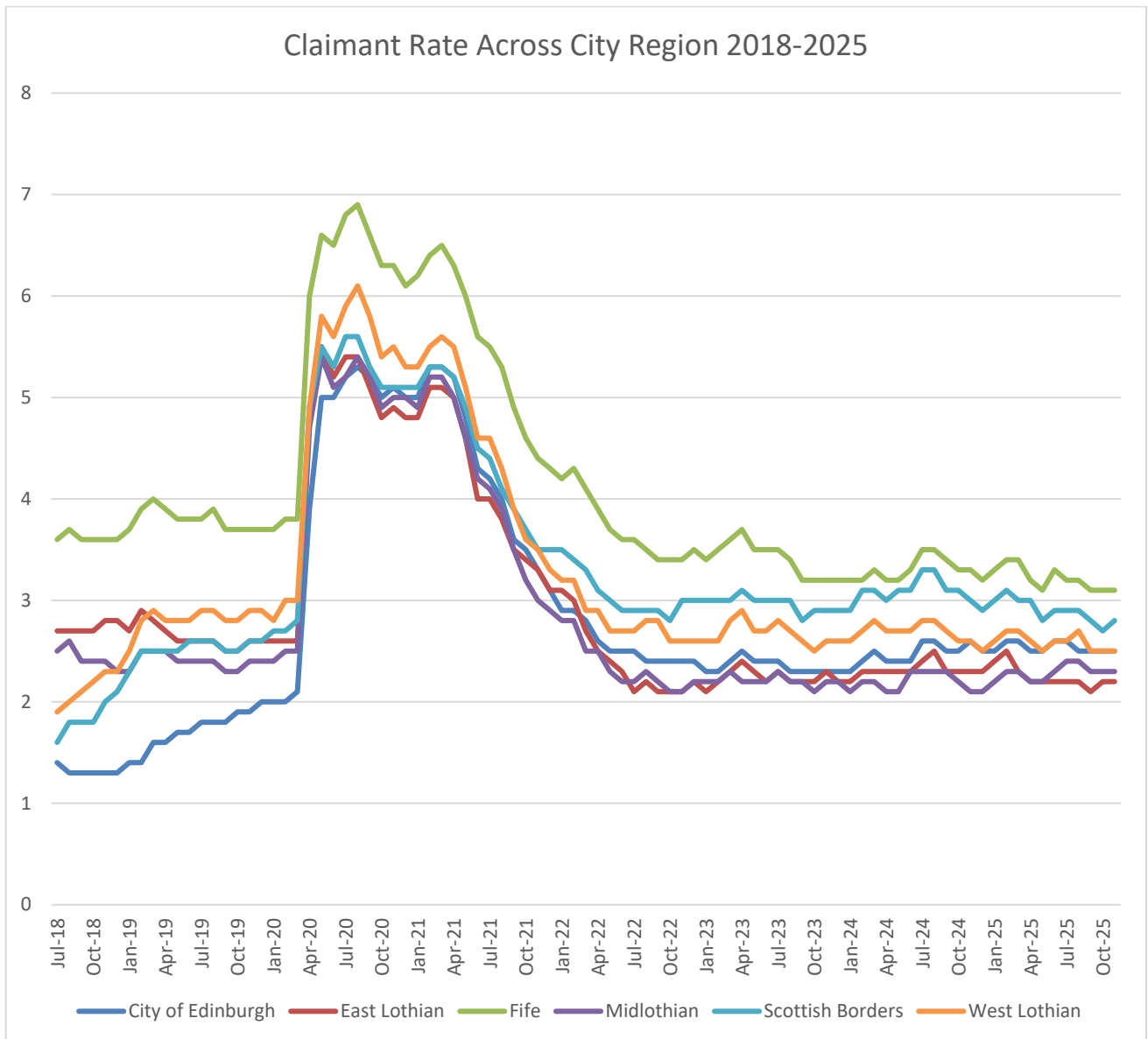


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count November 2025 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between November 2024 and November 2025:	Claimant Count Change Between October 2025 and November 2025:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK fell by 3.4% ↓ Scotland fell by 4.8% ↓ Edinburgh fell by 0.5% ↓ City Region fell by 3.7% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 1.1% ↑ Scotland increased by 2.9% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 4.5% ↑ City Region increased by 3.5%



Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

City Region Summary

1. In November 2025 the claimant count for the City Region was 24,065 (in October it was 23,255). Of these
 - a. 4,610 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,470 in October.
 - b. 14,230 were 25-49 year olds up from 13,685 in October.
 - c. 5,225 were 50 or older up from 5,090 in October.
2. In October 2025 there were 47,347 Universal Credit claimants in work in the City Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In November 2025 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 9,260 (in October it was 8,860). Of these
 - a. 1,480 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,395 in October.
 - b. 5,795 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,560 in October.
 - c. 1,985 were 50 or older. It was 1,905 in October.
2. In October 2025 there were 15,127 Universal Credit claimants in work in Edinburgh.

