

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count August 2020 Update

Summary

- The Claimant Count in Scotland was 228,005 in August 2020. In February there were 114,605 claimants.
- Edinburgh Claimant Count up from 18,515 July to 19,095 in August 2020.
- Year on year change in Edinburgh - 6,375 in August 2019 to 19,095 in August 2020 (+200%)
- The number of claimants in Edinburgh is now higher than it was at the peak of the financial crash of 2007-2008 and approaching the levels recorded in the housing market crash of the early 1990s.
- The 16-24 year old claimant count in Edinburgh increased by 208% between February and August but has stabilised over recent months.
- Over 50s claimant count increased by 127% between February and August 2020 and grew by 5% between July and August.
- 35,633 Universal Credit Claimants (both seeking and not seeking work) in Edinburgh in August 2020. There were 13,688 in February.

Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 15th September indicates that the claimant count overall is still rising. Table 1 below gives us an impression of how this has changed across the 4 home nations and the UK. We can see that in the UK there were 2,726,510 claimants in August 2020 and this is 117% higher than it was in February.

Table 1 National Claimant Count Picture

Area	February 2020	August 2020	Feb to Aug Change
England	1,050,875	2,314,695	120%
Northern Ireland	29,910	63,225	111%
Scotland	114,605	228,005	99%
Wales	60,375	120,590	100%
United Kingdom	1,255,770	2,726,510	117%

Source: NOMIS 15/9/2020

In Scotland there were 228,005 claimants in August a 99% increase on the position in February. If we were to look at the regions of England independently we can see that in London the claimant count has increased by 160% whilst the North East has seen the claimant count increase by 66%.

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 Edinburgh has recorded the largest percentage increase in claimant count both year on year (August 2019 to August 2020) and 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. For example, East Renfrewshire had a claimant rate of 1.7% in February and recorded 158% increase between February and August. Compare this to areas where there was a high claimant rate pre pandemic and we can see the increase in the claimant rate has been less dramatic. For example, Inverclyde had a claimant rate of 4.6% in February and has seen its claimant count increase by 46%. What we seem to be seeing from this is that the economic fallout from the pandemic is affecting areas where claiming out of work benefit hadn't been the norm in the past. That said the areas where there had been higher rates of unemployment pre COVID are still the areas with higher rates of unemployment now, its simply the rate of increase that is higher for the authorities with low claimant rates to start with.

Table 2 Claimant Count -Scottish LAs

Local Authority	August 2019	February 2020	August 2020	Aug 2019-2020	Feb-Aug 2020	August 2020 Rate
Aberdeen City	3,830	4,150	9,270	142%	123%	5.9
Aberdeenshire	2,820	2,975	6,770	140%	128%	4.2
Angus	2,255	2,040	4,055	80%	99%	5.9
Argyll and Bute	1,380	1,530	3,195	132%	109%	6.3
City of Edinburgh	6,375	7,105	19,095	200%	169%	5.2
Clackmannanshire	1,380	1,390	2,290	66%	65%	7.1
Dumfries and Galloway	2,770	2,950	5,080	83%	72%	5.8
Dundee City	4,835	4,530	7,580	57%	67%	7.6
East Ayrshire	3,830	3,685	6,340	66%	72%	8.3
East Dunbartonshire	1,270	1,230	3,025	138%	146%	4.7
East Lothian	1,700	1,765	3,700	118%	110%	5.6
East Renfrewshire	990	950	2,450	147%	158%	4.3
Falkirk	3,310	3,300	6,420	94%	95%	6.3
Fife	9,005	8,765	16,065	78%	83%	6.9
Glasgow City	19,145	20,055	38,720	102%	93%	8.7
Highland	3,370	3,715	8,450	151%	127%	5.9
Inverclyde	2,405	2,255	3,300	37%	46%	6.8
Midlothian	1,380	1,470	3,200	132%	118%	5.6
Moray	1,495	1,550	3,075	106%	98%	5.2
Na h-Eileanan Siar	335	465	890	166%	91%	5.7
North Ayrshire	4,660	4,600	7,390	59%	61%	9.0
North Lanarkshire	8,500	8,230	16,130	90%	96%	7.3
Orkney Islands	165	195	425	158%	118%	3.2
Perth and Kinross	1,825	1,865	4,670	156%	150%	5.1
Renfrewshire	4,025	4,025	7,885	96%	96%	6.9
Scottish Borders	1,775	1,860	3,880	119%	109%	5.7
Shetland Islands	220	265	555	152%	109%	3.9
South Ayrshire	2,650	2,790	5,005	89%	79%	7.6
South Lanarkshire	7,050	7,015	13,915	97%	98%	6.9
Stirling	1,455	1,540	3,150	116%	105%	5.2
West Dunbartonshire	2,775	2,930	4,935	78%	68%	8.7
West Lothian	3,320	3,425	7,100	114%	107%	6.1
Column Total	112,310	114,605	228,005	103%	99%	6.5

