

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count August 2022 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between February 2020 and July 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between June 2021 and July 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between June 2022 and July 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 23% ↓ Scottish decreased by 1% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 25% ↑ City Region increased by 3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK decreased by 31% ↓ Scottish decreased by 35% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 39% ↓ City Region decreased by 38% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK decreased by 0.5% ↑ Scottish increased by 0.3% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 0.2% City Region no change

City Region Summary

1. In July 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 25,130. Of these
 - a. 4,245 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 15,100 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 5,775 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 3% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In June 2022 there were 42,205 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In July 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,885. Of these
 - a. 1,170 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,560 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,120 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 25% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In June 2022 there were 13,556 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

East Lothian Summary

1. In July 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,480. Of these
 - a. 255 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 895 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 335 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 16% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In June 2022 there were 3,524 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In July 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 8,290. Of these
 - a. 1,570 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 4,855 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 1,860 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 5% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In June 2022 there were 12,615 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In July 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,330. Of these
 - a. 250 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 795 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 285 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 10% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In June 2022 there were 3,162 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In July 2022 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,965. Of these
 - a. 355 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,050 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 555 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 6% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In June 2022 there were 3,369 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In July 2022 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,210. Of these
 - a. 645 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,945 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 620 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 6% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In June 2022 there were 5,982 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count August 2022 Full Update

Overall Claimant Count

On the 16th August NOMIS released claimant count data for July. 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 June and July 2022
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and July 2022
- the percentage fall between June and July 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 34% in the West Midlands to 53% in the South West England. 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		Jun-22	Jul-22	Percentage Change		
		Count	Month			Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to Jul 22	Jun to Jul-22
UK	1,255,770	2,688,110	Aug-20	1,548,500	1,541,090	114	-43	-0.5
East	89,890	213,715	Aug-20	114,170	113,355	138	-47	-0.7
E. Mids	80,915	170,220	Aug-20	98,435	98,090	110	-42	-0.4
London	184,765	478,165	Sep-20	288,725	287,100	159	-40	-0.6
North East	75,560	123,720	Aug-20	69,980	69,235	64	-44	-1.1
North West	167,055	326,490	May-20	196,715	196,000	95	-40	-0.4
N. Ireland	29,910	63,860	May-20	35,495	36,165	114	-43	1.9
Scotland	114,605	224,840	Aug-20	113,095	113,440	96	-50	0.3
South East	119,620	300,975	Aug-20	163,055	162,090	152	-46	-0.6
South West	75,595	180,915	Aug-20	86,935	85,015	139	-53	-2.2
Wales	60,375	118,905	Aug-20	64,155	63,315	97	-47	-1.3
W. Mids	141,095	269,985	Feb-21	178,245	177,925	91	-34	-0.2
Yorks & Humb	116,390	219,515	Feb-20	139,500	139,370	89	-37	-0.1

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

Looking more specifically at what has been recorded between June 2022 and July 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 1.3% fall in Wales through to a 0.1% fall in Yorkshire and Humberside. In Scotland there was a month to month *increase* between June and July and the claimant count rose from 113,045 in June 2022 to 113,440 in July 2022. The only other region to record an increase was 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 and also in Inverclyde to 62% in Na h Eileanan Siar.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

