

UK Business Counts 2018

Information on businesses in Kent

Related documents

[Business Demography](#) – Looking at the counts business activity during the course of the whole of the financial year

[Construction Industries in Kent](#) – the number of construction businesses in Kent and the people employed in the sector

[Creative Industries in Kent](#) - the number of creative businesses in Kent and the people employed in the sector

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The UK Business data is published annually by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and is based on output from the VAT and PAYE administrative systems.

The information provided by the UK Business dataset gives a snap shot of businesses and is broken down by size band, industry, turnover and age of business.

An additional dataset from ONS is the Business Demography dataset. This is also based on VAT and PAYE data but this information measures any activity during the course of the year, so leads to slightly higher counts of businesses. It provides information on business births, deaths and survival rates. Information on this dataset can be found in the bulletin “Business Demography”

Kent Summary

- As at March 2018 there were 61,255 enterprises in Kent
- Kent has a significantly higher proportion of enterprises (16.3%) in the wholesale industry than is seen nationally (12.4%)
- The highest proportion of enterprises in Kent (17.6%) are within the Professional, scientific and technical sector
- The majority of enterprises in Kent (89.7%) are micro enterprises (with 0-9 employees)
- The majority of enterprises in Kent (99.3%) are classed as companies which operate within the private sector.
- 62.7% of enterprises in Kent have a turnover of over £100k

Introduction

The UK Business data is produced from a snapshot of the Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR) - usually taken during March - and provides the basis for the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to conduct surveys of businesses.

The main administrative sources for the IDBR are VAT trader and PAYE employer information passed to the ONS by HM Revenue & Customs under the Value Added Tax Act 1994 for VAT traders and the Finance Act 1969 for PAYE employers; details of incorporated businesses are also passed to ONS by Companies House. ONS Survey data and survey information from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Northern Ireland (DETINI) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) farms register provide auxiliary information. Construction statistics formerly produced by the Department for Business Innovation & Skills are now produced by ONS.

The IDBR combines the information from the three administrative sources with this survey data in a statistical register comprising over two million enterprises. These comprehensive administrative sources combined with the survey data contribute to the coverage on the IDBR, which is one of its main strengths, representing nearly 99 per cent of UK economic activity.

The latest data is published for 2018 and is based upon the 2007 revision to the Standard Industrial Classification UKSIC (2007). Detailed information about the types of industry which make up each of the industrial sectors is available from the [UK Standard Industrial Classification of Economic Activities](#) published by the Office for National Statistics.

This bulletin looks at the main tables available from the UK Business data, which relate to VAT/PAYE enterprises.

This bulletin will be updated in Autumn 2019.

