

## HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM FULL TIME WORKERS SUFFER WORST DROP IN LIVING STANDARDS IN LONDON AS REAL VALUE OF EARNINGS FALLS BY 28.6% DUE TO 'BANKERS RECESSION' AND STALLED RECOVERY

**These figures show that the Government's strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in Greater London drop by 5.7% says GMB**

Full time workers resident in Hammersmith & Fulham have suffered the worst drop in living standards in London. The real value of their average gross earnings have fallen by 28.6% between April 2007 and November 2011, due to 'bankers recession' and stalled recovery.

Living standards are down for full time workers resident in 21 London boroughs. After Hammersmith & Fulham, Hillingdon's full time workers suffered the next worst fall in living standards in London with a drop of 19.2%, followed by Harrow with a drop of 17.2%, Waltham Forest with a drop of 15.2%, Ealing with a drop of 13.9%. In Brent the real value of average earnings for full time workers is down by 12.6%, for Sutton the fall is 12%, Tower Hamlets the fall is 11.3% and for Bromley it is 11%. Living standards in Enfield are down 10.6%, down 7.8% in Barking & Dagenham, down 7.4% in Richmond upon Thames and down 6.7% in Barnet and 6% in Havering. Living standards have also fallen in Haringey, Croydon, Westminster, Greenwich, Newham, Hounslow and Bexley. Only in 8 London boroughs have the movement in average earnings for fulltime workers kept pace with the rate of inflation over the same period. These are Kingston upon Thames, Wandsworth, Redbridge, Southwark, Merton, Islington and Lewisham.

These figures are from a new analysis by GMB of official earnings data. The table below shows the change in living standards for 29 areas in the Capital, between April 2007 and November 2011. (See note 4 for the four boroughs for which no figures are available). For London as a whole the living standards of full time workers have fallen by 5.7% in this period. The fall for the UK as a whole is 5.9% and for England is 6.2% during the same period.

In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011 are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings. See Notes to Editors for sources and inflation details.

		Mean gross annual (£) - full-time			Drop in real value of earnings from April 2007 to November 2011* %
		2007 £	2011 £	Change £	
	United Kingdom	30,015	32,837	2,822	-5.9
	England	30,852	33,661	2,809	-6.2
	London	42,226	46,284	4,058	-5.7
<b>rank</b>					
1	Hammersmith & Fulham	60,082	52,053	-8,029	-28.6
2	Hillingdon	35,641	34,251	-1,390	-19.2
3	Harrow	37,149	36,427	-722	-17.2
4	Waltham Forest	32,280	32,311	31	-15.2
5	Ealing	37,388	37,918	530	-13.9

6	Brent	29,549	30,339	790	-12.6
7	Sutton	36,933	38,137	1,204	-12.0
8	Tower Hamlets	48,270	50,178	1,908	-11.3
9	Bromley	44,847	46,763	1,916	-11.0
10	Enfield	32,714	34,244	1,530	-10.6
11	Barking & Dagenham	26,557	28,533	1,976	-7.8
12	Richmond upon Thames	52,363	56,497	4,134	-7.4
13	Barnet	40,781	44,265	3,484	-6.7
14	Havering	33,074	36,131	3,057	-6.0
15	Haringey	35,550	39,100	3,550	-5.3
16	Croydon	31,750	34,923	3,173	-5.3
17	Westminster	83,296	91,671	8,375	-5.2
18	Greenwich	37,665	41,494	3,829	-5.1
19	Newham	26,684	29,767	3,083	-3.7
20	Hounslow	31,843	35,641	3,798	-3.4
21	Bexley	32,609	37,141	4,532	-1.4
22	Camden	54,870	63,617	8,747	0.7
23	Kingston upon Thames	40,099	46,611	6,512	1.0
24	Wandsworth	50,692	59,411	8,719	1.9
25	Redbridge	34,807	41,212	6,405	3.1
26	Southwark	41,470	49,234	7,764	3.4
27	Merton	41,363	49,317	7,954	3.9
28	Islington	50,617	60,687	10,070	4.6
29	Lewisham	30,299	37,607	7,308	8.8

Paul Hayes, GMB Regional Secretary for London said, **“These figures show that the Government’s strategy for an economic recovery is in tatters as living standards in London drop by 5.7%.**

**George Osborne has the economic literacy of a stick of rhubarb.**

**Full time workers resident in twenty-one London boroughs have seen the value of their earnings drop when they have a job. In fact the drop in some boroughs like Hammersmith and Fulham, Hillingdon and Harrow are amongst the worst in the UK. Things have got a lot worse in the past year as the recovery underway at the time of the election stalled and the region is mired in a new recession.**

**Two thirds of the economy is consumer driven and Osborne must be the only person who does not get it. Squeezing wages, pay freezes and cutting jobs will not restart the economy. Using the IMF measures his cuts will reduce real private consumption by 4% and GDP by 3.4% over the next few years.**

**I doubt if the electorate had any notion that a change of government would lead to a loss of 376,000 jobs across the UK and 41,000 in London, in the public sector, in the short time since the general election. When the ‘same old Tories’ were returned to power they brought with them the same old philosophy that “if it’s not hurting it’s not working.”**

**Ends**

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**Notes to Editors:**

1        **2007-2011 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings - residence based** *Source: Table 7.7a, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics. Crown Copyright Reserved*

2        In the analysis GMB looks at the figure for annual average gross earnings of full time workers in each area from official ASHE data for April 2007 from ONS before the recession kicked in. This figure is compared with the figure for annual average gross earnings for the same area from ASHE for April 2011. The changes shown in annual average earnings between these two periods, plus an uprating for wage increases to September 2011, are measured against inflation over the same period to calculate the real change in the value of these earnings.

3        Between April 2007 and November 2011 inflation has been 16.1%, of which half (7.65%) has taken place since April 2010.

4        There are no figures available for City of London, Hackney, Kensington & Chelsea or Lambeth.