

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 April 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.

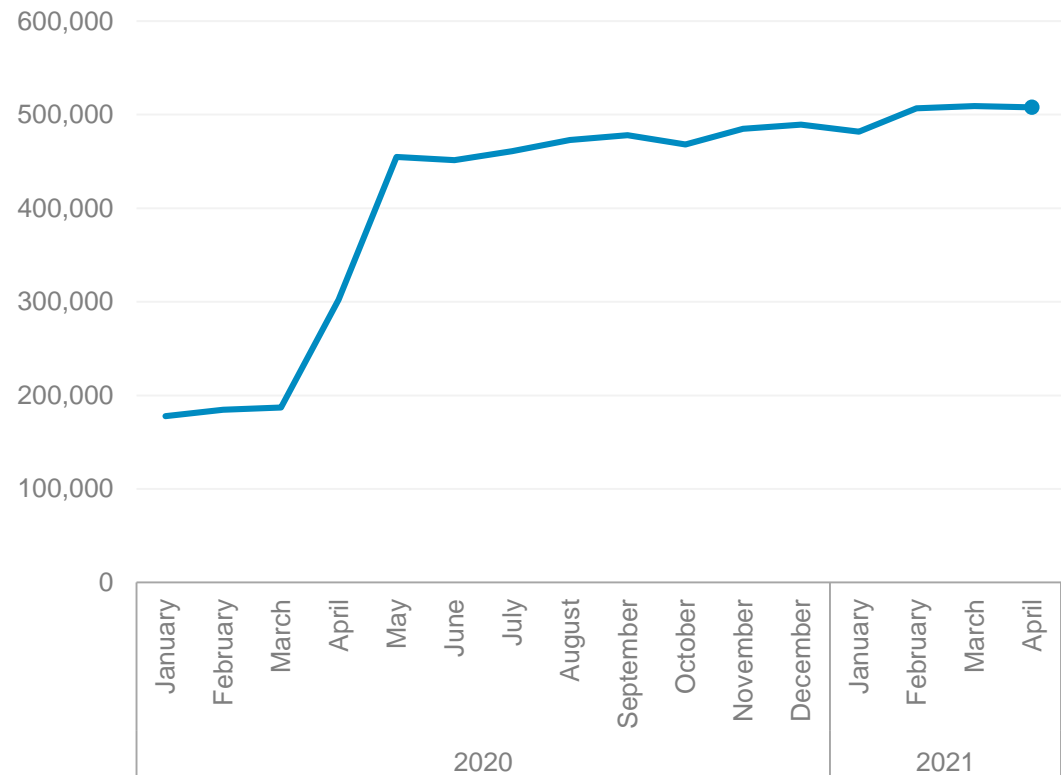
*This point warrants particular attention. As part of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, a number of enhancements were introduced to Universal Credit. These measures increased the number of employed people eligible for Universal Credit through their earnings falling below income thresholds.

Around 500,000 people are now claiming unemployment related benefits in London

- 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 April 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has more than doubled – rising from around 187,000 to 507,900 (+172%).
- Around four-fifths of that increase occurred by mid-2020. The rise in the Claimant Count has moderated since May 2020, increasing by 53,200 (12%).
- The following slides present a breakdown of the latest data for people living in local authorities in London.

