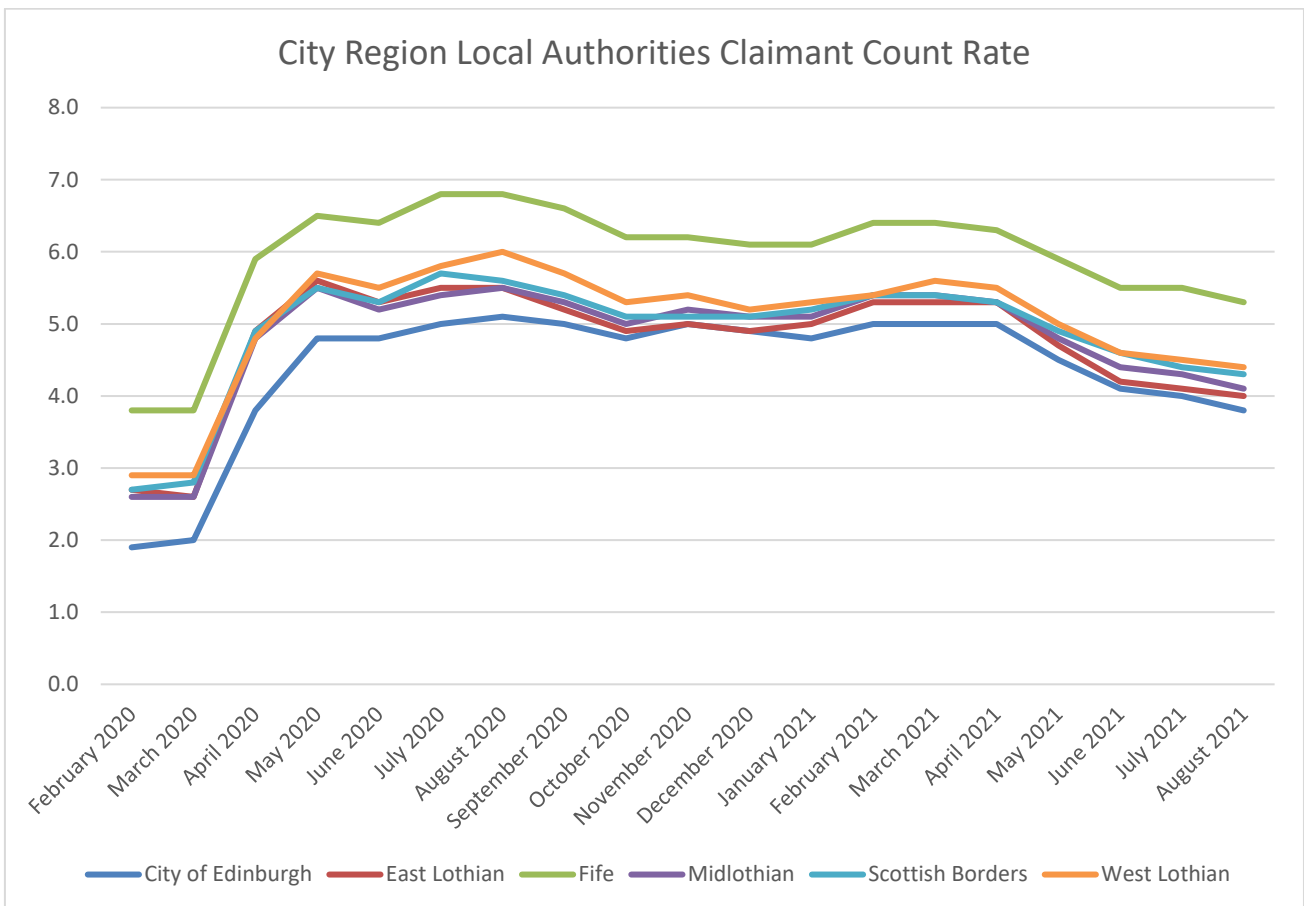


## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count August 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and August 2021:	Between July 2021 and August 2021:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 74%</li> <li>↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 50%</li> <li>↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 99%</li> <li>↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 62%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ UK Claimant Count decreased by 2%</li> <li>↓ Scottish Claimant Count decreased 2%</li> <li>↓ Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 4%</li> <li>↓ City Region Claimant Count decreased by 3%</li> </ul>



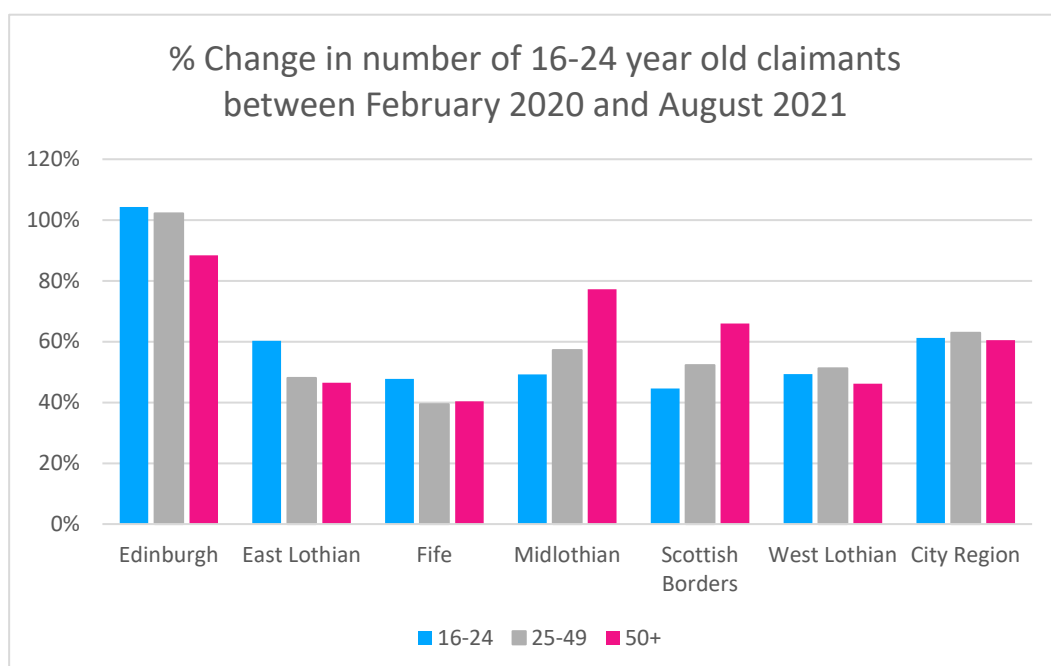
In the spring/ early summer of 2020, the claimant rate in the city region increased dramatically. From around May 2020 through to April 2021 the claimant rate moved very little, with some months recording an increase and other months a fall. Since April 2021 the claimant rate has fallen consistently month to month, originally the month to month fall was more dramatic than it is now. However, there are uncertainties around what will happen when furlough scheme ends and the impact this may have on the claimant count.

