

# Claimant Count data for London Boroughs

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# Outline

- GLA Economics are producing a range of outputs to track and understand the evolving impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on London's labour market.
- This includes our monthly labour market updates and briefings on government support schemes. Sub-regional data are included within these outputs where readily available.
- This briefing provides a more in-depth look at some of the latest ONS labour market statistics at a sub-regional level. The focus is on people claiming unemployment related benefits (the Claimant Count).
- More information and previous GLAE analysis can be found on our [COVID-19 labour market analysis page](#).

# Notes on the Claimant Count

- The ONS recently published June 2021 figures for the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits (the ONS Claimant Count).
- This is a timely source of data for tracking changes in the labour market at a local level. However, it should be noted that **local data is not seasonally adjusted and many new claimants will not be unemployed.**
- The increase in the Claimant Count has been more pronounced than the rise in the standard (ILO) measure of unemployment since the onset of the pandemic. There are several possible reasons for this divergence:
  - claimants may be temporarily inactive, and so not actively looking for work
  - claimants may have a job but be temporarily away from work due to the pandemic
  - claimants may be in employment but also able to claim unemployment related benefits\*
- **So while some claimants of unemployment related benefits will be wholly unemployed and seeking work, others may be temporarily inactive or away from work, or employed but with low earnings.** The Claimant Count is likely to overstate the true level of unemployment but may also pick up people at risk of job loss.
- Under Universal Credit, a broader span of claimants are also required to look for work than under Jobseeker's Allowance. The [DWP Alternative Claimant Count](#) series adjusts for this over time. However, that series is less timely than the ONS Claimant Count and the differences between the two are minimal for recent periods.

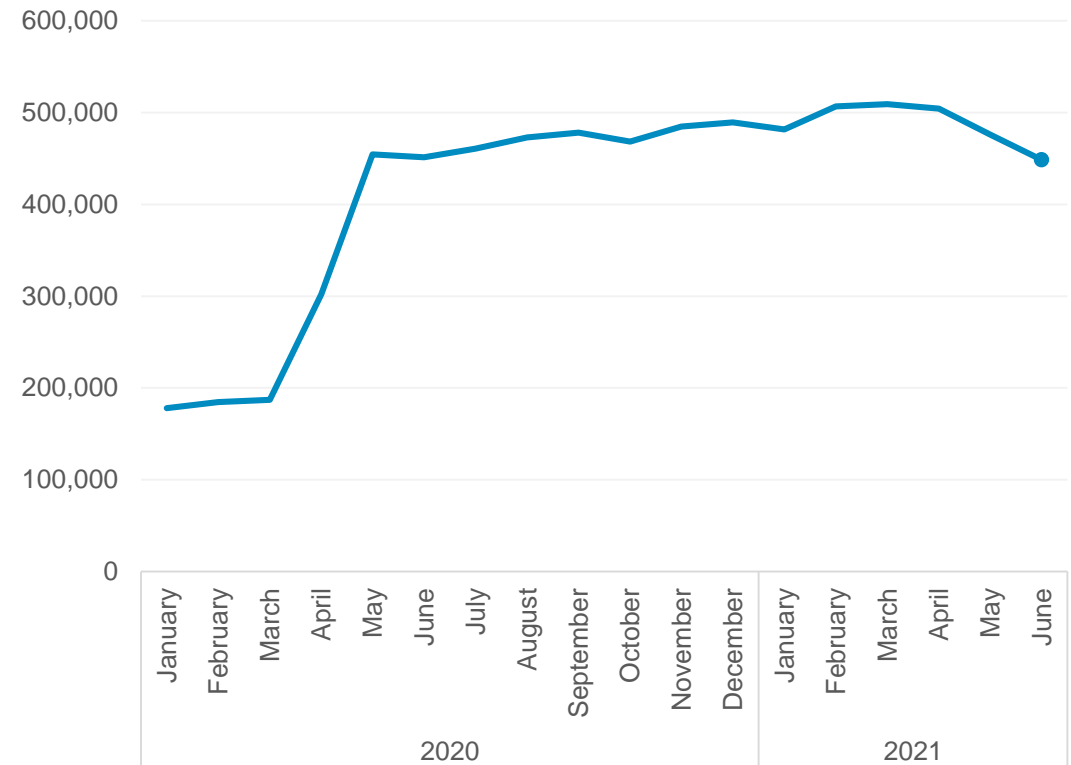
\*This point warrants particular attention. As part of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, a number of enhancements were introduced to Universal Credit. These measures increased the number of employed people eligible for Universal Credit through their earnings falling below income thresholds.

