

# 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 September 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 was more pronounced than the rise in the standard (ILO) measure of unemployment at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, with several possible reasons for this.\*
- 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.

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 modest for recent periods.

\*For example: claimants may have been temporarily inactive, and so not actively looking for work; claimants may have had a job but be temporarily away from work due to the pandemic; or claimants may have been in employment but also able to claim unemployment related benefits. The last point warrants particular attention. As part of the government's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) 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 400k Londoners are now claiming unemployment-related benefits as the Claimant Count declined only marginally since June

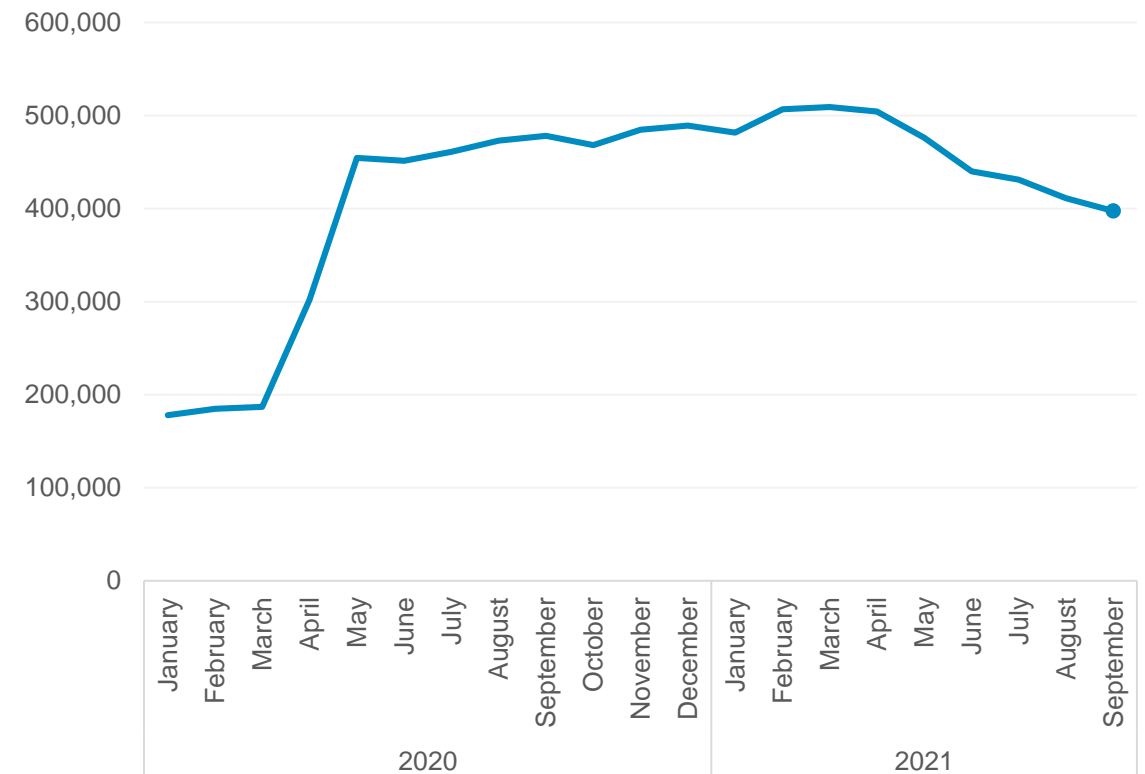
Changes in the Claimant Count in London since March 2020, when the lockdown began, help to illustrate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- When comparing March 2020 and September 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has more than doubled – rising from 187,000 to 397,000 (+113%).
- The Claimant Count peaked at approximately 510,000 in March 2021. Since then, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has fallen by around 112,000 (-22%).
- Focusing on the last month, the period from August 2021 to September 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count fell marginally by 13,700 (-3.3%).

The following slides present a breakdown of the latest data for people living in local authorities in London.

