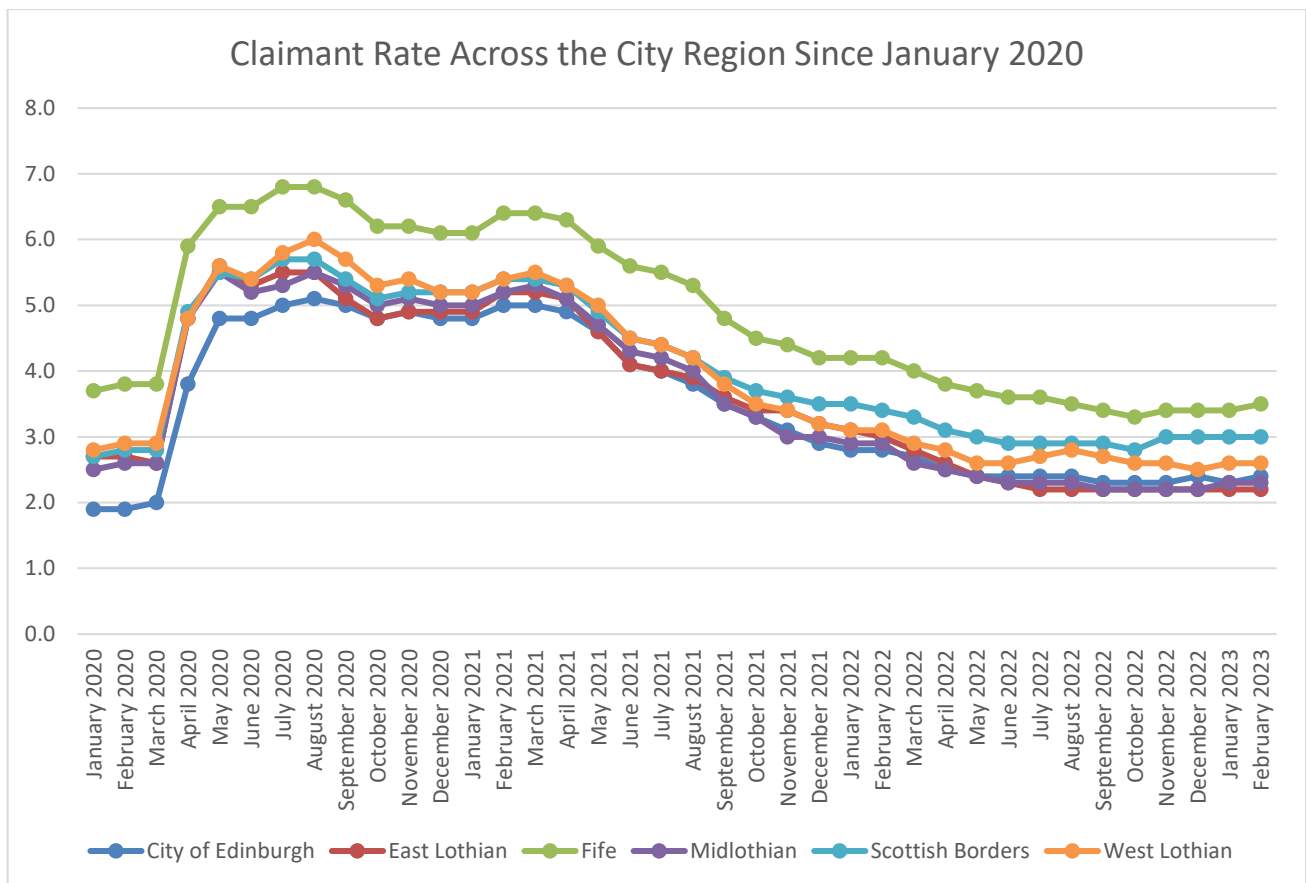


## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2023 Summary Update

<b>Claimant Count Change Between February 2020 and January 2023:</b> ↑ UK increased by 23.8% ↓ Scotland decreased by 2% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 22% ↑ City Region increased by 1.6%	<b>Claimant Count Change Between February 2022 and February 2023:</b> ↓ UK decreased by 13% ↓ Scotland decreased by 17% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 16% ↓ City Region decreased by 17%	<b>Claimant Count Change Between January 2023 and February 2023:</b> ↑ UK increased by 3% ↑ Scotland increased by 2% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 1.5% ↑ City Region increased by 1.8%
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### City Region Summary

- In February 2023 the claimant count for the City Region was 24,770. Of these
  - 4,250 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,150 in January.
  - 14,950 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,600 in January
  - 5,555 were 50 or older up from 5,570 in January
- The overall claimant count in the Region is now 1.6% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
- In January 2023 there were 41,802 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In December it was 42,935.

## Edinburgh Summary

1. In February 2023 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,635. Of these
  - a. 1,175 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,180 in January.
  - b. 5,510 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,365 in January.
  - c. 1,950 were 50 or older. It was 1,960 in January.
2. The overall claimant count in Edinburgh is now 21.5% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In January 2023 there were 13,509 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In December it was 13,922.

## East Lothian Summary

1. In February 2023 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,505. Of these
  - a. 290 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was 275.
  - b. 890 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 865.
  - c. 325 were 50 or older. In January there were 330.
2. The overall claimant count in East Lothian is now 14.7% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In January 2023 there were 3,452 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In December it was 3,488

## Fife Summary

1. In February 2023 the claimant count for Fife was 8,150. Of these
  - a. 1,510 were 16-24 year olds. In January there were 1,445.
  - b. 4,750 were 25-49 years of age. In January there were 4,605.
  - c. 1,885 were 50 or older. In January it was 1,860.
2. The overall claimant count in Fife is now 7% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In January 2023 there were 12,441 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In December it was 12,873

## Midlothian Summary

1. In February 2023 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,350. Of these
  - a. 270 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was 260.
  - b. 815 were 25-49 year olds. In January it was 795.
  - c. 260 were 50 or older. In January it was 270.
2. The overall claimant count in Midlothian is now 8.2% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In January 2023 there were 3,144 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In December it was 3,185.

