

# 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 July 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.

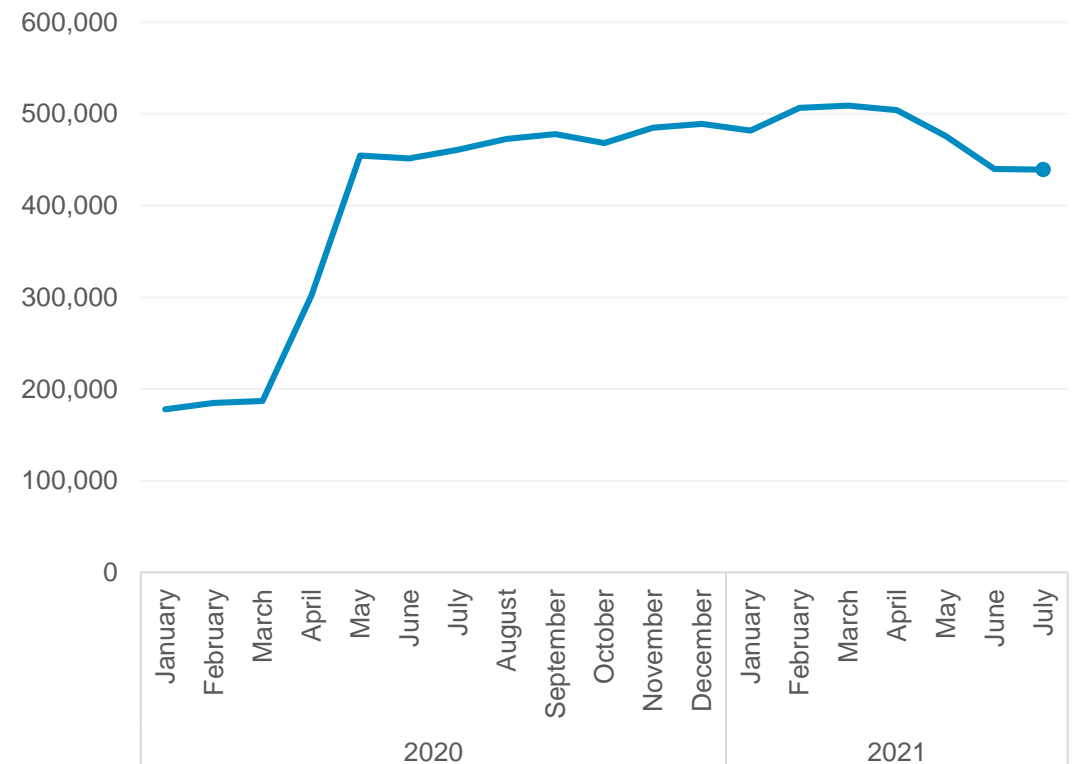
# Almost 440k Londoners are now claiming unemployment related benefits as the Claimant Count declined only marginally over July

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.

- When comparing March 2020 and July 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has more than doubled – rising from around 187,000 to approximately 439,200 (+135%).
- Between March 2020 and May 2020, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count had risen by roughly 267,700 (+143%). Between May 2020 and July 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count has dropped by roughly 15,500 (-3%).
- Between June 2021 and July 2021, the non-seasonally adjusted Claimant Count fell marginally by 920 (0.2%)

