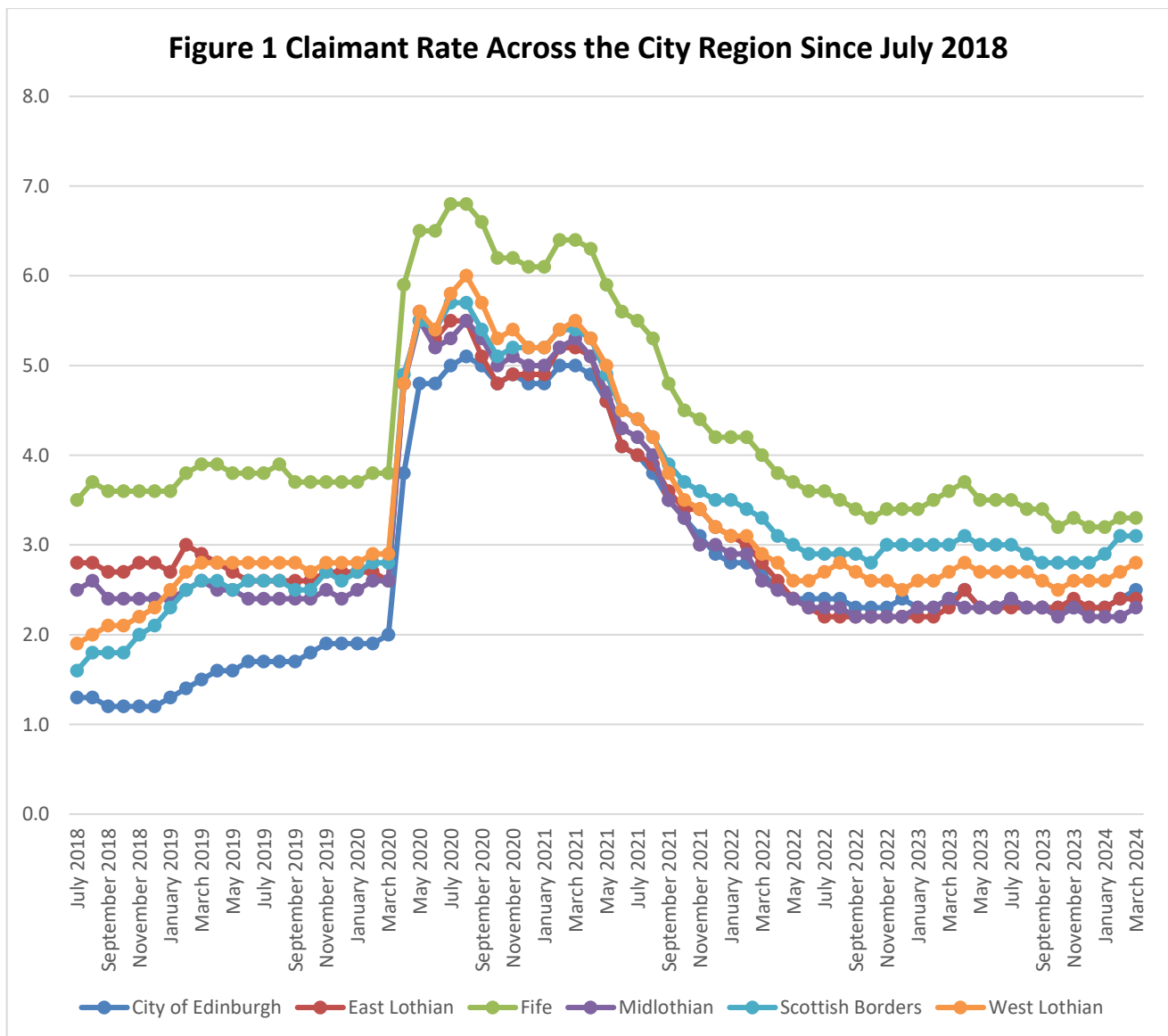


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count April 2024 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between March 2023 and March 2024:	Claimant Count Change Between February 2024 and March 2024:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 4.4% ↓ Scotland decreased by 3.7% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 2.9% ↓ City Region decreased by 1.2% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.9% ↑ Scotland increased by 2.2% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 2.5% ↑ City Region increased by 2.4%



Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

City Region Summary

1. In March 2024 the claimant count for the City Region was 24,985 (in February it was 24,400). Of these
 - a. 4,470 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,310 in February.
 - b. 15,070 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,760 in February.
 - c. 5,450 were 50 or older up from 5,330 in February.
2. In January 2024 there were 44,057 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In February 2024 there were 44,683.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In March 2024 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,980 (in February it was 8,760). Of these
 - a. 1,260 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,195 in February.
 - b. 5,705 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,590 in February.
 - c. 2,015 were 50 or older. It was 1,975 in February.
2. In January 2024 there were 14,112 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In February 2024 there were 14,601.

East Lothian Summary

1. In March 2024 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,625 (in February it was 1,600). Of these
 - a. 290 were 16-24 year olds. In February there were 295.
 - b. 980 were 25-49 year olds. In February there were 945.
 - c. 355 were 50 or older. In February there were 360.
2. In January 2024 there were 3,577 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In February 2024 there were 3,633.

Fife Summary

1. In March 2024 the claimant count for Fife was 7,655 (in February it was 7,465). Of these
 - a. 1,610 were 16-24 year olds. In February there were 1,565.
 - b. 4,440 were 25-49 years of age. In February there were 4,300.
 - c. 1,610 were 50 or older. In February there were 1,600.
2. In January 2024 there were 12,560 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In February 2024 there were 12,460 slightly down on the previous month.