## Scottish Borders Summary

1. In February 2023 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,050. Of these
  - a. 360 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was 345.
  - b. 1,145 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 1,145.
  - c. 545 were 50 or older. In January there were 560.
2. The overall claimant count in Scottish Borders is now 10.2% **higher** than it was in February 2020.
3. In January 2023 there were 3,300 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In December there were 3,415

## West Lothian Summary

1. In February 2023 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,080. Of these
  - a. 645 were 16-24 year olds. In January there were 645
  - b. 1,840 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 1,825
  - c. 590 were 50 or older. In January there were 590.
2. The overall claimant count in West Lothian is now 10.1% **lower** than it was in February 2020.
3. In January 2023 there were 5,950 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian. In December there were 6,049.

## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2023 Full Update

### Claimant Count by Nation and Region

From Table 1 it can be seen that in all but two regions of the UK the claimant count in February 2023 is higher than it was in February 2020. This ranges from London, where it remains 54% higher than pre-pandemic levels, through to Wales where it is 5% higher. Scotland is 2% lower than February 2020 whilst the North East of England is 9% lower than it was pre-pandemic.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

	February 2020	February 2022	January 2023	February 2023	Percentage Change		
					Feb20-Feb23	Feb22-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23
UK	1,255,770	1,776,875	1,502,820	1,543,080	23%	-13%	3%
East	89,890	134,515	110,580	113,415	26%	-16%	3%
East Midlands	80,915	111,665	97,675	101,160	25%	-9%	4%
London	184,765	329,280	275,385	284,875	54%	-13%	3%
North East	75,560	82,190	68,295	68,975	-9%	-16%	1%
North West	167,055	220,615	190,115	195,615	17%	-11%	3%
N. Ireland	29,910	39,090	34,985	36,065	21%	-8%	3%
Scotland	114,605	135,105	109,525	112,070	-2%	-17%	2%
South East	119,620	189,650	160,020	163,665	37%	-14%	2%
South West	75,595	105,385	85,690	86,880	15%	-18%	1%
Wales	60,375	75,715	61,685	63,265	5%	-16%	3%
West Midlands	141,095	195,900	173,830	178,355	26%	-9%	3%
Yorks & Humb	116,390	157,760	135,040	138,745	19%	-12%	3%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

If we look at the change over the last 12 months, we can see that across the UK the claimant count is between 8% and 18% lower than it was in February 2022. The most recent month to month change indicates increases of between 1% and 4% in each of the UK countries or regions.

### Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 looks specifically at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities (LAs). Whilst the majority of Scottish LAs now have a claimant count lower than it was in February 2020, in nine areas the claimant count is still higher than it was before the pandemic. These are:

- Aberdeen City (925 higher),
- Aberdeenshire (210 higher),
- Angus (15 higher),
- City of Edinburgh (1,530 higher),
- East Renfrewshire (45 higher),
- Glasgow (1,495),
- Perth and Kinross (310),
- Orkney Islands (45 higher),
- Scottish Borders (190 higher).

Across the City Region the claimant count is still 380 higher than it was in February 2020. We can also see in the table that the month to month change between January and February was one were more LAs saw an increase in the claimant count than recorded a fall.

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

	Feb 2020	Feb 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Percentage Change		
					Feb20-Feb23	Feb22-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23
Aberdeen City	4,150	6,205	4,885	5,075	22%	-18%	3.9%
Aberdeenshire	2,975	4,055	3,040	3,185	7%	-21%	4.8%
Angus	2,040	2,330	1,990	2,055	1%	-12%	3.3%
Argyll and Bute	1,530	1,810	1,420	1,470	-4%	-19%	3.5%
Edinburgh	7,105	10,320	8,505	8,635	22%	-16%	1.5%
Clackmannanshire	1,390	1,340	1,170	1,195	-14%	-11%	2.1%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,950	3,125	2,500	2,545	-14%	-19%	1.8%
Dundee City	4,530	4,825	4,105	4,215	-7%	-13%	2.7%
East Ayrshire	3,685	3,965	3,210	3,160	-14%	-20%	-1.6%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,230	1,570	1,215	1,200	-2%	-24%	-1.2%
East Lothian	1,765	2,040	1,470	1,505	-15%	-26%	2.4%
East Renfrewshire	950	1,210	950	995	5%	-18%	4.7%
Falkirk	3,300	3,720	3,080	3,135	-5%	-16%	1.8%
Fife	8,765	9,785	7,910	8,150	-7%	-17%	3.0%
Glasgow City	20,055	25,315	21,065	21,550	7%	-15%	2.3%
Highland	3,715	4,325	3,560	3,695	-1%	-15%	3.8%
Inverclyde	2,255	2,225	1,775	1,760	-22%	-21%	-0.8%
Midlothian	1,470	1,675	1,330	1,350	-8%	-19%	1.5%
Moray	1,550	1,785	1,415	1,400	-10%	-22%	-1.1%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	465	445	305	325	-30%	-27%	6.6%
North Ayrshire	4,600	4,435	3,640	3,700	-20%	-17%	1.6%
North Lanarkshire	8,230	9,310	7,350	7,635	-7%	-18%	3.9%
Orkney Islands	195	260	210	240	23%	-8%	14.3%
Perth and Kinross	1,865	2,595	2,115	2,175	17%	-16%	2.8%
Renfrewshire	4,025	4,330	3,510	3,635	-10%	-16%	3.6%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2,320	2,050	2,050	10%	-12%	0.0%
Shetland Islands	265	315	245	255	-4%	-19%	4.1%
South Ayrshire	2,790	3,070	2,440	2,440	-13%	-21%	0.0%
South Lanarkshire	7,015	7,940	6,090	6,305	-10%	-21%	3.5%
Stirling	1,540	1,620	1,455	1,455	-6%	-10%	0.0%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,930	3,130	2,460	2,505	-15%	-20%	1.8%
West Lothian	3,425	3,715	3,060	3,080	-10%	-17%	0.7%
Scotland	114,605	135,105	109,525	112,070	-2%	-17%	2.3%
City Region	24,390	29,855	24,325	24,770	1.6%	-17%	1.8%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

