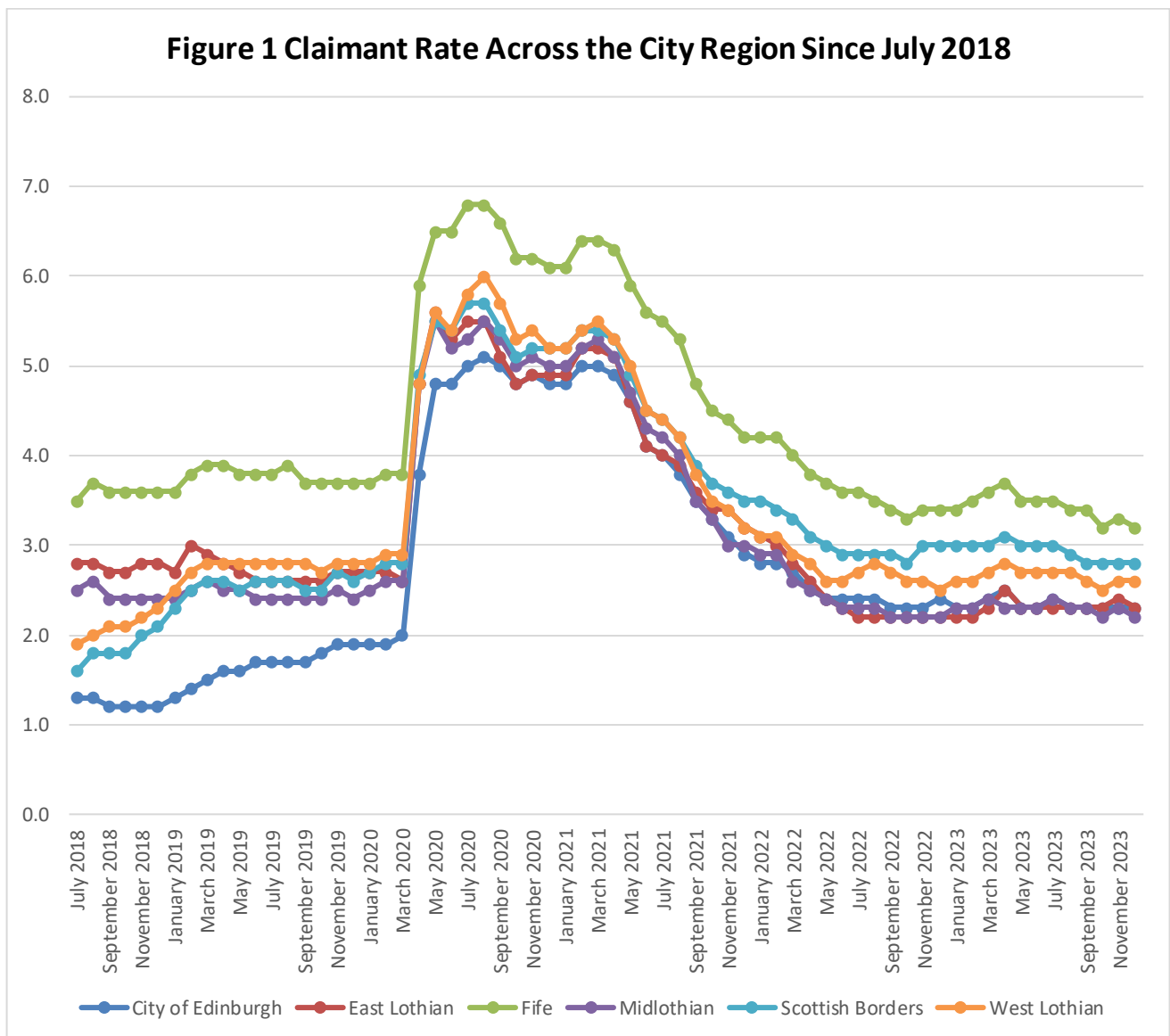


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count January 2024 Summary Update

<p>Claimant Count Change Between December 2022 and December 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.4% ↑ Scotland increased by 0.5% ↓ Edinburgh decreased by 1.7% ↓ City Region decreased by 2.1% 	<p>Claimant Count Change Between November 2023 and December 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 2.7% ↑ Scotland increased by 0.5% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 0.8% ↑ City Region increased by 0.3%
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Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

City Region Summary

1. In December 2023 the claimant count for the City Region was 23,835. Of these
 - a. 4,245 were 16-24 year olds down from 4,335 in November.
 - b. 14,505 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,230 in November.
 - c. 5,075 were 50 or older down from 5,220 in November.
2. In November 2023 there were 43,886 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In October there were 43,594.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In December 2023 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,480. Of these
 - a. 1,180 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,200 in November.
 - b. 5,410 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,305 in November.
 - c. 1,885 were 50 or older. It was 1,9315 in November.
2. In November 2023 there were 14,060 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In October there were 13,768.

East Lothian Summary

1. In December 2023 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,570. Of these
 - a. 290 were 16-24 year olds. In November there were 310.
 - b. 960 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 930.
 - c. 320 were 50 or older. In November there were 335.
2. In November 2023 there were 3,544 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In October there were 3,490.

Fife Summary

1. In December 2023 the claimant count for Fife was 7,450. Of these
 - a. 1,500 were 16-24 year olds. In November there were 1,520.
 - b. 4,375 were 25-49 years of age. In November there were 4,280.
 - c. 1,575 were 50 or older. In November there were 1,650.
2. In November 2023 there were 12,929 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In October there were 13,063.

Midlothian Summary

1. In December 2023 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,295. Of these
 - a. 250 were 16-24 year olds. In November it was 260.
 - b. 820 were 25-49 year olds. In November it was 825.
 - c. 220 were 50 or older. In November it was 240.
2. In November 2023 there were 3,364 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In October there were 3,335.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In December 2023 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,925. Of these
 - a. 350 were 16-24 year olds. In November it was 360.
 - b. 1,090 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 1,080.
 - c. 485 were 50 or older. In November there were 485.
2. In November 2023 there were 3,606 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In October there were 3,573.

