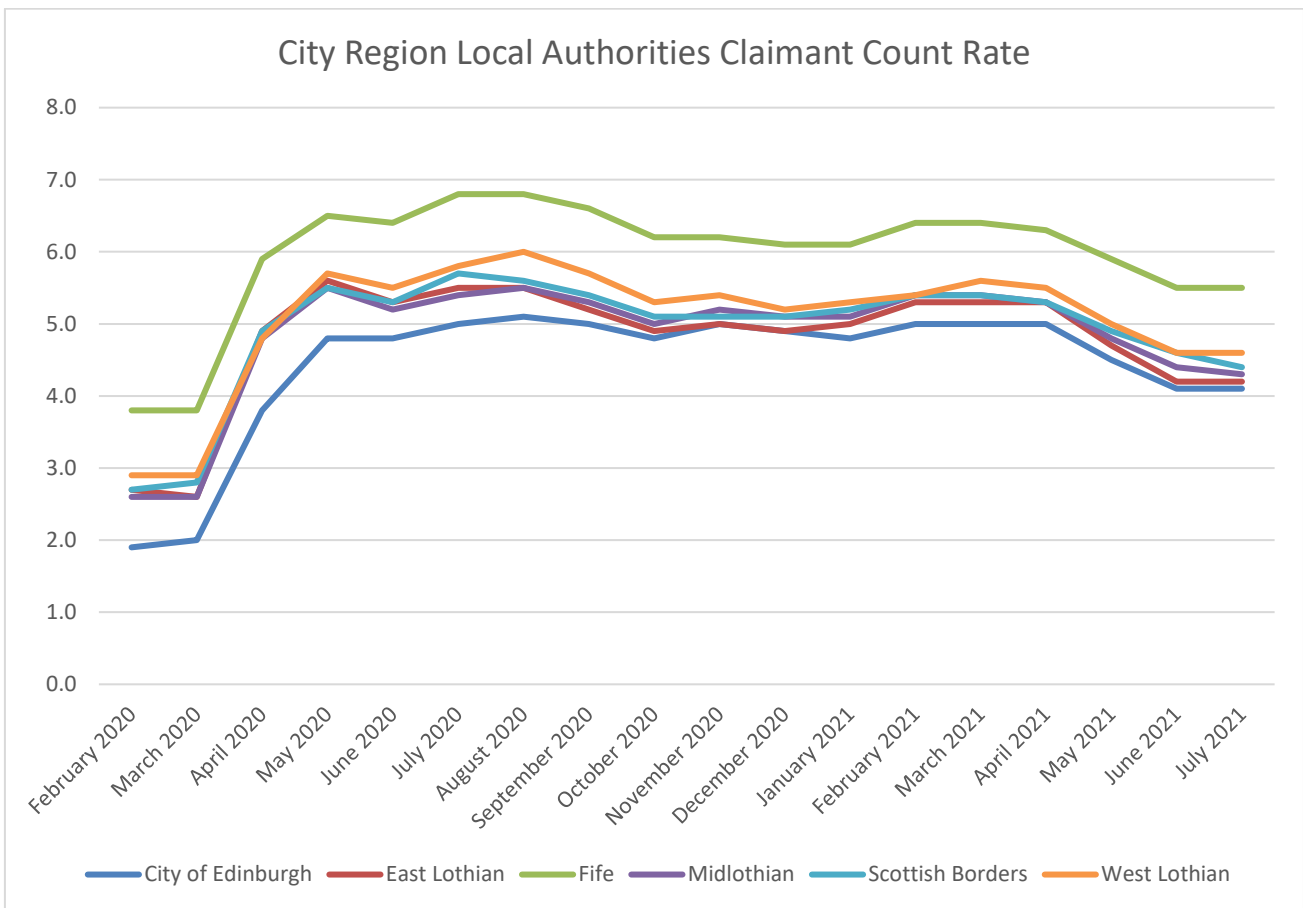


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count July 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and July 2021:	Between June 2021 and July 2021:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 81% ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 55% ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 110% ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 69% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK Claimant Count decreased by 1% ↓ Scottish Claimant Count decreased 1% ↓ Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 1% ↓ City Region Claimant Count decreased by 1%



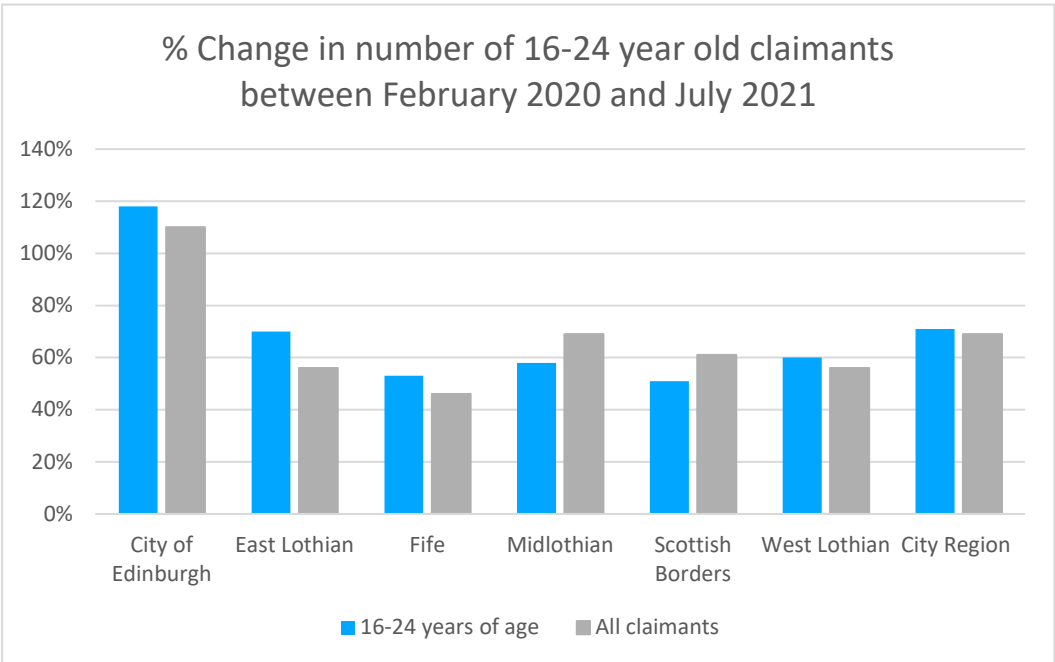
Between January 2021 and April 2021 there had been little change in the claimant count. A small fall was recorded between March and April 2021. The data from April, May and June gave the suggestion that the economy was recovering. The July data generally doesn't reflect the same declines that we had seen in the previous months. One would anticipate that as the restrictions ease and more 'normal' operating starts to work through into the labour market, the claimant count will start to fall once again. However, there are uncertainties around what will happen when furlough scheme ends and the impact this may have on the claimant count.

