

How to navigate the document

Best viewing experience

This document is best viewed downloaded on a laptop or desktop computer. The interactivity will not work as well on tablets, iPads and mobile phones. You will still be able to view, scroll through and use some functionality such as hyperlinks, however the main navigation buttons on the right may be less effective.

Right hand navigation

The buttons on the right hand side take you to the different sections of the document. The 6 ambition sections each have their own contents for you to jump to a particular area with ease. Simply click on the button on the right to take you back to that section's contents. All other sections do not have a contents page.

Endnotes

Example:

In Camden in 2022, there were 6,389 children or 1 in 5 (19.8%) living in poverty, up from 13.5% in 2021.¹

To go to the reference of a particular Endnote, click on the number at the end of the paragraph.

Click on the number in the Endnotes to take you back to the page which the reference number is on.

Example:

- 1 Proportion of children living in low income households (60% of median income) before and after housing costs, Local indicators of child poverty, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University for End Child Poverty (2022); Children in low income families: local area statistics, DWP (2022), <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2022>, https://repository.lboro.ac.uk/articles/report/Local_indicators_of_child_poverty_after_housing_costs_2021_22/23523453.

Text which is in blue and underlined is an active link. This example is a URL hyperlink which will take you to a webpage. Others may open up another document or activate an email programme.

Comparison group: throughout the report, we have referred to the 'Comparison group' for simplification. This group consists of the inner London boroughs and neighbouring boroughs to Camden: Barnet, Brent, Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth, Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, Islington, Southwark, Newham, Hackney, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, City of London, Greenwich, Haringey, and Lewisham. We also compare to the London and England averages where possible.

List of chart and images
Click on this link to bring you back to this description of the Comparison Group.

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Overviews

These take you to individual webpages

The 6 WMC ambitions

Good Life Camden

Camden’s State of the Borough report is published annually. It brings together data and evidence from quantitative and qualitative sources, and includes national level statistics, regional data, and locally collected data. It provides a **shared evidence base about the outcomes experienced by people in Camden**, and is intended for organisations, residents and the council to increase the understanding of people’s wellbeing in the borough. It is aligned to the structure of the [We Make Camden](#) vision for the borough, and uses the [Good Life Camden](#) framework to identify relevant data.

A note on timings: The 2026 report is published earlier than in previous years due to the local elections in May 2026. Due to the shorter timeline for producing the report, we did not include data that was not updated since the last report at the time of drafting.


The 6 WMC ambitions

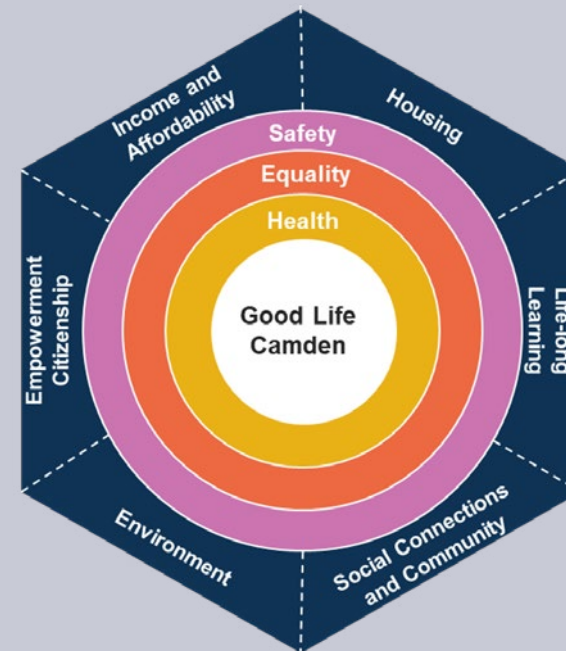
Good Life Camden

The report focuses on the outcomes that are important for living a good life in Camden, based on the co-created [Good Life Camden](#) (GLC) framework. The GLC framework was developed with residents and staff in 2022. It breaks down the concept of living a good life into nine **themes**, which people told us are most important. These are: Safety, Equality, Health, Housing, Income and Affordability, Lifelong Learning, Social Connections and Community, and Environment. The themes of Safety, Health and Housing are identified as core cross-cutting themes. The framework also spells out the **signals** that tell us if we’re making progress against the different GLC themes (e.g. for Housing, a signal is that the quality of housing is high). The signals are underpinned by **measures**, which use data from a range of sources, such as official statistics or administrative data from schools, hospitals and transport.

In pulling together the data and evidence for the report, we started from the framework and looked for quantitative data that was available, preferably comparable across place and time. Mapping to the GLC framework also showed us where we have data gaps, whether for signals and measures (e.g. people feel safe in Camden) or in the breakdowns of averages (e.g. what is the experience of specific populations, like perceptions of safety of adults with learning disabilities).

Throughout the report, we have highlighted the relevant Good Life Camden signals where the data is presented.

Look out for these  **throughout the report, presenting the relevant Good Life Camden signal in each section.**



Inclusive Local Economy

Camden's local economy should be strong, sustainable and inclusive – everyone should have a secure livelihood to support them to live a prosperous life



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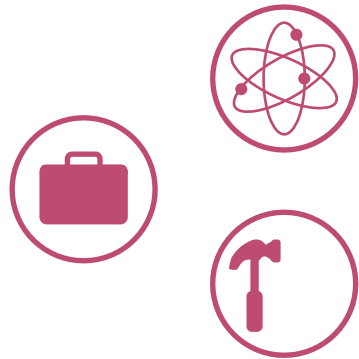
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Key Insights

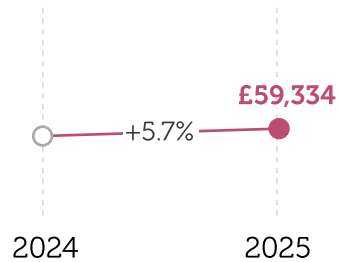
In 2023

There were 442,000 jobs in Camden: 2.5 jobs per every working age resident



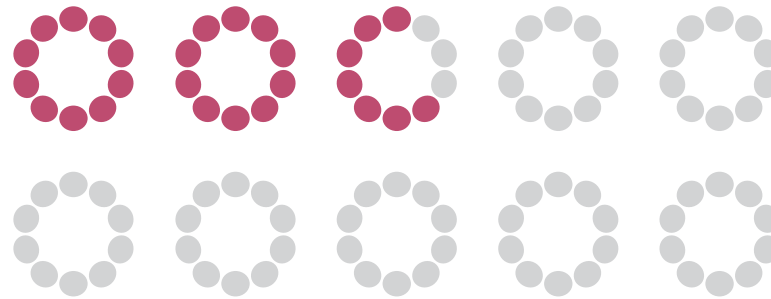
In 2025

The median household income in Camden was £59,334



In 2025

The largest industry sector is the Professional, Scientific and Technical category, with 10,995 businesses (27% of all businesses in Camden)



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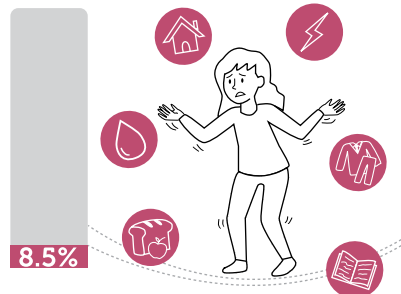
In 2024/2025

5%

of the Camden labour force was unemployed

In 2024

8.5% of employees were earning below the London Living Wage (£13.85/hour)



“

I think [it] is so important to keeping the youth occupied and prepared for adult life and employment.

”

-50+, Male

“

Camden is a great place to live, there are lots of opportunities.