East Lothian Summary

1. In November 2025 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,520 (in October it was 1,475). Of these
 - a. 315 were 16-24 year olds. In October it was 305.
 - b. 880 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 850.
 - c. 325 were 50 or older. In October it was 320.
2. In October 2025 there were 3,774 Universal Credit claimants in work in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In November 2025 the claimant count for Fife was 7,090 (in October it was 6,915). Of these
 - a. 1,520 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 1,530.
 - b. 4,010 were 25-49 years of age. In October there were 3,845.
 - c. 1,560 were 50 or older. In October there were 1,535.
2. In October 2025 there were 14,086 Universal Credit claimants in work in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In November 2025 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,400 (it was 1,365 in October). Of these
 - a. 305 were 16-24 year olds. In October it was 295.
 - b. 840 were 25-49 year olds. In October it was 815.
 - c. 255 were 50 or older. In October it was 250.
2. In October 2025 there were 3,655 Universal Credit claimants in work in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In November 2025 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,850 (in October it was 1,770). Of these
 - a. 345 were 16-24 year olds. In October it was the 320.
 - b. 1,010 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 965.
 - c. 495 were 50 or older. In October there were 485.
2. In October 2025 there were 3,909 Universal Credit claimants in work in Scottish Borders

West Lothian Summary

1. In November 2025 the claimant count for West Lothian was 2,945 (in October it was 2,870). Of these
 - a. 645 were 16-24 year olds. In October there were 625.
 - b. 1,695 were 25-49 year olds. In October there were 1,650.
 - c. 605 were 50 or older. In October there were 595.
2. In October 2025 there were 6,808 Universal Credit claimants in work in West Lothian.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count November 2025 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in November 2025 is lower than it was five years ago in every region and nation. Looking at what has happened over the last 12 months we can see that in all areas, apart from the South East and South West, there are fewer claimants in 2025 than there were in 2024. Looking at the latest month to month change it can be seen in the table that across the UK the claimant count is 1.1% (17,435 more) higher than in October and in Scotland it is 2.9% higher.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	November 2020	November 2024	October 2025	November 2025	Percentage Change		
					Nov20 - Nov25	Nov24- Nov25	Oct25- Nov25
UK	2,604,825	1,726,340	1,650,220	1,667,655	-36.0%	-3.4%	1.1%
East	203,760	130,530	127,020	128,825	-36.8%	-1.3%	1.4%
East Midlands	161,745	110,585	106,360	107,235	-33.7%	-3.0%	0.8%
London	484,885	352,395	348,915	349,635	-27.9%	-0.8%	0.2%
North East	118,960	67,950	61,105	61,880	-48.0%	-8.9%	1.3%
North West	315,600	209,000	193,935	196,390	-37.8%	-6.0%	1.3%
N. Ireland	58,770	40,630	37,425	37,125	-36.8%	-8.6%	-0.8%
Scotland	208,830	108,295	100,195	103,105	-50.6%	-4.8%	2.9%
South East	289,985	181,825	179,900	182,605	-37.0%	0.4%	1.5%
South West	167,305	96,465	94,715	96,945	-42.1%	0.5%	2.4%
Wales	111,630	65,970	62,360	63,395	-43.2%	-3.9%	1.7%
West Midlands	263,850	207,580	197,925	199,355	-24.4%	-4.0%	0.7%
Yorks & Humb	219,515	155,115	140,365	141,155	-35.7%	-9.0%	0.6%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 focuses on Scottish Local Authorities and, like the nations and regions examined in Table 1, we can see that since November 2020 every Local Authority in Scotland has seen the claimant count fall. What is clear from the table below is the degree to which the claimant count has fallen since 2020 differs depending on the Local Authority. The smallest percentage fall (42%) being recorded in Glasgow City and the greatest percentage fall (60.3%) being recorded in the Western Isles.

Over the last year, seven Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase (including Midlothian) and all other Local Authorities saw the claimant count fall year on year. This fall has ranged from a

fall of 10.8% in North Lanarkshire through to a fall of 0.5% in East Ayrshire and in Edinburgh. The six Local Authorities that make up the city region are highlighted in Table 2.

