

# 2022 Mid-year population estimates: Total population in Kent

The 2022 Mid-year population estimates were released by the Office for National Statistics on 23 November 2023.

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

## Further Information

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**This bulletin presents the 2022 mid-year population estimates. Population change between 2021 and 2022 is also presented.**

## Summary of findings

- The 2022 mid-year population estimates show that Kent is the most populous county council area in the South East with a population of 1,593,200 people.
- Kent's population grew by 0.93% (14,600 people) between 2021 and 2022.
- This is lower than population growth in England (1.0%) but slightly higher than the South East (0.9%).
- Kent has a population density of 4.5 persons per hectare. This is higher than England (4.4) but lower than the South East (4.9).
- Dartford has a population density of 16.3 people per hectare. Ashford a population density of 2.3 people per hectare.
- Maidstone has the largest population of Kent's local authorities with 180,400 people. This is equivalent to 11.3% of Kent's total population.

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## Introduction

This bulletin presents the national population estimate with the population of each of the former Government office regions in England. It then focuses specifically on the South East region and compares Kent's population alongside other counties within the South East region. It ends by looking at the total population of each of the Kent local authority districts

Only total population estimates are presented here but further details from the 2022 estimates are available on our [population and census webpages](#) in the bulletins and excel toolkits listed below:

- '2022 Mid-Year Population Estimates: Age and gender profile' presents the age and gender profile of each local authority district in Kent in the form of tables and population pyramids.
- 'Time series of Mid-year population estimates 2002-2022' presents total population between 2002 and 2022.
- 'What's causing Kent's population growth?' examines the reasons behind the changes in population.
- 'Interactive population estimates Excel 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 2002 and 2022.

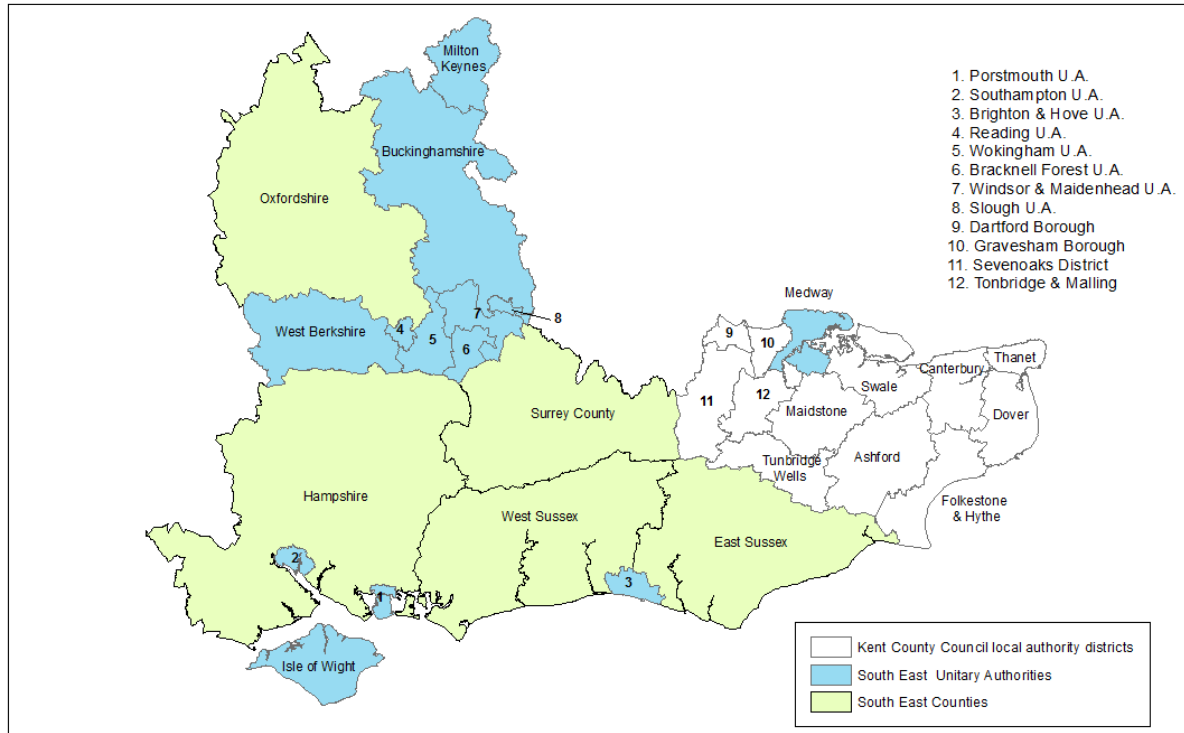
It is ONS policy to present all estimates rounded to the nearest hundred. Within this bulletin all numbers have been individually rounded and therefore may not sum. Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers.

