GLAECONOMICS

London's Economy Today

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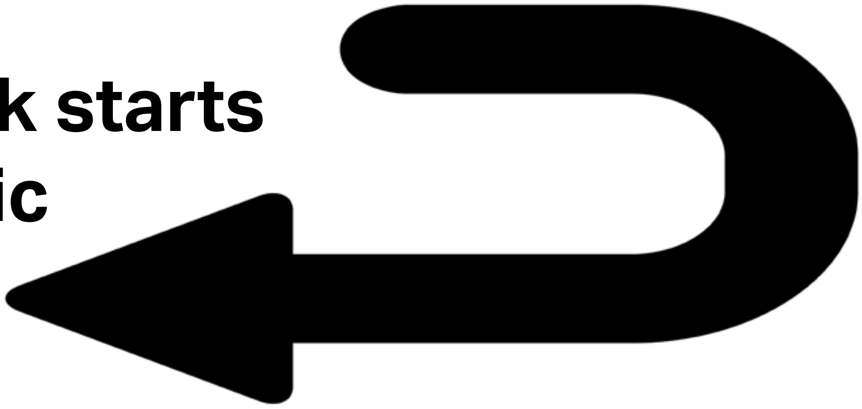
Return to work starts amid economic gloom



By **Mike Hope**, Economist, and **Eduardo Orellana**, Economist

On the 10th May the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced an easing of the lockdown, and an encouragement for people to return to work safely or work from home if possible. This is challenging for London with its reliance on the use of public transport. Prior to the lockdown over 40% of Londoners used to travel to work on public transport. Transport for London has concluded that on the Tube, for example, they will only be able to carry 13-15% of normal passenger numbers with social distancing.

The challenge is most likely to be felt most acutely by workers with the lowest household incomes. In London, 44% of workers in the poorest fifth of working households commute using public transport, while over 64% cannot work from home. In contrast, over half of workers in the richest fifth of working households commute on public transport, but only 20% cannot work from home (Figure 1). This is according to analysis by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) of work and travel patterns prior to the coronavirus outbreak.

Analysis reported in this month's LET supplement concludes that it is people in the most deprived areas in London who are disproportionately likely to die from COVID-19.

Also in this issue

Datastore

The main economic indicators for London are available to download from the London Datastore.

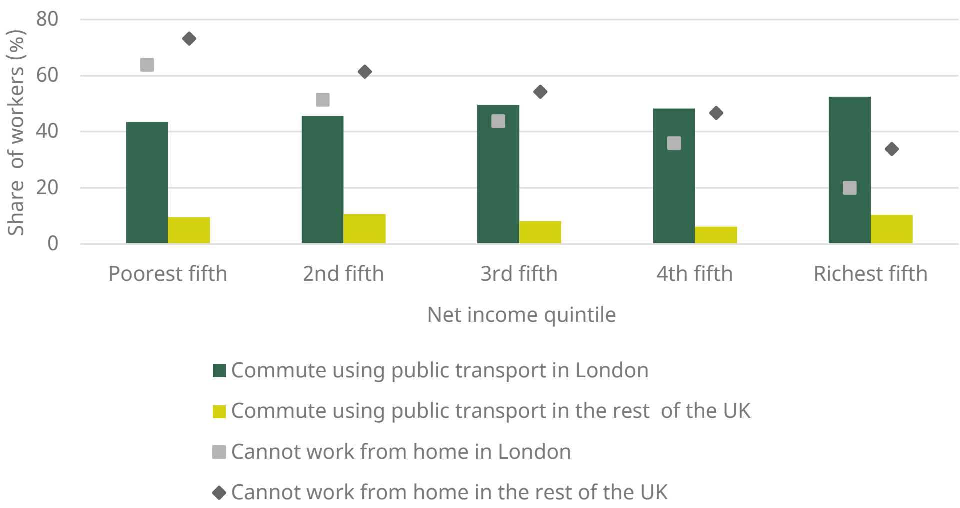


Figure 1: Public transport use and ability to work from home, by income quintile

Source: Davenport A & Levell P (2020), Changes down the line: Flattening the curve of public transport use, Institute for Fiscal Studies Briefing Note BN287

UK economic growth falls sharply

The LET indicators for a mix of periods between March and May published alongside this editorial provide confirmation of the range and depth of the reversal in the London economy. The number of journeys on public transport has collapsed, business confidence is at an all time low, and consumer confidence has slumped. GLA Economics estimates that London's economy declined by 1.6% in 2020 Q1 on the same quarter a year ago.

The UK economy flatlined in Q4 2019, and shrank by -2.0% in Q1 2020 according to the first estimate from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The by far largest fall in GDP was in the last two weeks in March, as the process of lockdown came into effect. For the whole month GDP fell by 5.8%, close to the annual fall in GDP in 2008. This reflects falls in the services, production, and construction sectors. While the estimates of GDP are potentially subject to revisions at a later stage, particularly when as now the economy is changing so rapidly and the ONS has had to change its survey methods in response, this decline is comparable with that of the largest quarterly fall during the 2008 recession.

The fall in demand has its parallel in a lower CPI which fell from 1.5% in March to 0.8% in April. The fall was reflected in lower energy and fuel prices.

Corroborating evidence of a significant contraction in aggregate demand in the economy is that UK households and businesses hoarded cash according to figures released by the Bank of England (BoE). Sterling money holdings by private sector companies and households rose by £57.4bn in March, the biggest increase on record, and far above the previous six-month average of £9bn.

The BoE published its latest forecast on 7 May, which it labelled an illustrative scenario because of the economic uncertainties. In it, it is expecting a 30% contraction quarter-on-quarter in the economy in Q2, and for the economy to contract by 14% this year on an annual basis. This is comparable with the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) Coronavirus Reference Scenario published last month which estimated that the economy would shrink by 13% this year. This would be the deepest recession for over 120 years.

In response to the emerging evidence of a deep economic recession the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, announced an extension of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme from the end of June to the end of October. By 24 May the scheme had protected 8.4m jobs and 1m businesses, although there have still been job losses and business closures. By the same date the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme had protected 2.3m jobs.

The economy is starting to pick up

The ONS reports that 6% of UK inactive businesses started to trade again in the weeks 20 April to 3 May, while 20% of businesses continued to be temporarily closed or had ceased trading. This was most common in Accommodation and food services (19% of inactive businesses re-started), Construction (15%), Manufacturing (12%), and Wholesale and retail (10%).

