CITY INTELLIGENCE

The State of London

A review of London’s economy and society

June 2025

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Greater London Authority
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London E16 1ZE

www.london.gov.uk

Tel 020 7983 4000

For more information about this publication, please contact:

City Intelligence

Email intelligence@london.gov.uk

Addendum – 20 June 2025

Figure 1, ‘Londoners’ ability to meet their housing costs’, in the Housing chapter was amended. The chart now shows an upward trend for those that kept up payments without difficulty.

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1: FOREWORD

This is the sixth edition of the State of London report, a publication that provides the most up-to-date statistics on London's performance across a range of economic and social outcomes.

The report brings together over 100 datasets organised across 11 themes: demography; economy; skills; global city and culture; housing; environment; transport; health; communities and young people; social justice; and crime and safety. The aim is to provide a selection of some of the most important indicators informing the work of the Mayor, the London Assembly, and stakeholders in London – thereby presenting an up-to-date snapshot of how the capital is performing.

New for this edition is the inclusion of specific outcome statements that describe the aims of the Mayor and the Greater London Authority (GLA), called 'London-level outcomes'. These outcomes have informed the choice of indicators and are used to structure each chapter. The core indicators used by the GLA for monitoring the London-level outcomes are denoted with an asterisk (*) in Figure sub-headers. In addition, some supplementary indicators have been included to maintain continuity with previous versions of the State of London report.

We have selected datasets that update the most frequently, reliably and with the shortest lag. Unfortunately, not all indicators meet these criteria and caveats are provided where issues with the data have been identified. While comprehensive in its coverage, this report is by no means exhaustive, and links to further information on the different topics are provided in each chapter.

Quarters referred to in the report are either calendar or financial as labelled. It is not possible to use a consistent format throughout as data sources vary considerably. Care should be taken when interpreting changes in quarterly data; some of the differences may be due to seasonal variation, while others could be a result of other factors. Longer time series have been provided where available to provide an understanding of longer-term trends.

The latest data are provided at the time of drafting the report in May 2025. A companion State of London Dashboard is published online where the charts in the report can be found.

Many thanks go to all the teams and people who contributed to this publication, but special recognition should go to the following: Matthew Daley, Joe Heywood, Micheal Slade, Barry Fong, Ellie Bloom, Gordon Douglass, Nick Jacob, Ali Ögcem, Sixia Zhang, Ben Corr, Héctor Espinoza, Ruth Moxon, Jeff O'Reilly, Matthew Tibbles, Veronica Tuffrey, Sarah Willis, Maleeha Kisat, Sophie Deakin, Laura Bradshaw, Lauren Wool, James Gleeson, Guk Yu, Mike Brondbjerg, and Daryl Rozario.

We welcome any feedback you have on this report via email to: intelligence@london.gov.uk.

Adam Yousef,
Senior Manager, City Intelligence

2: LONDON IN FIGURES

This section provides some fundamental statistics for London and compares the capital to three other global cities – New York, Paris, and Tokyo – across geographic, demographic and economic parameters.

Table 1: Geography, demography and economy statistics for London

Parameter	Latest figure	Additional comments
GEOGRAPHY		
Area	1,571.9 km^2	Office for National Statistics (ONS) (2021)
Biggest borough	Bromley (150.2 km^2)	
Smallest borough	Kensington and Chelsea (12.1 km^2)	City of London, while smaller (2.9 km^2), is not technically a borough
Topography	48%-51% landmass either 'green' or 'blue' (i.e., covered by parks, gardens, rivers, etc.)	How Green is London report (2019)[1]
Global Cities Index ranking (2025)	2	Oxford Economics (2025)
DEMOGRAPHY		
Population	8.94 million	ONS 2023 mid-year estimates
Foreign-born population	38.5%	London and Partners (2023)
Ethnic composition	54% White, 46% BAME	Data from 2021 Census; 14% Black, 21% Asian, 6% Mixed, 5% Other
Median age	35.9	ONS figure for 2023
Male/female breakdown	48% male, 52% female	GLA Demography (2022)
ECONOMY		
Gross value added (2023)	£532.2 billion	ONS; in 2022 constant prices (i.e., inflation-adjusted)
Employment rate	73.9%	ONS (adjusted; 3 months to February 2025)
Unemployment rate	6.5%	ONS (adjusted; 3 months to February 2025)
Inactivity rate	20.9%	ONS (adjusted; 3 months to February 2025)
Income	£2,910	Median nominal monthly pay (HMRC RTI data); March 2025
Poverty	19%	Percent of the population living in households with less than 50% of the contemporary national median income (after accounting for housing costs)

[1] London Green and Blue Cover - London Datastore

Table 2: London compared to New York, Paris and Tokyo

Note: Given the different geographical definitions available for each city, a strict and harmonised comparison is very difficult. Where possible, the boundary definition associated with the statistical figures corresponding to a city is provided.

	London	New York	Paris	Tokyo
Total surface area (km^2)	1,572	1,215[2] (New York City core)	105 (Département)	2,190[3] (Tokyo Metropolis)
Percent green space[4]	33%	27%	10%	7.5%
Global Cities Index ranking (2025) [5]	2	1	3	9
Population (million)[6]	8.94	City: 8.8 (New York City core)	7.1 (Métropole du Grand Paris)	37.0
Median age	35.9	38[7] (2024)	36[8] (2024)	49.5[9] (2024)
Foreign-born population (%)[10]	38.5	36.4	19.8	4.1
Gross domestic product (£bn; 2023)[11]	593	698 (New York City core)	157 (Département)	639 (Tokyo Metropolis)
Unemployment rate (latest available; %)	6.5	5.1[12]	7.0[13]	2.6[14]
Property Price Index (2025)[15]	18.6	14.2	16.9	16.0
City Happiness Index ranking (2025)[16]	31	17	13	42

[2] For New York and Paris: C40 Cities Forum: https://www.c40.org/cities/
[3] 令和元年全国都道府県市区町村別面積調（１０月１日時点） | 国土地理院 (archive.org)
[4] World Cities Culture Forum – Data - World Cities Culture Forum
[5] https://www.oxfordeconomics.com/global-cities-index/
[6] For London: Office for National Statistics. For Paris: Comparateur de territoires – Intercommunalité-Métropole de 7344 du Grand Paris (200054781) | Insee. For New York and Tokyo: London and Partners (2024) using fDi Intelligence data. Global Cities Comparison Report.
[7] https://datacommons.org/place/geoId/3651000
[8] https://populationstat.com/france/paris
[9] https://database.earth/population/japan/median-age (database.earth). Note : This is the median age for Japan not Tokyo specifically; it could be slightly lower for Tokyo, but is likely to be higher than London, New York, and Paris.
[10] fDi Intelligence from the Financial Times Ltd
[11] C40 Cities Forum: https://www.c40.org/cities/
[12] https://dol.ny.gov/labor-statistics-new-york-city-region
[13] https://www.insee.fr/fr/statistiques/2109644
[14] https://www.statista.com/statistics/1330451/japan-unemployment-rate-tokyo-prefecture/
[15] Property Prices Index 2025 Index is ratio of median apartment prices to median familial disposable income.
[16] https://happy-city-index.com/

3: KEY STORIES FOR LONDON

While it is not possible to summarise all the information presented in this report, this section presents highlights across a range of the report's chapters.

Economy

London's economic growth recovered strongly post-COVID, with growth rates of 7.7% in 2021 and 8.1% in 2022.

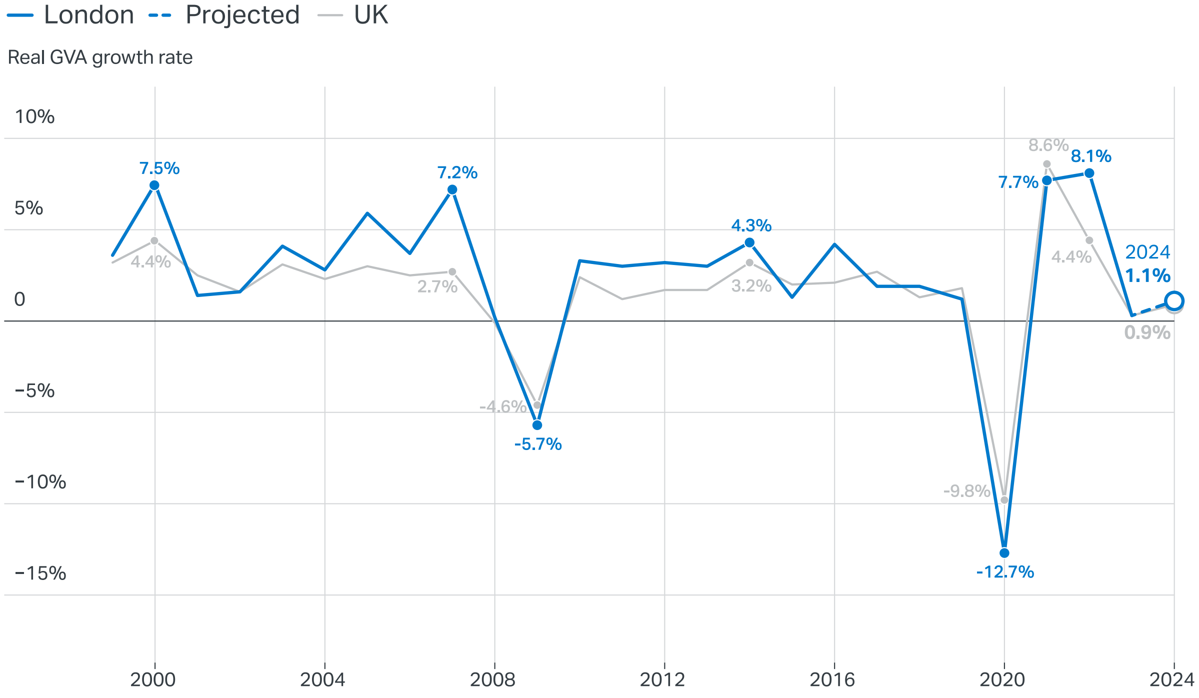
Growth slowed to 0.3% in 2023, with a projected increase of 1.1% in 2024, slightly above the UK's growth rate.

High-value industries such as tech, finance, and education have driven the rebound.

Business dynamism is returning, with births exceeding closures again in late 2023.

London's economy rebounded directly after COVID but growth has generally been modest

Real Gross Value Added (GVA) growth rate (percentage), London vs UK, 1999 -2024



Source: Office for National Statistics, GLA Economics
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

Global city and culture

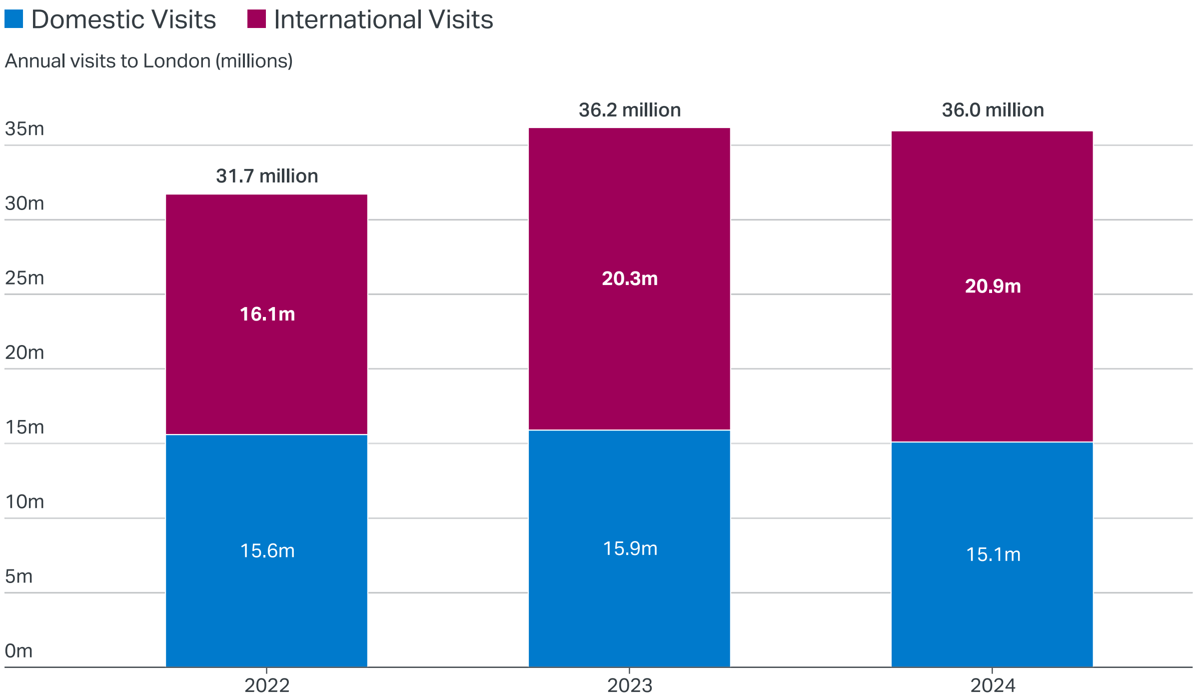
The number of international visitors to London has recovered strongly from the pandemic, rising from 16.1 million in 2022 to 20.9 million in 2024. At the same time, domestic visits remained resilient, averaging over 15 million annually.

Together, these trends suggest sustained interest in London as both an international and domestic tourism destination.

London also ranks highly in international city comparison lists.

The number of international visitors to London has recovered strongly from the pandemic, rising from 16.1 million in 2022 to 20.9 million in 2024

Domestic and International visits to London, 2022, 2023 & 2024



Source: VisitBritain
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

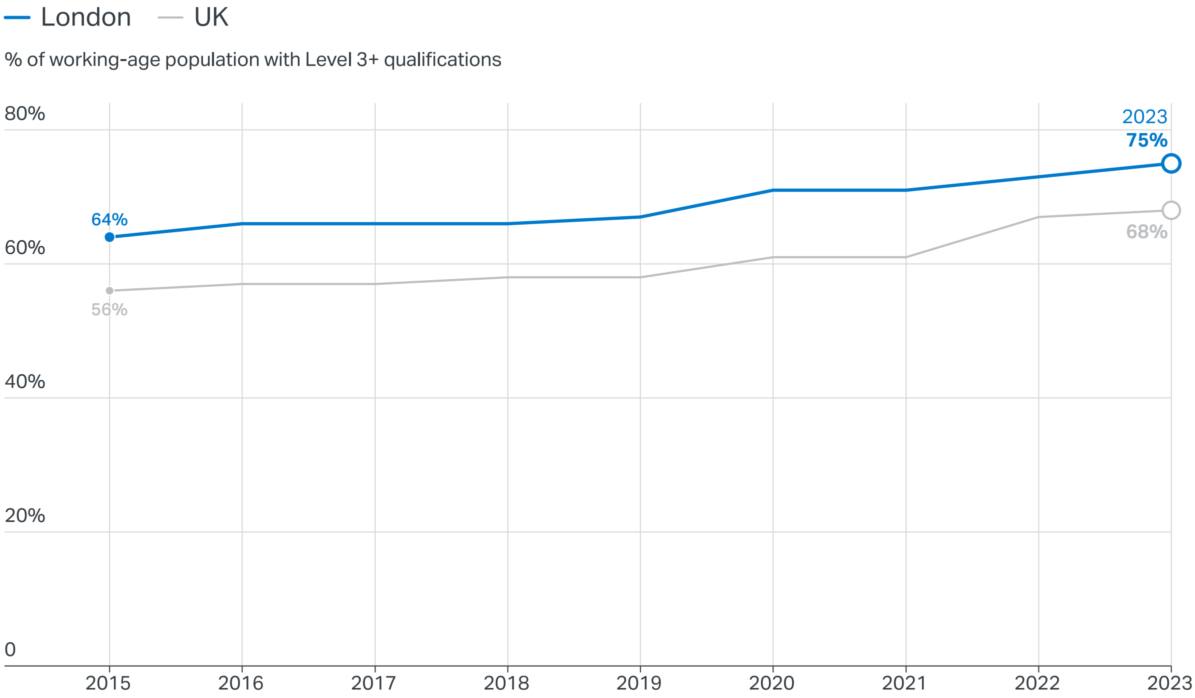
Skills

The working-age population in London is becoming more highly qualified. In 2023, three-quarters (75%) of 16-64 year-old Londoners held a Level 3 or above qualification (equivalent to two A level qualifications or higher, including degrees), higher than for the UK overall (68%).

Since the latter half of 2022, job vacancies (as represented by job-posting numbers) have steadily trended back towards pre-pandemic levels.

London is becoming more highly qualified, with 75% of the working-age population holding a Level 3 or above qualification

% of 16-64 year-olds with Level 3+ qualifications, 2015 - 2023, London vs UK



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

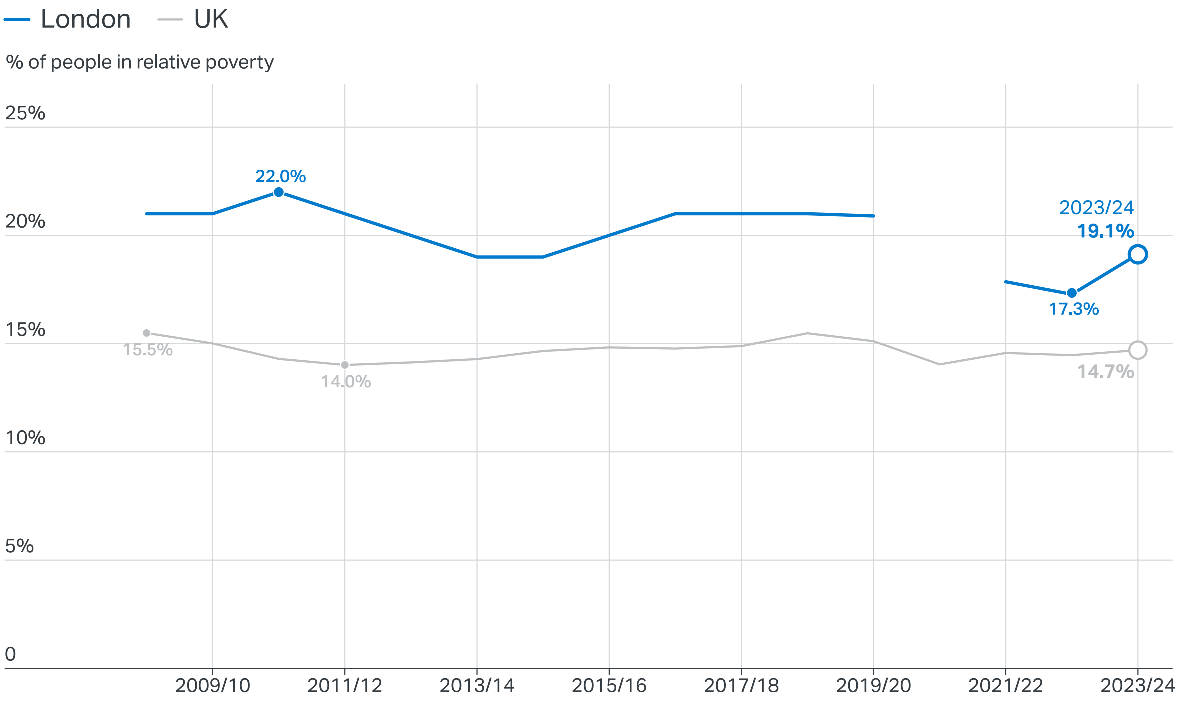
Social justice

Looking at the relative poverty measure with the threshold of 50% of the national median, it can be seen that around 1 in 5 Londoners (19%) are in this deeper level of poverty, roughly 1.7 million Londoners.

The poverty rate is highest in London compared with all other regions of the UK and especially high in Inner London.

Around 1 in 5 Londoners (19%) live in relative poverty (after housing costs), roughly 1.7 million people

% of people living in households with income below 50% of the contemporary median, London vs UK



Source: DWP Households Below Average Income
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

Housing

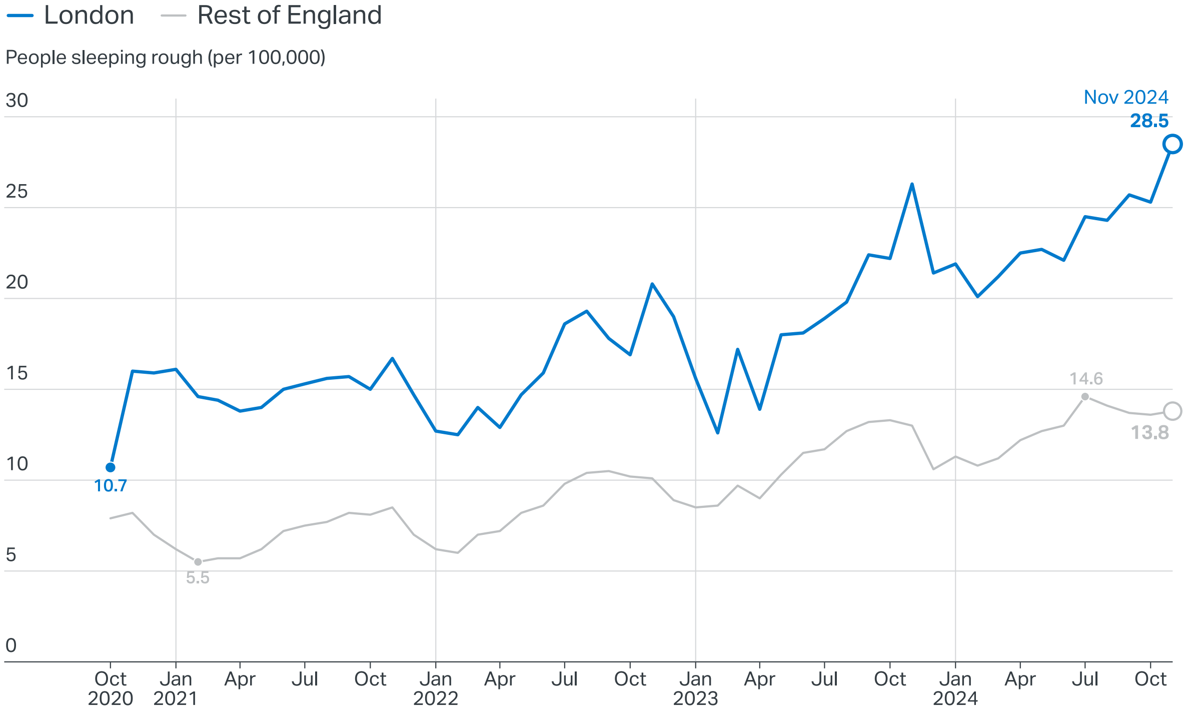
28.5 out of every 100,000 Londoners were sleeping rough in November 2024, the highest rate recorded since 2020.

The proportion of homes in London across all tenures estimated to meet the official Decent Homes Standard rose from 63% in 2006 to 90% in 2022.

26% of surveyed Londoners reported that they struggled to keep up with rent or mortgage payments in January 2025.

In November 2024, London saw the highest rate (28.5 per 100,000) of people sleeping rough since data records began in 2020

Number of people sleeping rough over the month per 100,000 people



Source: MHCLG Ending Rough Sleeping Data Framework
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

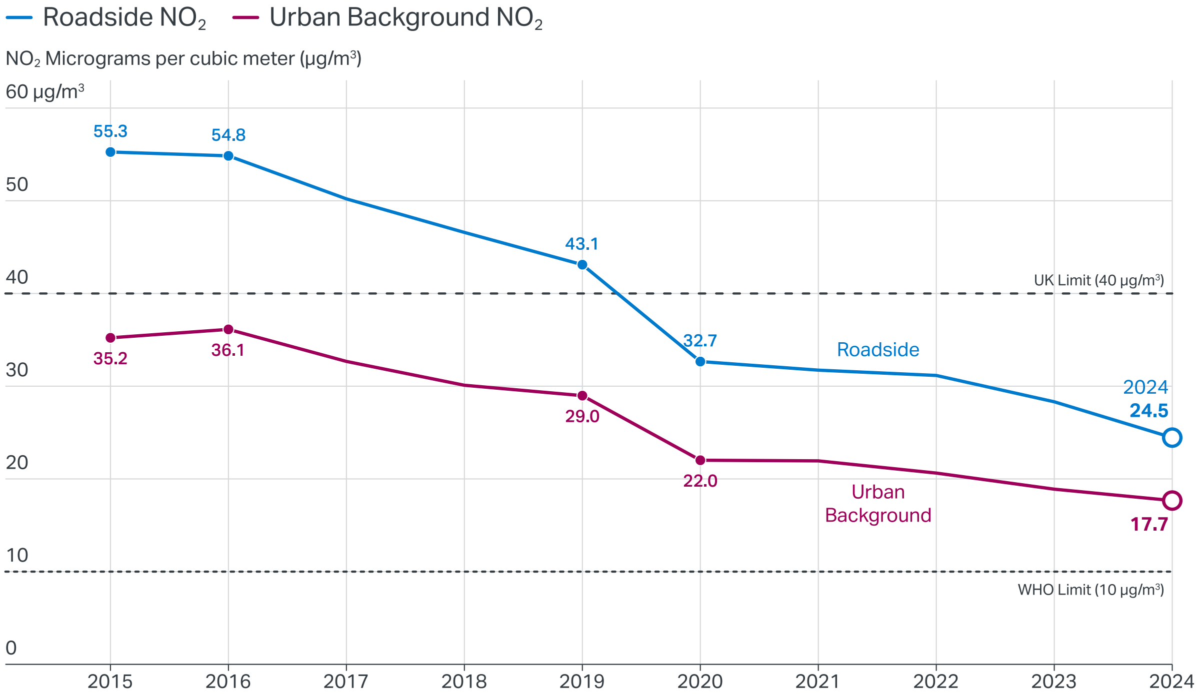
Environment

Annual Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) concentrations in London have been decreasing since 2017, with a continuing downward trend across roadside and urban background sites. Based on provisional data, in 2024, NO_2 concentration levels for both these sites were the lowest levels recorded.

London's annual Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in 2022 were 28.4 million tCO_2e. This represents a 44% reduction compared to 2000, when emissions peaked.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) concentrations in London have been decreasing since 2017, across both roadside and urban background monitoring sites

Annual mean concentration of NO_2 at the roadside and urban background between 2015 and 2024



Source: London Air, Air Quality England, UK-Air
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

Crime

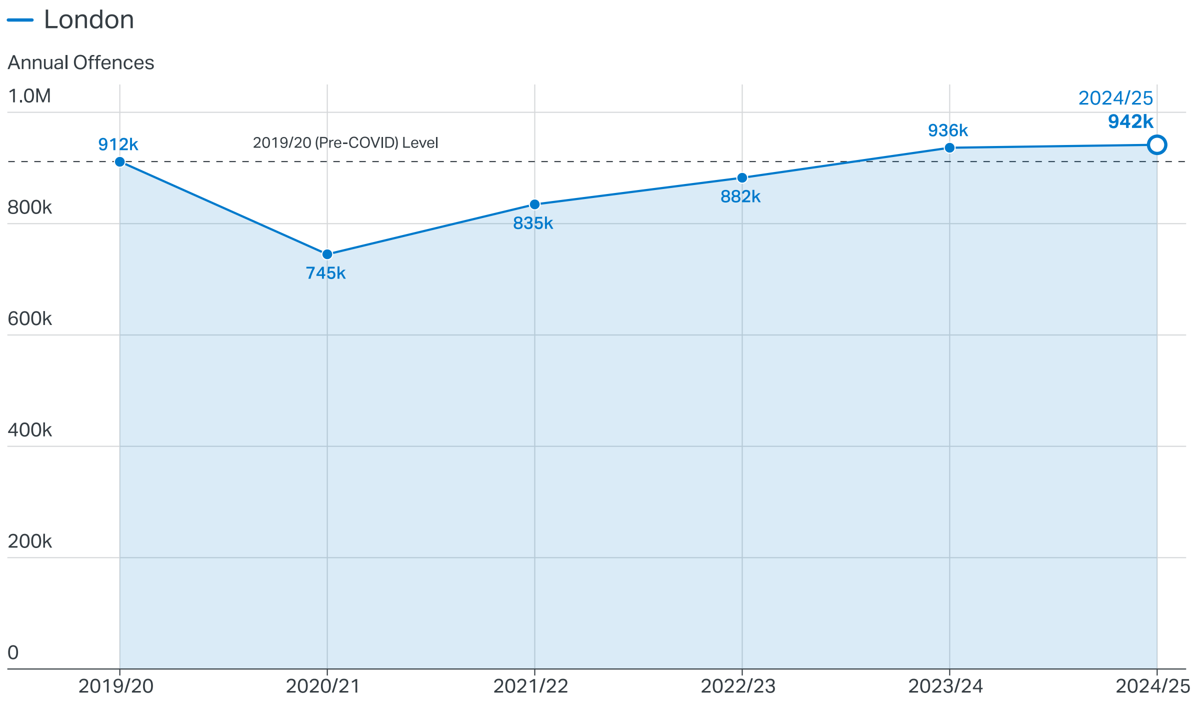
During the pandemic and lockdown periods, recorded crime levels reduced significantly within London.

This was followed by year-on-year increases in the level of crime recorded between 2021/22 and 2023/24.

Over the last year, the crime level looks to have stabilised again, with only a 0.6% increase in 2024/25 from the level recorded in 2023/24.

London's recorded crime level may have begun to stabilise, having been rising year-on-year since the pandemic

Total annual notifiable offences, 2019/20 - 2024/25



Source: MPS Crime Data Dashboard
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

Transport

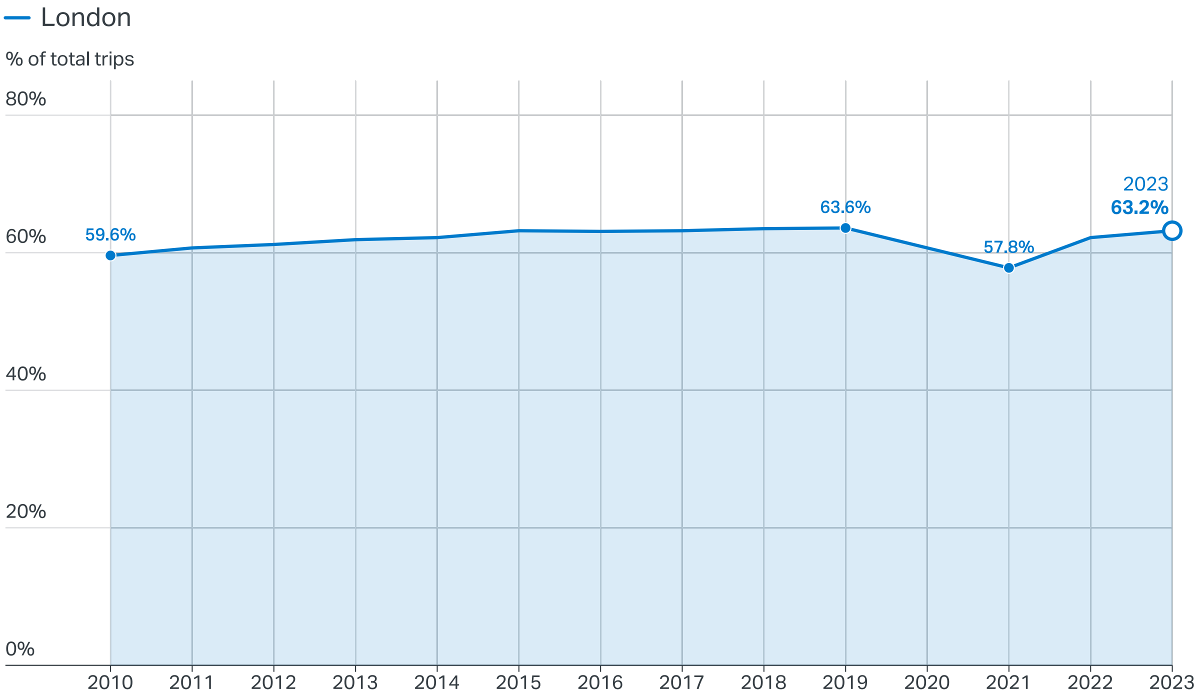
The proportion of total trips in London made by walking, cycling or public transport steadily increased from 59.6% in 2010 to 63.6% in 2019.

Following a decline during the pandemic, the mode share increased in 2023 to 63.2%.

While progress before the pandemic was slower than required to meet the Mayor's Transport Strategy target of 80% by 2041, the pandemic legacy of fewer public transport trips is also adversely affecting progress.

After declining during the pandemic, the proportion of total trips in London made by walking, cycling or public transport has risen in 2023

Active, efficient and sustainable mode share, 2010-2023.



Source: TfL Travel in London 2024 - Annual Overview
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

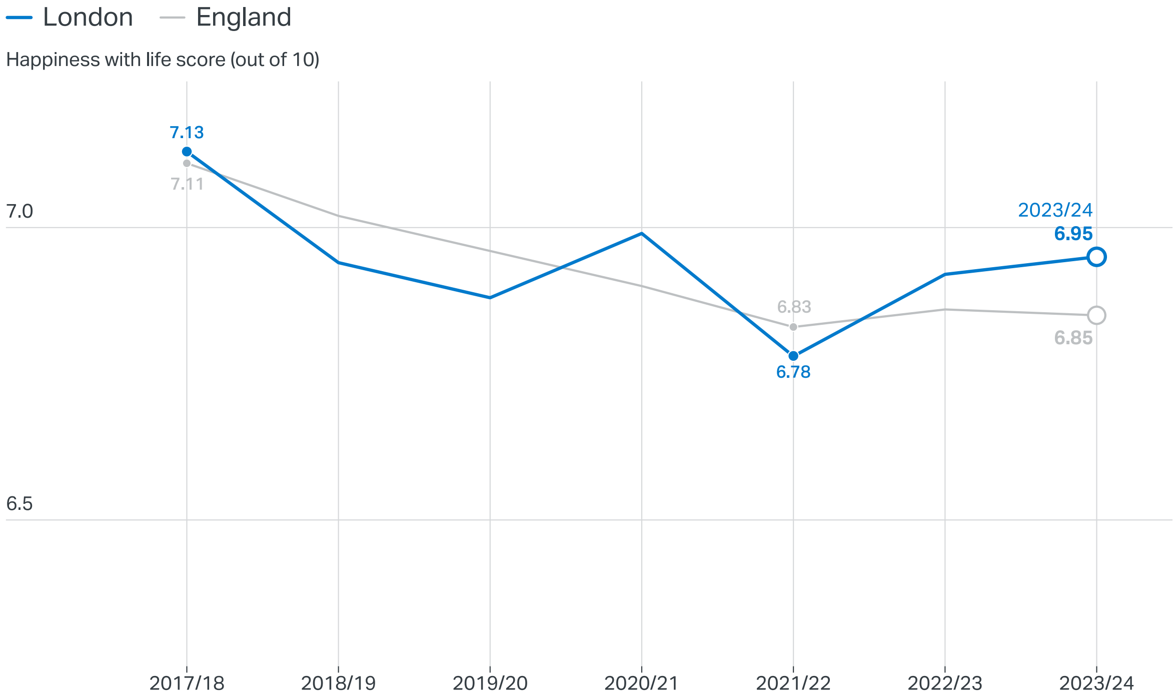
Children and young people

The average happiness score (out of 10) for children in Years 3-11 in London in 2023/24 was 6.95. This has remained relatively stable, although it has decreased slightly overall since 2017/18 when it was 7.13 in London.

In 2009/10, 8% of Londoners aged 10-15 had a probable mental disorder and in the most recent survey covering 2021/22 (i.e., partially covering the pandemic period) this had risen to 19%.

Children's average happiness score in London has remained relatively stable, although it has decreased slightly since 2017/18

Children (years 3-11) mean self-reported happiness with life score (out of 10), London vs England



Source: Active Lives Children and Young People Survey, Sports England
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

Health

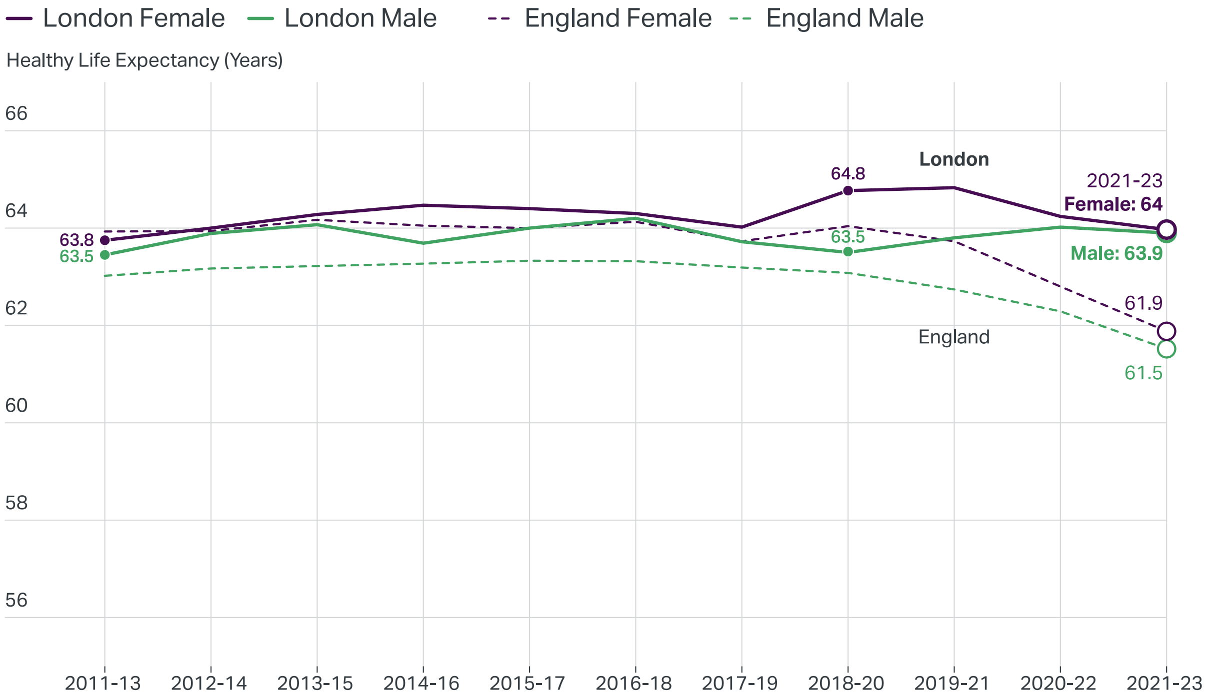
In London, healthy life expectancy (HLE) decreased for females at birth whilst there was no significant change for males in 2021-23.

These values mask significant variation in HLE between and within boroughs, with a gap of more than 13 years between boroughs.

There had been a downward trend in the infant mortality rate for London over several decades, but from 2014 onwards it has levelled off and even increased slightly.

In 2021-23, healthy life expectancy (HLE) decreased for females in London whilst there was no significant change for males

HLE at birth, London vs England by sex, 2011-13 to 2021-23 (three year rolling averages)



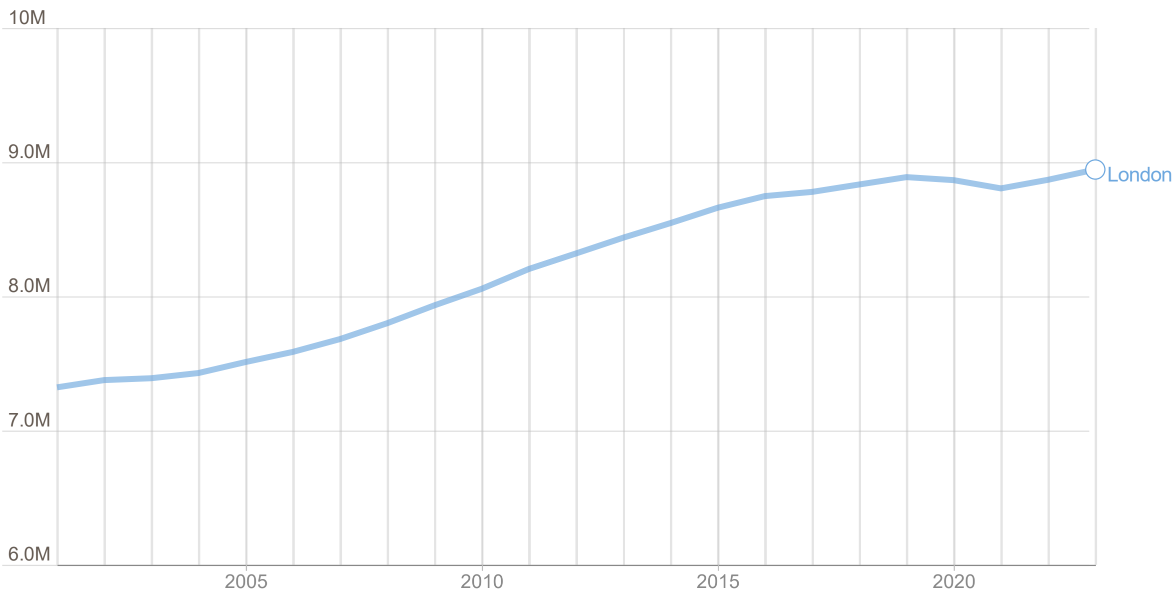
Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on ONS data)
Graphic: GLA City Intelligence

4: DEMOGRAPHY

This chapter provides data and recent trends on London's demographics. For more population statistics and analysis, including demographic projections, see the demography pages of the London Datastore.

Figure 1: Total population, London

Total population (millions)



Source: ONS Population estimates for England and Wales

The 2023 mid-year estimates published by the ONS in July 2024 gave London's population as 8.94 million, surpassing the pre-pandemic high of 8.89 million estimated for mid-2019.

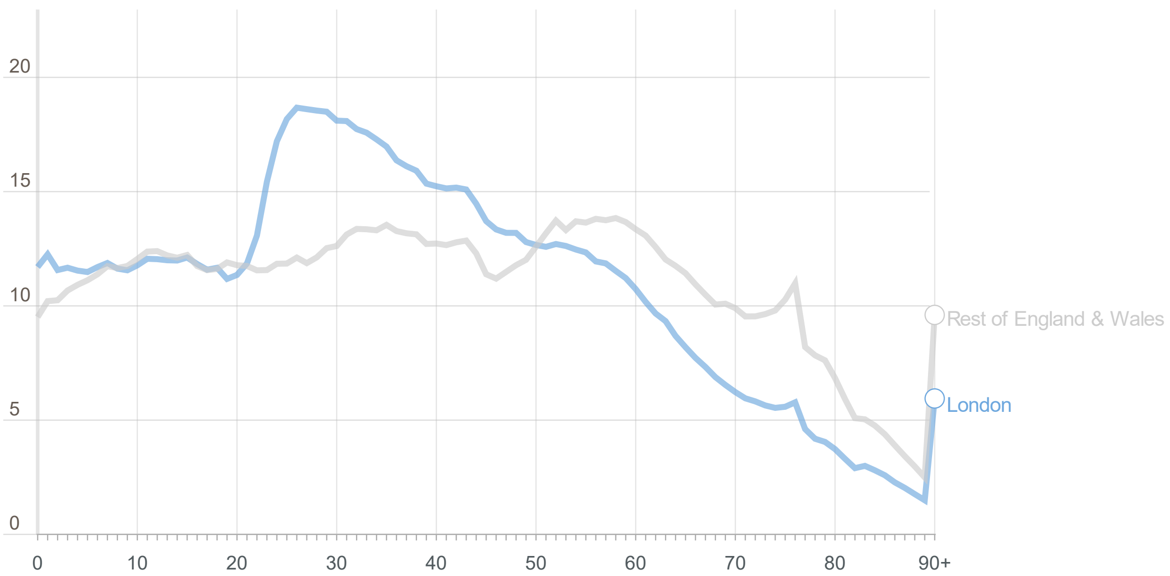
In November 2024, the ONS released updated estimates of UK Long-Term International Migration (LTIM), with net migration to the UK for the year-ending June 2023 being revised upwards from (an already record high of) 672 thousand to 906 thousand.

The ONS have indicated that the current series of population estimates will be revised to be consistent with the UK migration figures. However, these revised estimates are not expected to be released before July 2025.

Because of the scale of the changes to the UK migration estimates and the importance of international migration to London, it seems likely that current estimates of London's population may be revised upwards in the coming months.

Figure 2: Population age structure

Persons per 1,000 total population, estimates for year ending June 2023

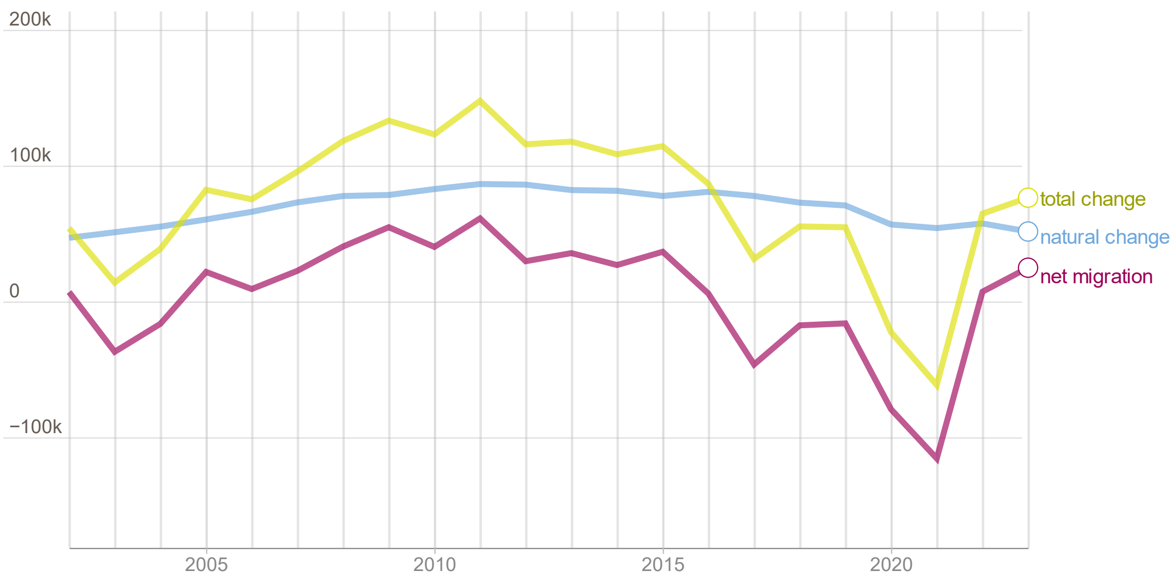


Source: [ONS Population estimates for England and Wales]

Figure 2 shows the distribution of London's population by age. London has a far more youthful population than the rest of the country, with an estimated median age of 35.9 years, compared to 41.4 years for the remainder of England and Wales.

Figure 3: Annual change in population, London

Annual change in population to mid-2023



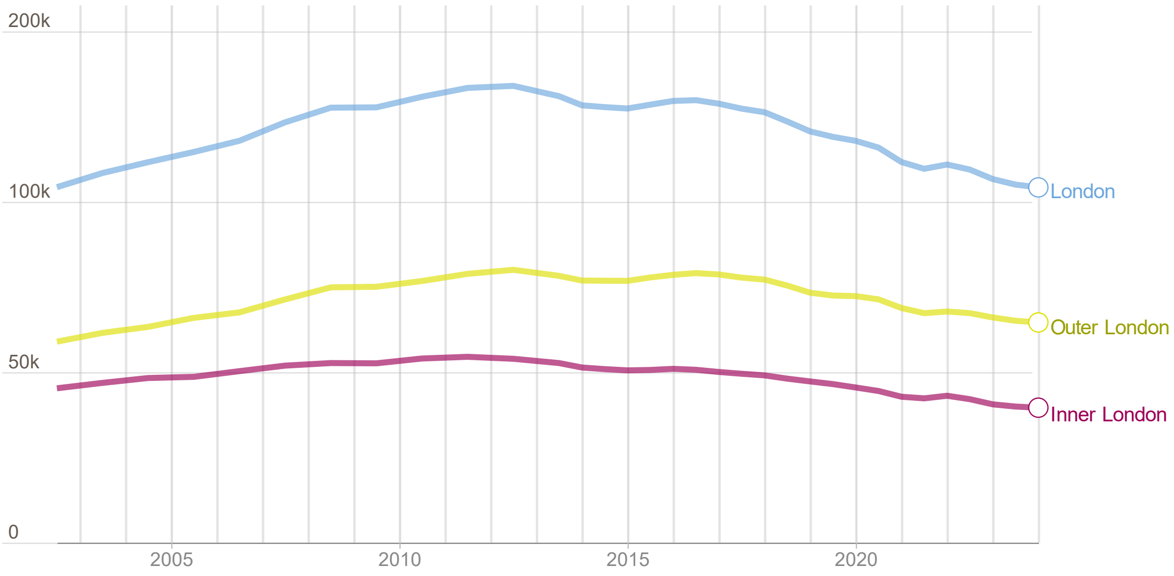
Source: [ONS Population estimates for England and Wales]; [GLA modelled estimates]

London's population was estimated to have grown by over 76 thousand in the year to mid-2023, the highest annual increase since 2016.

Natural change – the difference between births and deaths – was responsible for almost 52 thousand of the increase, with net migration to London accounting for 25 thousand.