The data in this bulletin will be updated in summer/autumn 2024 when the 2023 mid-year population estimates will be released.

## Geographical reference map

The map below shows the counties, unitary authorities in the South East and local authorities in Kent.

**Former Government Office Region - Counties, Unitary Authorities and Kent Local Authority Districts**



This map produced by Kent Analytics: Kent County Council  
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## Total population of England and the regions

The 2022 mid-year population estimate for England is 57,106,400. This is an increase of 551,500 people, or 0.98% more than the 2021 mid-year population estimate.

The South East has the largest population of all the regions with 9,379,300 people. The region with the smallest population is the North East with 2,683,00 people.

The North West region saw the largest absolute increase in population between 2021 and 2022 growing by 92,000 people (1.2%). The North East region saw the highest growth in percentage terms with a 1.3% increase, equivalent to a growth of 35,500 people.

London is the most densely populated region with 56.4 people per hectare and the South West the least densely populated with 2.4 people per hectare. Within the South East there are 4.9 people per hectare.

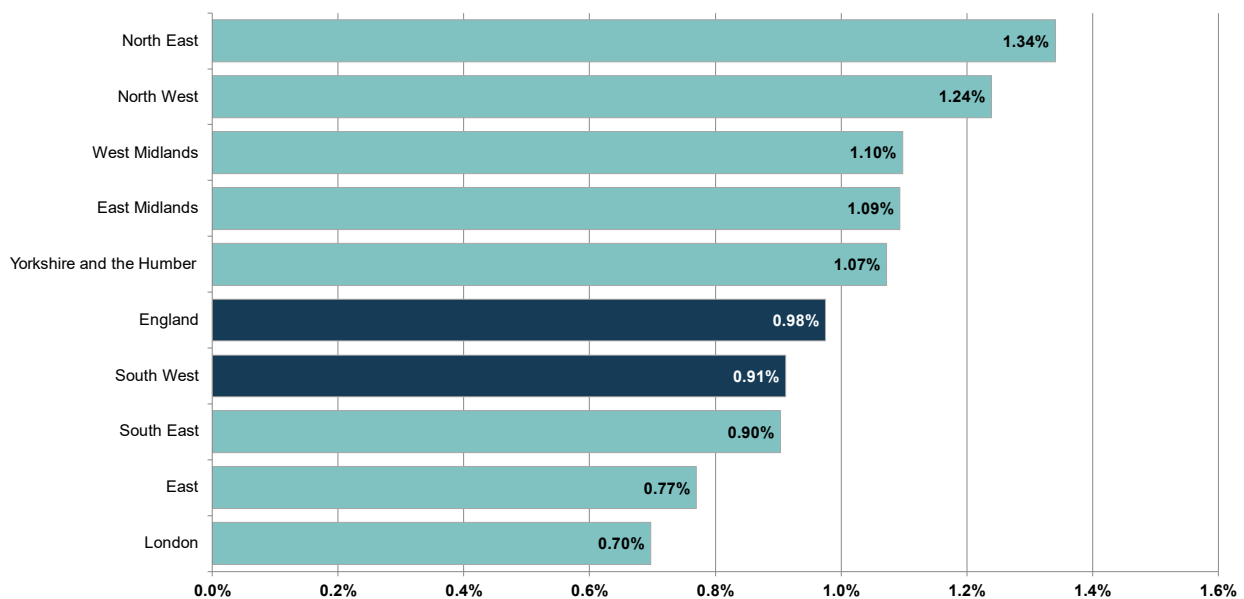
The population change between 2021 and 2022 for England and each of the former Government Office regions is presented in Table 1 and Chart 1.

