

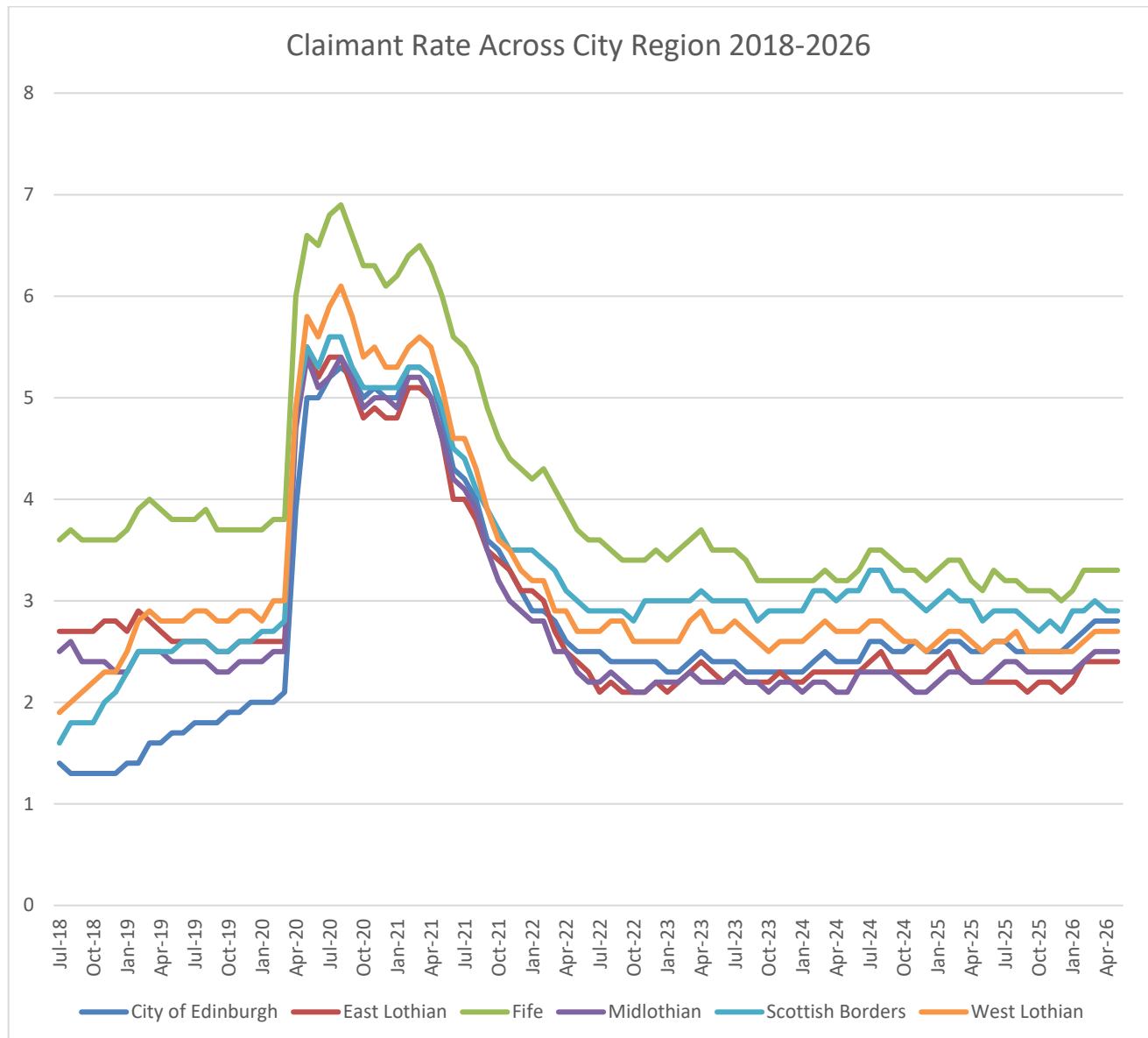
Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count May 2026 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between May 2025 and May 2026:

- ↑ UK increased by 1.1%
- ↑ Scotland increased by 5.7%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 12.3%
- ↑ City Region increased by 9.3%

Claimant Count Change Between April 2026 and May 2026:

- ↑ UK increased by 1.8%
- ↑ Scotland increased by 1.0%
- ↑ Edinburgh increased by 1.6%
- ↑ City Region increased by 1.8%



Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

City Region Summary

In May 2026 the claimant count for the City Region was 26,385 (in April it was 25,915). Of these

- a. 5,245 were 16-24 year olds up from 5,100 in April.
- b. 15,325 were 25-49 year olds up from 15,075 in April.
- c. 5,820 were 50 or older up from 5,725 in April.

Edinburgh Summary

In May 2026 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 10,320 (in April it was 10,160). Of these

- a. 1,715 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,680 in April.
- b. 6,375 were 25-49 year olds. It was 6,275 in April.
- c. 2,230 were 50 or older. It was 2,205 in April.

