

Oxford's economy in the spotlight

An article published in the Economist earlier this month ('Trailing in its wake', 17 January 2015¹) compared Oxford's economy unfavourably with that of Cambridge, noting that over the past few years Cambridge has added more workers, highly educated residents and well-paid jobs than Oxford.

However, setting out the numbers for the wider economic area rather than the core urban areas suggests the differences may not be so great:

- Since 2007, gross value added (GVA) per capita has grown by 20% in Oxfordshire (to £28,767 per capita in 2013), compared to only 9% in Cambridgeshire (to £26,150 per capita).
- Latest figures show that full-time workers in Oxfordshire earned an average hourly rate of £17.82, compared with £17.25 in Cambridgeshire.
- 2011 Census figures show that 35.7% of Oxfordshire residents have higher level qualifications (degree level or above), compared with 33% in Cambridgeshire.
- Oxfordshire is ranked sixth by Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area in the UK Competitiveness Index, with the Greater Cambridgeshire & Greater Peterborough LEP in 10th place.
- Housing affordability, cited by the economist as a key cause of Cambridge's outperformance, is worsening at a faster rate in Cambridge as the affordability gap between the two cities closes. Since 2004 the average income multiple has risen from 12.8 to 16.1 for Oxford, but much more quickly (from 9.2 to 14.8) for Cambridge.

Visit [Oxfordshire Insight](#) for further information on Oxfordshire's economy, and see the information on pages 2 and 3 to find out how Oxford compares with other cities across the UK in *Cities Outlook 2015*, published by the Centre for Cities.

In other news this month

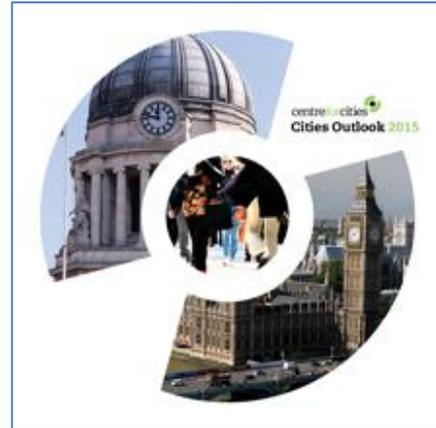
According to the 2011 Census, more than 70,000 people in Oxfordshire live alone. This group of residents are more likely to be aged 65 and over, own their home outright and live in a property with more than one bedroom. In this month's Oxfordshire Insight we present a demographic and socio-economic profile of one person households in Oxfordshire.

Latest figures show 21,000 households in the county living in fuel poverty. See pages 7 and 8 to find out more.

¹ <http://www.economist.com/news/britain/21639495-how-and-why-fortunes-englands-two-ancient-university-towns-diverged-trailing-its-wake?frsc=dg%7ca>

Oxford continues to compare well against other cities across the UK

Published by the Centre for Cities earlier this month, *Cities Outlook 2015* provides an economic index of the 64 largest cities and towns in the UK.



According to the report, Oxford has the:

- 10th highest GVA per worker (2013), at £56,900
- 8th highest average weekly wage, 2014 (£555). However, with the 4th biggest increase in house prices from 2013 to 2014, Oxford also has the 2nd highest average house price, making it the least affordable to house buyers (affordability ratio of 16.1)
- 3rd highest proportion of the population with high level qualifications (49%) and the 8th lowest proportion with no formal qualifications (6.4%)
- Highest proportion of jobs in knowledge intensive sector (32.5%)
- Lowest proportion of private sector jobs (50%) and greatest reliance on public sector jobs (defined as those jobs in public administration, education and health). This is driven in large part by the inclusion of the two universities as 'public sector'.
- 3rd lowest JSA claimant count in November 2014 (0.9%), the 2nd lowest young claimant count and the lowest long term claimant count. Oxford also had the third lowest level of employment inequality with just 2.8 percentage points between the LSOAs with the highest and lowest JSA claimant rates.(average = 7.8%)

See over for the full dataset for Oxford, and to download the full report, visit the [Centre for Cities website](#).