ONS Claimant Count in London

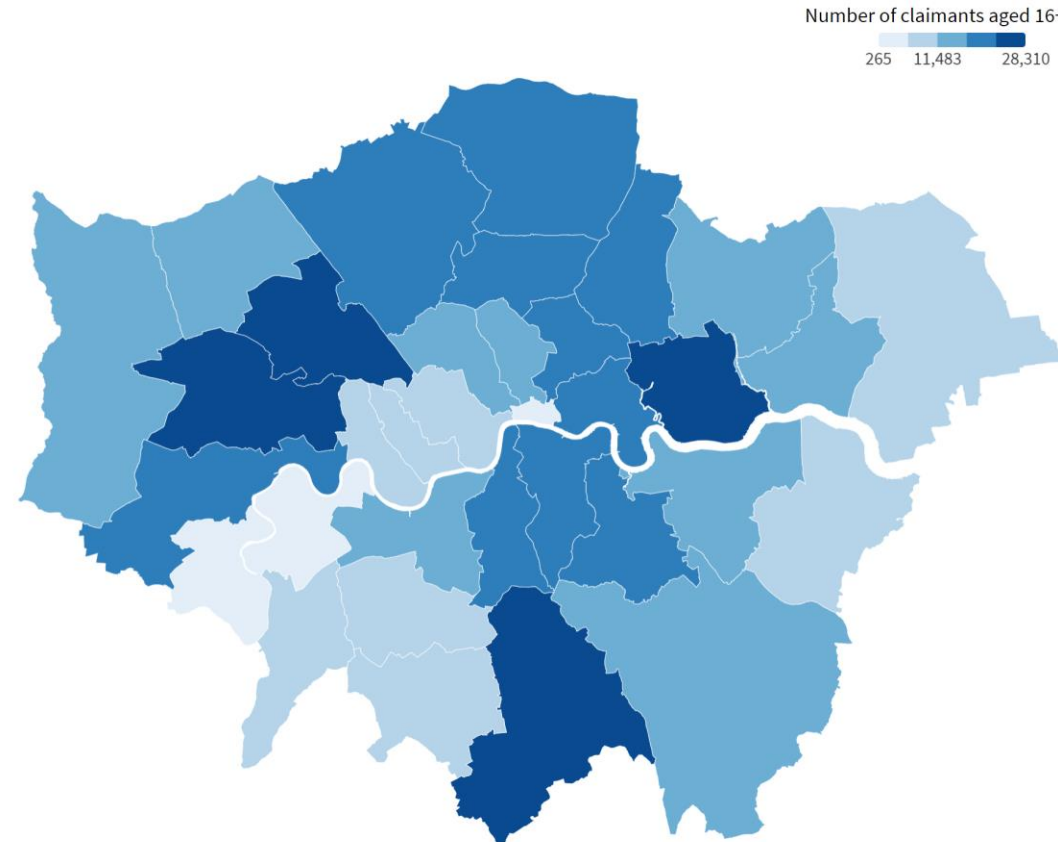
January 2020 to April 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



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.