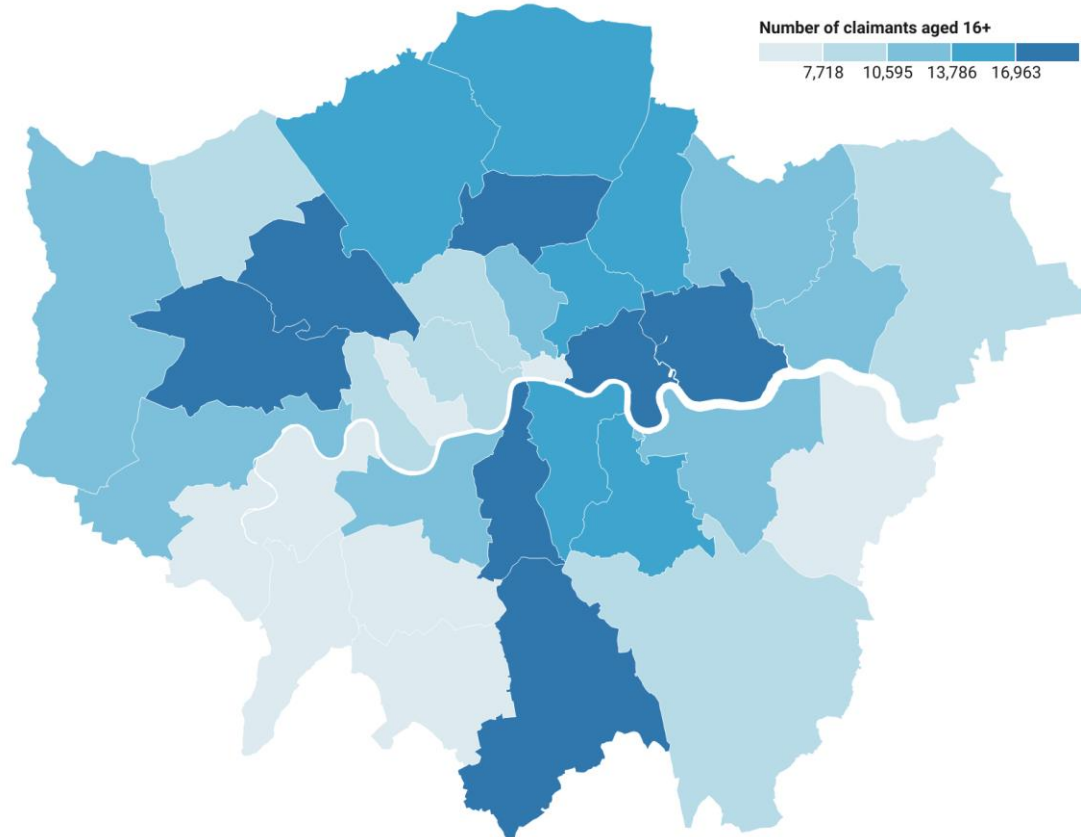
## ONS Claimant Count in London

January 2020 to September 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



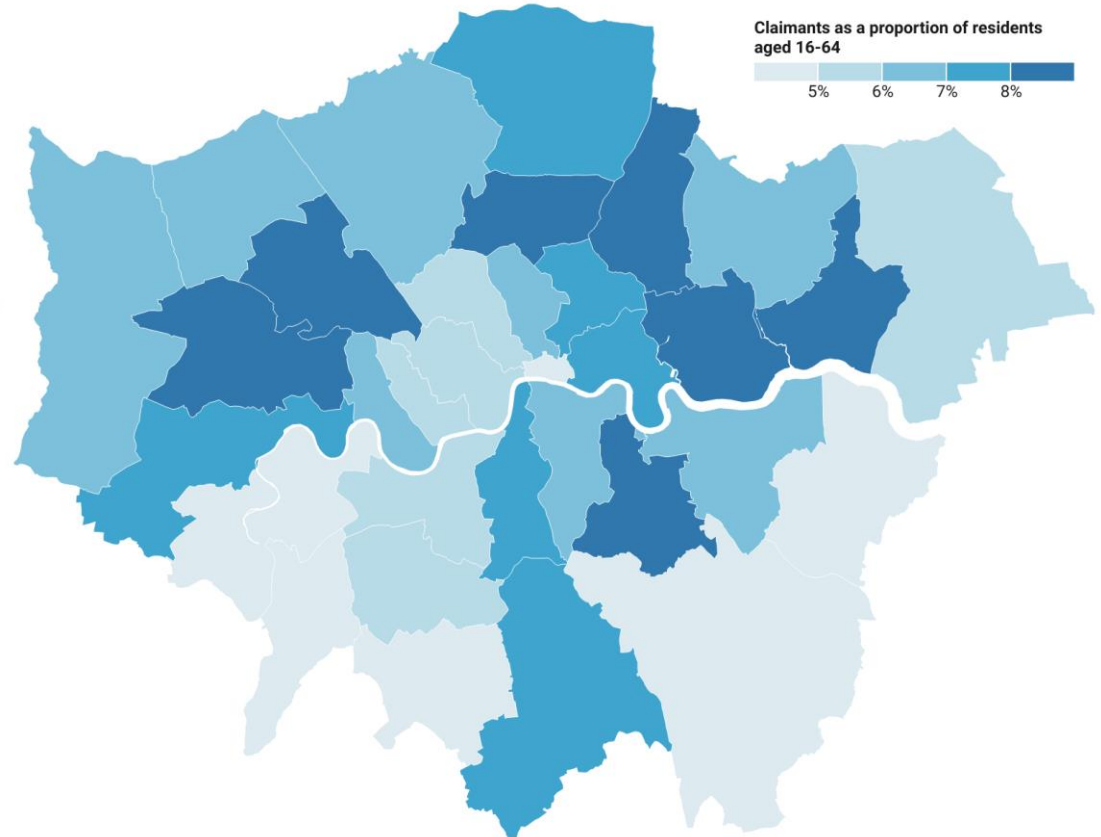
# Haringey continues to have the highest Claimant rate in the capital, followed by Newham and Brent