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

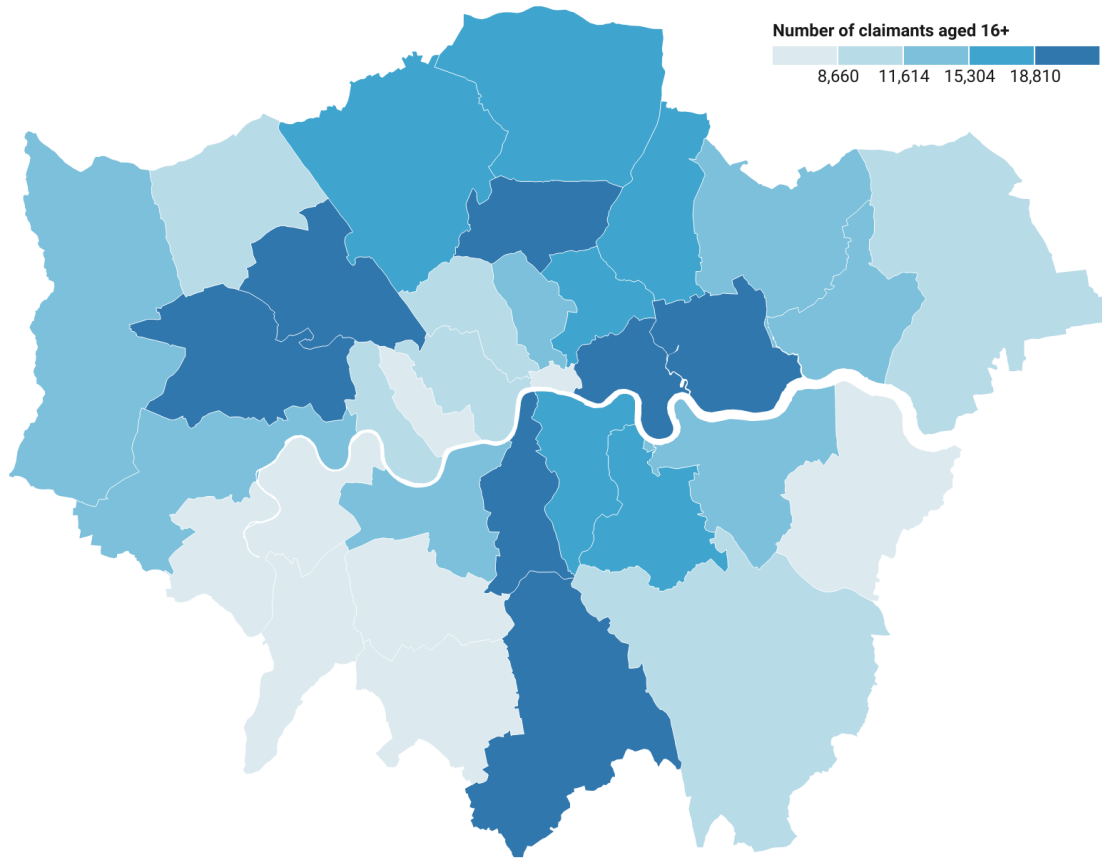
**ONS Claimant Count in London**  
January 2020 to July 2021 (not seasonally adjusted)



