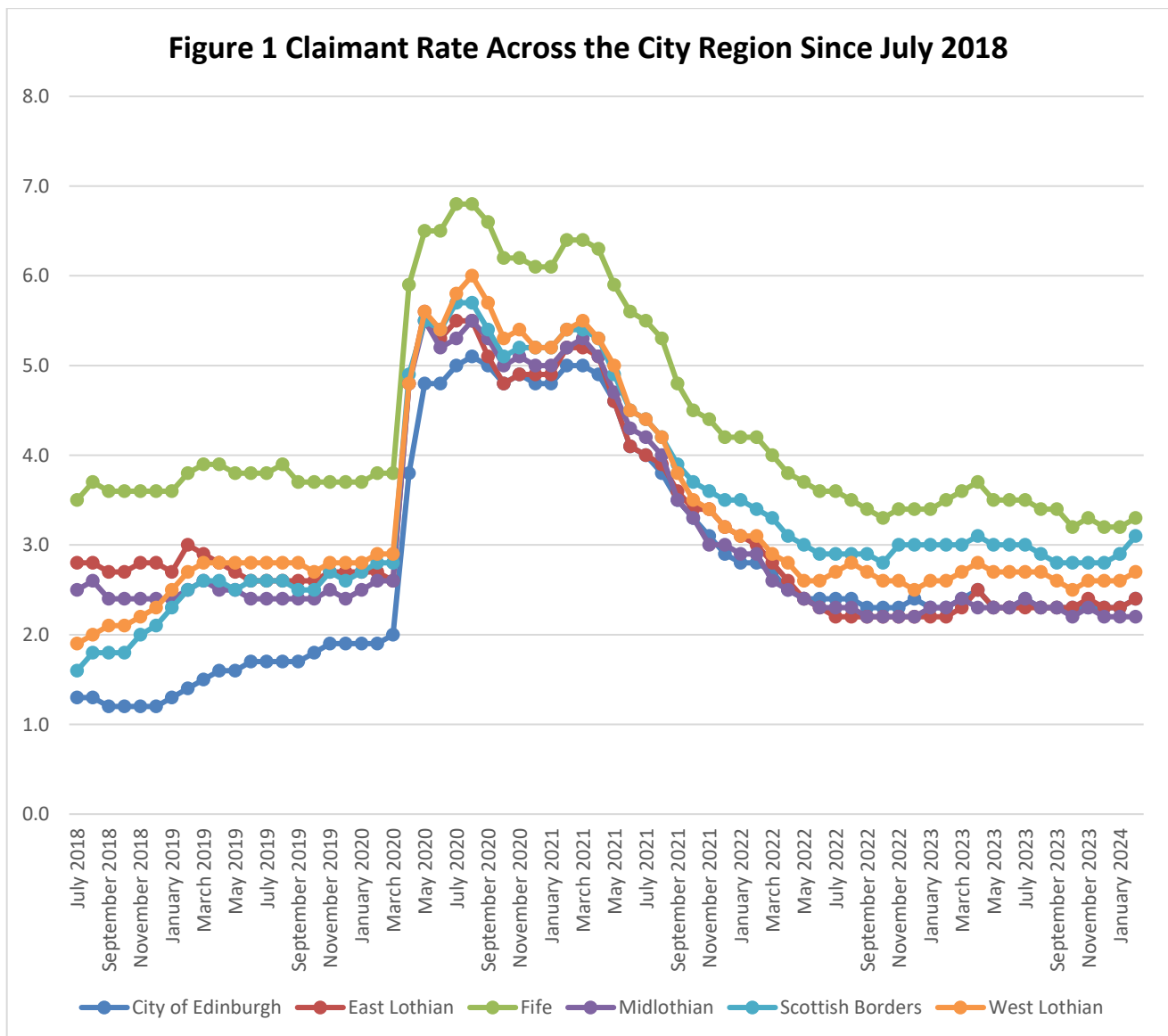


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2024 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between February 2023 and February 2024:	Claimant Count Change Between January 2024 and February 2024:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 5.7% ↓ Scotland decreased by 2.4% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 3.8% ↑ City Region increased by 0.3% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 4.0% ↑ Scotland increased by 3.4% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 5.9% ↑ City Region increased by 4.8%



Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

City Region Summary

1. In February 2024 the claimant count for the City Region was 24,520 (in January it was 23,690). Of these
 - a. 4,360 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,260 in January.
 - b. 14,890 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,200 in January.
 - c. 5,360 were 50 or older up from 5,050 in January.
2. In December 2023 there were 45,161 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In January 2024 there were 44,057.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In February 2024 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,865 (in January it was 8,440). Of these
 - a. 1,205 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,190 in January.
 - b. 5,670 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,315 in January.
 - c. 1,990 were 50 or older. It was 1,865 in January.
2. In December 2023 there were 14,576 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In January 2024 there were 14,112.

East Lothian Summary

1. In February 2024 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,615 (in January it was 1,530). Of these
 - a. 300 were 16-24 year olds. In January there were 290.
 - b. 955 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 910.
 - c. 360 were 50 or older. In January there were 330.
2. In December 2023 there were 3,656 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In January 2024 there were 3,577.

Fife Summary

1. In February 2024 the claimant count for Fife was 7,560 (in January it was 7,450). Of these
 - a. 1,595 were 16-24 year olds. In January there were 1,530.
 - b. 4,355 were 25-49 years of age. In January there were 4,230.
 - c. 1,610 were 50 or older. In January there were 1,535.
2. In December 2023 there were 13,006 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In January there were 12,560.