”

-45, Female

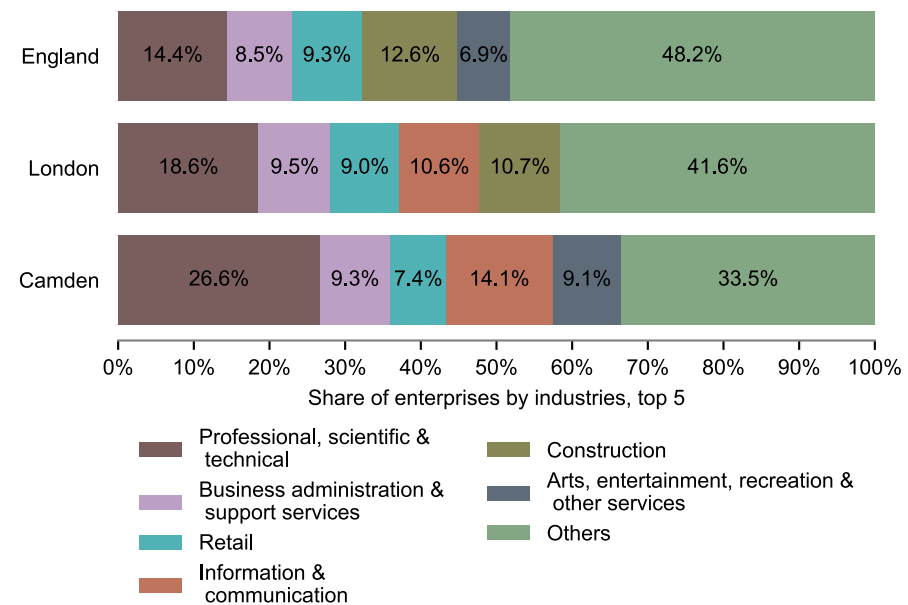
This chapter presents data relating to Camden’s role as a major economic hub and the opportunities and challenges this creates for residents and businesses. Camden has a rich and diverse business base, with over 41,000 enterprises across sectors and a particularly strong presence in professional, scientific and technical industries. It has a high concentration of large employers and one of the highest job densities in London, underlining its importance as an employment centre. However, some residents experience barriers in entering the workforce, and the employment rate is lower than in other parts of London. While incomes have been rising, there are still 18% of households with income below £30,000 a year, and 16% of households are out of work. For more data on youth employment and opportunities see the [Inequalities](#) chapter.

Camden has one of the largest shares of big businesses (over 250 employees) and small businesses in London

Camden has a diverse range of business industries across sectors, with a total of 41,260 businesses in 2025. The largest industry sector is the Professional, Scientific and Technical category, with 10,995 businesses, comprising 27% of all businesses in Camden. This is followed by the Information and Communication category, with 5,800 businesses (14% of total) and then Arts, Entertainment, Recreation & Other Services with 3,760 businesses, making up 9% of total.

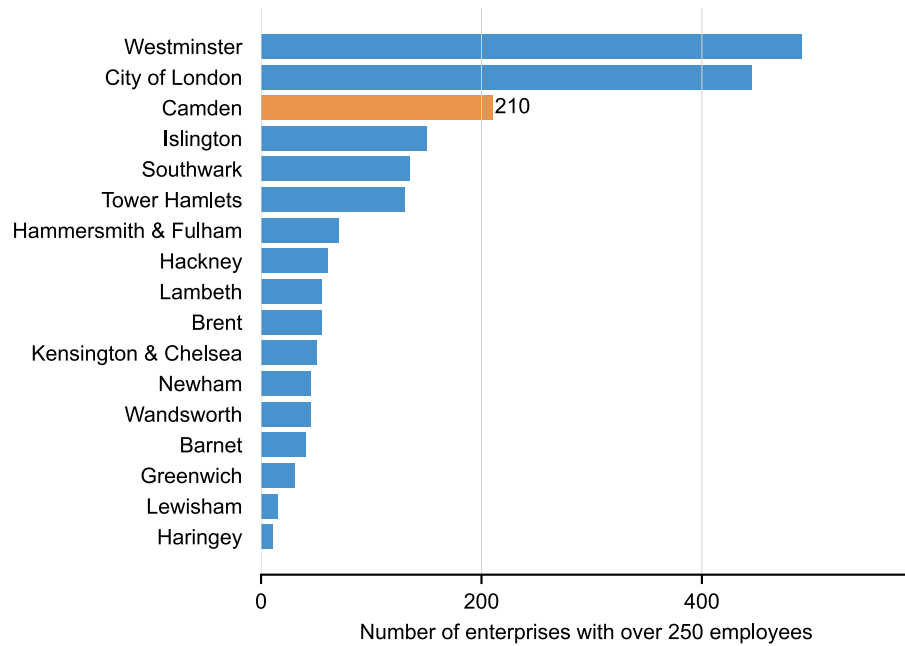
In 2025 there were 210 businesses in Camden with more than 250 employees, surpassed only by City of London (445 businesses) and Westminster (490 businesses) in the comparison group. That means that Camden makes up 8% of the total number of businesses with over 250 employees in London and 2% of the total in England. Camden also has a high number of businesses with fewer than 5 employees – 29,675, second only to Westminster in the comparison group, and making up 7% of the total in London.

Figure 2.1: Share of enterprises by industries, top 5 for each area (Camden, London, England), 2025



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, 2025

Figure 2.2: Number of enterprises with over 250 employees, 2025



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, 2025

Learning from: British Land qualitative research in Regent’s Place

Adam Irvanipour, a local resident at Regent’s Park Estate who completed a Sustainability & Development Internship at British Land in 2025, conducted qualitative research to explore the relationship between Regent’s Place and the local community, particularly focusing on young people and local businesses. The purpose was to identify what is working well, what is missing, and how developments (including the proposed Euston Tower project) could better serve local residents, workers, and visitors.

The research was conducted via semi-structured interviews with young residents from Regent’s Park Estate and fifteen local business owners across nearby streets. Trust-building methods and guided interviews were combined with a review of British Land’s social-value work in Camden.

The research found that businesses in the area serve a wide customer base, mainly residents, students, tourists, and NHS/HS2 workers. Concerns about development were mainly related to construction disruption, communication, safety, and impact on local infrastructure. In the case of Euston Tower specifically, the removal of ground-floor retail at Euston Tower, at least whilst the building undergoes redevelopment, shifts office-worker spending into the wider area, creating and opportunities for independents.

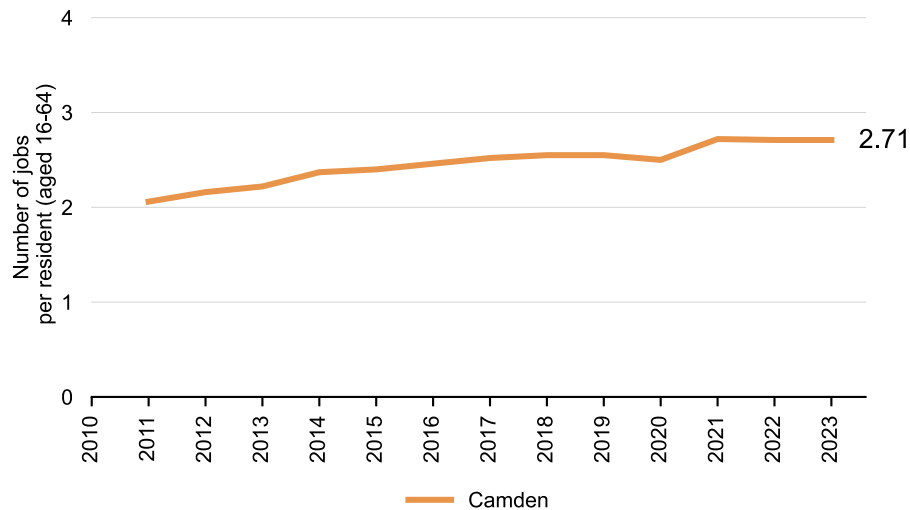
Adam’s research found that commercial areas risk alienating locals without good communication and support. Young people want safe, inclusive spaces and skill-building, while local businesses need clarity and resources. Continued investment in communication, youth engagement, and local economic resilience helps companies like British Land and other landlords make more inclusive and successful places.

