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Occasional research papers (2)

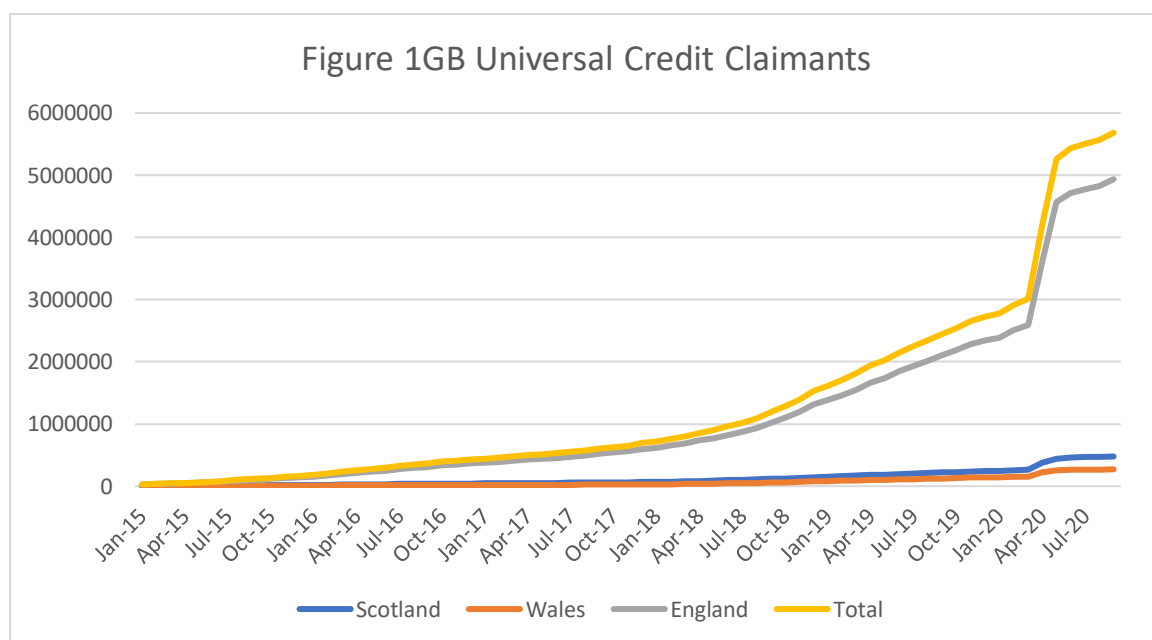
Universal Credit In Work Support – analysis of Edinburgh and South East Scotland Data

Universal Credit (UC) was introduced by the Welfare Reform Act 2012. It was rolled out incrementally across the UK both in terms of geographies and also in terms of particular client groups. Roll out was completed in December 2018 and Universal Credit is currently available in every jobcentre across Great Britain.

Universal Credit is a single payment for each household to help with living costs for those on a low income or out of work. It is replacing six benefits, commonly referred to as the legacy benefits:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

As we can see in the Chart below the vast majority of UC claimants in GB are in England and we can also see a significant increase between March and May 2020 linked to the current pandemic.



Source: StatXplore 6th November 2020

This research paper looks at the Universal Credit Claimant position across the city region highlighting how it has changed in different geographies and in terms of age groups and also how the in work support element has increased markedly.

Overall Picture

The Table below looks at the position in Scotland over the last 12 months. We can see that the most recent figures, August 2020, indicate that the split is now 36% of claimants are in work and 64% are looking for work. up until the start of the pandemic UC claimants tended to be split with around 31-33% in work and between 67-69% looking for work.

Table 1 Scotland UC split by Not in Employment and In Employment

Scotland	Sep-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug -20
Not in employment	149,070	167,897	176,685	181,376	246,604	293,044	299,315	301,514	301,137
	68%	69%	69%	69%	66%	67%	66%	65%	64%
In employment	70,673	75,745	79,400	82,740	126,918	146,384	157,245	164,900	168,909
	32%	31%	31%	31%	34%	33%	34%	35%	36%
Total	219,744	243,641	256,083	264,117	373,526	439,424	456,564	466,417	470,049

Local Authority Position

Turning now to look at what this looks like in the City Region.

