

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

Claimant Count Change Between February 2020 and November 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between November 2021 and November 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between October 2022 and November 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ UK increased by 21.4%</li> <li>↓ Scottish decreased by 4.4%</li> <li>↑ Edinburgh increased by 21%</li> <li>↓ City Region decreased by 0.5%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ UK decreased by 19%</li> <li>↓ Scottish decreased by 23.0%</li> <li>↓ Edinburgh decreased by 24%</li> <li>↓ City Region decreased by 24.3%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ UK increased by 2.4%</li> <li>↑ Scottish increased by 2.5%</li> <li>↑ Edinburgh increased by 0.9%</li> <li>↑ City Region increased by 1.4%</li> </ul>

### City Region Summary

1. In November 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 24,270. Of these
  - a. 4,115 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,045 in October
  - b. 14,565 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,380 in October
  - c. 5,585 were 50 or older up from 5,530 in October
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 0.5% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In October 2022 there were 42,682 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In September it was 43,533.

### Edinburgh Summary

1. In November 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,620. Of these
  - a. 1,130 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,130 in October
  - b. 5,465 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,400 in October
  - c. 2,020 were 50 or older. It was 2,015 in October.
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 21% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In October 2022 there were 13,799 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In September it was 14,038.

### East Lothian Summary

1. In November 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,455. Of these
  - a. 275 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 260
  - b. 865 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 870
  - c. 315 were 50 or older. In October there were 310
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 18% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In October 2022 there were 3,495 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In September it was 3,540

### Fife Summary

1. In November 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 7,870. Of these
  - a. 1,465 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 1,415
  - b. 4,575 were 25-49 years of age. In October there were 4,505

- c. 1,830 were 50 or older. In October it was 1,825
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 10% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In October 2022 there were 12,810 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In September it was 13,103

### Midlothian Summary

1. In November 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,265. Of these
  - a. 250 were 16-24 year olds. In October it was 255
  - b. 740 were 25-49 year olds. In October it was 750
  - c. 275 were 50 or older. In October it was 255
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 14% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In October 2022 there were 3,137 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In September it was 3,163

### Scottish Borders Summary

1. In November 2022 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,005. Of these
  - a. 345 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 330
  - b. 1,100 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 1,030
  - c. 560 were 50 or older. In October there were 555
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 8% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In October 2022 there were 3,417 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In September there were 3,457

### West Lothian Summary

1. In November 2022 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,055. Of these
  - a. 650 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 655
  - b. 1,820 were 25-49 year olds In October there were 1,825
  - c. 585 were 50 or older In October there were 570
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 11% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In October 2022 there were 6,031 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian. In September there were 6,230.

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

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 NOMIS released claimant count data that reflected the situation in November 2022. On the same day DWP published data on StatXplore for employed Universal Credit claimants from October 2022. This data, along with data from the Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey is examined in this paper.

### Claimant Count by Nation and Region

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

- the claimant count from February 2020
- the claimant count in November 2021
- the claimant count in October and November 2022
- the percentage change between February 2020 and November 2022
- the percentage change between October and November 2022.
- the percentage change between November 2021 and November 2022

From Table 1 it can be seen that in all but two regions of the UK the claimant count in November 2022 is higher than it was in February 2020. This ranges from London where it remains 55% higher than pre pandemic levels through to Wales where it is 3% higher. Scotland is 4% lower than February 2020.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

	Feb-20	Nov 2021	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Percentage Change		
					Feb20 to Nov22	Nov21 to Nov22	Oct22 to Nov22
<b>UK</b>	1,255,770	1,881,715	1,489,340	1,524,395	21%	-19%	2.4%
<b>East</b>	89,890	142,945	109,400	111,440	24%	-22%	1.9%
<b>East Midlands</b>	80,915	117,680	94,250	96,795	20%	-18%	2.7%
<b>London</b>	184,765	356,170	278,680	286,235	55%	-20%	2.7%
<b>North East</b>	75,560	86,220	67,260	68,970	-9%	-20%	2.5%
<b>North West</b>	167,055	231,620	188,440	192,385	15%	-17%	2.1%
<b>N. Ireland</b>	29,910	42,840	35,825	36,015	20%	-16%	0.5%
<b>Scotland</b>	114,605	142,245	106,930	109,585	-4%	-23%	2.5%
<b>South East</b>	119,620	201,050	158,910	162,250	36%	-19%	2.1%
<b>South West</b>	75,595	111,185	82,750	85,520	13%	-23%	3.3%
<b>Wales</b>	60,375	78,830	60,950	62,265	3%	-21%	2.2%
<b>West Midlands</b>	141,095	204,315	172,685	176,975	25%	-13%	2.5%
<b>Yorks &amp; Humb</b>	116,390	166,620	133,255	135,955	17%	-18%	2.0%

**Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022**

From the table we can see that across the UK the claimant count is between 13% and 23% lower than it was in November 2021. However, looking more specifically at what has been recorded between October 2022 and November 2022 it can be seen that in **every** region and country of the UK there had been an increase in the number of claimants month to month. This ranged from an

increase of 3.3% in the South West to a 0.5% increase in Northern Ireland. This results in a claimant count of 1,524,395 in the UK in November.

## Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities (LAs).

