

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) is here to help companies from overseas set up and expand their operations in the South East of England. It's mission is to grow the economy, creating sustainable jobs and encouraging technology transfer. To do this SEEDA offers a professional, free and confidential service which aims to save businesses valuable management time and money. SEEDA works in conjunction with UK Trade and Investment (UKTI).

SEEDA has a network of representatives based in eight countries around the world. For further information, please visit the website at:

www.investsoutheastengland.co.uk/contactus



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If English is not your first language we can provide a version of this document in Punjabi, Hindi, Gujurati, Urdu, Polish and Bengali.

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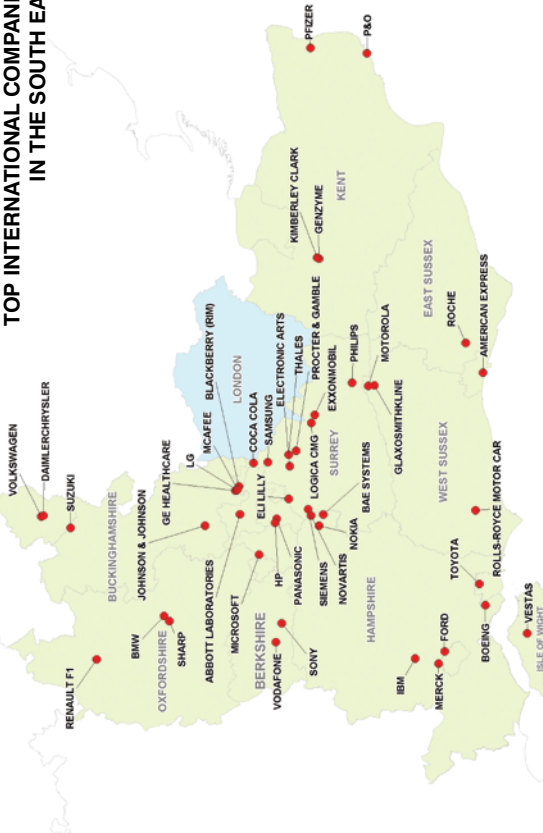
Email: maxinemaclaren@seeda.co.uk



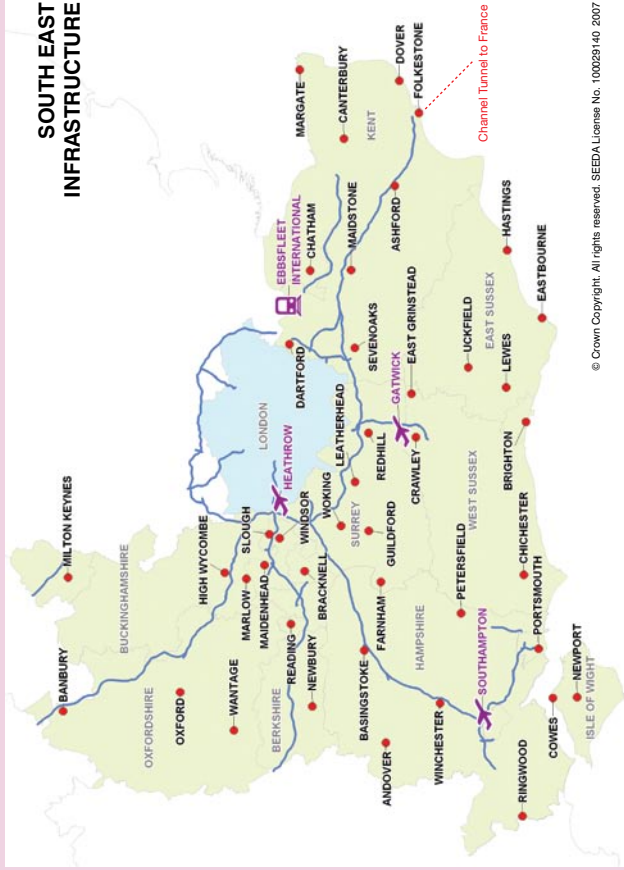
INFRASTRUCTURE

- >> With three international airports, 11 sea ports, 108 motorway junctions, 77 train stations and access to the Channel Tunnel, the South East has one of the most developed infrastructures in Europe.
- >> Most major towns in the South East are connected by rail to central London with a journey time of under an hour.
- >> Heathrow, the world's busiest international passenger airport, is home to over 90 airlines serving approximately 186 destinations. It handles over 67 million passengers and 1.3 million tonnes of airfreight each year (*BAA, 2006*).
- >> It takes 35 minutes to travel through the Channel Tunnel between the South East and mainland Europe. Eurostar trains from Ebbsfleet International rail station in Kent take just over two hours to reach Paris.

