

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

### Summary February to October

↑ **Scottish Claimant Count Increase by 84%**

The Claimant Count in Scotland was 211, 225 in October 2020. In February there were 114,605 claimants.

↑ **Edinburgh Claimant Count Increase by 153%**

The Claimant Count in Edinburgh was 18,010 in October 2020. In February there were 7,105 claimants.

↑ **City Region Claimant Count has doubled between February and October**

The Claimant Count in the 6 Local Authorities that make up the City Region was 24,399 in February and 48,865 in October.

↑ **Across the region there has been an increase of 113% in the number of claimants 16-24 years of age**

The Claimant Count for 16-24 year olds across the City Region has increased from 4,595 in February to 9,780 in October

### Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 10<sup>th</sup> November indicates that the claimant count overall across the UK is still far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic or compared to October 2019, however on a more positive note the month to month change September to October has been more encouraging and the claimant count in Scotland has fallen by 5% between September and October.

**Table 1 National Claimant Count Picture**

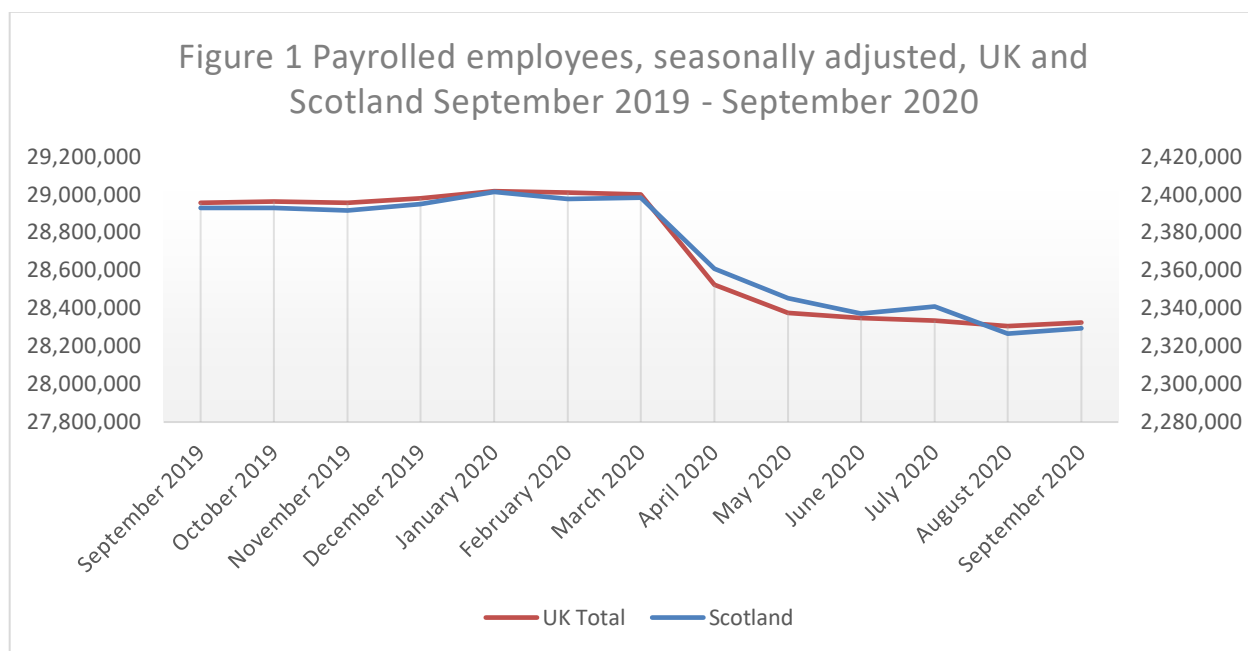
Date	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Oct-19	987,540	30,360	108,595	57,400	1,183,895
Feb-20	1,050,875	29,910	114,605	60,375	1,255,770
Aug-20	2,282,005	62,360	224,840	118,905	2,688,110
Sep-20	2,306,555	62,250	222,020	118,385	2,709,210
Oct-20	2,228,150	60,395	211,225	112,780	2,612,550
Oct 2019 to Oct 2020	126%	99%	95%	96%	121%
Feb 2020 to Oct 2020	112%	102%	84%	87%	108%
Sep 2020 to Oct 2020	-3%	-3%	-5%	-5%	-4%

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

The Claimant Count data is only based on those that are claiming unemployment benefit. Alternatives to this tend to be based on surveys such as the Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey. A relatively new source of data is that sourced through HMRCs records of payrolled employees. As with the APS/LFS this has limitations and currently it is not available below Scottish national level.

