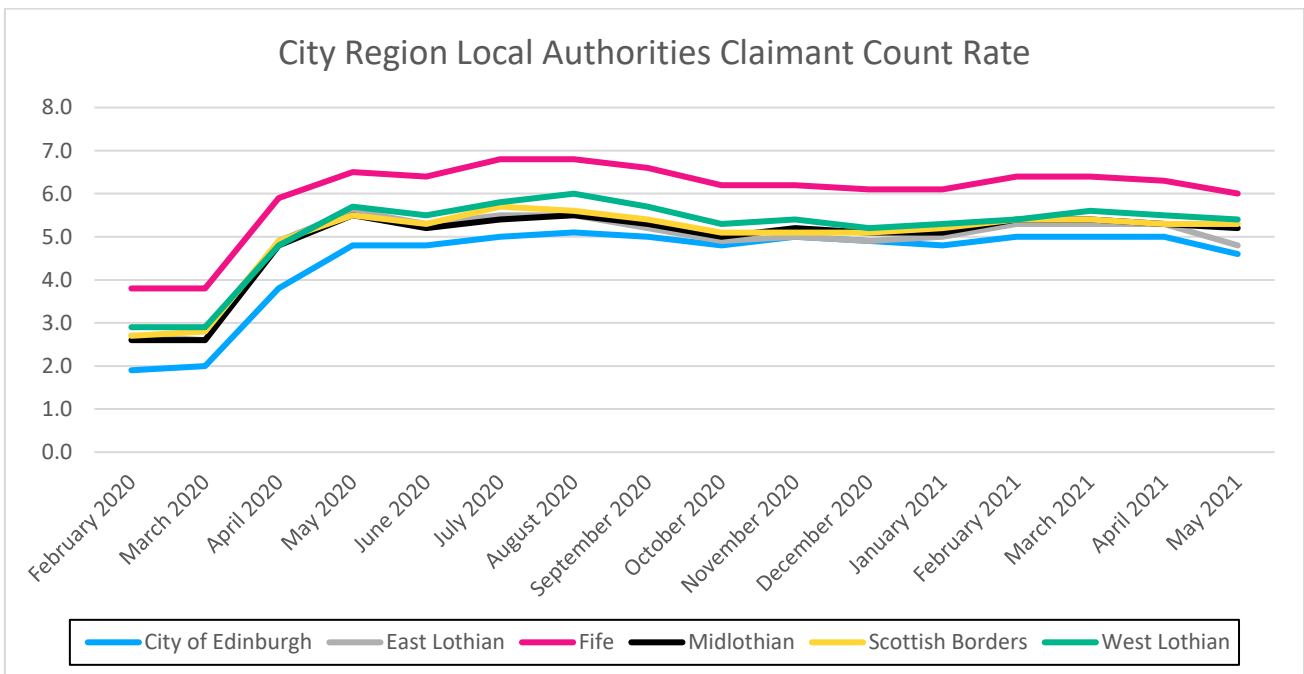


## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count May 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and May 2021:	Between April 2021 and May 2021:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 99%</li> <li>↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 71%</li> <li>↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 139%</li> <li>↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 90%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 3%</li> <li>↓ Scottish Claimant Count decreased 5%</li> <li>↓ Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 6%</li> <li>↓ City Region Claimant Count decreased by 5%</li> </ul>

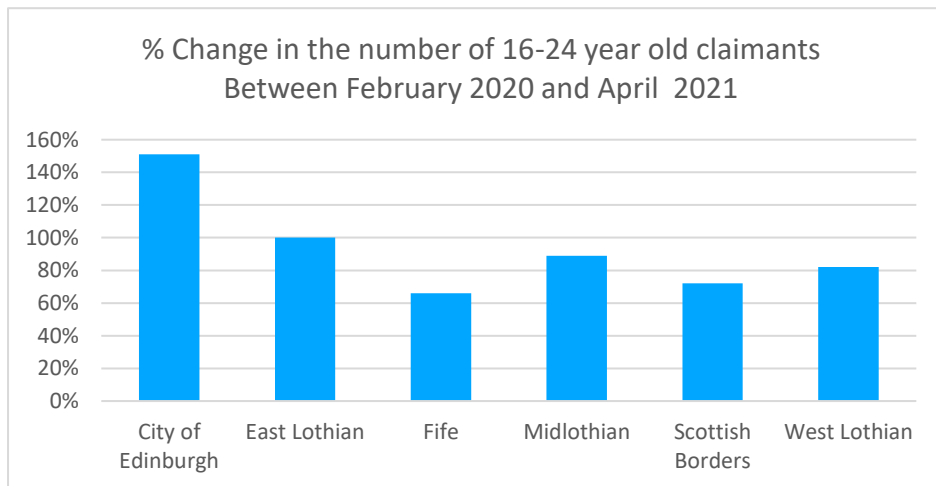


Between January 2021 and April 2021 there had been little change in the claimant count. A small fall was recorded between March and April 2021 and when the May data is considered the fall in the claimant count becomes far more substantial with the rate falling across the region particularly in Edinburgh and East Lothian.

Area	Feb 2020		April 2021		May 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20-May 21	Apr 21-May 21
Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	18,240	5.0	17,010	4.6	139%	-6%
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,455	5.3	3,140	4.8	78%	-8%
Fife	8,765	3.8	14,625	6.3	13,920	6.0	59%	-4%
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	3,000	5.3	2,810	4.9	91%	-6%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2.7	3,615	5.3	3,380	5.0	82%	-6%
West Lothian	3,425	2.9	6,385	5.5	6,030	5.1	76%	-5%

**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 May 2021 data we can see that there are differences across the region with 42% of claimants in East Lothian being female through to 38% of claimants in Edinburgh.

