

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

### Summary

- The Claimant Count in Scotland was 222,020 in September 2020. In February there were 114,605 claimants.
- Edinburgh Claimant Count down slightly from 18,840 in August to 18,730 in September 2020.
- Year on year change in Edinburgh – 6,380 in September 2019 to 18,730 in September 2020 (+194%)
- Currently, September 2020, there are 51,490 claimants across the City Region and this represents a 124% increase compared to September 2019. The claimant rate across the region now varies from 5.1% in Edinburgh to 6.7% in Fife.
- Across the region in September 2020 there were 10,450 claimants aged 16-24, a 127% increase since February.
- We can see that across the city region the number of Universal Credit claimants in employment increased by 119% between February 2020 and August 2020 and in Edinburgh a 202% increase was recorded. August is the most recent data.

### Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 13<sup>th</sup> October indicates that the claimant count overall across the UK is still rising, but the change between August and September is different depending on which of the four nations you look at.

**Table 1 National Claimant Count Picture**

Date	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	United Kingdom
September 2019	969,255	29,505	108,690	57,290	1,164,740
February 2020	1,050,875	29,910	114,605	60,375	1,255,770
August 2020	2,282,005	62,360	224,840	118,905	2,688,110
September 2020	2,306,555	62,250	222,020	118,385	2,709,210
Sep 2019 to Sep 2020	138%	111%	104%	107%	133%
Aug 2020 to Sep 2020	1.1%	-0.2%	-1.3%	-0.4%	0.8%

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

Table 1 above illustrates that comparing September 2019 to September 2020 the number of claimants has increased by between 138% (England) and 104% (Scotland). More positive is that the month to month change - August 2020 to September 2020- actually indicates a fall in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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 (September 2019 to September 2020) and since February.

There are a couple of things worth looking at in this table. Firstly, we can see that of the 32 Scottish LAs, 11 of them currently have a claimant rate above that of Scotland as a whole and of these 11 only Fife is within the South East Scotland city region area. Secondly, the claimant count actually fell between August and September 2020 for most Scottish Local Authorities. The three that continued to increase tend to be ones that have some connection with offshore oil and are possibly more linked to global markets than other areas of the country. The question is will this fall continue? Will the support from the chancellor help to keep jobs even as the hospitality sector across much of Scotland – and many of the areas with an already high claimant count- undergo a further 16 days of restrictions?

**Table 2 Claimant Count -Scottish LAs**

Local Authority	Sep 2019	Feb 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Sep 19-Sep 20	Feb 20-Sep 20	Aug 20-Sep 20	Sep Rate
Aberdeen	3,815	4,150	9,170	9,415	147%	127%	3%	6.0
Aberdeenshire	2,715	2,975	6,675	6,810	151%	129%	2%	4.2
Angus	2,080	2,040	3,985	4,000	92%	96%	0%	5.8
Argyll and Bute	1,330	1,530	3,160	2,995	125%	96%	-5%	5.9
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>18,840</b>	<b>18,730</b>	<b>194%</b>	<b>164%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,305	1,390	2,255	2,210	69%	59%	-2%	6.9
Dumfries and Galloway	2,670	2,950	5,010	4,825	81%	64%	-4%	5.5
Dundee City	4,655	4,530	7,490	7,505	61%	66%	0%	7.6
East Ayrshire	3,645	3,685	6,280	6,205	70%	68%	-1%	8.2
East Dunbartonshire	1,200	1,230	2,985	2,930	144%	138%	-2%	4.5
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,685</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>3,635</b>	<b>3,495</b>	<b>107%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>5.3</b>
East Renfrewshire	960	950	2,410	2,355	145%	148%	-2%	4.1
Falkirk	3,175	3,300	6,315	6,125	93%	86%	-3%	6.0
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>15,840</b>	<b>15,550</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Glasgow City	18,920	20,055	38,205	38,180	102%	90%	0%	8.5
Highland	3,240	3,715	8,325	7,955	146%	114%	-4%	5.5
Inverclyde	2,275	2,255	3,265	3,185	40%	41%	-2%	6.5
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>3,120</b>	<b>131%</b>	<b>112%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Moray	1,400	1,550	3,030	2,920	109%	88%	-4%	5.0
Na h-Eileanan Siar	340	465	880	830	144%	78%	-6%	5.3
North Ayrshire	4,410	4,600	7,270	7,180	63%	56%	-1%	8.8
North Lanarkshire	8,190	8,230	15,870	15,490	89%	88%	-2%	7.1
Orkney Islands	170	195	420	405	138%	108%	-4%	3.0
Perth and Kinross	1,735	1,865	4,595	4,555	163%	144%	-1%	5.0
Renfrewshire	3,755	4,025	7,780	7,695	105%	91%	-1%	6.7
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>3,760</b>	<b>117%</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Shetland Islands	210	265	540	560	167%	111%	4%	4.0
South Ayrshire	2,570	2,790	4,960	4,925	92%	77%	-1%	7.4
South Lanarkshire	6,785	7,015	13,725	13,520	99%	93%	-1%	6.7
Stirling	1,430	1,540	3,110	2,995	109%	94%	-4%	4.9
West Dunbartonshire	2,705	2,930	4,845	4,770	76%	63%	-2%	8.4
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,225</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>7,005</b>	<b>6,835</b>	<b>112%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>108,690</b>	<b>114,605</b>	<b>224,840</b>	<b>222,020</b>	<b>104%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>6.3</b>

