

London's Economy Today

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London's economy recovers strongly although weaknesses remain



By **Mike Hope**, Economist, **Jasmine Farquharson**, Higher Apprentice

This month the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released its first estimate of London GDP growth for Q4 2020 and GLA Economics published its latest [scenarios](#) for the London economy. The ONS data show that the drop in London's economic output in 2020 was less deep than for the UK. Specifically, London's output fell by 7.1% in 2020, (Figure 1), which is broadly comparable with a fall of 9.8% for the UK economy in 2020 (although this comes from another ONS publication and uses different data sources and methodology.)

In the central GLA Economics scenario, the capital is now expected to recover pre-pandemic levels of output by the end of this year, and the level of output it would have had if the pandemic had not happened by 2025. The prediction is for 6.5% growth this year, 6.0% growth in 2022, before slowing to growth of 2.9% in 2023. Two other scenarios accompany the main estimates providing a sense of the range of uncertainty around these estimates (although there remains an element of downside epidemiological risk).

Also in this issue

Furlough numbers are diminishing and business distress indicators are improving	2
Weaknesses remain in the London economy	4
Inflationary pressures remain, if weaker for the moment	5
Office demand is improving in London.....	6
Economic indicators	7
The GLA's Adult Education Budget data publication.....	13
Our latest publications	19

Datastore

The main economic indicators for London are available to download from the [London Datastore](#).



Figure 1: Change in quarterly GDP, London and England 2019 Q4 to 2020 Q4, and London's output quarter-by-quarter to 2023 Q4 with range of uncertainty

Source: GLA Economics macroeconomic scenarios and ONS quarterly regional GDP estimates

The Bank of England (BoE) also published its latest forecast for the UK economy in August, in which it expects a recovery to pre-pandemic levels of output by the end of this year. The BoE forecasts UK growth of 7¼% this year, and 6% next year. Also, this month, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its latest forecast for the world economy. It continues to expect that there will be global growth of 6.0% this year, and 4.9% next year, but that developed economies would do better than previously expected, and less developed economies worse. The growth forecast for the UK is one that has improved, and is 7.0% for 2021, and 4.8% for 2022.

Furlough numbers are diminishing and business distress indicators are improving



As the economy picks up, and the number of jobs expands, it is becoming less dependent on government support. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), or furlough scheme, has been of critical importance in helping employees to maintain contact with their employers. It is due to end in September. The numbers on furlough in London have declined from 883,000 in August last year to 357,000 in June of this year according to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) data. Despite this fall London continues to have the highest furlough rate of any country or region of the UK. The city accounts for 12 out of the 15 local authorities with the highest furlough rates across the UK. More positively, recent evidence from the ONS Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) on UK furlough rates indicates that numbers have continued to fall, and 3.7% of the workforce of the UK were on furlough in late July.

Last year the ratio of non-furloughed to furloughed payrolled employees was below one indicating that more people were losing their jobs than moving off furlough to their old roles. Since March the ratio has been above one as employee growth has exceeded the decline in numbers on furlough. This has been the case for both London and the UK (Figure 2).

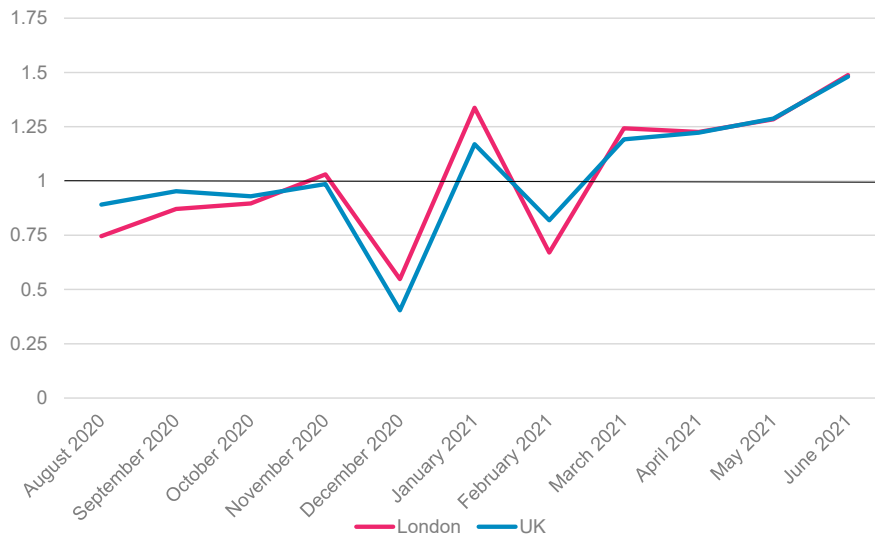


Figure 2: Ratio of non-furlough and furlough month-on-month change in payrolled employees, London and UK, August 2020 to June 2021

Source: HMRC CJRS and RTI statistics, and GLA Economics calculations

UK labour market prospects remain positive as 69% of employers plan to recruit in the three months to September 2021, according to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). Redundancies have remained low, with just 13% of employers expecting to make job cuts. If this comes to pass the end of the furlough scheme might be a relatively smooth transition.

However, as reported in [July's LET](#) the picture is not uniform across sectors, and there is a skills mismatch for some sectors. This is notable for hospitality and the arts where the use of the furlough scheme remains common, and there are large numbers of vacancies.

The risk of business failure is also continuing to diminish, according to the London School of Economics (LSE). The percentage of UK businesses at risk of closing over the next three months has been steadily declining from around 15% in January, after the announcement of an unexpected lockdown, to a little more than 6% in July (Figure 3). This is equivalent to around 165,000 UK enterprises, and 35,000 London enterprises, based on ONS figures for 2019. The drop was primarily due to improvements in the outlook of smaller enterprises (those with fewer than 50 employees). The improvement is a cause for cautious optimism, although businesses may remain susceptible to possible disruptions due to new variants or snap-policy changes.

