

Data Management and Analysis Group

Claimant Count Model 2009: Technical Note

Guidance note to accompany published data tables



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Overview

- The claimant count measures the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). The data represent a subset of the unemployed (those claiming JSA) and provide a useful – albeit partial – measure of unemployment. Despite their limitations, they have a number of applications and are widely used.
- The GLA maintains a model that generates claimant count rates by age and gender for London boroughs and wards¹. These data are produced monthly and are designed to complement and add value to statistics already published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).
- GLA rates are different to ONS rates. GLA rates express the claimant count as a proportion of the resident labour force, whereas ONS rates express the claimant count as a proportion of the population. Additionally, GLA ward rates are available by age and are derived from a labour force base that is updated annually.
- The model is regularly updated to incorporate the best data available and is revised on an annual basis. In addition to regular revisions of the labour force base, the model has also been redesigned to incorporate changes in ward boundaries, ONS rounding of claimant data and new data on projected changes in economic activity rates.
- The latest 2009 revision, which comprises an update of the labour force base, is a straightforward update of the 2008 model; with only minor discontinuities in claimant count rates. This is a result of updated dwellings figures used for the GLA 2008 round population projections, which underpin the labour force base.
- These and previous revisions lead to discontinuities in the data which make it difficult to compare rates over time on a 'like for like' basis. This is the main limitation of the model, which is primarily designed to provide snapshot data every month as opposed to long-term trend data. These discontinuities occur in the January of each year and to assist users, January data are run for both the old and the new base so users can see the impact of the change over to the new base. The labour force base figures are for mid-year and are used for the whole of the calendar year's model.
- This guidance note explains the basis of the current 2009 model and accompanies the monthly tables which are made available on the GLA's data website every month. The note also summarises available historical data.

¹ From 2008, issues around reliability of data have meant that claimant rates for wards have no longer been produced by age by gender, though counts continue to be published. Claimant counts by age and gender continue to be produced at borough level.

Introduction

The claimant count is based on the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)² and provides a useful – albeit partial – measure of unemployment. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes a range of data on the number of claimants but data published in the form of percentage rates are more limited. For this reason, the GLA's Data Management and Analysis Group (DMAG) produces its own labour-force based rates for London. These rates are designed to complement the official population-based rates already produced by ONS.

To produce these rates, DMAG maintains a spreadsheet-based model that generates monthly claimant count rates by age and gender for London boroughs and wards. In addition, the model summarises data on duration of claims. These data are made available via the GLA's dedicated data sharing web site (<https://extranet.london.gov.uk/>).

This note explains the basis of the current 2009 model and is designed to accompany the published tables. Specifically, the note outlines:

- What the claimant count measures
- How GLA and ONS rates are calculated
- Why GLA and ONS published data differ
- Data available on the website every month
- Rounding of claimant count data, categories and precision of estimates
- Revisions to the model & discontinuities over time
- Guide to available data
- Guidance on reproducing this data in reports and on websites: copyright issues

What the claimant count measures

The claimant count measures the number of people claiming JSA. As the claimant count is a by-product of the benefits administration system, it only counts those unemployed people who are claiming JSA. GLA analysis has highlighted that some unemployed people are more likely to be missed by the claimant count than others; these include women, young people and those living in higher income households. This largely reflects the eligibility criteria for JSA. **For this reason, the claimant count is best viewed as an unemployment indicator not a comprehensive unemployment measure.**

The Government's official and preferred measure of unemployment is currently ILO3 unemployment. ILO unemployment measures those people out of work, who are actively looking for work and are available to start work. At a regional level, ILO unemployment is measured by the Annual Population Survey (formerly the Labour Force Survey). The ILO measure is more comprehensive than the claimant count as it includes the many unemployed people who are not eligible for or not claiming JSA. Recent data for London suggested that the ILO unemployment estimate was 294,000 for Oct-Dec 2008; nearly double the November

² JSA claimants include those who sign on for National Insurance credits but receive no benefit.

