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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides the latest in a series of quarterly updates looking at recent changes in the Oxfordshire economy. It has been prepared by the Oxfordshire Economic Observatory (OEO). The report draws largely on official published statistics that have been released in the last three months, since the completion of the last quarterly report at the beginning of April 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, are listed below:

- Estimates of household income, updated to 2004, for Oxfordshire as a whole (released by ONS on 9 May 2006) (see Section 2 of the report);
- Updated data on numbers of benefit claimants for the last quarter of 2005 (released by the Department for Work & Pensions in April 2006) (see Section 3);
- Latest monthly data on numbers of claimant unemployed, duration of unemployment and numbers of Job Centre Plus vacancies (for May 2006, released by ONS on 14 June 2006) (see Section 4);
- Data on numbers of jobs gained in each of the Oxfordshire districts through the various New Deal Programmes between 1998 and 2004 (released by the Department for Work & Pensions on 1 June 2006) (see Section 5);
- Data for 2004 on National Curriculum assessments at Key Stages 2 and 3, analysed by location of school and location of pupil residence (released by the Department for Education & Skills on 22 June 2006) (see Section 6);
- Updated house price data for the first quarter of 2006 (released by the Land Registry on 2 May 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 (see Section 7).

We have also taken the opportunity in this report to include some additional data on retail activity in Oxfordshire's town centres (in Section 8 of the report), and to report on recent trends in rural service provision in the county (Section 9). The Tables referred to in the text can be found at the end of the report.

## **2. HOUSEHOLD INCOME LEVELS**

Updated estimates of household income were released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in May 2006 (see Table 1). The latest figures, for 2004, show that household incomes per head in Oxfordshire (£14,980) are 15% above the English average (£13,040) and 2% above the South East average (£14,656). However, Oxfordshire's income levels are slightly below those in neighbouring Berkshire (£15,162) and well below the top South East performers, Buckinghamshire (£17,068) and Surrey (£17,729).

Table 1 also shows the growth in household income levels experienced during the last decade. Oxfordshire's growth, of 51%, is slightly above the national average (50%), but below the South East average of 54%. In fact, household incomes have grown faster than in Oxfordshire in most parts of the South East; only Southampton and the Isle of Wight experienced a slower growth in incomes. Oxfordshire has therefore lost ground on the rest of the region over this period.

## **3. BENEFIT CLAIMANTS**

The latest quarterly benefits data released by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) was released in April 2006. This shows the number of benefit claimants in the last quarter of 2005, and provides results at local authority district level and below, including wards and super output areas. The relevant figures for Oxfordshire's districts are summarised in Table 2; comparisons are also provided with the equivalent quarter in 2004. The benefits data relates to people of working age (males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59), and provides an overall count of the number of people claiming at least one key benefit. The benefits included are Bereavement Benefit; Carer's Allowance; Disability Living Allowance; Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance; Income Support; Jobseeker's Allowance; Pension Credit; and Widow's Benefit. This count of benefit claimants provides a measure of the number of working age people experiencing some form of income or employment deprivation.

The latest data, for the last quarter of 2005, reveals a total of around 29,200 benefit claimants in Oxfordshire, representing 7.4% of the working age population. This proportion is below the South East (9.9%) and national averages (14.8%). At district level, the proportion of benefit claimants is lowest in West Oxfordshire (6.2%) and highest in Oxford City (9.0%). South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire currently have amongst the lowest proportions of claimants in the South East (see Table 3).

Numbers of benefit claimants in Oxfordshire have fallen slightly during the last 12 months. Reductions in the number of claimants have been experienced in all districts except Cherwell, which has seen a slight increase. This slight reduction

in claimant numbers in the county contrasts with increases at regional and national level (see Table 2).

#### **4. UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES**

Unemployed claimants in Oxfordshire totalled almost 4,500 in May 2006, representing 1.1% of the working age population. This compares favourably with a South East average of 1.7% and an English average of 2.6% (see Table 4). Claimant count rates continue to be very low in West Oxfordshire (0.6%), Vale of White Horse (0.8%) and South Oxfordshire (0.9%). These are amongst the lowest unemployment rates in the South East, as shown in Table 5. West Oxfordshire currently has the lowest unemployment rate of any local authority district in the South East.

