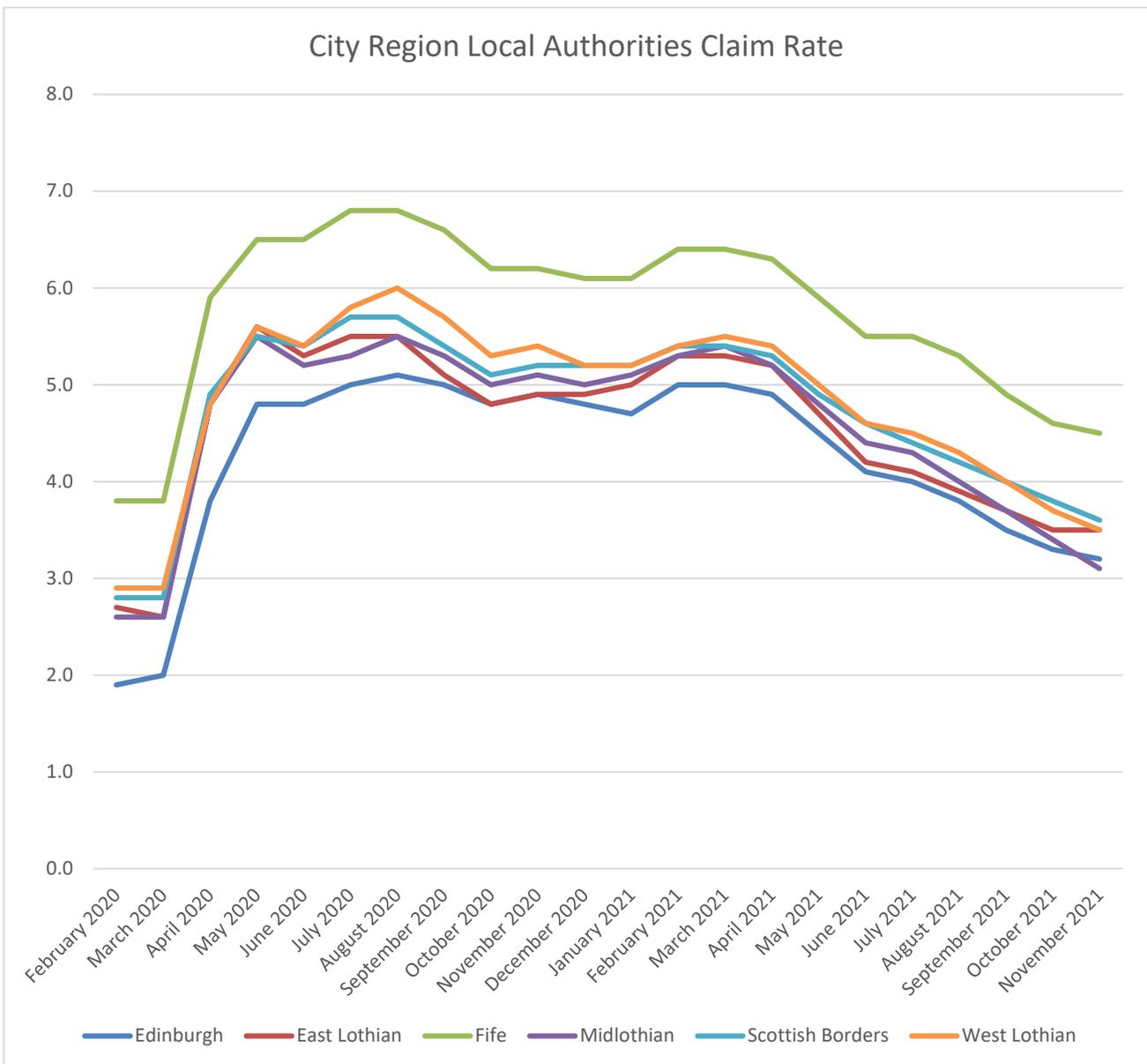


## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count November 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and November 2021:	Between October 2021 and November 2021:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> UK Claimant Count increased by 53%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> Scottish Claimant Count increased by 26%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 64%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> City Region Claimant Count increased by 34%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> UK Claimant Count decreased by 2%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> Scottish Claimant Count decreased 2%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 3%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> City Region Claimant Count decreased by 3%</li> </ul>



## City Region Summary

1. In November 2021 the claimant count for the City Region was 32,640. Of these
  - a. 5,440 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 19,535 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 7,675 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 34% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In November 2021 there were 19,915 male claimants and 12,720 female claimants.
4. The ward with the largest claimant count is Forth in Edinburgh with 1,125 claimants in November 2021.
5. 155 (St Andrews and North Berwick Coastal) through to 1,155 (Forth).
6. The ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick Coastal in East Lothian and St Andrews in Fife with 155 claimants in November 2021
7. In October 2021 there were 43,427 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

## Edinburgh Summary

1. In November 2021 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 11,665. Of these
  - a. 1,595 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 7,320 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 2,755 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 64% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In November 2021 there were 7,320 male claimants and 4,350 female claimants.
4. The Edinburgh ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth with 1,125 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 5.3%.
5. The Edinburgh ward with the lowest claimant count is Corstorphine/Murrayfield with 215 claimants in October 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.4%.
6. Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 214 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In October 2021 there were 14,430 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

## East Lothian Summary

1. In November 2021 the claimant count for East Lothian was 2,290. Of these
  - a. 385 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 1,355 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 550 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 30% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In November 2021 there were 1,325 male claimants and 965 female claimants.
4. The East Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Musselburgh with 605 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.6%.
5. The East Lothian ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick Coastal with 155 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 2.1%.
6. Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 49 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In October 2021 there were 3,598 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

## Fife Summary

1. In November 2021 the claimant count for Fife was 10,335. Of these
  - a. 1,895 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 5,995 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 2,445 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 18% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In November 2021 there were 6,320 male claimants and 4,010 female claimants.
4. The Fife ward with the greatest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages with 995 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 9.0%.

5. The Fife ward with the lowest claimant count is St Andrews with 155 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.0%.
6. Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 317 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In October 2021 there were 12,781 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

### Midlothian Summary

1. In November 2021 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,805. Of these
  - a. 325 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 1,095 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 390 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 23% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In November 2021 there were 1,095 male claimants and 710 female claimants.
4. The Midlothian ward with the largest claimant count is Dalkeith with 375 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.2%.
5. The Midlothian wards with the lowest claimant count in November 2021 were Bonnyrigg (250 and a rate of 2.2) and Midlothian West (250 claimants and a rate of 2.6)
6. Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 50 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In October 2021 there were 3,247 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

### Scottish Borders Summary

1. In November 2021 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,445. Of these
  - a. 445 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 1,330 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 670 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 31% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In November 2021 there were 1,440 male claimants and 1,000 female claimants.
4. The Scottish Borders ward with the largest claimant count is Galashiels and District with 475 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.8%.
5. The Scottish Borders wards with the lowest claimant count in November were Tweeddale West (170 claimants and a rate of 2.7) and Tweeddale East (170 claimants and a rate of 2.6%.
6. Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 82 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In October 2021 there were 3,289 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

### West Lothian Summary

1. In November 2021 the claimant count for West Lothian was 4,100. Of these
  - a. 795 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 2,440 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 865 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 20% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In November 2021 there were 2,415 male claimants and 1,685 female claimants.
4. The West Lothian ward with the largest claimant count was Whitburn and Blackburn with 690 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 5.0%.
5. The West Lothian Ward with the lowest claimant count was Linlithgow with 175 claimants in November 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.7%
6. Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 145 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In October 2021 there were 6,089 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count November 2021 Full Update

### Introduction

As usual the first page or two of this report looks at publications that may be of interest, particularly if you have a focus on young people. The claimant count data that provides the substance of this month's issue is once again broadly positive with the claimant count falling across the region, falling regardless of gender and falling for all age categories. The rate of fall can differ and this may be worth considering over the coming months. In work Universal Credit claimants are looked at in a bit more detail than in previous reports. This highlights that the number of 16-24 year olds in work and claiming UC grew considerably and again is an area to consider into the new year.

