SUMMARY

- This occasional paper sets out socio-economic data from the 1986 – 2013 Censuses of population and dwellings for the Oxford urban (Oxford Area Unit) and Oxford rural (Ashley Gorge Area Unit) areas and where relevant compares these with data for the District as a whole.
- Since 1986 the population of the Oxford urban area has increased from 1137 to 1905 people (67.6%), and the population of the Oxford rural area has increased from 867 to 1707 people (97.1%).
- The number of people living in the Oxford rural area increased by 20% from 2001 to 2006 and 36.5% between 2006 and 2013.
- The Oxford urban population has seen limited increases in the number of children 0 – 14 years compared with the increases in the number of people 40 years and over since 1986. In terms of a percentage of the Oxford urban population children 0 – 14 have declined.
- The Oxford rural population as seen significant increases in the number of children 0 – 4 and 5 – 9 years between 2006 and 2013. There has also been an increase in the number of people 20 – 39 years during the same period. In percentage terms there was a slight increase in the 0 – 4 year old age group, and a greater increase for those 20 – 29 years. Overall there was a significantly lower percentage of the Oxford rural population in the older age groups.
- The Oxford rural area had a significantly higher percentage of children 0 – 4 and 5 – 9 years, and 20 – 29 and 30 – 39 years in 2013 than the District as a whole.
- With 93.4% and 92.6% respectively the Oxford urban and rural areas had higher percentages of people with European ethnicity than the District as a whole with 90.9%.
- With 22.3% born overseas the Oxford urban area had a higher percentage than either the Oxford rural area (17.3%) and the District (16.3%).
- Of those born overseas the Oxford rural area had the highest percentage who had lived in New Zealand for 0 – 4 years.
- In terms of place of work for usually resident members of the paid workforce these was a sharp increase in the number of people (78.7%) who lived in the Oxford rural area working in Christchurch.
- People working in agricultural and fishing occupations dominated both the usually resident and daytime workforces for the Oxford rural areas in 2006 and 2013. There were also increases in the number of people in this area with managerial and professional occupations.
- The daytime workforce for the Oxford urban area showed sharp increases in the number of people working in health care and education between 2006 and 2013.
- Compared with the District the Oxford urban area had higher percentages of people working in the accommodation and food, education and health care sectors.
1 Introduction

This report sets out the main demographic and socio-economic changes that have occurred as reflected in recent Census data.

The Oxford urban area is for Census purposes identified as the Oxford Area Unit and the rural area surrounding the township is identified as the Ashley Gorge Area Unit.

2 Population change

Table 1 sets out the changes in the changes that have occurred in the number of people in the Oxford urban and Oxford rural (Ashley Gorge Area Unit) since 1986.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oxford urban</th>
<th>Oxford rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>1137</td>
<td>867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>1362</td>
<td>927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>1461</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>1581</td>
<td>1053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1716</td>
<td>1263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>1707</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 shows that the number of people living in the Oxford township increased by 67.6% (768 people) between 1986 and 2013. At the same time the number of people living in the rural area surrounding Oxford increased by 97.1% (840 people).
The rate of population growth for these two areas varied. Of the increase in the Oxford urban area 58.1% (444 people) occurred between 1986 and 2001. In contrast, the Oxford rural population increased by only 21.5% (186 people) during this period. The growth in the number of people living in the rural area increased rapidly after 2001. Between 2001 and 2006 it grew by 20.0% (210 people) and between 2006 and 2013 by 36.5% (444 people).

3 Age distribution

3.1 Oxford urban age distribution

Figure 2 sets out the changes in the numbers of people by age for the Oxford urban area from 1986 to 2013.

![Figure 2 Oxford urban: population 1986 - 2013](image)


Figure 2 shows that while the number of children 0 – 14 years has fluctuated there has been limited growth overall in their number. For example the number of 5 – 9 year old children in 2013 was lower than at any Census since 1986. The number of 10 – 14 year old children in 2013 was lower than in 2001. In 2003 the number of people in their late teens and in the 20 – 29 years age group was higher than in 2006, there were more 20 – 29 year olds in 1991 and 1996 living in the Oxford township than in 2013.

Among adults 30 – 49 years there were limited changes between 2006 and 2013 with the decline in the number of people 30 – 39 years living in the Oxford township approximately matched by the increase in the number in the 40 – 49 years age group. The number of people 50 – 59 years in this area climbed steeply between 2001 and 2006 but there was no change between 2006 and 2013. The number in the 60 – 69 years and 70 years or more age groups have both climbed sharply between the last two Censuses.

Figure 3 sets out the percentage distribution for age for the people living in the Oxford urban area for each Census from 1986 to 2013.
Figure 3 shows a steady decline in the percentage of the Oxford township’s population 0 – 4 years throughout the period, while the decline in the percentage 5 – 10 years has occurred since 1996 including a slight increase between 2001 and 2006. Apart from 1986 and 1996 there has been minimal change in the percentage in the 10 – 14 years age group. Among the adults there have been significant declines in the percentages of the population in the 20 – 29 years and 30 – 39 years age groups. Since 1986 there have been substantial increases in the percentages for older adults, with limited variations such as the percentage in the 40 – 49 years age group peaking in 2001, and a decline in the percentage in the 50 – 59 years age group between 2006 and 2013.

