

Census 2021: UK Armed Forces Veterans

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.

Census day was 21 March 2021

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This bulletin presents 2021 Census data about residents in Kent and Kent districts who have previously served in the UK armed forces. Comparisons with Medway, the South East, and England & Wales are included.

Headlines

- There were 52,545 UK armed forces veterans living in Kent in 2021.
- 88% of Kent's UK armed forces veterans were male, and 57.9% were aged 65 and over.
- 37.2% of Kent's veterans were not in good health, above the national (35.6%) and the regional (33.8%) averages. 32.6% of veterans were disabled under the Equality Act.
- At 38.7%, Kent had a lower proportion of veterans who were economically active than was seen nationally (42.4%) and regionally (40.4%). Of those who were economically inactive 89.9% were retired.
- 97.9% of Kent veterans were living in households while 2.1% were resident in communal establishments.

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Introduction

On 10th November 2022, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published data from the 2021 Census about UK armed forces veterans in England and Wales. In Spring 2023 multivariate data was released allowing us to look at the characteristics of armed forces veterans.

This is the first time that the census has asked a question about UK armed forces veterans.

The Census 2021 results about UK armed forces veterans include data about people who have previously served in the regular forces, reserve forces or both.

Service providers will use these data to support veterans in line with the Armed Forces Covenant. The Armed Forces Covenant is a national responsibility involving government, businesses, local authorities, charities, and the public, and promises to ensure that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. The covenant focusses on helping members of the armed forces community have the same access to government and commercial services and products as any other citizen.

Analysis

The 2021 Census tells us that there were 52,545 UK armed forces veterans living in Kent in 2021 accounting for 4.1% of the resident population aged 16 and above. This was above the national average of 3.8% and slightly lower than the regional figure of 4.2%.

In Kent the largest number of UK armed forces veterans were in Thanet (5,765 veterans) accounting for 11% of all veterans in Kent. Dover had the highest proportion of UK armed force veterans with 5.9% of the resident population aged 16 and above having served at some time in their life.

Dartford (2,328) and Gravesham (2,351) had the smallest number of veterans in Kent accounting for 2.6% and 2.8% of the respective adult populations.

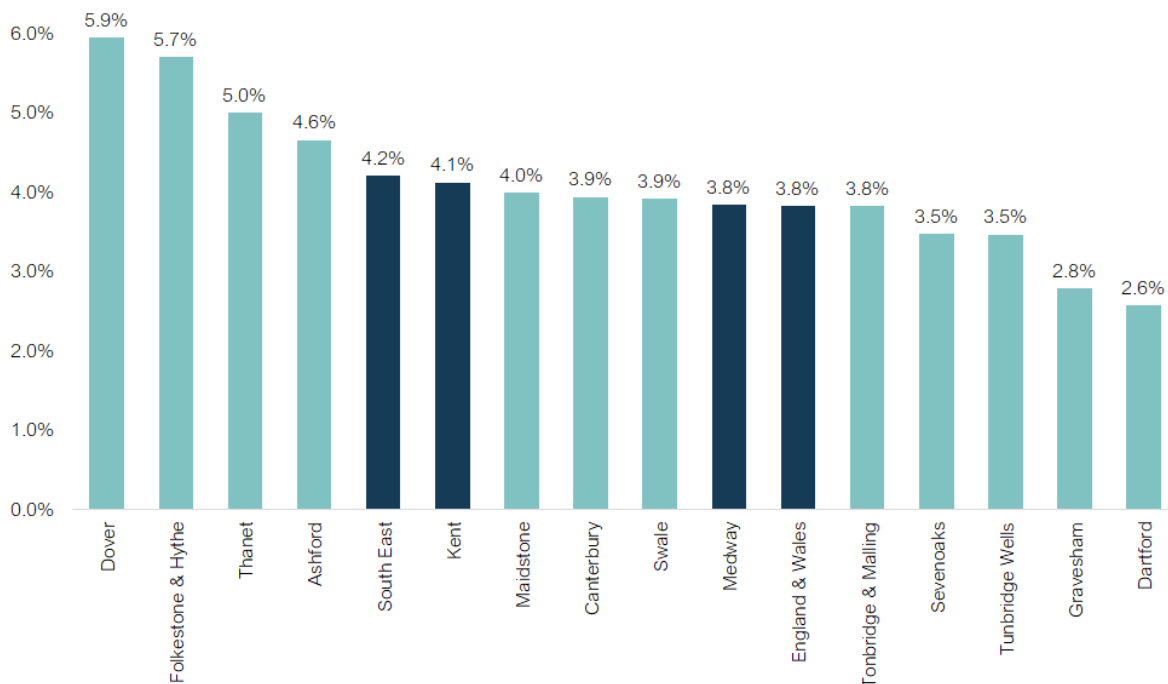
Table 1 shows the number and proportion of residents in Kent and Kent districts who were UK armed forces veterans in 2021. Chart 1 shows the proportion of residents aged 16 and above who were UK armed forces veterans.

Table 1: Residents who have previously served in the UK armed forces

	Usual residents aged 16+	Number previously served in UK armed forces	Percentage previously served in UK armed forces
2021 Census: UK Armed forces veterans			
England & Wales	48,566,373	1,853,112	3.8%
South East	7,554,580	317,082	4.2%
Kent	1,276,567	52,545	4.1%
Ashford	106,771	4,962	4.6%
Canterbury	132,774	5,217	3.9%
Dartford	90,698	2,328	2.6%
Dover	96,131	5,710	5.9%
Folkestone & Hythe	91,555	5,211	5.7%
Gravesham	84,555	2,351	2.8%
Maidstone	142,136	5,664	4.0%
Sevenoaks	96,603	3,344	3.5%
Swale	121,998	4,773	3.9%
Thanet	115,414	5,765	5.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	105,526	4,023	3.8%
Tunbridge Wells	92,403	3,194	3.5%
Medway Unitary Authority	222,757	8,529	3.8%

2021 Census - TS071 - Previously served in the UK armed forces

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 1: Proportion of the 16+ population who are UK armed forces veterans
Proportion of the 16+ population who are armed forces veterans


2021 Census: The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

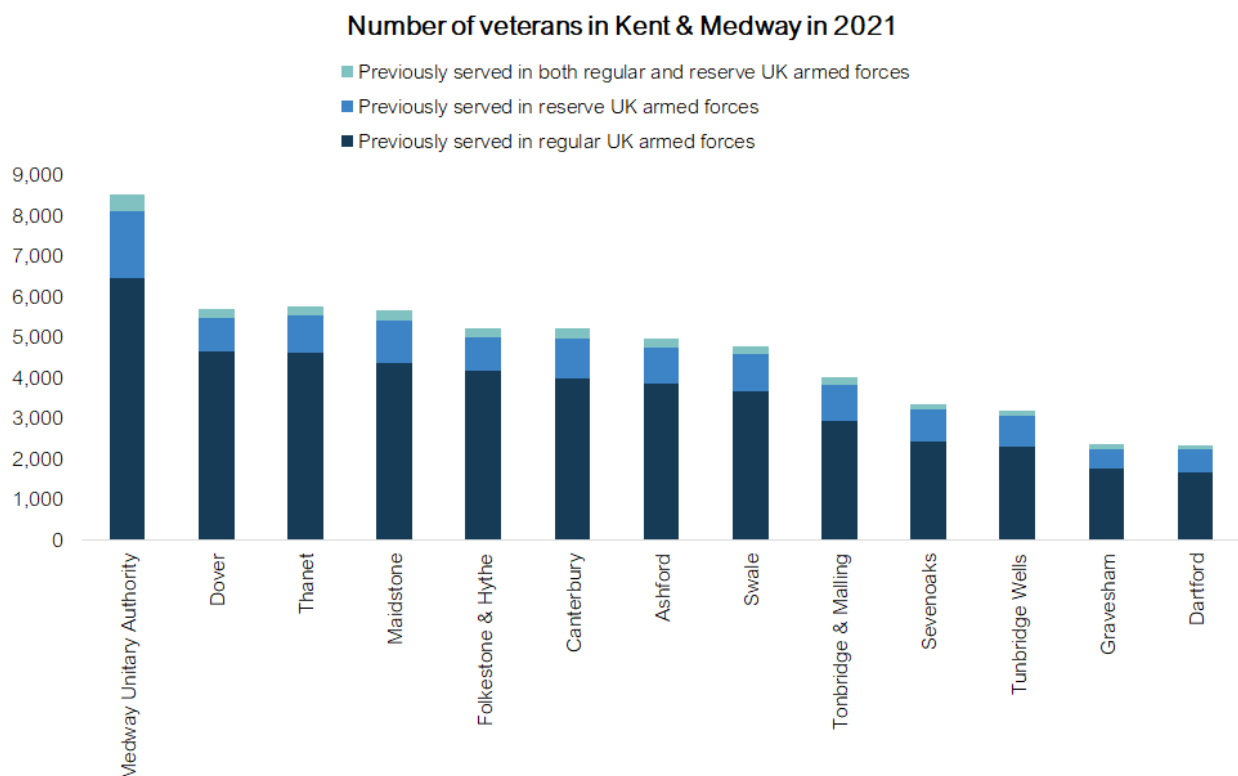
In Kent 3.2% of the population aged 16 and above previously served in regular UK armed forces, the same as seen in the South East and above the national figure of 2.9%.

