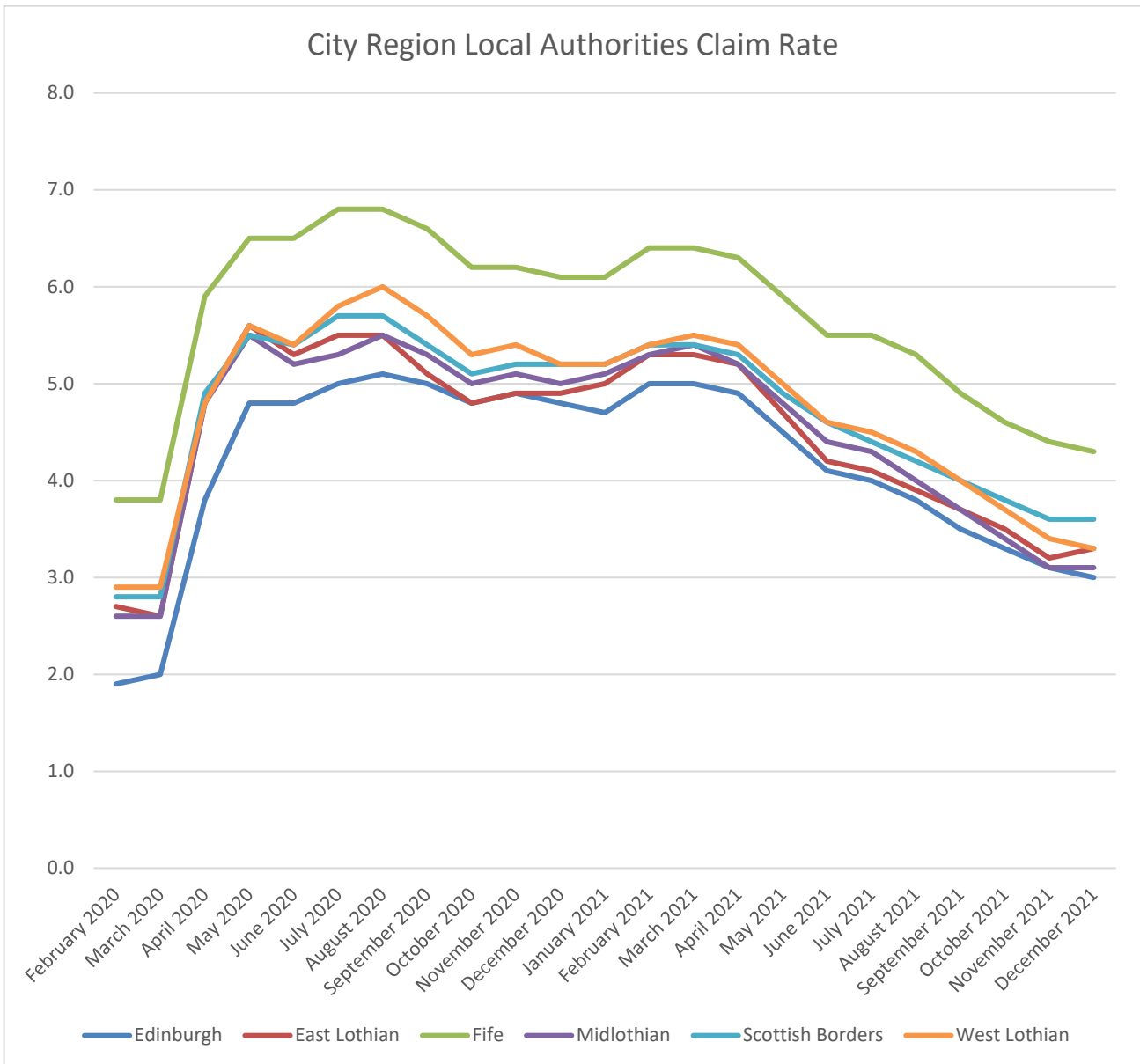


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2021 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and Peak Month:	Between November 2021 and December 2021:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 114% ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 96% ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 165% ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 115% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK Claimant Count decreased by 2% ↓ Scottish Claimant Count decreased 2% ↓ Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 4% ↓ City Region Claimant Count decreased by 3%



City Region Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for the City Region was 31,020. Of these
 - a. 4,995 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 18,685 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 7,345 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 27% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 19,130 male claimants and 11,895 female claimants. This represents an increase of 29% for males and 25% for females since February 2020.
4. The ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth in Edinburgh with 1,050 claimants in December 2021.
5. The ward with the lowest claimant count is St Andrews in Fife with 150 claimants in December 2021
6. In November 2021 there were 43,135 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,925. Of these
 - a. 1,410 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 6,905 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,615 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 54% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 6,885 male claimants and 4,040 female claimants. This represents an increase of 55% for males and 52% for females since February 2020.
4. The Edinburgh ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth with 1,050 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.9%.
5. The Edinburgh ward with the lowest claimant count is Corstorphine/Murrayfield with 195 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.3%.
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 148 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In November 2021 there were 14,217 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

East Lothian Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for East Lothian was 2,170. Of these
 - a. 355 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,295 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 515 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 23% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 1,280 male claimants and 890 female claimants. This represents an increase of 27% for males and 17% for females since February 2020.
4. The East Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Musselburgh with 545 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.3%.
5. The East Lothian ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick Coastal with 155 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 2.1%.
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 24 16 and 17 year olds not participating in East Lothian
7. In November 2021 there were 3,551 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for Fife was 9,910. Of these
 - a. 1,760 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,775 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,380 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 13% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 6,150 male claimants and 3,760 female claimants. This represents an increase of 12% for males and 14% for females since February 2020.
4. The Fife ward with the greatest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages with 935 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 8.5%.
5. The Fife ward with the lowest claimant count is St Andrews with 150 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.0%.

