

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count June 2020 Update

Summary

- Edinburgh Claimant Count up from 17,775 in May 2020 to 17,850 in June 2020.
- Year on year change 6,105 in June 2019 to 17,850 in June 2020 (+192%)
- 34,318 Universal Credit Claimants (both seeking and not seeking work) in Edinburgh in June 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.

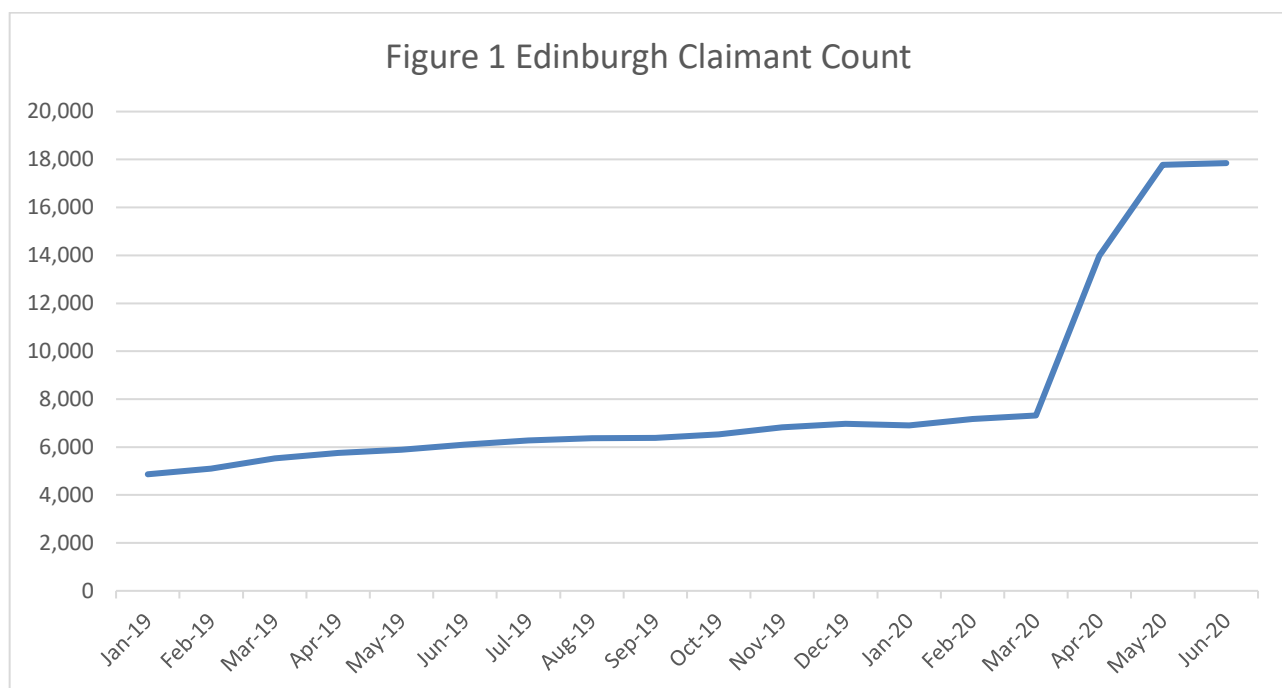
Table 1 Edinburgh Claimant Count versus JSA Claimant Count

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	17,775
June 2020	2,480	17,850

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

On the 20th 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 23rd. 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. This trend seems to have levelled out and the change between May and June was **0.4%**.

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. It is interesting how the count has levelled off in June. This may be an indication that the various job retention programmes have started to provide the support necessary to keep people in work. The question is what will happen to the claimant count when these interventions phase out later in the year?



Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

Looking now at the 6 authorities that make up the City Region. Overall, according to the June claimant count, there are 49,675 claimants- there were 24,660 in March. The table below shows how this is split across the 6 authorities.

Table 2 Comparison of the Contribution from Each LA

	March 2020		April 2020		May 2020		June 2020	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
Edinburgh	7,285	2.0	13,980	3.9	17,775	4.9	17,850	4.9
East Lothian	1,720	2.6	3,185	4.9	3,680	5.6	3,555	5.4
Fife	8,810	3.8	13,690	5.9	15,050	6.5	15,105	6.5
Midlothian	1,495	2.6	2,735	4.8	3,160	5.6	3,040	5.4
Scottish Borders	1,900	2.8	3,325	4.9	3,735	5.5	3,645	5.3
West Lothian	3,450	3.0	5,600	4.8	6,645	5.7	6,485	5.5
City Region	24,660	2.7	42,520	4.7	50,045	5.6	49,675	5.5

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

From this table we can see that the claimant rate in March for the City Region was 2.7, as a result of the pandemic, the measures put in place to tackle Covid 19 and the economic impact of this, the rate in June was 5.5. This is broadly the same as it was in May and possibly reflects the impact of the job retention measures introduced.