0.8% of the adult population in Kent had previously served in reserve UK armed forces (South East 0.8%, England and Wales 0.7%) and 0.2% had previously served in both regular and reserve armed forces (also 0.2% in both England and Wales, and the South East).

95.9% of the adult population in Kent had never served in any UK armed forces.

In Kent the largest number of veterans who had served in regular UK armed forces lived in Dover (4,638). The largest number that had served in reserve UK armed forces (1,053) or in both regular and reserve UK armed forces (256) lived in Maidstone. This is shown in Chart 2.

Chart 2: Number of UK armed forces veterans in Kent & Medway in 2021



2021 Census: The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 2 and Table 3 show the number and proportion of the resident population who previously served in the regular, the reserve, or the regular and reserve UK armed forces.

Table 2: The number of the resident population who previously served in the regular, the reserve, or both the regular and reserve UK armed forces

2021 Census: UK Armed forces veterans	Usual residents aged 16+	Number previously served in regular UK armed forces	Number previously served in reserve UK armed forces	Number previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	Number has not previously served in any UK armed forces
England & Wales	48,566,373	1,413,296	360,770	79,046	46,713,261
South East	7,554,580	245,235	58,250	13,597	7,237,498
Kent	1,276,567	40,343	9,922	2,280	1,224,022
Ashford	106,771	3,851	906	205	101,809
Canterbury	132,774	3,992	971	254	127,557
Dartford	90,698	1,668	559	101	88,370
Dover	96,131	4,638	830	242	90,421
Folkestone & Hythe	91,555	4,155	840	216	86,344
Gravesham	84,555	1,743	490	118	82,204
Maidstone	142,136	4,355	1,053	256	136,472
Sevenoaks	96,603	2,420	795	129	93,259
Swale	121,998	3,667	908	198	117,225
Thanet	115,414	4,600	928	237	109,649
Tonbridge & Malling	105,526	2,942	886	195	101,503
Tunbridge Wells	92,403	2,308	755	131	89,209
Medway Unitary Authority	222,757	6,469	1,633	427	214,228

2021 Census - TS071 - Previously served in the UK armed forces

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

In Kent, those veterans who had previously served in only the regular UK armed forces accounted for 76.8% of all veterans living in the county. This was slightly lower than the regional figure (77.3%) and slightly higher than the national figure (76.3%).

Dover had the highest proportion of veterans who had previously served in only the regular UK armed forces (81.2%).

Veterans who had previously served only in the reserve UK armed forces made up 18.9% of Kent's veteran population (South East 18.4%, England and Wales 19.5%).

Dartford had the highest proportion of veterans who had previously served only in the reserve UK armed forces (24.0%).

Veterans who had previously served in both the regular and the reserve UK armed forces made up 4.3% of Kent's veteran population, the same as seen regionally and nationally.

Gravesham had the highest proportion of veterans who had previously served in both the regular and the reserve UK armed forces (5.0%).

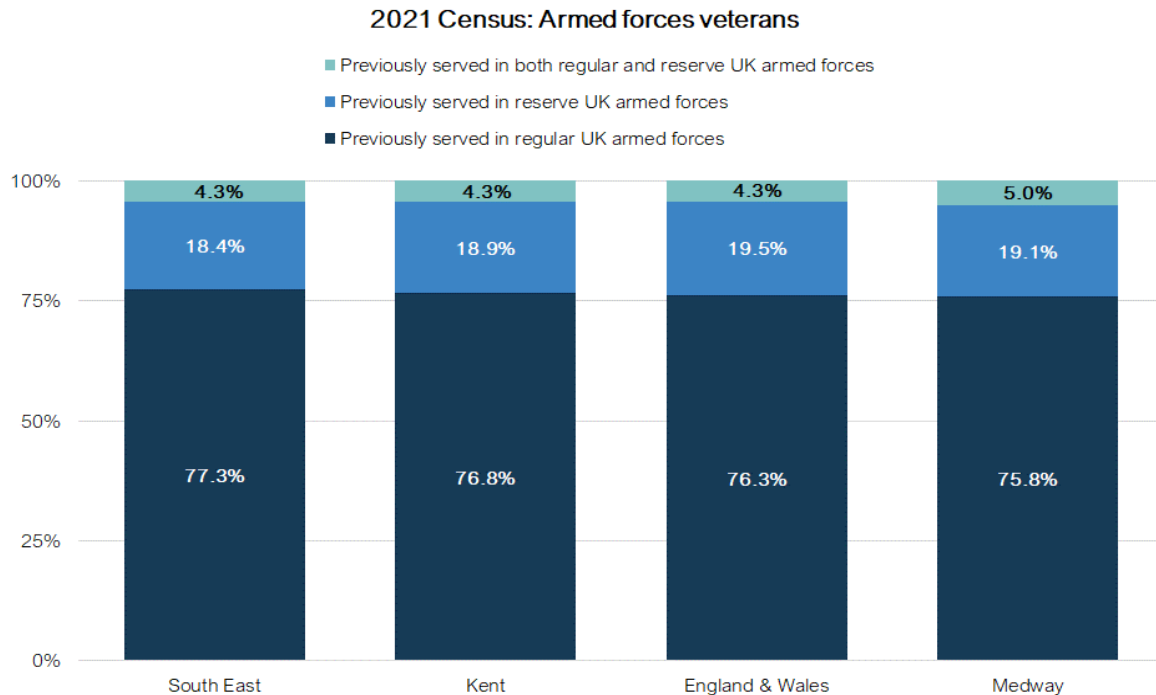
Table 3: The proportion of the resident population who previously served in the regular, the reserve, or both the regular and reserve UK armed forces