East Lothian Summary

In May 2026 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,680 (in April it was 1,645). Of these

- a. 350 were 16-24 year olds. In April it was the 335.
- b. 960 were 25-49 year olds. In April there were 950.
- c. 365 were 50 or older. In April it was 355.

Fife Summary

In May 2026 the claimant count for Fife was 7,675 (in April it was 7,490). Of these

- d. 1,740 were 16-24 year olds. In April there were 1,710.
- e. 4,225 were 25-49 years of age. In April there were 4,100.
- f. 1,710 were 50 or older. In April there were 1,680.

Midlothian Summary

In May 2026 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,530 (it was 1,510 in April). Of these

- a. 320 were 16-24 year olds. In April it was 310.
- b. 910 were 25-49 year olds. In April it was 905.
- c. 305 were 50 or older. In April it was 290.

Scottish Borders Summary

In May 2026 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,925 (in April it was 1,955). Of these

- a. 390 were 16-24 year olds. In April it was 370.
- b. 1,020 were 25-49 year olds. In April there were 1,060.
- c. 520 were 50 or older. In April there were 525.

West Lothian Summary

In May 2026 the claimant count for West Lothian was 3,255 (in April it was 3,155). Of these

- a. 730 were 16-24 year olds. In April there were 695.
- b. 1,835 were 25-49 year olds. In April there were 1,785.
- c. 690 were 50 or older. In April there were 670.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count May 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 May 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 May 2026 than there were in 2025. In the UK the claimant count is 1.1% higher in 2026 than it was in 2025. Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 1.8% (30,950 more) higher than in April and in Scotland it is 1.1% higher (1,210 additional claimants).

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	May-21	May 2025	April 2026	May 2026	Percentage Change		
					May21- May26	May25- May26	Apr26- May26
UK	2,462,865	1,691,215	1,678,250	1,709,200	-30.6%	1.1%	1.8%
East	191,830	129,730	130,770	132,580	-30.9%	2.2%	1.4%
East Midlands	151,925	109,440	109,160	110,630	-27.2%	1.1%	1.3%
London	476,050	358,310	341,735	355,040	-25.4%	-0.9%	3.9%
North East	110,485	63,020	62,970	64,165	-41.9%	1.8%	1.9%
North West	298,425	199,985	199,240	202,740	-32.1%	1.4%	1.8%
N. Ireland	53,520	36,320	34,695	33,930	-36.6%	-6.6%	-2.2%
Scotland	193,365	104,030	108,765	109,975	-43.1%	5.7%	1.1%
South East	270,110	181,490	185,220	187,130	-30.7%	3.1%	1.0%
South West	152,650	95,830	98,515	99,045	-35.1%	3.4%	0.5%
Wales	102,815	63,550	64,355	65,345	-36.4%	2.8%	1.5%
West Midlands	251,650	203,025	198,755	202,625	-19.5%	-0.2%	1.9%
Yorks & Humb	210,045	146,500	144,075	145,995	-30.5%	-0.3%	1.3%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