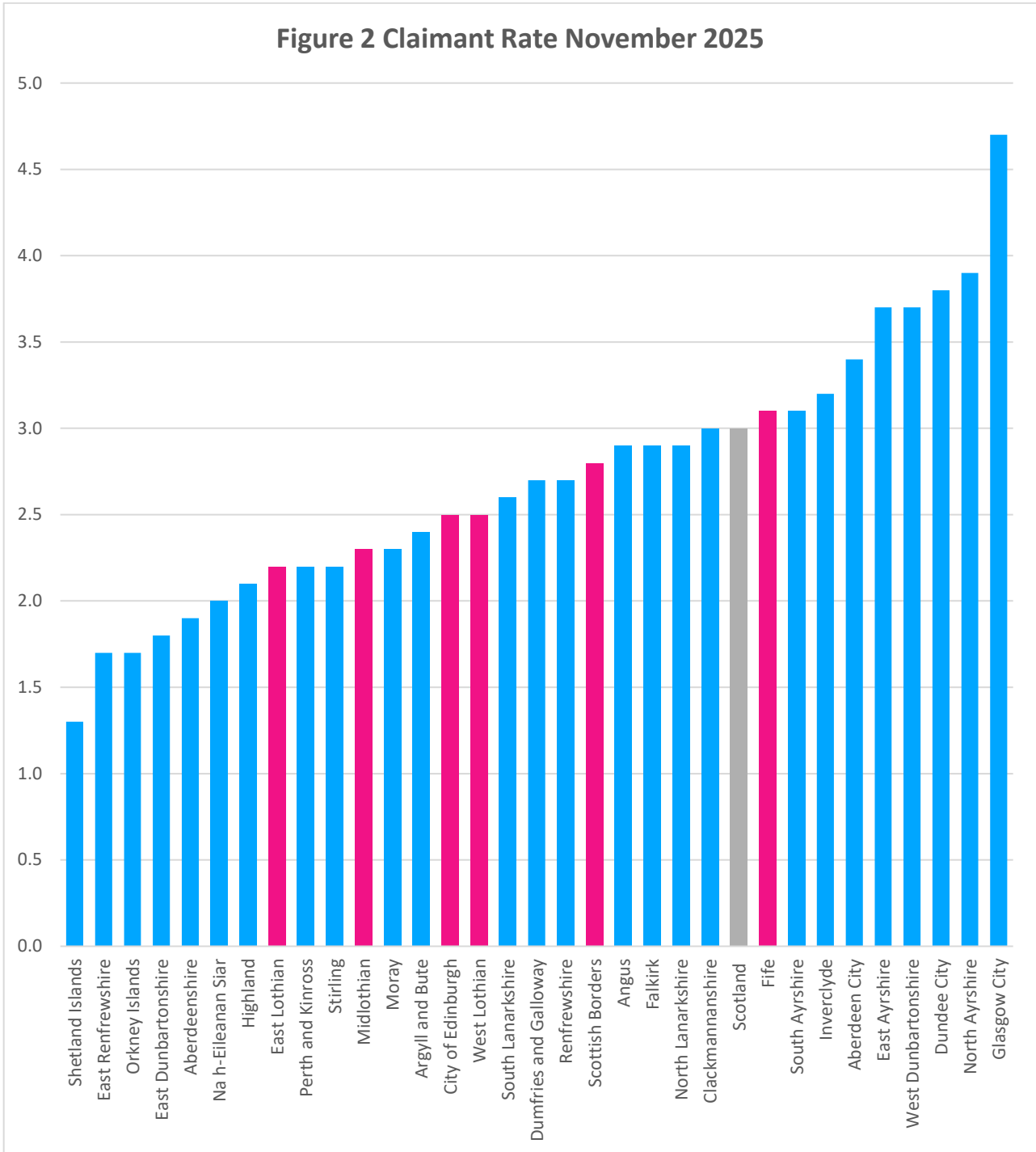
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	Nov-20	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	% Change		
					Nov20 - Nov25	Nov24- Nov25	Oct25- Nov25
Aberdeen City	9,405	4,900	5,055	5,140	-45.3%	4.9%	1.7%
Aberdeenshire	6,525	2,870	2,910	2,955	-54.7%	3.0%	1.5%
Angus	3,740	1,960	1,910	1,975	-47.2%	0.8%	3.4%
Argyll and Bute	2,780	1,320	1,125	1,230	-55.8%	-6.8%	9.3%
Edinburgh	18,170	9,310	8,860	9,260	-49.0%	-0.5%	4.5%
Clackmannanshire	2,070	1,000	915	955	-53.9%	-4.5%	4.4%
Dumfries & Galloway	4,510	2,400	2,170	2,245	-50.2%	-6.5%	3.5%
Dundee City	7,020	3,990	3,655	3,740	-46.7%	-6.3%	2.3%
East Ayrshire	5,730	2,730	2,640	2,715	-52.6%	-0.5%	2.8%
E.Dunbartonshire	2,605	1,220	1,090	1,130	-56.6%	-7.4%	3.7%
East Lothian	3,255	1,605	1,475	1,520	-53.3%	-5.3%	3.1%
East Renfrewshire	2,145	975	940	955	-55.5%	-2.1%	1.6%
Falkirk	5,890	2,770	2,815	2,885	-51.0%	4.2%	2.5%
Fife	14,410	7,660	6,915	7,090	-50.8%	-7.4%	2.5%
Glasgow City	36,480	22,445	20,750	21,150	-42.0%	-5.8%	1.9%
Highland	7,235	3,285	2,870	3,040	-58.0%	-7.5%	5.9%
Inverclyde	3,005	1,685	1,475	1,565	-47.9%	-7.1%	6.1%
Midlothian	2,950	1,295	1,365	1,400	-52.5%	8.1%	2.6%
Moray	2,780	1,335	1,270	1,305	-53.1%	-2.2%	2.8%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	755	295	270	300	-60.3%	1.7%	11.1%
North Ayrshire	6,715	3,405	3,040	3,105	-53.8%	-8.8%	2.1%
North Lanarkshire	14,380	7,170	6,295	6,395	-55.5%	-10.8%	1.6%
Orkney Islands	370	205	200	215	-41.9%	4.9%	7.5%
Perth and Kinross	4,145	2,115	1,930	1,985	-52.1%	-6.1%	2.8%
Renfrewshire	7,145	3,445	3,125	3,185	-55.4%	-7.5%	1.9%
Scottish Borders	3,485	2,045	1,770	1,850	-46.9%	-9.5%	4.5%
Shetland Islands	465	200	160	185	-60.2%	-7.5%	15.6%
South Ayrshire	4,575	2,200	1,950	2,015	-56.0%	-8.4%	3.3%
South Lanarkshire	12,490	5,860	5,195	5,330	-57.3%	-9.0%	2.6%
Stirling	2,715	1,360	1,225	1,305	-51.9%	-4.0%	6.5%
W.Dunbartonshire	4,560	2,160	1,965	2,055	-54.9%	-4.9%	4.6%
West Lothian	6,325	3,080	2,870	2,945	-53.4%	-4.4%	2.6%
Scotland	208,830	108,295	100,195	103,105	-50.6%	-4.8%	2.9%
City Region	48,595	24,995	23,255	24,065	-50.5%	-3.7%	3.5%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Looking at what has happened between October and November. What we can also see in Table 2 is that for every Local Authority in Scotland there was a month to month increase. This has ranged from a 1.5% increase in Aberdeenshire through to a 15.6% increase in the Shetland Islands.

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in November 2025. From this it can be seen that, except for Fife, all the City Region Local Authorities had a claimant rate below the Scottish average.



Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

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 November 2025 is lower than it was in 2020. The fall ranges from 46.9% in Scottish Borders through to 53.4% in West Lothian. Over the last year one Local Authority has seen the claimant count increase (Midlothian). The five other Authorities have seen the claimant count fall by between 0.5% (Edinburgh) and 9.5% (Scottish Borders).

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	Nov 2020	Nov 2024	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Claimant Rate Apr 25	Percentage Change		
						Nov20 - Nov25	Nov24- Nov25	Oct25- Nov25
Edinburgh	18,170	9,310	8,860	9,260	2.5	-49.0%	-0.5%	4.5%
East Lothian	3,255	1,605	1,475	1,520	2.2	-53.3%	-5.3%	3.1%
Fife	14,410	7,660	6,915	7,090	3.1	-50.8%	-7.4%	2.5%
Midlothian	2,950	1,295	1,365	1,400	2.3	-52.5%	8.1%	2.6%
Scottish Borders	3,485	2,045	1,770	1,850	2.8	-46.9%	-9.5%	4.5%
West Lothian	6,325	3,080	2,870	2,945	2.5	-53.4%	-4.4%	2.6%
City Region	48,595	24,995	23,255	24,065	0.0	-50.5%	-3.7%	3.5%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Between October and November, the six Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase. This has ranged from 2.5% in Fife through to a 4.5% increase in Edinburgh and Borders.

Gender Profile

From Table 4 we can see that four of the six Local Authorities in the city region have seen the number of male claimants decrease over the last twelve months, and the other two have seen an increase. Across the region the number of male claimants in November 2025 was 250 fewer than in 2024.

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

Male Claimants	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	% Change	
				Nov24-Nov25	Oct25-Nov25
Edinburgh	5,325	5,215	5,450	2.3%	4.5%
East Lothian	850	800	815	-4.1%	1.9%
Fife	4,360	4,070	4,085	-6.3%	0.4%
Midlothian	740	775	785	6.1%	1.3%
Scottish Borders	1,125	1,000	1,035	-8.0%	3.5%
West Lothian	1,750	1,685	1,730	-1.1%	2.7%
City Region	14,150	13,545	13,900	-1.8%	2.6%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Comparing the November 2025 statistics to those of October 2025 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 2.6% increase between October and November. This is based on 355 additional male claimants when compared to the October figures. The largest percentage month to month increase was in Edinburgh where the male claimant count increased by 4.5% or 235 additional claimants.

Table 5 looks at the situation for female claimants. This indicates that over the last year there has been a decrease in the number of female claimants in the region (665 fewer female claimants). This is a decrease of 6.1% year on year. Scottish Borders saw the largest fall whilst Midlothian recorded an increase in the number of female claimants (an increase of 65 over the course of the year). Between October and November 2025, we can see that all six Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants increase. This ranged from a 3.0% increase in West Lothian through to a 5.8% increase in Fife and in Scottish Borders. Overall, across the City Region there were 4.7% more female claimants, 460 additional individuals, in November than in October.

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

Females	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-25	% Change	
				Nov24-Nov25	Oct25-Nov25
Edinburgh	3,985	3,650	3,810	-4.4%	4.4%
East Lothian	755	675	705	-6.6%	4.4%
Fife	3,300	2,840	3,005	-8.9%	5.8%
Midlothian	550	590	615	11.8%	4.2%
Scottish Borders	915	770	815	-10.9%	5.8%
West Lothian	1,325	1,180	1,215	-8.3%	3.0%
City Region	10,830	9,705	10,165	-6.1%	4.7%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In November 2025 there were 4,610 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 3.1% higher than a month ago and 6.5% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 280 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 140 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
Nov-20	2,940	625	2,945	660	780	1,350	9,300
Nov-24	1,250	295	1,570	265	350	600	4,330
Oct-25	1,395	305	1,530	295	320	625	4,470
Nov-25	1,480	315	1,520	305	345	645	4,610
% Change							
Nov24-Nov25	18.4%	6.8%	-3.2%	15.1%	-1.4%	7.5%	6.5%
Oct25-Nov25	6.1%	3.3%	-0.7%	3.4%	7.8%	3.2%	3.1%
Numerical Change							
Nov24-Nov25	230	20	-50	40	-5	45	280
Oct25-Nov25	85	10	-10	10	25	20	140

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that over the last year one Local Authority has seen the claimant count for 16-24 year olds fall by 3.2% (Fife) and one has seen it fall by 1.4% (Scottish Borders). The remaining Local Authorities saw the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increase by between 18.4% (Edinburgh with an additional 230) and 6.4% (East Lothian with an additional 20).

Over the last month all but one Local Authority has seen the claimant count for this age group increase. The one that didn't was Fife where the count recorded in November was 0.7% or 10 claimants fewer than in October.

Table 7 below looks at the percentage change in the number of 16-24 year olds but broken down by gender. It focuses on the last year and the last month as well as giving the number of 16-24 year olds split by gender. Overall, we can see that in November there were 2,820 16-24 year old males claiming in the City Region and 1,795 females and this indicates that 61% of the 16-24 year old claimants are male which is slightly lower than the proportion in Scotland.

Table 7: Percentage Change in Claimants by Age and Gender Across the City Region

16-24 Year Olds		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region	Scotland
Nov24-Nov25	Male	19%	-3%	-4%	9%	-2%	8%	6%	6%
	Female	16%	21%	-2%	25%	4%	7%	8%	7%
Oct25-Nov25	Male	6%	3%	-2%	0%	5%	4%	3%	2%
	Female	6%	7%	2%	9%	13%	2%	5%	3%
Claimants Nov 2025 Number and Proportion	Male	950	170	905	180	210	405	2,820	12,805
	Female	530	145	620	125	135	240	1,795	7,510
	Male	64%	54%	59%	59%	61%	63%	61%	63%
	Female	36%	46%	41%	41%	39%	37%	39%	37%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

What we can see is that over the last year the number of young claimants has increased by 6% for males and 8% for females in the City Region and that's the almost the same percentage change as in Scotland. However, looking at the individual Local Authorities the picture is far more mixed. For example, in East Lothian the number of young male claimants has fallen by 3% whilst the number of 16-24 year old female claimants has increased by 21% over the course of the year. Over the last month the city region has seen the percentage increase for young men and young women increase at a higher percentage than Scotland.

