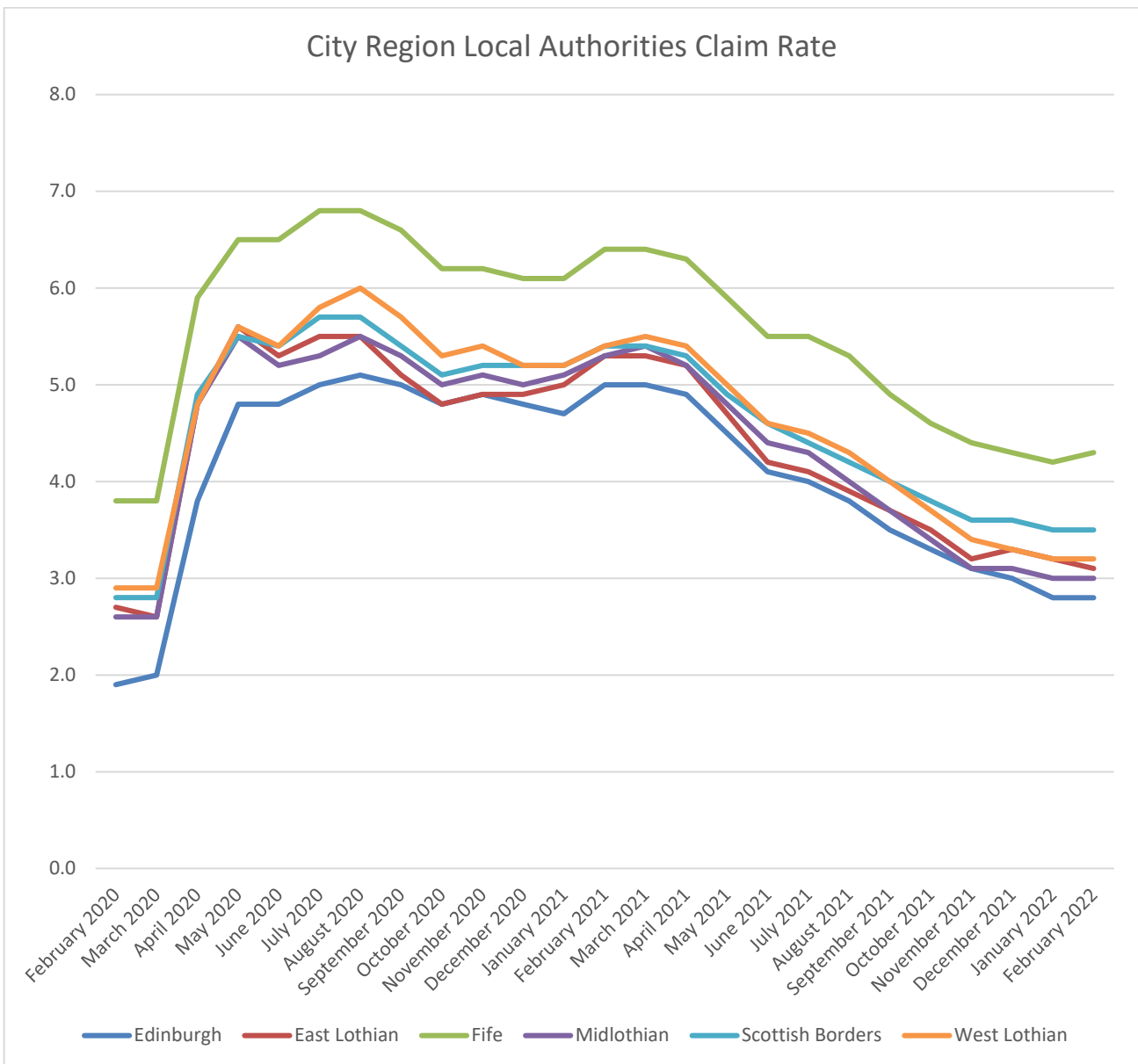


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count February 2022 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and February 2022:	Between January 2022 and February 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 44% ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 19% ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 48% ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 24% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 2% ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 1% ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 1% ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 1%



City Region Summary

1. In February 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 30,295. Of these
 - a. 4,895 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 18,260 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 7,135 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 24% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 18,775 male claimants and 11,520 female claimants. This represents an increase of 26% for males and 21% for females since February 2020.
4. The ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth in Edinburgh with 1,070 claimants in February 2022.
5. The ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick in East Lothian with 140 claimants in February 2022
6. In January 2022 there were 41,168 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In February 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,500. Of these
 - a. 1,350 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 6,640 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,505 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 48% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 6,645 male claimants and 3,855 female claimants. This represents an increase of 50% for males and 45% for females since February 2020.
4. The Edinburgh ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth with 1,070 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 4.9%.
5. The Edinburgh ward with the lowest claimant count is Corstorphine/Murrayfield with 190 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 1.3%.
6. In January 2022 there were 13,256 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

East Lothian Summary

1. In February 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 2,065. Of these
 - a. 340 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,215 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 510 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 17% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 1,220 male claimants and 845 female claimants. This represents an increase of 21% for males and 11% for females since February 2020.
4. The East Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Musselburgh with 525 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 4.2%.
5. The East Lothian ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick Coastal with 140 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 1.8%.
6. In January 2022 there were 3,473 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In February 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 9,905. Of these
 - a. 1,750 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,790 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,365 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 13% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 6,180 male claimants and 3,725 female claimants. This represents an increase of 13% for males and 13% for females since February 2020.
4. The Fife ward with the greatest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages with 930 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 8.5%.