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

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 over the last 12 months but particularly since February. Figure 1 on the next page illustrates this graphically.

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

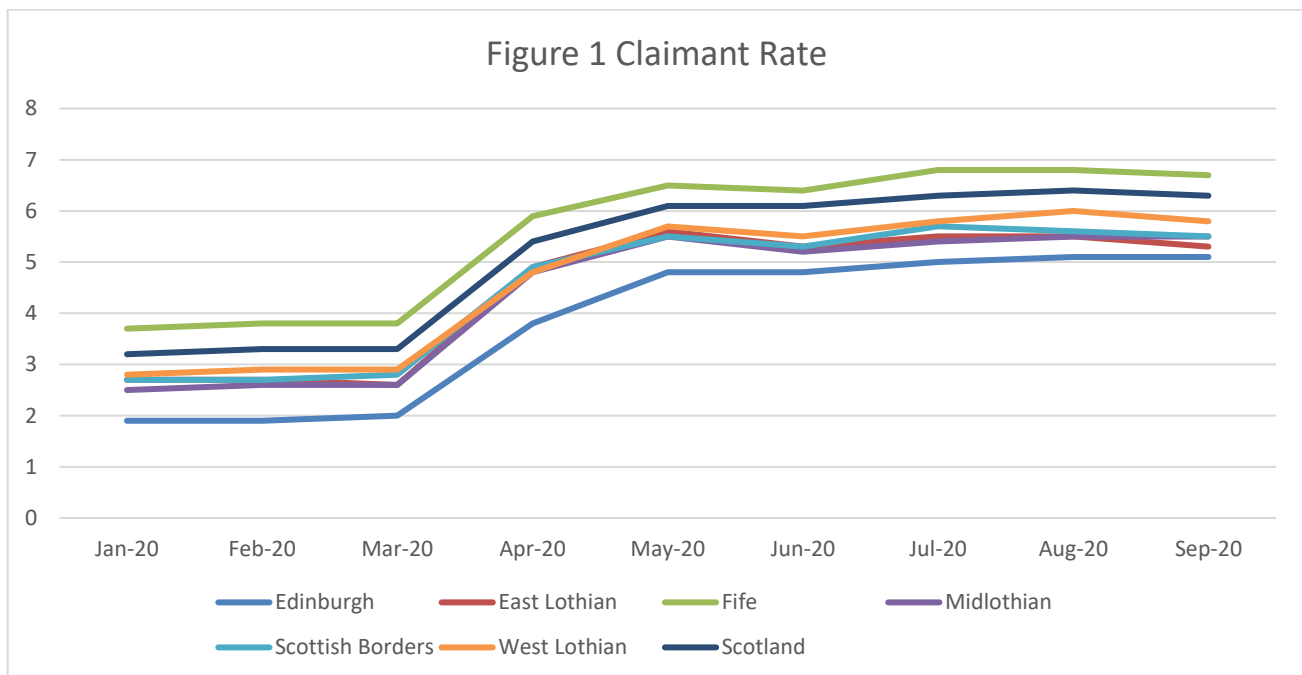
Date	Edinburgh		East Lothian		Fife		Midlothian		Scottish Borders		West Lothian		Scotland	
	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R
Sep 2019	6,380	1.7	1,685	2.6	8,625	3.7	1,350	2.4	1,730	2.5	3,225	2.8	108,690	3.1
Oct 2019	6,525	1.8	1,675	2.6	8,505	3.7	1,355	2.4	1,695	2.5	3,190	2.7	108,595	3.1
Nov 2019	6,830	1.9	1,740	2.7	8,575	3.7	1,400	2.5	1,805	2.7	3,315	2.8	110,250	3.2
Dec 2019	6,970	1.9	1,750	2.7	8,610	3.7	1,370	2.4	1,775	2.6	3,305	2.8	110,705	3.2
Jan 2020	6,910	1.9	1,750	2.7	8,505	3.7	1,410	2.5	1,835	2.7	3,260	2.8	111,955	3.2
Feb 2020	7,105	1.9	1,765	2.7	8,765	3.8	1,470	2.6	1,860	2.7	3,425	2.9	114,605	3.3
March 2020	7,285	2.0	1,720	2.6	8,810	3.8	1,495	2.6	1,900	2.8	3,450	2.9	114,650	3.3
April 2020	13,980	3.8	3,185	4.9	13,690	5.9	2,735	4.8	3,325	4.9	5,600	4.8	188,175	5.4
May 2020	17,775	4.8	3,680	5.6	15,050	6.5	3,160	5.5	3,735	5.5	6,645	5.7	214,550	6.1
June 2020	17,635	4.8	3,495	5.3	14,955	6.4	2,995	5.2	3,610	5.3	6,405	5.5	213,020	6.1
July 2020	18,290	5.0	3,620	5.5	15,730	6.8	3,060	5.4	3,835	5.7	6,800	5.8	221,775	6.3
Aug 2020	18,840	5.1	3,635	5.5	15,840	6.8	3,145	5.5	3,830	5.6	7,005	6.0	224,840	6.4
Sep 2020	18,730	5.1	3,495	5.3	15,550	6.7	3,120	5.5	3,760	5.5	6,835	5.8	222,020	6.3

