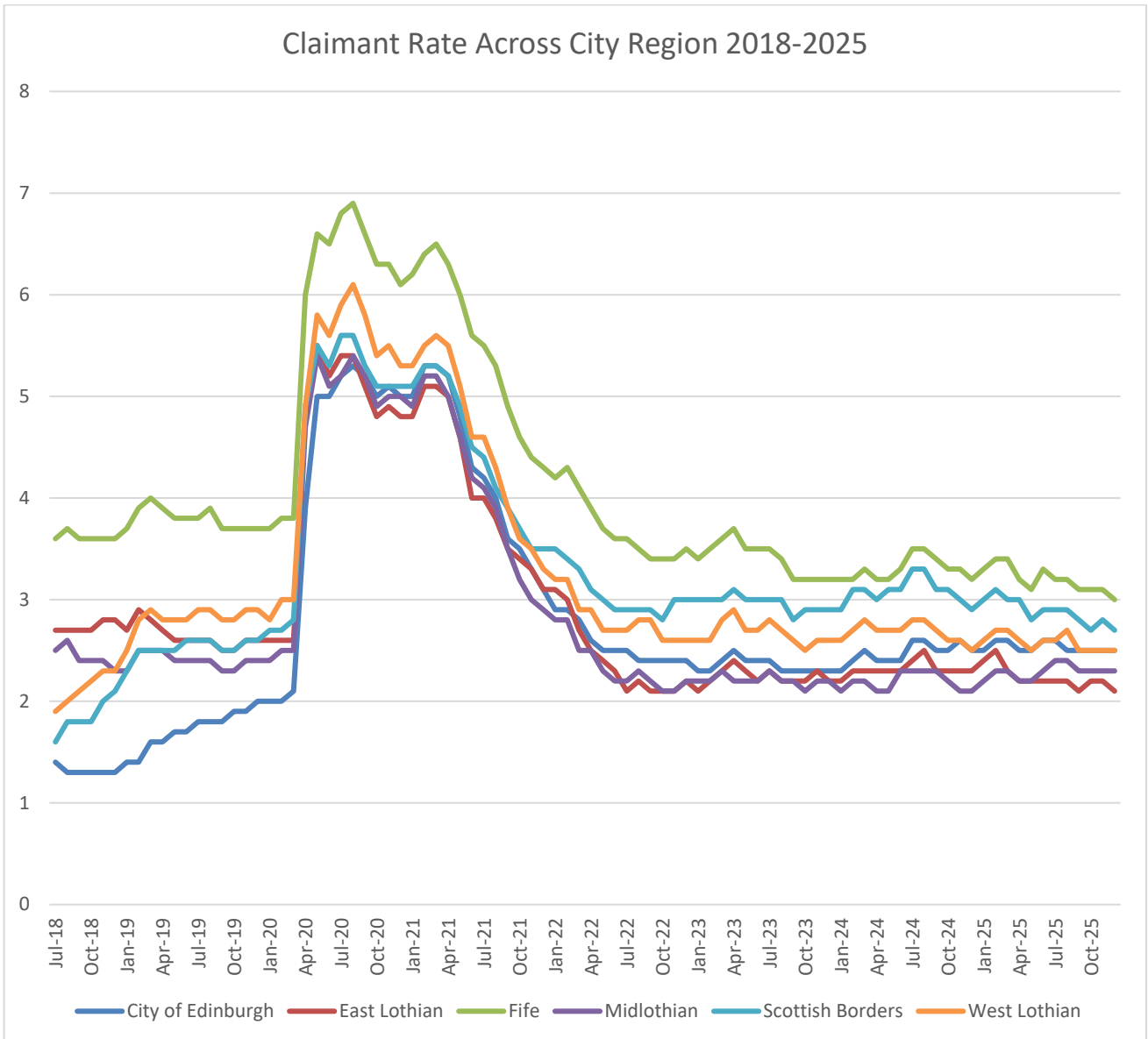


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2025 Summary Update

<p>Claimant Count Change Between December 2024 and December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK fell by 2.4% ↓ Scotland fell by 3.3% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 2.5% ↓ City Region fell by 1.8% 	<p>Claimant Count Change Between November 2025 and December 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.0% ↑ Scotland increased by 0.8% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 0.8% ↑ City Region increased by 0.3%
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Source: NOMIS 20/01/2026

City Region Summary

1. In December 2025 the claimant count for the City Region was 23,750 (in November it was 23,680). Of these
 - a. 4,660 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,550 in November.
 - b. 13,915 were 25-49 year olds down from 14,005 in November.
 - c. 5,175 were 50 or older up from 5,130 in November.
2. In November 2025 there were 48,573 Universal Credit claimants in work in the City Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In December 2025 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 9,205 (in November it was 9,130). Of these
 - a. 1,495 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,475 in November.
 - b. 5,730 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,720 in November.
 - c. 1,980 were 50 or older. It was 1,935 in November.
2. In November 2025 there were 15,545 Universal Credit claimants in work in Edinburgh.

East Lothian Summary

1. In December 2025 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,465 (in November it was 1,490). Of these
 - a. 320 were 16-24 year olds. In November it was 310.
 - b. 830 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 860.
 - c. 315 were 50 or older. In November it was 320.
2. In November 2025 there were 3,865 Universal Credit claimants in work in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In December 2025 the claimant count for Fife was 6,940 (in November it was 6,990). Of these
 - a. 1,515 were 16-24 year olds. In November there were 1,485.
 - b. 3,880 were 25-49 years of age. In November there were 3,955.
 - c. 1,545 were 50 or older. In November there were 1,550.
2. In November 2025 there were 14,326 Universal Credit claimants in work in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In December 2025 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,410 (it was 1,370 in November). Of these
 - a. 310 were 16-24 year olds. In November it was 305.
 - b. 855 were 25-49 year olds. In November it was 820.
 - c. 245 were 50 or older. In November it was 250.
2. In November 2025 there were 3,745 Universal Credit claimants in work in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In December 2025 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,840 (in November it was 1,815). Of these
 - a. 360 were 16-24 year olds. In November it was the 335.
 - b. 980 were 25-49 year olds. In November there were 1000.
 - c. 500 were 50 or older. In November there were 485.
2. In November 2025 there were 3,941 Universal Credit claimants in work in Scottish Borders

West Lothian Summary

1. In December 2025 the claimant count for West Lothian was 2,890 (in November it was 2,885). Of these
 - a. 660 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 640.
 - b. 1,640 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 1,650.
 - c. 590 were 50 or older. In October there were 590.
2. In November 2025 there were 7,153 Universal Credit claimants in work in West Lothian.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count December 2025 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in December 2025 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 South East and the South West, there are fewer claimants in 2025 than there were in 2024. Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 1% (15,695 more) higher than in November and in Scotland it is 0.8% higher (765 additional claimants).

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	Dec-20	Dec-24	Nov-2025	Dec-25	Percentage Change		
					Dec20- Dec25	Dec24- Dec25	Nov25- Dec25
UK	2,589,740	1,700,385	1,636,235	1,651,930	-36.2%	-2.8%	1.0%
East	203,105	128,895	126,410	128,120	-36.9%	-0.6%	1.4%
East Midlands	159,575	108,590	105,165	106,515	-33.3%	-1.9%	1.3%
London	489,250	350,335	342,695	345,675	-29.3%	-1.3%	0.9%
North East	117,085	66,265	60,815	61,450	-47.5%	-7.3%	1.0%
North West	312,470	204,945	192,695	194,110	-37.9%	-5.3%	0.7%
N. Ireland	57,130	38,825	35,915	34,905	-38.9%	-10.1%	-2.8%
Scotland	205,610	105,665	101,410	102,175	-50.3%	-3.3%	0.8%
South East	288,820	180,170	179,250	181,770	-37.1%	0.9%	1.4%
South West	165,640	95,815	95,170	96,875	-41.5%	1.1%	1.8%
Wales	110,215	64,815	62,175	63,190	-42.7%	-2.5%	1.6%
West Midlands	261,890	204,395	196,055	197,005	-24.8%	-3.6%	0.5%
Yorks & Humb	218,945	151,670	138,475	140,135	-36.0%	-7.6%	1.2%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

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 November 2020 every Local Authority in Scotland has seen the claimant count fall. What is clear from the table below is the degree to which the claimant count has fallen since 2020 differs depending on the Local Authority. The smallest percentage fall (42.2%) being recorded in Glasgow City and the greatest percentage fall (62.3%) being recorded in the Western Isles.

