

Assembling the evidence base for the Devon Local Economic Assessment

Self-employment in Devon

A Final Report to Devon County Council

May 2011



SQW

1: Introduction

1.1 This report explores the scale, nature, and role of self employed activity in Devon. Providing a breakdown across the eight district council areas where possible, it analyses three key data sets:

- The first is the 2001 Census. Although out-of-date, the last Census provides significantly more robust information at a district level than sample surveys and is a valuable benchmark against which to set more recent, sample survey-based data. It is also the sole source of information on travel to work patterns for the self-employed.
- The second data set is the Annual Population Survey (APS), which is a sample survey of households. In order to provide as robust an analysis as possible much of the detailed analysis by occupation and industry is restricted to the county level; in addition data have been aggregated over a three year period in order to overcome significant year-on-year differences which are caused by sampling variation. A time series of total self-employment at district level from 2001 to 2010 also uses ‘3 year average’ data to smooth year on year sampling variation. It should be noted at the outset that both the Population Census and the APS only count self-employment when it is a person’s ‘main’ job. There is no data held on self-employment as a second or third subsidiary job.
- The third data set is the Defra agricultural & horticultural survey. This provides an insight at a district level about all self-employed people working in agriculture, regardless of whether it is a person’s main job. Data are available on full and part-time self-employed farmers at a district level – but the most recent publication year at this level of detail is 2007¹. Although historically described as a ‘census’, this is now a sample survey. To provide consistency this report covers the three years 2005 to 2007. Countywide data is available and presented for 2009, alongside data on National Parks.

1.2 The report is structured with the following Sections:

- Section 2 examines issues of self-employment as highlighted by the 2001 Census of Population
- Section 3 provides a perspective from the Annual Population Survey, drawing on averaged data for the three years 2007/08, 2008/09, and 2009/10
- Finally, reflecting the county’s rural facets, Section 4 provides a particular perspective from Defra’s agricultural and horticultural survey for the period 2005-2007.

¹ Agricultural Surveys for 2008 and 2009 covered a smaller sample of farms and data are not considered robust below the County level. A much larger sample survey was carried out in June 2010 but the results will not be published until March 2011.

2: 2001 Census of Population

- 2.1 Using data from the 2001 Census this Section concentrates primarily on self employed residents living in Devon districts, rather than on workplace populations. Generally speaking, the self employed tend to work at or from home – reflecting the dominance of industries such as agriculture and construction. The analysis covers broad industry sectors, main occupations and travel to work.

Broad industry sectors

- 2.2 Table 2-1 provides a breakdown of self-employment by industry group and Table 2-2 shows percentage shares².
- 2.3 The tables show that East Devon accounted for the most self employed residents, over 11,200, with Teignbridge contributing just over 10,000. The lowest numbers of self employed residents were recorded in West Devon at 5,470, Exeter at 5,760 and in Torrridge at 6,310.
- 2.4 Self-employment is particularly important in agriculture, fishing and construction, where it generally accounts for 45% or more of employed residents. It is also relatively important in hotels & restaurants, (23% county-wide) and in ‘other business services’, which include professions such as accountancy, computer services but also call-centres, security and employment agencies, (around 27% in Devon as a whole). ‘Other services’ which include personal services such as hairdressing along with recreation and leisure activities, also has a profile with significant self-employment – just under 29% recorded countywide.
- 2.5 Not surprisingly self-employment accounts for a relatively low share of employed people in public administration, energy & water, mining & quarrying, education, financial services & banking, health & social care and manufacturing. The share is also below the mean in distribution and in transport & communications.
- 2.6 At a district level the share of main jobs attributed to self-employment was significantly lower in Exeter than elsewhere in the county, at 11.2% – only around one-half the average. Teignbridge was the only other district with a share below 20% (18.9%). The shares were highest in South Hams, Torrridge and West Devon, all between 24% and 25%.
- 2.7 The county-wide profile is shown in Figure 2-1.

² There is no finer level of detail available from the 2001 Census for industry sectors due to issues of potential disclosure of individual businesses

Table 2-1: Self employed residents in Devon local authorities, by broad industry sector, 2001

Broad Industry sector	East Devon	Exeter	Mid Devon	North Devon	South Hams	Teignbridge	Torrige	West Devon	Devon
Agriculture	1,638	221	1,663	1,589	1,182	945	1,626	1,264	10,128
Fishing	39	6	19	31	100	54	26	12	287
Mining & quarrying	6	3	10	7	11	11	6	7	61
Manufacturing	827	426	621	606	750	826	551	408	5,015
Energy & water	23	23	13	19	18	24	19	10	149
Construction	1,942	1,202	1,294	1,551	1,360	1,844	1,096	786	11,075
Distribution	1,776	866	962	1,346	1,387	1,725	855	737	9,654
Hotels & restaurants	820	329	333	961	738	797	388	414	4,780
Transport & communication	458	297	294	330	323	400	244	205	2,551
Financial services	178	82	115	85	97	138	69	72	836
Other business services	1,543	985	931	843	1,340	1,404	591	701	8,338
Public administration	103	52	72	53	75	82	51	63	551
Education	318	214	152	177	255	304	114	142	1,676
Health & social care	754	442	401	439	601	802	318	327	4,084
Other services	786	612	442	561	667	706	352	322	4,448
Total	11,211	5,760	7,322	8,598	8,904	10,062	6,306	5,470	63,633
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>52,507</i>	<i>51,634</i>	<i>32,845</i>	<i>39,314</i>	<i>37,004</i>	<i>53,229</i>	<i>25,521</i>	<i>22,209</i>	<i>314,263</i>

Source: 2001 Census of Population

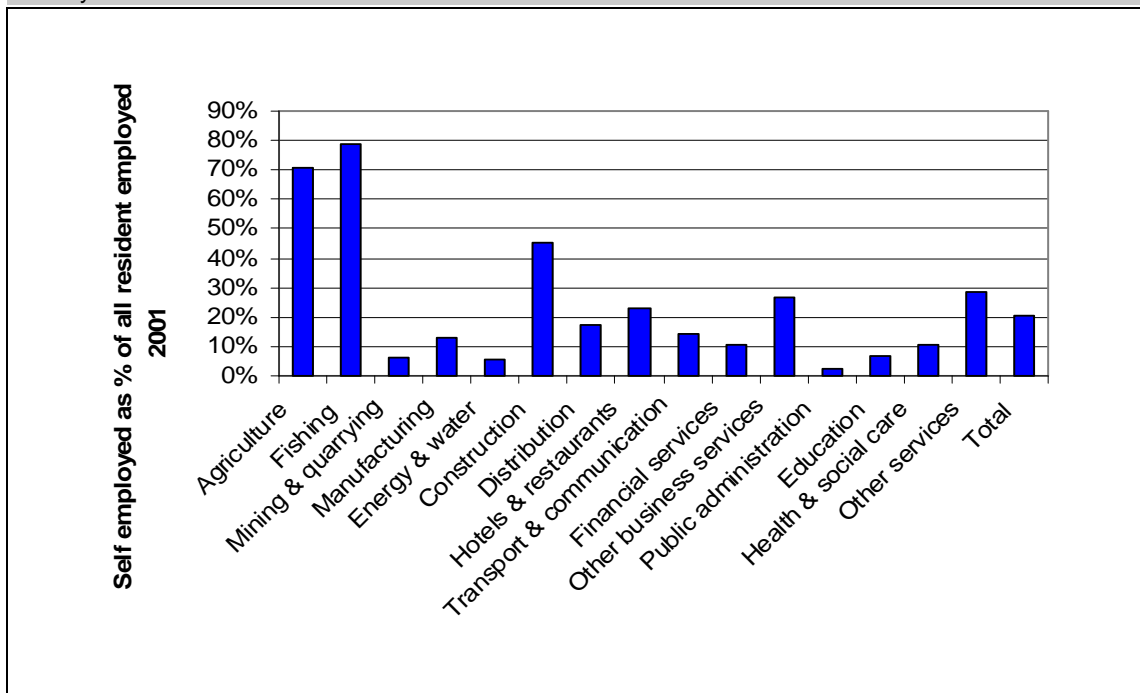
Table 2-2: Self-employment as a % share of all resident employment by broad industry sector, 2001

Broad Industry sector	East Devon %	Exeter %	Mid Devon %	North Devon %	South Hams %	Teignbridge %	Torrige %	West Devon %	Devon %
Agriculture	66.5	55.0	70.6	77.3	71.2	66.4	70.0	76.1	70.6
Fishing	78.0	66.7	61.3	60.8	88.5	84.4	81.3	80.0	78.6
Mining & quarrying	6.9	5.9	15.6	12.5	6.8	2.6	8.5	7.9	6.0
Manufacturing	15.6	9.5	12.0	9.9	17.5	13.9	13.1	14.9	13.1
Energy & water	4.4	2.8	5.3	7.8	10.1	5.3	12.6	7.9	5.4
Construction	47.5	33.8	46.7	51.3	51.3	41.7	49.1	49.2	45.5
Distribution	19.6	9.0	17.0	18.6	23.7	17.4	20.2	22.6	17.6
Hotels & restaurants	22.5	11.1	24.8	25.7	27.2	24.5	25.2	27.1	23.1
Transport & communication	15.6	7.7	15.7	19.1	16.8	13.9	18.7	17.3	14.4
Financial services	10.8	4.0	13.5	14.1	12.5	10.5	16.8	15.5	10.3
Other business services	29.6	17.4	28.4	24.9	34.2	25.8	27.6	33.0	26.8
Public administration	2.6	1.3	4.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	5.3	3.9	2.7
Education	7.9	4.4	6.1	6.7	7.6	7.2	6.2	7.0	6.6
Health & social care	11.3	6.7	11.0	9.3	13.8	10.6	11.0	12.2	10.5
Other services	27.8	23.1	31.3	33.4	31.7	27.3	29.5	28.9	28.6
Total	21.4	11.2	22.3	21.9	24.1	18.9	24.7	24.6	20.2

Source: 2001 Census of Population

2.8 The comparative profiles of self-employment by industry by district are shown in Table 2-3 and in accompanying Figure 2-2.

