CAPITAL CITY **PARTNERSHIP**

Summary of COVID Related Publications - Issue 9, September 28th 2020

Firstly, there are two webinars that might be of interest and these are flagged up directly after this introduction. One is the launch of the final report of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission (Wednesday 30 September, 2 – 3.30pm) and the other is the Creating a Caring Economy organised by the Women's Budget Group (Wednesday 30th September 2020 10-11.30) and presenting the final report of the Gender Equal Economy Commission.

This issue picks up a number of articles where the focus has been on recently released statistics. Some of these look at claimant count and unemployment, others look at the Labour Force Survey, the Scottish Household Survey and the much quoted BICS (Business Impact of COVID-19 Survey).

Another focus for some of the papers is the Chancellors announcement of the Job Support Scheme. Whilst most welcome an intervention to ensure that the end of the furlough scheme next month doesn't directly create unemployment, there is a concern whether or not a scheme where employers are asked to meet most of the staff cost will be effective given that certain sectors still have to operate under restrictions.

Other articles look at the future of the city and whether homeworking on top of an aversion to crowds may move people, and the enterprises that support city working, to go elsewhere. There is a discussion from academics at the Economics Observatory that looks at how economies could be restructured after the pandemic.

Slightly different from the others is the Low Pay Britain report from the Resolution Foundation in that this is one that is produced annually and follows a format in previous reports. That said it can't ignore the impact of Covid in its discussion and they ponder the impact on the goal of continuing to raise the minimum wage.

September 2020

Actions to End Poverty in Edinburgh: The final report of the Edinburgh Poverty Commission Confirmation Wednesday 30 September, 2 – 3.30pm

Edinburgh Poverty Commission was set up in November 2018 as an independent group working together to define the actions, necessary to end poverty in Edinburgh. Over the last 18 months they have held 100 evidence sessions and project visits, met and heard from over 70 local organisations, commissioned significant new research into the experience of citizens living on low incomes and attitudes to poverty across the city, and in total heard from more than 1,000 individual participants.

On 30 September 2020 they will launch the final report calling the city to action to end poverty. As the norm at the moment it is an online event and if you are interested you can register in advance via this **link**

Creating a caring economy: a call to action. Upcoming Webinar 30th September 2020

https://wbg.org.uk/events/creating-a-caring-economy-a-call-to-action/

This webinar from the Women's Budget Group will explore the work of their **Commission on a Gender-Equal Economy** and the digital launch of its final report. The link above should allow you to register.

A busy week of news on the Scottish budget, Fraser of Allander Institute, 25/9/2020

https://fraserofallander.org/scottish-economy/budget/a-busy-week-of-news-on-the-scottish-budget/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=a-busy-week-of-news-on-the-scottish-budget&utm_source=Fraser+Blog+and+subs+list&utm_campaign=dbc0583bea-Email-Blog-RSS&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c855ea57f7-dbc0583bea-86525662

They look at the income tax outrun for 2018/19 which showed that the Scottish budget will face a downwards 'reconciliation' of £309m in 2021/22 as a result of forecast error in 18/19. They then turn to look at the Autumn Budget Revisions and this has re-emphasised the scale of the budgetary changes since March. Resource spending is set to be over £5bn (over 15%) higher this year than set out in the March budget.

Discuss in some depth the possible impact of the Autumn budget being cancelled and the problem around the Block Grant Adjustments (BGAs). If, at the time the Scottish budget is published (in say February next year), the OBR has not produced any UK tax forecasts since March 2020, then there is no remotely viable forecast for UK tax revenues in 2021/22, and hence for the BGAs.

The Winter (Economy Plan) is coming, Torsten Bell, Mike Brewer, Adam Corlett, Karl Handscomb, Lindsay Judge and Daniel Tomlinson, Resolution Foundation, 25/9/2020

https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/09/The-WEP-is-coming.pdf

Looking at the economic policies announced by the Chancellor on the 24th September Bell et al look at what this might mean for the economy. They argue that while the Job Support Scheme (JSS) will reduce the coming rise in unemployment, it will far from halt it and they suggest that the policy has significant design flaws that will limit it's ability to deliver against the Chancellor's stated objective of ensuring as many people as possible are able to keep working in "viable jobs". They suggest that the Chancellor should scrap the Job Retention Bonus and use the £7.5 billion savings to ensure that employers do not need to make a material contribution to the costs of the JSS.