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There were 442,000 jobs in Camden in 2023, reflecting a job density of 2.71 jobs per working age person

Camden has seen steady growth in the number of jobs over the period from 2011 to 2023, rising from 331,000 in 2011 to 442,000 in 2023, an increase of around 33%, with a recovery following the dip during the pandemic. This growth is similar to the London trend. Across London, total jobs grew from 5.03 million in 2011 to 6.57 million in 2023, while England as a whole increased from 26.87 million to 31.56 million over the same period. In 2023, Camden ranks among the boroughs with the highest job counts outside Westminster (846,000) and the City of London (759,000).

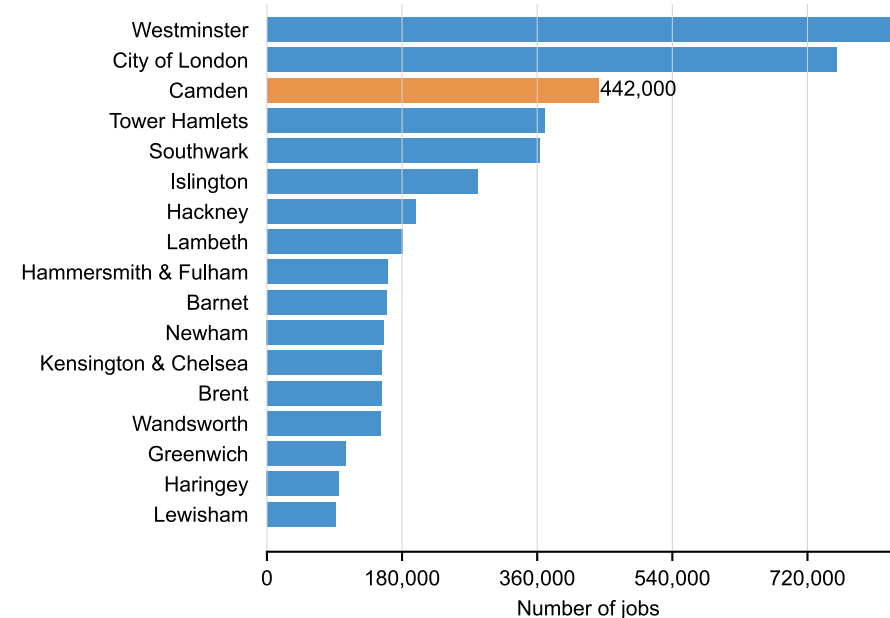
Figure 2.3: Number of jobs per working-aged resident in Camden



Source: Inter-Departmental Business Register, 2025

Accordingly, Camden has one of the highest job densities among London boroughs, which has been consistently higher than both the London and England averages over the period from 2010 to 2023. Job density in Camden increased from 2.06 in 2010 to 2.71 in 2021 and remained stable at 2.71 through 2023.¹ Over the same time period, London’s job density rose from 0.86 in 2010 to 1.07 in 2023, while England’s increased from 0.77 to 0.87. Camden’s figures are more than double the London average and over three times the England average, reflecting its role as a major employment centre. Compared to the comparison group, Camden ranks just below Westminster, which has the highest job density after the City of London, rising from 4.16 in 2011 to 5.33 in 2023. Camden’s job density is higher than that of Islington (1.67), Southwark (1.53), Tower Hamlets (1.46), and Kensington and Chelsea (1.45), all of which have seen gradual increases but remain far below Camden’s level.

Figure 2.4: Number of jobs



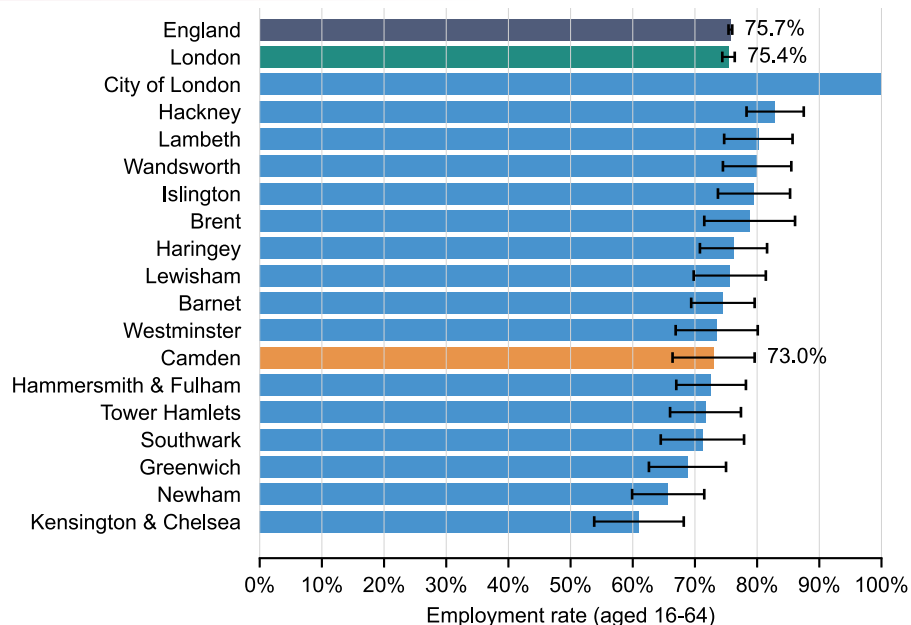
Source: Office for National Statistics, 2023

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Around 3 in 4 people in Camden are in employment in 2024/25, fewer than in London and England, and unemployment is almost 5%, close to the London average but higher than England

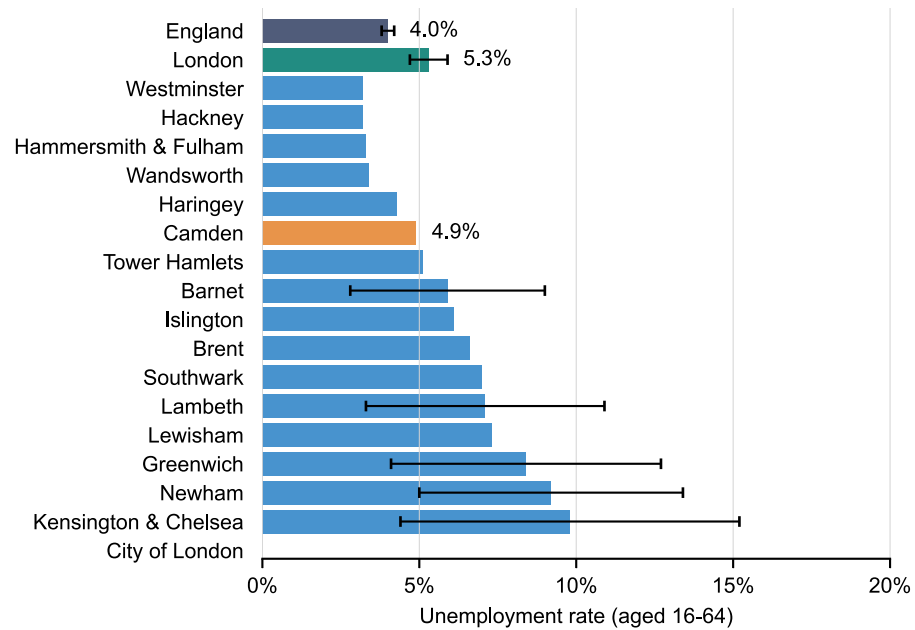
The employment rate in Camden has changed over time but is generally close to the London average, if below. In 2010/11 it was 67.1%, reaching 72.5% in 2019/20 and in 2024/25 it was 73%. Compared to London overall (75.4% in 2024/25) and England (75.7%), Camden is slightly below both but within a similar range. Across the comparison group there is variation: Wandsworth (80%), Hackney (82.9%), and Lambeth (80.2%) are notably higher, while Kensington and Chelsea (61%) and Newham (65.7%) are lower. The level of economic inactivity mirrors these figures, with 23.3% in 2024/25 in Camden, which is higher than both the London (20.4%) and England (21.2%) rates.

