



# CAPITAL CITY PARTNERSHIP

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

### Summary: February to November

#### Scottish Claimant Count Increase by 84%

↑ The Claimant Count in Scotland was 210,750 in November 2020. In February there were 114,605 claimants.

#### Edinburgh Claimant Count Increase by 159%

↑ The Claimant Count in Edinburgh was 18,390 in November 2020. In February there were 7,105 claimants.

#### City Region Claimant Count has doubled between February and November

↑ The Claimant Count in the 6 Local Authorities that make up the City Region was 24,399 in February and 49,090 in October. This represents an increase of 101%.

#### Across the region there has been an increase of 104% in the number of claimants age 16-24

↑ The Claimant Count for 16-24 year olds across the City Region has increased from 4,595 in February to 9,395 in October

#### Across the region there has been a 129% increase in the number of in-work claimants

↑ This ranges from a 215% increase in people in work claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh to an 83% increase in East Lothian.

#### In the City Region both the ward with the highest claimant rate and the ward with the lowest are within Fife.

📍 The claimant rate in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages was 11 in November whilst St. Andrews had a rate of 1.6.

### Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 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 November 2019. Whilst the month to month change between September and October was a positive one, the October to November figures show a rise across the regions of the UK once more, with only Northern Ireland and the North East remaining showing no change.

**Table 1 National Claimant Count Picture**

| Area            | Nov 2019       | Feb 2020       | Oct 2020       | Nov 2020       | Nov-19 to Nov-20 | Feb-20 to Nov-20 | Oct-20 to Nov-20 |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Scotland</b> | <b>110,250</b> | <b>114,605</b> | <b>207,125</b> | <b>210,750</b> | <b>91%</b>       | <b>84%</b>       | <b>2%</b>        |
| United Kingdom  | 1,196,765      | 1,255,770      | 2,565,320      | 2,631,280      | 120%             | 110%             | 3%               |
| East            | 83,565         | 89,890         | 200,170        | 206,030        | 147%             | 129%             | 3%               |
| East Midlands   | 75,025         | 80,915         | 160,735        | 163,395        | 118%             | 102%             | 2%               |

|                    |         |         |         |         |      |      |    |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|------|----|
| London             | 177,415 | 184,765 | 468,295 | 491,295 | 177% | 166% | 5% |
| North East         | 72,235  | 75,560  | 119,430 | 119,790 | 66%  | 59%  | 0% |
| North West         | 160,330 | 167,055 | 311,125 | 318,315 | 99%  | 91%  | 2% |
| Northern Ireland   | 29,610  | 29,910  | 59,145  | 59,315  | 100% | 98%  | 0% |
| South East         | 112,035 | 119,620 | 285,145 | 293,035 | 162% | 145% | 3% |
| South West         | 70,950  | 75,595  | 164,650 | 169,135 | 138% | 124% | 3% |
| Wales              | 58,720  | 60,375  | 110,715 | 112,780 | 92%  | 87%  | 2% |
| West Midlands      | 136,920 | 141,095 | 261,485 | 265,925 | 94%  | 88%  | 2% |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 109,710 | 116,390 | 217,300 | 221,510 | 102% | 90%  | 2% |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

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 November, Edinburgh has recorded the largest percentage increase in claimant count. In the shorter term, whilst nearly all LAs also recorded an increase in the claimant count between October and November, Edinburgh has recorded a 4% increase, which is the highest month to month change in Scotland.

