

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2022 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and March 2022:	Between February 2022 and March 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 40% ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 15% ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 44% ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 19% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK Claimant Count decreased by 3% ↓ Scottish Claimant Count decreased by 4% ↓ Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 1% ↓ City Region Claimant Count decreased by 3%

City Region Summary

1. In March 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 28,930. Of these
 - a. 4,660 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 17,440 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 6,840 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 19% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 41,260 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In March 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,500. Of these
 - a. 1,345 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 6,635 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,440 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 44% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 13,232 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

East Lothian Summary

1. In March 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,865. Of these
 - a. 285 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,100 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 480 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 6% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 3,470 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In March 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 9,550. Of these
 - a. 1,685 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,600 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,265 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 9% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 12,288 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In March 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,570. Of these
 - a. 295 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 940 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 340 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 7% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 3,081 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In March 2022 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,235. Of these
 - a. 380 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,245 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 610 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 20% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In January 2022 there were 3,229 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In March 2022 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,495. Of these
 - a. 670 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 2,120 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 705 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 2% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In February 2022 there were 5,956 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2022 Full Update

Overall Claimant Count

On the 13th April NOMIS released claimant count data for March. 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 February 2022 and March 2022
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and March 2022
- the percentage *increase* between February 2022 and March 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.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

Date	Feb-20	Claimant Count Peak		Feb 22	March 22	Percentage Change		
		Count	Month			Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to Mar 22	Feb 22 to Mar 22
UK	1,255,770	2,688,110	Aug20	1,809,660	1,753,090	114%	-35%	-3%
East	89,890	213,715	(Aug 20)	137,100	131,765	138%	-38%	-4%
East Midlands	80,915	170,220	Aug 20	113,800	110,625	110%	-35%	-3%
London	184,765	478,165	Sep 20	337,450	324,395	159%	-32%	-4%
North East	75,560	123,720	Aug 20	83,515	80,445	64%	-35%	-4%
North West	167,055	326,490	May 20	224,615	219,925	95%	-33%	-2%
N. Ireland	29,910	63,860	May 20	39,705	38,530	114%	-40%	-3%
Scotland	114,605	224,840	Aug 20	136,895	131,445	96%	-42%	-4%
South East	119,620	300,975	Aug 20	193,095	186,230	152%	-38%	-4%
South West	75,595	180,915	Aug 20	107,135	103,255	139%	-43%	-4%
Wales	60,375	118,905	Aug 20	76,925	74,710	97%	-37%	-3%
West Midlands	141,095	269,985	Feb 21	199,220	195,850	91%	-27%	-2%
Yorks & Humb	116,390	219,515	Feb 20	160,205	155,915	89%	-29%	-3%

Source: NOMIS 13/04/2022

In the last report there was a concern that the January to February claimant count has increased, small percentage increases but still increases. At the time it was mentioned that it wasn't unusual to see the claimant count increase in the first few months of each year as seasonal employment for the Christmas period falls back. This appears to be the case as across every region of the UK we can see that the claimant count in March was between 2 and 4% lower than it was in February.

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.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