Table 2 Universal Credit Split -City of Edinburgh

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Not in employment	9,041	9,465	15,233	20,496	21,223	21,337	21,276
	66%	66%	63%	64%	62%	61%	60%
In employment	4,650	4,961	9,032	11,739	12,923	13,607	14,062
	34%	34%	37%	36%	38%	39%	40%
Total	13,688	14,425	24,272	32,239	34,151	34,948	35,334

We can see in the table for Edinburgh that since February there has been a 158% increase in the number of UC claimants overall. Looking at the split by Employment Indicator we can see there has been an increase of 202% for those claiming whilst working and a 135% increase for those not in employment. Overall, there has been a 6 percentage point shift towards those in employment. The table below looks at the change by age group, split into those that are in employment or not in employment.

Table 3 Universal Credit Split and then presented by Age City of Edinburgh

	Feb-20			Aug-20			Change Feb -August	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
16-19	391	90	481	774	256	1,027	98%	184%
20-24	1,065	467	1,530	2,725	1,845	4,570	156%	295%
25-29	1,312	755	2,066	3,223	2,764	5,989	146%	266%
30-34	1,377	830	2,210	3,290	2,555	5,846	139%	208%
35-39	1,173	710	1,884	2,791	2,065	4,854	138%	191%

40-44	983	595	1,577	2,294	1,493	3,786	133%	151%
45-49	799	428	1,225	1,817	1,132	2,953	127%	164%
50-54	691	348	1,039	1,689	882	2,571	144%	153%
55-59	628	256	886	1,333	668	2,003	112%	161%
60-65	603	166	770	1,242	402	1,642	106%	142%
Over 65	21	..	24	83	6	88	295%	
Total	9,041	4,650	13,688	21,276	14,062	35,334	135%	202%

We can see from this table that the number claiming an in work grew most dramatically for 20-24 year olds where it had increased in the city by 295% between February and August from 467 in February to 1,845 in August.

In terms of East Lothian there has been an increase in the UC claimant count of 66% between February and August. The number who are claiming and in employment has increased by 79% over the 7 months and currently 39% of the UC claimants in the county are in employment- it was 36% in February.

Table 4 Universal Credit Split -East Lothian

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug -20	Feb-Aug Change
In employment	2,120	2,158	3,036	3,427	3,708	3,764	3,801	79%
	36%	37%	37%	36%	38%	38%	39%	
Not in employment	3,725	3,739	5,169	6,068	6,016	6,013	5,922	59%
	64%	63%	63%	64%	62%	62%	61%	
Total	5,842	5,894	8,205	9,497	9,724	9,777	9,718	66%

In terms of a split by age we can see that in East Lothian there has been a 233% increase (30 claimants to 366 claimants) in the number of 16-19 year olds claiming UC who are in employment and a 112% increase for those aged 20-24. The largest percentage increase for those not in employment was for those aged over 65 where a 182% increase can be seen.

Table 5 Universal Credit Split and then presented by Age East Lothian

	Feb-20			Aug-20			Change Feb -August	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
16-19	160	30	192	265	100	366	66%	233%
20-24	431	197	625	728	417	1,141	69%	112%
25-29	488	405	892	728	635	1,361	49%	57%
30-34	536	396	931	826	642	1,460	54%	62%
35-39	452	333	788	669	608	1,280	48%	83%
40-44	335	248	583	573	428	1,001	71%	73%
45-49	338	189	528	568	372	939	68%	97%
50-54	331	135	470	548	265	811	66%	96%
55-59	327	95	428	480	195	674	47%	105%
60-65	317	84	398	505	139	645	59%	65%
Over 65	11	..	12	31	6	37	182%	
Total	3,725	2,120	5,842	5,922	3,801	9,718	59%	79%

The table below looks at the position in Fife. We can see that overall, the number of claimants has increased from 21,262 in February to 35,359 in August which is almost the same as Edinburgh despite the fact that the population of Edinburgh is around 150,000 more than Fife. In terms of those out of work and claiming there has been an increase of 56% over the 7 months examined, whilst for those in work and claiming there has been an increase of 89%.