For further facts and figures visit [Oxfordshire Insight](#)

Cities Outlook, 2015 - Oxford

	Rank	Rank
area km²	50 (58/64)	
people		
Total population, 2013	154,800 (56/64)	
Population change, 2012-13		1.5% (2/64)
business & innovation		
Business start-ups per 10,000 pop, 2013		41.7 (43/64)
Business stock per 10,000 pop, 2013		286 (25/64)
Patents per 100,000 pop, 2013		4.5 (12/64)
Gross Value Added (£bn), 2013	£6.1 (32/63)	
GVA perworker, 2013	£56,900 (10/63)	
skills		
High level qualifications, 2013	56,100	49.0% (3/64)
No formal qualifications, 2013	7,300	6.4% (8/64)
5A*-C GCSEs inc. Maths & Eng., 2013		55.2% (44/60)
jobs		
Employment, 2014	85,900	75.0% (11/64)
Private to public sector ratio, 2013		1.0 (64/64)
Private sector jobs change 2012-13	800	1.5% (27/63)
industrial structure		
Manufacturing jobs, 2013	4,100	3.8% (57/63)
Knowledge intensive service jobs, 2013	34,700	32.5% (1/63)
Public service jobs, 2013	53,100	49.7% (1/63)
Other services, 2013	12,500	11.7% (63/63)
earnings		
Average weekly wages, 2014	£555 (8/64)	
Change in real wages, 2013-14	-£11 (39/64)	-2.0% (36/64)
unemployment		
JSA claimant count, Nov 2014	1,010	0.9% (3/64)
Youth claimant count, Nov 2014	170	0.5% (2/64)
Long term claimant count, Nov 2014	180	0.2% (1/64)
Claimant count change, from Feb 2008	-470	-0.5 (11/64)
housing		
Average house price, 2014	£426,700 (2/63)	
Affordability ratio, 2014		16.1 (1/63)
environment		
CO ₂ emissions per capita (t), 2012		6.3 (42/64)
digital connectivity		
Postcodes with super-fast broadband, 2014		80.6% (17/63)

For further facts and figures visit [Oxfordshire Insight](#)

Living alone in Oxfordshire

According to the 2011 Census, more than 70,000 Oxfordshire residents aged 16 years and over lived alone. This is 14% of all household residents (below the national average (16%) and unchanged since 2001) and over one quarter (27.4%) of all households.

The highest proportion of one person households was found in parts of Oxford, Banbury, Bicester, and Abingdon.

Older people were more likely to live alone than younger people

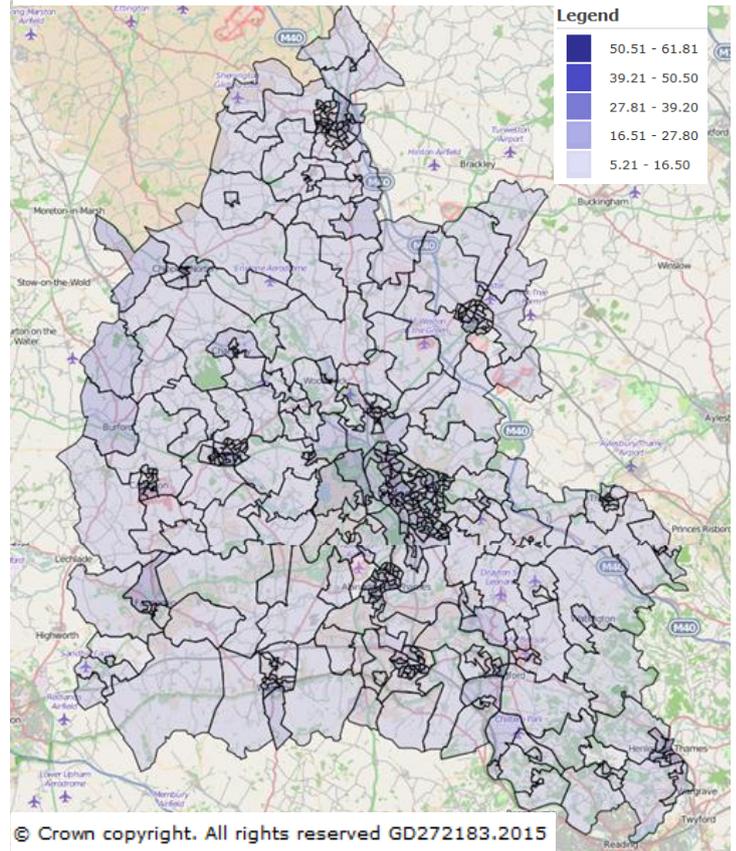
- Less than 3% of those aged 16 to 24 years lived alone, compared with 39% of those aged 65 and over.