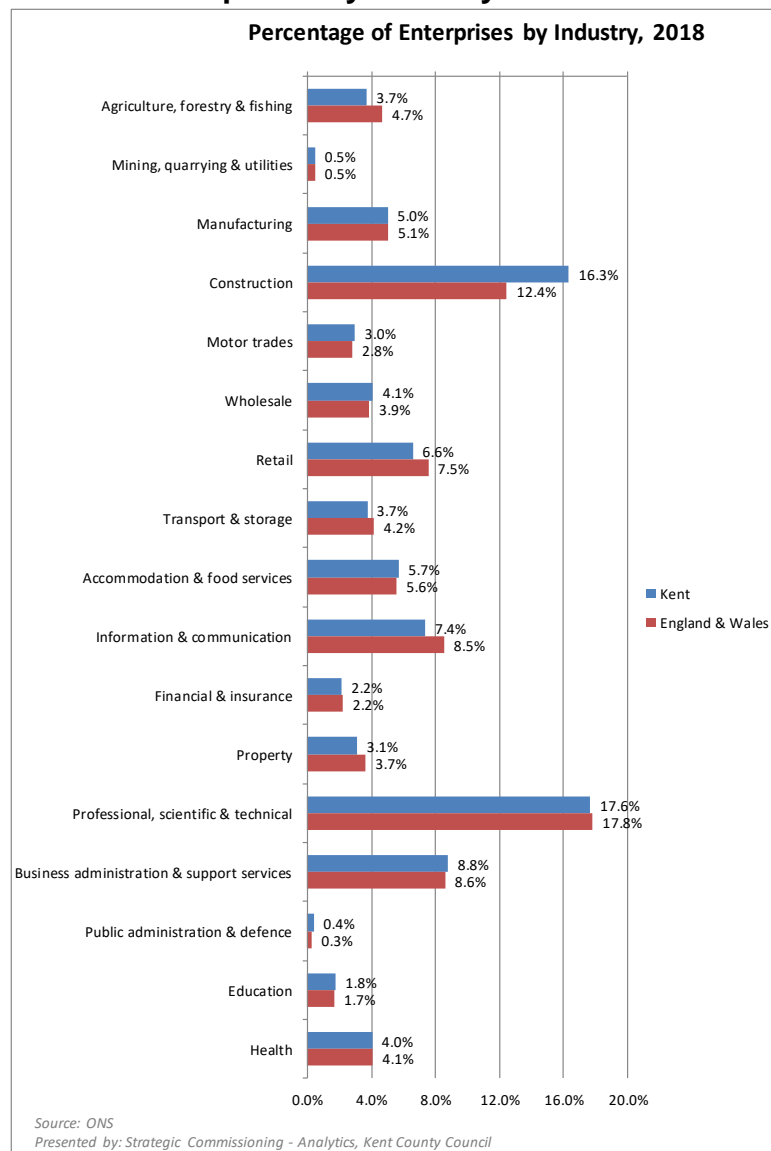
Analysis

Enterprises by Industry

The UK Business data shows us the number of enterprises by broad industrial group.

Overall Kent has a similar profile to England and Wales although does show a significantly higher proportion of enterprises in the Construction Industry and lower proportions in Agriculture and Fishing, Retail and Information & Communications industries. This is shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1: Enterprises by Industry



Tables 1 and 2 show the number and percentage of businesses by industry in Kent local authority districts and Kent as a whole. Regional and national figures are also presented for comparison.

Table 1: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2018 By Broad Industrial Group

	UK SIC 2007																		
	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Mining, quarrying & utilities	Manufacturing	Construction	Motor trades	Wholesale	Retail	Transport & storage	Accommodation & food services	Information & communication	Financial & insurance	Property	Professional, scientific & technical	Business administration & support services	Public administration & defence	Education	Health	Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services	Total
Ashford	410	30	330	870	170	475	370	160	250	405	345	210	975	535	40	85	240	305	6,205
Canterbury	175	20	230	765	150	205	440	130	410	355	85	195	905	425	15	105	255	395	5,265
Dartford	30	20	220	850	135	170	245	245	200	425	70	110	750	360	10	60	150	195	4,240
Dover	195	20	170	545	115	100	275	150	280	165	40	75	510	240	40	80	165	215	3,370
Folkestone & Hythe	205	10	165	575	120	110	295	120	335	210	40	125	610	295	15	60	155	235	3,670
Gravesham	45	15	195	805	115	105	260	320	235	250	45	105	545	340	5	70	165	205	3,830
Maidstone	300	40	370	1,360	235	295	395	390	320	465	125	230	1,260	620	30	125	305	420	7,295
Sevenoaks	200	25	310	990	200	275	370	135	250	625	160	245	1,390	655	25	115	205	400	6,580
Swale	230	40	325	920	185	170	315	250	325	250	60	135	655	385	25	80	195	275	4,820
Thanet	75	25	240	670	125	110	380	130	400	215	60	110	475	290	10	85	175	285	3,865
Tonbridge and Malling	135	30	270	935	165	245	280	170	235	515	150	165	1,200	570	25	105	230	320	5,745
Tunbridge Wells	285	20	245	700	115	255	410	95	265	635	145	210	1,525	670	20	120	245	410	6,365
Kent	2,280	300	3,075	9,990	1,830	2,515	4,035	2,295	3,500	4,515	1,320	1,915	10,800	5,380	260	1,095	2,480	3,660	61,255
Medway	75	40	450	1,785	275	320	615	505	475	575	110	210	1,260	685	10	170	410	450	8,410
Kent + Medway	2,355	340	3,525	11,770	2,105	2,835	4,645	2,805	3,975	5,085	1,430	2,125	12,060	6,065	270	1,270	2,890	4,110	69,660
South East LEP	6,010	800	9,020	29,865	5,330	6,780	11,370	6,750	8,930	12,740	3,325	5,500	28,460	14,520	585	3,055	6,805	10,085	169,930
South East Region	11,830	1,715	18,725	54,485	11,045	15,005	27,200	12,615	19,080	44,650	8,100	13,475	81,230	35,265	1,200	7,475	15,475	25,985	404,555
ENGLAND AND WALES	113,520	12,145	122,650	301,145	68,585	94,070	182,665	101,105	135,270	206,985	54,130	88,610	430,910	208,365	7,210	41,345	99,120	153,755	2,421,590

