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INTRODUCTION

This report provides the latest in a regular series of quarterly updates looking at recent changes in the Oxfordshire economy. It has been prepared by the Oxfordshire Economic Observatory (OEO). The report is based primarily on official published statistics that have been released in the last three months, up to the end of March 2006. The main areas in which new information for Oxfordshire and its districts has become available during the last quarter, and which are discussed in this report, include data on business survival rates, commercial and industrial property, the availability of brownfield land, numbers of benefit claimants and educational attainment levels, including the latest GCSE and A level results for Oxfordshire. Updated information on claimant unemployment, job vacancies and house prices is also provided in the report.

The full list of new datasets discussed in the report is shown below:

- Updated business survival rate data up to 2004 (released by the Small Business Service in February 2006);
- Data on commercial and industrial property and rateable values for 2005, based on the 2005 revaluation (released by ODPM on 23 February 2006);
- Data on the amount of previously-developed (brownfield) land in each of the Oxfordshire districts and its suitability for housing development (released by ODPM on 21 March 2006);
- The latest monthly data on numbers of claimant unemployed and Job Centre Plus vacancies (for February 2006, released by ONS on 15 March 2006);
- Updated DWP benefits data for the July-September 2005 quarter, including data on the number of benefit claimants at small area level (released by the Department for Work & Pensions on 16 March 2006);
- GCSE and A level exam results for Oxfordshire schools in the 2004/05 academic year (published by the Department for Education & Skills in January 2006);

- Key Stage 2 test results for Oxfordshire primary schools in the 2004/05 academic year (released by the Department for Education & Skills);
- Further education success, retention and achievement rates, and work-based learning success rates (released by the Department for Education & Skills and the Learning & Skills Council on 23 February 2006);
- Updated house price data for the October-December 2005 quarter (released by the Land Registry on 2 February 2006). This data has been combined with information on average earnings to construct an index of house price affordability for each of the Oxfordshire local authority districts.

Other new data released in the last quarter that may be of interest to readers includes:

- Small area population estimates, for mid-2001 to mid-2001, providing data down to super output area (lower layer) level (released by ONS on the Neighbourhood Statistics website on 31 March 2006);
- Population estimates by ethnic group, for mid-2001 to mid-2003, providing data at local authority district level (released on the Neighbourhood Statistics website on 26 January and 24 March 2006);
- Number of dwellings by council tax band, for 2001, 2002 and 2003, providing data at census output area level (released on the Neighbourhood Statistics website on 31 January 2006);
- Modelled data on housing in poor condition, providing data at super output area level (released on the Neighbourhood Statistics website on 2 February 2006);
- Key Stage 2 and 3 test results and GCSE exam results for the 2002/03 academic year, analysed by location of pupil residence, providing data at super output area level (released on the Neighbourhood Statistics website on 7 March 2006).

Readers requiring help in obtaining their own data on Oxfordshire may be interested in a new website developed by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit (NRU), which was launched in February 2006. The website and an accompanying report are outputs of a project commissioned by the NRU on “Data Provision for Neighbourhood Renewal”. The aim of the project is to identify and signpost available datasets and resources to help local partnerships to assess, baseline and monitor neighbourhood-level change. The project was carried out by Oxfordshire-based Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI). Further details can be found at the project website, www.data4nr.net.

The remainder of this report provides a brief commentary on the new data released in the last quarter. Supporting statistical tables are grouped together at the end of the report.

BUSINESS SURVIVAL RATES

Updated statistics on business survival rates were released by the Small Business Service in February 2006. We focus here on three year survival rates, which show the percentage of VAT registered businesses still trading three years after their initial VAT registration. Figures are provided only for the combined Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire area; a separate breakdown for Oxfordshire is unfortunately not available. The latest figures are for businesses registered in 2001, and show that survival rates in the MKOB area continue to be above the regional and national averages (see Table 1). There has been little overall change in survival rates in the area during the last five years.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Statistics on commercial and industrial property for April 2005 were released by ODPM in February 2006. These statistics are based on the 2005 revaluation of properties, and provide information on the main bulk use classes such as retail, offices, factories and warehouses. Data is available at local authority district level, and an annual time series is now available back to 1998. The relevant results for each of the Oxfordshire districts are summarised in Tables 2 to 6.

