

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

### Summary

- Edinburgh Claimant Count up from 17,850 in June to 18,515 in July 2020.
- Year on year change 6,270 in June 2019 to 18,515 in July 2020 (+195%)
- 35,183 Universal Credit Claimants (both seeking and not seeking work) in Edinburgh in July 2020. There were 24,272 in April.

### Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 11<sup>th</sup> August has made the headlines as it represents the largest fall in employment in the UK in over a decade. Table 1 below looks at the position across Scotland based on the claimant count data published on NOMIS. From this table we can see that Edinburgh has recorded the largest percentage increase in claimant count both year on year (July 2019 to July 2020) and also since February. What we can also see is that the other authorities that recorded large percentage increases in the claimant count all had one thing in common – the claimant rate pre pandemic was low 2.0% or lower for 6 of the top 10 and 4 of the top 5. Compare this to areas where there was a high claimant rate pre pandemic – those at the bottom of the table and we can see the increase in the claimant rate has been less dramatic. It should be stressed that in normal times a 47% increase in the claimant count in 6 months would be staggering, however these aren't normal times.

**Table 1 Claimant Count -Scottish LAs**

Local Authority	July 2019	Feb 2020	July 2020	2019-2020	Feb-July 2020	Rate in July 2019
City of Edinburgh	6,270	7,105	18,515	195%	161%	1.7
East Renfrewshire	960	950	2,440	154%	157%	1.7
Perth and Kinross	1,790	1,865	4,605	157%	147%	2.0
East Dunbartonshire	1,235	1,230	2,905	135%	136%	1.9
Highland	3,425	3,715	8,555	150%	130%	2.4
Aberdeenshire	2,740	2,975	6,500	137%	118%	1.7
Argyll and Bute	1,385	1,530	3,275	136%	114%	2.7
Aberdeen City	3,650	4,150	8,860	143%	113%	2.3
Midlothian	1,380	1,470	3,110	125%	112%	2.4
Orkney Islands	170	195	410	141%	110%	1.3
Scottish Borders	1,785	1,860	3,885	118%	109%	2.6
East Lothian	1,715	1,765	3,675	114%	108%	2.6
Stirling	1,510	1,540	3,165	110%	106%	2.5
West Lothian	3,290	3,425	6,855	108%	100%	2.8
Shetland Islands	195	265	525	169%	98%	1.4
Angus	2,270	2,040	4,010	77%	97%	3.3
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>111,135</b>	<b>114,605</b>	<b>224,070</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>3.2</b>

Moray	1,495	1,550	3,030	103%	95%	2.5
Renfrewshire	3,975	4,025	7,855	98%	95%	3.5
Falkirk	3,265	3,300	6,415	96%	94%	3.2
North Lanarkshire	8,610	8,230	15,865	84%	93%	3.9
South Lanarkshire	7,125	7,015	13,470	89%	92%	3.5
Glasgow City	18,670	20,055	37,930	103%	89%	4.2
Na h-Eileanan Siar	330	465	875	165%	88%	2.1
Fife	8,795	8,765	15,880	81%	81%	3.8
South Ayrshire	2,645	2,790	4,895	85%	75%	4.0
Dumfries and Galloway	2,630	2,950	5,090	94%	73%	3.0
East Ayrshire	3,835	3,685	6,225	62%	69%	5.0
West Dunbartonshire	2,705	2,930	4,905	81%	67%	4.7
Dundee City	4,810	4,530	7,465	55%	65%	4.9
Clackmannanshire	1,375	1,390	2,225	62%	60%	4.3
North Ayrshire	4,690	4,600	7,350	57%	60%	5.7
Inverclyde	2,405	2,255	3,305	37%	47%	4.9

Source: NOMIS 11/8/2020

Turning now to look in more detail at the position of the authorities in the City Region. Table 2 illustrates how the claimant count across the Region has increased since February. We can see that February to March there was very little change and this reflects the fact that the pandemic hadn't yet had an impact on the economy as the lock down only started towards the very end of March.

