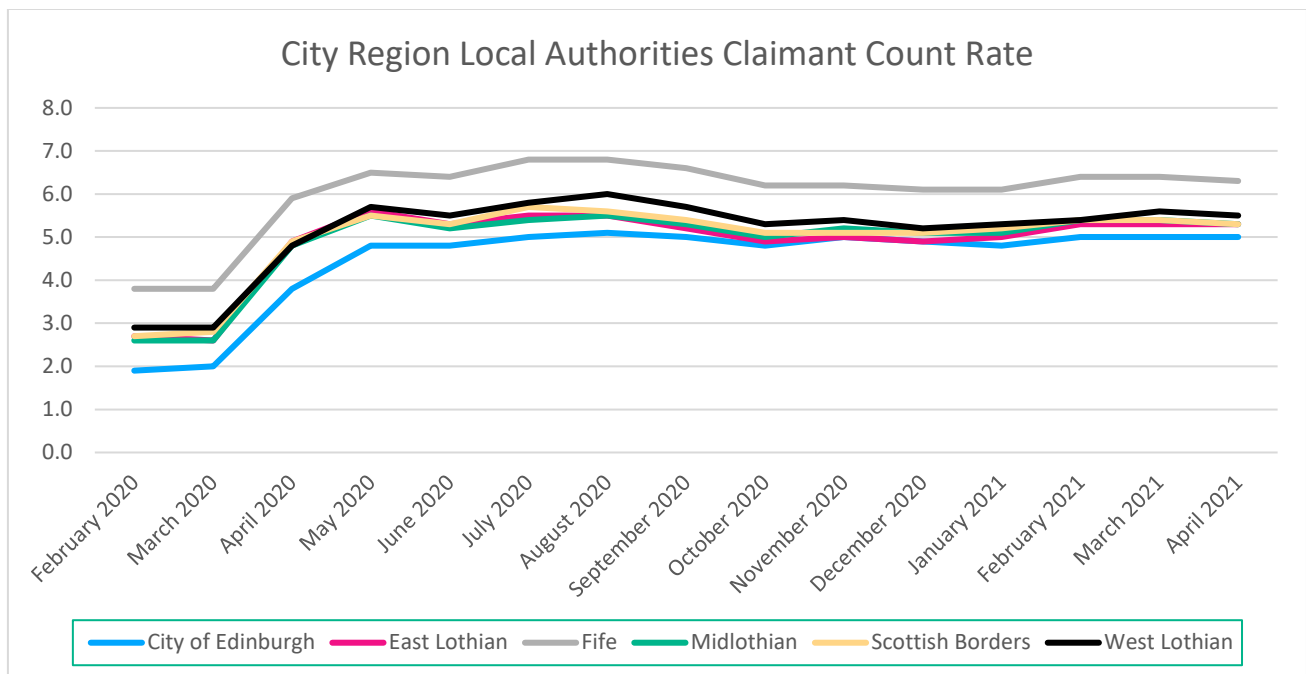


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count April 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and April 2021:

- ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 111%
- ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 82%
- ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 157%
- ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 102%



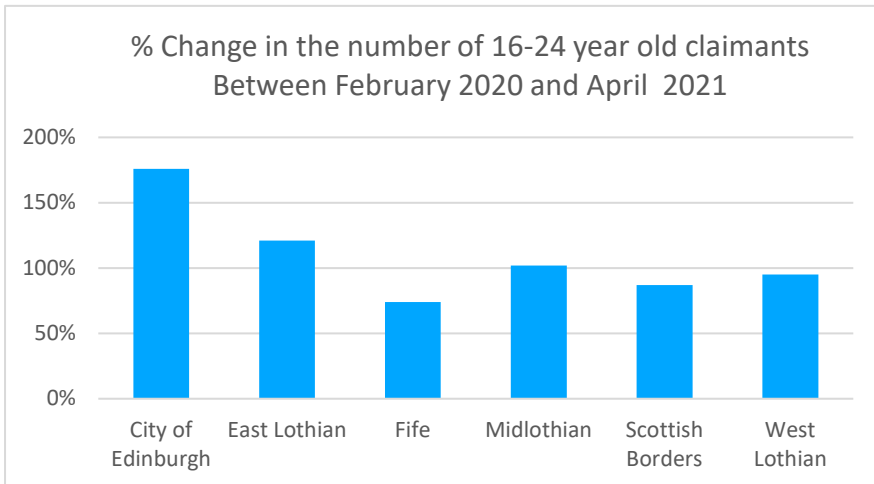
Between January and April 2021 there has been little change in the claimant count. What we can see in the claimant count data from April is that there has been a small fall compared to the month before.

Area	Feb 2020		Feb 2021		March 2021		April 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- Apr 21	Feb 21 - Apr 21
Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	18,415	5.0	18,425	5.0	18,240	5.0	157%	-1%
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,480	5.3	3,485	5.3	3,455	5.3	96%	-1%
Fife	8,765	3.8	14,735	6.4	14,800	6.4	14,625	6.3	67%	-1%
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	3,070	5.4	3,090	5.4	3,000	5.3	104%	-3%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2.7	3,645	5.4	3,630	5.4	3,615	5.3	94%	0%
West Lothian	3,425	2.9	6,385	5.4	6,530	5.6	6,385	5.5	86%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 19/05/2021

Gender Split: Overall, across the region, the proportion of female claimants is much the same as it was a year ago at around 39% of claimants. From the April 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.

