

Unemployment in London

Intelligence Update 10-2012

Two years after the UK recession ended in the final quarter of 2009, came a decrease in GDP in the final quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012, signifying an official “double dip” recession. This *Update* looks at key labour market indicators since the beginning of the recession period in 2008. It presents the latest national and London figures of those claiming Jobseekers’ Allowance (JSA), known as the claimant count, and also shows the official unemployment measure: the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition, which is derived from the Labour Force Survey. It gives some detail on the geography and characteristics of those looking for work. In addition, it gives figures for employment levels.

Key findings

- The latest official unemployment estimate is 10.1 per cent for London (Jan-Mar 2012).
- For the UK as a whole, there were 170,000 more people unemployed and actively seeking work in the UK than a year earlier. A quarter of this overall increase (42,000) was in London.
- Around 231,000 Londoners, one in sixteen of the workforce, were claiming unemployment benefit in April 2012.
- The proportion of the working-age population claiming Jobseekers’ Allowance is slightly higher in London than Great Britain as a whole at 6.0 per cent compared with 5.6 per cent.
- Young adults are more than twice as likely to be unemployed.
- There has been little change in the claimant count among 25-44 year olds Londoners over the last year.
- Half of all existing claimants of Jobseeker’s Allowance in London have been unemployed for less than 6 months.
- However, one in four Londoners claiming Jobseekers’ Allowance has been unemployed for over a year.
- Hackney and Tower Hamlets had the highest claimant count rates (over 10 per cent), while Richmond, Kingston and the City had the lowest (below 3 per cent).
- There are more than 3.8 million London residents in paid work, equivalent to just over two thirds of all residents in the main working ages (aged 16-64)

The claimant count totalled 1.55 million people in Great Britain in April 2012. While this is nearly 100,000 more than one year ago, it has fallen over 65,000 in the last two months. February had the highest level since the beginning of the recession in 2008, with 5.9 per cent of the total workforce seeking work, but this is back down to 5.6 per cent according to the latest figures. London has also seen a rise and fall in the claimant count over the last year following the same pattern, but on a much smaller scale. While the percentage of the workforce claiming Jobseeker's Allowance is a little higher than the national rate, at 6.0 per cent, it increased to just 6.2 per cent in February, and the overall change since April last year is an increase of less than 6,000 claimants, of which 1,000 was in Inner London, where the rate stands at 7.0 per cent and the remainder in Outer London, where the rate is below the national average, at 5.4 per cent. The current levels are also very similar to those for two years ago for all these areas. In contrast, the official unemployment estimates¹ for London have risen so that the latest figures for London are more than 10 per cent higher than two years earlier, so that the figure is now 10.1 per cent of the workforce. If this follows the same pattern as the claimant count it will fall, as the figures represent the time period of the peak in the claimant count.

Overall, London had a headline unemployment rate² for the quarter Jan-Mar 2012 of 10.1 per cent, the second highest below only the North East, and 1.9 percentage points higher than the GB rate (See Table 1). Regionally, there was a mixed picture of changes in unemployment levels over the last year, with decreases in three English regions and Northern Ireland offsetting increases in other areas, particularly the North East, North West, London and Wales.

Table 1 Unemployment for the regions and the UK, Jan – Mar 2012

| (seasonally adjusted) | Unemployment | | Change on year ago | |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| | No (000s) | Rate (%) | No (000s) | Rate (%) |
| North East | 148 | 11.5 | 18 | 1.1 |
| North West | 329 | 9.6 | 64 | 1.8 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 241 | 9.0 | -4 | -0.2 |
| East Midlands | 182 | 7.8 | 5 | 0.2 |
| West Midlands | 228 | 8.5 | -27 | -1.0 |
| East | 207 | 6.7 | 20 | 0.6 |
| London | 426 | 10.1 | 42 | 1.0 |
| South East | 279 | 6.2 | 24 | 0.5 |
| South West | 175 | 6.5 | -1 | -0.1 |
| England | 2,215 | 8.3 | 141 | 0.5 |
| Wales | 132 | 9.0 | 20 | 1.3 |
| Scotland | 221 | 8.2 | 13 | 0.4 |
| Great Britain | 2,568 | 8.3 | 174 | 0.5 |
| Northern Ireland | 57 | 6.7 | -4 | -0.5 |
| United Kingdom | 2,625 | 8.2 | 170 | 0.5 |

Source: Labour Force Survey

Notes:

Unemployment rates are calculated as a percentage of the total economically active aged 16+.

Change rates are calculated as a percentage of the total economically active aged 16+.

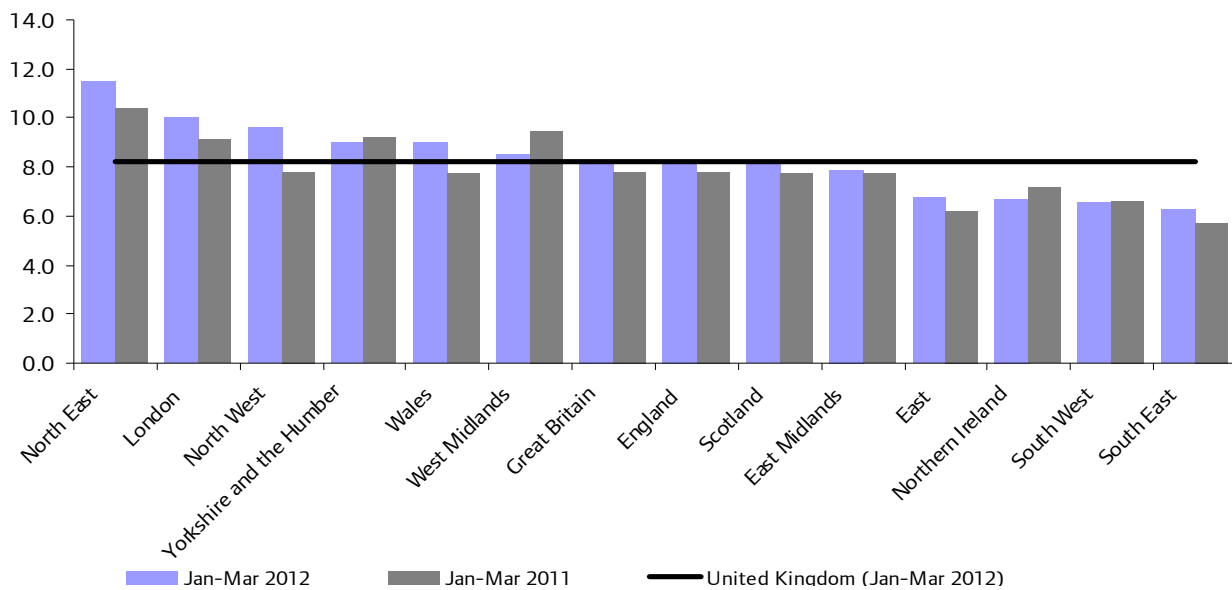
In total, there were 170,000 more people unemployed and actively seeking work in the UK than a year earlier. A quarter of this overall increase (42,000) was in London, with a rate of change double the national average.

Chart 1 illustrates clearly the much lower rates for London's neighbouring regions, the East of England and the South East, as well as the higher rates for most regions compared with the previous year. To some extent, the changes were rebalancing previous changes where unemployment in the West Midlands had increased more than other regions, while London had seen a relatively low rate of growth in its unemployment rate.

