



# Impacts of Covid-19

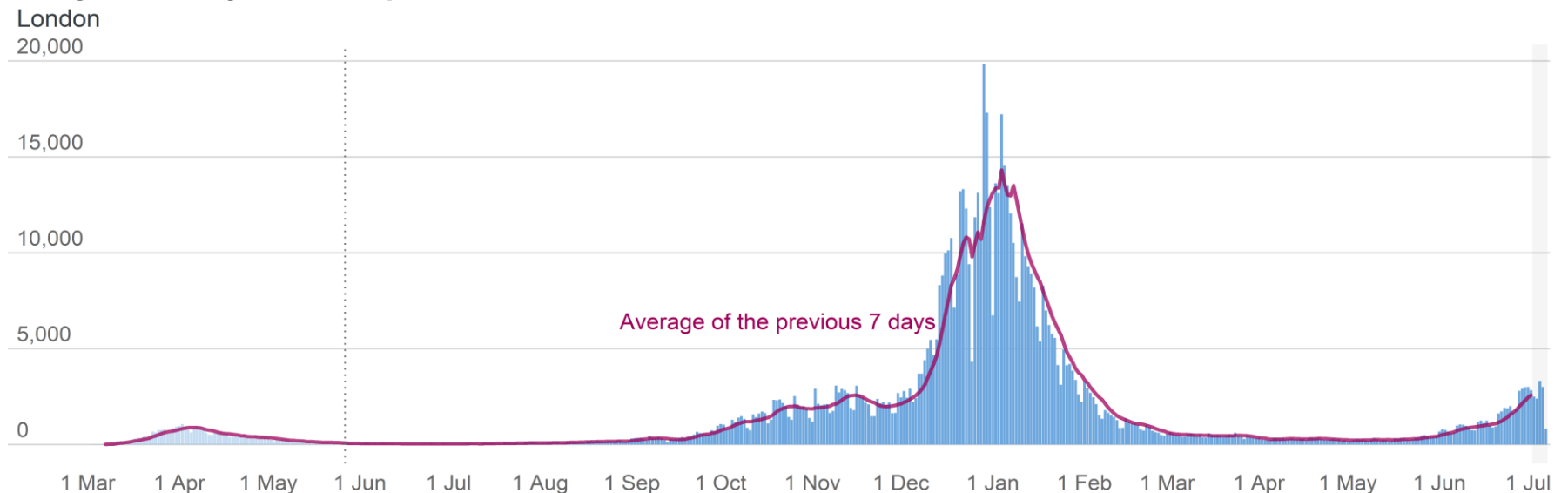
Briefing for London Recovery Board

21 July 2021

# Cases in London have begun to increase again, an estimated 1/170\* people in the city with Covid-19

- In the most recent week of complete data, 27 June 2021 – 3 July 2021, **18,889** people tested positive in London, a rate of **211 cases per 100,000** population.
- On 8 July 2021 there were **411** COVID-19 patients in London hospitals. This compares with **329 patients** on 1 July 2021
- By 25 June, total recorded Covid-19 deaths in London stood at 19,388, with 15,081 of these occurring in hospitals

## Daily Cases by date of specimen



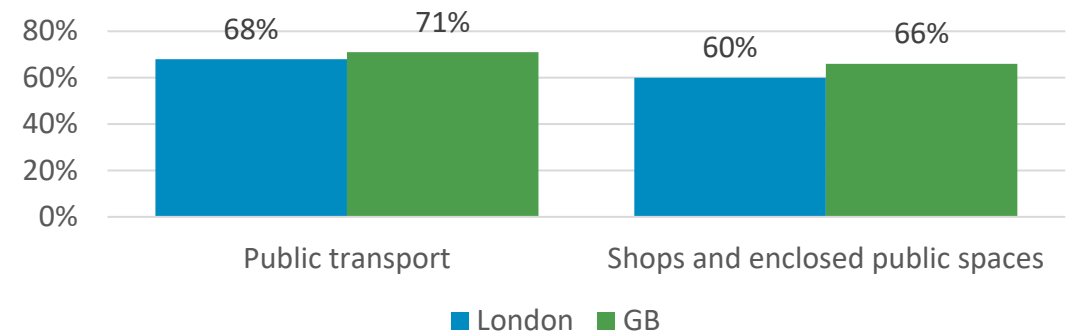
Source: PHE COVID-19 Dashboard  
Note: Recent data (shaded region) is likely to be revised upwards  
Graphic by GLA City Intelligence

\* Estimated by ONS Infection survey as at 3 July

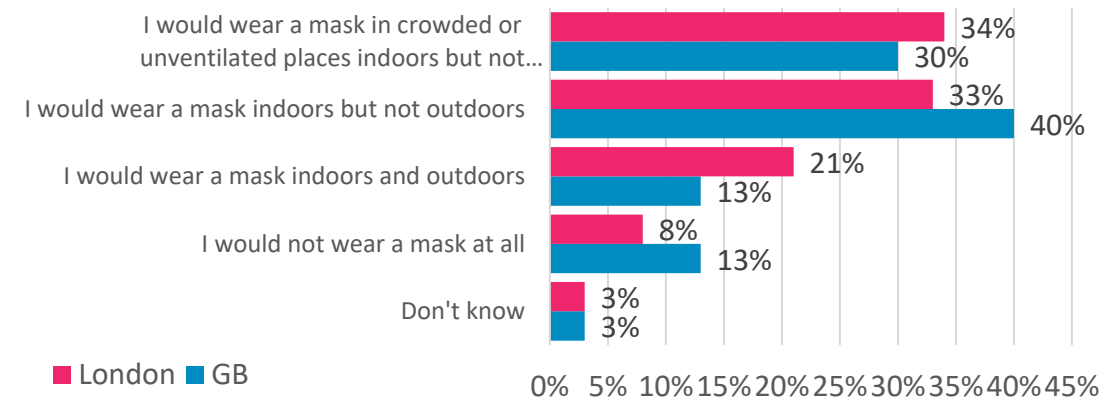
# The public support mandatory wearing of face coverings on public transport and within closed spaces. One third of Londoners would continue wearing them if given the choice

- Just over half of Londoners say that they will wear a facemask when in shops / public transport once restrictions have been lifted (54%, compared to 50% of Brits)
- The majority of Londoners support extending the face covering mandate on both public transport and within shops / enclosed public spaces when restrictions are due to be lifted; though to a lesser extent than all Brits.
- If it were a personal choice, most Londoners would wear facemasks inside to some extent – 34% say that they would wear them specifically in crowded / unventilated indoor spaces and 33% say they would wear them in indoor spaces generally. Just 8% say that they would not wear masks at all, compared to 13% of Brits.
- Just over 6 in 10 Londoners say that they would feel less safe in a crowded or unventilated area if people weren't wearing face masks (61% vs 9% who disagree). Brits are considerably less likely to feel safe at 70% vs 61%, respectively

Support for extending mandatory face masks when using...



Extent to which respondents would wear face masks if it was a personal choice

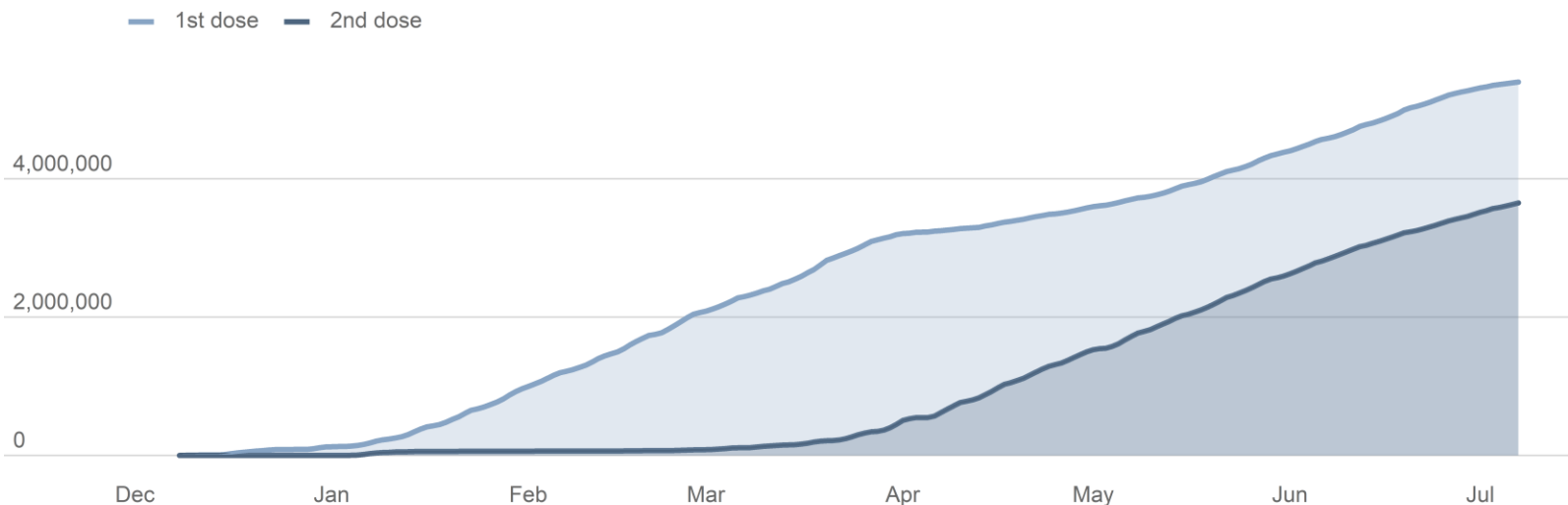


# 3/4 of London's adult population have received a first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Vaccine hesitancy has plateaued at 10% of the adult population.

