

## Food & Drink Production Industries in Kent

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

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The food and drink production industry is one of the UK's largest manufacturing sectors.

This bulletin looks at the number of food and drink production enterprises in Kent. It also looks at the number of jobs in food and drink production and the contribution of agriculture to the industry.

### Summary

- Kent has 2,390 food and drink production enterprises as at 2020 accounting for 3.7% of all enterprises in the county.
- Five Kent districts have a higher proportion of food and drink production enterprises than the national average of 4.4%
- Farming enterprises account for 88.3% of food and drink production enterprises in Kent
- As at 2019 there were an estimated 16,500 jobs in the food and drink production industry, almost two thirds of which were in crop and animal production
- Swale (7.3%) and Dover (5.0%) have some of the highest proportions of food and drink production employee jobs in the county.
- Kent had 2,714 agricultural holdings as at 2016 employing 12,957 farm workers.
- Ashford district has the largest number of agricultural holdings in the county (537) and employs 1,738 workers

## Introduction

The Government's Industrial Strategy launched in 2017 included the development of the Food and Drink Sector Council. The aim of this council is to enable industry growth through innovation and skills and the enhancement of export opportunities.

The food and drink industry is defined as all companies involved in processing raw food materials, packaging, and distributing them. This includes fresh, prepared foods as well as packaged foods, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

This bulletin looks at food and drink production industries in Kent. Data on the food and drink production industry is based on Standard Industry Classification (SIC) codes (SIC 2007). This is the main classification system used for EU industrial statistics.

2007 SIC	Food & Drink Production
<b>01</b>	<b>Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities</b>
011	<i>Growing of non-perennial crops</i>
012	<i>Growing of perennial crops</i>
013	<i>Plant propagation</i>
014	<i>Animal production</i>
015	<i>Mixed farming</i>
016	<i>Support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities</i>
017	<i>Hunting, trapping and related service activities</i>
<b>03</b>	<b>Fishing and aquaculture</b>
031	<i>Fishing</i>
032	<i>Aquaculture</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Manufacture of food products</b>
101	<i>Processing and preserving of meat and production of meat products</i>
102	<i>Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs</i>
103	<i>Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables</i>
104	<i>Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats</i>
105	<i>Manufacture of dairy products</i>
106	<i>Manufacture of grain mill products, starches and starch products</i>
107	<i>Manufacture of bakery and farinaceous products</i>
108	<i>Manufacture of other food products</i>
109	<i>Manufacture of prepared animal feeds</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>Manufacture of beverages</b>
110	<i>Manufacture of beverages</i>

The bulletin looks at the number of food and drink production enterprises using information from the UK Business Counts dataset from the Office for

National Statistics (ONS). 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. The UK Business Counts dataset 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 this point in time. It is broken down by size band, industry and turnover.

Additionally, this bulletin also looks at the number of employee jobs in the food and drink production sector using information from the Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) from ONS. 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. 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 data provides us with an estimate of employee jobs and total employment (number employees plus the number of working owners)

BRES is a sample survey and produces estimated employment figures. These 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.

The survey provides us with estimates of employees by industrial sector.

Finally this bulletin looks at agricultural holdings and labour force using information from the annual survey of agriculture and horticulture produced by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The survey takes place in June each year in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. While the survey takes place each year the sample changes each year depending on UK and EU requirements. In years such as 2013 and 2016, when the EU requires very detailed information on the structure of the UK agricultural industry, the sample size is increased. This enables DEFRA to produce good quality estimates for detailed geographies in those years. In other years the sample size is smaller to reduce the burden on farmers and detailed agriculture and horticulture statistics are not produced in those years.

An annual survey of agriculture and horticulture has been carried out since 1866. The current survey is dependent on EU requirements. While these requirements may change in future years following the UK's departure from the EU, at the time of writing they remain the same.

## Food & Drink Production Enterprises in Kent

The UK Business Counts dataset records the number of enterprises that were live as at March each year, giving a snapshot of businesses that were operating at this point in time. It is broken down by size band, industry and turnover.

All numbers are rounded at source. Values may be rounded down to zero, so all zeros are not necessarily true zeros. Totals across tables may differ by minor amounts due to the rounding methods used.

4.4% of enterprises nationally are concerned with food and drink production. The South West has the highest concentration of food and drink production enterprises accounting for 10.5% of all businesses. London has the lowest concentration (0.4%) and the South East has the second lowest (3%).

**Table 1: Food and drink production enterprises by region**

Food & drink production enterprises			Change since last year		5 year change	
2020	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>England</b>	<b>105,430</b>	<b>4.4%</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
South West	24,745	10.5%	-30	-0.1%	465	1.9%
Yorkshire and The Humber	12,280	6.5%	-15	-0.1%	160	1.3%
East Midlands	11,535	6.3%	-25	-0.2%	105	0.9%
West Midlands	13,025	5.9%	5	0.0%	320	2.5%
North East	4,120	5.8%	-15	-0.4%	70	1.7%
North West	12,555	4.7%	-40	-0.3%	120	1.0%
East	12,470	4.6%	-5	0.0%	70	0.6%
South East	12,400	3.0%	-20	-0.2%	365	3.0%
London	2,300	0.4%	120	5.5%	600	35.3%

*Ranked by percentage*

*Source: UK Business Counts*

*Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council*

3.7% of enterprises in Kent are concerned with food and drink production as at 2020. This is just below the national average but higher than the regional average.

The highest concentration of food and drink production enterprises in Kent can be found in Ashford (425 enterprises accounting for 6.5% of all enterprises in the district). Dartford has the lowest number and proportion in Kent (30 enterprises, 0.6%). 1.0% of enterprises in Medway are involved with food and drink production (90 enterprises).

**Table 2: Food & Drink Production enterprises**

Food & Drink Production industry			Change since last year		5 year change	
2020	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	425	6.5%	-5	-1.2%	0	0.0%
Canterbury	180	3.3%	0	0.0%	5	2.9%
Dartford	30	0.6%	5	20.0%	0	0.0%
Dover	200	5.6%	-5	-2.4%	-5	-2.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	225	6.0%	5	2.3%	10	4.7%
Gravesham	50	1.2%	0	0.0%	5	11.1%
Maidstone	320	4.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Sevenoaks	205	3.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Swale	235	4.7%	-5	-2.1%	5	2.2%
Thanet	80	2.0%	0	0.0%	-5	-5.9%
Tonbridge and Malling	145	2.4%	0	0.0%	5	3.6%
Tunbridge Wells	290	4.6%	-5	-1.7%	5	1.8%
Kent	2,390	3.7%	-10	-0.4%	25	1.1%
Medway	90	1.0%	0	0.0%	10	12.5%
Kent + Medway	2,480	3.4%	-10	-0.4%	30	1.2%
South East Region	12,400	3.0%	-20	-0.2%	365	3.0%
England	105,430	4.4%	-25	0.0%	2,275	2.2%

Source: UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The distribution of food and drink production enterprises in Kent and Medway is shown in map 1.