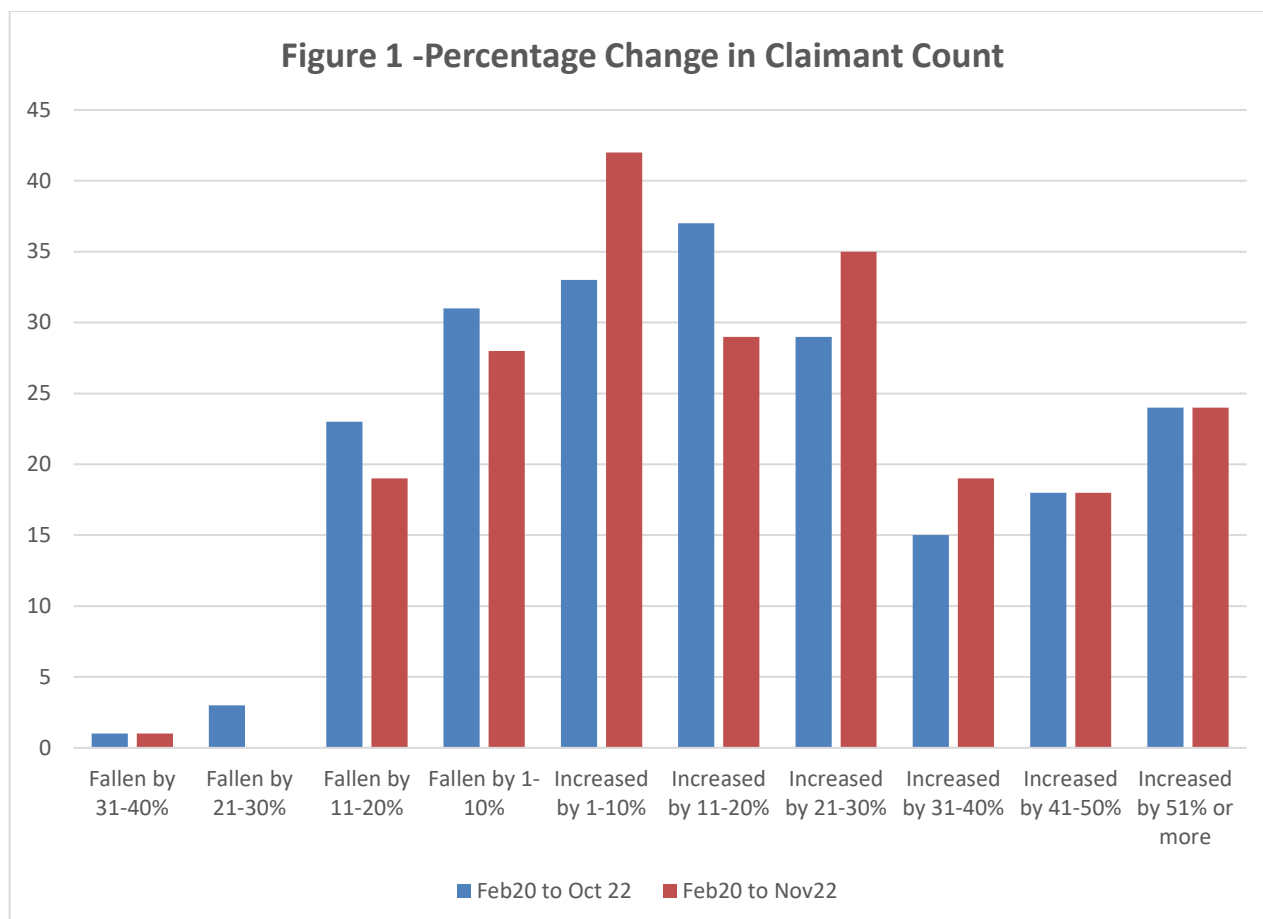
**Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs**

	Feb-20	Nov-21	Oct-22	Nov-22	Feb 20 to Nov 22	Nov 21 to Nov 22	Oct 22 to Nov 22
Aberdeen City	4,150	6,550	5,125	5,180	25%	-21%	1.1%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	4,220	2,885	3,015	1%	-29%	4.5%
Angus	2,040	2,480	1,880	1,975	-3%	-20%	5.1%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	1,835	1,310	1,380	-10%	-25%	5.3%
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>7,105</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>8,545</b>	<b>8,620</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,390	1,460	1,115	1,180	-15%	-19%	5.8%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,950	3,200	2,435	2,440	-17%	-24%	0.2%
Dundee City	4,530	5,000	4,005	4,060	-10%	-19%	1.4%
East Ayrshire	3,685	4,165	3,000	2,975	-19%	-29%	-0.8%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,230	1,680	1,240	1,235	0%	-26%	-0.4%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-35%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
East Renfrewshire	950	1,275	925	960	1%	-25%	3.8%
Falkirk	3,300	3,910	2,880	2,945	-11%	-25%	2.3%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,765</b>	<b>10,180</b>	<b>7,740</b>	<b>7,870</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
Glasgow City	20,055	26,755	20,810	21,735	8%	-19%	4.4%
Highland	3,715	4,265	3,165	3,295	-11%	-23%	4.1%
Inverclyde	2,255	2,305	1,730	1,815	-20%	-21%	4.9%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,785</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>-14%</b>	<b>-29%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>
Moray	1,550	1,860	1,305	1,335	-14%	-28%	2.3%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	455	290	300	-35%	-34%	3.4%
North Ayrshire	4,600	4,605	3,545	3,675	-20%	-20%	3.7%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	9,855	7,310	7,395	-10%	-25%	1.2%
Orkney Islands	195	240	205	210	8%	-13%	2.4%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	2,710	1,995	2,050	10%	-24%	2.8%
Renfrewshire	4,025	4,515	3,455	3,490	-13%	-23%	1.0%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>2,415</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
Shetland Islands	265	315	245	235	-11%	-25%	-4.1%
South Ayrshire	2,790	3,140	2,315	2,300	-18%	-27%	-0.6%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	8,515	6,120	6,360	-9%	-25%	3.9%
Stirling	1,540	1,690	1,355	1,405	-9%	-17%	3.7%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	3,210	2,345	2,380	-19%	-26%	1.5%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>4,015</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>3,055</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Scotland	114,605	142,245	106,930	109,585	-4%	-23%	2.5%
<b>City Region</b>	<b>24,390</b>	<b>32,045</b>	<b>23,945</b>	<b>24,270</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

Whilst the majority of Scottish LAs now have a claimant count lower than it was in February 2020 in some areas the claimant count is still higher than it was in February 2020. These areas include: Aberdeen City (1,030 higher), Aberdeenshire (40), City of Edinburgh (1,515 higher), East Dunbartonshire (5), East Renfrewshire (10), Glasgow (1,680), Perth and Kinross (185) Orkney Islands (15) and Scottish Borders (145 higher).

Looking outside Scotland, we can see that more LAs have a claimant count higher than it was before the pandemic than have the reverse. Figure 1 below indicates the number of LAs where the claimant count is lower or higher than it was in February 2020 and groups them. What we can see from this is that generally more LAs have a claimant count that remains higher than February 2020. Also, we can see that with the November data a number of Local Authorities have found that their claimant count has increased to the point that fewer have now seen a lower claimant count in November 2022 than was the case in February 2020.



Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

The cohort that Edinburgh is sitting with include some large cities (Manchester and Bradford) some metropolitan boroughs (Salford, Sandwell) and some rural counties (Warwickshire and Dorset). On the face of it, there appears to be nothing to connect by all of the LAs that feature in this cohort.

