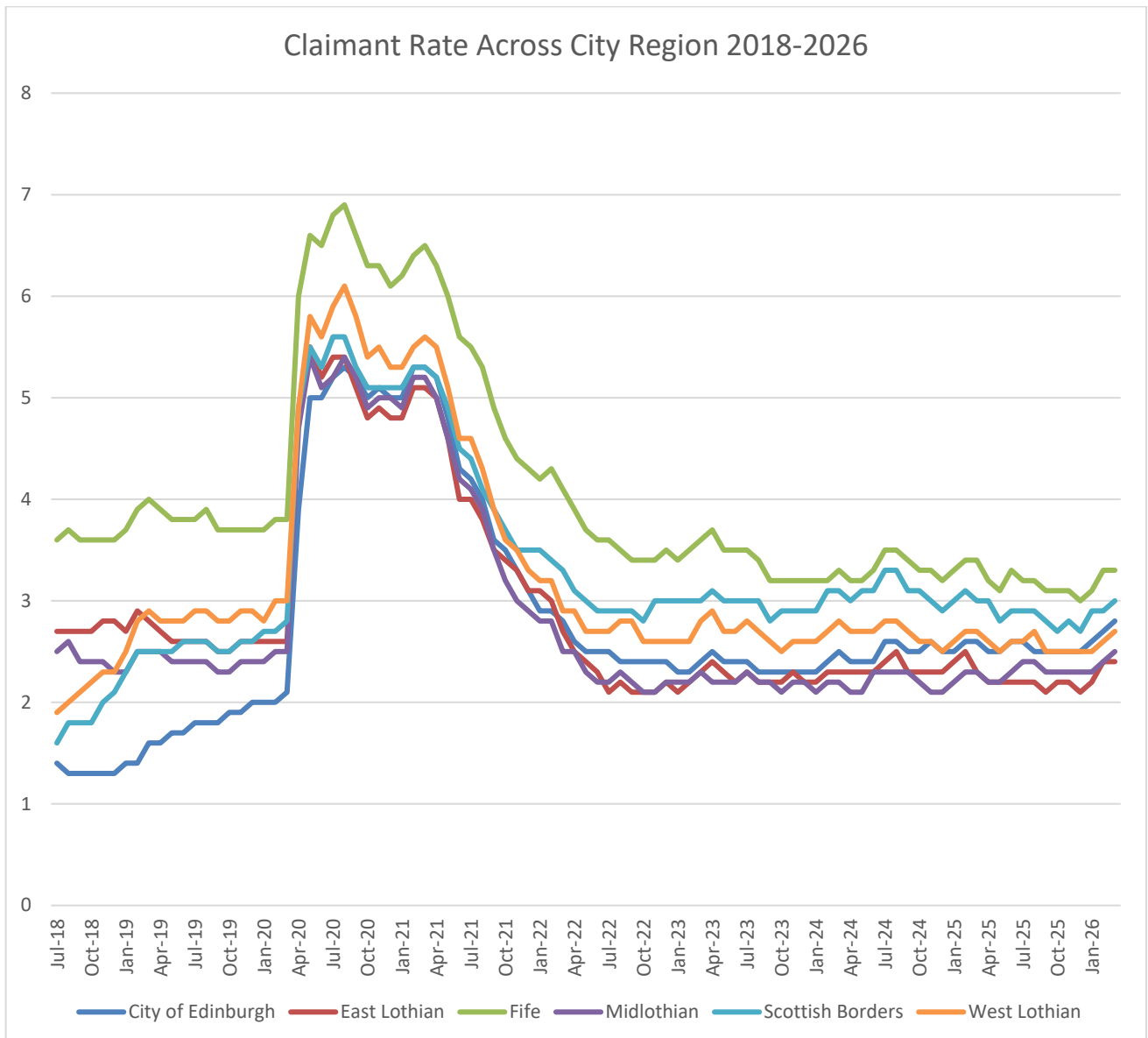


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 2026 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between March 2025 and March 2026:	Claimant Count Change Between February 2026 and March 2026:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK fell by 1.1% ↑ Scotland increased by 1.8% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 9.1% ↑ City Region increased by 3.5% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 2.2% ↑ Scotland increased by 2.4% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 4.2% ↑ City Region increased by 3.0%



Source: NOMIS 30/04/2026

City Region Summary

1. In March 2026 the claimant count for the City Region was 26,210 (in February it was 25,435). Of these
 - a. 5,180 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,965 in February.
 - b. 15,335 were 25-49 year olds up from 14,925 in February.
 - c. 5,700 were 50 or older up from 5,540 in February.
2. In February 2026 there were 46,727 Universal Credit claimants in work in the City Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In March 2026 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,270 (in February it was 9,860). Of these
 - a. 1,665 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,575 in February.
 - b. 6,425 were 25-49 year olds. It was 6,180 in February.
 - c. 2,185 were 50 or older. It was 2,110 in February.
2. In February 2026 there were 14,970 Universal Credit claimants in work in Edinburgh.