¹ ILO unemployment estimates derived from the Labour Force Survey January-March quarter.

² Expressed as a percentage of all economically active population aged 16 or over.

Chart 1 Percentage unemployed by region, Jan-Mar 2011 and 2012 (seasonally adjusted)



Source: Labour Force Survey

While unemployment is a key labour market indicator, a fuller picture can be gained by looking at other indicators also. Table 2 gives employment figures for the same quarter and shows that there are more than 3.8 million London residents in paid work, equivalent to just over two thirds of all residents in the main working ages (aged 16-64). This is a decrease of slightly more than the increase in unemployment levels over the last year. The overall employment rate in London is below average for the UK, and indeed the North East is the only region with a lower rate, though its employment has increased over the last year.

Table 2 Employment and Economic Inactivity for the regions and the UK, Jan-Mar 2012 (seasonally adjusted)

| | Employment | | | | Economic Inactivity | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | Jan-Mar 2012 | | Change on year | | Jan-Mar 2012 | |
| | Total (000s) | Rate (%) | Total (000s) | Rate (%) | Total (000s) | Rate (%) |
| North East | 1,143 | 66.6 | 21 | 1.2 | 411 | 24.6 |
| North West | 3,087 | 68.0 | -54 | -0.8 | 1,088 | 24.6 |
| Yorkshire and The Humber | 2,430 | 69.0 | 7 | 0.2 | 825 | 24.0 |
| East Midlands | 2,138 | 72.1 | 3 | 0.3 | 623 | 21.7 |
| West Midlands | 2,443 | 68.8 | 25 | 0.9 | 848 | 24.7 |
| East of England | 2,867 | 74.9 | 28 | 0.3 | 721 | 19.6 |
| London | 3,811 | 67.2 | -43 | -1.6 | 1,396 | 25.2 |
| South East | 4,191 | 74.9 | -6 | -0.2 | 1,081 | 20.0 |
| South West | 2,500 | 73.1 | 2 | -0.3 | 709 | 21.7 |
| England | 24,610 | 70.7 | -17 | -0.2 | 7,702 | 22.8 |
| Wales | 1,341 | 68.1 | -6 | -0.4 | 473 | 25.0 |
| Scotland | 2,482 | 71.2 | 0 | 0.0 | 758 | 22.3 |
| Great Britain | 28,433 | 70.6 | -22 | -0.2 | 8,933 | 22.9 |
| Northern Ireland | 801 | 67.6 | 15 | 0.7 | 317 | 27.4 |
| United Kingdom | 29,233 | 70.5 | -7 | -0.2 | 9,250 | 23.0 |

Source: Labour Force Survey, Labour Market Statistics

Notes: Employment levels are quoted for all people aged 16 and over.

Economic inactivity level and both employment and economic inactivity rates are calculated as a percentage of the population aged 16-64.

Change rates are calculated as a percentage of the population aged 16-64.

The employed and unemployed residents together make up the economically active population. The remainder are termed economically inactive, though they too may have income and will have expenditure. A large proportion of the economically inactive population are either below or above the main working ages, but almost 1.4 million Londoners aged 16-64 are economically inactive (including students who are not also working). This is over one in four of all residents in this age group, a higher proportion than in any other region of the UK. In most regions, the number of economically inactive residents decreased over the last year, and indeed the UK figure fell by 73,000. In contrast, there were 65,000 more economically inactive Londoners than a year earlier. The increase in the working age population of London is therefore almost entirely within the economically inactive population.

As well as the totals and rates, the data can give information about the characteristics of unemployed people. According to the latest quarter's data for London, men in the workforce were more likely to be unemployed than women, reflecting the national picture. However, there is no consistent picture on how the rates for men and women have changed between London and the UK, or since the last quarter and over the last year (See Table 3).

Table 3 Change in ILO unemployed in London by gender (seasonally adjusted)

| | Jan-Mar 2012 | | Change on previous quarter | | Change on previous year | |
|--------|---------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| | Number (000s) | Rate (%) | Number (000s) | Change % | Number (000s) | Change % |
| People | 426 | 10.1 | -1 | 0.0 | 42 | 1.0 |
| Men | 243 | 10.3 | -5 | -0.3 | 43 | 1.8 |
| Women | 183 | 9.8 | 4 | 0.3 | -1 | 0.0 |

Source: Labour Force Survey

Notes: All figures are for population aged 16 and over. Unemployment rates are calculated as a percentage of the total economically active aged 16+.

Change rates are calculated as a percentage change in the level of unemployment.

There is also substantial variation in employment rates between the regions for men and women as shown in Table 4. Particularly noticeable is the low employment rate for women in London, clearly the lowest of any region or part of the UK, while the male employment rate falls in the middle of the range. This is a continuing feature, noted in previous years' data.

Table 4 Employment rates by gender by region (seasonally adjusted)

| | Total | | Male | | Female | |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | No (000's) | Rate (%) | No (000's) | Rate (%) | No (000's) | Rate (%) |
| North East | 1,143 | 66.6 | 608 | 71.0 | 535 | 62.3 |
| North West | 3,087 | 68.0 | 1,654 | 72.8 | 1,433 | 63.3 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 2,430 | 69.0 | 1,297 | 73.2 | 1,133 | 64.8 |
| East Midlands | 2,138 | 72.1 | 1,154 | 77.3 | 984 | 66.9 |
| West Midlands | 2,443 | 68.8 | 1,318 | 74.3 | 1,125 | 63.4 |
| East | 2,867 | 74.9 | 1,527 | 79.7 | 1,340 | 70.0 |
| London | 3,811 | 67.2 | 2,119 | 73.8 | 1,692 | 60.5 |
| South East | 4,191 | 74.9 | 2,229 | 80.0 | 1,962 | 69.9 |
| South West | 2,500 | 73.1 | 1,329 | 78.1 | 1,171 | 68.2 |
| England | 24,610 | 70.7 | 13,235 | 75.9 | 11,375 | 65.5 |
| Sales | 1,341 | 68.1 | 711 | 72.7 | 630 | 63.7 |
| Scotland | 2,482 | 71.2 | 1,304 | 76.1 | 1,178 | 66.5 |
| Great Britain | 28,433 | 70.6 | 15,251 | 75.7 | 13,182 | 65.5 |
| Northern Ireland | 801 | 67.6 | 420 | 71.4 | 381 | 63.9 |
| United Kingdom | 29,233 | 70.5 | 15,670 | 75.6 | 13,563 | 65.5 |

Source: Labour Force Survey, Labour Market Statistics

Notes: Employment levels are quoted for all people aged 16 and over. Rates are calculated as a percentage of the population aged 16-64.

Another population characteristic associated with significant variation in both employment and unemployment rates is ethnic group. By combining information for a longer period of time, it is possible to produce such rates by broad ethnic group for London, as shown in Table 5. As this merges data collected over a whole year in which some people are included more than once, the precise meaning of these figures is complex, but it does give an indication of overall patterns and variation.

The rates shown for individual ethnic groups are similar to the comparable figures for Great Britain as a whole, though the combined rate for all ethnic groups is lower for London as the ethnic make-up of London's population is different to that for Great Britain as a whole. It is clear from Chart 2 that White Londoners are most likely to be in employment and least likely to be unemployed, while Pakistanis and Bangladeshis are most likely to be economically inactive and Black Londoners are most likely to be unemployed.

