

## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count September 2022 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between February 2020 and August 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between August 2021 and August 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between July 2022 and August 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ UK increased by 22.5%</li> <li>↓ Scottish decreased by 0.8%</li> <li>↑ Edinburgh increased by 22.9%</li> <li>↑ City Region increased by 2.7%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ UK decreased by 28.3%</li> <li>↓ Scottish decreased by 32.5%</li> <li>↓ Edinburgh decreased by 37.1%</li> <li>↓ City Region decreased by 36%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ UK increased by 1%</li> <li>↑ Scottish increased by 0.4%</li> <li>↓ Edinburgh decreased by 0.6%</li> <li>↑ City Region increased by 0.1%</li> </ul>

### City Region Summary

1. In August 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 25,060. Of these
  - a. 4,355 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 14,990 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 5,715 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 3% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In July 2022 there were 42,678 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

### Edinburgh Summary

1. In August 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,735. Of these
  - a. 1,175 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 5,475 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 2,085 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 23% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In July 2022 there were 13,792 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

### East Lothian Summary

1. In August 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,485. Of these
  - a. 275 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 885 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 325 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 16% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In July 2022 there were 3,500 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

### Fife Summary

1. In August 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 8,175. Of these
  - a. 1,605 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 4,745 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 1,825 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 7% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In July 2022 there were 12,818 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

## Midlothian Summary

1. In August 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,360. Of these
  - a. 270 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 795 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 295 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 7% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In July 2022 there were 3,155 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

## Scottish Borders Summary

1. In August 2022 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,015. Of these
  - a. 365 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 1,080 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 570 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 8% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In July 2022 there were 3,362 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

## West Lothian Summary

1. In August 2022 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,290. Of these
  - a. 665 were 16-24 year olds
  - b. 2,010 were 25-49 year olds
  - c. 615 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 4% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In July 2022 there were 6,055 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count September 2022 Full Update

### Overall Claimant Count

On the 13<sup>th</sup> September NOMIS released claimant count data for August. Table 1 looks at the 12 regions and countries of the UK and indicates

- the claimant count as at February 2020
- the percentage increase between February 2020 and the 'peak claimant count'
- the claimant count in August 2021
- the claimant count in July and August 2022
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and August 2022
- the percentage fall between July and August 2022.
- The percentage fall between August 2021 and August 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 49% since August 2020. We can also that year on year there have been falls so that in Scotland the claimant count is now 32% lower than it was in August 2021.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

	February 2020	August 2021	July 2022	August 2022	Percentage Change			
					Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to Aug 22	Aug21 to Aug22	Jul22 to Aug22
UK	1,255,770	2,144,330	1,523,345	1,538,025	114%	-43%	-28%	1.0%
East	89,890	163,705	112,135	113,020	138%	-47%	-31%	0.8%
East Midlands	80,915	133,155	96,915	98,365	110%	-42%	-26%	1.5%
London	184,765	411,035	281,180	285,170	159%	-40%	-31%	1.4%
North East	75,560	97,510	68,850	69,165	64%	-44%	-29%	0.5%
North West	167,055	262,750	193,870	195,160	95%	-40%	-26%	0.7%
N. Ireland	29,910	48,830	35,695	36,490	114%	-43%	-25%	2.2%
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>114,605</b>	<b>168,240</b>	<b>113,155</b>	<b>113,640</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>-49%</b>	<b>-32%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
South East	119,620	229,695	160,335	162,350	152%	-46%	-29%	1.3%
South West	75,595	127,225	84,520	84,740	139%	-53%	-33%	0.3%
Wales	60,375	88,455	62,885	63,830	97%	-46%	-28%	1.5%
W. Midlands	141,095	226,920	175,915	177,450	91%	-34%	-22%	0.9%
Yorks & Humb	116,390	186,810	137,880	138,645	89%	-37%	-26%	0.6%

**Source: NOMIS 13/09/2022**

Looking more specifically at what has been recorded between July 2022 and August 2022 it can be seen that in **all** regions and countries of the UK there had been an increase in the number of claimants. This ranged from an increase of 2.2% in Northern Ireland to a 0.3% increase in the South

West. In Scotland the claimant count in August was 113,640 which was a 0.4% increase compared to July.

