Oxfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy

Economy briefing paper

ANNEX 1: Data and information

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Introduction

This Annex provides a snapshot of the current health of the Oxfordshire economy, as measured by a variety of economic indicators. Comparisons are made with Oxfordshire's immediate neighbours, and with regional and national averages. A district level breakdown is also provided for most economic indicators.

In looking at the available evidence, a distinction needs to be made between workplace-based and residence-based economic indicators – i.e. some indicators tell us about the people working in Oxfordshire (workplace-based), whilst others tell us about those living in the county (residence-based). Both are of interest, but they tell us different things. Other economic indicators relate to the county's business population.

The evidence in this Annex is structured under a number of broad headings:

- *Measures of overall economic performance* – including output per head, household incomes, earnings;

- *Other indicators of economic health* – including business start up and survival rates, employment growth, employment and inactivity rates, claimant unemployment, numbers of benefit claimants, and qualifications;

- *Key economic sectors* – including measures of economic diversity and specialisation, employment change by sector, and Oxfordshire's high-tech economy;

- *Wider economic context* – including economic self-containment, comparisons with geographic neighbours, and the wider global challenge;

- *Other relevant evidence* – including business perceptions and other issues of interest (e.g. effects of migration; ageing population).

Relevant statistical indicators are included in the set of tables at the end of this Annex.

1 Measures of Performance of the Oxfordshire Economy

1.1 Output (Gross Value Added)

Gross value added (GVA) measures the total monetary value of an economy's output, and is one of the most useful indicators of overall economic performance. The latest available estimates provide data for 2004. Separate estimates of GVA for the Oxfordshire districts are not currently available.

- GVA per head in Oxfordshire was £21,400 in 2004. This is 16% above the South East average (£18,500) and 22% above the English average (£17,500) (Table 1).

- Oxfordshire's GVA per head compares favourably with most of its geographic neighbours, including Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Wiltshire. However, much higher levels of output per head are generated in Berkshire (£27,500); Buckinghamshire also currently outperforms Oxfordshire (£22,000) (Table 3).

- The growth in GVA per head in Oxfordshire between 1999 and 2004 was 32%, which is slightly above the South East (29%) and English averages (28%) (Table 1).

- Oxfordshire's recent GVA growth compares well with most of its immediate neighbours. Of the six neighbouring counties, only Gloucestershire (40%) has experienced a faster growth in GVA per head than Oxfordshire since 1999 (Table 3).

1.2 Claimant Count: Unemployment

The commonly used measure of unemployment is based on the monthly count of Job Seekers Allowance claimants (the claimant count). The latest figures are for April 2007. These show that:

- The claimant count unemployment rate for Oxfordshire is very low – only 1.1% of working age residents were claimant unemployed in April 2007, compared with 1.6% in South East and 2.5% nationally (Table 1).

- The county's unemployment rate is currently lower than in any of Oxfordshire's immediate neighbours (Table 3).

- There are particularly low levels of claimant count unemployment in South Oxfordshire (0.8%), Vale of White Horse (0.7%) and West Oxfordshire (0.7%). These are amongst the lowest unemployment rates in the South East region. Cherwell district also has an unemployment rate below the regional average (1.2%). Oxford City currently accounts for almost 40% of unemployed claimants in

Oxfordshire, but its unemployment rate (1.6%) is the same as the South East average (Table 2).

- 700 Oxfordshire residents have been out of work and claiming Job Seekers Allowance for over 12 months (April 2007 figures). This group of long-term unemployed represents 16% of the county's unemployed claimants compared to 15% for the South East and 17% nationally. At district level, the proportion of long-term unemployed claimants ranges from only 8% in West Oxfordshire and 11% in Vale of White Horse to 18% in Cherwell, Oxford City and South Oxfordshire.

1.3 Working Age Benefit Claimants

The latest data on numbers of people claiming key DWP benefits is for October-December 2006. The data relates to people of working age, and provides an overall count of the number of people claiming at least one key benefit from DWP. 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 shows that:

- 7.5% of Oxfordshire's working age population are claiming at least one key benefit. This is well below the regional (10.0%) and national averages (14.1%) (Table 1).

- The proportion of benefit claimants in Oxfordshire is lower than in any of its immediate neighbours (Table 3).

