









Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count May 2022 Summary Update

Between February 2020 and April 2022:	Between March 2022 and April 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  UK Claimant Count increased by 32%  Scottish Claimant Count increased by 7%  Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 33%  City Region Claimant Count increased by 11% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  UK Claimant Count decreased by 4%  Scottish Claimant Count decreased by 5%  Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 6%  City Region Claimant Count decreased by 5%

City Region Summary

1. In April 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 27,040. 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 11% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In March 2022 there were 41,368 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In April 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,425. Of these
 - a. 1,225 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,925 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,270 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 33% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In March 2022 there were 13,274 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh.

East Lothian Summary

1. In April 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,685. Of these
 - a. 265 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,000 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 420 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 5% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In March 2022 there were 3,460 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In April 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 8,950. Of these
 - a. 1,590 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,260 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,100 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 2% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In March 2022 there were 12,378 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In April 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,465. Of these
 - a. 265 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 885 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 315 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 7% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In March 2022 there were 3,126 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In April 2022 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,140. Of these
 - a. 340 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,200 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 600 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now *broadly* the same as it was in February 2020.
3. In March 2022 there were 3,210 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In April 2022 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,375. Of these
 - a. 640 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 2,050 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 685 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 1% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In March 2022 there were 5,921 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2022 Full Update

Overall Claimant Count

On the 17th May NOMIS released claimant count data for April. Table 1 looks at the 12 regions and countries of the UK and indicates

- the claimant count as at 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 March and April 2022
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and April 2022
- the percentage fall between March 2022 and April 2022

From Table 1 we can see that in every nation and region of the UK there has been a fall in the claimant count since the 2020 or 2021 peak and this has ranged from 30% in the West Midlands to 47% in the South West. Scotland recorded a fall of 46% since August 2020. One interesting observation is that the areas that experienced the highest increases in 2020 have not necessarily recorded the highest decreases- London for example.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

Date	Feb-2020	Claimant Count Peak		Mar-22	Apr-22	Percentage Change		
		Count	Month			Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to Apr 22	Mar 22 to Apr 22
UK	1,255,770	2,688,110	Aug-20	1,717,660	1,654,230	114%	-38%	-4%
East	89,890	213,715	Aug-20	129,110	123,545	138%	-42%	-4%
East Midlands	80,915	170,220	Aug-20	108,375	104,790	110%	-38%	-3%
London	184,765	478,165	Sep-20	315,615	308,030	159%	-36%	-2%
North East	75,560	123,720	Aug-20	79,030	74,305	64%	-40%	-6%
North West	167,055	326,490	May-20	215,260	207,270	95%	-37%	-4%
N. Ireland	29,910	63,860	May-20	37,875	37,505	114%	-41%	-1%
Scotland	114,605	224,840	Aug-20	129,185	122,210	96%	-46%	-5%
South East	119,620	300,975	Aug-20	182,640	175,675	152%	-42%	-4%
South West	75,595	180,915	Aug-20	101,405	95,100	139%	-47%	-6%
Wales	60,375	118,905	Aug-20	73,165	68,565	97%	-42%	-6%
West Midlands	141,095	269,985	Feb-21	192,385	188,295	91%	-30%	-2%
Yorks & Humb	116,390	219,515	Feb-20	153,625	148,950	89%	-32%	-3%

Source: NOMIS 17/05/2022

Looking more specifically at what has been recorded between March 2022 and April 2022 it can be seen that again all areas have seen the claimant count fall. This has ranged from a 1% fall in Northern Ireland to a 6% fall in the North East, South West and Wales.