# Just under 450k people in the capital are now claiming unemployment related benefits following a third consecutive monthly drop

- Looking at changes in the Claimant Count in London since March 2020, when the lockdown began, gives an indication of the impacts of the coronavirus.
- Between March 2020 and June 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has more than doubled – rising from around 187,000 to 448,500 (+140%).
- Between March 2020 and May 2020, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count had risen by roughly 267,700 (+143%). Between May 2020 and June 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has dropped by 6,200 (-1%).
- Between May 2021 and June 2021, The non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count fell by roughly 27,600 (-6%).
- The following slides present a breakdown of the latest data for people living in local authorities in London.

**ONS Claimant Count in London**

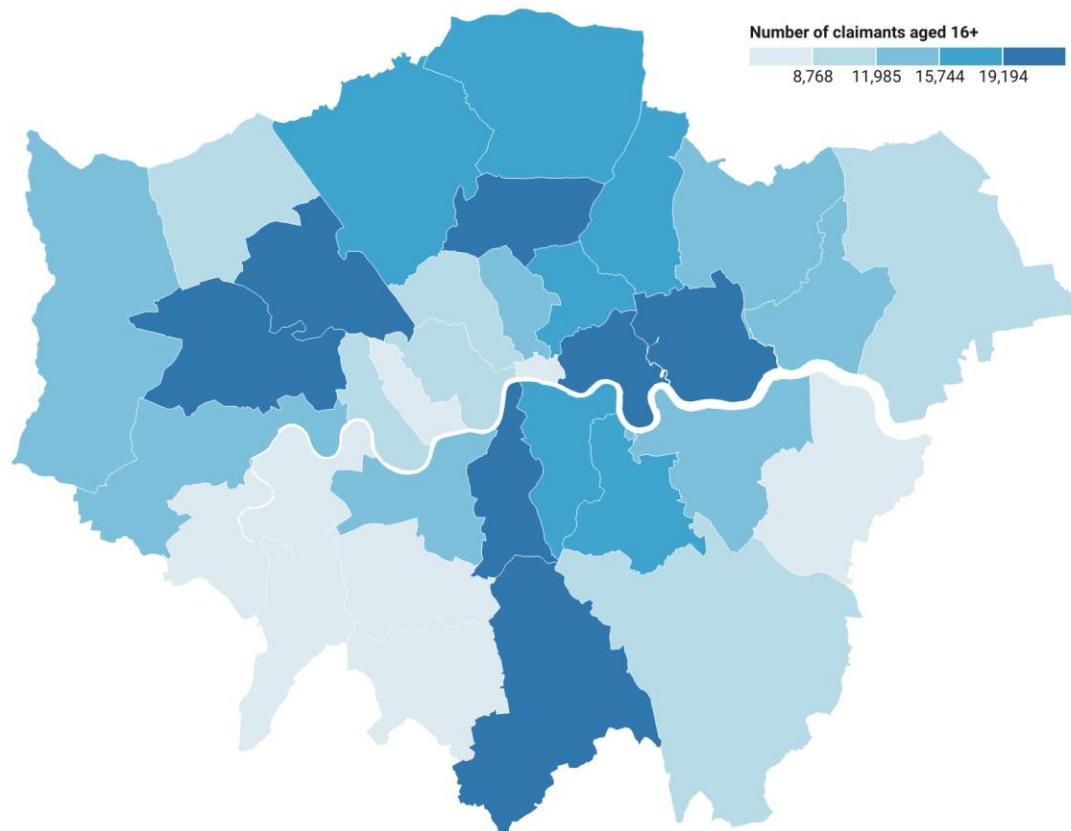
January 2020 to June 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – \*data is not seasonally adjusted (NSA). Note that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not be due wholly to changes in unemployment.