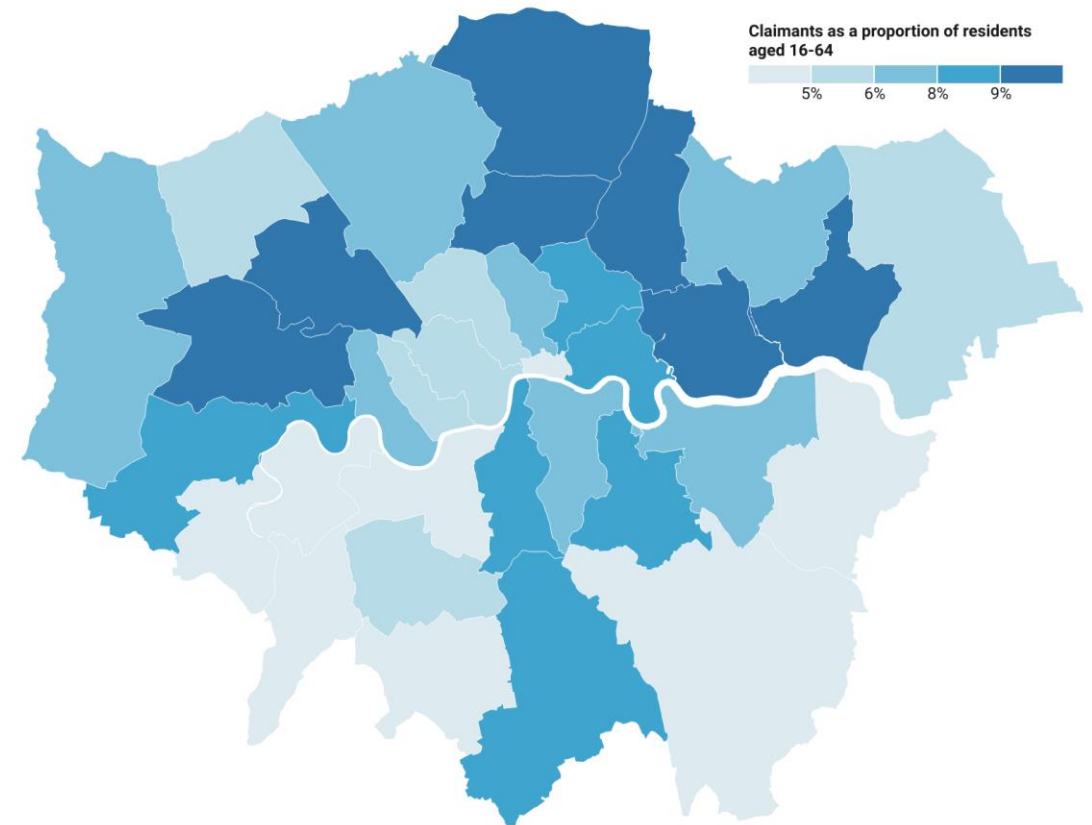
Source: Claimant count by sex and age (Nomis) – \*data is not seasonally adjusted (NSA). Note that an increasing number of people became eligible for unemployment-related benefit support, although still employed. Changes in the claimant count will not be due wholly to changes in unemployment.

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

Claimant Count, July 2021



Claimant rate, July 2021



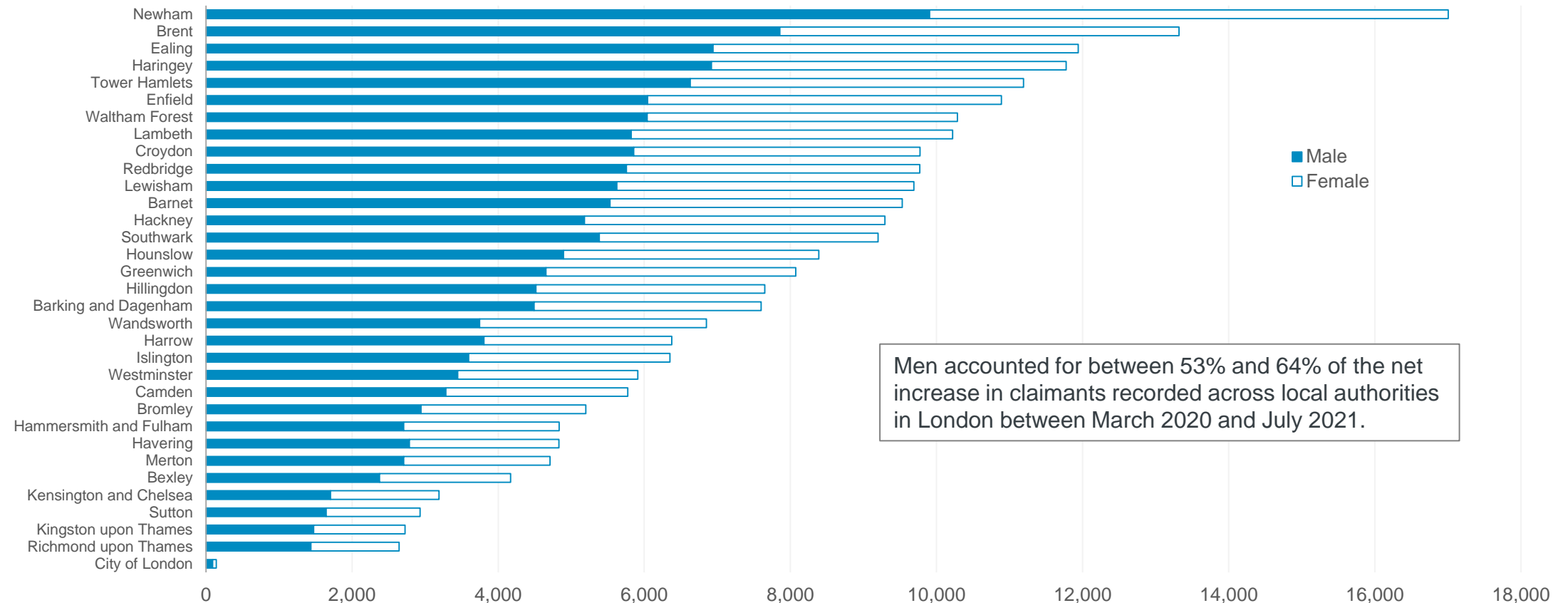
Map data: © Crown copyright and database right 2018 • Created with Datawrapper