2021 Census: UK Armed forces veterans	% Previously served in regular UK armed forces	% Previously served in reserve UK armed forces	% Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces	% Has not previously served in any UK armed forces
England & Wales	2.9%	0.7%	0.2%	96.2%
South East	3.2%	0.8%	0.2%	95.8%
Kent	3.2%	0.8%	0.2%	95.9%
Ashford	3.6%	0.8%	0.2%	95.4%
Canterbury	3.0%	0.7%	0.2%	96.1%
Dartford	1.8%	0.6%	0.1%	97.4%
Dover	4.8%	0.9%	0.3%	94.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	4.5%	0.9%	0.2%	94.3%
Gravesham	2.1%	0.6%	0.1%	97.2%
Maidstone	3.1%	0.7%	0.2%	96.0%
Sevenoaks	2.5%	0.8%	0.1%	96.5%
Swale	3.0%	0.7%	0.2%	96.1%
Thanet	4.0%	0.8%	0.2%	95.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	2.8%	0.8%	0.2%	96.2%
Tunbridge Wells	2.5%	0.8%	0.1%	96.5%
Medway Unitary Authority	2.9%	0.7%	0.2%	96.2%

2021 Census - TS071 - Previously served in the UK armed forces

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 3: Proportion of veterans who have previously served in the regular, the reserve, or both the regular and reserve UK armed forces



2021 Census: The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 4: Proportion of veterans who have previously served in the regular, the reserve, or both the regular and reserve UK armed forces

2021 Census: UK Armed forces veterans	All veterans	Previously served in regular UK armed forces	Previously served in reserve UK armed forces	Previously served in both regular and reserve UK armed forces
England & Wales	1,853,112	76.3%	19.5%	4.3%
South East	317,082	77.3%	18.4%	4.3%
Kent	52,545	76.8%	18.9%	4.3%
Ashford	4,962	77.6%	18.3%	4.1%
Canterbury	5,217	76.5%	18.6%	4.9%
Dartford	2,328	71.6%	24.0%	4.3%
Dover	5,710	81.2%	14.5%	4.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	5,211	79.7%	16.1%	4.1%
Gravesham	2,351	74.1%	20.8%	5.0%
Maidstone	5,664	76.9%	18.6%	4.5%
Sevenoaks	3,344	72.4%	23.8%	3.9%
Swale	4,773	76.8%	19.0%	4.1%
Thanet	5,765	79.8%	16.1%	4.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	4,023	73.1%	22.0%	4.8%
Tunbridge Wells	3,194	72.3%	23.6%	4.1%
Medway Unitary Authority	8,529	75.8%	19.1%	5.0%

2021 Census - TS071 - Previously served in the UK armed forces

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Households with UK armed forces veterans

As of Census Day 2021, 7.7% of households in Kent had at least one veteran living there. 7.4% had one UK armed forces veteran resident, 0.3% had two veteran residents. 0.01% had three or more veteran residents.

Table 5 and Table 6 show the number and proportion of households in Kent and Kent districts compared to the national and regional figures, split by how many veterans were living in those households.

Table 5: Number of households with UK armed forces veterans

2021 Census: Households with UK Armed forces veterans	All occupied households	Number with no people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	Number with 1 person in the household previously served in UK armed forces	Number with 2 people in the household previously served in UK armed forces	Number with 3 or more people in the household previously served in UK armed forces
England & Wales	24,783,199	23,038,121	1,675,603	67,714	1,761
South East	3,807,966	3,510,942	284,817	11,942	265
Kent	648,393	598,715	47,955	1,673	50
Ashford	53,583	48,911	4,460	201	11
Canterbury	63,793	58,874	4,746	166	7
Dartford	45,696	43,474	2,153	67	2
Dover	50,549	45,173	5,143	229	4
Folkestone & Hythe	48,338	43,469	4,661	202	6
Gravesham	41,722	39,463	2,198	61	0
Maidstone	71,207	65,895	5,122	185	5
Sevenoaks	49,014	45,840	3,094	77	3
Swale	60,495	56,004	4,353	136	2
Thanet	62,200	56,733	5,279	181	7
Tonbridge & Malling	53,573	49,680	3,796	94	3
Tunbridge Wells	48,223	45,199	2,950	73	1
Medway Unitary Authority	111,458	103,328	7,837	292	1

2021 Census - TS072 - Number of people in households who have previously served in UK armed forces
The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 6: Proportion of households with UK armed forces veteran

2021 Census: Households with UK Armed forces veterans	% with no veterans	% with 1 veteran	% with 2 veterans	% with 3 or more veterans
England & Wales	93.0%	6.8%	0.3%	0.0%
South East	92.2%	7.5%	0.3%	0.0%
Kent	92.3%	7.4%	0.3%	0.0%
Ashford	91.3%	8.3%	0.4%	0.0%
Canterbury	92.3%	7.4%	0.3%	0.0%
Dartford	95.1%	4.7%	0.1%	0.0%
Dover	89.4%	10.2%	0.5%	0.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	89.9%	9.6%	0.4%	0.0%
Gravesham	94.6%	5.3%	0.1%	0.0%
Maidstone	92.5%	7.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Sevenoaks	93.5%	6.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Swale	92.6%	7.2%	0.2%	0.0%
Thanet	91.2%	8.5%	0.3%	0.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	92.7%	7.1%	0.2%	0.0%
Tunbridge Wells	93.7%	6.1%	0.2%	0.0%
Medway Unitary Authority	92.7%	7.0%	0.3%	0.0%

2021 Census - TS072 - Number of people in households who have previously served in UK armed forces
The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

UK armed forces veterans by sex

Many who have previously served in the UK armed forces will be older males because of National Service. National service in peace time meant that between 1949 and 1960 all physically fit males between the ages of 17 and 21 had to serve in one of the armed forces for an 18-month period.

In Kent 88.0% of veterans were male, and 12.0% were female at the time of the Census. There was a higher proportion of male veterans and a lower proportion of female veterans than seen both regionally and nationally.

All districts in Kent had a higher proportion of male veterans and a lower proportion of female veterans than the regional and national average.

Dover had the highest proportion of female veterans (13.3%) while Ashford had the highest proportion of male veterans (89.6%).

Table 7 overleaf shows the number and proportion of UK armed forces veterans by sex.

Table 7: Number and proportion of UK armed forces veterans by sex

Area	Total	Number of males	Number of females	% males	% females
England & Wales	1,968,443	1,701,090	267,353	86.4%	13.6%
South East	317,082	274,398	42,684	86.5%	13.5%
Kent	52,545	46,228	6,317	88.0%	12.0%
Ashford	4,960	4,443	517	89.6%	10.4%
Canterbury	5,221	4,530	691	86.8%	13.2%
Dartford	2,327	2,035	292	87.5%	12.5%
Dover	5,709	4,949	760	86.7%	13.3%
Folkestone & Hythe	5,211	4,587	624	88.0%	12.0%
Gravesham	2,351	2,104	247	89.5%	10.5%
Maidstone	5,664	5,037	627	88.9%	11.1%
Sevenoaks	3,342	2,941	401	88.0%	12.0%
Swale	4,777	4,177	600	87.4%	12.6%
Thanet	5,769	5,055	714	87.6%	12.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	4,023	3,574	449	88.8%	11.2%
Tunbridge Wells	3,195	2,799	396	87.6%	12.4%
Medway	17,054	14,906	2,148	87.4%	12.6%

2021 Census – Custom table

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

UK armed forces veterans by age

In Kent more than half of all veterans were aged 65 or over, and more than three quarters of veterans were aged 55 or over. Kents veteran age distribution was similar to that of the South East region however, compared to England and Wales, Kent had a greater percentage of veterans aged 75 or over.

In Kent there were 30,447 veterans aged 65+, accounting for 9.5% of the 65+ population. This was slightly higher than the 8.9% of the England and Wales 65+ population that were veterans.

Tables 8 and 9 show the number and proportion of armed forces veterans by age group in Kent and Kent districts, with regional and national comparisons.

