

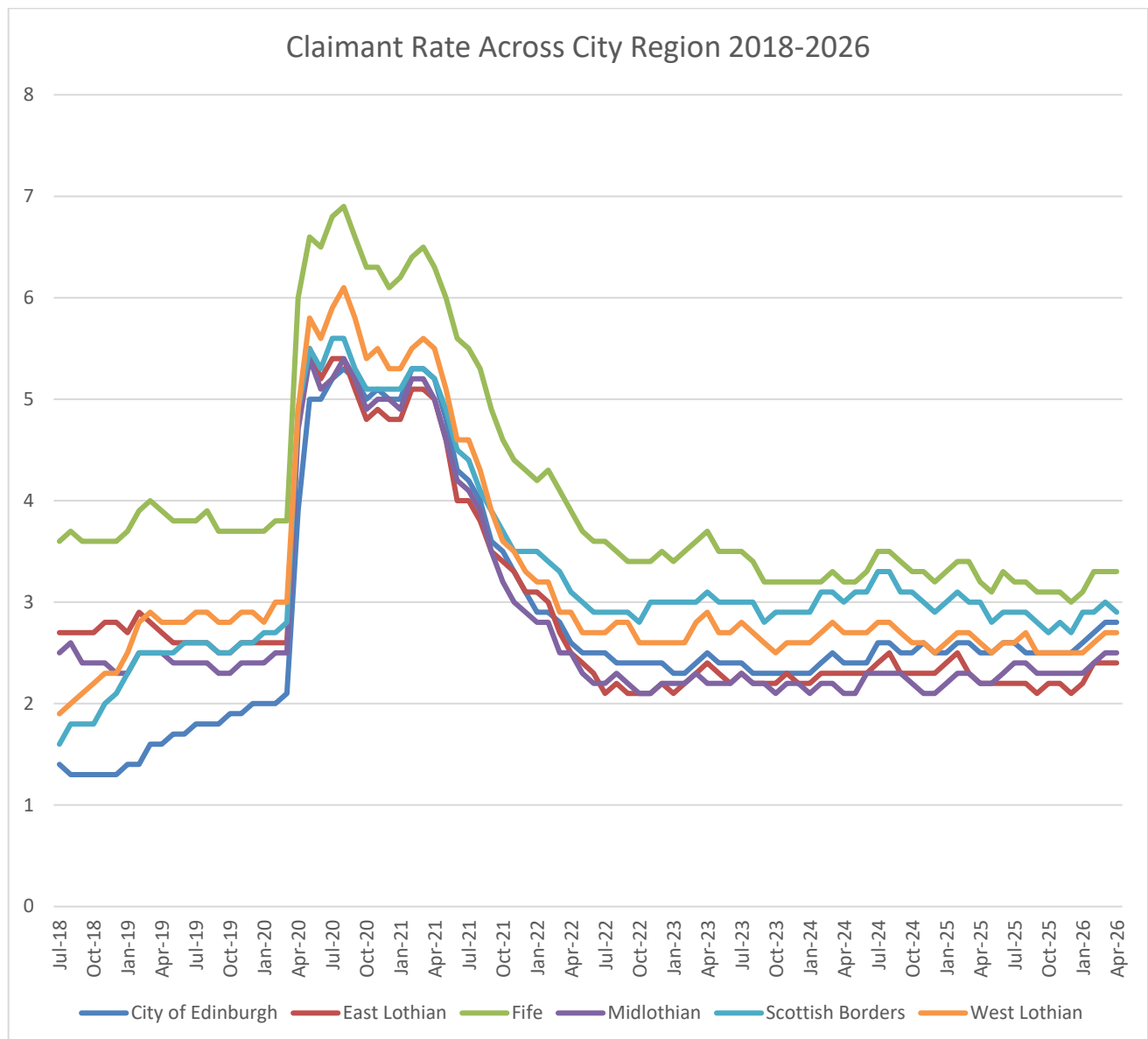
Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count April 2026 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between April 2025 and April 2026:

- ↑ UK increased by 0.1%
- ↑ Scotland increased by 4.6%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 12.7%
- ↑ City Region increased by 7.0%

Claimant Count Change Between March 2026 and April 2026:

- ↑ UK increased by 0.9%
- ↑ Scotland increased by 1.0%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 1.3%
- ↑ City Region increased by 1.2%



Source: NOMIS 19/05/2026

City Region Summary

In April 2026 the claimant count for the City Region was 26,275 (in March it was 25,960). Of these

- a. 5,180 were 16-24 year olds up from 5,155 in March.
- b. 15,300 were 25-49 year olds up from 15,170 in March.
- c. 5,790 were 50 or older up from 5,625 in March.

Edinburgh Summary

In April 2026 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,315 (in March it was 10,180). Of these

- a. 1,705 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,680 in March.
- b. 6,380 were 25-49 year olds. It was 6,355 in March.
- c. 2,230 were 50 or older. It was 2,145 in March.

East Lothian Summary

In April 2026 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,675 (in March it was 1,675). Of these

- a. 345 were 16-24 year olds. In March it was the same.
- b. 970 were 25-49 year olds. In March there were 955.
- c. 360 were 50 or older. In March it was 370.

Fife Summary

In April 2026 the claimant count for Fife was 7,590 (in March it was 7,480). Of these

- d. 1,735 were 16-24 year olds. In March there were 1,720.
- e. 4,160 were 25-49 years of age. In March there were 4,100.
- f. 1,695 were 50 or older. In March there were 1,660.

Midlothian Summary

In April 2026 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,530 (it was 1,515 in March). Of these

- a. 315 were 16-24 year olds. In March it was 310.
- b. 920 were 25-49 year olds. In March it was 920.
- c. 290 were 50 or older. In March it was 280.

