

The Knowledge Economy

Related documents

[2015-2017 BRES bulletin](#) - Counts of total employees and employees by industrial sector are published annually by the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES).

[Employment and workforce](#) – provide information on the Kent workforce and employment patterns of Kent residents

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

Further information

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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 and Development and Higher Education.

This bulletin estimates of employee jobs from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) who are engaged in activities related to the Knowledge Economy.

This bulletin presents the latest data for 2017 which was released by the Office for National Statistics in September 2018. It contains revisions to previously published data.

- As at 2017, there are 91,500 knowledge economy employees in Kent (15.0% of all employees), compared to 20.1% in Great Britain and 20.7% in the South East
- The number of Knowledge Economy jobs in Kent has fallen over the last year (-9.0%). This also reflects what is seen in the South East as a whole (-9.0%). Nationally there has been a slight growth of 0.2%.
- Gravesham district has the lowest proportion of knowledge economy employees in Kent (7.0% of all employees)
- Sevenoaks, Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells district are within the top 20% of GB local authorities with the highest concentration of Knowledge Economy jobs.

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 higher level of “value added” 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.

Table 1 shows the industries that have been included in the Knowledge Economy in this bulletin. 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](#).

Using data from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) those industries whose main purpose centres on knowledge or information have been grouped to present a picture of the number of employee jobs within the Knowledge Economy in Kent. The BRES is produced by the Office for National Statistics and is the official source of employee and employment estimates by detailed geography and industry. Data is available from 2015 to 2017. Data for 2018 is due to be released in the Autumn of 2019.

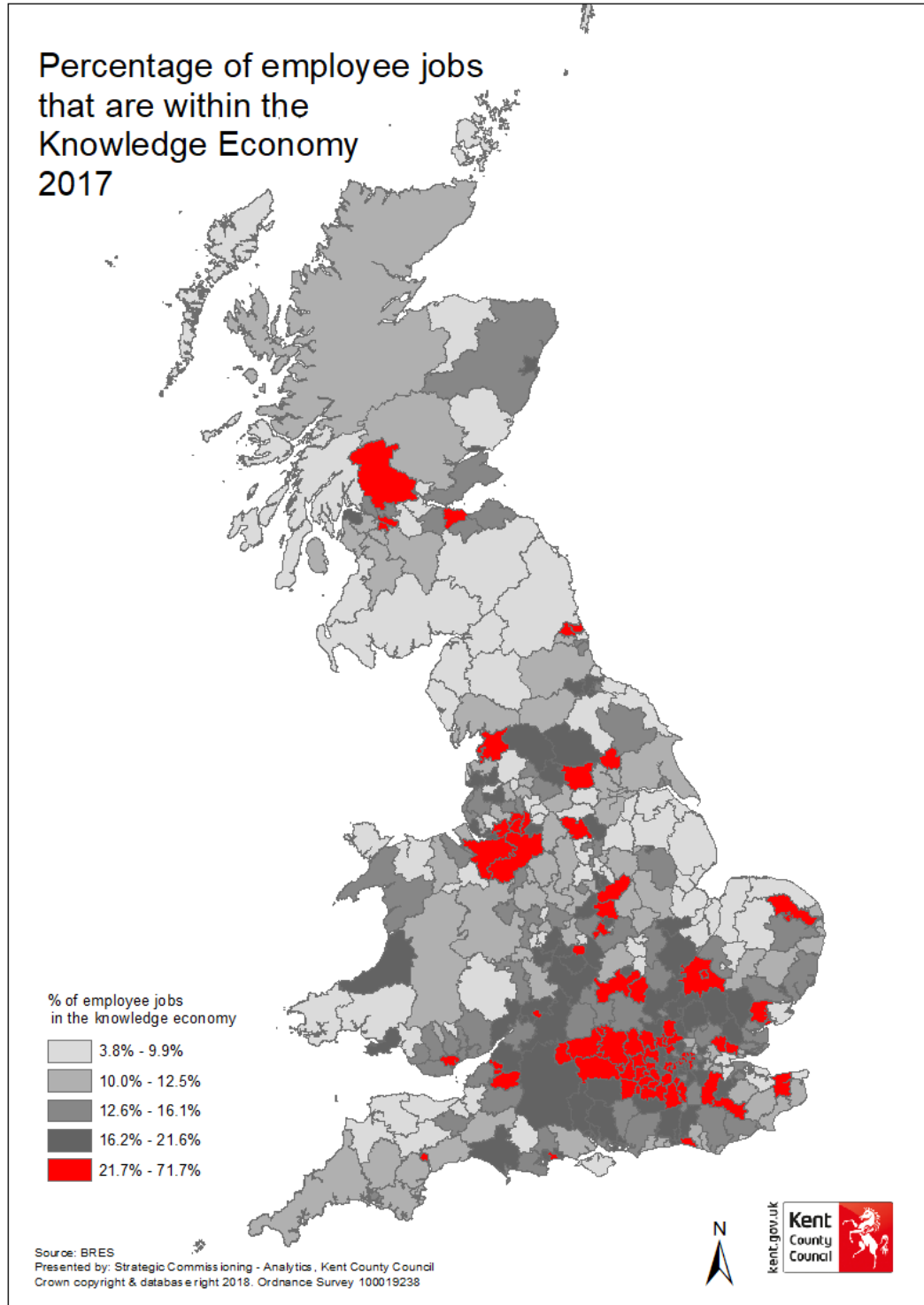
Table 1: Knowledge Economy - 2007 SIC definition

