



# CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP

## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2020 Update

### Summary February to December

#### Scottish Claimant Count Increase by 81%

↑ The Claimant Count in Scotland was 207,180 in December 2020. In February there were 114,605 claimants.

#### Edinburgh Claimant Count Increase by 153%

↑ The Claimant Count in Edinburgh was 17,985 in December 2020. In February there were 7,105 claimants.

#### City Region Claimant Count Increased by 97% between February and December

↑ The Claimant Count in the 6 Local Authorities that make up the City Region was 24,399 in February and 48,070 in December.

#### Across the region there has been a 101% increase in the number of claimants 16-24 years of age

↑ The Claimant Count for 16-24 year olds across the City Region has increased from 4,565 in February to 9,170 in December.

#### Across the region there has been a 129% increase in the number of in-work UC claimants

↑ Currently 39% of all Universal Credit claimants in the City Region are in work.

#### In the City Region both the ward with the highest claimant rate and the ward with the lowest are within Fife.

📍 The claimant rate in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages was 10.8 in December whilst St. Andrews had a rate of 1.6.

### Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 26<sup>th</sup> January indicates that the claimant count across the UK is still far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic or compared to December 2019.

**Table 1 National Claimant Count Picture**

Area	December 2019	February 2020	November 2020	December 2020	Dec 19- Dec 20	Feb 20- Dec 20	Nov 20- Dec 20
United Kingdom	1,202,795	1,255,770	2,604,825	2,610,290	117%	108%	0.2%
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>110,705</b>	<b>114,605</b>	<b>208,830</b>	<b>207,180</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
Northern Ireland	29,985	29,910	58,770	57,615	92%	93%	-2.0%
Wales	58,960	60,375	111,630	111,160	89%	84%	-0.4%
English Regions							
East	84,750	89,890	203,760	204,815	142%	128%	0.5%
East Midlands	75,710	80,915	161,745	160,865	112%	99%	-0.5%
London	177,815	184,765	484,885	493,790	178%	167%	1.8%
North East	72,465	75,560	118,960	117,815	63%	56%	-1.0%
North West	160,115	167,055	315,600	314,550	96%	88%	-0.3%

South East	113,260	119,620	289,985	291,260	157%	143%	0.4%
South West	71,590	75,595	167,305	166,980	133%	121%	-0.2%
West Midlands	136,945	141,095	263,850	263,635	93%	87%	-0.1%
Yorkshire & The Humber	110,500	116,390	219,515	220,625	100%	90%	0.5%

Source: NOMIS 26/01/2021

However, we can see in Table 1 that the month to month change between November and December tended to be relatively small, compared to what we have seen over the course of 2020. In addition there are differences across the countries and regions of the UK - from a 2.0% **fall** month to month in Northern Ireland to a 1.8% **increase** in London.

Table 2 below looks at the position across Scotland based on the claimant count data published on NOMIS. From this table we can see that between February and December, Edinburgh has recorded the largest percentage increase in claimant count. It is also clear that all of the City Region local authorities (apart from Scottish Borders) recorded a fall in the claimant count between November and December.