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

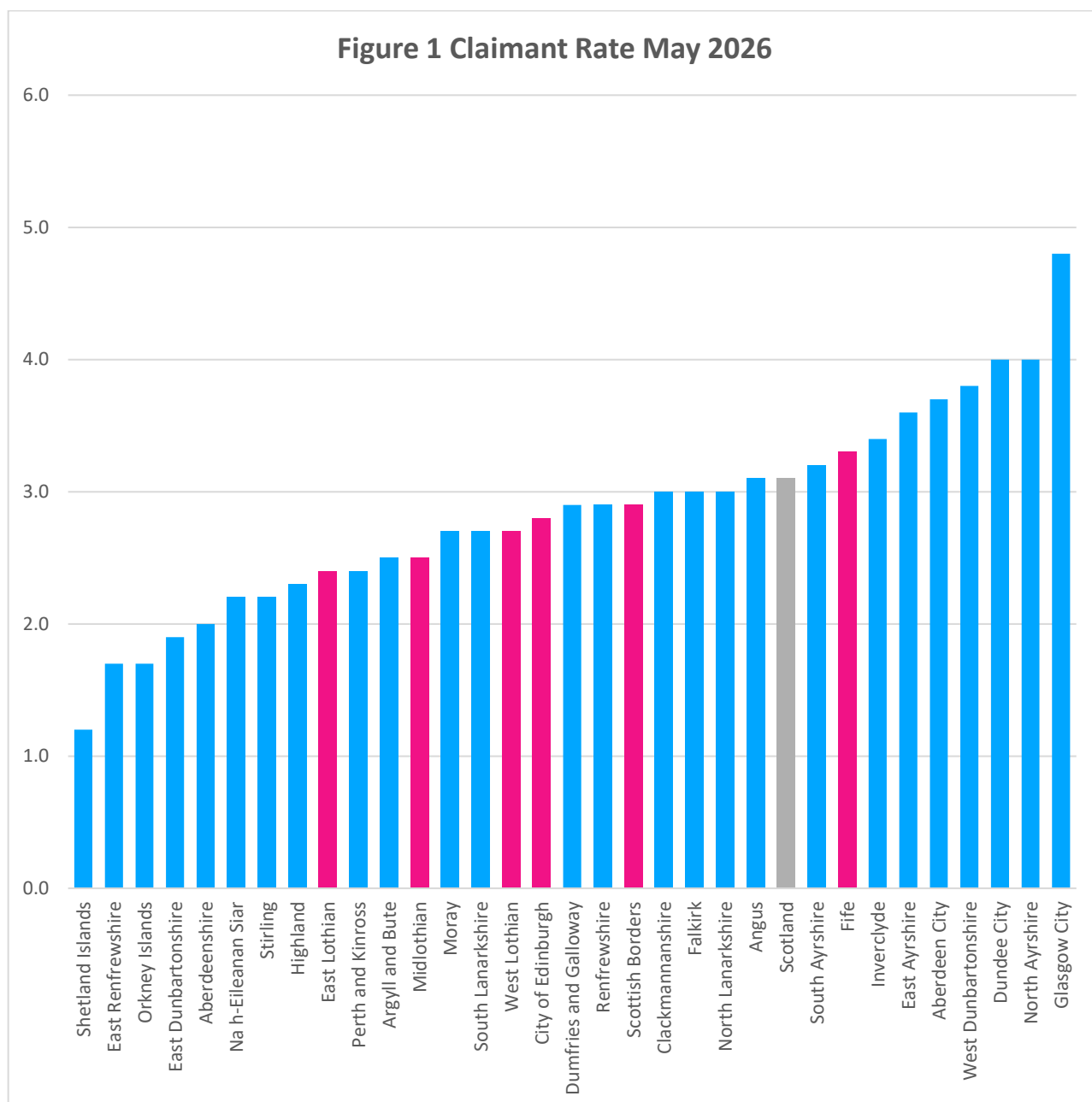
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	May-21	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	% Change			Change Feb to March
					May21-May26	May25-May26	Apr26-May26	
Aberdeen City	8,690	5,190	5,590	5,650	-35.0%	8.9%	1.1%	60
Aberdeenshire	5,785	2,940	3,265	3,205	-44.6%	9.0%	-1.8%	-60
Angus	3,395	2,040	2,075	2,105	-38.0%	3.2%	1.4%	30
Argyll and Bute	2,565	1,265	1,345	1,270	-50.5%	0.4%	-5.6%	-75
Edinburgh	16,700	9,190	10,160	10,320	-38.2%	12.3%	1.6%	160
Clackmannanshire	1,865	995	965	980	-47.5%	-1.5%	1.6%	15
Dumfries & Galloway	4,230	2,195	2,370	2,405	-43.1%	9.6%	1.5%	35
Dundee City	6,460	3,795	3,885	3,935	-39.1%	3.7%	1.3%	50
East Ayrshire	5,295	2,695	2,710	2,710	-48.8%	0.6%	0.0%	0
E.Dunbartonshire	2,295	1,130	1,150	1,200	-47.7%	6.2%	4.3%	50
East Lothian	3,100	1,505	1,645	1,680	-45.8%	11.6%	2.1%	35
East Renfrewshire	1,850	935	965	1,000	-45.9%	7.0%	3.6%	35
Falkirk	5,440	2,825	2,985	3,035	-44.2%	7.4%	1.7%	50
Fife	13,740	7,220	7,490	7,675	-44.1%	6.3%	2.5%	185
Glasgow City	34,280	21,270	21,805	22,245	-35.1%	4.6%	2.0%	440
Highland	6,795	3,130	3,335	3,315	-51.2%	5.9%	-0.6%	-20
Inverclyde	2,955	1,530	1,630	1,635	-44.7%	6.9%	0.3%	5
Midlothian	2,770	1,355	1,510	1,530	-44.8%	12.9%	1.3%	20
Moray	2,685	1,355	1,530	1,560	-41.9%	15.1%	2.0%	30
Na h-Eileanan Siar	705	300	330	325	-53.9%	8.3%	-1.5%	-5
North Ayrshire	6,080	3,120	3,285	3,240	-46.7%	3.8%	-1.4%	-45
North Lanarkshire	13,110	6,755	6,600	6,630	-49.4%	-1.9%	0.5%	30
Orkney Islands	340	220	215	215	-36.8%	-2.3%	0.0%	0
Perth and Kinross	3,810	1,980	2,105	2,165	-43.2%	9.3%	2.9%	60
Renfrewshire	6,515	3,155	3,500	3,545	-45.6%	12.4%	1.3%	45
Scottish Borders	3,320	1,915	1,955	1,925	-42.0%	0.5%	-1.5%	-30
Shetland Islands	395	170	195	175	-55.7%	2.9%	-10.3%	-20
South Ayrshire	4,245	2,070	2,095	2,060	-51.5%	-0.5%	-1.7%	-35
South Lanarkshire	11,460	5,395	5,420	5,520	-51.8%	2.3%	1.8%	100
Stirling	2,385	1,350	1,370	1,340	-43.8%	-0.7%	-2.2%	-30
W.Dunbartonshire	4,180	2,075	2,130	2,120	-49.3%	2.2%	-0.5%	-10
West Lothian	5,915	2,955	3,155	3,255	-45.0%	10.2%	3.2%	100
Scotland	193,365	104,030	108,765	109,975	-43.1%	5.7%	1.1%	1210
City Region	45,545	24,140	25,915	26,385	-42.1%	9.3%	1.8%	470