## Claimant Count

	February 2020		July 2021		August 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb 20-Aug 21	Jul 21-Aug 21
Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	14,695	4.0	14,140	3.8	99%	-4%
East Lothian	1,765	2.7	2,700	4.1	2,645	4.0	50%	-2%
Fife	8,765	3.8	12,660	5.5	12,375	5.3	41%	-2%
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	2,455	4.3	2,355	4.1	60%	-4%
Borders	1,860	2.8	2,980	4.4	2,865	4.3	54%	-4%
W. Lothian	3,425	2.9	5,270	4.5	5,135	4.4	50%	-3%
City Region	24,385	2.7	40,760	4.5	39,515	4.3	62%	-3%

GENDER SPLIT Overall, across the region, the proportion of female claimants is much the same as it was in February 2020 at around 40% of claimants. Worth highlighting is that in some areas of the city region, the number of female claimants are not falling as fast as male claimants.

AGE PROFILE Across the City Region as a whole the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group has risen by 61% between February 2020 and August 2021. However, there are differences depending on which LA you wish to look at- shown in the chart to the right. Generally the number of 16-24 year old claimants are falling faster than other age bands.



## WARD PROFILE

Of the 71 wards that make up the City Region, 37 have a claimant rate that is above the average for the region. Of these 16 are in Fife, 8 in Edinburgh, 6 are West Lothian wards, 3 in Scottish Borders, Midlothian and East Lothian have 2 each. Nine wards had over 1,000 claimants each in August 2021 – 8 of these are in Edinburgh. Perhaps most startling is that these 9 wards alone made up over a quarter of the region's claimant count.

## UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Between February 2020 and July 2021 the region has seen a 130% increase in the number of individuals who are in work and claiming Universal Credit and a 75% increase in the numbers who are claiming and not in employment.

## WHAT IS THE CLAIMANT COUNT TELLING US?

Looking at the claimant count data overall it is possible to arrive at some conclusions.

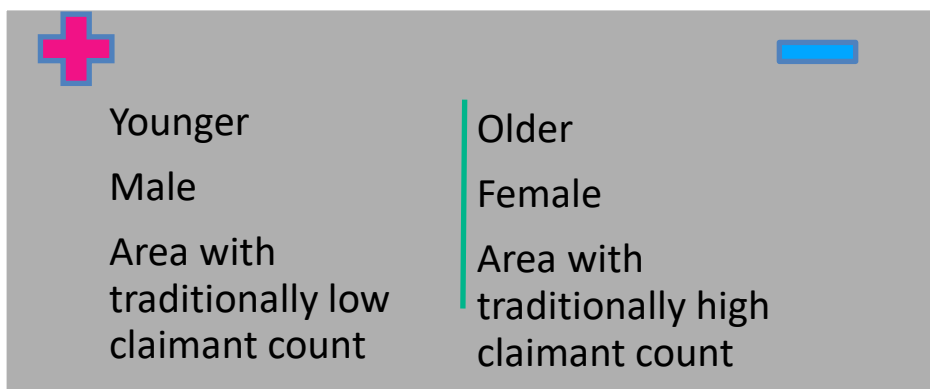
- The dramatic rise in 16-24 year old claimants is offset by the fact that this age group is proving to be the one where the most encouraging claimant count falls are occurring. This

could be linked to the reopening of sectors that employ a higher proportion of people from this age cohort.

- In some areas and for some age groups the number of female claimants isn't falling at the same level as males.
- In some areas the 50+ age group of claimants is falling at a lower rate than other age groups
- For some geographies, regardless of age and gender, the claimant count is falling at a lower rate than elsewhere across the region.
- The areas that had the highest numbers of claimants and claimant rate pre pandemic continue to be the ones with this unenviable accolade post pandemic.

What we are seeing now, as labour market demand accelerates, is differences in how claimants are able to transition back into work and take advantage of the job opportunities on offer. Whilst many more people from a range of different geographies and backgrounds experienced unemployment in 2020, the move back into work is not evenly balanced. There appears to be a filtering or 'stickiness' at play, with the result that certain individuals will find it more difficult to get back into work, than others. The graphic below provides a visual of what factors could be playing a part in moving people off the claimant count quicker than others. This is nothing new and is simply based on what can be seen from the claimant count as published. It is highly likely that factors such as disability, qualifications/skills, ethnicity, etc. would also be worth considering, but the published data doesn't allow for such an analysis.

#### **Positive and negative factors likely to move you from the claimant count faster**



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

### **Introduction**

Before looking at the claimant count data it is worthwhile highlighting what has been published by way of commentary in the last week or so, if only to provide a context.

#### *Fraser of Allander Institute*

On the 1<sup>st</sup> September, the Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) published its monthly update on the Scottish Economy<sup>1</sup>. They found that most indicators tracking economic activity in real time have improved since the August update.

- GDP data for Scotland suggests that in June the economy had grown by 0.9% month-on-month- again the service sector is driving this increase.
- Scottish vacancies have grown faster than the other nations of the UK, but overall levels of business activity and wages have been slower to recover.
- Share of workers on furlough also continues to fall, and recent figures indicate around 2% are still on full furlough leave and another 3% of the Scottish workforce on partial furlough leave. However, with the end of the furlough scheme on the horizon, there remains a high degree of uncertainty in the labour market.

FAI report on the publication of the Scottish Fiscal Commission's (SFC) latest economic forecasts<sup>2</sup>. This highlights that in January the outlook for the Scottish economy was poor, with economic growth forecasted at 2% in 2021 and the Scottish economy was not expected to reach its pre-pandemic peak until 2024. This latest report from August is more positive and the SFC forecasts sees the Scottish economy growing by 10.5% in 2021/22, with economic output reaching its pre-pandemic levels by 2022 Q2; around two years sooner than forecasted at the start of the year.

#### *Business Insights and Conditions Survey*

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September the latest (publication number 25) Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) were released<sup>3</sup> for Scotland. The key findings from this report are as follows;

- In the period 9 to 22 August 2021, the share of businesses 'currently trading' was estimated at 98.4% - up from 98.1% in the previous period and the highest rate since comparable estimates began in June 2020.
- The share of the workforce on furlough leave was estimated at 4.5% in the period 26 July to 22 August 2021 – down from 4.9% in the previous period and the lowest rate since comparable estimates began in June 2020. The Arts, Entertainment & Recreation industry sector continued to have the highest share of the workforce on furlough leave - estimated at 18.3%.
- In the period 26 July to 22 August 2021, 28.8% of businesses reported a decrease in turnover compared with what is normally expected - the lowest percentage recorded since

<sup>1</sup> <https://fraserofallander.org/monthly-update-on-the-scottish-economy-september-2021/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fraserofallander.org/when-is-the-scottish-economy-expected-to-recover-from-the-covid-19-crisis/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-37/>

comparable estimates began in June 2020. There were two industry sectors where more than half of trading businesses experienced a decrease in turnover compared with what is normally expected – Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (estimated at 62.5%) and Accommodation & Food Services (estimated at 52.2%).