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities (LAs). From this data it can be seen that since the peak in 2020/21 all LAs have seen a fall and this has ranged from 38% in Inverclyde to 56% in East Renfrew and Stirling. From March 2022 to April 2022 all 32 Local Authorities have recorded a fall ranging from 10% month to month fall in East Lothian and Highland to 1% in West Lothian.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

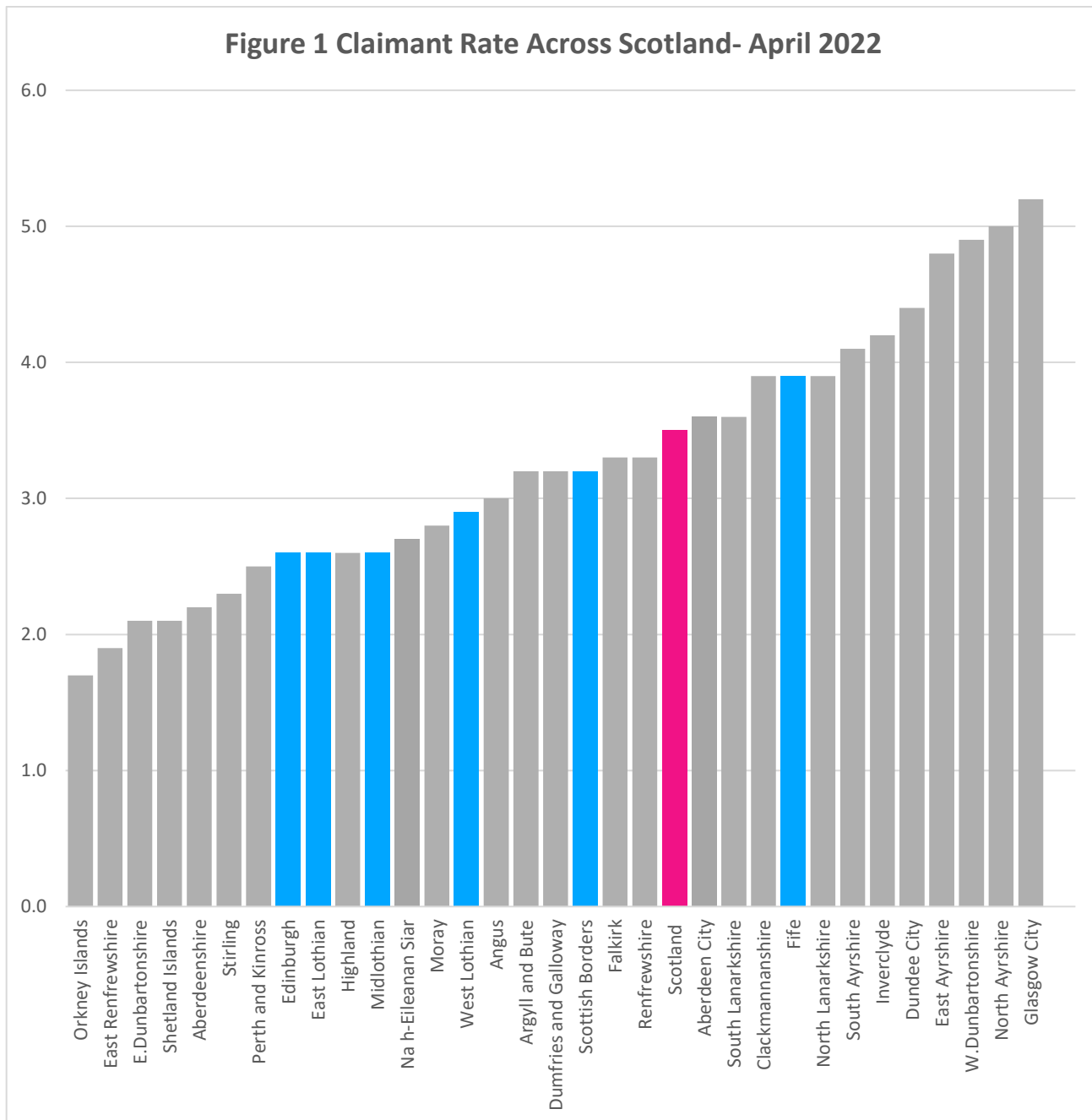
	Feb-20	Peak Month and Count		March 2022	April 2022	Feb20 to Peak	Peak to Apr22	Mar22 to Apr22
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb-21	9,725	6,050	5,590	134%	-43%	-8%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug-20	6,675	3,865	3,580	124%	-46%	-7%
Angus	2,040	Aug-20	3,985	2,195	2,035	95%	-49%	-7%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May-20	3,290	1,755	1,605	115%	-51%	-9%
Edinburgh	7,105	Aug-20	18,840	10,040	9,425	165%	-50%	-6%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug-20	2,255	1,270	1,250	62%	-45%	-2%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,950	May-20	5,115	2,930	2,795	73%	-45%	-5%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug-20	7,490	4,595	4,385	65%	-41%	-5%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug-20	6,280	3,755	3,585	70%	-43%	-5%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug-20	2,985	1,475	1,385	143%	-54%	-6%
East Lothian	1,765	May-20	3,680	1,875	1,685	108%	-54%	-10%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul-20	2,415	1,110	1,060	154%	-56%	-5%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul-20	6,335	3,560	3,365	92%	-47%	-5%
