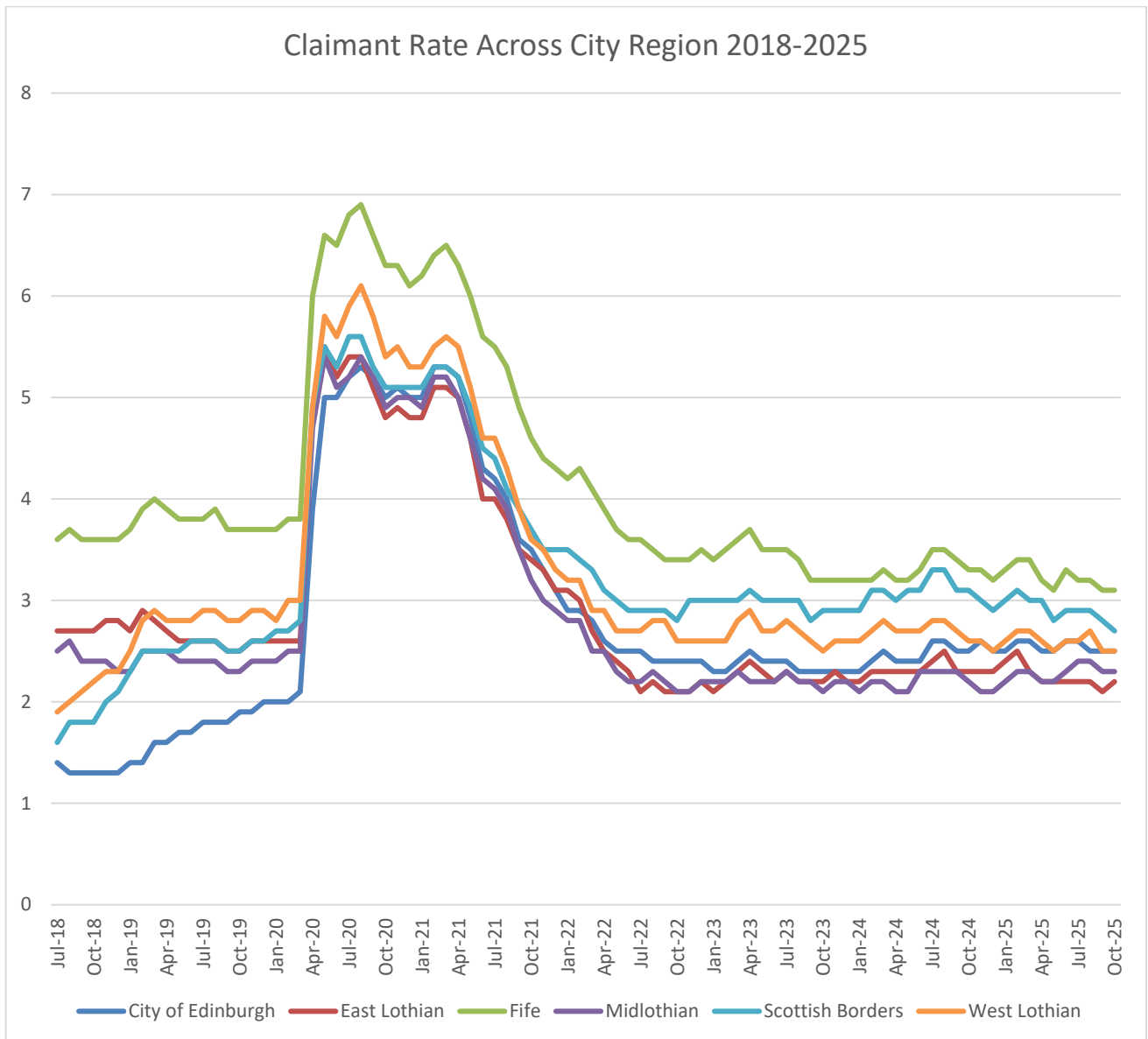


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count October 2025 Summary Update

Claimant Count Change Between October 2024 and October 2025:	Claimant Count Change Between September 2025 and October 2025:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK fell by 3.6% ↓ Scotland fell by 5.7% ↓ Edinburgh fell by 1.3% ↓ City Region fell by 4.1% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 2.1% ↑ Scotland increased by 1.7% ↑ Edinburgh increased by 3.1% ↑ City Region increased by 2.8%



Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

City Region Summary

1. In October 2025 the claimant count for the City Region was 23,780 (in September it was 23,135). Of these
 - a. 4,545 were 16-24 year olds up from 4,380 in September.
 - b. 14,000 were 25-49 year olds up from 13,730 in September.
 - c. 5,245 were 50 or older up from 5,030 in September.
2. In September 2025 there were 48,112 Universal Credit claimants in work in the City Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In October 2025 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 9,035 (in September it was 8,765). Of these
 - a. 1,420 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,345 in September.
 - b. 5,650 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,535 in September.
 - c. 1,965 were 50 or older. It was 1,885 in September.
2. In September 2025 there were 15,453 Universal Credit claimants in work in Edinburgh.

