

2011 Census Headline Results for Buckinghamshire

This commentary provides headline results from the 2011 Census, based on a set of key tables that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released in December 2012. There are three sections below covering information on 'who we are', 'how we live' and 'what we do'. Data is compared with the 2001 Census where relevant comparisons are possible, as well as with England and Wales.

Summary:

- 505,283 people are resident in Buckinghamshire, a 5% (26,259 people) increase since 2001.
- 14% (71,496) of residents described themselves as being of fair, bad and very bad health.
- 13% (67,928) of residents have a long-term limiting illness or disability.
- People providing 20 or more hours unpaid care per week has increased by 38% between 2001 and 2011, to 13,694 people.
- 86% (436,670) of the residents belonged to the White ethnic group in 2011, decreasing from 92% of the population in 2001.
- 14% (68,613) of residents belong to the Non-white ethnic group in 2011, an increase of 82% since 2001.
- 11% (22,050) of households had household members of different ethnic groups, a 46% increase since 2001.
- 13% (65,295) of residents were born outside of the UK, with 40% arriving in the last 10 years (5.2%).
- 93% (186,104) of all households spoke English as a main or preferred language.
- 3.1% (6,316) of all households either had a child under 16 or no persons who speak English as a main or preferred language.
- 73% (146,798) of households owned their own home in 2011, either with mortgage or loan, or outright, an increase of 2% since 2001, bucking the national trend (decrease 4%).
- 27% (53,929) of households rent (including those living rent free) increased by 23% from 43,918 households in 2001 to 53,929 households in 2011.
- 87% (175,466) of households have cars or vans available; with households with no availability increasing from 24,932 in 2001 to 25,261 in 2011.
- Households with children are the largest group making up 41% of the county (82,763 houses), 32% of which have dependent children.
- 'Lone parent households with dependent children' make up 5% (10,550) of the county, the proportion has increased by a third since 2001 (31%).
- 21% of households have pensioners living in them – a 3% increase since 2001 (41,701 to 42,951 households), 12 % (23,652) of all households have pensioners living alone.
- People living in medical and care communal establishments, has increase by 18%, falling from 2,944 to 3,460 people over the 10 years.
- 74% (267,881) of usual residents aged between 16 and 74 (363,773) were economically active, four percentage points above the National figure for England and Wales.
- 3% (10,887) of usual residents are unemployed actively seeking work with 0.8% (2,748) of these residents aged between 16 and 24.
- 2% of usual residents are economically inactive due to long term sickness or disability.
- 17% (67,657) of residents 16+ have no qualifications, 6% lower than the national average.
- 35% of residents 16+ have level 4 or above qualifications, 8% higher than the national average.

Section 1: Who we are

Population

The resident population of Buckinghamshire on the 27th March 2011 was 505,283 people, a 5% (26,259 people) increase since 2001 (7% increase in England and Wales). More detail on the age structure of Buckinghamshire and districts is available in the accompanying 'Age Structure' fact sheets.

Health

In 2011, almost nine out of every ten (86%, 433,787) residents of Buckinghamshire described themselves as being in good or very good health (81% in England and Wales). In 2011 Census 14% (71,496) of residents described themselves as being of fair (11%, 53,987), bad (3%, 13,607) and very bad (1%, 3,902) health.

Just over one in ten residents (13%, 67,928) described themselves as having a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities, which had lasted, or was expected to last, at least 12 months - an 11% increase since 2001¹.

Religion

Those affiliated with the Christian religion remained the largest group; 61% of Buckinghamshire (59% of England and Wales). However, the number of residents who stated that their religion was Christian in 2011 was fewer than in 2001. This followed the national trend; the size of this group decreased by 12% to 61% of the Buckinghamshire population (305,804) in 2011 down from 73% (347,727) in 2001. Nationally for England and Wales, the size of the Christian group decreased 13% points to 59% in 2011, down from 72% in 2001.

The size of the group who stated that they had no religious affiliation has increased by 67% since 2001, from 15% (72,411) in 2001 to 24% (121,190) in 2011. There was a 25% increase in this group for England and Wales.

Other religions accounted for 8% of the Buckinghamshire population in 2011, and those who did not state a religion accounted for 7%.

Ethnic Group

Most residents of Buckinghamshire belonged to the White ethnic group 86% (436,670 people) in 2011, decreasing from 92% of the population in 2001. Nationally in England and Wales, most residents belonged to the White ethnic group (86%) in 2011.

The Non-White Ethnic Group population increased by 82% in Buckinghamshire (37,683 people in 2001 to 68,613 in 2011), and accounts for 14% of the population. In the non-white resident population; 2.4% (12,360) were of Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups, 8.6% (43,269) were from the Asian or Asian British (including Chinese) group, 2.1% (10,490) were from the Black or Black British group and a further 0.5% (2,494) were from Other ethnic groups (including Arabs in 2011, but not including Chinese in 2001 or 2011).

¹ In 2011 this question was structured differently to 2001 and therefore can only be considered as broadly comparable between Census years.