East Lothian Summary

1. In March 2026 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,695 (in February it was 1,645). Of these
 - a. 350 were 16-24 year olds. In February it was the same.
 - b. 970 were 25-49 year olds. In February there were 940.
 - c. 375 were 50 or older. In February it was 355.
2. In February 2026 there were 3,783 Universal Credit claimants in work in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In March 2026 the claimant count for Fife was 7,560 (in February it was 7,485). Of these
 - a. 1,740 were 16-24 year olds. In February there were 1,670.
 - b. 4,135 were 25-49 years of age. In February there were 4,160.
 - c. 1,685 were 50 or older. In February there were 1,650.
2. In February 2026 there were 13,755 Universal Credit claimants in work in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In March 2026 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,530 (it was 1,440 in February). Of these
 - a. 315 were 16-24 year olds. In February it was 310.
 - b. 935 were 25-49 year olds. In February it was 855.
 - c. 280 were 50 or older. In February it was 270.
2. In February 2026 there were 3,607 Universal Credit claimants in work in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In March 2026 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,985 (in February it was 1,935). Of these
 - a. 405 were 16-24 year olds. In February it was the 380.
 - b. 1,060 were 25-49 year olds. In February there were 1,040.
 - c. 520 were 50 or older. In February there were 515.
2. In February 2026 there were 3,839 Universal Credit claimants in work in Scottish Borders

West Lothian Summary

1. In March 2026 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,170 (in February it was 3,070). Of these
 - a. 705 were 16-24 year olds. In February there were 680.
 - b. 1,810 were 25-49 year olds. In February there were 1,750.
 - c. 655 were 50 or older. In February there were 640.
2. In February 2026 there were 6,771 Universal Credit claimants in work in West Lothian.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count March 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 March 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 Scotland, Wales, East, South East and the South West, there are fewer claimants in March 2026 than there were in March 2025. In the UK the claimant count is 1.1% lower in 2026 than it was in 2025. Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 2.1% (36,245 more) higher than in February and in Scotland it is 2.4% higher (2,600 additional claimants).

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	March 2021	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	Percentage Change		
					Mar21-Mar26	Mar25-Mar26	Feb26-Mar26
UK	2,675,305	1,742,415	1,686,585	1,722,830	-35.6%	-1.1%	2.1%
East	210,510	133,430	131,705	134,340	-36.2%	0.7%	2.0%
East Midlands	165,265	113,675	109,720	112,315	-32.0%	-1.2%	2.4%
London	509,070	359,600	345,025	351,085	-31.0%	-2.4%	1.8%
North East	119,370	66,455	63,050	64,310	-46.1%	-3.2%	2.0%
North West	322,500	207,435	198,300	203,745	-36.8%	-1.8%	2.7%
N. Ireland	57,110	38,505	34,865	35,195	-38.4%	-8.6%	0.9%
Scotland	211,930	108,550	107,900	110,500	-47.9%	1.8%	2.4%
South East	299,550	187,090	186,885	190,585	-36.4%	1.9%	2.0%
South West	171,255	100,440	100,110	102,240	-40.3%	1.8%	2.1%
Wales	112,150	65,945	64,865	66,405	-40.8%	0.7%	2.4%
West Midlands	269,485	208,340	199,850	204,170	-24.2%	-2.0%	2.2%
Yorks & Humb	227,100	152,945	144,310	147,930	-34.9%	-3.3%	2.5%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

Universal Credit is a benefit that has been developed to encompass a number of benefits and at times this has meant that a claimant count recorded at a particular point in time has been amplified by clients transferring from other benefits rather than labour market changes. One factor that has been considered is what has been happening over the last 24 months or so where claimants have moved from Employment Support Allowance onto Universal Credit and whether or not any of the Employment Support Allowance claimants have found themselves in the "Searching for Work

Group”. There are six groups included in the Universal Credit Count and what is included in each group is set out in the table below.

Table 2 Different Conditionality Regimes Within Universal Credit

Conditionality Regime	Description	UK Number March 2026
Searching for work	Not working, or with very low earnings. Claimant is required to take action to secure work - or more / better paid work. Typical examples of people in this regime include jobseekers and gainfully self-employed in start-up period. Claimants are only in this regime if they do not fit into one of the other regimes.	1,608,965
Working - with requirements	In work but could earn more, or not working but has a partner with low earnings	882,906
No work requirements	Not expected to work at present. Health or caring responsibility prevents 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.	4,234,253
Working - no requirements	Individual or household earnings 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.	1,195,526
Planning for work	Expected to work in the future. Lone parent / lead carer of child aged 1. The claimant is required to attend periodic interviews to plan for their return to work.	90,932
Preparing for work	Expected to start preparing for future work even with limited capability for work at the present time or a child aged 2, the claimant is expected to take reasonable steps to prepare for work including Work Focused Interview.	392,448

Source: StatXplore 4/5/2026

After looking at the published data there was a concern that the number falling into the preparing for work group **may** have been high enough to have explained some of the changes we have seen. However after receiving advice from DWP it would appear that in March 2026 there were 392,448 claimants who were in the Preparing for Work Conditionality Regime. So, whilst this migration from one benefit to another is not insubstantial, it alone is not causing the claimant count to remain where it is. Although it does indicate that in March 2026 the number searching for work could be increased by around a quarter if the preparing for work numbers are added in.

On 12th May 2026 the Universal Credit Official Statistics team will publish data on StatXplore that will include previous legacy benefits. Numbers of Employment Support Allowance customers who Moved to UC and are in work preparation and searching for work will be available, and we will be able to break these figures down by local authority.

Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 3 focuses on Scottish Local Authorities and, like the nations and regions examined in Table 1, we can see that since March 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 (37.7%) being recorded in the Orkney Islands and the greatest percentage fall (57%) being recorded in the South Lanarkshire.

Table 3: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

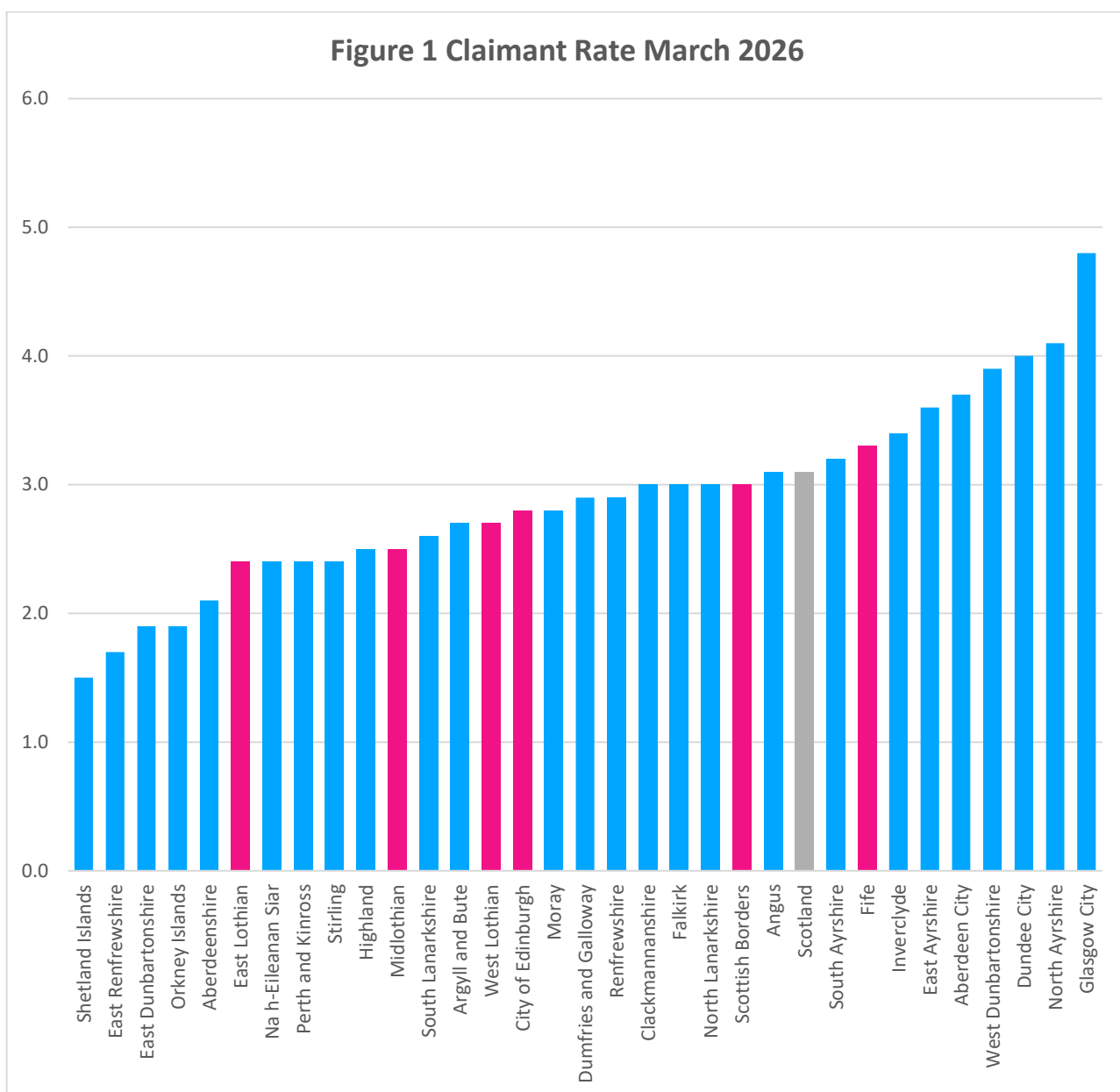
	Mar-21	Mar-25	Feb-26	Mar-26	% Change		
					Mar21- Mar26	Mar25- Mar26	Feb26- Mar26
Aberdeen City	9,675	5,180	5,545	5,680	-41.3%	9.7%	2.4%
Aberdeenshire	6,560	3,065	3,215	3,345	-49.0%	9.1%	4.0%
Angus	3,760	2,110	2,075	2,105	-44.0%	-0.2%	1.4%
Argyll and Bute	2,875	1,440	1,380	1,390	-51.7%	-3.5%	0.7%
Edinburgh	18,425	9,415	9,860	10,270	-44.3%	9.1%	4.2%
Clackmannanshire	2,070	1,010	980	980	-52.7%	-3.0%	0.0%
Dumfries & Galloway	4,670	2,265	2,375	2,420	-48.2%	6.8%	1.9%
Dundee City	6,880	3,850	3,815	3,950	-42.6%	2.6%	3.5%
East Ayrshire	5,680	2,750	2,740	2,690	-52.6%	-2.2%	-1.8%
E.Dunbartonshire	2,555	1,200	1,195	1,200	-53.0%	0.0%	0.4%
East Lothian	3,485	1,625	1,645	1,695	-51.4%	4.3%	3.0%
East Renfrewshire	2,125	985	955	980	-53.9%	-0.5%	2.6%
Falkirk	6,035	2,875	2,945	3,020	-50.0%	5.0%	2.5%
Fife	14,800	7,720	7,485	7,560	-48.9%	-2.1%	1.0%
Glasgow City	36,590	21,995	21,485	22,155	-39.5%	0.7%	3.1%
Highland	7,765	3,475	3,435	3,490	-55.1%	0.4%	1.6%
Inverclyde	3,030	1,630	1,590	1,635	-46.0%	0.3%	2.8%
Midlothian	3,090	1,380	1,440	1,530	-50.5%	10.9%	6.3%
Moray	3,015	1,395	1,520	1,590	-47.3%	14.0%	4.6%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	775	330	345	355	-54.2%	7.6%	2.9%
North Ayrshire	6,760	3,380	3,270	3,310	-51.0%	-2.1%	1.2%
North Lanarkshire	14,415	7,015	6,530	6,735	-53.3%	-4.0%	3.1%
Orkney Islands	385	230	245	240	-37.7%	4.3%	-2.0%
Perth and Kinross	4,170	2,150	2,195	2,220	-46.8%	3.3%	1.1%
Renfrewshire	7,240	3,305	3,445	3,445	-52.4%	4.2%	0.0%
Scottish Borders	3,630	2,045	1,935	1,985	-45.3%	-2.9%	2.6%
Shetland Islands	445	175	210	215	-51.7%	22.9%	2.4%
South Ayrshire	4,620	2,210	2,085	2,105	-54.4%	-4.8%	1.0%
South Lanarkshire	12,645	5,640	5,370	5,440	-57.0%	-3.5%	1.3%
Stirling	2,730	1,360	1,390	1,440	-47.3%	5.9%	3.6%
W.Dunbartonshire	4,515	2,185	2,130	2,165	-52.0%	-0.9%	1.6%
West Lothian	6,530	3,150	3,070	3,170	-51.5%	0.6%	3.3%
Scotland	211,930	108,550	107,900	110,500	-47.9%	1.8%	2.4%
City Region	49,960	25,335	25,435	26,210	-47.5%	3.5%	3.0%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

