

Labour Force Bulletin

Related documents

From the Research & Evaluation [Economy & Employment](#) webpages you can access a wide range of data relating to the Kent economy and labour market. This data helps the County Council assess the economic health of the county. Data is presented for the county as a whole and areas within Kent, with comparisons made to the regional and national context.

Further information

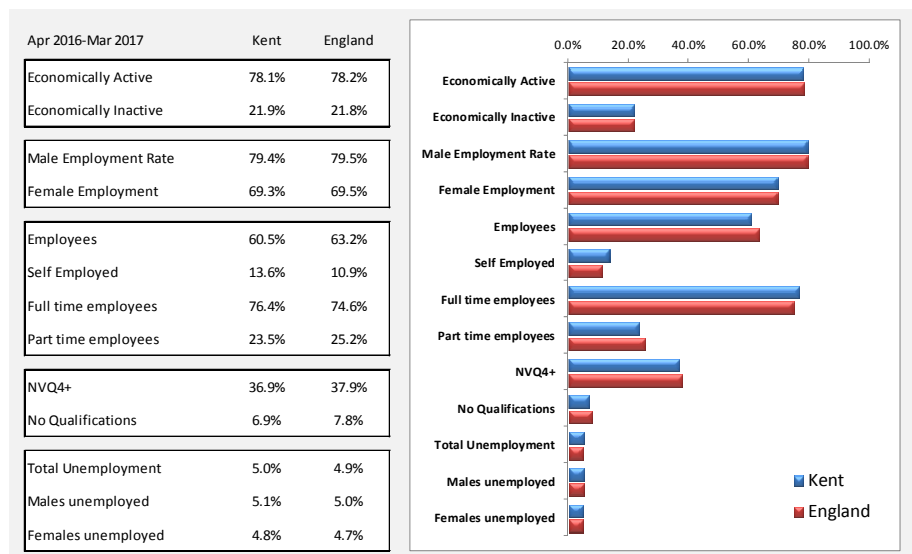
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The Labour Force Bulletin uses information from the Annual Population Survey to give an insight into the characteristics of the labour force in the Kent. Comparisons are made with the national profile.



The key points from the latest Annual Population Survey are:

- The number of economically active people aged 16-64 in Kent (those who are working or are available to work) has decreased from 729,700 (78.9%) in the twelve months to March 2016 to 725,800 (78.1%) in the twelve months to March 2017.
- The employment rate for males (79.4%) is slightly below the national average of 79.5%. The employment rate for females (69.3%) is slightly below the national average of 69.5%.
- 13.6% of people in Kent aged 16-64 are self employed.

Key points (continued)

- The proportion of workers coming from Kent who are working full time has increased to 76.4% while the proportion of those working part time has fallen slightly to 23.5%.
- Caring personal service occupations make up the largest proportion of people in employment who live in Kent (8.8%), above the national average (7.0%).
- Almost a third of all those in employment who live in Kent are employed in public administration, education and health (31.4%), just above the national average of 29.4%.
- The unemployment rate in Kent (5.0%) has fallen however is slightly higher than the national rate (4.9%).
- Male unemployment rates (5.1%) are higher than female unemployment rates (4.8%).

The Annual Population Survey

The data source used for this bulletin is the Annual Population Survey, produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The data is published quarterly but each quarter covers an annual period. The data is usually available approximately four months in arrears (i.e. the data for the period Jan 2017 - Dec 2017 will be published in April 2018).

The Annual Population Survey (APS) combines results from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the English, Welsh and Scottish Labour Force Survey boosts (During 2004 and 2005 the APS also comprised of an additional boost for England (APS(B)) which are funded by the Department for Work and Pensions, Department for Education and Skills, the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Executive.

APS datasets are produced quarterly with each dataset containing 12 months of data. There are approximately 170,000 households and 360,000 persons per dataset. More robust local area labour market estimates are available from the APS than from the main LFS.

The APS is a sample survey, so the responses reflect only a small proportion of the total population. Each respondent is given a weight relating to the proportion of the total population that he or she represents. The sum of all the weights equals the total household population for the survey. Reweighting means assigning different weights, derived from more up-to-date population estimates.