Claimant Count

Area	Feb 2020		May 2021		June 2021		July 2021		% Change		
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb20-Jun21	May21-Jun 21	Jun21-Jul21
Edinburgh	7,105	1.9	16,700	4.6	15,115	4.2	14,945	4.1	117%	-9%	-1%
E. Lothian	1,765	2.7	3,100	4.7	2,750	4.3	2,755	4.2	59%	-11%	0%
Fife	8,765	3.8	13,740	5.9	12,860	5.6	12,795	5.5	49%	-6%	-1%
Midlothian	1,470	2.6	2,770	4.8	2,525	4.5	2,485	4.3	76%	-9%	-2%
Borders	1,860	2.7	3,320	4.9	3,075	4.6	2,995	4.4	67%	-7%	-3%
W. Lothian	3,425	2.9	5,915	5.0	5,375	4.7	5,360	4.6	60%	-9%	0%

GENDER SPLIT Overall, across the region, the proportion of female claimants is much the same as it was in February 2020 at around 39% of claimants.

AGE PROFILE Across the City Region as a whole the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group has risen by 71% between February 2020 and July 2021. However, there are differences depending on which LA you wish to look at- shown in the chart to the right.



WARD PROFILE
Of the 71 wards that make up the City Region, 36 have a claimant rate that is above the average for the region. Of these 15 are in Fife, 7 in Edinburgh, 6 are West Lothian wards, 4 in Scottish Borders, Midlothian has 3 and East Lothian has 1.

UNIVERSAL CREDIT
Between February 2020 and June 2021 the region has seen a 133% increase in the number of individuals who are in work and claiming Universal Credit and a 77% increase in the numbers who are claiming and not in employment.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count June 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 within which to place the local claimant count data.

Fraser of Allander Institute

On the 9th August, as restrictions were eased across Scotland, the Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) published its monthly update on the Scottish Economy¹. They report that Scottish GDP grew by 0.9% in May – mostly driven by the services sector. Within this the accommodation and food services contributed the most to growth and is now operating at around 70% of its pre-pandemic levels. Reporting on Office for National Statistics (ONS) data FAI indicate that despite the recent pickup in vacancies (up 23% in June) employment across Scottish regions has yet to return to pre-crisis levels. They indicate that 33% of businesses in Scotland expect to permanently use increased homeworking in the future; this compares to 27% for the UK overall.

On the 17th August FAI published a review of labour market trends.² This paper reported on HMRC data which indicated that South and West Scotland have almost regained March 2020 payroll levels, while the North East continues to lag significantly behind as it wrestles with the twin challenges of the pandemic and declines in activity in the North Sea. The report also reflects on the circumstances that occurred after the global financial crisis, when there was a rise in fragile or precarious work, the use of zero-hour contracts and underemployment, they conclude that it is worth tracking data on these to understand the extent to which the rebound in employment currently is underpinned by work of this sort versus more secure and predictable employment.

Business Insights and Conditions Survey

The Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) Weighted Scotland Estimates is the 23rd publication of Scotland estimates.³ The key findings from this report are

- In the period 12th July to 25th July 2021, the share of businesses ‘currently trading’ was estimated at 96.2% - this is slightly lower than the last three survey waves but is still one of the highest rates in the series. The Accommodation & Food Services industry sector had the lowest share of businesses ‘currently trading’ - estimated at 81.7%.
- The share of the workforce on furlough leave was estimated at 6.7% in the period 28th June to 25th July 2021 – broadly in line with the previous period and still one of the lowest rates in the series.

¹ <https://fraserofallander.org/monthly-briefing-on-the-scottish-economy-august-2021/>

² <https://fraserofallander.org/pandemic-recovery-a-review-of-the-key-labour-market-trends-and-issues/>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2021/08/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-35/documents/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-35---report/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-35---report/govscot%3Adocument/BICS%2BWeighted%2BScotland%2BEstimates%2B-%2BData%2Bto%2BWave%2B35%2B-%2BReport%2B-%2Bkr.pdf>

Institute of Employment Studies

The Institute of Employment Studies also published a summary of the labour market data in August⁴. This, which has a UK focus, indicated that the recovery continued to gain momentum through the spring as restrictions eased. They report that employment is up, unemployment is down, and there are now more than a million vacancies in the economy for the first time on record. At the same time, nearly two million people started a new job between April and June. However, they report that economic inactivity remains elevated – particularly driven by more students and by people out of work due to ill health – and the employment ‘gaps’ for disabled people, ethnic minorities and older workers are not narrowing.

Office for National Statistics

Data published on the 17th August by the Office of National Statistics show the labour market continuing to recover⁵. For example, the number of payroll employees showed another monthly increase, up 182,000 to 28.9 million in July 2021. However, it remains 201,000 below pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic levels. They also report that there were an estimated 953,000 job vacancies in May to July 2021, a record high, having grown by 290,000 compared with the previous quarter and 168,000 more than its pre-pandemic level (January to March 2020).

