

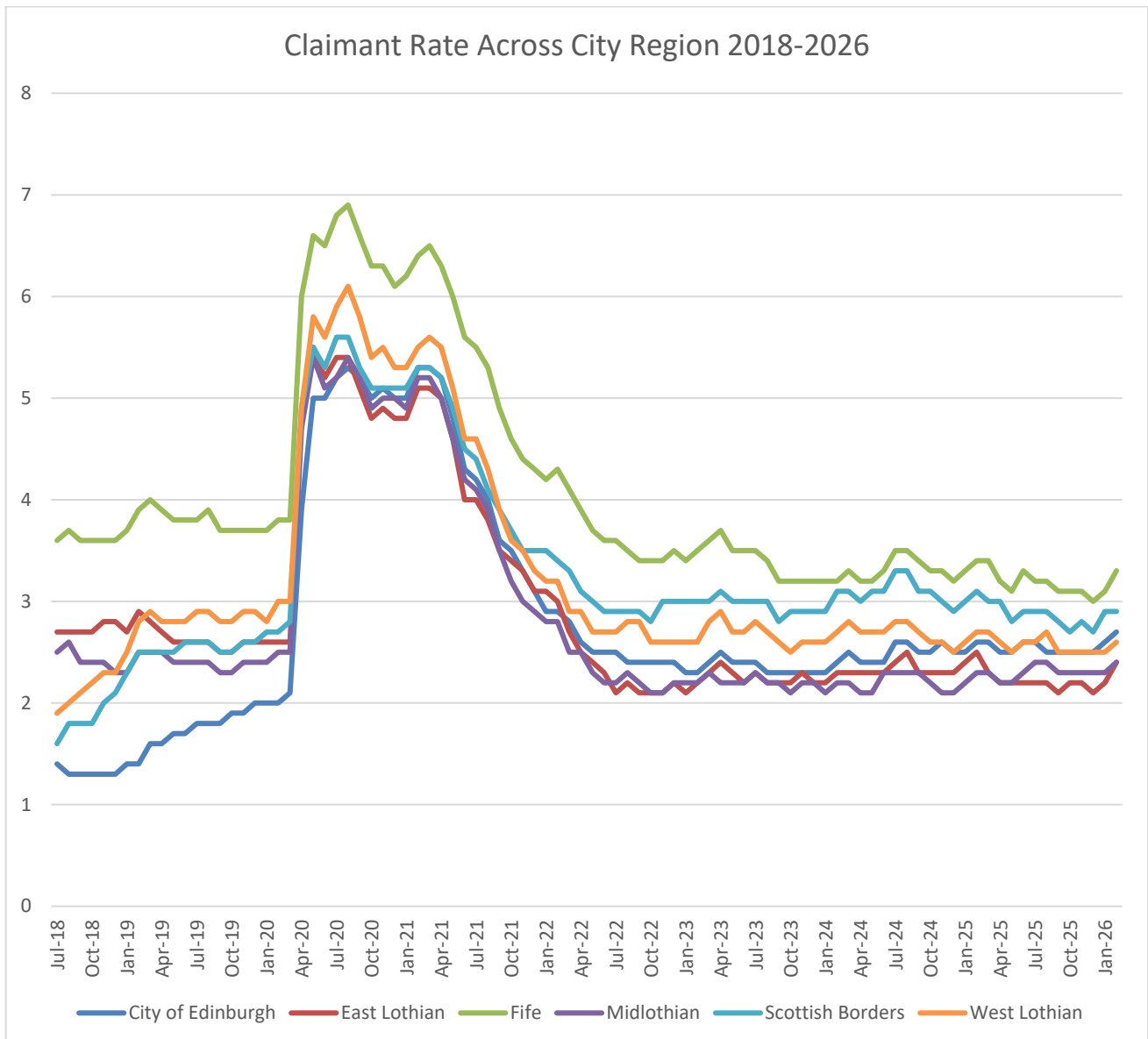
## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count February 2026 Summary Update

### Claimant Count Change Between February 2025 and February 2026:

- ↓ UK fell by 0.6%
- ↑ Scotland increased by 0.6%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 4.2%
- ↓ City Region fell by 0.2%

### Claimant Count Change Between January 2026 and February 2026:

- ↑ UK increased by 5.4%
- ↑ Scotland increased by 5.9%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 5.8%
- ↑ City Region increased by 5.4%



Source: NOMIS 19/03/2026

## City Region Summary

1. In February 2026 the claimant count for the City Region was 25,590 (in January it was 24,275). Of these
  - a. 4,960 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,745 in January.
  - b. 15,040 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,175 in January.
  - c. 5,600 were 50 or older up from 5,360 in January.
2. In January 2026 there were 46,922 Universal Credit claimants in work in the City Region.

## Edinburgh Summary

1. In February 2026 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 9,900 (in January it was 9,355). Of these
  - a. 1,555 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,525 in January.
  - b. 6,205 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,805 in January.
  - c. 2,140 were 50 or older. It was 2,025 in January.
2. In January 2026 there were 15,135 Universal Credit claimants in work in Edinburgh.

