

# MIGRATION AND OTHER DRIVERS OF POPULATION CHANGE IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

## Introduction

This report looks at the Office for National Statistics' latest (2012 based) population projections to understand key population changes and the drivers of Buckinghamshire's population change.

It also compares these projections with previous versions that were released before and following the 2011 census.

## Headline Summary

### Overall Population Change

- Buckinghamshire County Council will need to provide services for between **3,200 and 4,200 more people each year**.
- The population is projected to increase **to 546,900 in 2021** from 511,500 people in 2012.
- This is an **increase of 7%** and represents an additional 35,400 people (see Table 1).
- The increase will be felt in the older age groups as the number of people aged 65+ rise by 21,400 by 2021, an increase of 24% from 2012<sup>1</sup>.
- **Aylesbury Vale** population is projected to **increase by 10%** closely followed by **South Bucks at 9%**. **Wycombe** population is projected to **increase by 5%** with a **3% increase for Chiltern**.

### Migration

- **Over 500 people per year** are projected to move into **Aylesbury Vale from overseas**.
- Between **1,200-2,200 more people per year** move into Buckinghamshire from other parts of England than move out of Buckinghamshire (**net internal migration**), whilst between **200-400 more people per year** move into the county **from overseas** than move out (net international migration).
- **Aylesbury Vale and South Bucks** account for over **two-thirds** of the internal migration with between 500 and 700 people per year (net) **moving in from other parts of England**.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on age structure change (0-15, 16-64, 65+ yrs) please refer to [Buckinghamshire population projections briefing](#)

- Although the amount of people moving into Buckinghamshire from overseas is small (200-400 people per year), it disguises large differences by district. The **population added from overseas migration is from Aylesbury Vale only (500 people per year)**. Chiltern and South Bucks are projected to have more people leaving to go overseas than coming into these districts and Wycombe is projected to have equal numbers of people leaving and arriving from overseas so the actual contribution to population change is zero from this district.

#### Births and Deaths

- Around **2,000 people per year are added** to the county as a result of **natural change** – there are around 6,000 births and 4,000 deaths per year.
- **90% of the natural population growth** is from **Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe**. They both have similar numbers of births (around 2,300 per year) and deaths (around 1,300 per year).
- There are similar numbers of births and deaths in **Chiltern and South Bucks**. They contribute only a **small amount** to natural population growth (100 people per year).

## Differences Between the 2012 Based Population Projections and Previous Versions

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) produce population projections which are updated every 2-3 years. These are trend based projections that use the most recent information on population numbers and assumptions around factors that influence population change i.e. births, deaths and migration. The ONS projections do not factor in the impact of policy issues like housing or economic growth.

The latest 2012 based projections were released in May 2014. This section of the report looks at these projections and how they compare with the previous (2010 and 2011) versions.

2010 based ONS figures are based on pre-census population numbers, demographic inputs and assumptions from that time.

2011 based ONS figures are based on the 2011 Census population figures. Most of the other assumptions and inputs (e.g. births, deaths, household size) remain the same as in the 2010 ONS projections.