Overall Claimant Count

Although the data published on the 17th August on NOMIS indicates that the claimant count across the UK remains far higher than it was at the start of the pandemic- 81% higher for the UK and 55% higher for Scotland, it does demonstrate some positive trends over the last few months. That said the falls between June and July are not as large as they were between May and June.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	February 2020		June 2021		July 2021		% Change	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Feb20-Jul21	Jun21-Jul21
United Kingdom	1,255,770	3.0	2,285,995	5.5	2,268,660	5.4	81%	-1%
East	89,890	2.4	175,490	4.6	174,160	4.6	94%	-1%
East Midlands	80,915	2.7	141,540	4.7	140,320	4.7	73%	-1%
London	184,765	3.1	440,095	7.3	439,175	7.3	138%	0%
North East	75,560	4.5	103,720	6.2	102,355	6.1	35%	-1%
North West	167,055	3.7	279,115	6.1	276,425	6.0	65%	-1%
Northern Ireland	29,910	2.5	50,590	4.3	50,430	4.3	69%	0%
Scotland	114,605	3.3	179,055	5.1	177,725	5.1	55%	-1%
South East	119,620	2.1	246,810	4.4	244,900	4.3	105%	-1%
South West	75,595	2.2	138,335	4.1	136,120	4.0	80%	-2%
Wales	60,375	3.1	95,050	4.9	93,715	4.8	55%	-1%
West Midlands	141,095	3.8	238,820	6.5	237,380	6.5	68%	-1%
Yorkshire & Humber	116,390	3.4	197,370	5.8	195,955	5.7	68%	-1%

Source: NOMIS 18/8/2021

⁴ https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/system/files/resources/files/IES%20briefing%20-%20Labour%20Market%20Statistics%20August%202021.pdf?utm_source=IES+emailing+list&utm_campaign=e0f33a0bcc-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_05_14_03_45_COPY_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f11585705b-e0f33a0bcc-364968444

⁵ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/august2021>

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 were encouraging for Scotland, with the claimant count recorded in June, 6% lower than it had been in May. Of some concern is that this rate of decrease has fallen off and when the July figure for Scotland is compared with that of June, a fall of 1% is seen. This is not unique to Scotland and in every region and country of the UK the month to month fall from June to July is around 1-2%.

One thing to bear in mind is that these figures represent a period when restrictions would have still been in place and different restrictions were lifted at different times depending on which geography was being looked at. England eased restrictions earliest and furthest on the 19th July so the August figures from regions south of the border will provide an indication of the impact this has on claimant count.

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 June to July is positive with nearly every LA recording a month to month fall, however the fall is less marked than that recorded between May and June.

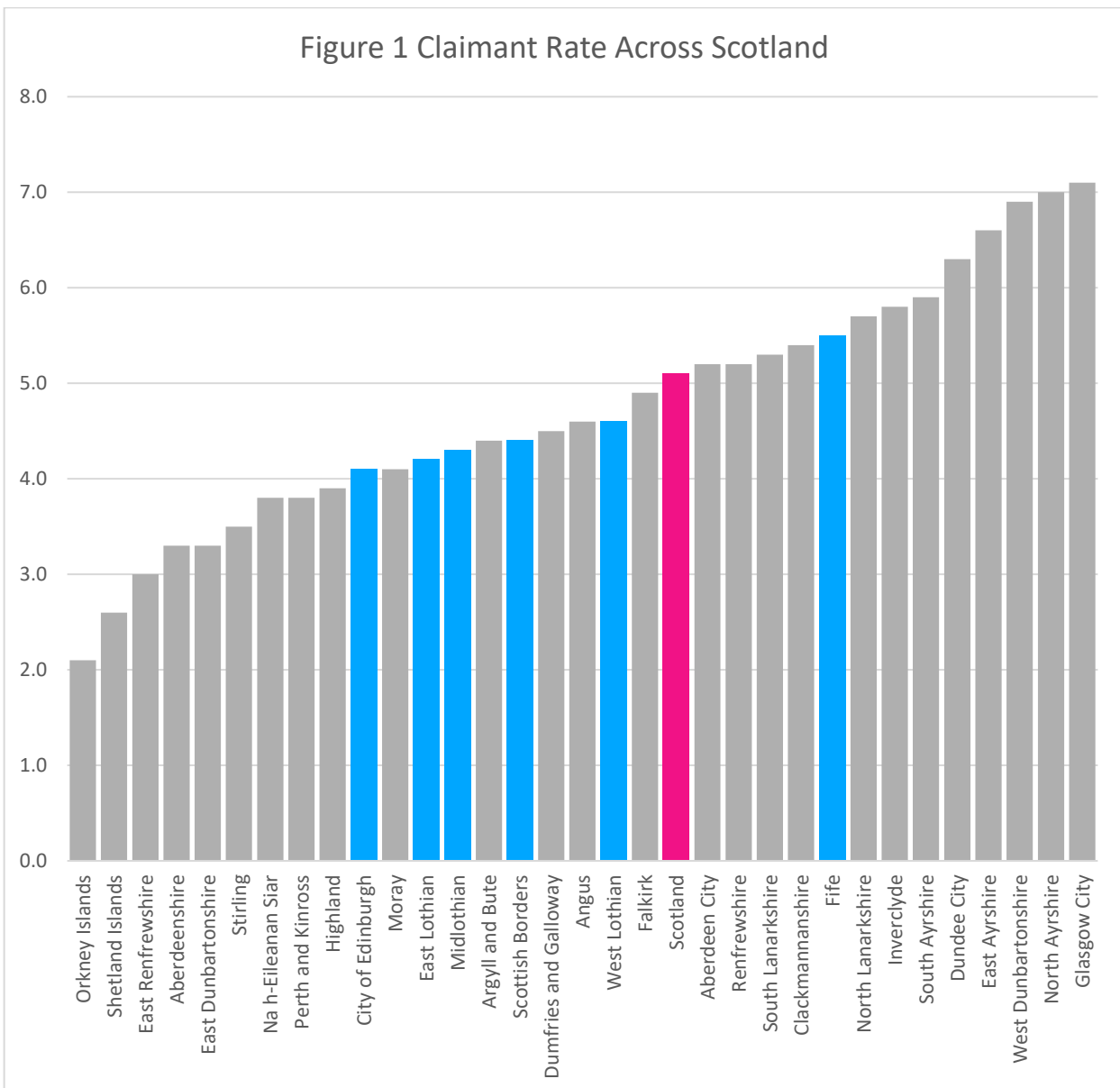
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

