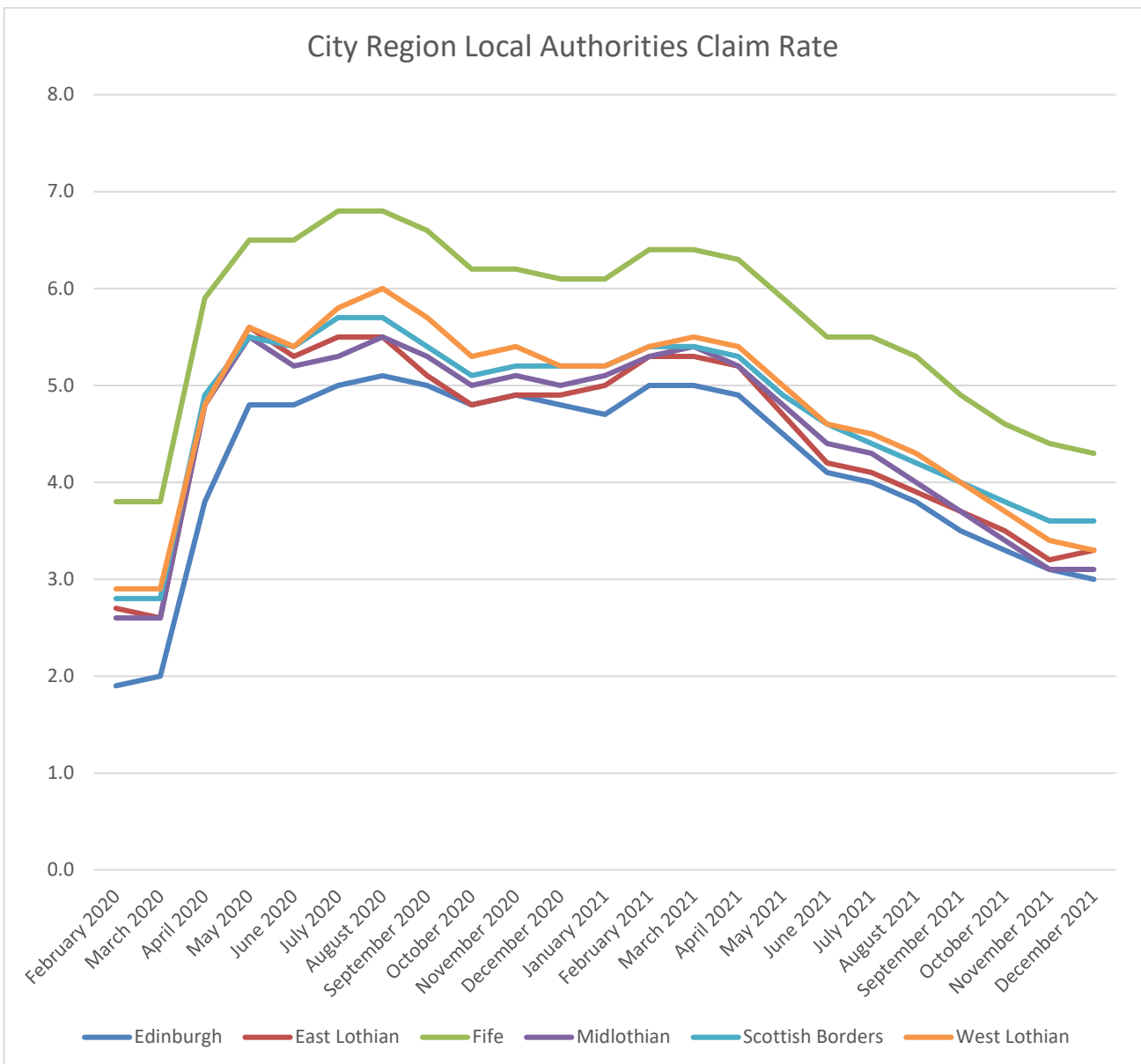


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2021 Summary Update

| Between February 2020 and Peak Month: | Between November 2021 and December 2021: |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK Claimant Count increased by 114% ↑ Scottish Claimant Count increased by 96% ↑ Edinburgh Claimant Count increased by 165% ↑ City Region Claimant Count increased by 115% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK Claimant Count decreased by 2% ↓ Scottish Claimant Count decreased 2% ↓ Edinburgh Claimant Count decreased by 4% ↓ City Region Claimant Count decreased by 3% |



City Region Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for the City Region was 31,020. Of these
 - a. 4,995 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 18,685 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 7,345 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 27% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 19,130 male claimants and 11,895 female claimants. This represents an increase of 29% for males and 25% for females since February 2020.
4. The ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth in Edinburgh with 1,050 claimants in December 2021.
5. The ward with the lowest claimant count is St Andrews in Fife with 150 claimants in December 2021
6. In November 2021 there were 43,135 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,925. Of these
 - a. 1,410 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 6,905 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,615 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 54% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 6,885 male claimants and 4,040 female claimants. This represents an increase of 55% for males and 52% for females since February 2020.
4. The Edinburgh ward with the greatest claimant count is Forth with 1,050 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.9%.
5. The Edinburgh ward with the lowest claimant count is Corstorphine/Murrayfield with 195 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.3%.
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 148 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In November 2021 there were 14,217 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh

East Lothian Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for East Lothian was 2,170. Of these
 - a. 355 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,295 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 515 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 23% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 1,280 male claimants and 890 female claimants. This represents an increase of 27% for males and 17% for females since February 2020.
4. The East Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Musselburgh with 545 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.3%.
5. The East Lothian ward with the lowest claimant count is North Berwick Coastal with 155 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 2.1%.
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 24 16 and 17 year olds not participating in East Lothian
7. In November 2021 there were 3,551 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for Fife was 9,910. Of these
 - a. 1,760 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 5,775 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 2,380 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 13% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 6,150 male claimants and 3,760 female claimants. This represents an increase of 12% for males and 14% for females since February 2020.
4. The Fife ward with the greatest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages with 935 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 8.5%.
5. The Fife ward with the lowest claimant count is St Andrews with 150 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.0%.

6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 202 16 and 17 year olds not participating in Fife.
7. In November 2021 there were 12,847 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In October 2021 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,760. Of these
 - a. 310 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,085 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 365 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 20% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 1,085 male claimants and 675 female claimants. This represents an increase of 25% for males and 12% for females since February 2020.
4. The Midlothian ward with the largest claimant count is Dalkeith with 375 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.2%.
5. The Midlothian ward with the lowest claimant count is Midlothian West with 230 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 2.4%
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 35 16 and 17 year olds not participating in Midlothian.
7. In November 2021 there were 3,189 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,390. Of these
 - a. 425 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 1,310 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 655 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 28% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 1,405 male claimants and 990 female claimants. This represents an increase of 25% for males and 34% for females since February 2020.
4. The Scottish Borders ward with the greatest claimant count is Galashiels and District with 470 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.8%.
5. The Scottish Borders ward with the lowest claimant count is Tweeddale West 160 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 2.6%.
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 32 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In November 2021 there were 3,256 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders.

West Lothian Summary

1. In December 2021 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,865. Of these
 - a. 735 were 16-24 year olds
 - b. 2,315 were 25-49 year olds
 - c. 815 were 50 or older
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 13% higher than it was in February 2020.
3. In December 2021 there were 2,325 male claimants and 1,540 female claimants. This represents an increase of 18% for males and 6% for females since February 2020.
4. The West Lothian ward with the largest claimant count is Whitburn and Blackburn with 650 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 4.7%.
5. The West Lothian Ward with the lowest claimant count is Linlithgow with 160 claimants in December 2021 and a claimant rate of 1.6%
6. The latest Skills Development Scotland Participation Measure indicates that there are 108 16 and 17 year olds not participating
7. In November 2021 there were 6,057 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2021 Full Update

Overall Claimant Count

On the 18th January NOMIS released claimant count data for December. Looking in detail at the claimant count it can be seen that since February 2020 whilst every area of the UK experienced an increase in the number of claimants, the peak claimant count was recorded at different times depending on the geography, the gender and the age of the claimant.