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 41% in Inverclyde to 62% in Na h Eileanan Siar.

**Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs**

	Feb-20	Peak Month and Count		July 2022	August 2022	Feb 20 to Peak	Peak to August 2022	July 2022-August 2022
Aberdeen City	4,150	Feb-21	9,725	5,270	5,340	134%	-45%	1.3%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	Aug-20	6,675	3,100	3,125	124%	-53%	0.8%
Angus	2,040	Aug-20	3,985	1,990	1,975	95%	-50%	-0.8%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	May-20	3,290	1,340	1,375	115%	-58%	2.6%
Edinburgh	7,105	Aug-20	18,840	8,790	8,735	165%	-54%	-0.6%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	Aug-20	2,255	1,170	1,220	62%	-46%	4.3%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,950	May-20	5,115	2,500	2,505	73%	-51%	0.2%
Dundee City	4,530	Aug-20	7,490	4,230	4,250	65%	-43%	0.5%
East Ayrshire	3,685	Aug-20	6,280	3,335	3,260	70%	-48%	-2.2%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,230	Aug-20	2,985	1,310	1,285	143%	-57%	-1.9%
East Lothian	1,765	May-20	3,680	1,470	1,485	108%	-60%	1.0%
East Renfrewshire	950	Jul-20	2,415	990	985	154%	-59%	-0.5%
Falkirk	3,300	Jul-20	6,335	3,240	3,125	92%	-51%	-3.5%
Fife	8,765	Aug-20	15,840	8,275	8,175	81%	-48%	-1.2%
Glasgow City	20,055	Aug-20	38,205	21,880	22,000	91%	-42%	0.5%
Highland	3,715	Jul-20	8,430	3,255	3,295	127%	-61%	1.2%
Inverclyde	2,255	Jul-20	3,275	1,875	1,920	45%	-41%	2.4%
Midlothian	1,470	May-20	3,160	1,340	1,360	115%	-57%	1.5%
Moray	1,550	Aug-20	3,030	1,425	1,410	95%	-53%	-1.1%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	Aug-20	880	345	335	89%	-62%	-2.9%
North Ayrshire	4,600	Jul-20	7,290	3,785	3,800	58%	-48%	0.4%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	Aug-20	15,870	7,850	7,950	93%	-50%	1.3%
Orkney Islands	195	Aug-20	420	200	195	115%	-54%	-2.5%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	Aug-20	4,595	2,150	2,205	146%	-52%	2.6%
Renfrewshire	4,025	Aug-20	7,780	3,660	3,700	93%	-52%	1.1%
Scottish Borders	1,860	Jul-20	3,835	1,970	2,015	106%	-47%	2.3%
Shetland Islands	265	Sep-20	545	240	240	106%	-56%	0.0%
South Ayrshire	2,790	Aug-20	4,960	2,420	2,450	78%	-51%	1.2%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	Aug-20	13,725	6,645	6,715	96%	-51%	1.1%
Stirling	1,540	Jul-20	3,125	1,420	1,430	103%	-54%	0.7%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	Jul-20	4,865	2,505	2,470	66%	-49%	-1.4%
West Lothian	3,425	Aug-20	7,005	3,190	3,290	105%	-53%	3.1%
Scotland	114,605	Aug-20	224,840	113,155	113,640	96%	-49%	0.4%

**Source: NOMIS 13/09/2022**

From July 2022 to August 2022 3 LAs recorded no real change in the claimant count, 18 recorded an **increase** in the number of claimants (Clackmannanshire recorded a 4.3% month to month increase) and 11 recorded a **fall** in the claimant numbers (Falkirk recorded a 3.5% month to month fall)