### *Scottish Government*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> December, Scottish Government published a paper<sup>1</sup> that looked at the latest estimates of the level and rate of employment, ILO unemployment and economic inactivity for young people (16 to 24 year olds) for Scotland and the UK for October 2020 to September 2021. Based on the Annual Population Survey, rather than the claimant count, they report that in Scotland over the year, the unemployment rate for young people has decreased while the employment rate has increased, and the economic inactivity rate has decreased. There is some Local Authority level analysis but often this is caveated by a small sample size. Based on this they conclude that over the year, 13 local authority areas in Scotland saw an increase in the employment rates for young people aged 16 to 24, while 15 saw a decrease and one remained unchanged.

This report follows on from a resource launched 2 days earlier *Young Persons Local Authority Labour Market Dashboard*<sup>2</sup>. This is a useful statistical resource for everything from pay levels to sector in which young people are employed.

### *Institute of Employment Studies*

On the 14<sup>th</sup> December IES published a labour market report based on data from the Labour Force Survey/Annual Population Survey. Focusing on the nation as a whole, they report a sharp fall in unemployment and a continued rise in employment. However, economic inactivity increased and remains 400,000 higher than pre-crisis. Combined with a slightly smaller population, this means that there are now one million fewer people in the labour market than would have been expected on pre-crisis trends, with more than half of this gap now explained by fewer older people in the labour force. They found that this participation gap appears to be increasing, even though vacancies are continuing to set new records – at 1.2 million, there are twice as many job openings as this time last year and 50% more than immediately before the crisis. These jobs are being created across all industries, and firms' inability to fill them is continuing to hold back growth. Higher economic inactivity is, as with recent months, being driven by ill health and early retirement. They report that overall, there are now 2.5 million people out of work due to ill health, the highest figure since 2005;

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gov.scot/publications/labour-market-statistics-for-young-people-16-24-years-scotland-and-uk-october-2020-to-september-2021/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.gov.scot/publications/young-persons-local-authority-labour-market-dashboard/>

with worrying signs that economic inactivity for young people not in education is also rising sharply. More positively, long-term unemployment appears to have levelled off and is falling for young people, while the end of the furlough scheme has not led to any increase in redundancies.

The Institute of Employment Studies (IES) published a report<sup>3</sup> in November that looked at young people's perspectives on what good quality work and support mean to them and the impact of the pandemic on their perceptions and experiences of work. There is a useful infographic and a couple of pages of key findings.

#### *The Nuffield Foundation*

The Nuffield Foundation published a research report entitled *Pandemic-driven shifts have made the workforce smaller, younger and more female*<sup>4</sup>. Again, it has a UK focus but broadly supports the findings of the IFS. The report notes that the UK is not facing the mass unemployment that many feared would materialise at the start of the pandemic however it has driven major changes in labour market participation.

The report finds that workforce participation has fallen by 1.2 percentage points among 55-64-year-olds since mid-2019 – a bigger fall than in any other recession over the past 40 years. This fall also bucks the trend of the decade prior to the crisis, where those aged over 50 accounted for 88% of the increase in the labour force. Younger men have also left the workforce during the crisis. Participation among men aged 25-34 has fallen by 1.6 percentage points over the past two years. In stark contrast the pandemic has seen an increase in labour force participation among women, whose participation rate has increased by 0.4 percentage points. This builds on the pre-crisis trend and means that women now make up 48% of the workforce, compared to 44% in 1992. There has also been a shift of about half a million women from working part-time to full-time since the pandemic began.

#### *Business Insights and Conditions Survey*

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the latest (Wave 44 and publication number 32) Business Insights and Conditions Survey (BICS) were released for Scotland<sup>5</sup>. The key findings from this report are as follows;

- In the period 15 November to 28 November 2021, the share of businesses 'currently trading' was estimated at 98.8%.
- In the period 1 November to 28 November 2021, an estimated 70.0% of the workforce were working from a designated workspace, with a further 11.0% working from home and another 15.0% using a hybrid model of working.
- In Wave 44, 38.3% of businesses reported experiencing a shortage of workers, with 65.3% of these businesses reporting that the shortage of workers has resulted in employees working increased hours.
- In Wave 44, 44.3% of businesses reported that vacancies were more difficult to fill in the last month compared with normal expectations for this time of year – down from 47.4% in Wave 42.

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<sup>3</sup> [Not just any job, good jobs!.pdf \(employment-studies.co.uk\)](https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/not-just-any-job-good-jobs!-pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/news/pandemic-shifts-workforce-younger-and-female>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/bics-weighted-scotland-estimates-data-to-wave-44/>

## Overall Claimant Count

Since February 2020 whilst every area of the UK experienced an increase in the number of claimants, the peak claimant count was recorded at different times depending on the geography, the gender and the age of the claimant.

Table 1 looks at the 12 regions and countries of the UK and indicates

- claimant count February 2020
- the month that the peak claimant count was recorded and what that was
- the percentage increase between February 2020 and this 'peak claimant count'
- the claimant count in October 2021 and November 2021
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and November 2021
- the percentage fall between October 2021 and November 2021

From Table 1 it can be seen that the North West and Northern Ireland hit their highest claimant count very early in the pandemic in May 2020. Compare this to the West Midlands where the peak claimant count didn't materialise until February 2021. Most regions and countries hit a peak in August 2020.

In London and the South East there had been a 159% and 152% increase in the claimant count respectively. Compare this to the North East where the claimant count 'only' increased by 64%. The table also indicates that the claimant count has fallen by between 23% and 37% since the peak. Scotland has seen the claimant count fall by 36% which is the second fastest fall across the UK.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

Date	Feb 2020	Claimant Count Peak	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Percentage Change		
					Feb20 to Peak	Peak to Nov21	Oct21 to Nov21
UK	1,255,770	2,688,110 (Aug20)	1,957,735	1,919,105	114%	-29%	-2%
East	89,890	213,715(Aug 20)	148,325	145,675	138%	-32%	-2%
East Midlands	80,915	170,220 (Aug 20)	122,485	120,220	110%	-29%	-2%
London	184,765	478,165 (Sep 20)	372,890	365,310	159%	-24%	-2%
North East	75,560	123,720 (Aug 20)	89,975	87,780	64%	-29%	-2%
North West	167,055	326,490 (May 20)	240,750	235,955	95%	-28%	-2%
Northern Ireland	29,910	63,860 (May 20)	45,785	43,530	114%	-32%	-5%
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>114,605</b>	<b>224,840 (Aug 20)</b>	<b>147,615</b>	<b>144,480</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
South East	119,620	300,975 (Aug 20)	208,830	205,015	152%	-32%	-2%
South West	75,595	180,915 (Aug 20)	115,545	113,330	139%	-37%	-2%
Wales	60,375	118,905 (Aug 20)	81,350	80,255	97%	-33%	-1%
West Midlands	141,095	269,985 (Feb 21)	211,355	207,985	91%	-23%	-2%
Yorkshire & Humber	116,390	219,515 (Feb 20)	172,835	169,570	89%	-23%	-2%

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

In terms of change between October 2021 and November 2021 we can see that overall a month to month fall of 2% appears to be standard across the UK. The two areas where this didn't happen were Northern Ireland and Wales.