The question is, will the claimant count climb again once these measure are phased out in October or will the economy be in a position where it can support itself? Much will depend on whether or not there are further outbreaks causing lock downs to be reintroduced. Even if there are no further outbreaks there is uncertainty over how confident individuals will be to deliver the consumer spending that underpins large sectors of the economy. Will the fear of the pandemic be enough to discourage people from eating out? Shopping? Travelling? Or will the more traditional fear of losing a job in times of economic uncertainty result in people not spending? When both of these are combined, we can see that there could well be little enthusiasm for the type of consumer driven growth that we had seen in the past. The impact of this is there may be little need for additional staff to work in retail or to work in bars and restaurants.

Turning now to look at the age profile of the claimants. Table 3 below looks at the claimant count for 16-24 year olds. Much has been said of the impact of the pandemic on the employment opportunities for young people. For example young people often work in sectors, such as hospitality, that have been locked down and may well be amongst the longest to reopen due to social distancing. In addition, there is a body of research that has discussed the long term effects of unemployment at a young age.¹

What we can see in this table is that overall, across the region there were over 10,000 people aged between 16-24 claiming in June. Whilst Fife has the most claimants in this age group Edinburgh has seen the largest percentage increase between May and June.

Table 3 Age Profile of Claimants (16-24 year olds)

	March	April	May	June	% Change March -June
City of Edinburgh	1,125	2,090	2,805	3,135	179%
East Lothian	335	580	705	755	125%
Fife	1,845	2,655	3,020	3,260	77%
Midlothian	325	545	650	695	114%
Scottish Borders	430	645	755	810	88%
West Lothian	775	1,095	1,395	1,480	91%
Column Total	4,835	7,610	9,335	10,130	110%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

Table 4 looks at the position for claimants aged between 25-49 years of age. We can see that overall, nearly 29,000 people in the region fall into this age group with over one third of them Edinburgh residents. Whilst every local authority in the region has seen a considerable increase over the 4-month period, Edinburgh has experienced the largest increase and in June had a claimant count 151% higher than it was in March.

¹ Some of these papers are looked at in the fortnightly Covid 19 summary papers available on the Joined up for Jobs website <https://www.joinedupforjobs.org/about/strategy>.

Table 4 Age Profile of Claimants (25-49 year olds)

	March	April	May	June	% Change March -June
City of Edinburgh	4,425	8,940	11,255	11,090	151%
East Lothian	990	1,860	2,100	1,975	99%
Fife	4,960	7,840	8,580	8,425	70%
Midlothian	875	1,645	1,865	1,745	99%
Scottish Borders	990	1,785	1,960	1,880	90%
West Lothian	1,975	3,310	3,835	3,630	84%
Column Total	14,210	25,380	29,590	28,745	102%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

Table 5 looks at the position of those claimants who were 50 years of age or more. From this we can see that the rate of increase hasn't been as marked as for the other two age groups and across the City Region there has been a 92% increase in the number of claimants who were over the age of 50. With the exception of Fife all the Local Authorities have seen an increase of around 90-110%. Fife is different in that the increase was 'only' 71%.

Table 5 Age Profile of Claimants (50 or over years of age)

	March	April	May	June	% Change March -June
City of Edinburgh	1,735	2,950	3,710	3,620	109%
East Lothian	395	745	875	825	109%
Fife	2,005	3,195	3,450	3,420	71%
Midlothian	290	545	645	600	107%
Scottish Borders	480	900	1,020	955	99%
West Lothian	705	1,195	1,410	1,375	95%
Column Total	5,610	9,535	11,115	10,795	92%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

What these tables indicate is that whilst there has been an increase in the number of people claiming across the City Region, there are differences depending on the age of the claimant and depending on the local authority. We can see that the number of young people aged 24 or under claiming has increased more than the other two categories and this is most obvious in Edinburgh but also in Mid and East Lothian. This could be due to the sectors in which young people work possibly not using the job retention scheme as much as other sectors. From the data on NOMIS it isn't possible to arrive at anything more than a reasoned guess about why this is the case. Any information from those working with this client group would be appreciated.

Table 6 looks at the gender split of the claimant count across the city region.

Table 6 Change in the number of Claimants Across the City Region by Gender (March 2020-June 2020)

	All			Male			Female		
	March	June	% Change	March	June	% Change	March	June	% Change
Edinburgh	7,285	17,850	145%	4,565	11,070	142%	2,720	6,780	149%
East Lothian	1,720	3,555	107%	980	2,115	116%	740	1,440	95%
Fife	8,810	15,105	71%	5,515	9,430	71%	3,295	5,670	72%
Midlothian	1,495	3,040	103%	865	1,870	116%	625	1,170	87%
Scottish Borders	1,900	3,645	92%	1,165	2,190	88%	735	1,455	98%
West Lothian	3,450	6,485	88%	2,025	3,975	96%	1,425	2,510	76%
Column Total	24,660	49,675	101%	15,120	30,645	103%	9,540	19,025	99%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

The Situation Within Localities

Tables 7 through to 12 look at the wards within the City Region and presents the data for March and June 2020. The percentage increase between these dates is also highlighted. 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 over the last 4 months. Morningside, for example, recorded a 227% increase in the claimant count whilst Inverleith has recorded a 222% increase. However, it needs to be considered that even with these very high rates of increase the overall claimant counts in these wards is still far lower in real terms than what we are seeing elsewhere in the city,

