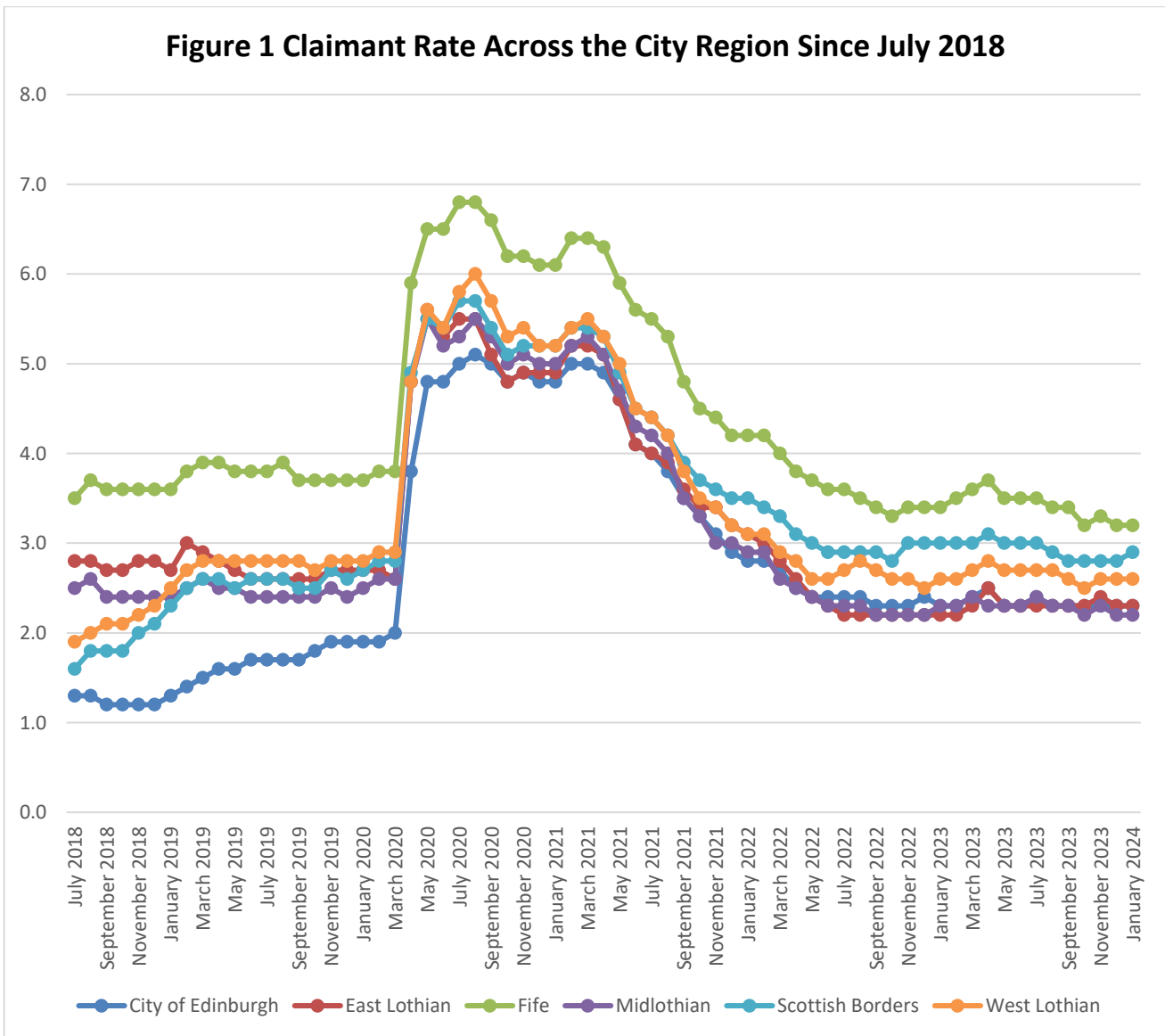


## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count February 2024 Summary Update

<p><b>Claimant Count Change Between January 2023 and January 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> UK increased by 4.5%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> Scotland decreased by 3.3%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> Edinburgh decreased by 0.8%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↓</span> City Region decreased by 2.6%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Claimant Count Change Between December 2023 and January 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> UK increased by 1.7%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> Scotland increased by 0.4%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> Edinburgh increased by 0.8%</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">↑</span> City Region increased by 0.3%</li> </ul>
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Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024

## City Region Summary

1. In January 2024 the claimant count for the City Region was 23,690. Of these
  - a. 4,300 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,235 in December.
  - b. 14,325 were 25-49 year olds down from 14,345 in December.
  - c. 5,080 were 50 or older up from 5,040 in December.
2. In December 2023 there were 45,161 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In November there were 43,886.

## Edinburgh Summary

1. In January 2024 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,440. Of these
  - a. 1,195 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,175 in December.
  - b. 5,365 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,330 in December.
  - c. 1,880 were 50 or older. It was 1,865 in December.
2. In December 2023 there were 14,576 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In November there were 14,059.

## East Lothian Summary

1. In January 2024 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,545. Of these
  - a. 290 were 16-24 year olds. In December there were 285.
  - b. 930 were 25-49 year olds. In December there were 945.
  - c. 330 were 50 or older. In December there were 315.
2. In December 2023 there were 3,656 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In November there were 3,544.

