

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count July 2022 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between February 2020 and June 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between June 2021 and June 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between May 2022 and June 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 25% ↓ Scottish decreased by 1% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 24% ↑ City Region increased by 3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK decreased by 42% ↓ Scottish decreased by 37% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 42% ↓ City Region decreased by 40% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK decreased by 1% ↓ Scottish decreased by 2% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 1% ↓ City Region decreased by 2%

City Region Summary

1. In June 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 25,075. Of these
 - a. 4,065 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 15,130 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 5,880 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 3% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In May 2022 there were 41,930 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In June 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,800. Of these
 - a. 1,130 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,545 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,125 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 24% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In May 2022 there were 13,406 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

East Lothian Summary

1. In June 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,530. Of these
 - a. 255 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 925 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 350 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 13% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In May 2022 there were 3,496 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In June 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 8,335. Of these
 - a. 1,525 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 4,875 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 1,935 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 5% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In May 2022 there were 12,595 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In June 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,345. Of these
 - a. 245 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 815 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 290 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 9% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In May 2022 there were 3,152 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In June 2022 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,980. Of these
 - a. 330 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,080 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 565 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 6% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In May 2022 there were 3,311 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In June 2022 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,085. Of these
 - a. 580 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,890 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 615 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 10% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In May 2022 there were 5,963 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2022 Full Update

Overall Claimant Count

On the 19th July NOMIS released claimant count data for June. 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 May and June 2022
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and June 2022
- the percentage fall between May 2022 and June 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 peak and this has ranged from 33% in the West Midlands to 52% in the South West. Scotland recorded a fall of 50% 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

	Feb-20	Claimant Count Peak		May-22	Jun-22	Percentage Change		
		Count	Month			Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to June 22	May 22 to June 22
UK	1,255,770	2,688,110	Aug-20	1,582,215	1,563,350	114%	-42%	-1%
East	89,890	213,715	Aug-20	117,460	115,225	138%	-46%	-2%
East Midlands	80,915	170,220	Aug-20	100,375	99,505	110%	-42%	-1%
London	184,765	478,165	Sep-20	294,425	294,745	159%	-38%	0%
North East	75,560	123,720	Aug-20	71,785	70,400	64%	-43%	-2%
North West	167,055	326,490	May-20	200,430	198,220	95%	-39%	-1%
N. Ireland	29,910	63,860	May-20	35,795	35,810	114%	-44%	0%
Scotland	114,605	224,840	Aug-20	116,055	113,165	96%	-50%	-2%
South East	119,620	300,975	Aug-20	166,720	164,160	152%	-45%	-2%
South West	75,595	180,915	Aug-20	89,540	86,785	139%	-52%	-3%
Wales	60,375	118,905	Aug-20	65,555	64,455	97%	-46%	-2%
West Midlands	141,095	269,985	Feb-21	181,005	179,935	91%	-33%	-1%
Yorks & Humb	116,390	219,515	Feb-20	143,070	140,950	89%	-36%	-1%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Looking more specifically at what has been recorded between May 2022 and June 2022 it can be seen that in the majority of geographies in the UK there have been claimant count falls month to month. This has ranged from a 1% fall in 5 regions through to a 3% fall in the South West. There were 2 areas where no fall was recorded London and Northern Ireland.

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 42% in Glasgow to 63% in Na h Eileanan Siar. From May 2022 to June 2022 all but one LA has recorded a fall – East Renfrew recorded no change. Those that recorded a fall range from 11% in Na h Eileanan Siar and the Shetland Islands through to 1% in 4 LAs.

