

Barnet's Economy

Barnet in Facts and Figures

Main points

Economic Structure

- The local economy is dominated by small and medium sized businesses
- Barnet has a higher proportion of self-employed residents than London or England
- Barnet has a higher proportion of jobs in the distribution, hotel and restaurant sector than for London and Great Britain

Economic Vitality

- Barnet has had consistently lower rates of unemployment than the London and Outer London averages
- There are a lot of local businesses in Barnet and the borough has a higher than average rate of VAT registered businesses, but has experienced a long-term trend towards the average for London

Workforces

- For many, Barnet can be regarded as a commuter suburb and many more Barnet residents work outside the borough than commute into Barnet to work

Barnet residents who Work

- Barnet residents are more likely than Londoners as a whole to work in the service sector – and less likely to work in manufacturing
- Barnet residents have higher than London average levels of qualifications
- Barnet *residents* earn *more than* the average for London

People who Work in Barnet (wherever they live)

- People who work in Barnet earn a little *below* the median average for London
- People who work in Barnet are more likely to work in services, the distributive sector or public administration

House Prices

- The cost of accommodation in Barnet is comparatively high relative to the earnings of its residents

Introduction

Part one of the Local Government Act (2000) contains a package of measures to strengthen and support councillors in their role as community leader. It includes broad powers to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their communities. It is therefore important to have basic information about the main features and strengths of the local economy if local agencies are to maximise economic opportunities and prosperity for those who live and work in the borough.

1 The Local Economy's Structure

- On 1 April 2004 Barnet had 3,788 retail premises (including shops, financial and professional services and food and drink outlets, but excluding public houses and hotels.) There were also 2,213 office premises, 497 factories and 418 warehouses. (Note that these totals exclude leisure and sports premises, as well as public facilities such as schools, hospitals and libraries.)
For more details see Barnet's Neighbourhood Profile on the [National Statistics](#) website.
- Like many London authorities Barnet's economy is dominated by small and medium-sized businesses. In Barnet there is a higher proportion of very small businesses with fewer than five employees. See Appendix 1.
- A higher than average proportion of Barnet's workforce is self-employed. See Appendix 2.
- Employers in Barnet have a higher demand for jobs in the distribution, hotel and restaurant sector, and in the public administration sector, than in London or the rest of the country. See Appendix 3.

2 Economic Vitality

Rates of unemployment and VAT registrations are two possible ways of judging the economic vitality of an area.

- Over at least the past decade levels of unemployment in Barnet have generally been close to but below the average for Outer London. The Appendices show data provided to Councils by the Greater London Authority (GLA) on the proportion of the resident labour force claiming Jobseekers Allowance
See Appendices 4 and 5.
- Barnet has a history of comparatively high levels of VAT registrations – but also of de-registrations. The net result has been a higher than London average pool of locally registered businesses – but this has shown a long-term trend towards the London average. See Appendix 6.
- But the survival rates of VAT-based businesses is almost exactly the same in Barnet as in London as a whole: 22% of businesses have traded for less than 2 years and 36% for at least 10 years (March 2005 data). (This data can be found at [Small Business Service](#))

3 Barnet's Workforces

It is useful to bear in mind the distinction between those who work in Barnet (many of whom commute into the borough) and Barnet residents, some of whom work in the borough but many of whom commute elsewhere to work.

- Over 86,000 Barnet residents work outside Barnet, while 47,000 residents from elsewhere come to Barnet to work.
See Appendix 7
- Barnet residents are more likely to work as managers and in the professions than Londoners as a whole. See Appendix 8.
- Barnet residents (including part-time workers), whether they work in the borough or elsewhere, earn on average more than the London median rate. See Appendices 9 and 10.

- Barnet residents who work are also more likely to have a higher level of education than the average for London. See Appendix 11.
- The proportion of the work force with no qualifications varies considerably between Barnet's wards: from a quarter or more in wards like Colindale, Burnt Oak and West Hendon, to under 10% in others. See Appendices 12 & 13.
- People who work in Barnet (wherever they live, and including part-time workers) earn on average a little below the median for London. See Appendix 14 and 15.
-

4 The Cost of Living: Housing costs

- The ratio of house prices in an area relative to household income is a useful measure of the local cost and accessibility of home ownership. In a study of 387 English and Welsh districts in 2004 Barnet had, at 5.07, the 65th highest rate and the eighth highest in London. See Appendix 16 for more details.
- Information on the prices and rent levels of accommodation is complex and varies rapidly. Among useful sources to consult are:

[Land Registry Property Prices](#)

[Halifax Monthly House Price Index](#)

[Greater London Authority](#) (private sector rents)

Copyright Note

Census data used in this document is Crown copyright and may be reproduced only with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

