

June 2021

This publication is prepared by Communities Service, Perth & Kinross Council.

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We welcome your comments and feedback.

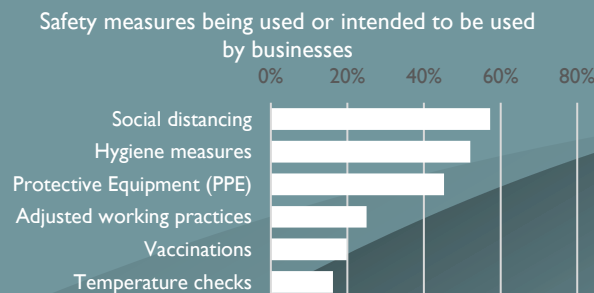
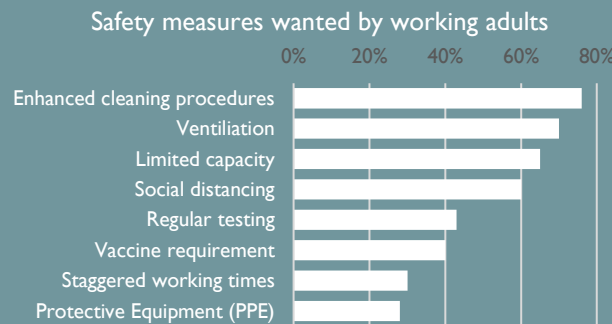
INTRODUCTION

With Scotland’s areas moving to Tier 2 and lower, we have experienced a gradual re-opening of parts of the economy. Interestingly, among the new working practices is the rise of homeworking. Although remote working job adverts still constitute only 8% of total online ads, job adverts including the term ‘homeworking’ were 3 times higher in May 2021 than their pre-pandemic levels¹.

Of businesses that hadn’t permanently stopped trading, 24% intend to use increased homeworking while 28% were not sure. The Information and Communication industry were most likely to increase homeworking in the future (49%), but that is below the current level of homeworking in that industry (81.4%). Relevant to our local economy, Accommodation and Food Services were least likely to intend to increase homeworking (only 6%, and currently at 7.8%).²

When returning to their normal place of work, social distancing and enhanced cleaning procedures are top priorities for businesses² and working adults.³

Over a third of Scottish businesses reported lower than usual levels of turnover recently. Despite obvious hardship, over the whole pandemic we have consistently observed very high levels of solvency relative to the depth of the current economic crisis. This is in no small part due to the extensive package of support measures put forward by both the UK and the Scottish Government. Perth & Kinross Council administered £82 million in pandemic-related business grant funding, which supported over 6,200 businesses.



¹Source: Adzuna May 2019-2021, ONS analysis.

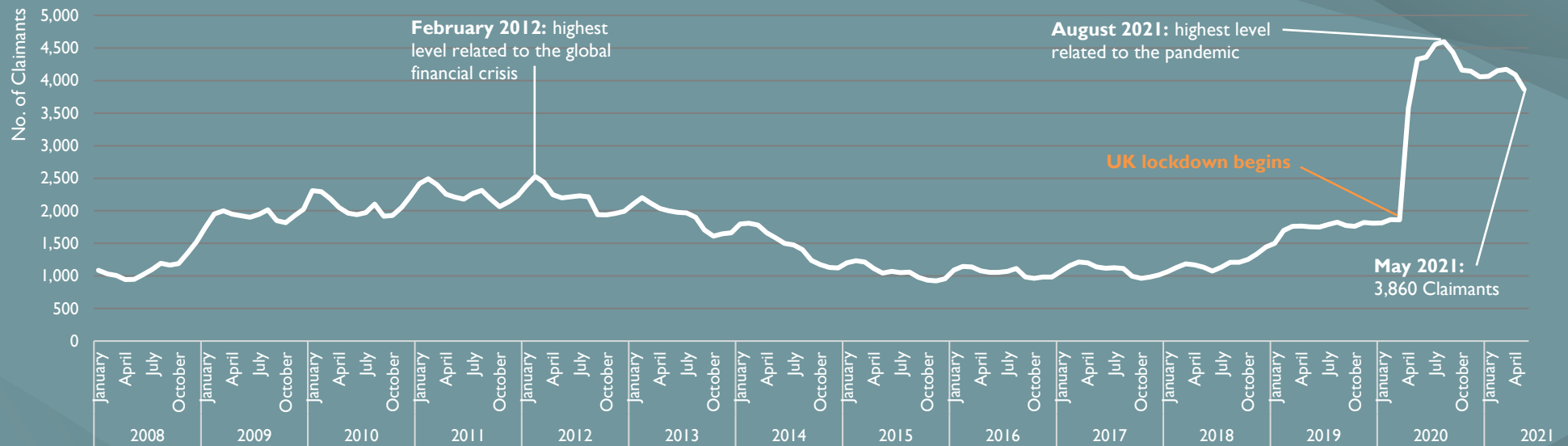
²Source: ONS Business Insights and Conditions Survey