## East Lothian Summary

1. In February 2026 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,640 (in January it was 1,525). Of these
  - a. 350 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was 320.
  - b. 940 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 890.
  - c. 355 were 50 or older. In January it was 320.
2. In January 2026 there were 3,764 Universal Credit claimants in work in East Lothian.

## Fife Summary

1. In February 2026 the claimant count for Fife was 7,540 (in January it was 7,150). Of these
  - a. 1,675 were 16-24 year olds. In January there were 1,580.
  - b. 4,195 were 25-49 years of age. In January there were 3,955.
  - c. 1,670 were 50 or older. In January there were 1,615.
2. In January 2026 there were 13,718 Universal Credit claimants in work in Fife.

## Midlothian Summary

1. In February 2026 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,455 (it was 1,425 in January). Of these
  - a. 315 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was 310.
  - b. 870 were 25-49 year olds. In January it was 865.
  - c. 275 were 50 or older. In January it was 255.
2. In January 2026 there were 3,662 Universal Credit claimants in work in Midlothian.

## Scottish Borders Summary

1. In February 2026 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,965 (in January it was 1,915). Of these
  - a. 390 were 16-24 year olds. In January it was the 360.
  - b. 1,055 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 1,025.
  - c. 515 were 50 or older. In January there were 530.
2. In January 2026 there were 3,849 Universal Credit claimants in work in Scottish Borders

## West Lothian Summary

1. In February 2026 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,090 (in January it was 2905). Of these
  - a. 675 were 16-24 year olds. In January there were 650.
  - b. 1,775 were 25-49 year olds. In January there were 1,635.
  - c. 645 were 50 or older. In January there were 615.
2. In January 2026 there were 6,791 Universal Credit claimants in work in West Lothian.

## Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count February 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 February 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 East, South East and the South West, there are fewer claimants in February 2026 than there were in February 2025. Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 5% (81,290 more) higher than in January and in Scotland it is 5.8% higher (7,450 additional claimants).

**Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture**

	Feb 2021	Feb 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Percentage Change		
					Feb21- Feb26	Feb25- Feb26	Jan26- Feb26
UK	2,678,280	1,750,620	1,635,860	1,717,150	-35.9%	-1.9%	5.0%
East	210,925	133,980	127,540	134,115	-36.4%	0.1%	5.2%
East Midlands	165,630	113,450	105,835	111,800	-32.5%	-1.5%	5.6%
London	506,800	359,755	337,340	352,320	-30.5%	-2.1%	4.4%
North East	119,940	66,970	61,335	64,060	-46.6%	-4.3%	4.4%
North West	323,005	208,950	192,165	202,190	-37.4%	-3.2%	5.2%
N. Ireland	57,655	39,520	34,355	35,510	-38.4%	-10.1%	3.4%
Scotland	212,200	110,135	103,035	108,975	-48.6%	-1.1%	5.8%
South East	300,435	187,270	180,800	189,990	-36.8%	1.5%	5.1%
South West	171,590	101,065	97,010	101,820	-40.7%	0.7%	5.0%
Wales	112,990	66,755	62,725	65,985	-41.6%	-1.2%	5.2%
West Midlands	269,985	208,445	194,220	203,440	-24.6%	-2.4%	4.7%
Yorks & Humb	227,120	154,325	139,500	146,950	-35.3%	-4.8%	5.3%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

### 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 February 2021 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 2021 differs depending on the Local Authority. The smallest percentage fall (33.3%) being recorded in the Orkney Islands and the greatest percentage fall (57%) being recorded in the South Lanarkshire.

**Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities**

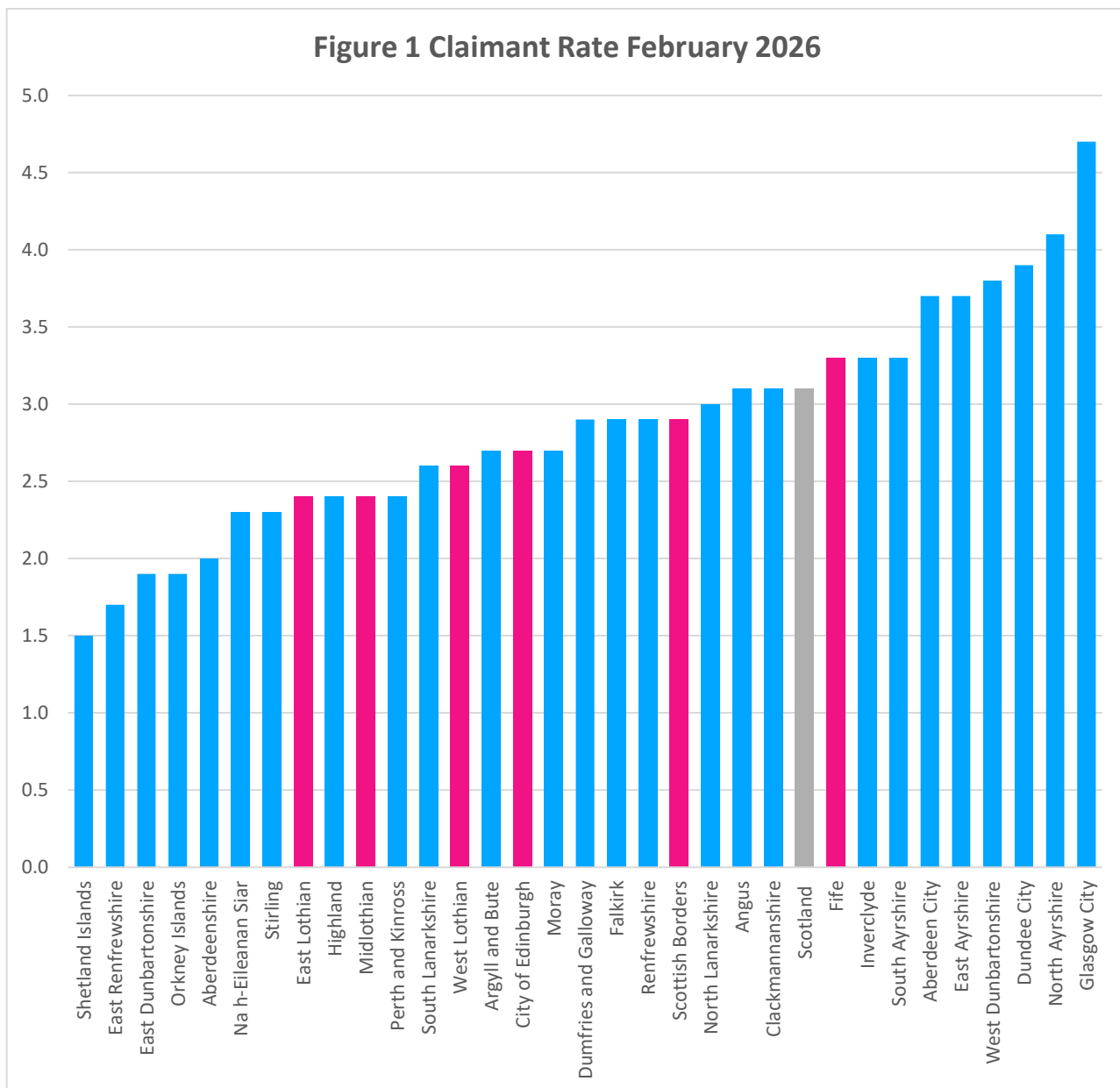
	Feb-21	Feb-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	% Change		
					Feb21-Feb26	Feb25-Feb26	Jan26-Feb26
Aberdeen City	9,725	5,160	5,230	5,635	-42.1%	9.2%	7.7%
Aberdeenshire	6,655	3,020	3,095	3,245	-51.2%	7.5%	4.8%
Angus	3,795	2,095	1,995	2,095	-44.8%	0.0%	5.0%
Argyll and Bute	2,910	1,450	1,330	1,400	-51.9%	-3.4%	5.3%
Edinburgh	18,415	9,500	9,355	9,900	-46.2%	4.2%	5.8%
Clackmannanshire	2,095	990	970	990	-52.7%	0.0%	2.1%
Dumfries & Galloway	4,700	2,365	2,225	2,380	-49.4%	0.6%	7.0%
Dundee City	7,015	3,805	3,680	3,860	-45.0%	1.4%	4.9%
East Ayrshire	5,760	2,835	2,625	2,760	-52.1%	-2.6%	5.1%
E.Dunbartonshire	2,560	1,230	1,105	1,190	-53.5%	-3.3%	7.7%
East Lothian	3,480	1,700	1,525	1,640	-52.9%	-3.5%	7.5%
East Renfrewshire	2,135	980	920	960	-55.0%	-2.0%	4.3%
Falkirk	5,945	2,845	2,825	2,975	-50.0%	4.6%	5.3%
Fife	14,735	7,800	7,150	7,540	-48.8%	-3.3%	5.5%
Glasgow City	36,405	22,350	20,720	21,765	-40.2%	-2.6%	5.0%
Highland	7,765	3,550	3,195	3,475	-55.2%	-2.1%	8.8%
Inverclyde	2,995	1,620	1,560	1,610	-46.2%	-0.6%	3.2%
Midlothian	3,070	1,385	1,425	1,455	-52.6%	5.1%	2.1%
Moray	3,040	1,450	1,365	1,535	-49.5%	5.9%	12.5%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	770	350	320	355	-53.9%	1.4%	10.9%
North Ayrshire	6,800	3,445	3,180	3,295	-51.5%	-4.4%	3.6%
North Lanarkshire	14,505	7,220	6,245	6,615	-54.4%	-8.4%	5.9%
Orkney Islands	375	230	230	250	-33.3%	8.7%	8.7%
Perth and Kinross	4,150	2,170	2,015	2,215	-46.6%	2.1%	9.9%
Renfrewshire	7,190	3,410	3,170	3,490	-51.5%	2.3%	10.1%
Scottish Borders	3,645	2,110	1,915	1,965	-46.1%	-6.9%	2.6%
Shetland Islands	470	205	175	205	-56.4%	0.0%	17.1%
South Ayrshire	4,690	2,315	2,040	2,110	-55.0%	-8.9%	3.4%
South Lanarkshire	12,640	5,775	5,125	5,435	-57.0%	-5.9%	6.0%
Stirling	2,775	1,380	1,365	1,400	-49.5%	1.4%	2.6%
W.Dunbartonshire	4,605	2,235	2,050	2,130	-53.7%	-4.7%	3.9%
West Lothian	6,385	3,155	2,905	3,090	-51.6%	-2.1%	6.4%
Scotland	212,200	110,135	103,035	108,975	-48.6%	-1.1%	5.8%
City Region	49,730	25,650	24,275	25,590	-48.5%	-0.2%	5.4%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Over the last year, thirteen 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 Angus, Clackmannanshire and Shetland Islands that saw no change. This fall has ranged from a fall of 8.9% in South Ayrshire through to a fall of 0.6% in Inverclyde.

