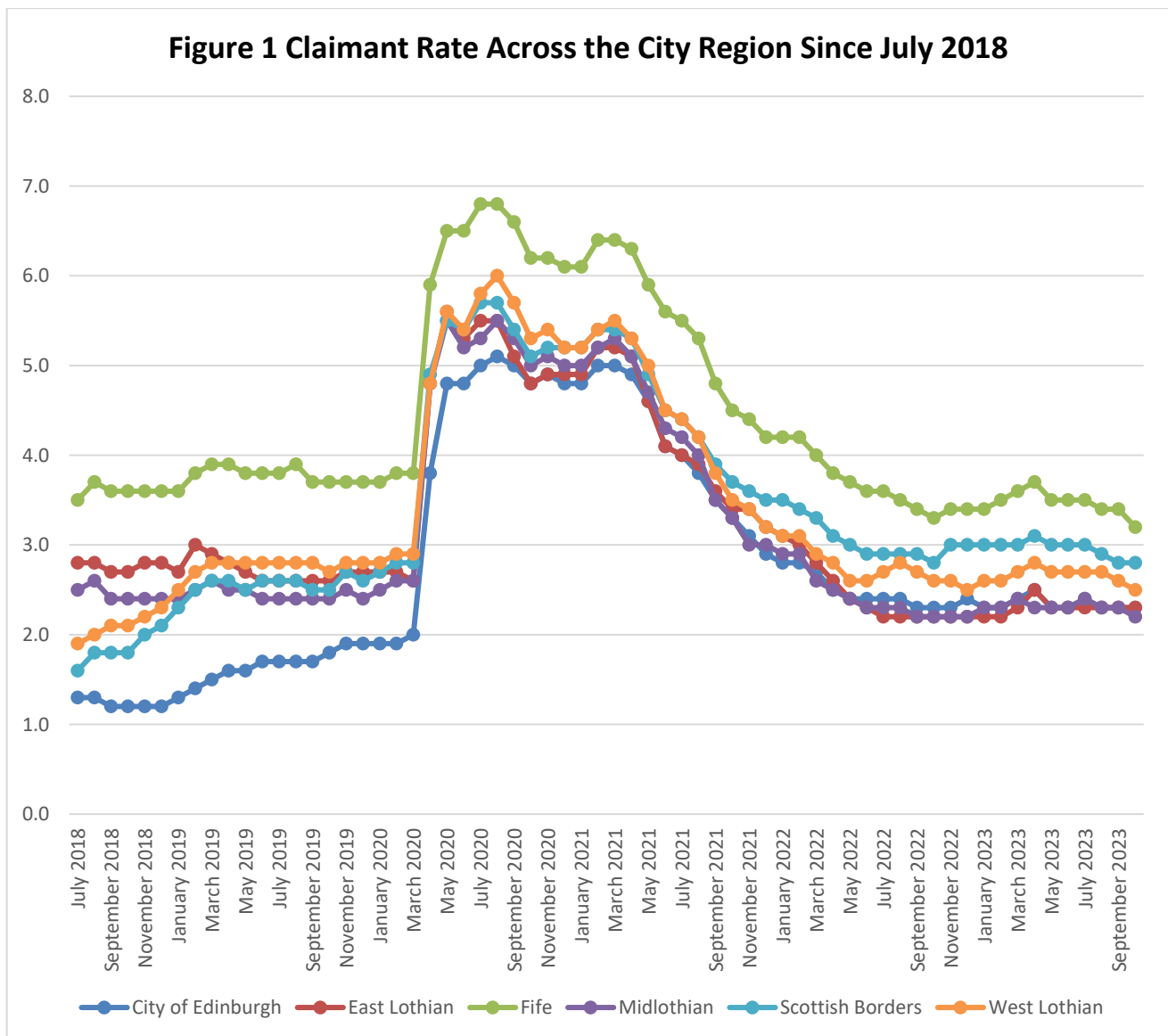


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count November 2023 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between October 2022 and October 2023:	Claimant Count Change Between September 2023 and October 2023:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 3.4% ↓ Scotland decreased by 2.6% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 1.7% ↓ City Region decreased by 2.1% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.1% ↓ Scotland decreased by 0.8% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 0.5% ↓ City Region decreased by 0.7%



Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

City Region Summary

1. In October 2023 the claimant count for the City Region was 23,440. Of these
 - a. 4,290 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,250 in September.
 - b. 13,905 were 25-49 year olds down from 14,140 in September.
 - c. 5,240 were 50 or older down from 5,315 in September.
2. In September 2023 there were 43,033 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In August there were 42,749.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In October 2023 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,400. Of these
 - a. 1,205 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,170 in September.
 - b. 5,240 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,275 in September.
 - c. 1,955 were 50 or older. It was 1,915 in September.
2. In September 2023 there were 13,563 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In August there were 13,513.

East Lothian Summary

1. In October 2023 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,530. Of these
 - a. 305 were 16-24 year olds. In September there were 305.
 - b. 895 were 25-49 year olds. In September there were 870.
 - c. 335 were 50 or older. In September there were 420.
2. In September 2023 there were 3,494 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In August there were 3,493.

Fife Summary

1. In October 2023 the claimant count for Fife was 7,405. Of these
 - a. 1,490 were 16-24 year olds. In September there were 1,500.
 - b. 4,270 were 25-49 years of age. In September there were 4,325.
 - c. 1,640 were 50 or older. In September there were 1,635.
2. In September 2023 there were 12,946 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In August there were 12,861.

