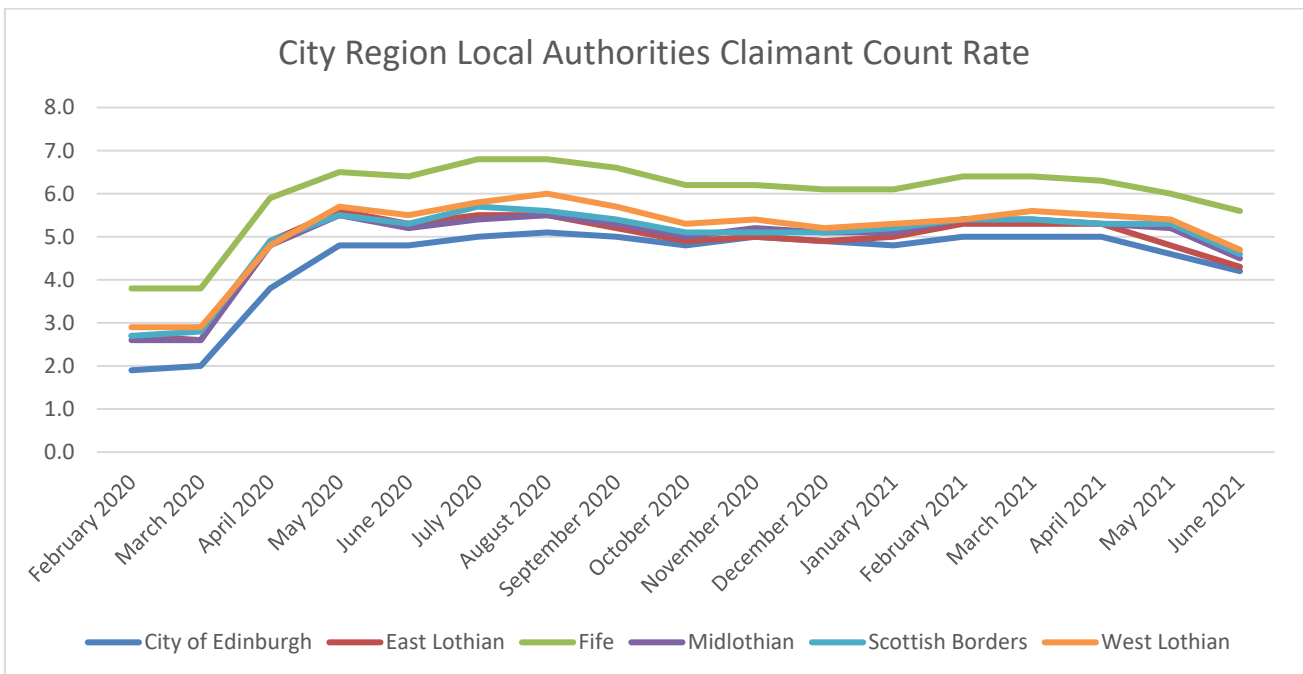


## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count June 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and June 2021:	Between May 2021 and June 2021:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> UK Claimant Count increased by 85%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> Scottish Claimant Count increased by 59%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 117%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> City Region Claimant Count increased by 74%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> UK Claimant Count decreased by 8%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> Scottish Claimant Count decreased 6%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 8%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> City Region Claimant Count decreased by 7%</li> </ul>

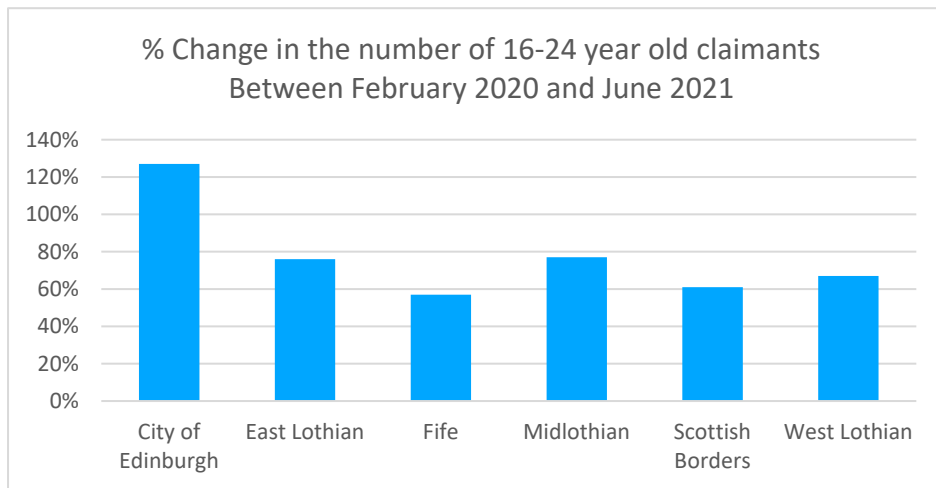


Between January 2021 and April 2021 there had been little change in the claimant count. A small fall was recorded between March and April 2021 and when the May and June data is considered the fall in the claimant count becomes far more substantial with the rate falling across the region particularly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