3.2 Oxford rural age distribution

Figure 4 sets out the changes in the numbers of people by age for the Oxford rural area from 1986 to 2013.
The sharp increase in the Oxford rural population since 2001 is reflected in the increases in all age groups particularly between 2006 and 2013, except for those 15 - 19 years of age. In contrast to the relatively limited changes in the number of children in the Oxford urban area, the Oxford rural area has seen substantial increases in the numbers in each age group 0 – 14 years. The increase in the number of 20 – 29 year olds between 2006 and 2013, and the increase in the 30 – 39 year olds at a time when there was an absolute decline in the number in this age group in the Oxford urban area and the District as a whole are also significant.

Figure 5 sets out the percentage distribution for age for the people living in the Oxford urban area for each Census from 1986 to 2013.
Figure 5 shows that while there was a substantial increase in the number of children 0 – 4 years in 2013 compared with 2006 there was only a limited percentage increase. The percentage of the Oxford rural population 0 – 4 years in 2013 was still lower than in between 1986 and 1996. Apart from this the most notable change between 2006 and 2013 is the increase in the percentage of the people living in the rural area surrounding Oxford aged in the 20 – 29 years age group.

3.3 Oxford and the Waimakariri District

Figure 6 sets out the percentage distribution for the people living in the Oxford rural and urban areas and the Waimakariri District in 2006.

![Figure 6: Oxford rural, Oxford urban and Waimakariri District: 2006 Percentage age distribution](image)

Source: Statistics New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings 2006

Table 6 shows that there were slight differences between the percentages for each area for children 0 – 4 years and 5 – 9 years, with both the Oxford rural and urban areas having higher percentages of children 5 – 9 years than the District as a whole. For those 10 – 29 years, the Oxford rural area had higher percentages than the District, while the Oxford urban area had lower percentages. For those 30 years and over the greatest differences were for the Oxford rural area with a higher percentage for those 40 – 49 years and a lower percentage for those 70 years and over. In contrast, the Oxford urban area had a significantly higher percentage 70 years and over than either the Oxford rural area or the District as a whole.

Figure 7 sets out the percentage age distributions for the Oxford rural and urban areas and the District for 2013.
Figure 7 shows that in contrast with the situation in 2006, the Oxford rural area had significantly higher percentages of children 0 – 4 years and 5 – 9 years than either the Oxford urban area or the District. The Oxford rural area also had higher percentages of people 20 – 29 years than the Oxford urban area and for those 30 – 39 years significantly higher percentages than either the Oxford urban area or the District. As in 2006 the Oxford Urban area had significantly higher percentages of people in the 60 – 69 years and 70 years and over age groups than either the District or the Oxford rural area.

4 Place of birth and ethnicity

The comparative analysis of ethnicity over time based on Census data is confused by the way in which the data is presented. In some years, in the past, Maori ethnicity has been given precedence, while in 2006 the overall distribution was affected by a concerted effort for people to identify themselves as “New Zealander” rather than “European”. It is for this reason that Table 1 compares the situation for 2013 for the Oxford rural and urban areas and the Waimakariri District as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Oxford rural</th>
<th>Oxford urban</th>
<th>Waimakariri District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European</td>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>1,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maori</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not identified</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1707</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Percentages total more than 100 as dual/multiple ethnicities are acknowledged

Source: Statistics New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings 2013
Table 1 shows that both the Oxford rural and urban areas had higher percentages of people indicating that they had European ethnicity than for the Waimakariri District. The Oxford rural area had a slightly higher percentage of people with Maori ethnicity than the Oxford urban area, but lower than for the District as a whole. When addressing issue of Maori ethnicity, it is important to recognise that the Census also asks about Maori ancestry and the number of people indicating Maori ancestry is inevitably higher than the number indicating Maori ethnicity. For these areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Oxford rural</th>
<th>Oxford urban</th>
<th>Waimakariri District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,482</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While predominantly European from an ethnicity perspective, the number of people born overseas provides a further indicator of the diversity of the population. Table 2 sets out the percentages of people born in New Zealand and those born overseas.

Table 2: Oxford rural, Oxford urban and Waimakariri District: 2013 Place of birth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth place</th>
<th>Oxford rural</th>
<th>Oxford urban</th>
<th>Waimakariri District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1,353</td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>1,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,707</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>1,905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings 2013

Table 2 shows that the Oxford urban area had the highest percentage of people born overseas, and that the Oxford rural area also had a slightly higher percentage of people born overseas than the District.

Figure 8 sets out the percentage distribution for years in New Zealand for those born overseas for Oxford rural and urban and the District as a whole.