Older women were more likely to live alone than older men

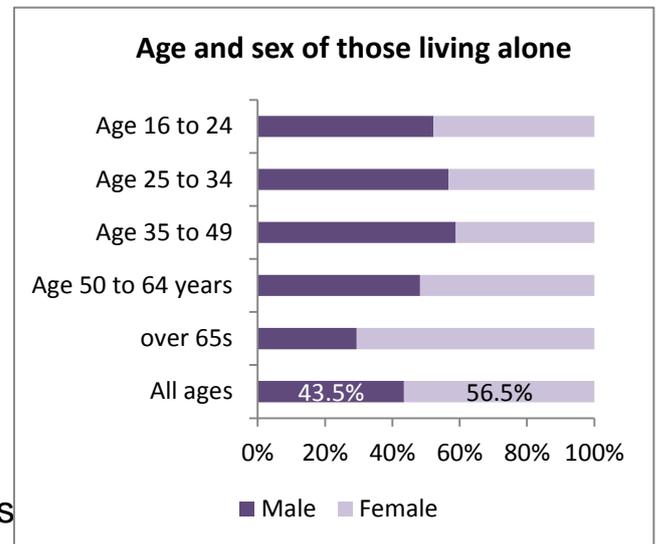
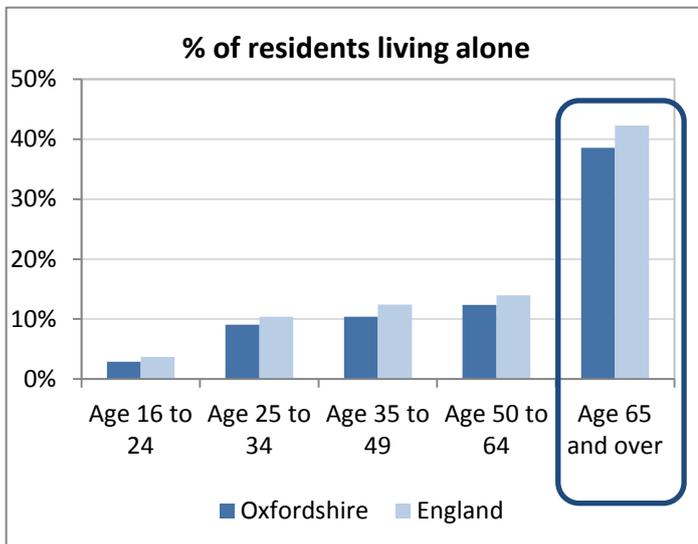
56% of people living alone in Oxfordshire were women, but this varied with age:

- more men than women aged under 50 lived alone, with the highest proportion in those aged 35 to 49 years (almost 60%). This may be partly because divorced men are less likely to live with their children than divorced women.
- 70% of those aged 65 and over living alone were women. National figures show this difference is most marked in the over 75 year age group and is likely to relate mainly to women living longer than men.

Proportion of one person households across Oxfordshire

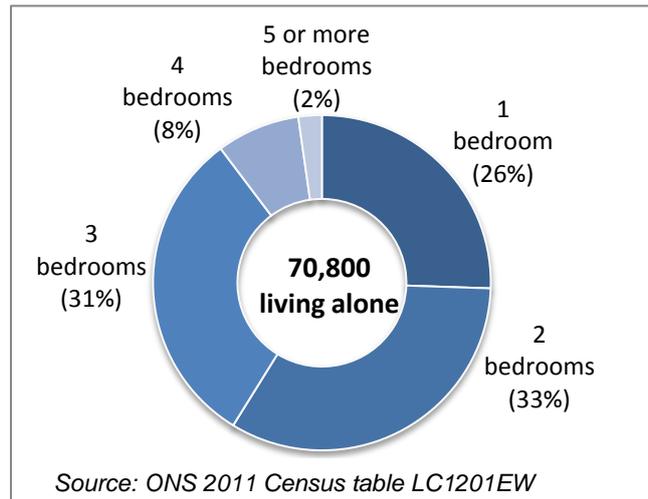


Source: ONS 2011 Census table QS112EW



The majority of those living alone lived in properties with two or more bedrooms

- Slightly over one quarter (26%) of those living alone in Oxfordshire in 2011 lived in one bedroom properties. Almost two thirds (64%) lived in two or three bedroom properties; one in ten in homes with four or more bedrooms.

