

## 2014-Based Subnational Population Projections

### Related information

The [Population and Census](#) web page contains more information which you may find useful.

Population data presents the latest population estimates and an analysis of annual change

Population forecasts presents the latest thinking about future population levels

2011 Census provides information of the characteristics of the population

**NOTE:** within this bulletin 'Kent' refers to the Kent County Council (KCC) area which excludes Medway

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This bulletin presents the 2014-based Sub National Population projections for Kent as published by The Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 25 May 2016.

### Important Note:

Subnational population projections use past trends to project forward the population.

These projections are not forecasts and do not take any account of future government policies, changing economic circumstances or the capacity of an area to accommodate the change in population. They provide an indication of the future size and age structure of the population if recent demographic trends continued.

The projections are the only data set to provide a national population projection and population projections at a local level for the UK. For this reason they are used as a common framework for local area resource allocation. It is necessary therefore for Kent County Council to consider what the projections show.

However, past trends may be disrupted by future growth policy changes. For example, the level of growth a district has seen over the last 5-years may be very different to the level of growth expected for the future.

For this reason, Kent County Council produce a set of population forecasts for Kent which take account of future house building plans in each of the Kent districts. As these are constrained to the numbers of new houses expected to be built they show how the population of Kent is expected to change in the future.

The results are used by the County Council for service provision planning. More information is available from Strategic Business Development & Intelligence.

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## Introduction

This bulletin presents findings for from the 2014-based subnational population projections. These replace the 2012-based projections published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in 2013 and are based on the population at 30 June 2014. The subnational projections are produced by the ONS on behalf of the National Statistician and the Registrars General of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The subnational population projections by age and sex are produced every 2 years. They provide estimates of the future population of the UK as a whole plus the constituent countries, English Government Office Regions (GORs), local authorities, strategic health authorities and primary care organisations. The projections are based on the most recently available mid-year population estimates and a set of underlying demographic assumptions regarding future fertility, mortality and migration.

These projections are provided for each year from 2014 up to and including 2039 (25 years). However, projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward due to the inherent uncertainty of demographic behaviour. This is particularly so for smaller geographical areas and detailed age and sex breakdowns.

For this reason this bulletin will present the projections up to 2024 (10 years). Population projections by single year of age and gender are available for 2014 up to and including 2039 in the 2014-based subnational population projection toolkit.

Further information on the National Population Projections and related statistics is available from [2014 National Population Projections](#) which includes detailed tables containing the projections for the UK and its constituent countries, as well as more detail on the assumptions made for the projections and how these assumptions were developed.

### Statistician's quote

“All regions of England are projected to see an increase in their population size over the next decade, with London, the East of England and South East projected to grow faster than the country as a whole. The population is also ageing with all regions seeing a faster growth in those aged 65 and over than in younger age groups.”

*Suzie Dunsmith, Population Projections Unit, Office for National Statistics*

## County-wide analysis

At mid-2014, Kent had an estimated total population of 1,510,400. Over the next 10-years the county's population is projected to increase by 141,700 people bringing the total population to 1,652,100 by 2024. This is equivalent to a +9.4% increase.

Kent's population is projected to grow faster than both the South East regional average (+8.1%) and national average (+7.5%). See Table 1 for details

**Table 1: Current and projected population change: Kent, Medway, London, South East, and England**

Total Population				
	2014	2024	10 year change	% change
England	54,316,600	58,396,300	4,079,700	7.5%
South East	8,873,800	9,596,200	722,400	8.1%
London	8,538,700	9,708,000	1,169,300	13.7%
Kent (KCC Area)	1,510,400	1,652,100	141,700	9.4%
Medway Unitary Authority	274,000	301,900	27,800	10.2%
Kent & Medway combined	1,784,400	1,953,900	169,600	9.5%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Table produced by Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

All figures have been separately rounded to the nearest 100 so may not sum

Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers

The projection for Kent's population increasing by 141,700 people over the period 2014-2024 is as a result of 178,500 births, and 142,200 deaths which result in positive natural change of 36,200 and 105,500 net migrants.

Migration therefore accounts for 74.5% of Kent's projected population growth over the next ten years.

