

# Crime in London

## Background

London is one of the world's most important economic hubs. Every year, thousands of people move to the UK's capital to live and work. However, there is a perception that it is a dangerous city to live in due to crime. To what extent is this true?

In this study, I investigate crime across the city's 32 boroughs to assess how London compares to other cities, and most importantly assess where the most crime occurs. I also examine some of the potential causes of crime difference across London.

The insights generated in this report could be used:

- City administrators and policymakers looking to prevent crime.
- Individuals deciding where to buy property in the capital.
- By multinational companies contemplating moving their offices to the city and advising their employees where to move in London.

## Data

Data for crime in London can be found in several places:

- The main source of information will be taken from Data.Police (<https://data.police.uk/data/>)
- Finder.com (<https://www.finder.com/uk/london-crime-statistics>)

These two sources provide sufficient detail of the location, and types of crime that have been committed in London between 2014 and 2019.

Foursquare API will be leveraged to locate police stations and similar institutions. This is to examine whether the proximity of police stations has an identifiable impact on the amount of crime committed in that area.

Other important information such as population in each borough can be obtained from "City Population DE" (<https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/greaterlondon/>)

- Data for each borough for every year from 2014-2019 can be found here: <https://www.finder.com/uk/london-crime-statistics>
- Centers of each Borough will be generated by calling the Foursquare API by the name of that Borough.
- Population <https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/greaterlondon/>
- Population Density?
- Foursquare: Count police stations?
- <https://data.police.uk/data/>

## Data

### 3. Exploratory Data Analysis

Some initial explanatory data analysis helped refine the data to be used

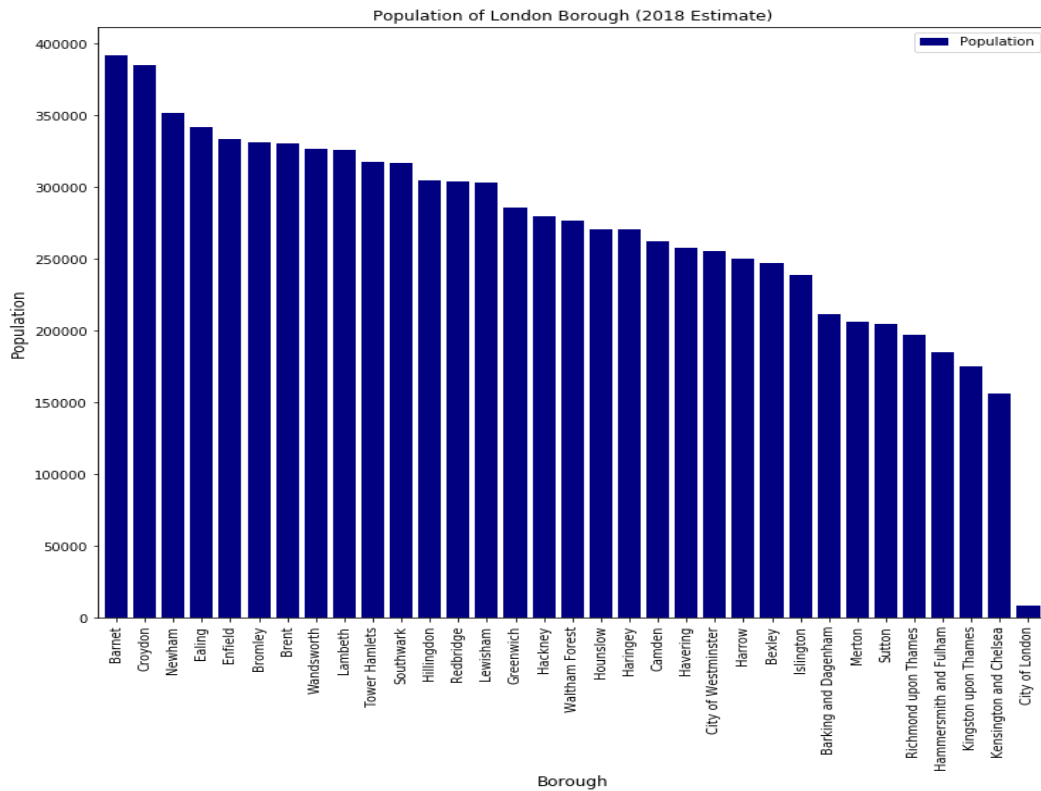


Figure 1 – London Borough by Population

The 'City of London' Borough is London's historical financial district and has an extremely small population. It was therefore decided to exclude it from subsequent analysis. Turning to crime statistics, I initially examined for outliers.