	Feb-20	Peak Month and Count	June 22	July 22	Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to July 22	June 22 to July 22
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb-21 9,725	5,195	5,220	134%	-46%	0%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug-20 6,675	3,240	3,140	124%	-53%	-3%
Angus	2,040	Aug-20 3,985	1,940	1,980	95%	-50%	2%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May-20 3,290	1,395	1,350	115%	-59%	-3%
Edinburgh	7,105	Aug-20 18,840	8,835	8,855	165%	-53%	0%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug-20 2,255	1,160	1,180	62%	-48%	2%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,950	May-20 5,115	2,525	2,450	73%	-52%	-3%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug-20 7,490	4,110	4,240	65%	-43%	3%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug-20 6,280	3,330	3,260	70%	-48%	-2%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug-20 2,985	1,275	1,305	143%	-56%	2%
East Lothian	1,765	May-20 3,680	1,555	1,480	108%	-60%	-5%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul-20 2,415	995	995	154%	-59%	0%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul-20 6,335	3,180	3,220	92%	-49%	1%
Fife	8,765	Aug-20 15,840	8,295	8,290	81%	-48%	0%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug-20 38,205	21,870	22,125	91%	-42%	1%
Highland	3,715	Jul-20 8,430	3,405	3,270	127%	-61%	-4%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul-20 3,275	1,845	1,905	45%	-42%	3%
Midlothian	1,470	May-20 3,160	1,345	1,330	115%	-58%	-1%
Moray	1,550	Aug-20 3,030	1,485	1,460	95%	-52%	-2%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug-20 880	330	335	89%	-62%	2%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul-20 7,290	3,780	3,800	58%	-48%	1%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug-20 15,870	7,775	7,925	93%	-50%	2%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug-20 420	200	195	115%	-54%	-3%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug-20 4,595	2,215	2,135	146%	-54%	-4%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug-20 7,780	3,525	3,645	93%	-53%	3%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul-20 3,835	1,980	1,965	106%	-49%	-1%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep-20 545	260	230	106%	-58%	-12%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug-20 4,960	2,480	2,370	78%	-52%	-4%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug-20 13,725	6,615	6,710	96%	-51%	1%
Stirling	1,540	Jul-20 3,125	1,310	1,400	103%	-55%	7%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul-20 4,865	2,530	2,475	66%	-49%	-2%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug-20 7,005	3,115	3,210	105%	-54%	3%
Scotland	114,605	Aug-20 224,840	113,095	113,440	96%	-50%	0%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

From June 2022 to July 2022 4 LAs recorded no real change in the claimant count, 14 recorded an *increase* in the number of claimants (Stirling recorded a 7% month to month increase) and 14 recorded a *fall* in the claimant numbers (Shetland Islands recorded a 12% month to month fall)