Scottish Borders Summary

In April 2026 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,970 (in March it was 1,975). Of these

- a. 375 were 16-24 year olds. In March it was 400.
- b. 1,060 were 25-49 year olds. In March there were 1,050.
- c. 535 were 50 or older. In March there were 525.

West Lothian Summary

In April 2026 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,195 (in March it was 3,135). Of these

- a. 705 were 16-24 year olds. In March there were 700.
- b. 1,810 were 25-49 year olds. In March there were 1,790.
- c. 680 were 50 or older. In March there were 645.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count April 2026 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

The Claimant Count data is a "stock count" of individuals who are claiming Job Seekers Allowance or in the Universal Credit "Searching for Work" conditionality regime at a specific point in time and is provided monthly by NOMIS. Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in April 2026 is lower than it was five years ago in every region and nation. Looking at what has happened over the last 12 months we can see that in all areas, apart from the London, North East, Northern Ireland and West Midlands there are more claimants in April 2026 than there were in April 2025. In the UK the claimant count is 0.1% higher in 2026 than it was in 2025. Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 0.9% (15,860 more) higher than in March and in Scotland it is 1% higher (1,125 additional claimants).

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	Apr-21	April 2025	March 2026	April 2026	Percentage Change		
					Apr21- Apr26	Apr25- Apr26	Mar26- Apr26
UK	2,629,480	1,708,420	1,693,865	1,709,725	-35.0%	0.1%	0.9%
East	207,355	130,830	132,105	133,160	-35.8%	1.8%	0.8%
East Midlands	162,350	110,870	110,415	111,195	-31.5%	0.3%	0.7%
London	504,265	355,640	344,160	348,975	-30.8%	-1.9%	1.4%
North East	116,825	64,540	63,270	64,130	-45.1%	-0.6%	1.4%
North West	316,840	202,955	200,330	203,005	-35.9%	0.0%	1.3%
N. Ireland	56,660	38,045	34,615	35,365	-37.6%	-7.0%	2.2%
Scotland	207,225	105,645	109,330	110,455	-46.7%	4.6%	1.0%
South East	293,270	183,375	187,545	188,315	-35.8%	2.7%	0.4%
South West	167,145	97,865	100,445	100,285	-40.0%	2.5%	-0.2%
Wales	109,765	64,515	65,305	65,690	-40.2%	1.8%	0.6%
West Midlands	264,735	205,055	200,805	202,215	-23.6%	-1.4%	0.7%
Yorks & Humb	223,040	149,085	145,545	146,935	-34.1%	-1.4%	1.0%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 focuses on Scottish Local Authorities and, like the nations and regions examined in Table 1, we can see that since April 2021 every Local Authority in Scotland has seen the claimant count fall.

Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

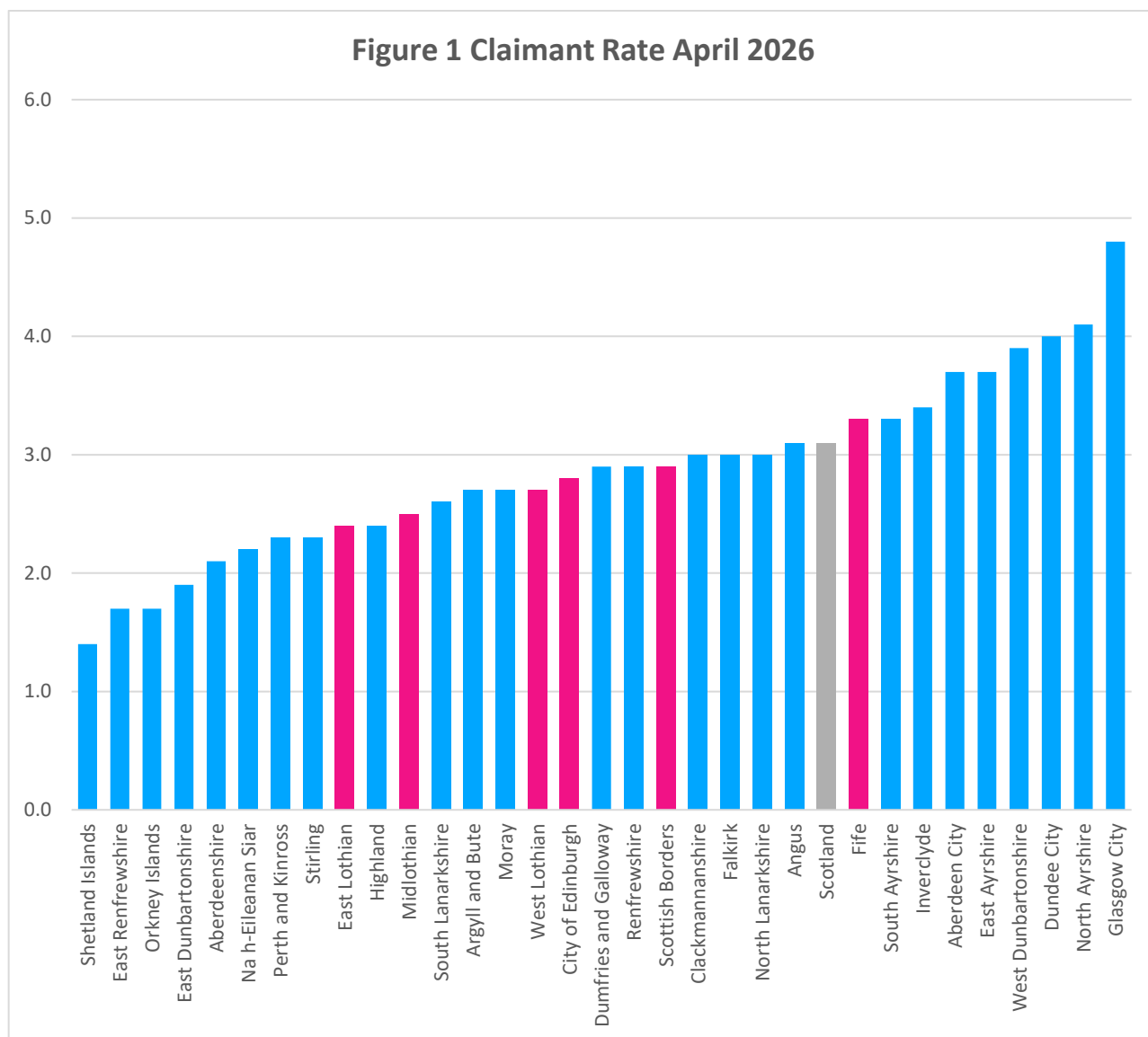
	April 2021	April 2025	March 2026	April 2026	% Change		
					Apr21-Apr26	Apr25-Apr26	Mar26-Apr26
Aberdeen City	9,465	5,215	5,610	5,680	-40.0%	8.9%	1.2%
Aberdeenshire	6,370	2,995	3,295	3,300	-48.2%	10.2%	0.2%
Angus	3,655	2,055	2,090	2,095	-42.7%	1.9%	0.2%
Argyll and Bute	2,800	1,345	1,365	1,360	-51.4%	1.1%	-0.4%
Edinburgh	18,130	9,155	10,180	10,315	-43.1%	12.7%	1.3%
Clackmannanshire	2,025	990	975	980	-51.6%	-1.0%	0.5%
Dumfries & Galloway	4,480	2,250	2,405	2,410	-46.2%	7.1%	0.2%
Dundee City	6,800	3,790	3,905	3,940	-42.1%	4.0%	0.9%
East Ayrshire	5,605	2,695	2,665	2,750	-50.9%	2.0%	3.2%
E.Dunbartonshire	2,450	1,150	1,185	1,175	-52.0%	2.2%	-0.8%
East Lothian	3,425	1,545	1,675	1,675	-51.1%	8.4%	0.0%
East Renfrewshire	2,050	940	970	980	-52.2%	4.3%	1.0%
Falkirk	5,910	2,845	2,975	3,045	-48.5%	7.0%	2.4%
Fife	14,515	7,455	7,480	7,590	-47.7%	1.8%	1.5%
Glasgow City	35,995	21,415	21,870	22,220	-38.3%	3.8%	1.6%
Highland	7,510	3,315	3,465	3,375	-55.1%	1.8%	-2.6%
Inverclyde	3,080	1,595	1,615	1,660	-46.1%	4.1%	2.8%
Midlothian	2,980	1,355	1,515	1,530	-48.7%	12.9%	1.0%
Moray	2,895	1,390	1,575	1,550	-46.5%	11.5%	-1.6%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	745	325	350	340	-54.4%	4.6%	-2.9%
North Ayrshire	6,495	3,215	3,270	3,320	-48.9%	3.3%	1.5%
North Lanarkshire	14,100	6,875	6,630	6,715	-52.4%	-2.3%	1.3%
Orkney Islands	370	215	235	220	-40.5%	2.3%	-6.4%
Perth and Kinross	4,090	2,035	2,190	2,135	-47.8%	4.9%	-2.5%
Renfrewshire	7,030	3,205	3,450	3,550	-49.5%	10.8%	2.9%
Scottish Borders	3,585	1,995	1,975	1,970	-45.0%	-1.3%	-0.3%
Shetland Islands	435	165	215	195	-55.2%	18.2%	-9.3%
South Ayrshire	4,520	2,150	2,090	2,120	-53.1%	-1.4%	1.4%
South Lanarkshire	12,285	5,465	5,400	5,515	-55.1%	0.9%	2.1%
Stirling	2,670	1,340	1,435	1,390	-47.9%	3.7%	-3.1%
W.Dunbartonshire	4,415	2,130	2,145	2,160	-51.1%	1.4%	0.7%
West Lothian	6,345	3,050	3,135	3,195	-49.6%	4.8%	1.9%
Scotland	207,225	105,645	109,330	110,455	-46.7%	4.6%	1.0%
City Region	48,980	24,555	25,960	26,275	-46.4%	7.0%	1.2%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Over the last year, four Local Authorities saw the claimant count fall (including Scottish Borders). This increase has ranged from an increase of 0.9% in South Lanarkshire through to an increase of 18.2% in the Shetland Islands.

Looking at what has happened between March and April 2026 we can see in Table 2 that ten Local Authorities saw a month to month fall between March and April. This has ranged from a 0.3% fall in Scottish Borders through to a 6.4% fall in the Orkney Islands. The remaining 22 Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase by between 0.2% (Dumfries and Galloway, Aberdeenshire and Angus) through to a 3.2% increase in East Ayrshire. In numerical terms there are 1,125 more people

claiming in April than there were in March in Scotland and 315 additional claimants in the six Local Authorities that make up the City Region.



Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Figure 1, above, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in April 2026. From this it can be seen that, except for Fife, all the City Region Local Authorities had a claimant rate below the Scottish average.