Midlothian Summary

1. In March 2024 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,325 (it was 1,335 in February). Of these
 - a. 265 were 16-24 year olds. In February it was 260.
 - b. 815 were 25-49 year olds. In February it was 830.
 - c. 245 were 50 or older. In February it was 245.
2. In January 2024 there were 3,415 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In February this had fallen slightly to 3,390.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In March 2024 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,080 (in February it was the same). Of these
 - a. 370 were 16-24 year olds. In February it was 355.
 - b. 1,110 were 25-49 year olds. In February there were 1,175.
 - c. 600 were 50 or older. In February there were 555.
2. In January 2024 there were 3,704 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In February this had increased to 3,834.

West Lothian Summary

1. In March 2024 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,320 (in February it was 3,160). Of these
 - a. 675 were 16-24 year olds. In February there were 640.
 - b. 2,020 were 25-49 year olds. In February there were 1,920.
 - c. 625 were 50 or older. In February there were 595.
2. In January 2024 there were 6,692 in West Lothian individuals claiming Universal Credit who were in work. In February this had increased to 6,764.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count April 2024 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in March 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 2% higher than in March 2019 and in the UK, it is 48.9% higher. We can also see that in all but two regions and countries of the UK (North East and Scotland) the claimant count in March 2024 is higher than it was in March 2023.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	March 2019	March 2023	February 2024	March 2024	Percentage Change		
					Mar19 - Mar24	Mar23- Mar24	Feb24 - Mar24
UK	1,091,805	1,557,915	1,595,355	1,626,235	48.9%	4.4%	1.9%
East	73,410	114,545	121,930	123,990	68.9%	8.2%	1.7%
East Midlands	66,370	102,265	105,115	107,325	61.7%	4.9%	2.1%
London	155,190	284,745	306,900	312,775	101.5%	9.8%	1.9%
North East	71,280	70,330	65,895	66,600	-6.6%	-5.3%	1.1%
North West	150,630	199,250	196,410	201,555	33.8%	1.2%	2.6%
N. Ireland	29,670	36,175	35,825	36,935	24.5%	2.1%	3.1%
Scotland	107,760	114,060	107,495	109,890	2.0%	-3.7%	2.2%
South East	96,645	163,540	172,200	174,315	80.4%	6.6%	1.2%
South West	67,325	87,650	94,560	95,145	41.3%	8.6%	0.6%
Wales	53,725	64,035	63,430	64,070	19.3%	0.1%	1.0%
West Midlands	119,110	180,635	182,115	186,525	56.6%	3.3%	2.4%
Yorks & Humb	100,690	140,690	143,480	147,105	46.1%	4.6%	2.5%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

Looking at the latest change month to month it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 1.9% higher in March 2024 than it was in February 2024 (30,880 higher in March than in February). In Scotland it increased by 2.2% (2,395) between February and March 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 four (all of which are within the City Region) that had a claimant count in March 2024 that was higher than March 2023.

In the City Region the claimant count in March 2024 is 2.4% higher than in February 2024. Four of the six Local Authorities saw a month to month increase, Midlothian recorded a slight fall whilst

Scottish Borders recorded no change. Across Scotland seven Local Authorities recorded a fall in the claimant count between February and March 2024.