Source: ONS

Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 2: Percentage Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2018 By Broad Industrial Group

	UK SIC 2007																	
	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	Mining, quarrying & utilities	Manufacturing	Construction	Motor trades	Wholesale	Retail	Transport & storage	Accommodation & food services	Information & communication	Financial & insurance	Property	Professional, scientific & technical	Business administration & support services	Public administration & defence	Education	Health	Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services
Ashford	6.6	0.5	5.3	14.0	2.7	7.7	6.0	2.6	4.0	6.5	5.6	3.4	15.7	8.6	0.6	1.4	3.9	4.9
Canterbury	3.3	0.4	4.4	14.5	2.8	3.9	8.4	2.5	7.8	6.7	1.6	3.7	17.2	8.1	0.3	2.0	4.8	7.5
Dartford	0.7	0.5	5.2	20.0	3.2	4.0	5.8	5.8	4.7	10.0	1.7	2.6	17.7	8.5	0.2	1.4	3.5	4.6
Dover	5.8	0.6	5.0	16.2	3.4	3.0	8.2	4.5	8.3	4.9	1.2	2.2	15.1	7.1	1.2	2.4	4.9	6.4
Gravesham	5.6	0.3	4.5	15.7	3.3	3.0	8.0	3.3	9.1	5.7	1.1	3.4	16.6	8.0	0.4	1.6	4.2	6.4
Maidstone	1.2	0.4	5.1	21.0	3.0	2.7	6.8	8.4	6.1	6.5	1.2	2.7	14.2	8.9	0.1	1.8	4.3	5.4
Sevenoaks	4.1	0.5	5.1	18.6	3.2	4.0	5.4	5.3	4.4	6.4	1.7	3.2	17.3	8.5	0.4	1.7	4.2	5.8
Shepway	3.0	0.4	4.7	15.0	3.0	4.2	5.6	2.1	3.8	9.5	2.4	3.7	21.1	10.0	0.4	1.7	3.1	6.1
Swale	4.8	0.8	6.7	19.1	3.8	3.5	6.5	5.2	6.7	5.2	1.2	2.8	13.6	8.0	0.5	1.7	4.0	5.7
Thanet	1.9	0.6	6.2	17.3	3.2	2.8	9.8	3.4	10.3	5.6	1.6	2.8	12.3	7.5	0.3	2.2	4.5	7.4
Tonbridge and Malling	2.3	0.5	4.7	16.3	2.9	4.3	4.9	3.0	4.1	9.0	2.6	2.9	20.9	9.9	0.4	1.8	4.0	5.6
Tunbridge Wells	4.5	0.3	3.8	11.0	1.8	4.0	6.4	1.5	4.2	10.0	2.3	3.3	24.0	10.5	0.3	1.9	3.8	6.4
Kent	3.7	0.5	5.0	16.3	3.0	4.1	6.6	3.7	5.7	7.4	2.2	3.1	17.6	8.8	0.4	1.8	4.0	6.0
Medway	0.9	0.5	5.4	21.2	3.3	3.8	7.3	6.0	5.6	6.8	1.3	2.5	15.0	8.1	0.1	2.0	4.9	5.4
Kent + Medway	3.4	0.5	5.1	16.9	3.0	4.1	6.7	4.0	5.7	7.3	2.1	3.1	17.3	8.7	0.4	1.8	4.1	5.9
South East LEP	3.5	0.5	5.3	17.6	3.1	4.0	6.7	4.0	5.3	7.5	2.0	3.2	16.7	8.5	0.3	1.8	4.0	5.9
South East Region	2.9	0.4	4.6	13.5	2.7	3.7	6.7	3.1	4.7	11.0	2.0	3.3	20.1	8.7	0.3	1.8	3.8	6.4
ENGLAND AND WALES	4.7	0.5	5.1	12.4	2.8	3.9	7.5	4.2	5.6	8.5	2.2	3.7	17.8	8.6	0.3	1.7	4.1	6.3