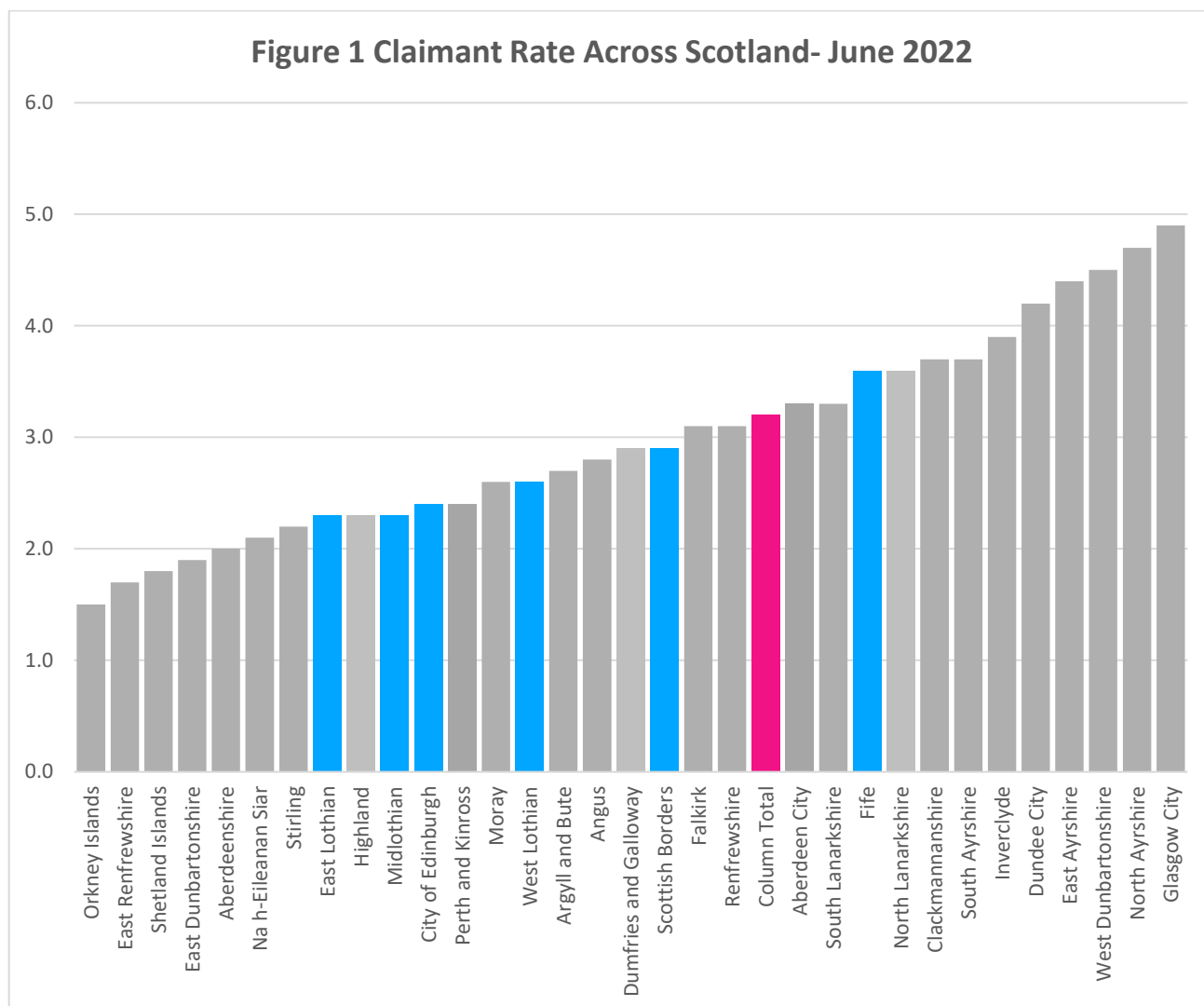
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