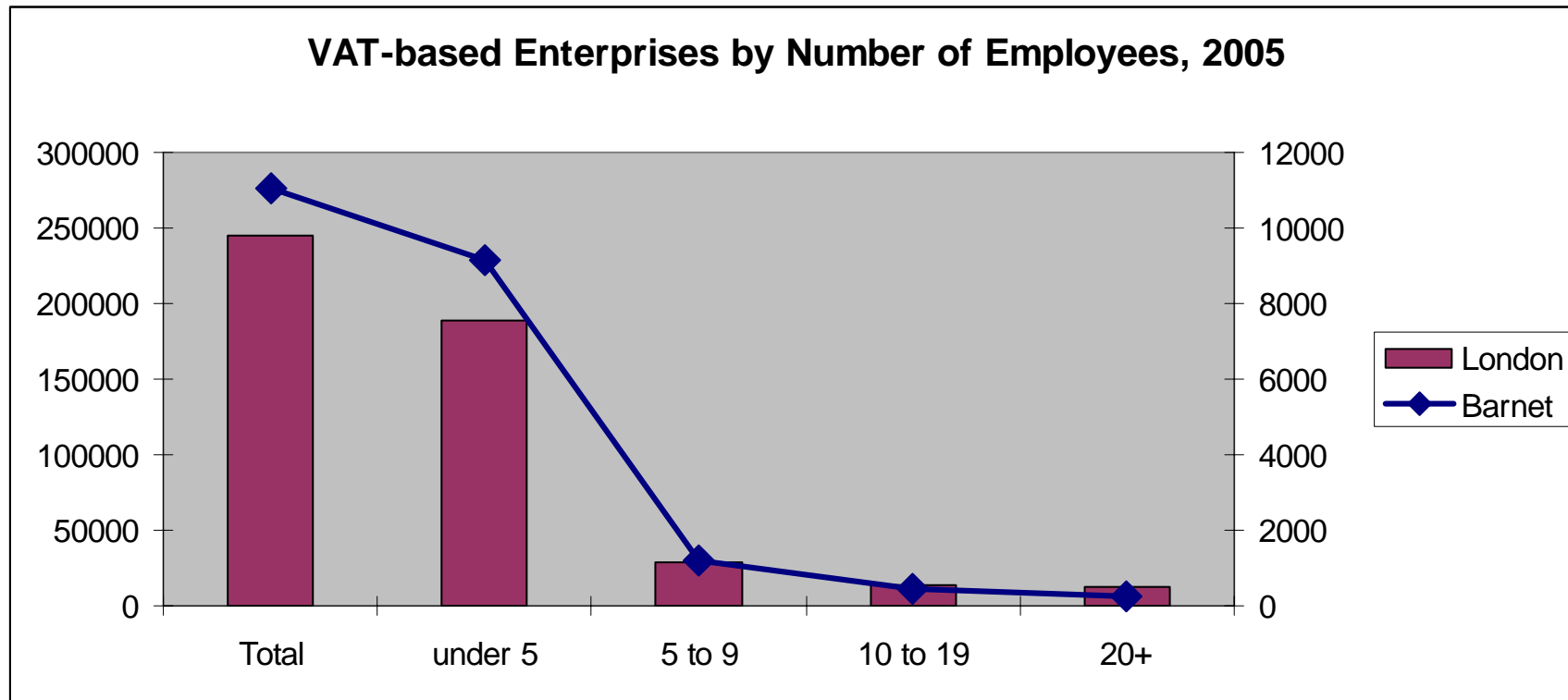
If you have any comments on this document or would like further information please contact: peter.keeble@barnet.gov.uk

(Last amended: 7 June 2006)

Appendices

Appendix 1

Note: The left-hand scale is for London and the right-hand scale for Barnet and indicates the number of enterprises.



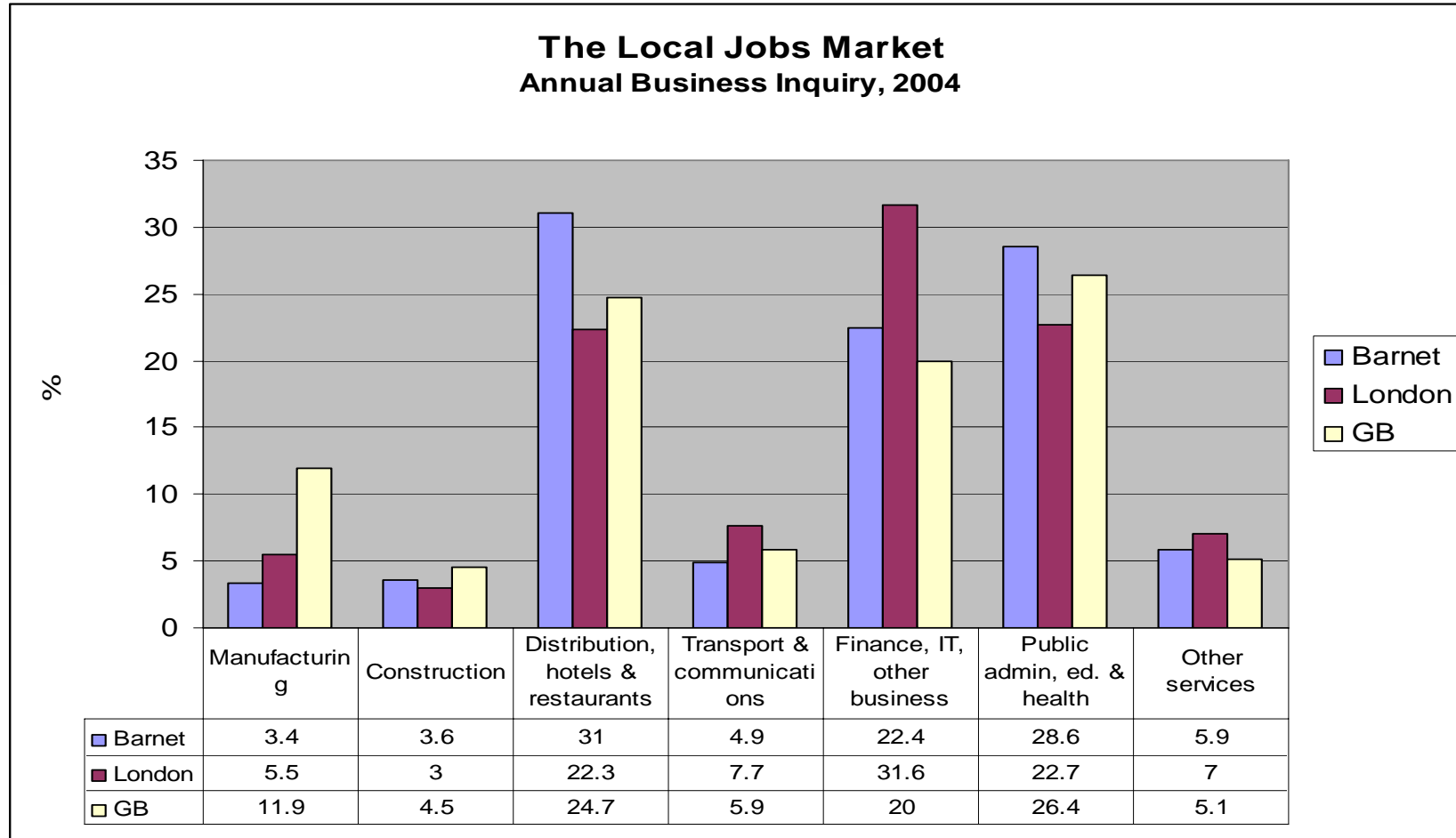
Source: For more detail visit the Government's [Neighbourhood Statistics](#) website and follow the *Topics* link.