Midlothian Summary

1. In October 2023 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,275. Of these
 - a. 265 were 16-24 year olds. In September it was 270.
 - b. 770 were 25-49 year olds. In September it was 820.
 - c. 235 were 50 or older. In September it was 255.
2. In September 2023 there were 3,267 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In August there were 3,245.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In October 2023 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,900. Of these
 - a. 370 were 16-24 year olds. In September it was 355.
 - b. 1,040 were 25-49 year olds. In September there were 1,060.
 - c. 490 were 50 or older. In September there were 475.
2. In September 2023 there were 3,499 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In August there were 3,478.

West Lothian Summary

1. In October 2023 the claimant count for West Lothian was 2,930. Of these
 - a. 655 were 16-24 year olds. In September there were 650.
 - b. 1,690 were 25-49 year olds. In September there were 1,790.
 - c. 585 were 50 or older. In September there were 615.
2. In September 2023 there were 6,263 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian. In August there were 6,163.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count November 2023 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that the claimant count in October 2023 is higher than it was 5 years ago. In Scotland it is 13.4% higher than in October 2018 and in the UK it is 65.4% higher. We can also see that in all but 3 regions and countries of the UK the claimant count in October 2023 is higher than it was in October 2022. This ranges from London, where it is 8.5% higher than a year ago, through to the North East where it is 4.2% lower. Scotland is 2.6% lower than last year.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	Oct 18	Oct 22	Sep 23	Oct 23	Percentage Change		
					Oct 18- Oct 23	Oct 22- Oct 23	Sep 23- Oct 23
UK	931,140	1,489,340	1,523,970	1,540,385	65.4%	3.4%	1.1%
East	61,055	109,400	113,830	115,870	89.8%	5.9%	1.8%
East Midlands	52,950	94,250	99,940	101,460	91.6%	7.6%	1.5%
London	134,950	278,680	295,780	302,400	124.1%	8.5%	2.2%
North East	61,760	67,260	64,680	64,410	4.3%	-4.2%	-0.4%
North West	129,460	188,440	189,225	190,120	46.9%	0.9%	0.5%
N. Ireland	28,925	35,825	37,650	37,540	29.8%	4.8%	-0.3%
Scotland	91,840	106,930	105,030	104,185	13.4%	-2.6%	-0.8%
South East	79,400	158,910	161,450	164,015	106.6%	3.2%	1.6%
South West	55,255	82,750	84,865	86,010	55.7%	3.9%	1.3%
Wales	44,690	60,950	59,985	60,370	35.1%	-1.0%	0.6%
West Midlands	104,160	172,685	176,710	177,940	70.8%	3.0%	0.7%
Yorks & Humb	86,690	133,255	134,825	136,060	57.0%	2.1%	0.9%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

The most recent month to month change indicates that in the case of 3 regions and nations there was a month to month fall, 9 recorded an increase.

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 a year ago 6 had a claimant count in October 2023 that was higher than October 2022. Out of the 6 LAs that make up the City Region, 4 saw a year to year fall with East Lothian and Midlothian the only 2 recording an increase between October 2022 and October 2023.

In the City Region the claimant count in October 2023 is 0.7% lower than in September. Three of the six LAs saw a month to month fall and three recorded an increase between September and October.

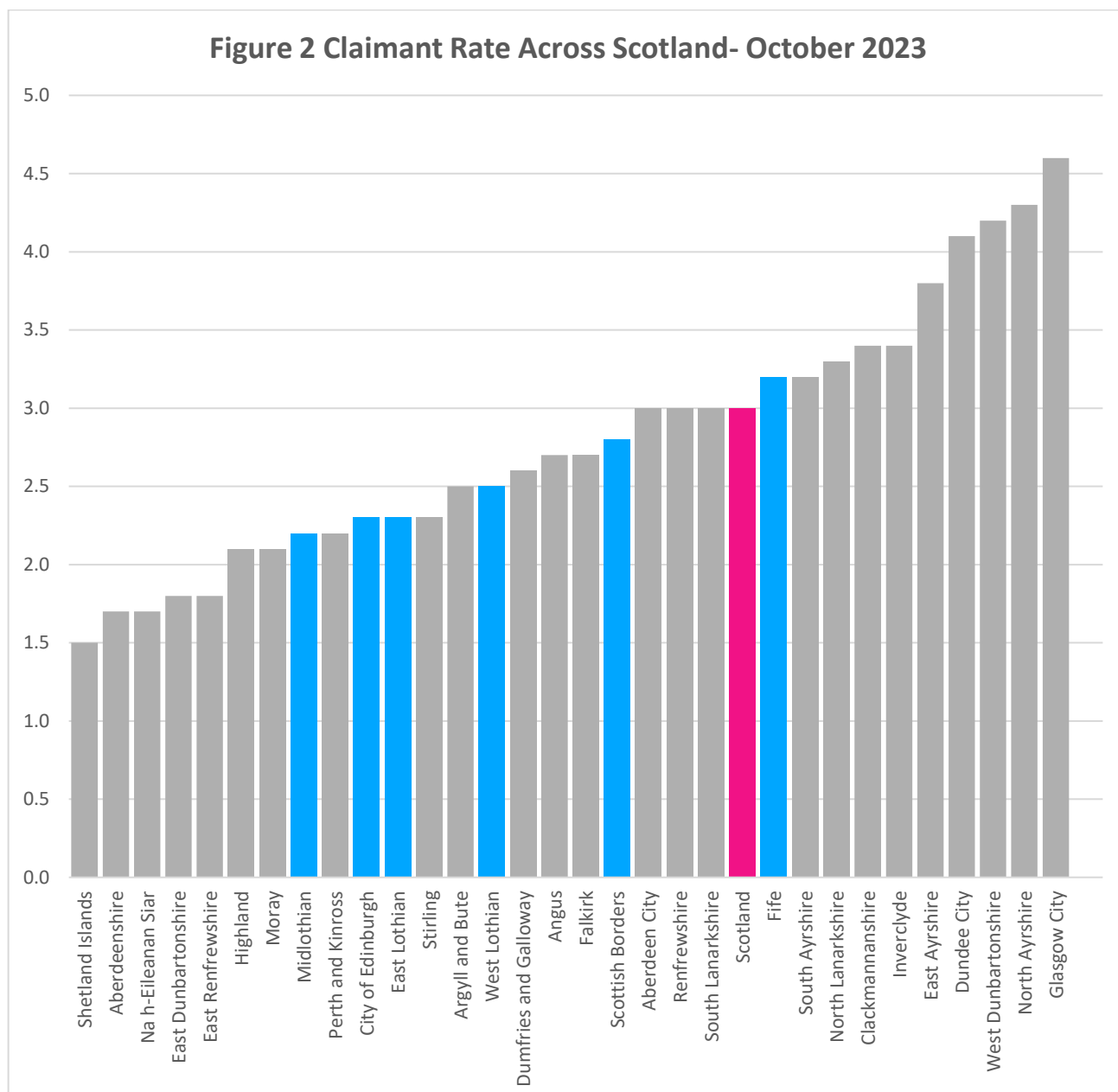
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

