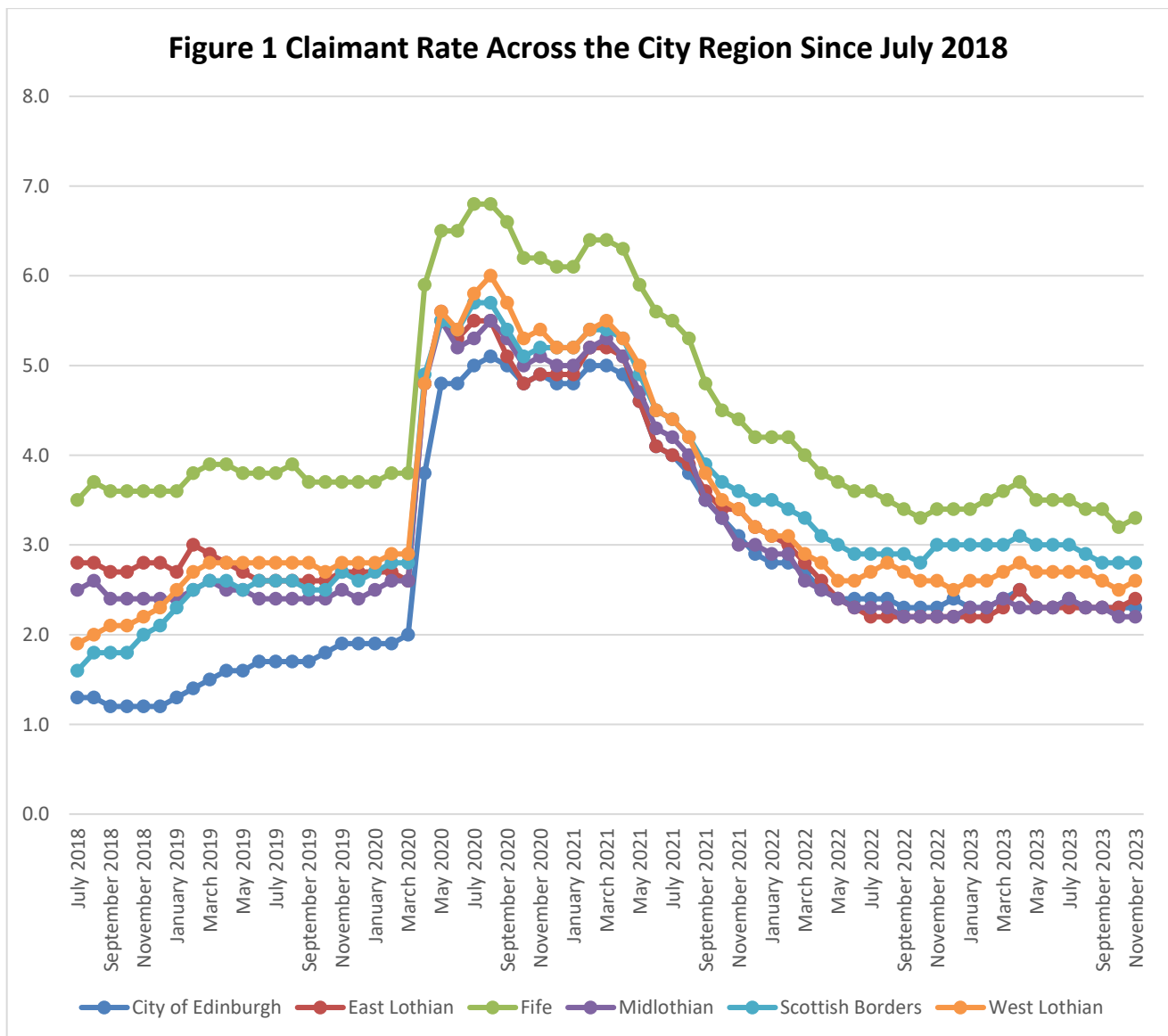


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2023 Summary Update

<p>Claimant Count Change Between November 2022 and November 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 3.4% ↓ Scotland decreased 2.2% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 0.8% ↓ City Region decreased by 0.2% 	<p>Claimant Count Change Between October 2023 and November 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.9% ↑ Scotland increased by 2.5% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 3.3% ↑ City Region increased by 3.2%
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Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

City Region Summary

1. In November 2023 the claimant count for the City Region was 24,070. Of these
 - a. 4,375 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,285 in October.
 - b. 14,435 were 25-49 year olds up from 13,820 in October.
 - c. 5,260 were 50 or older down from 5,330 in October.
2. In October 2023 there were 43,594 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In September there were 43,030.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In November 2023 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,575. Of these
 - a. 1,210 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,195 in October.
 - b. 5,420 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,170 in October.
 - c. 1,950 were 50 or older. It was 1,930 in October.
2. In October 2023 there were 13,768 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In September there were 13,563.

East Lothian Summary

1. In November 2023 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,575. Of these
 - a. 310 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 300.
 - b. 935 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 900.
 - c. 330 were 50 or older. In October there were 330.
2. In October 2023 there were 3,490 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In September there were 3,494.

Fife Summary

1. In November 2023 the claimant count for Fife was 7,590. Of these
 - a. 1,550 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 1,500.
 - b. 4,370 were 25-49 years of age. In October there were 4,205.
 - c. 1,665 were 50 or older. In October there were 1,635.
2. In October 2023 there were 13,063 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In September there were 12,946.