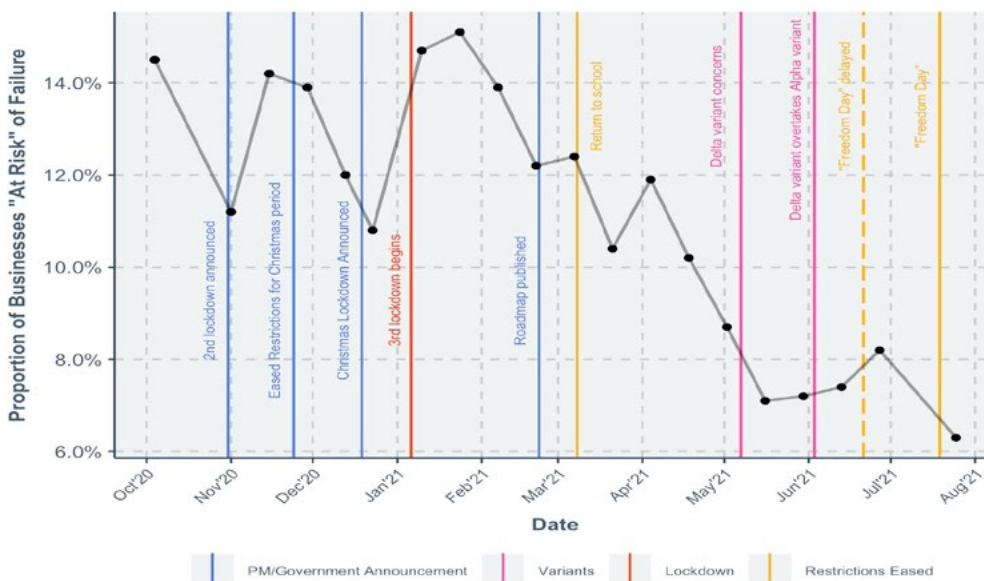


Figure 3: Percentage of UK businesses at risk of closing over next three months, October 2020 to July 2021

Source: ONS Business Insight and Conditions Survey, and LSE calculations

The stronger than expected recovery from the pandemic has helped companies to regain financial independence. So far, between 5% and 10% of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) have missed repayments for the Coronavirus “bounce-back” loan scheme. Preliminary estimates from the government last summer were that between 35% and 60% of businesses might default on loans. Given this the cost of the 100% government guarantees is more likely to be closer to £5bn than the original estimate of £19bn by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR).

That said, there are some signs that business confidence in London has been easing in July from the high levels up to June, (see the LET economic indicators section below). Inevitably, the pace of economic recovery will ease off. The Federation of Small Businesses reports declining business confidence amongst London small businesses about prospects for the third quarter compared with the second quarter. Businesses are almost evenly divided about whether prospects for the next quarter are positive or not. Across the UK small businesses are more positive.

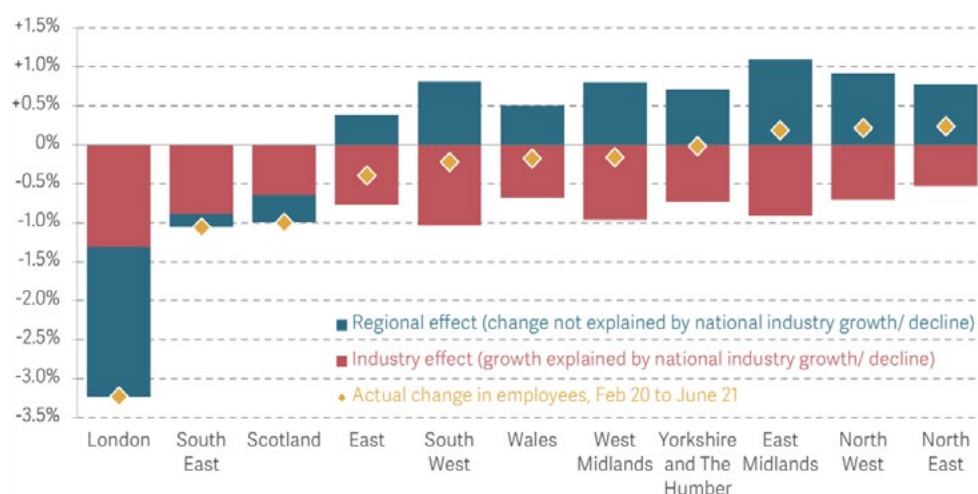
Weaknesses remain in the London economy



The latest labour market statistics point to London's labour market continuing to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic. We have highlighted above how higher furlough take up rates than in the rest of the UK continue to be registered in London even as overall numbers diminish. In addition, London is the only region of the UK which has not yet recovered its pre-pandemic level of payrolled employees. Research by the Resolution Foundation has found that the larger impacts on London's labour market are only partially explained by the different sectoral composition of London's economy, as there is also a negative London regional effect (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Change in payrolled employees by country and region of Great Britain, February 2020 – June 2021

Source: McCurdy C (2021), Levelling up and down Britain, Resolution Foundation



A natural explanation for this is a lack of revival of the Central Activities Zone (CAZ). As reported in [July's LET](#) London's hospitality sector remains disproportionately reliant on the furlough scheme. Partly this is because of fewer people commuting into work, and so fewer people taking advantage of central London's cafes, restaurants and night-time offer. London is also an important holiday destination for international visitors. It was the third most popular visitor city in the world in 2019 with 19.6m overseas visitors, according to Euromonitor International. International travel restrictions might lead to a £6.6bn spending shortfall in London in 2021, according to the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR). For the whole of England spending this year might be £3.7bn lower than the £14.4bn spent during pre-pandemic times.

Inflationary pressures remain, if weaker for the moment



The rate of increase of Consumer Price Inflation in July was 2.0%, down from 2.5% in June. Much of the difference can be attributed to one-off base effects. Prices for clothing, restaurants, hotels, and furniture were higher than normal as re-opening after the first COVID-19 lockdown led to price rises. Global supply chain weaknesses again helped to push up inflation. With a global semi-conductor shortage affecting the production of new cars, the annual price increase of second-hand cars rose by 14%. Producer prices rose by 9.9% as a sign of future pressure on consumer prices. Other upside risks include an increase in the energy price cap, and the end of the VAT cut for hospitality and tourism, both of which are expected from October. The BoE in its latest Monetary Policy Report expects inflation to reach 4% by the end of the year before easing next year.

