

# Labour market data for London Boroughs

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# Outline

- The spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the actions to contain it have had, and will likely continue to have, an impact on the labour market.
- GLA Economics are producing a range of outputs to track and understand the evolving impact on London's labour market. This includes our monthly labour market updates and briefings on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.
- Sub-regional data are included within these outputs where readily available.
- These slides 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

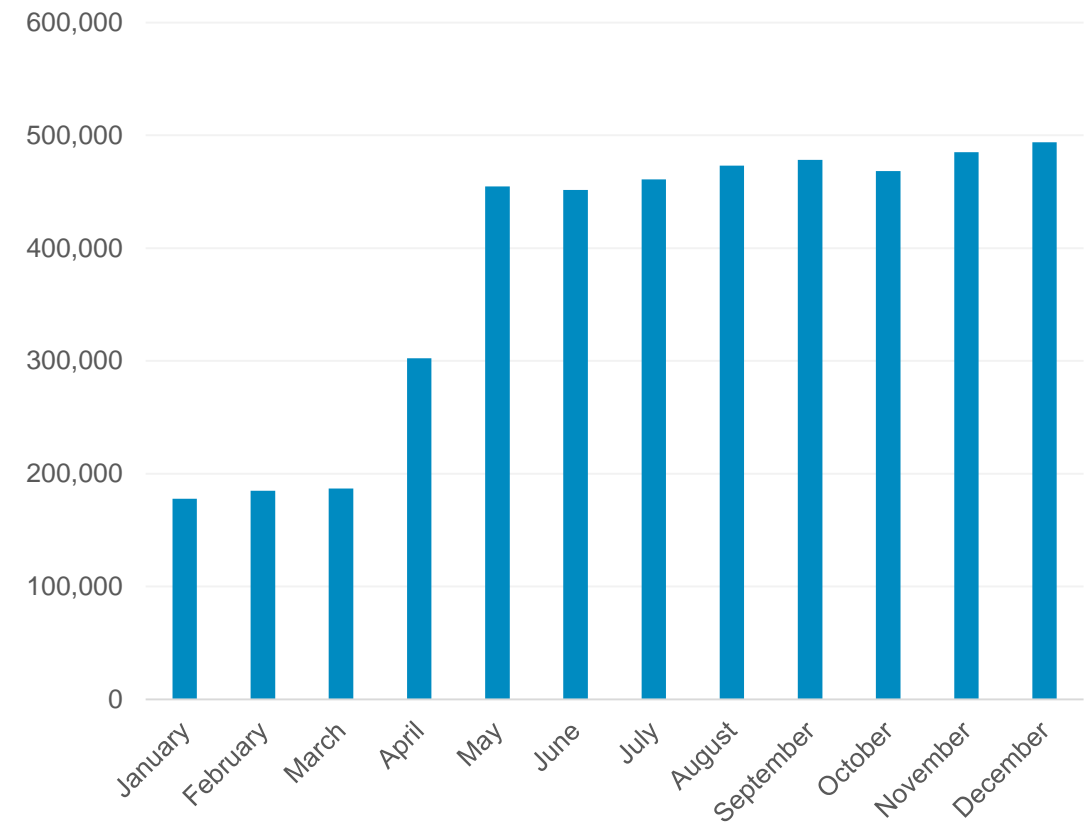
- The ONS recently published December 2020 figures for the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits (the ONS Claimant Count).
- This is a timely source of data for tracking changes in the labour market at a local level. However, it should be noted that **local data is not seasonally adjusted 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 since March 2020, when the lockdown began, gives an indication of the impacts of the coronavirus.
- Between March 2020 and December 2020 the ONS Claimant Count in London has more than doubled – rising from 186,950 to 493,790, although the rate of increase has moderated since the summer.
- The following slides present a breakdown of the latest data for people resident in local authorities in London. This is presented by sub-region:
  - Central
  - North
  - East
  - South
  - West

ONS Claimant Count in London, 2020



Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. 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.

# Central sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority: people claiming unemployment related benefits, December 2020

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. The figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Claimant rate is the number of claimants expressed as a proportion of the population aged 16-64.

