

UK Business Survey 2017

Information on businesses in Kent

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Looking at the counts business activity during the course of the whole of the financial year

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The UK Business data is published annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and is based on output from the VAT and PAYE administrative systems.

The information provided by the UK Business dataset gives a snapshot of businesses and is broken down by size band, industry, turnover and age of business.

An additional dataset from ONS is the Business Demography dataset. This is also based on VAT and PAYE data but this information measures any activity during the course of the year, so leads to slightly higher counts of businesses. It provides information on business births, deaths and survival rates. Information on this dataset can be found in the Research & Evaluation bulletin “Business Demography”

Kent Summary

- As at March 2017 there were 60,935 enterprises in Kent
- Kent has a significantly higher proportion of enterprises (15.8%) in the construction industry than is seen nationally (12.0%)
- The highest proportion of enterprises in Kent (17.9%) are within the Professional, scientific and technical sector
- The majority of enterprises in Kent (89.8%) are micro enterprises (with 0-9 employees)
- The majority of enterprises in Kent (99.3%) are classed as companies which operate within the private sector.
- 32.0% of enterprises in Kent have a turnover of between £100k and £249k

Introduction

The UK Business data is produced from a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) - usually taken during March - and provides the basis for the ONS to conduct surveys of businesses.

The main administrative sources for the IDBR are VAT trader and PAYE employer information passed to the ONS by HM Revenue & Customs under the Value Added Tax Act 1994 for VAT traders and the Finance Act 1969 for PAYE employers; details of incorporated businesses are also passed to ONS by Companies House. ONS Survey data and survey information from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Northern Ireland (DEINI) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) farms register provide auxiliary information. Construction statistics formerly produced by the Department for Business Innovation & Skills are now produced by ONS.

The IDBR combines the information from the three administrative sources with this survey data in a statistical register comprising over two million enterprises. These comprehensive administrative sources combined with the survey data contribute to the coverage on the IDBR, which is one of its main strengths, representing nearly 99 per cent of UK economic activity.

The latest data is published for 2016 and is based upon the 2007 revision to the Standard Industrial Classification UKSIC (2007) introduced with the release of the 2009 UK Business Survey data.

This bulletin looks at the main tables available from the UK Business data, which relate to VAT/PAYE enterprises.

This bulletin will be updated in Autumn 2018.