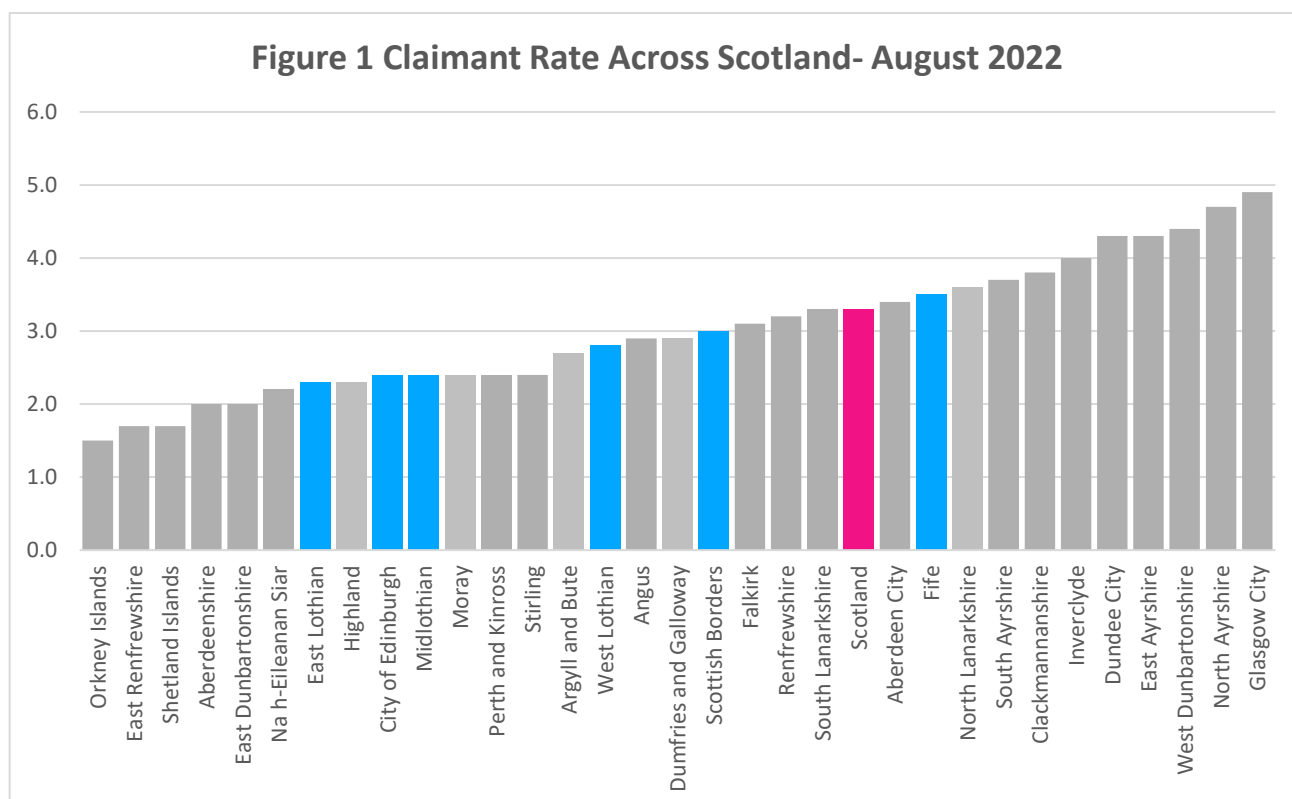
Looking now at the position in the City Region in more detail. It can be seen in Table 3 that across the region the claimant count recorded in August 2022 is still higher than in February 2020. However, it is also clear that in 4 of the 6 Local Authorities the count is lower than it was in February 2020. Scottish Borders and Edinburgh are the 2 that have a claimant count in August that is higher than the claimant count recorded in February 2020. Table 3 also highlights that the month to month change between August and July 2022 ranges from a 3.1% increase in West Lothian to a 1.2% fall in Fife. The claimant count in the region in August 2022 is much the same as it was in July 2022.