**Map 1: Food & Drink Production enterprises in Kent & Medway**

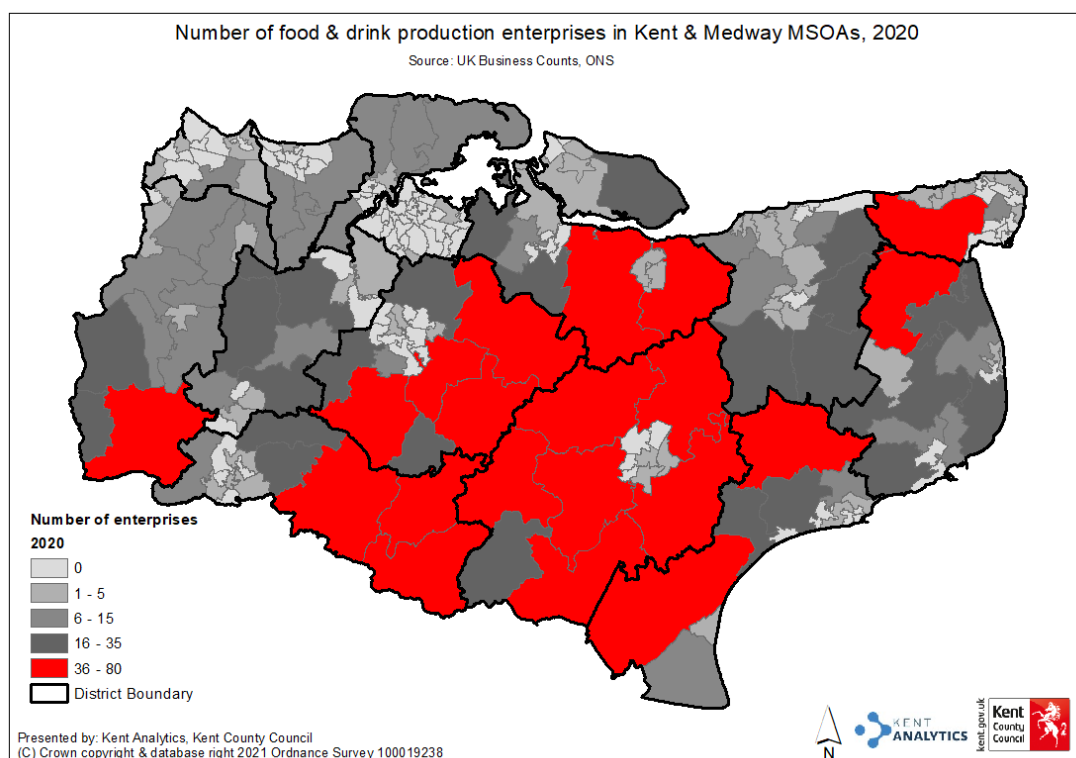
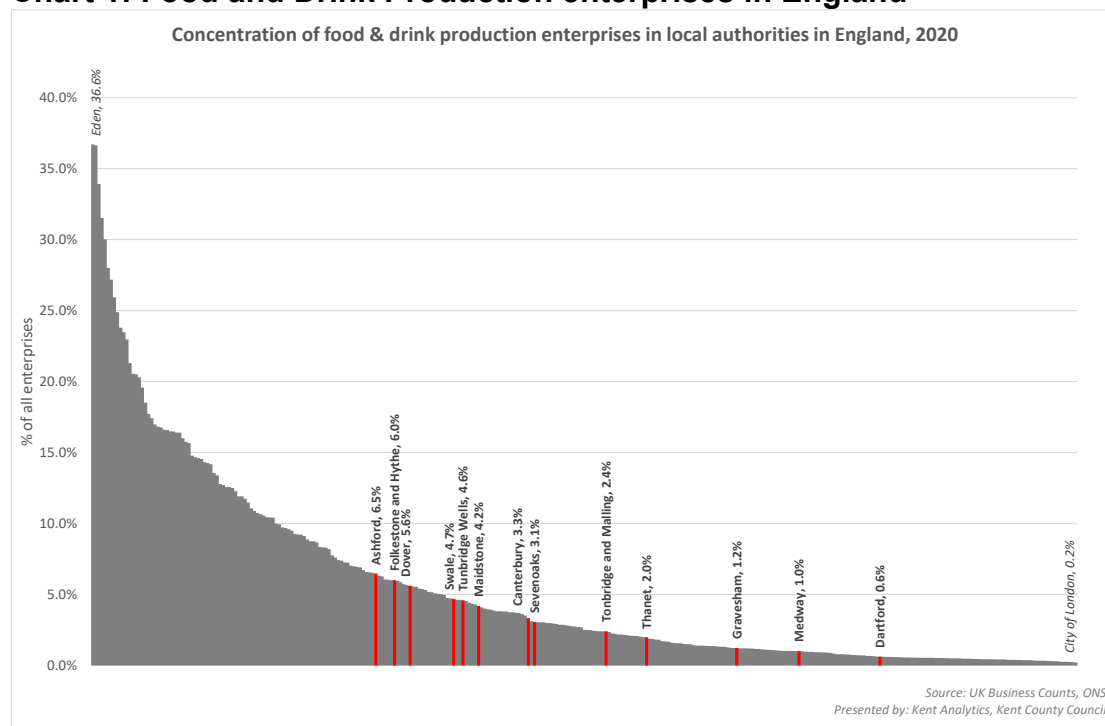


Chart 1 shows the proportion of food and drink production enterprises in local authorities in England. While no Kent district is within the top 20% of districts with the highest concentration of food and drink production enterprises in the country five districts are above the national average.