Figure 4: Annual births in London

Annual live births, for years ending June 2002 to December 2023

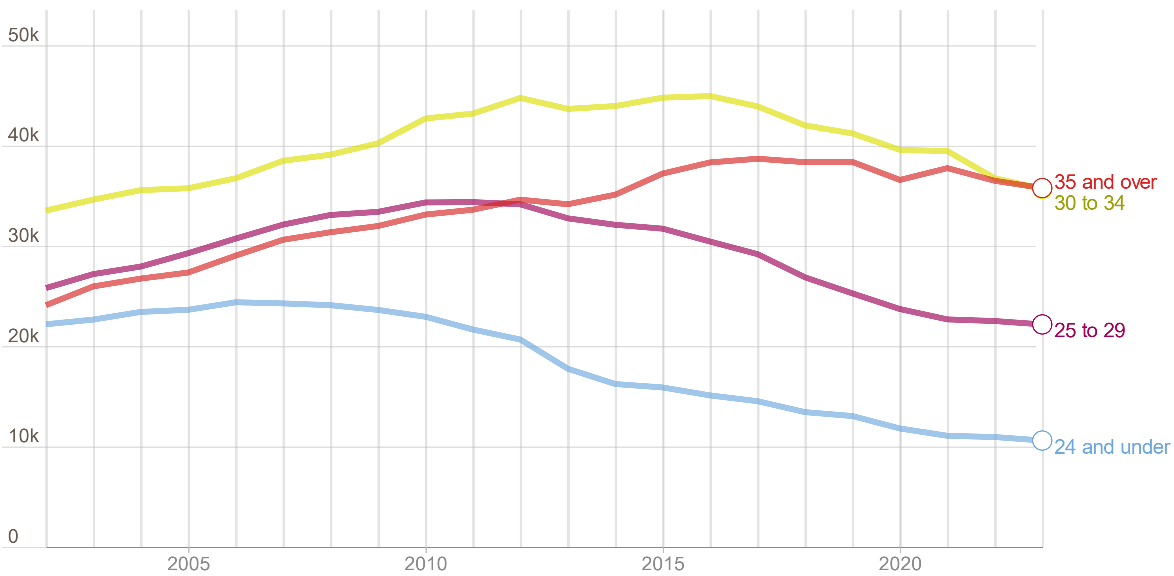


Sources: [ONS Live birth estimates](), [ONS mid-year estimates]()

The recent official estimates showed there to have been 104 thousand births in London for calendar year 2023, more than 20% below their peak in 2012.

Figure 5: Annual births by age of mother, London

Annual live births, for calendar years 2002 to 2023

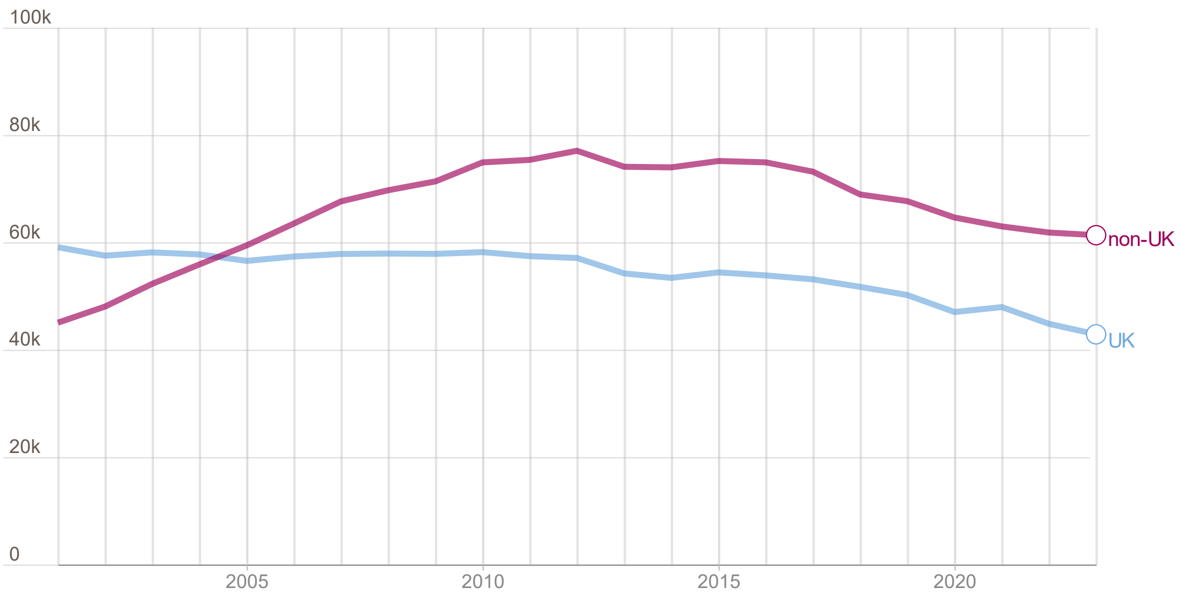


Sources: [ONS Live birth estimates]()

As is the case for the country as a whole, the majority of the decline over the last decade has been due to falling numbers of births to mothers under the age of 30. These falls had been partially offset by rising numbers of births to older mothers, but the latest data showed a year-on-year reduction in births across all age groups.

Figure 6: Annual births by mother's country of birth, London

Annual live births, for calendar years 2001 to 2023

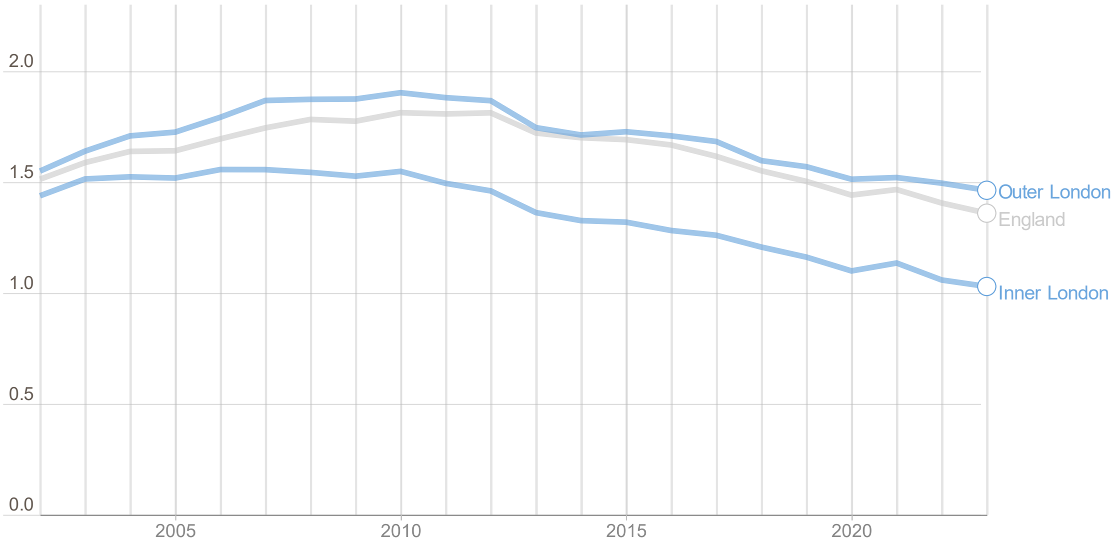


Source: [ONS Live birth estimates]

The large rise in births seen between 2002 and 2012 had been driven by increases to mothers born outside of the UK. Since 2012, annual births to both non-UK and UK-born mothers have fallen by a similar amount in absolute terms. In 2023, there were nearly one and a half times as many births to mothers born outside of the UK as to those born within the UK.

Figure 7: Total fertility rate

Children per woman



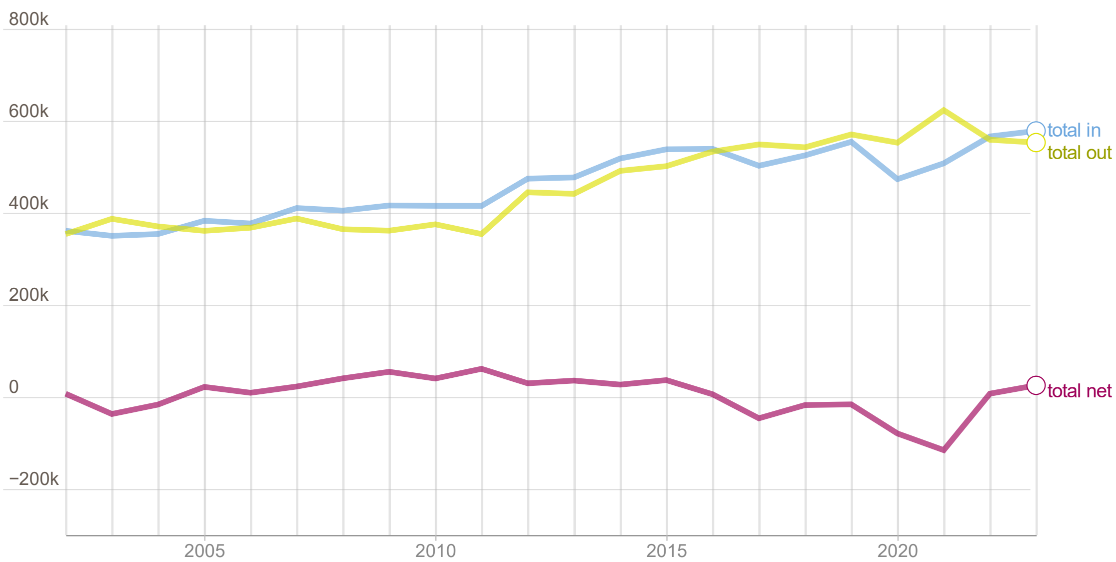
Source: ONS Live birth estimates; calculations GLA

The decline in the number of births in London is driven by a drop in fertility rates rather than a decrease in the number of potential mothers. Fertility rates have been falling across the UK – and indeed across much of the world in recent years.

Trends in Total Fertility Rate (the average number of children a woman would be expected to have in her lifetime if she were to experience current age-specific fertility rates) in Outer London largely match those for England as a whole, while Inner London has seen a relatively larger decrease. These trends and the drivers behind them are explored in the 2024 report London's population of young children – current and future.

Figure 8: Total annual migration flows, London

Annual migration flows to mid-2023

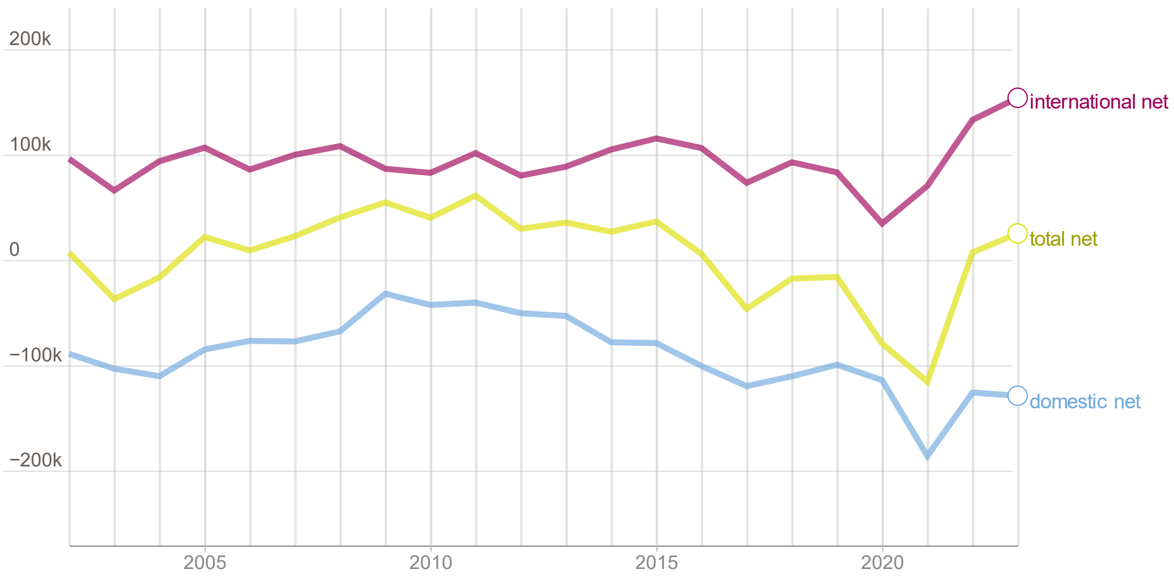


Source: ONS population estimates; GLA modelled estimates

London's net migration balance is very small when compared to its annual population turnover (the sum of flows to and from the region). For the year ending mid-2023 London's total net migration was estimated at +25 thousand and its turnover at 1.13 million.

Figure 9: Annual net migration, London

Annual net migration to mid-2023



Source: ONS population estimates; GLA modelled estimates

This overall net figure was made up of a net international inflow of 154 thousand and a net domestic outflow of 129 thousand.

The 2023 international flow estimate is the highest on record and may yet be revised upwards when ONS publish updated estimates consistent with the UK LTIM data.

Domestic outflows from London have been increasing since the low point of 2009 that followed the 2008 Financial Crisis. Excluding the sharp spike in 2021 that was a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, net outflows from London are now at their highest level this century.

5: ECONOMY

This chapter focuses on the performance of London's economy and how it is benefiting Londoners. Indicators have been chosen which relate to the following three London-level outcomes:

- Stable, long-term economic growth benefits all Londoners.
- Londoners have access to good work.
- High streets and town centres are thriving across London.

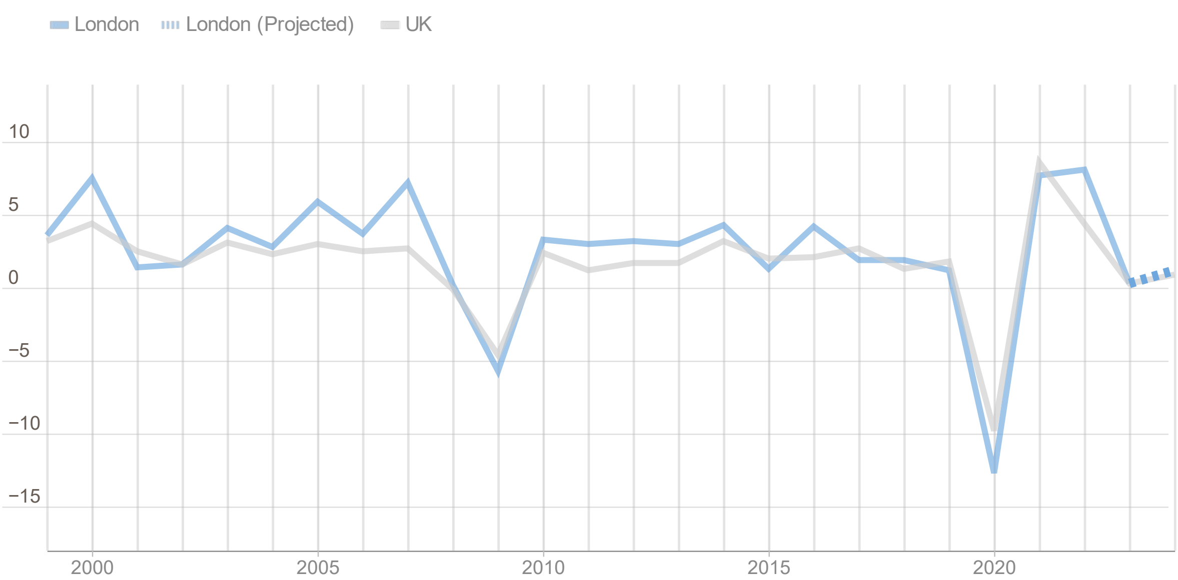
For more information about London's economy, see the monthly GLA Economics publication, 'London's Economy Today'. An assessment of London's economic prospects, including forecasts, is provided in the bi-annual publication 'London's Economic Outlook'. Detailed analysis on London's labour market, including GLA Economics' monthly Labour Market Update, can be found on the London Datastore. For in-depth analysis on fairness and inclusivity in London's economy, see the Economic Fairness section of the London Datastore.

Stable, long-term economic growth benefits all Londoners

Economic growth benefits people in many ways, most importantly through job creation, rising wages, and improvements in living standards. This section examines London's economic growth rate, some of the key drivers of growth, and income inequality in London.

Figure 1: London's economic growth rate

*Real annual Gross Value Added (GVA) growth rate (%)



Source: GLA calculations, Office for National Statistics

Note: GLA Economics has estimated London quarterly figures for 2019 to 2023 in line with revisions by the ONS to regional annual figures, and Nowcast figures to 2024 Q4.

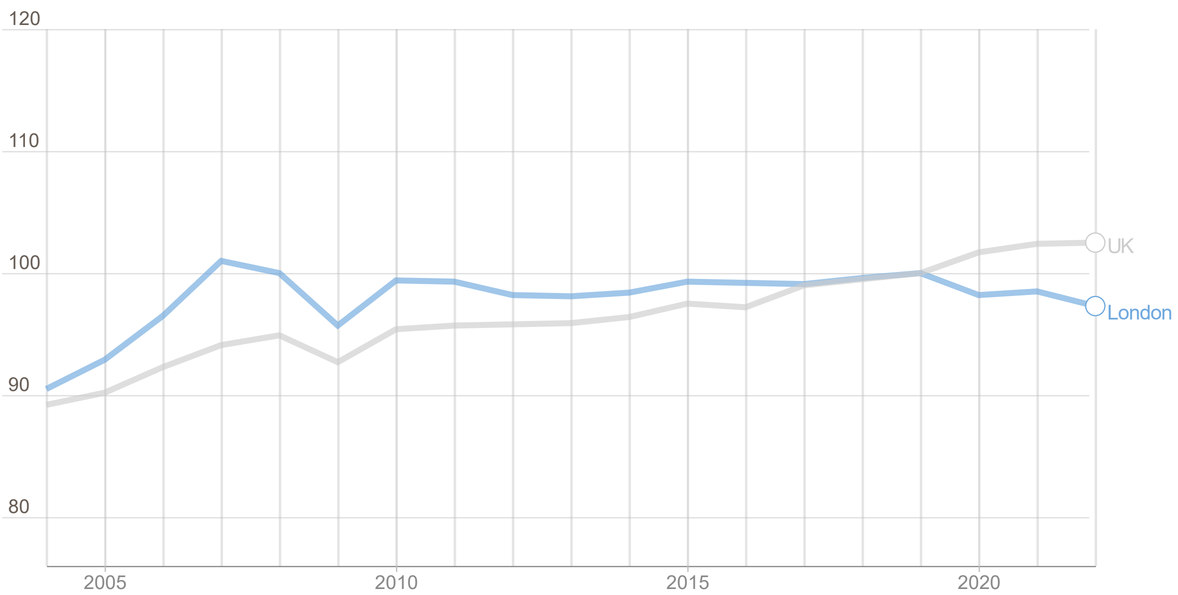
London's economic growth rate has historically outperformed the UK's but in recent years, the gap has reduced. The ONS recently released the annual regional output figures for 2023, along with revised figures from 1998 to 2022. According to the latest data, London's real GVA grew by 0.3% in 2023, the same as the UK as a whole.

This followed a much stronger rebound in 2022 than previously reported by the ONS. London's real GVA growth was revised significantly upwards from 4.8% to 8.1%, highlighting the capital's exceptional post-pandemic recovery. For comparison, UK GVA rose by 4.4% in 2022. This upward revision underlines how strongly London's economy bounced back once restrictions eased, setting a higher base for subsequent years. GLA Economics estimates that London's real GVA grew by 1.1% in 2024.

Current estimates suggest that although London was hit harder by the COVID-19 pandemic, it experienced a strong recovery and growth returned to its pre-pandemic level in 2022, at the same time as the UK. In 2023 and 2024, London and the UK grew at a similar pace, with London showing a slightly stronger performance in 2024 based on projections.

Figure 2: London's productivity

*Real GVA per hour worked (2019 = 100), London and the UK.



[Source: ONS regional productivity]

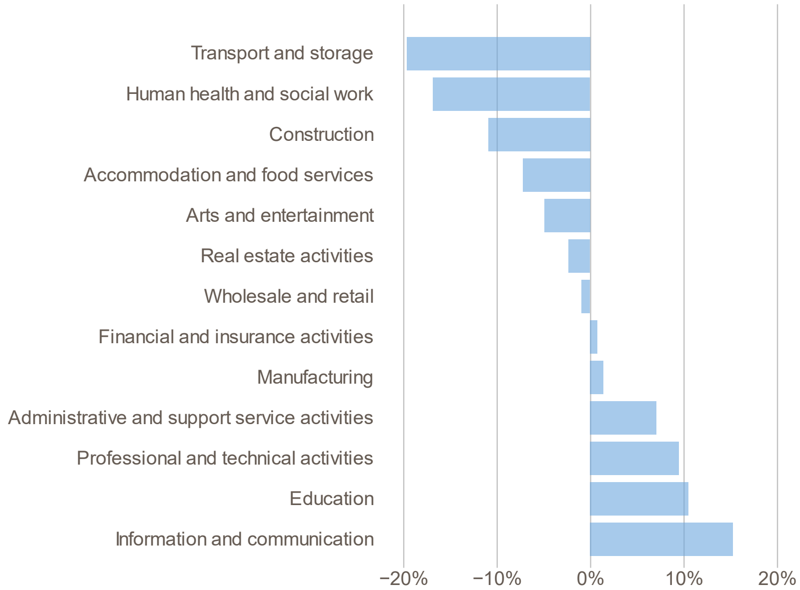
Productivity – measured here by GVA per hour worked - is a key driver of economic growth. ONS data points to a general flatlining of productivity in London in the decade following the financial crisis in 2008, and sharp falls since 2019. From 2019 to 2022, labour productivity increased by 2.5% in the UK, while it fell by 2.7% in London.

London's productivity problem since Covid is thought to stem from a combination of factors. First, it reflects sectoral composition effects, with London's services-reliant economy (with a larger concentration of face-to-face and commuting-dependent roles) more severely disrupted by the pandemic. Second, the rise of remote and hybrid work is also thought to have impacted London's traditional agglomeration advantages –the productivity benefits that co-located, interconnected industries experience[17].

However, it is important to stress that London remains the most productive region in the country. GVA per hour worked in London was 26% higher than the UK average in 2022 (£51.7 compared to £41.0).

Figure 3: Change in economic output by industry

Percentage change in real GVA by industry in London 2019 – 2023



Source: GLA Economics based on ONS – UK regional GVA and GDP data. The following smaller industries have been excluded for simplification purposes: Primary sector and utilities, Public administration and defence, Other service activities, and Activities of households.

While London's economy has bounced back strongly from the pandemic, the recovery has been uneven across sectors. Several high-value industries have outpaced their pre-pandemic output, reinforcing the city's strengths in knowledge-intensive sectors. Information and communication grew by over 15%, while professional and technical services and education expanded by nearly 10% and 11%, respectively. Financial and insurance activities also posted positive growth, albeit more modestly.

In contrast, sectors dependent on physical interaction have seen weaker recoveries. Transport and storage remains nearly 20% below its 2019 level – the largest decline among all industries. Accommodation and food services, arts and entertainment, and human health and social work also remain below pre-pandemic levels, reflecting (in part) persistent structural and behavioural shifts. In non-service sectors, construction output remains nearly 11% lower than in 2019, while manufacturing has increased slightly (by 1.4%).

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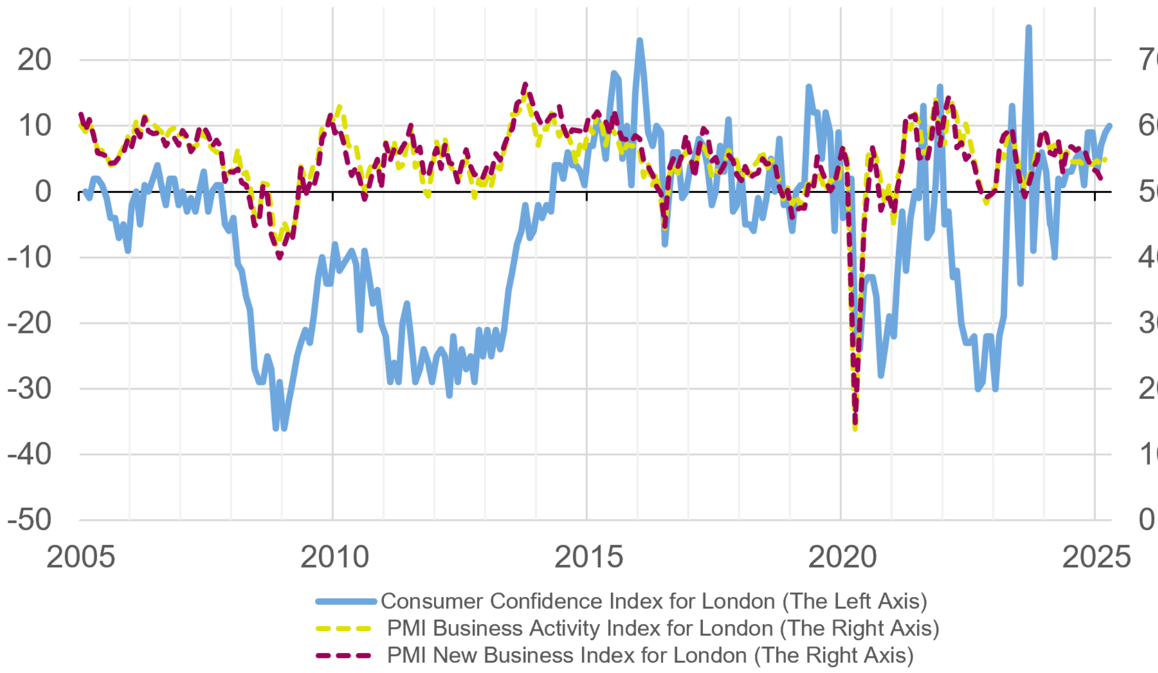
[17] Hobbs & Mutebi (2022), '[The impact of remote and hybrid working on workers and organisations]'

Figure 4: Consumer and business sentiment in London

Confidence index (the left axis), 0 = neutral. PMI indexes (the right axis), 50 = neutral



Source: GfK NOP and IHS Markit for NatWest.

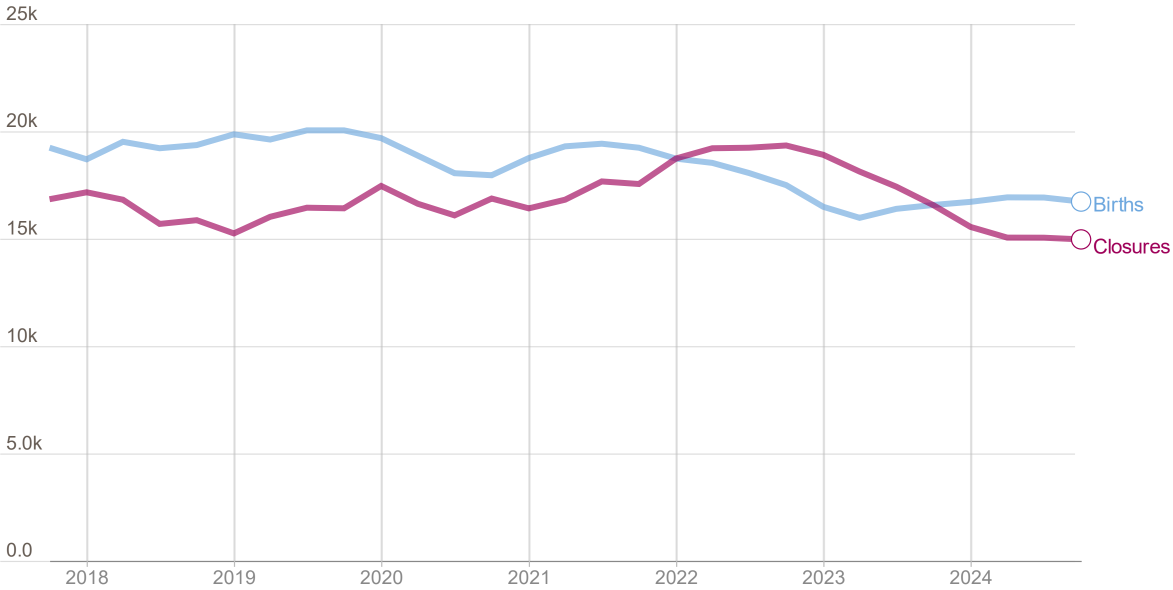
In 2024, overall sentiment indicators for London were relatively positive, with both consumer and business confidence showing signs of sustained recovery. Notably, London's consumer confidence has stayed in positive territory since April 2024, marking a clear turnaround from previous years of volatility.

Consumer confidence in London fluctuated sharply between 2020 and 2022, hitting major lows before beginning a sustained recovery. A sharp rebound between January and May 2023 pushed the index from -30 to +13, lifting it above the neutral threshold of 0 for the first time since December 2021. From mid-2023 to early 2024, confidence hovered around zero, before stabilising in positive territory. By contrast, UK-wide consumer confidence remains weak, with a reading of -23 in April 2025. The national index hasn't seen positive ground since 2016, and although it has improved from the record low of -49 in September 2022, sentiment outside London remains considerably more pessimistic.

Business sentiment in London has been more stable. The PMI Business Activity and New Business indices have stayed above the neutral 50 mark since 2023, reflecting ongoing expansion in the private sector. While short-term volatility persists, the overall trend points to sustained business resilience.

Figure 5: Business births and closures

Number of births and closures (four-quarter moving average) in London



Source: ONS Business Demography. Note: experimental data.

The number of business births in London has historically exceeded the number of closures[18], which reflects the capital's economic dynamism. However, from mid-2021 following the pandemic, business births began to decline while closures rose steadily. By Q1 2022, closures had surpassed births on a four-quarter rolling basis, marking a reversal of the long-standing trend. The gap between closures and births continued to widen and reached a peak in Q1 2023, when London recorded nearly 2,500 more business closures than births in a single quarter. This was the largest quarterly difference on record.

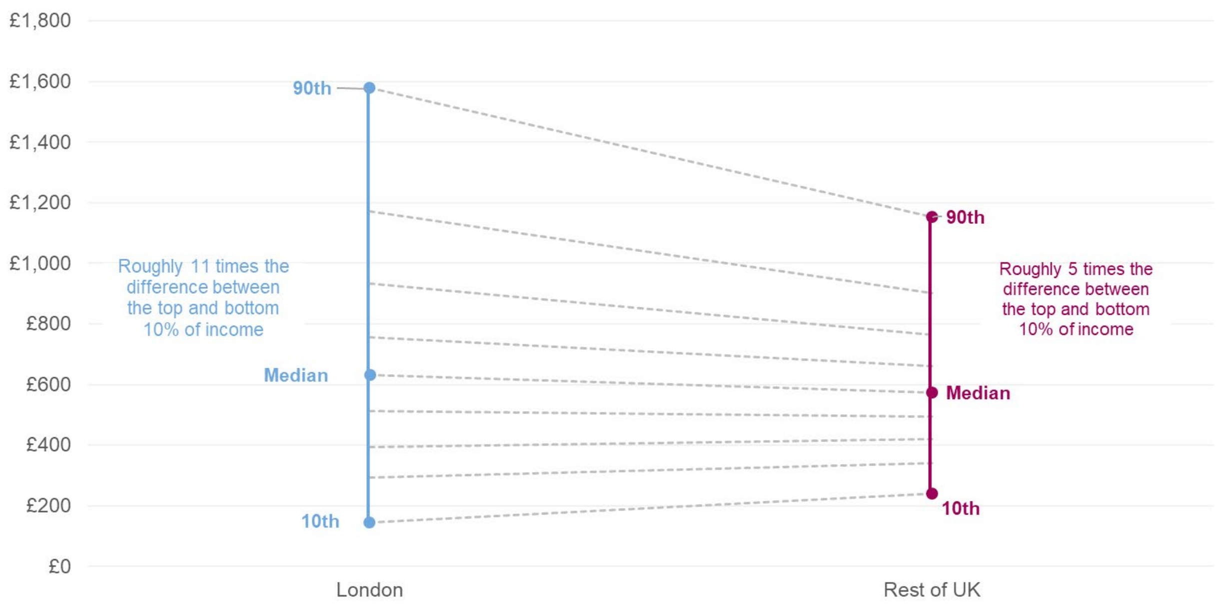
This situation proved short-lived. The gap narrowed rapidly over 2023, and by Q4, business births once again exceeded closures. Throughout 2024, births have remained above closures, suggesting that business dynamism in London could be regaining momentum, with more enterprises entering the market than exiting.

A similar trend was observed across the UK, although the recovery lagged behind London's. Closures overtook births nationally around early 2022, with the peak in closures occurring in Q2 2022 – two quarters earlier than in London. The gap between closures and births reached its widest point in Q1 2023, the same time as in London. While the overall pattern was similar, London recovered sooner. This underscores the capital's rebound from the pandemic and strong business resilience.

[18] Quarterly business births and closures are experimental data from the ONS and subject to revisions. The data reflect businesses added or removed from the Interdepartmental Business Register (IDBR). A four-quarter moving average is provided in the chart to provide the trend in the time series.

Figure 6: Household income inequality

*90:10 ratio of weekly equivalised household income (after housing costs), London and the UK (2021/22 - 2023/24, 2023/24 prices)



Source: GLA analysis of DWP HBAI data

London's economy supports many high paid jobs. However, there is a stark gap between the incomes of the richest and poorest households. The latest DWP data indicate that the richest tenth of Londoners earn around 11 times the income of the poorest tenth (when looking at a three-year average of 2021/22 – 2023/24 data).

Incomes for the lowest tenth of earners in London are 39% lower than the lowest tenth of earners in the rest of the UK, while incomes for the highest tenth are 36% higher. This translates to a 90:10 ratio (a measure of inequality that looks at the ratio of income between highest and lowest tenth of earners) of 11 for London. This figure has increased from 9 since last year (when looking at a three-year average of 2020/21 – 2022/23) and is more than twice that of the rest of the UK (4.8).

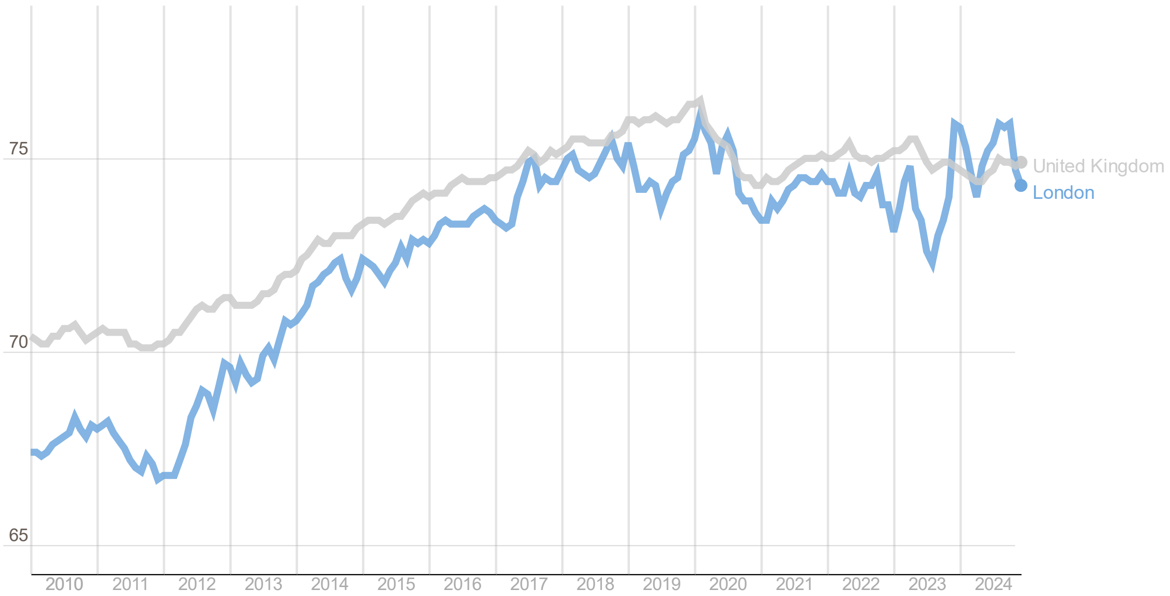
Looking at "typical" earners, median equivalised income after housing costs for a household in London is now roughly 10% higher than households in the rest of the UK – at £632 per week and £574 per week for London and the rest of the UK respectively.

Londoners have access to good work

Another important London-level outcome is whether Londoners can access employment, and whether that work offers fair pay and conditions, opportunities for progression and positive relationships between workers and employers.

Figure 7: Employment rate

*Percentage of the working age population in employment in London



Source: ONS Labour Force Survey

Employment measures the number of people aged 16 and over in paid work and those who had a job that they were temporarily away from (for example, because they were on holiday or off sick). The employment rate is the proportion of people aged between 16 and 64 years who are in employment. Data for this indicator comes from the ONS Labour Force Survey, which, due to data quality concerns, is badged as an “Official Statistic in Development” indicating that it should be used with caution.

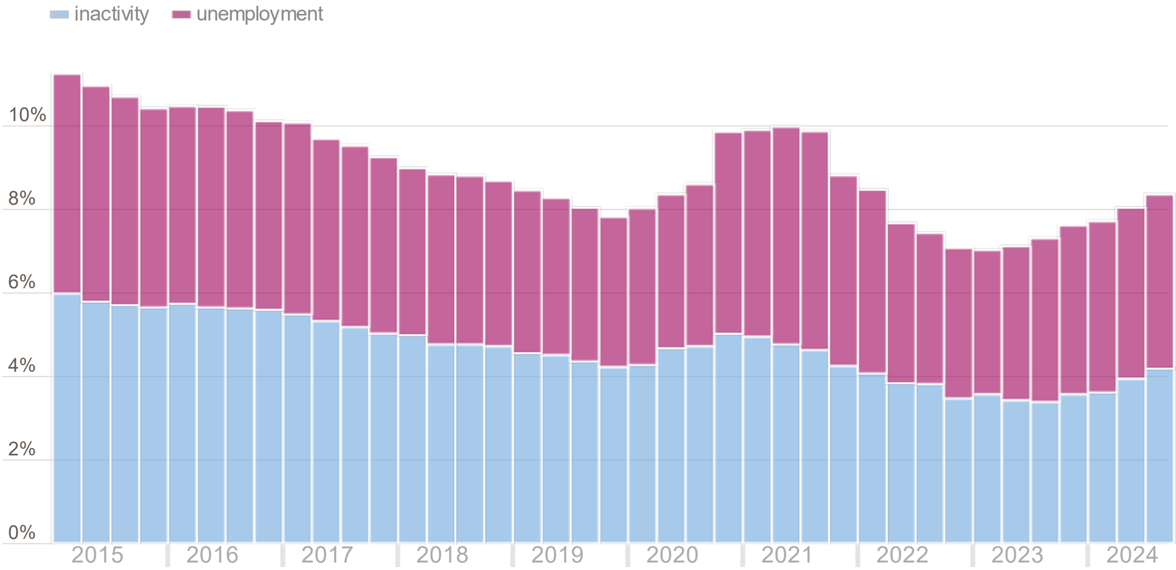
For the three-month period between December 2024 and February 2025, London’s employment rate was estimated at 73.9%. This represents a decrease of 1.4 percentage points compared to the same period in the previous year and is 1.2 percentage points below the current UK rate of 75.1%. However, as the chart above suggests, there are significant concerns about data quality since mid-2023, with quarterly readings becoming more volatile than before.

The margin of error for the latest London employment rate is ±1.6%, which suggests that the oscillations over the last two years between around 74% to around 76% do not reflect a real change in the underlying trend.

Taken together with jobs data from alternative sources – one based on employer surveys and one on HMRC Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) data – the overall picture is of a softening in the number of jobs in recent months.

Figure 8: Involuntary worklessness

*Share of 16-64 unemployed or inactive and would like to work



Source: ONS Labour Force Survey

This indicator shows the share of the 16-64 year-old population that are unemployed or that are economically inactive but would like a job. Many people who are inactive do not want to work – for example, many students, parents of young people, or those who have retired early. However, a substantial fraction say they would like a job – usually around one-quarter of the total number of economically inactive Londoners.

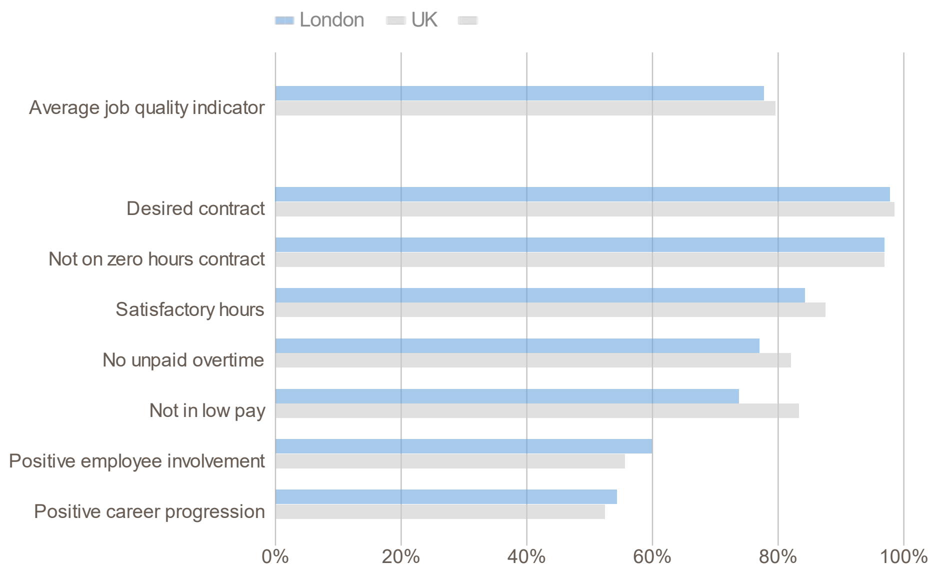
By adding these people to the number of unemployed, the indicator shows the share of 16–64 year-olds that would like, or need, to work but cannot find a suitable job.

In the year to the end of September 2024, there were 257,900 unemployed Londoners of working age and 258,900 economically inactive Londoners who said they would like a job, representing a total share of 8.3% of the working-age population. This was a fraction higher than the low reached on the eve of the pandemic (7.8%) in December 2019.

However, since then, the proportion of the total made up by the unemployment component has increased relative to the inactivity component. With the official London unemployment rate (N.B. a different measure looking at the total number of unemployed relative to the economically active population) having recently hit 6.5%, this suggests that economic sluggishness is currently the key contributor to involuntary worklessness in London.

Figure 9: Job quality

*Average job quality indicator and components, % share of employees, 2022



Source: ONS Labour Force Survey and GLA Economics

The average job quality score summarises ONS Labour Force Survey responses across seven separate questions.

- Whether employee reports ‘good’ or ‘very good’ career progression opportunities.
- Whether employee reports ‘good’ or ‘very good’ employee involvement.
- Whether employee hourly pay is greater than 60% of the local (regional) median.
- Whether employee has worked unpaid overtime.
- Whether employee reports satisfactory hours.
- Whether employee reports a zero hours contract.
- Whether employee reports having desired contract.

Each item is scored as the share of employees answering the question with a positive response. For instance, if 20% of employees report having worked unpaid overtime, then we take the 80% that haven’t had to do so as the ‘positive’ score. *Don’t knows* and *non-respondents* are removed. The average job quality indicator is the mean value across all seven items. Data is currently only available for all seven indicators from 2020 to 2022.

Note that this is a series that remains in development. It provides equal weights to all components and does not prioritise particular attributes of ‘good work’, while attributes such as trade-union engagement and workplace wellbeing are not currently in-scope.

The average job quality score for employees in London was 77.7% in 2022, a slight fall from 78.1% in 2021 and 78.0% in 2020.

The score is lower for London than the UK, and the data show the gap increasing over the 2020-2022 period. The largest contribution to the gap comes from the difference in the share of employees in (regional) low pay. In London in 2022, only 73.7% of employees earned more than the 60% of the regional median, while in the UK 83.3% earned more. This suggests that while incomes may be higher in London, so is income inequality.

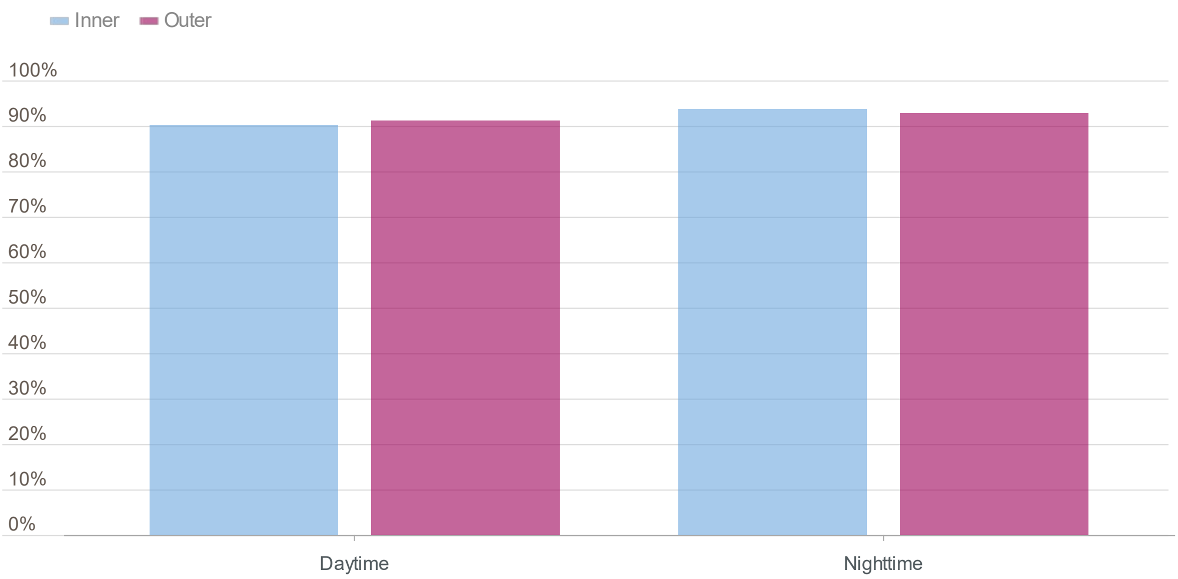
Londoners were also more likely to work unpaid overtime (only 77.0% in London did not versus 82.0% who did not in the UK) and less likely to report satisfactory hours (84.2% versus 87.5%). However, Londoners reported better scores for positive employee involvement (59.6% versus 55.6%) and career progression (54.3% versus 52.4%).

The fall in London's average score of 0.3 percentage points (pp) between 2020 and 2022 included fewer employees (-2.1 pp) earning above the 60% London median wage, and fewer respondents reporting positive career progression (-1.5 pp). There were smaller drops in non-zero hours contracts, satisfactory hours and desired contracts, which were offset by a falling share of those doing unpaid overtime (1.2 pp) and seeing positive employee involvement (up 1.0 pp).

High streets and town centres are thriving across London

Figure 10: High streets and town centres with increased visitor footfall

*Percentage of high streets and town centres that saw an increase in footfall on previous year, 2023-2024



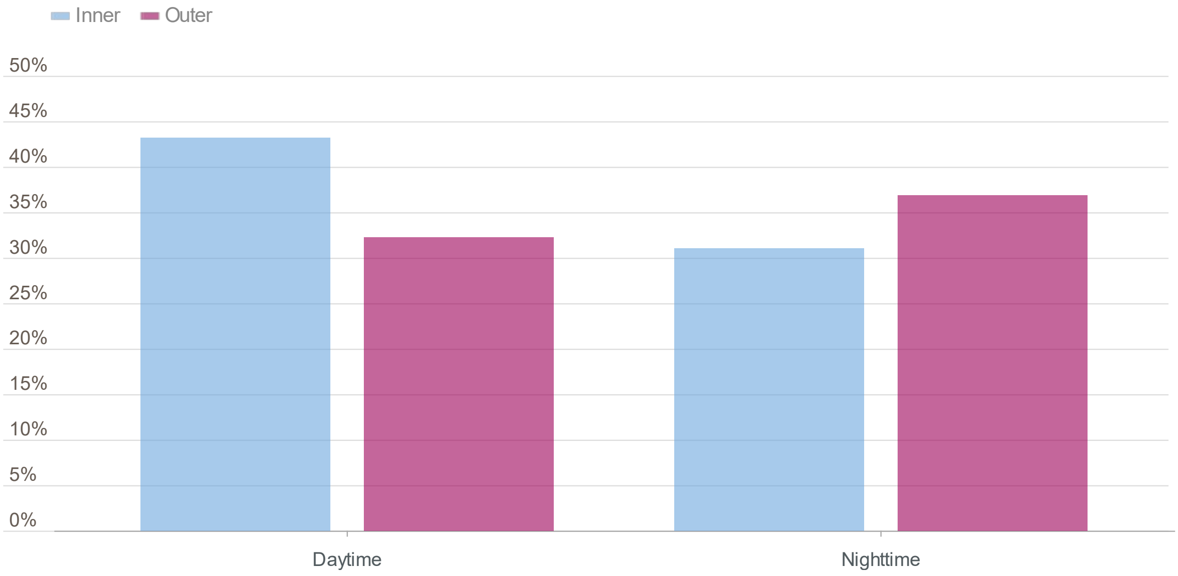
Source: Aggregated and anonymised data by BT, via the High Streets Data Service
Notes: Inner: Inner-London boroughs; Outer: Outer-London boroughs. Daytime: 6AM-6PM; night-time: 6PM-6AM

Footfall is a useful proxy for business and economic activity in high streets and town centres. By specifically looking at an area's visitors (that is, not its workers or residents), these counts can approximate retail activity (including shopping and dining). Footfall data are supplied by BT, which produces an estimate of workers, residents, and visitors for each high street and town centre based on a model of BT/EE mobile handset movements combined with census population estimates.