Over the last year, twelve Local Authorities saw the claimant count fall (including Fife and Scottish Borders) and all other Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase year on year except for

East Dunbartonshire that saw no change. This increase has ranged from an increase of 0.3% in Inverclyde through to an increase of 22.9% in the Shetland Islands.

Looking at what has happened between February and March 2026 we can see in Table 3 that apart from four Local Authorities **every** Local Authority in Scotland recorded a month to month increase between February and March. This has ranged from a 0.4% increase in East Dunbartonshire through to Midlothian where there was a 6.3% increase month to month. In numerical terms there are 2,600 more people claiming in March than there were in February in Scotland and 775 additional claimants in the six Local Authorities that make up the City Region.



Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

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

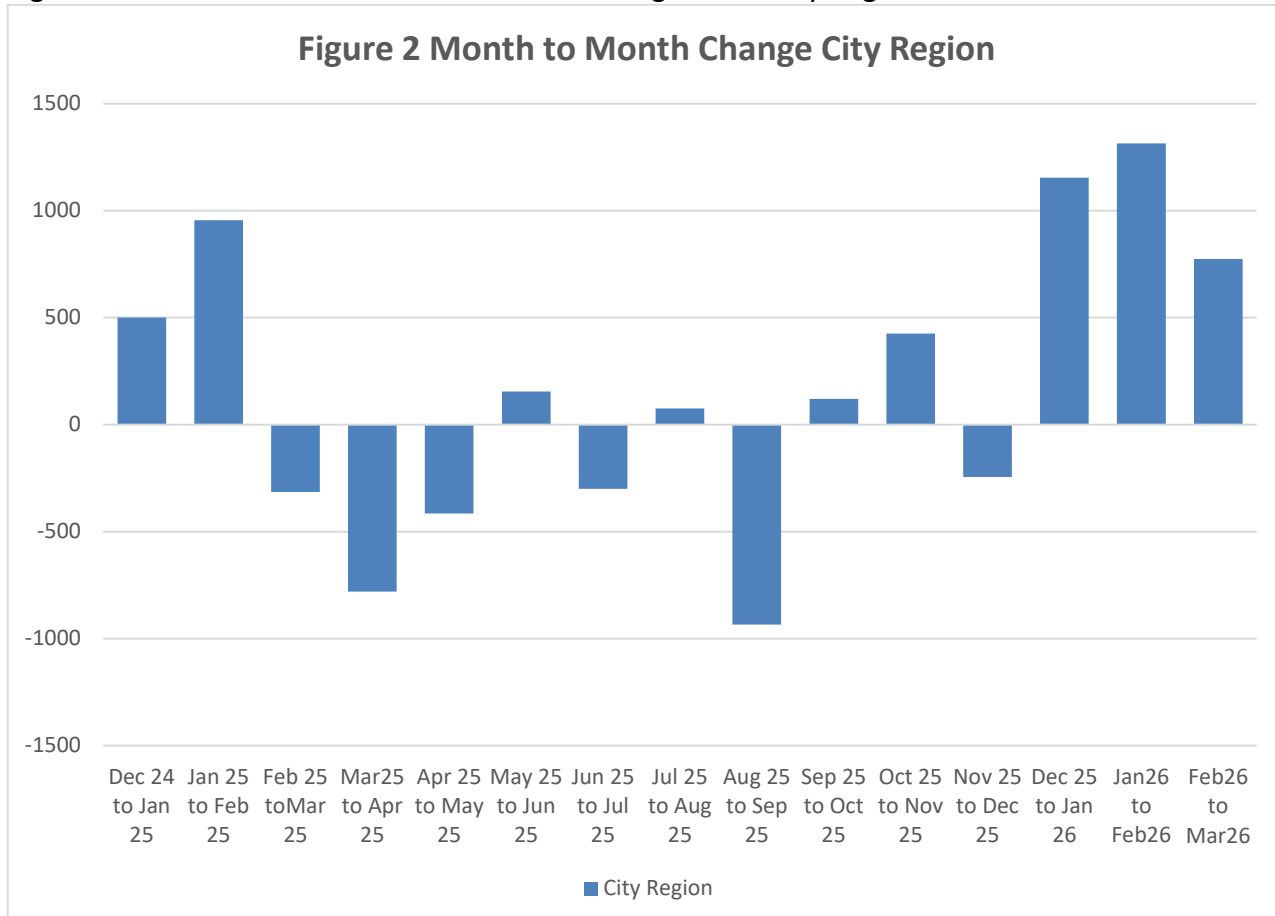
Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 4 that across the region the claimant count recorded in March 2026 is lower than it was in 2021. The fall ranges from 44.3% in Edinburgh through to 51.5% in West Lothian. Over the last year two Local Authorities have seen the claimant count fall (Fife and Scottish Borders). The four other Authorities have seen the claimant count increase by between 0.6% (West Lothian) and 10.9% (Midlothian). Between February and March all six Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase. This has ranged from 1% in Fife through to an 6.3% increase in Midlothian.