- Over 85% of people aged 50 and over have received both doses of a vaccine
- By 7 July, 78% of the total adult population of London have received a first dose and 53% have received two doses – a total of 5,397,672 and 3,652,272 second doses. This equates to around 250,000 doses given each week.
- Hesitancy towards a vaccine has plateaued at 10% of Londoners saying they would be unlikely to take a vaccine. This continues to vary by age and ethnicity.

## London residents who have received vaccinations

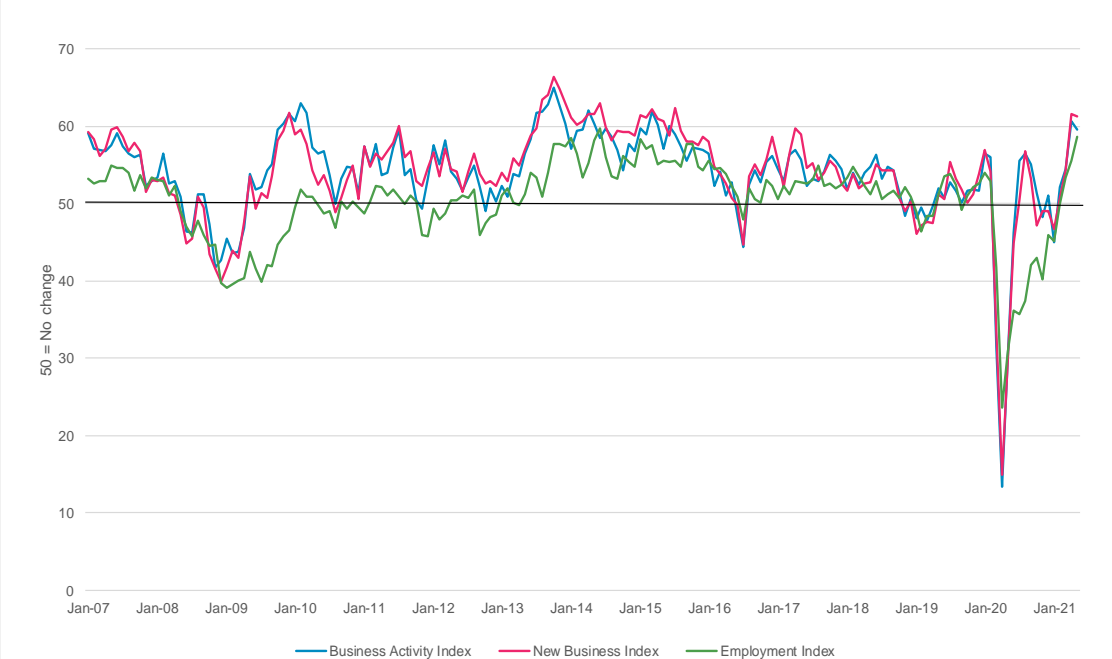
Total London population over the age of 18: 6,929,562



Source: PHE COVID-19 Dashboard  
Graphic by GLA City Intelligence

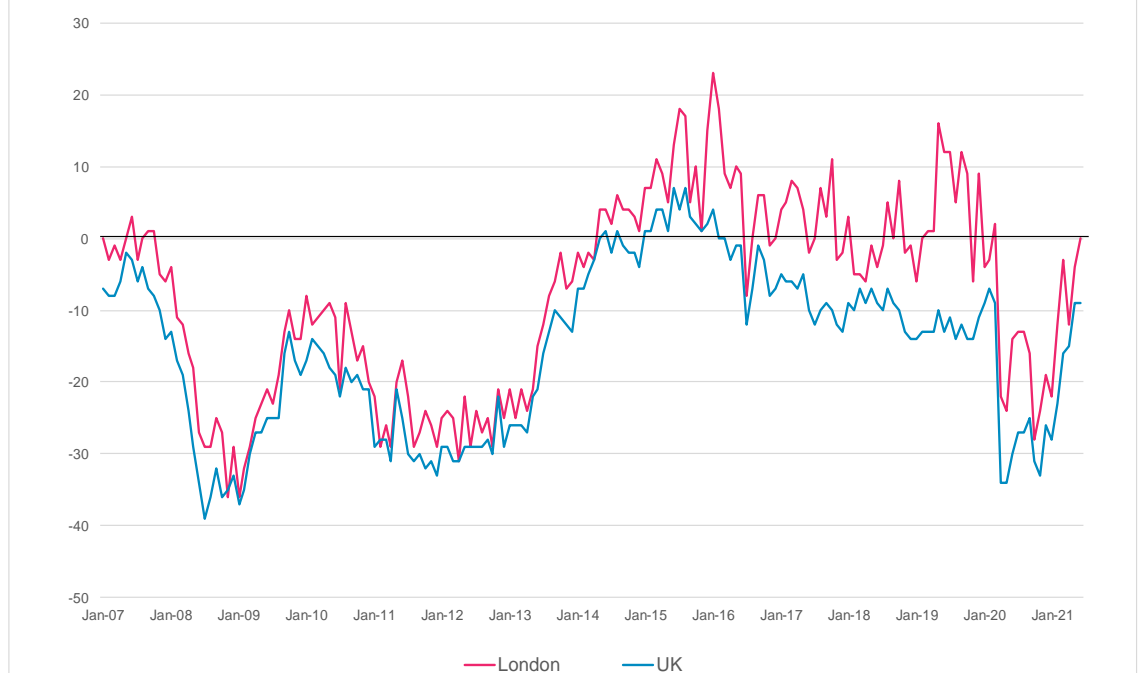
# Business activity has recovered strongly as the latest lockdown eased while consumer sentiment remains less strong but is generally improving