5. The Fife ward with the lowest claimant count is St Andrews with 155 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 1.0%.
6. In January 2022 there were 12,309 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In February 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,700. Of these
 - a. 320 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,025 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 355 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 16% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 1,050 male claimants and 650 female claimants. This represents an increase of 21% for males and 7% for females since February 2020.
4. The Midlothian ward with the largest claimant count is Dalkeith with 340 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 3.7%.
5. The Midlothian ward with the lowest claimant count is Midlothian West with 240 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 2.5%
6. In January 2022 there were 3,064 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In February 2022 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,340. Of these
 - a. 395 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,305 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 640 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 26% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 1,370 male claimants and 970 female claimants. This represents an increase of 22% for males and 31% for females since February 2020.
4. The Scottish Borders ward with the greatest claimant count is Galashiels and District with 455 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 4.6%.
5. The Scottish Borders ward with the lowest claimant count is jointly Tweeddale East and Tweeddale West both with 150 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 2.4%.
6. In January 2022 there were 3,167 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In February 2022 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,785. Of these
 - a. 735 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 2,285 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 76 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 11% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 2,310 male claimants and 1,475 female claimants. This represents an increase of 17% for males and 1% for females since February 2020.
4. The West Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Whitburn and Blackburn with 625 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 4.5%.
5. The West Lothian Ward with the lowest claimant count is Linlithgow with 155 claimants in February 2022 and a claimant rate of 1.5%
6. In January 2022 there were 5,867 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count February 2022 Full Update

Overall Claimant Count

On the 15th March NOMIS released claimant count data for February. 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 January 2022 and February 2022
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and February 2022
- the percentage *increase* between January 2022 and February 2022

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

Date	Feb 2020	Claimant Count Peak		January 2022	February 2022	Percentage Change		
		Count	Month			Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to Feb 22	Jan 22 to Feb 22
UK	1,255,770	2,688,110	(Aug20)	1,777,485	1,809,660	114%	-33%	2%
East	89,890	213,715	(Aug 20)	134,795	137,100	138%	-36%	2%
East Midlands	80,915	170,220	(Aug 20)	110,930	113,800	110%	-33%	3%
London	184,765	478,165	(Sep 20)	330,310	337,450	159%	-29%	2%
North East	75,560	123,720	(Aug 20)	82,570	83,515	64%	-32%	1%
North West	167,055	326,490	(May 20)	219,420	224,615	95%	-31%	2%
Northern Ireland	29,910	63,860	(May 20)	39,220	39,705	114%	-38%	1%
Scotland	114,605	224,840	(Aug 20)	136,105	136,895	96%	-39%	1%
South East	119,620	300,975	(Aug 20)	190,275	193,095	152%	-36%	1%
South West	75,595	180,915	(Aug 20)	105,645	107,135	139%	-41%	1%
Wales	60,375	118,905	(Aug 20)	75,865	76,925	97%	-35%	1%
West Midlands	141,095	269,985	(Feb 21)	194,520	199,220	91%	-26%	2%
Yorkshire & Humber	116,390	219,515	(Feb 20)	157,835	160,205	89%	-27%	2%

Source: NOMIS 15/03/2022

As well as highlighting differences in when the claimant count peaked across the country, this table also illustrates the degree to which different areas were affected – compare the 159% increase in the claimant count in London to the 64% increase in the North East. Of some concern is the fact that the January to February claimant count has increased, small percentage increases but still

increases. It's not unusual to see the claimant count increase in the first few months of each year as seasonal employment for the Christmas period falls back. What is of concern is this 'normalising' in the claimant count when it is still over 500,000 claimants higher, across the UK, than it was pre-pandemic. It will be interesting to see what happens over the next few months.

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		Jan 22	Feb 22	Feb to Peak	Peak to Feb 22	Jan 22 to Feb 22
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb 21	9,725	6,360	6,285	134%	-35%	-1%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug 20	6,675	4,120	4,120	124%	-38%	0%
Angus	2,040	Aug 20	3,985	2,340	2,355	95%	-41%	1%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May 20	3,290	1,825	1,855	115%	-44%	2%
Edinburgh	7,105	Aug 20	18,840	10,425	10,500	165%	-44%	1%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug 20	2,255	1,375	1,365	62%	-39%	-1%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	May 20	5,115	3,170	3,155	73%	-38%	0%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug 20	7,490	4,815	4,885	65%	-35%	1%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug 20	6,280	4,030	4,010	70%	-36%	0%
E. Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug 20	2,985	1,575	1,590	143%	-47%	1%
East Lothian	1,765	May 20	3,680	2,100	2,065	108%	-44%	-2%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul 20	2,415	1,260	1,230	154%	-49%	-2%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul 20	6,335	3,745	3,770	92%	-40%	1%
Fife	8,765	Aug 20	15,840	9,740	9,905	81%	-37%	2%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug 20	38,205	25,500	25,625	91%	-33%	0%
Highland	3,715	Jul 20	8,430	4,255	4,370	127%	-48%	3%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul 20	3,275	2,225	2,245	45%	-31%	1%
Midlothian	1,470	May 20	3,160	1,705	1,700	115%	-46%	0%
Moray	1,550	Aug 20	3,030	1,810	1,805	95%	-40%	0%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug 20	880	470	450	89%	-49%	-4%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul 20	7,290	4,475	4,460	58%	-39%	0%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug 20	15,870	9,420	9,465	93%	-40%	0%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug 20	420	250	265	115%	-37%	6%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug 20	4,595	2,520	2,630	146%	-43%	4%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug 20	7,780	4,325	4,365	93%	-44%	1%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul 20	3,835	2,365	2,340	106%	-39%	-1%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep 20	545	280	315	106%	-42%	13%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug 20	4,960	3,105	3,100	78%	-38%	0%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug 20	13,725	8,040	8,060	96%	-41%	0%
Stirling	1,540	Jul 20	3,125	1,620	1,655	103%	-47%	2%
W. Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul 20	4,865	3,135	3,165	66%	-35%	1%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug 20	7,005	3,725	3,785	105%	-46%	2%
Scotland	114,605	Aug 20	224,840	136,105	136,895	96%	-39%	1%