## Fife Summary

1. In January 2024 the claimant count for Fife was 7,450. Of these
  - a. 1,555 were 16-24 year olds. In December there were 1,490.
  - b. 4,295 were 25-49 years of age. In December there were 4,315.
  - c. 1,555 were 50 or older. In December there were 1,565.
2. In December 2023 there were 13,006 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In November there were 12,929.

## Midlothian Summary

1. In January 2024 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,260. Of these
  - a. 255 were 16-24 year olds. In December it was 260.
  - b. 790 were 25-49 year olds. In December it was 830.
  - c. 220 were 50 or older. In December it was 225.
2. In December 2023 there were 3,466 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In November there were 3,364.

## Scottish Borders Summary

1. In January 2024 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,955. Of these
  - a. 355 were 16-24 year olds. In December it was 350.
  - b. 1,090 were 25-49 year olds. In December there were 1,085.
  - c. 515 were 50 or older. In December there were 480.
2. In December 2023 there were 3,700 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In November there were 3,606.

## West Lothian Summary

1. In January 2024 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,085. Of these
  - a. 650 were 16-24 year olds. In December there were 675.
  - b. 1,855 were 25-49 year olds. In December there were 1,840.
  - c. 580 were 50 or older. In December there were 590.
2. In December 2023 there were 6,760 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian. In November there were 6,382.

## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count January 2024 Full Update

### Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in January 2024 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 7.0% higher than in January 2019 and in the UK, it is 56.4% higher. We can also see that in all but two regions and countries of the UK (North East and Scotland) the claimant count in January 2024 is higher than it was in January 2023.

Looking at the latest change month to month it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 1.7% higher in January 2024 than it was in December 2023 (26,755 higher in January than December). In Scotland it increased by 0.4% (430) between December 2023 and January 2024.

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

	January 2019	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	Percentage Change		
					Jan 19 – Jan 24	Jan 23- Jan 24	Dec 23- Jan 24
UK	1,003,670	1,502,820	1,543,460	1,570,215	56.4%	4.5%	1.7%
East	66,200	110,580	117,035	119,950	81.2%	8.5%	2.5%
East Midlands	58,705	97,675	100,410	102,760	75.0%	5.2%	2.3%
London	143,195	275,385	297,870	304,045	112.3%	10.4%	2.1%
North East	66,935	68,295	64,315	65,045	-2.8%	-4.8%	1.1%
North West	138,215	190,115	190,695	193,345	39.9%	1.7%	1.4%
N. Ireland	29,365	34,985	35,485	35,065	19.4%	0.2%	-1.2%
Scotland	98,960	109,525	105,460	105,890	7.0%	-3.3%	0.4%
South East	88,265	160,020	165,150	168,895	91.3%	5.5%	2.3%
South West	61,940	85,690	89,190	91,455	47.7%	6.7%	2.5%
Wales	49,160	61,685	61,365	61,840	25.8%	0.3%	0.8%
West Midlands	109,575	173,830	176,980	179,825	64.1%	3.4%	1.6%
Yorks & Humb	93,155	135,040	139,505	142,095	52.5%	5.2%	1.9%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

### Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. We can see that whilst many Scottish Local Authorities now have a claimant count lower than it was a year ago, there are still five (two within the City Region) that had a claimant count in January 2024 that was higher than January 2023.

In the City Region the claimant count in January 2024 is 0.3% higher than in December. Three of the six Local Authorities saw a month to month increase, West Lothian and Midlothian recorded a fall

between December 2023 and January 2024 and East Lothian the claimant count was the same in January as December.

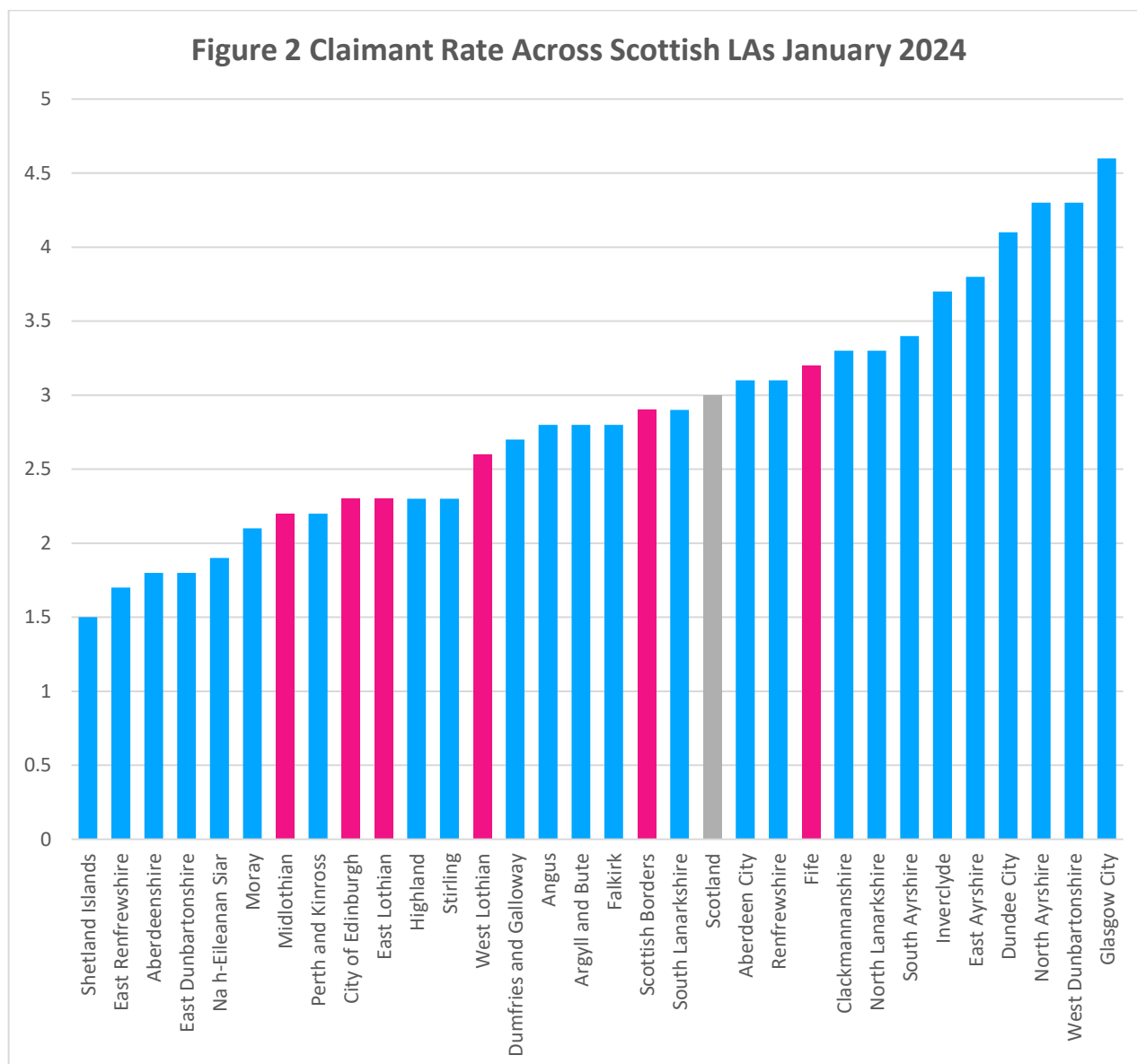
**Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish LAs**