Appendix 2



Source: For more details visit the website of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's [Neighbourhood Renewal Unit](#)

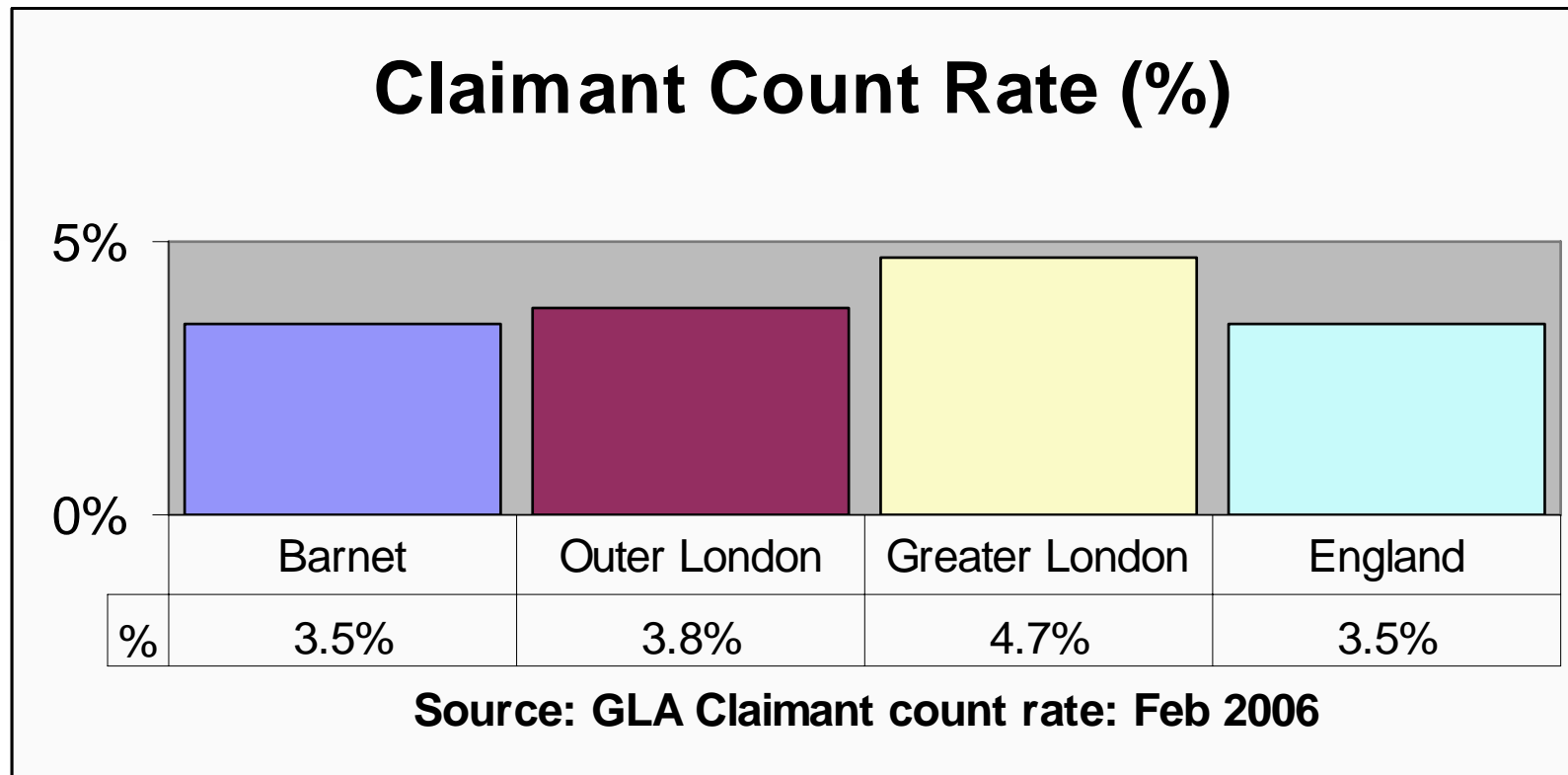
Appendix 3



Source: For more details visit the Office for National Statistics [NOMIS](#) pages