### *Office for National Statistics*

Data on vacancy rates and job adverts add further to the positive view of the labour market. Office of National Statistic (ONS) have built an index<sup>4</sup> for monitoring online job adverts and this highlights that whilst the index had fallen by around 65 points between March and May 2020, it has since climbed back up so that it is around 30 points higher than it was pre-pandemic. The most recent September figures for the index are at 130.5. Although not able to be broken down in terms of regions, the data can be examined at a sector level and in this we can see that the index for transport and logistics sector is currently sitting at 326.1- over three times as many adverts as pre-pandemic.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> September ONS released data that looked at the national UK labour market<sup>5</sup>. This reported that:

- The number of payroll employees showed another monthly increase, up 241,000 to 29.1 million in August 2021, returning to pre- pandemic (February 2020) levels. All regions except London, Scotland and South East are now above pre-pandemic levels.
- Since the start of the pandemic the employment rate has generally decreased, and the unemployment rate has increased. However, since the end of 2020, both have shown signs of recovery. In the latest period (May to July 2021), based on the Labour Force Survey, there was a quarterly increase in the employment rate of 0.5 percentage points, to 75.2%, and a decrease in the unemployment rate of 0.3 percentage points, to 4.6%. The economic inactivity rate is down 0.3 percentage points on the previous quarter, to 21.1%.
- Young people (those aged 16 to 24 years) have been particularly affected by the pandemic, with the employment rate decreasing and the unemployment and economic inactivity rates increasing by more than seen for those aged 25 years and over. Over the last quarter, however, there was a strong increase in the employment rate and decrease in the unemployment and inactivity rates for young people.
- The number of job vacancies in June to August 2021 was 1,034,000, which is the first time vacancies have risen over 1 million since records began, and is now 249,000 above its pre-pandemic January to March 2020 level. Vacancies grew on the quarter in June to August 2021 by 269,300 (35.2%), with all industry sectors increasing their number of vacancies and the majority reaching record levels; the largest increase was seen in accommodation and food service activities, which rose by 57,600 (75.4%).

### **Overall Claimant Count**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> September NOMIS released claimant count data for August. The claimant count across the UK remains far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic. - 74% higher for the UK and 50% higher for Scotland. However, the data presented in Table 1 below demonstrates some positive trends. Since January the claimant count in the UK has fallen by 15% and in Scotland the data suggests that since January the claimant count has fallen by nearly 34,000.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/output/datasets/onlinejobadvertestimates>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/september2021>

A couple of notes of caution. Firstly, the more recent month to month falls are less dramatic than they had been initially, which suggests that if this continues it will take longer for the claimant count to return to its pre-pandemic levels. Secondly, although the numbers have fallen considerably, there are still over 100,000 people on furlough in Scotland – if only a third of them were unable to return to work at the end of the scheme we would see the claimant count back to its January levels.

From Table 1 it can be seen that London saw the largest percentage increase in the claimant count since February 2020 whilst the North East of England has seen the smallest percentage increase.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

Area	February 2020	January 2021	July 2021	August 2021	Change Feb20-Aug21	Change Jan-Aug	Change July-Aug
United Kingdom	1,255,770	2,558,550	2,232,760	2,185,420	74%	-15%	-2%
East	89,890	199,220	170,980	167,060	86%	-16%	-2%
East Midlands	80,915	157,190	137,985	135,785	68%	-14%	-2%
London	184,765	481,755	431,135	420,755	128%	-13%	-2%
North East	75,560	116,420	101,080	99,060	31%	-15%	-2%
North West	167,055	309,610	272,235	267,400	60%	-14%	-2%
Northern Ireland	29,910	55,410	49,825	49,480	65%	-11%	-1%
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>114,605</b>	<b>205,320</b>	<b>175,325</b>	<b>171,360</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
South East	119,620	285,175	240,785	234,255	96%	-18%	-3%
South West	75,595	162,855	133,940	129,685	72%	-20%	-3%
Wales	60,375	108,560	92,255	90,030	49%	-17%	-2%
West Midlands	141,095	258,825	233,985	230,735	64%	-11%	-1%
Yorkshire and The Humber	116,390	218,205	193,240	189,815	63%	-13%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 14/9/2021

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. From this it can be seen that different areas have been affected to different levels. For example, in August 2020 most areas recorded their highest claimant count. If this is taken as the labour markets pandemic low point, the data indicates that Edinburgh had recorded the highest increase in Scotland – the claimant count was 165% higher in August 2020 than it had been in February 2020. At the opposite end of the spectrum is Inverclyde where the claimant count increased by 45% between the two dates. In terms of labour market improvements, the table indicates that Edinburgh has recorded a 25% fall in the claimant count between August 2020 and August 2021. This is higher than areas such as Inverclyde where the fall was 17%. Perhaps of wider interest is that the areas where the falls over the last year have been greatest are not those where the initial increase was highest, demonstrating that it's not as simple as the greatest increases in the claimant count are creating the greatest falls.