**Table 3: Claimant Count – City region LAs**

	February 2020	July 2022	August 2022	July 2022-August 2022
Edinburgh	7,105	8,790	8,735	-0.6%
East Lothian	1,765	1,470	1,485	1.0%
Fife	8,765	8,275	8,175	-1.2%
Midlothian	1,470	1,340	1,360	1.5%
Scottish Borders	1,860	1,970	2,015	2.3%
West Lothian	3,425	3,190	3,290	3.1%
City Region	24,390	25,035	25,060	0.1%

**Source: NOMIS 13/09/2022**

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 13/09/2022**

## 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 August 2021, July 2022 and August 2022.

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

	February 2020	August 2021	July 2022	August 2022		Feb 20-Aug 22	Aug 21-Aug 22	July 22-Aug 22
City of Edinburgh	4,435	8,620	5,410	5,355		20.7%	-37.9%	-1.0%
East Lothian	1,005	1,485	870	880		-12.4%	-40.7%	1.1%
Fife	5,475	7,370	5,090	4,990		-8.9%	-32.3%	-2.0%
Midlothian	865	1,395	800	815		-5.8%	-41.6%	1.9%
Scottish Borders	1,120	1,685	1,150	1,155		3.1%	-31.5%	0.4%
West Lothian	1,970	2,960	1,905	1,970		0.0%	-33.4%	3.4%
Scotland	71,975	103,545	70,040	70,080		-2.6%	-32.3%	0.1%
City Region	14,870	23,515	15,225	15,165		2.0%	-35.5%	-0.4%

**Source: NOMIS 13/08/2022**

From Table 4 we can see that the male claimant count in Edinburgh remains 20.7% higher than it was in February 2020 and in Scottish Borders it is still 3.1% higher. In 3 of the other LAs the male claimant count is lower than it was in 2020 – in West Lothian the count is the same as it was. The month to month change for male claimants between July and August 2022 has ranged from a 3.4% *increase* in West Lothian through to a 2.0% *fall* in Fife. Across the region it can be seen that there are now a third fewer male claimants than there were a year ago.

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 every LA in the region saw the number of female claimants increase or stay the same between July and August. This ranged from no change in Edinburgh through to a 4.9% increase in Scottish Borders where the August count was 860 compared to 820 in July.

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

	February 2020	August 2021	July 2022	August 2022		Feb 20-Aug 22	Aug 21-Aug 22	July 22-Aug 22
City of Edinburgh	2,665	5,265	3,380	3,380		26.8%	-35.8%	0.0%
East Lothian	760	1,115	600	605		-20.4%	-45.7%	0.8%
Fife	3,290	4,830	3,185	3,185		-3.2%	-34.1%	0.0%
Midlothian	605	930	540	545		-9.9%	-41.4%	0.9%
Scottish Borders	740	1,145	820	860		16.2%	-24.9%	4.9%
West Lothian	1,455	2,055	1,285	1,320		-9.3%	-35.8%	2.7%
Scotland	42,635	64,695	43,115	43,560		2.2%	-32.7%	1.0%
City Region	9,515	15,340	9,810	9,895		4.0%	-35.5%	0.9%

**Source: NOMIS 13/08/2022**

## 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 59.6% fall ranging from 65.4% in East Lothian through to 54.9% in Fife. There are still however, 4,355 16-24 year olds claiming in the city region up by 110 or 2.8% since July. Of these Fife alone accounting for over 1,605 and Edinburgh accounting for 1,175. In terms of the latest month to month figures the table indicates that whilst the number 16-24 years olds claiming has increased between July and August the percentage increase has ranged from a 0.4% in Edinburgh through to a 8.0% increase in Midlothian.

**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
Jul-22		1,170	255	1,565	250	355	640	4,235
Aug-22		1,175	275	1,605	270	365	665	4,355
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203.0%	152.0%	104.0%	114.0%	113.0%	114.0%	134.0%
	Peak to Aug22	-64.3%	-65.4%	-54.9%	-61.2%	-58.8%	-57.6%	-59.6%
	July22 to Aug22	0.4%	7.8%	2.6%	8.0%	2.8%	3.9%	2.8%
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
Jul-22		5,500	890	4,840	800	1,060	1,940	15,030
Aug-22		5,475	885	4,745	795	1,080	2,010	14,990
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172.0%	106.0%	76.0%	116.0%	101.0%	101.0%	114.0%
	Peak to Aug22	-53.3%	-57.9%	-45.9%	-57.4%	-44.9%	-49.0%	-50.4%
	July 22 to Aug22	-0.5%	-0.6%	-2.0%	-0.6%	1.9%	3.6%	-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
Jul-22		2,115	325	1,865	290	555	610	5,760
Aug-22		2,085	325	1,825	295	570	615	5,715
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138.0%	106.0%	76.0%	141.0%	117.0%	106.0%	104.0%
	Peak to Aug22	-49.3%	-63.3%	-48.8%	-56.3%	-44.1%	-58.9%	-50.5%
	July 22 to Aug22	-1.4%	0.0%	-2.1%	1.7%	2.7%	0.8%	-0.8%

**Source: NOMIS 13/09/2022**

In August there were 14,990 claimants across the region who were between 25 and 49 years of age and 5,715 who were over the age of 50. Both of these age groups have fallen whilst the younger age group has seen the claimant count increase.