Figure 2.5: Employment rate, 2024/25



Source: Annual Population Survey, 2024/25
Note: Error margins shown where available

Figure 2.6: Unemployment rate, 2024/25



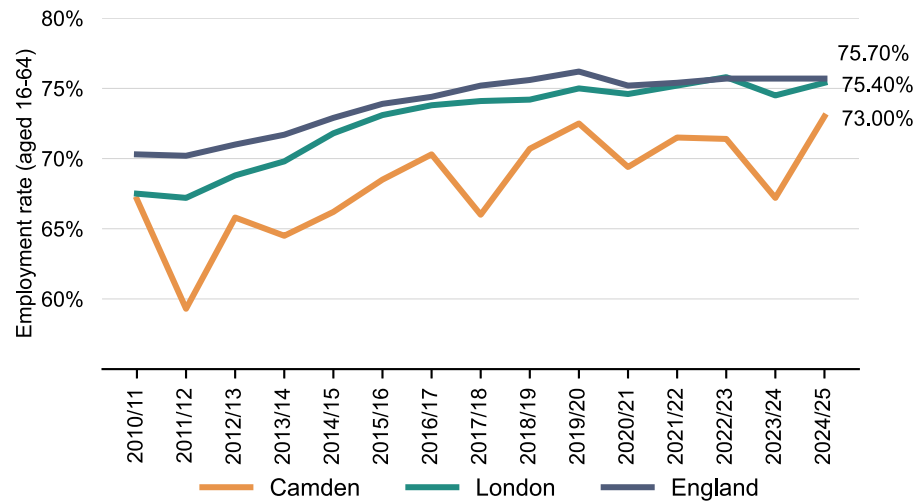
Source: Annual Population Survey, 2024/25
Note: Error margins shown where available

However, for Camden and other boroughs the confidence intervals (a range of values that the true value is likely to fall in) need to be considered. Confidence intervals for the employment rate in Camden widened over time, from around $\pm 4\%$ in early years to $\pm 6.6-7\%$ recently, mostly due to changes in sampling rather than a structural change. This means the true employment rate could be several points higher or lower than the reported figure, making year-on-year changes less definitive. For example, Camden's 73% in 2024/25 could realistically range from about 66% to 80%, overlapping with other boroughs. In contrast, London and England have much narrower intervals ($\pm 1\%$ and $\pm 0.3\%$), so these estimates are more reliable. The widening intervals for borough-level data suggest caution when interpreting short-term changes; the apparent dip in Camden's employment rate in 2023/24 (67.2%) may reflect sampling errors.

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Unemployment in Camden has declined markedly over the same period, falling from 9.3% in 2010/11 to 3.9% in 2019/20, finally reaching 4.9% in 2024/25. This trend broadly aligns with London and England, which also saw reductions from 9% in 2010/11 to 5% in 2024/25 and 7.7% to 4% respectively. Camden's rates have generally remained close to the London average but higher than the England average, positioning it mid-range among the comparison group - typically lower than Newham and Tower Hamlets, but higher than boroughs like Wandsworth and Kensington & Chelsea. Similar caution should be taken when interpreting these figures due to wide confidence intervals, especially comparing across boroughs.

Figure 2.7: Employment rate, 2010-2025



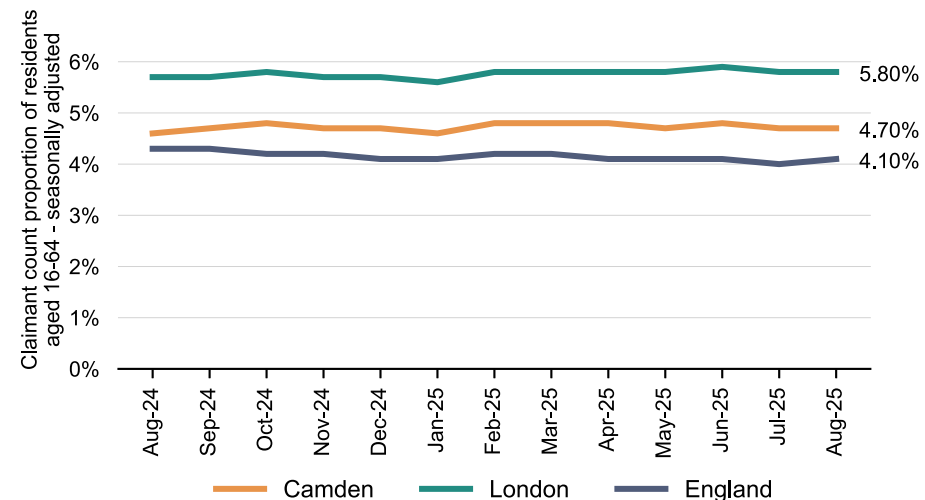
Source: Annual Population Survey, 2010/11-2024/25

A higher share of working-aged people in Camden (4.7% of people aged 16-64) were claiming unemployment-related benefits in August 2025 compared to England (4.1%) but lower than the London rate of 5.8%.

In the year from August 2024 to August 2025, the share of working aged people in Camden receiving unemployment related benefits was around 4.7% (from 4.6% to 4.8% each month). Across the comparison group, in August 2025, Newham had the highest rate with 8.2%, and City of London at 1.3% has the lowest, then Kensington and Chelsea with 3.5%. The rate in Camden is better than the London average of 5.8%, but still above the England average (4.1%), and 6th (lowest=better) in the comparison group.

Comparing the claimant count across genders shows a similar picture, with a similar rate of 4.7% for both females and males, as well across London boroughs, London and England.

Figure 2.8: Proportion of working aged residents claiming unemployment benefits, Aug 2024-Aug 2025



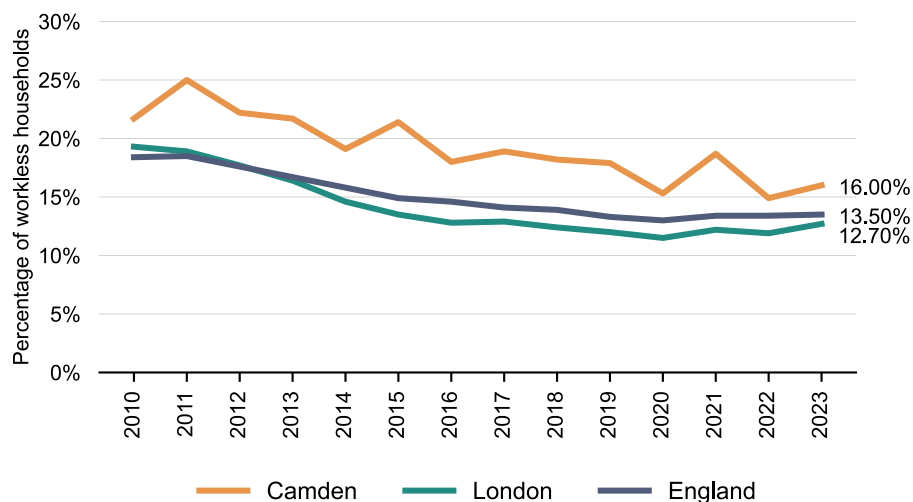
Source: Office for National Statistics, August 2024 - August 2025

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In 2023, 16% of households with working age adults did not have anyone in work (workless households)

In Camden, the share of workless households has generally declined over the long term, though with some fluctuations. In 2010, 21.7% of households were workless, declining to 15.3% in 2020. However, there was an increase in 2021 to 18.7%, then down to 16% in 2023.² Camden’s recent figures remain above the London average of 12.7% in 2023 and England’s 13.5%.