City Region Position

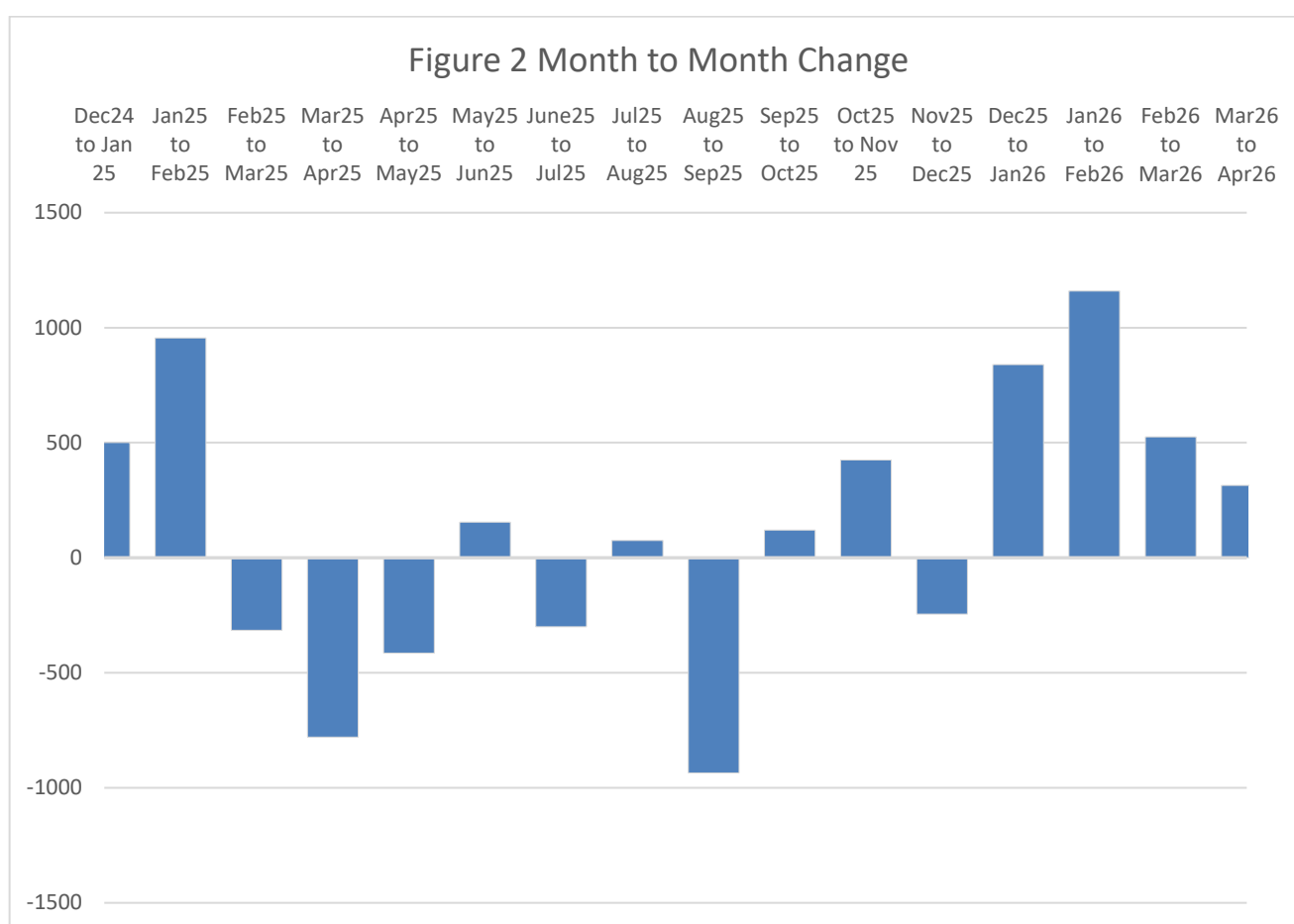
Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 3 that across the region the claimant count recorded in April 2026 is lower than it was in 2021. The fall ranges from 43.1% in Edinburgh through to 51.1% in East Lothian. Over the last year one Local Authority has seen the claimant count fall (Scottish Borders). The other Authorities have seen the claimant count increase by between 1.8% (Fife) and 12.9% (Midlothian). Between March and April four Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase, one recorded no change and one recorded a month to month fall.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	April 2021	April 2025	March 2026	April 2026	Claimant Rate April 26	Percentage Change		
						Apr21-Apr26	Apr25-Apr26	Mar26-Apr26
Edinburgh	18,130	9,155	10,180	10,315	2.8	-43.1%	12.7%	1.3%
East Lothian	3,425	1,545	1,675	1,675	2.4	-51.1%	8.4%	0.0%
Fife	14,515	7,455	7,480	7,590	3.3	-47.7%	1.8%	1.5%
Midlothian	2,980	1,355	1,515	1,530	2.5	-48.7%	12.9%	1.0%
Scottish Borders	3,585	1,995	1,975	1,970	2.9	-45.0%	-1.3%	-0.3%
West Lothian	6,345	3,050	3,135	3,195	2.7	-49.6%	4.8%	1.9%
City Region	48,980	24,555	25,960	26,275	0.0	-46.4%	7.0%	1.2%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Figure 2 below looks at the month to month change in the City Region over the last 16 months.



Source: NOMIS 19/4/20265

What we can see in the figure above is that whilst there have been falls, there have also been increases month to month with the result that what we are really seeing is a picture of no real change in the longer term making it very difficult to accurately predict what might happen over the next six to twelve months. If we look at what has happened since Christmas, we can see that whilst there has been month to month increases these increases have been smaller in each month. However, we can also see that the month to month changes last year for February to March and March to April were falls so a reduction in the claimant count. This is something we haven't yet seen this year

Gender Profile

From Table 4 we can see that one of the six Local Authorities in the city region has seen the number of male claimants decrease over the last twelve months whilst the remaining five have seen an increase. Across the region the number of male claimants in April 2026 was 1,035 more than in 2025.