Midlothian Summary

1. In November 2023 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,300. Of these
 - a. 250 were 16-24 year olds. In October it was 265.
 - b. 810 were 25-49 year olds. In October it was 785.
 - c. 240 were 50 or older. In October it was 240.
2. In October 2023 there were 3,573 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In September there were 3,499.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In November 2023 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,915. Of these
 - a. 365 were 16-24 year olds. In October it was 380.
 - b. 1,070 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 1,055.
 - c. 485 were 50 or older. In October there were 495.
2. In October 2023 there were 3,573 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In September there were 3,499.

West Lothian Summary

1. In November 2023 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,115. Of these
 - a. 690 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 645.
 - b. 1,830 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 1,705.
 - c. 590 were 50 or older. In October there were 590.
2. In October 2023 there were 6,364 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian. In September there were 6,263.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2023 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that the claimant count in November 2023 is higher than it was 5 years ago. In Scotland it is 14.3% higher than in November 2018 and in the UK it is 64.4% higher. We can also see that in all but 2 regions and countries of the UK the claimant count in November 2023 is higher than it was in November 2022. This ranges from London, where it is 8% higher than a year ago, through to the North East where it is 4.9% lower. Scotland is 2.2% lower than last year.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	Nov 2018	Nov 2022	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Percentage Change		
					Nov 18- Nov 23	Nov 22- Nov 23	Oct 23- Nov 23
UK	945,630	1,504,010	1,524,915	1,554,570	64.4%	3.4%	1.9%
East	62,145	110,235	114,315	117,690	89.4%	6.8%	3.0%
E Midlands	53,965	95,745	100,250	101,025	87.2%	5.5%	0.8%
London	136,870	279,760	296,780	302,060	120.7%	8.0%	1.8%
North East	62,850	68,275	64,115	64,950	3.3%	-4.9%	1.3%
North West	131,330	190,120	188,890	192,220	46.4%	1.1%	1.8%
N. Ireland	28,720	35,470	37,095	36,400	26.7%	2.6%	-1.9%
Scotland	93,090	108,730	103,805	106,380	14.3%	-2.2%	2.5%
South East	81,455	159,805	162,235	165,755	103.5%	3.7%	2.2%
South West	57,495	84,740	85,600	88,690	54.3%	4.7%	3.6%
Wales	45,495	61,745	60,270	61,805	35.9%	0.1%	2.5%
W Midlands	104,695	174,655	176,420	178,915	70.9%	2.4%	1.4%
Yorks & Humb	87,520	134,730	135,140	138,680	58.5%	2.9%	2.6%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

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 8 had a claimant count in November 2023 that was higher than November 2022. Out of the 6 LAs that make up the City Region, 2 saw a year to year fall.

In the City Region the claimant count in November 2023 is 3.2% higher than in October. Five of the six LAs saw a month to month increase and only Scottish Borders recorded a fall between October and November.

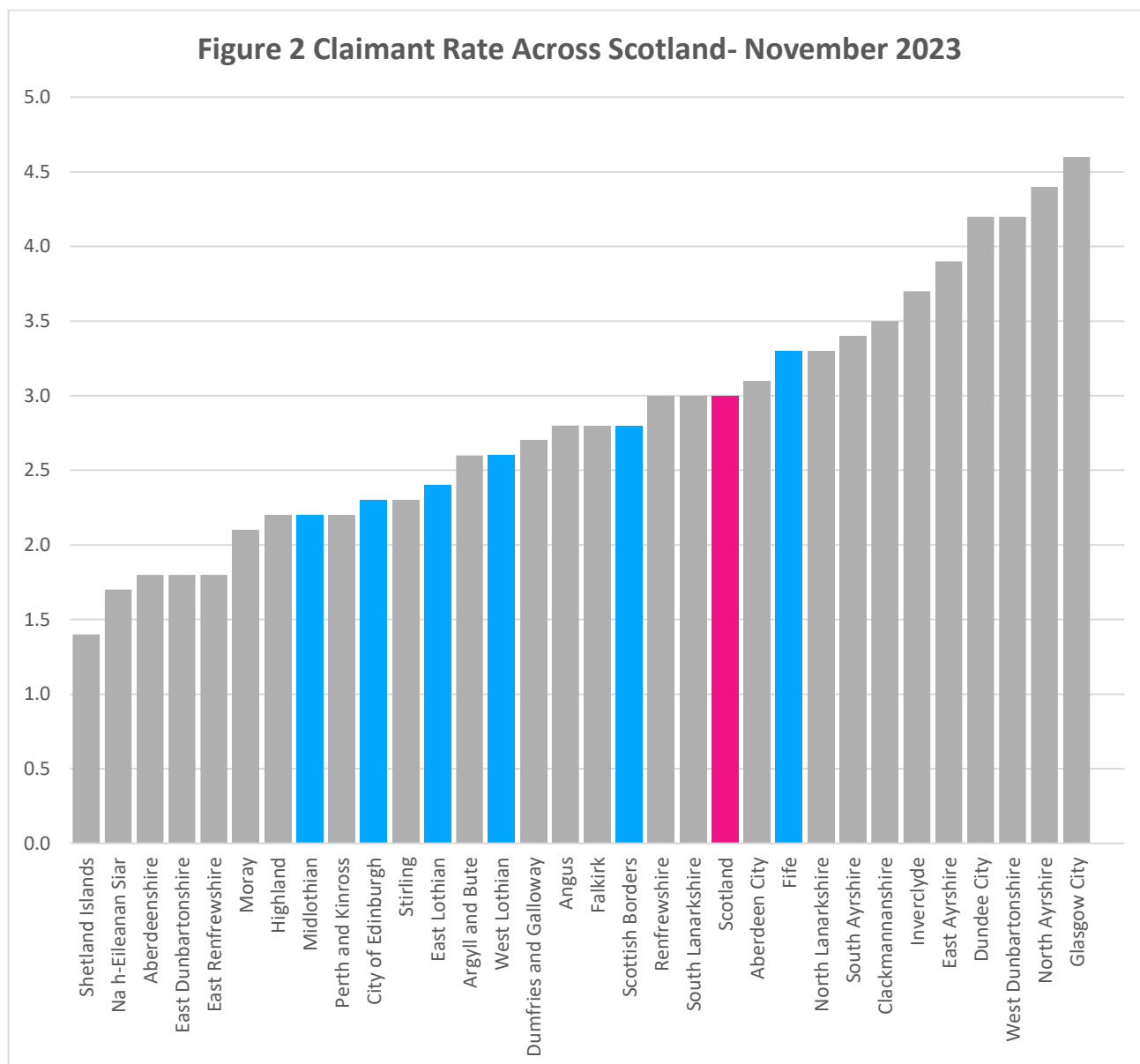
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