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Over the last year, five Local Authorities saw the claimant count fall whilst the other Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase. This increase has ranged from an increase of 0.4% in Argyll and Bute through to an increase of 15.1% in Moray.

Looking at what has happened between April and May 2026 we can see in Table 2 that ten Local Authorities saw a month to month fall between April and May. This has ranged from a 0.5% fall in West Dunbartonshire through to a 10.3% fall in the Shetland Islands. Of the remaining 20 Local Authorities two saw no change month to month (Orkney Islands and East Ayrshire) and the remaining 18 saw the claimant count increase by between 0.3% (Inverclyde) through to a 4.3% increase in East Dunbartonshire. In numerical terms there are 1,210 more people claiming in May than there were in April in Scotland and 470 additional claimants in the six Local Authorities that make up the City Region.



Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

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

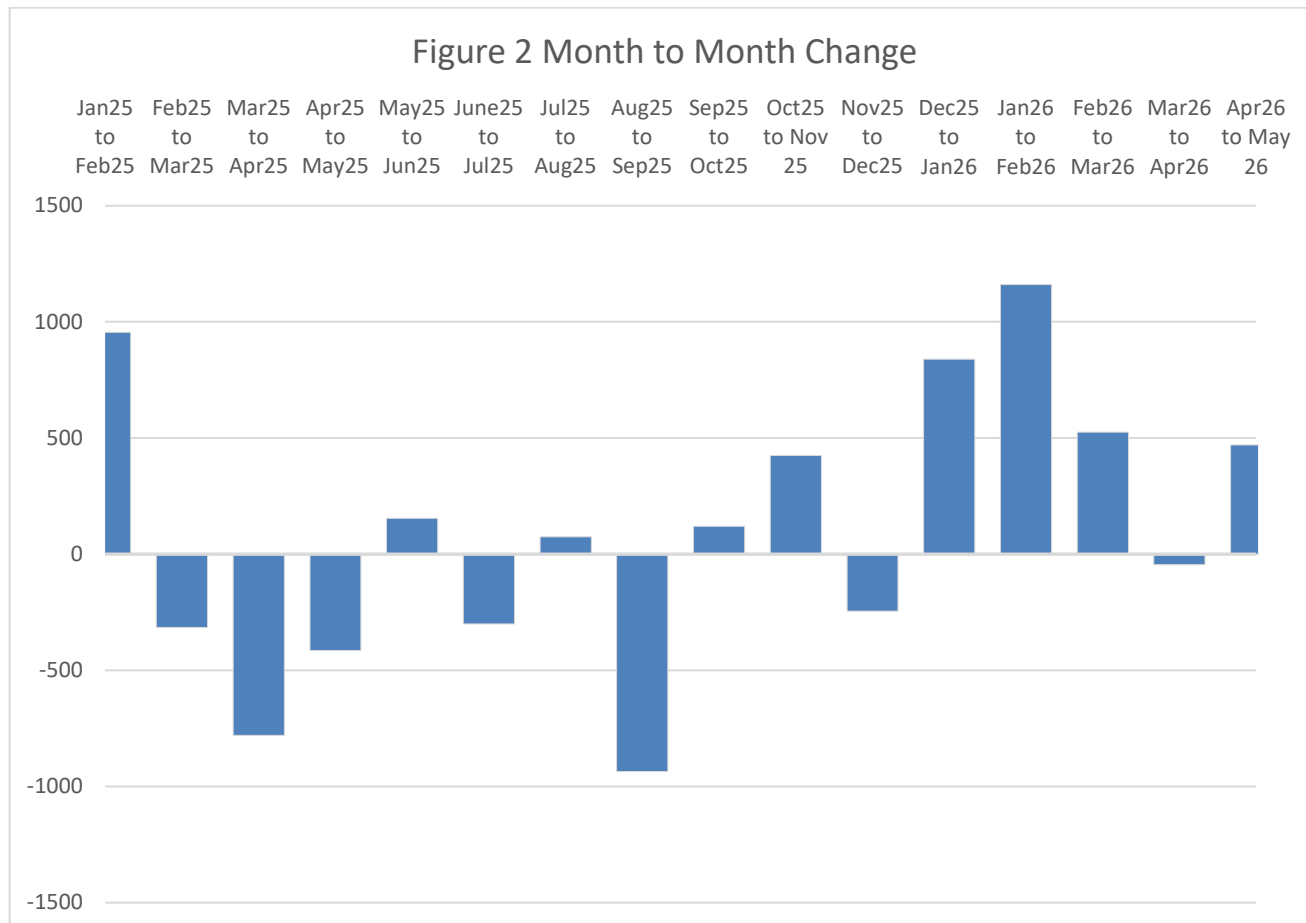
Looking in more detail at the position in the City Region. It can be seen in Table 3 that across the region the claimant count recorded in May 2026 is lower than it was in 2021. The fall ranges from 38.2% in Edinburgh through to 45.8% in East Lothian. Over the last year all six Local Authorities have seen the claimant count increase by between 0.5% (Scottish Borders) and 12.9% (Midlothian). Between April and May five Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase and one recorded a month to month fall.