6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 202 16 and 17 year olds not participating in Fife.
7. In November 2021 there were 12,847 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In October 2021 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,760. Of these
 - a. 310 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,085 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 365 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 20% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 1,085 male claimants and 675 female claimants. This represents an increase of 25% for males and 12% for females since February 2020.
4. The Midlothian ward with the largest claimant count is Dalkeith with 375 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.2%.
5. The Midlothian ward with the lowest claimant count is Midlothian West with 230 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 2.4%
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 35 16 and 17 year olds not participating in Midlothian.
7. In November 2021 there were 3,189 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,390. Of these
 - a. 425 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,310 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 655 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 28% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 1,405 male claimants and 990 female claimants. This represents an increase of 25% for males and 34% for females since February 2020.
4. The Scottish Borders ward with the greatest claimant count is Galashiels and District with 470 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.8%.
5. The Scottish Borders ward with the lowest claimant count is Tweeddale West 160 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 2.6%.
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 32 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In November 2021 there were 3,256 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,865. Of these
 - a. 735 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 2,315 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 815 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 13% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 2,325 male claimants and 1,540 female claimants. This represents an increase of 18% for males and 6% for females since February 2020.
4. The West Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Whitburn and Blackburn with 650 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.7%.
5. The West Lothian Ward with the lowest claimant count is Linlithgow with 160 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.6%
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 108 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In November 2021 there were 6,057 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2021 Full Update

Overall Claimant Count

On the 18th January NOMIS released claimant count data for December. Looking in detail at the claimant count it can be seen that 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 count was
- the percentage increase between February 2020 and this 'peak claimant count'
- the claimant count in November 2021 and December 2021
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and December 2021
- the percentage fall between November 2021 and December 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.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

Date	Feb 2020	Claimant Count Peak	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Percentage Change		
					Feb20 to Peak	Peak to Dec 21	Nov21 to Dec 21
UK	1,255,770	2,688,110 (Aug20)	1,881,715	1,848,050	114%	-31%	-2%
East	89,890	213,715(Aug 20)	142,945	140,805	138%	-34%	-1%
East Midlands	80,915	170,220 (Aug 20)	117,680	115,345	110%	-32%	-2%
London	184,765	478,165 (Sep 20)	356,170	350,195	159%	-27%	-2%
North East	75,560	123,720 (Aug 20)	86,220	84,645	64%	-32%	-2%
North West	167,055	326,490 (May 20)	231,620	226,985	95%	-30%	-2%
Northern Ireland	29,910	63,860 (May 20)	42,840	41,185	114%	-36%	-4%
Scotland	114,605	224,840 (Aug 20)	142,245	139,805	96%	-38%	-2%
South East	119,620	300,975 (Aug 20)	201,050	197,720	152%	-34%	-2%
South West	75,595	180,915 (Aug 20)	111,185	109,170	139%	-40%	-2%
Wales	60,375	118,905 (Aug 20)	78,830	77,860	97%	-35%	-1%
West Midlands	141,095	269,985 (Feb 21)	204,315	200,965	91%	-26%	-2%
Yorkshire & Humber	116,390	219,515 (Feb 20)	166,620	163,375	89%	-26%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 18/01/2022

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 27% and 40% since the peak. Scotland has seen the claimant count fall by 38% which is the second fastest fall across the UK.

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		Nov 21	Dec 21	Feb to Peak	Peak to Dec 21	Nov 21 to Dec 21
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb 21	9,725	6,550	6,505	134%	-33%	-1%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug 20	6,675	4,220	4,200	124%	-37%	0%
Angus	2,040	Aug 20	3,985	2,480	2,450	95%	-39%	-1%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May 20	3,290	1,835	1,830	115%	-44%	0%
Edinburgh	7,105	Aug 20	18,840	11,405	10,925	165%	-42%	-4%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug 20	2,255	1,460	1,385	62%	-39%	-5%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	May 20	5,115	3,200	3,220	73%	-37%	1%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug 20	7,490	5,000	4,940	65%	-34%	-1%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug 20	6,280	4,165	4,135	70%	-34%	-1%
E. Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug 20	2,985	1,680	1,660	143%	-44%	-1%
East Lothian	1,765	May 20	3,680	2,245	2,170	108%	-41%	-3%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul 20	2,415	1,275	1,260	154%	-48%	-1%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul 20	6,335	3,910	3,820	92%	-40%	-2%
Fife	8,765	Aug 20	15,840	10,180	9,910	81%	-37%	-3%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug 20	38,205	26,755	26,250	91%	-31%	-2%
Highland	3,715	Jul 20	8,430	4,265	4,275	127%	-49%	0%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul 20	3,275	2,305	2,310	45%	-29%	0%
Midlothian	1,470	May 20	3,160	1,785	1,760	115%	-44%	-1%
Moray	1,550	Aug 20	3,030	1,860	1,820	95%	-40%	-2%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug 20	880	455	460	89%	-48%	1%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul 20	7,290	4,605	4,605	58%	-37%	0%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug 20	15,870	9,855	9,720	93%	-39%	-1%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug 20	420	240	255	115%	-39%	6%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug 20	4,595	2,710	2,680	146%	-42%	-1%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug 20	7,780	4,515	4,435	93%	-43%	-2%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul 20	3,835	2,415	2,390	106%	-38%	-1%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep 20	545	315	315	106%	-42%	0%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug 20	4,960	3,140	3,130	78%	-37%	0%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug 20	13,725	8,515	8,315	96%	-39%	-2%
Stirling	1,540	Jul 20	3,125	1,690	1,630	103%	-48%	-4%
W. Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul 20	4,865	3,210	3,180	66%	-35%	-1%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug 20	7,005	4,015	3,865	105%	-45%	-4%
Scotland	114,605	Aug 20	224,840	142,245	139,805	96%	-38%	-2%