Source: NOMIS 15/03/2022

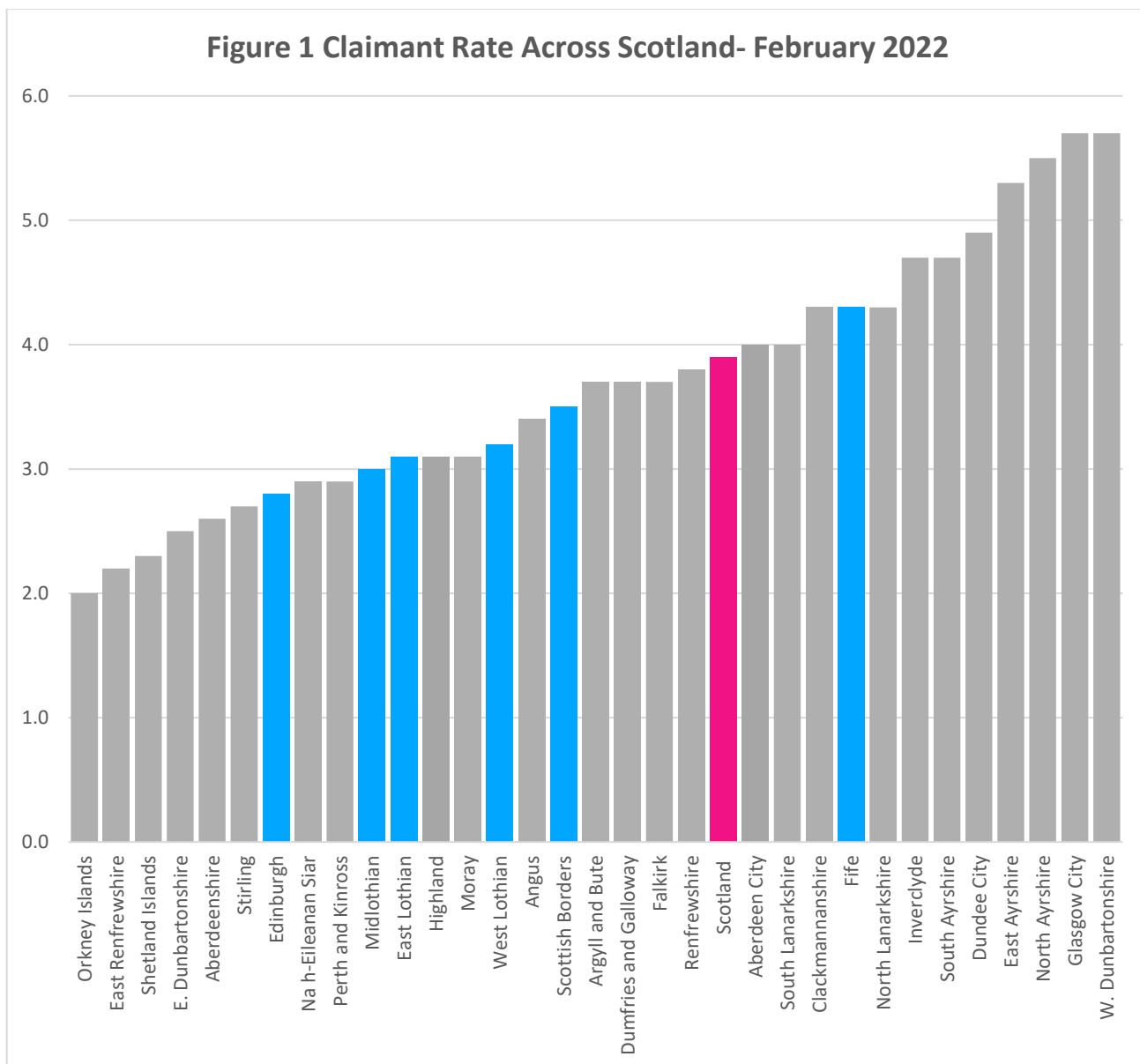
The data highlights that whilst Scotland recorded a 96% increase in the claimant count, this varies from a 45% increase in Inverclyde through to a 165% increase in Edinburgh. Generally, those that recorded the higher increases have also recorded relatively large falls in the claimant count. For example, whilst Edinburgh recorded a 165% increase between February 2020 and August 2020, a fall of 44% has been recorded between August 2020 and February 2022.

The most recent month to month change indicates that whilst Scotland as a whole saw the claimant count increase by 1% between January and February

- 10 Local Authorities saw no change at all between January and February.
- 6 recorded a month to month **fall** of between 1% and 4%
- 16 recorded a month to month **increase** of between 1 and 13%

In terms of the City Region, Edinburgh, Fife and West Lothian recorded a month to month increase. East Lothian and Scottish Borders recorded a fall and Midlothian saw no real change.