Figure 2.9: Workless households



Source: Annual Population Survey, 2023

Challenges and barriers to employment

Despite Camden having a wealth of job opportunities, the borough faces a paradox: employment rates remain lower than many other parts of London. This is partly explained by the high share of students in further education, but there are still other residents who are out of

work. Residents recognise the abundance of roles but point to barriers that prevent full participation. As one resident at the Regent’s Roots Festival noted,

“Camden is a great place to live, there are lots of opportunities” (NA).

Others called for more inclusive and flexible options, particularly for older workers.

“Given the ageing population you should have more opportunities for part-time work for older people. I’m 59 this year and an NHS worker, it’s a really tough job”

(59, Female, SOTB general survey).

This perspective highlights the need for employment strategies that not only create jobs but also support wellbeing and adaptability.

Digital skills emerged as another critical barrier, particularly for women from ethnic minority communities. One Community Champion explained,

“Women from ethnic minorities need more access to digital courses and training. Lack of digital training is a barrier to accessing key services for women from Bengali and Somali communities”

(41, Female, Camden Mela 2025).

These insights underline that improving employment outcomes in Camden is not just about job availability, it requires skills development, flexible work arrangements, and community-led support to ensure everyone can benefit from the borough’s economic opportunities.

Similarly, a recent report from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR)³ investigated barriers to employment experienced by Bangladeshi and Pakistani women in London. It

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found that they face significant barriers to employment, including discrimination, lack of professional networks, financial constraints, and challenges with language and recognising overseas qualifications. These issues are compounded by workplace cultures that may not accommodate religious or caring responsibilities, and by exclusion from networking opportunities.

The report highlights a preference for workplaces that are diverse, inclusive, and flexible - offering options like part-time or remote work, clear progression routes, mentorship, support for childcare, and respect for religious practices. Addressing these barriers and preferences is key to improving access to good work.

Good Life Camden [↗](#)

Income and affordability: A good life is affordable in Camden

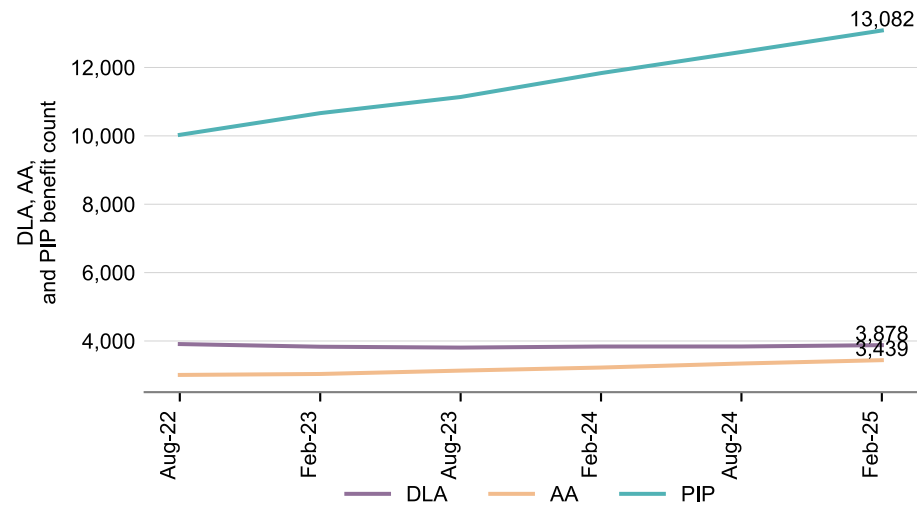
In February 2025, 3,878 people in Camden were receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA), 3,439 received Attendance Allowance, and 13,082 received Personal Independent Payments (PIP)

In London and England, the number of people claiming Disability Living Allowance has increased since February 2023, by almost 7% in London and 9% in England, but stayed stable in Camden.

However, Attendance Allowance in Camden has been on the rise, with 400 more recipients over the past few years representing a 13% rise, although this is a slower growth than in London (15.6%) and England (17.4%). Similarly, Personal Independent Payment recipients in Camden have also been on the rise over the last two years, with a rate of 9%,

compared to 12% in London and 10% in England. While there is a rise in these recipients, it is a slower growth in Camden compared to London and England.

Figure 2.10: Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independent Payments, Attendance Allowance, benefits count in Camden, Aug 2022 – Feb 2025



Source: Department for Work and Pensions, February 2022 - February 2025

Learning from the Camden Carers action plan: the impact of caring responsibilities on employment and opportunities

Every day, carers step up to provide crucial, unpaid support, often without identifying themselves as carers, yet their impact is far reaching. In Camden, the 2021 Census revealed over 14,600 people in Camden identified as carers, with many balancing employment and caring responsibilities. Yet alongside this dedication, many face real challenges: poorer health, long-term illness and tough choices of reducing hours, changing jobs or leaving work altogether.

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Camden’s carers are diverse, and their needs vary too. Barriers like discrimination, financial strain, and digital exclusion can make life harder. These pressures mean that jobs can become less secure, finances tighten and health and wellbeing suffer, with many carers experiencing social isolation and reduced opportunities for personal development.

Camden’s [Carers Action Plan](#), co-created with carers, focuses on what matters most to carers: better access to information, mental health support, breaks from caring, and opportunities for education and employment. The Plan illustrates carers’ experiences through the following case studies, which describe some of the challenges they face. Names have been changed to protect carers’ anonymity.

Sarah’s story: Caring for her mother for over 14 years, Sarah found herself isolated from the workforce, struggling with low confidence, limited IT skills, and ongoing health challenges. With encouragement and tailored support, Sarah gradually rebuilt her confidence, applied for a local volunteering role, and began taking steps to improve her wellbeing. These changes marked the beginning of her journey back to independence and community involvement

David’s story: An experienced IT professional caring for his bedbound mother, David faced months of rejection and frustration. With expert advice, he refreshed his CV, refined his cover letters, and learned new strategies for approaching employers about flexible work. These changes led to a noticeable improvement in his job search responses, boosting his confidence and optimism as he continues his journey towards employment.

Good Life Camden ☺

◆ Income and affordability: People in Camden get paid fairly

The median equivalised household income in Camden in 2025 was £52,048, almost 5% higher than the previous year, but 8.5% of employees in 2024 were earning below the living wage