**Table 2 Claimant Count Change Over the City Region**

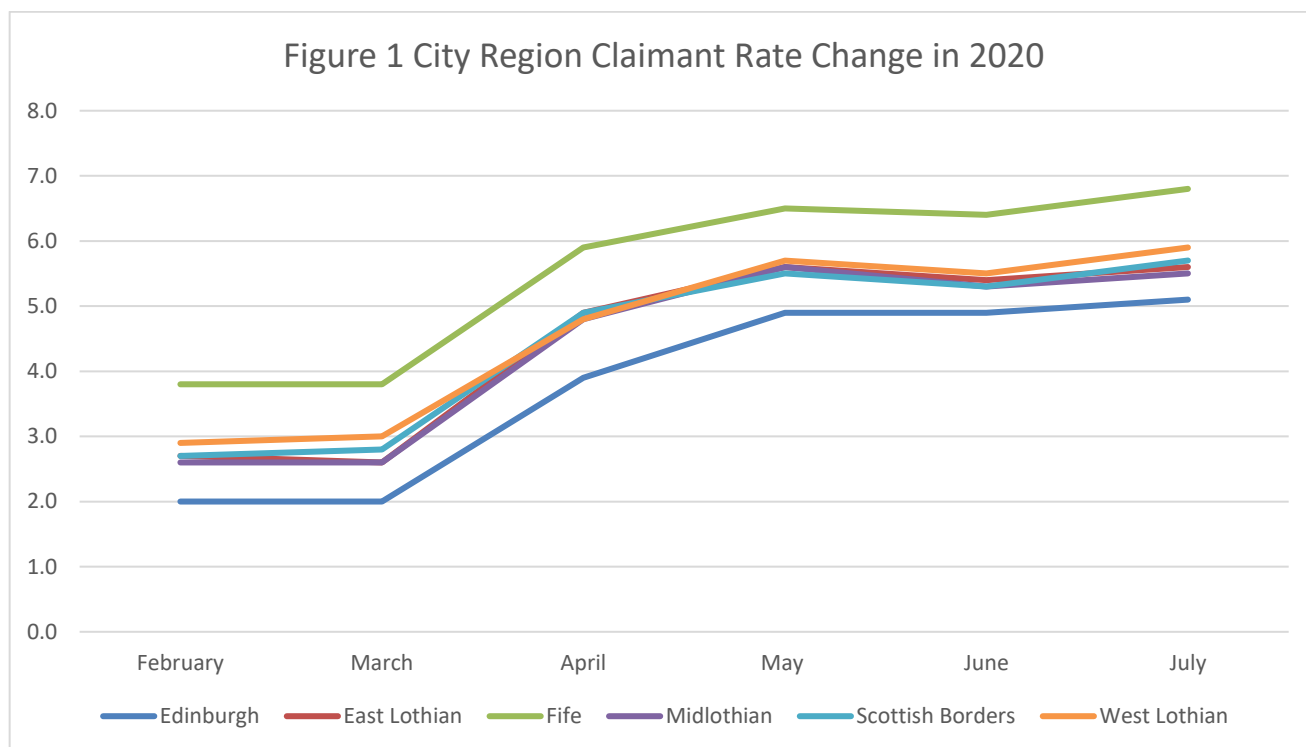
		February	March	April	May	June	July	% Change	
								Feb-July	June-July
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>Count</b>	7,105	7,285	13,980	17,775	17,635	18,515	161%	5%
	<b>Rate</b>	2.0	2.0	3.9	4.9	4.9	5.1	155%	4%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Count</b>	1,765	1,720	3,185	3,680	3,495	3,675	108%	5%
	<b>Rate</b>	2.7	2.6	4.9	5.6	5.4	5.6	107%	4%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>Count</b>	8,765	8,810	13,690	15,050	14,955	15,880	81%	6%
	<b>Rate</b>	3.8	3.8	5.9	6.5	6.4	6.8	79%	6%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>Count</b>	1,470	1,495	2,735	3,160	2,995	3,110	112%	4%
	<b>Rate</b>	2.6	2.6	4.8	5.6	5.3	5.5	112%	4%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>Count</b>	1,860	1,900	3,325	3,735	3,610	3,885	109%	8%
	<b>Rate</b>	2.7	2.8	4.9	5.5	5.3	5.7	111%	8%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>Count</b>	3,425	3,450	5,600	6,645	6,405	6,855	100%	7%
	<b>Rate</b>	2.9	3.0	4.8	5.7	5.5	5.9	103%	7%
<b>South East Region</b>		<b>24,390</b>	<b>24,660</b>	<b>42,515</b>	<b>50,045</b>	<b>49,095</b>	<b>51,920</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>6%</b>