Area	February 2020	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Percentage Change		
					May21- Jun21	Jun21- Jul21	Feb20- Jul21
Aberdeen City	4,150	8,690	8,210	8,085	-6%	-2%	95%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	5,785	5,365	5,285	-7%	-1%	78%
Angus	2,040	3,395	3,130	3,140	-8%	0%	54%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	2,565	2,330	2,235	-9%	-4%	46%
City of Edinburgh	7,105	16,700	15,115	14,945	-9%	-1%	110%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	1,865	1,720	1,710	-8%	-1%	23%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	4,230	3,905	3,850	-8%	-1%	31%
Dundee City	4,530	6,460	6,105	6,190	-5%	1%	37%
East Ayrshire	3,685	5,295	4,950	4,980	-7%	1%	35%
East Dunbartonshire	1,230	2,295	2,125	2,120	-7%	0%	72%
East Lothian	1,765	3,100	2,750	2,755	-11%	0%	56%
East Renfrewshire	950	1,850	1,710	1,710	-8%	0%	80%
Falkirk	3,300	5,440	5,030	4,975	-8%	-1%	51%
Fife	8,765	13,740	12,860	12,795	-6%	-1%	46%
Glasgow City	20,055	34,280	32,155	32,095	-6%	0%	60%
Highland	3,715	6,795	5,945	5,595	-13%	-6%	51%
Inverclyde	2,255	2,955	2,740	2,805	-7%	2%	24%
Midlothian	1,470	2,770	2,525	2,485	-9%	-2%	69%
Moray	1,550	2,685	2,480	2,375	-8%	-4%	53%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	705	620	590	-12%	-5%	27%
North Ayrshire	4,600	6,080	5,625	5,675	-7%	1%	23%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	13,110	12,410	12,425	-5%	0%	51%
Orkney Islands	195	340	290	285	-15%	-2%	46%

Perth and Kinross	1,865	3,810	3,475	3,425	-9%	-1%	84%
Renfrewshire	4,025	6,515	5,985	5,960	-8%	0%	48%
Scottish Borders	1,860	3,320	3,075	2,995	-7%	-3%	61%
Shetland Islands	265	395	380	365	-4%	-4%	38%
South Ayrshire	2,790	4,245	3,930	3,850	-7%	-2%	38%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	11,460	10,685	10,700	-7%	0%	53%
Stirling	1,540	2,385	2,170	2,125	-9%	-2%	38%
West Dunbartonshire	2,930	4,180	3,895	3,835	-7%	-2%	31%
West Lothian	3,425	5,915	5,375	5,360	-9%	0%	56%
Scotland	114,605	193,365	179,055	177,725	-7%	-1%	55%
City Region	24,390	45,545	41,700	41,335	-8%	-1%	69%

Source: NOMIS 17/08/2021

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



Source: NOMIS 17/08/2021

Gender Profile

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the City Region. Generally, the proportion of males claiming across the region is the same now as it was in February 2020- 61% of claimants were and are male. This is consistent across the different LAs in the region with the proportion of males remaining the same in Edinburgh and Scottish Borders, a very slight increase in the proportion of males in East and Midlothian where the proportion of males has increased by 1 percentage point, a very slight increase in the proportion of females in Fife, again a 1 percentage point increase. West Lothian has recorded the largest change with a 2 percentage point swing.

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 July 2021.