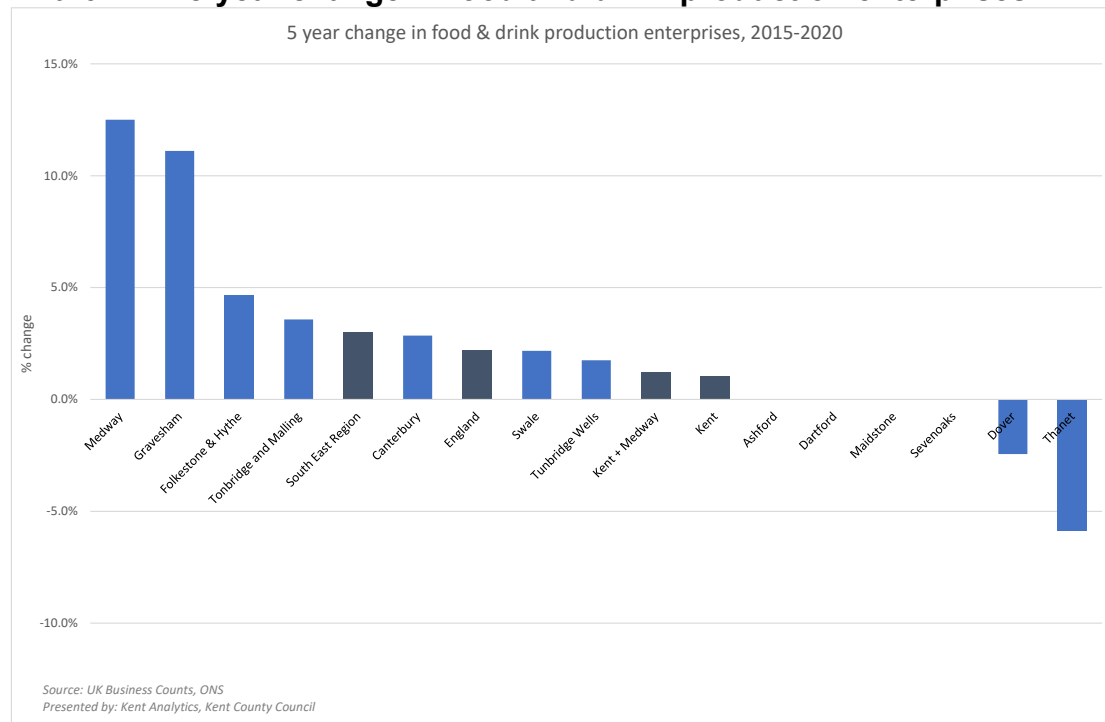
**Chart 1: Food and Drink Production enterprises in England**



Over the last five years the number of food and drink production enterprises has grown in 6 of Kent's local authorities. The exceptions are Dover (-5, -2.4%) and Thanet (-5, -5.9%) which saw a reduction in food and drink production enterprises and Ashford, Dartford, Maidstone and Sevenoaks which saw no change at all. Gravesham district saw the biggest growth in percentage terms with 11.1% more food and drink production enterprises, however Folkestone & Hythe saw the biggest increase in number of enterprises with 10 more food and drink enterprises than was seen five years previously.

The five-year change in food and drink production enterprises can be seen in chart 2.

**Chart 2: Five-year change in food and drink production enterprises**



The food and drink production sector is made up of four main subsectors: crop and animal production, fishing and aquaculture, manufacture of food products and manufacture of beverages.

Table 3 overleaf shows that crop and animal production are by far the largest part of the food and drink production industry accounting for 88.3% of the food and drink production enterprises in Kent. Enterprises involved with fishing & aquaculture make up the smallest proportion with 55 enterprises in Kent accounting for 2.3% of food and drink production enterprises in the county. Fishing and aquaculture enterprises in Kent are largely located unsurprisingly in coastal districts.

Looking in more detail at the enterprises which are classified as food and drink production industries the growing of non perennial crops and animal production make up the largest proportion of food and drink production enterprises in Kent closely followed by animal production. This can be seen in table 4.

**Table 3: Subsectors of food & drink production industry enterprises**

2020	Food and Drink Production Industries					Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities				
	Food and Drink Production Industries	Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	Fishing and aquaculture	Manufacture of food products	Manufacture of beverages	Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	Fishing and aquaculture	Manufacture of food products	Manufacture of beverages	
Ashford	425	395	5	20	5	92.9%	1.2%	4.7%	1.2%	
Canterbury	180	150	10	20	5	83.3%	5.6%	11.1%	2.8%	
Dartford	30	25	0	0	5	83.3%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	
Dover	200	180	5	10	5	90.0%	2.5%	5.0%	2.5%	
Folkestone & Hythe	225	195	10	15	5	86.7%	4.4%	6.7%	2.2%	
Gravesham	50	40	0	5	0	80.0%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%	
Maidstone	320	285	5	20	15	89.1%	1.6%	6.3%	4.7%	
Sevenoaks	205	190	0	10	5	92.7%	0.0%	4.9%	2.4%	
Swale	235	210	5	15	5	89.4%	2.1%	6.4%	2.1%	
Thanet	80	50	10	10	5	62.5%	12.5%	12.5%	6.3%	
Tonbridge and Malling	145	125	0	15	5	86.2%	0.0%	10.3%	3.4%	
Tunbridge Wells	290	265	5	20	5	91.4%	1.7%	6.9%	1.7%	
Kent	2,390	2,110	55	160	60	88.3%	2.3%	6.7%	2.5%	
Medway	90	65	0	15	5	72.2%	0.0%	16.7%	5.6%	
Kent + Medway	2,480	2,180	60	180	60	87.9%	2.4%	7.3%	2.4%	
South East Region	12,400	10,820	295	935	355	87.3%	2.4%	7.5%	2.9%	
England	105,430	94,880	1,685	6,805	2,060	90.0%	1.6%	6.5%	2.0%	

Source: UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

**Table 4: Detailed food & drink production industry enterprises**

2020	Kent	Medway	South East Region	England
<b>Total food &amp; drink production enterprises</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>12,420</b>	<b>105,455</b>
<b>Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities</b>	<b>88.3%</b>	<b>72.2%</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>90.0%</b>
<i>Growing of non-perennial crops</i>	32.0%	33.3%	28.4%	27.1%
<i>Growing of perennial crops</i>	8.2%	5.6%	2.7%	1.0%
<i>Plant propagation</i>	0.8%	5.6%	1.0%	0.6%
<i>Animal production</i>	28.2%	16.7%	35.9%	43.3%
<i>Mixed farming</i>	13.2%	5.6%	13.8%	13.3%
<i>Support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities</i>	5.6%	11.1%	5.3%	4.4%
<i>Hunting, trapping and related service activities</i>	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
<b>Fishing and aquaculture</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<i>Fishing</i>	1.9%	0.0%	1.9%	1.4%
<i>Aquaculture</i>	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.2%
<b>Manufacture of food products</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>7.5%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<i>Processing and preserving of meat and production of meat products</i>	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.7%
<i>Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
<i>Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables</i>	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%
<i>Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
<i>Manufacture of dairy products</i>	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%
<i>Manufacture of grain mill products, starches and starch products</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Manufacture of bakery and farinaceous products</i>	2.5%	11.1%	2.6%	2.2%
<i>Manufacture of other food products</i>	1.9%	5.6%	2.4%	1.7%
<i>Manufacture of prepared animal feeds</i>	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%
<b>Manufacture of beverages</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<i>Manufacture of beverages</i>	2.5%	5.6%	2.9%	2.0%

Source: UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Food and drink production enterprises by employment sizeband are shown in table 5. The majority of food and drink production enterprises in Kent (90.4%)



are micro enterprises (employing 0-9 people). Very few food and drink production enterprises in Kent are classed as large enterprises (those employing 250 people or more) and these can only be found in Canterbury, Maidstone and Swale.