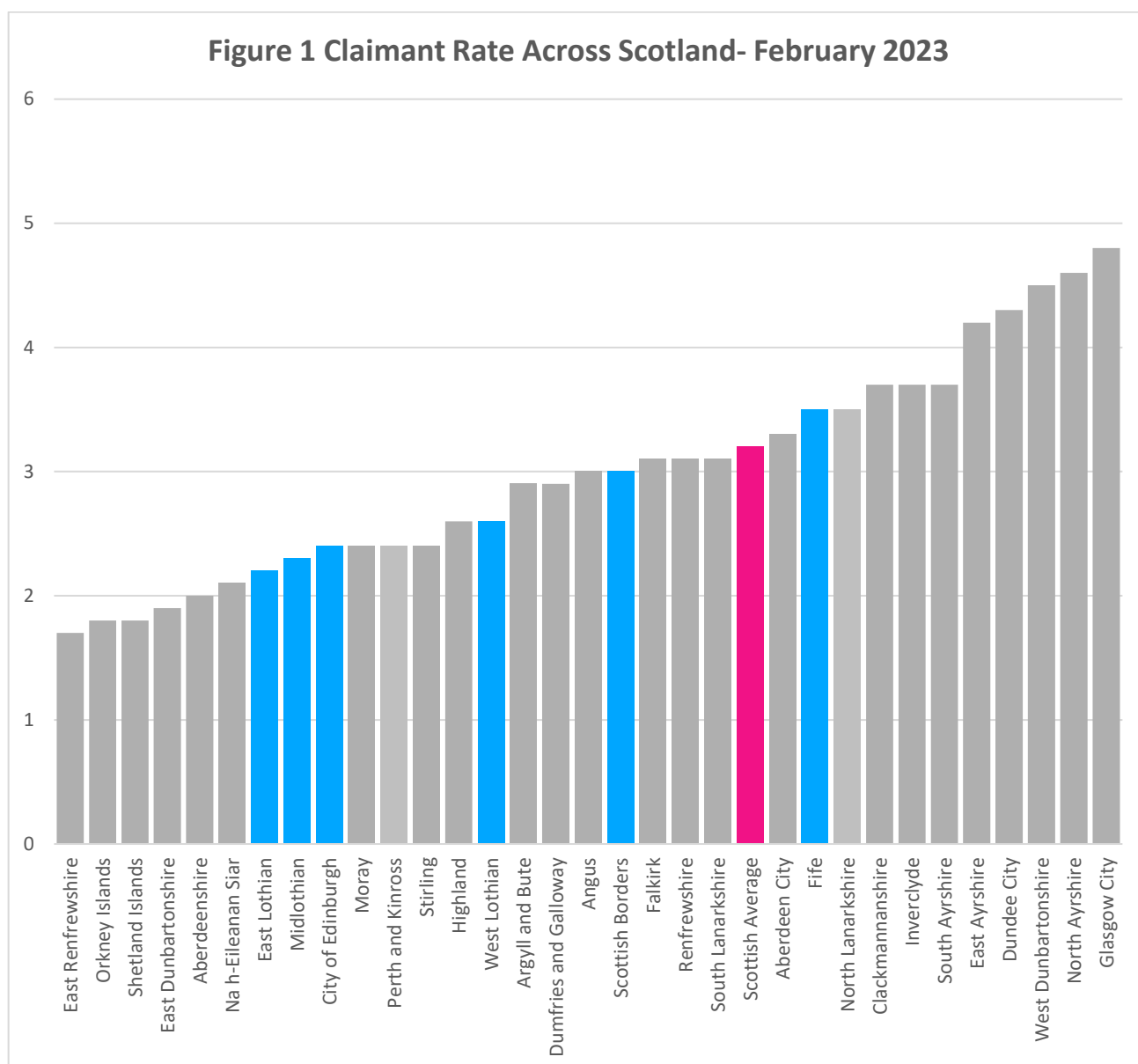
Looking outside Scotland it can be seen that a far higher number of LAs have a claimant count in excess of the February 2020 figure (172). Examining what has happened in cities that might be comparable to Edinburgh, cities such as York and Bristol for example, gives some context. Table 3 below looks at 5 comparator cities and when we compare Edinburgh to these cities the fact that the claimant count is still 22% above what it was in February 2020 is not unusual.

**Table 3: Claimant Count LA Comparison**

	Feb-20	Feb-23	Additional Claimants	Feb20-Feb23
Birmingham	48,560	61,395	12,835	26%
Leeds	17,695	22,775	5,080	29%
Manchester	17,410	22,830	5,420	31%
Bristol, City of	8,345	10,720	2,375	28%
City of Edinburgh	7,105	8,635	1,530	22%
Cardiff	8,260	9,155	895	11%
Belfast	7,175	9,120	1,945	27%
York	1,790	2,280	490	27%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

Figure 1 below looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as of February 2023. 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 14/3/2023**

## 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 February 2023 is higher than it was in February 2020 (0.6% higher). However, this isn't universal and whilst 4 of the 6 Local Authorities record a lower figure in 2023 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 21.7% higher and for Scottish Borders 10.8% 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 were more LAs recording month to month increases between January and February. Overall, the month-to-month changes range from a 3% increase in Fife to no change in Scottish Borders. The claimant count in the region in February was 24,770 a 1.8% increase from what was recorded in January. In terms of actual numerical change, across the region there were 445 more claimants in February than in January.