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

C-Count R-Rate

We can see that currently, September 2020, there are 51,490 claimants across the city region and this represents a 124% increase compared to September 2019. The claimant rate across the region now varies from 5.1% in Edinburgh to 6.7% in Fife. In terms of proportion the authorities with the largest populations, Edinburgh and Fife, predicably also have the largest number of claimants- between them these two authorities have 34,280 claimants, which is two thirds of the claimants in the city region. This is pretty much what you would expect as these two authorities have 2/3rds of the city regions working age population.

Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate across the city region and compares this with the Scottish position. We can see that the rate increased significantly between March and April when the first restrictions were introduced. There was a smaller increase between April and May, but since then the rate has *broadly* -remained the same month to month. One thing to bear in mind is that at any other time a rate change from 4.8 to 5.1 over a 5-month period, which is what has happened in Edinburgh, would be worth commenting on. However, in the current climate this can be seen as a ‘good’ outcome.



Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

There are two big questions going forward. The first is what will be the impact of the removal of the more generous furlough scheme at the end of October and will its less generous replacement have an impact on reducing the feared job losses? The second question concerns the current restrictions introduced on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October particularly on hospitality and what impact these will have on the claimant count? This second question is interesting as across the city region there will be differences. Scottish Borders and Fife are not under the same tighter restrictions that are in place over the other 4 authorities. Could this be reflected in differences next month?

One thing that is certain, is that the new job retention scheme which is due to come into force next month is less generous than the current arrangement. As a result one would suggest that even if the claimant count does not increase as employers continue to furlough staff, it is likely that there will be an increase in claims for other benefits and hardship payments as incomes fall and households are pushed into poverty.

Table 4 Looks at the number of on flows or new claims added in February, April, June and August and is from the DWP site StatXplore and compares these with off flows.