Despite this favourable overall picture, there are still some persistent pockets of relatively high unemployment in parts of Cherwell and Oxford City. Unemployment is currently above the national average in nine local authority wards. Six of these wards are in Oxford City, including Barton & Sandhills (3.6%), Blackbird Leys (4.3%), Cowley (2.8%), Littlemore (2.7%), Northfield Brook (3.2%) and Rose Hill & Iffley (3.2%). Three wards in Cherwell, all in Banbury, also have unemployment rates above the national average.

Within the last 12 months, unemployment levels have continued to increase in Oxfordshire. In the 12 months to May 2006, the number of people out of work in the county increased by 470, an increase of 12%. This compares with average increases of 18% in the South East and 13% in England as a whole (see Table 4). The growth in unemployment in Cherwell is a cause for concern; the district has seen a 24% increase in claimant numbers in the last 12 months, albeit from a relatively low base. The increase in unemployment levels in South Oxfordshire has also been well above the county average (at 22%), although again this was from a relatively low starting position and the district still has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the region. By contrast, both Oxford City and West Oxfordshire have seen only minor increases in unemployment during the last 12 months.

The proportion of unemployed claimants in Oxfordshire who have been out of work for more than 12 months is currently 13.5%; this is identical to the South East average and slightly below the national average (15.4%). The proportion of long-term unemployed in Oxfordshire has actually fallen slightly during the last 12 months, contrasting with increases at regional and national levels. The exception to this overall favourable picture is again Cherwell, which has seen an increase in the number of people out of work for over 12 months (see Table 6).

In tandem with the increase in unemployment levels experienced during the last 12 months, there has also been a decline in the number of job vacancies in the

economy. During May 2005, there were 1,840 notified vacancies in Oxfordshire, but by May 2006 this figure had fallen to only 1,360. Reductions in the number of notified job vacancies have been experienced in all Oxfordshire districts in the last 12 months (see Table 7). As a result, unemployment/vacancy ratios in the county have increased significantly, and are now above the South East average in both Oxford City (where there are 4.4 unemployed claimants per job vacancy) and South Oxfordshire (with 4.2 claimants per vacancy).

## **5. NEW DEAL PROGRAMMES**

Statistics on the numbers of jobs created through the Government's New Deal programmes have recently been released by the Department for Work & Pensions. This release provides a back-dated time series of data from 1998 to 2004; information is available at local authority district level and below. The New Deal programme is a key part of the Government's strategy to get people back into work. Various programmes have been developed, targeted at different client groups. This latest data release provides information on three key programmes: the New Deal for Young People (aged 16-24), the New Deal for the Long Term Unemployed (now renamed New Deal 25plus), and the New Deal for Lone Parents. The relevant figures for Oxfordshire's districts are summarised in Table 8, showing the number of jobs gained in each district through these programmes.

Overall, a total of 5,200 jobs were gained in Oxfordshire through the three main New Deal programmes between 1998 and 2004. Job gains have been largest in Oxford City (1,950) and Cherwell (1,080). Of the total jobs gained in Oxfordshire, 46% (2,400) were from the New Deal for Lone Parents, 39% (2,000) from the New Deal for Young People and the remaining 15% (800) from the New Deal for the Long Term Unemployed.

More detailed statistics are available at sub-local authority district level, for Middle Layer Super Output Areas, but these have not been examined here. Readers interested in obtaining this more detailed data can find it at the Neighbourhood Statistics website ([www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)).

## **6. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT**

Updated information on pupil attainment at Key Stages 2 and 3 of the National Curriculum was released in June 2006 by the Department for Education & Skills. The new information provides data for 2004, and is available analysed either by the location of the school or by the residential location of pupils. We focus here on the latter. Data is available at local authority district level and below, down to Lower Layer Super Output Area level. The relevant results for Oxfordshire are summarised in Table 9 (for Key Stage 2) and Table 10 (for Key Stage 3).

Achievement levels for 11 year old pupils in Oxfordshire, at Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum, are almost identical to the South East and English averages. An average of 80% of Oxfordshire pupils achieved the target Level 4 or above in 2004 in the three key subjects of English, Maths and Science (see Table 9). However, this overall picture does conceal some significant variations at district level within the county. Above average results in Cherwell (82% of pupils at Level 4 or above), Vale of White Horse (84%) and West Oxfordshire (83%) contrast with relatively poor achievement levels for pupils resident in Oxford City (only 68% achieving Level 4 or above).