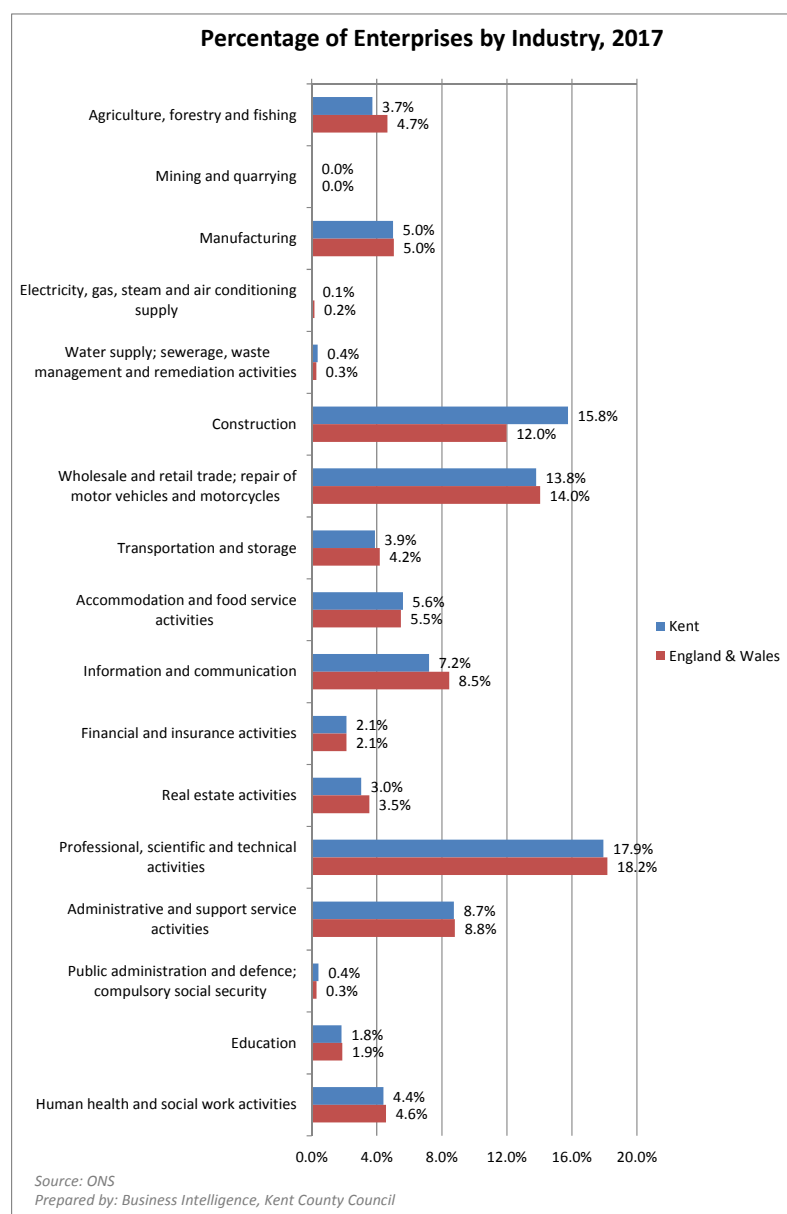
Analysis

Enterprises by Industry

The UK Business data shows us the number of enterprises by industry.

Overall Kent has a similar profile to England and Wales although does show a significantly higher proportion of enterprises in the Construction Industry and lower proportions in Agriculture and Fishing and Information & Communications industries. This is shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1



Tables 1 and 2 show the number and percentage of businesses by industry in Kent local authority districts and Kent as a whole. Regional and national figures are also presented for comparison.

Table 1: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2017 By Broad Industrial Group

	UK SIC 2007																		Total
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	Transportation and storage	Accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, scientific and technical activities	Administrative and support service activities	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	Education	Human health and social work activities	Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	
Ashford	410	0	320	5	30	805	895	160	245	395	335	195	1,005	520	35	90	255	315	6,020
Canterbury	180	0	230	5	15	750	820	140	400	335	80	190	945	425	15	120	290	395	5,330
Dartford	25	0	225	0	20	800	535	250	185	390	75	100	770	355	10	65	210	185	4,210
Dover	195	0	170	5	15	535	510	165	275	165	35	70	490	240	40	80	170	220	3,380
Gravesham	45	0	180	5	15	790	465	350	220	245	40	95	560	355	5	75	185	205	3,840
Maidstone	305	0	360	5	35	1,275	945	355	300	470	125	220	1,265	650	30	120	320	425	7,195
Sevenoaks	200	0	310	0	25	970	925	145	255	625	165	255	1,365	645	25	110	215	400	6,640
Shepway	200	0	165	0	5	595	530	135	330	200	45	125	630	295	15	70	180	235	3,760
Swale	225	0	325	5	15	915	660	260	315	250	60	125	700	375	25	80	215	295	4,845
Thanet	70	0	230	15	15	630	625	125	380	210	55	110	495	290	10	80	180	270	3,795
Tonbridge and Malling	135	5	265	0	25	885	695	175	225	500	130	160	1,180	540	25	110	215	310	5,585
Tunbridge Wells	285	0	255	0	15	650	815	100	280	615	150	205	1,530	635	20	120	255	410	6,335
Kent	2,275	15	3,045	45	225	9,605	8,410	2,365	3,415	4,400	1,300	1,855	10,930	5,330	255	1,120	2,685	3,665	60,935
Medway	70	0	460	0	25	1,760	1,180	480	480	560	110	200	1,285	695	10	175	495	435	8,425
Kent + Medway	2,345	15	3,505	45	250	11,365	9,590	2,845	3,895	4,960	1,410	2,055	12,215	6,025	265	1,295	3,180	4,100	69,360
South East LEP	5,975	40	9,035	130	595	28,840	23,505	6,850	8,715	12,585	3,195	5,345	29,025	14,335	575	3,145	7,580	10,080	169,545
South East Region	11,745	100	18,695	515	1,060	52,955	52,305	12,805	18,850	44,140	7,765	13,100	82,540	35,335	1,175	7,625	16,850	26,120	403,680
ENGLAND AND WALES	112,765	845	122,155	3,980	6,760	290,385	340,410	101,390	132,860	204,970	51,590	85,710	440,810	213,360	7,060	45,705	110,545	152,160	2,423,465

