

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 release provide 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 January 2020 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.

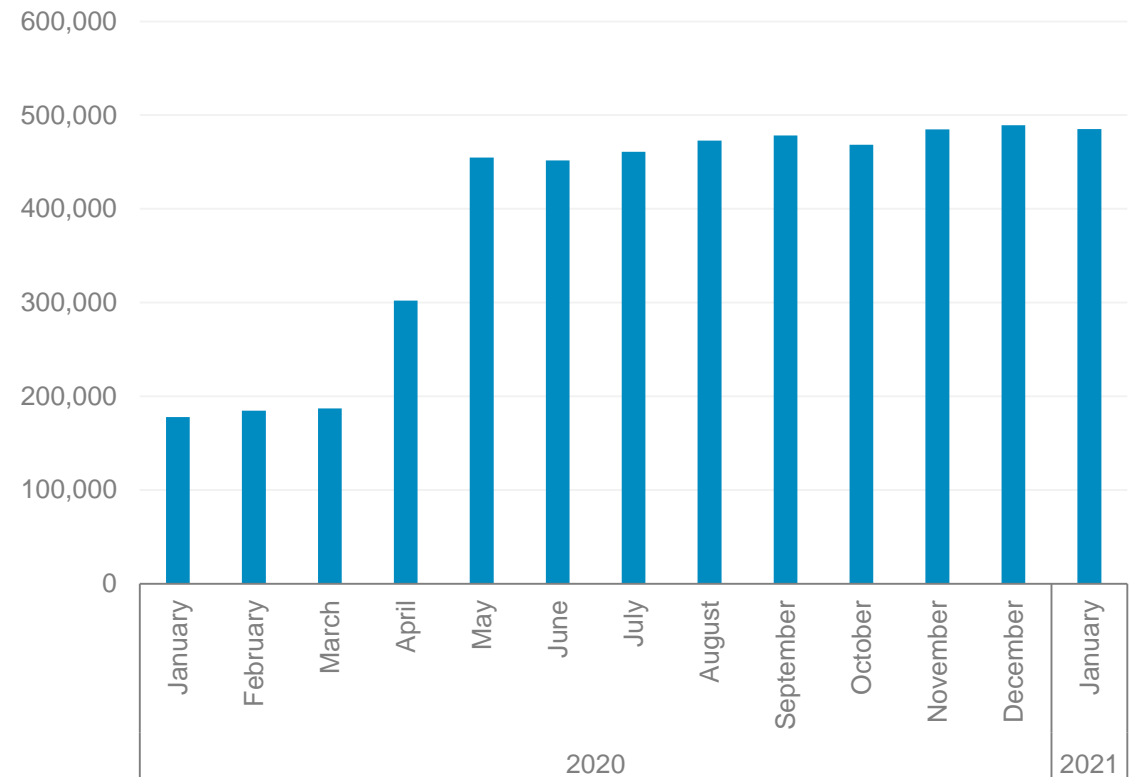
*This point warrants particular attention. As part of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, a number of enhancements were introduced to Universal Credit. These measures increased the number of employed people eligible for Universal Credit through their earnings falling below income thresholds.

The Claimant Count in London has more than doubled since March 2020

- 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 January 2021 the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has more than doubled – rising from 186,950 to 485,1800 (+160%).
- Most of that increase occurred by May 2020. The Claimant Count has stabilised since then and fell slightly in the month to January 2021 (-4,070 or -1%).
- The following slides present a breakdown of the latest data for people resident in local authorities in London.

