience the greatest difficulties getting back into employment as economic conditions recover.

**Figure 9: Percentage of claimants unemployed for six months or longer, Dec 2008 – August 2014**

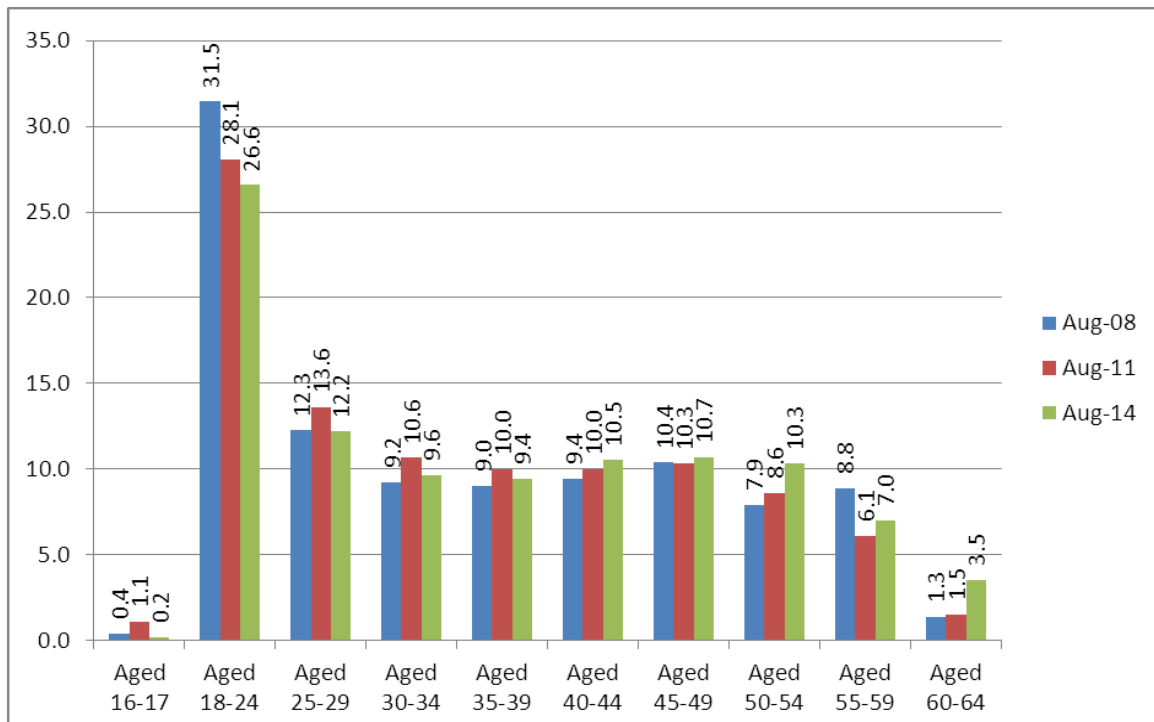


### Claimants by Age group

Figure 10 suggests that, over the last three years, people aged 50 have seen the largest rises in unemployment. The proportion of total unemployment accounted for by people aged 17 to 24 and has fallen fastest.

However, a second and crucial story that emerges from Figure 10 is that young people aged 18 to 24 are significantly over-represented among the unemployed. It shows that, in Swindon, 18 to 24 year olds made up 32% of all claimants in 2008, 28% in 2011 and 27% in 2014. Each of the older five-year age cohorts accounted for around 12% or less of claimants.