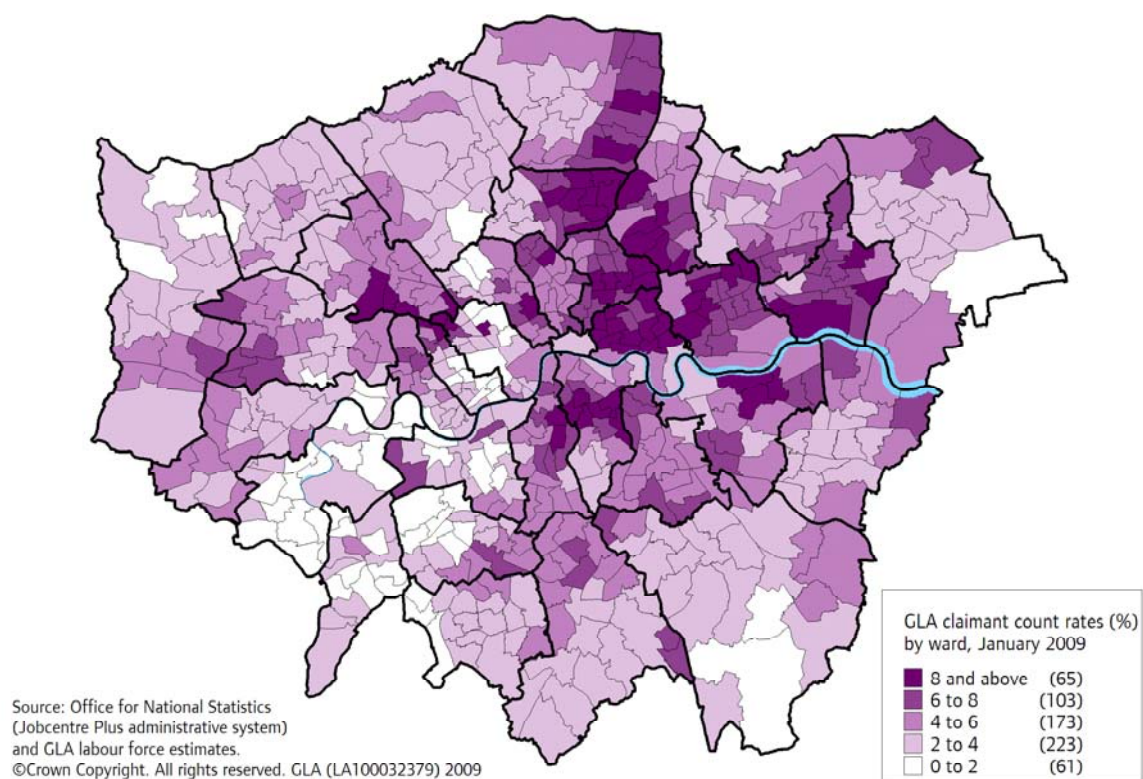
³ ILO stands for International Labour Organisation.

claimant count figure of 150,500⁴. It is worth noting, however, that in the economic downturn since mid 2008, the evidence suggests that unemployment rates for women have increased less than those for men. This change is not necessarily reflected in the claimant count data due to the rules for claiming JSA.

Despite its limitations, the claimant count is widely used because it is timely (data are available monthly around 4/5 weeks after the date of the count) and importantly, because it is available at **ward level** (Map 1). ILO unemployment estimates are not available for wards and even borough level ILO estimates (modelled and surveyed based) have high confidence intervals and cannot be generated by age or gender with any degree of reliability. Further information on ILO unemployment data for London boroughs can be found in: DMAG Briefing 2007-18 (Londoners and the labour market: Key facts) with headline figures produced in DMAG Update 17-2008 and in future Updates.

Provided users are clear about what the claimant count does and doesn't measure, it can be a very useful tool for local area profiling and has a range of applications. Research⁵ by ONS has suggested that the claimant count is a leading indicator of labour market turning points in the economy. More detail on the basis of the claimant count can be found in DMAG Briefing: *Measuring Unemployment: A guide to different sources of data on unemployment* (DMAG Briefing 2004/9).

Map 1 GLA claimant count rates (%) by ward, January 2009



⁴ Seasonally adjusted figures from the ONS Labour Market Statistics Press Release (February 2009)

⁵ *Labour Market Turning Points*, Craig Lindsay, Labour Market Trends, November 2003

Official ONS claimant data and rates

Claimant count data are made available every month by ONS via NOMIS, a website for official labour market statistics (www.nomisweb.co.uk). Data on the number of claimants are available by age, duration of claim and gender, down to ward and super output area level. All data by age and duration are rounded to the nearest five.

