

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count January 2023 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between February 2020 and December 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between December 2021 and December 2022:	Claimant Count Change Between November 2022 and December 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 22.1% ↓ Scottish decreased by 3.2% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 22.3% ↑ City Region increased by 0.3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK decreased by 15.6% ↓ Scottish decreased by 19.5% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 19% ↓ City Region decreased by 19.9% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.9% ↑ Scottish increased by 2.0% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 2.2% ↑ City Region increased by 1.5%

NOTE: The DWP have as yet (30/1/2022) not published updated universal credit statistics on StatXplore due to identifying some irregularities in the Employment Indicator field. As a result, any data on Universal Credit in the summary and in the main report is the same as last month.

City Region Summary

1. In December 2022 the claimant count for the City Region was 24,470. Of these
 - a. 4,125 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,075 in November
 - b. 14,685 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,485 in November
 - c. 5,660 were 50 or older up from 5,560 in November
2. The overall claimant count in the Region is now 0.3% **higher** 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 December 2022 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,690. Of these
 - a. 1,150 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,120 in November
 - b. 5,510 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,375 in November
 - c. 2,030 were 50 or older. It was 2,010 in November.
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 22.3% **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 December 2022 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,465. Of these
 - a. 275 were 16-24 year olds. In November there were 270
 - b. 865 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 885
 - c. 325 were 50 or older. In November there were 310
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 17% **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 December 2022 the claimant count for Fife was 7,980. Of these
 - a. 1,445 were 16-24 year olds. In November there were 1,440
 - b. 4,650 were 25-49 years of age. In November there were 4,555
 - c. 1,885 were 50 or older. In November it was 1,820
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 9% **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 December 2022 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,275. Of these
 - a. 260 were 16-24 year olds. In November it was 260
 - b. 760 were 25-49 year olds. In November it was 740
 - c. 255 were 50 or older. In November it was 275
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 13.3% **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 2,030. Of these
 - a. 345 were 16-24 year olds. In November it was 345
 - b. 1,110 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 1,105
 - c. 575 were 50 or older. In November there were 555
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 9.1% **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 3,030. Of these
 - a. 650 were 16-24 year olds. In November there were 640
 - b. 1,790 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 1,825
 - c. 590 were 50 or older. In November there were 590 as well
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 11.5% **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 January 2023 Full Update

On the 17th January 2023 NOMIS released claimant count data that reflected the situation in December 2022. The DWP have as yet (30/1/2022) not published updated universal credit statistics on StatXplore due to identifying some irregularities in the Employment Indicator field. As a result, any data on Universal Credit is the same as last month.

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

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

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

From Table 1 it can be seen that in all but two regions of the UK the claimant count in December 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 4% higher. Scotland is 3% lower than February 2020.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	December 2021	November 2022	December 2022	Percentage Change		
				Feb20 to Dec22	Dec21 to Dec22	Nov22 to Dec22
UK	1,815,325	1,504,010	1,532,880	22%	-16%	1.9%
East	138,230	110,235	112,340	25%	-19%	1.9%
East Midlands	113,200	95,745	98,140	21%	-13%	2.5%
London	342,080	279,760	286,605	55%	-16%	2.4%
North East	83,380	68,275	69,385	-8%	-17%	1.6%
North West	223,225	190,120	192,990	16%	-14%	1.5%
N. Ireland	40,665	35,470	36,345	22%	-11%	2.5%
Scotland	137,860	108,730	110,910	-3%	-20%	2.0%
South East	194,330	159,805	162,870	36%	-16%	1.9%
South West	107,370	84,740	86,245	14%	-20%	1.8%
Wales	76,520	61,745	62,740	4%	-18%	1.6%
West Midlands	197,680	174,655	177,465	26%	-10%	1.6%
Yorks & Humb	160,785	134,730	136,845	18%	-15%	1.6%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

From the table we can see that across the UK the claimant count is between 10% and 20% lower than it was in December 2021. However, looking more specifically at what has been recorded between November 2022 and December 2022 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 2.5%

in Northern Ireland and the East Midlands to a 1.5% increase in the North West. This results in a claimant count of 1,532,880 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).