Overall, we can see that between July and August the claimant count for those over the age of 50 fell by 0.8% across the region and for 25-49 year olds it fell by 0.3%. For the 25-49 age group the largest fall was recorded in Fife and Scottish Borders and West Lothian actually recorded an increase. In the case of claimants over the age of 50 Fife and Edinburgh saw a fall, whilst the others either saw no change (East Lothian) or an increase in the claimant count.

## 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. Looking at the change from July to August 2022 we can see that 8 wards recorded a fall in the claimant count of between 0.7% and 5.5%. Six wards saw the claimant count increase month to month – Corstorphine and Murrayfield saw it increase by 10%- although the overall count in that ward is small allowing for increases of 10 or 15 new claimants to create a sizable percentage change. Three wards saw no change at all.

**Table 7 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward August 2022**

Wards	Aug-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants August 2022				
		Feb20-Aug22	Jul22-Aug22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	555	12.1%	-2.6%	61.3%	38.7%	11.7%	69.4%	18.9%
City Centre	620	26.5%	-4.6%	69.4%	30.6%	12.1%	63.7%	24.2%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	235	34.3%	9.3%	55.3%	44.7%	14.9%	57.4%	27.7%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	165	37.5%	10.0%	57.6%	42.4%	9.1%	63.6%	24.2%
Craigtintny/ Duddingston	605	10.0%	-5.5%	62.0%	38.0%	10.7%	65.3%	24.8%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	295	31.1%	0.0%	59.3%	40.7%	13.6%	59.3%	27.1%
Forth	840	16.7%	-1.8%	57.1%	43.5%	14.3%	63.1%	22.6%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	285	39.0%	1.8%	63.2%	36.8%	14.0%	57.9%	28.1%
Inverleith	325	47.7%	1.6%	60.0%	40.0%	15.4%	56.9%	27.7%
Leith	655	4.0%	-0.8%	64.9%	35.1%	9.9%	67.2%	22.1%
Leith Walk	705	28.2%	0.0%	62.4%	38.3%	9.2%	66.0%	24.8%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	720	33.3%	-1.4%	61.1%	38.9%	18.1%	59.7%	22.9%
Morningside	210	40.0%	0.0%	54.8%	47.6%	14.3%	59.5%	26.2%
Pentland Hills	735	17.6%	-0.7%	59.9%	40.1%	15.6%	60.5%	23.8%
Portobello/Craigmillar	725	16.0%	-1.4%	57.2%	42.8%	15.9%	62.8%	21.4%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	700	27.3%	1.4%	64.3%	35.7%	15.0%	60.7%	23.6%
Southside/Newington	355	54.3%	2.9%	67.6%	31.0%	12.7%	60.6%	26.8%
Edinburgh	8,735	22.9%	-0.6%	61.3%	38.7%	13.5%	62.7%	23.9%

**Source: NOMIS 13/09/2022**

Overall, we can see that in Edinburgh in August 2022 61.3% of claimants were male (slight fall on last month) and 13.5% are aged 16-24. Fountainbridge and Craiglockhart had the highest percentage of claimants over the age of 50 whilst Liberton and Gilmerton had the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants.