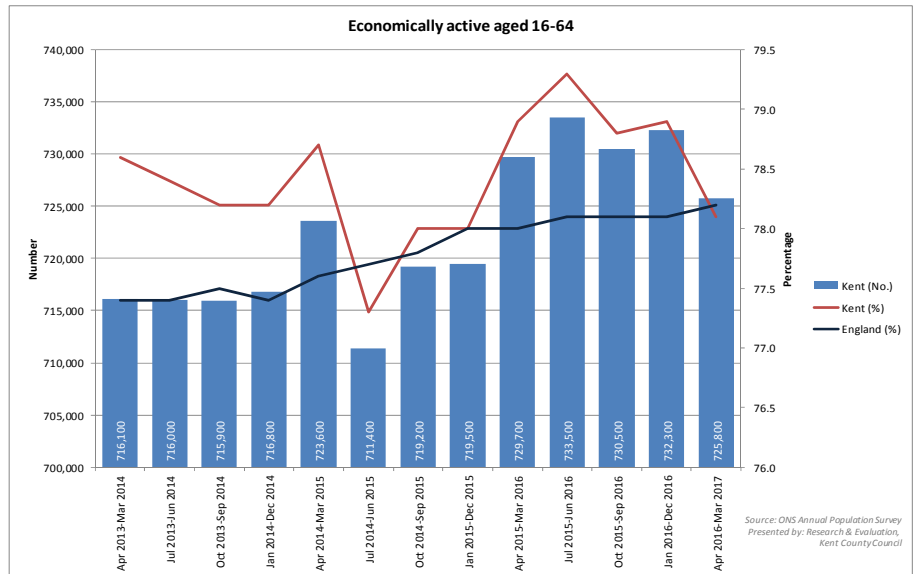
Reweighted APS estimates, including model-based unemployment estimates, were released on 20 March 2016. The complete series has been reweighted back to the Apr2012 to Mar 2013 period.

The sample sizes at county level are reasonably robust, though are still subject to some sampling variation. For this reason, a more reliable interpretation of the data can be gained by looking at a short period of a number of quarters, to determine the general direction of travel, rather than the change between individual quarter results.

Economic Activity

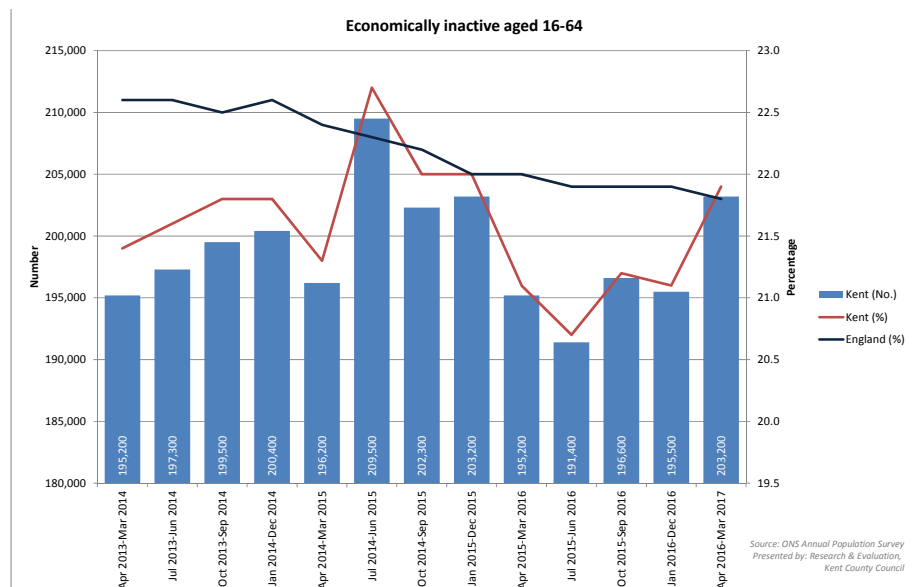
Economically **active** people are defined as those people who are in employment and those people who are unemployed and are available to work.