Figure 2-1: Self-employment as a % share of all employed residents by broad industry sector, Devon county 2001



Source: 2001 Census of Population

- 2.9 Table 2-3 shows a generally consistent picture across Devon in terms of the profile of self employed residents of each district. Not surprisingly agriculture accounted for only a very small share of self-employment in Exeter (under 4%) compared with the county average share of around 16%; the percentage share was also low in Teignbridge (9.4%). In contrast, ‘business services’ accounted for over 17% of self employed residents in Exeter, above the county average of 13%. The Torridge profile shows a relatively low 9.4% of self employed residents working in business services.
- 2.10 Construction accounted for just over 17% of self employed residents in Devon as a whole, with the district shares ranging from a low of 14.4% in West Devon to a high of just under 21% in Exeter. Distribution recorded a 15.2% share of self-employment countywide with the highest percentages registered in Teignbridge (just over 17%) and the lowest in Mid Devon (13.1%), West Devon (13.5%), and in Torridge (13.6%).
- 2.11 Self-employment in hotels & restaurants amounted to 7.5% of the county total, with district shares ranging from a high of 11.2% in North Devon to a low of 4.5% in Mid Devon, reflecting the relative importance of the tourist and holiday trade. In transport & communications all districts recorded shares of between 3.6% in South Hams to 5.2% in Exeter, averaging 4% countywide. The range for financial services is very narrow as between districts: from a low of 1% in North Devon rising to 1.6% in both East and North Devon, (average 1.3%).
- 2.12 Shares of self-employment accounted for by the three primarily ‘public sector’ industries were fairly consistent across districts. The percentage share of self-employment in public administration was close to the county average of 0.9%; similarly the percentage of self-employment attributed to education was close to the Devon share of 2.6% at a district level.

The county share of self-employment contributed by health & social care jobs was 6.4%, with the district percentages ranging from a low of 5% in Torrridge to a high of 8% in Teignbridge.

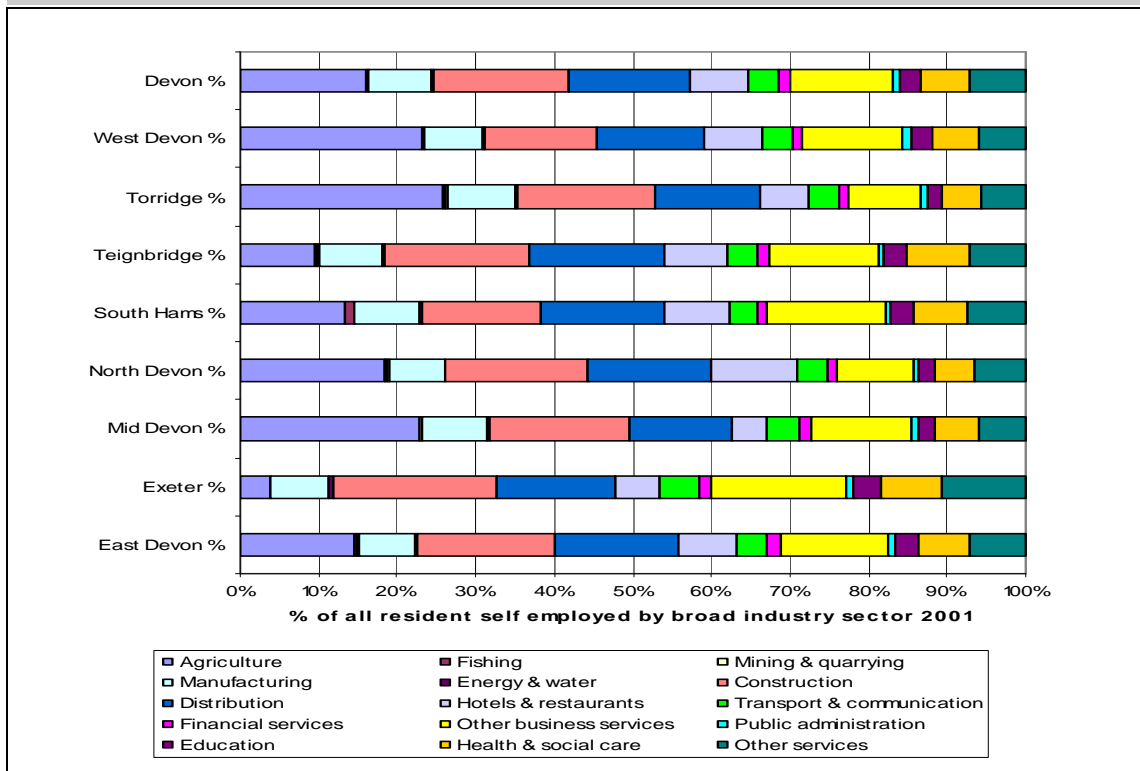
2.13 Finally ‘other services’ contributed a 7% share of self employed jobs in Devon as a whole with the district shares ranging from 5.6% in Torrridge to a high of 10.6% in Exeter.

Table 2-3: Self employed residents - % breakdown by broad industry sector, Devon 2001, Area Total = 100%

Broad Industry sector	East Devon %	Exeter %	Mid Devon %	North Devon %	South Hams %	Teignbridge %	Torrridge %	West Devon %	Devon %
Agriculture	14.6	3.8	22.7	18.5	13.3	9.4	25.8	23.1	15.9
Fishing	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5
Mining & quarrying	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	7.4	7.4	8.5	7.0	8.4	8.2	8.7	7.5	7.9
Energy & water	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
Construction	17.3	20.9	17.7	18.0	15.3	18.3	17.4	14.4	17.4
Distribution	15.8	15.0	13.1	15.7	15.6	17.1	13.6	13.5	15.2
Hotels & restaurants	7.3	5.7	4.5	11.2	8.3	7.9	6.2	7.6	7.5
Transport & communication	4.1	5.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.0
Financial services	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.3
Other business services	13.8	17.1	12.7	9.8	15.0	14.0	9.4	12.8	13.1
Public administration	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.2	0.9
Education	2.8	3.7	2.1	2.1	2.9	3.0	1.8	2.6	2.6
Health & social care	6.7	7.7	5.5	5.1	6.7	8.0	5.0	6.0	6.4
Other services	7.0	10.6	6.0	6.5	7.5	7.0	5.6	5.9	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 2001 Census of Population

Figure 2-2: Profile of self employed residents by broad industry sector, Devon districts 2001 Total = 100%



Source: 2001 Census of Population

Occupational Groups

- 2.14 This section presents a similar analysis for broad occupational groups in 2001. Table 2-4 shows the numbers of self-employed residents living in each district by occupation; the percentage of all employed residents in each occupation group who were self employed in 2001 follows (see Table 2-5).
- 2.15 Table 2-4 shows that skilled trades dominated the self employed occupational profile, accounting for almost 23,100 in Devon as a whole. Managers & proprietors in services & agriculture were also very important, contributing almost 13,500 self employed resident workers. No other occupation group recorded more than 8,000 self employed jobs in Devon county in 2001. Self employed sales & customer service jobs registered the lowest count in Devon at just over 1,200 people countywide.
- 2.16 Self-employment was particularly important in skilled trades where it accounted for almost one half of all employed residents' jobs countywide (see Table 2-5); the share was highest in West Devon at almost 56% and was significantly lower in Exeter at 30%. Self employed managers & proprietors in agriculture and services accounted for just under one-third of employed residents in these occupations in Devon as a whole. The shares were highest in North Devon and Torridge (both recording over 37%) and were again lowest in Exeter at just under 20%.
- 2.17 Self-employment was also particularly strong in both professional and in associate professional occupations (such as IT workers). Countywide it accounted for around 19% of the resident workforce in both occupational groups. Again, Exeter had a significantly lower

share of employed residents of self employed status (12% and 13% respectively). No other district had a self employed share below 18% in either occupation group. The self employed professional share was highest in East Devon and Mid Devon (both 22.3%) and the self employed associate professional share was highest in Torridge (22%).

- 2.18 Self employed plant operatives & drivers contributed a share of just over 13% of all employed residents in this occupation group in Devon as a whole; the district shares ranged from a low of just under 11% in Exeter to almost 18% in South Hams. Self-employment in personal services averaged 11.3% in Devon county, with district percentages ranging from 9.2% in Exeter to 13.6% in North Devon. Self-employment in elementary jobs contributed a 10.4% share of all such jobs in Devon, with the district percentages ranging from a low 4.5% in Exeter to 14% in West Devon.
- 2.19 Self-employment recorded a particularly low share of administrative & secretarial jobs, 5.8% countywide. The district percentages ranged from a low of 2.5% in Exeter to 8% in West Devon. Self-employment was lowest of all, in percentage terms, in sales & customer services, with a share of just under 5% recorded in Devon county. At a district level the shares ranged from a low of 2.5% in Exeter to a high of 6.6% in West Devon.
- 2.20 The Devon county profile is shown in Figure 2-3.

Table 2-4: Self employed residents by broad occupational group, Devon 2001

Occupations	East Devon	Exeter	Mid Devon	North Devon	South Hams	Teignbridge	Torridge	West Devon	Devon
Managers & proprietors in agriculture & services	2,518	1,114	1,209	2,041	2,012	2,327	1,167	1,099	13,487
Professionals	1,100	703	671	611	993	993	413	571	6,055
Associate professionals & technicians	1,383	911	778	834	1,212	1,311	521	578	7,528
Administrative & secretarial	406	182	275	215	289	343	183	184	2,077
Skilled trades	3,828	1,634	3,019	3,392	3,013	3,261	2,846	2,106	23,099
Personal services	522	367	290	352	320	476	256	228	2,811
Sales & customer services	199	133	120	186	174	219	100	91	1,222
Plant operatives & drivers	541	390	377	425	415	544	348	229	3,269
Elementary occupations	715	318	580	551	495	576	473	380	4,088
All self employed	11,212	5,752	7,319	8,607	8,923	10,050	6,307	5,466	63,636
<i>Total employed residents</i>	<i>52,507</i>	<i>51,626</i>	<i>32,846</i>	<i>39,324</i>	<i>37,020</i>	<i>53,218</i>	<i>25,525</i>	<i>22,205</i>	<i>314,271</i>