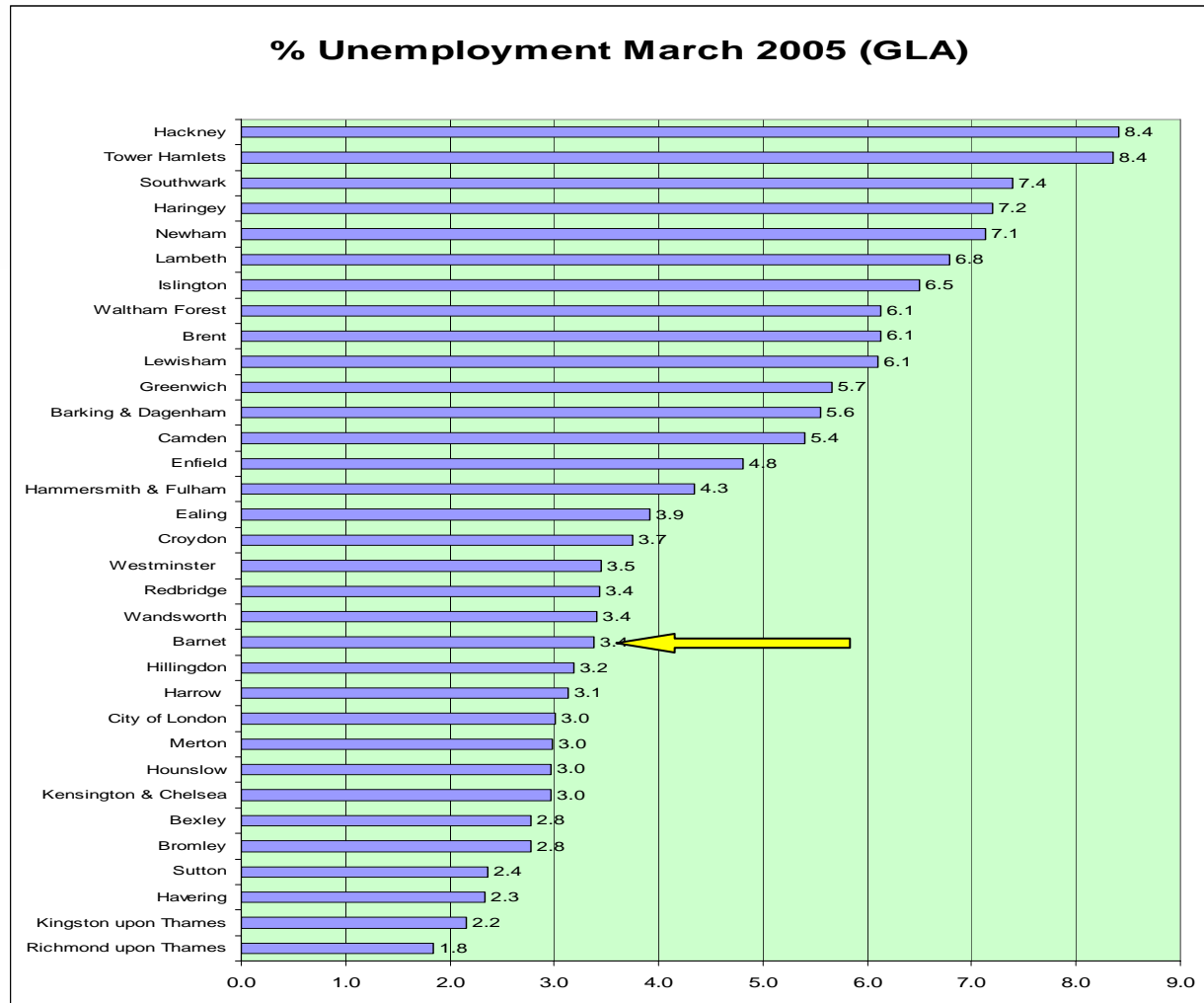
Appendix 4

This graph is derived from data provided to Councils from the Greater London Authority and expresses the number of residents in each borough claiming Jobseekers Allowance as a proportion of the resident labour force.

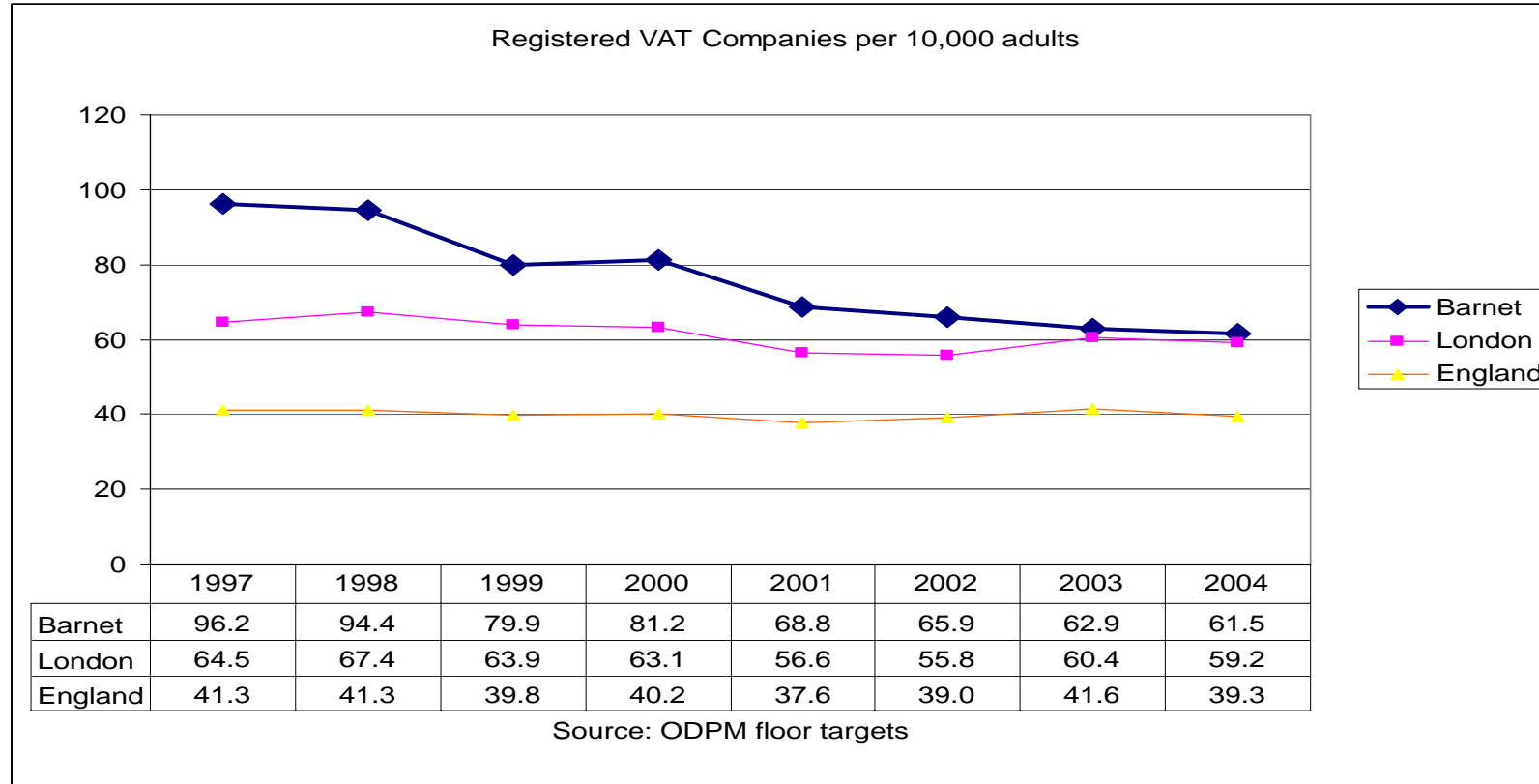


Appendix 5

This graph is derived from data provided to Councils from the Greater London Authority and expresses the number of residents in each borough claiming Jobseekers Allowance as a proportion of the resident labour force.