Figure 1 below looks at the number of payroll employees in the UK and Scotland over the last 12 months. The UK picture is plotted from the axis on the left whilst the Scottish one is plotted on the right axis. It can be clearly seen that since the spring, the number of payrolled employees in the UK

has dropped from around 29 million to around 28.4 million. In Scotland the number on payroll has fallen by around 70,000 since March



Source ONS 9/11/2020

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 between February and October, Edinburgh has recorded the largest percentage increase in claimant count.

**Table 2 Claimant Count -Scottish LAs**

Local Authority:	October 2019	February 2020	September 2020	October 2020	Feb 20-Oct-20	Sep 20-Oct 20	October Rate
Aberdeen City	3,820	4,150	9,250	9,410	127%	2%	6.0
Aberdeenshire	2,800	2,975	6,645	6,610	122%	-1%	4.1
Angus	2,020	2,040	3,875	3,775	85%	-3%	5.4
Argyll and Bute	1,305	1,530	2,910	2,785	82%	-4%	5.5
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>6,525</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>18,280</b>	<b>18,010</b>	<b>153%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,270	1,390	2,165	2,150	55%	-1%	6.7
Dumfries & Galloway	2,720	2,950	4,715	4,525	53%	-4%	5.2
Dundee City	4,500	4,530	7,350	7,160	58%	-3%	7.2
East Ayrshire	3,655	3,685	6,025	5,790	57%	-4%	7.6
East Dunbartonshire	1,185	1,230	2,840	2,675	117%	-6%	4.1
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,675</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>5.0</b>
East Renfrewshire	945	950	2,280	2,195	131%	-4%	3.9
Falkirk	3,150	3,300	5,995	5,915	79%	-1%	5.8
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,505</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>15,215</b>	<b>14,780</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Glasgow City	18,995	20,055	37,455	36,700	83%	-2%	8.2
Highland	3,235	3,715	7,730	7,395	99%	-4%	5.1
Inverclyde	2,235	2,255	3,130	3,075	36%	-2%	6.3
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,355</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>3,050</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Moray	1,415	1,550	2,850	2,770	79%	-3%	4.7
Na h-Eileanan Siar	340	465	795	755	62%	-5%	4.8
North Ayrshire	4,435	4,600	6,990	6,785	48%	-3%	8.3
North Lanarkshire	8,110	8,230	15,130	14,650	78%	-3%	6.7
Orkney Islands	180	195	405	375	92%	-7%	2.8
Perth & Kinross	1,760	1,865	4,435	4,270	129%	-4%	4.7
Renfrewshire	3,775	4,025	7,535	7,230	80%	-4%	6.3
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,695</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>3,640</b>	<b>3,515</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Shetland Islands	230	265	545	550	108%	1%	3.9
South Ayrshire	2,580	2,790	4,820	4,605	65%	-4%	7.0
South Lanarkshire	6,795	7,015	13,175	12,815	83%	-3%	6.3

Stirling	1,440	1,540	2,895	2,785	81%	-4%	4.6
West Dunbartonshire	2,735	2,930	4,660	4,610	57%	-1%	8.2
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>6,675</b>	<b>6,385</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Column Total	108,595	114,605	216,855	211,225	84%	-3%	6.0

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

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.

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

	City of Edinburgh		East Lothian		Fife		Midlothian		Scottish Borders		West Lothian	
	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R	C	R
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
August 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
Sep 2020	18,280	5.0	3,400	5.2	15,215	6.6	3,050	5.3	3,640	5.4	6,675	5.7
Oct 2020	18,010	4.9	3,250	5.0	14,780	6.4	2,925	5.1	3,515	5.2	6,385	5.5

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

C-Count R-Rate

We can see that currently, October 2020, there are 48,865 claimants across the city region, and this represents a 113% increase compared to October 2019. The claimant rate across the region now varies from 4.9 in Edinburgh to 6.4 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 32,790 claimants.

From the claimant count data and the fact that the Claimant Count statistics for September and October are slightly lower than those recorded in August it would look as though the initial shock to the labour market has dissipated and, at least in the city region, a stabilising of the situation.