BoE agents are reporting a range of experience across sectors. Supermarkets reported that sales are slightly higher than a year earlier, and retailers of non-food goods selling online reported strong demand for electrical goods and home office equipment. Some businesses that had closed voluntarily, such as DIY stores and takeaway food outlets, have started to reopen. Banks were reported to have largely maintained the supply of credit for existing customers.

Circumstances remain very challenging for other sectors. BoE agents are reporting that it is sectors that were legally obliged to close, for example, tourism, hospitality and the arts, which were concerned that they would not be able to survive a prolonged period of lockdown. Demand may remain subdued for several months due to social distancing and economic uncertainty. In addition, banks were said to be reluctant to grant new loans, and/or were applying tighter terms and conditions to new lending for businesses in retail, tourism, hospitality and leisure.

In terms of the impact of COVID-19 on London it seems to be on a par with the rest of the country according to ONS survey results. Around 80% of businesses which have not closed down continue to trade, turnover for 30% of them is unaffected, and has decreased for 60% (Figure 2). Of those London businesses trading outside normal expectations 73% are exporting less, and 59% are importing less. Around 15% of all London businesses have not applied for any government initiative (see the supplement to April's LET for more information on these initiatives). Applications for Government initiatives have been highest for the:

- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, 73% of businesses in London (76% across the UK)
- Deferral of business rates, 63% of businesses (59% across the UK)

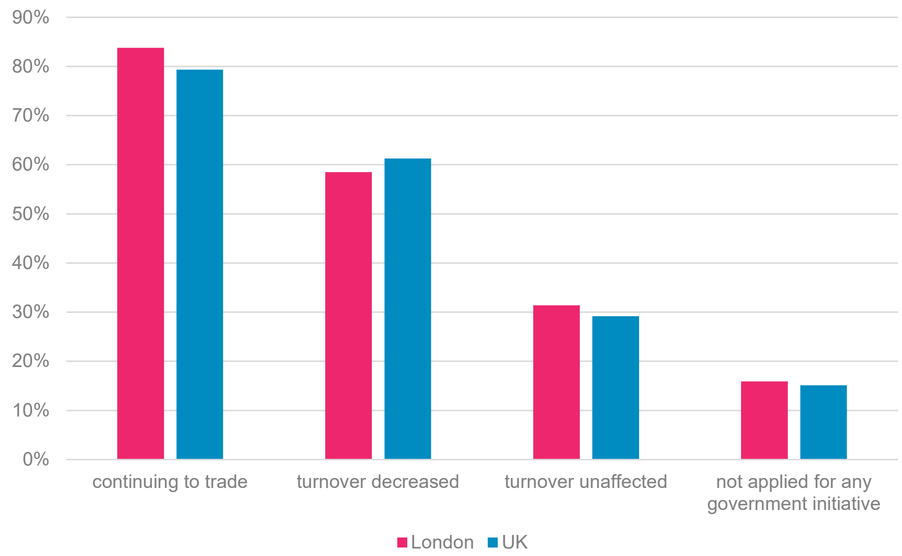


Figure 2: Effect on businesses of COVID-19, London and the UK, 20 April – 3 May 2020

Source: ONS Business impact of COVID-19 survey

Small and medium-sized enterprises are feeling it worst

GLA City Intelligence Unit has recently commissioned a survey of London businesses. Prior to the easing of lockdown rules, 23% of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs, with fewer than 250 employees) reckoned they would not survive another two months, while this was the case for 6% of large businesses (Figure 3). SMEs account for over 99% of London businesses.

Similar proportions of SMEs and large businesses have suffered negative impacts in terms of sales, revenue and cash flow (sometimes more so for large businesses), but what distinguishes SMEs is the degree of impact. For example, for businesses that had faced a negative impact on revenue the average fall for SMEs was 53%, and for large businesses 36% (comparing January-March 2020 with the previous quarter). 33% of SMEs have furloughed staff compared with 61% of large businesses, but where this has happened in SMEs 72% of staff have been furloughed compared with 45% for large businesses.

Figure 3: Business estimates of how much longer they could survive under lockdown prior to easing, by size of business, 20-30 April 2020

Source: YouGov London COVID-19 Business Survey

Consumer spending has contracted significantly

The volume of retail goods sales in April 2020 fell by a record 18.1%, following the strong monthly fall of 5.2% in these sales in March 2020 according to the ONS. All sectors saw a monthly decline in volume sales except for a record increase in sales for non-store retailing at 18.0% and a continued increase in sales for alcohol stores at 2.3%. The proportion spent online soared to the highest on record in April 2020 at 30.7%, which compares with the 19.1% reported in April 2019. The volume of clothing sales in April 2020 plummeted by 50.2% when compared with March 2020, and had already fallen by 34.9% in the previous month.

The shift in consumer spending reflects the drop in household income, precautionary saving, and the closure of retail, hospitality and leisure facilities. Separate analysis published on the London Datastore indicates that there has been a marked drop in footfall activity across recreational activities in London (Figure 4). While there has been precautionary saving by households, the easing of the lockdown and the gradual re-opening of shops should support an increase in expenditure, and help the economy to pick up.