	February 2020	Peak Month and Count		May 2022	June 2022	Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to June 2022	May 2022- June 2022
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb-21	9,725	5,360	5,180	134%	-47%	-3%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug-20	6,675	3,370	3,255	124%	-51%	-3%
Angus	2,040	Aug-20	3,985	1,985	1,955	95%	-51%	-2%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May-20	3,290	1,495	1,380	115%	-58%	-8%
Edinburgh	7,105	Aug-20	18,840	8,920	8,800	165%	-53%	-1%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug-20	2,255	1,195	1,175	62%	-48%	-2%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,950	May-20	5,115	2,670	2,465	73%	-52%	-8%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug-20	7,490	4,205	4,170	65%	-44%	-1%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug-20	6,280	3,435	3,325	70%	-47%	-3%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug-20	2,985	1,310	1,255	143%	-58%	-4%
East Lothian	1,765	May-20	3,680	1,630	1,530	108%	-58%	-6%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul-20	2,415	995	995	154%	-59%	0%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul-20	6,335	3,240	3,135	92%	-51%	-3%
Fife	8,765	Aug-20	15,840	8,550	8,335	81%	-47%	-3%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug-20	38,205	22,350	22,075	91%	-42%	-1%
Highland	3,715	Jul-20	8,430	3,600	3,330	127%	-60%	-8%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul-20	3,275	1,895	1,870	45%	-43%	-1%
Midlothian	1,470	May-20	3,160	1,385	1,345	115%	-57%	-3%
Moray	1,550	Aug-20	3,030	1,520	1,510	95%	-50%	-1%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug-20	880	365	325	89%	-63%	-11%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul-20	7,290	3,845	3,785	58%	-48%	-2%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug-20	15,870	7,935	7,860	93%	-50%	-1%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug-20	420	205	200	115%	-52%	-2%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug-20	4,595	2,225	2,160	146%	-53%	-3%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug-20	7,780	3,610	3,515	93%	-55%	-3%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul-20	3,835	2,025	1,980	106%	-48%	-2%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep-20	545	285	255	106%	-53%	-11%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug-20	4,960	2,495	2,415	78%	-51%	-3%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug-20	13,725	6,820	6,665	96%	-51%	-2%
Stirling	1,540	Jul-20	3,125	1,355	1,305	103%	-58%	-4%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul-20	4,865	2,650	2,525	66%	-48%	-5%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug-20	7,005	3,135	3,085	105%	-56%	-2%
Scotland	114,605	Aug-20	224,840	116,055	113,165	96%	-50%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

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.

Figure 1 Claimant Rate Across Scotland- June 2022



Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Looking now at the position in the City Region in more detail as reflected in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City region LAs

All	February 2020	June 2021	May 2022	June 2022	Percentage Change		
					Feb 2020- June 2022	May 2022 - June 2022	June 2021- June 2022
Edinburgh	7,105	15,115	8,920	8,800	24%	-1%	-42%
East Lothian	1,765	2,750	1,630	1,530	-13%	-6%	-44%
Fife	8,765	12,860	8,550	8,335	-5%	-3%	-35%
Midlothian	1,470	2,525	1,385	1,345	-9%	-3%	-47%
Scottish Borders	1,860	3,075	2,025	1,980	6%	-2%	-36%
West Lothian	3,425	5,375	3,135	3,085	-10%	-2%	-43%
City Region	24,390	41,700	25,645	25,075	3%	-2%	-40%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

It can be seen in Table 3 that across the region the claimant recorded in June 2022 is still 3% higher than in February 2020. However, it is also clear that in 4 of the 6 Local Authorities the count is lower than it was in February 2020. Scottish Borders and Edinburgh are the 2 that have a claimant count in June that is higher than the claimant count recorded in February 2020. Table 3 also highlights that the month to month change between May 2022 and June 2022 ranges from a 1% fall in Edinburgh through to a 6% fall in East Lothian. The claimant count in the region in June 2022 is 40% lower than it was in June 2021.

Gender Profile

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 situation in June 2021, May 2022 and June 2022.

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

Male	February 2020	June 2021	May 2022	June 2022		Feb 2020- June 2022	May 2022 - June 2022	June 2021- June 2022
City of Edinburgh	4,435	9,475	5,660	5,535		25%	-2%	-42%
East Lothian	1,005	1,595	995	945		-6%	-5%	-41%
Fife	5,475	7,945	5,365	5,220		-5%	-3%	-34%
Midlothian	865	1,530	850	815		-6%	-4%	-47%
Scottish Borders	1,120	1,835	1,190	1,165		4%	-2%	-37%
West Lothian	1,970	3,225	1,945	1,900		-4%	-2%	-41%
City Region	14,870	25,610	16,000	15,580		5%	-3%	-39%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

From Table 4 we can see that the male claimant count in Edinburgh remains 25% higher than it was in February 2020 and in Scottish Borders it is still 6% higher. In the 4 other LAs the male claimant count is lower than it was in 2020. The month to month change between May and June has ranged from a 2% fall in Edinburgh, Scottish Border and West Lothian through to a 6% fall in East Lothian and Midlothian. Across the region it can be seen that there are now 39% fewer male claimants than there were a year ago.

