

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

### Summary

- Edinburgh Claimant Count up from 13,980 in April 2020 to 17,885 in May 2020 (+28%)
- Year on year change 5,890 in May 2019 to 17,885 in May 2020 (+204%)
- 32,313 Universal Credit Claimants (both seeking and not seeking work) in Edinburgh in May 2020 there were 24,272 in April.

### Overall Claimant Count

As with previous reports the first table looks at the general trend in the claimant count (JSA and out of work universal credit) and compares this with a JSA only claimant count.

**Table 1 Edinburgh Claimant Count versus JSA Claimant Count**

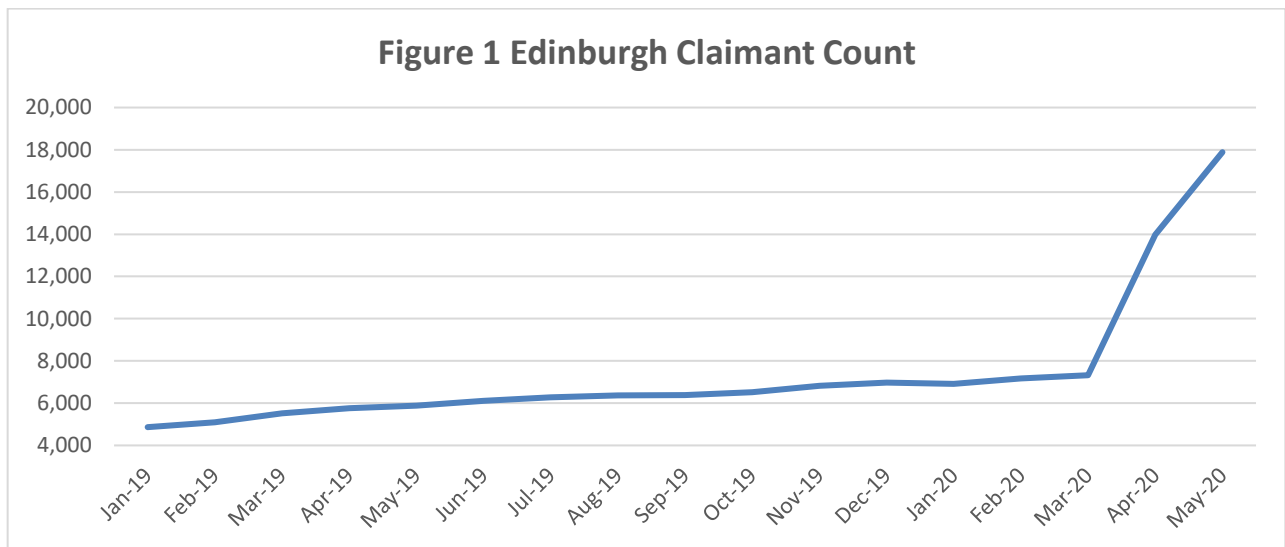
Date	JSA	Claimant Count
January 2018	3,126	4,660
February 2018	3,467	4,950
March 2018	3,599	5,030
April 2018	3,653	5,040
May 2018	3,671	4,940
June 2018	3,691	4,875
July 2018	3,695	4,800
August 2018	3,610	4,670
September 2018	3,468	4,455
October 2018	3,514	4,480
November 2018	3,530	4,490
December 2018	3,260	4,420
January 2019	3,216	4,865
February 2019	2,633	5,100
March 2019	2,394	5,525
April 2019	2,235	5,760
May 2019	2,073	5,890
June 2019	1,892	6,105
July 2019	1,753	6,270
August 2019	1,657	6,375
September 2019	1,553	6,380
October 2019	1,493	6,525
November 2019	1,397	6,830
December 2019	1,350	6,970
January 2020	1,317	6,910
February 2020	1,237	7,105
March 2020	1,226	7,285
April 2020	2,150	13,980
May 2020	2,345	17,885

Source: NOMIS 16/6/2020

On the 20<sup>th</sup> March, as a result of the COVID 19 outbreak, the government closed certain businesses - those where people may be in close proximity to one another. This was followed by the national