The announcement that a possible vaccine is 90% effective is further good news and could mean that for businesses and employers there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The extension to the Job Retention scheme announced by the Chancellor on the 5<sup>th</sup> November should support jobs at least until the end of January or possibly to the end of March, and this may be enough to hold the economy in its current position until a large scale vaccination programme can be delivered to allow us to return to a more normal position.

Turning now to look at the age profile of the claimants. What we can see in Table 5 is that overall, across the region in October there were nearly 9,800 people aged between 16-24 claiming and this is a 3% fall from the position of the previous month. All of the regions local authorities saw a fall in the number of 16-24 year old claimants between September and October. Whilst this is positive the number of claimants who were 16-24 years of age in October was 113% higher than in February and

in Edinburgh the position was the most marked with claimants up 183% from February. Fife continues to have the most claimants in this age group despite the fact that the count fell by 2% between September and August.

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

Area	February 2020	September 2020	October 2020	Feb-Oct Change	Sep-Oct Change
City of Edinburgh	1,065	3,045	3,010	183%	-1%
East Lothian	315	685	645	105%	-6%
Fife	1,740	3,265	3,195	84%	-2%
Midlothian	325	680	665	105%	-2%
Scottish Borders	415	840	820	98%	-2%
West Lothian	735	1,520	1,445	97%	-5%
Scotland	21,755	43,495	42,320	95%	-3%

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

Table 6 looks at the position for claimants aged between 25-49 years of age. We can see that overall, just over 28,100 claimants in the region fall into this age group. This is 3% lower than was recorded in September. All 6 LAs in the city region recorded month to month falls between September and October. 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 October had a claimant count for this age group 159% higher than it was in February.

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

Area	February 2020	September 2020	October 2020	Feb-Oct Change	Sep-Oct Change
City of Edinburgh	4,310	11,370	11,165	159%	-2%
East Lothian	1,020	1,890	1,800	76%	-5%
Fife	4,990	8,450	8,185	64%	-3%
Midlothian	865	1,725	1,660	92%	-4%
Scottish Borders	975	1,835	1,750	79%	-5%
West Lothian	1,965	3,710	3,555	81%	-4%
Scotland	64,750	121,700	118,305	83%	-3%

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

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 94% 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)**

Area	February 2020	September 2020	October 2020	Feb-Oct Change	Sep-Oct Change
City of Edinburgh	1,730	3,865	3,840	122%	-1%
East Lothian	430	825	810	88%	-2%
Fife	2,030	3,495	3,395	67%	-3%
Midlothian	280	645	605	116%	-6%
Scottish Borders	470	965	945	101%	-2%
West Lothian	725	1,445	1,385	91%	-4%
Scotland	28,105	51,655	50,595	80%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

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 and Midlothian, arguably the areas most linked to the Edinburgh labour market.

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 October was much the same as it was in February.

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

	Feb-20					Oct-20				
	Male		Female			Male		Female		
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	
Edinburgh	4435	2.5	2665	1.4	38%	10960	6.1	7055	3.8	39%
East Lothian	1005	3.2	760	2.2	43%	1885	6	1365	4	42%
Fife	5475	4.8	3290	2.8	38%	9020	8	5760	4.9	39%
Midlothian	865	3.1	605	2	41%	1760	6.4	1170	3.9	40%
Scottish Borders	1120	3.4	740	2.1	40%	2075	6.3	1435	4.1	41%
West Lothian	1970	3.4	1455	2.5	42%	3865	6.7	2520	4.2	39%
Total	14875	3.3	9510	2.1	39%	29565	6.7	19300	4.2	39%

Source: Nomis 10/11/2020

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 October 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 October than was the case in February.

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

	2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Sep 2020		Oct 2020		% Change	
		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
Edin	Forth	720	3.4	1,640	7.8	1,620	7.7	125%	-1%
Edin	Leith Walk	550	2.0	1,570	5.7	1,535	5.6	179%	-2%
Edin	Portobello/ Craigmillar	625	3.2	1,505	7.6	1,480	7.4	137%	-2%
Edin	Craightinny/ Duddingston	550	2.7	1,425	6.9	1,455	7.1	165%	2%
Edin	Sighthill/Gorgie	550	2.2	1,475	5.8	1,425	5.6	159%	-3%
Edin	Leith	630	3.5	1,405	7.8	1,385	7.7	120%	-1%
Edin	Liberton/ Gilmerton	540	2.4	1,400	6.3	1,385	6.3	156%	-1%
Edin	Pentland Hills	625	3.0	1,345	6.5	1,320	6.3	111%	-2%
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	8.2	1,270	11.5	1,240	11.3	38%	-2%
Edin	City Centre	490	1.8	1,220	4.6	1,235	4.6	152%	1%

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

## The Situation Within Localities

Where the claimant count data is more useful than other sources is in its ability to drill down to small areas, such as wards. Table 9 above looks at the 10 wards within the City Region that have the highest number of claimants as at October 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 38% increase in the number of claimants since February and has a claimant rate of 11.3%. Those in Edinburgh have seen an increase in the claimant count of between 120-179%.