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. Once again it is clear that different areas peaked at different times ranging from a May 2020 peak for East Lothian and Argyll and Bute, through to a February 2021 peak for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Except for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire most Scottish Local Authorities recorded their highest claimant counts around summer 2020.

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

	Feb 20	Peak Month and Count		Oct 21	Nov 21	Feb to Peak	Peak to Nov 21	Oct 21- Nov 21
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb 21	9,725	6,760	6,635	134%	-32%	-2%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug 20	6,675	4,395	4,270	124%	-36%	-3%
Angus	2,040	Aug 20	3,985	2,605	2,515	95%	-37%	-3%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May 20	3,290	1,845	1,855	115%	-44%	1%
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>Aug 20</b>	<b>18,840</b>	<b>12,065</b>	<b>11,665</b>	<b>165%</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug 20	2,255	1,510	1,465	62%	-35%	-3%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	May 20	5,115	3,295	3,230	73%	-37%	-2%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug 20	7,490	5,240	5,090	65%	-32%	-3%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug 20	6,280	4,275	4,205	70%	-33%	-2%
E. Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug 20	2,985	1,745	1,715	143%	-43%	-2%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>-38%</b>	<b>0%</b>
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul 20	2,415	1,340	1,300	154%	-46%	-3%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul 20	6,335	4,190	4,020	92%	-37%	-4%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>Aug 20</b>	<b>15,840</b>	<b>10,525</b>	<b>10,335</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug 20	38,205	27,450	27,175	91%	-29%	-1%
Highland	3,715	Jul 20	8,430	4,295	4,310	127%	-49%	0%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul 20	3,275	2,390	2,345	45%	-28%	-2%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>1,910</b>	<b>1,805</b>	<b>115%</b>	<b>-43%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Moray	1,550	Aug 20	3,030	1,980	1,895	95%	-37%	-4%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug 20	880	485	455	89%	-48%	-6%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul 20	7,290	4,795	4,655	58%	-36%	-3%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug 20	15,870	10,295	10,035	93%	-37%	-3%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug 20	420	240	245	115%	-42%	2%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug 20	4,595	2,815	2,750	146%	-40%	-2%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug 20	7,780	4,725	4,550	93%	-42%	-4%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>Jul 20</b>	<b>3,835</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Shetland Islands	265	Sep 20	545	320	315	106%	-42%	-2%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug 20	4,960	3,235	3,160	78%	-36%	-2%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug 20	13,725	8,880	8,690	96%	-37%	-2%
Stirling	1,540	Jul 20	3,125	1,775	1,715	103%	-45%	-3%
W. Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul 20	4,865	3,230	3,260	66%	-33%	1%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>Aug 20</b>	<b>7,005</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>105%</b>	<b>-41%</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>114,605</b>	<b>Aug 20</b>	<b>224,840</b>	<b>147,615</b>	<b>144,480</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>-36%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

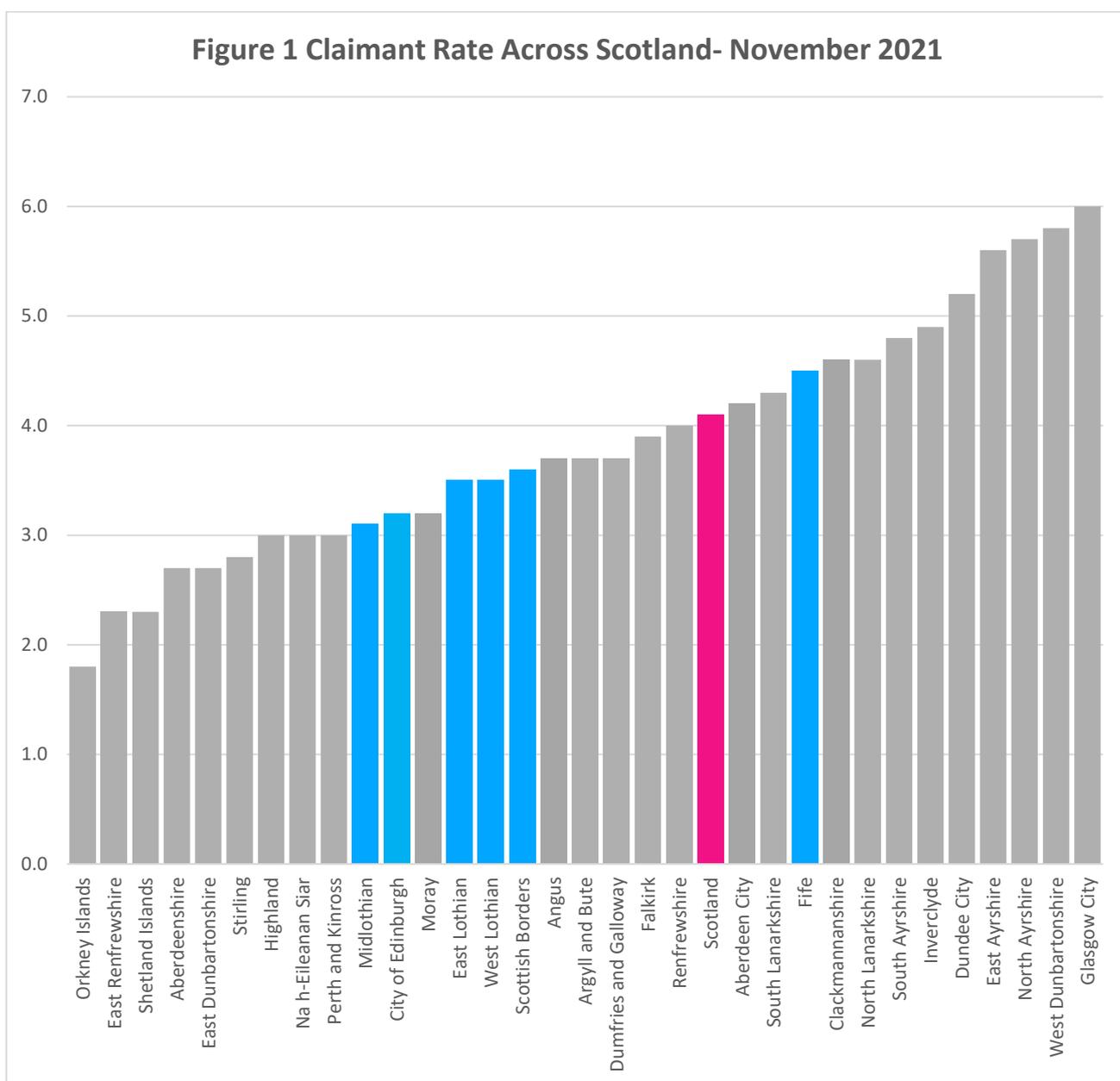
**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

The data highlights that whilst Scotland recorded a 96% increase in the claimant count, this varies from a 45% increase in Inverclyde through to a 165% increase in Edinburgh. Generally, those that recorded the higher increases have also recorded relatively large falls in the claimant count. For

example, whilst Edinburgh recorded a 165% increase between February 2020 and August 2020, a fall of 38% has been recorded between August 2020 and November 2021.