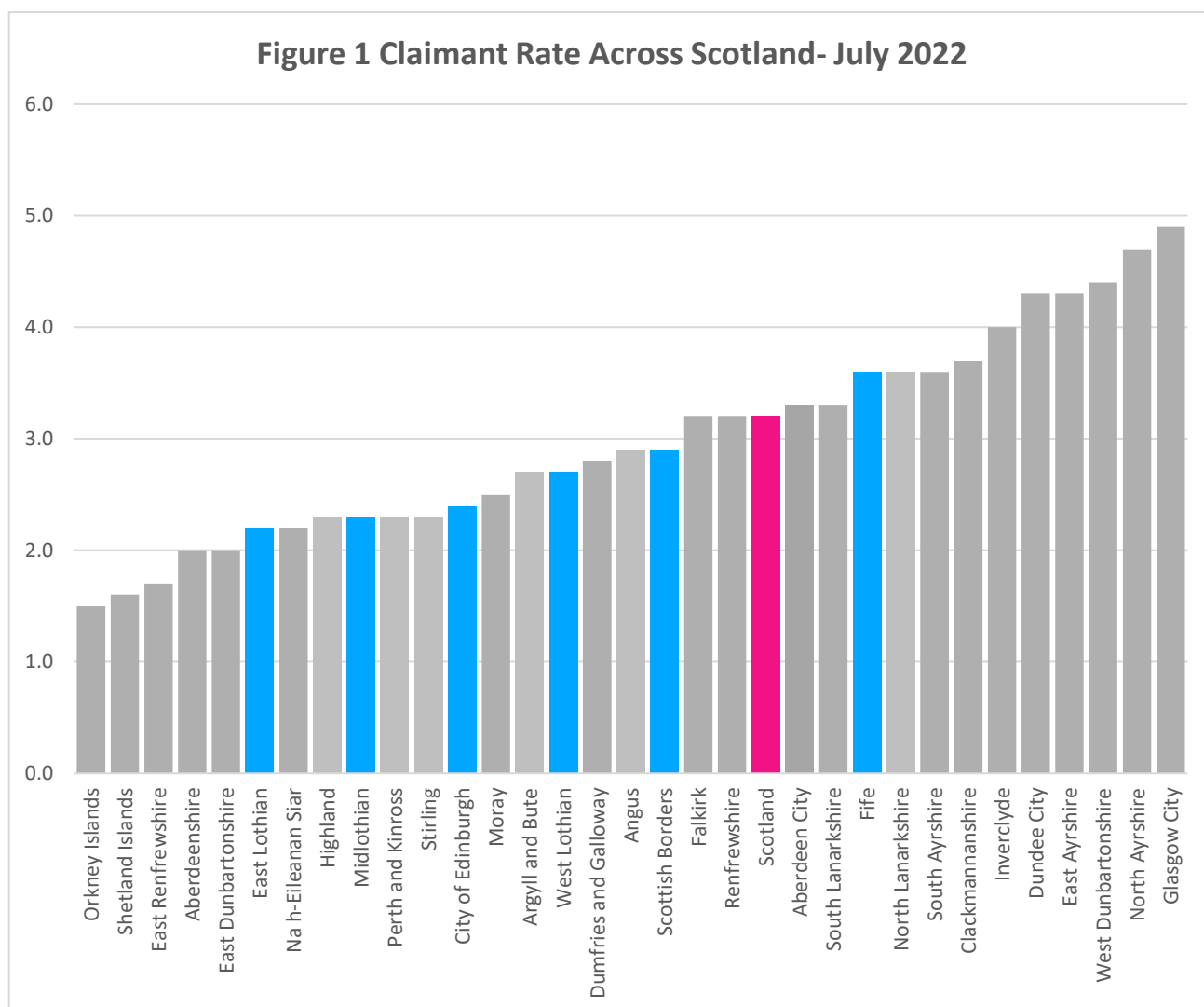
Looking now at the position in the City Region in more detail. It can be seen in Table 3 that across the region the claimant count recorded in July 2022 is still 3% higher than in February 2020. However, it is also clear that in 4 of the 6 Local Authorities the count is lower than it was in February 2020. Scottish Borders and Edinburgh are the 2 that have a claimant count in July that is higher than the claimant count recorded in February 2020. Table 3 also highlights that the month to month change between June and July 2022 ranges from a 3% increase in West Lothian to a 4.8% fall in East Lothian. The claimant count in the region in July 2022 is 38.3% lower than it was in July 2021.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City region LAs

All	Feb-20	Jul-21	Jun-22	Jul-22	Percentage Change		
					Feb 20- Jul 22	Jun 22- Jul 22	Jul 21- Jul 22
Edinburgh	7,105	14,695	8,835	8,855	24.6%	0.2%	-39.7%
East Lothian	1,765	2,700	1,555	1,480	-16.1%	-4.8%	-45.2%
Fife	8,765	12,660	8,295	8,290	-5.4%	-0.1%	-34.5%
Midlothian	1,470	2,455	1,345	1,330	-9.5%	-1.1%	-45.8%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2,980	1,980	1,965	5.6%	-0.8%	-34.1%
West Lothian	3,425	5,270	3,115	3,210	-6.3%	3.0%	-39.1%
City Region	24,390	40,760	25,125	25,130	3.0%	0.0%	-38.3%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities. From this it can be seen that with the exception of Fife all the City Region Local Authorities had a claimant rate below the Scottish average. What it also shows is the variation across the country – Orkney recording a claimant rate of 1.5 and Glasgow recording one 3 times higher at 4.9.



Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

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 at February 2020, and compares this with the situation in July 2021, June 2022 and July 2022.