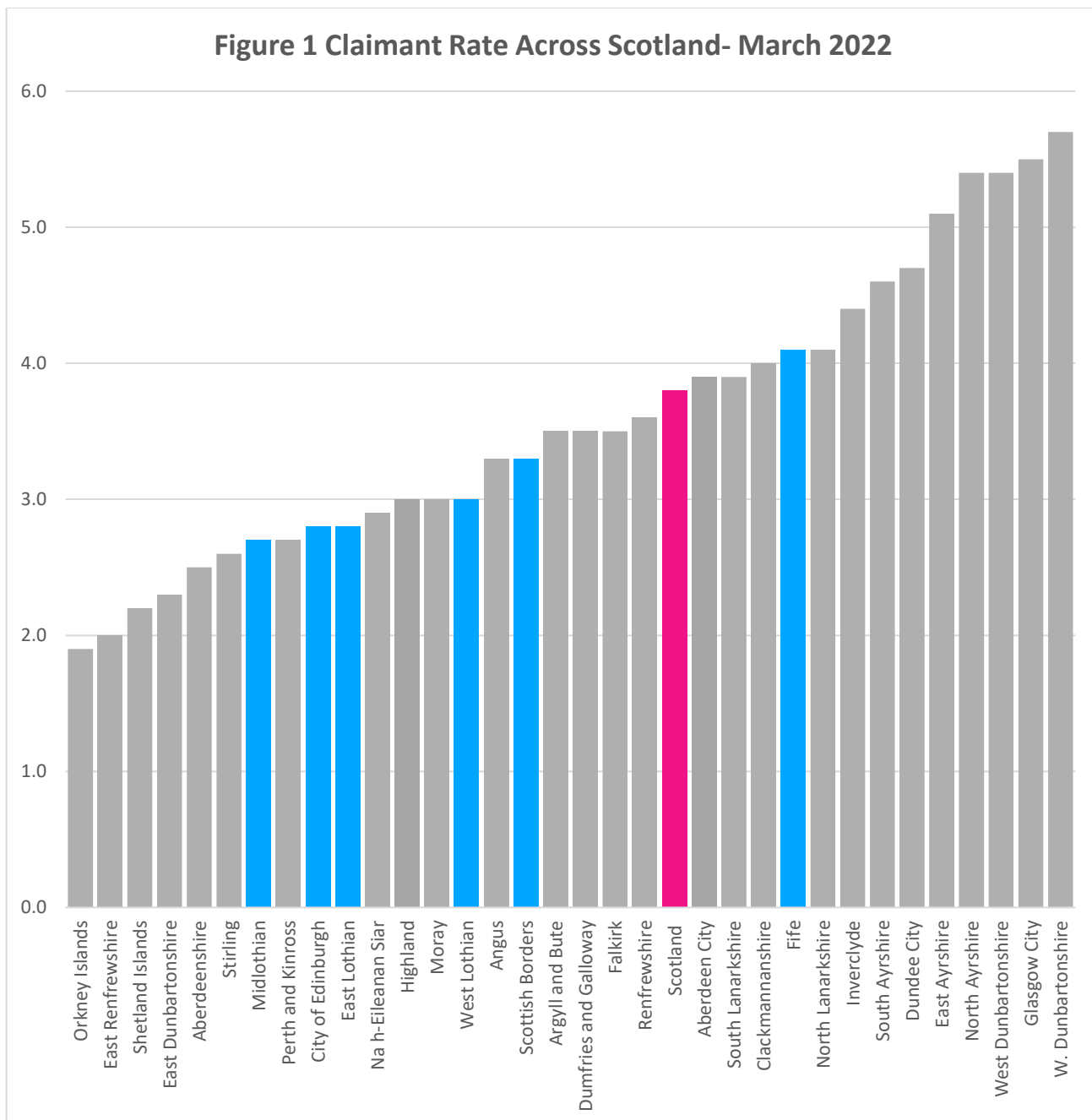
	Feb-20	Peak Month and Count		Feb 22	Mar 22	Feb20 to Peak	Peak to Mar 22	Feb 22 to Mar 22
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb-21	9,725	6,205	6,165	134%	-37%	-1%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug-20	6,675	4,055	3,935	124%	-41%	-3%
Angus	2,040	Aug-20	3,985	2,330	2,255	95%	-43%	-3%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May-20	3,290	1,810	1,780	115%	-46%	-2%
Edinburgh	7,105	Aug-20	18,840	10,320	10,215	165%	-46%	-1%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug-20	2,255	1,340	1,280	62%	-43%	-4%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	May-20	5,115	3,125	2,985	73%	-42%	-4%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug-20	7,490	4,825	4,670	65%	-38%	-3%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug-20	6,280	3,965	3,845	70%	-39%	-3%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug-20	2,985	1,570	1,495	143%	-50%	-5%
East Lothian	1,765	May-20	3,680	2,040	1,865	108%	-49%	-9%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul-20	2,415	1,210	1,130	154%	-53%	-7%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul-20	6,335	3,720	3,615	92%	-43%	-3%
Fife	8,765	Aug-20	15,840	9,785	9,550	81%	-40%	-2%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug-20	38,205	25,315	24,720	91%	-35%	-2%
Highland	3,715	Jul-20	8,430	4,325	4,240	127%	-50%	-2%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul-20	3,275	2,225	2,140	45%	-35%	-4%
Midlothian	1,470	May-20	3,160	1,675	1,570	115%	-50%	-6%
Moray	1,550	Aug-20	3,030	1,785	1,755	95%	-42%	-2%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug-20	880	445	450	89%	-49%	1%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul-20	7,290	4,435	4,340	58%	-40%	-2%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug-20	15,870	9,310	9,080	93%	-43%	-2%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug-20	420	260	250	115%	-40%	-4%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug-20	4,595	2,595	2,510	146%	-45%	-3%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug-20	7,780	4,330	4,180	93%	-46%	-3%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul-20	3,835	2,320	2,235	106%	-42%	-4%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep-20	545	315	305	106%	-44%	-3%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug-20	4,960	3,070	3,000	78%	-40%	-2%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug-20	13,725	7,940	7,820	96%	-43%	-2%
Stirling	1,540	Jul-20	3,125	1,620	1,550	103%	-50%	-4%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul-20	4,865	3,130	3,015	66%	-38%	-4%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug-20	7,005	3,715	3,495	105%	-50%	-6%
Scotland	114,605	Aug-20	224,840	135,105	131,445	96%	-42%	-3%

Source: NOMIS 13/04/2022

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 46% has been recorded between August 2020 and March 2022.