East Lothian Summary

1. In October 2025 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,505 (in September it was 1,445). Of these
 - a. 310 were 16-24 year olds. In September it was 290.
 - b. 870 were 25-49 year olds. In September there were 855.
 - c. 330 were 50 or older. In September it was 305.
2. In September 2025 there were 3,804 Universal Credit claimants in work in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In October 2025 the claimant count for Fife was 7,105 (in September it was 6,875). Of these
 - a. 1,560 were 16-24 year olds. In September there were 1,505.
 - b. 3,955 were 25-49 years of age. In September there were 3,865.
 - c. 1,590 were 50 or older. In September there were 1,505.
2. In September 2025 there were 14,191 Universal Credit claimants in work in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In October 2025 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,390 (it was 1,380 in September). Of these
 - a. 300 were 16-24 year olds. In September it was 300.
 - b. 835 were 25-49 year olds. In September it was 820.
 - c. 255 were 50 or older. In September it was 265.
2. In September 2025 there were 3,699 Universal Credit claimants in work in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In October 2025 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,805 (in September it was 1,815). Of these
 - a. 325 were 16-24 year olds. In September it was the 325.
 - b. 985 were 25-49 year olds. In September there were 1,000.
 - c. 495 were 50 or older. In September there were 485.
2. In September 2025 there were 3,924 Universal Credit claimants in work in Scottish Borders

West Lothian Summary

1. In October 2025 the claimant count for West Lothian was 2,940 (in September it was 2,855). Of these
 - a. 630 were 16-24 year olds. In September there were 615.
 - b. 1,705 were 25-49 year olds. In September there were 1,655.
 - c. 610 were 50 or older. In September there were 585.
2. In September 2025 there were 7,041 Universal Credit claimants in work in West Lothian.

Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count October 2025 Full Update

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in October 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 London, there are fewer claimants in 2025 than there were in 2024. In London the claimant count is 0.3% higher than a year ago. 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% (34,815 more) higher than in September and in Scotland it is 1.7% higher.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	October 2020	October 2024	September 2025	October 2025	Percentage Change		
					Oct20 - Oct25	Oct24- Oct25	Sep25- Oct25
UK	2,565,320	1,754,330	1,657,110	1,691,460	-34.1%	-3.6%	2.1%
East	200,170	132,840	127,205	130,045	-35.0%	-2.1%	2.2%
East Midlands	160,735	113,125	107,440	109,145	-32.1%	-3.5%	1.6%
London	468,295	356,300	351,780	357,300	-23.7%	0.3%	1.6%
North East	119,430	69,075	61,505	62,675	-47.5%	-9.3%	1.9%
North West	311,125	213,855	194,550	198,665	-36.1%	-7.1%	2.1%
N. Ireland	59,145	42,655	37,530	39,515	-33.2%	-7.4%	5.3%
Scotland	207,125	109,080	101,130	102,855	-50.3%	-5.7%	1.7%
South East	285,145	184,680	179,185	184,040	-35.5%	-0.3%	2.7%
South West	164,650	97,480	94,150	97,010	-41.1%	-0.5%	3.0%
Wales	110,715	66,360	62,385	64,075	-42.1%	-3.4%	2.7%
West Midlands	261,485	210,720	198,670	202,475	-22.6%	-3.9%	1.9%
Yorks & Humb	217,300	158,160	141,575	143,670	-33.9%	-9.2%	1.5%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

Claimant Count by Scottish Local Authority

Table 2 focuses on Scottish Local Authorities and, similar to the nations and regions examined in Table 1, we can see that since October 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 (40.9%) being recorded in Glasgow City and the greatest percentage fall (68.3%) being recorded in the Shetland Islands.

Over the last year, six 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

20% in the Shetland Islands through to a fall of 0.4% in East Ayrshire. The six Local Authorities that make up the city region are highlighted in Table 2.

