

Some Key Information and Figures

Geography

The East of England was created in 1994 and includes the counties of Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. Essex County shares boundaries with Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Greater London. It covers an area of around 1400 sq miles.

Population

Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock, has an estimated population of 1.4 million, (about 30% of the East of England area), mostly concentrated in the largely urban south and around the towns of Chelmsford and Colchester. Essex is a county of contrasts, with a mixture of urban areas of varying populations and smaller rural market towns with strong agricultural links. In 2006 there were 1,361,200 people living in Essex. 48.84% (664,800) female, 51.16% (696,400) male. (ONS mid-year population estimates). There are twelve District and two Unitary Authorities. The districts include Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford. The two UAs are Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

Transport links

The county has diverse road, rail and air transport links. Two motorways run through the western part of Essex (M11 and M25), and the county's towns are connected by a number of key roads, including the A12, A13 and the A14 dual carriageway highways to London and the South, the Midlands and the North. There are several fast rail links with London and one to Cambridge. Essex has two airports, London Stansted and Southend, and is also close to London City airport. Harwich and Tilbury ports are located on the East Coast of Essex and are key entry points into the UK for many visitors. The Channel Tunnel is easily accessible from Essex offering easy access to Europe.

Good transport links are important for industries as they allow raw materials, including fuel, to be delivered efficiently and finished goods to be transported for the internal market or for export. They are also essential to allow people to get to and from work or appointments.

Industries

Distribution of employment is in line with the regional picture, with wholesale, retail and motor related industries and business activities accounting for a significant proportion of employment.

Essex supports over 50,000 businesses and the county is home to a number of internationally renowned companies, including Britvic, e2v technologies, Ford, Nortel and SmithKline Beecham.

There is a target of around 109,000 new jobs in Essex between 2001-2021. These will be concentrated in the major growth areas as follows: Thames Gateway South Essex (52,000), the Haven Gateway (20,000), the London Arc (12,000) and the rest of Essex (25,000). London 2012 will also provide Essex with the opportunity to maximise jobs and visitors as a direct result of the Olympic Games.

It is possible that 25,000 houses per year may be built between 2001-2021 in the East of England Region. This may mean 124,500 houses (6,200 per year) being built in Essex alone.

The largest number in employment in Essex work in public administration and education. A greater percentage work in distribution, hotels and restaurants in Southend-on-Sea. Thurrock also has a considerable percentage in this sector and also in construction. Southend and Thurrock also have a greater percentage than Essex working in banking, finance and insurance. For all three areas, service sectors dominate.

There are five key areas identified for regeneration in Thurrock, these are: London Gateway (Shellhaven), Tilbury, Grays, Lakeside/West Thurrock, Purfleet. These will create more jobs in a range of new and existing industries including retailing, research and development, creative industries and logistics, transport and distribution.

Grays in Thurrock may become a centre of specialised learning and provide a focus for improved health and social care, resulting in 4,500 new jobs and 5,000 new homes.

A new University of Essex campus and Further Education College is promising to bring 20,000 students to Southend by 2012, with half of them already there.

Twenty-two million pounds is being spent on renovating the Victoria Shopping Centre in Southend. 1,650 new homes are planned overall for Southend town centre. A tower the height of Canary Wharf is planned as part of the Shoebury Garrison residential development. Southend Airport is hoping to expand with a new terminal building and hotel. Airport bosses want to offer more routes to European capitals and take advantage of the London Olympics in 2012.

Basildon is remodelling the town centre - there should be one million square feet of additional retail, leisure and office floorspace and 3,650 new homes to create a town centre that is also a living community.

The close proximity of Essex to London is significant, with 17% of workers living in Essex and commuting to London.

Earnings & Hours

Many jobs will demand minimum entry qualifications. Those earning high salaries are usually well qualified and experienced and will continue to learn throughout their working life.

Female/Male earnings in 2007

Region	Female Earnings	Male Earnings
Essex	£439.50	£656.10
Southend-on-Sea UA	£444.10	£497.00
Thurrock UA	£397.40	£555.80
East of England	£445.90	£593.60
London	£600.40	£823.30
UK	£462.80	£606.10

Source: Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings 2007. © Crown Copyright. Salary rates have been calculated using the gross, mean, weekly pay (before deductions) for full-time workers in the UK.