The report compares the UKs schemes with that on offer elsewhere and by this comparison doesn't look that dissimilar. The question they raise is whether or not employers will take advantage of the new scheme if they don't and unemployment increases they argue that the UC benefit levels will not prove sufficient income for many to avoid increased levels of debt and possible home loss. They suggest that for a low-income dual-earner home-owning couple with three children, if one adult lost their £20,000 per year job, the family would lose over 30 per cent of their household income. If instead the adult moves onto the JSS, working a third of their previous hours, their household income will fall by just 8 per cent.

The key design flaw with the JSS, they argue, is that it does not give employers much incentive to cut hours rather than jobs. The scheme actually gives employers no incentive to retain two members of staff working half-their previous hours, as opposed to one of them on full hours. The paper provides some useful diagrams visualising this.

Considered in isolation, then, the JSS's will allow some firms to retain workers where they have a strong preference for doing so, separate from the existence of the JSS (for example given high costs of recruitment or training) but the scheme itself provides no incentive for firms to cut hours rather than jobs, seriously limiting its ability to stem the increase in unemployment this Autumn.

Jobs Recovery Tracker, Recruitment and Employment Confederation, 25/9/2020

https://www.rec.uk.com/our-view/research/recruitment-insights/jobs-recovery-tracker

In May 2020 the REC launched the Jobs Recovery Tracker, which aims to help recruiters, businesses and policymakers see how the jobs market is evolving as the economy recovers from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This employs job postings data, provided by Emsi, to spot signs of growth in different local areas and occupations across the UK. The latest Jobs Recovery Tracker reveals that there were 129,000 new job adverts posted in the UK in the week of 14-20 September, the highest since lockdown measures were introduced.

Latest data on the Scottish economy, Fraser of Allander Institute, 25/9/2020

https://fraserofallander.org/covid/latest-data-on-the-scottish-economy-update-25th-september-2020/

Latest in the update series from FAI where they comment on data from the BICS survey, data from HMRC on furlough rates across the UK and the latest claimant count data. They look at some mobility data from Google Mobility trends which reflects how workers in the large cities have been returning to work more slowly than in the smaller cities and towns and links into the paper on the future of cities discussed below.

What kind of economy do people want if we 'build back better' after Covid-19?, Diane Coyle, Dimitri Zenghelis and Matthew Agarwala, Economics Observatory, 25/9/2020

https://www.coronavirusandtheeconomy.com/question/what-kind-economy-do-people-want-if-we-build-back-better-after-covid-19

As with other publications from the Economics Observatory, this paper takes the form of an expert panel looking at a question or topic. The coronavirus crisis does seem to make this a turning point in public attitudes to the economic system and polling evidence suggests that only 6% of the UK public want to return to the prior system, while 31% want to see 'big changes' to how the economy is run They then look at what goes behind this and how they can direct priorities in policy making.

One of the features of the economic impact of Covid-19 that they look at is the way that it has exposed inequalities in the range of options available to people. For example:

- Those with underlying respiratory conditions are at greater risk in more polluted areas.
- Reasonable access to a quality green space during lockdown varied widely.
- Children's access to resources needed to continue undisrupted home education differed depending on school type and was linked to parents' education, income and time availability.
- Not everyone can afford to not go to work: those least able to work from home are the young, the least educated and minorities.
- Impacts of lockdown disproportionately affect women, especially single mothers.

The notion of 'resilience' is consistently being used when looking at how to build back better. They suggest resilience relates to building a society on more integrated and solid systems, ones that are less prone to disintegration from disruption, and better positioned for adaptation and flexibility. This is widely understood to consist of replacing a short-term approach with a longer-term one, and likewise, in replacing a strong focus on efficiency with a more holistic systems approach.