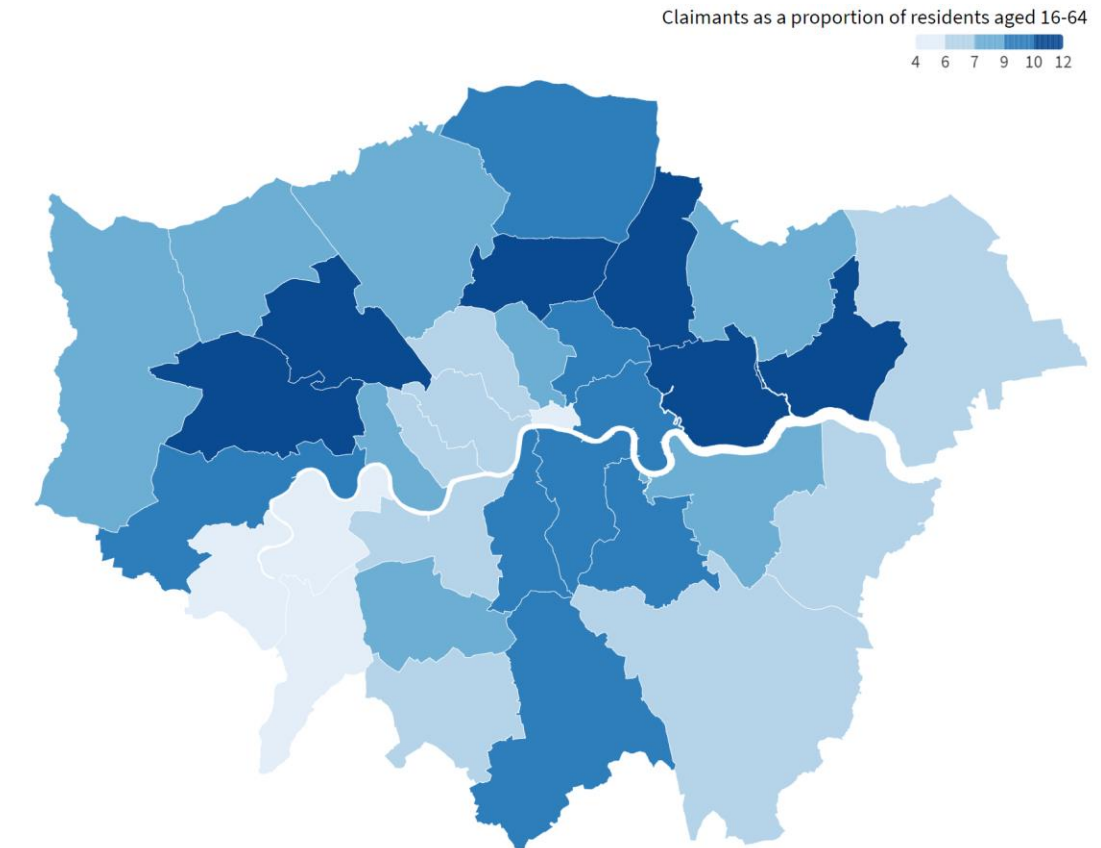
Newham had the highest number of claimants in London in April, while Haringey recorded the highest claimant rate

Claimant Count, April 2021



Source: ONS Claimant count by sex and age (via Nomis) [Crown copyright and database right 2012, Doogal.co.uk](#)

