

Time series of Mid-year population estimates 2003 to 2023

The 2023 Mid-year population estimates were released by the Office for National Statistics on 15 July 2024.

NOTE: Within this bulletin, “Kent,” refers to the Kent County Council (KCC) area which excludes Medway

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[Kent facts and figures](#)

This bulletin shows how the population of Kent’s local authority districts has changed between 2003 and 2023 based on the Mid-Year Population Estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Summary of findings

- The mid-2023 population estimate of Kent is 1,610,300.
- Over the past 20 years, Kent’s population has grown by 19.4% compared to 15.6% for England.
- In the last year Kent’s population grew by 1.0%. This is equal to the national rate.
- Maidstone has the largest population of Kent’s local authorities with 184,200 people.
- Gravesham has the smallest population of Kent’s local authorities with 107,700 people.
- Over the last 20 years, Dartford’s population has grown the fastest of all Kent local authorities increasing by 38.7%.
- Thanet’s population has grown the slowest over the past 20 years, increasing by 9.6%.

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Note on the data

The 2003-2023 Mid-year population estimates in this bulletin are the revised figures which were released on 15 July 2024. These replace the previously published mid-year estimates and form the new official estimates for the population of England and Wales in 2003 to 2023.

For more information on the amendments ONS have made to the population estimates please visit the [ONS website](#).

Only total population estimates are presented here but further details from the 2023 estimates are available on our [population and census webpages](#) in the bulletins and excel toolkits listed below:

- '2023 Mid-year population estimates: Total population in Kent' presents total population between 2022 and 2023.
- '2023 Mid-year population estimates: Age and Sex profile' presents the age and gender profile of each local authority district in Kent in the form of tables and population pyramids.
- 'What's causing Kent's population growth?' examines the reasons behind the changes in population.
- 'Interactive population estimates toolkit' allows access to population estimates for any chosen age group for all 12 Kent local authority districts and Kent County as a whole, between 2003 and 2023.

It is ONS policy to present all estimates rounded to the nearest hundred. Within this bulletin all numbers have been individually rounded and therefore may not sum. Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers.

The data in this bulletin will be updated in the summer of 2025 when the mid-2024 population estimates will be released.

Charts 1 and 2 present the population growth between 2003 and 2023. Charts 3 and 4 present the annual population change and percentage population change between 2002/3 and 2022/3. The figures behind the charts are presented in tables 1 and 2.