25-49 Year Olds

In November 2025 there were 14,230 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 4.0% higher than a month ago and 4.7% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 705 fewer 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 545 more than last month.

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
Nov-20	11,245	1,815	8,100	1,660	1,745	3,550	28,115
Nov-24	5,920	940	4,365	795	1,080	1,835	14,935
Oct-25	5,560	850	3,845	815	965	1,650	13,685
Nov-25	5,795	880	4,010	840	1,010	1,695	14,230
% Change							
Nov24-Nov25	-2.1%	-6.4%	-8.1%	5.7%	-6.5%	-7.6%	-4.7%
Oct25-Nov25	4.2%	3.5%	4.3%	3.1%	4.7%	2.7%	4.0%
Numerical Change							
Nov24-Nov25	-125	-60	-355	45	-70	-140	-705
Oct25-Nov25	235	30	165	25	45	45	545

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that all five Local Authorities have fewer 25-49 year old claimants than a year ago. The one where there are more claimants is Midlothian which recorded an additional 45 claimants in 2025 than November 2026. We can also see that all six Local Authorities in the Region have more claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 2.7% more in West Lothian through to 4.7% more in Scottish Borders. Once again please look at the

actual numerical change as this highlights that a large percentage change can be created by a relatively small increase in the number of actual claimants.

Table 9 below looks at the gender split for 25-49 year olds. It indicates that in November there were 7,950 male claimants and 6,275 female claimants. This represents 56% of claimants in this age group being male and 44% female. What we can see is that over the last year the number of 25-49 year old claimants decreased by 8% for females, whilst over the same period the number of 25-49 year old males has fallen by 2%. Over the last month there has been change in direction and the number of 25-49 year old males has increased by 3% whilst the number of females has increased by 5%.

Table 9: Percentage Change in Claimants by Age and Gender Across the City Region

25-49 Year Olds		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region	Scotland
% Change Nov24-Nov25	Male	2%	-4%	-6%	5%	-3%	-4%	-2%	-2%
	Female	-7%	-9%	-11%	7%	-11%	-11%	-8%	-9%
% Change Oct25-Nov25	Male	5%	2%	2%	0%	5%	2%	3%	3%
	Female	4%	5%	7%	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%
Claimants Nov 2025	Male	3300	455	2240	445	540	970	7950	34905
	Female	2495	425	1770	390	470	725	6275	25770
Number and Proportion	Male	57%	52%	56%	53%	53%	57%	56%	58%
	Female	43%	48%	44%	47%	47%	43%	44%	42%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

50 Year Olds and Over

In November 2025 there were 5,225 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 2.7% higher than a month ago and 8.9% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 510 fewer people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago but 135 more than last month.

Table 10: 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
Nov-20	3,985	1,880	3,365	635	960	1,425	12,250
Nov-24	2,135	375	1,730	235	610	650	5,735
Oct-25	1,905	320	1,535	250	485	595	5,090
Nov-25	1,985	325	1,560	255	495	605	5,225
% Change							
Nov24-Nov25	-7.0%	-13.3%	-9.8%	8.5%	-18.9%	-6.9%	-8.9%
Oct25-Nov25	4.2%	1.6%	1.6%	2.0%	2.1%	1.7%	2.7%
Numerical Change							
Nov24-Nov25	-150	-50	-170	20	-115	-45	-510
Oct25-Nov25	80	5	25	5	10	10	135

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

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

What we can see in Table 11 below is that in the City Region in November there were 3,130 male claimants and 2,085 females, which equates to 60% male and 40% female. Over the last year the number of claimants aged 50 or over has fallen by 10% for females whilst over the same period the number of males has fallen by 8%. Over the last month the number of female claimants over the age of 50 has increased by 3% whilst the number of male claimants has increased by 2%.

Table 11: Percentage Change in Claimants by Age and Gender Across the City Region

50+		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region	Scotland
% Change Nov24-Nov25	Male	-8%	-5%	-9%	3%	-20%	-1%	-8%	-11%
	Female	-5%	-21%	-12%	18%	-20%	-14%	-10%	-15%
% Change Oct25-Nov25	Male	3%	3%	-1%	3%	0%	4%	2%	3%
	Female	6%	0%	6%	-5%	2%	-4%	3%	3%
Claimants Nov 2025	Male	1,200	190	945	155	285	355	3,130	13,340
	Female	785	135	615	100	205	245	2,085	8,770
Number and Proportion	Male	60%	58%	61%	61%	58%	59%	60%	60%
	Female	40%	42%	39%	39%	42%	41%	40%	40%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Ward Profile

Edinburgh

Table 12 gives the current situation in the seventeen Edinburgh wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between October and November 2025. Overall, there were 9,260 claimants in Edinburgh in November 2025, and whilst this is 0.5% lower than last year it is 4.5% higher than in October 2025. One thing to remember about the latest data is that it can get reviewed in subsequent releases as more information becomes available.