From Table 4 we can see that the male claimant count in Edinburgh remains 23% higher than it was in February 2020 and in Scottish Borders it is still 2% higher. In the 4 other LAs the male claimant count is lower than it was in 2020. The month to month change for male claimants between June and July 2022 has ranged from a 0.3% *increase* in West Lothian through to a 4.3% *fall* in East Lothian. Across the region it can be seen that there are now 38.5% fewer male claimants than there were a year ago.

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

Male	February 2020	July 2021	June 2022	July 2022		Feb 20- July 22	July 21- July 22	June 22- July 22
City of Edinburgh	4,435	9,185	5,510	5,460		23.1%	-40.6%	-0.9%
East Lothian	1,005	1,560	935	895		-10.9%	-42.6%	-4.3%
Fife	5,475	7,765	5,175	5,110		-6.7%	-34.2%	-1.3%
Midlothian	865	1,470	810	800		-7.5%	-45.6%	-1.2%
Scottish Borders	1,120	1,785	1,155	1,145		2.2%	-35.9%	-0.9%
West Lothian	1,970	3,135	1,905	1,910		-3.0%	-39.1%	0.3%
Scotland	71,975	108,745	70,750	70,395		-2.2%	-35.3%	-0.5%
City Region	14,870	24,900	15,490	15,320		3.0%	-38.5%	-1.1%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

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 4.8% fall in the claimant count for females between June and July whilst Edinburgh recorded a 2.1% increase month to month. Comparing July 2022 with July 2021 we can see that the claimant count for females has fallen by 48.2% in East Lothian and 46.2% in Midlothian.

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

	February 2020	July 2021	June 2022	July 2022		Feb 20- July 22	July 21- July 22	June 22- July 22
City of Edinburgh	2,665	5,510	3,325	3,395		27.4%	-38.4%	2.1%
East Lothian	760	1,140	620	590		-22.4%	-48.2%	-4.8%
Fife	3,290	4,900	3,120	3,180		-3.3%	-35.1%	1.9%
Midlothian	605	985	530	530		-12.4%	-46.2%	0.0%
Scottish Borders	740	1,195	825	820		10.8%	-31.4%	-0.6%
West Lothian	1,455	2,135	1,215	1,300		-10.7%	-39.1%	7.0%
Scotland	42,635	66,580	42,345	43,040		0.9%	-35.4%	1.6%
City Region	9,515	15,865	9,635	9,815		3.2%	-38.1%	1.9%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

One interesting take from this is that between June and July there was a fall in the male claimant count and an increase in the female claimant count, at least in Edinburgh and Fife. In West Lothian there was an increase month to month for both males and females but the percentage increase was very different – a 7% increase in female claimants and 0.3% increase in male claimants. This seems to reflect what is happening in Scotland as a whole and generally it would appear that the slow

down in the labour market (at least represented by the claimant count) is being led by an increase in female claimants.

Age Profile

The age profile of the claimants is another area where a breakdown is useful. It has been stressed before, but it is worth highlighting again, that for the very youngest cohort of the labour market (16 and 17 year olds) the claimant count will underrepresent the true number of those who are out of work, as the benefit system ordinarily doesn't support 16 or 17 year olds.¹

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

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
Jun-22		1,150	270	1,520	250	340	605	4,135
Jul-22		1,170	255	1,570	250	355	645	4,245
% Change	Feb20 to Peak	203.0%	152.0%	104.0%	114.0%	113.0%	114.0%	134.0%
	Peak to Jul 22	-64.4%	-67.9%	-55.8%	-64.0%	-59.9%	-58.9%	-60.6%
	Jun 22 to Jul 22	1.7%	-5.6%	3.3%	0.0%	4.4%	6.6%	2.7%
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
Jun-22		5,565	940	4,860	805	1,080	1,900	15,150
Jul-22		5,560	895	4,855	795	1,050	1,945	15,100
% Change	Feb20 to Peak	172.0%	106.0%	76.0%	116.0%	101.0%	101.0%	114.0%
	Peak to Jul 22	-52.5%	-57.4%	-44.7%	-57.4%	-46.4%	-50.6%	-50.0%
	Jun 22 to Jul 22	-0.1%	-4.8%	-0.1%	-1.2%	-2.8%	2.4%	-0.3%
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
Jun-22		2,125	350	1,915	290	565	615	5,860
Jul-22		2,120	335	1,860	285	555	620	5,775
% Change	Feb20 to Peak	138.0%	106.0%	76.0%	141.0%	117.0%	106.0%	104.0%
	Peak to Jul 22	-48.5%	-62.1%	-47.8%	-57.8%	-45.6%	-58.5%	-50.0%
	Jun 22 to Jul 22	-0.2%	-4.3%	-2.9%	-1.7%	-1.8%	0.8%	-1.5%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