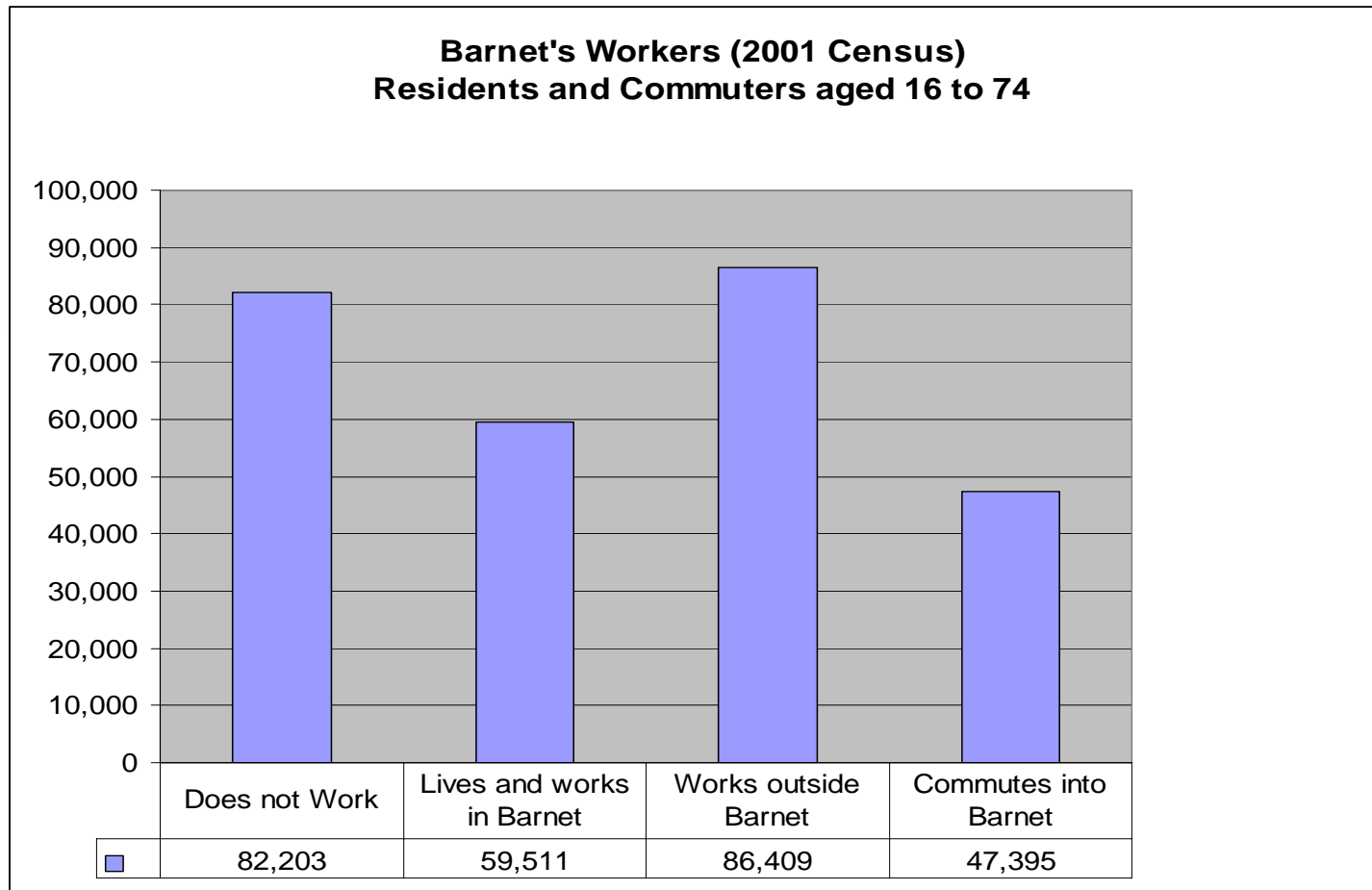


Appendix 6



Source: For more details visit the website of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's [Neighbourhood Renewal Unit](#)

Appendix 7



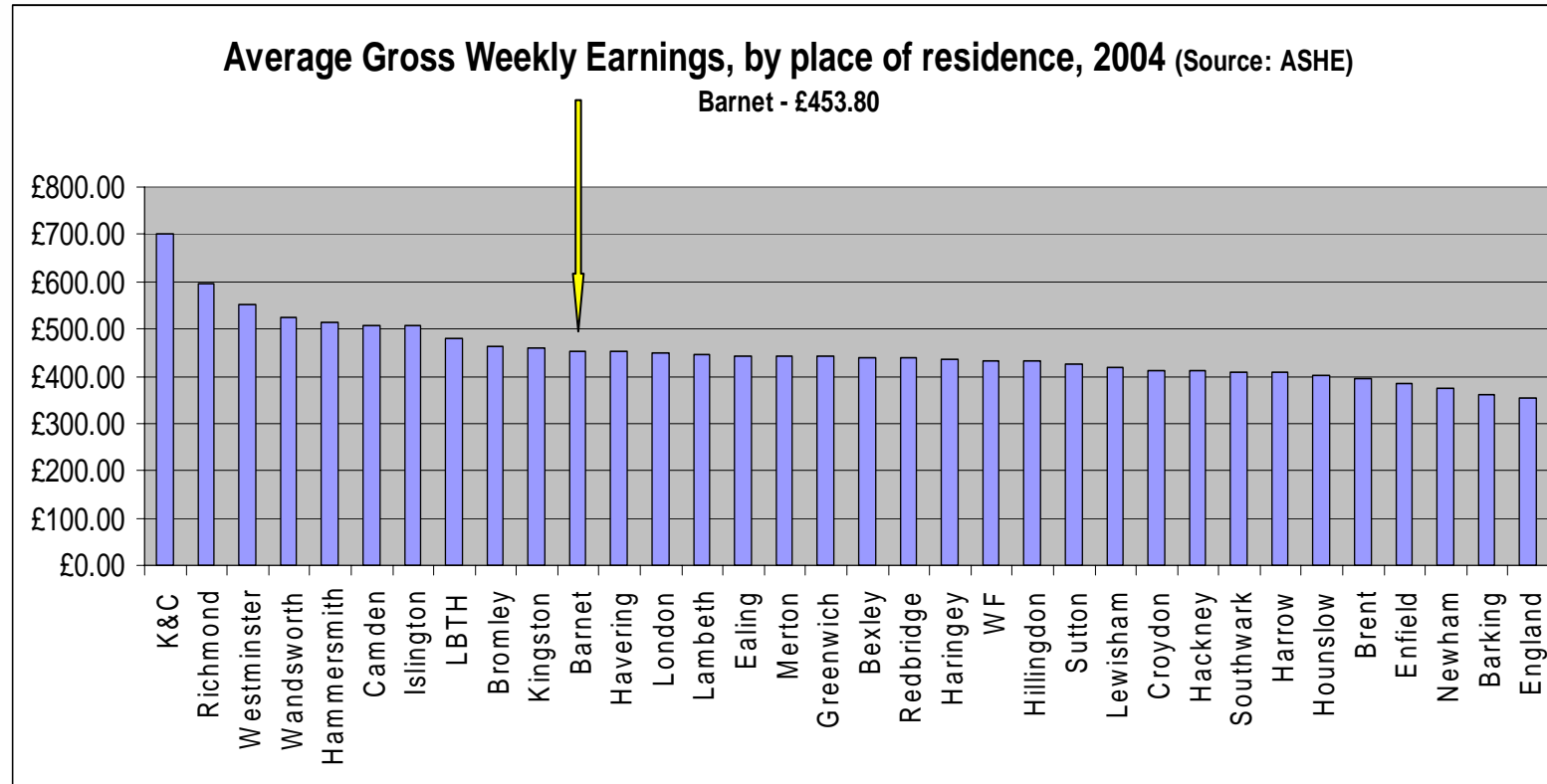
Source: 2001 Census Theme Table, Crown Copyright