Source: ONS

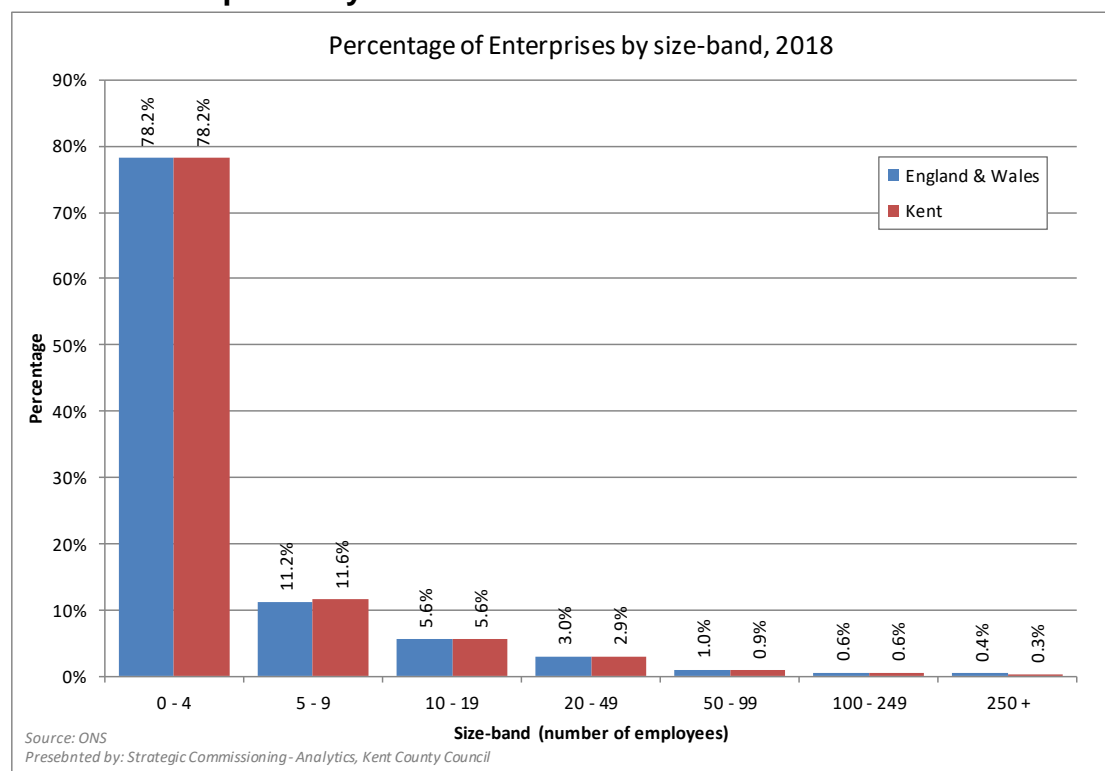
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Enterprises by employee size

The majority of enterprises are classed as micro businesses i.e. they have 0 - 9 employees. In Kent 89.7% of enterprises are classed as micro, 89.5% in England and Wales.

Chart 2 shows the proportion of enterprises in Kent and England and Wales by employment size.

Chart 2: Enterprises by sizeband



Tables 3 and 4 show an even greater breakdown of the number and percentage of enterprises by the number of employees.

The data shows that while the majority of enterprises are micro businesses employing up to 9 people, most of these actually have 0 - 4 employees (87.1% of micro businesses in Kent).

Kent has the same proportion of enterprises with 0 – 4 employees, and a slightly higher proportion with 5 – 9 employees than is seen nationally.