Natural change accounts for the majority of growth in England but again it is migration that accounts for the majority of growth in the South East region as is shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Projected change in population and reason for change – Kent, Medway, London, South East, and England**

Components of population change - 2014 to 2024 (10 years)							
	Total change	Natural change				Net Migration	
		Births	Deaths	Total	%	Number	%
England	4,079,700	6,846,600	4,731,600	2,114,800	51.8%	1,955,400	47.9%
South East	722,400	1,051,600	789,200	262,400	36.3%	460,000	63.7%
London	1,169,300	1,372,900	484,500	888,200	76.0%	272,500	23.3%
Kent (KCC Area)	141,700	178,500	142,200	36,200	25.5%	105,500	74.5%
Medway Unitary Authority	27,900	37,000	21,500	15,500	55.6%	12,200	43.7%
Kent & Medway combined	169,600	215,500	163,700	51,700	30.5%	117,700	69.4%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Table produced by Strategic Business development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

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Each of the key population groups (children, working age and older people) are all projected to grow faster than the national and South East regional average. However there are marked differences in the rate of growth for each age group.

At mid-2014, Kent had an estimated total population aged 0-15 of 289,400. This age group is projected to increase by 28,100 people bringing the total population to 317,400 by 2024. This is equivalent to a +9.7% increase.

The estimated working age population of Kent in 2014 was 926,500. This age group is projected to increase by 47,400 people bringing the total population to 973,900 by 2024. This is equivalent to a +5.1% increase.

At mid-2014, Kent the estimated older population aged 65 and over of 294,500. This age group is projected to increase by 134,400 people bringing the total population to 360,800 by 2024. This is equivalent to a +45.6% increase. See Table 3 for more information.

**Table 3: Current and projected population change of broad population groups Kent, Medway, London, South East, and England**

10 year change				
Age 0-15	2014	2024	change	% change
England	10,303,600	11,203,500	899,900	8.7%
South East	1,689,700	1,838,200	148,500	8.8%
London	1,732,300	1,989,600	257,300	14.9%
Kent (KCC Area)	289,400	317,400	28,100	9.7%
Medway Unitary Authority	55,400	61,700	6,300	11.4%
Kent & Medway combined	344,700	379,100	34,400	10.0%
Age 16-64	2014	2024	change	% change
England	34,475,400	35,711,700	1,236,400	3.6%
South East	5,535,300	5,743,600	208,300	3.8%
London	5,823,500	6,503,400	679,900	11.7%
Kent (KCC Area)	926,500	973,900	47,400	5.1%
Medway Unitary Authority	176,800	188,300	11,500	6.5%
Kent & Medway combined	1,103,300	1,162,200	58,900	5.3%
Age 65 and over	2014	2024	change	% change
England	9,537,700	11,481,100	3,914,900	41.0%
South East	1,648,800	2,014,300	740,400	44.9%
London	982,900	1,215,000	500,700	50.9%
Kent (KCC Area)	294,500	360,800	134,400	45.6%
Medway Unitary Authority	41,800	51,800	20,300	48.5%
Kent & Medway combined	336,300	412,600	154,600	46.0%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Table produced by Strategic Business development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

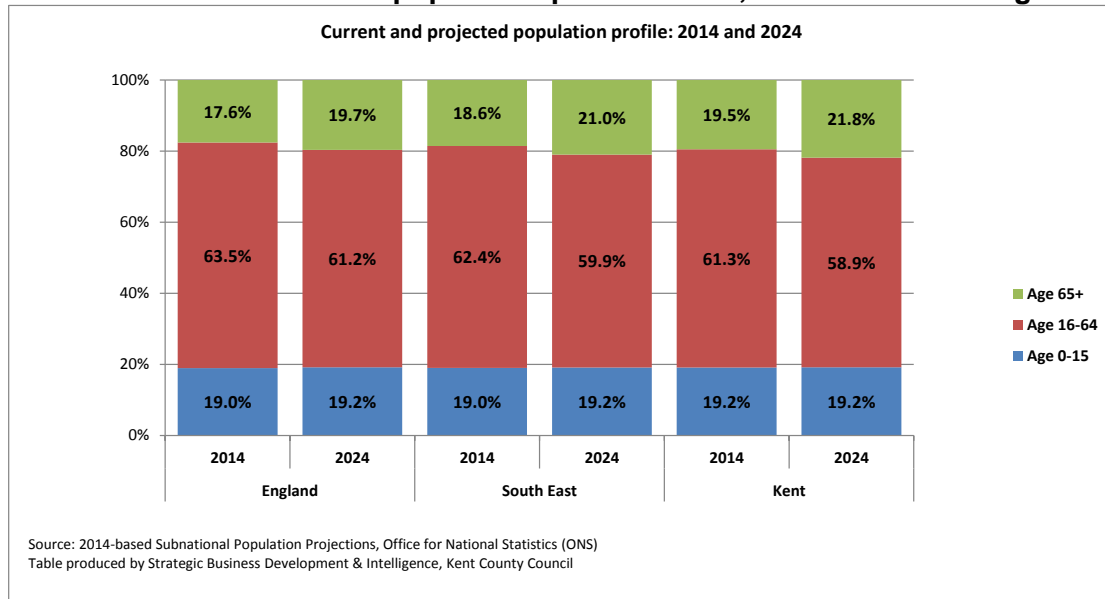
All figures have been separately rounded to the nearest 100 so may not sum

Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers

Kent's population profile is on the whole similar to both the national and regional age profiles. However, Kent does have a higher proportion of children and older people but a lower proportion of working age people than the regional and national average. This trend is projected to continue over the next 10 years.