Table 8: Numbers of UK Armed Forces veterans by 10year age group

Area	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
England and Wales	30,077	102,258	151,189	252,251	334,832	272,490	367,090	342,921
South East	4,269	13,538	22,146	39,843	56,220	45,849	68,372	66,845
Kent	651	2,325	3,540	6,644	8,935	7,552	11,836	11,059
Ashford	52	235	374	747	979	721	1,035	812
Canterbury	139	188	284	594	812	724	1,280	1,194
Dartford	34	161	219	325	330	259	452	548
Dover	65	253	405	692	1,068	1,016	1,308	902
Folkestone & Hythe	48	173	289	645	951	919	1,224	961
Gravesham	20	114	161	292	361	269	523	607
Maidstone	61	271	423	783	976	721	1,238	1,192
Sevenoaks	30	138	201	387	482	342	761	1,001
Swale	61	274	361	678	843	740	966	854
Thanet	67	202	295	586	1,032	1,019	1,403	1,168
Tonbridge & Malling	36	180	289	510	658	489	921	940
Tunbridge Wells	27	137	242	405	441	335	724	880
Medway	118	468	699	1,233	1,677	1,417	1,676	1,240

2021 Census – RM147 – Veterans by age

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 9: Age group proportions of UK Armed Forces veterans by 10year age group

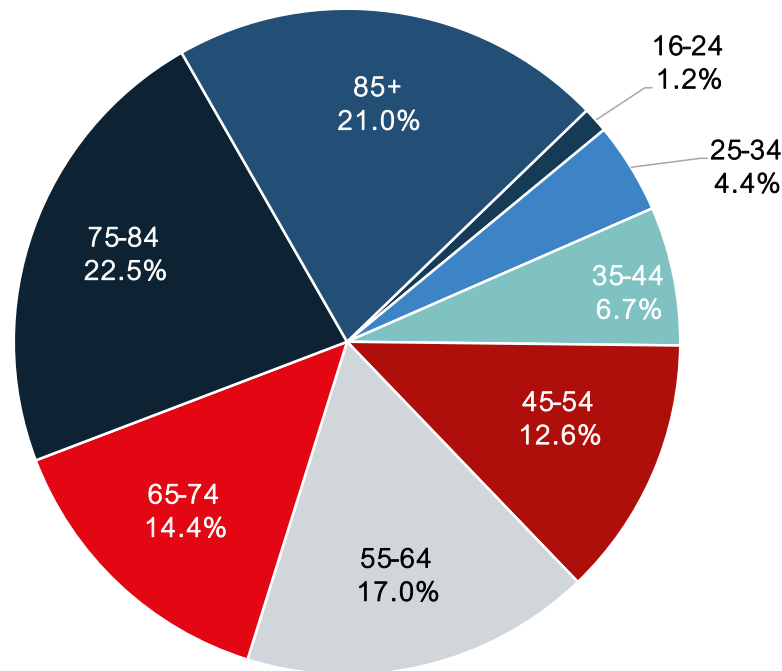
Area	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
England and Wales	1.6%	5.5%	8.2%	13.6%	18.1%	14.7%	19.8%	18.5%
South East	1.3%	4.3%	7.0%	12.6%	17.7%	14.5%	21.6%	21.1%
Kent	1.2%	4.4%	6.7%	12.6%	17.0%	14.4%	22.5%	21.0%
Ashford	1.0%	4.7%	7.5%	15.1%	19.8%	14.6%	20.9%	16.4%
Canterbury	2.7%	3.6%	5.4%	11.4%	15.6%	13.9%	24.5%	22.9%
Dartford	1.5%	6.9%	9.4%	14.0%	14.2%	11.1%	19.4%	23.5%
Dover	1.1%	4.4%	7.1%	12.1%	18.7%	17.8%	22.9%	15.8%
Folkestone & Hythe	0.9%	3.3%	5.5%	12.4%	18.3%	17.6%	23.5%	18.4%
Gravesham	0.9%	4.9%	6.9%	12.4%	15.4%	11.5%	22.3%	25.9%
Maidstone	1.1%	4.8%	7.5%	13.8%	17.2%	12.7%	21.9%	21.0%
Sevenoaks	0.9%	4.1%	6.0%	11.6%	14.4%	10.2%	22.8%	30.0%
Swale	1.3%	5.7%	7.6%	14.2%	17.6%	15.5%	20.2%	17.9%
Thanet	1.2%	3.5%	5.1%	10.2%	17.9%	17.7%	24.3%	20.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	0.9%	4.5%	7.2%	12.7%	16.4%	12.2%	22.9%	23.4%
Tunbridge Wells	0.8%	4.3%	7.6%	12.7%	13.8%	10.5%	22.7%	27.6%
Medway	1.4%	5.5%	8.2%	14.5%	19.7%	16.6%	19.7%	14.5%

2021 Census – RM147 – Veterans by age

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 4: Veterans by 10-year age group

Proportion of Kent armed forces veterans by 10 year age group



Source: 2021 Census table: RM147 - Veterans by age
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

UK armed forces veterans by general health

In Kent, 37.2% of veterans were not in good health, which was higher than the figure for the South East (33.8%) and England and Wales (35.6%). The proportion of veterans that were not in good health was higher than that of non-veterans in England and Wales, and this was reflected in the proportions for the South East and the Kent districts.

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of veterans not in good health, with 2,454 (42.5%) veterans. Dover had the second highest number of veterans not in good health with 2,156 (38.1%), whilst Gravesham had the second highest proportion at 42.1% (990 veterans).

Ashford had the highest proportion of veterans in good health, with 66.6% (3,305 veterans), followed by Tunbridge Wells (65.7%, 2,098 veterans). Maidstone had the highest number of veterans in good health, 3,643 veterans (64.3%).

Tables 10 and 11 show the number and proportion of veterans and non-veterans based on whether they were or were not in good general health. Chart 5 shows the proportion of veterans not in good health compared to non-veterans.

Table 10: Number of UK veterans and non-veterans by General Health

Area	Veterans in Good Health	Veterans not in Good Health	Non-veterans in Good Health	Non-veterans not in Good Health
England and Wales	1,192,615	660,497	36,957,829	9,755,432
South East	209,875	107,207	5,902,365	1,335,133
Kent	32,972	19,572	971,273	252,749
Ashford	3,305	1,655	81,603	20,206
Canterbury	3,261	1,956	101,482	26,075
Dartford	1,441	886	72,965	15,405
Dover	3,554	2,156	69,026	21,395
Folkestone & Hythe	3,237	1,974	65,056	21,288
Gravesham	1,361	990	65,392	16,812
Maidstone	3,643	2,022	110,845	25,627
Sevenoaks	2,150	1,194	76,856	16,403
Swale	2,986	1,788	90,142	27,083
Thanet	3,314	2,454	80,783	28,866
Tonbridge & Malling	2,622	1,403	83,340	18,163
Tunbridge Wells	2,098	1,095	73,783	15,426
Medway	5,538	2,990	168,704	45,524