Table 1 looks at the 12 regions and countries of the UK and indicates

- claimant count February 2020
- the month that the peak claimant count was recorded and what that count was
- the percentage increase between February 2020 and this 'peak claimant count'
- the claimant count in November 2021 and December 2021
- the percentage fall between 'peak claimant count' and December 2021
- the percentage fall between November 2021 and December 2021

From Table 1 it can be seen that the North West and Northern Ireland hit their highest claimant count very early in the pandemic in May 2020. Compare this to the West Midlands where the peak claimant count didn't materialise until February 2021. Most regions and countries hit a peak in August 2020.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

| Date | Feb 2020 | Claimant Count Peak | Nov 2021 | Dec 2021 | Percentage Change | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | | Feb20 to Peak | Peak to Dec 21 | Nov21 to Dec 21 |
| UK | 1,255,770 | 2,688,110 (Aug20) | 1,881,715 | 1,848,050 | 114% | -31% | -2% |
| East | 89,890 | 213,715(Aug 20) | 142,945 | 140,805 | 138% | -34% | -1% |
| East Midlands | 80,915 | 170,220 (Aug 20) | 117,680 | 115,345 | 110% | -32% | -2% |
| London | 184,765 | 478,165 (Sep 20) | 356,170 | 350,195 | 159% | -27% | -2% |
| North East | 75,560 | 123,720 (Aug 20) | 86,220 | 84,645 | 64% | -32% | -2% |
| North West | 167,055 | 326,490 (May 20) | 231,620 | 226,985 | 95% | -30% | -2% |
| Northern Ireland | 29,910 | 63,860 (May 20) | 42,840 | 41,185 | 114% | -36% | -4% |
| Scotland | 114,605 | 224,840 (Aug 20) | 142,245 | 139,805 | 96% | -38% | -2% |
| South East | 119,620 | 300,975 (Aug 20) | 201,050 | 197,720 | 152% | -34% | -2% |
| South West | 75,595 | 180,915 (Aug 20) | 111,185 | 109,170 | 139% | -40% | -2% |
| Wales | 60,375 | 118,905 (Aug 20) | 78,830 | 77,860 | 97% | -35% | -1% |
| West Midlands | 141,095 | 269,985 (Feb 21) | 204,315 | 200,965 | 91% | -26% | -2% |
| Yorkshire & Humber | 116,390 | 219,515 (Feb 20) | 166,620 | 163,375 | 89% | -26% | -2% |

Source: NOMIS 18/01/2022

In London and the South East there had been a 159% and 152% increase in the claimant count respectively. Compare this to the North East, where the claimant count 'only' increased by 64%. The table also indicates that the claimant count has fallen by between 27% and 40% since the peak. Scotland has seen the claimant count fall by 38% which is the second fastest fall across the UK.

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. Once again it is clear that different areas peaked at different times ranging from a May 2020 peak for East Lothian and Argyll and Bute, through to a February 2021 peak for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Except for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire most Scottish Local Authorities recorded their highest claimant counts around summer 2020.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

| | Feb 20 | Peak Month and Count | | Nov 21 | Dec 21 | Feb to Peak | Peak to Dec 21 | Nov 21 to Dec 21 |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Aberdeen City | 4,150 | Feb 21 | 9,725 | 6,550 | 6,505 | 134% | -33% | -1% |
| Aberdeenshire | 2,975 | Aug 20 | 6,675 | 4,220 | 4,200 | 124% | -37% | 0% |
| Angus | 2,040 | Aug 20 | 3,985 | 2,480 | 2,450 | 95% | -39% | -1% |
| Argyll and Bute | 1,530 | May 20 | 3,290 | 1,835 | 1,830 | 115% | -44% | 0% |
| Edinburgh | 7,105 | Aug 20 | 18,840 | 11,405 | 10,925 | 165% | -42% | -4% |
| Clackmannanshire | 1,390 | Aug 20 | 2,255 | 1,460 | 1,385 | 62% | -39% | -5% |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 2,950 | May 20 | 5,115 | 3,200 | 3,220 | 73% | -37% | 1% |
| Dundee City | 4,530 | Aug 20 | 7,490 | 5,000 | 4,940 | 65% | -34% | -1% |
| East Ayrshire | 3,685 | Aug 20 | 6,280 | 4,165 | 4,135 | 70% | -34% | -1% |
| E. Dunbartonshire | 1,230 | Aug 20 | 2,985 | 1,680 | 1,660 | 143% | -44% | -1% |
| East Lothian | 1,765 | May 20 | 3,680 | 2,245 | 2,170 | 108% | -41% | -3% |
| East Renfrewshire | 950 | Jul 20 | 2,415 | 1,275 | 1,260 | 154% | -48% | -1% |
| Falkirk | 3,300 | Jul 20 | 6,335 | 3,910 | 3,820 | 92% | -40% | -2% |
| Fife | 8,765 | Aug 20 | 15,840 | 10,180 | 9,910 | 81% | -37% | -3% |
| Glasgow City | 20,055 | Aug 20 | 38,205 | 26,755 | 26,250 | 91% | -31% | -2% |
| Highland | 3,715 | Jul 20 | 8,430 | 4,265 | 4,275 | 127% | -49% | 0% |
| Inverclyde | 2,255 | Jul 20 | 3,275 | 2,305 | 2,310 | 45% | -29% | 0% |
| Midlothian | 1,470 | May 20 | 3,160 | 1,785 | 1,760 | 115% | -44% | -1% |
| Moray | 1,550 | Aug 20 | 3,030 | 1,860 | 1,820 | 95% | -40% | -2% |
| Na h-Eileanan Siar | 465 | Aug 20 | 880 | 455 | 460 | 89% | -48% | 1% |
| North Ayrshire | 4,600 | Jul 20 | 7,290 | 4,605 | 4,605 | 58% | -37% | 0% |
| North Lanarkshire | 8,230 | Aug 20 | 15,870 | 9,855 | 9,720 | 93% | -39% | -1% |
| Orkney Islands | 195 | Aug 20 | 420 | 240 | 255 | 115% | -39% | 6% |
| Perth and Kinross | 1,865 | Aug 20 | 4,595 | 2,710 | 2,680 | 146% | -42% | -1% |
| Renfrewshire | 4,025 | Aug 20 | 7,780 | 4,515 | 4,435 | 93% | -43% | -2% |
| Scottish Borders | 1,860 | Jul 20 | 3,835 | 2,415 | 2,390 | 106% | -38% | -1% |
| Shetland Islands | 265 | Sep 20 | 545 | 315 | 315 | 106% | -42% | 0% |
| South Ayrshire | 2,790 | Aug 20 | 4,960 | 3,140 | 3,130 | 78% | -37% | 0% |
| South Lanarkshire | 7,015 | Aug 20 | 13,725 | 8,515 | 8,315 | 96% | -39% | -2% |
| Stirling | 1,540 | Jul 20 | 3,125 | 1,690 | 1,630 | 103% | -48% | -4% |
| W. Dunbartonshire | 2,930 | Jul 20 | 4,865 | 3,210 | 3,180 | 66% | -35% | -1% |
| West Lothian | 3,425 | Aug 20 | 7,005 | 4,015 | 3,865 | 105% | -45% | -4% |
| Scotland | 114,605 | Aug 20 | 224,840 | 142,245 | 139,805 | 96% | -38% | -2% |