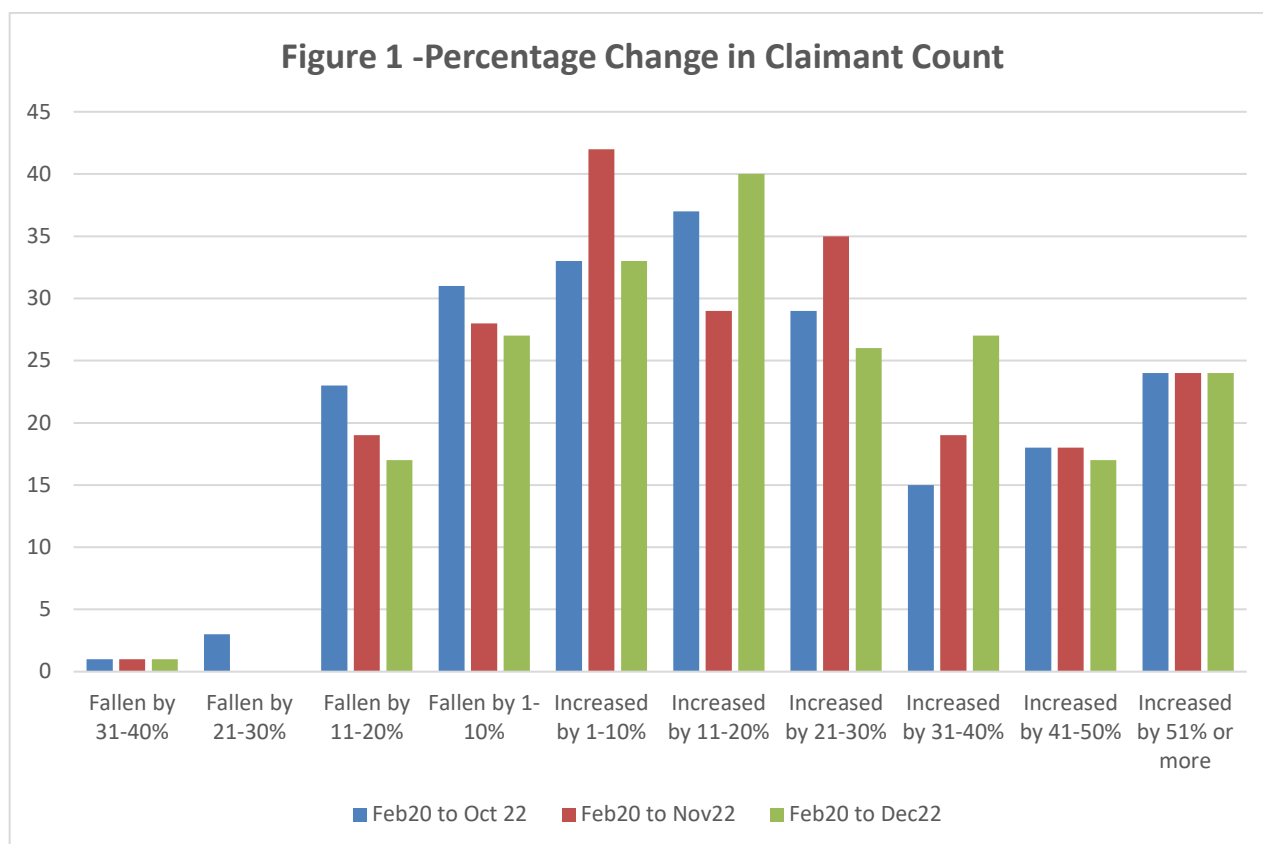
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

	Feb 20	Dec 21	Nov 22	Dec 22	Feb20- Dec22	Dec21- Dec22	Nov22- Dec22
Aberdeen City	4,150	6,410	5,095	5,110	23%	-20%	0.3%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	4,155	2,970	3,010	1%	-28%	1.3%
Angus	2,040	2,415	1,980	2,025	-1%	-16%	2.3%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	1,795	1,365	1,405	-8%	-22%	2.9%
Edinburgh	7,105	10,735	8,505	8,690	22%	-19%	2.2%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	1,370	1,155	1,195	-14%	-13%	3.5%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,950	3,175	2,470	2,540	-14%	-20%	2.8%
Dundee City	4,530	4,875	4,035	4,125	-9%	-15%	2.2%
East Ayrshire	3,685	4,090	3,035	3,090	-16%	-24%	1.8%
E. Dunbartonshire	1,230	1,650	1,225	1,235	0%	-25%	0.8%
East Lothian	1,765	2,130	1,465	1,465	-17%	-31%	0.0%
East Renfrewshire	950	1,235	950	970	2%	-21%	2.1%
Falkirk	3,300	3,755	2,955	3,110	-6%	-17%	5.2%
Fife	8,765	9,800	7,815	7,980	-9%	-19%	2.1%
Glasgow City	20,055	25,895	21,475	21,900	9%	-15%	2.0%
Highland	3,715	4,205	3,265	3,385	-9%	-20%	3.7%
Inverclyde	2,255	2,275	1,795	1,840	-18%	-19%	2.5%
Midlothian	1,470	1,735	1,275	1,275	-13%	-27%	0.0%
Moray	1,550	1,810	1,315	1,385	-11%	-23%	5.3%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	460	295	290	-38%	-37%	-1.7%
North Ayrshire	4,600	4,530	3,645	3,700	-20%	-18%	1.5%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	9,580	7,325	7,420	-10%	-23%	1.3%
Orkney Islands	195	250	210	210	8%	-16%	0.0%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	2,630	1,985	2,085	12%	-21%	5.0%
Renfrewshire	4,025	4,420	3,460	3,505	-13%	-21%	1.3%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2,365	2,005	2,030	9%	-14%	1.2%
Shetland Islands	265	315	235	245	-8%	-22%	4.3%
South Ayrshire	2,790	3,080	2,315	2,385	-15%	-23%	3.0%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	8,160	6,245	6,345	-10%	-22%	1.6%
Stirling	1,540	1,610	1,400	1,430	-7%	-11%	2.1%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	3,145	2,415	2,505	-15%	-20%	3.7%
West Lothian	3,425	3,795	3,050	3,030	-12%	-20%	-0.7%
Scotland	114,605	137,860	108,730	110,910	-3%	-20%	2.0%
City Region	24,390	30,560	24,115	24,470	0.3%	-20%	1.5%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