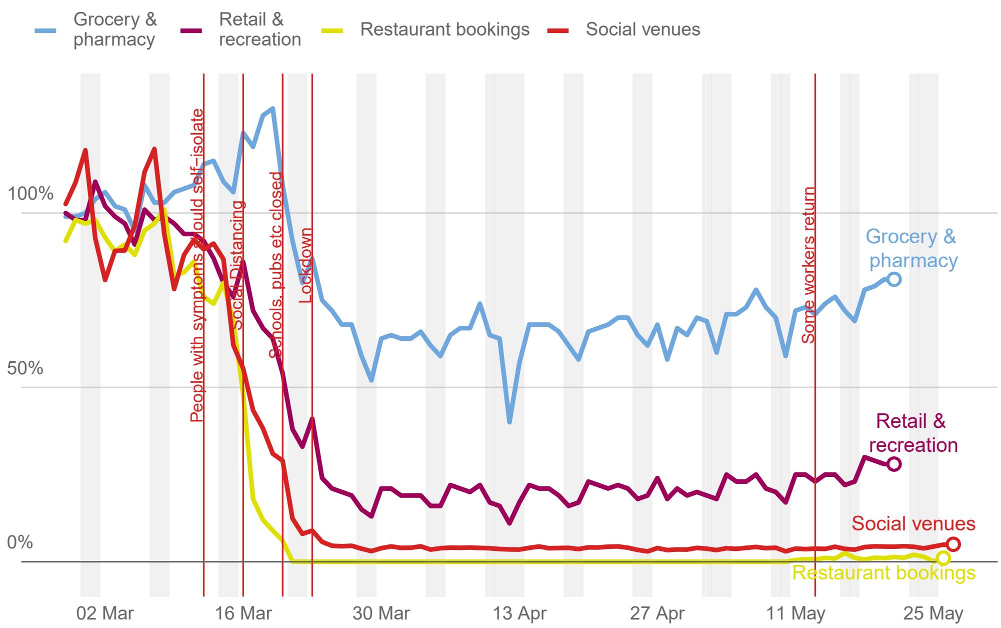


Figure 4: Retail and recreational footfall activity in London, March-May 2020

Note: Vertical red lines show changes in social distancing rules
Vertical grey bands show weekends and public holidays

Source: Grocery and retail metrics from Google Mobility, social venues (bars, event spaces etc) from Purple public Wifi and restaurant bookings (national) from OpenTable

Unemployment has risen sharply

The majority of the ONS labour market indicators published in May are for March. For this month the London employment rate rose to a record high of 76.9%, and for the second consecutive month the estimate was higher than the UK employment rate. Analysis conducted by the ONS would suggest that there was more of an impact in late March on hours worked (including furloughing) than loss of employment. In the final week of March, the total number of hours worked in the UK was around 25% fewer than in other weeks within the quarter.

However, early estimates for April from the HMRC Real Time Information system indicate that the number of paid UK employees fell by 1.6% in April compared with March. Median monthly pay fell by 0.9% compared with April 2019.

This corresponds to a large rise in unemployment. April's LET reported that there had been over 1.5m claims for Universal Credit (UC) over the period 1 March to 12 April. Data published this month reveals that the number of UC recipients in April in Great Britain rose by 1.2m, and by 145,000 in London over the previous month. This is an increase of 40% for Great Britain, and 33% for London. Recipients can be in or out-of-work. Less positively for London the increase in numbers on the claimant count (a measure of being out-of-work) has been 80% of the monthly rise in UC numbers, while for Great Britain it is 70% (Figure 5).

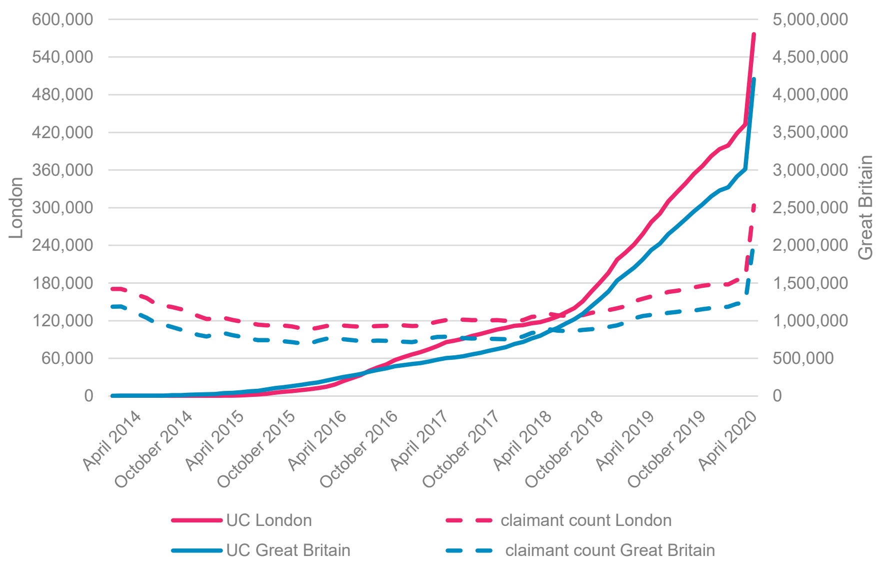


Figure 5: Universal Credit recipients and the Claimant count, London and Great Britain, January 2014-April 2020

Source: ONS and DWP

It is likely that without the Coronavirus Business Retention Scheme that unemployment would be far higher. It is also worth noting that the claimant count at 2.1m in Great Britain, and 305,000 in London remains well below where it was in the 1980s at over 3m in Great Britain, and over 400,000 in London. At the same time the latest figures are consistent with the view that the unemployment rate has increased markedly. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has said that he would expect the unemployment rate to be in double figures by the end of the year.

The impact of rising worklessness, as with other aspects of COVID-19, is unlikely to be the same across income groups. The Resolution Foundation has found that it is the lowest paid employees who are most likely to have been furloughed, faced reduced hours, or lost their jobs. Across the UK a third of what were the lowest fifth of paid employees are in this position, compared with 16% of the highest fifth of earners (in an online survey conducted 5-11 May).

After the contraction there are signs of recovery elsewhere in Europe

Economies across Europe have been contracting, ranging in Table 1 for 2020 Q1 from -2.2% for Germany to -5.8% for France. The degree of contraction will depend both on the lockdown imposed, and the timing of onset of COVID-19. Onset was later in the UK than Europe, and so the largest fall in UK GDP is expected in 2020 Q2.

Country or area	Change in GDP
EU27	-3.3%
Euro Area	-3.8%
France	-5.8%
Germany	-2.2%
Italy	-4.7%
Spain	-5.2%

Table 1: Change in quarter-on-quarter GDP 2020 Q1, main European economies

Source: Eurostat

Further afield, dismal economic news is emerging from the United States. The Bureau of Economic Affairs reported that year-on-year GDP fell by 4.8% in 2020 Q1. In April, non-farm payroll employment fell by 20.5m, and the unemployment rate increased by 10.3 percentage points to 14.7% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In response, the US federal spending on COVID-19 relief will be up to $3tn.

At the same time, there continues to be positive signs of countries emerging from lockdown. The Bundesbank has felt confident enough to say, "a recovery is under way" in Germany. Consumer confidence across the EU recovered slightly in May to -19.5% from -22.0% in April reports the European Commission. As well as a number of countries easing lockdown restrictions the Baltic states have created a "travel bubble" allowing for free movement between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Greece will re-open on 15 June to tourists from a group of 20 countries "with a good track record" of containing the pandemic.