Looking at the situation between February and March in the authorities in South East Scotland, Edinburgh recorded a month to month fall of 1%; East Lothian a fall of 9%; Fife a fall of 2%; Midlothian a fall of 6%, Scottish Borders a fall of 6% and West Lothian a fall of 6%.

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.

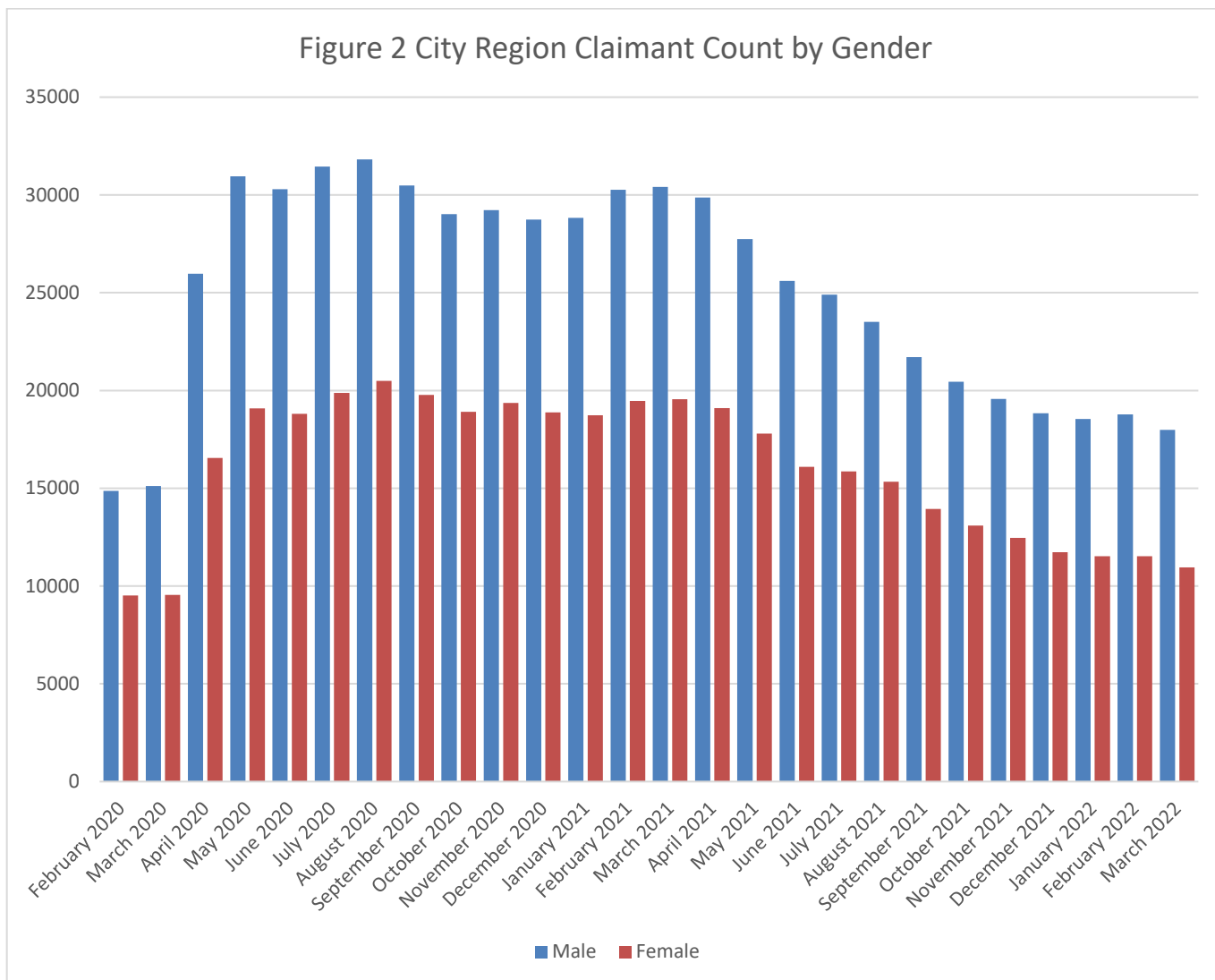


Source: NOMIS 13/4/2022

Gender Profile

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant count by 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 March 2022 there has been a fall in the claimant count across the region of 56% for males and 54% for females.