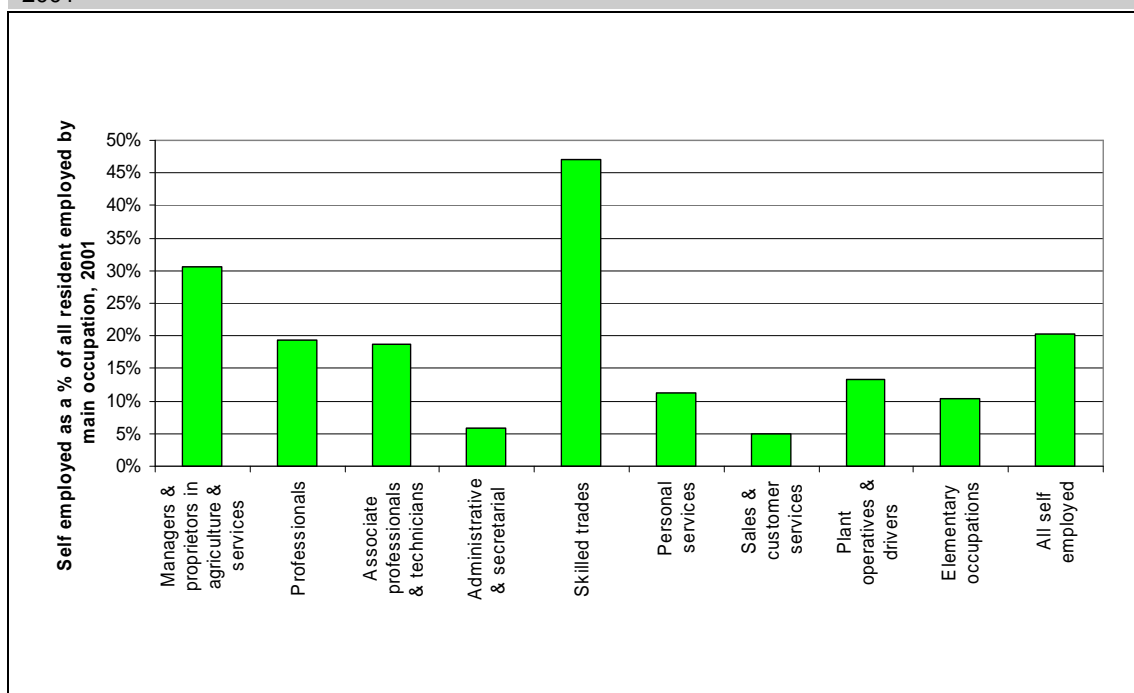
Source: 2001 Census of Population

Table 2-5: Self-employment as % share of total resident employment by broad occupational group 2001

Occupations	East Devon %	Exeter %	Mid Devon %	North Devon %	South Hams %	Teignbridge %	Torridge %	West Devon %	Devon %
Managers & proprietors in agriculture & services	31.8	18.6	27.5	37.5	33.7	28.8	38.1	34.7	30.6
Professionals	22.3	12.2	22.3	19.9	21.9	18.6	21.9	21.7	19.4
Associate professionals & technicians	20.1	13.1	20.7	18.3	21.8	18.1	22.0	20.5	18.8
Administrative & secretarial	6.6	2.5	7.4	5.3	7.5	5.5	7.5	8.0	5.8
Skilled trades	46.6	30.2	50.2	49.6	53.0	43.2	50.5	55.8	47.0
Personal services	11.4	9.2	11.7	11.4	12.4	11.0	11.4	13.6	11.3
Sales & customer services	4.9	2.4	5.3	6.0	6.5	5.2	5.8	6.6	4.9
Plant operatives & drivers	16.4	10.9	12.1	11.6	17.9	12.8	13.8	13.0	13.3
Elementary occupations	11.1	4.5	14.1	10.0	12.9	9.6	13.0	14.0	10.4
All self employed	21.4	11.1	22.3	21.9	24.1	18.9	24.7	24.6	20.2

Source: 2001 Census of Population

Figure 2-3: Self employed residents as a % of all employed residents by broad occupation group, Devon 2001



Source: 2001 Census of Population

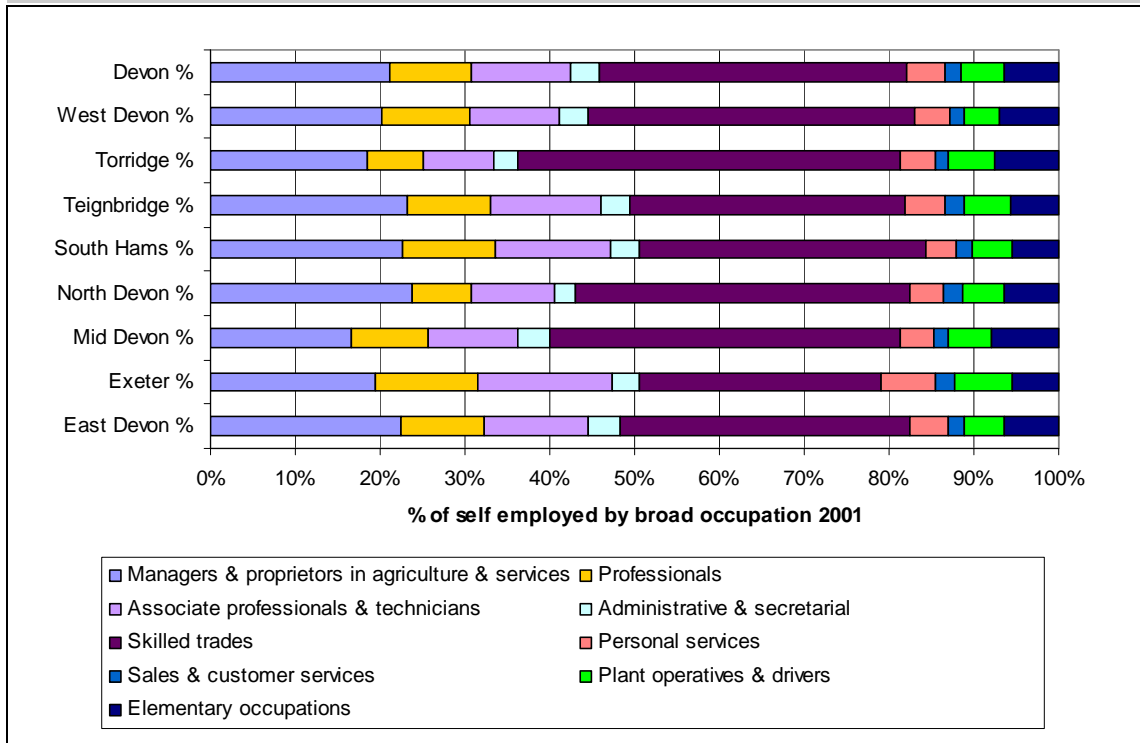
- 2.21 Table 2-6 and Figure 2-4 provide a percentage profile of all self employed residents in each district, broken down by occupation groups.
- 2.22 In most districts skilled trades accounted for around one-third or more of all self-employed residents; the shares exceeded 40% in Mid Devon and Torrridge; only Exeter recorded a lower share – 28.4%. Managers & proprietors in services & agriculture accounted for an average of over 21% of self employed residents in the county as a whole. Shares ranged from 16.5% in Mid Devon to almost 24% in North Devon. Self employed professionals and associate professionals were particularly strong in Exeter as a percentage share of all self employed – but this should be set in a context of relatively low self-employment in total. Collectively these two occupation groups contributed over 21% of all self employed professionals in Devon. The lowest share was in Torrridge, under 15%, and the highest share was recorded in Exeter, 28% and in South Hams, just under 25%.

Table 2-6: Self-employment % by broad occupation group, Devon districts 2001, Area Total = 100%

Occupations	East Devon %	Exeter %	Mid Devon %	North Devon %	South Hams %	Teignbridge %	Torrridge %	West Devon %	Devon %
Managers & proprietors in agriculture & services	22.5	19.4	16.5	23.7	22.5	23.2	18.5	20.1	21.2
Professionals	9.8	12.2	9.2	7.1	11.1	9.9	6.5	10.4	9.5
Associate professionals & technicians	12.3	15.8	10.6	9.7	13.6	13.0	8.3	10.6	11.8
Administrative & secretarial	3.6	3.2	3.8	2.5	3.2	3.4	2.9	3.4	3.3
Skilled trades	34.1	28.4	41.2	39.4	33.8	32.4	45.1	38.5	36.3
Personal services	4.7	6.4	4.0	4.1	3.6	4.7	4.1	4.2	4.4
Sales & customer services	1.8	2.3	1.6	2.2	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.7	1.9
Plant operatives & drivers	4.8	6.8	5.2	4.9	4.7	5.4	5.5	4.2	5.1
Elementary occupations	6.4	5.5	7.9	6.4	5.5	5.7	7.5	7.0	6.4
All self employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: 2001 Census of Population

Figure 2-4: Profile of self employed residents by broad occupation group, Devon districts 2001 Total = 100%



Source: 2001 Census of Population

Travel to Work

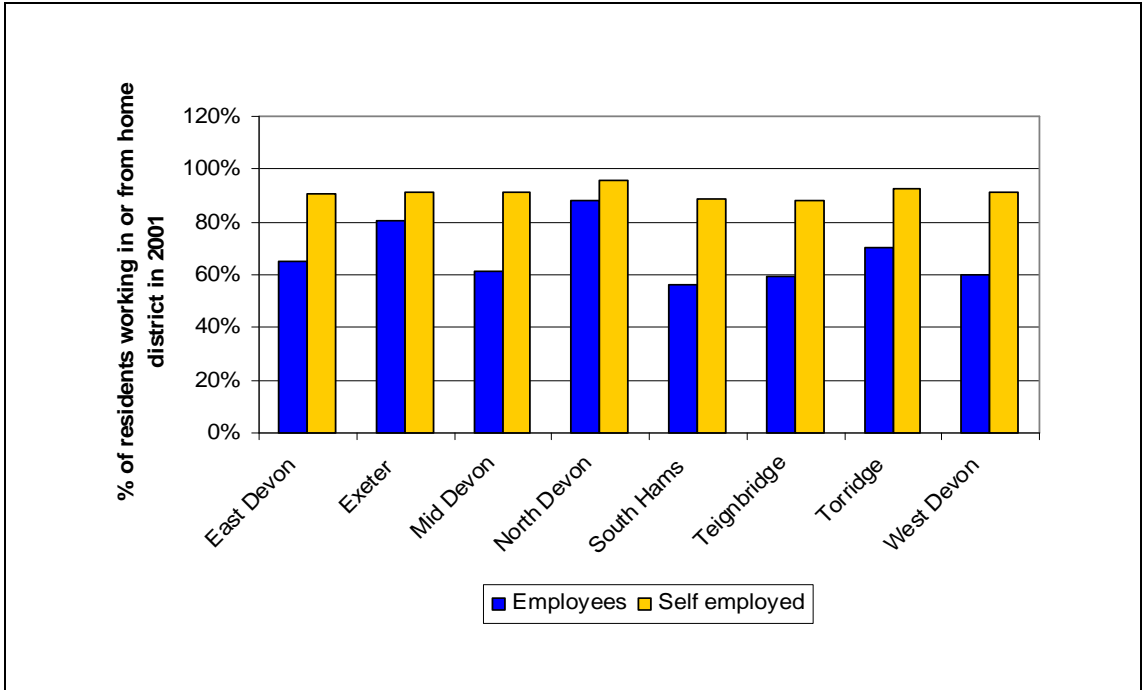
- 2.23 This section looks at the workplaces of Devon's self-employed residents in 2001. The analysis shows each of the eight districts of Devon county together with Torbay, Plymouth and Bristol as well as the composite areas of Somerset and Cornwall (see Table 2-7 and Figure 2-5).
- 2.24 Table 2-7 shows that a very high share of all self-employed residents worked in their home district in 2001. In North Devon the percentage was 96%; even in Teignbridge, the district with the lowest measure of 'self containment' the percentage was 88%. In contrast, the share of resident employees working in their home district was generally very much lower as the following figure shows. Only in North Devon and Exeter were there similar profiles, with a high percentage of resident employees working locally in the same district, (88.2% in North Devon and 80.5% in Exeter).