**Table 5: Food & Drink production enterprises - sizebands**

Food & Drink Production enterprises	Employment sizeband					Percentage			
	Total	Micro (0 to 9)	Small (10 to 49)	Medium-sized (50 to 249)	Large (250+)	Micro (0 to 9)	Small (10 to 49)	Medium-sized (50 to 249)	Large (250+)
2020									
Ashford	425	395	25	5	0	92.9%	5.9%	1.2%	0.0%
Canterbury	180	165	15	0	5	91.7%	8.3%	0.0%	2.8%
Dartford	30	25	5	0	0	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Dover	200	180	15	5	0	90.0%	7.5%	2.5%	0.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	225	210	10	0	0	93.3%	4.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Gravesham	50	45	0	0	0	90.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Maidstone	320	290	20	5	5	90.6%	6.3%	1.6%	1.6%
Sevenoaks	205	190	15	5	0	92.7%	7.3%	2.4%	0.0%
Swale	235	205	15	10	5	87.2%	6.4%	4.3%	2.1%
Thanet	80	65	10	5	0	81.3%	12.5%	6.3%	0.0%
Tonbridge and Malling	145	125	15	5	0	86.2%	10.3%	3.4%	0.0%
Tunbridge Wells	290	260	25	5	0	89.7%	8.6%	1.7%	0.0%
Kent	2,390	2,160	170	40	15	90.4%	7.1%	1.7%	0.6%
Medway	90	70	10	5	0	77.8%	11.1%	5.6%	0.0%
Kent + Medway	2,480	2,235	180	50	15	90.1%	7.3%	2.0%	0.6%
South East Region	12,400	11,500	720	140	45	92.7%	5.8%	1.1%	0.4%
England	105,430	99,520	4,675	960	270	94.4%	4.4%	0.9%	0.3%

Source: UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

70.5% of Kent food and drink production enterprises have an annual turnover of under £200,000, this reflects a similar picture to that seen nationally (73.2%) and regionally (72.1%).

**Table 6: Food & Drink production enterprises – turnover**

2020	Number of Food & Drink Production industry enterprises				% of Food & Drink Production enterprises			
	Kent	Medway	South East	England	Kent	Medway	South East	England
<b>Total</b>	2,390	90	12,400	105,430	100%	100%	100%	100%
0 to 49 (thousand)	540	10	2,975	27,835	22.6%	11.1%	24.0%	26.4%
50 to 99 (thousand)	495	20	2,480	21,095	20.7%	22.2%	20.0%	20.0%
100 to 199 (thousand)	650	25	3,490	28,275	27.2%	27.8%	28.1%	26.8%
200 to 499 (thousand)	275	15	1,540	13,060	11.5%	16.7%	12.4%	12.4%
500 to 999 (thousand)	180	10	965	7,950	7.5%	11.1%	7.8%	7.5%
1000 to 1999 (thousand)	120	5	495	3,740	5.0%	5.6%	4.0%	3.5%
2000 to 4999 (thousand)	75	5	255	1,945	3.1%	5.6%	2.1%	1.8%
5000 to 9999 (thousand)	20	0	85	615	0.8%	0.0%	0.7%	0.6%
10000 to 49999 (thousand)	25	5	90	635	1.0%	5.6%	0.7%	0.6%
50000+ (thousand)	5	0	30	270	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%

Source: UK Business Counts

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Employee jobs in Food and Drink Production

The Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) provides us with estimates of the number of employee jobs by industrial sector. The food and

drink production sector used in this bulletin is defined using the 2007 Standard Industrial Classification (2007SIC). All numbers are rounded at source. Values may be rounded down to zero, so all zeros are not necessarily true zeros.

1.9% of employee jobs in England are in food and drink production. This has grown by 5.7% (+27,000 jobs) since 2015.

The East Midlands region has the highest number and proportion of jobs in food and drink production. The South East region has the third lowest proportion (1.3%) and is below the national average.

**Table 7: Food & drink production employee jobs by region**

	Number of employee jobs in food & drink production					Percentage of employee jobs in food & drink production					Change 2015-2019	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	No.	%
<b>England</b>	<b>476,000</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>491,500</b>	<b>488,500</b>	<b>503,000</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
East Midlands	74,500	76,500	77,500	78,500	75,000	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%	500	0.7%
Yorkshire and The Humber	63,500	75,000	75,500	69,500	70,500	2.7%	3.2%	3.2%	2.9%	2.9%	7,000	11.0%
South West	59,000	60,500	55,000	57,000	57,500	2.5%	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	-1,500	-2.5%
East	55,000	56,500	61,000	60,000	59,500	2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	4,500	8.2%
West Midlands	58,000	57,000	54,000	54,500	54,000	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	-4,000	-6.9%
North West	67,000	71,500	65,500	59,500	67,500	2.1%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%	2.0%	500	0.7%
South East	56,000	50,500	57,500	56,500	62,000	1.4%	1.2%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	6,000	10.7%
North East	14,500	15,500	13,500	18,500	15,500	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.8%	1.4%	1,000	6.9%
London	28,500	26,500	32,500	35,000	41,500	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	13,000	45.6%

All data rounded to nearest 100

Ranked by 2019 %

Source: BRES

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Kent has a higher proportion of food and drink production jobs than the regional and national average. As at 2019 there were 16,500 employee jobs in food and drink production in Kent, accounting for 2.6% of all jobs in the county.