Table 4: Change in Male Claimant Count Across the City Region

	April 2021	April 2025	March 2026	April 2026	Percentage Change		
					Apr21-Apr26	Apr25-Apr26	Mar26-Apr26
Edinburgh	11,255	5,410	6,110	6,215	-44.8%	14.9%	1.7%
East Lothian	1,960	830	925	935	-52.3%	12.7%	1.1%
Fife	8,935	4,405	4,370	4,425	-50.5%	0.5%	1.3%
Midlothian	470	195	205	200	-57.4%	2.6%	-2.4%
Scottish Borders	2,120	1,110	1,095	1,095	-48.3%	-1.4%	0.0%
West Lothian	3,800	1,780	1,900	1,895	-50.1%	6.5%	-0.3%
City Region	28,540	13,730	14,605	14,765	-48.3%	7.5%	1.1%

Source: NOMIS 19/4/20265

Comparing the April 2026 statistics to those of March 2026 we can see that four Local Authorities have seen the number of male claimants increase. This culminated in the region as a whole recording a 1.1% increase between March and April. This is based on 160 additional male claimants when compared to the March figures. The largest percentage month to month increase was in Edinburgh where the male claimant count increased by 1.7% or 105 additional claimants.

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

	April 2021	April 2025	March 2026	April 2026	Percentage Change		
					Apr21-Apr26	Apr25-Apr26	Mar26-Apr26
Edinburgh	6,875	3,745	4,070	4,100	-40.4%	9.5%	0.7%
East Lothian	1,460	715	750	745	-49.0%	4.2%	-0.7%
Fife	5,580	3,050	3,110	3,160	-43.4%	3.6%	1.6%
Midlothian	1,180	555	650	660	-44.1%	18.9%	1.5%
Scottish Borders	1,465	880	880	875	-40.3%	-0.6%	-0.6%
West Lothian	2,545	1,270	1,240	1,300	-48.9%	2.4%	4.8%
City Region	19,105	10,215	10,700	10,840	-43.3%	6.1%	1.3%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Table 5 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 in the region (625 more female claimants). This is an increase of 6.1% year on year. Only Scottish Borders recorded a fall in the claimant count over the course of the year.

Between March and April 2026, we can see that four of the six Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants increase. This ranged from a 0.7% increase in Edinburgh through to a 4.8% increase in West Lothian. Overall, across the City Region there were 1.3% more female claimants, 140 additional claimants, in April when compared to March.

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In April 2026 there were 5,180 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 0.5% higher than a month ago and 15.1% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 680 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 25 more than last month.

Table 6: 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
April 2021	2,915	685	2,995	650	770	1,430	9,445
April 2025	1,340	290	1,585	280	370	635	4,500
March 2026	1,680	345	1,720	310	400	700	5,155
April 2026	1,705	345	1,735	315	375	705	5,180
% Change							
Apr25-Apr26	27.2%	19.0%	9.5%	12.5%	1.4%	11.0%	15.1%
Mar26-Apr26	1.5%	0.0%	0.9%	1.6%	-6.3%	0.7%	0.5%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that over the last year every Local Authority in the City Region has seen the number of 16-24 year olds claiming increase. This has ranged from a 27.2% increase in Edinburgh (365 additional claimants) through to a 1.4% increase in Scottish Borders (5 additional claimants). The month to month change is slightly more mixed and although 4 local authorities have logged an increase in the number of 16-24 year old claimants, one recorded no change (East Lothian) and one recorded a fall (Scottish Borders).

25-49 Year Olds

Tuning now to look at the largest age group of claimants - the 25-49 year old age group. In April 2026 there were 15,300 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 4.3% higher than a year ago and 0.9% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 630 more 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 130 more than last month. This can be seen in Table 7 below.

Table 7: 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
April 2021	11,180	1,930	8,155	1,675	1,870	3,565	28,375
April 2025	5,825	925	4,235	820	1,065	1,800	14,670
March 2026	6,355	955	4,100	920	1,050	1,790	15,170
April 2026	6,380	970	4,160	920	1,060	1,810	15,300
% Change							
Apr25-Apr26	9.5%	4.9%	-1.8%	12.2%	-0.5%	0.6%	4.3%
Mar26-Apr26	0.4%	1.6%	1.5%	0.0%	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that two Local Authorities (Fife and Scottish Borders) have fewer 25-49 year old claimants than a year ago. We can also see that five of the six Local Authorities in the Region have more claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 0.4% more (25 additional claimants) in Edinburgh through to 1.6% more in East Lothian (15 additional claimants). Once again please look at the actual numerical change as this highlights that a

large percentage change can be created by a relatively small increase in the number of actual claimants.

50 Year Olds and Over

In April 2026 there were 5,790 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 7.6% higher than a year ago and 2.9% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 410 additional people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago and 165 more than last month.

Table 8: 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
April 2021	4,035	1,960	3,365	655	945	1,350	12,310
April 2025	1,990	330	1,635	250	555	620	5,380
March 2026	2,145	370	1,660	280	525	645	5,625
April 2026	2,230	360	1,695	290	535	680	5,790
% Change							
Apr25-Apr26	12.1%	9.1%	3.7%	16.0%	-3.6%	9.7%	7.6%
Mar26-Apr26	4.0%	-2.7%	2.1%	3.6%	1.9%	5.4%	2.9%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that five of the six Local Authorities recorded more claimants aged 50 or over in April than they did in March. East Lothian recorded a 2.7% fall, whilst West Lothian saw the number of claimants aged 50 or over increase by 5.4% between March and April an increase of 35.

