

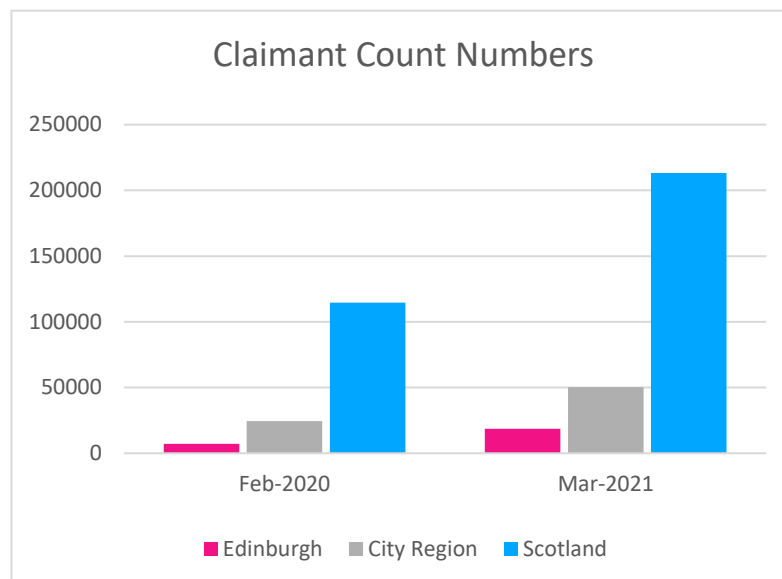
Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and March 2021:

- ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 86%
- ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 161%
- ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 106%

Between January and February 2021 there had been an increase in the claimant count, which is likely to be linked into the trading restrictions imposed at the start of the year.

What we can see in the claimant count data from March, is that whilst there has been a continued increase it hasn't been as substantial as the January to February increase.



Area	February 2020		February 2021		March 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- Mar 21	Feb 21 - Mar 21
City of Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	18,415	5.0	18,525	5.1	160.7	0.6
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,480	5.3	3,520	5.4	99.4	1.1
Fife	8,765	3.8	14,735	6.4	14,880	6.4	69.8	1.0
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	3,070	5.4	3,095	5.4	110.5	0.8
Scottish Borders	1,860	2.7	3,645	5.4	3,660	5.4	96.8	0.4
West Lothian	3,425	2.9	6,385	5.4	6,570	5.6	91.8	2.9
Scotland	114,605	3.3	212,200	6.1	213,205	6.1	86.0	0.5

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

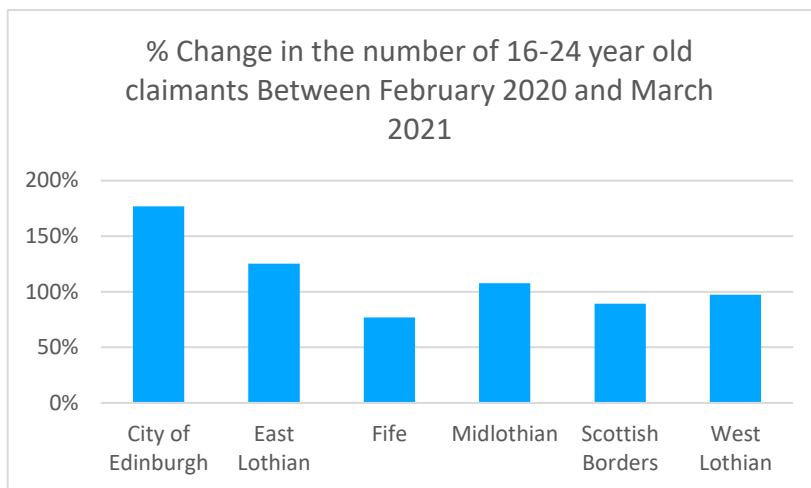
Gender split

Overall, across the region, the proportion of female claimants is much the same in March 2021 as it was in February 2020 at around 39% of claimants. From the March 2021 data we can see that there are differences across the region with 43% of claimants in East Lothian being female through to 38% of claimants in Fife and Edinburgh.

Age Profile

Across the City Region as a whole, the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group has risen by 108% between February 2020 and March 2021. However, there are differences depending on which LA you wish to look at as shown in the chart below. When we look at the 71 wards that make up the city region, we can see that the wards where there has been the greatest proportional

change in terms of the number of 16-24 year old claimants also tend to be wards where there are fewer claimants overall, both historically and currently. For example, North Berwick Coastal in East Lothian has seen the proportion of 16-24 year olds increase by 8 percentage points since February 2020, yet it 'only' has 270 claimants *in total* in March 2021- the lowest of all East Lothian wards.