The chart shows a timeseries of the number of people aged 16-64 in Kent who are economically active and compares the percentage who are economically active in Kent and England



The chart shows a timeseries of the number of people aged 16-64 in Kent who are economically inactive and compares the percentage who are economically active in Kent and England.

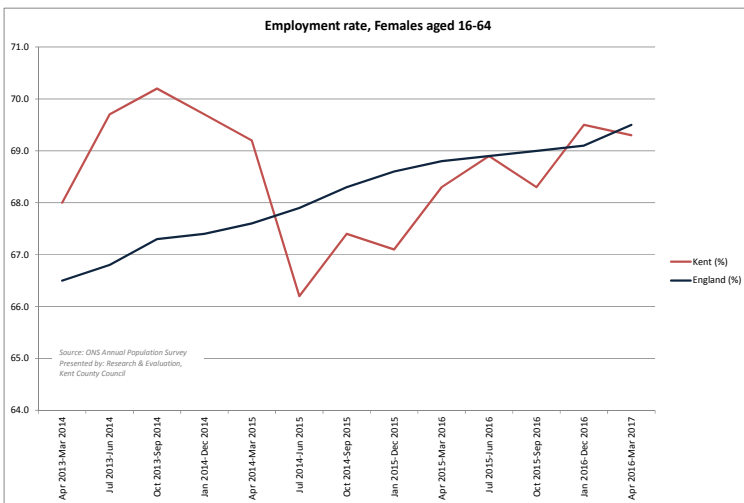
Economically **inactive** people are defined as those people who are not in employment or those people who are not available to work. This includes people who are retired, those looking after family, those who are long term sick and some students.



Employment Rate

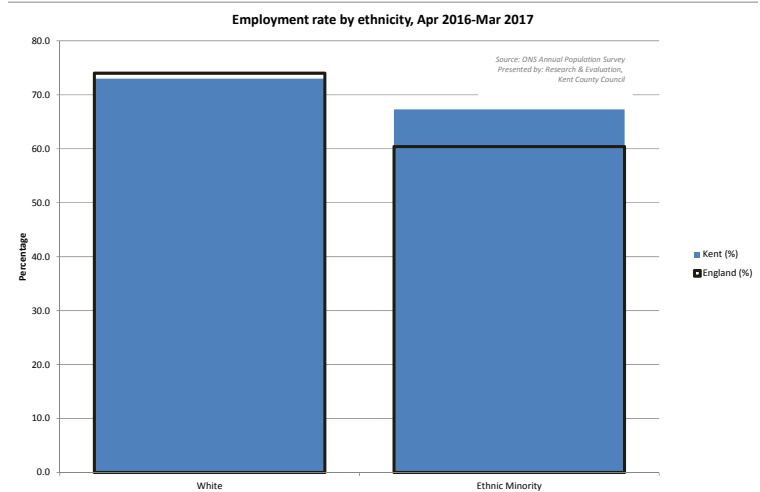
The Annual Population Survey shows the number of people age 16-64 who are in employment.

The employment rate of males aged 16-64 in Kent is above that for England.



The employment rate for females is below the national rate.

The employment rate in Kent for people from ethnic minorities is above the national rate.



