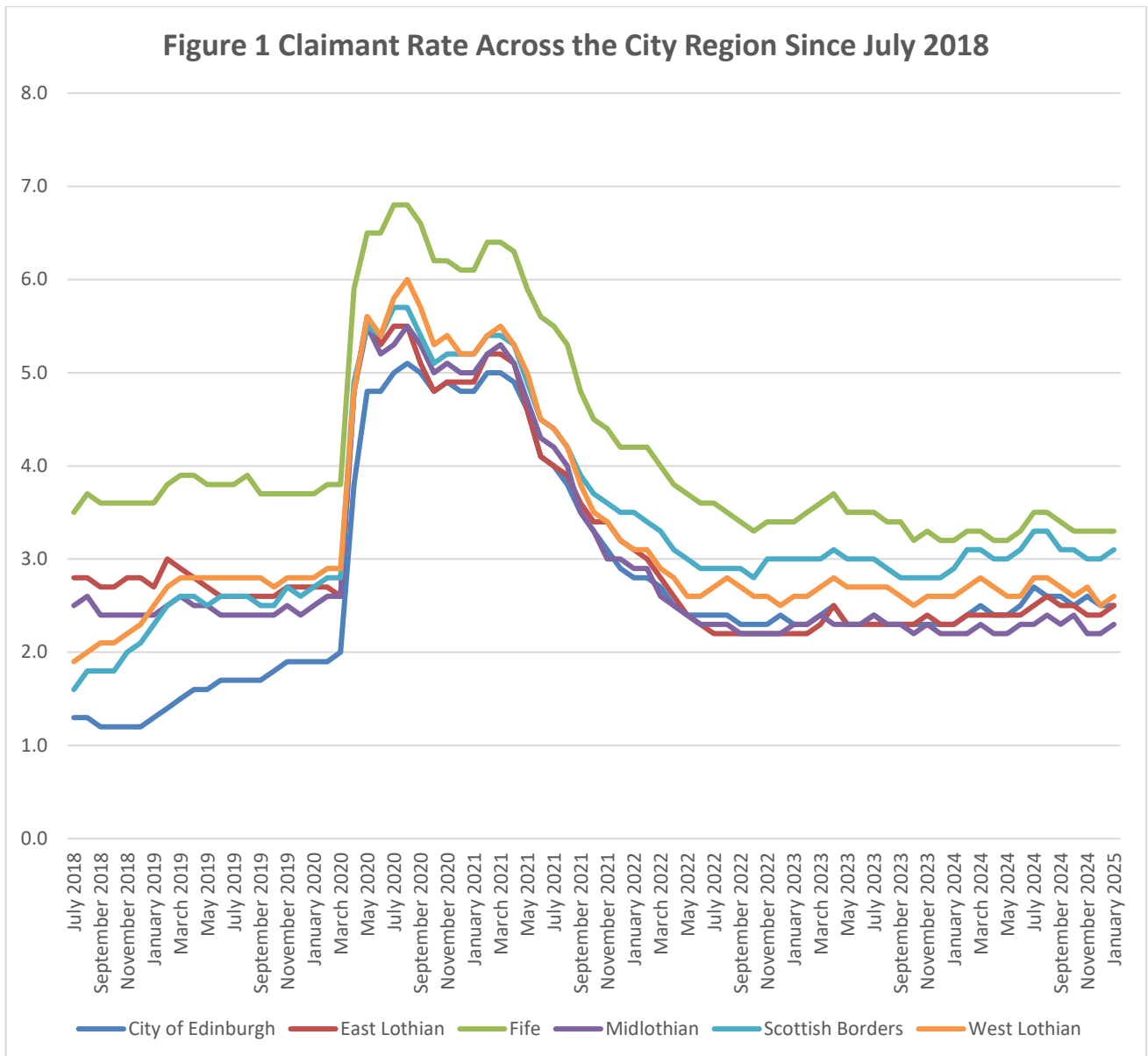


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count January 2025 Summary Update

<p>Claimant Count Change Between January 2024 and January 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 11.5% ↑ Scotland increased by 3.7% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 10.5% ↑ City Region increased by 6.8% 	<p>Claimant Count Change Between December 2024 and January 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.7% ↑ Scotland increased by 2.9% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 3.0% ↑ City Region increased by 3.7%
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Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

City Region Summary

1. In January 2025 the claimant count for the City Region was 25,090 (in December it was 24,195). Of these
 - a. 4,395 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,275 in December.
 - b. 15,000 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,410 in December.
 - c. 5,695 were 50 or older up from 5,510 in December.
2. In December 2024 there were 49,305 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in the Region. In November 2024 there were 49,410.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In January 2025 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 9,245 (in December it was 8,980). Of these
 - a. 1,275 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,235 in December.
 - b. 5,855 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,685 in December.
 - c. 2,110 were 50 or older. It was 2,060 in December.
2. In December 2024 there were 15,683 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Edinburgh. In November 2024 there were 15,606.

East Lothian Summary

1. In January 2025 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,655 (in December it was 1,575). Of these
 - a. 330 were 16-24 year olds. In December there were 310.
 - b. 965 were 25-49 year olds. In December there were 920.
 - c. 365 were 50 or older. In December there were 345.
2. In December 2024 there were 3,841 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in East Lothian. In November 2024 there were 3,891.

Fife Summary

1. In January 2025 the claimant count for Fife was 7,705 (in December it was 7,450). Of these
 - a. 1,580 were 16-24 year olds. In December there were 1,550.
 - b. 4,400 were 25-49 years of age. In December there were 4,240.
 - c. 1,725 were 50 or older. In December there were 1,665.
2. In December 2024 there were 14,571 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Fife. In November 2024 there were 14,776.

Midlothian Summary

1. In January 2025 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,340 (it was 1,270 in December). Of these
 - a. 270 were 16-24 year olds. In December it was 260.
 - b. 820 were 25-49 year olds. In December it was 775.
 - c. 250 were 50 or older. In December it was 235.
2. In December 2024 there were 3,734 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Midlothian. In November there were 3,739.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In January 2025 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 2,080 (in December it was 1,985). Of these
 - a. 350 were 16-24 year olds. In December it was 345.
 - b. 1,120 were 25-49 year olds. In December there were 1,050.
 - c. 610 were 50 or older. In December there were 590.
2. In December 2024 there were 4,106 working individuals claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In November there were 4,114.

West Lothian Summary

1. In January 2025 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,065 (in December it was 2,935). Of these
 - a. 590 were 16-24 year olds. In December there were 575.
 - b. 1,840 were 25-49 year olds. In December there were 1,740.
 - c. 635 were 50 or older. In December there were 615.
2. In December 2024 there were 7,362 West Lothian individuals claiming Universal Credit who were in work. In November there were 7,351.

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 2025 is higher than it was five years ago in all but two regions or Nations of the United Kingdom. The two that are exceptions are the North East of England where it is 7.7% (5,630) lower and Scotland where it is 2.9% lower (3,195 fewer claimants) than in January 2020. In the UK, it is 42.3% higher (514,415 additional claimants).