- At district level, the proportion of benefit claimants is lowest in South Oxfordshire (6.4%), Vale of White Horse (6.6%) and West Oxfordshire (6.4%). These percentages are amongst the lowest in the South East region. Numbers on benefits are higher in Cherwell (8.1%) and Oxford City (9.0%), but these proportions are still below the South East average (Table 2).

1.4 Business Growth and Survival Rates: VAT

The latest data on numbers of VAT registered businesses and business survival rates, reveals the following:

- Despite a downturn in 2005, the rate of new VAT registrations in Oxfordshire continues at above the English average. In 2005, there were 41 VAT registrations in Oxfordshire per 10,000 adult residents, compared with an average of 42 in the South East and 38 in England (Table 1).

- Oxfordshire's VAT registration rate continues to fall significantly below that in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, but is on a par with most of its other immediate neighbours (Table 3).

- For businesses registering for VAT during 2002, the three year survival rate in Oxfordshire is 75%. This is above the South East (73%) and England-wide averages (71%) (Table 1). Business survival rates in Oxfordshire compare favourably with most of the county's immediate neighbours (Table 3).

- Within the county, survival rates are currently highest for businesses in South Oxfordshire (77%), Vale of White Horse (76%) and West Oxfordshire (76%), and slightly lower in Cherwell (72%) and Oxford City (73%) (Table 2).

- The number of VAT registered businesses in Oxfordshire increased by over 2,000 in the five years to January 2006. This represents a growth of 9.4% in the county's business stock; this compares with increases of only 6% at regional and national level (Table 1). Amongst Oxfordshire's immediate neighbours, only Northamptonshire and Warwickshire have seen a similar rate of growth in business stock; other counties have seen slower growth.

1.5 Employment and Inactivity Rates

Employment and inactivity rates are key measures of local labour market performance. The employment rate shows the proportion of working age residents who are in paid employment, including the self employed. The inactivity rate shows the proportion of working age residents who are not participating in the labour market. The latest data for these indicators is for the 12 months to July 2006 (source: Annual Population Survey).

- The employment rate for Oxfordshire's working age population is currently 81%; this is above the South East (79%) and English averages (74%) (Table 1). Amongst Oxfordshire's immediate neighbours, only Wiltshire (81%) has a comparable employment rate; all other areas have lower employment rates than Oxfordshire (Table 3).

- Employment rates are highest in the more rural districts of Cherwell (84%), Vale of White Horse (85%) and West Oxfordshire (87%), and lowest in Oxford City (71%) (Table 2). This latter figure is partly due to the large student population in Oxford. West Oxfordshire currently has one of the highest employment rates amongst English local authority districts (currently ranked fourth highest out of 354 districts).

- Levels of economic inactivity in the county are low – only 16% of Oxfordshire's working age residents are currently inactive, compared with 18% in the South East and 22% nationally (Table 1). Wiltshire is the only neighbouring county with lower levels of economic inactivity (Table 3).

1.6 Recent Employment Growth

The latest ABI data for 2005 confirms the sluggish employment growth in Oxfordshire during recent years, despite the county's high employment rates and low levels of claimant unemployment.

- Looking at the rate of employment growth since 1998, Oxfordshire's performance is relatively poor. Oxfordshire has seen only a 3% employment increase between 1998 and 2005, compared with an average increase of 10% in the South East and of 9% England-wide (Table 1).

- However, Oxfordshire is not alone in experiencing sluggish employment growth in recent years. Amongst neighbouring areas, job growth has also been relatively poor in Warwickshire (5%) and Wiltshire (5%). Set against this, much stronger job growth has been experienced in Northamptonshire (16%) and to a lesser extent in Berkshire (8%), Buckinghamshire (8%) and Gloucestershire (7%) (Table 3).

- At district level, employment growth since 1998 has been strongest in Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire (Table 2).

1.7 Household Income

The latest official estimates of household income levels for Oxfordshire provide figures for 2005. The figures show average levels of gross disposable household incomes; separate estimates for the Oxfordshire districts are not available. The estimates show that:

- Average household incomes in Oxfordshire (£15,200) are about 2% above the South East average (£14,900) and 13% above the English average (£13,500) (Table 1).

- Amongst Oxfordshire's geographic neighbours, only Buckinghamshire has a higher average level of household income (£16,300) (Table 3).