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 (960 higher), Aberdeenshire (35), City of Edinburgh (1,585 higher), East Dunbartonshire (5), East Renfrewshire (20), Glasgow (1,845), Perth and Kinross (220) Orkney Islands (15) and Scottish Borders (170 higher). Across the City Region as a whole the claimant count is still 80 higher than it was in February 2020.

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.



Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

The cohort that Edinburgh is currently sitting with include some large cities (Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham) some smaller cities (Bristol and Southampton), metropolitan boroughs (Salford and Trafford) and some rural counties (Warwickshire and Dorset).

Table 3: Claimant Count LA Comparison

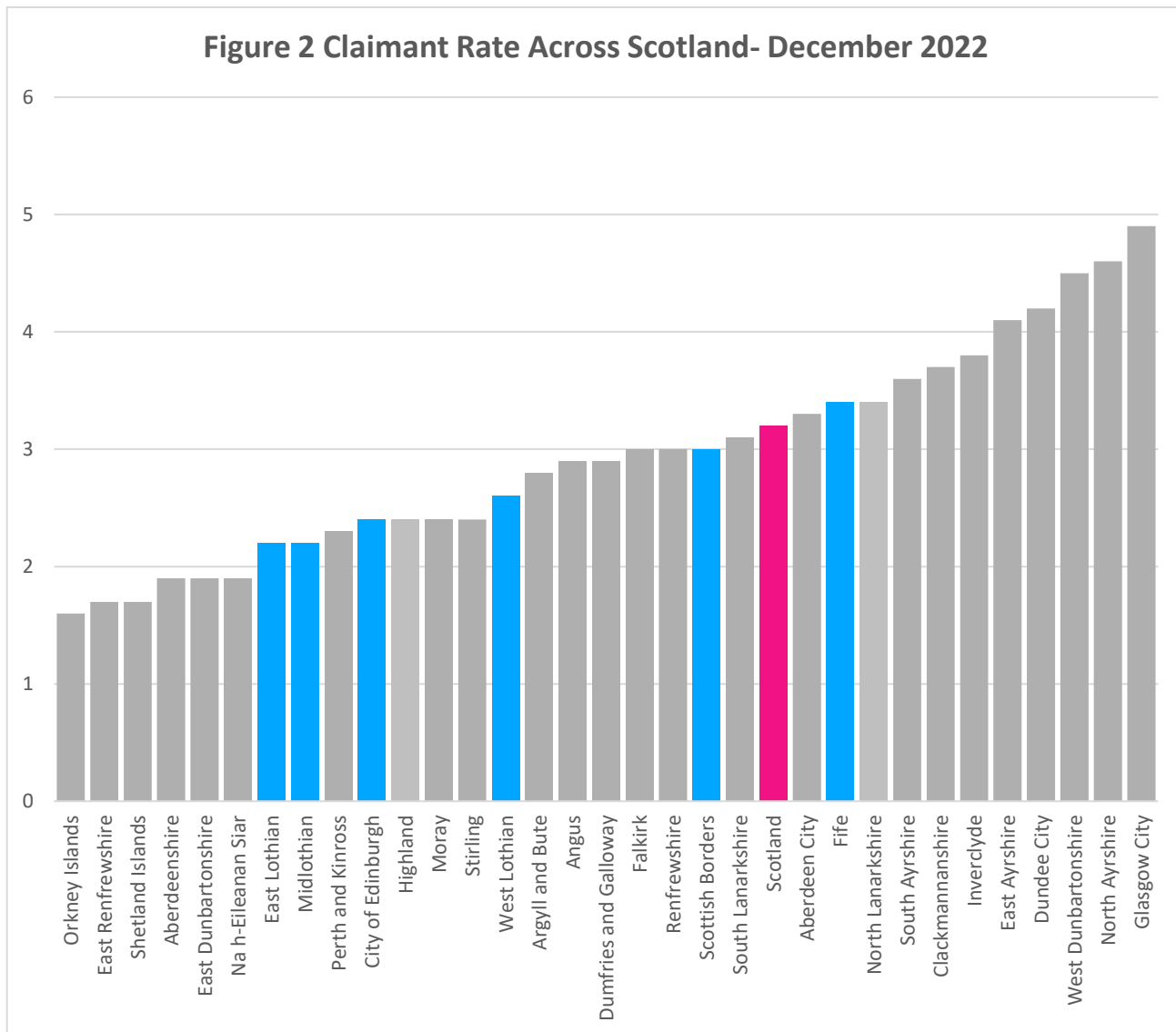
	February 2020	December 2022	Additional Claimants	Feb20-Dec22
Birmingham	48,560	61,680	13,120	27%
Leeds	17,695	22,235	4,540	28%
Manchester	17,410	22,545	5,135	29%
Bristol, City of	8,345	10,885	2,540	30%
City of Edinburgh	7,105	8,690	1,585	22%
Cardiff	8,260	9,165	905	11%
Belfast	7,175	9,000	1,825	28%
York	1,790	2,440	650	36%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