Table 5 Employment, unemployment and inactivity in London by ethnic group, 2011

| Broad ethnic group | Employment rate | Unemployment rate | Economic Inactivity rate |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| White | 73 | 7 | 21 |
| Black | 57 | 20 | 29 |
| Indian | 69 | 9 | 24 |
| Pakistani/Bangladeshi | 54 | 15 | 37 |
| Mixed or multiple | 57 | 16 | 33 |
| Chinese & Other | 61 | 11 | 32 |
| All Ethnic Minority | 60 | 14 | 30 |
| All | 68 | 10 | 25 |

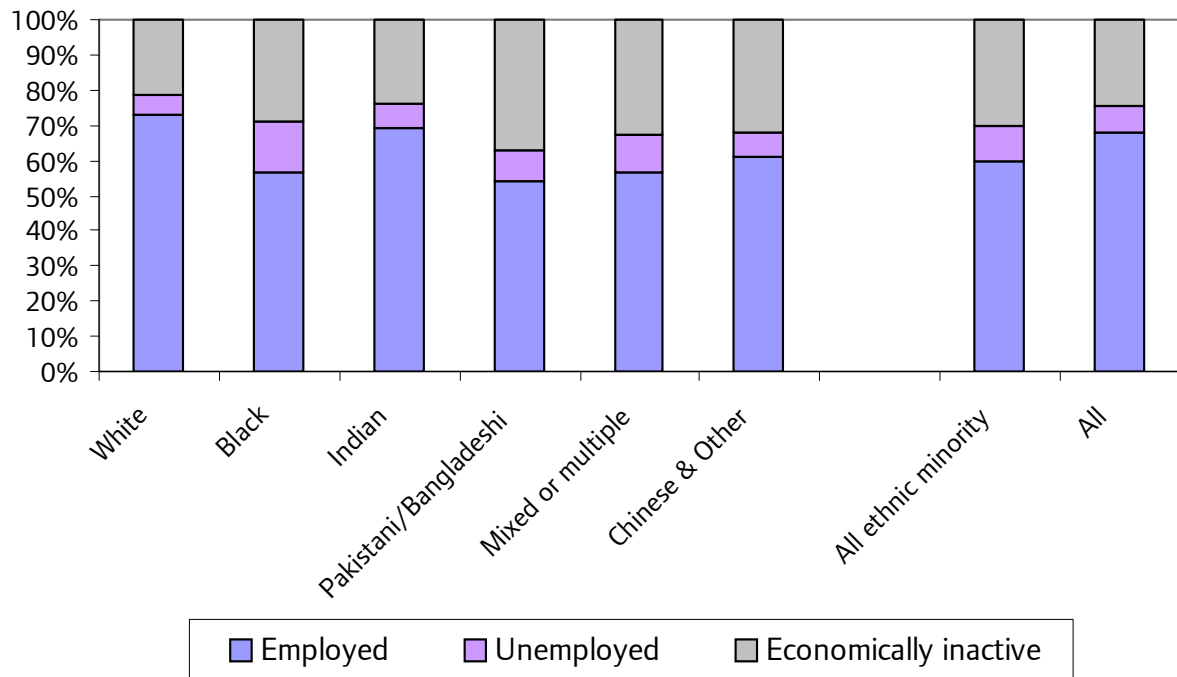
Source: Quarter 1 - Quarter 4 2011 (4 Quarter Average) Labour Force Survey

Notes: Figures relate to the population aged 16-64 only. Unemployment rate is a proportion of those aged 16-64 who are economically active (employed + unemployed)

However, this hides the detail about age and gender within the ethnic groups. Indian men have similar employment rates to White men, but Indian women are less likely to be in paid work than White

women. Men of nearly all ethnic groups are more likely to be employed than women from the same group, though there is very little difference in employment rates for Black men and women, with Black men having the highest unemployment rates of all. In contrast, Pakistani/Bangladeshi men are twice as likely to be employed as women from the same groups. More than half of the latter are economically inactive, though unemployment among Pakistani and Bangladeshi women is also high and higher than that for men. Young Londoners (aged 16-24) are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as those aged over 25, and this is reflected across all ethnic groups. The rates for young Black Londoners are particularly high, with nearly as many looking for work as in paid jobs. All of these findings are reflected at both the national and regional level.

Chart 2 Economic status in London by ethnic group, 2011



Source: Quarter 1 - Quarter 4 2011 (4 Quarter Average) Labour Force Survey

Notes: Figures relate to the population aged 16-64 only

Another important variable associated with differing unemployment rates is geography. As shown earlier, there are clear differences between London and its neighbouring regions. There are variations within London too. Although the Labour Force Survey, from where the regional unemployment figures are drawn, is a very large survey, it is not large enough to give sufficiently robust borough level unemployment figures directly. Modelled estimates combining this with other data, including the claimant count, are produced annually and are now available for the year October 2010 – September 2011. Since these are modelled, rather than direct estimates, there is a degree of judgement used in producing them, and an element of potential error arising from the small sample size. These estimates are therefore given in Table 6 along with a confidence interval indicating the level of reliability of the estimates for individual boroughs.

Table 6 Modelled estimates of unemployment for London boroughs, Oct 2010-Sep 2011

| | Unemployment | | Unemployment | |
|------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| | Level | CI (+/-) | Rate | CI (+/-) |
| Barking and Dagenham | 10,700 | 1,800 | 12.6 | 2.1 |
| Barnet | 13,700 | 2,400 | 7.4 | 1.4 |
| Bexley | 8,900 | 1,700 | 7.6 | 1.5 |
| Brent | 14,500 | 2,600 | 11.4 | 2.2 |
| Bromley | 11,300 | 2,200 | 6.9 | 1.4 |
| Camden | 10,800 | 2,000 | 8.0 | 1.6 |
| Croydon | 17,500 | 3,000 | 9.8 | 1.8 |
| Ealing | 16,100 | 2,800 | 9.1 | 1.7 |
| Enfield | 16,300 | 2,600 | 11.5 | 1.9 |
| Greenwich | 12,600 | 2,000 | 10.5 | 1.7 |
| Hackney | 13,400 | 2,200 | 11.3 | 1.9 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 8,600 | 1,500 | 8.9 | 1.6 |
| Haringey | 14,600 | 2,500 | 12.5 | 2.2 |
| Harrow | 8,800 | 1,600 | 7.1 | 1.3 |
| Havering | 9,900 | 1,900 | 8.0 | 1.6 |
| Hillingdon | 11,400 | 2,000 | 8.1 | 1.5 |
| Hounslow | 10,400 | 1,800 | 7.7 | 1.4 |
| Islington | 11,200 | 1,900 | 9.8 | 1.7 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 6,300 | 1,200 | 7.3 | 1.4 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 5,700 | 1,100 | 6.3 | 1.3 |
| Lambeth | 18,200 | 3,100 | 10.2 | 1.8 |
| Lewisham | 15,700 | 2,700 | 10.6 | 1.9 |
| Merton | 8,500 | 1,500 | 7.3 | 1.4 |
| Newham | 16,200 | 2,500 | 15.2 | 2.3 |
| Redbridge | 13,000 | 2,200 | 9.8 | 1.7 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 5,400 | 1,100 | 5.1 | 1.1 |
| Southwark | 17,700 | 3,000 | 10.6 | 1.9 |
| Sutton | 7,400 | 1,400 | 6.8 | 1.4 |
| Tower Hamlets | 16,200 | 2,700 | 13.0 | 2.2 |
| Waltham Forest | 13,500 | 2,200 | 10.9 | 1.8 |
| Wandsworth | 12,200 | 2,300 | 7.1 | 1.4 |
| Westminster | 10,800 | 2,000 | 7.5 | 1.5 |

Source: ONS Model based unemployment data for local areas, derived using Annual Population Survey and Claimant count data.