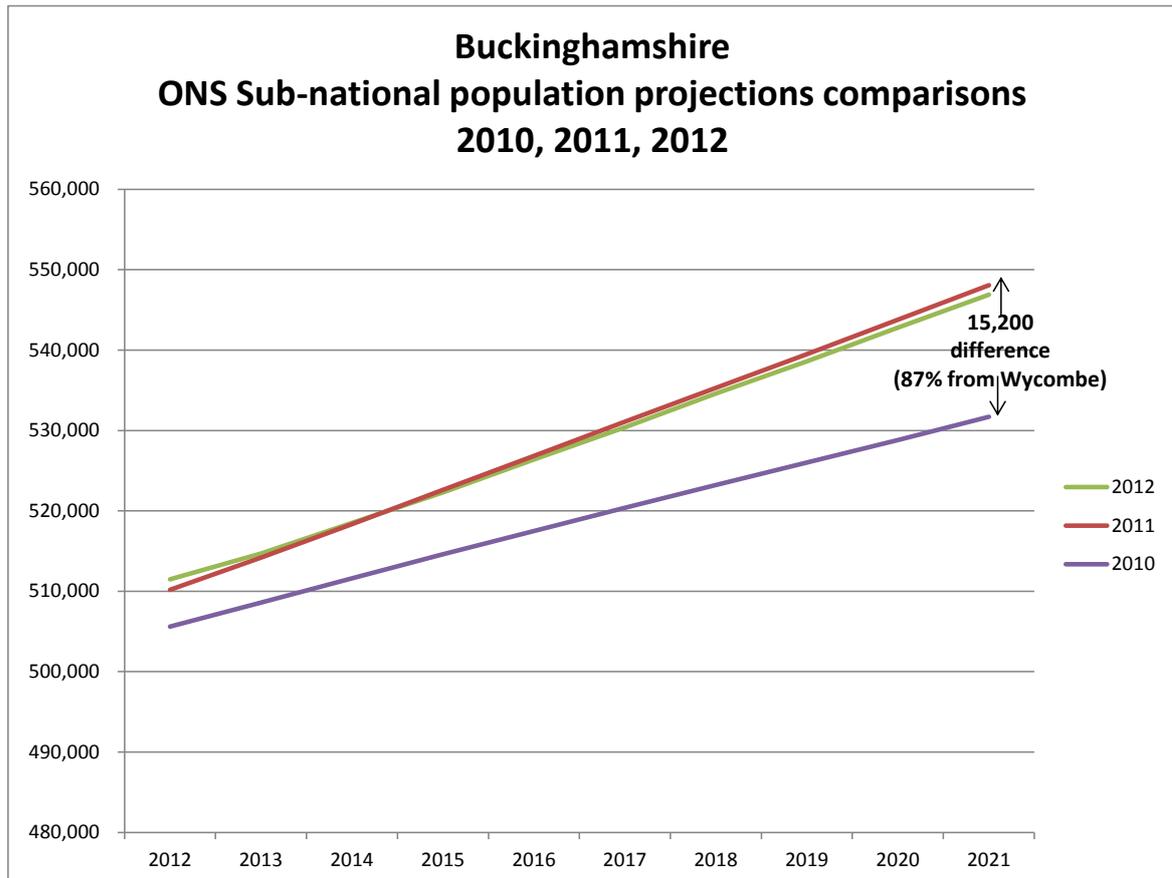
2012 based ONS figures are based on current population figures and updated assumptions on future change for key demographics e.g. births rates, death rate, migration trends and household sizes.

Note that policy based population projections that include housing growth are also produced by Buckinghamshire County Council which will be updated to take account of the new inputs and assumptions used in the 2012 ONS population projections.

## Total Population

- Chart 1 shows there is a **difference of 15,200 people** between the **2010 and the 2012** figures.
- This equates to an increase of 3% on the 2010 figures.
- **Most** of the difference is coming **from Wycombe** (approx. 87%) with the remainder coming from Aylesbury Vale (approx. 14%)<sup>2</sup>.
- The 2011 interim projections closely follow the 2012 figures.

**Chart 1 Total Population for Buckinghamshire 2012-2021\***



\*NB The 2011 interim projections only ran to 2021 therefore this year has been used as the end projection here.

**Table 1: Population Change by County and District 2012 to 2021 (2012 based projections)**

	2012	2021	Change (numbers)	Change (%)
Aylesbury Vale	177,800	195,700	17,900	10%
Chiltern	93,000	95,500	2,500	3%
South Bucks	67,400	73,200	5,800	9%
Wycombe	173,300	182,600	9,300	5%
Buckinghamshire	511,500	546,900	35,400	7%

<sup>2</sup> Figures will not total due to rounding.

