

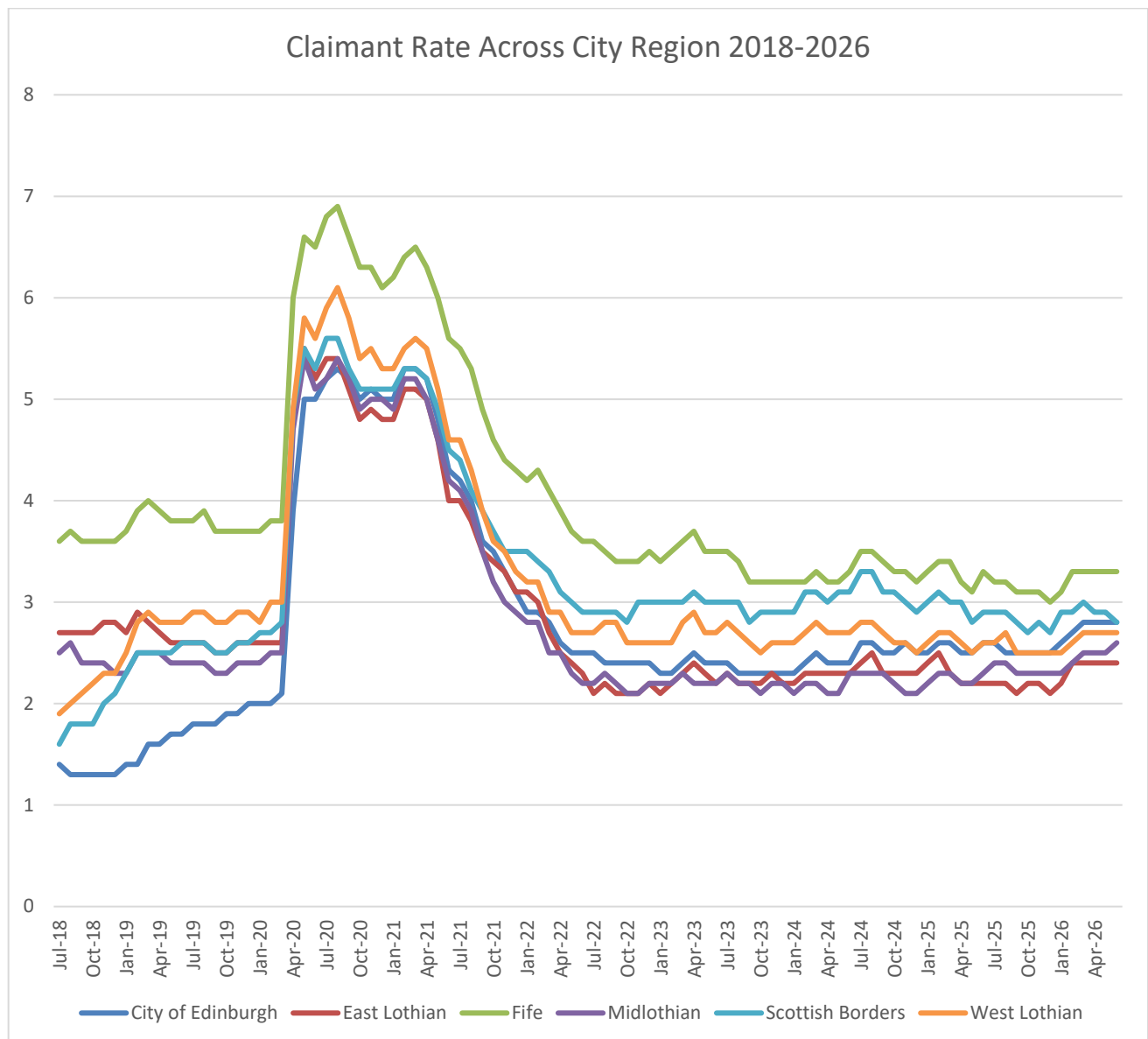
Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count June 2026 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between June 2025 and June 2026:

- UK remained the same.
- ↑ Scotland increased by 4.6%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 10.7%
- ↑ City Region increased by 7.1%

Claimant Count Change Between May 2026 and June 2026:

- ↑ UK increased by 1.1%
- ↑ Scotland increased by 0.9%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 0.7%
- ↑ City Region increased by 0.2%



Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

City Region Summary

In June 2026 the claimant count for the City Region was 26,030 (in May it was 25,975). Of these

- a. 5,230 were 16-24 year olds up from 5,185 in May.
- b. 15,065 were 25-49 year olds up from 15,030 in May.
- c. 5,730 were 50 or older down from 5,745 in May.

Edinburgh Summary

In June 2026 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,180 (in May it was 10,110). Of these

- a. 1,700 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,695 in May.
- b. 6,275 were 25-49 year olds. It was 6,230 in May.
- c. 2,205 were 50 or older. It was 2,185 in May.

East Lothian Summary

In June 2026 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,670 (in May it was 1,660). Of these

- a. 370 were 16-24 year olds. In May it was the 345.
- b. 930 were 25-49 year olds. In May there were 945.
- c. 370 were 50 or older. In May it was 365.