Source: ONS

Prepared by: Business Intelligence, Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

Table 2: Percentage Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2017 By Broad Industrial Group

	UK SIC 2007																	
	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	Construction	Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	Transportation and storage	Accommodation and food service activities	Information and communication	Financial and insurance activities	Real estate activities	Professional, scientific and technical activities	Administrative and support service activities	Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	Education	Human health and social work activities	Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services
Ashford	6.8	0.0	5.3	0.1	0.5	13.4	14.9	2.7	4.1	6.6	5.6	3.2	16.7	8.6	0.6	1.5	4.2	5.2
Canterbury	3.4	0.0	4.3	0.1	0.3	14.1	15.4	2.6	7.5	6.3	1.5	3.6	17.7	8.0	0.3	2.3	5.4	7.4
Dartford	0.6	0.0	5.3	0.0	0.5	19.0	12.7	5.9	4.4	9.3	1.8	2.4	18.3	8.4	0.2	1.5	5.0	4.4
Dover	5.8	0.0	5.0	0.1	0.4	15.8	15.1	4.9	8.1	4.9	1.0	2.1	14.5	7.1	1.2	2.4	5.0	6.5
Gravesham	1.2	0.0	4.7	0.1	0.4	20.6	12.1	9.1	5.7	6.4	1.0	2.5	14.6	9.2	0.1	2.0	4.8	5.3
Maidstone	4.2	0.0	5.0	0.1	0.5	17.7	13.1	4.9	4.2	6.5	1.7	3.1	17.6	9.0	0.4	1.7	4.4	5.9
Sevenoaks	3.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.4	14.6	13.9	2.2	3.8	9.4	2.5	3.8	20.6	9.7	0.4	1.7	3.2	6.0
Shepway	5.3	0.0	4.4	0.0	0.1	15.8	14.1	3.6	8.8	5.3	1.2	3.3	16.8	7.8	0.4	1.9	4.8	6.3
Swale	4.6	0.0	6.7	0.1	0.3	18.9	13.6	5.4	6.5	5.2	1.2	2.6	14.4	7.7	0.5	1.7	4.4	6.1
Thanet	1.8	0.0	6.1	0.4	0.4	16.6	16.5	3.3	10.0	5.5	1.4	2.9	13.0	7.6	0.3	2.1	4.7	7.1
Tonbridge and Malling	2.4	0.1	4.7	0.0	0.4	15.8	12.4	3.1	4.0	9.0	2.3	2.9	21.1	9.7	0.4	2.0	3.8	5.6
Tunbridge Wells	4.5	0.0	4.0	0.0	0.2	10.3	12.9	1.6	4.4	9.7	2.4	3.2	24.2	10.0	0.3	1.9	4.0	6.5
Kent	3.7	0.0	5.0	0.1	0.4	15.8	13.8	3.9	5.6	7.2	2.1	3.0	17.9	8.7	0.4	1.8	4.4	6.0
Medway	0.8	0.0	5.5	0.0	0.3	20.9	14.0	5.7	5.7	6.6	1.3	2.4	15.3	8.2	0.1	2.1	5.9	5.2
Kent + Medway	3.4	0.0	5.1	0.1	0.4	16.4	13.8	4.1	5.6	7.2	2.0	3.0	17.6	8.7	0.4	1.9	4.6	5.9
South East LEP	3.5	0.0	5.3	0.1	0.4	17.0	13.9	4.0	5.1	7.4	1.9	3.2	17.1	8.5	0.3	1.9	4.5	5.9
South East Region	2.9	0.0	4.6	0.1	0.3	13.1	13.0	3.2	4.7	10.9	1.9	3.2	20.4	8.8	0.3	1.9	4.2	6.5
ENGLAND AND WALES	4.7	0.0	5.0	0.2	0.3	12.0	14.0	4.2	5.5	8.5	2.1	3.5	18.2	8.8	0.3	1.9	4.6	6.3