West Lothian Summary

1. In December 2023 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,115. Of these
 - a. 675 were 16-24 year olds. In November there were 685.
 - b. 1,850 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 1,810.
 - c. 590 were 50 or older. In November there were 595.
2. In November 2023 there were 6,382 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian. In October there were 6,364.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count January 2024 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that the in the UK the claimant count in December 2023 is higher than it was five years ago. This is the same in every region and nation apart from the North East of England. In Scotland it is 11.6% higher than in December 2018 and in the UK, it is 60.9% higher. We can also see that in all but two regions and countries of the UK the claimant count in December 2023 is higher than it was in December 2022.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	December 2018	December 2022	November 2023	December 2023	Percentage Change		
					Dec 2018 - Dec 2023	Nov 2023- Dec 2023	Dec 2022- Dec 2023
UK	967,220	1,515,210	1,535,890	1,556,660	60.9%	2.7%	1.4%
East	63,435	111,255	116,075	118,250	86.4%	6.3%	1.9%
East Midlands	55,615	97,400	99,910	100,890	81.4%	3.6%	1.0%
London	139,815	280,515	295,990	302,925	116.7%	8.0%	2.3%
North East	64,750	68,895	64,470	64,460	-0.4%	-6.4%	0.0%
North West	133,570	191,305	190,735	191,695	43.5%	0.2%	0.5%
N. Ireland	28,655	35,750	35,775	35,940	25.4%	0.5%	0.5%
Scotland	94,995	109,940	105,470	105,985	11.6%	-3.6%	0.5%
South East	84,330	161,015	163,505	166,675	97.6%	3.5%	1.9%
South West	59,785	86,025	88,210	89,435	49.6%	4.0%	1.4%
Wales	46,750	62,295	61,770	61,440	31.4%	-1.4%	-0.5%
W Midlands	106,005	175,305	176,525	178,680	68.6%	1.9%	1.2%
Yorks & Humb	89,510	135,515	137,455	140,285	56.7%	3.5%	2.1%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 looks at the situation in Scotland and focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. We can see that most Scottish Local Authorities now have a claimant count lower than it was a year ago, there are still four (two within the City Region) that had a claimant count in December 2023 that was higher than December 2022.

In the City Region the claimant count in December 2023 is 0.3% higher than in November. Four of the six Local Authorities saw a month to month increase and only East and Midlothian recorded a fall between November and December.

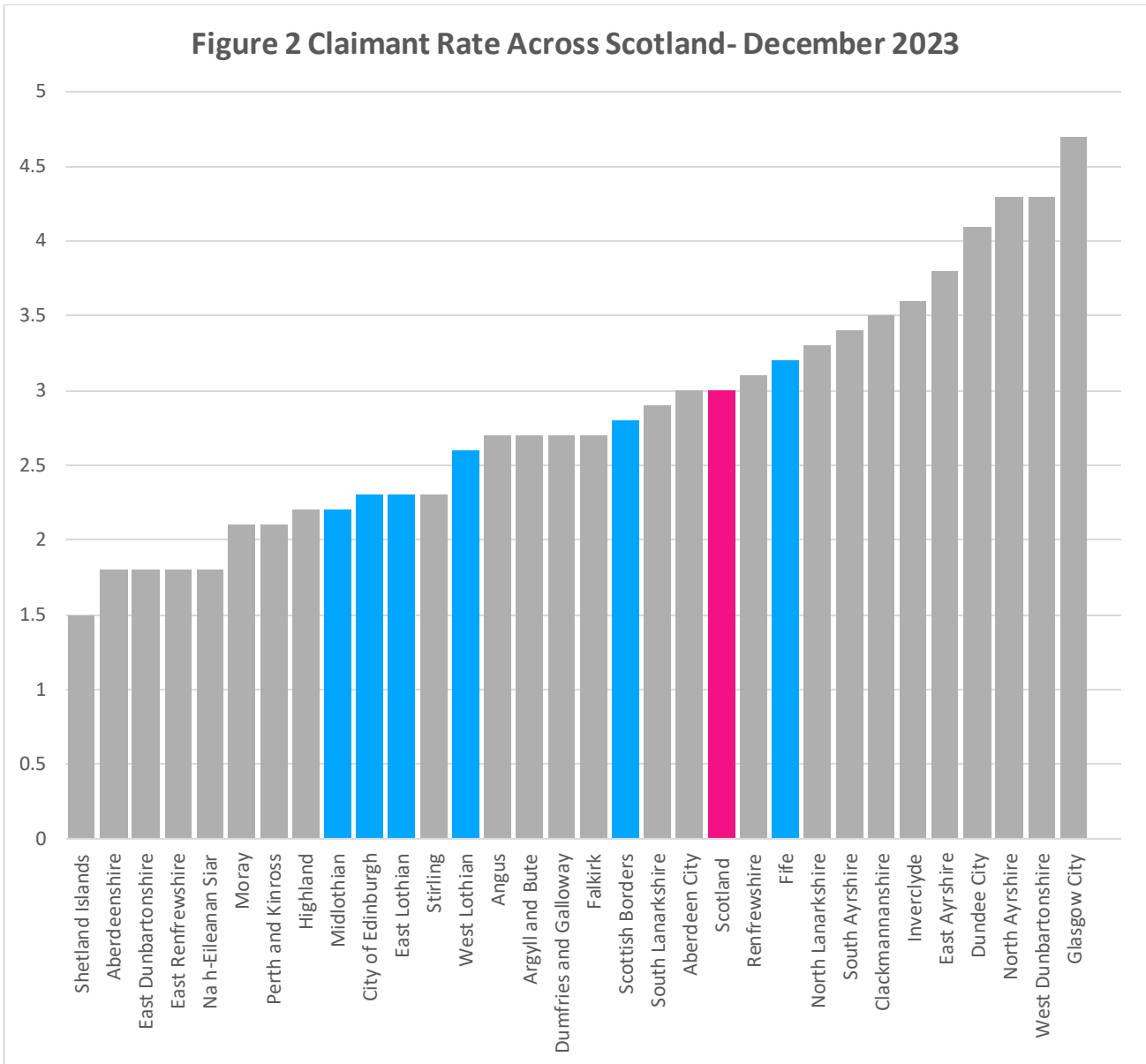
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs

