

Travelling to work: commuting patterns in Oxfordshire

Briefing prepared by Oxfordshire County Council Research and Intelligence Team, the District Data Analysis Service and Oxford City Council



Oxfordshire's working age population grew by 7% between 2001 and 2011. The number of local residents in work increased by 10%, while the number of people working in the county increased by 13%.

This briefing outlines the commuting journeys made by Oxfordshire's increased workforce as reported in the 2011 Census. How these journeys are made will be covered in a separate briefing. Additional information (including journeys by settlement) is available using the interactive tools on [Oxfordshire Insight](#).

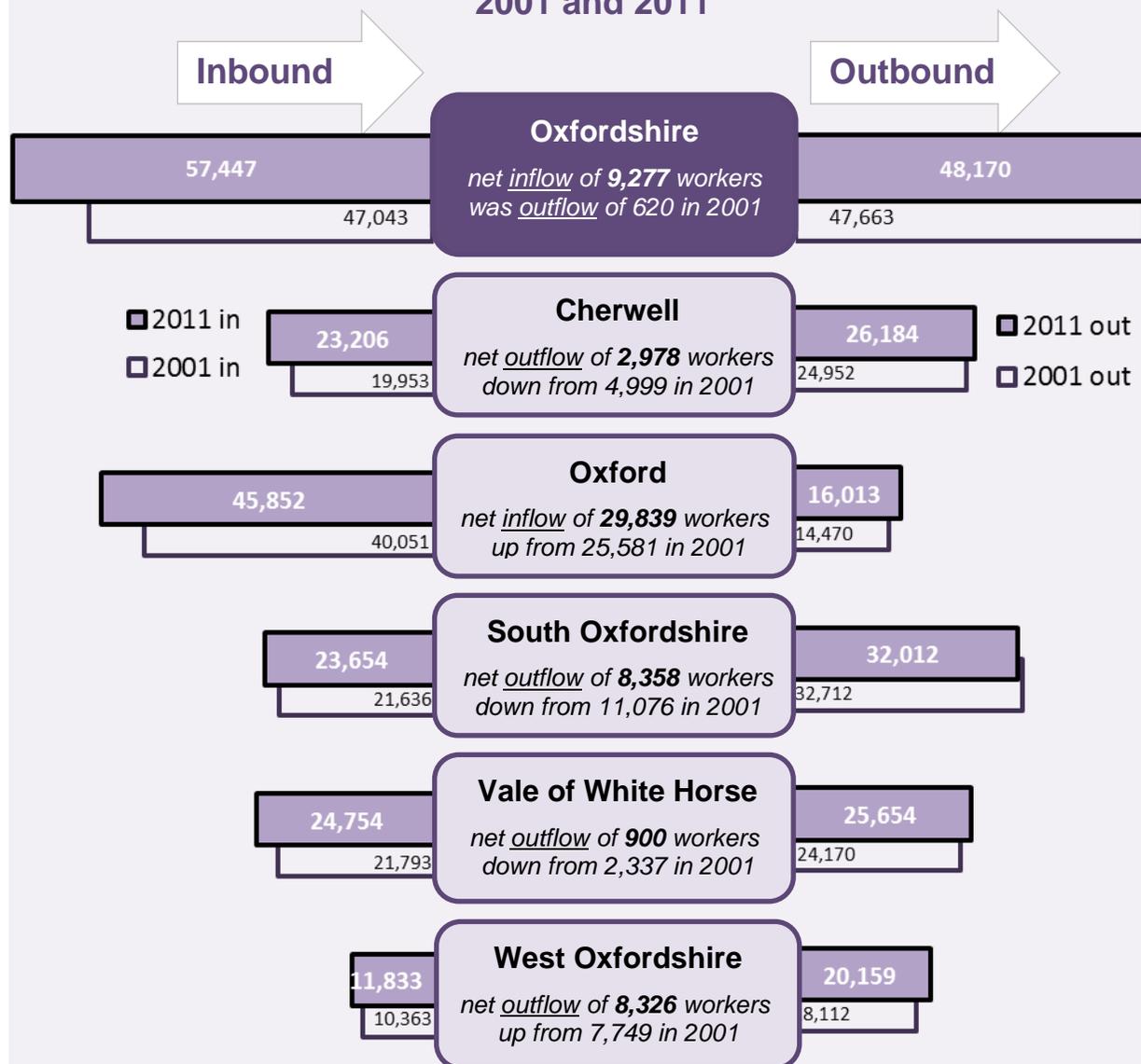
In 2011 inbound commuters made up a greater proportion of Oxfordshire's workforce than in 2001.