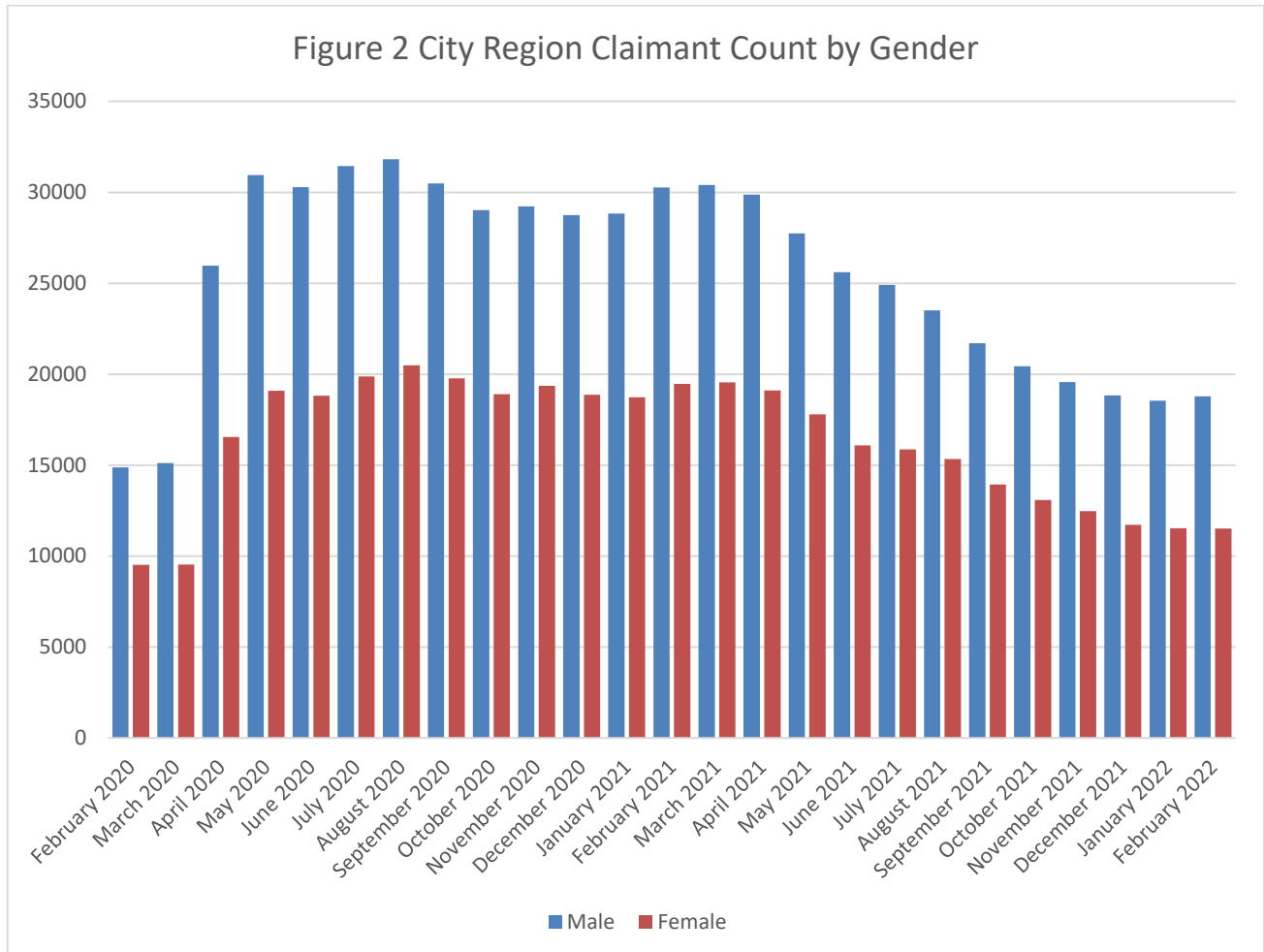
Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate by Local Authority across Scotland as a whole. From this it can be seen that with the exception of Fife, every Local Authority in the City Region has a rate that is lower than the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 15/3/2022

Gender Profile

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 February 2022 there has been a fall in the claimant count across the region of 41% for males and 44% 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 15/3/2022

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 20 to Peak	130%	144%	116%	110%	99%	108%
Peak to Feb 22	-53%	-57%	-39%	-40%	-36%	-41

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 something similar to that of 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 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 January and February 2022.

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
Jan 2022	6,605	1,230	6,060	1,035	1,375	2,235
Feb 2022	6,645	1,220	6,180	1,050	1,370	2,310
Feb 20 to Peak	160%	117%	78%	128%	103%	114%
Peak to Feb 22	-42%	-44%	-37%	-47%	-40%	-45%
Jan 22 to Feb 22	1%	-1%	2%	1%	0%	3%
Claim Rate Feb 20	2.4	3.2	4.8	3.1	3.4	3.4
Claim Rate Feb 22	3.7	3.8	5.5	3.8	4.2	4.0

Source: NOMIS 15/3/2022

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 has recorded a 47% fall in the claimant count for males between the Peak and February 2022. 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 1.3 points higher than it was before COVID and this, along with Fife, 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
Jan 2022	3,820	865	3,685	670	995	1,490
Feb 2022	3,855	845	3,725	650	970	1,475
Feb 20 to Peak	174%	99%	84%	102%	114%	91%
Peak to Feb 21	-47%	-44%	-39%	-47%	-39%	-47%
Jan 22 to Feb 22	1%	-2%	1%	-3%	-3%	-1%
Claim Rate Feb 20	1.4	2.2	2.8	2.0	2.1	2.4
Claim Rate Feb 22	2.1	2.5	3.1	2.2	2.8	2.5

Source: NOMIS 15/3/2022

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 between February 2020 and the summer of 2020. 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.

As mentioned already the changes between January and February have been slightly upwards in some areas whilst others have continued to see month to month falls. For example, the claimant count for Males has increased in all areas apart from Scottish Borders where there was no real change month to month and East Lothian where there was a fall of 1%. For female claimants the picture is a bit more mixed with Edinburgh and Fife seeing a small rise in the claimant count and the other 6 local authorities recording a fall – in the case of Scottish Borders and Midlothian a fall of 3% month on month.

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 below looks at the age profile of claimants in each of the 6 Local Authorities and also in the City Region.

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. It is clear from the table how significant this percentage increase was – even in areas where the overall increase was *relatively* low. 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 overall percentage change for this age group is very similar to what was recorded overall in each LA. This is probably to be expected as it is the age group that makes up a large proportion of the overall claimants. 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 55% for 16-24 year olds since the peak, for 25-49 year olds it has fallen by 40% and for those over the age of 50 it has fallen by 38%. 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 59% between the peak month of July 2020 and February 2022. At the other end of the scale is the situation in Fife for those over the age of 50 – has fallen by 34% 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 February 2022.

As with the data examined already, one concern is that for certain age groups and certain localities the January to February change is less positive. For 16-24 year olds 4 of the 6 Local Authorities recorded an increase between January and February 2022. This increase ranged from 2% in Fife through to a 7% increase in West Lothian. In Midlothian and Scottish Borders the claimant fell between January and February. The situation for 25-49 year olds was one that saw 3 of the Local Authorities record no significant change between January and February 1 recorded an increase of between 1% and one, East Lothian, recorded a fall in the claimant count numbers of 3%. For those claimants over 50 there were falls recorded in 3 of the 6 Local Authorities between January and February, 1 recorded no change and 2 recorded an increase.