Table 6 Universal Credit Split -Fife

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Feb-Aug Change
Not in employment	14,794	15,211	19,617	22,549	22,848	23,226	23,128	56%
	70%	70%	67%	68%	67%	66%	65%	
In employment	6,467	6,637	9,542	10,695	11,403	11,868	12,233	89%
	30%	30%	33%	32%	33%	34%	35%	
Total	21,262	21,846	29,158	33,237	34,252	35,091	35,359	

Looking at the age profile of these Fife based claimants we can see that once again the 16-19 and 20-24 in work age group has seen the greatest increase in the number of claimants with rises of 140% and 128% respectively. Similar to other areas the largest increase for the those not in employment was seen for those over the age of 65 where a 359% increase was recorded from 22 claimants in February to 101 in August. These are still, relatively small numbers but could have a knock-on effect for poverty in older person households moving forward.

Table 7 Universal Credit Split and then presented by Age- Fife

Fife	Feb-20			Aug-20			Change Feb -August	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
16-19	862	137	1,002	1,290	329	1,626	50%	140%
20-24	2,103	700	2,804	3,347	1,594	4,942	59%	128%
25-29	2,199	1,176	3,370	3,297	1,990	5,288	50%	69%
30-34	1,924	1,252	3,177	3,105	2,172	5,280	61%	73%
35-39	1,719	950	2,665	2,711	1,790	4,498	58%	88%
40-44	1,378	759	2,135	2,171	1,348	3,521	58%	78%
45-49	1,279	562	1,839	1,985	1,065	3,047	55%	90%
50-54	1,170	418	1,588	1,881	875	2,757	61%	109%
55-59	1,073	322	1,394	1,659	644	2,298	55%	100%
60-65	1,067	199	1,268	1,584	408	1,996	48%	105%
Over 65	22	..	22	101	14	117	359%	
Total	14,794	6,467	21,262	23,128	12,233	35,359	56%	89%

We next look at the position in Midlothian (see below) where we can see that in February 2020 there were 4,921 UC claimants and by August this had increased to 8,508. Again, we can see that there has been a greater increase in the number of claimants who were actually in work – up by 91% compared to those that were out of work – a 63% increase.

Table 8 Universal Credit Split -Midlothian

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Feb-Aug Change
Not in employment	3,173	3,211	4,551	5,302	5,252	5,210	5,186	63%
	64%	64%	63%	64%	62%	61%	61%	
In employment	1,741	1,810	2,704	3,036	3,215	3,332	3,321	91%
	35%	36%	37%	36%	38%	39%	39%	
Total	4,921	5,018	7,255	8,339	8,471	8,543	8,508	

The Midlothian age profile indicates that once again there has been an increase in the number of young people who are in work and need the support of UC. For example, there has been a 145% increase in the number of claimants who were 20-24 years of age and in work. However, we can also see that the number of claimants in work aged between 50-60 has increased in Midlothian by a higher rate than most of the other age groups.

Table 9 Universal Credit Split and then presented by Age- Midlothian

	Feb-20			Aug-20			Change Feb -August	
Midlothian	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
16-19	177	35	215	262	71	330	48%	103%
20-24	413	161	572	675	394	1,066	63%	145%
25-29	452	327	780	692	582	1,274	53%	78%
30-34	425	374	793	704	627	1,334	66%	68%
35-39	411	272	680	691	523	1,210	68%	92%
40-44	260	202	462	462	357	819	78%	77%
45-49	284	150	438	461	294	752	62%	96%
50-54	250	102	355	449	231	677	80%	126%
55-59	235	70	303	368	149	512	57%	113%
60-65	262	52	319	405	99	497	55%	90%
Over 65	5	..	5	26	8	35	420%	
Total	3,173	1,741	4,921	5,186	3,321	8,508	63%	91%

Turning now to look at Scottish Borders. Overall there are 8,256 UC claimants in August of which 38% are in work. In February there were 4,424 UC claimants in Scottish Borders. The same situation is seen here in that it is the number in work and requiring the help of UC that has shown the greatest increase and we can see a 102% increase.

