

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, labour market roundups, 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

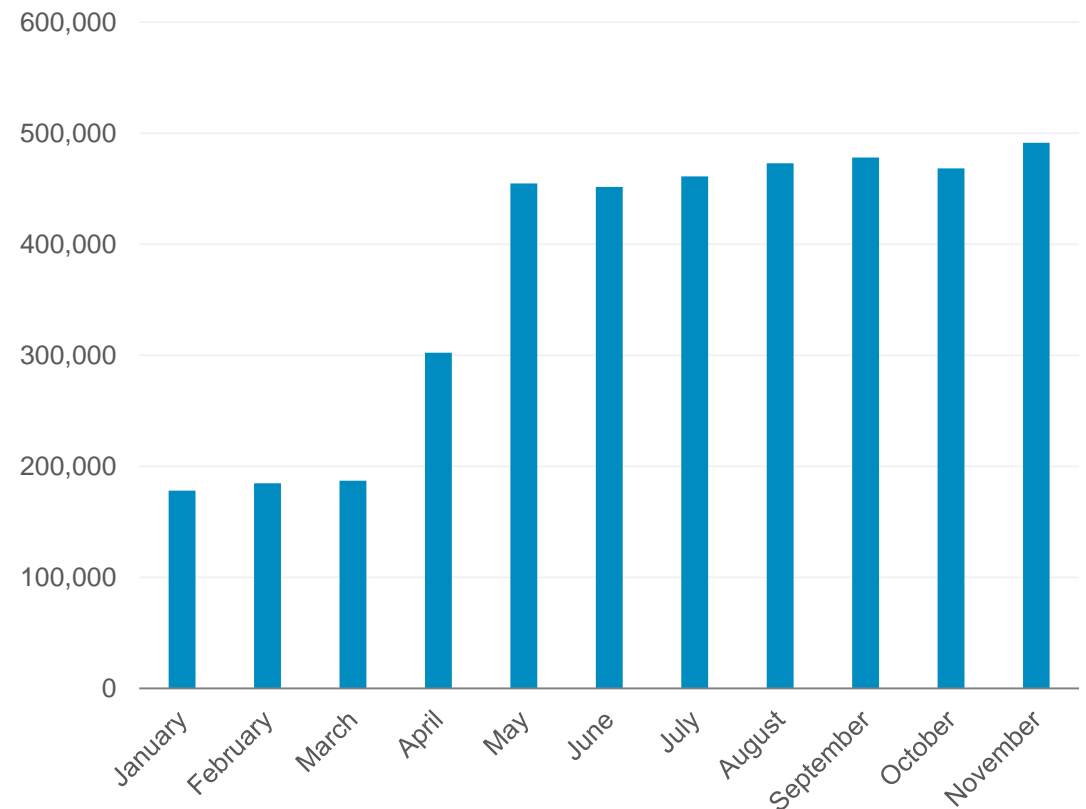
- The ONS recently published November 2020 figures for the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits (the ONS Claimant Count).
- This is a timely source of data for tracking changes in the labour market at a local level. However, it should be noted that **local data is not seasonally adjusted 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 November 2020 the ONS Claimant Count in London has more than doubled – rising from 186,950 to 491,295.
- 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, November 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)	Oct to Nov change level	%	March to Nov change level	%	Oct-20 % aged 16-64	Nov-20	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Oct to Nov change level	%	March to Nov change level	%
United Kingdom	2,631,280		65,960	3%	1,362,660	107%	6%	6%		514,605		3,070	1%	272,845	113%
London	491,295		23,000	5%	304,345	163%	8%	8%		82,085		3,320	4%	53,800	190%
City of London	250	(33)	10	4%	160	178%	4%	4%	(33)	30	(33)	5	20%	25	500%
Camden	11,185	(23)	440	4%	6,870	159%	6%	6%	(24)	1,890	(23)	80	4%	1,220	182%
Islington	13,725	(20)	615	5%	7,910	136%	7%	8%	(18)	2,225	(20)	120	6%	1,400	170%
Kensington and Chelsea	6,225	(30)	250	4%	3,830	160%	6%	6%	(24)	835	(32)	35	4%	565	209%
Lambeth	21,645	(5)	830	4%	12,625	140%	9%	9%	(12)	3,380	(7)	140	4%	2,090	162%
Southwark	20,575	(8)	970	5%	11,995	140%	8%	9%	(12)	3,255	(9)	170	6%	2,170	200%
Westminster	10,370	(26)	495	5%	6,570	173%	5%	6%	(30)	1,530	(28)	130	9%	1,115	269%