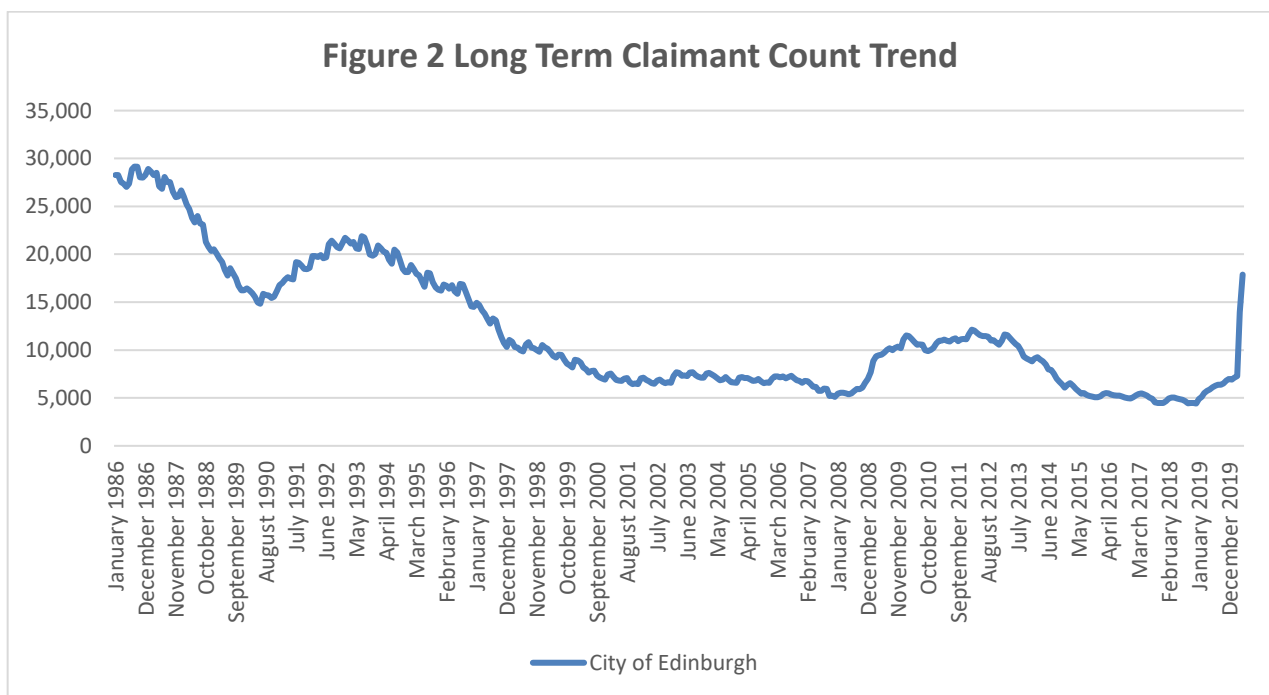
lockdown on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. As a result, the March claimant figures started to reflect what the impact of the pandemic was on the labour market. The April figures were the first ones that really indicate the scale of this and we can see that the claimant count had **increased by 92%** in Edinburgh between March and April and then **increased again by 28%** between April and May

Figure 1 below looks at the Claimant Count over the last 12 months. From this we can see that it had started to level off in December and January however the figures in February demonstrated another rise. The relatively small changes reported on at the start of the year are insignificant compared to the position recorded in April and May.



Source: NOMIS 16/6/2020

Figure 2 looks at the claimant count over the longer period of time, to put this current increase into perspective.



Source: NOMIS 16/6/2020

In 1986 the claimant count overall was higher than it is in Edinburgh currently and this was the case till around 1995. For the next thirteen years or so the number slowly fell. In around 2008 there was the financial crisis that saw the claimant count increase from around 5,700 in July 2008 to nearly 11,000 in May 2010. The graph visually shows that the labour market in the city has just experienced the largest month to month rise since the mid-1980s and the claimant count is now (May 2020) sitting at a position that hasn't been seen since 1995.