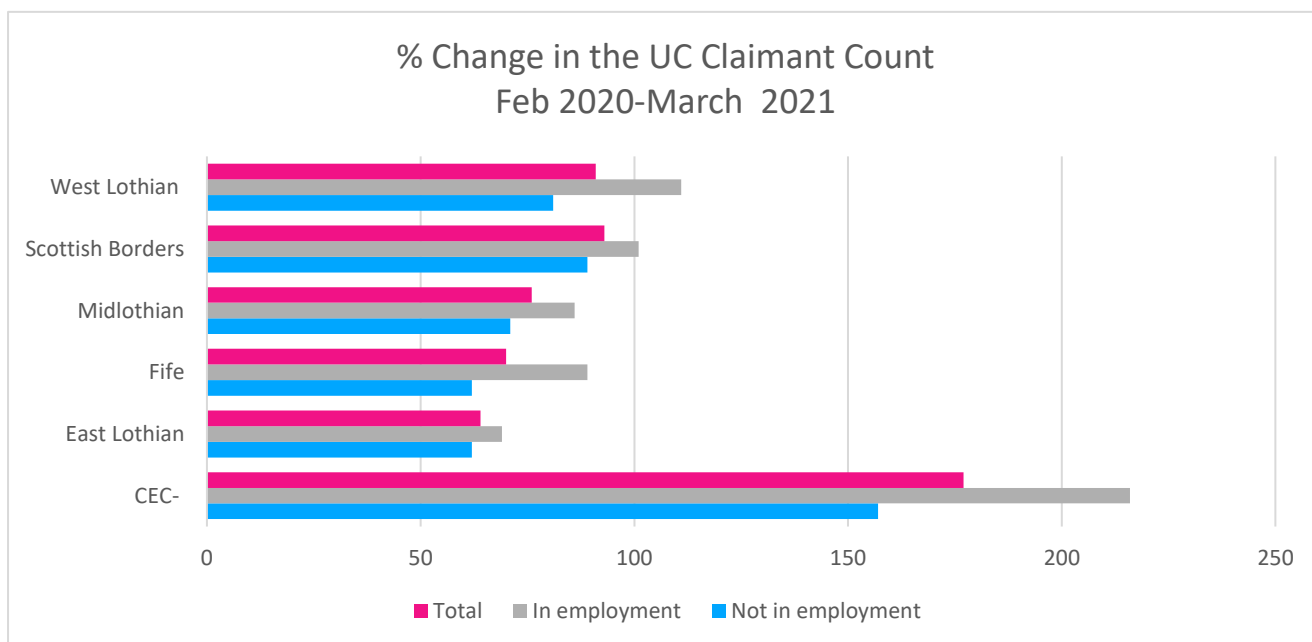
**AGE PROFILE** Across the City Region as a whole the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group has risen by 93% between February 2020 and May 2021. However, there are differences depending on which LA you wish to look at- shown in the chart below.



Across the region participation levels in May 2021 for 16-17 year olds, based on SDS data, varies from 96.8% through to 94.1% and the majority of Local Authorities in the region are above the Scottish Average.

**UNIVERSAL CREDIT** Across the region there has been a 99% increase in the number of people claiming Universal Credit between February 2020 and May 2021 so that in the most recent figures we can see that 116,693 individuals are claiming UC.

Between February 2020 and April 2021 the region has seen a 121% increase in the number of individuals who are in work and claiming Universal Credit and a 88% increase in the numbers who are claiming and not in employment.



## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count May 2021 Full Update

### Introduction

The Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) published a Scottish Economy update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021<sup>1</sup> and from this it can be seen that the Scottish economy grew by 2.1% in March, and this followed a 0.9% growth seen in February. FAI state that with almost all of Scotland now operating under Tier 2 level of restrictions, most businesses that have been forced to close or operate at reduced capacity are now starting to operate at close to normal levels again. This is particularly evident in the accommodation and food services sector, where there has been a 39.2 percentage point increase in the share of businesses trading between the start and middle of May. As the number of businesses currently trading increases, this has reduced the number of staff currently furloughed in Scotland and FAI report that there has been a 20-percentage point decrease in the share of those furloughed in the accommodation and food services sector.

The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) weighted sample for Scotland was published on the ScotStat page on the 11<sup>th</sup> June<sup>2</sup> and this indicates that in the period 17 May to 30 May 2021, the share of businesses 'currently trading' was estimated at 94.6% - up from 93.8% in the previous fortnight. The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Accommodation & Food Services industry sectors continued to have the lowest shares of businesses 'currently trading' - estimated at 81.5% and 83.0% respectively. The share of the workforce on furlough leave was estimated at 9.6% in the period 3 May to 30 May 2021 – down from 11.3% in the previous period. The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation and Accommodation & Food Services industry sectors continued to have the highest shares of the workforce on furlough leave - estimated at 29.1% and 30.9% respectively.

The Institute of Employment Studies in their June briefing, which has a UK rather than Scottish focus, observe that the labour market is continuing to recover strongly<sup>3</sup>, with PAYE employment growing by nearly 200 thousand during May and they report that vacancies in May were close to their highest ever level. This appears to be being driven by new job starts, particularly in industries that were shut down and starting to reopen, and there are signs that at last young people are starting to benefit from that recovery – accounting for nearly half of the growth in PAYE employment last month.

The data examined in this month's claimant count report will support this more positive picture of the UK and Scottish economies and generally the conclusion is that we can see a month to month fall between April and May that, one would argue, is more than just month to month to month

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://fraserofallander.org/latest-data-on-the-scottish-economy-update-2nd-june-2021/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-31/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/system/files/resources/files/IES%20briefing%20-%20Labour%20Market%20Statistics%20June%202021.pdf?utm\\_source=IES+emailing+list&utm\\_campaign=d48ff55f17-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_05\\_14\\_03\\_45\\_COPY\\_02&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f11585705b-d48ff55f17-364968444](https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/system/files/resources/files/IES%20briefing%20-%20Labour%20Market%20Statistics%20June%202021.pdf?utm_source=IES+emailing+list&utm_campaign=d48ff55f17-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_05_14_03_45_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f11585705b-d48ff55f17-364968444)

corrections and could be an indication of a labour market recovery in the City Region. However, the truth in this conclusion will only transpire over the coming months as more data becomes available.

## Overall Claimant Count

Although the data published on the 15<sup>th</sup> June indicates that the claimant count across the UK remains far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic- 99% higher for the UK and 71% higher for Scotland, it does demonstrate some positive trends in the most recent month to month data.

From Table 1 it can be seen that London and the South East have seen the largest percentage increase since February 2020 whilst the North East of England has seen the smallest percentage increase. This reflects what has been discussed in previous Claimant Count reports and has been illustrated in the City Region - areas that traditionally had higher levels of unemployment have recorded less dramatic increases over the last 14 months.