**Table 2 Claimant Count -Scottish LAs**

|                          | Nov 2019     | Feb 2020     | Oct 2020      | Nov 2020      | Nov-19 to Nov-20 | Feb-20 to Nov-20 | Oct-20 to Nov 20 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Aberdeen City            | 3,965        | 4,150        | 9,265         | 9,495         | 139%             | 129%             | 2%               |
| Aberdeenshire            | 2,825        | 2,975        | 6,485         | 6,570         | 133%             | 121%             | 1%               |
| Angus                    | 2,060        | 2,040        | 3,690         | 3,780         | 83%              | 85%              | 2%               |
| Argyll and Bute          | 1,340        | 1,530        | 2,720         | 2,810         | 110%             | 84%              | 3%               |
| Clackmannanshire         | 1,330        | 1,390        | 2,100         | 2,095         | 58%              | 51%              | 0%               |
| Dumfries and Galloway    | 2,690        | 2,950        | 4,455         | 4,560         | 70%              | 55%              | 2%               |
| Dundee City              | 4,530        | 4,530        | 7,015         | 7,085         | 56%              | 56%              | 1%               |
| East Ayrshire            | 3,605        | 3,685        | 5,665         | 5,775         | 60%              | 57%              | 2%               |
| East Dunbartonshire      | 1,225        | 1,230        | 2,645         | 2,650         | 116%             | 115%             | 0%               |
| <b>East Lothian</b>      | <b>1,740</b> | <b>1,765</b> | <b>3,195</b>  | <b>3,305</b>  | <b>90%</b>       | <b>87%</b>       | <b>3%</b>        |
| East Renfrewshire        | 935          | 950          | 2,150         | 2,180         | 133%             | 129%             | 1%               |
| <b>City of Edinburgh</b> | <b>6,830</b> | <b>7,105</b> | <b>17,665</b> | <b>18,390</b> | <b>169%</b>      | <b>159%</b>      | <b>4%</b>        |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar       | 360          | 465          | 745           | 765           | 113%             | 65%              | 3%               |
| Falkirk                  | 3,280        | 3,300        | 5,810         | 5,940         | 81%              | 80%              | 2%               |
| <b>Fife</b>              | <b>8,575</b> | <b>8,765</b> | <b>14,480</b> | <b>14,505</b> | <b>69%</b>       | <b>65%</b>       | <b>0%</b>        |
| Glasgow City             | 19,120       | 20,055       | 36,030        | 36,735        | 92%              | 83%              | 2%               |
| Highland                 | 3,340        | 3,715        | 7,215         | 7,315         | 119%             | 97%              | 1%               |
| Inverclyde               | 2,220        | 2,255        | 3,025         | 3,030         | 36%              | 34%              | 0%               |
| <b>Midlothian</b>        | <b>1,400</b> | <b>1,470</b> | <b>2,870</b>  | <b>2,970</b>  | <b>112%</b>      | <b>102%</b>      | <b>3%</b>        |
| Moray                    | 1,435        | 1,550        | 2,735         | 2,805         | 95%              | 81%              | 3%               |
| North Ayrshire           | 4,465        | 4,600        | 6,645         | 6,765         | 52%              | 47%              | 2%               |
| North Lanarkshire        | 8,065        | 8,230        | 14,400        | 14,505        | 80%              | 76%              | 1%               |
| Orkney Islands           | 180          | 195          | 370           | 375           | 108%             | 92%              | 1%               |
| Perth and Kinross        | 1,820        | 1,865        | 4,160         | 4,195         | 130%             | 125%             | 1%               |
| Renfrewshire             | 3,885        | 4,025        | 7,050         | 7,225         | 86%              | 80%              | 2%               |
| <b>Scottish Borders</b>  | <b>1,805</b> | <b>1,860</b> | <b>3,450</b>  | <b>3,525</b>  | <b>95%</b>       | <b>90%</b>       | <b>2%</b>        |
| Shetland Islands         | 240          | 265          | 505           | 470           | 96%              | 77%              | -7%              |
| South Ayrshire           | 2,635        | 2,790        | 4,535         | 4,610         | 75%              | 65%              | 2%               |
| South Lanarkshire        | 6,805        | 7,015        | 12,555        | 12,595        | 85%              | 80%              | 0%               |
| Stirling                 | 1,475        | 1,540        | 2,720         | 2,730         | 85%              | 77%              | 0%               |
| West Dunbartonshire      | 2,770        | 2,930        | 4,530         | 4,585         | 66%              | 56%              | 1%               |
| <b>West Lothian</b>      | <b>3,315</b> | <b>3,425</b> | <b>6,255</b>  | <b>6,400</b>  | <b>93%</b>       | <b>87%</b>       | <b>2%</b>        |

Source: NOMIS 14/12/2020

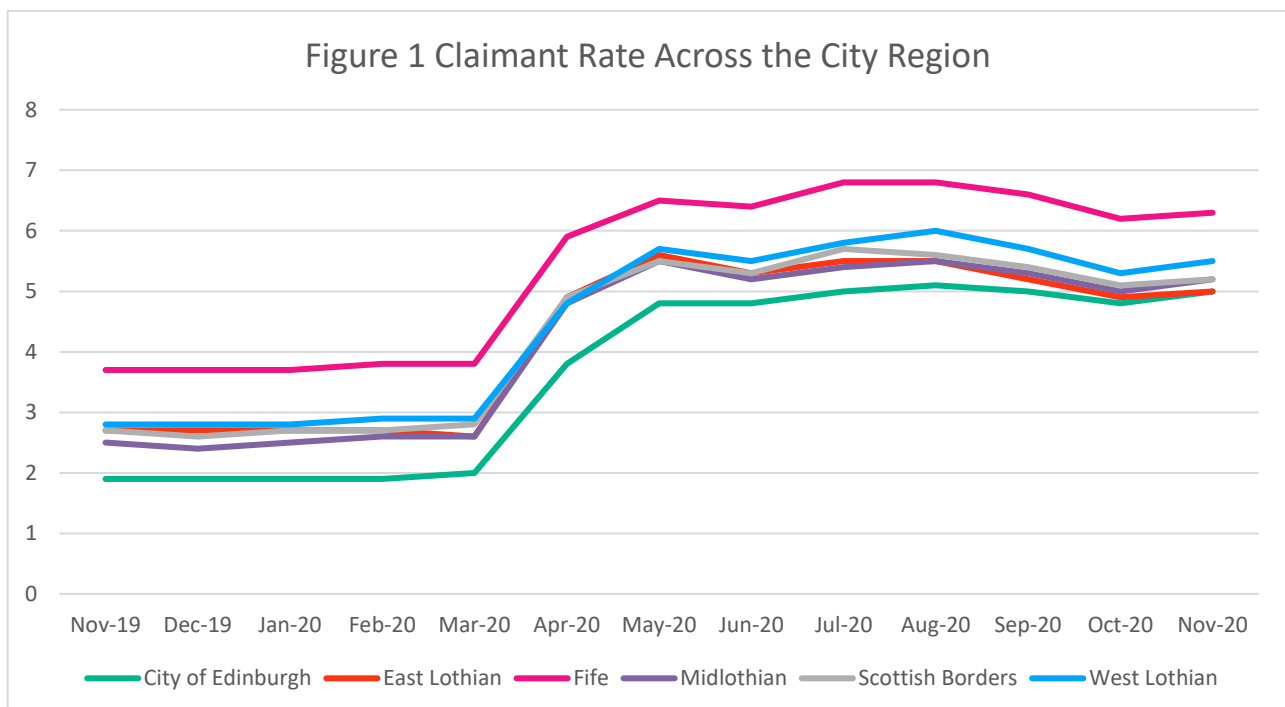
Turning now to look in more detail at the position of the authorities in the city region. Table 3 illustrates how the claimant count across the region has increased over the last 12 months but particularly since February.