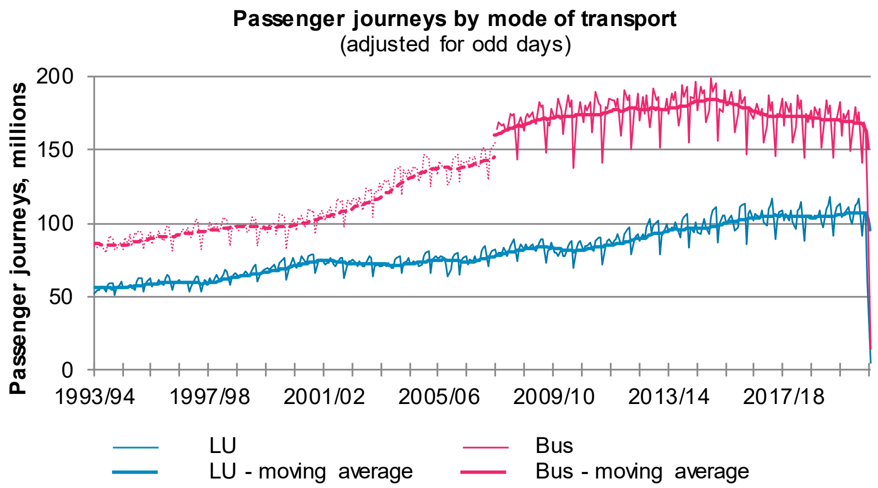
There are thus some signs of recovery in some affected countries but the long-term prospects for the economy remain uncertain. This is also the case for the capital's economy. In June GLA Economics will release the next London's Economic Outlook which will provide our views on the prospects for the coming few years.

Economic indicators

Passenger journeys in London reached a historic low in April because of the lockdown restrictions

- Only 19.6 million passenger journeys were registered in April, 163.9 million less than in March when the lockdown in London began and 251.8 million less than the February period which had no lockdown restrictions. The April figures show the largest drop since data were registered. 5.0 million of all journeys were Underground journeys and 14.6 million were bus journeys.
- The 13-period-moving average in the total number of passenger journeys reduced from 265.8 million to 247.0 million.
- The methodology used to calculate the number of bus passenger journeys was changed by TfL on 1 April 2007. For a detailed explanation, please see LET issue 58 (June 2007).

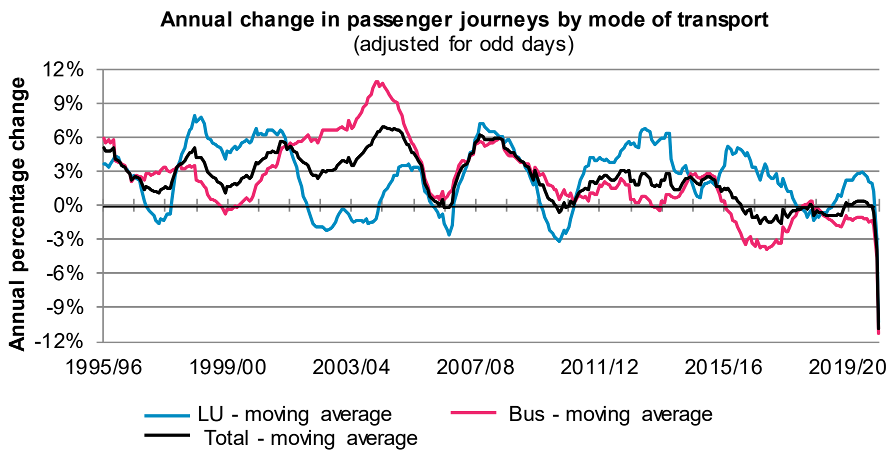
Source: Transport for London
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



The moving average annual change in passenger journeys in London reached a new historic low in April

- The moving average annual growth rate in the total number of passenger journeys was -10.9% in April, 7.0 percentage points down from March.
- The moving average annual growth rate of bus journeys decreased from -4.5% to -11.3% in the same period, a decline of 6.7 percentage points.
- Likewise, the moving average of Underground passenger journeys went down from -3.0% to -10.3% in the last period, a decline of 7.0 percentage points.

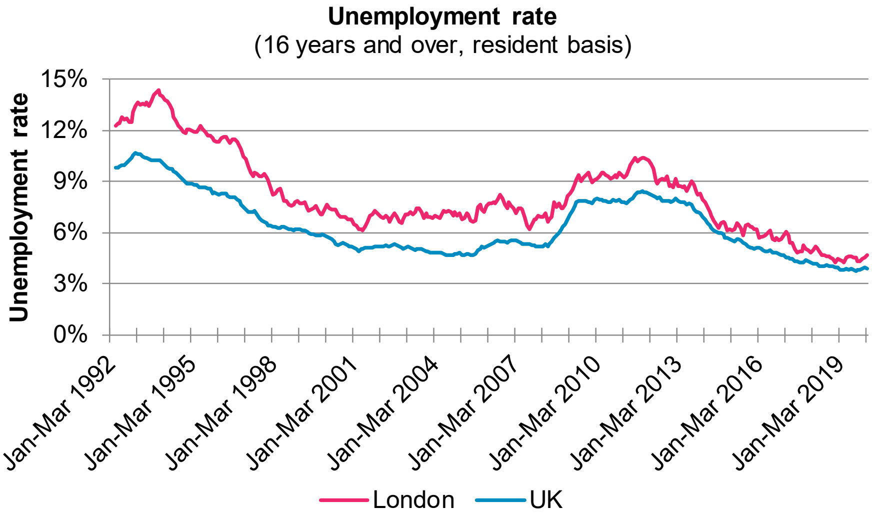
Source: Transport for London
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



In the first quarter of the year, London's unemployment rate rose from 4.3% to 4.7%

- Around 239,350 residents 16 years and over were unemployed in London in the period Jan 2020 - March 2020.
- The unemployment rate in London was 4.7% in that period, 0.4 percentage points higher than the same rate in the last quarter of 2019. Unemployment only started to rise in the last two weeks of March because of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- The UK's unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points from the historic record low of 3.8% in Q4 2019 to 3.9% in Q1 2020.

