

The unemployment rate documents the % of the labour force currently looking for work

It tells us nothing about the almost

4 in 10 Londoners (38.4 per cent) who are not in the labour force

The labour force (& unemployment rate) excludes:

-> retired persons

-> students who are not working part time nor looking for work

-> persons who voluntarily exit the labour force –

(caring for children, independently wealthy, etc.)

More problematically, the unemployment stats also exclude:

-> persons who involuntarily exit the labour force

(e.g. discouraged workers, forced retirement, the homeless; etc.)

-> persons on social assistance (Ontario works or ODSP) who are neither working part time nor looking for work



**Note: Previous work by the LPRC@Kings documented in 2014 that 8.1 % of the London CMA is on Social Assistance (OW & ODSP)
Among persons of prime working age (25-54 years), this increases to over 9 per cent**

Nor does it tell us anything about persons seriously underemployed in part time work

-> those who works a few hours a week yet are desperately seeking a full time job are considered “employed”