Notes: Figures are for people aged 16 and over. Rates are expressed as a percentage of the economically active population aged 16 and over.

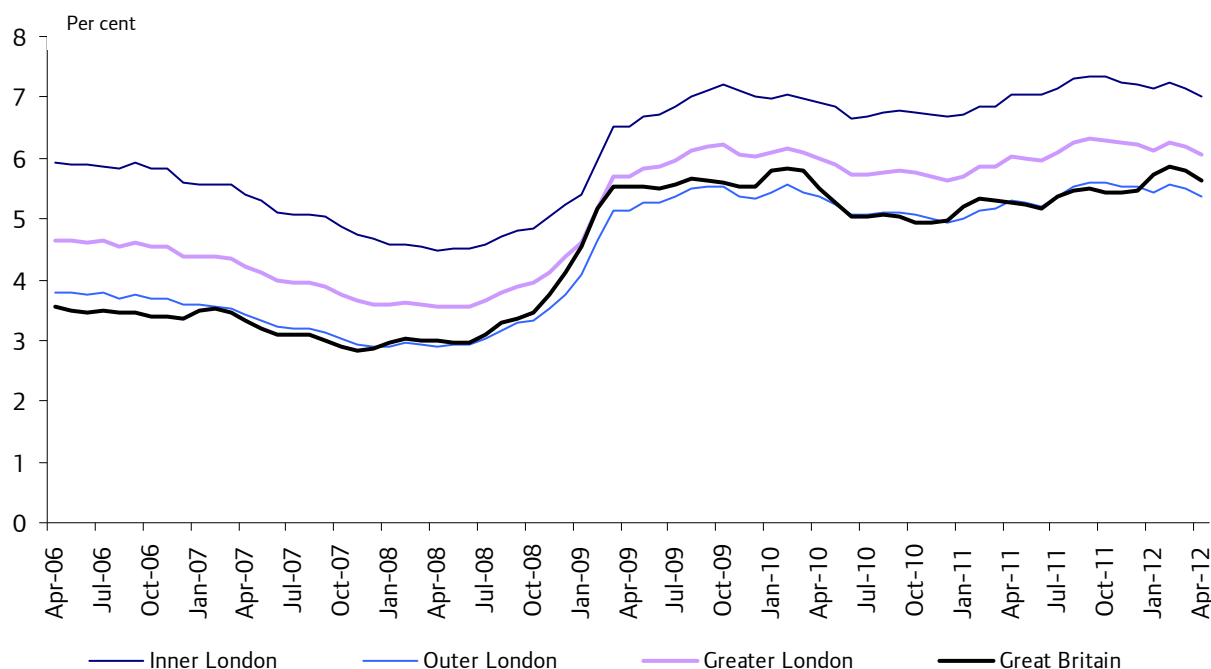
The Confidence Interval (CI figure) gives the range that it is believed encompasses the true figure for 95 per cent of estimates

Inevitably, there is a degree of variation between the London boroughs in the levels of both employment and unemployment. Newham, Tower Hamlets, Barking and Dagenham and Haringey are among the boroughs with the highest unemployment rates, while Richmond, Kingston, Sutton and Bromley have among the lowest rates of unemployment according to these estimates. Newham and Tower Hamlets, also have among the highest rates of economic inactivity, along with Kensington and Chelsea. Sutton, Richmond, Wandsworth, Bromley and Lambeth are among the boroughs with the highest employment rates among 16-64 year olds.

While the ILO unemployment measure is a better indicator of overall levels of unemployment in the population, and can be looked at alongside employment and economic inactivity estimates, the claimant count is a useful indicator of trends, as it is more timely and it is also able to give more detail for smaller areas. Particularly worth noting in the context of recession and using the claimant count as an indicator is the criterion that some people are not eligible to receive the benefit for more than six months, so after this time may cease to be included in the claimant count. (See the Background section of this report for more detail.)

The JSA claimant count stood at 231,360 for London in April 2012, of which 47 per cent was in Inner London, compared with closer to 40 per cent of the economically active population. The GLA claimant rates (the claimant count as a percentage of the resident economically active population using GLA population estimates) show a rate of 6.0 per cent for London, compared with a national figure of 5.6 per cent. Inner London claimant count rate is clearly higher at 7.0 per cent, while the Outer London rate of 5.4 per cent is below the national average in the latest figures. However, this has not always been the case and Chart 3 and Table 7 show how, even with the changes over time in claimant count rates, Inner London rates always remain higher than Outer London, the latter are much closer to the national rate, varying above and below. The initial rise in claimant count levels for all areas following the start of the recession is clearly seen in the chart, along with the closing gap between Great Britain and Inner London. However, it is also clear that the rate fell more in the rest of Great Britain after April 2010 than in London, but the gap has again narrowed since.

Chart 3 Claimant count rates for all people, 2006-2012



Source: Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system) & GLA estimates

Again, looking at the other details available gives a better picture. Table 7 gives the claimant count rates for the four areas by gender. The claimant count rate for men is always higher in all areas than that for women for the same area. Both the male and female rates for Inner London are always higher than those for Outer London. The rate for women in Outer London is always higher than the national rate for women, whereas the male rate has been higher for Great Britain than for Outer London since

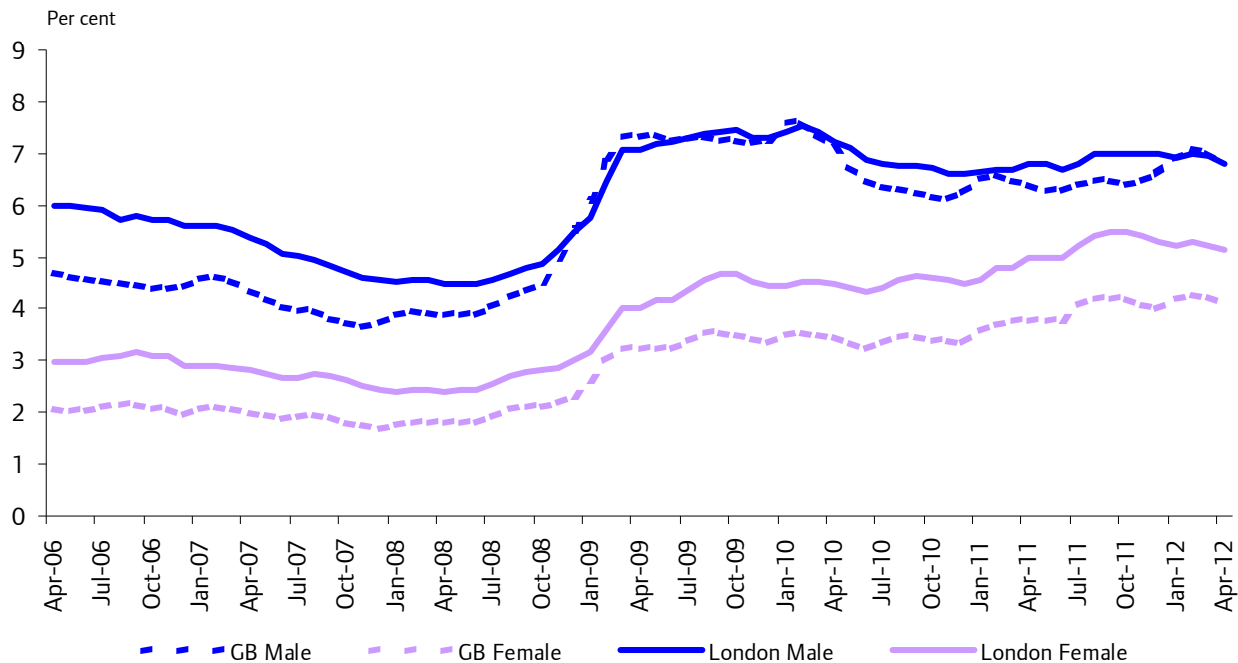
2008. Chart 4 illustrates the claimant count differences for men and women in London as a whole and Great Britain.