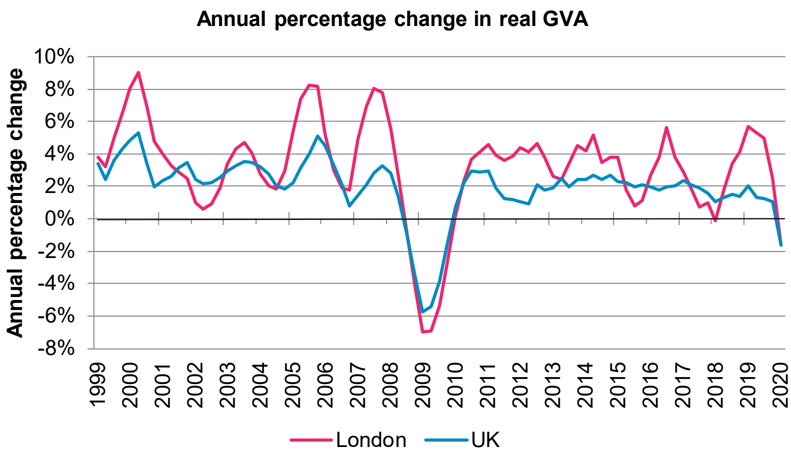
Source: ONS Labour Force Survey
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



London's economy fell by 1.6% in the first quarter of the year compared to the same quarter in 2019

- London's annual real GVA growth rate notably decreased from 2.5% in Q4 2019 to -1.6% in the first quarter of 2020, based on GLA Economics estimates. This implies a reduction of output by 4.1 percentage points in only one quarter, the largest quarter-on-quarter fall in output since the 2008-2009 financial crisis.
- Likewise, the UK output annual growth rate for Q1 2020 was -1.6% - also the lowest quarterly rate since 2009 and 2.7 percentage points below Q4 2019.
- London's real GVA quarterly estimates for both the period Q1 1999 to Q4 2012 and the two most recent quarters 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.

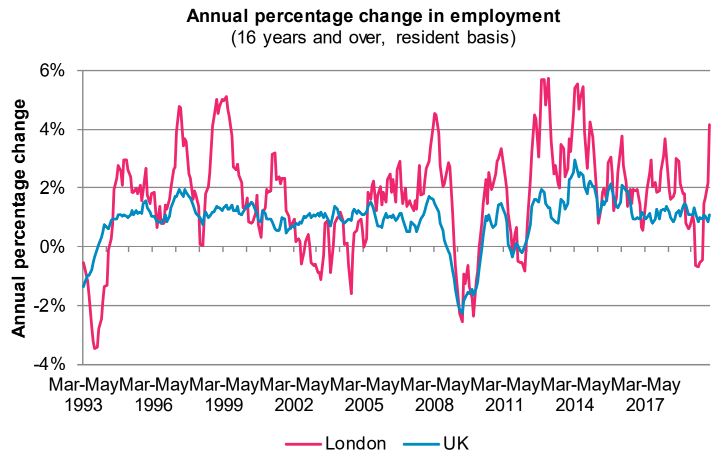
Source: ONS and GLA Economics calculations
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: July 2020



London's annual employment growth rate was high in Q1 2020, before the COVID-19 outbreak

- Around 4.88 million London residents over 16 years old were in employment during the three-month period January 2020 – March 2020.
- The rate of annual employment growth in the capital was 4.4% in that period, 2.7 percentage points above the previous period (Q4 2019). This big increase in employment during the quarter - 138,000 persons - started to contract in the last two weeks of March because of the COVID-19 outbreak.
- In the three-month period January 2020 – March 2020, the UK employment rate grew annually at a rate of 1.4%, 0.4 percentage points above the same rate in the last quarter of 2019.

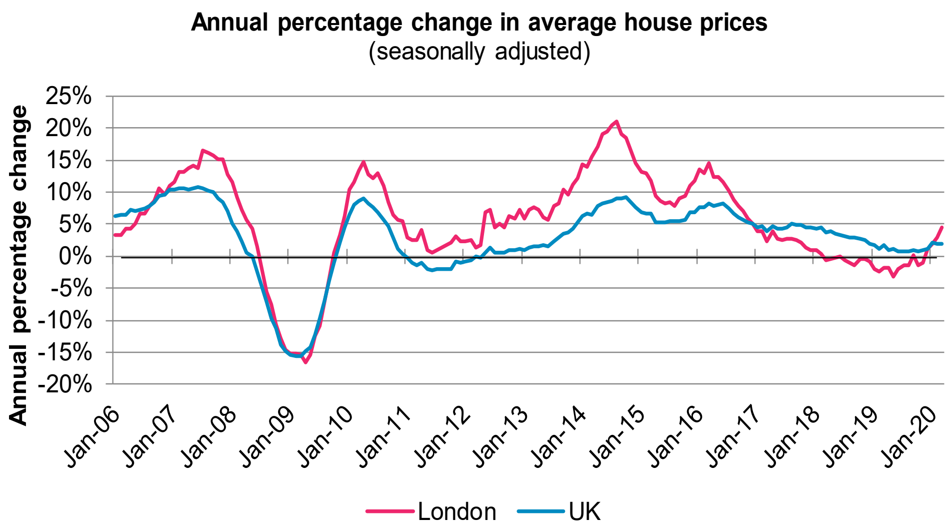
Source: ONS Labour Force Survey
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



London house prices increased by 4.6% in annual terms in March

- In March 2020, the average house price in London was £489,762 while for the UK it was £232,744.
- The annual growth rate in average house prices in London was 4.6% in March 2020, up from 3.0% in February 2020. This is the highest annual growth since December 2016.
- Average house prices in the UK rose by 2.0% in annual terms last March, the same rate as in February.

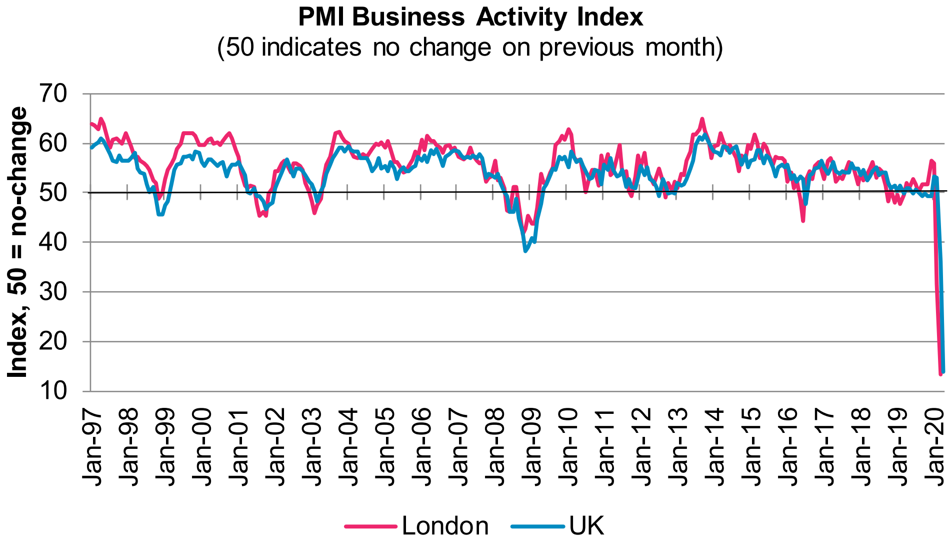
Source: Land Registry and ONS
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