**Table 2 Claimant Count -Scottish LAs**

Area	Dec 2019	Feb 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Dec 19 - Dec 20	Feb 20 - Dec 20	Nov 20 - Dec 20	Dec 2020 Rate
Aberdeen City	4,035	4,150	9,405	9,365	132%	126%	-0.4%	6.0
Aberdeenshire	2,915	2,975	6,525	6,445	121%	117%	-1.2%	4.0
Angus	2,075	2,040	3,740	3,700	78%	81%	-1.1%	5.3
Argyll and Bute	1,360	1,530	2,780	2,800	106%	83%	0.7%	5.5
<b>City of Edinburgh</b>	<b>6,970</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>18,170</b>	<b>17,985</b>	<b>158%</b>	<b>153%</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,305	1,390	2,070	2,080	59%	50%	0.5%	6.5
Dumfries & Galloway	2,725	2,950	4,510	4,465	64%	51%	-1.0%	5.1
Dundee City	4,455	4,530	7,020	6,835	53%	51%	-2.6%	6.9
East Ayrshire	3,620	3,685	5,730	5,660	56%	54%	-1.2%	7.4
East Dunbartonshire	1,215	1,230	2,605	2,540	109%	107%	-2.5%	3.9
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>5.0</b>
East Renfrewshire	960	950	2,145	2,155	124%	127%	0.5%	3.8
Falkirk	3,300	3,300	5,890	5,855	77%	77%	-0.6%	5.7
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,610</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>14,410</b>	<b>14,205</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Glasgow City	19,405	20,055	36,480	36,280	87%	81%	-0.5%	8.1
Highland	3,540	3,715	7,235	7,265	105%	96%	0.4%	5.1
Inverclyde	2,160	2,255	3,005	2,910	35%	29%	-3.2%	6.0
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>2,950</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Moray	1,465	1,550	2,780	2,760	88%	78%	-0.7%	4.7
Na h-Eileanan Siar	400	465	755	755	89%	62%	0.0%	4.9
North Ayrshire	4,360	4,600	6,715	6,685	53%	45%	-0.4%	8.2
North Lanarkshire	7,890	8,230	14,380	14,340	82%	74%	-0.3%	6.5
Orkney Islands	175	195	370	370	111%	90%	0.0%	2.8
Perth and Kinross	1,810	1,865	4,145	4,080	125%	119%	-1.6%	4.4
Renfrewshire	3,875	4,025	7,145	7,120	84%	77%	-0.3%	6.2
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,775</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>3,505</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Shetland Islands	245	265	465	455	86%	72%	-2.2%	3.2
South Ayrshire	2,695	2,790	4,575	4,560	69%	63%	-0.3%	6.9
South Lanarkshire	6,675	7,015	12,490	12,315	84%	76%	-1.4%	6.1
Stirling	1,465	1,540	2,715	2,740	87%	78%	0.9%	4.5
West Dunbartonshire	2,795	2,930	4,560	4,570	64%	56%	0.2%	8.1
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>6,325</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>-2.0%</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Scotland	110,705	114,605	208,830	207,180	87%	81%	-0.8%	5.9

Source: NOMIS 26/1/2021

From the claimant rate statistics, we can see that the highest figures recorded are in the West of the country with North Ayrshire at 8.2, Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire at 8.1 and East Ayrshire at 7.4. The highest rate in the city region was Fife at 6.1.

Turning now to look in more detail at the position of the authorities in the city region. Table 3 illustrates how the claimant count across the region has increased over the last 12 months but particularly since February/March. It is clear that as soon as restrictions came into place to tackle the pandemic towards the end of March 2020, the claimant count started to rise. It peaked in around May and since then it has been around the same position.

One policy that is likely to have played a major role in keeping this figure at a consistent level, will be the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which introduced the concept of furlough into the UK labour market. According to UK Government statistics<sup>1</sup> by the end of July 2020 in the city region there were around 195,000 jobs that had been furloughed. This could well be linked to an increase in in-work UC claimants that will be looked at later in this report.

**Table 3 Claimant Count Change Over the City Region**

		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	Scotland
January 2020	Count	6910	1750	8505	1410	1835	3260	111955
	Rate	1.9	2.7	3.7	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.2
February 2020	Count	7105	1765	8765	1470	1860	3425	114605
	Rate	1.9	2.7	3.8	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.3
March 2020	Count	7285	1720	8810	1495	1900	3450	114650
	Rate	2	2.6	3.8	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.3
April 2020	Count	13980	3185	13690	2735	3325	5600	188175
	Rate	3.8	4.9	5.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	5.4
May 2020	Count	17775	3680	15050	3160	3735	6645	214550
	Rate	4.8	5.6	6.5	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.1
June 2020	Count	17635	3495	14955	2995	3610	6405	213020
	Rate	4.8	5.3	6.4	5.2	5.3	5.5	6.1
July 2020	Count	18290	3620	15730	3060	3835	6800	221775
	Rate	5	5.5	6.8	5.4	5.7	5.8	6.3
August 2020	Count	18840	3635	15840	3145	3830	7005	224840
	Rate	5.1	5.5	6.8	5.5	5.6	6	6.4
September 2020	Count	18280	3400	15215	3050	3640	6675	216855
	Rate	5	5.2	6.6	5.3	5.4	5.7	6.2
October 2020	Count	17665	3195	14480	2870	3450	6255	207125
	Rate	4.8	4.9	6.2	5	5.1	5.3	5.9
November 2020	Count	18170	3255	14410	2950	3485	6325	208830
	Rate	5	5	6.2	5.2	5.1	5.4	6
December 2020	Count	17985	3250	14205	2925	3505	6200	207180
	Rate	4.9	5	6.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.9

**Source: NOMIS 26/1/2021**

In December 2020, there are 48,000 claimants across the city region, and this represents around a 1% decrease compared to November 2020. The claimant rate across the region now varies from 4.9% in Edinburgh to 6.1% in Fife. Overall, we can see that 23% of Scotland's claimants are living in the City Region.