1.8 Earnings

Two sets of earnings figures are available, one relating to the earnings of those people working in Oxfordshire (workplace-based) and the other relating to the earnings of Oxfordshire residents (residence-based). The assessment of Oxfordshire's relative performance differs depending on which of these measures is used. Both measures are of interest, but we focus here mainly on the workplace-based measure. This indicates the earnings levels of those working in the county and is therefore a better measure of the strength of the county's economy, since the figure is not distorted by the high earnings of those commuting to work outside Oxfordshire.

- Workplace-based earnings for full-time workers in Oxfordshire averaged £543 in 2006. This is 1% below the English average (£547) and 4% below the South East average (£567) (Table 1).

- Residence-based earnings in the county are higher, averaging £593 per week in 2006. This is only 1% below the South East average and 8% above the English average (Table 1).

- Variations in average earnings across the county are quite significant. Workplace-based earnings are highest in Vale of White Horse district (£585 per week) and Oxford City (£559), and lowest in Cherwell (£500) and West Oxfordshire (£502). Earnings levels for those working in Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire are below the national average (Table 2).

- Earnings in Oxfordshire compare favourably with those in its immediate neighbours to the west and north (Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire). However, the area to the south and east of Oxfordshire, covering Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, has significantly higher earnings levels (Table 3).

- Between 2001 and 2006, mean workplace-based earnings in Oxfordshire increased by 18%. This is slightly below the average increase in the South East and in England as a whole (both 19%). Within the county, earnings growth has been strongest in Cherwell (an increase of 28%), with smaller increases in most of the other districts (ranging from 16-19%). The exception is West Oxfordshire, which according to the latest figures has seen very little growth in average earnings during the last five years.

1.9 Qualification Levels and Skills

The latest qualifications data for Oxfordshire is from the Annual Population Survey (APS), and relates to the January-December 2005 period.

- The proportion of Oxfordshire's working age residents with NVQ level 4+ qualifications (degree or equivalent) is about 31%; this is slightly above the South East average (30%) and well above the national average (26%) (Table 1).

- The proportion of working age residents in Oxfordshire with no formal qualifications is below regional and national average – only 9% of working age residents in Oxfordshire have no qualifications, compared with 10% in South East and 14% nationally (Table 1).

- Amongst neighbouring counties, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire have slightly higher proportions of people educated to degree level or above (Table 3).

2. Performance of Key Sectors of the Economy

2.1 Economic Diversity and Specialisation

Oxfordshire's employment base can be characterised as one of "diverse specialisation", with concentrations of employment in a wide range of sectors or clusters. These specialisms are mainly found in high-tech manufacturing and knowledge-based business services, but also include the important higher education sector.

Relevant data is summarised in Table 4, which shows current employment levels in selected sectors and the degree of specialisation in these activities. Sector specialisation is measured by the location quotient, which expresses the sector's share of Oxfordshire's employment as a ratio of its share in national employment. A location quotient above 1.0 indicates that the sector accounts for a higher share of employment than nationally and therefore a relative specialisation in this activity in Oxfordshire.

- Sectors with a high degree of specialisation in Oxfordshire (location quotient of 2.0 or higher) include publishing, manufacture of computers, electrical equipment, medical, precision and scientific instruments, motor vehicle manufacture, research and development, advertising and higher education. These sectors combined account for about 46,000 employee jobs in the county (representing 15% of total Oxfordshire employment).

- Oxfordshire also has a relative specialisation in a number of other knowledge-based service activities, including software development, consultancy and other computer related activities (LQ, 1.12), and legal and accountancy services, market research and business/management consultancy (LQ 1.08). However, telecommunications and financial services are under-represented in Oxfordshire's employment base.

- Other Oxfordshire specialisms, not shown in Table 4, include the cluster of companies in biotech and related healthcare activities and the grouping of firms in motor sport and related advanced engineering. There are currently about 90 companies in Oxfordshire in the biotech and healthcare sector, plus a smaller number of related firms providing informatics solutions for this sector and more general support services. Almost half of the companies currently operating in this sector were founded between 2001 and 2006.

2.2 Employment Growth and Loss by Sector

Annual Business Inquiry data has been used to examine employment changes in Oxfordshire by industry sector. The results, showing employment change between 1998 and 2005, are summarised in Table 7.

- Sectors experiencing employment growth since 1998 include the wholesale and retail trades, hotels and catering, transport, storage and communications, education, health and social work, and other community services. The largest job gains have been in hotels and catering (a net additional 4,400 jobs), education (10,300 additional jobs, although this figure is affected by reclassification of R&D employment to the higher education sector), and health and social work (8,500 additional jobs).