Source: NOMIS 14/4/2022

Table 3 below looks at the number of claimants by gender and age in the city region and shows the difference in the percentage fall between February and March 2022. The percentage falls by gender are much the same with the exception of the over 50 claimant count where female claimants fell by 5% between February 2022 and Male Claimants fell by 2%

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
February 2020	2,820	1,775	8,550	5,580	3,505	2,160
February 2022	3,005	1,810	11,075	6,920	4,420	2,630
March 2022	2,925	1,735	10,720	6,715	4,335	2,500
Feb 22-Mar 22	-3%	-4%	-3%	-3%	-2%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 14/4/2022

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the Region in more detail. Tables 4 and 5 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 February and March 2022.

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

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
Feb-20	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
Feb-22	6,645	1,220	6,180	1,050	1,370	2,310
Mar-22	6,435	1,130	5,980	960	1,310	2,170
Feb 20 to Peak	160%	117%	78%	128%	103%	114%
Peak to Mar 22	-44%	-48%	-39%	-51%	-42%	-49%
Feb 22 to Mar 22	-3%	-7%	-3%	-9%	-4%	-6%
Claim Rate Feb 20	2.4	3.2	4.8	3.1	3.4	3.4
Claim Rate Feb 22	3.5	3.6	5.3	3.5	4.0	3.7

Source: NOMIS 14/4/2022

From Table 4 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 51% fall in the claimant count for males between the Peak and March 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 1.1 points higher than it was before COVID and this is the largest difference in the region.

Table 5: Change in Female Claimant Count Split Across the City Region

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
Feb-20	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
Feb-22	3,855	845	3,725	650	970	1,475
Mar-22	3,780	735	3,570	610	925	1,325
Feb 20 to Peak	174%	99%	84%	102%	114%	91%
Peak to Mar 22	-48%	-51%	-41%	-50%	-42%	-52%
Feb 22 to Mar 22	-2%	-13%	-4%	-6%	-5%	-10%
Claim Rate Feb 20	1.4	2.2	2.8	2	2.1	2.4
Claim Rate Mar 22	2	2.1	3	2.1	2.7	2.2