Turning now to look at the age and gender profile of the claimants. What we can see in Table 5 is that overall, across the region, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of claimants who are female, 39% of claimants were female in December 2019 and this had increased to 40% by

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-august-2020/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-statistics-august-2020#geography--local-authorities-and-parliamentary-constituencies>

December 2020. Looking across the region Scottish Borders, Edinburgh and Fife have all seen an increase in the proportion of female claimants between December 2019 and December 2020. In Midlothian the proportion remains the same, whilst in East and West Lothian the proportion of female claimants has fallen slightly.

**Table 5 Change in Gender Split Across the City Region**

		December 2019		February 2020		November 2020		December 2020	
		count	%	count	%	count	%	count	%
City of Edinburgh	All	6,970		7,105		18,170		17,985	
	Male	4,390	63%	4,435	62%	11,050	61%	10,985	61%
	Female	2,585	37%	2,665	38%	7,120	39%	7,000	39%
East Lothian	All	1,750		1,765		3,255		3,250	
	Male	975	56%	1,005	57%	1,880	58%	1,885	58%
	Female	775	44%	760	43%	1,375	42%	1,370	42%
Fife	All	8,610		8,765		14,410		14,205	
	Male	5,315	62%	5,475	62%	8,760	61%	8,685	61%
	Female	3,295	38%	3,290	38%	5,645	39%	5,520	39%
Midlothian	All	1,370		1,470		2,950		2,925	
	Male	805	59%	865	59%	1,760	60%	1,740	59%
	Female	565	41%	605	41%	1,195	41%	1,185	41%
Scottish Borders	All	1,775		1,860		3,485		3,505	
	Male	1,085	61%	1,120	60%	2,045	59%	2,040	58%
	Female	690	39%	740	40%	1,440	41%	1,465	42%
West Lothian	All	3,305		3,425		6,325		6,200	
	Male	1,915	58%	1,970	58%	3,735	59%	3,695	60%
	Female	1,395	42%	1,455	42%	2,590	41%	2,505	40%
Column Total	All	<b>23,790</b>		<b>24,385</b>		<b>48,595</b>		<b>48,075</b>	
	Male	<b>14,480</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>14,875</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>29,230</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>29,025</b>	<b>60%</b>
	Female	<b>9,305</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>9,510</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>19,365</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>19,045</b>	<b>40%</b>

Source: NOMIS 27/1/2021

Table 6 below looks at claimants who have recorded their age as being 16-24, again this is split by gender. Looking at gender first we can see that there has been an increase in the proportion of 16-24 year old female claimants in Edinburgh. Elsewhere in the region the proportion has fallen – in East Lothian for example in December 2019 45% of 16-24 year old claimants were female in December 2020 this was 40%.

**Table 6 Age and Gender Profile of Claimants (16-24 year olds)**

		December 2019		February 2020		November 2020		December 2020		% Change Dec 19-Dec 20
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
City of Edinburgh	All	1,090		1,065		2,940		2,895		166%
	Male	665	61%	630	59%	1,735	59%	1,750	60%	163%
	Female	425	39%	430	40%	1,205	41%	1,145	40%	169%
East Lothian	All	325		315		625		625		92%
	Male	180	55%	185	59%	375	60%	380	61%	111%
	Female	145	45%	130	41%	250	40%	250	40%	72%
Fife	All	1,720		1,740		2,945		2,865		67%
	Male	1,070	62%	1,120	64%	1,805	61%	1,770	62%	65%
	Female	655	38%	620	36%	1,140	39%	1,095	38%	67%
Midlothian	All	295		325		660		680		131%
	Male	185	63%	205	63%	425	64%	435	64%	135%
	Female	110	37%	120	37%	230	35%	240	35%	118%
Scottish Borders	All	405		415		780		785		94%
	Male	240	59%	245	59%	450	58%	455	58%	90%
	Female	165	41%	170	41%	330	42%	325	41%	97%

West Lothian	All	730		735		1,350		1,325		82%
	Male	420	58%	435	59%	810	60%	795	60%	89%
	Female	310	42%	295	40%	540	40%	530	40%	71%
Column Total	All	4,565		4,595		9,300		9,170		101%
	Male	2,760	60%	2,820	61%	5,605	60%	5,590	61%	103%
	Female	1,805	40%	1,775	39%	3,695	40%	3,585	39%	99%

Source: NOMIS 27/1/2021

We can see that across the region there has been a year-on-year increase of 101% in the number of 16-24 year old claimants, with a slightly higher percentage increase for males than females. What is clear is that this regional picture covers differences in different Local Authorities. For example, Fife has recorded a 67% increase in the number of 16-24 year olds claiming, whilst Edinburgh has recorded a 166% increase. In Midlothian, West Lothian and East Lothian the increase was most apparent in Male claimants of this age.