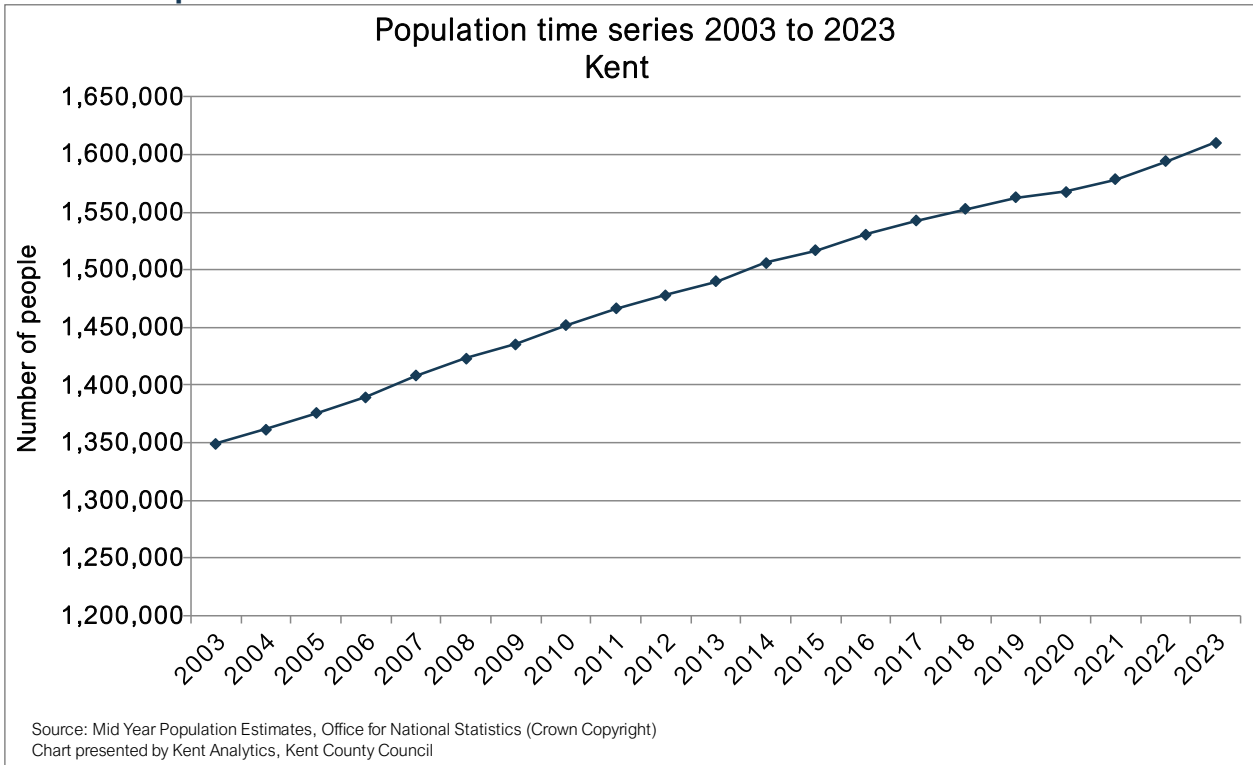
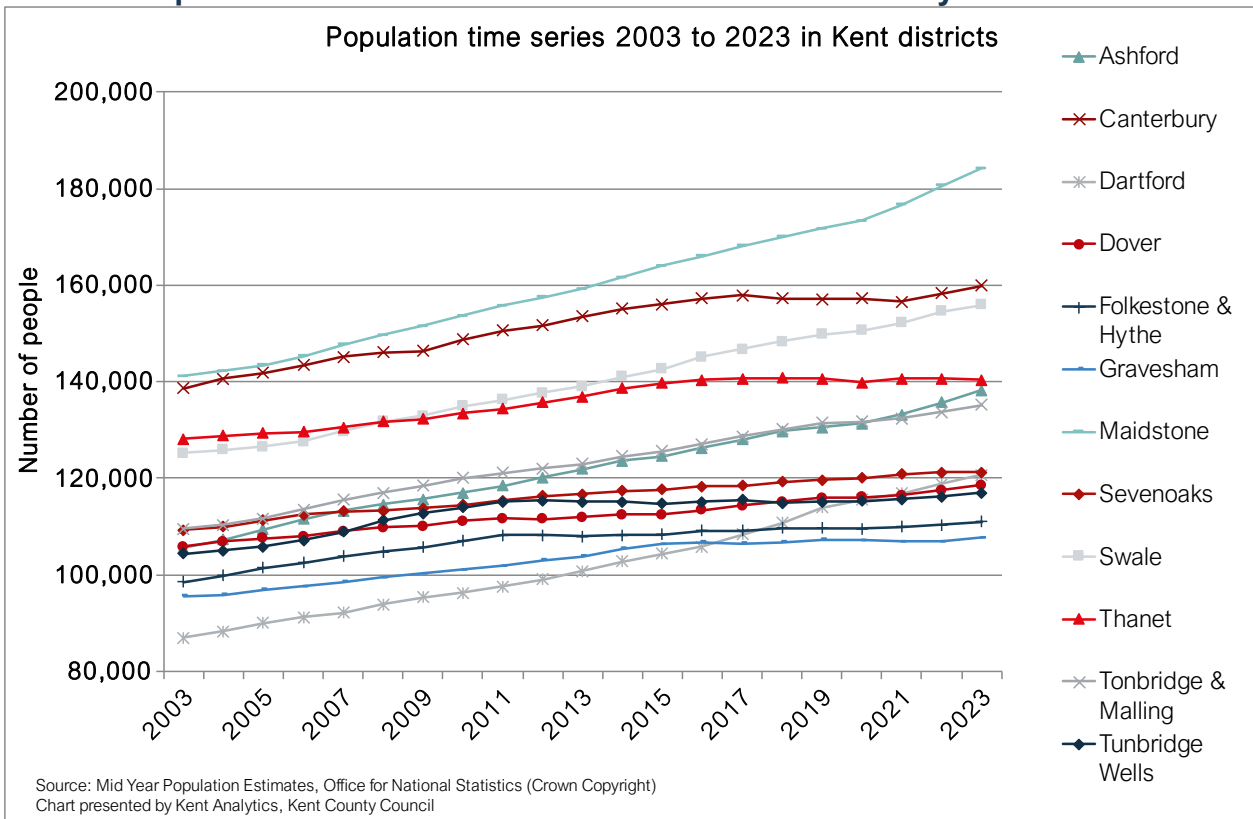