Table 3: Claimant Count LA Comparison

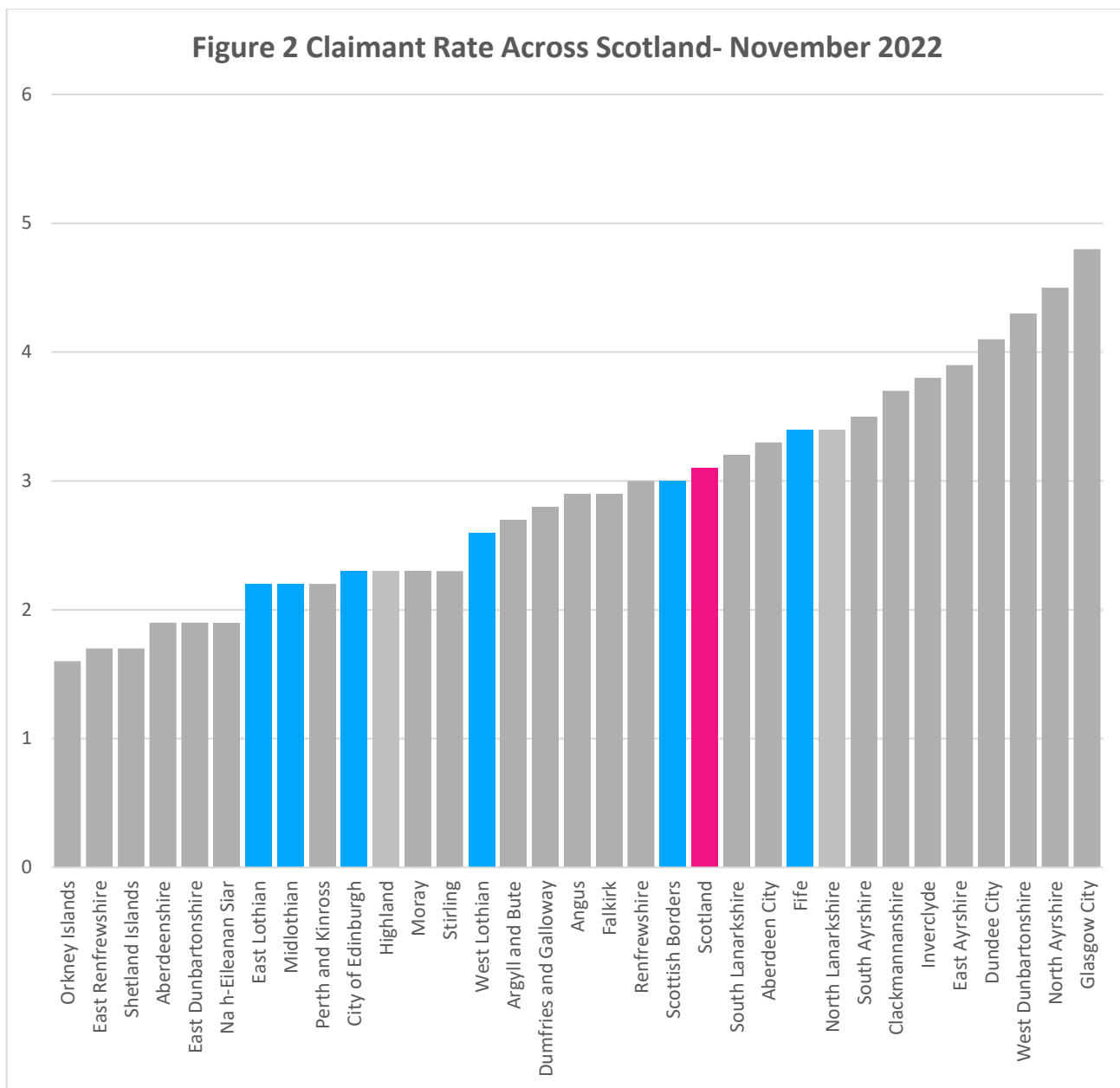
	February 2020	November 2022	Additional Claimants	Feb20-Nov22
Cardiff	8,260	9,180	920	11%
Leeds	17,695	22,565	4,870	28%
Bristol, City of	8,345	10,905	2,560	31%
City of Edinburgh	7,105	8,620	1,515	21%
Belfast	7,175	9,150	1,975	28%
York	1,790	2,440	650	36%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

Another way to look at it is to examine what has happened in cities that might be comparable to Edinburgh, cities such as York and Bristol for example. Table 3 above looks at 5 comparator cities.

When we compare Edinburgh to these cities the fact that the claimant count is still 20% above what it was in February 2020 is not unusual. In Scotland whilst Edinburgh (and Aberdeen, Glasgow, etc.) are atypical, recording a claimant count higher than it was in 2020, in a UK perspective this position is more normal.

Figure 2 below looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities. From this it can be seen that except for Fife all the City Region Local Authorities had a claimant rate below the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

### City Region Position

Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 4 that across the region the claimant count recorded in November 2022 is lower than it was in February 2020 (-0.5% lower). However, this isn't universal and whilst 4 of the 6 Local Authorities reflect this with a lower figure in 2022 than in 2020, in Scottish Borders and Edinburgh the claimant count is still higher now than it was before the pandemic. For Edinburgh it is 21.3% higher and for Scottish Borders 7.8%

higher. As discussed, whilst this is unusual in Scotland, in a UK perspective these sorts of levels are more normal.

Table 4 also highlights that across the region there was an increase in the claimant count month to month between October and November. This ranges from a 4.7% increase in Scottish Borders to a 0.3% increase in West Lothian. The claimant count in the region in November is 24,270 a 1.4% increase from what was recorded in October. In terms of actual numerical change, the differences between the claimant count in October to that recorded in November are small and across the region there were 325 more claimants in November than in October.

**Table 4: Claimant Count – City Region LAs**

	Feb-20	Nov-21	Oct-22	Nov-22	Percentage Change		
					Feb20- Nov22	Nov21- Nov22	Oct22- Nov22
<b>Edinburgh</b>	7,105	11,405	8,545	8,620	21.3%	-24.4%	0.9%
<b>East Lothian</b>	1,765	2,245	1,440	1,455	-17.6%	-35.2%	1.0%
<b>Fife</b>	8,765	10,180	7,740	7,870	-10.2%	-22.7%	1.7%
<b>Midlothian</b>	1,470	1,785	1,260	1,265	-13.9%	-29.1%	0.4%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	1,860	2,415	1,915	2,005	7.8%	-17.0%	4.7%
<b>West Lothian</b>	3,425	4,015	3,045	3,055	-10.8%	-23.9%	0.3%
<b>City Region</b>	24,390	32,045	23,945	24,270	-0.5%	-24.3%	1.4%

*Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022*

In the past we have seen November to October claimant count falls, but this is not universal even with Christmas recruitment boosts to the labour market. For example, over the last 10 years in the City Region there have been 5 incidences of the claimant count falling between October and November and 5 incidences of it increasing.

Table 5 looks at the number of UC claimants across the region reflecting both in and out of work claimants.