Overall, visitor footfall in 2024 increased in more than 90% of London's high streets and town centres compared to 2023. This increase was similar for both Inner- and Outer-London high streets and town centres, for both daytime (6AM-6PM) and nighttime (6PM-6AM) visitors, demonstrating that retail activity is growing across all of London, over both day and night.

Figure 11: High streets and town centres with increased spend

*Percentage of high streets and town centres that saw an increase in real-terms spend on the previous year, 2023-2024



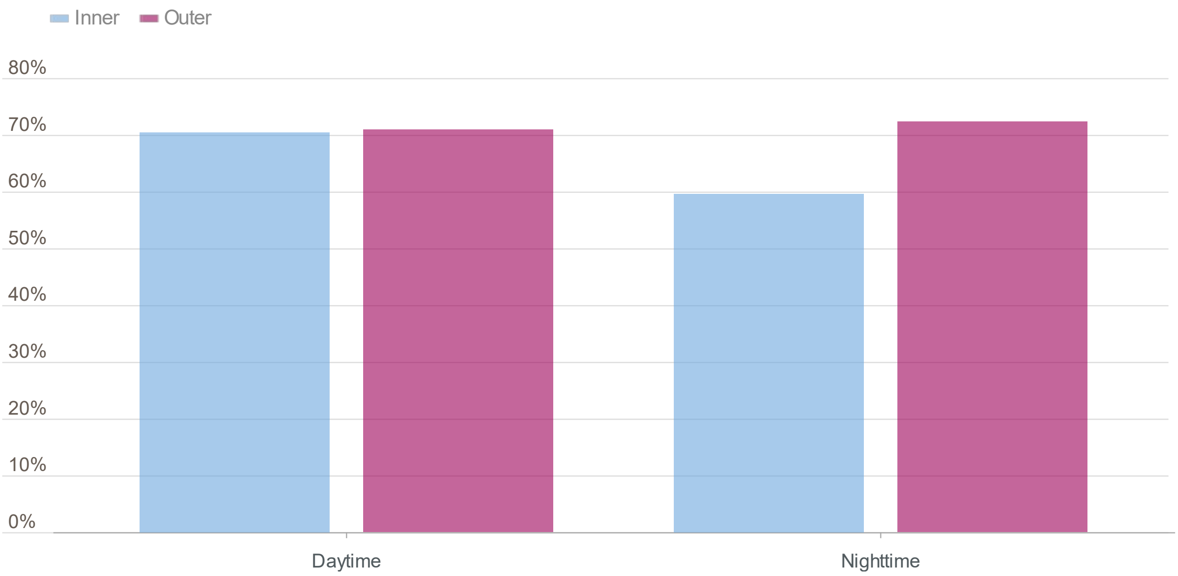
Source: Aggregated and anonymised data by Mastercard, via the High Streets Data Service
Notes: Inner: Inner-London boroughs; Outer: Outer-London boroughs. Daytime: 6AM-6PM; night-time: 6PM-6AM

In-store spending data can be used to estimate the retail growth of London's high streets and town centres. One measure is the total retail spend in an area, while a second measure is the total number of purchases made in that area. Retail spend data are supplied by Mastercard, reporting relative transaction amounts and counts occurring in its own network of debit and credit cards in physical shops. The data are further adjusted with a model to better estimate total retail spending on all merchant cards, as well as with cash.

Total retail spend in 2024 increased for only about one third of London's high streets and town centres compared to 2023. More Inner-London high streets and town centres showed increased spend during daytime hours (43%) compared to Outer London (32%), while slightly more Outer-London areas showed increased spend during night-time hours (36%) compared to Inner London (31%).

Figure 12: High streets and town centres with increased purchases

Percentage of London high streets and town centres that saw increased purchases on the previous year, 2023-2024



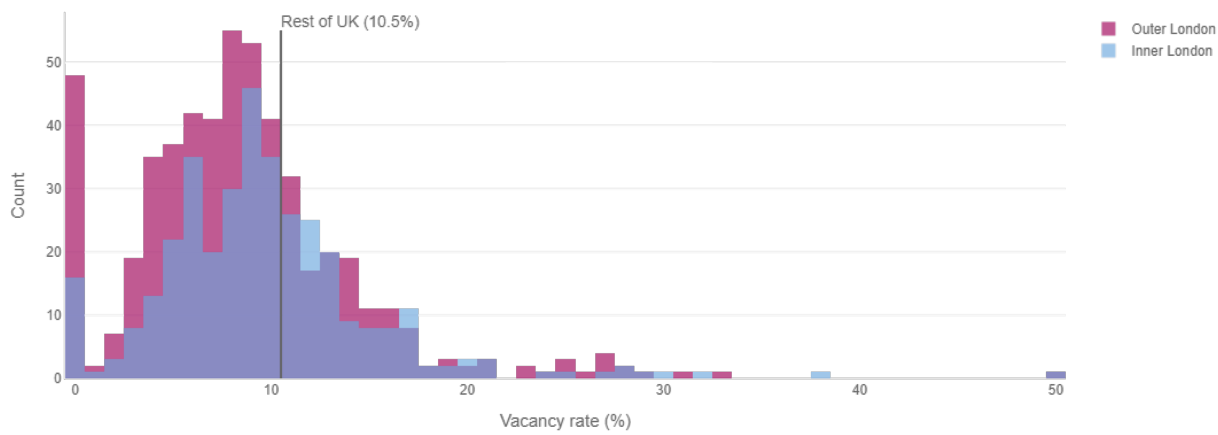
Source: Aggregated and anonymised data by Mastercard, via the High Streets Data Service.
Notes: Inner: Inner-London boroughs; Outer: Outer-London boroughs. Daytime: 6AM-6PM; night-time: 6PM-6AM

Total purchases in 2024 increased for approximately two thirds of London's high streets and town centres compared to 2023. 70% of Inner- and Outer-London retail areas showed a year-on-year increase in the number of purchases during the day, while the percentage of Outer-London high streets and town centres with increased purchasing at night (72%) slightly outpaced that seen for Inner-London areas (60%).

These data suggest that from 2023 to 2024, London's high streets have generally seen increased retail activity and visitor footfall, as the capital sustained its post-COVID recovery and continued to attract visitors.

Figure 13: Vacancy rates for London high streets and town centres, 2024

*Distribution of vacancy rates for Inner and Outer London high streets and town centres.



Source: Data by LDC/Green Street, via the High Streets Data Service

The number of vacant storefronts can serve as an indicator of the overall health of a high street or town centre, with healthier high streets having fewer vacant shops. Premises-level data are supplied by Local Data Company, with the status of each location recorded as either vacant or occupied. Premises are assigned to high street and town centre boundaries, and the vacancy rate is reported as the percentage of all vacant premises out of total premises.

Across London as a whole, the average vacancy rate in a high street or town centre was 9.6% in 2024. Rates in Inner-London high streets and town centres were similar to the London-wide rate (at 9.7%), while Outer London high streets and town centres had a lower vacancy rate on average (8.6%).

In the rest of the UK, about one in ten shopfronts (10.5%) were vacant. The majority of both Inner London's (64%) and Outer London's (72%) high streets and town centres had vacancy rates below this 10.5% nationwide rate.

6: GLOBAL CITY AND CULTURE

This chapter assesses London's standing as a world-leading global city, drawing together a range of indicators that reflect its economic strength, cultural vibrancy, and international reach.

London consistently ranks among the foremost global cities, underpinned by its deep-rooted economic dynamism, international connectivity, innovation capacity, and cultural influence. London's cultural life attracts people from across the world for work, leisure and study but it is also vital that Londoners feel able to take part in it too.

The chapter is structured around the following three London-level outcomes:

- London is a world-leading global city.
- London is an attractive and high-quality destination for visitors.
- Londoners feel able to take part in the city's cultural life.

Further data and information are available through the research and insights pages of London & Partners.

London is a world-leading global city

Figure 1: London's global city competitiveness

*London's average ranking in several global competitiveness indices

Index Name	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GPCI – Global Power City Index	1	1	1	1	1
Kearney Global Cities Index	2	2	2	2	2
Schroders Global Cities Index	-	-	-	3	2
Anholt City Brands Index	-	-	-	-	1
Average ranking*	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	1.5

*Source: Mori Memorial Foundation, Schroders, Kearney, Ipsos Anholt. Note: Dash (–) indicates data unavailable or not published in that year. * Average of available indexes*

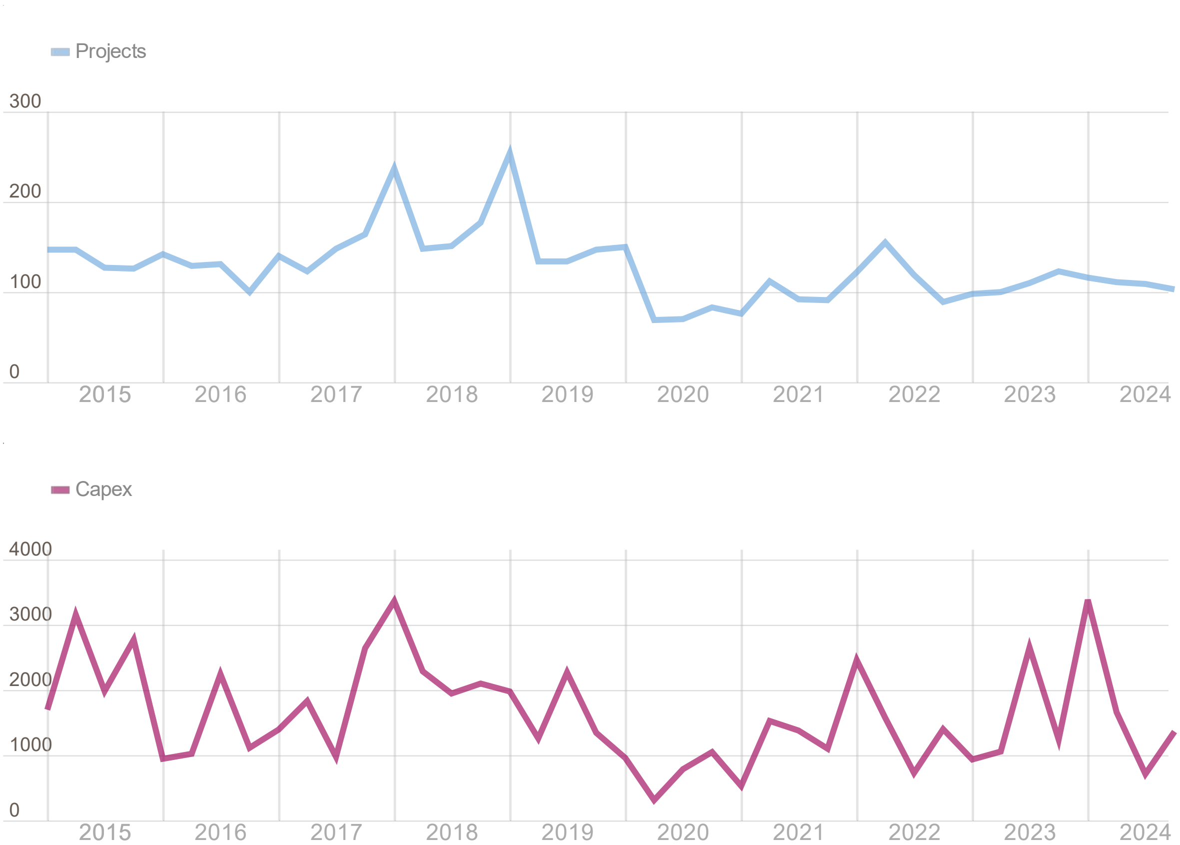
A number of organisations attempt to compare and rank cities by their global competitiveness and attractiveness. These rankings are composite measures combining multiple aspects of city performance. Looking at London's performance in some of the more commonly cited indices:

- The Global Power City Index placed London first in 2024, highlighting its strengths in economic performance, research and development, cultural interaction, liveability, environment, and accessibility.
- The Kearney Global Cities Index placed London second in 2024, emphasising London's business activity, human capital, information exchange, cultural experience, and political engagement. New York ranked first in this index.
- Schroders Global Cities Index, which incorporates economic performance, sustainability, and investment appeal, placed London second in 2024, behind San Francisco, which retained the top spot for the second consecutive year.
- Anholt City Brands Index, which measures international perceptions based on presence, place, potential, pulse, people, and prerequisites, ranked London first in 2024.

London's average ranking across these four indices was 1.5 in 2024, the same as it was in 2020, 2021 and 2022. These rankings collectively reflect London's enduring global appeal, underpinned by its economic dynamism, international connectivity, quality of life, and cultural influence. Despite global uncertainties, the city has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability.

Figure 2: Foreign Direct Investment in London

Number of projects (top series) and Capex £m (bottom series), quarterly figures.



Source: London & Partners, using fDi Markets from the Financial Times. Capital investment includes estimated values.

The number of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects in London peaked in Q1 2019 at 254, with a total of 669 projects for the whole of 2019, following steady growth from 2015. Project numbers declined during the pandemic, reaching a low of 69 in Q2 2020 (372 for the year), before rebounding to peak at 155 in Q2 2022 (485 for the year). The number of projects then stabilised to reach 439 in 2024.

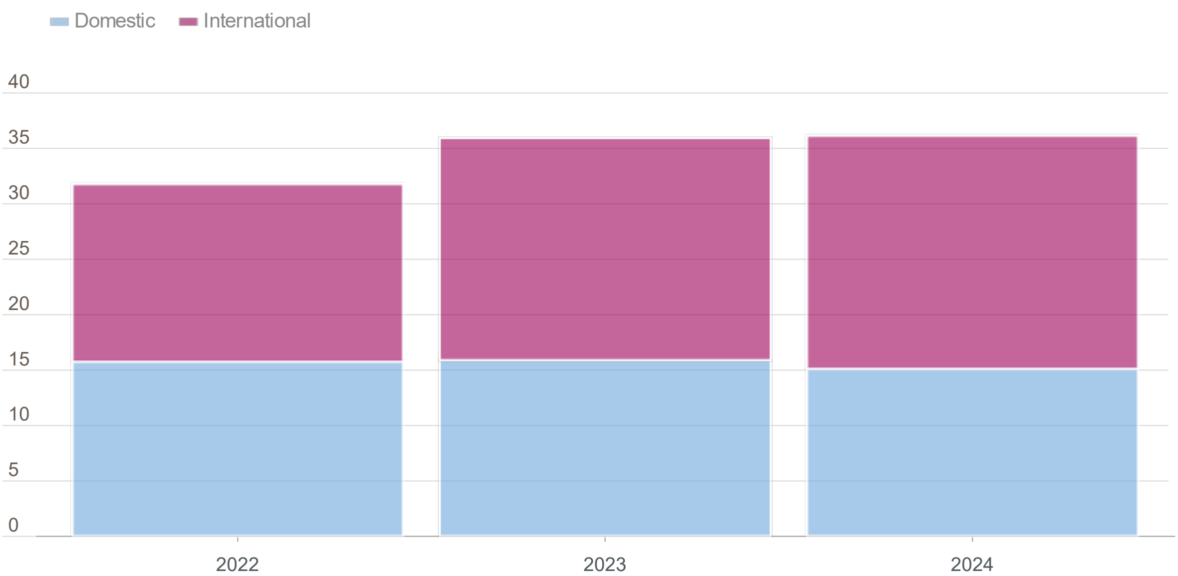
Capital expenditure (Capex) associated with FDI has exhibited notable fluctuations over recent years. In Q1 2024, it peaked at £3.4 billion and reached a total of £7.1 billion for the year. That equalled the previous pre-Covid quarterly peak of £3.4 billion in Q1 2018 but was below the annual total for 2018 of £9.7 billion. During the pandemic, Capex declined reaching a low of £312 million in Q2 2020 (£3.1 billion for the year), amid the global economic downturn.

Such variability is anticipated, as Capex figures are influenced by the scale and nature of individual projects, shifts in sectoral investment patterns, and broader economic conditions that affect investor confidence and risk appetite.

London is an attractive and high-quality destination for visitors

Figure 3: Visits to London

*Annual domestic and international visits to London, million (2022–2024)



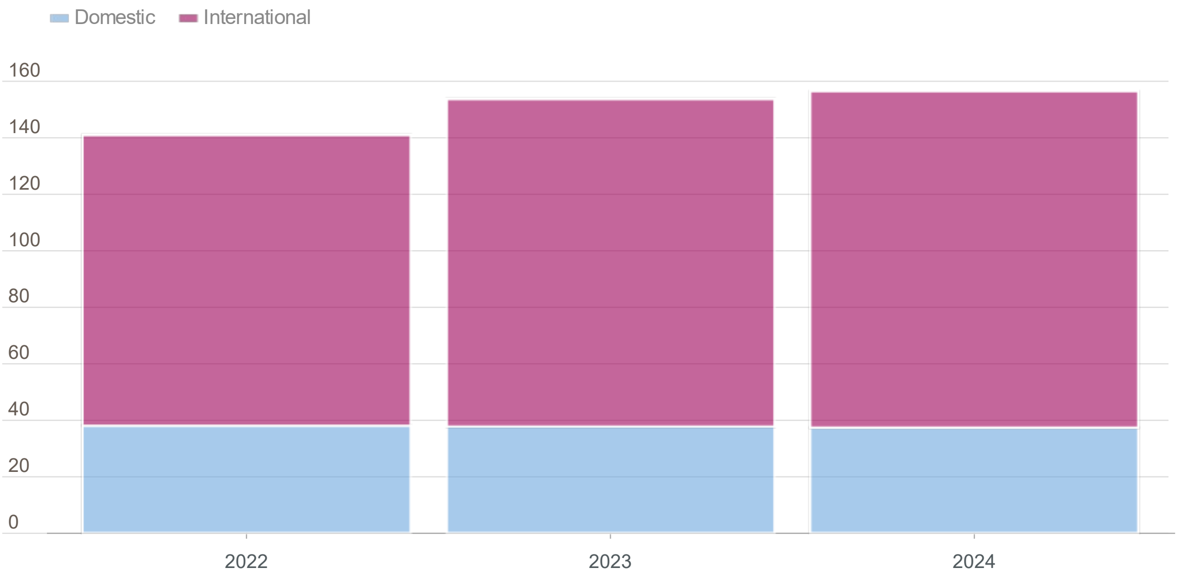
Source: VisitBritain and GLA. Note: 2024 International Visits data is provisional.

London is a world-class tourism destination, attracting millions of domestic and international visitors each year. With tourism steadily rebounding post-pandemic, the city's appeal remains strong, supported by its culture, diversity, and global reputation.

Tourism in London continued to strengthen between 2022 and 2024, with total visits rising from 31.7 million to nearly 36 million. Between 2022 and 2024, London's tourism sector demonstrated both a resilient domestic market and strong international growth reflecting the city's enduring global appeal. Annual domestic visits remained relatively steady at approximately 15.6 million in 2022 and 15.9 million in 2023, before falling to 15.1 million in 2024. In contrast, international arrivals increased from 16.1 million to 20.9 million over the same timeframe.

Figure 4: Visitor nights in London

*Annual domestic and international nights in London, million (2022–2024)



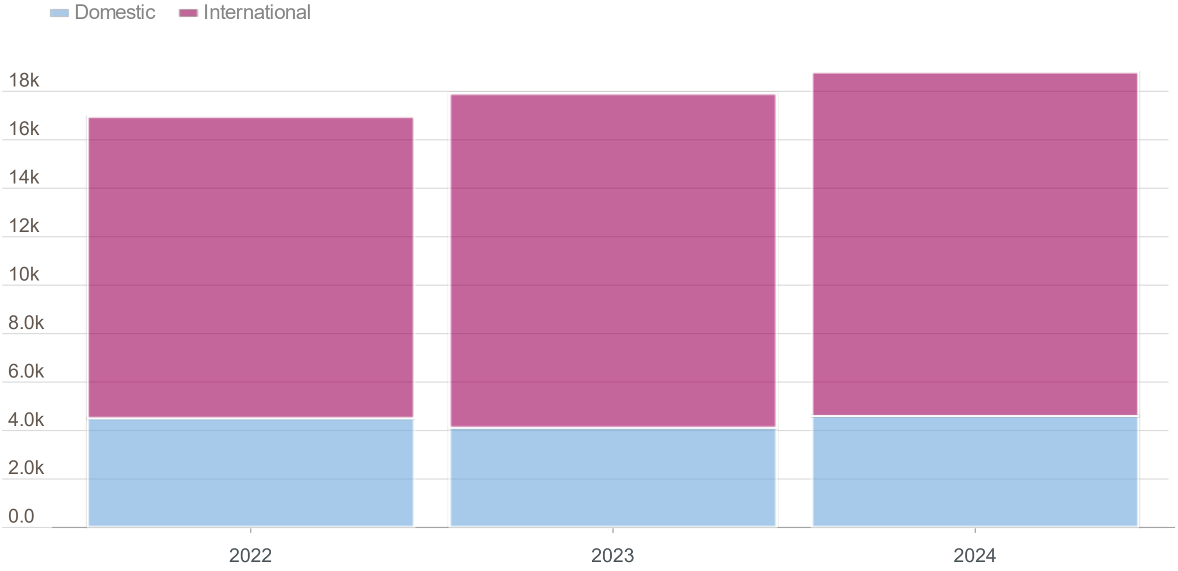
Source: VisitBritain and GLA. Note: 2024 data is provisional.

The total number of nights spent in London increased from 140.7 million in 2022 to 156 million in 2024, driven by a strong recovery in international visitors after the pandemic.

Domestic nights hovered near 38 million each year, while international visitor nights rose from 102.8 million in 2022 to 119.1 million in 2024.

Figure 5: Spend in London

*Annual domestic and international spend in London (£ million, 2019 prices), 2022–2024



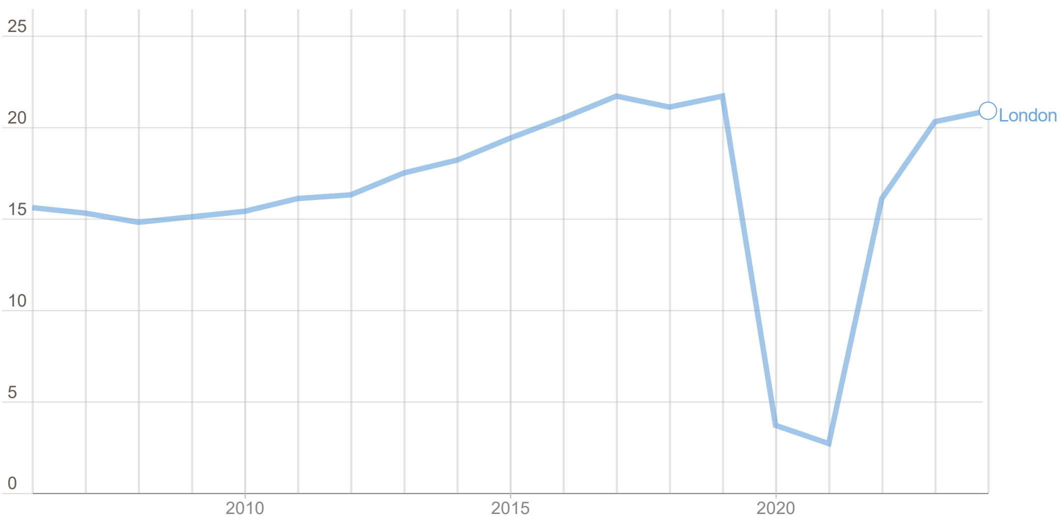
Source: VisitBritain and GLA. Note: 2024 data is provisional.

Spending trends broadly mirrored those for visitors. Adjusted for inflation, domestic tourism expenditure was approximately £4.49 billion in 2022, it declined to £4.10 billion in 2023 before recovering to £4.58 billion in 2024. While the 2024 figure modestly exceeded 2022 levels in real terms, the overall pattern suggests stability rather than strong growth.

Meanwhile, international visitor spending rose consistently, from £12.43 billion in 2022 to £14.18 billion in 2024, highlighting the vital role of overseas visitors in London's tourism recovery. Combined, total tourism-related spending increased from £16.9 billion in 2022 to £18.8 billion in 2024.

Figure 6: International visits to London

Annual inbound visits to London (million) 2015-2024



Source: VisitBritain and GLA. Note: 2024 data is provisional.

Examining the number of international visits[19] to the capital over a longer time series reveals pre-pandemic growth and a solid recovery since. Between 2015 and 2019, the number of international visits increased steadily from 19.4 million in 2015 to 21.7 million in 2019. This growth was disrupted sharply by the pandemic, with visits collapsing to just 3.7 million in 2020 and 2.7 million in 2021 – representing declines of over 80% compared to 2019.

A gradual recovery followed: in 2022, visits rebounded to 16.1 million, rising further to 20.3 million in 2023. Provisional figures for 2024 show continued recovery, with 20.9 million visits – approaching pre-pandemic levels but not yet surpassing them.

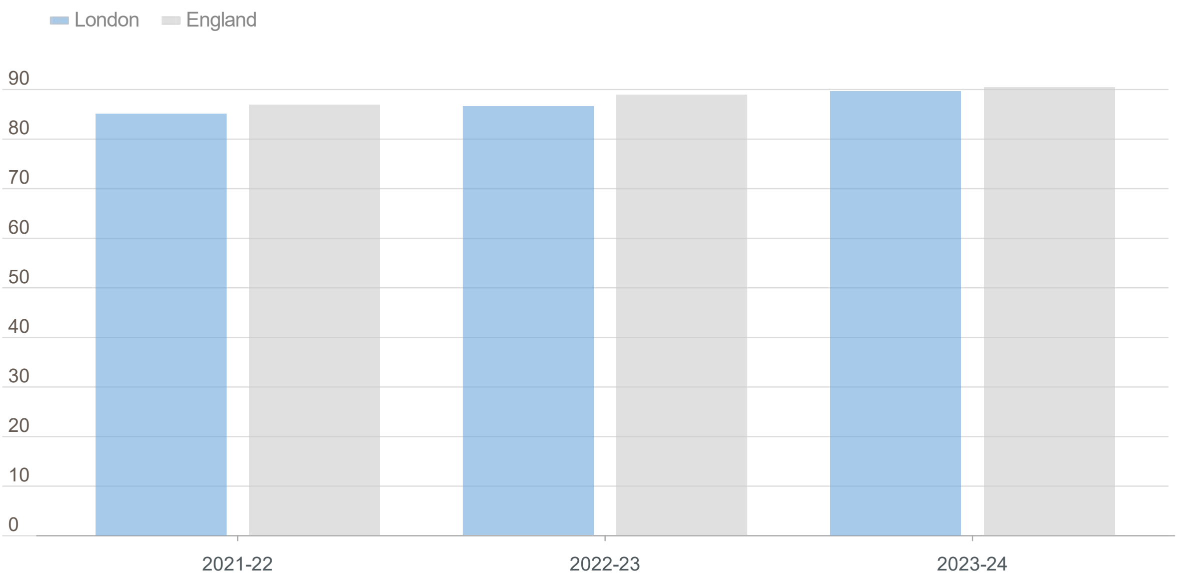
Similar patterns can be observed for international visitor expenditure, which dropped dramatically during the pandemic, from £15.7 billion in 2019 to £2.6 billion in 2020 (2019 prices), before recovering to £14.2 billion in 2024 according to provisional figures.

Londoners feel able to take part in the city's cultural life

Cultural engagement is an essential element of London's identity as a global capital of creative arts and cultural enrichment. It enhances wellbeing, supports the city's economy, and fosters community cohesion. Understanding who participates – and who does not – helps identify inequalities and improve access to cultural life for all Londoners.

Figure 7: Physical engagement with the arts

*Percentage of adults who engaged with the arts in-person in the last 12 months, 2021/22 -2023/24



Source: DCMS Participation Survey[20]

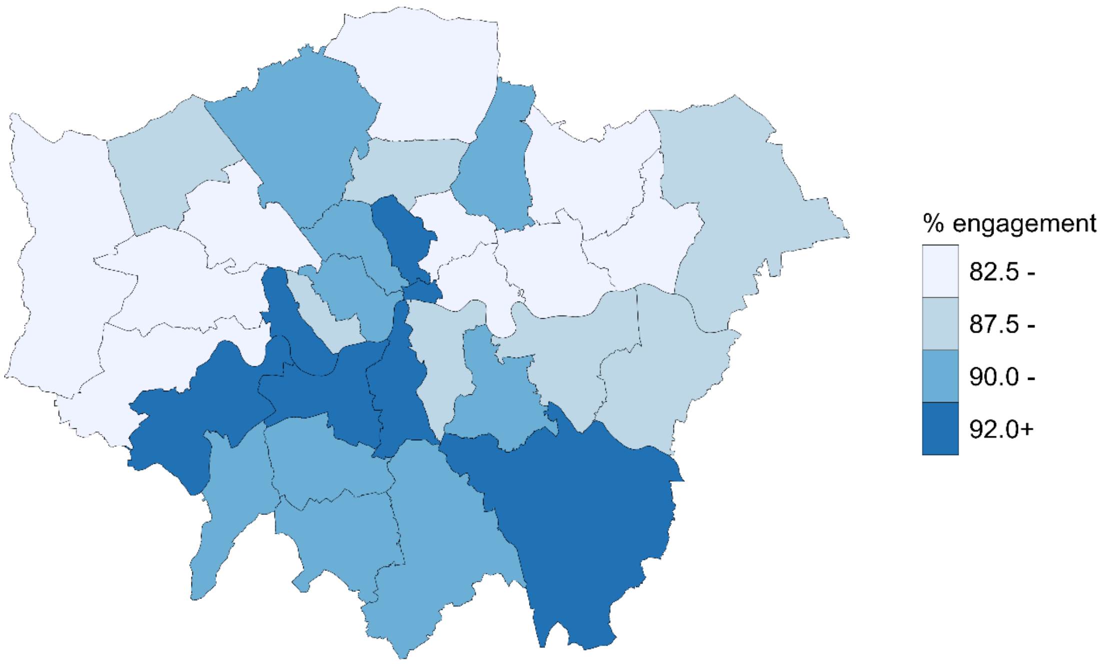
[19] Methodological changes limit longer-term comparisons of domestic tourism visits.
[20] Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. (2025), 'Participation Survey', 2023–24. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 9350. (n=18,649), digital engagement sub-sample (n=7,231)

In 2023/24, 89.6% of London residents said they had engaged with the arts in person in the last 12 months. This is slightly lower than the national average (90.4%).

Engagement with the arts in London has increased in recent years. Moreover, the gap between London and England has closed since the two previous years for which comparable data are available. Elsewhere in the country, the regions with the highest rate of engagement with the arts are the South East (92.7%) and South West (93.1%).

Figure 8: Physical engagement with the arts by borough

Percentage of adults who engaged with the arts in-person in the last 12 months, 2023/2024



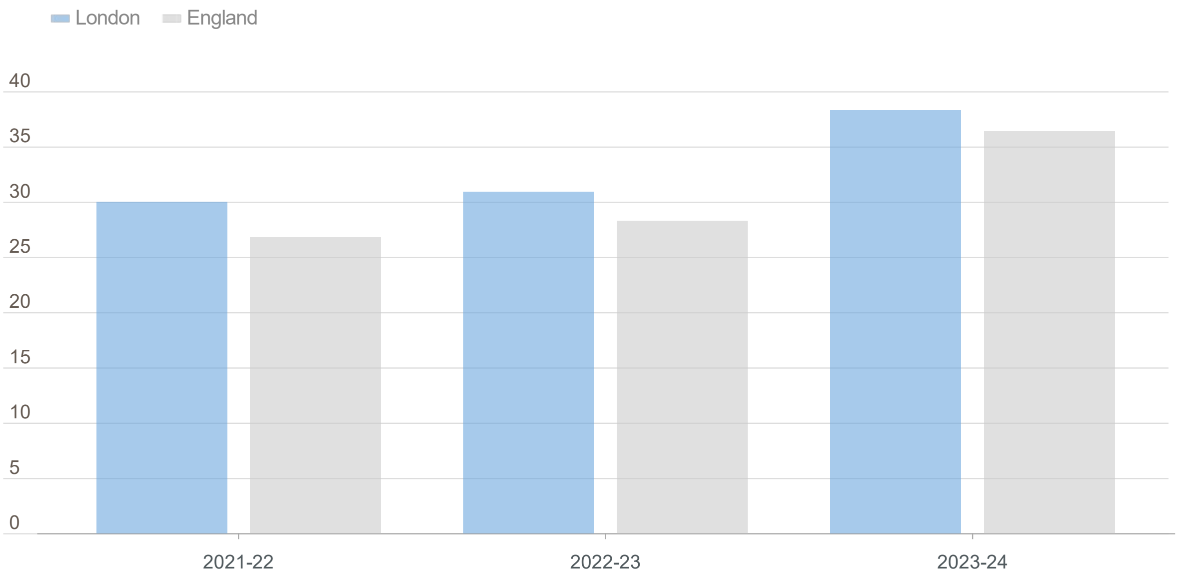
Source: Data from Participation Survey[21]. Note: City of London is not included in this comparison as the confidence intervals around the estimates are much wider than for other boroughs.

Engagement with the arts varies significantly between boroughs, with values ranging from 96% in Richmond Upon Thames down to 83% in Barking and Dagenham, and 84% in Redbridge.

[21] Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. (2025), 'Participation Survey', 2023–24. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 9350.

Figure 9: Digital engagement with the arts, London and England, 2021/22 to 2023/24

Percentage of adults who engaged with the arts digitally in the last 12 months.



Source: DCMS Participation Survey[22]

In contrast to physical engagement, London residents are more likely than people in other regions to engage with arts and culture online. In 2023/24, 38.3% of Londoners said they had engaged with the arts online in the last 12 months, compared to the England average of 36.4%. This represents an increase from the 30% rate in 2021/22.

[22] Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. (2025), 'Participation Survey', 2023–24. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 9350. (n=18,649), digital engagement sub-sample (n=7,231)

7: SKILLS

This chapter examines the skills of London's population, focussing on the following two London-Level Outcomes:

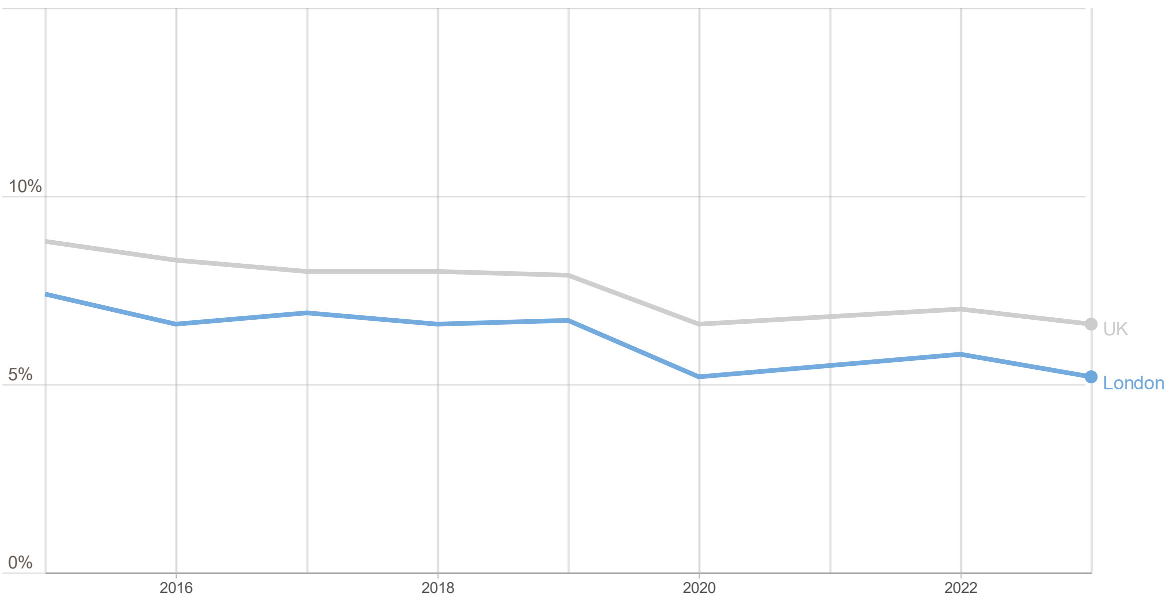
- Londoners have the skills they need to improve their lives.
- London's economy has the skills it needs to thrive.

For more information on skills in London see the GLA Adult Skills Fund Data Publication, analysis of the London Learner Survey, Apprenticeships Statistics for London, analysis of the Employer Skills Survey, and Labour Market Analysis of London's Priority Sectors.

Londoners have the skills they need to improve their lives

Figure 1: People with no qualifications in London

*Percentage of people aged 16-64 with no qualifications

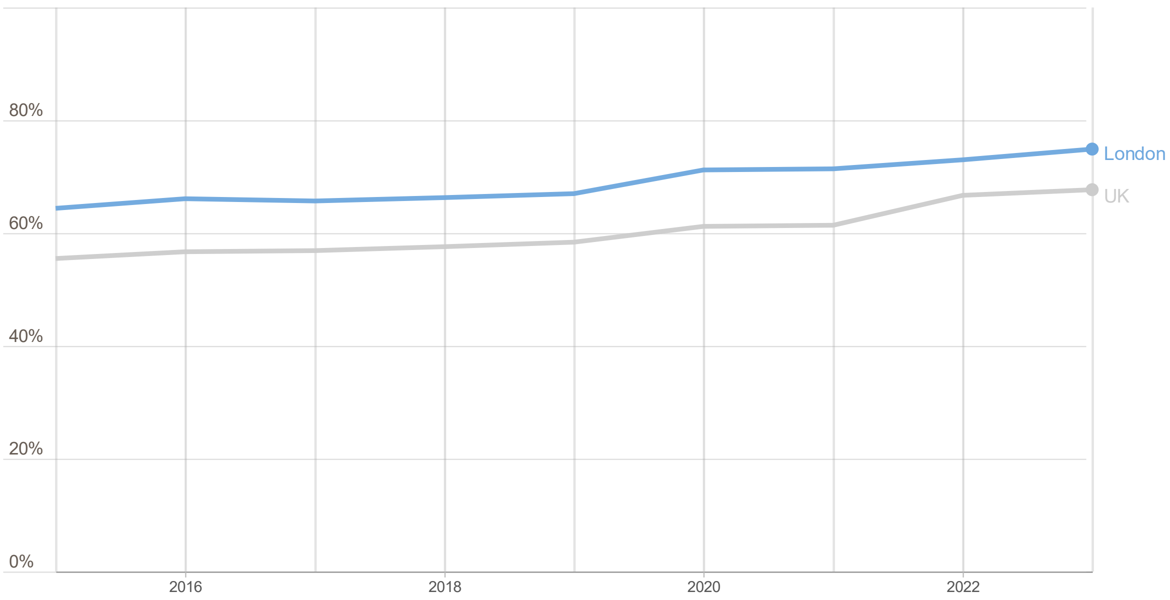


Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2014-2023. Notes: From 2022, the qualification framework presented in the data moved from National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) to Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF)

In London, the proportion of the working age population without qualifications has been falling slightly over time. This is a pattern that has also been seen at the UK level. The latest data available shows that 5% of the 16-64 population in London hold no formal qualifications, compared to 7% in 2015.

Figure 2: People with a Level 3 or above qualification in London

*Percentage of people aged 16-64 with Level 3+ qualifications

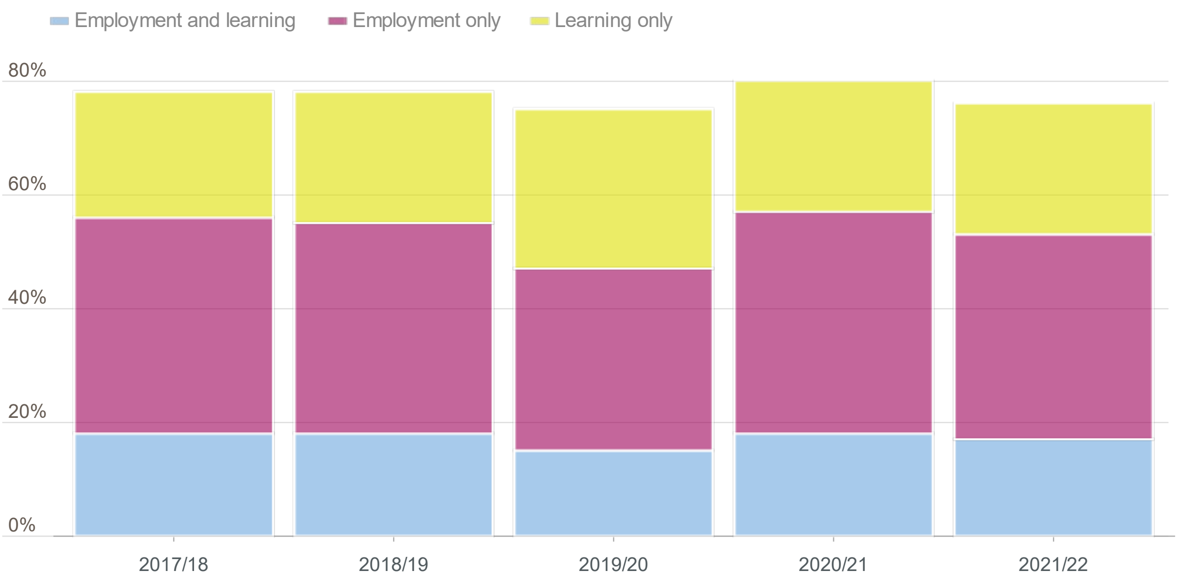


Source: ONS Annual Population Survey, 2014-2023. Notes: From 2022, the qualification framework presented in the data moved from National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) to Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF)

Correspondingly, the proportion of working-age Londoners with higher level qualifications has been increasing over time. In particular, the 16-64 population with a Level 3 qualification or higher (equivalent to two A level qualifications or higher, including degrees) has increased by 11 percentage points between 2015 and 2023. The latest data shows that three-quarters (75%) of 16-64 year-old Londoners hold a Level 3 or above qualification, higher than for the UK overall (68%).

Figure 3: Outcomes for Further Education (FE) learners

*Percentage of FE and Skills learners with a positive destination (including employment and further learning), London 2017/18 - 2021/22



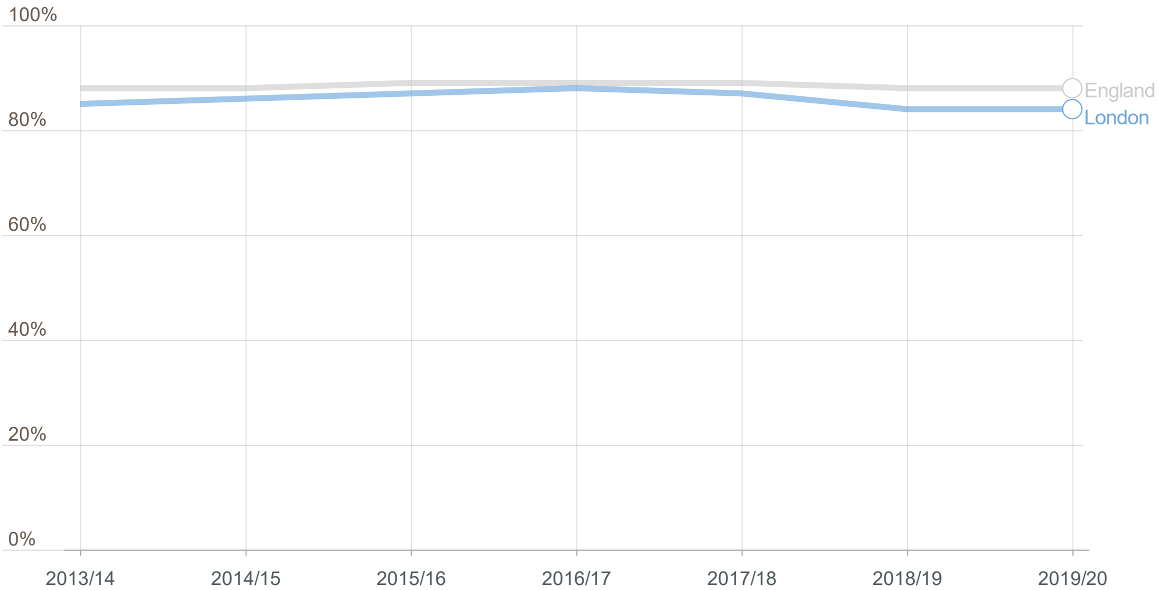
Source: Department of Education. Note: SPD shows unconditional association between qualifications and outcomes. Differences might be explained by learner characteristics or labour market conditions, for instance.

The latest available data on labour market outcomes for London's FE learners show the outcomes for Londoners who either completed classroom based 'adult education and training (19+)' or an 'apprenticeship'. The share of 2021/22 learners recorded as having a Sustained Positive Destination (SPD), which includes economic outcomes and further learning for at least a six-month period in the following year (2022/23), is broadly similar across London and England (77% and 80%, respectively).

The SPD rate was particularly high in 2020/21 (81%) due to increases in sustained employment. One cause potentially driving that high sustained employment rate was the high number of vacancies following the pandemic, which indicates strong employer demand. The most recent data for 2021/22 appears to have returned to levels before the pandemic.

Figure 4: Outcomes for Higher Education (HE) learners

Percentage of students from a London Higher Education Institution (HEI) who have a positive destination (%)



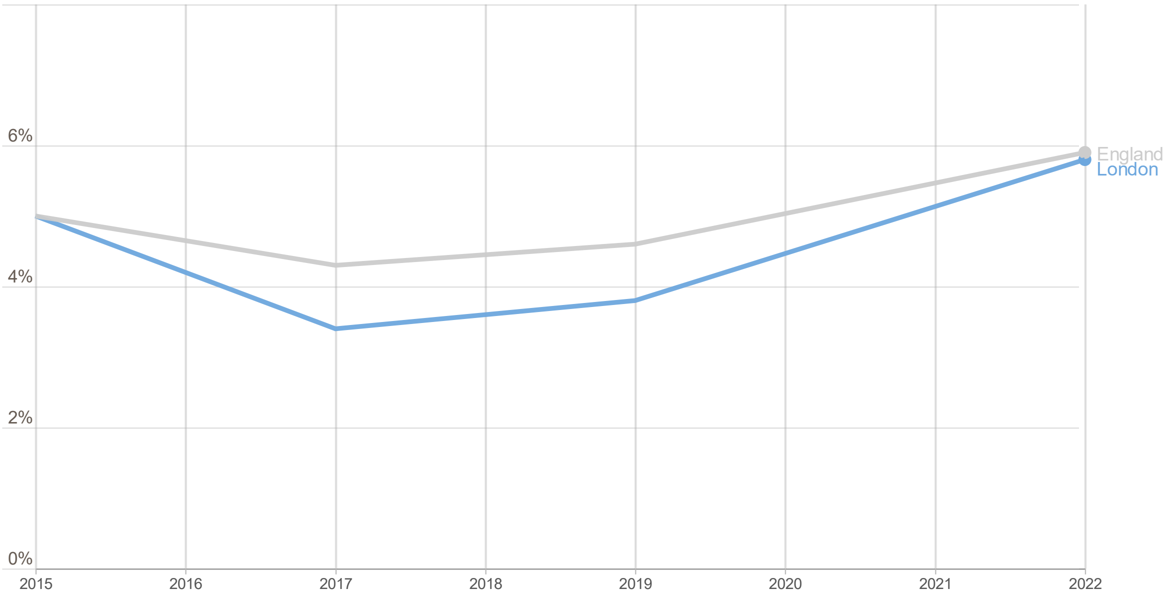
Source: Department of Education, LEO Graduate and Postgraduate Outcomes.

The latest available data shows that 84% of London HEI graduates in academic year 2019/20 were in a positive destination (i.e., either employment or further study) the year after graduating. This is a marginal decline from a peak of 88% in 2016/17. The proportion is slightly lower (by 4 percentage points in 2019/20) than for English HEIs overall. This is due to London having a more competitive labour market, with a higher share of the workforce having degree qualifications or higher and London attracting international talent, making it comparatively more difficult for new graduates to enter the labour market.