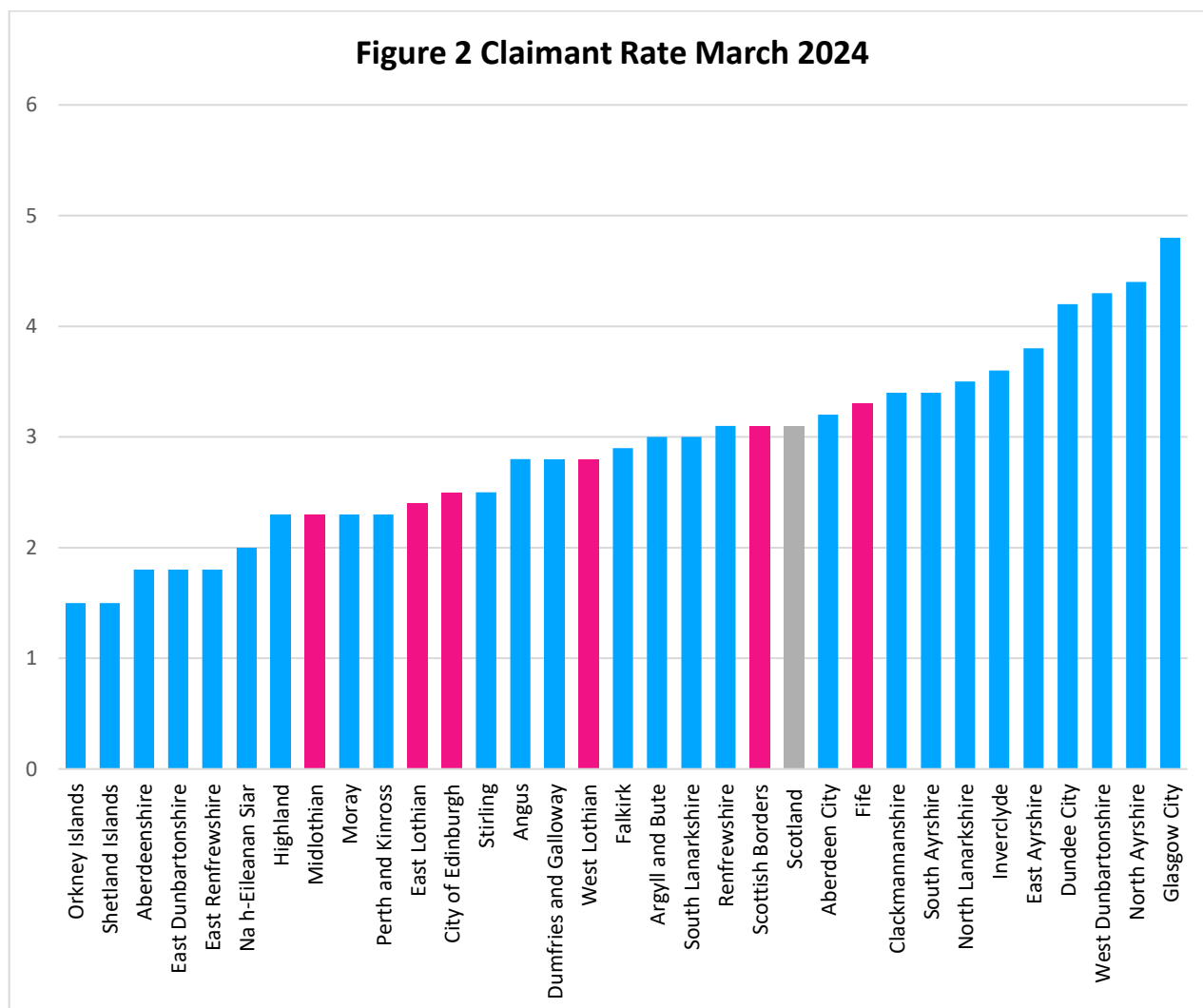
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	March 2019	March 2023	Feb 2024	March 2024	Percentage Change		
					Mar 19 – Mar 24	Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24
Aberdeen City	3,375	5,020	4,780	4,960	47.0%	-1.2%	3.8%
Aberdeenshire	2,615	3,170	2,880	2,905	11.1%	-8.4%	0.9%
Angus	2,210	2,070	1,885	1,940	-12.2%	-6.3%	2.9%
Argyll and Bute	1,375	1,505	1,475	1,505	9.5%	0.0%	2.0%
Edinburgh	5,525	8,730	8,760	8,980	62.5%	2.9%	2.5%
Clackmannanshire	1,375	1,220	1,100	1,070	-22.2%	-12.3%	-2.7%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,640	2,585	2,350	2,375	-10.0%	-8.1%	1.1%
Dundee City	4,660	4,350	3,965	4,125	-11.5%	-5.2%	4.0%
East Ayrshire	3,815	3,305	2,825	2,900	-24.0%	-12.3%	2.7%
East Dunbartonshire	1,210	1,275	1,225	1,185	-2.1%	-7.1%	-3.3%
East Lothian	1,890	1,570	1,600	1,625	-14.0%	3.5%	1.6%
East Renfrewshire	835	1,030	965	1,010	21.0%	-1.9%	4.7%
Falkirk	3,475	3,175	2,955	2,970	-14.5%	-6.5%	0.5%
Fife	9,125	8,335	7,465	7,655	-16.1%	-8.2%	2.5%
Glasgow City	16,090	21,910	20,985	21,750	35.2%	-0.7%	3.6%
Highland	3,840	3,710	3,335	3,365	-12.4%	-9.3%	0.9%
Inverclyde	2,490	1,780	1,685	1,705	-31.5%	-4.2%	1.2%
Midlothian	1,460	1,375	1,335	1,325	-9.2%	-3.6%	-0.7%
Moray	1,530	1,400	1,280	1,355	-11.4%	-3.2%	5.9%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	350	315	305	315	-10.0%	0.0%	3.3%
North Ayrshire	4,650	3,695	3,505	3,570	-23.2%	-3.4%	1.9%
North Lanarkshire	8,515	7,670	7,470	7,570	-11.1%	-1.3%	1.3%
Orkney Islands	195	245	195	205	5.1%	-16.3%	5.1%
Perth and Kinross	1,760	2,200	2,045	2,140	21.6%	-2.7%	4.6%
Renfrewshire	3,710	3,825	3,615	3,590	-3.2%	-6.1%	-0.7%
Scottish Borders	1,740	2,045	2,080	2,080	19.5%	1.7%	0.0%
Shetland Islands	190	255	215	210	10.5%	-17.6%	-2.3%
South Ayrshire	2,640	2,490	2,335	2,260	-14.4%	-9.2%	-3.2%
South Lanarkshire	7,260	6,480	5,845	6,065	-16.5%	-6.4%	3.8%
Stirling	1,545	1,490	1,465	1,485	-3.9%	-0.3%	1.4%
West Dunbartonshire	2,350	2,595	2,410	2,370	0.9%	-8.7%	-1.7%
West Lothian	3,315	3,235	3,160	3,320	0.2%	2.6%	5.1%
Scotland	107,760	114,060	107,495	109,890	2.0%	-3.7%	2.2%
City Region	23,055	25,290	24,400	24,985	8.4%	-1.2%	2.4%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in March 2024. 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 March 2024



Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

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 March 2024 is lower than it was in March 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

	March 2019	March 2023	February 2024	March 2024	Percentage Change	
					Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24
Edinburgh	5,525	8,730	8,760	8,980	2.9%	2.5%
East Lothian	1,890	1,570	1,600	1,625	3.5%	1.6%
Fife	9,125	8,335	7,465	7,655	-8.2%	2.5%
Midlothian	1,460	1,375	1,335	1,325	-3.6%	-0.7%
Scottish Borders	1,740	2,045	2,080	2,080	1.7%	0.0%
West Lothian	3,315	3,235	3,160	3,320	2.6%	5.1%
City Region	23,055	25,290	24,400	24,985	-1.2%	2.4%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

The month-to-month change from February 2024 to March 2024 indicates that in all but one Local Authority the claimant count is higher or the same as it was in February. The lowest percentage increase is in East Lothian where the claimant count has increased by 1.6% (25 more claimants in

March than in February). The highest percentage increase is in West Lothian where the claimant count in March is 5.1% higher than in February (60 additional claimants). Overall, across the region there were 585 more claimants in March than there were in February.