Over the last year, seven Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase (including Midlothian and Edinburgh) and all other Local Authorities saw the claimant count fall year on year except for Stirling that saw no change. This fall has ranged from a fall of 9.8% in North Lanarkshire through to

a fall of 0.4% in Moray. The six Local Authorities that make up the city region are highlighted in Table 2.

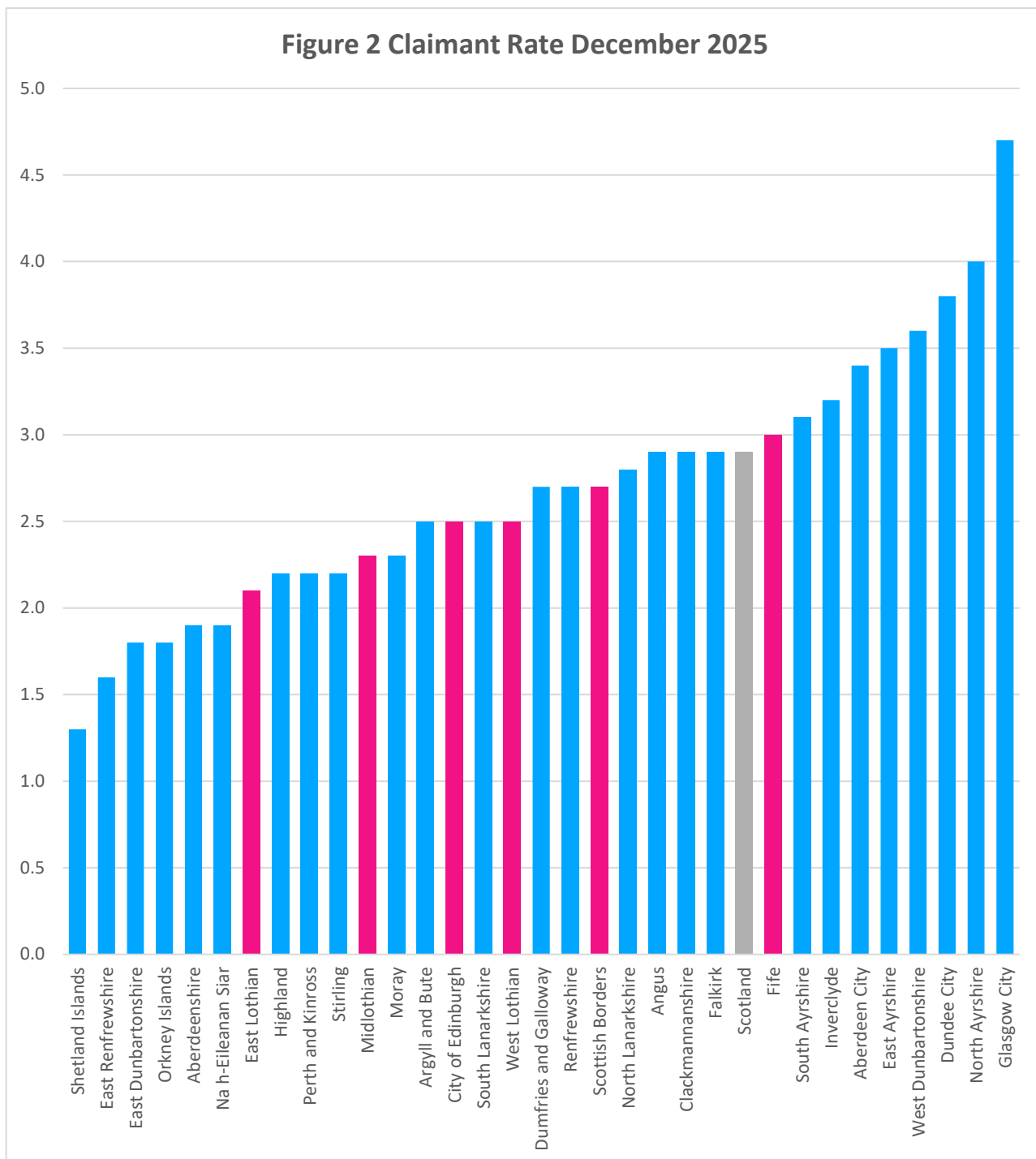
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	Dec-20	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Percentage Change		
					Dec20 - Dec25	Dec24- Dec25	Nov25- Dec25
Aberdeen City	9,295	4,875	5,045	5,105	-45.1%	4.7%	1.2%
Aberdeenshire	6,410	2,775	2,915	3,005	-53.1%	8.3%	3.1%
Angus	3,670	1,965	1,940	1,980	-46.0%	0.8%	2.1%
Argyll and Bute	2,785	1,360	1,210	1,285	-53.9%	-5.5%	6.2%
Edinburgh	17,780	8,980	9,130	9,205	-48.2%	2.5%	0.8%
Clackmannanshire	2,065	980	940	950	-54.0%	-3.1%	1.1%
Dumfries & Galloway	4,435	2,365	2,205	2,230	-49.7%	-5.7%	1.1%
Dundee City	6,805	3,805	3,700	3,735	-45.1%	-1.8%	0.9%
East Ayrshire	5,615	2,735	2,670	2,615	-53.4%	-4.4%	-2.1%
E.Dunbartonshire	2,525	1,170	1,105	1,105	-56.2%	-5.6%	0.0%
East Lothian	3,220	1,575	1,490	1,465	-54.5%	-7.0%	-1.7%
East Renfrewshire	2,135	965	935	945	-55.7%	-2.1%	1.1%
Falkirk	5,815	2,730	2,815	2,865	-50.7%	4.9%	1.8%
Fife	14,080	7,450	6,990	6,940	-50.7%	-6.8%	-0.7%
Glasgow City	36,040	21,940	20,820	20,835	-42.2%	-5.0%	0.1%
Highland	7,200	3,260	2,975	3,110	-56.8%	-4.6%	4.5%
Inverclyde	2,890	1,605	1,555	1,565	-45.8%	-2.5%	0.6%
Midlothian	2,905	1,270	1,370	1,410	-51.5%	11.0%	2.9%
Moray	2,755	1,305	1,285	1,300	-52.8%	-0.4%	1.2%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	755	305	295	285	-62.3%	-6.6%	-3.4%
North Ayrshire	6,650	3,355	3,065	3,185	-52.1%	-5.1%	3.9%
North Lanarkshire	14,195	6,935	6,260	6,255	-55.9%	-9.8%	-0.1%
Orkney Islands	365	210	210	230	-37.0%	9.5%	9.5%
Perth and Kinross	4,055	2,050	1,920	1,960	-51.7%	-4.4%	2.1%
Renfrewshire	7,045	3,305	3,150	3,180	-54.9%	-3.8%	1.0%
Scottish Borders	3,485	1,985	1,815	1,840	-47.2%	-7.3%	1.4%
Shetland Islands	450	195	180	180	-60.0%	-7.7%	0.0%
South Ayrshire	4,545	2,200	2,005	2,025	-55.4%	-8.0%	1.0%
South Lanarkshire	12,250	5,610	5,235	5,140	-58.0%	-8.4%	-1.8%
Stirling	2,720	1,340	1,285	1,340	-50.7%	0.0%	4.3%
W.Dunbartonshire	4,535	2,125	2,020	2,025	-55.3%	-4.7%	0.2%
West Lothian	6,140	2,935	2,885	2,890	-52.9%	-1.5%	0.2%
Scotland	205,610	105,665	101,410	102,175	-50.3%	-3.3%	0.8%
City Region	47,610	24,195	23,680	23,750	-50.1%	-1.8%	0.3%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Looking at what has happened between October and November. What we can also see in Table 2 is that for twenty five of the Local Authorities in Scotland, there was a month to month increase. This has ranged from a 0.2% increase in West Lothian and West Dunbartonshire through to a 9.5% increase in the Orkney Islands.