Claimant rate, April 2021

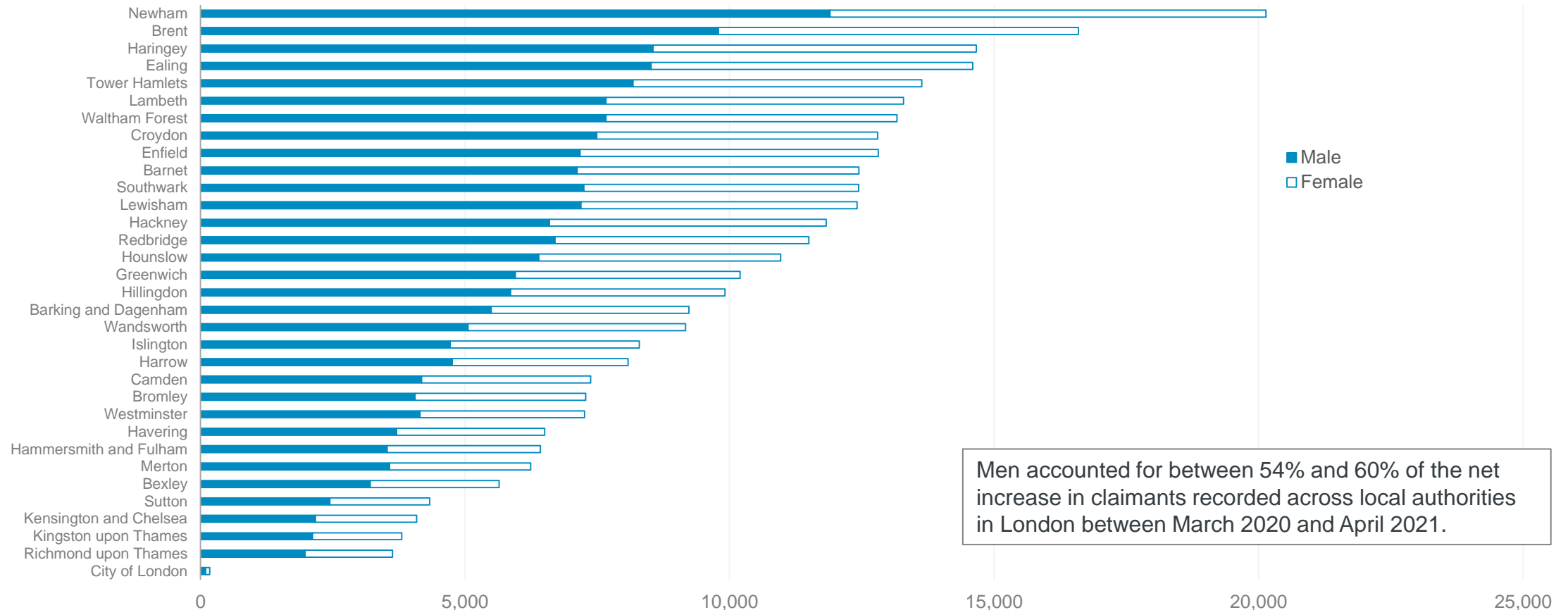


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Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people have recently become eligible for unemployment related benefits, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not 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 April 2021, by local authority and sex



Men accounted for between 54% and 60% of the net increase in claimants recorded across local authorities in London between March 2020 and April 2021.

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Central sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, April 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Mar 21-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar-21 % aged 16-64	Apr-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Mar 21-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Apr 21 change level	%
United Kingdom	2,647,555		-27,750	-1%	1,378,935	109%	6%	6%		504,135		-8,140	-2%	262,375	109%
London	507,875		-1,195	0%	320,925	172%	8%	8%		80,985		-780	-1%	52,700	186%
City of London	265	(33)	5	2%	175	194%	4%	4%	(33)	25	(33)	0	0%	20	400%
Camden	11,690	(21)	0	0%	7,375	171%	6%	6%	(25)	1,925	(23)	5	0%	1,255	187%
Islington	14,115	(20)	-35	0%	8,300	143%	8%	8%	(18)	2,180	(19)	-10	0%	1,355	164%
Kensington and Chelsea	6,485	(30)	-45	-1%	4,090	171%	6%	6%	(24)	825	(32)	-20	-2%	555	206%
Lambeth	22,310	(5)	-200	-1%	13,290	147%	9%	9%	(12)	3,465	(6)	-20	-1%	2,175	169%
Southwark	21,015	(8)	-210	-1%	12,435	145%	9%	9%	(14)	3,120	(10)	-75	-2%	2,035	188%
Westminster	11,060	(25)	-40	0%	7,260	191%	6%	6%	(26)	1,585	(26)	10	1%	1,170	282%

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, April 2021

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	Number	(rank)	Mar 21-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar-21 % aged 16-64	Apr-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Mar 21-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Apr 21 change level	%
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London	507,875		-1,195	0%	320,925	172%	8%	8%		80,985		-780	-1%	52,700	186%
Barnet	19,135	(13)	205	1%	12,445	186%	8%	8%	(19)	2,830	(14)	-20	-1%	1,950	222%
Enfield	20,520	(10)	115	1%	12,805	166%	10%	10%	(9)	3,440	(7)	-5	0%	2,155	168%
Haringey	21,845	(7)	-30	0%	14,665	204%	12%	12%	(1)	3,210	(8)	-50	-2%	2,260	238%

Notes:

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East sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