The month-to-month changes between April and May are encouraging for Scotland with the claimant count recorded in May 5% lower than it had been in April. London continues to see its claimant count increase – by 34% month to month. It could be argued that the overall numbers in that region are impacting on the figures for England and the UK overall. One suggestion is that this reflects the continued contractions in the service economy in the city caused by working from home and reduced tourist footfall in the city. The claimant rate for London is now 8%, the highest of any region or nation in the UK.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

Area	February 2020		April 2021		May 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- May 21	April 20- May 21
England	1,050,875	3.0	2,055,870	5.9	2,148,130	6.1	104%	4%
Northern Ireland	29,910	2.5	56,660	4.8	54,300	4.6	82%	-4%
Scotland	114,605	3.3	207,225	5.9	196,320	5.6	71%	-5%
UK	1,255,770	3.0	2,429,525	5.8	2,503,160	6.0	99%	3%
Wales	60,375	3.1	109,765	5.7	104,410	5.4	73%	-5%
East	89,890	2.4	207,355	5.5	195,130	5.2	117%	-6%
East Midlands	80,915	2.7	162,350	5.4	154,545	5.2	91%	-5%
London	184,765	3.1	356,375	5.9	484,930	8.0	162%	36%
North East	75,560	4.6	100,265	6.0	112,120	6.8	48%	12%
North West	167,055	3.7	316,840	6.9	303,030	6.6	81%	-4%
South East	119,620	2.1	293,270	5.2	274,810	4.9	130%	-6%
South West	75,595	2.2	167,145	4.9	155,310	4.6	105%	-7%
Yorkshire and The Humber	116,390	3.4	223,040	6.5	212,905	6.2	83%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. Those that make up the South East Region are highlighted.

**Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs**

Area	February 2020		April 2021		May 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb20- May21	Apr20- May21

Aberdeen City	4,150	2.6	9,465	6.0	8,800	5.6	112%	-7%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	1.8	6,370	4.0	5,850	3.6	97%	-8%
Angus	2,040	2.9	3,655	5.3	3,435	5.0	68%	-6%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	3.0	2,800	5.5	2,605	5.1	70%	-7%
<b>City of Edinburgh</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>18,130</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>17,010</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>139%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,390	4.3	2,025	6.3	1,905	5.9	37%	-6%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	3.4	4,480	5.1	4,305	4.9	46%	-4%
Dundee City	4,530	4.6	6,800	6.9	6,535	6.6	44%	-4%
East Ayrshire	3,685	4.8	5,605	7.4	5,365	7.1	46%	-4%
East Dunbartonshire	1,230	1.9	2,450	3.8	2,325	3.6	89%	-5%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
East Renfrewshire	950	1.7	2,050	3.6	1,885	3.3	98%	-8%
Falkirk	3,300	3.2	5,910	5.8	5,560	5.4	68%	-6%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>14,515</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>13,920</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Glasgow City	20,055	4.5	35,995	8.0	34,735	7.8	73%	-4%
Highland	3,715	2.6	7,510	5.2	6,905	4.8	86%	-8%
Inverclyde	2,255	4.6	3,080	6.3	2,990	6.1	33%	-3%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Moray	1,550	2.6	2,895	4.9	2,735	4.6	76%	-6%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	3.0	745	4.8	720	4.6	55%	-3%
North Ayrshire	4,600	5.6	6,495	7.9	6,200	7.6	35%	-5%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	3.7	14,100	6.4	13,335	6.1	62%	-5%
Orkney Islands	195	1.4	370	2.7	345	2.6	77%	-7%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	2.0	4,090	4.5	3,860	4.2	107%	-6%
Renfrewshire	4,025	3.5	7,030	6.1	6,630	5.8	65%	-6%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3,585</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>3,380</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>-6%</b>
Shetland Islands	265	1.9	435	3.1	395	2.8	49%	-9%
South Ayrshire	2,790	4.2	4,520	6.8	4,295	6.5	54%	-5%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	3.5	12,285	6.1	11,610	5.7	66%	-5%
Stirling	1,540	2.5	2,670	4.4	2,460	4.1	60%	-8%
West Dunbartonshire	2,930	5.2	4,415	7.8	4,235	7.5	45%	-4%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>6,345</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>6,030</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Scotland	114,605	3.3	207,225	5.9	196,320	5.6	71%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

Without exception every Scottish Local Authority has seen a fall in the claimant count between April and May. This has ranged from a 9% fall in Shetland to a 3% fall in the Western Isles and Inverclyde.

In the City Region the data shows that since April 2021 the claimant count has fallen by 4% in Fife, 5% in West Lothian, 6% in Scottish Borders, Midlothian and Edinburgh, whilst in East Lothian the claimant count has fallen month-to-month, by 8%. Overall, across the city region there were in 46,290 claimants in May compared to 48,980 in April.

## 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 is clear from the Table below is that in three of the Local Authorities (Edinburgh, Fife and Scottish Borders) there had been a higher percentage increase for females compared to males, between February 2020 and May 2021. The May figures are encouragingly between 3% and 11% lower than they had been in April. What it also shows is that the picture across the region isn't consistent. For example, between April and May the number of female claimants in East Lothian fell by 11% from 1,460 to 1,305. In Fife over the same period there was a 3% fall in the number of female claimants from 5,580 to 5,405.