Area	Feb 2020		May 2021		June 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- June 21	May 21- June 21
Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	16,700	4.6	15,420	4.2	117%	-8%
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,100	4.7	2,810	4.3	59%	-9%
Fife	8,765	3.8	13,740	5.9	13,020	5.6	49%	-5%
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	2,770	4.8	2,580	4.5	76%	-7%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2.7	3,320	4.9	3,100	4.6	67%	-7%
West Lothian	3,425	2.9	5,915	5.0	5,490	4.7	60%	-7%

**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 June data it can be seen that there are differences across the region with 42% of claimants in East Lothian being female through to 37% 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 78% between February 2020 and June 2021. However, there are differences depending on which LA you wish to look at- shown in the chart below.



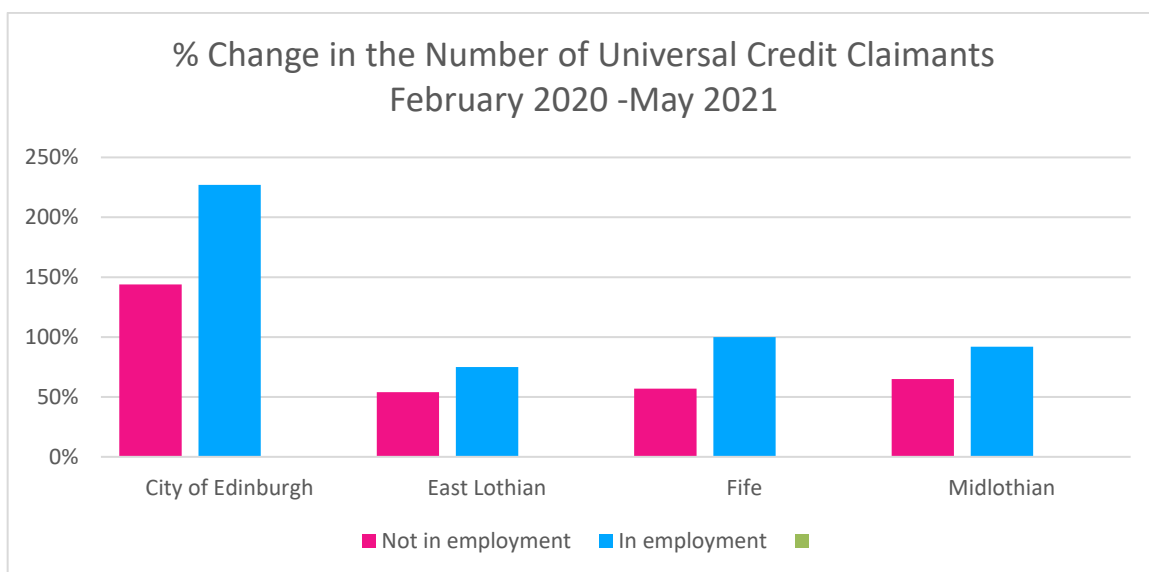
Across the region participation levels in May 2021 for 16-17 year olds, based on SDS data, varies from 96.8% through to 94.1% and the majority of Local Authorities in the region are above the Scottish Average.

**CLAIM DURATION**

Across the City Region there are now more individuals who have been claiming for longer. For example in February 2020 46% of out of work Universal Credit Claimants had been claiming for over a year in May 2021 71% were in this position.

**UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

Between February 2020 and May 2021 the region has seen a 131% increase in the number of individuals who are in work and claiming Universal Credit and a 82% increase in the numbers who are claiming and not in employment.