- All other sectors have seen net employment losses; these include agriculture (a net loss of 700 jobs), manufacturing (5,900 net job losses), construction (900 jobs), financial services (1,100 jobs), and public administration and defence (3,400 job losses). The real estate, renting and business services sector has also seen a net loss of employment, although again the figures for this sector are affected by a reclassification of R&D employment.

2.3 Oxfordshire's High-Tech and Knowledge Economy

Evidence on the knowledge intensity of Oxfordshire's employment is summarised in Tables 5 and 6. The latest evidence indicates that Oxfordshire currently has above average levels of employment in high-tech and knowledge-based sectors (high knowledge intensity). However, employment growth in these sectors in recent years has been relatively poor when compared with some of Oxfordshire's immediate neighbours and regional and national averages.

- Employment in high-tech and knowledge-based sectors in Oxfordshire was almost 75,000 in 2005. This represents 24% of all employee jobs in the county, and compares favourably with averages of 20% in the South East and only 18% in England as a whole (Table 5). Amongst neighbouring counties, only Berkshire (25%) and Buckinghamshire (23%) currently have comparable shares of employment in knowledge-based sectors (Table 6). The high current levels of knowledge intensity in the county's employment base reflects the presence of several high-tech and knowledge-based specialisms or clusters in the county, as noted in Section 4.1 above.

- Between 1998 and 2005, Oxfordshire's employment in knowledge-based sectors increased by only about 1,600, or 2.1%. This rate of growth is well below the South East (8.5%) and national averages (6.4%) for these sectors (Table 5). Amongst neighbouring counties, Oxfordshire is not alone in experiencing sluggish growth in knowledge-based employment in recent years – growth has also been relatively weak in Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and Wiltshire. However, much stronger growth in these activities has taken place in Berkshire (9% between 1998 and 2005), and especially in Buckinghamshire (23% growth) and Warwickshire (20% growth) (Table 6).

3. Regional and Global Economic Context

3.1 Economic Flows and Self-Containment

Data from the 2001 Census has been used to examine commuting flows into and out of Oxfordshire. This data is summarised in Table 8. Relevant findings include:

- Commuting inflows and outflows are broadly in balance for Oxfordshire as a whole. There is an outflow of 47,500 Oxfordshire residents who work outside the county. This is counterbalanced by an inflow of 46,800 non-Oxfordshire residents who work within the county.

- 85% of Oxfordshire residents who are in employment work within the county boundaries. And, of those people whose workplace is in Oxfordshire, 85% also live within the county. This is a relatively high degree of self-containment, although the proportions are not untypical of those found in adjacent counties (e.g. Northamptonshire, 83% of residents work inside the county; Gloucestershire, 87%) (Table 8).
- At district level, there is a greater imbalance in commuting flows and lower levels of self containment. The proportion of people working within their district of residence ranges from only 51% in South Oxfordshire to 76% in Oxford City. All districts have a net commuting outflow, except Oxford City.

3.2 Neighbouring Economies

The data in this Annex allows Oxfordshire's economic performance to be benchmarked against its immediate geographic neighbours. These include Berkshire, Buckinghamshire (including Milton Keynes), Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Wiltshire (including Swindon). Relevant comparative data can be found in Tables 3, 6 and 8. Comparisons with the wider South East region are also included in Tables 1 and 5.

The comparisons between Oxfordshire and its six neighbouring counties are rather mixed:

- Oxfordshire is ranked amongst the top 2-3 of the seven counties on most economic indicators, with the exception of employment growth.

- Oxfordshire has the lowest unemployment rate and the lowest proportion of working age people claiming benefits. It also has the highest employment rate (with Wiltshire), the strongest growth in business stock (with Northamptonshire) and the highest business survival rates (with Warwickshire). The county is also ranked second in terms of growth in output per head (behind Gloucestershire) and on household income levels (behind Buckinghamshire). Qualification levels are also amongst the highest, although Berkshire and Buckinghamshire perform slightly better on this indicator.

- Set against this, GVA per head and average earnings lag significantly behind those found in Berkshire, the top performer amongst Oxfordshire's immediate neighbours. GVA per head in Berkshire is currently 28% higher than in Oxfordshire, and workplace-based earnings are 26% higher. Buckinghamshire also outperforms Oxfordshire on both of these measures, but the gap in performance is less pronounced.

