

AREA CHARACTERISTICS

AREA CHARACTERISTICS	LAND AREA	% OF SHIRE TOTAL	POPULATION DENSITY
Marr	2942 km ² (1136 miles ²)	46.6	12.8 persons per km ²
Aberdeenshire	6316 km ² (2437 miles ²)	100.0	39.2 persons per km ²

Source: Aberdeenshire Council Estimates

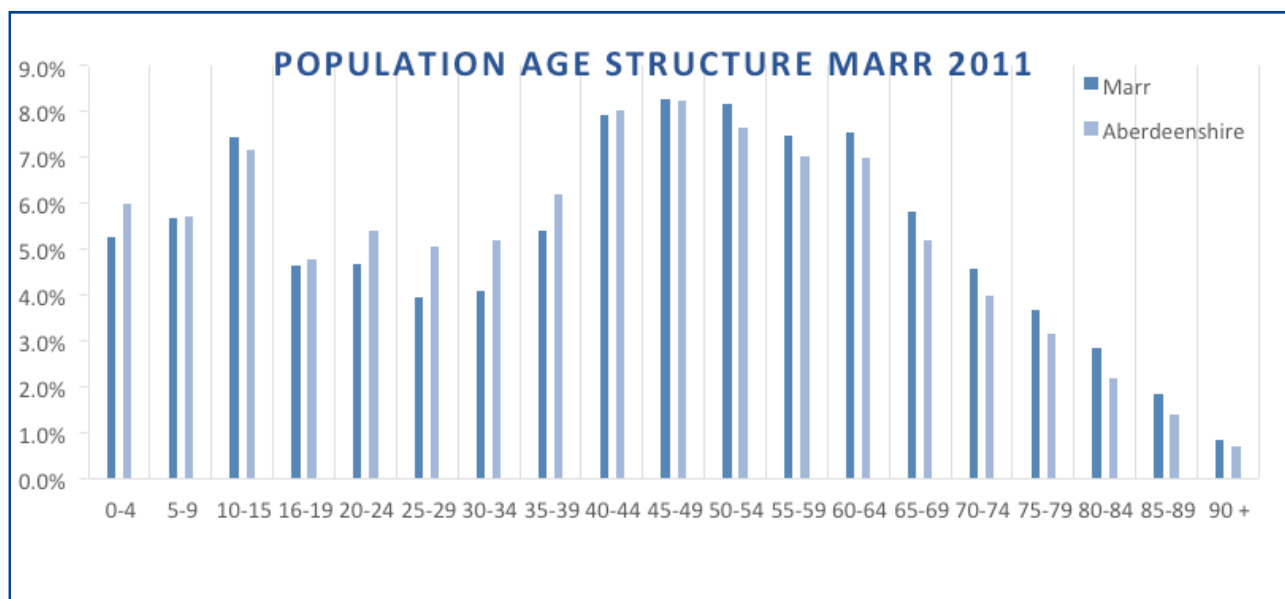
Marr is one of the six administrative areas in Aberdeenshire. In terms of size the area encompasses 2,942 sq km (1,136 square miles) and represents just under 50% of the council area, making this by far the largest administrative area in Aberdeenshire. For population density, this measures at 12.8 persons per square kilometre, compared with 39.2 persons per square kilometre in Aberdeenshire as a whole, linking in with the vast amount of area that Marr covers, this is by far the least densely populated administrative area. Banchory (7,750) is the largest settlement in Marr and in terms of its economy, Marr is largely defined by tourism and agriculture, with the Cairngorms National Park being within its jurisdiction.

POPULATION

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS	ALL AGES	0-15	16-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Female	18,923	3,390	1,598	4,132	5,783	4,020
Male	18,686	3,517	1,911	3,887	6,041	3,330
% Ratio Female: Male	51: 49	48: 52	42:58	53: 47	48:52	60: 40
Marr Total	37,609	6,907	3,509	8,019	11,824	7,350
Aberdeenshire total	247,600	46,747	25,146	60,598	74,014	41,095
Area as % of Shire' total	15.2	14.8	14.0	13.2	16.0	17.9

Source: National Records for Scotland, Population Estimates 2011. Information is aggregated from multi-member ward data.