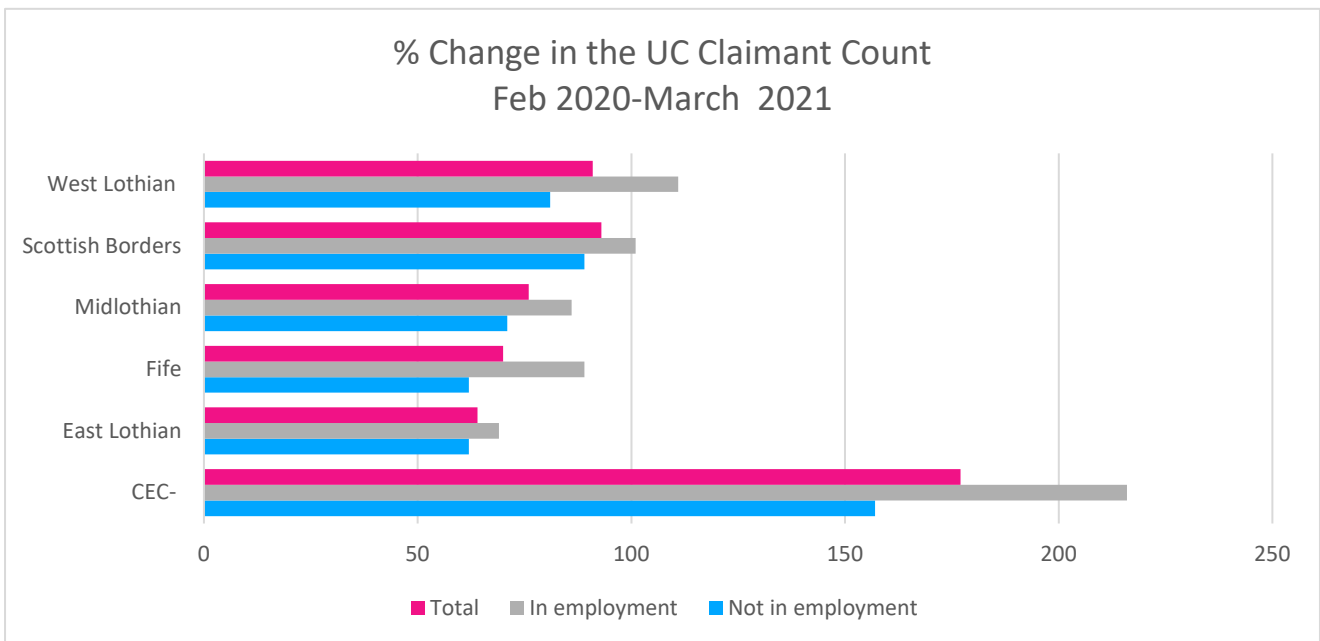
Age Profile: Across the City Region as a whole the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group has risen by 102% between February 2020 and April 2021. However, there are differences depending on which LA you wish to look at- shown in the chart above.



Across the region participation levels in April 2021 for 16-17 year olds, based on SDS data, varies from 96.7% through to 93.8% 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 77.9% was recorded in one local area in the City Region, which is an improvement on last month's figure of 75.8% for that locality.

Universal Credit: Across the region there has been a 100% increase in the number of people claiming Universal Credit since February 2020 so that in the most recent figures we can see that 117,041 individuals are claiming UC.



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 and a 89% increase in the numbers who are claiming and not in employment.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count April 2021 Full Update

The Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) published a Scottish Economy update on the 4th May¹ and from this we can see that the Scottish economy grew by 0.9% in February while UK GDP grew by 0.4% over the same period. They also report that as of February, the Scottish economy is 7.4% lower than pre-pandemic levels while the UK economy is 7.8% below last February's levels of output. The hospitality industry remains the hardest hit sector of the economy however, they say that with the easing of lockdown restrictions towards the end of April, there is some hope for this industry, with google searches of Scottish pubs and restaurants peaking in mid-late April.

As was reported in last month's report, the claimant count has remained fairly stable since it sharply increased last spring. The FAI however, suggest that with furlough in place until the end of September, the true impact of the pandemic on jobs will not be realised until later this year. In the same article FAI refer to the Addleshaw Goddard Business Monitor report,² Which highlighted that business sentiment has improved since the last quarter of 2020 with almost 90% of these businesses they contacted reporting that they are confident that their chance of survival over the next six months is somewhat or very likely. The outlook for economic growth has also improved with 25% expecting a positive 12 months.

The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) weighted sample for Scotland was published on the ScotStat page last week³ and this indicates that in the period 19 April to 2 May 2021, the share of businesses 'currently trading' was estimated at 86.5% - in line with the previous fortnight results. The share of the workforce on furlough leave was estimated at 16.2% in the period 6 April to 2 May 2021 - down from 19.1% in the previous period. As one would expect the Accommodation & Food Services and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation industry sectors continued to have the highest shares of the workforce on furlough leave - estimated at 60.0% and 45.1% respectively.

The ONS May update⁴ indicates that the number of payroll employees has increased for the fifth consecutive month but remains 772,000 below pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels. Since February 2020, the largest falls in payrolled employment have been in the hospitality sector, among those aged under 25 years, and those living in London.

More encouraging is the fact that ONS report that in February to April 2021, the number of vacancies reached its highest level since January to March 2020, with most industries displaying increases over the quarter, most notably, accommodation and food service activities. However, the

¹ <https://fraserofallander.org/latest-data-on-the-scottish-economy-update-4th-may-2021/>