	Oct 2018	Oct 2022	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Oct18-Oct23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Aberdeen City	2,860	5,125	4,625	4,675	63.5%	-8.8%	1.1%
Aberdeenshire	2,085	2,885	2,835	2,800	34.3%	-2.9%	-1.2%
Angus	1,970	1,880	1,835	1,860	-5.6%	-1.1%	1.4%
Argyll and Bute	865	1,310	1,285	1,295	49.7%	-1.1%	0.8%
Edinburgh	4,480	8,545	8,355	8,400	87.5%	-1.7%	0.5%
Clackmannanshire	1,355	1,115	1,085	1,085	-19.9%	-2.7%	0.0%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,030	2,435	2,370	2,245	10.6%	-7.8%	-5.3%
Dundee City	4,140	4,005	4,045	4,015	-3.0%	0.2%	-0.7%
East Ayrshire	3,530	3,000	2,950	2,890	-18.1%	-3.7%	-2.0%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,120	1,240	1,215	1,155	3.1%	-6.9%	-4.9%
East Lothian	1,780	1,440	1,500	1,530	-14.0%	6.3%	2.0%
East Renfrewshire	630	925	1,005	1,010	60.3%	9.2%	0.5%
Falkirk	2,950	2,880	2,815	2,805	-4.9%	-2.6%	-0.4%
Fife	8,260	7,740	7,460	7,405	-10.4%	-4.3%	-0.7%
Glasgow City	12,835	20,810	20,495	20,425	59.1%	-1.9%	-0.3%
Highland	3,385	3,165	2,960	3,050	-9.9%	-3.6%	3.0%
Inverclyde	2,470	1,730	1,680	1,640	-33.6%	-5.2%	-2.4%
Midlothian	1,375	1,260	1,345	1,275	-7.3%	1.2%	-5.2%
Moray	1,145	1,305	1,210	1,220	6.6%	-6.5%	0.8%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	240	290	275	265	10.4%	-8.6%	-3.6%
North Ayrshire	4,440	3,545	3,480	3,480	-21.6%	-1.8%	0.0%
North Lanarkshire	7,635	7,310	7,205	7,145	-6.4%	-2.3%	-0.8%
Orkney Islands	75	205	205	195	160.0%	-4.9%	-4.9%
Perth and Kinross	1,255	1,995	2,120	2,065	64.5%	3.5%	-2.6%
Renfrewshire	2,805	3,455	3,585	3,425	22.1%	-0.9%	-4.5%
Scottish Borders	1,260	1,915	1,890	1,900	50.8%	-0.8%	0.5%
Shetland Islands	120	245	210	200	66.7%	-18.4%	-4.8%
South Ayrshire	2,285	2,315	2,190	2,130	-6.8%	-8.0%	-2.7%
South Lanarkshire	6,600	6,120	5,965	5,985	-9.3%	-2.2%	0.3%
Stirling	1,435	1,355	1,390	1,360	-5.2%	0.4%	-2.2%
W.Dunbartonshire	1,930	2,345	2,365	2,325	20.5%	-0.9%	-1.7%
West Lothian	2,490	3,045	3,060	2,930	17.7%	-3.8%	-4.2%
Scotland	91,840	106,930	105,030	104,185	13.4%	-2.6%	-0.8%
City Region	19,645	23,945	23,610	23,440	19.3%	-2.1%	-0.7%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as of October 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. For three Local Authorities in the City Region the claimant rate is low enough to place it within the 10 Local Authorities with the lowest claimant rate in the country.

Figure 2 Claimant Rate Across Scotland- October 2023



Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

City Region Position

Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 3 below that across the region the claimant count recorded in October 2023 is lower than it was in October 2022 in four LAs and in the other two the claimant count is higher than it was in 2022.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region LAs

	October 2022	September 2023	October 2023	Percentage Change	
				Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Edinburgh	8,545	8,355	8,400	-1.7%	0.5%
East Lothian	1,440	1,500	1,530	6.3%	2.0%
Fife	7,740	7,460	7,405	-4.3%	-0.7%
Midlothian	1,260	1,345	1,275	1.2%	-5.2%
Scottish Borders	1,915	1,890	1,900	-0.8%	0.5%
West Lothian	3,045	3,060	2,930	-3.8%	-4.2%
City Region	23,945	23,610	23,440	-2.1%	-0.7%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

The month-to-month changes from September to October 2023 indicates that in three LAs the claimant count is higher than it was in September. East Lothian has seen the claimant count increase by 2% between September and October whilst Midlothian has seen it fall by 5.2%.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that across the region in August 2023 there were 42,749 people who were in work but required financial support from Universal Credit (UC) as their income was not sufficient. Over the last month this has increased by around 300 people so that the most recent data from September 2023 indicates there were 43,033 individuals in work and claiming.