	Dec 2018	Dec 2022	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Dec 2018 - Dec 2023	Dec 2022- Dec 2023	Nov 2023- Dec 2023
Aberdeen City	2,760	5,020	4,690	4,695	70.1%	-6.5%	0.1%
Aberdeenshire	2,180	2,985	2,820	2,835	30.0%	-5.0%	0.5%
Angus	2,040	2,010	1,860	1,880	-7.8%	-6.5%	1.1%
Argyll and Bute	1,085	1,400	1,330	1,385	27.6%	-1.1%	4.1%
Edinburgh	4,420	8,630	8,415	8,480	91.9%	-1.7%	0.8%
Clackmannanshire	1,295	1,175	1,105	1,120	-13.5%	-4.7%	1.4%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,230	2,555	2,380	2,340	4.9%	-8.4%	-1.7%
Dundee City	4,270	4,055	3,995	4,005	-6.2%	-1.2%	0.3%
East Ayrshire	3,635	3,125	2,995	2,905	-20.1%	-7.0%	-3.0%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,105	1,250	1,200	1,155	4.5%	-7.6%	-3.8%
East Lothian	1,830	1,480	1,575	1,570	-14.2%	6.1%	-0.3%
East Renfrewshire	710	955	1,000	1,000	40.8%	4.7%	0.0%
Falkirk	3,080	3,120	2,840	2,795	-9.3%	-10.4%	-1.6%
Fife	8,275	7,920	7,445	7,450	-10.0%	-5.9%	0.1%
Glasgow City	13,600	21,590	20,515	20,865	53.4%	-3.4%	1.7%
Highland	3,510	3,340	3,065	3,185	-9.3%	-4.6%	3.9%
Inverclyde	2,400	1,805	1,740	1,740	-27.5%	-3.6%	0.0%
Midlothian	1,350	1,300	1,325	1,295	-4.1%	-0.4%	-2.3%
Moray	1,290	1,360	1,235	1,255	-2.7%	-7.7%	1.6%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	290	290	260	285	-1.7%	-1.7%	9.6%
North Ayrshire	4,490	3,665	3,555	3,520	-21.6%	-4.0%	-1.0%
North Lanarkshire	7,675	7,330	7,155	7,320	-4.6%	-0.1%	2.3%
Orkney Islands	135	215	200	210	55.6%	-2.3%	5.0%
Perth and Kinross	1,445	2,035	2,035	1,990	37.7%	-2.2%	-2.2%
Renfrewshire	3,135	3,485	3,595	3,585	14.4%	2.9%	-0.3%
Scottish Borders	1,425	2,010	1,920	1,925	35.1%	-4.2%	0.3%
Shetland Islands	150	240	205	210	40.0%	-12.5%	2.4%
South Ayrshire	2,420	2,400	2,235	2,255	-6.8%	-6.0%	0.9%
South Lanarkshire	6,685	6,240	5,955	5,870	-12.2%	-5.9%	-1.4%
Stirling	1,370	1,420	1,395	1,380	0.7%	-2.8%	-1.1%
W. Dunbartonshire	1,990	2,525	2,345	2,370	19.1%	-6.1%	1.1%
West Lothian	2,705	3,000	3,090	3,115	15.2%	3.8%	0.8%
Scotland	94,995	109,940	105,470	105,985	11.6%	-3.6%	0.5%
City Region	20,005	24,340	23,770	23,835	19.1%	-2.1%	0.3%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities. From this it can be seen that, except for Fife, all the City Region Local Authorities had a claimant rate below the Scottish average. For two Local Authorities in the City Region the claimant rate is low enough to place it within the ten Local Authorities with the lowest claimant rate in the country.

Figure 2 Claimant Rate Across Scotland- December 2023



Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

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 December 2023 is lower than it was in December 2022. In two Local Authorities it was higher than it was a year ago and in the other four the claimant count is lower than it was in 2022.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region LAs

	Dec 2022	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Dec-22 to Dec-23	Nov-23- Dec-23
Edinburgh	8,630	8,415	8,480	-1.7%	0.8%
East Lothian	1,480	1,575	1,570	6.1%	-0.3%
Fife	7,920	7,445	7,450	-5.9%	0.1%
Midlothian	1,300	1,325	1,295	-0.4%	-2.3%
Scottish Borders	2,010	1,920	1,925	-4.2%	0.3%
West Lothian	3,000	3,090	3,115	3.8%	0.8%
City Region	24,340	23,770	23,835	-2.1%	0.3%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

The month-to-month change from November 2023 to December 2023 indicates that in four Local Authorities the claimant count is higher than it was in November. That said it is only *marginally* higher in all of these.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that across the region in October 2023 there were 43,594 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 three hundred people so that the most recent data from November 2023 indicates there were 43,886 individuals in work and claiming.