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 60.6% fall

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/eligibility#:~:text=Claiming%20if%20you're%2016,re%20responsible%20for%20a%20child>

ranging from 67.9% in East Lothian through to 55.8% in Fife. There are still however, 4,245 16-24 year olds claiming in the region with Fife alone accounting for over 1,570 and Edinburgh accounting for 1,170. In terms of the latest month to month figures the table indicates that with the exception of East Lothian where there was a fall and Midlothian where there was no change every LA in the city region saw an increase in the 16-24 year old claimant count between June and July. This ranged from 1.7% in Edinburgh to 6.6% in West Lothian.

In July there were 15,100 claimants across the region who were between 25 and 49 years of age and 5,775 who were over the age of 50. Overall, we can see that between June and July the claimant count for those over the age of 50 fell by 1.5% across the region and for 25-49 year olds it fell by 0.3%. For both these age groups West Lothian was the only one that recorded a month to month increase.

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 in July 2022 61.7% of claimants were male (slight fall on last month) and 13.2% are aged 16-24. Southside and Newington had the highest percentage of claimants over the age of 50 whilst Pentland Hills had the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants.

Table 7 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward July 2022

2019 electoral wards	Jul-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants July 2022				
		Feb 20-Jul 22	Jun 22-Jul 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	565	14.1%	-0.9%	60.2%	39.8%	13.3%	67.3%	19.5%
City Centre	630	28.6%	0.0%	69.8%	30.2%	10.3%	66.7%	23.0%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	220	25.7%	-12.0%	54.5%	45.5%	15.9%	59.1%	27.3%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	160	33.3%	-3.0%	53.1%	46.9%	12.5%	62.5%	25.0%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	640	16.4%	2.4%	60.9%	39.1%	11.7%	65.6%	23.4%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	290	28.9%	3.6%	60.3%	39.7%	12.1%	62.1%	25.9%
Forth	860	19.4%	-4.4%	58.1%	41.9%	15.7%	61.6%	23.3%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	280	36.6%	-1.8%	62.5%	37.5%	12.5%	60.7%	28.6%
Inverleith	325	47.7%	-1.5%	64.6%	35.4%	15.4%	56.9%	27.7%
Leith	660	4.8%	-2.9%	64.4%	35.6%	9.1%	67.4%	23.5%
Leith Walk	715	30.0%	0.7%	62.2%	37.1%	9.1%	66.4%	24.5%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	740	37.0%	4.2%	60.8%	39.2%	16.2%	60.8%	23.0%
Morningside	210	40.0%	5.0%	54.8%	42.9%	11.9%	61.9%	23.8%
Pentland Hills	740	18.4%	2.1%	58.8%	41.2%	16.9%	59.5%	23.6%
Portobello/Craigmillar	740	18.4%	-0.7%	58.1%	41.9%	14.9%	63.5%	21.6%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	710	29.1%	0.7%	65.5%	34.5%	14.8%	60.6%	24.6%
Southside/Newington	360	56.5%	7.5%	68.1%	31.9%	11.1%	56.9%	31.9%
Edinburgh	8,855	24.6%	0.2%	61.7%	38.3%	13.2%	62.8%	23.9%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

Looking at the change from June to July 2022 we can see that 8 wards recorded a fall in the claimant count of between 0.9% and 12%. Eight wards saw the claimant count increase month to month – Southside and Newington saw it increase by 7.5%. City Centre was the one ward that saw no change at all.