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

	Feb 20	Feb 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Percentage Change		
					Feb20-Feb23	Feb22-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23
Edinburgh	7,105	10,320	8,505	8,635	21.5%	-16.3%	1.5%
East Lothian	1,765	2,040	1,470	1,505	-14.7%	-26.2%	2.4%
Fife	8,765	9,785	7,910	8,150	-7.0%	-16.7%	3.0%
Midlothian	1,470	1,675	1,330	1,350	-8.2%	-19.4%	1.5%
Scottish Borders	1,860	2,320	2,050	2,050	10.2%	-11.6%	0.0%
West Lothian	3,425	3,715	3,060	3,080	-10.1%	-17.1%	0.7%
City Region	24,390	29,855	24,325	24,770	1.6%	-17.0%	1.8%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

Table 5 looks at the number of UC claimants across the region reflecting in work claimants. This indicates that across the region in February 2020 there were 19,338 claimants of universal credit who were in work. In January 2022 there were 41,168 and in January 2023 (the most recent data available) there were 41,802. What the table also highlights is the percentage change both in the longer term (February 2020 to January 2023) and over the last year. This highlights the increasing importance in this benefit in supporting people who are in the labour market.

**Table 5 Universal Credit Claimants In Employment**

	Feb-20	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb 2020- Jan 2023	Jan 2022- Jan 2023	Number Change over the year
City of Edinburgh	4,650	13,296	13,509	191%	2%	213
East Lothian	2,120	3,473	3,452	63%	-1%	-21
Fife	6,467	12,309	12,441	92%	1%	132
West Lothian	2,809	5,867	5,950	112%	1%	83
Scottish Borders	1,546	3,167	3,300	113%	4%	133
Midlothian	1,741	3,064	3,144	81%	3%	80
City Region	19,338	41,168	41,802	116%	2%	634

**Source: StatXplore 27/3/2023**

## 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 February 2020, February 2022, January 2023 and February 2023. From Table 6 we can see that the male claimant count in Edinburgh remains 16.8% higher than it was in February 2020 and in Scottish Borders it remains 8% higher. In the other LAs the male claimant count is lower than it was in 2020 and across the region it is much the same as it was in January.

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

	February 2020	February 2022	January 2023	February 2023		Feb20-Feb23	Feb22-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23
Edinburgh	4,435	6,535	5,100	5,180		16.8%	-20.7%	1.6%
East Lothian	1,005	1,205	880	885		-11.9%	-26.6%	0.6%
Fife	5,475	6,100	4,850	5,000		-8.7%	-18.0%	3.1%
Midlothian	865	1,030	770	785		-9.2%	-23.8%	1.9%
Scottish Borders	1,120	1,355	1,205	1,210		8.0%	-10.7%	0.4%
West Lothian	1,970	2,270	1,825	1,855		-5.8%	-18.3%	1.6%
City Region	14,870	18,495	14,630	14,915		0.3%	-19.4%	1.9%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

The month-to-month movements for male claimants between January 2023 and February 2023 has ranged from a 3.1% increase in Fife (increased by 150) to a 0.4% increase in Scottish Borders (an increase of 5!). Across the region there are now around 3,580 fewer male claimants than in February 2022.

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, and this has pulled the figure up for the City Region. What we can see is that the female claimant count in Edinburgh is 29.5% higher than it was pre-pandemic whilst the male claimant count is 16.8% higher and in Scottish Borders it is 8% for males and 13.5% higher for females, so across both LAs the increase in the female count is more marked.

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

	February 2020	February 2022	January 2023	February 2023		Feb20-Feb23	Feb22-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23
Edinburgh	2,665	3,785	3,405	3,450		29.5%	-8.9%	1.3%
East Lothian	760	835	590	620		-18.4%	-25.7%	5.1%
Fife	3,290	3,685	3,060	3,150		-4.3%	-14.5%	2.9%
Midlothian	605	645	555	560		-7.4%	-13.2%	0.9%
Scottish Borders	740	965	850	840		13.5%	-13.0%	-1.2%
West Lothian	1,455	1,445	1,235	1,225		-15.8%	-15.2%	-0.8%
City Region	9,515	11,360	9,695	9,845		3.5%	-13.3%	1.5%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

Overall, we can see that there are 9,845 female claimants in the city region and 14,915 male claimants. The female claimant count in February is 1.5% higher than it was in January whilst the male claimant count is 1.9% 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 January 2023 26,679 female claimants were recorded (this is down slightly on the previous month).

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

	Feb-20		Jan-21		Jan-22		Jan-23	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
City of Edinburgh	1,875	2,769	6,891	8,191	5,722	7,576	5,460	8,050
East Lothian	674	1,441	1,392	2,267	1,235	2,233	1,105	2,346
Fife	2,283	4,182	5,262	7,256	4,680	7,628	4,361	8,082
West Lothian	966	1,844	2,492	3,503	2,202	3,658	1,980	3,970
Scottish Borders	524	1,019	1,300	1,831	1,243	1,927	1,193	2,113
Midlothian	506	1,237	1,248	2,012	1,076	1,992	1,020	2,122
Total	6,834	12,492	18,580	25,051	16,160	25,006	15,122	26,679

**Source: StatXplore 17/03/2023**

## 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 60.6% fall ranging from 64.3% in East Lothian through to 57.5% in Fife. There are still however, 4,250 4,180 16-24 year olds claiming in the city region up by 70 since January.

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 2.4% between January and February. This varies across the region – a 5.5% month to month increase in East Lothian through to a fall of 0.4% (or 5 claimants) in Edinburgh. We can see from the table that for 16-24 year olds the claimant count in Edinburgh remains 10.3% higher than it was in February 2020 and for every other LA it is lower than it was in February 2020.