Table 4 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment

	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23
City of Edinburgh	14,038	13,513	13,563
East Lothian	3,540	3,493	3,494
Fife	13,103	12,861	12,946
Midlothian	3,163	3,245	3,267
Scottish Borders	3,457	3,478	3,499
West Lothian	6,230	6,163	6,263
Total	43,533	42,749	43,033

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

Gender Profile

From Table 5 we can see that the male claimant count in West Lothian is 9.1% lower than it was 12 months ago and 1.6% lower than last month. Every LA in the city region has seen the number of male claimants fall over the last 12 months and over the last month. Overall, with 14,255 male claimants in October the male claimant count in the City Region is 1.9% points lower than in September.

Table 5: Change in Male Claimant Count Across the City Region

	Oct 2022	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Edinburgh	5,320	5,105	5,015	-5.7%	-1.8%
East Lothian	885	905	880	-0.6%	-2.8%
Fife	4,945	4,770	4,680	-5.4%	-1.9%
Midlothian	820	785	755	-7.9%	-3.8%
Scottish Borders	1,130	1,135	1,120	-0.9%	-1.3%
West Lothian	1,985	1,835	1,805	-9.1%	-1.6%
City Region	15,085	14,535	14,255	-5.5%	-1.9%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

Table 6 looks at the situation for female claimants and presents a different picture. From Table 6 we can see that over the last twelve months the female claimant count has increased across the region from 10,080 to 10,475. This is an increase of 3.9% compared to the 1.9% fall in the number of male claimants.

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

	Oct 2022	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Edinburgh	3,380	3,505	3,615	7.0%	3.1%
East Lothian	600	650	650	8.3%	0.0%
Fife	3,185	3,160	3,290	3.3%	4.1%
Midlothian	540	580	625	15.7%	7.8%

Scottish Borders	820	865	870	6.1%	0.6%
West Lothian	1,285	1,320	1,425	10.9%	8.0%
City Region	9,810	10,080	10,475	6.8%	3.9%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

In all the Local Authorities we can see a year on year increase in the number of female claimants - ranging from a 15.7% increase in Midlothian between October 2022 and October 2023 through to a 3.3% increase in Fife. Between September 2023 and October 2023, the number of female claimants stayed the same in East Lothian, increased by 0.6% in Scottish Borders through to a 8.0% increase in West Lothian.

What these tables indicate is that in the claimant count females make up a larger proportion than was the case 12 months ago – 42.4% now compared to 39.4% a year ago. Looking at this trend over the last 5 years the shift is even more apparent. In September 2018 females made up 38% of claimants in the city region.

Table 7 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 September 2023 27,416 female claimants were recorded (this is around 300 more than in August). Compare this to the male in work UC claimant count which is 15,619. Table 7 shows that across the region, and in each LA, there are a far higher proportion of women reliant on in work universal credit.

Table 7: In Work Universal Credit Claimants

		Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23
Edinburgh	Male	5,881	5,442	5,403
	Female	8,158	8,071	8,161
East Lothian	Male	1,181	1,115	1,107
	Female	2,362	2,375	2,389
Fife	Male	4,893	4,607	4,647
	Female	8,212	8,252	8,301
Midlothian	Male	1,074	1,083	1,081
	Female	2,091	2,166	2,183
Scottish Borders	Male	1,298	1,272	1,264
	Female	2,158	2,198	2,232
West Lothian	Male	2,226	2,142	2,115
	Female	4,000	4,020	4,149
City Region	Male	16,555	15,662	15,619
	Female	26,979	27,091	27,416

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In October 2023 across the City region there were 4,290 16-24 year olds claiming in the City Region. In September there were 4,250 so we can see a month to month increase of 0.9%.

Table 8: 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
October 2022	1,130	260	1,415	255	330	655	4,045
September 2023	1,170	305	1,500	270	355	650	4,250
October 2023	1,205	305	1,490	265	370	655	4,290

% Change							
Oct22-Oct23	6.6%	17.3%	5.3%	3.9%	12.1%	0.0%	6.1%
Sep23-Oct23	3.0%	0.0%	-0.7%	-1.9%	4.2%	0.8%	0.9%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

In 2 of the Local Authorities there was a month to month fall between September and October, three recorded an increase and in East Lothian the count in October was the same as it had been in September.

The situation in October 2023 compared to October 2022 is not so encouraging. Across the Region there were 6.1% more 16-24 year old claimants in October 2023 compared to October 2022. East Lothian recorded the largest percentage increase whilst West Lothian recorded no change year to year.

25-49 Year Olds

Table 9 allows us to look at what has been happening in terms of 25–49-year-olds, the age band that captures the highest claimant numbers. Across the City Region there were 13,905 25–49-year-olds claiming in October 2023. This is 1.7% lower than in September 2023 and 3.3% lower than October 2022.