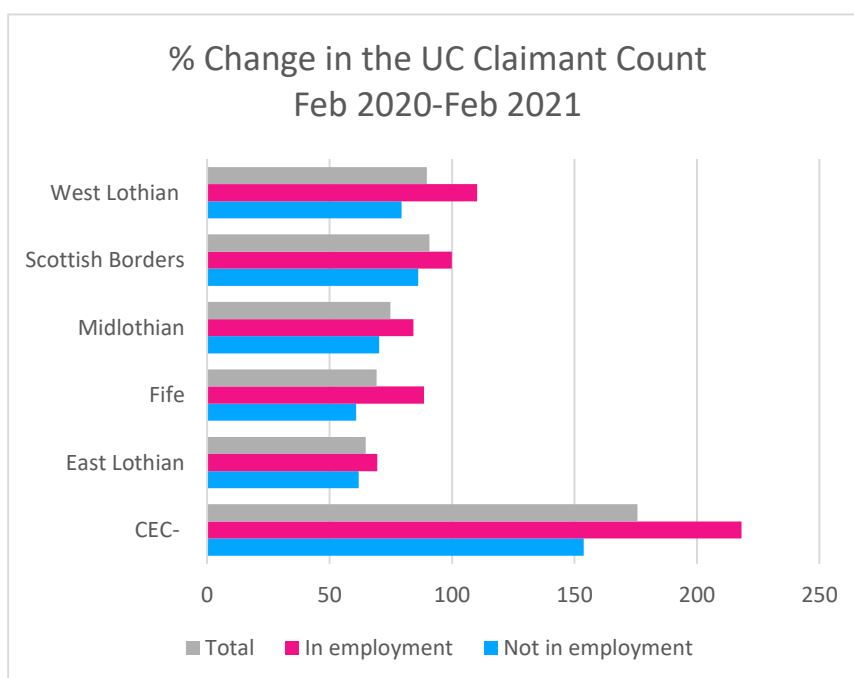
Musselburgh which had 915 claimants in March 2021 saw the proportion of 16-24 year olds increase by 1 percentage point. This seems to be similar across the City Region. In Edinburgh for example Morningside has seen the proportion of 16-24 year old claimants increase by 10 percentage points since February 2020 but with 505 claimants in total is still one of the wards in the city recording fewer claimants than elsewhere.

Across the region participation levels in March 2021 for 16-17 year olds, based on SDS data, varies from 96.1% through to 93.4% and the majority of Local Authorities in the region are above the Scottish Average. However, localities within Local Authorities can be far lower than the average and a participation level of 75.8% was recorded in one local area in the City Region.

Universal Credit

Across the region there has been a 99% increase in the number of people claiming Universal Credit since February 2020 and between February 2020 and March 2021 the region has seen a 121% increase in the number of individuals who are in work and claiming Universal Credit.

Looking at the region as a whole we can see that 49% of those claiming Universal Credit and not in employment in February 2021 had not been claiming this benefit before the pandemic.



We can see that a quarter of all claimants across the region had been claiming UC for between 6 and 12 months in February 2020. The most recent figures suggest that this has now moved up to a third of all claims, or over 40,000 people across the region had been claiming for between 6 and 12 months.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2021 Full Update

The Fraser of Allander Institute published a Scottish Economy update on the 6th April. This indicated that the number of job vacancies had increased by 6.1% since they last looked at the data in February and the share of businesses with staff on Furlough had fallen by 3.8% between 8th March 2021 and the 21st March 2021. However, certain sectors are still not trading anywhere near where they would normally be. For example, Accommodation and Food Services is trading at around 30% of capacity according to the report.¹ This provides some context for what follows in the rest of this report.

Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 20th April indicates that the claimant count across the UK is still far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic- 114% higher for the UK and 86% higher for Scotland.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

Area	February 2020		February 2021		March 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- Mar 21	Feb 21- Mar 21
Northern Ireland	29,910	2.5	57,655	4.9	57,590	4.9	93	-0.1
Scotland	114,605	3.3	212,200	6.1	213,205	6.1	86	0.5
United Kingdom	1,255,770	3.0	2,678,280	6.4	2,692,940	6.5	114	0.5
Wales	60,375	3.1	112,990	5.9	112,915	5.9	87	-0.1
East	89,890	2.4	210,925	5.6	211,940	5.6	136	0.5
East Midlands	80,915	2.7	165,630	5.5	166,510	5.6	106	0.5
London	184,765	3.1	506,800	8.4	512,990	8.5	178%	1.2
North East	75,560	4.6	119,940	7.2	119,905	7.2	59	0.0
North West	167,055	3.7	323,005	7.1	324,280	7.1	94	0.4
South East	119,620	2.1	300,435	5.3	301,675	5.4	152	0.4
South West	75,595	2.2	171,590	5.1	172,260	5.1	128	0.4
West Midlands	141,095	3.9	269,985	7.4	271,130	7.4	92	0.4
Yorkshire and The Humber	116,390	3.4	227,120	6.6	228,535	6.7	96	0.6

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

In the last edition of this update, we could see that the month to month change between January and February was higher than what we had seen in previous months, reflected by an increase in the number of claimants of around 5 or 6% across the UK. The difference between the February and March figures are far less significant and we can see that, except for London, all regions and nations of UK recorded month to month increases of around 0.5%. In Northern Ireland and Wales, the claimant count has fallen between February and March. This could suggest that the January to

¹ <https://fraserofallander.org/latest-data-on-the-scottish-economy-update-6th-april-2021/>

February increase may have been a direct impact of the lockdown with businesses deciding that the economic situation was not strong enough to continue and as a result let staff go. The BICS survey from ONS indicates that in December 84% of Businesses were trading, in January this had fallen to 71%.²

Table 2 below looks at the position across Scotland based on the claimant count data published on the NOMIS site. From this table we can see that between February 2020 and March 2021, Edinburgh has recorded the largest percentage increase in claimant count in Scotland which was 161% higher in March 2021 compared to February 2020. By comparison Inverclyde had recorded the lowest percentage increase, 35% increase, between the same dates. In the City Region whilst Edinburgh has the largest percentage increase, Fife had the lowest at just under 70%.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