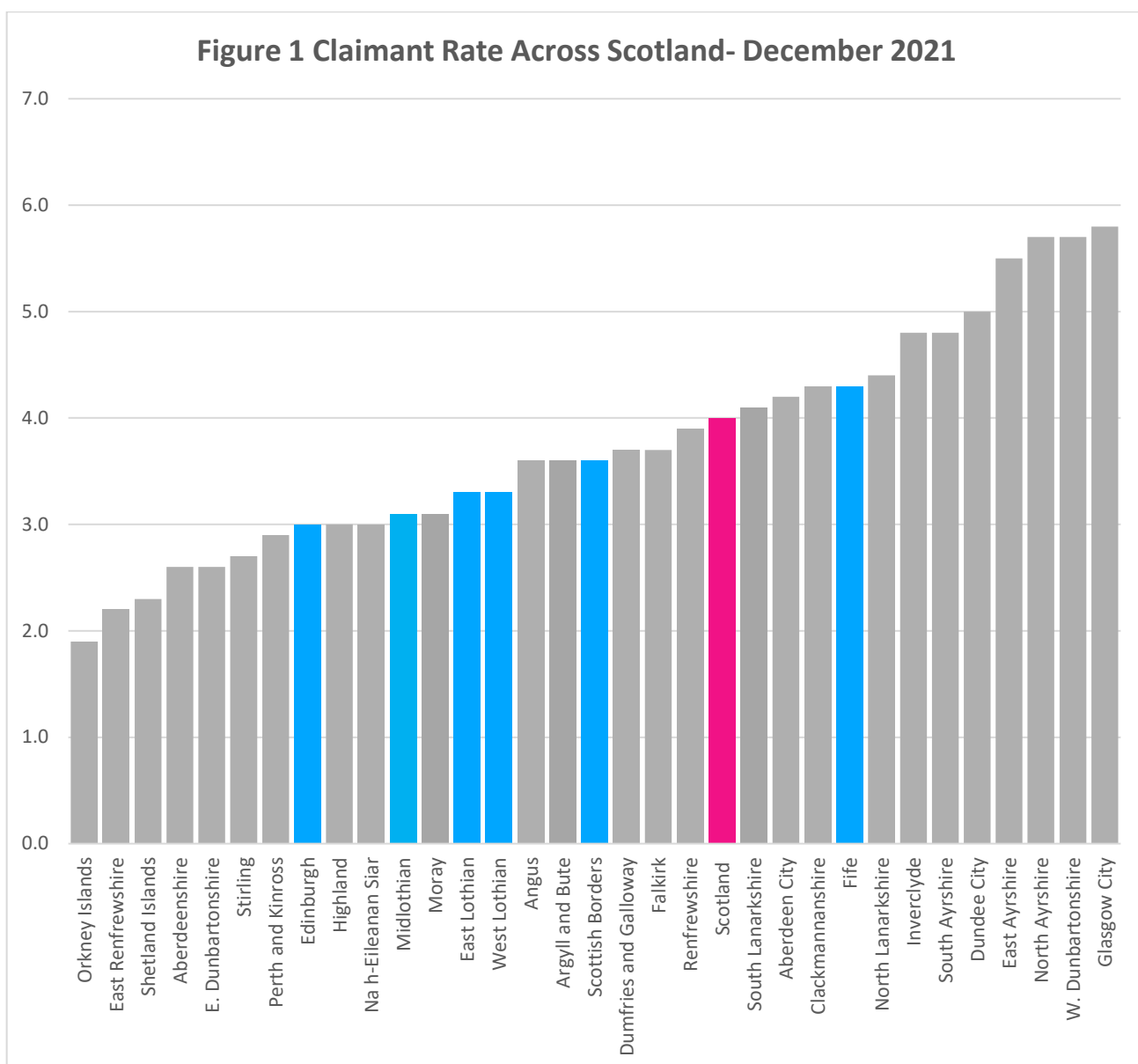
Source: NOMIS 18/01/2022

The data highlights that whilst Scotland recorded a 96% increase in the claimant count, this varies from a 45% increase in Inverclyde through to a 165% increase in Edinburgh. Generally, those that recorded the higher increases have also recorded relatively large falls in the claimant count. For example, whilst Edinburgh recorded a 165% increase between February 2020 and August 2020, a fall of 42% has been recorded between August 2020 and December 2021.

The most recent month to month change indicates that whilst Scotland as a whole saw the claimant count fall by 2% between November and December

- 7 Local Authorities saw no change at all between November and December.
- 11 did see the claimant count fall but at a lower rate than for Scotland as a whole.
- 5 recorded a month to month fall of 2%, the same as Scotland.
- 6 recorded a fall greater than the Scottish Average – 4 of these LAs were in the City Region.
- 3 recorded an increase in the claimant count.

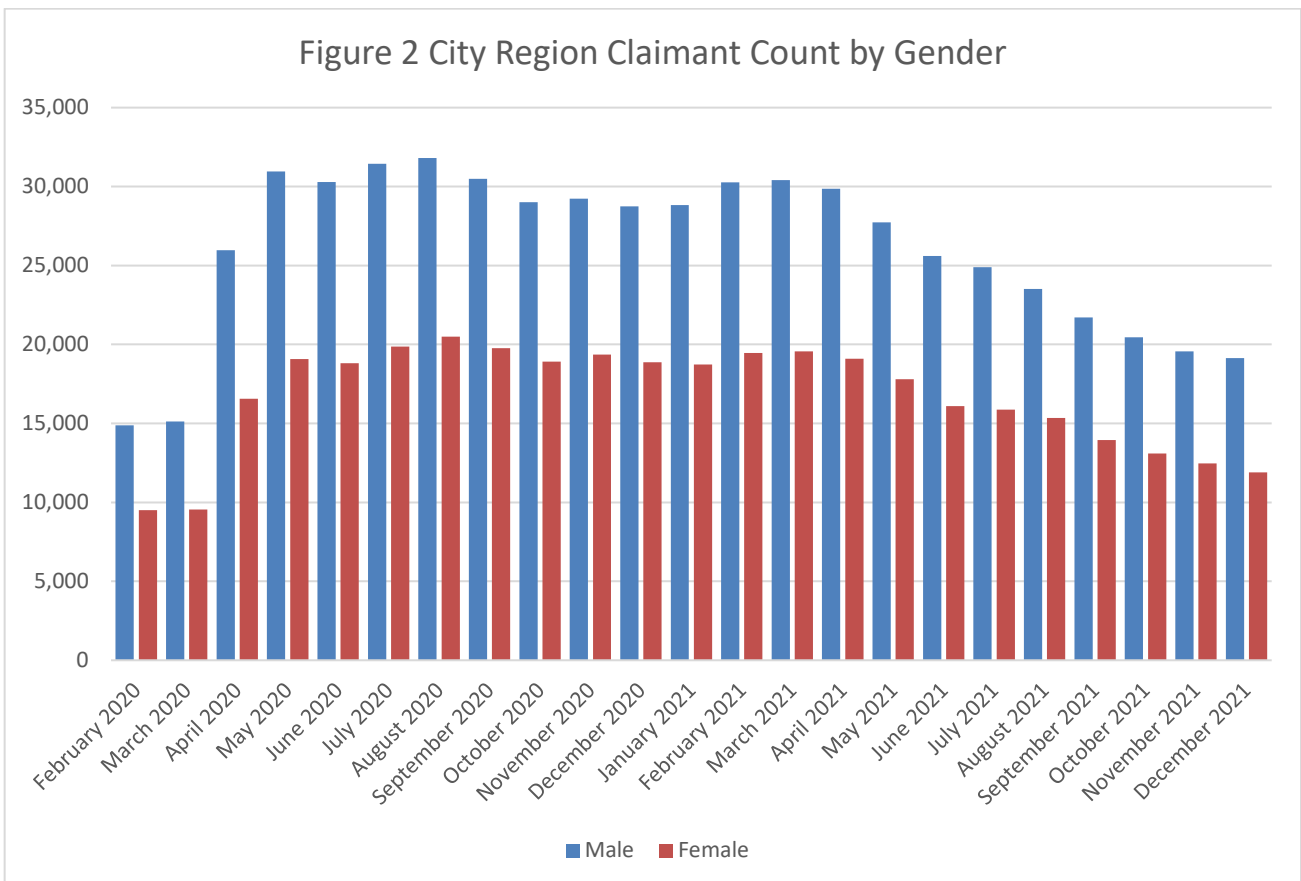
Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate by Local Authority across Scotland as a whole. From this it can be seen that with the exception of Fife, every Local Authority in the City Region has a rate that is lower than the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

Gender Profile

There is often a concern regarding how changes in the labour market impact on the different genders. Figure 1, below, looks at the claimant count for each gender across the city region over the course of the pandemic. This suggests that between February and the peak in the claimant count, there was a 114% increase for male claimants and a 115% increase in the number of female claimants, not really a significant difference. From the peak in August 2020 through to December 2021 there has been a fall in the claimant count across the region of 40% for males and 42% for females. Again, this is not a significant difference where differences start to materialise is when age groups or specific geographies are examined.



Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

Table 3 below looks at the percentage change by gender and is split into age groups. This indicates that more measurable differences have been recorded at this level between February 2020 and when the claimant count peaked.

Table 3: Percentage Change in City Region Claimant Count by Age and Gender

| Date | 16-24 year olds | | 25-49 year olds | | 50+ year olds | |
|-------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Feb to Peak | 130% | 144% | 116% | 110% | 99% | 108% |
| Peak to Dec | -52% | -57% | -38% | -38% | -34% | -39% |

Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

What is also clear from this table is that whilst the number of 16-24 and 50 and over females increased by higher level than males it has also fallen at a greater rate since the summer of 2020. This is not the case for 25-49 year olds where the claimant count for males increased faster to the

summer 2020 peak and has fallen at the same rate as for females. This is likely to leave the number of male claimants in this age group at a higher proportion to what was recorded pre-pandemic.

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the City Region in more detail. Tables 3 and 4 look at the number of claimants of each gender as of February 2020, and compares this with the peak claimant month for each gender and for each LA. It then looks at what has happened between November and December 2021.

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

| Date | Edinburgh | East Lothian | Fife | Midlothian | Scottish Borders | West Lothian |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| February 2020 | 4,435 | 1,005 | 5,475 | 865 | 1,120 | 1,970 |
| Peak Month | Aug-20 | May-20 | Aug-20 | May-20 | Jul-20 | Aug-20 |
| Peak Count | 11,530 | 2,180 | 9,770 | 1,970 | 2,275 | 4,225 |
| November 2021 | 7,160 | 1,300 | 6,235 | 1,080 | 1,425 | 2,370 |
| December 2021 | 6,885 | 1,280 | 6,150 | 1,085 | 1,405 | 2,325 |
| Feb 20 to Peak | 160% | 117% | 78% | 128% | 103% | 114% |
| Peak to Dec 21 | -40% | -41% | -37% | -45% | -38% | -45% |
| Nov 21 to Dec 21 | -4% | -2% | -1% | 0% | -1% | -2% |
| <i>Claim Rate Feb 20</i> | 2.4 | 3.2 | 4.8 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| <i>Claim Rate Dec 21</i> | 3.8 | 4.0 | 5.4 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.0 |

Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

From Table 3 we can see that the male claimant count increased most for males in Edinburgh - 160% increase between February 2020 and when it peaked in August 2020. In Fife the increase was 78% which was the lowest increase for males in the city region. In terms of how the claimant count for males has decreased since the 2020 peaks, Midlothian and West Lothian have recorded a 45% fall in the claimant count for males between the Peak and December 2021. Edinburgh recorded the largest percentage fall between November and December 2021. The last two rows look at the claimant rate and compares the current position with that recorded pre-pandemic. Edinburgh had a significantly lower claimant rate for males in February when compared to other areas. Currently the claimant rate in Edinburgh is 1.2 points higher than it was before COVID and this is the largest difference in the region.

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

| Date | Edinburgh | East Lothian | Fife | Midlothian | Scottish Borders | West Lothian |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| February 2020 | 2,665 | 760 | 3,290 | 605 | 740 | 1,455 |
| Peak Month | Aug-20 | Aug-20 | Aug-20 | Aug-20 | Aug-20 | Aug-20 |
| Peak Count | 7,315 | 1,510 | 6,070 | 1,220 | 1,585 | 2,785 |
| November 2021 | 4,245 | 945 | 3,940 | 700 | 990 | 1,645 |
| December 2021 | 4,040 | 890 | 3,760 | 675 | 990 | 1,540 |
| Feb 20 to Peak | 174% | 99% | 84% | 102% | 114% | 91% |
| Peak to Dec 21 | -45% | -41% | -38% | -45% | -38% | -45% |
| Nov 21 to Dec 21 | -5% | -6% | -5% | -4% | 0% | -6% |
| <i>Claim Rate Feb 20</i> | 1.4 | 2.2 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| <i>Claim Rate dec 21</i> | 2.2 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 2.6 |

Source: NOMIS 18/1/2022

Table 4 looks at the situation for female claimants. Again, the claimant count in Edinburgh recorded the highest percentage increase for females and Fife recorded the lowest increase. As with males the female claimant count in Midlothian has fallen by the largest percentage since the 2020 peak, however the same percentage fall has been recorded in Edinburgh and in West Lothian. West and East Lothian have recorded the greatest month to month falls from November to December 2021. Perhaps most encouraging is the fact that the claimant rate across the region for females is now, December 2021, between 0.3 and 0.8 percentage points higher than it was pre pandemic – a closing of the gap reported on last month.

Age Profile

Whilst the discussion has already touched on the age profile differences in the City Region, it is useful to look at what is happening in terms of age profile. Early in the pandemic, the increase in the number of 16-24 year old claimants was far and away the most dramatic increase recorded. In 4 of the 6 Local Authorities the 16-24 year olds age group increased the most. In Midlothian that accolade went to 50 and over and in Scottish Borders the increase was almost identical for 16-24 year olds and those over 50 years of age.

Table 5: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (All Gender)

| 16-24 Year Olds | | Edinburgh | East Lothian | Fife | Midlothian | Scottish Borders | West Lothian | City Region |
|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Feb 2020 | | 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 | | July 20 | July 20 | July 20 | July 20 | July 20 | Aug 20 | July 20 |
| November 2021 | | 1,545 | 375 | 1,860 | 320 | 435 | 770 | 5,305 |
| December 2021 | | 1,410 | 355 | 1,760 | 310 | 425 | 735 | 4,995 |
| ∞ Change | Feb 20 to Peak | 203% | 152% | 104% | 114% | 113% | 114% | 134% |
| | Peak to Dec 21 | -57% | -55% | -50% | -55% | -52% | -53% | -54% |
| | Nov to Dec 21 | -9% | -5% | -5% | -3% | -2% | -5% | -6% |
| 25-49 Year Olds | | Edinburgh | East Lothian | Fife | Midlothian | Scottish Borders | West Lothian | City Region |
| February 2020 | | 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 |
| November 2021 | | 7,145 | 1,330 | 5,905 | 1,085 | 1,315 | 2,385 | 19,165 |
| December 2021 | | 6,905 | 1,295 | 5,775 | 1,085 | 1,310 | 2,315 | 18,685 |
| ∞ Change | Feb 20 to Peak | 172% | 106% | 76% | 116% | 101% | 101% | 114% |
| | Peak to Dec 21 | -41% | -38% | -34% | -42% | -33% | -41% | -38% |
| | Nov to Dec 21 | -3% | -3% | -2% | 0% | 0% | -3% | -3% |
| 50 years and over | | Edinburgh | East Lothian | Fife | Midlothian | Scottish Borders | West Lothian | City Region |
| February 2020 | | 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 |
| November 2021 | | 2,715 | 540 | 2,410 | 380 | 665 | 860 | 7,570 |
| December 2021 | | 2,615 | 515 | 2,380 | 365 | 655 | 815 | 7,345 |
| ∞ Change | Feb 20 to Peak | 138% | 106% | 76% | 141% | 117% | 106% | 104% |
| | Peak to Dec 21 | -36% | -42% | -33% | -46% | -36% | -45% | -36% |
| | Nov to Dec 21 | -4% | -5% | -1% | -4% | -2% | -5% | -3% |

Source: NOMIS 18/01/2022

Table 5 above looks at the age profile of claimants in each of the 6 Local Authorities and also in the City Region. As with the data looked at already where there had been differences in when the claimant count peaked, either by geography or by age. The number of 16-24 year olds claiming peaked in July 2020 and this was the case across the region with the exception of West Lothian. For 25-49 year olds the peak in the claimant count was slightly more mixed with East Lothian, Midlothian and Scottish Borders seeing the claimant count peak in May 2020 and the other authorities seeing it peak in August 2020. The situation for those aged 50 or over is slightly different again and for this age group 3 of the 6 local authorities didn't reach a peak until February 2021.