Table 9: 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
October 2022	5,400	870	4,505	750	1,030	1,825	14,380
September 2023	5,275	870	4,325	820	1,060	1,790	14,140
October 2023	5,240	895	4,270	770	1,040	1,690	13,905
% Change							
Oct22-Oct23	-3.0%	2.9%	-5.2%	2.7%	1.0%	-7.4%	-3.3%
Sep23-Oct23	-0.7%	2.9%	-1.3%	-6.1%	-1.9%	-5.6%	-1.7%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

We can see from the table that every one of the 6 LAs recorded a month to month fall for this age group except for East Lothian where there was a 2.9% increase between September and October 2023. In the case of Midlothian, the fall was from 820 in September to 770 in October - a 6.1% fall. Looking at what has happened over the 12 months since October 2022 3 LAs recorded a year on year fall and 3 recorded a year on year increase.

50 Year Olds and Over

Table 10 looks at what has been happening in terms of those over the age of 50. Across the City Region we can see that in October 2023 there were 5,240 claimants who were 50 or over. This is 5.2% less than October 2022 and 1.4% down on the September figures.

Table 10: 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
October 2022	2,015	310	1,825	255	555	570	5,530
September 2023	1,915	420	1,635	255	475	615	5,315
October 2023	1,955	335	1,640	235	490	585	5,240
% Change							
Oct22-Oct23	-3.0%	8.1%	-10.1%	-7.8%	-11.7%	2.6%	-5.2%
Sep23-Oct23	2.1%	-20.2%	0.3%	-7.8%	3.2%	-4.9%	-1.4%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

We can see from the LA data that Edinburgh has a seen a month to month increase of 2.1% (40 additional claimants) whilst Scottish Borders saw an increase of 3.2% (15 claimants) between September and October 2023. Every other LA saw a month to month fall and East Lothian saw the claimant count for those over the age of 50 fall by 85 or 20.2% between September and October 2023.

Ward Profile

Edinburgh

Table 11 gives the current situation in the 17 Edinburgh wards, the percentage change over the last 12 months and the change recorded between September and October 2023. Overall, there are 8,400 claimants in Edinburgh, and this is 0.5% higher than September 2023 and 1.7% lower than October 2022. From the table we can see that 10 wards had more than 500 claimants in October.

Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward October 2023

Wards	October 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2023				
		Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	525	6.1%	-0.9%	56.2%	43.8%	13.3%	65.7%	21.0%
City Centre	620	-8.8%	1.6%	69.4%	30.6%	15.3%	59.7%	25.0%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	210	-2.3%	-6.7%	54.8%	47.6%	19.0%	61.9%	21.4%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	165	-5.7%	6.5%	54.5%	45.5%	12.1%	60.6%	24.2%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	575	0.9%	0.0%	59.1%	40.9%	9.6%	66.1%	24.3%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	275	-1.8%	-3.5%	58.2%	41.8%	12.7%	63.6%	25.5%
Forth	810	4.5%	2.5%	58.0%	42.6%	13.6%	65.4%	21.6%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	275	0.0%	-3.5%	60.0%	38.2%	12.7%	60.0%	27.3%
Inverleith	280	-13.8%	-5.1%	51.8%	48.2%	12.5%	58.9%	28.6%
Leith	695	-21.0%	2.2%	61.9%	38.8%	12.2%	65.5%	22.3%
Leith Walk	670	2.3%	3.9%	59.7%	40.3%	11.2%	62.7%	25.4%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	670	-2.2%	-1.5%	56.7%	44.0%	17.2%	61.9%	20.9%
Morningside	210	5.0%	0.0%	59.5%	40.5%	16.7%	64.3%	21.4%
Pentland Hills	700	7.7%	-2.1%	59.3%	40.7%	15.7%	63.6%	21.4%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	700	1.4%	0.7%	58.6%	41.4%	16.4%	61.4%	22.1%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	680	6.3%	3.0%	59.6%	39.7%	18.4%	60.3%	21.3%
Southside/Newington	325	-8.5%	1.6%	61.5%	38.5%	16.9%	52.3%	30.8%
Edinburgh	8,400	-1.7%	0.5%	59.3%	40.7%	14.3%	62.4%	23.3%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

The table also indicates that 8 wards have a claimant count higher than it was a year ago whilst 8 wards have a claimant count in October higher than it was in September. Over the last month Corstorphine/Murrayfield recorded an increase of 6.5% and Colinton/Farmilehead recorded a fall of 6.7%.

Overall, in Edinburgh in October 2023, 59.3% of claimants were male and 14.3% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 69.4% of the claimants are male- the highest proportion in the City Region and Inverleith has the highest proportion of female claimants. In Southside/Newington

30.8% of claimants in October were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city. In Colinton/Farmilehead 19% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

Table 12 below looks at the in-work UC claimant count for the Edinburgh wards. There are just under 1,500 people in Forth Ward who are working but their earnings are low enough that they can receive UC. This is about the same as in September 2022 and is slightly lower than last month. In Leith Ward there are 1,002 individuals working and claiming and this has fallen slightly over the last year. Overall, 7 wards have seen the in-work UC count fall between August 2023 and September 2023.

Table 12 In Work UC Claimant Count by Edinburgh Ward September 2023

	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	Sep22-Sep23	Aug23-Sep23
Almond	997	1,018	1,044	5%	3%
City Centre	672	574	585	-13%	2%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	441	434	438	-1%	1%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	299	261	254	-15%	-3%
Craigtinny/Duddingston	1,005	896	880	-12%	-2%
Drum Brae/Gyle	532	530	532	0%	0%
Forth	1,495	1,476	1,456	-3%	-1%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	390	378	385	-1%	2%
Inverleith	479	449	446	-7%	-1%
Leith	1,006	1,009	1,002	0%	-1%
Leith Walk	975	912	930	-5%	2%
Liberton/Gilmerton	1,306	1,251	1,255	-4%	0%
Morningside	299	250	253	-15%	1%
Pentland Hills	1,192	1,239	1,219	2%	-2%
Portobello/Craigmillar	1,313	1,267	1,313	0%	4%
Sighthill/Gorgie	1,207	1,193	1,182	-2%	-1%
Southside/Newington	421	375	387	-8%	3%
Total	14,038	13,513	13,563	-3%	0%

