

# The Knowledge Economy

This bulletin uses data from the Business Register & Employment Survey 2023 and the UK Business Counts dataset 2024 looking at the number jobs and the number of enterprises in the knowledge economy.

**NOTE:** within this bulletin “Kent” refers to the Kent County Council area which excludes Medway.

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**The knowledge economy comprises those industries whose main purpose centres on knowledge or information, from highly technical industries and knowledge intensive services to creative industries. This includes such industries as publishing, scientific research & development, and higher education.**

**This bulletin estimates the number of employee jobs and the number of enterprises which are engaged in activities related to the knowledge economy.**

## Headlines

- As of 2023 there were an estimated 89,500 knowledge economy jobs in Kent (13.8% of all jobs) compared to the South East region (20.8%) and England (21.5%).
- Tunbridge Wells (21.7%), Canterbury (21.4%) and Sevenoaks (17.0%) have the highest concentration of knowledge economy jobs in Kent.
- Of the 18,460 knowledge economy enterprises in Kent in 2024, three quarters are within business services industries.
- Tunbridge Wells has the highest concentration of knowledge economy enterprises in Kent (37.9%).

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## Introduction

The knowledge economy is of particular interest as it is seen as a key driver for economic growth in the UK. The industries that fall within this sub-set of the economy are the ones that deal extensively with the processing, exchange and communication of information and knowledge. They are likely to have a high dependency on technology and provide highly skilled and technical jobs. They are also likely to contribute a high level financially to the economy (a higher level of output per head).

### Defining the knowledge economy

There is no single official definition of the Knowledge Economy therefore many different definitions are in use. The definition used in this bulletin is:

**a group of specific sectors within the economy that are knowledge intensive in their activity. They deal extensively with information/information technology and their business is all about the distribution or exchange of the information that they hold.**

The industries that have been included in the Knowledge Economy are shown below. It shows the detailed industry headings that have been included using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (2007SIC).

Further information about the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification can be found on the Office for National Statistics [Standard Classifications webpages](#).

### Computing

- 62 Computer programming, consultancy and related activities
- 631 Data processing
- 262 Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment

### Telecommunications

- 61 Telecommunications

### Media

- 18 Printing and reproduction of recorded media
- 58 Publishing activities
- 263 Manufacture of communication equipment
- 591 Motion picture, video and television programme activities
- 60 Programming and broadcasting activities
- 639 Other information service activities

### Research & Development

- 72 Scientific research and development

### Business Services

- 64 Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding
- 65 Insurance, reinsurance and pension funding, except compulsory social security
- 66 Activities auxiliary to financial services and insurance activities
- 69 Legal and accounting activities
- 70 Activities of head offices; management consultancy activities
- 732 Market research and public opinion polling
- 711 Architectural and engineering activities and related technical consultancy
- 712 Technical testing and analysis
- 731 Advertising
- 74 Other professional, scientific and technical activities
- 82 Office administrative, office support and other business support activities

### Higher Education

- 854 Higher education

### Public Services

- 91 Libraries, archives, museums and other cultural activities

This bulletin uses two datasets looking at the number of employee jobs and the number of businesses within the knowledge economy in Kent and Kent local authorities with regional and national comparisons.

### Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES)

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) is the official source of employee jobs and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry.

Produced by the Office for National Statistics, the BRES is a sample survey which collects employment information from businesses across the whole of the Great Britain economy for each site that they operate. The survey covers all businesses in Great Britain registered for VAT and/or PAYE. The BRES does not cover the very small businesses neither registered for VAT nor PAYE, neither does it include self-employed workers unless they are registered for VAT or PAYE.

The BRES is a sample survey of approximately 80,000 businesses and may be subject to sampling errors. The estimates are of a good quality at higher levels of geography (for example region), however the quality of the estimates deteriorates as the geographies get smaller. This should be taken into account when considering the quality of county and district estimates.

In accordance with official guidelines the data is rounded to the nearest 100 prior to publication. Percentages are calculated using unrounded data.

Data is available for the years 2015 to 2023. Data for 2024 is due to be released in the Autumn of 2025.

The coronavirus pandemic had an effect on the production of estimates for 2020 resulting in lower levels of precision than in other years. For this reason, figures for 2020 should be considered with caution.

## **UK Business Counts**

The UK Business Counts dataset, produced by the Office for National Statistics, records the number of enterprises that were live at a reference date in March each year, giving a snapshot of businesses that were live at that point in time.

The UK Business Counts dataset is an extract compiled from the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) which contains information on VAT traders and PAYE employers.

Enterprise statistics presented in this bulletin are broken down by industry and employee size band of business. Data are available for the years 2010 to 2024. Data for 2025 is due to be released in Autumn 2025.

## **Knowledge Economy Jobs**

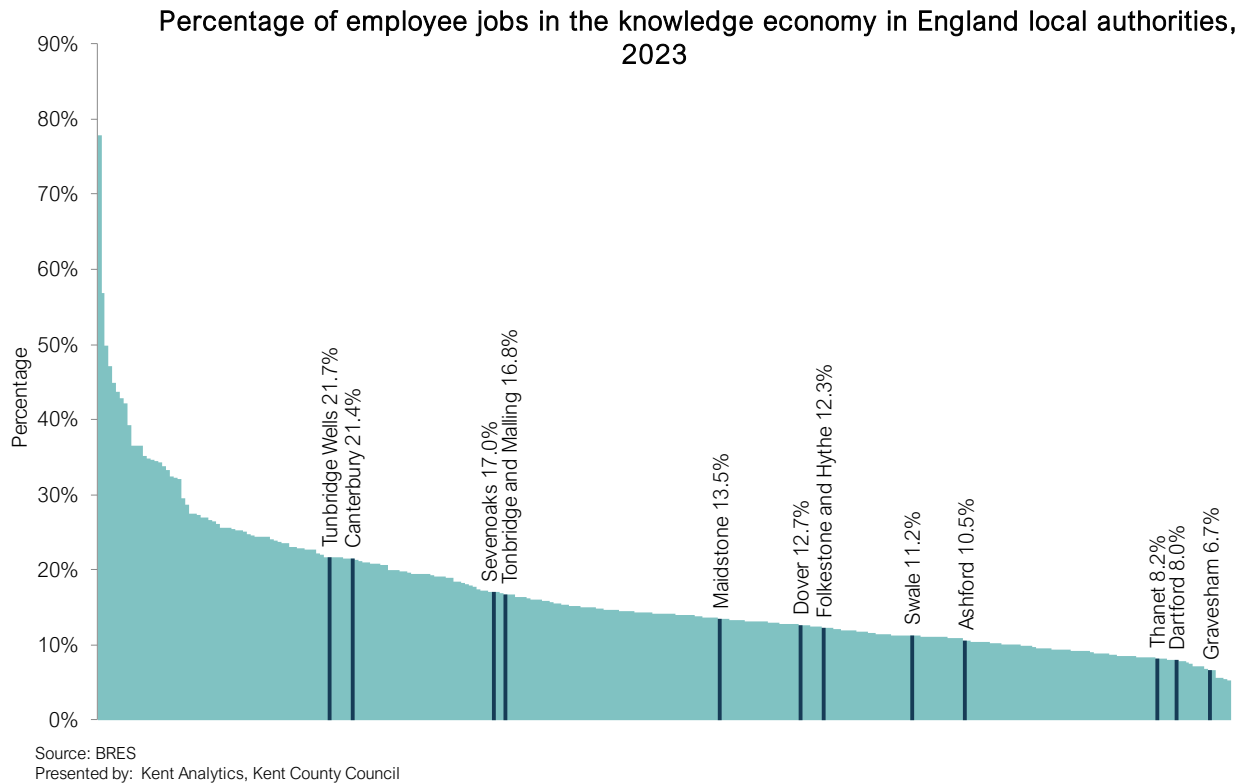
Chart 1 shows the percentage of knowledge economy employee jobs in Kent local authorities compared to all other local authorities in England.

No districts in Kent are within the top 20% of local authorities in the country with the highest density of knowledge economy employee jobs (those with 21.72% or more). Tunbridge Wells (21.70%) and Canterbury (21.4%) are just outside the top 20%.

Gravesham (6.7%), Dartford (8.0%) and Thanet (8.2%) are within the 20% of local authorities with the lowest density of knowledge economy employee jobs (those with 10.1% or less).

Table 10 in the annex at the end of this bulletin presents the figures for all English local authorities, along with the proportion of knowledge economy enterprises in each English local authority. The table is ordered from the local authority with the highest proportion of knowledge economy enterprises through to the least.

**Chart 1: Percentage of knowledge economy employee jobs in England local authorities**



The top ten authorities with the highest proportion of knowledge economy jobs in England are presented in table 1.