Area	February 2020		February 2021		March 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- Mar 21	Feb 21 - Mar 21
Aberdeen City	4,150	2.6	9,725	6.2	9,720	6.2	134.2	-0.1
Aberdeenshire	2,975	1.8	6,655	4.1	6,605	4.1	122.0	-0.8
Angus	2,040	2.9	3,795	5.5	3,770	5.4	84.8	-0.7
Argyll and Bute	1,530	3.0	2,910	5.7	2,890	5.7	88.9	-0.7
City of Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	18,415	5.0	18,525	5.1	160.7	0.6
Clackmannanshire	1,390	4.3	2,095	6.5	2,090	6.5	50.4	-0.2
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	3.4	4,700	5.4	4,700	5.4	59.3	0.0
Dundee City	4,530	4.6	7,015	7.1	6,915	7.0	52.6	-1.4
East Ayrshire	3,685	4.8	5,760	7.6	5,715	7.5	55.1	-0.8
E Dunbartonshire	1,230	1.9	2,560	4.0	2,560	4.0	108.1	0.0
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,480	5.3	3,520	5.4	99.4	1.1
East Renfrewshire	950	1.7	2,135	3.8	2,145	3.8	125.8	0.5
Falkirk	3,300	3.2	5,945	5.8	6,075	5.9	84.1	2.2
Fife	8,765	3.8	14,735	6.4	14,880	6.4	69.8	1.0
Glasgow City	20,055	4.5	36,405	8.1	36,815	8.2	83.6	1.1
Highland	3,715	2.6	7,765	5.4	7,810	5.4	110.2	0.6
Inverclyde	2,255	4.6	2,995	6.2	3,045	6.3	35.0	1.7
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	3,070	5.4	3,095	5.4	110.5	0.8
Moray	1,550	2.6	3,040	5.2	3,030	5.1	95.5	-0.3
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	3.0	770	4.9	780	5.0	67.7	1.3
North Ayrshire	4,600	5.6	6,800	8.3	6,795	8.3	47.7	-0.1
North Lanarkshire	8,230	3.7	14,505	6.6	14,530	6.6	76.5	0.2
Orkney Islands	195	1.4	375	2.8	385	2.9	97.4	2.7
Perth and Kinross	1,865	2.0	4,150	4.5	4,200	4.6	125.2	1.2
Renfrewshire	4,025	3.5	7,190	6.3	7,285	6.3	81.0	1.3
Scottish Borders	1,860	2.7	3,645	5.4	3,660	5.4	96.8	0.4
Shetland Islands	265	1.9	470	3.3	450	3.2	69.8	-4.3
South Ayrshire	2,790	4.2	4,690	7.1	4,635	7.0	66.1	-1.2
South Lanarkshire	7,015	3.5	12,640	6.3	12,730	6.3	81.5	0.7

² Business insights and impact on the UK economy: 8 April 2021

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/businessservices/bulletins/businessinsightsandimpactontheconomy/8april2021>

Scottish Borders	1,540	2.5	2,775	4.6	2,765	4.6	79.5	-0.4
W Dunbartonshire	2,930	5.2	4,605	8.1	4,525	8.0	54.4	-1.7
West Lothian	3,425	2.9	6,385	5.4	6,570	5.6	91.8	2.9
Scotland	114,605	3.3	212,200	6.1	213,205	6.1	86.0	0.5

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

The data in Table 2 appears to suggest that the greatest rate of increase in the claimant count has been in the areas that had the lowest number of claimants prior to the pandemic, whilst areas with higher claimant count rates in February 2020 appear to have recorded a less dramatic increase. What we can also see is that some of those areas where the claimant count increase was relatively low initially are still recording increases month to month. This might indicate that the pandemic and the economic impacts are split with more economically prosperous areas experiencing a very dramatic impact initially, whilst for areas with more economic and labour market issues to start with the impact is more drawn out and possibly longer lasting. It will be interesting to see if the more prosperous areas recover as quickly as they declined last Spring.

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the City Region. Unsurprisingly, the claimant rate for females has increased over the last 12 months, as it has for males. What we can see in the Table below is that in three of the Local Authorities there has been a larger percentage increase in the number of female claimants compared to male claimants. In Edinburgh there has been a 165.9% increase in the number of female claimants between February 2020 and March 2021, in Fife a 73.3% increase, in Scottish Borders a 104.1% increase.

Table 3: Change in Gender Split Across the City Region

	Area	February 2020		February 2021		March 2021		% Change	
		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- Mar 21	Feb 21- Mar 21
City of Edinburgh	All	7,105	1.9	18,415	5.0	18,525	5.1	160.7	0.6
	Male	4,435	2.5	11,350	6.3	11,440	6.3	157.9	0.8
	Female	2,665	1.4	7,065	3.8	7,085	3.8	165.9	0.3
East Lothian	All	1,765	2.7	3,480	5.3	3,520	5.4	99.4	1.1
	Male	1,005	3.2	2,015	6.4	2,015	6.4	100.5	0.0
	Female	760	2.2	1,465	4.3	1,505	4.4	98.0	2.7
Fife	All	8,765	3.8	14,735	6.4	14,880	6.4	69.8	1.0
	Male	5,475	4.8	9,085	8.0	9,180	8.1	67.7	1.0
	Female	3,290	2.8	5,650	4.8	5,700	4.8	73.3	0.9
Midlothian	All	1,470	2.6	3,070	5.4	3,095	5.4	110.5	0.8
	Male	865	3.1	1,835	6.7	1,850	6.7	113.9	0.8
	Female	605	2.0	1,235	4.2	1,240	4.2	105.0	0.4
Scottish Borders	All	1,860	2.7	3,645	5.4	3,660	5.4	96.8	0.4
	Male	1,120	3.4	2,135	6.4	2,150	6.5	92.0	0.7
	Female	740	2.1	1,510	4.3	1,510	4.3	104.1	0.0
West Lothian	All	3,425	2.9	6,385	5.4	6,570	5.6	91.8	2.9
	Male	1,970	3.4	3,840	6.6	3,940	6.8	100.0	2.6
	Female	1,455	2.5	2,545	4.3	2,625	4.4	80.4	3.1
Scotland	All	114,605	3.3	212,200	6.1	213,205	6.1	86.0	0.5
	Male	71,975	4.2	131,885	7.7	132,465	7.7	84.0	0.4
	Female	42,635	2.4	80,315	4.5	80,740	4.5	89.4	0.5

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

What we can also see is that between February and March there has been a 2.7% month on month increase in the number of female claimants in East Lothian – for male claimants there was no increase at all. In West Lothian there was also an increase in the number of female claimants - month on month increase of 3.1% - but this was also reflected in a 2.6% increase in the number of male claimants in the authority.