**Table 3: Change in Gender Split Across the City Region**

		February 2020		April 2021		May 2021		% Change	
		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb20 - May21	Apr20 - May21
Edinburgh	All	7,105	1.9	18,130	4.9	17,010	4.6	139%	-6%
	Male	4,435	2.5	11,255	6.2	10,565	5.8	138%	-6%
	Female	2,665	1.4	6,875	3.7	6,445	3.5	142%	-6%
East Lothian	All	1,765	2.7	3,425	5.2	3,140	4.8	78%	-8%
	Male	1,005	3.2	1,960	6.2	1,835	5.8	83%	-6%
	Female	760	2.2	1,460	4.3	1,305	3.8	72%	-11%
Fife	All	8,765	3.8	14,515	6.3	13,920	6.0	59%	-4%
	Male	5,475	4.8	8,935	7.9	8,515	7.5	56%	-5%
	Female	3,290	2.8	5,580	4.7	5,405	4.6	64%	-3%
Midlothian	All	1,470	2.6	2,980	5.2	2,810	4.9	91%	-6%
	Male	865	3.1	1,800	6.5	1,690	6.1	95%	-6%
	Female	605	2.0	1,180	4.0	1,120	3.8	85%	-5%
Scottish Borders	All	1,860	2.7	3,585	5.3	3,380	5.0	82%	-6%
	Male	1,120	3.4	2,120	6.4	1,990	6.0	78%	-6%
	Female	740	2.1	1,465	4.2	1,390	4.0	88%	-5%
West Lothian	All	3,425	2.9	6,345	5.4	6,030	5.1	76%	-5%
	Male	1,970	3.4	3,800	6.6	3,590	6.2	82%	-6%
	Female	1,455	2.5	2,545	4.3	2,440	4.1	68%	-4%
City Region	All	24,385	2.7	48,975	5.4	46,295	5.1	90%	-5%
	Male	14,875	3.3	29,865	6.7	28,190	6.3	90%	-6%
	Female	9,510	2.1	19,110	4.1	18,110	3.9	90%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 15/6/2021

Across the region as a whole in May there were 28,190 male claimants and 18,110 female claimants and the claimant rate was 6.3 for males and 3.9 for females. And whilst this is lower than it was in April, it is still nearly twice the number of claimants we had seen in February 2020 before the pandemic.

## Age Profile

One concern for policy makers is the manner in which the economic consequences of the pandemic have affected different age groups in different ways, in particular the dramatic impact on young people. Table 4 below looks at the 6 Local Authorities and the City Region in terms of the 16-24 year old age category. From this table it can be seen that across the city region there had been a 93% increase in the number of 16-24 year old claimants between February 2020 and May 2021.

This disguises the differences recorded by the different local Authorities and the differences by gender. In Edinburgh for example there had been a 166% increase in the number of 16-24 year old males claiming when the statistics from February 2020 are compared with those from May 2021. Compare this to Fife where 16-24 year old males 'only' increased by 63% over the same period.

**Table 4: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region: Claimants 16-24 years of age**

		Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	% Change	
					Feb20 -May 21	Apr20 -May21
City of Edinburgh	All	1,065	2,915	2,675	151%	-8%
	Male	630	1,805	1,675	166%	-7%
	Female	430	1,110	995	131%	-10%
East Lothian	All	315	685	630	100%	-8%
	Male	185	410	385	108%	-6%
	Female	130	270	245	88%	-9%
Fife	All	1,740	2,995	2,890	66%	-4%
	Male	1,120	1,880	1,825	63%	-3%
	Female	620	1,110	1,070	73%	-4%
Midlothian	All	325	650	615	89%	-5%
	Male	205	420	390	90%	-7%
	Female	120	230	220	83%	-4%
Scottish Borders	All	415	770	715	72%	-7%
	Male	245	455	415	69%	-9%
	Female	170	315	300	76%	-5%
West Lothian	All	735	1,430	1,335	82%	-7%
	Male	435	855	815	87%	-5%
	Female	295	575	520	76%	-10%
City Region	All	4,595	9,440	8,855	93%	-6%
	Male	2,820	5,830	5,505	95%	-6%
	Female	1,775	3,615	3,350	89%	-7%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

As already mentioned in this report the changes recorded between April and May are more positive and this can be seen in the 16-24 year old age group. The changes recorded between April and May range from a fall of 10% for 16-24 year old females in Edinburgh and West Lothian through to 3% for 16-24 year old males in Fife.

Table 5 looks at the situation for those claimants aged 25-49 years of age. What can be seen here is that the percentage increase was not as marked as for 16-24 year olds and the more recent falls are not as large either.

**Table 5: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region: Claimants 25-49 years of age**

		Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	% Change	
					Feb20 -May 21	Apr20 -May21
City of Edinburgh	All	4,310	11,180	10,505	144%	-6%
	Male	2,680	6,940	6,510	143%	-6%
	Female	1,630	4,240	3,995	145%	-6%
East Lothian	All	1,020	1,930	1,775	74%	-8%
	Male	575	1,105	1,030	79%	-7%
	Female	445	825	750	69%	-9%
Fife	All	4,990	8,155	7,830	57%	-4%

	Male	3,105	5,015	4,770	54%	-5%
	Female	1,885	3,140	3,055	62%	-3%
Midlothian	All	865	1,675	1,600	85%	-4%
	Male	495	980	930	88%	-5%
	Female	370	690	670	81%	-3%
Scottish Borders	All	975	1,870	1,750	79%	-6%
	Male	580	1,105	1,030	78%	-7%
	Female	395	765	720	82%	-6%
West Lothian	All	1,965	3,565	3,430	75%	-4%
	Male	1,115	2,150	2,045	83%	-5%
	Female	855	1,415	1,380	61%	-2%
Column Total	All	14,125	28,380	26,890	90%	-5%
	Male	8,550	17,300	16,320	91%	-6%
	Female	5,580	11,075	10,570	89%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

Table 6 below looks at the situation for those claimants 50 or over. From this it can be seen that for females in East Lothian there has been a 14% fall, between April and May 2021.