Table 7 Claimant count rates by gender, annually September 2006-2011 and monthly September 2011 to April 2012

| | Sep-06 | Sep-07 | Sep-08 | Sep-09 | Sep-10 | Sep-11 | Oct-11 | Nov-11 | Dec-11 | Jan-12 | Feb-12 | Mar-12 | Apr-12 |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Persons | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inner London | 5.9 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 7.1 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.0 |
| Outer London | 3.8 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Greater London | 4.6 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 6.2 | 5.8 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.0 |
| Great Britain | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 5.6 | 5.0 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.6 |
| Males | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inner London | 7.5 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 8.6 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 8.3 | 8.2 | 8.0 |
| Outer London | 4.7 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.0 |
| Greater London | 5.8 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 7.4 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 6.8 |
| Great Britain | 4.5 | 3.8 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 6.8 |
| Females | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Inner London | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 5.8 |
| Outer London | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| Greater London | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Great Britain | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 |

Source: Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system) & GLA estimates

Chart 4 Claimant count rates for men and women in London and Great Britain, April 2006 to April 2012

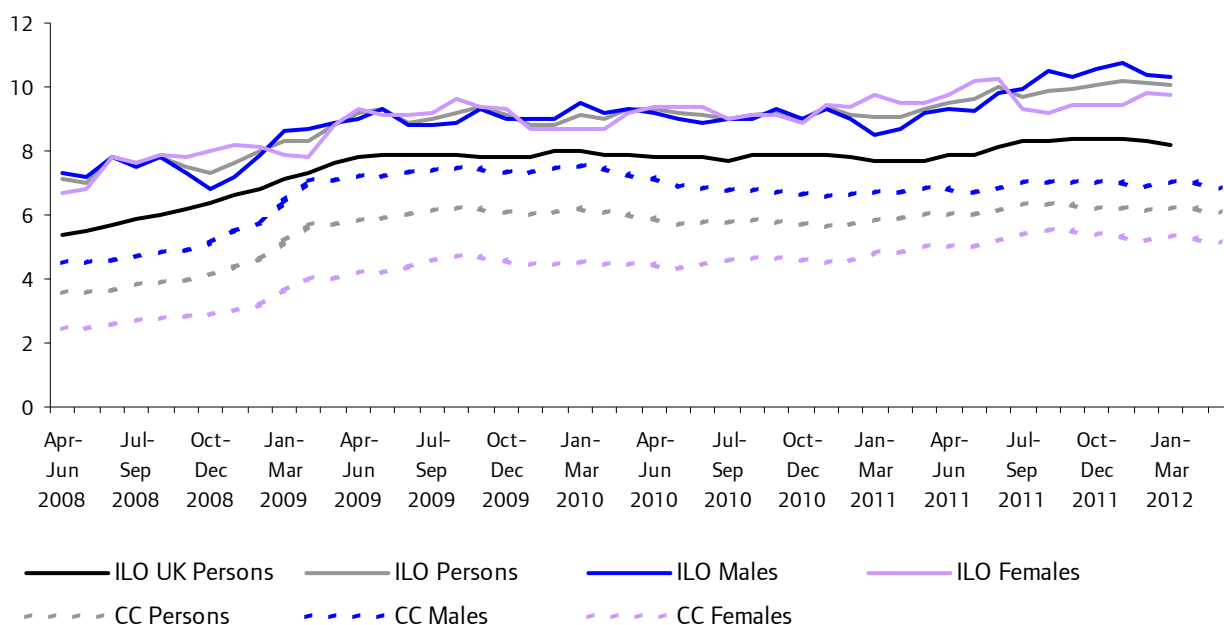


Source: Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system) & GLA estimates

As noted earlier, the claimant count is not a complete picture of unemployment, but is very robust information, whereas the official count is based on a fuller definition but the estimates are more volatile. Chart 5 illustrates these differences for London between the claimant count and the ILO

unemployment estimates. The UK unemployment rate is also illustrated, showing the greater stability of these estimates. The chart also shows the difference between the steep rise in claimant count from the end of 2008, whereas the ILO unemployment shows a more gradual increase over a longer time and has continued to rise where the claimant count rate in London has remained relatively stable for nearly three years.

Chart 5 Unemployment trends in London, May 2008 to April 2012



Sources: Claimant Count - Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system) & GLA estimates
ILO Unemployment - Labour Force Survey, Office for National Statistics

Table 8 shows the claimant count levels and rates for Inner, Outer and Greater London as illustrated in Chart 5 and for Great Britain using the same method of calculation. The table also gives the claimant count rates by age and shows the increasing rate among the older age groups across all areas and not only the higher rates among the youngest age group, but also the seasonal effect for this group, with rising numbers of claimants when the academic year finishes. There has been little change in the claimant count among 25-44 year old Londoners over the last year.

Table 9 gives the comparable figures for each London borough showing the overall rates for each six months since April 2008. Looking at the changes over time, there are different patterns emerging for different boroughs. Some boroughs, such as Islington and Harrow saw dramatic increases in claimant count up to October 2009, but these have fallen back somewhat since, though they remain higher than during the pre-recession period. Other boroughs have seen a more sustained rise in claimants, such as Enfield and Southwark with their highest level going through towards the end of 2011, though most of these boroughs have seen a slight reduction during 2012.

Data is also now available giving some detail on the ethnic group of JSA claimants, (see Table 10). However, in the absence of reliable estimates of economic activity levels by ethnic group at borough level, reliable rates cannot be produced. Some of the patterns in ethnic group unemployment noted earlier, such as the high numbers among Black residents are, however, also evident in this data.