Overall trends in Oxfordshire since 1998 can be summarised as follows:

- A loss of approximately 33,000 square metres of retail floorspace, representing a 3% overall reduction in the county. Losses have been experienced in all Oxfordshire districts except Cherwell;
- Significant growth in commercial office floorspace, amounting to an additional 297,000 square metres since 1998 (a 38% increase). Most of this growth in absolute terms has been in Oxford City and Vale of White Horse;
- Substantial growth in factory floorspace, totalling an extra 292,000 square metres since 1998 (an 18% increase). Floorspace growth has been concentrated entirely in Oxford City and Vale of White Horse districts;
- Warehouse floorspace has increased in all Oxfordshire districts since 1998, with an overall increase in the county of 256,000 square metres (or 16%). Much of this growth has been in Cherwell district.

Table 6 shows the average rateable values for commercial and industrial property, for each of the Oxfordshire districts. The figures shown are for April 2005, taking into account the 2005 revaluation of properties. Overall, rateable values per square metre are below the South East average in all Oxfordshire districts except Oxford City.

PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED LAND

New data on previously developed (brownfield) land and its suitability for housing development was released by ODPM in March 2006. The data is available at local authority district level and relates to the position in March 2004. Table 7 summarises the relevant data for Oxfordshire. The figures shown include vacant and derelict land and buildings, plus land currently in use with known redevelopment potential. Overall, a total of almost 1,300 hectares is identified in Oxfordshire, of which around half (650 hectares) is in Cherwell district. Of this total, an estimated 780 hectares is suitable for housing development, with the potential for around 7,200 new dwellings. Most of this dwelling potential is located within Cherwell and Oxford City.

CLAIMANT UNEMPLOYMENT

Claimant unemployment rates in Oxfordshire continue to be well below the regional and national averages. The latest monthly figures, for February 2006, show a total of 4,350 Oxfordshire residents out of work and claiming Job Seekers Allowance. This represents 1.1% of the working age population, and compares with rates of 1.7% in the South East as a whole and 2.6% in England. Claimant unemployment rates are currently below 1% in South Oxfordshire (0.9%), Vale of White Horse (0.8%) and West Oxfordshire (0.7%). Rates for Cherwell (1.3%) and Oxford City (1.6%) are somewhat higher, but still below the regional average (Table 8).

Within the last 12 months, Oxfordshire has seen a 9% increase in the number of unemployed claimants. This compares with average increases of 16% in the South East and 13% in England as a whole. Cherwell has experienced the largest increase in claimant unemployment in the last 12 months; increases in the other districts have generally been relatively modest (see Table 8).

We have again ranked each of the Oxfordshire districts against the other 62 local authority districts in the South East, according to the proportion of their working age population who are currently out of work and claiming Job Seekers Allowance. The resulting "unemployment rate league table" is shown in Table 9. The results show that West Oxfordshire still has the lowest unemployment rate of any local authority district in the South East (unchanged from the previous quarter). Vale of White Horse (ranked equal second) and South Oxfordshire (ranked equal seventh) are also amongst the top ranked districts in the region. Cherwell has slipped down the league table in recent months, and is currently ranked only equal 32nd (falling from equal 14th in the previous quarter). Oxford City also continues in mid table, currently ranked 38th of the 67 South East districts (little changed from 40th in the previous quarter).

JOB CENTRE VACANCIES

Alongside the increase in unemployment levels noted above, there has also been a 9% fall in the number of vacancies notified to Job Centres in Oxfordshire during the last 12 months, confirming a general slackening in labour market conditions. The latest monthly figures, for February 2006, are summarised in Table 10. Overall, there are currently 2.4 unemployed claimants per notified vacancy in Oxfordshire; this compares with a ratio of 2.0 in February 2005. Despite this recent increase, the ratio of claimants to job vacancies is still well below the South East (3.5) and national averages (3.8).

Figures for the individual Oxfordshire districts reveal some variation, with the lowest ratios of claimants to vacancies found in Cherwell (2.0), Vale of White Horse (2.3) and West Oxfordshire (2.1). The ratio is higher in both Oxford City (2.8) and South Oxfordshire (3.0), but these values are still well below the regional average.

BENEFIT CLAIMANTS

The latest data on numbers of benefit claimants was released by the Department for Work and Pensions in March 2006. The figures relate to the July-September 2005 quarter, and are available at small area level for super output areas and wards; figures are also available at local authority district level. We focus here on working age benefit claimants. The number of claimants provides a measure of the numbers of people of working age who are on low incomes, as well as those excluded from the labour market through unemployment, ill health or disability. Table 11 summarises the relevant figures for each of the Oxfordshire districts.