Achievement levels for 14 year old pupils, at Key Stage 3 of the National Curriculum, are summarised in Table 10. Overall results for Oxfordshire pupils in 2004 were very similar to the South East average, but above the national average. On average, 73% of pupils in Oxfordshire achieved the target Level 5 or above in the three key subjects, compared with an English average of 70%. As with the Key Stage 2 results, achievement levels amongst pupils resident in Oxford City were relatively poor, with only 62% achieving Level 5 or higher. Results were also below the South East average in Cherwell (70% achieving Level 5 or above), but were much stronger in South Oxfordshire (77%), Vale of White Horse (77%) and West Oxfordshire (80%).

Key Stage 2 and 3 test results are also available at sub-local authority district level, for Lower Layer and Middle Layer Super Output Areas. Readers interested in exploring this more detailed data can find it at the Neighbourhood Statistics website ([www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)).

## **7. HOUSING MARKET**

Table 11 summarises the latest house price information for Oxfordshire published by the Land Registry, covering all property sales in the first quarter of 2006 (January-March). The average property price in Oxfordshire is currently £257,500, representing an increase of 4.4% on the equivalent quarter in 2005. Property prices in the county are currently 13% above the South East average (£228,800) and 34% above the average for England & Wales (£192,700). Price increases during the last 12 months (4.4% in Oxfordshire) have been broadly in line with those experienced at regional (3.7%) and national levels (5.0%).

South Oxfordshire has now replaced Oxford City as the highest-priced district in the county, partly due to a fall in Oxford house prices over the last 12 months. House prices in South Oxfordshire are currently 29% above the South East average, following a 6% increase in the last year. House price increases during the last 12 months have also been at above the regional and national average in Cherwell and Vale of White Horse districts. Table 12 shows how property prices in Oxfordshire's districts compare with other local authorities in the South East.

Only Cherwell is ranked amongst the more affordable half of the region's local authorities.

Affordability, as measured by the relationship between house prices and average earnings, continues to deteriorate. The latest figures reveal that affordability is worse than the South East average in all five Oxfordshire districts (see Table 13). South Oxfordshire is the least affordable district in which to live and work, with average house prices 11.1 times average full-time earnings. Relatively low earnings levels in Cherwell and West Oxfordshire also contribute to affordability problems in these districts.

Readers may be interested in a recent release of data on homeless households, published by the Department for Communities & Local Government (the renamed ODPM) in May 2006. The data is available at local authority district level and covers a range of variables, including total homeless households in temporary accommodation, numbers in B&B accommodation, average length of stay in B&B accommodation, and numbers of local authority dwellings let to homeless households. The latest data is for 2004/05, and a time series back to 2000/01 is available. Interested readers can explore the data at the Neighbourhood Statistics website ([www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk)).

## **8. TOWN CENTRE STATISTICS**

Feedback received on previous OEO quarterly reports indicated that there was a need for more detailed data on retail trends in Oxfordshire's towns. This is a difficult area not currently well served by available national datasets. However, readers may be interested in the series of Town Centre Statistics previously released by ODPM (now renamed the Department for Communities & Local Government). These provide geographic boundaries and statistics on employment, floorspace and rateable values for town centres across England and Wales. Data is currently available only for 2000 and 2002, although an annual time series of statistics from 1998 to 2003 is promised in the near future.

We have included summary results for Oxfordshire's town centres in this report. These show trends in town centre retail and office floorspace and rateable values between 2000 and 2002 (Tables 14 & 15). Data is available for the following town centres:

- Cherwell – Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington;
- Oxford City – Oxford, Cowley, Cowley Road, Headington, Summertown;
- South Oxfordshire – Didcot, Henley, Thame, Wallingford;
- Vale of White Horse – Abingdon, Wantage;
- West Oxfordshire – Chipping Norton, Witney.

The statistics reveal that, between 2000 and 2002, growth in town centre retail floorspace was concentrated mainly in Banbury (an extra 18,800 sq. metres), Oxford (an extra 30,400 sq. metres), and to a lesser extent Witney (an extra 5,400 sq. metres). Most other town centres experienced either relatively static retail floorspace levels or a slight decline (e.g. Summertown, Didcot, Wallingford and Abingdon).

Changes in town centre office floorspace have been rather different, with growth being on a smaller scale and also more widely dispersed than with retail floorspace. Very little growth in office floorspace took place in Oxford, but modest increases were experienced in Banbury, Kidlington, Summertown, Henley and Witney.