Midlothian Summary

1. In February 2024 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,315 (it was 1,260 in January). Of these
 - a. 260 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was 260.
 - b. 810 were 25-49 year olds. In January it was 800.
 - c. 245 were 50 or older. In January it was 230.
2. In December 2023 there were 3,466 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In January 2024 there were 3,415.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In February 2024 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,080 (in January it was 1,955). Of these
 - a. 355 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was 350.
 - b. 1,170 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 1,085.
 - c. 550 were 50 or older. In January there were 515.
2. In December 2023 there were 3,700 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In January 2024 there were 3,704.

West Lothian Summary

1. In February 2024 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,185 (in January it was 3,085). Of these
 - a. 645 were 16-24 year olds. In January there were 640.
 - b. 1,930 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 1,860.
 - c. 605 were 50 or older. In January there were 575.
2. In December 2023 there were 6,760 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in West Lothian. In January 2024 there were 6,692.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2024 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in February 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 3.4% higher than in February 2019 and in the UK, it is 51.9% higher. We can also see that in all but two regions and countries of the UK (North East and Scotland) the claimant count in February 2024 is higher than it was in February 2023.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	February 2019	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	Percentage Change		
					Feb 19 - Feb 24	Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24
UK	1,062,430	1,526,525	1,551,970	1,614,130	51.9%	5.7%	4.0%
East	71,240	112,315	118,440	123,575	73.5%	10.0%	4.3%
East Midlands	63,575	100,205	101,680	105,965	66.7%	5.7%	4.2%
London	151,165	279,790	298,085	313,190	107.2%	11.9%	5.1%
North East	69,815	68,790	64,565	66,235	-5.1%	-3.7%	2.6%
North West	146,895	193,930	191,595	198,205	34.9%	2.2%	3.4%
Northern Ireland	29,495	35,475	34,590	36,510	23.8%	2.9%	5.6%
Scotland	104,935	111,155	104,885	108,490	3.4%	-2.4%	3.4%
South East	94,020	161,775	166,975	174,110	85.2%	7.6%	4.3%
South West	66,505	86,770	91,070	94,885	42.7%	9.4%	4.2%
Wales	52,155	62,835	61,600	63,640	22.0%	1.3%	3.3%
West Midlands	115,235	176,200	177,615	184,500	60.1%	4.7%	3.9%
Yorks & Humb	97,395	137,285	140,865	144,825	48.7%	5.5%	2.8%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

Looking at the latest change month to month it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 4.0% higher in February 2024 than it was in January 2024 (62,160 higher in February than in January). In Scotland it increased by 3.4% (3,605) between January and February 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 eight (four are within the City Region) that had a claimant count in February 2024 that was higher than February 2023.

In the City Region the claimant count in February 2024 is 4.8% higher than in January 2024. All of the six Local Authorities saw a month to month increase and across Scotland only 3 Local Authorities recorded a fall in the claimant count between January and February 2024.