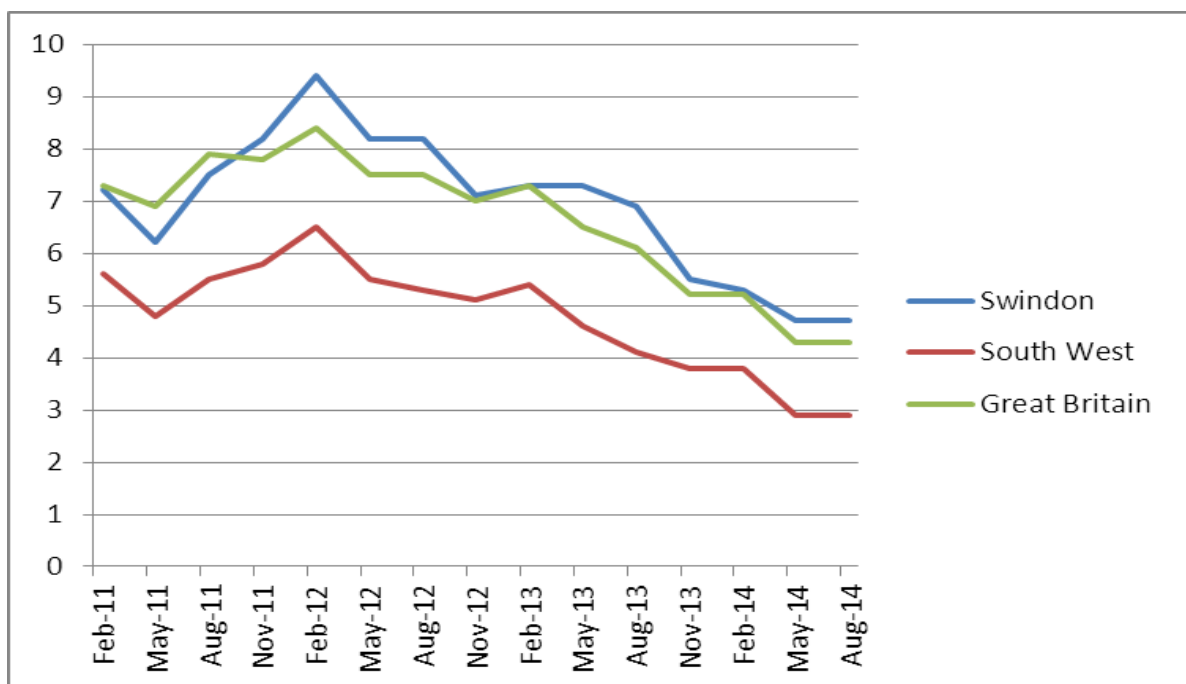
**Figure 10: Proportion of total Claimant Count in each age band, Swindon, Aug 2008 – Aug 2014**



ONS claimant count with rates and proportions

So although steadily declining, high youth unemployment in the Borough is a serious concern for the Council and is higher than the national figure or regional for this age group. (See Figure 11 below)..

**Figure 11: All claimants aged 18 – 24: Claimant |Rate Comparative analysis**



## **Unemployment by new Swindon Wards 2011 of the total population aged 16 – 74**

Table 6 shows unemployment **as defined by the 2011 Census** by new Swindon wards (Claimant Count data is not available for new Swindon wards). Boundary changes between 2001 and 2011 mean that comparisons between the two sets of census figures are not possible for small areas, however data for 2011 shows that disparities in unemployment have remained within the borough with highest levels of unemployment recorded for Central (7%), Penhill and Upper Stratton (6.0%), Walcot and Park North (6.0%), Gorsehill and Pinehurst (5.5%) and Mannington and Western (5.1%) wards.



**Table 6 Unemployment by Ward 2011: Total Population aged 16 – 74**

	Total unemployed	%
Blunsdon & Highworth	228	2.9
Central	611	6.7
Covingham & Dorcan	257	3.1
Eastcott	377	4.5
Gorsehill & Pinehurst	507	5.5
Haydon Wick	299	3.4
Lawn & Chiseldon	109	2.7
Liden, Eld, Park S	448	5.3
Lydiard & Freshbrook	350	4.2
Mannington & Western	395	5.1
Old Town	223	3.4
Penhill & Upper Stratton	521	6.2
Priory Vale	233	2.7
Ridgeway	45	1.9
Rodbourne Cheney	403	4.8
Shaw	300	3.5
St Andrews	229	3.0
St Margaret & SM	248	3.0
Walcot & Park N	569	6.3
Wroughton & Wichelstowe	166	2.9

Source: 2011 Census ONS

**d. Trends in Journey to Work Patterns 2001 – 2011**

The 2011 Census confirms that two thirds of Swindon travel to work by car. This is a similar proportion to that in 2001 but there has been a decline in numbers who travel to work as a passenger in a car or van which has been offset by an increase in those who travel as drivers.