Table 3: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2016 By Employment Size

	Employment size							TOTAL
	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 249	250 +	
Ashford	4,995	670	285	160	50	25	20	6,205
Canterbury	3,990	670	320	175	55	25	30	5,265
Dartford	3,395	415	210	120	50	30	20	4,240
Dover	2,530	460	215	105	35	25	5	3,370
Folkestone & Hythe	2,800	490	205	120	30	15	10	3,670
Gravesham	3,050	450	170	100	25	20	10	3,830
Maidstone	5,690	820	435	200	70	50	30	7,295
Sevenoaks	5,230	725	345	180	55	25	20	6,580
Swale	3,670	610	300	135	45	40	15	4,820
Thanet	2,935	505	230	125	30	30	5	3,865
Tonbridge and Malling	4,495	610	335	195	60	30	25	5,745
Tunbridge Wells	5,090	645	350	190	55	25	10	6,365
Kent	54,540	7,995	3,875	2,000	635	390	230	61,255
Medway	47,875	7,080	3,400	1,795	565	340	200	8,410
Kent + Medway	6,665	915	475	205	70	50	35	69,660
South East LEP	133,990	18,970	9,280	4,775	1,540	865	510	169,930
South East Region	321,210	42,680	21,610	11,480	3,765	2,270	1,535	404,555
ENGLAND AND WALES	1,893,935	272,190	136,415	72,265	23,995	13,490	9,305	2,421,590

Source: ONS

Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 4: Percentages Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2018 By Employment Size

	Employment size							TOTAL
	0 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 19	20 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 249	250 +	
Ashford	80.5	10.8	4.6	2.6	0.8	0.4	0.3	100
Canterbury	75.8	12.7	6.1	3.3	1.0	0.5	0.6	100
Dartford	80.1	9.8	5.0	2.8	1.2	0.7	0.5	100
Dover	75.1	13.6	6.4	3.1	1.0	0.7	0.1	100
Gravesham	76.3	13.4	5.6	3.3	0.8	0.4	0.3	100
Maidstone	79.6	11.7	4.4	2.6	0.7	0.5	0.3	100
Sevenoaks	78.0	11.2	6.0	2.7	1.0	0.7	0.4	100
Shepway	79.5	11.0	5.2	2.7	0.8	0.4	0.3	100
Swale	76.1	12.7	6.2	2.8	0.9	0.8	0.3	100
Thanet	75.9	13.1	6.0	3.2	0.8	0.8	0.1	100
Tonbridge and Malling	78.2	10.6	5.8	3.4	1.0	0.5	0.4	100
Tunbridge Wells	80.0	10.1	5.5	3.0	0.9	0.4	0.2	100
Kent	89.0	13.1	6.3	3.3	1.0	0.6	0.4	100
Medway	569.3	84.2	40.4	21.3	6.7	4.0	2.4	100
Kent + Medway	9.6	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	100
South East LEP	78.9	11.2	5.5	2.8	0.9	0.5	0.3	100
South East Region	79.4	10.5	5.3	2.8	0.9	0.6	0.4	100
ENGLAND AND WALES	78.2	11.2	5.6	3.0	1.0	0.6	0.4	100