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

Female	February 2020	June 2021	May 2022	June 2022		Feb 2020- June 2022	May 2022 - June 2022	June 2021- June 2022
City of Edinburgh	2,665	5,640	3,260	3,260		22%	0%	-42%
East Lothian	760	1,155	635	590		-22%	-7%	-49%
Fife	3,290	4,915	3,190	3,120		-5%	-2%	-37%
Midlothian	605	995	535	530		-12%	-1%	-47%
Scottish Borders	740	1,240	835	815		10%	-2%	-34%
West Lothian	1,455	2,145	1,190	1,190		-18%	0%	-45%
City Region	9,515	16,090	9,645	9,500		0%	-2%	-41%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Table 5 looks at the situation for female claimants. Again, Edinburgh and Scottish Borders have a claimant count that remains higher than it was pre-pandemic. In terms of month to month change East Lothian recorded a 7% fall in the claimant count for females between May and June.

Comparing June 2022 with June 2021 we can see that the claimant count for females has fallen by 49% in East Lothian and 34% in Scottish Borders.

Age Profile

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

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 62% fall

ranging from 68% in East Lothian through to 57% in Fife. There are still however, 4,065 16-24 year olds claiming in the region with Fife alone accounting for over 1,525 and Edinburgh accounting for 1,130.

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
May-22		1,155	265	1,510	260	325	590	4,105
Jun-22		1,130	255	1,525	245	330	580	4,065
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203%	152%	104%	114%	113%	114%	134%
	Peak to June 22	-66%	-68%	-57%	-65%	-63%	-63%	-62%
	May 22 to June 2022	-2%	-4%	1%	-6%	2%	-2%	-1%
25-49 Year Olds		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Feb-20		4310	1020	4990	865	975	1965	14125
Peak Count		11715	2100	8775	1865	1960	3940	30195
Peak Month		Aug-20	May-20	Aug-20	May-20	May-20	Aug-20	Aug-20
May-22		5,595	965	5,015	835	1,130	1,905	15,445
Jun-22		5,545	925	4,875	815	1,080	1,890	15,130
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172%	106%	76%	116%	101%	101%	114%
	Peak to June 22	-53%	-56%	-44%	-56%	-45%	-52%	-50%
	May 22 to June 2022	-1%	-4%	-3%	-2%	-4%	-1%	-2%
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
May-22		2,170	400	2,025	295	570	635	6,095
Jun-22		2,125	350	1,935	290	565	615	5,880
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138%	106%	76%	141%	117%	106%	104%
	Peak to June 22	-48%	-60%	-46%	-57%	-45%	-59%	-49%
	May 22 to June 2022	-2%	-13%	-4%	-2%	-1%	-3%	-4%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

In June there were 15,130 claimants across the region who were between 24 and 49 years of age and 5,880 who were over the age of 50. Overall, we can see that between May and June the claimant count for those over the age of 50 fell by 4% across the region and for 25-49 year olds it fell by 2%. These are both higher than the falls recorded for 16-24 year olds where the month to month fall recorded between May and June was 1%.

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 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. Overall, we can see that in Edinburgh 63% of claimants in June 2022 were male and 13% are aged 16-24. Southside and Newington has the highest percentage of claimants over the age of 50 whilst Colinton and Farmilehead and Liberton and Gilmerton had the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants. Looking at the change from May to June 2022 we can see that 6 wards recorded an increase in the claimant count an increase

of between 1 and 3%. To put this in context the increase in numbers was no more than 15 in any one ward but the fact that it is moving in the wrong direction should be noted.

Table 7 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward June 2022

2019 electoral wards	Jun-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants June 2022				
		Feb20- June22	May22- June 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	520	5%	-4%	64%	36%	14%	65%	19%
City Centre	625	28%	-2%	69%	31%	10%	66%	24%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	250	43%	-9%	58%	42%	16%	56%	28%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	165	38%	3%	58%	42%	12%	64%	24%
Craigtoun/ Duddingston	640	16%	1%	61%	39%	13%	62%	25%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	280	24%	-5%	64%	36%	11%	63%	29%
Forth	910	26%	-1%	60%	40%	15%	63%	22%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	280	37%	-2%	68%	34%	11%	61%	29%
Inverleith	330	50%	3%	64%	36%	12%	58%	30%
Leith	675	7%	-1%	64%	36%	9%	70%	21%
Leith Walk	715	30%	-4%	63%	37%	10%	64%	26%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	710	31%	-3%	63%	37%	16%	60%	24%
Morningside	190	27%	3%	61%	39%	11%	61%	26%
Pentland Hills	715	14%	-4%	61%	39%	15%	61%	24%
Portobello/Craigmillar	735	18%	2%	59%	41%	14%	67%	19%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	730	33%	2%	66%	34%	14%	62%	24%
Southside/Newington	325	41%	-3%	71%	31%	11%	58%	32%
Edinburgh	8,800	24%	-1%	63%	37%	13%	63%	24%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Table 8 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. We can see that overall, the county has a claimant count 13% lower than it was in February 2020 and 6% lower than it was in May 2022. We can see that North Berwick Coastal the claimant count fell by 14% between May and June.