**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	10,790	
Peak Month	Jul-20	Jul-20	Jul-20	Jul-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Jul-20	
Feb-22	1,325	330	1,730	315	390	720	4,810	
Jan-23	1,180	275	1,445	260	345	645	4,150	
Feb-23	1,175	290	1,510	270	360	645	4,250	
% Change	Feb20-Peak	203.0%	152.0%	104.0%	114.0%	113.0%	114.0%	134.0%
	Peak-Feb23	-64.3%	-63.5%	-57.5%	-61.2%	-59.3%	-58.9%	-60.6%
	Feb22-Feb23	-11.3%	-12.1%	-12.7%	-14.3%	-7.7%	-10.4%	-11.6%
	Jan23-Feb23	-0.4%	5.5%	4.5%	3.8%	4.3%	0.0%	2.4%
	Feb20-Feb23	10.3%	-7.9%	-13.2%	-16.9%	-13.3%	-12.2%	-7.5%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**



### 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 50.7% fall ranging from 57.6% in East Lothian through to 41.6% in Scottish Borders. There are still however, 14,950 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	30355	
Peak Month	Aug-20	May-20	Aug-20	May-20	May-20	Aug-20	Aug-20	
Feb-22	6,530	1,205	5,720	1,005	1,295	2,245	18,000	
Jan-23	5,365	865	4,605	795	1,145	1,825	14,600	
Feb-23	5,510	890	4,750	815	1,145	1,840	14,950	
% Change	Feb20-Peak	172.0%	106.0%	76.0%	116.0%	101.0%	101.0%	114.0%
	Peak-Feb23	-53.0%	-57.6%	-45.9%	-56.3%	-41.6%	-53.3%	-50.7%
	Feb22-Feb23	-15.6%	-26.1%	-17.0%	-18.9%	-11.6%	-18.0%	-16.9%
	Jan23-Feb23	2.7%	2.9%	3.1%	2.5%	0.0%	0.8%	2.4%
	Feb20-Feb23	27.8%	-12.7%	-4.8%	-5.8%	17.4%	-6.4%	5.8%

Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023

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 2.4% between January and February. This varies across the region – a 3.1% month to month increase in Fife (an increase of 145 people) through to no change month to month in Scottish Borders.

### 50 Year Olds and Over

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 52.7% fall ranging from 63.3% in East Lothian through to 46.6% in Scottish Borders. There are still however, 5,555 claimants aged 50 or over in the city region.

**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	11,755	
Peak Month	Feb-21	Feb-21	Aug-20	Feb-21	May-20	Aug-20	Feb-21	
Feb-22	2,465	505	2,340	355	635	745	7,045	
Jan-23	1,960	330	1,860	270	560	590	5,570	
Feb-23	1,950	325	1,885	260	545	590	5,555	
% Change	Feb20-Peak	138.0%	106.0%	76.0%	141.0%	117.0%	106.0%	104.0%
	Peak-Feb23	-52.6%	-63.3%	-47.1%	-61.5%	-46.6%	-60.5%	-52.7%
	Feb22-Feb23	-20.9%	-35.6%	-19.4%	-26.8%	-14.2%	-20.8%	-21.1%
	Jan23-Feb23	-0.5%	-1.5%	1.3%	-3.7%	-2.7%	0.0%	-0.3%
	Feb20-Feb23	13%	-24%	-7%	-7%	16%	-19%	-2%

Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023

In terms of the latest month to month figures, the table indicates that the number of claimants 50 or older across the region is much the same in February as it was in January. However, this varies across the region – 3.7% month to month fall in Midlothian through to a 1.3% increase in Fife.

## Ward Profile

This section looks at the ward position for each LA in turn.

### Edinburgh

Table 12 gives the current situation in the 17 Edinburgh Wards, the percentage change since the start of the pandemic and the change recorded between January and February 2023. Looking at the change from January 2023 to February 2023 3 wards recorded a fall or no change. Every other ward in the city recorded a month-to-month increase. The ward that saw the largest month to month change was Leith Walk that recorded a 6.2% increase. We can see that there are 10 wards in the city with over 500 claimants and 2 with over 750.

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. 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 2022, 775 in September and 880 in October) it has recorded a month to month fall from 880 in October to 830 in December, 820 in January and 805 in February. It remains, however, the ward with the highest number of claimants not only in Edinburgh but in the whole of the City Region.

**Table 12 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward February 2023**

Wards	Feb 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2023				
		Feb20-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	560	13.1%	2.8%	60.7%	39.3%	12.5%	66.1%	20.5%
City Centre	635	29.6%	1.6%	66.9%	33.1%	12.6%	65.4%	22.8%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	235	34.3%	2.2%	53.2%	46.8%	17.0%	57.4%	23.4%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	155	29.2%	0.0%	58.1%	45.2%	12.9%	64.5%	25.8%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	555	0.9%	1.8%	62.2%	37.8%	9.0%	69.4%	21.6%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	285	26.7%	-1.7%	57.9%	42.1%	14.0%	63.2%	22.8%
Forth	785	9.0%	0.6%	60.5%	40.1%	14.0%	64.3%	22.3%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	275	34.1%	-1.8%	60.0%	40.0%	12.7%	60.0%	27.3%
Inverleith	325	47.7%	4.8%	58.5%	41.5%	15.4%	58.5%	26.2%
Leith	805	27.8%	0.6%	54.0%	46.0%	10.6%	68.9%	20.5%
Leith Walk	690	25.5%	6.2%	58.7%	41.3%	10.1%	66.7%	23.2%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	705	30.6%	1.4%	59.6%	39.7%	15.6%	61.7%	22.0%
Morningside	200	33.3%	0.0%	57.5%	42.5%	15.0%	62.5%	22.5%
Pentland Hills	700	12.0%	0.7%	60.7%	39.3%	15.7%	62.1%	22.1%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	705	12.8%	0.7%	59.6%	40.4%	14.9%	64.5%	20.6%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	690	25.5%	0.7%	62.3%	37.7%	18.1%	60.1%	21.7%
Southside/ Newington	330	43.5%	3.1%	62.1%	36.4%	13.6%	56.1%	30.3%
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>8,635</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>63.8%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>

Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023

Overall, in Edinburgh in February 2023, 60% of claimants were male and 13.6% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 66.9% of the claimants are male the highest in the city region. Southside and Newington had the highest percentage of claimants over the age of 50 – the only

ward where more than 30% of claimants are that age – whilst Sighthill and Gorgie 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 just over 1,400 in Forth Ward who are working but their earnings are low enough that they can receive UC. This has increased by 2% since January 2022. In Leith Ward there are 1,205 individuals working and claiming and this has increased by 29% over the last 12 months.

**Table 13 In Work UC Claimant Count by Edinburgh Ward January 2023**

	Feb-20	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb 20-Jan 23	Jan22-Jan23
Almond	360	903	962	167%	7%
City Centre	178	640	615	246%	-4%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	164	412	444	171%	8%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	83	269	283	241%	5%
Craigentinny/Duddingston	321	963	911	184%	-5%
Drum Brae/Gyle	176	532	533	203%	0%
Forth	470	1,377	1,405	199%	2%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	131	394	360	175%	-9%
Inverleith	138	446	440	219%	-1%
Leith	344	933	1,205	250%	29%
Leith Walk	307	1,006	918	199%	-9%
Liberton/Gilmerton	458	1,206	1,253	174%	4%
Morningside	66	325	242	267%	-26%
Pentland Hills	502	1,128	1,131	125%	0%
Portobello/Craigmillar	449	1,188	1,267	182%	7%
Sighthill/Gorgie	385	1,161	1,145	197%	-1%
Southside/Newington	113	401	392	247%	-2%

**Source: StatXplore 17/03/2023**

### East Lothian

Table 14 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count 15% lower than it was in February 2020. The February count is 2.4% higher than it was in January. Two wards saw no change between January and February whilst the other 4 saw an increase. North Berwick Coastal recorded a 5.3% increase month to month but the claimant count in that ward is very low – the lowest in the city region in fact.

**Table 14 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2023**

Wards	Feb 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2023				
		Feb20-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	165	-18%	0.0%	55%	45%	15%	61%	21%
Haddington and Lammermuir	245	-6%	2.1%	57%	43%	16%	57%	24%
Musselburgh	375	-18%	4.2%	64%	36%	20%	60%	21%
North Berwick Coastal	100	18%	5.3%	60%	40%	15%	60%	25%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	245	-21%	2.1%	59%	41%	20%	57%	20%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	375	-17%	0.0%	57%	43%	21%	59%	20%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>22%</b>

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

Across the county 59% of claimants are male and this varies from 57% in Haddington and Lammermuir and Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry to 64% in Musselburgh. Musselburgh (along with Preston, Seton and

Gosford) also has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds and North Berwick Coastal has the highest proportion of over 50 year olds.

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 January 2022 and January 2023 in every ward bar Haddington and Lammermuir and Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry. where the count is 2% and 1% higher respectively. The situation in Dunbar and East Linton Ward is the same as it was 12 months ago.

**Table 15 In Work UC Claimant Count by East Lothian Ward January 2023**

	Feb-20	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb 20-Jan 23	Jan22-Jan23
Dunbar and East Linton	285	447	446	56%	0%
Haddington and Lammermuir	288	533	543	89%	2%
Musselburgh	499	779	753	51%	-3%
North Berwick Coastal	146	259	252	73%	-3%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	349	584	571	64%	-2%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	547	871	883	61%	1%

**Source: StatXplore 17/3/2023**

### Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. From Table 16 it is apparent that 6 of the 22 wards have a claimant count higher than it was in February 2020 and in two ward it's the same. The claimant count in Kirkcaldy Central is still 14.7% higher than it was in February 2020 whilst at the other extreme Dunfermline North has a claimant count 21.7% lower than in 2020.

The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages where 765 individuals were looking for work and claiming in January. This is 4.1% higher than what was recorded in January. The largest month to month change was a 13.9% increase in East Neuk and Landward, although the number of claimants are relatively low in that ward.

**Table 16 Fife Claimant Count by Ward February 2023**

Wards	Feb 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2023				
		Feb20-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	765	-15.0%	4.1%	65%	35%	22%	57%	21%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	335	-11.8%	1.5%	58%	43%	18%	57%	25%
Cowdenbeath	575	-5.7%	3.6%	61%	40%	19%	59%	22%
Cupar	210	0.0%	0.0%	64%	36%	19%	57%	24%
Dunfermline Central	340	-13.9%	0.0%	59%	41%	18%	65%	18%
Dunfermline North	325	-21.7%	0.0%	66%	34%	22%	60%	17%
Dunfermline South	400	-11.1%	2.6%	59%	43%	18%	65%	18%
East Neuk and Landward	205	10.8%	13.9%	61%	39%	12%	56%	32%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	355	-4.1%	6.0%	63%	37%	23%	56%	21%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	295	-16.9%	0.0%	63%	37%	17%	64%	19%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	335	-4.3%	4.7%	60%	40%	21%	55%	24%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	190	8.6%	2.7%	58%	42%	16%	53%	32%

Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	260	13.0%	2.0%	54%	46%	12%	52%	35%
Kirkcaldy Central	665	14.7%	3.1%	62%	38%	17%	60%	24%
Kirkcaldy East	650	1.6%	0.8%	64%	36%	18%	56%	25%
Kirkcaldy North	355	-9.0%	2.9%	59%	41%	17%	63%	20%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	420	-15.2%	5.0%	65%	36%	19%	54%	29%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	580	-15.3%	3.6%	63%	37%	21%	59%	20%
Rosyth	270	-11.5%	0.0%	56%	44%	17%	59%	24%
St Andrews	110	4.8%	4.8%	64%	36%	14%	45%	41%
Tay Bridgehead	190	0.0%	5.6%	61%	39%	18%	61%	24%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	310	-12.7%	5.1%	61%	39%	18%	58%	24%
Fife	8,150	-7.0%	3.0%	61%	39%	19%	58%	23%

Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023

In terms of gender the average across the Kingdom is that 39% of claimants are female and 61% are male. In Glenrothes Central and Thornton, 21% 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 12% of the individuals claiming in February were 16-24 years of age. In St Andrews 41% of the 110 claimants are aged over 50- the highest proportion in the city region.