Fife Summary

In June 2026 the claimant count for Fife was 7,525 (in May it was 7,590). Of these

- d. 1,725 were 16-24 year olds. In May there were 1,725.
- e. 4,145 were 25-49 years of age. In May there were 4,170.
- f. 1,655 were 50 or older. In May there were 1,695.

Midlothian Summary

In June 2026 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,600 (it was 1,520 in May). Of these

- a. 330 were 16-24 year olds. In May it was 320.
- b. 950 were 25-49 year olds. In May it was 900.
- c. 320 were 50 or older. In May it was 300.

Scottish Borders Summary

In June 2026 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,890 (in May it was 1,890). Of these

- a. 375 were 16-24 year olds. In May it was 380.
- b. 1,000 were 25-49 year olds. In May there were 990.
- c. 510 were 50 or older. In May there were 515.

West Lothian Summary

In June 2026 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,165 (in May it was 3,205). Of these

- a. 730 were 16-24 year olds. In May there were 720.
- b. 1,765 were 25-49 year olds. In May there were 1,795.
- c. 670 were 50 or older. In May there were 685.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count June 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 June 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, Yorkshire and Humberside, Northern Ireland and West Midlands there are more claimants in June 2026 than there were in 2025. In the UK the claimant count is almost exactly the same in June 2026 as it was in June 2025. Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 1.1% (19,225 more) higher than in May and in Scotland it is 0.9% higher (975 additional claimants).

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	Jun-21	Jun-25	May-26	Jun-26	Percentage Change		
					June21- June26	June25- June26	May26 - June26
UK	2,285,995	1,697,420	1,677,865	1,697,120	-25.8%	0.0%	1.1%
East	175,490	130,670	130,260	131,980	-24.8%	1.0%	1.3%
East Midlands	141,540	109,470	108,670	109,820	-22.4%	0.3%	1.1%
London	440,095	364,495	347,645	353,355	-19.7%	-3.1%	1.6%
North East	103,720	63,045	63,095	63,410	-38.9%	0.6%	0.5%
North West	279,115	198,995	198,815	201,035	-28.0%	1.0%	1.1%
N. Ireland	50,590	36,835	33,250	33,365	-34.0%	-9.4%	0.3%
Scotland	179,055	104,475	108,330	109,305	-39.0%	4.6%	0.9%
South East	246,810	181,620	183,935	185,725	-24.7%	2.3%	1.0%
South West	138,335	95,910	97,215	98,155	-29.0%	2.3%	1.0%
Wales	95,050	63,185	64,145	64,885	-31.7%	2.7%	1.2%
West Midlands	238,820	203,395	199,215	201,800	-15.5%	-0.8%	1.3%
Yorks & Humb	197,370	145,330	143,285	144,290	-26.9%	-0.7%	0.7%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

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 June 2021 every Local Authority in Scotland has seen the claimant count fall.