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

The table also indicates that nine wards had a claimant count lower in November 2025 than a year ago, in Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart the claimant count was 12.1% lower in November 2025 than it was in 2024. In seven of the remaining wards the claimant count is higher than a year ago. This ranges from 9.3% higher in Almond to 0.6% higher in Pentland Hills. Bear in mind the actual number of claimants in any particular ward when considering these percentage changes as a large percentage change can occur from a small increase in a ward with a relatively small number.

Table 12 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward November 2025

Wards	Nov 2025	Rate	Nov24 to Nov25	Oct25 to Nov25	Proportion of Claimants November 2025				
					Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	705	3.1	9.3%	5.2%	55.3%	44.7%	19.1%	59.6%	22.0%
City Centre	645	2.3	-3.7%	8.4%	70.5%	29.5%	15.5%	62.8%	20.9%
Colinton/Fairmilehead	290	1.9	0.0%	-1.7%	51.7%	48.3%	20.7%	60.3%	19.0%
Corstorphine/Murrayfield	175	1.2	6.1%	2.9%	57.1%	42.9%	14.3%	60.0%	25.7%

Craigentiny/ Duddingston	665	3.2	6.4%	0.0%	60.9%	39.1%	14.3%	65.4%	20.3%
Drum Brae/ Gyle	340	2.2	3.0%	4.6%	60.3%	39.7%	13.2%	61.8%	25.0%
Forth	890	4.1	-1.1%	5.3%	53.9%	46.1%	17.4%	62.4%	20.2%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	290	1.7	-12.1%	0.0%	58.6%	43.1%	17.2%	62.1%	20.7%
Inverleith	330	1.4	-4.3%	10.0%	54.5%	45.5%	12.1%	63.6%	22.7%
Leith	675	3.7	-4.9%	3.8%	60.7%	39.3%	14.1%	66.7%	19.3%
Leith Walk	620	2.2	-0.8%	6.9%	62.9%	37.9%	13.7%	65.3%	21.0%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	765	3.3	3.4%	4.1%	57.5%	41.8%	16.3%	62.1%	21.6%
Morningside	210	0.9	-10.6%	0.0%	57.1%	42.9%	11.9%	59.5%	26.2%
Pentland Hills	775	3.7	0.6%	4.7%	58.1%	42.6%	18.7%	58.7%	22.6%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	760	3.6	-10.1%	2.0%	55.3%	44.7%	14.5%	65.1%	21.1%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	785	3.1	7.5%	7.5%	62.4%	37.6%	17.8%	63.1%	19.1%
Southside/ Newington	340	1.2	-5.6%	6.3%	57.4%	42.6%	14.7%	57.4%	29.4%
Column Total	9,260	2.5	-0.5%	4.5%	58.9%	41.1%	16.0%	62.6%	21.4%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Comparing the count recorded in October to that recorded in November we can see that only one ward recorded a fall (Colinton/Fairmilehead), three recorded no change and the others saw the claimant count increase between. Inverleith recorded the largest percentage increase between October and November where 30 additional claimants resulted in a monthly percentage increase of 10%.

Overall, in Edinburgh in October 2025, 58.9% of claimants were male and 16% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 70.5% of the claimants are male. In Southside/Newington 29.4% of claimants were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Colinton/Fairmilehead 20.7% of claimants were 16-24 years of age.

East Lothian

Table 13 gives the current situation in the six East Lothian wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between October and November 2025. Overall, there were 1,520 claimants in East Lothian in November 2025, and this is 5.3% lower than a year ago and 3.1% higher than last month.

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months one ward saw the claimant count increase, one saw no change and the remaining four have seen it fall. This has resulted in quite a range being recorded from an increase of 36.8% in North Berwick Coastal through to a 16.3% fall in Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry. One thing to remember is that numbers are often *relatively* small so a large percentage change can be the result of a small number of additional claimants. For example the increase in North Berwick Coastal is based on an increase from 95 claimants to 130 claimants.

Across the county 53.6% of claimants are male and this varies from 50% to 57.7%. Preston, Seton and Gosford is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (25%) and Dunbar and East Linton is the ward with the highest proportion (25%) of people aged over 50 years of age. Musselburgh is the ward with the highest claimant rate of 3% of working age people claiming.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2025

Wards	Nov 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2025				
			Nov24 to Nov25	Oct25 to Nov25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	180	2.0	-5.3%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	19.4%	58.3%	25.0%
Haddington and Lammermuir	215	1.9	-10.4%	-6.5%	53.5%	46.5%	23.3%	58.1%	18.6%
Musselburgh	375	3.0	-6.3%	1.4%	53.3%	46.7%	18.7%	60.0%	21.3%
North Berwick Coastal	130	1.7	36.8%	0.0%	57.7%	42.3%	11.5%	65.4%	23.1%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	260	2.4	0.0%	15.6%	53.8%	48.1%	25.0%	53.8%	21.2%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	360	2.5	-16.3%	4.3%	54.2%	44.4%	22.2%	56.9%	20.8%
East Lothian	1,520	2.3	-5.3%	3.1%	53.6%	46.4%	20.7%	57.9%	21.4%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Fife

Turning now to look at Fife. Table 14 gives the current situation in the twenty-two Fife wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between October and November 2025. Overall, there are 7,090 claimants in Fife in November 2025, and this is 7.4% lower than a year ago and 2.5% higher than last month.