Claimant Count, September 2021



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

Claimant rate, September 2021

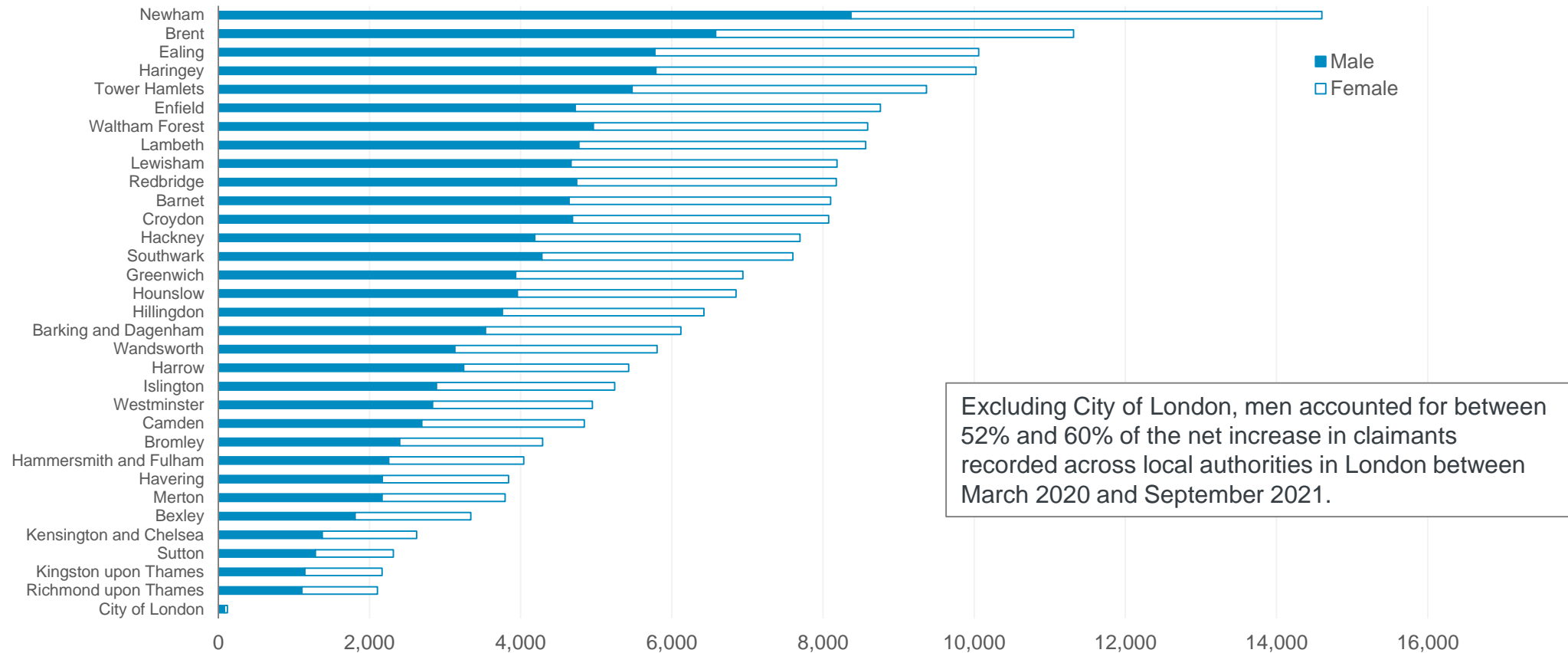


Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2018 • Created with Datawrapper

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, Brent and Ealing have seen the largest absolute increases in the Claimant Count since March 2020

Change in Claimant Count between March 2020 and September 2021 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.