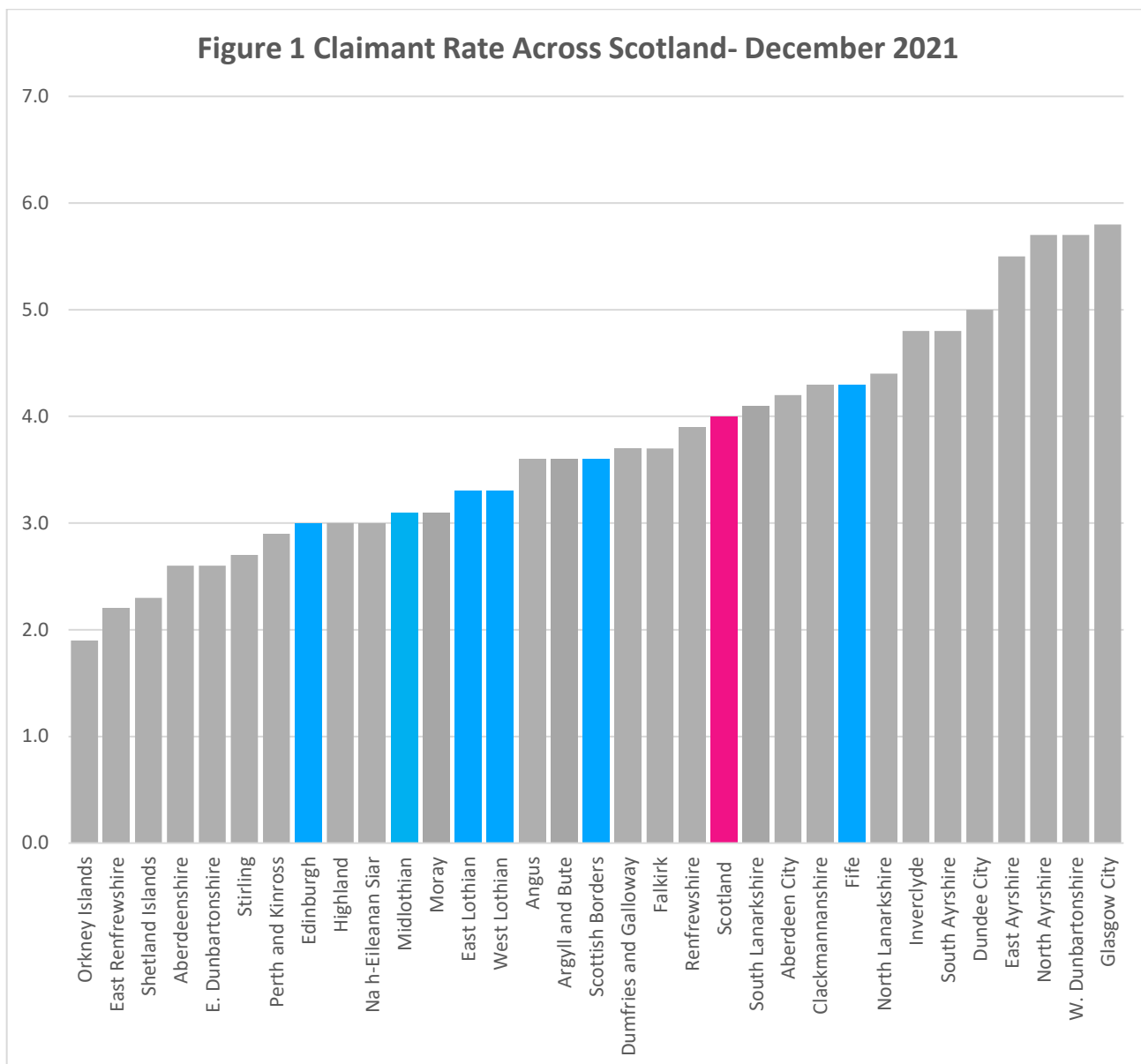
Source: NOMIS 18/01/2022

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 42% has been recorded between August 2020 and December 2021.

The most recent month to month change indicates that whilst Scotland as a whole saw the claimant count fall by 2% between November and December

- 7 Local Authorities saw no change at all between November and December.
- 11 did see the claimant count fall but at a lower rate than for Scotland as a whole.
- 5 recorded a month to month fall of 2%, the same as Scotland.
- 6 recorded a fall greater than the Scottish Average – 4 of these LAs were in the City Region.
- 3 recorded an increase in the claimant count.