**Table 4 On and Off -Flows To the Claimant Count**

	Feb-20		Apr-20		Jun-20		Aug-20		Total	
	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off
Edinburgh	1,257	1,057	7,436	920	3,523	3,705	2,294	1,803	14,516	7,484
East Lothian	323	1,212	1,727	1,026	590	2,383	421	1,606	3,065	6,222
Midlothian	269	301	1,538	223	558	769	418	400	2,774	1,691
Fife	1,533	232	6,009	218	2,420	663	1,602	353	11,561	1,465
Scottish Borders	320	523	1,649	452	598	1,266	403	722	2,963	2,962
West Lothian	654	261	2,615	218	1,064	681	926	416	5,264	1,577
Total	4,353	3,587	20,977	3,046	8,753	9,469	6,068	5,296	40,155	21,398

Source: StatXplore 13/10/2020

This data set does lag NOMIS and the August data is the most recent. What we do see is that across the City Region in February there were 4,353 new on flows to the claimant count and 3,587 off flows. In April the on flows went up to nearly 21,000 and off flows were only 3,046. Even at the height of the pandemic and the restrictions put in place to tackle the health crisis, people were leaving the claimant count- just not in the numbers necessary to be close to balancing those that were coming onto the count.

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 10,450 people aged between 16-24 claiming in September 2020 and this is a 2% fall from the position of the previous month. Overall, 3 of the regions local authorities saw a fall in the number of 16-24 year old claimants between August and September and three saw an increase. Whilst this is positive the number of claimants who were 16-24 years of age in September was 127% higher than in February and in Edinburgh the position was the most marked with claimants up 198% from February.

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

	February 2020	August 2020	September 2020	Percentage Change	
				Feb 20-Sep 20	Aug 20-Sep 20
Edinburgh	1,065	3,225	3,170	198%	-2%
East Lothian	315	755	720	129%	-5%
Fife	1,740	3,500	3,375	94%	-4%
Midlothian	325	685	710	118%	4%
Scottish Borders	415	880	890	114%	1%
West Lothian	735	1,570	1,590	116%	1%
Column Total	4,595	10,620	10,450	127%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

Fife continues to have the most claimants in this age group despite the fact that the count fell by 4% between August and September.

Table 6 looks at the position for claimants aged between 25-49 years of age. We can see that overall, just under 29,615 claimants in the region fall into this age group. This is 2% lower than was recorded in August. All 6 LAs in the city region recorded month to month falls between August and September.

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

	February 2020	August 2020	September 2020	Percentage Change	
				Feb 20-Sep 20	Aug 20-Sep 20
Edinburgh	4,310	11,715	11,630	170%	-1%
East Lothian	1,020	2,015	1,935	90%	-4%
Fife	4,990	8,775	8,615	73%	-2%
Midlothian	865	1,795	1,760	103%	-2%
Scottish Borders	975	1,955	1,890	94%	-3%
West Lothian	1,965	3,940	3,780	92%	-4%
Column Total	14,125	30,195	29,615	110%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

Whilst every local authority in the region has seen a considerable increase in the 25-49 age group since February, Edinburgh has experienced the largest increase and in September had a claimant

count for this age group 170% higher than it was in February. Overall in September there were nearly 30,000 people in this age group across the city region.

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 102% increase in the number of claimants who were over the age of 50 since February.

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

	February 2020	August 2020	September 2020	Percentage Change	
				Feb 20-Sep 20	Aug 20-Sep 20
Edinburgh	1,730	3,900	3,930	127%	1%
East Lothian	430	865	845	97%	-2%
Fife	2,030	3,565	3,555	75%	0%
Midlothian	280	665	650	132%	-2%
Scottish Borders	470	995	980	109%	-2%
West Lothian	725	1,495	1,465	102%	-2%
Column Total	5,665	11,475	11,420	102%	0%

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

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. Overall, we can see that across the region in September there were 10,450 claimants aged 16-24, a 127% increase since February.

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

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

	February 2020					September 2020				
	Male		Female			Male		Female		
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	
Edinburgh	4,435	2.5	2,665	1.4	38%	11,395	6.3	7,335	4.0	39%
E Lothian	1,005	3.2	760	2.2	43%	2,040	6.5	1,455	4.3	42%
Fife	5,475	4.8	3,290	2.8	38%	9,535	8.4	6,010	5.1	39%
Midlothian	865	3.1	605	2.0	41%	1,885	6.8	1,235	4.2	40%
Scot Bord	1,120	3.4	740	2.1	40%	2,230	6.7	1,530	4.4	41%
W Lothian	1,970	3.4	1,455	2.5	42%	4,130	7.1	2,705	4.6	40%
Total	14,875	3.3	9,510	2.1	39%	31,210	7.0	20,275	4.4	39%

Source: Nomis 13/10/2020

Looking across the Local Authorities we can see that in Edinburgh, Fife and Scottish Borders there has been a slight shift so that a slightly higher proportion of claimants are female in September 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 September than was the case in February.