As reported in [July's LET](#) there is a debate about whether price pressures will be transitory or become more permanent. While the withdrawal of government fiscal support will ease concerns, the BoE reports a tightening of capacity in the labour market. It observes that the allocation of demand across firms has changed substantially during the pandemic, but jobs have not been re-allocated to the same extent. A large share of that re-allocation of demand appears to have happened within sectors rather than between sectors, for example, if customers buy similar products but from different sources.

A spiral of wage and price inflation might lead to more permanent inflation. But, CIPD research has found that fewer than a quarter of UK companies with hard-to-fill vacancies plan to increase the wages they offer to lure new recruits. Some 44% said they would develop the skills of existing staff, 26% intended to hire more apprentices, 14% said they would do nothing, and 9% would introduce or increase automation (some companies following more than one strategy). The survey indicated that employers' pay intentions were no higher than pre-pandemic levels. The median employer's expectation of basic pay settlements has held at the 2% level reached last quarter, after four consecutive quarters at 1%. The BoE has also concluded that wage growth has returned to its pre-pandemic rate, although it is expecting modest increases in wage inflation over the rest of the year.

Office demand is improving in London



In tandem with London's recovery there have been signs of rising demand for office space despite the move to hybrid working. Knight Frank reports the third successive quarter of rising take-up for leasing transactions in Q2 2021, although CBRE estimates that office vacancy rates increased from 8% to 9.3% in the first half of this year. Derwent London and IWG are also seeing a rebound in office demand with companies favouring newer buildings and shorter leases.

We will continue to review how London's economy develops, and examine impacts and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis in our research, which can be found on our [publications page](#) and on the [London Datastore](#).

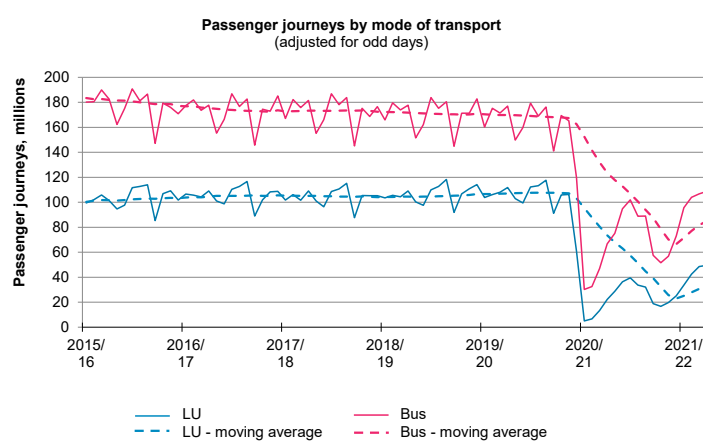
Economic indicators

Passenger journeys on London public transport continue to recover gradually from a low base

- 158.4 million passenger journeys were registered between 27 June and 24 July 2021, 3.2 million journeys more than in the previous period (30 May– 26 June).
- In the latest period, 49.6 million of all journeys were underground journeys and 108.8 million were bus journeys.
- The 13-period-moving average in the total number of passenger journeys rose slightly from 112.3 in the previous period to 117.6 in the latest period.

Source: Transport for London

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

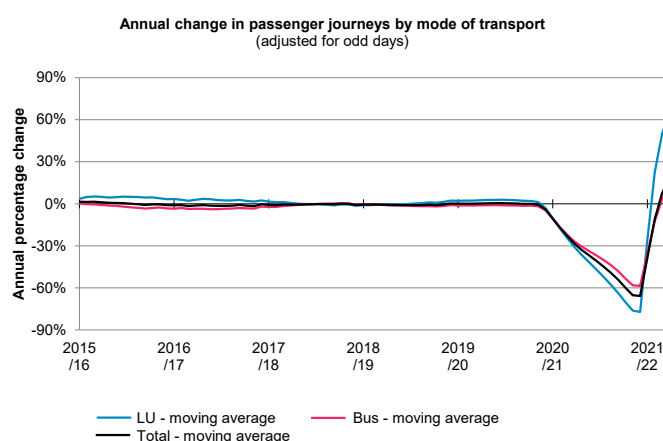


The dramatic fall in the moving average annual change in passenger journeys in London continues to reverse

- The 13-period moving average annual growth rate in the total number of passenger journeys was 18.6% in the period 27 June– 24 July, up from 7.3% in the period 30 May – 26 July.
- The moving average annual growth rate of bus journeys increased from 2.9% to 12.5% between the above-mentioned periods.
- Likewise, the moving annual average of underground passenger journeys went up from 49.6% to 65.2% between those periods.

Source: Transport for London

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

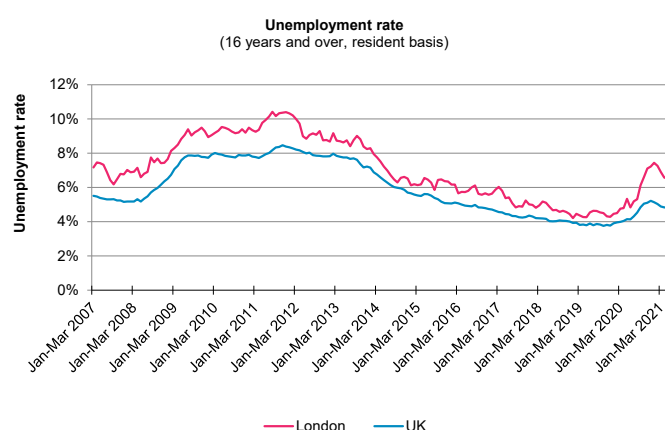


London's unemployment rate fell slightly to 6.4% in the quarter to June 2021, although it remains near the highest rate in seven years

- Around 313,000 residents 16 years and over were unemployed in London in April - June 2021.
- The unemployment rate in London was 6.4% in that period, down from 6.9% in the previous quarter, January - March 2021, and representing one of the highest rates in seven years.
- The UK's unemployment rate also decreased, from 4.9% in January- March to 4.7% in April - June.
- The ONS is advising that levels and changes in levels in labour market estimates should be used with caution. These are aligned to official population estimates which do not currently reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimates of rates from the Labour Force Survey remain robust and reliable.