Table 2-7: Self employed residents of Devon county – by workplace in 2001, % of all

Workplace	East Devon	Exeter	Mid Devon	North Devon	South Hams	Teignbridge	Torrige	West Devon
East Devon	90.9	3.5	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.2	0.3
Exeter	4.4	91.1	3.4	0.3	0.4	4.5	0.4	1.0
Mid Devon	0.7	1.4	91.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4
North Devon	0.1	0.2	0.6	96.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.1
South Hams	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	88.7	1.4	0.0	0.3
Teignbridge	0.4	1.8	0.3	0.1	1.1	88.0	0.2	0.4
Torrige	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.0	0.1	92.8	0.5
West Devon	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7	91.2
All Devon	96.6	98.3	97.3	98.6	90.7	94.9	97.7	94.3
Somerset	0.8	0.3	1.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Plymouth	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	5.7	0.6	0.1	3.4
Torbay	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	2.0	3.5	0.0	0.1
Cornwall	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.2	1.0	1.3
Bristol	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total above	98.1	99.4	99.0	99.0	98.9	99.3	99.0	99.2

Source: 2001 Census of Population

Figure 2-5: Percentage share of resident employees and self-employed working in their home district, 2001



Source: 2001 Census of Population

3: Annual Population Survey

- 3.1 The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a sample survey of households providing some limited information on self employed residents and also workplace populations. However the detail available is limited due to the relatively small sample size³. This means that detail on, for example, self employed residents working in specific industry sectors is frequently suppressed; the sampling error is high and even where data are published the associated confidence intervals make it very difficult to establish robust trends over time.
- 3.2 The ‘workplace population’ data sets which have been published since 2004 are also problematic in that there is no check on the accuracy of data. The workplace district provided by each respondent is presumed to be accurate. However, when an urban area has a tight boundary some associated employment sites may actually be located in an adjoining district. The respondent may state that they work in Exeter, for example, when they actually work in East Devon. This means that the workplace jobs figures for towns such as Exeter can be over-estimated with neighbouring districts losing out! As before, this Chapter concentrates on data relating to self employed residents because most self employed work at or from their home district.
- 3.3 In order to maximise the value of the APS we have combined and averaged data for the three years 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 and most detailed industry and occupation results are presented for Devon county rather than for individual districts.

Total self-employment – residents

- 3.4 Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1 provide a breakdown of self-employment averaged over the period 2007/08 to 2009/10 for each of the Devon districts, giving total figures and a male/female split.
- 3.5 Table 3-1 indicates that 17.5% of employed residents are self employed in Devon as a whole, with the share ranging from a low of 7.9% in Exeter to over 25% in both South Hams and West Devon. The share is also relatively high in Torridge at just under 24%. It is useful to note that the overall estimate of self-employment in Devon is very similar to the 2001 Census figure of 63,630. This suggests that, despite its age, the 2001 Census still provides a valuable view of self-employment at a district level.
- 3.6 Self-employment accounts for over 22% of the county’s male employed residents. The share is particularly high in West Devon at over 35% and is over 28% in both South Hams and Torridge. The lowest share is recorded in Exeter at just under 10%. The share of female employed residents who are self employed is significantly lower at 12.4% in Devon county. At a district level self-employment rates are relatively high in South Hams (over 21%), in

³ The household sample sizes for the latest period July 2009 to July 2010 are as follows: East Devon 337; Exeter 191; Mid Devon 173; North Devon 203; South Hams 215; Teignbridge 268; Torridge 152 and West Devon 147. (Source Nomis website)

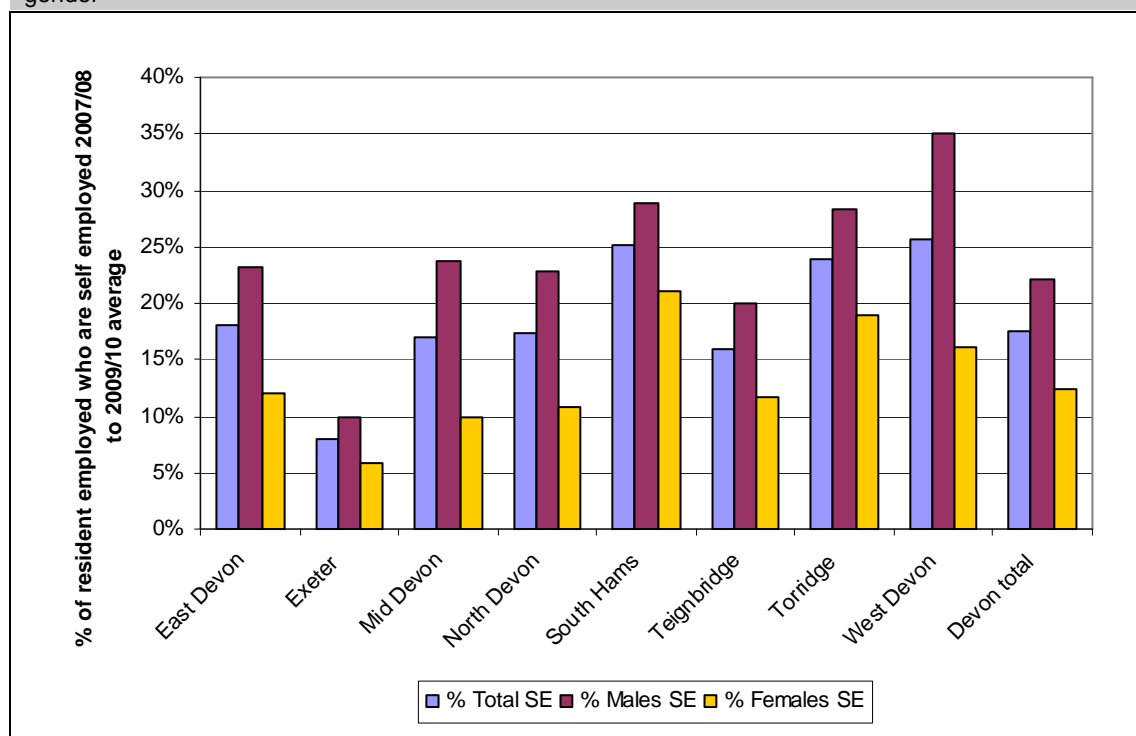
Torrige (19%) and in West Devon (16%). Female self-employment rates are particularly low in Exeter, at 5.9% and in Mid Devon, at just under 10%.

Table 3-1: Estimates of self employed residents 2007/08 to 2009/10 average; % of all employed residents

Area	Total SE residents	Male SE residents	Female SE residents	% Total SE	% Males SE	% Females SE
East Devon	11,030	7,600	3,430	18.0%	23.2%	12.0%
Exeter	5,130	3,370	1,800	7.9%	9.9%	5.9%
Mid Devon	6,300	4,630	1,730	17.0%	23.8%	9.9%
North Devon	7,430	5,270	2,170	17.3%	22.9%	10.8%
South Hams	10,070	5,930	4,100	25.2%	28.8%	21.1%
Teignbridge	9,500	6,070	3,430	15.9%	20.0%	11.7%
Torrige	6,700	4,170	2,530	23.9%	28.3%	19.0%
West Devon	6,670	4,570	2,100	25.6%	35.1%	16.1%
Devon total	62,830	41,570	21,300	17.5%	22.1%	12.4%

Source: APS – ONS SQW

Figure 3-1: Self employed residents by district, 2007/08 to 2008/09, Devon, % of employed residents by gender



Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

Broad industry sector

- 3.7 The APS provides a more limited breakdown of self-employment by industry sector than the 2001 Census, combining a number of sectors. Table 3-2 and Figure 3-2 show the Devon

county shares averaged over the last three years, together with the comparable South West and United Kingdom profiles.