Table 4: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	March 2021	March 2025	February 2026	March 2026	Claimant Rate Mar 26	Percentage Change		
						Mar21-Mar26	Mar25-Mar26	Feb26-Mar26
Edinburgh	18,425	9,415	9,860	10,270	2.8	-44.3%	9.1%	4.2%
East Lothian	3,485	1,625	1,645	1,695	2.4	-51.4%	4.3%	3.0%
Fife	14,800	7,720	7,485	7,560	3.3	-48.9%	-2.1%	1.0%
Midlothian	3,090	1,380	1,440	1,530	2.5	-50.5%	10.9%	6.3%
Scottish Borders	3,630	2,045	1,935	1,985	3.0	-45.3%	-2.9%	2.6%
West Lothian	6,530	3,150	3,070	3,170	2.7	-51.5%	0.6%	3.3%
City Region	49,960	25,335	25,435	26,210	0.0	-47.5%	3.5%	3.0%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

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



Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

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. Comparing the February to March 2026 change with that from 2025 is even more worrying whilst last year there was a fall in that period (a fall of 315 claimants in March compared to February) this year we have seen an increase (an increase of 775 claimants in March compared to February 2026). So far this year we have seen a month to month to month increase every month which was not the case in the first three months of 2025. It will be interesting to watch this trend as the year progresses as it could indicate more than just periodic changes in the labour market.

Gender Profile

From Table 5 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 whilst the remaining four have seen an increase. Across the region the number of male claimants in March 2026 was 680 more than in 2025.

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

Male Claimants	Mar-25	Feb-26	Mar-26	% Change	
				Mar25-Mar2626	Feb26-Mar26
Edinburgh	5,535	5,935	6,165	11.4%	3.9%
East Lothian	865	905	935	8.1%	3.3%
Fife	4,555	4,385	4,420	-3.0%	0.8%
Midlothian	795	835	875	10.1%	4.8%
Scottish Borders	1,130	1,090	1,095	-3.1%	0.5%
West Lothian	1,850	1,850	1,920	3.8%	3.8%
City Region	14,730	15,000	15,410	4.6%	2.7%

Source: NOMIS 21/4/2026

Comparing the March 2026 statistics to those of February 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 2.7% increase between February and March. This is based on 410 additional male claimants when compared to the February figures. The largest percentage month to month increase was in Midlothian where the male claimant count increased by 4.8% or 40 additional claimants. This illustrates that sometimes a large percentage increase can be based on a *relatively* small real number change.

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

Females	Mar-25	Feb-26	Mar-26	% Change	
				Mar25-Mar2626	Feb26-Mar26
Edinburgh	3,880	3,925	4,110	5.9%	4.7%
East Lothian	755	740	760	0.7%	2.7%
Fife	3,160	3,100	3,140	-0.6%	1.3%
Midlothian	585	605	655	12.0%	8.3%
Scottish Borders	915	850	885	-3.3%	4.1%
West Lothian	1,300	1,220	1,250	-3.8%	2.5%
City Region	10,595	10,440	10,800	1.9%	3.4%

Source: NOMIS 21/4/2026

Table 6 looks at the situation for female claimants. This indicates that over the last year there has been an increase in the number of female claimants in the region (205 more female claimants). This is an increase of 1.9% year on year. West Lothian saw the largest percentage fall (3.8% and 50 fewer claimants) whilst Midlothian recorded an increase in the number of female claimants (an increase of 70 over the course of the year which resulted in a 12% increase).