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, November 2020

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Barnet	18,725	(12)	680	4%	12,035	180%	7%	7%	(19)	2,915	(14)	95	3%	2,035	231%
Enfield	19,375	(10)	995	5%	11,660	151%	9%	9%	(11)	3,460	(6)	155	5%	2,175	169%
Haringey	20,625	(7)	1,165	6%	13,445	187%	10%	11%	(1)	3,120	(10)	130	4%	2,170	228%

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, November 2020

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London	491,295		23,000	5%	304,345	163%	8%	8%		82,085		3,320	4%	53,800	190%
Barking and Dagenham	14,270	(18)	885	7%	8,420	144%	10%	11%	(2)	2,715	(16)	190	8%	1,695	166%
Bexley	8,935	(28)	335	4%	5,495	160%	6%	6%	(27)	1,830	(25)	55	3%	1,145	167%
Greenwich	16,120	(15)	590	4%	9,700	151%	8%	8%	(15)	2,920	(13)	55	2%	1,790	158%
Hackney	18,755	(11)	545	3%	11,165	147%	9%	9%	(10)	2,985	(11)	65	2%	1,910	178%
Havering	10,380	(25)	335	3%	6,160	146%	6%	7%	(23)	2,125	(22)	50	2%	1,330	167%
Lewisham	20,555	(9)	920	5%	12,145	144%	9%	10%	(7)	3,585	(4)	155	5%	2,230	165%
Newham	26,080	(1)	1,810	7%	17,910	219%	10%	11%	(4)	4,490	(1)	225	5%	3,160	238%
Redbridge	15,965	(16)	895	6%	10,680	202%	8%	8%	(17)	2,760	(15)	95	4%	1,885	215%
Tower Hamlets	21,255	(6)	995	5%	12,940	156%	9%	9%	(12)	3,775	(3)	120	3%	2,445	184%
Waltham Forest	18,695	(13)	1,090	6%	12,250	190%	10%	10%	(5)	2,960	(12)	140	5%	1,975	201%

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, November 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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London	491,295		23,000	5%	304,345	163%	8%	8%		82,085		3,320	4%	53,800	190%
Bromley	11,670	(21)	630	6%	7,390	173%	5%	6%	(27)	2,245	(19)	150	7%	1,520	210%
Croydon	23,325	(2)	970	4%	12,490	115%	9%	9%	(9)	4,405	(2)	105	2%	2,465	127%
Kingston upon Thames	6,090	(31)	170	3%	3,830	169%	5%	5%	(31)	1,045	(30)	0	0%	685	190%
Merton	9,940	(27)	415	4%	6,250	169%	7%	7%	(21)	1,610	(26)	75	5%	1,025	175%
Sutton	7,505	(29)	280	4%	4,350	138%	6%	6%	(27)	1,255	(29)	15	1%	765	156%
Wandsworth	14,185	(19)	535	4%	9,040	176%	6%	6%	(24)	2,145	(21)	65	3%	1,450	209%