- 57,000 people commuted into Oxfordshire in 2011, 10,000 more than in 2001. 17% of Oxfordshire's workforce commuted into the county in 2011, compared to 15% in 2001.
- Inbound commuting has increased in all districts in Oxfordshire since 2001. Oxford saw the biggest increase with 5,800 more workers commuting into the city than in 2001. Oxford remains the only district with a net inflow of workers.
- The greatest numbers of inward commuters travel from Aylesbury Vale, South Northamptonshire and London.

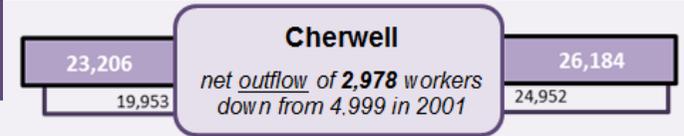
Outbound commuting shows a small increase.

- 48,200 Oxfordshire residents commuted out of the county to work in 2011, 500 more than in 2001.
- Outbound commuting has increased from all Oxfordshire districts since 2001 with the exception of South Oxfordshire which had a slight fall.
- Although the number of employed people commuting out of Oxfordshire has increased by 500, the proportion has fallen: to 14% of resident workers in 2011 compared with 15% in 2001.

Number of workers commuting in or out of Oxfordshire & districts, 2001 and 2011



Commuting to and from Cherwell in 2011

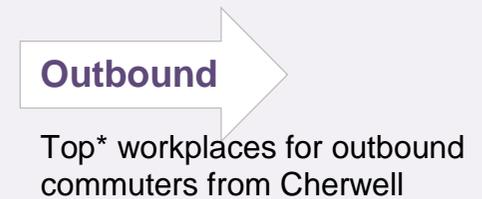
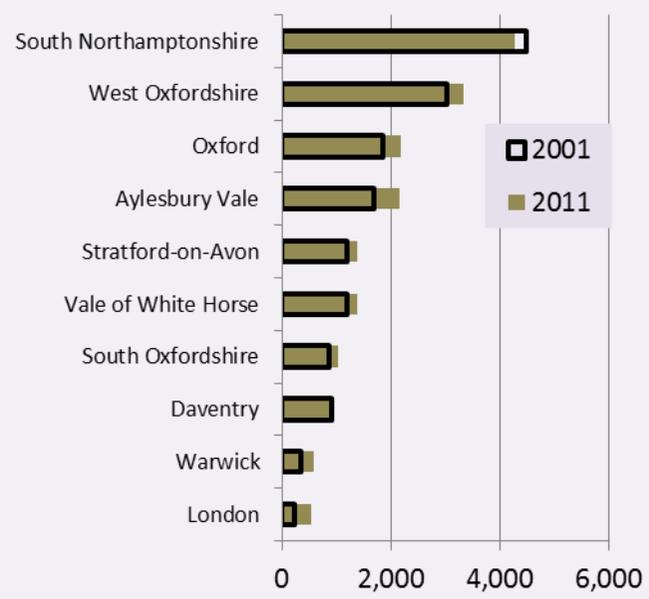
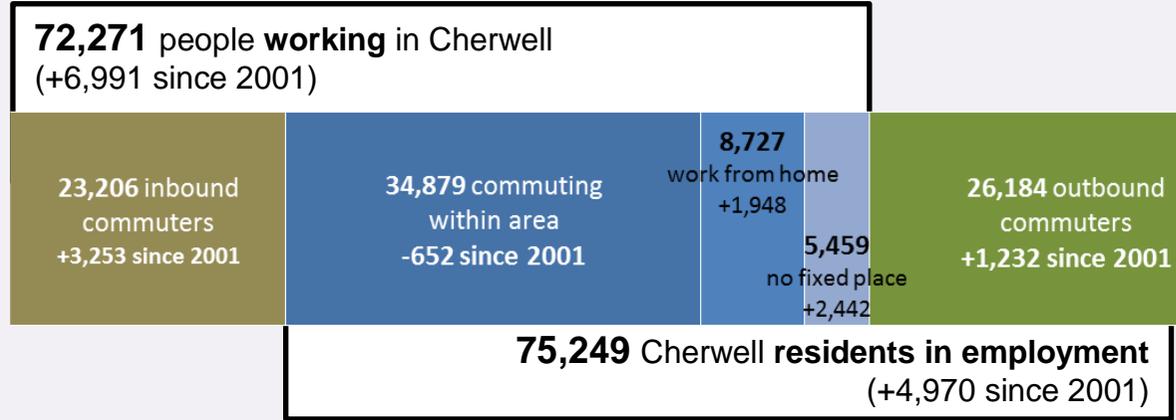


Inbound commuting has increased and a greater proportion of Cherwell's workforce travel to work from outside the district than in 2001.

- 32% of the workforce (23,200 people) commuted into Cherwell district in 2011, up from 31% in 2001, an additional 3,300 people.
- The greatest number of inbound commutes is from South Northamptonshire, although this has fallen from 4,500 in 2001 to 4,300 in 2011.
- The greatest increase in inbound commuting over the same period is from Aylesbury Vale: 2,200 workers begin their journey here, almost 500 more than in 2001.
- 600 additional journeys were made into Cherwell in 2011 from West Oxfordshire and Oxford (300 from each district).