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

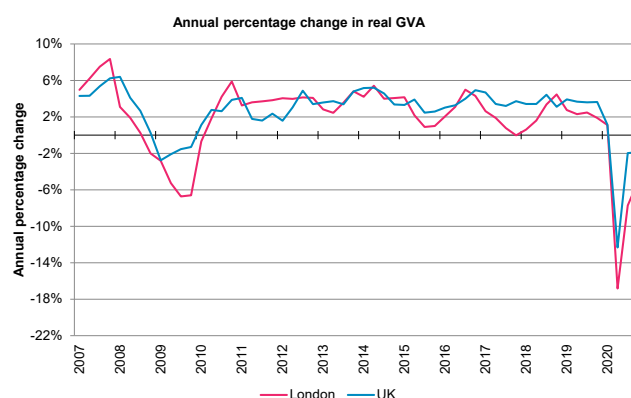


London's economy is estimated to have contracted by -5.1% in the year to Q4 2020

- London's real GVA grew by 3.1% in Q4 - compared with Q3 - after growth of 13.3% in the previous quarter. This has not been sufficient to offset the decline of 17.2% in the second quarter.
- London's real GVA in Q4 2020 remained 5.1% below its pre-crisis level in Q4 2019.
- The UK's real GVA quarterly growth rate for Q4 2020 was 0.5% after a fall of 13.1% in the second quarter and a recovery of 13.4% in the third quarter. Overall UK GVA in Q4 remained 1.9% below its pre-crisis level in Q4 2019.
- London's real GVA quarterly estimates for both the period Q1 1999 to Q4 2012 have been produced by GLA Economics. Estimates for the intervening period are outturn data from the ONS, which does not publish quarterly estimates for London's real GVA prior to 2013.

Source: ONS and GLA Economics calculations

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: November 2021

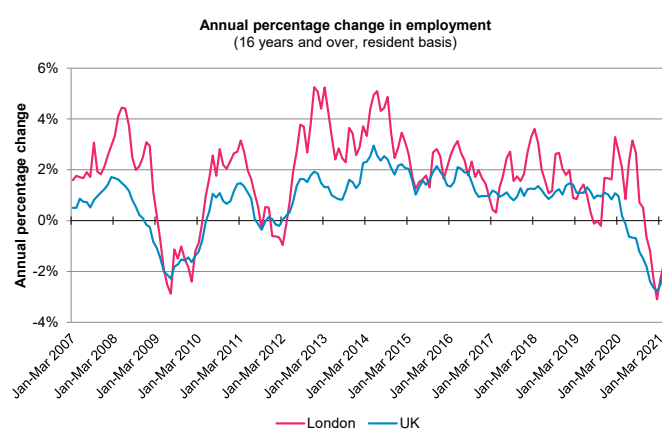


London's annual employment growth rate was -1.4% in the quarter to June 2021

- Around 4.6 million London residents over 16 years old were in employment during the three-month period of April - June 2021.
- The rate of employment growth in the capital was -1.4% in the year to this quarter and compares with annual growth of -2.3% in Q1 2021
- The decline in the UK's employment annual growth rate was -1.0% in the most recent quarter, and -2.5% in the previous quarter.
- The ONS is advising that levels and changes in levels in labour market estimates should be used with caution. These are aligned to official population estimates which do not currently reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Estimates of rates from the Labour Force Survey remain robust and reliable.

Source: ONS Labour Force Survey

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

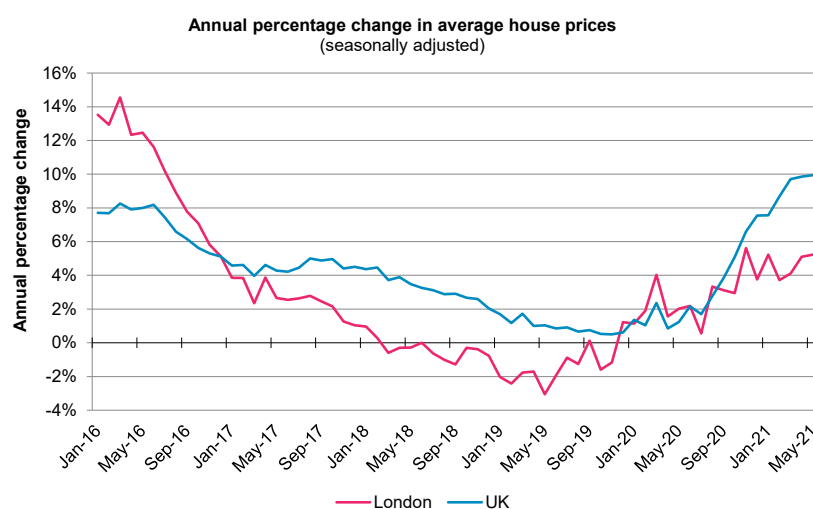


House prices year-on-year continue to rise in London

- In May 2021, the average house price in London was £496,000 while for the UK it was £254,000.
- The annual growth rate in average house prices in the capital was 5.2% in May, marginally up on April (5.1%).
- Average house prices in the UK rose by 9.9% in annual terms in May, the same as in April.
- The stamp duty holiday may be a contributory factor to rising house prices.

Source: Land Registry and ONS

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

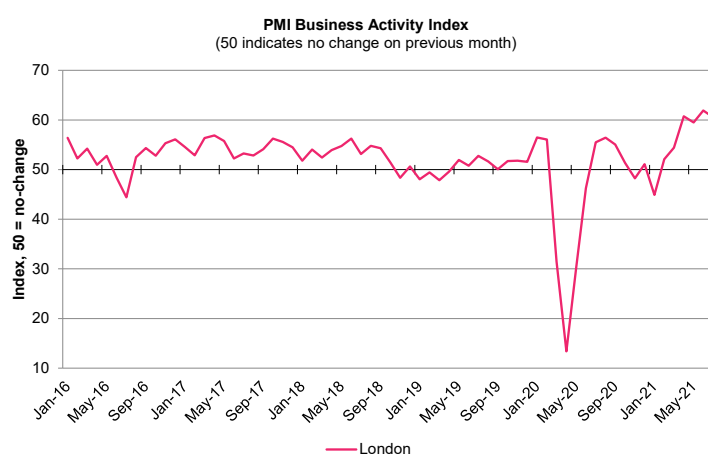


In July, the sentiment of London's PMI business activity index remained positive for the sixth consecutive month

- The business activity PMI index for London private firms dropped slightly from 61.9 in June to 60.5 in July. It is at its highest level for over seven years.
- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey shows the monthly business trends at private sector firms. Index readings above 50 suggest a month-on-month increase in activity on average across firms, while readings below 50 indicate a decrease.