**Table 1: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change: Former Government Office Regions & England**

Area	2021 MYPE	2022 MYPE	2021-22 change	% change	Area (Hectare)	Density (people per Ha)
<b>England</b>	<b>56,554,900</b>	<b>57,106,400</b>	<b>551,500</b>	<b>0.98%</b>	<b>13,031,001</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>9,295,800</b>	<b>9,379,800</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>0.90%</b>	<b>1,907,305</b>	<b>4.9</b>
London	8,804,800	8,866,200	61,400	0.70%	157,214	56.4
North West	7,424,100	7,516,100	92,000	1.24%	1,410,721	5.3
East	6,349,600	6,398,500	48,900	0.77%	1,911,873	3.3
West Midlands	5,956,200	6,021,700	65,400	1.10%	1,299,827	4.6
South West	5,712,800	5,764,900	52,100	0.91%	2,383,734	2.4
Yorkshire & the Humber	5,482,500	5,541,300	58,800	1.07%	1,540,535	3.6
East Midlands	4,881,600	4,934,900	53,400	1.1%	1,562,347	3.2
North East	2,647,500	2,683,000	35,500	1.34%	857,444	3.1

## Chart 1: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change (%): Regions

2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change (percentage): England & Former Government Office Regions



Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright), Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Total population South East counties

The 2022 mid-year population estimates show that Kent is the most populous county council area in the South East with a population of 1,593,200 people. This also means that Kent remains the largest non-metropolitan local authority area in England.

Hampshire is the second largest county in the South East with a population of 1,416,800. East Sussex is the smallest county in the South East with a population of 550,700.

Of the counties in the South East, Kent experienced the largest increase in population in absolute terms between 2021 and 2022 growing by 14,600 people (0.92%). Oxfordshire experienced the largest increase in population in percentage terms between 2021 and 2022 growing by 1.58% (11,500 people).

Surrey is the most densely populated county in the South East with 7.3 people per hectare, which is higher than the average density for the South East (4.9 people per hectare).

Kent is the second most densely populated county with 4.5 people per hectare. Oxfordshire is the least densely populated county in the South East with 2.8 people per hectare.

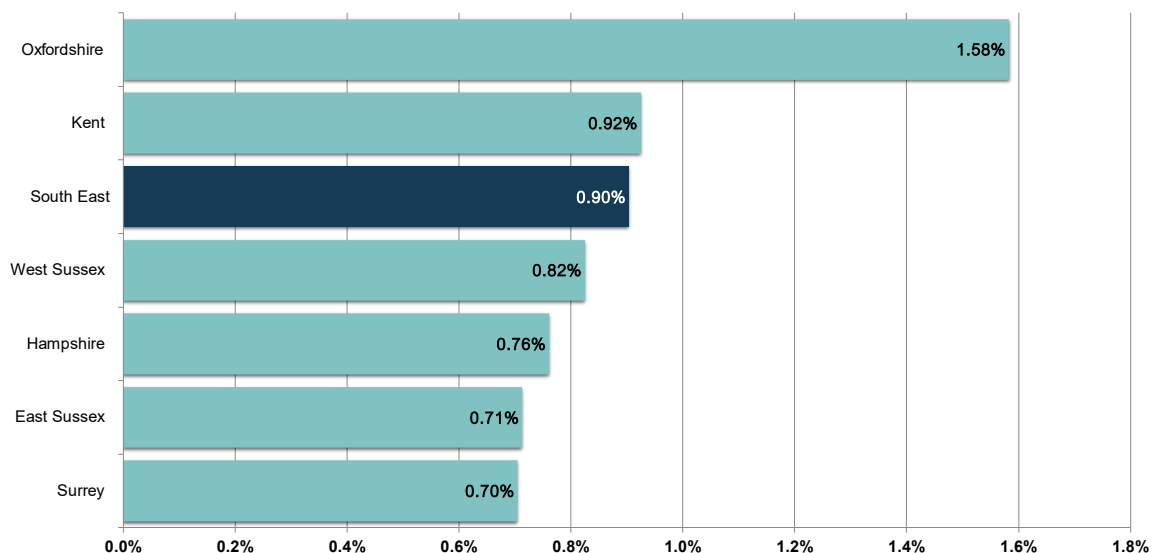
The population change between 2021 and 2022 for each of the counties in the South East is presented in Table 2 and Chart 2.