2021 Census – RM145 – Veterans by general health

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

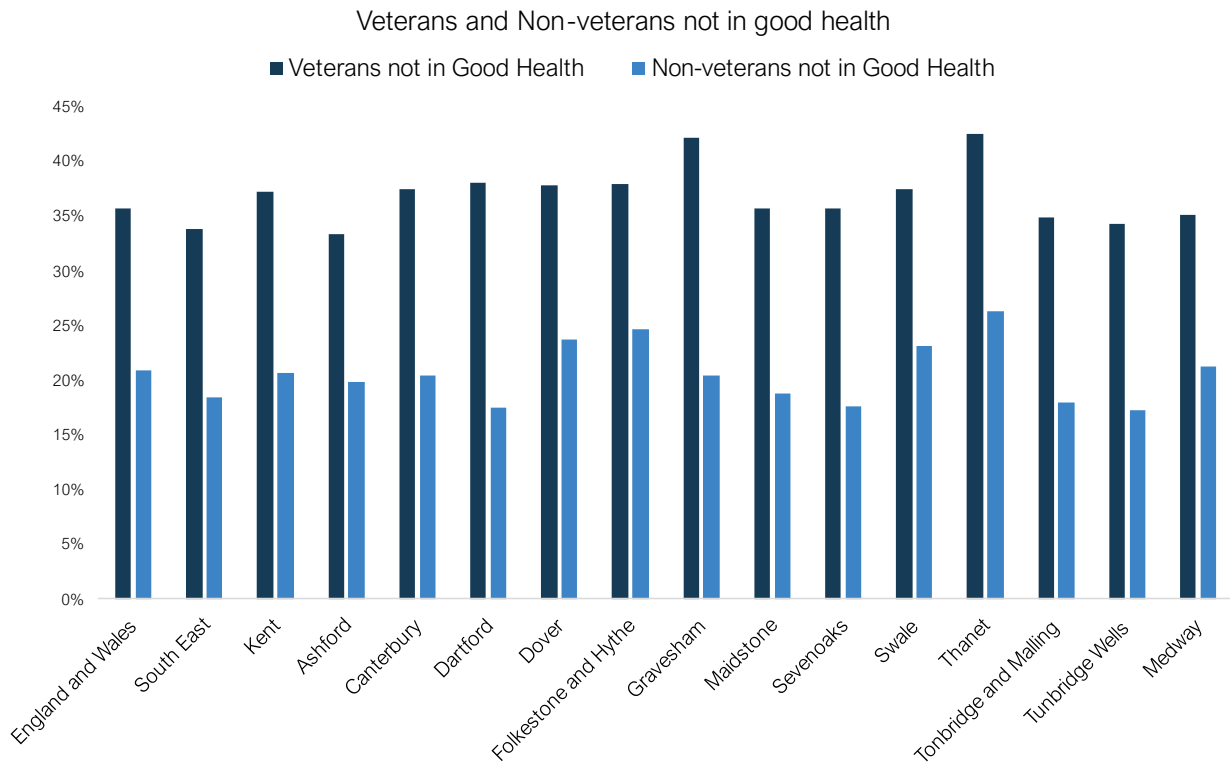
Table 11: Percentage of UK veterans and non-veterans by General Health

Area	Veterans in Good Health	Veterans not in Good Health	Non-veterans in Good Health	Non-veterans not in Good Health
England and Wales	64.4%	35.6%	79.1%	20.9%
South East	66.2%	33.8%	81.6%	18.4%
Kent	62.8%	37.2%	79.4%	20.6%
Ashford	66.6%	33.4%	80.2%	19.8%
Canterbury	62.5%	37.5%	79.6%	20.4%
Dartford	61.9%	38.1%	82.6%	17.4%
Dover	62.2%	37.8%	76.3%	23.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	62.1%	37.9%	75.3%	24.7%
Gravesham	57.9%	42.1%	79.5%	20.5%
Maidstone	64.3%	35.7%	81.2%	18.8%
Sevenoaks	64.3%	35.7%	82.4%	17.6%
Swale	62.5%	37.5%	76.9%	23.1%
Thanet	57.5%	42.5%	73.7%	26.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	65.1%	34.9%	82.1%	17.9%
Tunbridge Wells	65.7%	34.3%	82.7%	17.3%
Medway	64.9%	35.1%	78.7%	21.3%

2021 Census – RM145 – Veterans by general health

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 5: Veterans and Non-veterans not in good health



2021 Census: The Office of National Statistics (ONS), Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

UK armed forces veterans by disability

Kent had a slightly higher proportion of veterans with disabilities compared to England and Wales and compared to the South East region (32.6% in Kent compared to 30.5% in the South East and 32.1% in England and Wales).

Within Kent, Thanet had the highest number and proportion of disabled veterans, with 2,139 veterans (37.1%). With Dover (1,943 veterans) and Canterbury (1,766 veterans) having the second and third highest numbers.

Tables 12 and 13 overleaf show the number and proportions of UK armed forces veterans with and without disabilities, along with the split of how those with disabilities are impacted in day-to-day activities.

Table 12: Number of UK Armed Forces Veterans with and without Disabilities

Area	Disabled under the Equality Act	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Not disabled under the Equality Act
England and Wales	594,353	284,000	310,353	1,258,760
South East	96,622	44,166	52,456	220,460
Kent	17,154	8,147	9,007	35,390
Ashford	1,427	654	773	3,534
Canterbury	1,766	826	940	3,453
Dartford	722	336	386	1,609
Dover	1,943	955	988	3,766
Folkestone & Hythe	1,752	806	946	3,459
Gravesham	840	399	441	1,511
Maidstone	1,762	848	914	3,904
Sevenoaks	1,027	485	542	2,321
Swale	1,582	769	813	3,194
Thanet	2,139	1,060	1,079	3,630
Tonbridge & Malling	1,241	583	658	2,784
Tunbridge Wells	965	433	532	2,231
Medway	2,589	1,171	1,418	5,941

2021 Census – RM145 – Veterans by disability

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 13: Proportions of UK Armed Forces Veterans with and without Disabilities

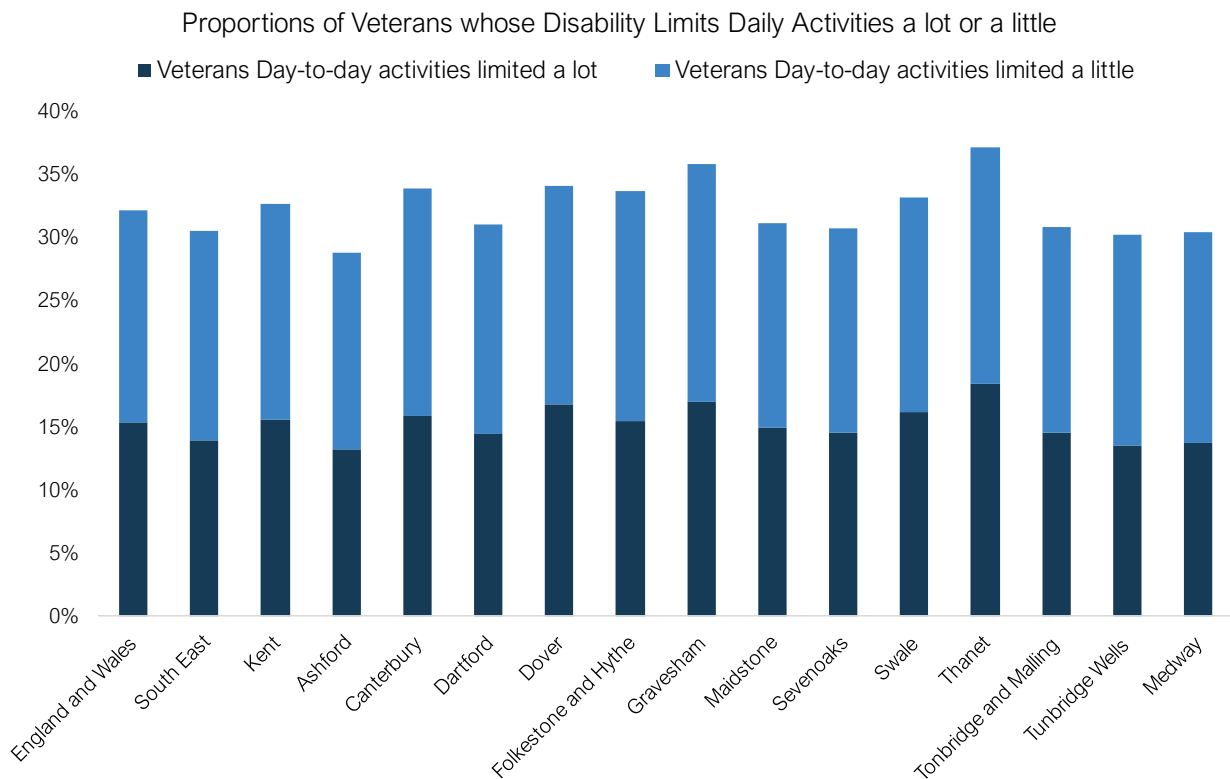
Area	Disabled under the Equality Act	Day-to-day activities limited a lot	Day-to-day activities limited a little	Not disabled under the Equality Act
England and Wales	32.1%	15.3%	16.7%	67.9%
South East	30.5%	13.9%	16.5%	69.5%
Kent	32.6%	15.5%	17.1%	67.4%
Ashford	28.8%	13.2%	15.6%	71.2%
Canterbury	33.8%	15.8%	18.0%	66.2%
Dartford	31.0%	14.4%	16.6%	69.0%
Dover	34.0%	16.7%	17.3%	66.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	33.6%	15.5%	18.2%	66.4%
Gravesham	35.7%	17.0%	18.8%	64.3%
Maidstone	31.1%	15.0%	16.1%	68.9%
Sevenoaks	30.7%	14.5%	16.2%	69.3%
Swale	33.1%	16.1%	17.0%	66.9%
Thanet	37.1%	18.4%	18.7%	62.9%
Tonbridge & Malling	30.8%	14.5%	16.3%	69.2%
Tunbridge Wells	30.2%	13.5%	16.6%	69.8%
Medway	30.4%	13.7%	16.6%	69.6%