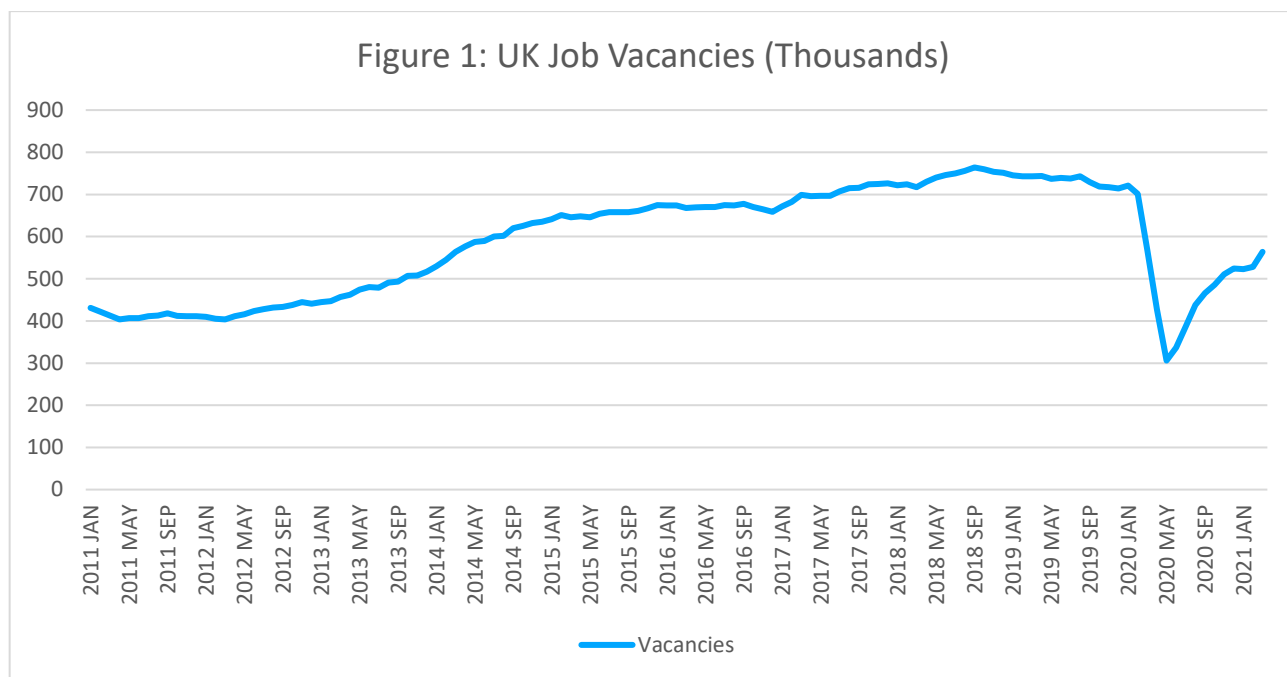
² <https://www.addleshawgoddard.com/globalassets/insights/general/scottish-business-monitor-all-reports/scottish-business-monitor-q1-2021.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-29/>

⁴

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/may2021>

headline number of job vacancies remains below the pre-pandemic levels, with arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food service activities industries the worst affected. Figure 1 below looks at the vacancy data published by ONS on 18th May. Those figures come from the ONS Vacancy Survey, which is a stratified business survey weighted to an industry population. The question involved asks businesses for the number of vacancies that they are actively seeking to fill from outside the organisation. This is only available at a UK level and illustrates the very sharp fall when the restrictions were first introduced. The most recent data is from March 2021 and indicates that there were 564,000 vacancies. Whilst this is up on the figure from May 2020 (306,000) it is still some way off the March 2019 figures where there were 743,000 vacancies.



Overall Claimant Count

The data published on the 18th May indicates that the claimant count across the UK remains far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic- 111% higher for the UK and 82% higher for Scotland. We can see in Table 1 that London and the South East have seen the largest percentage increase, whilst the North East of England has seen the smallest percentage increase. This reflects what we have seen in the city region where areas that traditionally had higher levels of unemployment have recorded less dramatic increases over the last 14 months.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

Area	February 2020		March 2021		April 2021		% Change Feb 2020-April 2021
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	
England	1,050,875	3.0	2,294,110	6.5	2,271,355	6.5	116
Northern Ireland	29,910	2.5	57,110	4.8	57,180	4.8	91
United Kingdom	1,255,770	3.0	2,675,305	6.4	2,647,555	6.3	111
Wales	60,375	3.1	112,150	5.8	110,440	5.7	83
Scotland	114,605	3.3	211,930	6.1	208,580	6.0	82
East	89,890	2.4	210,510	5.6	208,970	5.5	132
East Midlands	80,915	2.7	165,265	5.5	163,495	5.5	102
London	184,765	3.1	509,070	8.4	507,875	8.4	175
North East	75,560	4.6	119,370	7.2	117,600	7.1	56

North West	167,055	3.7	322,500	7.1	318,665	7.0	91
South East	119,620	2.1	299,550	5.3	295,390	5.3	147
South West	75,595	2.2	171,255	5.1	168,365	5.0	123
West Midlands	141,095	3.9	269,485	7.4	266,435	7.3	89
Yorkshire and The Humber	116,390	3.4	227,100	6.6	224,560	6.6	93

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Generally, what we can see since the turn of the year is that between January and February there were noticeable increases recorded throughout the UK. Between February and March it was slightly less marked and, 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 had actually fallen between February and March. The March to April comparison is more positive with all areas of Britain recording month to month falls, ranging from a 1.7% fall in the South West to a 0.2% fall in London. Northern Ireland showed a very slight increase month to month.

Overall, it would be fair to say that the claimant count is broadly similar to what it was in March and any positive impact from restrictions being eased are yet to work their way through into the statistics. The sobering thought is that across the UK there are still 2,647,555 people unemployed and claiming- 6% of the working age population.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