Looking at what has happened between January and February 2026 we can see in Table 2 is that **every** Local Authority in Scotland recorded a month to month increase between January and February. This has ranged from a 2.1% increase in Clackmannanshire and Midlothian through to a 17.1% increase in the Shetland Islands. In numerical terms there are 5,940 more people claiming in

February than there were in January in Scotland and 1,315 in the six Local Authorities that make up the City Region.



Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026

Figure 1, above, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in February 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 February 2026 is lower than it was in 2021. The fall ranges from 46.1% in Scottish Borders through to 52.9% 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 2.1% (West Lothian) and 6.9% (Scottish

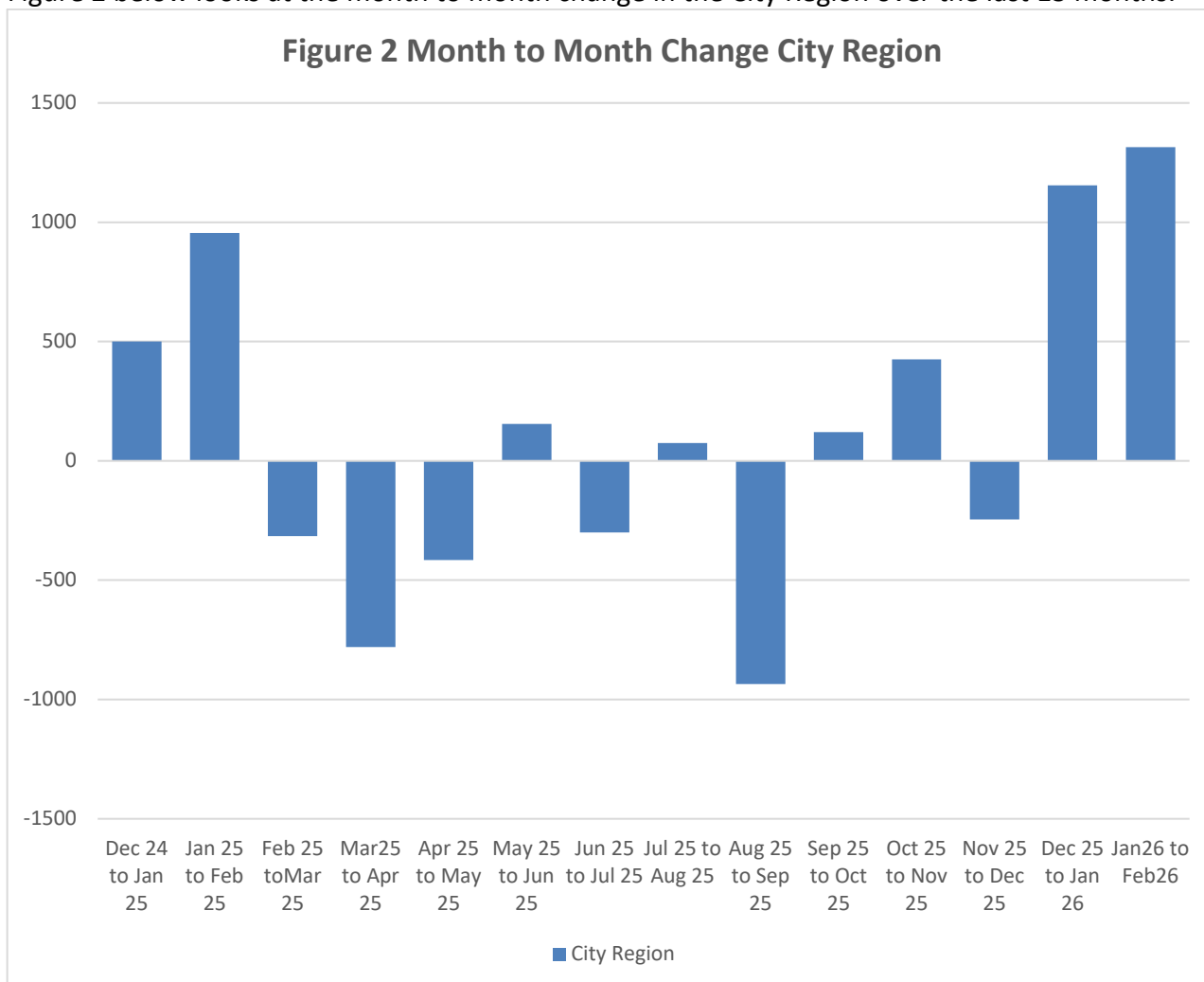
Borders). Between January and February all six Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase. This has ranged from 2.1% in Midlothian through to an 7.5% increase in East Lothian.

**Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities**

	Feb 2021	Feb 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Claimant Rate Feb 26	Percentage Change		
						Feb21-Feb26	Feb25-Feb26	Jan26-Feb26
Edinburgh	18,415	9,500	9,355	9,900	2.7	-46.2%	4.2%	5.8%
East Lothian	3,480	1,700	1,525	1,640	2.4	-52.9%	-3.5%	7.5%
Fife	14,735	7,800	7,150	7,540	3.3	-48.8%	-3.3%	5.5%
Midlothian	3,070	1,385	1,425	1,455	2.4	-52.6%	5.1%	2.1%
Scottish Borders	3,645	2,110	1,915	1,965	2.9	-46.1%	-6.9%	2.6%
West Lothian	6,385	3,155	2,905	3,090	2.6	-51.6%	-2.1%	6.4%
City Region	49,730	25,650	24,275	25,590	0.0	-48.5%	-0.2%	5.4%

Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026

Figure 2 below looks at the month to month change in the City Region over the last 13 months.



Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026

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. One point worth looking at is that the most recent December to January change is twice what we saw last year and it's the same for the January to February change.

## Gender Profile

From Table 4 we can see that two of the six Local Authorities in the city region have seen the number of male claimants decrease over the last twelve months, three have seen an increase and one recorded no change year on year. Across the region the number of male claimants in February 2026 was 300 more than in 2025.

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

Male Claimants	Feb-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	% Change	
				Feb25-Feb26	Jan26-Feb26
Edinburgh	5,535	5,590	5,950	7.5%	6.4%
East Lothian	905	840	905	0.0%	7.7%
Fife	4,550	4,235	4,415	-3.0%	4.3%
Midlothian	815	820	845	3.7%	3.0%
Scottish Borders	1,150	1,065	1,105	-3.9%	3.8%
West Lothian	1,830	1,725	1,865	1.9%	8.1%
City Region	14,785	14,275	15,085	2.0%	5.7%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Comparing the February 2026 statistics to those of January 2026 we can see that every Local Authority has seen the number of male claimants increase. This culminated in the region as a whole recording a 5.7% increase between January and February. This is based on 810 additional male claimants when compared to the January figures. The largest percentage month to month increase was in West Lothian where the male claimant count increased by 8.1% or 140 additional claimants.

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 (345 fewer female claimants). This is a decrease of 3.2% year on year. Scottish Borders saw the largest fall whilst Midlothian recorded an increase in the number of female claimants (an increase of 40 over the course of the year).

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

Females	Feb-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	% Change	
				Feb25-Feb26	Jan26-Feb26
Edinburgh	3,960	3,765	3,950	-0.3%	4.9%
East Lothian	795	685	735	-7.5%	7.3%
Fife	3,250	2,915	3,125	-3.8%	7.2%
Midlothian	570	605	610	7.0%	0.8%
Scottish Borders	955	850	860	-9.9%	1.2%
West Lothian	1,325	1,180	1,230	-7.2%	4.2%
City Region	10,855	10,000	10,510	-3.2%	5.1%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Between January and February 2026, we can see that all Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants increase. This ranged from a 0.8% increase in Midlothian through to an 7.3% increase in East Lothian. Overall, across the City Region there were 510 more female claimants, 510 additional claimants, in February when compared to January.

## Age Profile

### 16-24 Year Olds

In February 2026 there were 4,960 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 4.5% higher than a month ago and 10.2% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 460 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 215 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
Feb-21	2,915	710	3,005	655	805	1,365	9,455
Feb-25	1,310	310	1,615	275	375	615	4,500
Jan-26	1,525	320	1,580	310	360	650	4,745
Feb-26	1,555	350	1,675	315	390	675	4,960
% Change							
Feb25-Feb26	18.7%	12.9%	3.7%	14.5%	4.0%	9.8%	10.2%
Jan26-Feb26	2.0%	9.4%	6.0%	1.6%	8.3%	3.8%	4.5%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that over the last year no Local Authorities in the region have seen the number of 16-24 year olds claiming fall. The Local Authorities saw the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increase by between 18.7% (Edinburgh with an additional 245) and 3.7% (Fife with an additional 60). Over the last month every Local Authority in the City Region has seen the claimant count for this age group increase. This has ranged from a 1.6% increase in Midlothian (5 additional 16-24 year old claimants) through to 9.4% in Fife (30 additional 16-24 year old claimants).