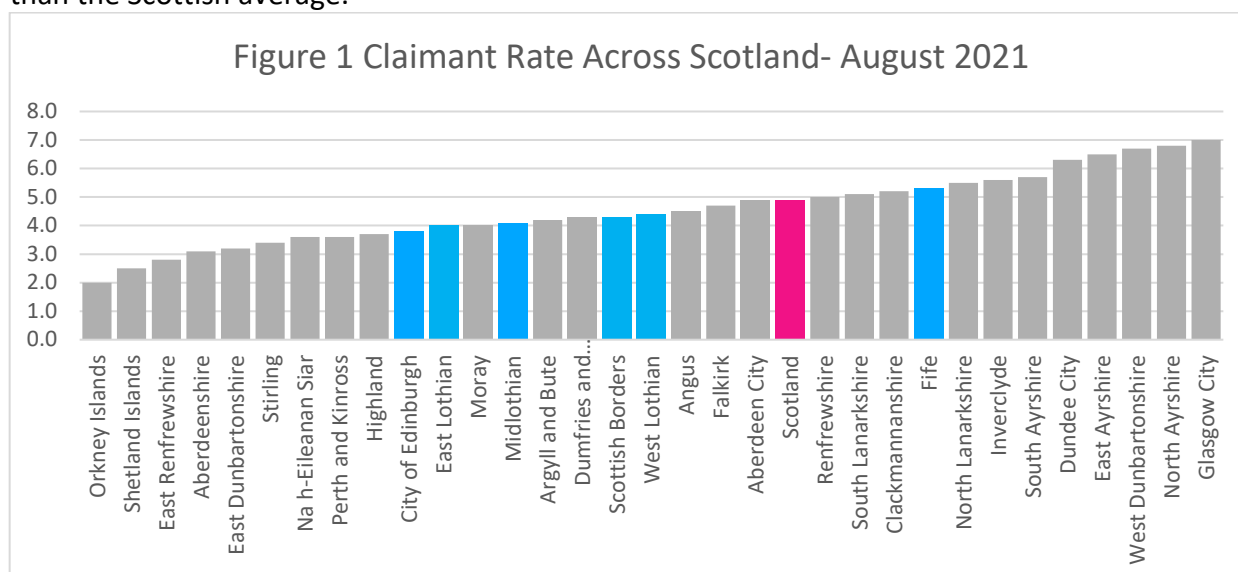
**Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs**

Area	Feb 2020	Aug 2020	July 2021	Aug 2021	Change		
					Feb20-Aug21	Aug 20-Aug 21	Jul 21-Aug 21
Aberdeen City	4,150	9,170	8,010	7,625	121%	-17%	-5%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	6,675	5,215	5,030	124%	-25%	-4%
Angus	2,040	3,985	3,095	3,090	95%	-22%	0%

Argyll and Bute	1,530	3,160	2,210	2,100	107%	-34%	-5%
<b>City of Edinburgh</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>18,840</b>	<b>14,695</b>	<b>14,140</b>	<b>165%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,390	2,255	1,675	1,650	62%	-27%	-1%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,950	5,010	3,805	3,740	70%	-25%	-2%
Dundee City	4,530	7,490	6,125	6,190	65%	-17%	1%
East Ayrshire	3,685	6,280	4,890	4,890	70%	-22%	0%
East Dunbartonshire	1,230	2,985	2,090	2,070	143%	-31%	-1%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>3,635</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
East Renfrewshire	950	2,410	1,680	1,600	154%	-34%	-5%
Falkirk	3,300	6,315	4,900	4,835	91%	-23%	-1%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>15,840</b>	<b>12,660</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Glasgow City	20,055	38,205	31,650	31,250	91%	-18%	-1%
Highland	3,715	8,325	5,510	5,240	124%	-37%	-5%
Inverclyde	2,255	3,265	2,780	2,700	45%	-17%	-3%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>3,145</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>2,355</b>	<b>114%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Moray	1,550	3,030	2,350	2,325	95%	-23%	-1%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	880	585	555	89%	-37%	-5%
North Ayrshire	4,600	7,270	5,605	5,500	58%	-24%	-2%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	15,870	12,275	11,945	93%	-25%	-3%
Orkney Islands	195	420	285	265	115%	-37%	-7%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	4,595	3,385	3,315	146%	-28%	-2%
Renfrewshire	4,025	7,780	5,890	5,750	93%	-26%	-2%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>2,980</b>	<b>2,865</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Shetland Islands	265	540	360	350	104%	-35%	-3%
South Ayrshire	2,790	4,960	3,785	3,715	78%	-25%	-2%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	13,725	10,550	10,365	96%	-24%	-2%
Stirling	1,540	3,110	2,075	2,030	102%	-35%	-2%
West Dunbartonshire	2,930	4,845	3,780	3,730	65%	-23%	-1%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>7,005</b>	<b>5,270</b>	<b>5,135</b>	<b>105%</b>	<b>-27%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Scotland	114,605	224,840	175,325	171,360	96%	-24%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021

Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate by Local Authority across Scotland as a whole. From this it can be seen that, except for Fife, every Local Authority in the City Region has a rate that is lower than the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021

## Gender Profile

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the City Region. Table 3 looks at the number of claimants of each gender as of February 2020, August 2020 and August 2021. From this there has been a calculation of what the percentage change has been between February 2020 and August 2020 and then from August 2020 through to August 2021.

Unsurprisingly both genders across all 6 Local Authorities recorded an increase between February and August 2020. This ranged from a 78% increase in Male claimants in Fife through to 174% increase in the number of female claimants in Edinburgh. In three Local Authorities there was a higher percentage increase for females (Edinburgh, Fife and Scottish Borders) for the other three the opposite was the case.

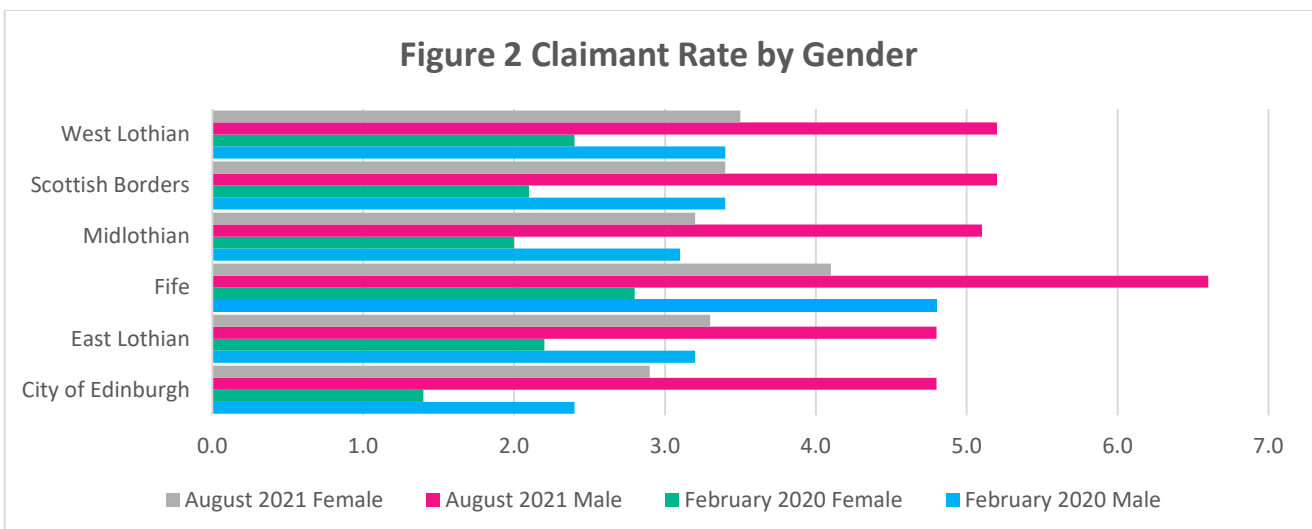
Looking at what has happened since the August 2020 peak, the table indicates that the highest claimant rate falls have been recorded for males in East and West Lothian were falls of 29% have been recorded. Edinburgh has recorded the highest percentage falls for female claimants (27% since August 2020). Perhaps worth commenting on is the situation in Fife where the number of female claimants increased more than males last year, but since then it is the number of males claiming that has fallen faster.