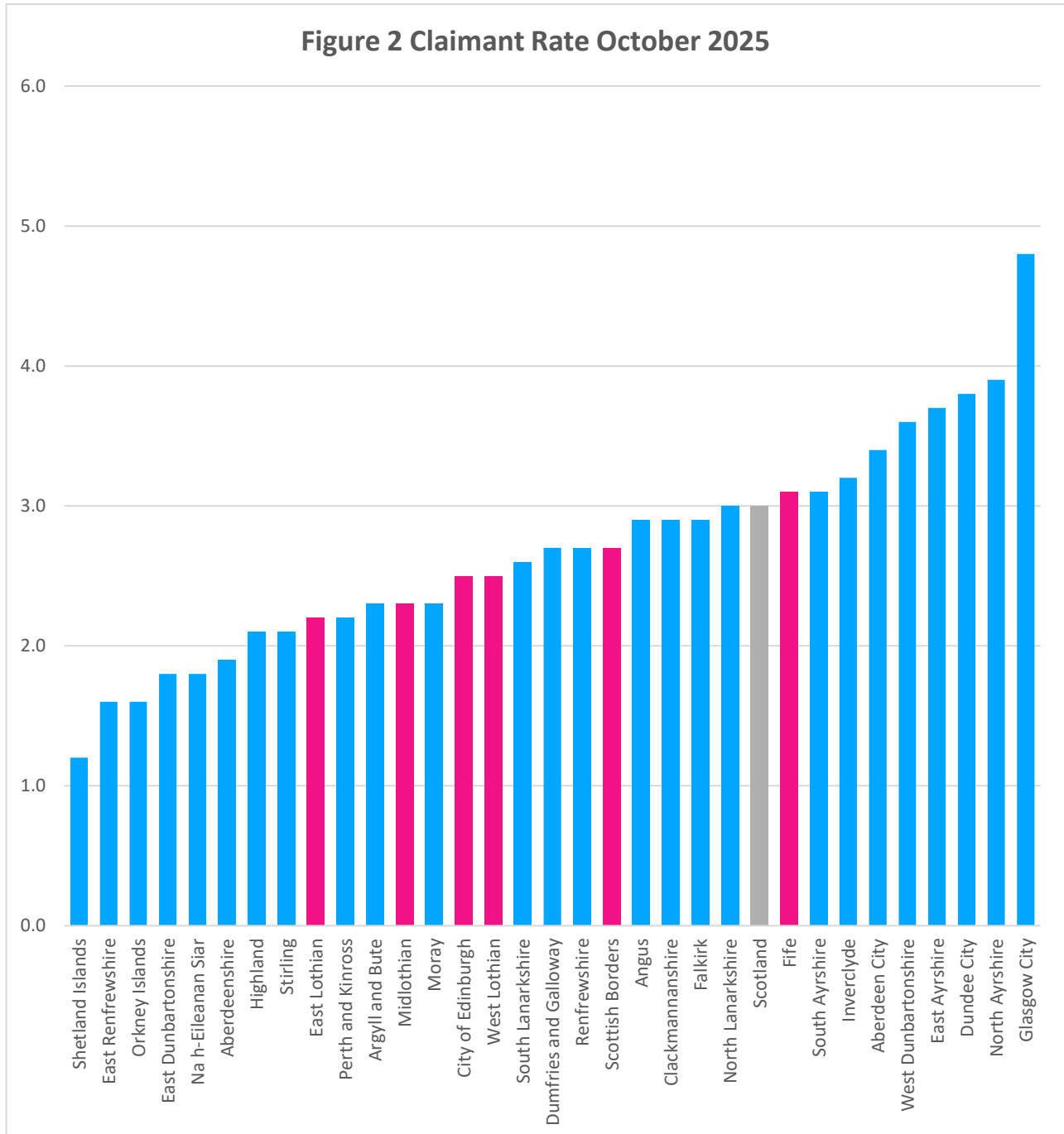
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	Oct-20	Oct-24	Sep-25	Oct-25	Percentage Change		
					Oct20 - Oct25	Oct24- Oct25	Sep25- Oct25
Aberdeen City	9,265	4,840	5,025	5,190	-44.0%	7.2%	3.3%
Aberdeenshire	6,485	2,860	2,925	2,985	-54.0%	4.4%	2.1%
Angus	3,690	1,900	1,980	1,950	-47.2%	2.6%	-1.5%
Argyll and Bute	2,720	1,315	1,150	1,160	-57.4%	-11.8%	0.9%
Edinburgh	17,665	9,150	8,765	9,035	-48.9%	-1.3%	3.1%
Clackmannanshire	2,100	1,010	880	930	-55.7%	-7.9%	5.7%
Dumfries & Galloway	4,455	2,495	2,210	2,230	-49.9%	-10.6%	0.9%
Dundee City	7,015	4,105	3,685	3,725	-46.9%	-9.3%	1.1%
East Ayrshire	5,665	2,730	2,620	2,720	-52.0%	-0.4%	3.8%
E.Dunbartonshire	2,645	1,285	1,125	1,130	-57.3%	-12.1%	0.4%
East Lothian	3,195	1,615	1,445	1,505	-52.9%	-6.8%	4.2%
East Renfrewshire	2,150	1,035	965	945	-56.0%	-8.7%	-2.1%
Falkirk	5,810	2,810	2,865	2,890	-50.3%	2.8%	0.9%
Fife	14,480	7,610	6,875	7,105	-50.9%	-6.6%	3.3%
Glasgow City	36,030	22,880	21,015	21,305	-40.9%	-6.9%	1.4%
Highland	7,215	3,255	2,875	2,945	-59.2%	-9.5%	2.4%
Inverclyde	3,025	1,695	1,530	1,525	-49.6%	-10.0%	-0.3%
Midlothian	2,870	1,365	1,380	1,390	-51.6%	1.8%	0.7%
Moray	2,735	1,275	1,260	1,290	-52.8%	1.2%	2.4%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	745	275	275	270	-63.8%	-1.8%	-1.8%
North Ayrshire	6,645	3,510	3,110	3,120	-53.0%	-11.1%	0.3%
North Lanarkshire	14,400	7,280	6,415	6,495	-54.9%	-10.8%	1.2%
Orkney Islands	370	215	190	205	-44.6%	-4.7%	7.9%
Perth and Kinross	4,160	2,140	2,000	2,000	-51.9%	-6.5%	0.0%
Renfrewshire	7,050	3,505	3,185	3,220	-54.3%	-8.1%	1.1%
Scottish Borders	3,450	2,055	1,815	1,805	-47.7%	-12.2%	-0.6%
Shetland Islands	505	200	165	160	-68.3%	-20.0%	-3.0%
South Ayrshire	4,535	2,230	2,005	2,010	-55.7%	-9.9%	0.2%
South Lanarkshire	12,555	5,875	5,265	5,365	-57.3%	-8.7%	1.9%
Stirling	2,720	1,350	1,245	1,270	-53.3%	-5.9%	2.0%
W.Dunbartonshire	4,530	2,230	2,015	2,030	-55.2%	-9.0%	0.7%
West Lothian	6,255	2,995	2,855	2,940	-53.0%	-1.8%	3.0%
Scotland	207,125	109,080	101,130	102,855	-50.3%	-5.7%	1.7%
City Region	47,915	24,790	23,135	23,780	-50.4%	-4.1%	2.8%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

Looking at what has happened between September and October. What we can also see in Table 2 is that for twenty six Local Authorities there was a month to month increase. This has ranged from a 0.3% increase in North Ayrshire through to a 7.9% increase in Orkney. Six Local Authorities have seen the claimant count fall over the last month and this has included Scottish Borders (-0.6%) and Midlothian (-0.3%).