In addition to counts, ONS publishes percentage rates. **ONS rates, also referred to as 'proportions', express the claimant count as a proportion of the working age population.** From May 2004, ONS rates have been available down to ward level. While population-based rates can be useful, there is also demand for labour force-based rates.

Which type of rate is most appropriate really depends on the aim of the exercise in question (ie why the data are being compared). Rates that express claimants as a percentage of the labour force are sometimes preferred as they provide more sophisticated controls for differences in the composition of local populations. This is an important issue in London as economic activity rates differ significantly between areas and groups within the population. In contrast, ONS population based claimant count rates can be very useful for consideration alongside other benefits data (eg Incapacity Benefit and Income Support), which are often expressed as a proportion of the population.

Figure 1 Derivation of GLA and ONS claimant count rates

ONS claimant count rate (%)	=	$\frac{\text{Claimant count}}{\text{Population}}$	%
GLA claimant count rate (%)	=	$\frac{\text{Claimant count}}{\text{Persons economically active (excluding full-time students)}}$	%

NB: GLA rates are calculated for a range of age groups within the working age population.

ONS population based claimant rates have a number of other limitations. First, they are not published by age and second, the population base is more out of date, as they use mid-year estimates, which are published over a year later and not used as denominators for some time after that. The 2007 mid year population estimates for boroughs were published in August 2008 and the 2007 ward population estimates were released February 2009. The ward level claimant count rates, however, are currently using the 2006 population base. The design of GLA rates overcomes all these limitations.

Table 1. ONS and GLA claimant count rates for boroughs, January 2009

	Claimant rates (%)	
	ONS (% population)	GLA (% labour force)
City of London	1.4	2.3
Barking & Dagenham	4.6	6.9
Barnet	2.5	3.4
Bexley	2.8	3.7
Brent	3.9	5.5
Bromley	2.6	3.3
Camden	2.7	4.7
Croydon	3.2	4.2
Ealing	3.2	4.4
Enfield	3.8	5.3
Greenwich	4.2	5.7
Hackney	5.2	7.5
Hammersmith & Fulham	3.3	4.3
Haringey	4.9	6.9
Harrow	2.4	3.1
Havering	2.9	3.6
Hillingdon	2.6	3.5
Hounslow	2.7	3.5
Islington	4.2	5.9
Kensington & Chelsea	2.1	3.1
Kingston upon Thames	1.6	2.2
Lambeth	4.3	5.6
Lewisham	4.0	5.3
Merton	2.1	2.9
Newham	4.8	7.3
Redbridge	3.4	4.6
Richmond upon Thames	1.5	1.9
Southwark	3.8	5.7
Sutton	2.2	2.8
Tower Hamlets	5.7	8.3
Waltham Forest	4.6	6.6
Wandsworth	2.3	3.0
Westminster	2.2	3.5
Greater London	3.3	4.6

Source: GLA & Office for National Statistics

GLA claimant rates

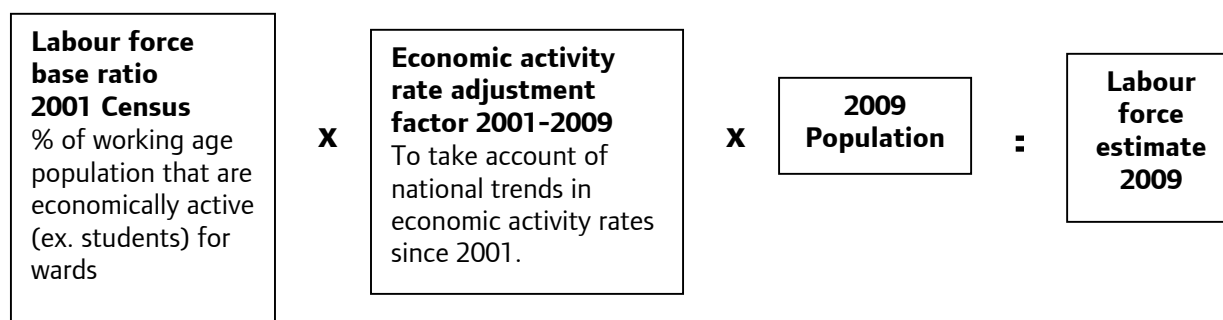
The GLA rates are designed primarily for monitoring labour market exclusion and this is the main rationale for using a labour force-based rate. The rates are intended to provide an indication of how the resident workforce is faring in the labour market and to provide like for like area comparisons. **The GLA percentage rates express the claimant count in a borough or ward as a percentage of economically active residents in that area, excluding economically active full-time students.**

Economically active people are those who are either in work or who are unemployed and looking for work (ie the labour force). Full-time students who are economically active are excluded from the base as they are largely ineligible for unemployment-related benefits and also because their exclusion provides a more meaningful comparison between areas as the student population is not uniform across London or within boroughs. As the GLA base is the labour force, which is a subset of the population, GLA claimant rates are higher than ONS rates (See Table 1).