Source: ONS

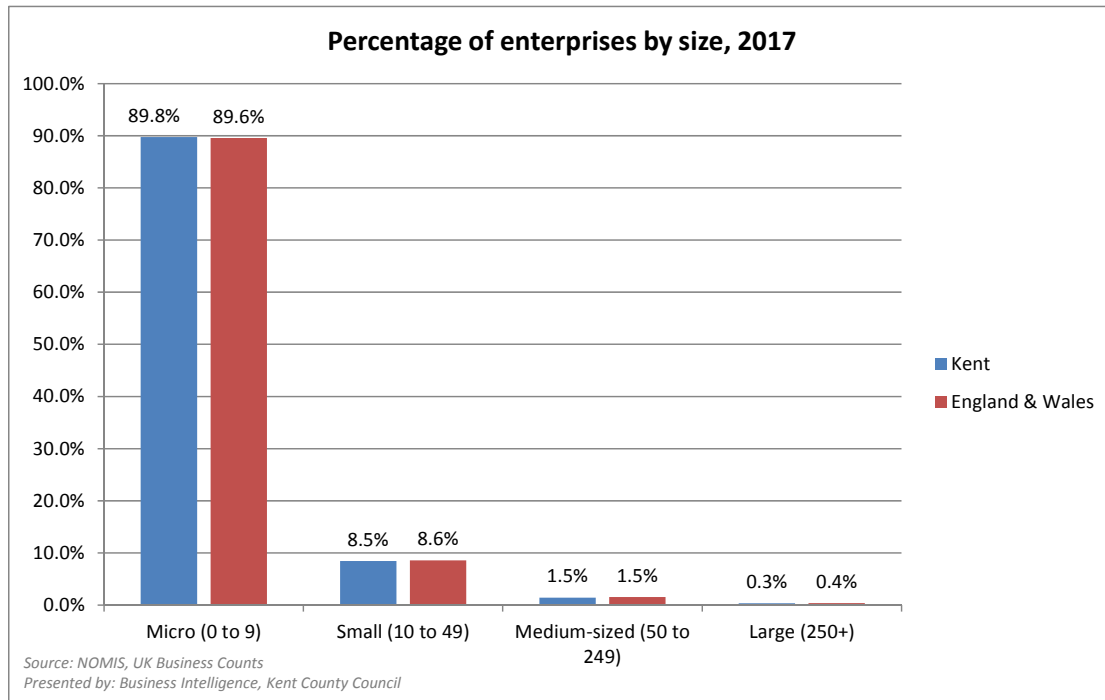
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Enterprises by employee size

The majority of enterprises are classed as micro businesses i.e. they have 0 - 9 employees. In Kent 89.8% of enterprises are classed as micro, 89.6% in England and Wales.

Chart 2 shows the proportion of enterprises in Kent and England and Wales by employment size.

Chart 2



Tables 3 and 4 show an even greater breakdown of the number and percentage of enterprises by the number of employees.

The data shows that while the majority of enterprises are micro businesses employing up to 9 people, most of these actually have 0 - 4 employees.

Kent has a marginally lower proportion of enterprises with 0 – 4 employees, and a slightly higher proportion with 5 – 9 employees than is seen nationally.