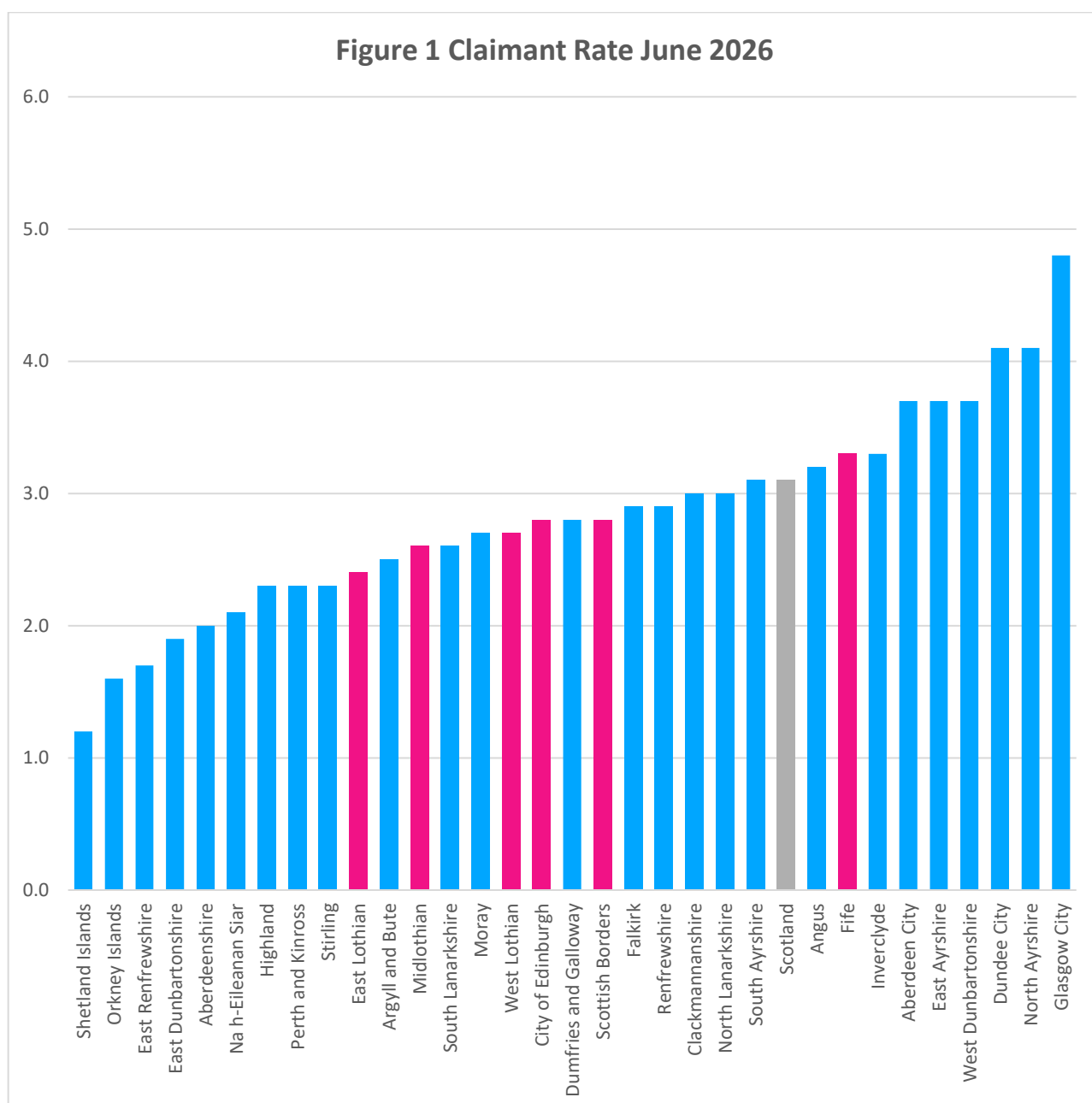
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	Jun-21	Jun-25	May-26	Jun-26	% Change			Change May to June
					Jun21- Jun26	June25- June26	May26 - June26	
Aberdeen City	8,210	5,215	5,595	5,690	-30.7%	9.1%	1.7%	95
Aberdeenshire	5,365	2,995	3,185	3,210	-40.2%	7.2%	0.8%	25
Angus	3,130	2,080	2,075	2,125	-32.1%	2.2%	2.4%	50
Argyll and Bute	2,330	1,225	1,265	1,265	-45.7%	3.3%	0.0%	0
Edinburgh	15,115	9,200	10,110	10,180	-32.6%	10.7%	0.7%	70
Clackmannanshire	1,720	1,015	965	980	-43.0%	-3.4%	1.6%	15
Dumfries & Galloway	3,905	2,230	2,365	2,370	-39.3%	6.3%	0.2%	5
Dundee City	6,105	3,865	3,870	3,990	-34.6%	3.2%	3.1%	120
East Ayrshire	4,950	2,710	2,665	2,715	-45.2%	0.2%	1.9%	50
E.Dunbartonshire	2,125	1,165	1,175	1,220	-42.6%	4.7%	3.8%	45
East Lothian	2,750	1,500	1,660	1,670	-39.3%	11.3%	0.6%	10
East Renfrewshire	1,710	950	990	1,000	-41.5%	5.3%	1.0%	10
Falkirk	5,030	2,920	3,005	2,970	-41.0%	1.7%	-1.2%	-35
Fife	12,860	7,345	7,590	7,525	-41.5%	2.5%	-0.9%	-65
Glasgow City	32,155	21,460	21,870	22,225	-30.9%	3.6%	1.6%	355
Highland	5,945	3,055	3,265	3,220	-45.8%	5.4%	-1.4%	-45
Inverclyde	2,740	1,535	1,630	1,610	-41.2%	4.9%	-1.2%	-20
Midlothian	2,525	1,380	1,520	1,600	-36.6%	15.9%	5.3%	80
Moray	2,480	1,330	1,545	1,525	-38.5%	14.7%	-1.3%	-20
Na h-Eileanan Siar	620	275	320	315	-49.2%	14.5%	-1.6%	-5
North Ayrshire	5,625	3,090	3,200	3,255	-42.1%	5.3%	1.7%	55
North Lanarkshire	12,410	6,585	6,510	6,685	-46.1%	1.5%	2.7%	175
Orkney Islands	290	200	210	200	-31.0%	0.0%	-4.8%	-10
Perth and Kinross	3,475	2,015	2,135	2,150	-38.1%	6.7%	0.7%	15
Renfrewshire	5,985	3,235	3,485	3,470	-42.0%	7.3%	-0.4%	-15
Scottish Borders	3,075	1,895	1,890	1,890	-38.5%	-0.3%	0.0%	0
Shetland Islands	380	155	170	170	-55.3%	9.7%	0.0%	0
South Ayrshire	3,930	2,065	2,030	2,000	-49.1%	-3.1%	-1.5%	-30
South Lanarkshire	10,685	5,420	5,425	5,455	-48.9%	0.6%	0.6%	30
Stirling	2,170	1,290	1,330	1,370	-36.9%	6.2%	3.0%	40
W.Dunbartonshire	3,895	2,110	2,080	2,080	-46.6%	-1.4%	0.0%	0
West Lothian	5,375	2,975	3,205	3,165	-41.1%	6.4%	-1.2%	-40
Scotland	179,055	104,475	108,330	109,305	-39.0%	4.6%	0.9%	975
City Region	41,700	24,295	25,975	26,030	-37.6%	7.1%	0.2%	55

Source: NOMIS 11/8/2026

Over the last year, four Local Authorities saw the claimant count fall, one saw no change whilst the other Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase. This increase has ranged from an increase of 0.2% in East Ayrshire through to an increase of 15.9% in Midlothian.