How the GLA calculates local labour force estimates

The labour force data used in the model are estimates produced by the GLA's Demography Team. The 2009 estimates are generated by applying 2001 Census data on economic activity, adjusted for changes in national economic activity rates between 2001 and 2009⁶, to the GLA ward population projections for 2009.

Figure 2 Derivation of 2009 labour force base for local areas



Note: All calculations age and gender specific

The **population adjustments** are age and gender specific and are updated annually (usually in January) to come into line with the latest population projections for that year. Currently, 2009 labour force estimates are consistent with GLA 2008 round of population projections⁷. Additional revisions to the base can take place mid-year should improved labour force data become available.

⁶ *Projections of the UK Labour Force Trends 2006-2020*, Labour Market Trends, January 2006

⁷ GLA low projection used, released in February 2009.

The **economic activity rate adjustment** is a new feature of the model that was introduced in 2006. The current adjustment takes account of changes in economic activity rates between 2001 and 2009 and is based on ONS national labour force projections. Using these, the change in economic activity (EA) rates by age and gender between 2001 and 2009 has been used to update the 2001 Census ratios. These take on board factors such as the increasing participation rates of women aged over 50.

Appendix 1 provides more technical detail on the modelling process.

Differences between GLA claimant count totals and ONS published statistics

As well as differences in rates, claimant count totals can also differ. Borough and ward totals generated by the model will differ slightly from headline claimant count data published by ONS. This is due to (i) the issue of computerised claims and (ii) ONS use of out of date (ie 1991) borough boundaries:

- **Computerised and clerical claims**

All claimant count data used in the GLA model are based on computerised claims, these exclude manually processed claims that are not in the system at the time of the count. Computerised claims represent around 99 per cent of all claims, so count totals presented in the GLA model are sometimes slightly lower than ONS headline totals (See Table 2). Age and duration data is only available for computerised claims, which is why the model uses this as its base.

- **Inconsistent borough geographies**

The way in which ONS and the GLA deal with borough level geography is different and this is another reason why ONS and GLA borough totals are slightly different. The GLA model is entirely based on current ward and borough boundaries (in the case of London: boundaries in place at December 2002 consistent with 2001 Census geographies).

ONS prefers to publish borough and regional claimant count totals on the basis of 1991 boundaries. This is because ONS wanted to maintain consistent time-series data at borough and regional level. For the most part, borough level differences in ONS and GLA counts are trivial with the exceptions of the City, Redbridge and Barking & Dagenham. Table 2 illustrates these issues by comparing GLA and ONS borough counts on various bases.

Monthly data tables currently available via the website

The final output of the model is a large Excel spreadsheet of 266 data tables. Eight data tables are made available every month for the 32 London boroughs. In each case data is presented for wards with borough totals. In addition, a summary table is published for the London boroughs, that also has comparator data for Greater London, Inner London, Outer London, England, England & Wales and Great Britain; this also includes data for City of London. No ward tables are produced for the City of London due to the small size of its resident population. A summary of ward rankings is also produced on the basis of the overall claimant rates by gender. Data are also available for GLA constituency areas on request.

