

Job Seekers Allowance Claimants by Ethnic Group

On 9th November 2006 the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) released figures on persons claiming Job Seekers Allowance by their ethnic group. This is the first time any benefit has been disaggregated by ethnicity and the DWP hope to do the same for other benefits during 2007.

JSA is a benefit claimed by those people who are unemployed and actively seeking work. As the count is a by-product of the benefits administration system, it only counts those unemployed people who are eligible for and claiming benefits. Coverage of young people and women who are unemployed is known to be particularly poor¹. For this reason, JSA counts are best viewed as an unemployment indicator not a comprehensive unemployment measure.

Table 1 presents a summary of the data for Greater London - the number of claimants by ethnic group and these figures as a percentage of all claimants plus the total claimants as a percentage of working age populations for those particular ethnic groups. The population figures used are the GLA 2005 Round Interim Ethnic Group Projections. These are due to be revised at the beginning of 2007 to match new population projections being prepared for the *Review of the London Plan*.

In London 43 per cent of claimants were white, 23 per cent were from black groups and 11 per cent from Asian groups. The overall rate for Greater London is 3.2 per cent. When broken down by ethnic group the rate for whites is 2.0 per cent and the rates for Black groups are on average three times higher than for whites. The rate for Asian groups is 2.6 per cent, while other groups have a rate of 5.6 per cent.

Table 1 JSA Caseload for Great London by ethnicity of claimant - summary, November 2005

Source: *Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, DWP*

	Total	Ethnicity of claimant					
		White	Black or Black British	Asian or Asian British	Other Ethnic Group	Prefer Not to say	Unknown
Total claimants (000's)	160.63	69.66	37.51	18.19	13.64	15.76	5.87
Per cent of total	100.00	43.37	23.35	11.32	8.49	9.81	3.65
Claimant rate ¹ (%)	3.2	2.0	5.9	2.6	5.6	-	-

¹Rates are calculated as a percentage of working age populations from the GLA's 2005 Round Interim Ethnic Group Projections - Sc8.07

Tables 2 to 4 show figures by London borough broken down by more detailed ethnic groups. The Black Caribbean rate is 6.5 per cent for the whole of London, this rises to 8.4 per cent in Inner London and to above 10 per cent in boroughs such as Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

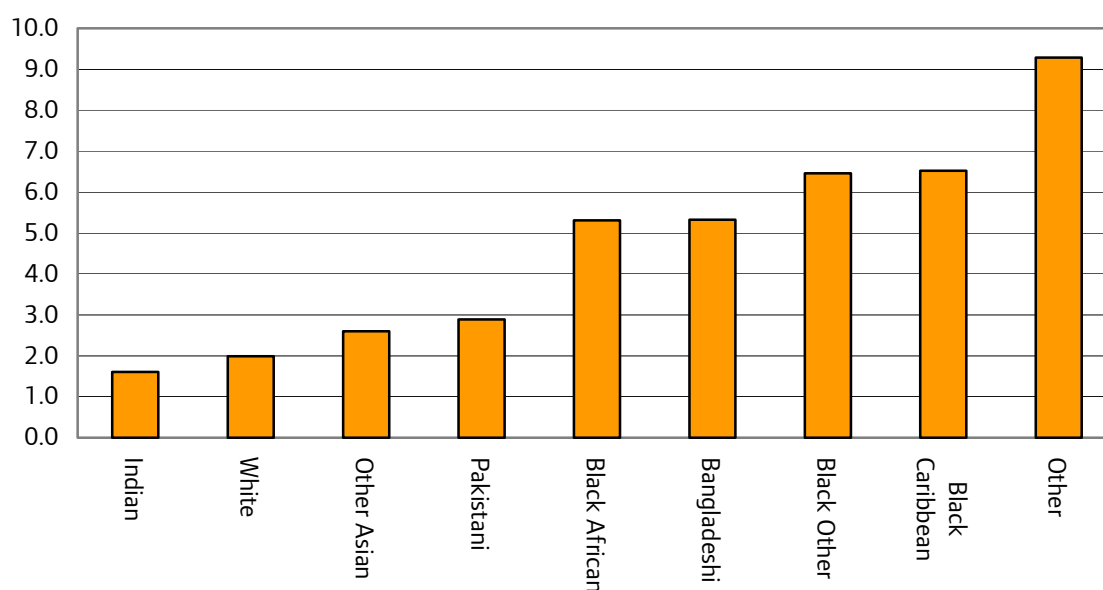
¹ See *DMAG Briefing 2004-09 Measuring Unemployment* for more on different approaches to measuring unemployment.

