



## AREA CHARACTERISTICS

AREA CHARACTERISTICS	LAND AREA	% OF SHIRE TOTAL	POPULATION DENSITY
Buchan	587 km <sup>2</sup> (227 miles <sup>2</sup> )	9.3	57.2 persons per km <sup>2</sup>
Aberdeenshire	6316 km <sup>2</sup> (2437 miles <sup>2</sup> )	100.0	39.2 persons per km <sup>2</sup>

Source: Aberdeenshire Council Estimates

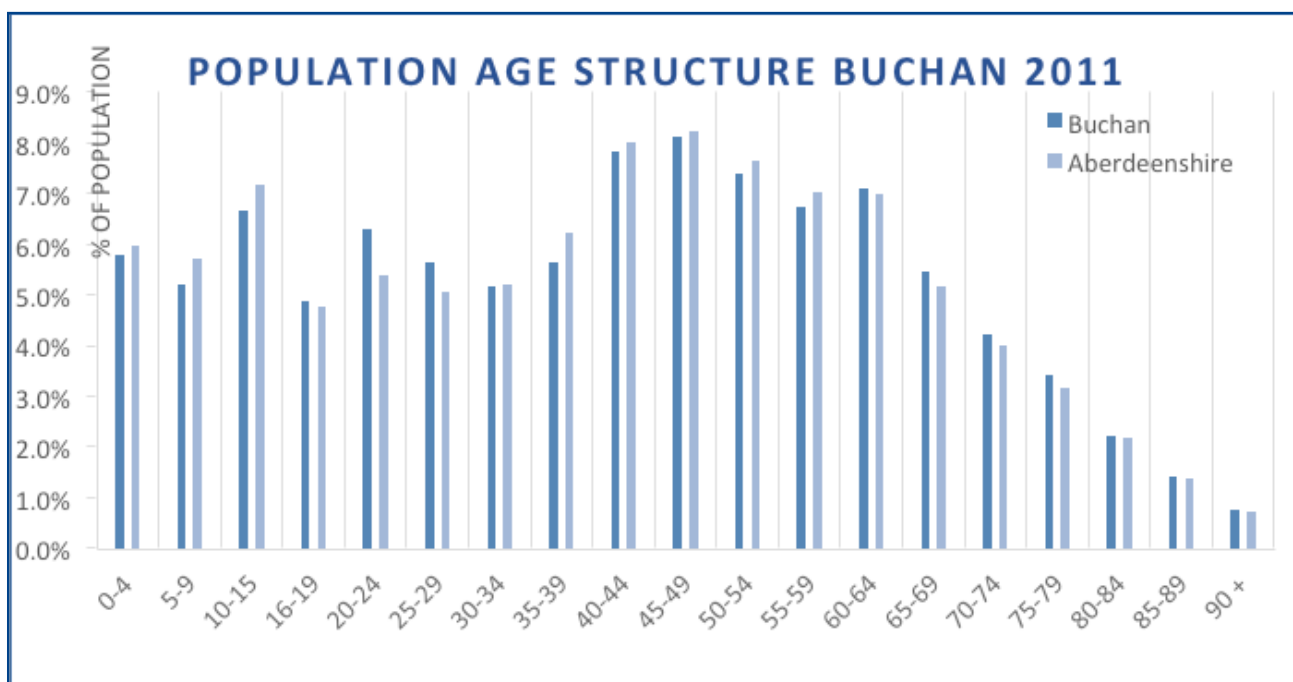
Buchan is one of the six administrative areas in Aberdeenshire. In terms of size, the area encompasses 587 sq km (227 square miles) and represents just over 9% of the total council area, the second smallest area which is just 4 sq km larger than the smallest, Garioch. For population density this measures at 57.2 persons per square kilometre, compared with 39.2 persons per square kilometre in Aberdeenshire, this is the joint-second most densely populated area alongside neighbouring Banff and Buchan. Peterhead (18,450) is by far the area's largest settlement and is the largest town in Aberdeenshire and thus dominates Buchan's economy which like Banff and Buchan was built on agriculture and fishing. However, more recently significant developments in the energy industry have succeeded these more traditional outputs.