Source: ONS

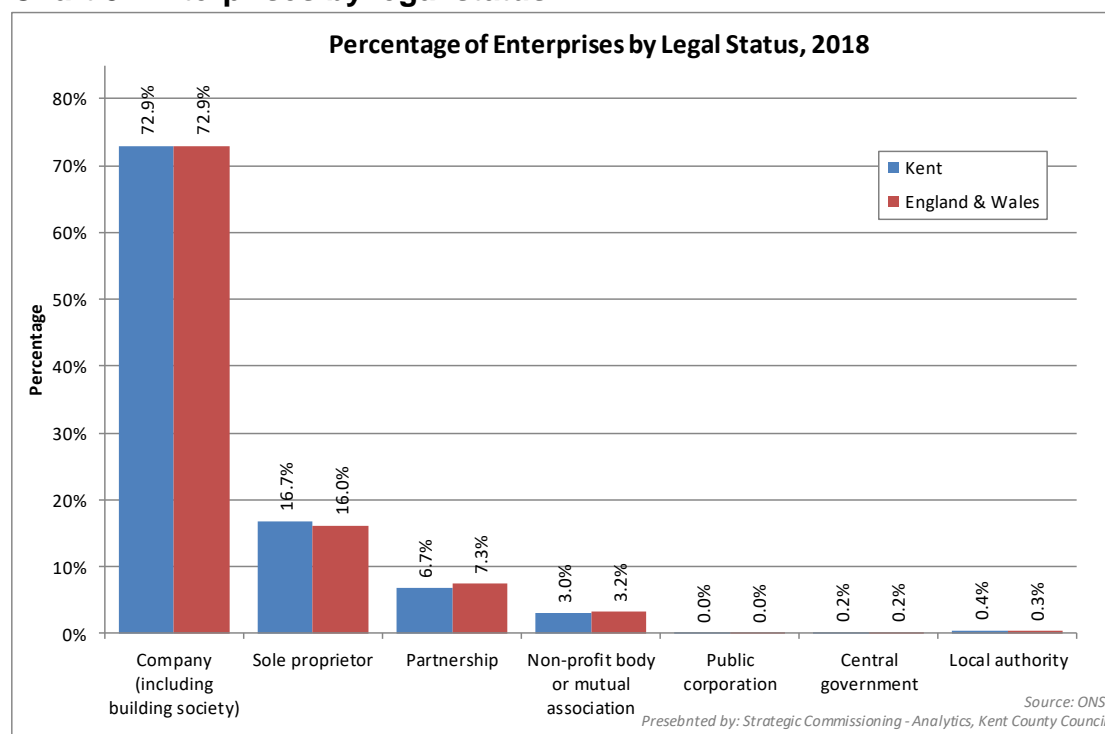
Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Enterprise by status

The data also shows the number of enterprises by legal status. The legal status of units is classified by ONS in accordance with National Accounts Sector Classifications. All enterprises engage in financial transactions, paying out and receiving money for reasons such as buying and selling goods and services, paying taxes, or collecting tax revenues. Using information received from Companies House and the administrative sources from HM Revenue & Customs, the National Accounts Sector Classification determines whether a body or enterprise is in the private or public sector, and if public, whether they are government bodies or public corporations, and whether certain transactions count as taxes or service fees.

Chart 3 shows the proportion of enterprises by legal status in Kent compared to England and Wales in 2018.

Chart 3: Enterprises by legal status



The majority of enterprises are private sector companies. In Kent they account for 72.9% of all enterprises, the same as England and Wales as a whole.

Kent has a slightly higher proportion of sole proprietor enterprises (16.7%) than is seen nationally and a slightly lower proportion of partnerships (6.7%).

Tables 5 and 6 show the legal status of enterprises in Kent local authority districts and Kent as a whole. They also present information at regional and national level for comparison.

Table 5: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2018 By Employment Status

	Private sector				Public sector			TOTAL
	Company (including building society)	Sole proprietor	Partnership	Non-profit body or mutual association	Public corporation	Central government	Local authority	
Ashford	4,250	985	500	420	0	10	40	6,205
Canterbury	3,625	990	440	180	0	10	20	5,265
Dartford	3,455	505	140	115	0	15	10	4,240
Dover	2,015	815	385	105	5	10	40	3,370
Folkestone & Hythe	2,450	780	325	90	0	10	15	3,670
Gravesham	3,020	555	160	75	0	10	10	3,830
Maidstone	5,415	1,170	485	175	0	10	35	7,295
Sevenoaks	5,085	970	345	145	0	5	30	6,580
Swale	3,400	900	350	125	0	15	30	4,820
Thanet	2,630	800	310	100	0	15	10	3,865
Tonbridge and Malling	4,480	795	285	150	0	5	30	5,745
Tunbridge Wells	4,820	950	400	175	0	5	20	6,365
Kent	44,655	10,215	4,130	1,855	5	120	275	61,255
Medway	6,380	1,360	410	215	0	30	10	8,410
Kent + Medway	51,035	11,570	4,540	2,070	5	150	290	69,660
South East LEP	126,590	26,935	11,105	4,315	10	360	620	169,930
South East Region	307,465	59,780	23,950	11,440	15	550	1,350	404,555
ENGLAND AND WALES	1,766,460	388,100	177,770	76,910	160	3,890	8,300	2,421,590

Source: ONS

Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Turnover

Turnover figures provided to ONS for the majority of traders is based on VAT returns for a 12 month period. For 2018 this relates to a 12 month period covering the financial year 2017/2018. For other records, in particular members of VAT group registrations, turnover may relate to an earlier period or survey data.