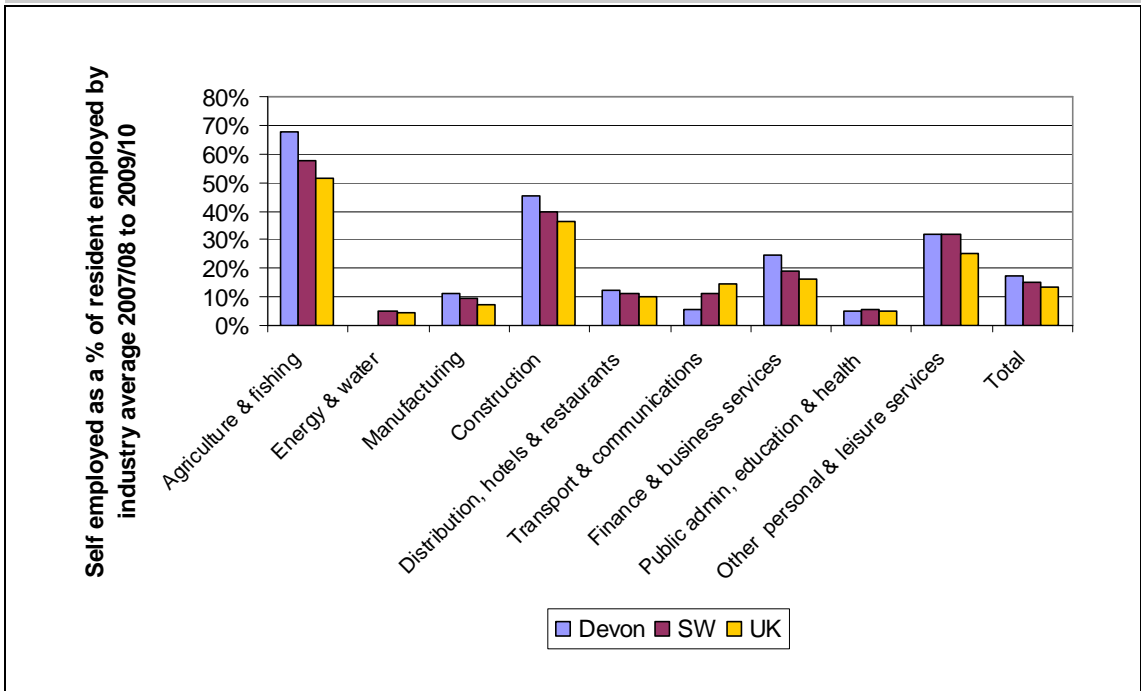
- 3.8 They show that Devon has relatively higher shares of its employed residents working as self employed than either the South West region as a whole or the UK – 17.5% as compared with 15.2% and 13.2% respectively. The shares are higher in Devon in almost all industrial sectors with the notable exception of transport & communications; the Devon share here is 5.8% as compared with over 11% regionally and 14.5% nationally. However, it should be noted that the Census indicates a rather different picture for ‘transport & communications’, with higher percentages of self-employment in the county. The discrepancy consequently may reflect APS sampling variation rather than any fundamental change in self-employment.
- 3.9 Self-employment accounts for a significantly higher share of all Devon residents working in agriculture, construction and financial & business services as compared with the region and UK as a whole. Other sectors record self-employment more in line with regional shares and above UK percentages.

Table 3-2: Shares of resident employment attributed to the self employed, industry sectors, Devon, SW & UK, 2007/08 to 2009/10; 3 year average

Industry sector	2007/08 (%)	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)	Devon 3 year average	South West (%)	UK (%)
Agriculture & fishing	56.7	74.6	71.2	67.5% (9,800)	57.6	51.2
Energy & water	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5.0	4.5
Manufacturing	7.3	13.7	12.4	11.1% (3,600)	9.5	7.0
Construction	39.9	42.4	53.0	45.1% (14,200)	39.8	36.6
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	12.2	13.5	11.6	12.4% (9,900)	11.0	10.0
Transport & communications	5.3	6.5	5.8	5.8% (900)	11.3	14.5
Finance & business services	25.3	24.1	24.6	24.7% (11,900)	18.9	16.2
Public admin, education & health	4.6	6.0	5.1	5.2% (5,900)	5.7	5.1
Other personal & leisure services	28.3	28.9	38.6	32.0% (6,700)	31.9	25.3
Total	15.7	18.0	18.7	17.5% (62,800)	15.2	13.2

Source: APS – ONS (SQW) Note: Energy & water: not available: the numbers & percentages are below the publication threshold

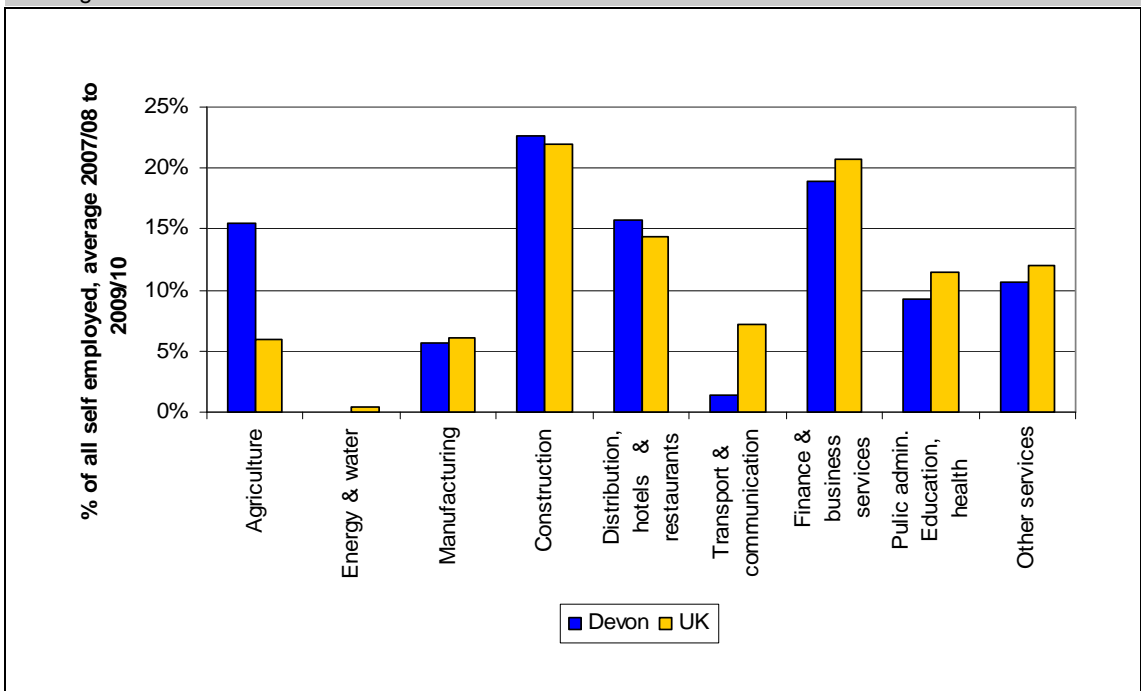
Figure 3-2: Self-employment -% shares of total employed residents by broad industry sector, average 2007/08 to 2009/10, Devon, South West & UK



Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

3.10 It is also useful to compare the Devon and UK profiles (see Figure 3-3) of all self employed ‘main jobs’ by industry sector. For example, agriculture accounts for 15.5% of all self employed jobs in Devon but only 5.9% of all self employed jobs in the UK as a whole. In contrast transport & communication contribute over 7% of self employed jobs nationally but less than 2% of Devon’s self-employment.

Figure 3-3: The profile of self employed ‘main’ jobs in Devon & the UK by industry sector, % of all, average 2007/08 to 2009/10



Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

Broad occupation groups

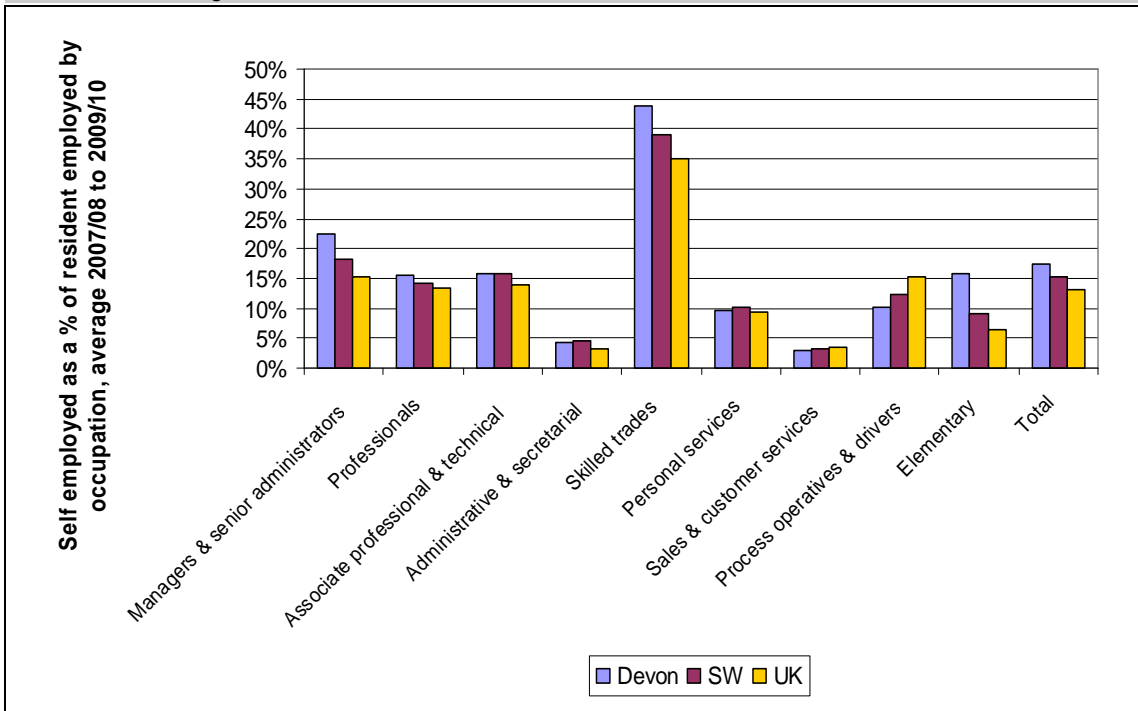
- 3.11 Table 3-3 and Figure 3-4 provide an analysis of self employed people broken down by main occupation group, recording the percentage shares for Devon county, the South West and the UK.
- 3.12 As compared with the South West and the UK, Devon county has relatively high shares of employed residents working in skilled trades with self employed status (percentages are Devon 44%, SW 39% and the UK 35%). The self employed shares are also relatively high in Devon for elementary occupations, managers & senior administrators and professionals. In contrast, relatively few Devon employed residents working in process plant & driving jobs are self employed. Shares of self-employment in Devon are also lower in sales & customer services and personal services.