Area	February 2020		March 2021		April 2021		% Change Feb 20- April 21
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	
City of Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	18,425	5.0	18,240	5.0	157%
Aberdeen City	4,150	2.6	9,675	6.2	9,525	6.1	130%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	2.0	4,170	4.5	4,110	4.5	120%
East Renfrewshire	950	1.7	2,125	3.7	2,070	3.6	118%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	1.8	6,560	4.1	6,420	4.0	116%
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	3,090	5.4	3,000	5.3	104%
Highland	3,715	2.6	7,765	5.4	7,550	5.3	103%
East Dunbartonshire	1,230	1.9	2,555	3.9	2,480	3.8	102%
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,485	5.3	3,455	5.3	96%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2.7	3,630	5.4	3,615	5.3	94%
Orkney Islands	195	1.4	385	2.9	370	2.8	90%
Moray	1,550	2.6	3,015	5.1	2,905	4.9	87%
West Lothian	3,425	2.9	6,530	5.6	6,385	5.5	86%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	3.0	2,875	5.7	2,835	5.6	85%
Scotland	114,605	3.3	211,930	6.1	208,580	6.0	82%
Angus	2,040	2.9	3,760	5.4	3,685	5.3	81%
Glasgow City	20,055	4.5	36,590	8.2	36,190	8.1	80%
Falkirk	3,300	3.2	6,035	5.9	5,930	5.8	80%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	3.5	12,645	6.3	12,390	6.1	77%
Renfrewshire	4,025	3.5	7,240	6.3	7,080	6.2	76%
Stirling	1,540	2.5	2,730	4.5	2,700	4.5	75%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	3.7	14,415	6.6	14,190	6.5	72%
Fife	8,765	3.8	14,800	6.4	14,625	6.3	67%
Shetland Islands	265	1.9	445	3.2	440	3.1	66%

South Ayrshire	2,790	4.2	4,620	7.0	4,535	6.8	63%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	3.0	775	5.0	750	4.8	61%
East Ayrshire	3,685	4.8	5,680	7.5	5,640	7.4	53%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	3.4	4,670	5.4	4,505	5.2	53%
West Dunbartonshire	2,930	5.2	4,515	8.0	4,450	7.9	52%
Dundee City	4,530	4.6	6,880	6.9	6,830	6.9	51%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	4.3	2,070	6.4	2,035	6.3	46%
North Ayrshire	4,600	5.6	6,760	8.3	6,545	8.0	42%
Inverclyde	2,255	4.6	3,030	6.2	3,100	6.4	37%

Source: NOMIS 18/5/2021

Table 2 above 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 April 2021, Edinburgh has recorded the largest percentage increase in claimant count in Scotland and was 157% higher in April 2021 compared to February 2020. By comparison Inverclyde had recorded the lowest percentage increase, 37% increase, between the same dates. Once again, we can see that areas that had been recording higher claimant rates in 2020 (such as Inverclyde and North Ayrshire) have recorded less of an increase over the last 14 months than areas where the claimant count had been lower to start with.

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.

Gender Profile

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 and this reflects what has happened in Scotland as a whole. In Edinburgh there has been a 160% increase in the number of female claimants between February 2020 and April 2021, in Fife a 71% increase and in Scottish Borders a 99% increase.

Table 3: Change in Gender Split Across the City Region

	February 2020		March 2021		April 2021		Difference Feb2020-April 2021
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	
Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	18,425	5.0	18,240	5.0	157%
Male	4,435	2.5	11,380	6.3	11,315	6.3	155%
Female	2,665	1.4	7,045	3.8	6,925	3.7	160%
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,485	5.3	3,455	5.3	96%
Male	1,005	3.2	1,995	6.3	1,980	6.3	97%
Female	760	2.2	1,490	4.4	1,470	4.3	93%
Fife	8,765	3.8	14,800	6.4	14,625	6.3	67%
Male	5,475	4.8	9,140	8.1	9,010	8.0	65%
Female	3,290	2.8	5,660	4.8	5,610	4.7	71%

Midlothian	1,470	2.6	3,090	5.4	3,000	5.3	104%
Male	865	3.1	1,845	6.7	1,820	6.6	110%
Female	605	2.0	1,245	4.2	1,180	4.0	95%
Scot Borders	1,860	2.7	3,630	5.4	3,615	5.3	94%
Male	1,120	3.4	2,135	6.4	2,140	6.5	91%
Female	740	2.1	1,500	4.3	1,475	4.2	99%
West Lothian	3,425	2.9	6,530	5.6	6,385	5.5	86%
Male	1,970	3.4	3,910	6.8	3,825	6.6	94%
Female	1,455	2.5	2,615	4.4	2,560	4.3	76%
Scotland	114,605	3.3	211,930	6.1	208,580	6.0	82%
Male	71,975	4.2	131,680	7.7	129,475	7.5	80%
Female	42,635	2.4	80,250	4.5	79,105	4.5	86%

Source: NOMIS 18/5/2021

The claimant rate is still higher for males than it is for females and this holds true for the entire region and this is also reflected in that fact that in each LA there are more male claimants than females.

Age Profile

Table 4 below looks at the 6 Local Authorities and the City Region in terms of three broad age categories. In this we can see that the 16-24 year old age group has increased by the largest percentage since February 2020 in 4 of the 6 Local Authorities. In Scottish Borders and Midlothian, the greatest increase has been recorded in the 50 plus category.

Of those Authorities where the 16-24 year old age group did record the largest percentage increase, there was a wide range from a 176% in Edinburgh through to a 74% increase in Fife. What we can see is that across the region in April there were 9,515 16-24 year old claimants, 11,240 who were 50 or over and 28,560 who were between 25-49 years of age.