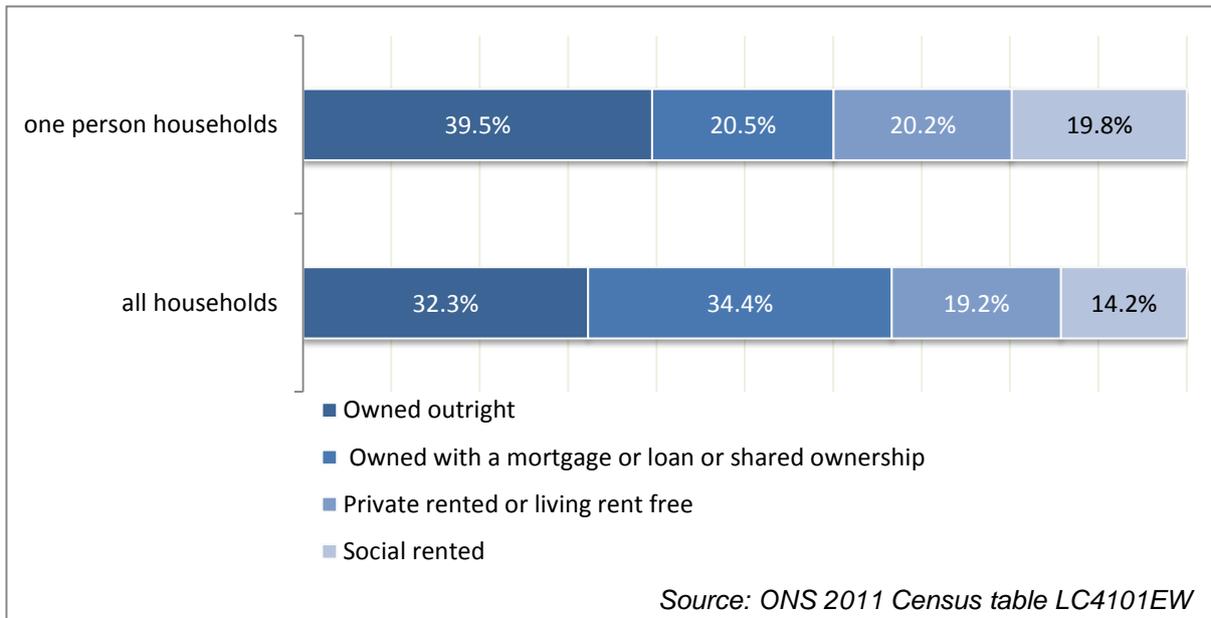


People living alone were more likely to own their home outright

- 40% of people living alone owned their homes outright, compared with 32% of households occupied by more than one resident.
- This may relate to the age profile of those living alone - older residents are more likely to have purchased property and paid off their mortgages; almost two thirds (64%) of those aged 65 and over living alone owned their home outright compared to slightly over one in five (21%) of those aged under 65 living alone.

... but there is also a higher proportion living in social rented accommodation

- 20% compared with 14% of other households. This increases to almost one quarter of over 65 households (23%).



One third of people living alone in Oxfordshire had a long-term health problem or disability (33.3%)

- This was slightly lower than the proportions seen in the South East (35.9%) and England overall (38.6%). The proportions were broadly similar across districts. The rate is however higher than that for households in Oxfordshire with two or more residents (25%).
- Among people aged 65 and over living alone in Oxfordshire, over half had a long-term health problem or disability (54.2%, numbering 16,200). This was similar to the proportion seen in the South East (54.9%) and slightly below that for England overall (59.6%). Again, proportions were broadly similar across districts.

Although living alone does not necessarily imply loneliness, people who make the transition to living alone in later life (primarily due to the death of a cohabiting partner) have been found to be more vulnerable to psychological distress in the initial period thereafter.² Social support has been shown to affect the extent to which people recover from the transition to living alone.

Various national and international research studies have linked social isolation and loneliness with adverse health outcomes, including higher mortality rates. A national survey of GPs in 2013 found that over a quarter saw one to five people per day who they thought had come in mainly because they were lonely.³ One in ten reported seeing between six and ten lonely patients a day, and a small minority (4 per cent) said they saw more than 10 lonely people a day.

There is evidence to suggest that older people can be more susceptible to social isolation and loneliness.⁴ Analysis conducted in 2013 found that 25% of people aged 52 and over in England sometimes felt lonely, with 9% saying they often did. Proportionately more of those aged 80 and over felt lonely sometimes or often (46%, compared to an average of 34% of those aged 52 and over). This figure was around three in five for people who lived alone.

Self-reported loneliness was more prevalent among those who had been widowed, separated or divorced, or were in poor health. A strong association was also found between loneliness and reported limitations in performing daily activities.