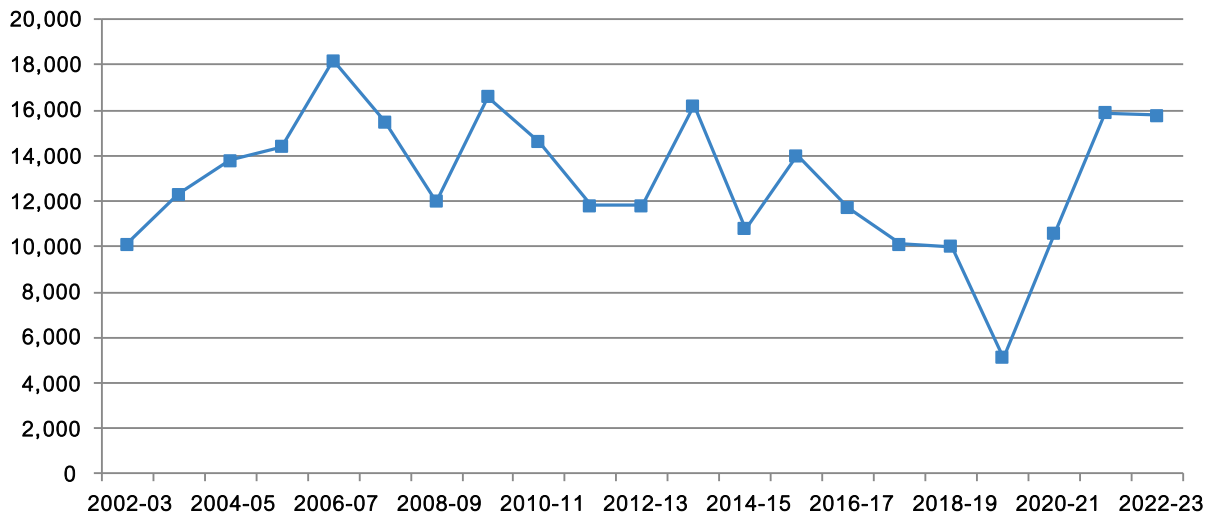
Chart 1: Population time series 2003-2023: Kent