### 25-49 Year Olds

In February 2026 there were 15,040 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 2.7% lower than a year ago and 6.1% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 420 fewer 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 865 more than last month. This can be seen in Table 8 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
Feb-21	11,385	1,885	8,220	1,740	1,875	3,620	28,725
Feb-25	6,110	1,025	4,465	835	1,130	1,895	15,460
Jan-26	5,805	890	3,955	865	1,025	1,635	14,175
Feb-26	6,205	940	4,195	870	1,055	1,775	15,040
% Change							
Feb25-Feb26	1.6%	-8.3%	-6.0%	4.2%	-6.6%	-6.3%	-2.7%
Jan26-Feb26	6.9%	5.6%	6.1%	0.6%	2.9%	8.6%	6.1%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

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 February 2025.

We can also see that all six Local Authorities in the Region have more claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 0.6% more (5 additional claimants) in Midlothian through to 8.6% more in West Lothian (140 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 February 2026 there were 5,600 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 4.5% higher than a month ago and 1.6% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 90 fewer people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago but 240 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
Feb-21	4,115	2,015	3,505	675	965	1,395	12,670
Feb-25	2,080	365	1,720	280	600	645	5,690
Jan-26	2,025	320	1,615	255	530	615	5,360
Feb-26	2,140	355	1,670	275	515	645	5,600
% Change							
Feb25-Feb26	2.9%	-2.7%	-2.9%	-1.8%	-14.2%	0.0%	-1.6%
Jan26-Feb26	5.7%	10.9%	3.4%	7.8%	-2.8%	4.9%	4.5%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see Edinburgh had more claimants in February 2026 than they recorded in the same month in 2025, West Lothian had the same and all the other Local Authorities have fewer claimants in 2026 than they did in 2025. Comparing February 2026 with January 2026 we can see that the number of claimants aged over 50 increased in all six Local Authorities in the Region.

### 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 February 2026 six 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 January was Forth, which also had the highest claimant rate in the city at 4.5%.

**Table 9 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward February 2026**

Wards	February 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants February 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	745	3.4	58.4%	40.9%	17.4%	61.1%	21.5%
City Centre	650	2.5	73.1%	26.9%	16.2%	63.1%	20.8%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	310	2.1	51.6%	48.4%	19.4%	59.7%	19.4%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	185	1.3	54.1%	43.2%	13.5%	62.2%	24.3%
Craigtinny/Duddingston	735	3.6	60.5%	39.5%	14.3%	67.3%	18.4%
Drum Brae/Gyle	385	2.6	63.6%	36.4%	16.9%	58.4%	24.7%
Forth	940	4.5	55.3%	44.7%	16.5%	63.3%	20.2%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	340	1.9	60.3%	39.7%	13.2%	64.7%	23.5%
Inverleith	340	1.6	54.4%	45.6%	13.2%	60.3%	25.0%
Leith	790	4.3	61.4%	38.0%	12.0%	68.4%	19.6%
Leith Walk	625	2.3	61.6%	38.4%	12.8%	64.8%	22.4%
Liberton/Gilmerton	780	3.2	57.1%	42.9%	17.9%	60.3%	21.8%
Morningside	235	1.1	55.3%	44.7%	17.0%	55.3%	27.7%
Pentland Hills	820	4.3	61.6%	39.0%	17.7%	59.8%	23.2%
Portobello/Craigmillar	805	3.6	57.1%	42.2%	16.1%	64.0%	19.9%
Sighthill/Gorgie	865	3.5	64.2%	36.4%	16.2%	62.4%	21.4%
Southside/Newington	355	1.3	60.6%	39.4%	15.5%	57.7%	28.2%
Column Total	9,900	2.8	60.1%	39.9%	15.7%	62.7%	21.6%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Overall, in Edinburgh in February 2026, 60.1% of claimants were male and 15.7% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 73.1% of the claimants are male. In Southside/ Newington 28.2% of claimants were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Colinton/ Farmilehead 19.4% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

