

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 August 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. There are 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. 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 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 420k Londoners are now claiming unemployment-related benefits as the Claimant Count declined only marginally since June

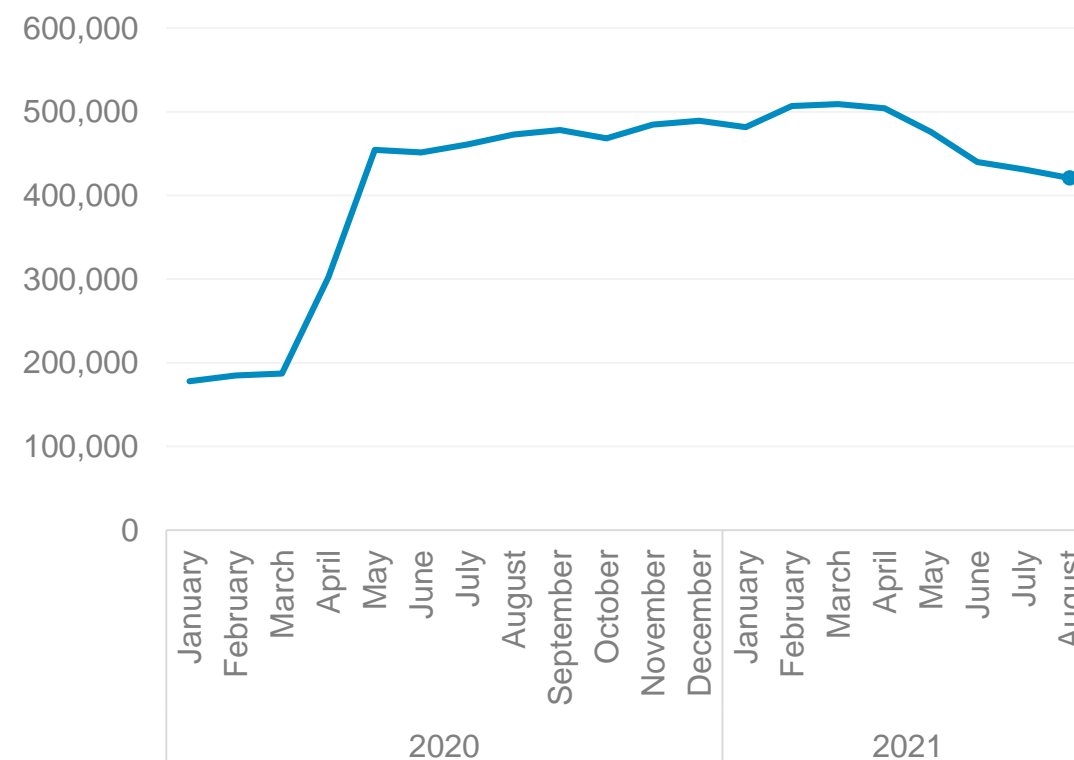
Changes in the Claimant Count in London since March 2020, when the lockdown began, help to illustrate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- When comparing March 2020 and August 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has more than doubled – rising from 187,000 to 421,000 (+125%).
- The Claimant Count peaked at approximately 510,000 in March 2021. Since then, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has fallen by around 88,000 (-17%).
- Focusing on the last month, the period from July 2021 to August 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count fell marginally by 10,400 (-2.4%).