Table 10 Universal Credit Split -Scottish Borders

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Feb-Aug Change
Not in employment	2,874	2,995	4,342	5,137	5,180	5,187	5,129	78%
	65%	65%	64%	65%	64%	63%	62%	
In employment	1,546	1,608	2,434	2,763	2,961	3,054	3,130	102%
	35%	35%	36%	35%	36%	37%	38%	
Total	4,424	4,604	6,778	7,901	8,142	8,240	8,256	

Scottish Borders is slightly different from the other Authorities looked at as the largest increase in employed UC claimants has been for 60-65 year olds where there has been an increase of 138% over the last 7 months.

Table 11 Universal Credit Split and then presented by Age- Scottish Borders

	Feb-20			Aug-20			Change Feb -August	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Scottish Borders								
16-19	188	43	231	311	88	392	65%	105%
20-24	428	188	613	763	398	1,162	78%	112%
25-29	415	264	684	664	514	1,176	60%	95%
30-34	353	229	582	631	411	1,044	79%	79%
35-39	326	249	578	559	478	1,040	71%	92%
40-44	248	163	411	462	336	798	86%	106%
45-49	237	152	389	430	313	742	81%	106%
50-54	238	119	359	440	268	707	85%	125%
55-59	226	77	299	422	165	589	87%	114%
60-65	204	63	268	419	150	563	105%	138%
Over 65	7	..	9	34	..	38	386%	
Total	2,874	1,546	4,424	5,129	3,130	8,256	78%	102%

Final Authority in the City Region to examine is West Lothian. We can see in Table 11 below that the overall number of UC claimants has increased by 86% from 8,419 in February to 15,647 in August. Again, the number claiming and being in work has increased by 110% over the 7 month period, higher than the 74% increase for those not in employment.

Table 12 Universal Credit Split -West Lothian

	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	
Not in employment	5,608	5,799	7,855	9,475	9,528	9,720	9,754	74%
	67%	66%	64%	65%	63%	63%	62%	
In employment	2,809	2,971	4,437	5,132	5,513	5,786	5,893	110%
	33%	34%	36%	35%	37%	37%	38%	
Total	8,419	8,771	12,290	14,610	15,042	15,509	15,647	86%

The final table below illustrates that in West Lothian the largest increases are again for those under 25 and it records a 158% increase in the employed claimants who were 20-24 years of age.

Table 13 Universal Credit Split and then presented by Age – West Lothian

	Feb-20			Aug-20			Change Feb -August	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
West Lothian								
16-19	375	72	444	628	179	805	67%	149%
20-24	837	290	1,132	1,394	749	2,141	67%	158%
25-29	857	503	1,360	1,384	976	2,359	61%	94%
30-34	798	504	1,300	1,336	964	2,301	67%	91%
35-39	584	460	1,047	1,115	920	2,038	91%	100%
40-44	534	287	826	929	665	1,593	74%	132%

45-49	482	262	742	870	527	1,400	80%	101%
50-54	455	208	665	823	441	1,258	81%	112%
55-59	357	142	500	674	277	951	89%	95%
60-65	321	82	405	560	186	741	74%	127%
Over 65	8	..	8	50	10	54	525%	
Total	5,608	2,809	8,419	9,754	5,893	15,647	74%	110%

Small Area Change

The tables below look at the position in the Intermediate Data Zone Geographies across the city region, focusing on the 10 within each local authority that firstly recorded the largest percentage increases between February and August and then the areas which have the largest numbers of claimants. This gives a far more focused picture of where the claimants who are both out and in work reside. One thing to point out is that often the total doesn't equal the sum of the two employment indicator columns. This is due to the fact that DWP introduced random error to the data used with Stat-Xplore to ensure that no data are released which could risk the identification of individuals in the statistics. This becomes more noticeable the smaller the sample – for example when we look at small geographies.

Table 14 below looks at the areas in Edinburgh that have recorded the largest percentage increases in terms of claimants, for example there has been an 880% increase in the number of in work UC claimants who reside in Fairmilehead. However even with this rate of increase the number of claimants in this area who are in work is only 49.