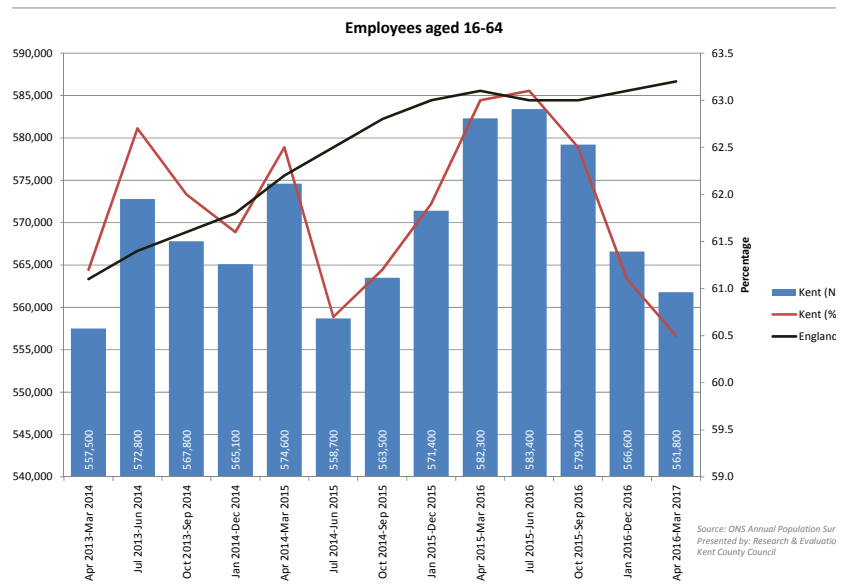
Employees

The Annual Population Survey can show whether those people who are working are self employed or are employed by someone else.

Employees

The chart shows how the number of employees in Kent has been increasing since the year beginning July 2014.

The chart also shows the percentage of employees in Kent and England for comparison.



Self Employed

The Annual Population Survey is the only data set which gives us an idea of the number of people who are self employed.

The number of people in Kent who are self employed has fallen over the last couple of years.

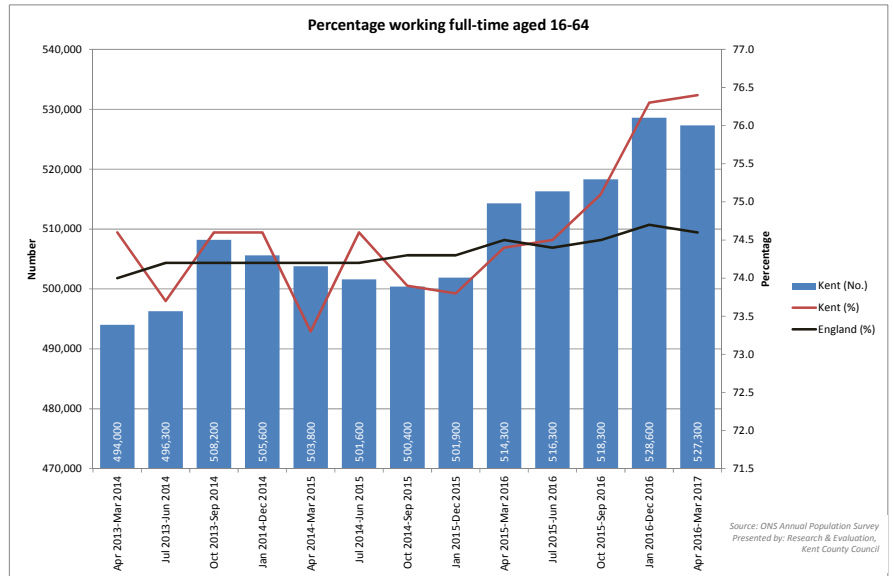


Employment Type

The survey shows us whether those people who are in employment are working full time or part time. Full time employment is defined as work which lasts for 30 hours a week or more.