London PMI Business Activity, New Business and Employment Indices



Source: GLA Economics based on IHS Markit data. Last data point is May 2021

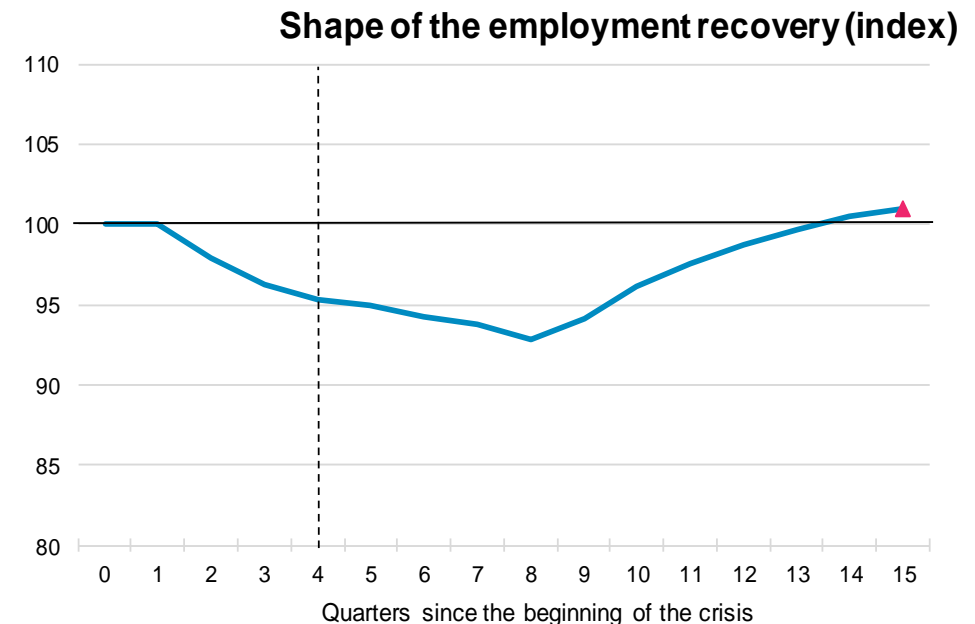
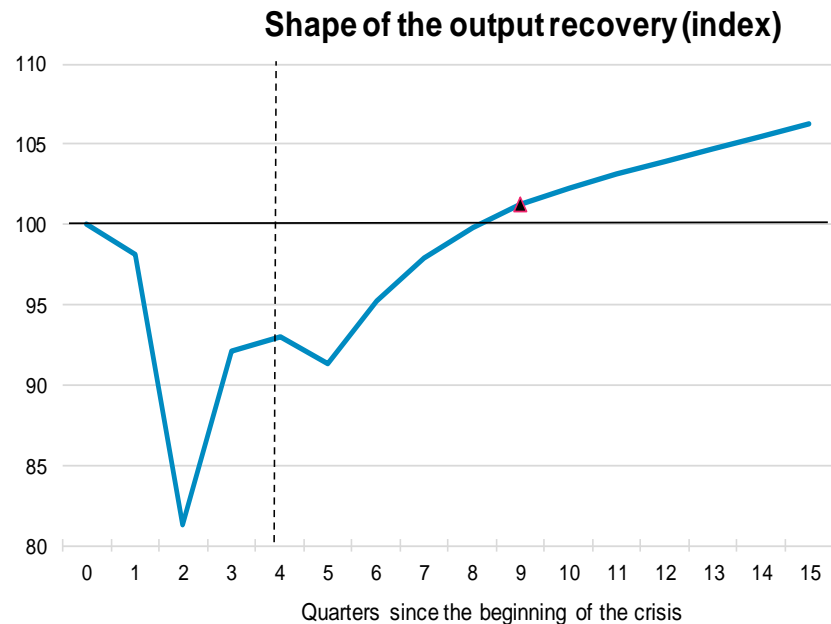
Consumer confidence index for London and the UK



Source: GLA Economics based on GfK-NOP data. Last data point is June 2021

# Output is not expected to recover to 2019 levels until 2022, and the jobs recovery is expected to be slower

- Output is estimated to have fallen by 7.5% in 2020, which is less than originally feared
- Payrolled employee jobs in May 2021 were 1.7% lower than a year earlier



Source: GLA Economics

Asking rents have fallen sharply in Inner London but are now recovering. Sales volumes were high in early 2021. Rough sleeping was down by 19% in January-March 2021.

### **Private rents**

- Rightmove report that average asking rents in London were down 7.8% in Q1 2021 compared to a year ago, compared to a national increase (excluding Greater London) of 4.2%.
- The London average masks a sharp divergence between Inner London, where rents were down 14.0%, and Outer London where they were down 1.1%.
- More recent weekly data indicates that average asking rents have risen strongly in London since the end of Q1, although they remain below pre-pandemic levels.

### **House prices**

- Rightmove also report that average asking prices in London were up 1.8% in June from their pre-pandemic level, but rose much more strongly in every other region.
- The sales market remains very active, with UK Finance figures showing 12,230 mortgage approvals in March, the highest monthly total since 2007.

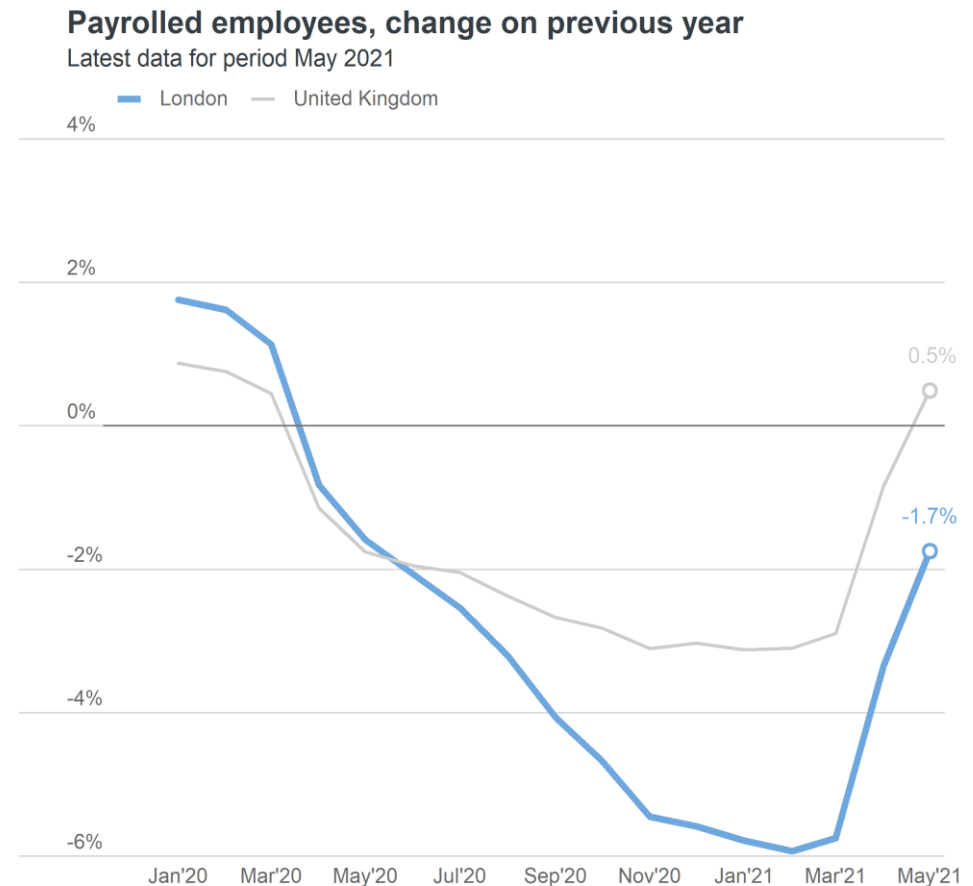
### **Rough sleeping**

- Between January and March 2021 there were 3,002 people seen sleeping in London, down 19% from the same period in 2020.

# Despite a sharp increase in May, the number of payrolled employees in London is still down by 180,000 since March 2020

There were around 3.97 million payrolled employees living in London in May 2021. This was:

- Almost 34,500 or 0.9% higher than in April 2021 (following a third consecutive month of growth).
- Still 70,500 employees or 1.7% below May 2020 levels (compared to a 0.5% increase on May 2020 levels across the UK).
- Still 180,600 employees or 4.3% below March 2020 levels (compared to a 1.7% decline on March 2020 levels across the UK).



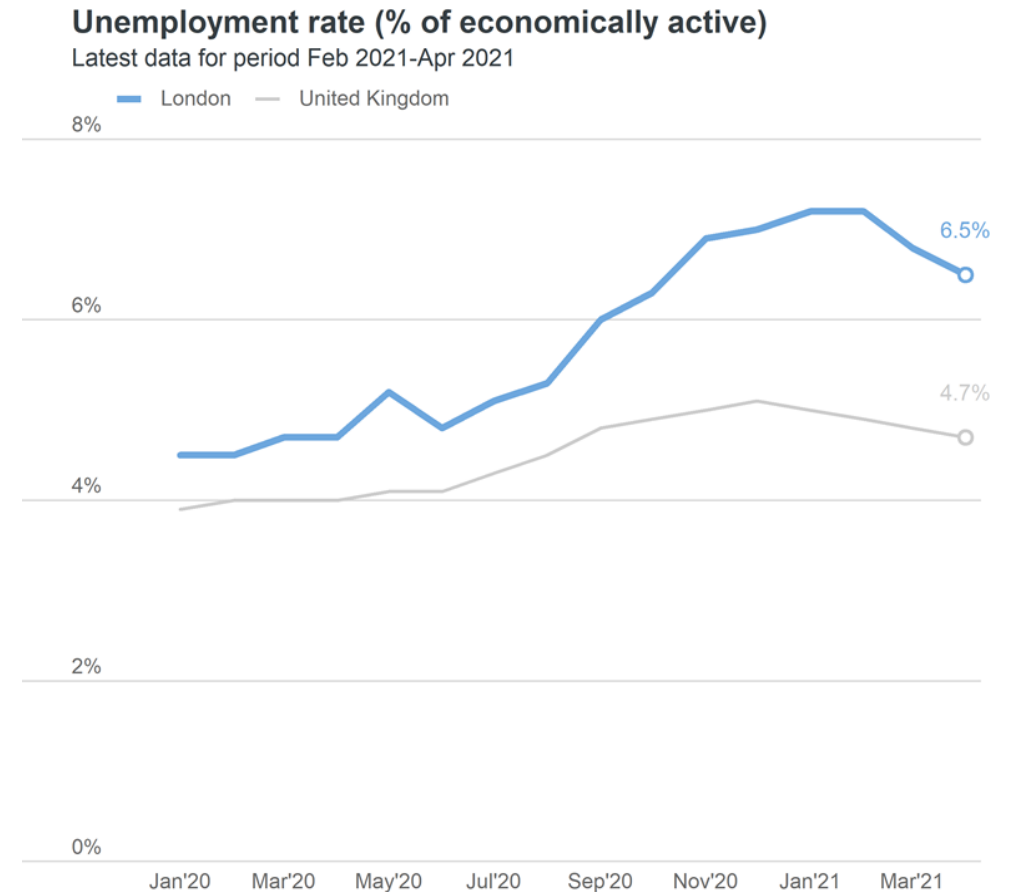
Source: HM Revenue and Customs – Pay As You Earn Real Time Information. Note: estimates are based on where employees live. March 2021 is the pre-pandemic peak in payrolled employees for London.