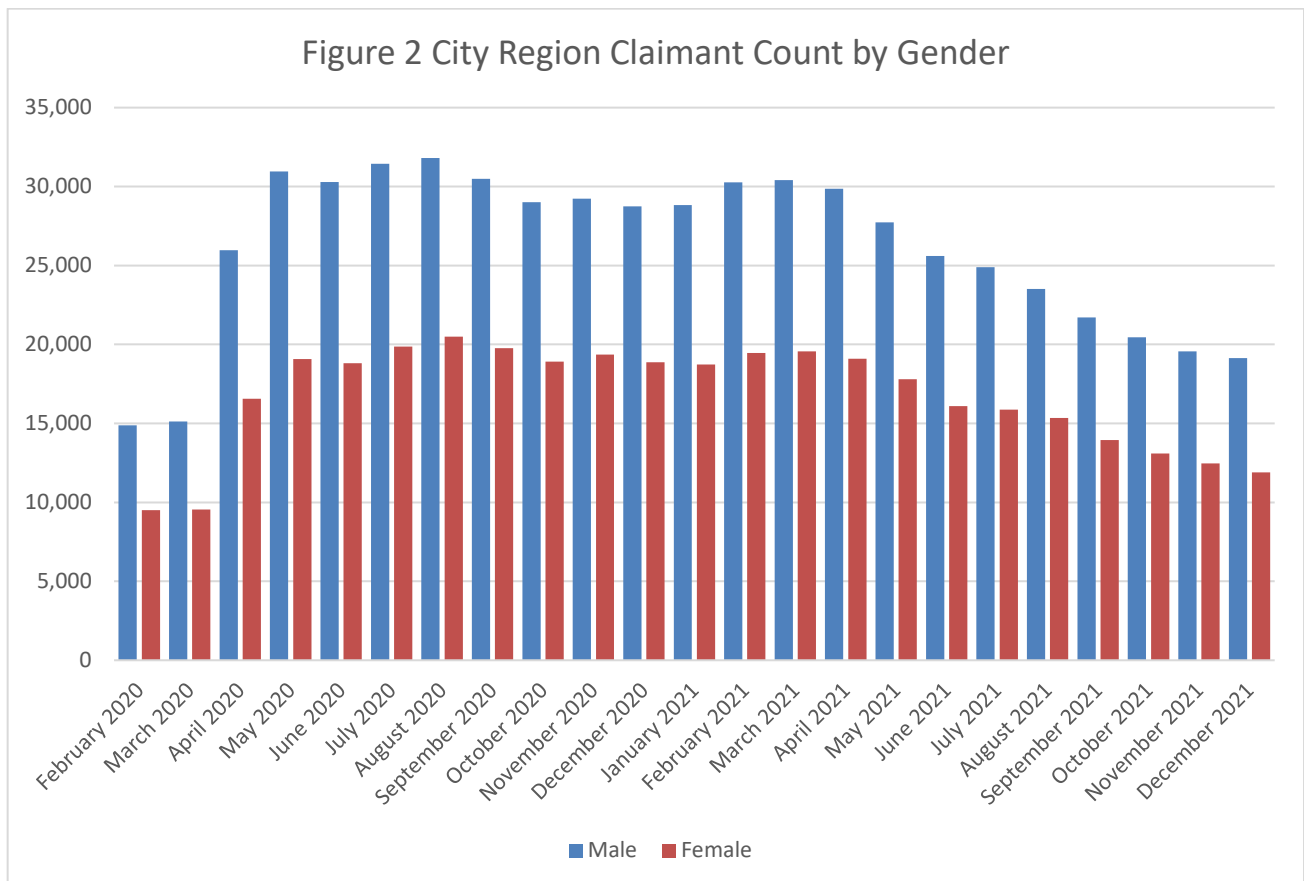
Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate by Local Authority across Scotland as a whole. From this it can be seen that with the exception of Fife, every Local Authority in the City Region has a rate that is lower than the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

Gender Profile

There is often a concern regarding how changes in the labour market impact on the different genders. Figure 1, below, looks at the claimant count for each gender across the city region over the course of the pandemic. This suggests that between February and the peak in the claimant count, there was a 114% increase for male claimants and a 115% increase in the number of female claimants, not really a significant difference. From the peak in August 2020 through to December 2021 there has been a fall in the claimant count across the region of 40% for males and 42% for females. Again, this is not a significant difference where differences start to materialise is when age groups or specific geographies are examined.



Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

Table 3 below looks at the percentage change by gender and is split into age groups. This indicates that more measurable differences have been recorded at this level between February 2020 and when the claimant count peaked.

Table 3: Percentage Change in City Region Claimant Count by Age and Gender

Date	16-24 year olds		25-49 year olds		50+ year olds	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Feb to Peak	130%	144%	116%	110%	99%	108%
Peak to Dec	-52%	-57%	-38%	-38%	-34%	-39%

Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

What is also clear from this table is that whilst the number of 16-24 and 50 and over females increased by higher level than males it has also fallen at a greater rate since the summer of 2020. This is not the case for 25-49 year olds where the claimant count for males increased faster to the

summer 2020 peak and has fallen at the same rate as for females. This is likely to leave the number of male claimants in this age group at a higher proportion to what was recorded pre-pandemic.

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 November and December 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
November 2021	7,160	1,300	6,235	1,080	1,425	2,370
December 2021	6,885	1,280	6,150	1,085	1,405	2,325
Feb 20 to Peak	160%	117%	78%	128%	103%	114%
Peak to Dec 21	-40%	-41%	-37%	-45%	-38%	-45%
Nov 21 to Dec 21	-4%	-2%	-1%	0%	-1%	-2%
<i>Claim Rate Feb 20</i>	2.4	3.2	4.8	3.1	3.4	3.4
<i>Claim Rate Dec 21</i>	3.8	4.0	5.4	3.9	4.3	4.0

Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

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 and West Lothian have recorded a 45% fall in the claimant count for males between the Peak and December 2021. Edinburgh recorded the largest percentage fall between November and December 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 when compared to other areas. Currently the claimant rate in Edinburgh is 1.2 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
November 2021	4,245	945	3,940	700	990	1,645
December 2021	4,040	890	3,760	675	990	1,540
Feb 20 to Peak	174%	99%	84%	102%	114%	91%
Peak to Dec 21	-45%	-41%	-38%	-45%	-38%	-45%
Nov 21 to Dec 21	-5%	-6%	-5%	-4%	0%	-6%
<i>Claim Rate Feb 20</i>	1.4	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.4
<i>Claim Rate dec 21</i>	2.2	2.6	3.2	2.3	2.9	2.6

Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

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, however the same percentage fall has been recorded in Edinburgh and in West Lothian. West and East Lothian have recorded the greatest month to month falls from November to December 2021. Perhaps most encouraging is the fact that the claimant rate across the region for females is now, December 2021, between 0.3 and 0.8 percentage points higher than it was pre pandemic – a closing of the gap reported on last month.

Age Profile

Whilst the discussion has already touched on the age profile differences in the City Region, it is useful to look at what is happening in terms of 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. In 4 of the 6 Local Authorities the 16-24 year olds age group increased the most. 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.