## Reason for the Population Difference

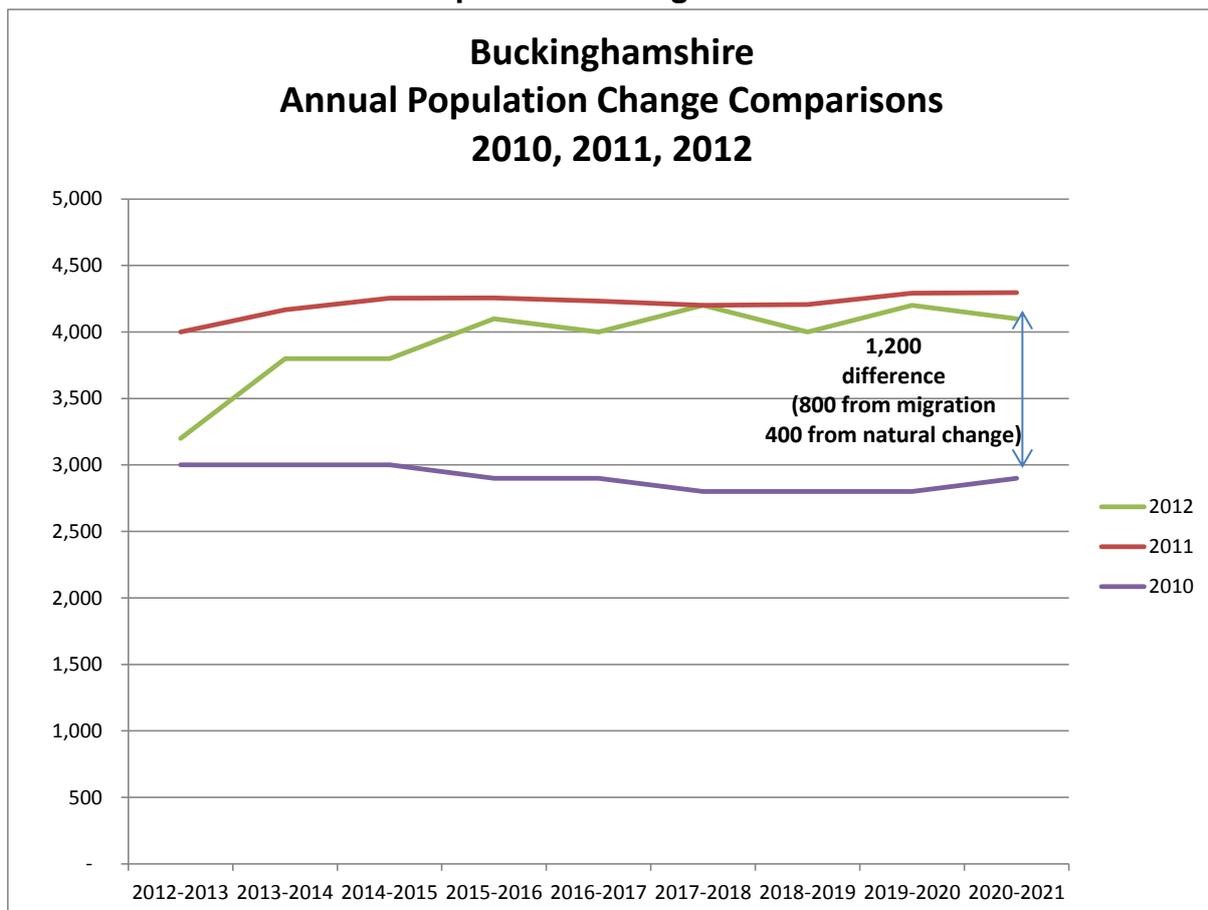
- Population differences are a result of annual changes in migration and natural change.

**Natural change** is births minus deaths.

**Migration** is people moving into the county (from within the UK or overseas) minus people moving out of the county (to other parts of the UK or overseas).