Table 3: Change in Gender Split Across the City Region

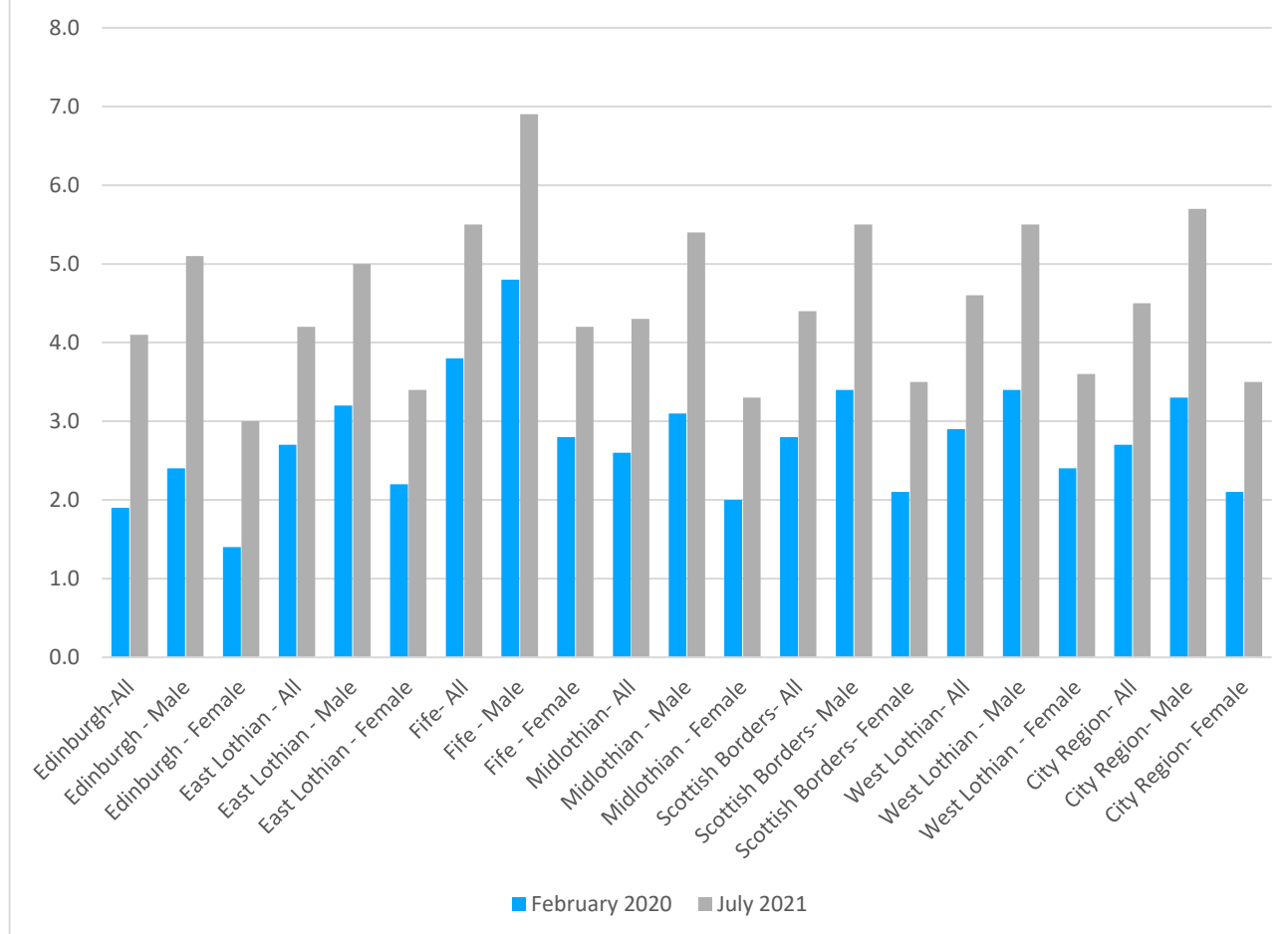
						Percentage Change		
		February 2020	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	May21 -Jun21	Jun21 -Jul21	Feb20 -Jul21
City of Edinburgh	All	7,105	16,700	15,115	14,945	-9%	-1%	110%
	Male	4,435	10,370	9,475	9,335	-9%	-1%	110%
	Female	2,665	6,325	5,640	5,615	-11%	0%	111%
East Lothian	All	1,765	3,100	2,750	2,755	-11%	0%	56%
	Male	1,005	1,810	1,595	1,590	-12%	0%	58%
	Female	760	1,290	1,155	1,165	-10%	1%	53%
Fife	All	8,765	13,740	12,860	12,795	-6%	-1%	46%
	Male	5,475	8,415	7,945	7,855	-6%	-1%	43%
	Female	3,290	5,325	4,915	4,940	-8%	1%	50%
Midlothian	All	1,470	2,770	2,525	2,485	-9%	-2%	69%
	Male	865	1,665	1,530	1,490	-8%	-3%	72%
	Female	605	1,105	995	1,000	-10%	1%	65%
Scottish Borders	All	1,860	3,320	3,075	2,995	-7%	-3%	61%
	Male	1,120	1,960	1,835	1,795	-6%	-2%	60%
	Female	740	1,360	1,240	1,200	-9%	-3%	62%
West Lothian	All	3,425	5,915	5,375	5,360	-9%	0%	56%
	Male	1,970	3,520	3,225	3,190	-8%	-1%	62%
	Female	1,455	2,395	2,145	2,170	-10%	1%	49%
City Region	All	24,385	45,545	41,695	41,335	-8%	-1%	70%
	Male	14,875	27,740	25,610	25,250	-8%	-1%	70%
	Female	9,510	17,800	16,090	16,085	-10%	0%	69%

Source: NOMIS 17/08/2021

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. Figure 3 below looks at the claimant rate by gender

Figure 2 illustrates how the claimant rate has increased for all, but also how that increase differs depending on the LA and the gender of the claimant.

Figure 2 Claimant Rate by LA and Gender.
Comparing February 2020 with July 2021



Source: NOMIS 17/08/2021

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.

The three tables below look at the 6 Local Authorities and the City Region in terms of age and gender. There is a lot of information in each table and each one focuses on 1 of 3 age groups.

Table 4 looks at 16-24 year old claimants and from this table it can be seen that in February 2020 there were 4,595 16-24 year old claimants in the City Region and in July 2021 there were 7,840.

The second part of the table looks at the percentage change in the number of claimants who were 16-24 years of age. From this it can be seen that across the city region between February 2020 and July 2021 there has been a 71% increase in the number of 16-24 year old claimants. This has ranged from a 118% increase in Edinburgh to 51% in Scottish Borders. Looking at all 16-24 year old claimants regardless of gender it can be seen that for the most part LAs recorded a greater fall in the claimant count between May and June than they did between June and July. There were 2 exceptions to this, Scottish Borders where a 5% fall in the number was recorded between May and June and then again between June and July. Perhaps most interesting is Midlothian where the fall in the claimant count for this age group *accelerated* between June and July so that a 10% fall in the number of claimants in July compared to June was evident.

Table 4: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region – Aged 16-24

	Gender	City of Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
February 2020	All	1,065	315	1,740	325	415	735	4,595
May 2021	All	2,650	620	2,860	610	695	1,305	8,745
June 2021	All	2,380	545	2,695	570	660	1,210	8,060
July 2021	All	2,325	535	2,660	515	625	1,175	7,840
February 2020	Female	430	130	620	120	170	295	1,775
May 2021	Female	995	240	1,055	220	285	515	3,310
June 2021	Female	855	210	985	215	275	460	3,005
July 2021	Female	870	205	995	205	245	465	2,985
February 2020	Male	630	185	1,120	205	245	435	2,820
May 2021	Male	1,655	380	1,810	390	410	795	5,435
June 2021	Male	1,520	335	1,710	350	385	750	5,055
July 2021	Male	1,455	325	1,665	315	375	710	4,850

Percentage Change	May21-Jun21	All	-10%	-12%	-6%	-7%	-5%	-7%	-8%
	Jun21-July21	All	-2%	-2%	-1%	-10%	-5%	-3%	-3%
	Feb 20-Jul21	All	118%	70%	53%	58%	51%	60%	71%
	May21-Jun21	Female	-14%	-13%	-7%	-2%	-4%	-11%	-9%
	Jun21-July21	Female	2%	-2%	1%	-5%	-11%	1%	-1%
	Feb 20-Jul21	Female	102%	58%	60%	71%	44%	58%	68%
	May21-Jun21	Male	-28%	-12%	-6%	-10%	-6%	-6%	-7%
	Jun21-July21	Male	-4%	-3%	-3%	-10%	-3%	-5%	-4%
	Feb 20-Jul21	Male	131%	76%	49%	54%	53%	63%	72%
	Gender	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region	

Source: NOMIS 17/08/2021

Looking at the position for 16-24 year olds in terms of gender. Table 4 indicates that in Edinburgh the number of claimants is falling more quickly for male 16-24 year olds than it is for females of the same age. In fact, between June and July there was an *increase* in the number of female 16-24 year olds claiming in the city and there was a decrease for males. Fife and West Lothian have also seen a small increase in the number of 16-24 year old claimants between June and July. For the other three LAs both genders have continued to record falls month to month. That said the gender disparity is apparent in the most recent data, with the claimant count for young males falling faster than for young females.