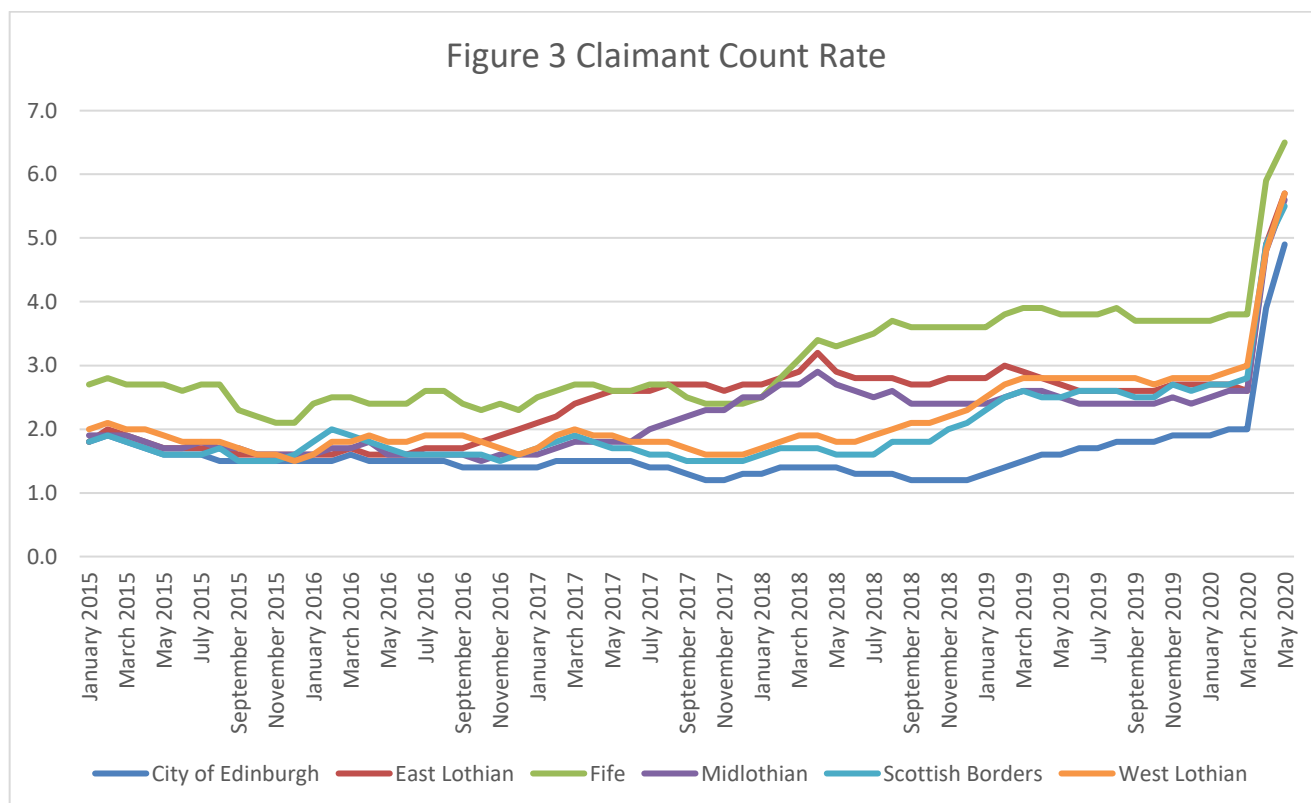
Looking now at the 6 authorities that make up the city region. Overall, according to the May claimant count, there are 50,315 claimants- there were 22,700 in May 2019. The table below shows how this is split across the 6 authorities. The percentage figure is what percentage of the region's claimant count is from each LA. What we can see from this is that in May 2019 26% of the region's claimant count came from Edinburgh – in May 2020 36% were from this locality.

**Table 2 Comparison of the Contribution From Each LA to Region Claimant Count**

local authority:	May 2019		May 2020	
City of Edinburgh	5,890	26%	17,885	36%
East Lothian	1,755	8%	3,710	7%
Fife	8,705	38%	15,135	30%
Midlothian	1,400	6%	3,180	6%
Scottish Borders	1,725	8%	3,745	7%
West Lothian	3,225	14%	6,665	13%
Column Total	<b>22,700</b>	100%	<b>50,315</b>	100%

Source: NOMIS 16/6/2020

The figure below indicates that the claimant rate across the region has increased and in terms of claimant rate Edinburgh is lower than the neighbouring authorities.



Looking at claimant count in terms of the age profile of the claimants, Table 3 below looks at the claimant count for May 2019 compared to the position in May 2020 and breaks this down in terms of the age of the claimant and the local authority.

**Table 3 Age Profile of Claimants (May data)**

	Date	Edinburgh		East Lothian		Fife		Midlothian		Scottish Borders		West Lothian	
All Age 16+	2019	5,890	204%	1,755	111%	8,705	74%	1,400	127%	1,725	117%	3,225	107%
	2020	17,885		3,710		15,135		3,180		3,745		6,665	
Age 16-24	2019	915	209%	310	129%	1865	63%	320	105%	395	91%	735	90%
	2020	2,825		710		3,035		655		755		1,400	
Age 25-49	2019	3,405	233%	1,015	108%	4,825	79%	805	133%	870	126%	1800	114%
	2020	11,340		2,115		8,630		1,875		1,965		3,850	
Age 50+	2019	1,570	137%	430	106%	2,010	72%	280	132%	460	123%	690	104%
	2020	3,720		885		3,465		650		1,025		1,410	

Source: NOMIS 16/6/2020

What we can see from this is that between May 2019 and May 2020 the claimant count in Edinburgh overall had increased by 204% whilst in Fife it has increased by 74%. When we look at age groups, we can see that for 16-24 year olds in Fife the claimant count has increased by 63% year on year. Compare this to the position for those aged between 25-49 in Edinburgh. In this case the claimant count had increased by 233% year on year.