			Actual count				Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Nov to Dec change level	%	March to Dec change level	%	Nov-20 % aged 16-64	Dec-20	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Nov to Dec change level	%	March to Dec change level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,610,290</b>		<b>5,465</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,341,670</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>		<b>505,190</b>		<b>-3,010</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>263,430</b>	<b>109%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>493,790</b>		<b>8,905</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>306,840</b>	<b>164%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>		<b>82,130</b>		<b>1,150</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>53,845</b>	<b>190%</b>
City of London	265	(33)	20	8%	175	194%	4%	4%	(33)	35	(33)	10	40%	30	600%
Camden	11,300	(23)	240	2%	6,985	162%	6%	6%	(26)	1,890	(24)	35	2%	1,220	182%
Islington	13,825	(20)	280	2%	8,010	138%	7%	8%	(18)	2,240	(19)	65	3%	1,415	172%
Kensington and Chelsea	6,275	(30)	105	2%	3,880	162%	6%	6%	(24)	850	(32)	35	4%	580	215%
Lambeth	21,750	(5)	325	2%	12,730	141%	9%	9%	(12)	3,410	(7)	30	1%	2,120	164%
Southwark	20,400	(9)	90	0%	11,820	138%	9%	9%	(14)	3,185	(9)	-40	-1%	2,100	194%
Westminster	10,685	(25)	445	4%	6,885	181%	6%	6%	(27)	1,565	(27)	50	3%	1,150	277%

Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. 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.

# North sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority: people claiming unemployment related benefits, December 2020

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. The figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

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Barnet	18,745	(13)	320	2%	12,055	180%	7%	7%	(19)	2,960	(14)	95	3%	2,080	236%
Enfield	19,735	(10)	805	4%	12,020	156%	9%	9%	(10)	3,460	(6)	90	3%	2,175	169%
Haringey	21,015	(7)	745	4%	13,835	193%	11%	11%	(1)	3,170	(10)	105	3%	2,220	234%

Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. 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.

# East sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority: people claiming unemployment related benefits, December 2020

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. The figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

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Barking and Dagenham	14,515	(17)	440	3%	8,665	148%	10%	11%	(3)	2,690	(16)	10	0%	1,670	164%
Bexley	8,995	(28)	170	2%	5,555	161%	6%	6%	(27)	1,825	(25)	20	1%	1,140	166%
Greenwich	16,215	(15)	290	2%	9,795	153%	8%	8%	(15)	2,970	(13)	90	3%	1,840	163%
Hackney	18,925	(12)	385	2%	11,335	149%	9%	9%	(9)	3,000	(11)	45	2%	1,925	179%
Havering	10,485	(26)	215	2%	6,265	148%	6%	7%	(23)	2,135	(22)	30	1%	1,340	169%
Lewisham	20,435	(8)	100	0%	12,025	143%	10%	10%	(7)	3,615	(4)	85	2%	2,260	167%
Newham	26,650	(1)	995	4%	18,480	226%	10%	11%	(2)	4,550	(1)	125	3%	3,220	242%
Redbridge	16,095	(16)	330	2%	10,810	205%	8%	8%	(17)	2,770	(15)	40	1%	1,895	217%
Tower Hamlets	21,325	(6)	215	1%	13,010	156%	9%	9%	(13)	3,805	(3)	30	1%	2,475	186%
Waltham Forest	19,060	(11)	660	4%	12,615	196%	10%	10%	(5)	2,995	(12)	85	3%	2,010	204%

Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. 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.

# South sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority: people claiming unemployment related benefits, December 2020

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. The figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

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<b>London</b>	<b>493,790</b>		<b>8,905</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>306,840</b>	<b>164%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>		<b>82,130</b>		<b>1,150</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>53,845</b>	<b>190%</b>
Bromley	11,525	(21)	-10	0%	7,245	169%	6%	6%	(30)	2,175	(21)	-30	-1%	1,450	200%
Croydon	23,155	(3)	15	0%	12,320	114%	9%	9%	(10)	4,385	(2)	0	0%	2,445	126%
Kingston upon Thames	6,050	(31)	55	1%	3,790	168%	5%	5%	(31)	1,015	(30)	-5	0%	655	182%
Merton	9,920	(27)	160	2%	6,230	169%	7%	7%	(20)	1,580	(26)	5	0%	995	170%
Sutton	7,410	(29)	10	0%	4,255	135%	6%	6%	(29)	1,245	(29)	5	0%	755	154%
Wandsworth	14,320	(19)	270	2%	9,175	178%	6%	6%	(24)	2,180	(20)	40	2%	1,485	214%

Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. 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.