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 only 2 of these feature in the list of the ten wards with the largest 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)**

	2019 electoral wards	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
Edin	Morningside	150	0.6	575	2.5	525	2.2	250%	-9%
Edin	Southside/ Newington	230	0.8	765	2.7	760	2.7	230%	-1%
Edin	Inverleith	220	1.0	755	3.3	685	3.0	211%	-9%
Edin	Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	120	0.8	370	2.5	370	2.5	208%	0%
Edin	Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	1.1	510	3.3	515	3.3	194%	1%
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	85	1.2	260	3.5	245	3.3	188%	-6%
Edin	Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	205	1.2	590	3.4	590	3.4	188%	0%
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/Gyle	225	1.5	635	4.2	645	4.2	187%	2%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	2.0	1,570	5.7	1,535	5.6	179%	-2%
Edinburgh	Craigtinny/ Duddingston	550	2.7	1,425	6.9	1,455	7.1	165%	2%

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

We can also see that some of the wards that recorded the highest increases between February and October are also showing the largest falls in claimant count. Take for example Morningside which recorded a 250% increase in claimant count between February and October and has gone on to reflect a 9% month on month fall between September and October. If this continues it is likely that particular areas where there was a large increase in the claimants will also experience a rapid fall in the numbers.

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 11.3 in Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages through to 1.8 in St Andrews Ward.

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

2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Sep 2020		Oct 2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
Linlithgow	135	1.3	315	3.1	290	2.9	115%	-8%
Livingston North	325	2.1	715	4.6	675	4.4	108%	-6%
Whitburn and Blackburn	585	4.3	1,025	7.6	970	7.2	66%	-5%
Bathgate	470	3.0	895	5.7	850	5.4	81%	-5%
East Livingston and East Calder	380	2.7	810	5.7	770	5.4	103%	-5%
Armadale and Blackridge	310	3.2	575	5.9	555	5.7	79%	-3%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	3.0	730	5.9	705	5.7	93%	-3%
Livingston South	450	2.9	860	5.5	835	5.3	86%	-3%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	4.0	755	7.4	735	7.2	81%	-3%

**Scottish Borders**

2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Sep 2020		Oct 2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
Selkirkshire	165	2.9	295	5.2	270	4.8	64%	-8%
Leaderdale and Melrose	115	1.8	315	5.0	290	4.6	152%	-8%
Kelso and District	140	2.4	285	4.9	265	4.6	89%	-7%
East Berwickshire	160	2.7	295	4.9	275	4.6	72%	-7%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	3.6	310	6.1	290	5.7	61%	-6%
Mid Berwickshire	140	2.3	275	4.5	265	4.3	89%	-4%
Galashiels and District	385	3.9	685	7.0	670	6.8	74%	-2%
Tweeddale West	105	1.7	265	4.3	260	4.1	148%	-2%
Tweeddale East	105	1.6	250	3.9	250	3.9	138%	0%
Jedburgh and District	130	2.5	280	5.3	280	5.3	115%	0%
Hawick and Denholm	235	4.3	380	7.0	405	7.4	72%	7%

**Midlothian**

2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Sep 2020		Oct 2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
Midlothian South	300	3.4	545	6.2	515	5.8	72%	-6%
Dalkeith	295	3.4	590	6.9	560	6.5	90%	-5%
Bonnyrigg	180	1.6	450	4.0	430	3.8	139%	-4%
Midlothian West	210	2.2	465	4.9	445	4.7	112%	-4%
Midlothian East	255	2.6	535	5.4	520	5.2	104%	-3%
Penicuik	225	2.7	460	5.5	455	5.4	102%	-1%

**Fife**

2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Sep 2020		Oct 2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	3.7	660	6.8	605	6.3	70%	-8%
Tay Bridgehead	190	1.9	375	3.9	345	3.5	82%	-8%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	4.2	635	7.1	600	6.8	58%	-6%