# The London unemployment rate was down on the quarter but still up on the previous year

For February to April 2021:

- The unemployment rate for London was 6.5% – down 0.7pp on the quarter and up 1.5pp from a year earlier.
- The **UK** unemployment rate was estimated at 4.7%, down 0.3pp from the previous quarter and up 0.7pp on the year.



Source: ONS Labour Force Survey. Note: the margin of error for unemployment rate estimates is +/- 1% for London and +/- 0.3% for the UK.

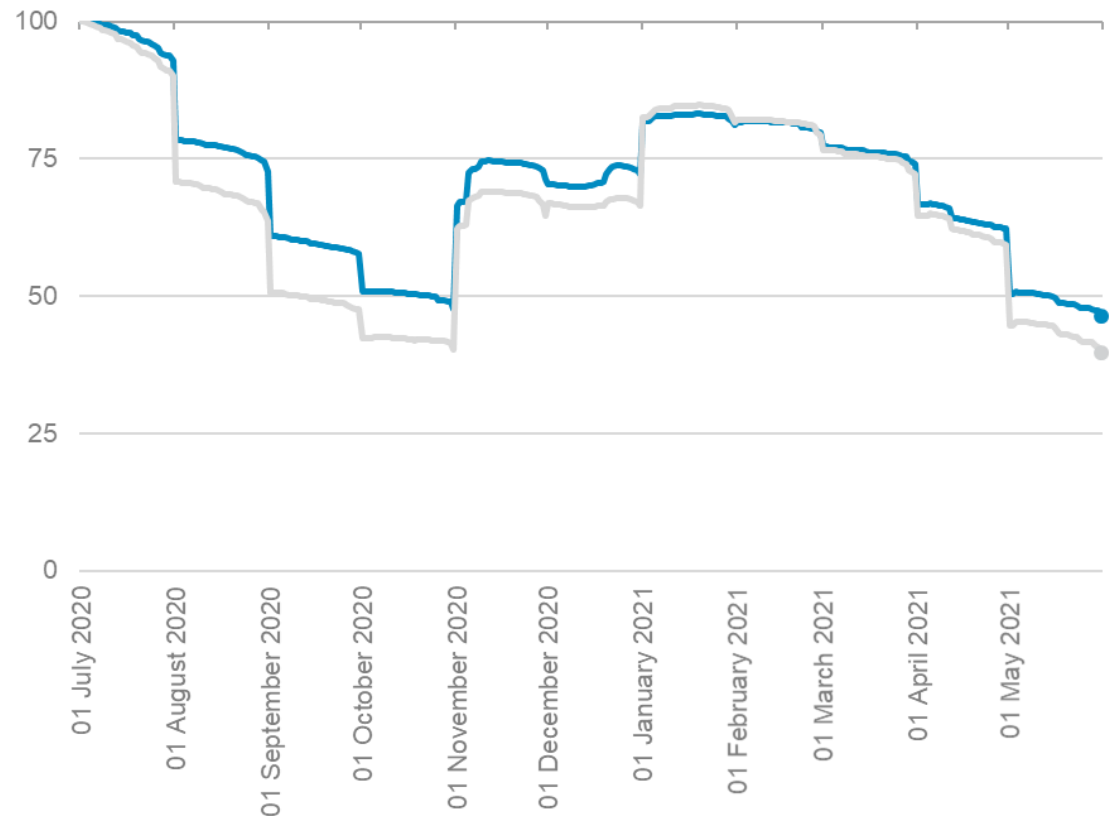
# The number of employments on furlough in London fell for the fourth consecutive month in May, in-line with the national picture

While London's recovery has been slightly slower than the UK average, the overall trend in CJRS ('furlough') claims has been broadly similar:

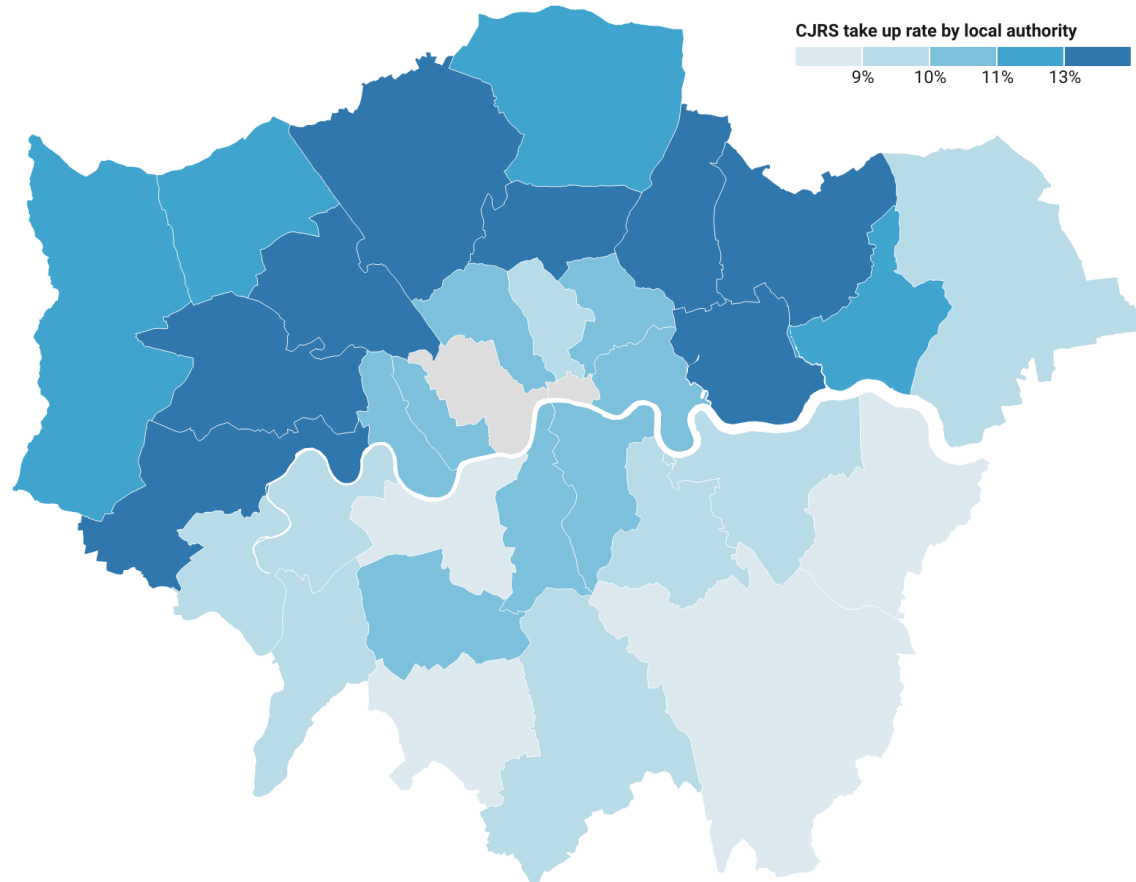
- The number on London employments on furlough last peaked at 735,600 in January 2021 and has fallen since.
- Between 31 January 2021 and 31 May 2021, the number of furloughed employments in London declined by 316,300 or 43%, while the UK furlough level declined by 52%.
- Focusing on the last month – between 30 April 2021 and 31 May 2021 – the number of furloughed employments in the capital declined by 26% compared to a 33% fall across the UK.