Table 14 Intermediate DZ Position-Edinburgh-10 areas with the largest percentage increase.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Marchmont East and Sciennes	21	10	36	128	89	219	510%	790%
Fairmilehead	13	5	25	64	49	115	392%	880%
Merchiston and Greenhill	20	5	27	85	41	122	325%	720%
Duddingston and Portobello South	13	8	24	79	50	127	508%	525%
Marchmont West	19	6	22	94	38	139	395%	533%
Cramond	6	6	15	32	35	63	433%	483%
Comely Bank	16	6	25	61	43	107	281%	617%
Craighleith, Orchard Brae and Crewe Toll	17	7	28	75	39	114	341%	457%
Barnton, Cammo and Cramond South	12	5	21	51	26	78	325%	420%

Table 15 below looks at the same statistics but presents the 10 areas with the highest number of claimants overall rather than the percentage change. What we can see here is the areas with high numbers of claimants before the pandemic have seen the claimant count increase, and this increase has tended to be higher (as it has in other areas) amongst those that are in work.

Table 15 Intermediate DZ Position-Edinburgh-10 areas with the largest overall claimant count.

	August			February			Percentage Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Muirhouse	318	174	492	603	376	979	90%	116%
West Pilton	240	142	388	519	377	892	116%	165%
Craigmillar	244	139	381	516	353	875	111%	154%
Murrayburn and Wester Hailes North	311	152	465	517	291	811	66%	91%
Niddrie	253	125	372	492	279	767	94%	123%
Great Junction Street	209	88	296	456	309	764	118%	251%
The Calders	261	144	400	456	263	719	75%	83%
Gracemount, Southhouse and Burdiehouse	231	119	349	429	258	690	86%	117%
North Leith and Newhaven	221	105	323	441	242	678	100%	130%

The next set of tables looks at the situation in East Lothian, which is slightly different as none of the areas have a common name, instead they are simply recorded as IZ18 (intermediate Zone 18). Whilst the areas in East Lothian that have recorded the highest percentage change from February to August include areas where overall numbers remain, relatively low, IZ18 for example, the county also as areas where a high overall count are also linked to a relatively high percentage increase.

Table 16 Intermediate DZ Position-East Lothian -10 areas with the largest percentage change in claimant count.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
IZ18	31	14	43	66	45	112	113%	221%
IZ03	57	34	90	114	79	188	100%	132%
IZ17	70	43	108	140	87	228	100%	102%
IZ13	129	75	201	229	159	385	78%	112%
IZ15	106	56	167	196	107	308	85%	91%
IZ20	89	82	174	173	143	319	94%	74%
IZ09	164	89	255	256	177	438	56%	99%
IZ14	114	65	179	197	117	311	73%	80%
IZ19	124	69	196	205	129	335	65%	87%
IZ11	234	132	364	362	256	618	55%	94%

Table 17 looks at the 10 areas of the county with the highest number of claimants in August. As with other areas these small neighbourhoods tend to have been the ones which had higher number of claimants in February and none of them have had a percentage claimant count rise of a scale that would have seen them feature in Table 16.

Table 17 Intermediate DZ Position-East Lothian -10 areas with the largest overall claimant count.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
IZ01	319	209	527	514	334	847	61%	60%
IZ10	307	189	499	457	310	768	49%	64%
IZ07	290	144	437	420	290	709	45%	101%
IZ11	234	132	364	362	256	618	55%	94%
IZ04	240	124	362	382	224	601	59%	81%
IZ05	223	121	348	337	207	546	51%	71%
IZ16	229	123	353	334	205	542	46%	67%
IZ21	199	126	326	303	229	533	52%	82%
IZ08	200	105	300	294	184	482	47%	75%
IZ09	164	89	255	256	177	438	56%	99%

Looking now at the small areas of Fife. The Table below looks at the 10 small areas which have recorded the largest percentage increases. We can see that the overall numbers tend to be small in these areas and they all had less than 100 UC claimants in February.

Table 18 Intermediate DZ Position-Fife -10 areas with the largest percentage increase.