London business activity plunges to a historic low in April

- The business activity index at London private firms fell dramatically from 56.0 in February to 31.5 in March and to 13.4 in April. This the lowest level and the largest fall of the historic series.
- Similarly, the UK index fell from 53.0 in February to 13.8 in April.
- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey shows the monthly business trends at private sector firms. Index readings above 50.0 suggest a month-on-month increase in activity on average across firms, while readings below indicate a decrease.

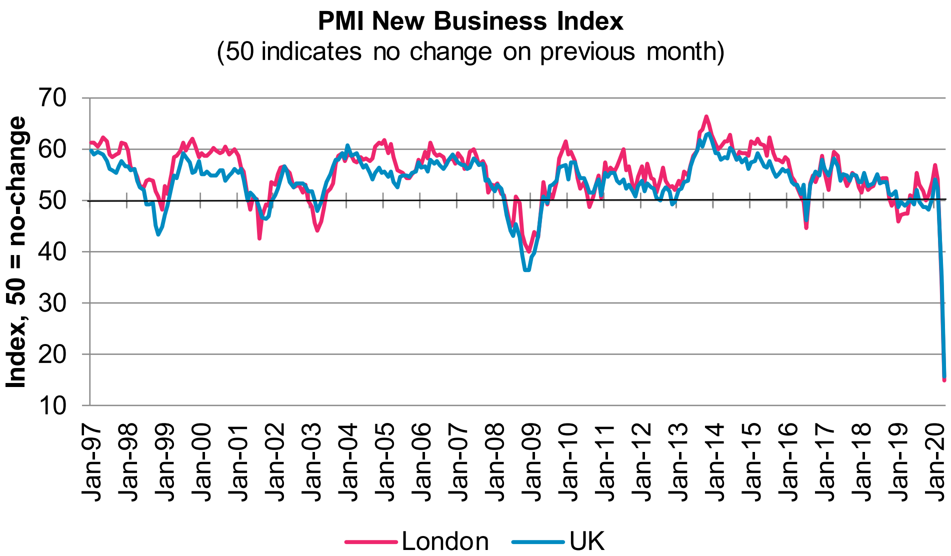
Source: IHS Markit
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



New business activity in London reached a historic low in April

- The PMI New Business Index went down to its lowest point in the recorded series (14.9) in London in April, from 33.5 in March, and 54.2 in February.
- Equally for the UK, the level of this index in April was 15.7, down from 35.3 in March, and 52.3 in February.
- An index reading above 50.0 indicates an increase in new orders from the previous month.

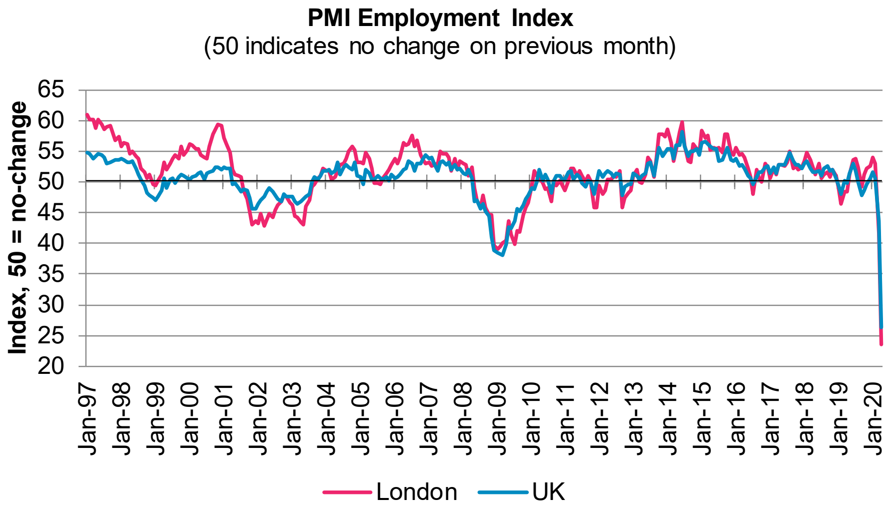
Source: IHS Markit
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



In April, the PMI Employment Index fell to a record low

- The Employment Index for London was 23.6 in April, down from 41.7 in March and from 52.9 in February. This is the deepest registered monthly drop of the series.
- The index also fell for the UK from 52.9 in February to 23.6 in April.
- The PMI Employment Index shows the net balance of private sector firms of the monthly change in employment. Readings above 50.0 suggests an increase, whereas a reading below indicates a decrease in employment from the previous month.

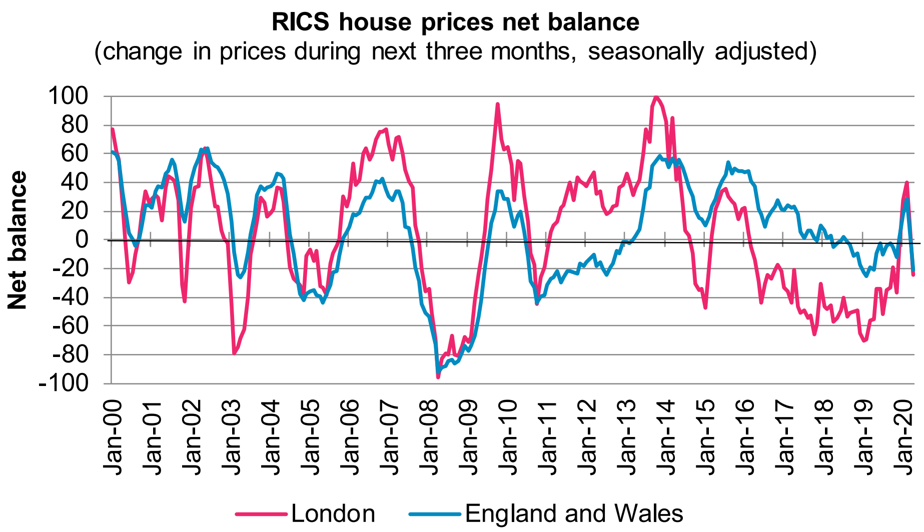
Source: IHS Markit
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



Marked fall in the net balance of house prices in the three months to April

- In the three months to April, the net balance of property surveyors reporting a rise in house prices was -25 – down from 15 in March -, the lowest figure since November 2019.
- For England and Wales, the RICS house prices net balance index also decreased from 9 in the first quarter of the year to -21 in the period February – April 2020.
- The net balance index measures the proportion of property surveyors reporting a rise in prices minus those reporting a decline.