Seven of the top ten authorities are within the London region.

**Table 1: Authorities with the highest proportion of knowledge economy employee jobs**

2023	Region	% employee jobs in the knowledge economy
City of London	London	77.8%
Tower Hamlets	London	56.8%
Islington	London	49.8%
Camden	London	47.1%
Cambridge	East of England	44.8%
Southwark	London	43.7%
Oxford	South East	42.9%
Westminster	London	42.2%
Hackney	London	39.2%
Reading	South East	36.5%

Source: BRES

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 2 shows the number and proportion of knowledge economy jobs in Kent and Kent local authorities in 2023. The table shows the one-year and five-year change. Numbers are rounded to nearest 100. Percentages are calculated using unrounded data.

The table also includes regional and national comparisons.

13.8% of jobs in Kent are knowledge intensive, equating to an estimated 89,500 jobs. This is below the averages for England (21.5%) and the South East region (20.8%).

Estimates show that the number of knowledge economy jobs in Kent has decreased over the last five years by 6.3%. The South East has seen an increase of 0.4% and England an increase of 10.5%.

Canterbury district has the highest number of knowledge economy jobs in Kent (15,000) accounting for more than one in five jobs in the district. Tunbridge Wells has the highest proportion of knowledge economy jobs (21.7%).

Tunbridge Wells has a higher proportion of knowledge economy jobs than seen nationally and both Tunbridge Wells and Canterbury have a higher proportion than the South East region.

Over the last five years, four Kent districts have seen knowledge economy jobs increase. The biggest number increase was in Dover and Swale where there were 1,000 more jobs in each district than in 2018 (Dover +26.7%, Swale +20.0%).

Sevenoaks saw the largest fall in knowledge economy jobs over the last five years (-3,500 jobs, -29.2%).

**Table 2: Knowledge economy jobs**

2023	No.	%	1-year number change	1-year % change	5-year number change	5-year % change
Ashford	6,500	10.5%	-1,000	-13.3%	500	8.3%
Canterbury	15,000	21.4%	0	0.0%	-1,500	-9.1%
Dartford	5,500	8.0%	-500	-8.3%	-1,500	-21.4%
Dover	4,800	12.7%	-300	-5.0%	1,000	26.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	4,500	12.3%	-500	-10.0%	-500	-10.0%
Gravesham	2,300	6.7%	-300	-10.0%	-500	-18.2%
Maidstone	10,500	13.5%	-1,500	-12.5%	500	5.0%
Sevenoaks	8,500	17.0%	-1,000	-10.5%	-3,500	-29.2%
Swale	6,000	11.2%	-500	-7.7%	1,000	20.0%
Thanet	3,500	8.2%	-1,000	-22.2%	-300	-6.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	11,000	16.8%	-500	-4.3%	-500	-4.3%
Tunbridge Wells	11,500	21.7%	-1,000	-8.0%	-500	-4.2%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>89,500</b>	<b>13.8%</b>	<b>-7,500</b>	<b>-7.7%</b>	<b>-6,000</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>
Medway	12,000	12.4%	-1,500	-11.1%	-1,500	-11.1%
Kent + Medway	101,500	13.6%	-9,000	-8.1%	-7,500	-6.9%
South East LEP	229,500	13.6%	-4,000	-1.7%	-21,500	-8.6%
South East	899,500	20.8%	-49,000	-5.2%	4,000	0.4%
England	5,917,000	21.5%	124,000	2.1%	563,500	10.5%

Source: BRES

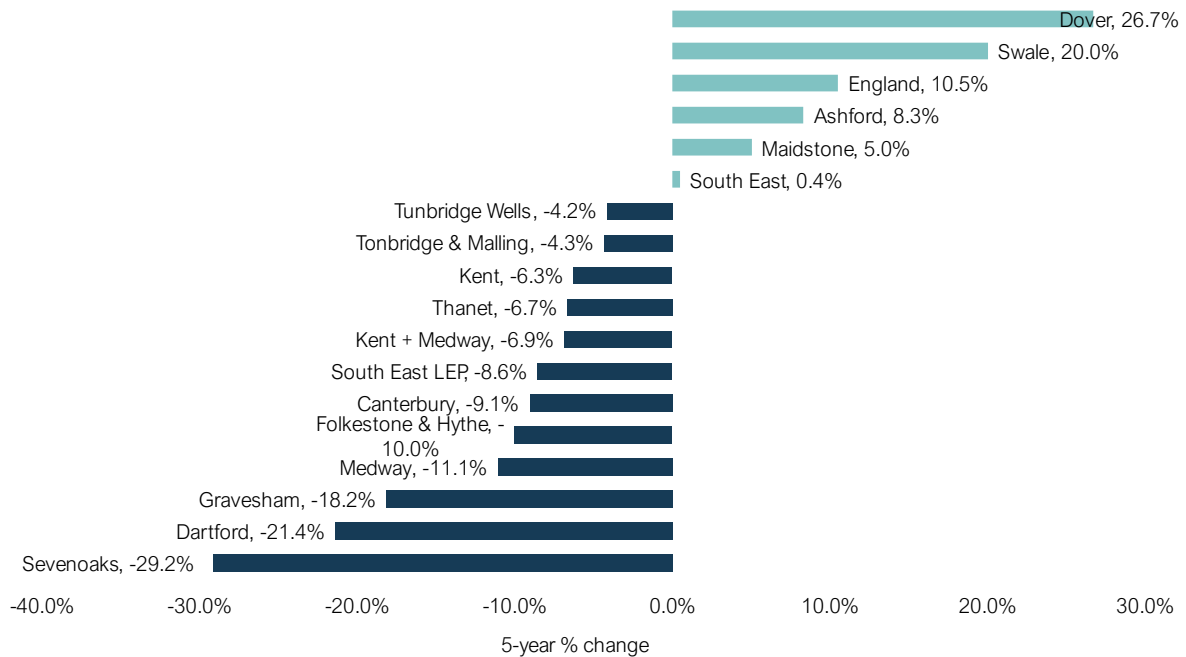
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 2 overleaf shows the change in knowledge economy jobs since 2018.



## Chart 2: 5-year percentage change in knowledge economy jobs

5-year percentage change in Knowledge Economy employee jobs, 2018 to 2023



Source: BRES

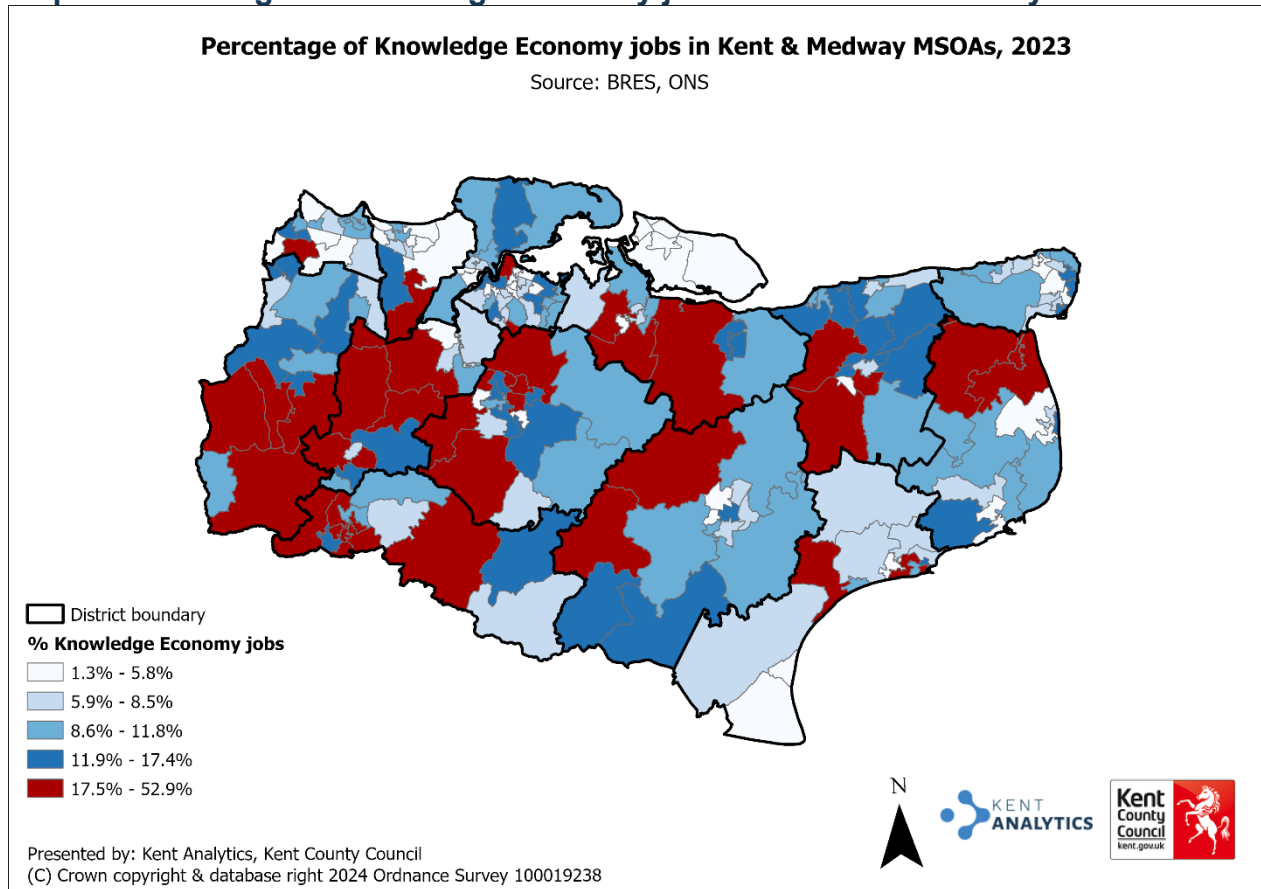
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Map 1 overleaf shows the proportion of knowledge economy jobs in Kent and Medway Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs).