**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   |
| 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    | 17,655            | 4.8 | 3,195        | 4.9 | 14,480 | 6.2 | 2,870      | 5.0 | 3,450            | 5.1 | 6,255        | 5.3 |
| Nov 2020    | 18,390            | 5.0 | 3,305        | 5.0 | 14,505 | 6.3 | 2,970      | 5.2 | 3,525            | 5.2 | 6,400        | 5.5 |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020 C-Count R-Rate

We can see that currently, November 2020, there are 49,090 claimants across the city region, and this represents a 2% increase compared to October 2020. The claimant rate across the region now varies from 5% in Edinburgh and East Lothian to 6.3% in Fife. In terms of proportion the authorities with the largest populations, Edinburgh and Fife, predictably also have the largest number of claimants- between them these two authorities have 32,895 claimants. Figure 1 below looks at the rates over the last 12 months.



Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

We can see that the period in the spring when the national lockdown was in force and measures were introduced to reduce infection rates there was a sharp spike in the claimant rate across the region. Since the summer we had seen falls in the claimant rate, but the most recent data appears to show an increase once again.

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 November there were nearly 9,400 people aged between 16-24 claiming and this is a 1% fall from the position of the previous month.

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

| Area              | Feb 2020 | Oct 2020 | Nov 2020 | Feb-Nov Change | Oct -Nov Change |
|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|-----------------|
| City of Edinburgh | 1,065    | 2,915    | 2,975    | 179%           | 2%              |
| East Lothian      | 315      | 630      | 635      | 102%           | 1%              |
| Fife              | 1,740    | 3,085    | 2,960    | 70%            | -4%             |
| Midlothian        | 325      | 650      | 660      | 103%           | 2%              |
| Scottish Borders  | 415      | 790      | 790      | 90%            | 0%              |
| West Lothian      | 735      | 1,400    | 1,375    | 87%            | -2%             |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

From the table above we can see that Fife and West Lothian saw a fall in the number of 16-24 year olds claiming between October and November. Edinburgh, East and Midlothian saw an increase and the position in Borders remained the same. The changes are relatively small, and one could argue that overall the position for 16-24 year olds remains pretty consistent month to month but is between 70% and 179% higher than it was in February.

Table 6 looks at the position for claimants aged between 25-49 years of age. This is the largest group of claimants which is unsurprising given that it is also the widest age range. We can see that overall 28,435 claimants in the region fall into this age group. This is 3% higher than was recorded in October. All 6 LAs in the city region recorded month to month increases between October and November, but as with the 16-24 year olds the month to month changes, in the context of what else we have seen this year are *relatively* small. 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 November had a claimant count for this age group 165% higher than it was in February.

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

| Area              | February 2020 | October 2020 | November 2020 | Feb-Nov Change | Oct-Nov Change |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| City of Edinburgh | 4,310         | 10,950       | 11,405        | 165%           | 4%             |
| East Lothian      | 1,020         | 1,775        | 1,850         | 81%            | 4%             |
| Fife              | 4,990         | 8,030        | 8,160         | 64%            | 2%             |
| Midlothian        | 865           | 1,625        | 1,670         | 93%            | 3%             |
| Scottish Borders  | 975           | 1,730        | 1,765         | 81%            | 2%             |
| West Lothian      | 1,965         | 3,490        | 3,585         | 82%            | 3%             |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

Table 7 looks at the position of those claimants who were 50 years of age or more. In Edinburgh, Mid and West Lothian the month to month increases for this age group are the highest of all three age groups. Overall numbers are higher than for the 16-24 year old category.