London's economy has the skills it needs to thrive

Figure 5: Employers' views on the proficiency of their workforce

*Percentage of employees who are not fully proficient at their job

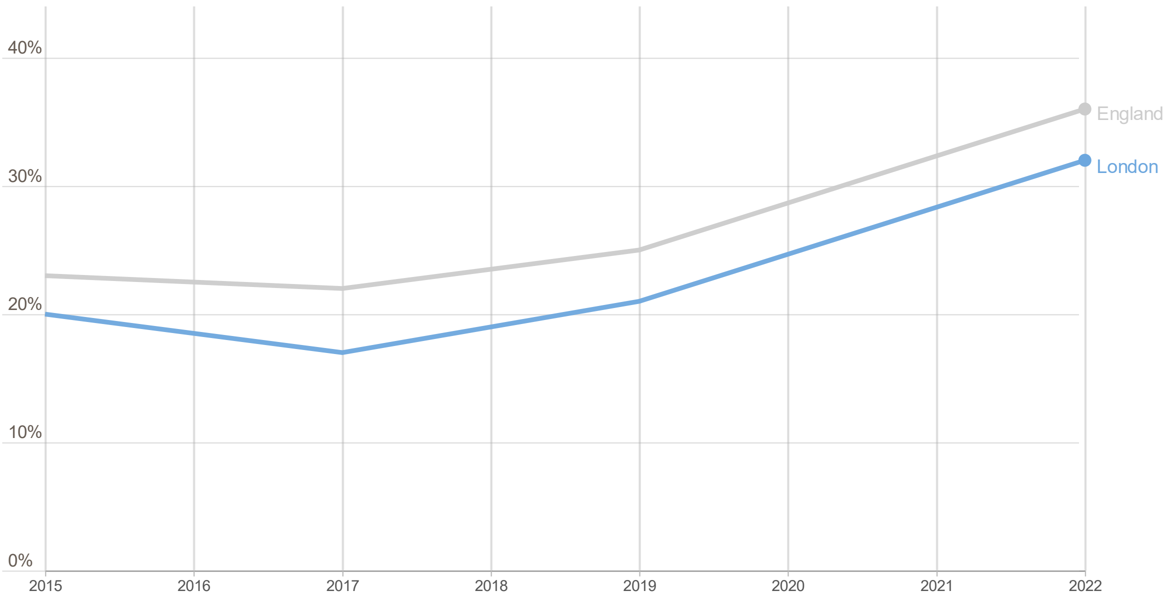


Source: Employer Skills Survey, 2022

Since 2015, the percentage of employees who are judged as 'not fully proficient at their job' by their employer has remained relatively stable, with a small rise in 2022 (5% in 2015 and 6% in 2022). A similar trend and proportions were seen across England.

Figure 6: Skills shortage vacancies

*Percentage of skills shortage vacancies

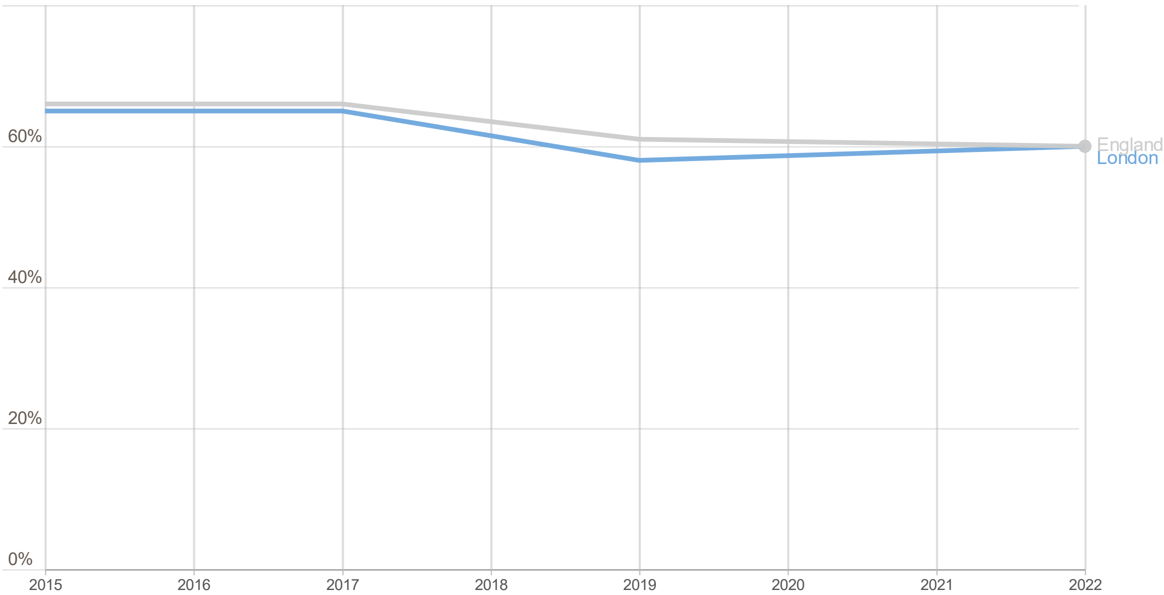


Source: Employer Skills Survey, 2022

'Skills shortage vacancies' refer to vacancies that employers struggle to fill due to a lack of skills, qualifications or experience amongst applicants. The share of skills shortage vacancies, amongst all vacancies in London, increased significantly between 2015 and 2022, from 20% to 32%. In 2022, the share of skills shortage vacancies was 4 percentage points below the share across all of England.

Figure 7: Employer provision of training

*Percentage of establishments that have funded or arranged any training for staff over the past 12 months



Source: Employer Skills Survey, 2022

Employer provision of training is important to ensure that courses are well tailored to the needs of firms and in turn London's economy. Employers can provide either training that equips employees for the requirements of their current job (defined in the Employer Skills Survey as on-the-job training) or training that goes beyond that (off-the-job training).

Since 2015, training provision by London employers has fallen by 5 percentage points (from 65% to 60%), potentially due to increased cost constraints for employers. The overall trend in provision in London is similar to that for the whole of England.

Figure 8: Online job postings over time

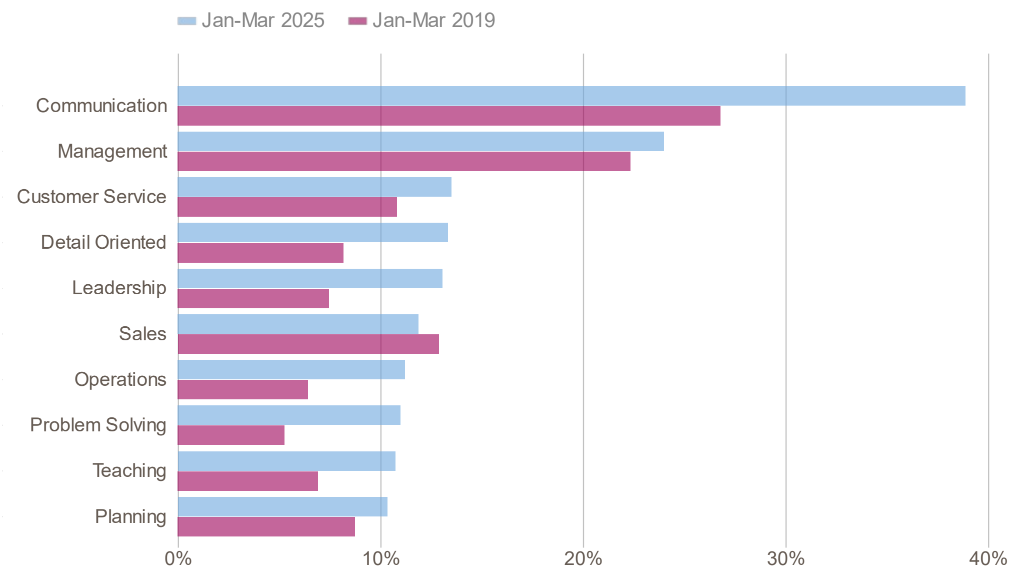
Number of unique monthly job postings in London, all occupations

Source: Lightcast 2025.

Online job posting numbers represent a useful, albeit imperfect, indicator of real-time employer demand for labour. While the immediate onset of the COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse impact on recruitment activity in early 2020, this reversed rapidly post-pandemic following widescale societal reopening and resurgent economic activity. However, since the latter half of 2022, job-posting numbers have steadily trended down towards pre-pandemic levels, reflecting a gradual cooling and settling of London's labour market.

Figure 9: Most in-demand common skills

Top common skills in demand as measured by frequency in job postings (%)

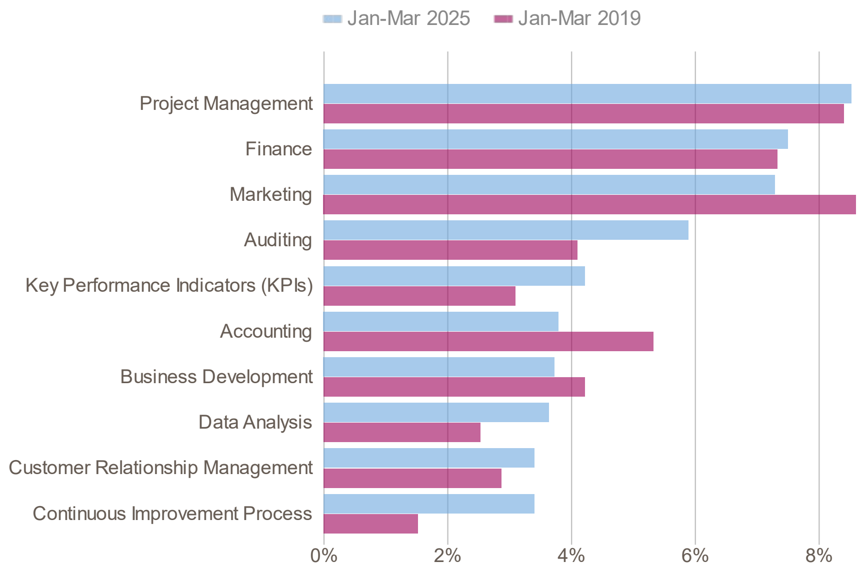


Source: Lightcast 2025

Lightcast data examining job postings provides insights into the common and specialised skills that are sought after by employers in London. The common or transferable skills most in demand during Q1 2025 included communication, management and customer service, the skills also most in demand in 2019.

Figure 10: Most in-demand technical skills

Top technical skills in demand as measured by frequency in job postings (%)



Source: Lightcast 2025

Similarly, technical or specialised skills (e.g., core business skills such as project management, finance and marketing) have remained robustly in demand since before the pandemic.

8: SOCIAL JUSTICE

This chapter covers themes such as support for those most in need and reducing inequalities. It sets out trends across measures related to income levels, fairness, civic participation, local communities and relationships.

The chapter is structured around the following four London-Level Outcomes:

- Londoners' incomes meet their everyday needs.
- Londoners are treated fairly and with dignity.
- Londoners can have their say in the running of the city.
- Londoners get on with and support each other.

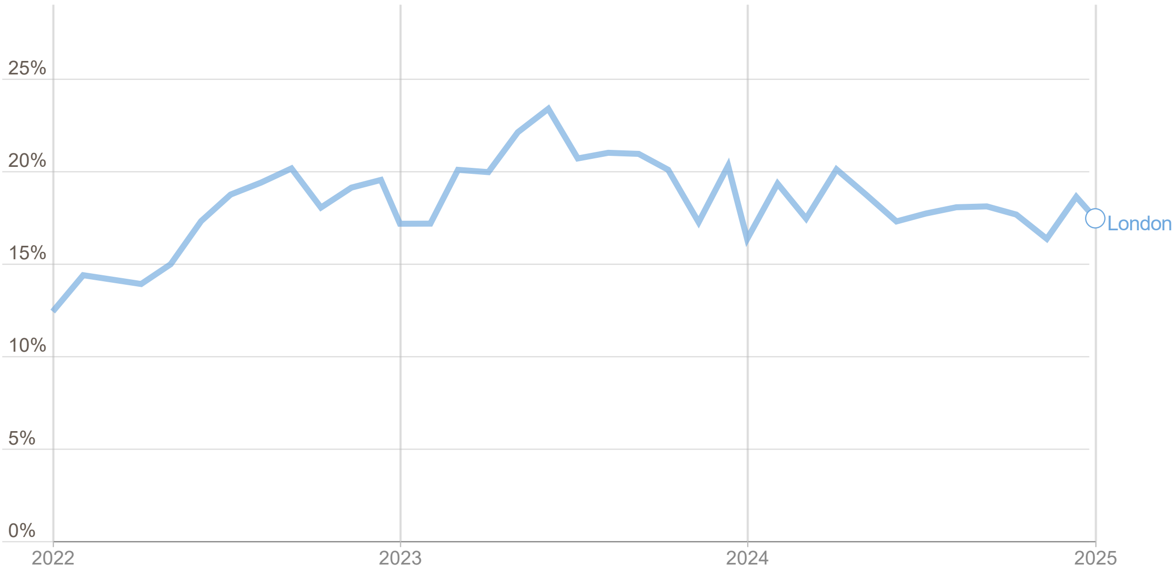
The majority of measures covered in this section are reported annually, though some are reported more frequently. Much of the data is drawn from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's (DCMS) Community Life Survey. This is a key source for understanding more about community engagement, volunteering and social cohesion throughout England. In previous years, the GLA published summaries of this survey, providing a comparison between London and the rest of England. In 2022, the GLA also published the headline findings from the Survey of Londoners 2021-22, which has data relating to many of these issues.

There is a clear pattern that Londoners living in the most deprived areas have poorer outcomes compared with those living in the least deprived areas across various measures (e.g., neighbourhood relationships, trust and social isolation).

Londoners' incomes meet their everyday needs

Figure 1: Struggling financially

*Proportion of Londoners struggling to make ends meet or having to go without basic needs, London monthly data shown Jan 22-Jan 25



Source: [YouGov survey January 2022 – January 2025]

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc for the GLA. Monthly sample sizes were between 968 and 1,591 adults. Surveys were carried out online. Figures have been weighted and are representative of all London adults (aged 18+).

When asked how they were coping financially in January 2025, 17% of Londoners said they were struggling[23]. This is down from around 23% in June 2023, but remains above early-2022 levels.

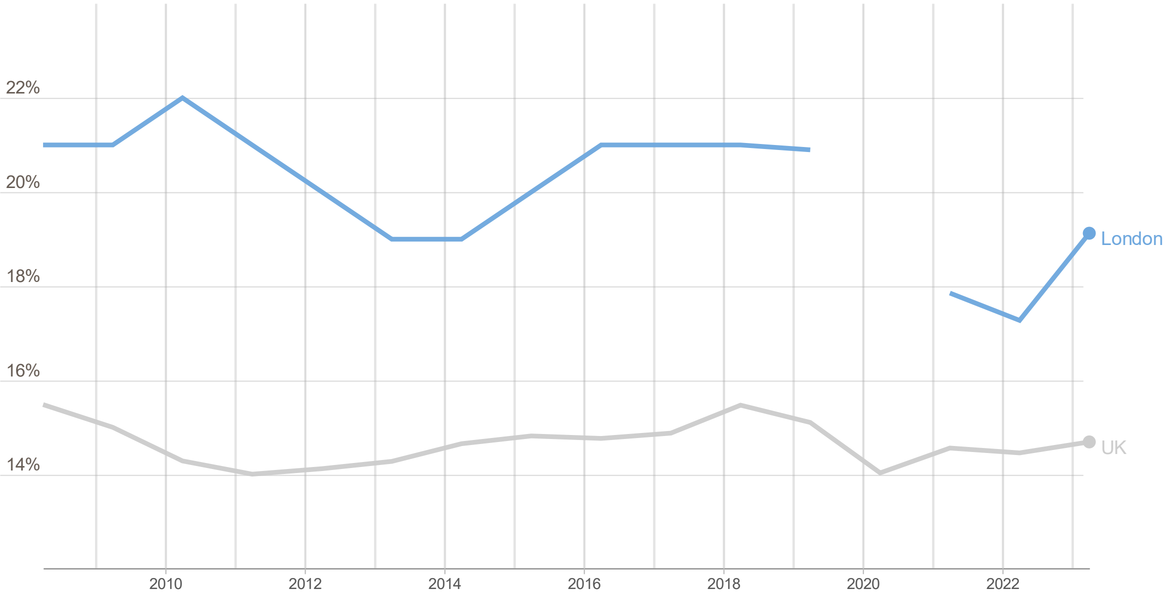
Disabled Londoners, lower income groups, renters, Black Londoners and lower social grade[24] Londoners were more likely to say they were struggling financially.

'Financially struggling' Londoners are significantly more likely than other Londoners to be doing the top two actions to manage costs, which are 'to be spending less on non-essentials' and 'to buy cheaper products'.

[23] Defined as going without or relying on debt to pay for their basic needs or struggling to make ends meet.
[24] A category used in the ONS 'Approximated Social Grade' variable.

Figure 2: Relative poverty

*Percentage of people living in London households with income below 50% contemporary median – After Housing Costs (AHC)



Source: [DWP Households Below Average Income]()

A person is considered in relative poverty if they are in a household with income below a given percentage of the UK median. The standard threshold is 60% of the UK median but, here, we use 50% of the UK median, as it reflects a deeper level of poverty. This measure captures all income sources and covers an entire household. It also accounts for the value of housing costs, which are subtracted from total household income. It does not, however, capture the value of other 'non-discretionary costs' such as childcare, nor does it capture the value of savings or other household assets. The data are published annually but with a one-year lag. Additionally, there is greater uncertainty around estimates for recent years due to data collection issues during the pandemic.

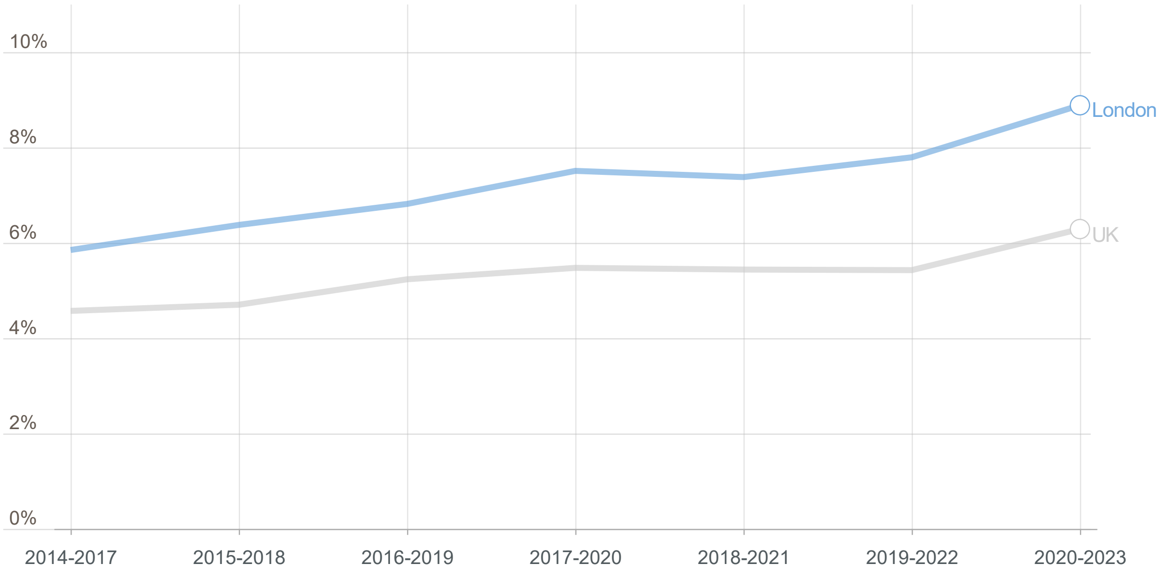
Relative poverty rose in the latest estimate (19% of the population, or about 1.7 million Londoners, live in households with less than 50% of UK median income after housing costs). It has climbed again after falling sharply following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. There is increased uncertainty around the latest estimates due to data quality issues, and this should be borne in mind when interpreting recent changes.

Looking across the UK, London is the region[25] with the highest proportion of residents in relative poverty, with Inner London showing particularly high poverty incidence at 23%. Outer London, though lower at 18%, still has a higher poverty incidence than all other regions and countries of the UK.

[25] London values are presented as three-year averages. The London estimate for 2020/21 was unavailable due to data quality issues. All subsequent rolling three-year averages, which would normally feature this year, are averages of the two remaining time points.

Figure 3: Household bills arrears

*Proportion with household bills in arrears



Source: Understanding Society

In the three years to 2022-23, 9% of households in London reported being behind with some or all of their household bills. This is higher than in the three years to 2016-17 when it was 6%. The proportion is also higher than for households across the UK (6%).

Having household bills in arrears has regularly been higher in London compared with the UK since the three years to 2016-17, on average, by 1.9 percentage points. Both across London and the UK, it is at its highest level compared with 2016-17.

In the three years to 2022-23, in London, social renters are much more likely to have household bills in arrears (20%) compared with private renters (14%) and owner occupiers (2%).

Figure 4: Food security

Percentage of households with differing levels of food insecurity

Source: [DWP Family Resources Survey]

Food security measures whether households have sufficient food to facilitate an active and healthy lifestyle. Although 80% of households in London had high food security[26] in 2023/24, 13% were classed as food insecure, the highest level since recording first began on the survey in 2019/20, when it was 8%. London was the region, along with the North West, with the highest levels of food insecurity, with Inner London in particular having a high rate of 17%.

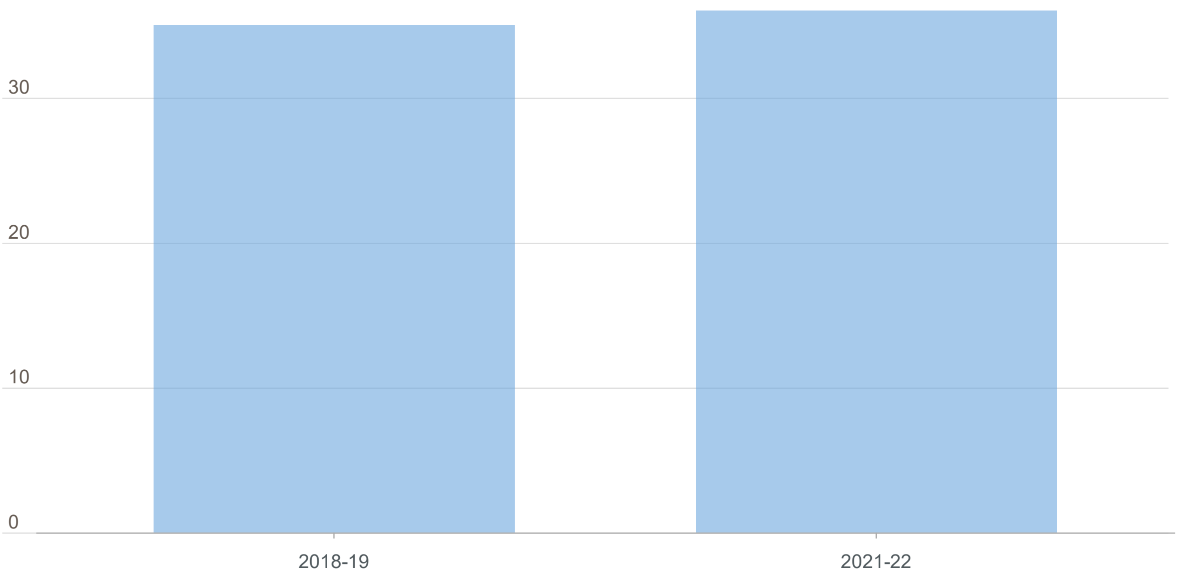
Furthermore, in 2023/24, 4% of households in London had used a food bank within the last 12 months, the same as food bank use in the last 12 months across the UK.

[26] The Family Resources Survey asks a series of questions about access to food over the last 30 days to derive this measure. There are still difficulties conducting the survey after the pandemic, which means that there are higher levels of uncertainty with the figures than usual.

Londoners are treated fairly and with dignity

Figure 5: Unfair treatment

*Proportion of Londoners treated unfairly in the last 12 months because of one or several protected characteristics or because of their social class



Source: GLA Survey of Londoners

In 2021-22, 36% of Londoners reported being treated unfairly in the past 12 months because of one or several protected characteristics, or because of their social class, excluding by friends and family. This was not significantly different from the 2018-19 survey (35%).

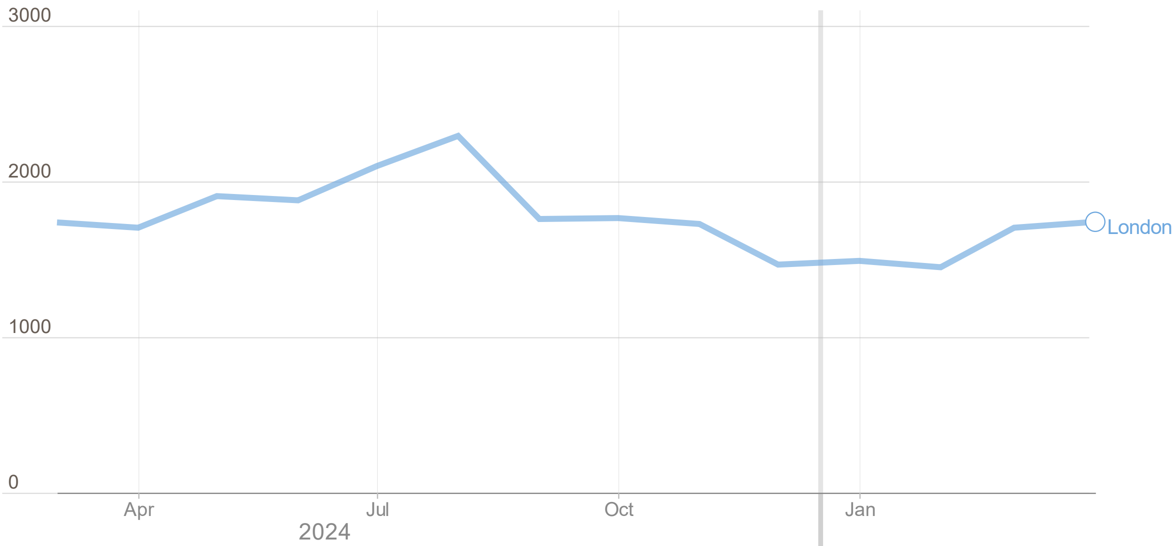
In terms of unfair treatment by particular characteristics, in 2021-22, ethnicity was the most common (19%), followed by sex (13%), age (12%), social class (8%) and religion (6%).

The pattern of how different ethnic groups experienced unfair treatment has largely remained the same since 2018-19. However, Black Londoners were the only ethnic group to have seen an increase in unfair treatment experienced as a result of their ethnicity (from 26% to 43%).

Figure 6: Recorded hate crime

*Number of hate crime offences in London as recorded by the MPS

Note: Grey line represents end of 2024 calendar year.



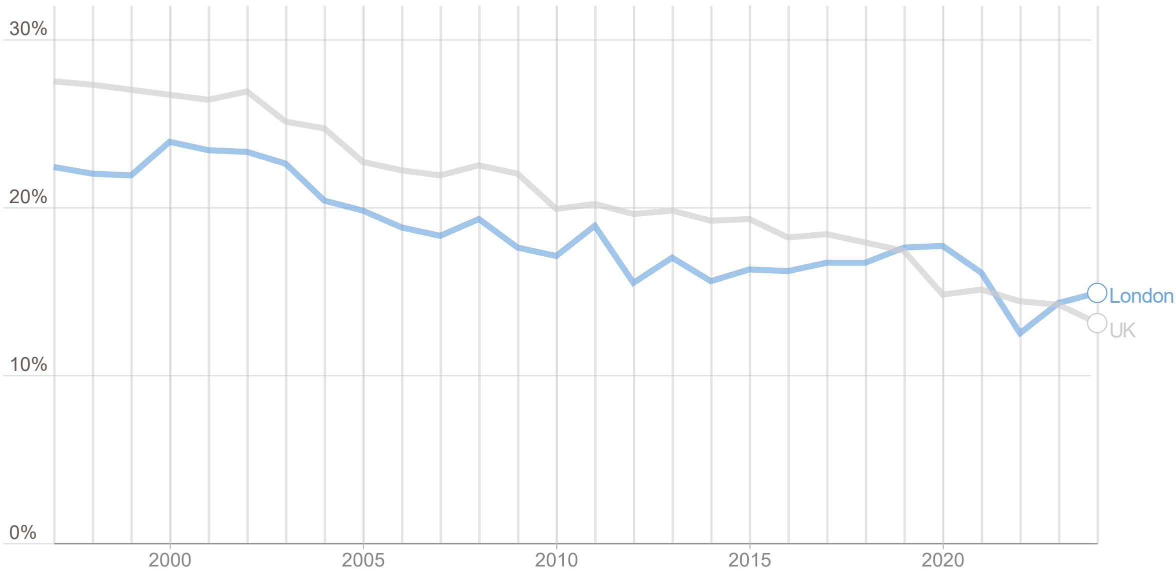
Source: Met Police, [MPS Monthly Crime Dashboard Data]

A hate crime is defined as ‘any incident perceived by the victim or any other person to be racist, homophobic, transphobic, or due to a person’s religion, belief, gender identity or disability’. In March 2024[27], there were around 1,700 hate crime offences recorded in London. It increased steadily towards the summer, peaking at around 2,300 offences in August 2024. Since then, it has fallen back to those earlier levels and by April 2025, one year on from when recording started in the new system, hate crime offences were, again, around 1,700 in the month.

[27] At the end of February 2024, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) started using a different system (CONNECT) to record crime and investigation data. As a result, comparable data for hate crime is only available since March 2024.

Figure 7a: Gender pay gap

*Percentage difference between median hourly earnings of men and women, expressed as a percentage of men's earnings - London vs UK



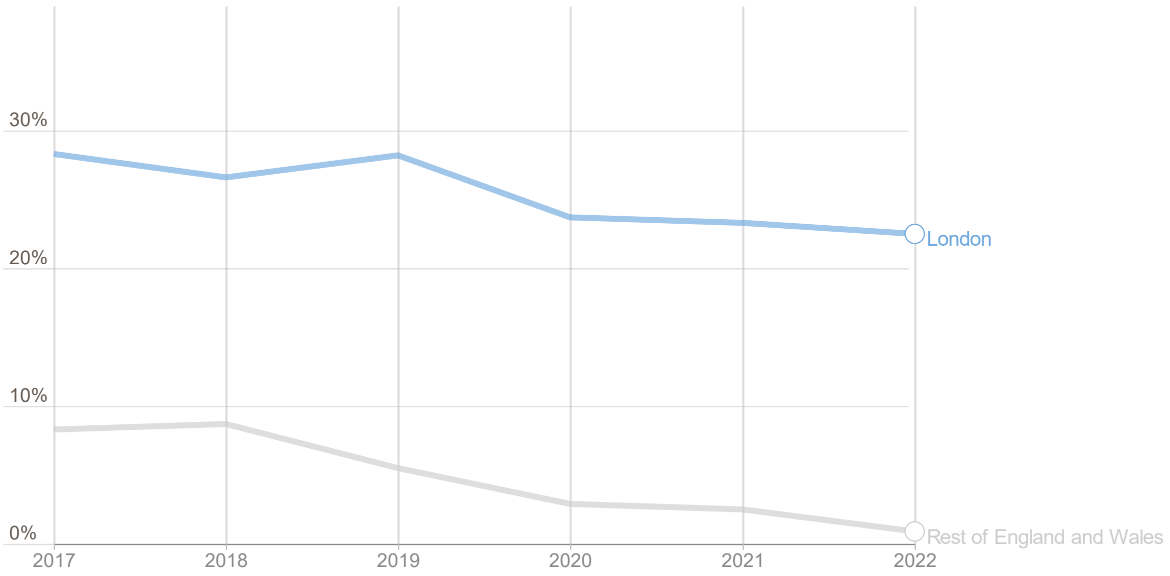
Source: Office for National Statistics, [ASHE]

Pay gaps exist because one group is paid, on average, less than another group. The gender pay gap is calculated across all employee jobs based in London or for the UK as a whole. It is not comparing levels of pay of men and women doing the same job. There are many factors influencing pay levels, including the type of jobs, the employer, the place of work, the level of responsibility, etc.

On average, female employees are paid less per hour than male employees (15% less in 2024 in London and 13% less across the UK). The gap has been narrowing over time and, since 1997, has decreased by seven percentage points across London and 14 percentage points across the UK.

Figure 7b: Ethnicity pay gap

*Percentage difference between median hourly earnings of Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and all White groups, expressed as a percentage of all White groups' earnings - London vs Rest of England and Wales



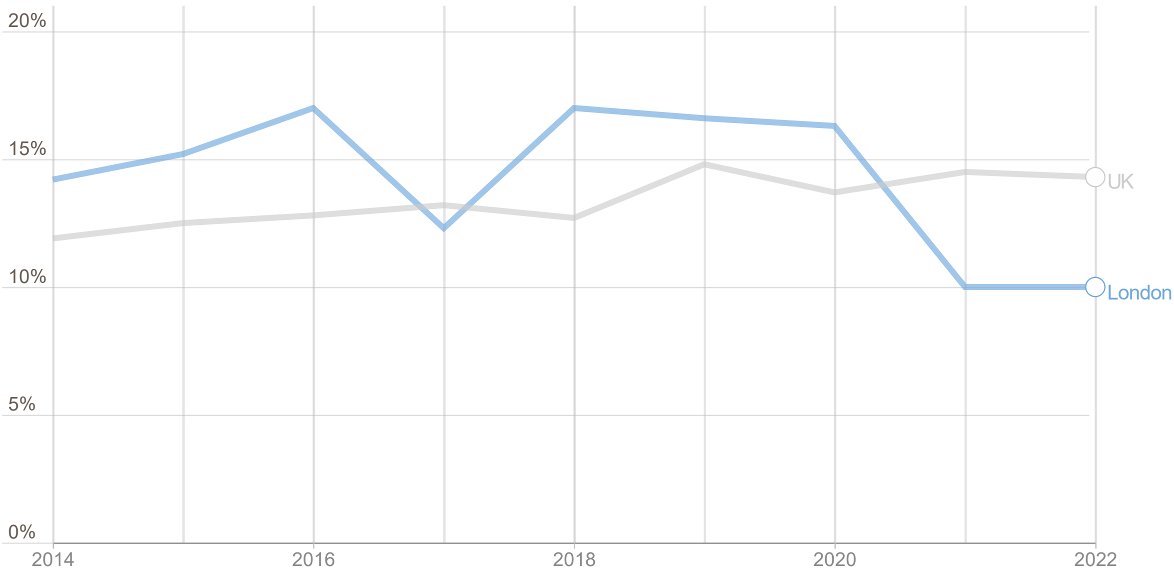
Source: ONS, Annual Population Survey

There is a large gap in the median hourly pay between White employees and Black, Asian and minority ethnic employees in London (23%) compared with across England and Wales outside London (around 1%). This is at least partly attributable to the fact that London has a much larger proportion of Black, Asian and minority ethnic employees among its workforce than the rest of the country, while London wages also tend to be higher than elsewhere.

The ethnicity pay gap has been narrowing over time in both geographical areas. Between 2017 and 2022, it decreased by six percentage points across London and seven percentage points across England and Wales outside London.

Figure 7c: Disability pay gap

*Percentage difference between median hourly earnings of disabled and non-disabled workers, expressed as a percentage of disabled workers' earnings - London vs UK



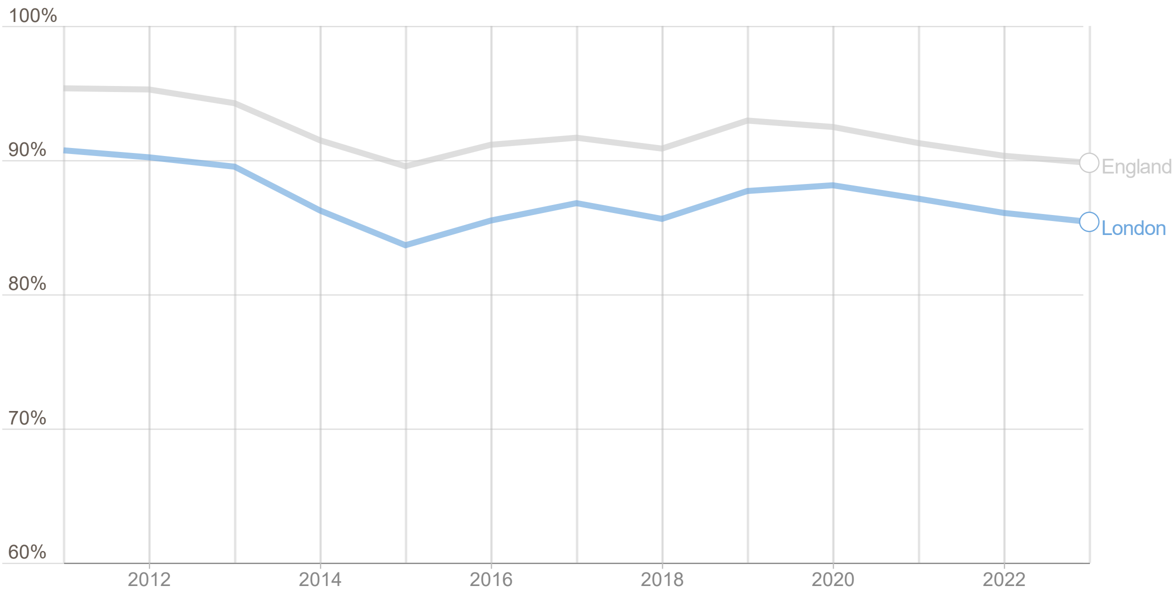
Source: ONS, [Annual Population Survey]

In 2022, the pay gap between disabled and non-disabled workers within London, based on the median pay, is estimated at 10% in London and 14% for the UK as a whole. There is a degree of volatility in the data, due to smaller sample sizes. In the past, it was the case that the London disability pay gap was larger than that for the UK as a whole in most years. However, in recent years, the disability pay gap in London has fallen below the disability pay gap for the UK.

Londoners can have their say in the running of the city

Figure 8: Voter registration

*Proportion of eligible adults aged 18+ who are registered for local elections (%)



Source: [Electoral statistics for the UK](); [Mid-Year Population Estimates]()

Voter registration is a key pillar of social integration. Not being registered to vote has other adverse impacts aside from not being able to vote in elections, such as not being able to be selected for jury service, and more difficulty in gaining a credit rating.

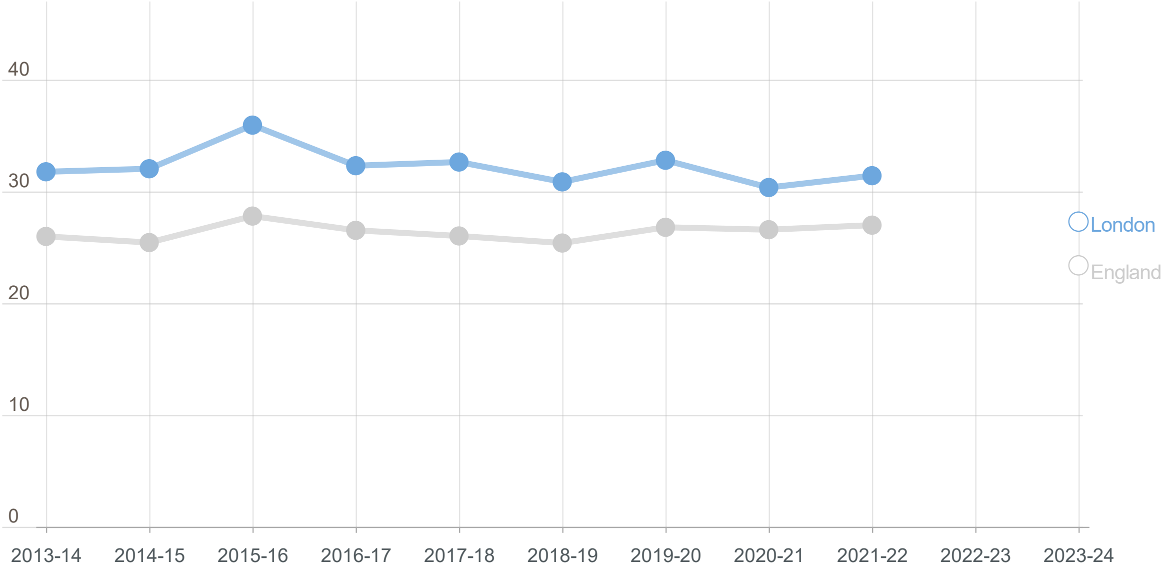
The voter registration rate in London has remained high since 2011, though it has been declining since 2020. Back in 2011, 91% of eligible adults were registered for local elections. However, by 2023, this was 85%. In other words, around one in seven Londoners (15%) were not registered to vote in 2023. The voter registration rate has been consistently lower in London than in England over the last decade, with London's rate being, on average, five percentage points lower.

It should be noted that the denominator used is all adults aged 18 and over. This is slightly inaccurate as not all adults are eligible to vote[28]. This means the local election registration rate is likely to be slightly higher than presented here.

[28] https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8985/

Figure 9: Influencing decisions in local area

*Proportion who feel able to influence decisions affecting their local area (%)



Source: DCMS, [Community Life Survey]
Note: The Community Life Survey did not produce an annual report covering the year 2022-23. Thus, there is a gap in the time series, whenever this survey's data is presented.

Around a quarter of Londoners (27%) felt that they could personally influence decisions in their local area in 2023-24, a fall since 2021-22 when it was 31%. The decline has also been witnessed across England, falling from 27% to 23% during the same period.

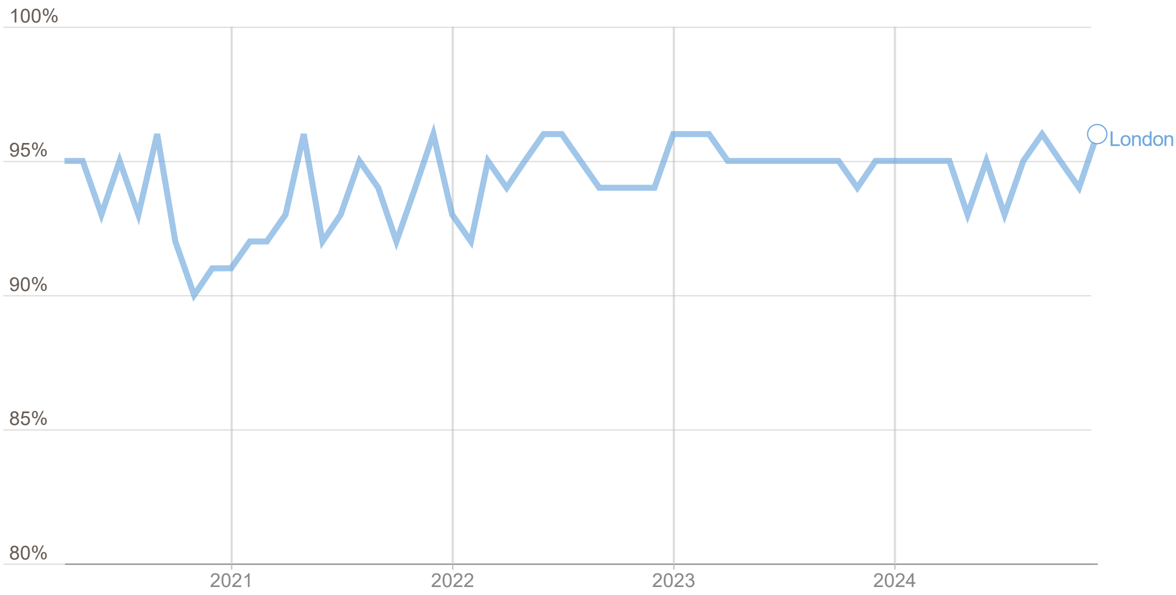
Since 2013-14, the percentage of people in London reporting that they could personally influence decisions in their local area had not changed much year to year, a pattern mirrored across England, but this trend has changed in the latest data.

The feeling of influence has regularly been higher in London compared with England since 2013-14, on average, by six percentage points. Both across England and in London, it is at its lowest level compared with 2013-14.

Londoners get on with and support each other

Figure 10: Neighbourhood cohesion

*Proportion of Londoners who agree that people from different backgrounds get on well in their local area (%)



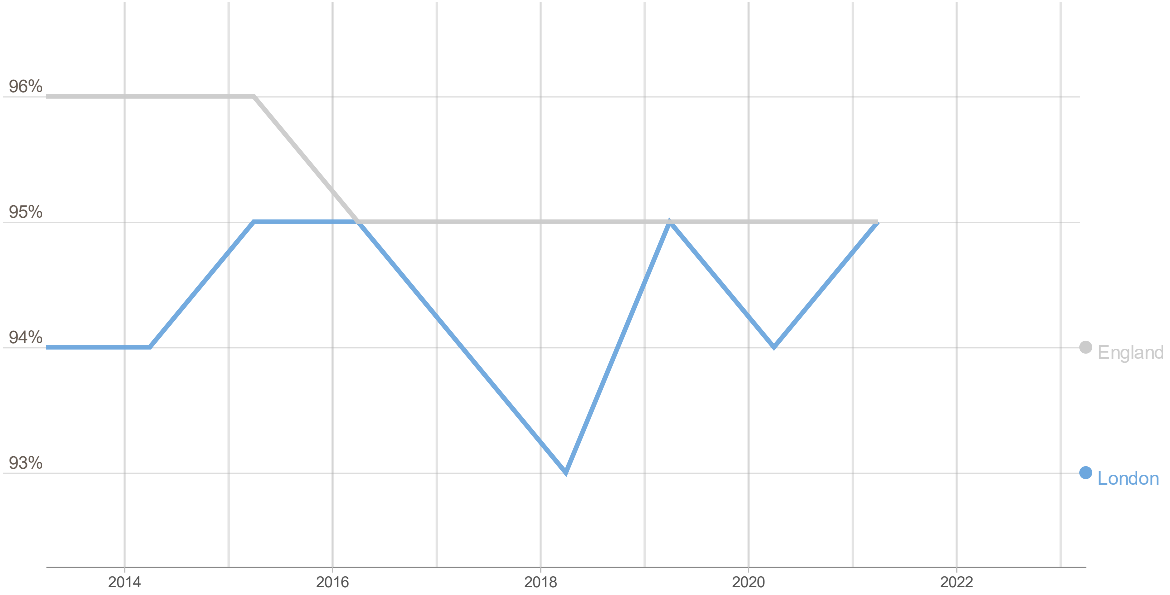
Source: MOPAC, Public Attitude Survey (PAS)

Neighbourhood cohesion, defined here as the proportion of Londoners who agree that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together, has remained above 90% each month since around the start of the pandemic in April 2020. As of December 2024, 96% of Londoners agreed with the statement.

In 2008, neighbourhood cohesion was much lower than it is today, with agreement from around three quarters of Londoners (73%). There were annual increases up until 2013-14, when 95% of Londoners agreed with this statement. Every year since then, it has been above 90% and in the final year before fieldwork on the survey was disrupted by the pandemic (2019-20), it was 92%.

Figure 11: Social isolation

*Proportion who agree that if they needed help there are people who would be there for them (%)



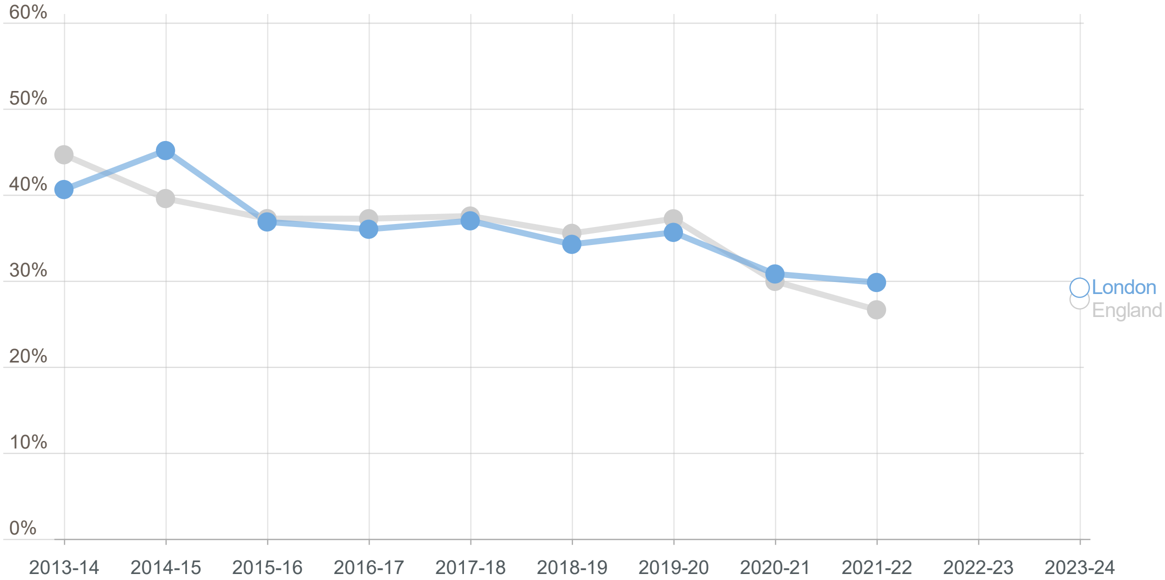
Source: DCMS, [Community Life Survey]
Note: The Community Life Survey did not produce an annual report covering the year 2022-23. Thus, there is a gap in the time series, whenever this survey's data is presented.

In 2023-24, the majority of Londoners (93%) agreed that there were people who would be there for them if they needed help. This is very similar to the proportion across England who agreed (94%).

Social isolation has regularly been slightly lower in London compared with England since 2013-14, though the gap is not significant.