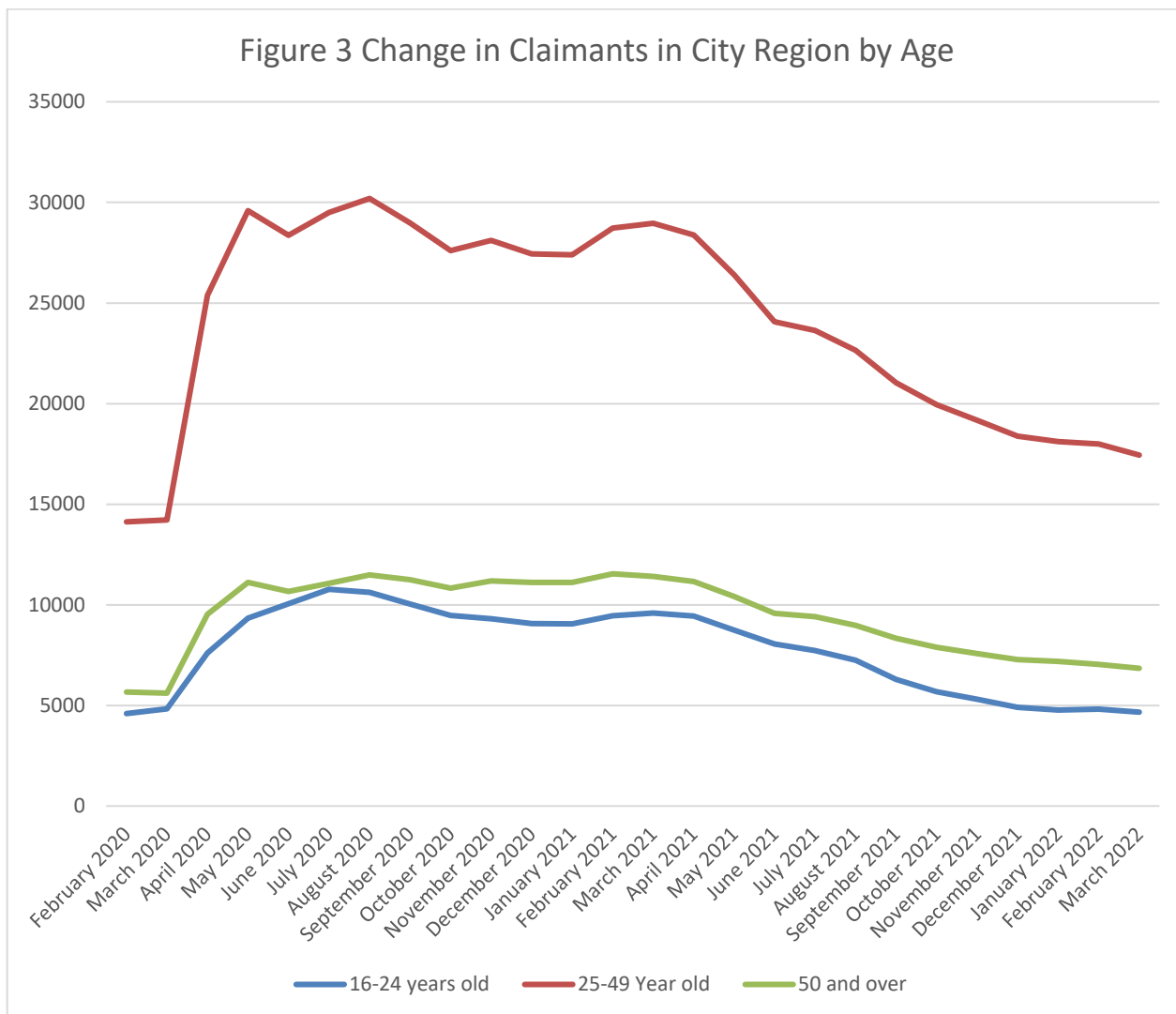
Source: NOMIS 14/4/2022

Table 5 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. The female claimant count in Midlothian has fallen by the largest percentage since the 2020 peak, however three other local authorities have recorded similar percentage falls. Scottish Borders and Fife recorded a lower percentage fall. Interesting is the fact

that the claimant rate for females is now very similar in three of the LA to that recorded pre-pandemic.

Age Profile

Figure 3 below looks at how the claimant count has changed over the last 2 years by broad age group. Its clear that all age groups saw a dramatic rise in the number of claimants between February and May 2020 and since then there has been a general stabilisation and then fall back in the claimant numbers.



Source: NOMIS 14/4/2022

Table 6 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.

Table 6: 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
Feb-22		1,350	340	1,750	320	395	735	4,895
Mar-22		1,345	285	1,685	295	380	670	4,660
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203%	152%	104%	114%	113%	114%	134%
	Peak to Mar 22	-59%	-64%	-53%	-58%	-57%	-57%	-57%
	Feb 22 to Mar 22	0%	-16%	-4%	-8%	-4%	-9%	-5%
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
Feb-22		6,640	1,215	5,790	1,025	1,305	2,285	18,260
Mar-22		6,435	1,100	5,600	940	1,245	2,120	17,440
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172%	106%	76%	116%	101%	101%	114%
	Peak to Mar 22	-45%	-48%	-36%	-50%	-36%	-46%	-42%
	Feb 22 to Mar 22	-3%	-9%	-3%	-8%	-5%	-7%	-4%
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
Feb-22		2,505	510	2,365	355	640	760	7,135
Mar-22		2,440	480	2,265	340	610	705	6,840
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138%	106%	76%	141%	117%	106%	104%
	Peak to Mar 22	-41%	-46%	-36%	-50%	-40%	-53%	-41%
	Feb 22 to Mar 22	-3%	-6%	-4%	-4%	-5%	-7%	-4%

Source: NOMIS 14/04/2022

In terms of falls, the claimant count across the region has fallen by 57% for 16-24 year olds since the peak, for 25-49 year olds it has fallen by 42% and for those over the age of 50 it has fallen by 41%. 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 March 2022. In Fife for 25-49 year olds and those over 50 there had been a 36% fall in the claimant numbers since the peak.

The data examined in the last report indicated a slight increase in the claimant count month to month between January and February. What can be seen in the most recent data is that this increase in claimants has reversed and we are seeing falls again across (nearly) all age groups and all authorities. The claimant count for 16-24 year olds in Edinburgh was much the same in March as it was in February so recorded a 0% change. At the other extreme was East Lothian where the 16-24 year old age group recorded a 16% fall month to month.

