

CEIAG YOUTH LABOUR MARKET SUMMARY – JANUARY 2026

A monthly summary of some of the most important information about labour market and employment trends
for those advising young people in Central London

NATIONWIDE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for period September to November 2025

Next update expected February 2026

Young people defined as being aged 16 to 24

		Change	
		Month	Annual
Young people unemployed in the UK	729000	- 6000	+ 103000
Young person unemp. rate (proportion of economically active population unemp.)	15.9%	- 0.1%	+ 1.5%
Unemployment rate for young men in UK	18.5%	- 0.2%	+ 2.4%
Unemployment rate for young women in UK	13.0%	- 0.1%	+ 0.4%
Number of young people in employment in UK	3.86m	+ 10000	+ 153000
Number of young people economically inactive (neither in or seeking work) in UK	2.88m	Unch.	- 138000
Inactivity rate among young people in UK	38.6%	+ 0.1%	- 2.4%
Employment rate among young people in UK	51.7%	+ 0.1%	+ 1.2%
Change in young person population in UK since same period last year	+ 118000		



YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

for period July to Sept 2025

Next update expected Feb 2026

PLEASE NOTE STATISTICS WERE REWEIGHTED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2024 AND FEBRUARY 2025 SUMMARIES –
QUARTERLY AND ANNUAL CHANGE STATISTICS MAY NOT TALLY WITH STATISTICS IN PREVIOUS SUMMARIES

		Change	
		Qtr.	Annual
People aged 16 to 24 and NEET in UK	946000	- 2000	- 10000
Male	512000	+ 15000	- 39000
Female	454000	- 16000	+ 29000
People aged 16 and 17 and NEET in UK	66000	- 9000	- 5000



GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

2025-2026 Update published December 2025

Please see table emailed with this Summary for fuller details

The 2025-2026 'What Do Graduates Do?' survey showed that, of the responses received from the 2022-2023 cohort:

- **68.4% (down from 70%)** of all graduates were in full or part-time employment 15 months after graduating - ranging between **53% (down from 57.4%)** of Biology graduates to **81.4% (up from 80.2%)** of Civil Engineering graduates
- **72.1% (down from 75%)** of those in full or part-time employment were in professional-level employment - ranging between **44.7% (down from 47.0%)** of Art graduates to **91.3% (down from 93.5%)** of Civil Engineering graduates
- **6.2% (up from 6%)** were unemployed

NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE and NATIONAL LIVING WAGE – next update April 2025

Set by Government, are mandatory and change every April

* - Apprentices can be paid this in the first year of an apprenticeship

21+	18-20	17-	Appr.*
£12.21	£10.00	£7.55	£7.55

LONDON STATISTICS AND INFORMATION



LONDON EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS for period September to November 2025

Next update expected 17 February 2026

People defined as being aged 16 to 64

		Change	
		Month	Annual
People unemployed in London	358000	+ 23000	+ 49000
Unemployment rate (proportion of economically active population unemployed)	7.1%	+ 0.4%	+ 0.9%
Unemployment rate for men in London	7.6%	+ 0.5%	+ 1.9%
Unemployment rate for women in London	6.6%	+ 0.3%	- 0.2%
Number of people in employment in London	4.655m	+ 70000	+ 3000
Number of people economically inactive (neither in or seeking work) in London	1.274m	- 26000	+ 3000
Inactivity rate among people in London	20.3%	- 0.4%	- 0.1%
Employment rate among people in London	74.0%	Unch.	- 0.6%
Population of London aged 16 to 64	6.287m	+ 4000	+ 55000



EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON BY SECTOR

Released December 2025 (September 2025 figures)

Next update expected June 2026 (March 2026 figures)

Final column – where does London’s sector proportion sit within the twelve UK regions?
If joint, with how many?