Essex district profiles

	Total population	Working age population (1)	Number Employed - working age	Earnings (2)	Hours worked (3)	Qualified to Level 2 (4)
Essex	1,361,200	885,100	618,500	£503.20	37.5	476,600
Basildon	168,600	110,600	79,800	£489.30	37.5	53,700
Braintree	139,700	92,100	69,300	£502.30	37.7	52,200
Brentwood	70,900	45,300	32,100	£669.50	37.9	26,300
Castle Point	88,600	56,600	39,700	£487.90	37.5	27,700
Chelmsford	162,800	109,100	81,600	£504.50	37.5	67,500
Colchester	170,800	117,200	72,300	£479.00	37.5	61,700
Epping Forest	122,900	80,300	53,200	£530.90	37.5	45,100
Harlow	78,100	51,300	39,200	£444.40	37.7	24,100
Maldon	61,700	40,400	27,800	£511.30	37.5	19,000
Rochford	81,100	51,700	34,200	£545.60	37.5	32,200
Tendring	144,600	84,000	54,100	£423.70	38.6	38,600
Uttlesford	71,400	46,300	35,300	£577.70	37.5	28,400
Southend-on-Sea UA	159,900	101,800	75,900	£472.20	37.5	57,600
Thurrock UA	148,900	99,900	71,000	£476.20	37.5	49,200
London	5,268,500	5,268,500	3,383,400	£553.30	37.5	2,963,800
East of England	5,606,600	3,664,900	2,565,100	£479.10	37.5	2,072,800

Source: NOMIS, © ONS Crown Copyright. Figures for 2006 [from Nomis on 7 February 2008]. Figures rounded to nearest 100, and therefore columns may not total accurately.

1. Males 16-64, females 16-59. 2. The earnings information collected relates to gross pay before tax, national insurance or other deductions, and excludes payments in kind. Annual Survey of Hours & Earnings 2007, © Crown Copyright. 3. Median, weekly, full-time. 4. Level 2 = 5 or more GCSEs grades A-C or equivalent.

Essex district profiles

	Managers & Senior Officials	Professional Occupations	Associate Professional and Technical	Administrative and Secretarial	Skilled Trades	Personal Service Occupations	Sales and Customer Service	Process Plant and Machine Operatives	Elementary Occupations
Basildon	11,531	6,526	9,761	13,323	9,311	4,579	6,221	6,938	9,579
Braintree	11,219	5,655	8,653	8,870	9,164	4,864	4,440	5,761	7,474
Brentwood	6,330	4,773	5,621	5,482	2,926	1,887	1,776	1,451	2,543
Castle Point	6,107	2,880	4,853	7,488	5,934	2,621	3,357	3,663	4,125
Chelmsford	14,390	9,927	12,104	12,966	8,042	4,653	5,509	4,772	7,897
Colchester	11,885	8,057	11,894	9,750	8,625	5,689	5,995	5,042	8,191
Epping Forest	11,149	6,362	8,518	9,558	6,697	3,400	3,398	3,863	4,904
Harlow	4,911	3,179	4,896	5,762	4,786	2,529	3,131	3,987	5,641
Maldon	5,202	3,028	3,713	3,980	4,109	1,852	1,697	2,391	2,983
Rochford	6,547	3,329	5,300	7,003	4,770	2,195	2,903	2,426	3,337
Tendring	7,887	3,896	5,976	6,606	7,646	5,436	4,421	5,011	6,771
Uttlesford	7,543	4,366	5,300	4,336	3,933	2,236	1,994	2,056	3,274
Southend-on-Sea UA	11,185	6,966	9,987	11,937	7,697	5,086	5,523	4,636	7,162
Thurrock UA	9,169	4,365	7,784	11,537	8,789	4,125	7,210	7,546	9,014

Source: NOMIS, © ONS Crown Copyright Reserved. [28/1/2008]

It is important to find out the level of qualification you will need for any of these occupational levels. Many jobs will demand minimum entry qualifications. Those earning high salaries are usually well qualified and experienced and will continue to learn throughout their working life.

For further information and advice please contact Connexions Direct in confidence (you don't have to give your name or personal details if you don't want to):

Email: via www.connexions-direct.com (click on the email link) • Telephone Connexions Direct on 080 800 13 2 19

Text Connexions Direct on 07766 4 13 2 19 • Local Connexions service www.estconnexions.co.uk

Certain facts and figures are produced under the HMSO Click-Use licence.

March 2008