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

ONS Claimant Count in London

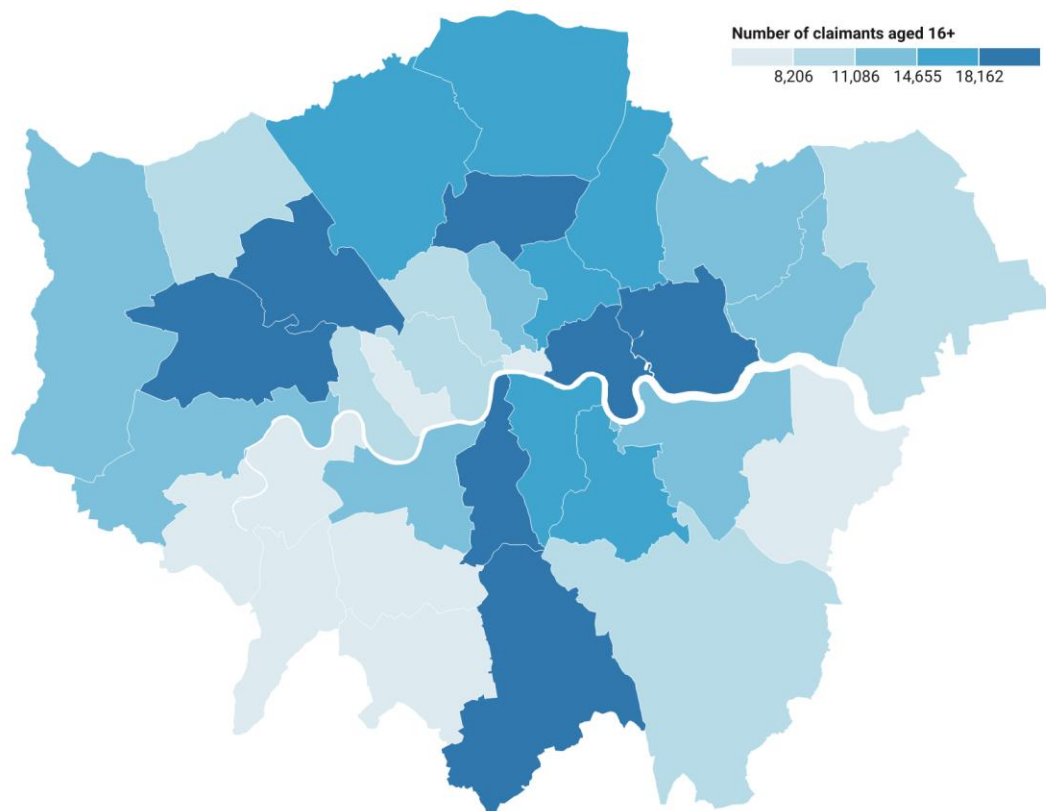
January 2020 to August 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



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.

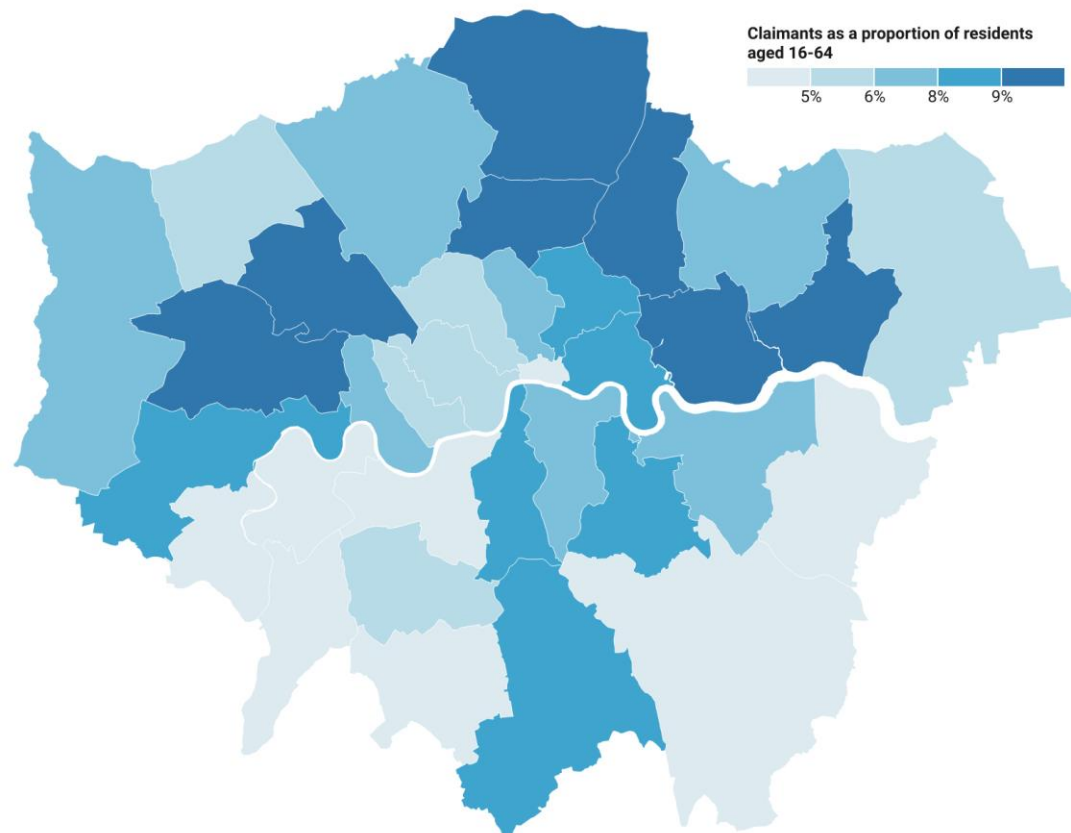
Haringey now has the highest Claimant rate in the capital followed by Newham and Barking & Dagenham