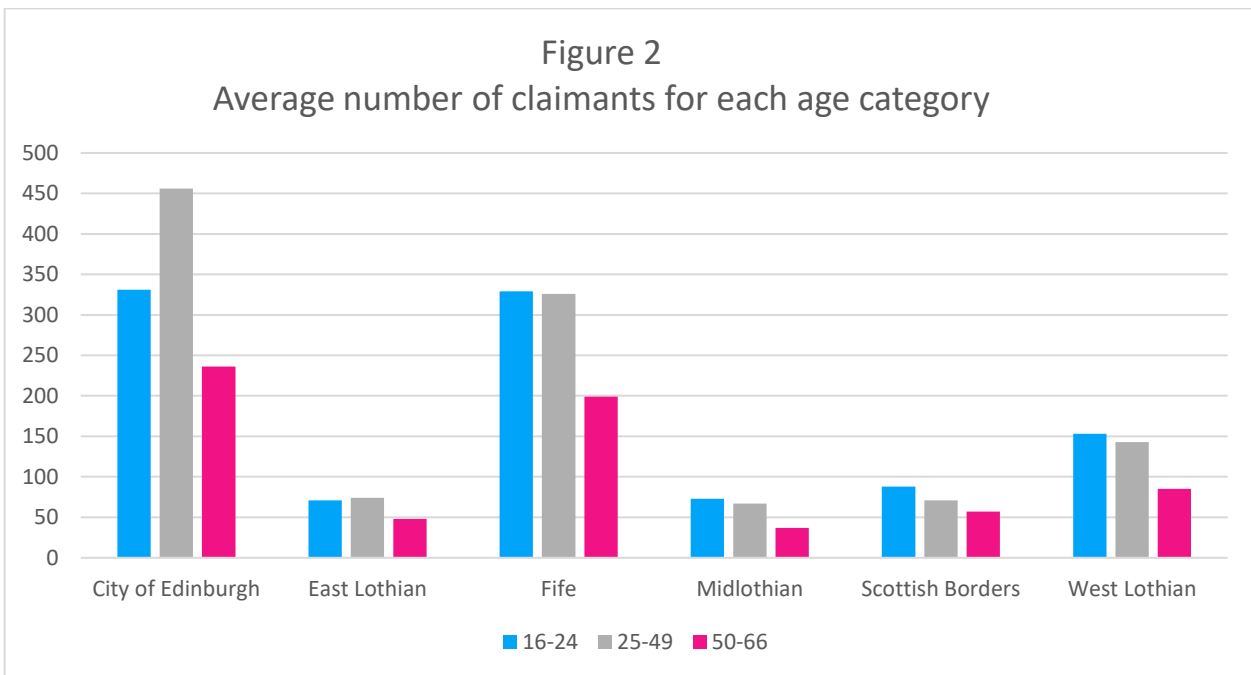
**Table 7 Age Profile of Claimants (50 or over years of age)**

| Area              | February 2020 | October 2020 | November 2020 | Feb-Nov Change | Oct -Nov Change |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| City of Edinburgh | 1,730         | 3,795        | 4,010         | 132%           | 6%              |
| East Lothian      | 430           | 790          | 815           | 90%            | 3%              |
| Fife              | 2,030         | 3,360        | 3,380         | 67%            | 1%              |
| Midlothian        | 280           | 595          | 635           | 127%           | 7%              |

|                  |     |       |       |      |    |
|------------------|-----|-------|-------|------|----|
| Scottish Borders | 470 | 930   | 970   | 106% | 4% |
| West Lothian     | 725 | 1,365 | 1,445 | 99%  | 6% |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

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. One reason for this is that the age bands are not comparable in terms of sample size, but simply you would capture more cases in the 25-49 year age group than the 16-24 year age group as we would have 25 years to choose in the former and only 9 in the later. The chart below attempts to take this into account and looks at the overall number of claimants in November 2020 for each of the three age groups across the city region, averaged out by number of years the age categories capture. The 50 plus group has been given a retirement age of 66 so 16 years is used as the denominator for this calculation.



Source: Nomis 15/12/2020

We can see from this that when averaged out Edinburgh has more 25-49 year old claimants, 456 claimants for every year in the category whilst Scottish Borders has a higher average for the 16-24 year old age group, 88 claimants for every year in the category.

### 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 8 below looks at the 10 wards within the City Region that have the highest number of claimants as of November 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 35% increase in the number of claimants since February and has a claimant rate of 11%. Those in Edinburgh have seen an increase in the claimant count of between 118%-180%.

**Table 8 Ten Wards with the Highest Claimant Count in the City Region (November 2020)**

|      |            | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|------|------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|      |            | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| Edin | Forth      | 720           | 3.4  | 1,590        | 7.6  | 1,660         | 7.9  | 131%       | 4%         |
| Edin | Leith Walk | 550           | 2.0  | 1,505        | 5.5  | 1,540         | 5.6  | 180%       | 2%         |

|      |                                     |     |     |       |      |       |      |      |     |
|------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|------|-------|------|------|-----|
| Edin | Portobello/Craigmillar              | 625 | 3.2 | 1,450 | 7.3  | 1,500 | 7.5  | 140% | 3%  |
| Edin | Sighthill/Gorgie                    | 550 | 2.2 | 1,400 | 5.5  | 1,465 | 5.8  | 166% | 5%  |
| Edin | Craigtinny/Duddingston              | 550 | 2.7 | 1,420 | 6.9  | 1,455 | 7.1  | 165% | 2%  |
| Edin | Liberton/Gilmerton                  | 540 | 2.4 | 1,360 | 6.2  | 1,430 | 6.5  | 165% | 5%  |
| Edin | Leith                               | 630 | 3.5 | 1,360 | 7.6  | 1,380 | 7.7  | 119% | 1%  |
| Edin | Pentland Hills                      | 625 | 3.0 | 1,300 | 6.2  | 1,360 | 6.5  | 118% | 5%  |
| Edin | City Centre                         | 490 | 1.8 | 1,205 | 4.5  | 1,275 | 4.8  | 160% | 6%  |
| Fife | Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages | 900 | 8.2 | 1,230 | 11.2 | 1,215 | 11.0 | 35%  | -1% |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