ONS Claimant Count in London

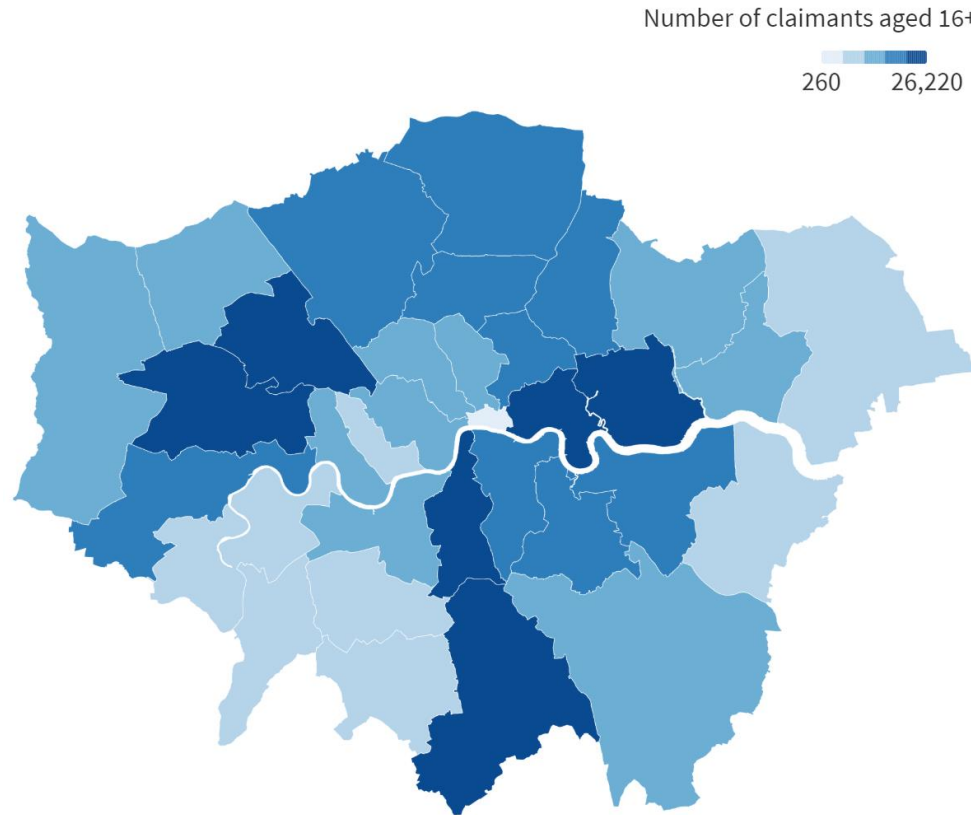
January 2020 to January 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



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.

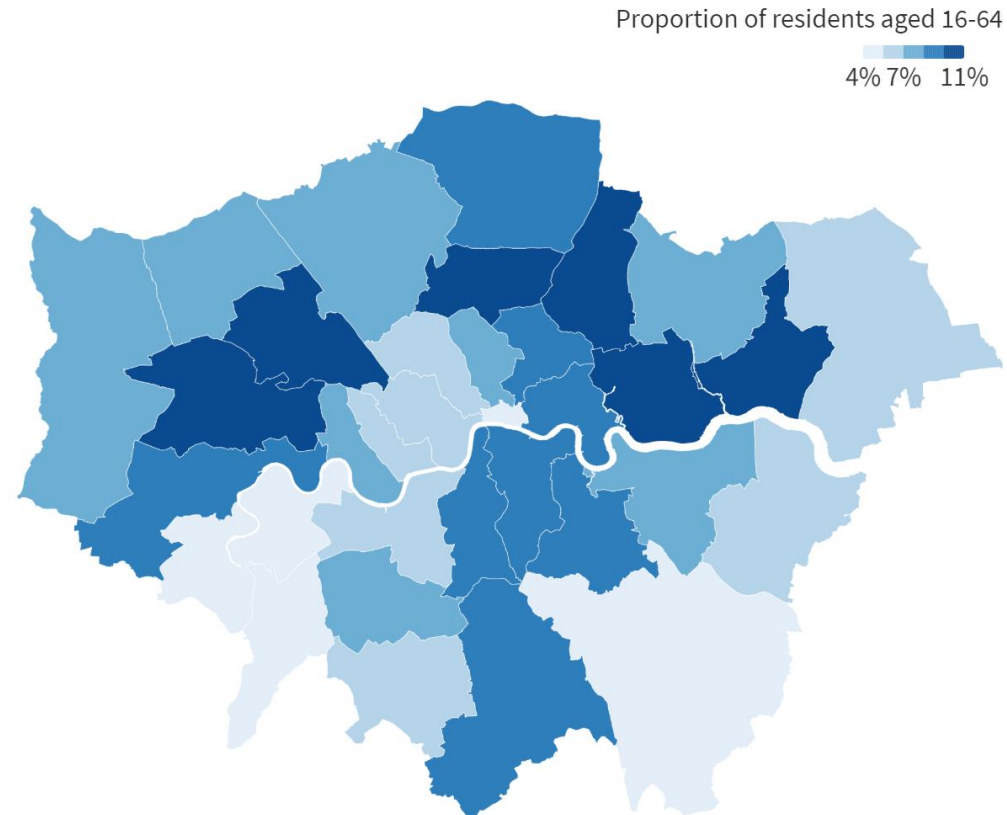
Newham had the highest number of claimants in London in January, while Haringey recorded the highest claimant rate