As noted above, updated statistics for 2003 and a time series back to 1998 are due to be released soon. This should provide a better picture of medium-term trends within the county. We will of course include any updated data in future quarterly reports. In the meantime, interested readers wishing to explore the Town Centre Statistics in more detail can find them either at the Department for Communities & Local Government website, under Planning Statistics ([www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)), or at the GeoFutures website ([www.geofutures.com](http://www.geofutures.com)).

## **9. RURAL SERVICES**

This section of the report is based on analysis of the Countryside Agency's Rural Services Series (RSS) data for 2000 and 2005. Although this data has been available for some time, we have taken the opportunity to include results for Oxfordshire's rural areas in this quarter's report.

The Rural Services Series shows the proportion of households within specific straight-line distances of key services. The services currently included are banks and building societies, cash point facilities, GP surgeries, Job Centres, library facilities, petrol stations, post offices, primary schools, secondary schools and supermarkets. By analysing changes over time, we can identify trends in rural service provision. Results for rural Oxfordshire, for January 2000 and January 2005, are summarised in Table 16.

There is evidence of declining service provision in rural Oxfordshire since 2000 in six service areas and an improvement for three services. Declining provision is evident in the following areas:

- Banks and building societies – the proportion of rural households within 2 kilometres of a bank or building society branch fell from 26% in 2000 to 17% in 2005; the proportion of households within 4 kilometres also fell, from 56% to 41%;



- Libraries – there was a slight reduction in the proportion of households within 2 kilometres of this service between 2000 and 2005 (from 43% to 41%), and also a reduction in the numbers within 4 kilometres (from 72% to 69%);
- Petrol stations – there has been a slight reduction in the proportion of rural households within both 2 and 4 kilometres of this service;
- Post offices – the proportion of rural households within 2 kilometres of a post office fell from 89% to 82% between 2000 and 2005;
- Primary schools – the proportion of rural households within 2 kilometres of a primary school has declined, from 88% to 86%;
- Supermarkets – the proportion of rural households within both 2 and 4 kilometres of a supermarket has also fallen in Oxfordshire.

Proximity to services for Oxfordshire's rural households appears to have improved since 2000 in the following areas:

- Cash point facilities – the proportion of households within 2 kilometres of this type of facility increased from 53% to 63% between 2000 and 2005; the proportion within 4 kilometres also increased, from 84% to 91%;
- GP surgeries – the proportion of households within both 2 and 4 kilometres of a doctor's surgery increased slightly;
- Job Centres – there was also a slight increase in the proportion of households within 4 kilometres of a Job Centre.

Proximity of Oxfordshire's rural households to secondary schools remained unchanged between 2000 and 2005.

## **10. FURTHER INFORMATION**

Readers who make regular use of employment data from the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) may wish to know that plans have recently been announced to replace the ABI with a new survey in the next few years. This will have potentially important implications for the availability of employment statistics for Oxfordshire, and the ability to monitor employment trends within the county. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is currently consulting users about the proposed changes.

From the point of view of Oxfordshire, the changes currently being proposed could mean:

- No gender breakdown with future employment statistics for the county;
- A much less detailed industrial sector breakdown of employment figures for Oxfordshire and its districts than that currently available.

Interested readers will find further information about the proposals on the NOMIS website ([www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)), under the “Latest News” item entitled “Business Register and Employment Survey”. Responses to the consultation must be submitted by 1 September 2006.

**Table 1 – Gross Disposable Household Income per Head (£), Oxfordshire and Other NUTS3 Areas in the South East, 1995-2004**

Area	1995	2000	2004	% Change, 1995-2004
England	8,704	11,166	13,040	49.8
South East	9,508	12,532	14,656	54.1
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>9,945</b>	<b>12,905</b>	<b>14,980</b>	<b>50.6</b>
Berkshire	9,850	13,132	15,162	53.9
Milton Keynes	8,441	11,119	13,341	58.0
Bucks CC	10,691	14,468	17,068	59.6
Brighton & Hove	9,056	11,687	13,733	51.6
East Sussex CC	8,852	11,640	13,873	56.7
Surrey	11,329	15,464	17,729	56.5
West Sussex	9,549	12,574	14,713	54.1
Portsmouth	7,416	9,513	11,273	52.0
Southampton	7,627	9,430	11,129	45.9
Hampshire CC	9,418	12,294	14,592	54.9
Isle of Wight	7,656	9,731	11,308	47.7
Medway	8,143	10,429	12,467	53.1
Kent CC	8,820	11,484	13,428	52.2

Source: Office for National Statistics, Estimates of Household Income for NUTS3 areas, released 9 May 2006.