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in October 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 11/11/2025

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 October 2025 is lower than it was in 2020. The fall ranges from 47.7% in Scottish Borders through to 53% 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 1.3% (Edinburgh) and 12.2% (Scottish Borders).

Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	Oct 20	Oct 24	Sep 25	Oct 25	Claimant Rate Apr 25	% Change		
						Oct20 - Oct25	Oct24- Oct25	Sep25- Oct25
Edinburgh	17,665	9,150	8,765	9,035	2.5	-48.9%	-1.3%	3.1%
East Lothian	3,195	1,615	1,445	1,505	2.2	-52.9%	-6.8%	4.2%
Fife	14,480	7,610	6,875	7,105	3.1	-50.9%	-6.6%	3.3%
Midlothian	2,870	1,365	1,380	1,390	2.3	-51.6%	1.8%	0.7%
Scottish Borders	3,450	2,055	1,815	1,805	2.7	-47.7%	-12.2%	-0.6%
West Lothian	6,255	2,995	2,855	2,940	2.5	-53.0%	-1.8%	3.0%
City Region	47,915	24,790	23,135	23,780	0.0	-50.4%	-4.1%	2.8%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

Between September and October five of the six Local Authorities saw the claimant count increase. This has ranged from 0.7% in Midlothian through to a 4.2% increase in East Lothian. Scottish Borders was the exception where the claimant count fell by 0.6%.

Gender Profile

From Table 4 we can see that three of the six Local Authorities in the city region have seen the number of male claimants decrease over the last 12 months, and the other three have seen an increase. Across the region the number of male claimants in October 2025 was 115 fewer than in 2024.

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

Male Claimants	Oct-24	Sep-25	Oct-25	% Change	
				Oct24-Oct25	Sep25-Oct25
Edinburgh	5,225	5,120	5,315	1.7%	3.8%
East Lothian	855	770	810	-5.3%	5.2%
Fife	4,310	4,075	4,190	-2.8%	2.8%
Midlothian	775	770	790	1.9%	2.6%
Scottish Borders	1,120	1,030	1,025	-8.5%	-0.5%
West Lothian	1,690	1,690	1,730	2.4%	2.4%
City Region	13,975	13,455	13,860	-0.8%	3.0%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

Comparing the October 2025 statistics to those of September 2025 we can see that every Local Authority apart from Scottish Borders has seen the number of male claimants increase. This culminated in the region as a whole recording a 3.0% increase between September and October. This is based on 405 additional male claimants when compared to the September figures. The largest percentage month to month increase was in East Lothian where the male claimant count increased by 5.2% or 40 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 (890 fewer female claimants). This is a decrease of 8.2% year on year. Scottish Borders saw the largest fall whilst Midlothian saw the number of male claimants increase between October 2024 and October 2025.

Between September and October 2025, we can see that four of the six Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants increase, one saw a fall and one saw no change. Overall, across the City Region there were 2.6% more female claimants, 250 additional individuals, in October than there were in September.

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

Females	Oct-24	Sep-25	Oct-25	% Change	
				Oct24-Oct25	Sep25-Oct25
Edinburgh	3,925	3,645	3,720	-5.2%	2.1%
East Lothian	760	675	695	-8.6%	3.0%
Fife	3,300	2,795	2,915	-11.7%	4.3%
Midlothian	590	610	600	1.7%	-1.6%
Scottish Borders	935	785	785	-16.0%	0.0%
West Lothian	1,305	1,165	1,210	-7.3%	3.9%
City Region	10,815	9,675	9,925	-8.2%	2.6%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In October 2025 there were 4,545 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 3.8% higher than a month ago and 6.2% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 265 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 165 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
Oct-20	2,915	630	3,085	650	790	1,400	9,470
Oct-24	1,235	285	1,555	270	355	580	4,280
Sep-25	1,345	290	1,505	300	325	615	4,380
Oct-25	1,420	310	1,560	300	325	630	4,545
% Change							
Oct24-Oct25	15.0%	8.8%	0.3%	11.1%	-8.5%	8.6%	6.2%
Sep25-Oct25	5.6%	6.9%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	3.8%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

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 8.5% (Scottish Borders). The remaining Local Authorities saw the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increase by between 15% (Edinburgh) and 0.3% Fife. Over the last month all but two Local Authorities have seen the claimant count for this age group increase. The two that didn't were Scottish Borders and Midlothian where the count recorded in October was the same as they had seen in September.

