

Portrait of East Kent: 21st January 2022

Business news to keep you ahead of the curve

1. Unemployment

	December 2021		Change since December 2020
	Unemployed	% of workforce	% of workforce
Canterbury District	3,580	3.4%	-32.3%
Dover District	3,155	4.5%	-31.4%
Folkestone & Hythe District	3,380	5.1%	-30.3%
Thanet District	5,895	7.3%	-28.4%
Kent	38,005	4.1%	-30.9%
Great Britain	1,806,865	4.4%	-28.7%

Based on the claimant count of jobseekers aged 16 – 64 years. Office for National Statistics (ONS) 17th Jan 2022. 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	2.9%	7.0%	8.1%	10.3%	5.7%	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	721.4	918.0	811.9	788.2	797.6	j

a) ONS MYE 2020 pub. KCC, July 2021 b) ONS & DCLG 2005 c) Earnings In Kent, KCC, Nov 2021 d) ONS 17th Jan 2022 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 8th Jan 2022 to 15th Jan 2022, KCC 21st Jan 2022.

3. Port of Dover

Period	Passengers	Cars	Coaches	Road Haulage Vehicles
2020 Q1 – Q3	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 21st January 2022

4. Issues for local business

Unemployment has fallen dramatically in the last twelve months. The number of registered universal credit claimants has decreased in every district of the county ranging from -26.2% in Maidstone to a remarkable -37.8% in Tonbridge & Malling. Any East Kent company looking for staff should check the educational establishments and employment agencies listed in the 2022 East Kent Business Directory. Every Chamber member has one.

Chamber Business Networking Breakfasts will begin this year on 18th February 2022. Delegates will hear of a plan to involve East Kent companies in supplying products and services to a project designed to promote renewable industries and regenerate the port and harbour of Ramsgate. Email admin@tekco.uk for details.

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) mean that 18.5% of all new cars registered in Britain in 2021 can be plugged in. [SMMT, 6 Jan 2022]

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.

Inflation is currently 5.4% and our good friends at the Bank of England tell us that: “We expect the rate of inflation to reach around 6% in the spring” which explains the rise in interest rates last month from 0.1% to 0.25%. If inflation is to reach its target of 2% by the end of 2023, further rises in the interest rate look inevitable.

Despite England’s cricket team’s dismal display in the recent Ashes series down under, we can find no evidence to support the claim that Novak Djokovic has been appointed England’s batting coach, although we note that it did take Australia two weeks to get him out.

David Foley 21st Jan 2022