Source: IHS Markit for NatWest

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

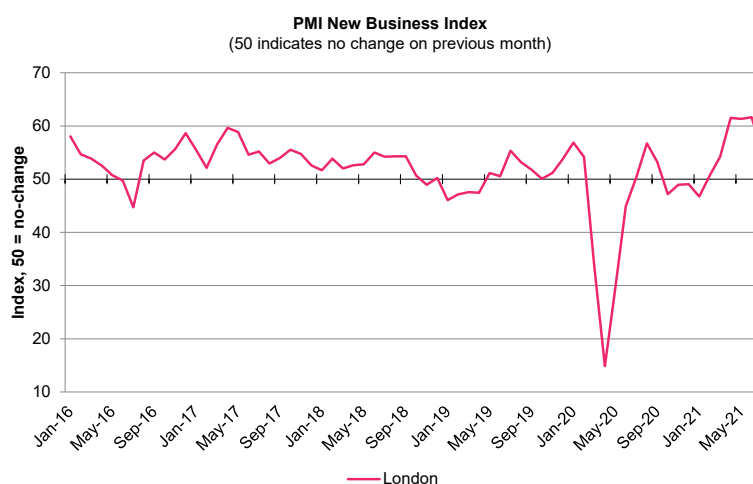


In July, the sentiment of London's PMI new business activity index remained positive for the sixth consecutive month

- The PMI new business index in London dropped from 61.6 in June to 55.1 in July. The six months from February onwards are the first time there has been positive sentiment since September. The index is at its highest level for six years.
- An index reading above 50.0 indicates an increase in new orders on average across firms from the previous month.

Source: IHS Markit for NatWest

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

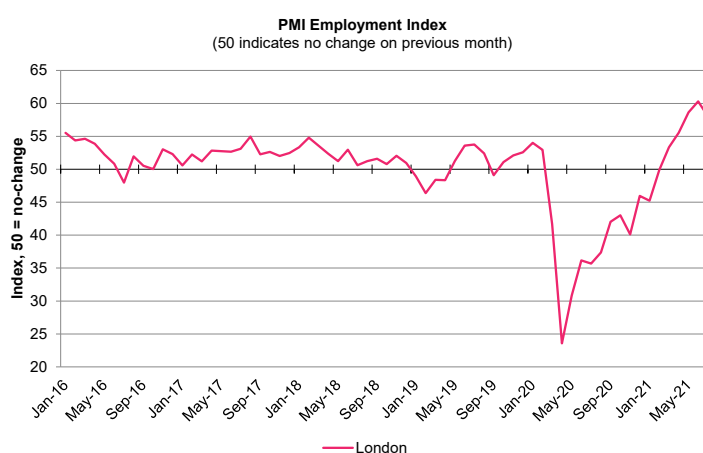


In July, the sentiment of the PMI employment index in London remained positive for the fifth consecutive month

- The Employment Index for London dropped slightly from 60.3 in June to 58.0 in July. The last time sentiment was positive was in February 2020. The index is at its highest level since 2014.
- The PMI Employment Index shows the net balance of private sector firms of the monthly change in employment prospects. Readings above 50.0 suggests an increase, whereas a reading below 50.0 indicates a decrease in employment prospects from the previous month.

Source: IHS Markit for NatWest

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

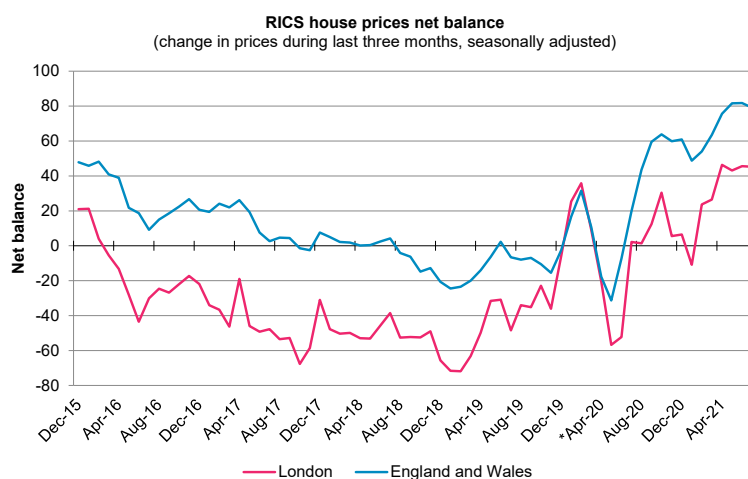


The net balance of property surveyors reported house prices remained steady in London in July

- In July, the net balance of property surveyors reporting a rise in house prices was 45, slightly lower than 46 in June.
- For England and Wales, the RICS house prices net balance index dropped slightly in July to 79 from 82 in June.
- The net balance index measures the proportion of property surveyors reporting a rise in prices minus those reporting a decline.

Source: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

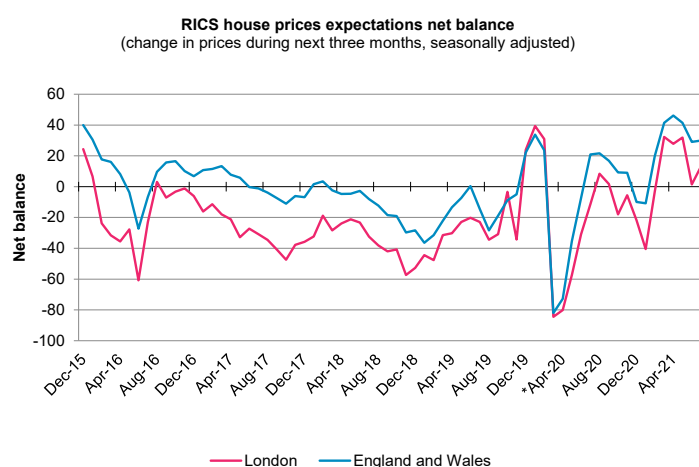


In July, expectations for house prices in London for the next three months remained positive according to surveyors

- The net balance of house prices expectations was 13 in July in London, up on the figure for June of 1.
- Sentiment in England and Wales was 30 in June a small change from 29 in June.
- The net balance index measures the proportion of property surveyors reporting a rise in prices minus those reporting a decline.