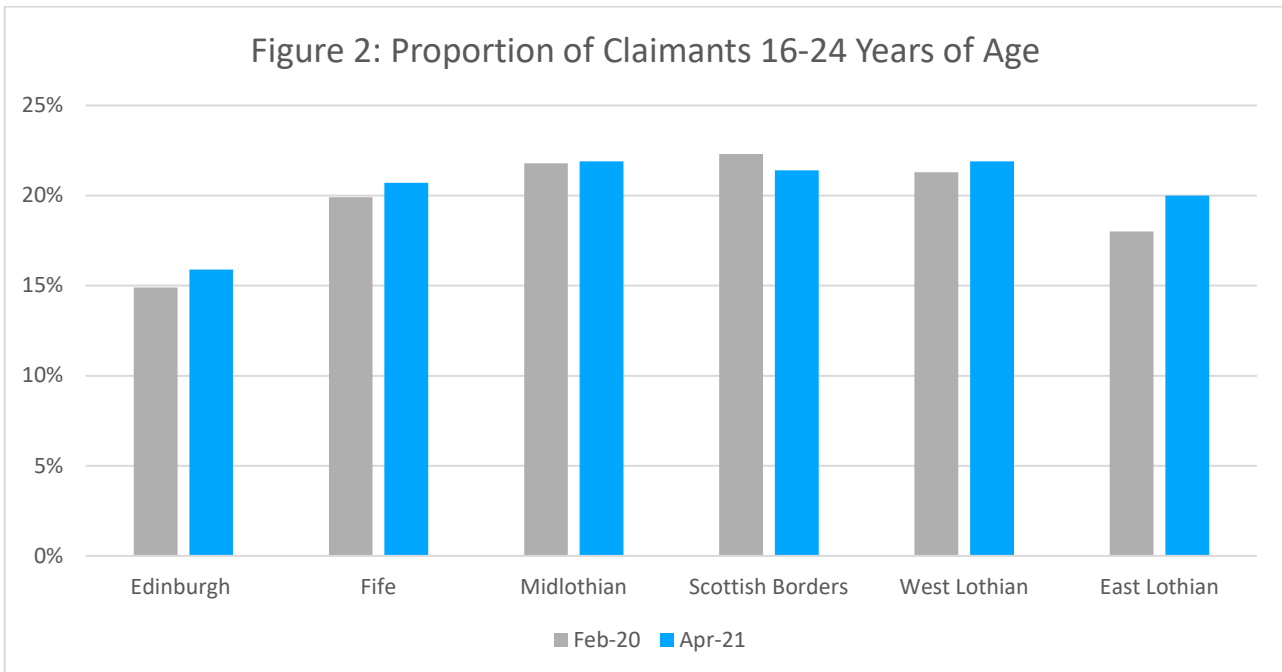
Table 4: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region

	February 2020	March 2021	April 2021	Percentage Change Feb 2020- April 2021
City of Edinburgh	7,105	18,425	18,240	157%
16-24	1,065	2,925	2,935	176%
25-49	4,310	11,425	11,245	161%
50plus	1,730	4,075	4,055	134%
East Lothian	1,765	3,485	3,455	96%
16-24	315	705	695	121%
25-49	1,020	1,925	1,945	91%
50plus	430	855	815	90%
Fife	8,765	14,800	14,625	67%
16-24	1,740	3,065	3,020	74%
25-49	4,990	8,295	8,215	65%
50plus	2,030	3,445	3,385	67%
Midlothian	1,470	3,090	3,000	104%
16-24	325	680	655	102%
25-49	865	1,740	1,685	95%
50plus	280	670	660	136%
Scottish Borders	1,860	3,630	3,615	94%

16-24	415	780	775	87%
25-49	975	1,880	1,885	93%
50plus	470	970	955	103%
West Lothian	3,425	6,530	6,385	86%
16-24	735	1,435	1,435	95%
25-49	1,965	3,695	3,590	83%
50plus	725	1,400	1,360	88%
City Region	24,385	49,960	49,315	102%
16-24	4,595	9,590	9,515	107%
25-49	14,125	28,950	28,560	102%
50plus	5,665	11,420	11,240	98%

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Figure 2 below highlights the proportion of claimants in each Local Authority who were 16-24 years of age. What we can see in this is that although Edinburgh has shown a large increase in the number of 16-24 year old claimants, it remains the area with the lowest proportion of younger claimants.



Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Ward Profile

The next 6 tables look at the 71 wards that make up the City Region grouped by Local Authority. Each table gives an indication of how the claimant count overall has increased since February 2020. In addition, it splits the April 2021 figure by age category, providing an indication of where particular age groups would be most concentrated.

Table 5a: East Lothian Ward Split

2017 electoral wards	All categories: Age 16+		% Change Feb 20- April 21	April 2021 Age Split		
	Feb 2020	April 2021		Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+

Musselburgh	455	900	98%	155	520	225
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	785	74%	155	445	180
Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	590	90%	145	325	125
Haddington and Lammermuir	260	525	102%	100	285	140
Dunbar and East Linton	200	380	90%	85	215	80
North Berwick Coastal	85	275	224%	55	155	60

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

What we can see is that regardless of which Local Authority we look at, the ward with the highest claimant count in 2020 is almost always the ward with the highest claimant count in April 2021. In many cases the claimant count in these wards does not show a particularly high percentage increase when compared to other wards, yet still has a high claimant count.

Table 5b: Midlothian Ward Split

2017 electoral wards	All categories: Age 16+		% Change Feb 20- April 21	April 2021 Age Split		
	Feb 2020	April 2021		Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dalkeith	295	575	95%	130	335	110
Midlothian South	300	525	75%	115	305	100
Midlothian East	255	520	104%	115	310	95
Midlothian West	210	465	121%	95	235	140
Bonnyrigg	180	460	156%	110	235	115
Penicuik	225	450	100%	90	265	100

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Wards in West Lothian show a wide variation in the age of claimant with Linlithgow recording 60 16-24 year olds claiming in April 2021 whilst Whitburn and Blackburn had 220 from this age group.

Table 5c: West Lothian

2017 electoral wards	All categories: Age 16+		% Change Feb 20- April 21	April 2021 Age Split		
	Feb 2020	April 2021		Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Whitburn and Blackburn	585	990	69%	220	575	190
Bathgate	470	875	86%	185	490	205
Livingston South	450	840	87%	195	455	190
East Livingston and East Calder	380	750	97%	160	415	170
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	730	100%	160	385	185
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	695	72%	150	420	130
Livingston North	325	695	114%	170	410	115
Armadale and Blackridge	310	540	74%	135	295	110
Linlithgow	135	270	100%	60	145	65

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Table 5d indicates that for Fife the area with the highest claimant count remains Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages and despite Howe of Fife and Tay coast recording a 114% increase in the claimant count it still has only a quarter of the claimants in the Buckhaven Ward.

