

Dover District Overview

This summary gives a brief overview of the Dover district covering: Location, Population and Economy.

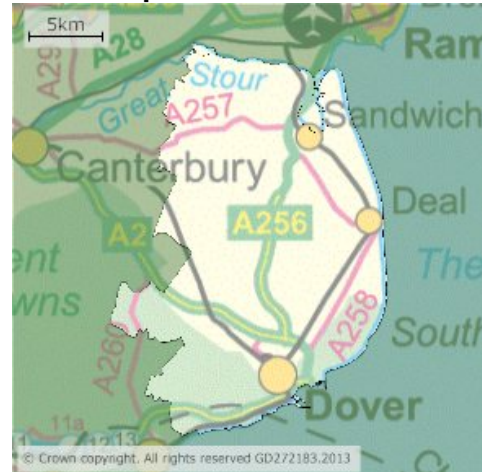
The annual State of the District report has a more detailed profile of the Dover district and includes chapters covering topics such as Population, Economy, Education, Housing, Health and Wellbeing, Deprivation and Community Safety.

Dover District - Location

Map of Kent



Map of Dover District



- Dover district covers an area of 31,484 hectares (123 square miles), with a coastline of around 20 miles, and is one of twelve districts that make up the county of Kent. The district contains two urban areas, a market town and a large rural area made up of dozens of villages and hamlets. It is home to the internationally famous White Cliffs and is the UK's Gateway to Europe, within easy access of London and the continent.
- About 6,900 hectares (22%) of the district is designated as part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AoNB) and of this 876 hectares (3% of the district) is designated as Heritage Coast, centred on the white cliffs either side of Dover.
- With a resident population of 113,100 the Dover district has the fourth smallest local authority population in Kent - equivalent to 7.5% of the Kent population. The population density of the district is 3.6 persons per hectare¹.
- The ward with the largest area is Little Stour and Ashstone, covering 6,572 hectares which represents 20.9% of the total area of the district. It is least densely populated ward with 1.06 people per hectare².
- The ward with the smallest area is Tower Helmets covering 88 hectares which represents 0.3% of the total area of the district. It is the most densely populated ward with 68.28 people per hectare³.
- The wards with the largest population are Mill Hill and Maxton, Elms Vale and Priory both with 7,910 people. The ward with the smallest population is Ringwold with 2,030 people⁴.
- There are just over 52,100 dwellings in the district, the majority of which are owner occupied or privately rented⁵. Over a quarter of properties were built before 1900⁶. Long-term vacant dwellings equate to 0.8% of the estimated dwelling stock⁷. Approximately 2.3% of dwellings in the district are second homes⁸.
- House prices are historically lower in the Dover district than county and regional averages. The average house price in the district is just under £214,400 whilst the figure for Kent is just over £260,900 and the South East is just over £303,800⁹.

- The Dover district has the fourth lowest average weekly private sector rents in South East England, with an average rent of £130.62pw, compared to a national average of £171.23pw and £201.46pw for the South East¹⁰.
- Council tax band D is the 'average' council tax band in England and the average council tax charge for a band D property in the district is £1,537. This is lower than the average for shire districts (£1,547) but higher than the national average (£1,484)¹¹. However, a high proportion of dwellings in the district fall into the lower council tax charging bands A to C (71%)¹².
- The Dover district ranks 126th (out of 326) local authorities in the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 and is the 5th (out of 12) deprived area of Kent. There are pockets of deprivation in the district, with the highest levels of multiple deprivation found in the urban areas of Dover. Four out of the 67 lower super output areas in the district are in the 10% most deprived in England¹³ (up from one in IMD 2010).

Dover District – Population

- The total population of the district is 113,100 and just over half are female (51%) and 49% are male¹⁴.
- Over the past 15 years the population of the district has grown slower than county (14.8%) and national (10.8%) averages, growing by 8.8% between 1998 and 2013¹⁵. The population is forecast to increase by 20.6% between 2011 and 2031, which would increase the population size to 134,700. This is faster than the average for Kent over this time period (13.6%)¹⁶.
- The average age of the population is 42.8 years¹⁷, which is higher than county (40.7 years) and national averages (39.6 years).
- The district has a lower proportion of young people aged under-15 years (17.7%) and of people aged 16 to 64 years (59.9%) than the South East and national averages. The district has an aging population and has a higher population in all age categories above age 50 years than the regional and national average. Over a quarter (25.7%) of the district's population is of retirement age (65+ men and 60+ female), compared to 20.3% for England¹⁸.
- Population forecasts show that the number of 65+ year olds is set to increase by 72.2% (to 39,100 people) between 2011 and 2031 (compared to 55.5% in Kent). This is a significantly faster rate of increase in the district than the 0-15 and 16-64 years age groups, which are predicted to rise by 16.8% (to 23,600 people) and 4.7% (to 72,000 people) respectively¹⁹.
- The population of the Dover District is predominantly white. 96.7% of all residents are of white ethnic origin, and 3.3% are of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) origin. This is higher than the averages for Kent (93.7%), South East (90.7%) and England (85.4%). The district has the lowest percentage of residents from a BME group in Kent. The largest single BME group in the district is Asian / Asian British representing 1.8% of the total population²⁰.
- 64.1% of the district's residents describe themselves as Christian, whilst the largest non-Christian religious group is Hindu (0.6%). 26% of the population in the district do not have a religion²¹.
- Self-reported health in the Dover District is significantly worse than the England average. 78.8% of residents describing their health as very good or good and 6.3% either bad or very bad. 20.8% of the district's population has an illness or condition which limits their day to day activities in some way²².
- As a February 2015, 10,572 residents in the Dover district are claiming disability benefits (Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independence Payments or Attendance Allowance). The majority of the claims (78%) being for a physical disability.²³
- 59.9% (67,700 people) of the population of the district are of working age (aged 16 to 64). This is below the county, regional and national averages²⁴. 77.8% of the resident working age population is economically active, which means that they are either in work or actively looking for work. The remaining 22.2% of the working age population are economically inactive. These people are not in work nor are

they looking to work and includes those who are retired, looking after home and family, students or are permanently sick or unable to work²⁵.