Source: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021

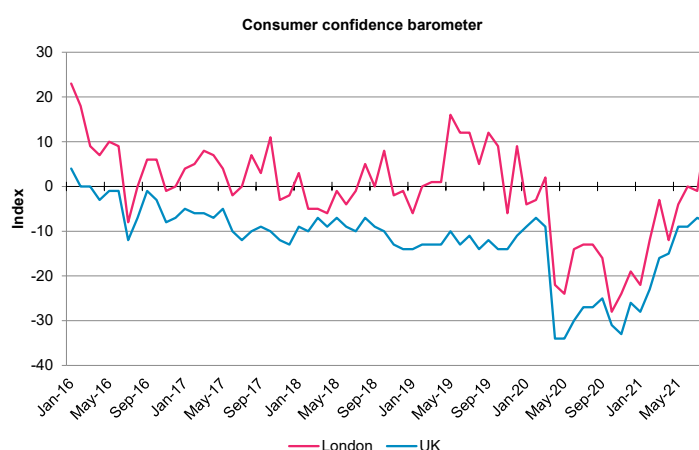


Consumer confidence in London increased significantly in August

- In August, the consumer confidence index in London increased to 13, from -1 in July, the highest level since May 2019
- The sentiment for the UK however decreased from -7 in July to -8 in August. The UK has not seen a positive index score since January 2016.
- The GfK index of consumer confidence reflects people's views on their financial position and the general economy over the past year and in the next 12 months. A score above zero suggests positive opinions; a score below zero indicates negative sentiment.

Source: GfK

Latest release: August 2021, Next release: September 2021



The GLA's Adult Education Budget data publication

By **Dr Héctor Espinoza**, Economist



The Adult Education Budget (AEB), devolved in August 2019 to the GLA, funds education and training for adults aged 19 and above.

In this article, we present key aspects and findings of the latest AEB data release, covering the first two quarters of the academic year 2020/21. It should be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the Further Education (FE) sector in London during the reporting period. Thus, extra care should be taken in interpreting this data.

New AEB data release

The GLA has published detailed information about the AEB programme in July 2021¹. This data release, based on administrative education records², provides London, sub-regional and borough³ level data and presents figures for the first six months of the 2020/21 academic year from August to January.

In this article, we show some headline statistics of the programme, such as AEB participation (number of learners and aims enrolments), demographic characteristics of the learners, course levels and subject areas chosen, and some of the Mayoral areas of interest.

Adult Education Budget, academic year 2020/21

1.1 AEB participation August-January 2020/21

In the first half of the 2020/21 academic year, there were 130,590 learners participating in the AEB programme. All of the Sub-Regional Partnerships⁴ and London boroughs (except the City of London)

¹ Data tables and further information are available on the [GLA AEB website page](#)

² Individualised Learner Records (ILR) R06, August-January 2020/21 data.

³ For ease of communication the term London boroughs includes the 32 London boroughs and the City of London.

⁴ Central London Forward includes all learning matched to LADs of Camden, the City of London, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster. Local London includes all learning matched to LADs of Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Bromley, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. South London Partnership comprises all learning matched to LADs of Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Sutton. West London Alliance comprises all learning matched to LADs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow.

showed significant activity (above 1,500 learners⁵) during the publication period. The top 5 London boroughs with the highest number of learners were Newham (7,530), Lambeth (6,080), Southwark (6,010), Croydon (5,830) and Brent (5,790). The full frequency distribution of learners by London Boroughs is shown in Figure A1⁶.

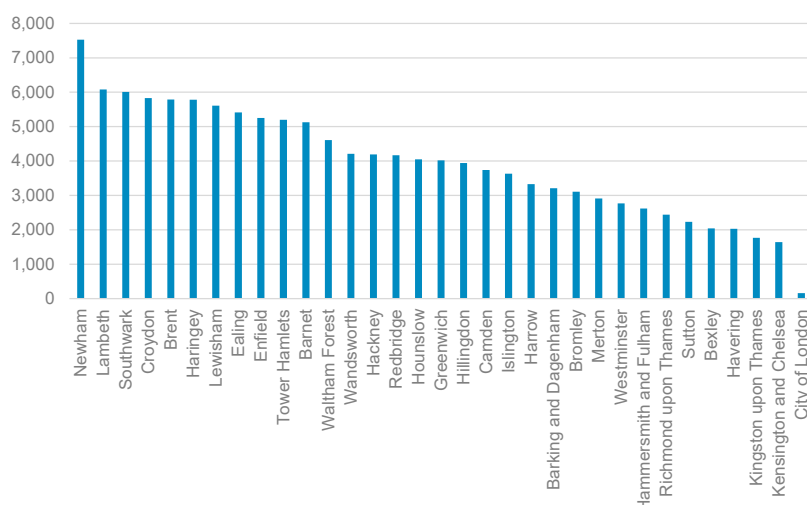


Figure A1: Learner participation by London borough, August 2020 – January 2021

Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 Individual Learner Record (ILR) data

Note: Figures are based on learner's home postcode on the learning start date and excludes records without a valid postcode

1.2 Adult (19+) Demographic Summary of FE and Skills Participation

Figure A2 shows key demographic characteristics of the AEB learners. Of the total number of participants (130,590) in 2020/21:

- 70% were female (90,960 learners) and 30% were male (39,630);
- 57% were from a black or minority ethnic background (67,060 learners including mixed, Asian, black and other ethnic group learners)⁷ and 43% were from a white background (51,160);
- 13% were aged 19-23 (16,510 learners), 63% were aged 24-49 (82,750), and 24% 50+ (31,620).

There are some notable differences by Funding Model in terms of ethnicity and age. Compared to Community Learning, Adult Skills engaged a higher proportion of BAME and younger learners.

