

# Demystifying unemployment data

An introduction to different measures of unemployment & headline analysis for London

## **Demystifying unemployment**

- Measures of unemployment (national and local)
- What the unemployment figures can and can't tell us
- Interpreting unemployment figures through COVID-19
- Headline analysis for London
- Ways to explore the data



### Intro to OCSI



- Use data better to make better decisions
- Public & community sector organisations
- Index of Multiple Deprivation, Community Needs Index
- Easy to use & intuitive tools -Local Insight



## National unemployment figures

- National figures reported in media
- Self reported (rather than administrative)
- Based on national survey -'Labour Force Survey'
- Published monthly (with 2 month lag)

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NEWS							
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# Unemployment rate hits highest level in three years

By Daniel Thomas Business reporter, BBC News



arkets Project Syndicate B2B Retail

UK unemployment rate jumps to 4.5%; IMF warns of polarised labour markets as it happened

### National unemployment figures



- Can compare across different countries
- Captures individuals that don't claim benefits

- Doesn't tell us anything at a local level
- Survey data sample size

- Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) & Universal Credit - 'claimant count'
- (Department of Work and Pensions)
- Used when talking about unemployment at local level (screenshots)

#### Tourist hotspots hit hardest in UK by Covid-19 unemployment

Analysis by Labour finds percentage rise of benefit claimants far outstrips other areas

#### Hull and Blackpool have highest jobless rates in UK

Unemployment worse in already struggling areas but rate is rising rapidly elsewhere

- Defined as "out of work and seeking employment"
- Based on 'economically active' population
- Other subsets available (youth unemployment, male / female)





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- Up-to-date (published monthly)
- Granular (published at LSOA level) - pop up - LSOA explainer

 Challenges with Universal Credit roll out

Excludes those that don't

claim benefits

• Robust, administrative data

### What is an LSOA?



- Statistical building block around 1500 people
- LSOAs, LEPs and lookups: A beginner's guide to statistical geographies





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- Excludes those that don't claim benefits
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## **Universal Credit**

- Starting to replace JSA but they don't overlap perfectly
- Includes those on low income as well as the unemployed
- UC rollout happening at different places at different time



• Problematic for looking at changes over time







### **Universal Credit & COVID-19**

- Make a claim for UC, and are then told your conditions
- Surge of claims led to some incorrect classification
- Some furloughed groups are also getting rolled into UC figures as well as Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme



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## **Unemployment in London**



### **Unemployment in London**



Ward	Borough	Unemployment rate (%) - Nov-20				
Northumberland Park	Haringey	17.0				
Stonebridge	Brent	15.8				
Harlesden	Brent	15.7				
Bruce Grove	Haringey	14.7				
Golborne	Kensington and Chelsea	14.3				
Selhurst	Croydon	14.3				
Tottenham Green	Haringey	13.9				
Peckham	Southwark	13.5				
White Hart Lane	Haringey	13.5				
Lansbury	Tower Hamlets	13.2				
OCSI - http://ocsi.uk/ - info@ocsi.co.uk - +44 (0)1273 810270						

### Youth unemployment





London Boroughs

### **Unemployment since March**





## **Unemployment since March**





## **Furloughing figures**



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### **Exploring data in Local Insight**















#### Area Dashboard

The colours on the dashboard show how your areas compare with each other High Medium Low	Unemployment benefit							
National Comparator								
England	3.1	5.1	6.5	6.4	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.4
Boroughs								
Barking and Dagenham	4.4	6.2	10.1	9.9	10.2	10.4	10.3	10.1
Barnet	2.6	4.2	6.9	7	7.1	7.4	7.4	7.3
Bexley	2.2	4.1	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9	5.7
Brent	3.6	5.5	9.4	9.8	10	10.1	10.3	10.3
Bromley	2.1	3.5	5.6	5.4	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.5
Camden	2.3	3.8	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.8
City of London	1.4	2.4	3.6	3.4	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.7
Croydon	4.4	6.7	8.9	8.8	9	9.3	9.4	9.2



### **Public sites**









#### Thank you!

#### Any questions?

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### Links to public sites



• Lambeth & Southwark -

https://guysandstthomas.communityinsight.org/

- Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge, Havering -<u>https://bhrjsna.communityinsight.org/</u>
- Hounslow <u>http://insight.hounslow.gov.uk/</u>