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 as of December 2022. 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 17/1/2023

City Region Position

Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 4 below that across the region the claimant count recorded in December 2022 is higher than it was in February 2020 (0.3% lower). However, this isn't universal and whilst 4 of the 6 Local Authorities record 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 22.3% higher and for Scottish Borders 9.1% 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 were more LAs recording month to month increases between November and December. Overall the month to month changes range from a 2.2% increase in Scottish Borders to a 0.7% fall in West Lothian. The claimant count in the region in

December is 24,470 a 1.5% increase from what was recorded in November. In terms of actual numerical change, the differences between the claimant count in November to that recorded in December are small and across the region there were 355 more claimants in December than November.

Table 4: Claimant Count – City Region LAs

	Feb-20	Dec-21	Nov-22	Dec-22	Percentage Change		
					Feb20-Dec22	Dec21-Dec22	Nov22-Dec22
Edinburgh	7,105	10,735	8,505	8,690	22.3%	-19.0%	2.2%
East Lothian	1,765	2,130	1,465	1,465	-17.0%	-31.2%	0.0%
Fife	8,765	9,800	7,815	7,980	-9.0%	-18.6%	2.1%
Midlothian	1,470	1,735	1,275	1,275	-13.3%	-26.5%	0.0%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2,365	2,005	2,030	9.1%	-14.2%	1.2%
West Lothian	3,425	3,795	3,050	3,030	-11.5%	-20.2%	-0.7%
City Region	24,390	30,560	24,115	24,470	0.3%	-19.9%	1.5%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

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

Please note that DWP have identified an issue in the Employment Indicator field for this on StatXplore dataset within the latest UC release. Currently (30/1/2023) this information is not available in the data series after October 2022. As a result, the tables in this paper that reflect Universal Credit are only reflecting the situation up until October 2022

Table 5 Universal Credit Claimants

		Feb-20	Oct-21	Sep-22	Oct-22	% Change Sep22 to Oct 22
Edinburgh	Not in employment	9,041	19,551	19,532	20,245	3.7%
	In employment	4,650	14,430	14,038	13,799	-1.7%
	Total	13,688	33,981	33,571	34,041	1.4%
East Lothian	Not in employment	3,725	5,310	5,035	5,199	3.3%
	In employment	2,120	3,598	3,540	3,495	-1.3%
	Total	5,842	8,908	8,575	8,693	1.4%
Fife	Not in employment	14,794	21,674	21,676	22,257	2.7%
	In employment	6,467	12,781	13,103	12,810	-2.2%
	Total	21,262	34,455	34,781	35,067	0.8%
Midlothian	Not in employment	3,173	4,746	4,698	4,801	2.2%
	In employment	1,741	3,247	3,163	3,137	-0.8%
	Total	4,921	7,989	7,860	7,937	1.0%
West Lothian	Not in employment	5,608	9,137	9,418	9,735	3.4%
	In employment	2,809	6,089	6,230	6,031	-3.2%
	Total	8,419	15,223	15,650	15,764	0.7%
Scottish Borders	Not in employment	2,874	4,736	4,824	4,995	3.5%
	In employment	1,546	3,289	3,457	3,417	-1.2%
	Total	4,424	8,030	8,281	8,412	1.6%
Total	Not in employment	39,224	65,155	65,189	67,242	3.1%
	In employment	19,338	43,437	43,533	42,682	-2.0%
	Total	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.

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 in December 2021, November 2022 and December 2022. From Table 6 we can see that the male claimant count in Edinburgh remains 17% higher than it was in February 2020 and in Scottish Borders it remains 4.9% higher. In the other LAs the male claimant count is lower than it was in 2020.