	Nov 18	Nov 22	Oct 23	Nov 23	Nov18- Nov23	Nov22- Nov23	Oct23- Nov23
Aberdeen City	2,790	5,095	4,610	4,840	73.5%	-5.0%	5.0%
Aberdeenshire	2,130	2,970	2,785	2,875	35.0%	-3.2%	3.2%
Angus	1,990	1,980	1,855	1,900	-4.5%	-4.0%	2.4%
Argyll and Bute	975	1,365	1,295	1,350	38.5%	-1.1%	4.2%
Edinburgh	4,490	8,505	8,300	8,575	91.0%	0.8%	3.3%
Clackmannanshire	1,335	1,155	1,075	1,115	-16.5%	-3.5%	3.7%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,100	2,470	2,350	2,295	9.3%	-7.1%	-2.3%
Dundee City	4,175	4,035	3,975	4,060	-2.8%	0.6%	2.1%
East Ayrshire	3,610	3,035	2,960	2,920	-19.1%	-3.8%	-1.4%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,110	1,225	1,180	1,185	6.8%	-3.3%	0.4%
East Lothian	1,820	1,465	1,530	1,575	-13.5%	7.5%	2.9%
East Renfrewshire	665	950	1,000	1,025	54.1%	7.9%	2.5%
Falkirk	2,995	2,955	2,810	2,845	-5.0%	-3.7%	1.2%
Fife	8,310	7,815	7,340	7,590	-8.7%	-2.9%	3.4%
Glasgow City	12,955	21,475	20,185	20,745	60.1%	-3.4%	2.8%
Highland	3,460	3,265	2,975	3,125	-9.7%	-4.3%	5.0%
Inverclyde	2,430	1,795	1,625	1,765	-27.4%	-1.7%	8.6%
Midlothian	1,370	1,275	1,290	1,300	-5.1%	2.0%	0.8%
Moray	1,215	1,315	1,195	1,240	2.1%	-5.7%	3.8%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	260	295	265	270	3.8%	-8.5%	1.9%
North Ayrshire	4,430	3,645	3,485	3,565	-19.5%	-2.2%	2.3%
North Lanarkshire	7,615	7,325	7,090	7,240	-4.9%	-1.2%	2.1%
Orkney Islands	110	210	195	195	77.3%	-7.1%	0.0%
Perth and Kinross	1,335	1,985	2,050	2,065	54.7%	4.0%	0.7%
Renfrewshire	2,885	3,460	3,505	3,510	21.7%	1.4%	0.1%
Scottish Borders	1,370	2,005	1,925	1,915	39.8%	-4.5%	-0.5%
Shetland Islands	125	235	205	200	60.0%	-14.9%	-2.4%
South Ayrshire	2,350	2,315	2,195	2,220	-5.5%	-4.1%	1.1%
South Lanarkshire	6,695	6,245	5,900	6,040	-9.8%	-3.3%	2.4%
Stirling	1,410	1,400	1,375	1,395	-1.1%	-0.4%	1.5%
W.Dunbartonshire	1,945	2,415	2,340	2,330	19.8%	-3.5%	-0.4%
West Lothian	2,625	3,050	2,940	3,115	18.7%	2.1%	6.0%
Scotland	93,090	108,730	103,805	106,380	14.3%	-2.2%	2.5%
City Region	19,985	24,115	23,325	24,070	20.4%	-0.2%	3.2%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as of November 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 two 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- November 2023



Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

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 November 2023 is *slightly* lower than it was in November 2022. In two LAs it was lower than it was a year ago and in the other four the claimant count is higher than it was in 2022.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region LAs

	November 2018	November 2022	October 2023	November 2023	Percentage Change	
					Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23
Edinburgh	4,490	8,505	8,300	8,575	0.8%	3.3%
East Lothian	1,820	1,465	1,530	1,575	7.5%	2.9%
Fife	8,310	7,815	7,340	7,590	-2.9%	3.4%
Midlothian	1,370	1,275	1,290	1,300	2.0%	0.8%
Scottish Borders	1,370	2,005	1,925	1,915	-4.5%	-0.5%
West Lothian	2,625	3,050	2,940	3,115	2.1%	6.0%
City Region	19,985	24,115	23,325	24,070	-0.2%	3.2%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

The month-to-month changes from October to November 2023 indicates that in all but one Local Authority the claimant count is higher than it was in October. West Lothian has seen the claimant count increase by 6% between October and November whilst Scottish Borders has seen it fall by 0.5%.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that across the region in September 2023 there were 43,033 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 560 people so that the most recent data from October 2023 indicates there were 43,594 individuals in work and claiming.