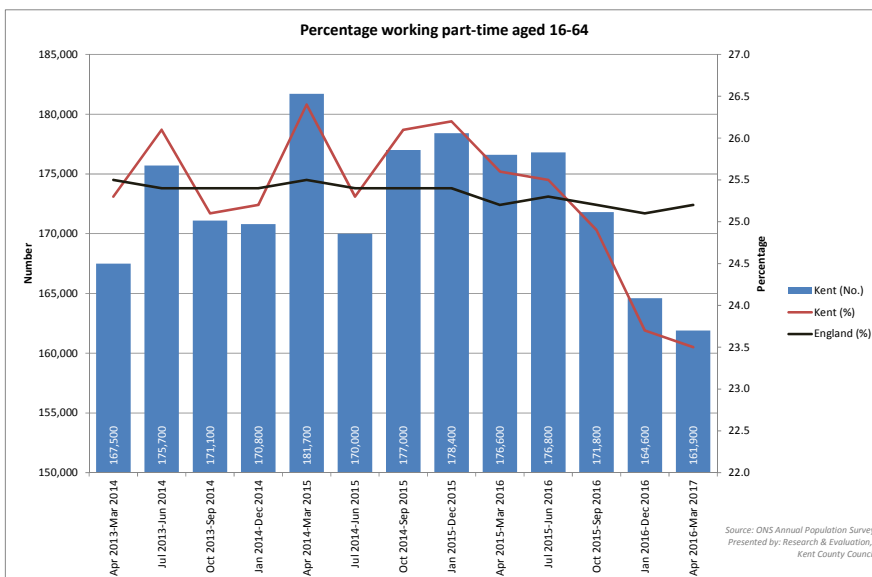
Full Time

The proportion of people in full time employment has increased in Kent.



Part Time

Part time employees are defined as those who work less than 30 hours a week.

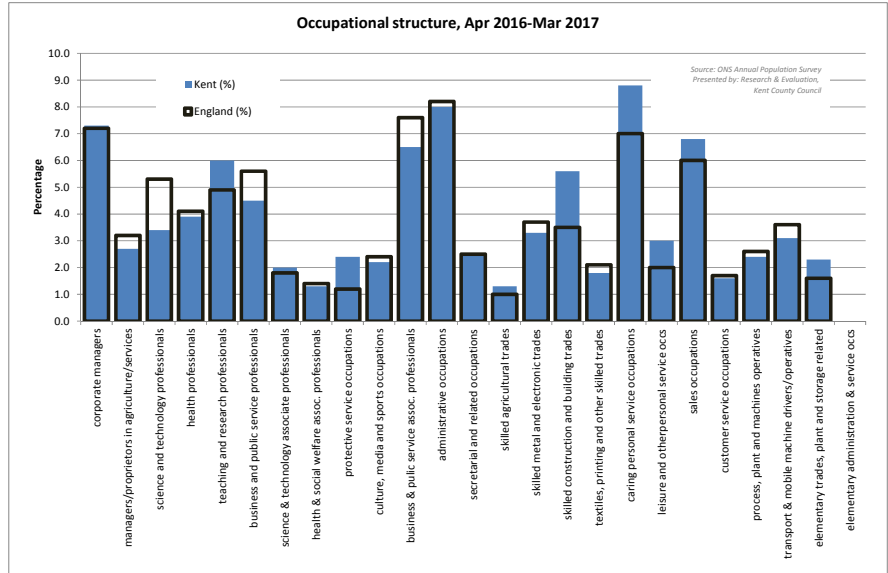


The number of people working part time has fallen slightly in Kent.

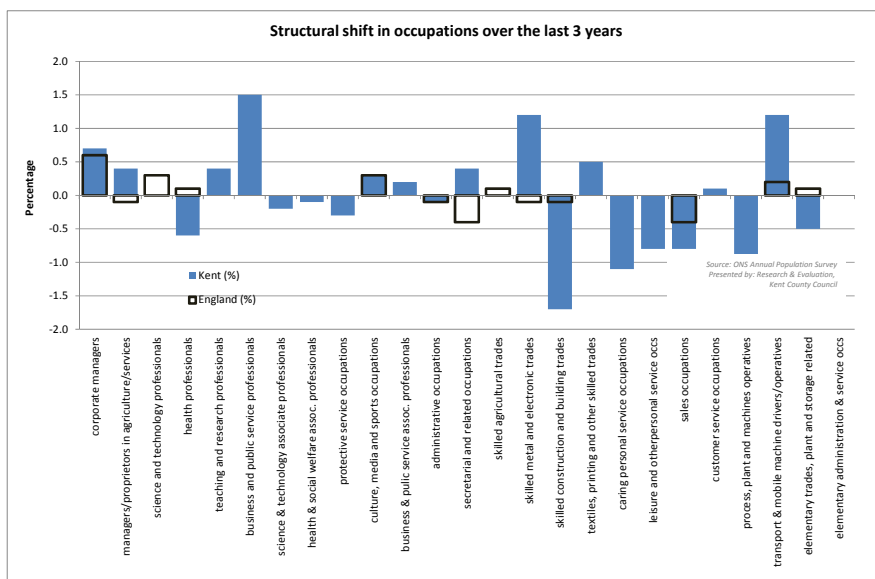
Occupational Structure

The survey shows the type of occupations of those people in employment.