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

	December 2021	November 2022	December 2022		Feb20-Dec22	Dec21-Dec22	Nov22 - Dec22
Edinburgh	6,760	5,135	5,190		17.0%	-23.2%	1.1%
East Lothian	1,260	880	870		-13.4%	-31.0%	-1.1%
Fife	6,070	4,805	4,870		-11.1%	-19.8%	1.4%
Midlothian	1,070	760	745		-13.9%	-30.4%	-2.0%
Scottish Borders	1,385	1,155	1,175		4.9%	-15.2%	1.7%
West Lothian	2,285	1,850	1,795		-8.9%	-21.4%	-3.0%
City Region	18,830	14,585	14,645		-1.5%	-22.2%	0.4%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

The month-to-month movements for male claimants between November and December 2022 has ranged from a 1.7% increase in Borders to a 3% month to month fall in West Lothian. Across the region there are now around 4,200 fewer male claimants than in December 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 in Edinburgh is 31% higher than it was pre-pandemic whilst the male claimant count is 17% higher and in Scottish Borders it is 15.5% for males and 4.9% higher for males.

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

	December 2021	November 2022	December 2022		Feb20-Dec22	Dec21-Dec22	Nov22-Dec22
Edinburgh	3,975	3,375	3,500		31.3%	-11.9%	3.7%
East Lothian	870	585	595		-21.7%	-31.6%	1.7%
Fife	3,730	3,015	3,110		-5.5%	-16.6%	3.2%
Midlothian	665	515	530		-12.4%	-20.3%	2.9%
Scottish Borders	980	855	855		15.5%	-12.8%	0.0%
West Lothian	1,505	1,200	1,235		-15.1%	-17.9%	2.9%
City Region	11,725	9,545	9,825		3.3%	-16.2%	2.9%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Overall, we can see that there are 9,825 female claimants in the city regions and 14,645 male claimants. The female claimant count in December is 2.9% higher than it was in November whilst the male claimant count is 0.4% higher.

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
Edinburgh	1,875	2,769	6,490	7,939	5,881	8,158	5,699	8,100
East Lothian	674	1,441	1,318	2,276	1,181	2,362	1,133	2,356
Fife	2,283	4,182	5,177	7,607	4,893	8,212	4,717	8,091
West Lothian	966	1,844	2,404	3,682	2,226	4,000	2,103	3,929
Scottish Borders	524	1,019	1,357	1,935	1,298	2,158	1,282	2,139
Midlothian	506	1,237	1,201	2,050	1,074	2,091	1,045	2,087
City Region	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

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 61.7% fall ranging from 65.4% in East Lothian through to 58.6% in West Lothian. There are still however, 4,125 16-24 year olds claiming in the city region – down nearly 16% on December 2021 but slightly higher than November 2022.

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	
Dec-21	1,385	350	1,730	300	420	720	4,905	
Nov-22	1,120	270	1,440	260	345	640	4,075	
Dec-22	1,150	275	1,445	260	345	650	4,125	
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	203.0%	152.0%	104.0%	114.0%	113.0%	114.0%	134.0%
	Peak to Dec22	-65.0%	-65.4%	-59.4%	-62.6%	-61.0%	-58.6%	-61.7%
	Dec21 to Dec22	-17.0%	-21.4%	-16.5%	-13.3%	-17.9%	-9.7%	-15.9%
	Nov22 to Dec22	2.7%	1.9%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	1.2%
	Feb20 to Dec22	8.0%	-12.7%	-17.0%	-20.0%	-16.9%	-11.6%	-10.2%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

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 1.2% between November and December. This varies across the region – a 2.7% month to month increase in Edinburgh through to no real change in Midlothian and Scottish Borders.

We can see from the table that for 16-24 year olds the claimant count in Edinburgh is 8% higher than it was in February 2020 and for every other LA it is lower than it was in February 2020.

25-49 Year Olds

Table 10 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 51.4% fall ranging from 59.2% in Midlothian through to 43.4% in Scottish Borders. There are still however, 14,685 25-49 year olds claiming in the city region.

Table 10: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (All Gender)

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	
Dec-21	6,760	1,270	5,710	1,070	1,295	2,270	18,375	
Nov-22	5,375	885	4,555	740	1,105	1,825	14,485	
Dec-22	5,510	865	4,650	760	1,110	1,790	14,685	
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	172.0%	106.0%	76.0%	116.0%	101.0%	101.0%	114.0%
	Peak to Dec22	-53.0%	-58.8%	-47.0%	-59.2%	-43.4%	-54.6%	-51.4%
	Dec21 to Dec22	-18.5%	-31.9%	-18.6%	-29.0%	-14.3%	-21.1%	-20.1%
	Nov22 to Dec22	2.5%	-2.3%	2.1%	2.7%	0.5%	-1.9%	1.4%
	Feb20 to Dec22	27.8%	-15.2%	-6.8%	-12.1%	13.8%	-8.9%	4.0%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

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 1.4% between November and December. This varies across the region – a 2.7% month to month increase in Midlothian through to a 2.3% fall in East Lothian. The table also highlights the real numbers behind these changes- for instance an increase in the claimant count of 2.7% in Midlothian was based on a rise from 740 25-49 year old claimants in November to 760 in December.