Table 4 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment

	Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23	Oct22-Oct23	Sep23-Oct23
Edinburgh	13,875	13,768	14,060	1.3%	2.1%
East Lothian	3,504	3,490	3,544	1.1%	1.5%
Fife	12,762	13,063	12,929	1.3%	-1.0%
Midlothian	3,197	3,335	3,364	5.2%	0.9%
West Lothian	6,118	6,364	6,382	4.3%	0.3%
Scottish Borders	3,409	3,573	3,606	5.8%	0.9%
Total	42,874	43,594	43,886	2.4%	0.7%

Source: StatXplore 18/1/2024

Gender Profile

From Table 5 we can see that the male claimant count in Fife is 9.1% lower than it was 12 months ago and 1.1% lower than last month. Every Local Authority in the city region has seen the number of male claimants fall over the last 12 months. Comparing the December 2023 statistics to those of November 2023 the picture is similar and all six Local Authorities have seen the number of male claimants fall – ranging from a 2.8% fall in East Lothian to a 0.5% fall in Scottish Borders. Overall, there 160 fewer male claimants in the region in December compared to November and 860 fewer than one year ago.

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

	Dec- 2022	Nov - 2023	Dec - 2023	Dec-22 to Dec-23	Nov-23- Dec-23
Edinburgh	5,165	4,910	4,880	-5.5%	-0.6%
East Lothian	875	895	870	-0.6%	-2.8%
Fife	4,835	4,445	4,395	-9.1%	-1.1%
Midlothian	755	750	735	-2.6%	-2.0%
Scottish Borders	1,170	1,095	1,090	-6.8%	-0.5%
West Lothian	1,785	1,790	1,755	-1.7%	-2.0%
City Region	14,585	13,885	13,725	-5.9%	-1.2%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Table 6 looks at the situation for female claimants and presents a different picture. We can see that over the last twelve months the female claimant count has increased across the region from 9,775 to 10,110. This is an **increase** of 3.6% compared to the 5.9% **fall** in the number of male claimants.

In all bar two Local Authorities we can see a year on year increase in the number of female claimants - ranging from a 15.7% increase in East Lothian between December 2022 and December 2023 through to a 3.7% increase in Edinburgh and in Midlothian. The two Local Authorities that recorded a fall year on year were Fife, where the number of female claimants fell from 3,085 in November 2022 to 3,055 in November 2023 and in Scottish Borders were the count fell from 840 to

835. Between November 2023 and December 2023, the number of female claimants increased in every Local Authority except Midlothian where it fell. This ranged from a 1.2% increase in Scottish Borders through to 4.6% increase in West Lothian.

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

	Dec - 2022	Nov - 2023	Dec - 2023	Dec-22 to Dec-23	Nov-23- Dec-23
Edinburgh	3,470	3,505	3,600	3.7%	2.7%
East Lothian	605	680	700	15.7%	2.9%
Fife	3,085	3,000	3,055	-1.0%	1.8%
Midlothian	540	575	560	3.7%	-2.6%
Scottish Borders	840	825	835	-0.6%	1.2%
West Lothian	1,215	1,300	1,360	11.9%	4.6%
City Region	9,755	9,885	10,110	3.6%	2.3%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Table 7 below looks at the gender split of those who are in work and claiming Universal Credit. The data indicates that across the City Region in November 2023 28,289 female claimants were in work and claiming Universal Credit. This is around three hundred more than in October. Compare this to the male in work Universal Credit claimant count which is 15,596 is almost the same as it was the month before. Table 7 shows that across the region, and in each Local Authority, there are a far higher proportion of women who are in work, but their earnings are so low that they qualify for in work Universal Credit.

Table 7: In Work Universal Credit Claimants

		Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23
City of Edinburgh	Male	5,656	5,414	5,520
	Female	8,219	8,357	8,539
East Lothian	Male	1,133	1,096	1,113
	Female	2,377	2,393	2,431
Fife	Male	4,608	4,618	4,532
	Female	8,157	8,447	8,395
Midlothian	Male	1,044	1,075	1,077
	Female	2,153	2,259	2,291
West Lothian	Male	2,122	2,105	2,084
	Female	3,994	4,257	4,298
Scottish Borders	Male	1,256	1,287	1,269
	Female	2,156	2,288	2,333
Total	Male	15,820	15,592	15,596
	Female	27,054	28,004	28,289

Source: StatXplore 18/1/2024

What we can see from this data is that the proportion of females in the claimant count are increasing whilst the male claimant count is falling. This has been a trend identified in previous reports and suggests that focusing support to re-enter the labour market on this group could help reduce the claimant count overall. However, the increase in Universal Credit claims from working females is also worth considering as reducing the out of work claimant count could have an impact on the numbers of people, in particular females, claiming Universal Credit as the job they have taken does not pay enough. Table 24 below suggests that the median weekly wage for females across the Region is around £140 a week less than males.

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In November 2023 across the City region there were 4,335 16-24 year olds claiming in the City Region. In December 2023 there were 4,245 - a month to month fall of 2.1%. In all 6 Local Authorities month to month falls were recorded between November and December 2023. This ranged from a fall of 6.5% in East Lothian (down from 310 in November to 290 in December) through to a fall of 1.3% in Fife (a fall from 1,520 in November to 1,500 in December).

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
December 2022	1,150	280	1,440	265	340	640	4,115
November 2023	1,200	310	1,520	260	360	685	4,335
December 2023	1,180	290	1,500	250	350	675	4,245
% Change							
Dec 2022- Dec 2023	2.6%	3.6%	4.2%	-5.7%	2.9%	5.5%	3.2%
Nov 2023-Dec 2023	-1.7%	-6.5%	-1.3%	-3.8%	-2.8%	-1.5%	-2.1%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

The year on year figure shows a 3.2% increase across the region from 4,115 in December 2022 to 4,245 in December 2023. When each of the six Local Authorities are looked at the year on year change ranges from an increase of 5.5% in West Lothian to a fall of 5.7% in Midlothian.

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 14,505 25–49-year-olds claiming in December 2023, and this is up from 14,230 in November 2023 - an increase of 1.9%. This is 0.7% lower than a year ago.