Ward Profile

This section looks at the ward position for each LA in turn. In Table 7 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 9 wards recorded a fall in the claimant count between February and March 2022. Inverleith stands out as it has shown a 10% increase in the claimant count between February and March 2022 and the count is 73% higher than it was in February 2020. This ward had the 5th lowest claimant count in the city in February 2020 and is currently 7th lowest claimant count.

Overall in the city 13% of claimants in March were 16-24 years of age and this ranged from 9% in the Leith and Leith Walk wards to 18% in Colinton/Farmilehead ward.

Table 7 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward March 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		Number of Claimants March 2022				
	Feb 20-Mar 22	Feb 22-Mar 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	24%	2%	390	225	85	395	135
City Centre	49%	1%	505	230	90	475	170
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	60%	0%	170	110	50	155	75
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	50%	-5%	105	75	20	100	60
Craightinny/ Duddingston	36%	-2%	480	270	95	490	165
Drum Brae/ Gyle	53%	-4%	210	135	40	205	100
Forth	44%	0%	635	400	135	670	235
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	54%	-5%	210	105	45	195	80
Inverleith	73%	10%	230	145	50	230	100
Leith	26%	-2%	495	300	75	550	170
Leith Walk	55%	-3%	540	305	75	575	200
Liberton/ Gilmerton	56%	-1%	525	320	145	485	215
Morningside	50%	-8%	130	95	35	130	60
Pentland Hills	34%	1%	520	320	130	525	185
Portobello/Craigmillar	33%	-1%	505	325	115	535	180
Sighthill/ Gorgie	52%	-1%	525	310	130	525	185
Southside/Newington	61%	-3%	255	110	45	200	125
Edinburgh	44%	-1%	6,435	3,780	1,345	6,435	2,440

Source: NOMIS 19/04/2022

In Table 8 the position of the wards in East Lothian is examined and it can be seen that in all 6 of the wards there was a fall in the claimant count between February and March. The table illustrates that in North Berwick coastal, just under 15% of all claimants in March were 16-24 years of age and it also shows that this ward had 135 claimants overall – compare this to Musselburgh with 460 claimants in February. In East Lothian overall just over 15% of the claimants recorded in March were 16-24 years of age.

Table 8 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		Number of Claimants March 2022				
	Feb 20-Mar 22	Feb 22-Mar 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	5%	-9%	115	95	30	120	60
Haddington and Lammermuir	19%	-5%	185	125	40	185	90
Musselburgh	2%	-10%	300	160	70	275	115
North Berwick Coastal	53%	-7%	90	45	20	70	40
Preston, Seton and Gosford	0%	-11%	175	135	55	170	90
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	-2%	-8%	265	175	70	275	90
East Lothian	6%	-9%	1,130	735	285	1100	480

Source: NOMIS 19/04/2022

Table 9 looks at the position in the Fife wards. It is apparent that 3 of the 22 wards saw an increase in the claimant count between February and March. Of the others 5 recorded no measurable change month to month and the others all saw a fall ranging from 1% through to 8%.

Table 9 Fife Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		Number of Claimants March 2022				
	Feb 20-Mar 22	Feb 22-Mar 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages	-3%	-5%	585	285	190	490	195
Burntisland, Kinghorn & W. Kirkcaldy	5%	0%	240	160	65	225	115
Cowdenbeath	12%	-2%	425	260	115	425	145
Cupar	17%	-2%	145	95	40	145	55
Dunfermline Central	10%	0%	280	155	90	265	75
Dunfermline North	-12%	-6%	225	145	50	225	90
Dunfermline South	11%	-2%	300	200	90	305	105
East Neuk and Landward	24%	-4%	150	85	25	120	85
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	7%	0%	250	150	75	240	80
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	-1%	-4%	220	130	60	215	70
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	6%	-8%	205	165	70	220	80
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	29%	-4%	120	110	30	125	70
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	9%	-2%	150	100	30	130	90
Kirkcaldy Central	21%	-2%	465	235	90	430	180
Kirkcaldy East	19%	-1%	480	280	135	435	190
Kirkcaldy North	10%	1%	250	180	80	265	80
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	6%	1%	360	165	105	290	130
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	9%	-6%	475	270	150	435	155
Rosyth	8%	0%	200	130	60	195	80
St Andrews	52%	7%	100	55	25	80	55
Tay Bridgehead	0%	-3%	120	70	35	105	50
West Fife and Coastal Villages	10%	0%	240	150	60	235	95
Fife	9%	-2%	5,980	3,570	1685	5600	2265

Source: NOMIS 19/04/2022

Across the Kingdom 18% of claimants are aged 16-24 years of age. This ranges from 11% in East Neuk and Landward through to 20% in two wards: Leven, Kennoway and Largo and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty.