In terms of falls, the claimant count across the region has fallen by 54% for 16-24 year olds since the peak, for 25-49 year olds it has fallen by 38% and for those over the age of 50 it has fallen by 36%. Again, there are differences depending on the Local Authority that is examined. For example, the number of 16-24 year old claimants in Edinburgh has fallen by 57% between the peak month of July 2020 and December 2021. At the other end of the scale is the situation in Fife for those over the age of 50 – has fallen by 33% since it peaked in August 2020 and in for 25-49 year olds in Scottish Borders where a 33% fall was also recorded between the peak of May 2020 and December 2021.

Whilst everywhere is, generally, seeing positive trends in so far as the claimant count is falling, one concern is that for certain age groups and certain localities it may take longer to get back into the labour market. Whilst some sectors are reopening and actively recruiting, others may not be as quick to return to the position they were in in 2021. This could be due to trends that were underway prior to 2020 and have simply accelerated as a result of the pandemic or it could be linked to the introduction of differences in work patterns created to tackle the pandemic, but unlikely to return to what they were previously. Added to this is that certain individuals may not yet feel entirely confident about the health risks which, although far less than they were in the summer of 2020, can still occur as we have seen with the restrictions around Omicron. There are clearly a range of factors at play, and it is critical for policy makers to deliver support to ensure no demographic groups are disadvantaged in participating in the continuing labour market upturn.

What could this mean for 16-24 year olds?

The data looked at in this section might give the impression that the economic position of 16-24 year olds is improving and we may not need to deliver as much support as first envisaged. Whilst this could be true, it is important to remember that for *some* 16 and 17 year olds will feature in the claimant count, the majority won't so the claimant count is definitely under representing this particular age group.

One would suggest that up until now we have looked at young people as a single entity 16-24 year olds, yet we may need more precision and look specifically at the 16 and 17 year olds separately to the 18-24 year olds. We may need to do this not just to reflect the fact that the claimant count poorly represents a particular group but, and this is the critical point, they may well have two totally different experiences.

Take for example the experience of a 20 year old who worked in hospitality prior to the pandemic. They were hit very hard very early, claimed universal credit when their employer had to close or were furloughed when that became available. They returned to the sector with reopening as they had the critical skill of *experience*. This would account for the rapid increase and the rapid fall in the claimant count for the 16-24 year old age group overall. Compare this to the 15 year old who had a very different final school year experience than those who left in 2019. There were no work placement opportunities, no visits from large employers offering training programmes or career guidance talks. At the same time exams and assessments were very different from previous years.

Volunteering opportunities reduced, the chance of taking some time out to travel or work abroad became more limited, etc. One would argue that they are a group of 16 and 17 year olds who are missing the key skills or knowledge that would give them the confidence to enter the labour market. It is this age group, and particular groups within it, who will need to be supported more than ever otherwise we are very likely to see an increase in the number of 18 year old claimants over time as they become able to claim Universal Credit.

School leaver data from the Local Authority and/or Skills Development Scotland gives figures on how many people are leaving school without a positive destination. The data discussed in the following paragraphs was sourced on the 19th January 2022 and reflects some small changes from previous reports as SDS have been able to update destinations and refine the data.

Table 6: Annual Participation Measure 2021

| | | Age | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Edinburgh | Number in Cohort | 3,367 | 3,463 | 3,298 | 3,340 |
| | Not Participating or Unconfirmed | 21 | 195 | 346 | 445 |
| East Lothian | Number in Cohort | 1,072 | 1,090 | 949 | 1,049 |
| | Not Participating or Unconfirmed | 8 | 41 | 82 | 118 |
| Fife | Number in Cohort | 3,874 | 3,750 | 3,653 | 3,718 |
| | Not Participating or Unconfirmed | 40 | 277 | 471 | 557 |
| Midlothian | Number in Cohort | 956 | 925 | 912 | 897 |
| | Not Participating or Unconfirmed | 8 | 42 | 93 | 89 |
| Scottish Borders | Number in Cohort | 1,209 | 1,180 | 1,113 | 1,175 |
| | Not Participating or Unconfirmed | 9 | 70 | 93 | 118 |
| West Lothian | Number in Cohort | 2,124 | 2,062 | 1,974 | 2,076 |
| | Not Participating or Unconfirmed | 17 | 128 | 213 | 360 |

Source: <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/publications-statistics/statistics/annual-participation-measure/>

From this, it is clear that a small number of 16 year olds are inactive or not participating – in total across the region this came to just over 100 so the claimant count data would appear not to be missing many 16 year olds. Those who are aged 17 are likely to provide the majority of the 16-17 year olds that are missing from the claimant count. Overall, across the region from the data available we can see that in January 2022 there were 753 17 year olds who are not participating. Given that Edinburgh and Fife are the largest local authorities 472 of these individuals reside within these 2 Local Authorities.

Ward Profile

The claimant count data allows us to look in detail at what has been happening in the wards of the City Region. The following discussion looks at the current claimant position for each of the wards. The data is broken down by age and also by gender. The average claimant count for each of the 6 Local Authorities is given and this gives some rudimentary indication of where there may be a need for more interventions as this would need to be supplemented by local knowledge to reflect the age profile or population size of any given ward.

In Table 7 and 8 the position of the wards in Edinburgh are looked at. From this we can see that in December 2021 1 ward had over 1,000 individuals claiming and 3 had under 300. The average claimant count for a ward in December 2021 was 642 – the average in November had been 686. Seven of the city wards had over 100 16-24 year old claimants. On average 14% of claimants in any

ward would have been 16-24 years of age. This ranged from 8% of the claimants in Leith Walk through to 19% of claimants in Colinton and Farmilehead.

Table 7 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

| | All categories: Age 16+ | | | Aged 16-24 | | | Aged 25-49 | | | Aged 50+ | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|------------|----|----|------------|-----|-----|----------|-----|----|
| | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F |
| Almond | 655 | 425 | 230 | 85 | 50 | 35 | 425 | 280 | 140 | 145 | 95 | 55 |
| City Centre | 805 | 565 | 245 | 105 | 65 | 40 | 525 | 365 | 160 | 180 | 130 | 45 |
| Colinton/ Fairmilehead | 285 | 185 | 100 | 55 | 35 | 20 | 155 | 90 | 60 | 75 | 55 | 20 |
| Corstorphine/ Murrayfield | 195 | 110 | 85 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 120 | 70 | 45 | 60 | 30 | 30 |
| Craightinny/ Duddingston | 810 | 515 | 300 | 100 | 70 | 30 | 535 | 325 | 210 | 180 | 120 | 60 |
| Drum Brae/Gyle | 395 | 245 | 155 | 50 | 30 | 20 | 240 | 150 | 90 | 105 | 60 | 45 |
| Forth | 1,050 | 635 | 415 | 140 | 95 | 50 | 670 | 395 | 275 | 240 | 150 | 95 |
| Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart | 365 | 245 | 120 | 50 | 25 | 20 | 220 | 150 | 75 | 95 | 70 | 25 |
| Inverleith | 370 | 220 | 150 | 55 | 30 | 25 | 210 | 125 | 80 | 105 | 65 | 40 |
| Leith | 855 | 540 | 310 | 75 | 55 | 20 | 580 | 360 | 225 | 195 | 130 | 65 |
| Leith Walk | 885 | 550 | 335 | 70 | 40 | 30 | 595 | 370 | 230 | 220 | 145 | 75 |
| Liberton/ Gilmerton | 900 | 555 | 350 | 145 | 90 | 60 | 520 | 315 | 205 | 235 | 150 | 85 |
| Morningside | 260 | 160 | 100 | 40 | 25 | 10 | 160 | 100 | 60 | 60 | 35 | 25 |
| Pentland Hills | 835 | 520 | 320 | 125 | 85 | 40 | 515 | 310 | 205 | 195 | 125 | 70 |
| Portobello/ Craigmillar | 925 | 560 | 365 | 120 | 75 | 45 | 610 | 365 | 245 | 190 | 120 | 70 |
| Sighthill/Gorgie | 915 | 570 | 345 | 120 | 75 | 45 | 590 | 370 | 220 | 205 | 125 | 80 |
| Southside/ Newington | 415 | 295 | 125 | 55 | 35 | 20 | 235 | 170 | 70 | 130 | 90 | 40 |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 8 Edinburgh Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

| | Aged 16-24 | Aged 25-49 | Aged 50+ |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Almond | 13% | 65% | 22% |
| City Centre | 13% | 65% | 22% |
| Colinton/ Fairmilehead | 19% | 54% | 26% |
| Corstorphine/ Murrayfield | 10% | 62% | 31% |
| Craightinny/ Duddingston | 12% | 66% | 22% |
| Drum Brae/Gyle | 13% | 61% | 27% |
| Forth | 13% | 64% | 23% |
| Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart | 14% | 60% | 26% |
| Inverleith | 15% | 57% | 28% |
| Leith | 9% | 68% | 23% |
| Leith Walk | 8% | 67% | 25% |
| Liberton/ Gilmerton | 16% | 58% | 26% |
| Morningside | 15% | 62% | 23% |
| Pentland Hills | 15% | 62% | 23% |
| Portobello/ Craigmillar | 13% | 66% | 21% |
| Sighthill/Gorgie | 13% | 64% | 22% |
| Southside/ Newington | 13% | 57% | 31% |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 9 and 10 below presents the December data for East Lothian. The average ward claimant count was 362 claimants 10 lower than last month. What is clear from this is that there is a real range around this average from 155 in North Berwick Coastal to 545 in Musselburgh (Musselburgh's claimant count has fallen by 50 claimants over the last month).