**Table 5 Universal Credit Claimants**

		Feb-20	Oct-21	Sep-22	Oct-22	% Change Sep22 to Oct 22
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>Not in employment</b>	9,041	19,551	19,532	20,245	3.7%
	<b>In employment</b>	4,650	14,430	14,038	13,799	-1.7%
	<b>Total</b>	13,688	33,981	33,571	34,041	1.4%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Not in employment</b>	3,725	5,310	5,035	5,199	3.3%
	<b>In employment</b>	2,120	3,598	3,540	3,495	-1.3%
	<b>Total</b>	5,842	8,908	8,575	8,693	1.4%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>Not in employment</b>	14,794	21,674	21,676	22,257	2.7%
	<b>In employment</b>	6,467	12,781	13,103	12,810	-2.2%
	<b>Total</b>	21,262	34,455	34,781	35,067	0.8%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>Not in employment</b>	3,173	4,746	4,698	4,801	2.2%
	<b>In employment</b>	1,741	3,247	3,163	3,137	-0.8%
	<b>Total</b>	4,921	7,989	7,860	7,937	1.0%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>Not in employment</b>	5,608	9,137	9,418	9,735	3.4%
	<b>In employment</b>	2,809	6,089	6,230	6,031	-3.2%
	<b>Total</b>	8,419	15,223	15,650	15,764	0.7%
	<b>Not in employment</b>	2,874	4,736	4,824	4,995	3.5%

<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>In employment</b>	1,546	3,289	3,457	3,417	-1.2%
	<b>Total</b>	4,424	8,030	8,281	8,412	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Not in employment</b>	39,224	65,155	65,189	67,242	3.1%
	<b>In employment</b>	19,338	43,437	43,533	42,682	-2.0%
	<b>Total</b>	58,554	108,591	108,721	109,924	1.1%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2022

This indicates that across the region in February 2020 there were 19,338 claimants of universal credit who were in work. In September 2022 there were 43,533 and in October (the most recent data available) this had fallen to 42,682 but is still double the pre-pandemic position.

It would be interesting to know *if* those working who have found they no longer need the support of UC (the number of in-work support claimants fell by nearly 1,000 across the region between September and October) did so as a result of pay increases and or more hours, OR because they became unemployed. There is no evidence from the published data to answer this question, but it would be useful to have some idea of how the two claimant counts are linked.

## Gender Profile

Turning now to look at the gender profile of the claimants in the Region. Tables 6 and 7 look at the number of claimants of each gender as of February 2020, and compares this with the situation in November 2021, October 2022 and November 2022.

**Table 6: Change in Male Claimant Count Across the City Region**

	<b>Feb 2020</b>	<b>Nov 2021</b>	<b>Oct 2022</b>	<b>Nov 2022</b>		<b>Feb20- Nov22</b>	<b>Nov21- Nov22</b>	<b>Oct22 - Nov22</b>
<b>Edinburgh</b>	4,435	7,160	5,195	5,195		17.1%	-27.4%	0.0%
<b>East Lothian</b>	1,005	1,300	845	865		-13.9%	-33.5%	2.4%
<b>Fife</b>	5,475	6,235	4,780	4,840		-11.6%	-22.4%	1.3%
<b>Midlothian</b>	865	1,080	745	750		-13.3%	-30.6%	0.7%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	1,120	1,425	1,100	1,155		3.1%	-18.9%	5.0%
<b>West Lothian</b>	1,970	2,370	1,830	1,845		-6.3%	-22.2%	0.8%
<b>City Region</b>	14,870	19,570	14,495	14,650		-1.5%	-25.1%	1.1%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

From Table 6 we can see that the male claimant count in Edinburgh remains 17.1% higher than it was in February 2020. In the other LAs the male claimant count is lower than it was in 2020. The month-to-month movements for male claimants between October and November 2022 has ranged from a 5% increase in Borders to no change in Edinburgh. Across the region there are now around 5,000 fewer male claimants than in November 2021.

Table 7 looks at the situation for female claimants. As with male claimants Edinburgh and Scottish Borders have a claimant count that remains higher than it was pre-pandemic. What we can see is that the female claimant count is 28.3% higher than it was pre-pandemic whilst the male claimant count is 17% higher. This suggest that it is this, female claimant numbers that are keeping the claimant count higher than pre-pandemic in Edinburgh and Scottish Borders.

The most recent data also illustrates that the female count in Edinburgh is falling at a slower rate than for males. However, this isn't universal throughout the Region, in East Lothian and West Lothian the female count is far lower than it was in February 2020 when compared to the count for males.



**Table 7: Change in Female Claimant Count Across the City Region**

	Feb 2020	Nov 2021	Oct 2022	Nov 2022		Feb20-Nov22	Nov21-Nov22	Oct22 - Nov22
Edinburgh	2,665	4,245	3,350	3,420		28.3%	-19.4%	2.1%
East Lothian	760	945	595	590		-22.4%	-37.6%	-0.8%
Fife	3,290	3,940	2,965	3,035		-7.8%	-23.0%	2.4%
Midlothian	605	700	515	515		-14.9%	-26.4%	0.0%
Scottish Borders	740	990	815	850		14.9%	-14.1%	4.3%
West Lothian	1,455	1,645	1,215	1,210		-16.8%	-26.4%	-0.4%
City Region	9,515	12,465	9,455	9,620		1.1%	-22.8%	1.7%

**Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022**

Table 8 below looks at the gender split of those who are in work and claiming Universal Credit. The data suggest that across the City Region in February 2020 there were 12,492 females in work and claiming UC and this has increased so that in October 2022 26,711 female claimants were recorded (this is down 200 on the previous month).

**Table 8: In Work Universal Credit Claimants**

	Feb-20		Oct-21		Sep-22		Oct-22	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Edinburgh</b>	1,875	2,769	6,490	7,939	5,881	8,158	5,699	8,100
<b>East Lothian</b>	674	1,441	1,318	2,276	1,181	2,362	1,133	2,356
<b>Fife</b>	2,283	4,182	5,177	7,607	4,893	8,212	4,717	8,091
<b>West Lothian</b>	966	1,844	2,404	3,682	2,226	4,000	2,103	3,929
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	524	1,019	1,357	1,935	1,298	2,158	1,282	2,139
<b>Midlothian</b>	506	1,237	1,201	2,050	1,074	2,091	1,045	2,087
<b>City Region</b>	6,834	12,492	17,947	25,486	16,555	26,979	15,978	26,711

**Source: StatXplore 14/12/2022**

What the table above illustrates is that across the region the number of male in work claimants fell by nearly 600 between September and October. The number of female claimants also fell but by around 260.

## Age Profile

Table 9 below looks at the age profile of claimants in each of the 6 Local Authorities and in the City Region.

### 16-24 Year Olds

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 61.8% fall ranging from 65.7% in Edinburgh through to 58.6% in West Lothian. There are still however, 4,115 16-24 year olds claiming in the city region.

In terms of the latest month to month figures the table indicates that the number of 16-24 years olds claiming across the region has increased by 1.7% between October and November. This varies across the region – a 5.8% month to month increase in East Lothian through to a 2% fall in Midlothian.

We can see from the table that for 16-24 year olds the claimant count in Edinburgh is 6.1% higher than it was in February 2020 and in Scottish Borders is 16.9% lower than in February 2020. This suggests that it is unlikely to be higher number of claimants in this age category that are inflating the 2022 figures.