**Table 8: Food and drink production employee jobs**

Food & Drink Production Industry	Number					Percentage					Change 2015-2019	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	No.	%
Ashford	1,900	1,600	1,800	1,900	2,000	3.4%	2.9%	3.1%	3.4%	3.4%	100	6.7%
Canterbury	1,000	900	1,100	1,600	1,600	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%	2.4%	2.4%	700	71.1%
Dartford	500	500	900	600	600	0.8%	0.8%	1.5%	0.9%	1.0%	100	20.0%
Dover	1,600	1,500	1,800	1,600	1,800	4.7%	4.5%	5.1%	4.9%	5.0%	100	7.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	300	300	400	400	400	0.9%	0.8%	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	100	30.8%
Gravesham	600	600	600	100	100	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%	0.4%	0.4%	-400	-76.4%
Maidstone	2,300	2,100	2,400	2,300	2,400	3.0%	2.8%	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%	100	5.6%
Sevenoaks	800	600	700	600	700	1.6%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	-200	-18.8%
Swale	2,800	2,500	3,000	3,800	3,800	5.6%	5.0%	5.9%	7.3%	7.3%	1,000	36.4%
Thanet	400	400	400	400	400	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	100	13.3%
Tonbridge and Malling	1,800	1,500	1,800	1,800	1,500	3.0%	2.6%	3.0%	3.0%	2.4%	-300	-14.3%
Tunbridge Wells	1,600	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,600	2.6%	2.3%	2.9%	2.9%	3.1%	0	0.0%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>Medway</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>Kent + Medway</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>56,000</b>	<b>50,500</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>56,500</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>476,000</b>	<b>490,000</b>	<b>491,500</b>	<b>488,500</b>	<b>503,000</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>5.7%</b>

Data rounded to nearest 100

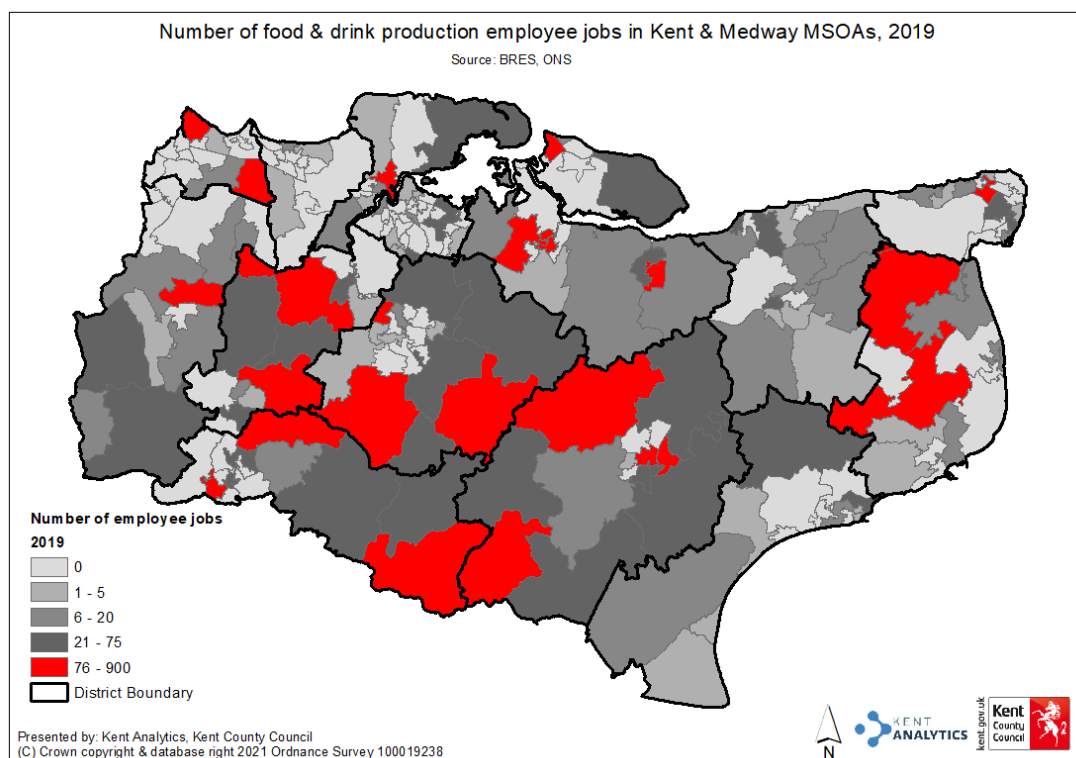
Source: BRES

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Swale and Maidstone have the highest number of food and drink production jobs in Kent (Swale 3,000 and Maidstone 2,300 employees) accounting for 5.9% and 3.0% of the employee jobs within each district respectively.

Swale (7.3%) and Dover (5.0%) have the highest proportion of food and drink production jobs in the county. Swale district has seen the biggest increase in food and drink production jobs since 2015 with 1,000 more jobs within the industry, an increase of 36.4%.

## Map 2: Workers in the food and drink production in Kent & Medway



When compared to other authorities in England, Swale and Dover are within the top 20% of local authorities with the highest proportion of employee jobs in the food and drink production industry in the country.