Within Buckinghamshire 15% (22,050) of households (12% in England and Wales) had partners or household members of different ethnic groups in 2011, a 46% increase since 2001 (15,141 households in 2001 to 22,050 households in 2011).

Usual residents born outside of the UK

On the 27th March 2011, 13% (65,295) of Buckinghamshire residents stated they were born outside of the UK, with just under half (40%) arriving in the last 10 years (5.2% of Buckinghamshire's population). This is similar to England and Wales where just over 13% of residents were born outside of the UK and just over half arrived in the last 10 years.

The nine most reported countries of birth of foreign born usual residents for Buckinghamshire account for just over half of all residents born outside of the UK (54%). The most reported countries of birth for Buckinghamshire are; Pakistan (1.7%, 8,765 people), India (1.0%, 5,181), Poland (0.9%, 4,343), Ireland (0.8%, 4,202), South Africa (0.6%, 3,166), Germany (0.5%, 2,566), The Caribbean (0.5%, 2,544), United States (0.5%, 2,411), South-East Asia excluding the Philippines (0.4%, 2,187), and all other countries of birth (excluding the UK) 5.9% (29,930).

Household language

The 2011 Census collected information for the first time on main language and English language skills. On the 27th March 2011, all usual residents in 93% of households (186,104) spoke English as a main or preferred language. This is similar to the average for England and Wales at 91%.

In 4.1% (8,307) of households, at least one adult (16+) spoke English as their main or preferred language and in 0.6% of households (1,261) no adults but at least one child spoke English as a main or preferred language. In the remaining 2.5% (5,055) of households there were no residents who had English as a main or preferred language. It should be noted these statistics cannot be taken as a measure of English speaking proficiency, rather as a resident's preferred or main language.

Section 2: How we live

Accommodation

The number of household spaces available for people to live has increased by 8% between 2001 (193,525 spaces) and 2011 (208,334 spaces). In 2011, 96% of these spaces were occupied by residents (200,727 households with residents), 7% more occupied households than in 2001 (188,086 occupied households in 2001). The proportion of unoccupied household spaces has also increased by 40%, from 5,439 in 2001 to 7,607 households in 2011.

Tenure

In Buckinghamshire 73% (146,798) of households owned their own home in 2011, either with mortgage or loan, or outright. Home ownership increased by 2% since 2001, bucking the national trend which saw a national decrease of 4%.

The increase in home ownership has been driven by those who 'own their home outright' (16% increase in 2001). This group accounts for 34% (68,784) of households in Buckinghamshire (31% in England and Wales). The 39% of households who own their home with a mortgage or loan have decreased by 8% since 2001, falling from 84,741 to 78,014 in 2011.

The group that rent (including those living rent free) increased by 23% from 43,918 households in 2001 to 53,929 households in 2011.

Car or van availability

The total number of households in Buckinghamshire has increased from 188,088 in 2001 to 200,727 in 2011, with the number of households with cars or vans available for use in Buckinghamshire increasing from 163,156 to 175,466 between 2001 and 2011. However, the proportion of households with cars or vans available for use has remained the same at 87% over the last decade. There has been a small increase in households with no car or van (increasing from 24,932 in 2001 to 25,261 households in 2011), which is opposite to the national trend where there was a decline in this group.

Marital status (those 16 or over)

The largest marital status group was those people who were married, at 54% of the population (218,786). This was a decrease of three percentage points from the 2001 estimate of 57% of the population (217,583). The same trend was also seen in the proportion of the population who were married in England and Wales, falling from 51% in 2001 to 47% in 2011.

The percentage of single (never married) people increased by 16% from 99,916 to 116,177 people between 2001 and 2011 accounting for 29% of residents in 2011 (26% in 2001). A similar increase was seen in the proportion of this group in England and Wales (30% to 35%).

Those who were separated or divorced comprise a similar proportion of the population (9% 2001 and 10% in 2011), but there has been a 22% increase in the number of people in this group increasing from 34,333 in 2001 to 41,866 in 2011. The remainder of the usually resident population in 2011 was composed of widowed individuals (7%).

Household composition

In Buckinghamshire, 'Single person (non-pensioner)' households make up 14% of the county, increasing by 21% since 2001. With a further one in five households being 'couples living without children' (19%), there has not been a change in this group since 2001.

Households with children are the largest group making up 41% of the county (82,763 houses), most of which have dependent children (32% of all Buckinghamshire households, 63,625), the remainder (19,138) have non-dependent children. Of those with dependent children; a quarter of all households (24%) are 'couples with children' (48,132), 5% of all households are 'lone parents' (10,550), and 2% are 'other households with dependent children' (4,943). Although 'lone parent households with dependent children' only make up 5% of the county (4% in 2001), the proportion has increased by a third since 2001 (31%) from (8,027 to 10,550 households), this compares with a one percentage point increase in lone parent households across England and Wales rising from 10% in 2001 to 11% in 2011.

A further one in five households (21%), have pensioners living in them, a 3% increase since 2001 (41,701 to 42,951 households). This group is comprised of either 'pensioners living alone' (12% of households) or 'pensioners not living alone' (10% of households).

'Other households including students' make up 4% of the county.