We can see from the table that five of the six Local Authorities recorded a month to month increase for this age group. This ranged from 0.9% in Borders to an increase of 3.2% in East Lothian. Midlothian has recorded a slight fall over the last month, from 825 claimants in November to 820 in December.

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
December 2022	5,455	880	4,615	775	1,100	1,775	14,600
November 2023	5,305	930	4,280	825	1,080	1,810	14,230
December 2023	5,410	960	4,375	820	1,090	1,850	14,505
% Change							
Dec 2022- Dec 2023	-0.8%	9.1%	-5.2%	5.8%	-0.9%	4.2%	-0.7%
Nov 2023-Dec 2023	2.0%	3.2%	2.2%	-0.6%	0.9%	2.2%	1.9%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Comparing the situation in December 2023 with that of December 2022 the table indicates three Local Authorities recorded an increase over the 12 months whilst three Local Authorities saw a fall between December 2022 and December 2023.

50 Year Olds and Over

Table 10 looks at what has been happening in terms of those over the age of fifty. Across the City Region we can see that in November 2023 there were 5,220 claimants who were fifty or over. This

has decreased by 2.8% so that in December 2023 there were 5,075 claimants who fell into this age category.

In terms of month to month change. In 5 Local Authorities there has either been a fall and in one, Scottish Borders, it is the same as it was in November 2023. Midlothian recorded the largest fall where a fall in the number by twenty claimants has resulted in a percentage fall of 8.3%. Over the last year the number of claimants over the age of 50 has fallen by 9.8% across the region and except for West Lothian (recorded a year on year increase of 1.7%) all the Local Authorities recorded a fall year on year. In Fife there are now nearly 300 fewer claimants in this age group than a year ago.

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
December 2022	2,025	325	1,865	260	570	580	5,625
November 2023	1,915	335	1,650	240	485	595	5,220
December 2023	1,885	320	1,575	220	485	590	5,075
% Change							
Dec 2022- Dec 2023	-6.9%	-1.5%	-15.5%	-15.4%	-14.9%	1.7%	-9.8%
Nov 2023-Dec 2023	-1.6%	-4.5%	-4.5%	-8.3%	0.0%	-0.8%	-2.8%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Ward Profile

Edinburgh

Table 11 gives the current situation in the seventeen Edinburgh wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between November and December 2023. Overall, there are 8,480 claimants in Edinburgh, and this is 0.8% higher than November 2023 and 1.7% lower than December 2022. From the table we can see that ten wards had more than 500 claimants in December.

The table also indicates that ten wards have a claimant count higher than November and 7 have a claimant count higher than in December 2022. Over the course of the year Leith Ward has seen the claimant count fall by 18.2%.

Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward December 2023

Wards	Dec 2023	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2023				
		Dec 2022- Dec 2023	Nov 2023- Dec 2023	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	550	2.8%	3.8%	52.7%	47.3%	12.7%	68.2%	19.1%
City Centre	645	-0.8%	-0.8%	69.0%	31.0%	14.7%	61.2%	24.0%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	230	2.2%	2.2%	54.3%	45.7%	19.6%	58.7%	21.7%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	155	-8.8%	-3.1%	51.6%	48.4%	12.9%	61.3%	25.8%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	615	7.0%	3.4%	59.3%	40.7%	11.4%	65.0%	23.6%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	280	-6.7%	0.0%	53.6%	46.4%	12.5%	66.1%	21.4%
Forth	825	1.2%	2.5%	55.2%	44.2%	12.1%	64.2%	23.6%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	285	1.8%	1.8%	56.1%	43.9%	12.3%	63.2%	24.6%
Inverleith	280	-15.2%	-3.4%	50.0%	50.0%	12.5%	64.3%	25.0%
Leith	675	-18.2%	1.5%	59.3%	41.5%	12.6%	66.7%	20.7%
Leith Walk	650	0.0%	0.8%	59.2%	40.8%	10.0%	66.9%	23.8%

Liberton/ Gilmerton	700	1.4%	2.9%	54.3%	46.4%	16.4%	62.1%	21.4%
Morningside	200	0.0%	-7.0%	57.5%	45.0%	15.0%	65.0%	20.0%
Pentland Hills	730	6.6%	2.8%	56.8%	43.8%	17.8%	63.0%	19.9%
Portobello/Craigmillar	695	-2.8%	2.2%	57.6%	42.4%	14.4%	64.7%	20.9%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	645	-0.8%	-1.5%	57.4%	41.9%	17.8%	61.2%	20.9%
Southside/Newington	320	-5.9%	-5.9%	64.1%	37.5%	15.6%	56.3%	28.1%
Edinburgh	8,480	-1.7%	0.8%	57.5%	42.5%	13.9%	63.8%	22.2%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Overall, in Edinburgh in December 2023, 57.5% of claimants were male and 13.9% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 69.0% of the claimants are male and Corstorphine/Murrayfield has the highest proportion of female claimants. In Southside/Newington 28.1% of claimants in December were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city. In Pentland Hills and Sighthill/Gorgie wards 17.8% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

Table 12 below looks at the in-work Universal Credit claimant count for the Edinburgh wards. This indicates that there are just under 1,500 people in Forth Ward who are working but their earnings are low enough that they can receive Universal Credit. This is about the same as in October 2023 and November 2022. In Leith Ward there are 1,058 individuals working and claiming and this has fallen by 12% over the last year. Overall, two wards have seen the in-work Universal Credit count fall between October 2023 and November 2023, 3 have seen no change and all the others have seen an increase.