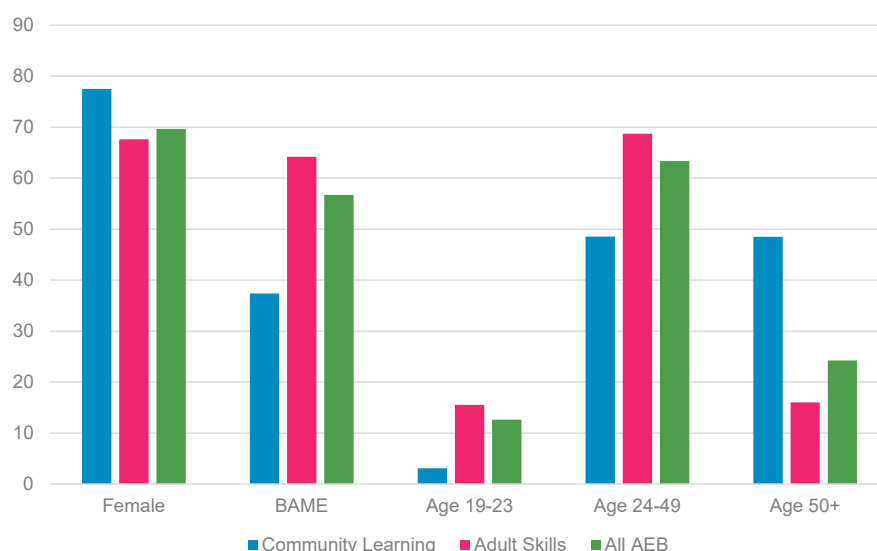


Figure A2: Demographic characteristics of AEB learners in August – January 2020/21

Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

Note: Age is based on learner's age on 31st August of the academic year.

⁵ The exception is the City of London that, with a relatively small population, is a historic financial district.

⁶ Further breakdowns by Sub-regional partnerships are available online.

⁷ The percentage calculation for the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and White measures exclude instances of unknown ethnicity.

The GLA also monitors background characteristics that can be used to identify certain groups in need. Figure A3 shows these non-mutually exclusive fields, which represent a significant portion of delivery:

- Amongst those who have self-reported their employment status (around 108,520 learners mostly in Adult Skills funding category), 61% declared not to be in employment;
- In Adult Skills learning, around 50% of provision in terms of funding were eligible for the disadvantage uplift funding⁸ (49,670 learners);
- 13% (15,990 learners) consider themselves to be LLDD (learners self-reporting a learning difficulty and/or disability and/or health problem). Note that this statistic excludes cases where the information was not collected (5% of the total number of learners);
- 5% (6,270 learners) of the total number of participants received learner support⁹.

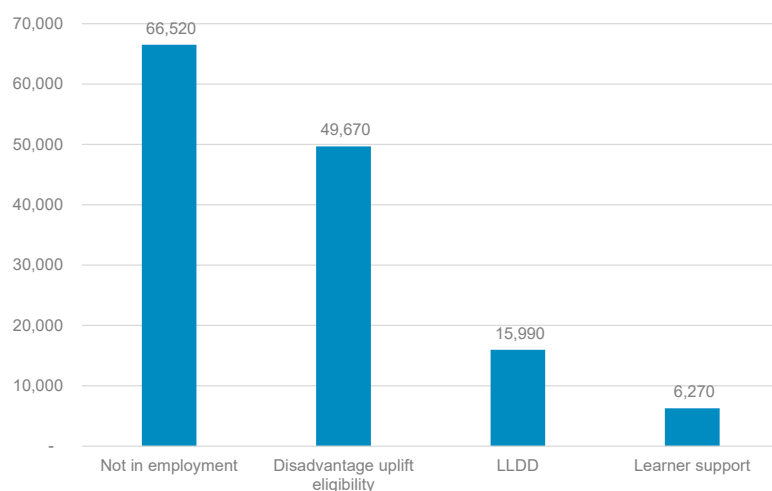


Figure A3: Other background characteristics of AEB learners in August – January 2020/21

Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

Note: Employment status prior to enrolment is based on self-declaration by the learner, as reported in the ILR. This variable is an indicative measure of employment status but is not sufficient to deduce adequately whether a person is employed, unemployed, or economically inactive, since the full suite of contextual questions needed to do so are not asked. Further, this data is not required for learners enrolled only in Community Learning. Categories in Figure 3 are not mutually exclusive.

1.3 Aims enrolments

Learners can have more than one aim during the academic year. There were 255,040 aims over the course of the first two quarters of the 2020/21 academic year (on average each learner undertakes 2 aims).

Figure A4 shows enrolments (starts) during the first six months of the academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21. In 2020/21, there were 255,040 aims enrolments in London during the publication period and the majority of these enrolments for the AEB belong to funding category Adult Skills. Total aims enrolments decreased by 9% compared to 281,700 in the same period in 2019/20, which is in line with the national picture. However, year-over-year growth shows differences by funding stream. Enrolments decreased by 29% in Community Learning and increased by 0.4% in Adult Skills.

Table A1 shows that the aim level composition differs between Adult Skills and Community Learning funding models. Adults Skills delivery ranges between Entry Level and Level 3. A significant proportion is associated with Level 2 and 3 qualifications this year. On the other hand, Community Learning tends to be concentrated at the Other Level (i.e. level not applicable).

⁸ Disadvantage funding does not apply to Community Learning, so only Adult Skills learning is included.

⁹ These are learners who are reported to receive the types of learner support included in the [GLA's AEB funding rules](#).