The younger age groups are again experiencing the initial changes in the labour market, this could be linked to sectors in which they are employed being the same sectors that experience seasonal fluctuations, or it could be other factors at play.

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-20		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		Jul-20	Jul-20	Jul-20	Jul-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Jul-20
Jan-22		1,310	325	1,710	325	405	690	4,765
Feb-22		1,350	340	1,750	320	395	735	4,895
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203%	152%	104%	114%	113%	114%	134%
	Peak to Feb 22	-59%	-57%	-51%	-54%	-55%	-53%	-55%
	Jan to Feb 22	3%	5%	2%	-2%	-2%	7%	3%
25-49 Year Olds		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb-20		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
Jan-22		6,565	1,255	5,680	1,030	1,305	2,275	18,110
Feb-22		6,640	1,215	5,790	1,025	1,305	2,285	18,260
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172%	106%	76%	116%	101%	101%	114%
	Peak to Feb 22	-43%	-42%	-34%	-45%	-33%	-42%	-40%
	Jan to Feb 22	1%	-3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%
50 years and over		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb-20		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
Jan-22		2,555	520	2,350	345	655	760	7,190
Feb-22		2,505	510	2,365	355	640	760	7,135
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138%	106%	76%	141%	117%	106%	104%
	Peak to Dec 21	-39%	-42%	-34%	-47%	-37%	-49%	-38%
	Jan to Feb 22	-2%	-2%	1%	3%	-2%	0%	-1%

Source: NOMIS 16/03/2022

Ward Profile

The claimant count data allows us to look in detail at what has been happening in the wards of the City Region, providing a useful picture on where unemployment is higher and also highlighting that there are people out of work and claiming across the region regardless of where they live.

This section looks at the ward position for each LA in turn. In Table 6 we can see the current situation in the 17 Edinburgh Wards and the percentage change since the start of the pandemic and since last month. From this it is clear that 5 wards recorded a fall in the claimant count between January and February 2022. In the case of 4 wards the claimant count was pretty much the same in February as it was in January. For the remaining 8 an increase in the claimant count was recorded

and this ranged from 1% in Leith Walk and Drumbrae/Gyle through to 9% in Colinton/Fairmilehead. It can be seen in the table that whilst on average across the City 13% of a wards claimant population is aged 16-24, six wards had a higher proportion – and 5 of these also recorded an increase in the claimant count between January and February

Table 6 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		February 2022				
	Feb 20- Feb 22	Jan 22- Feb 22	Male	Female	Proportion of Claimants		
					Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	23%	-3%	400	210	13%	66%	21%
City Centre	48%	-2%	505	220	12%	65%	23%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	66%	9%	175	115	16%	55%	29%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	58%	0%	105	80	13%	58%	29%
Craighton/ Duddingston	43%	0%	495	290	11%	68%	22%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	64%	1%	225	140	12%	59%	27%
Forth	49%	5%	665	405	13%	66%	21%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	61%	2%	220	110	14%	59%	27%
Inverleith	61%	0%	215	140	13%	58%	30%
Leith	33%	0%	530	300	10%	68%	22%
Leith Walk	62%	1%	555	335	10%	66%	24%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	59%	-1%	540	315	16%	58%	26%
Morningside	60%	7%	145	95	15%	60%	27%
Pentland Hills	36%	4%	530	320	16%	62%	22%
Portobello/Craigmillar	38%	-2%	520	340	12%	65%	22%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	56%	2%	545	315	16%	63%	22%
Southside/Newington	67%	-4%	265	120	12%	57%	31%
Edinburgh	48%	1%	6,645	3,855	13%	63%	24%

Source: NOMIS 17/03/2022

In Table 7 the position of the wards in East Lothian is examined and it can be seen that in 3 of the 6 wards there was a fall in the claimant count between January and February – maybe not surprising given the LA as a whole recorded a fall in the claimant count.

Table 7 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		February 2022				
	Feb 20- Feb 22	Jan 22- Feb 22	Male	Female	Proportion of Claimants		
					Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	18%	2%	125	105	15%	60%	26%
Haddington and Lammermuir	27%	-3%	195	140	15%	59%	27%
Musselburgh	15%	1%	335	190	16%	59%	24%
North Berwick Coastal	65%	-3%	90	50	21%	50%	29%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	15%	-3%	185	165	18%	54%	27%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	8%	-2%	295	190	16%	64%	20%
East Lothian	17%	-2%	1220	845	16%	59%	25%

Source: NOMIS 17/03/2022

The table illustrates that in North Berwick coastal just over a fifth of all claimants in February were 16-24 years of age and it also shows that this ward had 140 claimants overall – compare this to Musselburgh with 525 claimants in February.

Table 8 looks at the position in the Fife wards. It is apparent that only 2 of the 22 wards saw a fall in the claimant count between January and February. Of the others 4 recorded no measurable change month to month and the final 16 all saw an increase ranging from 1% through to 7%.

Table 8 Fife Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		February 2022				
	Feb 20- Feb 22	Jan 22- Feb 22	Male	Female	Proportion of Claimants		
					Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	3%	-1%	620	310	22%	56%	22%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	5%	4%	240	165	18%	56%	26%
Cowdenbeath	17%	2%	450	265	17%	61%	22%
Cupar	19%	2%	150	100	16%	60%	24%
Dunfermline Central	11%	1%	285	155	19%	60%	20%
Dunfermline North	-8%	7%	240	140	12%	63%	25%
Dunfermline South	14%	4%	300	215	18%	60%	21%
East Neuk and Landward	32%	0%	145	95	10%	55%	33%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	11%	4%	265	145	20%	59%	22%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	6%	0%	240	135	17%	63%	20%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	16%	3%	230	175	20%	60%	21%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	34%	0%	130	105	15%	51%	34%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	11%	2%	150	105	14%	53%	35%
Kirkcaldy Central	24%	1%	465	255	12%	63%	25%
Kirkcaldy East	21%	1%	480	295	19%	58%	23%
Kirkcaldy North	9%	0%	255	170	20%	60%	20%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	5%	-4%	355	165	20%	55%	26%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	18%	2%	500	305	20%	58%	22%
Rosyth	13%	5%	200	140	17%	58%	25%
St Andrews	48%	7%	105	55	16%	48%	35%
Tay Bridgehead	5%	3%	130	70	18%	58%	28%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	11%	3%	245	150	18%	59%	23%
Fife	13%	2%	6,180	3,725	18%	58%	24%

Source: NOMIS 17/03/2022

Whilst in Edinburgh wards there was an indication that wards with a higher proportion of 16-24 year olds saw higher January to February increases this is not as clear in Fife. In fact, some of the wards with higher proportions of young claimants, Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages for example, actually recorded a fall between January and February.