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	January 2020	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	Percentage Change		
					Jan20 - Jan25	Jan24- Jan25	Dec24- Jan25
UK	1,215,555	1,551,970	1,700,385	1,729,970	42.3%	11.5%	1.7%
East	86,290	118,440	128,895	131,710	52.6%	11.2%	2.2%
East Midlands	77,755	101,680	108,590	110,925	42.7%	9.1%	2.2%
London	177,870	298,085	350,335	354,740	99.4%	19.0%	1.3%
North East	73,185	64,565	66,265	67,555	-7.7%	4.6%	1.9%
North West	161,415	191,595	204,945	207,875	28.8%	8.5%	1.4%
N. Ireland	29,715	34,590	38,825	38,515	29.6%	11.3%	-0.8%
Scotland	111,955	104,885	105,665	108,760	-2.9%	3.7%	2.9%
South East	115,330	166,975	180,170	183,990	59.5%	10.2%	2.1%
South West	72,780	91,070	95,815	98,765	35.7%	8.4%	3.1%
Wales	59,015	61,600	64,815	66,750	13.1%	8.4%	3.0%
West Midlands	137,700	177,615	204,395	206,860	50.2%	16.5%	1.2%
Yorks & Humb	112,540	140,865	151,670	153,530	36.4%	9.0%	1.2%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

We can also see that in all the regions and countries of the UK the claimant count in January 2025 is higher than it was in January 2024. In Scotland the claimant count is 3.7% higher than it was a year ago.

Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 1.7% higher in than in December increasing by 29,585 claimants in the last month. In Scotland it is 2.9% higher (3,095 more claimants) in January than in December.

Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 focuses on Scottish Local Authorities. We can see that 9 Scottish Local Authorities have a claimant count higher in January 2025 than was recorded in January 2020 and two of the Local Authorities in the City Region feature in this list. The four that had fewer claimants were: East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian and Fife. We can see that Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow all have a claimant count higher than recorded five years ago. In Edinburgh there are 2,335 more

individuals claiming, in Aberdeen there are 985 and in Glasgow there are 2,540 additional claimants.

Elsewhere in the UK there are 181 Local Authorities that still have a claimant count above January 2020 levels. For example in the London Borough of Newham the claimant count in January was 21,185 which was 173% higher than the 7,750 recorded in January 2020.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

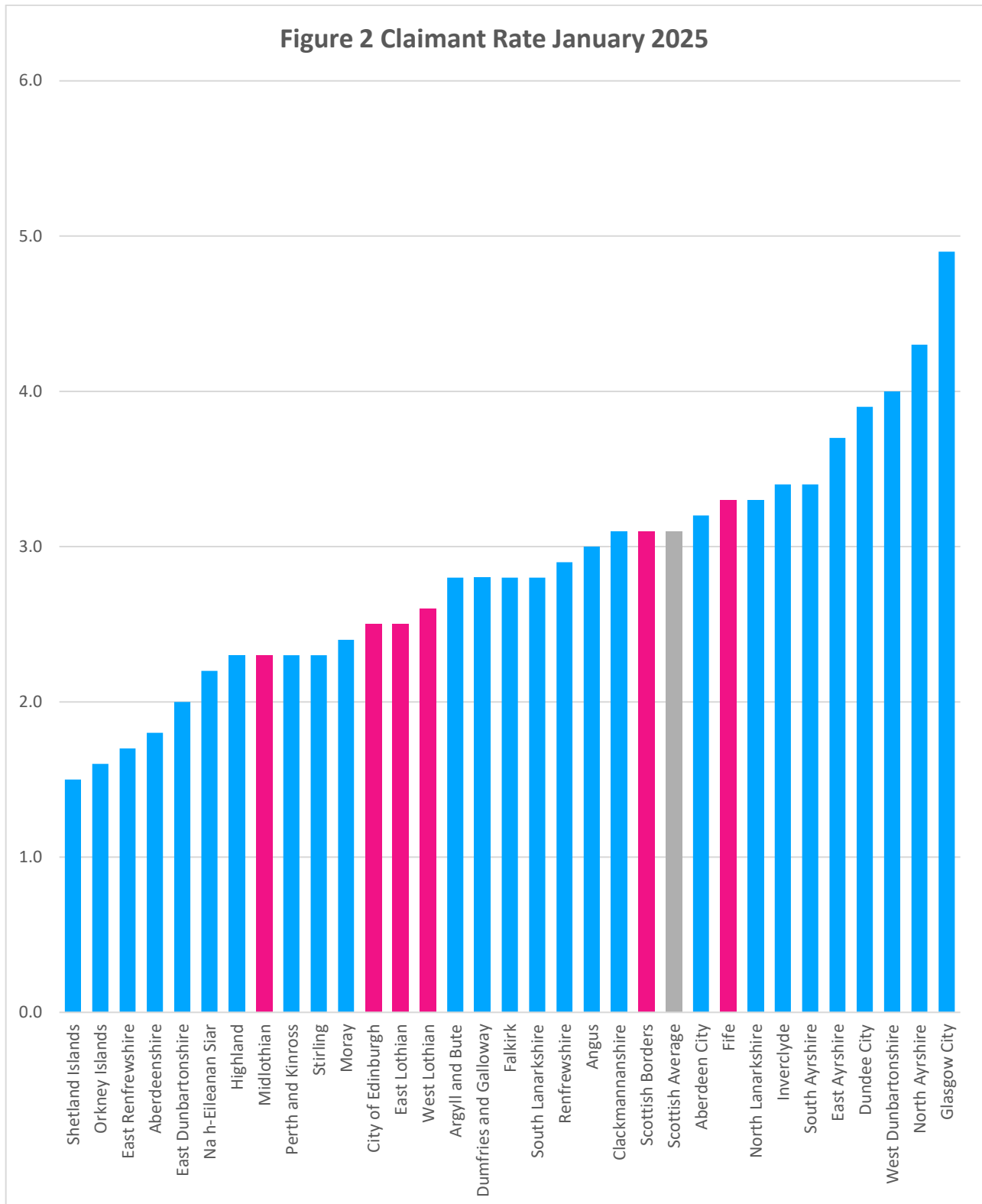
	January 2020	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	% Change		
					Jan20 - Jan25	Jan24- Jan25	Dec24- Jan25
Aberdeen City	4,015	4,650	4,875	5,000	24.5%	7.5%	2.6%
Aberdeenshire	2,920	2,800	2,775	2,930	0.3%	4.6%	5.6%
Angus	2,045	1,900	1,965	2,080	1.7%	9.5%	5.9%
Argyll and Bute	1,445	1,425	1,360	1,415	-2.1%	-0.7%	4.0%
Edinburgh	6,910	8,370	8,980	9,245	33.8%	10.5%	3.0%
Clackmannanshire	1,350	1,055	980	995	-26.3%	-5.7%	1.5%
Dumfries & Galloway	2,830	2,355	2,365	2,435	-14.0%	3.4%	3.0%
Dundee City	4,435	3,930	3,805	3,810	-14.1%	-3.1%	0.1%
East Ayrshire	3,695	2,880	2,735	2,790	-24.5%	-3.1%	2.0%
E.Dunbartonshire	1,215	1,175	1,170	1,255	3.3%	6.8%	7.3%
East Lothian	1,750	1,530	1,575	1,655	-5.4%	8.2%	5.1%
East Renfrewshire	970	955	965	965	-0.5%	1.0%	0.0%
Falkirk	3,280	2,830	2,730	2,835	-13.6%	0.2%	3.8%
Fife	8,505	7,295	7,450	7,705	-9.4%	5.6%	3.4%
Glasgow City	19,655	20,435	21,940	22,195	12.9%	8.6%	1.2%
Highland	3,705	3,265	3,260	3,400	-8.2%	4.1%	4.3%
Inverclyde	2,200	1,705	1,605	1,615	-26.6%	-5.3%	0.6%
Midlothian	1,410	1,285	1,270	1,340	-5.0%	4.3%	5.5%
Moray	1,495	1,235	1,305	1,390	-7.0%	12.6%	6.5%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	420	290	305	335	-20.2%	15.5%	9.8%
North Ayrshire	4,475	3,480	3,355	3,470	-22.5%	-0.3%	3.4%
North Lanarkshire	8,030	7,230	6,935	7,215	-10.1%	-0.2%	4.0%
Orkney Islands	190	190	210	215	13.2%	13.2%	2.4%
Perth and Kinross	1,815	1,970	2,050	2,140	17.9%	8.6%	4.4%
Renfrewshire	3,980	3,620	3,305	3,395	-14.7%	-6.2%	2.7%
Scottish Borders	1,835	1,945	1,985	2,080	13.4%	6.9%	4.8%
Shetland Islands	230	205	195	210	-8.7%	2.4%	7.7%
South Ayrshire	2,740	2,275	2,200	2,270	-17.2%	-0.2%	3.2%
South Lanarkshire	6,830	5,765	5,610	5,750	-15.8%	-0.3%	2.5%
Stirling	1,495	1,395	1,340	1,370	-8.4%	-1.8%	2.2%
W.Dunbartonshire	2,830	2,365	2,125	2,205	-22.1%	-6.8%	3.8%
West Lothian	3,260	3,075	2,935	3,065	-6.0%	-0.3%	4.4%
Scotland	111,955	104,885	105,665	108,760	-2.9%	3.7%	2.9%
City Region	23,670	23,500	24,195	25,090	6.0%	6.8%	3.7%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Over the last year thirteen Local Authorities saw the claimant count fall and almost all the others saw the claimant count increase year on year. This ranged from a rise of 0.2% in Falkirk through to a 15.5% increase in the Western Isles. One factor to consider is that this 12 month period includes the DWP conditionality changes which are very likely to be behind at least some of this increase.