2021 Census – RM145 – Veterans by disability

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 6 shows the proportion of veterans by level of disability.

Chart 6: Proportions of Veterans whose Disability Limits Daily Activities a lot or a little



2021 Census: The Office of National Statistics (ONS). Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent

In Kent, a much higher proportion of veterans had disabilities (32.6%) compared to non-veterans (19.7%). In particular, the proportion of veterans with a disability which limits day-to-day activities a lot was double that of non-veterans in Kent. This trend was also seen in England and Wales and the South East region.

Thanet had the highest proportion of disabled veterans and disabled non-veterans.

Table 14 overleaf shows the number and proportion of veterans that were disabled under the equality act compared to that of non-veterans.

Table 14: Number and proportion of veterans with disabilities compared to non-veterans

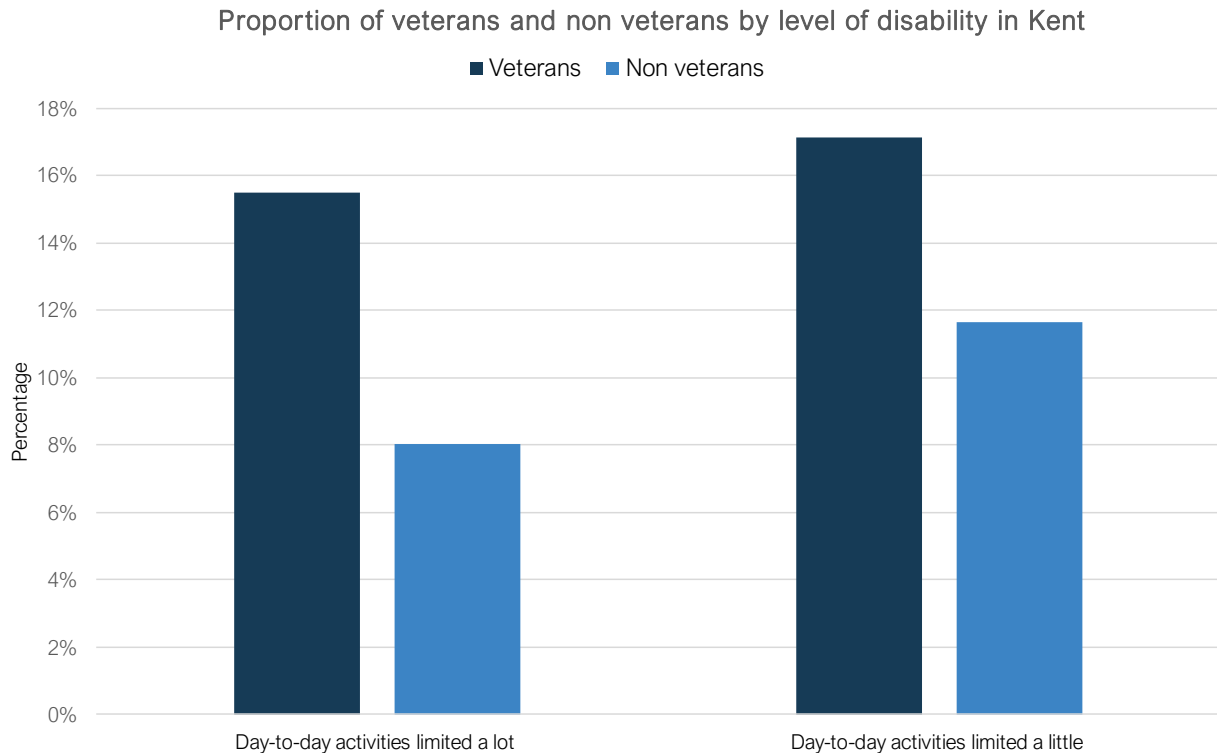
Area	Non-veterans Disabled under the Equality Act	Non-veterans Disabled under the Equality Act	Veterans Disabled under the Equality Act	Veterans Disabled under the Equality Act
England and Wales	9,748,569	19.6%	594,353	32.1%
South East	1,384,918	17.8%	96,622	30.5%
Kent	258,122	19.7%	17,154	32.6%
Ashford	20,712	18.9%	1,427	28.8%
Canterbury	28,840	21.2%	1,766	33.8%
Dartford	14,725	15.8%	722	31.0%
Dover	22,832	23.1%	1,943	34.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	22,200	23.7%	1,752	33.6%
Gravesham	15,839	18.2%	840	35.7%
Maidstone	25,775	17.6%	1,762	31.1%
Sevenoaks	16,469	16.6%	1,027	30.7%
Swale	26,758	21.5%	1,582	33.1%
Thanet	29,546	25.0%	2,139	37.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	18,382	16.9%	1,241	30.8%
Tunbridge Wells	16,055	16.9%	965	30.2%
Medway	44,277	19.5%	2,589	30.4%

2021 Census – RM145 – Veterans by disability

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 7 overleaf shows the proportion of UK armed forces veterans by level of disability compared to non-veterans.

Chart 7: Proportions of Veterans and Non-Veterans by Disability



2021 Census: The Office of National Statistics (ONS). Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

UK armed forces veterans by economic activity status

A person will be economically active if they are in employment or unemployed and available to work. A person would be economically inactive if they were neither working nor looking for work.

Kent had a slightly lower proportion of economically active veterans (38.7%) compared to England and Wales (42.4%) and the South East region (40.4%). This could possibly be explained by the fact that Kent had a higher proportion of veterans aged over 65.

In Kent, Maidstone had the highest number of veterans who were economically active while Ashford had the highest proportion (45.1%).

Thanet had the highest number and proportion of economically inactive veterans (3,869, 67.0%).

Table 15 shows the number and proportion of UK armed forces veterans by economic activity status.

Table 15: UK Armed Forces Veterans by Economic Activity Status

Area	Total	Number economically active	Number economically inactive	% economically active	% economically inactive
England and Wales	1,853,112	785,880	1,067,232	42.4%	57.6%
South East	317,082	128,244	188,838	40.4%	59.6%
Kent	52,545	20,350	32,195	38.7%	61.3%
Ashford	4,960	2,239	2,721	45.1%	54.9%
Canterbury	5,217	1,789	3,428	34.3%	65.7%
Dartford	2,329	1,001	1,328	43.0%	57.0%
Dover	5,710	2,247	3,463	39.4%	60.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	5,211	1,895	3,316	36.4%	63.6%
Gravesham	2,351	869	1,482	37.0%	63.0%
Maidstone	5,666	2,407	3,259	42.5%	57.5%
Sevenoaks	3,344	1,229	2,115	36.8%	63.2%
Swale	4,772	2,004	2,768	42.0%	58.0%
Thanet	5,771	1,902	3,869	33.0%	67.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	4,024	1,564	2,460	38.9%	61.1%
Tunbridge Wells	3,192	1,204	1,988	37.7%	62.3%
Medway	8,528	3,851	4,677	45.2%	54.8%

2021 Census – RM144 – Veterans by Economic Activity Status

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Of those veterans in Kent who were economically active, 96.4% were in employment and 3.6% were unemployed (seeking work or waiting to start a job already obtained: Available to start working within 2 weeks).