50 Year Olds and Over

Table 11: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (All Gender)

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	
Dec-21	2,590	515	2,360	360	645	805	7,275	
Nov-22	2,010	310	1,820	275	555	590	5,560	
Dec-22	2,030	325	1,885	255	575	590	5,660	
% Change	Feb 20 to Peak	138.0%	106.0%	76.0%	141.0%	117.0%	106.0%	104.0%
	Peak to Dec22	-50.7%	-63.3%	-47.1%	-62.2%	-43.6%	-60.5%	-51.0%
	Dec21 to Dec22	-21.6%	-36.9%	-20.1%	-29.2%	-10.9%	-26.7%	-22.2%
	Nov22 to Dec22	1.0%	4.8%	3.6%	-7.3%	3.6%	0.0%	1.8%
	Feb20 to Dec22	17%	-24%	-7%	-9%	22%	-19%	0%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Table 11 looks 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% fall ranging from 63.3% in East Lothian through to 43.6% in Scottish Borders. There are still however, 5,660 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 1.8% between November and December. This varies across the region – 4.8% month to month increase in East Lothian through to a 7.3% decrease in Midlothian.

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 12 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward December 2022

Wards	Dec 2022	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 22				
		Feb20-Dec22	Nov22-Dec22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	540	9.1%	3.8%	59.3%	40.7%	13.0%	63.9%	23.1%
City Centre	650	32.7%	-0.8%	66.9%	32.3%	12.3%	64.6%	23.1%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	220	25.7%	7.3%	54.5%	45.5%	18.2%	61.4%	20.5%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	170	41.7%	-2.9%	58.8%	44.1%	8.8%	67.6%	26.5%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	580	5.5%	1.8%	62.1%	37.9%	10.3%	67.2%	22.4%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	300	33.3%	5.3%	56.7%	43.3%	11.7%	66.7%	21.7%
Forth	820	13.9%	1.2%	59.1%	40.9%	14.0%	64.6%	21.3%
Fountainbridge/	285	39.0%	3.6%	57.9%	42.1%	12.3%	59.6%	26.3%
Inverleith	335	52.3%	3.1%	59.7%	40.3%	13.4%	59.7%	26.9%
Leith	830	31.7%	0.6%	55.4%	45.2%	10.2%	68.7%	21.7%
Leith Walk	655	19.1%	0.8%	58.8%	41.2%	7.6%	67.2%	25.2%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	690	27.8%	-0.7%	60.9%	39.1%	17.4%	58.7%	23.9%
Morningside	200	33.3%	8.1%	60.0%	40.0%	12.5%	60.0%	25.0%
Pentland Hills	685	9.6%	3.0%	60.6%	39.4%	16.1%	63.5%	20.4%
Portobello/Craigmillar	720	15.2%	4.3%	56.9%	43.1%	14.6%	63.9%	22.2%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	650	18.2%	3.2%	60.0%	40.0%	16.2%	60.0%	23.8%
Southside/Newington	355	54.3%	2.9%	64.8%	35.2%	14.1%	53.5%	32.4%
Edinburgh	8,690	22.3%	2.2%	59.7%	40.3%	13.2%	63.4%	23.4%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Table 12 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 November to December 2022 3 wards recorded a fall ranging from 2.9% (Corstorphine/Murrayfield) to a fall of 0.7% in Liberton/Gilmerton. The remaining wards recorded an increase in the claimant count. This increase ranged from 0.6% in Leith through to an increase of 8.1% in Morningside. Again, it is important to remember that these large percentage changes are often based on *relatively* small numerical changes. For example this 8% rise in Morningside is based on an increase in 15 claimants between November and December – with the count rising from 185 in November to 200 in December.

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 830 in December.

Overall, in Edinburgh in December 2022, 59.7% of claimants were male and 13.2% are aged 16-24. 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 Colinton and Farmilehead had the highest percentage of 16-24 year old claimants.

Table 13 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 13 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 14 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count 17% lower than it was in February 2020 but the December count is the same as it was in November. Musselburgh saw the claimant count fall by 4.1% between November and December 2022. At the other end of the scale North Berwick Coastal saw the count increase by 17.1%. To put this in context this is based on an increase from 85 in November to 100 in December 2022 and it is the ward with the lowest claimant count in the county.

Across the county 59% of claimants are male and this varies from 55% in Dunbar and East Linton to 63% 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 14 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2022

	Dec 22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 22				
		Feb20-Dec22	Nov22-Dec22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	155	-23%	0.0%	55%	45%	16%	61%	23%
Haddington and Lammermuir	230	-12%	0.0%	57%	41%	13%	61%	24%
Musselburgh	355	-22%	-4.1%	63%	37%	23%	56%	21%
North Berwick Coastal	100	18%	17.6%	60%	40%	15%	55%	25%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	260	-16%	0.0%	60%	40%	21%	58%	21%
Tranent, Wallyford & Macmerry	365	-19%	0.0%	59%	41%	18%	62%	21%
East Lothian	1,465	-17%	0.0%	59%	41%	19%	59%	22%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Table 15 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 15 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 16 it is apparent that 5 of the 22 wards have a claimant count higher than it was in February 2020 and in one ward it's the same. Worth considering is the fact that in 15 wards there was an increase in the claimant count between November and December.