### East Lothian

**Table 10 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2026**

Wards	February 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants February 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	195	2.1	48.7%	51.3%	20.5%	53.8%	23.1%
Haddington and Lammermuir	265	2.1	49.1%	50.9%	22.6%	56.6%	20.8%
Musselburgh	395	3.2	55.7%	45.6%	19.0%	59.5%	21.5%
North Berwick Coastal	120	1.5	58.3%	41.7%	12.5%	62.5%	25.0%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	285	2.6	57.9%	40.4%	22.8%	56.1%	21.1%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	380	2.4	57.9%	42.1%	25.0%	53.9%	21.1%
East Lothian	1,640	2.4	55.2%	44.8%	21.3%	57.3%	21.6%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Table 10 above gives the current situation in the six East Lothian wards. Overall, there were 1,640 claimants in East Lothian in February 2026. We can see that Musselburgh is the ward with the most claimants and also has the highest claimant rate. Across the county 55.2% of claimants are male

and this varies from 48.7% to 58.3%. Tranent Wallyford and Macmerry is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (25%) and North Berwick Coastal is the ward with the highest proportion (25%) 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 overall, there were 7,540 claimants in Fife in February 2026.

**Table 11 Fife Claimant Count by Ward February 2026**

Wards	February 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants February 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	630	5.4	59.5%	39.7%	21.4%	57.1%	21.4%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	320	3.7	57.8%	42.2%	18.8%	54.7%	26.6%
Cowdenbeath	525	3.7	61.0%	40.0%	26.7%	54.3%	20.0%
Cupar	200	2.5	55.0%	45.0%	17.5%	57.5%	25.0%
Dunfermline Central	325	2.7	56.9%	44.6%	18.5%	61.5%	20.0%
Dunfermline North	305	2.8	59.0%	41.0%	21.3%	55.7%	23.0%
Dunfermline South	410	2.6	58.5%	41.5%	23.2%	56.1%	20.7%
East Neuk and Landward	170	2.5	55.9%	44.1%	17.6%	55.9%	29.4%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	340	3.8	61.8%	39.7%	27.9%	54.4%	17.6%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	315	2.8	57.1%	42.9%	27.0%	52.4%	19.0%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	335	3.5	52.2%	47.8%	23.9%	56.7%	19.4%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	2.3	62.9%	37.1%	14.3%	54.3%	31.4%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	2.2	54.3%	45.7%	21.7%	50.0%	28.3%
Kirkcaldy Central	595	6.7	60.5%	39.5%	20.2%	55.5%	24.4%
Kirkcaldy East	550	5.6	60.9%	39.1%	22.7%	52.7%	23.6%
Kirkcaldy North	340	3.5	57.4%	42.6%	20.6%	61.8%	17.6%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	395	3.3	60.8%	39.2%	19.0%	57.0%	25.3%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	500	4.2	61.0%	38.0%	27.0%	52.0%	20.0%
Rosyth	275	2.8	54.5%	45.5%	21.8%	56.4%	21.8%
St Andrews	110	0.9	59.1%	40.9%	22.7%	54.5%	27.3%
Tay Bridgehead	230	2.5	54.3%	43.5%	17.4%	58.7%	21.7%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	275	2.8	56.4%	43.6%	25.5%	56.4%	18.2%
Fife	7,540	3.3	58.6%	41.4%	22.2%	55.6%	22.1%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Kirkcaldy Central has the highest claim rate in Fife at 6.7% whilst St Andrews has the lowest at 0.9%. Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss villages is the ward with the largest number of claimants. We can also see that 58.6% of claimants in February were male and this ranged from 62.9% in Howe of Fife and Tay Coast through to 52.2% in Glenrothes West and Kinglassie. With 27.9% of claimants being aged 16-24 Glenrothes Central and Thornton is the ward with the highest proportion of this age group in Fife whilst Howe of Fife and Tay Coast East had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 31.4% 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 1,455 claimants in February 2026.

**Table 12 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward February 2026**

Wards	February 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants February 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	235	2.0	59.6%	40.4%	17.0%	66.0%	17.0%
Dalkeith	280	2.8	62.5%	37.5%	23.2%	60.7%	16.1%
Midlothian East	285	2.8	57.9%	42.1%	26.3%	59.6%	14.0%
Midlothian South	215	2.3	53.5%	46.5%	20.9%	58.1%	18.6%
Midlothian West	245	2.2	51.0%	49.0%	18.4%	57.1%	24.5%
Penicuik	200	2.5	65.0%	35.0%	20.0%	55.0%	22.5%
Midlothian	1,455	2.4	58.1%	41.9%	21.6%	59.8%	18.9%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 58.1% of claimants are male, 21.6% are aged 16-24 and 18.9% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Penicuik had the highest proportion of male claimants (65%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (49%). In terms of the age profile 26.3% of claimants in Midlothian East were 16-24 years of age in February 2026. We can also see that 24.5% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50. Dalkeith and Midlothian East have the highest claimant rate at 2.7% of working age population claiming in February.