Claimant Count, January 2021



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Claimant rate, January 2021

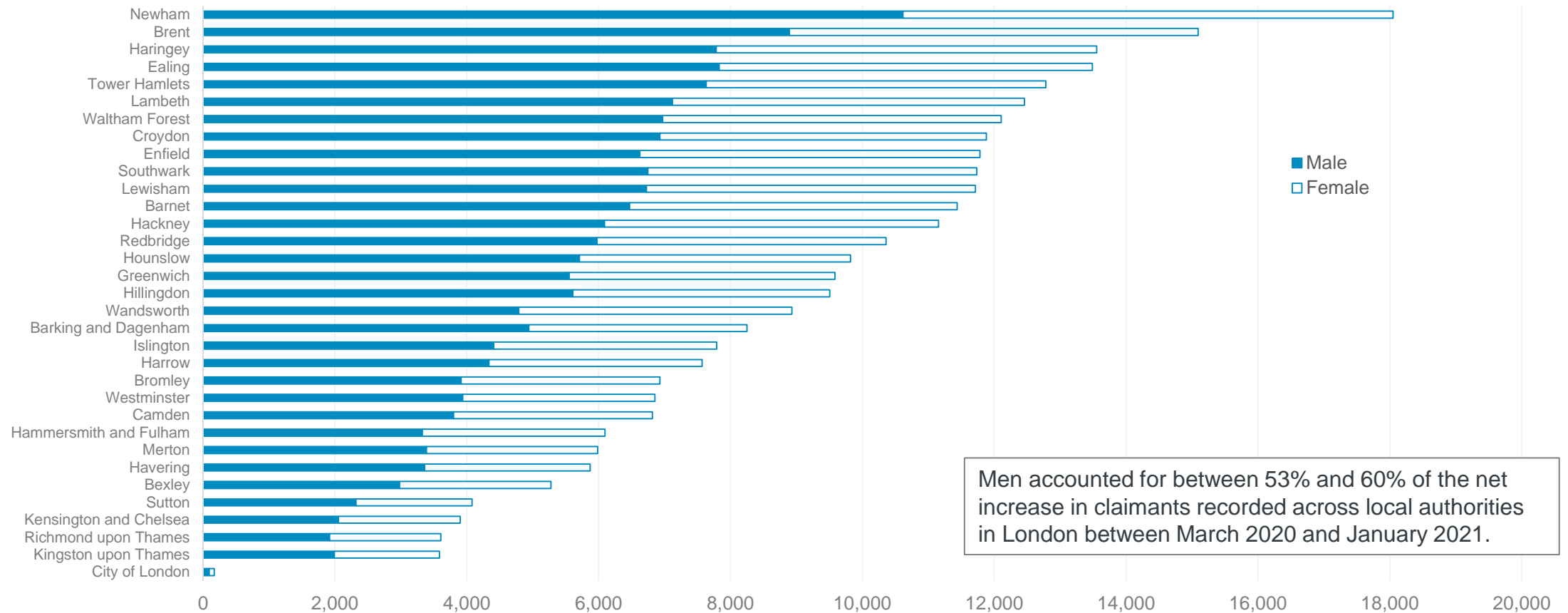


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Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people have recently become eligible for unemployment related benefits, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not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

Newham has also seen the largest absolute increase in claimants since March 2020, followed by Brent and Haringey

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



Men accounted for between 53% and 60% of the net increase in claimants recorded across local authorities in London between March 2020 and January 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.