# West sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority: people claiming unemployment related benefits, December 2020

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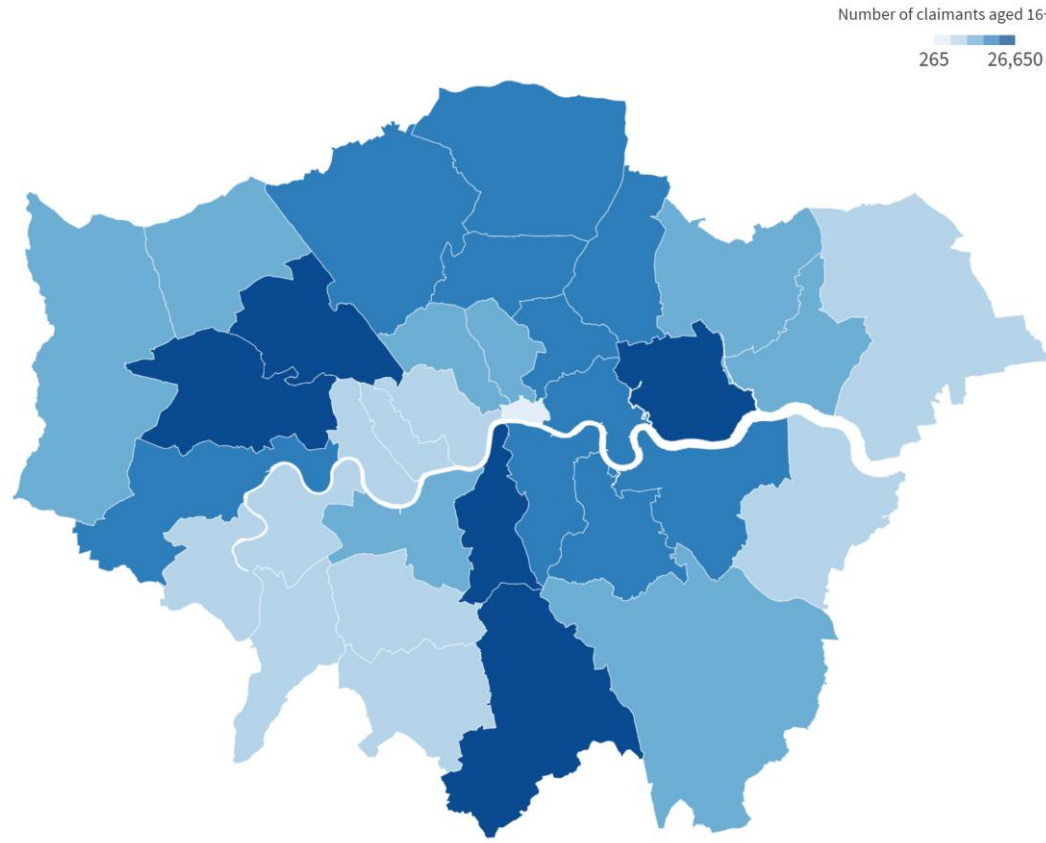
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<b>London</b>	<b>493,790</b>		<b>8,905</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>306,840</b>	<b>164%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>8%</b>		<b>82,130</b>		<b>1,150</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>53,845</b>	<b>190%</b>
Brent	23,160	(2)	455	2%	15,285	194%	10%	11%	(4)	3,485	(5)	10	0%	2,400	221%
Ealing	21,950	(4)	120	1%	13,785	169%	10%	10%	(6)	3,305	(8)	10	0%	2,300	229%
Hammersmith and Fulham	10,815	(24)	85	1%	6,170	133%	8%	8%	(15)	1,535	(28)	-20	-1%	960	167%
Harrow	11,325	(22)	160	1%	7,890	230%	7%	7%	(22)	1,900	(23)	35	2%	1,390	273%
Hillingdon	14,510	(18)	140	1%	9,675	200%	7%	7%	(20)	2,620	(18)	45	2%	1,805	221%
Hounslow	16,955	(14)	185	1%	10,265	153%	9%	10%	(7)	2,635	(17)	25	1%	1,685	177%
Richmond upon Thames	5,995	(32)	90	2%	3,790	172%	5%	5%	(32)	960	(31)	10	1%	670	231%