## West Lothian

The situation in the West Lothian wards is looked at in Table 13 below. Overall, there were 3,090 claimants in West Lothian in February 2026. 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 February 2026**

Wards	February 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants February 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadaile & Blackridge	260	2.7	57.7%	40.4%	21.2%	61.5%	17.3%
Bathgate	420	2.9	61.9%	38.1%	21.4%	57.1%	21.4%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	310	2.5	54.8%	45.2%	19.4%	58.1%	22.6%
East Livingston & E. Calder	375	2.5	61.3%	38.7%	22.7%	54.7%	21.3%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	355	3.5	63.4%	36.6%	22.5%	60.6%	18.3%
Linlithgow	120	1.2	58.3%	41.7%	20.8%	50.0%	29.2%
Livingston North	330	2.2	62.1%	37.9%	21.2%	57.6%	21.2%
Livingston South	465	3.0	57.0%	43.0%	20.4%	58.1%	20.4%
Whitburn & Blackburn	460	3.2	62.0%	38.0%	23.9%	55.4%	20.7%
West Lothian	3,090	2.7	60.4%	39.8%	21.8%	57.4%	20.9%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

Overall, we can see that 60.4% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 63.4% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall, 21.8% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants is Whitburn and

Blackburn where 23.9% are 16-24 years of age. Unusually, Linlithgow has the highest proportion of older claimants.

### Scottish Borders

Table 14 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,965 people claiming in February 2026.

**Table 14 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward February 2025**

Wards	February 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants February 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	190	3.0	47.4%	52.6%	18.4%	52.6%	26.3%
Galashiels and District	355	3.6	59.2%	40.8%	19.7%	57.7%	23.9%
Hawick and Denholm	215	4.0	55.8%	44.2%	20.9%	60.5%	20.9%
Hawick and Hermitage	190	3.8	60.5%	39.5%	26.3%	44.7%	28.9%
Jedburgh and District	145	2.9	58.6%	44.8%	20.7%	58.6%	20.7%
Kelso and District	165	2.9	51.5%	45.5%	24.2%	48.5%	27.3%
Leaderdale & Melrose	115	1.8	56.5%	43.5%	26.1%	47.8%	30.4%
Mid Berwickshire	165	2.6	51.5%	45.5%	9.1%	51.5%	36.4%
Selkirkshire	165	3.0	57.6%	39.4%	15.2%	63.6%	18.2%
Tweeddale East	140	2.2	53.6%	46.4%	21.4%	46.4%	35.7%
Tweeddale West	125	2.0	60.0%	40.0%	16.0%	52.0%	32.0%
Scottish Borders	1,965	2.9	56.2%	43.8%	19.8%	53.7%	26.2%

**Source: NOMIS 19/3/2026**

The data in Table 14 also indicates that across Scottish Borders in February 56.2% of claimants were male, 19.8% were 16-24 years of age and 26.2% were over 50 years of age. In Hawick and Hermitage 60.5% of claimants were males, in East Berwickshire 52.6% were females. In terms of age cohorts 26.3% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire 36.4% 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.

**Table 15 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment in the City Region**

In employment	Jan-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	% Change	
				Jan25-Jan 26	Dec25-Jan26
East Lothian	3,711	3,853	3,764	1.4%	-2.3%
Midlothian	3,567	3,737	3,662	2.7%	-2.0%
City of Edinburgh	15,110	15,364	15,135	0.2%	-1.5%
Fife	14,071	14,204	13,718	-2.5%	-3.4%
West Lothian	6,944	7,149	6,791	-2.2%	-5.0%
Scottish Borders	3,980	3,876	3,849	-3.3%	-0.7%
Total	47,379	48,184	46,922	-1.0%	-2.6%

**Source: StatXplore 24/3/2026**

We can see in Table 15 that across the region in January 2026 there were 46,922 people in work who were claiming Universal Credit. All six Local Authorities have seen the number of people in this position fall between December 2025 and January 2026. What we don't know from this data is how much of this fall is due to in work Universal Credit claimants earning wages that are high enough to move them from needing the support or due to people moving from work to unemployment and therefore transitioning from the in work support back to an out of work group.

Job Start Payments are a benefit delivered through Social Security Scotland which help with the costs of starting a new job. It is targeted at young people or care leavers who have been on certain benefits and are out of work. Table 16 below looks at the number of applications from each of the six Local Authorities and then the number that were authorised. This is the same data as reported on in the previous claimant count report as it hasn't been updated since February.

**Table 16 Applications and Decision for Job Start Payment**

	Applications				Authorised				% Successful
	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	total	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	total	
City of Edinburgh	85	105	45	235	30	35	20	85	36%
East Lothian	25	15	5	45	5	5		10	22%
Fife	190	225	105	520	85	95	45	225	43%
Midlothian	25	15	10	50	10	5		15	30%
Scottish Borders	15	20	10	45	10	5	5	20	44%
West Lothian	55	55	25	135	10	15	5	30	22%
City Region	395	435	200	1,030	150	160	75	385	37%

**Source: Social Security Scotland 6/3/2026**

What we can see in this table is there are large differences between the success rates which range from 44% in Scottish Borders through to 22% in West Lothian and East Lothian. We can see that overall, in the region, 37% of applications to for this payment were authorised.

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