Claimant numbers showed little overall change in the 12 months to July-September 2005, with a slight increase in Oxford City offset by slight reductions in South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire. The proportion of working age residents claiming benefits is well below the national average in all Oxfordshire districts. The highest proportion of claimants is found in Oxford City (9.1%) and Cherwell (8.0%). West Oxfordshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse are amongst a group of local authority districts in the South East with very low proportions of working age claimants (see Table 12).

Despite this favourable overall picture, analysis of the data at local authority ward level reveals some areas of Oxfordshire where the proportion of benefit claimants is well above the national average. There are currently six wards (out of 137 in Oxfordshire) in which the proportion of claimants is above the Great Britain average. These are:

- Blackbird Leys (Oxford City) – 22.1% of working age residents are claiming benefits;
- Northfield Brook (Oxford City) – 21.7%;
- Barton & Sandhills (Oxford City) – 19.7%;
- Banbury Ruscote (Cherwell) – 18.2%;
- Littlemore (Oxford City) – 16.9%;

- Rose Hill & Iffley (Oxford City) – 15.5%.

GCSE AND 'A' LEVEL EXAM RESULTS

Exam results for Oxfordshire at GCSE and 'A' level for the 2004/05 academic year were released by the Department for Education and Skills in January 2006. The latest results, although showing some improvement on 2003/04, confirm the relatively weak performance of Oxfordshire schools in recent years.

The average points score per student in 'A' level exams in 2005 was 256.7 in Oxfordshire (see Table 13). This is 8% lower than both the English average and the average for the MKOB Learning & Skills Council area. In 2002, this gap was around 6%, so Oxfordshire has failed to keep pace with the improvement in results at national level in recent years.

The same is true of the latest GCSE results (see Table 14). In the five years since 2000, the proportion of pupils gaining five or more good GCSE's (at grades A*-C) increased by only 3.3% points in Oxfordshire, from 50.3% to 53.6% in 2005. This compares with an average increase of 7.1% points in England, from 49.2% to 56.3%. The performance of Oxfordshire schools continues to lag both the regional and national averages. Table 15 shows GCSE results at local authority district level, and ranks Oxfordshire's districts against all other local authorities in the South East. None of Oxfordshire's districts are currently ranked in the top 20 performers in the region. The county's top performers are West Oxfordshire (ranked 22nd) and South Oxfordshire (ranked equal 30th). GCSE results in Oxford City are amongst the worst in the South East, with only 38.5% of pupils gaining at least 5 good GCSE's in 2005.

Table 16 analyses the latest GCSE results in more detail, identifying the number of poorly performing schools in the county. The table is based on results for LEA schools only; independent schools are not included. In 2005, the proportion of pupils gaining five or more good GCSE's was below the national average in just under half of Oxfordshire's LEA schools (16 out of 34). This has increased from one third of schools (11 out of 33) in 2000.

KEY STAGE 2 TEST RESULTS

Key Stage 2 test results for the 2004/05 academic year were released by the Department for Education & Skills in the last quarter. The results show a slight overall improvement for Oxfordshire schools compared with the 2003/04 performance. Overall results for the county are broadly similar to the national average, although with a slightly higher proportion of pupils achieving the higher Level 5 performance (see Table 17).

FURTHER EDUCATION AND WORK-BASED LEARNING

New statistics on success rates in further education and work-based learning for 16-19 year olds were released by the Department for Education & Skills and the Learning & Skills Council in February 2006. These statistics are available for local authority districts, and the latest figures are for the 2003/04 academic year. The results for Oxfordshire are shown in Table 18 and 19.

Success and retention rates for further education are above the national average in all Oxfordshire districts. However, achievement rates for 16-18 year olds in Oxfordshire are slightly below the national average (Table 18). Success rates in work-based learning are more difficult to interpret, and seem to show significant year on year variation. However, the low success rates for participants in Oxford City appear to be a cause for concern (Table 19).

HOUSE PRICES AND AFFORDABILITY

Updated Land Registry property price data for the October-December 2005 quarter shows that the average house price in Oxfordshire at that time was £243,800. This is 6% above the South East average (£229,100) and 27% above the average for England and Wales (£191,300). House prices in the county increased by less than 1% in the 12 months to October-December 2005. This compares with average price increases of 2.5% in the South East and 4.6% in England and Wales (see Table 20).

Table 21 provides a house price league table for the 67 local authority districts in the South East. All of Oxfordshire's districts, with the exception of Cherwell, are in the top half of the rankings. Average prices are currently highest in South

Oxfordshire (£288,400, ranked 12th highest in the South East), followed by Oxford City (£260,000, ranked 24th). Prices are lowest in Cherwell, averaging £204,300 and currently ranked 45th of the 67 South East districts.