What we can also see in Table 2 is that the change between December and January is of concern as every Local Authority in Scotland, with one exception, recorded a month to month increase. The one exception was East Renfrewshire which saw no change.

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in January 2025. 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.



Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

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 2025 is higher than it was in 2020, and this is reflected in two of the six Local Authorities that make up the City region whilst the other four of the regions Local Authorities can see that the January 2025 claimant count is lower than it was in January 2020.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region LAs

	January 2020	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	Claimant Rate Jan 25	Percentage Change		
						Jan20 - Jan25	Jan24- Jan25	Dec24- Jan25
Edinburgh	6,910	8,370	8,980	9,245	2.5	33.8%	10.5%	3.0%
East Lothian	1,750	1,530	1,575	1,655	2.5	-5.4%	8.2%	5.1%
Fife	8,505	7,295	7,450	7,705	3.3	-9.4%	5.6%	3.4%
Midlothian	1,410	1,285	1,270	1,340	2.3	-5.0%	4.3%	5.5%
Scottish Borders	1,835	1,945	1,985	2,080	3.1	13.4%	6.9%	4.8%
West Lothian	3,260	3,075	2,935	3,065	2.6	-6.0%	-0.3%	4.4%
City Region	23,670	23,500	24,195	25,090	0.0	6.0%	6.8%	3.7%

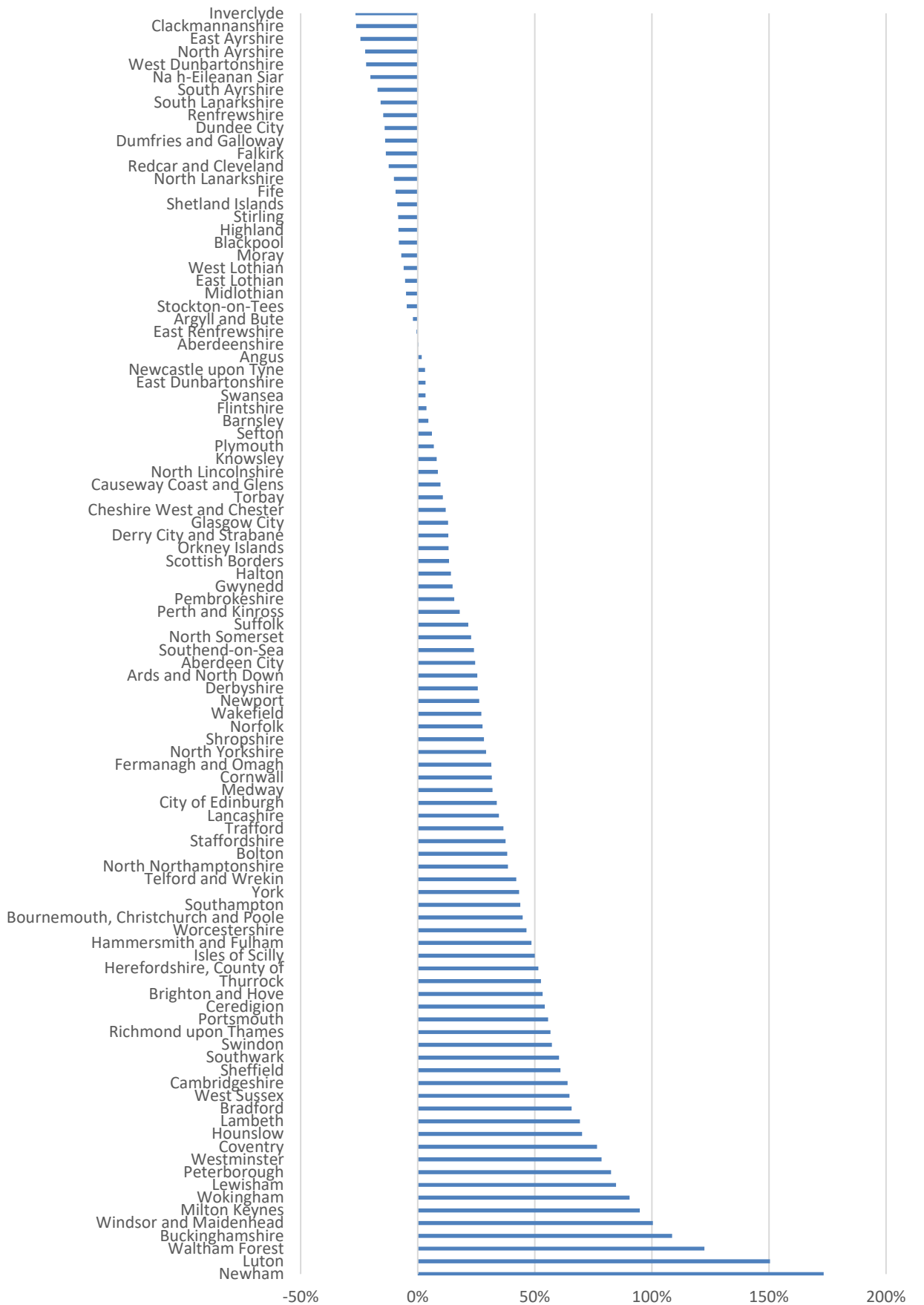
Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Over the last year five Local Authorities have seen the claimant count increase and this ranges from a 4.3% increase in Midlothian through to a 10.5% increase in Edinburgh. The month-to-month change from December 2024 to January 2025 indicates that across the Region the claimant count is higher than the previous month. Every Local Authority saw the claimant count increase between December and January. Overall, there were 895 more claimants in January than there were in December. This has traditionally been the case with retail and hospitality often recruiting seasonal staff for Christmas and lose their jobs in the new year. It will be interesting to see what happens in the February and March figures and if this trend is simply a seasonal increase or a reflection of something more concerning.