Looking at what has happened between May and June 2026 we can see in Table 2 that ten Local Authorities saw a month to month fall. This has ranged from a 0.4% fall in Renfrewshire through to a 4.8% fall in the Orkney Islands. Of the other Local Authorities three saw no change month to month and the remainder saw the claimant count increase by between 0.2%, Dumfries and Galloway, through to a 5.3% increase in Midlothian. In numerical terms there are 975 more people claiming in June than there were in May in Scotland and 55 additional claimants in the six Local Authorities that make up the City Region.



Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Figure 1, above, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in June 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

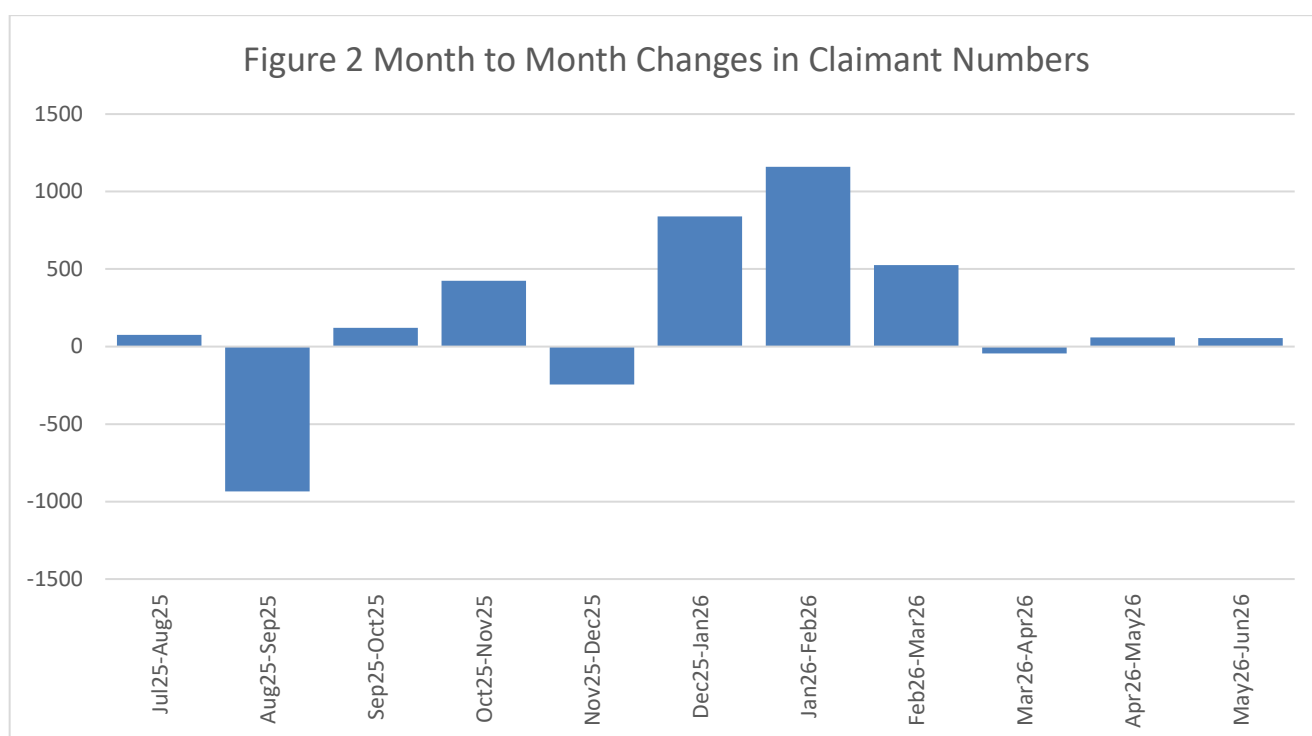
Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 3 that across the region the claimant count recorded in June 2026 is lower than it was in 2021. The fall ranges from 32.6% in Edinburgh through to 41.5% in Fife. Over the last year five of the six Local Authorities have seen the claimant count increase by between 2.5% (Fife) and 15.9% (Midlothian). Between May and June three Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase, two recorded a fall and one recorded no change.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	June 2021	June 2025	May 2026	June 2026	Claimant Rate Mar 26	Percentage Change		
						June21- June26	June25- June26	May26 - June26
Edinburgh	15,115	9,200	10,110	10,180	2.8	-32.6%	10.7%	0.7%
East Lothian	2,750	1,500	1,660	1,670	2.4	-39.3%	11.3%	0.6%
Fife	12,860	7,345	7,590	7,525	3.3	-41.5%	2.5%	-0.9%
Midlothian	2,525	1,380	1,520	1,600	2.6	-36.6%	15.9%	5.3%
Scottish Borders	3,075	1,895	1,890	1,890	2.8	-38.5%	-0.3%	0.0%
West Lothian	5,375	2,975	3,205	3,165	2.7	-41.1%	6.4%	-1.2%
City Region	41,700	24,295	25,975	26,030	0.0	-37.6%	7.1%	0.2%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Figure 2 below looks at the month to month change in the City Region over the last 16 months. What we can see in the figure below is that whilst there have been falls, there have also been increases month to month. If we look at what has happened since December 2025, we can see that for the first three months of the year there has been some considerable month to month increases. Over the last three months it has been more stable.



Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

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 June 2026 was 1,150 more than in 2025.

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

Male Claimants	Jun-25	May-26	Jun-26	% Change	
				June25-June26	May26 - June26
Edinburgh	5,405	6,120	6,110	13.0%	-0.2%
East Lothian	810	920	920	13.6%	0.0%
Fife	4,260	4,405	4,385	2.9%	-0.5%
Midlothian	785	855	900	14.6%	5.3%
Scottish Borders	1,075	1,045	1,050	-2.3%	0.5%
West Lothian	1,740	1,875	1,860	6.9%	-0.8%
City Region	14,075	15,220	15,225	8.2%	0.0%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Comparing the May 2026 statistics to those of June 2026 we can see that two Local Authorities have seen the number of male claimants increase, three saw a month on month fall and one saw no change at all. This culminated in the region as a whole recording no real change between May and June.

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 (535 more female claimants). This is an increase of 5.8% year on year. We can see in that table that Midlothian saw the number of female claimants increase by 18.6% over the course of the year (110 additional female claimants).

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

Female Claimants	Jun-25	May-26	Jun-26	% Change	
				June25-June26	May26 - June26
Edinburgh	3,795	3,985	4,070	7.2%	2.1%
East Lothian	690	735	750	8.7%	2.0%
Fife	3,080	3,185	3,140	1.9%	-1.4%
Midlothian	590	665	700	18.6%	5.3%
Scottish Borders	820	845	840	2.4%	-0.6%
West Lothian	1,235	1,330	1,305	5.7%	-1.9%
City Region	10,210	10,745	10,805	5.8%	0.6%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Between May and June 2026, we can see that three of the six Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants increase. This ranged from a 2% increase in East Lothian through to a 5.3% increase in Midlothian. Overall, across the City Region there were 0.6% more female claimants, 60 additional claimants, in June when compared to May.

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In June 2026 there were 5,230 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 0.9% higher than a month ago and 16% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 720 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 145 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
Jun-21	2,380	545	2,695	570	660	1,210	8,060
Jun-25	1,340	305	1,575	290	370	630	4,510
May-26	1,695	345	1,725	320	380	720	5,185
Jun-26	1,700	370	1,725	330	375	730	5,230
% Change							
June25-June26	26.9%	21.3%	9.5%	13.8%	1.4%	15.9%	16.0%
May26 - June26	0.3%	7.2%	0.0%	3.1%	-1.3%	1.4%	0.9%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

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 21.3% increase in East Lothian (65 additional claimants) through to an 1.4% increase in Scottish Borders (five additional claimants). The month to month change has one Local Authority recording a fall in the number of 16-24 year olds (Scottish Borders), one recorded no change (Fife) and the others recorded a month to month increase.

25-49 Year Olds

Tuning now to look at the largest age group of claimants - the 25-49 year old age group. In June 2026 there were 15,065 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 3.6% higher than a year ago and 0.2% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 520 more 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 35 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
Jun-21	9,245	1,560	7,220	1,415	1,580	3,040	24,060
Jun-25	5,865	890	4,145	845	1,025	1,775	14,545
May-26	6,230	945	4,170	900	990	1,795	15,030
Jun-26	6,275	930	4,145	950	1,000	1,765	15,065
% Change							
June25-June26	7.0%	4.5%	0.0%	12.4%	-2.4%	-0.6%	3.6%
May26 - June26	0.7%	-1.6%	-0.6%	5.6%	1.0%	-1.7%	0.2%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that two Local Authorities have less claimants than a year ago and one has the same number. We can also see that three of the six Local Authorities in the Region have more claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 0.7% more (45 additional claimants) in Edinburgh - through to a 5.6% increase in Midlothian (50

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 June 2026 there were 5,730 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 9.5% higher than a year ago but 0.3% lower than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 495 additional people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago and 15 less 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
Jun-21	3,490	1,595	2,940	540	835	1,125	10,525
Jun-25	2,000	305	1,620	240	500	570	5,235
May-26	2,185	365	1,695	300	515	685	5,745
Jun-26	2,205	370	1,655	320	510	670	5,730
% Change							
June25-June26	10.3%	21.3%	2.2%	33.3%	2.0%	17.5%	9.5%
May26 - June26	0.9%	1.4%	-2.4%	6.7%	-1.0%	-2.2%	-0.3%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that three of the six Local Authorities recorded more claimants aged 50 or over in June than they did in May. Scottish Borders recorded a 1.0% fall, whilst Midlothian saw the number of claimants aged 50 or over increase by 6.7% between May and June.

Ward Profile

The discussion now moves to look at what is happening in the individual wards around the Region.

Edinburgh

Table 9 gives the current situation in the seventeen Edinburgh wards. From the table we can see that in June 2026 eight wards had 750 or more claimants; ten wards had more than 500 and no wards had 200 or fewer claimants. The ward with the highest number of claimants in June was Forth (965), which also had the joint highest claimant rate in the city with Pentland Hills at 4.6%.