Greater economic resilience is linked to broader diversification. This can be in a context of levelling up across regions, broadening diversity of representation in governance, business and education, reconsidering pay in vital sectors and jobs, and in all of these aspects focusing especially on the groups or areas being 'left behind'.

They specifically refer to the Scottish Government Report published in June "Towards a Robust, Resilient Wellbeing Economy for Scotland: Report of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery" and see this, and other strategies, as a reflection of a commitment from governments to respond to the opportunity that the current situation presents for changing course, and aligning policies and plans to citizens' aspirations and changing economic narratives.

Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain, Ruth Davis, ONS, 25/9/ 2020

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandthesocialimpactsongreatbritain/latest

The statistics in this publication are based on a survey of 2,500 adults aged 16 years and over in Great Britain conducted between 16 and 20 September 2020. Results from this week are based on 1,689 responding adults a 68% response rate. The sample is too small for the survey to be useful for LA breakdown but it is useful for thematic analysis.

The bulletin indicates that the percentage of adults that left their home to eat or drink at a restaurant, café, bar or pub decreased for the second week in a row, following continued increases since early July. For the week in question 29% said they had done so, compared with 30% in the previous week and 38% at the end of August (26 to 30 August) when the Eat Out to Help Out scheme ended.

Very likely to change given the most recent guidance, was the data collected on returning to work. They found that the upward trend in the proportion of working adults that report travelling to work at least some of the time had continued and 64% of working adults travelled to work (either exclusively or in combination with working from home) in the past seven days, compared with 62% the previous week.

Among working adults with dependent children, 12% reported that they have had problems with childcare providers that have stopped them from returning to work or being able to work the number of hours that they wanted to. The most common reason being that family were not able to provide childcare because of the virus.

Response to the Winter Economic Plan, Womens Budget Group, 25/9/2020

https://wbg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WEP-statement-Sept-2020-updated.pdf

State that the Job Support Scheme (JSS) is a welcome intervention from the Chancellor.. However, the WBG feel that the JSS will disincentivise many employers from taking part in the scheme as they would have to pay staff for hours not worked at a time when many will be grappling with financial difficulties. In sectors with highly-skilled workers, employers might have an incentive to take part in the JSS in order to retain qualified staff that are hard to replace. But in the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, including retail, hospitality and tourism, where recruitment and training costs are lower, there will be a greater incentive to either reduce hours without using the scheme (as employers won't have to pay for non-worked hours) or to retain fewer staff on a full time basis.

They argue that the announcement has come to late for many and comment on how the sectors most hit by the pandemic and the lock down are often dominated by female workers. Unemployment will, they contend, continue to increase and therefore the government should also look at social security issues and benefits that are problematic in the current situation. They also look at the issue of Statutory Sick Pay for those being asked to self-isolate and the fact that SSP isn't claimable for those earning below £120 per week which they say will mean that nearly 2 million workers will receive nothing if self-isolating.

The unease of Leisure and Tourism continues, despite the Chancellor's measures, Will Hawkley, KPMG 24/9/2020

https://home.kpmg/uk/en/home/media/press-releases/2020/09/the-unease-of-leisure-and-tourism-continues.html

Not really a lot to this press release apart from the warning from Hawkley, who is KPMGs head of Leisure. He thinks that not all operators will be able to survive and further job losses will be inevitable without further Government support. Hawkley's colleague Will Wright, added that "Aggressive planning for all scenarios is now back on the table, with yet more CVAs and administrations having to be considered if operators are to survive over the winter months"

New job support scheme next step in winding down of furlough support, Institute of Fiscal Studies, 24/9/2020

https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/15044

Summarise the Chancellors announcement by highlighting that the new Job Support Scheme (JSS) is a much less generous scheme than the furlough scheme which it is replacing. Employees on the scheme will continue to be treated generously but the balance of these costs will move over onto employers rather than on the Government.

The IFS suggest that some jobs which in the long-term are viable are not viable in the short term even at part-time hours. This is currently true as a direct result of restrictions in sectors like nightclubs, and that list of sectors may ebb and flow – and vary across of the country – in line with social distancing restrictions. It is also likely to be true for many jobs which, for example, rely on city centre office workers for their sales. When the furlough scheme expires it is likely to translate into sharply rising unemployment.