	Feb-20			Aug-20			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in Emp	In Emp
Dalgety Bay West and Hillend	5	6	16	41	30	65	720%	400%
Dalgety Bay Central	22	21	38	82	55	142	273%	162%
St Andrews North and Strathkinness	14	8	20	48	24	70	243%	200%
Balmullo and Gauldry	27	16	44	92	54	141	241%	238%
Dunfermline Masterton	14	19	37	47	48	94	236%	153%
Kirkcaldy Dunnikier	24	15	43	67	52	121	179%	247%
Dunfermline Pitcorthie East	22	21	43	59	48	104	168%	129%
Crossford Charlestown and Limekilns	36	26	63	92	72	159	156%	177%
Dunfermline Pitcorthie West	27	19	43	67	52	114	148%	174%
Elie Colinsburgh and Largoward	41	19	62	98	46	145	139%	142%

The next Fife focused table ignores the percentage increase and just lists the top 10 small areas by the number of claimants regardless of the scale of increase in the last 7 months. What we can see here is that none of these have seen a rate of increase of over 100% but all of them had over 600 UC claimants by August

Table 19 Intermediate DZ Position-Fife -10 areas with the largest overall claimant count.

	February 2020			August 2020			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in Emp	In Emp
Kirkcaldy Gallatown and Sinclairtown	430	166	594	597	252	854	39%	52%
Kirkcaldy Templehall East	427	177	602	588	263	848	38%	49%
Cardenden	372	155	526	556	266	826	49%	72%
Buckhaven, Denbeath and Muiredge	432	142	572	577	240	813	34%	69%
Glenrothes Macedonia and Tanshall	346	161	504	490	252	744	42%	57%
Kirkcaldy Linktown & Seafield	403	115	518	555	181	739	38%	57%
Dunfermline Abbeyview North	335	137	469	495	230	724	48%	68%
Methil Methilhill	289	132	424	445	222	669	54%	68%
Methil East	382	95	479	483	145	631	26%	53%
Kennoway and Bonnybank	303	105	411	426	178	604	41%	70%

Next we turn to look at the situation in Midlothian and Table 20 highlights the 10 IZs in Midlothian which have recorded the highest percentage increase between February and August. Eskbank has recorded the highest percentage increase in Midlothian with an increase of 153% for those not in employment and 184% for those in employment.

Table 20 Intermediate DZ Position-Midlothian -10 areas with the largest percentage change in claimant count.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Eskbank	36	32	71	91	91	180	153%	184%
Newbattle and Dalhousie	106	69	178	255	185	439	141%	168%
Shawfair	105	76	187	213	173	386	103%	128%
Pentland	56	28	88	105	68	172	88%	143%
Straiton	100	35	133	167	84	246	67%	140%
Rural South Midlothian	60	41	102	127	79	202	112%	93%
Thornybank	193	112	308	324	237	560	68%	112%
Roslin and Bilston	111	52	161	191	100	294	72%	92%
Pathhead and Rural East Midlothian	186	121	310	350	212	560	88%	75%
Penicuik Southeast	110	65	175	192	118	310	75%	82%

Table 21 looks at the 10 areas in Midlothian with the highest number of UC claimants overall in August 2020. From this we can see that Mayfield has 619 claimants of which 400 or so are not in employment.

Table 21 Intermediate DZ Position-Midlothian -10 areas with the largest overall claimant count.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Mayfield	247	142	385	400	224	619	62%	58%
Thornycroft	193	112	308	324	237	560	68%	112%
Pathhead and Rural East Midlothian	186	121	310	350	212	560	88%	75%
Dalkeith	268	103	368	378	155	534	41%	50%
Gorebridge and Middleton	197	105	299	290	201	490	47%	91%
Bonnyrigg North	192	94	283	311	169	481	62%	80%
Bonnyrigg South	152	109	260	247	203	446	63%	86%
Newbattle and Dalhousie	106	69	178	255	185	439	141%	168%
Easthouses	177	95	270	263	170	433	49%	79%
North Gorebridge	223	79	302	281	143	430	26%	81%

The table below looks at the 10 Intermediate Data Zones in the Scottish Borders that have recorded the highest percentage rise. As with the other authorities the increase in the number of in work claimants in areas such as Berwickshire Central and St Boswells and Newtown area is worth highlighting. Generally though, the overall numbers in these areas are low. Also, of interest is that there are two areas, Lauder and Cheviot West, where the number of out of work UC claimants increased by a far higher percentage than the number of in work claimants.