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

East Lothian

Table 13 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count of 1,530 which is 6.3% higher than it was last year and 2% higher than in September.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward October 2023

Wards	October 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2023				
		Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	175	9.4%	2.9%	54.3%	45.7%	20.0%	57.1%	22.9%
Haddington and Lammermuir	235	0.0%	-4.1%	57.4%	40.4%	19.1%	53.2%	25.5%
Musselburgh	370	1.4%	4.2%	59.5%	40.5%	17.6%	62.2%	21.6%
North Berwick Coastal	100	11.1%	5.3%	55.0%	45.0%	15.0%	60.0%	25.0%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	255	4.1%	6.3%	58.8%	41.2%	25.5%	52.9%	21.6%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	400	14.3%	0.0%	56.3%	43.8%	20.0%	61.3%	18.8%
East Lothian	1,530	6.3%	2.0%	57.5%	42.5%	19.9%	58.5%	21.9%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

We can see that four wards have recorded an increase between September and October, and one recorded a fall. Preston, Seton and Gosford recorded an increase month to month of 6.3%.

Across the county 57.5% of claimants are male and this varies from 55% in North Berwick Coastal to 59.5% in Musselburgh. Preston, Seton and Gosford as well as recording the largest percentage increase month to month also has the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants. Haddington and Lammermuir has the highest proportion of over 50 year olds.

Table 14 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 September 2022 and September 2023 in 3 wards, an increase in 2 wards and one ward has seen no change. The latest data shows a month to month increase in 4 wards and a fall in 2.

Table 14 In Work UC Claimant Count by East Lothian Ward September 2023

	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	Sep22-Sep23	Aug23-Sep23
Dunbar and East Linton	454	450	463	2%	3%
Haddington and Lammermuir	555	522	534	-4%	2%
Musselburgh	756	766	774	2%	1%
North Berwick Coastal	267	239	244	-9%	2%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	598	615	600	0%	-2%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	914	894	879	-4%	-2%
East Lothian	3,540	3,493	3,494	-1%	0%

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. We can see that overall Fife recorded 7,405 claimants in October 2023 and of these 60.1% were male and 39.8% female. Five wards had over 500 claimants in September and 5 had under 200.

We can see that year on year 4 wards had seen the claimant count increase and 16 recorded a fall. Dunfermline North and St Andrews have both seen the claimant count fall by 13.6% between September 2022 and September 2023. In terms of the latest figures, we can see that five wards recorded an increase in the claimant count between September and October and 12 recorded a fall. St Andrews recorded a fall of 9.5% between September and October. However, we have to consider that the actual number of claimants in St Andrews (currently 95) is small and relative minor changes can result in large percentage movements.

Table 15 Fife Claimant Count by Ward October 2023

Wards	Oct 23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2023				
		Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	715	-2.7%	-1.4%	63.6%	36.4%	21.0%	57.3%	21.0%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	305	-9.0%	-1.6%	55.7%	44.3%	18.0%	55.7%	26.2%
Cowdenbeath	505	-2.9%	2.0%	59.4%	40.6%	20.8%	55.4%	23.8%
Cupar	175	-7.9%	-5.4%	62.9%	37.1%	17.1%	60.0%	22.9%
Dunfermline Central	335	-4.3%	0.0%	55.2%	44.8%	17.9%	61.2%	20.9%
Dunfermline North	285	-13.6%	-3.4%	61.4%	36.8%	21.1%	59.6%	17.5%
Dunfermline South	375	-6.3%	-1.3%	58.7%	41.3%	21.3%	58.7%	20.0%

East Neuk and Landward	170	6.3%	6.3%	55.9%	44.1%	17.6%	55.9%	26.5%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	355	4.4%	2.9%	57.7%	42.3%	23.9%	59.2%	16.9%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	280	-5.1%	0.0%	60.7%	37.5%	21.4%	62.5%	14.3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	340	-2.9%	3.0%	57.4%	42.6%	22.1%	57.4%	20.6%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	160	-8.6%	-3.0%	56.3%	43.8%	12.5%	59.4%	28.1%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	210	-8.7%	0.0%	54.8%	45.2%	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%
Kirkcaldy Central	600	0.0%	-1.6%	63.3%	36.7%	17.5%	59.2%	23.3%
Kirkcaldy East	585	-7.1%	0.0%	61.5%	38.5%	20.5%	55.6%	23.9%
Kirkcaldy North	355	1.4%	-2.7%	59.2%	40.8%	22.5%	54.9%	22.5%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	375	-6.3%	-1.3%	66.7%	33.3%	20.0%	54.7%	24.0%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	00111540	1.9%	0.0%	62.0%	38.0%	21.3%	59.3%	19.4%
Rosyth	215	-15.7%	-4.4%	58.1%	41.9%	23.3%	58.1%	20.9%
St Andrews	95	-13.6%	-9.5%	63.2%	36.8%	21.1%	42.1%	36.8%
Tay Bridgehead	155	0.0%	3.3%	54.8%	45.2%	16.1%	61.3%	22.6%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	275	-9.8%	-1.8%	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	56.4%	23.6%
Fife	7,405	-4.3%	-0.7%	60.1%	39.8%	20.1%	57.7%	22.1%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages where 715 individuals were looking for work and claiming, slightly down on the 735 recorded in September 2023.