## POPULATION

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	ALL AGES	0-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Female	20,173	3,462	2,118	4,896	5,948	3,749
Male	20,127	3,661	2,390	4,893	5,872	3,311
% Ratio Female: Male	50: 50	49: 51	47: 53	50:50	50:50	53:47
Buchan total	40,300	7,123	4,508	9,789	11,820	7,060
Aberdeenshire total	247,600	46,747	25,146	60,598	74,014	41,095
Area As % Of Shire' total	16.3	15.2	17.9	16.2	16.0	17.2

Source: national records for scotland, population estimates 2011. Information is aggregated from multi-member ward data

Using 2011 estimates, the population for Buchan is 40,300 and is the third smallest administrative area in terms of population. In addition, Buchan's population is divided by a 50:50 gender ratio, the same as Formartine and Kincardine and Mearns which means this is very similar to the Aberdeenshire average of 50.3% female and 49.7% male.



The age structure of Buchan varies from Aberdeenshire in different ways. First, there are clearly higher percentages of children in Aberdeenshire when compared to Buchan, up until the age of 15. Second, there are higher proportions of people aged between 30 and 60 in Aberdeenshire in contrast to Buchan, this chimes with the first observation in that there may be fewer young families in the area. Third, there are slightly higher percentages of elderly populations in Buchan compared to Aberdeenshire with the administrative area outperforming the Shire for every age group over 60, however not as significantly as neighbouring Banff and Buchan.

POPULATION OF MAIN TOWNS	2003	2012	2003-12 % CHANGE
Boddam	1,290	1,290	0.0
Crimond	760	860	13.2
Cruden Bay	1,660	1,670	0.6
Hatton of Cruden	770	890	15.6
Longside	860	960	11.6
Maud	620	870	40.3
Mintlaw	2,590	2,720	5.0
New Deer	570	660	15.8
New Pitsligo	910	1,150	26.4
Peterhead	17,590	18,450	4.9
St Combs	700	660	-5.7
St Fergus	*	750	N/A
Strichen	920	940	2.2
Stuartfield	740	700	-5.4

Source: national records for scotland, population estimates mid- 2012

Peterhead is by far the largest settlement in Buchan with a population of 18,450 whilst Mintlaw (2,720) and Cruden Bay (1,670) are the respective second and third largest settlements in the area. Like Banff and Buchan, most settlements experienced population growth between 2003 and 2012, most notably in Maud (40.3%) and New Pitsligo (26.4%), however Stuartfield (-5.4%) and St Combs (-5.7%) lost residents during this period whereas Boddam's population remained static.