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



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

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 December 2025 is lower than it was in 2020. The fall ranges from 47.2% in Scottish Borders through to 54.5% in East Lothian. Over the last year two Local Authorities have seen the claimant count increase (Edinburgh and Midlothian). The four other

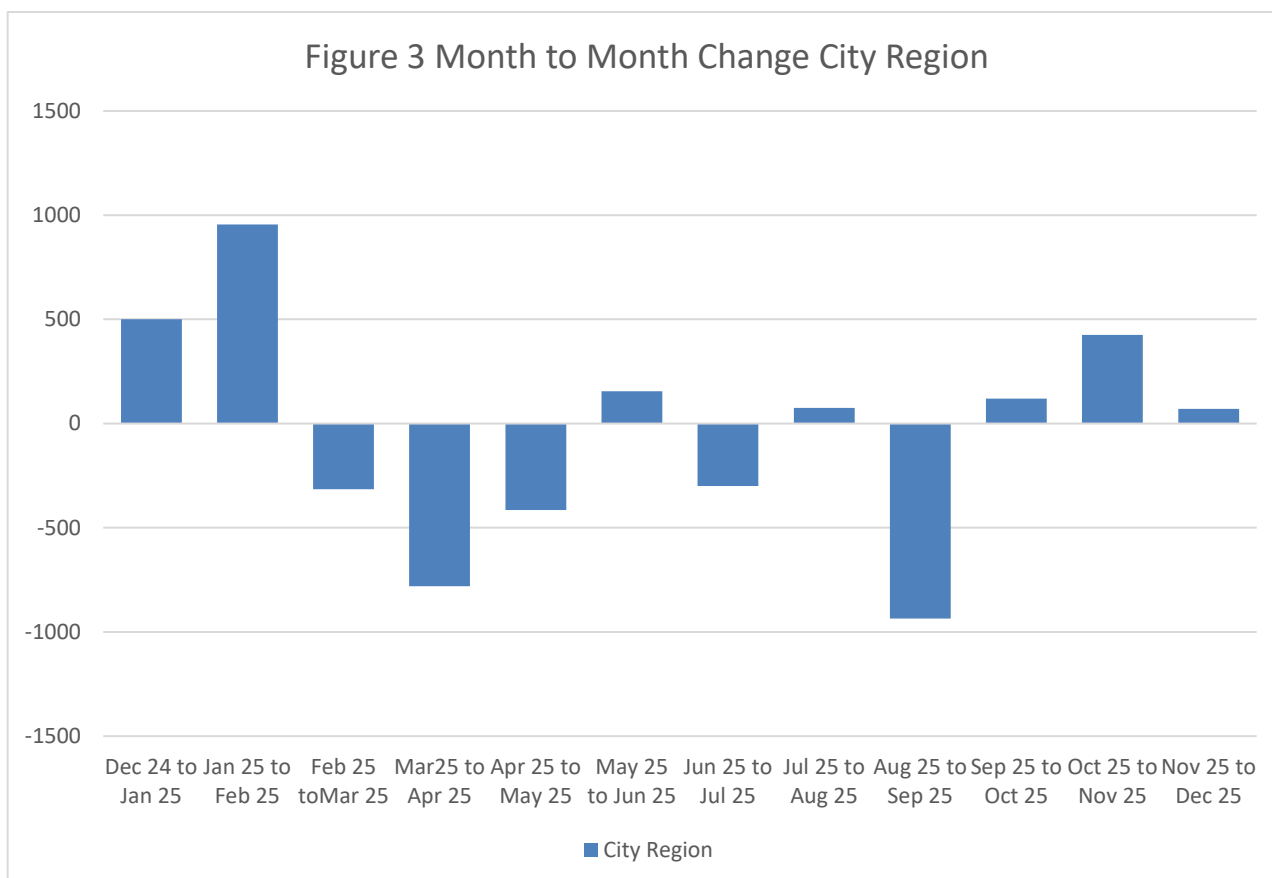
Authorities have seen the claimant count fall by between 1.5% (West Lothian) and 7.3% (Scottish Borders).

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	Dec-20	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Claimant Rate Dec 25	Percentage Change		
						Dec20 - Dec25	Dec24- Dec25	Nov25- Dec25
Edinburgh	17,780	8,980	9,130	9,205	2.5	-48.2%	2.5%	0.8%
East Lothian	3,220	1,575	1,490	1,465	2.1	-54.5%	-7.0%	-1.7%
Fife	14,080	7,450	6,990	6,940	3.0	-50.7%	-6.8%	-0.7%
Midlothian	2,905	1,270	1,370	1,410	2.3	-51.5%	11.0%	2.9%
Scottish Borders	3,485	1,985	1,815	1,840	2.7	-47.2%	-7.3%	1.4%
West Lothian	6,140	2,935	2,885	2,890	2.5	-52.9%	-1.5%	0.2%
City Region	47,610	24,195	23,680	23,750	0.0	-50.1%	-1.8%	0.3%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Between November and December four of the six Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase. This has ranged from 0.2% in West Lothian through to a 2.9% increase in Midlothian. Figure 3 below looks at the month to month change in the City Region over the last 12 months.



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

What we can see in the figure above is that whilst there has 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.

Gender Profile

From Table 4 we can see that three of the six Local Authorities in the city region have seen the number of male claimants decrease over the last twelve months, and the others have seen an increase. Across the region the number of male claimants in December 2025 was 55 fewer than in 2024.

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

Male Claimants	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Percentage Change	
				Dec24-Dec25	Nov25-Dec25
Edinburgh	5,235	5,400	5,495	5.0%	1.8%
East Lothian	855	805	790	-7.6%	-1.9%
Fife	4,310	4,030	4,055	-5.9%	0.6%
Midlothian	750	775	800	6.7%	3.2%
Scottish Borders	1,105	1,020	1,040	-5.9%	2.0%
West Lothian	1,695	1,705	1,715	1.2%	0.6%
City Region	13,950	13,735	13,895	-0.4%	1.2%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Comparing the November 2025 statistics to those of December 2025 we can see that every Local Authority apart from East Lothian has seen the number of male claimants increase. This culminated in the region as a whole recording a 1.2% increase between November and December. This is based on 160 additional male claimants when compared to the November figures. The largest percentage month to month increase was in Midlothian where the male claimant count increased by 3.2% or 25 additional claimants which illustrates that the percentage changes can be of concern, but in some cases they are based on relatively small changes in the actual numbers.

Table 5 looks at the situation for female claimants. This indicates that over the last year there has been a decrease in the number of female claimants in the region (390 fewer female claimants).

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

Female Claimants	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Percentage Change	
				Dec24-Dec25	Nov25-Dec25
Edinburgh	3,745	3,730	3,710	-0.9%	-0.5%
East Lothian	720	680	675	-6.3%	-0.7%
Fife	3,140	2,960	2,885	-8.1%	-2.5%
Midlothian	520	600	610	17.3%	1.7%
Scottish Borders	880	795	800	-9.1%	0.6%
West Lothian	1,240	1,180	1,175	-5.2%	-0.4%
City Region	10,245	9,945	9,855	-3.8%	-0.9%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

This is a decrease of 3.8% year on year. Scottish Borders saw the largest fall whilst Midlothian recorded an increase in the number of female claimants (an increase of 90 over the course of the year).

Between November and December 2025, we can see that four Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants decrease. This ranged from a 0.4% decrease in West Lothian through to a 2.5%

decrease in Fife. Midlothian saw an increase in the number of female claimants between November and December. Overall, across the City Region there were 0.9% fewer female claimants, 90 fewer individuals, in December than in November.

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In December 2025 there were 4,660 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 2.4% higher than a month ago and 9.0% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 385 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 110 more than last month.

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that over the last year, one Local Authority has seen the claimant count for 16-24 year olds fall by 2.3% (Fife). The remaining Local Authorities saw the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increase by between 21.1% (Edinburgh with an additional 260) and 3.2% (East Lothian with an additional 10).

Over the last month every Local Authority in the City Region has seen the claimant count for this age group increase, with Scottish Borders recording the largest percentage increase and Midlothian the lowest.

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
Dec-20	2,850	620	2,830	670	775	1,320	9,065
Dec-24	1,235	310	1,550	260	345	575	4,275
Nov-25	1,475	310	1,485	305	335	640	4,550
Dec-25	1,495	320	1,515	310	360	660	4,660
% Change							
Dec24-Dec25	21.1%	3.2%	-2.3%	19.2%	4.3%	14.8%	9.0%
Nov25-Dec25	1.4%	3.2%	2.0%	1.6%	7.5%	3.1%	2.4%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

25-49 Year Olds

In December 2025 there were 13,915 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 0.6% lower than a month ago and 3.4% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 495 fewer 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 90 less than last month. This can be seen in Table 7 below.

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that four Local Authorities have fewer 25-49 year old claimants than a year ago. Edinburgh and Midlothian have more claimants who are 25-49 years of age than in December 2025 – Edinburgh is 45 more (0.8%) and Midlothian it is 80 more (up by 10.3%).