2007 SIC definition	
2007 SIC group	Description
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

Analysis

The following map shows the proportion of employee jobs which are defined as within the knowledge economy as at 2017.

Map 1



The top 20% of authorities with the highest proportion of knowledge economy employee jobs are shown in red.

The map shows a concentration of areas within and to the west of London with some of the highest proportions of knowledge economy jobs with further concentrations around the major cities in the country.

Those authorities where knowledge economy jobs make up more than a third of the employee jobs in the area are presented in table 2.

Table 2: Authorities with the highest proportion of knowledge economy employee jobs, 2017

Authority	% jobs in the Knowledge Economy 2017
City of London	71.7%
Tower Hamlets	53.5%
Islington	46.5%
Camden	44.5%
Southwark	40.5%
Cambridge	40.3%
Wokingham	39.1%
Westminster	38.6%
Oxford	38.0%
Hackney	36.0%
South Cambridgeshire	33.9%
Bracknell Forest	33.3%

Source: BRES

*Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics
Kent County Council*

Chart 1 shows the percentage of Knowledge Economy employees in Kent local authorities compared to all other local authorities in Great Britain.

Sevenoaks (25.2%), Canterbury (23.0%) and Tunbridge Wells (22.3%) are all within the top 20% of local authorities with the highest density of knowledge economy employees.

At 7.0% Gravesham has one of the lowest concentrations of Knowledge Economy jobs in the country.