In terms of gender Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay and Tay Bridgehead both had 45.2% of claimants recording as female. Leven, Kennoway and Largo had 66.7% of claimants recorded as male, Glenrothes Central and Thornton recorded a high proportion of claimants aged 16-24 and the average across the Kingdom is 20.1%. In St Andrews 36.8% of the 95 claimants are over 50 years of age- this is the highest proportion in the City Region.

Table 16 below looks at the in-work UC claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 12,946 Fife residents working and claiming UC support in September 2023 which is 1% lower than a year ago and 1% higher than last month. Again, there are people needing this support across the Kingdom with every ward other than St Andrews recording over 300 claimants.

Table 16 In Work UC Claimant Count by Fife Ward September 2023

	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	Sep22-Sep23	Aug23-Sep23
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,035	1,008	994	-4%	-1%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	409	406	408	0%	0%
Cowdenbeath	895	855	888	-1%	4%
Cupar	369	390	384	4%	-2%
Dunfermline Central	616	612	624	1%	2%
Dunfermline North	517	475	481	-7%	1%
Dunfermline South	772	715	714	-8%	0%
East Neuk and Landward	331	334	325	-2%	-3%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	682	687	691	1%	1%

Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	580	595	578	0%	-3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	746	699	709	-5%	1%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	318	298	303	-5%	2%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	394	396	404	3%	2%
Kirkcaldy Central	746	719	732	-2%	2%
Kirkcaldy East	784	765	746	-5%	-2%
Kirkcaldy North	570	573	595	4%	4%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	650	651	658	1%	1%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	1,005	996	1,008	0%	1%
Rosyth	618	610	621	0%	2%
St. Andrews	168	161	167	-1%	4%
Tay Bridgehead	332	382	367	11%	-4%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	567	545	550	-3%	1%
Fife	13,103	12,861	12,946	-1%	1%

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 17 below. Looking at the change between October 2022 and October 2023 we can see that 2 wards recorded a year-on-year increase and 3 wards saw the claimant count fall. The change over the last month has seen four wards record a fall, one record an increase and one has stayed the same. Overall, 57% of Midlothian claimants were male and 21% were 16-24 years of age.

Table 17 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward October 2023

	Oct 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2023				
		Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	190	0.0%	-9.5%	53%	45%	24%	58%	16%
Dalkeith	255	10.9%	-8.9%	59%	41%	24%	59%	18%
Midlothian East	230	-2.1%	0.0%	57%	43%	17%	65%	17%
Midlothian South	220	-4.3%	-6.4%	55%	45%	23%	57%	20%
Midlothian West	190	-2.6%	-5.0%	61%	39%	21%	55%	24%
Penicuik	195	8.3%	2.6%	62%	38%	18%	64%	18%
Midlothian	1,275	1.2%	-5.2%	57%	42%	21%	60%	18%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

Looking at the wards themselves we can see Bonnyrigg and Midlothian South had the highest proportion of females. Bonnyrigg recorded the largest month to month fall, 24% of claimants in Bonnyrigg and Dalkeith were 16-24 years of age and 24% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50.

Table 18 In Work UC Claimant Count by Midlothian Ward September 2023

	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	Sep22-Sep23	Aug23-Sep23
Bonnyrigg	478	525	536	12%	2%
Dalkeith	572	605	599	5%	-1%
Midlothian East	572	544	547	-4%	1%
Midlothian South	633	651	677	7%	4%
Midlothian West	430	469	476	11%	1%
Penicuik	473	452	438	-7%	-3%
Total	3,163	3,245	3,267	3%	1%

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

Table 18 looks at the number of in work UC claimants in the 6 Midlothian wards. We can see that overall, there are slightly more claimants than in September 2022, and whilst 4 wards saw a year on year increase 2 recorded a fall. The more recent month to month change between August and September 2023 is similar with 4 wards also recording a month to month increase and 2 recording falls month to month.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 19 below. Overall, there were 2,930 claimants in West Lothian in October 2023, and this is down 3.8% on a year ago and also down 4.2% on the September 2023 figure. We can see that 59% of claimants in West Lothian are Male and 22% are aged between 16-24.

Table 19 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward October 2023

	% Change			Proportion of Claimants October 2023				
	Oct-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadaled & Blackridge	255	-8.9%	-13.6%	61%	39%	27%	53%	20%
Bathgate	390	-14.3%	-7.1%	59%	41%	23%	59%	19%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	305	-6.2%	-4.7%	62%	38%	23%	54%	23%
East Livingston & E. Calder	350	9.4%	-2.8%	56%	44%	23%	57%	21%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	340	3.0%	-1.4%	62%	38%	19%	63%	18%
Linlithgow	115	-8.0%	-4.2%	65%	39%	17%	48%	35%
Livingston North	300	7.1%	1.7%	57%	43%	23%	62%	15%
Livingston South	385	1.3%	-1.3%	56%	45%	25%	56%	19%
Whitburn & Blackburn	485	-11.8%	-6.7%	60%	40%	19%	61%	22%
West Lothian	2,930	-3.8%	-4.2%	59%	41%	22%	58%	20%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

Looking at the wards in more detail we can see that five wards recorded fewer claimants in October 2023 than in October 2022 and four recorded a year on year increase. The differences are interesting for example Bathgate saw the claimant count fall by 14.3% between October 2022 and October 2023 and East Livingston and East Calder saw the claimant count increase by 9.4% over the same 12 month period. Between September 2023 and October 2023 1 ward recorded an increase and the others all recorded a fall. Armadale and Blackridge not only recorded the largest month to month fall in West Lothian at 13.6% this fall was the highest in the City Region. Armadale and Blackridge also has the highest proportion of 16-24 year olds in the City Region whilst in Linlithgow 35% of claimants are over 50 one of the highest in the city region.