³Source: ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey (COVID-19 module)

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3,860 people were claiming Job Seeker's Allowance and Universal Credit in May. This is a **16% improvement** on the peak during the current pandemic.
- 19.7% of the total number of Claimants were aged 16-24.
- Perth & Kinross Council had the **7th lowest Claimant Count rate in Scotland**.
- The impact of the Pandemic on the numbers of people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance and Universal Credit in **Perth City was slightly higher than the Scottish average**.
- **13.5% of Perth & Kinross workforce were furloughed**, which was the third highest level in Scotland. This represents 8,600 employments in our area.
- Of the total furlough employments in Perth & Kinross, **37.2% were in Accommodation and Food Services**.
- The value of building works covered by a Building Warrant **increased by 12.3%**.
- **The number of house sales in the area increased by 39.3%** over the 12 months to February 2021.

CLAIMANT COUNT January 2008 - May 2021



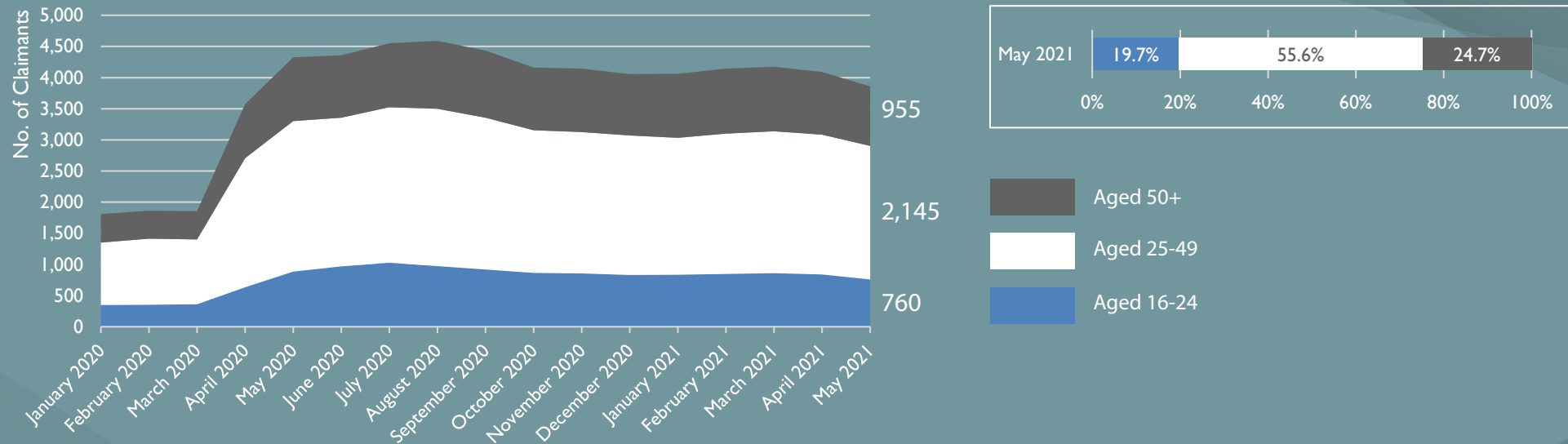
Source: NOMIS

The number of Universal Credit Claimants in Perth and Kinross declined from the peak in August 2020. There were 3,860 Claimants in May 2021 which was a 16% improvement from said peak.