- Oxfordshire's employment growth since 1998 has been the weakest amongst the seven counties. However, this needs to be set within the context of the county's very high employment rate, low levels of economic inactivity and low claimant unemployment.

- Oxfordshire has a diverse economic structure. Its employment base has a high level of knowledge intensity, on a par with that found in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. There is a diverse representation of high-tech and knowledge based sectors, and less reliance on a single dominant sector than in some neighbouring counties. However, recent employment growth in knowledge based activities has been disappointing, and lags well behind that experienced in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Warwickshire.

3.3 International Context

Data on the international economic context and the global challenges facing the Oxfordshire economy can be found in the evidence base insert 2007 of the Economic Development Strategy Oxfordshire 2006-2016.

4. Other Relevant Evidence

4.1 Key Issues for Businesses

A recent FSB funded study of Oxfordshire's small businesses provides evidence on some of the key issues and concerns currently faced by the county's businesses. Further details can be found in the study report (Glasson et al, 2007), but included below is an indication of the importance of various barriers to business. The figures are based on responses from over 300 small business owners and managers in Oxfordshire.

The issues most often mentioned as major obstacles to small business in Oxfordshire are, in descending order of importance:

- Regulations/red tape (which are currently regarded as a major problem by 33% of respondents);
- Taxation issues (a major obstacle for 26% of respondents);
- The economy (24%);
- Cash flow problems (20%);
- Recruitment of staff (20%);
- Planning restrictions (16%);
- Competition in the market (14%);
- Availability or cost of suitable premises (13%);
- Transport issues (12%);
- General skill shortages (12%); and
- Obtaining finance (10%).

The issues most frequently identified as major obstacles tend to be factors operating at a national level, such as the overall state of the economy, taxation and the impact of government legislation/regulations. However, there are a number of more localised issues, such as staff recruitment/skill shortages, transport and the impact of land use planning, which are also ranked relatively highly. Other frequently mentioned issues include land and premises-related problems and business rates.

Other findings from this study include:

- Almost a quarter of Oxfordshire's small businesses (24%) stated that poor public transport services are currently causing difficulties for their staff, or hindering their ability to recruit staff. 7% of businesses rated this issue as a major problem.

- A similar proportion of businesses (25%) thought that the local transport infrastructure is a problem when transporting goods; this was a major problem according to 10% of respondents.

- 30% of businesses identified problems in recruiting staff due to the lack of local affordable housing (13% thought this was a major problem).

- The lack and/or cost of childcare facilities is causing – mostly minor – problems for staff, or when attempting to recruit staff, for a small proportion of businesses (12-16%).

- 29% of businesses identified skill shortages amongst current staff, and 32% stated that they experienced skill shortages when recruiting new staff. The most frequently mentioned skill shortage areas when recruiting staff were communication skills (cited by 15% of respondents), technical skills (14%), literacy (14%) and numeracy (12%). IT skills appear to be less of a problem, although shortages of advanced IT skills were noted amongst existing staff.

- The land use planning system is identified as a barrier to business by a minority of Oxfordshire's small businesses. Planning restrictions were identified as an obstacle to business operations by 28% of respondents, and 15% of small businesses believed that the operation of their business had been constrained by land use planning considerations.

4.2 Ageing Population

One issue that will be relevant to the future of the Oxfordshire economy is the effect of an ageing population. Data has been obtained from the official ONS mid-year population estimates and the latest 2004-based subnational population projections. Key findings are:

- The proportion of Oxfordshire's population above retirement age increased from an estimated 16.4% in 1995 to 17.3% in 2005. Based on current trends, this proportion is projected to increase to 19.8% by 2015 and to 22.4% by 2025.
- The percentage of Oxfordshire's population who are of working age is projected to decline from an estimated 65.0% in 2005 to 63.6% by 2015 and 61.1% by 2025 (note that these figures include 15 years olds within the definition of working age).

4.3 Economic Effects of Migration

It has not been possible to identify any evidence from available national secondary datasets relating to the economic impact of migration within Oxfordshire. This topic may merit further research.

5. Summary

Overall, Oxfordshire's performance across a range of headline economic indicators, and on measures of enterprise and innovation, compares favourably with South East and national averages. Positive indicators include:

- High levels of output per head and output growth;
- High economic activity and employment rates;
- Very low levels of unemployment;
- Above average business survival rates and strong growth in the number of businesses;
- High knowledge intensity in Oxfordshire's employment (despite recent poor growth); and
- The presence of several high-tech and knowledge-based clusters, showing that the Oxfordshire economy is characterised by "diverse specialisation".