Source: NOMIS 11/8/2020

The March to April claimant count saw an increase of nearly 20,000 across the city region and this increase continued into May with a further 7,500 people being added to the claimant count. June saw a stabilisation which may have been as a result of the measures taken by the Government such as the Job Retention Scheme. This, coupled with restrictions on trading being eased, may well lead us to assume that this could be the low point. However, the July figures have shown a further increase in the claimant count with nearly 3,000 new claimants being added across the region – nearly 1,000 of these being from Edinburgh.

From what forecasters are saying, this is likely to be the pattern over the next 6-12 months. The roll back of government support coupled with the fact that businesses, particularly in hospitality, the arts and tourism, come to recognise that trading with restrictions may well be financially unviable and decide to close or scale back operations, could all mean that over the next 6 months we continue to see the claimant count increase.

Figure 1 below illustrates the change in the claimant rate recorded by each of the LAs in the City Region. We can see that across all 6 authorities there has been a similar increase in the rate of around 3 percentage points.



Source: NOMIS 11/8/2020

Turning now to look at the age profile of the claimants. What we can see in this table is that overall, across the region there were nearly 11,000 people aged between 16-24 claiming in July. Whilst Fife has the most claimants in this age group Edinburgh has seen the largest percentage increase between February and July. More recently Fife, Scottish Borders and East Lothian have recorded the largest increases.

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

16-24							Change	
	February	March	April	May	June	July	Feb-July	June -July
Edinburgh	1,065	1,125	2,090	2,805	3,095	3,305	210%	7%
East Lothian	315	335	580	705	750	810	157%	8%
Fife	1,740	1,845	2,655	3,020	3,245	3,580	106%	10%
Midlothian	325	325	545	650	685	705	117%	3%
Scottish Borders	415	430	645	755	810	885	113%	9%
West Lothian	735	775	1,095	1,395	1,470	1,560	112%	6%

Source: NOMIS 11/8/2020

Table 4 looks at the position for claimants aged between 25-49 years of age. We can see that overall, nearly 30,000 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 6-month period, Edinburgh has experienced the largest increase and in July had a claimant count for this age group 165% higher than it was in February. West Lothian has seen the largest Month to Month increase with the July figure being 8% higher than that recorded in June.

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

	February	March	April	May	June	July	Change	
							Feb-July	June-July
Edinburgh	4,310	4,425	8,940	11,255	10,955	11,430	165%	4%
East Lothian	1,020	990	1,860	2,100	1,930	2,020	98%	5%
Fife	4,990	4,960	7,840	8,580	8,315	8,800	76%	6%
Midlothian	865	875	1,645	1,865	1,720	1,760	103%	2%
Scottish Borders	975	990	1,785	1,960	1,860	1,995	105%	7%
West Lothian	1,965	1,975	3,310	3,835	3,585	3,875	97%	8%

Source: NOMIS 11/08/2020

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 97% increase in the number of claimants who were over the age of 50. Midlothian has recorded the largest increase in claimants in this age group a rise of 129% between February and July and has also seen the largest increase over the last month. For this age group there is a particular concern that in some cases leaving the labour market in your 50s can mean that it is increasingly difficult to reengage with it. The increase of the state pension age will also have an impact as they will have longer to wait till pensions can be claimed.

