

Portrait of East Kent: 6th January 2022

Business news to keep you ahead of the curve

1. Unemployment

	November 2021		Change since November 2020
	Unemployed	% of workforce	% of workforce
Canterbury District	3,765	3.6%	-26.2%
Dover District	3,245	4.7%	-28.5%
Folkestone & Hythe District	3,460	5.2%	-27.8%
Thanet District	6,015	7.5%	-24.7%
Kent	40,370	4.2%	-28.4%
Great Britain	1,875,575	4.6%	-26.3%

Based on the claimant count of jobseekers aged 16 – 64 years. Office for National Statistics (ONS) 14th Dec 2021. See www.nomisweb.co.uk

2. Key Data

	Canterbury	Dover	Folk & H	Thanet	Kent	
Population	166,800	118,500	113,300	141,500	1,589,100	a
Area of land in hectares	32,079	32,040	36,050	11,071	362,236	b
Median FT Gross Wk Pay By Workplace	£520.30	£607.90	£561.20	£535.10	£574.90	c
Median FT Gross Wk Pay By Residence	£578.50	£645.00	£607.80	£560.30	£631.90	c
Unemployed aged 18 – 24	3.0%	7.6%	8.7%	10.6%	6.0%	d
GVA Per Head	£20,726	£19,939	£22,128	£15,706	£24,877	e
Number of VAT/PAYE Enterprises	5,455	3,680	3,785	4,185	64,700	f
Enterprises with 0 – 9 Employees	4,865	3,300	3,415	3,760	58,440	g
Five-Year Business Survival Rate	41.4%	38.0%	40.0%	39.4%	42.6%	h
Tourism Economic Impact	£491 million	£282 million	£252 million	£320 million	£3.9 billion	i
Jobs FTE direct from tourism	7,357	4,212	3,531	5,665	55,583	i
Coronavirus cases per 100,000 people	1,307.3	1,315.5	1,367.8	1,656.3	1,534.1	j

a) ONS MYE 2020 pub. KCC, July 2021 b) ONS & DCLG 2005 c) Earnings In Kent, KCC, Nov 2021 d) ONS 14th Dec 2021 e) KCC Oct 2021 ref 2019.

f) UK Business Counts by Employment Size ONS Oct 2021 g) UK Business Counts by Employment Size ONS Oct 2021 h) Business Demography, Dec 2021, ONS i) Destination Research, Visit Kent, Nov 2018 j) Case data for 25th Dec 2021 to 1st Jan 2022, KCC 6th Jan 2022.

3. Port of Dover

Period	Passengers	Cars	Coaches	Road Haulage Vehicles
2020 Q3 YTD	3,483,683	529,910	10,738	1,628,139
2021 Q1 - Q3	2,214,803	221,769	2,180	1,588,587
Difference	-36.4%	-58.1%	-79.7%	-2.4%

Source: www.doverport.co.uk/about/performance, latest published quarterly and annual figures as at 9th December 2021

4. Issues for local business

Unemployment has fallen in the last twelve months. Kent has seen a 28.4% reduction in registered universal credit claimants, Canterbury has the lowest youth unemployment in Kent at 3%. Dover at 7.6% is ranked 8th out of 12 districts in Kent. Thanet has the highest youth unemployment in South East England at 10.6%.

Images from the Chamber Charity Golf Day of 2nd November 2021 in support of the RNLI are available to view at www.cloudcamuav.com/chamber-of-commerce-golf-2021. We are pleased to report that our next Chamber Charity Golf Day is scheduled to take place at Royal St. George's Golf Club on 25th October 2022.

More Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) were registered in Britain in 2021 than in the previous five years combined. The 190,727 new BEVs on our roads along with 114,554 plug-in hybrids (PHEVs), means that 18.5% of all new cars registered in Britain in 2021 can be plugged in. [SMMT, 6 Jan 2022]

Aviation at Manston Airport ceased on 5th May 2014. RiverOak Strategic Partners (RSP) acquired the site on 9th July 2019. On 16th November 2021, interested parties were invited to comment before 2359 hrs on 3rd December 2021 on the plans for the upgrade and reopening of Manston Airport. We now await a prompt and definitive decision from the UK government on the airport's future, as we have been doing for the last 7 years.

Dover Skills Summit took place on 17th December 2021 at the Dover Marina Hotel and Spa in the company of Natalie Elphicke MP and interested new Chamber members. Delegates discussed issues impacting on local business including the provision and availability of training courses to meet their current and future needs.

Thank You to all those Chamber members who sent us their Christmas stories and amusing anecdotes. We are of course grateful for the seasonal offerings from the many start-ups who have joined us recently but feel obliged to remind them that running a company is a serious business. They must make sure they receive the best possible advice. After all, there are three types of business owners, those who can count and those who can't.