Table 12 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Edinburgh Ward November 2023

	Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23	Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23
Almond	994	1,079	1,099	11%	2%
City Centre	672	568	583	-13%	3%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	444	445	445	0%	0%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	292	285	318	9%	12%
Craigtinny/Duddingston	965	885	908	-6%	3%
Drum Brae/Gyle	539	568	584	8%	3%
Forth	1,444	1,460	1,480	2%	1%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	382	396	392	3%	-1%
Inverleith	465	470	456	-2%	-3%
Leith	1,204	1,029	1,058	-12%	3%
Leith Walk	926	945	949	2%	0%
Liberton/Gilmerton	1,271	1,290	1,312	3%	2%
Morningside	255	238	247	-3%	4%
Pentland Hills	1,169	1,239	1,263	8%	2%
Portobello/Craigmillar	1,255	1,332	1,365	9%	2%
Sighthill/Gorgie	1,163	1,161	1,203	3%	4%
Southside/Newington	433	388	389	-10%	0%
Edinburgh	13,875	13,768	14,060	1%	2%

Source: StatXplore 19/1/2024

East Lothian

Table 13 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count of 1,570 which is 6.1% higher than it was last year and 0.3% lower than in November. We can see that three wards recorded an increase between November and December, two saw the claimant count fall and in one, Preston, Seton and Gosford, it remained the same. Over the last 12 months four wards recorded a year on year increase and two recorded a fall.

Across the county 55.4% of claimants are male and this varies from 51.4% in Dunbar and East Linton through to 57.0% in Musselburgh and in Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry. Preston, Seton and Gosford, as well as recording no change month to month also has the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants. Dunbar and East Linton has the highest proportion of over 50 year olds.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2023

Wards	Dec 23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2023				
		Dec22- Dec23	Nov23- Dec23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	185	15.6%	8.8%	51.4%	48.6%	16.2%	59.5%	27.0%
Haddington and Lammermuir	245	4.3%	2.1%	55.1%	46.9%	16.3%	63.3%	22.4%
Musselburgh	395	9.7%	2.6%	57.0%	44.3%	19.0%	59.5%	21.5%
North Berwick Coastal	95	-5.0%	-5.0%	52.6%	42.1%	10.5%	68.4%	21.1%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	250	-2.0%	0.0%	56.0%	44.0%	22.0%	58.0%	20.0%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	395	6.8%	-7.1%	57.0%	44.3%	20.3%	63.3%	17.7%
East Lothian	1,570	6.1%	-0.3%	55.4%	44.6%	18.5%	61.1%	20.4%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Table 14 looks at those claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian who are in work and presents the results by ward. Overall, there has been a fall between November 2022 and November 2023 in three wards and an increase in the other three wards. The latest data shows a month to month decrease in one ward and an increase in the other five.

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

	Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23	Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23
Dunbar and East Linton	443	461	478	8%	4%
Haddington and Lammermuir	548	523	537	-2%	3%
Musselburgh	758	764	773	2%	1%
North Berwick Coastal	252	237	248	-2%	5%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	604	603	620	3%	3%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	907	901	886	-2%	-2%
East Lothian	3,504	3,490	3,544	1%	2%

Source: StatXplore 19/1/2024

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. We can see that overall Fife recorded 7,450 claimants in December 2023 and of these 59% were male. Five wards had over five hundred claimants in December and five had under 200.

We can see that year on year, two wards had seen the claimant count increase, three recorded no change and the remaining seventeen recorded a fall. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay recorded a fall of 16.7% year on year whilst Glenrothes West and Kinglassie has seen the claimant count increase by 10.9% over the last 12 months.

Between November and December, the claimant count increased in nine Fife wards and fell in eight. The greatest percentage increase was recorded in Tay Bridgehead which saw the count increase by 15.6%. 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 690 individuals were looking for work and claiming, slightly down on the figure recorded last month.

Table 15 Fife Claimant Count by Ward December 2023

Wards	Dec 23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2023				
		Dec22- Dec23	Nov23- Dec23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	690	-8.6%	-0.7%	63.0%	36.2%	21.0%	58.0%	21.0%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	305	-9.0%	-7.6%	59.0%	39.3%	18.0%	57.4%	23.0%
Cowdenbeath	510	-6.4%	4.1%	61.8%	38.2%	22.5%	56.9%	20.6%
Cupar	190	-2.6%	5.6%	57.9%	42.1%	15.8%	60.5%	21.1%
Dunfermline Central	330	-1.5%	-2.9%	54.5%	43.9%	19.7%	62.1%	18.2%
Dunfermline North	285	-9.5%	0.0%	59.6%	40.4%	21.1%	59.6%	17.5%
Dunfermline South	340	-13.9%	-6.8%	55.9%	44.1%	19.1%	63.2%	17.6%
East Neuk and Landward	185	0.0%	8.8%	56.8%	40.5%	16.2%	56.8%	27.0%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	355	6.0%	0.0%	54.9%	45.1%	25.4%	59.2%	14.1%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	265	-13.1%	-5.4%	58.5%	43.4%	18.9%	66.0%	15.1%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	355	10.9%	0.0%	53.5%	45.1%	21.1%	56.3%	21.1%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	0.0%	12.9%	54.3%	42.9%	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	200	-16.7%	-4.8%	55.0%	45.0%	20.0%	57.5%	25.0%
Kirkcaldy Central	615	-6.8%	-0.8%	61.8%	38.2%	19.5%	59.3%	21.1%
Kirkcaldy East	605	-6.9%	4.3%	62.0%	38.0%	17.4%	57.9%	24.0%
Kirkcaldy North	325	-8.5%	-5.8%	56.9%	43.1%	21.5%	56.9%	21.5%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	370	-11.9%	1.4%	64.9%	35.1%	21.6%	54.1%	24.3%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	540	0.0%	0.0%	59.3%	40.7%	23.1%	55.6%	20.4%
Rosyth	245	-5.8%	2.1%	55.1%	44.9%	14.3%	63.3%	20.4%
St Andrews	105	-4.5%	5.0%	61.9%	38.1%	19.0%	42.9%	33.3%
Tay Bridgehead	185	-2.6%	15.6%	51.4%	45.9%	13.5%	64.9%	21.6%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	280	-9.7%	-1.8%	57.1%	44.6%	19.6%	60.7%	19.6%
Fife	7,450	-5.9%	0.1%	59.0%	41.0%	20.1%	58.7%	21.1%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

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 45.9% 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 20.1%. In St Andrews 33.3% of the one hundred claimants are over 50 years of age.