### Chart 3: Employee jobs in food and drink production in English authorities

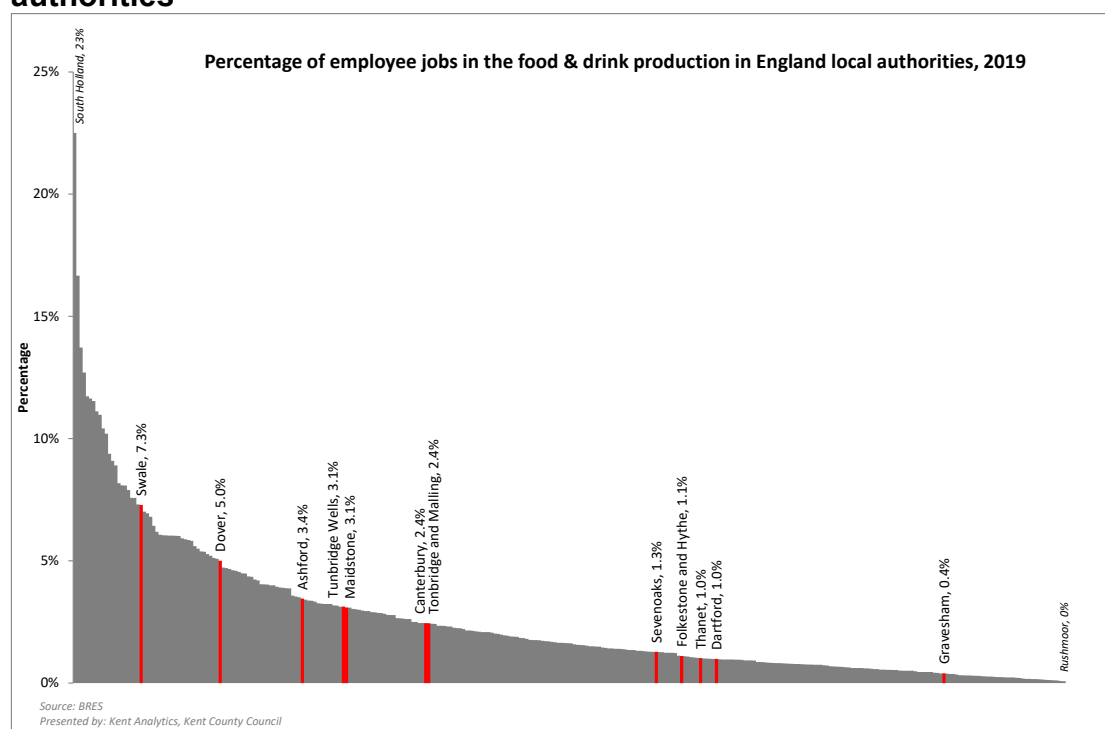


Table 9 shows the number of jobs in those industries which make up the food and drink production sector.

**Table 9: Subsectors of food & drink production employee jobs**

2019	Total Food & Drink Production	Number				% of total food & drink production employees			
		Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	Fishing and aquaculture	Manufacture of food products	Manufacture of beverages	Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	Fishing and aquaculture	Manufacture of food products	Manufacture of beverages
Ashford	2,000	1,300	0	600	200	62.5%	0.5%	27.5%	9.0%
Canterbury	1,600	1,400	0	100	0	84.6%	1.5%	7.4%	1.8%
Dartford	600	100	0	500	0	12.5%	0.0%	83.3%	0.8%
Dover	1,800	800	0	1,000	0	42.9%	0.3%	57.1%	1.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	400	200	0	200	0	56.5%	3.5%	37.6%	2.4%
Gravesham	100	100	0	0	0	76.9%	0.0%	11.5%	7.7%
Maidstone	2,400	1,800	0	500	100	73.7%	0.4%	20.0%	5.1%
Sevenoaks	700	400	0	200	100	57.7%	0.0%	33.8%	7.7%
Swale	3,800	2,500	0	1,000	300	66.7%	0.0%	25.3%	6.7%
Thanet	400	200	0	200	0	41.2%	1.2%	49.4%	7.1%
Tonbridge and Malling	1,500	1,300	0	200	0	83.3%	1.0%	16.0%	1.0%
Tunbridge Wells	1,600	900	0	800	0	55.4%	1.5%	46.2%	0.9%
<b>Kent</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>63.6%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>30.3%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>Medway</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71.4%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>Kent + Medway</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>64.9%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>4.3%</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>42.7%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>503,000</b>	<b>148,500</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>319,500</b>	<b>33,000</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>63.5%</b>	<b>6.6%</b>

All data is rounded to nearest 100

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Source: BRES

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The majority of food and drink production jobs in Kent (63.6%) are within crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities. This is

considerably higher than is seen nationally where crop and animal production account for a far smaller proportion of jobs (29.5%). This reflects the importance of the agricultural industry to food and drink production within Kent.

Table 10 shows more detailed information about the jobs within each of the industries within the food and drink production sector. Detailed information for crop and animal production is unavailable from this dataset however further information about the agricultural industry and agricultural jobs in Kent can be found in the final section of this bulletin.

**Table 10: Detailed food & drink production industry employees**

2019	Kent	Medway	South East Region	England
<b>Total food &amp; drink production enterprises</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>486,000</b>
<b>Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities</b>	<b>65.6%</b>	<b>72.2%</b>	<b>53.9%</b>	<b>30.2%</b>
<i>Growing of non-perennial crops</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Growing of perennial crops</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Plant propagation</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Animal production</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Mixed farming</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Support activities to agriculture and post-harvest crop activities</i>	3.8%	3.9%	3.9%	2.8%
<i>Hunting, trapping and related service activities</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
<b>Fishing and aquaculture</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<i>Fishing</i>	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.3%
<i>Aquaculture</i>	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%
<b>Manufacture of food products</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>27.8%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>65.0%</b>
<i>Processing and preserving of meat and production of meat products</i>	4.1%	2.2%	4.3%	13.5%
<i>Processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	1.7%
<i>Processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables</i>	9.4%	1.7%	5.7%	6.1%
<i>Manufacture of vegetable and animal oils and fats</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%
<i>Manufacture of dairy products</i>	0.7%	0.0%	3.0%	4.2%
<i>Manufacture of grain mill products, starches and starch products</i>	0.1%	13.9%	1.5%	1.7%
<i>Manufacture of bakery and farinaceous products</i>	7.0%	3.3%	13.0%	17.0%
<i>Manufacture of other food products</i>	9.4%	4.4%	15.7%	17.6%
<i>Manufacture of prepared animal feeds</i>	1.3%	0.3%	2.0%	2.6%
<b>Manufacture of beverages</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>
<i>Manufacture of beverages</i>	4.7%	4.2%	7.0%	6.7%

Detailed information about agricultural employees is not available

All data is individually rounded at source and so percentages may not sum to 100%

Source: BRES

Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Agricultural Industry in Kent

