

Travel to work in Oxford

As part of the latest Census 2021 topic release on labour market and travel to work statistics, the Business Intelligence Unit (BIU) has produced a series of summary reports covering all the supporting information on this topic in detail for Oxford. This summary report covers information on travel to work statistics, including method use to travel to work and distance travelled to work. For more information on this topic, please visit [Labour market and travel to work: Census 2021 in England and Wales](#).

Please note that the Census was taken on 21st March 2021 during which time a government 'stay at home rule' was in place. This recommended that people should continue to work from home where possible and minimise the number of journeys they make. The Census is therefore a snapshot of respondents' travel behaviour at that time.

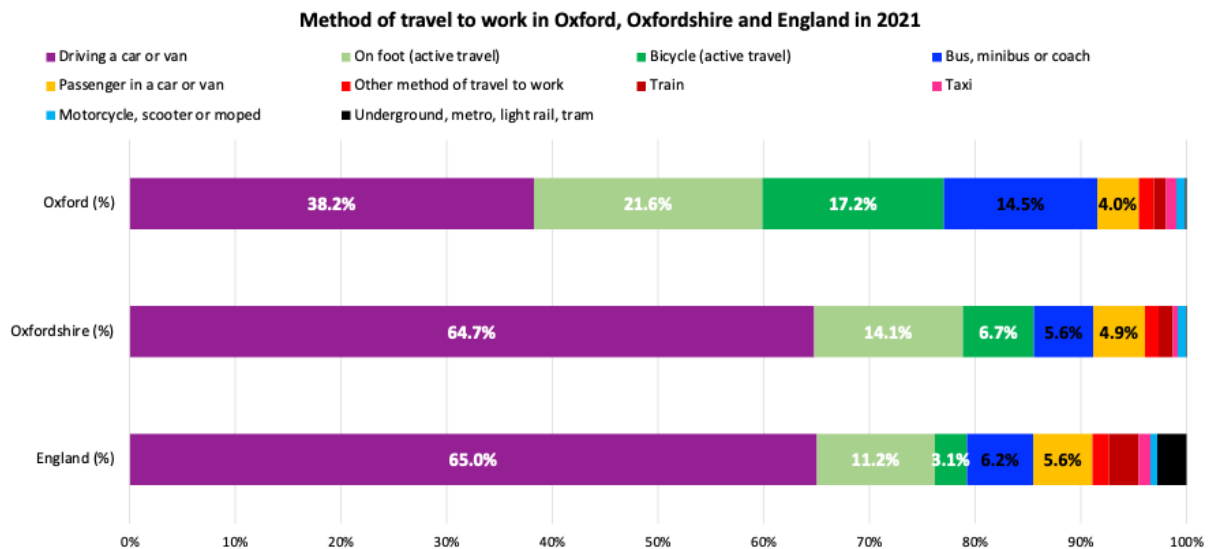
Key findings:

- According to the 2021 Census, the majority of usual residents aged 16 years or over in Oxford used a method of travel to work (61.2%), while 38.8% worked mainly from home. In 2011, 3.6% of usual residents aged 16 to 74 years old worked mainly from home¹.
- The proportion of those who worked from home in Oxford (38.8%) is higher than both Oxfordshire and England at 37.9% and 31.5% respectively.
- Of those who were commuting to work, 38.8% opted for an active travel method (walk or cycle). This is significantly higher than Oxfordshire (20.8%), and England (14.2%) averages.
- The second most popular method was *Driving a car or van* (38.2%). This was significantly lower than Oxfordshire and England averages at 64.7% and 65.0% respectively.
- Another popular method of transport recorded was *bus, minibus, or coach* at 14.5% of the usual population aged 16 years or over who were travelling to work. This was significantly higher than both Oxfordshire and England averages at 5.6% and 6.2% respectively.
- In terms of distance travelled to work, the largest group was made up by those usual residents aged 16 and over and in employment the week before the Census who work mainly from home (38.8%).

¹ Please note the difference in population base for method of travel to workplace data between Census 2011 and Census 2021. In 2011 the population based was 'All usual residents aged 16 to 74', in 2021 it was 'All usual residents aged 16 years and over in employment the week before the Census'. A direct comparison between the two datasets cannot therefore be made.

- Those who travelled 2km to less than 5km made up 19.4%, this is significantly higher than both Oxfordshire and England averages at 9.6% and 12.6% respectively.
- Those travelling less than 2km made up 17.6%, this is higher than Oxfordshire (12.6%) and England (11.0%).

Figure 1. Method of travel to work (excluding those working mainly from home) in Oxford, Oxfordshire, and England in 2021.



Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Table 1. Distance travelled to work in Oxford, Oxfordshire, and England in 2011 and 2021.

Distance travelled to work	Oxford	Oxfordshire	England
Less than 2km	17.6%	12.6%	11.0%
2km to less than 5km	19.4%	9.6%	12.6%
5km to less than 10km	5.8%	8.3%	11.7%
10km to less than 20km	4.3%	9.9%	10.4%
20km to less than 30km	1.3%	4.9%	4.0%
30km to less than 40km	1.3%	1.9%	1.7%
40km to less than 60km	0.8%	1.2%	1.3%
60km and over	1.9%	1.6%	1.3%
Works mainly at or from home	38.8%	37.9%	31.5%
Works mainly at an offshore installation, in no fixed place, or outside the UK	9.0%	12.1%	14.5%

Source: Census 2021 - ONS, 2022

Sources:

[Labour market and travel to work: Census 2021, ONS, 2022](#)

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