Table 2 Comparison of GLA and ONS claimant count data for boroughs, January 2009

	Claimant count				Difference due to boundaries (GLA-ONS, all claims)		Computerised as % of all claims (current boundaries)
	ONS published statistics (1991 boundaries)		GLA derived totals (current boundaries)				
	All claims	Comput-erised	All claims	Comput-erised*	No.	% change	
City of London	82	80	124	125	42	51	101
Barking & Dagenham	4,705	4,700	5,024	5,020	319	7	100
Barnet	5,248	5,185	5,247	5,185	-1	0	99
Bexley	3,851	3,850	3,835	3,835	-16	0	100
Brent	7,165	7,085	7,020	6,945	-145	-2	99
Bromley	4,728	4,725	4,744	4,745	16	0	100
Camden	4,640	4,620	4,642	4,625	2	0	100
Croydon	6,908	6,895	6,907	6,895	-1	0	100
Ealing	6,617	6,600	6,690	6,670	73	1	100
Enfield	6,820	6,805	6,925	6,910	105	2	100
Greenwich	6,120	6,115	6,088	6,085	-32	-1	100
Hackney	7,350	7,320	7,327	7,300	-23	0	100
Hammersmith & Fulham	4,076	4,055	4,042	4,020	-34	-1	99
Haringey	7,622	7,605	7,641	7,625	19	0	100
Harrow	3,247	3,210	3,279	3,240	32	1	99
Havering	3,993	3,990	3,988	3,985	-5	0	100
Hillingdon	4,200	4,165	4,215	4,180	15	0	99
Hounslow	3,956	3,940	3,925	3,910	-31	-1	100
Islington	5,832	5,805	5,814	5,790	-18	0	100
Kensington & Chelsea	2,574	2,560	2,615	2,600	41	2	99
Kingston-upon-Thames	1,671	1,660	1,677	1,665	6	0	99
Lambeth	8,530	8,505	8,469	8,445	-61	-1	100
Lewisham	7,099	7,020	7,140	7,060	41	1	99
Merton	2,901	2,890	2,903	2,890	2	0	100
Newham	7,998	7,965	7,973	7,940	-25	0	100
Redbridge	5,518	5,515	5,240	5,240	-278	-5	100
Richmond-upon-Thames	1,787	1,775	1,810	1,800	23	1	99
Southwark	7,408	7,380	7,447	7,420	39	1	100
Sutton	2,615	2,600	2,603	2,590	-12	0	100
Tower Hamlets	8,645	8,620	8,621	8,595	-24	0	100
Waltham Forest	6,747	6,740	6,743	6,735	-4	0	100
Wandsworth	4,823	4,805	4,842	4,825	19	0	100
City of Westminster	3,879	3,870	3,888	3,875	9	0	100
Greater London	169,355	168,665	169,448	168,770	93	0	100

Source: Office for National Statistics & GLA calculations (*The GLA model uses this measure)

Notes: Data on computerised claims is only available rounded (to the nearest five).

Age and duration categories

The model generates data by ward by gender, age and duration of claim. Data by age is presented for three age groups within the main claimant age group (16 to pensionable age) as shown in Table 3.

Very few unemployed 16 and 17 year olds are eligible for Jobseeker's Allowance (unless special circumstances apply) so this group tends to be significantly under represented in the claimant count. Each month, a table on young claimants by age is published to illustrate this point. In December 2006, of all London claimants aged 16 to 24, only 2 per cent were aged 16 or 17. If users require more detailed count data by age and duration, this is available direct via NOMIS (more detailed data is only available via NOMIS for counts only not rates).

Table 3 Monthly tables and age and duration categories used (2009 model)

Tables produced each month	Age groups	Duration of claim
Table 1 Claimant count and rates by gender	16-24	Up to 13 weeks
Table 2 Claimant count and rates by age, persons	25-44	14-26 weeks
Table 3 Claimant count by age, males	45-59/64	27-52 weeks
Table 4 Claimant count by age, females	(59 women	53-104 weeks
Table 5 Claimant count, young claimants by age	& 64 for men)	Over 104 weeks
Table 6 Claimant count by duration, persons		
Table 7 Claimant count by duration, males		
Table 8 Claimant count by duration, females		
Table 9 Summary ward rankings	Gender split only	
Table 10 Labour force ward denominators	Reference table by age & gender	

Ward level data by age and gender: Recent changes to tables

At ward level, claimant rates by age are produced for all persons; there are no further splits by gender. The gender split was discontinued in January 2008, due to concerns about poor reliability of rate calculations for small population groups, though ward counts split by both age and gender continue to be published. At borough level, rates split by both by age and gender are considered more robust and will continue to be published as before.

Claimant count data for Super Output Areas

The GLA model uses ward geography. However since October 2004, ONS has published claimant count data by age and duration down to lower level Super Output Area (SOA). While these data are useful, their application is limited (when analysed by age and duration) as the numbers are very small and are rounded to the nearest five. The GLA has no plans to incorporate data by SOA into the model, as it would be very difficult to produce meaningful or reliable rates by age at this level. However, count data are available freely on NOMIS, where data for larger areas of interest can be constructed.