Table 14 Fife Claimant Count by Ward November 2025

Wards	Nov 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2025				
			Nov24 to Nov25	Oct25 to Nov25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	585	5.3	-10.0%	4.5%	58.1%	41.9%	23.1%	55.6%	21.4%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	320	3.6	0.0%	4.9%	60.9%	39.1%	18.8%	57.8%	23.4%
Cowdenbeath	485	3.5	-8.5%	1.0%	56.7%	43.3%	25.8%	53.6%	20.6%
Cupar	180	2.2	-14.3%	2.9%	58.3%	41.7%	19.4%	55.6%	25.0%
Dunfermline Central	295	2.5	-11.9%	-3.3%	55.9%	44.1%	16.9%	62.7%	18.6%
Dunfermline North	270	2.5	-16.9%	-3.6%	57.4%	42.6%	22.2%	57.4%	20.4%
Dunfermline South	350	2.3	-9.1%	1.4%	58.6%	41.4%	21.4%	58.6%	18.6%
East Neuk and Landward	150	2.1	-18.9%	3.4%	60.0%	40.0%	16.7%	56.7%	30.0%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	360	3.8	5.9%	0.0%	59.7%	40.3%	27.8%	55.6%	16.7%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	300	2.7	0.0%	3.4%	58.3%	43.3%	26.7%	51.7%	21.7%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	305	3.1	-10.3%	3.4%	47.5%	52.5%	24.6%	52.5%	23.0%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	155	1.9	-16.2%	-3.1%	54.8%	45.2%	12.9%	58.1%	32.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	195	1.8	-15.2%	-4.9%	53.8%	46.2%	20.5%	51.3%	30.8%
Kirkcaldy Central	560	6.5	-3.4%	4.7%	58.0%	41.1%	20.5%	54.5%	24.1%
Kirkcaldy East	545	5.8	-6.8%	5.8%	58.7%	41.3%	20.2%	56.9%	22.9%
Kirkcaldy North	325	3.3	-5.8%	3.2%	55.4%	44.6%	18.5%	61.5%	20.0%

Leven, Kennoway and Largo	385	3.3	-6.1%	5.5%	62.3%	39.0%	20.8%	53.2%	27.3%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	480	4.1	-11.9%	0.0%	61.5%	38.5%	22.9%	58.3%	18.8%
Rosyth	255	2.5	0.0%	4.1%	52.9%	47.1%	19.6%	60.8%	21.6%
St Andrews	115	0.8	9.5%	15.0%	52.2%	43.5%	34.8%	43.5%	21.7%
Tay Bridgehead	220	2.3	-2.2%	7.3%	56.8%	45.5%	15.9%	63.6%	20.5%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	255	2.6	-5.6%	4.1%	56.9%	43.1%	21.6%	60.8%	15.7%
Fife	7,090	3.1	-7.4%	2.5%	57.6%	42.4%	21.4%	56.6%	22.0%

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months two wards have not seen any change in the claimant count, two recorded an increase and every other ward has seen it fall. Between October and November 2025 four wards recorded a fall, two saw no change and sixteen saw the claimant count increase. This increase ranged from 15% in St Andrews through to 1% in Cowdenbeath. Just to reiterate that sometimes a significant percentage increase can be based on relatively small numerical changes. For example, the 15% in St Andrews is based on an increase from 100 in October to 115 in November.

Kirkcaldy Central has the highest claim rate in Fife at 6.5% whilst St Andrews has the lowest at 0.8%. We can also see that 57.6% of claimants in November were male and this ranged from 62.3% in Leven, Kennoway and Largo through to 47.5% in Glenrothes West and Kinglassie. With 34.8% of claimants being aged 16-24 St Andrews is the ward with the highest proportion of this age group in Fife whilst Howe of Fife and Tay Coast East had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 32.3% of the claimants in these wards were in that age band.

Midlothian

Table 15 gives the current situation in the six Midlothian wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between October and November 2025. Overall, we can see that Midlothian had 1,400 claimants in November 2025 and has seen the claimant number increase by 8.1% year on year and 2.6% between October and November.

Table 15 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2025

Wards	November 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2025				
			Nov24 to Nov25	Oct25 to Nov25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	225	1.9	18.4%	2.3%	55.6%	44.4%	20.0%	66.7%	13.3%
Dalkeith	270	3.0	12.5%	0.0%	61.1%	38.9%	22.2%	61.1%	16.7%
Midlothian East	270	2.7	10.2%	10.2%	53.7%	46.3%	25.9%	57.4%	14.8%
Midlothian South	210	2.3	5.0%	2.4%	52.4%	47.6%	21.4%	59.5%	19.0%
Midlothian West	235	2.4	4.4%	2.2%	51.1%	48.9%	17.0%	59.6%	25.5%
Penicuik	190	2.3	0.0%	-2.6%	63.2%	36.8%	26.3%	55.3%	18.4%
Midlothian	1,400	2.4	8.1%	2.6%	56.1%	43.9%	21.8%	60.0%	18.2%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

Looking at the wards it is apparent that over the course of the year one ward (Penicuik) saw the claimant count remain the same whilst the remaining Midlothian wards saw the claimant count increase year on year. Between October and November one ward recorded a fall in the claimant count, four recorded an increase and one recorded no change.

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 56.1% of claimants are male, 21.8% are aged 16-24 and 18.2% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Penicuik had the highest proportion of male claimants (63.2%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (48.9%). In terms of the age profile 26.3% of claimants in Penicuik were 16-24 years of age in October 2025. We can also see that 25.5% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50. Dalkeith has the highest claimant rate at 3% of working age population claiming in November.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 16 below. Overall, there were 2,945 claimants in West Lothian in November 2025, and this is 4.4% lower than a year ago and 2.6% higher than last month.