Tower Hamlets has high rates for many groups, the highest being 13.6 per cent for the Black other group. The rate for Bangladeshi in Tower Hamlets is 7.1 per cent, lower than any of the black groups even though Bangladeshis make up 40 per cent of all JSA claimants in that borough. It is however one of the highest rates for any Asian group in any borough – lower only than the rate for Bangladeshi’s in Havering, which is based on small numbers.

Indians on average have the lowest rates when compared to all other groups including whites.

Chart 1 JSA claimant rates for Great London by ethnicity of claimant, November 2005

Source: *Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, DWP*



Background notes:

Jobseeker’s Allowance (JSA) is payable to people under state pension age who are available for, and actively seeking, work of at least 40 hours a week. A further basic condition for the receipt of benefit is that a person claiming JSA needs to enter into a Jobseeker’s Agreement with Jobcentre Plus. The Agreement sets out:

- any agreed restrictions on the job seeker’s availability for work;
- the steps the job seeker intends to take to look for work.

In addition, to be entitled to JSA the person must:

- be living in Great Britain;
- be capable of work;
- not be in relevant education;
- not be working 16 hours or more a week on average. Additionally, the partners of claimants of income-based JSA should not work for 24 hours or more per week.

The source of the data is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study. The WPLS is a series of linked databases that allows detailed, cross cutting analysis of DWP customers. From January 2004, DWP has been able to link benefit and programme information held on its customers with employment records from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).

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Table 2 JSA Caseload (Thousands): London borough by ethnicity of claimant, November 2005

Source: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, DWP

London borough	All Ethnicities	White	Black Caribbean	Black African	Black Other	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Other	Prefer not to say/unknown
Barking and Dagenham	3.95	2.58	0.13	0.35	0.12	0.07	0.09	0.05	0.03	0.20	0.34
Barnet	5.39	2.69	0.17	0.49	0.15	0.38	0.07	0.03	0.26	0.72	0.44
Bexley	2.83	2.16	0.04	0.11	0.04	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.10	0.26
Brent	7.05	1.72	1.05	0.94	0.32	0.46	0.17	0.02	0.25	0.69	1.44
Bromley	3.88	2.97	0.18	0.13	0.08	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.13	0.31
Camden	5.34	2.50	0.24	0.60	0.17	0.05	0.03	0.34	0.11	0.47	0.84
Croydon	5.95	2.73	0.76	0.48	0.29	0.18	0.12	0.03	0.17	0.32	0.88
Ealing	5.96	1.88	0.50	0.63	0.22	0.80	0.23	0.02	0.34	0.56	0.80
Enfield	6.45	2.77	0.50	0.62	0.16	0.11	0.05	0.07	0.14	1.18	0.85
Greenwich	5.55	3.20	0.30	0.58	0.23	0.12	0.04	0.03	0.09	0.35	0.59
Hackney	7.48	2.55	1.31	0.84	0.38	0.19	0.07	0.17	0.09	0.89	0.99
Hammersmith and Fulham	3.80	1.70	0.42	0.45	0.22	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.35	0.50
Haringey	8.08	2.68	1.07	1.16	0.30	0.13	0.04	0.10	0.10	1.30	1.20
Harrow	3.08	1.05	0.17	0.21	0.09	0.44	0.09	0.02	0.22	0.33	0.46
Havering	2.42	2.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.22
Hillingdon	3.70	1.79	0.08	0.24	0.07	0.36	0.07	0.02	0.11	0.22	0.73
Hounslow	3.40	1.52	0.09	0.22	0.12	0.47	0.12	0.01	0.22	0.28	0.35
Islington	5.86	2.79	0.46	0.47	0.20	0.05	0.02	0.09	0.06	0.61	1.10
Kensington and Chelsea	2.71	1.32	0.26	0.25	0.10	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.33	0.34
Kingston upon Thames	1.44	0.96	0.02	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.02	-	0.04	0.09	0.24
Lambeth	9.14	3.14	2.02	1.28	0.54	0.09	0.06	0.05	0.12	0.59	1.27
Lewisham	7.34	3.12	1.33	0.68	0.50	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.12	0.56	0.96
Merton	3.09	1.63	0.25	0.22	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.02	0.14	0.16	0.39
Newham	7.60	2.09	0.76	1.13	0.29	0.50	0.54	0.79	0.24	0.40	0.86
Redbridge	4.07	1.53	0.24	0.30	0.18	0.46	0.36	0.17	0.16	0.28	0.40
Richmond upon Thames	1.70	1.30	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.09	0.14
Southwark	8.22	3.21	1.14	1.20	0.46	0.07	0.03	0.10	0.08	0.62	1.30
Sutton	2.17	1.55	0.05	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.09	0.26
Tower Hamlets	7.67	2.30	0.34	0.45	0.27	0.06	0.06	3.07	0.08	0.37	0.68
Waltham Forest	6.06	2.15	0.63	0.46	0.28	0.11	0.45	0.10	0.17	0.59	1.13
Wandsworth	5.15	2.33	0.70	0.46	0.24	0.11	0.20	0.03	0.11	0.25	0.72
Westminster	3.98	1.70	0.34	0.42	0.16	0.04	0.03	0.13	0.09	0.51	0.57
Inner London	82.49	31.49	10.40	9.41	3.83	1.38	1.13	4.95	1.33	7.26	11.34
Outer London	78.14	38.18	5.21	6.13	2.52	4.27	2.04	0.64	2.50	6.44	10.23
Greater London	160.63	69.67	15.61	15.54	6.35	5.65	3.17	5.59	3.83	13.70	21.57