One thing that is clear is that Edinburgh and Scottish Borders are still recording claimant counts higher than the situation in 2020. Is there something different about the labour markets in these two Local Authorities that may be behind this? One thing that is noticeable is that having a claimant count higher in 2025 than it was five years ago is more the norm across the UK and this can be seen in Figure 3 which presents a picture of the UK Local Authorities. Of the 218 Local Authorities in the UK 179 have a claimant count in January 2025 that is higher than it was in January 2020. Also there doesn't seem to be any common factor in terms of the types of Local Authorities that fit in this category as some are urban or metropolitan Authorities and some are more rural. One thing that is noticeable, although not conclusive, is that if the Local Authority had a high claimant rate in January 2020 there are more likely to have seen it fall. For example, of the five Local Authorities with the highest claimant rate in 2020- Blackpool (9.4), Birmingham (8.9), Middlesbrough (8.5), South Tyneside (8.4) and Hartlepool (8.1) – only Birmingham and Middlesbrough have more claimants in 2025. In the case of Birmingham, the claimant count is 65% higher than it was in 2020 and in Middlesbrough it was 3% higher.

Looking more specifically at Scotland we can see that of the ten Local Authorities that recorded the highest claimant rates in January 2020 all bar one have seen the claimant count fall over the last 5 years. The one that didn't was Glasgow. At the other end of the spectrum of the 10 Local Authorities that had the lowest claimant rate in January 2020 three have seen increases over the last 5 years (Edinburgh, Orkney Islands and Perth and Kinross), one recorded no change (Aberdeenshire) and one recorded a fall of 1% (East Renfrewshire).

**Figure 3 Percentage Change in the Claimant Count
January 2020-January 2025**



Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that across the region in December 2023 there were 45,072 people who were in work but required financial support from Universal Credit (UC) as their income was not sufficient. In December 2024 this had increased by 9.4% to 49,305. Over the last month there has been a fall of -0.2% in the region with around 100 fewer people working and claiming Universal Credit.

Table 4 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec23 to Dec24	Nov24 to Dec24
City of Edinburgh	14,575	15,606	15,683	7.6%	0.5%
East Lothian	3,659	3,891	3,841	5.0%	-1.3%
Fife	13,006	14,776	14,571	12.0%	-1.4%
Midlothian	3,463	3,739	3,734	7.8%	-0.1%
West Lothian	6,761	7,351	7,362	8.9%	0.1%
Scottish Borders	3,695	4,114	4,106	14.0%	1.7%
Total	45,072	49,410	49,305	9.4%	-0.2%

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

Gender Profile

From Table 5 we can see that one Local Authority in the city region, West Lothian, has seen the number of male claimants stay the same over the last 12 months and the others have seen an increase. The percentage increase has ranged from 0.6% in East Lothian through to 9.7% in Edinburgh. Across the region the number of male claimants in January 2025 was 665 higher than in January 2024.

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

Male Claimants	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	% Change Jan24-Jan25	% Change Dec24-Jan25
Edinburgh	4,925	5,235	5,405	9.7%	3.2%
East Lothian	870	855	875	0.6%	2.3%
Fife	4,380	4,310	4,490	2.5%	4.2%
Midlothian	740	750	790	6.8%	5.3%
Scottish Borders	1,120	1,105	1,140	1.8%	3.2%
West Lothian	1,775	1,695	1,775	0.0%	4.7%
City Region	13,810	13,950	14,475	4.8%	3.8%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Comparing the December 2024 statistics to those of January 2025 the picture is similar as all six Local Authorities recorded month to month increases in the number of male claimants. This culminated in the region as a whole recording a 3.8% increase between December and January. This is based on an increase of 525 additional male claimants in January compared to December.

Table 6 looks at the situation for female claimants. This indicates that over the last year there has been an increase in the number of female claimants (900 additional female claimants). Compare this to the male claimant count which had increased by 665 over the same period. This is an increase of 11.2% year on year- compared to an increase of 9.7% year on year for the number of male claimants.

Between January 2024 and January 2025, we can see that two Local Authorities (Midlothian and West Lothian) recorded a fall in the number of female claimants. All the others saw the number of female claimants increase year on year. The percentage increase ranged from 17.3% in East Lothian

through to 10.1% in Fife. Overall, the region saw the number of female claimants increase by 9.3% over the 12 month period.

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

Females	January 2024	December 2024	January 2025	% Change Jan24-Jan25	% Change Dec24-Jan25
Edinburgh	3,445	3,745	3,835	11.3%	2.4%
East Lothian	665	720	780	17.3%	8.3%
Fife	2,915	3,140	3,210	10.1%	2.2%
Midlothian	550	520	545	-0.9%	4.8%
Scottish Borders	825	880	940	13.9%	6.8%
West Lothian	1,300	1,240	1,290	-0.8%	4.0%
City Region	9,700	10,245	10,600	9.3%	3.5%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

The change between December and January is similar and every Local Authority recorded a month to month increase. East Lothian recorded an 8.3% increase in the number of female claimants whilst Fife recorded a 2.2% increase between December and January.

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, 29,431 female claimants were in work and claiming Universal Credit. In December 2024 the number had increased to 32,278. This is over 3,500 more than 12 months ago. Compare this to the male in work Universal Credit claimant count, which was 15,729 in December 2023 and currently (December 2024) is sitting at 17,016- approximately 1,300 more.

Table 7: In Work Universal Credit Claimants

		Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24
West Lothian	Male	2,151	2,380	2,399
	Female	4,611	4,969	4,962
Scottish Borders	Male	1,290	1,464	1,468
	Female	2,409	2,648	2,634
Fife	Male	4,494	4,955	4,921
	Female	8,507	9,824	9,649
East Lothian	Male	1,148	1,276	1,235
	Female	2,512	2,617	2,603
City of Edinburgh	Male	5,564	5,787	5,827
	Female	9,007	9,814	9,855
Midlothian	Male	1,076	1,191	1,161
	Female	2,386	2,550	2,570
Total	Male	15,729	17,051	17,016
	Female	29,431	32,425	32,278

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In January 2025 there were 4,395 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 2.8% higher than a month ago and 3.2% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 135 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 120 more than last month. Worth highlighting is the fact that there are 55 fewer claimants aged 16-24 than there were in January 2020.