Source: NOMIS 15/9/2020

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 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. There were large increases across the region in April and May, both in terms of overall numbers and also in terms of the rate. Since May there has been more subtle changes as the labour market has continued to contract but in some instances picked up again due to lock down easing or even growth in sectors such as food retail and IT. Commentators have mentioned that there has been gradual reductions in staff as businesses, once reopened, have realised that they don't need the full complement of employees that they needed pre-pandemic.

Table 3 Claimant Count Change Over the City Region

		City of Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
February 2020	Count	7,105	1,765	8,765	1,470	1,860	3,425
	Rate	1.9	2.7	3.8	2.6	2.7	2.9
March 2020	Count	7,285	1,720	8,810	1,495	1,900	3,450
	Rate	2.0	2.6	3.8	2.6	2.8	2.9
April 2020	Count	13,980	3,185	13,690	2,735	3,325	5,600
	Rate	3.8	4.9	5.9	4.8	4.9	4.8
May 2020	Count	17,775	3,680	15,050	3,160	3,735	6,645
	Rate	4.8	5.6	6.5	5.5	5.5	5.7
June 2020	Count	17,635	3,495	14,955	2,995	3,610	6,405
	Rate	4.8	5.3	6.4	5.2	5.3	5.5
July 2020	Count	18,290	3,620	15,730	3,060	3,835	6,800
	Rate	5.0	5.5	6.8	5.4	5.7	5.8
August 2020	Count	19,095	3,700	16,065	3,200	3,880	7,100
	Rate	5.2	5.6	6.9	5.6	5.7	6.1
Feb-August Change		169%	110%	83%	118%	109%	107%
July-August Change		4%	2%	2%	5%	1%	4%

Source: NOMIS 15/9/2020

It would appear that the claimant count plateaued over the summer and the next big shock is likely to be the removal of the furlough scheme in October. At this point we will see if employers are in a position to hold on to staff without the support from the government. One worrying indicator that this might not be the case is that the number of firms submitting HR1 forms – notification of redundancies where 20 or more members of staff will be affected- was up in June and July, so that nationally 156,000 staff had been informed of possible redundancy in June and 150,000 in July. In the last recession the highest monthly total was around 90,000 in March 2009.

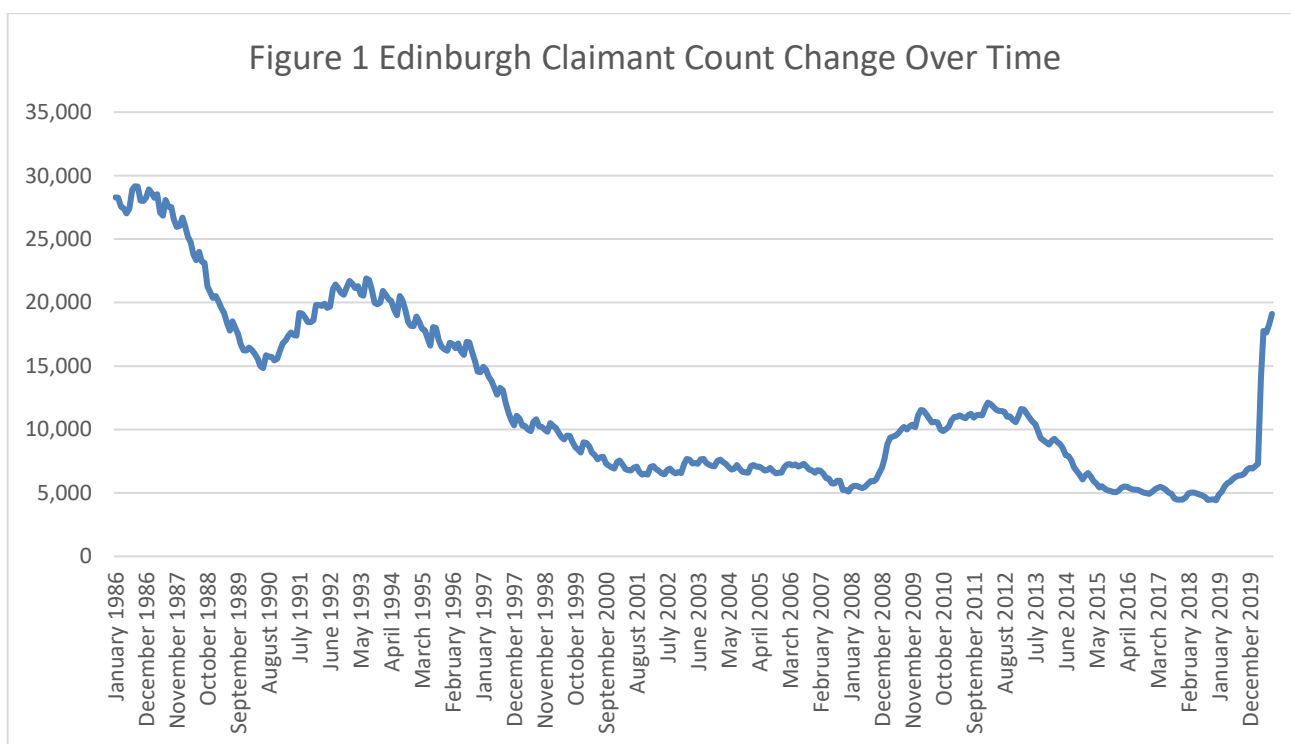
Table 4 Looks at the number of on flows or new claims added in any particular month. This is from the DWP site StatXplore. This data set does lag NOMIS and the May data is the most recent. What we do see is that across the City Region in February and March there were 4,300 and 4,700 new on flows respectively. In April this went up to nearly 21,000 and in May approaching 15,000 further new cases were recorded.