Sector	London %	UK%	Diff	Rank
IT and Communication	9.7 (+1.1)	4.4 (-)	+5.3	Highest
Professional, Scientific and Technical	14.7 (-0.5)	9.5 (+0.1)	+ 5.2	Highest
Finance and Insurance	7.1 (+0.1)	3.0 (-0.1)	+4.1	Highest
Administration	9.3 (-0.5)	8.1 (-)	+1.2	Second
Real Estate	2.5 (-0.1)	2.0 (-)	+0.5	Second
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3.2 (-0.5)	3.0 (-0.1)	+0.2	Fourth
Hospitality and Catering	7.2 (+0.5)	7.1 (-)	+0.1	Fourth
Other Service Industries	2.7 (-0.3)	2.6 (-0.1)	+0.1	Sixth
Mining and Quarrying	0.1 (-)	0.1 (-)	No diff.	Jt. fourth (8)
Electric, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning	0.3 (-4.1)	0.4 (-4.3)	-0.1	Jt. seventh (4)
Public Administration and Defence	4.6 (+4.3)	4.8 (+4.4)	-0.2	Jt. seventh (2)
Water Supply	0.2 (-0.1)	0.7 (-)	-0.5	Twelfth
Transport and Storage	4.3 (-0.3)	5.2 (+0.1)	-0.9	Jt. tenth (2)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	0.1 (+0.1)	1.0 (+0.1)	-0.9	Twelfth
Education	7.0 (+0.3)	8.5 (+0.1)	-1.5	Twelfth
Construction	3.9 (-0.5)	6.1 (-)	-2.2	Twelfth
Wholesale, Retail and Vehicle Repair	10.0 (+0.6)	12.7 (-)	-2.7	Twelfth
Health & Social Work	10.9 (-0.1)	13.8 (-0.1)	-2.9	Twelfth
Manufacturing	2.0 (-0.1)	6.9 (-0.1)	-4.9	Twelfth

LONDON LIVING WAGE – next update September 2026

Set by Living Wage Foundation, non-binding and change every Sept.
Based on the cost of living in London

£13.85

During the 2024-2025 academic year, among the under-19 age group, the following apprenticeships were started:
Please note that the statistics relate to apprentice home borough, and not apprenticeship location borough

Borough	Intermediate		Advanced (L3)		Higher (L4+)		TOTAL	% of area starts
London-wide	1480	29.7%	2570	51.6%	940	18.9%	4980	12.3%
Camden	30		30		10		60	8.1%
Hackney	20		40		20		80	8.1%
Islington	50		40		10		100	11.0%
Kensington & Chelsea	10		10		10		20	6.7%
Lambeth	30		50		20		100	6.6%
Southwark	30		70		30		130	9.0%
Wandsworth	20		40		10		70	5.1%
Westminster	30		20		0		50	7.0%
CEIAG boroughs	210	33.9%	290	46.8%	110	17.7%	610	7.6%

The CEIAG-wide figure breaks down as follows:

Category		% of all starts in category
Education and Early Years	130	21.3%
Construction and the Built Environment	90	14.8%
Health and Science	70	11.5%
Business and Administration	50	8.2%
Digital	50	8.2%
Engineering and Manufacturing	50	8.2%
Hair and Beauty	50	8.2%
Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care	30	4.9%
Legal, Finance and Accounting	30	4.9%
Sales, Marketing and Procurement	30	4.9%
Catering and Hospitality	20	3.3%
Creative and Design	10	1.6%
Protective Services	10	1.6%
Transport and Logistics	10	1.6%
Care Services	-	-
TOTAL	610	7.6%

The five most popular apprenticeships were:

Apprenticeship		% <19 starts	% all starts
Early Years Educator (L3)	90	14.8%	6.8%
Business Administrator (L3)	40	6.6%	2.8%
Early Years Practitioner (L2)	40	6.6%	1.0%
Hairdressing Professional (L2)	40	6.6%	1.0%
Sporting Excellence Professional (L3)	30	4.9%	0.4%



CLAIMANT RATE STATISTICS for December 2025

Next update expected February 2026

	London		UK	
		Last mth		Last mth
All-age claimant rate	5.7%	5.8%	3.9%	4.0%
18 to 21-year-old claimant rate	7.4%	7.5%	6.4%	6.4%
18 to 24-year-old claimant rate	6.9%	6.9%	5.8%	5.8%



LONDON FUTURE EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

Next update expected June 2026

London is forecast to see a **0.9% rise** in the number of jobs in 2025 (**revised from a 0.8% rise** in June 2025), a **rise of 1.1%** in 2026 (**revised from a rise of 1.0%** in June 2025) and a **rise of 1.2%** in 2027 (**revised from a rise of 1.3%** in June 2025)

Household income is forecast to **rise by 2.1%** in 2025 (**revised from a rise of 2.6%** in June 2025), a **rise of 1.5%** in 2026 (**revised from a rise of 1.4%** in June 2025) and a **rise of 1.3%** in 2027 (**revised from a rise of 1.5%** in June 2025)



DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Taken from Opportunity London website

Camden
Hackney
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Lambeth
Southwark
Wandsworth
Westminster
Central London Forward

NEWS ITEMS OR PUBLICATIONS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED...

BBC – **National Apprenticeship Week** (9th to 15th February 2026)

The next issue of this Summary will be distributed as soon as it has been updated, and no later than the end of the week beginning Monday 16 February 2026

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