## **Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count June 2021 Full Update**

### **Introduction**

The Institute of Employment Studies (IES) <sup>1</sup> report published on the 30<sup>th</sup> June indicates that there has been a strong recovery in vacancies this summer, to levels well above the same time two years ago. It appears likely that July will see the ONS Vacancy Survey reporting the highest single-month vacancy figures since the series began in 2001. Whilst this is positive the IES paper appears to reflect both ‘structural’ changes with the pandemic (with strong demand in IT, warehousing/ logistics and public services) as well as a ‘cyclical’ recovery in industries like construction, hospitality and manufacturing. In addition, they state that there are significant differences between geographies in the number of claimant unemployed people per vacancy. Areas with higher numbers of claimant unemployed per vacancy are generally those areas that had higher ratios before the crisis.

The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) Weighted Scotland Estimates, Data to Wave 33<sup>2</sup> published on the 9<sup>th</sup> July found that:

- In the period 14 June to 27 June 2021, the share of businesses ‘currently trading’ was estimated at 97.8% - the highest share of businesses currently trading since comparable estimates began in June 2020.
- The share of the workforce on furlough leave was estimated at 7.1% in the period 31 May to 27 June 2021 – down from 8.1% in the previous period and the lowest rate since comparable estimates began in June 2020. The share of the workforce on furlough leave in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation industry decreased from 30.2% in the previous period to 21.7% in the latest period.

IES also published a summary of the May labour market data in June<sup>3</sup>. This indicated that despite positive trends, there continues to be an increase in long-term unemployment, now breaching half a million for the first time in five years and rising across age groups. They also comment on large falls in part-time work, not explained by more people getting the hours that they want and nor entirely offset by rising full-time work. They found that even with recent employment growth, there remains very significant ground to make up for young people, those previously self-employed and those in London. Even while increasing numbers of firms report recruitment difficulties, unemployment is still elevated – with well over two unemployed people for every vacancy, compared with around 1.6 before the crisis. They conclude that it will be increasingly important to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/system/files/resources/files/Adzuna%20IES%20online%20vacancy%20analysis%20June%202020.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-33/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/resource/labour-market-statistics-june-2021?utm\\_source=IES+emailing+list&utm\\_campaign=f1dc34f5d5-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_05\\_10\\_10\\_39\\_COPY\\_09&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f11585705b-f1dc34f5d5-364968444](https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/resource/labour-market-statistics-june-2021?utm_source=IES+emailing+list&utm_campaign=f1dc34f5d5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_05_10_10_39_COPY_09&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f11585705b-f1dc34f5d5-364968444)

focus assistance for those out of work as quickly as possible, targeting support at those further from work and longer-term unemployed, and working better with employers to help them recruit, support and retain jobseekers.

The data examined in this months claimant count report will support this more positive picture of the UK and Scottish economies. Generally the conclusion is that in the City Region a month to month fall between May and June on the back of a similar positive trend from April and May and one would argue that this more than just month to month 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> July indicates that the claimant count across the UK remains far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic- 85% higher for the UK and 59% 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 course of the pandemic.

The month-to-month changes between May and June are encouraging for Scotland, with the claimant count recorded in June, 6% lower than it had been in May. Compared to last month every region and nation of the UK is now recording a fall in the claimant count. Whilst this is clearly a positive step in the right direction, it is clear that the claimant count is still far higher than it was in February 2020 and in some areas the claimant rate is double the position pre-pandemic.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

Area	February 2020		May 2021		June 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- June 21	May 21- June 21
N. Ireland	29,910	2.5	53,520	4.5	51,380	4.3	72%	-4%
Scotland	114,605	3.3	193,365	5.5	181,780	5.2	59%	-6%
United Kingdom	1,255,770	3.0	2,462,865	5.9	2,325,510	5.6	85%	-6%
Wales	60,375	3.1	102,815	5.3	96,640	5.0	60%	-6%
East	89,890	2.4	191,830	5.1	178,745	4.7	99%	-7%
East Midlands	80,915	2.7	151,925	5.1	144,165	4.8	78%	-5%
London	184,765	3.1	476,050	7.9	448,460	7.4	143%	-6%
North East	75,560	4.6	110,485	6.7	105,105	6.3	39%	-5%
North West	167,055	3.7	298,425	6.5	283,955	6.2	70%	-5%
South East	119,620	2.1	270,110	4.8	251,425	4.5	110%	-7%
South West	75,595	2.2	152,650	4.5	140,665	4.2	86%	-8%
West Midlands	141,095	3.9	251,650	6.9	242,705	6.6	72%	-4%
Yorkshire and The Humber	116,390	3.4	210,045	6.1	200,490	5.9	72%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 15/07/2021

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. Once again the change May to June is positive with every LA recording a month to month fall.