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 10 below. The statistic that stands out in this table is Midlothian South where the March 2022 claimant count is **12%** lower than it was in February 2020.

All bar one ward (Midlothian West) recorded falls in the claimant count between February and March 2022. In terms of the age profile, overall, in March 2022, 19% of Midlothian claimants were 16-24 years of age. This ranged from 19% in Midlothian East and Midlothian South through to 12% in Penicuik.

Table 10 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		Number of Claimants March 2022				
	Feb 20-Mar 22	Feb 22-Mar 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	31%	-2%	130	105	50	135	50
Dalkeith	0%	-8%	190	105	65	170	60
Midlothian East	14%	-11%	165	125	55	190	50
Midlothian South	-12%	-9%	170	95	50	160	55
Midlothian West	12%	2%	140	95	40	125	70
Penicuik	11%	-7%	165	85	30	165	55
Midlothian	7%	-6%	960	610	295	940	340

Source: NOMIS 19/04/2022

West Lothian is another of the Local Authorities where wards can have very different claimant count levels. This can be seen in Table 11 below. In this case it ranges from 145 in Linlithgow through to 600 in Whitburn and Blackburn. Overall, there had been a decrease in the claimant count of 6% between February and March 2022 with Livingston South recording a 13% month to month fall. Nearly a quarter of all claimants in Armadale and Blackridge were 16-24 years of age, whilst it was 14% in Linlithgow.

Table 11 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2022

2019 electoral wards	% Change		Number of Claimants March 2022				
	Feb 20-Mar 22	Feb 22-Mar 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale and Blackridge	-8%	-8%	180	105	70	165	55
Bathgate	1%	-5%	295	185	95	280	100
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	5%	-6%	245	140	75	215	95
East Livingston and East Calder	7%	-8%	255	150	55	260	90
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	2%	-5%	275	140	75	275	60
Linlithgow	7%	-3%	90	55	20	90	35
Livingston North	14%	-1%	210	155	70	230	70
Livingston South	-7%	-13%	255	165	90	240	90
Whitburn and Blackburn	3%	-2%	370	230	120	370	110
West Lothian	2%	-6%	2,170	1,325	670	2120	705

Source: NOMIS 19/04/2022

Table 12 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. We can see that for 2 of the 11 wards there had been an increase in claimant count between February and January 2022. Perhaps most noticeable is the fact that for one ward, East Berwickshire, there was a 19% month to month fall between February and March 2022. Some of the areas that record large percentage changes had small claimant numbers overall so relatively small numerically changes can result in large percentage changes.

Table 12 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward February 2022

	% Change	Number of Claimants March 2022
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2019 electoral wards	Feb 20- Mar 22	Feb 22- Mar 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	6%	-19%	90	85	25	95	50
Galashiels and District	14%	-3%	275	165	70	265	105
Hawick and Denholm	15%	2%	165	110	65	155	50
Hawick and Hermitage	8%	-5%	120	70	45	95	55
Jedburgh and District	23%	-6%	85	70	25	95	40
Kelso and District	14%	-6%	90	70	20	90	50
Leaderdale and Melrose	48%	0%	95	75	30	90	45
Mid Berwickshire	21%	-6%	95	75	30	90	55
Selkirkshire	24%	0%	125	75	35	115	55
Tweeddale East	43%	3%	80	70	15	85	50
Tweeddale West	33%	-7%	85	55	15	75	55
Scottish Borders	20%	-4%	1,310	925	380	1245	610