MSOAs are small geographies comprising between 2,000 and 6,000 households and have a usual resident population between 5,000 and 15,000 persons. These allow us to see the proportion of knowledge economy jobs at a more local level.

The maps shows that all districts within Kent have areas with high proportions of knowledge economy jobs, although coastal and estuarial areas are generally less likely to have high concentrations.

## Map 1: Percentage of knowledge economy jobs in Kent and Medway



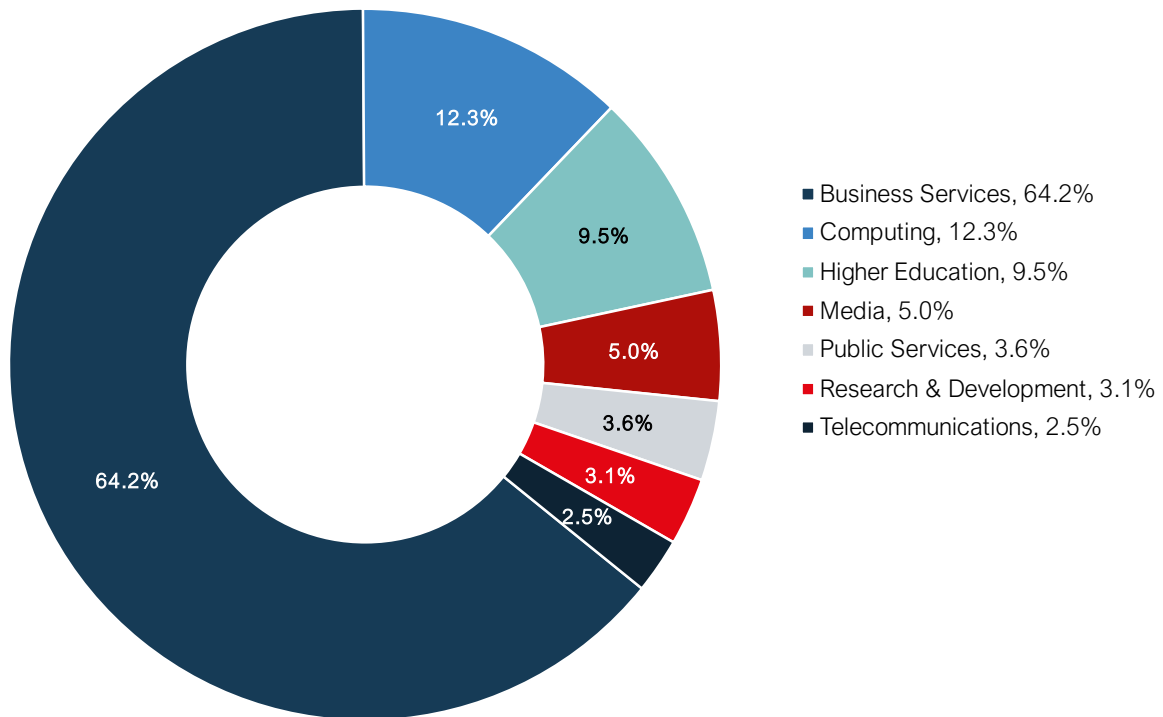
The knowledge economy is made up of seven sub-sectors. In descending order of employee size in Kent these are Business Services, Computing, Higher Education, Media, Public Services, Research & Development, and Telecommunications.

Business services accounts for the biggest proportion of knowledge economy employee jobs in Kent (64.2%). Research & Development and Telecommunications account for the smallest proportion (3.1% and 2.5% respectively).

Chart 3 (overleaf) shows the proportion of knowledge economy jobs in Kent in each of the subsectors.

### Chart 3: Knowledge economy subsectors in Kent

Employee jobs in Knowledge Economy sectors in Kent, 2023



Source: BRES

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 3 shows the number of knowledge economy jobs in each of the subsectors in Kent local authorities in 2023. Numbers are rounded to nearest 100.

**Table 3: Knowledge economy jobs by sector**

2023	Knowledge Economy	Business Services	Computing	Higher Education	Media	Public Services	Research & Development	Telecommunications
Ashford	6,500	4,500	900	100	400	300	0	100
Canterbury	15,000	5,000	1,400	7,500	500	500	100	400
Dartford	5,500	3,300	1,500	0	600	0	100	200
Dover	4,800	2,000	500	0	300	400	1,600	0
Folkestone & Hythe	4,500	3,500	300	0	200	600	100	100
Gravesham	2,300	1,600	400	0	100	0	100	0
Maidstone	10,500	7,500	1,800	400	600	500	0	200
Sevenoaks	8,500	6,000	900	0	400	400	200	400
Swale	6,000	4,500	600	100	200	100	400	100
Thanet	3,500	2,400	500	100	400	200	0	100
Tonbridge & Malling	11,000	8,000	1,400	0	600	100	100	500
Tunbridge Wells	11,500	9,000	1,100	200	600	100	0	300
<b>Kent</b>	<b>89,500</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,300</b>
Medway	12,000	7,500	1,400	1,400	900	500	0	500
Kent + Medway	101,500	65,000	12,500	10,000	5,500	3,800	2,800	2,800
South East LEP	229,500	154,000	27,500	16,000	12,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
South East	899,500	503,500	168,500	88,500	46,500	17,000	40,500	35,000
England	5,917,000	3,834,000	823,500	459,500	371,500	93,500	152,500	183,000

Source: BRES

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Knowledge Economy Enterprises

The proportion of knowledge economy enterprises in Kent local authorities compared to other authorities in England is shown in chart 4 overleaf.

The chart shows that four Kent authorities (Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, and Ashford) all have a higher proportion of knowledge economy enterprises than the national average of 29.7%.

Two Kent authorities (Sevenoaks, and Tunbridge Wells) are within the top 20% of authorities in Great Britain with the highest proportion of knowledge economy enterprises (those with 33.6% or more).

No Kent authority is within the 20% of authorities in Great Britain with the lowest proportion of knowledge economy enterprises (those with 20.9% or less).

Table 10 in the annex at the end of this bulletin presents the figures for all English local authorities, along with the proportion of knowledge economy jobs in each English local authority. The table is ordered from the local authority with the highest proportion of knowledge economy enterprises through to the least.

Table 4 shows the top ten authorities with the highest proportion of knowledge economy based enterprises.