Set against these strengths are a number of concerns about the county's recent performance. These include:

- Relatively low earnings levels;
- Below average rates of employment growth in recent years;
- High knowledge intensity but relatively poor recent employment growth in knowledge-based sectors, particularly when compared with some of Oxfordshire's immediate neighbours;
- A highly skilled workforce but below average levels of educational attainment; and
- The effect of high house prices on staff recruitment and retention.

6. Further Information

Glasson, J., Downing, L., Chadwick, A. & Lawton Smith, H. (2007), The Economic Ecology of Small Businesses in Oxfordshire. Report by the Oxfordshire Economic Observatory for the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Oxfordshire Branch.

Lawton Smith, H., Glasson, J. & Chadwick, A. (2007), Enterprising Oxford – The Oxfordshire Model. Report by the Oxfordshire Economic Observatory.

Oxfordshire Economic Observatory (2007), Understanding Rural Oxfordshire: The Rural Economy – Briefing Paper. Report for Oxfordshire County Council. January 2007.

7. Data Sources

Tables 1, 2 & 3

- Office for National Statistics (ONS), regional, sub-regional and local estimates of gross value added (GVA) (released December 2006);
- ONS, regional estimates of household income (released March 2007);
- ONS, Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings (ASHE) 2006;
- Small Business Service (SBS), annual VAT registration statistics;
- SBS, business survival rates (released February 2007);
- ONS, annual estimates of jobs density;
- ONS, Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) employee data, 1998 & 2005;
- ONS, Annual Population Survey (APS);
- ONS, monthly claimant unemployment count data;
- Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), WPLS quarterly benefits data.

Tables 4, 5, 6 & 7

- ONS, Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) employee data, 1998 & 2005.

Table 8

- ONS, 2001 Census, theme table T10.

Table 1 – Key Economic Indicators for Oxfordshire

Indicator	Oxfordshire	South East	England
Gross value added (GVA) per head (£), 2004	**21,429**	18,496	17,532
% growth in GVA per head, 1999-2004	**32.1**	28.7	27.8
Household income per head (£), 2005	**15,191**	14,941	13,494
Mean gross weekly earnings, full-time workers, workplace-based (£), 2006	**542.6**	567.1	546.5
Mean gross weekly earnings, full-time workers, residence-based (£), 2006	**593.4**	598.5	548.0
VAT registrations per 10,000 adults, 2005	**41**	42	38
3 year business survival rate, businesses registered for VAT, 2002 (% still trading)	**75**	73	71
% growth in no. of VAT-registrations, 2001-2006	**9.4**	6.1	6.0
Jobs density (jobs per working age resident), 2005	**0.92**	0.88	0.85
% growth in number of employee jobs, 1998-2005	**3.3**	10.1	8.6
Employment rate (% of working age residents), July 2005-June 2006	**81.1**	78.6	74.3
Inactivity rate (% of working age residents), July 2005-June 2006	**16.3**	17.9	21.5
Claimant rate (% working age residents), April 2007	**1.1**	1.6	2.5
% of working age residents claiming at least one key DWP benefit, Oct-Dec 2006	**7.5**	10.0	14.1
% of working age residents with NVQ level 4+ qualifications, 2005	**31.4**	29.5	26.2
% of working age residents with no qualifications, 2005	**9.4**	10.1	14.1

Note: Data sources for this table are listed in Section 7 above.

Table 2 – District Level Breakdown for Selected Economic Indicators

Indicator	Cherwell	Oxford City	South Oxon	Vale W/Horse	West Oxon
Mean gross weekly earnings, full-time workers, workplace-based (£), 2006	500.0	559.3	525.7	584.8	502.3
Mean gross weekly earnings, full-time workers, residence-based (£), 2006	536.1	528.7	692.0	625.4	601.0
VAT registrations per 10,000 adults, 2005	42	24	54	43	48
3 year business survival rate, businesses registered for VAT in 2002 (% still trading)	72	73	77	76	76
% growth in number of VAT-registered enterprises, 2001-2006	10.1	10.3	7.2	9.8	10.5
Jobs density (jobs per working age resident), 2005	0.93	1.00	0.86	0.91	0.86
% growth in number of employee jobs, 1998-2005	5.1	3.7	6.5	- 4.4	6.8
Employment rate (% of working age residents), July 2005-June 2006	84.4	70.7	81.2	85.1	87.1
Inactivity rate (% of working age residents), July 2005-June 2006	12.7	25.0	17.3	13.4	10.2
Claimant count rate (% of working age residents), April 2007	1.2	1.6	0.8	0.7	0.7
% of working age residents claiming at least one key DWP benefit, Oct-Dec 2006	8.1	9.0	6.4	6.6	6.4

Note: Data sources for this table are listed in Section 7 above.