Table 4 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment

	Oct-22	Sep-23	Oct-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
City of Edinburgh	13,799	13,563	13,768	-0.2%	1.5%
East Lothian	3,495	3,494	3,490	-0.1%	-0.1%
Fife	12,810	12,946	13,063	2.0%	0.9%
West Lothian	6,031	6,263	6,364	5.5%	1.6%
Scottish Borders	3,417	3,499	3,573	4.6%	2.1%
Midlothian	3,137	3,267	3,335	6.3%	2.1%
Total	42,682	43,033	43,594	2.1%	1.3%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

Gender Profile

From Table 5 we can see that the male claimant count in Fife is 6% lower than it was 12 months ago but 2% higher than last month. Every LA in the city region except East Lothian has seen the number of male claimants fall over the last 12 months. Comparing the November 2023 statistics to those of October 2023 the picture is more mixed with 4 Local Authorities recording a month to month increase whilst 2 recorded falls. Overall, with 14,045 male claimants in November the male claimant count in the City Region is 1.8% points higher than it was in October.

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

	Nov 2022	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Nov-22 to Nov 23	Oct 23- Nov 23
Edinburgh	5,135	4,925	5,005	-2.5%	1.6%
East Lothian	880	880	890	1.1%	1.1%
Fife	4,805	4,425	4,515	-6.0%	2.0%
Midlothian	760	745	740	-2.6%	-0.7%
Scottish Borders	1,155	1,105	1,090	-5.6%	-1.4%
West Lothian	1,850	1,715	1,805	-2.4%	5.2%
City Region	14,585	13,795	14,045	-3.7%	1.8%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

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 9,545 to 10,025. This is an increase of 5% compared to the 3.7% fall in the number of male claimants.

In all but one Local Authority we can see a year on year increase in the number of female claimants - ranging from a 17.9% increase in East Lothian between November 2022 and November 2023 through to a 2% increase in Fife. The one LA that recorded a fall year on year was Scottish Borders where the number of female claimants fell from 855 in November 2022 to 825 in November 2023. Between October 2023 and November 2023, the number of female claimants increased in every Local Authority. This ranged from 0.6% in Scottish Borders through to 7.0% increase in East Lothian.

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

	Nov 2022	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Nov-22 to Nov 23	Oct 23- Nov 23
Edinburgh	3,375	3,375	3,570	5.8%	5.8%
East Lothian	585	645	690	17.9%	7.0%
Fife	3,015	2,915	3,075	2.0%	5.5%
Midlothian	515	540	555	7.8%	2.8%
Scottish Borders	855	820	825	-3.5%	0.6%
West Lothian	1,200	1,225	1,310	9.2%	6.9%
City Region	9,545	9,520	10,025	5.0%	5.3%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

What these tables indicate is that in the claimant count females make up a larger proportion than was the case 12 months ago – 41.6% now compared to 39.6% a year ago. Looking at this trend over the last 5 years the shift is even more apparent. In November 2018 females made up 38.3% of claimants in the city region.

Table 7: In Work Universal Credit Claimants

		Oct-22	Sep-23	Oct-23
City of Edinburgh	Male	5,699	5,403	5,414
	Female	8,100	8,161	8,357
East Lothian	Male	1,133	1,107	1,096
	Female	2,356	2,389	2,393
Fife	Male	4,717	4,647	4,618
	Female	8,091	8,301	8,447
West Lothian	Male	2,103	2,115	2,105
	Female	3,929	4,149	4,257
Scottish Borders	Male	1,282	1,264	1,287
	Female	2,139	2,232	2,288
Midlothian	Male	1,045	1,081	1,075
	Female	2,087	2,183	2,259
City Region	Male	15,978	15,619	15,592
	Female	26,711	27,416	28,004

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

Table 7 above looks at the gender split of those who are in work and claiming Universal Credit. The data indicates that across the City Region in October 2023 28,004 female claimants were recorded (this is around 600 more than in September). Compare this to the male in work UC claimant count which is 15,592 which is a very slight fall on the month before. 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.

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In October 2023 across the City region there were 4,285 16-24 year olds claiming in the City Region. In November there were 4,375 so we can see a month to month increase of 2.1%. In 2 of the Local Authorities (Midlothian and Scottish Borders) there was a month to month fall between October and November. The other 4 all recorded an increase ranging from 1.3% in Edinburgh through to 7.0% in West Lothian.