Table 9 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 9 Ten Wards with the Highest Increase in Claimant Count (November 2020)**

|      |                             | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|      |                             | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| Edin | Morningside                 | 150           | 0.6  | 510          | 2.2  | 545           | 2.3  | 263%       | 7%         |
| Edin | Inverleith                  | 220           | 1.0  | 680          | 3.0  | 735           | 3.2  | 234%       | 8%         |
| Edin | Corstorphine/Murrayfield    | 120           | 0.8  | 360          | 2.4  | 400           | 2.7  | 233%       | 11%        |
| Edin | Southside/Newington         | 230           | 0.8  | 745          | 2.6  | 750           | 2.6  | 226%       | 1%         |
| Edin | Drum Brae/Gyle              | 225           | 1.5  | 635          | 4.2  | 700           | 4.6  | 211%       | 10%        |
| East | North Berwick Coastal       | 85            | 1.2  | 235          | 3.2  | 255           | 3.4  | 200%       | 9%         |
| Edin | Fountainbridge/Craiglockhar | 205           | 1.2  | 580          | 3.3  | 590           | 3.4  | 188%       | 2%         |
| Edin | Colinton/Fairmilehead       | 175           | 1.1  | 500          | 3.3  | 495           | 3.2  | 183%       | -1%        |
| Edin | Leith Walk                  | 550           | 2.0  | 1,505        | 5.5  | 1,540         | 5.6  | 180%       | 2%         |
| Edin | Sighthill/Gorgie            | 550           | 2.2  | 1,400        | 5.5  | 1,465         | 5.8  | 166%       | 5%         |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

We can also see that some of the wards that recorded the highest increases between February and October are showing falls or small increases between October and November. However, these areas have relatively small number of claimants so it doesn't take particularly large numbers to cause the large month to month fluctuations. Take for example Morningside which recorded a 263% increase in claimant count between February and November. It went on to reflect a 9% month on month **decrease** between September and October, only to record a 7% **increase** between October and November.

Table 10 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 in Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages through to 1.6 in St Andrews Ward.

**Table 10 Claimant Count Numbers and Rate Across the City Region**

#### West Lothian

| 2019 electoral wards             | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|                                  | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| Armada and Blackridge            | 310           | 3.2  | 545          | 5.6  | 545           | 5.6  | 76%        | 0%         |
| Bathgate                         | 470           | 3.0  | 830          | 5.3  | 880           | 5.6  | 87%        | 6%         |
| Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh  | 365           | 3.0  | 695          | 5.6  | 705           | 5.7  | 93%        | 1%         |
| East Livingston and East Calder  | 380           | 2.7  | 750          | 5.3  | 750           | 5.3  | 97%        | 0%         |
| Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley | 405           | 4.0  | 715          | 7.0  | 700           | 6.9  | 73%        | -2%        |
| Linlithgow                       | 135           | 1.3  | 290          | 2.9  | 295           | 2.9  | 119%       | 2%         |

|                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |      |    |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|
| Livingston North       | 325 | 2.1 | 655 | 4.2 | 700 | 4.6 | 115% | 7% |
| Livingston South       | 450 | 2.9 | 820 | 5.2 | 850 | 5.4 | 89%  | 4% |
| Whitburn and Blackburn | 585 | 4.3 | 955 | 7.0 | 975 | 7.2 | 67%  | 2% |

### Scottish Borders

| 2019 electoral wards    | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|-------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|                         | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| East Berwickshire       | 160           | 2.7  | 275          | 4.6  | 290           | 4.8  | 81%        | 5%         |
| Galashiels and District | 385           | 3.9  | 650          | 6.7  | 635           | 6.5  | 65%        | -2%        |
| Hawick and Denholm      | 235           | 4.3  | 395          | 7.2  | 395           | 7.2  | 68%        | 0%         |
| Hawick and Hermitage    | 180           | 3.6  | 285          | 5.6  | 310           | 6.1  | 72%        | 9%         |
| Jedburgh and District   | 130           | 2.5  | 275          | 5.2  | 280           | 5.3  | 115%       | 2%         |
| Kelso and District      | 140           | 2.4  | 255          | 4.5  | 270           | 4.7  | 93%        | 6%         |
| Leaderdale and Melrose  | 115           | 1.8  | 285          | 4.5  | 285           | 4.5  | 148%       | 0%         |
| Mid Berwickshire        | 140           | 2.3  | 260          | 4.2  | 270           | 4.4  | 93%        | 4%         |
| Selkirkshire            | 165           | 2.9  | 265          | 4.7  | 270           | 4.8  | 64%        | 2%         |
| Tweeddale East          | 105           | 1.6  | 245          | 3.9  | 245           | 3.8  | 133%       | 0%         |
| Tweeddale West          | 105           | 1.7  | 255          | 4.1  | 270           | 4.4  | 157%       | 6%         |