**Table 6: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region: Claimants 50+ years of age**

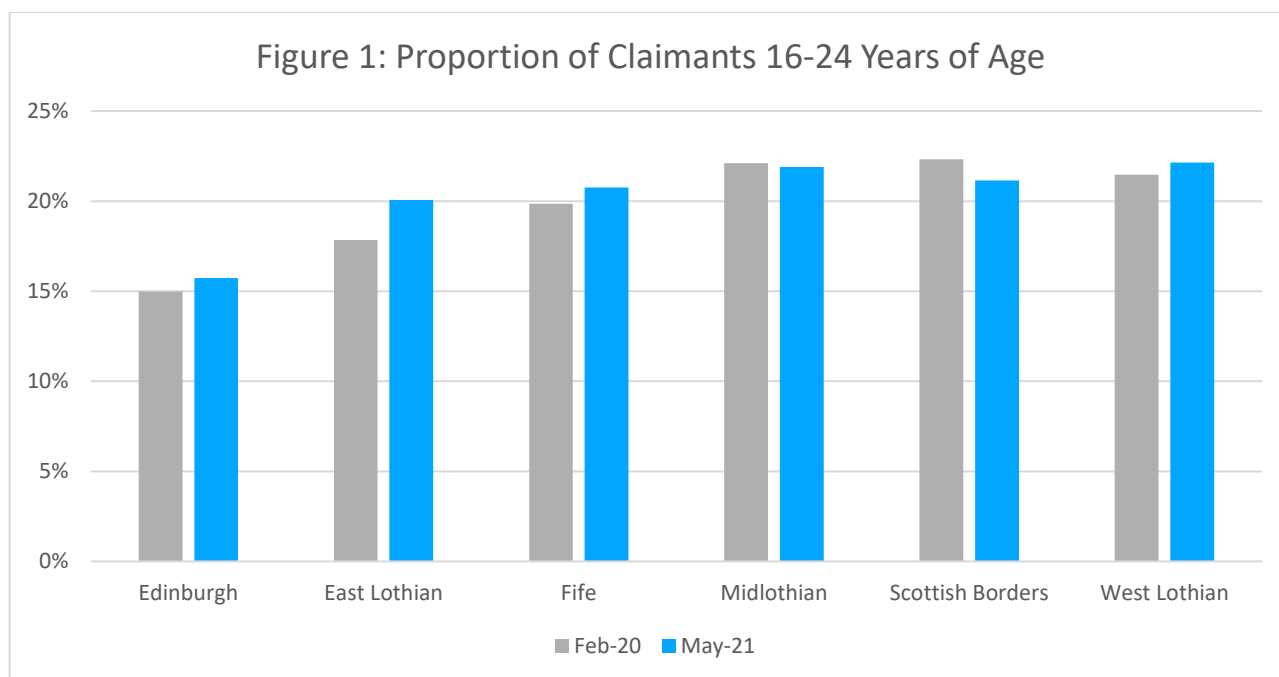
					% Change	
		Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	Feb20 -May 21	Apr20 -May21
Edinburgh	All	1,730	4,035	3,830	121%	-5%
	Male	1,125	2,505	2,380	112%	-5%
	Female	605	1,525	1,450	140%	-5%
East Lothian	All	430	810	735	71%	-9%
	Male	245	445	420	71%	-6%
	Female	185	365	315	70%	-14%
Fife	All	2,030	3,365	3,200	58%	-5%
	Male	1,250	2,035	1,920	54%	-6%
	Female	780	1,330	1,280	64%	-4%
Midlothian	All	280	655	600	114%	-8%
	Male	170	400	370	118%	-8%
	Female	115	255	230	100%	-10%
Scottish Borders	All	470	945	915	95%	-3%
	Male	300	560	540	80%	-4%
	Female	170	385	375	121%	-3%
West Lothian	All	725	1,350	1,270	75%	-6%
	Male	420	790	730	74%	-8%
	Female	305	555	535	75%	-4%
City Region	All	5,665	11,155	10,550	86%	-5%
	Male	3,505	6,735	6,365	82%	-5%
	Female	2,160	4,420	4,190	94%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

Moving to examine the region as a whole it can be seen that between February 2020 and May 2021 the largest percentage increase was recorded for 16-24 year old males, where the claimant count increased by 95%, and females aged 50 or over saw the claimant count increase by 94% over the same period. In terms of the falls recorded in the most recent data, generally at a regional level, falls of around 5 or 6% seem to be the norm, although 16-24 year old female claimants fell by 7% between April and May at the regional level.



Figure 1 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. Across the region as a whole, where there have been increases in the proportion of 16-24 year olds they have been around 1-2%. It is clear to say that this age group does now make up more of the claimant count, however proportionally the share is not that dissimilar to the proportion recorded in February 2020.



Source: NOMIS 15/6/2021

### Ward Profile

The next 6 tables look at the 71 wards that make up the City Region and these are grouped by Local Authority. Each table gives an indication of how the claimant count overall has increased since February 2020 and also provides a similar date profile for 16-24 year olds.

Looking first at Edinburgh. Table 7 illustrates that whilst every ward has seen a fall in the number of claimants over the last month, some wards have seen more significant falls than others. For example Colinton and Farmilehead saw a fall of 14% whilst Forth saw a fall of 3%. If this trend continues it would indicate that the wards which had lower claimant counts and rates pre pandemic, although they saw sharp increases last spring and summer are very likely to return to lower levels quicker than wards with historically higher claimant counts.

**Table 7: Edinburgh Wards**

	All Ages			% Change April 2021 -May 2021	Aged 16-24			% Change April 2021 -May 2021
	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21		Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	
Edinburgh	495	1,100	1,040	-5%	75	175	165	-6%
Almond	490	1,195	1,145	-4%	45	150	135	-10%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	175	510	440	-14%	30	100	95	-5%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	120	365	345	-5%	20	65	65	0%

Craigentiny/ Duddingston	550	1,425	1,325	-7%	80	225	205	-9%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	225	660	600	-9%	30	115	100	-13%
Forth	720	1,730	1,670	-3%	130	285	280	-2%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	205	625	560	-10%	20	95	90	-5%
Inverleith	220	670	625	-7%	25	130	110	-15%
Leith	630	1,375	1,310	-5%	80	180	170	-6%
Leith Walk	550	1,490	1,375	-8%	65	150	125	-17%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	540	1,455	1,370	-6%	105	275	265	-4%
Morningside	150	495	455	-8%	20	120	95	-21%
Pentland Hills	625	1,330	1,265	-5%	95	240	225	-6%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	625	1,535	1,435	-7%	110	265	245	-8%
Sighthill/Gorgie	550	1,470	1,390	-5%	90	220	195	-11%
Southside/ Newington	230	710	665	-6%	40	125	105	-16%

Source: NOMIS 15/6/2021

The fall in the number of 16-24 year old claimants is even more varied ranging from no change in Corstorphine/Murrayfield where there were 65 16-24 year old claimants in April and again in May, through to Morningside where the 16-24 year old claimant count fell by 21% between April and May- compared to a fall of just 8% overall all.