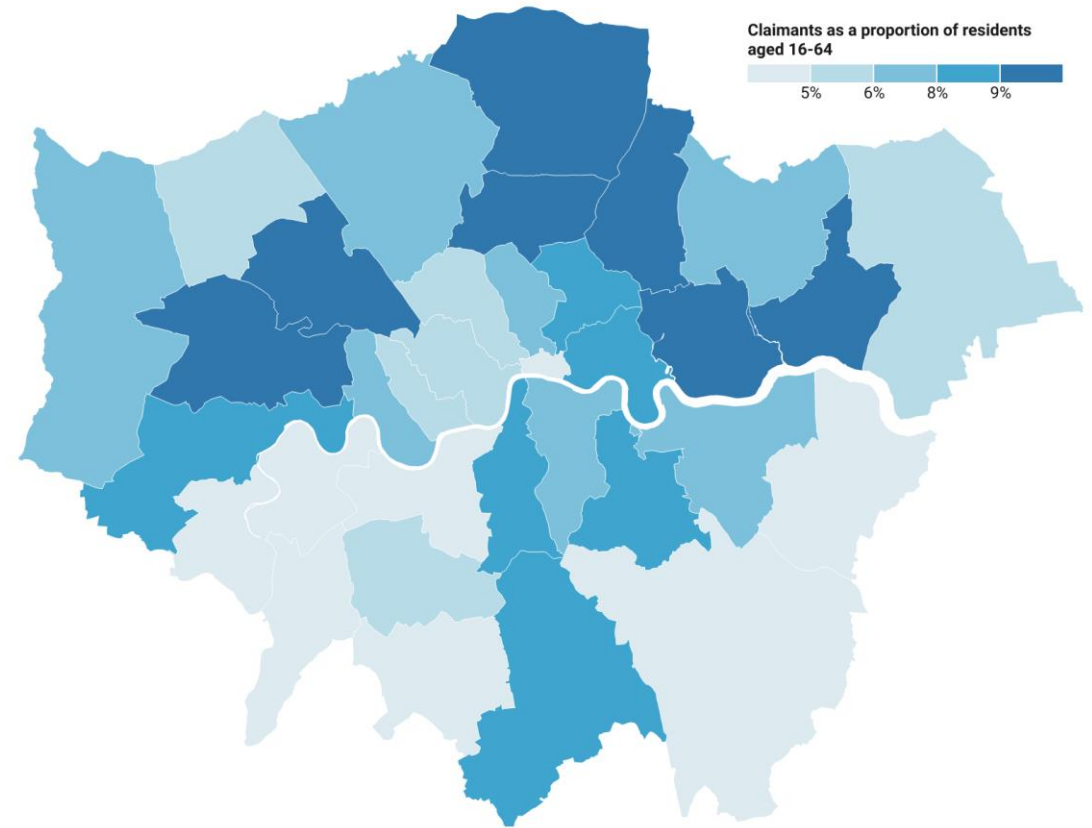
# Newham remained the borough with the highest number of claimants in London during June, while Haringey continued to record the highest claimant rate