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

16-24 Year Olds		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
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
November 2021		1,545	375	1,860	320	435	770	5,305
December 2021		1,410	355	1,760	310	425	735	4,995
∞ Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203%	152%	104%	114%	113%	114%	134%
	Peak to Dec 21	-57%	-55%	-50%	-55%	-52%	-53%	-54%
	Nov to Dec 21	-9%	-5%	-5%	-3%	-2%	-5%	-6%
25-49 Year Olds		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
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
November 2021		7,145	1,330	5,905	1,085	1,315	2,385	19,165
December 2021		6,905	1,295	5,775	1,085	1,310	2,315	18,685
∞ Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172%	106%	76%	116%	101%	101%	114%
	Peak to Dec 21	-41%	-38%	-34%	-42%	-33%	-41%	-38%
	Nov to Dec 21	-3%	-3%	-2%	0%	0%	-3%	-3%
50 years and over		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
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
November 2021		2,715	540	2,410	380	665	860	7,570
December 2021		2,615	515	2,380	365	655	815	7,345
∞ Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138%	106%	76%	141%	117%	106%	104%
	Peak to Dec 21	-36%	-42%	-33%	-46%	-36%	-45%	-36%
	Nov to Dec 21	-4%	-5%	-1%	-4%	-2%	-5%	-3%

Source: NOMIS 18/01/2022

Table 5 above looks at the age profile of claimants in each of the 6 Local Authorities and also in the City Region. As with the data looked at already where there had been differences in when the claimant count peaked, either by geography or by age. 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 and for this age group 3 of the 6 local authorities didn't reach a peak until February 2021.

In terms of falls, the claimant count across the region has fallen by 54% for 16-24 year olds since the peak, for 25-49 year olds it has fallen by 38% and for those over the age of 50 it has fallen by 36%. Again, there are differences depending on the Local Authority that is examined. For example, the number of 16-24 year old claimants in Edinburgh has fallen by 57% between the peak month of July 2020 and December 2021. At the other end of the scale is the situation in Fife for those over the age of 50 – has fallen by 33% since it peaked in August 2020 and in for 25-49 year olds in Scottish Borders where a 33% fall was also recorded between the peak of May 2020 and December 2021.

Whilst everywhere is, generally, seeing positive trends in so far as the claimant count is falling, one concern is that for certain age groups and certain localities it may take longer to get back into the labour market. Whilst some sectors are reopening and actively recruiting, others may not be as quick to return to the position they were in in 2021. This could be due to trends that were underway prior to 2020 and have simply accelerated as a result of the pandemic or it could be linked to the introduction of differences in work patterns created to tackle the pandemic, but unlikely to return to what they were previously. Added to this is that certain individuals may not yet feel entirely confident about the health risks which, although far less than they were in the summer of 2020, can still occur as we have seen with the restrictions around Omicron. There are clearly a range of factors at play, and it is critical for policy makers to deliver support to ensure no demographic groups are disadvantaged in participating in the continuing labour market upturn.

What could this mean for 16-24 year olds?

The data looked at in this section might give the impression that the economic position of 16-24 year olds is improving and we may not need to deliver as much support as first envisaged. Whilst this could be true, it is important to remember that for *some* 16 and 17 year olds will feature in the claimant count, the majority won't so the claimant count is definitely under representing this particular age group.

One would suggest that up until now we have looked at young people as a single entity 16-24 year olds, yet we may need more precision and look specifically at the 16 and 17 year olds separately to the 18-24 year olds. We may need to do this not just to reflect the fact that the claimant count poorly represents a particular group but, and this is the critical point, they may well have two totally different experiences.

Take for example the experience of a 20 year old who worked in hospitality prior to the pandemic. They were hit very hard very early, claimed universal credit when their employer had to close or were furloughed when that became available. They returned to the sector with reopening as they had the critical skill of *experience*. This would account for the rapid increase and the rapid fall in the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group overall. Compare this to the 15 year old who had a very different final school year experience than those who left in 2019. There were no work placement opportunities, no visits from large employers offering training programmes or career guidance talks. At the same time exams and assessments were very different from previous years.

Volunteering opportunities reduced, the chance of taking some time out to travel or work abroad became more limited, etc. One would argue that they are a group of 16 and 17 year olds who are missing the key skills or knowledge that would give them the confidence to enter the labour market. It is this age group, and particular groups within it, who will need to be supported more than ever otherwise we are very likely to see an increase in the number of 18 year old claimants over time as they become able to claim Universal Credit.

School leaver data from the Local Authority and/or Skills Development Scotland gives figures on how many people are leaving school without a positive destination. The data discussed in the following paragraphs was sourced on the 19th January 2022 and reflects some small changes from previous reports as SDS have been able to update destinations and refine the data.

Table 6: Annual Participation Measure 2021

		Age			
		16	17	18	19
Edinburgh	Number in Cohort	3,367	3,463	3,298	3,340
	Not Participating or Unconfirmed	21	195	346	445
East Lothian	Number in Cohort	1,072	1,090	949	1,049
	Not Participating or Unconfirmed	8	41	82	118
Fife	Number in Cohort	3,874	3,750	3,653	3,718
	Not Participating or Unconfirmed	40	277	471	557
Midlothian	Number in Cohort	956	925	912	897
	Not Participating or Unconfirmed	8	42	93	89
Scottish Borders	Number in Cohort	1,209	1,180	1,113	1,175
	Not Participating or Unconfirmed	9	70	93	118
West Lothian	Number in Cohort	2,124	2,062	1,974	2,076
	Not Participating or Unconfirmed	17	128	213	360

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

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 from the data available we can see that in January 2022 there were 753 17 year olds who are not participating. Given that Edinburgh and Fife are the largest local authorities 472 of these individuals reside within these 2 Local Authorities.

Ward Profile

The claimant count data allows us to look in detail at what has been happening in the wards of the City Region. 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 as this would need to be supplemented by local knowledge to reflect the age profile or population size of any given ward.

In Table 7 and 8 the position of the wards in Edinburgh are looked at. From this we can see that in December 2021 1 ward had over 1,000 individuals claiming and 3 had under 300. The average claimant count for a ward in December 2021 was 642 – the average in November had been 686. Seven of the city wards had over 100 16-24 year old claimants. On average 14% of claimants in any

ward would have been 16-24 years of age. This ranged from 8% of the claimants in Leith Walk through to 19% of claimants in Colinton and Farmilehead.