	January 2019	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	Percentage Change		
					Jan 19 – Jan 24	Jan 23- Jan 24	Dec 23- Jan 24
Aberdeen City	3,010	4,885	4,610	4,750	57.8%	-2.8%	3.0%
Aberdeenshire	2,335	3,040	2,795	2,850	22.1%	-6.3%	2.0%
Angus	2,070	1,990	1,855	1,925	-7.0%	-3.3%	3.8%
Argyll and Bute	1,200	1,420	1,390	1,435	19.6%	1.1%	3.2%
<b>Edinburgh</b>	<b>4,865</b>	<b>8,505</b>	<b>8,370</b>	<b>8,440</b>	<b>73.5%</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
Clackmannanshire	1,295	1,170	1,120	1,065	-17.8%	-9.0%	-4.9%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,350	2,500	2,390	2,330	-0.9%	-6.8%	-2.5%
Dundee City	4,330	4,105	3,970	4,000	-7.6%	-2.6%	0.8%
East Ayrshire	3,670	3,210	2,935	2,895	-21.1%	-9.8%	-1.4%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,140	1,215	1,180	1,180	3.5%	-2.9%	0.0%
<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>-14.2%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
East Renfrewshire	745	950	985	980	31.5%	3.2%	-0.5%
Falkirk	3,220	3,080	2,780	2,820	-12.4%	-8.4%	1.4%
<b>Fife</b>	<b>8,450</b>	<b>7,910</b>	<b>7,365</b>	<b>7,405</b>	<b>-12.4%</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Glasgow City	14,570	21,065	20,680	20,675	41.9%	-1.9%	0.0%
Highland	3,585	3,560	3,160	3,300	-7.9%	-7.3%	4.4%
Inverclyde	2,345	1,775	1,725	1,750	-25.4%	-1.4%	1.4%
<b>Midlothian</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>-7.7%</b>	<b>-5.3%</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>
Moray	1,380	1,415	1,225	1,260	-8.7%	-11.0%	2.9%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	295	305	280	295	0.0%	-3.3%	5.4%
North Ayrshire	4,535	3,640	3,505	3,500	-22.8%	-3.8%	-0.1%
North Lanarkshire	7,865	7,350	7,270	7,315	-7.0%	-0.5%	0.6%
Orkney Islands	155	210	215	190	22.6%	-9.5%	-11.6%
Perth and Kinross	1,500	2,115	1,975	2,010	34.0%	-5.0%	1.8%
Renfrewshire	3,435	3,510	3,680	3,610	5.1%	2.8%	-1.9%
<b>Scottish Borders</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>25.3%</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
Shetland Islands	155	245	210	205	32.3%	-16.3%	-2.4%
South Ayrshire	2,490	2,440	2,305	2,255	-9.4%	-7.6%	-2.2%
South Lanarkshire	6,695	6,090	5,825	5,845	-12.7%	-4.0%	0.3%
Stirling	1,460	1,455	1,395	1,395	-4.5%	-4.1%	0.0%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,180	2,460	2,385	2,375	8.9%	-3.5%	-0.4%
<b>West Lothian</b>	<b>2,920</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>3,085</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Scotland	98,960	109,525	105,460	105,890	7.0%	-3.3%	0.4%
<b>City Region</b>	<b>20,960</b>	<b>24,325</b>	<b>23,625</b>	<b>23,690</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

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 three 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 Scottish LAs January 2024**



Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024

### City Region Position

Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 3 that across the region the claimant count recorded in January 2024 is lower than it was in January 2023. 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 2023.

**Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region LAs**

	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	Percentage Change	
				Jan 23 to Jan 24	Dec 23- Jan-24
Edinburgh	8,505	8,370	8,440	-0.8%	0.8%
East Lothian	1,470	1,545	1,545	5.1%	0.0%
Fife	7,910	7,365	7,405	-6.4%	0.5%
Midlothian	1,330	1,320	1,260	-5.3%	-4.5%
Scottish Borders	2,050	1,920	1,955	-4.6%	1.8%
West Lothian	3,060	3,105	3,085	0.8%	-0.6%
City Region	24,325	23,625	23,690	-2.6%	0.3%

Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024

The month-to-month change from December 2023 to January 2024 indicates that in three Local Authorities the claimant count is higher than it was in December. That said it is only *marginally* higher in two of these. Two Local Authorities recorded a fall in the claimant count – in the case of Midlothian the month to month fall was 4.5%.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that across the region in November 2023 there were 43,886 people who were in work but required financial support from Universal Credit (UC) as their income was not sufficient. Between November and December this had increased by around 1,200 people so that the most recent data from November 2023 indicates there were 45,161 individuals in work but requiring the support of universal credit.

**Table 4 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment**

	Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23	Dec22-Dec23	Nov23-Dec23
City of Edinburgh	13,923	14,059	14,576	4.7%	3.7%
East Lothian	3,488	3,544	3,656	4.8%	3.2%
Fife	12,873	12,929	13,006	1.0%	0.6%
Midlothian	3,185	3,364	3,466	8.8%	3.0%
West Lothian	6,049	6,382	6,760	11.8%	5.9%
Scottish Borders	3,415	3,606	3,700	8.3%	2.6%
City Region	42,935	43,886	45,161	5.2%	2.9%

**Source: StatXplore 21/2/2024**

## Gender Profile

From Table 5 we can see that the male claimant count in Fife is 8.9% lower than it was 12 months ago but 1.7% higher 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 January 2024 statistics to those of December 2023 the picture is slightly less positive as only one Local Authority saw the male claimant count fall month to month. Overall, there are 275 more male claimants in the region in January 2024 compared to December 2023 and 750 fewer than one year ago.

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

	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	Percentage Change	
				Jan-23 to Jan-24	Dec-23- Jan-24
Edinburgh	5,100	4,820	4,965	-2.6%	3.0%
East Lothian	880	855	870	-1.1%	1.8%
Fife	4,850	4,345	4,420	-8.9%	1.7%
Midlothian	770	740	725	-5.8%	-2.0%
Scottish Borders	1,205	1,090	1,120	-7.1%	2.8%
West Lothian	1,825	1,755	1,780	-2.5%	1.4%
City Region	14,630	13,605	13,880	-5.1%	2.0%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

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 9,695 to 9,815. This is an **increase** of 1.2% compared to the 5.1% **fall** in the number of male claimants.

In three of the six Local Authorities, we can see a year on year increase in the number of female claimants - ranging from a 14.4% increase in East Lothian between January 2023 and January 2024 through to a 2.1% increase in Edinburgh. The three Local Authorities that recorded a fall year on year were Fife, where the number of female claimants fell by 2.5%, Midlothian a fall of 3.6% and Scottish Borders where the count fell by 1.8%. Between December 2023 and January 2024, the

number of female claimants fell in every Local Authority except Scottish Borders where no change was recorded.

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

	January 2023	December 2023	January 2024	Percentage Change	
				Jan-23 to Jan-24	Dec-23- Jan-24
Edinburgh	3,405	3,550	3,475	2.1%	-2.1%
East Lothian	590	690	675	14.4%	-2.2%
Fife	3,060	3,020	2,985	-2.5%	-1.2%
Midlothian	555	575	535	-3.6%	-7.0%
Scottish Borders	850	835	835	-1.8%	0.0%
West Lothian	1,235	1,350	1,310	6.1%	-3.0%
City Region	9,695	10,020	9,815	1.2%	-2.0%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

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 December 2023 29,430 female claimants were in work and claiming Universal Credit. This is around 1,150 more than in November. Compare this to the male in work Universal Credit claimant count which is 15,728 and is only 130 more than 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**

		Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23
City of Edinburgh	Male	5,641	5,520	5,568
	Female	8,282	8,539	9,012
East Lothian	Male	1,115	1,113	1,150
	Female	2,371	2,431	2,515
Fife	Male	4,660	4,532	4,494
	Female	8,214	8,395	8,506
Midlothian	Male	1,069	1,077	1,076
	Female	2,115	2,291	2,385
West Lothian	Male	2,115	2,084	2,154
	Female	3,932	4,298	4,611
Scottish Borders	Male	1,257	1,269	1,290
	Female	2,156	2,333	2,409
City Region	Male	15,856	15,596	15,728
	Female	27,075	28,289	29,430

**Source: StatXplore 21/2/2024**

## Age Profile

### 16-24 Year Olds

In December 2023 across the City region there were 4,235 16-24 year olds claiming in the City Region. In January 2024 there were 4,300 - a month to month increase of 1.5%. In 4 of the 6 Local Authorities month to month increases were recorded between December 2023 and January 2024. This ranged from an increase of 1.4% in Scottish Borders through to a 4.4% increase in Fife. Midlothian recorded a fall in the number of 16-24 year old claimants between December and January as did West Lothian.

The year on year figure shows a 3.6% increase across the region from 4,150 in January 2023 to 4,300 in January 2024. When each of the six Local Authorities are looked at the year on year change ranges from an increase of 7.6% in Fife to a fall of 1.9% in Midlothian.