### The Situation Within Localities

Table 9 looks at the 10 wards within the City Region that have the highest number of claimants as of September 2020. We can see that 9 of the 10 are within Edinburgh. The only non-Edinburgh ward is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages which has ‘only’ seen a 44% increase in the number of claimants since February and has a claimant rate of 11.8%. Those in Edinburgh have seen an increase in the claimant count of between 120-193%.

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

		Count	Rate	Feb-Sep Percentage Change
Edinburgh	Forth	1,685	8.0	134%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	1,610	5.9	193%
Edinburgh	Portobello/ Craigmillar	1,535	7.7	146%
Edinburgh	Sighthill/ Gorgie	1,515	6.0	175%
Edinburgh	Craigentinny/ Duddingston	1,465	7.1	166%
Edinburgh	Leith	1,430	8.0	127%
Edinburgh	Liberton/ Gilmerton	1,425	6.5	164%
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	1,375	6.6	120%
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,295	11.8	44%
Edinburgh	City Centre	1,260	4.7	157%

Table 10 looks at the wards that have seen the highest percentage increase in the claimant count since February. What is clear from this is that none of these wards with the exception of Leith Walk feature in the list of the ten wards with the highest 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 10 Ten Wards with the Highest Increase in Claimant Count (September 2020)**

		Count	Rate	Feb-Sep % Change
Edinburgh	Morningside	585	2.5	290%
Edinburgh	Inverleith	780	3.4	255%
Edinburgh	Southside/Newington	785	2.8	241%
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	270	3.6	218%
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	380	2.5	217%
Edinburgh	Colinton/Fairmilehead	530	3.4	203%
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	605	3.5	195%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	1,610	5.9	193%
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/Gyle	650	4.3	189%
S Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	325	5.1	183%

Source: NOMIS, 13/10/2020

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 11.8 in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages through to 1.7 in St Andrews Ward.

**Table 11 Claimant Count Numbers and Rate Across the City Region**

		February 2020		September 2020		Percentage Change
		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Sep
East Lothian	Dunbar and East Linton	200	2.3	410	4.6	105%
East Lothian	Haddington and Lammermuir	260	2.3	510	4.6	96%
East Lothian	Musselburgh	455	3.6	925	7.4	103%
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	85	1.2	270	3.6	218%
East Lothian	Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	2.8	595	5.3	92%
East Lothian	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	3.2	790	5.6	76%
Midlothian	Bonnyrigg	180	1.6	455	4.0	153%
Midlothian	Dalkeith	295	3.4	600	7.0	103%
Midlothian	Midlothian East	255	2.6	560	5.6	120%
Midlothian	Midlothian South	300	3.4	555	6.3	85%
Midlothian	Midlothian West	210	2.2	480	5.1	129%
Midlothian	Penicuik	225	2.7	465	5.5	107%
W. Lothian	Armadale and Blackridge	310	3.2	595	6.1	92%
W. Lothian	Bathgate	470	3.0	905	5.8	93%
W. Lothian	Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	3.0	750	6.1	105%
W. Lothian	East Livingston and East Calder	380	2.7	830	5.9	118%
W. Lothian	Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	4.0	775	7.6	91%
W. Lothian	Linlithgow	135	1.3	315	3.1	133%
W. Lothian	Livingston North	325	2.1	730	4.7	125%
W. Lothian	Livingston South	450	2.9	890	5.7	98%
W. Lothian	Whitburn and Blackburn	585	4.3	1,045	7.7	79%
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	8.2	1,295	11.8	44%
Fife	Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	4.2	650	7.3	71%
Fife	Cowdenbeath	610	4.5	1,055	7.7	73%
Fife	Cupar	210	2.5	430	5.0	105%
Fife	Dunfermline Central	395	3.4	740	6.4	87%
Fife	Dunfermline North	415	3.9	680	6.4	64%
Fife	Dunfermline South	450	3.0	875	5.8	94%
Fife	East Neuk and Landward	185	2.6	415	5.9	124%
Fife	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	3.9	675	7.1	82%
Fife	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	3.1	630	5.5	77%
Fife	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	3.5	665	6.8	90%
Fife	Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	2.2	405	5.0	131%
Fife	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	2.2	525	4.9	128%
Fife	Kirkcaldy Central	580	6.6	995	11.3	72%
Fife	Kirkcaldy East	640	6.9	1,055	11.3	65%
Fife	Kirkcaldy North	390	4.0	645	6.6	65%
Fife	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	4.2	780	6.7	58%
Fife	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	5.9	1,135	9.7	66%
Fife	Rosyth	305	3.0	570	5.6	87%
Fife	St Andrews	105	0.7	250	1.7	138%