In East Lothian, every ward has shown a fall in the claimant count between April and May 2021. This ranges from a fall of 13% in Preston, Seton and Gosford through to a fall of 4% in North Berwick Coastal. For those aged 16-24 year olds the fall is more varied ranging from a fall of 3% in Musselburgh to a fall of 18% in North Berwick Coastal and 17% in Preston, Seton and Gosford..

**Table 8: East Lothian Wards**

East Lothian	All Ages			% Change April 2021 - May 2021	Aged 16-24			% Change April 2021 - May 2021
	Feb- 20	Apr-21	May- 21		Feb- 20	Apr- 21	May-21	
Dunbar and East Linton	200	375	355	-5%	25	80	75	-6%
Haddington and Lammermuir	260	520	480	-8%	45	100	90	-10%
Musselburgh	455	890	820	-8%	75	155	150	-3%
North Berwick Coastal	85	270	260	-4%	10	55	45	-18%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	590	515	-13%	55	145	120	-17%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	780	715	-8%	105	155	145	-6%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

Table 9 below looks at the situation in Fife. Again, overall wards have recorded falls between April and May 2021. This has ranged from a fall of 1% in Kirkcaldy East through to a fall of 13% in Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay. Fife is unusual in the region in that 2 wards actually recorded a

month to month **increase** between April and May. Kirkcaldy Central saw a 1% increase in the Claimant Count and St Andrews saw a 2% increase.

In terms of 16-24 year olds in Fife there is a similar split with Cowdenbeath recording a 8% **increase** in the number of claimants aged 16-24 years of age whilst Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay saw a fall in the claimant count for 16-24 year olds of 13%.

Whilst it is difficult to conclude what might be behind these difference, one possible explanation is that areas strongly connected to Edinburgh (Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay for example) are starting to benefit from the easing of restrictions, whilst other areas that maybe are more linked into international tourism, St Andrews for example, are not yet seeing an economic resurgence. Another possible explanation is simply connectivity, with individuals in some areas finding it more difficult to access the opportunities that are starting to become available. Any feedback from Fife colleagues on what might be happening would be gratefully received.

**Table 9: Fife Wards**

	All Ages			% Change	Aged 16-24			% Change
	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	900	1,220	1,170	-4%	185	280	275	-2%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	380	600	560	-7%	60	110	100	-9%
Cowdenbeath	610	1,000	950	-5%	120	195	210	8%
Cupar	210	405	375	-7%	50	95	85	-11%
Dunfermline Central	395	690	680	-1%	80	145	145	0%
Dunfermline North	415	650	610	-6%	70	115	100	-13%
Dunfermline South	450	820	765	-7%	110	170	155	-9%
East Neuk and Landward	185	380	350	-8%	20	50	45	-10%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	580	550	-5%	80	135	140	4%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	355	555	540	-3%	80	130	120	-8%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	645	620	-4%	75	145	135	-7%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	370	360	-3%	25	80	75	-6%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	480	420	-13%	40	80	70	-13%
Kirkcaldy Central	580	955	960	1%	100	175	175	0%
Kirkcaldy East	640	1,020	1,005	-1%	110	170	165	-3%
Kirkcaldy North	390	610	590	-3%	85	135	130	-4%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	715	680	-5%	110	155	145	-6%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	1,070	1,040	-3%	150	265	260	-2%
Rosyth	305	545	530	-3%	65	120	120	0%
St Andrews	105	220	225	2%	15	45	45	0%
Tay Bridgehead	190	335	320	-4%	35	70	65	-7%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	645	625	-3%	70	130	120	-8%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

Table 10 looks at the position of the local areas of Midlothian. Generally, the picture in this authority over the last month is one where there have been a fall in the claimant count overall and for 16-24 year olds. In terms of connectivity and ability to access opportunities both in Midlothian and in neighbouring authorities, Midlothian is well placed to benefit from economic growth and this could be playing a part in the positive claimant count movement.

**Table 10: Midlothian Wards**

Midlothian	All Ages			% Change	Aged 16-24			% Change
	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021
Bonnyrigg	180	460	435	-5%	40	105	105	0%
Dalkeith	295	575	520	-10%	70	130	120	-8%
Midlothian East	255	510	500	-2%	50	115	110	-4%
Midlothian South	300	525	510	-3%	65	115	110	-4%
Midlothian West	210	465	420	-10%	40	95	90	-5%
Penicuik	225	450	420	-7%	55	90	80	-11%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

Scottish Borders is the next Local Authority to look at and the position of the wards is examined in Table 11. Generally, Borders has seen a month-to-month improvement in most wards. The one where this is not the case is Hawick and Denholm where there were 390 claimants in May and in April. Perhaps the most interesting data in the table concerns the changes for 16-24 year old claimants and whilst wards have seen a welcome fall in the number of claimants from this age group, there are differences in the level of change. For example there were still the same number of 16-24 year old claimants in Leaderdale and Melrose in May as there were in April in Mid Berwickshire the number of claimants had fallen by 21%. Partly these differences can be accounted for by the relative small numbers – for example the 21% fall was linked to a reduction in the claimant count of 15 claimants. Another reason could be the size of the Authority and the fact that economic opportunities in one area may not present themselves to other areas which are simply too far away- this would become even more a factor for the younger age groups who may not have the same access to a car.

**Table 11: Scottish Borders Wards**

	All Ages			% Change	Aged 16-24			% Change
	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021
East Berwickshire	160	310	280	-10%	35	60	50	-17%
Galashiels and District	385	640	595	-7%	85	130	125	-4%
Hawick and Denholm	235	390	390	0%	65	110	105	-5%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	320	310	-3%	55	75	70	-7%
Jedburgh and District	130	305	295	-3%	30	55	55	0%
Kelso and District	140	275	270	-2%	25	60	55	-8%
Leaderdale and Melrose	115	265	260	-2%	25	60	60	0%
Mid Berwickshire	140	295	265	-10%	30	70	55	-21%

Selkirkshire	165	275	255	-7%	35	60	55	-8%
Tweeddale East	105	255	230	-10%	20	55	45	-18%
Tweeddale West	105	255	235	-8%	10	40	35	-13%

The final Local Authority to look at is West Lothian. Wards in West Lothian have all recorded month to month falls ranging from a fall of 2% in Linlithgow through to 6% in Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh. It is interesting to note that whilst the number of claimants overall in Linlithgow fell by 2% between April and May, the number who were claiming and were aged 16-24 fell by 10%.