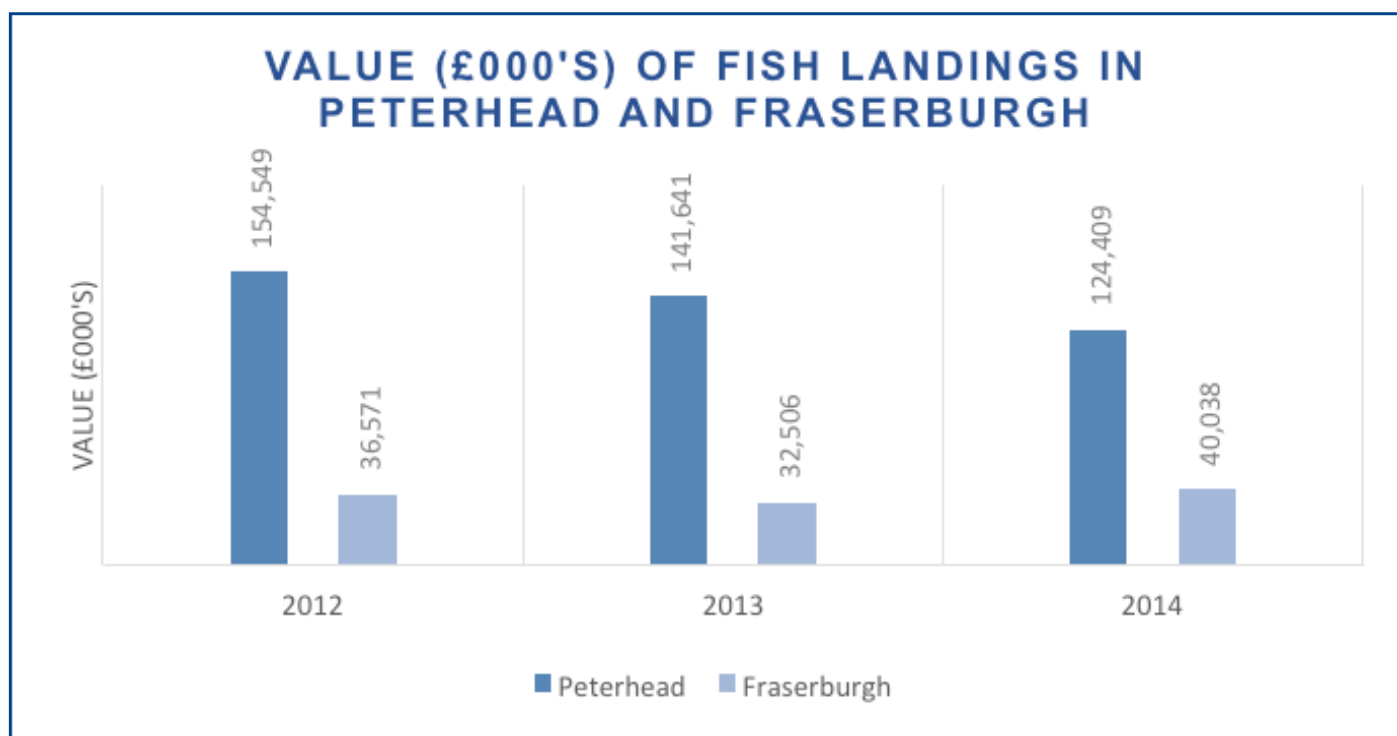
## ECONOMY

INDUSTRY SECTORS	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	% OF AREA TOTAL	SHIRE %
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	532	3.3%	1.9%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	683	4.3%	5.3%
Manufacturing	3,324	20.9%	14.1%
Construction	1157	7.3%	8.0%
Motor trades	370	2.3%	1.7%
Wholesale	617	3.9%	3.5%
Retail	1,542	9.7%	10.0%
Transport & storage (inc. Postal	961	6.0%	4.1%
Accommodation & food services	1,011	6.3%	6.4%
Information & communication	80	0.5%	1.0%
Financial & insurance	72	0.5%	0.7%
Property	62	0.4%	0.8%
Professional, scientific & technical	878	5.5%	12.4%
Business admin & support services	1002	6.3%	5.5%
Public administration & defence	773	4.9%	3.7%
Education	1,058	6.6%	7.3%
Health	1,309	8.2%	10.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	507	3.2%	3.9%
Total	15,938		15.8%

*Source: business register and employment survey 2014, nomis*

Like Banff and Buchan, Formartine and Kincardine and Mearns, the highest proportion of Buchan's employment is in the manufacturing sector which accounts for 20.9% of the area's workforce. This is likely to be connected to the prominence of the fish processing industry in the area. However, other than retail which accounts for a significant 9.7% of the area's employment, this is represented in a diverse collection of industries ranging from health (8.2%) to construction (7.3%) and accommodation and food services (6.3%) which all employ over 1,000 of Buchan's workforce respectively.

The improvement of fishing in Aberdeenshire, particularly in neighbouring Banff and Buchan in the Fraserburgh area has not quite been reflected in the Peterhead area (which also includes Port Erroll and Boddam) with the value of landings here decreasing by 12.3% between 2012 and 2014. Although it should be recognised that Peterhead (£124,209 in 2014) brings in much higher values of fish when compared to Fraserburgh (£40,308 in 2014) and thus makes a more significant contribution to fishing in Aberdeenshire despite not experiencing the same increases.