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United Kingdom	2,647,555		-27,750	-1%	1,378,935	109%	6%	6%		504,135		-8,140	-2%	262,375	109%
London	507,875		-1,195	0%	320,925	172%	8%	8%		80,985		-780	-1%	52,700	186%
Barking and Dagenham	15,080	(17)	140	1%	9,230	158%	11%	11%	(3)	2,680	(16)	20	1%	1,660	163%
Bexley	9,085	(28)	-65	-1%	5,645	164%	6%	6%	(28)	1,805	(25)	-10	-1%	1,120	164%
Greenwich	16,620	(16)	-20	0%	10,200	159%	9%	9%	(15)	2,930	(13)	15	1%	1,800	159%
Hackney	19,415	(12)	20	0%	11,825	156%	10%	10%	(9)	3,010	(11)	-10	0%	1,935	180%
Havering	10,730	(26)	40	0%	6,510	154%	7%	7%	(23)	2,110	(21)	-35	-2%	1,315	165%
Lewisham	20,820	(9)	-130	-1%	12,410	148%	10%	10%	(8)	3,500	(5)	-75	-2%	2,145	158%
Newham	28,310	(1)	310	1%	20,140	247%	11%	11%	(2)	4,535	(1)	-15	0%	3,205	241%
Redbridge	16,790	(15)	70	0%	11,505	218%	9%	9%	(15)	2,720	(15)	-10	0%	1,845	211%
Tower Hamlets	21,950	(6)	-115	-1%	13,635	164%	9%	9%	(12)	3,755	(3)	-45	-1%	2,425	182%
Waltham Forest	19,605	(11)	-60	0%	13,160	204%	11%	11%	(5)	2,990	(12)	-30	-1%	2,005	204%

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, April 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Mar 21-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar-21 % aged 16-64	Apr-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Mar 21-Apr 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Apr 21 change level	%
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London	507,875		-1,195	0%	320,925	172%	8%	8%		80,985		-780	-1%	52,700	186%
Bromley	11,555	(22)	-175	-1%	7,275	170%	6%	6%	(30)	2,115	(20)	-45	-2%	1,390	192%
Croydon	23,645	(3)	-50	0%	12,810	118%	10%	10%	(11)	4,235	(2)	-5	0%	2,295	118%
Kingston upon Thames	6,065	(31)	-30	0%	3,805	168%	5%	5%	(31)	960	(30)	-5	-1%	600	167%
Merton	9,935	(27)	-80	-1%	6,245	169%	7%	7%	(21)	1,530	(28)	-15	-1%	945	162%
Sutton	7,485	(29)	-125	-2%	4,330	137%	6%	6%	(29)	1,215	(29)	-25	-2%	725	148%
Wandsworth	14,315	(19)	-225	-2%	9,170	178%	6%	6%	(26)	2,100	(22)	-70	-3%	1,405	202%

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West sub-region

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London	507,875		-1,195	0%	320,925	172%	8%	8%		80,985		-780	-1%	52,700	186%
Brent	24,470	(2)	70	0%	16,595	211%	11%	11%	(3)	3,600	(4)	-35	-1%	2,515	232%
Ealing	22,760	(4)	-30	0%	14,595	179%	10%	10%	(6)	3,180	(9)	-70	-2%	2,175	216%
Hammersmith and Fulham	11,070	(24)	-35	0%	6,425	138%	9%	9%	(15)	1,535	(27)	-10	-1%	960	167%
Harrow	11,520	(23)	-60	-1%	8,085	235%	7%	7%	(21)	1,840	(24)	-25	-1%	1,330	261%
Hillingdon	14,750	(18)	-215	-1%	9,915	205%	8%	7%	(20)	2,550	(18)	-70	-3%	1,735	213%
Hounslow	17,650	(14)	-45	0%	10,960	164%	10%	10%	(7)	2,585	(17)	-25	-1%	1,635	172%
Richmond upon Thames	5,835	(32)	-120	-2%	3,630	165%	5%	5%	(32)	895	(31)	-15	-2%	605	209%

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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](#) (May 2021): latest labour market estimates for London
- [Analysis of CJRS statistics for London](#) (March 2021): briefing on the latest furlough scheme
- [Analysis of SEISS statistics for London](#) (February 2021): 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.

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