Turning now to look at the age category that has the most claimants, that of 25-49 year olds. In terms of gender split across the region there has been a slight increase in the proportion of females claiming over the course of the year, up from 39% of claimants to 40%. Once again there are small differences across the region in terms of how the gender split has changed year on year and this can be seen below.

**Table 7 Age and Gender Profile of Claimants (25-49 year olds)**

		December 2019		February 2020		November 2020		December 2020		% Change Dec 19-Dec 20
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
City of Edinburgh	All	4,195		4,310		11,245		11,135		165%
	Male	2,615	62%	2,680	62%	6,850	61%	6,785	61%	159%
	Female	1,585	38%	1,630	38%	4,390	39%	4,345	39%	174%
East Lothian	All	1,005		1,020		1,815		1,805		80%
	Male	560	56%	575	56%	1,030	57%	1,035	57%	85%
	Female	445	44%	445	44%	785	43%	770	43%	73%
Fife	All	4,825		4,990		8,100		7,930		64%
	Male	3,000	62%	3,105	62%	4,970	61%	4,880	62%	63%
	Female	1,825	38%	1,885	38%	3,130	39%	3,050	38%	67%
Midlothian	All	790		865		1,660		1,630		106%
	Male	455	58%	495	57%	945	57%	935	57%	105%
	Female	335	42%	370	43%	710	43%	695	43%	107%
Scottish Borders	All	915		975		1,745		1,760		92%
	Male	535	58%	580	59%	1,040	60%	1,035	59%	93%
	Female	380	42%	395	41%	705	40%	725	41%	91%
West Lothian	All	1,900		1,965		3,550		3,480		83%
	Male	1,110	58%	1,115	57%	2,105	59%	2,105	60%	90%
	Female	795	42%	855	44%	1,445	41%	1,375	40%	73%
Column Total	All	13,630		14,125		28,110		27,740		104%
	Male	8,270	61%	8,550	61%	16,940	60%	16,780	60%	103%
	Female	5,360	39%	5,580	40%	11,170	40%	10,960	40%	104%

Source: NOMIS 27/1/2021

In terms of how the overall age profile has changed we can see that across the region as a whole the number of claimants who are 25-49 years of age has increased by 104% between December 2019 and December 2020. In Fife the increase has been 64% whilst in Edinburgh there has been a 165% increase. We can also see that there has been a 174% increase in the number of female claimants aged 25-49 who live in Edinburgh.

**Table 8 Age and Gender Profile of Claimants (50 or over years of age)**

		December 2019		February 2020		November 2020		December 2020		% Change Dec 19-Dec 20
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	
City of Edinburgh	All	1,685		1,730		3,985		3,960		135%
	Male	1,110	66%	1,125	65%	2,465	62%	2,450	62%	121%
	Female	580	34%	605	35%	1,520	38%	1,510	38%	160%
East Lothian	All	420		430		815		820		95%
	Male	235	56%	245	57%	475	58%	470	57%	100%
	Female	185	44%	185	43%	340	42%	350	43%	89%
Fife	All	2,065		2,030		3,365		3,410		65%
	Male	1,250	61%	1,250	62%	1,985	59%	2,030	60%	62%
	Female	815	39%	780	38%	1,380	41%	1,375	40%	69%
Midlothian	All	285		280		635		615		116%
	Male	165	58%	170	61%	385	61%	365	59%	121%
	Female	120	42%	115	41%	250	39%	250	41%	108%
Scottish Borders	All	455		470		960		960		111%
	Male	310	68%	300	64%	555	58%	545	57%	76%
	Female	150	33%	170	36%	405	42%	415	43%	177%
West Lothian	All	675		725		1,425		1,395		107%
	Male	385	57%	420	58%	820	58%	790	57%	105%
	Female	290	43%	305	42%	605	42%	605	43%	109%
Column Total	All	5,595		5,665		11,185		11,155		99%
	Male	3,455	62%	3,505	62%	6,685	60%	6,655	60%	93%
	Female	2,140	38%	2,160	38%	4,500	40%	4,500	40%	110%

Source: NOMIS 27/1/2021

The last age group to look at is 50 years and over and the data for this age and gender profile is in Table 8 above. Again, the gender split is looked at and generally the change in proportions are similar to what we have seen for other age groups. Scottish Borders does however stand out as the proportion of female claimants over the age of 50 in December 2019 was 33%. In December 2020 this had increased so that it was 43%. This was the result of a 177% increase year on year which is the highest increase for any of the age groups. The number of females over 50 years of age claiming in Edinburgh also recorded a large percentage rise of 160% up from 580 to 1,510.