Table 4 On and Off -Flows To the Claimant Count

	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	Total
East Lothian	323	340	1,727	1,076	3,472
Fife	1,533	1,624	6,009	3,669	12,833
Midlothian	269	320	1,538	944	3,068
City of Edinburgh	1,257	1,426	7,436	6,272	16,396
Scottish Borders	320	342	1,649	1,000	3,309
West Lothian	654	690	2,615	1,950	5,905
Total	4,353	4,741	20,977	14,905	44,977

Source: StatXplore 15/9/2020

Figure 1 below looks at the claimant count over the longer term for Edinburgh. One thing to bear in mind here is the fact that methodologies and benefits have changed over time with the result that some of these changes could be related to more *administrative* changes rather than changes in the labour market.



Source: NOMIS 15/09/2020

We can see that in the late 1980s the impact of the early 1980s recession was still playing out with a gradual fall from nearly 30,000 unemployed in Edinburgh. The next spike was linked into the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, Black Wednesday and the property crash that introduced the concept of negative equity to millions of home buyers. At its peak in the early 1990s we saw around 22,000 claimants in the city. In what seems to be a recurring theme 2007/8 saw the financial crisis, again linked into lending for home ownership. At its peak, the 2007/8 financial crash saw around 11,000 claimants in the city, lower than in the early 1990s but as we can see in the chart below it took far longer for this count to fall.

The current 2020 COVID crisis is entirely different as it has been largely created by policies to reduce the spread of the virus. This can be seen by the sharp climb recorded in 2020.

Currently the city has over 18,000 claimants looking for work. This is higher than at the peak of the financial crisis and approaching the housing crash of the early 1990s. We have yet to see the full effects of the current crisis as we are currently still benefiting from the furlough scheme. A true reflection of the number of unemployed in the city is only likely to be visible from December onwards, when the data starts to reflect those released from furlough who find they have no job to return to. Data published by SPICe¹ indicates that in July there were 69,500 people on Furlough in Edinburgh. Even if three quarter of these jobs are retained, the city could still find the claimant count almost doubles when the scheme draws to a close. If this were to happen, we would be back into a situation that we haven't seen since the 1980s.

Turning now to look at the age profile of the claimants. What we can see in Table 5 is that overall, across the region there were nearly 11,000 people aged between 16-24 claiming in August 2020. Whilst Fife has the most claimants in this age group Edinburgh has seen the largest percentage increase between February and August. More recently, between July and August, Scottish Borders and West Lothian have recorded the largest increases.