Dunfermline North	415	3.9	665	6.2	630	5.9	52%	-5%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	2.2	400	4.9	380	4.6	117%	-5%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	3.5	655	6.6	625	6.3	79%	-5%
Cowdenbeath	610	4.5	1,035	7.6	995	7.3	63%	-4%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	4.2	760	6.5	735	6.3	48%	-3%
Rosyth	305	3.0	555	5.4	540	5.2	77%	-3%
Cupar	210	2.5	415	4.9	405	4.7	93%	-2%
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	8.2	1,270	11.5	1,240	11.3	38%	-2%
Kirkcaldy North	390	4.0	640	6.6	625	6.4	60%	-2%
Dunfermline South	450	3.0	865	5.7	845	5.6	88%	-2%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	3.9	660	6.9	645	6.7	74%	-2%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	5.9	1,115	9.5	1,090	9.3	59%	-2%
Kirkcaldy Central	580	6.6	980	11.1	960	10.9	66%	-2%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	2.2	515	4.8	505	4.7	120%	-2%
Kirkcaldy East	640	6.9	1,030	11.1	1,010	10.9	58%	-2%
Dunfermline Central	395	3.4	720	6.2	710	6.1	80%	-1%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	3.1	620	5.4	615	5.4	73%	-1%
East Neuk and Landward	185	2.6	405	5.7	410	5.7	122%	1%
St Andrews	105	0.7	250	1.7	255	1.8	143%	2%

## Edinburgh

2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Sep 2020		Oct 2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
Inverleith	220	1.0	755	3.3	685	3.0	211%	-9%
Morningside	150	0.6	575	2.5	525	2.2	250%	-9%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	550	2.2	1,475	5.8	1,425	5.6	159%	-3%
Leith Walk	550	2.0	1,570	5.7	1,535	5.6	179%	-2%
Pentland Hills	625	3.0	1,345	6.5	1,320	6.3	111%	-2%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	625	3.2	1,505	7.6	1,480	7.4	137%	-2%
Leith	630	3.5	1,405	7.8	1,385	7.7	120%	-1%
Forth	720	3.4	1,640	7.8	1,620	7.7	125%	-1%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	540	2.4	1,400	6.3	1,385	6.3	156%	-1%
Southside/ Newington	230	0.8	765	2.7	760	2.7	230%	-1%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	120	0.8	370	2.5	370	2.5	208%	0%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	205	1.2	590	3.4	590	3.4	188%	0%
Almond	495	2.2	1,085	4.9	1,090	4.9	120%	0%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	1.1	510	3.3	515	3.3	194%	1%
City Centre	490	1.8	1,220	4.6	1,235	4.6	152%	1%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	225	1.5	635	4.2	645	4.2	187%	2%
Craigmillar/ Duddingston	550	2.7	1,425	6.9	1,455	7.1	165%	2%



## East Lothian

2019 electoral wards	Feb 2020		Sep 2020		Oct 2020		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb-Oct	Sep-Oct
North Berwick Coastal	85	1.2	260	3.5	245	3.3	188%	-6%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	3.2	770	5.4	730	5.1	62%	-5%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	2.8	580	5.2	550	4.9	77%	-5%
Dunbar and East Linton	200	2.3	400	4.5	380	4.3	90%	-5%
Musselburgh	455	3.6	895	7.1	865	6.9	90%	-3%
Haddington and Lammermuir	260	2.3	495	4.5	485	4.4	87%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 10/11/2020

## 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 October 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 compares this to September, the most recent data where a split is available.