Claimant Count, June 2021



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

Claimant rate, June 2021

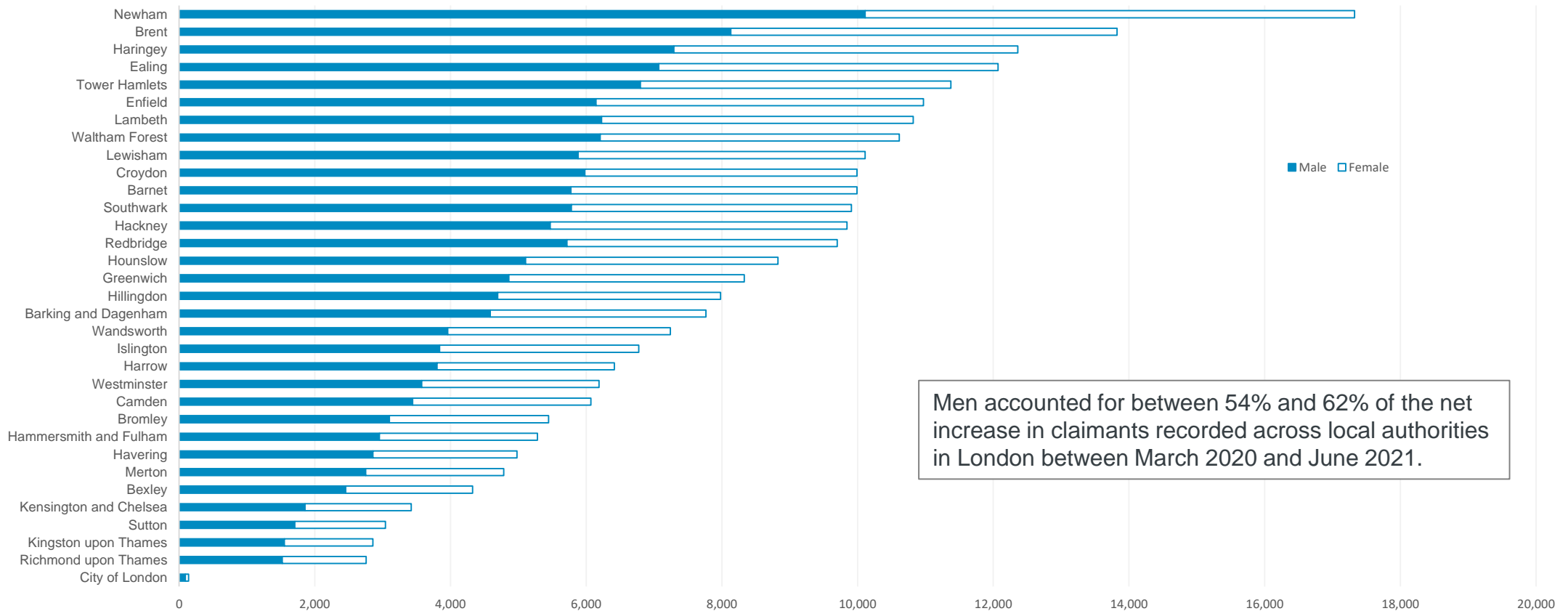


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Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people have recently become eligible for unemployment related benefits, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not be due wholly to changes in unemployment.

# By local authority, Newham, Brent and Haringey had the highest rises in absolute claimant count levels since March 2020

Change in Claimant Count between March 2020 and June 2021, by local authority and sex



Men accounted for between 54% and 62% of the net increase in claimants recorded across local authorities in London between March 2020 and June 2021.

Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people have recently become eligible for unemployment related benefits, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not be due wholly to changes in unemployment.

# Central sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, June 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change		Mar 20 - Jun 21 change		May-21	Jun-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change		Mar 20 - Jun 21 change	
			level	%	level	%	% aged 16-64	% aged 16-64			level	%	level	%	
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,325,510</b>		<b>-137,355</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,056,890</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>		<b>432,325</b>		<b>-29,915</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>190,565</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>448,460</b>		<b>-27,590</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>261,510</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>70,135</b>		<b>-4,730</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>41,850</b>	<b>148%</b>
City of London	235	(33)	-25	-10%	145	161%	4%	4%	(33)	25	(33)	0	0%	20	400%
Camden	10,385	(21)	-645	-6%	6,070	141%	6%	6%	(24)	1,670	(23)	-125	-7%	1,000	149%
Islington	12,590	(19)	-670	-5%	6,775	117%	7%	7%	(18)	1,905	(19)	-125	-6%	1,080	131%
Kensington and Chelsea	5,815	(30)	-300	-5%	3,420	143%	6%	6%	(24)	735	(31)	-30	-4%	465	172%
Lambeth	19,835	(5)	-1,230	-6%	10,815	120%	9%	8%	(13)	2,960	(7)	-275	-9%	1,670	129%
Southwark	18,490	(10)	-1,150	-6%	9,910	116%	9%	8%	(14)	2,670	(10)	-185	-6%	1,585	146%
Westminster	9,985	(22)	-505	-5%	6,185	163%	6%	5%	(26)	1,365	(27)	-95	-7%	950	229%

Notes:

The figures in this table are for the ONS Claimant Count. This includes those who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, or were claiming Universal Credit and are required to seek work. Unlike the Alternative Claimant Count, this data is not adjusted to take into account the roll-out of Universal Credit.

An increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Recent changes in the Claimant Count will not be due wholly to changes in unemployment.

Source: Claimant Count by sex and age (via Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted and the figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

# North sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, June 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	Jun 21 change %	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	Jun 21 change %	May-21 % aged 16-64	Jun-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	Jun 21 change %	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	Jun 21 change %
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,325,510</b>		<b>-137,355</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,056,890</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>		<b>432,325</b>		<b>-29,915</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>190,565</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>448,460</b>		<b>-27,590</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>261,510</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>70,135</b>		<b>-4,730</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>41,850</b>	<b>148%</b>
Barnet	16,680	(13)	-1,115	-6%	9,990	149%	7%	7%	(19)	2,340	(16)	-210	-8%	1,460	166%
Enfield	18,675	(8)	-965	-5%	10,960	142%	9%	9%	(7)	3,060	(5)	-155	-5%	1,775	138%
Haringey	19,540	(7)	-1,265	-6%	12,360	172%	11%	11%	(1)	2,815	(8)	-220	-7%	1,865	196%

Notes:

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# East sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, June 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	%	May-21 % aged 16-64	Jun-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,325,510</b>		<b>-137,355</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,056,890</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>		<b>432,325</b>		<b>-29,915</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>190,565</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>448,460</b>		<b>-27,590</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>261,510</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>70,135</b>		<b>-4,730</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>41,850</b>	<b>148%</b>
Barking and Dagenham	13,615	(17)	-690	-5%	7,765	133%	11%	10%	(3)	2,375	(15)	-110	-4%	1,355	133%
Bexley	7,765	(28)	-565	-7%	4,325	126%	5%	5%	(28)	1,530	(24)	-100	-6%	845	123%
Greenwich	14,750	(16)	-875	-6%	8,330	130%	8%	8%	(15)	2,595	(12)	-185	-7%	1,465	130%
Hackney	17,435	(11)	-955	-5%	9,845	130%	9%	9%	(8)	2,625	(11)	-165	-6%	1,550	144%
Havering	9,200	(26)	-615	-6%	4,980	118%	6%	6%	(23)	1,745	(22)	-165	-9%	950	119%
Lewisham	18,520	(9)	-1,170	-6%	10,110	120%	9%	9%	(10)	3,055	(6)	-210	-6%	1,700	125%
Newham	25,495	(1)	-1,325	-5%	17,325	212%	11%	10%	(2)	4,020	(1)	-240	-6%	2,690	202%
Redbridge	14,985	(15)	-825	-5%	9,700	184%	8%	8%	(15)	2,440	(14)	-130	-5%	1,565	179%
Tower Hamlets	19,690	(6)	-965	-5%	11,375	137%	9%	8%	(12)	3,260	(3)	-205	-6%	1,930	145%
Waltham Forest	17,055	(12)	-1,300	-7%	10,610	165%	10%	9%	(5)	2,580	(13)	-210	-8%	1,595	162%

Notes:

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Source: Claimant Count by sex and age (via Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted and the figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

# South sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, June 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	%	May-21 % aged 16-64	Jun-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,325,510</b>		<b>-137,355</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,056,890</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>		<b>432,325</b>		<b>-29,915</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>190,565</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>448,460</b>		<b>-27,590</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>261,510</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>70,135</b>		<b>-4,730</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>41,850</b>	<b>148%</b>
Bromley	9,725	(25)	-785	-7%	5,445	127%	5%	5%	(29)	1,775	(21)	-130	-7%	1,050	145%
Croydon	20,830	(3)	-1,235	-6%	9,995	92%	9%	8%	(11)	3,815	(2)	-140	-4%	1,875	97%
Kingston upon Thames	5,110	(31)	-390	-7%	2,850	126%	5%	4%	(31)	770	(30)	-70	-8%	410	114%
Merton	8,480	(27)	-715	-8%	4,790	130%	7%	6%	(21)	1,325	(28)	-100	-7%	740	126%
Sutton	6,195	(29)	-635	-9%	3,040	96%	5%	5%	(29)	1,045	(29)	-85	-8%	555	113%
Wandsworth	12,385	(20)	-910	-7%	7,240	141%	6%	5%	(27)	1,780	(20)	-130	-7%	1,085	156%