Claimant Count, August 2021



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

Claimant rate, August 2021

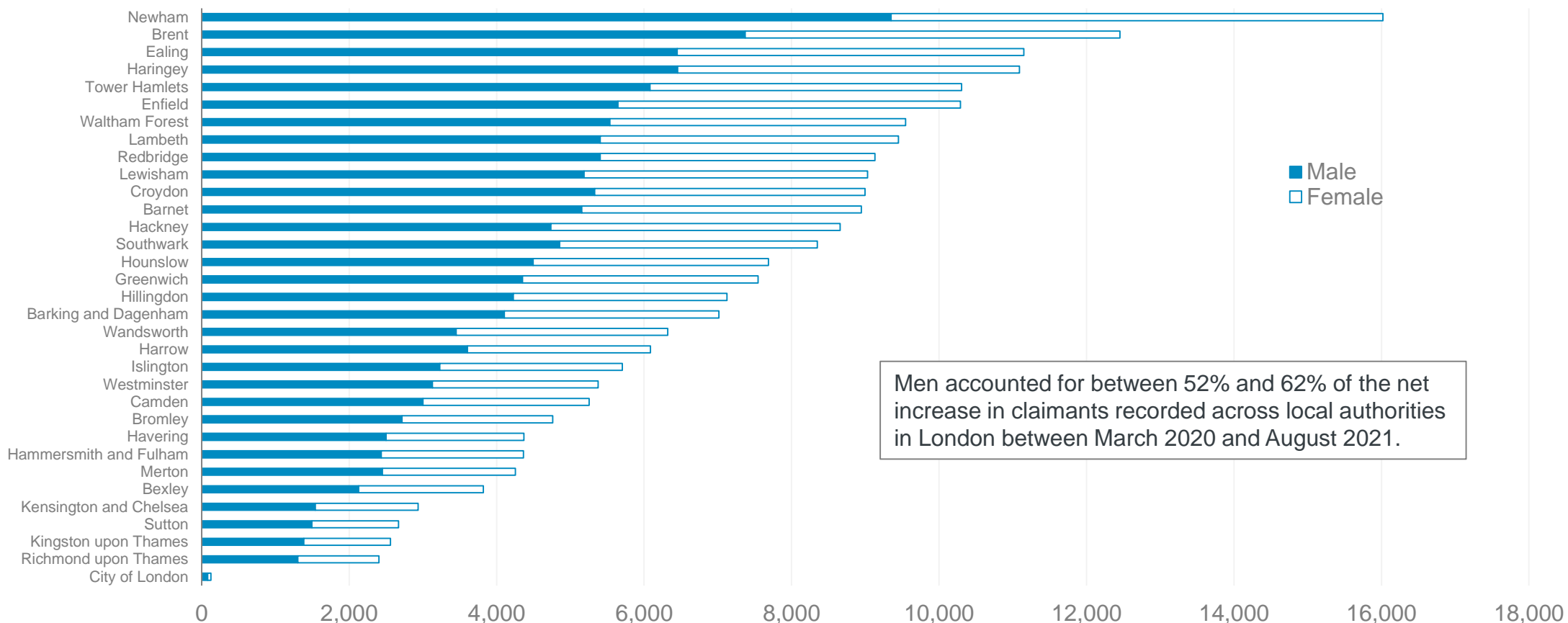


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Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – data is not seasonally adjusted. Note that an increasing number of people have recently become eligible for unemployment related benefits, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not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

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

Change in Claimant Count between March 2020 and August 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, August 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change		July 2021	August 2021	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change	
			level	%	level	%						level	%	level	%
United Kingdom	2,185,420		-47,340	-2%	916,800	72%	5%	5%		388,460		-13,400	-3%	146,700	61%
London	420,755		-10,380	-2%	233,805	125%	7%	7%		61,895		-3,015	-5%	33,610	119%
City of London	220	(33)	-5	-2%	130	144%	3%	3%	(33)	25	(33)	0	0%	20	400%
Camden	9,570	(21)	-350	-4%	5,255	122%	5%	5%	(25)	1,445	(23)	-85	-6%	775	116%
Islington	11,515	(19)	-450	-4%	5,700	98%	6%	6%	(18)	1,665	(19)	-85	-5%	840	102%
Kensington and Chelsea	5,335	(30)	-150	-3%	2,940	123%	5%	5%	(24)	620	(31)	-45	-7%	350	130%
Lambeth	18,470	(6)	-475	-3%	9,450	105%	8%	8%	(12)	2,605	(7)	-135	-5%	1,315	102%
Southwark	16,925	(10)	-555	-3%	8,345	97%	8%	7%	(14)	2,295	(11)	-140	-6%	1,210	112%
Westminster	9,175	(23)	-425	-4%	5,375	141%	5%	5%	(25)	1,210	(26)	-105	-8%	795	192%