Using 2011 estimates, the population for Marr is 37,609, this is the second lowest populated administrative area with only Banff and Buchan (35,277) containing less residents. Additionally, Marr's population is divided by a 51:49 female to male gender ratio, the same as Banff and Buchan and Garioch. This signifies that there are marginally fewer men and slightly more women in the area compared to Aberdeenshire as a whole.



The age structure of Marr varies from Aberdeenshire in different ways. First, there are significantly higher percentages of older people within the administrative area when compared to the Aberdeenshire average. In fact Marr usurps Aberdeenshire for every age group between 45 and 90+ whereas in other administrative areas this increase usually begins at 55 or 60. Second, there are a significant lack of young adults within Marr's boundaries, between the ages of 20 and 39, Aberdeenshire's percentage being much higher. Third, Marr possesses more 10-15 year olds than the Aberdeenshire average which could correspond with higher percentages of age groups between 45 and 59.

POPULATION OF MAIN TOWNS	2003	2012	2003-12 % CHANGE
Aboyne	2,230	2,650	18.8
Alford	2,000	2,290	14.5
Ballater	1,550	1,550	0.0
Banchory	6,290	7,520	19.6
Huntly	4,350	4,720	8.5
Lumphanan	510	550	7.8
Tarland	570	720	26.3

Source: National Records for Scotland, Population Estimates mid- 2012

The largest town in Marr is Banchory (7,520), Huntly is also a significant settlement (4,720) and has its own railway station on the line between Aberdeen and Inverness whilst Alford (2,290) is the administrative centre. All settlements over 500 people experienced population growth between 2003 and 2012, however this is more modest compared to other administrative areas. Most notably, Tarland's population increased by 26.3% between 2003 and 2012 whilst Banchory's increased by 19.6% during this period as well.

ECONOMY

INDUSTRY SECTORS	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	% OF AREA TOTAL	SHIRE %
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	322	2.7%	1.9%
Mining, quarrying & utilities	42	0.3%	5.3%
Manufacturing	820	6.8%	14.1%
Construction	1,407	11.6%	8.0%
Motor trades	151	1.2%	1.7%
Wholesale	278	2.3%	3.5%
Retail	1,650	13.7%	10.0%
Transport & storage (inc. postal)	252	2.1%	4.1%
Accommodation & food services	1,063	8.8%	6.4%
Information & communication	131	1.1%	1.0%
Financial & insurance	84	0.7%	0.7%
Property	300	2.5%	0.8%
Professional, scientific & technical	1,444	12.0%	12.4%
Business admin & support services	380	3.1%	5.5%
Public administration & defence	217	1.8%	3.7%
Education	1,120	9.3%	7.3%
Health	1,514	12.5%	10.0%
Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	906	7.5%	3.9%
Total	12,081		11.9%

Source: Business Register and Employment Survey 2014, NOMIS

Marr employs the smallest number of people out of Aberdeenshire's six administrative areas, with 12,081 employed in various sectors within the area's jurisdiction. Marr possesses four strongly performing sectors and unlike other areas, there is no industry that particularly stands out. Retail (13.7%), Health (13.5%), Professional, Scientific and Technical (12.0%) and Construction (11.6%) all employ a significant number of workers within Marr's boundaries.

The area also contains the highest number of any administrative area employed in the Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services sector which accounts for 7.5% of Marr's workforce. This could be linked in with the area containing the Cairngorms National Park and is also reflected in 8.8% of the workforce being employed in accommodation and food services.

UNEMPLOYMENT Q1 (JAN-MARCH) 2016	AVERAGE COUNT (JAN-MARCH)	AVERAGE RATE (JAN-MARCH) (%)	% OF SHIRE TOTAL
Marr	204	0.8	10.8
Aberdeenshire	1,894	1.2	n/a
Scotland	63,115	1.8	n/a
* Monthly Average Claimant Rate for Job Seeker Allowance			
Source: National Statistics 2014 (NOMIS). Information is aggregated from multi-member ward data			

Currently, Marr possesses the lowest unemployment (Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)) rate out of the whole of Aberdeenshire. The area also experienced the second-lowest percentage rate increase in the first quarter of 2016 with the number of claimants increasing by 0.2% with only Formartine surpassing this.