Between 2001 and 2011 there has been a significant increase in the numbers of Swindon residents working from home and travelling to work by bus or coach or train. The proportions of people travelling to work by motor or pedal cycle have declined by 0.7 and 0.9 percentage points respectively.

**Table 7 Trends in Journey to Work Patterns 2001 - 2011**

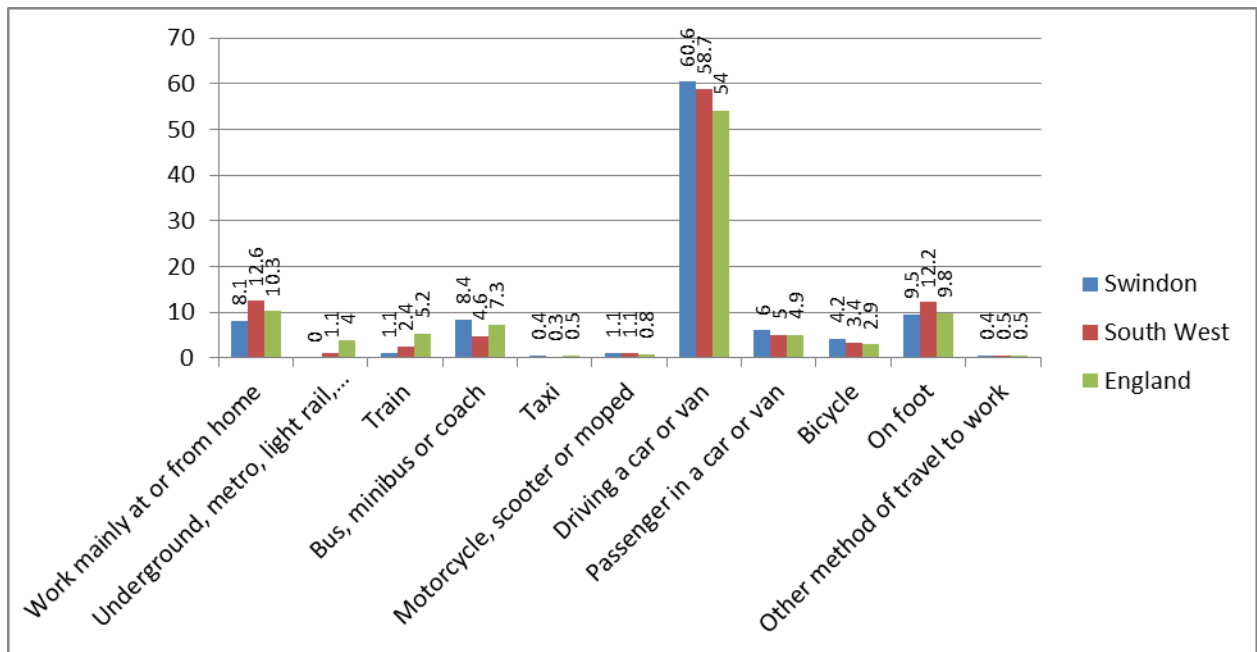
<b>Swindon</b>			
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Change (% point)</b>
<b>Employed labour force</b>			
Work mainly at or from home	6657 7.1	8,849 8.1	1.0
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	38 0.0	84 0.1	0.0
Train	865 0.9	1,359 1.2	0.3
Bus, minibus or coach	7184 7.7	9,164 8.4	0.7
Taxi	531 0.6	472 0.4	-0.1
Motorcycle, scooter or moped	1658 1.8	1,163 1.1	-0.7
Driving a car or van	55409 59.0	66,389 60.6	1.6
Passenger in a car or van	6830 7.3	6,613 6.0	-1.2
Bicycle	4777 5.1	4,592 4.2	-0.9
On foot	9712 10.3	10,395 9.5	-0.8
Other method of travel to work	292 0.3	419 0.4	0.1

Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS

*Footnote: All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place so percentage point change may not sum to difference shown.*

When placed in a wider context the journey to work patterns in Swindon reveal a relatively high proportion travelling to work by car, bus and bicycle, and a relatively low proportion working from home