The most recent month to month change indicates that whilst Scotland as a whole saw the claimant count fall by 2% between October and November 6 Local Authorities recorded lower falls than the Scottish average, 10 recorded falls of 2% the same as the Scottish average and 16 saw their claimant count fall faster than Scotland as a whole. Three Local Authorities (Argyll and Bute, Orkney and West Dunbartonshire) saw the claimant count *increase* between October and November. For the City Region 1 Local Authority (Midlothian) recorded a month to month fall of 5%, 3 (Edinburgh Scottish Borders and West Lothian), record a fall of 3%, Fife record a fall of 2% and for East Lothian there was no change between October and November.

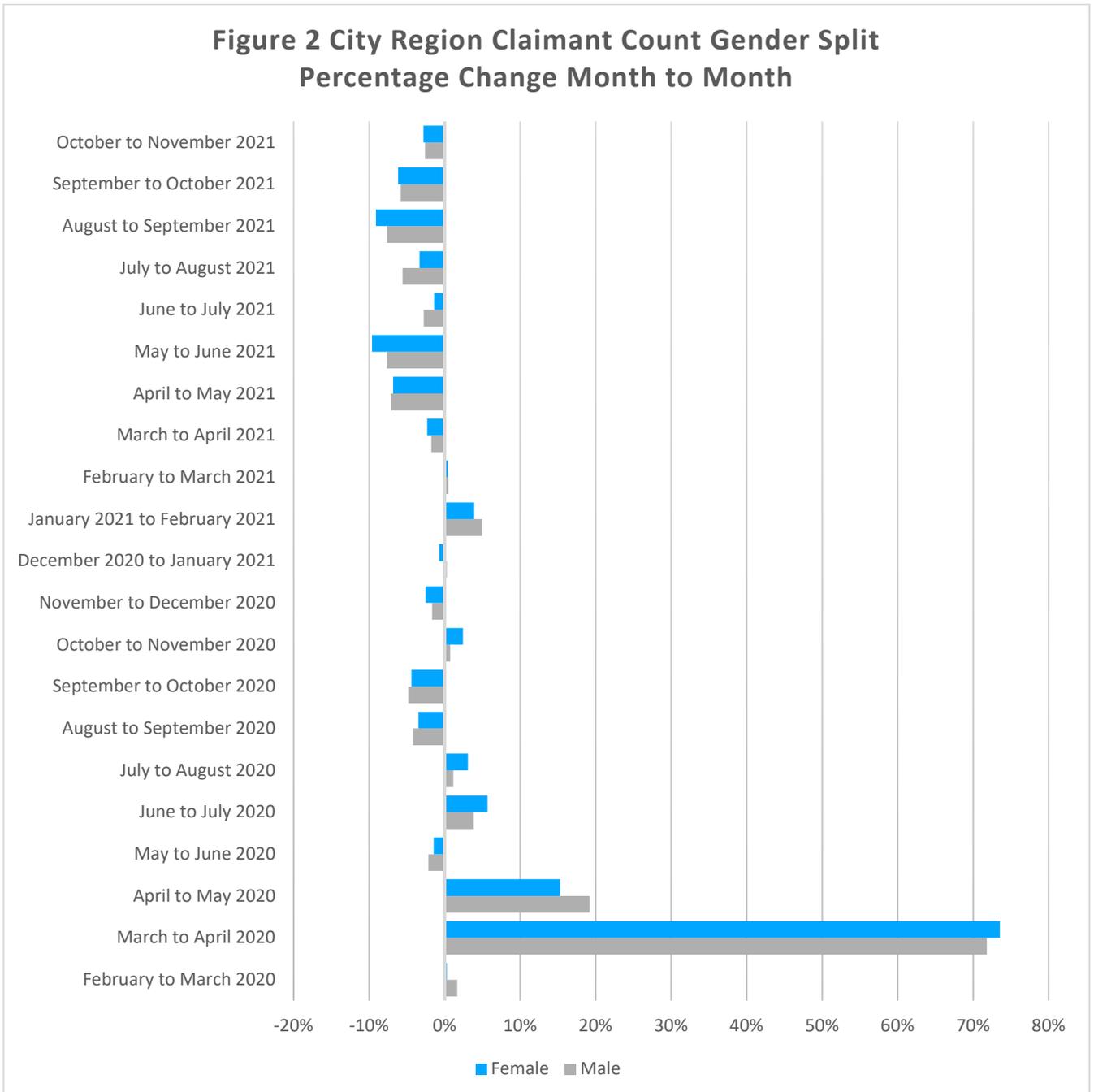
Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate by Local Authority across Scotland as a whole. From this it can be seen that, apart from Fife, every Local Authority in the City Region has a rate that is lower than the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021

## Gender Profile

There is often a concern regarding how changes in the labour market impact on the different genders. Figure 2 below looks at the month to month change in the number of claimants across the City Region broken down by gender. What this indicates is that whilst there has been a faster increase in the number of female claimants some months, in other months the male claimant count has seen a larger increase. What it also shows is that regardless of gender two periods were largely responsible for the increase in the claimant count. The first initial shock when the pandemic started early in 2020 and a second far smaller increase between January and February 2021.



**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the City Region in more detail. Tables 3 and 4 look at the number of claimants of each gender as of February 2020, and compares this with the peak claimant month for each gender and for each LA. It then looks at what has happened between October and November 2021.

**Table 3: Change in Male Claimant Count Split Across the City Region**

Date	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
February 2020	4,435	1,005	5,475	865	1,120	1,970
Peak Month	Aug-20	May-20	Aug-20	May-20	Jul-20	Aug-20
Peak Count	11,530	2,180	9,770	1,970	2,275	4,225
October 2021	7,535	1,350	6,435	1,155	1,475	2,495
November 2021	7,320	1,325	6,320	1,095	1,440	2,415
Feb 20 to Peak	160%	117%	78%	128%	103%	114%
Peak to Nov 21	-35%	-38%	-34%	-41%	-35%	-41%
Oct 21 to Nov 21	-3%	-2%	-2%	-5%	-2%	-3%
Claim Rate Feb 20	2.4	3.2	4.8	3.1	3.4	3.4
Claim Rate Nov 21	4.0	4.2	5.6	3.9	4.4	4.2

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

From Table 3 we can see that the male claimant count increased most for males in Edinburgh - 160% increase between February 2020 and when it peaked in August 2020. In Fife the increase was 78% which was the lowest increase for males in the city region. In terms of how the claimant count for males has decreased since the 2020 peaks, Midlothian has not only recorded the largest fall overall, it has also recorded the largest month to month fall from October to November 2021. The last two rows look at the claimant rate and compares the current position with that recorded pre-pandemic. Edinburgh had a significantly lower claimant rate for males in February 2020 when compared to other areas. Currently the claimant rate in Edinburgh is 1.6 percentage points higher than it was before COVID and this is the largest difference in the region.