They also suggest that monitoring and fraud prevention will be very difficult. Under the scheme the government will pay an employer for a third of the hours not worked by the employee relative to their normal hours. But it is impossible for the government to know how many hours people are really working. Other countries who run similar schemes have established protocols in place to try to minimise these issues and the government should try to learn as much as possible from them, but it will be particularly difficult to do this from a standing start.

Coronavirus and the latest indicators for the UK economy and society, Chloe Gibbs, ONS, 24/9/2020

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronavirustheukeconomyandsocietyfasterindicators/latest

According to the latest BICS (Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey), between 24 August and 6 September, 84% of businesses were trading; this has been revised from the 97% estimated last week, as the survey data has now been weighted to be representative of all businesses in the UK, including smaller businesses, which are less likely to have been trading than larger businesses. They found that around 20% of business trading at the time hadn't applied for any of the government financial support.

Businesses who had not permanently stopped trading were also asked about their risk of insolvency, and they found that accommodation and food service activities reported the highest percentage of businesses with a severe or moderate risk of insolvency at 24%, compared with 11% across all industries.

Based on the Adzuna online search engine ONS report that between 11th and 18th September, total online job adverts increased slightly from 53% to 55% of their 2019 average. Of the 28 categories Adzuna use, 20 had increased over the last week. Transport, logistics and warehouse jobs were now seeing 135% of the adverts that they saw in 2019.

Will coronavirus cause a big city exodus?, Matt Clancy, Diane Coyle, Jonathan Dingel, Elena Magrini, Phil McCann, Henry Overman, Max Nathan, Jon Reades, Helen Simpson and Tony Travers, Economics Observatory, 24/9/2020

https://www.coronavirusandtheeconomy.com/question/will-coronavirus-cause-big-city-exodus

In this wide ranging report they discuss the impact coronavirus pandemic has had on the debate about the future of big cities. Some predict that Covid-19 will create a tipping point that triggers the end of expensive, commuter-driven conurbations. Others are more positive about urban resilience. The UK is now moving three ways at once:

- First, a majority of workers are now commuting at least once a week, rather than only working from home.

- Second, big cities are different: as urban offices remain closed, city centre footfall – especially in London and major cities like Manchester and Birmingham – remains well down on pre-pandemic levels.
- Third, *within* big cities like London, footfall is shifting from cores to suburbs.

In the body of the text there are a range of statistics and research findings mentioned. For example they cite work by Dingel and Neiman who estimate that 43.5% of UK jobs could be done from home. However according to ONS, before Covid-19, just 5% of workers regularly did work from home and only 27% of workers had ever worked at home. They also mention a survey that suggests regular remote working had increased from 6% before the pandemic to around 43% by the end of June. In big cities with large professional and business services sectors usually based in offices, that shift will be even larger.

In August, a BBC survey of 50 major employers, most based in big cities, found that none planned to bring all their staff back 'in the near future'. While 20 had already re-opened offices for those unable to work from home, 24 had no plans to do so.In terms of productivity they indicate that newly remote urban office workers have experienced longer working days, with more, shorter meetings and more email than before. They cite work by Felstead and Reuschke's which found that whilst 29% of UK workers reported higher output under lockdown, 30% reported that it had fallen.

They look at three possible scenarios ranging from an early exit from the pandemic, say 2021, this they conclude may mean that there is little impact on cities. Then the middle scenario based on the normal time to develop, trial and release a vaccine of 3-4 years. In this scenario there would be an impact on housing markets as the link between work and home becomes more tenuous. Retail and leisure will become more localised. In terms of offices, this could facilitate reduction in space with a city centre front office being supported by remote working back office. The third scenario is the no exit idea based on no treatment or reduction in infectiousness. They suggest this could cause a seismic shift with society becoming less willing to work and visit cities due to associated risks of social proximity.