**Table 2: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change: South East Counties**

Area	2021 MYPE	2022 MYPE	2021-22 change	% change	Area (Hectares)	Density (people per Ha)
South East	9,295,800	9,379,800	84,000	0.9%	1,907,305	4.9
Kent	1,578,600	1,593,200	14,600	0.9%	354,494	4.5
Hampshire	1,406,100	1,416,800	10,700	0.8%	367,890	3.9
Surrey	1,206,000	1,214,500	8,500	0.7%	166,252	7.3
West Sussex	885,000	892,300	7,300	0.8%	199,087	4.5
Oxfordshire	726,700	738,300	11,500	1.6%	260,493	2.8
East Sussex	546,900	550,700	3,900	0.7%	170,856	3.2

**Chart 2: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change (%): South East Counties**

2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change (percentage): South East Counties



Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright), Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Total population South East Unitary Authorities

Buckinghamshire became a Unitary Authority as of 1 April 2020 and is the largest unitary authority in the South East with a population of 560,400 people according to the 2022 mid-year population estimates. Milton Keynes is the second largest unitary authority with a population of 292,200, followed by Medway with 282,700 people. Bracknell Forest has the smallest population with 126,900 people.

Portsmouth is the most densely populated unitary authority in the South East with 51.6 people per hectare, which is considerably higher than the average density for the South East (4.9 people per hectare). West Berkshire is the least densely populated unitary authority with 2.3 people per hectare. Within Medway there are 14.6 people per hectare.

Buckinghamshire experienced the largest absolute increase in population between 2021 and 2022 growing by 5,200 people. Southampton had the highest percentage increase at 2.0%. West Berkshire experienced the smallest increase in real and percentage terms over the past year growing by 400 people (0.2%).

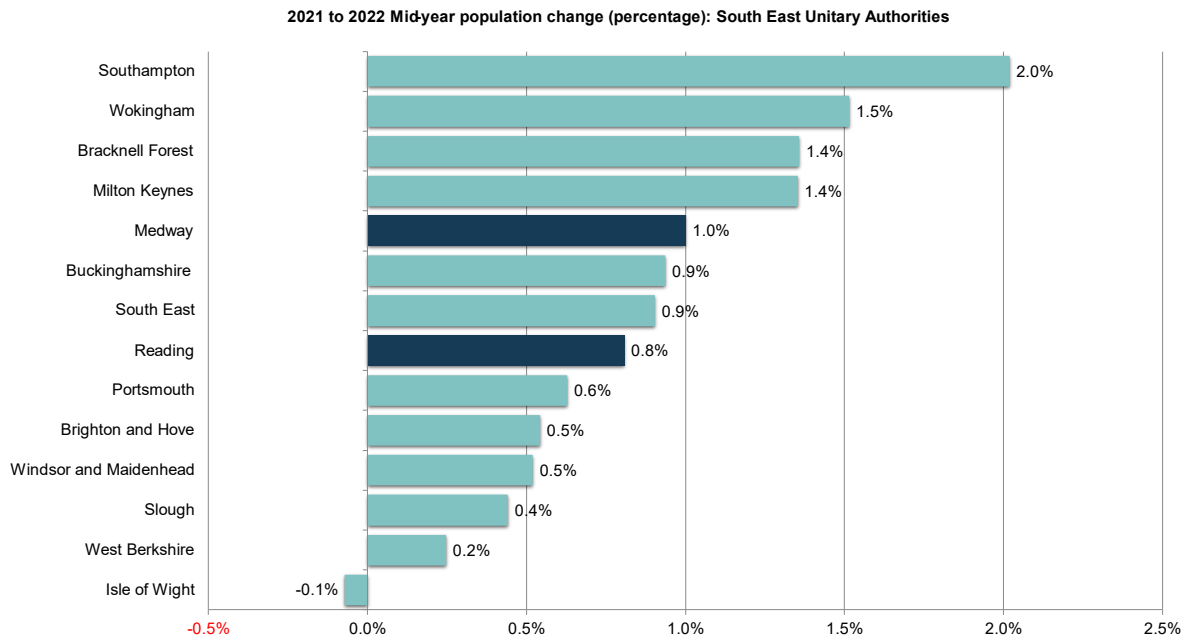
The Isle of Wight is the only unitary authority to experience a decrease in population between 2021 and 2022 with a loss of 100 people (-0.07%). The population of Medway increased by 2,800 people (1.0%). See Table 3 and Chart 3 for details.