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 2020	1,065	305	1,665	310	410	695	4,450
January 2024	1,190	290	1,530	260	350	640	4,260
December 2024	1,235	310	1,550	260	345	575	4,275
January 2025	1,275	330	1,580	270	350	590	4,395
% Change							
Jan24-Jan25	7.1%	13.8%	3.3%	3.8%	0.0%	-7.8%	3.2%
Dec24-Jan25	3.2%	6.5%	1.9%	3.8%	1.4%	2.6%	2.8%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities apart from Scottish Borders and West Lothian all the City Region Local Authorities have more 16-24 year old claimants than a year ago. This ranges from 13.8% more in East Lothian to 3.3% more in Fife. In West Lothian there are 7.8% fewer 16-24 year old claimants in January 2025 than there were in January 2024. The change between December and January is slightly different as all six Local Authorities saw their claimant count increase. This increase ranged from a 1.4% increase in Scottish Borders through to 6.5% in East Lothian.

25-49 Year Olds

In January 2025 there were 15,000 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 4.1% higher than a month ago and 5.6% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 800 more 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, 59 more than last month and there are 1,355 more 25-49 year olds claiming in the City Region than in January 2020.

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 2020	4,165	1,010	4,820	815	965	1,870	13,645
January 2024	5,315	910	4,230	800	1,085	1,860	14,200
December 2024	5,685	920	4,240	775	1,050	1,740	14,410
January 2025	5,855	965	4,400	820	1,120	1,840	15,000
% Change							
Jan24-Jan25	10.2%	6.0%	4.0%	2.5%	3.2%	-1.1%	5.6%
Dec24-Jan25	3.0%	4.9%	3.8%	5.8%	6.7%	5.7%	4.1%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities all but one of the six Local Authorities have more 25-49 year old claimants than a year ago (West Lothian has less) and all six Local Authorities in the Region have more claimants in this age group than a month ago.

50 Year Olds and Over

In January 2025 there were 5,695 claimants aged over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 3.4% higher than a month ago and 12.8% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 645 more people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago and 185 more than last month.

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 2020	1,675	985	2,020	285	460	695	6,120
January 2024	1,865	330	1,535	230	515	575	5,050
December 2024	2,060	345	1,665	235	590	615	5,510

January 2025	2,110	365	1,725	250	610	635	5,695
% Change							
Jan24-Jan25	13.1%	10.6%	12.4%	8.7%	18.4%	10.4%	12.8%
Dec24-Jan25	2.4%	5.8%	3.6%	6.4%	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that all Local Authorities have more claimants aged 50 or over than were recorded a year ago and this is the same in terms of month to month changes. Over the year this increase has ranged from an 8.7% increase in Midlothian through to an 18.4% increase in Scottish Borders – which equates to nearly 100 additional claimants in 2025 compared to 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 December 2024 and January 2025. As we can see in this table, there has been a considerable rise over the last year which *could* be linked to changes in the way the data is collated that have been introduced.

Overall, there are 9,245 claimants in Edinburgh in January 2025, and this is 10.5% higher than January 2024 and 3.0% higher than in December. From the table we can see that in January 2025 four wards had 750 or more claimants, ten wards had more than 500 and 1 ward had less than 200.

Table 11 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward January 2025

Wards	Jan 2025	Rate	Jan24 to Jan 25	Dec24 to Jan25	Proportion of Claimants January 2025				
					Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	630	2.8	20.0%	3.3%	55.6%	43.7%	14.3%	62.7%	23.0%
City Centre	685	2.5	5.4%	2.2%	71.5%	29.2%	12.4%	66.4%	20.4%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	280	1.9	21.7%	3.7%	50.0%	50.0%	14.3%	53.6%	32.1%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	170	1.1	13.3%	3.0%	52.9%	47.1%	11.8%	64.7%	26.5%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	640	3.1	6.7%	4.9%	58.6%	41.4%	10.9%	64.8%	24.2%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	315	2.1	14.5%	1.6%	55.6%	44.4%	12.7%	63.5%	25.4%
Forth	860	4.0	3.6%	2.4%	57.0%	43.0%	13.4%	64.5%	22.7%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	305	1.8	10.9%	1.7%	62.3%	39.3%	13.1%	59.0%	27.9%
Inverleith	335	1.4	15.5%	3.1%	55.2%	44.8%	11.9%	62.7%	25.4%
Leith	700	3.8	3.7%	4.5%	63.6%	36.4%	11.4%	67.1%	21.4%
Leith Walk	615	2.2	-4.7%	4.2%	57.7%	42.3%	11.4%	66.7%	21.1%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	775	3.4	20.2%	2.6%	58.1%	42.6%	14.2%	63.2%	22.6%
Morningside	220	1.0	12.8%	-2.2%	54.5%	45.5%	13.6%	56.8%	29.5%
Pentland Hills	775	3.7	4.7%	2.0%	56.1%	43.9%	18.7%	61.3%	20.6%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	855	4.0	23.9%	3.0%	51.5%	48.5%	15.2%	61.4%	22.8%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	745	2.9	17.3%	4.2%	63.8%	35.6%	16.1%	65.1%	18.8%
Southside/ Newington	335	1.1	4.7%	1.5%	61.2%	38.8%	13.4%	62.7%	23.9%
Column Total	9,245	2.5	10.5%	3.0%	58.5%	41.5%	13.8%	63.3%	22.8%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

The table also indicates that one ward (Leith Walk) had a claimant count lower in January 2025 than a year ago. In all other wards the claimant count is higher than a year ago. This ranges from 23.9% higher in Craigmillar and Portobello to 3.6% higher in Forth. Comparing the count recorded in January to that recorded in December we can see that only one ward, Morningside, recorded a month to month fall. All the others recorded a month to month increase ranging from 1.5% in Southside/ Newington to a 4.9% increase in Craigentenny/Duddingston. We can see that the claimant rate was highest in Portobello Craigmillar and Forth where 4% of residents aged 16-64 were claiming and lowest in Morningside where 1% were claiming.

Overall, in Edinburgh in January 2025, 58.5% of claimants were male and 13.8% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 71.5% of the claimants are male. In Colinton and Farmilehead 32.1% of claimants in January were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Pentland Hills 18.7% 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 15,683 people in the city who are working but their earnings are low enough that they can receive Universal Credit. This is 7.6% higher than it was a year ago and 0.5% higher than it was last month. Overall, six wards recorded falls between November and December.

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

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec23-Dec24	Nov24-Dec24
Almond	1,153	1,354	1,371	18.9%	1.3%
City Centre	595	590	574	-3.5%	-2.7%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	490	561	558	13.9%	-0.5%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	325	331	323	-0.6%	-2.4%
Craigentenny/Duddingston	932	973	992	6.4%	2.0%
Drum Brae/Gyle	610	683	693	13.6%	1.5%
Forth	1,512	1,664	1,667	10.3%	0.2%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	408	427	430	5.4%	0.7%
Inverleith	482	504	520	7.9%	3.2%
Leith	1,064	1,100	1,130	6.2%	2.7%
Leith Walk	988	961	959	-2.9%	-0.2%
Liberton/Gilmerton	1,424	1,562	1,538	8.0%	-1.5%
Morningside	254	273	269	5.9%	-1.5%
Pentland Hills	1,281	1,322	1,346	5.1%	1.8%
Portobello/Craigmillar	1,414	1,599	1,633	15.5%	2.1%
Sighthill/Gorgie	1,249	1,292	1,276	2.2%	-1.2%
Southside/Newington	390	407	408	4.6%	0.2%
Total	14,575	15,606	15,683	7.6%	0.5%