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

Area	February 2020		May 2021		June 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20- June 21	May 21- June 21
Aberdeen City	4,150	2.6	8,690	5.5	8,265	5.3	99%	-5%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	1.8	5,785	3.6	5,440	3.4	83%	-6%
Angus	2,040	2.9	3,395	4.9	3,180	4.6	56%	-6%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	3.0	2,565	5.0	2,370	4.7	55%	-8%
<b>City of Edinburgh</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>16,700</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>15,420</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>117%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,390	4.3	1,865	5.8	1,745	5.4	26%	-6%
Dumfries&Galloway	2,950	3.4	4,230	4.9	3,945	4.5	34%	-7%
Dundee City	4,530	4.6	6,460	6.5	6,145	6.2	36%	-5%
East Ayrshire	3,685	4.8	5,295	7.0	5,015	6.6	36%	-5%
E. Dunbartonshire	1,230	1.9	2,295	3.5	2,165	3.3	76%	-6%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
East Renfrewshire	950	1.7	1,850	3.3	1,740	3.1	83%	-6%
Falkirk	3,300	3.2	5,440	5.3	5,125	5.0	55%	-6%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>13,740</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>13,020</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Glasgow City	20,055	4.5	34,280	7.7	32,680	7.3	63%	-5%
Highland	3,715	2.6	6,795	4.7	6,065	4.2	63%	-11%
Inverclyde	2,255	4.6	2,955	6.1	2,785	5.7	24%	-6%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2,770</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Moray	1,550	2.6	2,685	4.6	2,510	4.3	62%	-7%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	3.0	705	4.5	625	4.0	34%	-11%
North Ayrshire	4,600	5.6	6,080	7.4	5,730	7.0	25%	-6%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	3.7	13,110	6.0	12,605	5.7	53%	-4%
Orkney Islands	195	1.4	340	2.5	290	2.2	49%	-15%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	2.0	3,810	4.2	3,530	3.9	89%	-7%
Renfrewshire	4,025	3.5	6,515	5.7	6,080	5.3	51%	-7%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3,320</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Shetland Islands	265	1.9	395	2.8	380	2.7	43%	-4%
South Ayrshire	2,790	4.2	4,245	6.4	3,975	6.0	42%	-6%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	3.5	11,460	5.7	10,830	5.4	54%	-5%
Stirling	1,540	2.5	2,385	3.9	2,200	3.6	43%	-8%
W. Dunbartonshire	2,930	5.2	4,180	7.4	3,945	7.0	35%	-6%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>5,915</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5,490</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
Scotland	114,605	3.3	193,365	5.5	181,780	5.2	59%	-6%

Source: NOMIS 15/07/2021

In the City Region the data shows that between May and June 2021 the claimant count has fallen by 5% in Fife, 7% in West Lothian, Scottish Borders, and in Midlothian, an 8% fall in Edinburgh and in East Lothian the claimant count has fallen month-to-month, by 9%. Overall, across the city region there were in 42,420 claimants in June, compared to 45,540 in May and 48,980 in April. Whilst this is all positive and encouraging it is worth noting that in February 2020 there were 24,390 claimants across the region.

## 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 course of the pandemic, as it has for males. What is clear from the Table below is that in two of the Local Authorities (Fife and Scottish Borders) there had been a higher percentage increase for females compared to males, between February 2020 and June 2021. Edinburgh was included in this group last month but between May and June the number of female claimants in the city has fallen faster than that of male claimants.