**Table 9: 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
Nov-21		1,545	375	1,860	320	435	770	5,305
Oct-22		1,130	260	1,415	255	330	655	4,045
Nov-22		1,130	275	1,465	250	345	650	4,115
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203.0%	152.0%	104.0%	114.0%	113.0%	114.0%	134.0%
	Peak to Nov 22	-65.7%	-65.4%	-58.8%	-64.0%	-61.0%	-58.6%	-61.8%
	Nov21 to Nov 22	-26.9%	-26.7%	-21.2%	-21.9%	-20.7%	-15.6%	-22.4%
	Oct 22 to Nov 22	0.0%	5.8%	3.5%	-2.0%	4.5%	-0.8%	1.7%
	Feb 20 to Nov 22	6.1%	-12.7%	-15.8%	-23.1%	-16.9%	-11.6%	-10.4%
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
Nov-21		7,145	1,330	5,905	1,085	1,315	2,385	19,165
Oct-22		5,400	870	4,505	750	1,030	1,825	14,380
Nov-22		5,465	865	4,575	740	1,100	1,820	14,565
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172.0%	106.0%	76.0%	116.0%	101.0%	101.0%	114.0%
	Peak to Nov 22	-53.4%	-58.8%	-47.9%	-60.3%	-43.9%	-53.8%	-51.8%
	Nov21 to Nov 22	-23.5%	-35.0%	-22.5%	-31.8%	-16.3%	-23.7%	-24.0%
	Oct 22 to Nov 22	1.2%	-0.6%	1.6%	-1.3%	6.8%	-0.3%	1.3%
	Feb 20 to Nov 22	26.8%	-15.2%	-8.3%	-14.5%	12.8%	-7.4%	3.1%
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
Nov-21		2,715	540	2,410	380	665	860	7,570
Oct-22		2,015	310	1,825	255	555	570	5,530
Nov-22		2,020	315	1,830	275	560	585	5,585
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138.0%	106.0%	76.0%	141.0%	117.0%	106.0%	104.0%
	Peak to Nov 22	-50.9%	-64.4%	-48.7%	-59.3%	-45.1%	-60.9%	-51.6%
	Nov21 to Nov 22	-25.6%	-41.7%	-24.1%	-27.6%	-15.8%	-32.0%	-26.2%
	Oct 22 to Nov 22	0.2%	1.6%	0.3%	7.8%	0.9%	2.6%	1.0%
	Feb 20 to Nov 22	17%	-27%	-10%	-2%	19%	-19%	-1%

**Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022**

### 25-49 Year Olds

The table also allows us to look at what has been happening in terms of 25-49 year olds. Across the City region there was a 114% increase in the claimant count of 25-49 year olds between February 2020 and the summer of 2020 when it peaked. Since then, there has been a 51.8% fall ranging from

60.3% in Midlothian through to 43.9% in Scottish Borders. There are still however, 14,565 25-49 year olds claiming in the city region.

In terms of the latest month to month figures the table indicates that the number of 25-49 year olds claiming across the region has increased by 1.3% between October and November. This varies across the region – an 6.8% month to month increase in Scottish Borders through to a 1.3% fall in Midlothian.

We can see from the table that for 25-49 year olds the claimant count in Edinburgh is 26.8% higher and in Scottish Borders is 12.8% higher than in February 2020.

### *50 Year Olds and Over*

The table also allows us to look at what has been happening in terms of those over the age of 50. Across the City region there was a 104% increase in the claimant count of those 50 and over between February 2020 and the summer of 2020 when it peaked. Since then, there has been a 51.6% fall ranging from 64.4% in East Lothian through to 45.1% in Scottish Borders. There are still however, 5,585 claimants aged 50 or over in the city region.

In terms of the latest month to month figures the table indicates that the number of claimants 50 or older across the region has increased by 1.0% between October and November. This varies across the region – an 7.8% month to month increase in Midlothian through to a 0.2% increase in Edinburgh. This would appear to be the age group that has increased the most month to month.

In the context of Edinburgh and Scottish Borders having a claimant count in November higher than in February 2020, we can see from the table that for those claimants aged 50 or over the claimant count in Edinburgh is 17% higher and in Scottish Borders is 19% higher than in February 2020.

## **Ward Profile**

Whilst a Local Authority focus is useful it can hide large differences in the claimant count within the local authority and possibly result in services not being targeted as they should. This section looks at the ward position for each LA in turn.

### *Edinburgh*

Table 10 gives 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 October to November 2022 4 wards recorded a fall ranging from 1.4% (Southside/Newington) to a fall of 7.4% in Leith Ward. For 4 wards there was no change between October and November.

The remaining 9 wards recorded an increase in the claimant count. This increase ranged from 0.7% in City Centre to 6.1% in Almond. One ward worth looking at is Leith Ward, which is where the MS Victoria is berthed. This is home to a large number of Ukrainian refugees and whilst the ward saw the claimant count increase initially when the ship started to host Ukrainians (there were 660 claimants in this ward in August, 775 in September and 880 in October) it has recorded a month to month fall from 880 in October to 815 in November. This is reflected in the fact that Leith has the largest percentage fall in the whole region between October and November 2022.

Overall, in Edinburgh in November 2022, 60.3% of claimants were male (slightly lower than October) and 13.1% are aged 16-24, slightly lower than last month. Southside and Newington had the highest percentage of claimants over the age of 50 – the only ward with more than 30% of

claimants that age - whilst Liberton and Gilmerton had the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants.

**Table 10 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward November 2022**

Wards	Nov 2022	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 22				
		Feb20-Nov22	Oct22-Nov22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	525	6.1%	6.1%	62.9%	37.1%	13.3%	67.6%	20.0%
City Centre	685	39.8%	0.7%	65.7%	34.3%	13.9%	63.5%	22.6%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	210	20.0%	-2.3%	57.1%	42.9%	14.3%	59.5%	26.2%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	175	45.8%	0.0%	57.1%	45.7%	5.7%	68.6%	25.7%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	570	3.6%	0.0%	62.3%	38.6%	10.5%	68.4%	21.1%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	285	26.7%	1.8%	56.1%	45.6%	14.0%	63.2%	22.8%
Forth	810	12.5%	4.5%	59.9%	40.1%	14.2%	63.0%	22.8%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	280	36.6%	1.8%	62.5%	37.5%	10.7%	62.5%	26.8%
Inverleith	325	47.7%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	15.4%	56.9%	26.2%
Leith	815	29.4%	-7.4%	54.6%	45.4%	10.4%	68.1%	21.5%
Leith Walk	670	21.8%	2.3%	59.7%	40.3%	8.2%	66.4%	24.6%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	705	30.6%	2.9%	60.3%	39.7%	17.0%	60.3%	22.7%
Morningside	200	33.3%	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%	10.0%	62.5%	25.0%
Pentland Hills	675	8.0%	3.8%	60.0%	40.0%	15.6%	63.0%	21.5%
Portobello/Craigmillar	700	12.0%	1.4%	58.6%	41.4%	14.3%	62.9%	22.9%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	635	15.5%	-0.8%	61.4%	38.6%	15.0%	59.8%	24.4%
Southside/Newington	350	52.2%	-1.4%	67.1%	34.3%	12.9%	55.7%	32.9%
Edinburgh	8,620	21.3%	0.9%	60.3%	39.7%	13.1%	63.4%	23.4%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

Table 11 below looks at the in-work claimant count for the Edinburgh wards. There are nearly 1,500 in Forth Ward who are working but their earnings are low enough that they can receive UC. This has fallen by 3% compared to September 2022 but is 4% higher than it was a year ago.