**Figure 12: Swindon: Journey to Work Patterns 2011 – Comparative Analysis**

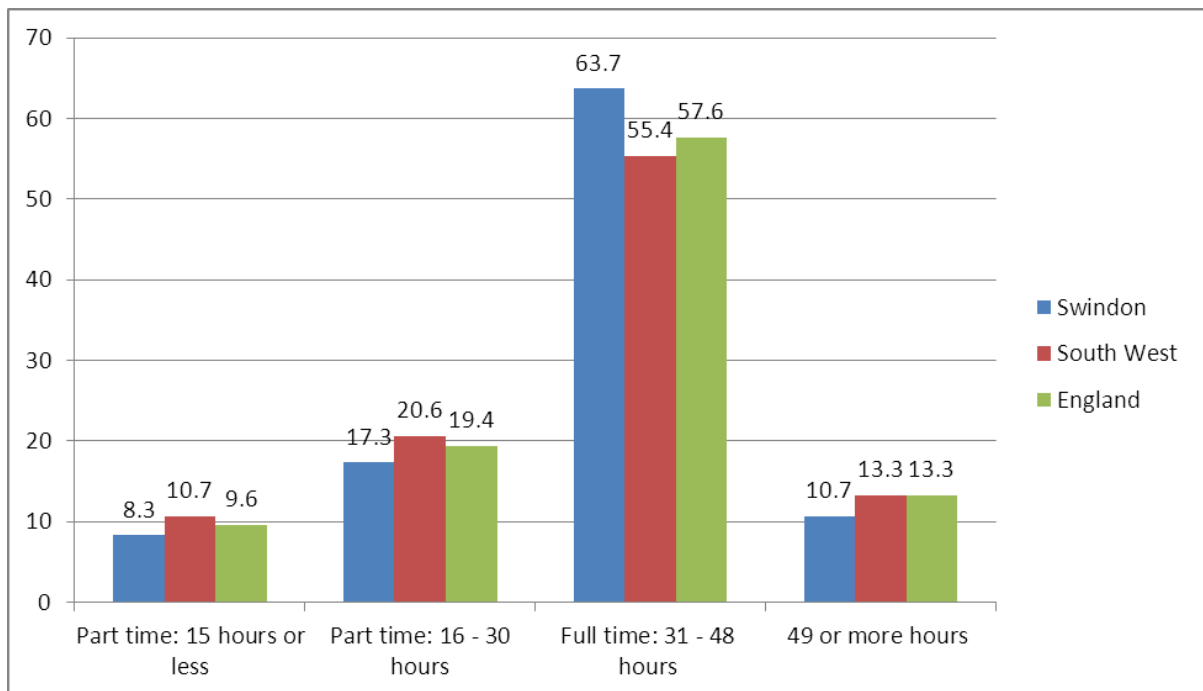


Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS

**e. Hours worked**

Figure 13 shows the distribution of resident workers by the number of hours they work. Overall Swindon residents are more likely to be employed full time than the regional or national average (74.4 per cent compared with 68.7 % regionally and 70.9 per cent nationally). However Swindon residents are less likely to be employed in roles requiring 49 hours or more.

**Figure 13: Resident employed population aged 16-74 by hours worked, Swindon, South West Region and England, per cent**



Source 2011 Census ONS

During the past decade there has been an increase in local part time working, a rise locally from 12.9% in 2001 to 14.4% in 2011, compared with a decrease in full time employment by 3.7 percentage points during the same period.

In comparative terms the proportional increase in part time employment has been similar to that recorded at a regional and national level. The proportional decrease in full time employment has however been significantly higher than that recorded either within the South West or England.

A much larger proportion of the female employed labour force work part time than male, and the figures relating to hours worked confirm this.