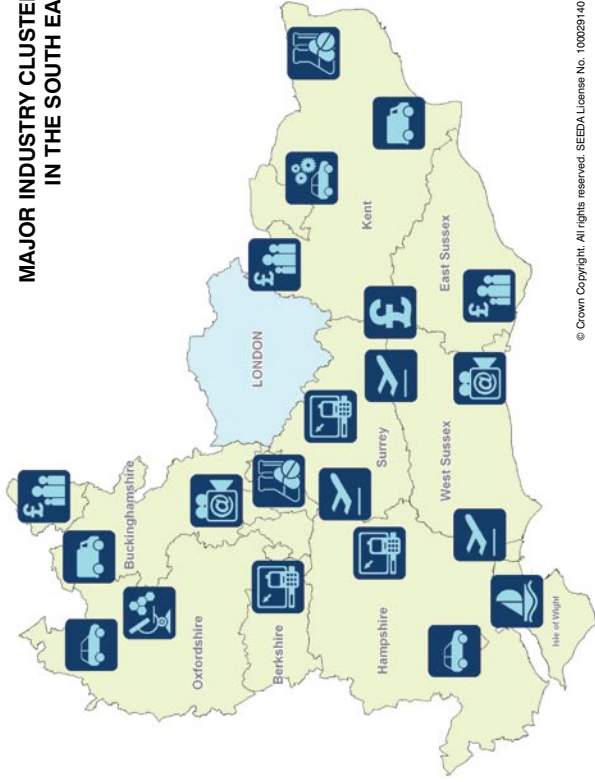
TOP INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES IN THE SOUTH EAST