Fife	8,765	Aug-20	15,840	9,380	8,950	81%	-43%	-5%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug-20	38,205	24,300	23,370	91%	-39%	-4%
Highland	3,715	Jul-20	8,430	4,155	3,760	127%	-55%	-10%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul-20	3,275	2,105	2,030	45%	-38%	-4%
Midlothian	1,470	May-20	3,160	1,530	1,465	115%	-54%	-4%
Moray	1,550	Aug-20	3,030	1,740	1,630	95%	-46%	-6%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug-20	880	450	420	89%	-52%	-7%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul-20	7,290	4,280	4,060	58%	-44%	-5%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug-20	15,870	8,905	8,515	93%	-46%	-4%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug-20	420	245	230	115%	-45%	-6%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug-20	4,595	2,470	2,325	146%	-49%	-6%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug-20	7,780	4,130	3,850	93%	-51%	-7%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul-20	3,835	2,225	2,140	106%	-44%	-4%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep-20	545	300	285	106%	-48%	-5%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug-20	4,960	2,940	2,685	78%	-46%	-9%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug-20	13,725	7,660	7,250	96%	-47%	-5%
Stirling	1,540	Jul-20	3,125	1,510	1,375	103%	-56%	-9%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul-20	4,865	2,970	2,750	66%	-43%	-7%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug-20	7,005	3,405	3,375	105%	-52%	-1%
Scotland	114,605	Aug-20	224,840	129,185	122,210	96%	-46%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 17/05/2022