**Table 4: Change in Female Claimant Count Split Across the City Region**

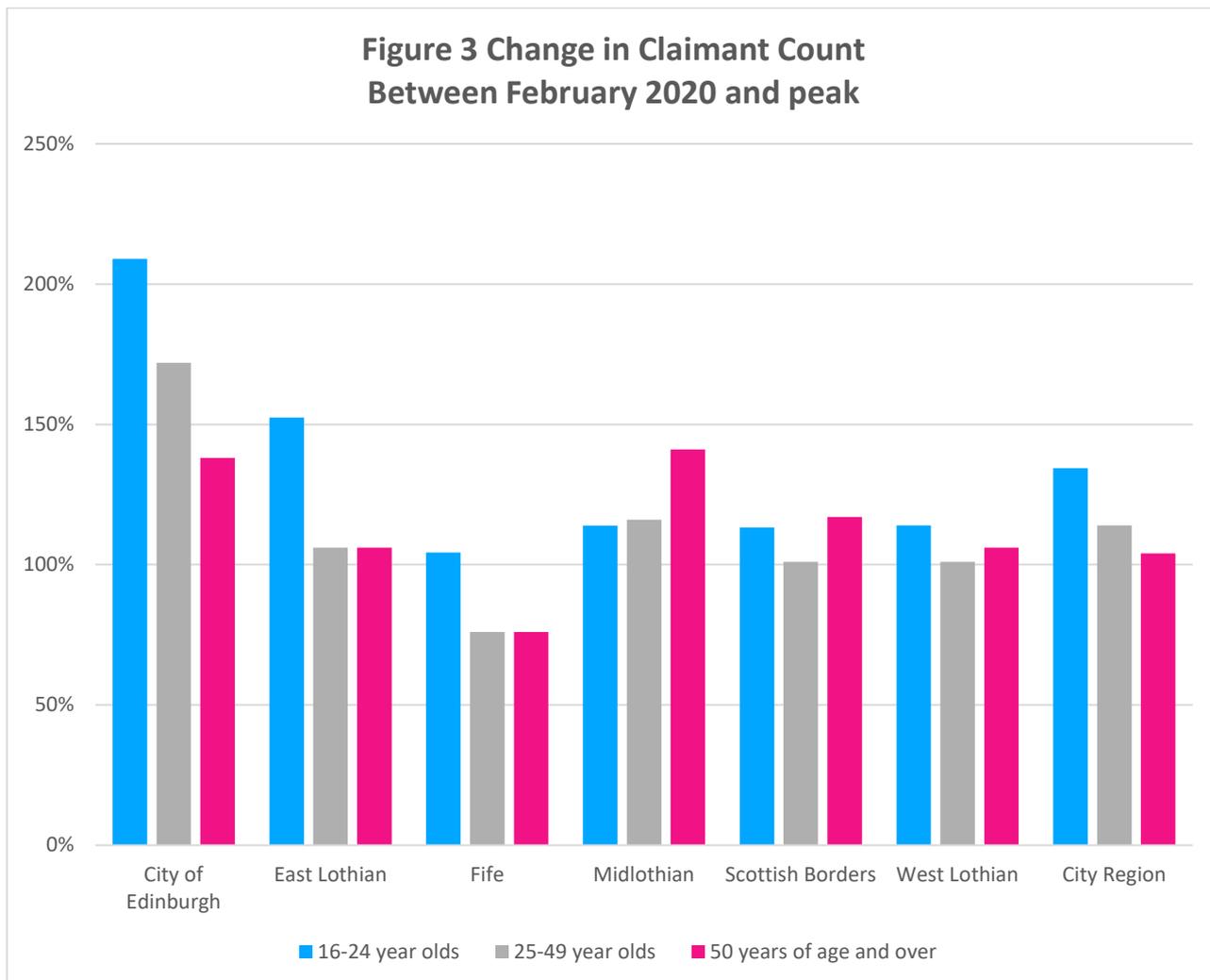
Date	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
February 2020	2,665	760	3,290	605	740	1,455
Peak Month	Aug-20	Aug-20	Aug-20	Aug-20	Aug-20	Aug-20
Peak Count	7,315	1,510	6,070	1,220	1,585	2,785
October 2021	4,535	945	4,090	760	1,035	1,720
November 2021	4,350	965	4,010	710	1,000	1,685
Feb 20 to Peak	174%	99%	84%	102%	114%	91%
Peak to Nov 21	-38%	-37%	-33%	-38%	-35%	-38%
Oct 21 to Nov 21	-4%	2%	-2%	-7%	-3%	-2%
Claim Rate Feb 20	1.4	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.4
Claim Rate Nov 21	2.3	2.8	3.4	2.4	2.9	2.8

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

Table 4 looks at the situation for female claimants. Again, the claimant count in Edinburgh recorded the highest percentage increase for females and Fife recorded the lowest increase. As with males the female claimant count in Midlothian has fallen by the largest percentage since the 2020 peak, recording the same percentage fall as in Edinburgh and in West Lothian. Midlothian has shown the greatest month to month falls from October to November 2021.

## Age Profile

Early in the pandemic, the increase in the number of 16-24 year old claimants was far and away the most dramatic increase recorded and in 4 of the 6 Local Authorities the age group with the largest increase over the first 6 months of the pandemic were 16-24 year olds. In Midlothian that accolade went to 50 and over and in Scottish Borders the increase was almost identical for 16-24 year olds and those over 50 years of age. Figure 3 below presents the percentage change between February 2020 and well the peak was recorded which differs by age group and Local Authority.



**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

As with the data looked at already where there had been differences in when the claimant count peaked, either by geography or by gender, Table 5 highlights that this is also the case in terms of age bands. The number of 16-24 year olds claiming peaked in July 2020 and this was the case across the region with the exception of West Lothian. For 25-49 year olds the peak in the claimant count was slightly more mixed with East Lothian, Midlothian and Scottish Borders seeing the claimant count peak in May 2020 and the other authorities seeing it peak in August 2020. The situation for those aged 50 or over is slightly different again. For this age group 3 of the 6 local authorities didn't reach a peak until February 2021.

Looking at the increase and decrease statistics, for nearly all Local Authorities the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increased the most. The two exceptions were Midlothian and Scottish Borders. In Midlothian, whilst 16-24 year old claimants increased by 114% between February 2020 and July 2020, claimants aged 50 or over increased by 141% between February 2020 and February 2021. In

Scottish Borders 16-24 year old claimants increased by 113% between February 2020 and July 2020 compared to a 117% increase in the claimant count for those aged 50 or over.