Tunbridge Wells had the highest proportion that were in employment (97.3%) while Thanet had the lowest proportion (94.6%).

Tables 16 and 17 show the number and proportion of economically active veterans by employment status.

Table 16: Number of economically active veterans by employment status

Area	Total economically active	In employment	Unemployed
England and Wales	785,880	755,802	30,078
South East	128,244	123,866	4,378
Kent	20,351	19,618	733
Ashford	2,237	2,160	77
Canterbury	1,787	1,700	87
Dartford	1,001	973	28
Dover	2,247	2,164	83
Folkestone & Hythe	1,895	1,819	76
Gravesham	869	840	29
Maidstone	2,407	2,336	71
Sevenoaks	1,229	1,194	35
Swale	2,006	1,941	65
Thanet	1,902	1,800	102
Tonbridge & Malling	1,564	1,515	49
Tunbridge Wells	1,204	1,172	32
Medway	3,852	3,704	148

2021 Census – Custom built table

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 17: Proportion of economically active veterans by employment status

Area	Total economically active	In employment	Unemployed
England and Wales	100%	96.2%	3.8%
South East	100%	96.6%	3.4%
Kent	100%	96.4%	3.6%
Ashford	100%	96.6%	3.4%
Canterbury	100%	95.1%	4.9%
Dartford	100%	97.2%	2.8%
Dover	100%	96.3%	3.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	100%	96.0%	4.0%
Gravesham	100%	96.7%	3.3%
Maidstone	100%	97.1%	2.9%
Sevenoaks	100%	97.2%	2.8%
Swale	100%	96.8%	3.2%
Thanet	100%	94.6%	5.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	100%	96.9%	3.1%
Tunbridge Wells	100%	97.3%	2.7%
Medway	100%	96.2%	3.8%

2021 Census – Custom built table

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Of those veterans in Kent who were economically inactive the majority were retired (89.9%).

Thanet had the highest number of economically inactive veterans who were retired. Thanet also had the highest number and proportion who were economically inactive because of a long-term illness or disability.

Tables 18 and 19 show the number and proportion of UK armed forces veterans that were economically inactive, by reason for inactivity.

Table 18: Number of economically inactive UK armed forces veterans by reason for inactivity

Area	Total economically inactive	Long-term sick or disabled	Looking after home or family	Other	Retired	Student
England and Wales	1,067,232	62,845	23,049	27,468	941,735	12,135
South East	188,838	7,830	3,460	4,001	171,901	1,646
Kent	32,195	1,534	670	800	28,931	260
Ashford	2,723	142	91	86	2,381	23
Canterbury	3,430	143	61	58	3,096	72
Dartford	1,330	51	28	32	1,205	14
Dover	3,462	207	66	85	3,082	22
Folkestone & Hythe	3,321	165	67	101	2,971	17
Gravesham	1,481	68	28	38	1,335	12
Maidstone	3,256	138	54	81	2,966	17
Sevenoaks	2,115	71	52	33	1,947	12
Swale	2,767	136	60	127	2,428	16
Thanet	3,859	241	78	75	3,444	21
Tonbridge & Malling	2,460	112	41	50	2,235	22
Tunbridge Wells	1,987	60	44	32	1,840	11
Medway	4,673	245	104	117	4,152	55

2021 Census – Custom built table

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 19: Proportion of economically inactive UK armed forces veterans by reason for inactivity

Area	Total economically inactive	Long-term sick or disabled	Looking after home or family	Other	Retired	Student
England and Wales	100%	5.9%	2.2%	2.6%	88.2%	1.1%
South East	100%	4.1%	1.8%	2.1%	91.0%	0.9%
Kent	100%	4.8%	2.1%	2.5%	89.9%	0.8%
Ashford	100%	5.2%	3.3%	3.2%	87.4%	0.8%
Canterbury	100%	4.2%	1.8%	1.7%	90.3%	2.1%
Dartford	100%	3.8%	2.1%	2.4%	90.6%	1.1%
Dover	100%	6.0%	1.9%	2.5%	89.0%	0.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	100%	5.0%	2.0%	3.0%	89.5%	0.5%
Gravesham	100%	4.6%	1.9%	2.6%	90.1%	0.8%
Maidstone	100%	4.2%	1.7%	2.5%	91.1%	0.5%
Sevenoaks	100%	3.4%	2.5%	1.6%	92.1%	0.6%
Swale	100%	4.9%	2.2%	4.6%	87.7%	0.6%
Thanet	100%	6.2%	2.0%	1.9%	89.2%	0.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	100%	4.6%	1.7%	2.0%	90.9%	0.9%
Tunbridge Wells	100%	3.0%	2.2%	1.6%	92.6%	0.6%
Medway	100%	5.2%	2.2%	2.5%	88.9%	1.2%

2021 Census – Custom built table

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

UK armed forces veterans by occupation

19,618 UK armed forces veterans in Kent were in employment at the time of the Census. The most common type of occupation in Kent was associate professional and technical occupations, with 17.4%, closely followed by managers, directors and senior officials at 16.6%. Sales and customer service occupations were the least common type of occupation for veterans, making up just 3.4% of jobs.

Tables 20 and 21 show the number and proportions of UK armed forces veterans by occupation.

Table 20: Number of UK Armed Forces Veterans by Occupation

Area	Managers, directors and senior officials	Professional occupations	Associate professional and technical occupations	Administrative and secretarial occupations	Skilled trades occupations	Caring, leisure and other service occupations	Sales and customer service occupations	Process, plant and machine operatives	Elementary occupations
England and Wales	114,312	123,914	118,952	43,126	103,476	42,869	29,062	111,908	68,184
South East	22,277	22,497	22,107	7,004	15,573	6,346	4,011	14,160	9,888
Kent	3,253	2,905	3,420	1,065	2,700	1,103	666	2,665	1,836
Ashford	358	270	353	99	290	105	63	307	319
Canterbury	262	280	273	96	243	102	70	206	167
Dartford	144	162	160	66	145	42	31	133	90
Dover	284	254	440	147	268	172	73	321	204
Folkestone & Hythe	260	227	309	116	259	118	68	287	172
Gravesham	134	126	142	39	122	32	34	139	73
Maidstone	396	358	426	116	336	105	72	294	236
Sevenoaks	308	234	191	74	127	49	35	110	69
Swale	277	255	330	106	310	100	70	338	156
Thanet	275	249	300	78	244	143	73	267	172
Tonbridge & Malling	275	252	316	63	213	72	49	168	110
Tunbridge Wells	284	237	179	64	146	67	31	98	67
Medway	509	493	634	175	566	206	119	667	335

2021 Census - RM146 – Veterans by Occupation

The Office of National Statistics (ONS). Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council.