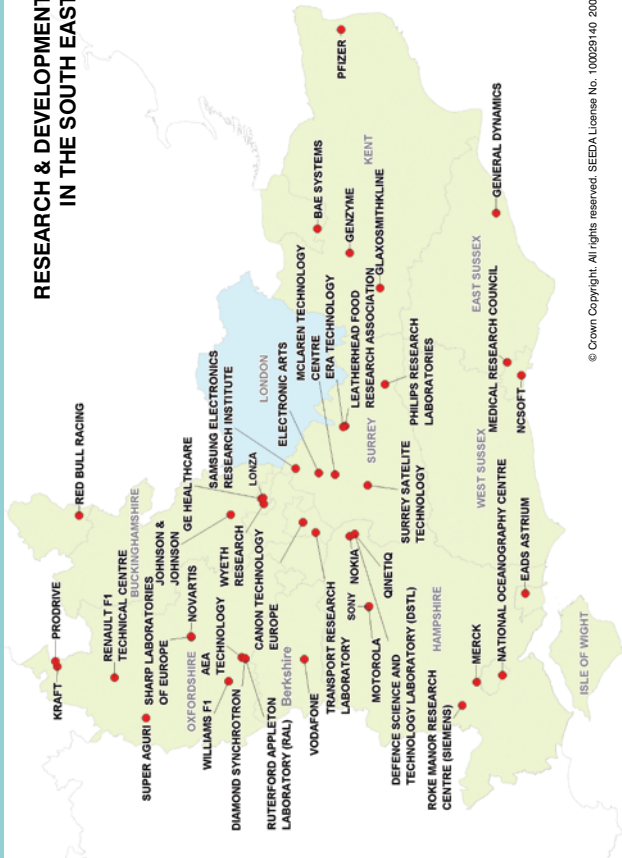
SOUTH EAST INFRASTRUCTURE



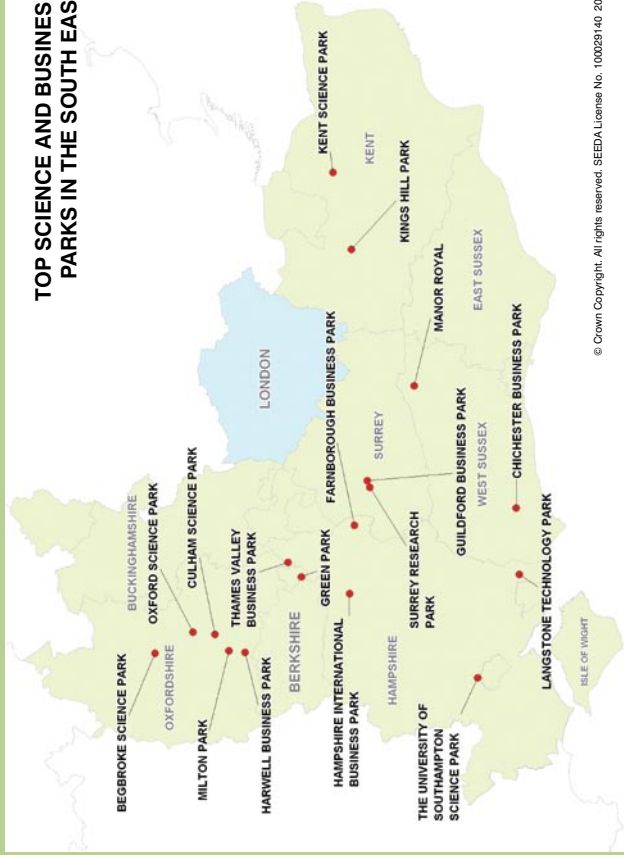
MAJOR INDUSTRY CLUSTERS IN THE SOUTH EAST



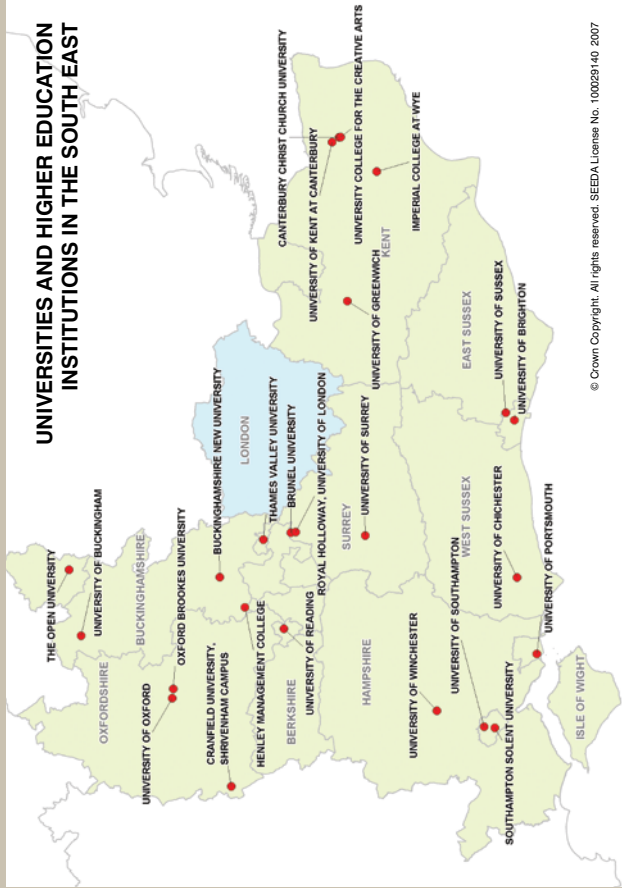
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST



TOP SCIENCE AND BUSINESS PARKS IN THE SOUTH EAST

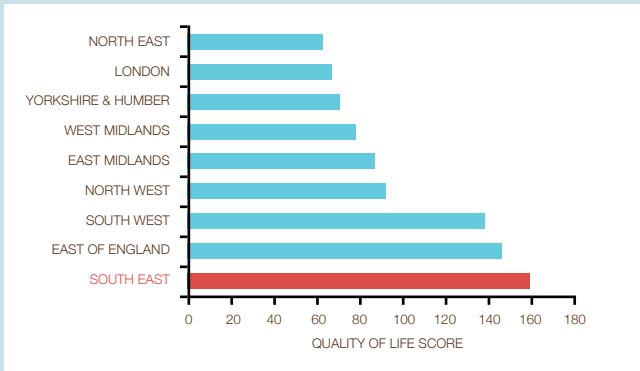


UNIVERSITIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE SOUTH EAST



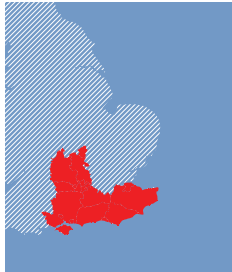
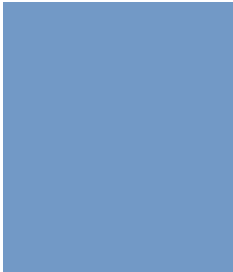
QUALITY OF LIFE