# Central sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, September 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Sep 21 change level	%	Aug 21 % aged 16-64	Sep 21 % aged 16-64	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change level	%	Mar 20-Sep 21 change level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,079,275</b>		<b>-65,055</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>810,655</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>365,735</b>		<b>-14,435</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>123,975</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>397,320</b>		<b>-13,715</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>210,370</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>58,125</b>		<b>-2,355</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>105%</b>
City of London	210	(33)	5	2%	120	133%	3%	3%	(33)	25	(33)	0	0%	20	400%
Camden	9,155	(21)	-195	-2%	4,840	112%	5%	5%	(25)	1,395	(23)	-15	-1%	725	108%
Islington	11,060	(19)	-270	-2%	5,245	90%	6%	6%	(18)	1,585	(19)	-75	-5%	760	92%
Kensington and Chelsea	5,020	(30)	-205	-4%	2,625	110%	5%	5%	(24)	595	(31)	-15	-2%	325	120%
Lambeth	17,585	(6)	-540	-3%	8,565	95%	8%	7%	(12)	2,445	(7)	-100	-4%	1,155	90%
Southwark	16,175	(10)	-435	-3%	7,595	89%	7%	7%	(14)	2,200	(11)	-70	-3%	1,115	103%
Westminster	8,750	(23)	-220	-2%	4,950	130%	5%	5%	(25)	1,140	(26)	-60	-5%	725	175%

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 local authorities are ranked by total number of claimants within London overall.

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, September 2021

	Actual count				Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24								
	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change level	Mar 20-Sep 21 change level	Aug 21 % aged 16-64	Sep 21 % aged 16-64	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change level	Mar 20-Sep 21 change level	%	%			
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,079,275</b>		<b>-65,055</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>810,655</b>	<b>64%</b>		<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>365,735</b>	<b>-14,435</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>123,975</b>	<b>51%</b>	
<b>London</b>	<b>397,320</b>		<b>-13,715</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>210,370</b>	<b>113%</b>		<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>58,125</b>	<b>-2,355</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>105%</b>	
Barnet	14,790	(13)	-465	-3%	8,100	121%		6%	6%	(19)	1,940	(15)	-50	-3%	1,060	120%
Enfield	16,470	(9)	-830	-5%	8,755	113%		8%	8%	(8)	2,540	(6)	-175	-6%	1,255	98%
Haringey	17,205	(7)	-625	-4%	10,025	140%		10%	9%	(1)	2,390	(8)	-45	-2%	1,440	152%

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.



# East sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, September 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change		Mar 20-Sep 21 change		Aug 21	Sep 21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change		Mar 20-Sep 21 change	
			level	%	level	%	% aged 16-64					level	%	level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,079,275</b>		<b>-65,055</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>810,655</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>365,735</b>		<b>-14,435</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>123,975</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>397,320</b>		<b>-13,715</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>210,370</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>58,125</b>		<b>-2,355</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>105%</b>
Barking and Dagenham	11,970	(17)	-535	-4%	6,120	105%	9%	9%	(4)	1,910	(16)	-70	-4%	890	87%
Bexley	6,780	(28)	-340	-5%	3,340	97%	5%	4%	(28)	1,260	(24)	-50	-4%	575	84%
Greenwich	13,360	(16)	-360	-3%	6,940	108%	7%	7%	(15)	2,205	(10)	-80	-4%	1,075	95%
Hackney	15,290	(11)	-565	-4%	7,700	101%	8%	8%	(9)	2,085	(13)	-105	-5%	1,010	94%
Havering	8,060	(26)	-310	-4%	3,840	91%	5%	5%	(23)	1,400	(22)	-70	-5%	605	76%
Lewisham	16,600	(8)	-500	-3%	8,190	97%	8%	8%	(7)	2,600	(5)	-120	-4%	1,245	92%
Newham	22,770	(1)	-775	-3%	14,600	179%	10%	9%	(2)	3,240	(2)	-195	-6%	1,910	144%
Redbridge	13,460	(15)	-585	-4%	8,175	155%	7%	7%	(16)	2,005	(14)	-70	-3%	1,130	129%
Tower Hamlets	17,685	(5)	-610	-3%	9,370	113%	8%	7%	(13)	2,730	(3)	-205	-7%	1,400	105%
Waltham Forest	15,030	(12)	-605	-4%	8,585	133%	8%	8%	(6)	2,145	(12)	-95	-4%	1,160	118%