**Table 12: West Lothian**

	All Ages			% Change	Aged 16-24			% Change
West Lothian	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021	Feb-20	Apr-21	May-21	April 2021 - May 2021
Armadale and Blackridge	310	540	510	-6%	75	135	130	-4%
Bathgate	470	865	830	-4%	105	180	170	-6%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	725	685	-6%	75	160	155	-3%
East Livingston and East Calder	380	745	710	-5%	90	160	145	-9%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	695	665	-4%	80	150	135	-10%
Linlithgow	135	270	265	-2%	15	60	55	-8%
Livingston North	325	690	665	-4%	80	170	160	-6%
Livingston South	450	835	780	-7%	100	195	185	-5%
Whitburn and Blackburn	585	980	920	-6%	115	220	205	-7%

Source: NOMIS 15/06/2021

In the past the wards across the city region that have recorded the largest increase in the proportion of 16-24 year old claimants have often been examined. Wards that tended to feature in this list included Linlithgow and Morningside and in both areas the proportion of 16-24 year old claimants increased by 11 percentage points between February 2020 and April 2021. Previous versions of this report had suggested that the claimant count in these areas is likely to fall back quickly when the economy starts to re-open and recruitment starts to pick up. From the data reported in the preceding tables this looks as if it could be correct. It will be interesting to see if this continues to be the case over the summer.

One consideration from the ward data is the accessibility question- how easy is it to get to the job that you can do? Arguably West Lothian is the most well connected Local Authority in the region, and in addition to opportunities within the Authority itself it is relatively easy to access opportunities to the East in Edinburgh, West in Glasgow and the Strathclyde region as well as those to the North in and around Grangemouth or the dockyards at Rosyth. This is likely to have helped every ward in West Lothian record claimant count falls of between 2% and 7% over the last month (a spread of 5%) and for 16-24 year olds the figures are even more positive with month to month falls of between 3-10%. Compare this to Scottish Borders or even Fife, which are arguably the Local Authorities with the most acute accessibility issues. In both areas the falls vary between 0-10% in Borders and between +2% and -13% in Fife. Arguably, this indicates that for some geographic areas within these authorities it is relatively easy to access jobs that are becoming available whilst for other areas this may not hold true. As the economy opens up it will be interesting to see if this continues.

Turning once again to the younger age group, in particular data provided by Skills Development Scotland. SDS provide useful information that reflects young people generally and in particular, the position of 16-17 year olds. Table 13 below looks at the participation measure for 16-17 year olds across the 6 Local Authorities. This reflects the position as of 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).

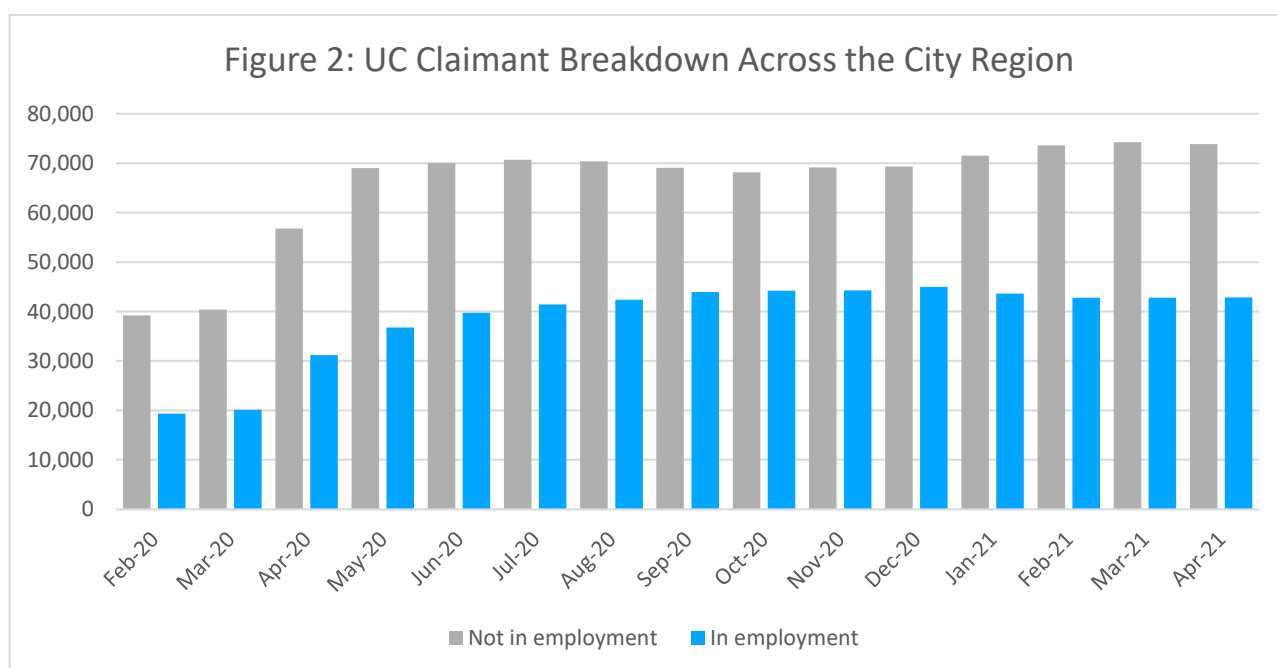
Participation generally means a positive destination such as a job, college, training etc. Unconfirmed represents those that the SDS teams have been unable to track down and determine what they are doing.

**Table 13: 16-17 Year Old Participation Levels as of May 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
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/>

Across the region participation levels vary from 96.8% through to 94.1%. Looking at it from the other side, 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. Comparing the non-participation rate to the Scottish average it can be seen that Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and Scottish Borders have a non-participation rate which is either the same or lower than the Scottish average.