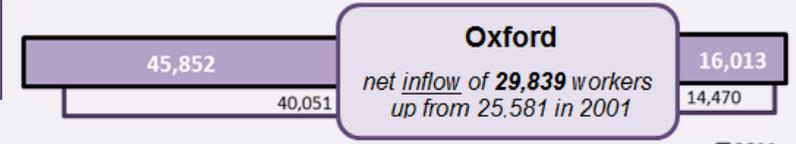
More people travel out of Cherwell district to work than travel in, despite the increase in inbound commuting.

- 26,200 employed residents (35%) travel out of the district to work elsewhere, compared with 26,184 travelling in. This is a slightly smaller proportion than in 2001 (36%).
- The greatest number of outbound commutes is to Oxford city, 9,500, 400 more than in 2001.
- Journeys to Aylesbury and Stratford on Avon have increased since 2001 by 330 and 250 respectively.
- Slightly fewer residents are travelling to Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire than in 2001 (2,700 compared with 2,800).



*500 or more commuters

Commuting to and from Oxford in 2011

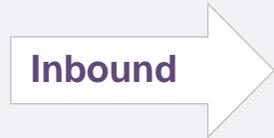
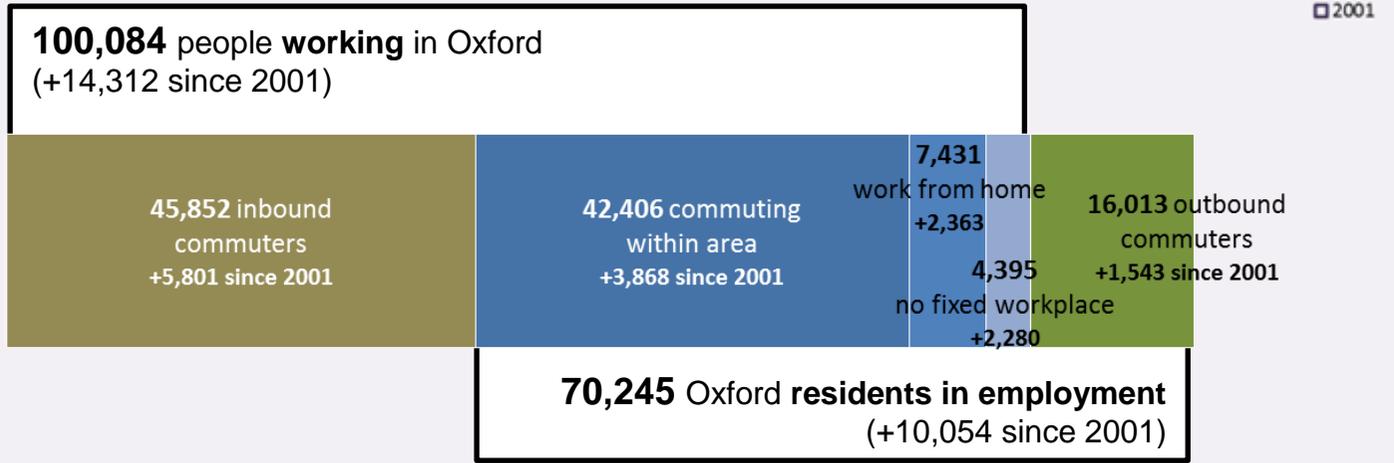


Oxford is the only local authority area in the county where the number of inbound commutes is greater than outbound.

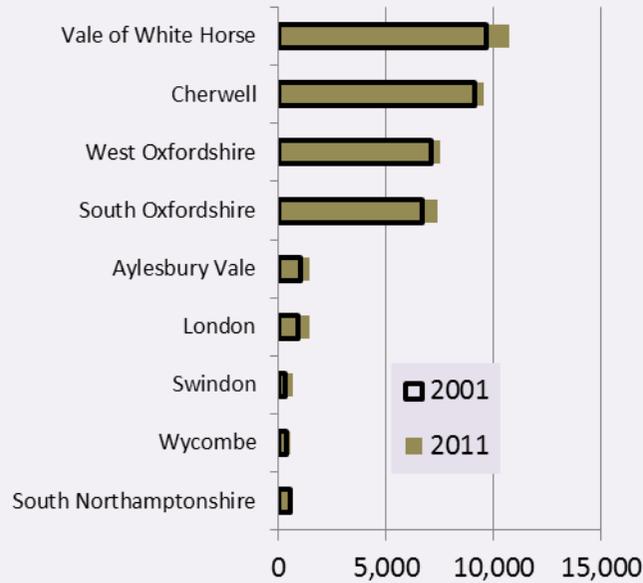
- Almost half of Oxford's workforce (45,900 people or 46%) commuted into the area in 2011. Despite the increase in absolute numbers (an additional 5,800 people), this is a slightly lower proportion than in 2001.
- The greatest number of inbound commutes, and the greatest increase in number of journeys since 2001, is from Vale of White Horse: 10,800 commutes, 1,100 more than in 2001.
- Most other inbound commuters travelled from elsewhere in Oxfordshire, in a similar pattern to 2001.