Over the next 10 years the proportion of the population which is of working age is set to decline. This is a trend seen not only in Kent, but also in the rest of the South East and England. Although this population group is projected to increase in overall size (outlined in Table 3) the working age population is not growing as fast as the child and older population. As a result the proportion of the population that are of working age is falling, but the proportion that is children and older people is increasing. See Chart 1 for more information.

**Chart 1: Current and future population profile – Kent, South East and England**



### Kent district analysis

Maidstone currently has the largest population of all Kent local authority districts and is projected to remain the largest authority area in terms of population at 2024.

Between 2014 and 2024, Maidstone is projected to experience the largest increase in overall population increasing by an additional +19,200 people (+1.9%). However, in percentage terms Dartford is projected to experience the largest increase in population increasing by +13.3% (an additional 13,600 people) between 2014 and 2024. Table 4 provides the projected growth for all Kent districts.

**Table 4: Current and projected population change – Kent districts**

	Total Population			
	2014	2024	10 year change	% change
Ashford	123,300	137,800	14,500	11.7%
Canterbury	157,600	169,700	12,100	7.7%
Dartford	102,200	115,900	13,600	13.3%
Dover	113,100	119,200	6,100	5.4%
Gravesham	105,300	115,900	10,700	10.1%
Maidstone	161,800	181,100	19,200	11.9%
Sevenoaks	117,800	128,200	10,300	8.8%
Shepway	109,500	116,600	7,100	6.5%
Swale	140,800	156,600	15,700	11.2%
Thanet	138,400	152,000	13,600	9.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	124,400	136,500	12,100	9.7%
Tunbridge Wells	116,100	122,700	6,600	5.7%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Table produced by Strategic Business Development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

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The population of all 12 Kent districts is set to increase over the next 10 years. Table 5 sets out the reason for this population change.

**Table 5: Projected change in population and reason for change – Kent districts**

	Components of population change 2014 to 2024						
	Total change	Natural change				Net Migration	
		Births	Deaths	Total	%	Number	%
Ashford	14,500	15,500	10,500	4,900	33.8%	9,600	66.2%
Canterbury	12,100	15,000	15,100	-200	-1.7%	12,900	106.6%
Dartford	13,700	15,600	9,000	6,700	48.9%	6,700	48.9%
Dover	6,100	11,800	12,300	-800	-13.1%	6,900	113.1%
Gravesham	10,600	14,700	9,000	5,800	54.7%	5,100	48.1%
Maidstone	19,300	20,200	14,900	5,200	26.9%	14,000	72.5%
Sevenoaks	10,400	13,500	10,800	2,900	27.9%	7,600	73.1%
Shepway	7,100	11,000	12,000	-1,000	-14.1%	7,900	111.3%
Swale	15,800	17,700	12,800	4,800	30.4%	11,100	70.3%
Thanet	13,600	16,800	16,100	600	4.4%	13,100	96.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	12,100	14,700	10,000	4,700	38.8%	7,400	61.2%
Tunbridge Wells	6,600	13,000	9,900	2,900	43.9%	3,700	56.1%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Table produced by Strategic Business development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

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Migration accounts for majority of the projected population increase in 10 of the 12 Kent districts. Only in two Kent districts (Gravesham and Dartford) does natural change account for the largest proportion of population growth.

Dartford and Gravesham have a relatively young population profile in comparison to the other Kent districts, which results in a higher number of births and fewer deaths.

The three key population groups are all projected to increase in each Kent district between 2011 and 2024 with exception of the working age population in Dover. See Table 6 for more detail.