**Table 3: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change: South East Unitary Authorities**

Area	2021 MYPE	2022 MYPE	2021-22 change	% change	Area (Hectares)	Density (people per Ha)
<b>South East</b>	<b>9,295,800</b>	<b>9,379,800</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1,907,305</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Buckinghamshire	555,200	560,400	5,200	0.9%	156,495	3.6
Milton Keynes	288,300	292,200	3,900	1.4%	30,863	9.5
<b>Medway</b>	<b>279,900</b>	<b>282,700</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>19,354</b>	<b>14.6</b>
Brighton & Hove	276,500	278,000	1,500	0.5%	8,279	33.6
Southampton	247,700	252,700	5,000	2.0%	4,991	50.6
Portsmouth	207,100	208,400	1,300	0.6%	4,039	51.6
Wokingham	178,200	181,000	2,700	1.5%	17,897	10.1
Reading	173,400	174,800	1,400	0.8%	4,040	43.3
West Berkshire	161,900	162,200	400	0.2%	70,417	2.3
Slough	158,400	159,200	700	0.4%	3,254	48.9
Windsor & Maidenhead	153,900	154,700	800	0.5%	19,650	7.9
Isle of Wight	140,900	140,800	-100	-0.1%	38,016	3.7
Bracknell Forest	125,200	126,900	1,700	1.4%	10,938	11.6



**Chart 3: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change (%): South East Unitary Authorities**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright), Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Total population in local authorities in Kent

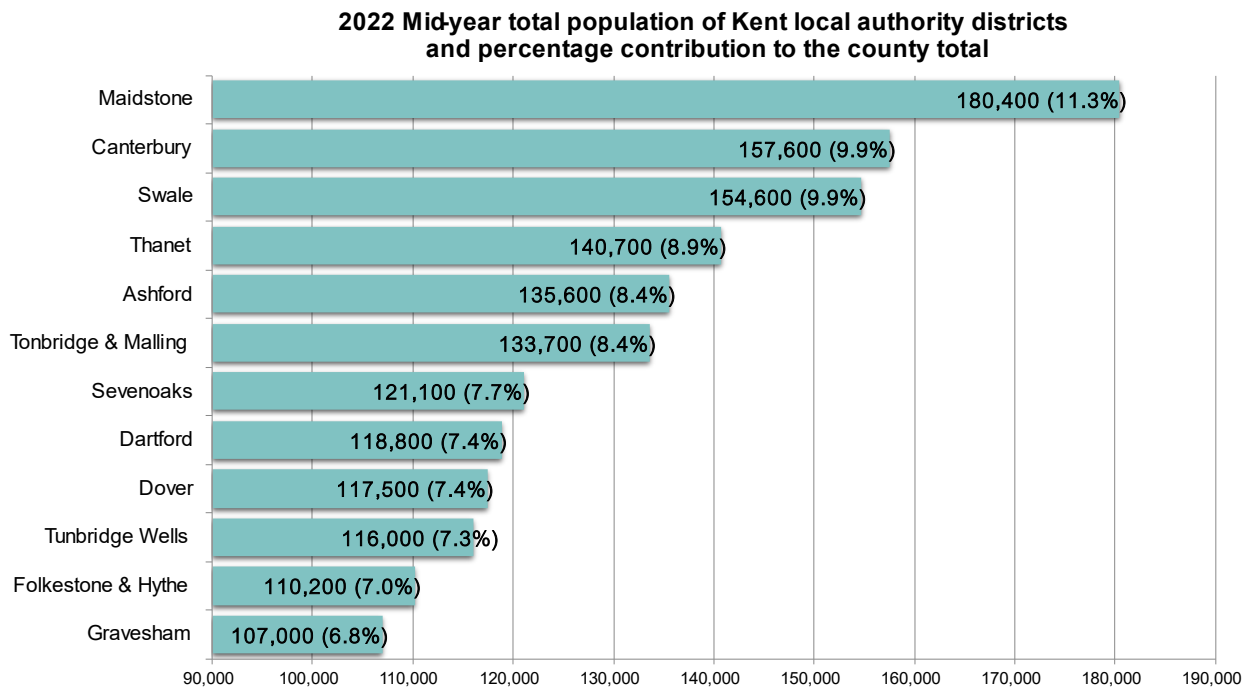
The total population of Kent is 1,593,200 people according to the 2022 mid-year population estimates.