- Annual population change is shown in Chart 2\*.
- Chart 2 shows that the **2012** figures have a **higher annual population change**.
- In 2021 the **difference** between the two sets of figures was **1,200 people**.
- The **reason** for the **population difference** is due to **one third natural change** (400 extra people) and **two-thirds migration** (800 extra people).

**Chart 2 Annual Population Change**

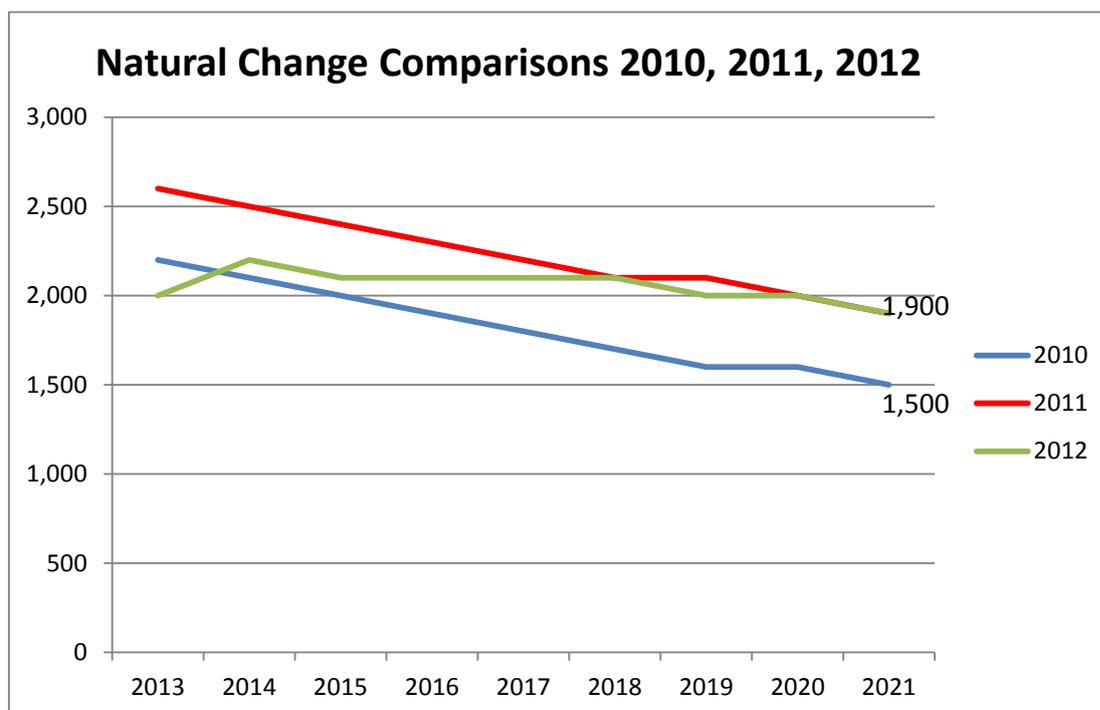


\*NB for reference, when the annual changes in population are totalled from 2012-2021 and added to the starting point of 2012 population, the difference between the resulting 2021 population (for 2010 and 2012 versions) is 15,200 as shown in Chart 1.

## Natural Change

- **Chart 3** shows **natural change is positive** (i.e. there were more births than deaths) in all versions of the figures.
- There is a **greater number of people** contributing to the population in the **2012** figures than in the 2010 version **through natural change** (400 extra in 2021).
- **Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe** are responsible for the difference (400 people) in figures with two-thirds of the difference accounted for by Aylesbury Vale and one third by Wycombe.
- In addition **Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe** together account for **90% of the natural change** population growth (800 and 900 people per year respectively). **Chiltern and South Bucks** contribute a **small amount** to natural population growth (100 people per year) to reach a county total of 1,900 people per year in 2021 (2012 figures).
- **The reason for the natural change difference between the 2012 and 2010** figures is the **higher number of births** throughout the projection in the 2012 figures.
- Projections in numbers **of deaths are fairly consistent** between the 2010, 2011 and 2012 figures which are increasing over time in all versions of figures.