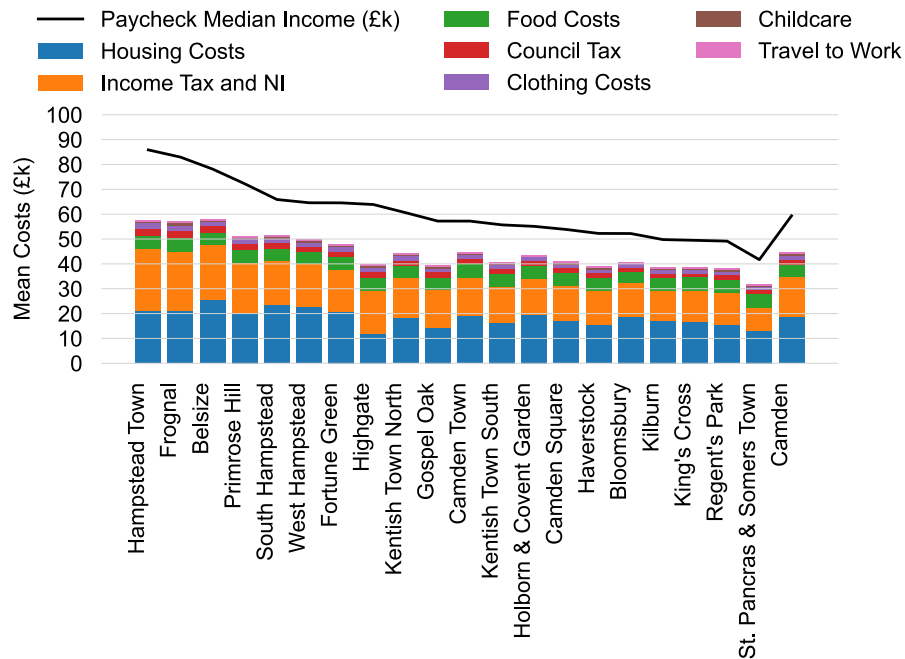
The median income from all sources⁴ per equivalised household (equivalised means that it accounts for the size and composition of the household), in Camden in 2025 was £52,048, according to CACI Equivalised Paycheck data, an increase of 4.6% compared to the previous year. This was one of the highest incomes in London, higher than the London median of £46,835 and 6th in the comparison group, with City of London at the top of the scale with £61,901. The median income in the UK was £39,597, while the lowest in the comparison group was Newham with £37,614.

Data from CACI also shows how households spend this income across major cost categories, such as housing (mortgage, private rent and social rent), council tax, food, clothing, childcare, travel to work, income tax and national insurance payments. These are calculated for the households who have the relevant spend, meaning childcare only for households paying for childcare, rather than averaging across the whole population, but is not equivalised. Comparing essential annual spend categories with median post tax household income (black line) across Camden wards in 2025 shows that housing (around £12–£25k annually) and income tax and national insurance (around £9–£25k) dominate as the main spend. Food is the next big spend category (~£4–£6k) and council tax, travel, clothing and childcare are smaller but still significant.

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Median income declines significantly from the affluent west and north of the borough (Hampstead Town, Frognal, and Belsize, at ~£75–£85k) toward central and southern areas (down to ~£42–£55k around Regent’s Park, King’s Cross, St Pancras & Somers Town), while for Camden overall it is close to ~£60k (£59,334). Despite high housing costs in the wealthier areas, the affordability margin (income minus essentials) is widest there because incomes are much higher than the essential costs. By contrast, in places like St Pancras & Somers Town and King’s Cross, incomes are lowest but the essential costs don’t reduce proportionately, squeezing budgets and leaving the thinner margins. Overall, looking at the income and the essential spending categories of households across Camden, it is clear that affordability is largely driven by income, despite the high housing costs.

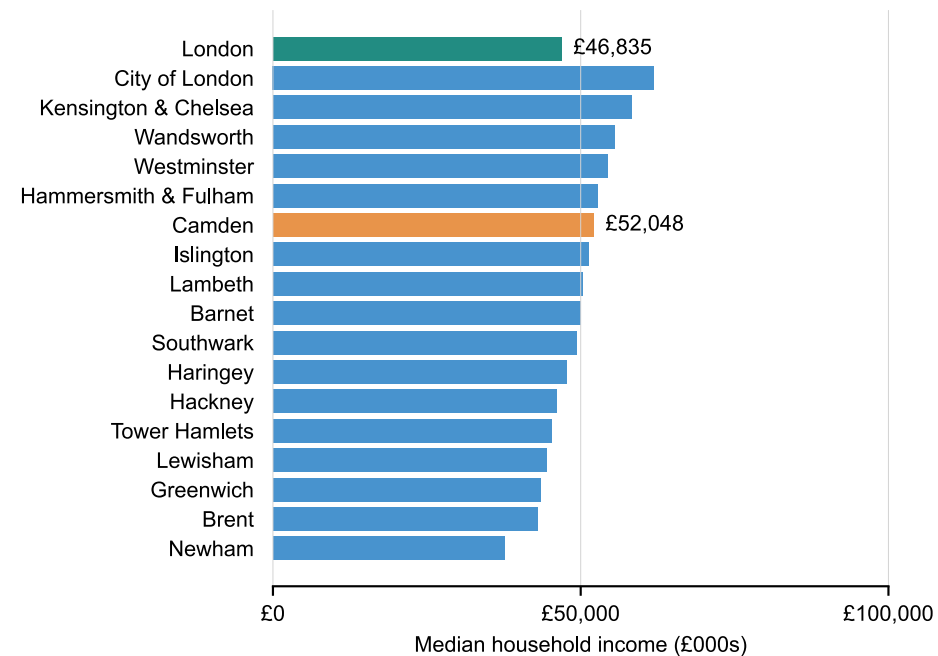
Figure 2.11: Median household income and essential spend categories by ward & Camden, 2025



Source: CACI - Paycheck Disposable Income, 2025

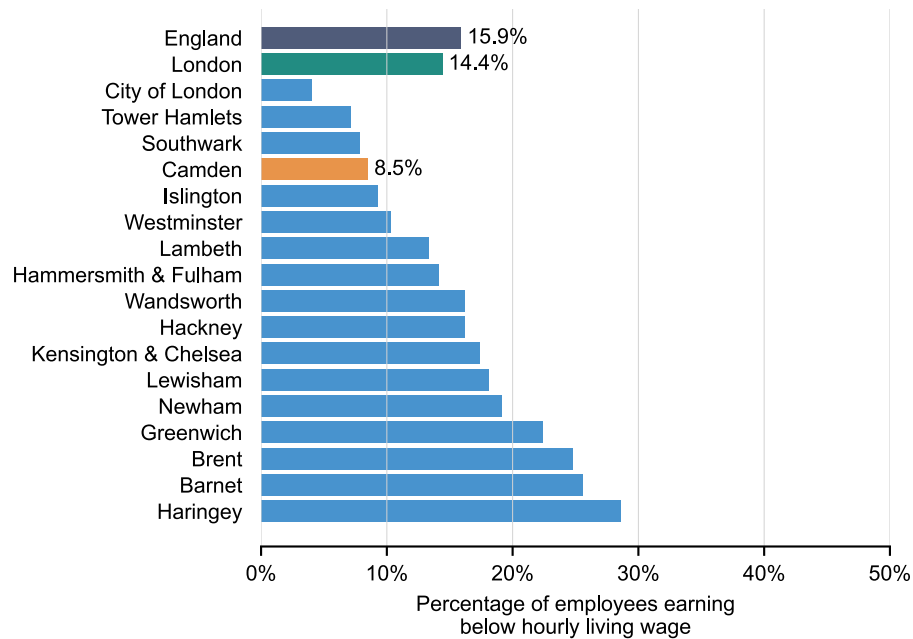
While household earnings are relatively high, there is still a considerable share of employees in Camden who earn below the living wage. Provisional data for 2024⁵, shows that 8.5% of employees in Camden were earning below the hourly living wage (£13.85 per hour in London in 2024/25). This was lower than the figure for London (14.4%) and England (15.9%). Across the comparison group, this was among the lowest in share of employees, with the highest share recorded in Haringey (28.6%) and the lowest in Tower Hamlets (7.1%).

Figure 2.12: Median household income, 2025



Source: CACI Paycheck Equivalised Income, 2025

Figure 2.13: Share of people earning below the living wage, 2024



Source: Office for National Statistics, 2024

While median earnings are relatively high in Camden, many residents are struggling to maintain living standards as the cost of living rises sharply. Everyday essentials have become prohibitively expensive for some households, forcing difficult choices. One resident explained,

“ I go to the near supermarket, which happens to be an expensive supermarket. If you want to buy what is supposed to be healthy fruit and vegetables, it’s very expensive. So, we stop going on holiday [...] So definitely cost of living has had great impact”
(67, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre),

Another added that

“ The cost of living in Camden is at an all-time high” (62, Female, British, Camden Mela 2025). For some, this means cutting back on heating: **“Sometimes I turn off the heating after 6 o’clock because the bills go up”** (67, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre).