Outbound commuting from Oxford has increased since 2001 although below the growth in inbound commuting.

- 16,000 employed Oxford residents (23%) travel out of the district to work elsewhere, compared with 45,900 travelling in: 1,900 more than in 2001.
- The greatest number of outbound commutes from Oxford was to other Oxfordshire districts and London, with Vale of White Horse the most common destination.
- The number of journeys to South Oxfordshire, Cherwell and London increased since 2001 (by a total of 1,200), whilst commutes to Vale of White Horse fell very slightly (by less than 100).



Top areas of residence of inbound commuters to Oxford



Top workplaces for outbound commuters from Oxford



*500 or more commuters

Commuting to and from South Oxfordshire in 2011

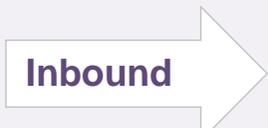
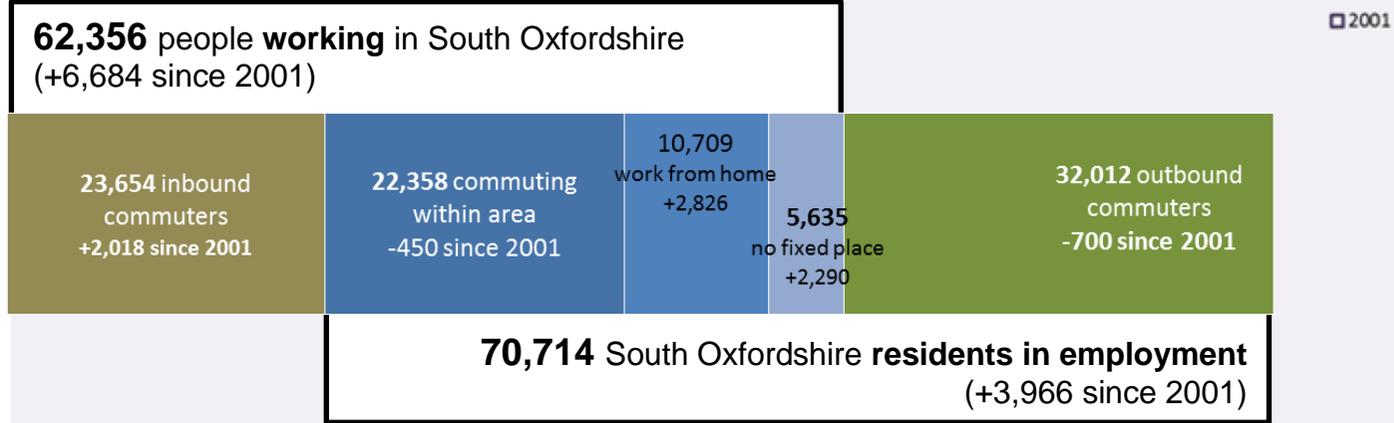


Inbound commutes to South Oxfordshire district have increased, although a smaller proportion of the workforce travels to work from outside the district than in 2001.

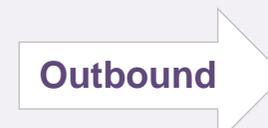
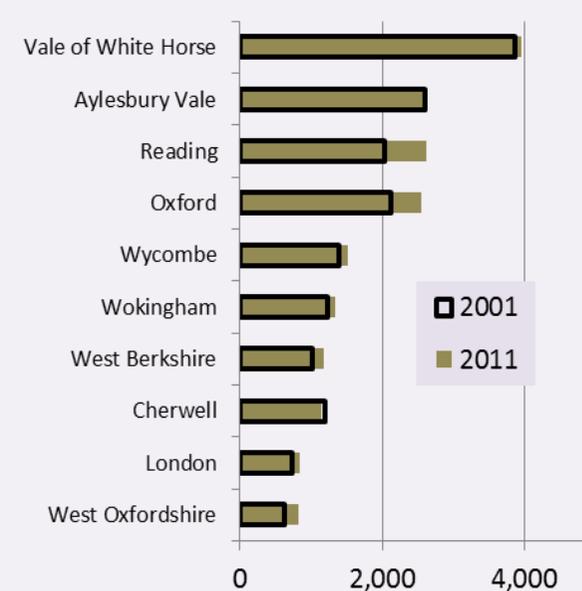
- 38% of the workforce (23,700 people) commuted into South Oxfordshire district in 2011, an additional 6,700 people since 2001, but a smaller proportion of the workforce (39%).
- The greatest number of inbound commutes is from Vale of White Horse: 4,000 journeys, 100 more than in 2001.
- The greatest increase in inbound commuting over the same period is from Reading: 2,000 workers begin their journey here, almost 600 more than in 2001. Journeys from Oxford have also increased: up by 400 since 2001 to 2,100.