Source: NOMIS 19/04/2022

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

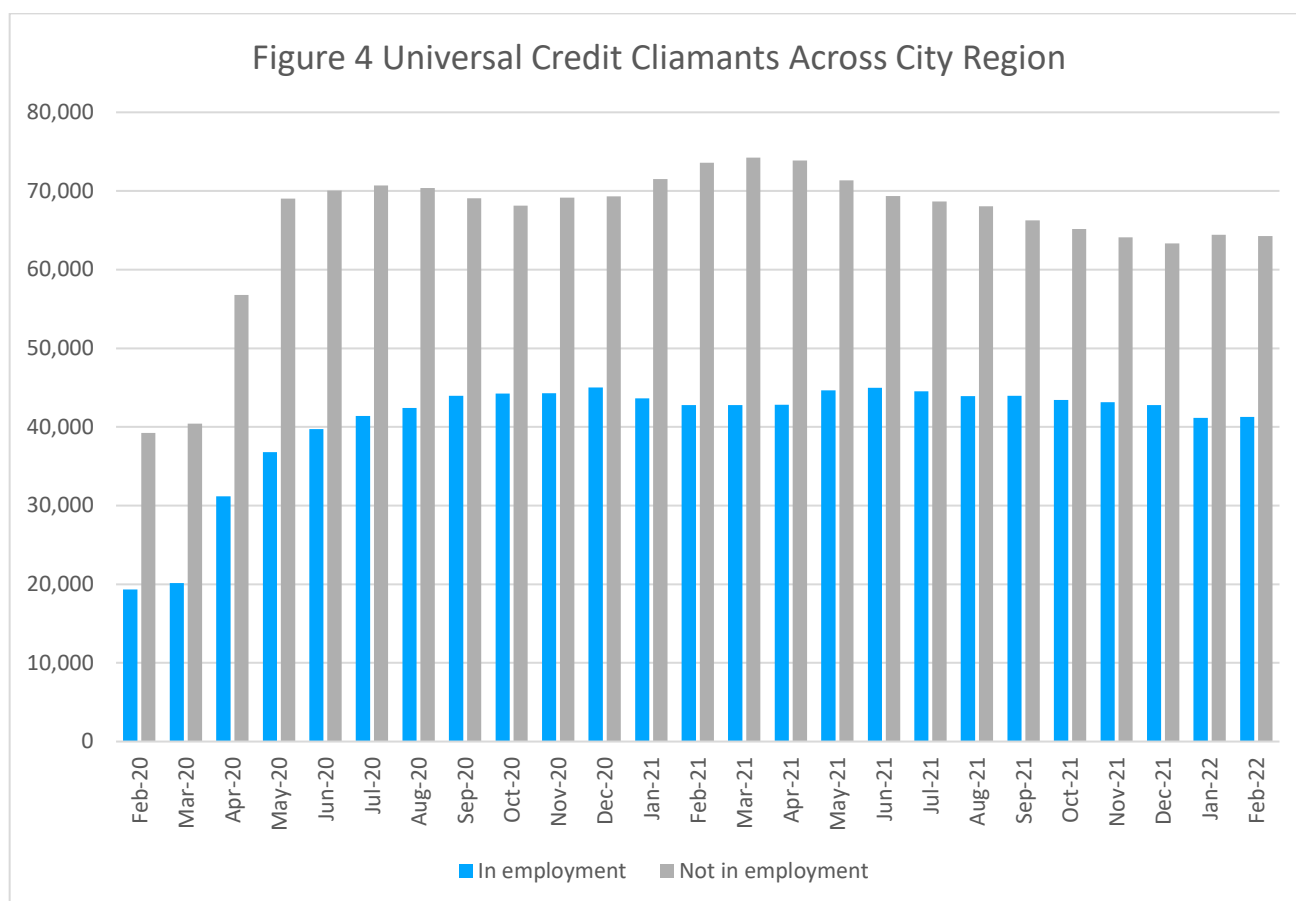
Universal Credit

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 March 2022 data for UC claimants is available, it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the February 2022 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 February 2022 there were 41,260 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 63% over the same period.

Figure 4 Universal Credit Claimants Across City Region



Source: StatXplore 19/04/2022

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 universal credit claimants and is split by Local Authority. From the chart we can see that in February 2020 in Edinburgh 34% of UC claimants were in employment. Over the 2 year period this has increased so that 41% of all UC claimants in the city were in work and claiming. This is not unique to Edinburgh and can be seen across the region.

Table 13 UC Claimants February 2020 Compared with February 2022

	February 2020				February 2022			
	Not in employment		In employment		Not in employment		In employment	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Edinburgh	9,041	66%	4,650	34%	18,909	59%	13,232	41%
East Lothian	3,725	64%	2,120	36%	5,169	60%	3,470	40%
Fife	14,794	70%	6,467	30%	21,712	64%	12,288	36%
Midlothian	3,173	64%	1,741	35%	4,696	60%	3,081	40%
Scottish Borders	2,874	65%	1,546	35%	4,731	59%	3,229	41%
West Lothian	5,608	67%	2,809	33%	9,031	60%	5,956	40%
Total	39,224	67%	19,338	33%	64,251	61%	41,260	39%

Source: StatXplore 19/4/2022

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