**Table 8: Trends in Hours Worked, 2001 2011: Comparative Analysis**

	Part time: 15 hours or less		Part time: 16 - 30 hours		Full time: 31 - 48 hours		49 or more hours	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
<b>Swindon</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
Male	2.95	4.6	4.5	7.1	73.1	72.7	19.6	15.7
Female	12.7	12.5	28.3	29.4	54.0	53.3	<b>5.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>South West</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
Male	3.9	6.0	6.6	9.5	64.9	64.9	24.7	19.6
Female	16.4	15.8	30.9	33.0	45.8	44.8	6.9	6.3
<b>England</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2011</b>
Male	3.5	5.8	6.2	9.8	66.2	65.1	24.2	19.3
Female	14.0	13.9	28.3	30.2	50.7	49.2	6.9	6.6

Source 2001 and 2011 Census ONS

**f. Qualifications**

**Highest level of Qualification: All Usual Residents Comparative Analysis 2011**

The 2011 Census provides data on the highest level of qualification of all usual residents aged 16 and over who are either in employment in the area or not in employment but live in the area (known as the 'workday population'). Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are grouped into levels, from entry level to level 8.

**Level 4 and above e.g. above A level, NVQ level 4 or above)**

Figure 14 shows that in 2011, 22.7% of the population in Swindon held a qualification at Level 4 or above. This was the lowest proportion in the South West and significantly below the regional and national averages (27.4% and 27.4% respectively).

### Level 3 and above (e.g. A level, NVQ level 3)

34.3% of Swindon's population were qualified to at least Level 3 in 2011. Again, this was well below the regional and national averages of 40.6% and 39.8% respectively.

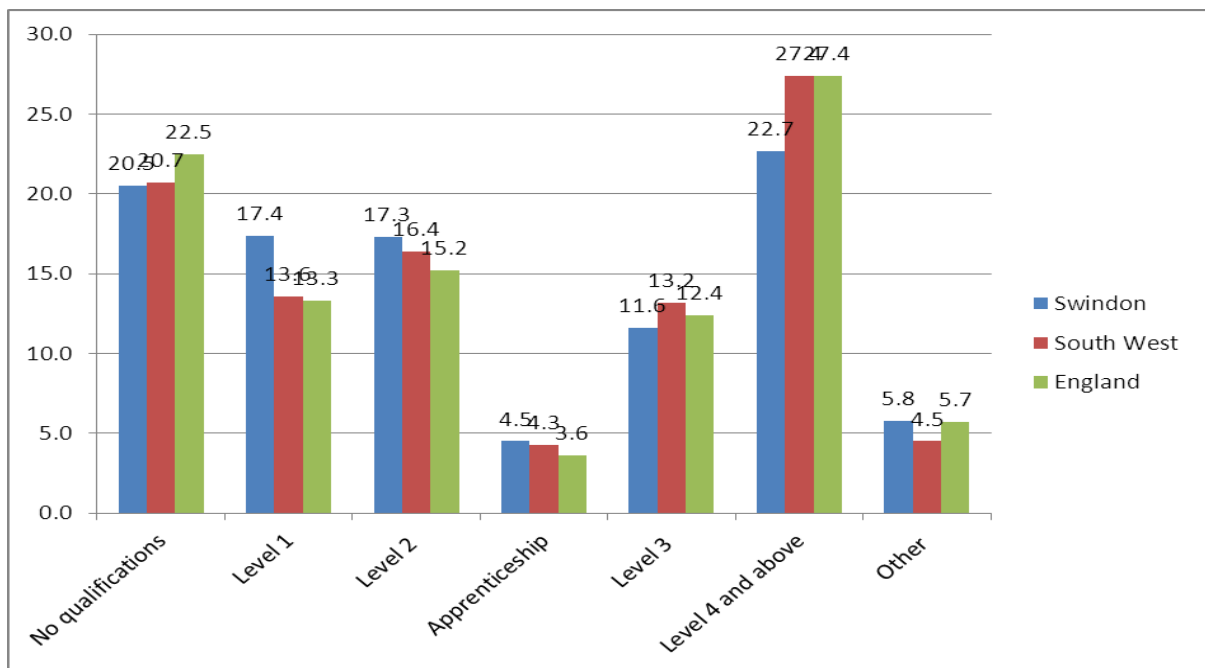
### Level 2 and above (e.g. GCSE grades A- C, NVQ level 2)

56.1% of Swindon's population was qualified to at least Level 2 (including apprenticeships), 5.2 percentage points below the regional average (61.3%) and 2.5 percentage points below the national average (65.0%).

### Qualifications below Level 2 (e.g. GCSE grades D- G, NVQ level 1 or below)

37.9% of Swindon's population were without at least a Level 2 qualification generally considered to be the minimum for employability. Swindon has a higher proportion of its population without a Level 2 qualification than is seen regionally (34.3%) or nationally (35.8%).