South Oxfordshire is the only district to see a fall in out commuting since 2001, although more people continue to travel out of the district to work than travel in.

- 32,000 employed residents travel out of the district to work elsewhere, compared with 23,700 travelling in. This is 700 fewer than in 2001, and a smaller proportion of residents (45% compared with 49% in 2001).
- The greatest number of outbound commutes is to Oxford city: 7,400, an increase of 670 journeys since 2001.
- The number of journeys to Reading and Wycombe has decreased (by 700 and 400, respectively).



Top areas of residence of inbound commuters to South Oxfordshire



Top workplaces for outbound commuters from South Oxfordshire



*500 or more commuters

Commuting to and from Vale of White Horse in 2011

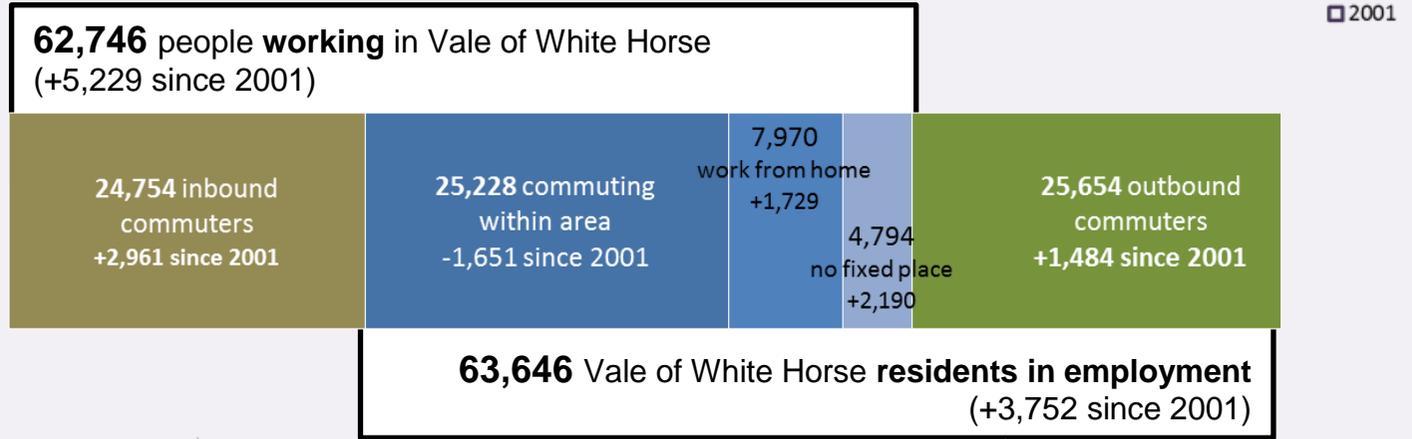


Inbound commuting has increased and a greater proportion of the Vale of White Horse workforce travel to work from outside the district than in 2001.

- 40% of the workforce (24,800 people) commuted into Vale of White Horse district in 2011, up from 38% in 2001, an additional 3,000 people.
- The greatest number of inbound commutes is from South Oxfordshire: 6,200, an additional 250 journeys since 2001.
- The greatest increase in inbound commuting over the same period is from Swindon: 2,550 workers begin their journey here, almost 800 more than in 2001.
- The number of people commuting into the district from West Oxfordshire and West Berkshire has also increased.

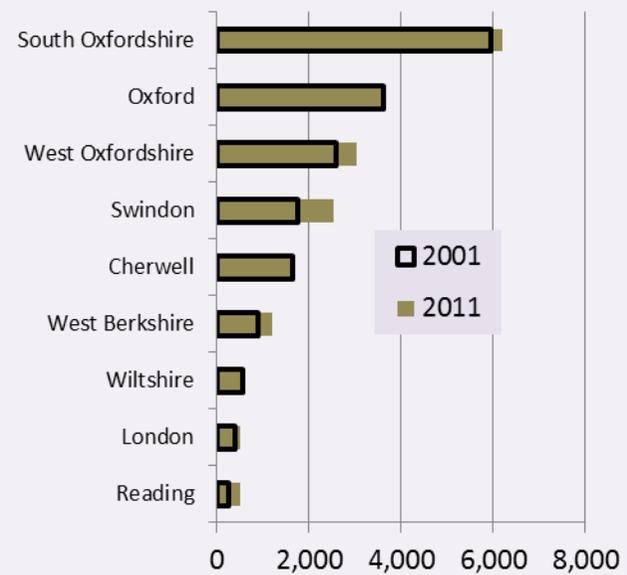
More people travel out of Vale of White Horse district to work than travel in, despite the increase in inbound commuting.