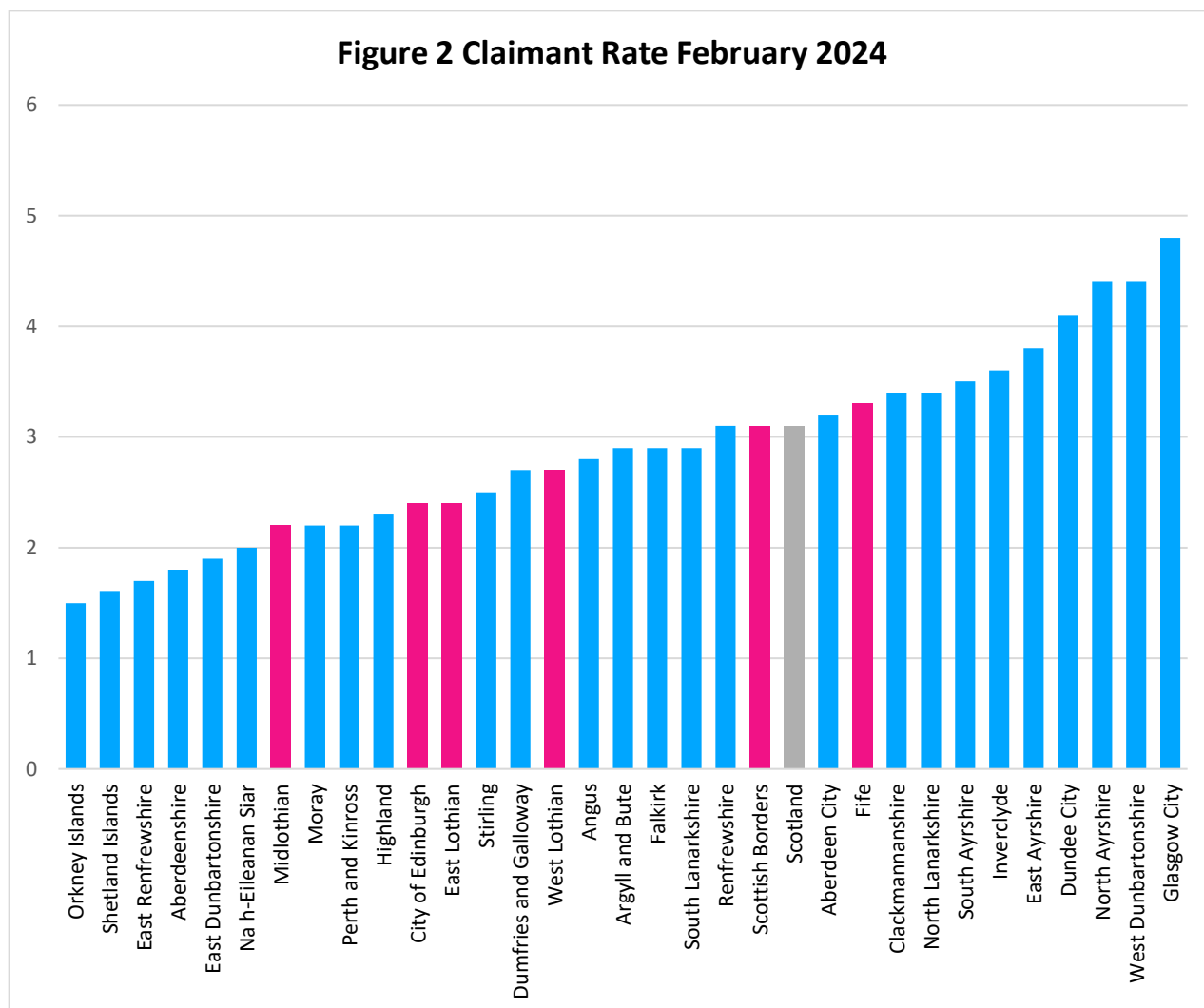
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	Feb 2019	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Percentage Change		
					Feb 19 - Feb 24	Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24
Aberdeen City	3,270	4,990	4,650	4,880	49.2%	-2.2%	4.9%
Aberdeenshire	2,565	3,145	2,800	2,930	14.2%	-6.8%	4.6%
Angus	2,200	2,035	1,900	1,915	-13.0%	-5.9%	0.8%
Argyll and Bute	1,305	1,475	1,425	1,485	13.8%	0.7%	4.2%
Edinburgh	5,100	8,540	8,370	8,865	73.8%	3.8%	5.9%
Clackmannanshire	1,370	1,175	1,055	1,090	-20.4%	-7.2%	3.3%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,510	2,600	2,355	2,300	-8.4%	-11.5%	-2.3%
Dundee City	4,620	4,165	3,930	4,025	-12.9%	-3.4%	2.4%
East Ayrshire	3,775	3,220	2,880	2,850	-24.5%	-11.5%	-1.0%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,205	1,230	1,175	1,205	0.0%	-2.0%	2.6%
East Lothian	1,950	1,495	1,530	1,615	-17.2%	8.0%	5.6%
East Renfrewshire	790	995	955	980	24.1%	-1.5%	2.6%
Falkirk	3,430	3,140	2,830	2,945	-14.1%	-6.2%	4.1%
Fife	8,875	8,070	7,295	7,560	-14.8%	-6.3%	3.6%
Glasgow City	15,350	21,180	20,435	21,315	38.9%	0.6%	4.3%
Highland	3,875	3,645	3,265	3,390	-12.5%	-7.0%	3.8%
Inverclyde	2,480	1,735	1,705	1,740	-29.8%	0.3%	2.1%
Midlothian	1,440	1,365	1,285	1,315	-8.7%	-3.7%	2.3%
Moray	1,490	1,385	1,235	1,315	-11.7%	-5.1%	6.5%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	335	320	290	310	-7.5%	-3.1%	6.9%
North Ayrshire	4,615	3,650	3,480	3,530	-23.5%	-3.3%	1.4%
North Lanarkshire	8,270	7,495	7,230	7,510	-9.2%	0.2%	3.9%
Orkney Islands	185	240	190	195	5.4%	-18.8%	2.6%
Perth and Kinross	1,700	2,145	1,970	2,075	22.1%	-3.3%	5.3%
Renfrewshire	3,650	3,660	3,620	3,545	-2.9%	-3.1%	-2.1%
Scottish Borders	1,700	2,020	1,945	2,080	22.4%	3.0%	6.9%
Shetland Islands	185	255	205	220	18.9%	-13.7%	7.3%
South Ayrshire	2,610	2,440	2,275	2,295	-12.1%	-5.9%	0.9%
South Lanarkshire	7,080	6,250	5,765	5,945	-16.0%	-4.9%	3.1%
Stirling	1,555	1,480	1,395	1,470	-5.5%	-0.7%	5.4%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,240	2,535	2,365	2,415	7.8%	-4.7%	2.1%
West Lothian	3,210	3,065	3,075	3,185	-0.8%	3.9%	3.6%
Scotland	104,935	111,155	104,885	108,490	3.4%	-2.4%	3.4%
City Region	22,275	24,555	23,500	24,620	10.5%	0.3%	4.8%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

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 Midlothian 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 February 2024



Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

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 February 2024 is *slightly* higher than it was in February 2023. In two Local Authorities it was lower than it was a year ago and in the other four the claimant count is higher than it was in 2023.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region LAs

	February 2019	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	Percentage Change	
					Feb 23-Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24
Edinburgh	5,100	8,540	8,370	8,865	3.8%	5.9%
East Lothian	1,950	1,495	1,530	1,615	8.0%	5.6%
Fife	8,875	8,070	7,295	7,560	-6.3%	3.6%
Midlothian	1,440	1,365	1,285	1,315	-3.7%	2.3%
Scottish Borders	1,700	2,020	1,945	2,080	3.0%	6.9%
West Lothian	3,210	3,065	3,075	3,185	3.9%	3.6%
City Region	22,275	24,555	23,500	24,620	0.3%	4.8%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