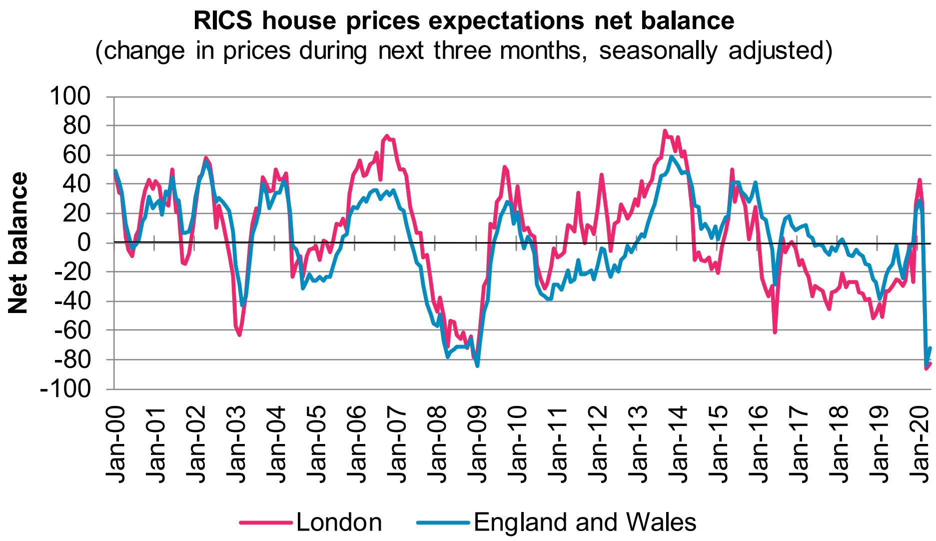
Source: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



Net expectations of house price rises in London remain at historic lows

- Between February and April, surveyors reported that net expectations of London house price rises (-83) remained very low. This level had already fallen to -86 in the three months to March.
- Sentiment in England and Wales was -72 in April, slightly up from -83 in March.
- The net balance index measures the proportion of property surveyors reporting a rise in prices minus those reporting a decline.

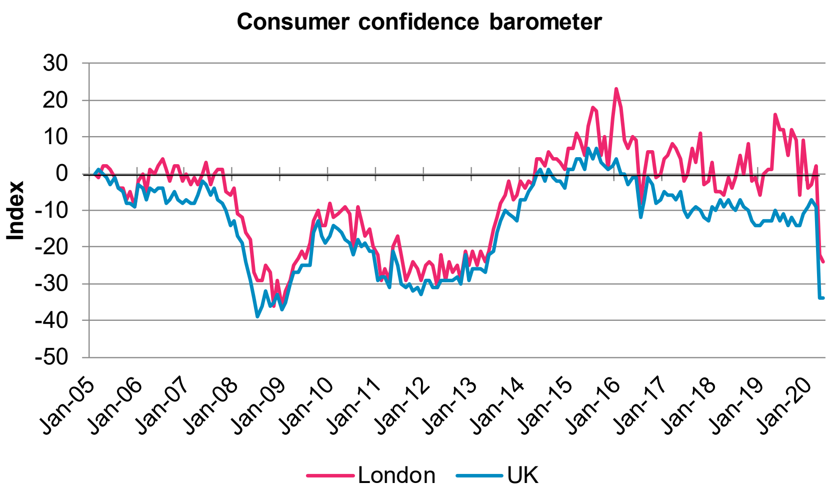
Source: Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Latest release: May 2020, Next release: June 2020



Consumer confidence in London remained sunk in May

- The consumer confidence index in London was at -24 in May after having registered its sharpest fall ever in April (-22) from 2 in March. May level represents the lowest level in more than seven years.
- Similarly, sentiment for the UK remained at -34. The UK has not shown 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 NOP on behalf of the European Commission
Latest release: April 2020, Next release: May 2020



The people of London and COVID-19

By **Rachel Leeser**, Senior Research & Statistical Analyst

London emerged as an epicentre of the pandemic early in its spread across the UK. Prior to lockdown on 23rd March 40% of England's confirmed cases were in London (3,517).

As of 19th May, there were just over 26,500 confirmed cases in London, with eligibility for tests extended. London now represents less than 19% of total confirmed cases in England. The rate of confirmed cases is now higher in Wales, the North East and the North West of England, but different testing regimes at different points through the pandemic means it is not possible to say with certainty how the proportion of the population infected compares. The daily increase in the number of confirmed cases across London has dropped below 100 and probably below 50 for the last few days. Within the capital, Croydon and Brent are the boroughs with the highest number of confirmed cases, with over 1,400 in each borough. Brent and Harrow are the boroughs with the highest proportion of lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19, with over 400 for every 100,000 residents.

Up to 8th May 7,576 London residents were registered as having died with COVID-19 mentioned on their death certificate, measured by ONS weekly deaths estimates. In London, the peak week for COVID-19 related deaths occurred during the week ending 10th April, with 1,921 in a single week (a week later than the peak for cases). In the week to 8th May, the number of deaths was 352.

Of the total COVID-19 related deaths recorded, 75% of London deaths occurred in hospitals, 15% in care homes, 7% at home and 2% elsewhere, which includes other establishments such as hospices and prisons. Nationally, a higher proportion of deaths have been in care homes (27%), and fewer in hospitals (66%).