We can also see that all four of the six Local Authorities in the Region have fewer claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 3.5% fewer (30 claimants) in East Lothian through to 0.6% fewer in West Lothian (10 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.

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
Dec-20	10,995	1,785	7,845	1,620	1,755	3,435	27,435
Dec-24	5,685	920	4,240	775	1,050	1,740	14,410
Nov-25	5,720	860	3,955	820	1,000	1,650	14,005
Dec-25	5,730	830	3,880	855	980	1,640	13,915
% Change							
Dec24-Dec25	0.8%	-9.8%	-8.5%	10.3%	-6.7%	-5.7%	-3.4%
Nov25-Dec25	0.2%	-3.5%	-1.9%	4.3%	-2.0%	-0.6%	-0.6%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

50 Year Olds and Over

In December 2025 there were 5,175 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 0.9% higher than a month ago and 6.1% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 335 fewer people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago but 45 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
Dec-20	3,935	1,865	3,405	610	960	1,385	12,160
Dec-24	2,060	345	1,665	235	590	615	5,510
Nov-25	1,935	320	1,550	250	485	590	5,130
Dec-25	1,980	315	1,545	245	500	590	5,175
% Change							
Dec24-Dec25	-3.9%	-8.7%	-7.2%	4.3%	-15.3%	-4.1%	-6.1%
Nov25-Dec25	2.3%	-1.6%	-0.3%	-2.0%	3.1%	0.0%	0.9%

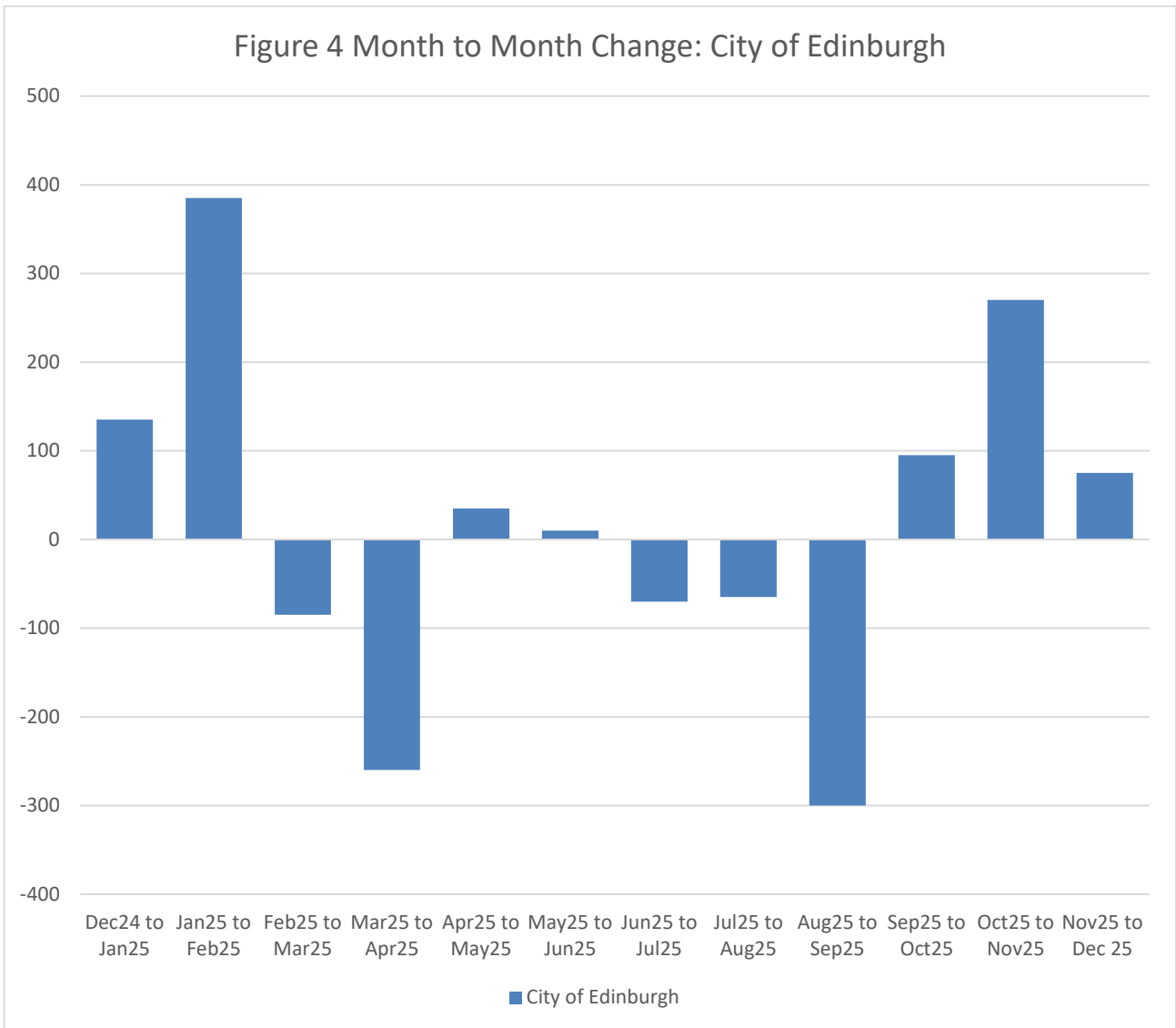
Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that one Local Authority (Midlothian) has more claimants in December 2025 than they recorded in the same month in 2024 and all the other Local Authorities have fewer claimants in 2025 than they did in 2024. Comparing November 2025 with December 2025 we can see that the number of claimants aged over 50 has increased in two of the Local Authorities in the Region, fallen in three and remains the same in one.

Ward Profile

Edinburgh

Figure 4 below gives the month to month change in the claimant count in Edinburgh. As with the Region as a whole (Figure 3) there is no real consistent pattern, but what we can see is that last year there were increases at the start of the year and again at the end of the year with some relatively large decreases around the spring and summer. This reflects the City Region which isn't surprising given that Edinburgh has the single largest number of claimants in the City Region overall numbers.



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Table 9 gives the current situation in the seventeen Edinburgh wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between November and December 2025. Overall, there were 9,205 claimants in Edinburgh in December 2025, and this is 2.5% higher than last December and 0.8% higher than in November. One thing to remember about the latest data is that it can get reviewed in subsequent releases as more information becomes available.

From the table we can see that in December 2025 five wards had 750 or more claimants; ten wards had more than 500 and two wards had less than 200. The ward with the highest number of claimants in December was Forth, which also had the highest claimant rate in the city at 4.1%.

The table also indicates that seven wards had a claimant count lower in December 2025 than a year ago, in Morningside the claimant count was 13.3% lower in December 2025 than it was in 2024. In the ten remaining wards the claimant count is higher than a year ago. This ranges from 11.5% higher in Almond to 0.7% higher in Leith. Bear in mind the actual number of claimants in any particular ward when considering these percentage changes as a large percentage change can occur from a small increase in a ward with a relatively small number.

Table 19 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward December 2025

Wards	Dec 2025	Rate	Dec24 to Dec25	Nov25 to Dec25	Proportion of Claimants December 2025				
					Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	680	3.0	11.5%	-2.2%	57.4%	42.6%	19.1%	59.6%	20.6%
City Centre	650	2.4	-3.0%	0.0%	71.5%	29.2%	15.4%	64.6%	20.8%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	290	1.9	7.4%	1.8%	50.0%	50.0%	19.0%	60.3%	19.0%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	160	1.1	-3.0%	-5.9%	59.4%	40.6%	12.5%	62.5%	21.9%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	675	3.3	10.7%	3.1%	60.0%	40.0%	13.3%	67.4%	19.3%
Drum Brae/Gyle	335	2.2	8.1%	1.5%	61.2%	38.8%	14.9%	59.7%	25.4%
Forth	885	4.1	5.4%	0.0%	54.2%	45.2%	17.5%	62.7%	20.3%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	295	1.7	-1.7%	1.7%	59.3%	40.7%	15.3%	62.7%	20.3%
Inverleith	315	1.4	-3.1%	-1.6%	57.1%	42.9%	14.3%	65.1%	20.6%
Leith	675	3.7	0.7%	0.0%	61.5%	38.5%	14.1%	65.2%	20.7%
Leith Walk	580	2.0	-1.7%	-4.9%	62.9%	37.9%	13.8%	65.5%	21.6%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	765	3.3	1.3%	2.7%	57.5%	42.5%	17.6%	60.8%	22.2%
Morningside	195	0.9	-13.3%	-4.9%	56.4%	46.2%	12.8%	59.0%	28.2%
Pentland Hills	770	3.7	1.3%	1.3%	59.7%	40.3%	18.8%	59.1%	22.1%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	790	3.7	-4.8%	6.0%	55.7%	44.3%	15.8%	63.3%	20.9%
Sighthill/Gorgie	795	3.1	11.2%	3.9%	64.2%	35.8%	18.2%	61.0%	21.4%
Southside/ Newington	345	1.2	4.5%	0.0%	62.3%	37.7%	15.9%	56.5%	29.0%
Column Total	9,205	2.5	2.5%	0.8%	59.7%	40.3%	16.2%	62.2%	21.5%