Table 3 JSA Caseload (% of total): London borough by ethnicity of claimant, November 2005

Source: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, DWP

London borough	All Ethnicities	White	Black Caribbean	Black African	Black Other	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Other	Prefer not to say/unknown
Barking and Dagenham	100.0	65.3	3.3	8.9	3.0	1.8	2.3	1.3	0.8	5.1	8.6
Barnet	100.0	49.9	3.2	9.1	2.8	7.1	1.3	0.6	4.8	13.4	8.2
Bexley	100.0	76.3	1.4	3.9	1.4	2.8	0.4	0.4	1.1	3.5	9.2
Brent	100.0	24.4	14.9	13.3	4.5	6.5	2.4	0.3	3.5	9.8	20.4
Bromley	100.0	76.5	4.6	3.4	2.1	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.8	3.4	8.0
Camden	100.0	46.8	4.5	11.2	3.2	0.9	0.6	6.4	2.1	8.8	15.7
Croydon	100.0	45.9	12.8	8.1	4.9	3.0	2.0	0.5	2.9	5.4	14.8
Ealing	100.0	31.5	8.4	10.6	3.7	13.4	3.9	0.3	5.7	9.4	13.4
Enfield	100.0	42.9	7.8	9.6	2.5	1.7	0.8	1.1	2.2	18.3	13.2
Greenwich	100.0	57.7	5.4	10.5	4.1	2.2	0.7	0.5	1.6	6.3	10.6
Hackney	100.0	34.1	17.5	11.2	5.1	2.5	0.9	2.3	1.2	11.9	13.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	100.0	44.7	11.1	11.8	5.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.8	9.2	13.2
Haringey	100.0	33.2	13.2	14.4	3.7	1.6	0.5	1.2	1.2	16.1	14.9
Harrow	100.0	34.1	5.5	6.8	2.9	14.3	2.9	0.6	7.1	10.7	14.9
Havering	100.0	82.6	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.5	9.1
Hillingdon	100.0	48.4	2.2	6.5	1.9	9.7	1.9	0.5	3.0	5.9	19.7
Hounslow	100.0	44.7	2.6	6.5	3.5	13.8	3.5	0.3	6.5	8.2	10.3
Islington	100.0	47.6	7.8	8.0	3.4	0.9	0.3	1.5	1.0	10.4	18.8
Kensington and Chelsea	100.0	48.7	9.6	9.2	3.7	0.7	0.4	0.7	2.2	12.2	12.5
Kingston upon Thames	100.0	66.7	1.4	2.8	0.7	1.4	1.4	-	2.8	6.3	16.7
Lambeth	100.0	34.4	22.1	14.0	5.9	1.0	0.7	0.5	1.3	6.5	13.9
Lewisham	100.0	42.5	18.1	9.3	6.8	0.5	0.1	0.3	1.6	7.6	13.1
Merton	100.0	52.8	8.1	7.1	2.9	2.6	3.2	0.6	4.5	5.2	12.6
Newham	100.0	27.5	10.0	14.9	3.8	6.6	7.1	10.4	3.2	5.3	11.3
Redbridge	100.0	37.6	5.9	7.4	4.4	11.3	8.8	4.2	3.9	6.9	9.8
Richmond upon Thames	100.0	76.5	1.2	1.2	1.8	2.4	0.6	0.6	2.4	5.3	8.2
Southwark	100.0	39.1	13.9	14.6	5.6	0.9	0.4	1.2	1.0	7.5	15.8
Sutton	100.0	71.4	2.3	2.8	0.9	1.4	0.9	0.5	2.3	4.1	12.0
Tower Hamlets	100.0	30.0	4.4	5.9	3.5	0.8	0.8	40.0	1.0	4.8	8.9
Waltham Forest	100.0	35.5	10.4	7.6	4.6	1.8	7.4	1.7	2.8	9.7	18.6
Wandsworth	100.0	45.2	13.6	8.9	4.7	2.1	3.9	0.6	2.1	4.9	14.0
Westminster	100.0	42.7	8.5	10.6	4.0	1.0	0.8	3.3	2.3	12.8	14.3
Inner London	100.0	38.2	12.6	11.4	4.6	1.7	1.4	6.0	1.6	8.8	13.7
Outer London	100.0	48.9	6.7	7.8	3.2	5.5	2.6	0.8	3.2	8.2	13.1
Greater London	100.0	43.4	9.7	9.7	4.0	3.5	2.0	3.5	2.4	8.5	13.4