**Table 11 In Work UC Claimant Count by Edinburgh Ward October 2022**

	Feb-20	Oct-21	Sep-22	Oct- 22	Oct21-Oct22	Sep22-Oct22
Almond	360	930	997	985	6%	-1%
City Centre	178	762	672	670	-12%	0%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	164	434	441	445	3%	1%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	83	302	299	288	-5%	-4%
Craightinny/Duddingston	321	1,137	1,005	970	-15%	-3%
Drum Brae/Gyle	176	565	532	541	-4%	2%
Forth	470	1,400	1,495	1,454	4%	-3%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	131	495	390	379	-23%	-3%
Inverleith	138	552	479	463	-16%	-3%
Leith	344	1,081	1,006	1,069	-1%	6%
Leith Walk	307	1,317	975	950	-28%	-3%
Liberton/Gilmerton	458	1,173	1,306	1,274	9%	-2%
Morningside	66	398	299	280	-30%	-6%
Pentland Hills	502	1,085	1,192	1,157	7%	-3%
Portobello/Craigmillar	449	1,250	1,313	1,279	2%	-3%
Sighthill/Gorgie	385	1,300	1,207	1,182	-9%	-2%
Southside/Newington	113	483	421	410	-15%	-3%
Total	4,650	14,648	14,038	13,799	-6%	-2%

Source: StatXplore 14/12/2022

## East Lothian

Table 12 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count 18% lower than it was in February 2020 but the November count is 1% higher than in October. Dunbar and East Linton saw the claimant count fall by 6.3% between October and November 2022. At the other end of the scale Preston, Seton and Gosford saw the count increase by 4.1%. To put this in context that was from 245 in October to 255 in November.

**Table 12 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2022**

	Nov-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 22				
		Feb20-Nov22	Oct22-Nov22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	150	-25%	-6.3%	57%	47%	13%	63%	23%
Haddington and Lammermuir	235	-10%	0.0%	53%	47%	15%	62%	23%
Musselburgh	365	-20%	0.0%	64%	36%	23%	59%	18%
North Berwick Coastal	90	6%	0.0%	61%	39%	17%	56%	33%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	255	-18%	4.1%	59%	41%	20%	57%	24%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	360	-20%	2.9%	60%	40%	19%	61%	19%
East Lothian	1,455	-18%	1.0%	59%	41%	19%	59%	22%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

Across the county 59% of claimants are male and this varies from 53% in Haddington and Lammermuir to 64% 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.

Table 13 looks at those claiming UC in East Lothian who are in work and presents the results by ward. Overall, there has been a fall between October 2021 and October 2022 in every ward bar Haddington and Lammermuir where the count is 6% higher than it was a year ago. Comparing September to October in 5 wards there was a fall in the number of in work claimants and in the remaining ward there was a 2% increase month to month. As with Edinburgh, in every ward there are substantial numbers of working individuals supported by UC.

**Table 13 In Work UC Claimant Count by East Lothian Ward October 2022**

	Feb-20	Oct-21	Sep-22	Oct- 22	Oct21-Oct22	Sep22-Oct22
Dunbar and East Linton	285	488	454	444	-9%	-2%
Haddington and Lammermuir	288	512	555	542	6%	-2%
Musselburgh	499	894	756	749	-16%	-1%
North Berwick Coastal	146	316	267	257	-19%	-4%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	349	698	598	609	-13%	2%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	547	971	914	892	-8%	-2%
Total	2,120	3,876	3,540	3,495	-10%	-1%

Source: StatXplore 14/12/2022

## Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. From Table 14 it is apparent that 3 of the 22 wards have a claimant count higher than it was in February 2020 and in two wards it's the same. Worth considering is the fact that in 10 wards there was an increase in the claimant count between October and November.

The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages where 745 individuals were looking for work and claiming in November, up by 1.4% since last month. The largest month to month change was 18.8% increase in East Neuk and Landward- this rise is based on an increase in the claimant count from 160 in October to 190 in November which indicates how a relatively small number can create large percentage swings.

**Table 14 Fife Claimant Count by Ward November 2022**

	Nov 22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 22				
		Feb20-Nov22	Oct22-Nov22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
<b>Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages</b>	745	-17.2%	1.4%	64%	36%	21%	58%	21%
<b>Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy</b>	335	-11.8%	0.0%	61%	39%	18%	57%	25%
<b>Cowdenbeath</b>	550	-9.8%	5.8%	60%	40%	20%	57%	23%
<b>Cupar</b>	190	-9.5%	0.0%	66%	34%	18%	53%	26%
<b>Dunfermline Central</b>	340	-13.9%	-2.9%	59%	43%	21%	59%	21%
<b>Dunfermline North</b>	325	-21.7%	-1.5%	65%	35%	22%	60%	18%
<b>Dunfermline South</b>	380	-15.6%	-5.0%	61%	39%	18%	62%	20%
<b>East Neuk and Landward</b>	190	2.7%	18.8%	63%	37%	11%	58%	32%
<b>Glenrothes Central and Thornton</b>	355	-4.1%	4.4%	63%	38%	21%	58%	21%
<b>Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch</b>	295	-16.9%	0.0%	63%	39%	17%	66%	17%
<b>Glenrothes West and Kinglassie</b>	345	-1.4%	-1.4%	57%	43%	20%	57%	22%
<b>Howe of Fife and Tay Coast</b>	160	-8.6%	-8.6%	63%	41%	13%	56%	31%
<b>Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay</b>	230	0.0%	0.0%	61%	39%	17%	54%	30%
<b>Kirkcaldy Central</b>	625	7.8%	4.2%	62%	38%	16%	59%	24%
<b>Kirkcaldy East</b>	645	0.8%	2.4%	66%	34%	17%	58%	24%
<b>Kirkcaldy North</b>	360	-7.7%	2.9%	58%	40%	18%	63%	19%
<b>Leven, Kennoway and Largo</b>	410	-17.2%	2.5%	65%	35%	20%	52%	28%
<b>Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty</b>	550	-19.7%	3.8%	63%	37%	20%	59%	20%
<b>Rosyth</b>	255	-16.4%	0.0%	55%	45%	14%	59%	27%
<b>St Andrews</b>	105	0.0%	-4.5%	62%	38%	14%	52%	33%
<b>Tay Bridgehead</b>	175	-7.9%	12.9%	57%	46%	17%	57%	29%
<b>West Fife and Coastal Villages</b>	300	-15.5%	-1.6%	58%	42%	20%	57%	23%
<b>Fife</b>	7,870	-10.2%	1.7%	61%	39%	19%	58%	23%

**Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022**

In terms of gender the average across the Kingdom is that 39% of claimants are female and 61% are male. In Dunfermline North 22% of claimants are 16-24 years of age whilst the average across the Kingdom is 19%. Compare this to East Neuk and landward where only 11% of the 190 individuals claiming in November were 16-24 years of age. In St Andrews 33% of the 105 claimants are aged over 50.