**Table 4: Local authorities with the highest proportion of knowledge economy enterprises**

Local Authority	% enterprises in the Knowledge Economy 2024
City of London	67.8%
Camden	51.3%
Islington	48.6%
Richmond upon Thames	48.1%
Hackney	47.8%
Westminster	47.1%
Waverley	47.0%
Wokingham	46.3%
Southwark	45.6%
Elmbridge	45.1%

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

**Chart 4: Percentage of knowledge economy enterprises in English local authorities**

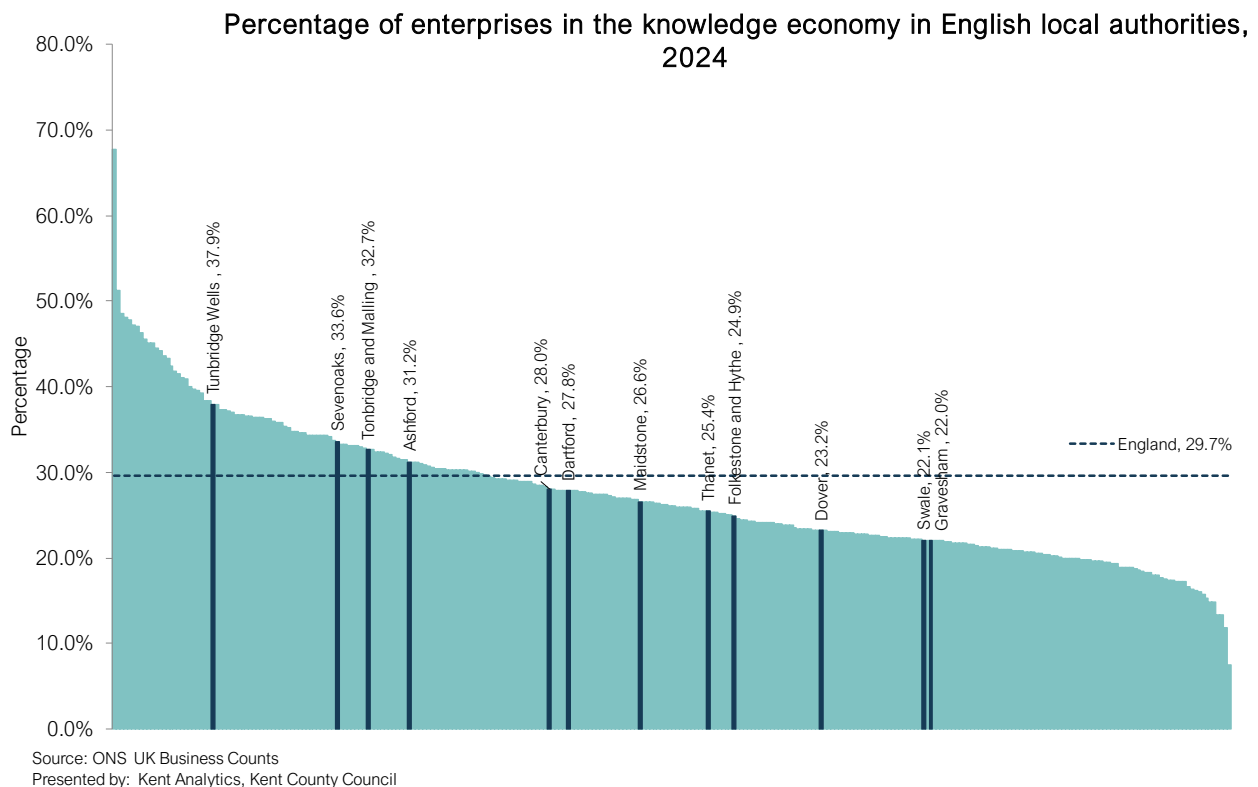


Table 5 shows the number of knowledge economy enterprises in Kent and Medway and the change over recent years.

Tunbridge Wells has the highest number of knowledge economy enterprises in Kent (2,325) accounting for 37.9% of all enterprises in the area. Dover district has the lowest number of knowledge economy enterprises (860 enterprises accounting for 23.2% of all enterprises), and Gravesham has the lowest proportion (22.0%).

Four Kent districts (Ashford, Dover, Swale and Thanet) have seen the number of knowledge economy enterprises rise over the last year. The biggest increase was in Swale where there were 50 more enterprises than in 2023. Tunbridge Wells has seen no change over the last year. Sevenoaks saw the biggest fall with 45 less enterprises than in 2023.

Over the last 5 years all Kent districts have seen a fall in the number of knowledge economy enterprises except Thanet (+170).

**Table 5: Enterprises in the Knowledge economy in Kent local authority districts**

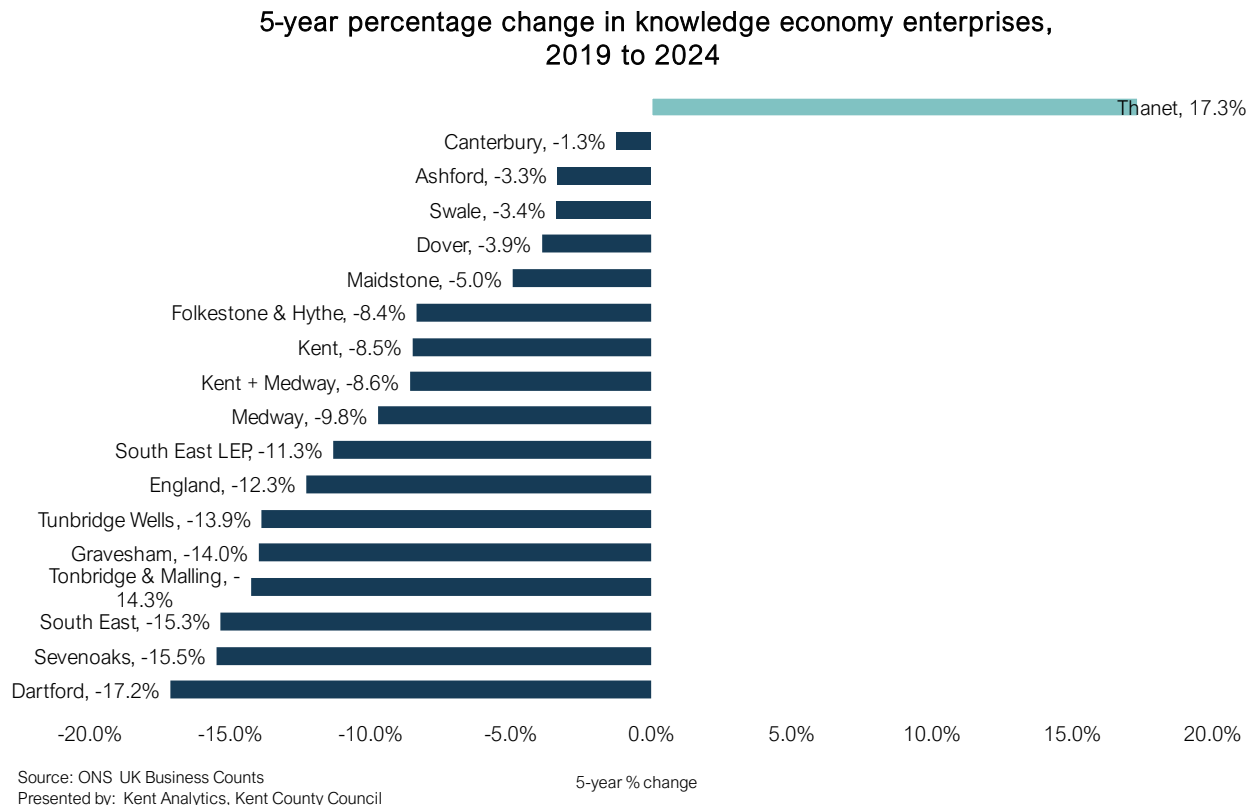
2024	No.	%	1 year number change	1 year % change	5 year number change	5 year % change
Ashford	2,025	31.2%	35	1.8%	-70	-3.3%
Canterbury	1,575	28.0%	-15	-0.9%	-20	-1.3%
Dartford	1,280	27.8%	-10	-0.8%	-265	-17.2%
Dover	860	23.2%	15	1.8%	-35	-3.9%
Folkestone & Hythe	930	24.9%	-10	-1.1%	-85	-8.4%
Gravesham	890	22.0%	-10	-1.1%	-145	-14.0%
Maidstone	2,110	26.6%	-5	-0.2%	-110	-5.0%
Sevenoaks	2,205	33.6%	-45	-2.0%	-405	-15.5%
Swale	1,140	22.1%	50	4.6%	-40	-3.4%
Thanet	1,150	25.4%	40	3.6%	170	17.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	1,980	32.7%	-30	-1.5%	-330	-14.3%
Tunbridge Wells	2,325	37.9%	0	0.0%	-375	-13.9%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>18,460</b>	<b>28.6%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-1,720</b>	<b>-8.5%</b>
Medway	1,990	22.3%	-25	-1.2%	-215	-9.8%
Kent + Medway	20,455	27.8%	-15	-0.1%	-1,930	-8.6%
South East LEP	47,070	26.6%	-150	-0.3%	-6,025	-11.3%
South East	133,010	32.9%	-1,045	-0.8%	-24,110	-15.3%
England	702,365	29.7%	-1,070	-0.2%	-98,535	-12.3%

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 5 overleaf shows the change in knowledge economy enterprises since 2019.