Table 22 Intermediate DZ Position-Scottish Borders -10 areas with the largest percentage change in claimant count.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Berwickshire Central	72	24	95	151	84	238	110%	250%
Lauder and Area	33	20	51	100	49	150	203%	145%
Cheviot West	30	25	52	98	54	150	227%	116%
Tweeddale West Area	58	36	92	150	92	237	159%	156%
Cheviot East	58	26	85	142	68	207	145%	162%
Denholm and Hermitage	53	33	85	132	74	208	149%	124%
St Boswells and Newtown Area	88	31	116	136	97	230	55%	213%
Tweeddale East Area	92	62	152	199	149	348	116%	140%
Peebles South	44	24	67	104	51	157	136%	113%
Berwickshire East	73	40	115	154	91	247	111%	128%

Table 23 looks at the actual numbers, not the percentage increase, and again these tend to be different areas from those in the table above. For example, Burnfoot had nearly 500 claimants in August and of these 308 were not in employment. This area had seen an increase of 'only' 50% for those that were not in employment. Tweeddale East may be the one exception as it features in both tables and has recorded a 140% increase in the number of in work claimants.

Table 23 Intermediate DZ Position-Scottish Borders -10 areas with the largest overall claimant count.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Burnfoot	205	103	310	308	160	468	50%	55%
Selkirk	161	80	241	267	159	422	66%	99%
Hawick Central	163	90	253	264	154	418	62%	71%
Langlee	183	78	268	273	142	413	49%	82%
Galashiels North	138	92	233	252	151	401	83%	64%
Eyemouth	126	82	203	181	167	351	44%	104%
Tweeddale East Area	92	62	152	199	149	348	116%	140%
Earlston Stow and Clovernforde Area	95	81	173	198	150	347	108%	85%
Jedburgh	147	58	211	238	108	343	62%	86%
Galashiels West	122	56	177	207	124	333	70%	121%

Table 24 below looks at the 10 West Lothian small areas that have recorded the highest percentage changes between February and August. One thing to note is that compared to some of the small areas in Fife and Edinburgh the percentage change recorded tends to be less dramatic. For some the overall number of claimants is higher than that recorded in similar high percentage increase areas elsewhere in the City Region.

Table 24 Intermediate DZ Position-West Lothian -10 areas with the largest percentage increase.

	February 2020			February 2020			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Bankton and Murieston	25	20	43	85	47	132	240%	135%
Mid Calder and Kirknewton	61	27	85	139	101	238	128%	274%
Knightsridge and Deans North	30	20	51	82	64	141	173%	220%
Linlithgow North	9	14	27	41	29	69	356%	107%
Bathgate, Wester Inch and Inchcross	119	82	201	271	218	490	128%	166%
Livingston Village and Eliburn South	67	42	114	156	107	264	133%	155%
Linlithgow South	64	32	96	135	88	221	111%	175%
East Calder	106	54	159	228	135	362	115%	150%
Bellsquarry, Adamrae and Kirkton	62	44	107	149	89	240	140%	102%
Broxburn East	81	41	123	150	110	260	85%	168%

Two areas in the table above seem to be slightly unusual as they have recorded higher percentage rises in the number of out of work claimants when compared to in work, generally the later has recorded the most.

Similar to elsewhere, the area in West Lothian with the most UC claimants in August 2020 was also the area with the highest number of claimants in February and the percentage change, in the current context, wasn't that noticeable.

Table 25 Intermediate DZ Position-West Lothian -10 areas with the largest overall claimant count.