Further information will be available in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Annual Report 2015, due to be published in March 2015.

² Living alone in later life and its psychological impacts – the significance of the means of transition into living alone: <http://ageing.oxfordjournals.org/content/42/3/366.full.pdf+html>

³ Lonely visits to GPs: <http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/blog/lonely-visits-to-the-gp/>

⁴ Clifton, J. (2009). *Ageing and Well-being in an International Context. Politics of Ageing Working Paper no 3*: Institute for Public Policy Research. IPPR. Available: http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2011/05/ageing_international_context_1732.pdf

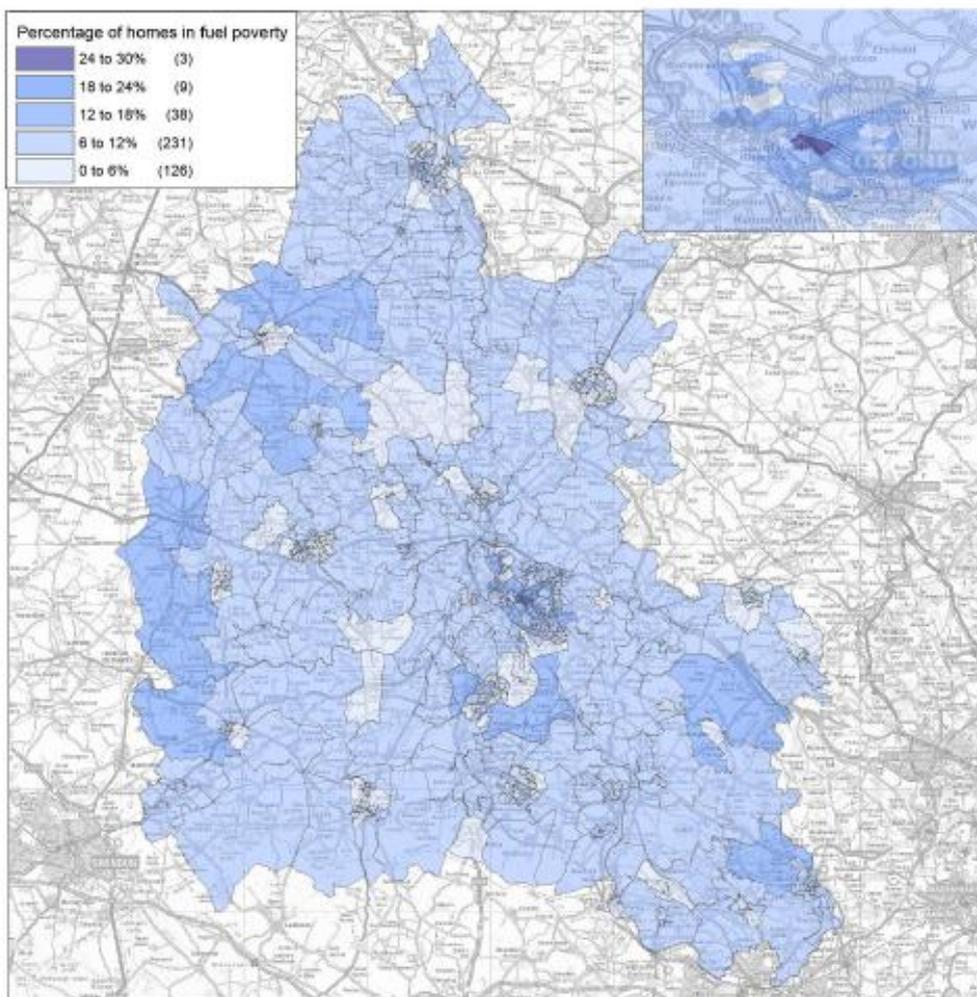
Fuel poverty

Latest estimates show 21,000 households in Oxfordshire (8% of all households), were considered to be fuel poor under the 'Low Income High Cost' measure of fuel poverty in 2012, down slightly from 8.5% in 2011. This means that:

- they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level);
- were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official fuel poverty line.

Oxford had proportionately more households living in fuel poverty (12.4%) than each of the four other district council areas (around 7% of households, below the national average of 10.4%). Parts of St Mary's, St Clement's and Churchill wards had the highest rates (more than one in five households).