Table 3: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2017 By Employment Size

	Employment size							TOTAL
	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 249	250 +	
Ashford	4,855	630	275	165	50	30	20	6,020
Canterbury	4,090	655	305	175	50	25	25	5,330
Dartford	3,370	400	220	120	55	30	20	4,210
Dover	2,555	445	215	110	30	25	5	3,380
Gravesham	3,065	440	175	100	25	20	5	3,840
Maidstone	5,590	835	415	210	75	45	35	7,195
Sevenoaks	5,310	705	345	180	55	25	20	6,640
Shepway	2,865	500	220	120	30	15	10	3,760
Swale	3,705	630	270	140	45	35	20	4,845
Thanet	2,865	495	245	115	35	25	5	3,795
Tonbridge and Malling	4,385	610	300	185	55	30	25	5,585
Tunbridge Wells	5,065	635	365	180	55	25	10	6,335
Kent	47,720	6,980	3,350	1,800	555	330	195	60,935
Medway	6,720	905	445	205	65	50	30	8,425
Kent + Medway	54,440	7,890	3,795	2,010	620	385	220	69,360
South East LEP	133,955	18,815	9,175	4,765	1,505	825	505	169,545
South East Region	320,875	42,470	21,425	11,465	3,690	2,290	1,460	403,680
ENGLAND AND WALES	1,902,275	268,095	135,130	72,335	23,445	13,265	8,930	2,423,465

Source: NOMIS

Prepared by: Business Intelligence, Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

Table 4: Percentages Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2017 By Employment Size

	Employment size							TOTAL
	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 249	250 +	
Ashford	80.6	10.5	4.6	2.7	0.8	0.5	0.3	100
Canterbury	76.7	12.3	5.7	3.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	100
Dartford	80.0	9.5	5.2	2.9	1.3	0.7	0.5	100
Dover	75.6	13.2	6.4	3.3	0.9	0.7	0.1	100
Gravesham	79.8	11.5	4.6	2.6	0.7	0.5	0.1	100
Maidstone	77.7	11.6	5.8	2.9	1.0	0.6	0.5	100
Sevenoaks	80.0	10.6	5.2	2.7	0.8	0.4	0.3	100
Shepway	76.2	13.3	5.9	3.2	0.8	0.4	0.3	100
Swale	76.5	13.0	5.6	2.9	0.9	0.7	0.4	100
Thanet	75.5	13.0	6.5	3.0	0.9	0.7	0.1	100
Tonbridge and Malling	78.5	10.9	5.4	3.3	1.0	0.5	0.4	100
Tunbridge Wells	80.0	10.0	5.8	2.8	0.9	0.4	0.2	100
Kent	78.3	11.5	5.5	3.0	0.9	0.5	0.3	100
Medway	79.8	10.7	5.3	2.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	100
Kent + Medway	78.5	11.4	5.5	2.9	0.9	0.6	0.3	100
South East LEP	79.0	11.1	5.4	2.8	0.9	0.5	0.3	100
South East Region	79.5	10.5	5.3	2.8	0.9	0.6	0.4	100
ENGLAND AND WALES	78.5	11.1	5.6	3.0	1.0	0.5	0.4	100

Source: NOMIS

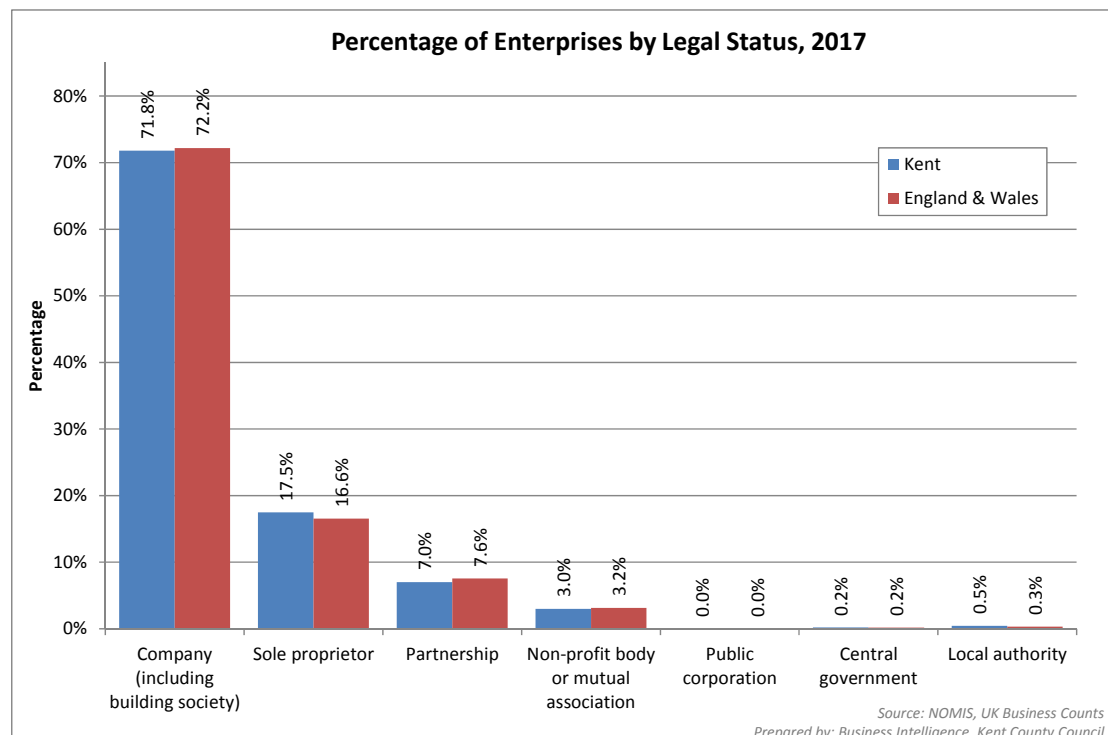
Prepared by: Business Intelligence, Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