Similar to the regional situation illustrated in Table 1 it hasn't necessarily followed that if a Local Authority recorded a high percentage increase in the claimant count, this would result in a similar high percentage decrease. For example, Edinburgh recorded a 165% increase in the claimant count between February 2020 and August 2020 the largest increase of any Scottish Local Authority. By

April 2022 it had fallen by half to 9,425 claimants. Ten other Scottish Local Authorities have seen the claimant count fall by a higher percentage.

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.



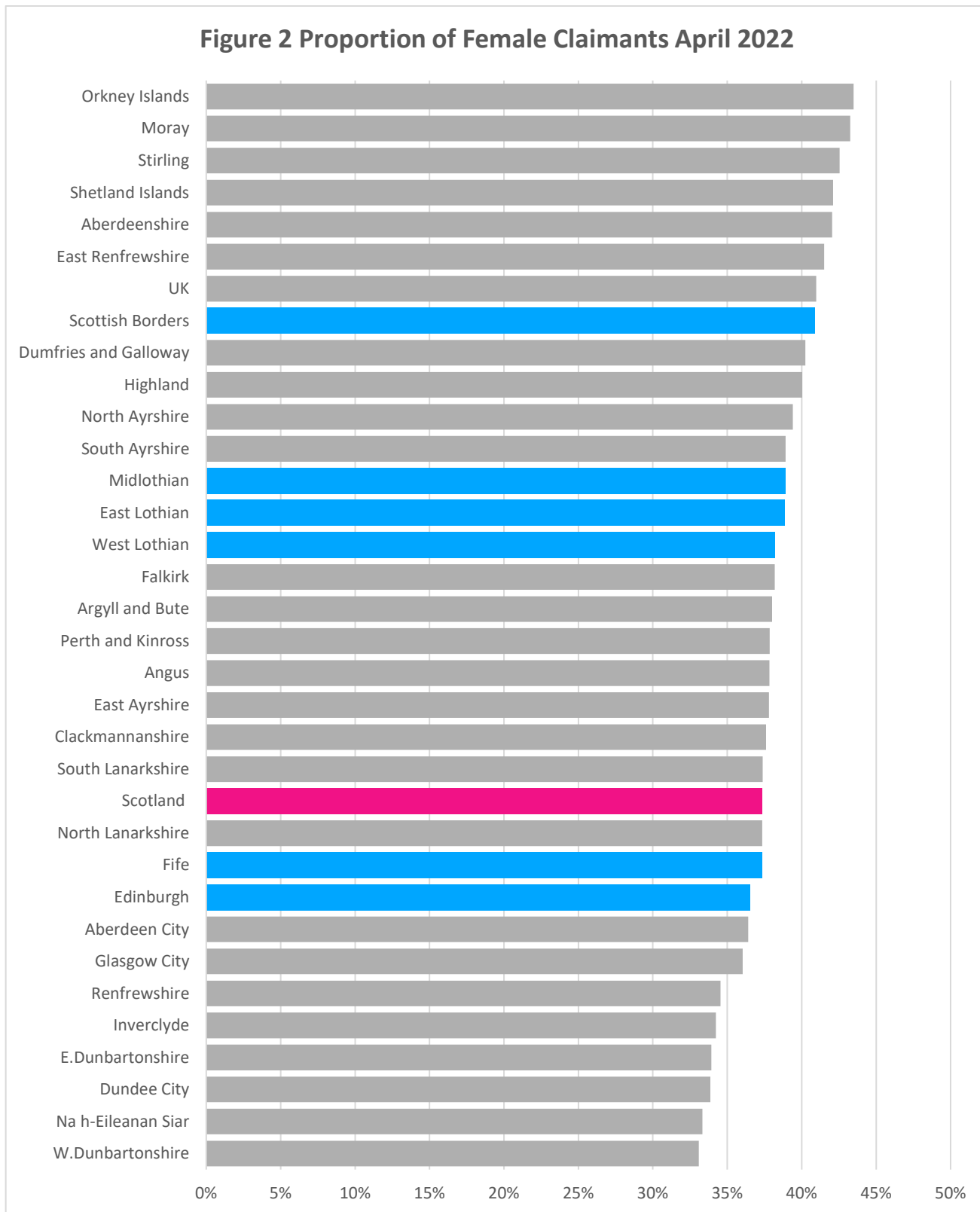
Source: NOMIS 17/5/2022

Gender Profile

Claimant count data on NOMIS provides a picture of the gender split of claimants. Across the UK in February 2020 the claimant count was 59% male and 41% female, and this proportion is the same now in April 2022. When the Scottish split is looked at its clear that there are proportionally more male claimants in Scotland than in the UK - 63% of claimant in February 2020 were male. This hasn't

changed with the increase in the claimant count so the proportion is much the same in April 2022 as it was in February 2020.

Figure 4 looks at the proportion of female claimants across the 32 Scottish Local Authorities. It can be seen that there are a lower proportion of females claiming in Fife and Edinburgh than the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 17/5/2022

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 March and April 2022.

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

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb-20	4,435	1,005	5,475	865	1,120	1,970	14,870
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	31,950
Mar-22	6,345	1,135	5,890	930	1,300	2,110	17,710
Feb-22	5,975	1,035	5,610	895	1,265	2,085	16,865
Feb 20 to Peak	160%	117%	78%	128%	103%	114%	115%
Peak to April 22	-48%	-53%	-43%	-55%	-44%	-51%	-47%
Mar 22 to April 22	-6%	-9%	-5%	-4%	-3%	-1%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 17/05/2022

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 55% fall in the claimant count for males between the peak and April 2022.

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

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb-20	2,665	760	3,290	605	740	1,455	9,515
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	20,485
Mar-22	3,695	740	3,490	605	925	1,295	10,745
Apr-22	3,445	655	3,340	570	875	1,290	10,175
Feb 20 to Peak	174%	99%	84%	102%	114%	91%	115%
Peak to April 2022	-53%	-57%	-45%	-53%	-45%	-54%	-50%
Mar 22 to April 22	-7%	-11%	-4%	-6%	-5%	0%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 17/05/2022

Table 4 looks at the situation for female claimants. Again, 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 East Lothian has fallen by the largest percentage since the 2020 peak.