Others rely on community support to bridge the gap:

“ Thank God for the community centre because sometimes you can access fruits and vegetable here. Sometimes we get the leftovers, which is actually quite helpful”
(67, Female, Focus group at Abbey Community Centre).

Residents also spoke about the steep rise in prices since the pandemic and the war in Ukraine:

“ After lockdown, it wasn’t 10% more, 20% more, it’s 50% more. Oil price has gone up, in Asian households we use so much oil. I’ve been struggling financially since cost of living, so I believe this food co-op is a good thing, a good initiative for people.”
(50, Female, Focus group at Cooperation Town).

Even basic utilities are a source of stress:

“ The Thames Water bill [...] since April it’s 40% higher. And it’s water, I need it. I can’t live without it.”
(71, Female, Focus group at Cooperation Town).

Beyond rising prices, residents expressed frustration with shrinking safety nets:

“ Lots of cutbacks means we don’t get as much help”
(NA, Regent’s Roots Festival).

These accounts show that while Camden is a borough of prosperity for some, for others the rising costs are eroding security and wellbeing, making community-led initiatives and targeted interventions essential for resilience.

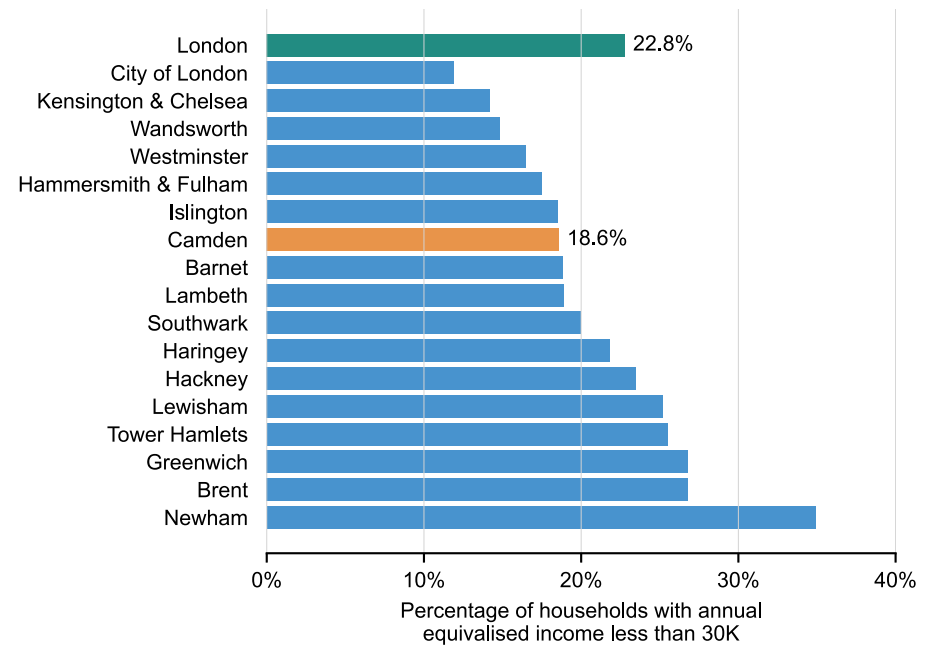
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In 2025, 18% of households had an annual equivalised income below £30,000, continuing a declining trend over the past 3 years

In Camden, the share of households with an equivalised income (meaning accounting for the size and composition of the household) below £30,000 has declined steadily over the past three years. In 2023, 26.1% of households fell into this category, reducing to 21% in 2024 and further to 18.6% in 2025. Camden’s 2025 figure is lower than the London average of 22.8%. While Camden’s reduction is notable, similar patterns are observed across many boroughs, reflecting a broader trend of income growth. However, differences remain significant between boroughs, with areas such as Newham (34.9%) and Lewisham (25.2%) having greater shares of lower-income households. The lowest shares of low-income households in the comparison group, after City of London, are in Kensington and Chelsea (14.2%) and Wandsworth (14.8%).

A ward-level analysis of Camden shows a consistent decline in the proportion of low-income households (earning under £30,000) between 2023 and 2025. St Pancras & Somers Town, Camden’s most income-deprived ward, saw the largest improvement, with the share of low-income households falling from 50.7% in 2023 to 39.7% in 2024 and 34.6% in 2025, although it remained the most deprived ward throughout the period. Other wards also experienced notable progress. In Regent’s Park the share of low-income households declined from 38.1% in 2023 to 30.6% in 2024 and 26.8% in 2025, in King’s Cross it fell from 34.7% in 2023 to 24.1% in 2025 and in Kilburn from 33.1% in 2023 to 24.4% in 2025. Camden’s more affluent areas showed similar reductions in the share of low-income households (e.g. Belsize from 11.6% in 2023 to 8.7% in 2025, and Hampstead Town from 10.6% to 7.5%).

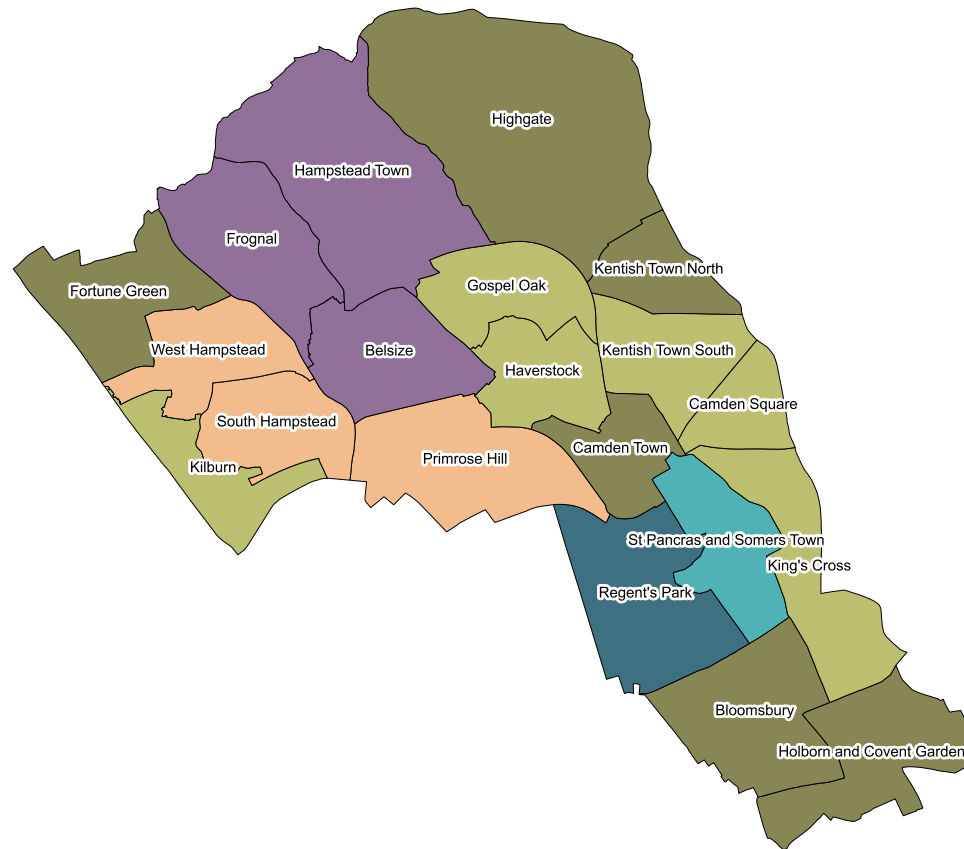
Figure 2.14: Share of low-income households (below £30k) in 2025, comparison group



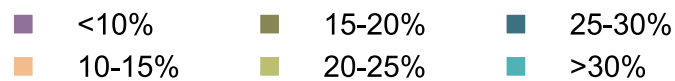
Source: CACI - Paycheck Equivalised Income, 2025

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Figure 2.15: Share of households below £30k income, Camden wards, 2025



Share of households households below £30k equivalised income



Source: CACI - Paycheck Equivalised Income, 2025

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Learning from: Camden Advice Network

The Camden Advice Network (CAN) is delivered by a range of voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations supporting residents by offering practical advice to help them navigate challenging life circumstances.