Table 5 Age Profile of Claimants (16-24 year olds)

Date	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
August 2019	1,070	310	2,010	320	420	755
February 2020	1,065	315	1,740	325	415	735
March 2020	1,125	335	1,845	325	430	775
April 2020	2,090	580	2,655	545	645	1,095
May 2020	2,805	705	3,020	650	755	1,395
June 2020	3,095	750	3,245	685	810	1,470
July 2020	3,290	795	3,555	695	885	1,550
August 2020	3,285	765	3,560	695	890	1,590
2019-2020	207%	147%	77%	117%	112%	111%
Feb-August	208%	143%	105%	114%	114%	116%
July-August	0%	-4%	0%	0%	1%	3%

Source: NOMIS 15/09/2020

Table 6 looks at the position for claimants aged between 25-49 years of age. We can see that overall, just over 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 since February, Edinburgh has experienced the largest increase and in August had a claimant count for this age group 176% higher than it was in February. Edinburgh has also seen the largest Month to Month increase with the July figure being 6% higher than that recorded in June.

Table 6 Age Profile of Claimants (25-49 year olds)

Date	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
August 2019	3,715	965	5,005	790	905	1,890
February 2020	4,310	1,020	4,990	865	975	1,965
March 2020	4,425	990	4,960	875	990	1,975
April 2020	8,940	1,860	7,840	1,645	1,785	3,310
May 2020	11,255	2,100	8,580	1,865	1,960	3,835
June 2020	10,955	1,930	8,315	1,720	1,860	3,585

¹ (<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/07/21/coronavirus-covid-19-the-furlough-scheme-in-scotland/>)

July 2020	11,250	1,995	8,715	1,735	1,960	3,840
August 2020	11,875	2,050	8,905	1,830	1,985	4,005
2019-2020	220%	112%	78%	132%	119%	112%
Feb-August	176%	101%	78%	112%	104%	104%
July-August	6%	3%	2%	5%	1%	4%

Source: NOMIS 15/09/2020

Table 7 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 105% increase in the number of claimants who were over the age of 50 since February. Midlothian has recorded the largest increase in claimants in this age group a rise of 141% between February and August and, alongside West Lothian, has also seen the largest increase over the last month. For this age group there is a particular concern around the fact 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. If individuals are in a position to 'cash in' pension contributions, this could mean that people take funds from their pensions, reducing the amount they have to rely on when they are of pensionable age. If this is the case it is likely that it will increase poverty levels amongst older people in the future.

Table 7 Age Profile of Claimants (50 or over years of age)

Date	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
August 2019	1,590	425	1,995	270	450	675
February 2020	1,730	430	2,030	280	470	725
March 2020	1,735	395	2,005	290	480	705
April 2020	2,950	745	3,195	545	900	1,195
May 2020	3,710	875	3,450	645	1,020	1,410
June 2020	3,585	810	3,390	590	940	1,350
July 2020	3,750	830	3,460	630	995	1,405
August 2020	3,935	880	3,600	675	1,005	1,510
2019-2020	147%	107%	80%	150%	123%	124%
Feb-August	127%	105%	77%	141%	114%	108%
July-August	5%	6%	4%	7%	1%	7%

Source: NOMIS 15/8/2020

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

Table 8 Change in the number of Claimants Across the City Region by Gender (February-August 2020)

Local Authority	Total		Male				Female			
	February	August	February		August		February		August	
Edinburgh	7,105	19,095	4,435	62%	11,680	61%	2,665	38%	7,415	39%
East Lothian	1,765	3,700	1,005	57%	2,160	58%	760	43%	1,535	41%

Fife	8,765	16,065	5,475	62%	9,895	62%	3,290	38%	6,170	38%
Midlothian	1,470	3,200	865	59%	1,955	61%	605	41%	1,245	39%
Scottish Borders	1,860	3,880	1,120	60%	2,280	59%	740	40%	1,605	41%
West Lothian	3,425	7,100	1,970	58%	4,275	60%	1,455	42%	2,825	40%
Column Total	24,385	53,040	14,875	61%	32,245	61%	9,510	39%	20,795	39%

Source: NOMIS 15/09/2020

Looking across the Local Authorities we can see that in Edinburgh and Scottish Borders there has been a slight shift so that a slightly higher proportion of claimants are female in August than was the case in February. In Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian the reverse is the case and the proportion of male claimants is slightly higher in August than was the case in February.

The Situation Within Localities

Table 9 looks at the 10 wards within the City Region that have recorded the greatest percentage increase since February. What we can see generally, is that these wards tend not to have had many claimants in the past, similar to the situation we saw at the LA level in Table 2. What appears to be the exception is Leith Walk which not only had a high number of claimants to start with it also recorded a 195% increase.