Comparing the falls recorded in both tables for the most recent data it can be seen that with the exception of West Lothian and Fife the number of female claimants has fallen faster between March and April than that of Male claimants.

Age Profile

Table 5 below looks at the age profile of claimants in each of the 6 Local Authorities and also in the City Region. The downturn caused by the pandemic affected different sectors in different ways – hospitality and food services were amongst the first sectors to be impacted by trading restrictions and according to the FAI¹ these sectors have a younger workforce than any other sector. Whilst the impact was quickly felt on 16-24 year olds, it has rapidly recovered and this can be seen below.

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
Mar-22		1,315	295	1,650	285	375	655	4,575
Apr-22		1,225	265	1,590	265	340	640	4,325
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203%	152%	104%	114%	113%	114%	134%
	Peak to Apr 22	-63%	-67%	-55%	-62%	-62%	-59%	-60%
	Mar22 to Apr22	-7%	-10%	-4%	-7%	-9%	-2%	-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
Mar-22		6,315	1,105	5,500	910	1,235	2,060	17,125
Apr-22		5,925	1,000	5,260	885	1,200	2,050	16,325
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172%	106%	76%	116%	101%	101%	114%
	Peak to Apr 22	-49%	-52%	-40%	-53%	-39%	-48%	-46%
	Mar22 to Apr22	-6%	-10%	-4%	-3%	-3%	0%	-5%
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
Mar-22		2,410	480	2,225	335	615	690	6,755
Apr-22		2,270	420	2,100	315	600	685	6,390
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138%	106%	76%	141%	117%	106%	104%
	Peak to Apr 22	-45%	-53%	-41%	-53%	-41%	-54%	-45%
	Mar22 to Apr22	-6%	-13%	-6%	-6%	-2%	-1%	-5%

Source: NOMIS 17/05/2022

Across the City region there was a 134% increase in the claimant count of 16-24 year olds between February 2020 and the summer of 2020 when it peaked. Since then, there has been a 60% fall ranging from 67% in East Lothian through to 55% in Fife. There are still however, 4,325 16-24 year olds claiming in the region with Fife alone accounting for over 1/3rd of them. For the other age groups there was not the same degree of increase nor has there been the same degree of falls.

¹ <https://fraserofallander.org/workers-in-the-tourism-and-hospitality-sector-who-are-they-and-what-support-may-then-need-in-the-future/>

Ward Profile

Whilst a Local Authority focus is useful it can hide large differences in the claimant count within the local authority. 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. Colinton and Farmilehead is unusual as it recorded an increase in the claimant count between March and April and it also has the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants. However, overall claimant numbers in this ward are amongst the lowest in the city. Southside and Newington has the highest percentage of claimants over the age of 50 whilst Leith Walk has the lowest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants.

Table 6 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward April 2022

2019 electoral wards	April 2022 Claimant Count	% Change		Proportion of Claimants April 2022				
		Feb20-Apr22	Ma 22-Apr22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	540	9%	-10%	64%	36%	13.9%	64.8%	21.3%
City Centre	680	39%	-6%	70%	30%	12.5%	62.5%	25.0%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	280	60%	2%	61%	39%	19.6%	53.6%	26.8%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	165	38%	-8%	58%	42%	15.2%	57.6%	27.3%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	675	23%	-8%	63%	37%	11.1%	65.9%	23.0%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	330	47%	-3%	62%	36%	9.1%	62.1%	28.8%
Forth	965	34%	-5%	61%	39%	12.4%	65.3%	22.3%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	305	49%	-2%	66%	33%	13.1%	62.3%	23.0%
Inverleith	350	59%	-5%	63%	37%	14.3%	60.0%	27.1%
Leith	725	15%	-6%	63%	37%	9.7%	68.3%	22.8%
Leith Walk	755	37%	-8%	64%	36%	9.3%	65.6%	25.8%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	755	40%	-8%	62%	38%	17.9%	57.6%	25.2%
Morningside	205	37%	-9%	61%	41%	12.2%	63.4%	26.8%
Pentland Hills	790	26%	-4%	64%	36%	15.2%	62.7%	22.8%
Portobello/Craigmillar	765	22%	-6%	61%	39%	14.4%	64.7%	21.6%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	785	43%	-5%	63%	37%	14.6%	62.4%	22.9%
Southside/Newington	340	48%	-7%	72%	28%	10.3%	57.4%	32.4%
Edinburgh	9,425	33%	-6%	63%	37%	13.0%	62.9%	24.1%