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
November 2022	1,120	270	1,440	260	345	640	4,075
October 2023	1,195	300	1,500	265	380	645	4,285
November 2023	1,210	310	1,550	250	365	690	4,375
% Change							
Nov22-Nov23	8.0%	14.8%	7.6%	-3.8%	5.8%	7.8%	7.4%
Oct23-Nov23	1.3%	3.3%	3.3%	-5.7%	-3.9%	7.0%	2.1%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

The year on year figure is similar with the region as a whole reporting a 7.4% increase in the number of claimants. Apart from Midlothian every LA in the city region has a higher number of 16-24 year old claimants in November 2023 than they had in November 2022.

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 14,435 25–49-year-olds claiming in November 2023. This is 0.3% lower than a year ago but 4.5% higher than the 13,820 claimants recorded last month.

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
November 2022	5,375	885	4,555	740	1,105	1,825	14,485
October 2023	5,170	900	4,205	785	1,055	1,705	13,820
November 2023	5,420	935	4,370	810	1,070	1,830	14,435
% Change							
Nov22-Nov23	0.8%	5.6%	-4.1%	9.5%	-3.2%	0.3%	-0.3%
Oct23-Nov23	4.8%	3.9%	3.9%	3.2%	1.4%	7.3%	4.5%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

We can see from the table that every one of the 6 LAs recorded a month to month increase for this age group. This ranged from 1.4% in Borders to a 4.8% month to month increase in Edinburgh.

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 5,220 claimants who were 50 or over. This has increased by 0.8% so that in November there were 5,260 claimants who fell into this age category.

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
November 2022	2,010	310	1,820	275	555	590	5,560
October 2023	1,930	330	1,635	240	495	590	5,220
November 2023	1,950	330	1,665	240	485	590	5,260
% Change							
Nov22-Nov23	-3.0%	6.5%	-8.5%	-12.7%	-12.6%	0.0%	-5.4%
Oct23-Nov23	1.0%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	-2.0%	0.0%	0.8%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

In terms of month to month change in each Local Authority there hasn't been the same increase in this age category as there has for the other two age groups. Over the last year the number of claimants over the age of 50 has fallen by 5.4% across the region and with the exception of East Lothian (recorded a year on year increase of 6.5%) and West Lothian (recorded no change year on year) the LAs have all recorded a fall year on year.

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 October and November 2023. Overall, there are 8,575 claimants in Edinburgh, and this is 3.3% higher than October 2023 and 0.8% higher than November 2022. From the table we can see that 10 wards had more than 500 claimants in November.

Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward November 2023

Wards	November 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Nov22- Nov23	Oct23- Nov23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	540	3.8%	3.8%	53.7%	46.3%	13.0%	65.7%	20.4%
City Centre	660	0.8%	4.8%	68.9%	31.1%	14.4%	61.4%	24.2%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	235	14.6%	6.8%	53.2%	46.8%	17.0%	59.6%	23.4%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	165	-5.7%	6.5%	51.5%	48.5%	12.1%	60.6%	27.3%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	605	6.1%	4.3%	61.2%	38.8%	9.9%	66.9%	23.1%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	280	-1.8%	3.7%	57.1%	44.6%	14.3%	66.1%	21.4%
Forth	820	1.2%	3.1%	56.7%	43.3%	12.8%	64.0%	22.6%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	280	1.8%	0.0%	58.9%	41.1%	12.5%	62.5%	25.0%
Inverleith	295	-9.2%	9.3%	49.2%	52.5%	11.9%	61.0%	28.8%
Leith	685	-17.0%	-1.4%	62.8%	37.2%	12.4%	66.4%	21.2%
Leith Walk	665	2.3%	2.3%	57.9%	42.1%	11.3%	65.4%	23.3%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	690	-0.7%	3.8%	55.1%	45.7%	16.7%	63.0%	20.3%
Morningside	220	18.9%	12.8%	56.8%	43.2%	13.6%	63.6%	22.7%
Pentland Hills	715	7.5%	2.9%	58.0%	41.3%	17.5%	60.8%	21.0%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	700	1.4%	2.9%	58.6%	42.1%	14.3%	62.1%	23.6%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	675	7.1%	2.3%	58.5%	41.5%	17.0%	62.2%	20.7%
Southside/Newington	350	1.4%	6.1%	61.4%	38.6%	17.1%	55.7%	27.1%
Edinburgh	8,575	0.8%	3.3%	58.4%	41.6%	14.1%	63.2%	22.7%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

The table also indicates that apart from Leith (fallen by 1.4%) and Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart (same as last year) every ward has a claimant count higher than it was in October and 12 wards have a claimant count higher than it was in November 2022. Of interest is the fact that the claimant count in Leith is 17% lower than a year ago whilst in Morningside it is 18.9% higher than a year ago.

Overall, in Edinburgh in November 2023, 58.4% of claimants were male and 14.1% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 68.9% of the claimants are male and Corstorphine/Murrayfield has the highest proportion of female claimants. In Inverleith 28.8% of claimants in November were

over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city. In Pentland Hills 17.5% 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 October 2022 and September 2023. In Leith Ward there are 1,029 individuals working and claiming and this has fallen slightly over the last year. Overall, 3 wards have seen the in-work UC count fall between September 2023 and October 2023.