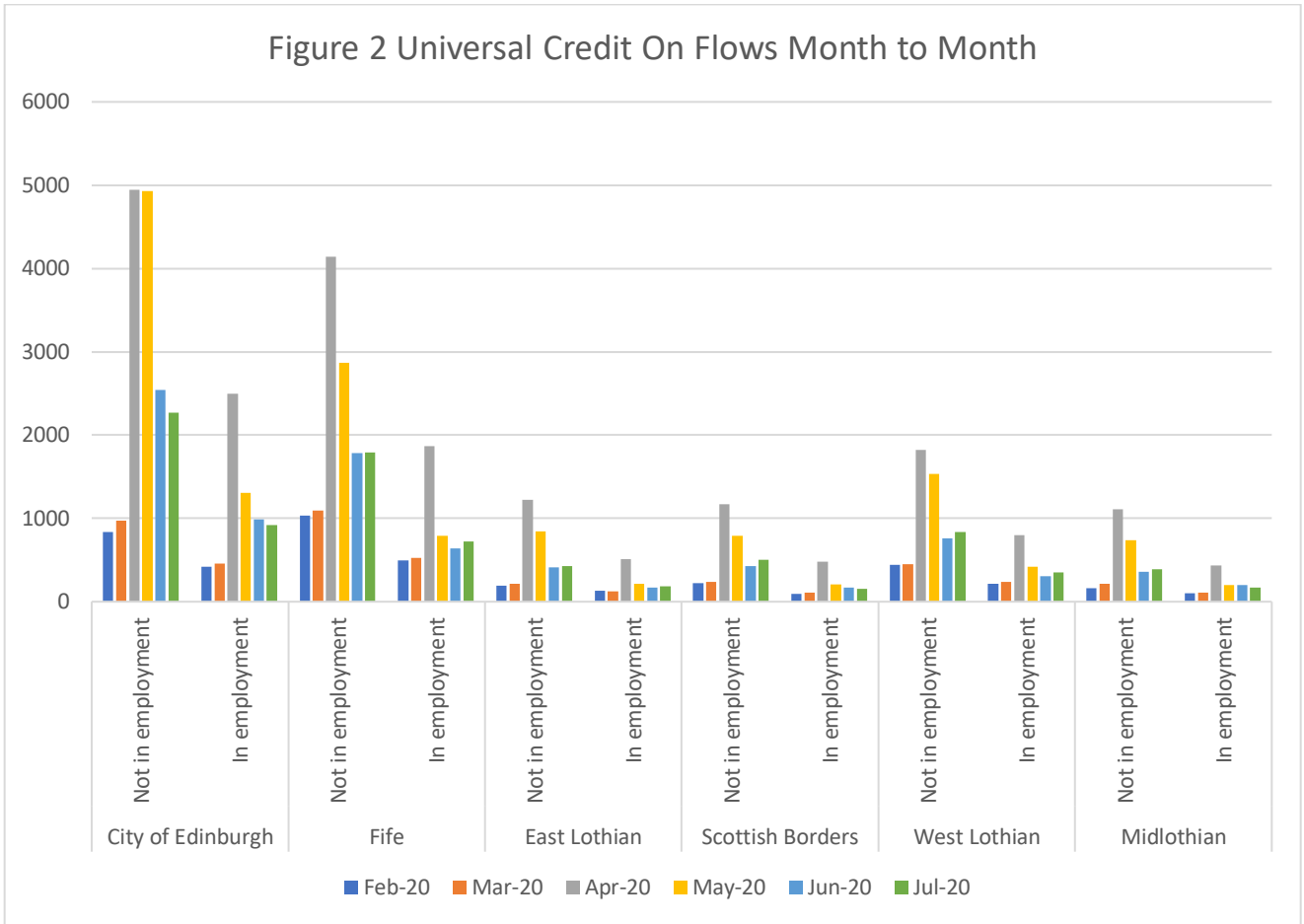
**Table 12 Universal Credit Claimants**

	Feb-20			Sep-20			% Change Feb-Sep	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Edinburgh	9,041	4,650	13,688	21,026	14,590	35,623	133%	214%
E Lothian	3,725	2,120	5,842	5,731	3,882	9,614	54%	83%
Fife	14,794	6,467	21,262	22,696	12,668	35,365	53%	96%
Midlothian	3,173	1,741	4,921	5,068	3,387	8,454	60%	95%
W Lothian	5,608	2,809	8,419	9,600	6,107	15,710	71%	117%
Borders	2,874	1,546	4,424	4,936	3,313	8,248	72%	114%
Total	39,224	19,338	58,554	69,053	43,953	113,007	76%	127%

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. Its clear that this, the in work receiving support group has grown significantly over the course of the pandemic and this can be seen in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 highlights the ‘on-flow’ to Universal Credit over the first 6 months of the pandemic. We can see the increase in on flows in March and, to a degree, April. Since then the number of ‘on flows’ whilst still historically high, are not of the same order of magnitude. One would suggest that if the economy does start to pick up we will see ‘off flows’ increasing and this is likely to be seen first in the number of UC claimants who are currently recorded as being in work. Over the next 3-6 months these on and off flows will become more of a focus for this report.

Figure 2 Universal Credit On Flows Month to Month



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