Fife	Tay Bridgehead	190	1.9	385	3.9	103%
Fife	West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	3.7	680	7.1	92%
Edinburgh	Almond	495	2.2	1,115	5.0	125%
Edinburgh	City Centre	490	1.8	1,260	4.7	157%
Edinburgh	Colinton/Fairmilehead	175	1.1	530	3.4	203%
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	120	0.8	380	2.5	217%
Edinburgh	Craigenstinny/Duddingston	550	2.7	1,465	7.1	166%
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/Gyle	225	1.5	650	4.3	189%
Edinburgh	Forth	720	3.4	1,685	8.0	134%
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205	1.2	605	3.5	195%
Edinburgh	Inverleith	220	1.0	780	3.4	255%
Edinburgh	Leith	630	3.5	1,430	8.0	127%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	2.0	1,610	5.9	193%
Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	540	2.4	1,425	6.5	164%
Edinburgh	Morningside	150	0.6	585	2.5	290%
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	625	3.0	1,375	6.6	120%
Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	625	3.2	1,535	7.7	146%
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	550	2.2	1,515	6.0	175%
Edinburgh	Southside/Newington	230	0.8	785	2.8	241%
S Borders	East Berwickshire	160	2.7	315	5.2	97%
S Borders	Galashiels and District	385	3.9	700	7.2	82%
S Borders	Hawick and Denholm	235	4.3	385	7.1	64%
S Borders	Hawick and Hermitage	180	3.6	325	6.4	81%
S Borders	Jedburgh and District	130	2.5	295	5.6	127%
S Borders	Kelso and District	140	2.4	290	5.0	107%
S Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	115	1.8	325	5.1	183%
S Borders	Mid Berwickshire	140	2.3	290	4.8	107%
S Borders	Selkirkshire	165	2.9	295	5.3	79%
S Borders	Tweeddale East	105	1.6	265	4.1	152%
S Borders	Tweeddale West	105	1.7	270	4.3	157%

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

### 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 September whilst published, is only available for the total and is not yet available in terms of in work and out work claimants.

Table 12 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics from February and compare this to August, the most recent data where a split is available. This split is important as it indicates how many individuals are in work yet need the support of the welfare system. One would argue that this group will increase due to businesses cutting staff hours rather than fully laying staff off and also due to the furlough scheme only paying a proportion of a workers wage.

We can see that across the city region the number of UC claimants in employment increased by 119% between February and August and in Edinburgh a 202% increase was recorded.

**Table 12 Universal Credit Claimants**

	February 2020			August 2020			% Change Feb-Aug	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
E Lothian	3,725	2,120	5,842	5,922	3,801	9,718	59%	79%
Edinburgh	9,041	4,650	13,688	21,276	14,062	35,334	135%	202%
Fife	14,794	6,467	21,262	23,128	12,233	35,359	56%	89%
Midlothian	3,173	1,741	4,921	5,186	3,321	8,508	63%	91%
W Lothian	5,608	2,809	8,419	9,754	5,893	15,647	74%	110%
S Borders	2,874	1,546	4,424	5,129	3,130	8,256	78%	102%
Total	39,224	19,338	58,554	70,393	42,429	112,819	79%	119%

Source: StatXplore 13/10/2020

### Annual Population Survey

The Annual Population Survey (APS) is not often featured in the claimant count report. This is because it's a survey and at a local level its margin of error can explain any changes that we see in the data.

Table 13 below indicates that the economic activity rate in Edinburgh has fallen from 80.6% to 77.5%. Very limited change can be seen in the other authorities but one would suggest this might reflect sample size rather than what is happening outside Edinburgh.

**Table 13 Annual Population Survey July-June Data**

	Economic activity rate - aged 16-64	
	2018-2019	2019-2020
Edinburgh	80.6	77.5
East Lothian	80.1	79.7
Fife	76.2	76.8
Midlothian	82.1	82
Scottish Borders	78.5	78.2
West Lothian	79.6	79.7

Source: NOMIS 13/10/2020

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