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that across the region in January 2024 there were 44,057 people who were in work but required financial support from Universal Credit (UC) as their income was not sufficient. Between January and February 2024 this had increased by around 600 people so that the most recent data from February 2024 indicates there were 44,683 individuals in work but requiring the support of universal credit. This trend was reflected in all but two of the 6 Local Authorities. Fife and Midlothian saw the number of in work Universal Credit claimants fall between January and February 2024.

Table 4 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Percentage Change	
				Feb23-Feb24	Jan24-Feb24
East Lothian	3,414	3,577	3,633	6.4%	1.6%
City of Edinburgh	13,562	14,112	14,601	7.7%	3.5%
Fife	12,408	12,560	12,460	0.4%	-0.8%
Midlothian	3,116	3,415	3,390	8.8%	-0.7%
Scottish Borders	3,323	3,704	3,834	15.4%	3.5%
West Lothian	5,919	6,692	6,764	14.3%	1.1%
Total	41,746	44,057	44,683	7.0%	1.4%

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

Gender Profile

From Table 5 we can see that three Local Authorities in the city region have seen the number of male claimants fall over the last 12 months, 2 have seen the number increase whilst 1 has seen no change at all. Across the region the number of male claimants in March 2024 was nearly 500 lower than in March 2023. Comparing the March 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 around 350 more male claimants in March 2024 than there were in February.

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

	March 2023	February 2024	March 2024	Percentage Change	
				Mar 23-Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24
Edinburgh	5,210	5,120	5,275	1.2%	3.0%
East Lothian	920	900	905	-1.6%	0.6%
Fife	5,070	4,530	4,590	-9.5%	1.3%
Midlothian	800	780	790	-1.3%	1.3%
Scottish Borders	1,205	1,190	1,205	0.0%	1.3%
West Lothian	1,925	1,835	1,930	0.3%	5.2%
City Region	15,130	14,355	14,695	-2.9%	2.4%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

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 130). This is an increase of 1.3% compared to a fall of 2.9% in the number of male claimants. The number of female and male claimants has increased by a similar percentage between February and March.

In four of the six Local Authorities, we can see a year on year increase in the number of female claimants - ranging from a 10.8% increase in East Lothian between March 2023 and March 2024 through to an 4.2% increase in Scottish Borders. The two Local Authorities that recorded a fall year on year were Fife, where the number of female claimants fell by 6.1% and Midlothian where it fell by 7%. Between February and March 2024, the number of female claimants increased in every Local Authority except Midlothian and Scottish Borders where the claimant number fell by 3.6% and 1.7% respectively.

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

	March 2023	February 2024	March 2024	Percentage Change	
				Mar 23-Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24
Edinburgh	3,515	3,640	3,700	5.3%	1.6%
East Lothian	650	695	720	10.8%	3.6%
Fife	3,265	2,935	3,065	-6.1%	4.4%
Midlothian	575	555	535	-7.0%	-3.6%
Scottish Borders	840	890	875	4.2%	-1.7%
West Lothian	1,310	1,325	1,390	6.1%	4.9%
City Region	10,155	10,040	10,285	1.3%	2.4%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

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 February 2023, 26,706 female claimants were in work and claiming Universal Credit. In January 2024 the number had increased to 28,868 and increased again by February 2024 so that it is now 29,252 -2,500 more than a year ago and around 400 more than the previous month. Compare this to the male in work Universal Credit claimant count, which was 15,038 in February 2023, 15,195 in January 2024 and currently (February 2024) is sitting at 15,432. 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

		Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
East Lothian	Male	1,087	1,115	1,146
	Female	2,331	2,460	2,489
City of Edinburgh	Male	5,448	5,395	5,487
	Female	8,113	8,715	9,115
Fife	Male	4,309	4,231	4,192
	Female	8,097	8,328	8,269
Midlothian	Male	1,029	1,052	1,052
	Female	2,088	2,362	2,336
Scottish Borders	Male	1,218	1,302	1,361
	Female	2,109	2,404	2,473
West Lothian	Male	1,951	2,095	2,188
	Female	3,973	4,600	4,569
Total	Male	15,038	15,195	15,432
	Female	26,706	28,868	29,252

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In February 2024 there were 4,310 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. In March this had increased by 3.7% to 4,470. In 5 of the 6 Local Authorities month to month increases

were recorded between February and March 2024. This ranged from an increase of 5.5% in West Lothian through to a 1.9% increase in Midlothian. East Lothian recorded a month on month fall between February and March.

The year on year figure shows a 1.7% increase across the region from 4,395 in March 2023 to 4,470 in March 2024. When each of the six Local Authorities are looked at the year on year change ranges from an increase of 8.8% in Scottish Border to a fall of 3.6% in West Lothian.

Table 8: Change in Claimants by Age Across the City Region (All Gender)

16-24 Year Olds	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region
March 2023	1,225	295	1,575	260	340	700	4,395
February 2024	1,195	295	1,565	260	355	640	4,310
March 2024	1,260	290	1,610	265	370	675	4,470
% Change							
Mar 23-Mar 24	2.9%	-1.7%	2.2%	1.9%	8.8%	-3.6%	1.7%
Feb 24 - Mar 24	5.4%	-1.7%	2.9%	1.9%	4.2%	5.5%	3.7%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

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 15,070 25–49-year-olds claiming in March 2024, and this is up from 14,760 in February 2024 – an increase of 2.1%.