**Chart 3**                      **Natural Change (Births minus Deaths) for Buckinghamshire 2013-2021**

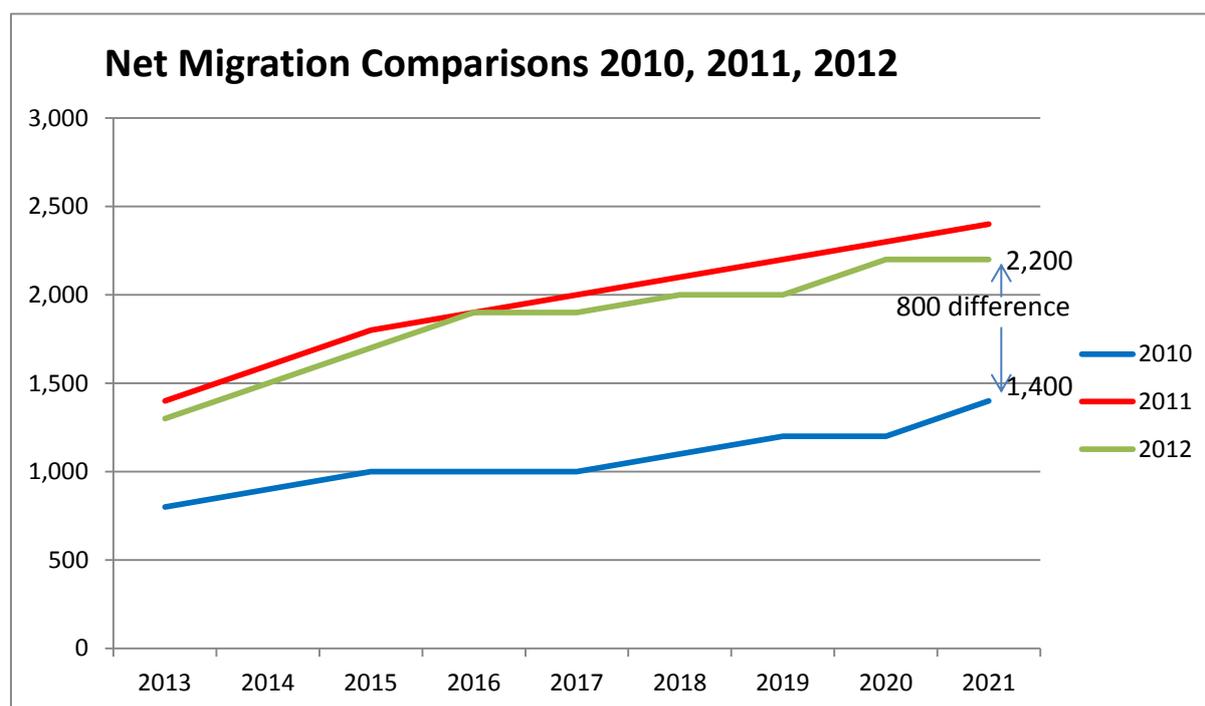


- All versions of the figures **project population growth from natural change to decrease over time** either through fewer births or increasing deaths or both.
- In the 2012 figures the reason for the decreasing natural change is that whilst **the births remain stable** during the course of the projection, the **deaths increase**.

## Migration

- Chart 4 shows the population contribution through **net migration is higher in the 2012** figures than in the 2010 figures (800 people more in the 2012 figures than the 2010 version).
- **Net migration is positive** (i.e. more people were coming into the county than leaving) and is **increasing** over the course of the projection in all versions of the figures.
- The main type of migration that is adding to the population in all 3 scenarios is **internal migration** (people moving from other parts of England into Buckinghamshire).
- Between **1,200-2,200 more people per year** move into Buckinghamshire from other parts of England than move out of Buckinghamshire (**net internal migration**), whilst between **200-400 more people per year** move into the county **from overseas** than move out (net international migration).
- Of the 2,200 net migration figure in 2021 (2012 version) 2,100 is accounted for by internal migration whilst 200<sup>3</sup> comes from international migration.