Ward Profile

The discussion now moves to look at what is happening in the individual wards around the Region. One important point is that NOMIS indicated that from the release of January 2026 data, Claimant Count and JSA datasets will report figures using 2021/2022-based geographies. This has meant that New Data (Jan 2026 onwards) is available on the new 2021/2022-based geographies whilst historical Data (up to Dec 2025) will remain based on 2011 geographies and will remain available under the "historical" category but will not be updated with new figures.

The greatest impact to this report is the situation in wards, where data published using existing ward geographies will be discontinued and replaced by the new wards and new data released from January 2026 will use the Ward (May 2025) definition. As a result, this section will not give trend data for wards until there is enough data available on the new wards to allow an accurate comparison that won't be influenced by any geography changes.

Edinburgh

Table 9 gives the current situation in the seventeen Edinburgh wards. From the table we can see that in April 2026 eight wards had 750 or more claimants; ten wards had more than 500 and one ward had 200 or fewer claimants. The ward with the highest number of claimants in April was Forth, which also had the highest claimant rate in the city at 4.6%.

Overall, in Edinburgh in April 2026, 60.3% of claimants were male, 16.5% are aged 16-24 and 21.6% of claimants are aged 50 or over. The City Centre ward records that 69.3% of the claimants are

male. In Morningside 26.1% of claimants were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Drum Brae/ Gyle 19.4% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

Table 9 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward April 2026

Wards	April 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants April 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	765	3.4	57.5%	42.5%	18.3%	60.8%	20.9%
City Centre	685	2.6	69.3%	30.7%	16.8%	61.3%	21.9%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	315	2.1	50.8%	49.2%	17.5%	60.3%	20.6%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	190	1.4	55.3%	44.7%	15.8%	60.5%	23.7%
Craigentinny/ Duddingston	790	3.9	60.8%	39.2%	14.6%	65.8%	19.0%
Drum Brae/Gyle	360	2.4	61.1%	38.9%	19.4%	55.6%	25.0%
Forth	980	4.6	56.1%	43.9%	15.8%	63.3%	20.9%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	345	2.0	62.3%	37.7%	14.5%	60.9%	24.6%
Inverleith	370	1.8	54.1%	47.3%	13.5%	60.8%	25.7%
Leith	820	4.4	62.2%	37.8%	14.6%	65.2%	20.1%
Leith Walk	620	2.3	62.1%	37.9%	13.7%	63.7%	21.8%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	820	3.4	58.5%	41.5%	17.7%	60.4%	22.0%
Morningside	230	1.1	56.5%	45.7%	17.4%	56.5%	26.1%
Pentland Hills	870	4.5	61.5%	37.9%	17.8%	60.3%	21.8%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	900	4.0	56.1%	43.9%	15.0%	64.4%	20.0%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	885	3.6	66.7%	33.3%	19.2%	59.9%	20.9%
Southside/ Newington	380	1.4	63.2%	36.8%	17.1%	57.9%	23.7%
Column Total	10,315	2.9	60.3%	39.7%	16.5%	61.9%	21.6%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

East Lothian

Table 10 below gives the current situation in the six East Lothian wards. Overall, there were 1,675 claimants in East Lothian in April 2026 and it is also clear from the table that Musselburgh is the ward with the most claimants, 410, and also has the highest claimant rate 3.3.

Table 10 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward April 2026

Wards	April 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants April 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	200	2.2	52.5%	47.5%	20.0%	57.5%	25.0%
Haddington and Lammermuir	255	2.1	49.0%	51.0%	21.6%	60.8%	19.6%
Musselburgh	410	3.3	58.5%	41.5%	19.5%	58.5%	23.2%
North Berwick Coastal	130	1.6	57.7%	42.3%	15.4%	57.7%	26.9%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	290	2.6	53.4%	46.6%	19.0%	58.6%	20.7%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	390	2.5	60.3%	39.7%	24.4%	56.4%	19.2%
East Lothian	1,675	2.5	55.8%	44.5%	20.6%	57.9%	21.5%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Across the county 55.8% of claimants are male and this varies from 49% in Haddington and Lammermuir through to 60.3% in Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry. On average in East Lothian 20.6% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 21.5% of claimants are 50 or over. Tranent, Wallyford

and Macmerry is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (24.4%) and North Berwick Coastal is the ward with the highest proportion (26.9%) of people aged over 50 years of age.

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. Table 11 gives the current situation in the twenty-two Fife wards, and we can see that overall, there were 7,590 claimants in Fife in April 2026. We can see that there were five wards with more than 500 claimants and three wards with fewer than 200 claimants.

Table 11 Fife Claimant Count by Ward April 2026

Wards	April 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants April 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	620	5.4	61.3%	38.7%	22.6%	54.8%	22.6%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	315	3.7	60.3%	39.7%	23.8%	50.8%	25.4%
Cowdenbeath	540	3.8	58.3%	41.7%	27.8%	53.7%	18.5%
Cupar	200	2.5	57.5%	42.5%	22.5%	52.5%	25.0%
Dunfermline Central	305	2.6	59.0%	42.6%	19.7%	59.0%	21.3%
Dunfermline North	310	2.8	58.1%	41.9%	19.4%	59.7%	21.0%
Dunfermline South	405	2.6	56.8%	43.2%	22.2%	55.6%	22.2%
East Neuk and Landward	170	2.5	55.9%	47.1%	14.7%	52.9%	32.4%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	340	3.8	58.8%	41.2%	30.9%	51.5%	17.6%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	305	2.7	59.0%	41.0%	29.5%	52.5%	18.0%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	360	3.8	54.2%	45.8%	26.4%	51.4%	22.2%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	160	2.1	65.6%	34.4%	15.6%	53.1%	31.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	225	2.1	55.6%	42.2%	20.0%	51.1%	28.9%
Kirkcaldy Central	580	6.6	58.6%	42.2%	19.8%	56.9%	23.3%
Kirkcaldy East	535	5.5	60.7%	39.3%	21.5%	55.1%	24.3%
Kirkcaldy North	360	3.7	55.6%	44.4%	22.2%	56.9%	19.4%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	400	3.3	60.0%	41.3%	22.5%	52.5%	25.0%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	555	4.7	60.4%	39.6%	26.1%	55.0%	19.8%
Rosyth	300	3.1	55.0%	45.0%	21.7%	55.0%	23.3%
St Andrews	115	0.9	60.9%	34.8%	17.4%	56.5%	26.1%
Tay Bridgehead	225	2.4	53.3%	46.7%	17.8%	60.0%	22.2%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	265	2.7	54.7%	43.4%	24.5%	56.6%	18.9%
Fife	7,590	3.3	58.3%	41.6%	22.9%	54.8%	22.3%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