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

		February 2020		May 2021		June 2021		% Change	
		Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb20- June21	May21- June21
Edinburgh	All	7,105	1.9	16,700	4.6	15,420	4.2	117%	-8%
	Male	4,435	2.5	10,370	5.7	9,660	5.3	118%	-7%
	Female	2,665	1.4	6,325	3.4	5,755	3.1	116%	-9%
East Lothian	All	1,765	2.7	3,100	4.7	2,810	4.3	59%	-9%
	Male	1,005	3.2	1,810	5.7	1,625	5.2	62%	-10%
	Female	760	2.2	1,290	3.8	1,185	3.5	56%	-8%
Fife	All	8,765	3.8	13,740	5.9	13,020	5.6	49%	-5%
	Male	5,475	4.8	8,415	7.4	8,040	7.1	47%	-4%
	Female	3,290	2.8	5,325	4.5	4,980	4.2	51%	-6%
Midlothian	All	1,470	2.6	2,770	4.8	2,580	4.5	76%	-7%
	Male	865	3.1	1,665	6.1	1,550	5.6	79%	-7%
	Female	605	2.0	1,105	3.7	1,025	3.5	69%	-7%
Scottish Borders	All	1,860	2.7	3,320	4.9	3,100	4.6	67%	-7%
	Male	1,120	3.4	1,960	5.9	1,845	5.6	65%	-6%
	Female	740	2.1	1,360	3.9	1,255	3.6	70%	-8%
West Lothian	All	3,425	2.9	5,915	5.0	5,490	4.7	60%	-7%
	Male	1,970	3.4	3,520	6.1	3,285	5.7	67%	-7%
	Female	1,455	2.5	2,395	4.0	2,205	3.7	52%	-8%
Scotland	All	114,605	3.3	193,365	5.5	181,780	5.2	59%	-6%
	Male	71,975	4.2	120,075	7.0	113,330	6.6	57%	-6%
	Female	42,635	2.4	73,290	4.1	68,450	3.9	61%	-7%
City Region	All	24,390	2.8	45,545	5.0	42,420	4.7	74%	-7%
	Male	14,870	3.4	27,740	6.2	26,005	5.8	75%	-6%
	Female	9,515	2.2	17,800	3.9	16,405	3.6	72%	-8%

Source: NOMIS 15/7/2021

Overall, between February 2020 and June 2021 there has been very little change in the gender splits of claimants. For instance, in Edinburgh 38% of claimants in 2020 were female in June 2021 it was 37%. In East Lothian females made up 43% of claimants in February 2020 and now make up 42% of the claimant count. In Fife it was, and still is 38%. In Midlothian it was 41% of claimants in February 2020 and was 40% in June 2021. Scottish Borders has the same proportion of female claimants, 40%, in June 2021 as was recorded in February 2020. Finally in West Lothian 42% of claimants were female in February 2020 and this had fallen to 40% in June 2021.

Across the region, in June there were 26,005 male claimants and 16,405 female claimants and the claimant rate averaged at 5.8 for males and 3.6 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 way 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 age and gender. From this table it can be seen that in February 2020 there were 4,595 16-24 year old claimants in the City Region -23% were from Edinburgh. In June 2021 there were 8,180 from Edinburgh 29.6% of the City Region total.

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

		Area	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb-20	All Age 16+	All	7,105	1,765	8,765	1,470	1,860	3,425	24,390
		Male	4,435	1,005	5,475	865	1,120	1,970	14,870
		Female	2,665	760	3,290	605	740	1,455	9,515
	Aged 16-24	All	1,065	315	1,740	325	415	735	4,595
		Male	630	185	1,120	205	245	435	2,820
		Female	430	130	620	120	170	295	1,765
	Aged 25-49	All	4,310	1,020	4,990	865	975	1,965	14,125
		Male	2,680	575	3,105	495	580	1,115	8,550
		Female	1,630	445	1,885	370	395	855	5,580
	Aged 50+	All	1,730	430	2,030	280	470	725	5,665
		Male	1,125	245	1,250	170	300	420	3,510
		Female	605	185	780	115	170	305	2,160
May-21	All Age 16+	All	16,700	3,100	13,740	2,770	3,320	5,915	45,545
		Male	10,370	1,810	8,415	1,665	1,960	3,520	27,740
		Female	6,325	1,290	5,325	1,105	1,360	2,395	17,800
	Aged 16-24	All	2,650	620	2,860	610	695	1,305	8,740
		Male	1,655	380	1,810	390	410	795	5,440
		Female	995	240	1,055	220	285	515	3,310
	Aged 25-49	All	10,280	1,755	7,705	1,575	1,725	3,355	26,395
		Male	6,370	1,015	4,700	915	1,015	2,005	16,020
		Female	3,910	740	3,005	660	710	1,350	10,375
	Aged 50+	All	3,770	725	3,175	585	900	1,250	10,405
		Male	2,345	415	1,905	360	535	725	6,285
		Female	1,425	310	1,270	225	370	530	4,130
Jun-21	All Age 16+	All	15,420	2,810	13,020	2,580	3,100	5,490	42,420
		Male	9,660	1,625	8,040	1,550	1,845	3,285	26,005
		Female	5,755	1,185	4,980	1,025	1,255	2,205	16,405
	Aged 16-24	All	2,420	555	2,735	575	670	1,225	8,180
		Male	1,540	335	1,735	355	390	755	5,110
		Female	880	215	1,000	220	280	470	3,065
	Aged 25-49	All	9,460	1,590	7,315	1,455	1,595	3,115	24,530
		Male	5,920	920	4,520	845	940	1,865	15,010
		Female	3,540	675	2,795	610	650	1,250	9,520
	Aged 50+	All	3,540	665	2,970	550	835	1,145	9,705
		Male	2,205	370	1,785	355	510	665	5,890
		Female	1,335	295	1,185	200	325	480	3,820