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 October there were 2,805 16-24 year old males claiming in the City Region and 1,740 females and this indicates that 62% of the 16-24 year old claimants are male which is broadly in line with 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
Oct24-Oct25	Male	17%	0%	1%	13%	-7%	7%	6%	6%
	Female	12%	22%	0%	9%	-11%	9%	6%	6%
Sep25-Oct25	Male	6%	3%	3%	6%	2%	3%	4%	2%
	Female	4%	12%	6%	-4%	-4%	2%	4%	2%
Claimants Oct 2025 Number and Proportion	Male	910	170	945	180	205	395	2,805	12,830
	Female	510	140	615	120	120	235	1,740	7,480
	Male	64%	55%	61%	60%	63%	63%	62%	63%
	Female	36%	45%	39%	40%	37%	37%	38%	37%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

What we can see is that over the last year the number of young claimants has increased by 6% for both males and females in the City Region and that's the same percentage change as in Scotland. However, looking at the individual Local Authorities the picture is far more mixed. 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 October 2025 there were 14,000 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 2.0% higher than a month ago and 5.1% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 760 fewer 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 270 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
Oct-20	10,950	1,775	8,030	1,625	1,730	3,490	27,600
Oct-24	5,775	945	4,315	840	1,095	1,790	14,760
Sep-25	5,535	855	3,865	820	1,000	1,655	13,730
Oct-25	5,650	870	3,955	835	985	1,705	14,000
% Change							
Oct24-Oct25	-2.2%	-7.9%	-8.3%	-0.6%	-10.0%	-4.7%	-5.1%
Sep25-Oct25	2.1%	1.8%	2.3%	1.8%	-1.5%	3.0%	2.0%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that all six Local Authorities have fewer 25-49 year old claimants than a year ago. Ranging from a fall of 0.6% in Midlothian through to a fall of 10% in Scottish Borders. 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 1.8% more in East Lothian and Midlothian through to 3% more in West Lothian. Scottish Borders was the only Local Authority that recorded a month on month fall.

Table 9 below looks at the gender split for 25-49 year olds. It indicates that in October there were 7,870 male claimants and 6,120 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 10% for females, whilst over the same period the number of 25-49 year old males has fallen by 3%. Over the last month there has been a slight change in direction and both the number of 25-49 year old males and females has increased by 1%.

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 Oct24-Oct25	Male	1%	-5%	-4%	1%	-7%	1%	-3%	-2%
	Female	-6%	-12%	-14%	-3%	-14%	-11%	-10%	-12%
% Change Sep25-Oct25	Male	3%	7%	2%	5%	-2%	3%	1%	2%
	Female	1%	-4%	3%	-1%	-3%	3%	1%	1%
Claimants Oct 2025 Number and Proportion	Male	3,190	455	2,255	460	525	985	7,870	34,835
	Female	2,460	410	1,700	375	455	720	6,120	25,485
	Male	56%	53%	57%	55%	54%	58%	56%	58%
	Female	44%	47%	43%	45%	46%	42%	44%	42%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

50 Year Olds and Over

In October 2025 there were 5,245 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 4.3% 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 215 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
Oct-20	3,795	1,855	3,360	595	930	1,365	11,900
Oct-24	2,145	385	1,740	255	605	625	5,755
Sep-25	1,885	305	1,505	265	485	585	5,030
Oct-25	1,965	330	1,590	255	495	610	5,245
% Change							
Oct24-Oct25	-8.4%	-14.3%	-8.6%	0.0%	-18.2%	-2.4%	-8.9%
Sep25-Oct25	4.2%	8.2%	5.6%	-3.8%	2.1%	4.3%	4.3%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that one Local Authority (Midlothian) has the same number of claimants in 2025 as they recorded in 2024 and all the other Local Authorities have fewer claimants in 2025 than they did in October 2024. Comparing October 2025 with September 2025 we can see that the number of claimants aged over 50 has fallen in Midlothian but for all the other Local Authorities the claimant numbers have increased.

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 Oct24-Oct25	Male	-7%	-10%	-4%	-6%	-15%	4%	-6%	-10%
	Female	-10%	-22%	-16%	11%	-24%	-9%	-13%	-15%
% Change Sep25-Oct25	Male	4%	6%	5%	-6%	-2%	1%	3%	2%
	Female	3%	12%	6%	0%	5%	11%	6%	3%
Claimants Oct 2025 Number and Proportion	Male	1,210	185	985	150	290	355	3,175	13,405
	Female	755	140	600	105	205	260	2,065	8,815
	Male	62%	57%	62%	59%	59%	58%	61%	60%
	Female	38%	43%	38%	41%	41%	42%	39%	40%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

What we can see in Table 11 above is that in the City Region in October there were 3,175 male claimants and 2,065 female, which equates to 61% male and 39% female. Over the last year the number of claimants aged 50 or over has fallen by 13% for females whilst over the same period the number of males has fallen by 6%. Over the last month the number of female claimants over the age of 50 has increased by 6% whilst the number of male claimants has increased by 3% as well.

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 September and August 2025. Overall, there were 9,035 claimants in Edinburgh in October 2025, and whilst this is 1.3% lower than last year it is 3.1% higher than in September 2025. One thing to remember about the latest data is that it can get reviewed in subsequent releases as more information becomes available.