Kirkcaldy Central has the highest claim rate in Fife at 6.6% and Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages had the overall highest number of claimants (620). St Andrews not only has the lowest number of claimants (115) it also has the lowest claimant rate at 0.9%.

We can also see that 58.3% of claimants in April were male and this ranged from 65.6% in Howe of Fife and Tay Coast through to 53.3% in Tay Bridgehead. Overall, in Fife 22.9% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 22.3% are 50 or over. With 30.9% of claimants being aged 16-24 Glenrothes Central and Thornton is the ward with the highest proportion of this age group in Fife whilst East Neuk and Landward had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 32.4% of the claimants in these wards were in that age band.

Midlothian

Table 12 gives the current situation in the six Midlothian wards. Overall, we can see that Midlothian had 1,530 claimants in April 2026. Every Midlothian ward has a claimant count of between 200 and 300 and in every ward the rate is between 2 and 3%.

Table 12 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward April 2026

Wards	April 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants April 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	240	2.0	58.3%	39.6%	18.8%	64.6%	16.7%
Dalkeith	280	2.8	60.7%	39.3%	21.4%	60.7%	16.1%
Midlothian East	290	2.9	56.9%	43.1%	24.1%	62.1%	15.5%
Midlothian South	230	2.4	52.2%	47.8%	19.6%	60.9%	19.6%
Midlothian West	265	2.4	52.8%	49.1%	17.0%	58.5%	24.5%
Penicuik	220	2.8	61.4%	40.9%	22.7%	54.5%	22.7%
Midlothian	1,530	2.5	56.5%	43.1%	20.6%	60.1%	19.0%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 56.5% of claimants are male, 20.6% are aged 16-24 and 19% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Penicuik had the highest proportion of male claimants (61.4%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (49.1%). In terms of the age profile 24.1% of claimants in Midlothian East were 16-24 years of age in April 2026. We can also see that 24.5% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50. Midlothian East have the highest claimant rate at 2.9% of working age population claiming in April.

West Lothian

The situation in the West Lothian wards is looked at in Table 13 below. Overall, there were 3,195 claimants in West Lothian in April 2026. Linlithgow is the only ward with fewer than 200 claimants. Every other ward has between 200-500 claimants, and no West Lothian ward has over 500 claimants. The wards with the highest claimant rate are Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley and Whitburn and Blackburn while Linlithgow has the lowest.

Table 13 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward April 2026

Wards	April 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants April 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armada & Blackridge	280	2.9	57.1%	42.9%	25.0%	57.1%	16.1%
Bathgate	450	3.1	63.3%	35.6%	24.4%	55.6%	20.0%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	295	2.4	50.8%	49.2%	16.9%	59.3%	23.7%
East Livingston & E. Calder	405	2.7	60.5%	39.5%	21.0%	59.3%	19.8%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	340	3.4	63.2%	38.2%	20.6%	57.4%	22.1%
Linlithgow	120	1.2	62.5%	37.5%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
Livingston North	355	2.4	60.6%	39.4%	21.1%	57.7%	22.5%
Livingston South	465	3.0	55.9%	44.1%	20.4%	57.0%	22.6%
Whitburn & Blackburn	485	3.4	60.8%	40.2%	24.7%	53.6%	21.6%
West Lothian	3,195	2.7	59.3%	40.7%	22.1%	56.7%	21.3%

Source: NOMIS 0/4/2026

Overall, we can see that 59.3% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Bathgate 63.3% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall, 22.1% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants are Linlithgow and Armadale and Blackridge where 25% are 16-24 years of age. Unusually, Linlithgow also has the highest proportion of older claimants (25%).

Scottish Borders

Table 14 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,970 people claiming in April 2026. The data in Table 14 indicates that nine wards had recorded under 200 claimants and two had recorded between 200 and 500. Small claimant numbers are not surprising as the population overall in some of these wards is small. When we look at the claimant rates we can see that the Scottish Borders is not dissimilar to elsewhere in South East Scotland. Hawick and Denholm has the highest claimant rate (4.2%) whilst Leaderdale and Melrose has the lowest claimant rate (1.8%).