Source: NOMIS 15/07/2021

Table 5 looks at the same data, however this time the percentage change is reported. From this it can be seen that across the region the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increased by 78% between February 2020 and June 2021. However, this ranges from a 144% increase for 16-24 year old Males in Edinburgh to 55% increase for 16-24 year old males in Fife.

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

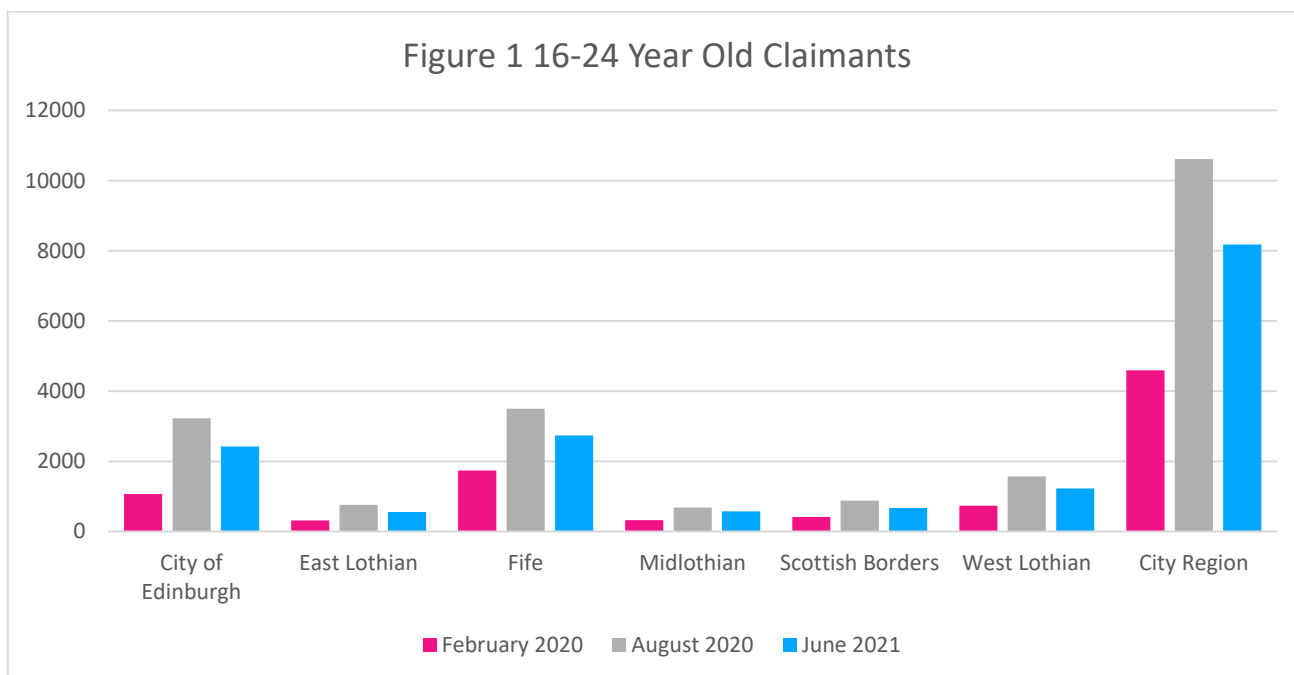
		Area	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
% Change Feb 2020-June 2021	All Age 16+	All	117%	59%	49%	76%	67%	60%	74%
		Male	118%	62%	47%	79%	65%	67%	75%
		Female	116%	56%	51%	69%	70%	52%	72%
	Aged 16-24	All	127%	76%	57%	77%	61%	67%	78%
		Male	144%	81%	55%	73%	59%	74%	81%
		Female	105%	65%	61%	83%	65%	59%	74%
	Aged 25-49	All	119%	56%	47%	68%	64%	59%	74%
		Male	121%	60%	46%	71%	62%	67%	76%
		Female	117%	52%	48%	65%	65%	46%	71%
	Aged 50+	All	105%	55%	46%	96%	78%	58%	71%
		Male	96%	51%	43%	109%	70%	58%	68%
		Female	121%	59%	52%	74%	91%	57%	77%
% Change May21-June21	All Age 16+	All	-8%	-9%	-5%	-7%	-7%	-7%	-7%
		Male	-7%	-10%	-4%	-7%	-6%	-7%	-6%
		Female	-9%	-8%	-6%	-7%	-8%	-8%	-8%
	Aged 16-24	All	-9%	-10%	-4%	-6%	-4%	-6%	-6%
		Male	-7%	-12%	-4%	-9%	-5%	-5%	-6%
		Female	-12%	-10%	-5%	0%	-2%	-9%	-7%
	Aged 25-49	All	-8%	-9%	-5%	-8%	-8%	-7%	-7%
		Male	-7%	-9%	-4%	-8%	-7%	-7%	-6%
		Female	-9%	-9%	-7%	-8%	-8%	-7%	-8%
	Aged 50+	All	-6%	-8%	-6%	-6%	-7%	-8%	-7%
		Male	-6%	-11%	-6%	-1%	-5%	-8%	-6%
		Female	-6%	-5%	-7%	-11%	-12%	-9%	-8%