Table 3-3: Self-employment as a % of all employed residents by broad occupation group, Devon, SW & UK, 2007/08 to 2009/10 average

Occupations	2007/08 (%)	2008/09 (%)	2009/10 (%)	Devon 3 year average	South West (%)	UK (%)
Managers & senior administrators	22.7	23.4	21.5	22.5% (13,100)	18.1	15.3
Professionals	14.2	16.2	16.2	15.5% (6,700)	14.2	13.3
Associate professional & technical	12.5	17.3	17.7	15.8% (7,700)	15.8	14.0
Administrative & secretarial	3.9	4.8	4.3	4.3% (1,600)	4.5	3.3
Skilled trades	41.8	41.2	48.9	44.0% (20,700)	39.1	34.9
Personal services	10.1	9.4	9.1	9.5% (3,100)	10.2	9.3
Sales & customer services	2.6	3.0	3.1	2.9% (800)	3.1	3.5
Process operatives & drivers	6.4	12.8	11.6	10.3% (2,000)	12.3	15.3
Elementary	13.0	19.7	14.7	15.8% (7,100)	9.0	6.5
Total	15.7	18.1	18.6	17.5% (62,800)	15.2	13.2

Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

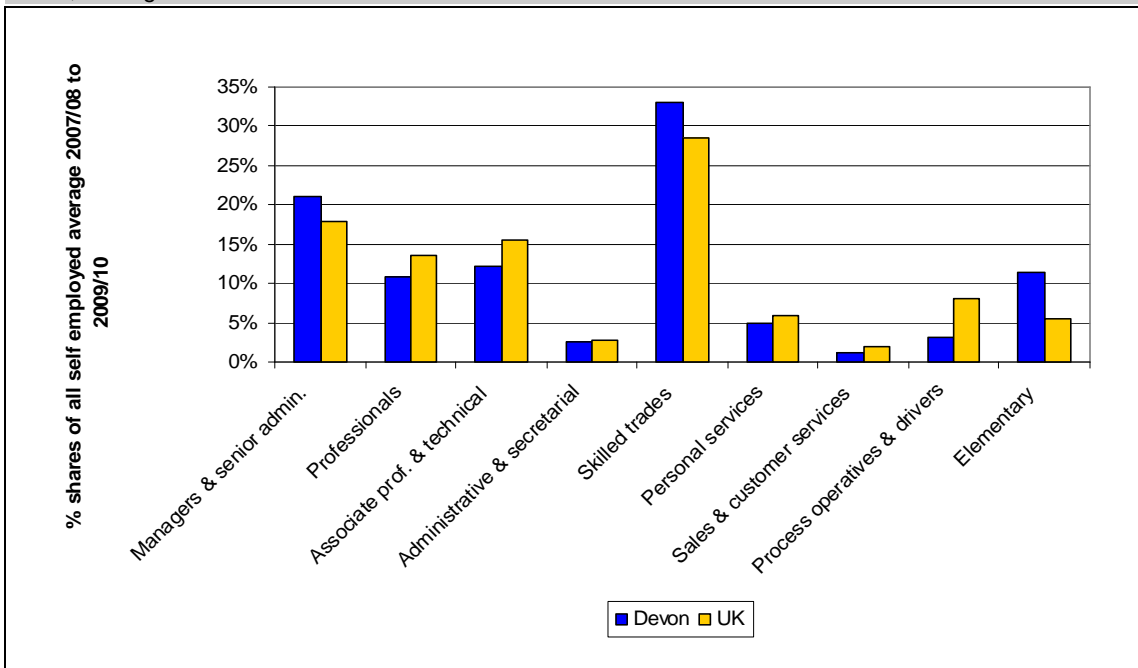
Figure 3-4: Self-employment as a % of all employed residents by broad occupation group, Devon, South West & UK, average 2007/08 to 2009/10



Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

- 3.13 As with industries, it is valuable to compare the profile of self employed ‘main’ jobs in Devon and the UK by broad occupation groups. Figure 3-5 shows the percentage shares. Devon has relatively high percentages of self-employed people working as managers, proprietors etc as well as in skilled trades and in elementary jobs. In contrast the UK as a whole has higher shares of self employed working in professional jobs, in associate professional & technical occupations and as plant operatives or drivers.

Figure 3-5: The profiles of self employed ‘main’ jobs in Devon & the UK by broad occupation groups, % of all, average 2007/08 to 2009/10

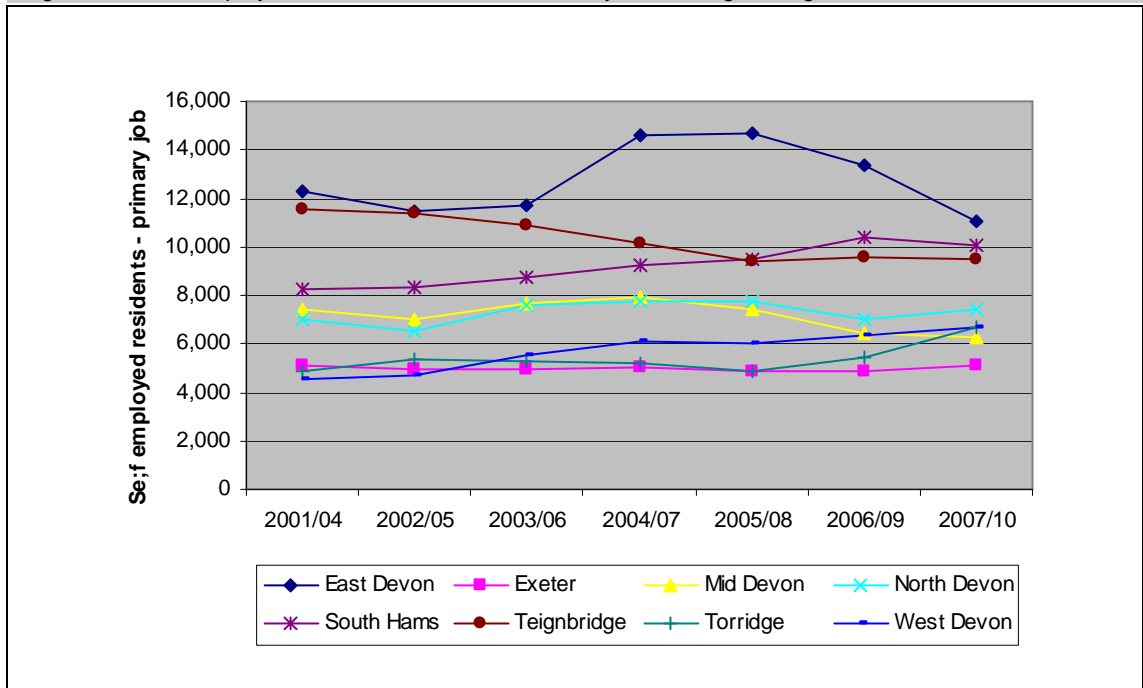


Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

Self-employed residents 2001 to 2010

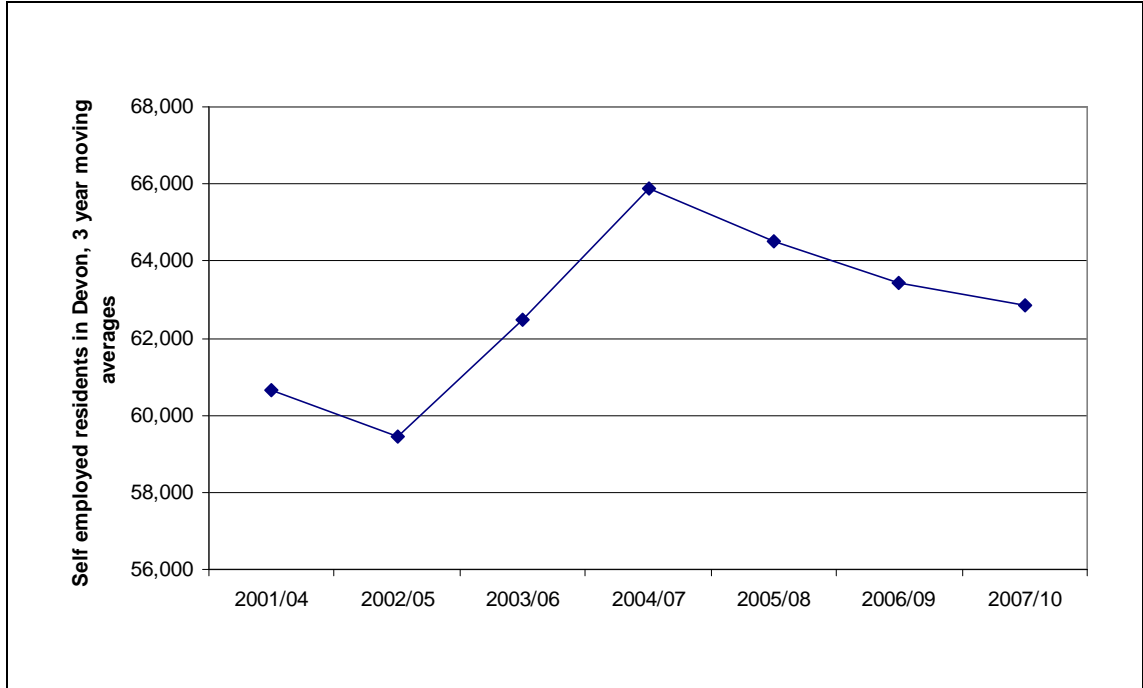
- 3.14 The small sample size at a district level inevitably means that estimates of self employed residents derived from the APS fluctuate significantly year on year and this makes it difficult to discern trends over time. In order to minimise sampling variability the following figures (Figure 3-6 and Figure 3-7) ‘smooth’ self-employment estimates through the use of 3 year moving averages.
- 3.15 The figures indicate a small increase in self-employment at a county level, increasing from around 60,500 in 2001/04 to 63,000 in 2007/10. The district level time series suggest a small increase in self employed residents in South Hams, West Devon and Torridge; a small decline in Teignbridge and West Devon and very little change in Exeter and North Devon. The picture is not so clear cut in East Devon, the district with the highest numbers of self employed residents. There appears to have been a significant increase in numbers in the early to mid 2000s, with a decline after 2008. However, even after applying a 3 year average, the data is still subject to some sampling error and the trend line may be misleading.