Table 8 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward June 2022

	Jun-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants June 2022				
		Feb 20- June 22	May 22- June 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	155	-23%	-11%	58%	45%	16%	65%	23%
Haddington and Lammermuir	250	-4%	-6%	62%	38%	14%	62%	24%
Musselburgh	405	-11%	-5%	65%	35%	19%	58%	23%
North Berwick Coastal	90	6%	-14%	61%	39%	11%	61%	28%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	245	-21%	-9%	59%	41%	18%	57%	24%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	385	-14%	-1%	61%	39%	17%	64%	18%
Column Total	1,530	-13%	-6%	62%	39%	17%	60%	23%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Across the county 62% of claimants are male and this varies from 58% in Dunbar and Est Linton through to 65% in Musselburgh. Musselburgh also has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds and North Berwick Coastal has the highest proportion of over 50 year olds.

Turning now to look at Fife. From Table 9 it is apparent that 4 of the 22 wards have a claimant count higher than it was in February 2020, in one ward it's the same. Worth considering is that fact that in 5 wards there was an increase in the claimant count between May and June. In terms of gender one ward has the highest proportion of female claimants: Howe of Fife and Tay Coast

(45% of claimants are female). The average across the Kingdom is that 37% of claimants are female and 63% are male. Not only does Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages have the highest claimant count overall it also has one of the highest proportions of young claimants. What we can also see in the Fife statistics is that in a number of wards around 1/5th of all claimants are 16-24 – reflected in the fact that 18% of claimants in Fife overall in May 2022 were 16-24 years of age. At 37% of claimants Est Neuk and Landward has the highest proportion of claimants over 50 years of age in the whole city region.

Table 9 Fife Claimant Count by Ward June 2022

	Jun-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants June 2022				
		Feb20- June22	May22- June22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil & Wemyss Villages	800	-11%	-4%	65%	36%	22%	57%	21%
Burntisland, Kinghorn & W. Kirkcaldy	340	-11%	-3%	60%	40%	18%	54%	26%
Cowdenbeath	595	-2%	1%	64%	36%	18%	63%	18%
Cupar	195	-7%	-3%	59%	41%	18%	62%	21%
Dunfermline Central	375	-5%	-3%	61%	37%	20%	63%	17%
Dunfermline North	330	-20%	-1%	62%	38%	15%	58%	27%
Dunfermline South	445	-1%	-2%	57%	43%	18%	62%	20%
East Neuk and Landward	175	-5%	-8%	69%	31%	11%	51%	37%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	0%	-3%	65%	35%	22%	57%	22%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	300	-15%	-5%	62%	38%	18%	65%	18%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	335	-4%	2%	55%	43%	19%	57%	24%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	200	14%	-2%	58%	45%	15%	55%	33%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	225	-2%	5%	60%	40%	13%	53%	33%
Kirkcaldy Central	625	8%	-2%	66%	34%	14%	62%	25%
Kirkcaldy East	680	6%	-5%	65%	35%	18%	57%	25%
Kirkcaldy North	375	-4%	-4%	60%	40%	19%	63%	19%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	440	-11%	-6%	68%	32%	23%	53%	25%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	625	-9%	-3%	65%	35%	21%	58%	22%
Rosyth	290	-5%	2%	59%	43%	17%	60%	24%
St Andrews	125	19%	-7%	64%	36%	16%	48%	36%
Tay Bridgehead	160	-16%	10%	63%	38%	16%	63%	25%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	320	-10%	-6%	61%	39%	17%	59%	23%
Fife	8,335	-5%	-3%	63%	37%	18%	58%	23%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 10 below. The statistic that stands out in this table is Midlothian South where the May 2022 claimant count is **28%** lower than it was in February 2020.