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

Change in Claimant Count between March 2020 and July 2021 by local authority and sex



Men accounted for between 53% and 64% of the net increase in claimants recorded across local authorities in London between March 2020 and July 2021.

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, July 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change		Jun-21 % aged 16-64	Jul-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change	
			level	%	level	%						level	%		
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>2,268,660</b>		<b>-17,335</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>1,000,040</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>408,585</b>		<b>-16,380</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>166,825</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>439,175</b>		<b>-920</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>252,225</b>	<b>135%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>66,095</b>		<b>-2,790</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>37,810</b>	<b>134%</b>
City of London	230	(33)	-5	-2%	140	156%	3%	3%	(33)	25	(33)	0	0%	20	400%
Camden	10,090	(21)	-125	-1%	5,775	134%	5%	5%	(25)	1,545	(23)	-90	-6%	875	131%
Islington	12,160	(19)	-250	-2%	6,345	109%	7%	7%	(18)	1,770	(19)	-130	-7%	945	115%
Kensington and Chelsea	5,585	(30)	-95	-2%	3,190	133%	5%	5%	(24)	680	(31)	-40	-6%	410	152%
Lambeth	19,240	(6)	-280	-1%	10,220	113%	8%	8%	(12)	2,785	(7)	-140	-5%	1,495	116%
Southwark	17,775	(10)	-380	-2%	9,195	107%	8%	8%	(14)	2,475	(11)	-140	-5%	1,390	128%
Westminster	9,710	(23)	-190	-2%	5,910	156%	5%	5%	(25)	1,310	(26)	-65	-5%	895	216%

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, July 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change		Jun-21	Jul-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change	
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Barnet	16,220	(13)	-110	-1%	9,530	142%	6%	6%	(19)	2,150	(16)	-140	-6%	1,270	144%
Enfield	18,600	(8)	390	2%	10,885	141%	9%	9%	(7)	2,970	(4)	-35	-1%	1,685	131%
Haringey	18,950	(7)	-135	-1%	11,770	164%	10%	10%	(1)	2,610	(8)	-150	-5%	1,660	175%

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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, July 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change	Mar 20 - Jul 21 change			Jun-21	Jul-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change	Mar 20 - Jul 21 change		
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Barking and Dagenham	13,445	(17)	145	1%	7,595	130%	10%	10%	(3)	2,190	(15)	-135	-6%	1,170	115%
Bexley	7,610	(28)	-10	0%	4,170	121%	5%	5%	(28)	1,450	(24)	-45	-3%	765	112%
Greenwich	14,495	(16)	-30	0%	8,075	126%	8%	7%	(16)	2,485	(10)	-80	-3%	1,355	120%
Hackney	16,885	(11)	-205	-1%	9,295	122%	9%	8%	(10)	2,445	(12)	-120	-5%	1,370	127%
Havering	9,050	(26)	15	0%	4,830	114%	6%	6%	(23)	1,635	(22)	-65	-4%	840	106%
Lewisham	18,100	(9)	-220	-1%	9,690	115%	9%	9%	(8)	2,895	(6)	-120	-4%	1,540	114%
Newham	25,180	(1)	255	1%	17,010	208%	10%	10%	(2)	3,845	(1)	-110	-3%	2,515	189%
Redbridge	15,055	(15)	310	2%	9,770	185%	8%	8%	(15)	2,340	(14)	-65	-3%	1,465	167%
Tower Hamlets	19,505	(5)	60	0%	11,190	135%	8%	8%	(13)	3,140	(3)	-85	-3%	1,810	136%
Waltham Forest	16,725	(12)	60	0%	10,280	160%	9%	9%	(6)	2,430	(13)	-90	-4%	1,445	147%