Residents in communal establishments

Communal Establishments provide managed residential accommodation; examples include sheltered accommodation units, student halls, large hotels, residential care homes, hospitals and prisons. There has been a 5% decrease in the number of people living in communal establishments, falling from 8,388 to 7,984 people over the 10 years.

Just over half of all residents living in communal establishments (56%) live in accommodation that **doesn't** provide medical care, falling by 18% since 2001 (5,444 to 4,452 people).

In contrast the number of people living in a medical and care establishment has increased by 18% (2,944 in 2001 to 3,460 in 2011), making up 43% of the all people that live in communal establishments. Only a small proportion of this group live in NHS medical and care establishments (1.4%, 113 people). A further 1% of people live in other types of communal establishments.

Section 3: What we do

Provision of unpaid care

One in ten residents (10%, 49,514) in Buckinghamshire provided unpaid care for someone with an illness or disability, this was the same percentage as in 2001 (10%, 43,821) and the same proportion of the population across England and Wales in both 2001 and 2011. Over a quarter (28%, 13,694) of these people were giving 20 or more hours care a week, an increase of five percentage points on 2001 (23% of those providing care, 9,908). This is a 38% increase in people providing care for 20+ hours a week over a 10 year period.

Economic activity (not comparable to 2001)

Economic activity is presented for usual residents aged between 16 and 74 (363,773), a usual resident is considered economically active if employed, self-employed or unemployed but looking for work and able to start within two weeks. In 2011, 74% (267,881) of usual residents aged between 16 and 74 were economically active, four percentage points above the National figure for England and Wales.

Seven in ten 16-74 year olds work (71%, 256,994) of which; 42% work full time (151,064), 13% work part time (48,249), 13% are self-employed (47,075) and 3% work whilst also being a full time student (10,606). A further 3% (10,887) of all residents aged 16-74 were unemployed (looking for work). This group includes those who had never worked (0.4%, 1,345), and those who were long-term unemployed who had not worked since 2009 (1.1%, 3,955). There are also some differences by age for the the unemployed aged 16 to 24 (0.8% 2,748) and those unemployed aged 50 to 74 (0.7%, 2,612). Note that these percentages are based on all 16-74 year olds, and not just those who are economically active.

A quarter (26%, 95,892) of 16-74 year olds were classified as economically inactive, comprising of those who are retired (13%, 48,349), students who don't work (4%, 16,339), those looking after the home or family (5%, 17,245), those who are long-term sick or disabled who have not looked for work in the two weeks before the Census took place (2%, 7,360), and other groups (2%, 6,599).

Qualifications (not comparable with 2001)

In Buckinghamshire, around one in five people (17%, 67,657) aged 16+ report that they don't have any qualifications, a further 13% (50,475) have Level 1 qualifications (e.g. 1-4 GCSEs or equivalent), 16% (62,738) have Level 2 qualifications (e.g. 5 GCSEs or equivalent) and 4% (14,263) have undertaken an Apprenticeship, these groups account for half of the 16+ population (48%, 195,133).

The remainder of the population have either Level 3 qualifications (e.g. 2 or more A-levels or equivalent) (12%, 47,976), Level 4 or above (e.g. Bachelors degree or equivalent, and higher qualifications) (35%, 140,346), or other qualifications (5%, 19,779).

Across Buckinghamshire the proportion of people with no qualifications was six percentage points lower than the national average (23% England and Wales, 17% Buckinghamshire), conversely levels of people with level 4 or above qualifications are eight percentage points higher than in England (27% England and Wales, 35% Buckinghamshire).

Occupation (not comparable with 2001)

Occupation is based on all usual residents aged 16 to 74 that are in employment the week before the Census. Half of the Buckinghamshire population (50%, 128,336) work in a type of professional occupation comprising of; managers, directors and senior officials (15%), professional occupations (20%) or associate professional and technical occupations (15%).

The remaining half of the county work in a range of occupations; administrative and secretarial occupations (11%, 29,002), skilled trades occupations (10%, 26,717), caring, leisure and other service occupations (8%, 21,173), sales and customer service occupations (7%, 17,638), process, plant and machine operatives (5%, 12,607), and elementary occupations (8%, 19,503).

Further detail on social-economic status (based on The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification - NS-SEC) is available in the accompanying comparator tables.

Further information

For more information please contact the Research Team at Buckinghamshire County Council – research@Buckscc.gov.uk – 01296 38 3374

2011 data based on Census data released by ONS in December 2012. Available at- www.ons.gov.uk

N.B. Percentages may not total due to rounding. The England and Wales figures in this document come from the ONS national commentary.

New Products:

This document is supported by comparison tables, available in excel and as PDF's for County and District. These include comparisons between 2011 and 2001 Census data, for the County and Districts where available, along with data for 2011 Census for South East region and England.

Products previously produced include:

Age structure tables from July and November ONS Census release 2011, at single year and 5 year age bands along with some key age categories are available:

1. County and District level; as written commentary supported by Excel and PDF tables
2. Local community and Electoral Divisions Level; as tables in Excel and PDF.