Table 17 looks at the in-work UC claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 12,441 Fife residents working and claiming UC support in January 2023 around 400 fewer than December. Again, there are people needing this support across the Kingdom with all but three wards 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.

**Table 17 In Work UC Claimant Count by Fife Ward January 2023**

	Feb-20	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb 20- Jan 23	Jan22- Jan23
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	527	981	980	86%	0%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	206	396	393	91%	-1%
Cowdenbeath	494	888	847	71%	-5%
Cupar	187	352	364	95%	3%
Dunfermline Central	328	594	605	84%	2%
Dunfermline North	271	499	467	72%	-6%
Dunfermline South	359	729	696	94%	-5%
East Neuk and Landward	142	284	288	103%	1%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	355	635	659	86%	4%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	321	568	534	66%	-6%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	350	670	697	99%	4%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	114	276	286	151%	4%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	164	346	425	159%	23%
Kirkcaldy Central	372	681	674	81%	-1%
Kirkcaldy East	384	731	751	96%	3%
Kirkcaldy North	277	578	538	94%	-7%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	323	624	626	94%	0%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	502	913	964	92%	6%
Rosyth	288	585	607	111%	4%
St. Andrews	86	152	175	103%	15%
Tay Bridgehead	161	297	336	109%	13%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	259	530	536	107%	1%

Source: StatXplore 17/03/2023

## Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 18 below. Looking at the change between January and February three wards recorded a month-to-month increase, one ward saw the claimant count remain the same and in two wards the February figure was lower than that recorded in January.

**Table 18 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2023**

Wards	Feb 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2023				
		Feb20-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	190	5.6%	0.0%	55%	45%	21%	58%	24%
Dalkeith	275	-6.8%	7.8%	58%	42%	24%	60%	16%
Midlothian East	250	-2.0%	2.0%	51%	49%	16%	64%	20%
Midlothian South	225	-25.0%	-2.2%	63%	37%	22%	62%	18%
Midlothian West	220	4.8%	2.3%	58%	42%	20%	55%	25%
Penicuik	185	-17.8%	-2.6%	65%	35%	16%	68%	19%
Midlothian	1,350	-8.2%	1.5%	58%	42%	20%	60%	19%

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

Overall numbers are *relatively* low with only one ward recording more than 250 claimants and the claimant count in Midlothian is 8.2% lower than it was in February 2020. Midlothian East recorded the highest proportion of female claimants in February and at 24% of claimants, Dalkeith had the highest proportion of young people claiming (also the highest proportion in the City Region), whilst Midlothian West has the highest proportion of claimants aged over 50.

Table 19 looks at the number of in work UC claimants in the 6 Midlothian wards. It indicates that there are around 1,400 more in work claimants in Midlothian than there were before the pandemic. On average, in January, there were 523 working individuals needing UC support in every ward in Midlothian, with Midlothian South having the highest number of claimants at 603 and Midlothian West having the least.

**Table 19 In Work UC Claimant Count by Midlothian Ward January 2023**

	Feb-20	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb 20-Jan 23	Jan22-Jan23
Bonnyrigg	262	474	510	95%	8%
Dalkeith	332	549	563	70%	3%
Midlothian East	339	545	568	68%	4%
Midlothian South	332	611	603	82%	-1%
Midlothian West	205	426	441	115%	4%
Penicuik	274	455	454	66%	0%

**Source: StatXplore 17/3/2023**

## West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 20 below. The February claimant count ranged from 120 in Linlithgow to 575 in Whitburn and Blackburn. That's a fall of 4% month to month in Linlithgow and a month to month increase of 3.6% in Whitburn and Blackburn.

Overall 5 of the wards in West Lothian recorded a month to month increase between January and February and 2 wards recorded a fall in the claimant count. Linlithgow which recorded an increase

of 8.7% between November and December recorded no real change between December and January and then a fall of 4.0% between January and February.

**Table 20 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward January 2023**

Wards	Feb 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2023				
		Feb20-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	280	-9.7%	0.0%	59%	41%	21%	61%	18%
Bathgate	425	-9.6%	0.0%	62%	38%	21%	56%	21%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	325	-11.0%	3.2%	63%	37%	20%	55%	26%
East Livingston & E. Calder	350	-7.9%	2.9%	57%	43%	21%	59%	20%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	375	-7.4%	1.4%	67%	33%	20%	68%	13%
Linlithgow	120	-11.1%	-4.0%	50%	50%	13%	58%	29%
Livingston North	255	-21.5%	-7.3%	57%	43%	24%	59%	18%
Livingston South	375	-16.7%	1.4%	57%	41%	20%	63%	17%
Whitburn & Blackburn	575	-1.7%	3.6%	60%	40%	23%	59%	18%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>-10.1%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>19%</b>

**Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023**

As with other areas there are generally more male claimants in every ward than female. In terms of the age profile, in one ward 23% of claimants are 16-24 years of age. Compare this to Linlithgow where 29% of those claiming are aged over 50.