Low Pay Britain 2020, Nye Cominetti and Hannah Slaughter, The Resolution Foundation, 23/9/2020

https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/09/Low-Pay-Britain-2020.pdf

This is the 10th report from the Resolution Foundation and they state that before the crisis the rising National Living Wage was driving down low pay. For example in 2019, low pay on their core definition (the number of people earning below two-thirds of median hourly pay) fell for the sixth consecutive year, falling from 17.0 per cent of employees in 2018 to 15.5 per cent in 2019, the lowest rate since 1978. That said rates of low pay continue to vary significantly across groups. Low pay is much more prevalent among younger employees (69 per cent of 16-20-year-olds and 28 per cent of 21-24-year olds were low paid), workers in the hospitality sector (52 per cent of whom were low paid) and workers in the private sector (20 per cent of private-sector employees were in low pay, compared to 4 per cent of those in the public sector).

However, the economic impact of COVID 19 has been concentrated on the sectors which provide face-to-face services with the result that the economic impact has been felt most heavily by the low paid. They suggest that in June, employees earning below the real Living Wage were twice as likely as higher-paid earners to have lost their job, been furloughed, or lost hours and pay as a result of the crisis. In addition low-paid workers have also faced greater health risks as they were around a third less likely than higher-paid ones (44 per cent, compared to 83 per cent) to have been working from home at the peak of the lockdown in May.

When looking forward to next year's minimum wage increase, they think there are good reasons to be cautious. Uncertainties around the impact of minimum wage increases in any downturn need to be considered, particularly one in which the future path of the virus and therefore also the economy are uncertain. Moreover, the key minimum wage sectors are facing the largest demand and supply shocks in this crisis. We might expect that firms in those sectors will be less able to respond to minimum wage increases than normal given low investment and little price flexibility. The foundation calls for a retention of the additional £20 UC uplift and call for a fiscal stimulus package and wage support package.

They still support the target of ending low pay by 2024 and the fact that there is flexibility so that if the pandemic has a lasting negative effect on productivity and pay, this will be reflected in a lower nominal target for the minimum wage.

Final furlough? Six months on from the start of the Job Retention Scheme, Daniel Tomlinson, Resolution Foundation, 18/9/2020

https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2020/09/Final-furlough.pdf

Looks at the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (JRS) which at its peak was supporting 8.9 million jobs. As the economy has opened up in recent months, take-up of the scheme has been falling, to 4.8 million by 31 July. The authors latest estimates suggest that take-up of the JRS in late August was around 3 million, highlighting that while we're seeing significant numbers returning to work, there is a real risk of a large rise in unemployment as the scheme is phased out over the next six weeks. The fall in furloughing in July was driven by a 40 per cent reduction (533,000 employees) in the number of retail staff on the scheme. But in hospitality and leisure over 40% of employees were still furloughed in late July, demonstrating the highly sectoral nature of Britain's jobs crisis.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) roundup: Economy, business and jobs, ONS, 18/9/2020

https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/articles/coronaviruscovid19roundupeconomybusinessandjobs/2020-07-02

The latest in the ONS series of statistical summaries. This roundup looks at;

- The results from Wave 13 of the Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey (BICS) which covered the period 24 August to 6 September 2020. This found that of businesses that had not permanently ceased trading, 12% of the workforce were on partial or full furlough leave. 11% of businesses said that they were at moderate or severe risk of insolvency and 30% said they were at no risk.
- Retail sales where they report volumes increased by 0.8% when compared with July; this is the fourth consecutive month of growth. There was a mixed picture within the different store types as non-store retailing volumes in August were 38.9% above February, while clothing stores were still 15.9% below February's pre-pandemic levels.
- Labour market data which they source from the Labour Force Survey reflects the period May to July 2020. They found that the number of people who were made redundant or who took

voluntary redundancy in the three months before the Labour Force Survey (LFS) interviews increased by 58,000 on the year and 48,000 on the quarter to 156,000. While this is the highest level since September to November 2012, the level remained well below that seen during the 2008 downturn. Over the quarter, there has been a large decrease in the number of young people (those aged 16 to 24 years) in employment while unemployment for young people has increased.