Figure 12a: Formal volunteering

*Proportion who formally volunteered at least once in the last year (%)



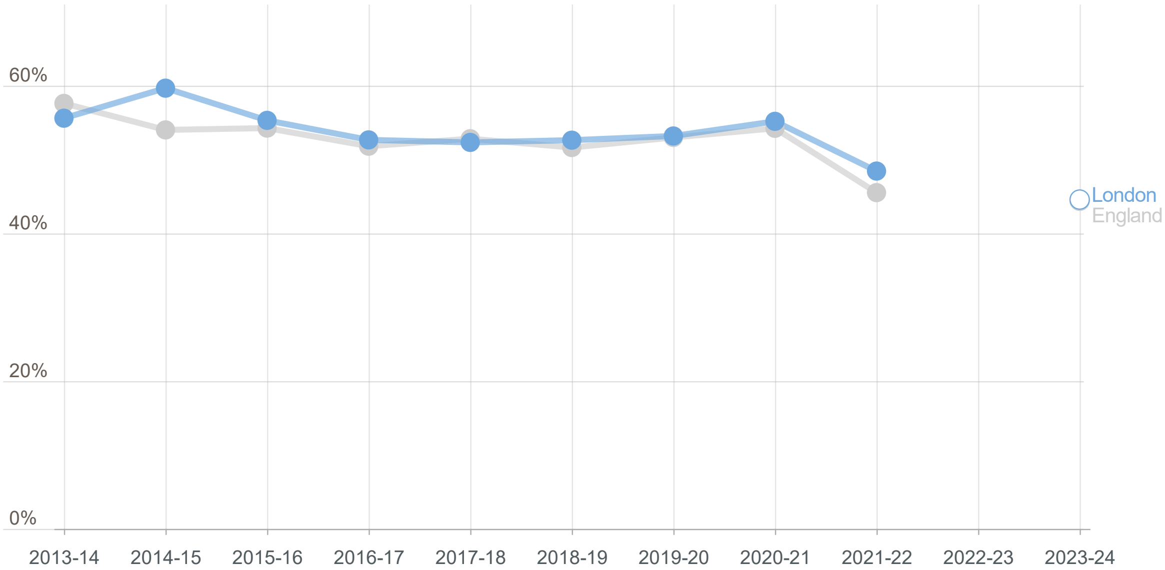
Source: DCMS, [Community Life Survey]
Note: The Community Life Survey did not produce an annual report covering the year 2022-23. Thus, there is a gap in the time series, whenever this survey's data is presented.

Around three in ten (29%) Londoners aged 16 and over formally volunteered in 2023-24, which represents a small change from 2021-22 when it was 30%. Formal volunteering refers to giving unpaid help through clubs or organisations.

Since 2013-14, the percentage of people reporting that they had formally volunteered in the last year has decreased in London by 12 percentage points, a pattern mirrored across England which saw an even larger decrease of 17 percentage points.

Figure 12b: Informal volunteering

*Proportion who informally volunteered at least once in the last year (%)



Source: DCMS, [Community Life Survey]
Note: The Community Life Survey did not produce an annual report covering the year 2022-23. Thus, there is a gap in the time series, whenever this survey's data is presented.

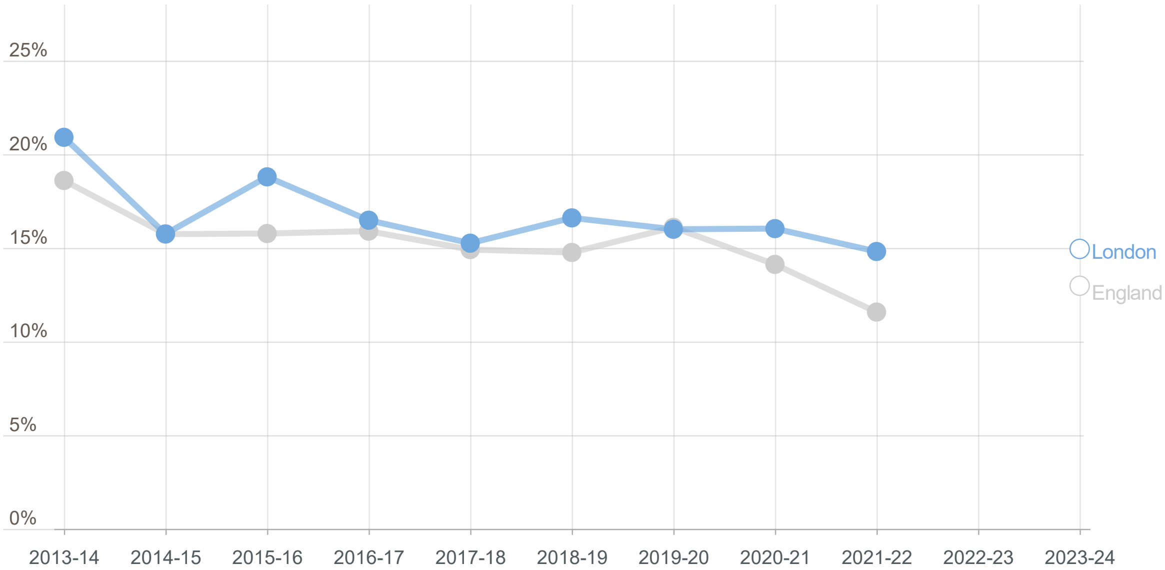
Under half (45%) of Londoners informally volunteered in 2023-24, a decrease since 2021-22 when it was 48%. Informal volunteering refers to giving unpaid help to individuals who are not a relative.

Since 2013-14, the percentage of people in London reporting that they had informally volunteered in the last year had not changed much annually. However, in the last few years, from 2021-22 onwards, informal volunteering rates have decreased significantly in London and across England (both by 10 percentage points).

Informal volunteering rates in London in 2023-24 were 11 percentage points lower than in 2013-14. Across England, they declined by 14 percentage points.

Figure 13: Social action

Proportion who were personally involved in social action in the last year (%)



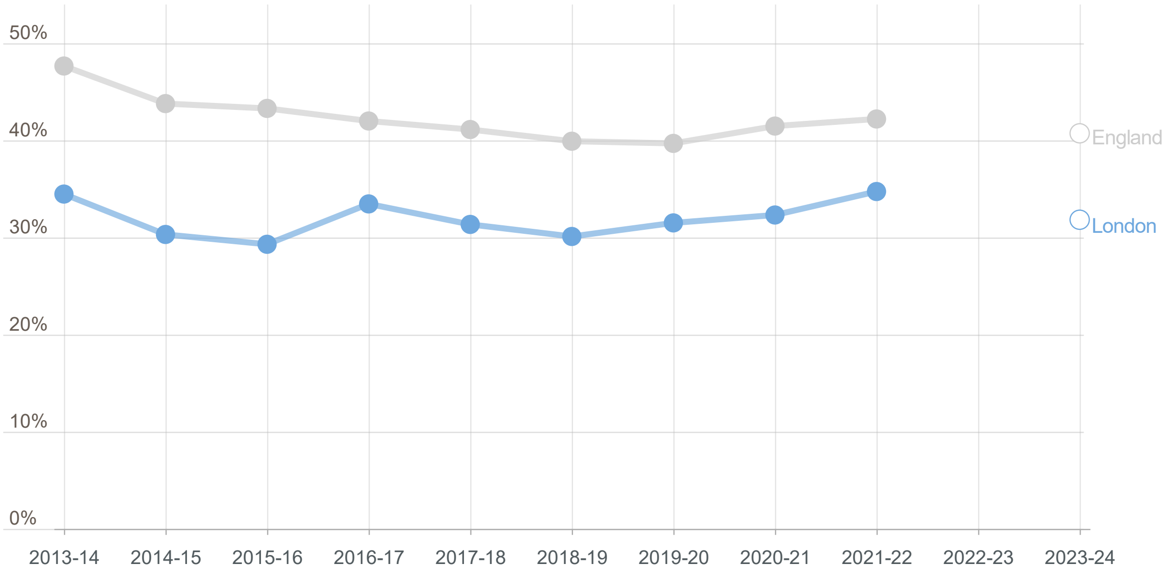
Source: DCMS, [Community Life Survey]
Note: The Community Life Survey did not produce an annual report covering the year 2022-23. Thus, there is a gap in the time series, whenever this survey's data is presented.

In 2023-24, 15% of Londoners were involved in social action, no change from 2021-22 but a decline since 2013-14 when it was 21%. Social action is about being involved with issues affecting the local area, for example, setting up or stopping the closure of a service/amenity, running a local service on a voluntary basis, or helping to organise a street party or community event.

The decline seen in London since 2013-14 is also mirrored across England, which has also seen a six percentage point fall since then (from 19% to 13%).

Figure 14: Neighbourhood trust

Proportion who agree that many of the people can be trusted in their local neighbourhood (%)



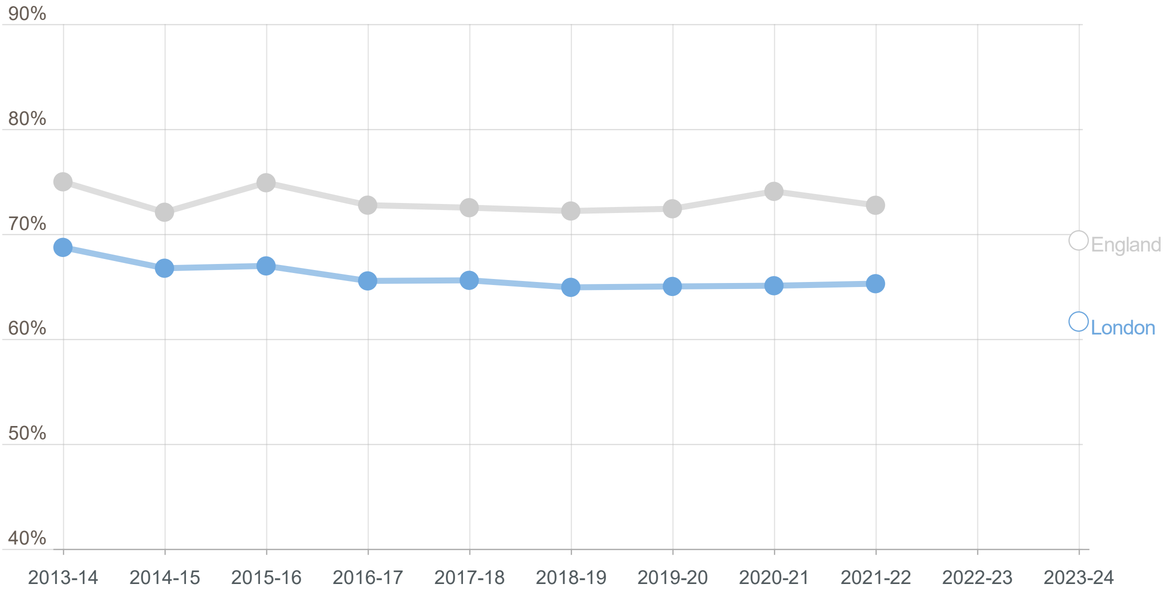
Source: DCMS, [Community Life Survey]
Note: The Community Life Survey did not produce an annual report covering the year 2022-23. Thus, there is a gap in the time series, whenever this survey's data is presented.

In 2023-24, around one third of Londoners (32%) agreed that many of the people in their local neighbourhood could be trusted. Since 2013-14, in London, the percentage agreeing has not changed much when it was 34%. The proportion agreeing across England has, however, declined since then, from 48% to 41%.

Neighbourhood trust has regularly been lower in London compared with England since 2013-14, though the gap has narrowed in recent years.

Figure 15: Talking to neighbours

Proportion who chat to their neighbours at least once a month (%)



Source: DCMS, [Community Life Survey]
Note: The Community Life Survey did not produce an annual report covering the year 2022-23. Thus, there is a gap in the time series, whenever this survey's data is presented.

In 2023-24, around six in ten Londoners (62%) reported chatting to their neighbours at least once a month. This is lower than when measured in 2021-22, when it was 65%. The proportion is also less than that for residents across England (69%).

Talking to neighbours has regularly been lower in London compared with England since 2013-14, on average, by seven percentage points. Both across England and in London, it is at its lowest level compared with 2013-14.

9: HOUSING

This chapter sets out trends for a selection of key housing indicators related to four London-level outcomes:

- Londoners live in homes they can afford
- Londoners' homes are safe and decent
- Londoners should not be homeless
- Londoners live in neighbourhoods that are well planned and designed.

There were around 3.82 million homes in London in 2024, a number that has increased by just under 40,000 a year on average in the last five years. Housing supply in London has not kept up with demand, which has contributed to the city's very high housing costs: the median price of homes sold in London in the year to February 2025 was £557,500, while the average private rent was £2,163 per month in the year ending March 2025.

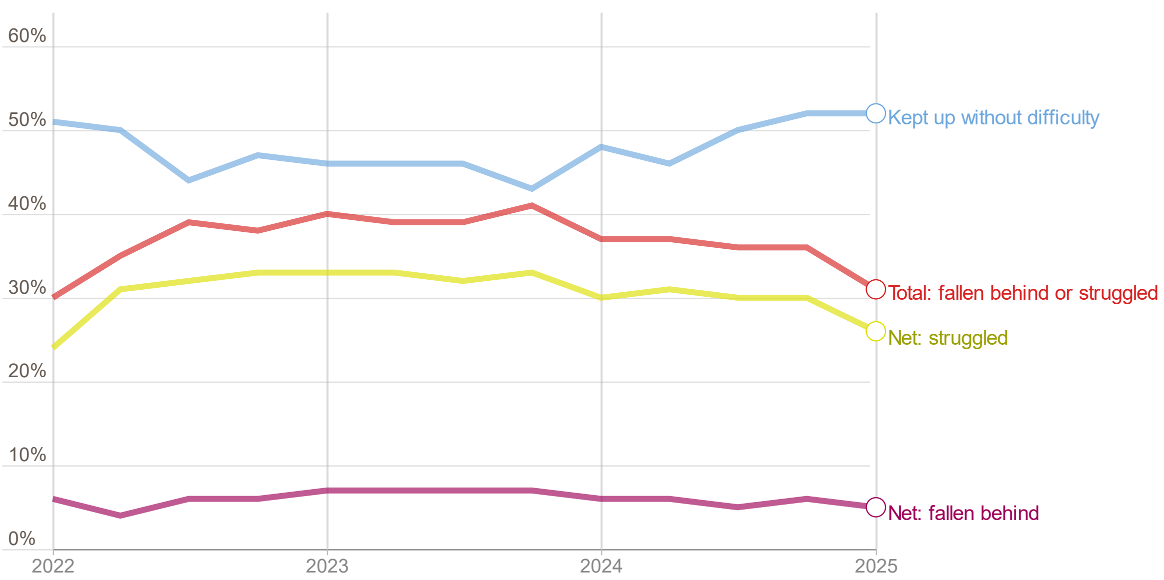
The high cost of housing and the scarcity of suitable accommodation means that London has particularly high rates of housing need. According to official statistics, around 1.7% of all households in London are homeless and living in temporary accommodation, compared to around 0.2% in the rest of England.

The GLA's annual Housing in London report provides a more in-depth analysis of London's housing market.

Londoners live in homes they can afford

Figure 1: Londoners' ability to meet their housing costs

*Percentage of London adults who say they have not been able to meet housing payments over the last six months, or have struggled to do so.



Source: All figures are from YouGov Plc on behalf of the GLA. The surveys were carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all London adults (aged 18+).

According to GLA cost of living polling data from January 2025, 31% of people in London had either fallen behind, or struggled to keep up with, rent or mortgage payments.

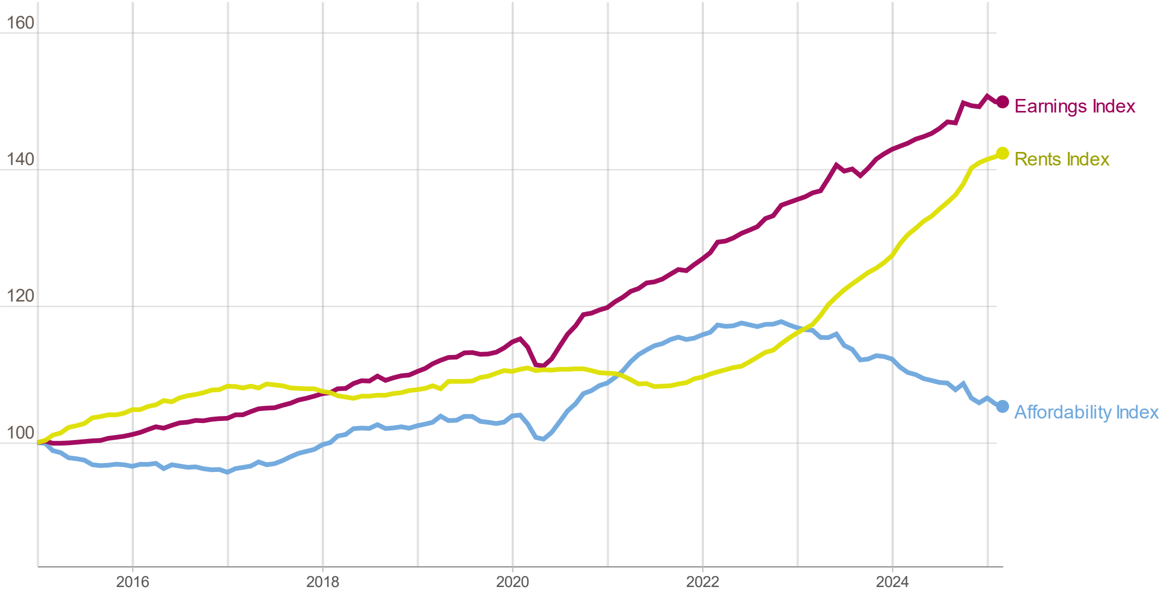
26% of people reported that they struggled to keep up with rent or mortgage payment, 17% of whom said they had kept up with payments but had found it a struggle at least once, while 9% struggled every time.

4% reported they have fallen behind on one or more payments, while 2% have fallen behind on all payments. These figures have remained relatively stable over the past year, though both categories had higher percentages in 2022 and early 2023.

Over the same period, the majority of people reported being able to keep up with their rent or mortgage payments, though many continued to face financial strain. In January 2025, 52% of respondents said they kept up with payments without any difficulties, the highest proportion recorded since 2022 and a modest improvement from a low of 43% in October 2023.

Figure 2: Affordability in the private rental sector

Index of private rent, earnings and implied affordability (2015=100)



Source: ONS Pay As You Earn Real Time Information, ONS Price Index of Private Rents

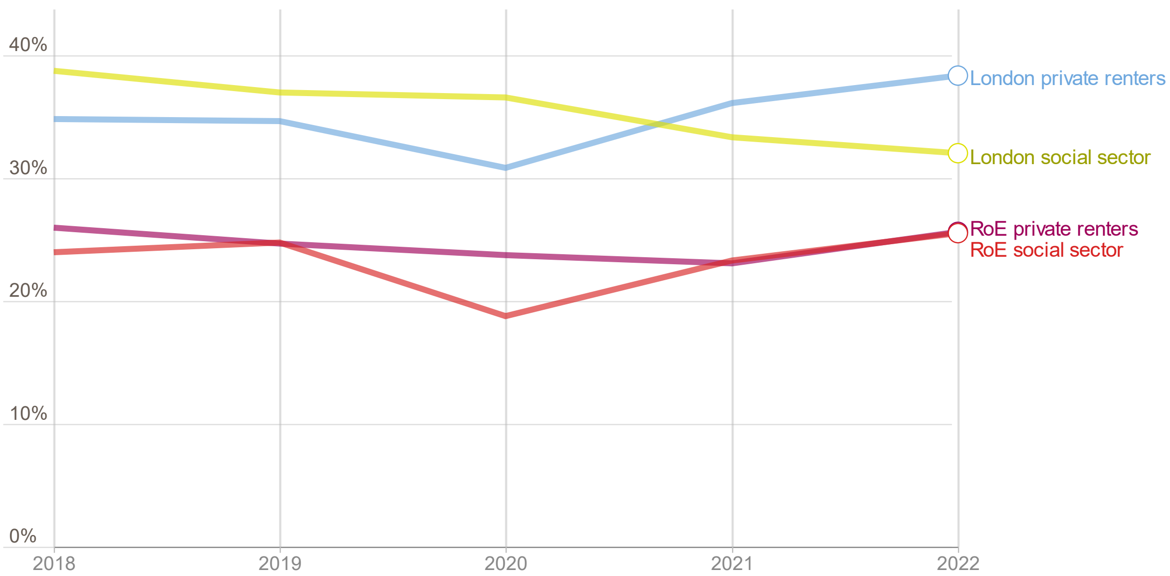
The ‘affordability index’ in Figure 2 is calculated as the cumulative change in earnings divided by the cumulative change in private rents (on all tenancies). A higher index value means earnings are increasing by more than private rents, thereby improving affordability (other things equal).

Between 2015 and 2020, rents were relatively stable in nominal terms while earnings increased at a marginally higher rate, leading to a modest improvement in affordability compared to the start of 2015. Rents then fell in 2020 and 2021 while earnings rose strongly. Rents increased sharply from 2022 onwards and are currently outpacing earnings growth, leading to a deterioration in affordability.

The ONS rental data shown here reflects rents paid on all tenancies and therefore reacts more slowly to changes in the market for new tenancies. Another caveat to note is that earnings data only reflects payrolled employees and does not reflect changes in income from benefits and non-employment sources of income.

Figure 3: Londoners' ability to pay their rent

Percentage of households that find it fairly or very difficult to pay rent, London and Rest of England (ROE)



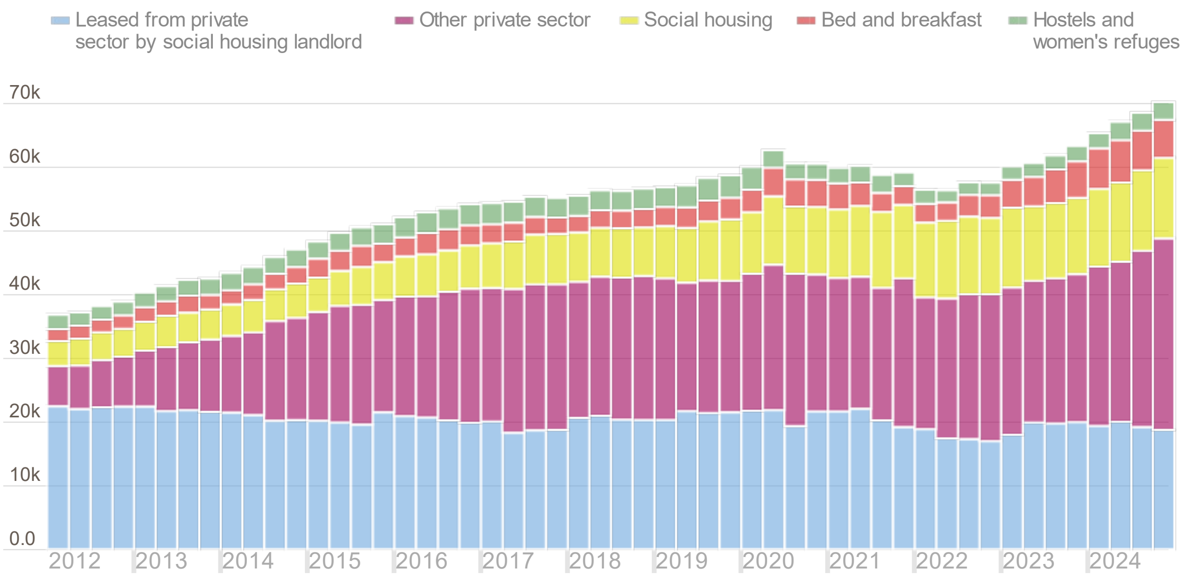
Source: English Housing Survey

Data from the English Housing Survey shows that the proportion of renting households in London who find it difficult to pay rent has remained consistently higher than in the rest of England. In 2022, 38% of private renters and 32% of social sector tenants in London reported difficulty making rent payments. This contrasts with lower levels reported in the rest of England, with 26% of social sector tenants and private renters struggling to pay rent in the same year.

The proportion of social sector tenants in London who found it difficult to pay rent fell by 7 percentage points between 2018 and 2022, while the rest of England saw a slight increase of 2 percentage points over the same period. Among private tenants, Londoners were more likely to struggle to pay rent than those in the rest of England, but the figure remained largely unchanged for the rest of England.

Figure 4: Households in temporary accommodation

*Number of homeless households in temporary accommodation arranged by London boroughs



Source: MHCLG

The number of homeless households in temporary accommodation arranged by London boroughs provides a gauge as to whether Londoners most in need of a home can access social rented accommodation. This indicator measures the number of households who have been accepted as requiring a permanent social rented home but who have not yet been allocated one.

London has more households in temporary accommodation than the rest of England combined. According to MHCLG statistics, there were 70,180 homeless households in temporary accommodation arranged by London boroughs at the end of December 2024, up from 63,240 a year before and the highest value since the data series began in 1988. Compared to the rest of England, there were 55,730 homeless households in temporary accommodation in the same period, 77% of those in London.

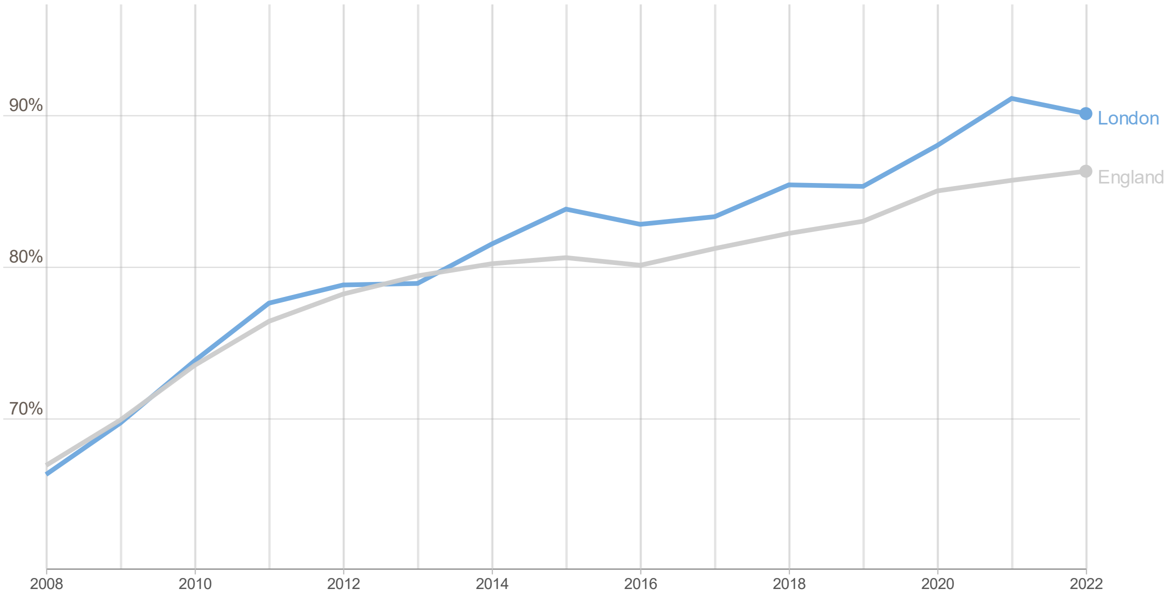
47,690 of the homeless London households in temporary accommodation in December 2024 had children, with a total of 93,890 children between them. Across the rest of England, there were 33,370 such households and 71,620 children.

The number of homeless households in private sector temporary accommodation has risen sharply in the last year. In December 2023, there were 23,180 households in private sector accommodation, but by December 2024 this had risen to 30,040. In December 2024, 5,940 households were being temporarily accommodated in Bed and Breakfasts (B&B), including 1,700 households with children (of which 1,400 had been in the B&B for more than six weeks), a 3% increase from the previous year after a recent peak earlier in the year. There were 12,690 homeless households being temporarily accommodated in social housing in December 2024, a figure that rose sharply from 2018 to early 2023, but which fell marginally before steadily increasing in the last year.

Londoners' homes are safe and decent

Figure 5: Decent Homes

*Percentage of homes meeting the Decent Homes Standard



Source: English Housing Survey

The Decent Homes Standard is a long-established and widely used composite indicator of housing conditions, reported through the official English Housing Survey. For a home to meet the Standard it must satisfy four criteria: it must not contain any serious 'Category 1' health hazards, it must be in a reasonable state of repair, it must have reasonably modern facilities or services and it must provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort, meaning effective insulation and efficient heating.

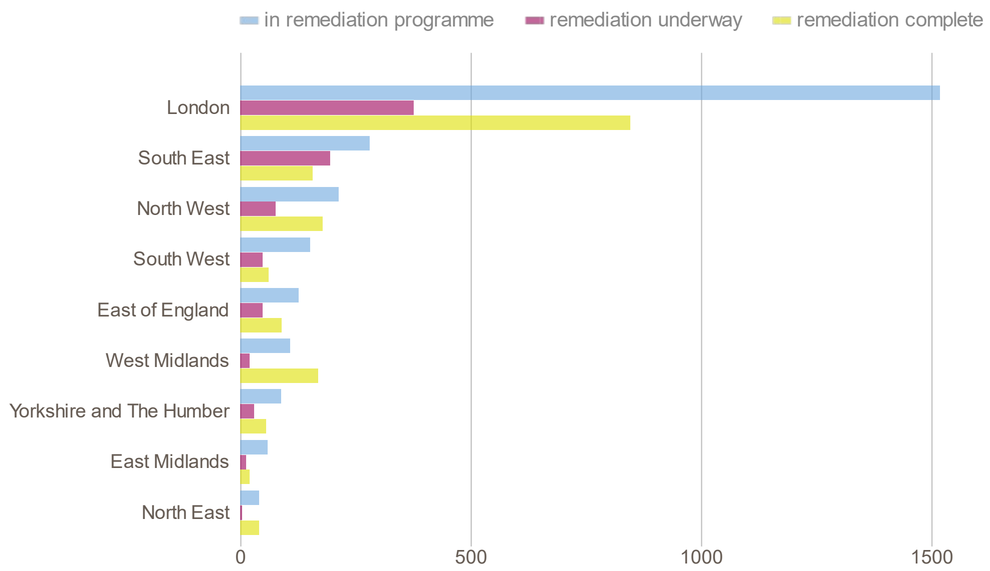
The proportion of homes in London across all tenures estimated to meet the official Decent Homes Standard rose from 63% in 2006 to 90% in 2022.

The highest recorded share of decent homes was in 2021, with 91%. The fall in 2022 was driven by a decrease of the share of decent homes in the social housing and owner-occupied sectors. However, note that data from 2020 and 2021 (and part of 2022) was modelled by MHCLG as surveyors were unable to carry out internal inspections due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2022 there was further improvement in the proportion of homes in the private rented sector meeting the Standard (from 80% in 2020 and 86% in 2021 to 88% in 2022). Historically the private rented sector had the smallest share of decent homes, but it is now on par with the social rented sector (88% and 89%, respectively).

Figure 6: Remediation of tall residential buildings with unsafe cladding

Number of residential buildings 11 metres and over with unsafe cladding remediated



Source: MHCLG

Fire safety concerns remain a priority, particularly in the wake of the Grenfell tragedy.

The GLA administers three government funding programmes to remediate buildings with unsafe cladding: the Social Sector and Private Sector ACM Cladding Remediation Funds, and the Building Safety Fund (BSF) for unsafe non-ACM cladding systems. The Cladding Safety Scheme (CSS), administered by the government, meets the cost of addressing life safety fire risks.

As of the end of February 2025, 5,014 residential buildings 11 metres and over in height were identified with unsafe cladding in England and monitored by the government, 2,740 (55%) of which are in London. 55% of the London buildings are in programme, 14% are in the process of remediation, and 31% have had remediation completed.

The remediation process is complete for 31% of monitored buildings in London, compared to 32% across England, even though the higher density and greater complexity of buildings in London can make access for works more difficult.

Londoners should not be homeless

Figure 7: Rough sleeping

*Number of people sleeping rough over the month per 100,000 people

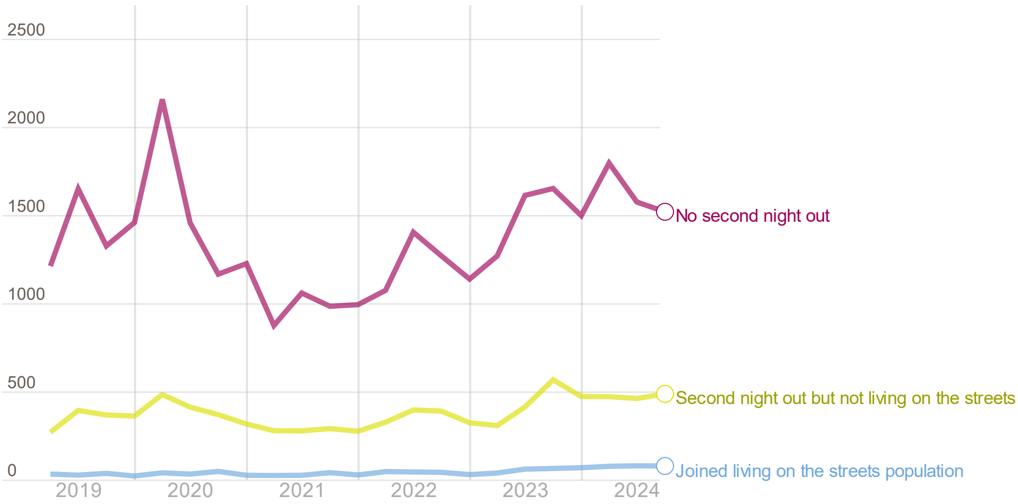
Source: MHCLG

According to MHCLG data, the total number of people sleeping rough in London remained relatively low throughout 2021 and 2022 but increased sharply over the past two years. In November 2024, 28.5 out of every 100,000 Londoners were sleeping rough, equivalent to 2,551 people, the highest rate recorded since this data series began in October 2020. This represents an 8% increase from the previous year and a 37% rise compared to 2022.

Rough sleeping rates in London have consistently been higher than in the rest of England, where there has been an average rate of 8.5 rough sleepers per 100,000 people since 2020. However, the gap widened significantly in 2024, with London reporting an average of 10.7 more rough sleepers per 100,000 people than the rest of England.

Figure 8: New rough sleepers

Number of people seen rough sleeping for the first time by outcome of the second night

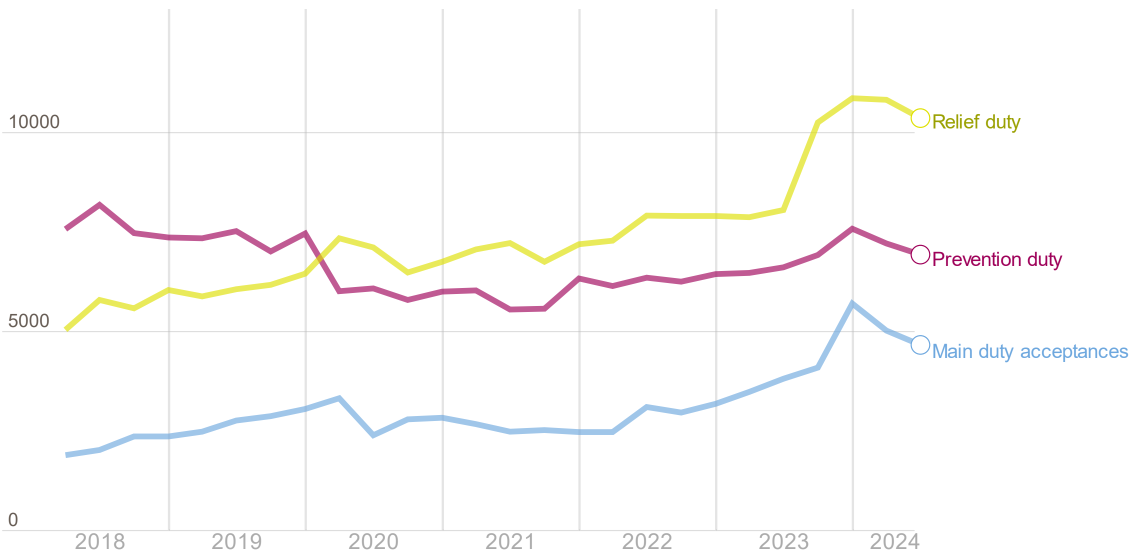


Source: CHAIN quarterly rough sleeping reports

In Q4 2024, outreach teams recorded 2,085 new people who were seen sleeping rough in London for the first time, an 8% decrease compared to the same period the previous year. Of these, 1,520 individuals were seen sleeping rough for only one night. Another 487 people were recorded sleeping rough on multiple occasions but were not considered to be living on the streets, marking a 14% decrease from the previous year. Despite the overall decline in new rough sleepers, 78 individuals were assessed as having joined the population living on the streets – defined as being seen multiple times over a period of three weeks or more, a 22% increase from the previous year.

Figure 9: Households accepted as statutorily homeless

Number of households owed a prevention or relief duty and accepted as statutorily homeless in London



Source: MHCLG

Under the Homelessness Reduction Act, a prevention duty is owed to households threatened with homelessness within 56 days and a relief duty is owed to households that are already homeless and require help to secure accommodation. The relief duty lasts 56 days, after which a household can be accepted as statutorily homeless and owed a main homelessness duty.

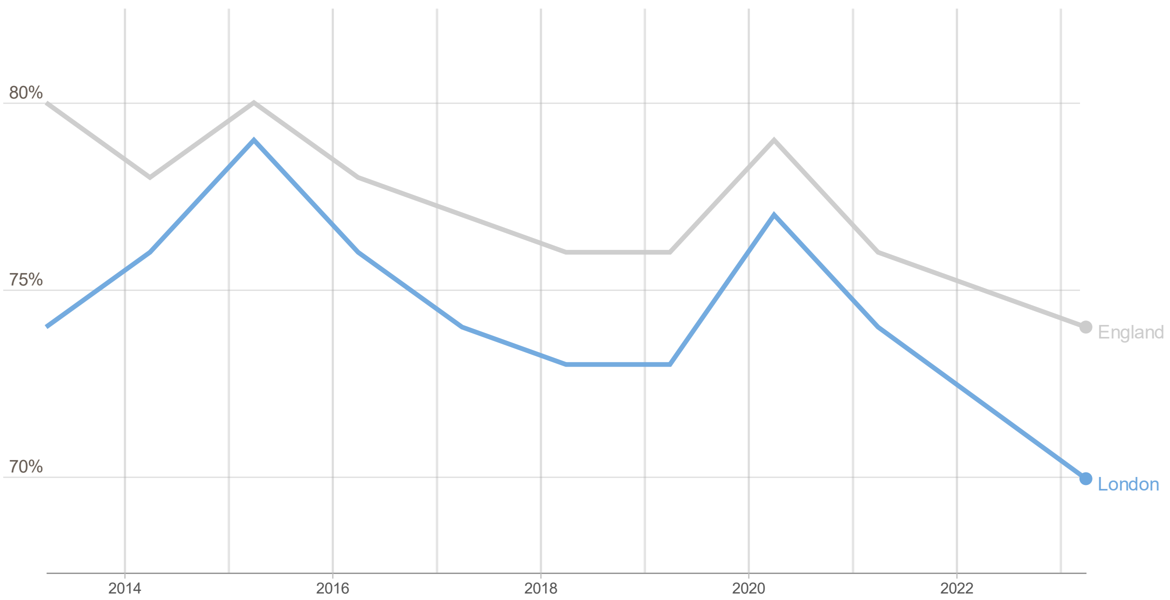
There were 17,550 households assessed as owed a new prevention or relief duty in London in Q3 2024, including 7,050 prevention and 10,500 relief duties, accounting for 21% of the national total. Additionally, 4,650 households in London had their main duty accepted, which represents 27% of England's total. All three figures, in line with national trends, rose sharply towards the end of 2023 and early 2024, following several quarters of steady growth since mid-2022, but have since begun to decline gradually in recent quarters.

Between Q3 2023 and Q3 2024, the number of households owed a prevention or relief duty increased by almost 18%, rising from 14,640 to 17,270. Over the same period, main duty acceptances rose by 22%, from 3,800 households to 4,650.

Londoners live in neighbourhoods that are well planned and designed

Figure 10: Satisfaction with local neighbourhood

*Percentage of adults very or fairly satisfied with their neighbourhood area as a place to live.

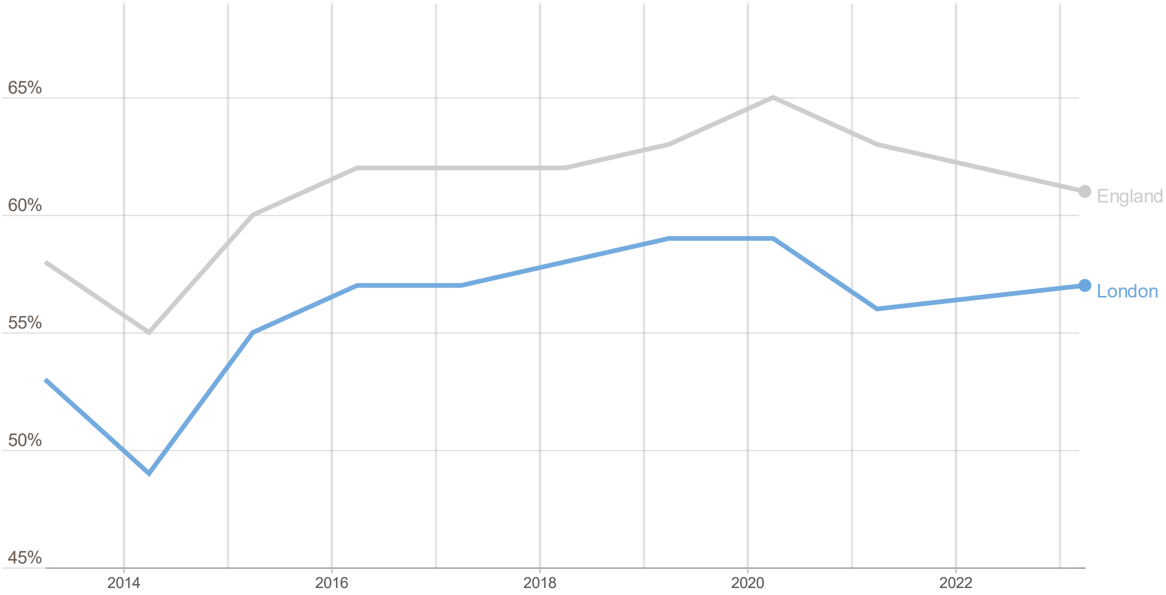


Source: Community Life Survey

In the absence of a metric to assess the quality of neighbourhood planning and design across London, satisfaction with an area as a place to live has been selected as a proxy indicator. However, it is important to note that this measure is also influenced by factors beyond planning and design. As of 2023, 70% of adult Londoners reported being satisfied with their local area as a place to live, the lowest level recorded in the past decade. This also marks the largest year-on-year decline, with satisfaction falling by 4 percentage points. By comparison, satisfaction across England declined by only 2 percentage points over the same period and has consistently remained around 3 percentage points higher than in London.

Figure 11: Sense of belonging to local neighbourhoods

Percentage of adults feeling a sense of belonging in their local neighbourhood area



Source: Community Life Survey

In 2023- 24, 57% of Londoners felt that they belonged very or fairly strongly to their immediate neighbourhood. This marks an increase from 2014-15, when neighbourhood belonging in London was at its lowest point at 49%, before rising to a peak of 59% in both 2019 and 2020. Since 2013, the sense of neighbourhood belonging in London has, on average, been 5 percentage points lower than the national average for England.

10: ENVIRONMENT

This chapter provides the most up-to-date information available on the state of London's environment. It focuses on four London-level outcomes:

- London is a net zero carbon city
- Londoners are breathing clean air
- Londoners can enjoy green and wild spaces across the capital
- London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change.

To compare London's progress on reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions with other C40 Cities, see the C40 Knowledge Hub interactive dashboard.

For more information on air quality, the London Air Quality Network provides a London-wide map of hourly concentration of air pollutants. Breathe London also provides a map with charts showing hourly updates of the concentration of air pollutants at several measurement sites across London.

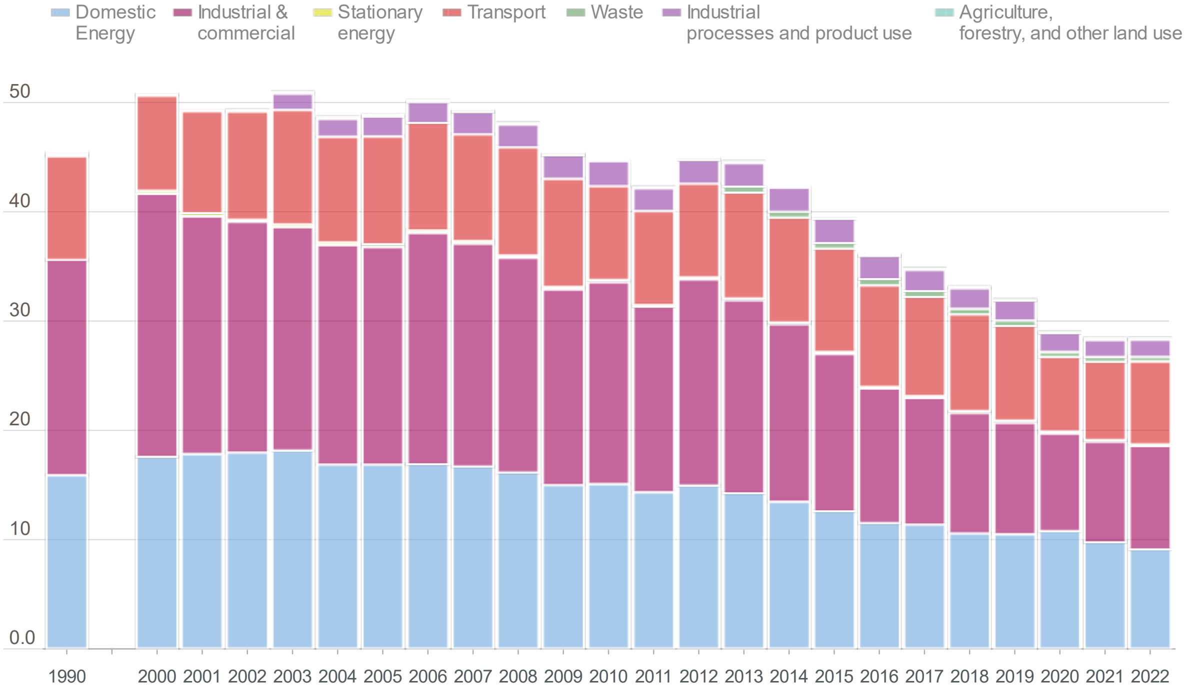
The People and Nature Surveys for England provide further regional evidence on people's access, understanding and enjoyment of nature, and how it contributes to wellbeing.

London is a net zero carbon city

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in London are reported annually in the London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI). The latest report, published in November 2024, shows data for 2022 – the most recent year for which information is available.

Figure 1: Greenhouse Gas emissions in London

*Greenhouse gas emissions, Megatons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO2e)



Source: London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI), GLA

In 2022, London's GHG emissions were 28.4 million tonnes ($MtCO_2e$). Emissions from domestic, industrial and commercial buildings were responsible for 66% of the total, transport emissions for 27%, with other sources responsible for the remainder.

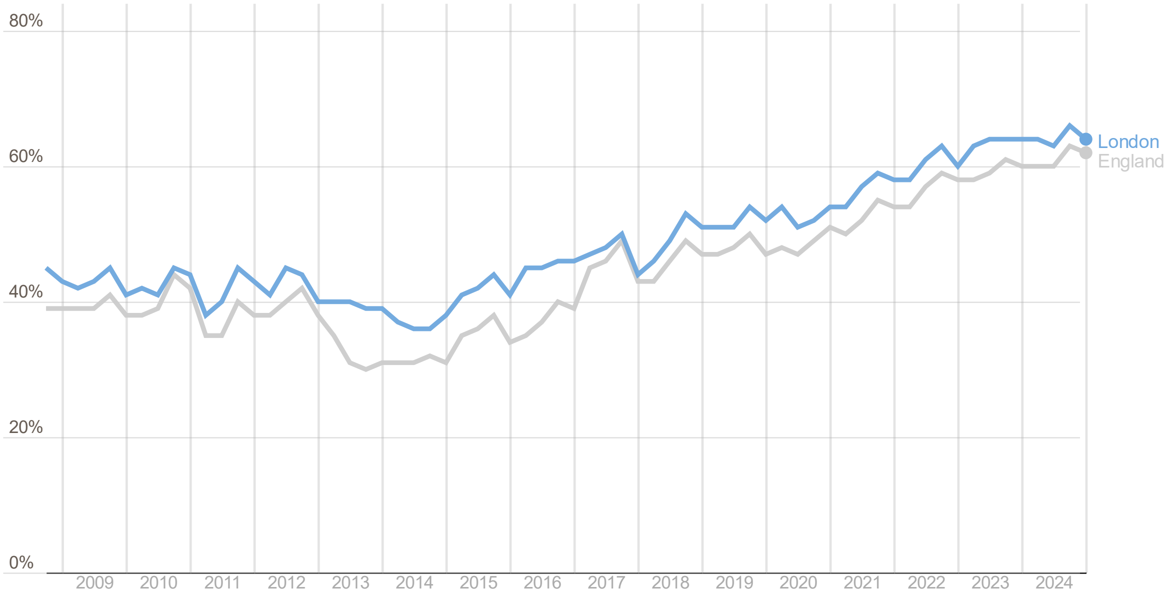
GHG emissions slightly increased from 28.37 million tonnes in 2021[29] to 28.4 million tonnes in 2022. Before the pandemic, emissions were higher, at 31.94 million tonnes in 2019. The slight increase in 2022 reflects a "post-pandemic rebound effect" as London recovered from COVID-19. Since 1990, emissions have fallen by 37%, and they are also 44% lower than their peak in 2000.