Table 9 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward June 2026

Wards	June 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants June 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	795	3.6	57.2%	43.4%	19.5%	59.7%	20.8%
City Centre	655	2.5	71.0%	28.2%	17.6%	58.8%	23.7%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	320	2.2	50.0%	50.0%	17.2%	59.4%	23.4%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	200	1.4	50.0%	50.0%	15.0%	62.5%	22.5%
Craightinny/Duddingston	760	3.7	61.2%	38.2%	15.1%	66.4%	18.4%
Drum Brae/Gyle	340	2.3	64.7%	35.3%	20.6%	55.9%	23.5%
Forth	965	4.6	55.4%	44.6%	15.5%	63.7%	20.7%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	330	1.9	59.1%	40.9%	15.2%	60.6%	24.2%
Inverleith	360	1.7	54.2%	45.8%	15.3%	58.3%	26.4%

Leith	815	4.4	63.2%	36.8%	14.1%	65.0%	20.9%
Leith Walk	640	2.4	58.6%	41.4%	14.1%	63.3%	23.4%
Liberton/Gilmerton	810	3.3	58.6%	41.4%	17.3%	62.3%	20.4%
Morningside	240	1.1	56.3%	45.8%	14.6%	60.4%	25.0%
Pentland Hills	885	4.6	61.6%	39.0%	18.6%	60.5%	20.9%
Portobello/Craigmillar	855	3.8	58.5%	42.1%	15.2%	63.2%	21.6%
Sighthill/Gorgie	845	3.5	65.7%	34.3%	20.1%	59.2%	20.1%
Southside/Newington	365	1.3	61.6%	38.4%	16.4%	58.9%	23.3%
Column Total	10,180	2.9	60.0%	40.0%	16.7%	61.6%	21.7%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Overall, in Edinburgh in June 2026, 60% of claimants were male, 16.7% are aged 16-24 and 21.7% of claimants are aged 50 or over. The City Centre ward record that 71.0% of the claimants are male. In Inverleith 26.4% of claimants were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Drum Brae/ Gyle 20.6% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

East Lothian

Table 10 below gives the current situation in the six East Lothian wards. Overall, there were 1,670 claimants in East Lothian in June 2026 and it is also clear from the table that Musselburgh is the ward with the most claimants, 405, and also has the highest claimant rate 3.3.

Table 10 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward June 2026

Wards	June 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants June 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	215	2.3	48.8%	51.2%	18.6%	55.8%	23.3%
Haddington and Lammermuir	255	2.1	49.0%	51.0%	23.5%	58.8%	19.6%
Musselburgh	405	3.3	58.0%	42.0%	22.2%	56.8%	22.2%
North Berwick Coastal	130	1.6	57.7%	42.3%	15.4%	53.8%	26.9%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	265	2.4	54.7%	45.3%	22.6%	54.7%	24.5%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	395	2.5	58.2%	41.8%	25.3%	54.4%	21.5%
East Lothian	1,670	2.4	55.1%	44.9%	22.2%	55.7%	22.2%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Across the county 55.1% of claimants are male and this varies from 48.8% in Dunbar and East Linton through to 58.2% in Tranent, Wallyford and MacMerry. On average in East Lothian 22.2% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 22.2% of claimants are 50 or over. Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (25.3%) 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 7,525 claimants in Fife in June 2026. We can see that there were four wards with more than 500 claimants and four wards with fewer than 200 claimants. Kirkcaldy Central has the highest claim rate in Fife at 6.8% and Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages had the overall highest number of claimants (635). St Andrews not only has the lowest number of claimants (105) it also has the lowest claimant rate at 0.8%.

Table 11 Fife Claimant Count by Ward June 2026

Wards	June 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants June 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	635	5.5	60.6%	40.2%	22.0%	54.3%	23.6%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	320	3.7	59.4%	40.6%	23.4%	53.1%	23.4%
Cowdenbeath	495	3.5	58.6%	41.4%	27.3%	53.5%	19.2%
Cupar	195	2.5	53.8%	46.2%	17.9%	56.4%	25.6%
Dunfermline Central	315	2.6	57.1%	41.3%	19.0%	58.7%	20.6%
Dunfermline North	325	3.0	58.5%	41.5%	20.0%	58.5%	21.5%
Dunfermline South	380	2.4	56.6%	43.4%	22.4%	56.6%	21.1%
East Neuk and Landward	155	2.2	54.8%	45.2%	16.1%	58.1%	25.8%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	340	3.8	60.3%	39.7%	33.8%	50.0%	16.2%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	305	2.8	54.1%	45.9%	26.2%	55.7%	18.0%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	370	3.9	56.8%	44.6%	27.0%	50.0%	23.0%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	165	2.2	60.6%	39.4%	18.2%	51.5%	33.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	225	2.1	55.6%	44.4%	22.2%	48.9%	28.9%
Kirkcaldy Central	610	6.8	57.4%	42.6%	20.5%	55.7%	23.8%
Kirkcaldy East	550	5.6	60.0%	40.0%	22.7%	53.6%	22.7%
Kirkcaldy North	345	3.6	56.5%	43.5%	23.2%	55.1%	21.7%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	410	3.4	59.8%	41.5%	24.4%	53.7%	22.0%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	540	4.6	61.1%	39.8%	25.0%	57.4%	17.6%
Rosyth	290	3.0	58.6%	43.1%	24.1%	55.2%	22.4%
St Andrews	105	0.8	71.4%	33.3%	23.8%	52.4%	28.6%
Tay Bridgehead	205	2.2	56.1%	46.3%	17.1%	65.9%	17.1%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	240	2.4	58.3%	41.7%	20.8%	60.4%	18.8%
Fife	7,525	3.3	58.3%	41.7%	22.9%	55.1%	22.0%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