**Figure 14: Highest Qualifications: Population Aged 16 and Over 2011, Comparative Analysis**



Source 2011 Census ONS

### **Highest level of Qualification by ward : All Usual Residents 2011**

New ward data is only currently available from the 2011 Census. Table 9 shows clear disparities in highest levels of qualifications with highest percentages of those without at least a Level 2 qualification recorded for Penhill & Upper Stratton (53.9%) Walcot and Park North (51, 3%), Liden, Eldene and, Park South (48.3%), Gorsehill & Pinehurst (48.8%) and Rodbourne Cheney (48.5%).

Central ward shows a significantly higher proportion of people with 'other' qualifications. This is likely to be a reflection of the diversity of the population in that ward and people who were born and gained qualifications outside the United Kingdom.



**Table 9 Highest Qualifications: Population Aged 16 and above by Ward 2011,**

	Highest Qualifications below level 2 %	Highest Qualifications at least level 2 %	Other qualifications %
Blunsdon & Highworth	35.4	60.7	3.9
Central	36.1	47.1	16.8
Covingham & Dorcan	42.2	53.6	4.3
Eastcott	26.9	65.0	8.1
Gorsehill & Pinehurst	48.8	44.2	7.0
Haydon Wick	36.5	59.3	4.2
Lawn & Chiseldon	30.5	65.3	4.2
Liden, Eld, Park S	48.3	45.6	6.1
Lydiard & Freshbrook	37.4	57.5	5.1
Mannington & Western	37.6	55.5	6.9
Old Town	24.0	71.0	5.0
Penhill & Upper Stratton	53.9	41.8	4.4
Priory Vale	24.4	71.5	4.1
Ridgeway	25.7	71.1	3.2
Rodbourne Cheney	48.5	45.8	5.6
Shaw	28.8	66.6	4.6
St Andrews	24.2	71.4	4.4
St Margaret & SM	40.0	55.7	4.3
Walcot & Park N	51.3	42.3	6.4
Wroughton & Wichelstowe	36.7	59.3	4.0
<b>Swindon</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>

Source: 2011 Census ONS

## **2. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021**

### **a. Labour Supply**

Projections of the labour force are derived by combining population projections and activity rate projections.