Rounding of claimant count data, categories and precision of estimates

In June 2004, ONS started rounding claimant count data by age and duration to the nearest five. As counts were no longer precise, rates based on very low counts were less reliable. This and other technical issues associated with rounding led to a review of the GLA model design and a consequent reduction of the number of categories used.

The intention of the redesign was to limit the publication of poor quality data. Despite the redesign, in the case of some wards and age groups, claimant numbers are still very low (eg under 20). In these cases, rate estimates are likely to be less reliable, in general, the smaller the count, the less accurate the derived rate.

Even when considering data for larger groups, users need to bear in mind that GLA rates are estimates NOT precise measures. The count is rounded and the labour force base is an estimate, so all rates have a degree of error attached to them.

Historical changes to the model and discontinuities over time

Claimant count rate data on the GLA website are available from January 2002 onwards. However, the basis of the model has been revised several times since then:

- **February 2004: Change to new ward boundaries and radical overhaul of the model**
In 2004, ONS started to publish ward claimant count data on the basis of current ward boundaries (previously data had been based on 1991 boundaries). At this time, the GLA decided to substantially revise its model to reflect both the new geographies and to take account of more up to date resident labour force data (used to derive the rates). The new model improved on its predecessor, as the labour force base was dynamic and designed to be updated annually (unlike the old model which had a static base).
- **January 2005: Change of design of model to accommodate rounding and 2005 labour force base**
In 2005, the model was further revised to incorporate the rounding of claimant count data, as already mentioned. The result of this was a reduction of the number of age and duration categories, taking effect from June 2004. Additionally, the labour force base was updated to 2005. *Age and duration tables were suspended for some time whilst re-modelling took place but these were later re-instated.*
- **January 2006: Revision of model to accommodate new 2006 labour force base plus introduction of economic activity rate adjustment**
In 2006, model underwent its annual revision of the labour force base to be consistent with 2006 population data. However in addition to this, a new adjustment factor was introduced which takes account of changes in economic activity rates since 2001, based on ONS national labour force projections. The first of these adjustments (the move to 2006 population data), led to large discontinuities in the data for young people aged 16-24, as the population projections for the number of young people in London fell

significantly relative to the previous years projections⁸. This led to claimant count rates for this age group increasing considerably for many areas.

- **January 2007: Regular updating of the labour force base to be consistent with 2007 population data**

In January 2007, the model was revised routinely, with the regular updating of the labour force base to bring it into line with 2007 population data. The economic activity rate adjustment was also updated to incorporate changes in economic activity rates between 2001 and 2007. The new 2007 population data led to some discontinuities in rates (though not quite as marked as in 2006).

- **January 2008: Regular updating of the labour force base to be consistent with 2008 population data and changes to ward level tables**

In January 2008, the model was revised to incorporate the regular updating of the labour force base and to bring it into line with 2008 population data. The economic activity rate adjustment was also updated to incorporate changes in economic activity rates between 2001 and 2008. The parts of tables giving rates by age and gender at ward level were dropped.

- **January 2009: Regular updating of the labour force base to be consistent with 2009 population data**

The most recent revision to the model was in January 2009, which was the regular updating of the labour force base to bring it into line with 2009 population data. The 2008 round ward level estimates incorporate latest dwellings figures and forecasts, but there has been no significant change to the methodology, so there are minor discontinuities with previous rounds. The economic activity rate adjustment was also updated to incorporate changes in economic activity rates between 2001 and 2009.

Data for January 2009 have been run on the new and old labour force, so users can see the impact of the change to the new base.

Comparing data over time

The first of these revisions listed, which changed the ward boundary basis, means that data from February 2004 onwards are not comparable **in any way** with data from the old GLA model. This is because the two models use different geographies, have entirely different labour force bases and additionally use slightly different age categories and table layouts. The January 2004 count was the last to be released on the basis of 1991 ward geography and ONS has decided not to make retrospective data available due to concerns about disclosure control.

Later revisions, while less radical, still lead to considerable discontinuities in the data over time which can make it difficult to compare rates on a 'like for like' basis. This is the main limitation

⁸ The GLA 2005 Round Interim projections were the first to incorporate the migration age and gender structure from the 2001 Census.

of the model, which is designed primarily to provide snapshot data every month as opposed to long-term trend data. Discontinuities are most likely to occur when the January data is released each year, which is the first to incorporate the new labour force data for that year. Users who use the data to look at trends are strongly advised to highlight the discontinuity on any charts and tables that present time series data.