**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
January 2023	1,180	275	1,445	260	345	645	4,150
December 2023	1,175	285	1,490	260	350	675	4,235
January 2024	1,195	290	1,555	255	355	650	4,300
% Change							
Jan2023-Jan2024	1.3%	5.5%	7.6%	-1.9%	2.9%	0.8%	3.6%
Dec 2023- Jan 2024	1.7%	1.8%	4.4%	-1.9%	1.4%	-3.7%	1.5%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

### 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 14,325 25–49-year-olds claiming in January 2024, and this is down from 14,345 in December 2023 – a fall of 0.1%. This is 1.9% lower than a year ago.

We can see from the table that three of the six Local Authorities recorded a month to month increase for this age group. This ranged from 0.5% in Borders to an increase of 0.8% in West Lothian – so generally small increases. Midlothian, Fife and East Lothian recorded a lower claimant count in January than they had seen in December. In the case of Midlothian there were 4.8% fewer 25-49 year old claimants in January 2024 than there were in December 2023.

**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
January 2023	5,365	865	4,605	795	1,145	1,825	14,600
December 2023	5,330	945	4,315	830	1,085	1,840	14,345
January 2024	5,365	930	4,295	790	1,090	1,855	14,325
% Change							
Jan2023-Jan2024	0.0%	7.5%	-6.7%	-0.6%	-4.8%	1.6%	-1.9%
Dec 2023- Jan 2024	0.7%	-1.6%	-0.5%	-4.8%	0.5%	0.8%	-0.1%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

Comparing the situation in January 2024 with that of January 2023 the table indicates two Local Authorities recorded an increase over the 12 months, three Local Authorities saw a fall between January 2023 and January 2024, and one (Edinburgh) has the same number of 24-49 year old claimants in January 2024 as was recorded in January 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 December 2023 there were 5,040 claimants who were fifty or over. This has increased by 0.8% so that in January 2024 there were 5,080 claimants who fell into this age category.

In three Local Authorities there has either been a fall between December and January and in three there has been an increase. In Scottish Borders the percentage increase month to month was 7.3% based on an actual increase of 35 claimants.



**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
January 2023	1,960	330	1,860	270	560	590	5,570
December 2023	1,865	315	1,565	225	480	590	5,040
January 2024	1,880	330	1,555	220	515	580	5,080
% Change							
Jan2023-Jan2024	-4.1%	0.0%	-16.4%	-18.5%	-8.0%	-1.7%	-8.8%
Dec 2023- Jan 2024	0.8%	4.8%	-0.6%	-2.2%	7.3%	-1.7%	0.8%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

Over the last year the number of claimants over the age of 50 has fallen by 8.8% across the region and except for East Lothian (recorded no change between January 2023 and January 2024) all the Local Authorities recorded a fall year on year. In Fife there are now just over 300 fewer claimants in this age group than a year ago.

## 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 December 2023 and January 2024.

Overall, there are 8,440 claimants in Edinburgh, and this is 0.8% lower than January 2023 and 0.8% higher than December 2023. From the table we can see that ten wards had more than 500 claimants in December and 2 wards had less than 200.

**Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward January 2023**

Wards	January 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2024				
		Jan2023-Jan2024	Dec 2023-Jan 2024	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	530	-2.8%	-1.9%	52.8%	47.2%	14.2%	66.0%	19.8%
City Centre	660	5.6%	1.5%	71.2%	28.8%	14.4%	62.1%	22.7%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	230	0.0%	2.2%	50.0%	50.0%	19.6%	58.7%	21.7%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	155	0.0%	0.0%	48.4%	48.4%	12.9%	61.3%	25.8%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	605	11.0%	-0.8%	60.3%	39.7%	10.7%	65.3%	24.0%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	275	-5.2%	0.0%	54.5%	45.5%	12.7%	67.3%	20.0%
Forth	835	7.1%	2.5%	55.7%	44.9%	12.6%	63.5%	24.0%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	280	0.0%	3.7%	57.1%	42.9%	12.5%	64.3%	25.0%
Inverleith	290	-6.5%	7.4%	51.7%	48.3%	8.6%	65.5%	25.9%
Leith	680	-15.0%	3.0%	61.8%	39.0%	12.5%	66.9%	21.3%
Leith Walk	650	0.0%	2.4%	60.0%	40.0%	9.2%	66.9%	23.8%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	660	-5.0%	-4.3%	56.1%	43.9%	17.4%	62.1%	20.5%
Morningside	195	-2.5%	0.0%	59.0%	43.6%	15.4%	64.1%	23.1%
Pentland Hills	735	5.8%	0.7%	57.8%	42.9%	18.4%	62.6%	19.7%
Portobello/Craigmillar	685	-2.1%	-1.4%	59.1%	40.1%	15.3%	62.8%	21.2%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	645	-5.8%	1.6%	62.8%	38.0%	17.1%	62.8%	20.2%
Southside/Newington	320	0.0%	1.6%	64.1%	35.9%	15.6%	56.3%	28.1%
Edinburgh	8,440	-0.8%	0.8%	58.8%	41.2%	14.2%	63.6%	22.3%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

The table also indicates that ten wards have a claimant count higher than December 2023 and 4 have a claimant count higher than in January 2023. Over the course of the year Leith Ward has seen the claimant count fall by 15.0% whilst Craightinny and Duddingston has seen the claimant count increase by 11.0%.