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	May 2021	May 2025	April 2026	May 2026	Claimant Rate Mar 26	Percentage Change		
						May21-May26	May25-May26	Apr26-May26
Edinburgh	16,700	9,190	10,160	10,320	2.8	-38.2%	12.3%	1.6%
East Lothian	3,100	1,505	1,645	1,680	2.4	-45.8%	11.6%	2.1%
Fife	13,740	7,220	7,490	7,675	3.3	-44.1%	6.3%	2.5%
Midlothian	2,770	1,355	1,510	1,530	2.5	-44.8%	12.9%	1.3%
Scottish Borders	3,320	1,915	1,955	1,925	2.9	-42.0%	0.5%	-1.5%
West Lothian	5,915	2,955	3,155	3,255	2.7	-45.0%	10.2%	3.2%
City Region	45,545	24,140	25,915	26,385	0.0	-42.1%	9.3%	1.8%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

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



Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

What we can see in the figure above is that whilst there have been falls, there have also been increases month to month. If we look at what has happened since January 2025, we can see that until around October 2025 there had been month to month falls – with a couple of small increases. Since then, the claimant count in the City Region has generally increased month to month with a couple of small decreases.

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 May 2026 was 1,365 more than in 2025.

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

Male Claimants	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	% Change	
				May25-May26	Apr26-May26
Edinburgh	5,430	6,125	6,235	14.8%	1.8%
East Lothian	805	920	935	16.1%	1.6%
Fife	4,290	4,365	4,455	3.8%	2.1%
Midlothian	785	860	865	10.2%	0.6%
Scottish Borders	1,075	1,085	1,070	-0.5%	-1.4%
West Lothian	1,710	1,875	1,900	11.1%	1.3%
City Region	14,095	15,230	15,460	9.7%	1.5%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Comparing the April 2026 statistics to those of May 2026 we can see that five Local Authorities have seen the number of male claimants increase. This culminated in the region as a whole recording a 1.5% increase between April and May. This is based on 230 additional male claimants when compared to the April figures. The largest percentage month to month increase was in Fife where the male claimant count increased by 2.1% or 90 additional claimants.

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

Female Claimants	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	% Change	
				May25-May26	Apr26-May26
Edinburgh	3,755	4,035	4,085	8.8%	1.2%
East Lothian	700	725	745	6.4%	2.8%
Fife	2,930	3,125	3,220	9.9%	3.0%
Midlothian	570	650	670	17.5%	3.1%
Scottish Borders	840	865	855	1.8%	-1.2%
West Lothian	1,245	1,275	1,355	8.8%	6.3%
City Region	10,040	10,675	10,930	8.9%	2.4%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Table 5 looks at the situation for female claimants. This indicates that over the last year there has been an increase in the number of female claimants in the region (635 more female claimants). This is an increase of 8.9% year on year. We can see in that table that Midlothian saw the number of female claimants increase by 17.5% over the course of the year (100 additional female claimants).

Between April and May 2026, we can see that five of the six Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants increase. This ranged from a 1.2% increase in Edinburgh through to a 6.3% increase in West Lothian. Overall, across the City Region there were 2.4% more female claimants, 255 additional claimants, in May when compared to April

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In May 2026 there were 5,245 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 2.8% higher than a month ago and 18.3% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 810 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
May-21	2,650	620	2,860	610	695	1,305	8,740
May-25	1,345	270	1,560	285	360	615	4,435
Apr-26	1,680	335	1,710	310	370	695	5,100
May-26	1,715	350	1,740	320	390	730	5,245
% Change							
May25-May26	27.5%	29.6%	11.5%	12.3%	8.3%	18.7%	18.3%
Apr26-May26	2.1%	4.5%	1.8%	3.2%	5.4%	5.0%	2.8%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

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 29.6% increase in East Lothian (80 additional claimants) through to an 8.3% increase in Scottish Borders (30 additional claimants). The month to month change is similar with every one of the six Local Authorities seeing an increase in the number of 16-24 year olds claiming.