Table 5 looks at the same data, however this time the focus is on 25-49 year olds. From this data it is clear to see that month to month change for 25-49 year olds has generally been limited across the region with 4 of the LAs recording a 0% change in July compared to June. Of the other 2 Midlothian saw an increase of 1% in the number of claimants this age and Scottish Borders saw the number of 25-49 year old claimants fall by 2% between June and July 2021.

As with the younger age group there is a definite difference depending on gender. For example, whilst 4 of the 6 LAs in the city region saw the number of 25-49 year old male claimants *fall* between June and July, for female claimants 4 of the 6 recorded an *increase* in the number of

claimants. This is different from what had been recorded the month before where the number of female claimants fell at a faster rate than that of males.

Table 5: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region – Aged 25-49

	Gender	City of Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
February 2020	All	4,310	1,020	4,990	865	975	1,965	14,125
May 2021	All	10,280	1,755	7,705	1,575	1,725	3,355	26,390
June 2021	All	9,245	1,560	7,220	1,415	1,580	3,040	24,060
July 2021	All	9,230	1,560	7,200	1,435	1,550	3,045	24,025
February 2020	Female	1,630	445	1,885	370	395	855	5,580
May 2021	Female	3,910	740	3,005	660	710	1,350	10,370
June 2021	Female	3,465	655	2,760	585	640	1,215	9,320
July 2021	Female	3,480	665	2,785	595	630	1,240	9,400
February 2020	Male	575	3,105	495	580	1,115	8,550	575
May 2021	Male	1,015	4,700	915	1,015	2,005	16,020	1,015
June 2021	Male	900	4,460	835	940	1,825	14,735	900
July 2021	Male	895	4,420	840	920	1,805	14,630	895

Percentage Change	May21-Jun21	All	-10%	-11%	-6%	-10%	-8%	-9%	-9%
	Jun21-July21	All	0%	0%	0%	1%	-2%	0%	0%
	Feb 20-Jul21	All	114%	53%	44%	66%	59%	55%	70%
	May21-Jun21	Female	-11%	-11%	-8%	-11%	-10%	-10%	-10%
	Jun21-July21	Female	0%	2%	1%	2%	-2%	2%	1%
	Feb 20-Jul21	Female	113%	49%	48%	61%	59%	45%	68%
	May21-Jun21	Male	-9%	-11%	-5%	-9%	-7%	-9%	-8%
	Jun21-July21	Male	0%	-1%	-1%	1%	-2%	-1%	-1%
	Feb 20-Jul21	Male	115%	56%	42%	70%	59%	62%	71%
		Gender	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region

Source: NOMIS 17/08/2021

The final age category to look at is that of those 50 or above, presented in Table 6 below. The trend here is very similar to that recorded across other age groups, namely sharp falls in the numbers between May and July and less dramatic falls, stability or even increases in the number of claimants in July compared to June.

Differences by gender are clear in some LAs but not in every case. For example, the situation for those over 50 is very similar regardless of gender in Edinburgh and Fife. In East Lothian the number of male claimants 50 or over fell faster than that of females between May and June then between June and July there was a slight increase for both males and females.

Midlothian is interesting as it indicates that between May and June the number of female claimants 50 or over fell by 13%, whilst for males the claimant count fell by only 4%. More recently there has been a reverse with the 50+ female claimant count increasing by 3% between June and July and the male claimant count falling by 3% over the same period. Compare this to West Lothian where the most recent data indicates a fall of 1% for female claimants 50 or over and an increase of 4% for male claimants.

Table 6: Claimant Count Change by Age Across the City Region – Aged 50+

	Gender	City of Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
February 2020	All	1,730	430	2,030	280	470	725	5,665
May 2021	All	3,770	725	3,175	585	900	1,250	10,405
June 2021	All	3,490	650	2,940	540	835	1,125	9,575
July 2021	All	3,390	660	2,935	535	820	1,135	9,470
February 2020	Female	605	185	780	115	170	305	2,160
May 2021	Female	1,425	310	1,270	225	370	530	4,125
June 2021	Female	1,315	285	1,165	195	325	470	3,760
July 2021	Female	1,265	290	1,160	200	320	465	3,700
February 2020	Male	1,125	245	1,250	170	300	420	3,505
May 2021	Male	2,345	415	1,905	360	535	725	6,285
June 2021	Male	2,175	365	1,775	345	510	650	5,815
July 2021	Male	2,125	370	1,770	335	500	675	5,770

Percentage Change	May21-Jun21	All	-7%	-10%	-7%	-8%	-7%	-10%	-8%
	Jun21-July21	All	-3%	2%	0%	-1%	-2%	1%	-1%
	Feb 20-Jul21	All	96%	53%	45%	91%	74%	57%	67%
	May21-Jun21	Female	-8%	-8%	-8%	-13%	-12%	-11%	-9%
	Jun21-July21	Female	-4%	2%	0%	3%	-2%	-1%	-2%
	Feb 20-Jul21	Female	109%	57%	49%	74%	88%	52%	71%
	May21-Jun21	Male	-7%	-12%	-7%	-4%	-5%	-10%	-7%
	Jun21-July21	Male	-2%	1%	0%	-3%	-2%	4%	-1%
	Feb 20-Jul21	Male	89%	51%	42%	97%	67%	61%	65%
	Gender	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region	

Source: NOMIS 17/08/2021

What can we make of these statistics? Firstly, it is important to recognise that *relatively* small numerical changes can result in large percentage changes- a fall of 15 claimants has created a 3% fall in the count in Midlothian for example. However, what we can see, is that based on the data from July the reduction in the claimant count is slowing down and for some age groups and genders actually increasing again. One would anticipate that easing of restrictions on trading should give a boost to the economy and reinvigorate recruitment. However, a caveat will be around the impact of the removal of furlough and could this mean more claimants come onto the claimant count? One thing is certain is that whilst there are grounds for optimism in the labour market generally, it is still unclear how it will play out across the region and across all genders and age groups.