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

	February	March	April	May	June	July	Change	
							Feb-July	June-July
Edinburgh	1,730	1,735	2,950	3,710	3,585	3,780	118%	5%
East Lothian	430	395	745	875	810	845	97%	4%
Fife	2,030	2,005	3,195	3,450	3,390	3,495	72%	3%
Midlothian	280	290	545	645	590	640	129%	8%
Scottish Borders	470	480	900	1,020	940	1,005	114%	7%
West Lothian	725	705	1,195	1,410	1,350	1,420	96%	5%

Source: NOMIS 11/8/2020

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 East Lothian.

Table 6 looks at the gender split of the claimant count across the city region. From this we can see that the gender split in July was much the same as it was in February.

**Table 6 Change in the number of Claimants Across the City Region by Gender (February-July 2020)**

	February 2020					July 2020				
	Male		Female		Total	Male		Female		Total
Edinburgh	4,435	62%	2,665	38%	7100	11,410	62%	7,105	38%	18515
East Lothian	1,005	57%	760	43%	1765	2,175	59%	1,500	41%	3675
Fife	5,475	62%	3,290	38%	8765	9,855	62%	6,025	38%	15880
Midlothian	865	59%	605	41%	1470	1,895	61%	1,210	39%	3105
Scottish Borders	1,120	60%	740	40%	1860	2,300	59%	1,585	41%	3885
West Lothian	1,970	58%	1,455	42%	3425	4,170	61%	2,685	39%	6855

Source: NOMIS 11/8/2020

### The Situation Within Localities

Table 7 looks at the situation in the wards that make up the City Region. They are ranked in terms of the wards that have shown the largest increase between February and July. Previous reports have highlighted how wards that have traditionally had fewer claimants have seen some of the biggest increases. For example, Morningside had a claimant rate of 0.6% in February and has seen the number of claimants increase by 277% over the last 6 months. Its not just Edinburgh where this has been the case and across the region, we can see wards which had a claimant rate of under 1.5% prior to the pandemic have recorded some of the largest increases.

**Table 7 Edinburgh Ward Claimant Count**

		February 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Feb -July Change	February 2020 Claimant Rate
Edinburgh	Morningside	150	530	565	277%	0.6
Edinburgh	Southside/ Newington	230	735	780	239%	0.8
Edinburgh	Inverleith	220	725	745	239%	1.0
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	85	270	285	235%	1.2
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	120	375	390	225%	0.8
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	205	555	615	200%	1.2
Edinburgh	Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	475	515	194%	1.1
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	1,505	1,555	183%	2.0
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/ Gyle	225	620	635	182%	1.5
Scottish Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	115	280	320	178%	1.8
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	550	1,435	1,510	175%	2.2
Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	540	1,375	1,440	167%	2.4
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale East	105	255	280	167%	1.6
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale West	105	255	275	162%	1.7
Edinburgh	Craightinny/ Duddingston	550	1,385	1,425	159%	2.7
Edinburgh	City Centre	490	1,195	1,260	157%	1.8