Housing affordability is a function both of house prices and local earnings or incomes. Table 22 shows a crude “index of affordability” for each of the Oxfordshire districts. The index shows the average (mean) house price as a multiple of the average (mean) annual earnings for full-time workers in each district. The higher the index value, the less affordable is owner occupation for people working in that area. The average index value for Oxfordshire in the October-December 2005 quarter was 9.0, slightly above the South East average (8.2) and well above the average for England and Wales (7.0). The index of affordability is currently above the South East average in all of the Oxfordshire districts except Cherwell. Affordability appears to be worst in South Oxfordshire, with an index value of 10.9.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Selected documents relevant to the Oxfordshire economy published in the last quarter:

Learning & Skills Council MKOB, Monthly Economic Intelligence Report, February 2006 and March 2006.

Oxfordshire Economic Partnership, Draft Economic Development Strategy for Oxfordshire 2006-2015, January 2006.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Table 1 – Three Year Business Survival Rates, By Year of Business Registration

Year of VAT Registration	Milton Keynes, Oxon & Bucks	South East	England
1994	65.2	64.6	62.3
1995	70.4	68.8	65.6
1996	70.6	70.4	67.1
1997	72.0	71.9	68.7
1998	72.7	71.3	68.1
1999	72.4	72.1	69.2
2000	73.5	72.3	69.4
2001	72.5	71.1	68.8

Source: Small Business Service, VAT Survival Rates, released February 2006.

Note: Figures show the percentage of VAT registered businesses still trading three years after registration. Separate figures for Oxfordshire are not available.

Table 2 – Trends in Retail Floorspace in Oxfordshire’s Districts, 1998-2005 (square metres, thousands)

Year	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxon	Vale of W Horse	West Oxon
1998	235	369	159	165	134
1999	241	354	158	164	135
2000	261	359	167	161	131
2001	276	379	166	161	133
2002	289	377	170	162	132
2003	294	375	168	162	131
2004	294	381	165	162	131
2005	273	352	148	138	118
Change, 1998-05	+ 38	- 17	- 11	- 27	- 16

Source: ODPM, Valuation Office Agency and University College London, Commercial and Industrial Floorspace and Rateable Value Statistics.

Table 3 – Trends in Commercial Office Floorspace in Oxfordshire’s Districts, 1998-2005 (square metres, thousands)

Year	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxon	Vale of W Horse	West Oxon
1998	142	254	128	183	81
1999	141	259	142	176	83
2000	157	284	153	288	92
2001	168	291	159	318	92
2002	173	307	164	348	97
2003	188	326	168	353	102
2004	193	331	170	346	113
2005	190	332	175	293	95
Change, 1998-05	+ 48	+ 78	+ 47	+ 110	+ 14

Source: ODPM, Valuation Office Agency and University College London, Commercial and Industrial Floorspace and Rateable Value Statistics.

Table 4 – Trends in Factory Floorspace in Oxfordshire’s Districts, 1998-2005 (square metres, thousands)

Year	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxon	Vale of W Horse	West Oxon
1998	605	192	260	238	386
1999	619	180	260	245	389
2000	615	413	273	242	386
2001	646	410	270	242	388
2002	652	343	274	246	388
2003	693	468	270	252	396
2004	669	468	266	274	375
2005	602	459	258	318	336
Change, 1998-05	- 3	+ 267	- 2	+ 80	- 50

Source: ODPM, Valuation Office Agency and University College London, Commercial and Industrial Floorspace and Rateable Value Statistics.

Table 5 – Trends in Warehouse Floorspace in Oxfordshire’s Districts, 1998-2005 (square metres, thousands)

Year	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxon	Vale of W Horse	West Oxon
1998	456	254	321	433	179
1999	473	254	319	433	184
2000	510	257	339	486	185
2001	547	255	338	486	184
2002	550	261	354	479	182
2003	569	252	374	473	184
2004	578	254	381	473	191
2005	595	256	378	475	195
Change, 1998-05	+ 139	+ 2	+ 57	+ 42	+ 16

Source: ODPM, Valuation Office Agency and University College London, Commercial and Industrial Floorspace and Rateable Value Statistics.