For traders who have registered more recently, turnover represents the estimate made by traders at the time of registration.

The turnover figures on the register generally exclude VAT but include other taxes, such as the revenue duties on alcoholic drinks and tobacco. They represent total UK turnover, including exempt and zero-rated supplies.

Turnover bands shown in the analyses relate to the latest year for which information is available. Traders may be registered below the VAT threshold or may choose not to de-register should their turnover fall below the threshold.

Table 7 shows the VAT registration thresholds since 2004/05.

Table 7 - VAT registration thresholds

Operative dates	VAT Registration Threshold
1 Apr 2004 - 31 Mar 2005	£58,000
1 Apr 2005 - 31 Mar 2006	£60,000
1 Apr 2006 - 31 Mar 2007	£61,000
1 Apr 2007 - 31 Mar 2008	£64,000
1 Apr 2008 - 31 Mar 2009	£67,000
1 Apr 2009 - 31 Mar 2010	£68,000
1 Apr 2010 - 31 Mar 2011	£70,000
1 Apr 2011 - 31 Mar 2012	£73,000
1 Apr 2012 - 31 Mar 2013	£77,000
1 Apr 2013 - 31 Mar 2014	£79,000
1 Apr 2014 - 31 Mar 2015	£81,000
1 Apr 2015 - 31 March 2016	£82,000
1 Apr 2016 - 31 March 2017	£83,000
1 Apr 2017 - 31 March 2018	£85,000
1 Apr 2018 onwards	£85,000

Source: HMRC

33.2% of enterprises in Kent have a turnover of between £100k and £249k. In Kent a higher proportion of enterprises have a turnover of over £100k than is seen nationally. This is shown in chart 4.

Tables 8 and 9 present the turnover data for Kent local authority districts and Kent as a whole. Regional and national figures are also presented for comparison.

Chart 4

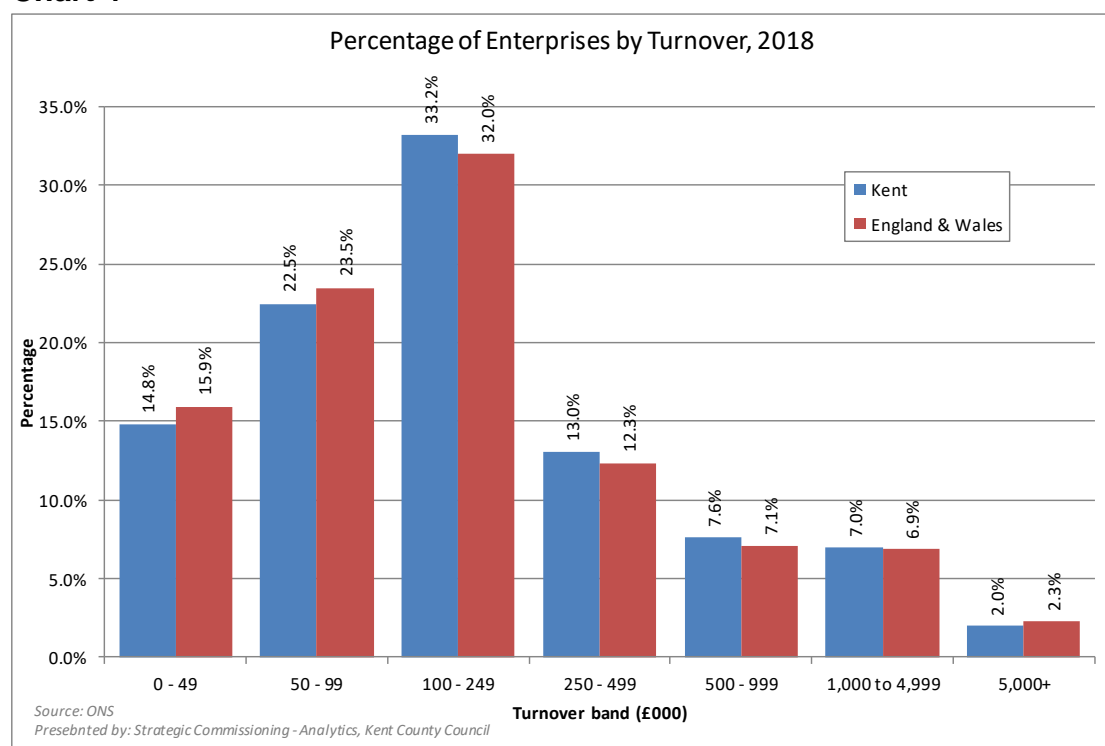


Table 8: Number Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2018 By Turnover Sizeband