Table 8 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. We can see that overall, the county has a claimant count 16% lower than it was in February 2020 and 5% lower than it was in June 2022. We can see that Haddington and Lammermuir ward saw the claimant count fall by 10% between June and July 2022.

Table 8 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward July 2022

2019 electoral wards	Jul-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants July 2022				
		Feb 20-Jul 22	Jun-Jul 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	160	-20%	-6%	56%	41%	16%	59%	22%
Haddington and Lammermuir	225	-13%	-10%	56%	44%	16%	60%	24%
Musselburgh	390	-14%	-4%	65%	33%	19%	58%	23%
North Berwick Coastal	95	12%	-5%	53%	42%	16%	58%	26%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	240	-23%	-4%	58%	42%	17%	56%	25%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	375	-17%	-3%	61%	39%	16%	65%	19%
East Lothian	1,480	-16%	-5%	60%	40%	17%	60%	23%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

Across the county 60% of claimants are male and this varies from 53% in North Berwick Coastal 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 5 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 9 wards there was an increase in the claimant count between June and July.

Table 9 Fife Claimant Count by Ward July 2022

2019 electoral wards	Jul-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants July 2022				
		Feb20-Jul22	Jun22-Jul22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	790	-12%	-2%	65%	35%	21%	58%	22%
Burntisland, Kinghorn & Western Kirkcaldy	335	-12%	-1%	61%	39%	18%	57%	27%
Cowdenbeath	585	-4%	-2%	60%	40%	21%	59%	20%
Cupar	195	-7%	5%	64%	38%	18%	62%	21%
Dunfermline Central	385	-3%	3%	60%	40%	18%	64%	18%
Dunfermline North	335	-19%	5%	63%	37%	18%	58%	22%
Dunfermline South	450	0%	1%	59%	41%	22%	59%	20%
East Neuk and Landward	180	-3%	0%	64%	36%	11%	56%	33%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	360	-3%	-3%	63%	38%	22%	57%	21%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	295	-17%	-5%	61%	39%	19%	64%	17%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	340	-3%	5%	56%	44%	24%	53%	24%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	190	9%	-3%	55%	45%	13%	55%	32%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	245	7%	7%	57%	43%	14%	57%	29%
Kirkcaldy Central	600	3%	-4%	67%	33%	14%	62%	24%
Kirkcaldy East	675	5%	2%	63%	37%	18%	58%	24%
Kirkcaldy North	370	-5%	-1%	61%	41%	20%	61%	19%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	420	-15%	-3%	67%	35%	23%	56%	23%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	625	-9%	-1%	63%	37%	21%	60%	19%
Rosyth	300	-2%	5%	55%	43%	18%	57%	23%
St Andrews	120	14%	-4%	63%	38%	21%	46%	33%
Tay Bridgehead	160	-16%	-3%	63%	38%	13%	59%	28%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	335	-6%	3%	58%	42%	18%	60%	21%
Fife	8,290	-5%	0%	62%	38%	19%	59%	22%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

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 38% of claimants are female and 62% are male. Glenrothes West and Kinglassie has the highest proportions of young claimants – 24% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. 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 19% of claimants in Fife overall in July 2022 were 16-24 years of age.

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 10 below. The statistic that stands out in this table is Midlothian South where the July 2022 claimant count is **27%** lower than it was in February 2020.