Table 3 – Selected Economic Indicators for Oxfordshire's Geographic Neighbours

Indicator	Berkshire	Bucks	Gloucs	Northants	Oxon	Warks	Wiltshire
Gross value added (GVA) per head (£), 2004	27,493	22,025	19,386	18,298	**21,429**	16,641	18,730
% growth in GVA per head, 1999-2004	29.2	29.6	40.4	27.7	**32.1**	17.8	23.8
Household income per head (£), 2005	15,125	16,333	13,656	13,201	**15,191**	14,028	14,299
Mean gross weekly earnings, full-time workers, workplace-based (£), 2006	681.5	584.6	498.9	485.2	**542.6**	518.4	528.6
Mean gross weekly earnings, full-time workers, residence-based (£), 2006	647.6	655.7	541.9	533.1	**593.4**	556.7	547.5
VAT registrations per 10,000 adults, 2005	50	55	39	42	**41**	40	40
3 year business survival rate, businesses registered in 2002 (% still trading)	72	73	71	72	**75**	75	74
% growth in number of VAT-registered enterprises, 2001-2006	6.7	6.6	4.3	9.5	**9.4**	9.0	7.3
Jobs density (jobs per working age resident), 2005	0.98	0.93	0.85	0.86	**0.92**	0.84	0.91
% growth in number of employee jobs, 1998-2005	8.3	7.8	7.2	15.7	**3.3**	4.8	4.5

Note: Figures for Bucks include Milton Keynes; figures for Wiltshire include Swindon. Data sources listed in Section 7 above.

Table 3 (Continued) – Selected Economic Indicators for Oxfordshire's Geographic Neighbours

Indicator	Berkshire	Bucks	Gloucs	Northants	Oxon	Warks	Wiltshire
Employment rate (% of working age residents), July 2005-June 2006	79.6	79.0	79.8	80.0	**81.1**	78.5	81.4
Inactivity rate (% of working age residents), July 2005-June 2006	16.8	16.7	17.1	16.9	**16.3**	18.3	15.6
Claimant count rate (% of working age residents), April 2007	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.2	**1.1**	1.9	1.3
% of working age residents claiming at least one key DWP benefit, Oct-Dec 2006	8.4	8.9	10.5	11.2	**7.5**	10.4	9.6
% of working age residents with NVQ level 4+ qualifications, 2005	33.6	32.3	29.5	25.5	**31.4**	27.8	26.3
% of working age residents with no qualifications, 2005	9.0	9.3	10.4	13.5	**9.4**	13.4	9.0

Note: Figures for Bucks include Milton Keynes; figures for Wiltshire include Swindon. Data sources for this table are listed in Section 7 above.

Table 4 – Employment in Selected Industry Sectors in Oxfordshire, 2005

2003 SIC Category	Sector	No. of Employees	Location Quotient
22.1	Publishing	5,700	3.05
24	Chemical manufacture (including pharmaceuticals)	2,400	1.08
30	Manufacture of computers	1,300	5.05
31	Manufacture of electrical equipment	2,900	2.16
32	Manufacture of electronic equipment	500	0.74
33	Manufacture of medical, precision & scientific instruments	3,000	2.33
34	Manufacture of motor vehicles, parts & accessories	4,300	2.00
35.3	Aerospace	200	0.18
64.2	Telecommunications	1,400	0.52
65, 66, 67	Financial services	4,800	0.39
70	Real estate activities	5,000	0.88
72	Software development, consultancy & other computer related activities	7,000	1.12
73	Research & development	5,300	4.22
74.1	Legal, accounting & auditing, market research, business & management consultancy	12,500	1.08
74.2, 74.3	Architecture, engineering & related technical consultancy, technical testing & analysis	3,900	0.94
74.4	Advertising	3,900	3.85
80.3	Higher education	19,300	3.03
92	Recreational, cultural & sporting activities	8,800	1.03
93	Other service activities	5,300	1.42

Source: Office for National Statistics, 2005 Annual Business Inquiry. Location quotient shows the share of the sector in Oxfordshire's employment as a ratio of its share in national (England-wide) employment. A location quotient above 1.0 indicates a relative specialisation in this sector within Oxfordshire.