Along with Banff and Buchan, Buchan experiences the joint-highest unemployment (Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)) rate out of the whole of Aberdeenshire. The area also saw the second-highest percentage of rate increase in the first quarter of 2016 with the number of claimants increasing by 0.4%. However, results weren't as bad for the twelve months between March 2015 and March 2016, with only Banff and Buchan and Marr (both 0.3%) experiencing lower increases during this period.

## HOUSING

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS	2005	2015	% CHANGE 2005-2015				
Housing stock	16,357	19,490	19.2%				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Recent completions	148	154	265	161	147	192	200
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Anticipated future development	218	276	302	293	265	266	235

Source: aberdeenshire council housing land audit 2016 ([www.Aberdeenshire.Gov.Uk/statistics/hla/](http://www.Aberdeenshire.Gov.Uk/statistics/hla/))

Buchan experienced the third highest percentage change in its housing stock between 2005 and 2015 out of Aberdeenshire's six administrative areas. An increase of 19.2% is similar to Kincardine and Mearns (19.0%) this is also approximately 3% higher than the lowest, Banff and Buchan (16.3%) and just over 4% lower than the highest, Garioch (23.4%).

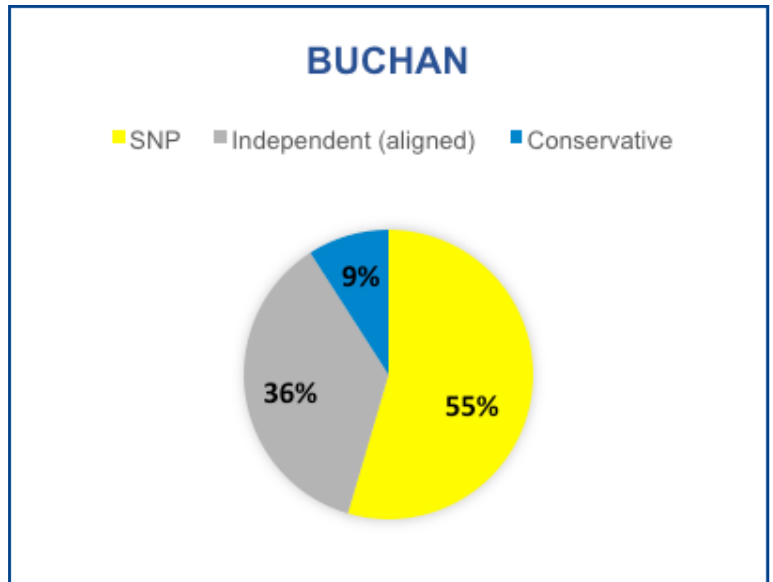
AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE 2013	BANFF & BUCHAN	ABERDEENSHIRE
	£159,977	£218,663

Source: scottish neighbourhood statistics 2013, information is aggregated from multi-member ward data

Buchan's average house price is the second lowest out of the six administrative areas in Aberdeenshire. Similarly to neighbouring Banff and Buchan (£132,263) but still some £25,000 more expensive on average, the more affordable housing in Aberdeenshire is typically located in more north and eastern locations. This is in contrast to areas located further south and west and in Garioch (£253,631) and Marr (£254,896) where houses are on average at least £90,000 more expensive compared to Buchan.

### SERVING BUCHAN

Buchan area committee is composed of three multi-member wards: Central Buchan, Peterhead North and Rattray and Peterhead South and Cruden. Politically this area is overseen by 11 councillors: 6 SNP, 4 Aligned Independents and 1 Conservative. The current area chair is Stuart Pratt (SNP) and the vice-chair is Lenny Pirie (SNP). The area is also served by 24 primary schools, 2 secondary schools, 1 special needs school, 1 public swimming pool, 6 public libraries and 4 GP surgeries.