Table 7 Edinburgh Ward Claimant Count

Ward	March 2020	June 2020	Change
Almond	510	1,100	116%
City Centre	475	1,205	154%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	190	475	150%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	140	375	168%
Craigtinny/Duddingston	555	1,415	155%
Drum Brae/Gyle	230	625	172%
Forth	730	1,570	115%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	200	565	183%
Inverleith	230	740	222%
Leith	610	1,400	130%
Leith Walk	580	1,525	163%
Liberton/Gilmerton	565	1,385	145%
Morningside	165	540	227%
Pentland Hills	655	1,295	98%
Portobello/Craigmillar	640	1,445	126%
Sighthill/Gorgie	565	1,460	158%
Southside/Newington	245	735	200%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

The increase in particular wards is also likely to be linked to the increase in the particular age groups. In Edinburgh as a whole in 2017 12.8% of the population were 16-24 years of age. Compare this to the situation in Morningside where 20.3% of the population were 16-24 years of age or in Southside Newington where 29.3% of the population were 16-24 years of age. If we see a ward with a high proportion of younger people record a substantial increase in the claimant count then it is likely that this will result in the city as a whole recording an increase in claimants from that age group. If this is the case, then the next question to ask would be is there a difference in the support needs for 16-24 year olds in Morningside or Southside/Newington compared to those in other areas of the city?

Table 8 East Lothian Ward Claimant Count

Ward	March 2020	June 2020	Change
Dunbar and East Linton	190	425	124%
Haddington and Lammermuir	240	525	119%
Musselburgh	460	905	97%
North Berwick Coastal	100	275	175%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	295	595	102%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	435	825	90%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

The additional tables 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 175% increase in claimant count between March and June. In Fife the areas with the highest rate of increase include St Andrews and the East Neuk. In West Lothian it is Linlithgow that is demonstrating the largest increase in percentage terms.

Table 9 Fife Ward Claimant Count

Ward	March 2020	June 2020	Change
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	905	1,265	40%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	390	625	60%
Cowdenbeath	595	1,055	77%
Cupar	205	430	110%
Dunfermline Central	405	705	74%
Dunfermline North	410	670	63%
Dunfermline South	440	810	84%
East Neuk and Landward	165	400	142%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	390	625	60%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	340	610	79%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	635	81%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	165	365	121%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	240	490	104%
Kirkcaldy Central	610	980	61%
Kirkcaldy East	660	1,005	52%
Kirkcaldy North	395	650	65%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	805	63%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	690	1,140	65%
Rosyth	310	565	82%
St Andrews	105	250	138%
Tay Bridgehead	185	355	92%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	360	665	85%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

Table 10 West Lothian Ward Claimant Count

Ward	March 2020	June 2020	Change
Armadale and Blackridge	315	565	79%
Bathgate	450	870	93%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	720	97%
East Livingston and East Calder	390	770	97%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	425	730	72%
Linlithgow	140	310	121%
Livingston North	315	675	114%
Livingston South	445	830	87%
Whitburn and Blackburn	605	1,015	68%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

Table 11 Midlothian Ward Claimant Count

Ward	March 2020	June 2020	Change
Bonnyrigg	180	420	133%
Dalkeith	290	610	110%
Midlothian East	255	540	112%
Midlothian South	315	565	79%
Midlothian West	215	450	109%
Penicuik	235	455	94%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

Table 12 Scottish Borders Claimant Count

Ward	March 2020	June 2020	Change
East Berwickshire	160	325	103%

Galashiels and District	380	630	66%
Hawick and Denholm	250	390	56%
Hawick and Hermitage	190	330	74%
Jedburgh and District	125	305	144%
Kelso and District	155	285	84%
Leaderdale and Melrose	120	285	138%
Mid Berwickshire	140	295	111%
Selkirkshire	165	295	79%
Tweeddale East	110	250	127%
Tweeddale West	105	255	143%

Source: NOMIS 16/7/2020

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 June 2020 there were 34,318 UC claimants compared to April 2020 when there were 24,272.

The most recent data that will allow for a split between in and out of employment is for May and that is produced in the table below alongside the data for June which hasn't yet been split.

Table 13 May2020 Universal Credit Claimants Split by Employment/Not Employment June 2020 added for comparison.

	May				June
	Not in Employment	In Employment	Not Available	Total	
Scottish Borders	5,137	2,736	..	7,901	8,177
Midlothian	5,302	3,036	..	8,339	8,548
East Lothian	6,068	3,427	..	9,497	9,773
West Lothian	9,475	5,132	..	14,610	15,111
City of Edinburgh	20,496	11,739	..	32,239	34,318
Fife	22,549	10,695	..	33,237	34,373
Total	69,026	36,789	..	105,815	110,299

Chris Nicol
Monitoring and Evaluation
Capital City Partnership
17/7/2020
0131 554 3067
07462 432348

chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org