### Midlothian

| 2019 electoral wards | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|----------------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|                      | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| Bonnyrigg            | 180           | 1.6  | 415          | 3.7  | 445           | 3.9  | 147%       | 7%         |
| Dalkeith             | 295           | 3.4  | 545          | 6.3  | 560           | 6.5  | 90%        | 3%         |
| Midlothian East      | 255           | 2.6  | 515          | 5.1  | 520           | 5.2  | 104%       | 1%         |
| Midlothian South     | 300           | 3.4  | 510          | 5.8  | 540           | 6.1  | 80%        | 6%         |
| Midlothian West      | 210           | 2.2  | 435          | 4.6  | 450           | 4.8  | 114%       | 3%         |
| Penicuik             | 225           | 2.7  | 445          | 5.3  | 455           | 5.4  | 102%       | 2%         |

### Fife

| 2019 electoral wards                         | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|--|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|  | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages        | 900           | 8.2  | 1,230        | 11.2 | 1,215         | 11.0 | 35%        | -1%        |
| Burtonisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy | 380           | 4.2  | 590          | 6.6  | 590           | 6.6  | 55%        | 0%         |
| Cowdenbeath                                  | 610           | 4.5  | 975          | 7.2  | 995           | 7.3  | 63%        | 2%         |
| Cupar  | 210           | 2.5  | 395          | 4.6  | 390           | 4.6  | 86%        | -1%        |
| Dunfermline Central                          | 395           | 3.4  | 690          | 6.0  | 705           | 6.1  | 78%        | 2%         |
| Dunfermline North                            | 415           | 3.9  | 625          | 5.8  | 650           | 6.0  | 57%        | 4%         |
| Dunfermline South                            | 450           | 3.0  | 825          | 5.4  | 790           | 5.2  | 76%        | -4%        |
| East Neuk and Landward                       | 185           | 2.6  | 400          | 5.6  | 385           | 5.4  | 108%       | -4%        |
| Glenrothes Central and Thornton              | 370           | 3.9  | 630          | 6.6  | 625           | 6.6  | 69%        | -1%        |
| Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch        | 355           | 3.1  | 595          | 5.2  | 590           | 5.2  | 66%        | -1%        |
| Glenrothes West and Kinglassie               | 350           | 3.5  | 610          | 6.2  | 640           | 6.5  | 83%        | 5%         |
| Howe of Fife and Tay Coast                   | 175           | 2.2  | 365          | 4.5  | 365           | 4.5  | 109%       | 0%         |
| Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay                | 230           | 2.2  | 495          | 4.6  | 500           | 4.6  | 117%       | 1%         |
| Kirkcaldy Central                            | 580           | 6.6  | 950          | 10.8 | 960           | 10.9 | 66%        | 1%         |
| Kirkcaldy East                               | 640           | 6.9  | 995          | 10.7 | 985           | 10.6 | 54%        | -1%        |
| Kirkcaldy North                              | 390           | 4.0  | 615          | 6.3  | 615           | 6.3  | 58%        | 0%         |
| Leven, Kennoway and Largo                    | 495           | 4.2  | 720          | 6.1  | 730           | 6.2  | 47%        | 1%         |
| Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty             | 685           | 5.9  | 1,075        | 9.2  | 1,090         | 9.3  | 59%        | 1%         |
| Rosyth                                       | 305           | 3.0  | 535          | 5.2  | 525           | 5.1  | 72%        | -2%        |
| St Andrews                                   | 105           | 0.7  | 250          | 1.7  | 240           | 1.6  | 129%       | -4%        |
| Tay Bridgehead                               | 190           | 1.9  | 330          | 3.4  | 320           | 3.3  | 68%        | -3%        |
| West Fife and Coastal Villages               | 355           | 3.7  | 595          | 6.2  | 595           | 6.2  | 68%        | 0%         |