We can see from the table that four of the six Local Authorities recorded a month to month increase for this age group. This ranged from 2.1% in Edinburgh to an increase of 5.2% in West Lothian. Comparing the situation in March 2024 with that of March 2023 the table indicates three Local Authorities recorded a fall over the 12 months whilst three 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
March 2023	5,525	930	4,860	845	1,145	1,905	15,210
February 2024	5,590	945	4,300	830	1,175	1,920	14,760
March 2024	5,705	980	4,440	815	1,110	2,020	15,070
% Change							
Mar 23-Mar 24	3.3%	5.4%	-8.6%	-3.6%	-3.1%	6.0%	-0.9%
Feb 24 - Mar 24	2.1%	3.7%	3.3%	-1.8%	-5.5%	5.2%	2.1%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

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 March 2024 there were 5,450 claimants who were fifty or over. This has increased by 2.3% over what had been recorded in February 2024 when there were 5,330 claimants who fell into this age category. Scottish Borders recorded an 8.1% increase between February and March whilst East Lothian saw a fall of 1.4%.

Over the last year the number of claimants over the age of 50 has fallen by 4% across the region from 5,680 in March 2023 to 5,450 in March 2024. Although the region has recorded an increase, Fife, West Lothian and Midlothian have seen the number of claimants over 50 years of age fall over the last 12 months.

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
March 2023	1,980	345	1,895	275	555	630	5,680
February 2024	1,975	360	1,600	245	555	595	5,330
March 2024	2,015	355	1,610	245	600	625	5,450
% Change							
Mar 23-Mar 24	1.8%	2.9%	-15.0%	-10.9%	8.1%	-0.8%	-4.0%
Feb 24 - Mar 24	2.0%	-1.4%	0.6%	0.0%	8.1%	5.0%	2.3%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

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 February 2024 and March 2024. Overall, there are 8,980 claimants in Edinburgh, and this is 2.9% higher than March 2023 and 2.5% higher than February 2024. From the table we can see that in March 2024 two wards had more than 750 claimants, ten wards had more than 500 and 1 ward had less than 200.

Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward March 2024

Wards	March 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants March 2024				
		Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	555	1.8%	-2.6%	53.2%	46.8%	15.3%	64.0%	19.8%
City Centre	690	10.4%	2.2%	70.3%	29.7%	14.5%	63.8%	21.7%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	250	11.1%	0.0%	56.0%	44.0%	20.0%	58.0%	24.0%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	175	12.9%	2.9%	51.4%	48.6%	11.4%	60.0%	25.7%
Craigtinny/ Duddingston	610	1.7%	-1.6%	60.7%	39.3%	11.5%	64.8%	23.8%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	340	21.4%	13.3%	55.9%	44.1%	11.8%	64.7%	23.5%
Forth	850	3.7%	1.2%	56.5%	43.5%	10.6%	65.3%	24.1%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	295	9.3%	5.4%	57.6%	42.4%	13.6%	64.4%	22.0%
Inverleith	305	-7.6%	1.7%	50.8%	49.2%	9.8%	65.6%	24.6%
Leith	705	-16.6%	2.9%	61.0%	39.7%	12.8%	66.0%	22.0%
Leith Walk	700	7.7%	5.3%	60.7%	40.0%	10.7%	65.7%	23.6%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	730	8.1%	5.8%	56.2%	43.8%	17.1%	62.3%	21.2%
Morningside	215	-2.3%	-2.3%	60.5%	39.5%	11.6%	62.8%	27.9%
Pentland Hills	775	6.9%	3.3%	58.7%	40.6%	18.7%	61.3%	20.0%
Portobello/Craigmillar	760	3.4%	3.4%	55.3%	44.7%	15.1%	63.2%	21.7%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	695	0.0%	2.2%	62.6%	36.7%	14.4%	64.7%	20.1%
Southside/Newington	325	-1.5%	3.2%	60.0%	40.0%	16.9%	58.5%	26.2%
Edinburgh	8,980	2.9%	2.5%	58.7%	41.2%	14.0%	63.5%	22.4%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

The table also indicates that apart from three wards, every ward, had a claimant count in March that was higher than February. In the longer term only four 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 16.6% over the last 12 months.

Overall, in Edinburgh in March 2024, 58.7% of claimants were male and 14.0% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 70.3% of the claimants are male. This is by far the highest proportion

of male claimants in all the City Region wards. Inverleith ward has the highest proportion of female claimants at 49.2%. In Morningside 27.9% of claimants in February were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Colinton/Fairmilehead 20% 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 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 a year ago and also in January 2024. In Leith Ward there are 1,068 individuals working and claiming and this has fallen by 11.1% over the last year. Overall, apart from Southside/Newington every ward has seen an increase in the number of claimants between January 2024 and February 2024.

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

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb23-Feb24	Jan24-Feb24
Almond	986	1,135	1,174	19.1%	3.4%
City Centre	580	547	569	-1.9%	4.0%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	446	469	486	9.0%	3.6%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	275	315	325	18.2%	3.2%
Craightinny/Duddingston	914	910	923	1.0%	1.4%
Drum Brae/Gyle	540	592	609	12.8%	2.9%
Forth	1,432	1,490	1,564	9.2%	5.0%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	370	394	424	14.6%	7.6%
Inverleith	441	468	492	11.6%	5.1%
Leith	1,202	1,031	1,068	-11.1%	3.6%
Leith Walk	907	948	970	6.9%	2.3%
Liberton/Gilmerton	1,240	1,345	1,423	14.8%	5.8%
Morningside	235	259	261	11.1%	0.8%
Pentland Hills	1,166	1,231	1,260	8.1%	2.4%
Portobello/Craigmillar	1,285	1,379	1,431	11.4%	3.8%
Sighthill/Gorgie	1,144	1,207	1,243	8.7%	3.0%
Southside/Newington	395	394	388	-1.8%	-1.5%
Edinburgh	13,562	14,112	14,601	7.7%	3.5%