Figure 3-6: Self employed residents, Devon districts, 3 year moving averages, 201/04 to 2007/10



Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

Figure 3-7: Self employed residents in Devon, 3 year moving average 2001/04 to 2007/10



Source: APS – ONS (SQW)

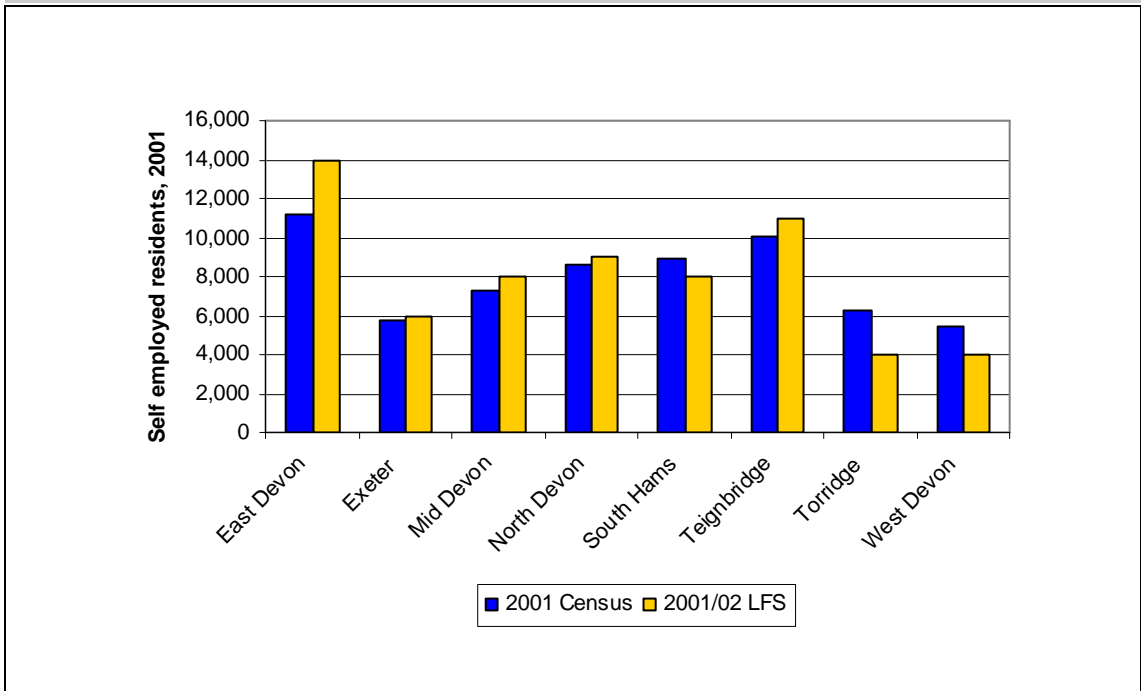
Comparison of the 2001 Census & APS

- 3.16 Before continuing to analyse the findings of the third data set it is important to pause and compare the Census and APS profiles of self employed residents – concentrating on occupation groups and industry sectors. Figure 3-8 shows the total numbers of self employed residents at a district level as recorded by the Census alongside the 2001/02 estimate from the Labour Force Survey (the predecessor of the APS). The following two figures (Figure 3-9 and Figure 3-10) show the shares of employed residents accounted for by self employed people for Devon for (i) industry sectors and (ii) occupation groups.

Total self-employed

- 3.17 At a county level the Census recorded just over 63,600 self employed residents in Devon county, the 2001/02 LFS estimate was 64,000 (with all output rounded to the nearest 1,000). However the district breakdown was slightly different as Figure 3-8 shows. The LFS recorded higher numbers in East Devon and Teignbridge with the Census recording more self employed residents in Torridge, West Devon and South Hams.

Figure 3-8: Self employed residents in 2001, Census & Labour Force Survey compared for Devon districts



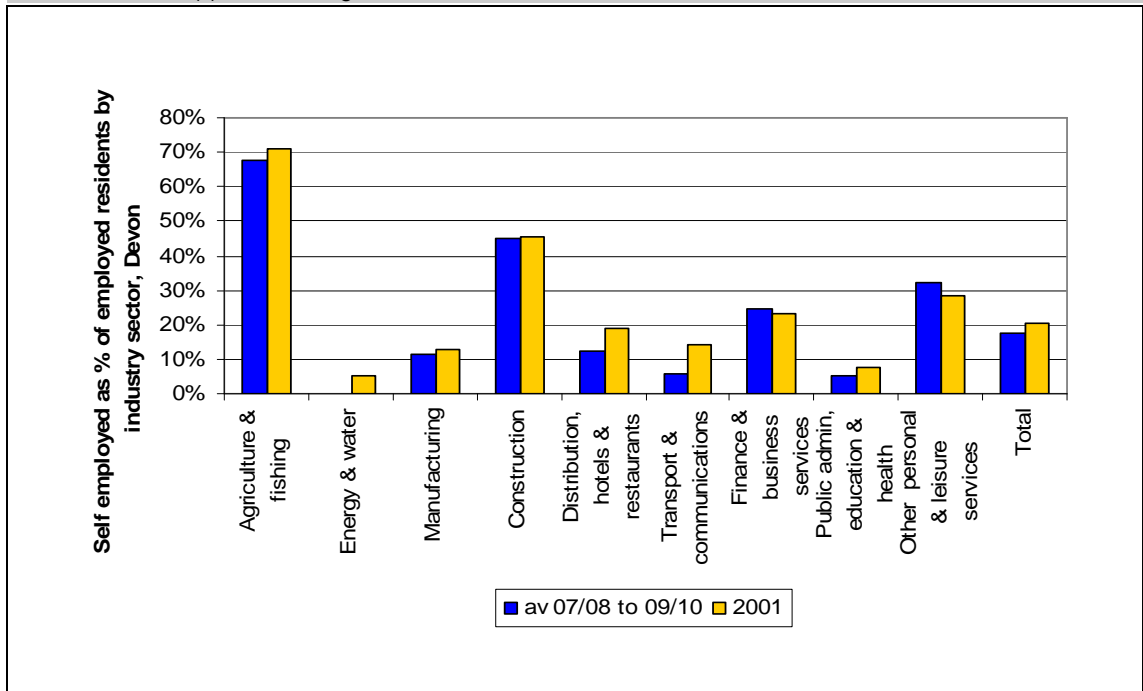
Source: 2001 Census of Population; LFS - ONS

Industry group

- 3.18 Figure 3-9 shows that the 2001 Census recorded relatively higher shares of self employed people working in both distribution, hotels & restaurants and in transport & communications. It also recorded a slightly higher share of self-employment in agriculture. We have already noted above that the APS records a relatively low share of self employed workers in the transport & communications sector; it is possible that the APS estimate for Devon is misleading and that the actual percentage is more in line with both the 2001 Census and the regional share⁴.

⁴ This is possible as the confidence interval for the APS is large.

Figure 3-9: Self employed as a % of all employed residents, broad industry sectors, Devon county: (i) 2001 Census & (ii) APS average 2007/08 to 2009/10

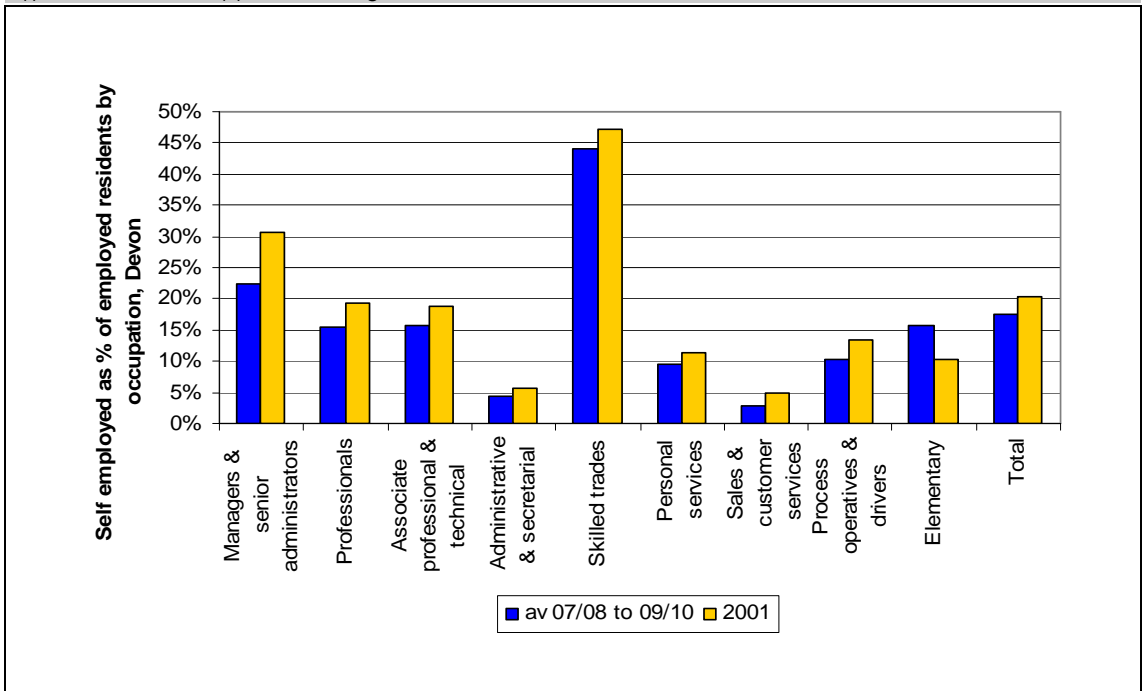


Source: 2001 Census of Population; APS – ONS (SQW)

Occupation group

- 3.19 Figure 3-10 shows significantly higher shares of self-employment, relative to total resident workforce, in the 2001 Census in most occupational sectors, including managers etc, professionals, associate professionals, skilled trades, sales & customer services, personal services, and process operatives & drivers. Only one occupation group, elementary, shows a higher percentage of workers as self employed in 2007/08 to 2009/10 as compared with 2001.

Figure 3-10: Self employed as a % of all employed residents, broad occupation groups, Devon county: (i) 2001 Census & (ii) APS average 2007/08 to 2009/10



Source: 2001 Census of Population, APS – ONS (SQW)

4: The Particular Case of Agriculture

- 4.1 This Section draws on employment information collected by Defra as part of the regular annual 'Agriculture & Horticulture Survey'. The data is collected through a sample survey and the sample size varies. The most recent survey yielding results published at a local authority district level was held in June 2007 and the details are analysed below. This section also draws on the corresponding surveys in both 2005 and 2006.
- 4.2 The more recent 2009 survey involved a smaller sample of farms and holdings; it estimated a total of just over 23,600 people employed in agriculture in the combined area of Devon county, Plymouth and Torbay. However, in 2007 only 127 people were recorded as working in agriculture in Plymouth and Torbay. We can confidently state, therefore, that the 2009 survey estimated around 23,500 people working in agriculture in Devon county alone. Of these an estimated 9,950 were part-time self employed farmers, 7,750 were full-time self employed farmers and 5,800 were employees. Thus the self employed totalled an estimated 17,700 countywide.