Table 4 looks at the gender split and how that has increased over the last 12 months comparing May 2020 with May 2019.

**Table 4 Change in the number of Claimants Across the City Region by Gender**

Local Authority	All			Male			Female		
	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change	2019	2020	Change
City of Edinburgh	5,890	17,885	204%	3,880	11,100	186%	2,010	6,785	238%
East Lothian	1,755	3,710	111%	1,015	2,190	116%	740	1,520	105%
Fife	8,705	15,135	74%	5,455	9,520	75%	3,245	5,615	73%
Midlothian	1,400	3,180	127%	825	1,985	141%	575	1,195	108%
Scottish Borders	1,725	3,745	117%	1,060	2,255	113%	665	1,490	124%
West Lothian	3,225	6,665	107%	1,960	4,070	108%	1,270	2,595	104%
Total	22,700	50,315	122%	14,190	31,115	119%	8,510	19,200	126%

Source: NOMIS 16/6/2020

Looking at Edinburgh we can see that overall, the claimant count increased by 243% when we compare 2020 with 2019. Looking at the same change but using gender as a split, we can see that whilst the number of Male claimants has increased by 186% year on year in Edinburgh, the number of female claimants has increased by 238%. In Scottish Borders there was a greater increase for females recorded over the same period. This is not the case across the region and in East Lothian, and Midlothian the increase was higher for males, whilst in West Lothian and Fife there was a negligible difference.

## The Situation Within Localities

Table 5 through to Table 10 looks at the wards within the city region and presents the data for May 2019 and May 2020. The percentage increase between these dates is also highlighted.

**Table 5 Edinburgh Ward Claimant Count**

LA	Ward	May 2019	May 2020	
Edinburgh	Almond	400	1,130	183%
Edinburgh	City Centre	385	1,150	199%
Edinburgh	Colinton/Fairmilehead	160	485	203%
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	100	395	295%
Edinburgh	Craigentinny/Duddingston	440	1,430	225%
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/Gyle	205	660	222%
Edinburgh	Forth	565	1,610	185%
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	185	575	211%
Edinburgh	Inverleith	160	740	363%
Edinburgh	Leith	495	1,380	179%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	470	1,505	220%
Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	445	1,405	216%
Edinburgh	Morningside	130	490	277%
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	540	1,310	143%
Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	505	1,490	195%
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	465	1,405	202%
Edinburgh	Southside/Newington	225	715	218%

Source: NOMIS 16/6/2020

From this we can see that wards that may not have been prioritised in the past as they had a low number of UC claimants have seen some of the largest percentage increases year on year.

Morningside, for example, recorded a 277% increase in the claimant count whilst Inverleith has recorded a 363% increase year on year. Areas where the increase has been lower have tended to be those where there were higher number of claimants to start with.

The tables below look at the situation across the City Region and present a similar picture to Edinburgh- areas where there had been smaller numbers of Claimants in the past are amongst those that have recorded the greatest percentage change. For example, North Berwick Coastal, one of the least deprived wards in Scotland saw a 247% increase in claimant count.

**Table 6 East Lothian Ward Claimant Count**

LA	Ward	May 2019	May 2020	Change
East Lothian	Dunbar and East Linton	205	465	127%
East Lothian	Haddington and Lammermuir	265	555	109%
East Lothian	Musselburgh	475	915	93%
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	85	295	247%
East Lothian	Preston, Seton and Gosford	290	615	112%
East Lothian	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	440	870	98%

**Table 7 Fife Ward Claimant Count**

LA	Ward	May 2019	May 2020	Change
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	935	1,270	36%
Fife	Burrtisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	370	625	69%
Fife	Cowdenbeath	600	1,075	79%