ONS data³ indicates that younger people continue to bear the brunt of the jobs crisis amid widespread cuts in sectors such as hospitality. Of the 813,000 decrease in payrolled employees since March 2020:

- 355,000 can be attributed to employees working in the accommodation and food service activities sector.
- 223,000 can be attributed to employees living in London.
- 436,000 (53.7%) were under 25 years.

Turning now to look at the age profile of the claimants. What we can see in the following tables is that there the situation differs across the region with some Local Authorities recording very high rates of increase in some age categories. What we can see in Table 4a below is that in the Edinburgh the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group has risen by 177% between February 2020 and March 2021. There is a significant difference between the increase for 16-24 year old males and 16-24 year old females, with males increasing by 188.1% whilst 16-24 year old female claimants increased by 164%. We can see that overall 16-24 year olds made up 15.9% of all claimants in March 2021. In February 2020 they made up 14.9% of claimants.

Table 4a: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region -Edinburgh

		Age	All Age 16+	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50 and over
Edinburgh	Feb-20	Total	7,105	1,065	4,310	1,730
		Male	4,435	630	2,680	1,125
		Female	2,665	430	1,630	605
	Feb-21	Total	18,415	2,915	11,385	4,110
		Male	11,350	1,775	1,140	2,545
		Female	7,065	1,140	4,350	1,570
	Mar-21	Total	18,525	2,950	11,470	4,100
		Male	11,440	1,815	7,075	2,550
		Female	7,085	1,135	4,395	1,555
	% Change Feb 2020-March 2021	Total	160.7	177.0	166.1	137.7
		Male	157.9	188.1	164.0	126.7
		Female	165.9	164.0	169.6	157.0

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

Table 4b below looks at the situation in East Lothian. Once again, the increase in claimant numbers has been largest for 16-24 year olds in East Lothian. Whilst this increase is not as large as that recorded in Edinburgh, it has grown faster for 16-24 year old male claimants than females of the same age - 127% between February 2020 and March 2021 for males and a 123% change over the

³Labour market overview, UK: April 2021. Estimates of employment, unemployment, economic inactivity and other employment-related statistics for the UK.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/april2021>

same period for females. The proportion of 16-24 year olds claiming in March 2021 was higher than in February 2020, currently 20% of claimants in East Lothian are this age compared to 18% in February 2020.

Table 4b: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region -East Lothian

		Age	All Age 16+	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50 and over
East Lothian	Feb-20	Total	1,765	320	1,020	425
		Male	1,005	185	575	250
		Female	760	130	445	190
	Feb-21	Total	3,480	710	1,885	890
		Male	2,015	430	1,075	505
		Female	1,465	280	805	385
	Mar-21	Total	3,520	710	1,950	870
		Male	2,015	420	1,110	480
		Female	1,505	290	830	385
	% Change Feb 2020-March 2021	Total	99.4	121.9	91.2	104.7
		Male	100.5	127.0	93.0	92.0
		Female	98.0	123.1	86.5	102.6

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

Table 4c looks at the situation in Fife. In this table we can see that whilst the increase in the number of 16-24 year olds claiming is the highest of all age groups, there is less of a difference between the change overall and the other age groups. In terms of the proportion of claimants from this age group in Fife, it can be seen that in February 2020 19.9% of claimants were 16-24, and in March 2021 it was 20.7%.

Table 4c: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region -Fife

		Age	All Age 16+	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50 and over
Fife	Feb-20	Total	8,765	1,740	4,990	2,030
		Male	5,475	1,120	3,110	1,250
		Female	3,290	620	1,885	780
	Feb-21	Total	14,735	3,005	8,225	3,500
		Male	9,085	1,885	5,100	2,105
		Female	5,650	1,125	3,125	1,395
	Mar-21	Total	14,880	3,075	8,340	3,460
		Male	9,180	1,935	5,140	2,100
		Female	5,700	1,140	3,205	1,360
	% Change Feb 2020-March 2021	Total	69.8	76.7	67.1	70.4
		Male	67.7	72.8	65.3	68.0
		Female	73.3	83.9	70.0	74.4

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

Table 4d looks at the position in Midlothian. Here we can see that whilst the increase in the number of claimants aged 16-24 is higher than for all other age group categories, it has increased by less than the 50 and over category, which by some way has shown the largest increase in Midlothian. In February 2020 21.8% of all claimants in Midlothian were 16-24 year olds and in March 2021 it was 21.9%, so the proportion has hardly changed at all.

Table 4d: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region -Midlothian

		Age	All Age 16+	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50 and over
Midlothian	Feb-20	Total	1,470	320	860	280
		Male	865	205	495	170
		Female	605	120	370	115
	Feb-21	Total	3,070	660	1,740	675
		Male	1,835	415	1,010	405
		Female	1,235	240	730	270
	Mar-21	Total	3,095	680	1,740	675
		Male	1,850	430	1,010	415
		Female	1,240	250	730	270
	% Change Feb 2020-March 2021	Total	110.5	112.5	102.3	141.1
		Male	113.9	109.8	104.0	144.1
		Female	105.0	108.3	97.3	134.8

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

Table 4e looks at the situation in Scottish Borders. In this we can see that the number of 16-24 year old claimants has increased by less than the other age groups and that female 16-24 year olds have increased by 91.2% compared to male 16-24 year olds where the increase has been 87.8%. In February 2020 22.3% of all claimants in Scottish Borders were aged 16-24, in March 2021 this proportion was 21.4%.