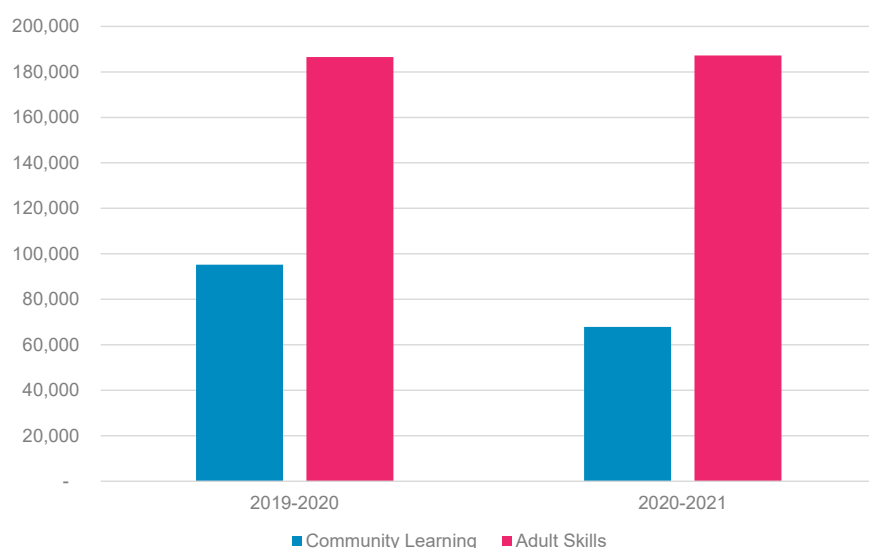


Figure A4: Aims enrolments by funding category in 2019/20 and 2020/21, August - January

Source: R06 August-January 2019/20 and R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

Table A1: AEB provision by funding model (i.e. Adult Skills or Community Learning) and level, August – January 2020/21

Level	Community Learning	Adult Skills	All AEB
Entry Level	3,840	72,360	76,190
Level 1	910	48,020	48,920
Level 2	970	62,600	63,560
Level 3	-	4,180	4,180
Other Level	62,160	20	62,180
Total	67,870	187,170	255,040

Source: R06 (August-January) ILR data

Note: Levels are based on the notional National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level version two

Almost half of all AEB aims enrolments correspond to Preparation for Life and Work courses (which includes English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Maths and English) and the vast majority is funded via Adult Skills. Other popular subjects in Adult Skills include Health, Public Services and Care, and Business, Administration, Finance and Law (see Table A2). The most popular subjects in Community Learning are Arts, Media and Publishing, Languages, Literature and Culture and Preparation for Life and Work. Detailed statistics, including additional breakdowns by level and background characteristics are available online.

Table A2: Most popular Sector Subject Areas (Tier 1) by funding model, August – January 2020/21

Most popular Sector Subject Areas - Community Learning		
Ranking	Sector Subject Area Tier 1	Enrolments
1	Arts, Media and Publishing	21,330
2	Languages, Literature and Culture	15,720
3	Preparation for Life and Work	13,800
4	History, Philosophy and Theology	4,280
5	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	3,750

Most popular Sector Subject Areas - Adult Skills		
Ranking	Sector Subject Area Tier 1	Enrolments
1	Preparation for Life and Work	110,060
2	Health, Public Services and Care	17,710
3	Business, Administration, Finance and Law	11,530
4	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	9,550
5	Retail and Commercial Enterprise	6,840

Source: R06 (August-January) ILR data

1.4 Adult (19+) achievements in AEB-funded Further Education

In this publication, achievement statistics are counts of achieved learning aims, not unique learners. Of the 255,040 aims enrolments: 59% were “study continuing” (150,560); 32% had completed and achieved (80,490); around 1% had partially achieved (200); 4% had not achieved (10,900); and the result was pending for around 5% (12,880).

1.5 Mayoral areas of interest

The Adult Education Budget aims to be a diverse and inclusive programme that offers more opportunities for all. Aligned with this objective, the Mayor of London is particularly interested in some qualifications and learners that require more attention and support. In this publication, these are Entitlements (such as basic skills, see below), British Sign Language courses, learners in receipt of a low wage, and the COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package.

Entitlements

Basics skills are essential in enabling people to function in society and progress in learning and employment. Therefore, the legal entitlements play a key role amongst eligible adult learners taking English and Maths, Digital and Level 2 and Level 3 learning. Table A3 shows that 25,970 learners participated in 42,110 courses, including Digital entitlements that have been introduced in the first six months of the academic year 2020/21.

Table A3: Learners on Entitlements courses, August – January 2020/21

Entitlement	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
English	15,470	18,180
Maths	15,940	18,500
Level 2	670	810
Level 3	3,090	3,640
Digital	940	980
Total	25,970	42,110

Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

Note: Entitlement learning is learning taken as part of the legal entitlement to full funding for eligible adult learners for English and Maths, Digital and Level 2 and Level 3 learning¹⁰. Levels are based on the notional NVQ level version two.

British Sign Language

During the first half of 2020/21 academic year, 50 people participated in 90 British Sign Language courses¹¹.

Learners in receipt of low wage

From August 2020 to January 2021, 12,830 learners in receipt of low wage participated in the Adult Skills' stream of the AEB programme. They enrolled in 19,960 aims ranging from Entry Level to Level 3.

AEB Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package

The COVID-19 Skills Recovery Package made funding available to support London's recovery by enabling providers to meet demand for learning and skills to protect, support and create jobs, under these programme strands. In this publication are included, High value courses for 19-year olds, Sector-based Work Academy Programmes and London Recovery Programmes. By 31st January 2021, 4,530 learners participated in these programmes, taking 7,930 courses in London (see Table A4).

Table A4: Learners on Covid-19 Skills Recovery Package courses, August – January 2020/21

Programme	Learner Participation	Aims Enrolments
High Value Courses	150	180
Sector-based Work Academy Programmes	3,130	5,680
London Recovery Programmes	1,330	2,070
Total	4,530	7,930

Source: R06 August-January 2020/21 ILR data

Further breakdowns and more information about Mayoral areas of interest are available on the [GLA AEB website page](#).

¹⁰ See the [GLA's AEB funding rules](#) for further information on entitlements, and the methodology note for details on how entitlement learning has been identified.

¹¹ The GLA fully fund any learner aged 19+ whose first or preferred language is British Sign Language (BSL), or who cannot access spoken language because of their deafness and would benefit from BSL, to study for qualifications in BSL, up to and including level 2.

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This report provides an assessment of developments in the retail sector before the outbreak of COVID-19. The conclusion uses these findings to provide an assessment of some of the impacts of the spread of the virus on the sector.



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GLA Economics provides expert advice and analysis on London's economy and the economic issues facing the capital. Data and analysis from GLA Economics provide a sound basis for the policy and investment decisions facing the Mayor of London and the GLA group. The unit was set up in May 2002.