Historical data availability

Table 4: GLA claimant count modelled estimates: a guide to available data

	Claimant count data for months:				
Date:	Aug 1999 - January 2004	February to December 2004		Jan 2005 to Dec 2007	Jan 2008 onwards
Model	Old 1991 based model*	Current model (2004 base)		Current model (2005-2007 base as appropriate)	Current model (2008-2009 base as appropriate)
Ward boundaries	1991	2002		2002	
Labour force	1991	Mid-2004		Mid-year as appropriate	
Age categories	16-19 20-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-59 60+	<i>Feb-May:</i> 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-PA** <i>Due to rounding, the number of groups was reduced.</i>	<i>Jun-Dec:</i> 16-24 25-44 45-PA	Working age 16-24 25-44 45-PA rates by age and gender available	Working age 16-24 25-44 45-PA ward level tables on rates by age no longer include a gender split.
Duration categories (in weeks)	Up to 6 wks 7-13 wks 14-26 wks 27-52 wks 53-104 wks 105-156 wks Over 156 wks	Up to 6 wks 7-13 wks 14-26 wks 27-52 wks 53-104 wks 105-156 wks Over 156 wks	< 14 wks 14-26 wks 27-52 wks 53-104 wks 105 wks+	< 14 wks 14-26 wks 27-52 wks 53-104 wks 105 wks+	
Where is the data?	Data from January 2002 are available on the GLA data extranet. Older data are available on request.				

Notes:

- * Rates based on the old GLA model (data for months prior to February 2004) were derived using a 1991 labour force base. Consequently, rates have poor reliability, especially for wards where population change between 1991 and 2001 was high. Further advice on the use of this data is available on request.
- ** PA=up to pensionable age (59 for women and 64 for men)

Table 4 summarises exactly what monthly data are available and on what basis. Data from 2002 are available on the GLA extranet, though rates derived from the old model (pre February 2004) carry significant health warnings. This is due to the fact that the labour force based in the old model was static and related to the size of the labour force as at 1991. Consequently, reliability of rates can be poor, especially for wards that experienced high population change between 1991 and 2001. Users wishing to use this data are encouraged to contact the GLA for further advice on this issue. All data prior to 2002 are available on request.

How to access data via the GLA's website

Data tables from the model are made available every month via the GLA's dedicated data sharing website: <https://extranet.london.gov.uk/> under the topic area 'Social Exclusion'. To get access to the site, you must first register your details then you will receive a password and username that will enable you to download data each month. The site is intended for regular users. For one-off enquiries, the GLA will email data direct.

Additionally, official claimant count data direct from the Office for National Statistics is available via NOMIS (www.nomisweb.co.uk).

Reproducing this data in reports and on websites: copyright issues

As monthly data tables are based on data from both the Office for National Statistics and the GLA, users are advised to take care over reproducing data and ensure they follow copyright guidance. Specifically if organisations want to reproduce this data (via reports or websites) they must:

- Ensure that they have permission to reproduce ONS data, as they are Crown Copyright. Most organisations do this by obtaining a 'click-use' licence: (www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use).
- Ensure that the relevant source is acknowledged/visible on each table.
- Ensure that the data are reproduced accurately and not misrepresented in any way.
- Ensure that appropriate copyright statements are visible somewhere in the report:
 - (i) *Claimant count data are © Crown Copyright and are reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO and the Queen's Printer for Scotland*
 - (ii) *Copyright © Greater London Authority, 2009*

The GLA is happy to share the data with local authorities and other agencies and will give permission for tables to be made available via other organisations websites provided organisations ensure the above conditions are met. Additionally the GLA require:

- (i) That this guidance note is made available to accompany the tables.
- (ii) That the data are made **freely** available to others (ie not sold on).

Further information

Other information on the subject of unemployment indicators can be found in four DMAG publications:

DMAG Briefing 2003/26	Unemployment in London: An analysis of 2001 Census
DMAG Briefing 2004/9	Measuring Unemployment: A guide to different sources of data on unemployment
DMAG Briefing 2007-18	Londoners and the Labour Market: Key facts
DMAG Update 17-2008	Unemployment in London

If you have comments about the data or would like further information, please contact the DMAG Social Exclusion Team on 0207 983 4658 or by e-mail: sedata@london.gov.uk

Appendix 1. GLA local area labour force estimates for the 2009 model

This appendix explains how the resident labour force base, which underpins the GLA claimant count model, is calculated.