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 9 below. From this we can see that half of all Midlothian wards saw a month to month increase and half saw a month to month decrease in the claimant count between January and February. Perhaps most interesting is that 4 of the 6 wards in Midlothian have over 20% of claimants aged 16-24, which results in Midlothian overall having a higher proportion of younger claimants than any of the other Local Authorities in the region.

Table 9 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		February 2022				
	Feb 20- Feb 22	Jan 22- Feb 22	Male	Female	Proportion of Claimants		
					Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	36%	-2%	145	100	22%	55%	22%
Dalkeith	15%	-4%	215	120	21%	60%	19%
Midlothian East	27%	2%	190	140	20%	65%	17%
Midlothian South	-3%	-2%	185	105	17%	62%	21%
Midlothian West	14%	2%	145	95	21%	52%	27%
Penicuik	16%	2%	170	90	13%	65%	21%
Midlothian	16%	0%	1,050	650	19%	60%	21%

Source: NOMIS 17/03/2022

West Lothian is another of the Local Authorities where wards can have very different claimant count levels and this can be seen in Table 10 below. In this case it ranges from 150 in Linlithgow through to 625 in Whitburn and Blackburn. Overall, there had been an increase in the claimant count of 2% between January and February 2022 with Livingston South recording an 8% month to month increase. Nearly a quarter of all claimants in Livingston North were 16-24 years of age, whilst it was 13% in Linlithgow.

Table 10 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		February 2022				
	Feb 20- Feb 22	Jan 22- Feb 22	Male	Female	Proportion of Claimants		
					Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale and Blackridge	3%	3%	195	120	22%	58%	19%
Bathgate	7%	4%	300	205	17%	61%	22%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	15%	0%	260	160	19%	57%	24%
East Livingston and East Calder	18%	1%	280	170	18%	60%	22%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	10%	-3%	290	150	18%	67%	13%
Linlithgow	15%	-3%	90	60	13%	65%	23%
Livingston North	17%	4%	220	160	24%	59%	18%
Livingston South	9%	8%	290	200	20%	58%	21%
Whitburn and Blackburn	7%	0%	380	245	21%	60%	19%
West Lothian	11%	2%	2,310	1,475	19%	60%	20%

Source: NOMIS 17/03/2022

Table 11 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. We can see that for 6 of the 11 wards there had been a fall in claimant count between January and February 2022. Perhaps most noticeable is the fact that for some of these wards the month to month falls were in the order of 7% and 8%. These areas had small claimant numbers overall so relatively small numerically changes can result in large percentage changes, but even when this is considered these month to month changes are still large. Hawick and Hermitage looks unusual in that its month to month change between January 2022 and February 2022 is the same as it was between February 2020 and February 2022. This is due to the fact that the January claimant count for this ward was 180 claimants, the same number as it recorded in February 2020.

In terms of the age profile of claimants this ranges from Tweeddale East and Tweeddale West where 10% of claimants are aged 16-24 through to Hawick and Denholm where 25% of claimants were of

that age 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 11 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		February 2022				
	Feb 20- Feb 22	Jan 22- Feb 22	Male	Female	Proportion of Claimants		
					Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	31%	-5%	105	105	12%	57%	31%
Galashiels and District	18%	0%	290	165	16%	60%	24%
Hawick and Denholm	13%	-7%	160	105	25%	57%	17%
Hawick and Hermitage	14%	14%	135	70	22%	51%	29%
Jedburgh and District	31%	-8%	90	85	18%	59%	26%
Kelso and District	25%	0%	100	75	14%	54%	31%
Leaderdale and Melrose	52%	3%	95	80	20%	51%	29%
Mid Berwickshire	25%	-5%	100	75	14%	54%	29%
Selkirkshire	24%	2%	120	85	17%	56%	27%
Tweeddale East	43%	-6%	90	60	10%	57%	33%
Tweeddale West	43%	-3%	85	65	10%	53%	33%
Scottish Borders	26%	-1%	1,370	970	17%	56%	27%

Source: NOMIS 17/03/2022

What these tables indicate is that across the region the ward claimant count can be vastly different ranging from 140 (St Andrews) through to 1,070 (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, in 18 wards 16-24 year olds make up 20% or over of all claimants. What we can also see in these tables is the fact that not every ward is moving in the same direction. Whilst 22 wards recorded falls between January and February, 37 recorded increases. The range is also very noticeable and in the same period that Hawick and Hermitage recorded a 14% increase in its claimant count Jedburgh and District recorded an 8% fall. These swings are less noticeable in a ward with a large number of claimants where significant changes in the claimant numbers would be needed to generate large swings, but it reflects the differences across the region.