Table 8 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count 16% lower than it was in February 2020 but this is 1% higher than it was last month. We can see that Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry saw the claimant count fall by 2.7% between July and



August 2022. In two wards there was no real change and in the remaining wards there had been an increase in the claimant counts between July and August

**Table 8 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward August 2022**

	Aug-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants Aug 2022				
		Feb 20-Aug 22	Jul 22-Aug 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	150	-25%	0.0%	60%	40%	20%	60%	20%
Haddington and Lammermuir	225	-13%	0.0%	56%	44%	16%	56%	27%
Musselburgh	395	-13%	2.6%	65%	35%	22%	57%	20%
North Berwick Coastal	100	18%	5.3%	50%	50%	15%	60%	25%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	250	-19%	4.2%	58%	42%	16%	58%	24%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	365	-19%	-2.7%	60%	40%	18%	66%	18%
East Lothian	1,485	-16%	1.0%	59%	41%	19%	60%	22%

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

Across the county 59% of claimants are male and this varies from 50% in North Berwick Coastal through to 63% in Musselburgh. Musselburgh also has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds and Haddington and Lammermuir had the highest proportion of over 50 year olds.

Turning now to look at Fife. From Table 9 it is apparent that 3 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 July and August.

**Table 9 Fife Claimant Count by Ward August 2022**

	Aug-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants Aug 2022				
		Feb 20-Aug 22	Jul 22-Aug 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	765	-15.0%	-3.8%	65%	35%	21%	59%	21%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	330	-13.2%	1.5%	59%	41%	20%	55%	24%
Cowdenbeath	560	-8.2%	-5.9%	59%	41%	21%	58%	21%
Cupar	195	-7.1%	0.0%	62%	38%	21%	59%	21%
Dunfermline Central	380	-3.8%	-2.6%	58%	42%	18%	62%	20%
Dunfermline North	355	-14.5%	4.4%	63%	37%	21%	58%	21%
Dunfermline South	430	-4.4%	-3.4%	59%	41%	22%	58%	20%
East Neuk and Landward	180	-2.7%	0.0%	64%	36%	8%	53%	39%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	370	0.0%	1.4%	61%	39%	23%	57%	19%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	305	-14.1%	3.4%	62%	38%	20%	66%	15%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	335	-4.3%	1.5%	55%	45%	24%	55%	21%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	0.0%	-5.4%	57%	43%	14%	54%	31%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	250	8.7%	6.4%	52%	48%	16%	54%	30%
Kirkcaldy Central	610	5.2%	1.7%	66%	34%	16%	59%	25%
Kirkcaldy East	645	0.8%	-3.0%	64%	36%	18%	59%	23%
Kirkcaldy North	370	-5.1%	0.0%	59%	41%	20%	62%	18%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	425	-14.1%	1.2%	66%	34%	22%	54%	22%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	595	-13.1%	-6.3%	61%	39%	21%	59%	20%
Rosyth	295	-3.3%	0.0%	56%	44%	17%	59%	24%
St Andrews	115	9.5%	-4.2%	61%	39%	17%	48%	35%
Tay Bridgehead	170	-10.5%	3.0%	59%	41%	15%	56%	26%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	320	-9.9%	-3.0%	61%	41%	19%	59%	23%
Fife	8,175	-6.7%	-1.2%	61%	39%	20%	58%	22%

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

In terms of gender one ward has the highest proportion of female claimants: Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay (48% of claimants are female). The average across the Kingdom is that 39% of claimants are female and 61% are male. Glenrothes West and Kinglassie has the highest proportions of young claimants – 24% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. Compare this to East Neuk and landward where only 8% of the 180 individuals claiming in August were 16-24 years of age. What we can also see in the Fife statistics is that in a number of wards around 1/5<sup>th</sup> of all claimants were 16-24 years of age, reflected in the fact that 20% of claimants in Fife overall in August 2022 were 16-24 years of age.

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 10 below. We can see that overall, the claimant count in Midlothian is 7.5% lower than it was in February 2020. Looking at the change between July and August only the ward of Penicuik has recorded a fall. Midlothian East, a ward with the highest claimant count in Midlothian, recorded a 4.1% increase.