### The Situation Within Localities

Where the claimant count data is more useful than other sources is in its ability to drill down to small areas, such as wards. Table 9 below looks at the 10 wards within the City Region that have the highest number of claimants as of December 2020.

**Table 9 Ten Wards with the Highest Claimant Count in the City Region (December 2020)**

	2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Nov-2020		Dec-2020		% Change	
		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Dec	Nov-Dec
Edinburgh	Forth	720	3.4	1,655	7.9	1,660	7.9	131%	0.3%
Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	625	3.2	1,495	7.5	1,505	7.6	141%	0.7%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	2.0	1,515	5.5	1,475	5.4	168%	-2.6%
Edinburgh	Craigentenny/Duddingston	550	2.7	1,440	7.0	1,445	7.0	163%	0.3%
Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	540	2.4	1,405	6.4	1,415	6.4	162%	0.7%
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	550	2.2	1,440	5.7	1,405	5.6	155%	-2.4%
Edinburgh	Leith	630	3.5	1,370	7.6	1,380	7.7	119%	0.7%
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	625	3.0	1,330	6.4	1,320	6.3	111%	-0.8%
Edinburgh	City Centre	490	1.8	1,265	4.7	1,215	4.5	148%	-4.0%
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	8.2	1,210	11.0	1,190	10.8	32%	-1.7%

Source: NOMIS 27/1/2021

We can see that of the 10, 9 are within Edinburgh and the other is within Fife. Five of these wards recorded a month to month fall between November and December, with the Edinburgh City Centre ward recording a 4% fall. Overall, in these 10 wards there were just over 14,000 people claiming in December.

Table 9 looks at the wards that have seen the highest percentage increase in the claimant count since February. What is clear from this is that only 2 of these are in the list of the ten wards with the largest number of claimants. In fact, some of them despite showing a high increase in the number of claimants since February, are still only showing relatively small numbers and rates- North Berwick coastal for example.

**Table 9 Ten Wards with the Highest Increase in Claimant Count (November 2020)**

2019 electoral wards	Feb-2020		Nov-2020		Dec-2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Dec	Nov-Dec
Edinburgh Morningside	150	0.6	535	2.3	505	2.1	237%	-5.6%
Edinburgh Inverleith	220	1.0	725	3.2	700	3.1	218%	-3.4%
Edinburgh Southside/Newington	230	0.8	735	2.6	720	2.5	213%	-2.0%
Edinburgh Corstorphine/Murrayfield	120	0.8	390	2.6	370	2.5	208%	-5.1%
Edinburgh Drum Brae/Gyle	225	1.5	695	4.6	680	4.5	202%	-2.2%
Edinburgh Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	1.1	500	3.2	510	3.3	191%	2.0%
East Lothian North Berwick Coastal	85	1.2	250	3.3	245	3.3	188%	-2.0%
Edinburgh Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205	1.2	590	3.4	590	3.4	188%	0.0%
Edinburgh Leith Walk	550	2.0	1,515	5.5	1,475	5.4	168%	-2.6%
Edinburgh Craigenlinny/Duddingston	550	2.7	1,440	7.0	1,445	7.0	163%	0.3%

Source: NOMIS 26/1/2021

Table 10 below gives details on all the wards across the city region. These aren't ranked but are grouped by LA. We can see from this that the claimant rate currently ranges from 10.8 in Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages through to 1.6 in St Andrews Ward. Of the 71 wards in the city region, 12 had over 1,000 claimants in December and 47 had over 500 claimants.