London's population has grown by 30% since 1990, and the city's economy has grown too. Despite this, average emissions per person have dropped by 52%. In 1990, each Londoner produced 6.7 tonnes of greenhouse gases (tCO_2e), compared to 3.2 tonnes (tCO_2e) per person in 2022, down by 0.02 tonnes (tCO_2e) per person from the previous year. Compared to the rest of the UK, London has the lowest per capita emissions of any region.

[29] The total GHG emissions for 2021 are lower than reported previously due to the Government producing updated information on historic energy consumption. They were previously reported as a total of 28.7 $MtCO_2e$. The revised total is 28.37 $MtCO_2e$.

Figure 2: Energy efficiency ratings of new and existing homes, London

% of all domestic Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) with a rating of A-C out of all domestic EPCs registered on the Energy Performance of Buildings Register

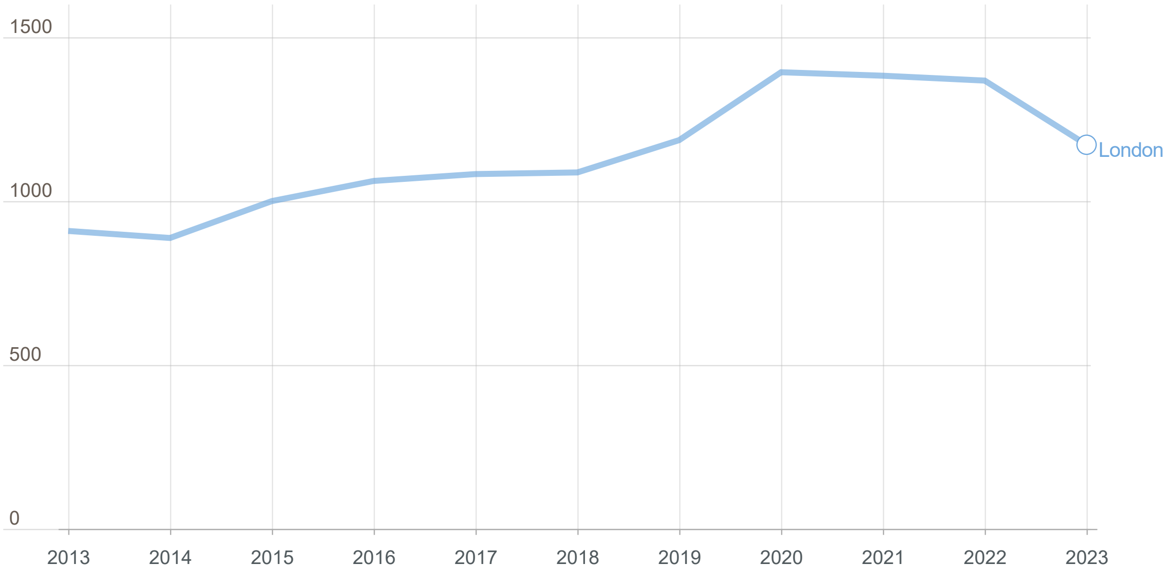


Source: DLUHC, MHCLG, [Live tables on Energy Performance of Buildings Certificates](), Table D1: [domestic EPCs for all dwellings by energy efficiency rating](). Experimental statistics.

Improving the energy efficiency of the housing stock is vital for achieving London's net zero ambitions because it reduces the overall demand for energy, which in turn lowers the amount of GHG emissions associated with energy production and consumption. An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) indicates how energy efficient a building is, from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient). EPCs are required when properties are built, sold or let, and all new EPCs are added to the Energy Performance of Buildings Register.

Figure 2 shows that across England, the share of domestic EPCs added to the register with a rating of A-C has trended upwards over the last decade. In London, the share has increased from 36% in Q4 2014 to 64% in Q1 2025, consistently remaining above the national trend over this period.

Figure 3: Renewable electricity generation in London
Gigawatt-hours (GWh)

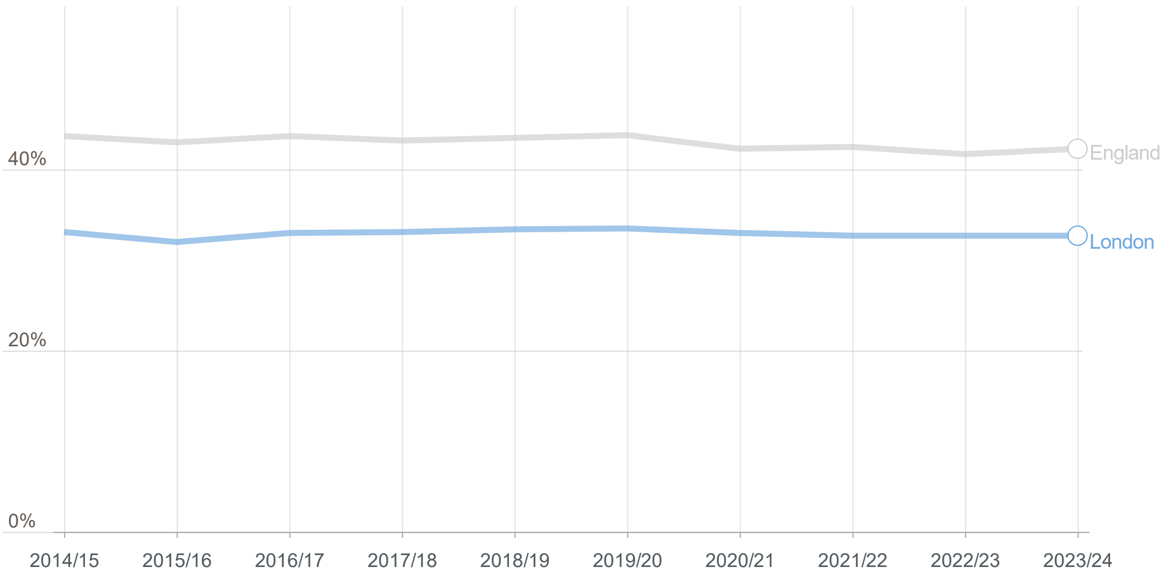


Source: Department for energy security and net-zero, [Regional Renewable Statistics: Generation 2003-2023]

Figure 3 shows the amount of electricity generated in London via renewable sources (including wind, solar photovoltaic, landfill and sewage gas or other biomasses and waste). Since 2014, renewable electricity generation in London increased by over 50%. It peaked at 1,393 GWh in 2020, while decreasing slightly in 2022 and in 2023, to 1,172 GWh mainly due to a decrease in generation from biomass and waste. Total electricity consumption in London in 2022 was almost 34,000 GWh (the latest data available from LEGGI) – meaning that local renewable electricity generation accounted for around 3% of London's electricity consumption.

Figure 4: Household waste recycling rate

% of collected household waste that is recycled



Source: DEFRA, [Local authority collected waste management - annual results](#).

Recycling helps reduce the GHG emissions associated with the entire product lifecycle, from extraction to disposal. By recycling more, London households help reduce the need for raw materials, minimise landfill waste, and lower energy consumption associated with manufacturing new products.

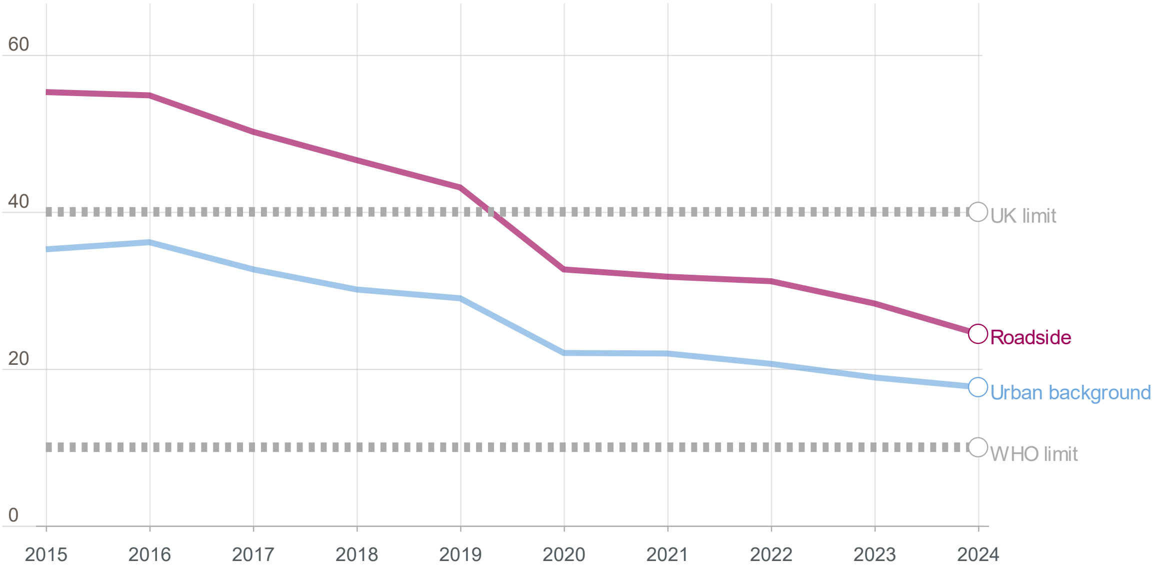
Figure 4 shows the share of household waste collected by Local Authorities in London and England that is sent for recycling. The recycling rate in London has stayed the same for the last three years, at 32.7%. Since 2014/15, London's household waste recycling rate has remained consistently below England's. Nationally, recycling rates in England are slightly higher in 2023/24 than the previous year at 42.3% but remain lower than in 2019/20.

Londoners are breathing clean air

There is strong evidence linking adverse health impacts to levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM), especially the smaller-sized particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$).

Figure 5: Nitrogen dioxide at the roadside and urban background

*Annual mean concentration of NO_2, Micrograms per cubic meter (μg/m^3), 2015-2024



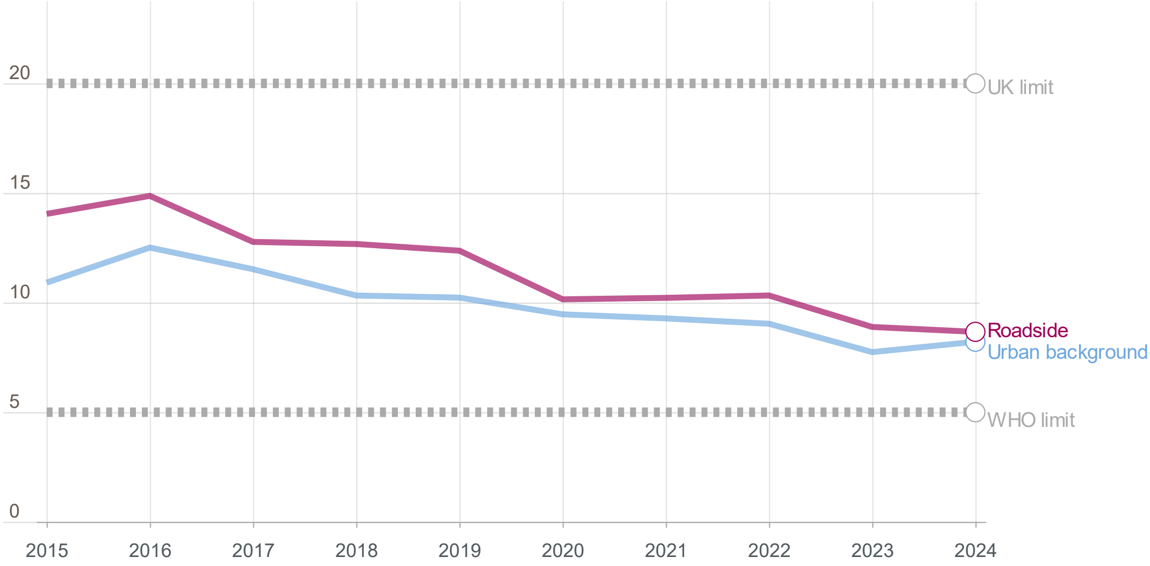
Source: London Air, Air Quality England, UK-Air,

Figure 5 shows that the average annual mean roadside and urban background concentration of NO_2 in 2024 (based on provisional data) was 24.45 μg/m^3 and 17.66 μg/m^3 respectively which are the lowest levels recorded in London over this period. Urban background NO_2 concentrations are generally lower than roadside concentrations due to the distance from the main pollutant source (i.e., vehicular traffic on roads). The averages were calculated from air quality monitoring sites in Central, Inner and Outer London, between January and December 2024.

For both site types, the averages are well below the requirements of UK legislation (the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 state that the annual average concentration must not exceed 40μg/m^3) but remain well above the WHO Air Quality Guideline target of 10μg/m^3.

Figure 6: Particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) at the roadside and urban background

*Annual mean concentration of $PM_{2.5}$, Micrograms per cubic meter (μg/m^3), 2015-2024



Source: London Air, Air Quality England, UK-Air.

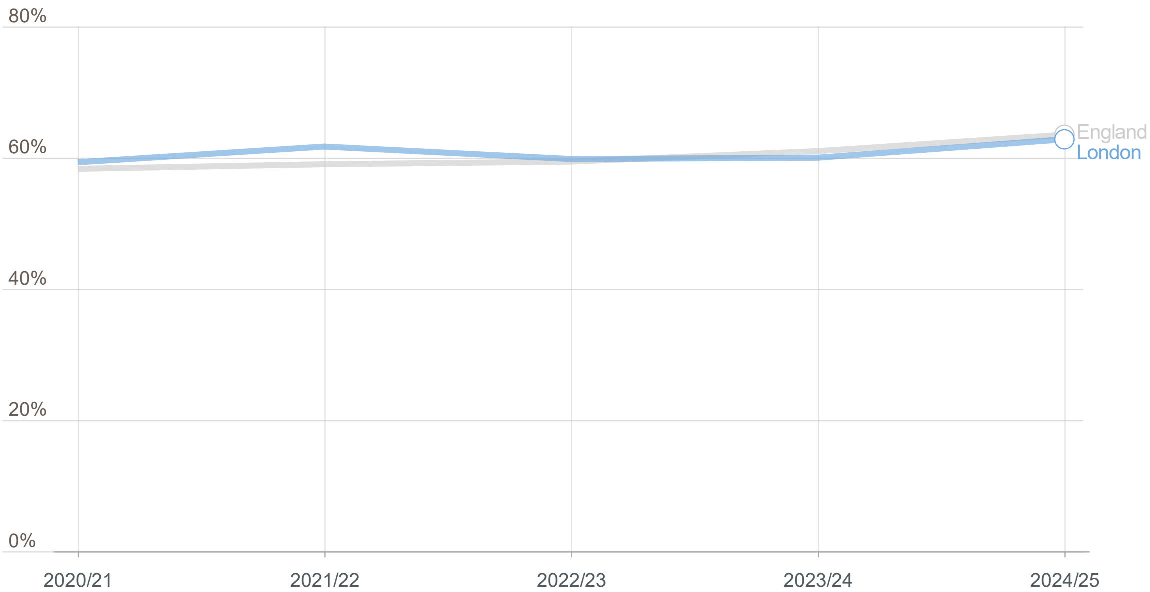
Figure 6 shows that the annual mean roadside concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ in 2024 (based on provisional data) was 8.67 μg/m^3, which is the lowest level recorded in London over this period. The annual mean urban background concentration of $PM_{2.5}$ in 2024 (based on provisional data) was slightly higher than in 2023 at 8.22 μg/m^3. As is the case for NO_2, $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations in the urban background are also lower than those in roadside areas, albeit marginally and the difference has reduced over time.

The averages were calculated from air quality monitoring sites in Central, Inner and Outer London, between January and December 2024. For both site types, the averages are well below the requirements of UK legislation (the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 state that the annual average concentration must not exceed 20μg/m^3) but remain above the WHO Air Quality Guideline target of 5 μg/m^3.

Londoners can enjoy green and wild spaces across the capital

Figure 7: Connections with nature

*Percentage of adult Londoners who agree/ strongly agree/completely agree that they 'feel part of nature'



Source: Natural England (2024) [People and Nature Surveys for England.](#) [Adults' data Q1 to Q17 (1 April 2020 to 30th June 2024)]. 7th Release. UK Data Service.

Feeling part of nature is a proxy measure for whether people are enjoying green and wild spaces across the capital, as it relates not only to access but also to people's personal experience with nature. The People and Nature Survey is a national survey by Natural England that collects information on adults' and children's experiences and views about the natural environment, and its contribution to health and wellbeing.

Figure 7 shows a slight increase in the percentage of adult Londoners who feel part of nature, rising from 59.3% in 2020/21 to 62.8% in 2024/25[30]. By comparison, the percentage across England also shows a slight upward trend, reaching 63.5% in 2024/25[31].

Access to public open spaces

For Londoners to enjoy green and wild space and its multiple benefits, it is important that all Londoners have access to public open space. The London Plan defines seven categories of public open space, based on the size of the sites and the facilities they offer (including acceptable distances from home). Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC (GIGL), the capital's environment records centre, has developed an approach to estimate Londoners' access to public open

[30] Values are weighted values with blank responses removed from total for comparable results across years.
[31] Based on partial data till June 2024.

space based on walking distances along roads and paths. Areas within acceptable distances to Public Open Space are calculated using network analysis, with areas outside of these calculated spaces classified as areas of deficiency.

As of March 2025, 38% of residential addresses in London fall within an Area of Deficiency in access to Public Open Space (AODPOS)[32]. While there are no comparable statistics available due to varying definitions of access across England, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is developing official statistics on access to green space which will allow comparisons in the future[33].

Biodiversity

London's most valuable sites for wildlife are recognised as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). This is a non-statutory designation, but SINCs are still afforded a high level of protection within the planning system. Development that negatively impacts on a SINC will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and where mitigation can be proven from the beginning. The amount of area covered by SINCs in London provides an indication of the extent of wild spaces across London.

As of March 2025, data compiled by GIGL finds that the total area designated as SINC in London is 31,666 hectares, up slightly from 31,470 hectares in 2024[34]. GIGL's data (and the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy for London) indicates that between 2013 and 2024, there was an increase of just over 950 hectares in land designated as SINC (with 114 sites added), increasing the coverage of London from 19.2% to 19.8%.

By comparison, 11% (14,402 hectares) of land in Greater Manchester is protected for nature through a variety of different designations. Of this, Local Wildlife Sites which are the equivalent of SINCs, covered around 5% (6,821 hectares) of Greater Manchester[35].

Green cover

The GLA's Green Cover Map provides estimates of how much of London is green, specifically tree canopy cover and green cover. The latest update published in 2024 was generated via computer modelling techniques, using aerial imagery primarily from 2022. London's tree canopy cover is estimated at 19.6% (with a ±0.3% margin of error) and its green cover at 51.7% (±1.11%). Previously, London's canopy cover was estimated at 21.06% (± 0.2%) and green cover estimated at 47.6% to 50.7% (in both instances, underlying aerial imagery was from 2016).

While the latest data would indicate a decrease in tree canopy cover, there is no statistically significant change in canopy cover across London within the timeframe (2016 to 2022). Please see the green cover map methodology report for more

[32] This is a core London-level outcome indicator.
[33] Access to green space in England - GOV.UK
[34] This is a core London-level outcome indicator.
[35] Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2014), 'State of Nature report'

information about the accuracy and limitations of the modelling approach, via the London Datastore green cover page and canopy cover page.

By comparison, London's tree canopy cover figures surpass both the UK urban average of 17.3% and the England average of 17.5% reported in Forest Research's 2017 UK Urban Canopy Cover study[36]. Although figures are not directly comparable due to differing methodology, the study finds that approximately one-quarter of urban wards in the UK have canopy cover exceeding 20%, a benchmark often suggested as a minimum target. GLA's analysis indicates that London's overall canopy cover is just below this threshold.

London is resilient to extreme weather and the impacts of climate change

The London Climate Resilience Review published in June 2024 is an independent report, commissioned by the Mayor of London, to take stock of London's preparations for climate impacts and make recommendations. The three most urgent climate risks facing London are: 1) extreme heat; 2) drought; and 3) surface water flooding. These risks and resulting negative impacts are likely to increase even with significant investment in adaptation measures.

Heat

The change in global climate is causing an increase in frequency, duration, and magnitude of extreme heat events, including heatwaves. High temperatures in cities affect infrastructure, worker productivity and have significant effects on health and wellbeing, particularly for vulnerable populations.

The Health Security Agency (UKHSA) defines heat episodes as at least one day with an amber Heat-Health alert in at least one region and/or a mean Central England Temperature of at least 20°C. UKHSA reports the number of all-cause excess heat deaths that occur during heat episodes across the summer period. Although the actual number of heat-associated deaths is likely to be higher, this measure reflects population vulnerability and exposure, with projections indicating an increase without further heat adaptation[37].

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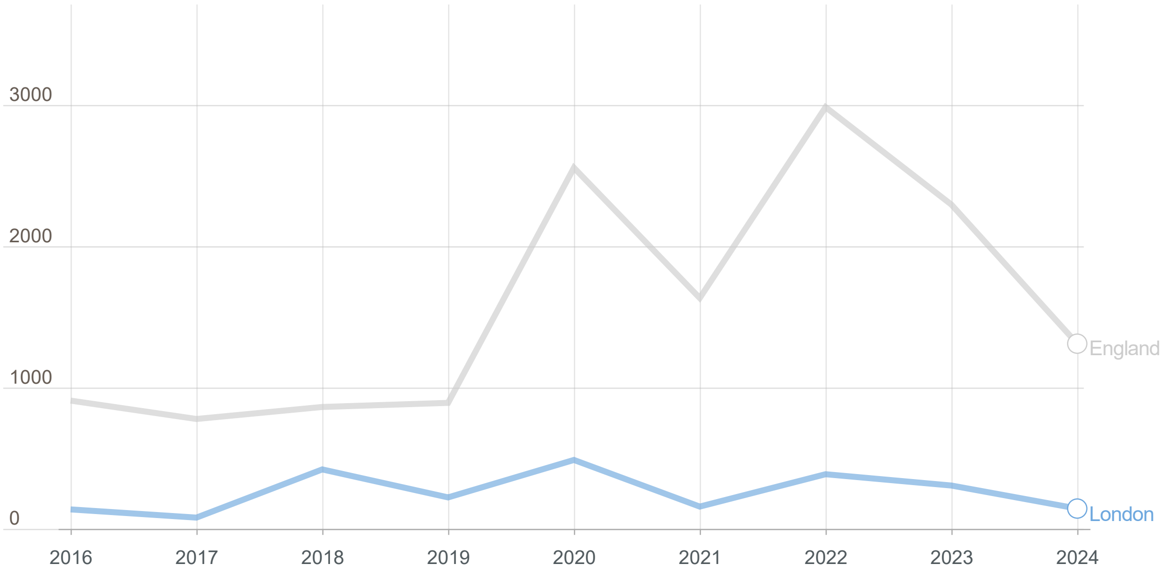
[36] UK Urban Canopy Cover – Forest Research
[37] UK Climate Risk Independent Assessment (CCRA3), 2021

Figure 8: Heat-related deaths during heat episodes

*Estimated number of excess deaths during periods of heat



Source: UKHSA [Heat mortality monitoring reports 2020-2024](), [Public Health England]() (Archived content).

Data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) show that in 2024, London experienced four heat episodes, resulting in an estimated 144 excess heat-associated deaths.

Figure 8 shows that since 2016, the number of excess deaths in London varied year on year but remained stable compared to the trend for England. The highest peak in London occurred in 2020 at 488, while England's highest number was recorded in 2022 at 2,985. These statistics were calculated using death registration data, comparing daily deaths during heat episodes with baseline daily deaths. Definitions and methods for the calculation are consistent from 2020 onwards. Previous reports were published by Public Health England and only statistically significant values are included.

Drought/Water supply

During prolonged dry periods, water companies put in place different measures to protect water supply. There are four levels of drought plan measures used in England; level 3 and above are defined as emergency measures to protect supply and involve non-essential water use bans. Measures must be timely and proportionate to the drought risk to avoid the need for even more severe level 4 restrictions.

For the year 2024/25, Thames Water reported no days in emergency measures (drought level 3 and above), indicating no severe drought events that triggered this level of response[38]. This aligns with the previous year's reporting (2023/24), which also recorded no emergency measures. The last time emergency drought measures were reported in London was in 2022.

While the absence of drought emergency days in recent years is positive, it should be interpreted with caution. The Environment Agency's assessment of water companies across England in 2023/2024 found that while there were operational drought-related supply issues during this time, water companies did not have enough water available in some areas to meet demands if there had been a drought[39].

Flooding

Surface water is the biggest flood risk facing London and monitoring the number of properties flooded assesses the real-world impact on Londoners. London's Surface Water Strategy published in May 2025 estimates that there are almost 320,000 properties at high risk of flooding in London.

Around 18 properties in South London and 121 properties in North London were reported to have flooded in 2023/24[40]. Most of these incidents occurred in September 2024, a period during which London faced surface water flooding resulting from heavy rainfall[41]. These figures are indicative and based only on reported cases to the Environment Agency, meaning the actual number of properties flooded is likely to be higher due to unreported incidents and incomplete data.

In April 2025, DEFRA published new national flood investigation guidance for England to support lead local flood authorities to conduct flood investigations. The guidance also seeks to standardise flood incident reporting across England. These new reporting procedures should make reporting on this indicator easier in the future.

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[38] This is a core London-level outcome indicator. Currently, data for this indicator has been manually collated in personal communications with Thames Water, London's largest water company, and are not available for the other water companies

[39] Water resources 2023-2024: analysis of the water industry's annual water resources performance - GOV.UK

[40] This is a core London-level outcome indicator. The number of properties flooded in London has been sought manually via personal communication with the Environment Agency.

[41] Record-breaking rainfall for some this September - Met Office

11: CRIME

This chapter provides a broad overview of crime and safety issues affecting London. The seven featured indicators mirror the Tier 1 and Tier 2 measures in the Outcomes Framework for the Mayor's Police and Crime Plan (PCP).

The two Tier 1 high-level indicators of Total Notifiable Offences and the Victimisation Rate provide an understanding of the overall crime picture in London and relate directly to the Mayor's manifesto commitment of 'Making London safer' and the outcome 'London is a safe city'.

The other five Tier 2 indicators relate to the policing and community safety priorities agreed for London, as set out in the PCP:

- Reducing violence and criminal exploitation (violence with injury indicator)
- Improving the criminal justice system and supporting victims (victim satisfaction and proven reoffending rate indicators)
- Building safer, more confident communities (proportion of Londoners worried about crime indicator)
- Supporting and overseeing reform of the MPS (proportion of Londoners who trust the MPS).

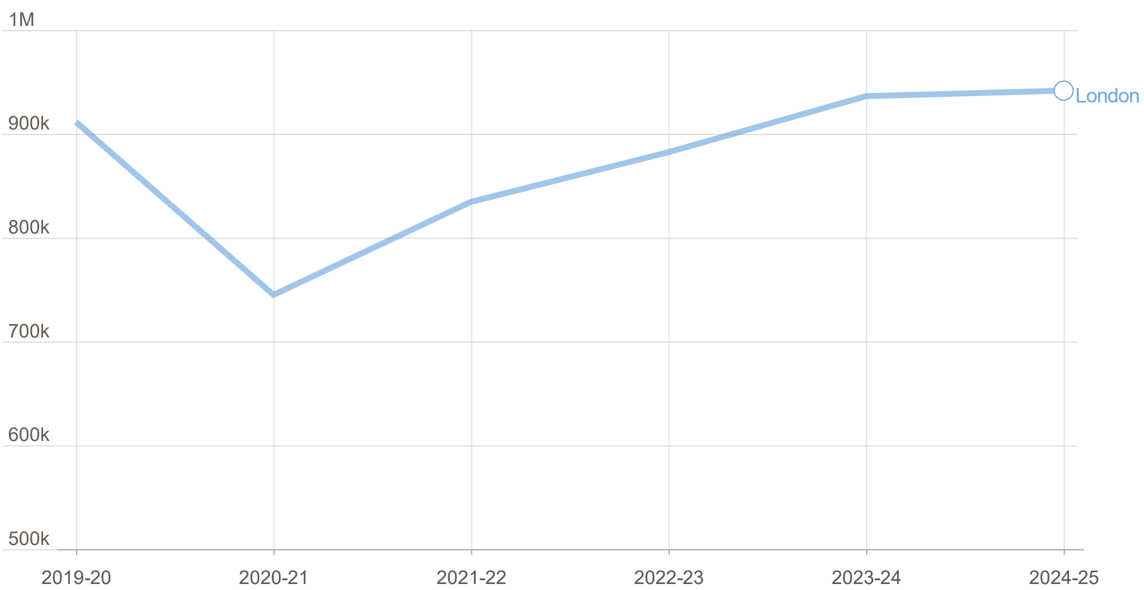
The collated data for these seven indicators will be included in the PCP in due course[42]. For more data on crime and safety in London see: Trust and Confidence Dashboard, Victims and Witnesses Dashboard and the MPS Crime Dashboard.

[42] For more information see: MOPAC (2025), 'Police and Crime Plan Performance Framework'; and MOPAC (2025),'Oversight Framework Explanatory Note'.

London is a safe city

Figure 1: Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs)

Number of offences recorded annually by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)



Source: MOPAC [Crime Dashboard][43], MPS [Crime Dashboard][44]

The pandemic and associated lockdowns impacted heavily on crime and disorder in London. Profound reductions were shown in the level of total crime recorded during these periods, although differential impacts were observed across different crime types.

Looking at annual changes, between April 2024 and March 2025, 941,638 offences were recorded across the capital, an increase of 0.6% compared to the previous 12-month period (936,332 offences, 2023-24). This suggests the year-on-year increases in offending levels observed following the pandemic are beginning to stabilise (6.1% increase between 2022-23 and 2023-24; 5.7% increase between 2021-22 and 2022-23).

Acquisitive crime[45] accounted for 53.8% of the total offences recorded between April 2024 and March 2025 (52% during 2023-24), with violent crime[46] accounting for 27.8% (29.5% during 2023-24).

During 2024-25, there continues to be an uneven distribution of crime across London. Westminster (89,280 offences), Camden (42,814 offences), and Newham (40,956 offences) remain as the boroughs with the highest volume of total offences.

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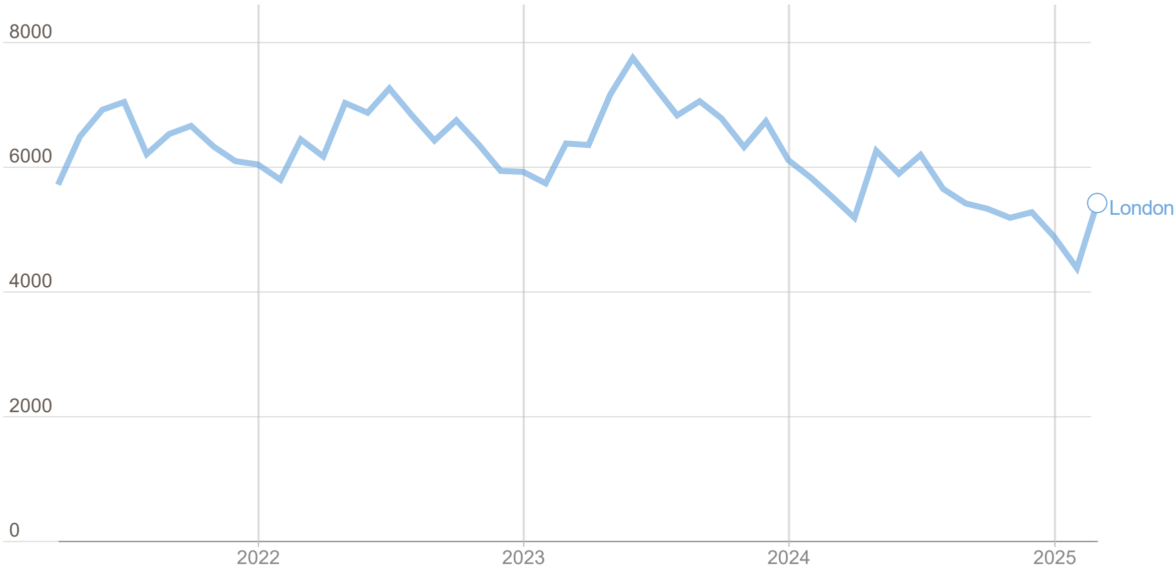
[43] Data prior to May 2021
[44] Data for May 2021 onwards
[45] Theft, burglary, robbery, and motor vehicle crime
[46] Violence against the person and sexual offences

Figure 2: Violence with Injury

Number of offences recorded monthly by the MPS



Source: [MPS Monthly Crime Dashboard](#).

The onset of the pandemic led to lower levels of recorded violence with injury offending. In subsequent months, the lockdown periods were linked to steep reductions in offending, while their conclusion was linked to steep increases.

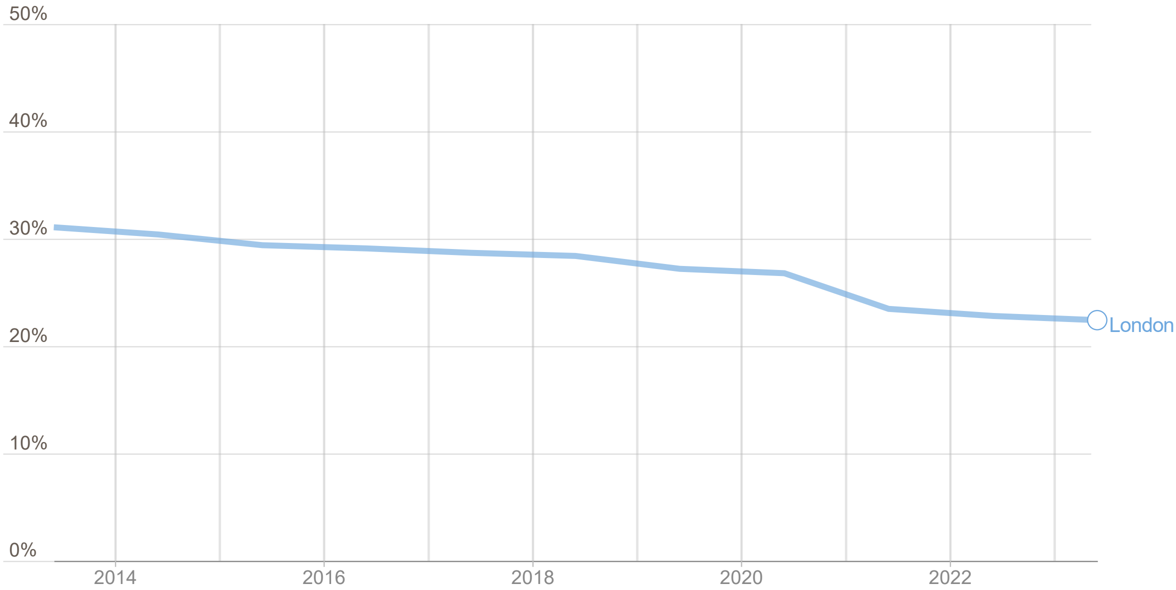
There was an increase of 2.5% in total violence with injury offences each year from 2021-22 through to 2023-24. However, between April 2024 and March 2025, an 18.4% decrease was recorded compared to the 2023-24 financial year.

Looking at specific violent crime types, both homicide and domestic-related violence with injury offences reduced between 2023-24 and 2024-25 (by 9% and 17% respectively). Whereas sexual offences increased by 9.3% and early indications for knife crime with injury offences suggesting a similar increase[47].

[47] Knife crime with injury offence data was not available for the same period at the time of writing, however, figures for year ending February 2025 suggest a 9.9% increase compared to the previous 12-month period.

Figure 3: Proven reoffending rate

% of offender cohort that committed a further proven offence within 12 months



Source: Ministry of Justice, Proven Reoffending Statistics: April to June 2023

Over the last decade, there has been a year-on-year reduction in the proven reoffending rate in London[48]. The proven reoffending rate is determined by the reoffending of offenders who were either released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction, reprimand, or warning, within the one-year follow-up period.

Of the 39,415 offenders in the July 2022 – June 2023 adult cohort, 22% committed a further offence within 12 months. Within London, the proven reoffending rate was higher for adult male offenders (22.6%) than adult female offenders (17.4%).

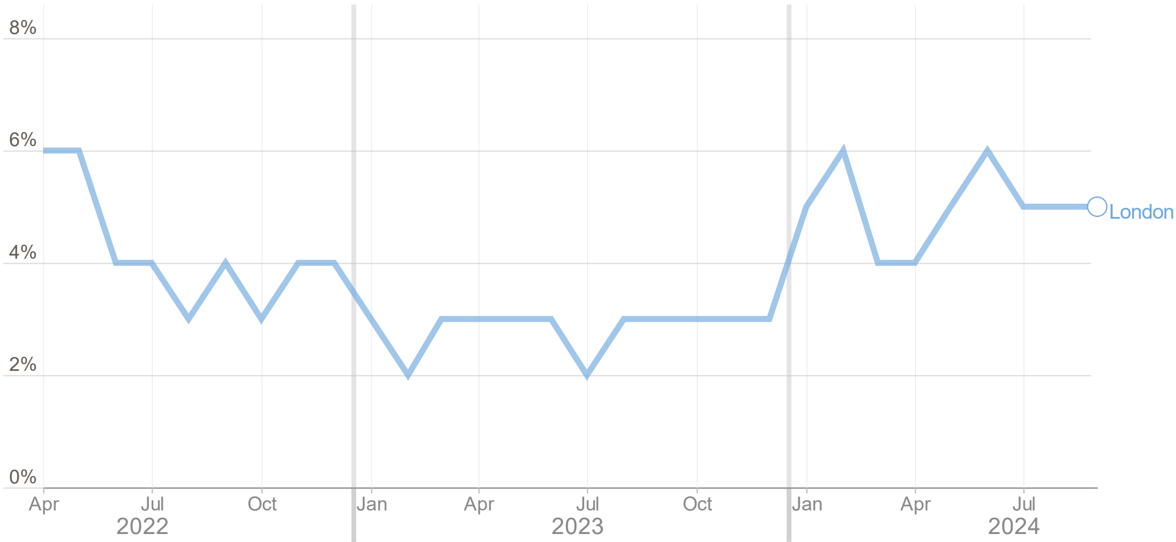
While for the 2,173 offenders in the July 2022 – June 2023 youth cohort, 30.4% committed a further offence within 12 months. The proven reoffending rate for the youth male offenders (32.3%) was significantly higher than that of the youth female offenders (14.8%).

The proven reoffending rate for adults in England and Wales over the same date period was 26.5% – noticeably higher than the rate for London. Whereas, for the juvenile offenders, the rate in England and Wales was 32% – slightly higher than the rate in London.

[48] From October 2015 onwards, reoffending data was collected using different data sources to previous quarters. Caution should be taken when comparing data either side of this change.

Figure 4: Victimisation rate

*Percentage experiencing something they consider to be a crime during the month/quarter prior



Source: MOPAC, Public Attitude Survey (PAS)

The Public Attitude Survey (PAS) is used to gain an understanding of Londoners' perceptions and experiences of policing and crime within London. The survey identifies victim prevalence through asking respondents whether they have experienced something that they consider a crime in the previous month/quarter.

Victim prevalence was relatively stable throughout 2023, with around 3% of respondents disclosing that they had been victimised in the previous month. There was then an upward shift from January through to September 2024 when the average victimisation rate increased to 5%.

The PAS also provides an insight into anti-social behaviour (ASB) prevalence. For 2023, 7% of respondents recorded experiencing something they consider to be ASB in the month prior. For the period January – March 2024, this increased to 9%.

The increases in both victim and ASB prevalence at the beginning of 2024 coincide with a revision on the wording of the question to encapsulate victimisation over a longer time period[49]. These increases are therefore likely to, at least in part, reflect the wording change in the questions rather than actual increases in victim and ASB prevalence.

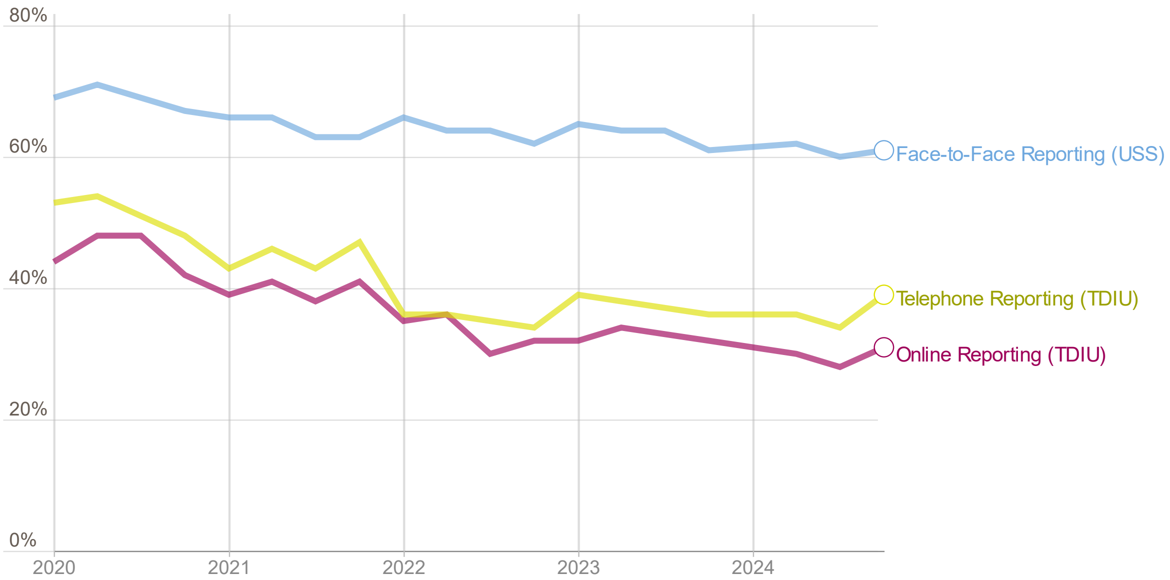
The number of actual calls to police regarding anti-social behaviour increased by 22.6% in the year ending April 2025, compared to the same 12-month period in the year prior (255,801 vs 208,620 calls[50]).

[49] The previous question asked about being a victim in the month prior, with the revised question asking about being a victim in the quarter prior. This means that the data points within these two separate time periods are not directly comparable.

[50] Excludes duplicate calls

Figure 5: Satisfaction level of reporting victims

Percentage of survey participants



Source: MOPAC, Public Attitude Survey (PAS)[51]

Levels of victim satisfaction with the service that they receive from the Metropolitan Police Service is measured through two separate surveys. The first is the User Satisfaction Survey (USS) and the second is the Telephone Digital Investigation Unit (TDIU) Survey. The first survey is directed at victims who reported a high-volume crime to police face-to-face and the second survey is directed at victims who reported a high-volume crime either online or by telephone to the MPS TDIU.

Levels of victim satisfaction continue to be significantly higher for victims reporting crimes face-to-face than those that report either online or by telephone. However, levels of victim satisfaction have declined for all crime reporting methods over the last few years. It is worth noting that Q2 of 2024-25 documented the lowest level of victim satisfaction ever recorded for online reporters.

In terms of demographics, victims aged 65 years and over continue to have significantly higher levels of satisfaction than any other age group, across all three reporting methods. In contrast, victims aged 16-34 years who reported the crime online or by telephone were noticeably less satisfied than the MPS average across each of the last four years.

Online reporters of Asian and Mixed ethnic backgrounds have falling levels of victim satisfaction. In 2023, these two groups of victims were both 3% below the MPS average. By 2024, this had increased to 6% below the average.

Victims self-declaring a disability were much less satisfied when reporting a crime face-to-face than victims without a disability (53% versus 65%[52]). This disparity has

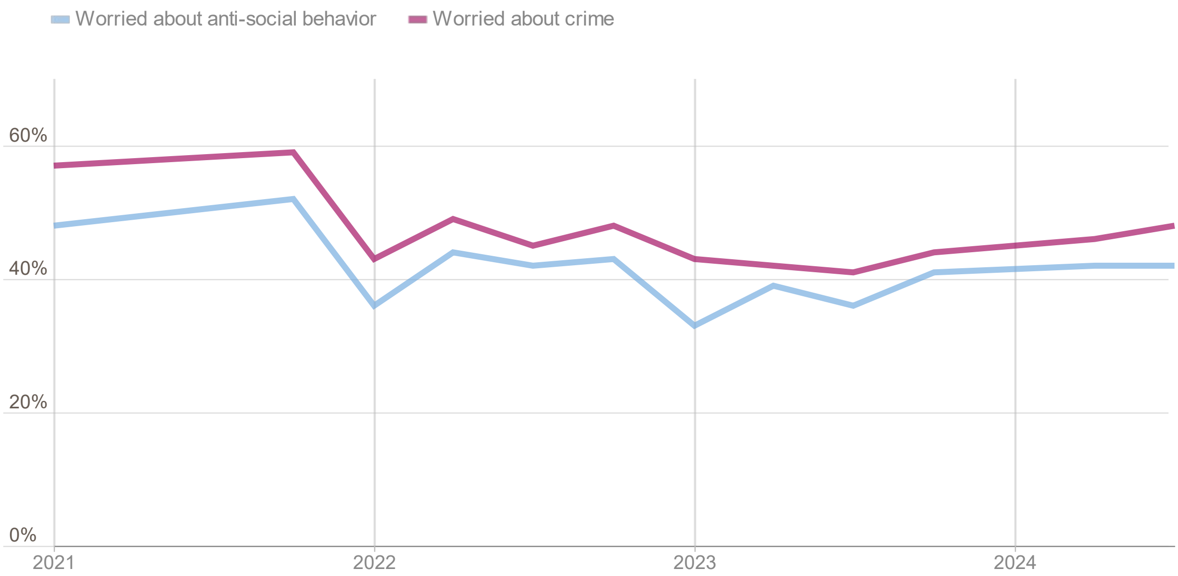
[51] Victims and witnesses are better supported dashboard
[52] Calculations based on the data for the period Q1- Q3 of 2024-25

remained consistent at about 12% over the last five years. However, this variance was not apparent for either telephone or online reporting methods.

Below average levels of satisfaction continue to be seen for LGBT+ victims who reported their crime face-to-face and online, with the gap widening further over the last year (currently 8% and 7% less than those who do not identify as LGBT+).

Figure 6: Worried about Crime

Percentage of Londoners worried about crime and ASB in their local area



Source: MOPAC, Public Attitude Survey (PAS)[53]

Through the Public Attitude Survey (PAS), a significant proportion of Londoners said that they were worried about crime and anti-social behaviour in their local area in the period April-September 2024 (47% and 42% respectively), an increase of 4 percentage points from the 2023-24 average for crime worry and an increase of 5 percentage points for ASB worry.

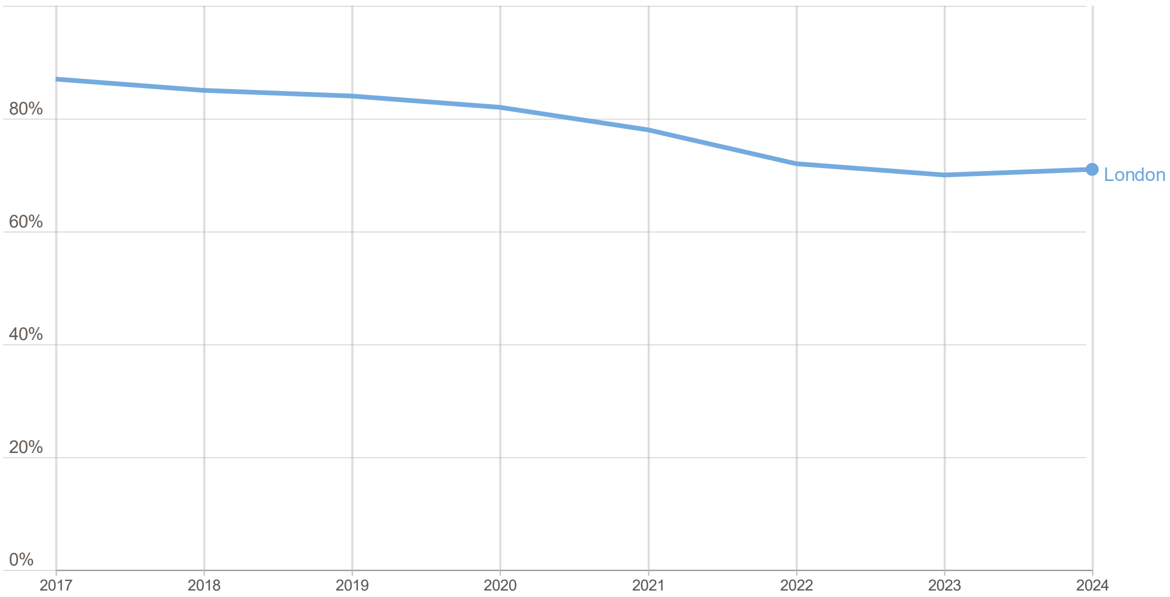
Londoners were most likely to feel it was ‘very important’ for the MPS to tackle knife crime and violence against women and girls (VAWG). They were least likely to feel it was ‘very important’ to tackle drugs, hate crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Young Londoners under the age of 25 were less likely to be worried about ASB, while those aged between 35 and 64 were most concerned.