Table 7 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

	All categories: Age 16+			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
Almond	655	425	230	85	50	35	425	280	140	145	95	55
City Centre	805	565	245	105	65	40	525	365	160	180	130	45
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	285	185	100	55	35	20	155	90	60	75	55	20
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	195	110	85	20	10	10	120	70	45	60	30	30
Craigtinny/ Duddingston	810	515	300	100	70	30	535	325	210	180	120	60
Drum Brae/Gyle	395	245	155	50	30	20	240	150	90	105	60	45
Forth	1,050	635	415	140	95	50	670	395	275	240	150	95
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	365	245	120	50	25	20	220	150	75	95	70	25
Inverleith	370	220	150	55	30	25	210	125	80	105	65	40
Leith	855	540	310	75	55	20	580	360	225	195	130	65
Leith Walk	885	550	335	70	40	30	595	370	230	220	145	75
Liberton/ Gilmerton	900	555	350	145	90	60	520	315	205	235	150	85
Morningside	260	160	100	40	25	10	160	100	60	60	35	25
Pentland Hills	835	520	320	125	85	40	515	310	205	195	125	70
Portobello/ Craigmillar	925	560	365	120	75	45	610	365	245	190	120	70
Sighthill/Gorgie	915	570	345	120	75	45	590	370	220	205	125	80
Southside/ Newington	415	295	125	55	35	20	235	170	70	130	90	40

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 8 Edinburgh Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	13%	65%	22%
City Centre	13%	65%	22%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	19%	54%	26%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	10%	62%	31%
Craigtinny/ Duddingston	12%	66%	22%
Drum Brae/Gyle	13%	61%	27%
Forth	13%	64%	23%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	14%	60%	26%
Inverleith	15%	57%	28%
Leith	9%	68%	23%
Leith Walk	8%	67%	25%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	16%	58%	26%
Morningside	15%	62%	23%
Pentland Hills	15%	62%	23%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	13%	66%	21%
Sighthill/Gorgie	13%	64%	22%
Southside/ Newington	13%	57%	31%

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 9 and 10 below presents the December data for East Lothian. The average ward claimant count was 362 claimants 10 lower than last month. What is clear from this is that there is a real range around this average from 155 in North Berwick Coastal to 545 in Musselburgh (Musselburgh's claimant count has fallen by 50 claimants over the last month).

Table 9 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 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	245	135	110	35	25	15	150	90	65	55	25	30
Haddington and Lammermuir	345	205	140	50	30	20	205	115	90	90	60	25
Musselburgh	545	335	210	80	55	30	335	205	125	130	80	55
North Berwick Coastal	155	95	60	30	25	10	80	50	35	45	25	15
Preston, Seton and Gosford	375	205	170	70	45	25	215	115	100	90	45	45
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	505	300	205	85	55	35	310	185	130	105	65	40

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

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 14% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. Overall, across East Lothian 16% was the average proportion of claimants who were 16-24 years of age.

Table 10 East Lothian Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	14%	61%	22%
Haddington and Lammermuir	14%	59%	26%
Musselburgh	15%	61%	24%
North Berwick Coastal	19%	52%	29%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	19%	57%	24%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	17%	61%	21%

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 11 and Table 12, below look at the position in the Fife wards as demonstrated by the December claimant count. We can see that in December the claimant count in Fife ranged from 935 in the Buckhaven ward through to 150 in St Andrews.

Table 11 Fife Claimant Count by Ward December 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	935	620	315	215	135	80	515	350	165	205	135	70
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	405	240	165	70	50	25	220	125	100	110	70	40
Cowdenbeath	695	415	280	125	70	55	425	260	165	145	90	60
Cupar	245	150	95	40	25	15	145	85	55	60	35	20
Dunfermline Central	455	285	170	85	50	30	280	170	105	95	65	30
Dunfermline North	375	235	140	55	40	15	230	140	95	90	60	35
Dunfermline South	530	310	220	95	65	30	315	180	135	120	65	55

East Neuk and Landward	250	155	95	30	20	5	130	80	50	90	50	35
Glenrothes Central & Thornton	405	260	145	75	50	30	235	155	80	90	55	40
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	370	225	145	70	45	25	225	140	85	75	45	35
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	410	230	180	75	45	30	245	135	110	90	50	35
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	245	140	105	35	25	10	135	70	65	75	45	30
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	270	160	110	35	20	10	145	85	60	90	50	35
Kirkcaldy Central	720	465	255	95	55	40	455	300	155	170	110	60
Kirkcaldy East	765	475	295	135	80	55	450	280	170	180	115	70
Kirkcaldy North	435	260	175	90	60	30	260	155	105	85	45	40
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	540	365	175	110	80	30	295	195	100	140	90	50
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	785	505	280	160	100	60	450	290	155	180	115	65
Rosyth	335	190	145	45	30	20	195	105	90	90	55	35
St Andrews	150	100	50	25	20	5	70	45	30	55	40	15
Tay Bridgehead	195	125	70	35	20	15	105	65	40	55	40	20
West Fife and Coastal Villages	400	240	160	65	45	20	245	145	105	90	55	35

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

The average claimant count for a ward in Fife in November was 451 – it was 470 in December. 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 December 2021. Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages records 23% of claimants at this age. Three other wards had 20% or over of their claimants aged 16-24.¹ At the other extreme East Neuk and Landward had a 16-24 year old claimant count that made up only 12% of all claimants in the ward

Table 12 Fife Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	23%	55%	22%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	17%	54%	27%
Cowdenbeath	18%	61%	21%
Cupar	16%	59%	24%
Dunfermline Central	19%	62%	21%
Dunfermline North	15%	61%	24%
Dunfermline South	18%	59%	23%
East Neuk and Landward	12%	52%	36%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	19%	58%	22%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	19%	61%	20%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	18%	60%	22%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	14%	55%	31%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	13%	54%	33%
Kirkcaldy Central	13%	63%	24%
Kirkcaldy East	18%	59%	24%
Kirkcaldy North	21%	60%	20%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	20%	55%	26%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	20%	57%	23%
Rosyth	13%	58%	27%
St Andrews	17%	47%	37%
Tay Bridgehead	18%	54%	28%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	16%	61%	23%

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

¹ Kirkcaldy North, Leven, Kennoway and Largo and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 13 and Table 14 . The claimant count in Dalkeith is the highest at 375 and the lowest is 230 recorded in 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 December 2021 was 294.