Table 5 – Importance of High-Tech and Knowledge-Based Employment

Indicator	Oxfordshire	South East	England
% of employment in high-tech manufacturing sectors, 2005	5.6	3.2	3.1
% of employment in high-tech service sectors, 2005	5.6	6.7	4.5
% of employment in other knowledge-based services, 2005	12.9	9.6	10.1
% of employment in all high-tech & knowledge-based sectors, 2005	24.0	19.5	17.7
% employment growth in high-tech & knowledge-based sectors, 1998-2005	2.1	8.5	6.4

Source: Office for National Statistics, 1998 and 2005 Annual Business Inquiry. High-tech manufacturing includes the following 2003 SIC categories: 22.1, 22.3, 24, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35.3. High-tech services include the following 2003 SIC categories: 64.2, 72 (except 72.5), 73, 74.2, 74.3. Other knowledge-based services include the following 2003 SIC categories: 65, 66, 67, 74.11, 74.12, 74.13, 74.14, 74.4, 80.3, 92.1, 92.2, 92.4.

Table 6 – Employment in High-Tech and Knowledge-Based Sectors in Oxfordshire and Neighbouring Areas

Area	% of Employment in High-Tech & Knowledge-Based Sectors, 2005	% Employment Growth in High-Tech & Knowledge-Based Sectors, 1998-2005
Berkshire	25.0	8.8
Buckinghamshire (including Milton Keynes)	23.4	22.9
Gloucestershire	15.9	- 3.0
Northamptonshire	12.2	- 0.6
Oxfordshire	**24.0**	**2.1**
Warwickshire	17.7	19.8
Wiltshire (including Swindon)	17.3	2.9

Source: Office for National Statistics, 1998 and 2005 Annual Business Inquiry. High-tech and knowledge-based sectors include the following 2003 SIC categories: 22.1, 22.3, 24, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35.3, 64.2, 65, 66, 67, 72 (except 72.5), 73, 74.11, 74.12, 74.13, 74.14, 74.2, 74.3, 74.4, 80.3, 92.1, 92.2, 92.4.

Table 7 – Employment Change in Oxfordshire by Sector, 1998-2005

Industry Sector	1998	2005	Change
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	4,100	3,400	- 700
Mining & quarrying, electricity, gas & water supply	1,500	1,400	- 100
Manufacturing	41,700	35,700	- 5,900
Construction	12,600	11,700	- 900
Wholesale & retail trade	52,400	53,400	+ 1,000
Hotels & restaurants	18,300	22,700	+ 4,400
Transport, storage & communications	12,200	13,600	+ 1,500
Financial services	6,000	4,800	- 1,100
Real estate, renting & business services	66,500	59,300	- 7,200
Public administration & defence	18,400	15,000	- 3,400
Education	27,100	37,400	+ 10,300
Health & social work	25,900	34,400	+ 8,500
Other community services	14,900	17,800	+ 2,900
Total: All Sectors	301,400	310,600	+ 9,200

Source: ONS, Annual Business Inquiry 1998 and 2005. Employment change figures for real estate, renting and business services and education sectors are affected by a reclassification of R&D employment to the higher education sector.

Table 8 – Commuting Flows in Oxfordshire, 2001

Area	Commuting Outflow	Commuting Inflow	% Commuting Self-Containment
Oxfordshire	**47,500**	**46,800**	**84.5**
Cherwell	24,900	20,000	64.5
Oxford City	14,400	40,000	76.1
South Oxfordshire	32,700	21,500	51.0
Vale of White Horse	24,100	21,700	59.7
West Oxfordshire	18,100	10,300	64.1
Berkshire	---	---	---
Buckinghamshire	---	---	---
Gloucestershire	35,600	27,800	87.0
Northamptonshire	54,300	33,300	82.7
Warwickshire	80,429	67,500	67.8
Wiltshire	---	---	---

Source: ONS, 2001 Census, theme table T10. Commuting self-containment is calculated as the percentage of the areas employed residents whose workplace is inside the area's boundaries. Figures are not available for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire or Wiltshire.