Table 6 – Rateable Value of Commercial and Industrial Property, April 2005 (£ per square metre)

Area	Retail	Commercial Offices	Factories	Warehouses	All Bulk Classes
England	131	134	29	40	66
South East	139	121	41	54	80
Cherwell	159	100	41	45	68
Oxford City	198	136	28	54	98
South Oxfordshire	122	112	42	49	68
Vale of White Horse	116	113	46	45	69
West Oxfordshire	105	100	37	36	55

Source: ODPM, Valuation Office Agency and University College London, Commercial and Industrial Floorspace and Rateable Value Statistics.

Table 7 – Suitability of Brownfield Land for Housing Development in Oxfordshire’s Districts, March 2004

Area	Land That is Unused or Could be Available for Redevelopment (hectares)	Of Which: Land Suitable for Housing (hectares)	Estimated Number of Dwellings on this Land
Cherwell	650	550	2,580
Oxford City	270	60	2,350
South Oxfordshire	170	130	930
Vale of White Horse	150	30	1,210
West Oxfordshire	40	10	160
Total: Oxfordshire	1,280	780	7,230

Source: ODPM, National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land.

Table 8 – Claimant Count Unemployment

Area	Number of JSA Claimants		Claimants as % of Working Age Population	
	Feb 2005	Feb 2006	Feb 2005	Feb 2006
England	716,177	812,210	2.3	2.6
South East	74,022	85,978	1.5	1.7
Oxfordshire	4,001	4,355	1.0	1.1
Cherwell	805	1,053	1.0	1.3
Oxford City	1,655	1,672	1.6	1.6
South Oxfordshire	672	686	0.9	0.9
Vale of White Horse	513	538	0.7	0.8
West Oxfordshire	356	406	0.6	0.7

Source: ONS, monthly claimant count data (NOMIS).

Table 9 – Unemployed Claimants as Percentage of Working Age Population, South East Local Authority Districts, February 2006

District and Rank	% Rate	District and Rank	% Rate	District and Rank	% Rate
1 – West Oxfordshire	0.7	24 – Basingstoke & Deane	1.2	46 – Arun	1.8
2 – Hart	0.8	24 – Bracknell Forest	1.2	46 – Lewes	1.8
2 – Mole Valley	0.8	24 – Chiltern	1.2	49 – Canterbury	2.0
2 – Vale of White Horse	0.8	24 – Fareham	1.2	49 – Rother	2.0
2 – Waverley	0.8	24 – Horsham	1.2	51 – Milton Keynes	2.1
2 – Wokingham	0.8	24 – Tunbridge Wells	1.2	52 – Dartford	2.2
7 – Elmbridge	0.9	24 – West Berkshire	1.2	53 – Havant	2.4
7 – Reigate & Banstead	0.9	24 – Woking	1.2	53 – Reading	2.4
7 – South Oxfordshire	0.9	32 – Cherwell	1.3	53 – Southampton	2.4
7 – Surrey Heath	0.9	32 – Eastleigh	1.3	56 – Portsmouth	2.5
7 – Tandridge	0.9	32 – Tonbridge & Malling	1.3	57 – Slough	2.7
12 – Aylesbury Vale	1.0	32 – Windsor & Maidenhead	1.3	58 – Medway Towns	2.9
12 – East Hampshire	1.0	36 – Chichester	1.5	58 – Swale	2.9
12 – Guildford	1.0	36 – Rushmoor	1.5	60 – Dover	3.0
12 – Mid Sussex	1.0	38 – Maidstone	1.6	61 – Eastbourne	3.1
12 – New Forest	1.0	38 – Oxford City	1.6	61 – Gravesham	3.1
12 – Test Valley	1.0	38 – Spelthorne	1.6	61 – Isle of Wight	3.1
12 – Winchester	1.0	38 – Wycombe	1.6	64 – Brighton & Hove	3.3
19 – Epsom & Ewell	1.1	42 – Ashford	1.7	64 – Shepway	3.3
19 – Runnymede	1.1	42 – Crawley	1.7	66 – Hastings	3.6
19 – Sevenoaks	1.1	42 – Gosport	1.7	67 – Thanet	4.1
19 – South Bucks	1.1	42 – Worthing	1.7		
19 – Wealden	1.1	46 – Adur	1.8	South East average	1.7

Source: ONS, monthly claimant count data (NOMIS).

Table 10 – Job Centre Plus Vacancies and Claimant Unemployment

Area	Number of Notified Vacancies		JSA Claimants per Notified Vacancy	
	Feb 2005	Feb 2006	Feb 2005	Feb 2006
England	225,729	212,248	3.2	3.8
South East	24,943	24,287	3.0	3.5
Oxfordshire	1,958	1,783	2.0	2.4
Cherwell	454	523	1.8	2.0
Oxford City	569	599	2.9	2.8
South Oxfordshire	378	228	1.8	3.0
Vale of White Horse	347	238	1.5	2.3
West Oxfordshire	210	195	1.7	2.1

Source: ONS, monthly claimant count and Job Centre Plus vacancy data (NOMIS).