Table 8 Claimant count and rates by age and gender, April 2011 to April 2012

| | Claimant count numbers | | | Claimant count rate (%) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-------|---------|--------------|-------|----------|----------------|-------|----------|------------------|-------|----------|
| | | | | by sex | | | by age (all) | | | by age (males) | | | by age (females) | | |
| | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | 16-24 | 25-44 | 45-59/64 | 16-24 | 25-44 | 45-59/64 | 16-24 | 25-44 | 45-59/64 |
| Inner London | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apr-11 | 108,370 | 67,690 | 40,670 | 7.0 | 8.1 | 5.8 | 13.4 | 5.5 | 8.1 | 16.8 | 6.5 | 8.6 | 10.1 | 4.4 | 7.4 |
| May-11 | 108,715 | 67,730 | 41,010 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 5.8 | 13.3 | 5.5 | 8.2 | 16.5 | 6.5 | 8.7 | 10.1 | 4.4 | 7.6 |
| Jun-11 | 108,645 | 67,465 | 41,180 | 7.0 | 8.1 | 5.8 | 13.2 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 16.4 | 6.4 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 4.4 | 7.6 |
| Jul-11 | 110,215 | 67,995 | 42,215 | 7.2 | 8.1 | 6.0 | 14.2 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 17.4 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 11.1 | 4.4 | 7.7 |
| Aug-11 | 112,595 | 68,870 | 43,710 | 7.3 | 8.2 | 6.2 | 15.1 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 18.3 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 12.1 | 4.5 | 7.9 |
| Sep-11 | 112,980 | 68,775 | 44,210 | 7.3 | 8.2 | 6.3 | 15.5 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 18.6 | 6.3 | 8.8 | 12.4 | 4.5 | 7.9 |
| Oct-11 | 112,925 | 68,860 | 44,040 | 7.3 | 8.2 | 6.3 | 15.2 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 18.5 | 6.3 | 8.8 | 12.0 | 4.6 | 8.0 |
| Nov-11 | 111,620 | 68,200 | 43,420 | 7.2 | 8.1 | 6.2 | 14.8 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 18.0 | 6.3 | 8.8 | 11.6 | 4.5 | 7.9 |
| Dec-11 | 110,965 | 68,315 | 42,660 | 7.2 | 8.2 | 6.1 | 14.4 | 5.5 | 8.5 | 17.8 | 6.3 | 8.9 | 11.1 | 4.5 | 7.9 |
| Jan-12 (2012 base) | 111,245 | 68,600 | 42,645 | 7.1 | 8.1 | 5.9 | 13.0 | 5.5 | 8.3 | 17.4 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 9.3 | 4.5 | 7.9 |
| Feb-12 | 112,975 | 69,815 | 43,165 | 7.2 | 8.3 | 6.0 | 13.4 | 5.6 | 8.4 | 18.0 | 6.5 | 8.7 | 9.6 | 4.6 | 7.9 |
| Mar-12 | 111,590 | 69,065 | 42,530 | 7.2 | 8.2 | 5.9 | 13.2 | 5.5 | 8.4 | 17.7 | 6.4 | 8.7 | 9.3 | 4.5 | 7.9 |
| Apr-12 | 109,415 | 67,645 | 41,775 | 7.0 | 8.0 | 5.8 | 12.6 | 5.4 | 8.4 | 16.8 | 6.3 | 8.7 | 9.0 | 4.4 | 7.9 |
| Outer London | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apr-11 | 117,170 | 72,490 | 44,700 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 4.5 | 10.9 | 4.8 | 4.3 | 13.0 | 5.5 | 4.6 | 8.6 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| May-11 | 116,335 | 71,715 | 44,610 | 5.3 | 5.9 | 4.5 | 10.6 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 12.6 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 8.4 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Jun-11 | 115,095 | 70,725 | 44,370 | 5.2 | 5.8 | 4.4 | 10.5 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 12.3 | 5.3 | 4.5 | 8.3 | 3.9 | 3.9 |
| Jul-11 | 118,900 | 72,270 | 46,615 | 5.4 | 6.0 | 4.7 | 11.6 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 13.4 | 5.4 | 4.5 | 9.6 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Aug-11 | 122,265 | 73,750 | 48,505 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 4.8 | 12.6 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 14.3 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 10.6 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Sep-11 | 123,825 | 74,385 | 49,450 | 5.6 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 13.1 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 14.9 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 10.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Oct-11 | 123,665 | 74,665 | 48,995 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 12.9 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 14.9 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 10.6 | 4.1 | 4.2 |
| Nov-11 | 122,530 | 74,220 | 48,305 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 4.8 | 12.6 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 14.7 | 5.4 | 4.6 | 10.2 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Dec-11 | 122,020 | 74,670 | 47,335 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 12.3 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 14.5 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 9.8 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| Jan-12 (2012 base) | 123,285 | 75,910 | 47,385 | 5.4 | 6.0 | 4.7 | 11.3 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 13.5 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 8.8 | 4.0 | 4.3 |
| Feb-12 | 125,925 | 77,835 | 48,085 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 4.8 | 11.7 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 14.0 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 9.1 | 4.0 | 4.3 |
| Mar-12 | 124,905 | 77,235 | 47,660 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 4.7 | 11.5 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 13.9 | 5.4 | 4.8 | 8.9 | 4.0 | 4.3 |
| Apr-12 | 121,945 | 75,245 | 46,720 | 5.4 | 6.0 | 4.6 | 10.9 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 13.1 | 5.3 | 4.8 | 8.5 | 3.9 | 4.3 |
| Greater London | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apr-11 | 225,540 | 140,180 | 85,370 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 5.0 | 12.0 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 14.5 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 9.2 | 4.1 | 5.0 |
| May-11 | 225,050 | 139,445 | 85,620 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 5.0 | 11.7 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 14.1 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 9.1 | 4.2 | 5.1 |
| Jun-11 | 223,740 | 138,190 | 85,550 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 5.0 | 11.6 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 13.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 9.0 | 4.2 | 5.1 |
| Jul-11 | 229,115 | 140,265 | 88,830 | 6.1 | 6.8 | 5.2 | 12.7 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 15.0 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 10.2 | 4.2 | 5.2 |
| Aug-11 | 234,860 | 142,620 | 92,215 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 5.4 | 13.6 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 15.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 11.2 | 4.3 | 5.3 |
| Sep-11 | 236,805 | 143,160 | 93,660 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 5.5 | 14.1 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 16.4 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 11.6 | 4.3 | 5.4 |
| Oct-11 | 236,590 | 143,525 | 93,035 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 5.5 | 13.9 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 16.3 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 11.2 | 4.3 | 5.4 |
| Nov-11 | 234,150 | 142,420 | 91,725 | 6.2 | 7.0 | 5.4 | 13.5 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 16.0 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 10.8 | 4.3 | 5.4 |
| Dec-11 | 232,985 | 142,985 | 89,995 | 6.2 | 7.0 | 5.3 | 13.2 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 15.8 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 10.4 | 4.2 | 5.3 |
| Jan-12 (2012 base) | 234,530 | 144,510 | 90,030 | 6.1 | 6.9 | 5.2 | 12.0 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 15.0 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 9.0 | 4.2 | 5.5 |
| Feb-12 | 238,900 | 147,650 | 91,250 | 6.2 | 7.0 | 5.3 | 12.4 | 5.2 | 5.9 | 15.5 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 9.3 | 4.3 | 5.5 |
| Mar-12 | 236,495 | 146,300 | 90,190 | 6.2 | 7.0 | 5.2 | 12.2 | 5.1 | 5.8 | 15.3 | 5.8 | 6.1 | 9.1 | 4.2 | 5.5 |
| Apr-12 | 231,360 | 142,890 | 88,495 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 5.1 | 11.6 | 5.0 | 5.8 | 14.5 | 5.7 | 6.1 | 8.8 | 4.1 | 5.5 |
| Great Britain | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apr-11 | 1,457,255 | 987,870 | 469,385 | 5.3 | 6.4 | 3.8 | 11.3 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 13.7 | 6.3 | 4.1 | 8.4 | 3.4 | 2.8 |
| May-11 | 1,441,930 | 974,650 | 467,280 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 3.8 | 11.0 | 4.9 | 3.5 | 13.3 | 6.2 | 4.1 | 8.2 | 3.4 | 2.9 |
| Jun-11 | 1,430,360 | 962,525 | 467,835 | 5.2 | 6.3 | 3.8 | 10.9 | 4.9 | 3.5 | 13.1 | 6.2 | 4.0 | 8.1 | 3.4 | 2.9 |
| Jul-11 | 1,477,200 | 981,845 | 495,350 | 5.4 | 6.4 | 4.1 | 11.9 | 4.9 | 3.6 | 14.1 | 6.2 | 4.0 | 9.2 | 3.5 | 2.9 |
| Aug-11 | 1,511,085 | 996,530 | 514,555 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 4.2 | 12.6 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 14.7 | 6.2 | 4.0 | 9.9 | 3.6 | 3.0 |
| Sep-11 | 1,513,625 | 996,075 | 517,550 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 4.2 | 12.8 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 14.9 | 6.1 | 4.0 | 10.1 | 3.6 | 3.0 |
| Oct-11 | 1,499,490 | 991,180 | 508,310 | 5.4 | 6.4 | 4.2 | 12.6 | 4.9 | 3.6 | 14.8 | 6.1 | 4.0 | 9.8 | 3.5 | 3.0 |
| Nov-11 | 1,496,180 | 995,665 | 500,515 | 5.4 | 6.5 | 4.1 | 12.4 | 4.9 | 3.6 | 14.7 | 6.1 | 4.1 | 9.5 | 3.5 | 3.0 |
| Dec-11 | 1,506,590 | 1,012,315 | 494,275 | 5.5 | 6.6 | 4.0 | 12.3 | 5.0 | 3.7 | 14.8 | 6.2 | 4.2 | 9.2 | 3.4 | 3.0 |
| Jan-12 (2012 base) | 1,583,870 | 1,068,585 | 515,285 | 5.7 | 6.9 | 4.2 | 12.9 | 5.2 | 3.9 | 15.4 | 6.6 | 4.4 | 9.6 | 3.6 | 3.1 |
| Feb-12 | 1,619,780 | 1,094,065 | 525,715 | 5.9 | 7.1 | 4.3 | 13.3 | 5.3 | 3.9 | 16.0 | 6.8 | 4.5 | 9.9 | 3.6 | 3.2 |
| Mar-12 | 1,601,140 | 1,082,325 | 518,815 | 5.8 | 7.0 | 4.2 | 13.2 | 5.3 | 3.9 | 15.8 | 6.7 | 4.4 | 9.8 | 3.6 | 3.2 |
| Apr-12 | 1,551,535 | 1,045,895 | 505,640 | 5.6 | 6.8 | 4.1 | 12.4 | 5.1 | 3.9 | 14.9 | 6.5 | 4.4 | 9.2 | 3.5 | 3.2 |

