

Thames Gateway Kent: 2011 Census Report

No. 1 Population and Age Group Trends

- The population of Thames Gateway Kent increased by 8.1% between 2001 and 2011. This is below the increase in Kent & Medway, but above the South East and national rate. At local authority level the population increased most in Dartford and Swale, where growth was above the Kent & Medway rate, and least in Gravesham and Medway.
- The number of households increased by 9% in Thames Gateway Kent over the decade, which is slightly more than population growth. This rate is also below the increase in Kent & Medway, but above the regional and national average. At local authority level trends mirror overall population growth, increasing most in Dartford and Swale and least in Gravesham and Medway.
- There are more youngsters under the age of 15 and residents aged 20 to 24 and 25 to 39 years in Thames Gateway Kent compared to in Kent & Medway as a whole, and fewer older residents aged 50 to 64 and over 65 years. Compared to the national profile, Thames Gateway Kent also has more residents under the age of 15 and fewer over 65 year olds. At local authority level Medway has more residents aged 20 to 24, whereas it is Dartford that has more 25 to 29 year olds. Dartford and Medway have lower percentages aged over 65 than Gravesham and Swale.
- In line with national trends, the 20 to 24 and 40 to 49 year age groups had the highest population growth in Thames Gateway Kent between 2001 and 2011. Population growth in these age groups was well above the national and regional average, but on a par with growth in Kent & Medway. Those aged 25 to 29 is the only age group where population declined and this trend is also apparent at the sub-regional, regional and national level.
- Despite an over-representation of youngsters aged under 15 in Thames Gateway Kent in 2011, population was static between 2001 and 2011. However, there was some growth in this age group at the Kent & Medway, South East and national level. In contrast, residents aged over 65 increased considerably more in Thames Gateway Kent than elsewhere. These trends suggest that there has been some convergence towards the national and regional age profile amongst the population of Thames Gateway Kent over the decade.
- At local authority level there was more variation in trends for age groups. The number of young residents under the age of 15 increased only in Dartford and Swale, remained static in Gravesham and decreased in Medway. The population aged 20 to 24 increased in all areas, but growth was highest in Medway and Gravesham. In contrast to other local authority areas, there was population growth in the 25-39 year age group in Dartford, which ran counter to decreases elsewhere. The increase in over 65 year olds was greatest in Swale where it was well above the Kent & Medway, South East and England & Wales average.

2011 Population and change 2001-2011

	No.	% Change
Dartford	97,400	+13.4%
Gravesham	101,700	+6.3%
Medway	263,900	+5.8%
Swale	135,800	+10.6%
Thames Gateway Kent	598,800	+8.1%
Kent & Medway	1,727,600	+9.4%
South East	8,634,800	+7.9%
England & Wales	56,075,900	+7.8%

2011 Households and change 2001-2011

	No.	% Change
Dartford	40,100	+13.8%
Gravesham	40,400	+5.6%
Medway	106,200	+6.7%
Swale	55,600	+12.9%
Thames Gateway Kent	242,300	+9.0%
Kent & Medway	711,800	+10.1%
South East	3,555,500	+8.2%
England & Wales	23,366,000	+7.9%

Population Age Structure in 2011

	0-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	25-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50-64 yrs	65+
Dartford	19%	6%	6%	22%	15%	17%	1.
Gravesham	19%	7%	6%	19%	15%	18%	1.
Medway	19%	7%	7%	20%	15%	18%	1.
Swale	19%	6%	6%	18%	15%	19%	1.
Thames Gateway Kent	19%	7%	7%	20%	15%	18%	1.
Kent & Medway	18%	7%	6%	18%	15%	19%	1.
South East	18%	6%	6%	19%	15%	19%	1.
England & Wales	18%	6%	7%	20%	15%	18%	1.

Population Change by Age Group 2001-11

	0-14 yrs	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	25-39 yrs	40-49 yrs	50-64 yrs	65+ yr
Dartford	+9%	+21%	+24%	+2%	+34%	+15%	+11%
Gravesham	-	+11%	+33%	-5%	+19%	+3%	+12%
Medway	-5%	+13%	+27%	-9%	+16%	+12%	+18%
Swale	+3%	+13%	+20%	-7%	+28%	+14%	+23%
Thames Gateway Kent	-	+14%	+26%	-6%	+22%	+11%	+17%
Kent & Medway	+2%	+17%	+26%	-6%	+22%	+12%	+15%
South East	+3%	+12%	+16%	-5%	+18%	+12%	+13%
England & Wales	+1%	+10%	+22%	-2%	+18%	+12%	+11%