Table 10 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward June 2022

	Jun-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants June 2022				
		Feb 20- June 22	May 22- June 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	195	8%	0%	59%	41%	18%	62%	21%
Dalkeith	250	-15%	-6%	62%	36%	22%	58%	20%
Midlothian East	260	2%	-4%	60%	40%	17%	65%	19%
Midlothian South	215	-28%	0%	58%	42%	21%	60%	19%
Midlothian West	210	0%	-5%	62%	40%	17%	55%	29%
Penicuik	220	-2%	0%	64%	36%	14%	61%	25%
Midlothian	1,345	-9%	-3%	61%	39%	18%	61%	22%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Three wards recorded falls in the claimant count between May and June 2022 and three recorded no change. Bonnyrigg 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.

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 where it is clear that the June claimant count ranged from 125 in Linlithgow to 545 in Whitburn and Blackburn.

Table 11 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward June 2022

	Jun-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants June 2022				
		Feb 20- June 22	May 22- June 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	255	-18%	-2%	59%	39%	25%	57%	18%
Bathgate	430	-9%	5%	62%	38%	17%	63%	21%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	330	-10%	-4%	62%	38%	18%	55%	27%
East Livingston & E. Calder	360	-5%	-5%	61%	38%	15%	63%	22%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	370	-9%	-1%	68%	34%	15%	72%	14%
Linlithgow	125	-7%	0%	60%	40%	12%	64%	24%
Livingston North	285	-12%	-3%	61%	39%	19%	65%	14%
Livingston South	385	-14%	-1%	57%	43%	22%	57%	21%
Whitburn & Blackburn	545	-7%	-1%	61%	39%	20%	60%	20%
West Lothian	3,085	-10%	-1%	62%	39%	19%	61%	20%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Generally, every ward in West Lothian now has a claimant count lower than it was in February 2020. As with other areas there are more male claimants in every ward than female and this ranges from 68% in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley down to 57% in Livingston South. In terms of the age profile a quarter of claimants in Armadale and Blackridge are 16-24 years of age. Compare this to Linlithgow where only 12% of claimants are from that age group.

Table 12 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 June 2022 is still higher (in some instances significantly higher) than it was in February 2020. Whilst 6 of the Scottish Borders wards recorded a fall between May and June in Tweeddale East there was a 7% increase month to month and in Kelso and District there was a 4% increase.

Table 13 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward June 2022

	Jun-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants June 2022				
		Feb 20- June 22	May 22- June 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	165	3%	-3%	52%	48%	15%	52%	33%
Galashiels and District	390	1%	-5%	64%	37%	14%	60%	27%
Hawick and Denholm	235	0%	-2%	62%	38%	26%	55%	19%
Hawick and Hermitage	185	3%	0%	57%	41%	24%	46%	27%
Jedburgh and District	135	4%	0%	56%	44%	22%	52%	26%
Kelso and District	140	0%	4%	54%	43%	11%	57%	32%
Leaderdale & Melrose	140	22%	-7%	57%	43%	14%	57%	29%
Mid Berwickshire	140	0%	-3%	61%	39%	18%	50%	32%
Selkirkshire	170	3%	-3%	59%	41%	15%	56%	29%
Tweeddale East	145	38%	7%	59%	41%	14%	55%	31%
Tweeddale West	135	29%	0%	59%	37%	11%	48%	37%
Scottish Borders	1,980	6%	-2%	59%	41%	17%	55%	29%

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

East Berwickshire has the highest proportion of female claimants not only in the Borders but in the whole City Region. Hawick and Denholm recorded 26% of claimants in June as being 16-24 years of age which is also the highest in the city region.

Economic Activity

The following section is based on economic activity rather than claimant count. This data is derived from surveys rather than recorded through actual claimants, as a result it can have margins of error that can be considerable, particularly at a local level or when used to report on particular demographic groups.

Table 14 below looks at the most recent data that has been published on NOMIS from the Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey (APS/LFS). This looks at the position in May 2022 but only for the nations of the UK as that is the only level where the survey sample is large enough for a single month. From this we can see that in Scotland as a whole there were 96,655 unemployed 16-64 year olds and 747,667 who were described as economically inactive.