Midlothian	Bonnyrigg	180	410	455	153%	1.6
Fife	St Andrews	105	245	260	148%	0.7
Scottish Borders	Jedburgh and District	130	300	315	142%	2.5
Edinburgh	Portobello/ Craigmillar	625	1,430	1,510	142%	3.2
Midlothian	Midlothian West	210	450	485	131%	2.2
Edinburgh	Almond	495	1,075	1,140	130%	2.2
Fife	East Neuk and Landward	185	390	425	130%	2.6
Edinburgh	Forth	720	1,550	1,640	128%	3.4
Edinburgh	Leith	630	1,385	1,430	127%	3.5
West Lothian	Linlithgow	135	300	305	126%	1.3
Fife	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	485	515	124%	2.2
West Lothian	Livingston North	325	665	725	123%	2.1
Fife	Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	360	385	120%	2.2
West Lothian	East Livingston and East Calder	380	760	830	118%	2.7
East Lothian	Dunbar and East Linton	200	425	435	118%	2.3
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	625	1,285	1,355	117%	3.0
Scottish Borders	Kelso and District	140	280	300	114%	2.4
Scottish Borders	East Berwickshire	160	320	340	113%	2.7
Fife	Cupar	210	425	445	112%	2.5
East Lothian	Haddington and Lammermuir	260	515	550	112%	2.3
Scottish Borders	Mid Berwickshire	140	285	295	111%	2.3
Fife	Tay Bridgehead	190	355	400	111%	1.9
Midlothian	Penicuik	225	455	470	109%	2.7
Midlothian	Midlothian East	255	520	530	108%	2.6
West Lothian	Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	710	750	105%	3.0
East Lothian	Musselburgh	455	885	930	104%	3.6
Midlothian	Dalkeith	295	600	600	103%	3.4
East Lothian	Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	590	630	103%	2.8
West Lothian	Bathgate	470	860	935	99%	3.0
Fife	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	620	695	99%	3.5
Fife	Dunfermline South	450	800	890	98%	3.0
Scottish Borders	Selkirkshire	165	290	325	97%	2.9
Fife	Rosyth	305	555	600	97%	3.0
West Lothian	Livingston South	450	825	870	93%	2.9

Fife	West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	660	685	93%	3.7
Midlothian	Midlothian South	300	560	570	90%	3.4
West Lothian	Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	715	765	89%	4.0
West Lothian	Armadale and Blackridge	310	555	585	89%	3.2
East Lothian	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	810	840	87%	3.2
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Hermitage	180	325	335	86%	3.6
Fife	Dunfermline Central	395	700	735	86%	3.4
West Lothian	Whitburn and Blackburn	585	1,015	1,085	85%	4.3
Fife	Cowdenbeath	610	1,050	1,120	84%	4.5
Fife	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	605	645	82%	3.1
Fife	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	620	670	81%	3.9
Scottish Borders	Galashiels and District	385	625	695	81%	3.9
Fife	Kirkcaldy North	390	645	690	77%	4.0
Fife	Kirkcaldy Central	580	970	1,015	75%	6.6
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Denholm	235	390	405	72%	4.3
Fife	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	800	845	71%	4.2
Fife	Burrtisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	620	645	70%	4.2
Fife	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	1,120	1,155	69%	5.9
Fife	Dunfermline North	415	660	695	67%	3.9
Fife	Kirkcaldy East	640	995	1,035	62%	6.9
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	1,260	1,330	48%	8.2

Source: NOMIS 11/8/2020

What this indicates is that for some the job retention scheme either never started or has been removed already and these individuals have found themselves relying on the benefit system. It has been argued that this will have resulted in a far wider range of people experiencing the benefit system than was the case in previous recessions.

One thing to bear in mind is that whilst the rate of increase has been greatest in these areas, the traditionally deprived areas of, for example, Craigmillar in Edinburgh, Buckhaven in Fife and Whitburn in West Lothian, are still home for the vast majority of those claiming out of work benefits in the region. For example, 24% of the region's wards are currently home to 40% of the regions claimants, and this is a very similar split to the position recorded in February.

## 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 July 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 July 2020 there were 35,183 UC claimants compared to 34,318 in June and 24,272 in April 2020.

The most recent data that will allow for a split between in and out of employment is for June and that is produced in the table below alongside the data for July which hasn't yet been split. What we can see is that in July 2020 there were 112,910 Universal Credit claimants – both in employment and not in employment, this was an increase of 3% from the figure in June.

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

	Jun-20				Jul-20	% Change June-July
	Not in Emp	In Emp	NA	Total		
Scottish Borders	5,180	2,961	..	8,142	8,320	2%
West Lothian	9,528	5,513	..	15,042	15,592	4%
Midlothian	5,252	3,215	..	8,471	8,629	2%
East Lothian	6,016	3,708	..	9,724	9,877	2%
Fife	22,848	11,403	..	34,252	35,314	3%
City of Edinburgh	21,223	12,923	..	34,151	35,183	3%
Total	70,053	39,726	..	109,774	112,910	3%

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