**Table 10 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward August 2022**

	Aug-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants Aug 2022				
		Feb 20-Aug 22	Jul 22-Aug 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	200	11.1%	0.0%	60%	43%	20%	58%	23%
Dalkeith	250	-15.3%	0.0%	64%	36%	24%	58%	18%
Midlothian East	255	0.0%	4.1%	57%	43%	20%	63%	20%
Midlothian South	225	-25.0%	2.3%	60%	40%	18%	62%	18%
Midlothian West	215	2.4%	2.4%	58%	42%	19%	53%	28%
Penicuik	210	-6.7%	-2.3%	62%	38%	17%	57%	26%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>-7.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>22%</b>

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

Bonnyrigg and Midlothian East have recorded the highest proportions of female claimants in Midlothian. At 24% 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 August claimant count ranged from 150 in Linlithgow to 560 in Whitburn and Blackburn. All bar one of the wards in West Lothian recorded a month to month **Increase** and for one ward, Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh this was over 8% to record 380 claimants in August.

**Table 11 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward August 2022**

	Aug-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants Aug 2022				
		Feb 20-Aug 22	Jul 22-Aug 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	290	-6.5%	5.5%	60%	40%	26%	55%	19%
Bathgate	450	-4.3%	4.7%	60%	40%	21%	61%	19%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	380	4.1%	8.6%	59%	41%	20%	55%	25%
East Livingston & E. Calder	350	-7.9%	0.0%	59%	40%	16%	63%	21%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	365	-9.9%	5.8%	67%	33%	19%	68%	12%
Linlithgow	150	11.1%	3.4%	57%	40%	17%	63%	20%
Livingston North	320	-1.5%	1.6%	58%	44%	20%	67%	14%
Livingston South	430	-4.4%	1.2%	53%	47%	22%	58%	20%
Whitburn & Blackburn	560	-4.3%	1.8%	63%	38%	21%	60%	19%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,290</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>19%</b>

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

Generally, every ward in West Lothian now has a claimant count lower than it was in February 2020. The two exceptions are Linlithgow and Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh. As with other areas there are more male claimants in every ward than female and this ranges from 67% in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley down to 53% in Livingston South. In terms of the age profile 26% of claimants in Armadale and Blackridge are 16-24 years of age. Compare this to Linlithgow where only 17% 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 August 2022 is still higher (in some instances significantly higher) than it was in February 2020. We can see that in 4 of the Scottish Borders wards there was no change in the claimant count between July and August. Only one (Leaderdale and Melrose) recorded a month-to-month fall – this is in sharp contrast to last month where the claimant count in this ward increased by 11%. This reflects the fact that the actual number of claimants is small and as result a change of 5 or 10 claimants’ month to month can have significant impacts. The other 6 wards all recorded month to month increases in the claimant count.

**Table 12 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward August 2022**

	Aug-22	% Change		Proportion of claimants Aug 2022				
		Feb 20-Aug 22	Jul 22-Aug 22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	170	6.3%	0.0%	53%	47%	15%	56%	29%
Galashiels and District	405	5.2%	0.0%	62%	37%	16%	58%	26%
Hawick and Denholm	235	0.0%	2.2%	62%	38%	28%	55%	17%
Hawick and Hermitage	185	2.8%	2.8%	59%	41%	24%	46%	30%
Jedburgh and District	140	7.7%	0.0%	52%	48%	21%	54%	25%
Kelso and District	155	10.7%	6.9%	52%	45%	16%	52%	32%
Leaderdale & Melrose	140	21.7%	-6.7%	51%	49%	14%	54%	32%
Mid Berwickshire	145	3.6%	3.6%	59%	41%	21%	45%	34%
Selkirkshire	165	0.0%	0.0%	61%	39%	18%	58%	24%
Tweeddale East	140	33.3%	7.7%	54%	46%	14%	57%	32%
Tweeddale West	130	23.8%	13.0%	58%	42%	8%	54%	38%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>28%</b>

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

The Scottish Borders have a higher proportion of female claimants than other Authorities in the city region whilst Hawick and Denholm recorded 28% of claimants in July as being 16-24 years of age which is 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. Overall we can see that

- 35 wards still have a claimant count higher than it was in February 2020
- 22 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 whilst in Fife, West Lothian and Midlothian 20% of all claimants are aged between 16-24. 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 July 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 83,026 unemployed 16-64 year olds and 769,707 who were described as economically inactive.

