

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 May 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.

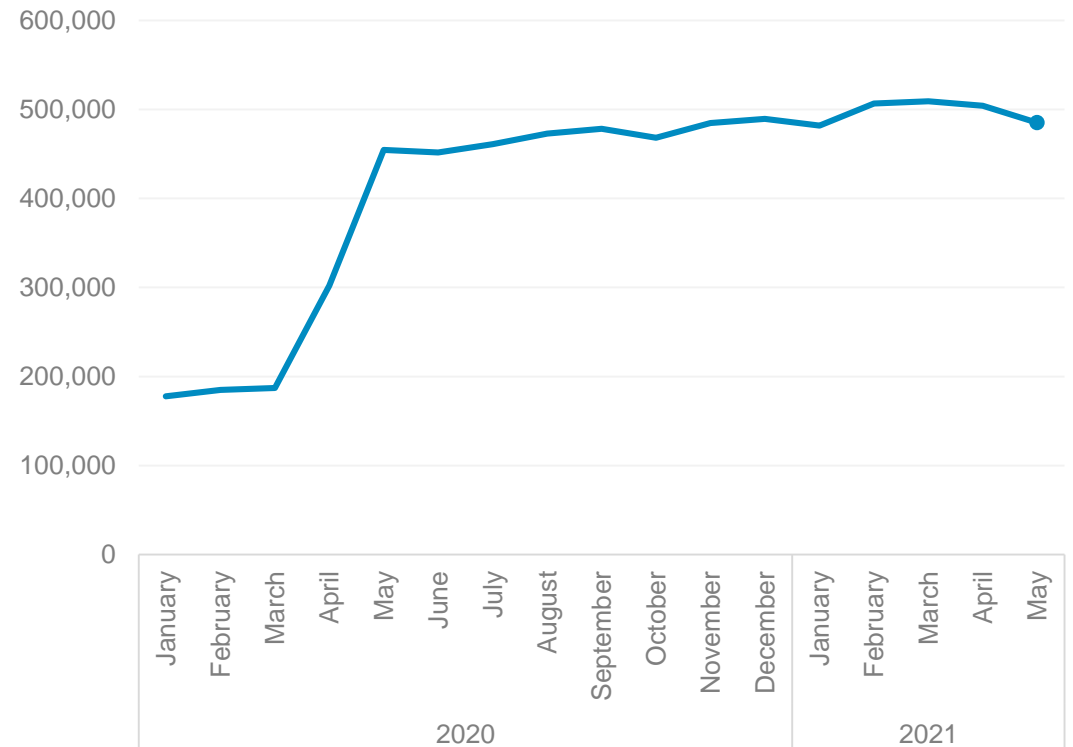
*This point warrants particular attention. As part of the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic, a number of enhancements were introduced to Universal Credit. These measures increased the number of employed people eligible for Universal Credit through their earnings falling below income thresholds.

Just under 500,000 people are now claiming unemployment related benefits in London, following a slight drop in recent months

- 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 May 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has more than doubled – rising from around 187,000 to 484,900 (+159%).
- Around 90% of that increase had occurred by mid-2020. The Claimant Count only increased modestly after May 2020 and since March 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted count has fallen slightly (-24,100 or -5%).
- The following slides present a breakdown of the latest data for people living in local authorities in London.