### Edinburgh

| 2019 electoral wards | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|----------------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|                      | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| Almond               | 495           | 2.2  | 1,065        | 4.8  | 1,110         | 5.0  | 124%       | 4%         |
| City Centre          | 490           | 1.8  | 1,205        | 4.5  | 1,275         | 4.8  | 160%       | 6%         |

|                              |     |     |       |     |       |     |      |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|
| Colinton/Fairmilehead        | 175 | 1.1 | 500   | 3.3 | 495   | 3.2 | 183% | -1% |
| Corstorphine/Murrayfield     | 120 | 0.8 | 360   | 2.4 | 400   | 2.7 | 233% | 11% |
| Craigtinny/Duddingston       | 550 | 2.7 | 1,420 | 6.9 | 1,455 | 7.1 | 165% | 2%  |
| Drum Brae/Gyle               | 225 | 1.5 | 635   | 4.2 | 700   | 4.6 | 211% | 10% |
| Forth                        | 720 | 3.4 | 1,590 | 7.6 | 1,660 | 7.9 | 131% | 4%  |
| Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart | 205 | 1.2 | 580   | 3.3 | 590   | 3.4 | 188% | 2%  |
| Inverleith                   | 220 | 1.0 | 680   | 3.0 | 735   | 3.2 | 234% | 8%  |
| Leith                        | 630 | 3.5 | 1,360 | 7.6 | 1,380 | 7.7 | 119% | 1%  |
| Leith Walk                   | 550 | 2.0 | 1,505 | 5.5 | 1,540 | 5.6 | 180% | 2%  |
| Liberton/Gilmerton           | 540 | 2.4 | 1,360 | 6.2 | 1,430 | 6.5 | 165% | 5%  |
| Morningside                  | 150 | 0.6 | 510   | 2.2 | 545   | 2.3 | 263% | 7%  |
| Pentland Hills               | 625 | 3.0 | 1,300 | 6.2 | 1,360 | 6.5 | 118% | 5%  |
| Portobello/Craigmillar       | 625 | 3.2 | 1,450 | 7.3 | 1,500 | 7.5 | 140% | 3%  |
| Sighthill/Gorgie             | 550 | 2.2 | 1,400 | 5.5 | 1,465 | 5.8 | 166% | 5%  |
| Southside/Newington          | 230 | 0.8 | 745   | 2.6 | 750   | 2.6 | 226% | 1%  |

## East Lothian

| 2019 electoral wards            | February 2020 |      | October 2020 |      | November 2020 |      | Feb to Nov | Oct to Nov |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|------|---------------|------|------------|------------|
|                                 | Count         | Rate | Count        | Rate | Count         | Rate |            |            |
| Dunbar and East Linton          | 200           | 2.3  | 380          | 4.3  | 380           | 4.3  | 90%        | 0%         |
| Haddington and Lammermuir       | 260           | 2.3  | 475          | 4.3  | 475           | 4.3  | 83%        | 0%         |
| Musselburgh                     | 455           | 3.6  | 855          | 6.8  | 860           | 6.8  | 89%        | 1%         |
| North Berwick Coastal           | 85            | 1.2  | 235          | 3.2  | 255           | 3.4  | 200%       | 9%         |
| Preston, Seton and Gosford      | 310           | 2.8  | 540          | 4.8  | 570           | 5.1  | 84%        | 6%         |
| Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry | 450           | 3.2  | 710          | 5.0  | 760           | 5.4  | 69%        | 7%         |

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2020

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

Table 11 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics from February and compares this to October, the most recent data where a split by in and out of work claimants is possible.

**Table 11 Universal Credit Claimants**

|                   | February 2020 |        |        | October 2020 r |        |         | % Change Feb-Oct |        |
|-------------------|---------------|--------|--------|----------------|--------|---------|------------------|--------|
|                   | Not in emp    | In emp | Total  | Not in emp     | In emp | Total   | Not in emp       | In emp |
| East Lothian      | 3,725         | 2,120  | 5,842  | 5,616          | 3,876  | 9,492   | 51%              | 83%    |
| City of Edinburgh | 9,041         | 4,650  | 13,688 | 20,913         | 14,648 | 35,561  | 131%             | 215%   |
| Fife              | 14,794        | 6,467  | 21,262 | 22,313         | 12,927 | 35,235  | 51%              | 100%   |
| Midlothian        | 3,173         | 1,741  | 4,921  | 5,021          | 3,437  | 8,456   | 58%              | 97%    |
| West Lothian      | 5,608         | 2,809  | 8,419  | 9,389          | 6,050  | 15,437  | 67%              | 115%   |
| Scottish Borders  | 2,874         | 1,546  | 4,424  | 4,900          | 3,300  | 8,198   | 70%              | 113%   |
| Total             | 39,224        | 19,338 | 58,554 | 68,147         | 44,230 | 112,379 | 74%              | 129%   |

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2020

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 – for example it has increased by 129% across the city region between February and October and for every Local Authority the number of in work claimants has increased faster than those out of work.



Table 12 below looks at the same UC split, but on this occasion the whole region has been combined to allow the split by age group to be presented. If this isn't done numbers in certain categories can be small creating very dramatic percentage changes. Even combining as a region this is still the case for example for those over the age of 65 who are in work an 850% increase has been recorded as the figure was 5 in February and is 48 in October.

What we can see is that across the region there has been a greater increase in the number in work and claiming for all age groups, yet the increase is most apparent for those aged 16-19 (179% increase) and 20-24 (188% increase).