We can also see that 58.3% of claimants in June were male and this ranged from 71.4% in St Andrews through to 53.8% in Cupar. Overall, in Fife 22.9% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 22.0% are 50 or over. With 33.8% 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 had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 33.3% 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 1,600 claimants in June 2026. Every Midlothian ward has a claimant count of between 200 and 300 and in every ward the rate is between 2 and 3%.

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 56.3% of claimants are male, 20.6% are aged 16-24 and 20.0% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Dalkeith had the highest proportion of male claimants (60.3%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (50%). In terms of the age profile 22.4% of claimants in Dalkeith and Midlothian West were 16-24 years of age in June 2026. We can also see that 24.4% of claimants in Penicuik were over the age of 50. Dalkeith and Penicuik have the highest claimant rate at 2.9% of working age population claiming in June.

Table 12 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward June 2026

Wards	June 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants June 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	255	2.2	56.9%	45.1%	19.6%	62.7%	19.6%
Dalkeith	290	2.9	60.3%	39.7%	22.4%	58.6%	19.0%
Midlothian East	290	2.8	55.2%	44.8%	22.4%	62.1%	15.5%
Midlothian South	265	2.8	54.7%	45.3%	20.8%	60.4%	18.9%
Midlothian West	270	2.4	50.0%	50.0%	18.5%	59.3%	22.2%
Penicuik	225	2.9	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	55.6%	24.4%
Midlothian	1,600	2.7	56.3%	43.8%	20.6%	59.4%	20.0%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

West Lothian

The situation in the West Lothian wards is looked at in Table 13 below. Overall, there were 3,165 claimants in West Lothian in June 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 ward with the highest claimant rate is Whitburn and Blackburn while Linlithgow has the lowest.

Table 13 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward June 2026

Wards	June 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants May 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadaile & Blackridge	290	3.0	53.4%	44.8%	25.9%	56.9%	17.2%
Bathgate	445	3.1	61.8%	38.2%	27.0%	53.9%	19.1%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	295	2.4	52.5%	47.5%	18.6%	57.6%	23.7%
East Livingston & E. Calder	400	2.7	58.8%	41.3%	22.5%	55.0%	22.5%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	345	3.4	63.8%	36.2%	21.7%	59.4%	20.3%
Linlithgow	130	1.3	57.7%	42.3%	26.9%	50.0%	23.1%
Livingston North	305	2.0	60.7%	39.3%	19.7%	57.4%	23.0%
Livingston South	460	3.0	58.7%	42.4%	22.8%	56.5%	20.7%
Whitburn & Blackburn	500	3.5	59.0%	40.0%	24.0%	53.0%	22.0%
West Lothian	3,165	2.7	58.8%	41.2%	23.1%	55.8%	21.2%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

Overall, we can see that 58.8% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 63.8% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall, 23.1% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants is Bathgate where 27.0% are 16-24 years of age. Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh has the highest proportion of older claimants (23.7%).

Scottish Borders

Table 14 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,890 people claiming in June 2026. The data in Table 14 indicates that ten wards had recorded under 200 claimants. 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 (3.7%) whilst Leaderdale and Melrose has the lowest claimant rate (1.7%).

Table 14 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward June 2026

Wards	Total	Rate	Proportion of Claimants June 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	180	2.8	50.0%	50.0%	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%
Galashiels and District	325	3.4	60.0%	40.0%	20.0%	56.9%	23.1%
Hawick and Denholm	195	3.7	56.4%	43.6%	23.1%	53.8%	23.1%
Hawick and Hermitage	175	3.4	57.1%	40.0%	25.7%	45.7%	25.7%
Jedburgh and District	160	3.1	53.1%	46.9%	21.9%	56.3%	21.9%
Kelso and District	165	2.9	48.5%	51.5%	18.2%	51.5%	30.3%
Leaderdale & Melrose	110	1.7	54.5%	45.5%	22.7%	45.5%	31.8%
Mid Berwickshire	170	2.7	55.9%	44.1%	14.7%	52.9%	32.4%
Selkirkshire	170	3.1	58.8%	41.2%	17.6%	61.8%	20.6%
Tweeddale East	115	1.8	52.2%	47.8%	21.7%	43.5%	34.8%
Tweeddale West	125	2.1	60.0%	44.0%	16.0%	56.0%	28.0%
Scottish Borders	1,890	2.8	55.6%	44.4%	19.8%	52.9%	27.0%