Source: NOMIS 19/05/2022

In Table 7 the position of the wards in East Lothian is examined. Firstly, we can see that in all but two of the East Lothian wards the April Claimant count is lower than it was in February 2020. For example, Dunbar and East Linton had recorded 200 claimants in February 2020 and it is now 185 claimants. Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry recorded 450 claimants in February 2020 and is now reporting 370. We can also see that 2 wards have over 40% of claimants recorded as female and whilst the Dunbar and East Linton ward recorded 13.5% of claimants being 16-24 years of age in April the proportion in Preston Seton and Gosford was higher at 17.5% of claimants being that age.

Table 7 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward April 2022

2019 electoral wards	April 2022 Claimant Count	% Change		Proportion of Claimants April 2022				
		Feb20-Apr22	Mar22-Apr22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	185	-8%	-12%	56.8%	43.2%	13.5%	59.5%	27.0%
Haddington & Lammermuir	295	13%	-5%	61.0%	37.3%	13.6%	59.3%	25.4%
Musselburgh	440	-3%	-5%	63.6%	35.2%	15.9%	59.1%	25.0%
North Berwick Coastal	120	41%	-11%	66.7%	33.3%	16.7%	50.0%	29.2%
Preston, Seton & Gosford	285	-8%	-8%	56.1%	42.1%	17.5%	54.4%	28.1%
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	370	-18%	-17%	60.8%	39.2%	16.2%	64.9%	18.9%
East Lothian	1,685	-5%	-10%	61.4%	38.9%	15.7%	59.3%	24.9%

Source: NOMIS 19/05/2022

Table 8 looks at the position in the Fife wards.

Table 8 Fife Claimant Count by Ward April 2022

2019 electoral wards	April 2022 Claimant Count	% Change		Proportion of Claimants April 2022				
		Feb20-Apr22	Mar22-Apr22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages	865	-4%	1%	66.5%	34.1%	22.0%	56.6%	21.4%
Burntisland, Kinghorn & W. Kirkcaldy	375	-1%	-3%	60.0%	40.0%	16.0%	56.0%	28.0%
Cowdenbeath	630	3%	-7%	65.1%	34.9%	18.3%	61.9%	19.8%
Cupar	230	10%	-6%	63.0%	39.1%	17.4%	60.9%	21.7%
Dunfermline Central	400	1%	-6%	66.3%	33.8%	20.0%	61.3%	18.8%
Dunfermline North	345	-17%	-5%	62.3%	39.1%	13.0%	60.9%	26.1%
Dunfermline South	465	3%	-6%	57.0%	43.0%	18.3%	61.3%	20.4%
East Neuk and Landward	215	16%	-7%	62.8%	37.2%	9.3%	55.8%	34.9%
Glenrothes Central & Thornton	370	0%	-5%	62.2%	37.8%	17.6%	60.8%	21.6%
Glenrothes North, Leslie & Markinch	335	-6%	-1%	62.7%	37.3%	19.4%	62.7%	17.9%
Glenrothes West & Kinglassie	360	3%	-1%	54.2%	44.4%	20.8%	56.9%	22.2%
Howe of Fife & Tay Coast	225	29%	0%	53.3%	46.7%	15.6%	55.6%	28.9%
Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	225	-2%	-6%	62.2%	37.8%	11.1%	53.3%	35.6%
Kirkcaldy Central	660	14%	-4%	65.9%	34.1%	13.6%	61.4%	25.0%
Kirkcaldy East	705	10%	-6%	63.8%	36.2%	17.7%	58.2%	24.1%
Kirkcaldy North	405	4%	-2%	59.3%	40.7%	19.8%	59.3%	21.0%
Leven, Kennoway & Largo	495	0%	-5%	65.7%	33.3%	19.2%	58.6%	22.2%
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	675	-1%	-6%	64.4%	36.3%	20.7%	57.8%	22.2%
Rosyth	295	-3%	-9%	59.3%	40.7%	18.6%	57.6%	23.7%
St Andrews	145	38%	-6%	62.1%	37.9%	13.8%	51.7%	34.5%
Tay Bridgehead	160	-16%	-14%	65.6%	34.4%	15.6%	59.4%	25.0%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	370	4%	-4%	62.2%	37.8%	17.6%	59.5%	24.3%
Fife	8,950	2%	-5%	62.7%	37.3%	17.8%	58.8%	23.5%