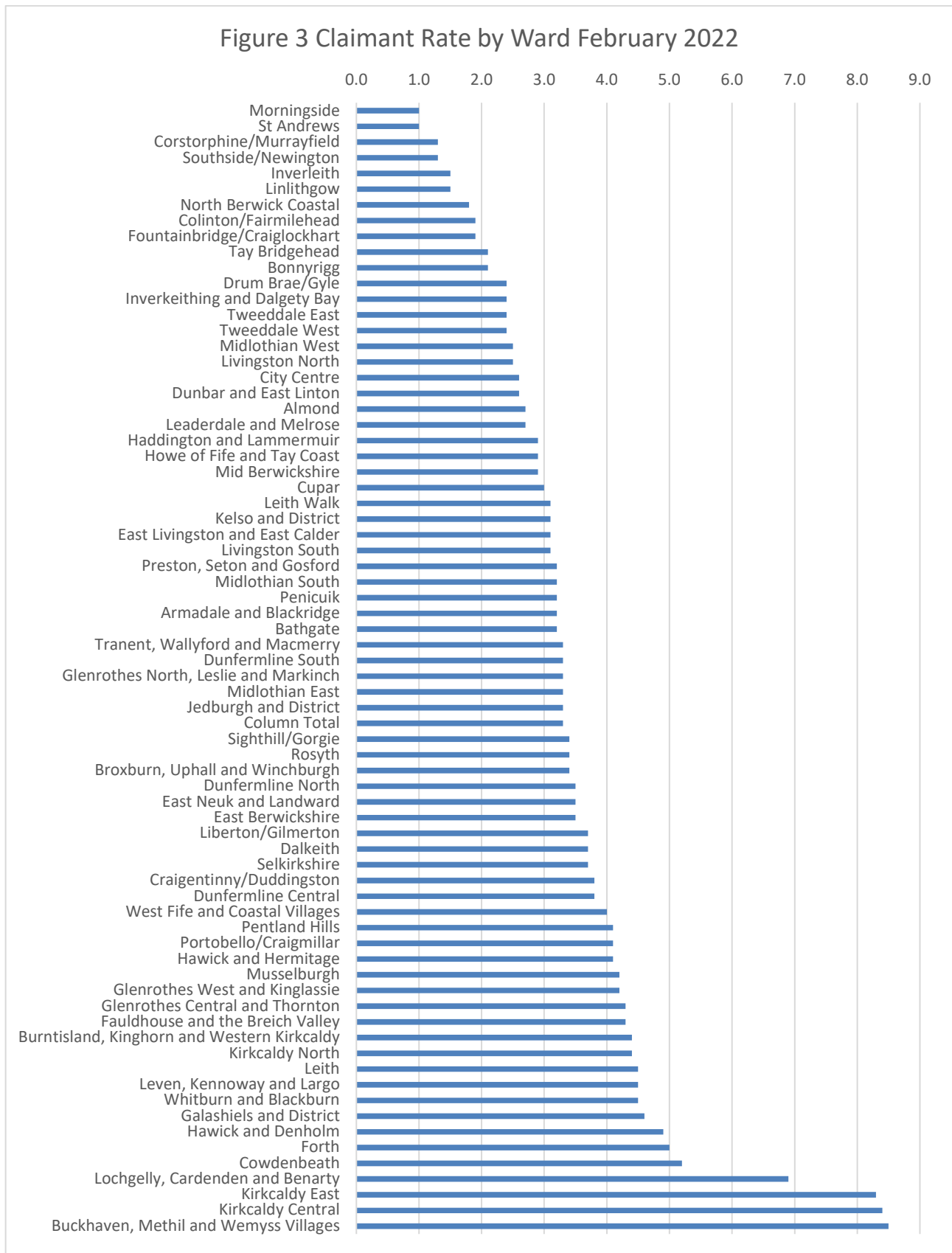
Table 12 North Edinburgh Claimant Count by Data Zone February 2022

Data Zone	Count	Working Age Popln	Data Zone	Count	Working Age Popln
Muirhouse - 01	85	543	Boswall and Pilton - 01	30	516
Muirhouse - 02	60	527	Boswall and Pilton - 02	20	374
Muirhouse - 03	65	932	Boswall and Pilton - 03	20	988
Muirhouse - 04	30	673	Boswall and Pilton - 04	5	480
Muirhouse - 05	25	446	Boswall and Pilton - 05	10	488
Muirhouse - 06	35	625	Boswall and Pilton - 06	15	582
West Pilton - 02	80	740	Boswall and Pilton - 07	5	332
West Pilton - 03	40	587			
West Pilton - 04	55	608			
West Pilton - 05	60	878			

Source: NOMIS 17/03/2022

One other point to make is that whilst wards make up a reasonable profile of what is happening in a local area, it is possible to drill down further, down to the level of data zone. In Edinburgh there are

597 data zones and across the region there are over 1,600 data zones. Table 12 above looks at the number of claimants in each of the data zones that make up Muirhouse, West Pilton and Boswall and Pilton Data Zones parts of the Forth ward. This demonstrates that even within wards there are differences as well as highlighting that unemployment can often be highly concentrated in one or two streets. Figure 3 below looks at the claimant rate by ward across the region.

