



Join the makers

Kent and Medway has an enviable manufacturing and engineering heritage, from Chatham Dockyard and the Royal Engineers to aviation pioneers Short Brothers. This well-established and growing manufacturing base remains among the most dynamic and innovative in the South East.


The UK is the 9th largest manufacturing nation in the world, with manufacturers contributing 10% of the country's total output and 45% of UK exports totalling some £275bn. Kent and Medway is a key part of this success, generating an estimated £3.2 million GVA in 2016.

Across the region, businesses large and small, from producers of electronics and medical devices to precision engineering, fabrication and manufacturing construction projects have seen the benefits of the county as a location.

With half of all manufacturing businesses in the county involved with advanced engineering, this well-connected part of the South East looks certain to make a vital contribution to the jobs of the future with Medway, Ashford, Swale and Maidstone leading the way.

This is a county building the skills for the future with the help of an industry focused higher education sector. Leading the way in Kent are the University of Kent's School of Engineering and Digital Arts and Canterbury Christ Church University's Kent and Medway Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise Hub.

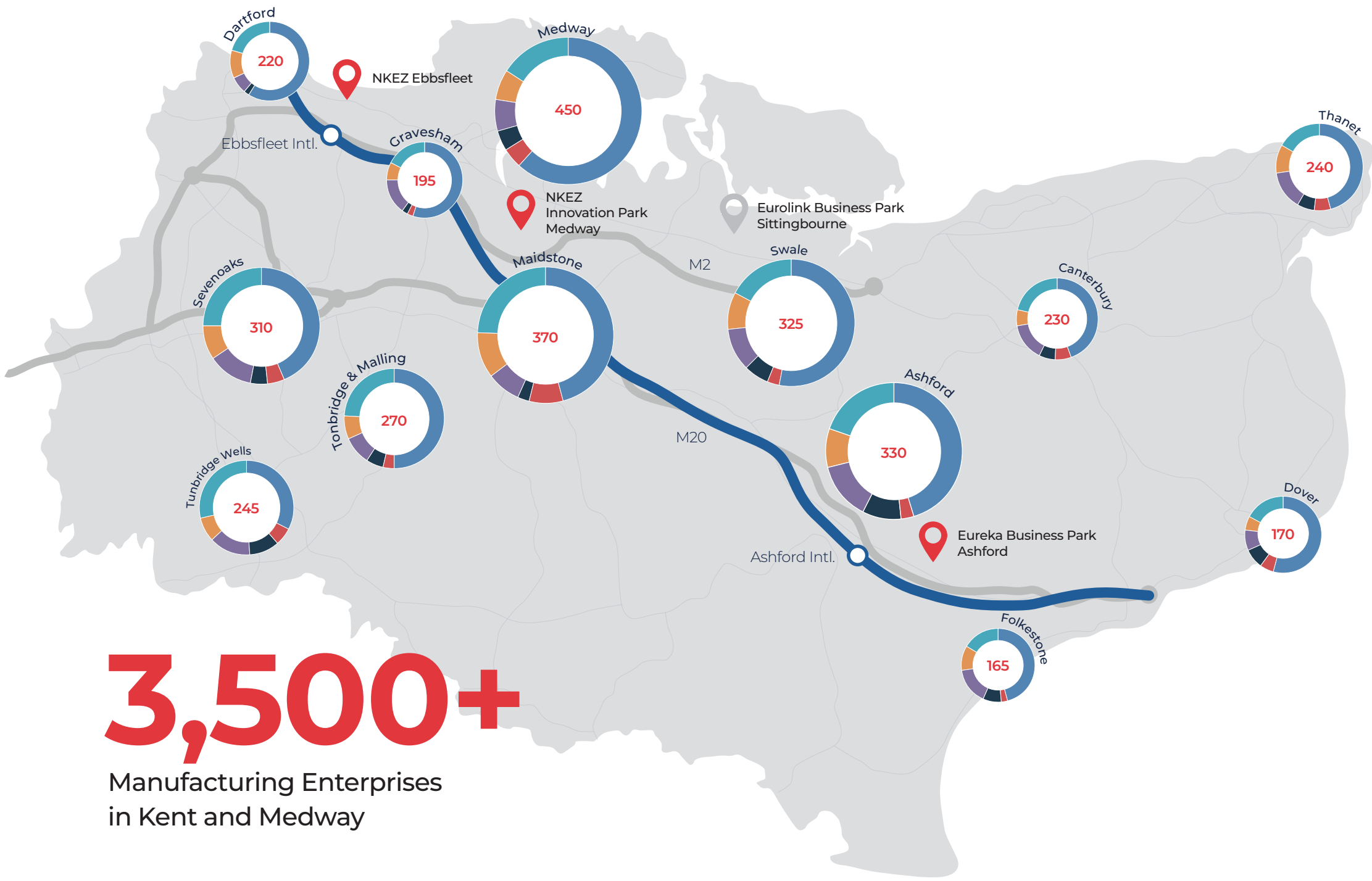
Key Locations

-  North Kent Enterprise Zone (NKEZ)
-  Eureka Business Park, Ashford
-  Eurolink Business Park, Sittingbourne

Kent's manufacturing strengths

- ADVANCED ENGINEERING
- WOOD, LEATHER AND PAPER
- PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS
- FOOD AND DRINK
- CLOTHING AND TEXTILES
- GENERAL MANUFACTURING

- SECTORS
- Advanced Engineering
 - Wood, Leather and Paper
 - Petroleum, Chemicals and Plastics
 - Food and Drink
 - Clothing and Textiles
 - General Manufacturing
- High Speed 1



£3.2 million



The total GVA generated by manufacturing in Kent and Medway in 2016.

450

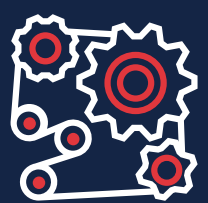
With 450 manufacturing businesses
Medway
has the highest number in the region.

251,000