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

East Lothian

Table 13 gives the current situation in the six East Lothian wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between December 2024 and January 2025. Overall, there are 1,655 claimants in East Lothian in January 2025, and this is 8.2% higher than a year ago and 5.1% higher than last month.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward January 2025

Wards	Jan 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2025				
			Jan24 to Jan 25	Dec24 to Jan25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	195	2.1	18.2%	5.4%	51.3%	48.7%	20.5%	53.8%	25.6%
Haddington and Lammermuir	235	2.1	0.0%	6.8%	59.6%	40.4%	19.1%	61.7%	19.1%
Musselburgh	415	3.4	3.8%	6.4%	54.2%	45.8%	18.1%	59.0%	22.9%
North Berwick Coastal	110	1.4	15.8%	10.0%	50.0%	54.5%	18.2%	63.6%	22.7%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	260	2.4	10.6%	6.1%	48.1%	51.9%	21.2%	57.7%	23.1%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	435	3.0	8.7%	0.0%	52.9%	48.3%	21.8%	58.6%	19.5%
East Lothian	1,655	2.5	8.2%	5.1%	52.9%	47.1%	19.9%	58.3%	22.1%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months five of the six wards have seen the claimant count increase by between 3.8% and 18.2% and between December 2024 and January 2025 every ward, apart from Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry has seen an increase in the number of people claiming. One thing to remember is that numbers are often *relatively* small so a large percentage change can be the result of a small number of additional claimants. The claimant rate ranges from 1.4% of 16-64 year olds claiming in North Berwick Coastal through to 3.4% in Musselburgh.

Across the county 52.9% of claimants are male and this varies from 48.1% in Preston, Seton and Gosford to 59.6% in Haddington and Lammermuir. Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry has the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (21.8%). Dunbar and East Linton have the highest proportion of claimants aged over 50 (25.6%).

Table 14 below 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 2023 and December 2024 of 5%. This ranges from a 7.7% increase in working Universal Credit claimants in Haddington and Lammermuir (around 40 additional claimants over the year) to an increase of 0.8% in North Berwick Coastal (2 more claimants in 2024 when compared to 2023). Between November 2024 and December 2024, the count fell by 1.3% in the County, and this was reflected in every ward.

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

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec23-Dec24	Nov24-Dec24
Dunbar and East Linton	481	505	498	3.5%	-1.4%
Haddington and Lammermuir	573	624	617	7.7%	-1.1%
Musselburgh	804	859	844	5.0%	-1.7%
North Berwick Coastal	251	256	253	0.8%	-1.2%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	626	643	641	2.4%	-0.3%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	919	1,007	984	7.1%	-2.3%
Total	3,659	3,891	3,841	5.0%	-1.3%

Source: StatXplore 21/1/2025

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. Table 15 gives the current situation in the twenty two Fife wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between December 2024 and January 2025.

Table 15 Fife Claimant Count by Ward January 2025

Wards	Jan 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2025				
			Jan24 to Jan 25	Dec24 to Jan25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	635	5.8	-0.8%	0.0%	61.4%	38.6%	21.3%	57.5%	22.0%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	325	3.6	10.2%	3.2%	64.6%	36.9%	20.0%	55.4%	24.6%
Cowdenbeath	535	3.9	9.2%	1.9%	58.9%	41.1%	23.4%	57.0%	20.6%
Cupar	205	2.4	17.1%	5.1%	58.5%	41.5%	19.5%	56.1%	24.4%
Dunfermline Central	340	2.9	9.7%	6.3%	58.8%	41.2%	19.1%	58.8%	22.1%
Dunfermline North	320	2.9	4.9%	1.6%	59.4%	40.6%	20.3%	56.3%	23.4%
Dunfermline South	380	2.5	8.6%	7.0%	55.3%	44.7%	22.4%	57.9%	19.7%
East Neuk and Landward	180	2.6	-2.7%	2.9%	50.0%	50.0%	11.1%	58.3%	33.3%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	360	3.8	9.1%	10.8%	58.3%	40.3%	20.8%	59.7%	19.4%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	320	2.8	16.4%	6.7%	59.4%	40.6%	23.4%	59.4%	17.2%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	325	3.4	-9.7%	-1.5%	50.8%	50.8%	21.5%	56.9%	21.5%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	180	2.2	5.9%	-2.7%	61.1%	38.9%	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	225	2.1	9.8%	4.7%	48.9%	48.9%	20.0%	53.3%	24.4%
Kirkcaldy Central	585	6.8	-0.8%	1.7%	59.0%	41.0%	18.8%	56.4%	24.8%
Kirkcaldy East	615	6.6	7.9%	2.5%	62.6%	37.4%	22.0%	57.7%	21.1%
Kirkcaldy North	330	3.4	0.0%	1.5%	57.6%	43.9%	22.7%	57.6%	19.7%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	390	3.4	13.0%	2.6%	59.0%	41.0%	21.8%	51.3%	26.9%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	570	4.9	7.5%	5.6%	60.5%	39.5%	22.8%	57.9%	19.3%
Rosyth	260	2.5	2.0%	8.3%	53.8%	46.2%	17.3%	61.5%	23.1%
St Andrews	115	0.8	9.5%	9.5%	52.2%	43.5%	21.7%	52.2%	26.1%
Tay Bridgehead	225	2.4	12.5%	2.3%	53.3%	46.7%	15.6%	62.2%	24.4%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	280	2.9	0.0%	3.7%	58.9%	42.9%	21.4%	60.7%	17.9%
Fife	7,705	3.3	5.6%	3.4%	58.3%	41.7%	20.5%	57.1%	22.4%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Overall, there are 7,705 claimants in Fife in January 2025, and this is 5.6% higher than a year ago and 3.4% higher than last month. From the table we can see that over the last 12 months four wards have seen the claimant count fall by between 0.8% and 9.7%. Between December 2024 and January 2025 two of the twenty two wards in the Kingdom saw the claimant count fall. Of the

remaining wards all but one recorded a month to month increase and the one that didn't record a fall recorded no change in the claimant count.

Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy had the highest proportion of male claimants (64.6%) With 23.4% of claimants being aged 16-24, Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch has the highest proportion of this age group in Fife whilst East Neuk and Landward and Howe of Fife and Tay Coast had the highest proportion of claimant over the age of 50 as 33.3% of the claimants in these wards were in that age band.

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

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec23- Dec24	Nov24- Dec24
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	985	1,156	1,125	14.2%	-2.7%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	389	460	434	11.6%	-5.7%
Cowdenbeath	906	1,006	998	10.2%	-0.8%
Cupar	384	430	437	13.8%	1.6%
Dunfermline Central	660	698	686	3.9%	-1.7%
Dunfermline North	503	555	560	11.3%	0.9%
Dunfermline South	715	834	836	16.9%	0.2%
East Neuk and Landward	332	377	367	10.5%	-2.7%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	692	793	779	12.6%	-1.8%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	618	698	698	12.9%	0.0%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	737	804	808	9.6%	0.5%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	294	363	351	19.4%	-3.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	397	472	479	20.7%	1.5%
Kirkcaldy Central	703	810	787	11.9%	-2.8%
Kirkcaldy East	751	843	835	11.2%	-0.9%
Kirkcaldy North	597	705	698	16.9%	-1.0%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	642	722	695	8.3%	-3.7%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	996	1,095	1,081	8.5%	-1.3%
Rosyth	606	725	713	17.7%	-1.7%
St. Andrews	165	180	170	3.0%	-5.6%
Tay Bridgehead	388	451	459	18.3%	1.8%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	569	610	587	3.2%	-3.8%
Total	13,006	14,776	14,571	12.0%	-1.4%

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

Table 16, above, looks at the in-work Universal Credit claimant numbers for the wards in Fife. Overall, there were 14,571 Fife residents working and claiming Universal Credit support in December 2024 which is 12% higher than a year ago and 1.4% lower than last month. Again, there are people needing this support across the Kingdom with every ward other than St Andrews recording around 300 or more claimants. Two wards, Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty all had over 1,000 people working but requiring Universal Credit support to supplement their income.