25-49 Year Olds

Tuning now to look at the largest age group of claimants - the 25-49 year old age group. In May 2026 there were 15,325 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 6.1% higher than a year ago and 1.7% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 875 more 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 250 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
May-21	10,280	1,755	7,705	1,575	1,725	3,355	26,395
May-25	5,860	915	4,080	825	1,035	1,735	14,450
Apr-26	6,275	950	4,100	905	1,060	1,785	15,075
May-26	6,375	960	4,225	910	1,020	1,835	15,325
% Change							
May25-May26	8.8%	4.9%	3.6%	10.3%	-1.4%	5.8%	6.1%
Apr26-May26	1.6%	1.1%	3.0%	0.6%	-3.8%	2.8%	1.7%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that with one exception every Local Authority has more 25-49 year old claimants than a year ago. Only Scottish Borders has seen a fall in the number of claimants over the course of the year. We can also see that five of the six Local Authorities in the Region have more claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 0.6% more (5 additional claimants) in Midlothian - through to a 3% increase in Fife (125 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 May 2026 there were 5,820 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 10.8% higher than a year ago and 1.7% higher than last month. In numerical terms the City Region has 565 additional people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago and 95 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
May-21	3,770	1,810	3,175	585	900	1,250	11,490
May-25	1,985	320	1,580	245	520	605	5,255
Apr-26	2,205	355	1,680	290	525	670	5,725
May-26	2,230	365	1,710	305	520	690	5,820
% Change							
May25-May26	12.3%	14.1%	8.2%	24.5%	0.0%	14.0%	10.8%
Apr26-May26	1.1%	2.8%	1.8%	5.2%	-1.0%	3.0%	1.7%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that five of the six Local Authorities recorded more claimants aged 50 or over in May than they did in April. Scottish Borders recorded a 1.0% fall, whilst Midlothian saw the number of claimants aged 50 or over increase by 5.2% between April and May an increase of 15.

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 May 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 May was Forth, which also had the highest claimant rate in the city at 4.6%.

Table 9 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward May 2026

Wards	May 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants May 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	775	3.5	58.1%	41.9%	18.1%	60.0%	22.6%
City Centre	675	2.5	71.1%	28.9%	17.0%	60.0%	23.0%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	320	2.2	53.1%	46.9%	18.8%	60.9%	21.9%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	210	1.5	52.4%	47.6%	16.7%	61.9%	21.4%
Craigmillar/Duddingston	755	3.7	62.9%	37.1%	15.2%	66.9%	17.9%

Drum Brae/Gyle	340	2.3	63.2%	36.8%	20.6%	57.4%	23.5%
Forth	970	4.6	55.7%	44.3%	16.0%	63.9%	20.1%
Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	330	1.9	60.6%	39.4%	15.2%	59.1%	24.2%
Inverleith	375	1.8	54.7%	45.3%	14.7%	60.0%	25.3%
Leith	820	4.4	61.6%	38.4%	14.6%	65.2%	20.1%
Leith Walk	670	2.5	59.7%	40.3%	13.4%	64.9%	21.6%
Liberton/Gilmerton	835	3.5	58.7%	41.9%	16.8%	61.7%	21.6%
Morningside	235	1.1	57.4%	42.6%	17.0%	57.4%	25.5%
Pentland Hills	895	4.6	62.6%	37.4%	18.4%	59.2%	22.3%
Portobello/Craigmillar	845	3.8	58.0%	42.6%	16.0%	62.1%	21.9%
Sighthill/Gorgie	910	3.7	65.9%	34.1%	19.2%	61.0%	19.8%
Southside/Newington	360	1.3	62.5%	37.5%	16.7%	59.7%	23.6%
Column Total	10,320	2.9	60.4%	39.6%	16.6%	61.8%	21.6%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Overall, in Edinburgh in May 2026, 60.4% of claimants were male, 16.6% are aged 16-24 and 21.6% of claimants are aged 50 or over. The City Centre ward records that 71.1% of the claimants are male. In Morningside 25.5% 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 1,680 claimants in East Lothian in May 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 10 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward May 2026

Wards	May 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants May 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	215	2.4	48.8%	51.2%	18.6%	60.5%	20.9%
Haddington and Lammermuir	265	2.2	49.1%	52.8%	22.6%	58.5%	18.9%
Musselburgh	400	3.2	57.5%	41.3%	18.8%	58.8%	22.5%
North Berwick Coastal	135	1.6	59.3%	40.7%	14.8%	55.6%	29.6%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	275	2.5	56.4%	43.6%	21.8%	58.2%	21.8%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	390	2.5	59.0%	39.7%	24.4%	53.8%	21.8%
East Lothian	1,680	2.5	55.7%	44.3%	20.8%	57.1%	21.7%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Across the county 55.7% of claimants are male and this varies from 48.8% in Dunbar and East Linton through to 59.3% in North Berwick Coastal. On average in East Lothian 20.8% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 21.7% of claimants are 50 or over. Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (24.4%) and North Berwick Coastal is the ward with the highest proportion (26.9%) of people aged over 50 years of age.