Chart 2: Population time series 2003-2023: Kent local authority districts


Chart 3: Annual population change in Kent 2002-2003 to 2022-2023

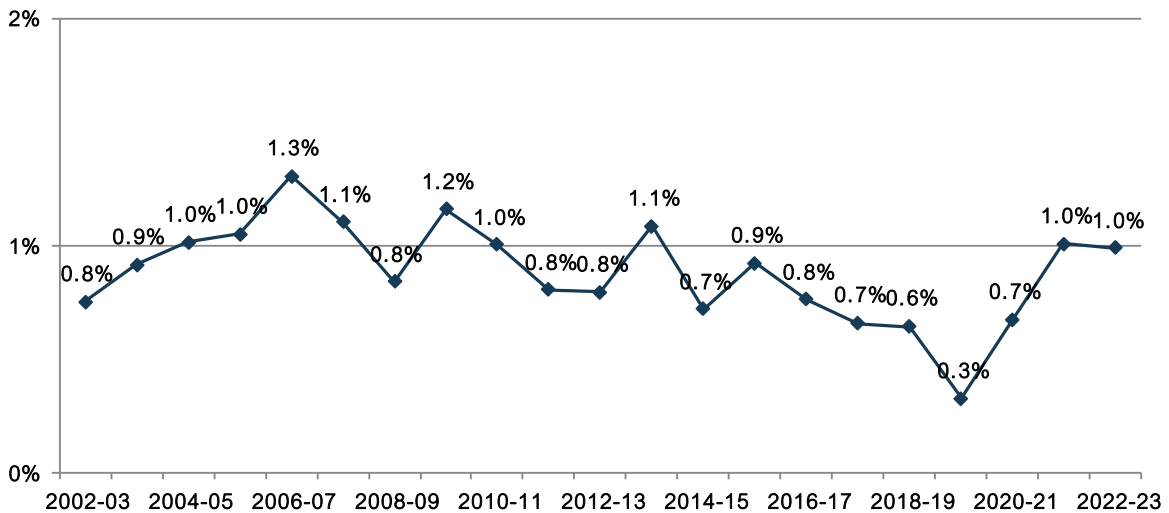
Annual population change 2002/03 to 2022/23: Kent



Source: Mid Year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)
 Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
 2012-2020 estimates are those revised in light of the 2021 Census and were released 23 November 2023
 2022 estimates revised July 2024

Chart 4: Annual percentage population change in Kent 2002-2003 to 2022-2023

Annual percentage population change 2002/03 to 2022/23: Kent



Source: Mid Year Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright)
 Chart presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
 2012-2020 estimates are those revised in light of the 2021 Census and were released 23 November 2023
 2022 estimates revised July 2024

Table 1: Mid-Year Population Estimates - 2003 to 2023 (part 1)

| Area | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kent | 1,349,000 | 1,361,400 | 1,375,200 | 1,389,600 | 1,407,800 | 1,423,300 | 1,435,300 | 1,451,900 | 1,466,500 | 1,478,300 | 1,490,000 |
| Ashford | 105,600 | 107,300 | 109,400 | 111,500 | 113,300 | 114,600 | 115,700 | 117,000 | 118,400 | 120,200 | 121,900 |
| Canterbury | 138,600 | 140,600 | 141,900 | 143,500 | 145,200 | 146,100 | 146,400 | 148,700 | 150,600 | 151,700 | 153,500 |
| Dartford | 87,000 | 88,300 | 90,000 | 91,200 | 92,200 | 93,900 | 95,300 | 96,300 | 97,600 | 99,100 | 100,800 |
| Dover | 105,800 | 106,900 | 107,500 | 107,900 | 109,000 | 109,800 | 110,100 | 111,100 | 111,700 | 111,500 | 112,000 |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 98,500 | 99,900 | 101,500 | 102,500 | 103,900 | 104,800 | 105,700 | 107,000 | 108,200 | 108,200 | 107,900 |
| Gravesham | 95,600 | 95,900 | 96,900 | 97,600 | 98,500 | 99,400 | 100,200 | 101,100 | 101,800 | 103,000 | 103,800 |
| Maidstone | 141,200 | 142,200 | 143,400 | 145,300 | 147,700 | 149,700 | 151,600 | 153,700 | 155,800 | 157,500 | 159,300 |
| Sevenoaks | 109,300 | 110,000 | 111,300 | 112,500 | 113,100 | 113,300 | 113,800 | 114,500 | 115,400 | 116,300 | 116,700 |
| Swale | 125,300 | 125,900 | 126,500 | 127,600 | 129,700 | 131,700 | 133,000 | 135,000 | 136,300 | 137,700 | 139,100 |
| Thanet | 128,100 | 128,800 | 129,300 | 129,600 | 130,600 | 131,800 | 132,300 | 133,500 | 134,400 | 135,700 | 136,900 |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 109,500 | 110,400 | 111,700 | 113,500 | 115,500 | 117,000 | 118,500 | 120,100 | 121,100 | 122,000 | 123,000 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 104,400 | 105,100 | 105,900 | 107,100 | 108,900 | 111,300 | 112,800 | 114,000 | 115,200 | 115,400 | 115,200 |
| Medway U.A. | 251,200 | 251,500 | 252,100 | 253,500 | 255,800 | 258,200 | 260,200 | 262,700 | 264,900 | 268,100 | 271,100 |
| Kent & Medway | 1,600,200 | 1,612,800 | 1,627,300 | 1,643,100 | 1,663,600 | 1,681,500 | 1,695,500 | 1,714,600 | 1,731,400 | 1,746,400 | 1,761,100 |
| South East | 8,087,900 | 8,133,100 | 8,202,900 | 8,270,900 | 8,351,400 | 8,426,400 | 8,490,900 | 8,577,800 | 8,652,800 | 8,731,800 | 8,809,400 |
| England | 49,925,500 | 50,194,600 | 50,606,000 | 50,965,200 | 51,381,100 | 51,815,900 | 52,196,400 | 52,642,500 | 53,107,200 | 53,506,800 | 53,918,700 |