Table 20 indicates that across West Lothian in September 2023 there were 6,263 individuals working and claiming UC which is 2% higher than last month. We can also see that only one ward has over 1,000 working UC claimants.

Table 20 In Work UC Claimant Count by West Lothian Ward September 2023

	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	Sep22-Sep23	Aug23-Sep23
Armadale and Blackridge	560	513	525	-6%	2%
Bathgate	813	758	771	-5%	2%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	639	659	663	4%	1%
East Livingston and East Calder	743	808	808	9%	0%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	650	642	660	2%	3%

Linlithgow	245	219	225	-8%	3%
Livingston North	671	638	661	-1%	4%
Livingston South	860	860	870	1%	1%
Whitburn and Blackburn	1,054	1,068	1,069	1%	0%
West Lothian	6,230	6,163	6,263	1%	2%

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

Scottish Borders

Table 21 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,900 people claiming in October in Scottish Borders, slightly higher than last month. Overall, 57.4% of claimants were male and 19.5% were 16-24 years of age. Scottish Borders has the only ward (Leaderdale and Melrose) in the whole region where there are more female claimants than male.

Table 21 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward October 2023

	Oct 23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants Sep2023				
		Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	155	-8.8%	0.0%	48.4%	48.4%	16.1%	58.1%	25.8%
Galashiels and District	335	-8.2%	-5.6%	59.7%	40.3%	17.9%	56.7%	25.4%
Hawick and Denholm	240	9.1%	0.0%	62.5%	39.6%	25.0%	56.3%	18.8%
Hawick and Hermitage	195	18.2%	8.3%	64.1%	33.3%	25.6%	48.7%	23.1%
Jedburgh and District	165	32.0%	6.5%	51.5%	48.5%	21.2%	51.5%	24.2%
Kelso and District	150	3.4%	-3.2%	56.7%	40.0%	16.7%	56.7%	26.7%
Leaderdale & Melrose	125	-7.4%	4.2%	44.0%	52.0%	16.0%	60.0%	24.0%
Mid Berwickshire	155	6.9%	6.9%	54.8%	48.4%	19.4%	48.4%	35.5%
Selkirkshire	135	-12.9%	-3.6%	63.0%	37.0%	18.5%	55.6%	22.2%
Tweeddale East	105	-12.5%	-4.5%	57.1%	42.9%	19.0%	47.6%	33.3%
Tweeddale West	140	-15.2%	7.7%	57.1%	42.9%	10.7%	60.7%	28.6%
Scottish Borders	1,900	-0.8%	0.5%	57.4%	42.4%	19.5%	54.7%	25.8%

Source: NOMIS 14/11/2023

Overall, five wards have recorded a year on year increase and six have recorded a fall. Looking at the change between August and September, we can see that 4 recorded no change month to month and the remainder recorded a fall.

In Hawick and Hermitage, 25.6% of claimants are 16-24 compared to 10.7% in Tweeddale West. In Mid Berwickshire 35.5% of claimants were 50 or over whilst in Hawick and Denholm it was 18.4% of claimants.

Table 22 In Work UC Claimant Count by Scottish Borders Ward September 2023

	Sep-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	Sep22-Sep23	Aug23-Sep23
East Berwickshire	383	365	353	-8%	-3%
Galashiels and District	597	569	580	-3%	2%
Hawick and Denholm	405	385	387	-4%	1%
Hawick and Hermitage	273	274	286	5%	4%
Jedburgh and District	251	247	255	2%	3%
Kelso and District	280	287	292	4%	2%
Leaderdale and Melrose	276	298	306	11%	3%
Mid Berwickshire	317	344	341	8%	-1%
Selkirkshire	274	284	275	0%	-3%

Tweeddale East	212	202	205	-3%	1%
Tweeddale West	198	218	213	8%	-2%
Scottish Borders	3,457	3,478	3,499	1%	1%

Source: StatXplore 16/11/2023

Table 22 looks at the number of people in work and claiming in Scottish Borders, and in September 2023 there were 3,499 people working who needed the support of Universal Credit. This is 1% higher than September 2022 and 1% higher than last months. Only one ward, Galashiels and District has over 500 people working and claiming UC.

Economic Activity

The following section is based on economic activity rather than claimant count and the data underpinning it is derived from surveys. As a result, it can have margins of error and these margins of error can be considerable, particularly at a local level or when used to report on specific demographic groups.

Table 23 looks at the most recent data that can be broken down by LA areas. This has not been updated on NOMIS since the last claimant count report and is the same tables as presented in the last report. It is based on 12 months survey data so reflects the position as of July 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 figures looked at elsewhere in this report.

Table 23 Economic activity aged 16-64 (July 2022- June 2023)

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
Economic activity rate - aged 16-64	82.7	80.1	79.0	80.3	80.0	79.9	80.9
Estimated number who are economically active	294,800	52,000	177,000	45,700	53,000	93,100	715,600
% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64	17.3	19.9	21.0	19.7	20.0	20.1	19.1
Estimated number who are economically inactive	61,600	12,900	47,000	11,200	13,200	23,400	169,300
% of economically inactive who want a job	18.5	12.8	13.1	***	23.2	24.5	16.7
Estimated number economically inactive who want a job	11,400	1,700	6,100	***	3,100	5,700	28,300

Source: NOMIS 7/11/2023

***** Sample too small for ONS to publish the data**

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 82.7%, they are 95% confident that the real figure, based on the whole population, would be between 79.7% and 85.7% - the confidence levels recorded.

Chris Nicol, Business Intelligence Manager,
Capital City Partnership
24/11/2023

07462 432348

Chris.Nicol@capitalcitypartnership.org