**Table 6: Current and projected population change of broad population groups – Kent districts**

10 year change				
Ashford	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	25,400	27,800	2,500	9.7%
Age 16-64	74,900	80,700	5,800	7.7%
Age 65 and over	23,000	29,200	6,200	27.0%
Canterbury	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	25,400	27,300	1,900	7.6%
Age 16-64	100,700	104,300	3,600	3.5%
Age 65 and over	31,600	38,200	6,600	20.9%
Dartford	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	21,200	24,900	3,600	17.1%
Age 16-64	65,800	72,600	6,800	10.3%
Age 65 and over	15,200	18,400	3,200	21.1%
Dover	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	20,000	20,500	500	2.4%
Age 16-64	67,700	67,000	-800	-1.1%
Age 65 and over	25,300	31,700	6,400	25.3%
Gravesham	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	21,600	24,500	2,900	13.5%
Age 16-64	65,900	70,700	4,800	7.3%
Age 65 and over	17,800	20,700	3,000	16.7%
Maidstone	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	31,100	35,100	4,000	13.0%
Age 16-64	100,600	108,200	7,700	7.6%
Age 65 and over	30,200	37,700	7,500	24.9%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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**Table 6 continued**

10 year change				
Sevenoaks	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	23,100	26,000	2,900	12.4%
Age 16-64	70,500	73,600	3,100	4.4%
Age 65 and over	24,200	28,500	4,400	18.1%
Shepway	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	18,800	19,300	500	2.8%
Age 16-64	65,200	65,800	600	0.9%
Age 65 and over	25,400	31,400	6,000	23.7%
Swale	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	28,000	31,200	3,200	11.5%
Age 16-64	86,700	92,200	5,500	6.3%
Age 65 and over	26,100	33,100	7,000	27.0%
Thanet	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	26,000	28,600	2,600	10.0%
Age 16-64	81,000	85,400	4,300	5.3%
Age 65 and over	31,300	38,000	6,700	21.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	25,300	27,800	2,500	9.9%
Age 16-64	76,100	80,800	4,700	6.2%
Age 65 and over	23,100	27,900	4,900	21.1%
Tunbridge Wells	2014	2024	change	% change
Age 0-15	23,400	24,300	2,500	9.9%
Age 16-64	71,300	72,700	1,300	1.9%
Age 65 and over	21,400	25,800	4,400	20.7%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

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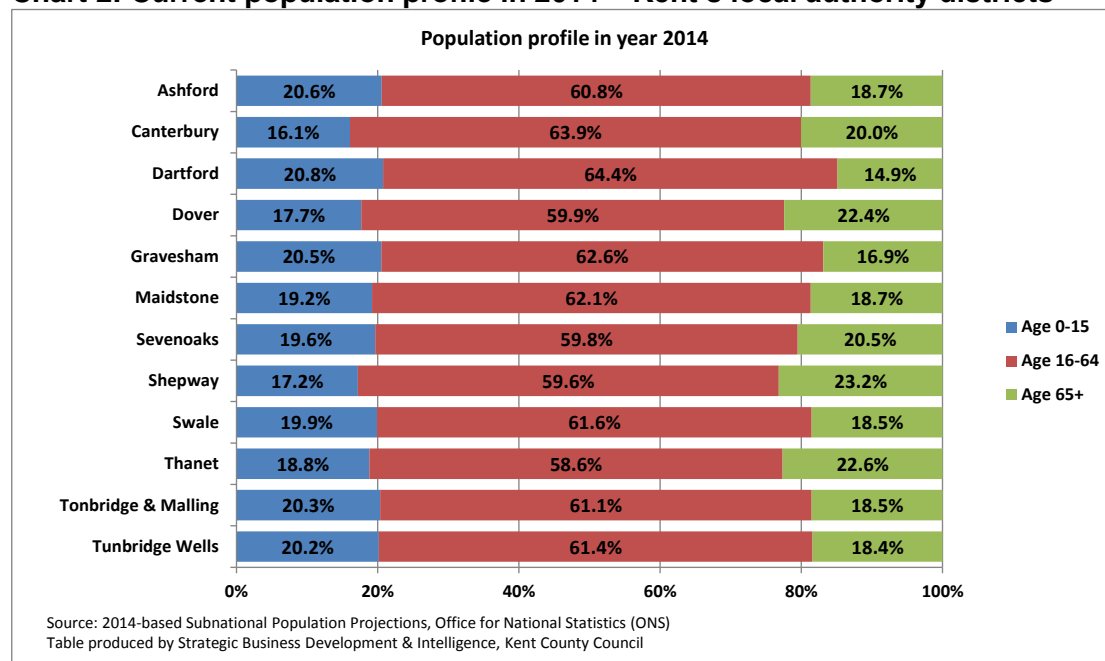
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Whilst the working age population is projected to increase in all but one of the 12 Kent districts (Dover), as a proportion of the total population, the working age population is projected to decrease. This is shown in Charts 2 and 3. This is because the child and older population groups are projected to increase at a faster rate than the working age population.

