



Office for Health
Improvement
& Disparities

Yorkshire and the Humber: Economic impact of COVID-19

December 2021

Purpose of this slide set

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- The purpose of this slide set is to provide a 'snapshot' of real-time data that captures the social and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on local communities.
- This data should be set alongside enquiries and trends data from national Citizens Advice to consider the direction of travel, potential impact on people's mental health locally, encourage collaboration with key partners and development of services as the coronavirus control measures ease and economic support to the self employed and businesses draws to a close.

Data sets:

- **DWP Claimant count** counts the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work.
- **Universal Credit** is a payment that helps with living costs due to low income, being out of work or unable to work replacing Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit, Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance and Employment Support Scheme and Working Tax Credit.
- **Job Retention Scheme (Furlough)** was set up in March 2020 to help pay worker's wages if they are unable to work during the pandemic. Employers claim a grant so workers receive up to 80% of their wages to a total of £2,500 each month. Furlough was extended to September 2021, at 70% of wages from July up to a maximum of £2,187.50p each month, and from August to 60% of wages up to a maximum of £1,875.00p each month.

Yorkshire and the Humber – the headlines

Claimant count

- From November 2019 claimant count increased from nearly 109,000 to just over 227,000 in February and March 2021.
- Over the past 4 months claimant count reduced to around 175,000 in October 2021.

Universal Credit

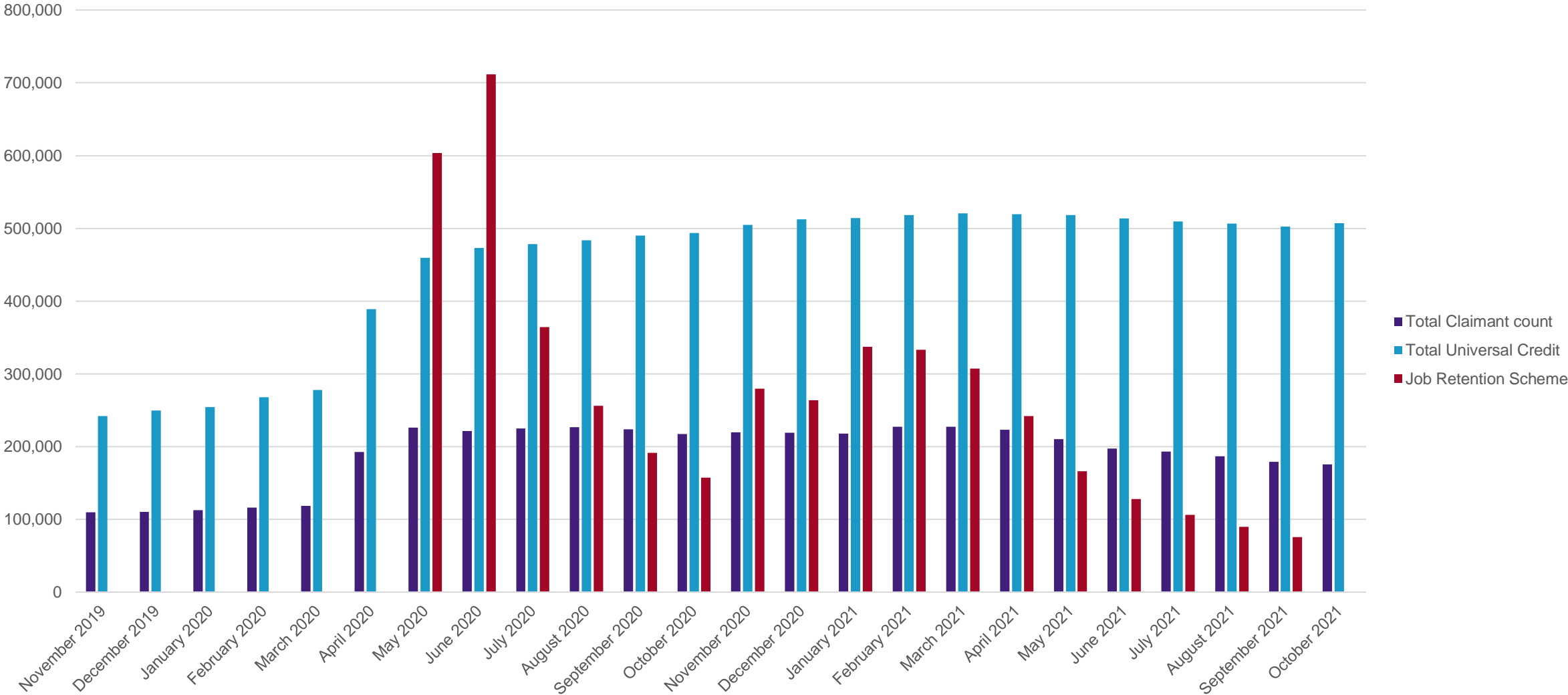
- Claims to universal credit increased from 240,000 to a high of 520,000 in March 2021.
- There has been a decrease in claims over the past few months, but remains stubbornly high at around 506,000.

Furlough

- At its highest point in June 2020 there were over 700,000 employees on furlough, and 520,000 in March 2021 and around 75,000 as furlough closed in September 2021.



Yorkshire and the Humber





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