Table 5d: Fife Ward Split

2017 electoral wards	All categories: Age 16+		% Change Feb 20- April 21	April 2021 Age Split		
	Feb 2020	April 2021		Aged 16- 24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	1230	37%	280	685	260
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	1075	57%	265	585	225
Kirkcaldy East	640	1025	60%	170	610	250
Cowdenbeath	610	1010	66%	200	610	200
Kirkcaldy Central	580	965	66%	180	580	210
Dunfermline South	450	825	83%	175	480	170
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	720	45%	160	370	190
Dunfermline Central	395	695	76%	145	400	150
Dunfermline North	415	655	58%	115	375	165
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	650	86%	145	365	140
West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	645	82%	130	360	155
Kirkcaldy North	390	620	59%	140	370	115
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	595	57%	110	320	170
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	585	58%	135	335	120
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	565	59%	130	320	115
Rosyth	305	550	80%	120	300	130
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	485	111%	85	255	145
Cupar	210	405	93%	100	220	85
East Neuk and Landward	185	385	108%	50	200	135
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	375	114%	80	190	105
Tay Bridgehead	190	335	76%	70	185	80
St Andrews	105	220	110%	45	105	70

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Edinburgh is unusual as all Wards have recorded an increase of over 110%, something you don't see in any of the other Local Authorities. The wards with high claimant counts in February last year have seen the claimant count increase, proportionally, to a similar degree to other areas of the city. In terms of 16-24 year old claimants Corstorphine and Murrayfield recorded the lowest number (65) and Forth recorded nearly 5 times as many at 285. This is broadly similar to the difference overall for all age claimants between these two wards.

Table 5e: Edinburgh Ward Split

2017 electoral wards	All categories: Age 16+		% Change Feb 20- April 21	April 2021 Age Split		
	Feb 2020	April 2021		Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Forth	720	1745	142%	285	1080	380
Portobello/ Craigmillar	625	1540	146%	270	935	335
Leith Walk	550	1495	172%	150	1035	310
Sighthill/ Gorgie	550	1480	169%	225	915	340
Liberton/ Gilmerton	540	1465	171%	280	860	330
Craightinny/ Duddingston	550	1425	159%	225	915	285
Leith	630	1390	121%	185	900	305
Pentland Hills	625	1335	114%	240	785	305
City Centre	490	1195	144%	150	795	250
Almond	495	1105	123%	180	675	250
Southside/ Newington	230	715	211%	125	430	160
Inverleith	220	675	207%	130	375	170
Drum Brae/ Gyle	225	665	196%	115	380	170
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	205	625	205%	95	380	145
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	520	197%	105	290	125
Morningside	150	500	233%	120	290	90
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	120	370	208%	65	195	105

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Table 5f: Scottish Borders Split

2017 electoral wards	All categories: Age 16+		% Change Feb 20- April 21	April 2021 Age Split		
	Feb 2020	April 2021		Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Galashiels and District	385	645	68%	130	365	145
Hawick and Denholm	235	395	68%	110	200	85
Hawick and Hermitage	180	320	78%	75	170	75
East Berwickshire	160	315	97%	60	175	75
Jedburgh and District	130	305	135%	55	155	95
Mid Berwickshire	140	290	107%	65	125	100
Kelso and District	140	280	100%	60	145	75
Selkirkshire	165	280	70%	60	145	75
Leaderdale and Melrose	115	265	130%	60	135	70
Tweeddale East	105	260	148%	55	145	60
Tweeddale West	105	260	148%	40	125	95

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Table 6 looks at the 15 wards across the city region that have recorded the largest increase in the proportion of 16-24 year old claimants. We can see that Linlithgow and Morningside have recorded the largest increase in the proportion of young claimants, and in both areas it increased by 11 percentage points over the last 14 months. If we can compare this to the wards that rank highest in terms of overall claimant numbers, we can see that the wards where there have been high

increases in the claimant count amongst younger people, tend not to be the wards that have the highest number of claimants overall. What we are seeing is increasing number of younger claimants in wards that may not have traditionally been on the employability radar. It may transpire that the claimant count in these areas, for all ages, falls back to more expected numbers when the economy starts to reopen and recruitment starts to pick up. The one issue will be, what type of jobs will these individuals who have been out of work for 14 months, be looking for and will they be available in the numbers to meet the demand from this group as well as the additional demand from the new school leavers?⁵

Table 6: Wards Recording the Largest Percentage Increase in the Proportion of 16-24 Year Old Claimants

2017 wards	All categories: Age 16+		%	Aged 16-24		%	Proportion 2020		% Increase in the proportion
	Feb 20	Apr 21		Change	Feb 20		Apr 21	Change	
Linlithgow	135	270	100%	15	60	300%	11%	22%	11%
Morningside	150	500	233%	20	120	500%	13%	24%	11%
Dunbar and East Linton	200	380	90%	25	85	240%	13%	22%	10%
North Berwick Coastal	85	275	224%	10	55	450%	12%	20%	8%
Inverleith	220	675	207%	25	130	420%	11%	19%	8%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	375	114%	25	80	220%	14%	21%	7%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	590	90%	55	145	164%	18%	25%	7%
St Andrews	105	220	110%	15	45	200%	14%	20%	6%
Tweeddale West	105	260	148%	10	40	300%	10%	15%	6%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	205	625	205%	20	95	375%	10%	15%	5%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	225	665	196%	30	115	283%	13%	17%	4%
Kelso and District	140	280	100%	25	60	140%	18%	21%	4%
City Centre	490	1195	144%	45	150	233%	9%	13%	3%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	520	197%	30	105	250%	17%	20%	3%
Pentland Hills	625	1335	114%	95	240	153%	15%	18%	3%