**Table 13 Economic Activity July 2022**

Economic Activity	Scotland	United Kingdom
All persons - aged 16 to 64	3,441,197	41,536,526
Total economically active - aged 16 to 64	2,671,490	32,525,068
Total in employment - aged 16 to 64	2,588,464	31,328,595
Total unemployed - aged 16 to 64	83,026	1,196,475
Total economically inactive - aged 16 to 64	769,707	9,011,458

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

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.

**Table 14 Economic Activity March 2022**

Variable	City of Edinburgh			East Lothian			Fife		
	numerator	percent	conf	numerator	percent	conf	numerator	percent	conf
Economic activity rate - aged 16-64	284,100	80.2	3.3	53,400	82.0	4.2	165,500	73.6	3.8
Employment rate - aged 16-64	276,100	78.0	3.5	51,700	79.4	4.4	155,900	69.3	4.0
% aged 16-64 who are employees	244,100	68.9	3.9	45,100	69.2	5.0	139,200	61.9	4.2
% aged 16-64 who are self employed	32,000	9.0	2.4	6,400	9.8	3.2	15,100	6.7	2.2
Unemployment rate - aged 16-64	8,100	2.8	1.6	1,700	3.2	*	9,600	5.8	2.3
% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64	70,000	19.8	3.3	11,700	18.0	4.2	59,400	26.4	3.8
% of economically inactive who want a job	10,400	14.9	6.5	3,000	26.0	10.9	7,800	13.2	5.8
% of economically inactive who do not want a job	59,500	85.1	6.5	8,700	74.0	10.9	51,500	86.8	5.8

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

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 (contd)**

Variable	Midlothian			Scottish Borders			West Lothian		
	numerator	percent	conf	numerator	percent	conf	numerator	percent	conf
Economic activity rate - aged 16-64	48,800	85.8	4.0	52,500	78.3	4.2	90,400	77.5	4.3
Employment rate - aged 16-64	48,400	84.9	4.1	49,100	73.2	4.5	87,800	75.3	4.4
% aged 16-64 who are employees	43,600	76.6	4.9	39,700	59.2	5.0	78,600	67.4	4.8
% aged 16-64 who are self employed	4,700	8.3	3.2	9,200	13.7	3.5	8,700	7.4	2.7
Unemployment rate - aged 16-64	~	1.0	*	3,400	6.4	2.9	2,600	2.8	*
% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64	8,100	14.2	4.0	14,600	21.7	4.2	26,300	22.5	4.3
% of economically inactive who want a job	1,600	19.6	*	1,900	13.0	*	4,700	17.8	8.8
% of economically inactive who do not want a job	6,500	80.4	11.2	12,700	87.0	7.4	21,600	82.2	8.8

**Source: NOMIS 15/09/2022**

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. This is because survey can never be totally accurate – this would only be possible by speaking to everyone in a given population.

## 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 don'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.

**Table 15 UC Claimants In Employment February 2022- July 2022**

	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	July 2022	% Change Feb22-Jul22	% Change Jun22-Jul22
Fife	12,288	12,378	12,447	12,595	12,615	12,818	4%	2%
City of Edinburgh	13,232	13,274	13,368	13,406	13,556	13,792	4%	2%
East Lothian	3,470	3,460	3,523	3,496	3,524	3,500	1%	-1%
West Lothian	5,956	5,921	5,982	5,963	5,982	6,055	2%	1%
Scottish Borders	3,229	3,210	3,283	3,311	3,369	3,362	4%	0%
Midlothian	3,081	3,126	3,126	3,152	3,162	3,155	2%	0%
Total	41,260	41,368	41,741	41,930	42,205	42,678	3%	1%

**Source: StatXplore 15/09/2022**

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 above looks at the number of universal credit claimants who are in work and is split by Local Authority. The most recent data where this split is available is July 2022 and that is what is reported on. In addition to the most recent data the position over the last 6 months back to February is also presented.

From the table we can see that across the city region the number of in work claimants has increased by 3% over the last 6 months. This ranges from a 1% increase in East Lothian to a 4% increase in Fife, Edinburgh and Scottish Borders. Comparing the position in June to that of July we can see that the number of in work claimants fell in East Lothian. Scottish Borders and Midlothian both record small falls in the claimants who were in work. The other 3 LAs in the region all recorded increases between June and July.

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