- 25,700 employed residents travel out of the district to work elsewhere, compared with 24,800 travelling in. The proportion of residents commuting out of the district to work remains almost unchanged since 2001 (40% in 2011 compared with 40%).
- The greatest number of outbound commutes is to Oxford city: 10,800, an additional 430 journeys compared with 2001.
- Over the same period, the number of Vale of White Horse residents commuting to Swindon has fallen by 500.



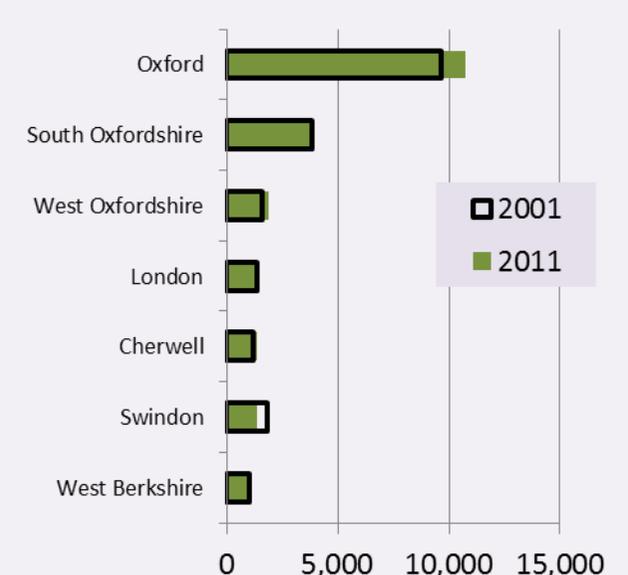
Inbound

Top areas of residence of inbound commuters to Vale of White Horse



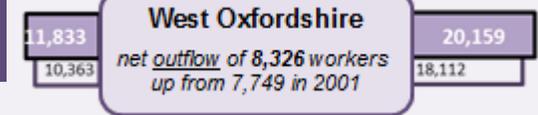
Outbound

Top workplaces for outbound commuters from Vale of White Horse



*500 or more commuters

Commuting to and from West Oxfordshire in 2011

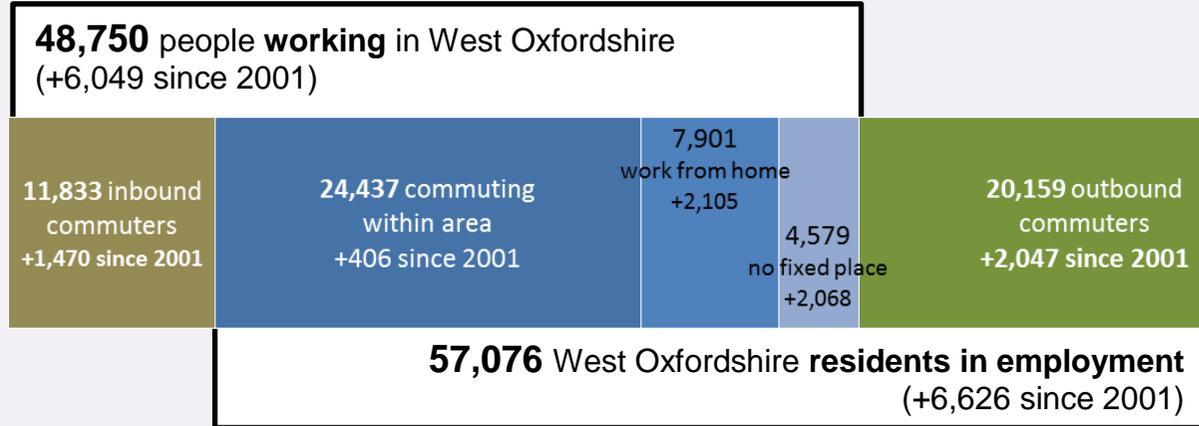


Inbound commuting has increased and a greater proportion of West Oxfordshire's workforce travel to work from outside the district than in 2001.

- 17% of the workforce (11,800 people) commuted into West Oxfordshire in 2011, up from 15% in 2001, an additional 1,500 people.
- The greatest number of inbound commuters travelled from Cherwell, Vale of White Horse and Oxford.
- The greatest increase in inbound commuting is from Vale of White Horse and Swindon: 400 additional journeys were made from each of these areas in 2011 compared with 2001.