Source: NOMIS 18/05/2021

Skills Development Scotland provide useful information that reflects young people generally and in particular, the position of 16-17 year olds. Table 7 below looks at the participation measure for 16-17 year olds across the 6 Local Authorities. This reflects the position as at May 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 7: 16-17 Year Old Participation Levels as at April 2021

	Participation	Non-Participation	Unconfirmed
East Lothian	96.8	2.3	0.9
Scottish Borders	96.1	3.1	0.9
Midlothian	96.0	3.7	0.3
Edinburgh	96.0	3.1	0.9

⁵ SDS estimate that in May 2021 there were 3,491 16 year olds in Edinburgh and 3,535 17 year olds. Across the region that comes to 12,745 16 year olds in May 2021,

Scotland	95.7	3.1	1.2
West Lothian	94.9	4.3	0.8
Fife	94.1	4.2	1.7

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 96.8% through to 94.1%. Looking at it from the other side we can see that in Fife the SDS team have found a non participation rate of 4.2%, whilst 1.7% of young people have been untraceable. In East Lothian the non participation rate is 2.3% and 0.9% have still to have a destination confirmed. If we compare the non-participation rate to the Scottish average we can see that Edinburgh, East Lothian and Scottish Borders have a non participation rate which is either the same or lower than the Scottish average.

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 8 below looks at the areas with the highest and Lowest Participation rate in each of the 6 Local Authorities.

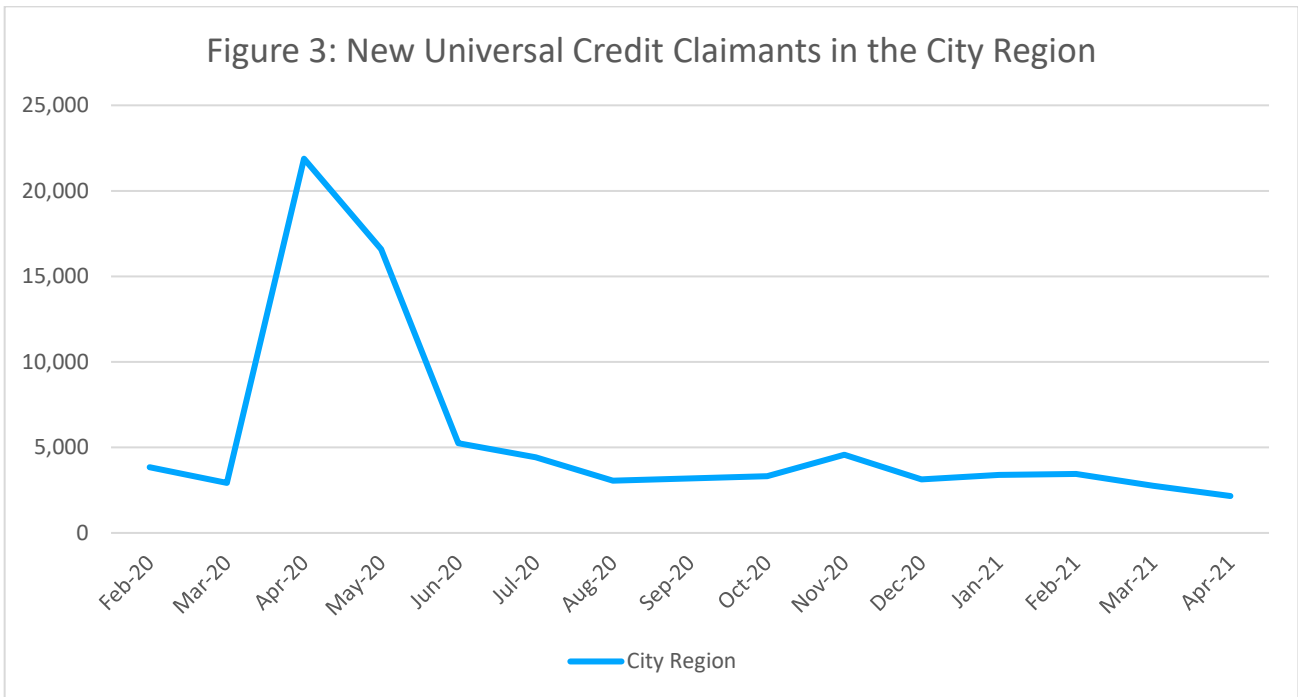
Table 8: 16-17 Year Old Participation Levels by Intermediate Data Zone as at April 2021

	Participation Rate		
	LA	Highest	Lowest
Midlothian	95.8	1 DZ at 98.7%	1 DZ at 90.8%
East Lothian	96.7	3 DZs at 100%	1 DZ at 90.8%
Scottish Borders	95.8	1 DZ at 100%	1 DZ at 83.1%
Edinburgh	95.6	27 DZs at 100%	1 DZ at 83.3%
West Lothian	94.1	1 DZ at 100%	1 DZ at 85.5%
Fife	93.8	6 DZs at 100%	1 DZ at 77.9%