Trend in furloughed employments for London and UK

Index, 100 = 1 July 2020, May 2021 data is provisional



# According to the latest data Newham, Haringey and Brent continued to have the highest furlough take up rates in London



At 31 May 2021:

- Eight of the ten local authorities with the highest take up rates in the UK were in London: Newham (15%); Hounslow and Brent (both 14%); Haringey, Barnet, Redbridge, Waltham Forest and Ealing (all 13%).
- At 8% of eligible employments, four London boroughs had the joint-lowest take up rate in the capital: Wandsworth, Sutton, Bromley and Bexley.

Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2018 • Created with Datawrapper

Source: HMRC CJRS data and PAYE Real Time Information

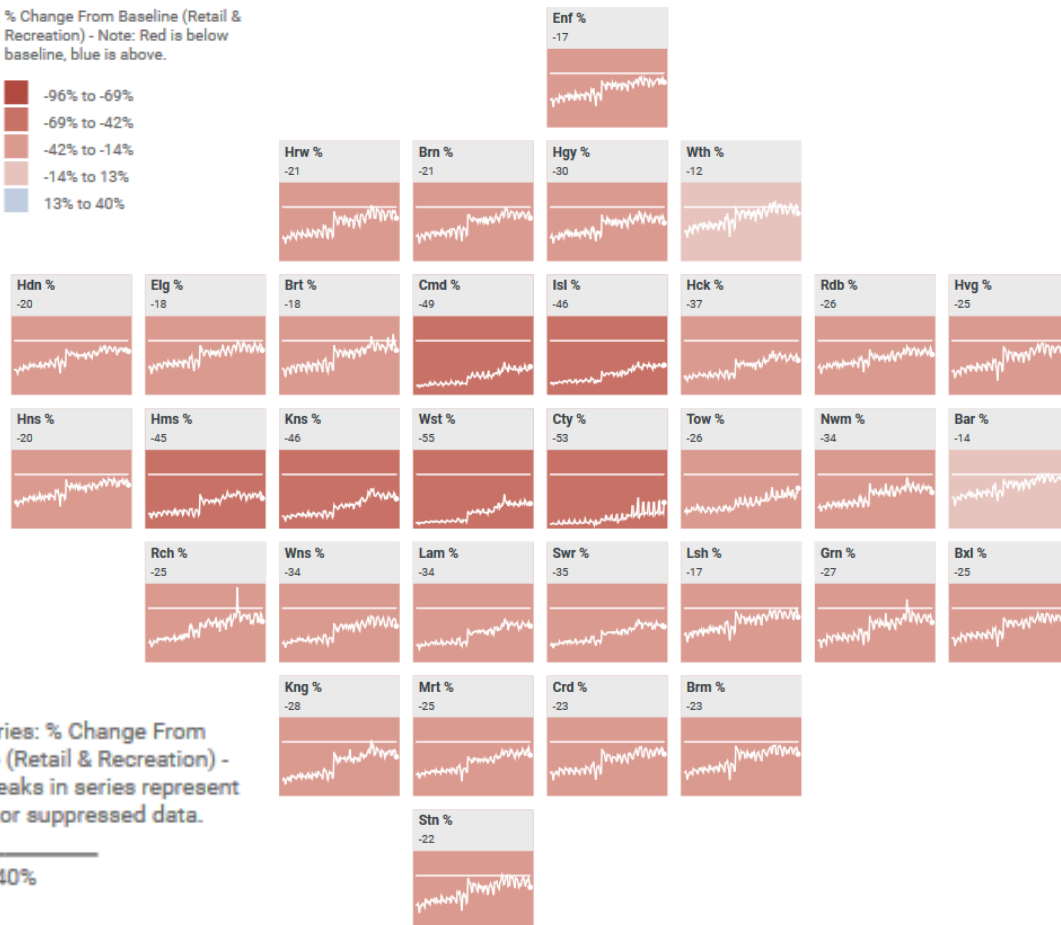
**CITY INTELLIGENCE**

# Mobility data shows the effects of recent lockdowns on movement, followed by a gradual increase. Central and Inner London continue to be affected most.

Google Mobility Data by London Borough (2021-02-03 to 2021-07-03)  
Activity % Change From Baseline (Retail & Recreation) at: 2021-07-03

% Change From Baseline (Retail & Recreation) - Note: Red is below baseline, blue is above.

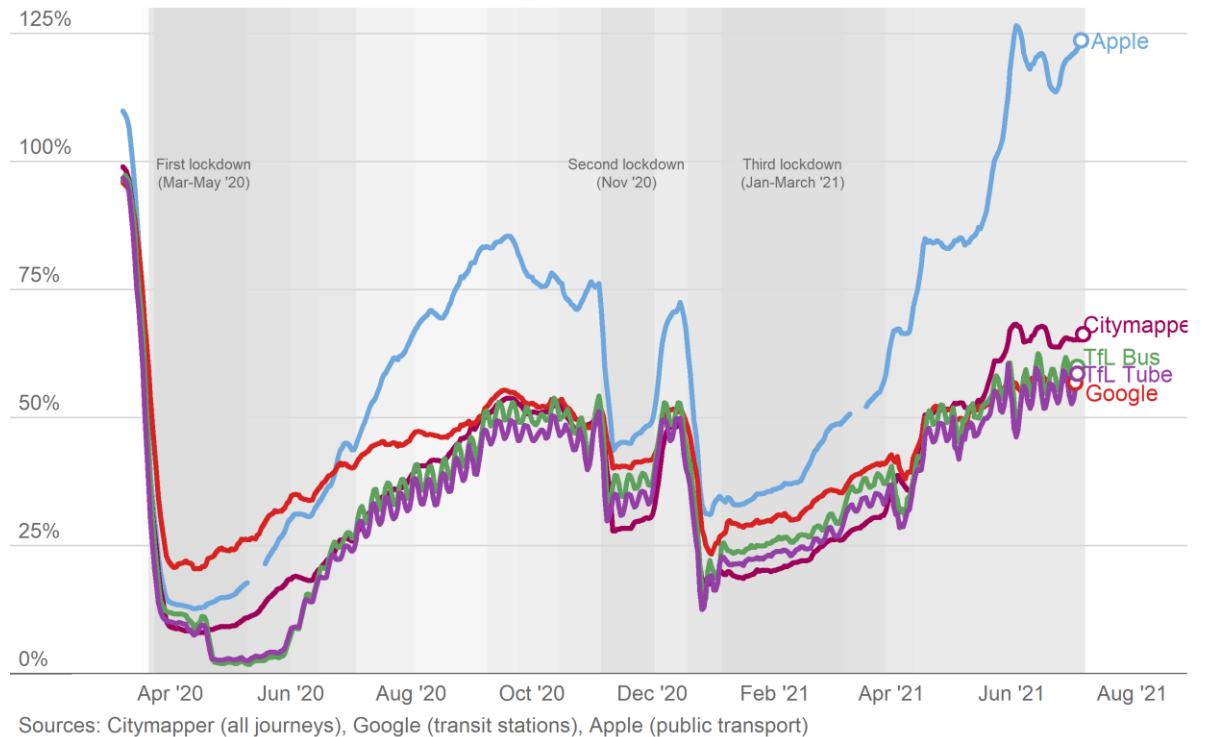
- 96% to -69%
- 69% to -42%
- 42% to -14%
- 14% to 13%
- 13% to 40%



Time Series: % Change From Baseline (Retail & Recreation) - Note: Breaks in series represent missing or suppressed data.