- >> The South East region scores top of a Quality of Life ranking based on local amenities, natural environment, health, affordability, deprivation and crime (*Local Knowledge, 2007*).



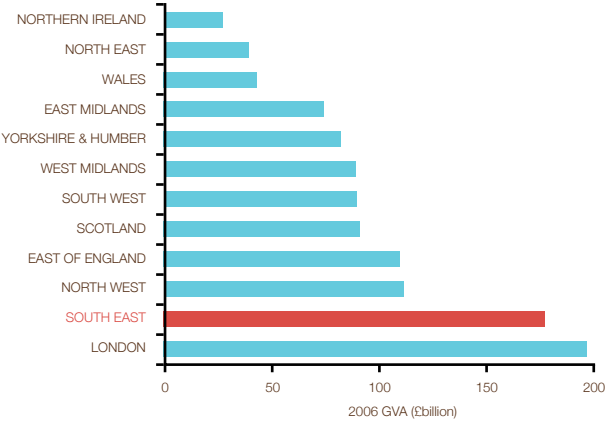
- >> Almost one third of the land in the South East is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), more than any other region.
- >> The South East has a low crime rate of 91 reported crimes per 1,000 people, compared to 100 across England and Wales.

South East England Facts & Figures



ECONOMY & INDUSTRY

>> The South East economy is worth £177 billion (GVA approximately US \$356 billion, €232 billion).



(Residence based at current prices)

(Exchange rate – Economist March 2008)

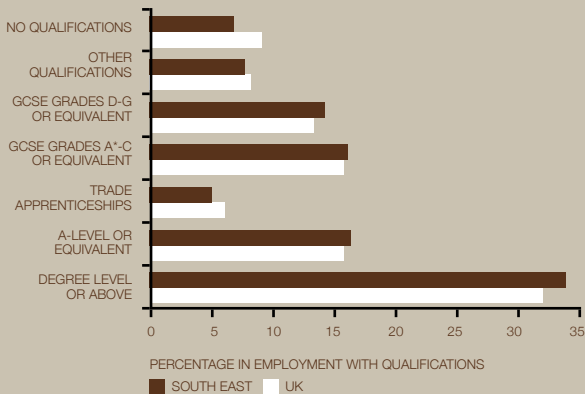
1 GBP = 2.0087 USD

1 GBP = 1.3076 €

- >> With a population of 8.2 million and a workforce of 4.3 million, the South East is the largest region in the UK.
- >> The economy grew at an estimated 3.7% in 2007, faster than the UK average (*Experian Business Strategies, 2007*).
- >> There are almost 307,000 enterprises in the South East, more than any other UK region (*enterprises registered for value added tax*).
- >> The South East is the largest exporter in the UK, with £34 billion of goods moved annually through the South East ports (approx US\$68 billion, €44 billion).

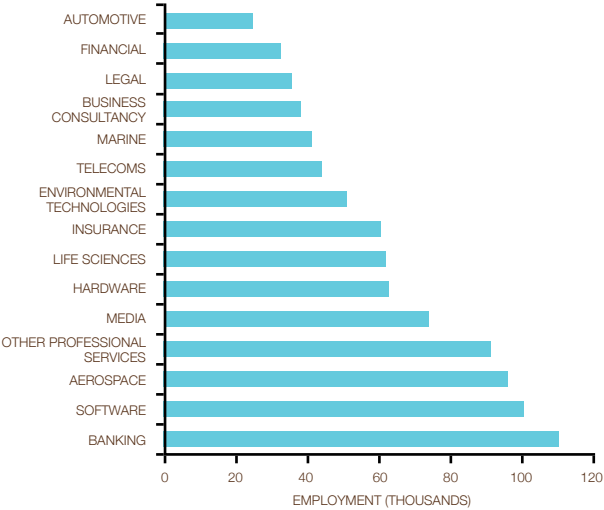
LABOUR FORCE & EDUCATION

- >> The South East has a diverse labour force of over 4.3 million people, the largest regional workforce in the UK.
- >> The labour force is highly educated with 90% of the working age population holding an academic qualification and over one third of the workforce holding a degree.