The chart shows the occupations of people who are in employment and who live in Kent. It is not an indicator of the types of occupation that are available in Kent. The England average is shown for comparison.



Change in the occupational structure

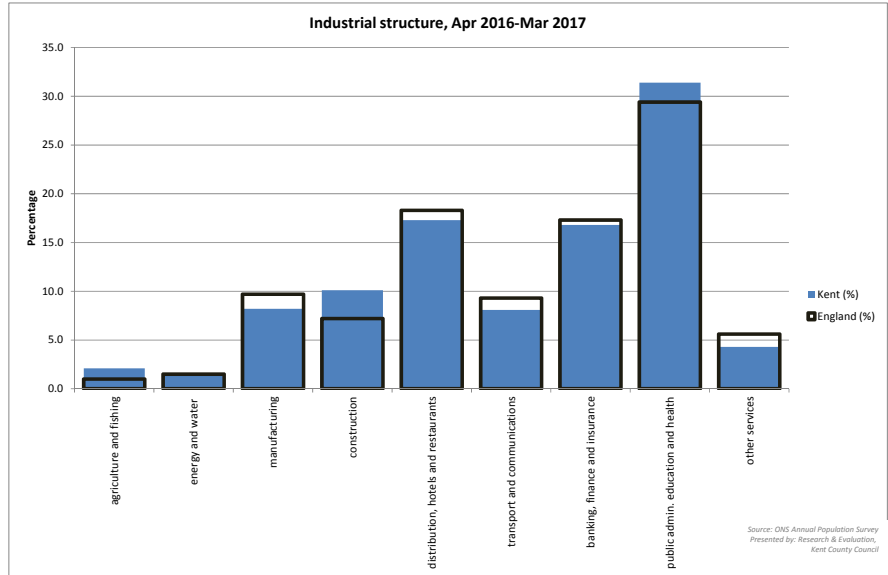


The chart shows how the occupational structure of employed people living in Kent has changed over the last three years compared to in England as a whole.

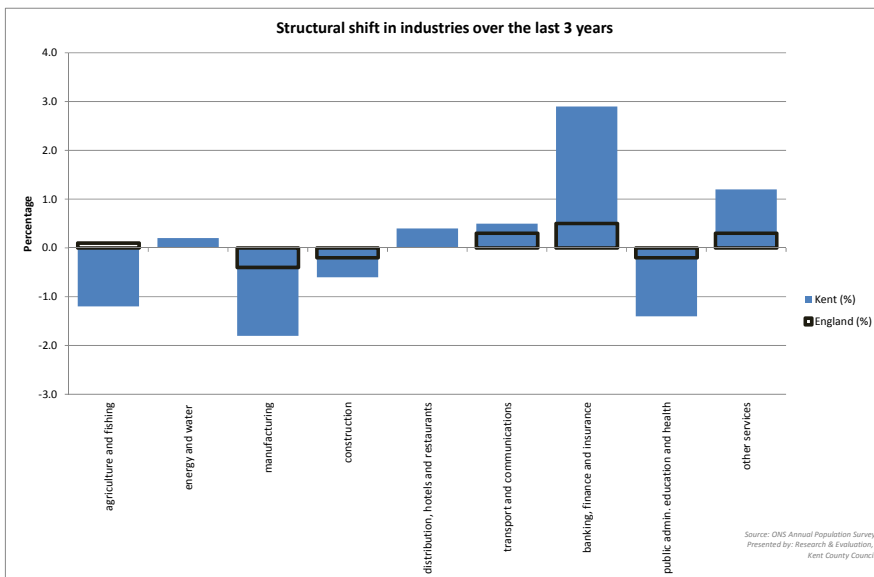
Industrial Structure

The survey shows the type of industry that those people in employment work in.