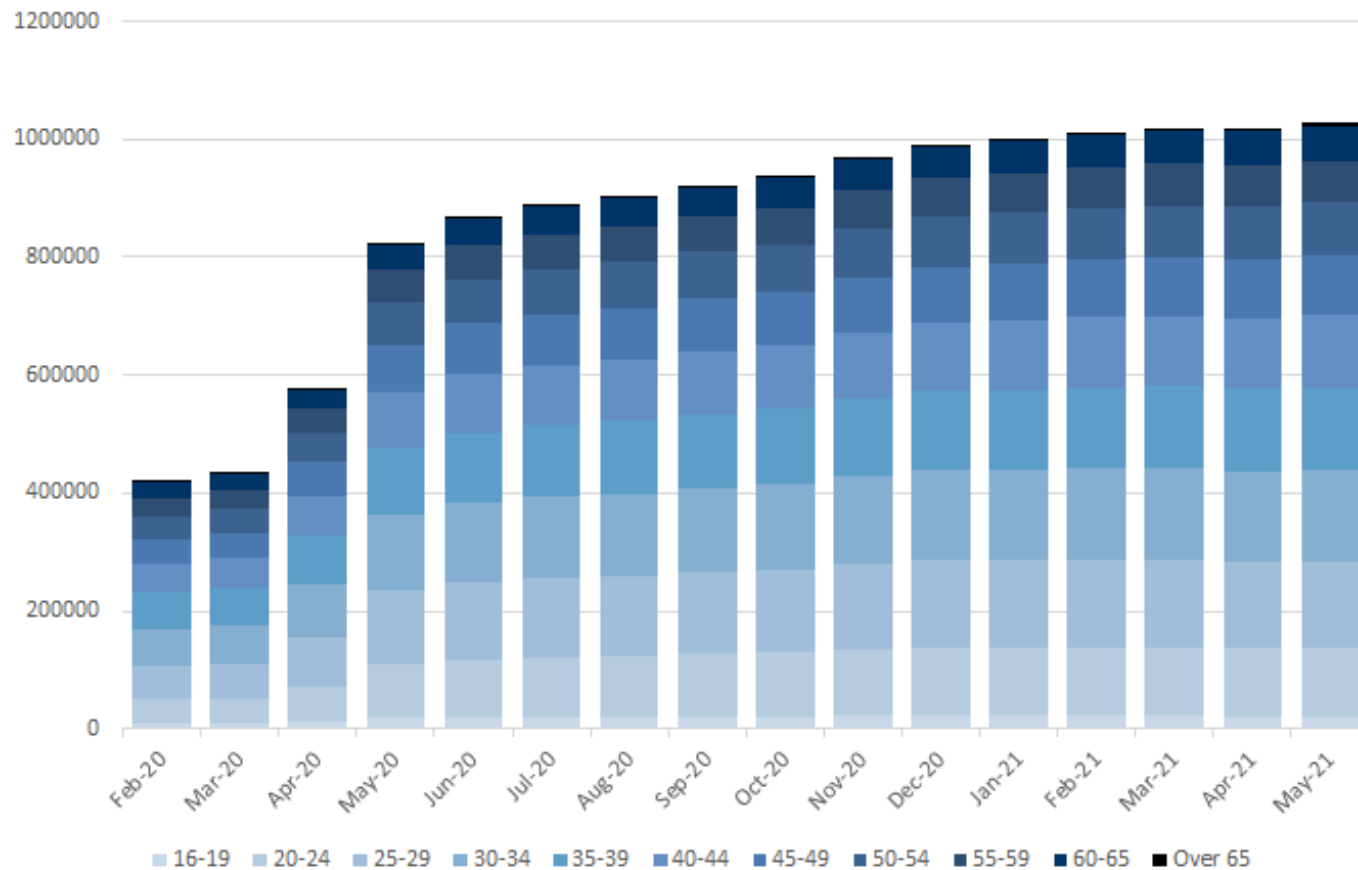
-96% to 40%

Indicators of public transport usage in London



# The number of Londoners claiming Universal Credit has remained above one million since February this year

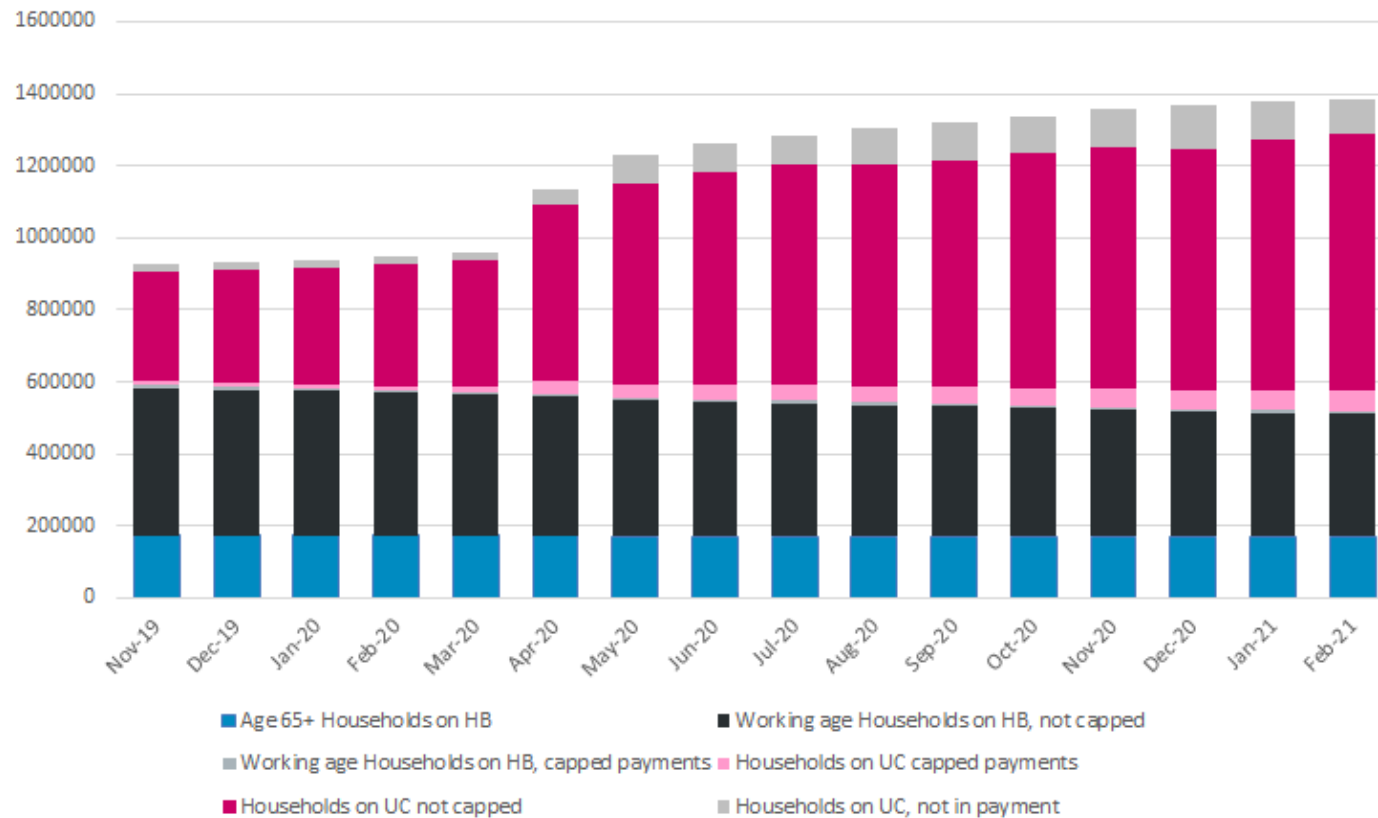
Universal Credit claimants by age



- 35% of claimants were in employment at least some of the time in March and April. The number working fully but on low income, so claiming UC to supplement their income increased by 20,000 between April and May to almost 200,000.
- 450,000 Londoners on UC were searching for work in May, with a further 175,000 doing some work but expected to look for more or better paid work. Most of these would be classed as unemployed. Both these groups are down from the numbers earlier in the year, as businesses started to open up again.

# 66,500 London households' payments are restricted by the benefit cap, an increase of 10,000 since November 2020

London Benefit Units claiming Housing Benefit or Universal Credit



- More than one million working age benefit 'units'\* in London are claiming for help with their housing costs.
- The number of London claims to which the benefit cap was applied rose by almost 10,000 between November 2020 and February 2021 to 66,500.
- Londoners with capped payments are most likely to be lone parent families (30,000), although the increase has been greatest among single claimants with no children (25,000), who also have a lower payment threshold.