Appendix 8



Source: For more details visit the Office for National Statistics [NOMIS](#) pages

Appendix 9



Source: For more details visit the Office for National Statistics [NOMIS](#) pages

Appendix 10

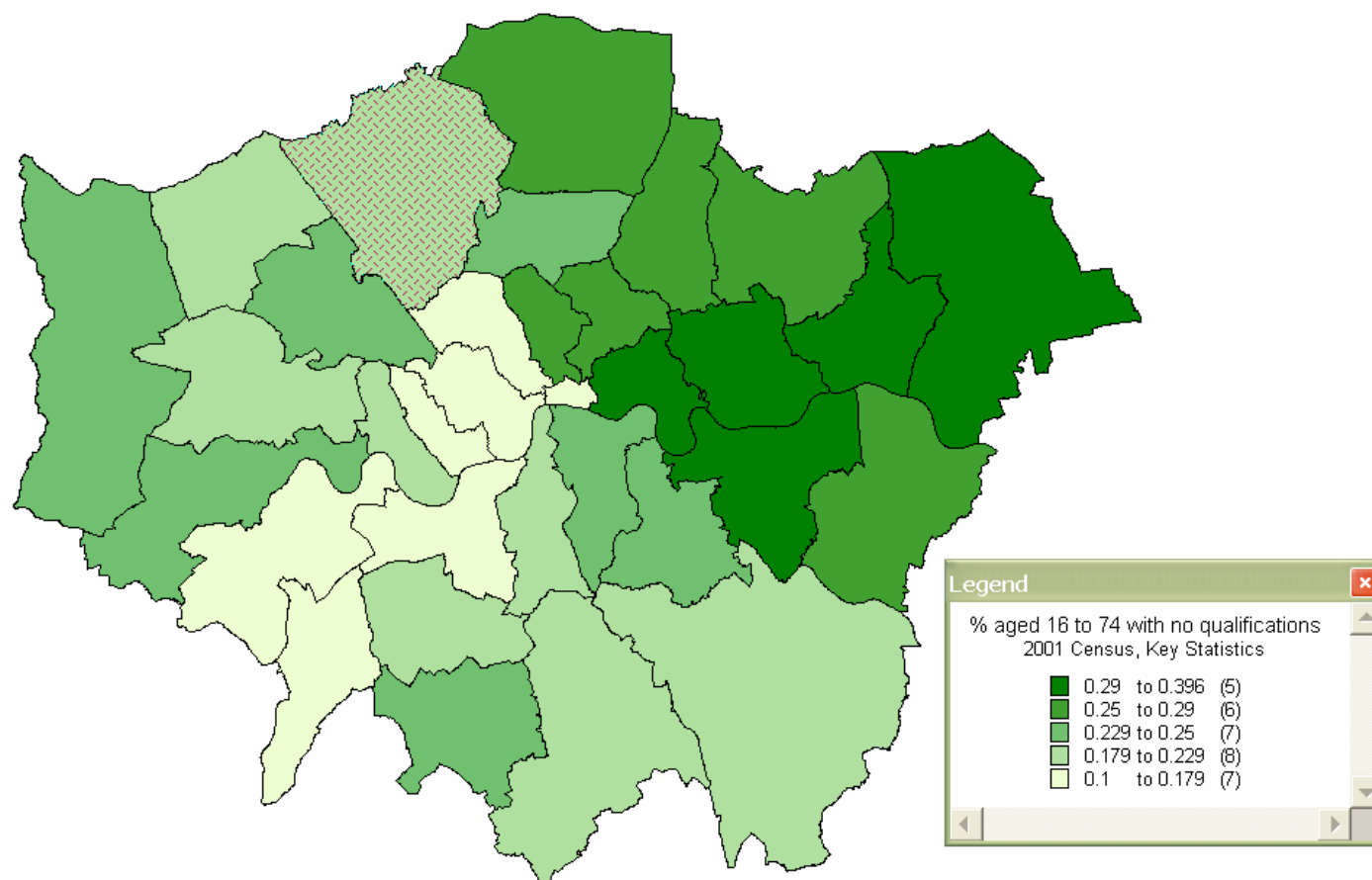
Earnings by residence: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area, 2005

	Barnet £	London £	GB £
Gross Weekly Pay			
Full Time Workers	546.6	527.0	433.1
Male Full Time Workers	622.3	574.8	474.9
Female Full Time Workers	480.4	482.9	372.3
Hourly Pay			
Full Time Workers	14.37	13.71	10.86
Male Full Time Workers	16.28	14.35	11.50
Female Full Time Workers	13.01	13.11	9.90

Source: For more details visit the Office for National Statistics [NOMIS](#) pages

Appendix 11

Percentage of Workforce with No Qualifications: London Boroughs



Source: 2001 Census Key Statistics (Crown Copyright)