	Turnover size (£ thousand)							TOTAL
	0 to 49	50 to 99	100 to 199	200 to 499	500 to 999	1,000 to 4,999	5,000+	
Ashford	1,225	1,295	1,850	810	525	405	95	6,205
Canterbury	735	1,195	1,780	685	415	360	95	5,265
Dartford	575	1,080	1,395	485	275	310	120	4,240
Dover	510	720	1,095	475	285	240	50	3,370
Folkestone & Hythe	570	845	1,275	460	245	230	45	3,670
Gravesham	585	970	1,245	480	250	250	55	3,830
Maidstone	1,115	1,605	2,330	975	585	525	160	7,295
Sevenoaks	875	1,370	2,320	845	515	495	165	6,580
Swale	675	1,150	1,495	665	400	340	90	4,820
Thanet	485	905	1,355	545	280	245	55	3,865
Tonbridge and Malling	800	1,235	1,930	740	420	460	160	5,745
Tunbridge Wells	920	1,390	2,235	825	450	415	130	6,365
Kent	9,070	13,760	20,310	7,980	4,650	4,270	1,220	61,255
Medway	1,245	2,145	2,610	1,030	660	565	160	8,410
Kent + Medway	10,315	15,900	22,920	9,010	5,310	4,835	1,370	69,660
South East LEP	24,545	39,210	56,695	21,850	12,525	11,740	3,365	169,930
South East Region	62,330	92,600	135,775	49,070	28,370	27,375	9,040	404,555
ENGLAND AND WALES	386,205	568,870	774,035	298,325	171,895	166,485	55,770	2,421,590

Source: ONS

Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 9: Percentage Of Vat And/or Paye Based Enterprises In 2018 By Turnover Sizeband

	Turnover size (£ thousand)							TOTAL
	0 to 49	50 to 99	100 to 199	200 to 499	500 to 999	1,000 to 4,999	5,000+	
Ashford	19.7	20.9	29.8	13.1	8.5	6.5	1.5	100
Canterbury	14.0	22.7	33.8	13.0	7.9	6.8	1.8	100
Dartford	13.6	25.5	32.9	11.4	6.5	7.3	2.8	100
Dover	15.1	21.4	32.5	14.1	8.5	7.1	1.5	100
Gravesham	15.5	23.0	34.7	12.5	6.7	6.3	1.2	100
Maidstone	15.3	25.3	32.5	12.5	6.5	6.5	1.4	100
Sevenoaks	15.3	22.0	31.9	13.4	8.0	7.2	2.2	100
Shepway	13.3	20.8	35.3	12.8	7.8	7.5	2.5	100
Swale	14.0	23.9	31.0	13.8	8.3	7.1	1.9	100
Thanet	12.5	23.4	35.1	14.1	7.2	6.3	1.4	100
Tonbridge and Malling	13.9	21.5	33.6	12.9	7.3	8.0	2.8	100
Tunbridge Wells	14.5	21.8	35.1	13.0	7.1	6.5	2.0	100
Kent	14.8	22.5	33.2	13.0	7.6	7.0	2.0	100
Medway	14.8	25.5	31.0	12.2	7.8	6.7	1.9	100
Kent + Medway	14.8	22.8	32.9	12.9	7.6	6.9	2.0	100
South East LEP	14.4	23.1	33.4	12.9	7.4	6.9	2.0	100
South East Region	15.4	22.9	33.6	12.1	7.0	6.8	2.2	100
ENGLAND AND WALES	15.9	23.5	32.0	12.3	7.1	6.9	2.3	100

Source: ONS

Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council