The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages where 765 individuals were looking for work and claiming in December. This is 20 more than last month November, and an increase of 4.1%. The largest month to month change was a 9.4% increase in Howe of Fife and Tay Coast. As with other wards in the region with large percentage swings this is based on an increase in the claimant count from 160 in November to 175 in December. In December 2021 there were 245 claimants in this ward.

In terms of gender the average across the Kingdom is that 39% of claimants are female and 61% are male. In Dunfermline North and in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages 21% of claimants are 16-24 years of age whilst the average across the Kingdom is 18%. Compare this to East Neuk and

landward where only 8% of the 190 individuals claiming in December were 16-24 years of age. In St Andrews 36% of the 110 claimants are aged over 50.

Table 16 Fife Claimant Count by Ward December 2022

	Dec 22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 22				
		Feb20- Dec22	Nov22- Dec22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	765	-15.0%	4.1%	64%	37%	21%	58%	22%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	340	-10.5%	4.6%	59%	40%	16%	57%	25%
Cowdenbeath	545	-10.7%	0.9%	60%	40%	19%	59%	22%
Cupar	200	-4.8%	5.3%	65%	35%	20%	55%	25%
Dunfermline Central	325	-17.7%	-5.8%	58%	42%	20%	60%	22%
Dunfermline North	310	-25.3%	-4.6%	63%	35%	21%	58%	21%
Dunfermline South	390	-13.3%	0.0%	59%	41%	15%	65%	19%
East Neuk and Landward	190	2.7%	8.6%	63%	37%	8%	58%	34%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	335	-9.5%	-4.3%	63%	37%	19%	58%	21%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	305	-14.1%	3.4%	61%	39%	16%	64%	18%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	335	-4.3%	-4.3%	58%	42%	19%	58%	22%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	0.0%	9.4%	57%	46%	14%	57%	31%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	240	4.3%	0.0%	58%	42%	15%	50%	33%
Kirkcaldy Central	660	13.8%	7.3%	62%	38%	16%	59%	25%
Kirkcaldy East	665	3.9%	3.9%	65%	35%	18%	58%	24%
Kirkcaldy North	350	-10.3%	0.0%	60%	40%	17%	63%	20%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	430	-13.1%	4.9%	63%	36%	20%	52%	27%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	545	-20.4%	2.8%	62%	38%	19%	60%	21%
Rosyth	265	-13.1%	1.9%	55%	43%	17%	57%	25%
St Andrews	110	4.8%	4.8%	64%	36%	14%	50%	36%
Tay Bridgehead	185	-2.6%	2.8%	57%	43%	16%	57%	27%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	310	-12.7%	1.6%	58%	42%	19%	56%	24%
Fife	7,980	-9.0%	2.1%	61%	39%	18%	58%	24%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Table 17 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 17 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%
Total	6,467	12,927	13,103	12,810	-1%	-2%

Source: StatXplore 14/12/2022

Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 18 below. Looking at the change between November and December three wards recorded a month-to-month fall, two wards saw the claimant count increase and in one case the December figure remained the same as the November figure.

Table 18 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2022

	Dec-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 22				
		Feb20-Dec22	Nov22-Dec22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	185	2.8%	-2.6%	57%	43%	19%	59%	19%
Dalkeith	235	-20.3%	-6.0%	57%	43%	21%	64%	15%
Midlothian East	255	0.0%	4.1%	55%	45%	20%	59%	20%
Midlothian South	215	-28.3%	-2.3%	65%	35%	23%	58%	16%
Midlothian West	210	0.0%	7.7%	57%	43%	19%	52%	29%
Penicuik	180	-20.0%	0.0%	61%	36%	17%	61%	19%
Midlothian	1,275	-13.3%	0.0%	58%	42%	20%	60%	20%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Overall numbers are *relatively* low with only one ward recording over 250 claimants and the claimant count in Midlothian is 13.3% lower than it was in February 2020. Midlothian East recorded the highest proportion of female claimants in December and at 23% of claimants, Midlothian South 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 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

Table 19 In Work UC Claimant Count by Midlothian Ward October 2022

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

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2022

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 20 below. The December claimant count ranged from 125 in Linlithgow to 565 in Whitburn and Blackburn. Four of the wards in West Lothian recorded a month to month decrease between November and December and 4 wards recorded an increase (Linlithgow recorded an increase of 8.7%).