Notes:

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# West sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, June 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	%	May-21 % aged 16-64	Jun-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	May 21- Jun 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - Jun 21 change level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,325,510</b>		<b>-137,355</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,056,890</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>		<b>432,325</b>		<b>-29,915</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>190,565</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>448,460</b>		<b>-27,590</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>261,510</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>70,135</b>		<b>-4,730</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>41,850</b>	<b>148%</b>
Brent	21,700	(2)	-1,150	-5%	13,825	176%	11%	10%	(4)	3,095	(4)	-195	-6%	2,010	185%
Ealing	20,235	(4)	-1,235	-6%	12,070	148%	10%	9%	(6)	2,710	(9)	-190	-7%	1,705	170%
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,920	(23)	-465	-4%	5,275	114%	8%	8%	(15)	1,380	(26)	-40	-3%	805	140%
Harrow	9,850	(24)	-770	-7%	6,415	187%	7%	6%	(21)	1,515	(25)	-145	-9%	1,005	197%
Hillingdon	12,815	(18)	-825	-6%	7,980	165%	7%	7%	(20)	2,155	(18)	-165	-7%	1,340	164%
Hounslow	15,510	(14)	-975	-6%	8,820	132%	9%	9%	(8)	2,260	(17)	-135	-6%	1,310	138%
Richmond upon Thames	4,960	(32)	-350	-7%	2,755	125%	4%	4%	(32)	735	(31)	-70	-9%	445	153%

Notes:

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## Further reading

Further labour market data and analysis can be found on the [London Datastore](#). This includes:

- [Labour market update for London](#) (July 2021): latest labour market estimates for London
- [Analysis of CJRS statistics for London](#) (July 2021): briefing on the latest furlough scheme

Note – our analysis is not intended to be comprehensive or exhaustive; we advise that our outputs are triangulated with other sources of information and analysis to develop a rounded statistical picture of any specific policy issues.

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, June 2021

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			level	%	level	%						level	%		
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,325,510</b>		<b>-137,355</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>1,056,890</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>			<b>432,325</b>	<b>-29,915</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>190,565</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>448,460</b>		<b>-27,590</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>261,510</b>	<b>140%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>			<b>70,135</b>	<b>-4,730</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>41,850</b>	<b>148%</b>
Barking and Dagenham	13,615	(17)	-690	-5%	7,765	133%	11%	10%	(3)	2,375	(15)	-110	-4%	1,355	133%
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City of London	235	(33)	-25	-10%	145	161%	4%	4%	(33)	25	(33)	0	0%	20	400%
Croydon	20,830	(3)	-1,235	-6%	9,995	92%	9%	8%	(11)	3,815	(2)	-140	-4%	1,875	97%
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Southwark	18,490	(10)	-1,150	-6%	9,910	116%	9%	8%	(14)	2,670	(10)	-185	-6%	1,585	146%
Sutton	6,195	(29)	-635	-9%	3,040	96%	5%	5%	(29)	1,045	(29)	-85	-8%	555	113%
Tower Hamlets	19,690	(6)	-965	-5%	11,375	137%	9%	8%	(12)	3,260	(3)	-205	-6%	1,930	145%
Waltham Forest	17,055	(12)	-1,300	-7%	10,610	165%	10%	9%	(5)	2,580	(13)	-210	-8%	1,595	162%
Wandsworth	12,385	(20)	-910	-7%	7,240	141%	6%	5%	(27)	1,780	(20)	-130	-7%	1,085	156%
Westminster	9,985	(22)	-505	-5%	6,185	163%	6%	5%	(26)	1,365	(27)	-95	-7%	950	229%

Notes:

The figures in this table are for the ONS Claimant Count. This includes those who were claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, or were claiming Universal Credit and are required to seek work. Unlike the Alternative Claimant Count, this data is not adjusted to take into account the roll-out of Universal Credit.

An increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Recent changes in the Claimant Count will not be due wholly to changes in unemployment.

Source: Claimant Count by sex and age (via Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted and the figures are rounded to the nearest 5.