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

	Oct-22	Sep-23	Oct-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Almond	985	1,044	1,079	10%	3%
City Centre	670	585	568	-15%	-3%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	445	438	445	0%	2%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	288	254	285	-1%	12%
Craightinny/Duddingston	970	880	885	-9%	1%
Drum Brae/Gyle	541	532	568	5%	7%
Forth	1,454	1,456	1,460	0%	0%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	379	385	396	4%	3%
Inverleith	463	446	470	2%	5%
Leith	1,069	1,002	1,029	-4%	3%
Leith Walk	950	930	945	-1%	2%
Liberton/Gilmerton	1,274	1,255	1,290	1%	3%
Morningside	280	253	238	-15%	-6%
Pentland Hills	1,157	1,219	1,239	7%	2%
Portobello/Craigmillar	1,279	1,313	1,332	4%	1%
Sighthill/Gorgie	1,182	1,182	1,161	-2%	-2%
Southside/Newington	410	387	388	-5%	0%
Edinburgh	13,799	13,563	13,768	0%	2%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

East Lothian

Table 13 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count of 1,575 which is 7.5% higher than it was last year and 2.9% higher than in October. We can see that all wards apart from Musselburgh have recorded an increase between October and November. Preston, Seton and Gosford recorded an increase month to month of 6.1%. Over the last 12 months every ward apart from Preston, Seton and Gosford recorded a year on year increase. This ranged from 23.5% in North Berwick to 2.2% in Haddington and Lammermuir.

Across the county 56.5% of claimants are male and this varies from 54.3% in Dunbar and East Linton through to 59.2% 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 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2023

Wards	November 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	175	12.9%	2.9%	54.3%	42.9%	17.1%	57.1%	22.9%
Haddington and Lammermuir	235	2.2%	2.2%	55.3%	44.7%	19.1%	57.4%	23.4%
Musselburgh	380	2.7%	0.0%	59.2%	40.8%	18.4%	59.2%	22.4%

North Berwick Coastal	105	23.5%	5.0%	57.1%	42.9%	19.0%	57.1%	19.0%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	260	0.0%	6.1%	55.8%	44.2%	21.2%	57.7%	19.2%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	425	16.4%	4.9%	55.3%	44.7%	20.0%	61.2%	18.8%
East Lothian	1,575	7.5%	2.9%	56.5%	43.8%	19.7%	59.4%	21.0%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

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 October 2022 and October 2023 in 3 wards and an increase in the other 3 wards. The latest data shows a month to month increase in 1 ward and a fall in 3 wards.

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

	Oct-22	Sep-23	Oct-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Dunbar and East Linton	444	463	461	4%	0%
Haddington and Lammermuir	542	534	523	-4%	-2%
Musselburgh	749	774	764	2%	-1%
North Berwick Coastal	257	244	237	-8%	-3%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	609	600	603	-1%	0%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	892	879	901	1%	3%
Total	3,495	3,494	3,490	0%	0%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. We can see that overall Fife recorded 7,590 claimants in November 2023 and of these 59.5% were male and 40.5% female. Five wards had over 500 claimants in September and 5 had under 200.

We can see that year on year, 6 wards had seen the claimant count increase and 15 recorded a fall. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay recorded a fall of 12.5% year on year whilst Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty has seen the claimant count increase by 3.8% over the last 12 months.

Between October and November, the claimant count as increased in 17 Fife wards and fell in two. The greatest percentage increase was recorded in St Andrews which saw the count increase by 11.1%. One thing to remember with this ward, is that overall numbers are low to start with so a *relatively* small increase can create quite large percentage changes.

The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages where 715 individuals were looking for work and claiming, slightly up on the 705 recorded in October 2023.

Table 15 Fife Claimant Count by Ward November 2023

Wards	November 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	715	-2.7%	1.4%	62.9%	36.4%	21.0%	56.6%	21.7%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	335	3.1%	8.1%	56.7%	43.3%	20.9%	56.7%	23.9%
Cowdenbeath	510	-5.6%	4.1%	61.8%	38.2%	23.5%	53.9%	22.5%

Cupar	190	0.0%	8.6%	55.3%	42.1%	13.2%	60.5%	23.7%
Dunfermline Central	335	-2.9%	-1.5%	55.2%	44.8%	20.9%	59.7%	19.4%
Dunfermline North	290	-10.8%	-1.7%	62.1%	37.9%	20.7%	60.3%	19.0%
Dunfermline South	370	-5.1%	1.4%	56.8%	43.2%	20.3%	62.2%	18.9%
East Neuk and Landward	180	2.9%	5.9%	61.1%	38.9%	16.7%	58.3%	25.0%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	360	2.9%	1.4%	56.9%	41.7%	27.8%	58.3%	15.3%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	285	-3.4%	3.6%	59.6%	40.4%	21.1%	61.4%	17.5%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	355	1.4%	6.0%	56.3%	43.7%	23.9%	54.9%	21.1%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	155	-3.1%	0.0%	54.8%	45.2%	12.9%	58.1%	29.0%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	210	-12.5%	0.0%	57.1%	42.9%	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%
Kirkcaldy Central	625	1.6%	4.2%	62.4%	37.6%	18.4%	57.6%	24.0%
Kirkcaldy East	595	-7.0%	3.5%	62.2%	37.8%	20.2%	57.1%	23.5%
Kirkcaldy North	345	-1.4%	0.0%	58.0%	43.5%	21.7%	56.5%	21.7%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	380	-7.3%	2.7%	63.2%	36.8%	22.4%	52.6%	25.0%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	550	3.8%	2.8%	60.0%	40.9%	21.8%	58.2%	20.9%
Rosyth	245	-5.8%	6.5%	57.1%	42.9%	18.4%	63.3%	20.4%
St Andrews	100	-4.8%	11.1%	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	45.0%	35.0%
Tay Bridgehead	165	-8.3%	10.0%	54.5%	45.5%	12.1%	66.7%	21.2%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	295	-3.3%	9.3%	57.6%	42.4%	20.3%	59.3%	18.6%
Fife	7,590	-2.9%	3.4%	59.5%	40.5%	20.4%	57.6%	21.9%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

In terms of the number of male or female claimants, Leven, Kennoway and Largo had the highest proportion of male claimants whilst Tay Bridgehead had 45.5% of claimants recording as female. Glenrothes Central and Thornton recorded a high proportion of claimants aged 16-24 and the average across the Kingdom is 20.4%. In St Andrews 35% of the 100 claimants are over 50 years of age.