**Table 10 Claimant Count Numbers and Rate Across the City Region**

West Lothian

2019 electoral wards	Feb-2020		Nov-2020		Dec-2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Dec	Nov-Dec
Linlithgow	135	1.3	290	2.9	280	2.8	107%	-3.4%
Livingston North	325	2.1	685	4.4	650	4.2	100%	-5.1%
East Livingston and East Calder	380	2.7	750	5.3	735	5.2	93%	-2.0%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	3.0	710	5.7	700	5.7	92%	-1.4%
Livingston South	450	2.9	835	5.3	820	5.2	82%	-1.8%
Bathgate	470	3.0	860	5.5	845	5.4	80%	-1.7%
Armadale and Blackridge	310	3.2	540	5.5	540	5.5	74%	0.0%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	4.0	690	6.8	690	6.8	70%	0.0%
Whitburn and Blackburn	585	4.3	965	7.1	945	7.0	62%	-2.1%

## Scottish Borders

	Feb-20		Nov-20		Dec-20		% Change	
<b>2019 electoral wards</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Feb-Dec</b>	<b>Nov-Dec</b>
Tweeddale West	105	1.7	265	4.2	260	4.2	148%	-1.9%
Leaderdale and Melrose	115	1.8	280	4.4	280	4.4	143%	0.0%
Tweeddale East	105	1.6	245	3.8	240	3.8	129%	-2.0%
Jedburgh and District	130	2.5	275	5.2	295	5.6	127%	7.3%
Mid Berwickshire	140	2.3	270	4.5	275	4.5	96%	1.9%
Kelso and District	140	2.4	270	4.7	260	4.6	86%	-3.7%
East Berwickshire	160	2.7	285	4.7	295	4.9	84%	3.5%
Hawick and Denholm	235	4.3	390	7.1	405	7.4	72%	3.8%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	3.6	315	6.2	300	5.9	67%	-4.8%
Galashiels and District	385	3.9	625	6.4	630	6.4	64%	0.8%
Selkirkshire	165	2.9	265	4.7	260	4.6	58%	-1.9%

## Midlothian

	Feb-20		Nov-20		Dec-20		% Change	
<b>2019 electoral wards</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Feb-Dec</b>	<b>Nov-Dec</b>
Bonnyrigg	180	1.6	445	3.9	440	3.8	144%	-1.1%
Midlothian West	210	2.2	450	4.8	445	4.7	112%	-1.1%
Penicuik	225	2.7	465	5.5	475	5.6	111%	2.2%
Midlothian East	255	2.6	515	5.1	505	5.1	98%	-1.9%
Dalkeith	295	3.4	550	6.4	535	6.2	81%	-2.7%
Midlothian South	300	3.4	535	6.0	525	5.9	75%	-1.9%

## Fife

	Feb-20		Nov-20		Dec-20		% Change	
<b>2019 electoral wards</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Feb-Dec</b>	<b>Nov-Dec</b>
St Andrews	105	0.7	240	1.7	235	1.6	124%	-2.1%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	2.2	495	4.6	495	4.6	115%	0.0%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	2.2	360	4.4	375	4.6	114%	4.2%
East Neuk and Landward	185	2.6	375	5.3	375	5.3	103%	0.0%
Cupar	210	2.5	385	4.5	380	4.5	81%	-1.3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	3.5	640	6.5	630	6.4	80%	-1.6%
Dunfermline South	450	3.0	780	5.2	775	5.1	72%	-0.6%
Dunfermline Central	395	3.4	700	6.0	680	5.9	72%	-2.9%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	3.7	595	6.2	600	6.2	69%	0.8%
Rosyth	305	3.0	525	5.1	515	5.0	69%	-1.9%
Tay Bridgehead	190	1.9	325	3.3	320	3.3	68%	-1.5%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	3.9	610	6.4	600	6.3	62%	-1.6%
Kirkcaldy Central	580	6.6	950	10.8	935	10.6	61%	-1.6%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	3.1	590	5.2	570	5.0	61%	-3.4%
Cowdenbeath	610	4.5	985	7.2	975	7.2	60%	-1.0%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	5.9	1,080	9.3	1,060	9.1	55%	-1.9%
Kirkcaldy East	640	6.9	990	10.6	990	10.6	55%	0.0%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	4.2	590	6.6	585	6.6	54%	-0.8%
Kirkcaldy North	390	4.0	605	6.2	585	6.0	50%	-3.3%
Dunfermline North	415	3.9	630	5.9	620	5.8	49%	-1.6%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	4.2	730	6.2	715	6.1	44%	-2.1%
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	8.2	1,210	11.0	1,190	10.8	32%	-1.7%