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

East Lothian

Table 13 below looks at the situation in the East Lothian Wards. Overall, the county has a claimant count of 1,625 which is 1.6% higher than it was last month and 3.5% higher than March 2023.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2024

Wards	March 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants March 2024				
		Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	190	11.8%	5.6%	50.0%	50.0%	15.8%	60.5%	26.3%
Haddington & Lammermuir	255	4.1%	4.1%	54.9%	45.1%	13.7%	64.7%	19.6%
Musselburgh	420	10.5%	3.7%	58.3%	41.7%	17.9%	59.5%	22.6%
North Berwick Coastal	95	-13.6%	0.0%	57.9%	42.1%	15.8%	63.2%	21.1%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	240	-9.4%	2.1%	56.3%	43.8%	20.8%	58.3%	20.8%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	425	4.9%	-2.3%	55.3%	44.7%	18.8%	58.8%	21.2%
East Lothian	1,625	3.5%	1.6%	55.7%	44.3%	17.8%	60.3%	21.8%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

We can see that every ward apart from North Berwick Coastal and Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry recorded an increase between February and March 2024. Over the last 12 months four wards recorded a year on year increase and two recorded a fall.

Across the county 55.7% 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 16-24 year old claimants (20.8%). Dunbar and East Linton has the highest proportion (26.3%) 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 February 2023 and February 2024 of 6.4%. Between January 2024 and February 2024, the count increased by 1.6%. Four wards saw an increase between January and February 2024 apart from in Dunbar and East Linton and North Berwick Coastal, where the claimant count fell.

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

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb23-Feb24	Jan24-Feb24
Dunbar and East Linton	439	488	485	10.5%	-0.6%
Haddington and Lammermuir	541	559	565	4.4%	1.1%
Musselburgh	744	786	787	5.8%	0.1%
North Berwick Coastal	250	243	238	-4.8%	-2.1%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	566	601	629	11.1%	4.7%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	877	902	935	6.6%	3.7%
East Lothian	3,414	3,577	3,633	6.4%	1.6%

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. We can see that overall Fife recorded 7,655 claimants in March 2024 and of these 60.0% were male. Five wards had over 500 claimants in December and four had 200 or less.

We can see that year on year, three wards (Howe of Fife and Tay Coast; Kirkcaldy North; and Tay Bridgehead) have seen the claimant count increase, and the remainder recorded a fall. Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay recorded a fall of 23.1% year on year the largest percentage fall in the city region.

Table 15 Fife Claimant Count by Ward March 2024

Wards	March 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants March 2024				
		Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	685	-10.5%	3.8%	63.5%	36.5%	21.9%	58.4%	19.7%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	330	-7.0%	3.1%	60.6%	39.4%	16.7%	56.1%	25.8%
Cowdenbeath	540	-6.1%	6.9%	59.3%	40.7%	22.2%	58.3%	19.4%
Cupar	190	-9.5%	-2.6%	60.5%	39.5%	18.4%	57.9%	23.7%
Dunfermline Central	355	-5.3%	6.0%	59.2%	40.8%	21.1%	62.0%	16.9%
Dunfermline North	320	-8.6%	0.0%	60.9%	39.1%	26.6%	56.3%	17.2%
Dunfermline South	380	-14.6%	5.6%	57.9%	42.1%	21.1%	59.2%	19.7%
East Neuk and Landward	175	-12.5%	-7.9%	54.3%	45.7%	14.3%	60.0%	25.7%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	335	-6.9%	0.0%	62.7%	37.3%	28.4%	56.7%	13.4%

Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	285	-10.9%	0.0%	61.4%	38.6%	19.3%	61.4%	19.3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	345	-4.2%	1.5%	58.0%	42.0%	21.7%	56.5%	20.3%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	190	2.7%	8.6%	55.3%	44.7%	18.4%	57.9%	23.7%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	200	-23.1%	0.0%	57.5%	42.5%	17.5%	57.5%	25.0%
Kirkcaldy Central	610	-6.9%	-0.8%	58.2%	41.8%	18.0%	58.2%	23.8%
Kirkcaldy East	550	-16.0%	-2.7%	63.6%	36.4%	20.0%	57.3%	22.7%
Kirkcaldy North	370	7.2%	13.8%	58.1%	43.2%	21.6%	58.1%	21.6%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	355	-15.5%	0.0%	64.8%	35.2%	21.1%	56.3%	22.5%
Lochgelly, Cardenden & Benarty	580	-1.7%	7.4%	62.1%	38.8%	25.0%	55.2%	19.8%
Rosyth	265	-8.6%	3.9%	54.7%	45.3%	18.9%	60.4%	20.8%
St Andrews	100	-9.1%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	50.0%	30.0%
Tay Bridgehead	220	22.2%	4.8%	56.8%	43.2%	15.9%	61.4%	22.7%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	275	-15.4%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	21.8%	58.2%	20.0%
Fife	7,655	-8.2%	2.5%	60.0%	40.0%	21.0%	58.0%	21.0%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

Between February and March 2024, the claimant count decreased in four Fife wards: - Kirkcaldy East where it fell by 2.7%, Kirkcaldy Central where it fell by 0.8% East Neuk and Landward where it fell by 7.9% and Cupar where it fell by 2.6%. The greatest percentage increase was recorded in Kirkcaldy North which saw the claimant count increase by 13.8% between February and March. The ward with the single highest claimant count is Buckhaven, Methill and Wemyss Villages where 685 individuals were looking for work and claiming, up 3.8% on last month.