The parts of London where average pay levels are lowest also recorded the highest claimant rates in January 2021

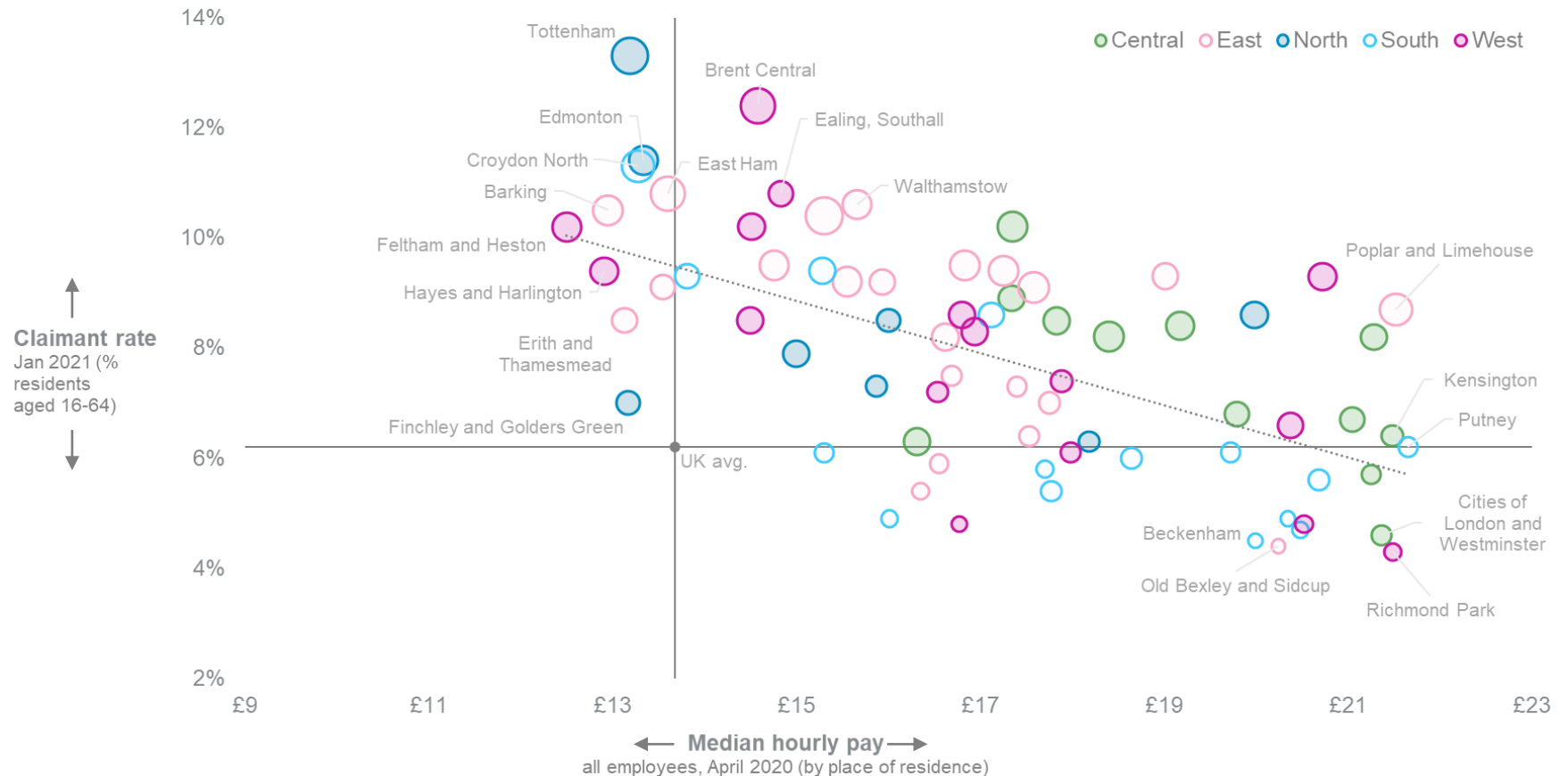
Looking at data by parliamentary constituency shows that the Claimant rate tends to be higher in areas of London where resident employee pay levels were typically lower in April 2020.