**Table 2 – Number of Working Age Benefit Claimants**

Area	Oct-Dec 2004		Oct-Dec 2005	
	Number of Benefit Claimants	As % of Working Age Population	Number of Benefit Claimants	As % of Working Age Population
Great Britain	5,299,210	14.7	5,321,030	14.8
South East	487,630	9.8	496,120	9.9
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>29,430</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>29,160</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Cherwell	6,570	7.8	6,640	7.9
Oxford City	9,310	9.0	9,260	9.0
South Oxfordshire	5,130	6.6	5,000	6.4
Vale of White Horse	4,690	6.6	4,610	6.5
West Oxfordshire	3,730	6.4	3,650	6.2

Source: Department for Work & Pensions, 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) benefits data.

Note: Figures show the number and proportion of people of working age who were claiming at least one of the following key benefits: Bereavement Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit and Widow's Benefit.

**Table 3 – Benefit Claimants as a Proportion of the Working Age Population, October-December 2005, South East Local Authority Districts**

District and Rank	(%)	District and Rank	(%)
1 – Hart	5.0	32 – Wealden	8.4
2 – Wokingham	5.3	36 – Chichester	8.6
3 – Surrey Heath	5.8	37 – Tunbridge Wells	8.7
4 – Elmbridge	6.1	38 – Spelthorne	8.9
<b>5 – West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>39 – Oxford City</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>6 – South Oxfordshire</b>	<b>6.4</b>	40 – New Forest	9.4
<b>7 – Vale of White Horse</b>	<b>6.5</b>	41 – Maidstone	9.8
7 – Waverley	6.5	42 – Crawley	10.8
9 – Guildford	6.6	43 – Ashford	10.9
9 – Mole Valley	6.6	43 – Reading	10.9
9 – Runnymede	6.6	45 – Dartford	11.3
9 – Winchester	6.6	45 – Gosport	11.3
13 – South Buckinghamshire	6.8	47 – Lewes	11.4
14 – Horsham	6.9	47 – Milton Keynes	11.4
14 – Mid Sussex	6.9	49 – Canterbury	11.5
14 – Windsor & Maidenhead	6.9	50 – Arun	12.0
17 – Chiltern	7.0	51 – Adur	12.3
18 – Fareham	7.1	52 – Worthing	12.4
19 – Aylesbury Vale	7.3	53 – Portsmouth	13.1
19 – East Hampshire	7.3	54 – Medway	13.4
19 – Tandridge	7.3	54 – Slough	13.4
19 – West Berkshire	7.3	56 – Southampton	13.5
23 – Epsom & Ewell	7.6	57 – Gravesham	13.6
23 – Reigate & Banstead	7.6	57 – Rother	13.6
23 – Test Valley	7.6	59 – Havant	13.8
26 – Bracknell Forest	7.7	60 – Swale	14.6
26 – Woking	7.7	61 – Brighton & Hove	14.9
28 – Basingstoke & Deane	7.8	62 – Dover	15.2
<b>29 – Cherwell</b>	<b>7.9</b>	63 – Eastbourne	15.6
30 – Sevenoaks	8.2	64 – Isle of Wight	15.8
31 – Wycombe	8.3	65 – Shepway	16.0
32 – Eastleigh	8.4	66 – Thanet	19.8
32 – Rushmoor	8.4	67 – Hastings	21.1
32 – Tonbridge & Malling	8.4		

Source: Department for Work & Pensions, 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) benefits data.

Note: Figures show the proportion of people of working age who were claiming at least one of the following key benefits: Bereavement Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit and Widow's Benefit.

**Table 4 – Claimant Count Unemployed as Percentage of the Resident Working Age Population**

Area	May 2005		May 2006	
	(No)	(%)	(No)	(%)
England	710,464	2.3	801,982	2.6
South East	71,626	1.4	84,175	1.7
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>4,016</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4,484</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Cherwell	863	1.0	1,068	1.3
Oxford City	1,719	1.7	1,767	1.7
South Oxfordshire	605	0.8	736	0.9
Vale of White Horse	469	0.7	536	0.8
West Oxfordshire	360	0.6	377	0.6

Source: Office for National Statistics, monthly claimant count data (NOMIS).