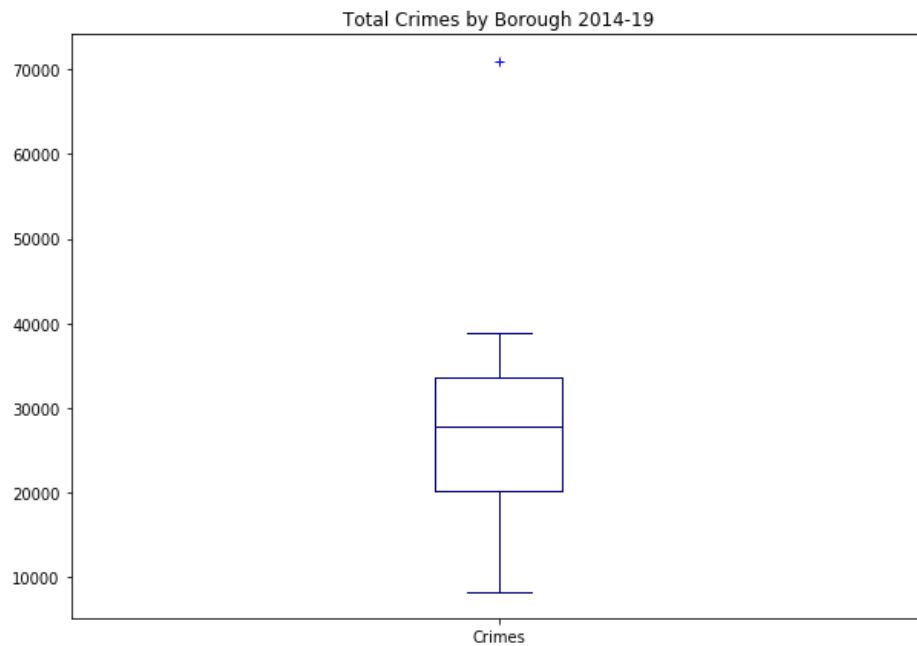


Figure 2 – Boxplot of total crime per borough, 2014-19

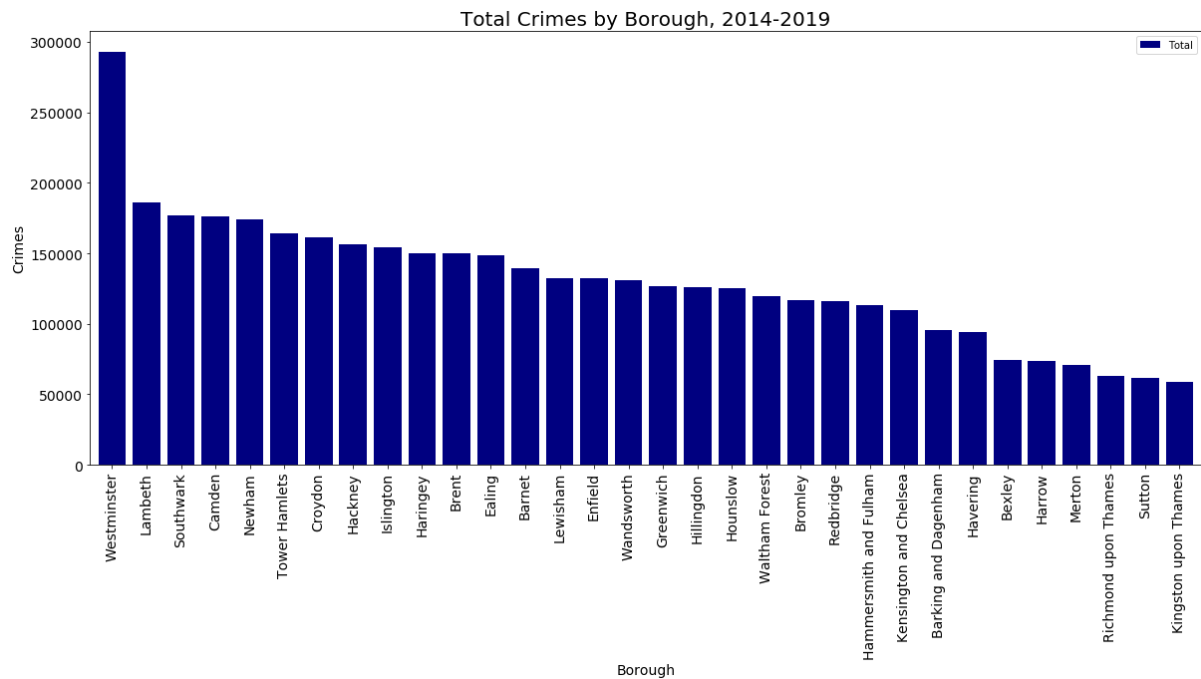


Figure 3 – Total number of crimes by Borough (2014-2019)

Inspecting the data revealed that Westminster is an outlier. Westminster ‘enjoys the title of being Europe’s largest nighttime economy, but also has the capital’s highest crime rates, somewhat due to tourist activity, thereby boosting petty-crime rates.’<sup>1</sup> I am focussing on violent crime and am therefore going to exclude Westminster from analysis, for purposes of comparing crime rates across Europe.

This preliminary data analysis and cleansing is intended as an introduction into the broader problem which is tackled next week.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.verisure.co.uk/advice-and-help/crime-statistics/westminster-crime-rates>