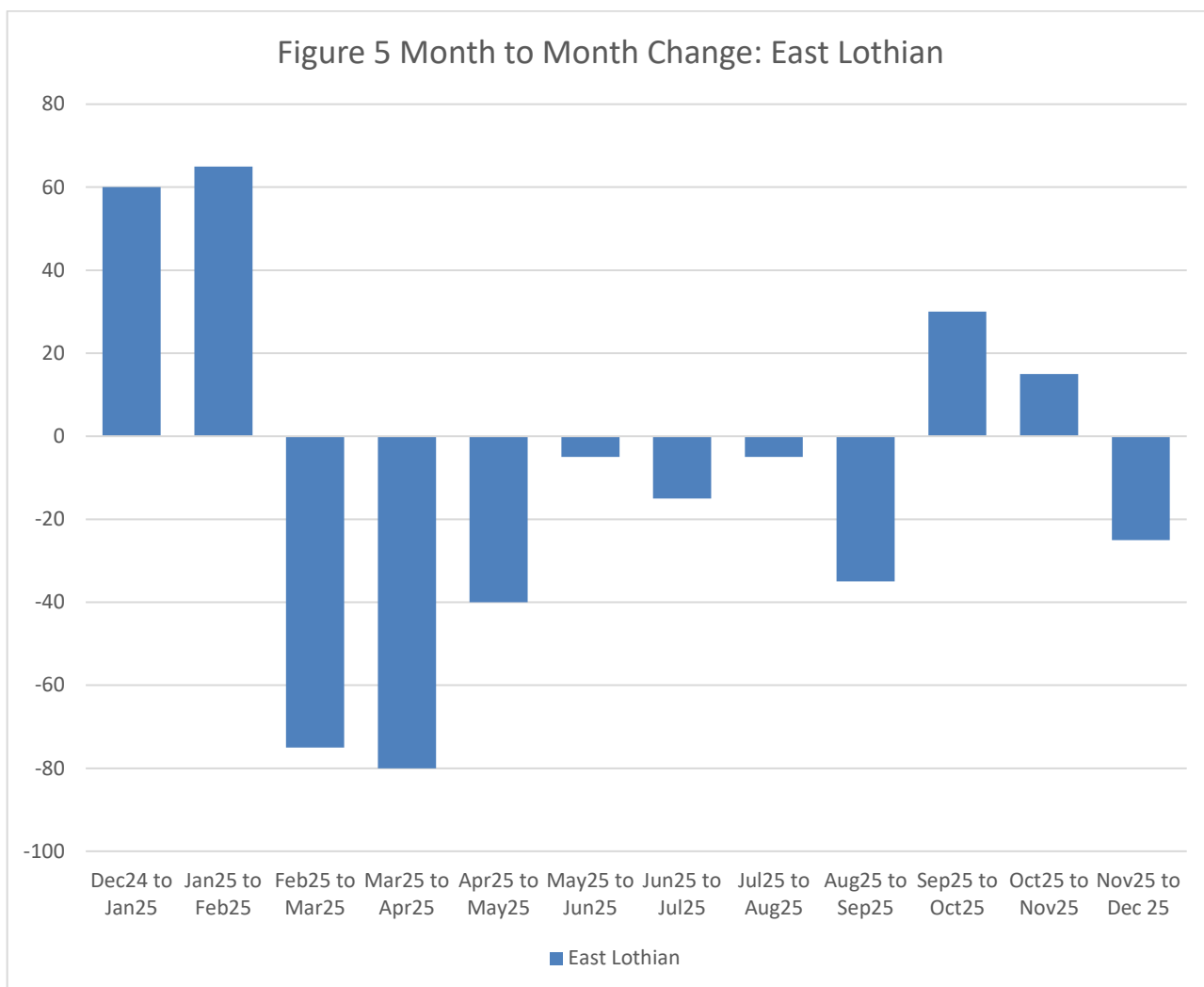
Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Comparing the count recorded in December to that recorded in November we can see that five wards recorded a fall, four recorded no change and the remaining eight wards saw the claimant count increase by between 1.3% and 6.0%. Portobello/ Craigmillar recorded the largest percentage increase between November and December where 45 additional claimants resulted in a monthly percentage increase of 6%.

Overall, in Edinburgh in December 2025, 59.7% of claimants were male and 16.2% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 71.5% of the claimants are male. In Southside/Newington 29.0% of claimants were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Almond 19.1% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

East Lothian

Figure 5 below gives the month to month change in the claimant count in East Lothian. As with the Region as a whole (Figure 3) there is no real consistent pattern, but what we can see is that last year there were increases at the start of the year and again towards the end of the year. What is slightly different from the City Region as a whole and Edinburgh is that for seven months in the middle of the year East Lothian consistently recorded month to month falls.



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Table 10 gives the current situation in the six East Lothian wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between November and December 2025. Overall, there were 1,465 claimants in East Lothian in December 2025, and this is 7% lower than a year ago and 1.7% lower than last month.

Table 10 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2025

Wards	Dec 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2025				
			Dec24 to Dec25	Nov25 to Dec25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	175	1.9	-5.4%	0.0%	51.4%	45.7%	22.9%	48.6%	25.7%
Haddington and Lammermuir	230	2.0	4.5%	9.5%	56.5%	43.5%	21.7%	60.9%	15.2%
Musselburgh	350	2.9	-10.3%	-4.1%	54.3%	45.7%	21.4%	58.6%	21.4%
North Berwick Coastal	120	1.6	20.0%	-4.0%	54.2%	50.0%	12.5%	66.7%	20.8%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	240	2.2	-2.0%	-5.9%	52.1%	50.0%	25.0%	52.1%	22.9%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	350	2.4	-19.5%	-1.4%	55.7%	44.3%	22.9%	55.7%	21.4%
East Lothian	1,465	2.2	-7.0%	-1.7%	53.9%	46.1%	21.8%	56.7%	21.5%