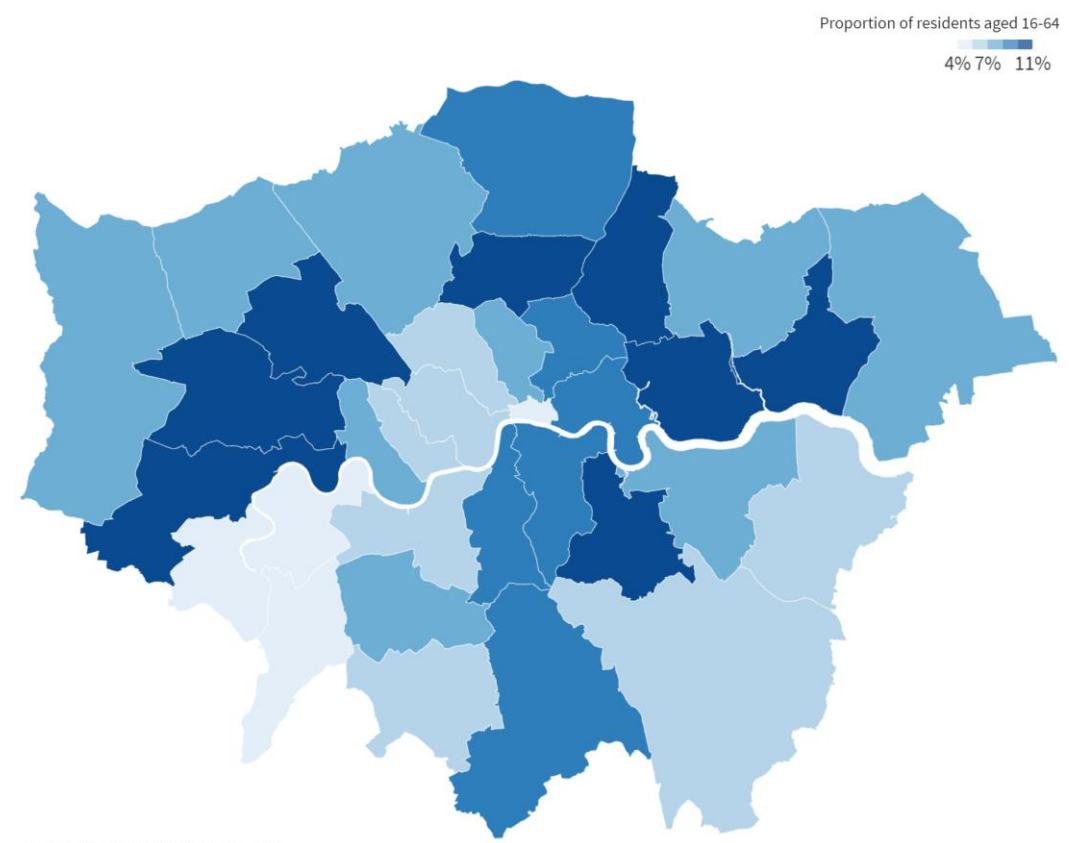
Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not be due wholly to changes in unemployment.