Table 10 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward July 2022

2019 electoral wards	Jul-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants July 2022				
		Feb 20-Jul22	Jun22-Jul22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	190	6%	0%	55%	45%	18%	58%	21%
Dalkeith	250	-15%	0%	64%	38%	22%	58%	22%
Midlothian East	245	-4%	-8%	57%	43%	18%	63%	18%
Midlothian South	220	-27%	7%	64%	36%	18%	64%	20%
Midlothian West	210	0%	-2%	57%	40%	19%	55%	26%
Penicuik	215	-4%	-2%	63%	37%	16%	60%	23%
Midlothian	1,330	-10%	-1%	60%	40%	19%	60%	21%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

Three wards recorded falls in the claimant count between June and July 2022, two recorded no change and Midlothian South recorded a 7% increase in the claimant count in July when compared to June. 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 looked at in Table 11 below where it is clear that the July claimant count ranged from 140 in Linlithgow to 560 in Whitburn and Blackburn.

Table 11 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward July 2022

2019 electoral wards	Jul-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants July 2022				
		Feb 20-Jul 22	Jun22-Jul22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	275	-11%	8%	56%	44%	24%	58%	18%
Bathgate	430	-9%	1%	59%	41%	21%	60%	19%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	355	-3%	6%	59%	41%	18%	55%	27%
East Livingston & E. Calder	355	-7%	-3%	62%	38%	18%	61%	21%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	345	-15%	-3%	65%	35%	19%	67%	14%
Linlithgow	140	4%	8%	61%	43%	14%	64%	21%
Livingston North	320	-2%	8%	56%	42%	17%	69%	14%
Livingston South	425	-6%	4%	55%	45%	24%	58%	20%
Whitburn & Blackburn	560	-4%	3%	62%	39%	21%	60%	20%
West Lothian	3,210	-6%	3%	60%	40%	20%	61%	19%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

All but 2 of the wards in West Lothian recorded a month to month *Increase* and for three wards this was in the order of 8%

Generally, every ward in West Lothian now has a claimant count lower than it was in February 2020. The one exception is Linlithgow. As with other areas there are more male claimants in every ward than female and this ranges from 65% in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley down to 55% in Livingston South. In terms of the age profile 24% of claimants in Armadale and Blackridge are 16-24 years of age. Compare this to Linlithgow where only 14% 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 4 of the Scottish Borders wards recorded a fall between June and July in Leaderdale and Melrose there was a 11% increase month to month.

Table 12 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward June 2022

2019 electoral wards	Jul-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants July 2022				
		Feb 20-Jul 22	Jun 22-Jul 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	170	6%	0%	53%	47%	18%	53%	29%
Galashiels and District	400	4%	1%	63%	36%	15%	60%	25%
Hawick and Denholm	230	-2%	2%	63%	39%	28%	54%	17%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	0%	-3%	56%	44%	25%	44%	31%
Jedburgh and District	140	8%	4%	54%	46%	21%	54%	29%
Kelso and District	145	4%	4%	55%	45%	14%	48%	34%
Leaderdale & Melrose	155	35%	11%	52%	45%	13%	55%	29%
Mid Berwickshire	135	-4%	-10%	56%	44%	19%	48%	33%
Selkirkshire	160	-3%	-9%	63%	38%	19%	56%	25%
Tweeddale East	135	29%	-7%	56%	44%	11%	56%	33%
Tweeddale West	120	14%	0%	63%	38%	13%	50%	42%
Scottish Borders	1,965	6%	-1%	58%	42%	18%	53%	28%

Source: NOMIS 16/08/2022

East Berwickshire has the highest proportion of female claimants not only in the Borders but in the whole City Region. Hawick and Denholm recorded 28% of claimants in July as being 16-24 years of age which is also the highest in the city region.

When you look at the local ward level it is easy to see dramatic percentage changes. This can happen from *relatively* small numerical changes if the overall claimant count is low. One would suggest that rather than focus on the percentage changes in themselves it is more useful to look at the trend:

- 32 wards still have a claimant count higher than it was in February 2020
- 29 wards have a claimant count higher than last month.

We can also see from this data that Edinburgh has the lowest proportion of claimants aged 16-24 and West Lothian has the highest. West Lothian has the lowest proportion of claimants who are over 50 whilst Scottish Borders has the highest.