The largest singular increase in numbers happened in the month of April 2020 as the UK lockdown was imposed: the number of Claimants went from 1,860 to 3,575 between March and April 2020.

The current number is still 52.6% above the highest level recorded after the global financial crisis.

CLAIMANT COUNT BY AGE January 2020 - May 2021



In May 2021, there were 760 Claimants aged 16-24 (19.7% of the total number of Claimants) and 2,145 Claimants aged 25-49 (55.6% of the total number of Claimants). The remaining 24.7% of the Claimants (955 people) were aged 50 or more.

The proportions of the numbers of Claimants per age group are currently very similar to pre-pandemic proportions.

CLAIMANT COUNT RATE May 2021

Although the Claimant Count rate is still more than double the pre-pandemic level, it was **the lowest it has been in 13 months: 0.5** percentage point below the same month in 2020, and 0.8 percentage point below the peak of 5.0% in July and August 2020.

Of all Scottish local authority areas, Perth & Kinross had **7th lowest Claimant Count rate** in May. The lowest rate, in Orkney Islands, was 2.6%. The highest rate was in Glasgow City at 7.8%.

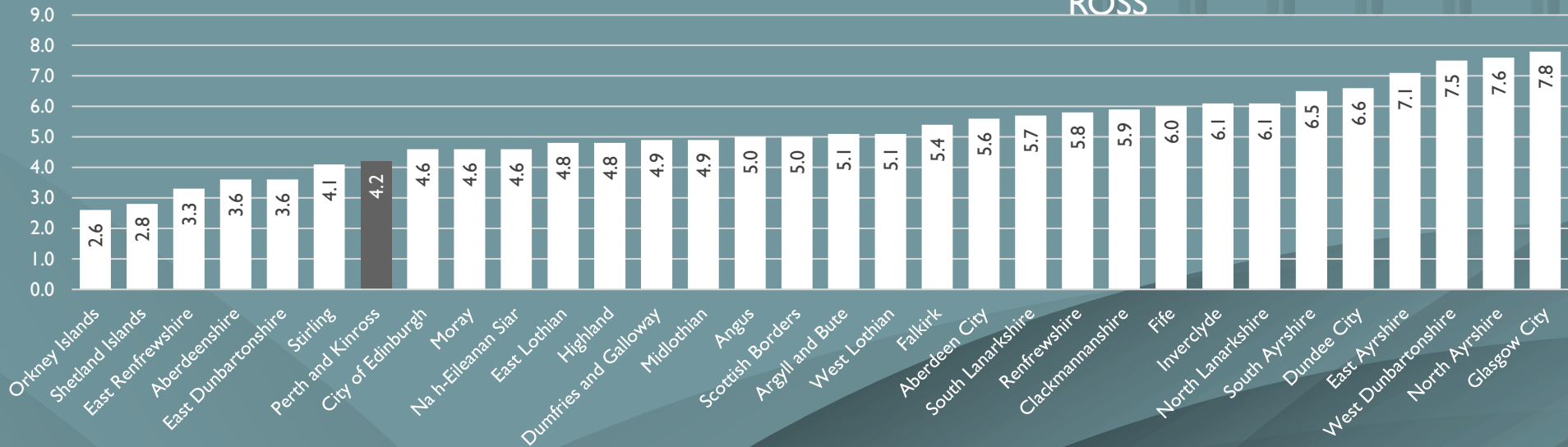
Of neighbouring local authority areas, Stirling had a rate of 4.1%, Angus 5.0% and Dundee City 6.6%.

There were 3,860 people claiming in Perth & Kinross area, and 196,320 in Scotland.

4.2%
PERTH AND KINROSS RATE

5.6%
SCOTLAND RATE

3,860
CLAIMANTS IN PERTH AND KINROSS



Source: NOMIS

LOCAL WARDS:
CLAIMANT COUNT RATE
May 2021

45.5%
OF ALL CLAIMANTS LIVED IN
THE CITY OF PERTH

The pandemic has had a **proportionately higher impact on the working age population in the rural areas** of Perth & Kinross.

The geographical distribution of claims remains slightly biased towards the rural areas. In the last month before lockdown, 50.8% of Claimants were in Perth City, and 49.2% in the rural wards. In May 2021, only 45.5% of Claimants were in Perth City, and 54.5% were in the rural wards.