Source: NOMIS 10/8/2026

We can also see that across Scottish Borders in March 55.6% of claimants were male, 19.8% were 16-24 years of age and 27% were over 50 years of age. In Galashiels and District and in Tweeddale West 60.0% of claimants were males, in Kelso and District 51.5% were females. In terms of age cohorts 25.7% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Tweeddale East 34.8% 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. In addition to the publication dates changing, the data is also presented in a different format so the simple 'In Work Claiming Universal Credit' count that has been available no longer exists on StatXplore, replaced instead by a conditionality regime that reflects:

¹ [Stat-Xplore - Home](#)

- Searching for work
- Working – with requirements
- No work requirements
- Working - no requirements
- Planning for work
- Preparing for work
- Unknown or missing regime
- Not available prior to April 2015

The table below presents the data over the last 6 months for the City Region and for the Local Authorities. It is broken down in terms of the 6 conditionality regimes that are the most useful.

We can see that overall, currently there are nearly 90,000 people in the region who have no work requirements. These people who are not expected to work at present as a health or caring responsibility prevents the claimant from working or preparing for work. Examples of people in this regime include those in full time education, over state pension age, have a child under 1 years old and those with no prospect to work. This has increased from around 84,000 since September 2025.

We can also see that in the region there are around 10,500 claimants who are in the preparing for work category (Expected to start preparing for future work even with limited capability for work at the present time or a child aged 2. Practically this means the claimant is expected to take reasonable steps to prepare for work including Work Focused Interview). This is much the same as it was in September.

Table 15 Universal Credit Claimants in the City Region

		Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26
East Lothian	Searching for work	1,363	1,365	1,380	1,331	1,414	1,507
	Working - with requirements	1,240	1,188	1,251	1,253	1,234	1,220
	No work requirements	6,272	6,395	6,483	6,537	6,539	6,551
	Working - no requirements	1,805	1,804	1,791	1,841	1,761	1,744
	Planning for work	121	109	118	112	117	125
	Preparing for work	676	677	675	685	674	663
Midlothian	Searching for work	1,262	1,242	1,264	1,277	1,315	1,334
	Working - with requirements	1,148	1,145	1,109	1,132	1,122	1,114
	No work requirements	6,258	6,367	6,483	6,548	6,574	6,623
	Working - no requirements	1,627	1,653	1,639	1,635	1,558	1,535
	Planning for work	143	142	132	133	131	137
	Preparing for work	636	657	679	673	660	657
City of Edinburgh	Searching for work	8,070	8,154	8,442	8,477	8,627	9,059
	Working - with requirements	5,599	5,543	5,649	5,547	5,522	5,452
	No work requirements	24,869	25,688	26,371	26,742	26,804	27,002
	Working - no requirements	6,992	6,928	6,713	6,896	6,706	6,477
	Planning for work	503	511	523	510	493	470
	Preparing for work	3,394	3,458	3,523	3,530	3,512	3,517

		Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26
Fife	Searching for work	6,524	6,539	6,631	6,470	6,700	7,020
	Working - with requirements	4,200	4,170	4,175	4,198	4,024	4,073
	No work requirements	26,754	27,343	27,884	28,157	28,201	28,286
	Working - no requirements	6,756	6,679	6,492	6,567	6,455	6,113
	Planning for work	476	471	466	469	456	479
	Preparing for work	3,494	3,518	3,523	3,530	3,500	3,450
West Lothian	Searching for work	2,640	2,673	2,701	2,670	2,671	2,807
	Working - with requirements	2,253	2,248	2,337	2,330	2,287	2,290
	No work requirements	13,571	13,872	14,157	14,265	14,330	14,428
	Working - no requirements	3,308	3,245	3,162	3,240	3,167	2,983
	Planning for work	199	210	217	205	218	220
	Preparing for work	1,466	1,462	1,469	1,456	1,435	1,423
Scottish Borders	Searching for work	1,703	1,661	1,709	1,711	1,787	1,822
	Working - with requirements	1,231	1,266	1,241	1,221	1,223	1,192
	No work requirements	6,308	6,471	6,599	6,669	6,671	6,711
	Working - no requirements	1,894	1,852	1,846	1,863	1,778	1,757
	Planning for work	126	138	135	125	131	124
	Preparing for work	744	755	759	764	750	747
City Region	Searching for work	21,562	21,634	22,127	21,936	22,514	23,549
	Working - with requirements	15,671	15,560	15,762	15,681	15,412	15,341
	No work requirements	84,032	86,136	87,977	88,918	89,119	89,601
	Working - no requirements	22,382	22,161	21,643	22,042	21,425	20,609
	Planning for work	1,568	1,581	1,591	1,554	1,546	1,555
	Preparing for work	10,410	10,527	10,628	10,638	10,531	10,457

Source: StatXplore 10/8/2026

Over the last 6 months there has been a small fall in the number of people featuring in the count of Universal Credit claimants who are working with requirements. It was 15,671 in September 2025 and in February 2026 it was 15,341. This group are those that are in work but could earn more, or not working but has a partner with low earnings.

Working with no requirements are those individual or households where earnings are over the level at which conditionality applies. Required to inform DWP of changes of circumstances, particularly if at risk of decreasing earnings or job loss). This number has fallen over the last 6 months from 22,382 in September 2025 to 20,609 in February 2026.

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14/8/2026

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