Enterprise by status

The data also shows the number of enterprises by legal status. The legal status of units is classified by the Office For National Statistics in accordance with National Accounts Sector Classifications. All enterprises engage in financial transactions, paying out and receiving money for reasons such as buying and selling goods and services, paying taxes, or collecting tax revenues. Using information received from Companies House and the administrative sources from HM Revenue & Customs, the National Accounts Sector Classification determines whether a body or enterprise is in the private or public sector, and if public, whether they are government bodies or public corporations, and whether certain transactions count as taxes or service fees.

Chart 3 shows the proportion of enterprises by legal status in Kent compared to England and Wales in 2017.

Chart 3



The majority of enterprises are private sector companies. In Kent they account for 71.8% of all enterprises (72.2% in England and Wales).

Kent has a slightly higher proportion of sole proprietor enterprises (17.5%) than is seen nationally and a slightly lower proportion of partnerships (7.0%).

Tables 5 and 6 show the legal status of enterprises in Kent local authority districts and Kent as a whole. They also present information at regional and national level for comparison.

Table 5: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2017 By Employment Status

	Private sector				Public sector			TOTAL
	Company (including building society)	Sole proprietor	Partnership	Non-profit body or mutual association	Public corporation	Central government	Local authority	
Ashford	4,080	985	505	405	0	10	40	6,020
Canterbury	3,595	1,060	470	175	0	15	15	5,330
Dartford	3,375	535	140	135	0	15	10	4,210
Dover	1,965	855	400	110	5	10	40	3,380
Gravesham	3,010	580	160	70	0	10	10	3,840
Maidstone	5,275	1,200	505	170	0	10	35	7,195
Sevenoaks	5,090	1,010	365	140	0	5	30	6,640
Shepway	2,480	805	355	100	0	10	15	3,760
Swale	3,360	945	375	125	0	15	25	4,845
Thanet	2,545	820	315	85	0	15	10	3,795
Tonbridge and Malling	4,250	845	295	155	0	10	30	5,585
Tunbridge Wells	4,730	1,005	395	180	0	5	20	6,335
Kent	43,755	10,645	4,280	1,845	5	130	275	60,935
Medway	6,275	1,455	440	210	0	35	10	8,425
Kent + Medway	50,030	12,100	4,720	2,055	5	160	285	69,360
South East LEP	124,590	28,130	11,545	4,290	10	370	615	169,545
South East Region	303,145	62,375	25,005	11,220	20	570	1,350	403,680
ENGLAND AND WALES	1,749,795	401,540	183,340	76,645	170	3,945	8,030	2,423,465

Source: NOMIS

Prepared by: Business Intelligence, Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

Turnover

Turnover figures provided to the ONS for the majority of traders is based on VAT returns for a 12 month period. For 2017 this relates to a 12 month period covering the financial year 2016/2017. For other records, in particular members of VAT group registrations; turnover may relate to an earlier period or survey data.