The month-to-month change from January 2024 to February 2024 indicates that in all six Local Authorities the claimant count is higher than it was in January. The lowest percentage increase is in Midlothian where the claimant count has increased by 2.3% (30 more claimants in February than in January). The highest percentage increase is in Scottish Borders where the claimant count in

February is 6.9% higher than in January (135 additional claimants). Overall, across the region there were 1,120 more claimants in February than there were in January.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that across the region in December 2023 there were 45,161 people who were in work but required financial support from Universal Credit (UC) as their income was not sufficient. Between December 2023 and January 2024 this had decreased by around 1,100 people so that the most recent data from January 2024 indicates there were 44,057 individuals in work but requiring the support of universal credit. This trend was reflected in all but one of the 6 Local Authorities. Only Scottish Borders didn't record a fall in the number of in work Universal Credit claimants. In this Local Authority there was essentially no change month to month.

Table 4 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment

	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Percentage Change	
				Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan24
Edinburgh	13,509	14,576	14,112	4.5%	-3.2%
East Lothian	3,452	3,656	3,577	3.6%	-2.2%
Fife	12,441	13,006	12,560	1.0%	-3.4%
Midlothian	3,144	3,466	3,415	8.6%	-1.5%
West Lothian	5,950	6,760	6,692	12.5%	-1.0%
Scottish Borders	3,300	3,700	3,704	12.2%	0.1%
City Region	41,802	45,161	44,057	5.4%	-2.4%

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

Gender Profile

From Table 5 we can see that four Local Authorities in the city region have seen the number of male claimants fall over the last 12 months and 2 have seen the number increase. Comparing the January 2024 statistics to those of February 2024 the picture is slightly less positive as every Local Authority saw the male claimant count increase month to month. Overall, across the region, there are 650 more male claimants in February 2024 than there were in January.

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

	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	Percentage Change	
				Feb 23-Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24
Edinburgh	5,115	4,925	5,170	1.1%	5.0%
East Lothian	890	870	910	2.2%	4.6%
Fife	4,975	4,380	4,580	-7.9%	4.6%
Midlothian	795	740	770	-3.1%	4.1%
Scottish Borders	1,200	1,120	1,180	-1.7%	5.4%
West Lothian	1,855	1,775	1,850	-0.3%	4.2%
City Region	14,830	13,810	14,460	-2.5%	4.7%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

Table 6 looks at the situation for female claimants. This indicates that over the last year, in contrast to the male claimant numbers, there has been an increase in the number of female claimants (up by 430). This is an increase of 4.4% compared to a fall of 2.5% in the number of male claimants. The number of female and male claimants has increased by a similar percentage between January and February 2024.

In four of the six Local Authorities, we can see a year on year increase in the number of female claimants - ranging from a 16.5% increase in East Lothian between February 2023 and February 2024 through to an 8% increase in Edinburgh. The two Local Authorities that recorded a fall year on

year were Fife, where the number of female claimants fell by 3.6% and Midlothian where it fell by 5.3%. Between January 2024 and February 2024, the number of female claimants increased in every Local Authority except Midlothian where the claimant number fell by 1.8%.

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

	February 2023	January 2024	February 2024	Percentage Change	
				Feb 23-Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24
Edinburgh	3,420	3,445	3,695	8.0%	7.3%
East Lothian	605	665	705	16.5%	6.0%
Fife	3,095	2,915	2,985	-3.6%	2.4%
Midlothian	570	550	540	-5.3%	-1.8%
Scottish Borders	820	825	895	9.1%	8.5%
West Lothian	1,210	1,300	1,330	9.9%	2.3%
City Region	9,720	9,700	10,150	4.4%	4.6%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

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. In January 2024 the number had fallen to 28,868. Compare this to the male in work Universal Credit claimant count which was 15,728 in December and fell to 15,195 in January 2024. 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

		Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24
City of Edinburgh	Male	5,460	5,568	5,395
	Female	8,050	9,012	8,715
East Lothian	Male	1,105	1,150	1,115
	Female	2,346	2,515	2,460
Fife	Male	4,361	4,494	4,231
	Female	8,082	8,506	8,328
Midlothian	Male	1,020	1,076	1,052
	Female	2,122	2,385	2,362
West Lothian	Male	1,980	2,154	2,095
	Female	3,970	4,611	4,600
Scottish Borders	Male	1,193	1,290	1,302
	Female	2,113	2,409	2,404
City Region	Male	15,122	15,728	15,195
	Female	26,679	29,430	28,868

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In January 2024 there were 4,260 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. In February this had increased by 2.3% to 4,360. In 5 of the 6 Local Authorities month to month increases were recorded between January and February 2024. This ranged from an increase of 0.8% in West Lothian through to a 4.2% increase in Fife. Midlothian recorded no change in the number of claimants between January and February.

The year on year figure shows a 4.1% increase across the region from 4,190 in February 2023 to 4,360 in January 2024. When each of the six Local Authorities are looked at the year on year change ranges from an increase of 7.4% in Fife to a fall of 3.7% 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
February 2023	1,160	285	1,485	270	350	640	4,190
January 2024	1,190	290	1,530	260	350	640	4,260
February 2024	1,205	300	1,595	260	355	645	4,360
% Change							
Feb 23-Feb 24	3.9%	5.3%	7.4%	-3.7%	1.4%	0.8%	4.1%
Jan 24-Feb 24	1.3%	3.4%	4.2%	0.0%	1.4%	0.8%	2.3%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

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 14,890 25–49-year-olds claiming in February 2024, and this is up from 14,200 in January 2024 – an increase of 4.9%.