The model

The 2009 resident labour force populations are derived using data from the 2001 Census, GLA population projections and ONS Labour Force (LF) projections.

From the 2001 Census for each ward the ratio of economically active persons (excluding full-time students) to resident population was calculated for appropriate age-groups and by gender. These are the economic activity (EA) ratios.

In calculating the base for the claimant count model up to 2005, the Census EA ratios were applied to the appropriate projected population figures. However, in January 2006, ONS released national labour force projections for 2006 to 2020. These enabled the GLA claimant count model to build in data on projected EA rates for the first time. These were incorporated from January 2006.

For the 2009 model, the projected changes in EA rates between 2001 and 2009 were used to update the 2001 Census EA ratios for each ward. For 16-24 year olds, the projected rates used relate only to those not in full-time education, to ensure consistency with the Census base.

The ratios were age and gender specific to take account of differences within the population. In keeping with the standard 'working-age' definitions, rates have been calculated for ages 16-17, 18, 19, 20-24, 25-29, ... 55-59 and 60-64 (males only) and accumulated to age groups 16 to 24, 25 to 44 and 45 to 64 year olds for males and 16 to 24, 25 to 44 and 45 to 59 year olds for females. The total labour force figures are calculated by summing the age/gender groups. Borough totals are sums of the ward level labour force estimates.

2001 Census EA = Total economically active – Economically active full-time students

$$\text{Census Ratio} = \frac{\text{2001 Census EA}}{\text{2001 Census population}}$$

$$\text{EA rate adjustment factor} = \frac{\text{EA rate}_{2009}}{\text{EA rate}_{2001}} \times 100$$

LF Adjusted Ratio = Census Ratio x EA rate adjustment factor

2009 EA Base = 2009 population x LF Adjusted Ratio

Table A1. Economic activity rate adjustment factors for 2009, based on ONS Labour Force projections

Age group	16-17	18-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64
Males	92.5	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.8	98.6	99.2	99.1	100.2	101.2
Females	86.9	98.9	98.9	98.9	102.2	102.2	99.7	100.4	101.3	NA

The GLA's population projections

Every year, the GLA produces population projections by borough and ward. The projections are produced using a model that takes account of fertility, mortality, migration, electorates and housing. In February 2009 two sets of projections were released: 2008 Round Low and High.

The 2008 Round Low population projection is entirely driven by growth in housing capacity at a borough and ward level. The housing data is based on the 2004 London Housing Capacity Study (LHCS) and supplement with more recent data from the boroughs in terms of actual development up to the end of March 2008 and housing trajectories has enhanced the LHCS. At the borough level the CLG 2004-based revised household projections (released in 2008) are used to link the change in housing and the growth in population. Ward electorates are also included as an indicator of ward level population change up to mid-2007. The ONS mid-2001 population estimates as a base and incorporate ward level births and deaths up to mid-2007. Projected births and deaths follow the ONS mid-2006 based national population projection assumptions about the future course of fertility and mortality.

The 2008 Round High projection was produced in order to establish the impact on London if recent migration trends continue and ONS long-term assumptions about migration occur. The 2008 Round High assumes that London will continue to have 2002-07 average proportion of gross international flows to and from England and that future migration will follow the assumption in the ONS 2006-based national population projection.

2008 Round Low is based directly on known and assumed additional homes available in each borough since 2001 and is therefore recommended for detailed analysis and shorter-term strategic work. It is the 2008 Round Low ward projection that has been used in the claimant count model. For more information on the two projections see the forthcoming *DMAG Briefing 2009-02 GLA 2008 Round Demographic Projections*.

More information

A full working copy of the spreadsheet used to produce the denominators is available on request. A copy of the ward claimant count model, which generates the GLA rates, is also available by special request. For more information about the modelling process, please contact the GLA's Social Exclusion Data team (sedata@london.gov.uk).

Regular Briefings from the GLA Data Management and Analysis Group (DMAG)

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A full list of DMAG Briefings is available to internal customers through the GLA Intranet; otherwise please contact dmag.info@london.gov.uk A CD containing PDF versions of the Briefings, or hard copies, can be provided.

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