In the last financial year, CAN advised on 48,237 cases. With ongoing cost-of-living pressures, demand for advice on welfare benefits, legal support, and housing remained high, with 13,927 cases of welfare benefits advice, 13,872 cases of legal support, 6,041 cases of housing advice. The number of new clients accessing the network declined from 3,330 in Q1 to 2,391 in Q4, though overall demand for advice remained significant.

In the same time period, CAN supported residents to access the financial support they were entitled to, securing £11,219,925 in benefits and writing off £148,766 million in debt. Many residents used multiple services across the network, reflecting the complexity of their needs.

The residents supported by CAN were from diverse background, and consisted of: 47.7% White and 52.3% Black, Asian or mixed-heritage ethnicities, 38.9% declaring a disability, 58.4% female and 41.6% male, and 54.6% aged between 40 and 69.

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Good Life Camden 

Education and lifelong learning:

- ◆ People have opportunities to gain skills and go back into employment at any age
- ◆ Access to online and offline learning opportunities is for all ages, including those digitally excluded

Two-thirds of Camden working age residents had level 4+ qualifications in 2024, higher than London and England. 5,310 people over 25 participated in further education in 2024/25, representing a rate higher than London and England

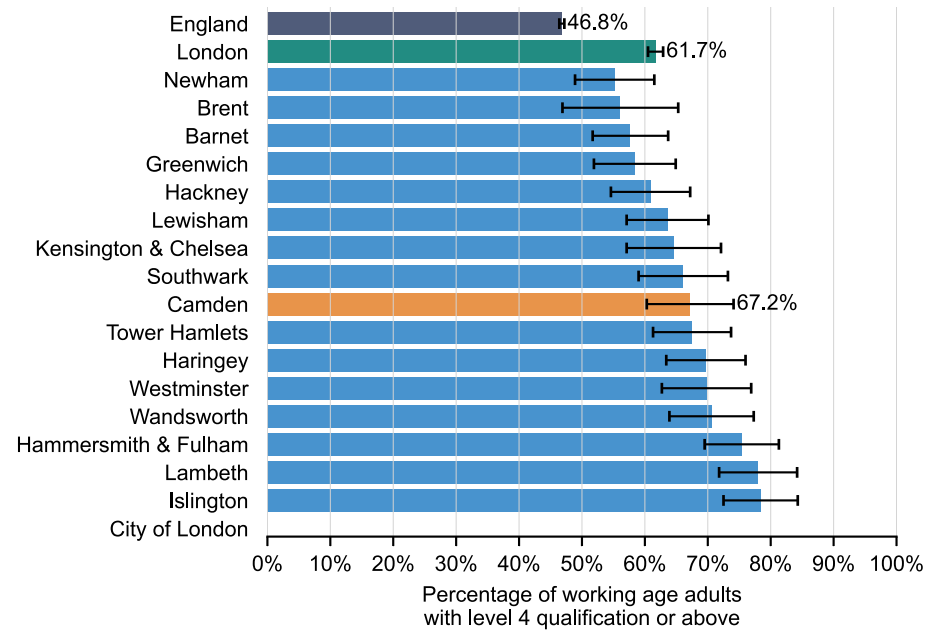
The proportion of working-age adults with Level 4 or higher qualifications in Camden has been consistently one of the highest in London, exceeding both London and England averages across the latest available three years. In 2024, 67.2% of Camden’s working-age population held such qualifications, down from 73% in 2024 but higher than the rate in 2023 of 63%. Despite this decline, Camden remains above London’s regional average of 61.7% and England’s 46.8% in 2024. However, interpretation of these figures should consider the confidence intervals, which range from ± 6.6 to ± 7.0 for Camden. These intervals indicate the potential margin of error around the reported percentages, meaning the true value could be several points higher or lower.

For example, Camden’s 2024 figure of 67.2% could realistically fall anywhere between roughly 60% and 74%, suggesting that while Camden is likely among the higher-performing boroughs, the actual figure as well as changes across time may be a result of the sampling variability rather than a definitive trend. This uncertainty underscores the importance of viewing these results as indicative rather than

absolute, and of monitoring longer-term patterns before drawing firm conclusions.

The 2021 Census figures, which are more reliable than the Annual Population Survey as it covers the whole population and not just a sample, showed that 57.3% of Camden residents had high level qualifications, and this was higher than both London (46.7%) and England (33.9%).

Figure 2.16: Qualifications (level 4+), 2024



Source: Annual Population Survey, 2024

The share of people age 25+ participating in further education and skills in Camden was 4,294 per 100,000 population in 2024/25 (the total number for Camden is 5,310). This put Camden 3rd across the comparison group, with Newham leading the group at 4,401 per 100,000, and Kensington and Chelsea at the other end with 2,648.

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Camden is 21.3% higher than the rate in London and 36% higher than in England. The rate of adults participating in further education in 2024/25 was lower than in previous years both in London, England and across the comparison group.

Camden's relatively high share of residents with advanced qualifications reflects the multitudes of opportunities in the borough, with 11 further education institutions and a thriving Knowledge Quarter. This strength is echoed in the voices of residents who recognise the benefits of accessible opportunities, while also highlighting areas for improvement. As one attendee at Camden Mela 2025 shared:

“ There is a strong feeling of inclusion in Camden as there are so many opportunities and plenty of diversity, however I do feel that there needs to be more accessible training opportunities for the youth [...] There is so much wealth in Camden and plenty of businesses that can create more opportunities for the youth.”

(26, Female, Camden Mela 2025).

This sentiment underscores the need for educational pathways for younger generations.

Residents also emphasised the importance of adult learning and language support, which play a vital role in fostering inclusion and participation in the economy and society at large.

“ There are also plenty of adult learning opportunities and it is fairly easy to sign up for ESOL [English for Speakers of Other Languages] classes,”

noted a resident (50, Female) at Camden Mela 2025.

While another added:

“ There needs to be more advertising to encourage women to join classes, like ESOL, this is very necessary”

(52, Female, Pearly Sari at The People's Museum).

Beyond skills, education can be a lifeline for wellbeing, particularly for residents facing additional challenges such as navigating the asylum process. One participant described how learning became an emotional lifeline:

“ There was a time that I was very depressed and I stopped my courses [...] [my teacher] called me and said why are you stopping the courses [...] my school was very helpful for my depression.”

(38, Female, Focus group with asylum seekers living in Camden).

These reflections illustrate that learning opportunities are not only about qualifications - but they are also about empowerment, connection, and resilience, especially during periods of uncertainty.

Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/jd>
- 2 <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/apsh1>
- 3 Turcatti, D., Stockland, K., and project team members (2025). Bengali and Pakistani women in good work: Barriers to Entry and Progression. NIESR: London <https://niesr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Bangladesh-Pakistani-Women-Good-Work-final.pdf?ver=5XieZuy8PXY6Alpa03Zg>
- 4 Household income includes all forms of income such as salaries, stipends, pensions, bonds and investments, and universal credit
- 5 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/numberandproportionofemployeejobswithhourlypaybelowthelivingwage>

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