Maidstone has the largest population with 180,400 people, which is equivalent to 11.3% of Kent's total population. Gravesham has the smallest population in Kent with 107,000 people, which is equivalent to 6.8% of Kent's total population.

The total population of each of the Kent local authority districts, according to the 2022 mid-year population estimates, and the proportion each local authority contributes to the overall population of Kent is presented in Chart 4.

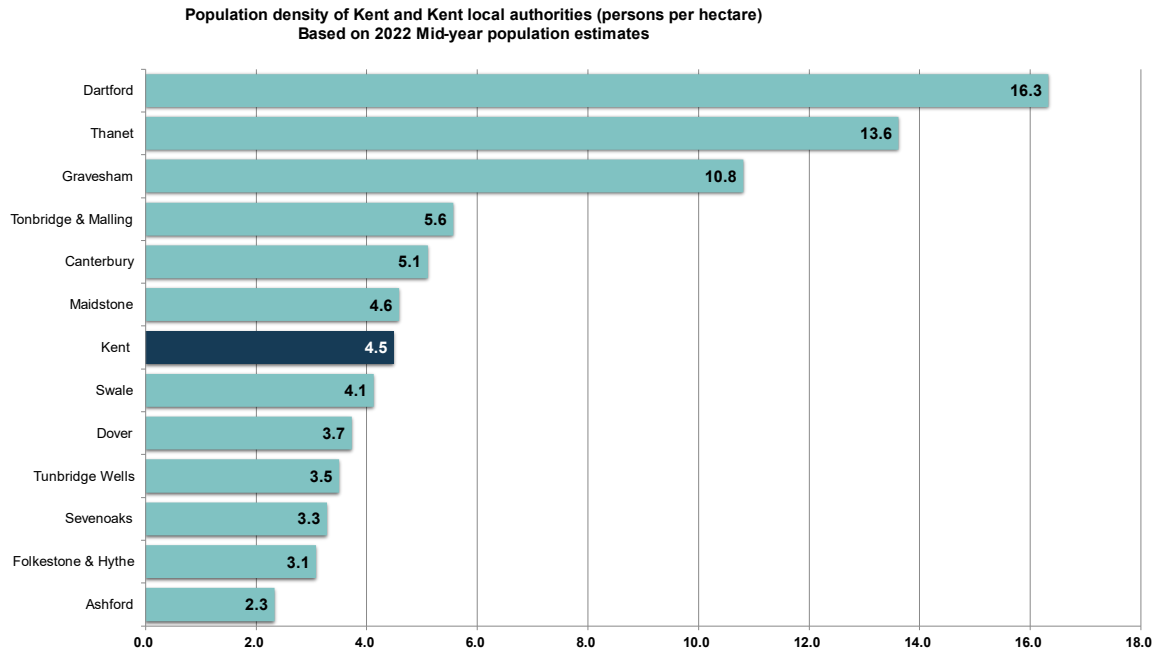
Dartford is Kent's most densely populated local authority district with 16.3 people per hectare. Ashford is the least densely populated with 2.3 people per hectare. Chart 5 presents the population density of the local authorities in Kent.

**Chart 4: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population of Kent local authorities and proportion of Kent**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright), Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

**Chart 5: 2022 population density of Kent local authorities (persons per hectare)**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright), Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The population of Kent grew by 0.92% between 2021 and 2022 which was slightly higher than the rate of growth in the South East (0.90%) but lower than the national rate of 1.0%.