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. Table 11 gives the current situation in the twenty-two Fife wards, and we can see that overall, there were 7,675 claimants in Fife in May 2026. We can see that there were five wards with more than 500 claimants and three 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 (115) it also has the lowest claimant rate at 0.9%.

Table 11 Fife Claimant Count by Ward May 2026

Wards	May 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants May 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	635	5.5	60.6%	38.6%	21.3%	55.1%	23.6%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	330	3.9	59.1%	42.4%	22.7%	53.0%	24.2%
Cowdenbeath	515	3.6	57.3%	42.7%	27.2%	52.4%	19.4%
Cupar	210	2.6	54.8%	45.2%	19.0%	52.4%	28.6%
Dunfermline Central	310	2.6	58.1%	41.9%	19.4%	61.3%	19.4%
Dunfermline North	335	3.0	56.7%	43.3%	19.4%	58.2%	20.9%
Dunfermline South	390	2.5	56.4%	43.6%	21.8%	55.1%	21.8%
East Neuk and Landward	165	2.4	54.5%	45.5%	15.2%	54.5%	27.3%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	350	3.9	60.0%	40.0%	32.9%	51.4%	15.7%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	315	2.8	60.3%	39.7%	27.0%	54.0%	19.0%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	375	3.9	56.0%	44.0%	25.3%	50.7%	22.7%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	160	2.1	62.5%	37.5%	15.6%	56.3%	31.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	230	2.2	54.3%	45.7%	21.7%	47.8%	30.4%
Kirkcaldy Central	605	6.8	57.9%	42.1%	19.8%	57.0%	24.0%
Kirkcaldy East	555	5.7	59.5%	40.5%	22.5%	55.0%	22.5%
Kirkcaldy North	360	3.7	54.2%	44.4%	20.8%	58.3%	19.4%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	410	3.4	61.0%	37.8%	23.2%	52.4%	24.4%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	550	4.7	59.1%	40.0%	25.5%	54.5%	20.0%
Rosyth	305	3.1	54.1%	45.9%	23.0%	55.7%	21.3%
St Andrews	115	0.9	65.2%	34.8%	21.7%	56.5%	21.7%
Tay Bridgehead	205	2.2	53.7%	48.8%	17.1%	63.4%	19.5%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	255	2.6	58.8%	41.2%	21.6%	58.8%	19.6%
Fife	7,675	3.3	58.0%	42.0%	22.7%	55.0%	22.3%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

We can also see that 58% of claimants in May were male and this ranged from 65.2% in St Andrews through to 53.7% in Tay Bridgehead. Overall, in Fife 22.7% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and 22.3% are 50 or over. With 32.9% 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 had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 31.3% 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 1,530 claimants in May 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 56.5% of claimants are male, 20.9% are aged 16-24 and 19.9% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Dalkeith had the highest proportion of male claimants (61.4%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female

claimants (50%). In terms of the age profile 22.8% of claimants in Dalkeith were 16-24 years of age in May 2026. We can also see that 25% of claimants in Penicuik were over the age of 50. Dalkeith and Penicuik have the highest claimant rate at 2.8% of working age population claiming in May.

Table 12 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward May 2026

Wards	May 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants May 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	250	2.1	58.0%	42.0%	18.0%	62.0%	18.0%
Dalkeith	285	2.8	61.4%	38.6%	22.8%	57.9%	19.3%
Midlothian East	270	2.7	55.6%	44.4%	22.2%	63.0%	14.8%
Midlothian South	245	2.6	55.1%	44.9%	22.4%	59.2%	20.4%
Midlothian West	260	2.3	50.0%	50.0%	19.2%	59.6%	21.2%
Penicuik	220	2.8	59.1%	43.2%	20.5%	54.5%	25.0%
Midlothian	1,530	2.5	56.5%	43.8%	20.9%	59.5%	19.9%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

West Lothian

The situation in the West Lothian wards is looked at in Table 13 below. Overall, there were 3,255 claimants in West Lothian in May 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 May 2026

Wards	May 2026	Rate	Proportion of Claimants May 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armada & Blackridge	290	3.1	53.4%	46.6%	25.9%	56.9%	17.2%
Bathgate	465	3.2	60.2%	39.8%	24.7%	55.9%	19.4%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	305	2.4	52.5%	47.5%	16.4%	57.4%	24.6%
East Livingston & E. Calder	410	2.8	59.8%	40.2%	20.7%	56.1%	23.2%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	335	3.3	62.7%	37.3%	20.9%	58.2%	20.9%
Linlithgow	135	1.3	59.3%	40.7%	25.9%	51.9%	22.2%
Livingston North	335	2.2	58.2%	41.8%	19.4%	58.2%	22.4%
Livingston South	490	3.1	55.1%	44.9%	22.4%	57.1%	20.4%
Whitburn & Blackburn	495	3.4	61.6%	38.4%	24.2%	53.5%	22.2%
West Lothian	3,255	2.8	58.4%	41.6%	22.4%	56.4%	21.2%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

Overall, we can see that 58.4% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 62.7% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall, 22.4% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants is Linlithgow where 25.9% are 16-24 years of age. Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh has the highest proportion of older claimants (24.6%).