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

	February 2020		August 2020		August 2021		Percentage Change			
							Feb20-Aug20		Aug20-Aug21	
	Male	Fem	Male	Fem	Male	Fem	Male	Fem	Male	Fem
Edinburgh	4,435	2,665	11,530	7,315	8,780	5,360	160%	174%	-24%	-27%
East Lothian	1,005	760	2,125	1,510	1,510	1,135	111%	99%	-29%	-25%
Fife	5,475	3,290	9,770	6,070	7,475	4,895	78%	84%	-23%	-19%
Midlothian	865	605	1,920	1,220	1,415	940	122%	102%	-26%	-23%
Scot Borders	1,120	740	2,240	1,585	1,705	1,165	100%	114%	-24%	-26%
West Lothian	1,970	1,455	4,225	2,785	3,020	2,110	114%	91%	-29%	-24%
City Region	14,875	9,510	31,810	20,485	23,905	15,610	114%	115%	-25%	-24%

**Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021**

Figure 2 below looks at the claimant rate by gender for the 6 Local Authorities and compares the situation in February 2020 with that of August 2021



**Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021**



## Age Profile

The three tables below look at the 6 Local Authorities and the City Region in terms of age and gender. The first, Table 4, looks at the 16-24 year old age group. This indicates that between February and August 2020 there had been a 212% increase in the number of 16-24 year old female claimants in Edinburgh. This is the largest increase for any age group across the City Region.

As mentioned previously for many of the groups or geographies that recorded dramatic increases at the start of the pandemic, significant falls are now being recorded. This can be seen in the female 16-24 year old count in Edinburgh where there has been a 40% fall in the number of claimants since August 2020.

**Table 4: Change in Claimants by Age and Gender Across the City Region (16-24 year olds)**

		Aged 16-24			%Change	
		Feb-20	Aug-20	Aug-21	Feb 20-Aug 20	Aug20-Aug21
Edinburgh	Male	630	1,885	1,355	199%	-28%
	Female	430	1,340	810	212%	-40%
East Lothian	Male	185	445	300	141%	-33%
	Female	130	310	205	138%	-34%
Fife	Male	1,120	2,155	1,560	92%	-28%
	Female	620	1,345	1,010	117%	-25%
Midlothian	Male	205	430	290	110%	-33%
	Female	120	260	195	117%	-25%
Scottish Borders	Male	245	495	360	102%	-27%
	Female	170	385	240	126%	-38%
West Lothian	Male	435	950	655	118%	-31%
	Female	295	620	435	110%	-30%
City Region	Male	2,820	6,355	4,520	125%	-29%
	Female	1,775	4,265	2,890	140%	-32%

**Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021**

Across the region young women saw a greater increase in claimant count than young men and although the claimant count is falling faster for females, this isn't the case everywhere. For example in Midlothian the number of 16-24 year old female claimants increased by 117% compared to 110% for males and whilst the male claimant count has fallen by 33% the female claimant count has fallen by 25%. Fife presents a similar, if less dramatic, picture.

**Table 5: Change in Claimants by Age and Gender Across the City Region (25-49 year olds)**

		Aged 25-49			%Change	
		Feb-20	Aug-20	Aug-21	Feb 20-Aug 20	Aug 20-Aug21
Edinburgh	Male	2,680	7,200	5,385	169%	-25%
	Female	1,630	4,520	3,330	177%	-26%
East Lothian	Male	575	1,180	860	105%	-27%
	Female	445	835	650	88%	-22%
Fife	Male	3,105	5,435	4,205	75%	-23%
	Female	1,885	3,340	2,755	77%	-18%
Midlothian	Male	495	1,095	805	121%	-26%
	Female	370	700	555	89%	-21%
Scottish Borders	Male	580	1,155	865	99%	-25%
	Female	395	800	620	103%	-23%
West Lothian	Male	1,115	2,415	1,750	117%	-28%
	Female	855	1,530	1,230	79%	-20%
City Region	Male	<b>8,550</b>	<b>18,470</b>	<b>13,875</b>	116%	-25%
	Female	<b>5,580</b>	<b>11,725</b>	<b>9,140</b>	110%	-22%

**Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021**

Table 5 looks at the situation for 25-49 year olds. What is clear from this data is that the increase between February and August 2020 was not as significant as for 16-24 year old claimants. Female claimants in Edinburgh once again were the age group, gender split and geography that saw the greatest increase – 177%– but not the greatest falls. This accolade falls to the male claimant count in West Lothian which recorded a 28% fall for 25-49 year olds. Fife and Scottish Borders both illustrate the same issue for young women recorded in Midlothian and Fife, in so far as the fall in the female claimant count is being outstripped by the fall in the male claimant count. This is despite the opposite being the case when the claimant count was growing.

The final table looks at the position of those aged 50 or over. Again the greatest increase was in females in Edinburgh, but this time the increase in the claimant count for 50 and over females in the Scottish Borders was very similar. A similar mismatch in terms of genders is clear in the 50 year old age group as it was for the other two age categories. In this age group, Edinburgh and Fife record falls in the claimant count that appear to be less than the increases recorded in 2020.

**Table 6: Change in Claimants by Age and Gender Across the City Region (50 year old and overs)**

		Aged 50 and over			%Change	
		Feb-20	Aug-20	Aug-21	Feb 20-Aug 20	Aug 20-Aug21
Edinburgh	Male	1,125	2,445	2,035	117%	-17%
	Female	605	1,455	1,225	140%	-16%
East Lothian	Male	245	500	350	104%	-30%
	Female	185	360	280	95%	-22%
Fife	Male	1,250	2,180	1,715	74%	-21%
	Female	780	1,380	1,135	77%	-18%
Midlothian	Male	170	400	315	135%	-21%
	Female	115	260	190	126%	-27%
Scottish Borders	Male	300	590	475	97%	-19%
	Female	170	405	305	138%	-25%
West Lothian	Male	420	860	615	105%	-28%
	Female	305	635	445	108%	-30%
City Region	Male	<b>3,505</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>5,510</b>	99%	-21%
	Female	<b>2,160</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>3,580</b>	108%	-20%

**Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021**

What can be made of this data? It appears to suggest that generally the claimant count is falling for all ages and genders across the whole region. It also indicates that overall, areas, genders and age groups that recorded the most dramatic increases were also recording the more significant falls in the claimant count. We can see that the number of young people claiming has fallen, and by some of the largest percentages recorded.