Table 14 Economic Activity May 2022

Economic Activity	Scotland	United Kingdom
All persons - aged 16 to 64	3,435,300	41,465,614
Total economically active - aged 16 to 64	2,687,633	32,717,793
Total in employment - aged 16 to 64	2,590,978	31,458,500
Total unemployed - aged 16 to 64	96,655	1,259,293
Total economically inactive - aged 16 to 64	747,667	8,747,821

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

Table 15 looks at the most recent data that can be broken down into LA areas. It is based on 12 months survey data so reflects the position in 2021 as at December.

Table 15 Economic Activity December 2021

		Economic activity rate - aged 16-64	Employment rate - aged 16-64	% aged 16-64 who are employees	% aged 16-64 who are self employed	Unemployment rate - aged 16-64	% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64	% of economically inactive who want a job	% of economically inactive who do not want a job
Edinburgh	%	79.8	78.0	69.4	8.6	2.3	20.2	18.6	81.4
	confidence	3.3	3.4	3.7	2.3	1.4	3.3	6.9	6.9
East Lothian	%	82.9	79.8	67.3	11.9	3.7	17.1	28.9	71.1
	confidence	4.2	4.5	5.2	3.6	*	4.2	11.9	11.9
Fife	%	73.8	68.3	61.4	6.1	7.5	26.2	18.7	81.3
	confidence	3.7	3.9	4.1	2.0	2.6	3.7	6.7	6.7
Midlothian	%	83.1	81.2	73.4	7.8	2.2	16.9	13.2	86.8
	confidence	4.2	4.4	5.0	3.0	*	4.2	*	8.7
Scottish Borders	%	74.4	68.6	54.2	14.1	7.8	25.6	12.0	88.0
	confidence	4.5	4.8	5.2	3.6	3.2	4.5	*	6.8
West Lothian	%	76.0	73.8	67.6	6.2	3.0	24.0	18.3	81.7
	confidence	4.4	4.6	4.9	2.5	*	4.4	8.7	8.7

Source: NOMIS 19/07/2022

One point to note is the confidence figure. This indicates the number which the statisticians are 95% confident would be correct if the survey had spoken to every eligible individual. For example whilst the economic activity rate for Edinburgh is 79.8% they are 95% confident that the real figure based on the whole population would be between 76.5% and 83.3% - the confidence levels recorded.

The table indicates that economic activity in the region ranges from 73.8% in Fife through to 83.1% in Midlothian. We can see that economically inactive ranges from 26.2% in Fife through to 16.9% in Midlothian.

Universal Credit

Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count looked at already in this report, however the benefit is broader in its reach. Not only does it support those who may be out of work but aren't looking for a job – people with a child under a certain age for example, it also includes data on those who are in work but need support as their wages alone doesn't provide enough income. One would suggest that this group, essentially suffering from in-work poverty is a concern for policy makers across the region and the situation could get worse with the cost of living crisis and rising energy bills As a result it is worthwhile digging a little deeper into these statistics.

Overall in the City Region in June 2022 there were 106,351 people claiming Universal Credit. Of these 32,423 are Edinburgh residents, 34,318 live in Fife, 15,132 in West Lothian, 8,600 in East Lothian, 8,080 in Scottish Borders and 7,807 in Midlothian. Not all of these are in work as Universal Credit is a benefit that can be paid to individuals in a range of different circumstances.

Table 16 below looks at the universal credit claimants who are in work and is split by Local Authority. The most recent data where this split is available is May 2022 and that is what is reported on. In addition to the most recent data the position in May 2020, November 2020, May 2021 and November 2021 is also presented.

Table 16 UC Claimants In Employment May 2020- May 2021

		May-20	Nov-20	May-21	Nov-21	May-22
Edinburgh	In employment	11,739	14,836	15,205	14,209	13,406
East Lothian	In employment	3,427	3,775	3,716	3,567	3,496
Fife	In employment	10,695	13,039	12,964	12,837	12,595
Midlothian	In employment	3,036	3,296	3,345	3,198	3,152
West Lothian	In employment	5,132	6,140	6,110	6,071	5,963
Scottish Borders	In employment	2,763	3,193	3,322	3,260	3,311
City Region	In employment	36,789	44,288	44,660	43,135	41,930

Source: StatXplore 20/07/2022

From the table we can see that in all LA there are higher number of in-work claimants now in 2022 than had been recorded in May 2020. What is encouraging is that since May 2021 there has generally been a decline in the number of people in work and receiving UC- for example it has fallen by nearly 3,000 across the region in the last 12 months.

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