Scottish Borders

Table 14 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards. From this table we can see that there were 1,925 people claiming in May 2026. The data in Table 14 indicates that nine wards had recorded under 200 claimants and two had recorded between 200 and 500. Small

claimant numbers are not surprising as the population overall in some of these wards is small. When we look at the claimant rates, we can see that the Scottish Borders is not dissimilar to elsewhere in South East Scotland. Hawick and Denholm has the highest claimant rate (3.8%) whilst Leaderdale and Melrose has the lowest claimant rate (1.8%).

Table 14 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward May 2026

Wards	Total	Rate	Proportion of Claimants May 2026				
			Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	185	2.9	45.9%	54.1%	18.9%	48.6%	32.4%
Galashiels and District	335	3.4	59.7%	40.3%	19.4%	55.2%	23.9%
Hawick and Denholm	200	3.8	55.0%	45.0%	22.5%	57.5%	20.0%
Hawick and Hermitage	185	3.7	62.2%	37.8%	27.0%	48.6%	24.3%
Jedburgh and District	155	3.1	54.8%	45.2%	22.6%	58.1%	22.6%
Kelso and District	170	3.0	50.0%	50.0%	20.6%	50.0%	29.4%
Leaderdale & Melrose	115	1.8	52.2%	47.8%	21.7%	47.8%	30.4%
Mid Berwickshire	165	2.6	54.5%	45.5%	12.1%	51.5%	33.3%
Selkirkshire	165	3.0	60.6%	42.4%	21.2%	63.6%	18.2%
Tweeddale East	125	2.0	52.0%	48.0%	20.0%	44.0%	32.0%
Tweeddale West	125	2.1	60.0%	40.0%	16.0%	56.0%	32.0%
Scottish Borders	1,925	2.8	55.6%	44.4%	20.3%	53.0%	27.0%

Source: NOMIS 25/6/2026

We can also see that across Scottish Borders in March 55.6% of claimants were male, 20.3% were 16-24 years of age and 27% were over 50 years of age. In Selkirkshire 60.6% of claimants were males, in East Berwickshire 54.1% were females. In terms of age cohorts 27% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire 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 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.

¹ [Stat-Xplore - Home](#)

Table 15 Universal Credit Claimants in the City Region

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

Source: StatXplore 21/5/2026

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

- 8,035 Universal Credit claimants who were searching for work. *Not working, or with very low earnings. Claimant is required to take action to secure work - or more / better paid work. The Work Coach supports them to plan their work search and preparation activity. Typical examples of people in this regime include jobseekers and gainfully self-employed in start-up period. Claimants are only in this regime if they do not fit into one of the other regimes.*
- 1,348 who were preparing for work *Expected to start preparing for future even with limited capability for work at the present time or a child aged 2', the claimant is expected to take reasonable steps to prepare for work including Work Focused Interview.*
- 361 planning for work *Expected to work in the future. Lone parent / lead carer of child aged 1. Claimant required to attend periodic interviews to plan for their return to work.*

This suggests that if we were to use Universal Credit as the indicator there would be 9,744 claimants of Universal Credit in the City Region who could be looking for work either now or in the near future. This is far lower than the claimant count figure which includes the Universal Credit clients but also Job Seekers Allowance claimants. One would argue that where it is more useful is the insight it can provide around those that are neither working nor looking for work- the no work requirements group. This group includes those that are not expected to work at present as health or caring responsibility prevents claimant from working or preparing for work. Examples of people in this regime include those in full time education, over state pension age, have a child under 1 years old and those with no prospect to work. As we can see in the table above in January the City Region had 13,246 in this group.

Table 16 Duration for Universal Credit Claiming for those Searching for Work

	East Lothian	Midlothian	Fife	West Lothian	Scottish Borders	City of Edinburgh	City Region
Up to 3 months	244	248	1,158	532	310	1,560	4,053
3 months up to 6 months	180	186	872	348	161	1,147	2,894
6 months up to 1 year	197	188	858	396	236	1,430	3,308
1 year and up to 2 years	195	208	1,251	467	341	1,577	4,039
2 years and up to 3 years	118	102	517	211	169	778	1,896
3 years and up to 5 years	153	122	695	279	228	938	2430
5 years and over	321	258	1340	422	343	1194	3895
Total	1,414	1,315	6,700	2,671	1,787	8,627	22,512

Source: StatXplore 21/5/2026

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

Chris Nicol, Business Intelligence Manager,
Capital City Partnership
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07462 432348
chris.nicol@capitalcitypartnership.org