Table 9 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

| | All: Age 16+ | | | Aged 16-24 | | | Aged 25-49 | | | Aged 50+ | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|------------|----|----|------------|-----|-----|----------|----|----|
| | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F |
| Dunbar and East Linton | 245 | 135 | 110 | 35 | 25 | 15 | 150 | 90 | 65 | 55 | 25 | 30 |
| Haddington and Lammermuir | 345 | 205 | 140 | 50 | 30 | 20 | 205 | 115 | 90 | 90 | 60 | 25 |
| Musselburgh | 545 | 335 | 210 | 80 | 55 | 30 | 335 | 205 | 125 | 130 | 80 | 55 |
| North Berwick Coastal | 155 | 95 | 60 | 30 | 25 | 10 | 80 | 50 | 35 | 45 | 25 | 15 |
| Preston, Seton and Gosford | 375 | 205 | 170 | 70 | 45 | 25 | 215 | 115 | 100 | 90 | 45 | 45 |
| Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry | 505 | 300 | 205 | 85 | 55 | 35 | 310 | 185 | 130 | 105 | 65 | 40 |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

In terms of which ward hosts the highest and lowest proportion of 16-24 year olds, both North Berwick Coastal and Preston, Seton and Gosford recorded that 19% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. In the wards of Dunbar and East Linton, and Haddington and Lammermuir only 14% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. Overall, across East Lothian 16% was the average proportion of claimants who were 16-24 years of age.

Table 10 East Lothian Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

| | Aged 16-24 | Aged 25-49 | Aged 50+ |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Dunbar and East Linton | 14% | 61% | 22% |
| Haddington and Lammermuir | 14% | 59% | 26% |
| Musselburgh | 15% | 61% | 24% |
| North Berwick Coastal | 19% | 52% | 29% |
| Preston, Seton and Gosford | 19% | 57% | 24% |
| Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry | 17% | 61% | 21% |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 11 and Table 12, below look at the position in the Fife wards as demonstrated by the December claimant count. We can see that in December the claimant count in Fife ranged from 935 in the Buckhaven ward through to 150 in St Andrews.

Table 11 Fife Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

| | All: Age 16+ | | | Aged 16-24 | | | Aged 25-49 | | | Aged 50+ | | |
|---|--------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|----|------------|-----|-----|----------|-----|----|
| | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F |
| Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages | 935 | 620 | 315 | 215 | 135 | 80 | 515 | 350 | 165 | 205 | 135 | 70 |
| Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy | 405 | 240 | 165 | 70 | 50 | 25 | 220 | 125 | 100 | 110 | 70 | 40 |
| Cowdenbeath | 695 | 415 | 280 | 125 | 70 | 55 | 425 | 260 | 165 | 145 | 90 | 60 |
| Cupar | 245 | 150 | 95 | 40 | 25 | 15 | 145 | 85 | 55 | 60 | 35 | 20 |
| Dunfermline Central | 455 | 285 | 170 | 85 | 50 | 30 | 280 | 170 | 105 | 95 | 65 | 30 |
| Dunfermline North | 375 | 235 | 140 | 55 | 40 | 15 | 230 | 140 | 95 | 90 | 60 | 35 |
| Dunfermline South | 530 | 310 | 220 | 95 | 65 | 30 | 315 | 180 | 135 | 120 | 65 | 55 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| East Neuk and Landward | 250 | 155 | 95 | 30 | 20 | 5 | 130 | 80 | 50 | 90 | 50 | 35 |
| Glenrothes Central & Thornton | 405 | 260 | 145 | 75 | 50 | 30 | 235 | 155 | 80 | 90 | 55 | 40 |
| Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch | 370 | 225 | 145 | 70 | 45 | 25 | 225 | 140 | 85 | 75 | 45 | 35 |
| Glenrothes West and Kinglassie | 410 | 230 | 180 | 75 | 45 | 30 | 245 | 135 | 110 | 90 | 50 | 35 |
| Howe of Fife and Tay Coast | 245 | 140 | 105 | 35 | 25 | 10 | 135 | 70 | 65 | 75 | 45 | 30 |
| Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay | 270 | 160 | 110 | 35 | 20 | 10 | 145 | 85 | 60 | 90 | 50 | 35 |
| Kirkcaldy Central | 720 | 465 | 255 | 95 | 55 | 40 | 455 | 300 | 155 | 170 | 110 | 60 |
| Kirkcaldy East | 765 | 475 | 295 | 135 | 80 | 55 | 450 | 280 | 170 | 180 | 115 | 70 |
| Kirkcaldy North | 435 | 260 | 175 | 90 | 60 | 30 | 260 | 155 | 105 | 85 | 45 | 40 |
| Leven, Kennoway and Largo | 540 | 365 | 175 | 110 | 80 | 30 | 295 | 195 | 100 | 140 | 90 | 50 |
| Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty | 785 | 505 | 280 | 160 | 100 | 60 | 450 | 290 | 155 | 180 | 115 | 65 |
| Rosyth | 335 | 190 | 145 | 45 | 30 | 20 | 195 | 105 | 90 | 90 | 55 | 35 |
| St Andrews | 150 | 100 | 50 | 25 | 20 | 5 | 70 | 45 | 30 | 55 | 40 | 15 |
| Tay Bridgehead | 195 | 125 | 70 | 35 | 20 | 15 | 105 | 65 | 40 | 55 | 40 | 20 |
| West Fife and Coastal Villages | 400 | 240 | 160 | 65 | 45 | 20 | 245 | 145 | 105 | 90 | 55 | 35 |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

The average claimant count for a ward in Fife in November was 451 – it was 470 in December. Unsurprisingly the wards with a high number of claimants also had a high number of 16-24 year old claimants. On average 18% of claimants in a Fife ward would have been 16-24 in December 2021. Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages records 23% of claimants at this age. Three other wards had 20% or over of their claimants aged 16-24.¹ At the other extreme East Neuk and Landward had a 16-24 year old claimant count that made up only 12% of all claimants in the ward

Table 12 Fife Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

| | Aged 16-24 | Aged 25-49 | Aged 50+ |
|---|------------|------------|----------|
| Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages | 23% | 55% | 22% |
| Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy | 17% | 54% | 27% |
| Cowdenbeath | 18% | 61% | 21% |
| Cupar | 16% | 59% | 24% |
| Dunfermline Central | 19% | 62% | 21% |
| Dunfermline North | 15% | 61% | 24% |
| Dunfermline South | 18% | 59% | 23% |
| East Neuk and Landward | 12% | 52% | 36% |
| Glenrothes Central and Thornton | 19% | 58% | 22% |
| Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch | 19% | 61% | 20% |
| Glenrothes West and Kinglassie | 18% | 60% | 22% |
| Howe of Fife and Tay Coast | 14% | 55% | 31% |
| Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay | 13% | 54% | 33% |
| Kirkcaldy Central | 13% | 63% | 24% |
| Kirkcaldy East | 18% | 59% | 24% |
| Kirkcaldy North | 21% | 60% | 20% |
| Leven, Kennoway and Largo | 20% | 55% | 26% |
| Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty | 20% | 57% | 23% |
| Rosyth | 13% | 58% | 27% |
| St Andrews | 17% | 47% | 37% |
| Tay Bridgehead | 18% | 54% | 28% |
| West Fife and Coastal Villages | 16% | 61% | 23% |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

¹ Kirkcaldy North, Leven, Kennoway and Largo and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 13 and Table 14 . The claimant count in Dalkeith is the highest at 375 and the lowest is 230 recorded in Midlothian West. It is clear from this table that the range recorded in other LAs is not as evident in Midlothian and the average claimant count at a ward level in December 2021 was 294.