We can see from the table that all the six Local Authorities recorded a month to month increase for this age group. This ranged from 1.3% in Midlothian to an increase of 7.8% in Scottish Borders. Comparing the situation in February 2024 with that of February 2023 the table indicates two Local Authorities recorded a fall over the 12 months whilst the others all saw an increase.

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
February 2023	5,450	885	4,715	835	1,130	1,830	14,845
January 2024	5,315	910	4,230	800	1,085	1,860	14,200
February 2024	5,670	955	4,355	810	1,170	1,930	14,890
% Change							
Feb 23-Feb 24	4.0%	7.9%	-7.6%	-3.0%	3.5%	5.5%	0.3%
Jan 24 - Feb 24	6.7%	4.9%	3.0%	1.3%	7.8%	3.8%	4.9%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

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 January 2024 there were 5,050 claimants who were fifty or over. This has increased by 6.1% so that in February 2024 there were 5,360 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
February 2023	1,925	320	1,865	265	545	595	5,515
January 2024	1,865	330	1,535	230	515	575	5,050
February 2024	1,990	360	1,610	245	550	605	5,360
% Change							
Feb 23-Feb 24	3.4%	12.5%	-13.7%	-7.5%	0.9%	1.7%	-2.8%
Jan 24 - Feb 24	6.7%	9.1%	4.9%	6.5%	6.8%	5.2%	6.1%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

Over the last year the number of claimants over the age of 50 has fallen by 2.8% across the region from 5,515 in February 2023 to 5,360 in February 2024. Although the region has recorded an increase, Fife and Midlothian have seen the number of claimants over 50 years of age fall over the last 12 months.

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 January 2024 and February 2024. Overall, there are 8,865 claimants in Edinburgh, and this is 3.8% higher than February 2023 and 5.9% higher than January 2024. From the table we can see that ten wards had more than 500 claimants in December and 1 ward had less than 200.

Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward February 2024

Wards	Feb 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2024				
		Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	570	3.6%	8.6%	53.5%	46.5%	13.2%	65.8%	20.2%
City Centre	680	9.7%	4.6%	69.1%	30.9%	14.0%	62.5%	23.5%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	250	13.6%	8.7%	54.0%	46.0%	18.0%	62.0%	22.0%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	170	9.7%	13.3%	50.0%	50.0%	14.7%	61.8%	26.5%
Craighton/ Duddingston	635	13.4%	5.8%	57.5%	42.5%	11.0%	65.4%	23.6%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	300	3.4%	9.1%	56.7%	45.0%	10.0%	68.3%	23.3%
Forth	850	6.3%	2.4%	56.5%	43.5%	11.2%	65.3%	23.5%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	285	7.5%	3.6%	56.1%	43.9%	12.3%	64.9%	24.6%
Inverleith	305	-7.6%	5.2%	52.5%	47.5%	9.8%	65.6%	24.6%
Leith	715	-11.2%	5.9%	60.8%	39.2%	11.9%	65.7%	22.4%
Leith Walk	680	2.3%	5.4%	59.6%	40.4%	10.3%	65.4%	24.3%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	705	2.2%	9.3%	56.0%	44.0%	17.0%	62.4%	20.6%
Morningside	220	10.0%	12.8%	56.8%	40.9%	13.6%	61.4%	25.0%
Pentland Hills	740	5.7%	0.0%	58.1%	41.9%	18.2%	61.5%	19.6%
Portobello/Craigmillar	745	6.4%	8.0%	57.0%	43.6%	14.1%	64.4%	21.5%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	680	0.0%	7.1%	62.5%	37.5%	16.2%	64.7%	19.1%
Southside/Newington	335	6.3%	4.7%	61.2%	38.8%	16.4%	56.7%	26.9%
Edinburgh	8,865	3.8%	5.9%	58.3%	41.7%	13.6%	64.0%	22.4%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

The table also indicates that every ward, apart from Pentland Hills, had a claimant count in February that was higher than January. In the longer term only 2 wards have seen the claimant count fall over the course of the last year. One of these is Leith Ward where the claimant count has fallen by 11.2% over the last 12 months.

Overall, in Edinburgh in February 2024, 58.3% of claimants were male and 13.6% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 69.1% of the claimants are male. This is by far the highest proportion of male claimants in all the City Region wards. Corstorphine/Murrayfield ward has the highest proportion of female claimants. In Southside/Newington 26.9% of claimants in February were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Pentland Hills 18.2% 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 slightly lower than it was in December 2023. In Leith Ward there are 1,031 individuals working and claiming and this has fallen by 14.4% over the last year. Overall, apart from two wards (Morningside and Southside/Newington) every ward has seen a fall in the number of claimants between December 2023 and January 2024.