The caveat of this is that for some of the other age groups the falls have been less impressive. If we were to rank the August to August percentage falls, 8 of the top 10 (the categories with the greatest percentage fall) were in the 16-24 year old category. Of the 10 categories that had the lowest percentage falls recorded 7 of the top 10 were from 50+ age groupings. The factor that must be borne in mind is that 16-24 year olds only made up 5 of the 10 groups that saw the fastest rise between February and August 2020, so some areas and/or genders are seeing 16-24 year olds find jobs at a faster rate than they lost them.

## Ward Profile

The Claimant Count data provides a useful picture of what is happening at a very local level as it can be used to look at the number of claimants at a ward level. Table 7 below looks at the 71 wards that

make up the City Region. These have been ranked in order of percentage increase in the claimant count between February 2020 and August 2020. This is indicating that Morningside in Edinburgh had the largest percentage increase in the claimant count an increase of 293%. What this also shows is that at a localised level areas which recorded the highest increases also tend to have shown rapid decreases for example Morningside has seen the claimant count fall by 36% between August 2020 and August 2021- the fourth highest percentage fall in the whole city region.

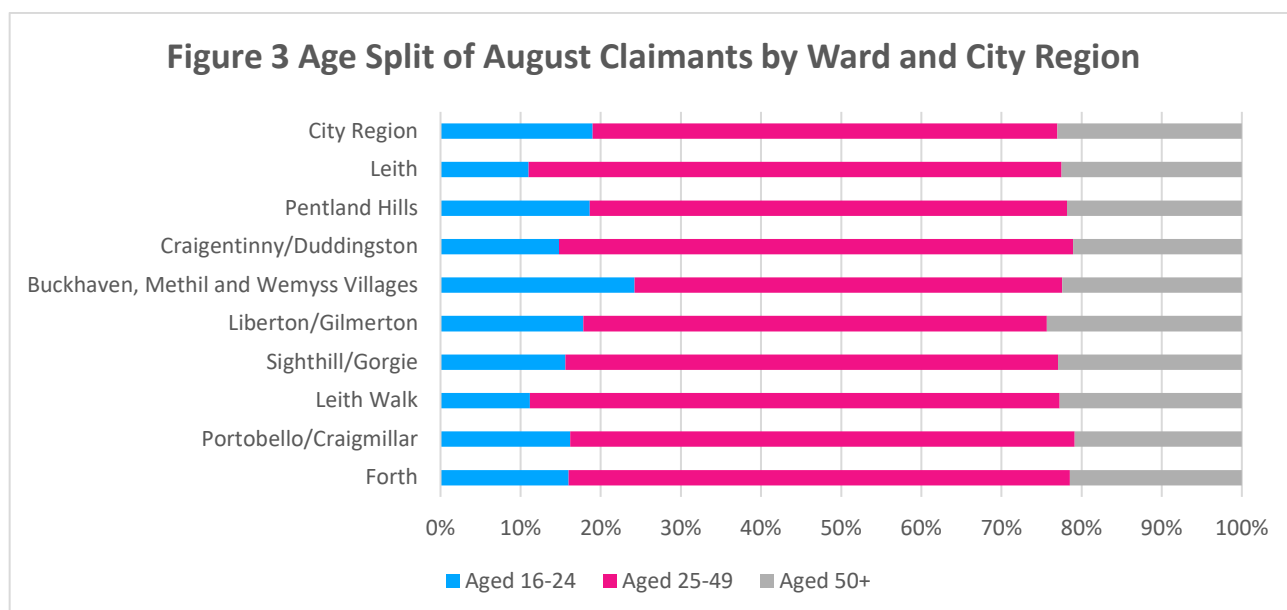
**Table 7 Ward Profile and % Change**

	2017 electoral wards	Feb-20	Aug-20	Aug-21	% Change	
					Feb20-Aug 20	Aug20-Aug21
Edinburgh	Morningside	150	590	375	293%	-36%
East Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	85	300	190	253%	-37%
Edinburgh	Inverleith	220	775	465	252%	-40%
Edinburgh	Southside/Newington	230	800	615	248%	-23%
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	120	390	280	225%	-28%
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205	610	460	198%	-25%
Edinburgh	Colinton/Fairmilehead	175	515	355	194%	-31%
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/Gyle	225	660	510	193%	-23%
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	550	1,605	1,165	192%	-27%
Scottish Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	115	320	215	178%	-33%
Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	540	1,475	1,150	173%	-22%
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	550	1,500	1,155	173%	-23%
Edinburgh	Craigentiny/Duddingston	550	1,490	1,110	171%	-26%
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale East	105	275	205	162%	-25%
Scottish Borders	Tweeddale West	105	270	200	157%	-26%
Edinburgh	City Centre	490	1,245	955	154%	-23%
Midlothian	Bonnyrigg	180	455	335	153%	-26%
Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	625	1,555	1,175	149%	-24%
West Lothian	Linlithgow	135	335	215	148%	-36%
Fife	St Andrews	105	250	185	138%	-26%
Fife	East Neuk and Landward	185	440	280	138%	-36%
Fife	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	540	370	135%	-31%
Edinburgh	Forth	720	1,690	1,370	135%	-19%
Edinburgh	Almond	495	1,160	850	134%	-27%
Fife	Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	410	315	134%	-23%
West Lothian	Livingston North	325	760	545	134%	-28%
Midlothian	Midlothian West	210	490	340	133%	-31%
Scottish Borders	Jedburgh and District	130	300	240	131%	-20%
Midlothian	Midlothian East	255	570	430	124%	-25%
Edinburgh	Leith	630	1,405	1,045	123%	-26%
West Lothian	East Livingston and East Calder	380	835	580	120%	-31%
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	625	1,365	1,100	118%	-19%
Fife	Tay Bridgehead	190	410	250	116%	-39%
Scottish Borders	Kelso and District	140	300	205	114%	-32%
Scottish Borders	Mid Berwickshire	140	300	200	114%	-33%
East Lothian	Dunbar and East Linton	200	425	295	113%	-31%
Fife	Cupar	210	445	305	112%	-31%
Midlothian	Penicuik	225	475	345	111%	-27%
East Lothian	Haddington and Lammermuir	260	545	385	110%	-29%
West Lothian	Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	365	760	555	108%	-27%
Scottish Borders	East Berwickshire	160	330	215	106%	-35%
East Lothian	Musselburgh	455	930	710	104%	-24%
West Lothian	Bathgate	470	945	695	101%	-26%
Midlothian	Dalkeith	295	590	480	100%	-19%
West Lothian	Livingston South	450	900	680	100%	-24%