There was only a small difference between the proportion of males and females who felt safe when walking alone in their local area during the day (97% versus 95%). However, there was a significant difference in the way male and female respondents felt about walking alone in their local areas after dark. An average of 80% of men stated that they felt safe compared to 58% of women, although both proportions have dropped since last year.

[53] MOPAC Trust and Confidence dashboard.

Figure 7: Trust in the Metropolitan Police Service

Percentage of survey participants (PAS) who agree that the MPS is an organisation that they can trust



Source: MOPAC, Public Attitude Survey (PAS)[54]

Over six of the last seven years, there has been a year-on-year reduction in the percentage of Londoners who agree that the MPS is an organisation that they can trust. In 2017, 87% agreed with this sentiment, reducing to 70% in 2023. Conversely, the data for 2024 deviates from this long-term downward trend, increasing very slightly to 71%.

The level of trust in the MPS varies across different London boroughs. In 2024, only 62% of survey participants in Lewisham agreed with the statement, whereas in Westminster it was as high as 82%.

Looking at demographic characteristics, trust levels varied across the categories of age, self-reported disability status, ethnicity, and self-defined LGBT+ status. Individuals aged 65 years and over had the highest level of trust (76%) and individuals aged 25-34 years had the lowest level of trust (70%). Respondents with a self-defined disability had less trust in the MPS than those without a disability (68% versus 73%).

Respondents in the Black and Mixed ethnic groups had significantly low levels of trust in the MPS. The proportion in these groups agreeing with the MPS trust statement was at least 10 percentage points lower than the average. In addition, the gap between LGBT+ respondents and non-LGBT+ respondents has increased further from 5% in 2020 to 18%.

[54] MOPAC Trust and Confidence dashboard

12: TRANSPORT

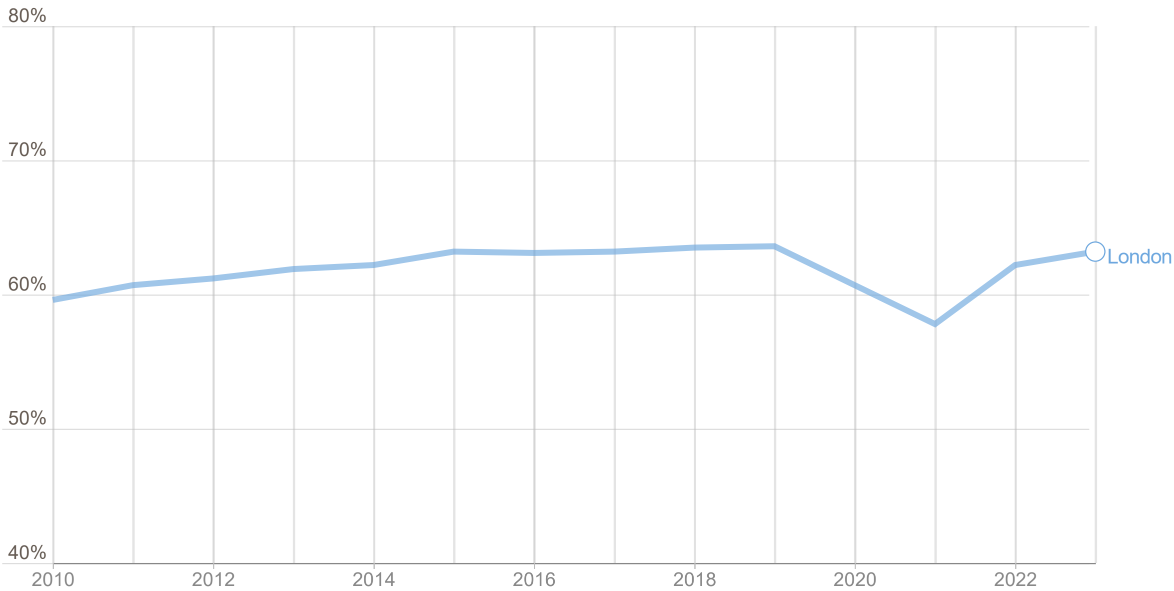
This section draws on a subset of the Mayor's Transport Strategy tracker metrics, which are used to monitor progress against the aims of the strategy. They provide a high-level assessment of the London-level outcome 'London's transport system enables everyone to get to where they want to go safely, sustainably, reliably and affordably.

For a more in-depth analysis of the performance of London's transport network see the Travel in London Annual Overview, a publication by TfL which summarises trends and developments related to transport and travel in London.

London's transport system enables everyone to get to where they want to go safely, sustainably, reliably and affordably

Figure 1: Active, efficient and sustainable mode share

*Percentage of trips made by walking, cycling and public transport (%)

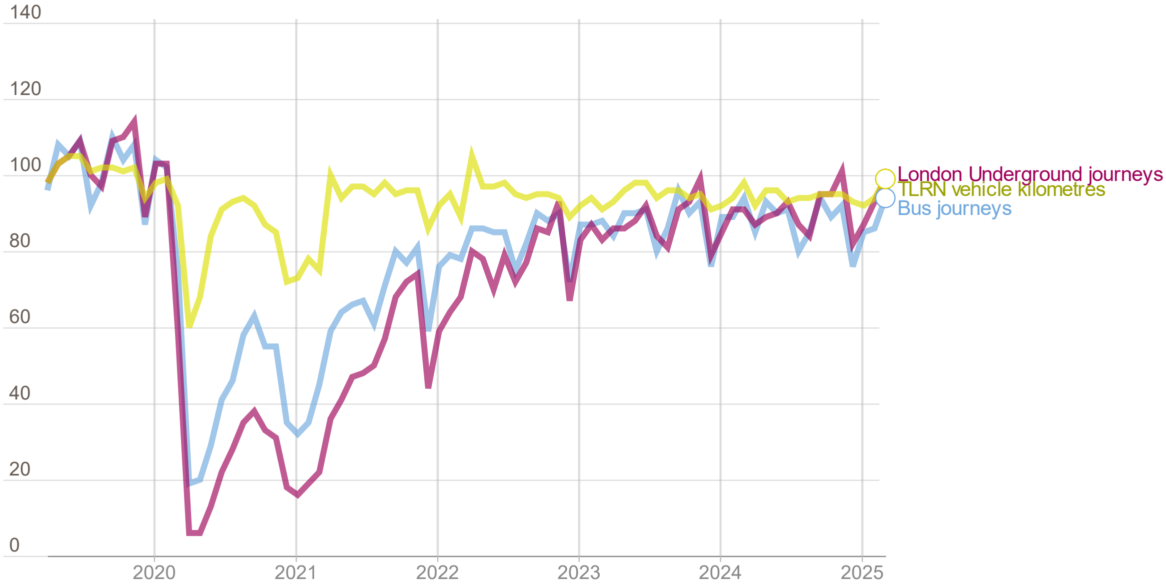


Source: Transport for London

The Mayor's Transport Strategy set a target for 80% of trips in London to be made by walking, cycling or public transport by 2041. The proportion of total trips made by these modes steadily increased from 59.6% in 2010 to 63.6% in 2019. Following a decline during the pandemic, the mode share increased to 63.2% in 2023.

Figure 2: Travel demand by mode

Travel demand on the principal modes, index 2019/20=100.



Source: Transport for London

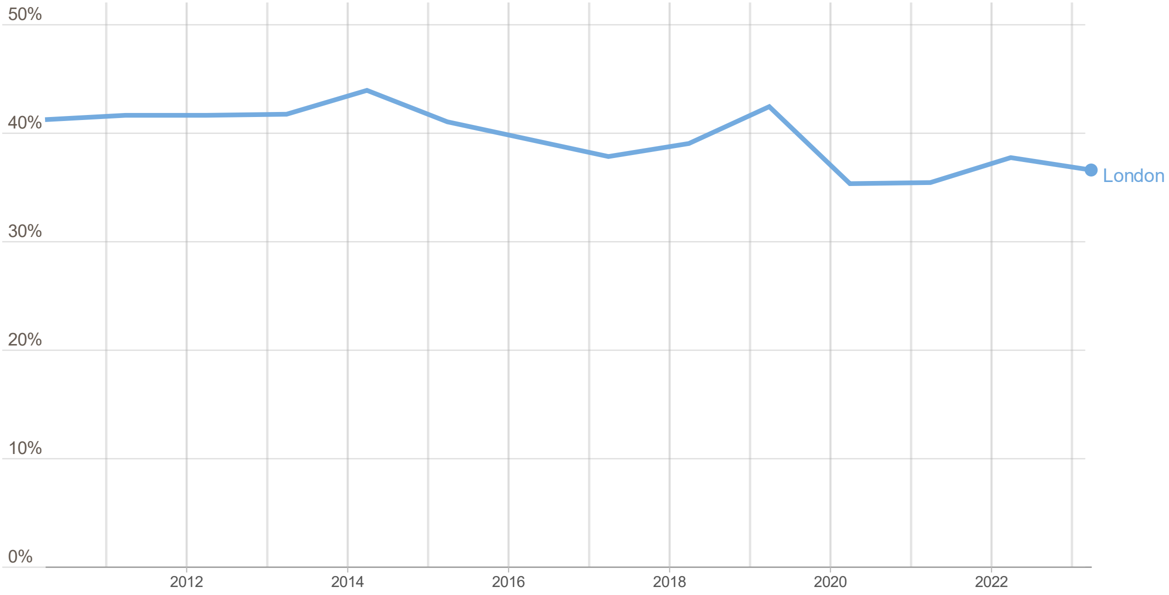
During 2023 and 2024, travel demand recovery in London following the pandemic continued and, towards the end of 2024, achieved what appear to be broadly settled conditions, albeit at a lower level than prior to the pandemic.

Figure 2 shows travel demand on the London Underground, bus and Transport for London Road Network (TLRN). In 2024/25, London Underground demand returned to 91% of the pre-pandemic baseline (2019/20), and bus demand was 88% of pre-pandemic levels. Demand on the TLRN was 95% of pre-pandemic levels in 2024/25, similar to the preceding years.

As well as pandemic-related changes in travel behaviour, such as the more widespread adoption of hybrid working, continuing cost-of-living pressures and increasing operational difficulties affecting some networks are thought to be acting as impediments to a fuller recovery. Furthermore, lower overall public transport demand, and the lost growth that was previously assumed across the pandemic-affected years, have implications for progress towards the Mayor’s active travel and mode share targets.

Figure 3: Active travel

Proportion of London residents undertaking 20 mins of active travel per day



Source: London Travel Demand Survey

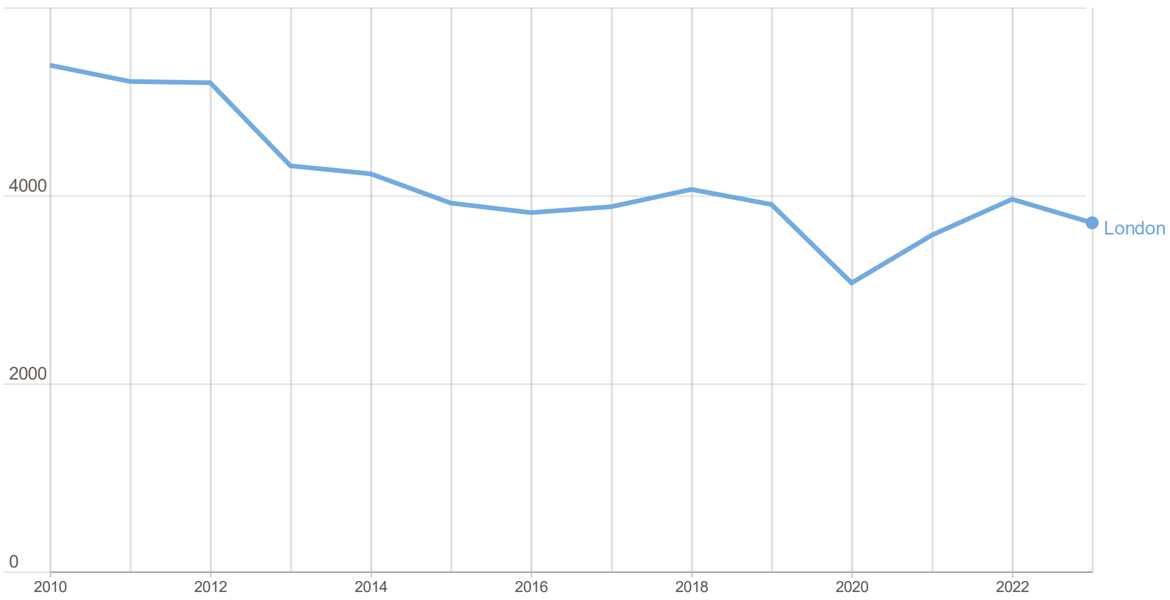
To promote the health of Londoners, the Mayor's Transport Strategy set a goal for all London residents to undertake at least 20 minutes of active travel per day by 2041, defined as either walking or cycling. By measuring the number of residents who report doing at least 20 minutes of walking or cycling, we can show how many are achieving minimum healthy levels of activity through active travel alone. Note, however, that this does not include other forms of physical activity, such as sport, which are additional to this measure.

This is measured using the London Travel Demand Survey (LTDS), which provides a daily snapshot of travel behaviour. It is acknowledged that a proportion of residents who are routinely active may not have travelled on the LTDS travel day (typically the day before the survey interview). Therefore, the Mayor's Transport Strategy aim for all London residents translates to 70% of the LTDS sample of London residents achieving 20 minutes of active travel on the day they were surveyed.

Historically, the proportion of Londoners achieving at least 20 minutes of active travel per day has been relatively flat at around 40%. This fell during the pandemic due to the significant decline in public transport usage. In 2023/24 the proportion of Londoners achieving 20 minutes of active travel was 37%, a similar proportion to 2022/23 (38%). This remains slightly lower than pre-pandemic, likely due to the continuing shortfall in the post-pandemic recovery of public transport use, where intermediate walking journey stages are often made as part of longer trips where public transport is the main mode.

Figure 4: Safety on London's roads

Number of people killed or seriously injured on London's roads



Source: Transport for London

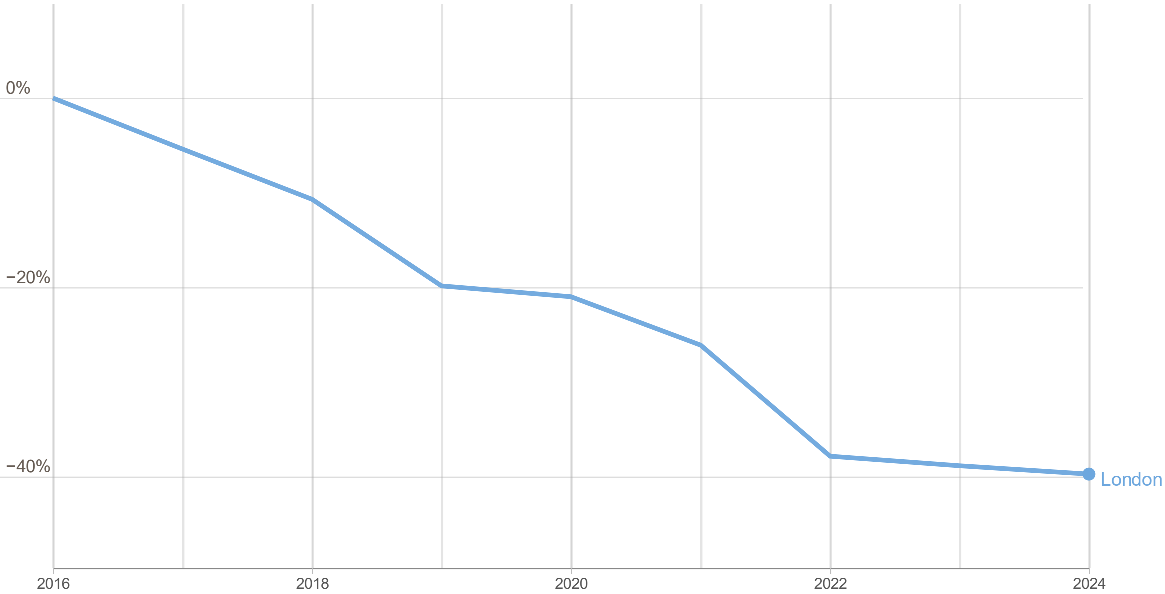
The number of people killed or seriously injured on London's roads followed a downward trend over the decade from 2010 to 2020. During the pandemic, reduced traffic levels led to a further decline in fatalities and serious injuries. However, 2022 saw a reversion to numbers and patterns of injury seen prior to the pandemic, as travel demand returned.

The Mayor's Transport Strategy sets out the ambition for reducing road casualties in London, with a target to deliver a 70% reduction (against the 2010-14 baseline) in the number of people killed or seriously injured on London's roads by 2030.

Data for 2023 suggests that while London is outperforming other UK regions, we are not on track to meet the 2041 Vision Zero ambition. In 2023 there was a 24% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured compared to the 2010-14 baseline. This represents approximately a 6% reduction compared to 2022.

Figure 5: Accessibility of the transport network

Reduction from the 2016 baseline in the additional journey time using only the step-free transport network.



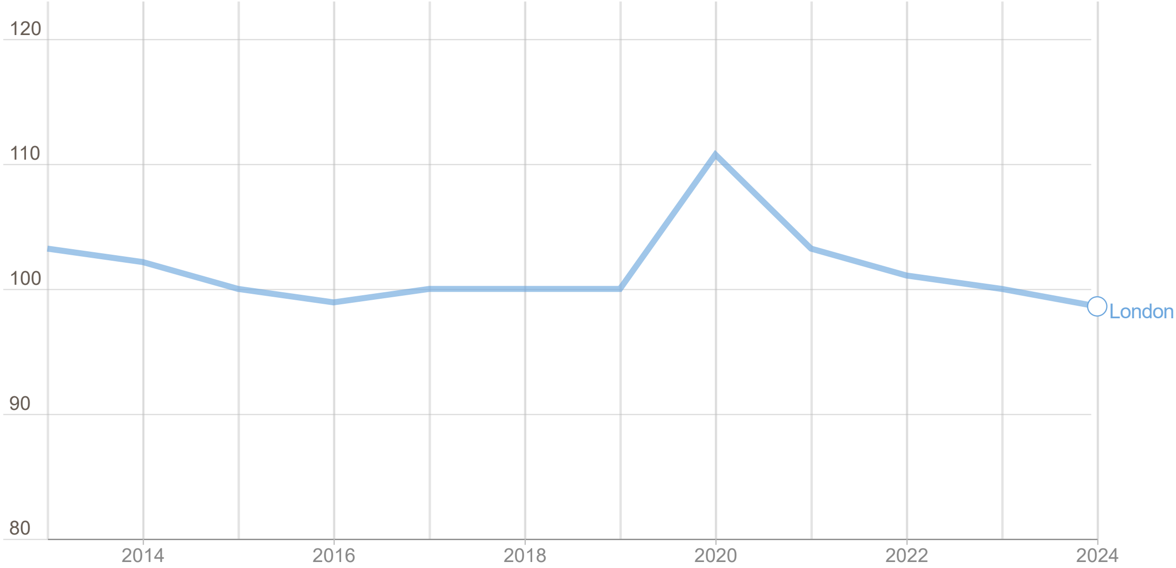
Source: Transport for London

Improving the physical accessibility of public transport is key to creating a fully inclusive network for all. People who are older or disabled or who are travelling with luggage or young children can sometimes find it hard to get around and often face longer journeys if they are only able to use the step-free network.

The Mayor’s Transport Strategy aims to reduce this journey time differential, with a working aim of a 50% reduction from a 2016 baseline by 2041. Despite funding challenges, good progress towards this target has been made in recent years. Note that historical figures have been revised to account for modelling improvements, and totals for 2021 and 2022 have been revised to account fully for the new step-free connections provided at Liverpool Street and Moorgate.

Figure 6: Quality of the bus network

Average bus network speed in London, index (100=2015).



Source: Transport for London

The annual average bus network speed is another metric to track progress against the Mayor's Transport Strategy 'quality' outcome. The Mayor's Transport Strategy sets a target of a 10% increase in bus speeds (from a 2015 baseline) by 2030. Figure 6 shows the trend for this metric since 2013, indexed to the 2015 baseline.

Before the pandemic, bus speeds had been declining, but pandemic-related reductions in travel demand led to an increase in bus speeds in 2020. Due to the return of car traffic – and therefore congestion – the large improvement seen in 2020 has fallen back in recent years. In 2024, the London-wide average bus speed was 9.2 miles per hour.

Crowding on the rail network

The Mayor's Transport Strategy also sets an ambition to reduce the proportion of rail kilometres travelled in crowded conditions by 10-20% compared to a 2016 baseline of 10.3%.

This measure has proven to be highly sensitive to pandemic-associated demand fluctuations. In 2020 it effectively fell to zero, but in 2022 it recovered to 2.6%, and in 2023 it fell slightly to 1.9%. Post-pandemic patterns of customer demand, particularly during the peak period, are driving this reduction in crowding compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Furthermore, the introduction of the Elizabeth line provided additional capacity and is also alleviating crowding on the London Underground network. Despite this progress, without further investment in capacity on our network, it is expected that crowding will increase in line with London's population growth.

Transport for London publishes data on Bus performance and Underground services performance each period.

13. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

This chapter reports on children and young people, focusing in particular on the following three London-Level Outcomes:

- Children and young Londoners achieve the health and learning outcomes they need to thrive at every stage of development.
- Children and young Londoners are safe from harm.
- Children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful.

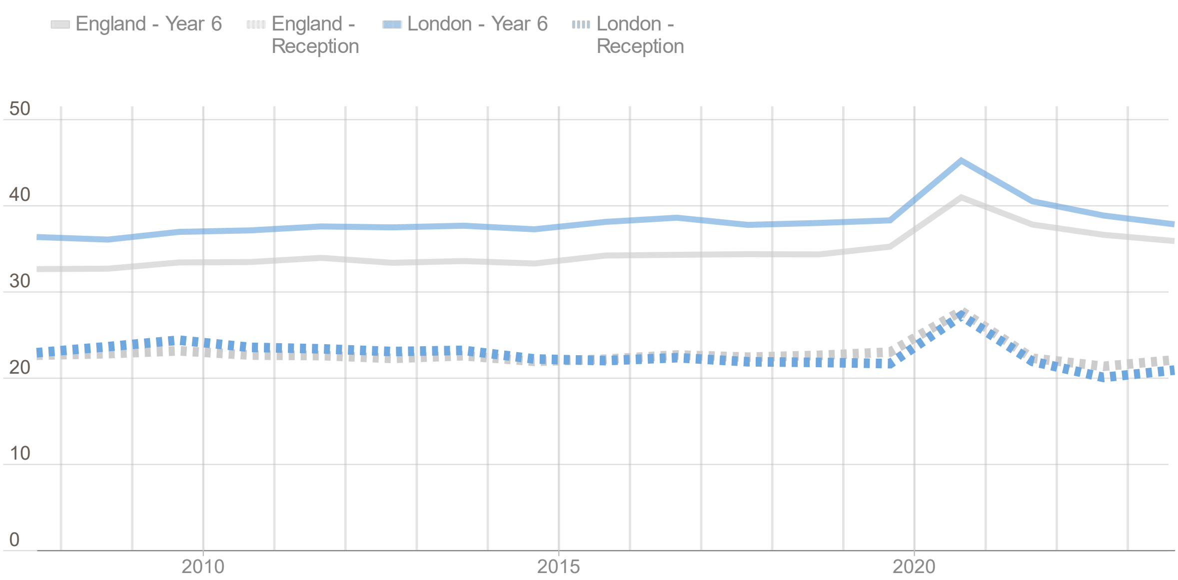
It sets out trends across several indicators covering health and wellbeing, education and safety. Further metrics related to the health and wellbeing of children and young people are covered in the Health chapter, and the wider determinants of health are covered in other chapters (e.g. pollution exposure in the Environment chapter).

The Mayor is championing inclusive education in London, and is working to tackle mental health issues affecting young people, child poverty and health inequality across the city. The Health Inequalities Strategy provides more information on health inequalities for children across London.

Children and young Londoners achieve the health and learning outcomes they need to thrive at every stage of development

Figure 1: Prevalence of obesity in children

*Proportion of children in Reception and Year 6 that are overweight or obese[55] in London and England, 2007/08 to 2023/24



Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on National Child Measurement Programme data)

[55] A child is classified as overweight or obese where their Body Mass Index (BMI) is on or above the 85th percentile or 95th percentile respectively, based on the UK90 growth reference data. See Fingertips.

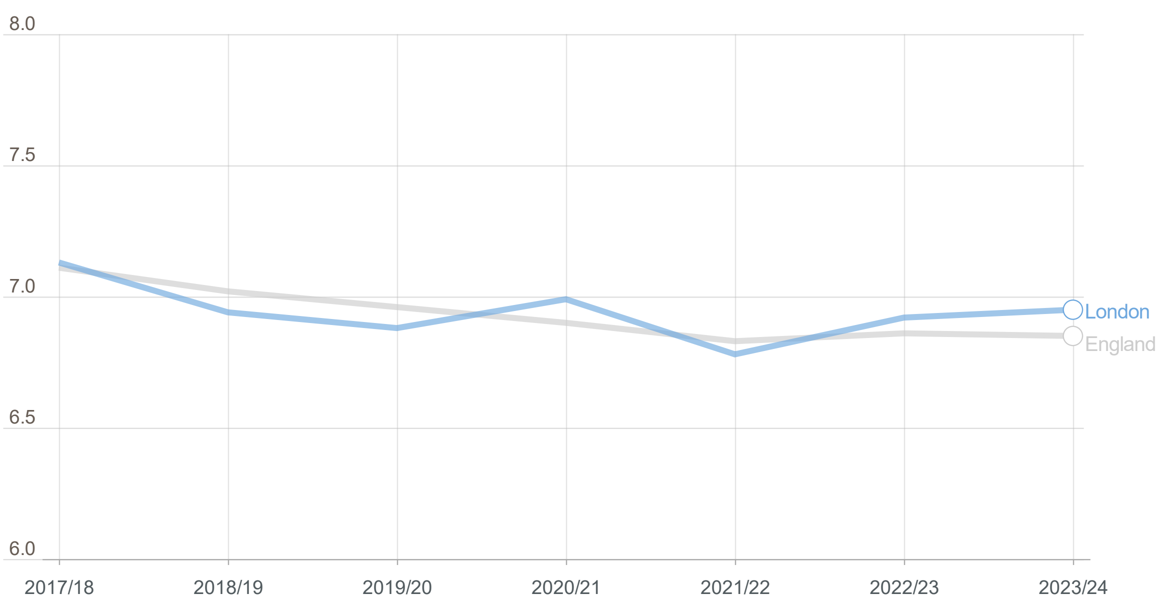
As of 2023/24, 20.9% of London's children in Reception were classified as overweight or obese, which is lower than the percentage for England (22.1%). This is higher than in 2022/23 (20.0%) but lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic (2019/20: 21.6%). Compared to Reception, the prevalence of obesity in Year 6 children was higher in both London (37.8%) and England (35.8%).

Higher rates were seen among deprived Londoners, with 26.0% of children in Reception classified as obese or overweight in the most deprived decile compared to 15.3% in the least deprived decile. This inequality widens for children in Year 6, at 44.2% in the most deprived decile and 25.4% in the least deprived decile. Similarly, the rates vary by London borough, with the rates among Year 6 children the highest in Barking and Dagenham (44.2%) and lowest in Richmond Upon Thames (25.5%)

Comparing rates of obesity by sex, there is no significant difference at Reception age, but by Year 6 they are significantly higher for boys (40.8%) than girls (34.7%).

Figure 2: Children's self-reported happiness with life

*Children in Years 3-11 mean self-reported happiness score with life (out of 10) in London and England, 2017/18 to 2023/24



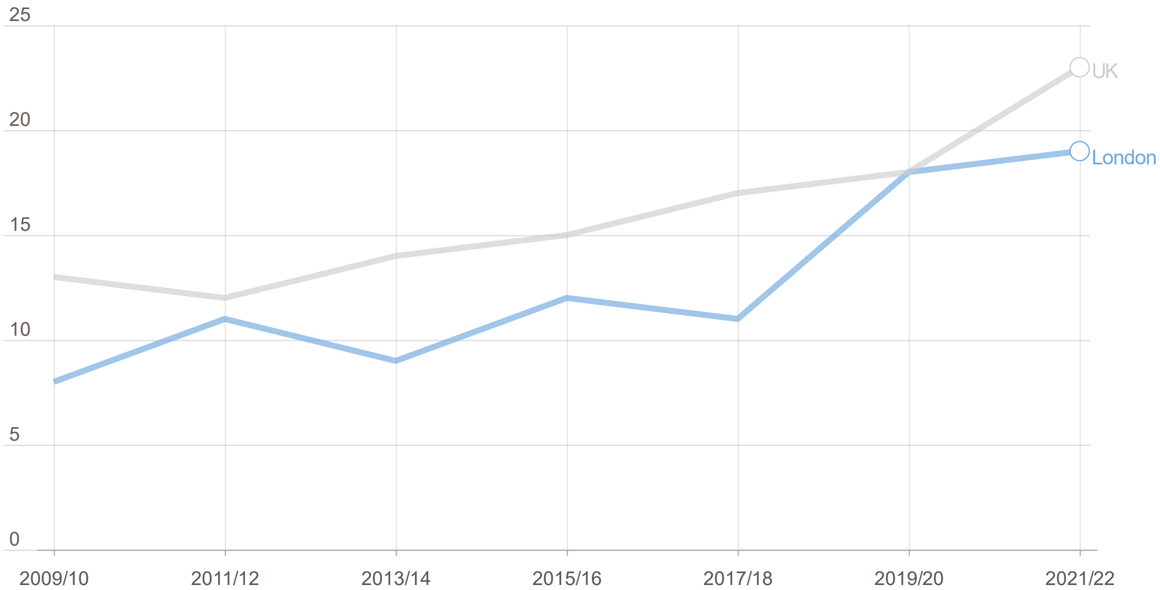
Source: [Active Lives Children and Young People Survey, Sports England]()

The average happiness score (out of 10) for children in Years 3-11 in London in 2023-24 was 6.95, similar to England's (6.85). This has remained relatively stable, although it has decreased slightly overall since 2017/18 when it was 7.13 in London.

The score was highest among White British children (7.09) and lowest for Black children (6.71), and higher for boys (7.24) than girls (6.73).

Figure 3: Children with a probable mental disorder

Proportion of children aged 10-15 in UK and London with high or very high total difficulties score (18 or more)[56], 2009/10 to 2021/22



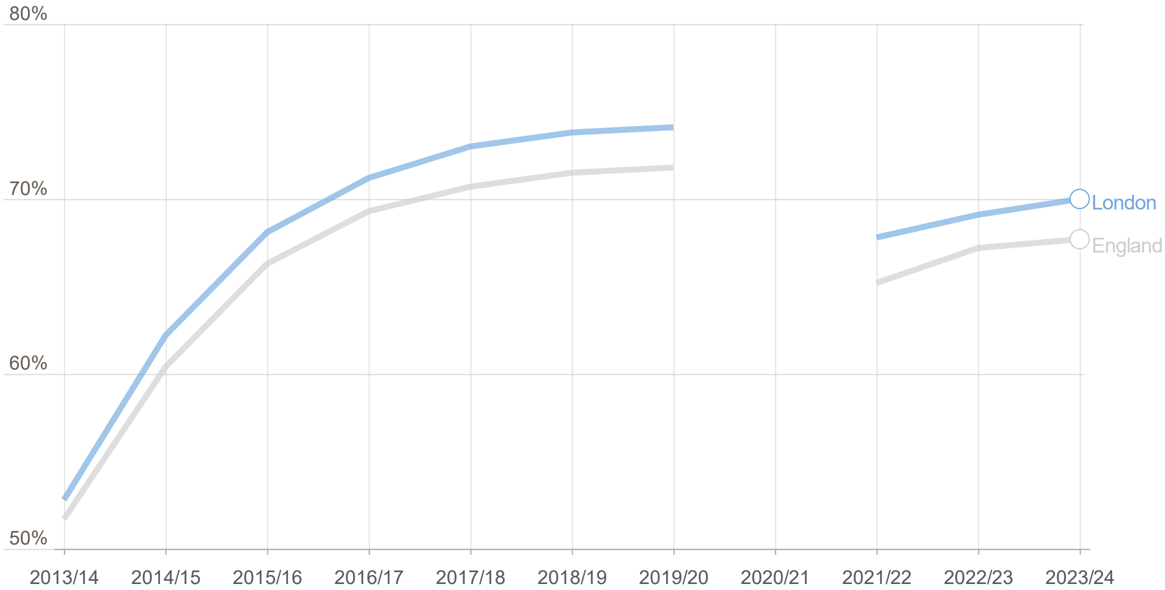
Source: Understanding Society Survey

In 2009-10, 8% of Londoners aged 10-15 had a probable mental disorder, compared to 13% across the UK. The London level has remained below the UK's over the last decade, and in the most recent survey covering 2021-22 (i.e., partially covering the pandemic period), the proportions for London and the UK were 19% and 23%, respectively.

[56] This data is from the strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ) which is an emotional and behavioural screening questionnaire for children and young people. The total difficulties score is the sum of the emotional symptoms, conduct problems, hyperactivity/inattention and peer relationship problems subscales, and ranges from 0-40.

Figure 4: School readiness at age 5

*Percentage of children with a good level of development (GLD) at age 5, 2013/14 to 2023/24



Source: [Department for Education]()

Note: reforms introduced in September 2021 resulted in significant revision of the early years foundation stage profile (EYFS) including GLD. It is therefore not possible to directly compare assessment outcomes since 2021/22 with earlier years. No data is available for 2020/21 as data collection was disrupted by the pandemic.

Children are defined as having a Good Level of Development (GLD) if they are at the expected level for the 12 early learning goals within five areas of learning relating to: communication and language; personal, social and emotional development; physical development; literacy; and mathematics.

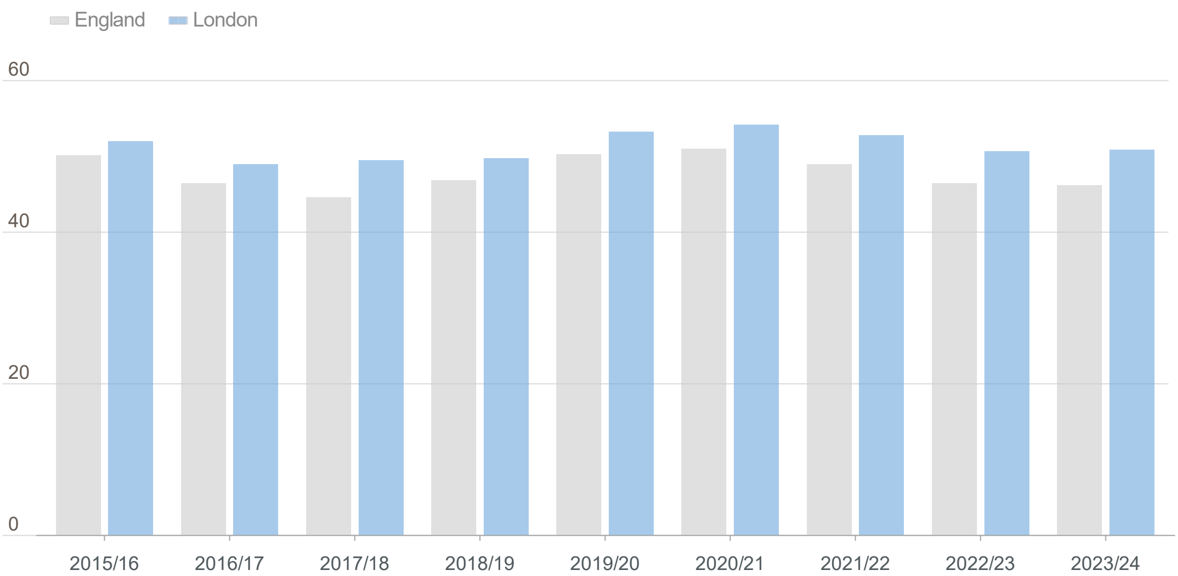
In 2023/24, 70.0% of pupils in London achieved a GLD by age 5, compared to 67.7% in England. This is an increase over the last two years for both London (2021/22: 67.8%) and England (65.2%).

When broken down by various characteristics – ethnicity, first language, eligibility for free school meals, those with SEN support needs – London pupils do at least as well, and in most cases better, than those in England overall with the same characteristics. There are still differences between these sub-groups, however, with Chinese, Indian and Mixed White and Asian children most likely to achieve a Good Level of Development (GLD) in London.

In 2023/24, 58% of children in London eligible for free school meals (FSM) did not achieve a GLD by age 5, compared to 73.7% among children not classed as eligible for FSM. A lower proportion of Black children achieved a GLD by age 5 (62.9%), compared to their White (73.1%), Mixed ethnicity (73.3%) and Asian (71.6%) counterparts.

Figure 5: Average Attainment 8 (Key Stage 4/GCSEs) score

*Average Attainment 8 score (out of 90)[57] per pupil in London and England, 2015/16 to 2022/23



Source: [Department for Education]

Attainment 8 score is a measure of a student's overall achievement at GCSE, summing grades in eight key subjects with Maths and English double-weighted, with a maximum score of 90. The average Attainment 8 score for London's pupils is consistently higher than that for England, and in 2023/24 it was 50.8 compared to 46.1 in England.

London pupils do better than those across England as a whole, on each element of the Attainment 8 score and across almost all attributes from ethnicity to free school meal (FSM) status. The exception is that Black pupils – both boys and girls in London - had slightly lower average attainment 8 scores than Black pupils for England as a whole.

In London in 2023/24, there were gaps in Attainment 8 scores by sex, ethnicity, first language, Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disadvantaged status:

- Among ethnic groups, Asian pupils achieved the highest Average Attainment 8 score (56.8) and Black pupils the lowest (46.7).
- Pupils whose first language was English achieved a slightly lower Average Attainment 8 score (50.3) than those who have a first language other than English (51.8).
- Pupils who are eligible for FSM achieved a lower Average Attainment 8 score (42.1) compared to all other pupils not classed as eligible for FSM (54.3).

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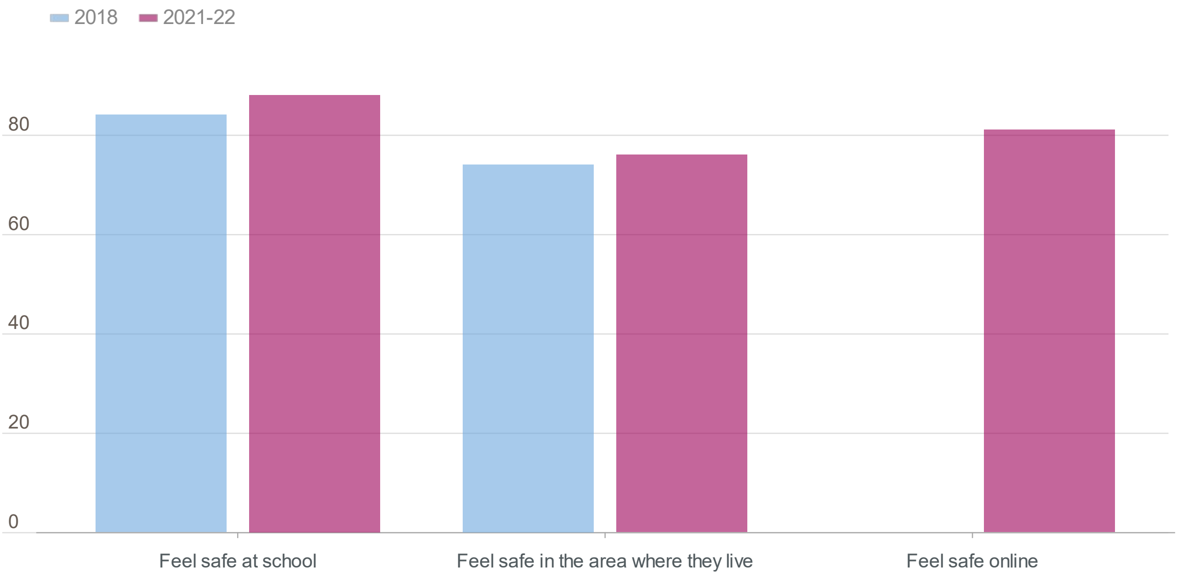
[57] The highest grade that can be achieved is 9 (equivalent to an A* under the old grading system) and a 4 is a standard pass (equivalent to a grade C under the old system).

Children and young Londoners are safe from harm

Figure 6: Children's perception of safety

*Proportion of young people aged 11-16 in London who feel safe at school, in the area they live and online, 2018 and 2021/22



Source: Youth Survey, MOPAC (2018 and 2021-22).
Note: No data available on perceptions of online safety for 2018.

In 2021-22, 88% of young people aged 11-16 in London reported that they felt safe at school, an increase from 84% in 2018. 76% of young people reported that they felt safe in the area they live, a small increase from 74% in 2018. There was also an overlap between these locations, with 5% of the sample reporting that they felt unsafe both at home and at school in 2021-22. This reveals a small but potentially vulnerable group of young Londoners growing up in the capital without a sense of safety across either of these locations.

Certain groups of young people were less likely to say they felt safe at school and in their local area, including those from older age groups and those from Black or Mixed ethnic backgrounds. Importantly, young people who had attended a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)[58] were also significantly less likely to feel safe in their school (74%, 139 of 188) than those who had not attended a PRU (90%, 5,235 of 5,811).

In the most recent survey (2021-22), approximately four in five (81%) of young people reported that they felt safe online. Despite this, around one in five (19%) reported that something happened to them online during the last year that made them worried.

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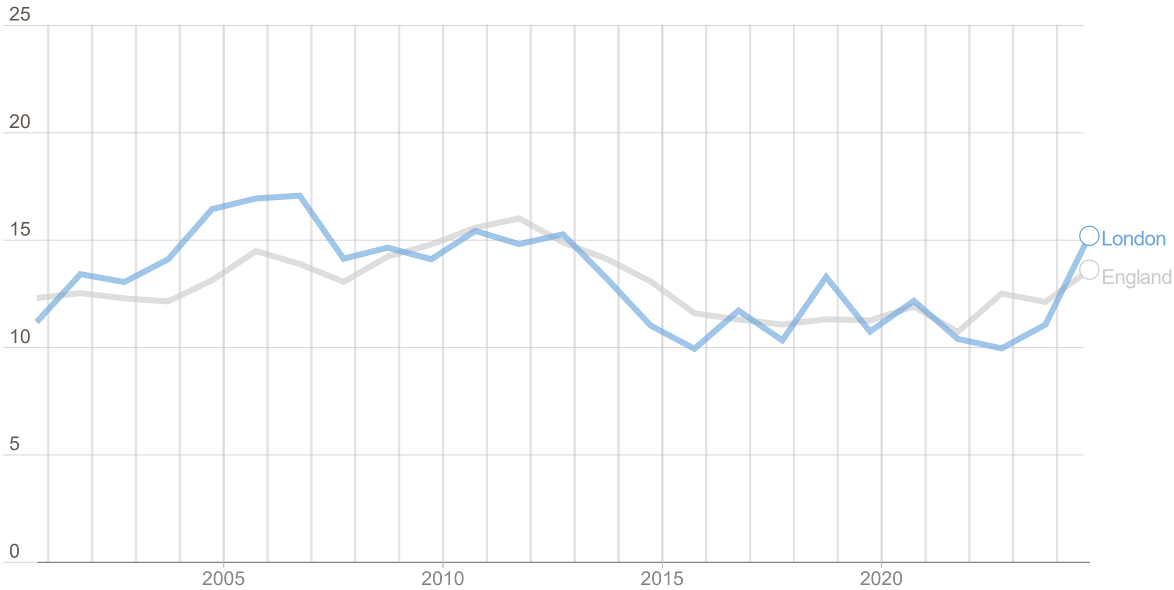
[58] PRUs are for children who are unable to attend school and may not otherwise receive suitable education. This could be because they have a short- or long-term illness, have been excluded, or are a new starter waiting for a mainstream school place. See DfE.

Children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful

Figure 7: Young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET)

*Proportion of young people aged 16-24 NEET in Q4 (October-December), 2000-2024[59]



Source: Department for Education (based on the Labour Force Survey, ONS)

Note: Labour Force Survey (LFS) data has been reweighted from January 2019 onwards. There is a discontinuity in the timeseries at this point and comparisons to earlier data should be made with caution.

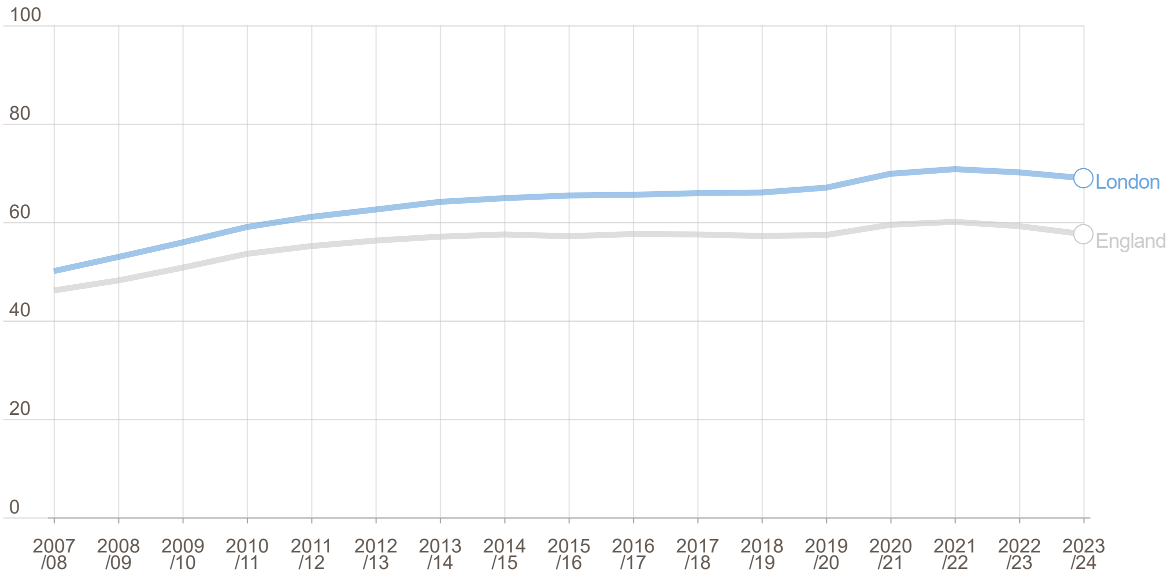
In Q4 2024, over 156,000 16–24-year-olds in London were NEET, equivalent to 15.2%. This was a increase of over 4 percentage points from a year earlier in Q4 2023 (11.0%), and higher than the rate for England (13.6%).

Prior to this recent increase, the proportion of young adults that are NEET fell between 2012 and 2016, but then stabilised, and then fell again as more young people stayed on in education during the coronavirus pandemic.

[59] Our preferred age bracket for the NEET measure is 18-24 rather than 16-24 because those aged 16-17 are subject to the Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation. However, DfE have not published data for this age bracket due to falling responses to the Labour Force Survey. If this data becomes available again then the indicator will revert to 18-24.