Table 14 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward April 2026

Wards	Total	Rate	Proportion of Claimants April 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	185	3.0	48.6%	51.4%	21.6%	51.4%	29.7%
Galashiels and District	345	3.6	60.9%	40.6%	18.8%	56.5%	24.6%
Hawick and Denholm	225	4.2	55.6%	44.4%	20.0%	57.8%	22.2%
Hawick and Hermitage	185	3.7	62.2%	37.8%	24.3%	45.9%	29.7%
Jedburgh and District	170	3.3	50.0%	50.0%	20.6%	55.9%	23.5%
Kelso and District	170	3.0	50.0%	47.1%	17.6%	50.0%	29.4%
Leaderdale & Melrose	115	1.8	52.2%	43.5%	21.7%	47.8%	30.4%
Mid Berwickshire	155	2.5	48.4%	51.6%	9.7%	54.8%	35.5%
Selkirkshire	160	2.9	62.5%	40.6%	18.8%	65.6%	15.6%
Tweeddale East	130	2.1	53.8%	50.0%	19.2%	46.2%	34.6%
Tweeddale West	125	2.1	60.0%	40.0%	16.0%	52.0%	32.0%
Scottish Borders	1,970	2.9	55.6%	44.4%	19.0%	53.8%	27.2%

Source: NOMIS 19/5/2026

We can also see that across Scottish Borders in March 55.6% of claimants were male, 19% were 16-24 years of age and 27.2% were over 50 years of age. In Selkirkshire 62.5% of claimants were males, in Mid Berwickshire 51.6% were females. In terms of age cohorts 24.3% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire 35.5% of claimants were fifty or over.

Universal Credit

In the United Kingdom as a whole, Universal Credit is the second largest benefit by claimants after the State Pension. It is awarded to claimants out of work (both those currently looking and also those not currently looking for work) as well as to clients who are in work. It covers a number of historical benefits such as Income Support. Overall, in February there were 8,341,941 claimants in Britain who were claiming Universal Credit.

In the past we have been able to reflect on Universal Credit data each month as part of the claimant count, in particular reflecting on the number of individuals working and claiming as wages were deemed to be below a sufficient level. As part of the wider Benefits Statistics Consultation¹ which aimed to improve scheduling, alignment, and reduce the frequency of DWP Official Statistics, a dedicated Universal Credit user consultation was held between 17 February 2026 and 31 March 2026. The result of this is that from May 2026 Universal Credit statistics will **only** be released on a quarterly basis each February, May, August and November. With Claims made to UC, Households on UC, People on UC and Starts to UC now being aligned to have the same 3-month lag across all four data series. As a result, the most recent data now available is the February 2026 data with May data due to be available in August.

Table 15 Universal Credit Claimants in the City Region

	Searching for work	Working - with requirements	No work requirements	Working - no requirements	Planning for work	Preparing for work
East Lothian	603	1,071	1,191	1,604	30	110
Midlothian	472	984	1,169	1,453	42	94
Edinburgh	3,116	4,788	3,813	6,170	115	467
West Lothian	886	1,908	2,058	2,874	49	164
Fife	2,228	3,443	3,975	5,865	99	401
Scottish Borders	730	1,035	1,044	1,635	27	112
Total	8,035	13,219	13,246	19,604	361	1,348

Source: StatXplore 21/5/2026

Table 15 looks at the number of people across the region who are claiming Universal Credit. This is split both in terms of the Local Authority and in terms of the conditionality category. So, we can see from this that in January 2026 – currently the most recent data- across the region there were:

- 8,035 Universal Credit claimants who were searching for work. *Not working, or with very low earnings. Claimant is required to take action to secure work - or more / better paid work. The Work Coach supports them to plan their work search and preparation activity. Typical examples of people in this regime include jobseekers and gainfully self-employed in start-up period. Claimants are only in this regime if they do not fit into one of the other regimes.*
- 1,348 who were preparing for work *Expected to start preparing for future even with limited capability for work at the present time or a child aged 2¹, the claimant is expected to take reasonable steps to prepare for work including Work Focused Interview.*
- 361 planning for work *Expected to work in the future. Lone parent / lead carer of child aged 1. Claimant required to attend periodic interviews to plan for their return to work.*

This suggests that if we were to use Universal Credit as the indicator there would be 9,744 claimants of Universal Credit in the City Region who could be looking for work either now or in the near future. This is far lower than the claimant count figure which includes the Universal Credit clients but also Job Seekers Allowance claimants.

One would argue that where it is more useful is the insight it can provide around those that are neither working nor looking for work- the no work requirements group. This group includes those that are not expected to work at present as health or caring responsibility prevents claimant from working or preparing for work. Examples of people in this regime include those in full time

¹ [Stat-Xplore - Home](#)

education, over state pension age, have a child under 1 years old and those with no prospect to work. As we can see in the table above in January the City Region had 13,246 in this group.

The StatXplore data allows more in depth analysis than can be achieved on NOMIs. For example, we are able to see how long people had been claiming Universal Credit for. Table 16 below looks at those that were claiming Universal Credit and searching for work and we can see that in January across the City Region 4,053 (18%) had been claiming for less than 3 months and a further 2,894 (13%) had been claiming for between three and six months. This is important as it is generally understood that the longer an individual is out of the labour market the harder it is to get back into work.

Table 15 Duration for Universal Credit Claiming for those Searching for Work

	East Lothian	Midlothian	Fife	West Lothian	Scottish Borders	City of Edinburgh	City Region
Up to 3 months	244	248	1,158	532	310	1,560	4,053
3 months up to 6 months	180	186	872	348	161	1,147	2,894
6 months up to 1 year	197	188	858	396	236	1,430	3,308
1 year and up to 2 years	195	208	1,251	467	341	1,577	4,039
2 years and up to 3 years	118	102	517	211	169	778	1,896
3 years and up to 5 years	153	122	695	279	228	938	2,430
5 years and over	321	258	1,340	422	343	1,194	3,895
Total	1,414	1,315	6,700	2,671	1,787	8,627	22,512

Source: StatXplore 21/5/2026

Chris Nicol, Business Intelligence Manager,
Capital City Partnership
26/5/2026

07462 432348
chris.nicol@capitalcitypartnership.org