Source: NOMIS 15/07/2021

The most recent data is encouraging with claimant count falls being recorded across all ages, genders and locations. These vary from a month to month fall of 12% for 16-24 year old males in East Lothian, 16-24 year old females in Edinburgh and females aged 50 and over in Scottish Borders; through to no change for 16-24 year old females in Midlothian.

Figure 1 highlights the number of claimants in each Local Authority who were 16-24 years of age. It gives a February 2020 figure for pre-pandemic, a figure for August which represents the peak and the current, June 2021, figure. Overall, it is clear that the number of 16-24 year olds claiming are falling, alongside the number of claimants regardless of age. For Edinburgh pre-pandemic 15% of claimants were 16-24 years of age, in August this had increased to 17% and by June 2021 it had fallen back slightly to 16%. Edinburgh is slightly unusual in the City Region in having a low proportion of claimants 16-24 years of age. For example, pre-pandemic the proportion was between 18% in East Lothian to 20% in Midlothian and Scottish Borders. Currently, June 2021, in every LA with the exception of Edinburgh 20-22% of claimants are 16-24 years of age - a very similar picture to the pre-pandemic position.





Source: NOMIS 15/7/2021

One alternative data set for an age profile is the 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 6 below looks at the participation measure for 16-17 year olds across the 6 Local Authorities. This reflects the position as of May 2021 (the same data as last month's report) 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 6: 16-17 Year Old Participation Levels as at 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/>

### Duration of Claims.

As alluded to in the introduction, whilst falls in the claimant count are being recorded across all geographies, genders and age groups, there is a concern regarding the increase in long term unemployed. Generally, the longer individuals are without a job the more difficult it is for them to move back into employment, therefore anything that indicates an increase in individuals claiming for extended periods is clearly of concern.

Table 7 below looks at the proportion of Universal Credit Claimants who were out of work who had been claiming for up to 6 months compared to the proportion who had been claiming for over 1 year. The dates chosen are to represent the pre-pandemic position (February 2020), 'peak' claimant count (August 2020) and the current position (May 2021).

**Table 7 Proportion of Universal Credit Claimants Not in Employment by How Long Claiming**

		February 2020	August 2020	May 2021
City of Edinburgh	0-6 months	42%	59%	18%
	1 year and over	21%	24%	64%
East Lothian	0-6 months	20%	38%	12%
	1 year and over	67%	50%	78%
Fife	0-6 months	26%	38%	13%
	1 year and over	54%	47%	75%
Midlothian	0-6 months	24%	40%	14%
	1 year and over	58%	46%	74%
West Lothian	0-6 months	29%	43%	14%
	1 year and over	42%	37%	72%
Scottish Borders	0-6 months	32%	46%	14%
	1 year and over	42%	37%	72%
City Region	0-6 months	30%	46%	15%
	1 year and over	46%	38%	71%

Source StatXplore 15/7/2021

From this table it is clear that pre-pandemic, across the region 46% of out of work UC claimants had been claiming for over a year. This proportion fell in August to 38% with the influx of new claimants. However, as the restrictions have continued and the labour market has been subdued, many of these claimants found themselves moving into the long term unemployed category as they have been claiming for over a year. It can be seen in the table that across the region 71% of claimants who were out of work had, in May 2021, been claiming for a year or more. This varies from 64% in Edinburgh to 78% in East Lothian. It will be interesting to see if this proportion remains the same or falls away over the coming months- suggests recruitment is balanced - or increases – suggests requirement favours those who have been claiming for a shorter period of time. If it is the latter, then there may be a need to refocus support to assist this group.