Table 21 indicates that across West Lothian in January there were 5,950 individuals working and claiming UC which is 100 less than the previous month. The average was 659 claimants per ward in January, and 4 had above average claimant numbers.

**Table 21 In Work UC Claimant Count by West Lothian Ward January 2023**

	Feb-20	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb 20- Jan 23	Jan22- Jan23
Armadale and Blackridge	247	519	514	108%	-1%
Bathgate	360	777	749	108%	-4%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	282	603	611	117%	1%
East Livingston and East Calder	354	686	733	107%	7%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	302	584	625	107%	7%
Linlithgow	103	216	205	99%	-5%
Livingston North	299	686	642	115%	-6%
Livingston South	399	810	847	112%	5%
Whitburn and Blackburn	460	978	1,011	120%	3%

**Source: StatXplore 17/3/2023**

### *Scottish Borders*

Table 22 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that in 9 wards the claimant count in February 2023 is still higher (in some instances significantly higher) than it was in February 2020. This contributes to the fact that Scottish Borders (along with Edinburgh) are the 2 LAs in the city region where the claimant count remains higher than pre-pandemic.

We can see that in 3 of the Scottish Borders wards there was no change in the claimant count between January and February and 4 wards recorded month-to-month falls. The remaining 4 wards

recorded a month-to-month increase. The table indicates that 41% of claimants are female and this ranges from 48% in Jedburgh and District to 34% in Selkirkshire. Jedburgh and District recorded 23% of claimants in January as being 16-24 years of age and in Kelso and District 34% of claimants were over 50 years of age.

**Table 22 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward February 2023**

Wards	February 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2023				
		Feb20-Feb23	Jan23-Feb23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	180	12.5%	0.0%	53%	47%	17%	56%	31%
Galashiels and District	390	1.3%	-2.5%	63%	37%	15%	59%	26%
Hawick and Denholm	245	4.3%	4.3%	59%	41%	22%	61%	16%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	0.0%	-2.7%	61%	39%	22%	53%	28%
Jedburgh and District	155	19.2%	10.7%	52%	48%	23%	55%	23%
Kelso and District	160	14.3%	0.0%	63%	38%	16%	53%	34%
Leaderdale & Melrose	130	13.0%	0.0%	50%	46%	15%	58%	27%
Mid Berwickshire	165	17.9%	3.1%	55%	45%	18%	48%	33%
Selkirkshire	160	-3.0%	-3.0%	66%	34%	22%	53%	25%
Tweeddale East	120	14.3%	-11.1%	67%	38%	13%	58%	29%
Tweeddale West	165	57.1%	6.5%	58%	39%	12%	58%	30%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>27%</b>

Source: NOMIS 14/3/2023

Table 23 looks at the number of people in work and claiming in the Borders, and in January 2023 there were 3,300 people working who needed the support of universal credit. This is just over 100 lower than recorded in December. The average number of claimants is 300 per ward therefore 4 of the 11 wards have above average claimant numbers.

**Table 23 In Work UC Claimant Count by Scottish Borders Ward January 2023**

	Feb-20	Jan-22	Jan-23	Feb 20-Jan 23	Jan22-Jan23
East Berwickshire	165	318	354	115%	11%
Galashiels and District	286	543	544	90%	0%
Hawick and Denholm	185	381	382	106%	0%
Hawick and Hermitage	140	275	257	84%	-7%
Jedburgh and District	103	242	241	134%	0%
Kelso and District	121	240	278	130%	16%
Leaderdale and Melrose	130	245	273	110%	11%
Mid Berwickshire	114	281	330	189%	17%
Selkirkshire	108	256	238	120%	-7%
Tweeddale East	91	199	213	134%	7%
Tweeddale West	95	175	191	101%	9%

Source: StatXplore 17/3/2023

## 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. If this is considered, the survey can provide a useful indication of local labour markets beyond what is available from claimant counts.



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). One thing to note is that the LFS responses have been reweighted to new populations derived using growth rates from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Real Time Information (RTI), to allow for different trends during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. According to NOMIS the reweighting will give improved estimates of both rates and levels and affect all LFS periods from January to March 2020 onwards.

From this we can see that the economically active population of Scotland has increased by around 63,800 over the last three survey cycles. The total in employment has increased by just over 94,000 in the same time frame and the number economically inactive has fallen by just on 51,000.

**Table 24 Economic Activity (Scotland)**

Economic Activity	Nov 2020- Jan 2021	Nov 2021- Jan 2022	Nov 2022- Jan 2023
All persons - aged 16 and over	4,478,226	4,488,532	4,505,002
Total economically active - aged 16 to 64	2,655,703	2,661,452	2,719,502
Total in employment - aged 16 to 64	2,538,995	2,556,333	2,633,084
Total unemployed - aged 16 to 64	116,708	105,119	86,418
Total economically inactive - aged 16 to 64	774,406	769,216	723,478

**Source: NOMIS 17/3/2023**

Table 26 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. **This is the same data as circulated last month as it hasn't yet been updated on NOMIS.**

**Table 26 Economic activity aged 16-64 (October 2021-September 2022 Sample)**

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
Economic activity rate - aged 16-64	83.1	78.1	74.7	82.6	84.0	77.0
% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64	16.9	21.9	25.3	17.4	16.0	23.0
% of economically inactive who want a job	11.0	13.2	20.9	10.0	16.1	23.1
Estimated number economically inactive who want a job	6,600	1,900	11,900	1,000	1,700	6,200

**Source: NOMIS 17/3/2023**

It gives the economic activity rate in all 6 authorities and, of those that are economically inactive in each authority, the proportion and number who want a job. It is worth noting that Economically Active includes in employment and those claiming an out of work benefit. Economically inactive are the more difficult to pinpoint group. So, if the estimates are correct these would be in addition to the claimant count.

The caveat with these statistics is that as it is a survey there are confidence limits 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.

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