Table 13 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

	All Age Categories			Aged 16-24			Aged 25-49			Aged 50+		
	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F	All	M	F
Bonnyrigg	270	165	105	60	35	20	145	85	60	65	40	25
Dalkeith	375	230	145	80	50	30	225	135	90	70	45	25
Midlothian East	325	180	140	55	35	20	220	120	100	50	30	20
Midlothian South	320	205	115	50	30	20	205	130	75	65	50	20
Midlothian West	230	145	85	40	25	15	125	85	40	65	35	30
Penicuik	245	160	85	30	25	5	165	100	65	50	35	15

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

The ward with the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants was Bonnyrigg where 22% of claimants in December were of that age. Penicuik ward recorded the lowest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants where 12% of claimants in December were from that age cohort.

Table 14 Midlothian Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	22%	54%	24%
Dalkeith	21%	60%	19%
Midlothian East	17%	68%	15%
Midlothian South	16%	64%	20%
Midlothian West	17%	54%	28%
Penicuik	12%	67%	20%

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

West Lothian is another of the Local Authorities where wards can have very different claimant count levels. In this case it ranges from 160 in Linlithgow through to 690 in Whitburn and Blackburn. The average claimant count for a ward in December 2021 was 429 (it was 456 in November) and three of the West Lothian wards recorded claimant counts below that.

Table 15 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 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	330	200	130	75	45	30	195	110	80	60	40	20
Bathgate	500	290	210	80	50	30	315	180	135	110	60	50
Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh	440	265	175	85	50	35	245	150	100	110	70	40
East Livingston and East Calder	440	265	180	75	45	35	265	160	105	100	60	40
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	480	310	170	95	60	30	305	195	110	85	55	30
Linlithgow	160	100	65	20	10	5	105	60	45	35	25	10
Livingston North	370	220	150	75	40	30	225	135	95	70	40	25
Livingston South	490	290	200	100	65	35	280	170	105	110	55	55
Whitburn and Blackburn	650	390	260	130	75	60	380	235	150	135	85	50

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

In terms of 16-24 year olds 23% of claimants in Armadale and Blackridge are 16-24 years of age and in Linlithgow it is only 13%. The average across the authority is 19%.

Table 16 West Lothian Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale and Blackridge	23%	59%	18%
Bathgate	16%	63%	22%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	19%	56%	25%
East Livingston and East Calder	17%	60%	23%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	20%	64%	18%
Linlithgow	13%	66%	22%
Livingston North	20%	61%	19%
Livingston South	20%	57%	22%
Whitburn and Blackburn	20%	58%	21%

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 17 and Table 18 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. One thing that is clear from this data is that the position of Galashiels and District is very different from other areas of the borders where the average claimant count is 218.

Table 17 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward December 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	210	110	95	30	20	10	115	55	60	60	35	25
Galashiels and District	470	295	170	80	45	35	270	160	105	115	85	30
Hawick and Denholm	295	170	125	70	40	30	170	95	75	55	30	25
Hawick and Hermitage	200	130	70	45	25	15	95	60	35	60	45	15
Jedburgh and District	180	90	90	35	20	15	100	45	55	45	25	15
Kelso and District	175	100	70	25	20	10	100	60	35	50	25	25
Leaderdale and Melrose	170	90	80	30	20	10	90	40	50	50	30	20
Mid Berwickshire	175	100	75	25	15	15	90	55	35	55	30	25
Selkirkshire	200	120	80	40	30	10	110	65	45	50	30	25
Tweeddale East	165	95	65	25	15	10	85	45	35	55	35	20
Tweeddale West	160	100	60	20	10	5	85	50	35	60	40	20

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

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 had 24% of claimants 16-24 years of age and Hawick and Hermitage had 23%. At the other extreme was Tweeddale West where only 13% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

Table 18 Scottish Borders Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	14%	55%	29%
Galashiels and District	14%	57%	24%
Hawick and Denholm	24%	58%	19%
Hawick and Hermitage	23%	48%	30%
Jedburgh and District	19%	56%	25%
Kelso and District	14%	57%	29%
Leaderdale and Melrose	18%	53%	29%

Mid Berwickshire	14%	51%	31%
Selkirkshire	20%	55%	25%
Tweeddale East	15%	52%	33%
Tweeddale West	13%	53%	38%