- Total employment in the district is 69.8% (53.3% employees and 1.5% self-employed)²⁶.
- During 2014, the annual unemployment rate was 2.6% of the population aged 16-64 years²⁷. As at February 2015, 14.1% of residents of working age (16-64 years) were claiming at least one of the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits. This is higher than Kent (11.5%), South East (9.2%) and the national (12.5%) figures²⁸. As at February 2015, 10.5% of residents of working age in the district were claiming a 'main out-of-work' benefit from the DWP, used as a measure of 'worklessness'. This is higher than Kent (8.4%), South East (6.8%) and national (9.7%) figures²⁹.
- As at March 2015, 1,475 people in the district (2.2%) were claiming Job Seekers Allowance. This is higher than the Kent (1.7%), South East (1.2%) and national (2.0%) rates³⁰.
- As at March 2015, youth unemployment (aged 18-24 years) in the district was 4.6%, which is above the national average of 3.1% and is the fifth highest in the South East³¹.
- Just under a fifth of the workforce (22.0%) in the district is qualified to at least NVQ level 4, behind the averages for Kent (24.7%), South East region (29.9%) and nationally (27.4%). The percentage of those with no qualifications in the district, at 25%, is higher than the averages for Kent (22.5%), South East (19.1%) and nationally (22.5%)³².

Dover District - Economy

- There are 3,000 businesses based in the Dover District, and the majority of these are small businesses, as is the case across the country. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs), employing less than 250 people, account for 99.8% of businesses in the district. Micro businesses (from 0-4 employees) account for 73.2% of total businesses in the district, whilst only 0.2% of businesses have more than 250 employees³³.
- In the Dover District, the construction industry group (14.3%) and professional, scientific and technical industry group (13.3%) account for the largest proportion of businesses³⁴.
- The services industry employs the highest numbers of people in the Dover district, with 27,100 jobs (86.5%). The public admin, education and health sectors employ 10,600 people³⁵.
- Nearly half of all businesses in the Dover district are over 10 years old, which is above county, regional and national averages³⁶. Nearly a third of enterprises in the district have a turnover size between £100,000 - £249,000³⁷.
- Enterprises on the Dover district have a higher survival rate than seen nationally. The latest one-year survival rate for businesses in the district is 93.9%, compared to 92.2% nationally. 42.4% of businesses survived five years in the district, compared to 41.4% across Great Britain³⁸.
- GVA per head in the district, estimated to be £14,874, is the second lowest in Kent and the fourth lowest in the South East³⁹.
- Gross weekly earnings in the Dover district are £532.90pw (residence based) and £508.90pw (workplace based). Weekly earnings for males living in the district are significantly higher than for females living in the district - £579.60pw compared to £455.80pw⁴⁰.

Please see the annual State of the District report for more detailed information on the Dover District

¹ ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2014

² ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2013

³ ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2013

⁴ ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2013

⁵ DCLG Live Tables on Dwelling Stock as at 31 March 2014

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- 6 VOA Council Tax Records as at 01 August 2014
 - 7 DCLG Live tables on Dwelling Stock 2014
 - 8 DCLG Council Taxbase 2014
 - 9 KCC House prices and transactions 2014
 - 10 DCLG Live Tables on Rents, Lettings and tenancies
 - 11 DCLG Council Tax Levels set by local authorities in England 2015-16
 - 12 DDC Finance
 - 13 DCLG English Indices of Deprivation 2015
 - 14 ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2014
 - 15 KCC Time series of Mid-Year Population Estimates 1995 to 2014
 - 16 KCC Strategy Forecasts November 2014
 - 17 ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates 2014
 - 18 ONS Neighbourhood Statistics 2014
 - 19 KCC Strategy Forecasts November 2014
 - 20 ONS Census 2011
 - 21 ONS Census 2011
 - 22 ONS Census 2011
 - 23 DWP 5% sample data as at February 2015
 - 24 ONS Neighbourhood Statistics 2014
 - 25 ONS Nomis – Labour Market Profile Jul – Jun 2015
 - 26 ONS Nomis – Labour Market Profile Jul – Jun 2015
 - 27 ONS Nomis – JSA Claimant Count 2014
 - 28 DWP benefit claimants – working age client group as at February 2015
 - 29 DWP benefit claimants – working age client group as at February 2015
 - 30 ONS JSA claimant count as at March 2015
 - 31 KCC Unemployment in Kent as at March 2015
 - 32 ONS Census 2011
 - 33 ONS UK Business: Activity Size and Location 2014
 - 34 ONS UK Business: Activity Size and Location 2014
 - 35 ONS UK Business: Activity Size and Location 2014
 - 36 ONS UK Business: Activity Size and Location 2014
 - 37 ONS UK Business: Activity Size and Location 2014
 - 38 ONS UK Business Demography: Enterprise Survival rates 2014
 - 39 KCC Gross Value Added (GVA) at 2013
 - 40 ONS annual survey of hours & earnings