Table 15 looks at the in-work UC claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 12,810 Fife residents working and claiming UC support in October 2022- around 300 less than in September. Again, there are people needing this support across the Kingdom with every ward (with the exception of St Andrews) recording over 300 claimants. Not only does Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss villages have the highest number of out of work claimants it has the highest number of in

work claimants. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay was the only ward that recorded a month to month increase between September and October.

**Table 15 In Work UC Claimant Count by Fife Ward October 2022**

	Feb20	Oct21	Sep22	Oc22	Oct21- Oct22	Sep22- Oct22
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	527	936	1,035	1,021	9%	-1%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	206	429	409	394	-8%	-4%
Cowdenbeath	494	948	895	876	-8%	-2%
Cupar	187	400	369	362	-10%	-2%
Dunfermline Central	328	649	616	609	-6%	-1%
Dunfermline North	271	540	517	508	-6%	-2%
Dunfermline South	359	765	772	759	-1%	-2%
East Neuk and Landward	142	331	331	319	-4%	-4%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	355	622	682	666	7%	-2%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	321	619	580	560	-10%	-3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	680	746	722	6%	-3%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	114	324	318	304	-6%	-4%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	164	381	394	410	8%	4%
Kirkcaldy Central	372	699	746	722	3%	-3%
Kirkcaldy East	384	689	784	760	10%	-3%
Kirkcaldy North	277	559	570	548	-2%	-4%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	323	625	650	626	0%	-4%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	502	966	1,005	998	3%	-1%
Rosyth	288	615	618	617	0%	0%
St. Andrews	86	208	168	162	-22%	-4%
Tay Bridgehead	161	340	332	328	-4%	-1%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	259	592	567	539	-9%	-5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,467</b>	<b>12,927</b>	<b>13,103</b>	<b>12,810</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-2%</b>

Source: StatXplore 14/12/2022

### Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 16 below. Looking at the change between October and November three wards recorded a month-to-month fall, two wards saw the claimant count increase and in one case the November figure remained the same as the October figure.

**Table 16 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2022**

	Nov-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 22				
		Feb20- Nov22	Oct22- Nov22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	185	2.8%	-2.6%	59%	43%	16%	59%	24%
Dalkeith	250	-15.3%	8.7%	58%	44%	22%	60%	18%
Midlothian East	240	-5.9%	2.1%	56%	44%	19%	63%	17%
Midlothian South	215	-28.3%	-6.5%	63%	37%	21%	60%	21%
Midlothian West	190	-9.5%	-2.6%	61%	39%	18%	53%	29%
Penicuik	180	-20.0%	0.0%	61%	39%	19%	58%	22%
Midlothian	1,265	-13.9%	0.4%	59%	41%	20%	58%	22%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

Overall numbers are relatively low with no one ward recording over 250 claimants and the claimant count in Midlothian is 13.9% lower than it was in February 2020. Midlothian East recorded the highest proportion of female claimants in November and at 22% of claimants, Dalkeith ward has the highest proportion of young people claiming in Midlothian whilst Midlothian West has the highest proportion of claimants aged over 50.

**Table 17 In Work UC Claimant Count by Midlothian Ward October 2022**

	Feb-20	Oct-21	Sep-22	Oct-22	Oct21- Oct22	Sep22- Oct22
<b>Bonnyrigg</b>	262	514	478	479	-7%	0%
<b>Dalkeith</b>	332	598	572	572	-4%	0%
<b>Midlothian East</b>	339	592	572	566	-4%	-1%
<b>Midlothian South</b>	332	631	633	615	-3%	-3%
<b>Midlothian West</b>	205	429	430	431	0%	0%
<b>Penicuik</b>	274	487	473	470	-3%	-1%
<b>Total</b>	1,741	3,247	3,163	3,137	-3%	-1%

*Source: StatXplore 15/12/2022*

Table 17 looks at the number of in work UC claimants in the 6 Midlothian wards. There are nearly 1400 more in work claimants in Midlothian than there were before the pandemic. On average in October there were 522 working individuals needing UC support in every ward in Midlothian, with Midlothian South having the highest number of claimants at 615 and Midlothian West having the least. Between September and October, the number of people working and claiming fell in three wards and remained the same in the other three

### *West Lothian*

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 18 below. The November claimant count ranged from 120 in Linlithgow to 550 in Whitburn and Blackburn. Three of the wards in West Lothian recorded a month to month decrease between October and November and 4 wards recorded an increase (Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley recorded an increase of 4.5%). Compared to February 2020 no ward in West Lothian recorded a higher claimant count than pre-pandemic. The average claimant count in November was 340 with a result that 4 wards had recorded claimant level higher than that.

**Table 18 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward October2022**

	Nov- 22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 22				
		Feb20- Nov22	Oct22- Nov22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
<b>Armadaile &amp; Blackridge</b>	285	-8.1%	1.8%	60%	40%	23%	56%	21%
<b>Bathgate</b>	440	-6.4%	-3.3%	63%	38%	23%	58%	19%
<b>Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh</b>	325	-11.0%	0.0%	60%	40%	22%	51%	26%
<b>East Livingston &amp; E. Calder</b>	315	-17.1%	-1.6%	59%	43%	21%	59%	21%
<b>Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley</b>	345	-14.8%	4.5%	67%	33%	19%	70%	12%
<b>Linlithgow</b>	120	-11.1%	-4.0%	50%	50%	13%	63%	25%
<b>Livingston North</b>	290	-10.8%	3.6%	60%	40%	19%	60%	21%
<b>Livingston South</b>	390	-13.3%	2.6%	56%	44%	21%	60%	19%
<b>Whitburn &amp; Blackburn</b>	550	-6.0%	0.0%	62%	38%	23%	61%	16%
<b>West Lothian</b>	3,055	-10.8%	0.3%	60%	40%	21%	60%	19%

*Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022*



As with other areas there are generally more male claimants in every ward than female- in Linlithgow there were the same number of male claimants in November as Female claimants.