**Table 5 – Claimant Unemployed as Percentage of Resident Working Age Population (May 2006), South East Local Authority Districts**

District and Rank	(%)	District and Rank	(%)
<b>1 – West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>0.6</b>	32 – Tonbridge & Malling	1.3
2 – Hart	0.7	32 – Windsor & Maidenhead	1.3
2 – Mole Valley	0.7	37 – Spelthorne	1.4
4 – Surrey Heath	0.8	38 – Chichester	1.6
4 – Tandridge	0.8	38 – Gosport	1.6
<b>4 – Vale of White Horse</b>	<b>0.8</b>	38 – Wycombe	1.6
4 – Waverley	0.8	41 – Adur	1.7
4 – Wokingham	0.8	41 – Ashford	1.7
9 – East Hampshire	0.9	41 – Maidstone	1.7
9 – Elmbridge	0.9	<b>41 – Oxford City</b>	<b>1.7</b>
9 – Epsom & Ewell	0.9	41 – Worthing	1.7
9 – Guildford	0.9	46 – Arun	1.8
9 – Mid Sussex	0.9	46 – Lewes	1.8
9 – Reigate & Banstead	0.9	46 – Rother	1.8
<b>9 – South Oxfordshire</b>	<b>0.9</b>	49 – Crawley	1.9
9 – Test Valley	0.9	50 – Canterbury	2.0
9 – Winchester	0.9	51 – Havant	2.3
18 – Aylesbury Vale	1.0	51 – Milton Keynes	2.3
18 – New Forest	1.0	53 – Dartford	2.4
18 – Runnymede	1.0	53 – Isle of Wight	2.4
18 – South Buckinghamshire	1.0	53 – Portsmouth	2.4
22 – Basingstoke & Deane	1.1	53 – Reading	2.4
22 – Chiltern	1.1	57 – Southampton	2.5
22 – Fareham	1.1	58 – Slough	2.7
22 – Sevenoaks	1.1	58 – Swale	2.7
22 – Tunbridge Wells	1.1	60 – Eastbourne	2.9
22 – Wealden	1.1	61 – Medway Towns	3.0
22 – West Berkshire	1.1	62 – Dover	3.1
22 – Woking	1.1	62 – Shepway	3.1
30 – Bracknell Forest	1.2	64 – Brighton & Hove	3.2
30 – Horsham	1.2	64 – Gravesham	3.2
<b>32 – Cherwell</b>	<b>1.3</b>	66 – Hastings	3.7
32 – Eastleigh	1.3	67 – Thanet	3.9
32 – Rushmoor	1.3		

Source: Office for National Statistics, monthly claimant count data (NOMIS).

**Table 6 – Proportion of Long Term Claimant Unemployed**

Area	Claiming for Over 12 Months		As % of All Claimants	
	May 2005	May 2006	May 2005	May 2006
England	97,480	122,845	13.8	15.4
South East	8,935	11,350	12.6	13.5
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.5</b>
Cherwell	100	145	11.9	13.5
Oxford City	260	265	15.5	15.2
South Oxfordshire	100	110	16.7	15.2
Vale of White Horse	45	45	9.4	8.2
West Oxfordshire	40	40	11.0	10.1

Source: Office for National Statistics, monthly claimant count data (NOMIS).

**Table 7 – Numbers of Job Centre Plus Vacancies and Claimant Unemployed (May 2006)**

Area	Notified Vacancies		Unemployed Claimants per Notified Vacancy	
	May 2005	May 2006	May 2005	May 2006
England	198,459	183,291	3.6	4.4
South East	23,597	20,901	3.0	4.0
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>1,842</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Cherwell	438	360	2.0	3.0
Oxford City	545	401	3.2	4.4
South Oxfordshire	334	175	1.8	4.2
Vale of White Horse	325	280	1.4	1.9
West Oxfordshire	200	144	1.8	2.6

Source: Office for National Statistics, monthly claimant count and Job Centre Plus vacancy data (NOMIS).