Source: Population Estimates Unit, Office for National Statistics (ONS) © Crown Copyright

This table is prepared by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council, July 2024

2012-2020 estimates are those revised in light of the 2021 Census and were released on 23 November 2023

All figures are separately rounded to the nearest hundred and therefore may not sum. Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers

Table 1 continued: Mid-Year Population Estimates - 2003 to 2023 (part 2)

| Area | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Kent | 1,506,200 | 1,517,000 | 1,531,000 | 1,542,700 | 1,552,900 | 1,562,800 | 1,568,000 | 1,578,600 | 1,594,500 | 1,610,300 |
| Ashford | 123,700 | 124,600 | 126,300 | 128,000 | 129,700 | 130,500 | 131,400 | 133,200 | 135,700 | 138,300 |
| Canterbury | 155,200 | 156,100 | 157,300 | 157,900 | 157,300 | 157,100 | 157,200 | 156,600 | 158,300 | 159,900 |
| Dartford | 102,800 | 104,400 | 105,900 | 108,400 | 110,800 | 113,900 | 115,600 | 116,800 | 118,800 | 120,700 |
| Dover | 112,500 | 112,500 | 113,400 | 114,300 | 115,100 | 115,900 | 116,100 | 116,500 | 117,500 | 118,600 |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 108,200 | 108,300 | 109,200 | 109,100 | 109,700 | 109,700 | 109,600 | 110,000 | 110,400 | 111,000 |
| Gravesham | 105,400 | 106,400 | 106,800 | 106,500 | 106,700 | 107,300 | 107,100 | 106,900 | 106,900 | 107,700 |
| Maidstone | 161,600 | 164,100 | 166,000 | 168,100 | 170,000 | 171,800 | 173,300 | 176,700 | 180,600 | 184,200 |
| Sevenoaks | 117,400 | 117,700 | 118,300 | 118,500 | 119,200 | 119,600 | 120,100 | 120,800 | 121,200 | 121,300 |
| Swale | 141,000 | 142,700 | 145,200 | 146,800 | 148,400 | 149,800 | 150,600 | 152,200 | 154,600 | 155,900 |
| Thanet | 138,700 | 139,700 | 140,400 | 140,700 | 140,800 | 140,600 | 139,900 | 140,700 | 140,700 | 140,400 |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 124,600 | 125,700 | 127,100 | 128,700 | 130,100 | 131,500 | 131,800 | 132,400 | 133,700 | 135,200 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 115,200 | 114,800 | 115,200 | 115,600 | 114,900 | 115,200 | 115,300 | 115,700 | 116,200 | 117,000 |
| Medway U.A. | 274,000 | 276,000 | 277,500 | 278,700 | 278,800 | 279,900 | 280,400 | 279,900 | 282,600 | 286,800 |
| Kent & Medway | 1,780,200 | 1,793,100 | 1,808,500 | 1,821,400 | 1,831,700 | 1,842,700 | 1,848,300 | 1,858,500 | 1,877,100 | 1,897,100 |
| South East | 8,893,900 | 8,969,600 | 9,053,000 | 9,105,100 | 9,150,200 | 9,193,800 | 9,225,300 | 9,295,800 | 9,387,300 | 9,482,500 |
| England | 54,370,300 | 54,808,700 | 55,289,000 | 55,619,500 | 55,924,500 | 56,230,100 | 56,326,000 | 56,554,900 | 57,112,500 | 57,690,300 |