**Table 5: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (All)**

<b>16-24 Year Olds</b>		<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Fife</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>City Region</b>
Feb 2020		1,065	315	1,740	325	415	735	4,595
Peak Count		3,290	795	3,555	695	885	1,570	10,770
Peak Month		July 20	July 20	July 20	July 20	July 20	Aug 20	July 20
October 2021		1,665	395	1,975	355	460	830	5,680
November 2021		1,595	385	1,895	325	445	795	5,440
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	209%	152%	104%	114%	113%	114%	134%
	Peak to Nov 21	-49%	-50%	-44%	-49%	-48%	-47%	-47%
	Oct 21 to Nov 21	-4%	-3%	-4%	-8%	-3%	-4%	-4%
<b>25-49 Year Olds</b>		<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Fife</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>City Region</b>
February 2020		4,310	1,020	4,990	865	975	1,965	14,125
Peak Count		11,715	2,100	8,775	1,865	1,960	3,940	30,195
Peak Month		Aug 20	May 20	Aug 20	May 20	May 20	Aug 20	Aug 20
October 2021		7,545	1,350	6,070	1,145	1,355	2,490	19,955
November 2021		7,320	1,355	5,995	1,095	1,330	2,440	19,535
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172%	106%	76%	116%	101%	101%	114%
	Peak to Nov 21	-38%	-35%	-32%	-41%	-32%	-38%	-35%
	Oct 21 to Nov 21	-3%	0%	-1%	-4%	-2%	-2%	-2%
<b>50 years and over</b>		<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Fife</b>	<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>City Region</b>
February 2020		1,730	430	2,030	280	470	725	5,665
Peak Count		4,115	885	3,565	675	1,020	1,495	11,540
Peak Month		Feb 21	Feb 21	Aug 20	Feb 21	May 20	Aug 20	Feb 21
October 2021		2,860	545	2,480	410	695	895	7,885
November 2021		2,755	550	2,445	390	670	865	7,675
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138%	106%	76%	141%	117%	106%	104%
	Peak to Nov 21	-33%	-38%	-31%	-42%	-34%	-42%	-33%
	Oct 21 to Nov 21	-4%	1%	-1%	-5%	-4%	-3%	-3%

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

In terms of falls, the claimant count across the region has fallen by 47% for 16-24 year olds since the peak, for 25-49 year olds it has fallen by 35% and for those over the age of 50 it has fallen by 33%. Again, there are differences depending on the Local Authority that is examined. For example, the number of 16-24 year old claimants in East Lothian has fallen by 50% compared to a 31% fall in the number of claimants aged over 50 in Fife.

Although some 16 and 17 year olds will feature in the claimant count, the majority won't so school leaver data from the Local Authority and /or Skills Development Scotland is useful to supplement this data. The data discussed in the following paragraphs are the same as last month as the data set from SDS remains the same. From this, it is clear that a small number of 16 year olds are inactive or not participating – in total across the region this came to just over 100 so the claimant count data would appear not to be missing many 16 year olds.

Those who are aged 17 are likely to provide the majority of the 16-17 year olds that are missing from the claimant count. Overall, across the region, there are 753 17 year olds who are not participating. Compare the SDS Participation figures with those from the claimant count and we can see that whilst the claimant count indicates 175 16 and 17 year old claimants, the SDS Participation Measure is suggesting around 850 across the region. Table 6 below breaks this down by Local Authority and Age.

**Table 6: Annual Participation Measure 2021**

		Age			
		16	17	18	19
Edinburgh	Number in Cohort	3,367	3,463	3,298	3,340
	<b>Not Participating or Unconfirmed</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>444</b>
East Lothian	Number in Cohort	1,072	1,090	949	1,049
	<b>Not Participating or Unconfirmed</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>118</b>
Fife	Number in Cohort	3,874	3,750	3,653	3,718
	<b>Not Participating or Unconfirmed</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>558</b>
Midlothian	Number in Cohort	956	925	912	897
	<b>Not Participating or Unconfirmed</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>89</b>
Scottish Borders	Number in Cohort	1,209	1,180	1,113	1,175
	<b>Not Participating or Unconfirmed</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>118</b>
West Lothian	Number in Cohort	2,124	2,062	1,974	2,076
	<b>Not Participating or Unconfirmed</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>359</b>

Source: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/annual-participation-measure/>

The table is directly from the Skills Development Scotland (SDS) website. SDS provide data on the Annual Participation Measure and publish the data online. There are details on the site regarding the methodology they use and the manner in which they gain information on young people and what they are doing. The number participating is based on those recorded as:

- In Employment, Education or Training & Other Development.

Whilst Not Participating is based on those recorded as:

- Unemployed Seeking and Unemployed not Seeking.

Unconfirmed reflects those that they have been unable to determine what they are doing and unsurprisingly increases in line with the age- In Edinburgh for example only 0.1% of young people were marked as unconfirmed at age 16, at age 19 this had increased to 8.9%.

## Ward Profile

The following discussion looks at the current claimant position for each of the wards. The data is broken down by age and also by gender. The average claimant count for each of the 6 Local Authorities is given and this gives some rudimentary indication of where there may be a need for more interventions. **However**, this would need to be supplemented by local knowledge to reflect the age profile or population size of any given ward. Also touched on in this section is an indication of the wards where there may be a higher proportion of the claimant count coming from the 16-24 year old age cohort.

In Table 7 the position of the wards in Edinburgh are looked at. From this we can see that in November 2021, 2 wards had over 1,000 individuals claiming and 2 had under 300. The average claimant count for a ward in November 2021 was 686.

**Table 7 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward November 2021**

	All: Age 16+			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
Almond	705	460	245	100	60	40	450	295	155	160	105	50
City Centre	840	580	260	110	75	35	530	365	165	200	145	60
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	285	190	95	60	40	15	145	90	60	80	60	20
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	215	120	95	20	10	10	135	80	55	60	30	30
Craigentiny/ Duddingston	885	550	335	125	85	45	565	345	225	190	125	65
Drum Brae/Gyle	420	260	160	55	35	20	255	160	95	110	65	45
Forth	1,125	680	445	170	110	65	695	410	285	260	160	100
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	370	240	135	45	25	20	225	145	80	105	70	30
Inverleith	390	245	145	65	40	25	215	135	85	110	70	40
Leith	865	550	315	85	55	30	580	370	215	200	130	70
Leith Walk	1,000	620	380	95	50	45	665	410	260	240	160	80
Liberton/ Gilmerton	965	585	375	140	95	50	580	345	240	240	150	90
Morningside	280	175	110	45	30	15	170	105	65	65	40	30
Pentland Hills	870	535	335	145	95	50	535	315	215	190	125	70
Portobello/ Craigmillar	995	595	400	135	85	45	665	390	270	200	120	80
Sighthill/Gorgie	975	610	370	135	85	50	635	400	240	210	125	80
Southside/ Newington	475	325	150	70	45	20	270	180	90	140	100	40

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

Eight of the city wards had over 100, 16-24 year old claimants and 3 recorded less than 50. On average 14% of claimants in any ward would have been 16-24 years of age. This ranged from 9% of the claimants in Corstorphine and Murrayfield through to 21% in Colinton and Farmilehead.

Table 8 below presents the November picture for East Lothian where the average ward claimant count was 382 claimants. What is clear from this is that there is a real range around this average from 155 in North Berwick Coastal to 605 in Musselburgh.