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 grouped by Local Authority. The third column in the table gives the number of claimants overall as of July 2021. The next three columns look at what proportion of these are in each age band. For example, across the City Region 19% of the July claimant count were 16-24 years of age, 58% were 25-49 and 23% were 50 or above.

The claimant rate is also presented and then the final two columns present the wards by two different 'rankings'. Firstly, wards with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (top of this list is Hawick and Denholm where 27% of all claimants are 16-24 years of age). Secondly rank of wards by claimant rate (in this case Kirkcaldy Central is top with a claimant rate of 10.6).

Overall, 43 wards have a higher proportion of claimants aged 16-24 than the City Region average. Of these 18 are in Fife, 8 West Lothian, 7 in Scottish Borders, 4 Midlothian and 3 each in East Lothian and Edinburgh.

In terms of the claimant rate 36 wards have a claimant rate that is above that of the City Region and of these 15 are in Fife, 7 in Edinburgh, 6 are West Lothian wards, 4 in Scottish Borders, Midlothian has 3 and East Lothian has 1.

Table 7 Ward Profile of July Claimant Count

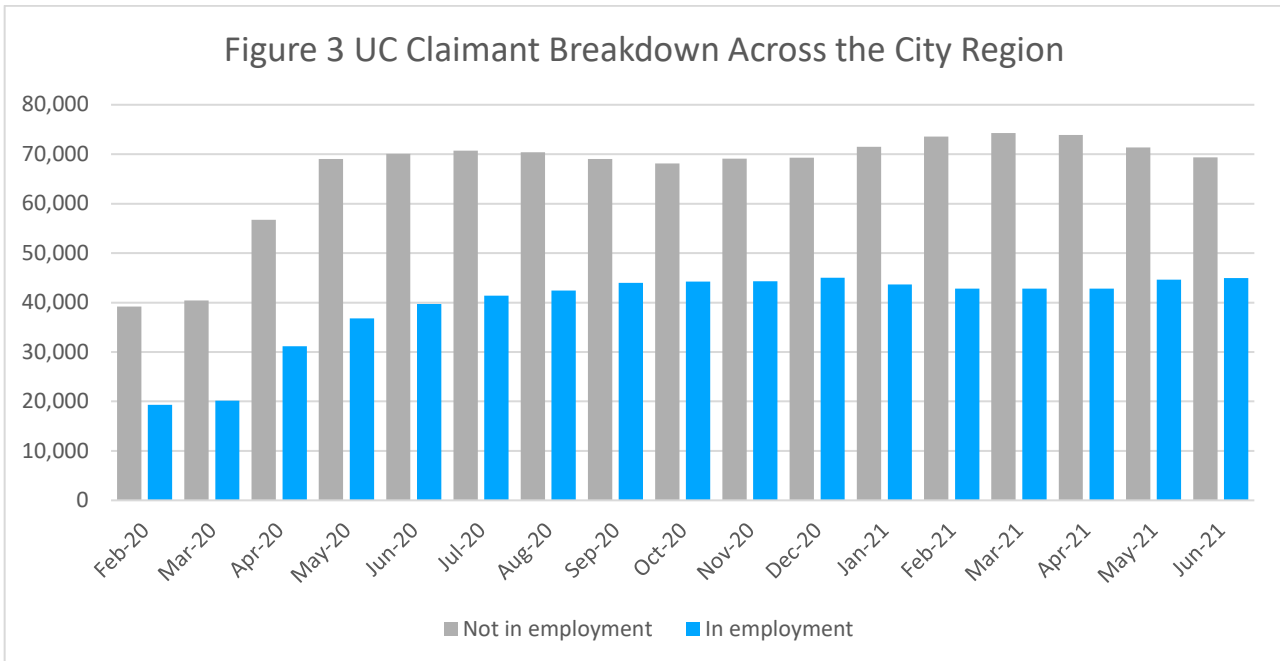
Local Authority	2019 electoral wards	July 2021 Claimants	Proportion who are....			Rate	Ranking	
			Age 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+		Prop. 16-24	Claimant Rate
W.Loathian	Whitburn and Blackburn	860	24%	57%	20%	6.3	8	8
W.Loathian	Fauldhouse & the Breich Valley	590	19%	64%	18%	5.8	46	14
W.Loathian	Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh	590	20%	55%	25%	4.8	29	30
W.Loathian	Armadale and Blackridge	465	26%	57%	18%	4.7	2	31
W.Loathian	Livingston South	720	25%	52%	22%	4.6	4	34
W.Loathian	Bathgate	715	20%	58%	23%	4.6	37	36
W.Loathian	East Livingston and East Calder	615	20%	56%	24%	4.3	38	41
W.Loathian	Livingston North	575	24%	57%	18%	3.8	5	50
W.Loathian	Linlithgow	225	20%	56%	24%	2.2	35	67
Borders	Hawick and Denholm	355	27%	52%	21%	6.6	1	6
Borders	Galashiels and District	580	22%	55%	23%	5.9	21	11
Borders	Hawick and Hermitage	280	25%	48%	25%	5.5	3	19
Borders	Jedburgh and District	250	20%	50%	32%	4.9	34	28
Borders	Selkirkshire	235	21%	51%	28%	4.2	24	43
Borders	East Berwickshire	235	15%	55%	30%	3.9	64	49
Borders	Kelso and District	215	19%	51%	30%	3.8	48	51
Borders	Mid Berwickshire	210	21%	48%	31%	3.5	22	55
Borders	Leaderdale and Melrose	220	23%	52%	23%	3.4	16	58
Borders	Tweeddale East	210	17%	52%	29%	3.3	56	60
Borders	Tweeddale West	200	13%	50%	38%	3.2	68	62
Midlothian	Dalkeith	485	24%	57%	20%	5.4	9	21
Midlothian	Midlothian South	450	20%	62%	18%	5.0	33	26
Midlothian	Midlothian East	460	24%	58%	17%	4.6	7	35
Midlothian	Penicuik	375	16%	63%	21%	4.5	58	39
Midlothian	Midlothian West	360	18%	51%	31%	3.8	49	52
Midlothian	Bonnyrigg	360	22%	53%	25%	3.2	19	61
Fife	Kirkcaldy Central	920	19%	59%	22%	10.6	42	1
Fife	Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,140	23%	56%	22%	10.4	14	2
Fife	Kirkcaldy East	920	18%	59%	23%	9.9	50	3
Fife	Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	960	23%	57%	20%	8.2	13	4