ONS Claimant Count in London

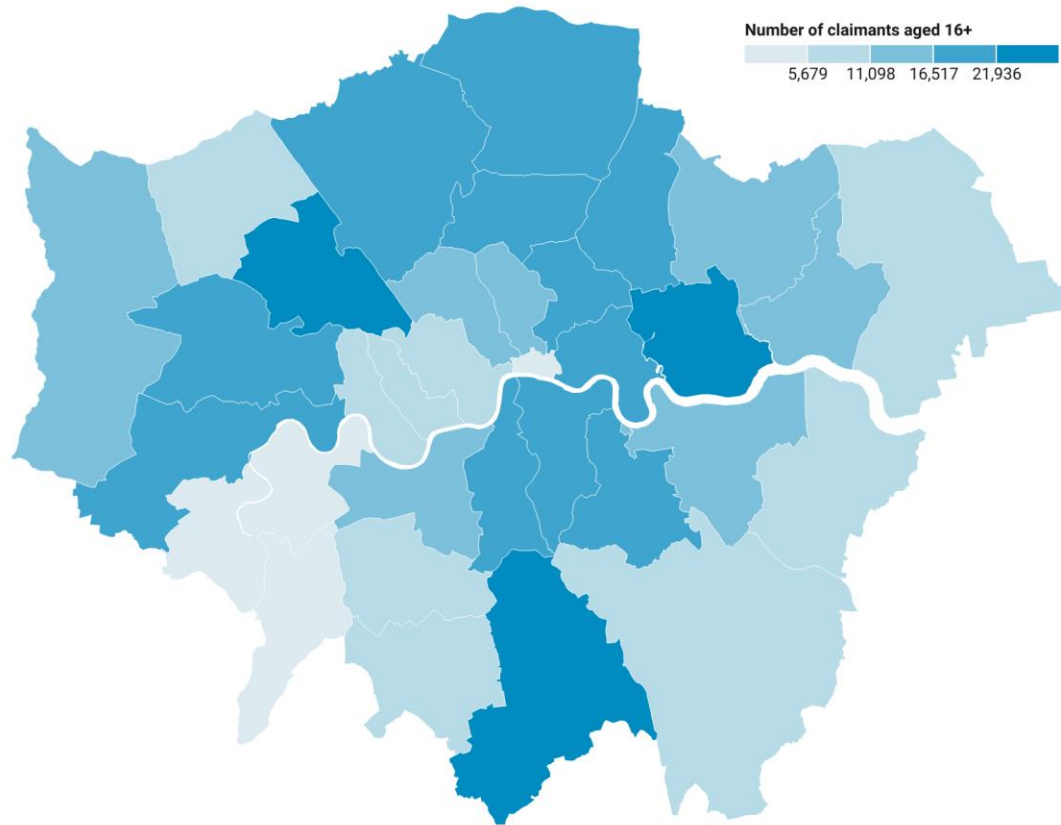
January 2020 to May 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



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.