Fife	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	700	520	100%	-26%
Fife	Rosyth	305	610	460	100%	-25%
West Lothian	Armadale and Blackridge	310	610	445	97%	-27%
Fife	Dunfermline South	450	880	690	96%	-22%
East Lothian	Preston, Seton and Gosford	310	605	455	95%	-25%
Fife	West Fife and Coastal Villages	355	680	535	92%	-21%
West Lothian	Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	405	765	575	89%	-25%
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Hermitage	180	340	270	89%	-21%
Fife	Dunfermline Central	395	745	580	89%	-22%
Midlothian	Midlothian South	300	565	430	88%	-24%
Scottish Borders	Selkirkshire	165	310	230	88%	-26%
West Lothian	Whitburn and Blackburn	585	1,095	840	87%	-23%
Fife	Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	355	655	460	85%	-30%
East Lothian	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	450	825	610	83%	-26%
Fife	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	665	530	80%	-20%
Scottish Borders	Galashiels and District	385	685	565	78%	-18%
Fife	Cowdenbeath	610	1,080	855	77%	-21%
Fife	Kirkcaldy Central	580	1,000	900	72%	-10%
Fife	Kirkcaldy North	390	670	530	72%	-21%
Scottish Borders	Hawick and Denholm	235	400	325	70%	-19%
Fife	Burntisland, Kinghorn & W. Kirkcaldy	380	645	505	70%	-22%
Fife	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	685	1,145	940	67%	-18%
Fife	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	495	820	635	66%	-23%
Fife	Dunfermline North	415	685	510	65%	-26%
Fife	Kirkcaldy East	640	1,055	895	65%	-15%
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss	900	1,315	1,115	46%	-15%

Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021

What is clear from this table is that areas that recorded a smaller increase in the claimant count between February and August 2020 also tended to record a smaller fall over the last 12 months. However, the most obvious conclusion from this table is that the areas with the highest number of claimants pre pandemic are still the areas with the highest number of claimants now. For example, 9 wards alone had over 1,000 claimants in August and of these 8 are in Edinburgh. Perhaps most startling is that these 9 wards alone made up over a quarter of the region's claimant count. Figure 3 below looks at these 9 in more detail and compares the age split in each of these wards with the age split for the City Region as a whole.

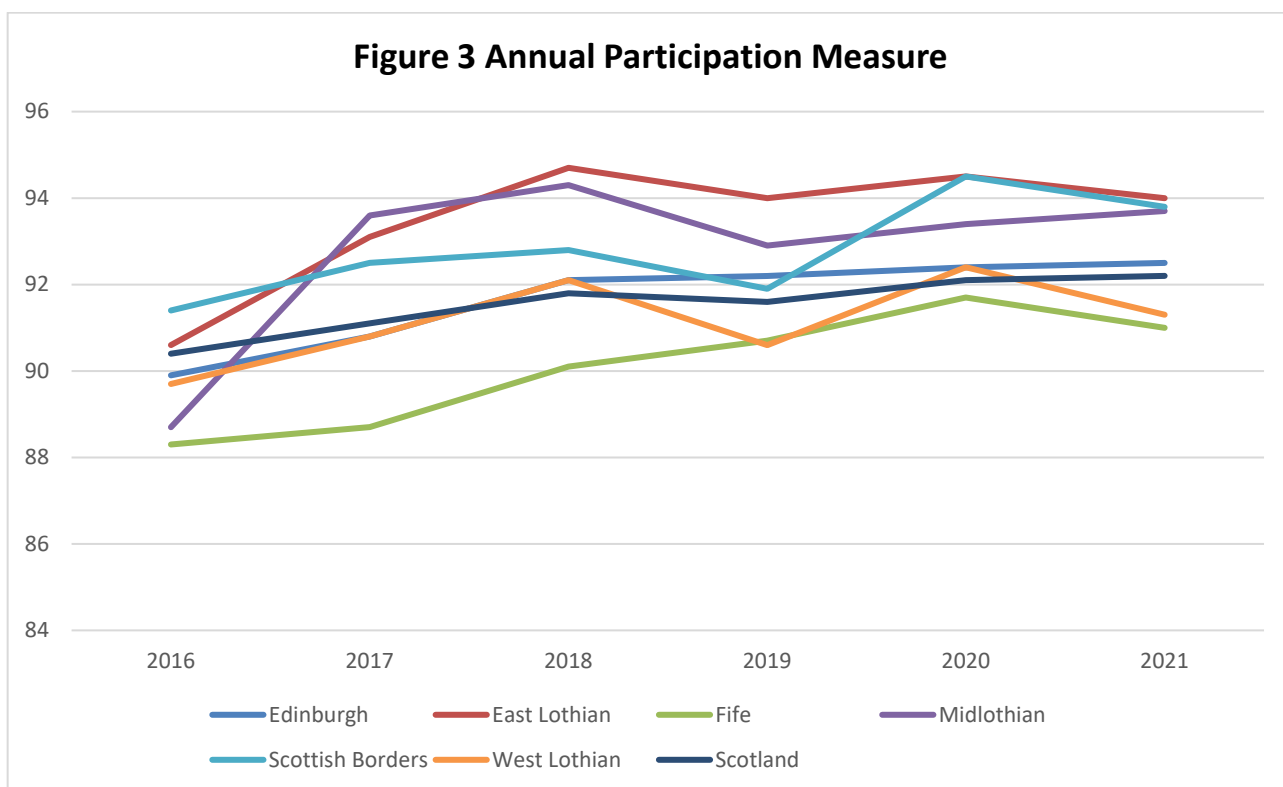


Source: NOMIS 14/09/2021

## Annual Participation Measure

Skills Development Scotland provide an annual summary of where 16-19 year olds are within the labour market. In the past this would have been published as the School Leavers Destination Report and is now entitled the Annual Participation Measure. The most recent publication is available in a format which allows interrogation on the SDS website<sup>6</sup>.

The figure below indicates that currently 4 of the 6 City Region Local Authorities have an Annual Participation Measure that is higher the Scottish average. They two that don't are West Lothian and Fife.