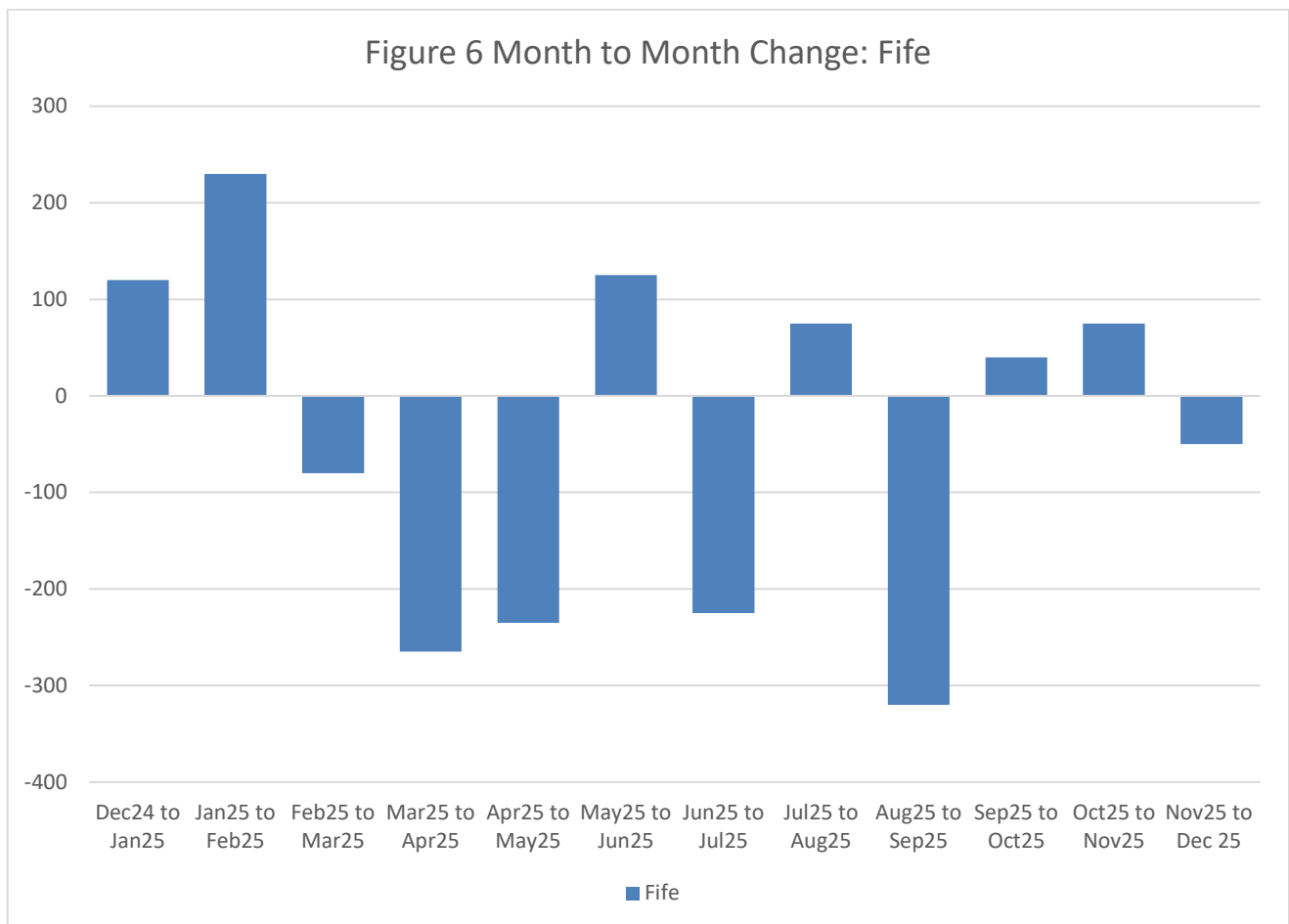
Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months two wards saw the claimant count increase, and the remaining four have seen it fall. This has resulted in quite a range being recorded from an increase of 20% in North Berwick Coastal through to a 19.5% fall in Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry. 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. For example, the increase in North Berwick Coastal is based on an increase from 100 to 120 claimants.

Across the county 53.9% of claimants are male and this varies from 51.4% to 56.5%. Preston, Seton and Gosford is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (25%) and Dunbar and East Linton is the ward with the highest proportion (25.7%) of people aged over 50 years of age. Musselburgh is the ward with the highest claimant rate of 2.9% of working age people claiming.

Fife

Figure 6 below gives the month to month change in the claimant count in Fife. Like Edinburgh and the City Region there is no real consistent pattern of month to month falls. What we can see is that there has been four month to month changes where the claimant count has fallen by over 200 people and again these tend to be Spring through to Autumn.



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Turning now to look at Fife. Table 11 gives the current situation in the twenty-two Fife wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between November and December 2025. Overall, there are 6,940 claimants in Fife in December 2025, and this is 6.8% lower than a year ago and 0.7% lower than last month.

Table 11 Fife Claimant Count by Ward December 2025

Wards	Dec 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2025				
			Dec24 to Dec25	Nov25 to Dec25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	600	5.5	-5.5%	3.4%	60.0%	40.0%	22.5%	56.7%	20.8%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	315	3.5	0.0%	0.0%	61.9%	38.1%	20.6%	54.0%	25.4%
Cowdenbeath	475	3.4	-9.5%	1.1%	56.8%	43.2%	27.4%	50.5%	22.1%
Cupar	170	2.0	-12.8%	-8.1%	58.8%	41.2%	20.6%	52.9%	26.5%
Dunfermline Central	300	2.6	-6.3%	1.7%	55.0%	45.0%	18.3%	61.7%	18.3%
Dunfermline North	265	2.5	-15.9%	0.0%	62.3%	39.6%	24.5%	56.6%	20.8%
Dunfermline South	325	2.1	-8.5%	-4.4%	60.0%	40.0%	21.5%	58.5%	20.0%
East Neuk and Landward	160	2.3	-8.6%	6.7%	56.3%	43.8%	15.6%	53.1%	28.1%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	350	3.7	7.7%	-1.4%	61.4%	38.6%	28.6%	52.9%	17.1%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	310	2.7	3.3%	1.6%	54.8%	43.5%	25.8%	53.2%	21.0%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	305	3.2	-7.6%	0.0%	52.5%	47.5%	24.6%	50.8%	24.6%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	155	1.9	-16.2%	3.3%	64.5%	35.5%	12.9%	51.6%	32.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	205	1.9	-4.7%	7.9%	56.1%	43.9%	22.0%	48.8%	31.7%
Kirkcaldy Central	545	6.3	-5.2%	-1.8%	59.6%	40.4%	20.2%	56.9%	22.9%
Kirkcaldy East	525	5.6	-12.5%	-0.9%	60.0%	39.0%	20.0%	55.2%	24.8%
Kirkcaldy North	315	3.2	-3.1%	-1.6%	54.0%	44.4%	17.5%	65.1%	17.5%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	375	3.2	-1.3%	0.0%	62.7%	38.7%	20.0%	53.3%	26.7%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	460	3.9	-14.8%	-1.1%	62.0%	38.0%	22.8%	58.7%	18.5%
Rosyth	240	2.3	0.0%	-5.9%	52.1%	47.9%	18.8%	58.3%	22.9%
St Andrews	100	0.7	-4.8%	-4.8%	55.0%	45.0%	30.0%	50.0%	25.0%
Tay Bridgehead	210	2.2	-4.5%	-4.5%	54.8%	42.9%	16.7%	61.9%	21.4%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	235	2.4	-13.0%	-6.0%	55.3%	44.7%	25.5%	59.6%	14.9%
Fife	6,940	3.0	-6.8%	-0.7%	58.4%	41.6%	21.8%	55.9%	22.3%

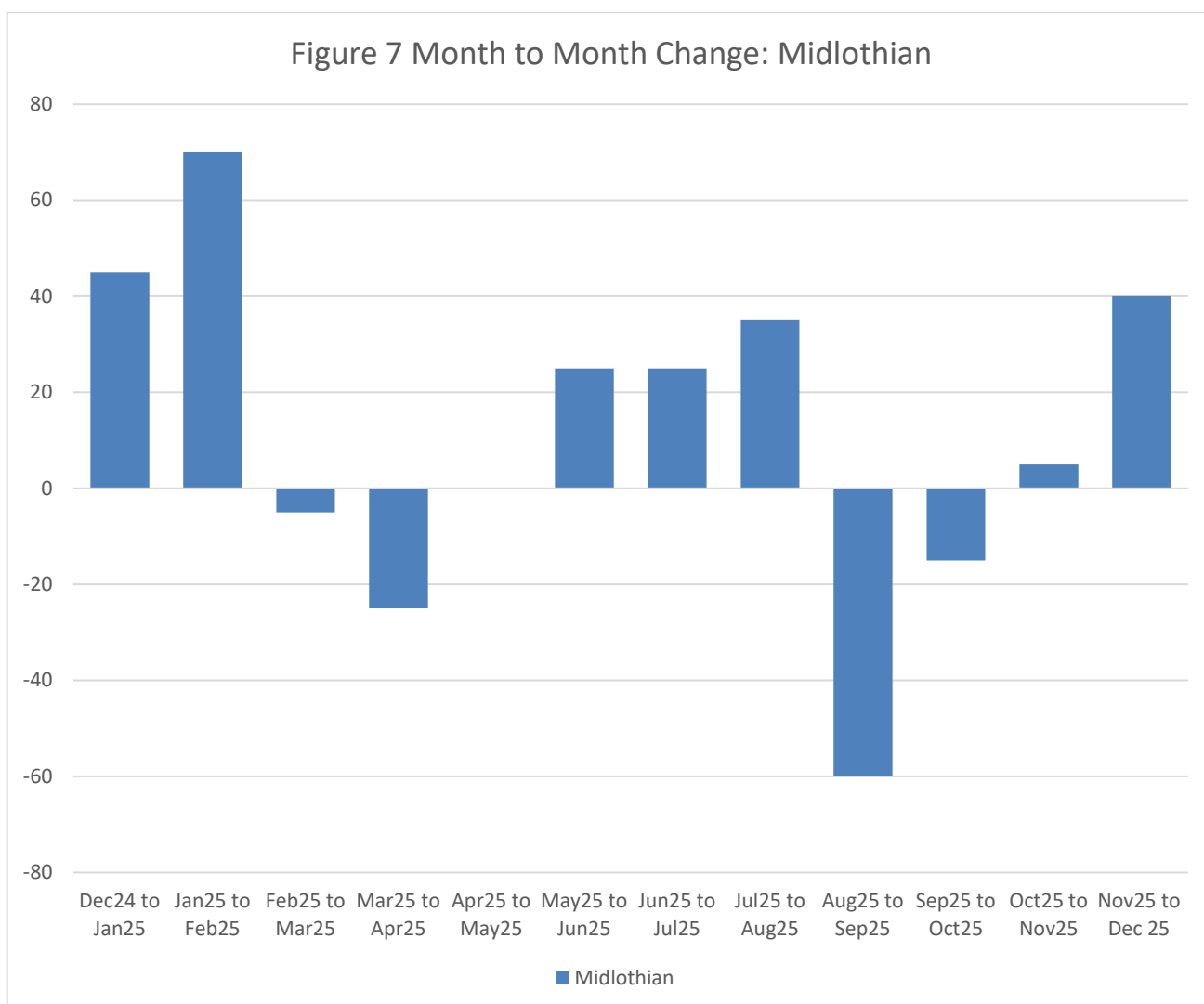
Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months two wards have not seen any change in the claimant count, two recorded an increase and every other ward has seen it fall. Between November and December 2025 eleven wards recorded a fall, four saw no change and seven saw the claimant count increase.