Overall, in Edinburgh in January 2024, 58.8% of claimants were male and 14.2% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 71.2% of the claimants are male. This is by far the highest proportion of male claimants in all the City Region wards. Colinton/Farmilehead ward has the highest proportion of female claimants. In Southside/Newington 28.1% of claimants in January were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Colinton/Farmilehead 19.6% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

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

	Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23	Dec22-Dec23	Nov23-Dec23
Almond	1,007	1,099	1,152	14%	5%
City Centre	634	583	597	-6%	2%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	459	445	488	6%	10%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	292	318	326	12%	3%
Craightinny/Duddingston	961	908	938	-2%	3%
Drum Brae/Gyle	540	584	614	14%	5%
Forth	1,470	1,480	1,513	3%	2%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	375	392	409	9%	4%
Inverleith	470	456	477	1%	5%
Leith	1,231	1,058	1,061	-14%	0%
Leith Walk	951	949	988	4%	4%
Liberton/Gilmerton	1,270	1,312	1,430	13%	9%
Morningside	260	247	251	-3%	2%
Pentland Hills	1,165	1,263	1,281	10%	1%
Portobello/Craigmillar	1,236	1,365	1,412	14%	3%
Sighthill/Gorgie	1,196	1,203	1,247	4%	4%
Southside/Newington	413	389	391	-5%	1%
Edinburgh	13,923	14,060	14,576	5%	4%

**Source: StatXplore 21/2/2024**

Table 12 above looks at the in-work Universal Credit claimant count for the Edinburgh wards. This indicates that there are just over 1,500 people in Forth Ward who are working but their earnings are low enough that they can receive Universal Credit. This is slightly higher than it was in November 2023 and December 2022. In Leith Ward there are 1,061 individuals working and claiming and this has fallen by 14% over the last year. Overall, no wards have seen the in-work Universal Credit count fall between November and December 2023. In Colinton/Farmilehead the number of in work Universal Credit Claimants has increased by 10% between November and December and in Liberton/Gilmerton it has increased by 9%.

### *East Lothian*

Table 13 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count of 1,545 which is 5.1% higher than it was last year and the same as it was in December 2023. We can see that three wards recorded an increase between December 2023 and January 2024 and the other three wards saw the claimant count fall. Over the last 12 months four wards recorded a year on year increase and two recorded a fall.

Across the county 56.3% of claimants are male and this varies from 50% in Dunbar and East Linton through to 58.0% in Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry. Preston, Seton and Gosford as well as

recording the largest percentage fall month to month also has the highest proportion (23.4%) of 16-24 year old claimants. Dunbar and East Linton has the highest proportion (26.5%) of over 50 year olds.

**Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward January 2024**

Wards	Jan 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2024				
		Jan23-Jan24	Dec 23-Jan 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	170	3.0%	-5.6%	50.0%	47.1%	17.6%	55.9%	26.5%
Haddington and Lammermuir	230	-4.2%	-2.1%	56.5%	43.5%	15.2%	60.9%	23.9%
Musselburgh	405	12.5%	2.5%	56.8%	43.2%	17.3%	58.0%	24.7%
North Berwick Coastal	100	5.3%	11.1%	55.0%	45.0%	10.0%	65.0%	20.0%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	235	-2.1%	-6.0%	57.4%	42.6%	23.4%	59.6%	19.1%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	405	8.0%	3.8%	58.0%	43.2%	21.0%	61.7%	17.3%
East Lothian	1,545	5.1%	0.0%	56.3%	43.7%	18.8%	60.2%	21.4%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

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 an increase between December 2022 and December 2023 of 5% and over the last month there has been an increase of 3%. In Haddington and Lammermuir the number of claimants increased by 33 between November and December 2023 resulting in a month to month increase of 6%.

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

	Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23	Dec22-Dec23	Nov23-Dec23
Dunbar and East Linton	441	478	480	9%	0%
Haddington and Lammermuir	559	537	570	2%	6%
Musselburgh	760	773	805	6%	4%
North Berwick Coastal	243	248	255	5%	3%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	583	620	629	8%	1%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	906	886	918	1%	4%
East Lothian	3,488	3,544	3,656	5%	3%

**Source: StatXplore 21/2/2024**

## Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. We can see that overall Fife recorded 7,405 claimants in January 2024 and of these 59.7% were male. Five wards had over 500 claimants in December and five had 200 or less.

We can see that year on year, four wards had seen the claimant count increase, one recorded no change and the remaining seventeen recorded a fall. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay recorded a fall of 19.6% year on year whilst Glenrothes West and Kinglassie has seen the claimant count increase by 12.5% over the last 12 months.

Between November and December, the claimant count increased in nine Fife wards and fell in five. The greatest percentage increase was recorded in Dunfermline North which saw the count increase by 8.9%. The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages where 655 individuals were looking for work and claiming, down 4.4% on the figure recorded last month.