Table 9 Ten Wards with the Greatest Percentage Claimant Count Increase

	2018 electoral wards	Feb 2020	July 2020	August 2020	Feb-Aug Change
Edinburgh	Morningside	150	560	600	300%
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	85	285	310	265%
Edinburgh	Inverleith	220	740	785	257%
Edinburgh	Southside/ Newington	230	780	805	250%
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	120	390	400	233%
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	205	610	620	202%
Edinburgh	Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	505	525	200%
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/ Gyle	225	620	670	198%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	1,555	1,620	195%
Scottish Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	115	315	330	187%

Source: NOMIS 15/09/2020

Whilst the wards looked at in Table 9 have recorded very high percentage increases, generally the claimant count numbers in August were relatively low. Table 10 looks at the wards with the highest number of out of work claimants in August and we can see Leith Walk features in this list as well. Perhaps the one that stands out is the Buckhaven Methil and Wemyss Villages ward in Fife. In this ward there were 1,325 claimants in August, and this was 'only' an increase of 47% on the pre-Covid figure. In this area clearly the pandemic has made an already problematic employment situation worse.

Table 10 Ten Wards with the Greatest Number of Claimants

	2018 electoral wards	February 2020	July 2020	August 2020	Feb-August Change
Edinburgh	Forth	720	1,610	1,710	138%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	1,555	1,620	195%
Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	625	1,495	1,580	153%
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	550	1,500	1,535	179%
Edinburgh	Craigenitny/Duddingston	550	1,395	1,505	174%

Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	540	1,425	1,490	176%
Edinburgh	Leith	630	1,405	1,430	127%
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	625	1,345	1,375	120%
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	1,320	1,325	47%
Edinburgh	City Centre	490	1,235	1,270	159%

Source: NOMIS 15/9/2020

Table 11 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 1.8 in St Andrews to 12.0 in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages.

Table 11 Claimant Count Numbers Across the City Region

	2018 electoral wards	February 2020	July 2020	August 2020	Feb-Aug Change	July-Aug Change	Aug Rate
East Lothian	Musselburgh	455	915	945	108%	3%	7.6
East Lothian	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	825	835	86%	1%	5.9
East Lothian	Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	625	620	100%	-1%	5.5
East Lothian	Haddington and Lammermuir	260	540	550	112%	2%	5.0
East Lothian	Dunbar and East Linton	200	430	435	118%	1%	4.9
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	85	285	310	265%	9%	4.2
Edinburgh	Forth	720	1,610	1,710	138%	6%	8.2
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	1,555	1,620	195%	4%	5.9
Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	625	1,495	1,580	153%	6%	7.9
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	550	1,500	1,535	179%	2%	6.1
Edinburgh	Craigenlinny/Duddingston	550	1,395	1,505	174%	8%	7.3
Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	540	1,425	1,490	176%	5%	6.8
Edinburgh	Leith	630	1,405	1,430	127%	2%	8.0
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	625	1,345	1,375	120%	2%	6.6
Edinburgh	City Centre	490	1,235	1,270	159%	3%	4.7
Edinburgh	Almond	495	1,125	1,170	136%	4%	5.2
Edinburgh	Southside/Newington	230	780	805	250%	3%	2.8
Edinburgh	Inverleith	220	740	785	257%	6%	3.4
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/Gyle	225	620	670	198%	8%	4.4
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205	610	620	202%	2%	3.6
Edinburgh	Morningside	150	560	600	300%	7%	2.6
Edinburgh	Colinton/Fairmilehead	175	505	525	200%	4%	3.4
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	120	390	400	233%	3%	2.7
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	1,320	1,325	47%	0%	12.0
Fife	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	1,150	1,165	70%	1%	10.0
Fife	Cowdenbeath	610	1,110	1,100	80%	-1%	8.1
Fife	Kirkcaldy East	640	1,025	1,060	66%	3%	11.4