## Edinburgh

2019 electoral wards	Feb-20		Nov-20		Dec-20		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Dec	Nov-Dec
Morningside	150	0.6	535	2.3	505	2.1	237%	-5.6%
Inverleith	220	1.0	725	3.2	700	3.1	218%	-3.4%
Southside/Newington	230	0.8	735	2.6	720	2.5	213%	-2.0%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	120	0.8	390	2.6	370	2.5	208%	-5.1%
Drum Brae/Gyle	225	1.5	695	4.6	680	4.5	202%	-2.2%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	175	1.1	500	3.2	510	3.3	191%	2.0%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205	1.2	590	3.4	590	3.4	188%	0.0%
Leith Walk	550	2.0	1,515	5.5	1,475	5.4	168%	-2.6%
Craigtintny/Duddingston	550	2.7	1,440	7.0	1,445	7.0	163%	0.3%
Liberton/Gilmerton	540	2.4	1,405	6.4	1,415	6.4	162%	0.7%
Sighthill/Gorgie	550	2.2	1,440	5.7	1,405	5.6	155%	-2.4%
City Centre	490	1.8	1,265	4.7	1,215	4.5	148%	-4.0%
Portobello/Craigmillar	625	3.2	1,495	7.5	1,505	7.6	141%	0.7%
Forth	720	3.4	1,655	7.9	1,660	7.9	131%	0.3%
Almond	495	2.2	1,090	4.9	1,095	4.9	121%	0.5%
Leith	630	3.5	1,370	7.6	1,380	7.7	119%	0.7%
Pentland Hills	625	3.0	1,330	6.4	1,320	6.3	111%	-0.8%

## East Lothian

2019 electoral wards	Feb-20		Nov-20		Dec-20		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Dec	Nov-Dec
North Berwick Coastal	85	1.2	250	3.3	245	3.3	188%	-2.0%
Musselburgh	455	3.6	850	6.8	860	6.8	89%	1.2%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	2.8	555	4.9	575	5.1	85%	3.6%
Dunbar and East Linton	200	2.3	370	4.2	365	4.1	83%	-1.4%
Haddington and Lammermuir	260	2.3	465	4.2	470	4.2	81%	1.1%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	3.2	765	5.4	740	5.2	64%	-3.3%

Source: NOMIS 26/1/2021

## Universal Credit

The data for Universal Credit claimants is sourced from StatXplore rather than NOMIS. StatXplore take a slightly different approach to publishing the data, choosing to publish provisional data initially and then update this later. They also have a one-month delay on breaking down some data sets. For example, the Universal Credit data for December whilst published, is only available for the total and is not yet available in terms of in work and out work claimants.

## FIGURE 1 UC CLAIMANTS ACROSS THE CITY REGION



Source: StatXplore 27/1/2021

Figure 1 above looks at the number of UC claimants in the city region and how that has increased over the last year. We can also see that it has continued to increase month to month, something that isn't the case for the claimant count. This is because UC covers both those that are out of work and looking for a job and those that are in work and need support to supplement wages which on their own wouldn't give them enough to live on. Table 11 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics from February and compares this to October, the most recent data where a split by in and out of work claimants is possible.

**Table 11 Universal Credit Claimants**

	February 2020			November 2020 r			% Change Feb-Oct	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
City of Edinburgh	9,041	4,650	13,688	21,555	14,836	36,392	138%	219%
East Lothian	3,725	2,120	5,842	5,724	3,775	9,502	54%	78%
West Lothian	5,608	2,809	8,419	9,423	6,140	15,564	68%	119%
Scottish Borders	2,874	1,546	4,424	5,032	3,193	8,225	75%	107%
Midlothian	3,173	1,741	4,921	5,126	3,296	8,418	62%	89%
Fife	14,794	6,467	21,262	22,278	13,039	35,317	51%	102%
Total	39,224	19,338	58,554	69,133	44,288	113,423	76%	129%

Source: StatXplore 27/01/2021

Its clear from Table 11 that the in work receiving support group, has grown significantly over the course of the pandemic – for example it has increased by 129% across the city region between February and November and for every Local Authority the number of in work claimants has increased faster than those for those out of work.

### Employment Support Allowance

Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) offers financial support and personalised support to those who are unable to work as a result of a health condition or disability. The data in the table below is from the StatXplore site and is published on a quarterly basis with the May 2020 data being the most recent available.