Unlike other administrative areas Marr's performance over the 12 months between March 2015 and 2016 was also strong with the rate only increasing by 0.3% over that period, the joint-lowest increase alongside Banff and Buchan (0.3%). In addition, out of the top four best performing wards in Aberdeenshire during this period, three were in Marr, with only Troup (0.1%) outperforming them. As such, it appears that Marr may have been somewhat immune to many of the oil and gas industry job losses that have blighted other parts of Aberdeenshire.

HOUSING

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS	2005	2015	% CHANGE 2005-2015				
Housing Stock	14,665	17,966	22.5%				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Recent Completions	200	158	133	150	135	165	154
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Anticipated Future Development	132	166	150	146	129	95	71
Source: Aberdeenshire Council Housing Land Audit 2016 (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics/hla/)							

Marr experienced the second-highest percentage change in its housing stock between 2005 and 2015 out of Aberdeenshire's six administrative areas. A rate of 22.5% is similar to that of neighbouring Garioch (23.4%) and is approximately 7% higher than the lowest rates of increase in Aberdeenshire which are present in Formartine (16.6%) and Banff and Buchan (16.3%).

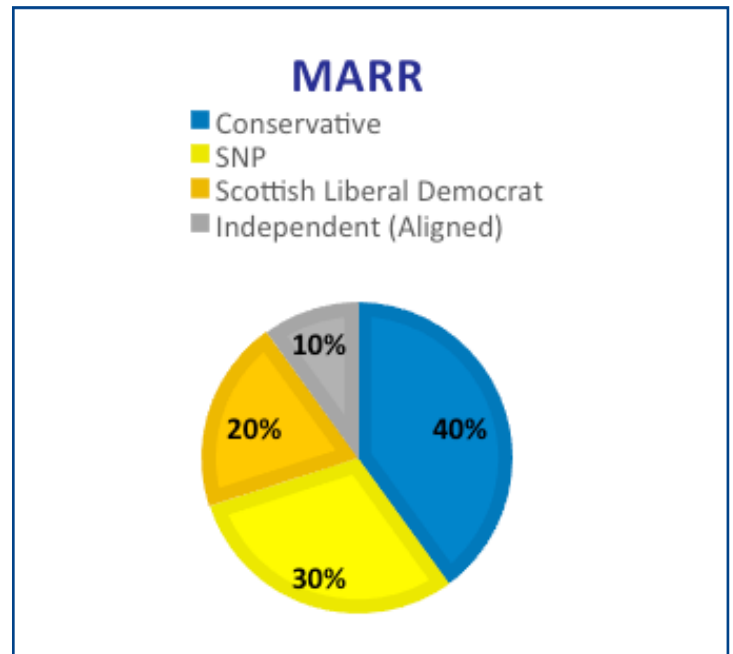
AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE 2013	MARR	ABERDEENSHIRE
	£254,896	£218,663

Source: Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics 2013, Information is aggregated from multi-member ward data

Marr's average house price is the highest out of the six administrative areas in Aberdeenshire. Similarly to neighbouring Garioch (£253,631) the most expensive housing is typically located in more southern and western locations of the Shire. This is in stark contrast to further north and east and in Banff and Buchan (£132,263) and Buchan (£159,977) where houses are on average £120,000 cheaper compared to Marr.

SERVING MARR

Marr area committee is composed of three multi-member wards: Huntly, Strathbogie and the Howe of Alford; Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside; and Banchory and Mid-Deeside. Politically, this area is overseen by 10 councillors: 4 Conservative, 3 SNP, 2 Scottish Liberal Democrats and 1 Aligned Independent. The current area chair is Moira Ingleby (Conservative) and the vice-chair is John Latham (Aligned Independent). The area is also served by 34 primary schools, 4 secondary schools, 4 public swimming pools, 5 public libraries and 9 GP surgeries.



SERVICES AND FACILITIES	MARR	ABERDEENSHIRE
Primary Schools	34	150
Secondary Schools	4	17
Special Needs Schools	0	4
Public Swimming pools	4	23
Public Libraries	5	37, plus 4 mobile
GP Surgeries	9	36

Facilities refer to publically owned services

Source: <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/4696/20150227aberdeenshireservices.pdf>

ABERDEENSHIRE'S ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS: MARR



Aberdeenshire Statistics

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/statistics

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