Between February and March 2026, we can see that all Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants increase. This ranged from a 1.3% increase in Fife through to an 8.3% increase in Midlothian. Overall, across the City Region there were 3.4% more female claimants, 360 additional claimants, in March when compared to February.

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In March 2026 there were 5,180 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 4.3% higher than a month ago and 14.1% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 640 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 215 more than last month.

Table 7: 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
Mar-21	2,925	705	3,065	680	780	1,435	9,590
Mar-25	1,325	305	1,605	280	375	650	4,540
Feb-26	1,575	350	1,670	310	380	680	4,965
Mar-26	1,665	350	1,740	315	405	705	5,180
% Change							
Mar25-Mar26	25.7%	14.8%	8.4%	12.5%	8.0%	8.5%	14.1%
Feb26-Mar26	5.7%	0.0%	4.2%	1.6%	6.6%	3.7%	4.3%

Source: NOMIS 21/4/2026

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 25.7% (Edinburgh with an additional 340) and 8% (Scottish Borders with an additional 30). Over the last month with one exception every Local Authority in the City Region has seen the claimant count for this age group increase. This has ranged from a 6.6% increase in Scottish Borders (25 additional 16-24 year old claimants) through to 1.6% in Midlothian (5 additional 16-24 year old claimants). East Lothian was the only Local Authority to not record a month on month increase. Instead, a no change was recorded for the County.

25-49 Year Olds

Tuning now to look at the largest age group of claimants the 25-49 year old age group. In March 2026 there were 15,335 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 0.5% higher than a year ago and 2.7% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 80 more 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 215 more than last month. This can be seen in Table 8 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 March 2025.

Table 8: 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
Mar-21	11,425	1,925	8,295	1,740	1,880	3,695	28,960
Mar-25	6,070	990	4,390	835	1,110	1,860	15,255
Feb-26	6,180	940	4,160	855	1,040	1,750	14,925
Mar-26	6,425	970	4,135	935	1,060	1,810	15,335
% Change							
Mar25-Mar26	5.8%	-2.0%	-5.8%	12.0%	-4.5%	-2.7%	0.5%
Feb26-Mar26	4.0%	3.2%	-0.6%	9.4%	1.9%	3.4%	2.7%

Source: NOMIS 21/4/2026

We can also see that all five of the six Local Authorities in the Region have more claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 1.9% more (20 additional claimants) in Scottish Borders through to 9.4% more in Midlothian (80 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 March 2026 there were 5,700 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 3.1% higher than a year ago and 2.9% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 170 additional people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago and 60 more than last month.

Table 9: 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
Mar-21	4,075	1,995	3,445	670	970	1,400	12,555
Mar-25	2,015	325	1,725	265	560	640	5,530
Feb-26	2,110	355	1,650	270	515	640	5,540
Mar-26	2,185	375	1,685	280	520	655	5,700
% Change							
Mar25-Mar26	8.4%	15.4%	-2.3%	5.7%	-7.1%	2.3%	3.1%
Feb26-Mar26	3.6%	5.6%	2.1%	3.7%	1.0%	2.3%	2.9%

Source: NOMIS 21/4/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that every Local Authority has recorded more claimants aged 50 or over in March than they did in February. East Lothian recorded a 5.6% increase whilst Scottish Borders recorded a 1% increase between February and March.

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 10 gives the current situation in the seventeen Edinburgh wards. From the table we can see that in March 2026 seven 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 February was Forth, which also had the highest claimant rate in the city at 4.9%.

Table 10 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward March 2026

Wards	March 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants March 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	755	3.4	58.9%	41.7%	18.5%	60.9%	21.2%
City Centre	685	2.6	70.1%	29.9%	16.8%	62.0%	20.4%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	315	2.1	50.8%	49.2%	19.0%	61.9%	19.0%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	195	1.4	53.8%	46.2%	15.4%	61.5%	23.1%
Craigtinny/Duddingston	735	3.6	59.9%	40.1%	13.6%	67.3%	19.0%
Drum Brae/Gyle	375	2.6	64.0%	37.3%	18.7%	56.0%	26.7%
Forth	1,025	4.9	55.6%	44.9%	17.1%	63.4%	19.5%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	325	1.8	61.5%	38.5%	15.4%	63.1%	21.5%
Inverleith	365	1.7	54.8%	45.2%	13.7%	63.0%	24.7%
Leith	825	4.4	61.2%	38.2%	13.3%	67.3%	18.8%
Leith Walk	615	2.3	60.2%	39.0%	13.0%	65.9%	21.1%
Liberton/Gilmerton	810	3.3	56.8%	43.2%	17.3%	59.9%	22.8%
Morningside	245	1.1	55.1%	44.9%	16.3%	59.2%	24.5%
Pentland Hills	860	4.5	61.6%	38.4%	17.4%	60.5%	22.1%
Portobello/Craigmillar	870	3.9	58.0%	42.0%	16.7%	64.4%	19.5%
Sighthill/Gorgie	895	3.7	65.9%	34.1%	17.3%	61.5%	21.2%
Southside/Newington	380	1.4	61.8%	38.2%	17.1%	57.9%	25.0%
Column Total	10,270	2.9	60.0%	40.0%	16.2%	62.6%	21.3%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

Overall, in Edinburgh in March 2026, 60% of claimants were male and 16.2% are aged 16-24. Overall, in the City 21.3% of claimants are aged 50 or over. The City Centre ward records that 70.1% of the claimants are male. In Drum Brae/Gyle 26.7% of claimants were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Colinton/ Farmilehead 19% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

East Lothian

Table 11 below gives the current situation in the six East Lothian wards. Overall, there were 1,695 claimants in East Lothian in March 2026 and it is also clear from the table that Musselburgh is the ward with the most claimants, 400, and also has the highest claimant rate 3.2.