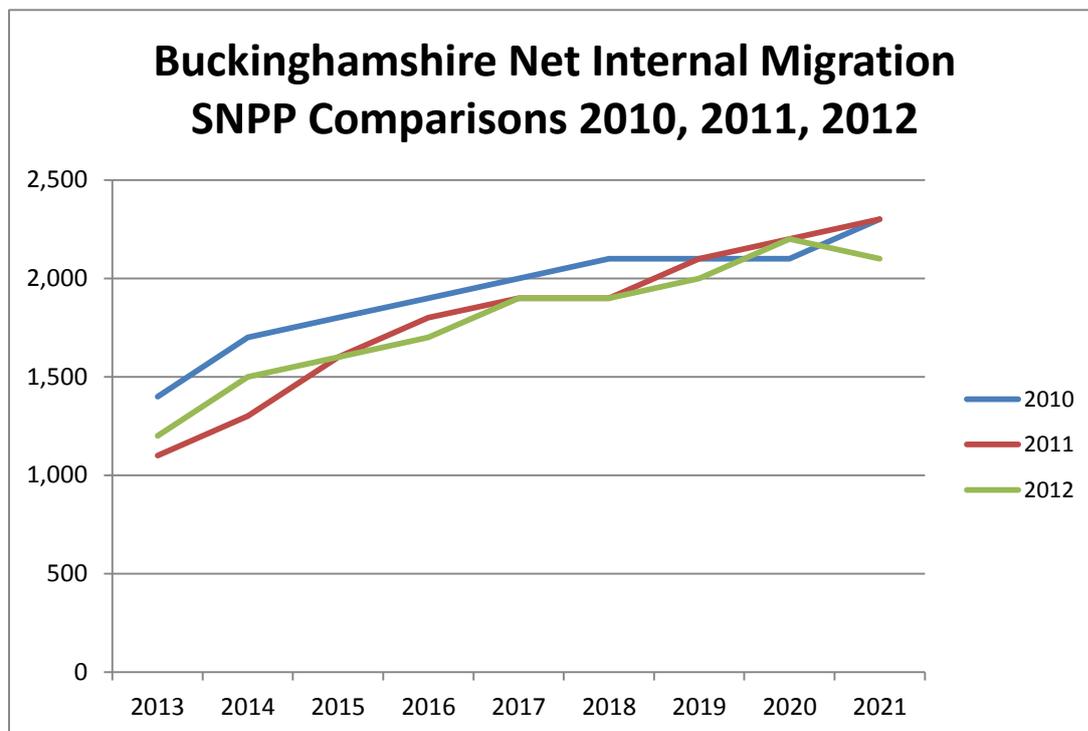
Chart 4 Net Migration for Buckinghamshire 2013-2021



<sup>3</sup> NB figures do not add up due to rounding

- By district, **Aylesbury Vale** and **South Bucks** have the **highest levels of net internal migration** 700 people each per year in 2021, closely followed by Chiltern (500) and Wycombe (200).
- All 3 scenarios have **similar levels of internal migration** so this is not responsible for the 2012-2010 difference.
- The **difference** between the 2012 and 2010 migration figures is predominantly **due to** differences in **international migration**.
- Note that although **net internal migration** for **South Bucks** is **relatively high** between 500-700 people per year totalling 5,900 people between 2012-2021, it is **offset by** 1,500 people moving abroad over the same time period (**net overseas migration**) so that the actual population added by net migration is 4,900<sup>4</sup> 2012-2021.