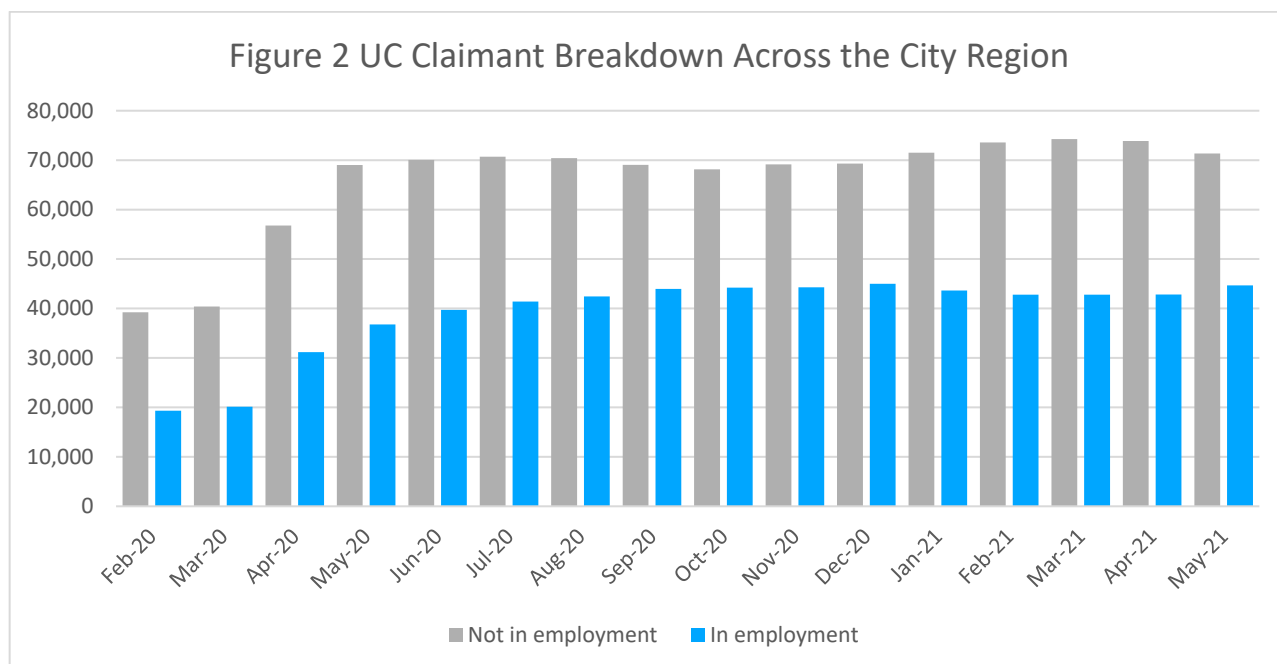
## Universal Credit

Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count 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).

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. June data for UC claimants is available, however it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the May 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 44,660 in May 2021 – 131% increase across the region. Those that were out of work increased from 39,224 in February 2020 to 71,367 in April 2021- an 88% increase across the region, it has fallen again in May to 71,346.



Source: StatXplore 15/7/2021

Table 8 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics for each of the 6 LAs from May 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 a 227% increase in Edinburgh to a 75% increase in East Lothian. Across the region there has been a 131% increase in the numbers in work and claiming compared to 82% increase for those not in employment. Perhaps most interesting is that fact that despite improvements, month to month, in the number of claimants who are not in employment there continues to be month to month increases in the number of in work claimants.

**Table 8: Universal Credit Claimants**

	Feb-20		May 2021 r		% Change	
	Not in employment	In employment	Not in employment	In employment	Not in employment	In employment
City of Edinburgh	9,041	4,650	22,100	15,205	144%	227%
East Lothian	3,725	2,120	5,723	3,716	54%	75%
Fife	14,794	6,467	23,224	12,964	57%	100%
Midlothian	3,173	1,741	5,246	3,345	65%	92%
Scottish Borders	2,874	1,546	5,163	3,322	80%	115%
West Lothian	5,608	2,809	9,888	6,110	76%	118%
Total	39,224	19,338	71,346	44,660	82%	131%

Source: StatXplore 15/7/2021

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