Table 11 – Working Age Claimants of Key Benefits

Area	Number of Benefit Claimants		Claimants as % of Working Age Population	
	Jul-Sep 2004	Jul-Sep 2005	Jul-Sep 2004	Jul-Sep 2005
Great Britain	5,351,000	5,324,100	14.9	14.8
Cherwell	6,700	6,700	8.0	8.0
Oxford City	9,300	9,400	9.0	9.1
South Oxfordshire	5,200	5,100	6.7	6.5
Vale of White Horse	4,800	4,700	6.7	6.6
West Oxfordshire	3,800	3,700	6.5	6.4

Source: DWP Working Age Client Group Benefits Data, Work & Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data.

Table 12 – Percentage of Working Age Population Claiming Key Benefits, South East Local Authority Districts, July-September 2005

District and Rank	%	District and Rank	%	District and Rank	%
1 – Hart	5.0	23 – Epsom & Ewell	7.6	46 – Lewes	11.4
2 – Wokingham	5.2	25 – Reigate & Banstead	7.7	48 – Milton Keynes	11.5
3 – Surrey Heath	5.8	25 – Test Valley	7.7	49 – Canterbury	11.6
4 – Elmbridge	6.2	25 – Woking	7.7	50 – Arun	11.8
5 – West Oxfordshire	6.4	28 – Basingstoke & Deane	7.8	51 – Adur	12.2
6 – South Oxfordshire	6.5	29 – Cherwell	8.0	52 – Worthing	12.4
7 – Guildford	6.6	30 – Eastleigh	8.3	53 – Portsmouth	12.9
7 – Runnymede	6.6	30 – Sevenoaks	8.3	54 – Medway Towns	13.2
7 – Vale of White Horse	6.6	30 – Wealden	8.3	55 – Rother	13.3
7 – Waverley	6.6	33 – Tonbridge & Malling	8.4	56 – Gravesham	13.4
7 – Winchester	6.6	33 – Wycombe	8.4	56 – Slough	13.4
12 – Mole Valley	6.7	35 – Rushmoor	8.5	56 – Southampton	13.4
12 – South Bucks	6.7	36 – Tunbridge Wells	8.6	59 – Havant	13.6
14 – Mid Sussex	6.9	37 – Chichester	8.7	60 – Swale	14.4
14 – Windsor & Maidenhead	6.9	38 – Spelthorne	8.9	61 – Brighton & Hove	14.9
16 – Chiltern	7.0	39 – Oxford City	9.1	61 – Dover	14.9
16 – Horsham	7.0	40 – New Forest	9.4	63 – Isle of Wight	15.1
18 – Fareham	7.1	41 – Maidstone	9.8	64 – Eastbourne	15.6
19 – East Hampshire	7.2	42 – Reading	10.8	65 – Shepway	15.8
19 – West Berkshire	7.2	43 – Ashford	11.0	66 – Thanet	19.8
21 – Aylesbury Vale	7.3	43 – Crawley	11.0	67 – Hastings	20.7
22 – Tandridge	7.4	45 – Gosport	11.1		
23 – Bracknell Forest	7.6	46 – Dartford	11.4		

Source: DWP Working Age Client Group Benefits Data, Work & Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data.

Table 13 – GCE ‘A’ Level Results for Oxfordshire Schools and Colleges, 2002-2005

Year	Average Point Score per Student		
	Oxfordshire	MKOB LSC Area	England
2002	240.5	--	254.7
2003	241.1	--	258.9
2004	245.5	268.8	269.2
2005	256.7	278.4	277.8

Source: Department for Education & Skills, School and College (Post 16) Performance Tables.