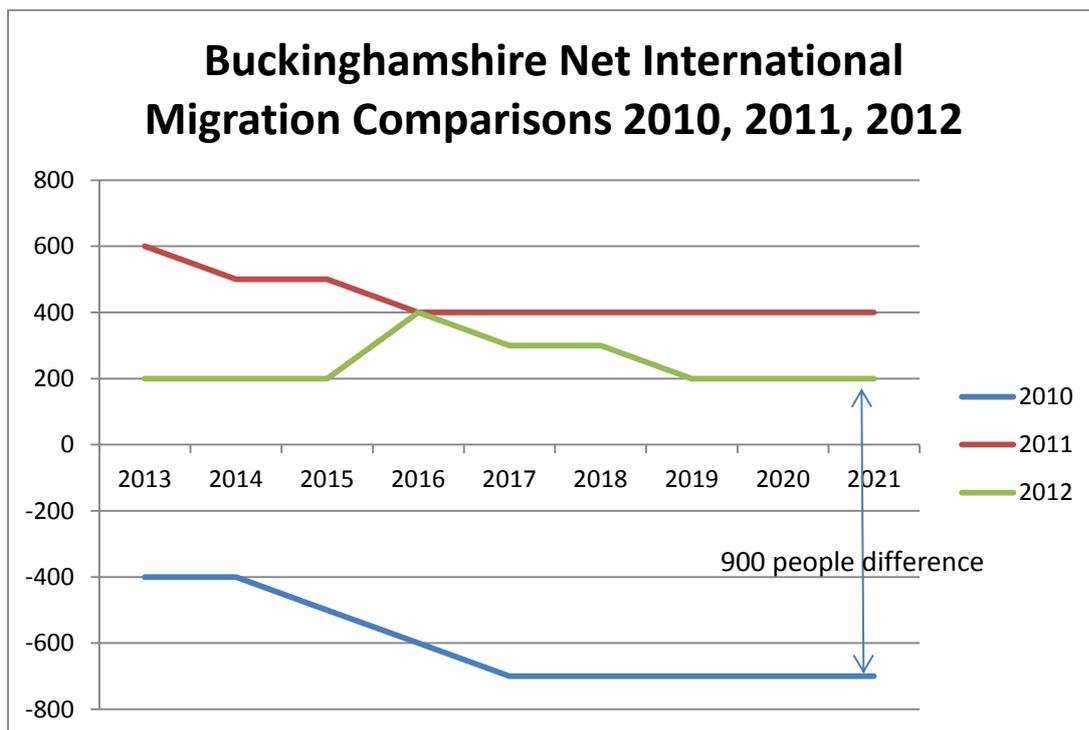
**Chart 5 Net Internal Migration for Buckinghamshire 2013-2021**



<sup>4</sup> Figures do not total due to rounding

- Chart 6 shows **international migration** levels are **higher in the 2012** figures than the 2010 figures.
- In the **2012** figures the **international migration is positive** (i.e. 200-400 more people per year were coming into the county from overseas than leaving) whilst in **2010 the figures were negative** (i.e. more people (400-700 per year) were leaving than arriving from overseas).
- The **2012 international migration** figures are different by between **600 and 1,000 people** depending on the year compared with the 2010 figures.

**Chart 6 International Migration for Buckinghamshire 2013-2021**



- **Virtually all the difference** is accounted for by two districts **Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe**. Aylesbury Vale has 400 extra people coming into the district per year from overseas whilst Wycombe is losing 400 less people to overseas than it did in the 2010 version of the figures. In Chiltern there is a small difference of 100 people per year whilst in South Bucks the difference is negligible. Together these differences add up to 900 people as shown in Chart 6.
- Although two-thirds of the population **difference** between the 2010 and 2012 figures is explained by **international migration**, the actual amount that international migration adds to the population is small (200 people per year in 2012 figures).
- The **population added by net international migration is from Aylesbury Vale only, at 500 people per year**. Between 1,400 and 1,500 people per year move into Aylesbury Vale from overseas whilst 900 people per year

leave the district to live abroad. Chiltern and South Bucks have more people leaving to go overseas than coming into these districts and in the case of Wycombe equal numbers of people leave and arrive from overseas so the actual contribution to population change is zero from this district.