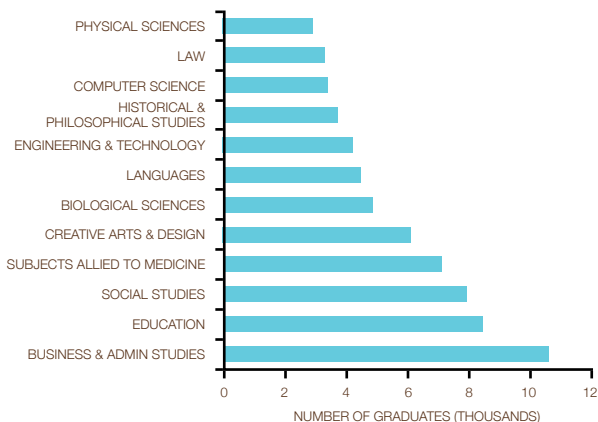
- >> The South East has over 450,000 fluent linguists including 338,000 fluent speakers in the key European languages of French, German, Italian and Spanish, more than any other UK region other than London (*Oxford Intelligence, 2007*).
- >> The South East is the leading UK region for IT skills with a fifth of the UK IT workforce. 513,000 adults have technical IT skills and of those 331,000 have advanced programming skills (*Oxford Intelligence, 2007*).
- >> Around nine working days a year are lost per employee due to sickness, the lowest amount for a UK region.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT



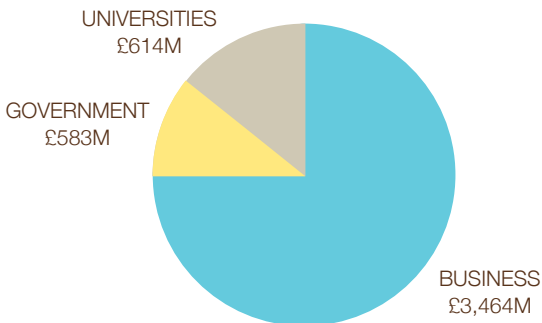
- >> The region is home to 24 universities and higher education institutes, where nearly 282,000 students study including 43,000 foreign students. This includes the University of Oxford, one of the most prestigious universities in the world.
- >> The universities work very closely with business, with over 2,800 research contracts won annually, higher than any other UK region.
- >> The universities have created 77 spin off companies that have survived over 3 years and approximately 80 patents are granted per year.

>> The region's universities and higher education institutes supply over 74,000 graduates per annum.



RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (R&D)

- >> £4.66 billion is spent on R&D annually, nearly one quarter of UK expenditure (approx US\$9.36 billion, €6.1 billion).



- >> South East organisations undertaking R&D employ 45,800 people, which is almost 25% of the UK R&D workforce.
- >> Over 600 patents were granted in the South East, more than any other UK region (*Patent Office, Annual Review 2006*).

- >> There are 5,100 foreign owned companies in the South East that directly employ 516,000 people and contribute £35 billion to the regional economy (GVA).

Country	Foreign Owned Companies in the South East
USA	1,541
Germany	537
France	379
Netherlands	356
Nordic	358
Japan	212
Switzerland	195
Ireland	121
Belgium	112
Canada	111
Italy	101

(ONS and Bureau Van Dijk, 2007)



FAR LEFT: THE DANBY BUILDING, OXFORD SCIENCE PARK
LEFT: SCIENTIST WORKING AT SEEDA ENTERPRISE HUB

RIGHT: SPINNAKER TOWER, PORTSMOUTH
FAR RIGHT: ROBOTICS DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF READING
BELOW: WINCHESTER HIGH STREET



ABOVE: GREEN PARK, BUSINESS PARK IN THE THAMES VALLEY
ABOVE RIGHT: THE DIAMOND SCIENCE FACILITY, NEAR OXFORD
RIGHT: SUSTAINABLE HOUSING AT ROPETACKLE, ADUR