**Table 8 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2021**

	All: Age 16+			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
Dunbar and East Linton	265	150	115	40	30	15	160	95	65	65	30	35
Haddington & Lammermuir	340	200	150	50	25	20	200	115	95	90	60	30
Musselburgh	605	375	225	100	65	30	360	225	140	145	90	55
North Berwick Coastal	155	90	65	30	20	5	80	45	40	40	25	20
Preston, Seton and Gosford	400	225	185	75	50	30	230	130	100	95	45	55
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	525	310	220	100	65	40	315	175	135	115	70	45

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

North Berwick Coastal is, along with St Andrews, the ward with the lowest claimant count in the whole region. In terms of which ward hosts the highest and lowest proportion of 16-24 year olds, both North Berwick Coastal and Preston, Seton and Gosford recorded that 19% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. In the wards of Dunbar and East Linton, and Haddington and Lammermuir only 15% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

Table 9, below, looks at the position in the Fife wards as demonstrated by the November claimant count. One thing to note is that similar to what we have seen in Edinburgh there is a wide range from wards with a high number of claimants - Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages – through to wards with very low claimant counts - St Andrews. The average claimant count for a ward in Fife in November 2021 was 470.

**Table 9 Fife Claimant Count by Ward November 2021**

	All: Age 16+			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	995	655	340	240	150	90	540	365	175	215	140	75
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	440	270	170	75	50	25	245	145	100	120	75	45
Cowdenbeath	730	430	300	135	70	65	450	270	180	145	85	60
Cupar	265	160	105	45	30	15	155	90	65	65	40	25
Dunfermline Central	490	300	190	85	55	30	300	180	125	105	70	35
Dunfermline North	390	235	150	50	35	15	240	140	100	95	60	35
Dunfermline South	570	320	250	95	60	35	340	190	150	130	65	65
East Neuk and Landward	235	145	90	30	25	5	125	70	55	80	50	30
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	440	280	160	90	60	30	255	165	90	95	60	40
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	365	220	150	75	40	35	210	135	80	80	45	35
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	420	245	175	75	45	30	255	150	105	90	50	40
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	245	140	105	40	30	10	135	70	65	70	40	30
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	270	160	115	40	20	15	150	90	60	85	50	35
Kirkcaldy Central	760	480	275	115	65	45	465	305	165	180	110	65
Kirkcaldy East	785	475	310	135	80	55	465	280	180	190	115	75
Kirkcaldy North	435	255	180	90	55	35	260	155	100	90	45	45
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	555	360	200	110	80	30	305	195	110	140	80	60
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	795	505	290	170	110	60	455	285	170	175	115	60
Rosyth	350	200	150	60	35	25	200	110	90	90	55	35
St Andrews	155	105	50	25	20	5	75	45	30	50	35	15
Tay Bridgehead	215	135	85	40	25	20	115	70	45	60	40	20
West Fife and Coastal Villages	430	255	175	80	55	25	260	150	110	95	55	40

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

Unsurprisingly the wards with a high number of claimants also had a high number of 16-24 year old claimants. On average 18% of claimants in a Fife ward would have been 16-24 in November 2021. Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages records 24% of claimants at this age. In five other wards 20% or

over of their claimants were aged 16-24.<sup>6</sup> At the other extreme East Neuk and Landward, and Dunfermline North had a 16-24 year old claimant count that made up 13% of all claimants in the ward

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 10 where it can be seen that the claimant count in Dalkeith is the highest at 375 and the lowest is 250 recorded in Bonnyrigg and Midlothian West. It is clear from this table that the range recorded in other LAs is not as evident in Midlothian and the average claimant count at a ward level in November 2021 was just over 300. The ward with the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants was Bonnyrigg where 22% of claimants in November were of that age. Penicuik ward recorded the lowest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants where 15% of claimants in November were from that age cohort.

**Table 10 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2021**

	All: Age 16+			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
Bonnyrigg	250	150	100	55	35	20	135	80	55	60	40	25
Dalkeith	375	235	140	75	50	25	235	140	95	65	50	20
Midlothian East	340	190	145	60	35	25	220	125	95	60	30	25
Midlothian South	325	210	115	55	30	25	200	125	75	70	55	20
Midlothian West	250	140	105	40	25	15	135	80	55	75	35	35
Penicuik	265	165	100	40	25	15	170	105	65	55	35	20

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

West Lothian is another of the Local Authorities (along with Edinburgh and Fife) where wards can have very different claimant count levels. In this case it ranges from 175 in Linlithgow through to 690 in Whitburn and Blackburn. The average claimant count for a ward in November 2021 was 456 so three of the West Lothian wards recorded claimant counts below that.

**Table 11 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2021**

	All: Age 16+			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
Armadale and Blackridge	340	195	150	80	50	35	200	110	90	60	35	25
Bathgate	560	320	240	90	55	35	355	205	150	115	65	55
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	450	275	175	80	50	30	255	150	100	115	75	45
East Livingston and East Calder	470	275	195	80	50	30	270	160	110	125	70	55
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	490	310	180	100	70	35	305	195	110	85	50	35
Linlithgow	175	95	80	25	15	10	110	60	50	45	20	20
Livingston North	395	225	170	85	45	40	230	135	95	75	45	35
Livingston South	530	310	220	115	70	45	300	180	125	110	60	50
Whitburn and Blackburn	690	410	280	140	75	65	415	250	165	135	85	50

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

In terms of 16-24 year olds 24% of claimants in Armadale and Blackridge are 16-24 years of age and in Linlithgow it is only 14%. The average across the authority is 19%.

<sup>6</sup> Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages, Glenrothes Central and Thornton, Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch, Kirkcaldy North, Leven, Kennoway and Largo and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty

Table 12 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. The position of Galashiels and District is very different from other areas of the borders where the average claimant count is 222. In terms of the position of 16-24 year olds. On average, across the Borders 18% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. In terms of wards Hawick and Denholm, and Hawick and Hermitage had 23% and 24% of claimants respectively from this age cohort. At the other extreme was Tweeddale West where only 12% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

**Table 12 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward November 2021**

	All: Age 16+			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
East Berwickshire	200	105	95	30	15	10	100	50	50	70	40	30
Galashiels and District	475	300	175	90	50	40	270	165	110	115	85	30
Hawick and Denholm	300	175	125	70	45	30	165	95	70	65	35	30
Hawick and Hermitage	210	135	75	50	30	20	110	70	40	50	35	15
Jedburgh and District	200	105	95	40	25	20	105	50	55	50	30	20
Kelso and District	185	100	85	25	15	10	110	60	50	50	25	25
Leaderdale and Melrose	165	85	80	30	20	10	85	35	50	50	30	20
Mid Berwickshire	160	95	65	25	15	15	85	55	30	50	30	20
Selkirkshire	205	130	75	35	25	10	115	75	40	55	30	20
Tweeddale East	170	100	65	25	15	10	90	55	35	55	35	20
Tweeddale West	170	105	65	20	10	10	85	50	35	60	40	25