**Table 12 UC Claimants across the Region by Age and Claim Type**

|         | February 2020 |        |        | October 2020 |        |         | Percentage Change |        |
|---------|---------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------|
|         | Not in emp    | In emp | Total  | Not in emp   | In emp | Total   | Not in emp        | In emp |
| 16-19   | 2,164         | 411    | 2,566  | 3,261        | 1,148  | 4,405   | 51%               | 179%   |
| 20-24   | 5,278         | 2,002  | 7,274  | 8,952        | 5,766  | 14,716  | 70%               | 188%   |
| 25-29   | 5,721         | 3,430  | 9,146  | 9,654        | 7,580  | 17,234  | 69%               | 121%   |
| 30-34   | 5,413         | 3,585  | 8,998  | 9,596        | 7,572  | 17,167  | 77%               | 111%   |
| 35-39   | 4,662         | 2,971  | 7,636  | 8,322        | 6,606  | 14,931  | 79%               | 122%   |
| 40-44   | 3,731         | 2,253  | 5,985  | 6,761        | 4,890  | 11,649  | 81%               | 117%   |
| 45-49   | 3,417         | 1,739  | 5,156  | 5,921        | 3,847  | 9,768   | 73%               | 121%   |
| 50-54   | 3,136         | 1,333  | 4,471  | 5,692        | 3,130  | 8,827   | 82%               | 135%   |
| 55-59   | 2,851         | 959    | 3,814  | 4,895        | 2,177  | 7,071   | 72%               | 127%   |
| 60-65   | 2,780         | 646    | 3,426  | 4,741        | 1,463  | 6,203   | 71%               | 126%   |
| Over 65 | 72            | 5      | 82     | 356          | 48     | 406     | 394%              | 860%   |
| Total   | 39,224        | 19,338 | 58,554 | 68,147       | 44,230 | 112,379 | 74%               | 129%   |

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2020

The final three tables in this report look at the UC statistics and how they reflect household type. Two things to bear in mind. Firstly, these reflect households rather than claimants so will not be comparable with the other tables. Secondly the most recent data presented on StatXplore is for August rather than October.

**Table 13 UC Claimants by Household Type - February 2020**

|                   | Single, no child dependant | Single, with child dependant(s) | Couple, no child dependant | Couple, with child dependant(s) | Total  |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| City of Edinburgh | 7,559                      | 3,259                           | 411                        | 1,165                           | 12,393 |
| East Lothian      | 2,408                      | 1,846                           | 232                        | 628                             | 5,109  |
| Fife              | 10,330                     | 5,821                           | 790                        | 1,998                           | 18,947 |
| Scottish Borders  | 2,193                      | 1,071                           | 157                        | 491                             | 3,910  |
| Midlothian        | 2,165                      | 1,611                           | 154                        | 459                             | 4,388  |
| West Lothian      | 4,153                      | 2,408                           | 262                        | 765                             | 7,582  |
| Total             | 28,799                     | 16,016                          | 2,005                      | 5,501                           | 52,327 |

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2020

**Table 14 UC Claimants by Household Type - August 2020**

|                   | Single, no child dependant | Single, with child dependant(s) | Couple, no child dependant | Couple, with child dependant(s) | Total  |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| City of Edinburgh | 19,601                     | 4,816                           | 2,168                      | 3,014                           | 29,605 |
| East Lothian      | 4,200                      | 2,103                           | 521                        | 1,104                           | 7,931  |
| Fife              | 17,235                     | 7,094                           | 1,756                      | 3,605                           | 29,680 |
| Scottish Borders  | 3,953                      | 1,385                           | 481                        | 937                             | 6,758  |
| Midlothian        | 3,741                      | 1,899                           | 435                        | 924                             | 6,999  |
| West Lothian      | 7,522                      | 3,119                           | 777                        | 1,588                           | 13,001 |
| Total             | 56,263                     | 20,409                          | 6,137                      | 11,170                          | 93,979 |

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2020

What we can see in these three tables is that overall single adult households (with and without child dependents) make up the majority of households claiming UC- it was the case in February (86%) and it continues to be the case in August (82%). In terms of change overall across the region there has been an 80% increase in the number of households claiming UC between February and August. Edinburgh has recorded by far the highest change and the 139% increase recorded in the city is responsible for pulling the regional average up. In terms of household type, we can see that there was 427% increase in the number of 'Couple, no dependent children' households claiming UC in Edinburgh and this is reflected elsewhere across the region. The category that has recorded the lowest percentage change is 'Single with child dependents'.

Table 15 Percentage Change in UC Claimants by Household Type February 2020-August 2020

|                   | Single, no child dependant | Single, with child dependant(s) | Couple, no child dependant | Couple, with child dependant(s) | Total |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| City of Edinburgh | 159%                       | 48%                             | 427%                       | 159%                            | 139%  |
| East Lothian      | 74%                        | 14%                             | 125%                       | 76%                             | 55%   |
| Fife              | 67%                        | 22%                             | 122%                       | 80%                             | 57%   |
| Scottish Borders  | 80%                        | 29%                             | 206%                       | 91%                             | 73%   |
| Midlothian        | 73%                        | 18%                             | 182%                       | 101%                            | 60%   |
| West Lothian      | 81%                        | 30%                             | 197%                       | 108%                            | 71%   |
| Total             | 95%                        | 27%                             | 206%                       | 103%                            | 80%   |

Source:StatXplore 15/12/2020

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