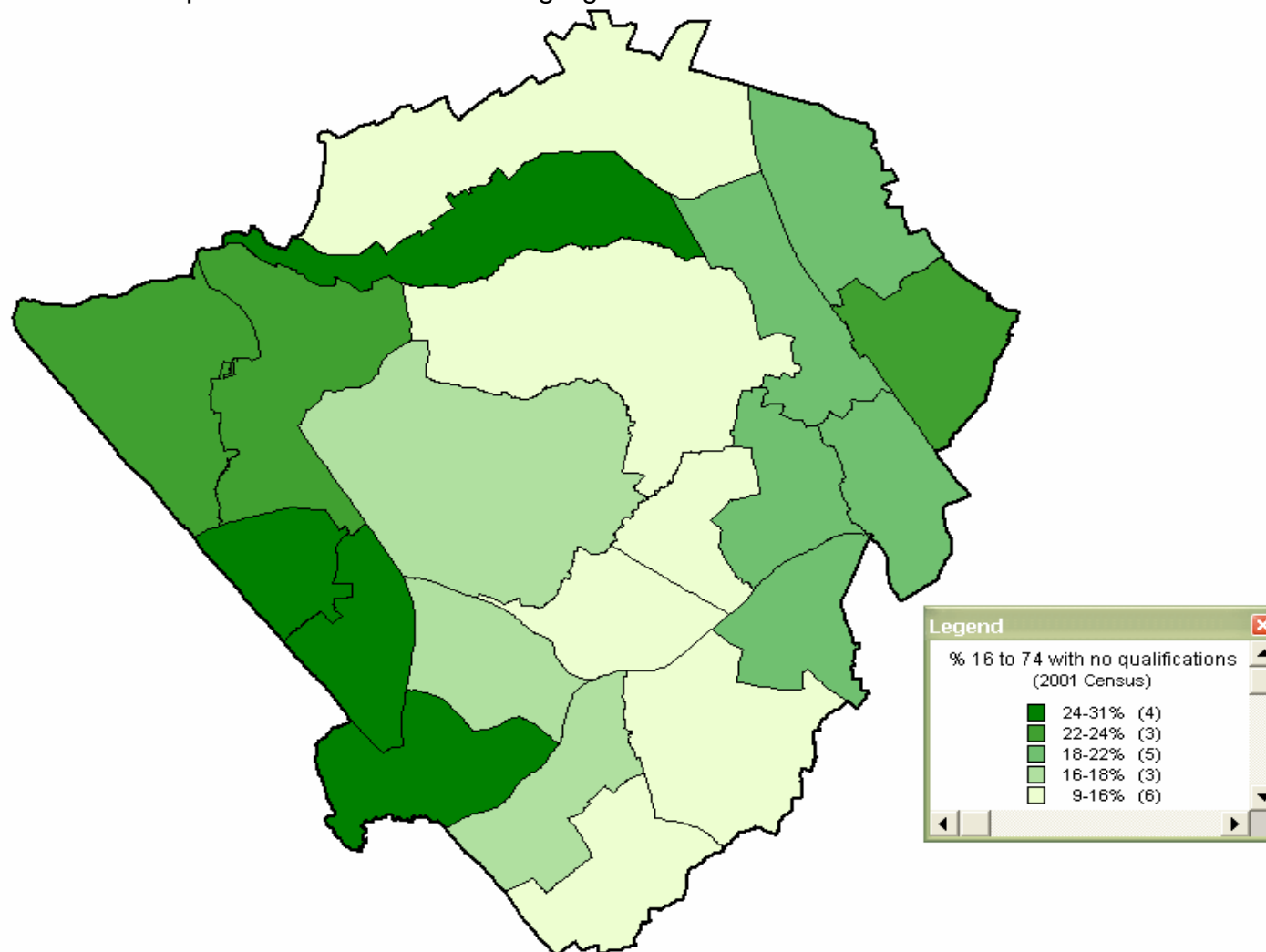
Appendix 12 Educational Qualifications of Barnet's Residents

	Barnet (numbers)	Barnet (%)	London (%)	GB (%)
NVQ4 and above	76,600	36.3	30.8	25.2
NVQ3 and above	109,400	51.8	45.0	43.1
NVQ2 and above	146,100	69.2	59.0	61.5
NVQ1 and above	164,900	78.1	69.7	76.0
Other Qualifications	29,200	13.8	16.4	8.8
No Qualifications	16,700	7.9	13.9	15.1

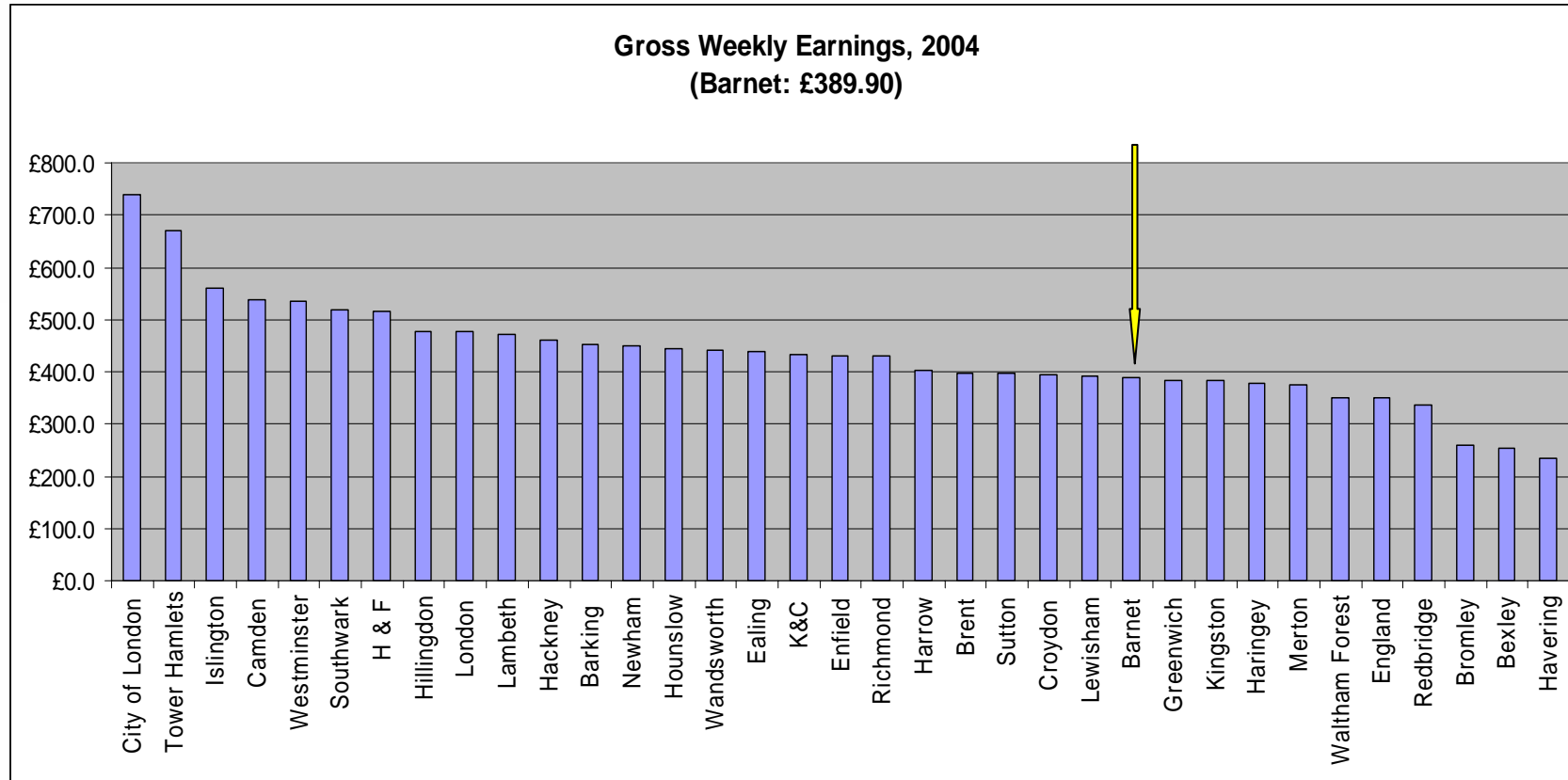
Source: For more details visit the Office for National Statistics [NOMIS](#) pages