In terms of the age profile, 23% of claimants in Armadale and Blackridge and in Bathgate are 16-24 years of age. Compare this to Linlithgow where only 13% of claimants are from that age group. Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh recorded that 26% of the claimants in that ward are aged over 50.

As with other areas the out of work claimant numbers are only part of the picture and there are other individuals who are in work but need support from UC. Table 19 indicates that across West Lothian in October there were 6,031 such individuals which is 200 fewer than the previous month. The average was 670 claimants per ward in October therefore 4 had above average claimant numbers. This ranged from 1,003 in Whitburn and Blackburn to 231 in Linlithgow.

**Table 19 In Work UC Claimant Count by West Lothian Ward October 2022**

	Feb-20	Oct-21	Sep-22	Oct-22	Oct21- Oct22	Sep22- Oct22
<b>Armadale and Blackridge</b>	247	526	560	539	2%	-4%
<b>Bathgate</b>	360	776	813	798	3%	-2%
<b>Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh</b>	282	619	639	636	3%	0%
<b>East Livingston and East Calder</b>	354	735	743	719	-2%	-3%
<b>Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley</b>	302	586	650	620	6%	-5%
<b>Linlithgow</b>	103	243	245	231	-5%	-6%
<b>Livingston North</b>	299	718	671	641	-11%	-4%
<b>Livingston South</b>	399	882	860	847	-4%	-2%
<b>Whitburn and Blackburn</b>	460	1,001	1,054	1,003	0%	-5%
<b>Total</b>	2,809	6,089	6,230	6,031	-1%	-3%

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2022

### Scottish Borders

Table 20 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards.

**Table 20 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward November 2022**

	Nov-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 22				
		Feb20- Nov22	Oct22- Nov22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	175	9.4%	2.9%	54%	46%	14%	57%	29%
Galashiels and District	380	-1.3%	4.1%	59%	41%	16%	59%	25%
Hawick and Denholm	235	0.0%	6.8%	57%	43%	28%	55%	19%
Hawick and Hermitage	175	-2.8%	6.1%	60%	40%	23%	51%	26%
Jedburgh and District	135	3.8%	8.0%	52%	48%	19%	56%	26%
Kelso and District	145	3.6%	0.0%	59%	41%	17%	48%	31%
Leaderdale & Melrose	140	21.7%	3.7%	57%	43%	14%	54%	32%
Mid Berwickshire	150	7.1%	3.4%	60%	43%	17%	47%	37%
Selkirkshire	160	-3.0%	3.2%	63%	38%	19%	53%	28%
Tweeddale East	135	28.6%	12.5%	52%	48%	7%	59%	33%
Tweeddale West	170	61.9%	3.0%	59%	44%	12%	56%	32%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>2,005</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>28%</b>

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2022

From this table we can see that in 7 wards the claimant count in November 2022 is still higher (in some instances significantly higher) than it was in February 2020. Tweeddale West has recorded that its claimant count is 61.9% higher than it was in February 2020, however it is relatively small numbers, and this percentage is based on an increase of 65 claimants. We can see that in 1 of the Scottish Borders wards there was no change in the claimant count between October and November. The remaining 10 wards recorded a month-to-month increase.

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 November as being 16-24 years of age and in Tweeddale East only 7% of claimants in November were of that age.

Table 21 looks at the number of people in work and claiming in the Borders, and in October 2022 there were 3,417 people working who needed the support of universal credit. This is 40 people and 1% lower than it was in September. The average number of claimants is 310 per ward therefore 4 of the 11 wards have above average claimant numbers.

**Table 21 In Work UC Claimant Count by Scottish Borders Ward October 2022**

	Feb-20	Oct-21	Sep-22	Oct-22	Oct21-Oct22	Sep22-Oct22
East Berwickshire	165	362	383	379	5%	-1%
Galashiels and District	286	558	597	569	2%	-5%
Hawick and Denholm	185	376	405	409	9%	1%
Hawick and Hermitage	140	283	273	263	-7%	-4%
Jedburgh and District	103	259	251	248	-4%	-1%
Kelso and District	121	241	280	282	17%	1%
Leaderdale and Melrose	130	271	276	273	1%	-1%
Mid Berwickshire	114	300	317	319	6%	1%
Selkirkshire	108	239	274	265	11%	-3%
Tweeddale East	91	219	212	208	-5%	-2%
Tweeddale West	95	191	198	199	4%	1%
<b>Total</b>	1,546	3,289	3,457	3,417	4%	-1%

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2022

## 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 22 Economic Activity**

Economic Activity	Aug 2020-Oct 2020	Aug 2021-Oct 2021	Aug 2022-Oct 2022
Total economically active - aged 16 to 64	2,686,100	2,670,057	2,707,330
Total in employment - aged 16 to 64	2,569,741	2,559,706	2,616,635
Total unemployed - aged 16 to 64	116,359	110,351	90,695
Total economically inactive - aged 16 to 64	750,144	763,086	738,063

Source: NOMIS 15/12/2022

Table 22 above 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 October 2022 based on the survey that had been carried out over the previous twelve months. From this we can see that the economically active population of Scotland has increased by around 26,400 over the last three survey cycles. The total in employment has increased by nearly 47,000 in the same time frame and the number economically inactive has fallen by around 12,000.

Table 23 looks at the most recent data that can be broken down by LA areas. Once again it is based on 12 months survey data so reflects the position in 2022 as at June and compares this with what the situation was in previous surveys. Please note **this is the same data as last months** as there has been no update for this data set on NOMIS.

One point to note is that as this is a survey there are confidence figures provided with the data. 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 82.7% they are 95% confident that the real figure, based on the whole population, would be between 79.4% and 85.9% - the confidence levels recorded. This is because a survey can never be totally accurate – this would only be possible by speaking to everyone in a given population.

What can be seen from this is that across the region the Economic Activity rate is the same as it was in the last full pre-pandemic survey. However, there are differences with three LA recording economic activity levels higher than they were before the pandemic and the other three having lower rates.

**Table 23 Economic activity rate - aged 16-64**

	Jul2018-June2018	Jul 2019-Jun 2020	Jul 2020-Jun 2021	Jul 2021-Jun 2022
City of Edinburgh	80.6	78.0	77.3	82.7
East Lothian	80.1	79.5	81.0	79.0
Fife	76.2	76.1	76.5	73.1
Midlothian	82.1	81.8	80.9	83.7
Scottish Borders	78.5	77.7	75.6	81.0
West Lothian	79.6	79.4	73.3	78.3
<b>City Region</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>79.3</b>

**Source: NOMIS 16/11/2022**

Chris Nicol, Business Information,  
 Capital City Partnership  
 16/12/2022  
 07462 432348  
[chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org](mailto:chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org)