**Table 15 Fife Claimant Count by Ward January 2024**

Wards	Jan 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2024				
		Jan23- Jan24	Dec 23- Jan 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	655	-10.9%	-4.4%	64.9%	35.1%	22.1%	58.0%	19.8%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	295	-10.6%	-1.7%	61.0%	39.0%	16.9%	59.3%	23.7%
Cowdenbeath	505	-9.0%	2.0%	61.4%	38.6%	22.8%	56.4%	19.8%
Cupar	185	-11.9%	0.0%	62.2%	37.8%	16.2%	59.5%	21.6%
Dunfermline Central	320	-5.9%	-3.0%	54.7%	45.3%	20.3%	59.4%	18.8%
Dunfermline North	305	-6.2%	8.9%	60.7%	39.3%	24.6%	59.0%	16.4%
Dunfermline South	355	-9.0%	4.4%	53.5%	46.5%	19.7%	62.0%	18.3%
East Neuk and Landward	185	2.8%	5.7%	56.8%	43.2%	18.9%	56.8%	24.3%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	340	1.5%	-1.4%	58.8%	41.2%	27.9%	57.4%	14.7%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	275	-6.8%	1.9%	60.0%	41.8%	21.8%	63.6%	14.5%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	360	12.5%	2.9%	55.6%	44.4%	22.2%	56.9%	20.8%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	-5.4%	0.0%	57.1%	42.9%	17.1%	57.1%	25.7%
Inverkeithing & Dalgety Bay	205	-19.6%	0.0%	58.5%	43.9%	19.5%	56.1%	24.4%
Kirkcaldy Central	605	-6.2%	0.0%	59.5%	39.7%	19.8%	58.7%	21.5%
Kirkcaldy East	590	-8.5%	0.0%	64.4%	35.6%	18.6%	56.8%	23.7%
Kirkcaldy North	330	-4.3%	0.0%	56.1%	43.9%	22.7%	56.1%	21.2%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	350	-12.5%	-4.1%	67.1%	32.9%	22.9%	51.4%	25.7%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	535	-4.5%	1.9%	60.7%	39.3%	23.4%	55.1%	21.5%
Rosyth	255	-5.6%	6.3%	52.9%	47.1%	15.7%	62.7%	19.6%
St Andrews	105	0.0%	0.0%	61.9%	38.1%	23.8%	42.9%	28.6%
Tay Bridgehead	200	11.1%	2.6%	55.0%	47.5%	17.5%	60.0%	22.5%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	275	-6.8%	-1.8%	61.8%	38.2%	20.0%	61.8%	18.2%
Fife	7,405	-6.4%	0.5%	59.7%	40.3%	21.0%	58.0%	21.0%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

In terms of the number of male or female claimants, Leven, Kennoway and Largo (67.1% of claimants) 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 (27.9%). This indicates that this ward has the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants in the whole City Region. In St Andrews 28.6% of the 105 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 13,006 Fife residents working and claiming Universal Credit support in December 2023 which is 1% higher than November 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 300 claimants.

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

	Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23	Dec22-Dec23	Nov23-Dec23
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	1,026	980	984	-4%	0%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	410	384	390	-5%	2%
Cowdenbeath	867	907	909	5%	0%
Cupar	365	386	382	5%	-1%
Dunfermline Central	625	612	658	5%	8%
Dunfermline North	508	493	506	0%	3%
Dunfermline South	746	722	709	-5%	-2%
East Neuk and Landward	316	327	333	5%	2%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	665	708	695	5%	-2%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	546	613	613	12%	0%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	750	736	735	-2%	0%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	304	296	292	-4%	-1%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	431	395	394	-9%	0%
Kirkcaldy Central	707	715	702	-1%	-2%
Kirkcaldy East	757	738	750	-1%	2%
Kirkcaldy North	546	582	594	9%	2%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	637	635	643	1%	1%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	995	991	994	0%	0%
Rosyth	615	619	609	-1%	-2%
St. Andrews	165	168	163	-1%	-3%
Tay Bridgehead	349	375	386	11%	3%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	547	552	565	3%	2%
Fife	12,873	12,929	13,006	1%	1%

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2024

### Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 17 below. Looking at the change between January 2023 and January 2024 we can see that one ward recorded a year-on-year increase and four wards saw the claimant count fall and the final ward, Penicuik, saw no change. The change over the last month has seen all wards, apart from Midlothian East, record a fall in the claimant count.

**Table 17 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward January 2024**

Wards	January 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2024				
		Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	195	2.6%	-9.3%	53.8%	46.2%	25.6%	56.4%	17.9%
Dalkeith	235	-7.8%	-6.0%	55.3%	44.7%	21.3%	63.8%	14.9%
Midlothian East	225	-8.2%	0.0%	55.6%	44.4%	17.8%	66.7%	15.6%
Midlothian South	210	-8.7%	-4.5%	57.1%	40.5%	21.4%	59.5%	19.0%
Midlothian West	210	-2.3%	-2.3%	57.1%	40.5%	21.4%	57.1%	21.4%
Penicuik	190	0.0%	-2.6%	65.8%	36.8%	13.2%	68.4%	18.4%
Midlothian	1,260	-5.3%	-4.5%	57.5%	42.5%	20.2%	62.7%	17.5%

Source: NOMIS 19/2/2023

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 57.5% of claimants are male, 20.2% are aged 16-24 and 17.5% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Bonnyrigg had the highest proportion of females. In terms of the age profile 25.6% of claimants in Bonnyrigg were 16-24 years of age in January 2024 and 21.4% 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 3,466 claimants in Midlothian in December 2023. This is 9% more than a year ago and 3% more than November 2023. Five wards saw a year on year increase. The more recent month to month change between November and December 2023 is similar with only Bonnyrigg recording a fall in the number of in work Universal Credit claimants.