Source: DWP

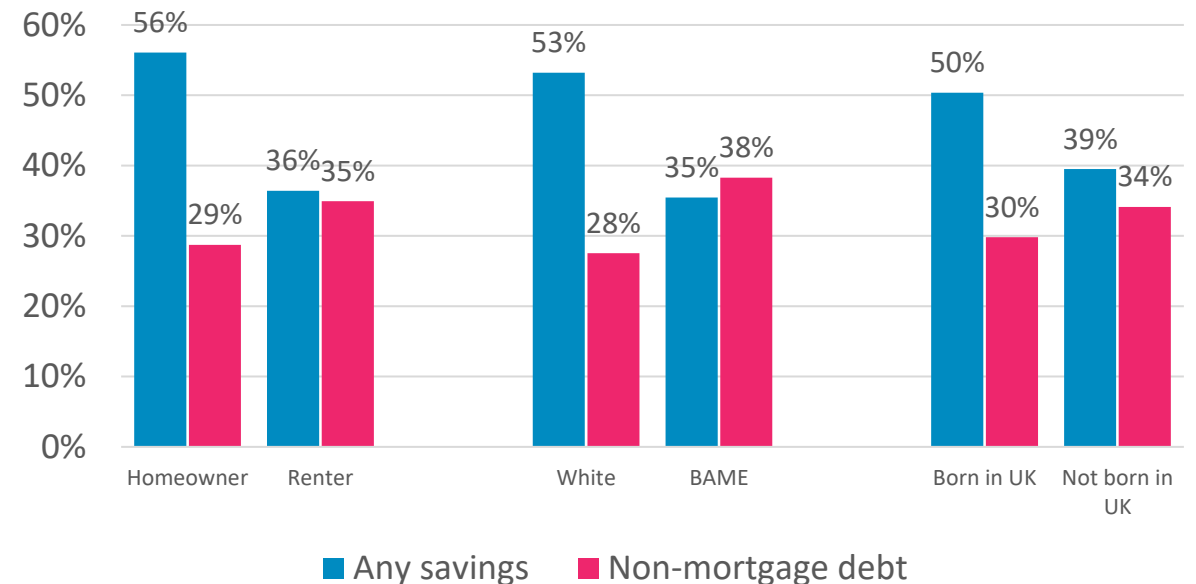
Note: A 'benefit unit' is a specific term for a 'family', consisting of a single person or a couple living together along with any co-resident dependent children. Older, non-dependent, children would form separate benefit units.

\*see chart for definition

# Renters are more likely to say their non-mortgage debt has increased recently than owners, as well as being less able to save money

- Around a third (31%) of Londoners aged 16+ say they currently owe money on debts, other than mortgages, compared to 27% in November 2020, during the second lockdown.
- Renters (35%) are more likely to say that they currently owe debts, other than mortgages compared to owners (29%).
- Nearly half (48%) of Londoners aged 16+ have been able to save some money in the last 4 weeks, other than to meet regular bills, compared to 40% in July 2020 at the end of the first lockdown.
- Renters (36%) are less likely to have been able to save in the last 4 weeks compared with owners (56%). More owners reported savings in March 2021 in comparison to July 2020 (44%), at the end of the first lockdown.
- White Londoners (53%) are more likely to have been able to save compared to BAME Londoners (35%) and are less likely to have non-mortgage debt, 28% compared to 38% respectively.

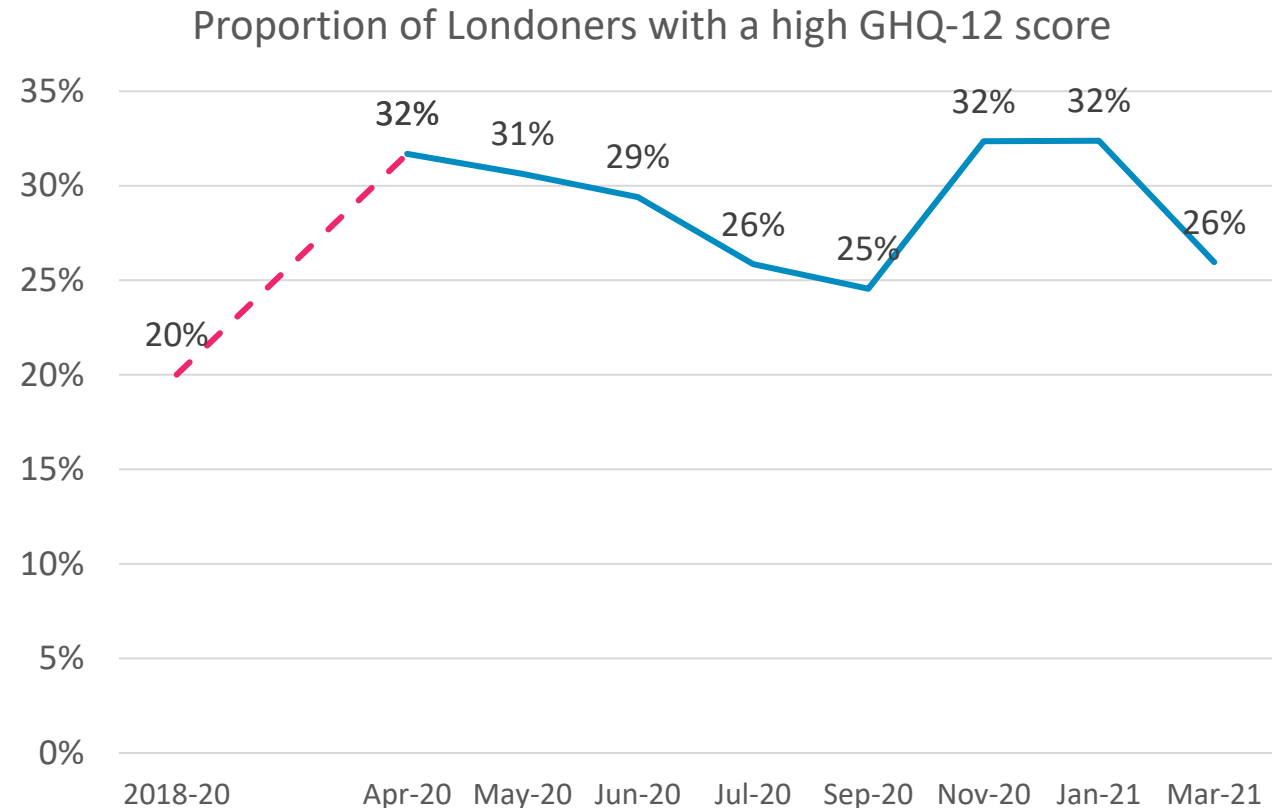
Proportion of adults who have been able to save money in the last 4 weeks and who have non-mortgage debt



Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

# In March 2021, around a quarter of adults in London are experiencing poorer mental health; lower than at the start of the pandemic

- The General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12) helps to identify minor psychiatric disorders in the general population. Higher scores are indicative of poorer mental health.
- In March 2021, as lockdown restrictions eased, around a quarter (26%) of Londoners aged 16+ reported characteristics of poor mental health, lower than levels reported in January 2021.

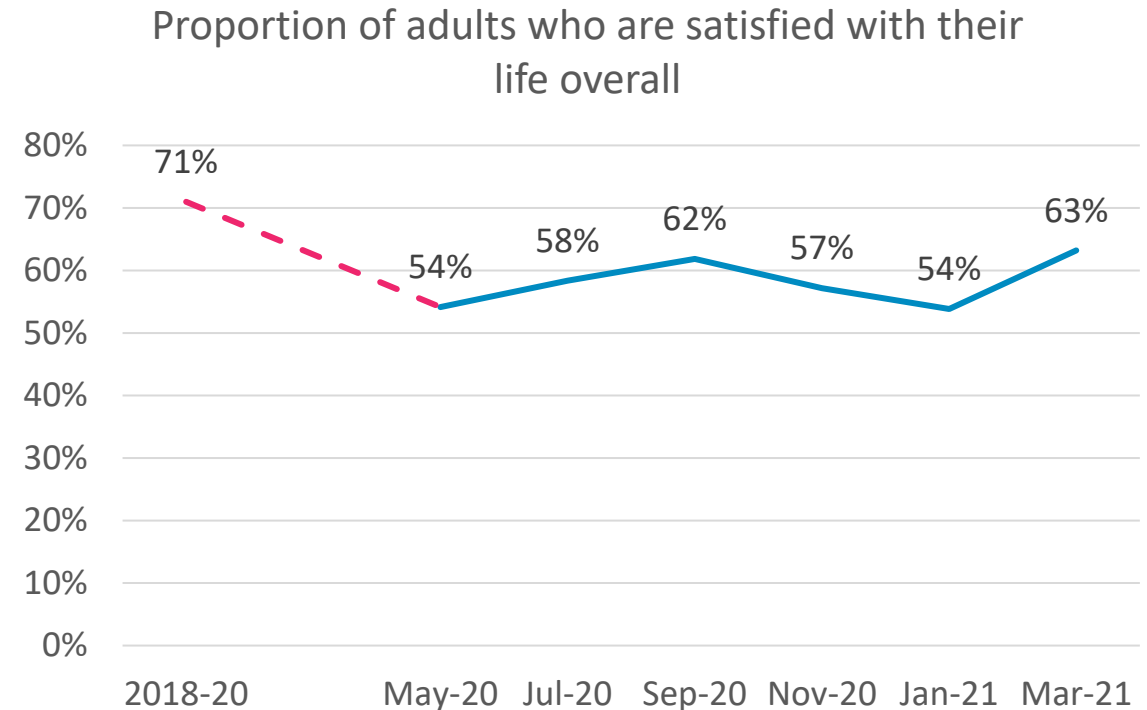


Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.