Table 4e: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region -Scottish Borders

		Age	All Age 16+	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50 and over
Scottish Borders	Feb-20	Total	1,860	415	975	465
		Male	1,120	245	575	295
		Female	740	170	395	170
	Feb-21	Total	3,645	805	1,875	965
		Male	2,135	470	1,100	555
		Female	1,510	330	770	405
	Mar-21	Total	3,660	785	1,895	970
		Male	2,150	460	1,125	565
		Female	1,510	325	775	405
	% Change Feb 2020-March 2021	Total	96.8	89.2	94.4	108.6
		Male	92.0	87.8	95.7	91.5
		Female	104.1	91.2	96.2	138.2

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

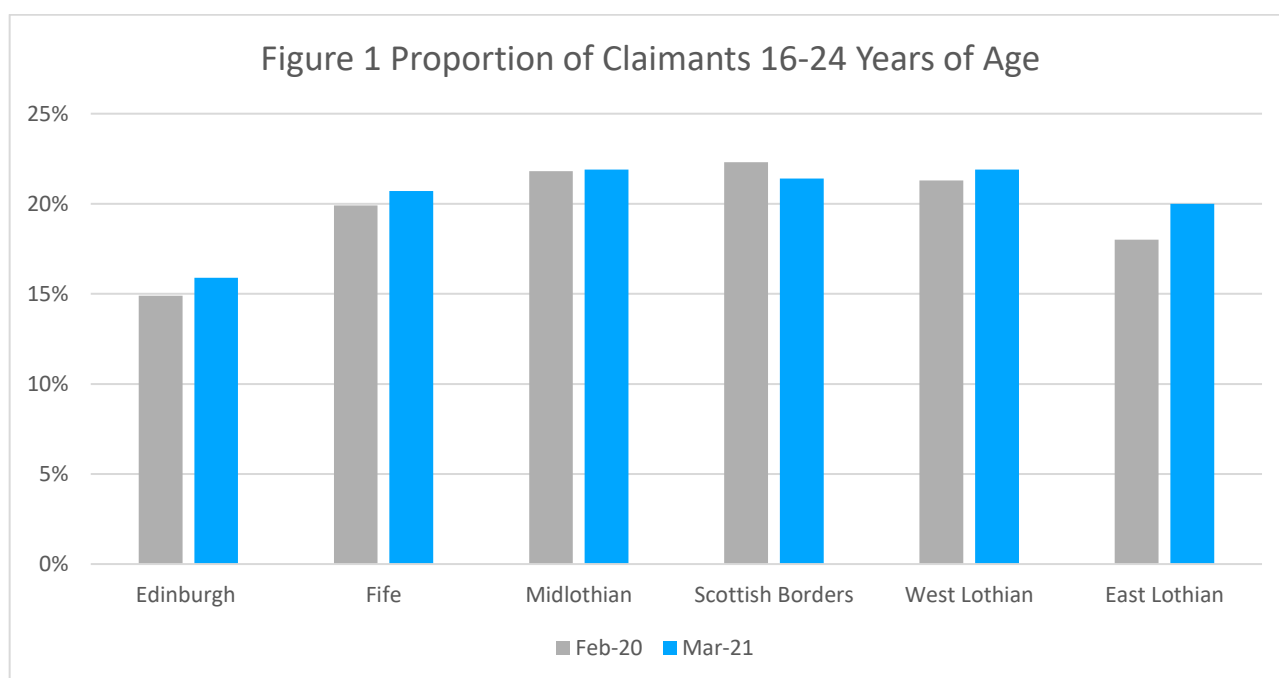
The final area to look at is West Lothian, and the position in this area is reflected in Table 4f. From this we can see that in West Lothian, the number of male 16-24 year old claimants have increased by 103.4% between February 2020 and March 2021, and for females of the same age there was a 91.5% increase. In February 2020 21.3% of West Lothian claimants were 16-24 year olds and in March 2021 this was 21.9%.

Table 4f: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region -West Lothian

		Age	All Age 16+	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50 and over
West Lothian	Feb-20	Total	3,425	730	1,965	725
		Male	1,970	435	1,110	415
		Female	1,455	295	855	305
	Feb-21	Total	6,385	1,370	3,615	1,395
		Male	3,840	840	2,185	815
		Female	2,545	530	1,425	585
	Mar-21	Total	6,570	1,445	3,705	1,410
		Male	3,940	885	2,250	810
		Female	2,625	565	1,455	600
	% Change Feb 2020-March 2021	Total	91.8	97.9	88.5	94.5
		Male	100.0	103.4	102.7	95.2
		Female	80.4	91.5	70.2	96.7

Source: NOMIS 20/04/2021

Figure 1 below compares the proportion of 16-24 year old claimants in March 2021 with that recorded in February 2020. We can see that across the region there has been differences with some showing an increase in the proportion of younger claimants, others where the proportion has remained almost the same and in one case, the proportion of claimants aged 16-19 is now less than it was before the pandemic. What we can also see is that although Edinburgh has seen a very rapid increase in the number of younger claimants, they still make up a relatively small proportion of all claimants, particularly when compared to the other authorities.