Source: StatXplore 16/6/2021

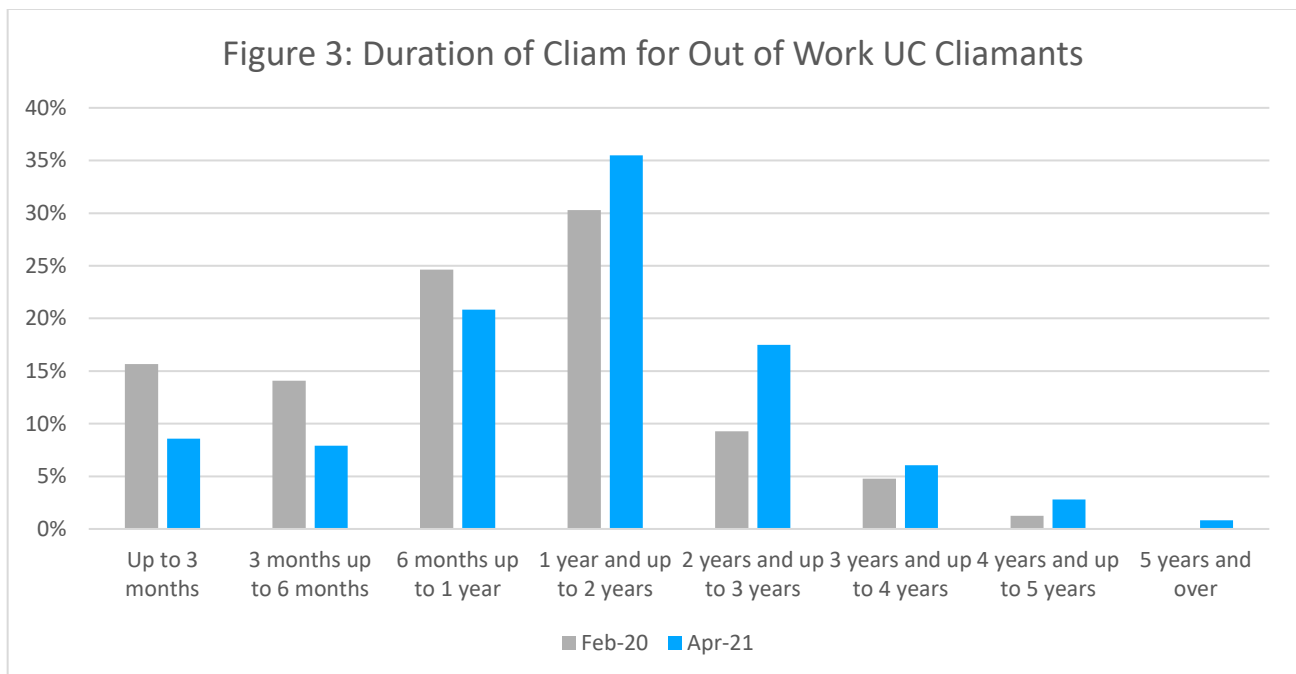
## Universal Credit

Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count that 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. It is a benefit which was designed to replace a range of benefits including support for those on low income (income support) and benefit for those out of work (Job Seekers Allowance). Universal Credit therefore provides information on people out of work (it feeds into the claimant count data looked at already) and people in work where the household income is deemed too low to cover all expenses.

Figure 2 looks at the increase across the region in the number of in-work and out of work universal credit claimants since February 2020. May data for UC claimants is available, however it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the April 2021 data is the most up to date, where this split is available.

One implication of the restrictions and furlough is that for many in employment, incomes will reduce. As a result, there may be an increase in the number of claimants who have a job but earn less now than previously and apply for UC to help cover household expenses. This can be seen in the chart where the blue bar represents in work and receiving support. This has increased from 19,338 claimants in February 2020 to 42,826 in April 2021 – 121% increase across the region. Those that were out of work increased from 39,224 in February 2020 to 73,867 in April 2021- an 88% increase across the region.

Figure 3 below looks at the City Region and compares the proportion of claimants who had been claiming for x number of months in February 2020 with April 2021, the most recent data which can be analysed in this way.



Source: StatXplore 16/6/2021

It is clear from the graphic that far more claimants had been claiming longer in April 2021 than was the situation the year before. This shouldn't be a surprise as generally the labour market has been on hold for much of the last 12 months with limited recruitment opportunities. The question is, will this length of time out of the labour market make it difficult to re-enter and gain employment? Or, given the different circumstances of the pandemic, will the length of time out of the labour market

not result in the recruitment difficulties it might have in the past? It will be interesting to see if the proportion changes as the economy opens up and to reflect on where the falls in the claimant count are impacting- on those who have been out of work for a shorter period of time or across the claimant profile universally?

Table 9 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics for each of the 6 LAs from April 2021 and compares this to February 2020. Overall, the greatest increase has been in the number claiming UC but still in work. This covers some differences ranging from 215% increase in Edinburgh to a 69% increase in East Lothian. Across the region there has been a 121% increase in the numbers in work and claiming compared to 88% increase for those not in employment.

**Table 9: Universal Credit Claimants**

	February 2020		April 2021		% change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Not in emp	In emp	Not in emp	In emp
Edinburgh	9,041	4,650	23,081	14,645	155%	215%
East Lothian	3,725	2,120	5,975	3,584	60%	69%
Fife	14,794	6,467	23,855	12,260	61%	90%
Midlothian	3,173	1,741	5,425	3,242	71%	86%
West Lothian	5,608	2,809	10,152	5,973	81%	113%
Scottish Borders	2,874	1,546	5,382	3,119	87%	102%
Total	39,224	19,338	73,867	42,826	88%	121%

Source: StatXplore 16/6/2021

It will be interesting to see how the changes in the labour market reflected in the month to month falls in the claimant count start to impact on UC. For example, if the claimant count continues to fall, the May data for those not in employment and on UC should also fall. The question is will this also be reflected in a fall in those who are in-work and claiming UC? Alternatively, what will be the impact of reductions in furlough support? Could this mean that the numbers claiming in work support fall as individuals are made redundant and move across to the full out of work support offered by UC? Whilst there are no certainties around which direction this will take, the fact that we are seeing falls in the out of work claimant count across the region, PAYE numbers and vacancies increasingly nationally, and the vaccination programme underpinning restriction easing are all grounds for optimism.

Chris Nicol  
 Business Information, Capital City Partnership  
 16/06/2021  
 07462 432348  
[chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org](mailto:chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org)