For example, Tottenham had the highest Claimant rate in London in January (13%) and a relatively low level of median resident pay (£13 per hour for all employee jobs).

A similar pattern holds across different London sub-regions.

Claimant rate in Jan 2021 vs. median hourly pay by London parliamentary constituency

circle size = number of unemployment related benefits claimants in Jan 2021.



Source: Claimant count by sex and age (via Nomis, NSA) / ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Note: there are 73 parliamentary constituency areas in London in total. By sub-region this includes: 12 in Central; 22 in East; 8 in North; 15 in South; and 16 in West.

Central sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, January 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%	Dec-20 % aged 16-64	Jan-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%
United Kingdom	2,572,015		-17,725	-1%	1,303,395	103%	6%	6%		497,605		-3,055	-1%	255,845	106%
London	485,180		-4,070	-1%	298,230	160%	8%	8%		80,575		-825	-1%	52,290	185%
City of London	260	(33)	0	0%	170	189%	4%	4%	(33)	30	(33)	-5	-14%	25	500%
Camden	11,135	(22)	-85	-1%	6,820	158%	6%	6%	(26)	1,845	(24)	-30	-2%	1,175	175%
Islington	13,605	(20)	-125	-1%	7,790	134%	8%	8%	(18)	2,190	(19)	-30	-1%	1,365	165%
Kensington and Chelsea	6,295	(30)	40	1%	3,900	163%	6%	6%	(24)	840	(32)	-10	-1%	570	211%
Lambeth	21,480	(5)	-150	-1%	12,460	138%	9%	9%	(12)	3,380	(7)	-15	0%	2,090	162%
Southwark	20,310	(8)	40	0%	11,730	137%	9%	9%	(14)	3,170	(9)	0	0%	2,085	192%
Westminster	10,655	(25)	55	1%	6,855	180%	6%	6%	(26)	1,545	(27)	-10	-1%	1,130	272%

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, January 2021

	Actual count		Claimant rate				Claimants aged 16-24								
	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%	Dec-20 % aged 16-64	Jan-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%
United Kingdom	2,572,015		-17,725	-1%	1,303,395	103%	6%	6%		497,605		-3,055	-1%	255,845	106%
London	485,180		-4,070	-1%	298,230	160%	8%	8%		80,575		-825	-1%	52,290	185%
Barnet	18,130	(13)	-415	-2%	11,440	171%	7%	7%	(20)	2,845	(14)	-85	-3%	1,965	223%
Enfield	19,495	(10)	85	0%	11,780	153%	9%	9%	(11)	3,390	(6)	-15	0%	2,105	164%
Haringey	20,740	(7)	-5	0%	13,560	189%	11%	11%	(1)	3,145	(10)	-5	0%	2,195	231%

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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.

East sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, January 2021

			Actual count				Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%	Dec-20 % aged 16-64	Jan-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%
United Kingdom	2,572,015		-17,725	-1%	1,303,395	103%	6%	6%		497,605		-3,055	-1%	255,845	106%
London	485,180		-4,070	-1%	298,230	160%	8%	8%		80,575		-825	-1%	52,290	185%
Barking and Dagenham	14,100	(18)	-230	-2%	8,250	141%	11%	10%	(4)	2,635	(16)	-15	-1%	1,615	158%
Bexley	8,715	(28)	-200	-2%	5,275	153%	6%	6%	(28)	1,755	(25)	-70	-4%	1,070	156%
Greenwich	16,005	(15)	-65	0%	9,585	149%	8%	8%	(15)	2,870	(13)	-65	-2%	1,740	154%
Hackney	18,745	(11)	-60	0%	11,155	147%	9%	9%	(8)	2,965	(11)	-15	-1%	1,890	176%
Havering	10,090	(26)	-290	-3%	5,870	139%	7%	6%	(23)	2,065	(22)	-50	-2%	1,270	160%
Lewisham	20,125	(9)	-135	-1%	11,715	139%	10%	9%	(7)	3,515	(4)	-75	-2%	2,160	159%
Newham	26,220	(1)	-120	0%	18,050	221%	11%	11%	(2)	4,485	(1)	-25	-1%	3,155	237%
Redbridge	15,645	(16)	-225	-1%	10,360	196%	8%	8%	(17)	2,730	(15)	5	0%	1,855	212%
Tower Hamlets	21,100	(6)	-90	0%	12,785	154%	9%	9%	(12)	3,725	(3)	-45	-1%	2,395	180%
Waltham Forest	18,545	(12)	-310	-2%	12,100	188%	10%	10%	(5)	2,935	(12)	-30	-1%	1,950	198%

Notes:

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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.

South sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, January 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%	Dec-20 % aged 16-64	Jan-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change level	%	Mar to Jan change level	%
United Kingdom	2,572,015		-17,725	-1%	1,303,395	103%	6%	6%		497,605		-3,055	-1%	255,845	106%
London	485,180		-4,070	-1%	298,230	160%	8%	8%		80,575		-825	-1%	52,290	185%
Bromley	11,210	(21)	-185	-2%	6,930	162%	6%	5%	(30)	2,135	(21)	-15	-1%	1,410	194%
Croydon	22,720	(3)	-280	-1%	11,885	110%	9%	9%	(9)	4,260	(2)	-90	-2%	2,320	120%
Kingston upon Thames	5,840	(31)	-145	-2%	3,580	158%	5%	5%	(31)	1,010	(30)	10	1%	650	181%
Merton	9,680	(27)	-175	-2%	5,990	162%	7%	7%	(20)	1,565	(26)	5	0%	980	168%
Sutton	7,235	(29)	-120	-2%	4,080	129%	6%	6%	(29)	1,230	(29)	-5	0%	740	151%
Wandsworth	14,075	(19)	-140	-1%	8,930	174%	6%	6%	(25)	2,175	(20)	5	0%	1,480	213%

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West sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, January 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change		Mar to Jan change		Dec-20	Jan-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Dec to Jan change		Mar to Jan change	
			level	%	level	%	% aged 16-64					level	%	level	%
United Kingdom	2,572,015		-17,725	-1%	1,303,395	103%	6%	6%		497,605		-3,055	-1%	255,845	106%
London	485,180		-4,070	-1%	298,230	160%	8%	8%		80,575		-825	-1%	52,290	185%
Brent	22,975	(2)	90	0%	15,100	192%	11%	11%	(3)	3,470	(5)	25	1%	2,385	220%
Ealing	21,655	(4)	-100	0%	13,490	165%	10%	10%	(6)	3,175	(8)	-110	-3%	2,170	216%
Hammersmith and Fulham	10,735	(24)	-10	0%	6,090	131%	8%	8%	(15)	1,525	(28)	-5	0%	950	165%
Harrow	11,010	(23)	-190	-2%	7,575	221%	7%	7%	(22)	1,880	(23)	10	1%	1,370	269%
Hillingdon	14,340	(17)	-65	0%	9,505	197%	7%	7%	(19)	2,600	(17)	-10	0%	1,785	219%
Hounslow	16,505	(14)	-330	-2%	9,815	147%	9%	9%	(9)	2,565	(18)	-50	-2%	1,615	170%
Richmond upon Thames	5,815	(32)	-125	-2%	3,610	164%	5%	5%	(32)	920	(31)	-15	-2%	630	217%

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](#) (February 2021): latest labour market estimates for London
- [Analysis of CJRS statistics for London](#) (January 2021): briefing on the latest furlough scheme
- [Analysis of SEISS statistics for London](#) (November 2020): briefing on support for the self-employed

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

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