Table 4 JSA Caseload (% of working age population¹): London borough by ethnicity of claimant, November 2005

Source: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, DWP

London borough	All Ethnicities	White	Black Caribbean	Black African	Black Other	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Other Asian	Other
Barking and Dagenham	3.7	3.1	4.0	4.0	5.9	2.0	3.3	7.1	2.3	6.5
Barnet	2.6	1.8	6.1	4.7	5.4	1.8	2.2	2.9	3.9	4.3
Bexley	2.0	1.7	2.4	2.3	3.2	2.1	3.7	3.3	2.0	3.9
Brent	3.8	2.1	6.2	6.5	6.3	1.2	2.2	2.8	2.2	6.9
Bromley	2.0	1.8	4.3	3.6	4.1	1.0	1.9	1.5	1.3	3.2
Camden	3.4	2.2	10.1	7.2	7.6	1.1	3.0	4.4	3.6	3.9
Croydon	2.6	1.9	3.6	3.5	4.9	1.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	4.9
Ealing	2.9	1.6	5.6	9.1	6.4	2.3	2.9	2.6	3.1	3.4
Enfield	3.5	2.1	4.3	5.7	4.5	1.3	3.5	2.7	2.4	15.5
Greenwich	3.7	2.9	5.7	3.8	7.7	1.6	2.4	3.7	2.8	6.1
Hackney	5.1	2.8	10.5	5.0	6.7	3.5	5.8	4.5	3.9	12.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	2.9	1.7	7.8	7.8	7.4	1.6	2.4	4.3	2.4	5.8
Haringey	5.1	2.5	8.3	8.9	7.2	3.1	2.6	4.8	2.7	15.4
Harrow	2.2	1.5	3.6	4.8	5.0	1.2	2.5	2.9	2.1	4.8
Havering	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.6	2.6	0.9	3.1	7.6	1.1	3.8
Hillingdon	2.3	1.5	2.7	5.4	4.1	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.9	4.1
Hounslow	2.3	1.7	4.7	5.3	6.9	1.5	1.8	0.9	4.1	3.6
Islington	4.3	2.7	8.4	7.4	6.4	2.1	2.8	3.1	2.8	8.3
Kensington and Chelsea	2.2	1.4	10.4	6.1	5.2	0.7	1.1	2.6	2.3	3.1
Kingston upon Thames	1.4	1.2	2.9	3.1	1.6	0.4	1.3	-	1.0	1.2
Lambeth	4.7	2.4	10.1	6.0	7.5	2.7	3.6	3.4	4.1	7.9
Lewisham	4.1	2.7	5.8	3.7	7.1	1.1	1.2	2.6	3.0	7.7
Merton	2.4	1.7	5.1	4.6	4.3	1.3	3.1	1.6	2.3	2.4
Newham	4.3	3.4	6.1	4.4	7.0	2.2	3.2	5.1	3.1	4.0
Redbridge	2.5	1.7	3.2	4.2	7.8	1.6	2.9	4.4	2.1	6.4
Richmond upon Thames	1.4	1.2	4.5	3.1	3.3	1.1	2.0	2.7	2.1	2.3
Southwark	4.4	2.7	8.8	4.3	8.6	1.8	3.7	4.2	3.5	6.2
Sutton	1.8	1.5	2.6	2.7	1.7	0.8	1.6	2.6	1.5	2.6
Tower Hamlets	4.9	2.6	10.3	10.2	13.6	2.0	6.4	7.1	3.5	4.5
Waltham Forest	4.1	2.3	5.0	4.8	6.7	2.0	3.7	7.0	3.4	10.9
Wandsworth	2.5	1.4	9.3	6.9	6.8	1.9	5.8	3.8	2.6	3.2
Westminster	2.5	1.5	8.8	9.1	6.3	0.6	2.0	4.1	1.9	3.4
Inner London	3.9	2.2	8.4	5.8	7.4	1.9	3.4	5.8	2.9	6.2
Outer London	2.6	1.8	4.5	4.7	5.4	1.5	2.7	3.3	2.4	5.1
Greater London	3.2	2.0	6.5	5.3	6.5	1.6	2.9	5.3	2.6	9.3

¹Rates are calculated as a percentage of working age populations from the GLA's 2005 Round Interim Ethnic Group Projections - Sc8.07