The chart shows the industry that people who are in employment and who live in Kent work in. It is not an indicator of the industrial structure of businesses in Kent. The England average is shown for comparison.



Change in the industrial structure

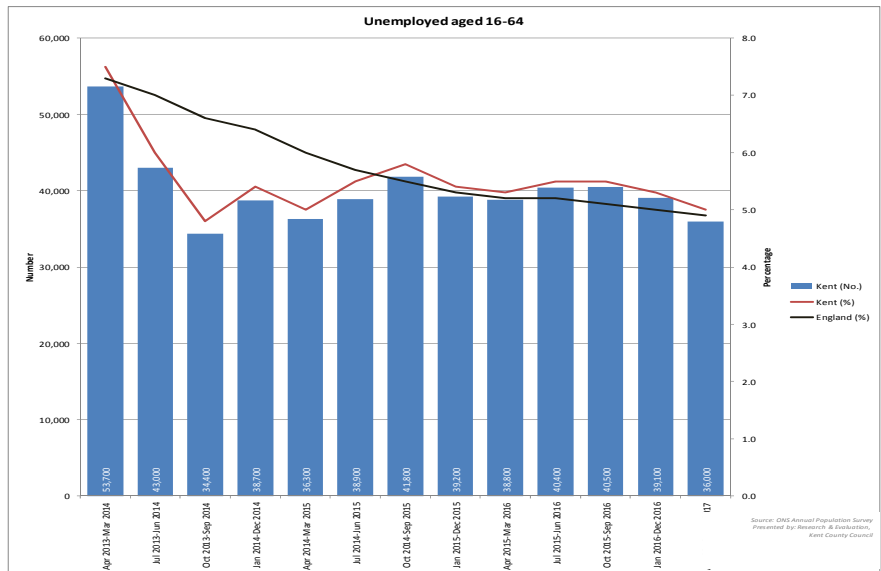


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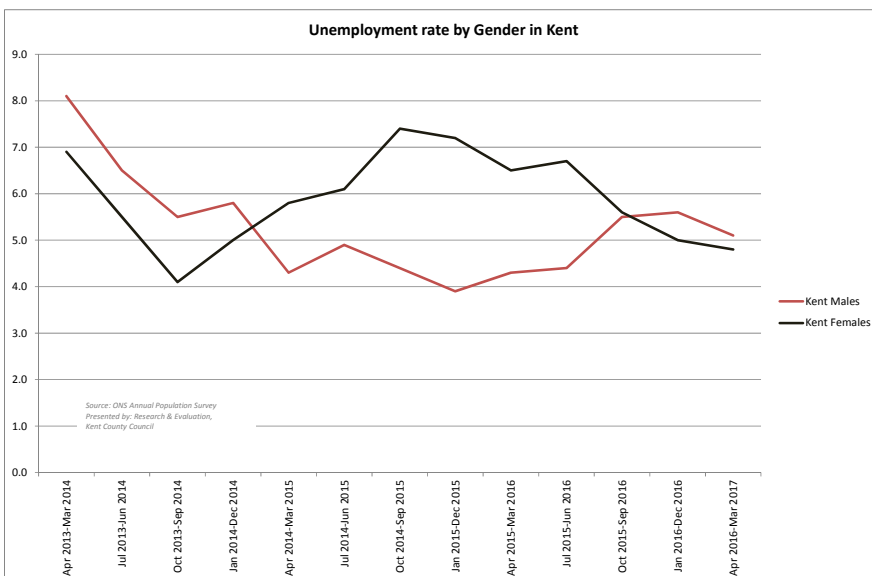
Unemployment

The survey shows the number of people aged 16-64 who are unemployed.

The chart shows the number of people aged 16-64 who live in Kent and are unemployed. The England average is shown for comparison.