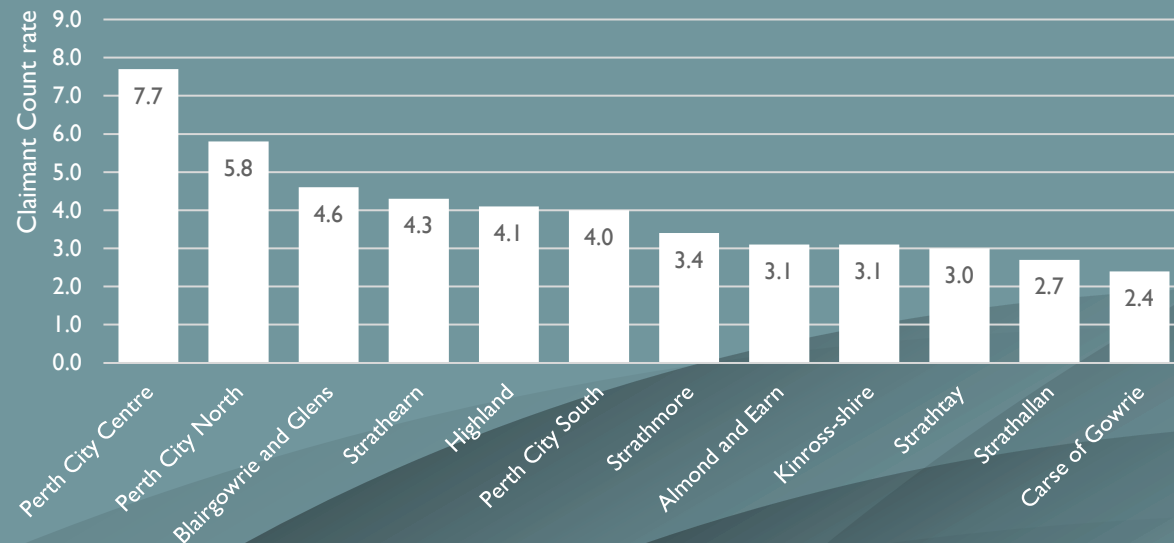
At 7.7%, **Perth City Centre** had the **highest Universal Credit Claimant rate** of all Perth & Kinross wards in May. The highest Claimant rate in the rural wards was in Blairgowrie and Glens at 4.6%.

There were **2,105 people claiming Universal Credit and Job Seekers Allowance in rural parts** of Perth & Kinross.

Perth City rate of 5.8% was above Scottish average for all areas.

5.8%
PERTH CITY CLAIMANT COUNT
RATE

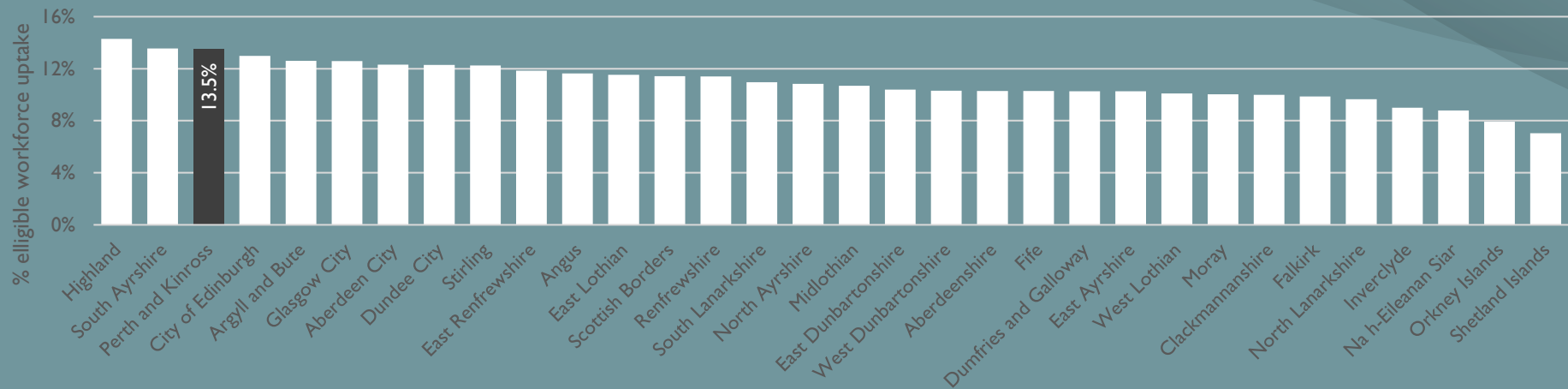
3.4%
PERTH & KINROSS RURAL
CLAIMANT COUNT RATE



CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION
SCHEME up to 31 April 2021

13.5%

ELIGIBLE PERTH & KINROSS
WORKFORCE FURLOUGHED



The easing of restrictions has meant return to work for many employees previously on furlough. Still, in line with previous months, the uptake of the furlough scheme in Perth & Kinross has remained high relative to other local authorities. **The rate of 13.5% was the third highest in Scotland.** The two local authorities to have had a higher proportion of claims made were Highland at 14.3% and South Ayrshire at 13.6%.

8,600 employments were furloughed out of 64,000 eligible in Perth & Kinross in April. The number is down from **10,700 employments in March.** The male take-up rate was 12% and female, 15%. In Scotland, a total of 269,800 employments out of eligible 2,363,400 were furloughed in April.

The sector with the highest proportion of furloughed employments in Perth & Kinross is

Accommodation and Food Services: 37.2% of the total furlough employments were in that sector.

It may be worth noting that the April figures were released on 3 June 2021 but remain provisional at the time of this publication and may be revised due to late and amended claims.

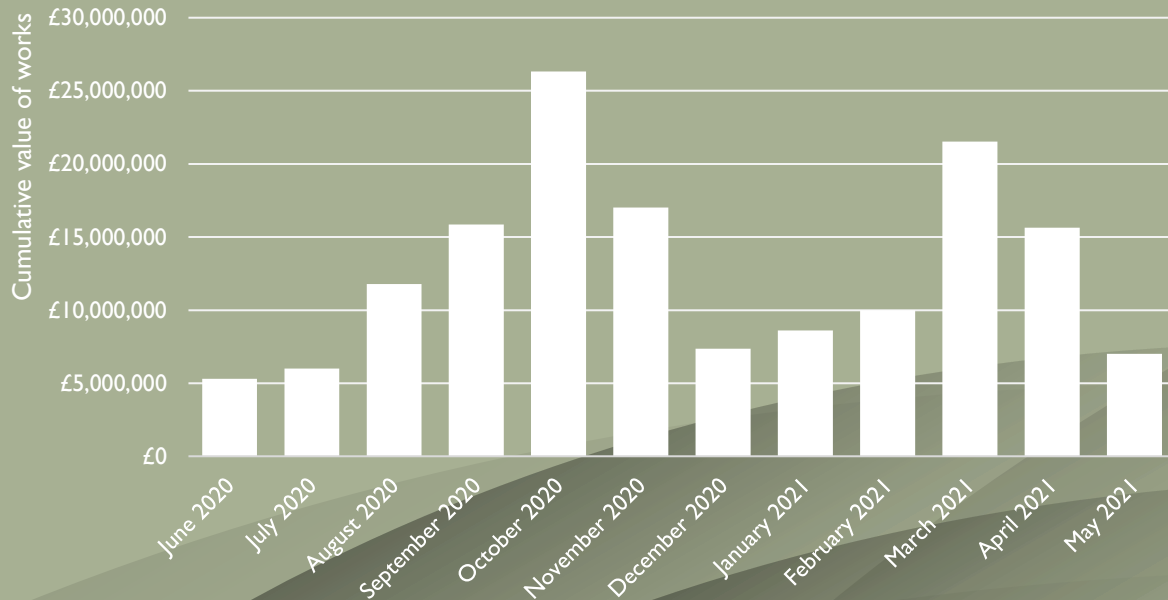
BUILDING WARRANT APPLICATIONS May 2021

There were 120 applications made to Building Standards in the month of May 2021, with a total value of works being £7,013,885. This was 12.3% above the same month in 2020 (value of £6,245,815).