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 specific demographic groups.

Table 13 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 June 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 86,732 unemployed 16-64 year olds and 757,517 who were described as economically inactive.

Table 13 Economic Activity June 2022

Economic Activity	Scotland	United Kingdom
All persons - aged 16 to 64	3,436,458	41,479,253
Total economically active - aged 16 to 64	2,678,941	32,588,320
Total in employment - aged 16 to 64	2,592,210	31,324,393
Total unemployed - aged 16 to 64	86,732	1,263,931
Total economically inactive - aged 16 to 64	757,517	8,890.933

Source: NOMIS 17/08/2022

Table 14 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 2022 as at March. What we can see from this is that Midlothian has the highest Economic Activity Rate and Fife the lowest. According to this survey nearly 1 in 10 in East Lothian are self employed. The table also highlight that there are differences across the region in terms of those who are economically inactive and want a job. This ranges from 26% in East Lothian to 13% in Scottish Borders. The low level in the Scottish Borders could be related to the fact that 28% of out of work claimants in the Borders are 50 and over (Table12).

Table 14 Economic Activity March 2022

		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	%	80.2	78.0	68.9	9.0	2.8	19.8	14.9	85.1
	confidence	3.3	3.5	3.9	2.4	1.6	3.3	6.5	6.5
East Lothian	%	82.0	79.4	69.2	9.8	3.2	18.0	26.0	74.0
	confidence	4.2	4.4	5.0	3.2	*	4.2	10.9	10.9
Fife	%	73.6	69.3	61.9	6.7	5.8	26.4	13.2	86.8
	confidence	3.8	4.0	4.2	2.2	2.3	3.8	5.8	5.8
Midlothian	%	85.8	84.9	76.6	8.3	1.0	14.2	19.6	80.4
	confidence	4.0	4.1	4.9	3.2	*	4.0	*	11.2
Scottish Borders	%	78.3	73.2	59.2	13.7	6.4	21.7	13.0	87.0
	confidence	4.2	4.5	5.0	3.5	2.9	4.2	*	7.4
West Lothian	%	77.5	75.3	67.4	7.4	2.8	22.5	17.8	82.2
	confidence	4.3	4.4	4.8	2.7	*	4.3	8.8	8.8

Source: NOMIS 17/08/2022

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.

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, inflation and rising energy bills As a result it is worthwhile digging a little deeper into these statistics.

Overall, in the City Region in July 2022 there were 108,038 people claiming Universal Credit. Of these 33,097 are Edinburgh residents, 34,814 live in Fife, 15,465 in West Lothian, 8,617 in East Lothian, 8,157 in Scottish Borders and 7,880 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 15 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 June 2022 and that is what is reported on. In addition to the most recent data the position in December 2021, June 2021, December 2020 and June 2020 is also presented.

Table 15 UC Claimants In Employment June 2020- June 2021

	Jun-22	Dec-21	Jun-21	Dec-20	Jun-20	% Increase Jun20-Jun22	% Increase Dec21-Jun22
City of Edinburgh	13,556	13,900	15,441	15,348	12,923	4.9%	-2%
East Lothian	3,524	3,602	3,704	3,777	3,708	-5.0%	-2%
Fife	12,615	12,788	13,016	13,103	11,403	10.6%	-1%
Midlothian	3,162	3,182	3,390	3,372	3,215	-1.6%	-1%
Scottish Borders	3,369	3,239	3,336	3,203	2,961	13.8%	4%
West Lothian	5,982	6,084	6,085	6,206	5,513	8.5%	-2%
Total	42,205	42,794	44,971	45,003	39,726	6.2%	-1%

Source: StatXplore 17/08/2022

From the table we can see that in 4 LA there are higher number of in-work claimants now in 2022 than had been recorded in 2020, this isn't the case in East Lothian and Midlothian. What is encouraging is that since June 2021 there has generally been a decline in the number of people in work and receiving UC- for example it has fallen by around 2,700 across the region in the last 12 months.

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