Unemployment by Gender



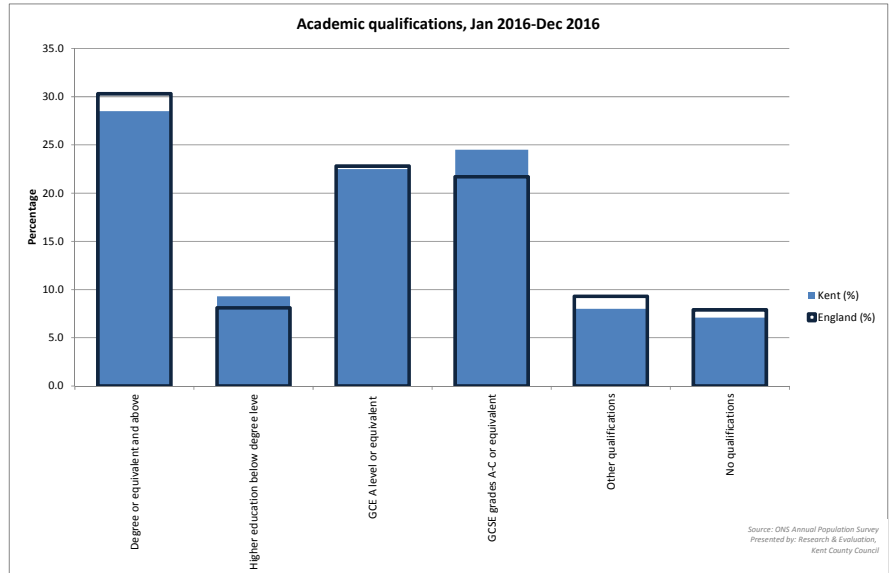
The chart shows how the unemployment rate of males and females aged 16-64 have changed over the last 3 years.

Qualifications

The Annual Population Survey shows the academic and work based qualifications of people aged 16-64. Qualifications data is only available from January to December each year. The latest data is presented here.

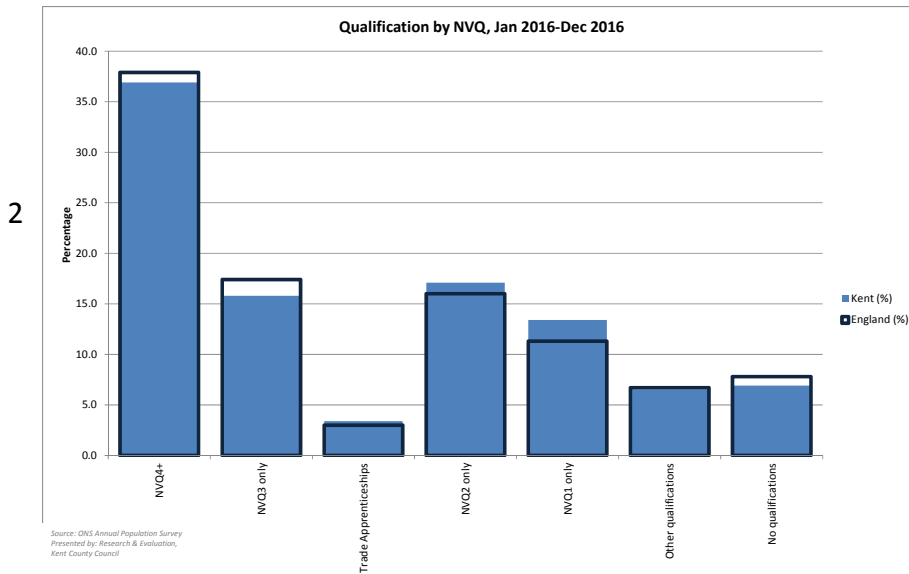
Academic Qualifications

The chart shows the academic qualifications of people in Kent compared to those in England as a whole.



National Vocational Qualifications

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are work based qualifications.



NVQ1 is equivalent to having attained 3-4 GCSEs at grade D-E, NVQ2 is equivalent to 4-5 GCSEs at grade A*-C, NVQ3 is equivalent to or more A Levels and NVQ4 is equivalent to degree level and above.

The chart shows the NVQs attained by people aged 16-64 in Kent compared to those in England.