Source: NOMIS 20/4/2021

Table 5 below looks at the 71 wards that make up the City Region. These are compiled by Local Authority, but then ranked by the change in the proportion of claimants aged 16-24 between February 2020 and March 2021. Looking at the table we can see that the wards where there has been the greatest proportional change also tend to be wards where there are fewer claimants overall, both historically and currently. For example, North Berwick Coastal in East Lothian has seen the proportion of 16-24 year olds increase by 8 percentage points since February 2020, yet it 'only'

has 270 claimants in March 2021- the lowest of all East Lothian wards. Musselburgh which had 915 claimants in March 2021 saw the proportion of 16-24 year olds increase by 1 percentage point. This seems to be similar across the City Region. In Edinburgh for example Morningside has seen the proportion of 16-24 year old claimants increase by 10 percentage points since February 2020 but with 505 claimants in total is still one of the wards in the city recording fewer claimants than elsewhere.

What is this telling us? It seems to suggest that the increase in the number of young people claiming has been heavily felt in areas where unemployment hadn't been a particular issue. This follows on from the fact that particular sectors that have been attractive to young people, hospitality, retail, entertainment, etc. are the areas which have been worst hit by pandemic related restrictions. If these were to open up and trade in a similar way to 2019, it is therefore likely that many of these young people should be able to quickly move back into employment. The question is will this happen and when? As time progresses more young people leave school, college, university and enter the labour market where these employment opportunities are missing. This reduces opportunities for work experience, and it could be that the young people who had that experience prior to the pandemic are the ones that move back into employment more quickly, with those that are entering the labour market for the first time increasingly left behind.

Table 5: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region Wards

East Lothian	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	Change
North Berwick Coastal	85	10	12%	270	55	20%	8
Dunbar and East Linton	200	25	13%	385	75	19%	6
Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	55	18%	625	150	24%	6
Musselburgh	455	75	16%	915	160	17%	1
Haddington and Lammermuir	260	45	17%	530	95	18%	1
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	105	23%	800	165	21%	-2
Midlothian	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	Change
Midlothian West	210	40	19%	480	105	22%	3
Midlothian East	255	50	20%	545	120	22%	2
Bonnyrigg	180	40	22%	475	115	24%	2
Midlothian South	300	65	22%	535	115	21%	-1
Dalkeith	295	70	24%	605	135	22%	-2
Penicuik	225	55	24%	455	85	19%	-5
West Lothian	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	Change
Linlithgow	135	15	11%	280	55	20%	9
Whitburn and Blackburn	585	115	20%	985	225	23%	3
Livingston South	450	100	22%	860	200	23%	1
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	75	21%	745	160	21%	0
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	80	20%	740	150	20%	0
Armadale and Blackridge	310	75	24%	575	140	24%	0
Bathgate	470	105	22%	915	190	21%	-1
Livingston North	325	80	25%	715	160	22%	-3
East Livingston and East Calder	380	90	24%	760	160	21%	-3
Fife	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	Change
St Andrews	105	15	14%	240	45	19%	5
Tay Bridgehead	190	35	18%	335	75	22%	4

Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	25	14%	400	70	18%	4
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	150	22%	1125	280	25%	3
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	60	16%	600	110	18%	2
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	80	22%	605	145	24%	2
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	185	21%	1225	275	22%	1
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	40	17%	495	95	19%	2
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	80	23%	570	135	24%	1
Dunfermline North	415	70	17%	670	120	18%	1
Cowdenbeath	610	120	20%	1015	210	21%	1
Cupar	210	50	24%	405	100	25%	1
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	75	21%	650	145	22%	1
Rosyth	305	65	21%	565	125	22%	1
East Neuk and Landward	185	20	11%	390	45	12%	1
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	110	22%	745	170	23%	1
Kirkcaldy Central	580	100	17%	985	175	18%	1
Kirkcaldy North	390	85	22%	645	145	22%	0
West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	70	20%	655	130	20%	0
Dunfermline Central	395	80	20%	690	140	20%	0
Kirkcaldy East	640	110	17%	1020	175	17%	0
Dunfermline South	450	110	24%	845	165	20%	-4
Edinburgh	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	Change
Morningside	150	20	13%	505	115	23%	10
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205	20	10%	630	100	16%	6
Inverleith	220	25	11%	705	115	16%	5
Drum Brae/Gyle	225	30	13%	690	120	17%	4
City Centre	490	45	9%	1255	155	12%	3
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	120	20	17%	380	75	20%	3
Colinton/Fairmilehead	175	30	17%	520	105	20%	3
Pentland Hills	625	95	15%	1360	240	18%	3
Southside/Newington	230	40	17%	715	135	19%	2
Almond	495	75	15%	1130	180	16%	1
Craigtintny/Duddingston	550	80	15%	1440	220	15%	0
Leith	630	80	13%	1405	185	13%	0
Liberton/Gilmerton	540	105	19%	1475	285	19%	0
Portobello/Craigmillar	625	110	18%	1545	255	17%	-1
Forth	720	130	18%	1740	295	17%	-1
Leith Walk	550	65	12%	1525	160	10%	-2
Sighthill/Gorgie	550	90	16%	1510	215	14%	-2
Scottish Borders	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	All Ages	16-24 Year Olds	Proportion	Change
Tweeddale West	105	10	10%	265	40	15%	5
Kelso and District	140	25	18%	270	55	20%	2
Mid Berwickshire	140	30	21%	295	65	22%	1
Tweeddale East	105	20	19%	255	50	20%	1
East Berwickshire	160	35	22%	315	70	22%	0
Selkirkshire	165	35	21%	280	60	21%	0
Galashiels and District	385	85	22%	630	140	22%	0

Hawick and Denholm	235	65	28%	425	115	27%	-1
Leaderdale and Melrose	115	25	22%	275	55	20%	-2
Jedburgh and District	130	30	23%	320	60	19%	-4
Hawick and Hermitage	180	55	31%	335	80	24%	-7

Source: NOMIS 20/4/2021

Skills Development Scotland provide useful information that reflects young people generally and in particular, the position of 16-17 year olds. Table 6 below looks at the participation measure for 16-17 year olds across the 6 Local Authorities of the city region. This reflects the position as at March 2021 and is based on data sourced from the SDS Customer Support System (CSS) which is directly updated by SDS staff and through data shared by partners (including local authorities/schools, colleges, SAAS, DWP).