Midlothian

Turning now to look at Midlothian. Table 17 gives the current situation in the six Midlothian wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between December 2024 and January 2025.

Overall, we can see that Midlothian had 1,340 claimants in January 2025 and has seen the claimant number increase by 4.3% year on year but has increased by 5.5% between December and January

2024. Looking at the wards it is apparent that over the course of the year one ward (Midlothian South) saw the claimant count fall, one (Penicuik) saw no change and the others all recorded an increase in the claimant count over the 12 months. Between December 2024 and January 2025, the claimant count increased by between 8.3% (Midlothian East) and 2.6% (Midlothian South).

Table 17 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward January 2025

Wards	Jan 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2025				
			Jan24 to Jan 25	Dec24 to Jan25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	200	1.7	2.6%	5.3%	57.5%	40.0%	22.5%	62.5%	15.0%
Dalkeith	260	2.8	6.1%	4.0%	63.5%	36.5%	21.2%	65.4%	13.5%
Midlothian East	260	2.6	13.0%	8.3%	55.8%	44.2%	21.2%	59.6%	19.2%
Midlothian South	200	2.2	-7.0%	2.6%	55.0%	45.0%	22.5%	60.0%	17.5%
Midlothian West	225	2.3	7.1%	4.7%	53.3%	44.4%	17.8%	55.6%	26.7%
Penicuik	195	2.4	0.0%	5.4%	69.2%	30.8%	17.9%	64.1%	17.9%
Midlothian	1,340	2.3	4.3%	5.5%	59.0%	40.7%	20.1%	61.2%	18.7%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 59% of claimants are male, 20.1% are aged 16-24 and 18.7% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Penicuik had the highest proportion of male claimants (69.2%) and Midlothian South the highest proportion of female claimants (45%). In terms of the age profile 22.5% of claimants in Midlothian South and Bonnyrigg were 16-24 years of age in January 2025. We can also see that 26.7% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50.

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

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec23-Dec24	Nov24-Dec24
Bonnyrigg	537	618	606	12.8%	-1.9%
Dalkeith	628	654	648	3.2%	-0.9%
Midlothian East	609	654	679	11.5%	3.8%
Midlothian South	717	729	720	0.4%	-1.2%
Midlothian West	501	563	563	12.4%	0.0%
Penicuik	470	522	510	8.5%	-2.3%
Total	3,463	3,739	3,734	7.8%	-0.1%

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

Table 18 looks at the number of in work Universal Credit claimants in the 6 Midlothian wards. We can see that overall, there are 3,734 claimants in Midlothian in December 2024. This is 7.8% higher than in December 2023 and 0.1% lower than a month ago. All six wards saw a year on year increase ranging from a 12.8% increase in Bonnyrigg to 0.4% increase in Midlothian South. Over the last month there has been a decrease in the number of in work claimants in four Midlothian wards.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 19 below. Overall, there were 3,065 claimants in West Lothian in January 2024, and this is 0.3% less than a year ago but 4.4% higher than a month ago. We can see that three wards saw the claimant count fall over the twelve month period and five recorded a year on year increase. Between December and January every ward in West Lothian apart from Linlithgow recorded an increase in the claimant count. This increase ranged from 1.1% in Whitburn and Blackburn through to 9.2% in Bathgate.

Table 19 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward January 2025

Wards	Jan 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2025				
			Jan24 to Jan 25	Dec24 to Jan25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	270	2.7	-6.9%	8.0%	59.3%	38.9%	24.1%	53.7%	20.4%
Bathgate	415	2.7	0.0%	9.2%	57.8%	41.0%	22.9%	57.8%	19.3%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	315	2.5	3.3%	1.6%	58.7%	41.3%	15.9%	58.7%	23.8%
East Livingston & E. Calder	365	2.5	2.8%	9.0%	50.7%	49.3%	17.8%	63.0%	19.2%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	360	3.5	4.3%	4.3%	63.9%	36.1%	19.4%	65.3%	15.3%
Linlithgow	110	1.1	-8.3%	0.0%	54.5%	45.5%	18.2%	54.5%	27.3%
Livingston North	330	2.2	11.9%	3.1%	56.1%	43.9%	16.7%	63.6%	21.2%
Livingston South	430	2.7	2.4%	3.6%	55.8%	43.0%	18.6%	60.5%	19.8%
Whitburn & Blackburn	475	3.4	-10.4%	1.1%	60.0%	38.9%	17.9%	57.9%	24.2%
West Lothian	3,065	2.6	-0.3%	4.4%	57.9%	42.1%	19.2%	60.0%	20.7%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

Overall, we can see that 57.9% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 63.9% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall 19.2% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants is Armadale and Blackridge where 24.1% are 16-24 years of age. Whilst 20.7% of claimants in West Lothian are 50 years of age or over this is a lot higher in Linlithgow where 27.3% of all claimants are 50 or over.

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

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec23-Dec24	Nov24-Dec24
Armadale and Blackridge	571	638	642	12.4%	0.6%
Bathgate	847	922	913	7.8%	-1.0%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	710	793	797	12.3%	0.5%
East Livingston and East Calder	868	972	960	10.6%	-1.2%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	696	729	737	5.9%	1.1%
Linlithgow	252	294	294	16.7%	0.0%
Livingston North	716	810	815	13.8%	0.6%
Livingston South	950	1,010	1,002	5.5%	-0.8%
Whitburn and Blackburn	1,147	1,184	1,204	5.0%	1.7%
Total	6,761	7,351	7,362	8.9%	0.1%

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

Table 20 indicates that across West Lothian in December 2024 there were 7,361 individuals working and claiming Universal Credit which is 8.9% higher than a year ago and 0.1% higher than last month.

Scottish Borders

Turning now to look at Scottish Borders. Table 21 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between December 2024 and January 2025. From this table we can see that there were 2,080 people claiming in January which is 6.9% higher than a year ago and 4.8% higher than last month. We can see that two wards (Kelso and District and Tweedale West) recorded no change in the

claimant count between January 2024 and January 2025. All the others recorded an increase ranging from an increase of 21.4% in Selkirkshire through to 1.5% increase in Galashiels and District. Similarly, all but Jedburgh and District and Selkirkshire has seen the claimant count increase between December 2024 and January 2025.