Notes:

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# South sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, July 2021

	Actual count						Claimant rate			Claimants aged 16-24					
	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change		Jun-21	Jul-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change	
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<b>London</b>	<b>439,175</b>		<b>-920</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>252,225</b>	<b>135%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>7%</b>		<b>66,095</b>		<b>-2,790</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>37,810</b>	<b>134%</b>
Bromley	9,485	(24)	-45	0%	5,205	122%	5%	5%	(29)	1,670	(21)	-60	-3%	945	130%
Croydon	20,620	(3)	130	1%	9,785	90%	8%	8%	(11)	3,655	(2)	-90	-2%	1,715	88%
Kingston upon Thames	4,980	(31)	10	0%	2,720	120%	4%	4%	(31)	710	(30)	-35	-5%	350	97%
Merton	8,400	(27)	105	1%	4,710	128%	6%	6%	(21)	1,245	(27)	-50	-4%	660	113%
Sutton	6,085	(29)	-15	0%	2,930	93%	5%	5%	(29)	980	(29)	-50	-5%	490	100%
Wandsworth	11,995	(20)	-190	-2%	6,850	133%	5%	5%	(27)	1,675	(20)	-70	-4%	980	141%

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# West sub-region

## Claimant data by local authority

People claiming unemployment related benefits, July 2021

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	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change		Jun-21 % aged 16-64	Jul-21	(rank)	Number	(rank)	Jun 21 - Jul 21 change		Mar 20 - Jul 21 change	
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Brent	21,195	(2)	-20	0%	13,320	169%	10%	10%	(4)	2,940	(5)	-80	-3%	1,855	171%
Ealing	20,105	(4)	245	1%	11,940	146%	9%	9%	(5)	2,610	(8)	-40	-2%	1,605	160%
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,475	(25)	-275	-3%	4,830	104%	8%	7%	(17)	1,230	(28)	-125	-9%	655	114%
Harrow	9,815	(22)	190	2%	6,380	186%	6%	6%	(21)	1,450	(24)	-35	-2%	940	184%
Hillingdon	12,485	(18)	-95	-1%	7,650	158%	6%	6%	(19)	2,035	(18)	-85	-4%	1,220	150%
Hounslow	15,075	(14)	-145	-1%	8,385	125%	9%	9%	(8)	2,085	(17)	-135	-6%	1,135	119%
Richmond upon Thames	4,845	(32)	-30	-1%	2,640	120%	4%	4%	(32)	640	(32)	-85	-12%	350	121%

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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](#) (August 2021): latest labour market estimates for London
- [Analysis of CJRS statistics for London](#) (27 July 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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Barking and Dagenham	13,445	(17)	145	1%	7,595	130%	10%	10%	(3)	2,190	(15)	-135	-6%	1,170	115%
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Tower Hamlets	19,505	(5)	60	0%	11,190	135%	8%	8%	(13)	3,140	(3)	-85	-3%	1,810	136%
Waltham Forest	16,725	(12)	60	0%	10,280	160%	9%	9%	(6)	2,430	(13)	-90	-4%	1,445	147%
Wandsworth	11,995	(20)	-190	-2%	6,850	133%	5%	5%	(27)	1,675	(20)	-70	-4%	980	141%
Westminster	9,710	(23)	-190	-2%	5,910	156%	5%	5%	(25)	1,310	(26)	-65	-5%	895	216%

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.