Based on the ten weeks between 29th February and 8th May, Brent recorded more COVID-19 related deaths than any other borough. Of the total of 4,950 deaths in London, 446 were in Brent, with 422 in Croydon and 420 in Barnet. This represents 54% of all deaths in Brent over that period, but just 43 and 44% of deaths in the other two boroughs (see Figure A1). More than half of the deaths in Harrow and Haringey in this period were also recorded as being related to COVID-19. The lowest number of deaths recorded in this period in any London local authority from the pandemic, apart from the City of London, was 110 deaths in Kingston upon Thames. This was 29% of all deaths in the borough. These compare with 42% of all deaths in London occurring during the same ten week period as a whole being registered as related to COVID-19.

Figure A1: COVID-19 related deaths as a proportion of All deaths between 29th February and 8th May, London Boroughs and selected other local authorities

Source: Death registrations and occurrences by local authority and health board, ONS (as published 19 May 2020)

The different population sizes and structures of London boroughs mean that these figures are difficult to interpret, as it is well known that people in older age groups have higher mortality rates from COVID-19. The figures comparing the COVID-19 related deaths to deaths from all causes mitigate this to some extent. It has been recognised from early in the pandemic that urban areas have been hit harder than rural areas both in the UK and globally. The numbers of COVID-19 related deaths up to 8th May are higher in some of the very large local authorities, such as Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool and County Durham than in individual London boroughs, but the number in Birmingham is still just 13.5% of the deaths seen in London overall, and is 35% of total deaths from 29th February to 8th May, which covers the ten weeks from the start of the pandemic in the UK to the most recent data available up to the 22 May.

Taking the same proportion over the same time period for all local authorities in England shows that there is no local authority outside London with a higher proportion of deaths being registered as related to COVID-19 than the London average. Hertsmere, which borders on to Harrow, Barnet and Enfield is the only English local authority outside London in the top 20, ranked by proportion of all deaths in this ten week period that mention COVID-19. Salford, Watford and Tewkesbury are the only others outside London in the top 30 on this measure. City local authorities that rank in the top 50 include Reading, Cheltenham, Birmingham, Middlesbrough, Derby and Liverpool.

An alternative way to compare the numbers of deaths is through looking at excess deaths, by comparing the total number of deaths in a given period to the "usual" number of deaths in that same period in other years. This method incorporates not only deaths attributed to COVID-19, but also deaths that have occurred that may have been due to the disease but were not recorded as such, plus any deaths due to other reasons, which would include deaths among people not being treated for other conditions and any unusual patterns in deaths for other reasons. Using this method, there have been in the region of 54,000 excess deaths in the UK over the period of the pandemic, with 9,300 of those occurring in London.

The Financial Times[1] has used this measure of excess deaths to compare major world cities. As of 20th May, this shows that London, with a population around 9 million, has recorded 142% excess deaths, compared with 108% (11,000) excess deaths for Ile de France, with a population of 12.2 million, incorporating Paris. Madrid (12,000 excess deaths, population 6.6 million) and Bergamo province in Italy (5,000 excess deaths, population 1.1 million) shows even higher proportions of excess deaths. Meanwhile, New York City with a population similar to that of London is recorded in the FT report[2] as having 20,700 excess deaths, nearly 400% more than normal. The New York metro area, has seen more than 30,000 excess deaths.

Figure A2: Mortality rates have soared in urban areas wordwide with overall excess deaths much higher than reported COVID-19 counts

Note: Italian data are a representative sample of 86% of the country.
Source: FT analysis of national mortality data. Figures for Jakarta refer to burials. Data updated May 20.
FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch
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The COVID-19 outbreak in the UK has had unequal impacts on different groups of the population. It quickly became well-established that older people, men, and people who have underlying health conditions (particularly diabetes, obesity, heart disease and chronic lung conditions) were at disproportionate risk of developing a severe infection and dying. However, an increasing body of evidence has emerged to show how Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups are over-represented both among the patients who are being hospitalised with serious cases of COVID-19 and also in relation to deaths.

2 https://www.ft.com/content/a26fbf7e-48f8-11ea-aeb3-955839e06441
3 https://www.ft.com/content/a26fbf7e-48f8-11ea-aeb3-955839e06441

Analysis published on 7 May by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that the mortality rates for Black, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Other ethnic groups are several times higher than for the White ethnic group. These differences in mortality still exist once differences were controlled for by a large range of factors including the different age, sex, region, rural-urban structures of the population, and also socio-economic factors such as area-based deprivation, household composition, highest qualification and socio-economic class. After controlling for all these factors, they found Black men still had a mortality rate almost double that of White men (1.9 times), and mortality rates were almost as high for Bangladeshi/Pakistani men. There was a similar picture for women. This difference is not yet totally understood but reflects a complex picture of structural inequality. But it is not yet clear that it can be explained by health and wider socioeconomic inequalities alone.

Occupations of workers make a difference to exposure to COVID-19 with some people still working in occupations that bring them into close contact with many people but with no special protection. Deaths relating to COVID-19 of people in some of these occupations have been much higher than in the general population, most notably security guards, taxi and bus drivers, chefs and shop workers. COVID-19 related deaths among care workers are also higher than average, but not among healthcare workers, including doctors and nurses. Occupational differences between ethnic groups may contribute to some of the differences in the hospitalisation and mortality rates seen above.

A study of infection rates carried out by ONS, published on 21st May shows that at any given time between 4th May and 17th May, an average of 0.25% of the community population in England, that is excluding people in hospitals, care homes and other institutional settings had COVID-19. The figure is likely to be lower in London as the number of new cases being confirmed is lower than the rest of England, but regional figures from the infection study are not available.

There was no evidence that the rate of infection varied for any groups considered – by sex, age or between people working in patient-facing healthcare or resident-facing social care roles, and not working in such roles, whereas the previous release had found the infection rate was nearly five times as high as the average among those in patient-facing roles.

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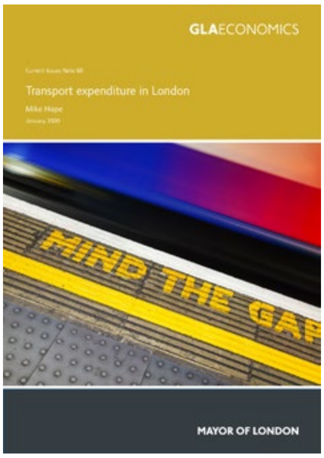

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GLA Economics provides expert advice and analysis on London's economy and the economic issues facing the capital. Data and analysis from GLA Economics provide a sound basis for the policy and investment decisions facing the Mayor of London and the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

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