Table 12 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward October 2025

Wards	Oct 2025	Rate	Oct24 to Oct25	Sep25 to Oct25	Proportion of Claimants October 2025				
					Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	670	2.9	5.5%	0.8%	54.5%	45.5%	17.9%	60.4%	21.6%
City Centre	600	2.2	-11.8%	-1.6%	70.0%	29.2%	15.0%	60.8%	23.3%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	300	2.0	3.4%	0.0%	51.7%	48.3%	18.3%	60.0%	21.7%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	175	1.2	9.4%	9.4%	60.0%	40.0%	14.3%	62.9%	25.7%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	675	3.3	8.0%	5.5%	59.3%	40.7%	14.1%	64.4%	21.5%
Drum Brae/Gyle	340	2.2	11.5%	9.7%	60.3%	39.7%	13.2%	63.2%	23.5%
Forth	865	4.0	1.8%	3.0%	55.5%	44.5%	16.8%	62.4%	20.2%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	295	1.7	-9.2%	5.4%	54.2%	45.8%	15.3%	61.0%	23.7%
Inverleith	305	1.3	-9.0%	5.2%	57.4%	42.6%	13.1%	62.3%	24.6%
Leith	665	3.6	-5.7%	3.1%	60.2%	39.8%	14.3%	66.9%	18.8%
Leith Walk	585	2.0	-5.6%	2.6%	61.5%	38.5%	14.5%	63.2%	22.2%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	745	3.2	-4.5%	6.4%	57.0%	43.0%	16.1%	63.1%	20.8%
Morningside	215	0.9	2.4%	4.9%	55.8%	44.2%	16.3%	55.8%	25.6%
Pentland Hills	750	3.6	-3.2%	0.7%	59.3%	40.7%	19.3%	60.0%	21.3%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	765	3.6	-4.4%	0.7%	54.9%	45.1%	13.7%	66.0%	20.3%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	760	3.0	6.3%	3.4%	63.2%	36.8%	16.4%	62.5%	21.1%
Southside/ Newington	330	1.1	-4.3%	6.5%	60.6%	39.4%	15.2%	59.1%	25.8%
Column Total	9,035	2.5	-1.3%	3.1%	58.8%	41.2%	15.7%	62.5%	21.7%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

From the table we can see that in October 2025 three 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 October was Forth, which also had the highest claimant rate in the city at 4.0%.

The table also indicates that nine wards had a claimant count lower in October 2025 than a year ago, in City Centre the claimant count was 11.8% lower in October 2025 than it was in October 2024. In the eight remaining wards the claimant count is higher than a year ago. This ranges from 11.5% higher in Drum Brae/Gyle to 1.8% higher in Forth. 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.

Comparing the count recorded in October to that recorded in September we can see that only one ward recorded a fall (City Centre), one recorded no change (Colinton/Farmilehead) and the other fifteen saw the claimant count increase between September and October. Drum Brae/Gyle recorded the largest percentage increase between September and October where 30 additional claimants resulted in a monthly percentage increase of 9.7%.

Overall, in Edinburgh in October 2025, 58.8% of claimants were male and 15.7% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 70% of the claimants are male. In Southside/Newington 25.8% of claimants were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Pentland Hills 19.3% 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 September and October 2025. Overall, there were 1,505 claimants in East Lothian in October 2025, and this is 6.8% lower than a year ago and 4.2% higher than last month.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward October 2025

Wards	Oct 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2025				
			Oct24 to Oct25	Sep25 to Oct25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	185	2.1	-5.1%	2.8%	51.4%	48.6%	21.6%	54.1%	24.3%
Haddington and Lammermuir	230	2.0	-4.2%	4.5%	54.3%	47.8%	21.7%	56.5%	19.6%
Musselburgh	375	3.1	-7.4%	8.7%	53.3%	46.7%	20.0%	60.0%	21.3%
North Berwick Coastal	125	1.6	19.0%	-7.4%	60.0%	40.0%	12.0%	64.0%	24.0%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	230	2.1	-9.8%	4.5%	56.5%	45.7%	23.9%	54.3%	21.7%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	355	2.5	-14.5%	2.9%	53.5%	46.5%	21.1%	57.7%	19.7%
East Lothian	1,505	2.3	-6.8%	4.2%	53.8%	46.2%	20.6%	57.8%	21.9%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months two of the one ward saw the claimant count increase and the remaining five have seen it fall. This has resulted in quite a range being recorded from an increase of 19% in North Berwick Coastal through to a 14.5% 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 19% increase in North Berwick Coastal is based on an increase from 105 claimants to 125 claimants.

Across the county 53.8% of claimants are male and this varies from 51.4% to 60%. Preston, Seton and Gosford is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (23.9%) and Dunbar and East Linton is the ward with the highest proportion (24.3%) of people aged over 50 years of age. Musselburgh is the ward with the highest claimant rate of 3.1% of working age people claiming.

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 September and October 2025. Overall, there are 7,105 claimants in Fife in October 2025, and this is 6.6% lower than a year ago and 3.3% lower than last month.