	February			August			% Change	
	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp	Total	Not in emp	In emp
Craigshill	332	191	523	527	346	878	59%	81%
Whitburn Central	335	150	485	508	246	753	52%	64%
Blackburn	314	112	426	470	192	665	50%	71%
Ladywell	230	143	377	388	254	643	69%	78%
Bathgate East	228	110	337	388	243	629	70%	121%
Knightsridge	214	110	322	356	255	613	66%	132%
Dedridge East	229	125	349	368	244	613	61%	95%
Armadale South	235	108	344	378	235	611	61%	118%
Fauldhouse	249	95	345	372	193	563	49%	103%
Blaeberry Hill and East Whitburn	214	94	312	357	181	536	67%	93%

Children in Households Claiming Universal Credit

This section looks at those claiming UC by Family Type, however when we look at households and Family Type we find StatXplore is limited and it does not have the facility to break this down further into those that are in work and those that are out of work.

The first table simply looks at all UC claimants, both in and out of work and presents the percentage change between February and August 2020. What we can see here is that for each LA the largest percentage increase was for couples with no children., However the numbers for this group were relatively low to start with. What we can see is that the majority of UC claimants across the city region are single households with 56,263 single claimants with no child dependents in August and 20,409 single claimants with child dependents. Together this constitutes 81% of all household claimants.

Table 26 Households on Universal Credit by Family Type Percentage Change February 2020 to August 2020 and Actual Figures for February and August by LA

	Single, no child dependant	Single, with child dependant(s)	Couple, no child dependant	Couple, with child dependant(s)
City of Edinburgh	159%	48%	427%	159%
Feb	7,559	3,259	411	1,165
Aug	19,601	4,816	2,168	3,014
East Lothian	74%	14%	125%	76%
Feb	2,408	1,846	232	628
Aug	4,200	2,103	521	1,104
Fife	67%	22%	122%	80%
Feb	10,330	5,821	790	1,998
Aug	17,235	7,094	1,756	3,605
Midlothian	73%	18%	182%	101%

Feb	2,165	1,611	154	459
Aug	3,741	1,899	435	924
Scottish Borders	80%	29%	206%	91%
Feb	2,193	1071	157	491
Aug	3,953	1,385	481	937
West Lothian	81%	30%	197%	108%
Feb	4,153	2,408	262	765
Aug	7,522	3,119	777	1,588
Total	95%	27%	206%	103%
Feb	28,799	16,016	2,005	5,501
Aug	56,263	20,409	6,137	11,170

In terms of children we can see that there are 31,579 claimant households with children and this makes up 33% of all Universal Credit claimant households in the city region.

Conclusion

This paper has simply examined the information held on StatXplore as it reflects Universal Credit.

From the data we can see that over the course of the pandemic there has been an increase in the number (and proportion) of UC claimants who are in work and generally the increase has been higher than for those who are looking for work. Whilst this is more noticeable in areas where there were smaller numbers of UC claimants before February it is apparent across the region.

The data also highlights that whilst the percentage increase has been greatest in areas with a small number of claimants to start with, the areas with high claimant counts at the start are still featuring as the areas with higher claimant counts in August.

In terms of age profile of claimants, there has been both large numerical and percentage rises for the younger aged (up to 25) UC claimants. In some areas there has also been high percentage rises for older age groups, but the overall number in these cohorts are still relatively small.

The largest claimant numbers are within single adult households but the largest percentage increase can be seen in couple households with no children.

What can we conclude from this?

Firstly it suggests that many people are turning to UC to help to support them through the crisis, and the fact that many of these are people who are still linked to the labour market should be seen as a positive. For those that are receiving in work support from UC one would argue that they could be in a position to increase hours or take on additional work if needed when the economy starts to pick up, with the claimant count falling as a result.

Secondly many of those areas which have seen very large percentage increases, had not featured significantly in pre pandemic UC statistics. This may indicate that the claimants within these areas are able to re-enter the labour market themselves, and it is simply the pandemic and its impact on the economy, that has caused them to feature as UC claimants.

The third point to make is that we are seeing numbers increase across the region in areas where unemployment and low incomes have been recorded in the past. Whilst some of these clients will be

in a similar position to those referred to above, many may not be able to re-enter the labour market as easily and will need additional support going forward.

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3rd December 2020

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