Fife	Kirkcaldy Central	580	1,000	1,015	75%	1%	11.5
Fife	Dunfermline South	450	885	890	98%	1%	5.9
Fife	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	830	820	66%	-1%	7.0
Fife	Dunfermline Central	395	725	760	92%	5%	6.6
Fife	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	690	710	103%	3%	7.2
Fife	Dunfermline North	415	690	700	69%	1%	6.5
Fife	Kirkcaldy North	390	685	695	78%	1%	7.1
Fife	West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	680	690	94%	1%	7.2
Fife	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	665	680	84%	2%	7.1
Fife	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	635	655	85%	3%	5.7
Fife	Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	650	650	71%	0%	7.3
Fife	Rosyth	305	595	620	103%	4%	6.0
Fife	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	510	545	137%	7%	5.1
Fife	Cupar	210	440	450	114%	2%	5.3
Fife	East Neuk and Landward	185	425	445	141%	5%	6.2
Fife	Tay Bridgehead	190	390	420	121%	8%	4.3
Fife	Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	380	415	137%	9%	5.1
Fife	St Andrews	105	250	255	143%	2%	1.8
Midlothian	Dalkeith	295	595	600	103%	1%	7.0
Midlothian	Midlothian East	255	525	580	127%	10%	5.8
Midlothian	Midlothian South	300	560	575	92%	3%	6.5
Midlothian	Midlothian West	210	475	500	138%	5%	5.3
Midlothian	Penicuik	225	465	480	113%	3%	5.7
Midlothian	Bonnyrigg	180	445	465	158%	4%	4.1
Scottish Borders	Galashiels and District	385	685	690	79%	1%	7.0
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Denholm	235	400	405	72%	1%	7.4
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Hermitage	180	335	345	92%	3%	6.8
Scottish Borders	East Berwickshire	160	340	335	109%	-1%	5.5
Scottish Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	115	315	330	187%	5%	5.2
Scottish Borders	Selkirkshire	165	315	315	91%	0%	5.6
Scottish Borders	Jedburgh and District	130	305	310	138%	2%	5.9
Scottish Borders	Kelso and District	140	300	300	114%	0%	5.2
Scottish Borders	Mid Berwickshire	140	290	300	114%	3%	5.0
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale East	105	280	280	167%	0%	4.4

Scottish Borders	Tweeddale West	105	275	275	162%	0%	4.4
West Lothian	Whitburn and Blackburn	585	1,080	1,115	91%	3%	8.2
West Lothian	Bathgate	470	925	965	105%	4%	6.2
West Lothian	Livingston South	450	860	905	101%	5%	5.8
West Lothian	East Livingston and East Calder	380	825	850	124%	3%	6.0
West Lothian	Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	755	770	111%	2%	6.2
West Lothian	Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	755	770	90%	2%	7.6
West Lothian	Livingston North	325	720	760	134%	6%	4.9
West Lothian	Armadale and Blackridge	310	580	625	102%	8%	6.4
West Lothian	Linlithgow	135	300	340	152%	13%	3.4

Source: NOMIS 15/9/2020

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 later. They also have a one-month delay on breaking down some data sets. For example, the Universal Credit data for August whilst published, is only available for the total and is not yet available in terms of in work and out work claimants.

Table 12 Universal Credit Claimants All

	Feb-20	July 2020 r	August 2020 p	Feb-Aug 2020	July-Aug 2020
Edinburgh	13,688	34,948	35,633	160%	2%
East Lothian	5,842	9,777	9,810	68%	0%
Fife	21,262	35,091	35,623	68%	2%
Midlothian	4,921	8,543	8,591	75%	1%
West Lothian	8,419	15,509	15,809	88%	2%
Scottish Borders	4,424	8,240	8,306	88%	1%
Total	58,554	112,103	113,770	94%	1%

Source: StatXplore 15/9/2020. R- revised P- provisional

Table 12 above illustrates the increase in the number of people on Universal Credit. Edinburgh again shows a rate of increase far higher than other areas. Table 13 below gives an indication of how many of these claimants were recorded as having been in employment.

The breakdown for August isn't yet available so the July data is the latest that we can look at. We can see that overall, in July, 37% of those claiming UC are in work and this is up from 33% in February. Edinburgh has recorded the highest increase. Given the current conditions and the fact that overall UC has increased, this could indicate that more people in work are finding they have less money to live on and need the support of the benefit. This could be due to reductions in hours, it could be those on furlough finding that despite 80% of their wage being met they still needed to 'top up' through UC. What this does illustrate is that there is additional group not looking for work so not counted in the data examined earlier in this report, who are in a very precarious position, those that

were 'Just About Managing' previously but given the change in conditions are closer to falling into poverty.

Table 13 Proportion of Universal Credit Claimants 'In Employment'

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	July 2020 r
Edinburgh	34%	34%	37%	36%	38%	39%
East Lothian	36%	37%	37%	36%	38%	38%
Fife	30%	30%	33%	32%	33%	34%
Midlothian	35%	36%	37%	36%	38%	39%
West Lothian	33%	34%	36%	35%	37%	37%
Scottish Borders	35%	35%	36%	35%	36%	37%
Total	33%	33%	35%	35%	36%	37%

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