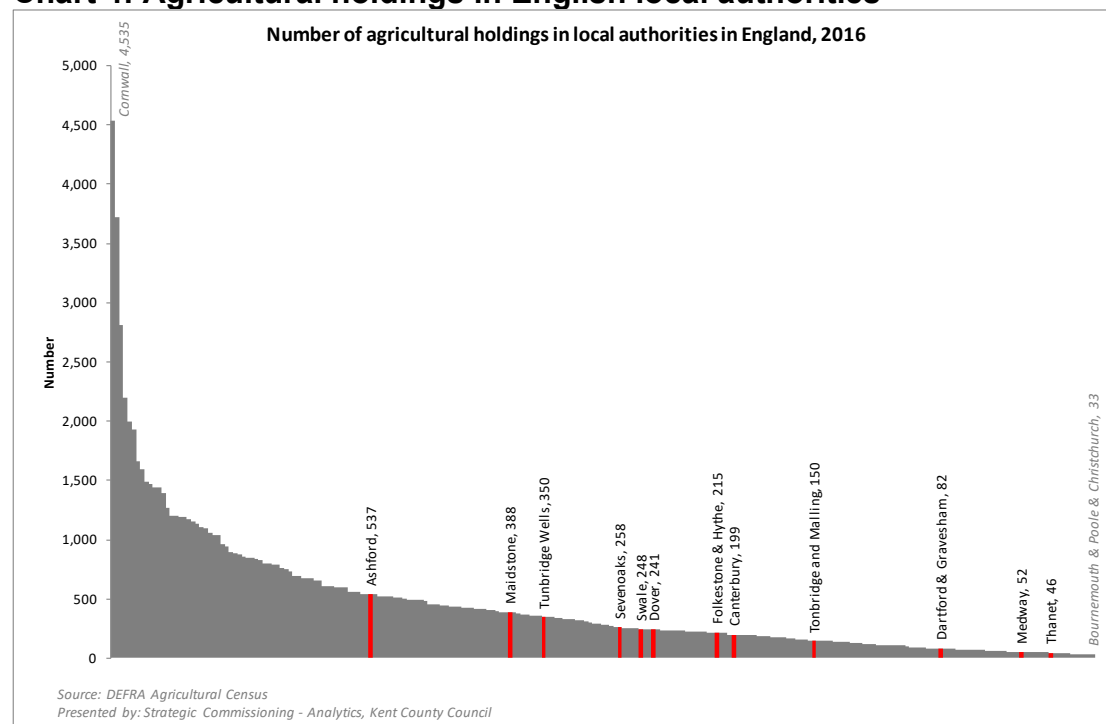
This bulletin has shown that agriculture accounts for a huge part of the food and drink production sector in both the number of enterprises and the number of people it employs.

This section looks at information from the survey of agriculture and horticulture produced by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It provides estimates of agricultural holdings and workers. The latest data is for 2016.

As at June 2016 there were 2,714 agricultural holdings in Kent.

Chart 4 shows the number of agricultural holdings in Kent and Medway local authorities in 2016 compared to other authorities in England.

**Chart 4: Agricultural holdings in English local authorities**



More than half the agricultural holdings in Kent (52.6%) were involved with growing of plants and vegetables (cereals, cropping and horticulture) and 39.2% with animal production.

**Table 11: Agricultural holdings**

2016	Kent	Medway	South East Region	England
<b>Total holdings</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13,252</b>	<b>106,853</b>
<i>Cereals</i>	554	17	2,628	19,118
<i>General Cropping</i>	495	-	2,358	17,728
<i>Horticulture</i>	378	11	914	4,259
<i>Specialist Pigs</i>	35	0	170	1,953
<i>Specialist Poultry</i>	49	0	262	2,495
<i>Dairy</i>	48	0	321	6,470
<i>Grazing Livestock</i>	0	0	0	12,559
<i>Grazing Livestock (Lowland)</i>	933	13	5,322	32,369
<i>Mixed</i>	197	-	1,161	8,833
<i>Unclassified</i>	25	0	116	1,069

Source: DEFRA Agricultural Census: Structure of the agricultural industry  
Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Ashford district has the largest number of agricultural holdings covering some 44,737 hectares. Arable and cereal crops cover a large proportion of that land. It also has the highest head of cattle, sheep and pigs. Dartford and

Gravesham have the lowest amount of farmed land. Tunbridge Wells district has the highest number of poultry having at least 6 times as many as any other local authority.

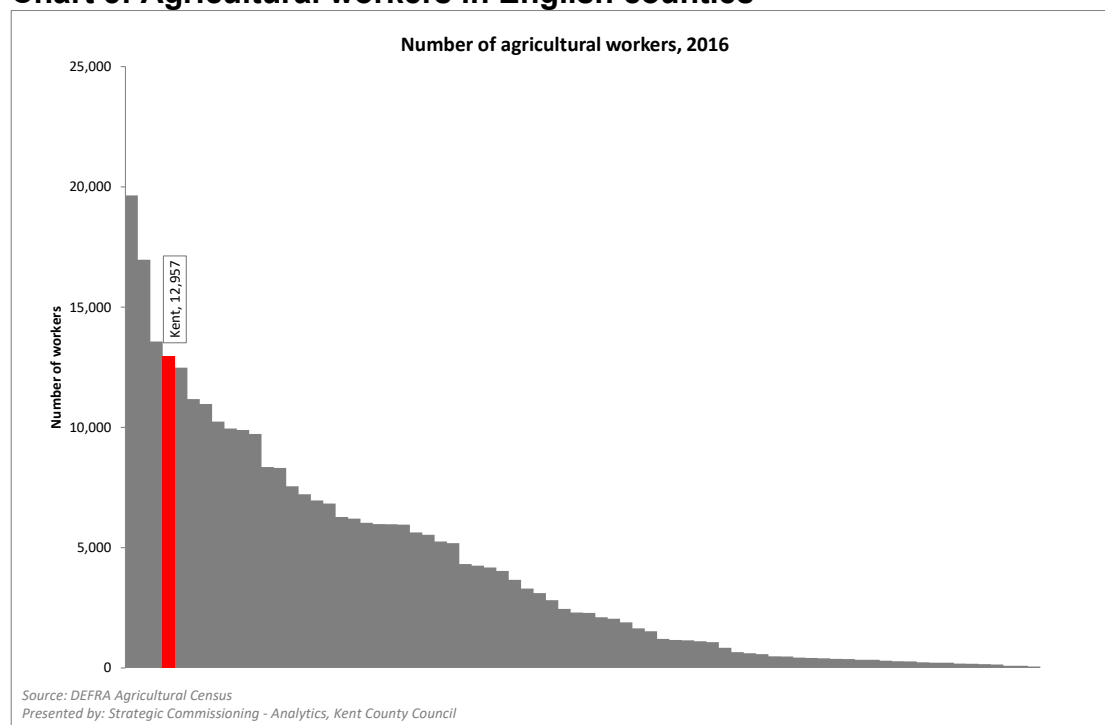
**Table 12: Agricultural holdings in Kent & Medway local authority districts**

2016	Number of holdings	Hectares					Number of livestock			
		Total farmed area	Cereals	Arable crops (excl cereals)	Fruit and vegetables	Grassland	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Poultry
Ashford	537	44,737	14,989	7,874	662	16,061	12,648	93,979	6,392	245,667
Canterbury	199	19,029	6,693	2,737	1,994	4,923	4,775	15,618	2,430	85,948
Dartford & Gravesham	82	6,055	2,666	1,141	434	1,252	1,084	1,771	123	1,050
Dover	241	24,858	9,432	5,259	1,069	6,009	6,908	12,547	1,665	16,655
Folkestone & Hythe	215	23,634	9,016	5,183	151	7,817	5,216	56,795	396	63,119
Maidstone	388	24,261	7,594	3,483	1,998	8,008	5,091	33,108	926	32,915
Sevenoaks	258	20,038	4,714	2,320	94	9,548	9,015	18,969	678	54,532
Swale	248	24,018	8,162	4,641	2,075	7,041	4,890	21,530	1,701	68,123
Thanet	46	7,073	3,040	2,199	255	803	-	2,094	-	-
Tonbridge And Malling	150	10,295	2,917	1,558	1,088	2,706	1,950	4,320	1,295	13,900
Tunbridge Wells	350	17,334	3,735	2,091	1,551	7,779	5,697	31,934	2,580	1,491,207
Medway	52	8,252	2,380	881	848	3,522	2,229	8,649	-	664