**Chart 5: 5-year percentage change in knowledge economy enterprises**



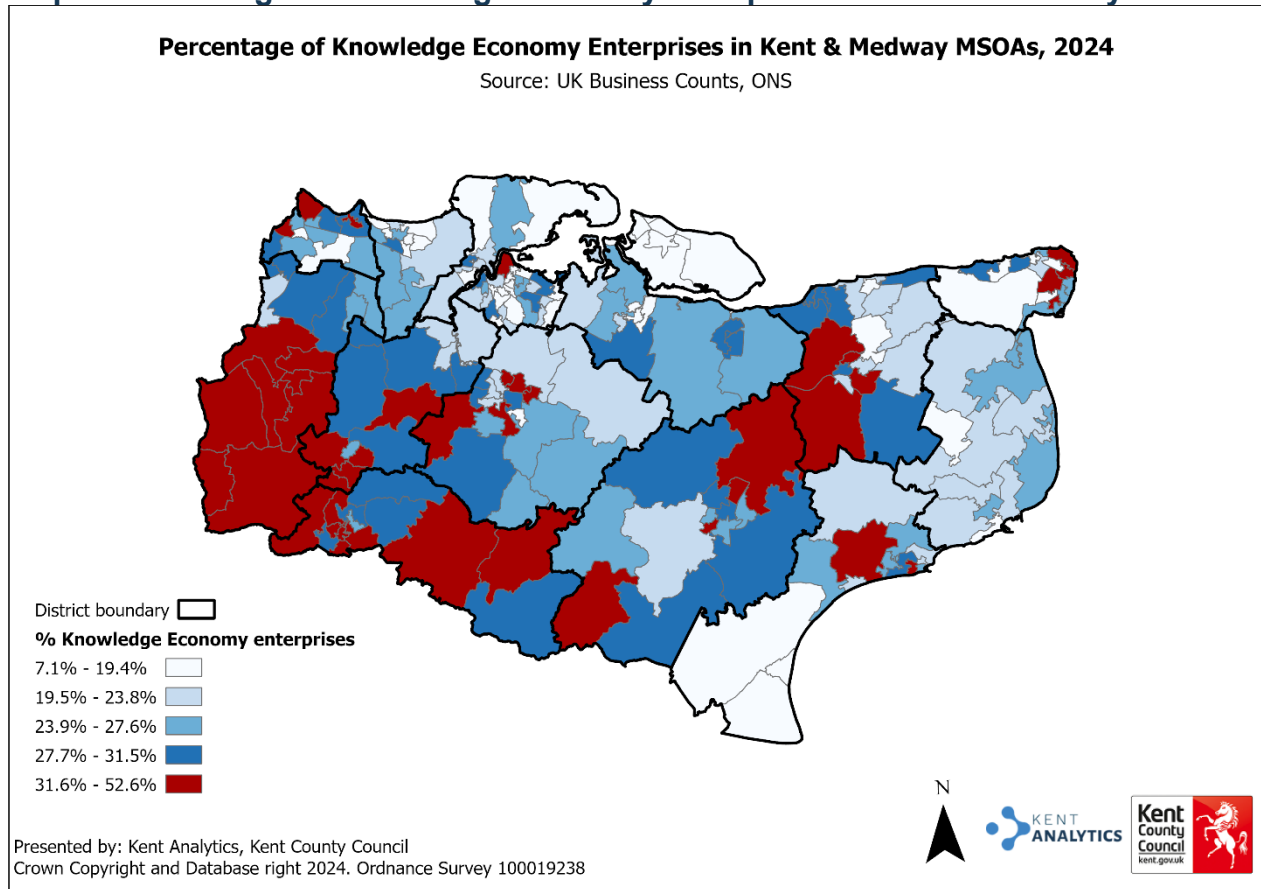
Map 2 shows the proportion of knowledge economy enterprises in Kent and Medway Middle Super Output Areas (MSOAs).

MSOAs are small geographies comprising between 2,000 and 6,000 households and have a usually resident population between 5,000 and 15,000 persons. These allow us to see the proportion of knowledge economy enterprises at a more local level.

The map shows that areas in the west of the county tend to have the highest concentration of knowledge economy enterprises.

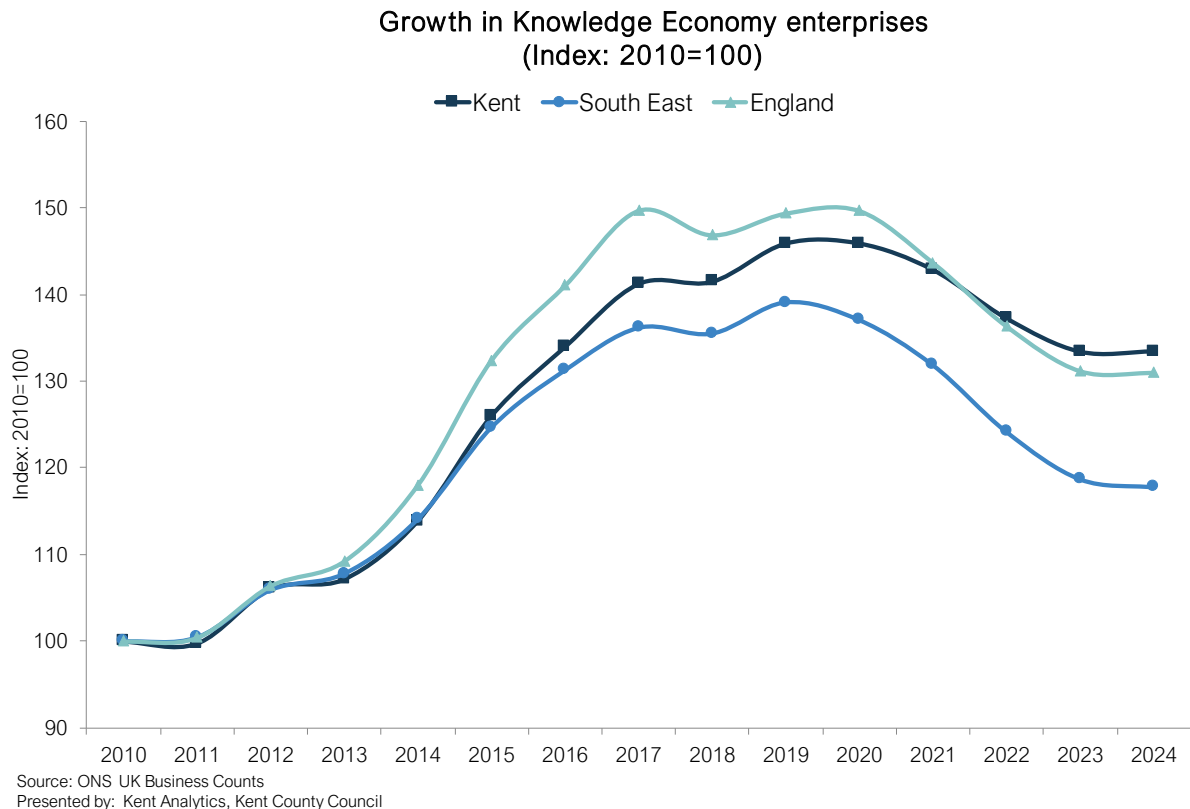


**Map 2: Percentage of Knowledge economy enterprises in Kent & Medway**



Overall, Kent saw stronger growth in knowledge economy enterprises than seen in the South East up to 2020. Since 2020 there has been negative growth in Kent, South East and Great Britain, however this has been at a slightly slower rate in Kent than seen both nationally and regionally, and Kent has seen a slight rise in 2024. This is shown in chart 6 overleaf.