2007 overview

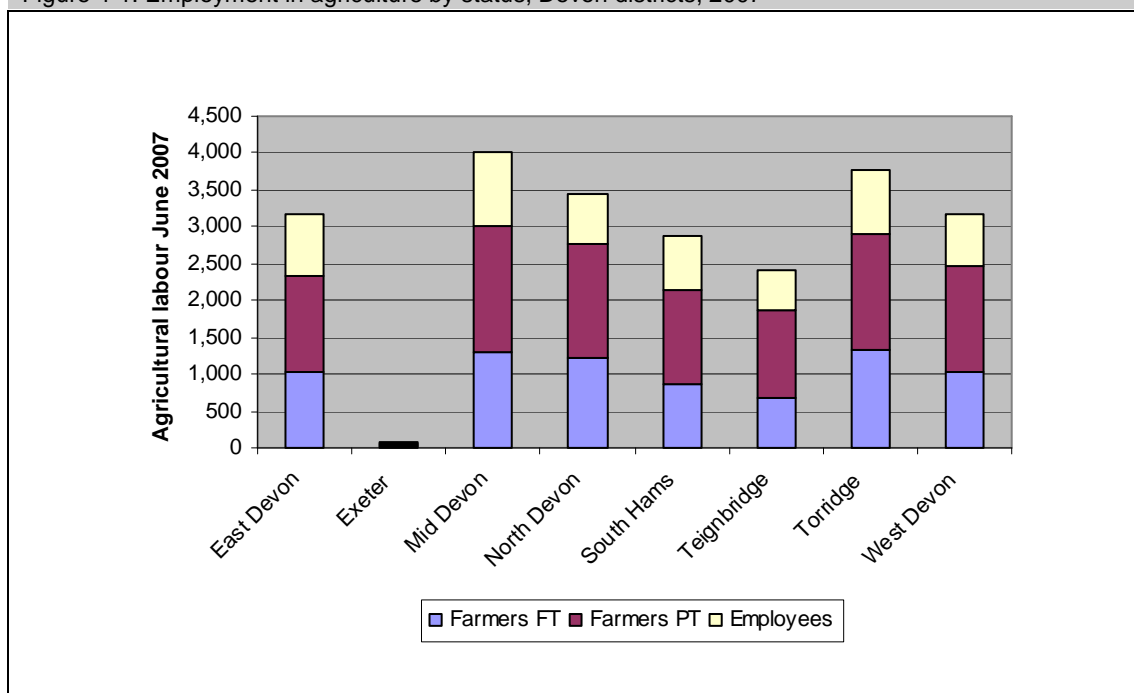
- 4.3 In June 2007 the agricultural survey estimated that there were just under 23,000 people employed in agriculture in Devon of which around 5,400 were employees (23.6%). The 17,500 self employed farmers comprised 10,050 part-time workers and 7,450 full-time workers. This figure is significantly higher than recorded in the 2001 Census or estimated by the APS. However, the Census and APS only cover the numbers of self employed people with a 'main' job in agriculture – around 10,000 in Devon county. This indicates that there are around 7,500 people for whom farming is not only a part-time activity but is subsidiary to another 'main' job. The following table (Table 4-1) and figure (Figure 4-1) provide a breakdown of agricultural employment by district.
- 4.4 Table 4-1 shows that Mid Devon accounted for both the highest overall employment in agriculture and the highest level of self employed farmers in 2007 – around 3,000 out of 4,000. Torridge recorded just under 3,800 people working in agriculture of whom 2,900 were self employed. Agricultural employment in North Devon was just under 3,500; self-employment accounted for 2,750 of the total.
- 4.5 Outside of Exeter every district recorded at least 2,400 people working in agriculture and a minimum of 1,875 were of self employed status.

Table 4-1: Employment in agriculture by status, Devon district 2007 (SE – self employed: FT Full time; PT Part time)

District	FT SE	PT SE	Emp- loyees	Total	% FT SE	% PT SE	% emp- loyees
East Devon	1,028	1,310	839	3,177	32.4	41.2	26.4
Exeter	14	27	33	73	19.0	36.6	44.4
Mid Devon	1,293	1,704	1,020	4,017	32.2	42.4	25.4
North Devon	1,228	1,528	689	3,445	35.7	44.4	20.0
South Hams	870	1,274	724	2,868	30.3	44.4	25.2
Teignbridge	674	1,209	523	2,406	28.0	50.3	21.7
Torrige	1,340	1,559	874	3,773	35.5	41.3	23.2
West Devon	1,021	1,438	717	3,176	32.1	45.3	22.6
Devon	7,468	10,050	5,417	22,936	32.6	43.8	23.6

Source: Defra Agricultural Survey 2007

Figure 4-1: Employment in agriculture by status, Devon districts, 2007



Source: Defra Agricultural Survey 2007

Trends 2005 to 2007

4.6 Over the three years 2005 to 2007 agricultural employment in Devon reduced modestly as the Table 4-2 shows. However, whilst the numbers of employees and full-time self employed farmers decreased year on year the number of part-time self employed farmers increased. Although there were some variations at a district level this general picture prevailed throughout the county.

Table 4-2: Agricultural employment in Devon, 2005 to 2007 by status

Devon	2005	2006	2007
FT self employed farmers	7,975	7,953	7,468
PT self employed farmers	9,716	9,836	10,050
Employees	6,181	5,451	5,417
Total	23,872	23,240	22,936

Source: Defra Agricultural Survey

National Parks (NPs)

- 4.7 Although no district level agricultural labour force data has been published since 2007, Defra has published estimates for National Parks, including both Exmoor and Dartmoor. This section provides a summary.
- 4.8 Table 4-3 shows that agricultural employment in Exmoor NP has increased slightly in recent years, across all three categories of labour. Self-employment has increased, in total from 1,015 to 1,045 people, accounting for 72% of the total in 2009.
- 4.9 Agricultural employment in Dartmoor NP has increased very slightly between 2007 and 2009, rising from an estimated 2,094 to 2,117. Self-employment has remained constant at around 1,660; a small increase in full-time farmers was recorded alongside a small decline in part-time farmers. Overall self-employment accounted for over 78% of all agricultural workers on Dartmoor in 2009.

Table 4-3: Agricultural employment in Exmoor & Dartmoor National Parks by Status, 2007 to 2009

Labour	2007	2008	2009
Exmoor Farmers self employed full time	415	414	423
Exmoor Farmers self employed part time	605	592	622
Exmoor Employees	350	397	409
Exmoor Total labour	1,369	1,403	1,454
Exmoor Farmers self employed full time % of all	30.3%	29.5%	29.1%
Exmoor Farmers self employed part time % of all	44.2%	42.2%	42.8%
Exmoor Employees % of all	25.5%	28.3%	28.1%
<hr/>			
Dartmoor Farmers self employed full time	601	608	625
Dartmoor Farmers self employed part time	1,059	1,044	1,034
Dartmoor Employees	434	445	458
Dartmoor Total labour	2,094	2,098	2,117
Dartmoor Farmers self employed full time % of all	28.7%	29.0%	29.5%
Dartmoor Farmers self employed part time % of all	50.5%	49.8%	48.8%
Dartmoor Employees % of all	20.7%	21.2%	21.7%

Source: Defra Agricultural Survey 2007 – 2009

5: Summary and Conclusions

- 5.1 As has been noted in the previous Sections, robust up-to-date information on self-employment at a district level is very limited. Estimates derived from the APS, in particular, are subject to high levels of sampling error. As a consequence caution is required when interpreting statistics.
- 5.2 The analysis of agricultural employment indicates that part-time self-employment is very important. An estimated 7,000 self employed people work in agriculture in Devon as a ‘second’ or even ‘third’ job. There is no information at all on numbers of people working in other industries in a self employed capacity as an adjunct to a ‘main’ job elsewhere. Whereas business surveys of employers provide a good indication of numbers of all ‘employee’ jobs, both main and subsidiary, there is only the Defra Agricultural Survey available to provide some insight into the range of self-employment jobs available. As a consequence the estimated 63,000 ‘main’ self employed jobs in Devon which are derived from the APS must be considered very much as a baseline. There are at least 7,000 ‘subsidiary’ self employed jobs in agriculture alone.
- 5.3 With these caveats noted, it is worth summarising the key messages the analysis in Sections 2, 3 and 4 has identified. These are as follows:
- Self-employment accounts for a higher share of ‘main’ jobs in Devon than in the South West region or UK; in 2001 the Devon share was over 20% and more recently it is estimated to be at least 17.5% (SW 15.2%, UK 13.2%).
 - In 2001 self-employment was highest in terms of shares of all residents employed in Torridge, West Devon and South Hams – over 24% in each district. These districts also recorded similarly high percentages in the period 2007/08 to 2009/10.
 - Self-employment is significantly higher amongst employed men than amongst employed women: over 22% countywide for men as compared with 12.4% for women, (2007/08 to 2009/10 average).
 - The industry sectors where self-employment is particularly high in terms of percentage share of all employment are agriculture & fishing and construction – above 45% of all employed residents. The share is around one-quarter in hotels & restaurants, other business services and ‘other’ services (personal & leisure in the main). Shares are generally consistent across the county’s districts, although lower amongst employed residents of Exeter.
 - As compared with the UK a significantly higher share of self employed ‘main’ jobs in Devon is accounted for by agriculture, over 15% as against 6%. The share attributed to distribution, hotels & restaurants is also relatively high in Devon. The share attributed to transport & communications is much lower in Devon than in the UK; similarly Devon’s profile of self employed residents has lower shares attributed to

financial & business services, 'public sector' industries and 'other' services than nationally.

- The occupation group where self-employment is particularly high in terms of percentage share of all employed residents is skilled trades, 47% county-wide. The share exceeds 50% in several districts and is above 40% in all others apart from Exeter, where it is 30%. The other occupation group where self-employment accounts for a high share of employment is managers & administrators, around 30% countywide. The self-employment share is around 19% amongst both professionals and associate professionals countywide. Exeter is the only district where self-employment contributes relatively low shares of total employed residents across all occupation groups.
- Devon's profile of self employed 'main' jobs broken down by broad occupation groups shows relatively high shares accounted for by managerial jobs, skilled trades and elementary occupations as compared with the UK. In contrast self employed people make up relatively lower shares of all employed residents in professional, associate professional and plant operative & driver jobs in Devon. (This last finding reflects the low shares of self employed people working in transport industry sectors recorded by the APS – and may be statistically unsound).
- A very high percentage of self employed people tend to work within or from their home district; this is true across all Devon districts.
- It is difficult to establish reliable trends in self-employment at a district level because survey data is based on a small sample of households. Overall there is some limited evidence to suggest that numbers of self employed 'main' jobs may have increased by around 2,500 in Devon between 2001 and 2010, but confidence in this figure is not high.
- Defra's surveys of employment in agriculture indicate that self-employment contributes a large share of total farm employment in Devon, over three quarters of the total. In recent years part time self-employment in agriculture has increased slightly whereas numbers of both full time self employed farmers and employees have decreased. However, total numbers have changed only marginally.