Table 14 – GCSE Exam Performance in Oxfordshire and MKOB LSC Area Schools, 2000-2005

Year	% of 15 Year Old Pupils Gaining 5+ GCSE’s at Grades A*-C			
	Oxfordshire	Milton Keynes	Buckinghamshire	England
2000	50.3	41.0	61.6	49.2
2001	49.7	42.5	63.4	50.0
2002	51.5	46.0	64.4	51.6
2003	51.4	48.0	65.5	52.9
2004	51.2	48.2	65.9	53.7
2005	53.6	51.9	67.3	56.3

Source: Department for Education & Skills, School Performance Tables

Table 15 – Percentage of 15 Year Old Pupils Gaining 5+ GCSE’s at Grades A*-C, South East Local Authority Districts, 2005

District and Rank	%	District and Rank	%	District and Rank	%
1 – Winchester	77.2	24 – Elmbridge	61.0	47 – Bracknell Forest	54.0
2 – Tunbridge Wells	75.7	25 – Ashford	60.8	48 – Havant	52.9
3 – South Bucks	71.0	26 – West Berkshire	60.5	49 – Crawley	52.7
4 – Epsom & Ewell	70.9	26 – Wokingham	60.5	50 – Medway	51.9
5 – Eastleigh	70.4	28 – Canterbury	60.2	50 – Milton Keynes	51.9
6 – Hart	70.2	29 – Reigate & Banstead	59.7	50 – Thanet	51.9
7 – Wycombe	69.6	30 – South Oxfordshire	59.2	53 – Swale	51.8
8 – Chiltern	68.6	30 – Windsor & Maidenhead	59.2	54 – Lewes	51.2
8 – Horsham	68.6	32 – Fareham	58.9	55 – Worthing	49.7
10 – Mid Sussex	68.0	32 – Wealden	58.9	56 – Cherwell	48.6
11 – Dartford	66.7	34 – Woking	58.8	57 – Rushmoor	48.5
12 – Mole Valley	66.6	35 – Tandridge	58.2	58 – Southampton	47.0
13 – Surrey Heath	66.4	36 – Eastbourne	57.0	59 – Arun	45.9
14 – Rother	65.9	37 – Slough	56.3	59 – Portsmouth	45.9
15 – Maidstone	64.4	37 – Spelthorne	56.3	61 – Reading	45.8
16 – Aylesbury Vale	63.3	39 – Basingstoke & Deane	56.1	62 – Gosport	45.3
16 – Tonbridge & Malling	63.3	40 – Runnymede	55.6	63 – Isle of Wight	45.0
18 – East Hampshire	63.2	41 – Vale of White Horse	55.3	64 – Hastings	39.8
19 – Waverley	62.8	42 – Brighton & Hove	55.0	65 – Oxford City	38.5
20 – Dover	62.4	43 – Chichester	54.8	66 – Adur	35.0
21 – New Forest	61.8	43 – Test Valley	54.8	67 – Sevenoaks	31.9
22 – West Oxfordshire	61.7	45 – Gravesham	54.4		
23 – Guildford	61.3	46 – Shepway	54.3	South East average	57.5

Source: Department for Education & Skills.

Table 16 – GCSE Performance of Oxfordshire LEA Secondary Schools, 2000-2005

Year	% of Oxfordshire LEA Schools With:				
	< 30% of pupils with 5+ GCSE's at A*-C	< 40% of pupils with 5+ GCSE's at A*-C	< 50% of pupils with 5+ GCSE's at A*-C	< English average % of pupils with 5+ GCSE's at A*-C	> English average % of pupils with 5+ GCSE's at A*-C
2000	1	5	13	11	22
2001	2	7	13	13	20
2002	3	5	11	14	19
2003	2	5	12	15	18
2004	2	5	12	15	19
2005	3	4	10	16	18

Source: Department for Education & Skills, School Performance Tables.

Note: Totals are out of 33 LEA secondary schools in Oxfordshire (34 in 2004 and 2005).

Table 17 – Key Stage 2 Test Results for Primary Schools, 2004 and 2005

Attainment Level	Oxfordshire		England	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
<i>English</i>				
% of pupils achieving Level 4+	78	80	78	79
% of pupils achieving Level 5	28	30	27	27
<i>Maths</i>				
% of pupils achieving Level 4+	74	74	74	75
% of pupils achieving Level 5	32	31	31	31
<i>Science</i>				
% of pupils achieving Level 4+	86	87	86	86
% of pupils achieving Level 5	44	49	43	47
<i>Overall Average</i>				
% of pupils achieving Level 4+	79	80	79	80
% of pupils achieving Level 5	35	37	34	35

Source: Department for Education & Skills, School Performance Tables.

Table 18 – Further Education Success, Retention and Achievement Rates, 2003/04

Area	Success Rate (%)		Retention Rate (%)		Achievement Rate (%)	
	16-18 Years	19 Years	16-18 Years	19 Years	16-18 Years	19 Years
England	69	72	83	85	83	85
South East	73	77	87	89	84	86
Cherwell	71	82	86	92	83	89
Oxford City	76	76	93	91	82	83
South Oxfordshire	73	76	88	88	82	86
Vale of White Horse	73	79	91	92	80	85
West Oxfordshire	70	76	92	87	76	87

Source: Department for Education & Skills and the Learning & Skills Council.