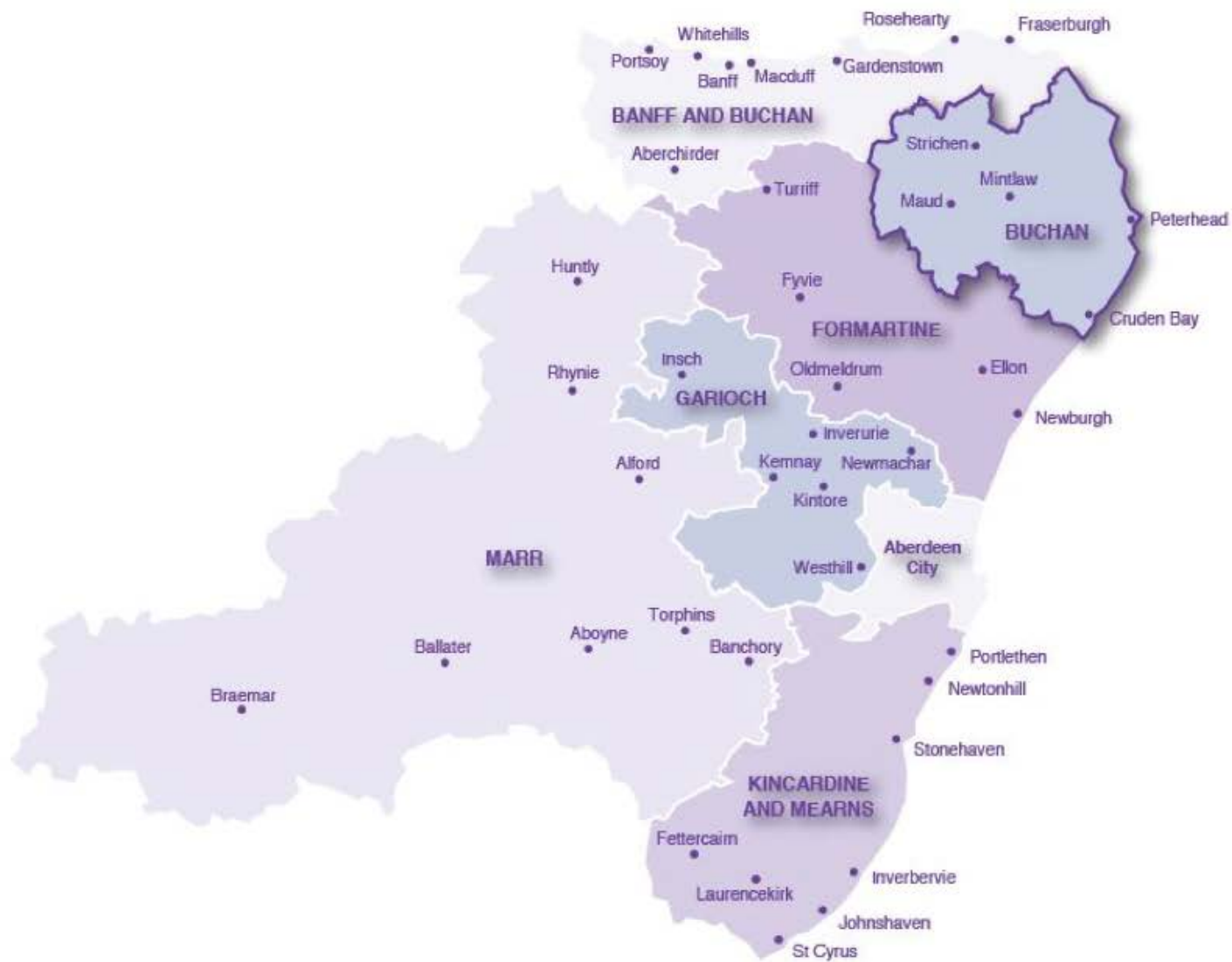


SERVICES AND FACILITIES	BANFF& BUCHAN	ABERDEENSHIRE
Primary schools	24	150
Secondary schools	2	17
Special needs schools	1	4
Public swimming pools	1	23
Public libraries	6	37, plus 4 mobile
Gp surgeries	4	36

*Facilities refer to publically owned services*

Source: [www.Aberdeenshire.Gov.Uk/media/4696/20150227aberdeenshireservices.Pdf](http://www.Aberdeenshire.Gov.Uk/media/4696/20150227aberdeenshireservices.Pdf)

## ABERDEENSHIRE'S ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS: BUCHAN



**Aberdeenshire Statistics**

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics)

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