For traders who have registered more recently, turnover represents the estimate made by traders at the time of registration.

The turnover figures on the register generally exclude VAT but include other taxes, such as the revenue duties on alcoholic drinks and tobacco. They represent total UK turnover, including exempt and zero-rated supplies.

Turnover bands shown in the analyses relate to the latest year for which information is available. Traders may be registered below the VAT threshold or may choose not to de-register should their turnover fall below the threshold.

Table 7 shows the VAT registration thresholds since 2004/05.

Table 7 - VAT registration thresholds

Operative dates	VAT Registration Threshold
01 Apr 2004 - 31 Mar 2005	£58,000
01 Apr 2005 - 31 Mar 2006	£60,000
01 Apr 2006 - 31 Mar 2007	£61,000
01 Apr 2007 - 31 Mar 2008	£64,000
01 Apr 2008 - 31 Mar 2009	£67,000
01 Apr 2009 - 31 Mar 2010	£68,000
01 Apr 2010 - 31 Mar 2011	£70,000
01 Apr 2011 - 31 Mar 2012	£73,000
01 Apr 2012 - 31 Mar 2013	£77,000
01 Apr 2013 - 31 Mar 2014	£79,000
1 Apr 2014 - 31 Mar 2015	£81,000
1 Apr 2015 - 31 March 2016	£82,000
1 Apr 2016 - 31 March 2017	£83,000
1 Apr 2017 onwards	£85,000

Source: HMRC

32.0% of enterprises in Kent have a turnover of between £100k and £249k. In Kent a higher proportion of enterprises have a turnover of between £100k to £4.9m than is seen nationally. This is shown in chart 4.

Tables 8 and 9 present the turnover data for Kent local authority districts and Kent as a whole. Regional and national figures are also presented for comparison.

Chart 4

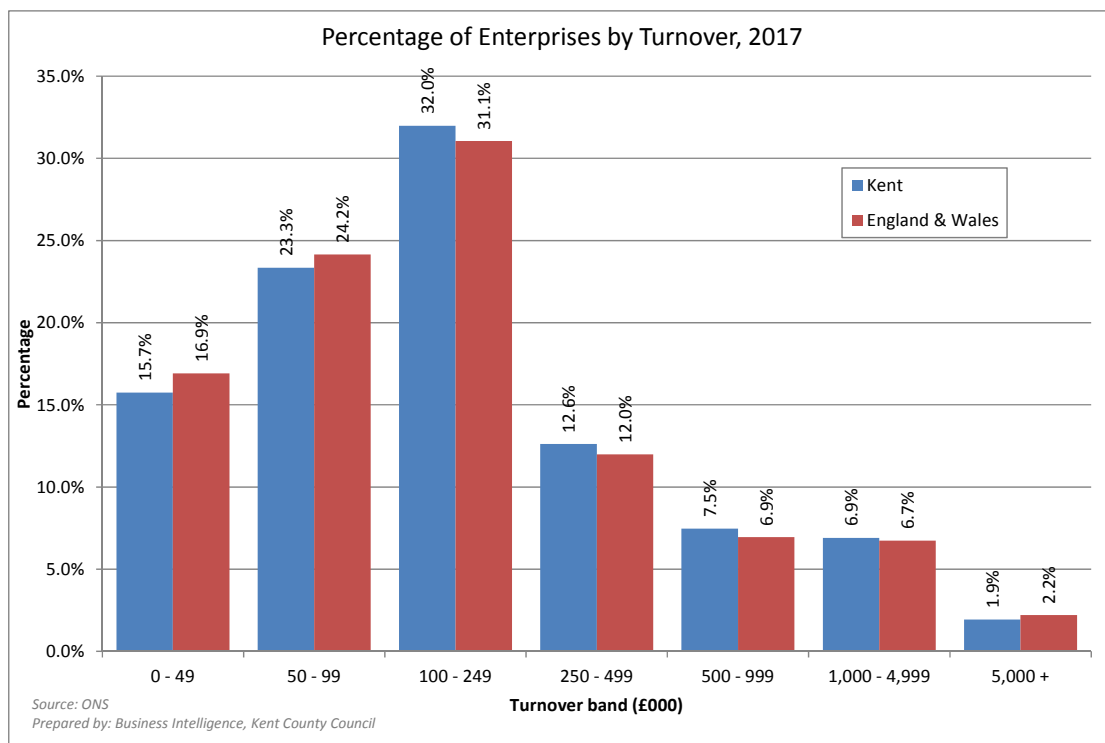


Table 8: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2017 By Turnover Sizeband