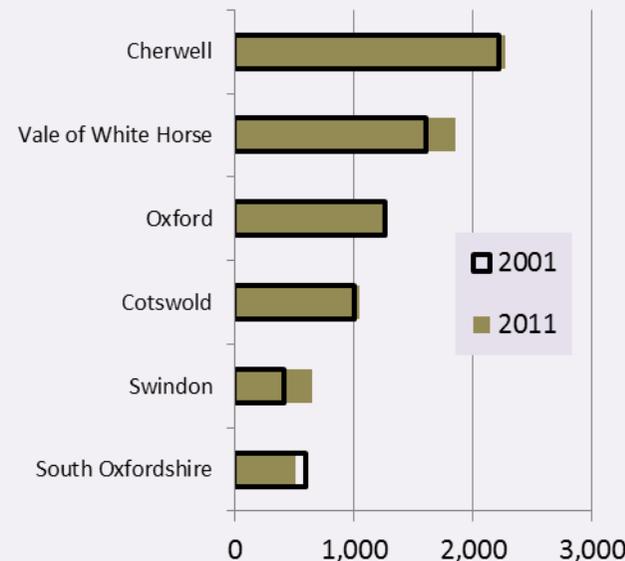
More people travel out of West Oxfordshire district to work than travel in, despite the increase in inbound commuting.

- 20,200 employed residents (35%) travelled out of West Oxfordshire to work in 2011, compared with 11,800 travelling in, 2,200 more than in 2001 (the proportion remains unchanged).
- The greatest number of outbound commuters from West Oxfordshire travelled to Oxford: 7,500, an additional 400 commuters since 2001.
- Journeys to Vale of White Horse district have increased by a similar number, and 300 more journeys are made to Cherwell.



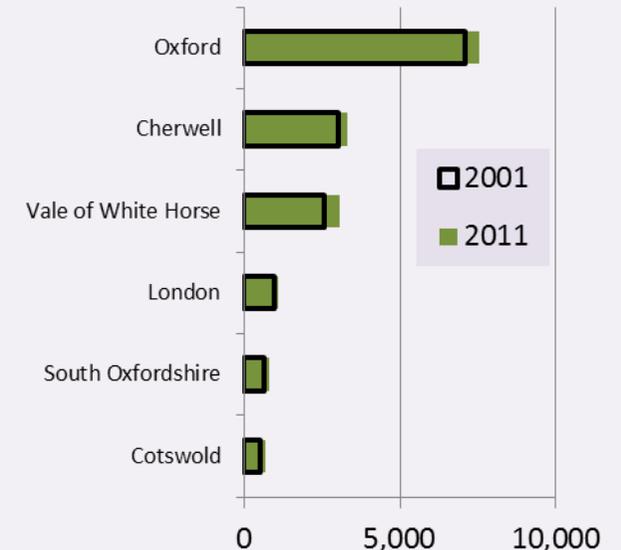
Inbound

Top areas of residence of inbound commuters to West Oxfordshire



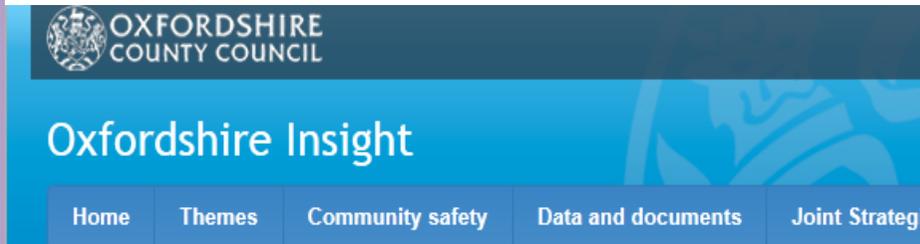
Outbound

Top workplaces for outbound commuters from West Oxfordshire



*500 or more commuters

Further information



Home > Themes > 2011 Census >

Travel

Local-authority journey origins and travel mode

Local-authority journey destinations

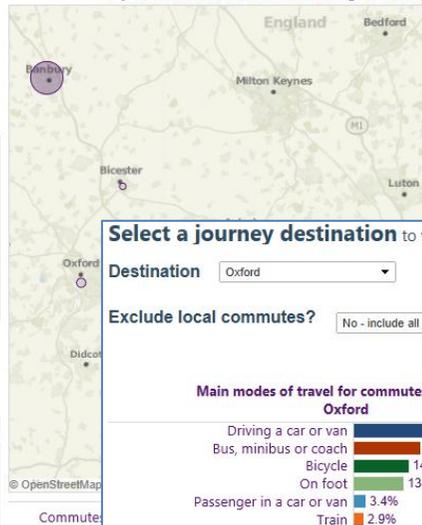
Select a journey origin to view data about journeys to work beginning there.



Top destinations for commutes starting in Banbury, by travel mode
(To view top destinations for a particular mode, click on that mode in the chart above.)