Table 6: 16-17 Year Old Participation Levels as at March 2021

	Participation	Non-Participation	Unconfirmed
Midlothian	96.1	3.2	1.5
East Lothian	95.9	1.9	2.2
Scottish Borders	96.3	2.7	1.0
Edinburgh	95.2	3.2	1.5
Scotland	94.9	3.0	2.1
West Lothian	93.2	4.4	2.4
Fife	93.4	4.3	2.4

Source: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/monthly-participation-snapshot-for-16-and-17-year-olds/>

Participation generally means a positive destination such as a job, college, training etc. Unconfirmed represents those that the SDS teams have been unable to track down and determine what they are doing. We can see that across the region participation levels vary from 96.3% through to 93.2%. Looking at it from the other side we can see that in West Lothian the SDS team have found a non-participation rate of 4.4%, whilst 2.4% of young people have been untraceable. In East Lothian the non-participation rate is 1.9% and 2.2% have still to have a destination confirmed. If we compare the non-participation rate to the Scottish average we can see that only East Lothian and Scottish Borders have a non-participation rate below that of Scotland as a whole.

Table 7: 16-17 Year Old Participation Levels by Intermediate Data Zone as at March 2021

	Participation Rate		
	LA	Highest	Lowest
Midlothian (2)	96.1	Eskbank 100%	Gorebridge & Middleton 89.1%
East Lothian (2)	95.9	IZ18 (North Berwick) 100%	IZ08 (Prestonpans) 85.9%
Scottish Borders (1)	96.3	Melrose and Tweedbank Area 100%	Burnfoot 83.1%
Edinburgh (26)	95.2	Abbeyhill 100%	Granton and Royston Mains 82.5%
West Lothian	93.2	Linlithgow South 99.2%	Deans 84.7%
Fife (6)	93.4	Balmullo and Gaudry 100%	Methill West 75.8%

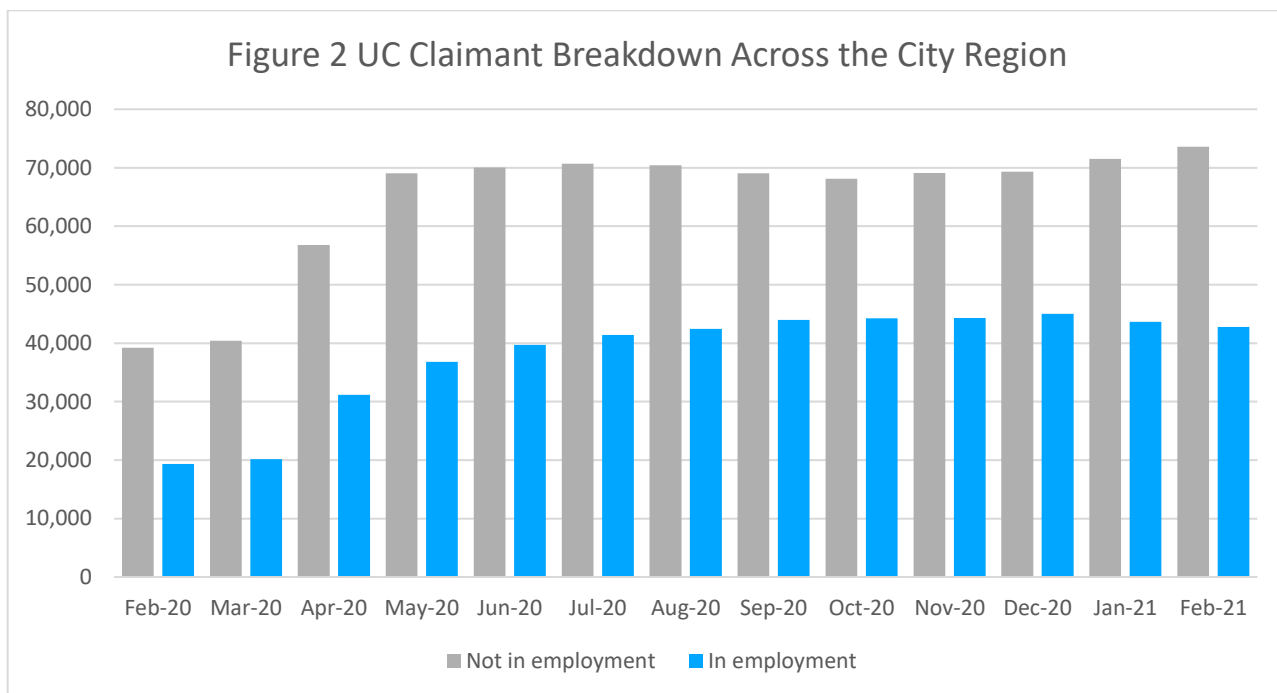
Source: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/monthly-participation-snapshot-for-16-and-17-year-olds/>

This SDS data source allows us to examine participation rates at very localised level through Intermediate data zones. This indicates that there are significant differences *within* Local

Authorities. Table 7 above looks at the areas with the highest and Lowest Participation rate in each of the 6 Local Authorities. The figure in brackets indicates how many of these small areas had 100% participation level.