Table 16 below looks at the in-work Universal Credit claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 12,929 Fife residents working and claiming Universal Credit support in November 2023 which is 1% lower than last month and 1% higher than a year ago. Again, there are

people needing this support across the Kingdom with every ward other than St Andrews recording over three hundred claimants.

Table 16 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Fife Ward November 2023

	Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23	Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,006	1,016	980	-3%	-4%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	398	409	384	-4%	-6%
Cowdenbeath	881	902	907	3%	1%
Cupar	371	386	386	4%	0%
Dunfermline Central	611	629	612	0%	-3%
Dunfermline North	512	483	493	-4%	2%
Dunfermline South	739	724	722	-2%	0%
East Neuk and Landward	308	331	327	6%	-1%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	657	705	708	8%	0%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	541	609	613	13%	1%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	756	725	736	-3%	2%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	313	298	296	-5%	-1%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	416	406	395	-5%	-3%
Kirkcaldy Central	695	738	715	3%	-3%
Kirkcaldy East	761	765	738	-3%	-4%
Kirkcaldy North	545	612	582	7%	-5%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	629	641	635	1%	-1%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	982	1,018	991	1%	-3%
Rosyth	616	612	619	0%	1%
St. Andrews	163	162	168	3%	4%
Tay Bridgehead	328	365	375	14%	3%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	545	547	552	1%	1%
Fife	12,762	13,063	12,929	1%	-1%

Source: StatXplore 19/1/2024

Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 17 below. Looking at the change between December 2022 and December 2023 we can see that three wards recorded a year-on-year increase and three wards saw the claimant count fall. The change over the last month has seen three wards record a fall, and three record an increase. Overall, 56.8% of Midlothian claimants were male and 19.3% were 16-24 years of age.

Table 17 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2023

Wards	Dec 23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2023				
		Dec 22-Dec 23	Nov 23-Dec 23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	205	5.1%	2.5%	53.7%	48.8%	24.4%	58.5%	17.1%
Dalkeith	255	6.3%	-8.9%	54.9%	45.1%	21.6%	64.7%	13.7%
Midlothian East	225	-10.0%	-6.3%	55.6%	42.2%	17.8%	66.7%	13.3%
Midlothian South	210	-2.3%	-6.7%	54.8%	42.9%	21.4%	61.9%	16.7%
Midlothian West	210	-2.3%	5.0%	59.5%	40.5%	16.7%	59.5%	23.8%
Penicuik	195	8.3%	2.6%	61.5%	38.5%	15.4%	66.7%	17.9%
Midlothian	1,295	-0.4%	-2.3%	56.8%	43.2%	19.3%	63.3%	17.0%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2023

Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Bonnyrigg had the highest proportion of females. In terms of the age profile 24.4% of claimants in Bonnyrigg were 16-24 years of age in December 2023 and 23.8% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50.

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

Table 18 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Midlothian Ward November 2023

	Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23	Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23
Bonnyrigg	480	535	547	14%	2%
Dalkeith	583	597	612	5%	3%
Midlothian East	579	574	576	-1%	0%
Midlothian South	627	673	680	8%	1%
Midlothian West	452	499	491	9%	-2%
Penicuik	478	460	460	-4%	0%
Midlothian	3,197	3,335	3,364	5%	1%

Source: StatXplore 19/1/2024

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 19 below. Overall, there were 3,115 claimants in West Lothian in December 2023, and this 3.8% more than a year ago and 0.8% more than last month. We can see that 56.3% of claimants in West Lothian are male and 21.7% are aged between 16-24.

Table 19 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2023

Wards	Dec 23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Dec 22- Dec 23	Nov 23- Dec 23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadales & Blackridge	295	3.5%	-1.7%	57.6%	42.4%	25.4%	57.6%	16.9%
Bathgate	425	0.0%	-1.2%	56.5%	43.5%	21.2%	62.4%	16.5%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	320	0.0%	1.6%	56.3%	43.8%	21.9%	56.3%	21.9%
East Livingston & E. Calder	375	19.0%	7.1%	52.0%	46.7%	18.7%	61.3%	20.0%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	360	1.4%	4.3%	61.1%	37.5%	20.8%	66.7%	12.5%
Linlithgow	110	-15.4%	4.8%	54.5%	45.5%	9.1%	50.0%	36.4%
Livingston North	300	15.4%	-1.6%	56.7%	45.0%	25.0%	60.0%	16.7%
Livingston South	405	15.7%	0.0%	53.1%	45.7%	24.7%	56.8%	18.5%
Whitburn & Blackburn	530	-6.2%	-1.9%	57.5%	43.4%	20.8%	57.5%	21.7%
West Lothian	3,115	3.8%	0.8%	56.3%	43.7%	21.7%	59.4%	18.9%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

Looking at the wards in more detail we can see that four wards recorded higher claimant numbers in December than in November, in four wards there had been a reduction in the number of claimants and in one it stayed the same. East Livingston and East Calder saw the claimant count increase by 7.1% between November and December 2023. With a count of 530 claimants in December Whitburn & Blackburn had the most claimants of any West Lothian Ward.

Table 20 indicates that across West Lothian in November 2023 there were 6,382 individuals working and claiming Universal Credit which is much the same as October. We can also see that only one ward has over 1,000 working Universal Credit claimants and apart from Linlithgow every ward has over five hundred people working and relying on Universal Credit.