The number of people employed in manufacturing in the South East, accounting for 12% of all UK manufacturing jobs.



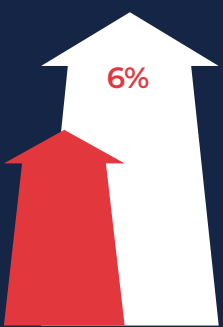
49.8%



Half of all manufacturing enterprises in Kent and Medway (1,755) are focused on the advanced engineering sector.

6%

The upward trend in manufacturing enterprises in Kent and Medway over the past five years. The region has welcomed 200+ new manufacturing companies since 2013.



Need support growing your manufacturing business?

From property and site selection to access to funding; skills advice and sector expertise, we can help.



"We know we'll be able to count on organisations like Locate in Kent to support us in finding a place where we can continue to grow."

Dean Rizov,
MD, Bulgaro



Connectivity

Extremely well connected by rail, road, air and sea and with its close proximity to London and Europe, Kent has easy, fast and efficient access to key markets. **High Speed 1** is a major point of difference for Kent, offering access to London by train in **17 minutes**. It's often quicker for people to reach the capital from the county than to cross it.



Skills

Kent's four universities provide a wealth of graduates across key growth sectors each year, including the University of Kent which ranks within the **top 25 universities in the UK and top 500 globally**. With a local population of over **1.8 million** and access to millions more from neighbouring regions, Kent offers a highly diverse talent pool.



Cost

Cheaper property and lower salaries make Kent a cost-effective base for business. Kent's commercial property is up to **60% lower** in rental or purchase price compared to London. This combined with a highly skilled workforce with lower salary levels can result in operational savings of **up to 55%**.



Quality of life

Made up of traditional pretty English villages, bustling towns, stunning countryside and over **350 miles of coastline**, Kent is designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty for good reason. Yet average residential property price are approximately **33% cheaper than London**.

CONTACT US

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Kent innovates

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