## Universal Credit

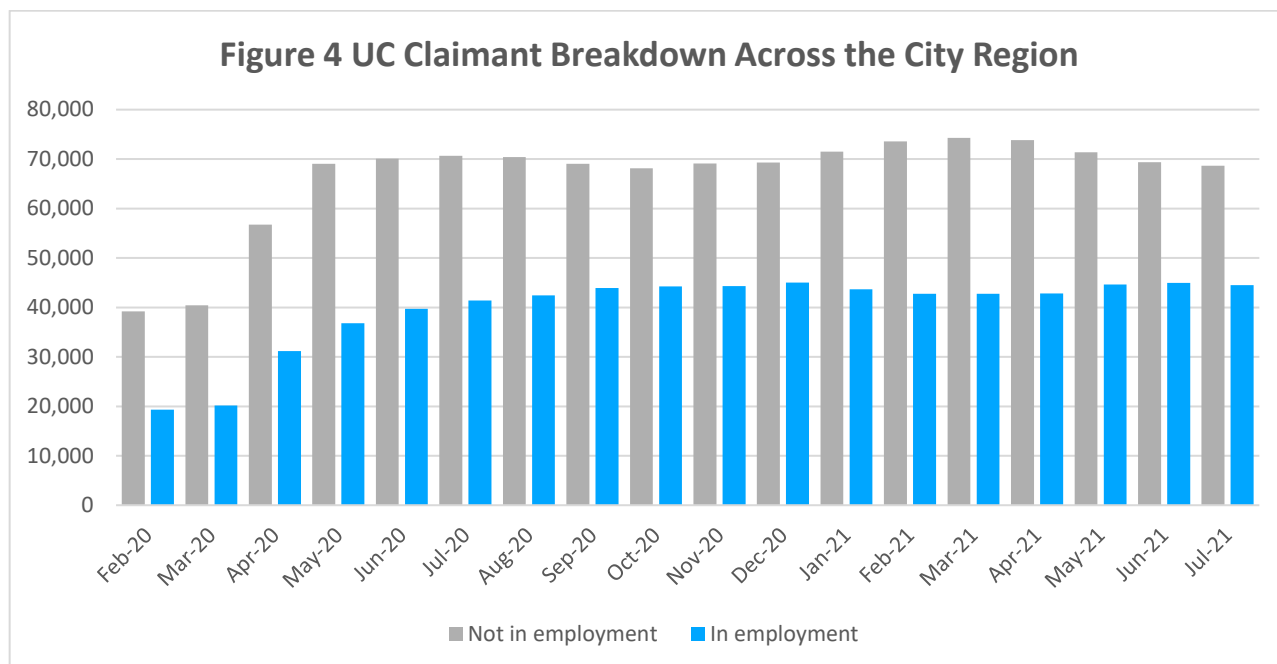
Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count looked at already in this report, however it also includes data on those who are in work but need support as their wages alone don't provide enough income. It is a benefit which was designed to replace a range of benefits including support for those on low income (income support) and benefit for those out of work (Job Seekers Allowance).

Figure 3 looks at the increase across the region in the number of in-work and out of work universal credit claimants since February 2020. August data for UC claimants is available, however it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the July 2021 data is the most up to date, where this type of analysis can be undertaken.

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. From the data it is clear that between February 2020 and August 2020 the number of people claiming UC who were in work

<sup>6</sup> SDS Annual Participation Measure [Corporate Website](#)

increased by 119% compared to those out of work where there was a 79% increase. Between August 2020 and July 2021 the Not in Work claimant count has fallen by 2% whilst the in work claimant count has continued to rise and increase by 5% over that period.



**Source: StatXplore 15/9/2021**

Table 8 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics for each of the 6 LAs from July 2021 and compares this to February 2020 and August 2020, which has been used for comparability with earlier tables. Overall, the greatest increase has been in the number claiming UC but still in work. This covers some differences ranging from a 202% increase in Edinburgh to a 79% increase in East Lothian.

**Table 8: Universal Credit Claimants**

					% Change	
		Feb-20	Aug-20	Jun-21	Feb20-Aug20	Aug20-Jul21
City of Edinburgh	Not in emp	9,041	21,276	20,826	135%	-2%
	In employment	4,650	14,062	15,228	202%	8%
Fife	Not in emp	14,794	23,128	22,851	56%	-1%
	In employment	6,467	12,233	12,856	89%	5%
East Lothian	Not in emp	3,725	5,922	5,455	59%	-8%
	In employment	2,120	3,801	3,678	79%	-3%
West Lothian	Not in emp	5,608	9,754	9,560	74%	-2%
	In employment	2,809	5,893	6,059	110%	3%
Scottish Borders	Not in emp	2,874	5,129	4,955	78%	-3%
	In employment	1,546	3,130	3,295	102%	5%
Midlothian	Not in emp	3,173	5,186	5,020	63%	-3%
	In employment	1,741	3,321	3,400	91%	2%
City Region	Not in emp	39,224	70,393	68,673	79%	-2%
	In employment	19,338	42,429	44,519	119%	5%

**Source: StatXplore 15/9/2021**

Whilst the number claiming and being out of work has pretty much fallen everywhere since August 2020, the same can't be said for those in work where almost universally the numbers have continued to grow. According to StatXplore there were 44,519 people in the City Region who were in work but were not receiving enough in wages and would qualify for in-work support through UC.

Will the improving labour market have an impact on these numbers? Arguably it hasn't yet and whilst this may be a lag, in that those in work take longer to come off of benefits than those out of work, it could also be that some of those that are out of work are getting jobs but are finding they are not paid enough to live on and are moving from one side of UC to the other.

## Employment Support Allowance

StatXplore also provides data on a range of other benefits and one that is of interest for a labour market report, if only occasionally, is the picture on Employment Support Allowance. ESA provides financial support and personalised support to those who are unable to work as a result of a health condition or disability. There is a subgroup within ESA who have been assessed and placed in a group to undertake "Work Related Activity" - attend courses, training and support that could help them move back into work.

Table 9 below indicates how many people are currently on ESA both in the City Region and in the 6 LAs. This indicates that across the region there were 35,806 claimants who were unable to work due to illness or disability. Of these 6,870 (15%) were in the Work Related Activity Group. In all likelihood this group would require some form of support from partners delivering employability services. Fife has the highest proportion of this type of claim and East Lothian has the lowest.

**Table 9 ESA Claimants as at February 2021 Broken Down by Claim Stage**

Feb-21	Assessment phase	Work Related Activity group	Support group	Unknown	Total
City of Edinburgh	474	2,503	13,139	408	16,519
	3%	15%	80%	2%	100%
East Lothian	122	288	2,109	80	2,603
	5%	11%	81%	3%	100%
Fife	588	2,281	9,713	357	12,941
	5%	18%	75%	3%	100%
Midlothian	115	345	2,223	61	2,738
	4%	13%	81%	2%	100%
Scottish Borders	131	555	2,728	100	3,508
	4%	16%	78%	3%	100%
West Lothian	329	900	5,904	206	7,339
	4%	12%	80%	3%	100%
City Region	1,767	6,870	35,806	1,210	45,648
	4%	15%	78%	3%	100%

**Source: StatXplore 15/9/2021**

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