Table 20 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by West Lothian Ward November 2023

	Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23	Nov22- Nov23	Oct23- Nov23
Armadale and Blackridge	550	539	527	-4%	-2%
Bathgate	801	787	795	-1%	1%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	627	672	675	8%	0%
East Livingston and East Calder	739	834	814	10%	-2%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	637	659	661	4%	0%
Linlithgow	228	227	237	4%	4%
Livingston North	667	674	667	0%	-1%
Livingston South	847	879	907	7%	3%
Whitburn and Blackburn	1,014	1,089	1,095	8%	1%
West Lothian	6,118	6,364	6,382	4%	0%

Source: StatXplore 19/1/2024

Scottish Borders

Table 21 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,925 people claiming in December in Scottish Borders, slightly higher than last month and 4.2% lower than a year ago. Overall, six wards have seen the claimant count fall year on year and 3 have seen it fall between November and December. We can also see that 56.6% of claimants were male and 18.2% were 16-24 years of age. Scottish Borders has four wards where there are more female claimants than male.

Table 21 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward December 2023

Wards	Dec 23	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2023				
		Dec 22- Dec 23	Nov 23-Dec 23	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	165	-5.7%	0.0%	48.5%	54.5%	15.2%	54.5%	33.3%
Galashiels and District	340	-11.7%	0.0%	57.4%	41.2%	19.1%	55.9%	23.5%
Hawick and Denholm	240	2.1%	-2.0%	64.6%	35.4%	22.9%	60.4%	16.7%
Hawick and Hermitage	195	2.6%	0.0%	64.1%	33.3%	23.1%	51.3%	23.1%
Jedburgh and District	160	14.3%	6.7%	53.1%	46.9%	21.9%	50.0%	28.1%
Kelso and District	150	3.4%	11.1%	60.0%	40.0%	13.3%	60.0%	26.7%
Leaderdale & Melrose	125	-7.4%	0.0%	52.0%	52.0%	16.0%	60.0%	28.0%
Mid Berwickshire	155	0.0%	-6.1%	48.4%	51.6%	16.1%	51.6%	29.0%
Selkirkshire	135	-18.2%	-3.6%	70.4%	33.3%	18.5%	59.3%	22.2%
Tweeddale East	115	-8.0%	4.5%	47.8%	52.2%	17.4%	56.5%	26.1%
Tweeddale West	145	-6.5%	0.0%	55.2%	48.3%	10.3%	62.1%	27.6%
Scottish Borders	1,925	-4.2%	0.3%	56.6%	43.4%	18.2%	56.6%	25.2%

Source: NOMIS 17/1/2024

In Hawick and Hermitage, 23.1% of claimants are 16-24 compared to 10.3% in Tweeddale West. In East Berwickshire 33.3% of claimants were fifty or over whilst in Hawick and Denholm it was 16.7% of claimants.

Table 22 looks at the number of people in work and claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In November 2023 there were 3,606 people working who needed the support of Universal Credit. This is 6% higher than a year ago and 1% higher than last month. Only one ward, Galashiels and District has over five hundred people working and claiming Universal Credit.

Table 22 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Scottish Borders Ward November 2023

	Nov-22	Oct-23	Nov-23	Nov22-Nov23	Oct23-Nov23
East Berwickshire	375	368	361	-4%	-2%
Galashiels and District	591	577	580	-2%	1%
Hawick and Denholm	389	391	407	5%	4%
Hawick and Hermitage	259	293	289	12%	-1%
Jedburgh and District	256	260	263	3%	1%
Kelso and District	283	298	302	7%	1%
Leaderdale and Melrose	271	299	305	13%	2%
Mid Berwickshire	329	354	351	7%	-1%
Selkirkshire	254	282	297	17%	5%
Tweeddale East	213	215	217	2%	1%
Tweeddale West	199	235	231	16%	-2%
Total	3,409	3,573	3,606	6%	1%

Source: StatXplore 19/1/2024

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 Local Authority. It is based on twelve months survey data so reflects the position as of September 2023. It gives the economic activity rate in all six authorities and, of those that are economically inactive in each authority, the proportion and number who want a job.

Table 23 Economic activity aged 16-64 (October 2022- September 2023)

	Economic activity rate - aged 16-64		% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64		% of economically inactive who want a job	
	numerator	percent	numerator	percent	numerator	percent
Edinburgh	302,500	85.1	53,200	14.9	7,600	14.4
East Lothian	53,900	83.5	10,600	16.5	1,300	12.4
Fife	175,000	77.7	50,200	22.3	8,400	16.8
Midlothian	48,700	86.1	7,900	13.9	!	!
Scottish Borders	53,700	80.9	12,700	19.1	2,900	23.0
West Lothian	92,000	78.4	25,300	21.6	4,900	19.5
City Region	725,800	82.0	159,800	18.0	25,500	15.9

Source: NOMIS 22/1/2024

! Estimate and confidence interval not available since the group sample size is zero or disclosive (0-2).

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.

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 85.1%, they are 95% confident that the real figure, based on the whole population, would be between 81.8% and 88.4% - the confidence levels recorded.

The NOMIS site presents data on median earnings through the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is conducted in April each year to obtain information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours worked for employees. It is based on a sample of employee jobs taken from HM Revenue & Customs PAYE records. Again, it is a survey so there are confidence levels that would need to be applied and these are wider in areas where the sample is smaller.

Table 24 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings Based on Residency (2023 Survey)

£s	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
Male	683.9	630.9	655.1	688.4	645.8	670.8
Female	552.1	534.7	497.9	571.4	445.1	531.6
Total	619.4	584.9	566.9	621.5	549.7	601.7
Full Time Workers	720.7	667.4	670.4	715.7	673.3	695.3
Part Time Workers	253.1	280.6	270.4	295.0	224.0	267.2

Source: NOMIS 22/1/2024

What we can see in Table 24 is that the median weekly wage is highest for Midlothian residents and lowest in Scottish Borders. We can also see that in Scottish Borders the gap between males and females is highest but that across the Region there a pay gap between males and females.

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