1,501
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS
June 2020 - May 2021

+12.3%
VALUE OF WORKS
May 2021 compared to last year

It is worth noting that the value does not represent actual investment made in the specified period, and development usually takes place following obtaining of the Warrant.



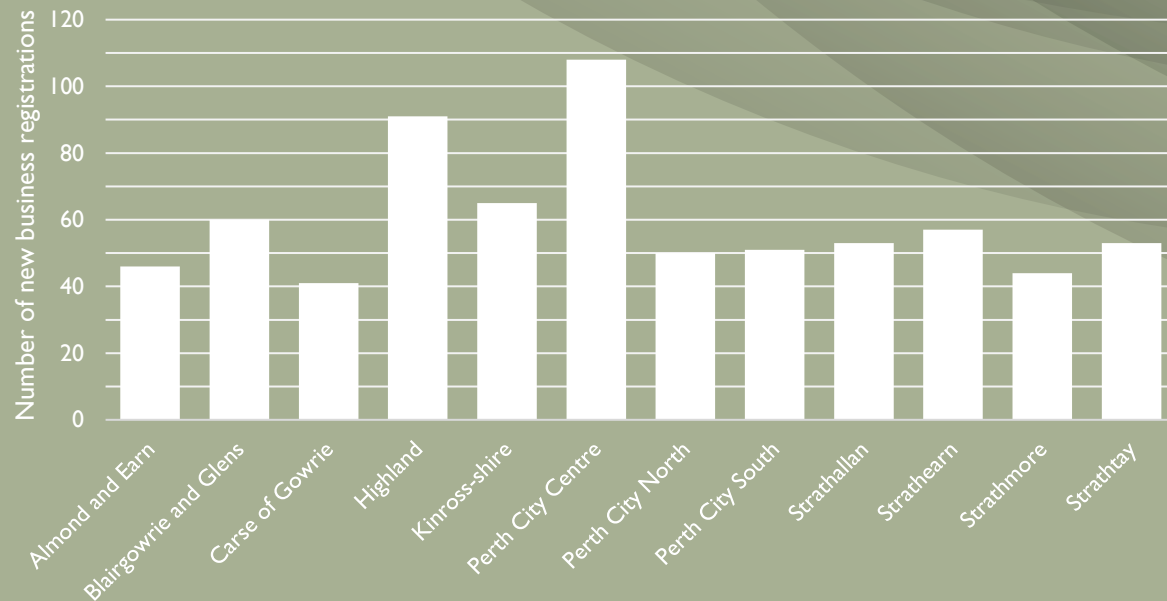
NEW BUSINESS START-UPS May 2021

The number of new business registrations in the year to May 2021 was 719, a 19% drop on the previous year.

The largest decline in start-up registrations was in Strathmore where the number went from 75 in the year to May 2020, to 44 in the year to May 2021: a drop of 70%.

In the month of May, 59 new businesses started up in Perth & Kinross. The make up of start-ups is Limited Companies 54.2%, Sole Traders 32.2%, Other For Profit Start-ups (mainly Partnerships) 3.4% and Not For Profit 10.2%.

The top 3 industries account for 57.6% of the starts and include Real estate, professional services & support activities; Construction; Wholesale & retail trade.



719

NUMBER OF NEW BUSINESS
REGISTRATIONS
Year to May 2021

59

NUMBER OF NEW BUSINESS
REGISTRATIONS
May 2021

HOUSING MARKET April 2021

Scotland house prices increased by 6.3% in the year to April 2021, down from an increase of 11.7% in year to March 2021. Scotland house prices were growing slower than the UK annual rate of 8.9% in the year to April 2021. House prices increased over the year in 30 out of 32 local authority areas.

+10.8%

AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE
April 2021 compared to last year

+39.3%

NUMBER OF HOUSE SALES
February 2021 compared to last
year

In Perth & Kinross, the average house price **increased by 10.8% in April 2021 compared to last year, reaching £212,213.**

Looking at property types, the largest increase was in detached property prices: 12% in the year to April 2021. A detached property cost on average £321,223, semi-detached £200,750 and terraced £158,153. An average sale price of a flat was £111,956.

The volume of sales in the year to February 2021 (the latest figure available at time of publication) increased by 39.3%.

£212,213
AVERAGE HOUSE PRICE
April 2021