Leven, Kennoway and Largo had the highest proportion of male claimants (64.8%) whilst East Neuk and Landward had 45.7% of claimants recording as female. Glenrothes Central and Thornton recorded a high proportion of claimants aged 16-24 (28.4%). This indicates that this ward has the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants in the whole City Region. In St Andrews 30% of the 100 claimants are over 50 years of age which is the second largest proportion in the City Region behind Mid Berwickshire in Scottish Borders.

Table 16 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Fife Ward February 2024

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb23-Feb24	Jan24-Feb24
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	994	929	948	-4.6%	2.0%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	386	380	373	-3.4%	-1.8%
Cowdenbeath	824	867	852	3.4%	-1.7%
Cupar	374	363	362	-3.2%	-0.3%
Dunfermline Central	587	620	608	3.6%	-1.9%
Dunfermline North	471	479	476	1.1%	-0.6%
Dunfermline South	677	689	679	0.3%	-1.5%
East Neuk and Landward	287	328	334	16.4%	1.8%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	659	672	676	2.6%	0.6%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	524	590	586	11.8%	-0.7%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	696	716	711	2.2%	-0.7%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	296	287	276	-6.8%	-3.8%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	412	370	365	-11.4%	-1.4%
Kirkcaldy Central	684	686	686	0.3%	0.0%
Kirkcaldy East	758	734	731	-3.6%	-0.4%
Kirkcaldy North	535	582	567	6.0%	-2.6%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	642	616	627	-2.3%	1.8%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	949	962	933	-1.7%	-3.0%

Rosyth	574	597	602	4.9%	0.8%
St. Andrews	163	164	152	-6.7%	-7.3%
Tay Bridgehead	350	363	360	2.9%	-0.8%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	545	567	549	0.7%	-3.2%
Fife	12,408	12,560	12,460	0.4%	-0.8%

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

Table 16, above, looks at the in-work Universal Credit claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 12,460 Fife residents working and claiming Universal Credit support in February 2024 which is 0.8% lower than January 2024 and 0.4% 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.

Midlothian

The Midlothian position is presented in Table 17 below. Looking at the change between March 2023 and March 2024 we can see that one ward (Penicuik) recorded a year-on-year increase of 10.5% 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 1 ward, an increase in 2 and a fall in 3.

Table 17 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2024

Wards	March 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants March 2024				
		Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	190	0.0%	-2.6%	57.9%	42.1%	26.3%	60.5%	13.2%
Dalkeith	240	-12.7%	-2.0%	56.3%	43.8%	18.8%	64.6%	16.7%
Midlothian East	245	-3.9%	4.3%	61.2%	38.8%	18.4%	63.3%	16.3%
Midlothian South	225	-8.2%	7.1%	57.8%	40.0%	22.2%	57.8%	20.0%
Midlothian West	220	-2.2%	0.0%	56.8%	43.2%	20.5%	54.5%	25.0%
Penicuik	210	10.5%	-8.7%	64.3%	35.7%	14.3%	66.7%	19.0%
Midlothian	1,325	-3.6%	-0.7%	59.6%	40.4%	20.0%	61.5%	18.5%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 59.6% of claimants are male, 20.0% are aged 16-24 and 18.5% 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 26.3% of claimants in Bonnyrigg were 16-24 years of age in March 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 February 2024

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb23-Feb24	Jan24-Feb24
Bonnyrigg	519	536	519	0.0%	-3.2%
Dalkeith	571	624	604	5.8%	-3.2%
Midlothian East	562	602	605	7.7%	0.5%
Midlothian South	586	696	688	17.4%	-1.1%
Midlothian West	438	492	496	13.2%	0.8%
Penicuik	448	464	481	7.4%	3.7%
Midlothian	3,116	3,415	3,390	8.8%	-0.7%

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

Table 18 looks at the number of in work Universal Credit claimants in the 6 Midlothian wards. We can see that overall, there are 3,390 claimants in Midlothian in February 2024. This is 0.7% fewer than in January 2024 but still 8.8% more than a year ago. Five of the six wards saw a year on year

increase whilst the more recent month to month change between January and February 2024 indicates that three wards recorded a month to month fall and three recorded an increase.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 19 below. Overall, there were 3,320 claimants in West Lothian in March 2024, and this is 2.6% more than a year ago and 5.1% more than in February. 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 March 2024

Wards	March 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants March 2024				
		Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	295	3.5%	0.0%	57.6%	44.1%	20.3%	59.3%	20.3%
Bathgate	450	-5.3%	2.3%	60.0%	40.0%	22.2%	61.1%	16.7%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	340	1.5%	7.9%	57.4%	42.6%	20.6%	55.9%	23.5%
East Livingston & E. Calder	380	5.6%	11.8%	55.3%	46.1%	21.1%	61.8%	18.4%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	380	-6.2%	7.0%	60.5%	38.2%	21.1%	65.8%	13.2%
Linlithgow	135	8.0%	8.0%	55.6%	44.4%	18.5%	51.9%	29.6%
Livingston North	350	27.3%	11.1%	57.1%	42.9%	18.6%	61.4%	20.0%
Livingston South	435	16.0%	2.4%	57.5%	43.7%	20.7%	63.2%	16.1%
Whitburn & Blackburn	550	-7.6%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%
West Lothian	3,320	2.6%	5.1%	58.1%	41.9%	20.3%	60.8%	18.7%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

Looking at the wards in more detail we can see that seven wards recorded higher claimant numbers in March than in February and the other two recorded no change month to month. With a count of 550 claimants in March Whitburn & Blackburn had the most claimants of any West Lothian Ward. We can also see that in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley Ward, 60.5% of claimants were male, in Bathgate 22.2% of claimants were 16-24 and in Linlithgow 29.6% of claimants were 50 or over.