Table 12 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Edinburgh Ward January 2024

	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan24
Almond	962	1,152	1,135	18.0%	-1.5%
City Centre	615	597	547	-11.1%	-8.4%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	444	488	469	5.6%	-3.9%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	283	326	315	11.3%	-3.4%
Craightinny/Duddingston	911	938	910	-0.1%	-3.0%
Drum Brae/Gyle	533	614	592	11.1%	-3.6%
Forth	1,405	1,513	1,490	6.0%	-1.5%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	360	409	394	9.4%	-3.7%
Inverleith	440	477	468	6.4%	-1.9%
Leith	1,205	1,061	1,031	-14.4%	-2.8%
Leith Walk	918	988	948	3.3%	-4.0%
Liberton/Gilmerton	1,253	1,430	1,345	7.3%	-5.9%
Morningside	242	251	259	7.0%	3.2%
Pentland Hills	1,131	1,281	1,231	8.8%	-3.9%
Portobello/Craigmillar	1,267	1,412	1,379	8.8%	-2.3%
Sighthill/Gorgie	1,145	1,247	1,207	5.4%	-3.2%
Southside/Newington	392	391	394	0.5%	0.8%
Edinburgh	13,509	14,576	14,112	4.5%	-3.2%

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

East Lothian

Table 13 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count of 1,615 which is 5.6% higher than it was last month and 8% higher than February 2023. We can see that every ward apart from North Berwick Coastal recorded an increase between January and February 2024. Over the last 12 months four wards recorded a year on year increase, one recorded a fall, and one recorded no change.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2024

Wards	Feb 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2024				
		Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	180	12.5%	9.1%	52.8%	47.2%	16.7%	58.3%	27.8%
Haddington and Lammermuir	250	4.2%	6.4%	56.0%	44.0%	14.0%	62.0%	22.0%
Musselburgh	415	12.2%	3.8%	57.8%	42.2%	20.5%	55.4%	24.1%
North Berwick Coastal	95	-5.0%	0.0%	52.6%	47.4%	15.8%	68.4%	21.1%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	245	0.0%	4.3%	57.1%	42.9%	22.4%	57.1%	20.4%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	425	13.3%	6.3%	56.5%	43.5%	20.0%	60.0%	21.2%
East Lothian	1,615	8.0%	5.6%	56.3%	43.7%	18.6%	59.1%	22.3%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

Across the county 56.3% of claimants are male and this varies from 52.8% in Dunbar and East Linton through to 57.8% in Musselburgh. Preston, Seton and Gosford has the highest proportion of 16-34 year old claimants (22.4%). Dunbar and East Linton has the highest proportion (27.8%) of over 50 year olds.

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 January 2023 and January 2024 of 3.6%. Between December 2023 and January 2024, the count fell by 2.2%. Every ward saw a fall between December and January apart from in Dunbar and East Linton, where the claimant count increased by 1.7%.

Table 14 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by East Lothian Ward January 2024

	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan24
Dunbar and East Linton	446	480	488	9.4%	1.7%
Haddington and Lammermuir	543	570	559	2.9%	-1.9%
Musselburgh	753	805	786	4.4%	-2.4%
North Berwick Coastal	252	255	243	-3.6%	-4.7%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	571	629	601	5.3%	-4.5%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	883	918	902	2.2%	-1.7%
East Lothian	3,452	3,656	3,577	3.6%	-2.2%

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. We can see that overall Fife recorded 7,560 claimants in February 2024 and of these 60.6% were male. Five wards had over 500 claimants in December and four had 200 or less.

Table 15 Fife Claimant Count by Ward February 2024

Wards	Feb 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2024				
		Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	670	-11.3%	4.7%	65.7%	34.3%	22.4%	58.2%	19.4%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	320	-4.5%	8.5%	64.1%	37.5%	17.2%	57.8%	25.0%
Cowdenbeath	525	-7.1%	7.1%	59.0%	40.0%	23.8%	55.2%	20.0%
Cupar	190	-5.0%	8.6%	57.9%	39.5%	15.8%	57.9%	23.7%
Dunfermline Central	335	-4.3%	8.1%	58.2%	41.8%	20.9%	59.7%	17.9%
Dunfermline North	315	-1.6%	3.3%	61.9%	38.1%	23.8%	58.7%	17.5%
Dunfermline South	370	-9.8%	5.7%	58.1%	41.9%	23.0%	58.1%	18.9%
East Neuk and Landward	190	-5.0%	2.7%	57.9%	42.1%	15.8%	57.9%	23.7%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	335	-5.6%	1.5%	59.7%	40.3%	26.9%	56.7%	14.9%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	290	0.0%	5.5%	62.1%	37.9%	20.7%	60.3%	17.2%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	340	-1.4%	-5.6%	58.8%	41.2%	22.1%	57.4%	20.6%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	180	-5.3%	5.9%	58.3%	44.4%	19.4%	58.3%	22.2%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	210	-16.0%	2.4%	54.8%	45.2%	16.7%	57.1%	26.2%
Kirkcaldy Central	620	-5.3%	5.1%	58.9%	40.3%	19.4%	58.1%	22.6%
Kirkcaldy East	580	-9.4%	1.8%	64.7%	35.3%	19.8%	56.9%	23.3%

Kirkcaldy North	330	-7.0%	0.0%	56.1%	45.5%	21.2%	57.6%	21.2%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	370	-10.8%	7.2%	66.2%	32.4%	21.6%	54.1%	24.3%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	555	-1.8%	4.7%	63.1%	36.9%	23.4%	55.9%	19.8%
Rosyth	260	-3.7%	2.0%	51.9%	48.1%	15.4%	63.5%	21.2%
St Andrews	100	-4.8%	-4.8%	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	50.0%	35.0%
Tay Bridgehead	210	10.5%	5.0%	54.8%	45.2%	16.7%	59.5%	23.8%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	280	-12.5%	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%	21.4%	57.1%	21.4%
Fife	7,560	-6.3%	3.6%	60.6%	39.5%	21.1%	57.6%	21.3%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

We can see that year on year, one ward (Tay Bridgehead) had seen the claimant count increase, one recorded no change, and the remainder recorded a fall. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay recorded a fall of 16% year on year.