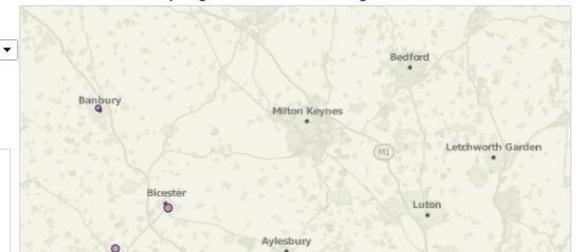
Top destinations for commutes starting in Banbury



Select a journey destination to view data about journeys to work ending there.



Top origins for commutes ending in Oxford



The travel to work, or 'flow', data set is vast. This briefing, produced in partnership by Oxford City Council, the District Data Service and Oxfordshire County Council's Research & Intelligence Team, sets out journeys starting or ending in one of the Oxfordshire districts.

We will continue to analyse the data over the coming weeks, and will publish our findings in further briefings.

In the meantime, you can find out more about commuting to and from Oxfordshire towns (and settlements across England) using our interactive tools on Oxfordshire Insight.

View travel to work information by district or settlement using the interactive tools on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/insight/travel

DATA TABLES

2001	Cherwell	Oxford	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire
In commuters	19,953	40,051	21,636	21,793	10,363	47,043
In-district commuters	35,531	38,538	22,808	26,879	24,031	214,540
Work from home	6,779	5,068	7,883	6,241	5,796	31,767
No fixed place	3,017	2,115	3,345	2,604	2,511	13,592
Live and work in area (in-district+wfh+nfp)	45,327	45,721	34,036	35,724	32,338	259,899
Out commuters	24,952	14,470	32,712	24,170	18,112	47,663
Net commuting	-4,999	25,581	-11,076	-2,377	-7,749	-620
Employed residents	70,279	60,191	66,748	59,894	50,450	307,562
People working in area	65,280	85,772	55,672	57,517	42,701	306,942
% of employed residents who work in area	65%	76%	51%	60%	64%	85%
% of people who work in area who also live there	69%	53%	61%	62%	76%	85%
2011	Cherwell	Oxford	South Oxfordshire	Vale of White Horse	West Oxfordshire	Oxfordshire
In commuters	23,206	45,852	23,654	24,754	11,833	57,447
In-district commuters	34,879	42,406	22,358	25,228	24,437	221,160
Work from home	8,727	7,431	10,709	7,970	7,901	42,738
No fixed place	5,459	4,395	5,635	4,794	4,579	24,862
Live and work in area (in-district+wfh+nfp)	49,065	54,232	38,702	37,992	36,917	288,760
Out commuters	26,184	16,013	32,012	25,654	20,159	48,170
Net commuting	-2,978	29,839	-8,358	-900	-8,326	9,277
Employed residents	75,249	70,245	70,714	63,646	57,076	336,930
People working in area	72,271	100,084	62,356	62,746	48,750	346,207
% of employed residents who work in area	65%	77%	55%	60%	65%	86%
% of people who work in area who also live there	68%	54%	62%	61%	76%	83%

DATA SOURCES and NOTES

Data used in this briefing was downloaded from www.nomisweb.co.uk

2001 Census travel-to-work from table T103

2001 data on “no fixed place” of work from table T10

2011 Census travel-to-work from table WU03

Note: out commuting data for 2001 and 2011 includes people commuting to destinations outside the UK and to offshore installations.

Please note that ONS have used different definitions for some of the travel-to-work data in 2001 and 2011 and (as of August 2014) have not provided a guide to making comparisons. Our notes on differences are shown in the following table.

Data type	Census 2001 flow data	Census 2011 flow data
Age range	Covers people aged 16-74	Flow data covers people aged 16+ therefore there is small difference between 2001 and 2011. Each of the five districts had around 200 – 300 working residents aged 75 years and over in 2011.
Working from home	People 'working from home' were given a workplace which was the same as their place of residence. All people who worked from home were recorded with 'working from home' as their method of travel.	People 'working from home' were recorded with a special workplace category 'working from home'. All people who worked from home were recorded with 'working from home' as their method of travel.
No fixed place of work	People with 'no fixed place' of work do not feature as a separate category in the flow data. People with 'no fixed place' of work were given a workplace which was the same as their place of residence. However, unlike people 'working from home' they have a mode of travel. Separate 'no fixed place of work' counts are available from Census 2001 Theme table 10 resident, workplace and daytime population (does not include mode of travel).	People with 'no fixed place' of work were recorded with a special workplace 'no fixed place', and all were assigned modes of travel. In order to compare 'people who live and work in the area' between 2001 and 2011 it is necessary to include people with 'no fixed place' of work.
Data suppression	In table T103, data suppression has been applied to local authority data with small counts (less than 3). Totals for countries in the UK are not equivalent to the sum of local authorities. The difference for districts in Oxfordshire is small - less than 50 per district.	In table WU03, data suppression is not applied to local authority data. The country totals are equivalent to the sum of local authority areas.

Other publications planned for this series will cover mode of travel and changes in commuting patterns to and from major settlements and areas of employment.