Table 19 – Work-Based Learning Success Rates, 2002/03 and 2003/04

Area	2002/03		2003/04	
	16-18 Years	19 Years	16-18 Years	19 Years
England	30	24	33	29
South East	27	20	30	26
Cherwell	26	21	29	29
Oxford City	18	18	22	21
South Oxfordshire	24	23	30	28
Vale of White Horse	29	15	33	32
West Oxfordshire	21	18	47	41

Source: Department for Education & Skills and the Learning & Skills Council.

Table 20 – Average House Prices, All Property Sales

Area	Oct-Dec 2004 (£)	Oct-Dec 2005 (£)	Annual % Change
England & Wales	182,920	191,327	+ 4.6
South East	223,465	229,083	+ 2.5
Oxfordshire	242,130	243,844	+ 0.7
Cherwell	202,075	204,329	+ 1.1
Oxford City	278,647	259,952	- 6.7
South Oxfordshire	262,543	288,420	+ 9.9
Vale of White Horse	239,934	243,867	+ 1.6
West Oxfordshire	244,062	237,830	- 2.6

Source: HM Land Registry, quarterly house price data.

Table 21 – Average House Prices, South East Local Authority Districts, October-December 2005

District and Rank	£	District and Rank	£	District and Rank	£
1 – Elmbridge	432,523	24 – Oxford City	259,952	47 – Canterbury	194,739
2 – South Bucks	416,558	25 – Tonbridge & Malling	257,417	48 – Dartford	191,907
3 – Chiltern	387,630	26 – Test Valley	254,790	49 – Adur	191,410
4 – Mole Valley	356,297	27 – Mid Sussex	252,031	50 – Worthing	189,806
5 – Waverley	341,671	28 – New Forest	251,233	51 – Havant	188,387
6 – Windsor & Maidenhead	339,179	29 – West Berkshire	250,414	52 – Slough	186,886
7 – Sevenoaks	304,037	30 – Vale of White Horse	243,867	53 – Rushmoor	186,269
8 – Winchester	303,999	31 – Aylesbury Vale	238,106	54 – Eastbourne	185,805
9 – Guildford	299,205	32 – West Oxfordshire	237,830	55 – Crawley	185,792
10 – Runnymede	297,047	33 – Spelthorne	237,720	56 – Gravesham	182,647
11 – Tandridge	295,564	34 – Wealden	233,071	57 – Isle of Wight	182,242
12 – South Oxfordshire	288,420	35 – Lewes	229,265	58 – Shepway	180,350
13 – Epsom & Ewell	284,802	36 – Rother	226,773	59 – Milton Keynes	176,464
14 – Surrey Heath	282,010	37 – Bracknell Forest	222,974	60 – Dover	171,897
15 – Tunbridge Wells	281,859	38 – Brighton & Hove	220,846	61 – Swale	170,477
16 – Chichester	281,068	39 – Basingstoke & Deane	219,039	62 – Thanet	166,665
17 – Reigate & Banstead	279,258	40 – Fareham	218,641	63 – Southampton	163,790
18 – Woking	276,032	41 – Maidstone	208,124	64 – Medway Towns	157,553
19 – Wycombe	272,185	42 – Eastleigh	207,548	65 – Gosport	155,059
20 – Wokingham	269,251	43 – Ashford	207,091	66 – Portsmouth	153,886
21 – Hart	269,002	44 – Arun	206,364	67 – Hastings	149,224
22 – Horsham	266,549	45 – Cherwell	204,329		
23 – East Hampshire	262,416	46 – Reading	200,118	South East average	229,083

Source: HM Land Registry, quarterly house price data.

Table 22 – Index of Average House Prices as a Multiple of Average Annual Full-Time Earnings

Area	Average House Price (Oct-Dec 2005, £)	Average Full-Time Earnings (April 2005, £)	Index of Housing Affordability
England & Wales	191,327	27,180	7.0
South East	229,083	28,028	8.2
Oxfordshire	243,844	27,232	9.0
Cherwell	204,329	24,835	8.2
Oxford City	259,952	29,125	8.9
South Oxfordshire	288,420	26,473	10.9
Vale of White Horse	243,867	28,189	8.7
West Oxfordshire	237,830	25,293	9.4

Source: HM Land Registry, quarterly house price data, and ONS, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (workplace-based analysis).