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, August 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change		July 2021	August 2021	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change	
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London	420,755		-10,380	-2%	233,805	125%	7%	7%		61,895		-3,015	-5%	33,610	119%
Barnet	15,635	(13)	-280	-2%	8,945	134%	6%	6%	(19)	2,020	(16)	-85	-4%	1,140	130%
Enfield	18,000	(8)	-205	-1%	10,285	133%	9%	9%	(7)	2,820	(4)	-80	-3%	1,535	119%
Haringey	18,270	(7)	-305	-2%	11,090	154%	10%	10%	(1)	2,475	(8)	-90	-4%	1,525	161%

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East sub-region

Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, August 2021

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	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change		July 2021	August 2021	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change	
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United Kingdom	2,185,420		-47,340	-2%	916,800	72%	5%	5%		388,460		-13,400	-3%	146,700	61%
London	420,755		-10,380	-2%	233,805	125%	7%	7%		61,895		-3,015	-5%	33,610	119%
Barking and Dagenham	12,865	(17)	-330	-3%	7,015	120%	10%	10%	(3)	2,025	(15)	-130	-6%	1,005	99%
Bexley	7,260	(28)	-210	-3%	3,820	111%	5%	5%	(28)	1,340	(25)	-90	-6%	655	96%
Greenwich	13,965	(16)	-305	-2%	7,545	118%	7%	7%	(16)	2,340	(10)	-95	-4%	1,210	107%
Hackney	16,250	(11)	-295	-2%	8,660	114%	8%	8%	(9)	2,245	(13)	-140	-6%	1,170	109%
Havering	8,590	(26)	-240	-3%	4,370	104%	6%	5%	(23)	1,515	(22)	-80	-5%	720	91%
Lewisham	17,445	(9)	-355	-2%	9,035	107%	8%	8%	(8)	2,785	(5)	-90	-3%	1,430	106%
Newham	24,190	(1)	-465	-2%	16,020	196%	10%	10%	(2)	3,535	(1)	-225	-6%	2,205	166%
Redbridge	14,410	(14)	-300	-2%	9,125	173%	7%	7%	(14)	2,140	(14)	-145	-6%	1,265	145%
Tower Hamlets	18,620	(5)	-545	-3%	10,305	124%	8%	8%	(13)	2,960	(3)	-135	-4%	1,630	123%
Waltham Forest	15,985	(12)	-395	-2%	9,540	148%	9%	9%	(6)	2,290	(12)	-105	-4%	1,305	132%

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, August 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change		July 2021	August 2021	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jul 21-Aug 21 change		Mar 20-Aug 21 change	
			level	%	level	%	% aged 16-64					level	%	level	%
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London	420,755		-10,380	-2%	233,805	125%	7%	7%		61,895		-3,015	-5%	33,610	119%
Bromley	9,040	(24)	-245	-3%	4,760	111%	5%	4%	(29)	1,545	(21)	-85	-5%	820	113%
Croydon	19,840	(3)	-430	-2%	9,005	83%	8%	8%	(11)	3,450	(2)	-135	-4%	1,510	78%
Kingston upon Thames	4,820	(31)	-80	-2%	2,560	113%	4%	4%	(31)	670	(30)	-30	-4%	310	86%
Merton	7,950	(27)	-325	-4%	4,260	115%	6%	6%	(22)	1,150	(27)	-75	-6%	565	97%
Sutton	5,825	(29)	-165	-3%	2,670	85%	5%	4%	(29)	915	(29)	-50	-5%	425	87%
Wandsworth	11,465	(20)	-350	-3%	6,320	123%	5%	5%	(25)	1,585	(20)	-65	-4%	890	128%

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West sub-region

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London	420,755		-10,380	-2%	233,805	125%	7%	7%		61,895		-3,015	-5%	33,610	119%
Brent	20,330	(2)	-495	-2%	12,455	158%	10%	9%	(4)	2,780	(6)	-115	-4%	1,695	156%
Ealing	19,315	(4)	-415	-2%	11,150	137%	9%	9%	(5)	2,455	(9)	-90	-4%	1,450	144%
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,005	(25)	-305	-3%	4,360	94%	7%	7%	(17)	1,145	(28)	-70	-6%	570	99%
Harrow	9,520	(22)	-135	-1%	6,085	177%	6%	6%	(20)	1,380	(24)	-45	-3%	870	171%
Hillingdon	11,960	(18)	-250	-2%	7,125	147%	6%	6%	(20)	1,930	(18)	-45	-2%	1,115	137%
Hounslow	14,370	(15)	-425	-3%	7,680	115%	8%	8%	(9)	1,945	(17)	-105	-5%	995	105%
Richmond upon Thames	4,610	(32)	-135	-3%	2,405	109%	4%	4%	(32)	580	(32)	-35	-6%	290	100%

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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.

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