Appendix 13

Ward-level Variations in the per cent of Barnet's Working Age Residents without Qualifications



Appendix 14

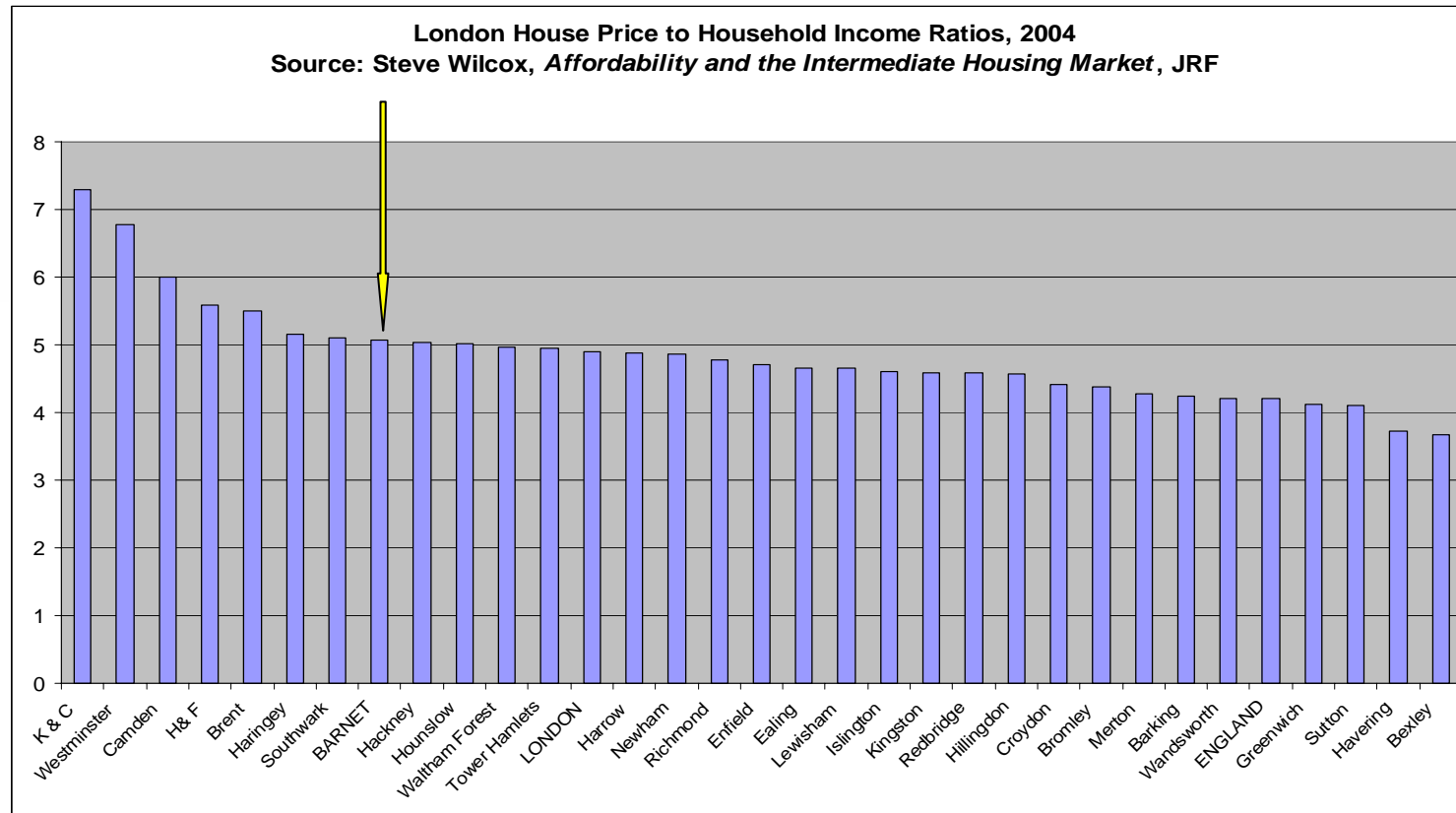


Source: For more details visit the [2004 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings \(ASHE\)](#) on the Government's National Statistics website.

Appendix 15 Earnings of People who Work in Barnet

	Barnet £	London £	GB £
Gross Weekly Pay			
Full Time Workers	500.0	555.8	432.1
Male Full Time Workers	592.3	619.9	473.4
Female Full Time Workers	449.8	491.8	372.1
Hourly Pay			
Full Time Workers	13.65	14.51	10.82
Male Full Time Workers	15.18	15.65	11.48

Appendix 16



Source: You can download the source PDF document (428KB) at the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](http://www.jrf.org.uk) website.