Table 16 below looks at the in-work UC claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 13,063 Fife residents working and claiming UC support in October 2023 which is 1% higher than last month and 2% higher than a year ago. 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 October 2023

	Oct-22	Sep-23	Oct-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,021	994	1,016	0%	2%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	394	408	409	4%	0%
Cowdenbeath	876	888	902	3%	2%
Cupar	362	384	386	7%	1%
Dunfermline Central	609	624	629	3%	1%
Dunfermline North	508	481	483	-5%	0%
Dunfermline South	759	714	724	-5%	1%
East Neuk and Landward	319	325	331	4%	2%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	666	691	705	6%	2%

Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	560	578	609	9%	5%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	722	709	725	0%	2%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	304	303	298	-2%	-2%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	410	404	406	-1%	0%
Kirkcaldy Central	722	732	730	1%	0%
Kirkcaldy East	760	746	764	1%	2%
Kirkcaldy North	548	595	612	12%	3%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	626	658	641	2%	-3%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	998	1,008	1,018	2%	1%
Rosyth	617	621	612	-1%	-1%
St. Andrews	162	167	162	0%	-3%
Tay Bridgehead	328	367	365	11%	-1%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	539	550	547	1%	-1%
Total	12,810	12,946	13,063	2%	1%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 17 below. Looking at the change between November 2022 and November 2023 we can see that 2 wards recorded a year-on-year decrease and 4 wards saw the claimant count increase. The change over the last month has seen 3 wards record a fall, and 3 record an increase. Overall, 57% of Midlothian claimants were male and 19% were 16-24 years of age.

Table 17 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2023

Wards	Nov-23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Nov22- Nov23	Oct23- Nov23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	195	2.6%	-2.5%	56%	44%	21%	59%	21%
Dalkeith	270	8.0%	1.9%	56%	44%	20%	63%	15%
Midlothian East	230	-6.1%	-2.1%	59%	41%	17%	67%	15%
Midlothian South	210	-4.5%	-4.5%	55%	45%	21%	62%	19%
Midlothian West	200	2.6%	5.3%	58%	43%	20%	58%	23%
Penicuik	190	5.6%	5.6%	61%	39%	13%	68%	21%
Midlothian	1,300	2.0%	0.8%	57%	43%	19%	62%	18%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

Looking at the wards themselves we can see Midlothian South had the highest proportion of females and this ward also recorded the largest month to month fall. In terms of the age profile 21% of claimants in Bonnyrigg and Midlothian South were 16-24 years of age in November 2023 and 23% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50.

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

	Oct-22	Sep-23	Oct-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Bonnyrigg	479	536	535	12%	0%
Dalkeith	572	599	597	4%	0%
Midlothian East	566	547	574	1%	5%
Midlothian South	615	677	673	9%	-1%
Midlothian West	431	476	499	16%	5%
Penicuik	470	438	460	-2%	5%
Total	3,137	3,267	3,335	6%	2%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

Table 18 looks at the number of in work UC claimants in the 6 Midlothian wards. We can see that overall, there are 6% more claimants than in October 2022, and whilst 5 wards saw a year on year increase 1 recorded a fall. The more recent month to month change between September and October 2023 is similar with 2 wards recording no real change, 1 recording a fall and 3 recording an increase.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 19 below. Overall, there were 3,115 claimants in West Lothian in November 2023, and this 2.1% more than a year ago and 6.0% more than last month. We can see that 58% of claimants in West Lothian are male and 22% are aged between 16-24.

Table 19 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2023

Wards	November 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Nov22- Nov23	Oct23- Nov23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	295	0.0%	9.3%	61%	39%	25%	56%	19%
Bathgate	425	-4.5%	3.7%	59%	41%	20%	62%	18%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	325	1.6%	8.3%	60%	38%	22%	55%	22%
East Livingston & E. Calder	355	14.5%	1.4%	55%	45%	20%	61%	18%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	345	1.5%	6.2%	59%	41%	19%	65%	14%
Linlithgow	110	-4.3%	0.0%	64%	41%	18%	50%	36%
Livingston North	315	10.5%	6.8%	57%	43%	27%	57%	16%
Livingston South	415	10.7%	6.4%	53%	47%	27%	53%	19%
Whitburn & Blackburn	540	-4.4%	10.2%	58%	42%	19%	61%	19%
West Lothian	3,115	2.1%	6.0%	58%	42%	22%	59%	19%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

Looking at the wards in more detail we can see that all wards recorded higher claimant numbers in November than in October apart from Linlithgow where it was much the same. Whitburn and Blackburn saw the claimant increase by 10.2% between October and November 2023. The number of claimants in this ward was 540 in November – the highest in West Lothian.