**Chart 6: Growth in knowledge economy enterprises (Index 2010=100)**



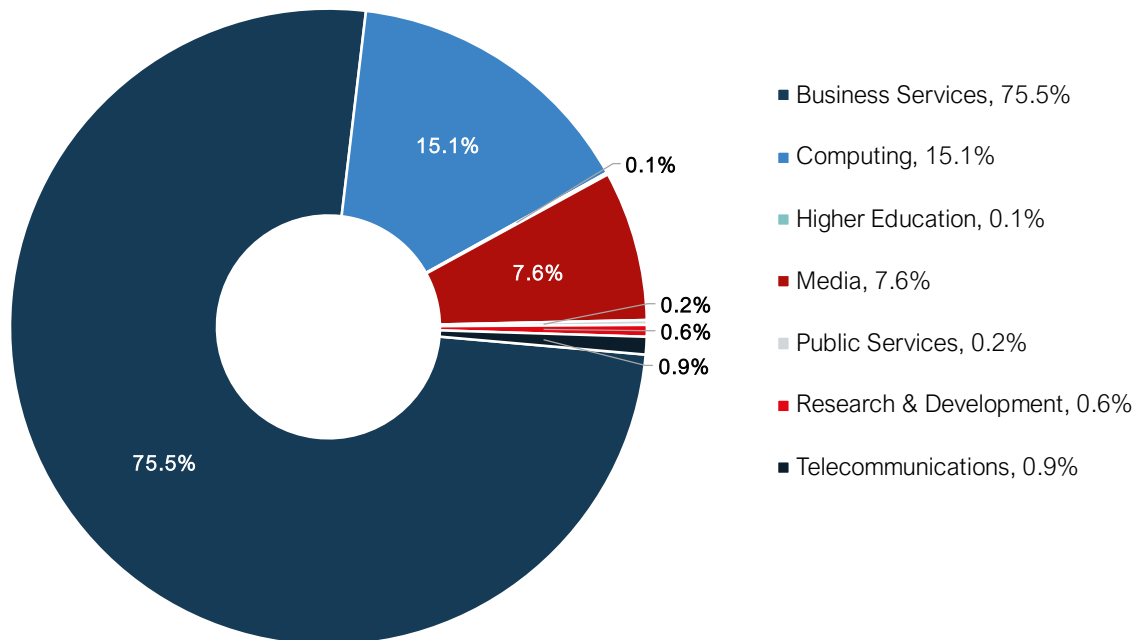
The majority of knowledge economy enterprises are Business Services industries, accounting for over three quarters of all knowledge economy enterprises in Kent.

15.1% of knowledge economy enterprises are within Computing and 7.6% within Media.

The remaining knowledge economy enterprises are made up of Higher Education (0.1%), Public Services (0.2%), Research & Development (0.6%), and Telecommunications (0.9%) which combined account for less than 2% of the knowledge economy enterprises in Kent. This is shown in chart 7.

## Chart 7: Kent Knowledge economy enterprises by sector

Enterprises in Knowledge Economy sectors in Kent, 2024



Source: ONS UK Business Counts  
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Business Services make up the biggest proportion of Knowledge economy enterprises in all areas.

Media based enterprises make up a higher proportion of enterprises in Thanet than any other Kent district (12.2%).

Dover district has a significantly higher proportion of R&D related enterprises (2.9%) than the national average (0.7%) largely due to the legacy of the former Pfizer site, now named Discovery Park, which provides a multi-business science park.

Dartford has a much higher than average proportion of enterprises in computer industries accounting for 25.4% of Knowledge economy enterprises in the area (the Kent average is 15.1%).

The number and proportion of knowledge economy enterprises by sector is shown in tables 6 and 7.

**Table 6: Number of knowledge economy enterprises by sector**

2024	Knowledge Economy	Business Services	Computing	Higher Education	Media	Public Services	Research & Development	Telecommunications
Ashford	2,025	1,640	265	0	95	0	10	15
Canterbury	1,575	1,175	230	5	130	5	15	15
Dartford	1,280	845	325	0	90	0	0	15
Dover	860	650	105	0	65	0	25	10
Folkestone & Hythe	930	715	125	0	80	5	5	5
Gravesham	890	670	155	0	50	0	0	10
Maidstone	2,110	1,605	300	0	170	5	10	15
Sevenoaks	2,205	1,690	325	0	155	10	10	15
Swale	1,140	865	160	5	75	5	10	20
Thanet	1,150	830	145	0	140	10	10	15
Tonbridge & Malling	1,980	1,500	305	0	140	5	10	25
Tunbridge Wells	2,325	1,755	330	0	215	5	5	10
<b>Kent</b>	<b>18,460</b>	<b>13,940</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>165</b>
Medway	1,990	1,445	375	5	125	5	5	35
Kent + Medway	20,455	15,380	3,155	20	1,530	55	115	200
South East LEP	47,070	35,495	7,225	50	3,445	105	255	495
South East	133,010	93,960	26,075	240	9,920	280	1,130	1,405
England	702,365	514,750	119,560	1,210	52,880	1,545	5,130	7,290

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

**Table 7: Proportion of knowledge economy enterprises by sector**

2024	Knowledge Economy	Business Services	Computing	Higher Education	Media	Public Services	Research & Development	Telecommunications
Ashford	100%	81.0%	13.1%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%
Canterbury	100%	74.6%	14.6%	0.3%	8.3%	0.3%	1.0%	1.0%
Dartford	100%	66.0%	25.4%	0.0%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Dover	100%	75.6%	12.2%	0.0%	7.6%	0.0%	2.9%	1.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	100%	76.9%	13.4%	0.0%	8.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Gravesham	100%	75.3%	17.4%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Maidstone	100%	76.1%	14.2%	0.0%	8.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%
Sevenoaks	100%	76.6%	14.7%	0.0%	7.0%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%
Swale	100%	75.9%	14.0%	0.4%	6.6%	0.4%	0.9%	1.8%
Thanet	100%	72.2%	12.6%	0.0%	12.2%	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	100%	75.8%	15.4%	0.0%	7.1%	0.3%	0.5%	1.3%
Tunbridge Wells	100%	75.5%	14.2%	0.0%	9.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75.5%</b>	<b>15.1%</b>	<b>0.1%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Medway	100%	72.6%	18.8%	0.3%	6.3%	0.3%	0.3%	1.8%
Kent + Medway	100%	75.2%	15.4%	0.1%	7.5%	0.3%	0.6%	1.0%
South East LEP	100%	75.4%	15.3%	0.1%	7.3%	0.2%	0.5%	1.1%
South East	100%	70.6%	19.6%	0.2%	7.5%	0.2%	0.8%	1.1%
England	100%	73.3%	17.0%	0.2%	7.5%	0.2%	0.7%	1.0%
Great Britain	100%	81.0%	13.1%	0.0%	4.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Knowledge economy enterprises tend to be smaller in size, employing fewer workers than the average for total industries. In Kent 89.9% of all enterprises employ less than ten employees compared to 94.4% of knowledge economy enterprises.

**Table 8: Kent knowledge economy enterprise - size band**

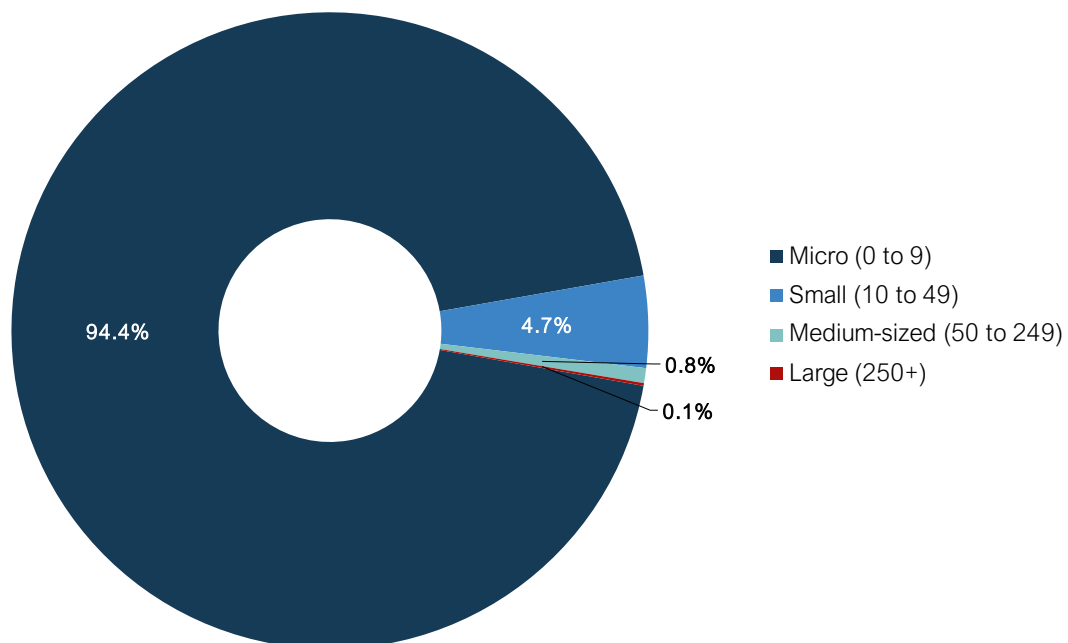
2024	Total number of enterprises	% of total enterprises	Number of knowledge economy enterprises	% of knowledge economy enterprises
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,575</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,460</b>	<b>100%</b>
Micro (0 to 9)	58,035	89.9%	17,435	94.4%
Small (10 to 49)	5,380	8.3%	860	4.7%
Medium-sized (50 to 249)	950	1.5%	140	0.8%
Large (250+)	210	0.3%	25	0.1%

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

**Chart 8: Kent Knowledge economy enterprises by employee size band**

Kent Knowledge Economy enterprises by employment sizeband, 2024



Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 9 shows the number of knowledge economy enterprises in each employee size band in Kent districts.