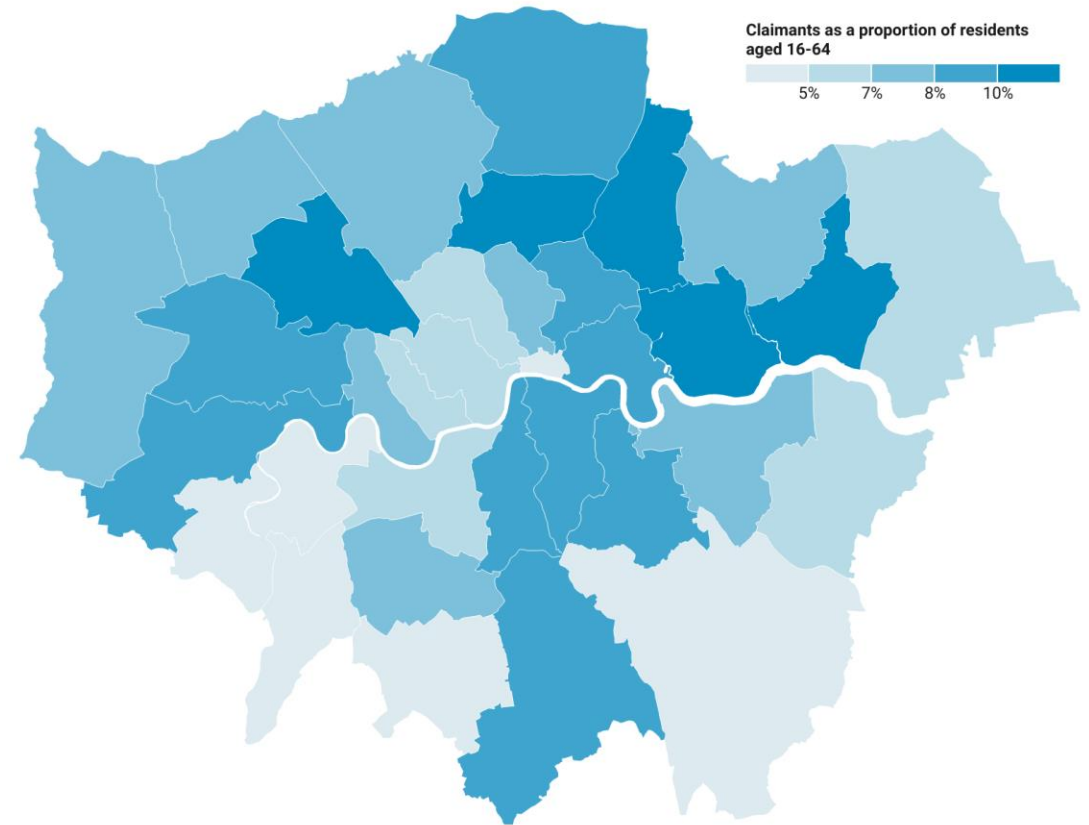
Newham had the highest number of claimants in London in May, while Haringey recorded the highest claimant rate