Between January and February 2024, the claimant count decreased in 2 Fife wards: - St Andrews where it fell by 4.8% and Glenrothes West and Kinglassie where a 5.6% fall was recorded. The greatest percentage increase was recorded in Cupar which saw the claimant count increase by 8.6% between January and February. The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages where 670 individuals were looking for work and claiming, up 4.7% on last month.

Leven, Kennoway and Largo had the highest proportion of male claimants (66.2%) whilst Rosyth had 48.1% of claimants recording as female. Glenrothes Central and Thornton recorded a high proportion of claimants aged 16-24 (26.9%). This indicates that this ward has the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants in the whole City Region. In St Andrews 35% of the 100 claimants are over 50 years of age which is the largest proportion in the City Region.

Table 16, below, looks at the in-work Universal Credit claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 12,560 Fife residents working and claiming Universal Credit support in January 2024 which is 3.4% lower than December 2023 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 January 2024

	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan24
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	980	984	929	-5.2%	-5.6%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	393	390	380	-3.3%	-2.6%
Cowdenbeath	847	909	867	2.4%	-4.6%
Cupar	364	382	363	-0.3%	-5.0%
Dunfermline Central	605	658	620	2.5%	-5.8%
Dunfermline North	467	506	479	2.6%	-5.3%
Dunfermline South	696	709	689	-1.0%	-2.8%
East Neuk and Landward	288	333	328	13.9%	-1.5%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	659	695	672	2.0%	-3.3%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	534	613	590	10.5%	-3.8%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	697	735	716	2.7%	-2.6%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	286	292	287	0.3%	-1.7%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	425	394	370	-12.9%	-6.1%

Kirkcaldy Central	679	702	686	1.0%	-2.3%
Kirkcaldy East	750	750	734	-2.1%	-2.1%
Kirkcaldy North	538	594	582	8.2%	-2.0%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	626	643	616	-1.6%	-4.2%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	964	994	962	-0.2%	-3.2%
Rosyth	607	609	597	-1.6%	-2.0%
St. Andrews	175	163	164	-6.3%	0.6%
Tay Bridgehead	336	386	363	8.0%	-6.0%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	536	565	567	5.8%	0.4%
Fife	12,441	13,006	12,560	1.0%	-3.4%

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

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 (Penicuik) recorded a year-on-year increase and four wards saw the claimant count fall and the final ward, Bonnyrigg, saw no change. The change over the last month has seen no change in 2 wards, an increase in 2 and a fall in 2.

Table 17 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2024

Wards	February 2024	Percentage Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2024				
		Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	190	0.0%	-2.6%	55.3%	44.7%	23.7%	57.9%	18.4%
Dalkeith	245	-12.5%	0.0%	55.1%	44.9%	18.4%	63.3%	16.3%
Midlothian East	230	-6.1%	0.0%	58.7%	41.3%	19.6%	65.2%	17.4%
Midlothian South	200	-13.0%	-7.0%	60.0%	37.5%	22.5%	60.0%	17.5%
Midlothian West	220	-2.2%	4.8%	56.8%	43.2%	20.5%	54.5%	25.0%
Penicuik	225	12.5%	15.4%	66.7%	33.3%	15.6%	68.9%	17.8%
Midlothian	1,315	-3.7%	2.3%	58.6%	41.1%	19.8%	61.6%	18.6%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 58.5% of claimants are male, 19.8% are aged 16-24 and 18.6% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Dalkeith had the highest proportion of females. In terms of the age profile 23.7% of claimants in Bonnyrigg were 16-24 years of age in February 2024 and 25% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50.

Table 18 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Midlothian Ward January 2024

	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan24
Bonnyrigg	510	536	536	5.1%	0.0%
Dalkeith	563	625	624	10.8%	-0.2%
Midlothian East	568	608	602	6.0%	-1.0%
Midlothian South	603	719	696	15.4%	-3.2%
Midlothian West	441	498	492	11.6%	-1.2%
Penicuik	454	472	464	2.2%	-1.7%
Midlothian	3,144	3,466	3,415	8.6%	-1.5%

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

Table 18 looks at the number of in work Universal Credit claimants in the 6 Midlothian wards. We can see that overall, there are 3,415 claimants in Midlothian in January 2024. This is 1.5% fewer than in December 2023 but still 8.6% more than a year ago. All 6 wards saw a year on year increase whilst the more recent month to month change between December 2023 and January 2024

indicates that every ward recorded a month to month fall with the exception of Bonnyrigg where the number remained static.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 19 below. Overall, there were 3,185 claimants in West Lothian in February 2024, and this 3.9% more than a year ago and 3.6% more than in January. We can see that 58.1% of claimants in West Lothian are male and 20.3% are aged between 16-24.