Table 14 Fife Claimant Count by Ward October 2025

Wards	Oct 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2025				
			Oct24 to Oct25	Sep25 to Oct25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	580	5.3	-12.8%	4.5%	58.6%	41.4%	23.3%	55.2%	22.4%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	310	3.4	-4.6%	8.8%	62.9%	37.1%	21.0%	54.8%	24.2%
Cowdenbeath	480	3.5	-5.0%	0.0%	59.4%	41.7%	26.0%	54.2%	19.8%
Cupar	180	2.1	-12.2%	5.9%	63.9%	36.1%	25.0%	52.8%	25.0%
Dunfermline Central	310	2.7	-1.6%	5.1%	62.9%	38.7%	21.0%	62.9%	17.7%
Dunfermline North	290	2.7	-9.4%	11.5%	58.6%	41.4%	22.4%	55.2%	22.4%
Dunfermline South	360	2.3	-1.4%	2.9%	61.1%	38.9%	22.2%	59.7%	19.4%
East Neuk and Landward	145	2.1	-21.6%	-6.5%	58.6%	41.4%	13.8%	55.2%	31.0%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	365	3.9	5.8%	9.0%	61.6%	38.4%	30.1%	52.1%	17.8%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	305	2.7	1.7%	7.0%	57.4%	42.6%	24.6%	54.1%	21.3%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	300	3.1	-13.0%	0.0%	48.3%	51.7%	25.0%	51.7%	25.0%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	160	2.0	-17.9%	-3.0%	62.5%	40.6%	12.5%	56.3%	31.3%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	205	1.9	-12.8%	2.5%	48.8%	51.2%	19.5%	51.2%	29.3%
Kirkcaldy Central	545	6.3	-6.8%	3.8%	56.9%	43.1%	20.2%	55.0%	24.8%
Kirkcaldy East	535	5.7	-8.5%	1.9%	63.6%	36.4%	20.6%	57.0%	22.4%
Kirkcaldy North	325	3.3	-7.1%	6.6%	58.5%	40.0%	18.5%	61.5%	20.0%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	370	3.2	-2.6%	0.0%	60.8%	37.8%	23.0%	48.6%	28.4%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	500	4.3	-8.3%	0.0%	62.0%	38.0%	22.0%	58.0%	20.0%
Rosyth	260	2.5	4.0%	0.0%	53.8%	46.2%	19.2%	55.8%	25.0%
St Andrews	105	0.7	0.0%	10.5%	57.1%	38.1%	28.6%	47.6%	23.8%
Tay Bridgehead	205	2.1	-12.8%	-2.4%	56.1%	43.9%	17.1%	65.9%	19.5%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	260	2.7	-1.9%	4.0%	55.8%	44.2%	25.0%	59.6%	15.4%
Fife	7,105	3.1	-6.6%	3.3%	59.0%	41.0%	22.0%	55.7%	22.4%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months one ward has not seen any change in the claimant count, three recorded an increase and every other ward has seen it fall. Between September and October 2025 three wards recorded a fall, five saw no change and fourteen saw the claimant count increase. This increase ranged from 11.5% in Dunfermline North through to 1.9% in Kirkcaldy East. Just to reiterate that sometimes a significant percentage increase can be based on relatively small numerical changes. For example, the 11.9% in Dunfermline North is based on an increase from 260 in September to 290 in October.

Kirkcaldy Central has the highest claim rate in Fife at 6.3% whilst St Andrews has the lowest at 0.7%. We can also see that 59% of claimants in October were male and this ranged from 63.9% in Cupar through to 48.3% in Glenrothes West and Kinglassie. With 30.1% of claimants being aged 16-24 Glenrothes Central and Thornton is the ward with the highest proportion of this age group in Fife whilst Howe of Fife and Tay Coast East had the highest proportion of claimants over the age of 50 as 31.3% 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 September and October 2025.

Overall, we can see that Midlothian had 1,390 claimants in October 2025 and has seen the claimant number increase by 1.8% year on year, but it has fallen over the last month with a 0.7% fall recorded between September and October 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, two saw the claimant count fall and the other three saw it increase year on year. Between September and October two wards recorded a fall in the claimant count, three recorded an increase and one recorded no change.

Table 15 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward October 2025

Wards	Oct 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2025				
			Oct24 to Oct25	Sep25 to Oct25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	225	1.9	9.8%	7.1%	57.8%	42.2%	20.0%	64.4%	13.3%
Dalkeith	275	3.0	7.8%	1.9%	61.8%	38.2%	20.0%	61.8%	18.2%
Midlothian East	250	2.5	6.4%	-5.7%	54.0%	46.0%	24.0%	58.0%	18.0%
Midlothian South	205	2.3	-8.9%	7.9%	51.2%	51.2%	22.0%	63.4%	17.1%
Midlothian West	235	2.4	-2.1%	0.0%	55.3%	44.7%	19.1%	57.4%	25.5%
Penicuik	200	2.4	0.0%	-4.8%	62.5%	37.5%	25.0%	55.0%	20.0%
Midlothian	1,390	2.4	1.8%	0.7%	56.8%	43.2%	21.6%	60.1%	18.3%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 56.8% of claimants are male, 21.6% are aged 16-24 and 18.3% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Penicuik had the highest proportion of male claimants (62.5%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (51.2%). In terms of the age profile 25% 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 October.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 16 below. Overall, there were 2,940 claimants in West Lothian in October 2025, and this is 1.8% lower than a year ago and 3% higher than last month.