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

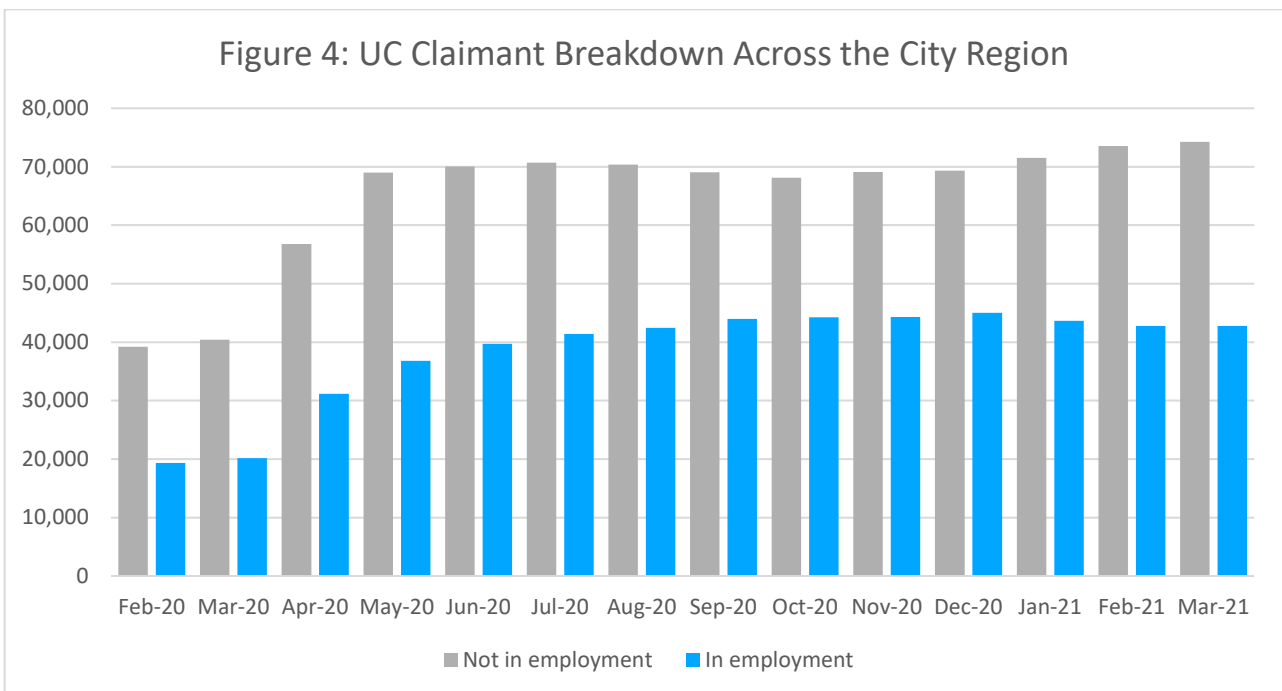
Universal Credit

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 3 below highlights the number of new UC claimants in the city region over the last year. We can see that in March 2020 the DWP offices in the region dealt with just under 3,000 new claimants. In April 2020 they accepted just under 22,000- just under 1,000 new claimants each working day. It remained high in May and since then we can see that on average there have been around 3,500 new claimants each month, but the most recent figures are lower than that, just over 2,000 new claimants in April 2021.



Source: StatXplore 20/5/2021

Figure 4 looks at the increase across the region in the number of in-work and out of work universal credit claimants since February 2020. Whilst April data for UC claimants is available, it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the March 2021 data is the most up to date available, where this split is available. One implication of the restrictions and furlough is that for many incomes will reduce and there may be an increase in claimants who actually have a job but earn less now than previously and apply for UC to help cover the ensuing reduction in wages.



Source: StatXplore 20/5/2021

What we can see in Figure 4 is that the out of work claimants peaked quickly and then been at around the 70,000 level since May 2020. The increase in in-work UC claimants has only recently started to stabilise.

Table 9 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics for each of the 6 LAs from March 2021 and compares this to February 2020. What we can see is that overall, the greatest increase has been in the number claiming UC but still in work and across the City Region this has increased by 121% between February 2020 and March 2021. This covers some differences ranging from 216% increase in Edinburgh to a 69% increase in East Lothian.

Table 9: Universal Credit Claimants

		West Lothian	Scottish Borders	Midlothian	Fife	East Lothian	City of Edinburgh	City Region
Feb 2020	Not in emp	5,608	2,874	3,173	14,794	3,725	9,041	39,224
	In emp	2,809	1,546	1,741	6,467	2,120	4,650	19,338
	Total	8,419	4,424	4,921	21,262	5,842	13,688	58,554
March 2021	Not in emp	10,171	5,421	5,428	23,971	6,025	23,242	74,256
	In emp	5,922	3,100	3,239	12,242	3,584	14,692	42,787
	Total	16,097	8,523	8,667	36,216	9,607	37,935	117,041
Change Feb 20- Mar 21	Not in emp	81%	89%	71%	62%	62%	157%	89%
	In emp	111%	101%	86%	89%	69%	216%	121%
	Total	91%	93%	76%	70%	64%	177%	100%

Source: StatXplore 18/05/2021

Table 10 below looks at the age profile of those that have been claiming Universal Credit in the City Region. Looking at 16-19 year olds, we can see that there has been a 147% increase in the number of 16-19 year old claimants who are in employment and a 159% increase in the number of 20-24 year olds in employment and needing support. The only age category that has recorded a higher percentage increase are those over 65 years of age, and as can be seen in the table, this is based on relatively small numbers which are creating quite substantial percentage changes.

Table 10: City Region Universal Credit Claimant Count

Age Band	Feb-20			Mar-21			% Change 2020-2021		
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total
16-19	2,164	411	2,566	3,371	1,016	4,390	56%	147%	71%
20-24	5,278	2,002	7,274	9,626	5,184	14,813	82%	159%	104%
25-29	5,721	3,430	9,146	10,338	7,047	17,389	81%	105%	90%
30-34	5,413	3,585	8,998	10,595	7,540	18,137	96%	110%	102%
35-39	4,662	2,971	7,636	9,209	6,593	15,803	98%	122%	107%
40-44	3,731	2,253	5,985	7,449	4,915	12,367	100%	118%	107%
45-49	3,417	1,739	5,156	6,385	3,797	10,187	87%	118%	98%
50-54	3,136	1,333	4,471	6,184	3,030	9,208	97%	127%	106%
55-59	2,851	959	3,814	5,397	2,124	7,520	89%	121%	97%
60-65	2,780	646	3,426	5,302	1,488	6,790	91%	130%	98%
Over 65	72	5	82	394	47	446	447%	840%	444%
Total	39,224	19,338	58,554	74,256	42,787	117,041	89%	121%	100%

Source: StatXplore 18/5/2021

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