Kirkcaldy Central has the highest claim rate in Fife at 6.3% whilst St Andrews has the lowest at 0.7%. We can also see that 58.4% of claimants in November were male and this ranged from 64.5% in Howe of Fife and Tay Coast through to 52.1% in Rosyth. With 30% of claimants being aged 16-24 St Andrews is the ward with the highest proportion of this age group in Fife whilst Howe of Fife and Tay Coast East had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 32.3% of the claimants in these wards were in that age band.

Midlothian

Figure 7 below gives the month to month change in the claimant count in Midlothian. What we can see is similar to the other Local Authorities in that there is no real consistency in the way the claimant count is moving with it climbing for a couple of months to then fall for a couple. What is different from those looked at so far is that the claimant count increased during the summer, which isn't really apparent elsewhere.



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Table 12 gives the current situation in the six Midlothian wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between November and December 2025. Overall, we can see that Midlothian had 1,410 claimants in December 2025 and has seen the claimant number increase by 11.0% year on year and 2.9% between November and December.

Looking at the wards it is apparent that over the course of the year every ward saw the claimant count increase. Between November and December two wards recorded a fall in the claimant count, three recorded an increase and one recorded no change.

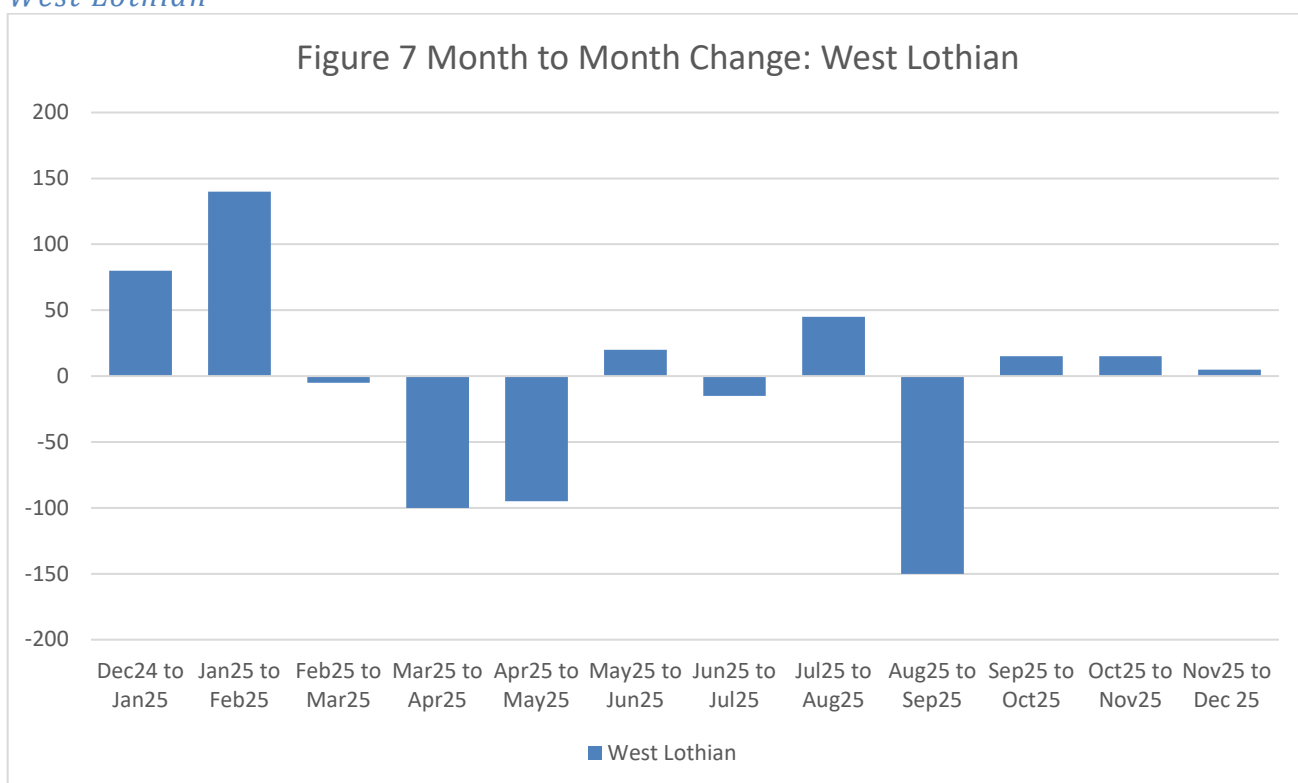
Table 12 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2025

Wards	Dec 25	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2025				
			Dec24 to Dec25	Nov25 to Dec25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	220	1.9	15.8%	-2.2%	59.1%	38.6%	18.2%	68.2%	11.4%
Dalkeith	260	2.8	4.0%	-3.7%	59.6%	40.4%	23.1%	63.5%	15.4%
Midlothian East	260	2.7	8.3%	0.0%	53.8%	46.2%	26.9%	59.6%	15.4%
Midlothian South	220	2.4	12.8%	10.0%	52.3%	47.7%	20.5%	59.1%	18.2%
Midlothian West	255	2.6	18.6%	13.3%	51.0%	49.0%	17.6%	56.9%	25.5%
Penicuik	195	2.4	5.4%	2.6%	64.1%	35.9%	25.6%	56.4%	17.9%
Midlothian	1,410	2.5	11.0%	2.9%	56.7%	43.3%	22.0%	60.6%	17.4%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 56.7% of claimants are male, 22% are aged 16-24 and 17.4% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Penicuik had the highest proportion of male claimants (64.1%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (49%). In terms of the age profile 26.9% of claimants in Midlothian East were 16-24 years of age in November 2025. We can also see that 25.5% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50. Dalkeith has the highest claimant rate at 2.8% of working age population claiming in November.

West Lothian



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Figure 7 above gives the month to month change in the claimant count in West Lothian. Once again we can see a rather unpredictable trend where we see an increase month to month early and late in the year with a couple of increases in the summer months.

The situation in the West Lothian wards is looked at in Table 13 below. Overall, there were 2,890 claimants in West Lothian in December 2025, and this is 1.5% lower than a year ago and 0.2% higher than last month. We can see that five of the nine West Lothian wards have seen a fall in the claimant count over the last twelve months. Over the last month five wards in West Lothian has seen the claimant count increase and this has ranged from 1.3% in Bathgate to 3.5% in Livingston North. The ward that has the highest claimant rate is Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley while Linlithgow has the lowest.