**Source: NOMIS 14/12/2021**

What these tables indicate is that across the region the ward claimant count can be vastly different ranging from 155 (St Andrews and North Berwick Coastal) through to 1,155 (Forth). Also, it highlights the degree to which younger age groups or older ages groups make up a higher proportion of claimants in any particular ward. For example, Tweeddale West and East Berwickshire, two wards in Scottish Borders both recorded that 35% of the claimants in November 2021 were 50 or over. At the other extreme were the wards of Dalkeith in Midlothian and Fauldhouse and Briech Valley in West Lothian. According to the November 2021 claimant count both of these wards only had 17% of claimants over the age of 50. The same range can be seen for 16-24 year olds. For this age group 3 wards recorded that 24% of the November claimants were 16-24 years of age – Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages (Fife), Armadale and Blackridge (West Lothian) and Hawick and Hermitage (Scottish Borders). The ward that recorded the lowest proportion of claimants from this age group, was the Edinburgh ward of Corstorphine and Murrayfield where 9% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

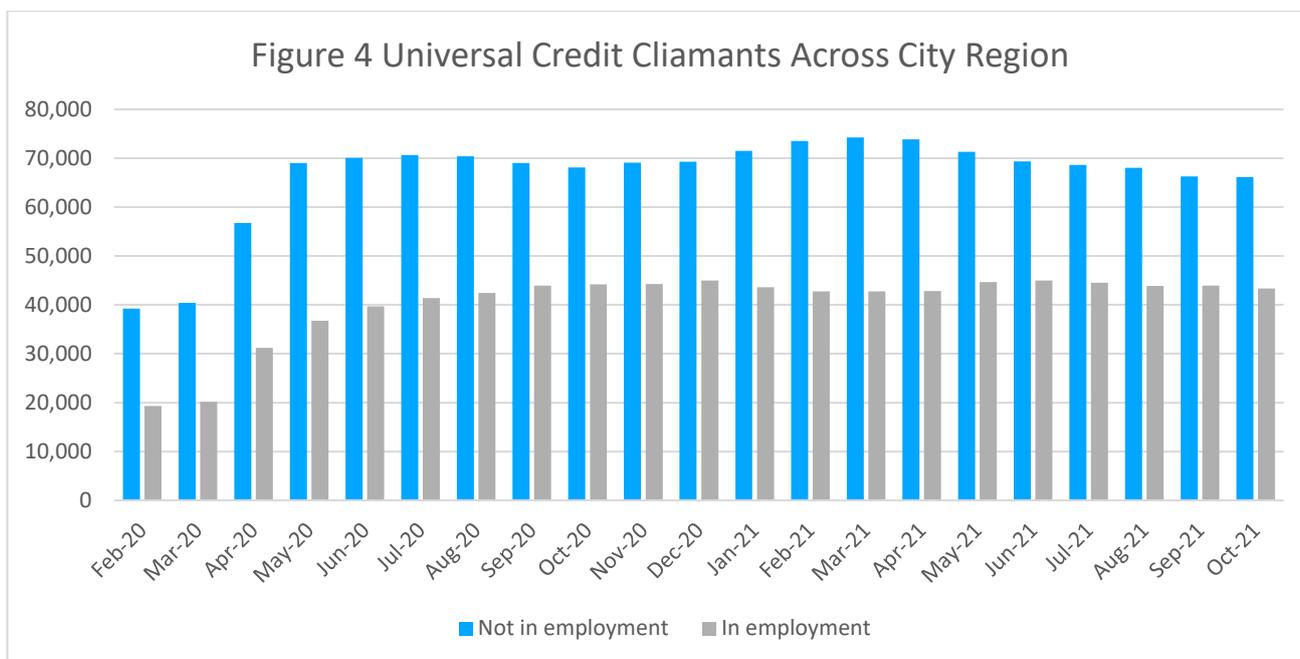
## Universal Credit

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 other benefits including support for those on low income (income support) and benefit for those out of work (Job Seekers Allowance).

Figure 4 below looks at the increase across the region in the number of in-work and out of work universal credit claimants recorded since February 2020. Whilst November data for UC claimants is

available, it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the October 2021 data is the most up to date that allows such a split.

One thing that is evident from this chart, is that the number of people requiring support who are in work increased through the summer and autumn of 2020 and more worryingly has remained at this high level. In October 2021 there were 43,347 people who were in employment across the City Region but needed support from UC. This is a 124% increase since February 2020. More encouraging is that over the last five months there has been a fall in the number of in-work claimants in the region. For example, the number claiming in June was 44,971.



Source: StatXplore 15/12/2021

Given that in-work poverty is a concern for policy makers across the region, it is worthwhile digging a little deeper into these statistics. Table 13 below looks at the in employment universal credit claimants and splits the data by gender and age category. What this indicates is that in work support for 16-24 year olds grew fastest across the region as a whole – a 170% increase in the number of claimants between February 2020 and October 2021.

As with other data sets the situation varied by Local Authority. For example, in Edinburgh the number of in work 16-24 year olds claiming UC increased by 290% from 557 in February 2020 to 2,170 in October 2021. Edinburgh recorded very high percentage increases for all age groups – which, with one or two exceptions, wasn't the case elsewhere.

**Table 13 Change in Number of In Employment UC Claimants**

	Age	February 2020			October 2021 r			% Change for Total
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
City Region	16-24	880	1,534	2,413	2,965	3,554	6,527	170%
	25-49	4,840	9,130	13,974	12,147	17,906	30,062	115%
	50+	1113	1831	2938	2797	4005	6804	132%
	Total	6,834	12,492	19,326	17,947	25,486	43,437	125%
Edinburgh	16-24	213	348	557	1,007	1,166	2,170	290%
	25-49	1,312	2,003	3,316	4,466	5,583	10,044	203%

	50+	356	417	770	1011	1191	2202	186%
	Total	1,875	2,769	4,644	6,490	7,939	14,430	211%
East Lothian	16-24	75	152	227	181	279	460	103%
	25-49	495	1,079	1,569	933	1,605	2,532	61%
	50+	107	214	314	202	402	600	91%
	Total	674	1,441	2,118	1,318	2,276	3,598	70%
Midlothian	16-24	56	143	196	192	252	452	131%
	25-49	371	960	1,325	814	1,500	2,308	74%
	50+	82	140	224	190	294	487	117%
	Total	506	1,237	1,741	1,201	2,050	3,247	87%
West Lothian	16-24	127	237	362	465	537	1,003	177%
	25-49	686	1,336	2,016	1,574	2,578	4,145	106%
	50+	148	283	432	356	568	929	115%
	Total	966	1,844	2,809	2,404	3,682	6,089	117%
Scottish Borders	16-24	93	136	231	229	251	484	110%
	25-49	347	716	1,057	885	1,324	2,206	109%
	50+	82	172	259	228	364	597	131%
	Total	524	1,019	1,546	1,357	1,935	3,289	113%
Fife	16-24	317	520	837	884	1,170	1,963	135%
	25-49	1,631	3,054	4,694	3,474	5,339	8,818	88%
	50+	335	597	939	805	1,185	1,990	112%
	Total	2,283	4,182	6,465	5,177	7,607	12,781	98%

**Source: StatXplore 15/12/2021**

Scottish Borders was the only authority where the greatest increase for in work support was recorded in the 50+ age group where it increased by 131%. Also worth highlighting is that East Lothian recorded the lowest overall percentage increase in in work UC claimants at 70%.

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