Table 20 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2022

	Dec-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 22				
		Feb20-Dec22	Nov22-Dec22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	280	-9.7%	-5.1%	59%	41%	21%	61%	18%
Bathgate	415	-11.7%	-6.7%	60%	40%	23%	57%	20%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	325	-11.0%	1.6%	60%	40%	22%	54%	25%
East Livingston & E. Calder	330	-13.2%	6.5%	59%	41%	20%	56%	23%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	360	-11.1%	5.9%	67%	33%	21%	67%	14%
Linlithgow	125	-7.4%	8.7%	48%	52%	16%	56%	28%
Livingston North	270	-16.9%	-5.3%	59%	41%	24%	59%	19%
Livingston South	355	-21.1%	-5.3%	52%	48%	20%	59%	20%
Whitburn & Blackburn	565	-3.4%	0.0%	61%	40%	23%	61%	16%
West Lothian	3,030	-11.5%	-0.7%	59%	41%	21%	59%	19%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

As with other areas there are generally more male claimants in every ward than female. In terms of the age profile, 24% of claimants in Livingston North are 16-24 years of age. Compare this to Linlithgow where only 16% of claimants are from that age group. Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh recorded that 25% 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 21 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 21 In Work UC Claimant Count by West Lothian Ward October 2022

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

Source: StatXplore 15/12/2022

Scottish Borders

Table 22 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that in 8 wards the claimant count in December 2022 is still higher (in some instances significantly higher) than it was in February 2020.

Table 22 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward December 2022

	Dec-22	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 22				
		Feb20- Dec22	Nov22- Dec22	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	175	9.4%	0.0%	51%	49%	14%	57%	29%
Galashiels and District	385	0.0%	0.0%	60%	42%	14%	62%	23%
Hawick and Denholm	235	0.0%	2.2%	60%	43%	26%	55%	19%
Hawick and Hermitage	190	5.6%	5.6%	58%	42%	21%	50%	29%
Jedburgh and District	145	11.5%	3.6%	55%	45%	17%	52%	28%
Kelso and District	150	7.1%	3.4%	60%	40%	17%	50%	33%
Leaderdale & Melrose	135	17.4%	-3.6%	52%	48%	15%	56%	30%
Mid Berwickshire	155	10.7%	0.0%	58%	42%	19%	45%	35%
Selkirkshire	165	0.0%	3.1%	64%	36%	21%	52%	30%
Tweeddale East	130	23.8%	0.0%	54%	42%	12%	58%	31%
Tweeddale West	160	52.4%	-5.9%	59%	41%	6%	56%	38%
Scottish Borders	2,030	9.1%	1.2%	58%	42%	17%	55%	28%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Tweeddale West has recorded that its claimant count is 52.4% higher than it was in February 2020, however it is relatively small numbers, and this percentage is based on an increase of 55 claimants. We can see that in 4 of the Scottish Borders wards there was no change in the claimant count between November and December and two wards recorded a month to month fall. The remaining 5 wards recorded a month-to-month increase.

The Scottish Borders have as high a proportion of female claimants as any other Authority in the City Region whilst Hawick and Denholm recorded 26% of claimants in December as being 16-24 years of age and in Tweeddale West only 6% of claimants in December were of that age and 38% of claimants were over 50 years of age.

Table 23 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 23 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%
Total	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 24 below looks at the most recent data that has been published on NOMIS from the Annual Population Survey/Labour Force Survey (APS/LFS). From this we can see that the economically active population of Scotland has increased by around 37,500 over the last three survey cycles. The total in employment has increased by nearly 70,000 in the same time frame and the number economically inactive has fallen by around 27,000.

Table 24 Economic Activity (Scotland)

Economic Activity	Sep 2020-Nov 2020	Sep 2021-Nov 2021	Sep 2022-Nov 2022
Total economically active - aged 16 to 64	2,673,646	2,672,679	2,711,152
Total in employment - aged 16 to 64	2,552,011	2,573,951	2,621,032
Total unemployed - aged 16 to 64	121,635	98,729	90,120
Total economically inactive - aged 16 to 64	760,474	759,526	733,381

Source: NOMIS 30/1/2023

Table 25 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 September and compares this with what the situation was in previous surveys.

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 83.1% they are 95% confident that the real figure, based on the whole population, would be between 79.8% and 86.4% - 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 higher than 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 25 Economic activity rate - aged 16-64

	Oct2018-Sep2019	Oct2019-Sep2020	Oct2020-Sep2021	Oct2021-Sep2022
City of Edinburgh	78.9	76.7	78.4	83.1
East Lothian	78.7	80.2	80.6	78.1
Fife	75.4	77.0	75.5	74.7
Midlothian	81.8	81.0	80.2	82.6
Scottish Borders	79.1	79.8	73.7	84.0
West Lothian	80.3	78.0	76.0	77.0
City Region	78.4	77.7	77.3	79.8

Source: NOMIS 30/1/2023

Chris Nicol, Business Information,
 Capital City Partnership
 30/1/2023
 07462 432348
chrisnicol@capitalcitypartnership.org