Claimant Count, May 2021



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

Claimant rate, May 2021

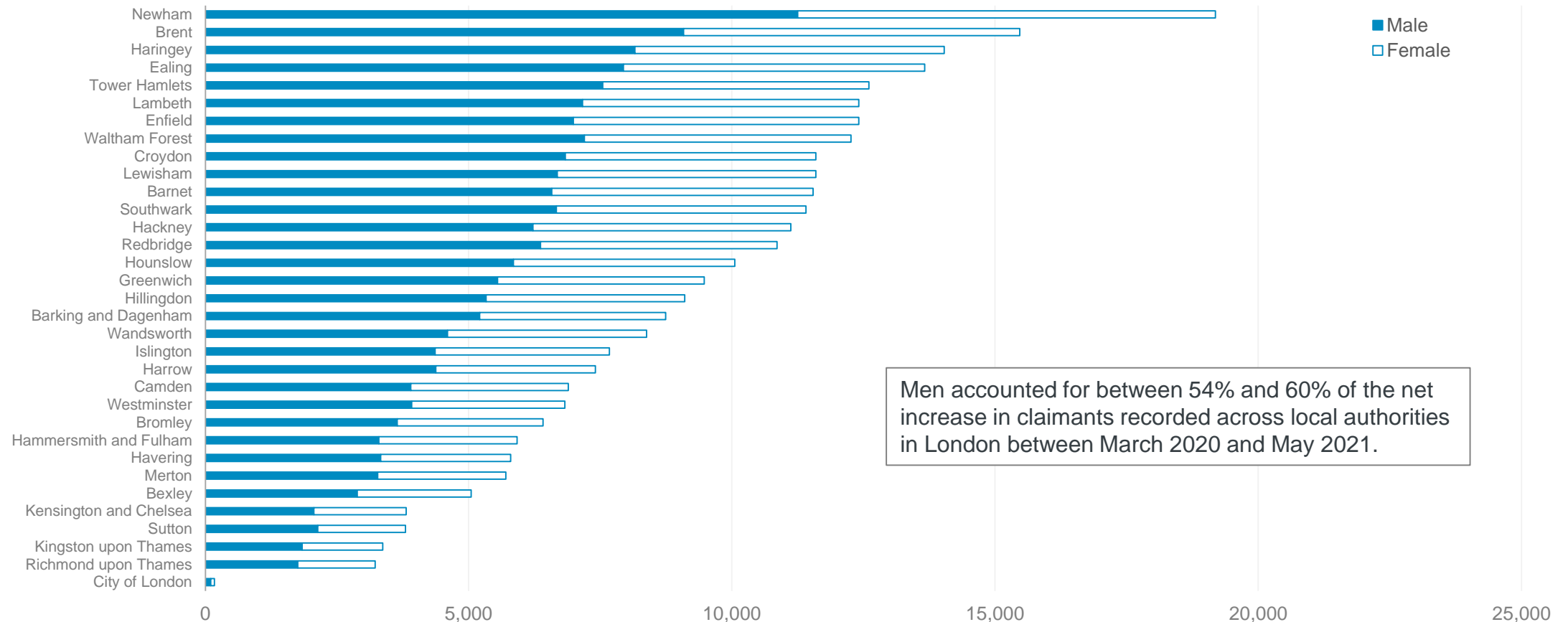


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Newham has also recorded the largest absolute increase in claimants since March 2020, followed by Brent and Haringey

Change in Claimant Count between March 2020 and May 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 May 2021.

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Central sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, May 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	Mar 20 - May 21 change %	Apr-21 % aged 16-64	May-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	Mar 20 - May 21 change %
United Kingdom	2,503,160		-126,320	-5%	1,234,540	97%	6%	6%		469,945		-30,225	-6%	228,185	94%
London	484,930		-19,335	-4%	297,980	159%	8%	8%		76,245		-4,035	-5%	47,960	170%
City of London	260	(33)	0	0%	170	189%	4%	4%	(33)	25	(33)	0	0%	20	400%
Camden	11,210	(21)	-430	-4%	6,895	160%	6%	6%	(24)	1,815	(23)	-105	-5%	1,145	171%
Islington	13,485	(20)	-575	-4%	7,670	132%	8%	7%	(18)	2,070	(19)	-110	-5%	1,245	151%
Kensington and Chelsea	6,210	(30)	-235	-4%	3,815	159%	6%	6%	(24)	770	(32)	-45	-6%	500	185%
Lambeth	21,430	(5)	-735	-3%	12,410	138%	9%	9%	(12)	3,270	(7)	-165	-5%	1,980	153%
Southwark	19,985	(10)	-915	-4%	11,405	133%	9%	9%	(14)	2,925	(10)	-175	-6%	1,840	170%
Westminster	10,630	(24)	-385	-3%	6,830	180%	6%	6%	(26)	1,480	(26)	-100	-6%	1,065	257%

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, May 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	%	Apr-21 % aged 16-64	May-21 % aged 16-64	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	%	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	%
United Kingdom	2,503,160		-126,320	-5%	1,234,540	97%	6%	6%		469,945		-30,225	-6%	228,185	94%
London	484,930		-19,335	-4%	297,980	159%	8%	8%		76,245		-4,035	-5%	47,960	170%
Barnet	18,235	(13)	-770	-4%	11,545	173%	8%	7%	(19)	2,610	(14)	-185	-7%	1,730	197%
Enfield	20,120	(8)	-205	-1%	12,405	161%	10%	9%	(7)	3,290	(6)	-100	-3%	2,005	156%
Haringey	21,215	(6)	-470	-2%	14,035	195%	12%	11%	(1)	3,090	(8)	-90	-3%	2,140	225%