Table 13 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

| | All Age Categories | | | Aged 16-24 | | | Aged 25-49 | | | Aged 50+ | | |
|------------------|--------------------|-----|-----|------------|----|----|------------|-----|-----|----------|----|----|
| | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F |
| Bonnyrigg | 270 | 165 | 105 | 60 | 35 | 20 | 145 | 85 | 60 | 65 | 40 | 25 |
| Dalkeith | 375 | 230 | 145 | 80 | 50 | 30 | 225 | 135 | 90 | 70 | 45 | 25 |
| Midlothian East | 325 | 180 | 140 | 55 | 35 | 20 | 220 | 120 | 100 | 50 | 30 | 20 |
| Midlothian South | 320 | 205 | 115 | 50 | 30 | 20 | 205 | 130 | 75 | 65 | 50 | 20 |
| Midlothian West | 230 | 145 | 85 | 40 | 25 | 15 | 125 | 85 | 40 | 65 | 35 | 30 |
| Penicuik | 245 | 160 | 85 | 30 | 25 | 5 | 165 | 100 | 65 | 50 | 35 | 15 |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

The ward with the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants was Bonnyrigg where 22% of claimants in December were of that age. Penicuik ward recorded the lowest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants where 12% of claimants in December were from that age cohort.

Table 14 Midlothian Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

| | Aged 16-24 | Aged 25-49 | Aged 50+ |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Bonnyrigg | 22% | 54% | 24% |
| Dalkeith | 21% | 60% | 19% |
| Midlothian East | 17% | 68% | 15% |
| Midlothian South | 16% | 64% | 20% |
| Midlothian West | 17% | 54% | 28% |
| Penicuik | 12% | 67% | 20% |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

West Lothian is another of the Local Authorities where wards can have very different claimant count levels. In this case it ranges from 160 in Linlithgow through to 690 in Whitburn and Blackburn. The average claimant count for a ward in December 2021 was 429 (it was 456 in November) and three of the West Lothian wards recorded claimant counts below that.

Table 15 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

| | All: Age 16+ | | | Aged 16-24 | | | Aged 25-49 | | | Aged 50+ | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|------------|----|----|------------|-----|-----|----------|----|----|
| | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F |
| Armadale and Blackridge | 330 | 200 | 130 | 75 | 45 | 30 | 195 | 110 | 80 | 60 | 40 | 20 |
| Bathgate | 500 | 290 | 210 | 80 | 50 | 30 | 315 | 180 | 135 | 110 | 60 | 50 |
| Broxburn, Uphall & Winchburgh | 440 | 265 | 175 | 85 | 50 | 35 | 245 | 150 | 100 | 110 | 70 | 40 |
| East Livingston and East Calder | 440 | 265 | 180 | 75 | 45 | 35 | 265 | 160 | 105 | 100 | 60 | 40 |
| Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley | 480 | 310 | 170 | 95 | 60 | 30 | 305 | 195 | 110 | 85 | 55 | 30 |
| Linlithgow | 160 | 100 | 65 | 20 | 10 | 5 | 105 | 60 | 45 | 35 | 25 | 10 |
| Livingston North | 370 | 220 | 150 | 75 | 40 | 30 | 225 | 135 | 95 | 70 | 40 | 25 |
| Livingston South | 490 | 290 | 200 | 100 | 65 | 35 | 280 | 170 | 105 | 110 | 55 | 55 |
| Whitburn and Blackburn | 650 | 390 | 260 | 130 | 75 | 60 | 380 | 235 | 150 | 135 | 85 | 50 |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

In terms of 16-24 year olds 23% of claimants in Armadale and Blackridge are 16-24 years of age and in Linlithgow it is only 13%. The average across the authority is 19%.

Table 16 West Lothian Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

| | Aged 16-24 | Aged 25-49 | Aged 50+ |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Armadale and Blackridge | 23% | 59% | 18% |
| Bathgate | 16% | 63% | 22% |
| Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh | 19% | 56% | 25% |
| East Livingston and East Calder | 17% | 60% | 23% |
| Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley | 20% | 64% | 18% |
| Linlithgow | 13% | 66% | 22% |
| Livingston North | 20% | 61% | 19% |
| Livingston South | 20% | 57% | 22% |
| Whitburn and Blackburn | 20% | 58% | 21% |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

Table 17 and Table 18 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. One thing that is clear from this data is that the position of Galashiels and District is very different from other areas of the borders where the average claimant count is 218.

Table 17 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward December 2021

| | All: Age 16+ | | | Aged 16-24 | | | Aged 25-49 | | | Aged 50+ | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|------------|----|----|------------|-----|-----|----------|----|----|
| | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F | All | M | F |
| East Berwickshire | 210 | 110 | 95 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 115 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 35 | 25 |
| Galashiels and District | 470 | 295 | 170 | 80 | 45 | 35 | 270 | 160 | 105 | 115 | 85 | 30 |
| Hawick and Denholm | 295 | 170 | 125 | 70 | 40 | 30 | 170 | 95 | 75 | 55 | 30 | 25 |
| Hawick and Hermitage | 200 | 130 | 70 | 45 | 25 | 15 | 95 | 60 | 35 | 60 | 45 | 15 |
| Jedburgh and District | 180 | 90 | 90 | 35 | 20 | 15 | 100 | 45 | 55 | 45 | 25 | 15 |
| Kelso and District | 175 | 100 | 70 | 25 | 20 | 10 | 100 | 60 | 35 | 50 | 25 | 25 |
| Leaderdale and Melrose | 170 | 90 | 80 | 30 | 20 | 10 | 90 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 30 | 20 |
| Mid Berwickshire | 175 | 100 | 75 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 90 | 55 | 35 | 55 | 30 | 25 |
| Selkirkshire | 200 | 120 | 80 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 110 | 65 | 45 | 50 | 30 | 25 |
| Tweeddale East | 165 | 95 | 65 | 25 | 15 | 10 | 85 | 45 | 35 | 55 | 35 | 20 |
| Tweeddale West | 160 | 100 | 60 | 20 | 10 | 5 | 85 | 50 | 35 | 60 | 40 | 20 |

Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

In terms of the position of 16-24 year olds. On average, across the Borders 18% of claimants were 16-24 years of age. In terms of wards Hawick and Denholm had 24% of claimants 16-24 years of age and Hawick and Hermitage had 23%. At the other extreme was Tweeddale West where only 13% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

Table 18 Scottish Borders Claimant Count Proportion by Age and Ward December 2021

| | Aged 16-24 | Aged 25-49 | Aged 50+ |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| East Berwickshire | 14% | 55% | 29% |
| Galashiels and District | 14% | 57% | 24% |
| Hawick and Denholm | 24% | 58% | 19% |
| Hawick and Hermitage | 23% | 48% | 30% |
| Jedburgh and District | 19% | 56% | 25% |
| Kelso and District | 14% | 57% | 29% |
| Leaderdale and Melrose | 18% | 53% | 29% |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mid Berwickshire | 14% | 51% | 31% |
| Selkirkshire | 20% | 55% | 25% |
| Tweeddale East | 15% | 52% | 33% |
| Tweeddale West | 13% | 53% | 38% |