**Table 8 – Jobs Gained in Oxfordshire through Selected New Deal Programmes, 1998-2004**

District	New Deal for Young People	New Deal for Long Term Unemployed (25 Plus)	New Deal for Lone Parents
Cherwell	354	132	594
Oxford City	963	360	630
South Oxfordshire	285	135	402
Vale of White Horse	207	93	339
West Oxfordshire	201	69	450
<b>Total: Oxfordshire</b>	<b>2,010</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>2,415</b>

Source: Department for Work & Pensions.

**Table 9 – National Curriculum Assessments for 11 Year Olds (Key Stage 2), By Location of Pupil Residence, 2004**

Area of Pupil Residence	% of Pupils Achieving Level 4 or Above		
	English	Maths	Science
England	78	74	86
South East	78	74	86
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>86</b>
Cherwell	81	77	87
Oxford City	67	63	75
South Oxfordshire	79	74	87
Vale of White Horse	82	80	89
West Oxfordshire	80	79	90

Source: Department for Education & Skills.

**Table 10 – National Curriculum Assessments for 14 Year Olds (Key Stage 3), By Location of Pupil Residence, 2004**

Area of Pupil Residence	% of Pupils Achieving Level 5 or Above		
	English	Maths	Science
England	71	73	66
South East	74	76	70
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>70</b>
Cherwell	71	73	67
Oxford City	63	66	56
South Oxfordshire	77	79	74
Vale of White Horse	76	78	76
West Oxfordshire	80	83	78

Source: Department for Education & Skills.

**Table 11 – Average House Prices in Oxfordshire**

Area	Average (Mean) House Price, All Property Sales		
	Jan-Mar 2005 (£)	Jan-Mar 2006 (£)	% Change
England & Wales	183,486	192,745	+ 5.0
South East	220,697	228,762	+ 3.7
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>246,705</b>	<b>257,528</b>	<b>+ 4.4</b>
Cherwell	200,440	216,463	+ 8.0
Oxford City	288,980	278,883	- 3.5
South Oxfordshire	277,909	294,497	+ 6.0
Vale of White Horse	242,404	260,375	+ 7.4
West Oxfordshire	238,706	246,304	+ 3.2

Source: HM Land Registry, quarterly property price data.

**Table 12 – Average (Mean) House Prices (January-March 2006), South East Local Authority Districts**

District and Rank	(£)	District and Rank	(£)
1 – Elmbridge	446,504	35 – Test Valley	236,509
2 – South Buckinghamshire	437,466	36 – Brighton & Hove	222,240
3 – Chiltern	419,611	<b>37 – Cherwell</b>	<b>216,463</b>
4 – Mole Valley	355,258	38 – Rother	215,577
5 – Windsor & Maidenhead	335,761	39 – Maidstone	214,008
6 – Waverley	321,453	40 – Lewes	213,744
7 – Winchester	313,134	41 – Ashford	212,224
8 – Surrey Heath	308,875	42 – Fareham	211,877
9 – Guildford	308,620	43 – Eastleigh	211,682
10 – Epsom & Ewell	307,113	44 – Canterbury	206,298
11 – Runnymede	302,225	45 – Basingstoke & Deane	206,265
12 – Tandridge	301,100	46 – Arun	206,125
13 – Sevenoaks	297,797	47 – Adur	201,988
<b>14 – South Oxfordshire</b>	<b>294,497</b>	48 – Reading	196,094
15 – East Hampshire	289,441	49 – Dartford	193,703
16 – Reigate & Banstead	282,677	50 – Crawley	190,397
17 – Woking	280,061	51 – Havant	188,808
<b>18 – Oxford City</b>	<b>278,883</b>	52 – Slough	187,771
19 – Chichester	275,214	53 – Worthing	186,401
20 – Hart	274,450	54 – Gravesham	183,940
21 – Wycombe	274,029	55 – Shepway	182,902
22 – Wokingham	272,889	56 – Isle of Wight	181,137
23 – New Forest	271,467	57 – Rushmoor	181,014
24 – Tunbridge Wells	269,641	58 – Milton Keynes	175,337
<b>25 – Vale of White Horse</b>	<b>260,375</b>	59 – Eastbourne	173,906
26 – Tonbridge & Malling	255,838	60 – Dover	169,067
27 – West Berkshire	255,345	61 – Thanet	167,599
28 – Horsham	253,866	62 – Swale	164,144
<b>29 – West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>246,304</b>	63 – Southampton	161,716
30 – Aylesbury Vale	241,384	64 – Gosport	156,403
31 – Mid Sussex	240,906	65 – Portsmouth	154,803
32 – Wealden	239,712	66 – Medway Towns	154,231
33 – Bracknell Forest	239,396	67 – Hastings	143,087
34 – Spelthorne	239,168		

Source: HM Land Registry, quarterly property price data.