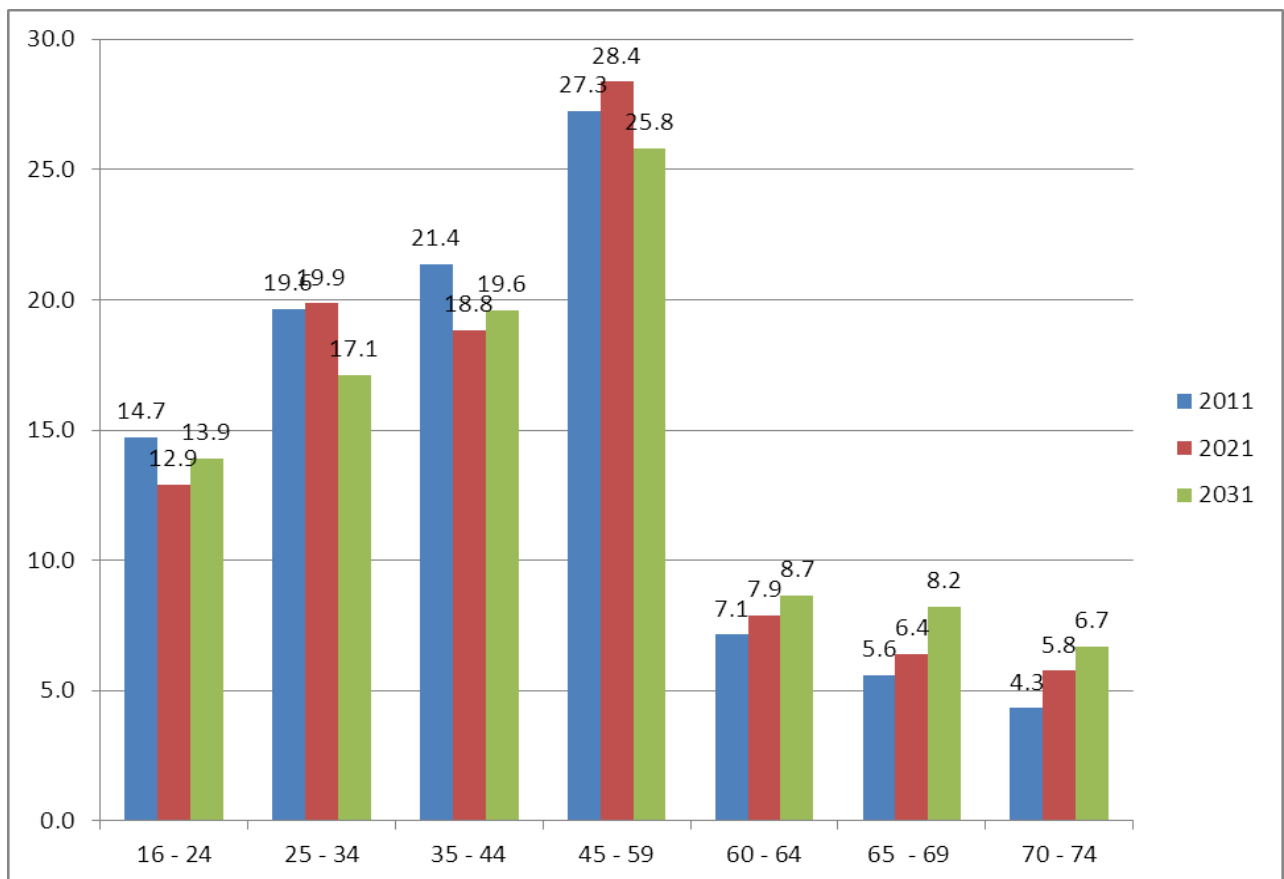
National labour supply figures for the period to 2020 are available from ONS and local forecasts have been produced by the Strategy and Research Team, Swindon Borough Council.

Main trends that can be identified are:

- That the growth rate in the Borough's economically active population between 2011 and 2021 is expected to be around 12% which compares with 20.1% with the previous decade. .
- This increase will be due both to increasing activity rates and continued population growth.
- The growth in the female labour force (12.1%) will be close to that for the male labour force. (12.7%).
- In terms of age structure, the dominant feature is that of an ageing labour force. Further increases in activity rates and changes in the population structure also mean that it will be those aged 60 plus that will increase most rapidly within the labour force
- By 2021, the proportion of the labour force that lies below the age of 45 will fall to 51 per cent, compared with 56 per cent in 2011.
- As shown in Figure 15, the age distribution is shifting towards older age groups. An interesting characteristic of the future labour force relates to the number of people exceeding pensionable age but remaining economically active. In particular, there are projected to be 21,000 economically active people above the age of 65 in 2021. This compares with 15, 000 in 2011 and represents an increase of around 38 per cent.

- This is a combined effect of the increasing number of people in older age groups due to demographic trends as well as the rise in labour market participation rates of older people.
- The likelihood of older people remaining in the paid labour force is influenced by a large number of past and current life course experiences including health status. Of particular relevance here is the fact that economic activity rates in mid-life vary significantly by education, with those with no qualifications being far more likely to be economically inactive, for example, the sick and disabled.

**Figure 15: Estimates and Projections of the Number of People in each age group as a proportion of the entire labour force: Swindon 2011, 2021 and 2031**



Source: SBC 2014

Footnote: Economic Activity rates are based on ONS 2006 economic activity rate projections for Swindon to 2020 carried forward to 2031 and applied to the population forecast from SBC 2014 projections, which take into account Swindon's housing plans.

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Note on Census Data**

Swindon 2012 wards were not used by ONS for the 2011 Census and so we have had to estimate data at 2012 ward level, independently of ONS. Different methods can be used to assign data from Lower Super Output Area or Output Area data to the Swindon 2012 electoral wards. In this Profile we used the “Centroid method” (assigning Output Area data to a ward where the OA’s centre falls within the ward). ONS is expected to produce 2012 ward estimates in due course, using the “centroid” approach.

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