Chart 1: Percentage of Knowledge Economy employee jobs in GB local authorities

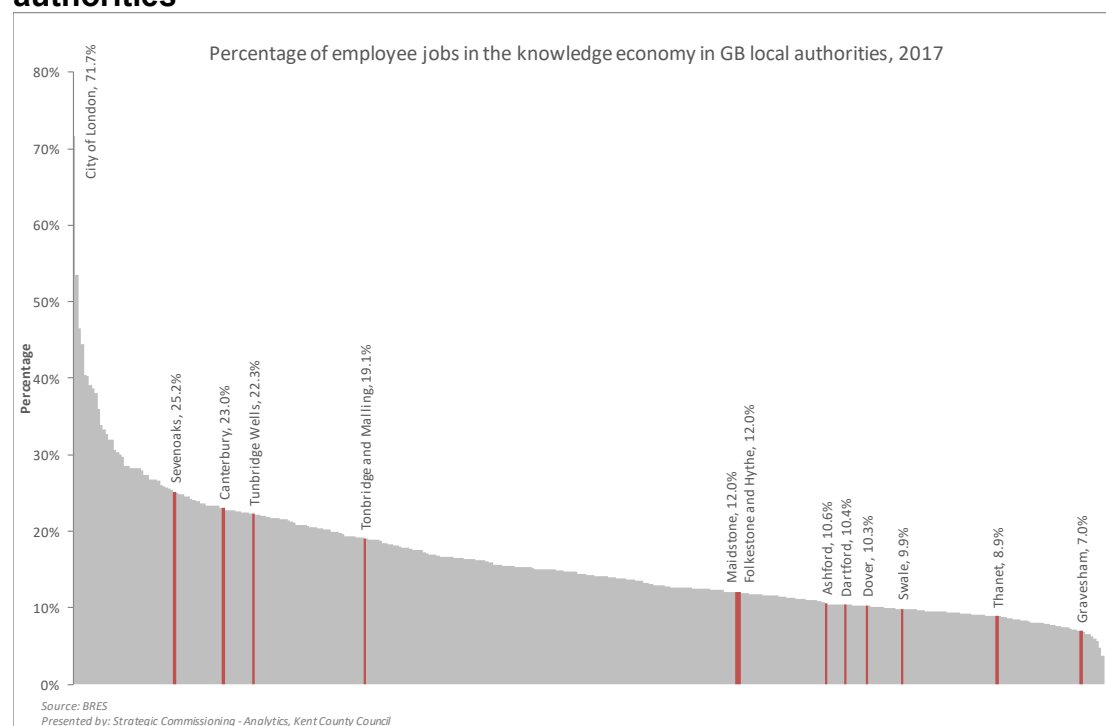


Table 3 shows the number of Knowledge Economy jobs in Kent and its local authorities from 2015 to 2017 with regional and national comparisons.

Table 3: Employee jobs in the Knowledge Economy in Kent districts, 2015-2017

	Number			Percentage			Change 2016-2017	
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	No.	%
Ashford	7,000	7,000	6,000	12.8%	12.5%	10.6%	-1,000	-14.3%
Canterbury	13,500	17,000	15,500	21.4%	26.2%	23.0%	-1,500	-8.8%
Dartford	6,500	6,500	6,000	10.4%	10.4%	10.4%	-500	-7.7%
Dover	3,800	4,000	3,500	10.9%	12.1%	10.3%	-500	-12.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	4,500	5,000	4,300	12.2%	13.7%	12.0%	-800	-15.0%
Gravesham	2,400	2,800	2,300	8.2%	9.0%	7.0%	-500	-18.2%
Maidstone	10,500	10,000	9,000	13.9%	13.2%	12.0%	-1,000	-10.0%
Sevenoaks	9,500	11,500	13,500	18.8%	22.8%	25.2%	2,000	17.4%
Swale	5,500	6,000	5,000	11.1%	11.9%	9.9%	-1,000	-16.7%
Thanet	4,300	4,300	3,800	10.2%	10.4%	8.9%	-500	-11.8%
Tonbridge and Malling	11,500	12,500	11,000	20.0%	21.4%	19.1%	-1,500	-12.0%
Tunbridge Wells	22,000	13,500	11,500	35.5%	25.2%	22.3%	-2,000	-14.8%
Kent	101,000	100,500	91,500	16.4%	16.4%	15.0%	-9,000	-9.0%
Medway	12,500	14,000	12,500	14.2%	15.2%	13.7%	-1,500	-10.7%
Kent + Medway	113,500	114,500	104,000	16.1%	16.2%	14.8%	-10,500	-9.2%
South East LEP	247,500	255,000	250,000	15.8%	16.1%	15.8%	-5,000	-2.0%
South East	897,500	932,500	849,000	22.0%	22.5%	20.7%	-83,500	-9.0%
Great Britain	5,700,500	5,927,500	5,937,500	19.8%	20.3%	20.1%	10,000	0.2%

Source: BRES

Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Overall the number of employee jobs in the Knowledge Economy has fallen by 9.0% since the previous year. This pattern is similar to that seen in the South East region as a whole (-9.2%). Nationally there has been a small growth of 0.2%.

Sevenoaks districts has the highest number of Knowledge Economy jobs in the county (13,500) accounting for just over a quarter of all jobs in the district. It is the only district in Kent to have seen growth in this sector since the previous year.

Sevenoaks, Canterbury and Tunbridge Wells all have a higher proportion of Knowledge Economy jobs than seen nationally.

Chart 2: Percentage of Knowledge Economy jobs