**Table 13 – Index of Housing Affordability (Average House Prices as Ratio of Average Annual Full-Time Earnings, By Area of Workplace) (January-March 2006)**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Average House Price (Jan-Mar 2006)</b>	<b>Average Full-Time Earnings (April 2005)</b>	<b>Index of Affordability</b>
England & Wales	192,745	27,180	7.1
South East	228,762	28,028	8.2
<b>Oxfordshire</b>	<b>257,528</b>	<b>27,232</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Cherwell	216,463	24,835	8.7
Oxford City	278,883	29,125	9.6
South Oxfordshire	294,497	26,473	11.1
Vale of White Horse	260,375	28,189	9.2
West Oxfordshire	246,304	25,293	9.7

Source: HM Land Registry, quarterly property price data and Office for National Statistics, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings.

**Table 14 – Retail Floorspace and Rateable Values in Areas of Town Centre Activity in Oxfordshire**

Town Centre	Retail Floorspace (sq. metres)		Average Rateable Value of Retail Floorspace (£ per sq. metre)	
	2000	2002	2000	2002
Banbury	90,510	109,280	114	121
Bicester	31,080	31,870	108	104
Kidlington	9,030	10,650	75	74
Oxford	140,390	170,790	204	185
Cowley	36,000	36,020	88	88
Cowley Road	16,070	16,120	62	61
Headington	12,160	12,580	104	105
Summertown	11,530	11,100	127	131
Didcot	12,950	12,530	69	69
Henley	29,320	29,680	117	119
Thame	19,530	20,810	111	114
Wallingford	21,140	20,650	77	78
Abingdon	36,320	36,120	96	95
Wantage	18,360	18,360	81	81
Chipping Norton	12,170	12,390	70	67
Witney	35,510	40,910	103	113

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government and GeoFutures, Town Centre Boundaries and Statistics for England and Wales.

**Table 15 – Office Floorspace and Rateable Values in Areas of Town Centre Activity in Oxfordshire**

Town Centre	Office Floorspace (sq. metres)		Average Rateable Value of Office Floorspace (£ per sq. metre)	
	2000	2002	2000	2002
Banbury	46,880	47,920	64	64
Bicester	4,880	4,680	69	69
Kidlington	5,250	5,910	82	82
Oxford	132,210	132,470	78	78
Cowley	***	***	***	***
Cowley Road	6,070	5,690	59	58
Headington	5,360	5,260	96	90
Summertown	3,730	6,230	97	98
Didcot	2,060	2,030	93	70
Henley	34,590	37,830	101	100
Thame	9,050	9,060	120	122
Wallingford	3,860	4,080	104	95
Abingdon	26,590	26,820	80	80
Wantage	5,010	4,850	79	78
Chipping Norton	2,440	2,300	47	50
Witney	12,100	14,300	75	74

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government and GeoFutures, Town Centre Boundaries and Statistics for England & Wales.

Note: Figures marked \*\*\* have been suppressed.

**Table 16 – Changes in Proximity of Households to Key Services in Rural Oxfordshire, 2000-2005**

Type of Facility	% of Rural Households Within 2 km of this Facility		% of Rural Households Within 4 km of this Facility	
	2000	2005	2000	2005
Bank or Building Society	25.7	17.1	56.4	40.5
Cashpoint Facility	52.7	62.5	84.2	91.1
GP Surgery	37.2	40.7	69.8	73.8
Job Centre	0.4	0.2	8.3	10.3
Library	43.0	41.4	72.3	68.8
Petrol Station	51.4	50.1	82.9	82.1
Post Office	88.8	82.0	99.9	99.5
Primary School	87.7	85.7	99.8	99.5
Secondary School	24.8	24.8	54.2	54.2
Supermarket	39.1	36.1	67.4	65.2

Source: Countryside Agency, Rural Services Series data at output area level.

Note: "Rural Oxfordshire" is defined as those census output areas that form part of rural settlements, i.e. settlements with a population below 10,000, as defined in the Rural and Urban Area Classification 2004.