Table 11 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2026

Wards	March 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants March 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	210	2.3	50.0%	50.0%	19.0%	54.8%	23.8%
Haddington and Lammermuir	265	2.2	47.2%	54.7%	22.6%	56.6%	20.8%
Musselburgh	400	3.2	56.3%	42.5%	17.5%	57.5%	25.0%
North Berwick Coastal	125	1.6	64.0%	40.0%	16.0%	60.0%	24.0%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	285	2.6	56.1%	43.9%	21.1%	59.6%	19.3%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	405	2.6	59.3%	42.0%	23.5%	55.6%	21.0%
East Lothian	1,695	2.5	55.2%	44.8%	20.6%	57.2%	22.1%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

Across the county 55.2% of claimants are male and this varies from 47.2% in Haddington and Lammermuir through to 59.3% in Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry. On average in East Lothian 20.6% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 22.1% of claimants are 50 or over. Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (23.5%) and Musselburgh is the ward with the highest proportion (25%) of people aged over 50 years of age.

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. Table 12 gives the current situation in the twenty-two Fife wards, and overall, there were 7,560 claimants in Fife in March 2026. We can see that there were five wards with more than 500 claimants and two wards with fewer than 200 claimants.

Table 12 Fife Claimant Count by Ward March 2026

Wards	March 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants March 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	630	5.4	60.3%	39.7%	23.0%	54.8%	22.2%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	300	3.5	61.7%	40.0%	20.0%	51.7%	28.3%
Cowdenbeath	525	3.7	60.0%	40.0%	28.6%	54.3%	18.1%
Cupar	205	2.6	58.5%	41.5%	19.5%	53.7%	26.8%
Dunfermline Central	335	2.8	56.7%	43.3%	19.4%	58.2%	20.9%
Dunfermline North	315	2.9	60.3%	41.3%	22.2%	55.6%	22.2%
Dunfermline South	410	2.6	54.9%	45.1%	23.2%	54.9%	22.0%
East Neuk and Landward	165	2.4	57.6%	45.5%	12.1%	57.6%	30.3%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	330	3.6	60.6%	37.9%	31.8%	50.0%	16.7%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	320	2.9	59.4%	40.6%	29.7%	50.0%	18.8%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	320	3.4	54.7%	45.3%	26.6%	53.1%	20.3%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	170	2.3	64.7%	38.2%	14.7%	55.9%	29.4%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	235	2.2	55.3%	44.7%	21.3%	53.2%	25.5%
Kirkcaldy Central	570	6.4	58.8%	41.2%	21.1%	55.3%	24.6%
Kirkcaldy East	550	5.7	60.9%	40.0%	22.7%	54.5%	23.6%
Kirkcaldy North	335	3.5	55.2%	43.3%	23.9%	56.7%	17.9%

Leven, Kennoway and Largo	405	3.4	60.5%	39.5%	21.0%	54.3%	25.9%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	525	4.5	60.0%	40.0%	25.7%	55.2%	19.0%
Rosyth	295	3.0	54.2%	45.8%	18.6%	55.9%	23.7%
St Andrews	115	0.9	60.9%	39.1%	17.4%	52.2%	26.1%
Tay Bridgehead	220	2.4	56.8%	45.5%	15.9%	61.4%	22.7%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	275	2.8	52.7%	47.3%	25.5%	56.4%	18.2%
Fife	7,560	3.3	58.5%	41.5%	23.0%	54.7%	22.3%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

Kirkcaldy Central has the highest claim rate in Fife at 6.4% and Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages had the overall highest number of claimants (630). St Andrews not only has the lowest number of claimants (115) it also has the lowest claimant rate at 0.9%.

We can also see that 58.5% of claimants in March were male and this ranged from 61.7% in Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages through to 52.7% in West Fife and Coastal Villages. Overall, in Fife 23% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 22.3% are 50 or over. With 31.8% of claimants being aged 16-24 Glenrothes Central and Thornton is the ward with the highest proportion of this age group in Fife whilst East Neuk and Landward had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 30.3% of the claimants in these wards were in that age band.

Midlothian

Table 13 gives the current situation in the six Midlothian wards. Overall, we can see that Midlothian had 1,530 claimants in March 2026. Every Midlothian ward has a claimant count of between 2-300 and in every ward the rate is between 2 and 3%.