Figure 8: Achievement of Level 3 qualifications by age 19

*Proportion of 19-year-olds achieving a Level-3 qualification in London and England, 2007/08 to 2023/24

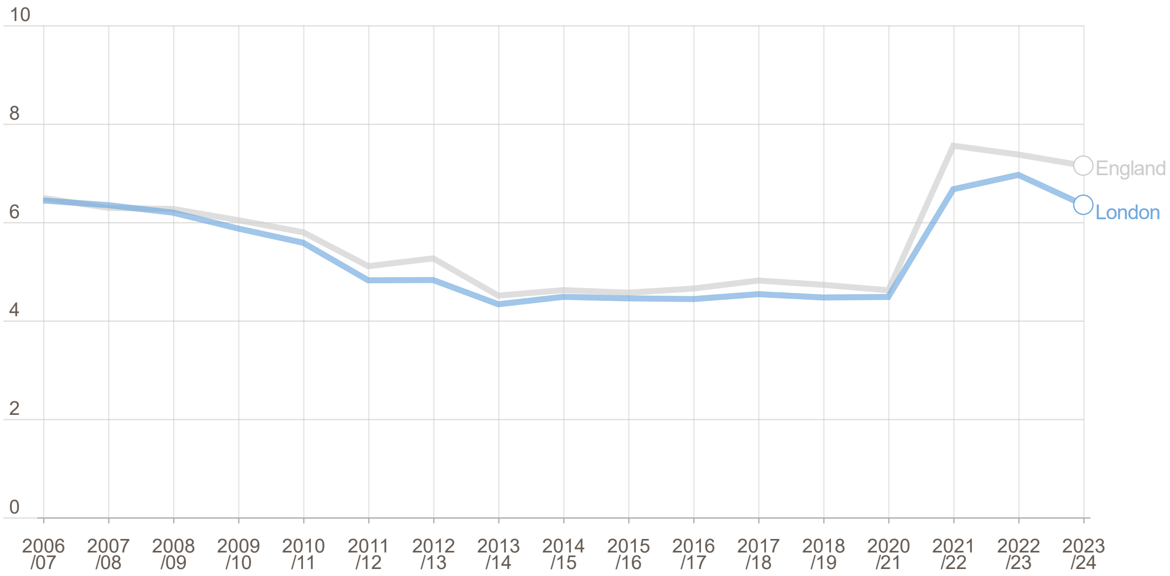


Source: Department for Education

In 2023/24, 68.9% of young people had achieved a Level 3 (2 A-levels or equivalent) qualification by age 19, higher than the proportion for England (57.6%). The rates have decreased slightly in the last couple of years (2021/22: 70.8%, 2022/23: 70.1%). The proportion has increased substantially over the last 15 years in London (from 52.9% in 2008/09), with a similar trend seen for England. The gap between London and England has also increased over time, rising from 3.9 percentage points in in 2007/08 to 11.4 percentage points in 2023/24.

Figure 9: School absence

Overall school absence rates (%) for pupils in state-funded schools in London and England, 2006/07 to 2023/24[60]



Source: [Department for Education]

Overall school absence rates in London increased rapidly during the pandemic, from 4.5% in 2020/21 to a peak of 7.0% in 2022/23. Absence rates have since decreased to 6.4% in 2023/24. The absence rate in London is lower than that in England (2023/24: 7.1%).

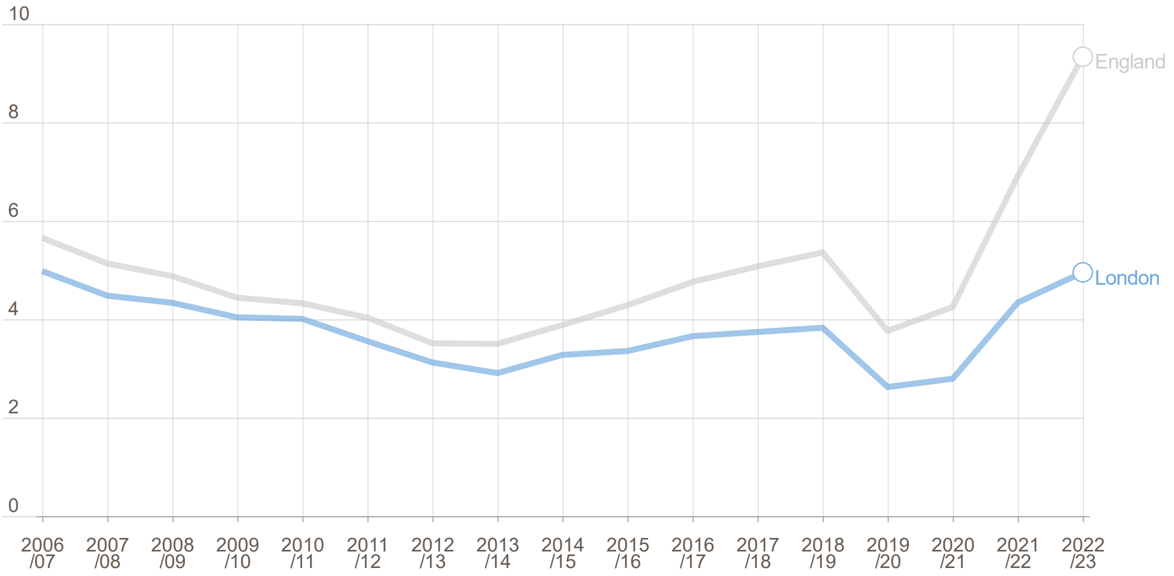
The rate in London in 2023/24 varied by school type, and was highest for special schools (12.7%), followed by state-funded secondary (7.4%) and lowest for state-funded primary schools (7.4%). The overall rates do not reflect inequalities by pupil characteristics. For example, in 2023/24 in London:

- The rate was higher for Free School Meal (FSM) eligible pupils (8.7%) than those not eligible for FSM (5.4%)
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils had the higher rates at 9.2%, compared to 5.7% for those with no SEN.
- The rate also varied by ethnicity, with the lowest rate being among Black pupils (5.4%) and highest among Unclassified (7.5%) and Mixed ethnicity pupils (7.1%).

[60] Sessions recorded as not attending due to COVID circumstances are included as possible sessions in 2020//21 and 2021/22 only, but not as an absence within absence rates.

Figure 10: School suspension rate

Suspension rate per 100 pupils in state-funded schools in London and England, 2006/7 to 2022/23[61]



Source: Department for Education

The suspension rate in London schools increased from 4.3 per 100 pupils in 2021/22 to 5.0 per 100 pupils in 2022/23, continuing an upward trend since the pandemic (2019/20: 2.5 per 100 pupils). A similar trend is seen for England, with a consistently higher suspension rate and a more rapid increase to 9.3 per 100 pupils in 2022/23. Prior to the pandemic, the suspension rate had been increasing more gradually (from 2.9 per 100 pupils in 2013/14 in London).

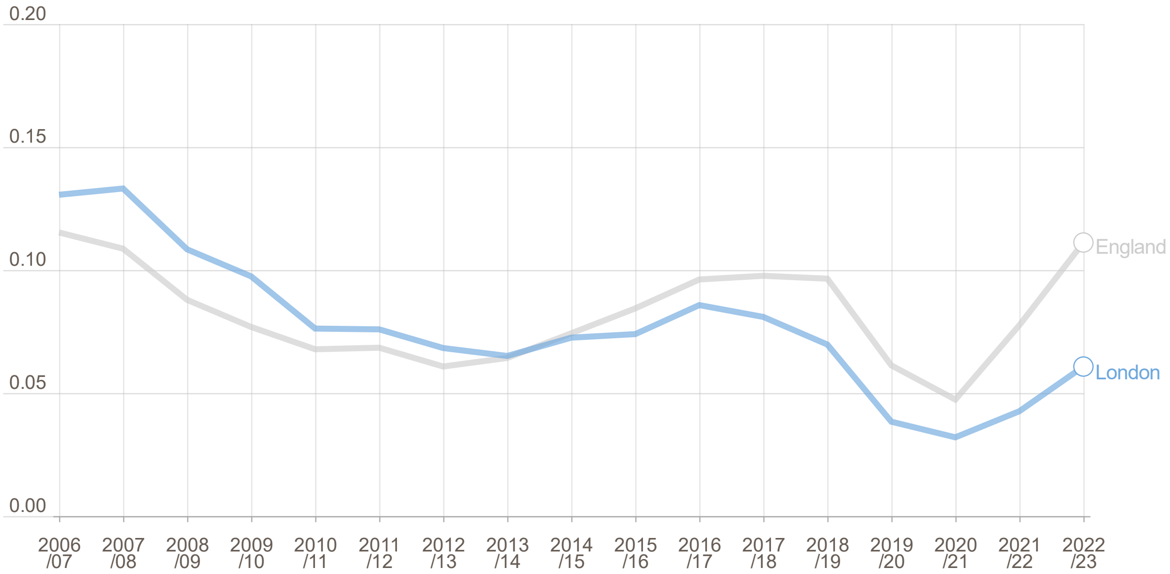
The rate of suspension for pupils in London in 2022/23 varied substantially by pupil characteristics, including by ethnicity, FSM-eligibility, and SEN status:

- Black pupils (7.4) had the highest suspension rate among pupils, over four times the rate for Asian pupils (1.8), which is the lowest.
- Pupils who were eligible for FSM (9.7) were almost three times more likely to have a suspension than pupils not eligible for FSM (3.3).
- Pupils with SEN were more likely to have a suspension (12.2) than those with no SEN (3.5).

[61] While suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, national restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

Figure 11: School permanent exclusion rate (PER)

Permanent exclusion rate per 100 pupils for London and England, 2006/07 to 2022/23[62]



Source: Department for Education

A similar trend to the suspension rate can be observed for the exclusion rate. The exclusion rate in London schools increased from 0.04 per 100 pupils in 2021/22 to 0.06 per 100 pupils in 2022/23, continuing an upward trend since 2020/21 (0.03 per 100 pupils). The rate remains below the England average, which in 2022/23 was 0.11 per 100 pupils.

The exclusion rate in London has trended downwards since the mid-2000s. Prior to 2013/14, the rate in London was higher than the national average but since then it has remained below it.

There were inequalities in the exclusion rate by pupil characteristics in London in 2022/23:

- Black pupils (0.08) had the highest exclusion rate among pupils of different ethnicities, and Asian pupils the lowest (0.02).
- FSM-eligible pupils (0.13) were more likely to have an exclusion than pupils not eligible for FSM (0.04).
- SEN pupils were more likely to have an exclusion (0.16) compared to those with no SEN (0.04).

[62] While suspensions and permanent exclusions were possible throughout the 2019/20 and 2020/21 academic years, national restrictions will have had an impact on the numbers presented and caution should be taken when comparing across years.

14: HEALTH

This chapter provides a high-level overview of health in London, focussing on the following two London-Level Outcomes:

- Londoners live in a city that supports their mental and physical health
- Londoners have access to a health and care system that supports them when they need it

Physical and mental health is determined by a complex interaction between several factors, including wider determinants of health and access to the health and care system.

Wider determinants, otherwise known as the 'causes of the causes', are factors which relate to where people grow up, live, work and age, and they ultimately influence opportunities for good health. Inequalities within those wider determinants, which are dealt with in other chapters such as Crime and the Environment, can result in health inequalities.

Health inequalities are "avoidable, unfair and systematic" differences in outcomes between different groups of people[63]. These differences in health status are typically presented over four factors: socio-economic (e.g., education and income), geographic (e.g., urban vs rural, area deprivation), protected characteristics (e.g., ethnicity or disability) and socially excluded groups (e.g., people experiencing homelessness).

Similarly, equality of access to health and care systems is vital to ensure everyone can receive timely, high quality and effective management and services, leading to better health outcomes.

This chapter contains material which is covered in greater depth in the report 'Snapshot of Health Inequalities in London' and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities' (OHID) Public health profiles.

[63] What are health inequalities? | The King's Fund (kingsfund.org.uk)

Londoners live in a city that supports their mental and physical health

Figure 1: Life expectancy at birth

*Life expectancy at birth in London and England by sex, 2001-03 to 2021-23 (three year rolling averages)

Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on ONS data)

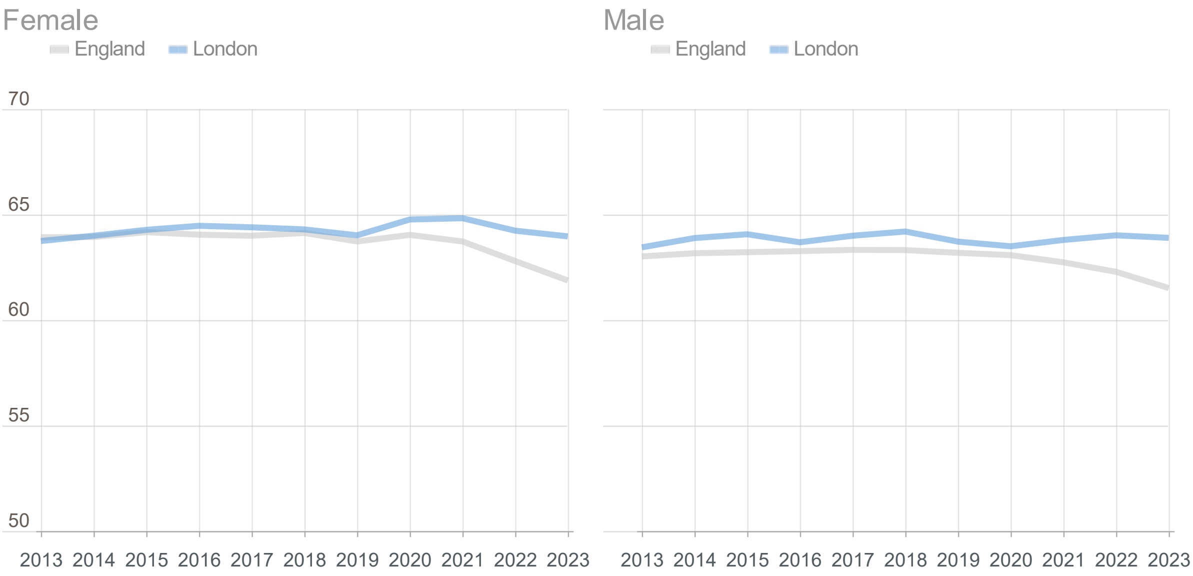
In London, the life expectancy at birth in 2021-23 for males stood at 79.8 years, and for females it was 84.1 years, an increase on the previous period of 2020-22 (79.1 and 83.6 years, respectively). However, this increase did not raise life expectancy to levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Life expectancy in London is higher than that for England (2021-23: 79.1 years for males and 83.1 for females). For males it has been higher than England's since 2005-07, and since 2001-03 for females.

However, there is significant variation in life expectancy by local authority in London. In 2021-23, life expectancy for males ranged from 77.3 in Barking and Dagenham to 79.8 in Richmond upon Thames. For females it ranged from 81.0 in Barking and Dagenham to 86.5 in Kensington and Chelsea. In some more deprived boroughs like Barking and Dagenham, life expectancy is below the national average.

Figure 2: Healthy life expectancy at birth

*Healthy life expectancy at birth in London and England by sex, 2011-13 to 2021-23 (three year rolling averages)



Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on ONS data)

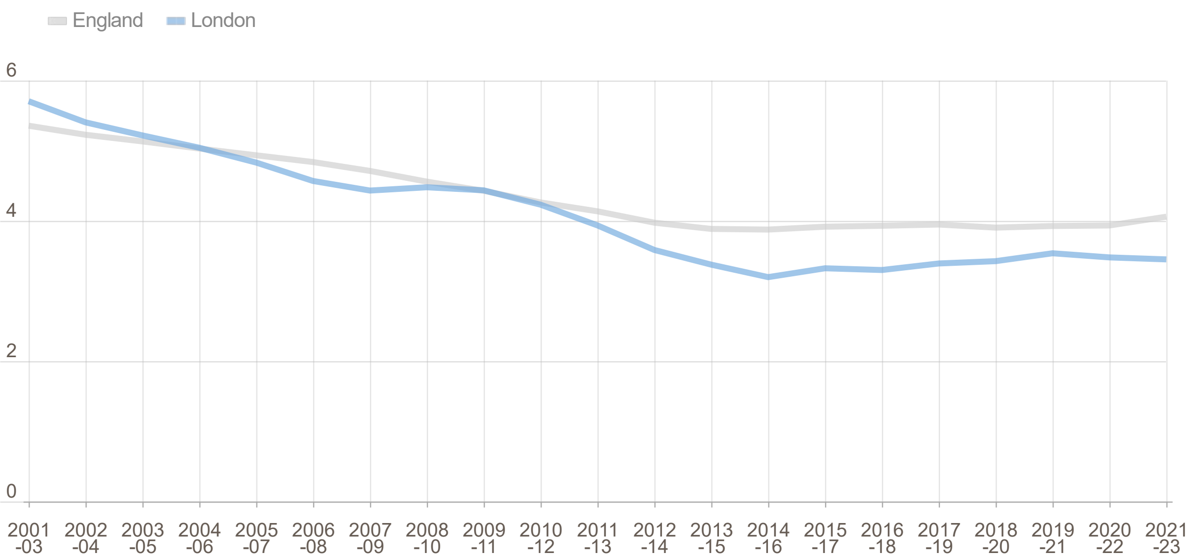
Healthy life expectancy (HLE) is an estimate of lifetime spent in “Very good” or “Good” health based on how individuals perceive it, and a key summary measure of population health.

At birth, London HLE values are higher than the national average for both males and females, as shown in Figure 2. Interestingly, in London there was no significant change in male HLE from 2020-22 (64.0 years) to 2021-23 (63.9 years), whereas for England it decreased (62.3 to 61.5 years). Similarly for females in London, there was no significant changes from 2020-22 (64.2 years) to 2021-23 (64.0 years), whereas there was a decrease in England (62.8 to 61.9 years).

These values mask persistent and significant variation in HLE between and within boroughs, with a gap of more than 13 years lived in good health between the boroughs with the best and worst values. Values of this indicator range from 57.8 years in Lewisham to 69.5 years in Richmond-upon-Thames for males, and from 57.2 years in Lewisham to 70.2 years in Richmond upon Thames for females.

Figure 3: Infant mortality rate

*Infant deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births in London and England, 2001-03 to 2021–23 (three year rolling averages)



Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on ONS data)

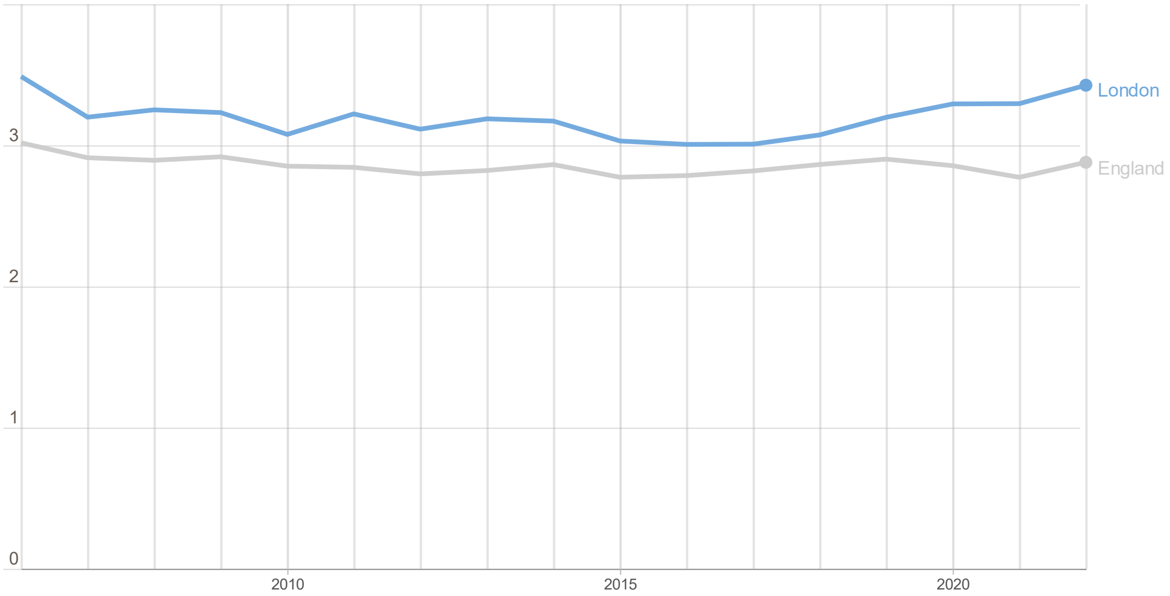
The infant mortality rate (IMR) in London in 2021-23 was lower for London (3.5 per 1000 live births) than the England average (4.1 per 1000 live births). There was a downward trend in the IMR in London over several decades, but from 2014 it levelled off and has even slightly increased. However, for the last data period, there was no significant change in the IMR in London (which at 3.5 per 1000 live births in 2021-23 was thew same as in 2020-22).

There is substantial variation in the IMR across London boroughs, reflecting inequalities associated with deprivation that are also evident at the England level. The IMR is 6.5 in the most deprived Index of Multiple Deprivation decile in England compared to 2.9 in the least deprived. There are also inequalities of IMR by ethnicity, irrespective of deprivation.[64]

[64] Esan OB, Norman P, McHale P, et al. Intersecting ethnic and socioeconomic inequalities in infant mortality in England, 2007–2019Archives of Disease in Childhood 2024;109:870-871.

Figure 4: Prevalence of low birth weight of term babies

Percentage of all live births in London and England with gestational age of 37+ weeks, with a birth weight of <2.5 kg, 2006-2022



Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on ONS data)

Low birth weight among infants is an outcome of factors including maternal malnutrition, maternal ill-health and poor healthcare in pregnancy. The overall London values are higher than the national average as shown in Figure 4.

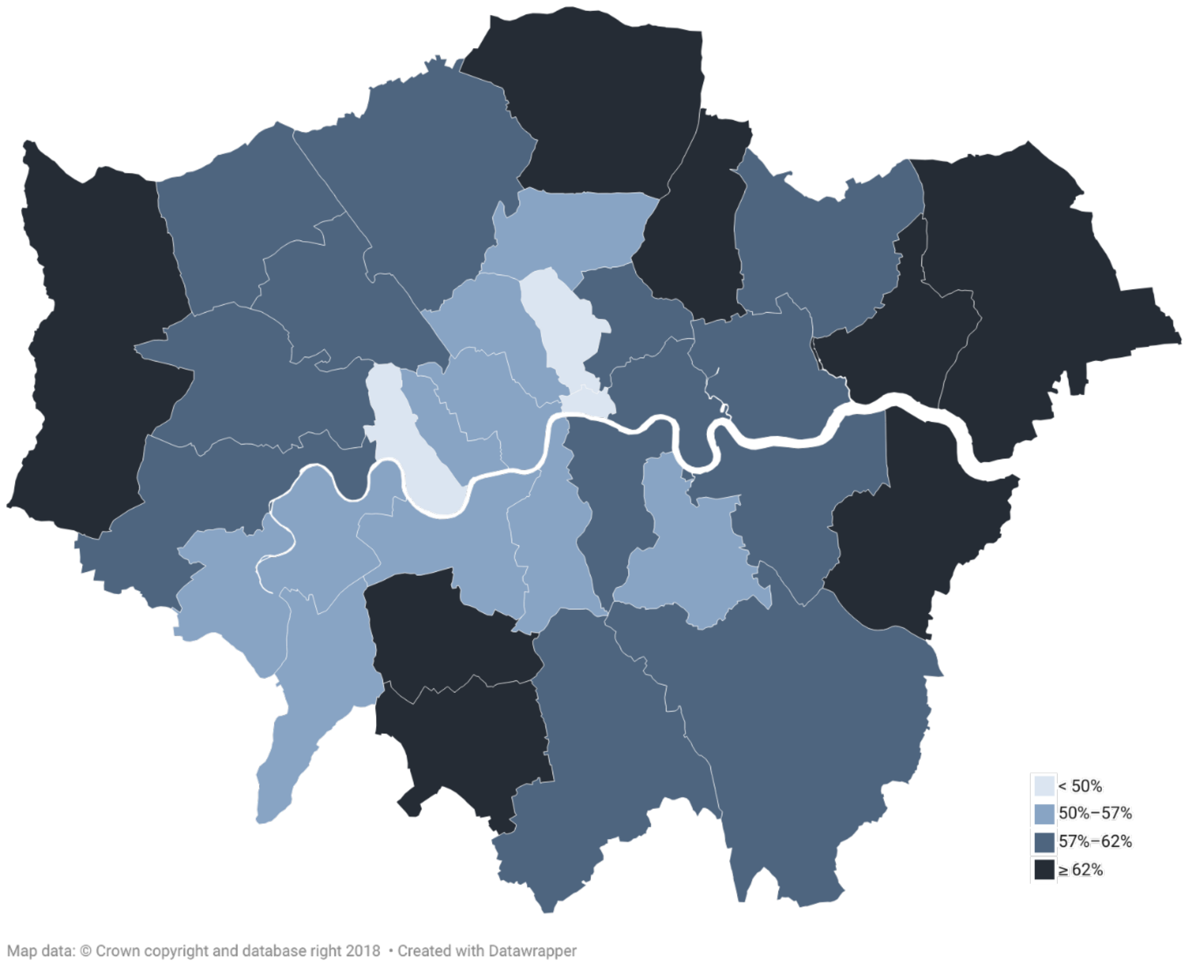
In 2022, 3.4% of babies born at term in London had a low birthweight, which is greater than all other regions in England and significantly higher than the England average (2.9%). Unlike England, which shows a stable rate, this represents part of a continuing worsening trend since 2017.

The proportion of low birthweight babies varies by borough. In 2022, it ranged from 2.3% in Richmond upon Thames to 4.7% in Tower Hamlets.[65]

[65] The borough with the highest rate was City of London at 10.2%, but due to small counts there is a lot of uncertainty in this figure.

Figure 5: Adults classified as overweight or obese

Proportion of adults (aged 18+) with body mass index greater or equal to 25 kg/m² (using adjusted self-reported height and weight) by London borough, 2023/24

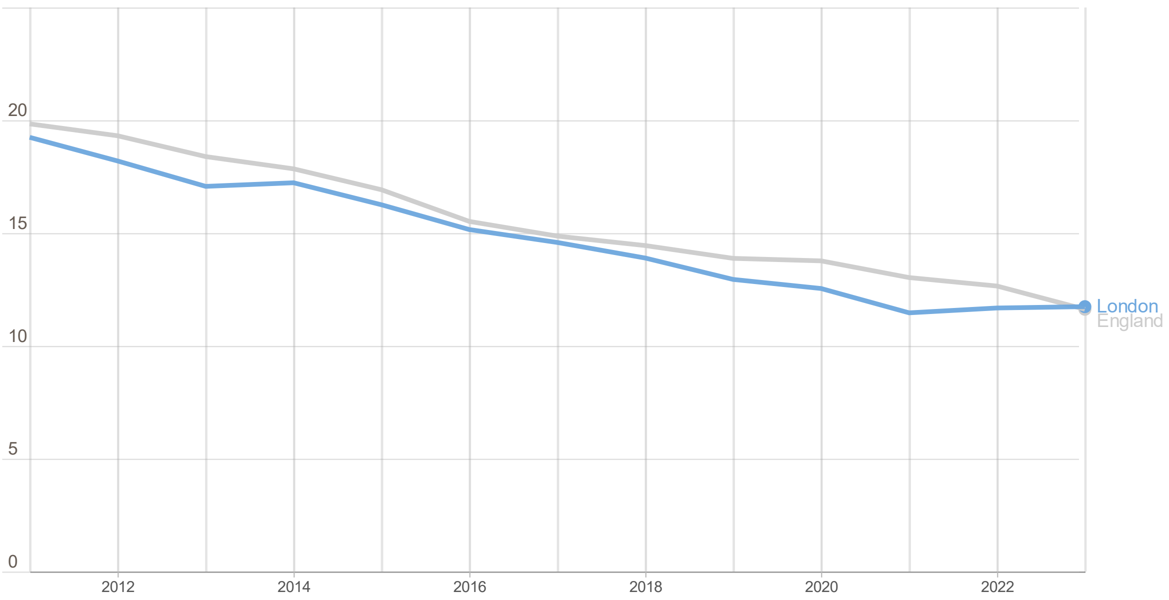


Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on Active Lives Adult Survey, Sport England)

Across London in 2023/24, more than half (57.8%) of adults were overweight or obese. The rate has been gradually increasing from 55.0% in 2015/16, but has been consistently lower than the national rate (64.5% in 2023/24). Figure 5 shows that the highest rates tend to be concentrated in Outer London boroughs, with Barking and Dagenham having the highest percentage (69.3%) and Islington the lowest (42.6%).

Figure 6: Smoking prevalence in adults

% of adults aged 18 and over who are current smokers in London and England, 2011 to 2023



Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on the Annual Population Survey, ONS)

In 2023, adult (18+) smoking prevalence in London was 11.7%, similar to the level in England (11.6%). The proportion of adults smoking has decreased over the years, down from 17.1% a decade before in 2013. Smoking prevalence in 2023 ranged from 5.3% in Richmond upon Thames to 22.3% in Ealing. The prevalence was significantly higher for males (14.4%) then females (9.1%) and varies significantly by housing tenure, with a higher rate among renters than those who own outright or with a mortgage.

In 2023, the prevalence of smoking in London for working-age adults (aged 18-64) in routine and manual occupations was 15.2%, higher than the rate among all adults (11.7% in adults 18+). Smoking prevalence among routine and manual occupations has fallen over time (from 25.7% in London in 2013)[66].

Data from the GP Patient Survey (GPPS) in 2022-23 show that smoking prevalence in London is higher in adults (18+) with a long-term mental health condition at 26.3%, compared to 15.0% in the general adult population identified from the GPPS.[67]

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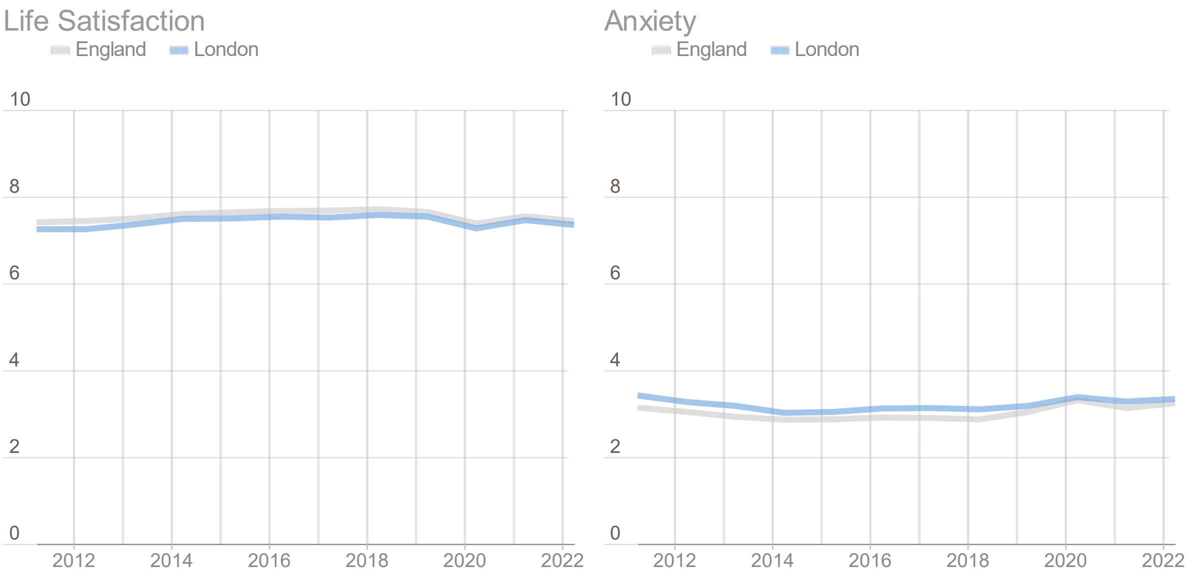
[66] OHID, Fingertips. Smoking Profile. Available from: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/tobacco-control (accessed 10/03/25)

[67] OHID, Fingertips. Smoking Profile. Available from: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/tobacco-control (accessed 10/03/25)

Figure 7: Anxiety and life satisfaction for adults

Mean responses on a scale from 0-10 to “Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday”, and "Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?” for adults in London and England, 2011-12 to 2022-23



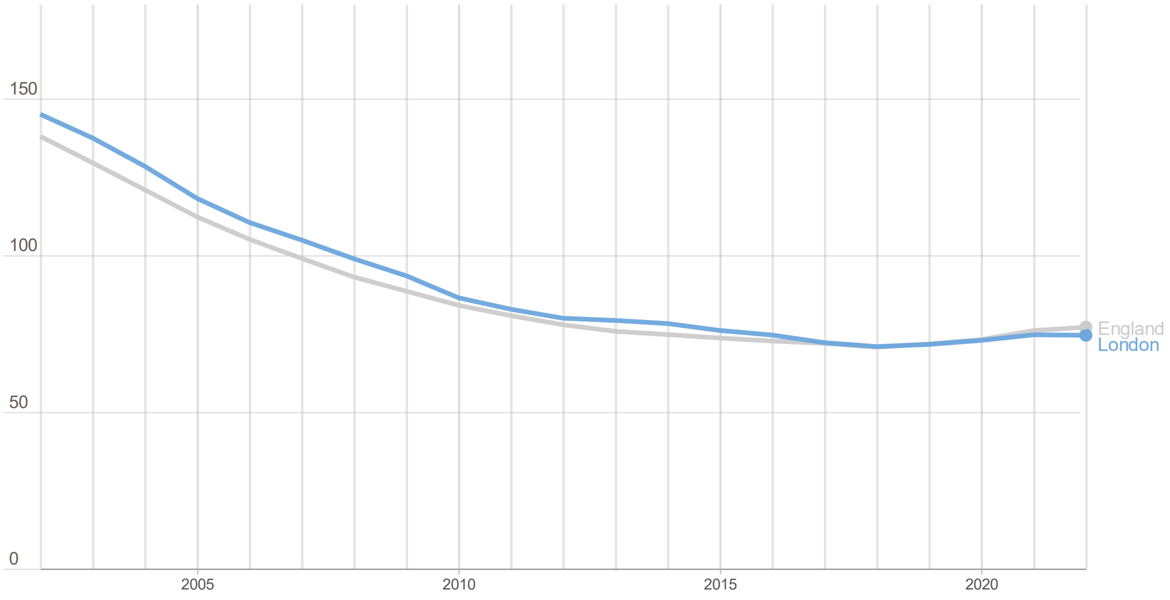
Source: Office for National Statistics (Based on Labour Force Survey)

Anxiety levels increased slightly between 2021-22 and 2022-23, from 3.28 to 3.34 in London and from 3.13 to 3.24 in England. Similarly, life satisfaction fell slightly from 2021-22 to 2022-23, from 7.46 to 7.35 in London and 7.55 to 7.44 in England.

Londoners have access to a health and care system when they need it

Figure 8: Premature death from cardiovascular disease

*Under 75 directly standardised mortality rate per 100,000 from all circulatory diseases in London and England, 2001-03 to 2021-23 (three year rolling averages)



Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on ONS data)

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and cancer are leading causes of death in London[68] and major causes of death in those under 75, which are considered premature. There have been large improvements over the last 20 years as treatments and lifestyles have improved, but there is a continued focus on improving outcomes in these areas through prevention and treatment.

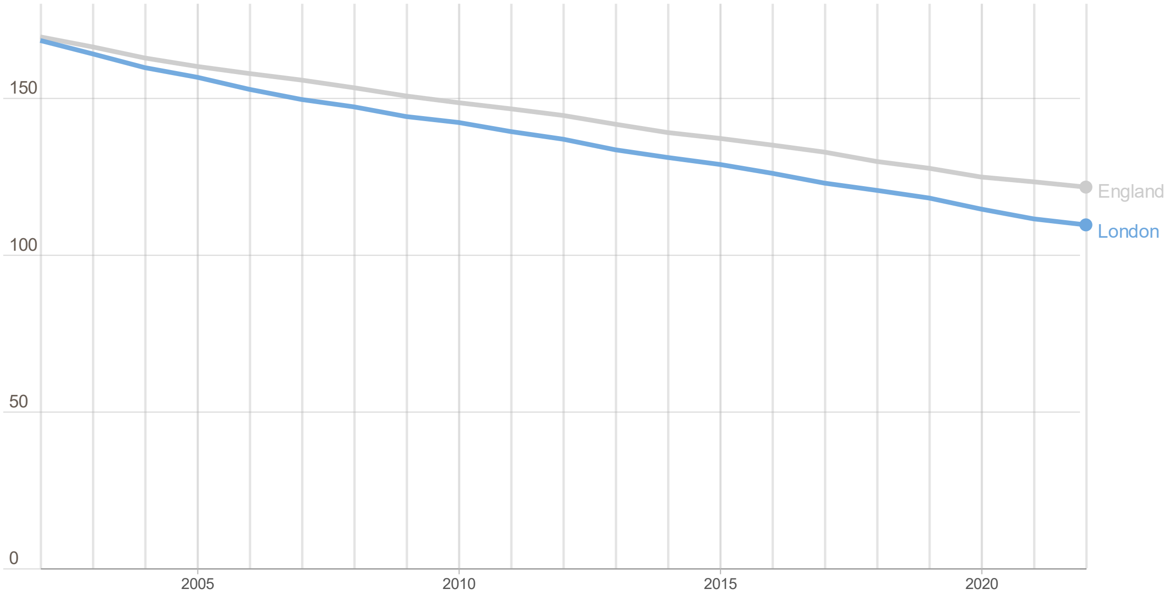
Twenty years ago, in 2001-03, the under-75 mortality rate from CVD in London was 145.0 per 100,000 and in 2021-23 this had reduced to 74.5 per 100,000, noticeably lower than the rate for England (77.1 per 100,000) in the same period. However, there has been little change in the last five years as the rates have plateaued.

There are differences in CVD rates by gender: in London in 2021-23, the rate for males was 108.6 and for females it was 43.4. The rate also varies by London borough, ranging from 47.7 in Richmond upon Thames to 115.7 in Barking and Dagenham. At the England level, the rates are strongly correlated with levels of deprivation, with the rate over two times higher in the most deprived IMD decile (110.5) compared to the least deprived decile (55.3).

[68] Nomis, ONS. Mortality statistics 2023 - underlying cause, sex and age.

Figure 9: Premature death from cancer

*Under 75 directly standardised mortality rate per 100,000 from cancer in London and England, 2001-03 to 2021-23 (three year rolling averages)



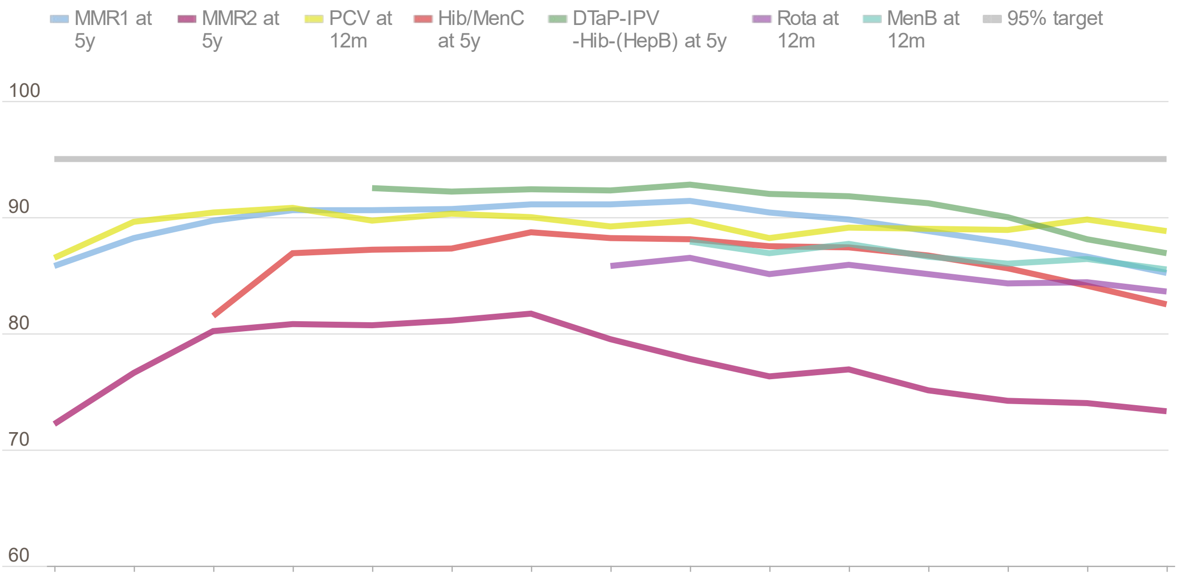
Source: Public health profiles, OHID (based on ONS data)

The rate of premature mortality from cancer has consistently decreased over the last twenty years for both London and England, with a lower rate in London compared to England, and the gap in rates between the two is widening. In 2021-23 the under-75 mortality rate in London was 109.5 per 100,000, significantly lower than the England average (121.6). The rate in London is higher for males (123.8) than females (96.8), and varies by London borough, ranging from 83.0 in Harrow to 136.1 in Barking and Dagenham.

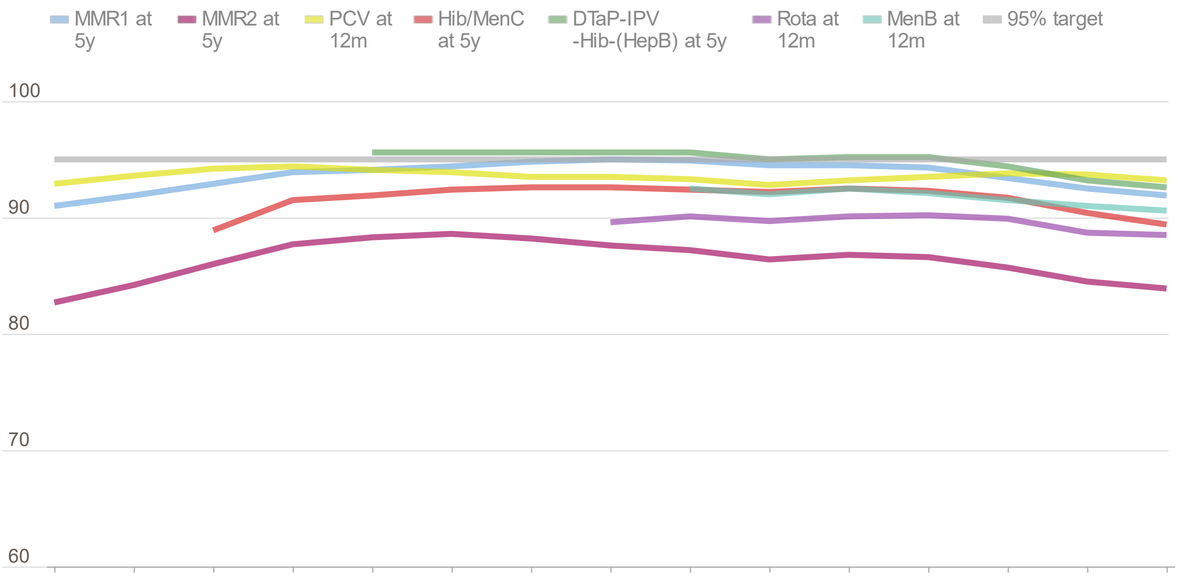
Figure 10: Childhood vaccination rates in London and England

Childhood vaccination rates (%) for selected vaccinations, 2011-12 to 2023-24

London



England



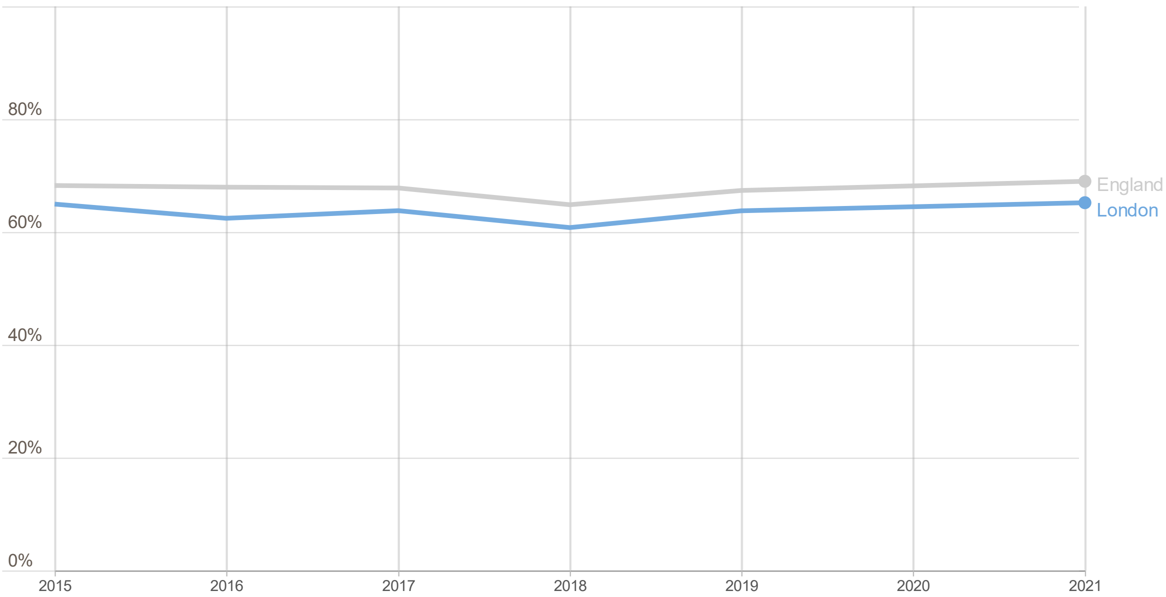
Source: [Childhood Vaccination Coverage Statistics, NHS England]

Two doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine prevent 99% of measles and rubella, and 88% of mumps infections. However, London's MMR vaccine uptake is lower than England's and has been on a downward trend since 2015-16. The coverage of full vaccination with MMR (2 doses at age 5) in London was 73.3% in 2023-24, compared to 83.9% for England and well below the WHO target of 95% for herd immunity.

Other vaccines with relatively low uptake rates in London include the Hib/MenC at age 5 (since 2015-16) and DTap-IPV-Hib at age 5 (since 2017-18). It is important to note that coverage varies across London boroughs. Variation in uptake and coverage between different communities can often reflect wider health inequalities, lack of access to NHS services, as well as trust and confidence issues. Coverage of both MMR vaccines varied markedly in 2023-24, from 60.8% in Hackney (including City of London) to 86.1% in Bromley for two MMR doses by age 5, with all boroughs in London below the 95% target.

Figure 11: Public satisfaction with the NHS

*Percentage of individuals responding either 'Very satisfied' or 'Quite satisfied' to 'How satisfied or dissatisfied would you say you are with the way in which the NHS runs nowadays?', London and England, 2015-2021



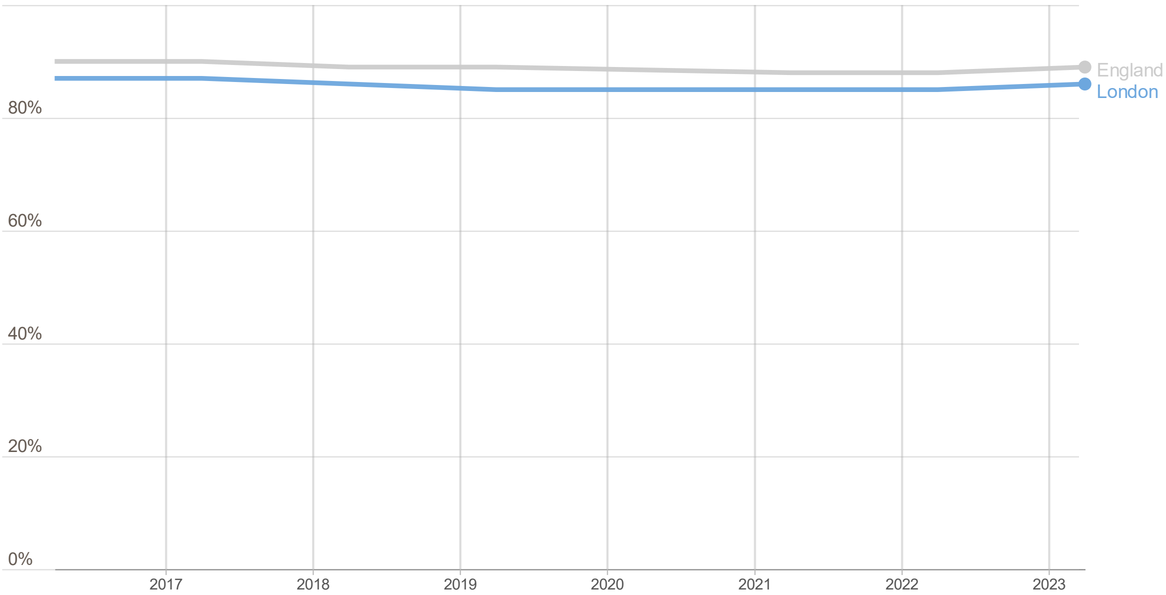
Source: [Health Survey for England, NHS Digital]()

The public's satisfaction with the health and care system is key to understanding if Londoners perceive that they have access to a health and care system that supports them when they need it. In this section we've focussed on the public's satisfaction with both the NHS and social care, recognising that there are other providers including voluntary organisation and independent providers.

The NHS Health Survey for England measures the public's satisfaction with the NHS. The proportion of individuals satisfied is consistently lower in London than in England, with the most recent data for 2021 putting this at 65% for London compared to 69% for England.

Figure 12: Public satisfaction with social care

*Proportion of individuals responding either ‘Extremely or very satisfied’ or ‘Quite satisfied' to ‘Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the care and support services you receive?’, London and England, 2016-17 to 2023-24



Source: Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey, NHS Digital

Note: The 2020-21 survey was voluntary due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and only select councils participated. Caution should be taken when comparing other years to 2020-21.

The NHS Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey measures the public’s satisfaction with social care. As seen with satisfaction with the NHS, the public’s satisfaction with social care is higher in England than London, at 86% for London and 89% for England in 2023-24. Satisfaction varies slightly among boroughs in London, varying from 80% in Southwark to 90% in Bexley.[69]

[69] Excludes City of London, which had a 100% satisfaction rate but a small sample size, so there is a lot of uncertainty in this figure.