Table 21: Proportions of UK Armed Forces Veterans by Occupation

Area	Managers, directors and senior officials	Professional occupations	Associate professional and technical occupations	Administrative and secretarial occupations	Skilled trades occupations	Caring, leisure and other service occupations	Sales and customer service occupations	Process, plant and machine operatives	Elementary occupations
England and Wales	15.1%	16.4%	15.7%	5.7%	13.7%	5.7%	3.8%	14.8%	9.0%
South East	18.0%	18.2%	17.8%	5.7%	12.6%	5.1%	3.2%	11.4%	8.0%
Kent	16.6%	14.8%	17.4%	5.4%	13.8%	5.6%	3.4%	13.6%	9.4%
Ashford	16.5%	12.5%	16.3%	4.6%	13.4%	4.9%	2.9%	14.2%	14.7%
Canterbury	15.4%	16.5%	16.1%	5.7%	14.3%	6.0%	4.1%	12.1%	9.8%
Dartford	14.8%	16.6%	16.4%	6.8%	14.9%	4.3%	3.2%	13.7%	9.2%
Dover	13.1%	11.7%	20.3%	6.8%	12.4%	8.0%	3.4%	14.8%	9.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	14.3%	12.5%	17.0%	6.4%	14.3%	6.5%	3.7%	15.8%	9.5%
Gravesham	15.9%	15.0%	16.9%	4.6%	14.5%	3.8%	4.0%	16.5%	8.7%
Maidstone	16.9%	15.3%	18.2%	5.0%	14.4%	4.5%	3.1%	12.6%	10.1%
Sevenoaks	25.7%	19.5%	16.0%	6.2%	10.6%	4.1%	2.9%	9.2%	5.8%
Swale	14.3%	13.1%	17.0%	5.5%	16.0%	5.1%	3.6%	17.4%	8.0%
Thanet	15.3%	13.8%	16.7%	4.3%	13.5%	7.9%	4.1%	14.8%	9.6%
Tonbridge & Malling	18.1%	16.6%	20.8%	4.2%	14.0%	4.7%	3.2%	11.1%	7.2%
Tunbridge Wells	24.2%	20.2%	15.3%	5.5%	12.4%	5.7%	2.6%	8.4%	5.7%
Medway	13.7%	13.3%	17.1%	4.7%	15.3%	5.6%	3.2%	18.0%	9.0%

2021 Census - RM146 – Veterans by Occupation

The Office of National Statistics (ONS). Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council.

UK armed forces veterans by resident type

97.9% of UK armed forces veterans in Kent were household residents. This was similar to the proportion seen nationally (98.0%) and in the South East (97.6%).

1,095 veterans in Kent were communal establishment residents and accounted for 2.1% of all veterans living in Kent. A communal establishment is an establishment providing managed residential accommodation providing full-time or part-time supervision of the accommodation. Communal establishments include hospitals, care homes, prisons, defence bases, boarding schools, and student halls of residence.

Thanet had the largest number of UK armed forces veterans living in households (5,663), Maidstone had the largest number living in communal establishments (151).

Table 22: UK armed forces veterans by resident type

2021 Census: UK Armed forces veterans by resident type	Usual residents aged 16+ who have previously served in the UK armed forces	Number who have previously served in the UK armed forces and are household residents	% who have previously served in the UK armed forces and are household residents	Number who have previously served in the UK armed forces and are communal establishment residents	% who have previously served in the UK armed forces and are communal establishment residents
England & Wales	1,853,112	1,816,299	98.0%	36,813	2.0%
South East	317,082	309,477	97.6%	7,605	2.4%
Kent	52,544	51,449	97.9%	1,095	2.1%
Ashford	4,960	4,892	98.6%	68	1.4%
Canterbury	5,217	5,093	97.6%	124	2.4%
Dartford	2,328	2,291	98.4%	37	1.6%
Dover	5,710	5,611	98.3%	99	1.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	5,211	5,085	97.6%	126	2.4%
Gravesham	2,351	2,324	98.9%	27	1.1%
Maidstone	5,664	5,513	97.3%	151	2.7%
Sevenoaks	3,344	3,254	97.3%	90	2.7%
Swale	4,775	4,631	97.0%	144	3.0%
Thanet	5,768	5,663	98.2%	105	1.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	4,023	3,993	99.3%	30	0.7%
Tunbridge Wells	3,193	3,099	97.1%	94	2.9%
Medway Unitary Authority	8,529	8,423	98.8%	106	1.2%

2021 Census - TS073 - Population who have previously served in UK armed forces in communal establishments and in households

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

UK armed forces veterans by tenure

In Kent, 76.3% of households with one or more veterans owned the property they were living in, with 51.5% owning the property outright. Both of these proportions are larger than those for England and Wales, however slightly lower than that of the South East region.

Of the 23.7% of households containing veterans which were renting, there was almost an even split between social renting and private renting or rent free.

Tables 23 and 24 show the number and proportion of households which had one or more UK armed forces veterans by tenure.

Table 23: Tenure of Households with 1 or more UK Armed Forces Veterans

Area	Owned	Owens outright	Owens with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	Rented	Social rented	Private rented or lives rent free
England and Wales	1,297,553	860,093	437,460	447,525	237,733	209,792
South East	229,340	155,277	74,063	67,684	33,437	34,247
Kent	37,923	25,575	12,348	11,755	5,598	6,157
Ashford	3,578	2,046	1,532	1,090	439	651
Canterbury	3,814	2,740	1,074	1,104	532	572
Dartford	1,679	1,087	592	544	290	254
Dover	4,056	2,743	1,313	1,322	666	656
Folkestone and Hythe	3,677	2,516	1,161	1,192	409	783
Gravesham	1,660	1,187	473	602	357	245
Maidstone	4,177	2,694	1,483	1,136	488	648
Sevenoaks	2,530	1,820	710	643	344	299
Swale	3,513	2,218	1,295	978	468	510
Thanet	4,047	2,919	1,128	1,421	598	823
Tonbridge and Malling	2,906	1,973	933	988	614	374
Tunbridge Wells	2,284	1,631	653	739	395	344
Medway	6,188	3,971	2,217	1,945	927	1,018

2021 Census - TS072 - Number of people in households who have previously served in UK armed forces

The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 24: Tenure of Households with 1 or more UK Armed Forces Veterans

Area	Owned	Owens outright	Owens with a mortgage or loan or shared ownership	Rented	Social rented	Private rented or lives rent free
England and Wales	74.4%	49.3%	25.1%	25.6%	13.6%	12.0%
South East	77.2%	52.3%	24.9%	22.8%	11.3%	11.5%
Kent	76.3%	51.5%	24.9%	23.7%	11.3%	12.4%
Ashford	76.6%	43.8%	32.8%	23.4%	9.4%	13.9%
Canterbury	77.6%	55.7%	21.8%	22.4%	10.8%	11.6%
Dartford	75.5%	48.9%	26.6%	24.5%	13.0%	11.4%
Dover	75.4%	51.0%	24.4%	24.6%	12.4%	12.2%
Folkestone and Hythe	75.5%	51.7%	23.8%	24.5%	8.4%	16.1%
Gravesham	73.4%	52.5%	20.9%	26.6%	15.8%	10.8%
Maidstone	78.6%	50.7%	27.9%	21.4%	9.2%	12.2%
Sevenoaks	79.7%	57.4%	22.4%	20.3%	10.8%	9.4%
Swale	78.2%	49.4%	28.8%	21.8%	10.4%	11.4%
Thanet	74.0%	53.4%	20.6%	26.0%	10.9%	15.1%
Tonbridge and Malling	74.6%	50.7%	24.0%	25.4%	15.8%	9.6%
Tunbridge Wells	75.6%	54.0%	21.6%	24.4%	13.1%	11.4%
Medway	76.1%	48.8%	27.3%	23.9%	11.4%	12.5%

2021 Census - TS072 - Number of people in households who have previously served in UK armed forces
The Office for National Statistics (ONS), Table presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Related documents

More information about the 2021 Census can be found on our [Population & Census](#) webpages.

Additional information from the Census about the characteristics of the population can be found on our [Equality & Diversity](#) webpages.