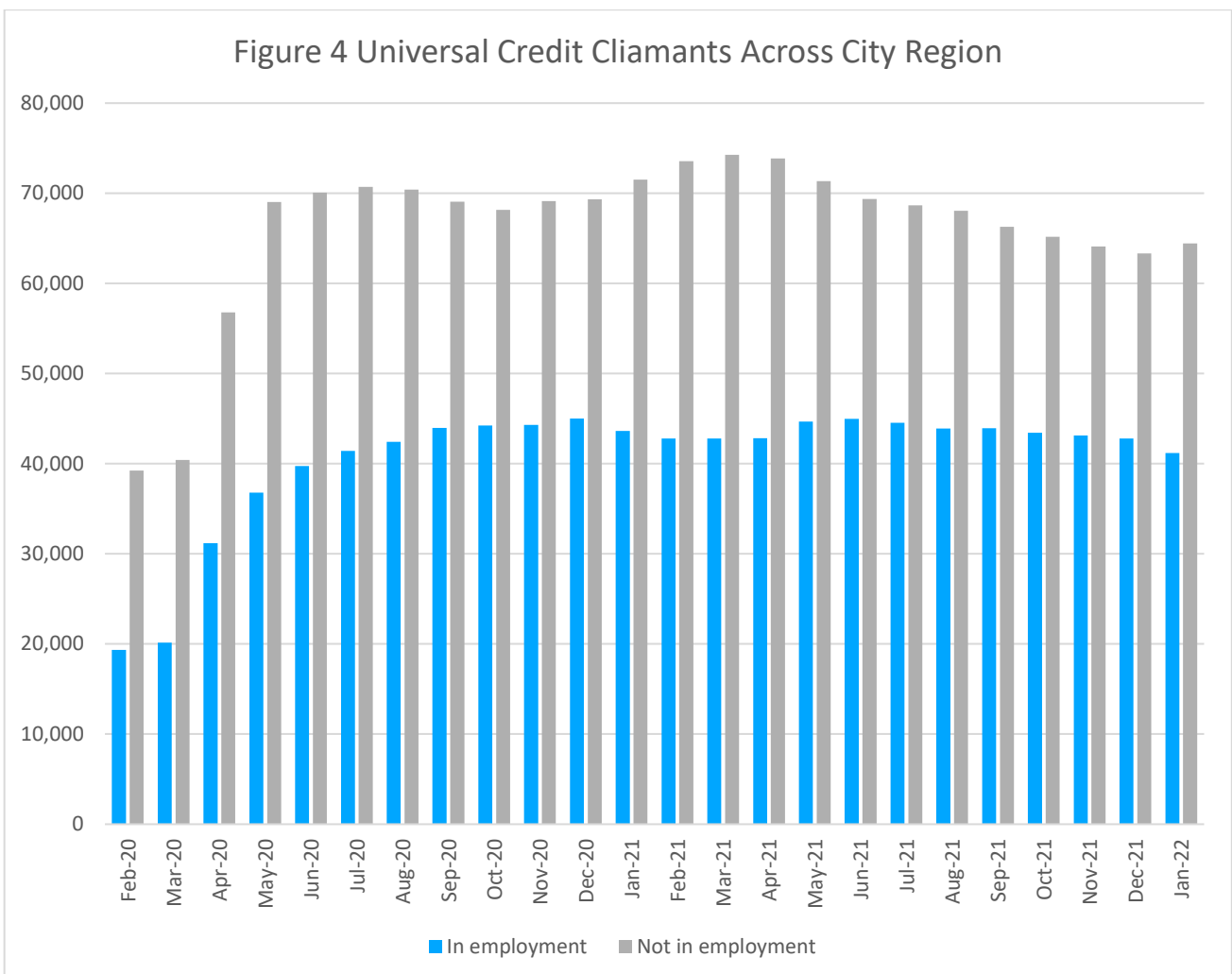


Source: NOMIS 18/03/2022

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). As a result it has 2 parts- support for those that are in employment and support for those out of work. It is worth noting that UC count for those not in work will include clients who are not seeking work, primarily due to ill health, and as a result will differ from the claimant count looked at elsewhere which focuses on those looking for work.

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 February 2022 data for UC claimants is available, it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the January 2022 data is the most up to date that allows such a split.



Source: StatXplore 18/03/2022

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 January 2022 there were 41,168 people who were in employment across the City Region but needed support from UC. This is a 112% increase since February 2020. For comparison those that were not in employment increased by 64% over the same period.

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 is split by Local Authority and how long they have been claiming. For each figure a proportion is also given so that it can be seen that in Edinburgh 1,204 claimants had been claiming for up to 3 months and overall this represents 9% of all in work claimants. The claiming period that is the most common is claiming for 1-2 years with 37% of in work claimants across the region having been claiming for that length of time. This would suggest that these claimants hadn't been claiming before the pandemic.

Table 13 Period of Claiming for In Work UC Claimants February 2022

	Edinburgh		East Lothian		Fife		Scottish Borders		West Lothian		Midlothian		City Region	
	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%
Up to 3 mths	1,204	9	252	7	1,180	10	310	10	560	10	265	9	3,774	9
3 mths to 6 mths	1,245	9	247	7	1,018	8	312	10	566	10	204	7	3,593	9
6 mths to 1 year	1,953	15	384	11	1,568	13	403	13	753	13	366	12	5,433	13
1 to 2 years	5,906	44	1,062	31	3,986	32	1,081	34	2,048	35	948	31	15,037	37
2 to 3 years	2,553	19	556	16	2,514	20	701	22	1,169	20	578	19	8,070	20
3 to 4 years	249	2	302	9	1,792	15	302	10	699	12	351	11	3,687	9
4 to 5 years	79	1	340	10	186	2	36	1	37	1	319	10	1,009	2
5 years and over	99	1	326	9	58	0	22	1	31	1	27	1	568	1

Source: StatXplore 18/3/2022

The DWP StatXplore site allows a picture of the situation at the DataZone level to be presented, similar to the claimant count data presented in Table 12. Table 14 below looks at the number of In-employment claimants of Universal Credit at the Data Zone level and also highlights the working age population in each data zone.

Table 14 North Edinburgh Universal Credit in Work Claimants by Data Zone January 2022

Data Zone	In employment	Working Age Popn	Data Zone	In Employment	Working Age Popn
West Pilton - 05	92	878	Boswall and Pilton - 04	10	480
West Pilton - 04	89	608	Boswall and Pilton - 06	10	582
West Pilton - 02	104	740	Boswall and Pilton - 02	21	374
West Pilton - 03	68	587	Boswall and Pilton - 05	21	488
Muirhouse - 05	39	446	Boswall and Pilton - 03	35	988
Muirhouse - 06	34	625	Boswall and Pilton - 07	6	332
Muirhouse - 04	46	673	Boswall and Pilton - 01	39	516
Muirhouse - 02	65	527			
Muirhouse - 01	110	543			
Muirhouse - 03	120	932			

Source: StatXplore 18/3/2022

Once again this indicates that even within one ward there can be differences with the Data Zones in West Pilton having far higher UC in work counts than the DZs of Boswall and Pilton. Presenting this degree of disagreement for the whole region is possible, although any table would have to accommodate the 1,631 data zones that comprise the City Region.

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