	Turnover size (£ thousand)							TOTAL
	0 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 249	250 - 499	500 - 999	1,000 - 4,999	5,000 +	
Ashford	1,265	1,300	1,740	735	510	375	95	6,020
Canterbury	765	1,285	1,725	720	395	345	95	5,330
Dartford	615	1,080	1,355	455	265	325	125	4,210
Dover	540	750	1,100	425	270	235	55	3,380
Gravesham	670	1,000	1,185	450	250	250	45	3,840
Maidstone	1,185	1,665	2,195	920	555	520	160	7,195
Sevenoaks	935	1,450	2,195	865	560	495	150	6,640
Shepway	615	935	1,235	460	245	230	45	3,760
Swale	755	1,170	1,475	650	360	350	85	4,845
Thanet	490	905	1,285	520	285	250	55	3,795
Tonbridge and Malling	795	1,270	1,820	695	405	445	150	5,585
Tunbridge Wells	970	1,415	2,180	785	455	405	120	6,335
Kent	9,595	14,225	19,485	7,685	4,550	4,210	1,185	60,935
Medway	1,345	2,215	2,585	1,010	605	510	150	8,425
Kent + Medway	10,940	16,440	22,070	8,695	5,155	4,725	1,335	69,360
South East LEP	26,020	40,755	54,745	21,035	12,265	11,505	3,220	169,545
South East Region	64,960	96,635	130,960	47,790	27,580	27,070	8,685	403,680
ENGLAND AND WALES	409,705	585,280	752,610	290,630	168,375	163,335	53,530	2,423,465

Source: ONS

Prepared by: Business Intelligence, Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

Table 9: Percentage Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2017 By Turnover Sizeband

	Turnover size (£ thousand)							TOTAL
	0 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 249	250 - 499	500 - 999	1,000 - 4,999	5,000 +	
Ashford	21.0	21.6	28.9	12.2	8.5	6.2	1.6	100
Canterbury	14.4	24.1	32.4	13.5	7.4	6.5	1.8	100
Dartford	14.6	25.7	32.2	10.8	6.3	7.7	3.0	100
Dover	16.0	22.2	32.5	12.6	8.0	7.0	1.6	100
Gravesham	17.4	26.0	30.9	11.7	6.5	6.5	1.2	100
Maidstone	16.5	23.1	30.5	12.8	7.7	7.2	2.2	100
Sevenoaks	14.1	21.8	33.1	13.0	8.4	7.5	2.3	100
Shepway	16.4	24.9	32.8	12.2	6.5	6.1	1.2	100
Swale	15.6	24.1	30.4	13.4	7.4	7.2	1.8	100
Thanet	12.9	23.8	33.9	13.7	7.5	6.6	1.4	100
Tonbridge and Malling	14.2	22.7	32.6	12.4	7.3	8.0	2.7	100
Tunbridge Wells	15.3	22.3	34.4	12.4	7.2	6.4	1.9	100
Kent	15.7	23.3	32.0	12.6	7.5	6.9	1.9	100
Medway	16.0	26.3	30.7	12.0	7.2	6.1	1.8	100
Kent + Medway	15.8	23.7	31.8	12.5	7.4	6.8	1.9	100
South East LEP	15.3	24.0	32.3	12.4	7.2	6.8	1.9	100
South East Region	16.1	23.9	32.4	11.8	6.8	6.7	2.2	100
ENGLAND AND WALES	16.9	24.2	31.1	12.0	6.9	6.7	2.2	100

Source: ONS

Prepared by: Business Intelligence, Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council