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

## Claimant Count, December 2020



## Claimant rate, December 2020



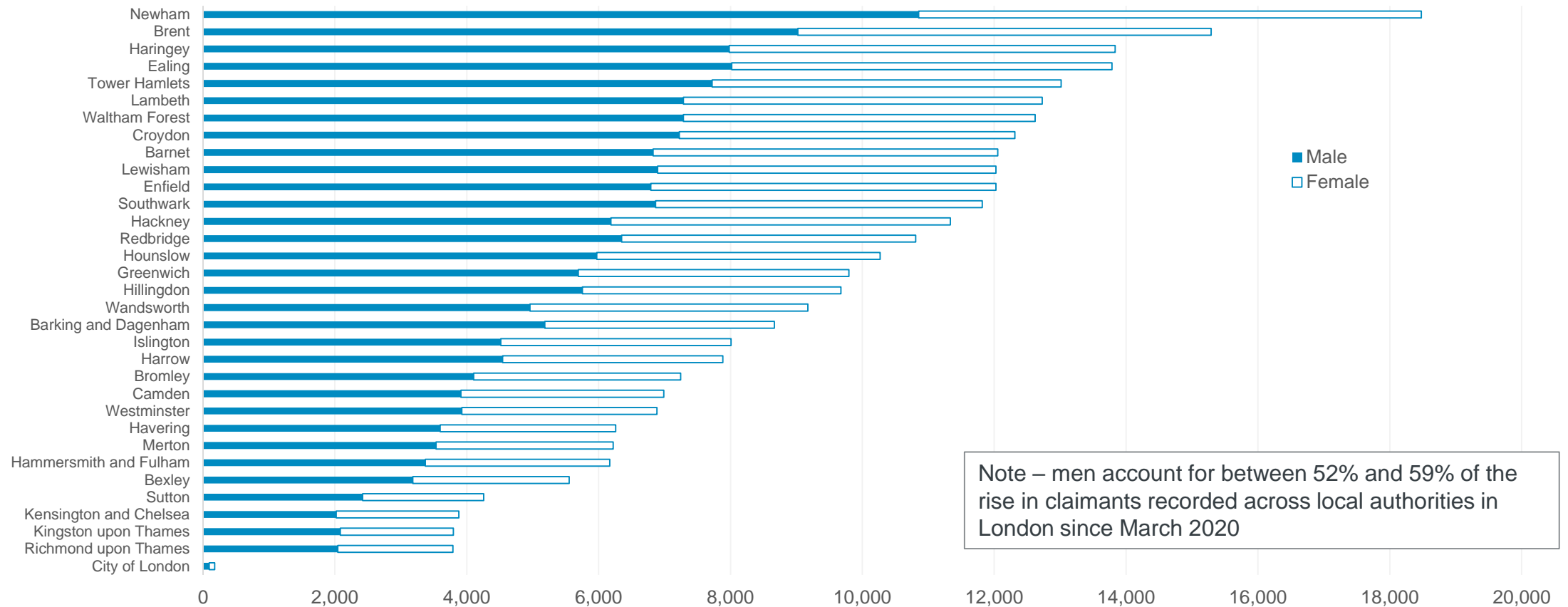
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Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people have recently become eligible for unemployment related benefits, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not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

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

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



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.

# Further reading

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

- [Labour market update for London](#) (January 2021): latest labour market estimates for London
- [Analysis of SEISS statistics for London](#) (November 2020): briefing on the latest HMRC's official statistics on the self-employment scheme
- [Analysis of CJRS statistics for London](#) (December 2020): briefing on the latest HMRC's official statistics on the furlough scheme
- [Labour market roundup](#) (December 2020): a round up of the key developments in the labour market and overview of emerging trends and timely evidence on the impact of COVID-19

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, December 2020

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. The figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

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<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,610,290</b>		<b>5,465</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,341,670</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>		<b>505,190</b>		<b>-3010</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>263,430</b>	<b>109%</b>
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Tower Hamlets	21,325	(6)	215	1%	13,010	156%	9%	9%	(13)	3,805	(3)	30	1%	2,475	186%
Waltham Forest	19,060	(11)	660	4%	12,615	196%	10%	10%	(5)	2,995	(12)	85	3%	2,010	204%
Wandsworth	14,320	(19)	270	2%	9,175	178%	6%	6%	(24)	2,180	(20)	40	2%	1,485	214%
Westminster	10,685	(25)	445	4%	6,885	181%	6%	6%	(27)	1,565	(27)	50	3%	1,150	277%