Source: Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system) & GLA estimates

Notes:

1. Claimant count data presented here relate to computerised claims only - around 99% of all claims. Data are based on administrative counts of people in receipt of unemployment-related benefits (ie Jobseeker's Allowance and National Insurance credits).
2. Percentage rates are GLA estimates and express the claimant count as a percentage of the resident labour force (ie the economically active population). The labour force denominators used here exclude economically active full-time students.

Table 9 Claimant count rates, London boroughs, April 2008 to April 2012

| | Apr-08 | Oct-08 | Apr-09 | Oct-09 | Apr-10 | Oct-10 | Apr-11 | Oct-11 | Apr-12 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| City of London | 1.8 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Barking & Dagenham | 5.1 | 5.7 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 9.0 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.8 | 9.4 |
| Barnet | 2.4 | 2.8 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.3 |
| Bexley | 2.2 | 2.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| Brent | 4.6 | 4.8 | 6.7 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.7 |
| Bromley | 2.1 | 2.5 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Camden | 3.8 | 4.1 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.3 |
| Croydon | 3.1 | 3.5 | 5.5 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 6.4 |
| Ealing | 3.2 | 3.7 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.0 |
| Enfield | 4.1 | 4.5 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.6 | 8.1 | 7.6 |
| Greenwich | 4.1 | 4.9 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 7.3 |
| Hackney | 6.5 | 7.2 | 9.2 | 10.0 | 9.6 | 9.9 | 10.4 | 10.8 | 10.2 |
| Hammersmith & Fulham | 3.4 | 3.7 | 5.4 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.0 |
| Haringey | 5.7 | 6.1 | 8.2 | 9.1 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.1 |
| Harrow | 2.2 | 2.5 | 4.0 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Havering | 2.1 | 2.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| Hillingdon | 2.4 | 2.7 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Hounslow | 2.4 | 2.8 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.3 |
| Islington | 5.0 | 5.3 | 7.1 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 7.0 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 6.5 |
| Kensington & Chelsea | 2.6 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 1.4 | 1.7 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Lambeth | 4.7 | 4.9 | 6.7 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.6 | 7.7 |
| Lewisham | 4.3 | 4.6 | 6.6 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 7.9 |
| Merton | 2.2 | 2.4 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Newham | 6.2 | 6.8 | 8.7 | 9.5 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 10.0 | 10.6 | 9.4 |
| Redbridge | 3.2 | 3.8 | 5.6 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 6.3 | 5.9 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1.2 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 |
| Southwark | 4.7 | 5.1 | 6.9 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 8.3 | 7.6 |
| Sutton | 1.8 | 2.2 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
| Tower Hamlets | 7.3 | 7.8 | 9.5 | 10.2 | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.1 | 10.0 | 10.1 |
| Waltham Forest | 5.2 | 5.9 | 7.9 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 9.8 | 9.0 |
| Wandsworth | 2.3 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 4.0 | 3.7 |
| Westminster | 2.8 | 3.0 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.8 |
| Inner London | 4.5 | 4.8 | 6.5 | 7.2 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.0 |
| Outer London | 2.9 | 3.3 | 5.1 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.4 |
| Greater London | 3.6 | 3.9 | 5.7 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 6.0 | 6.3 | 6.0 |
| Great Britain | 3.0 | 3.5 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.6 |

Source: Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system) & GLA estimates