Table 16 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward November 2025

Wards	Nov 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2025				
			Nov24 to Nov25	Oct25 to Nov25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	260	2.6	-3.7%	6.1%	59.6%	40.4%	26.9%	57.7%	15.4%
Bathgate	400	2.6	-4.8%	1.3%	60.0%	40.0%	25.0%	55.0%	20.0%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	290	2.3	-3.3%	1.8%	55.2%	43.1%	20.7%	58.6%	20.7%
East Livingston & E. Calder	350	2.4	2.9%	2.9%	55.7%	42.9%	20.0%	55.7%	24.3%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	345	3.4	-8.0%	3.0%	63.8%	37.7%	20.3%	62.3%	17.4%
Linlithgow	110	1.1	-8.3%	10.0%	59.1%	40.9%	22.7%	45.5%	27.3%
Livingston North	295	1.9	-14.5%	3.5%	55.9%	44.1%	18.6%	59.3%	22.0%
Livingston South	435	2.8	2.4%	2.4%	56.3%	43.7%	21.8%	55.2%	24.1%
Whitburn & Blackburn	465	3.3	-3.1%	2.2%	62.4%	37.6%	22.6%	59.1%	17.2%
West Lothian	2,945	2.5	-4.4%	2.6%	58.7%	41.3%	21.9%	57.6%	20.5%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

We can see that seven of the nine West Lothian wards have seen a fall in the claimant count over the last twelve months. Over the last month every ward in West Lothian has seen the claimant count increase and this has ranged from 1.3% in Bathgate to 10% in Linlithgow. The ward that has the highest claimant rate is Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley while Linlithgow has the lowest.

Overall, we can see that 58.7% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 63.8% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall 21.9% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants is Armadale and Blackridge where 26.9% are 16-24 years of age. Whilst 20.5% of claimants in West Lothian are 50 years of age or over this is higher in Linlithgow where 27.3% of all claimants are 50 or over.

Scottish Borders

Turning now to look at Scottish Borders. Table 17 gives the current situation in the eleven Scottish Borders wards, the percentage change over the last twelve months and the change recorded between October and November 2025.

From this table we can see that there were 1,850 people claiming in November which is 9.5% lower than last year and 4.5% higher than last month.

We can see that all bar one ward recorded a fall in the claimant count between November 2024 and November 2025, and the one that didn't record a fall, Leaderdale and Melrose, had the same number of claimants as a year ago. The yearly changes range from a fall of 16% in Hawick and Denholm to a fall of 'only' 3.1% in Kelso and District. Again, numbers are small so a relatively large percentage change can be the result of a reduction of only 5 or 10 clients.

Looking at the month-to-month changes four wards there was no change and for the remaining wards there was an increase in the claimant count.

Table 17 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward November 2025

Wards	Nov 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants November 2025				
			Nov24 to Nov25	Oct25 to Nov25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	160	2.7	-11.1%	14.3%	46.9%	53.1%	18.8%	46.9%	31.3%
Galashiels and District	305	3.1	-7.6%	0.0%	60.7%	39.3%	19.7%	57.4%	21.3%
Hawick and Denholm	210	4.0	-16.0%	2.4%	57.1%	45.2%	16.7%	59.5%	23.8%
Hawick and Hermitage	175	3.5	-14.6%	0.0%	62.9%	37.1%	25.7%	48.6%	25.7%
Jedburgh and District	140	2.7	-15.2%	3.7%	50.0%	50.0%	17.9%	53.6%	28.6%
Kelso and District	155	2.7	-3.1%	6.9%	51.6%	48.4%	19.4%	54.8%	25.8%
Leaderdale & Melrose	135	2.1	0.0%	0.0%	55.6%	44.4%	22.2%	55.6%	22.2%
Mid Berwickshire	150	2.5	-9.1%	11.1%	50.0%	50.0%	6.7%	56.7%	36.7%
Selkirkshire	160	2.9	-5.9%	6.7%	62.5%	37.5%	21.9%	59.4%	18.8%
Tweeddale East	135	2.1	-3.6%	12.5%	51.9%	48.1%	14.8%	51.9%	33.3%
Tweeddale West	120	1.9	-14.3%	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%
Scottish Borders	1,850	2.7	-9.5%	4.5%	55.9%	44.1%	18.6%	54.6%	26.8%

Source: NOMIS 16/12/2025

The data in Table 14 also indicates that across Scottish Borders in October 55.9% of claimants were male, 18.6% were 16-24 years of age and 26.8% were over 50 years of age. In Hawick and Hermitage 62.9% of claimants were males, in East Berwickshire 53.1% were females. In terms of age cohorts 25.7% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire 36.7% of claimants were fifty or over.

Universal Credit

In the United Kingdom as a whole, Universal Credit is the second largest benefit by claimants after the State Pension. It is awarded to claimants out of work (both those currently looking and also those not currently looking for work) as well as to clients who are in work. It covers a number of historical benefits such as Income Support.

We can see in Table 18 that across the region there were 48,347 people in work who were claiming Universal Credit in October. Five Local Authorities have seen the number of people in this position fall between October 2024 and October 2025 and one has seen no real change. Over the last month all Local Authorities have seen a fall in the number working and claiming.

Table 18 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment in the City Region

In employment	Oct-24	Sep-25	Oct-25	% Change	
				Oct24-Oct25	Sep25-Oct25
East Lothian	3,808	3,804	3,774	-0.9%	-0.8%
Scottish Borders	4,049	3,924	3,909	-3.5%	-0.4%
Midlothian	3,654	3,699	3,655	0.0%	-1.2%
City of Edinburgh	15,156	15,453	15,127	-0.2%	-2.1%
Fife	14,443	14,191	14,086	-2.5%	-0.7%
West Lothian	7,124	7,041	6,808	-4.4%	-3.3%
City Region	48,225	48,115	47,347	-1.8%	-1.6%

Source: StatXplore 16/12/2025

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