**Table 9: Knowledge economy enterprises by employee size band**

2024	Total	Micro (0 to 9)	Small (10 to 49)	Medium (50 to 249)	Large (250+)
Ashford	2,025	1,935	80	10	0
Canterbury	1,575	1,460	90	20	5
Dartford	1,280	1,225	45	10	0
Dover	860	820	35	5	0
Folkestone & Hythe	930	895	30	5	0
Gravesham	890	860	30	5	0
Maidstone	2,110	1,960	120	20	5
Sevenoaks	2,205	2,090	95	15	5
Swale	1,140	1,075	55	10	0
Thanet	1,150	1,090	50	5	0
Tonbridge & Malling	1,980	1,840	110	25	5
Tunbridge Wells	2,325	2,185	115	20	5
<b>Kent</b>	<b>18,460</b>	<b>17,435</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>25</b>
Medway	1,990	1,875	100	15	5
Kent + Medway	20,455	19,310	960	155	30
South East LEP	47,070	44,470	2,185	350	60
South East	133,010	124,410	6,895	1,320	380
England	702,365	650,055	41,705	8,380	2,220

Source: ONS UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Annex

**Table 10: Proportion of knowledge economy enterprises and employee jobs in English local authorities**

Local authority	Region	% knowledge economy enterprises 2024	% knowledge economy jobs 2023
City of London	London	67.8%	77.8%
Camden	London	51.3%	47.1%
Islington	London	48.6%	49.8%
Richmond upon Thames	London	48.1%	32.5%
Hackney	London	47.8%	39.2%
Westminster	London	47.1%	42.2%
Waverley	South East	47.0%	23.0%
Wokingham	South East	46.3%	34.2%
Southwark	London	45.6%	43.7%
Elmbridge	South East	45.1%	22.7%
Cambridge	East of England	45.1%	44.8%
St Albans	East of England	44.6%	24.4%
Hammersmith and Fulham	London	44.2%	34.7%
Wandsworth	London	43.6%	20.6%
Kensington and Chelsea	London	43.4%	24.7%
Tower Hamlets	London	42.4%	56.8%
Windsor and Maidenhead	South East	41.9%	34.5%
Woking	South East	41.6%	25.3%
Guildford	South East	41.1%	28.7%
Lambeth	London	40.9%	19.4%
Oxford	South East	40.0%	42.9%
Warwick	West Midlands	39.8%	22.6%
Hart	South East	39.6%	25.4%
Epsom and Ewell	South East	39.3%	22.7%
Mole Valley	South East	38.4%	26.9%
Cheltenham	South West	38.4%	23.6%
<b>Tunbridge Wells</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>37.9%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>
Surrey Heath	South East	37.9%	15.6%
Kingston upon Thames	London	37.3%	21.6%
Reading	South East	37.3%	36.5%
Trafford	North West	37.2%	33.7%
Lewisham	London	37.0%	13.2%
Bracknell Forest	South East	36.7%	34.7%
Brighton and Hove	South East	36.7%	25.6%
South Cambridgeshire	East of England	36.7%	36.5%
Salford	North West	36.6%	26.5%
West Berkshire	South East	36.5%	20.9%



Local authority	Region	% knowledge economy enterprises 2024	% knowledge economy jobs 2023
Three Rivers	East of England	36.5%	25.3%
Buckinghamshire	South East	36.4%	18.2%
Reigate and Banstead	South East	36.4%	22.9%
Milton Keynes	South East	36.3%	27.5%
Merton	London	36.3%	19.0%
South Oxfordshire	South East	36.0%	26.4%
Bristol, City of	South West	35.9%	32.1%
Bromley	London	35.8%	19.0%
Basingstoke and Deane	South East	35.4%	19.8%
Dacorum	East of England	35.2%	14.0%
North Hertfordshire	East of England	34.8%	16.3%
Bath and North East Somerset	South West	34.7%	24.6%
Hertsmere	East of England	34.7%	25.6%
Warrington	North West	34.6%	26.9%
Hounslow	London	34.4%	24.4%
Vale of White Horse	South East	34.3%	32.2%
Rushcliffe	East Midlands	34.3%	20.8%
Mid Sussex	South East	34.3%	18.9%
Harrow	London	34.3%	22.9%
East Hampshire	South East	34.3%	15.9%
Haringey	London	34.2%	13.6%
Stevenage	East of England	33.7%	15.1%
<b>Sevenoaks</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>
Barnet	London	33.3%	18.0%
Greenwich	London	33.3%	14.4%
East Hertfordshire	East of England	33.2%	19.4%
Stratford-on-Avon	West Midlands	33.1%	35.1%
Watford	East of England	33.1%	24.0%
Runnymede	South East	33.0%	27.4%
Tandridge	South East	32.9%	14.6%
<b>Tonbridge and Malling</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>
Cheshire East	North West	32.6%	24.3%
Horsham	South East	32.4%	21.4%
Solihull	West Midlands	32.4%	18.5%
Manchester	North West	32.4%	33.3%
Sutton	London	32.3%	14.1%
Stockport	North West	32.0%	20.0%
Worthing	South East	31.7%	12.1%
Winchester	South East	31.6%	21.6%
Croydon	London	31.5%	16.7%

Local authority	Region	% knowledge economy enterprises 2024	% knowledge economy jobs 2023
Welwyn Hatfield	East of England	31.5%	20.9%
<b>Ashford</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
Fareham	South East	31.2%	15.2%
Cheshire West and Chester	North West	31.1%	20.9%
Brentwood	East of England	31.0%	25.0%
Rushmoor	South East	30.9%	36.4%
West Oxfordshire	South East	30.7%	16.8%
Ealing	London	30.5%	15.1%
Chichester	South East	30.5%	15.0%
Chelmsford	East of England	30.4%	16.0%
Slough	South East	30.4%	19.5%
Test Valley	South East	30.3%	19.5%
Stockton-on-Tees	North East	30.3%	14.2%
Spelthorne	South East	30.3%	21.6%
York	Yorkshire and The Humber	30.3%	23.9%
Leeds	Yorkshire and The Humber	30.3%	27.2%
Cherwell	South East	30.2%	14.8%
Nottingham	East Midlands	30.2%	23.1%
Uttlesford	East of England	30.1%	12.5%
Bromsgrove	West Midlands	30.0%	17.9%
Worcester	West Midlands	29.8%	14.4%
Stroud	South West	29.7%	14.4%
Cotswold	South West	29.5%	19.8%
Eastleigh	South East	29.3%	19.2%
Newcastle upon Tyne	North East	29.3%	23.8%
Redbridge	London	29.2%	14.0%
Rugby	West Midlands	29.2%	17.1%
Norwich	East of England	29.1%	20.8%
Exeter	South West	29.1%	24.4%
Fylde	North West	29.1%	26.1%
Waltham Forest	London	29.0%	10.9%
Wiltshire	South West	29.0%	18.9%
Lewes	South East	28.9%	11.4%
North Somerset	South West	28.9%	12.8%
Blaby	East Midlands	28.7%	29.5%
Harborough	East Midlands	28.5%	16.0%
Southend-on-Sea	East of England	28.4%	15.7%
North Tyneside	North East	28.3%	25.6%
<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>
Middlesbrough	North East	28.0%	14.6%

Local authority	Region	% knowledge economy enterprises 2024	% knowledge economy jobs 2023
Wealden	South East	27.9%	13.7%
Lichfield	West Midlands	27.9%	17.0%
South Gloucestershire	South West	27.9%	19.6%
<b>Dartford</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
Rutland	East Midlands	27.8%	11.3%
Liverpool	North West	27.8%	19.1%
Bury	North West	27.8%	13.7%
Tewkesbury	South West	27.7%	19.4%
Brent	London	27.6%	13.1%
Bedford	East of England	27.6%	13.9%
Crawley	South East	27.5%	14.1%
Colchester	East of England	27.5%	19.9%
New Forest	South East	27.4%	11.1%
Central Bedfordshire	East of England	27.4%	14.3%
Hillingdon	London	27.3%	14.2%
Leicester	East Midlands	27.2%	17.4%
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	South West	27.0%	20.6%
South Kesteven	East Midlands	27.0%	14.4%
Enfield	London	27.0%	11.6%
Huntingdonshire	East of England	26.9%	14.2%
Newham	London	26.9%	16.4%
Swindon	South West	26.8%	21.7%
<b>Maidstone</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
Broxtowe	East Midlands	26.6%	14.9%
Charnwood	East Midlands	26.6%	22.0%
Wirral	North West	26.5%	12.2%
Derby	East Midlands	26.4%	15.1%
Sheffield	Yorkshire and The Humber	26.4%	22.1%
Eastbourne	South East	26.3%	10.1%
Hastings	South East	26.2%	8.3%
Malvern Hills	West Midlands	26.1%	16.7%
Bexley	London	26.1%	11.4%
High Peak	East Midlands	26.0%	11.3%
North West Leicestershire	East Midlands	26.0%	15.1%
West Northamptonshire	East Midlands	25.9%	17.2%
Wychavon	West Midlands	25.9%	13.0%
Redditch	West Midlands	25.8%	11.2%
Adur	South East	25.7%	14.3%
Havant	South East	25.5%	14.6%