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East sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, May 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Apr-21 % aged 16-64	May-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %
United Kingdom	2,503,160		-126,320	-5%	1,234,540	97%	6%	6%		469,945		-30,225	-6%	228,185	94%
London	484,930		-19,335	-4%	297,980	159%	8%	8%		76,245		-4,035	-5%	47,960	170%
Barking and Dagenham	14,595	(17)	-370	-2%	8,745	149%	11%	11%	(3)	2,530	(16)	-105	-4%	1,510	148%
Bexley	8,490	(28)	-505	-6%	5,050	147%	6%	5%	(28)	1,665	(25)	-120	-7%	980	143%
Greenwich	15,895	(16)	-600	-4%	9,475	148%	9%	8%	(15)	2,805	(13)	-100	-3%	1,675	148%
Hackney	18,705	(11)	-585	-3%	11,115	146%	10%	9%	(9)	2,840	(12)	-160	-5%	1,765	164%
Havering	10,015	(26)	-605	-6%	5,795	137%	7%	6%	(23)	1,950	(21)	-140	-7%	1,155	145%
Lewisham	20,000	(9)	-675	-3%	11,590	138%	10%	9%	(9)	3,315	(5)	-155	-4%	1,960	145%
Newham	27,355	(1)	-735	-3%	19,185	235%	11%	11%	(2)	4,345	(1)	-145	-3%	3,015	227%
Redbridge	16,145	(15)	-520	-3%	10,860	205%	8%	8%	(15)	2,600	(15)	-115	-4%	1,725	197%
Tower Hamlets	20,920	(7)	-915	-4%	12,605	152%	9%	9%	(12)	3,510	(3)	-220	-6%	2,180	164%
Waltham Forest	18,700	(12)	-745	-4%	12,255	190%	10%	10%	(5)	2,845	(11)	-125	-4%	1,860	189%

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.

South sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, May 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Apr-21 % aged 16-64	May-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %
United Kingdom	2,503,160		-126,320	-5%	1,234,540	97%	6%	6%		469,945		-30,225	-6%	228,185	94%
London	484,930		-19,335	-4%	297,980	159%	8%	8%		76,245		-4,035	-5%	47,960	170%
Bromley	10,695	(23)	-795	-7%	6,415	150%	6%	5%	(30)	1,940	(22)	-165	-8%	1,215	168%
Croydon	22,435	(3)	-1,090	-5%	11,600	107%	10%	9%	(11)	4,025	(2)	-185	-4%	2,085	107%
Kingston upon Thames	5,620	(31)	-400	-7%	3,360	149%	5%	5%	(31)	865	(30)	-85	-9%	505	140%
Merton	9,405	(27)	-470	-5%	5,715	155%	7%	7%	(21)	1,445	(27)	-70	-5%	860	147%
Sutton	6,960	(29)	-455	-6%	3,805	121%	6%	5%	(29)	1,145	(29)	-60	-5%	655	134%
Wandsworth	13,520	(19)	-695	-5%	8,375	163%	6%	6%	(27)	1,955	(20)	-135	-6%	1,260	181%

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West sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

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	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	Mar 20 - May 21 change %	Apr-21 %	May-21 %	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Apr 21 - May 21 change level	May 21 change %	Mar 20 - May 21 change level	Mar 20 - May 21 change %
United Kingdom	2,503,160		-126,320	-5%	1,234,540	97%	6%	6%		469,945		-30,225	-6%	228,185	94%
London	484,930		-19,335	-4%	297,980	159%	8%	8%		76,245		-4,035	-5%	47,960	170%
Brent	23,345	(2)	-885	-4%	15,470	196%	11%	11%	(4)	3,365	(4)	-180	-5%	2,280	210%
Ealing	21,830	(4)	-755	-3%	13,665	167%	10%	10%	(6)	2,960	(9)	-185	-6%	1,955	195%
Hammersmith and Fulham	10,555	(25)	-415	-4%	5,910	127%	8%	8%	(17)	1,445	(27)	-70	-5%	870	151%
Harrow	10,845	(22)	-575	-5%	7,410	216%	7%	7%	(21)	1,715	(24)	-110	-6%	1,205	236%
Hillingdon	13,940	(18)	-695	-5%	9,105	188%	7%	7%	(20)	2,380	(18)	-145	-6%	1,565	192%
Hounslow	16,740	(14)	-790	-5%	10,050	150%	10%	9%	(7)	2,425	(17)	-135	-5%	1,475	155%
Richmond upon Thames	5,430	(32)	-350	-6%	3,225	146%	5%	4%	(32)	835	(31)	-55	-6%	545	188%

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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](#) (June 2021): latest labour market estimates for London
- [Analysis of CJRS statistics for London](#) (June 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

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