Source: NOMIS 19/05/2022

It is apparent that 8 of the 22 wards have a claimant count below what it was in February 2020 whilst for others it is still significantly higher than it was pre-pandemic. In terms of gender split two wards have a high proportion of female claimants: Howe of Fife and Tay Coast 46.7% of claimants

are female and Glenrothes West and Kinglassie 44.4% of claimants are female. Not only does Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages have the highest claimant count overall it also has the highest proportion of young claimants. We can also see from the data that for some Fife wards there is a higher proportion of claimants who are over the age of 50 than we see elsewhere in the Kingdom.

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 9 below. The statistic that stands out in this table is Midlothian South where the April 2022 claimant count is **20%** lower than it was in February 2020. All wards recorded falls in the claimant count between March and April 2022 with the exception of Dalkeith and Midlothian East where there was no month to month change. Midlothian East has one of the highest proportions of female claimants in all city region wards and the Dalkeith ward has as high a proportion of young people claiming as you would see anywhere else in the City Region.

Table 9 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward April 2022

2019 electoral wards	April 2022 Claimant Count	% Change		Proportion of claimants April 2022				
		Feb20-Apr22	Mar22-Apr22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	210	17%	-9%	59.5%	40.5%	16.7%	59.5%	23.8%
Dalkeith	285	-3%	0%	63.2%	36.8%	21.1%	59.6%	19.3%
Midlothian East	280	10%	0%	57.1%	44.6%	19.6%	64.3%	16.1%
Midlothian South	240	-20%	-8%	62.5%	37.5%	18.8%	60.4%	18.8%
Midlothian West	215	2%	-9%	60.5%	39.5%	18.6%	53.5%	30.2%
Penicuik	240	7%	-2%	64.6%	35.4%	12.5%	62.5%	22.9%
Midlothian	1,465	0%	-4%	61.1%	38.9%	18.1%	60.4%	21.5%

Source: NOMIS 19/05/2022

West Lothian is another of the Local Authorities where wards can have very different claimant count levels. This can be seen in Table 10 below. From this data we can see that for 5 wards the claimant is now lower than it was in February 2020 and for 6 there has also been a month to month fall between March and April. Of some concern is the fact that three wards saw a month to month increase between March and April.

Table 10 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward April 2022

2019 electoral wards	April 2022 Claimant Count	% Change		Proportion of Claimants April 2022				
		Feb20-Apr22	Mar 22-Apr22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale and Blackridge	285	-8%	4%	61.4%	38.6%	24.6%	57.9%	17.5%
Bathgate	440	-6%	-5%	61.4%	38.6%	19.3%	61.4%	20.5%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	370	1%	-1%	63.5%	36.5%	17.6%	56.8%	25.7%
East Livingston & E. Calder	390	3%	-1%	65.4%	35.9%	15.4%	61.5%	23.1%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	400	-1%	-1%	67.5%	32.5%	17.5%	68.8%	13.8%
Linlithgow	135	0%	-7%	59.3%	40.7%	11.1%	63.0%	25.9%
Livingston North	340	5%	-4%	58.8%	42.6%	19.1%	63.2%	17.6%
Livingston South	425	-6%	2%	58.8%	41.2%	20.0%	57.6%	22.4%
Whitburn and Blackburn	580	-1%	1%	60.3%	40.5%	20.7%	59.5%	19.8%
West Lothian	3,375	-1%	-1%	61.6%	38.2%	18.8%	60.7%	20.3%

Source: NOMIS 19/05/2022

Table 11 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that for almost every ward the claimant count in April 2022 is still higher (in some instances a lot higher) than it was in February 2020 and there haven't yet been the falls to bring the claimant number down to below what it was in in 2020. More positive is that every ward has seen either a month to month fall, or the claimant count remaining static.