Table 21 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward January 2025

Wards	Jan 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants January 2025				
			Jan24 to Jan 25	Dec24 to Jan25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	185	3.1	5.7%	2.8%	43.2%	56.8%	13.5%	56.8%	29.7%
Galashiels and District	340	3.5	1.5%	6.3%	58.8%	41.2%	17.6%	52.9%	29.4%
Hawick and Denholm	250	4.7	4.2%	4.2%	56.0%	42.0%	20.0%	56.0%	22.0%
Hawick and Hermitage	205	4.2	10.8%	5.1%	63.4%	36.6%	22.0%	53.7%	24.4%
Jedburgh and District	170	3.3	13.3%	-2.9%	52.9%	50.0%	20.6%	50.0%	29.4%
Kelso and District	155	2.7	0.0%	3.3%	51.6%	48.4%	12.9%	51.6%	32.3%
Leaderdale & Melrose	145	2.3	11.5%	7.4%	51.7%	48.3%	17.2%	58.6%	24.1%
Mid Berwickshire	165	2.8	3.1%	6.5%	54.5%	45.5%	15.2%	45.5%	39.4%
Selkirkshire	170	3.1	21.4%	0.0%	55.9%	44.1%	17.6%	61.8%	23.5%
Tweeddale East	145	2.3	20.8%	11.5%	51.7%	44.8%	13.8%	51.7%	34.5%
Tweeddale West	150	2.4	0.0%	11.1%	53.3%	46.7%	10.0%	53.3%	36.7%
Scottish Borders	2,080	3.1	6.9%	4.8%	54.8%	45.2%	16.8%	53.8%	29.3%

Source: NOMIS 18/2/2025

The data in Table 21 also indicates that 54.8% of claimants were male, 16.8% were 16-24 years of age and 29.3% were over 50 years of age. In Hawick and Hermitage 63.4% of claimants were males, in East Berwickshire 56.8% were females. In terms of age cohorts 22% of claimants in Hawick and Denholm were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire 39.4% of claimants were fifty or over.

Table 22 In Work Universal Credit Claimant Count by Scottish Borders Ward December 2024

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec23-Dec24	Nov24-Dec24
East Berwickshire	380	444	445	17.1%	0.2%
Galashiels and District	598	607	592	-1.0%	-2.5%
Hawick and Denholm	415	458	436	5.1%	-4.8%
Hawick and Hermitage	288	332	328	13.9%	-1.2%
Jedburgh and District	270	259	270	0.0%	4.2%
Kelso and District	319	384	369	15.7%	-3.9%
Leaderdale and Melrose	323	389	396	22.6%	1.8%
Mid Berwickshire	349	376	373	6.9%	-0.8%
Selkirkshire	298	340	344	15.4%	1.2%
Tweeddale East	218	274	284	30.3%	3.6%
Tweeddale West	241	257	264	9.5%	2.7%
Total	3,695	4,114	4,106	11.1%	-0.2%

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

Table 22 looks at the number of people in work and claiming Universal Credit in Scottish Borders. In December 2024 there were 4,106 people working who needed the support of Universal Credit. This is 11.1% higher than a year ago and 0.2% lower than last month. We can see that five wards saw the claimant count for in work support fall between November and December. Six saw it increase by between 0.2% (East Berwickshire) and 4.2% (Jedburgh and District).

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. The data hasn't been updated on NOMIS and as a result the tables that follow are there same as presented in the last monthly report.

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 2024. It gives the economic activity rate and employment rate in all six authorities. Also, the table presents information on the number of those that are economically inactive in each authority, in particular the proportion and number who want a job.

Table 23 Economic activity aged 16-64 (October 2023- September 2024)

	Economic activity rate - aged 16-64		Employment rate – aged 16-64		% who are economically inactive - aged 16-64		% of economically inactive who want a job	
	numerator	%	numerator	%	numerator	%	numerator	%
Edinburgh	297,700	81.8	287,200	78.9	66,400	18.2	12,900	19.5
East Lothian	54,500	83.0	52,500	80.0	11,200	17.0	1,300	11.5
Fife	177,700	78.8	171,000	75.9	47,800	21.2	10,100	21.1
Midlothian	46,800	81.5	45,400	78.9	10,700	18.5	1,800	16.7
Scottish Borders	53,100	77.9	49,900	73.1	15,100	22.1	3,200	21.0
West Lothian	88,100	75.7	84,100	72.3	28,200	24.3	4,900	17.3
Column Total	717,800	80.0	690,100	76.9	179,300	20.0	34,200	19.0

Source: NOMIS 21/2/2025

We can see that this suggests that across the Region 80.0% of 16-64 year olds were economically active in September. The March survey was slightly higher at 80.7% of those aged between 16-64 were economically active but they are all within the confidence limits. Of the 179,300 who were recorded as economically inactive the survey indicates that around 34,200 would want a job- slightly more than the previous survey.

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.

Employment Support Allowance

Recently there has been discussion about the number of people who are economically inactive and for those that were not working due to illness or health related issues what those issues were. Whilst published data might not give the full picture, we can get some information from the statistics around Employability Support Allowance (ESA) which is published on Stat Xplore.

Table 24 ESA by Condition for the City Region August 2024

	Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	West Lothian	Scottish Borders	City Region
Mental and Behavioural disorders	7,390	1,009	4,948	1,093	2,968	1,309	18,723
Disease of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue	1,166	285	1,531	284	820	328	4,402
Symptoms, signs and abnormal Clinical and Laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	1,186	228	1,127	267	582	320	3,707
Diseases of the Nervous System	968	206	979	189	504	261	3,103
Diseases of the Circulatory System	316	73	435	103	204	107	1,241
Neoplasms	314	63	302	56	166	78	971
Diseases of the Respiratory System	289	68	258	71	165	58	903
Factors influencing Health Status and contact with Health Services	280	49	252	50	133	67	826
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	207	60	241	66	146	90	812
Diseases of the Digestive System	202	29	185	26	101	43	589
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic diseases	143	17	107	29	67	30	401
Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	100	33	108	30	55	38	368
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	102	21	88	13	37	28	292
Diseases of the Genito-urinary System	69	18	49	17	50	10	216
Certain Infectious and Parasitic diseases	84	10	44	..	24	10	172
Codes for special purposes	50	18	51	18	24	12	171
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous System	55	11	38	11	21	11	143
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	46	5	34	11	27	8	126
External causes of morbidity and mortality	18	6	16	..	12	10	65
Diseases of the Blood and Blood forming organs and certain diseases involving the immune mechanism	13	..	17	5	18	6	52
Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium	6	..	7	6	22
Total	12,991	2,231	10,814	2,332	6,118	2,821	37,311

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

What we can see from this table is that in August 2024 50% of ESA claimants in the City Region had a condition entitled “Mental or Behavioural Disorder”.

Table 25 below looks at how long the individuals have been claiming ESA and we can see that whilst 80% have been claiming the benefit for 5 years or more, there are over 1,000 that have been claiming for no more than 6 months.

Table 25 ESA by Condition for the City Region August 2024

	Edinburgh	Fife	Midlothian	West Lothian	Scottish Borders	East Lothian	Total
Up to 3 months	122	188	40	135	42	46	576
3 months up to 6 months	133	177	47	112	40	39	552
6 months up to 1 year	247	281	55	163	69	68	883
1 year and up to 2 years	404	507	131	270	117	138	1,572
2 years and up to 5 years	1,105	1,243	277	700	284	254	3,859
5 years and over	10,976	8,416	1,784	4,739	2,267	1,678	29,863
Unknown duration
Total	12,991	10,814	2,332	6,118	2,821	2,231	37,311

Source: StatXplore 21/2/2025

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24/2/2025

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