Fife	Cowdenbeath	895	23%	59%	18%	6.5	11	7
Fife	Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	525	19%	54%	28%	5.9	41	12
Fife	West Fife and Coastal Villages	560	20%	57%	24%	5.8	36	13
Fife	Glenrothes Central and Thornton	540	24%	55%	21%	5.7	6	15
Fife	Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	540	23%	56%	21%	5.6	12	18
Fife	Kirkcaldy North	540	21%	60%	19%	5.5	23	20
Fife	Leven, Kennoway and Largo	635	24%	52%	24%	5.4	10	22
Fife	Dunfermline Central	620	21%	59%	20%	5.3	27	24
Fife	Dunfermline North	540	18%	57%	25%	5.0	52	27
Fife	Dunfermline South	735	21%	59%	20%	4.8	25	29
Fife	Rosyth	480	22%	54%	23%	4.7	20	32
Fife	East Neuk and Landward	295	12%	54%	34%	4.2	70	44
Fife	Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	465	23%	56%	20%	4.1	17	45
Fife	Cupar	330	23%	53%	24%	3.9	15	47
Fife	Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	310	19%	52%	29%	3.9	40	48
Fife	Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	380	16%	50%	33%	3.5	61	57
Fife	Tay Bridgehead	275	20%	55%	25%	2.8	32	63
Fife	St Andrews	190	21%	47%	32%	1.3	26	72
Edinburgh	Forth	1,450	17%	62%	21%	6.8	57	5
Edinburgh	Portobello/Craigmillar	1,260	17%	62%	21%	6.1	54	9
Edinburgh	Leith	1,115	12%	65%	23%	6.1	71	10
Edinburgh	Craighentiny/Duddingston	1,190	16%	63%	21%	5.7	62	17
Edinburgh	Pentland Hills	1,140	19%	60%	22%	5.4	45	23
Edinburgh	Liberton/Gilmerton	1,185	19%	58%	23%	5.2	43	25
Edinburgh	Sighthill/Gorgie	1,205	15%	63%	22%	4.7	63	33
Edinburgh	Leith Walk	1,240	10%	69%	21%	4.4	72	40
Edinburgh	Almond	915	14%	62%	24%	4.0	66	46
Edinburgh	City Centre	1,005	12%	65%	22%	3.7	69	53
Edinburgh	Drum Brae/Gyle	535	16%	57%	27%	3.5	59	56
Edinburgh	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	475	15%	59%	25%	2.7	65	65
Edinburgh	Colinton/Fairmilehead	395	20%	54%	25%	2.6	30	66
Edinburgh	Southside/Newington	645	18%	58%	23%	2.2	51	68
Edinburgh	Inverleith	505	16%	59%	25%	2.2	60	69
Edinburgh	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	295	14%	58%	29%	2.0	67	70
Edinburgh	Morningside	395	20%	58%	22%	1.7	31	71
E. Lothian	Musselburgh	715	17%	59%	24%	5.7	55	16
E. Lothian	Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	645	21%	59%	20%	4.5	28	38
E. Lothian	Preston, Seton and Gosford	470	22%	54%	23%	4.2	18	42
E. Lothian	Haddington and Lammermuir	400	18%	54%	29%	3.6	53	54
E. Lothian	Dunbar and East Linton	310	19%	58%	23%	3.4	39	59
E. Lothian	North Berwick Coastal	215	19%	53%	28%	2.8	47	64
City Region		41,335	19%	58%	23%	4.6	44	37

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. July data for UC claimants is available, however it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the June 2021 data is the most up to date, where this split is available.



Source: StatXplore 18/8/2021

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 44,971 in June 2021 – 133% increase across the region. Those that were out of work increased from 39,224 in February 2020 to 73,867 in April 2021 and has fallen so that it is currently, June 2021, at 69,367- a 77% increase across the region.

What is of concern is that whilst the out of work claimants are reflecting a downward trend month to month, the in-work claimants show month to month increases, small increases but increases nonetheless.

Table 8 below looks at the Universal Credit statistics for each of the 6 LAs from June 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 232% increase in Edinburgh to a 75% increase in East Lothian. Across the region there has been a 133% increase in the numbers in work and claiming compared to 77% increase for those not in employment.

Table 8: Universal Credit Claimants

	Feb-20		June 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	21,173	15,441	134%	232%
East Lothian	3,725	2,120	5,535	3,704	49%	75%
Fife	14,794	6,467	22,888	13,016	55%	101%
Midlothian	3,173	1,741	5,104	3,390	61%	95%
Scottish Borders	2,874	1,546	5,005	3,336	74%	116%
West Lothian	5,608	2,809	9,662	6,085	72%	117%
City Region	39,224	19,338	69,367	44,971	77%	133%

Source: StatXplore 18/8/2021

Also worth reflecting on is that there are differences in the gender make up of these claimants. For example, in the June 2021 figures those claiming UC who are not in work 52% are male and 48% are female. Looking at those in work but claiming and the difference not only increases it changes gender, so that 42% of those claiming UC and working are male and 58% are female.

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