**Table 12 ESA Claimants**

		Feb-19	May-19	Feb-20	May-20
Edinburgh	Assessment phase	894	463	323	408
	Work Related Activity group	4,671	4,503	3,016	2,784
	Support group	12,870	12,858	13,474	13,443
	Unknown	523	493	414	432
	Total	18,962	18,308	17,227	17,062
East Lothian	Assessment phase	62	59	72	84
	Work Related Activity group	608	575	352	325
	Support group	2,037	2,024	2,130	2,140
	Unknown	72	67	72	85
	Total	2,777	2,724	2,633	2,638
Fife	Assessment phase	517	420	345	447
	Work Related Activity group	3,610	3,460	2,697	2,593
	Support group	9,888	9,760	9,928	9,852
	Unknown	371	365	321	358
	Total	14,382	14,005	13,283	13,247
Midlothian	Assessment phase	87	52	53	87
	Work Related Activity group	671	613	399	377
	Support group	2,176	2,152	2,274	2,257
	Unknown	71	74	62	62
	Total	2,994	2,896	2,793	2,784
Scottish Borders	Assessment phase	198	150	105	140
	Work Related Activity group	861	817	667	639
	Support group	2,780	2,766	2,748	2,713
	Unknown	108	112	105	104
	Total	3,946	3,838	3,625	3,592
West Lothian	Assessment phase	288	258	196	231
	Work Related Activity group	1,683	1,537	1,106	1,031
	Support group	5,800	5,817	5,984	5,962
	Unknown	227	223	201	201
	Total	8,004	7,842	7,486	7,427
City Region	Assessment phase	2,045	1,404	1,095	1,389
	Work Related Activity group	12,105	11,505	8,232	7,752
	Support group	35,551	35,373	36,538	36,376
	Unknown	1,373	1,329	1,173	1,239
	Total	51,073	49,615	47,042	46,752

**Source: StatXplore 25/1/2021**

As can be seen in the table above the ESA claimant count is divided into 4 groups. The first, the assessment phase is the smallest and reflects when a new claimant applies for ESA. This assessment phase usually lasts for 13 weeks. During this phase the claimant will have their ability to work assessed to determine their entitlement, this is called the Work Capability Assessment (WCA). The possible outcomes of the WCA are that claimants can be assessed as:

- a) Suitable for the ESA Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) where claimants are able to undertake and participate in work-related activity to help them move towards the labour market,
- b) Suitable for the ESA Support Group (where claimants are not required to undertake any interviews or work related activity), or
- c) Fit for work and therefore not entitled to ESA, although there is a right of appeal.

The WRAG is the group that may well be supported by the providers across the City Region and we can see that there was a fall in this number between May 2019 and May 2020.

The data can be split by gender and this indicates that across the region 49% of ESA claimants are male and 51% female, a position that is reversed when we look at the WRAG clients where 3,922 (51%) are male and 3,381 (49%) are female.

The data available on the DWP StatXplore site allows us to go further and investigate what the medical condition has been recorded for these claimants. We can see in the table below that for the illnesses where data was available nearly 60% of those in the WRAG group across the region were recorded as having Mental and Behavioural disorders

**Table 16 Medical Condition of the WRAG (May 2020)**

	East Lothian	City of Edinburgh	Fife	Midlothian	West Lothian	Scottish Borders	Total	%
Mental and Behavioural disorders	179	1,782	1,468	226	617	375	4,647	59.9
Disease of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue	38	273	354	46	119	76	901	11.6
Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	39	237	240	35	100	65	717	9.2
Diseases of the Nervous System	23	154	161	17	59	36	454	5.9
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	12	61	60	9	29	21	196	2.5
Diseases of the Circulatory System	6	52	69	13	23	17	177	2.3%
Factors influencing Health Status and contact with Health Services	13	42	57	6	22	6	143	1.8%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	6	52	49	9	16	6	132	1.7%
Diseases of the Digestive System	..	37	31	9	8	5	93	1.2%
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic diseases	5	30	27	5	12	6	82	1.1%
Neoplasms	..	18	24	..	5	..	56	0.7%
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System	..	10	8	..	..	5	30	0.4%
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	..	9	13	..	..	..	26	0.3%
Diseases of the Genito-urinary System	..	11	7	..	6	7	24	0.3%
Certain Infectious and Parasitic diseases	..	12	7	..	6	..	22	0.3%

Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	..	7	6	..	..	..	20	0.3%
Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	..	..	6	..	..	..	13	0.2%
External causes of morbidity and mortality	..	..	6	..	..	..	8	0.1%
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	0.1%

**Source:StatXplore 25/1/2021**

Chris Nicol  
Business Information, Capital City Partnership  
27/1/2021  
07462 432348  
[chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org](mailto:chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org)