Table 19 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2024

Wards	February 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2024				
		Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	295	3.5%	1.7%	55.9%	42.4%	22.0%	57.6%	20.3%
Bathgate	435	1.2%	4.8%	57.5%	42.5%	21.8%	60.9%	17.2%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	320	0.0%	4.9%	57.8%	40.6%	20.3%	57.8%	21.9%
East Livingston & East Calder	345	1.5%	-2.8%	55.1%	44.9%	18.8%	60.9%	20.3%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	365	-3.9%	5.8%	61.6%	38.4%	20.5%	68.5%	12.3%
Linlithgow	130	8.3%	8.3%	53.8%	46.2%	11.5%	53.8%	34.6%
Livingston North	320	30.6%	8.5%	56.3%	43.8%	21.9%	60.9%	18.8%
Livingston South	430	19.4%	2.4%	55.8%	44.2%	20.9%	61.6%	17.4%
Whitburn & Blackburn	545	-6.0%	2.8%	61.5%	39.4%	20.2%	59.6%	20.2%
West Lothian	3,185	3.9%	3.6%	58.1%	41.8%	20.3%	60.6%	19.0%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

Looking at the wards in more detail we can see that eight wards recorded higher claimant numbers in February than in January and only East Livingston and East Calder saw the claimant count fall between January and February 2024. With a count of 545 claimants in February Whitburn & Blackburn had the most claimants of any West Lothian Ward. We can also see that in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Ward, 61.6% of claimants were male, in Armadale and Blackridge 22% of claimants were 16-24 and in Linlithgow 34.6% of claimants were 50 or over.

Table 20 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by West Lothian Ward January 2024

	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan24
Armadale and Blackridge	514	572	569	10.7%	-0.5%
Bathgate	749	845	848	13.2%	0.4%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	611	710	710	16.2%	0.0%
East Livingston and East Calder	733	869	859	17.2%	-1.2%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	625	699	671	7.4%	-4.0%
Linlithgow	205	257	252	22.9%	-1.9%
Livingston North	642	717	715	11.4%	-0.3%
Livingston South	847	948	951	12.3%	0.3%
Whitburn and Blackburn	1,011	1,147	1,123	11.1%	-2.1%
West Lothian	5,950	6,760	6,692	12.5%	-1.0%

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

Table 20 indicates that across West Lothian in January 2024 there were 6,692 individuals working and claiming Universal Credit which is 12.5% higher than a year ago and 1% lower than in December 2023. 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.

Scottish Borders

Table 21 below looks at the position in the Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 2,080 people claiming in February in Scottish Borders, 6.9% higher than last month and 3% higher than a year ago. Overall, three wards have seen the claimant count fall year on year and 1 has seen it fall between January and February. We can also see that every other ward recorded a month to month increase ranging from 5.7% in East Berwickshire to 12.5% in Tweeddale East. We can also see that 56.7% of claimants were male and 17.1% were 16-24 years of age. In Hawick and Hermitage, 22.0% of claimants are 16-24 compared to 9.4% in Tweeddale West. In Mid Berwickshire 34.3% of claimants were fifty or over.

Table 21 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward February 2024

Wards	February 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants February 2024				
		Feb 23- Feb 24	Jan 24 - Feb 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	185	0.0%	5.7%	48.6%	51.4%	16.2%	54.1%	29.7%
Galashiels and District	360	-6.5%	7.5%	61.1%	38.9%	19.4%	55.6%	25.0%
Hawick and Denholm	260	6.1%	8.3%	61.5%	36.5%	19.2%	59.6%	19.2%
Hawick and Hermitage	205	13.9%	10.8%	63.4%	36.6%	22.0%	51.2%	29.3%
Jedburgh and District	160	6.7%	6.7%	53.1%	46.9%	18.8%	53.1%	25.0%
Kelso and District	145	-12.1%	-6.5%	58.6%	41.4%	17.2%	55.2%	27.6%
Leaderdale & Melrose	145	26.1%	11.5%	48.3%	51.7%	13.8%	62.1%	27.6%
Mid Berwickshire	175	9.4%	9.4%	51.4%	48.6%	14.3%	51.4%	34.3%
Selkirkshire	150	-3.2%	7.1%	63.3%	36.7%	16.7%	60.0%	20.0%
Tweeddale East	135	12.5%	12.5%	48.1%	48.1%	14.8%	55.6%	25.9%
Tweeddale West	160	0.0%	6.7%	53.1%	46.9%	9.4%	59.4%	31.3%
Scottish Borders	2,080	3.0%	6.9%	56.7%	43.0%	17.1%	56.3%	26.4%

Source: NOMIS 13/3/2024

Table 22 looks at the number of people in work and claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In January 2024 there were 3,704 people working who needed the support of Universal Credit. This is 12.2% higher than a year ago and much the same as it was in December 2023. 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 January 2024

	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan23-Jan24	Dec23-Jan24
East Berwickshire	354	380	383	8.2%	0.8%
Galashiels and District	544	594	598	9.9%	0.7%
Hawick and Denholm	382	415	409	7.1%	-1.4%
Hawick and Hermitage	257	288	296	15.2%	2.8%
Jedburgh and District	241	271	248	2.9%	-8.5%
Kelso and District	278	322	328	18.0%	1.9%
Leaderdale and Melrose	273	324	335	22.7%	3.4%
Mid Berwickshire	330	354	355	7.6%	0.3%
Selkirkshire	238	298	299	25.6%	0.3%
Tweeddale East	213	218	218	2.3%	0.0%
Tweeddale West	191	239	239	25.1%	0.0%
Scottish Borders	3,300	3,700	3,704	12.2%	0.1%

Source: StatXplore 13/3/2024

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.

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