Of the local authority districts in Kent, Maidstone has seen the largest increase in population in both absolute and percentage terms between 2021 and 2022 with 3,700 people (2.09%). Gravesham experienced the smallest absolute and percentage increase with 100 people, (0.1%).

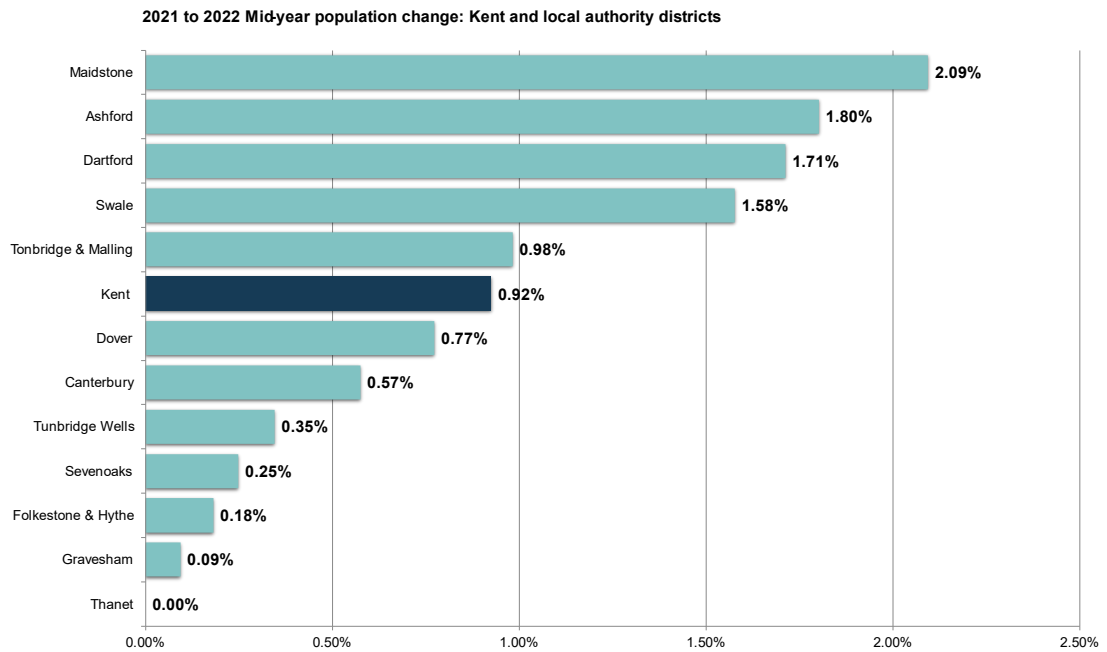
Thanet was the only local authority whose population remained the same between 2021 and 2022 at 140,700 people.

The population change between the 2021 and 2022 mid-year population estimates for Kent as a whole, and each of the local authority areas within Kent is presented in Table 4 and Chart 6.

**Table 4: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change: KCC Area and districts**

Area	2021 MYPE	2022 MYPE	2021-22 change	% change	Area (Hectares)	Density (people per Ha)
<b>Kent</b>	<b>1,578,600</b>	<b>1,593,200</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>354,494</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Maidstone	176,700	180,400	3,700	2.1%	39,333	4.6
Canterbury	156,600	157,600	900	0.6%	30,888	5.1
Swale	152,200	154,600	2,400	1.6%	37,447	4.1
Thanet	140,700	140,700	0	0.0%	10,334	13.6
Ashford	133,200	135,600	2,400	1.8%	58,062	2.3
Tonbridge & Malling	132,400	133,700	1,300	1.0%	24,013	5.6
Sevenoaks	120,800	121,100	300	0.2%	36,923	3.3
Dartford	116,800	118,800	2,000	1.7%	7,276	16.3
Dover	116,500	117,500	900	0.8%	31,507	3.7
Tunbridge Wells	115,700	116,000	400	0.3%	33,133	3.5
Folkestone & Hythe	110,000	110,200	200	0.2%	35,676	3.1
Gravesham	106,900	107,000	100	0.1%	9,902	10.8

**Table 6: 2021 to 2022 Mid-year population change: Kent local authorities**



Source: Office for National Statistics (Crown Copyright), Chart produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

## Related documents

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