Fife	Cupar	205	410	100%
Fife	Dunfermline Central	400	720	80%
Fife	Dunfermline North	385	675	75%
Fife	Dunfermline South	435	815	87%
Fife	East Neuk and Landward	170	405	138%
Fife	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	390	645	65%
Fife	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	345	610	77%
Fife	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	365	650	78%
Fife	Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	155	385	148%
Fife	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	220	520	136%
Fife	Kirkcaldy Central	630	950	51%
Fife	Kirkcaldy East	670	1,010	51%
Fife	Kirkcaldy North	380	635	67%
Fife	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	500	805	61%
Fife	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	700	1,110	59%
Fife	Rosyth	285	565	98%
Fife	St Andrews	95	220	132%
Fife	Tay Bridgehead	165	365	121%
Fife	West Fife and Coastal Villages	310	665	115%

**Table 8 West Lothian Ward Claimant Count**

LA	Ward	May 2019	May 2020	Change
West Lothian	Armadale and Blackridge	285	580	104%
West Lothian	Bathgate	430	920	114%
West Lothian	Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	330	760	130%
West Lothian	East Livingston and East Calder	390	800	105%
West Lothian	Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	360	735	104%
West Lothian	Linlithgow	120	305	154%
West Lothian	Livingston North	320	680	113%
West Lothian	Livingston South	425	845	99%
West Lothian	Whitburn and Blackburn	560	1,035	85%

**Table 9 Midlothian Ward Claimant Count**

LA	Ward	May 2019	May 2020	Change
Midlothian	Bonnyrigg	185	440	138%
Midlothian	Dalkeith	270	650	141%
Midlothian	Midlothian East	240	575	140%
Midlothian	Midlothian South	260	565	117%
Midlothian	Midlothian West	200	485	143%
Midlothian	Penicuik	250	465	86%

**Table 10 Scottish Borders Claimant Count**

LA	Ward	May 2019	May 2020	Change
Scottish Borders	East Berwickshire	135	345	156%
Scottish Borders	Galashiels and District	380	665	75%
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Denholm	225	390	73%
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Hermitage	175	330	89%
Scottish Borders	Jedburgh and District	110	290	164%
Scottish Borders	Kelso and District	130	295	127%
Scottish Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	100	280	180%
Scottish Borders	Mid Berwickshire	140	300	114%
Scottish Borders	Selkirkshire	150	310	107%
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale East	80	270	238%
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale West	100	265	165%

## 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 at a later date. They also have a one month delay on breaking down some data sets for example the Universal Credit data for May whilst published, is only available for the total and is not yet available in terms of in work and out work claimants. Looking at the total we can see that in Edinburgh in May 2020 there were 32,313 UC claimants compared to April 2020 when there were 24,272. Essentially in a month the Universal Credit Claimant Count overall in the city has increased by 1/3<sup>rd</sup>.

The most recent data that will allow for a split between in and out of employment is for April and this is presented in Table 12 below with April 2019 presented in Table 11 for comparison.

**Table 11 April 2019 Universal Credit Claimants Split by Employment/Not Employment**

	Not in Employment		In Employment		Not Available	Total
Scottish Borders	1,984	65%	1,052	35%	..	3,030
Midlothian	2,581	63%	1,494	37%	..	4,074
East Lothian	3,301	63%	1,935	37%	..	5,237
West Lothian	4,110	68%	1,965	32%	..	6,071
City of Edinburgh	4,207	66%	2,206	34%	..	6,412
Fife	11,747	70%	5,010	30%	..	16,752
Total	27,933	67%	13,657	33%	..	41,581

**Table 12 April 2020 Universal Credit Claimants Split by Employment/Not Employment**

	Not in Employment		In Employment		Not Available	Total
Scottish Borders	4,342	64%	2,434	36%	..	6,778
Midlothian	4,551	63%	2,704	37%	..	7,255
East Lothian	5,169	63%	3,036	37%	..	8,205
West Lothian	7,855	64%	4,437	36%	..	12,290
City of Edinburgh	15,233	63%	9,032	37%	..	24,272
Fife	19,617	67%	9,542	33%	..	29,158
Total	56,767	65%	31,188	35%	..	87,958

What we can see in these two tables is that there has been little change in the proportion of UC claimants who are in Employment and Not in Employment – 67% across the region Not in Employment in 2019 and 65% in April 2020. This suggests that the increase in out of work claimants has been replicated for those in work, but who need their income supplemented. This is clear when you look at the data. In April 2019 there were 2,206 in work claimants of UC in Edinburgh- in April 2020 there were 9,032 an increase of over 309%.

Chris Nicol  
Monitoring and Evaluation  
Capital City Partnership  
16/6/2020  
0131 554 3067  
07462 432348

[chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org](mailto:chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org)