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, November 2020

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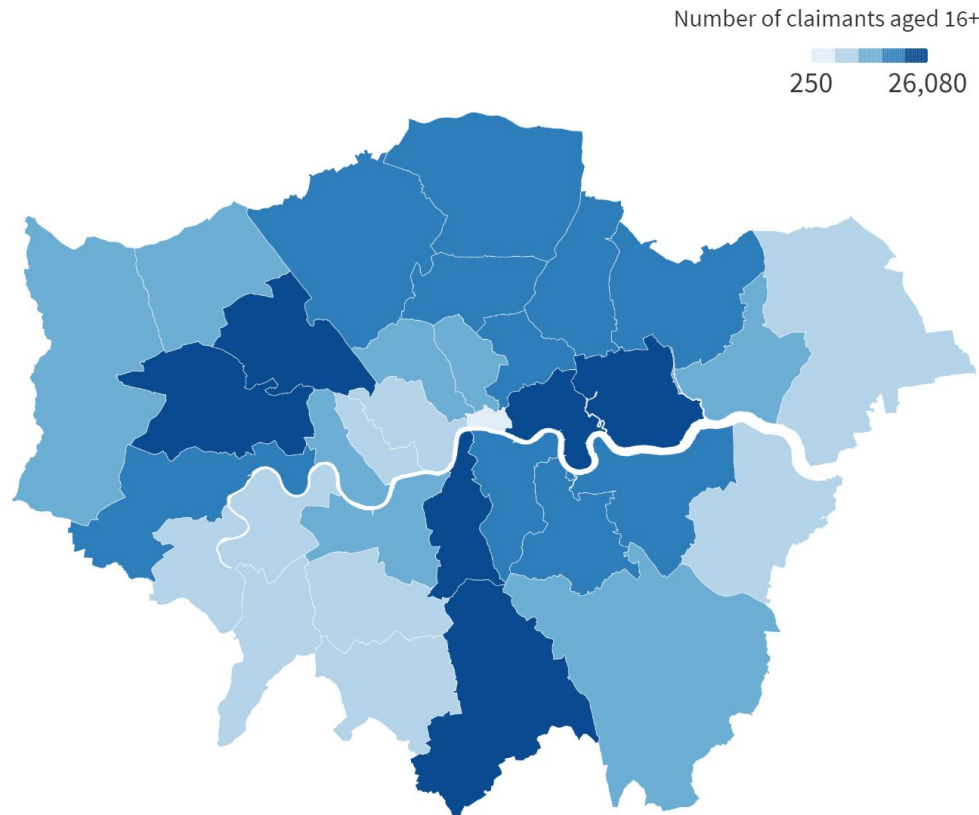
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Brent	23,080	(3)	1,090	5%	15,205	193%	10%	11%	(2)	3,560	(5)	190	6%	2,475	228%
Ealing	22,090	(4)	1,255	6%	13,925	171%	9%	10%	(6)	3,350	(8)	230	7%	2,345	233%
Hammersmith and Fulham	10,865	(24)	510	5%	6,220	134%	8%	8%	(15)	1,575	(27)	90	6%	1,000	174%
Harrow	11,315	(22)	455	4%	7,880	229%	7%	7%	(22)	1,890	(23)	30	2%	1,380	271%
Hillingdon	14,575	(17)	700	5%	9,740	201%	7%	7%	(19)	2,600	(18)	95	4%	1,785	219%
Hounslow	16,960	(14)	980	6%	10,270	154%	9%	10%	(8)	2,640	(17)	90	4%	1,690	178%
Richmond upon Thames	5,990	(32)	175	3%	3,785	172%	5%	5%	(32)	980	(31)	-10	-1%	690	238%

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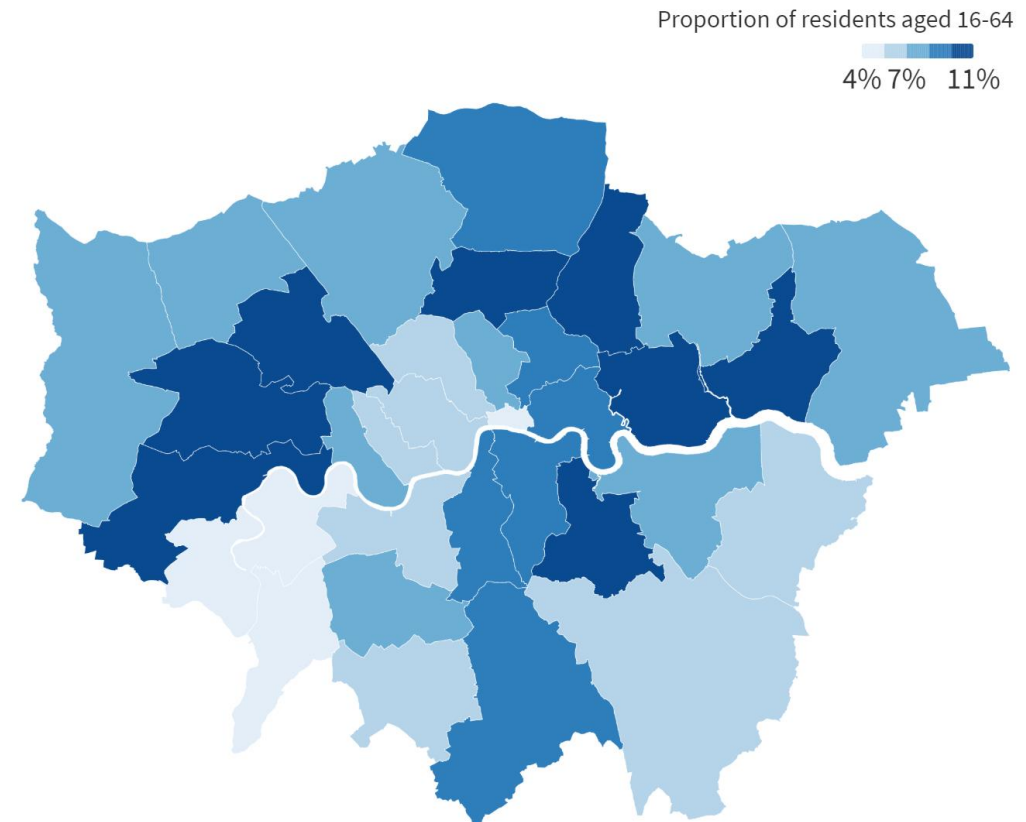
Newham had the highest number of claimants in London in November, while Haringey recorded the highest claimant rate