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Table 2: Mid-Year Population Estimates - change

| Area | 1 year 2022 to 2023 | % change 2022 to 2023 | 5-year 2018 to 2023 | % change 2018 to 2023 | 10 year 2013 to 2023 | % change 2013 to 2023 | 20 year 2003 to 2023 | % change 2003 to 2023 |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kent | 15,800 | 1.0% | 57,400 | 3.7% | 120,200 | 8.1% | 261,200 | 19.4% |
| Ashford | 2,500 | 1.9% | 8,600 | 6.6% | 16,400 | 13.5% | 32,600 | 30.9% |
| Canterbury | 1,700 | 1.0% | 2,700 | 1.7% | 6,500 | 4.2% | 21,300 | 15.4% |
| Dartford | 1,900 | 1.6% | 9,900 | 8.9% | 19,900 | 19.8% | 33,700 | 38.7% |
| Dover | 1,000 | 0.9% | 3,400 | 3.0% | 6,600 | 5.9% | 12,800 | 12.1% |
| Folkestone & Hythe | 600 | 0.6% | 1,300 | 1.2% | 3,100 | 2.9% | 12,500 | 12.6% |
| Gravesham | 900 | 0.8% | 1,000 | 0.9% | 3,900 | 3.8% | 12,200 | 12.7% |
| Maidstone | 3,600 | 2.0% | 14,200 | 8.4% | 24,900 | 15.6% | 42,900 | 30.4% |
| Sevenoaks | 100 | 0.1% | 2,100 | 1.8% | 4,600 | 3.9% | 12,000 | 11.0% |
| Swale | 1,300 | 0.8% | 7,500 | 5.0% | 16,800 | 12.0% | 30,500 | 24.4% |
| Thanet | -200 | -0.2% | -400 | -0.3% | 3,500 | 2.6% | 12,300 | 9.6% |
| Tonbridge & Malling | 1,500 | 1.2% | 5,100 | 3.9% | 12,200 | 9.9% | 25,700 | 23.5% |
| Tunbridge Wells | 800 | 0.7% | 2,100 | 1.8% | 1,900 | 1.6% | 12,600 | 12.1% |
| Medway U.A. | 4,200 | 1.5% | 8,000 | 2.9% | 15,700 | 5.8% | 35,600 | 14.2% |
| Kent & Medway | 19,900 | 1.1% | 65,400 | 3.6% | 135,900 | 7.7% | 296,800 | 18.6% |
| South East | 95,200 | 1.0% | 332,300 | 3.6% | 673,100 | 7.6% | 1,394,600 | 17.2% |
| England | 577,800 | 1.0% | 1,765,800 | 3.2% | 3,771,600 | 7.0% | 7,764,800 | 15.6% |

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Related documents

Information can be found on our [Population & Census](#) webpages about the population and 2021 Census.