# In March 2021 life satisfaction among Londoners was greater than in May 2020, though still below pre-pandemic levels

- **In March 2021, 63% of Londoners aged 16+ reported that they were satisfied with their life overall.** This is greater than the level reported at the start of the pandemic in May 2020. The pre-pandemic estimate from this survey in 2018-20 was 71%, so remains below.
- Around seven in ten (70%) Londoners who are owner-occupiers are satisfied with their life currently compared with around five in ten (52%) Londoners who rent.
- Londoners not living with a partner are less likely than those living with a partner to be satisfied with their life currently (52% and 73% respectively).



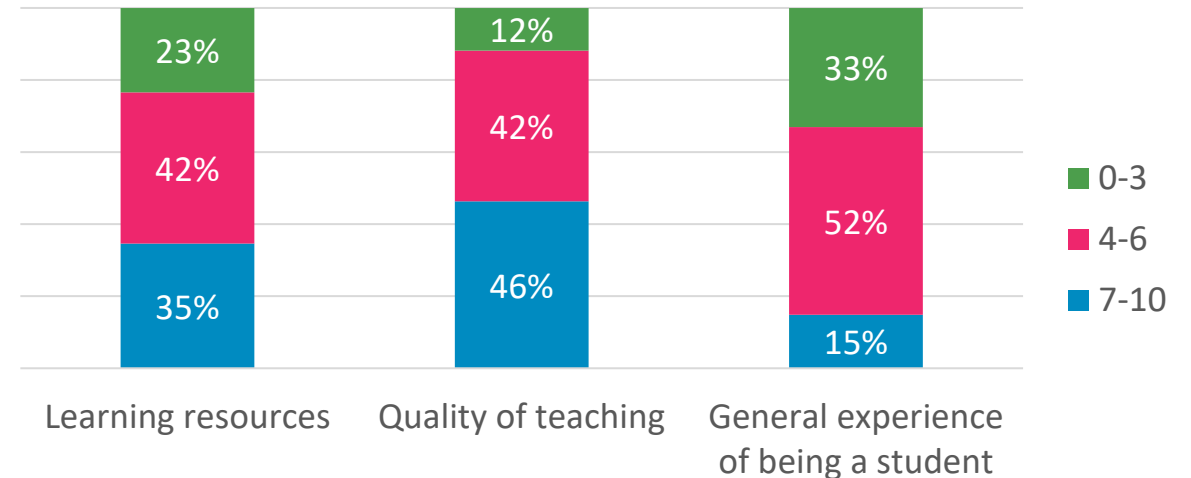
Base: Londoners aged 16+ 2018-20: 3,661; May-20: 1,426; July-20: 1,308; Sep-20: 1,138; Nov-20: 1,037; Jan-21: 1,049; Mar-21: 1063

Source: University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2021). Understanding Society: COVID-19 Study, 2020.

# In February/March 2021 most 18-21 year old students believed that their education has suffered since the academic year began

- Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) members were born in 2000-02, so a large proportion are still in education (school, college or university).
- The majority of these students (59%) believe that their educational progress has suffered a lot because of the pandemic, while a further 28% believe that their progress has suffered a little (so 86% believe that their progress has suffered to some extent).
- Of these young Londoners still in education, around a third (35%) were satisfied with the learning resources provided by their learning establishment since September 2020 (score of 7 or more on an 11-point scale).
- Satisfaction with the quality of teaching provided by their learning establishment since September 2020 was higher at 46% of students.
- However, only 15% of students were satisfied with the general experience of being a student at their learning establishment since September 2020.

London Millennium Cohort Study members in education and their satisfaction/dissatisfaction with particular elements provided by their learning establishment (0 'completely dissatisfied' and 10 'completely satisfied')

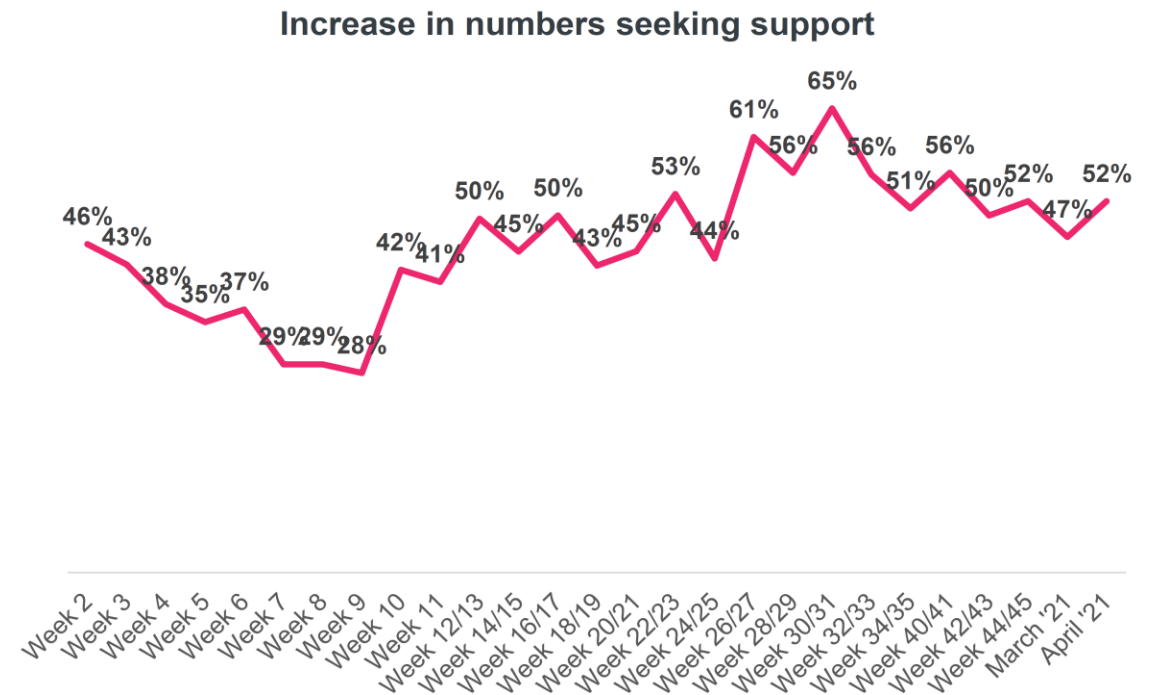


Base: Millennium Cohort Study Feb/Mar 2021: 277

Source: University College London, UCL Institute of Education, Centre for Longitudinal Studies. (2021). COVID-19 Survey in Five National Longitudinal Cohort Studies: Millennium Cohort Study, Next Steps, 1970 British Cohort Study and 1958 National Child Development Study, 2020-2021. [data collection]. 3rd Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 8658, <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-8658-3>

# In April, the main issues reported by London's civil society organisations were mental health, loss of jobs or lack of employment opportunities and social isolation

- In April the three biggest challenges that London's civil society organisations identified that the Londoners they work with were facing in the last week were mental health, loss of jobs or lack of employment opportunities and social isolation.
- Some groups have seen an increase in family tension and domestic violence that went unreported during lockdown.
- Some groups have also raised increasing health inequalities as a result of care pathways becoming increasingly digital-first, especially among older Londoners.



Source: GLA Community Response Survey

# Domestic abuse offences in May were still higher than in 2019. Racist and religious hate crime offences have been higher over the last quarter than the same period in previous years

- Domestic abuse offences in April and May were higher than the same months in 2019, but lower than 2020, which was during the first lockdown
- Following a period of relative stability, racist and religious hate crime has been sharply increasing since January of this year – although levels remain below the June 2020 peak
- Knife crime with injury rose sharply in summer 2019 but has since fallen