Universal Credit

Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count that we have looked at already in this report, however it also includes data on those who are in work but need support as their wages alone don't provide enough income. Figure 2 below looks at the increase across the region in the number of in-work and out of work universal credit claimants since February 2020. Whilst March data for UC claimants is available, it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the February 2021 data is the most up to date available.



What we can see from this is that the out of work claimants peaked quickly and has been around 70,000 since May. The in-work UC claimants has seen a far more gradual rise and this rise has continued longer. For example, between June (after the initial shock) and February (the most recent data that can be split) the number of not in employment claimants across the city region has increased by 5% whilst the number of in work claimants has increased by 7.7%. What we can also see is that those receiving in work UC, has fallen over recent months. For example, there were 44,230 claimants of in-work UC in October 2020. In February 2021, this was 42,787.

Table 8 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics for each of the 6 LAs from February 2021 and compares this to February 2020 and January 2021. What we can see is that by far the greatest percentage increase has been recorded in Edinburgh and for those that are in employment and claiming UC. In February 2020 there were 4,650 claimants in this category in the city by January this had trebled to 15,083. There has been a slight fall between January 2021 and February 2021, but at the same time the in work and claiming participants fell the not in employment claimants increased by 3.3%. This may indicate that individuals who had been in work had lost their employment at the start of the year and moved across from in work and claiming, to out of work and claiming.

Although not to the same scale as Edinburgh, the other 5 authorities in the city region also appear to have experienced something similar. For example, Scottish Borders recorded a 3% increase in UC

claimants who were not in employment between January and February this year whilst also recording a 1.2% fall in the number of in work claimants.

Table 8: Universal Credit Claimants

		Feb-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	% Change Feb 20-Feb 21	% Change Jan 21 – Feb 21
City of Edinburgh	Not in employment	9,041	22,205	22,945	153.8	3.3
	In employment	4,650	15,083	14,794	218.2	-1.9
	Total	13,688	37,287	37,738	175.7	1.2
East Lothian	Not in employment	3,725	5,865	6,032	61.9	2.8
	In employment	2,120	3,659	3,594	69.5	-1.8
	Total	5,842	9,524	9,627	64.8	1.1
Fife	Not in employment	14,794	23,120	23,785	60.8	2.9
	In employment	6,467	12,515	12,188	88.5	-2.6
	Total	21,262	35,633	35,979	69.2	1.0
Midlothian	Not in employment	3,173	5,311	5,404	70.3	1.8
	In employment	1,741	3,260	3,208	84.3	-1.6
	Total	4,921	8,574	8,607	74.9	0.4
Scottish Borders	Not in employment	2,874	5,193	5,351	86.2	3.0
	In employment	1,546	3,127	3,091	99.9	-1.2
	Total	4,424	8,322	8,442	90.8	1.4
West Lothian	Not in employment	5,608	9,817	10,062	79.4	2.5
	In employment	2,809	5,995	5,906	110.3	-1.5
	Total	8,419	15,812	15,970	89.7	1.0

Source: StatXplore 20/04/2021

Table 9 below looks at how long people have been claiming UC. Looking at the region as a whole we can see that 49% of those claiming and not in employment in February 2021 had not been claiming UC before the pandemic. For those that are in work 66% had been claiming for less than a year, which suggests that they only started to require support after the pandemic started.

Table 9: Claimants by Duration of Claim

		Percentage Claiming for:							
		up to 3 months		3 to 6 months		6 – 12 months		1 to 2 years	
		Feb-20	Feb-21	Feb-20	Feb-21	Feb-20	Feb-21	Feb-20	Feb-21
City of Edinburgh	Not in emp	23%	12%	19%	11%	37%	40%	12%	29%
	In emp	30%	15%	21%	16%	35%	47%	10%	19%
	Total	25%	13%	20%	13%	36%	43%	12%	25%
East Lothian	Not in emp	10%	8%	9%	6%	14%	27%	21%	19%
	In emp	17%	11%	11%	10%	15%	34%	17%	17%
	Total	13%	9%	10%	7%	14%	29%	19%	18%
Fife	Not in emp	14%	8%	12%	7%	21%	26%	41%	26%
	In emp	24%	12%	16%	12%	22%	36%	31%	24%
	Total	17%	10%	13%	8%	21%	30%	38%	25%
Midlothian	Not in emp	12%	9%	12%	7%	18%	27%	27%	23%
	In emp	17%	12%	13%	11%	21%	34%	23%	20%
	Total	14%	10%	12%	9%	19%	30%	25%	22%
Scottish Borders	Not in emp	16%	9%	16%	9%	26%	31%	33%	29%
	In emp	24%	12%	17%	13%	30%	37%	26%	26%

	Total	19%	10%	16%	10%	28%	33%	30%	28%
West Lothian	Not in emp	15%	9%	14%	8%	25%	30%	38%	28%
	In emp	25%	14%	17%	13%	25%	38%	31%	23%
	Total	19%	11%	15%	10%	25%	33%	36%	27%
Total	Not in emp	16%	10%	14%	8%	25%	31%	30%	27%
	In emp	24%	13%	17%	13%	26%	40%	23%	21%
	Total	19%	11%	15%	10%	25%	34%	28%	25%

Source: StatXplore 20/04/2021

What we can also see is that across the region prior to the pandemic, the February 2020 figures, around 20% of UC claimants overall had only been claiming for 3 months. By February 2021 this had fallen so that only 11% of claimants were 'new', ie claiming for less than 3 months. The longer people are reliant on benefits the more financial stress their households will be in. We can see that a quarter of all claimants across the region had been claiming UC for between 6 and 12 months in February 2020. The most recent figures suggest that this has now moved up to a third of all claims, or over 40,000 people across the region.

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