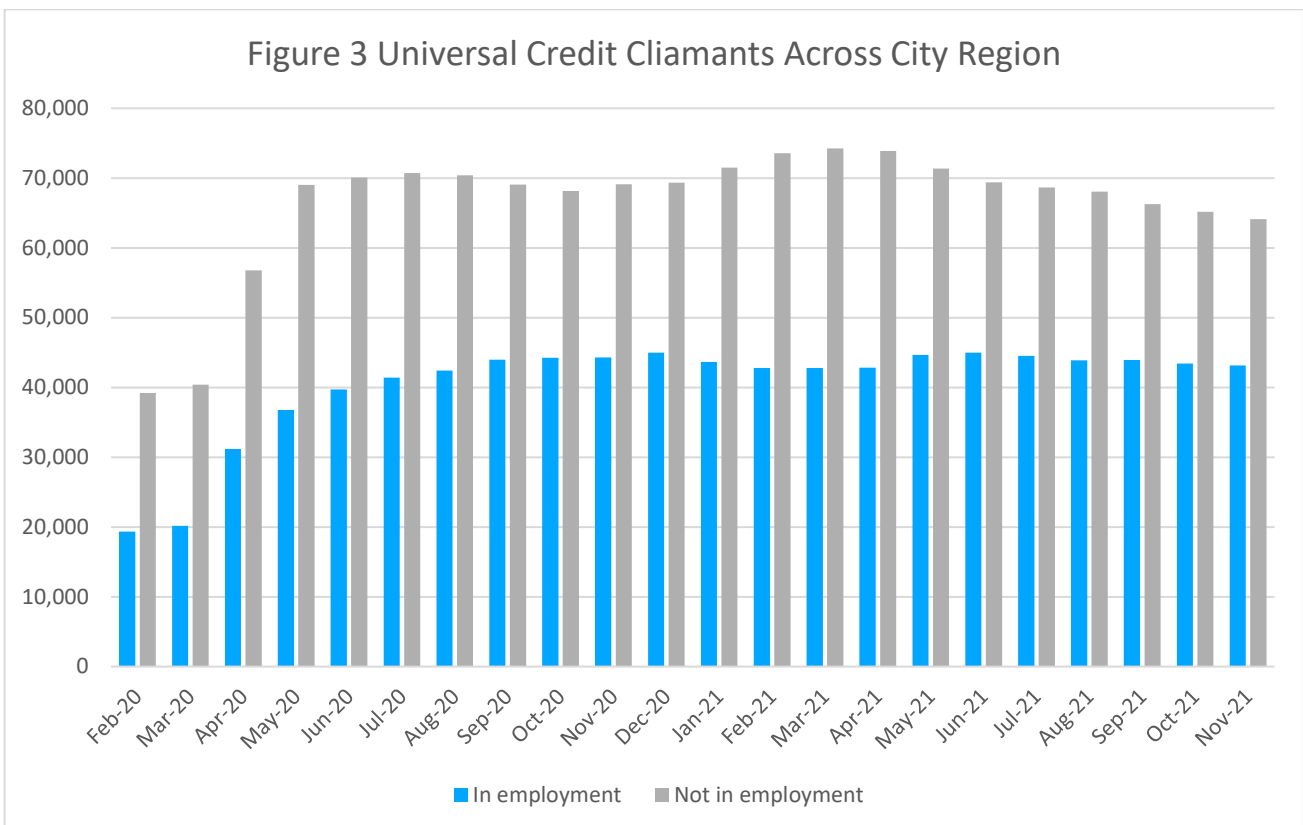
Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

What these tables indicate is that across the region the ward claimant count can be vastly different ranging from 150 (St Andrews) through to 1,050 (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 which might be useful if age focused services want to deliver in particular geographies.

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



Source: StatXplore 20/1/2022

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 November 2021 there were 43,125 people who were in employment across the City Region but needed support from UC. This is a 123% increase since February 2020. The number

claiming in June was 44,971 so the November figure 4% lower. Whilst it is encouraging to see a fall, over the same period the out of work claimant count had fallen by 7%, indicating that the number in work and needing support isn't falling quite as fast as those that are out of work.

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 19 below looks at the in employment universal credit claimants and splits the data by gender and age category.

Table 19 Change in Number of In Employment UC Claimants

	Age	Male			Female		
		Feb 2020	Nov 2021	% Change	Feb 2020	Nov 2021	% Change
City Region	16-24	880	2,878	227%	1,534	3,491	128%
	25-49	4,840	11,897	146%	9,130	18,057	98%
	50+	1113	2,780	150%	1,831	4,030	120%
	Total	6,833	17,555	157%	12,495	25,578	105%
Edinburgh	16-24	213	951	346%	348	1,119	222%
	25-49	1,312	4,382	234%	2,003	5,559	178%
	50+	356	997	180%	417	1,209	190%
	Total	1,881	6,330	237%	2,768	7,887	185%
East Lothian	16-24	75	178	137%	152	253	66%
	25-49	495	888	79%	1,079	1,612	49%
	50+	107	211	97%	214	409	91%
	Total	677	1,277	89%	1,445	2,274	57%
Midlothian	16-24	56	183	227%	143	253	77%
	25-49	371	780	110%	960	1,517	58%
	50+	82	175	113%	140	281	101%
	Total	509	1,138	124%	1,243	2,051	65%
West Lothian	16-24	127	463	265%	237	527	122%
	25-49	686	1,534	124%	1,336	2,591	94%
	50+	148	366	147%	283	576	104%
	Total	961	2363	146%	1,856	3,694	99%
Scottish Borders	16-24	93	208	124%	136	251	85%
	25-49	347	862	148%	716	1,320	84%
	50+	82	250	205%	172	365	112%
	Total	522	1,320	153%	1,024	1,936	89%
Fife	16-24	317	886	179%	520	1,085	109%
	25-49	1,631	3,435	111%	3,054	5,464	79%
	50+	335	789	136%	597	1,188	99%
	Total	2,283	5,110	124%	4,171	7,737	85%

Source: StatXplore 20/1/2022

There are a couple of points to take from this. Firstly, in work support has more female claimants across the region than male claimants. This was true before the pandemic (72% of claimants were female) and remains the case now (67% of claimants). Secondly in terms of age groups the greatest increase for in-employment claimants has generally been amongst male 16-24 year olds. This ranges from a 346% increase in Edinburgh to 124% increase in Scottish Borders.

There is much in the media about energy price rises, cost of living increases, etc. Given that over 43,000 people already have jobs and still need support from Universal Credit there is an argument that more needs to be done around living wage and pay or providing support to allow these individuals to work more if commitments such as caring is limiting their capacity to earn more. If things remain the same it is very likely that the situation may well get more difficult for this group, many of whom were not in this position 2 years ago prior to the pandemic.

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