Proportion of households in fuel poverty by LSOA, 2012
(low income high cost indicator, published June 2014)



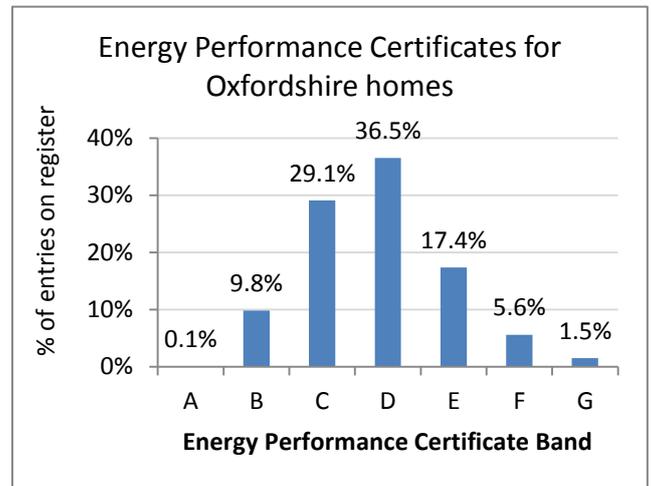
Source: Department for Energy and Climate Change, 2014

For further facts and figures visit [Oxfordshire Insight](#)

Cold homes are linked to increased risk of cardiovascular, respiratory and rheumatoid diseases, as well as hypothermia and poorer mental health. The elderly have been found to be particularly likely to suffer ill health in a cold home.⁵ As well as household income and cost of fuel, the energy efficiency of the property can also contribute to fuel poverty.

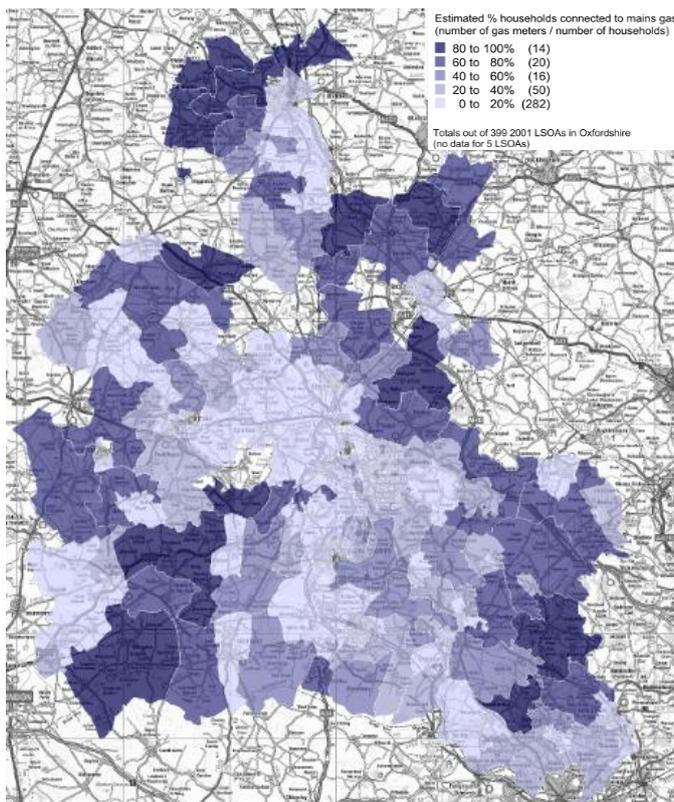
Based on 130,000 records for domestic Energy Performance Certificates in Oxfordshire (required for homes that have been built, sold or let since 2008), fewer than 10% of homes fall in Band A or B (most efficient), with most classed as C (29%) or D (36.5%). 7% of properties fall in the least efficient bands F and G.

For some, particularly in rural areas of the county, not being connected to the gas network and the consequent reliance on other, more costly fuels may be an additional contributing factor.



Source: Department for Communities and Local Government, [Live tables on Energy Performance of buildings Certificates](#)

Households without mains gas, 2012



Source: Department for Energy and Climate Change, 2014

According to the latest figures, heating oils and other fuels cost households £11.05 per week, whilst homes with gas central heating pay on average £7.62 per week⁶.

To find out more about the items in this month's newsletter, and for further facts and figures about Oxfordshire, visit our website at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/insight

To contact us with your data queries, email observatory@oxfordshire.gov.uk

⁵ Housing and Health Postnote 371 (January 2011): http://www.parliament.uk/documents/post/postpn_371-housing_health_h.pdf

⁶ ONS Living Costs and Food Survey, December 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/annual-domestic-energy-price-statistics>