Source: DEFRA Agricultural Census: Structure of the agricultural industry  
Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

With 12,957 farm workers Kent has the fourth highest agricultural workforce in the country after Devon, North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

**Chart 5: Agricultural workers in English counties**



Source: DEFRA Agricultural Census  
Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

40% of the agricultural workers in Kent are employed as casual workers, those employed for seasonal work, a far higher proportion than the national average of 14.6%.

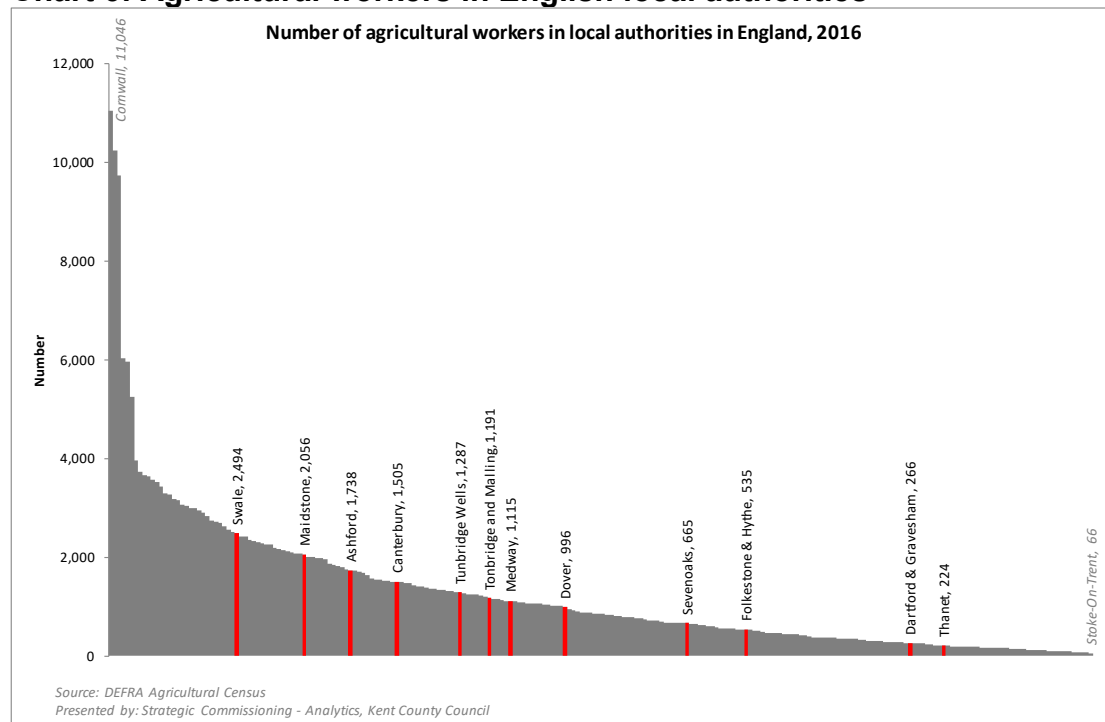
**Table 13: Agricultural labour**

2016	Kent CC	Medway	South East (incl. London)	England
<b>Total labour</b>	<b>12,957</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>46,046</b>	<b>301,507</b>
<i>Farmers, partners, directors and spouses full time</i>	1,833	55	8,924	88,833
<i>Farmers, partners, directors and spouses part time</i>	2,290	45	11,164	84,250
<i>Salaried managers</i>	501	22	2,344	11,315
<i>Regular workers full time</i>	1,803	263	8,759	46,581
<i>Regular workers part time</i>	1,013	20	4,088	26,634
<i>Casual workers</i>	5,517	709	10,768	43,894

Source: DEFRA Agricultural Census: Structure of the agricultural industry  
Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Swale and Maidstone are within the top 20% of local authorities in England with the highest number of agricultural workers. Thanet and Dartford and Gravesham are within the bottom 20% with the fewest.

**Chart 6: Agricultural workers in English local authorities**



Swale district has the highest number of agricultural workers in the county with 2,494 workers. This has grown by a third over the last three years.

Canterbury district has also seen considerable growth with 523 more agricultural workers, an increase of 53.3% between 2013 and 2016.

Thanet district has the fewest agricultural workers (224) and has seen very little change over recent years.



Seven districts now have fewer agricultural workers than in 2013. Dartford and Gravesham have seen the biggest reduction with 436 fewer people employed in agriculture, a fall of 62.1% over the last three years.

**Table 14: Agricultural labour in Kent districts**

Agricultural workers	2013	2016	Change 2013-2016	
			Number	%
Ashford	1,712	1,738	26	1.5
Canterbury	981	1,505	523	53.3
Dartford & Gravesham	702	266	-436	-62.1
Dover	1,044	996	-48	-4.6
Folkestone & Hythe	551	535	-16	-2.9
Maidstone	2,098	2,056	-43	-2.0
Sevenoaks	677	665	-11	-1.7
Swale	1,867	2,494	626	33.6
Thanet	218	224	6	2.9
Tonbridge And Malling	1,219	1,191	-28	-2.3
Tunbridge Wells	1,402	1,287	-115	-8.2
Medway	1,041	1,115	74	7.1

Source: DEFRA Agricultural Census: Structure of the agricultural industry  
Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council

Looking at the ratio of farm workers to farm holdings Kent has a higher ratio than that seen nationally, with 4.8 workers for every holding in Kent compared to 2.8 in England as a whole. Medway has a ratio of 21.4 workers per holding.

**Table 15: Ratio of agricultural labour to holdings**

2016	Kent	Medway	South East Region	England
Total holdings	2,714	52	13,252	106,853
Total labour	12,957	1,115	46,046	301,507
Ratio of labour to holdings	4.8	21.4	3.5	2.8

Source: DEFRA Agricultural Census: Structure of the agricultural industry  
Presented by: Strategic Commissioning - Analytics, Kent County Council