- They analysed data from the Labour Force Survey to work out how many workers have changed occupations between January to March and April to June of 2020. This helps understand the extent to which the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has led to an increase in skills mismatch in the labour market (people doing jobs for which they are over- or under-qualified). Their analysis suggests that the pandemic has so far had little impact on the number of people switching occupations. Around 1 in 16 employees (6.1%) changed occupation in the first half of 2020, compared with 5.7% in the same period last year. They except that the furlough scheme may support this inertia and its removal could then cause job change.
- Monthly gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 6.6% in July 2020 as lockdown measures continued to ease. All areas of manufacturing, particularly distillers and car makers, saw improvements, while housebuilding also continued to recover. However, both production and construction remain well below previous levels.
- Comparing business expectations of their turnover with subsequent results – using responses to Waves 6 to 11 of the fortnightly Business Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Survey (BICS) – they found that 48% of businesses reported turnover below their previous expectations. In contrast, just 10% of businesses outperformed their expectations.
- Provisional estimates indicate the impact of the pandemic on public sector finances. The £150.5 billion borrowed in April to July 2020 was almost three times the amount borrowed in the whole of the latest full financial year (April 2019 to March 2020).

Family time use and home learning during the COVID-19 lockdown, Alison Andrew, Sarah Cattan, Monica Costa Dias, Christine Farquharson, Lucy Kraftman, Sonya Krutikova, Angus Phimister and Almudena Sevilla, IFS, 21/9/2020

https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/15038

This report is focused on the situation in England, however it is likely that the issues that they found will be similar elsewhere in the UK. Between 29 April and 20 June 2020 they interviewed over 5,500 parents with at least one child entering Reception in September 2020 or a child in school aged 4–15. There key findings include;

- Despite the income protection provided by policies such as the furlough scheme, a third of parents report that their monthly earnings have decreased since February 2020. These reductions in resources available to spend on children and the stress that comes with job losses create significant risks for children's well-being.

- During the lockdown, both mothers and fathers were doing childcare. In 2014, some 70% of parents reported having leisure time at around 7pm, whereas during lockdown only 40% did. This left very little slack in parents' days, which could impair on parental well-being and negatively affect children's welfare.

- Primary and secondary school children spent an average of four and a half hours a day on home learning. This includes time spent on online classes, other school work, private tutoring and other educational activities. This represents a 25% and 30% reduction in pre-COVID-19 learning time among primary and secondary school children, respectively.
- Before the lockdown, learning time was fairly homogeneous among primary school children, but this changed during the lockdown: the richest third of primary school children spent about four and half hours per week more on learning than the poorest third of primary school children. Among secondary school children, there was a gap of 45 minutes a day in learning time between the richest and the poorest third of children before the lockdown. This gap is now 15 minutes larger.
- With home learning implemented suddenly and with little national or local guidance, schools offered dramatically different packages of support to their pupils. Around half of primary schools, and nearly 60% of secondary schools, offered some active learning materials, such as online classes or online chats. But these resources were more likely to be provided to the richest third of primary (secondary) school children than to the poorest third.
- Around one in eight children were either using a phone or had no device to access online schooling resources. Of concern to the researchers was the fact that 22% of primary school children and 10% of those in secondary school did not have access to a dedicated study space at home.
- Inequalities in learning time and learning resources during the lockdown will be compounded by the fact that COVID-19 has caused children to lose the safeguarding environment of schools. In these conditions, inequalities in family circumstances and home environments are likely to have even deeper consequences for inequalities in children's attainment and well-being than they would have otherwise.
- Many of the challenges to home learning – such as a lack of space at home – are difficult for policy to address. This makes it even more important that policymakers do act where they can to reduce inequalities and improve the home learning experience.

Labour Market Statistics for young people (16-24 years): Scotland and UK - July 2019 to June 2020, Scottish Government, 16/9/2020

https://www.gov.scot/publications/employment-unemployment-and-inactivity-for-young-people-16-24-years-scotland-and-uk---jul-2019-to-jun-2020/

This publication contains the latest estimated level and rate of employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity for young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK for July 2019 to June 2020. Data is sourced from the Annual Population Survey (APS) dataset. This data set is based on 12 months of sampling so whilst the sample will include data from the time of the pandemic , March- June 2020, this will be balanced by data from July 2019 to February 2020.