Local authority	Region	% knowledge economy enterprises 2024	% knowledge economy jobs 2023
Halton	North West	25.4%	16.3%
<b>Thanet</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
Birmingham	West Midlands	25.3%	23.5%
East Cambridgeshire	East of England	25.3%	14.4%
Epping Forest	East of England	25.2%	11.8%
Rochford	East of England	25.2%	13.0%
Babergh	East of England	25.1%	13.6%
Coventry	West Midlands	25.0%	21.1%
<b>Folkestone and Hythe</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>24.9%</b>	<b>12.3%</b>
Hartlepool	North East	24.5%	7.6%
Rother	South East	24.5%	15.2%
Chorley	North West	24.4%	13.1%
South Norfolk	East of England	24.4%	10.2%
Braintree	East of England	24.3%	14.3%
Basildon	East of England	24.2%	16.1%
Sefton	North West	24.2%	12.0%
Gateshead	North East	24.1%	13.3%
Preston	North West	24.1%	15.4%
Stafford	West Midlands	24.1%	12.4%
Arun	South East	24.0%	9.7%
Hinckley and Bosworth	East Midlands	24.0%	13.1%
Melton	East Midlands	23.9%	9.4%
Redcar and Cleveland	North East	23.9%	8.1%
Portsmouth	South East	23.8%	15.5%
Darlington	North East	23.6%	16.4%
Lincoln	East Midlands	23.5%	12.6%
West Suffolk	East of England	23.4%	8.3%
Oadby and Wigston	East Midlands	23.4%	8.8%
South Tyneside	North East	23.4%	8.9%
Calderdale	Yorkshire and The Humber	23.3%	15.8%
Chesterfield	East Midlands	23.3%	12.7%
<b>Dover</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>23.2%</b>	<b>12.7%</b>
Gedling	East Midlands	23.2%	8.3%
South Ribble	North West	23.1%	9.4%
Gloucester	South West	23.1%	14.0%
South Staffordshire	West Midlands	23.1%	12.2%
Newark and Sherwood	East Midlands	22.9%	12.0%
Dorset	South West	22.9%	13.7%
Wyre Forest	West Midlands	22.9%	13.4%
Erewash	East Midlands	22.9%	12.8%

Local authority	Region	% knowledge economy enterprises 2024	% knowledge economy jobs 2023
South Derbyshire	East Midlands	22.8%	9.6%
Tamworth	West Midlands	22.7%	12.7%
Broxbourne	East of England	22.7%	13.2%
Peterborough	East of England	22.7%	17.7%
Telford and Wrekin	West Midlands	22.6%	14.5%
Newcastle-under-Lyme	West Midlands	22.6%	17.0%
Broadland	East of England	22.6%	21.6%
Amber Valley	East Midlands	22.5%	9.4%
Rossendale	North West	22.4%	11.9%
Bolton	North West	22.4%	14.7%
East Staffordshire	West Midlands	22.4%	10.5%
Castle Point	East of England	22.3%	10.5%
<b>Medway</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
Nuneaton and Bedworth	West Midlands	22.3%	9.9%
Somerset	South West	22.3%	11.1%
North Warwickshire	West Midlands	22.2%	13.0%
Ipswich	East of England	22.2%	15.3%
Gosport	South East	22.1%	9.2%
<b>Swale</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>11.2%</b>
Mid Suffolk	East of England	22.0%	11.0%
<b>Gravesham</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
East Suffolk	East of England	22.0%	12.7%
Havering	London	22.0%	11.0%
Blackburn with Darwen	North West	22.0%	10.0%
West Lancashire	North West	22.0%	13.7%
St. Helens	North West	21.8%	9.2%
Maldon	East of England	21.8%	11.3%
Dudley	West Midlands	21.8%	11.3%
Oldham	North West	21.8%	8.9%
Harlow	East of England	21.7%	11.2%
Knowsley	North West	21.6%	8.8%
Plymouth	South West	21.6%	12.0%
Kirklees	Yorkshire and The Humber	21.4%	11.4%
Tameside	North West	21.3%	7.9%
Luton	East of England	21.3%	10.3%
Wigan	North West	21.2%	11.0%
Southampton	South East	21.1%	19.9%
Bradford	Yorkshire and The Humber	21.1%	12.9%
Teignbridge	South West	21.0%	10.4%
Ribble Valley	North West	20.9%	11.0%

<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>% knowledge economy enterprises 2024</b>	<b>% knowledge economy jobs 2023</b>
Isle of Wight	South East	20.9%	9.4%
Lancaster	North West	20.9%	21.6%
North Yorkshire	Yorkshire and The Humber	20.9%	13.2%
Forest of Dean	South West	20.8%	13.5%
North East Derbyshire	East Midlands	20.8%	8.3%
Cannock Chase	West Midlands	20.7%	11.1%
Sunderland	North East	20.7%	14.0%
Derbyshire Dales	East Midlands	20.7%	12.3%
East Riding of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and The Humber	20.6%	11.0%
Wolverhampton	West Midlands	20.5%	11.8%
Wakefield	Yorkshire and The Humber	20.4%	10.4%
Northumberland	North East	20.4%	10.1%
South Hams	South West	20.3%	11.0%
North Northamptonshire	East Midlands	20.2%	11.5%
Kingston upon Hull, City of	Yorkshire and The Humber	20.1%	13.3%
North Kesteven	East Midlands	20.0%	13.3%
East Devon	South West	19.9%	9.6%
Shropshire	West Midlands	19.9%	11.1%
Rochdale	North West	19.9%	8.5%
Torbay	South West	19.9%	8.6%
Bassetlaw	East Midlands	19.9%	10.1%
Great Yarmouth	East of England	19.9%	8.4%
Rotherham	Yorkshire and The Humber	19.8%	11.4%
Herefordshire, County of	West Midlands	19.7%	12.6%
Cumberland	North West	19.7%	9.2%
Mansfield	East Midlands	19.6%	10.3%
Burnley	North West	19.5%	9.9%
Bolsover	East Midlands	19.4%	18.5%
Barking and Dagenham	London	19.3%	9.3%
Breckland	East of England	19.3%	8.6%
Tendring	East of England	19.0%	10.0%
Blackpool	North West	18.9%	6.9%
West Lindsey	East Midlands	18.9%	9.8%
County Durham	North East	18.9%	11.2%
Walsall	West Midlands	18.8%	9.6%
Ashfield	East Midlands	18.6%	7.1%
Pendle	North West	18.4%	14.2%
Doncaster	Yorkshire and The Humber	18.4%	9.2%
Wyre	North West	18.3%	8.0%
Barnsley	Yorkshire and The Humber	18.0%	9.2%

<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>% knowledge economy enterprises 2024</b>	<b>% knowledge economy jobs 2023</b>
Fenland	East of England	17.9%	7.9%
Cornwall	South West	17.8%	10.4%
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	East of England	17.5%	8.1%
North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and The Humber	17.4%	7.5%
Thurrock	East of England	17.3%	5.6%
Staffordshire Moorlands	West Midlands	17.3%	9.0%
Westmorland and Furness	North West	17.2%	10.0%
Stoke-on-Trent	West Midlands	17.2%	11.7%
North Lincolnshire	Yorkshire and The Humber	16.6%	5.6%
North Norfolk	East of England	16.4%	7.1%
Hyndburn	North West	16.2%	8.2%
West Devon	South West	16.0%	9.6%
Sandwell	West Midlands	15.8%	7.1%
North Devon	South West	15.3%	8.8%
South Holland	East Midlands	14.9%	8.5%
Mid Devon	South West	14.8%	8.6%
East Lindsey	East Midlands	13.4%	6.6%
Torridge	South West	13.3%	8.3%
Boston	East Midlands	11.9%	5.5%
Isles of Scilly	South West	7.5%	5.3%

Source: UK Business Counts (Enterprises); BRES (Employee jobs)

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Related documents

Further information about other industrial sectors can be found on our [Business in Kent](#) webpages.

Counts of employee jobs in Kent by industrial sector can be found in the [Employment](#) section of our website.