Table 16 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward October 2025

Wards	Oct 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2025				
			Oct24 to Oct25	Sep25 to Oct25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	245	2.5	-5.8%	-2.0%	63.3%	38.8%	28.6%	57.1%	14.3%
Bathgate	400	2.6	-1.2%	-1.2%	61.3%	38.8%	25.0%	57.5%	18.8%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	295	2.3	-1.7%	1.7%	55.9%	44.1%	20.3%	55.9%	23.7%
East Livingston & E. Calder	345	2.4	1.5%	4.5%	55.1%	44.9%	18.8%	56.5%	23.2%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	340	3.4	-4.2%	3.0%	64.7%	35.3%	19.1%	64.7%	17.6%
Linlithgow	105	1.0	-12.5%	-4.5%	61.9%	38.1%	19.0%	52.4%	28.6%
Livingston North	300	2.0	-7.7%	7.1%	56.7%	43.3%	15.0%	61.7%	23.3%
Livingston South	440	2.8	10.0%	6.0%	53.4%	46.6%	20.5%	56.8%	22.7%
Whitburn & Blackburn	470	3.3	-5.1%	5.6%	61.7%	38.3%	23.4%	56.4%	20.2%
West Lothian	2,940	2.5	-1.8%	3.0%	58.8%	41.2%	21.4%	58.0%	20.7%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

We can see that seven of the nine West Lothian wards have seen a fall in the claimant count over the last twelve months, and three recorded a fall between September and October. The ward that has the highest claimant rate is Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley while Linlithgow has the lowest.

Overall, we can see that 58.8% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley 64.7% of claimants are male. In West Lothian overall 21.4% of claimants are 16-24 years of age and the ward with the highest proportion of these younger claimants is Armadale and Blackridge where 28.6% are 16-24 years of age. Whilst 20.7% of claimants in West Lothian are 50 years of age or over this is a lot higher in Linlithgow where 28.6% 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 September and October 2025.

From this table we can see that there were 1,805 people claiming in October which is 12.2% lower than last year and 0.6% lower than last month.

We can see that all but one ward recorded a fall in the claimant count between October 2024 and October 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 26.3% in East Berwickshire to a fall of 'only' 3.8% in Tweeddale East. 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 saw the claimant count fall between September and October, for four wards there was no change and for the remaining three wards there was an increase in the claimant count.

Table 17 Scottish Borders Claimant Count by Ward October 2025

Wards	Oct 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants October 2025				
			Oct24 to Oct25	Sep25 to Oct25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	140	2.4	-26.3%	-6.7%	46.4%	53.6%	17.9%	50.0%	32.1%
Galashiels and District	310	3.1	-4.6%	-1.6%	61.3%	38.7%	21.0%	58.1%	21.0%
Hawick and Denholm	210	3.9	-12.5%	2.4%	59.5%	40.5%	19.0%	57.1%	23.8%
Hawick and Hermitage	180	3.6	-16.3%	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
Jedburgh and District	135	2.6	-18.2%	-6.9%	48.1%	51.9%	18.5%	51.9%	29.6%
Kelso and District	150	2.6	-6.3%	0.0%	53.3%	46.7%	16.7%	53.3%	26.7%
Leaderdale & Melrose	140	2.2	0.0%	3.7%	53.6%	46.4%	21.4%	57.1%	21.4%
Mid Berwickshire	135	2.3	-15.6%	-6.9%	51.9%	48.1%	7.4%	51.9%	40.7%
Selkirkshire	155	2.8	-16.2%	0.0%	61.3%	41.9%	19.4%	54.8%	25.8%
Tweeddale East	125	2.0	-3.8%	0.0%	52.0%	48.0%	12.0%	56.0%	32.0%
Tweeddale West	120	2.0	-20.0%	4.3%	62.5%	41.7%	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%
Scottish Borders	1,805	2.7	-12.2%	-0.6%	56.8%	43.5%	18.0%	54.6%	27.4%

Source: NOMIS 11/11/2025

The data in Table 14 also indicates that across Scottish Borders in October 56.8% of claimants were male, 18% were 16-24 years of age and 27.4% were over 50 years of age. In Hawick and Hermitage 66.7% of claimants were males, in East Berwickshire 53.6% were females. In terms of age cohorts 25% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire 40.7% 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 48,112 people in work who were claiming Universal Credit. Four Local Authorities have seen the number of people in this position fall between September 2024 and September 2025 and two have seen the number increase. Over the last month three saw a small fall in the number working and claiming, two saw a small increase and one recorded no real change.

Table 18 Universal Credit Claimants in Employment in the City Region

	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	% Change	
				Sep24-Sep25	Aug25-Sep25
Edinburgh	15,445	15,430	15,453	0.1%	0.1%
East Lothian	3,809	3,814	3,804	-0.1%	-0.3%
Fife	14,647	14,186	14,191	-3.1%	0.0%
Midlothian	3,658	3,676	3,699	1.1%	0.6%
Scottish Borders	4,100	3,992	3,924	-4.3%	-1.7%
West Lothian	7,354	7,068	7,041	-4.3%	-0.4%
City Region	49,013	48,166	48,112	-1.8%	-0.1%

Source: *StatXplore 24/11/2025*

Table 19 below looks at the Annual Participation Measure Report that was published by Skills Development Scotland at the end of the summer. From this we can see that Edinburgh has a far higher proportion of school leavers who have gone into education and a far lower proportion leaving school into work. Generally, all the Local Authorities have around 5% or 6% of school leavers who are unemployed or unconfirmed. The two exceptions are West Lothian where 7% of school leavers are in this group and Fife where close to 9% fall into this category.

Table 19 Annual Participation Measure August 2025 in the City Region

2025	East Lothian	Edinburgh	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian
In Education	67%	75%	68%	63%	66%	69%
In Employment	25%	17%	21%	28%	27%	21%
In other training and development	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%
Unemployed seeking work	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Unemployed Not Seeking Work	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%
Unconfirmed Status	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: [2025-annual-participation-measure-statistics.pdf](#)

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