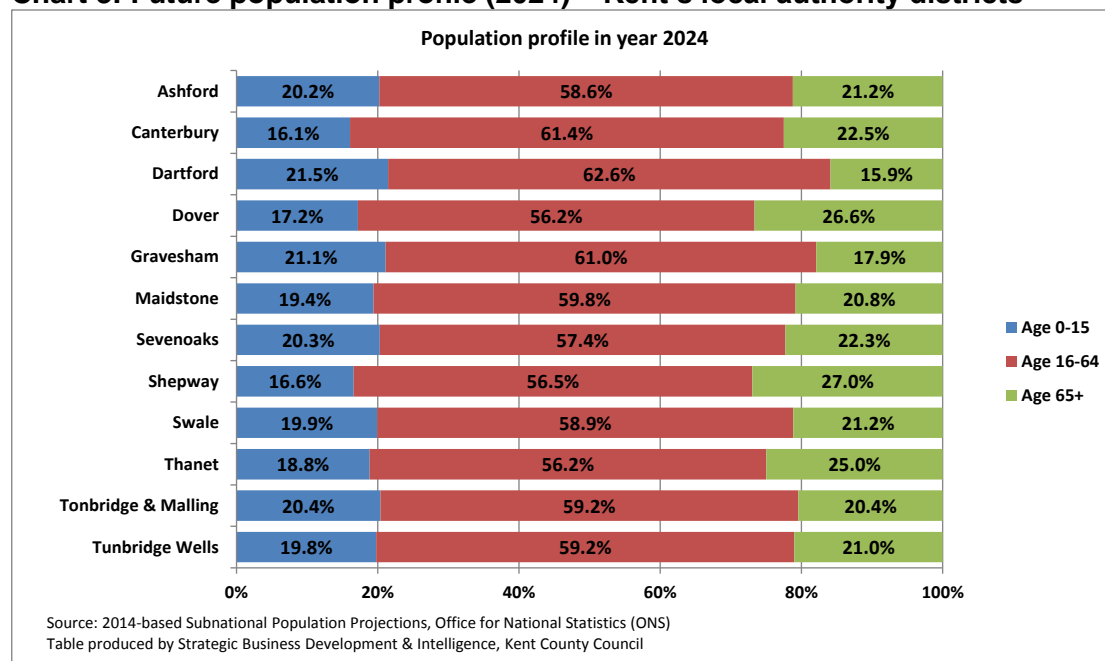
The East Kent coastal districts of Dover, Shepway and Thanet currently have the largest proportion of older population out of all of the Kent districts. This is set to continue over the next 10 years with the proportion of older people growing faster than the younger age groups in these areas.

West and Mid Kent districts currently have the largest proportion of children and this is projected to continue over the next 10 years. Whilst the child population is increasing in real terms in all Kent districts, the proportion children contribute to the total population is declining in five Kent districts – Ashford, Dover, Gravesham, Shepway and Tunbridge Wells.

**Chart 2: Current population profile in 2014 – Kent’s local authority districts**



**Chart 3: Future population profile (2024) – Kent’s local authority districts**



## Differences between the 2012-based SNPP and the 2014-based SNPP

The 2014-based projection states that Kent's population will grow to 1,652,100 by 2024. This is 17,100 higher than the 2012-based projection for 2024. This is partly due to the base 2014 population being higher in the 2014-based projections than in the 2012-based projections. (+7,700)

The remainder of the difference reflects changes in the age structure of the base population (which affects the numbers of projected births and deaths) and changes in assumptions made in the 2014 projections.

These changed assumptions result in there being fewer births, more deaths, and more net migration projected over the decade to mid-2024.

These effects result in projected growth for Kent of 9.4% between 2014 and 2024 compared to 8.8% in the 2012-based projections.

**Table 7: Base population comparison – Kent, Medway, London, South East, and England**

Population at mid-2024				
	2012-SNPP	2014-SNPP	Difference	
			Number	%
England	58,072,600	58,396,300	88,700	16.4%
South East	9,543,300	9,596,200	52,900	24.9%
London	9,581,400	9,708,000	126,600	9.6%
Kent (KCC Area)	1,635,000	1,652,100	17,100	51.2%
Medway Unitary Authority	297,900	301,900	4,000	44.0%
Kent & Medway combined	1,932,900	1,953,900	21,000	49.6%

Source: 2014-based Subnational Population Projections, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Table produced by Strategic Business development & Intelligence, Kent County Council

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