They report that the employment rate for young people (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 53.2 per cent, 5.9 percentage points lower than a year ago (59.1 per cent). This has increased from a low of 52.3 per cent in July 2013 – June 2014.

The employment rate for young men (16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 53.2 per cent, 6.0 percentage points lower than a year ago. The employment rate for young women

(16 to 24 year olds) in Scotland in July 2019 – June 2020 was 53.2 per cent, 5.7 percentage points lower than a year ago.

In terms of youth unemployment, in July 2019 – June 2020, 32,000 young people aged 16 to 24 years were unemployed in Scotland, 5,000 less than in July 2018 – June 2019 when 37,000 young people were unemployed. The unemployment rate for young people (16 to 24 years) in Scotland was 9.6 per cent (in July 2019 – June 2020).

In July 2019 – June 2020, 231,000 young people aged 16 to 24 were economically inactive in Scotland, 34,000 more than a year ago when 197,000 were economically inactive. Nearly three quarters (74.0 per cent) of young people (16 to 24 year olds) who are economically inactive are in full-time education.

No data is available below the Scottish level due to the sample sizes from the survey being too small at LA level to allow a reliable split by age. As said at the start of this summary, given that only a third of the sample is based on the current COVID effected economy one would expect that future versions of this report will present worse statistics as the sample balance shifts.

COVID-19 Dashboard, Skills Development Scotland, 16/9/2020

https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/47052/covid-19-dashboard-september-2020.pdf

A very useful Scottish focused summary of economic and labour market data. This dashboard has been created to track labour market indicators in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is structured around the impact on businesses, people and the wider economy.

There is a convenient table at the start that highlights the data, source and relevant timeframe. Highlights would include the BICs survey referred to elsewhere in this report which focuses on the Scottish responses. This reports that in Scotland, almost half of businesses reported that their turnover was higher than operating costs, while 13.5% of businesses reported that operating costs were higher than turnover. In addition, the job postings data is based on Burning Glass and this found that there were 14% more job postings in Week 37 2020 (second week of September) compared to 2019.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count August 2020 Update, Chris Nicol, Capital City Partnership, 15/9/2020

https://www.joinedupforjobs.org/uploads/store/mediaupload/210/file/8%20Edinburgh%20and%20South%20East%20Scotland%20Regional%20Claimant%20Count%20August%202020.pdf

Latest in the monthly series of claimant count analysis from CCP. This is based on the August claimant count which was released on Nomis in the middle of September. It demonstrates that whilst the rate of increase in claimant count across the South East Scotland Region has fallen over the summer it has still grown so that the year on year change for Edinburgh- August 2019 to August 2020 has been 200%. Universal Credit can support both claimants looking for work and for those who are working but don’t earn enough to cover all household costs. Again,looking at Edinburgh we can see that there were 35,633 Universal Credit Claimants (both seeking and not seeking work) in August 2020 whilst there were 13,688 in February.

This paper looks at all 6 LAs that make up the City Region and provides data on claimants down to a ward level.

Labour market overview, UK: September 2020, ONS 15/9/2020

https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/latest

The majority of data in this paper is based on the Labour Force Survey and the early indicators for August 2020 suggest that the number of employees in the UK on payrolls was down around 695,000 compared with March 2020.

Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2019 Annual Report, Scottish Government, 15/9/2020

https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/

This is an online tool that allows us to search through the latest (2019) and previous years of the Scottish Household Survey. Not only does it provide information on demographics, economic activity, etc, it provides information on areas where data is not normally available. For example, the questions on finance indicated that in 2019 37% of those living in the 20% most deprived data zones said they were managing well financially, compared to 73% in the 20% least deprived.

One other interesting finding concerned households with home internet access. The survey indicates that whilst 96% of households in Midlothian, 92% in Edinburgh and 90% in Scottish Borders have home internet access the picture is slightly different elsewhere in the region with 88% in Fife, 84% in East Lothian and 79% in West Lothian. The Scottish Average was 88%. Clearly this could have impacts on remote working, home schooling and even on-line shopping- all areas that are crucially important in these Covid compliant times.

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