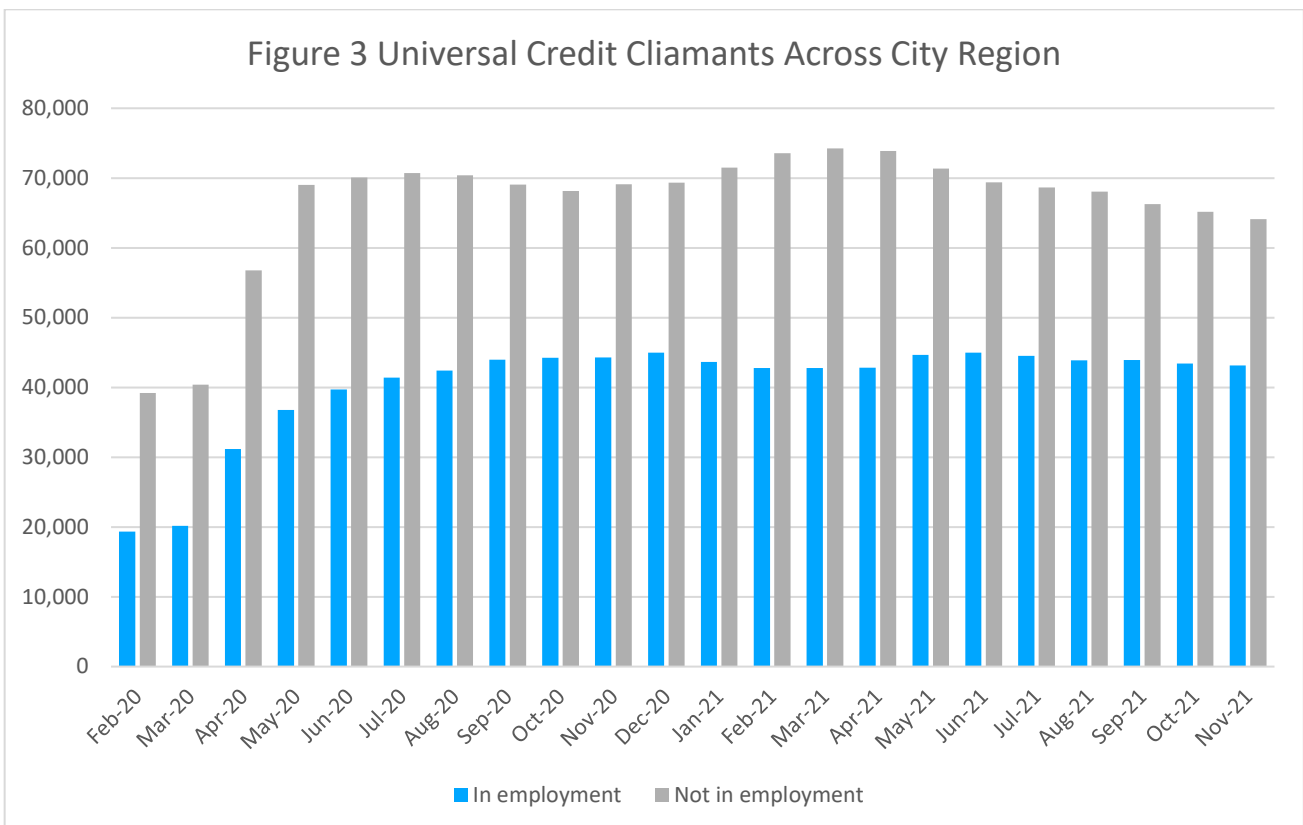
Source: NOMIS 19/1/2022

What these tables indicate is that across the region the ward claimant count can be vastly different ranging from 150 (St Andrews) through to 1,050 (Forth). Also, it highlights the degree to which younger age groups or older ages groups make up a higher proportion of claimants in any particular ward which might be useful if age focused services want to deliver in particular geographies.

Universal Credit

Universal Credit makes up part of the claimant count looked at already in this report, however it also includes data on those who are in work but need support as their wages alone don't provide enough income. It is a benefit which was designed to replace a range of other benefits including support for those on low income (income support) and benefit for those out of work (Job Seekers Allowance).

Figure 3 Below looks at the increase across the region in the number of in-work and out of work universal credit claimants recorded since February 2020. Whilst December data for UC claimants is available, it isn't split into in and out of work categories, and as a result the November 2021 data is the most up to date that allows such a split.



Source: StatXplore 20/1/2022

One thing that is evident from this chart, is that the number of people requiring support who are in work increased through the summer and autumn of 2020 and, more worryingly, has remained at this high level. In November 2021 there were 43,125 people who were in employment across the City Region but needed support from UC. This is a 123% increase since February 2020. The number

claiming in June was 44,971 so the November figure 4% lower. Whilst it is encouraging to see a fall, over the same period the out of work claimant count had fallen by 7%, indicating that the number in work and needing support isn't falling quite as fast as those that are out of work.

Given that in-work poverty is a concern for policy makers across the region it is worthwhile digging a little deeper into these statistics. Table 19 below looks at the in employment universal credit claimants and splits the data by gender and age category.

Table 19 Change in Number of In Employment UC Claimants

| | Age | Male | | | Female | | |
|------------------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | Feb 2020 | Nov 2021 | % Change | Feb 2020 | Nov 2021 | % Change |
| City Region | 16-24 | 880 | 2,878 | 227% | 1,534 | 3,491 | 128% |
| | 25-49 | 4,840 | 11,897 | 146% | 9,130 | 18,057 | 98% |
| | 50+ | 1113 | 2,780 | 150% | 1,831 | 4,030 | 120% |
| | Total | 6,833 | 17,555 | 157% | 12,495 | 25,578 | 105% |
| Edinburgh | 16-24 | 213 | 951 | 346% | 348 | 1,119 | 222% |
| | 25-49 | 1,312 | 4,382 | 234% | 2,003 | 5,559 | 178% |
| | 50+ | 356 | 997 | 180% | 417 | 1,209 | 190% |
| | Total | 1,881 | 6,330 | 237% | 2,768 | 7,887 | 185% |
| East Lothian | 16-24 | 75 | 178 | 137% | 152 | 253 | 66% |
| | 25-49 | 495 | 888 | 79% | 1,079 | 1,612 | 49% |
| | 50+ | 107 | 211 | 97% | 214 | 409 | 91% |
| | Total | 677 | 1,277 | 89% | 1,445 | 2,274 | 57% |
| Midlothian | 16-24 | 56 | 183 | 227% | 143 | 253 | 77% |
| | 25-49 | 371 | 780 | 110% | 960 | 1,517 | 58% |
| | 50+ | 82 | 175 | 113% | 140 | 281 | 101% |
| | Total | 509 | 1,138 | 124% | 1,243 | 2,051 | 65% |
| West Lothian | 16-24 | 127 | 463 | 265% | 237 | 527 | 122% |
| | 25-49 | 686 | 1,534 | 124% | 1,336 | 2,591 | 94% |
| | 50+ | 148 | 366 | 147% | 283 | 576 | 104% |
| | Total | 961 | 2363 | 146% | 1,856 | 3,694 | 99% |
| Scottish Borders | 16-24 | 93 | 208 | 124% | 136 | 251 | 85% |
| | 25-49 | 347 | 862 | 148% | 716 | 1,320 | 84% |
| | 50+ | 82 | 250 | 205% | 172 | 365 | 112% |
| | Total | 522 | 1,320 | 153% | 1,024 | 1,936 | 89% |
| Fife | 16-24 | 317 | 886 | 179% | 520 | 1,085 | 109% |
| | 25-49 | 1,631 | 3,435 | 111% | 3,054 | 5,464 | 79% |
| | 50+ | 335 | 789 | 136% | 597 | 1,188 | 99% |
| | Total | 2,283 | 5,110 | 124% | 4,171 | 7,737 | 85% |

Source: StatXplore 20/1/2022

There are a couple of points to take from this. Firstly, in work support has more female claimants across the region than male claimants. This was true before the pandemic (72% of claimants were female) and remains the case now (67% of claimants). Secondly in terms of age groups the greatest increase for in-employment claimants has generally been amongst male 16-24 year olds. This ranges from a 346% increase in Edinburgh to 124% increase in Scottish Borders.

There is much in the media about energy price rises, cost of living increases, etc. Given that over 43,000 people already have jobs and still need support from Universal Credit there is an argument that more needs to be done around living wage and pay or providing support to allow these individuals to work more if commitments such as caring is limiting their capacity to earn more. If things remain the same it is very likely that the situation may well get more difficult for this group, many of whom were not in this position 2 years ago prior to the pandemic.

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