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

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb23-Feb24	Jan24-Feb24
Armadale and Blackridge	527	569	582	10.4%	2.3%
Bathgate	761	848	847	11.3%	-0.1%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	626	710	712	13.7%	0.3%
East Livingston and East Calder	748	859	871	16.4%	1.4%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	644	671	677	5.1%	0.9%
Linlithgow	205	252	262	27.8%	4.0%
Livingston North	611	715	733	20.0%	2.5%
Livingston South	821	951	953	16.1%	0.2%
Whitburn and Blackburn	987	1,123	1,122	13.7%	-0.1%
West Lothian	5,919	6,692	6,764	14.3%	1.1%

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

Table 20 indicates that across West Lothian in February 2024 there were 6,764 individuals working and claiming Universal Credit which is 14.3% higher than a year ago and 1.1% higher than in January 2023. We can also see that no 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 March in Scottish Borders, the same number as last month and 1.7% higher than a year ago.

Overall, three wards have seen the claimant count fall year on year and four have seen it fall between February and March. We can also see that every other ward recorded a month to month increase ranging from 16.1% in Jedburgh and District to 2% in Hawick and Denholm. We can also see that 57.9% of claimants were male and 17.8% were 16-24 years of age. In Galashiels and District, 22.7% of claimants are 16-24 compared to 10% in Tweeddale West. In Mid Berwickshire 35.3% of claimants were fifty or over the highest proportion in the city region.

Table 21 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward March 2024

Wards	March 2024	% Change		Proportion of Claimants March 2024				
		Mar 23- Mar 24	Feb 24 - Mar 24	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	175	-2.8%	-7.9%	48.6%	51.4%	17.1%	51.4%	31.4%
Galashiels and District	375	-6.3%	4.2%	61.3%	38.7%	22.7%	52.0%	25.3%
Hawick and Denholm	255	-1.9%	2.0%	62.7%	37.3%	21.6%	54.9%	25.5%
Hawick and Hermitage	205	7.9%	0.0%	68.3%	34.1%	19.5%	48.8%	31.7%
Jedburgh and District	180	20.0%	16.1%	52.8%	44.4%	22.2%	52.8%	25.0%
Kelso and District	155	0.0%	3.3%	58.1%	38.7%	12.9%	58.1%	29.0%
Leaderdale & Melrose	135	17.4%	-10.0%	48.1%	51.9%	14.8%	59.3%	25.9%
Mid Berwickshire	170	3.0%	-5.6%	52.9%	47.1%	14.7%	50.0%	35.3%
Selkirkshire	155	0.0%	3.3%	61.3%	35.5%	16.1%	54.8%	25.8%
Tweeddale East	130	4.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	15.4%	53.8%	30.8%
Tweeddale West	150	0.0%	-3.2%	60.0%	40.0%	10.0%	53.3%	33.3%
Scottish Borders	2,080	1.7%	0.0%	57.9%	42.1%	17.8%	53.4%	28.8%

Source: NOMIS 22/4/2024

Table 22 looks at the number of people in work and claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In February 2024 there were 3,834 people working who needed the support of Universal Credit. This is 15.4% higher than a year ago and 3.5% higher than it was in January 2024. 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 February 2024

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb23-Feb24	Jan24-Feb24
East Berwickshire	341	383	394	15.5%	2.9%
Galashiels and District	534	598	602	12.7%	0.7%
Hawick and Denholm	384	409	428	11.5%	4.6%
Hawick and Hermitage	272	296	290	6.6%	-2.0%
Jedburgh and District	244	248	263	7.8%	6.0%
Kelso and District	282	328	337	19.5%	2.7%
Leaderdale and Melrose	272	335	343	26.1%	2.4%
Mid Berwickshire	338	355	373	10.4%	5.1%
Selkirkshire	242	299	303	25.2%	1.3%
Tweeddale East	220	218	239	8.6%	9.6%
Tweeddale West	193	239	255	32.1%	6.7%
Scottish Borders	3,323	3,704	3,834	15.4%	3.5%

Source: StatXplore 22/4/2024

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 December 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. 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 but can include groups who are not looking for work as they are studying, have health issues or looking after family.

This suggest that 85.8% of the working age population in Edinburgh are economically active whilst it is 77.9% in West Lothian. We can see that across the region 82.9% of the 158,800 economically inactive do not want a job and this ranges from 77% in Fife through to 88% in East Lothian.¹

Table 23 Economic activity aged 16-64 (January 2023- December 2023)

	Economic activity rate - aged 16-64		% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64		% of economically inactive who do not want a job	
	numerator	percent	numerator	percent	numerator	percent
City of Edinburgh	305,800	85.8	50,700	14.2	43,900	86.6
East Lothian	54,200	82.4	11,600	17.6	10,300	88.6
Fife	175,700	78.2	48,900	21.8	37,800	77.2
Midlothian	49,400	86.6	7,600	13.4	6,400	84.4
Scottish Borders	51,900	78.7	14,000	21.3	11,900	84.9
West Lothian	91,200	77.9	25,900	22.1	21,300	82.1
Column Total	728,300	82.1	158,800	17.9	131,600	82.9

Source: NOMIS 24/4/2024

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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¹ There was an interesting episode of the Briefing Room on Radio 4 **Are Britain's Missing Workers Really a Problem?** where they discussed economic inactivity and what is counted. The programme can be found here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001yjbk>