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

	Oct-22	Sep-23	October 2023 r	Oct22- Oct23	Sep23- Oct23
Armadale and Blackridge	539	525	539	0%	3%
Bathgate	798	771	787	-1%	2%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	636	663	672	6%	1%
East Livingston and East Calder	719	808	834	16%	3%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	620	660	659	6%	0%
Linlithgow	231	225	227	-2%	1%
Livingston North	641	661	674	5%	2%
Livingston South	847	870	879	4%	1%
Whitburn and Blackburn	1,003	1,069	1,089	9%	2%
West Lothian	6,031	6,263	6,364	6%	2%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

Table 20 indicates that across West Lothian in October 2023 there were 6,364 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 and apart from Linlithgow every ward has over 500 people working and relying on UC.

Scottish Borders

Table 21 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,915 people claiming in November in Scottish Borders, slightly lower than last month and 4.5% lower than a year ago. Overall, 7 wards have seen the claimant count fall year on year and 4 have seen it fall between October and November. We can also see that 56.9% of claimants were male and 19.1% were 16-24 years of age. Scottish Borders has three wards where there are more female claimants than male.

Table 21 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward November 2023

Wards	November 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	165	-5.7%	3.1%	48.5%	51.5%	15.2%	54.5%	30.3%
Galashiels & District	340	-11.7%	-1.4%	61.8%	39.7%	19.1%	55.9%	25.0%
Hawick and Denholm	245	6.5%	4.3%	61.2%	38.8%	22.4%	59.2%	18.4%
Hawick & Hermitage	195	8.3%	-4.9%	64.1%	35.9%	28.2%	51.3%	23.1%
Jedburgh and District	145	3.6%	-9.4%	51.7%	48.3%	20.7%	51.7%	27.6%
Kelso and District	140	-3.4%	-9.7%	57.1%	42.9%	14.3%	60.7%	25.0%
Leaderdale & Melrose	125	-10.7%	4.2%	48.0%	52.0%	16.0%	60.0%	24.0%
Mid Berwickshire	165	6.5%	3.1%	51.5%	48.5%	18.2%	51.5%	30.3%
Selkirkshire	140	-12.5%	3.7%	64.3%	35.7%	17.9%	57.1%	21.4%
Tweeddale East	115	-11.5%	9.5%	47.8%	52.2%	21.7%	52.2%	26.1%
Tweeddale West	140	-17.6%	0.0%	57.1%	42.9%	10.7%	60.7%	28.6%
Scottish Borders	1,915	-4.5%	-0.5%	56.9%	43.1%	19.1%	55.9%	25.3%

Source: NOMIS 13/12/2023

In Hawick and Hermitage, 28.2% of claimants are 16-24 compared to 10.7% in Tweeddale West. In Mid Berwickshire and East Berwickshire 30.3% 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 October 2023

	Oct-22	Sep-23	Oct-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
East Berwickshire	379	353	368	-3%	4%
Galashiels and District	569	580	577	1%	-1%
Hawick and Denholm	409	387	391	-4%	1%
Hawick and Hermitage	263	286	293	11%	2%
Jedburgh and District	248	255	260	5%	2%
Kelso and District	282	292	298	6%	2%
Leaderdale and Melrose	273	306	299	10%	-2%
Mid Berwickshire	319	341	354	11%	4%
Selkirkshire	265	275	282	6%	3%
Tweeddale East	208	205	215	3%	5%
Tweeddale West	199	213	235	18%	10%
Scottish Borders	3,417	3,499	3,573	5%	2%

Source: StatXplore 13/12/2023

Table 22 looks at the number of people in work and claiming UC in Scottish Borders. In October 2023 there were 3,573 people working who needed the support of Universal Credit. This is 5% higher than October 2022 and 2% 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 therefore they are the same tables as presented in the last report. It is based on 12 months survey data so reflects the position as of June 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 18/12/2023* 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.

The APS/LFS data also gives an indication of the sectors people are employed in and this is presented in Table 24 below. It does give an indication of the types of jobs that dominate in each of the LAs and we can see that in Edinburgh 41% of jobs are classed as professional occupations in the 2020 Standard Occupational Classifications. This includes.

- Science, research, engineering and technology professionals
- Health professionals
- Teaching and other educational professionals

- Business, media and public service professionals

This category dominates in all 6 Local Authorities but at 41% it makes up nearly half of all Edinburgh jobs.

Table 24 In employment split by sector (July 2022-June 2023 Survey)

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
	%	%	%	%	%	%
managers, directors and senior officials	9.5	8.8	9.4	6.5	9.3	6.3
professional occupations	41.1	28.7	24.5	26.9	27.3	21.6
associate professional occupations	16.1	15.3	15.5	15.7	12.7	17.2
administrative and secretarial occupations	9.5	12.1	8.1	9.6	8.1	10.6
skilled trades occupations	5.0	8.0	7.3	9.9	11.8	12.2
caring, leisure and other service occupations	5.4	11.3	9.0	12.3	9.2	4.6
sales and customer service occupations	4.6	5.6	8.9	4.7	5.9	6.8
process, plant and machine operatives	1.5	3.8	3.9	3.4	9.0	9.6
elementary occupations	7.3	5.9	13.5	8.7	6.7	10.8

Source: NOMIS 18/12/2023

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