Claimant Count, November 2020



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012

Claimant rate, November 2020

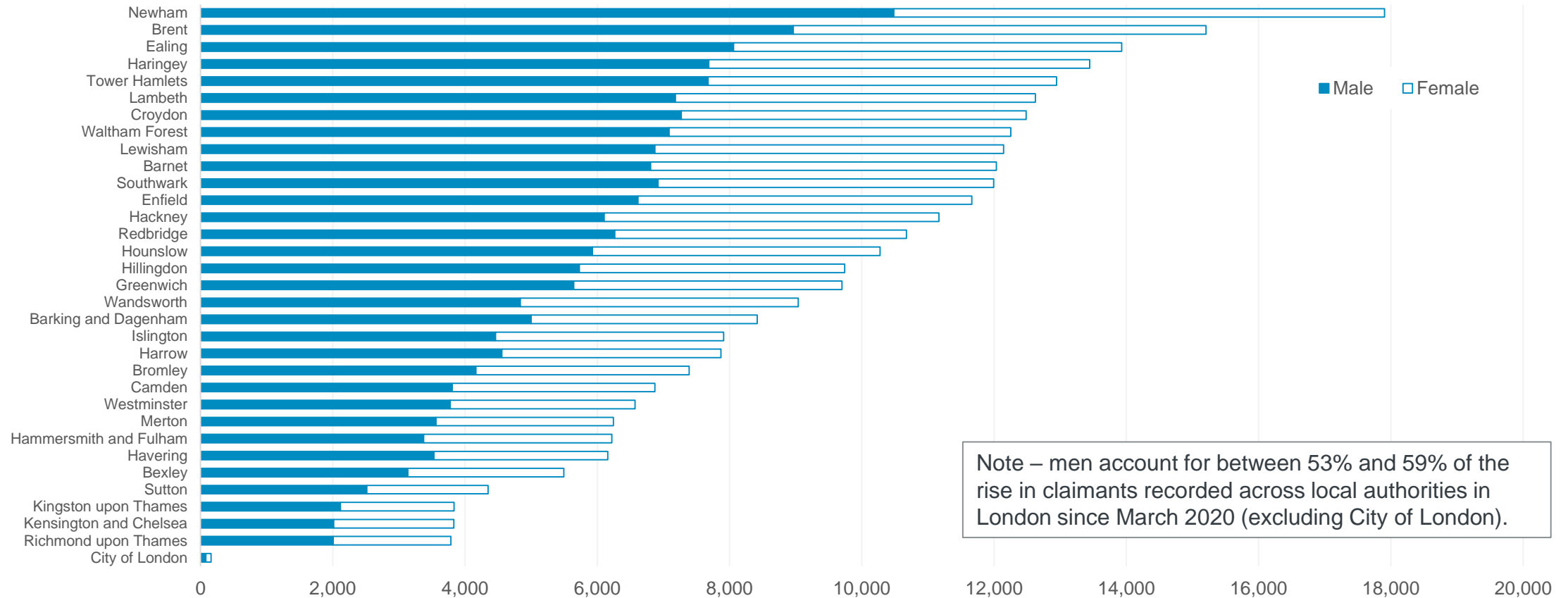


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Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people have recently become eligible for unemployment related benefits, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not 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 November 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](#) (Dec 2020): latest labour market estimates for London
- [Analysis of SEISS statistics for London](#) (Nov 2020): briefing on the latest HMRC's official statistics on the self-employment scheme
- [Analysis of CJRS statistics for London](#) (Nov 2020): briefing on the latest HMRC's official statistics on the furlough scheme
- [Labour market roundup](#) (Nov 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, November 2020

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