Table 13 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2026

Wards	March 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants March 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	235	2.0	61.7%	38.3%	19.1%	68.1%	14.9%
Dalkeith	280	2.8	62.5%	37.5%	21.4%	64.3%	16.1%
Midlothian East	295	2.9	55.9%	44.1%	23.7%	61.0%	15.3%
Midlothian South	245	2.6	51.0%	46.9%	18.4%	61.2%	18.4%
Midlothian West	260	2.4	50.0%	50.0%	19.2%	57.7%	25.0%
Penicuik	210	2.7	59.5%	40.5%	19.0%	57.1%	21.4%
Midlothian	1,530	2.5	57.2%	42.8%	20.6%	61.1%	18.3%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 57.2% of claimants are male, 20.6% are aged 16-24 and 18.3% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Dalkeith had the highest proportion of male claimants (62.5%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (50%). In terms of the age profile 23.7% of claimants in Midlothian East were 16-24 years of age in March 2026. We can also see that 25% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50. Midlothian East have the highest claimant rate at 2.9% of working age population claiming in March.

West Lothian

The situation in the West Lothian wards is looked at in Table 14 below. Overall, there were 3,170 claimants in West Lothian in March 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 that has the highest claimant rate is Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley while Linlithgow has the lowest.

Table 14 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward March 2026

Wards	March 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants March 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale and Blackridge	280	2.9	57.1%	42.9%	23.2%	58.9%	17.9%
Bathgate	430	3.0	64.0%	36.0%	24.4%	53.5%	20.9%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	295	2.4	54.2%	45.8%	15.3%	61.0%	23.7%
East Livingston and E. Calder	405	2.7	61.7%	39.5%	22.2%	58.0%	19.8%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	365	3.6	64.4%	37.0%	21.9%	58.9%	19.2%
Linlithgow	125	1.2	60.0%	36.0%	28.0%	48.0%	24.0%
Livingston North	335	2.2	62.7%	37.3%	20.9%	59.7%	19.4%
Livingston South	465	3.0	58.1%	41.9%	22.6%	58.1%	20.4%
Whitburn and Blackburn	470	3.3	60.6%	39.4%	23.4%	55.3%	21.3%
West Lothian	3,170	2.7	60.6%	39.4%	22.2%	57.1%	20.7%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

Overall, we can see that 60.6% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 64.4% 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 Linlithgow where 28% are 16-24 years of age. Unusually, Linlithgow also has the highest proportion of older claimants (24%).

Scottish Borders

Table 15 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,985 people claiming in March 2026.

Table 15 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward March 2025

Wards	Total	Rate	Proportion of Claimants March 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	200	3.2	50.0%	50.0%	22.5%	50.0%	27.5%
Galashiels and District	360	3.7	59.7%	40.3%	19.4%	56.9%	23.6%
Hawick and Denholm	225	4.2	55.6%	44.4%	22.2%	57.8%	20.0%
Hawick and Hermitage	200	3.9	60.0%	37.5%	25.0%	45.0%	27.5%
Jedburgh and District	155	3.0	51.6%	48.4%	19.4%	54.8%	22.6%
Kelso and District	165	2.9	51.5%	48.5%	18.2%	51.5%	30.3%
Leaderdale and Melrose	115	1.8	52.2%	43.5%	26.1%	43.5%	30.4%
Mid Berwickshire	150	2.4	46.7%	53.3%	10.0%	56.7%	33.3%
Selkirkshire	155	2.8	61.3%	38.7%	16.1%	64.5%	16.1%
Tweeddale East	135	2.2	51.9%	48.1%	22.2%	44.4%	33.3%
Tweeddale West	130	2.1	57.7%	42.3%	19.2%	53.8%	26.9%
Scottish Borders	1,985	2.9	55.2%	44.6%	20.4%	53.4%	26.2%

Source: NOMIS 30/4/2026

The data in Table 15 seven wards had recorded under 200 claimants and four recorded between 200 and 500. Hawick and Denholm has the highest claimant rate (4.2%) whilst Leaderdale and Melrose has the lowest claimant rate (1.8%).

We can also see that across Scottish Borders in March 55.2% of claimants were male, 20.4% were 16-24 years of age and 26.2% were over 50 years of age. In Selkirkshire 61.3% of claimants were males, in Mid Berwickshire 53.3% were females. In terms of age cohorts 26.1% of claimants in Leaderdale and Melrose were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire and Tweeddale East 33.3% 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 March there were 8,394,304 claimants in Britain who were claiming Universal Credit. In February there were 8,331,911.

Table 16 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment in the City Region

In employment	Feb-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	% Change	
				Feb25-Feb26	Jan26-Feb26
East Lothian	3,766	3,764	3,783	0.5%	0.5%
Midlothian	3,545	3,662	3,607	1.7%	-1.5%
City of Edinburgh	15,071	15,135	14,970	-0.7%	-1.1%
Fife	14,169	13,718	13,755	-2.9%	0.3%
West Lothian	6,995	6,791	6,771	-3.2%	-0.3%
Scottish Borders	4,020	3,849	3,839	-4.5%	-0.3%
Total	47,558	46,922	46,727	-1.7%	-0.4%

Source: StatXplore 30/4/2026

Table 16 looks at the number of people across the region who are in work but still need to claim Universal Credit to supplement their wages. In February 2026 there were 46,722 people in work who were claiming Universal Credit. Four of the six Local Authorities have seen the number of people in this position fall between January and February 2026, with East Lothian and Fife recording a small increase. 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, alternatively, 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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8/5/2026

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