Table 10 Claimant counts by ethnic group, London boroughs, Sept 2011-Oct 2012

| | White | Mixed | Black or Black British | Asian or Asian British | Chinese or Other | Unknown | Prefer Not To Say |
|------------------------|---------|-------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|
| City of London | 40 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Barking and Dagenham | 4050 | 235 | 1560 | 605 | 150 | 140 | 395 |
| Barnet | 3445 | 375 | 1335 | 870 | 710 | 200 | 295 |
| Bexley | 3550 | 110 | 605 | 220 | 100 | 60 | 225 |
| Brent | 2005 | 1010 | 3640 | 1480 | 725 | 290 | 805 |
| Bromley | 4140 | 185 | 825 | 155 | 120 | 65 | 275 |
| Camden | 2530 | 270 | 1200 | 635 | 360 | 125 | 530 |
| Croydon | 4110 | 560 | 3630 | 860 | 425 | 230 | 1135 |
| Ealing | 2650 | 425 | 2445 | 2195 | 725 | 245 | 600 |
| Enfield | 4430 | 365 | 2770 | 550 | 1095 | 270 | 1075 |
| Greenwich | 4260 | 345 | 2010 | 415 | 345 | 160 | 485 |
| Hackney | 3675 | 545 | 4150 | 750 | 825 | 250 | 885 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | 2165 | 315 | 1670 | 240 | 510 | 125 | 275 |
| Haringey | 3525 | 405 | 3585 | 465 | 1080 | 360 | 1160 |
| Harrow | 1315 | 195 | 830 | 1325 | 250 | 110 | 250 |
| Havering | 4355 | 125 | 405 | 155 | 65 | 40 | 300 |
| Hillingdon | 2600 | 170 | 890 | 1045 | 195 | 105 | 195 |
| Hounslow | 2435 | 235 | 835 | 1515 | 215 | 110 | 200 |
| Islington | 3470 | 385 | 1885 | 335 | 485 | 175 | 650 |
| Kensington and Chelsea | 1380 | 230 | 855 | 155 | 420 | 85 | 210 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 1290 | 75 | 140 | 155 | 135 | 30 | 185 |
| Lambeth | 3770 | 700 | 5865 | 375 | 560 | 270 | 830 |
| Lewisham | 3860 | 550 | 4285 | 295 | 505 | 210 | 1070 |
| Merton | 1940 | 165 | 920 | 425 | 160 | 80 | 315 |
| Newham | 2755 | 555 | 3670 | 3500 | 480 | 280 | 625 |
| Redbridge | 2575 | 305 | 1430 | 2435 | 335 | 170 | 755 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 1460 | 75 | 120 | 125 | 110 | 25 | 125 |
| Southwark | 4190 | 535 | 4580 | 375 | 685 | 225 | 795 |
| Sutton | 2455 | 85 | 290 | 165 | 100 | 50 | 335 |
| Tower Hamlets | 3240 | 335 | 1570 | 5085 | 365 | 180 | 600 |
| Waltham Forest | 3415 | 450 | 2840 | 1510 | 585 | 230 | 885 |
| Wandsworth | 2820 | 325 | 2015 | 570 | 295 | 130 | 370 |
| Westminster | 2015 | 245 | 1170 | 445 | 825 | 190 | 345 |
| London | 95905 | 10900 | 64025 | 29425 | 13945 | 5245 | 17200 |
| Great Britain | 1165200 | 29900 | 104945 | 90415 | 30350 | 19615 | 73200 |

Source: Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system)

The claimant count also includes information about the duration of the JSA claim, the numbers of new claimants and the numbers ceasing to claim. Table 11 presents a summary of the latest information at borough level. These figures show that while a substantial number of claimants cease claiming within six months, a significant proportion have been claiming Job Seeker's Allowance for more than a year – up to a third of all claimants in boroughs as diverse as Kensington & Chelsea, Hackney and Lambeth, while other boroughs seem to have a relatively high turnover of claimants, notably Hounslow, Hillingdon, Richmond and Kingston, with 60 per cent or more of claimants having been claiming for less than six months, and fewer than one in five claiming for more than a year, while around 30 per cent of those claiming in March were no longer claiming in April. Further analysis of this data is planned, including more on duration and what is happening to those who cease to claim.

Table 11 Duration of JSA claims, London boroughs, April 2012

| | Percentage of claims less than six months | Percentage of claims more than one year | Percentage of new claims in last month | Percentage of last month's claimants no longer claiming |
|----------------------|--|---|--|---|
| City of London | 56 | 32 | 15 | 17 |
| Barking & Dagenham | 48 | 27 | 17 | 19 |
| Barnet | 53 | 25 | 20 | 21 |
| Bexley | 56 | 22 | 21 | 23 |
| Brent | 52 | 27 | 19 | 20 |
| Bromley | 52 | 24 | 18 | 20 |
| Camden | 50 | 28 | 20 | 22 |
| Croydon | 53 | 24 | 20 | 20 |
| Ealing | 53 | 26 | 19 | 22 |
| Enfield | 48 | 28 | 17 | 20 |
| Greenwich | 51 | 23 | 19 | 18 |
| Hackney | 46 | 32 | 17 | 19 |
| Hammersmith & Fulham | 50 | 30 | 19 | 22 |
| Haringey | 47 | 30 | 17 | 18 |
| Harrow | 57 | 19 | 21 | 24 |
| Havering | 55 | 23 | 19 | 21 |
| Hillingdon | 60 | 18 | 23 | 26 |
| Hounslow | 60 | 19 | 27 | 30 |
| Islington | 50 | 29 | 19 | 20 |
| Kensington & Chelsea | 49 | 33 | 19 | 20 |
| Kingston upon Thames | 61 | 18 | 24 | 30 |
| Lambeth | 46 | 32 | 16 | 17 |
| Lewisham | 50 | 25 | 18 | 19 |
| Merton | 53 | 23 | 22 | 24 |
| Newham | 49 | 28 | 19 | 20 |
| Redbridge | 53 | 24 | 19 | 21 |
| Richmond upon Thames | 61 | 20 | 26 | 29 |
| Southwark | 47 | 31 | 16 | 17 |
| Sutton | 56 | 21 | 22 | 24 |
| Tower Hamlets | 45 | 31 | 16 | 18 |
| Waltham Forest | 47 | 28 | 16 | 18 |
| Wandsworth | 50 | 29 | 19 | 21 |
| Westminster | 50 | 30 | 19 | 20 |
| Greater London | 51 | 27 | 19 | 20 |

Source: Office for National Statistics (Jobcentre Plus administrative system)

Background

As the claimant count is a by-product of the benefits administration system, it only counts those unemployed people who are claiming JSA. GLA analysis has highlighted that some unemployed people are more likely to be missed by the claimant count than others; these include women, young people and those living in higher income households. This largely reflects the eligibility criteria for JSA. For this reason, the claimant count is best viewed as an unemployment indicator not a comprehensive unemployment measure.

The Government's official and preferred measure of unemployment is currently ILO unemployment. ILO unemployment measures those people out of work, who are actively looking for work and are available to start work. At a regional level, ILO unemployment is measured by the Labour Force Survey. The ILO measure is more comprehensive than the claimant count as it includes the many unemployed people who are not eligible for, or not claiming, JSA. It is the ILO measure that is generally quoted in the media.

Despite its limitations, the claimant count is widely used because it is timely (data are available monthly around 4/5 weeks after the date of the count) and importantly, because it is available for small areas. ILO unemployment estimates are not available for wards and even the borough level ILO estimates (modelled and survey based) have wide confidence intervals and cannot be generated by age or gender with any degree of reliability. Even at regional level, there is a degree of uncertainty in the figures, so small changes may reflect variations in the sample rather than in the underlying population.

The modelled unemployment estimates produced by the Office for National Statistics for local authorities (and now also available on a consistent basis for Parliamentary Constituencies) are based on determining a strong relationship between ILO unemployment (as measured by the Labour Force Survey) and auxiliary information (mainly the Claimant Count). This relationship is then used to provide more reliable estimates of ILO unemployment for local authorities. These model-based estimates are always more precise than any direct estimates produced at this level of geography from the Labour Force Survey.

Further information about the claimant count measure and how it compares to the official ILO measure can be found in: *DMAG Briefing 2012-01 Claimant Count Model Guidance Notes*

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For more information please contact Rachel Leaser, Intelligence Unit,
Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA
Tel: 020 7983 4696 e-mail: rachel.leaser@london.gov.uk

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