Figure 8 shows that the Oxford rural area has the highest percentage of recent arrivals among people born overseas, while the Oxford urban area had a slightly higher percentage of those who had been in New Zealand for 5 – 9 years compared with the Oxford rural area or the District. The highest percentage of people born overseas who were living in each area at the time of the 2013 Census had been in New Zealand for 20 years or more, although for some at least not all this time will have been spent in where they were living at the time of the most recent Census.

5 Workplace participation

In 2006 the Oxford rural area had 696 people in the usually resident workforce and in 2013 this had increased by 273 people (39.4%). At the same time, the Oxford urban usually resident workforce increased from 732 in 2006 to 861 in 2013, or an increase of 129 (17.6%).

Figure 9 sets out the place of work for people who live in the Oxford rural and urban areas.

Figure 9 shows that the people living and working in the Oxford rural area increased from 324 in 2006 to 417 in 2013 or 93 people (28.7%). The other major change for this area is the increase in the number of people working in Christchurch which increased from 120 in 2006 to 216 in 2013 or 94 people (78.7%).

The number of people living and working in the Oxford urban area increased from 267 in 2006 to 360 in 2013, or 93 people (34.8%). The number of people living in this area and working in Christchurch increased from 180 in 2006 to 234 in 2013 or 54 (30.0%).

Figure 10 sets out the numbers of people working by occupational grouping (NZSCO96) for 2006 and 2013 for the Oxford rural and urban areas.
Figure 10 shows that the number of people with agricultural and fisheries occupations living in the Oxford rural area increased from 282 in 2006 to 333 in 2013 or 51 (18.1%). In 2006 177 (62.9%) of those involved with farming in this area were classified in the ANZSOC classification, which does not separate out agricultural workers into a separate category, as farmers and farm managers. In 2013 216 (64.9%) of those agricultural workers were classified as farmers and farm managers living in the area. The increases in the numbers of people involved with other occupational groups reflects the increase in the number of people living in the area during the inter-Census period and the increasing diversity of those living in this rural areas.

With a more limited increase in the number of people in the paid workforce living in the Oxford urban area in the inter-Census period the changes in the numbers in each occupation have not been as great as for the rural area. The main increases for this area were the numbers of people involved with managerial and professional occupations and working in service and sales, or as labourers.

Figure 11 sets out the percentage distribution for occupation for 2006 for the Oxford rural and urban areas and the Waimakariri District.
The 2006 distribution for occupation shown in figure 11 illustrates the dominance of agricultural/fisheries occupational group in the Oxford rural area, followed by labourers as a percentage of the total paid workforce living in the area. In contrast, sales and service workers made up a significant percentage of the Oxford urban population, while people with managerial and professional occupations were among the more prominent for the District as a whole along with sales and service and workers.

Figure 12 sets out the distributions for occupation for the Oxford rural and urban areas and the Waimakariri District.
Figure 12 shows that while still dominant the percentage of the Oxford rural usually resident workforce, as a percentage these people have declined from 40.6% in 2006 to 34.5% in 2013. The percentage of managers and professionals in the Oxford urban workforce increased from 23.2% in 2006 to 27.5% in 2013, which means that there is a similar percentage of people in these two occupational groups as for the District. As in 2006, the percentages of trades workers, technicians and clerks for the District as a whole exceeded the percentages for these occupational groups living in the Oxford urban area.

The daytime or workplace workforce refers to the people who work in an area irrespective of where they live. In 2006 there were 420 people working in the Oxford rural area, and in 2013 there were 543 people or an increase of 123 (29.3%) working in this area. In 2013 there were 408 people working in the Oxford urban area and in 2013 there were 639 people or an increase of 231 (58.8%) for this area.

Figure 13 sets out the numbers of people in the daytime or workplace workforce for the Oxford rural and urban areas for 2006 and 2013.

![Figure 13 Oxford rural and urban: 2006 and 2013 daytime workforce and industry](image)

Source: Statistics New Zealand Censuses of Population and Dwellings 2006 - 2013

Figure 13 shows that while the agricultural sector dominates the daytime workforce for the Oxford rural area, there are few other people working in other industrial groupings working in this area. For the Oxford urban area, the greatest increase in the numbers of people involved by industrial grouping were in health care and support services, accommodation and food services and education. Similar numbers of people were involved in the agriculture sector based in the Oxford urban area, and these people are likely to be involved in an advisory capacity.

Figure 14 sets out the percentage distribution for the daytime workforce for industry.
Figure 14 shows that apart from the dominance of the agricultural industrial grouping for the Oxford rural area there are some notable differences in the daytime workforce by sector for the Oxford urban area compared with the District as a whole. The three sectors in which the percentage of people working in Oxford exceeds that for the District are the accommodation and food sector, education and health care. For manufacturing the percentage for the Oxford urban area is significantly below that for the District, while it is slightly below for construction, wholesale/retail and professional and administrative services.

Source: Statistics New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings 2013