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

	Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23	Dec22-Dec23	Nov23-Dec23
Bonnyrigg	487	547	536	10%	-2%
Dalkeith	571	612	625	9%	2%
Midlothian East	579	576	608	5%	6%
Midlothian South	628	680	719	14%	6%
Midlothian West	437	491	498	14%	1%
Penicuik	476	460	472	-1%	3%
Midlothian	3,185	3,364	3,466	9%	3%

**Source: StatXplore 21/2/2024**

### West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 19 below. Overall, there were 3,085 claimants in West Lothian in January 2024, and this 0.8% more than a year ago and 0.6% lower than last month. We can see that 57.7% of claimants in West Lothian are male and 21.1% are aged between 16-24.

**Table 19 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward January 2024**

Wards	Jan 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2024				
		Jan23-Jan24	Dec 23-Jan 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadaile & Blackridge	290	3.6%	-1.7%	55.2%	44.8%	22.4%	58.6%	20.7%
Bathgate	415	-2.4%	-2.4%	56.6%	43.4%	21.7%	62.7%	16.9%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	310	-1.6%	-1.6%	59.7%	40.3%	21.0%	56.5%	22.6%
East Livingston & E. Calder	355	4.4%	-4.1%	54.9%	45.1%	19.7%	63.4%	16.9%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	350	-5.4%	0.0%	62.9%	37.1%	21.4%	65.7%	14.3%
Linlithgow	120	-4.0%	4.3%	54.2%	41.7%	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%
Livingston North	295	7.3%	-1.7%	57.6%	42.4%	25.4%	61.0%	15.3%
Livingston South	415	12.2%	2.5%	54.2%	45.8%	22.9%	59.0%	19.3%
Whitburn & Blackburn	530	-4.5%	1.0%	59.4%	41.5%	18.9%	60.4%	20.8%
West Lothian	3,085	0.8%	-0.6%	57.7%	42.5%	21.1%	60.1%	18.8%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

Looking at the wards in more detail we can see that three wards recorded higher claimant numbers in January than December, in five 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 fall by 4.1% between December 2023 and January 2024. With a count of 530 claimants in January Whitburn & Blackburn had the most claimants of any West Lothian Ward.

We can also see that in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Ward, 62.9% of claimants were male, in Livingston North 25.4% of claimants were 16-24 and in Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh 22.6% of claimants were 50 or over.

Table 20 indicates that across West Lothian in December 2023 there were 6,760 individuals working and claiming Universal Credit which is 6% higher than in November. We can also see that only one

ward has over 1,000 working Universal Credit claimants and apart from Linlithgow every ward has over 500 people working and relying on Universal Credit.

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

	Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23	Dec22-Dec23	Nov23-Dec23
Armadale and Blackridge	536	527	572	7%	9%
Bathgate	803	795	845	5%	6%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	624	675	710	14%	5%
East Livingston and East Calder	727	814	869	20%	7%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	634	661	699	10%	6%
Linlithgow	213	237	257	21%	8%
Livingston North	655	667	717	9%	7%
Livingston South	837	907	948	13%	5%
Whitburn and Blackburn	1,021	1,095	1,147	12%	5%
West Lothian	6,049	6,382	6,760	12%	6%

**Source: StatXplore 21/2/2024**

### Scottish Borders

Table 21 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,955 people claiming in January in Scottish Borders, 1.8% higher than last month and 2.7% lower than a year ago. Overall, three wards have seen the claimant count fall year on year and 3 have seen it fall between December and January. We can also see that 6 wards recorded a month to month increase ranging from 3.4% in Tweeddale West to 13.6% in Tweeddale East.

**Table 21 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward January 2024**

Wards	Jan 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2024				
		Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	175	0.0%	6.1%	45.7%	51.4%	17.1%	51.4%	31.4%
Galashiels and District	340	-11.7%	0.0%	57.4%	42.6%	19.1%	52.9%	26.5%
Hawick and Denholm	240	2.1%	-2.0%	62.5%	37.5%	18.8%	60.4%	18.8%
Hawick and Hermitage	190	0.0%	-2.6%	68.4%	34.2%	23.7%	50.0%	26.3%
Jedburgh and District	150	7.1%	0.0%	56.7%	43.3%	20.0%	53.3%	26.7%
Kelso and District	150	3.4%	11.1%	60.0%	40.0%	16.7%	56.7%	26.7%
Leaderdale & Melrose	135	0.0%	8.0%	51.9%	48.1%	11.1%	59.3%	29.6%
Mid Berwickshire	160	3.2%	-3.0%	53.1%	46.9%	15.6%	53.1%	31.3%
Selkirkshire	145	-12.1%	3.6%	65.5%	34.5%	17.2%	62.1%	20.7%
Tweeddale East	125	0.0%	13.6%	48.0%	48.0%	16.0%	56.0%	28.0%
Tweeddale West	150	-3.2%	3.4%	53.3%	50.0%	13.3%	56.7%	30.0%
Scottish Borders	1,955	-2.7%	1.8%	57.3%	42.7%	18.2%	55.8%	26.3%

**Source: NOMIS 19/2/2024**

We can also see that 57.3% of claimants were male and 18.2% were 16-24 years of age. In Hawick and Hermitage, 23.7% of claimants are 16-24 compared to 11.1% in Leaderdale and Melrose. In East Berwickshire 31.4% of claimants were fifty or over and this means that across the whole city region this ward has the highest proportion of claimants who are 50 years of age or over.

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 500 people working and claiming Universal Credit.



**Table 22 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Scottish Borders Ward December 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 21/2/2024

## 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. **This is the same data as presented in the previous update as it has not changed on NOMIS.** 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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