Table 13 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward December 2025

Wards	Dec 25	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2025				
			Dec24 to Dec25	Nov25 to Dec25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	235	2.4	-6.0%	-4.1%	59.6%	40.4%	25.5%	57.4%	17.0%
Bathgate	400	2.6	5.3%	1.3%	61.3%	37.5%	26.3%	52.5%	21.3%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	285	2.3	-8.1%	1.8%	56.1%	42.1%	21.1%	57.9%	21.1%
East Livingston & E. Calder	325	2.2	-3.0%	-7.1%	56.9%	43.1%	23.1%	55.4%	21.5%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	345	3.4	0.0%	1.5%	60.9%	39.1%	20.3%	60.9%	17.4%
Linlithgow	115	1.2	4.5%	9.5%	60.9%	39.1%	21.7%	52.2%	26.1%
Livingston North	295	1.9	-7.8%	3.5%	59.3%	40.7%	22.0%	55.9%	22.0%
Livingston South	425	2.7	2.4%	-2.3%	56.5%	43.5%	22.4%	56.5%	21.2%
Whitburn & Blackburn	465	3.3	-1.1%	3.3%	61.3%	38.7%	22.6%	58.1%	19.4%
West Lothian	2,890	2.5	-1.5%	0.2%	59.3%	40.7%	22.8%	56.7%	20.4%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

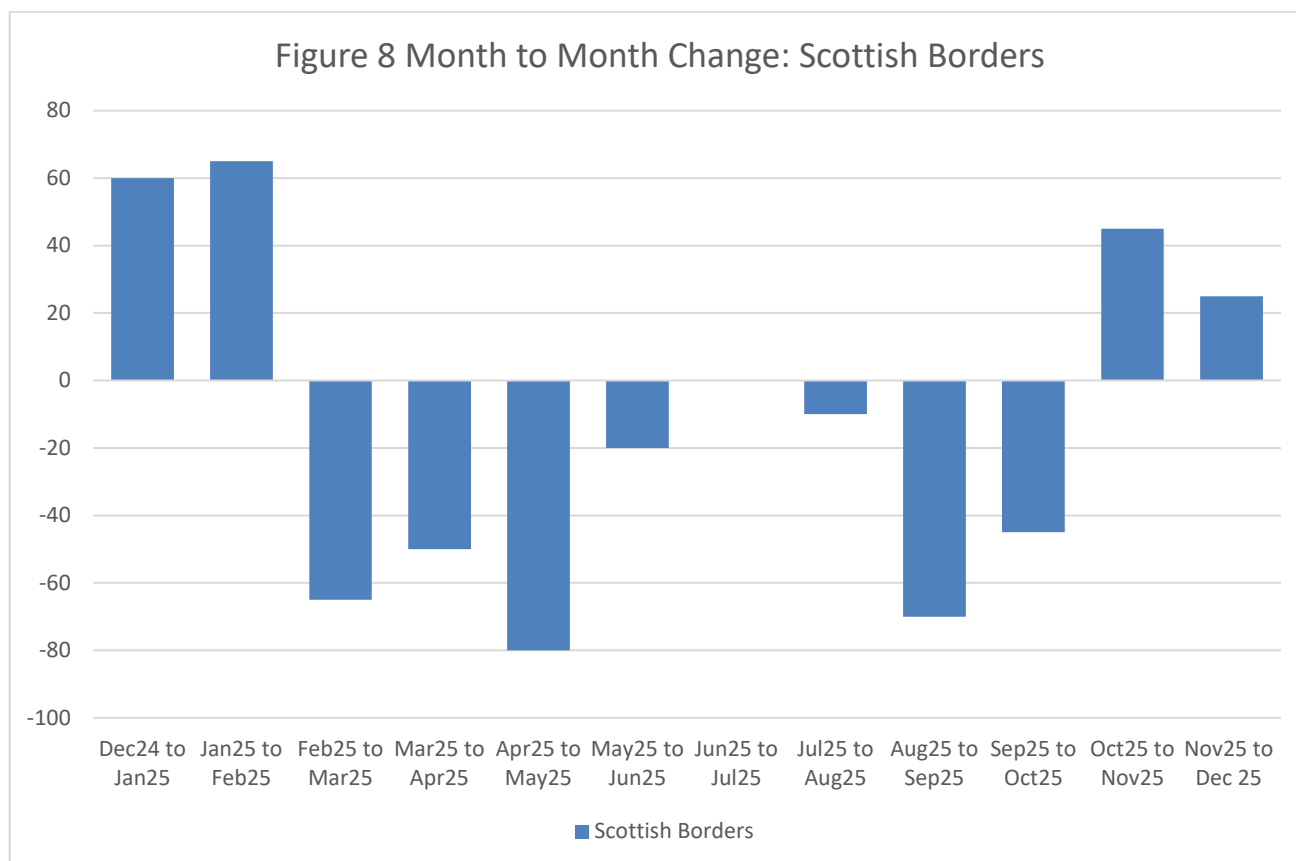
Overall, we can see that 59.3% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Whitburn and Blackburn 61.3% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall, 22.8% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants is Bathgate where 26.3% are 16-24 years of age. Whilst 20.4% of claimants in West Lothian are 50 years of age or over this is higher in Linlithgow where 26.1% of all claimants are 50 or over.

Scottish Borders

Figure 8 below gives the month to month change in the claimant count in Scottish Borders. What we can see again is the same as elsewhere in the region – an increase in claimants at the start and the end of the year. Where Scottish Borders differs is that for the rest of the year there has been a consistent month on month fall in the claimant count.

Table 14 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between November and December 2025. From this table we can see that there were 1,840 people claiming in December which is 7.3% lower than last year and 1.4% higher than last month.

Figure 8 Month to Month Change: Scottish Borders



Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

We can see that eight wards recorded a fall in the claimant count between December 2024 and December 2025, and those that didn't saw no change and had the same number of claimants as a year ago. The yearly changes range from a fall of 20% in Jedburgh and District to a fall of 1.6% in Galashiels and District. Again, numbers are small so a relatively large percentage change can be the result of a reduction of only 5 or 10 clients.

Table 14 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward December 2025

Wards	Dec 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants December 2025				
			Dec24 to Dec25	Nov25 to Dec25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	155	2.6	-13.9%	3.3%	45.2%	54.8%	19.4%	51.6%	32.3%
Galashiels and District	315	3.2	-1.6%	3.3%	61.9%	38.1%	22.2%	55.6%	22.2%
Hawick and Denholm	205	3.9	-14.6%	0.0%	58.5%	41.5%	17.1%	61.0%	22.0%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	3.6	-7.7%	2.9%	61.1%	38.9%	25.0%	47.2%	27.8%
Jedburgh and District	140	2.7	-20.0%	0.0%	53.6%	46.4%	21.4%	53.6%	25.0%
Kelso and District	150	2.6	0.0%	0.0%	53.3%	46.7%	20.0%	50.0%	26.7%
Leaderdale & Melrose	135	2.1	0.0%	0.0%	55.6%	44.4%	22.2%	51.9%	25.9%
Mid Berwickshire	150	2.5	-3.2%	3.4%	50.0%	50.0%	10.0%	53.3%	36.7%
Selkirkshire	155	2.8	-8.8%	-3.1%	61.3%	38.7%	22.6%	58.1%	22.6%
Tweeddale East	130	2.1	0.0%	-3.7%	53.8%	46.2%	15.4%	50.0%	38.5%
Tweeddale West	120	2.0	-11.1%	4.3%	62.5%	41.7%	16.7%	54.2%	33.3%
Scottish Borders	1,840	2.7	-7.3%	1.4%	56.5%	43.5%	19.6%	53.3%	27.2%

Source: NOMIS 20/1/2026

Looking at the month-to-month changes we can see that in four wards there was no change, in two wards a month to month fall was recorded and for the remaining five wards there was an increase in the claimant count.

The data in Table 14 also indicates that across Scottish Borders in October 56.5% of claimants were male, 19.6% were 16-24 years of age and 27.2% were over 50 years of age. In Tweedale West 62.5% of claimants were males, in East Berwickshire 54.8% were females. In terms of age cohorts 25% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Tweedale East 38.5% 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.

We can see in Table 15 that across the region there were 48,573 people in work who were claiming Universal Credit in November. All six Local Authorities have seen the number of people in this position fall between November 2024 and November. Over the last month all Local Authorities have seen an increase in the number working and claiming.

Table 15 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment in the City Region

In employment	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	% Change	
				Nov-24 to Nov 25	Oct25 to Nov25
East Lothian	3,896	3,774	3,865	-0.8%	2.4%
Scottish Borders	4,113	3,909	3,941	-4.2%	0.8%
Midlothian	3,747	3,655	3,745	-0.1%	2.5%
City of Edinburgh	15,606	15,127	15,545	-0.4%	2.8%
Fife	14,786	14,086	14,326	-3.1%	1.7%
West Lothian	7,352	6,808	7,153	-2.7%	5.1%
City Region	49,503	47,347	48,573	-1.9%	2.6%

Source: StatXplore 22/1/2026

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