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, September 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change		Mar 20-Sep 21 change		Aug 21	Sep 21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change		Mar 20-Sep 21 change	
			level	%	level	%	% aged 16-64					level	%	level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,079,275</b>		<b>-65,055</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>810,655</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>365,735</b>		<b>-14,435</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>123,975</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>397,320</b>		<b>-13,715</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>210,370</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>58,125</b>		<b>-2,355</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>105%</b>
Bromley	8,570	(25)	-255	-3%	4,290	100%	4%	4%	(30)	1,470	(21)	-35	-2%	745	103%
Croydon	18,915	(3)	-535	-3%	8,080	75%	8%	8%	(9)	3,250	(1)	-110	-3%	1,310	68%
Kingston upon Thames	4,420	(31)	-290	-6%	2,160	96%	4%	4%	(31)	620	(30)	-30	-5%	260	72%
Merton	7,490	(27)	-260	-3%	3,800	103%	6%	6%	(22)	1,075	(28)	-50	-4%	490	84%
Sutton	5,470	(29)	-225	-4%	2,315	73%	4%	4%	(29)	885	(29)	-5	-1%	395	81%
Wandsworth	10,955	(20)	-290	-3%	5,810	113%	5%	5%	(25)	1,495	(20)	-45	-3%	800	115%

Notes:

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# West sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, September 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change		Mar 20-Sep 21 change		Aug 21	Sep 21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Aug 21-Sep 21 change		Mar 20-Sep 21 change	
			level	%	level	%	% aged 16-64					level	%	level	%
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,079,275</b>		<b>-65,055</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>810,655</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>365,735</b>		<b>-14,435</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>123,975</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>397,320</b>		<b>-13,715</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>210,370</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>58,125</b>		<b>-2,355</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>29,840</b>	<b>105%</b>
Brent	19,195	(2)	-600	-3%	11,320	144%	9%	9%	(3)	2,650	(4)	-75	-3%	1,565	144%
Ealing	18,230	(4)	-610	-3%	10,065	123%	9%	8%	(5)	2,370	(9)	-25	-1%	1,365	136%
Hammersmith and Fulham	8,680	(24)	-170	-2%	4,035	87%	7%	7%	(17)	1,115	(27)	0	0%	540	94%
Harrow	8,870	(22)	-410	-4%	5,435	158%	6%	6%	(20)	1,230	(25)	-105	-8%	720	141%
Hillingdon	11,260	(18)	-410	-4%	6,425	133%	6%	6%	(20)	1,765	(18)	-100	-5%	950	117%
Hounslow	13,535	(14)	-480	-3%	6,845	102%	8%	8%	(9)	1,840	(17)	-70	-4%	890	94%
Richmond upon Thames	4,310	(32)	-195	-4%	2,105	95%	4%	4%	(32)	535	(32)	-25	-4%	245	84%

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

People claiming unemployment related benefits, September 2021

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Barking and Dagenham	11,970	(17)	-535	-4%	6,120	105%	9%	9%	(4)	1,910	(16)	-70	-4%	890	87%
Barnet	14,790	(13)	-465	-3%	8,100	121%	6%	6%	(19)	1,940	(15)	-50	-3%	1,060	120%
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Redbridge	13,460	(15)	-585	-4%	8,175	155%	7%	7%	(16)	2,005	(14)	-70	-3%	1,130	129%
Richmond upon Thames	4,310	(32)	-195	-4%	2,105	95%	4%	4%	(32)	535	(32)	-25	-4%	245	84%
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Tower Hamlets	17,685	(5)	-610	-3%	9,370	113%	8%	7%	(13)	2,730	(3)	-205	-7%	1,400	105%
Waltham Forest	15,030	(12)	-605	-4%	8,585	133%	8%	8%	(6)	2,145	(12)	-95	-4%	1,160	118%
Wandsworth	10,955	(20)	-290	-3%	5,810	113%	5%	5%	(25)	1,495	(20)	-45	-3%	800	115%
Westminster	8,750	(23)	-220	-2%	4,950	130%	5%	5%	(25)	1,140	(26)	-60	-5%	725	175%

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 local authorities are ranked by total number of claimants within London overall.

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.