Table 11 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward April 2022

2019 electoral wards	April 2022 Claimant Count	% Change		Proportion of Claimants April 2022				
		Feb 20-Apr 22	Mar 22-Apr22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	170	6%	0%	53%	47%	18%	56%	29%
Galashiels and District	420	9%	-3%	63%	37%	15%	60%	25%
Hawick and Denholm	260	11%	-4%	62%	38%	23%	58%	19%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	0%	-8%	64%	36%	19%	50%	28%
Jedburgh and District	155	19%	0%	55%	45%	16%	55%	29%
Kelso and District	150	7%	-6%	57%	43%	10%	57%	33%
Leaderdale & Melrose	165	43%	-3%	58%	45%	15%	58%	27%
Mid Berwickshire	165	18%	-6%	61%	39%	15%	55%	30%
Selkirkshire	190	15%	-7%	61%	39%	16%	58%	26%
Tweeddale East	145	38%	-3%	55%	45%	10%	52%	38%
Tweeddale West	140	33%	0%	57%	43%	11%	50%	36%
Scottish Borders	2,140	15%	-4%	59%	41%	16%	56%	28%

Source: NOMIS 19/05/2022

In terms of the age profile of claimants this ranges from Tweeddale East and Kelso and District where 10% of claimants are aged 16-24 through to Hawick and Denholm where 23% of claimants were of that age.

Universal Credit

Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count looked at already in this report, however it also includes data on those who are in work but need support as their wages alone don't provide enough income. 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 12 UC Claimants February 2020 Compared with March 2022

	Feb-20				Mar-22			
	Not in employment		In employment		Not in employment		In employment	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Edinburgh	9,041	66%	4,650	34%	18,659	58%	13,274	42%
East Lothian	3,725	64%	2,120	36%	5,102	60%	3,460	40%
Fife	14,794	70%	6,467	30%	21,465	63%	12,378	37%
Midlothian	3,173	64%	1,741	35%	4,613	60%	3,126	40%
Scottish Borders	2,874	65%	1,546	35%	4,720	60%	3,210	40%
West Lothian	5,608	67%	2,809	33%	8,967	60%	5,921	40%
Total	39,224	67%	19,338	33%	63,531	61%	41,368	39%

Source: StatXplore 20/05/2022

Table 12 above 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 42% 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.

What we have seen since the start of the pandemic and beyond is an increase in the number of people claiming UC who are in work. For example, between February 2020 the number of people in work who need support from the benefit has increased by

- 185% in Edinburgh
- 111% in West Lothian
- 108% in Scottish Borders
- 91% in Fife
- 80% in Midlothian
- 63% in East Lothian

Overall now, March 2022, there are 41,260 people claiming Universal Credit who are in work.

One final data set to look at concerning Universal Credit is that which reflects how long someone has been claiming. Again, the data that focuses on those that are in work is probably the most helpful. Table 13 below looks at how long an individual has been claiming. We can see that overall across the City Region 1/3rd of claims could be linked into the pandemic as the individual had been claiming for between 1-2 years. There are differences depending on which LA you look at In Edinburgh 41% of in work UC claims began between 1 and 2 years ago. In Fife it was 27%.

Table 13 Duration of UC Claim for those in Employment March 2022

	City of Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Up to 3 months	11%	8%	10%	10%	10%	11%	10%
3 months up to 6 months	9%	7%	8%	7%	10%	9%	9%
6 months up to 1 year	13%	10%	12%	10%	13%	13%	12%
1 year and up to 2 years	41%	27%	28%	28%	30%	31%	33%
2 years and up to 3 years	21%	19%	21%	20%	23%	21%	21%
3 years and up to 4 years	4%	9%	15%	11%	12%	14%	10%
4 years and up to 5 years	1%	10%	4%	12%	1%	1%	3%
5 years and over	1%	11%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: StatXplore 20/05/2022

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