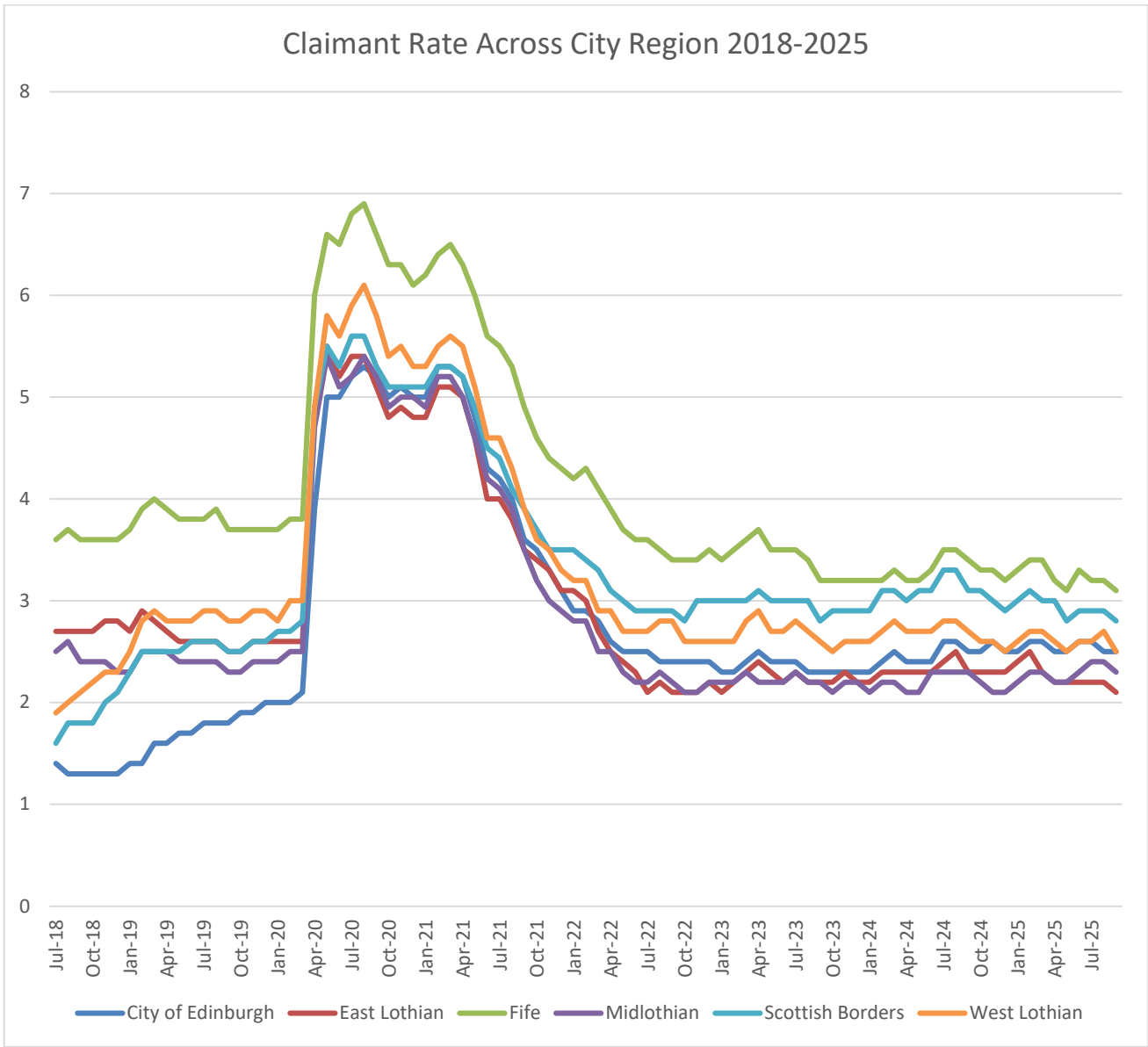


Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count September 2025 Summary Update

<p>Claimant Count Change Between September 2024 and September 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ UK fell by 7.5% ↓ Scotland fell by 12.4% ↓ Edinburgh fell by 3.0% ↓ City Region fell by 6.4% 	<p>Claimant Count Change Between August 2025 and September 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑ UK increased by 2.6% ↓ Scotland fell by 1.1% ↓ Edinburgh fell by 1.3% ↓ City Region fell by 1.5%
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Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

City Region Summary

1. In September 2025 the claimant count for the City Region was 23,700 (in August it was 24,070). Of these
 - a. 4,490 were 16-24 year olds down from 4,565 in August.
 - b. 14,065 were 25-49 year olds down from 14,310 in August.
 - c. 5,150 were 50 or older down from 5,200 in August.
2. In August 2025 there were 48,166 Universal Credit claimants in work in the City Region.

Edinburgh Summary

1. In September 2025 the claimant count for Edinburgh was 8,950 (in August it was 9,065). Of these
 - a. 1,375 were 16-24 year olds. It was 1,380 in August.
 - b. 5,650 were 25-49 year olds. It was 5,695 in August.
 - c. 1,930 were 50 or older. It was 1,990 in August.
2. In August 2025 there were 15,430 Universal Credit claimants in work in Edinburgh.

East Lothian Summary

1. In September 2025 the claimant count for East Lothian was 1,480 (in August it was 1,480). Of these
 - a. 290 were 16-24 year olds. In August it was 280.
 - b. 880 were 25-49 year olds. In August there were 875.
 - c. 310 were 50 or older. In August it was 325.
2. In August 2025 there were 3,814 Universal Credit claimants in work in East Lothian.

Fife Summary

1. In September 2025 the claimant count for East Lothian was 7,065 (in August it was 7,195). Of these
 - a. 1,550 were 16-24 year olds. In August there were 1,580.
 - b. 3,970 were 25-49 years of age. In August there were 4,060.
 - c. 1,545 were 50 or older. In August there were 1,555.
2. In August 2025 there were 14,186 Universal Credit claimants in work in Fife.

Midlothian Summary

1. In September 2025 the claimant count for Midlothian was 1,430 (it was 1,440 in August). Of these
 - a. 310 were 16-24 year olds. In August it was 305.
 - b. 850 were 25-49 year olds. In August it was 890.
 - c. 270 were 50 or older. In August it was 260.
2. In August 2025 there were 3,676 Universal Credit claimants in work in Midlothian.

Scottish Borders Summary

1. In September 2025 the claimant count for Scottish Borders was 1,850 (in August it was 1,885). Of these
 - a. 340 were 16-24 year olds. In August it was the 355.
 - b. 1,010 were 25-49 year olds. In August there were 1,045.
 - c. 500 were 50 or older. In August there were 485.
2. In August 2025 there were 3,992 Universal Credit claimants in work in Scottish Borders

West Lothian Summary

1. In September 2025 the claimant count for West Lothian was 2,925 (in August it was 3,005). Of these
 - a. 625 were 16-24 year olds. In August there were 665.
 - b. 1,705 were 25-49 year olds. In August there were 1,755.
 - c. 595 were 50 or older. In August there were 585.
2. In August 2025 there were 7,068 Universal Credit claimants in work in West Lothian.

**Edinburgh and South East Regional Claimant Count
September 2025 Full Update**

Claimant Count by Nation and Region

Table 1 indicates that in the UK the claimant count in September 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 2.4% 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 August and a month to month increase is reflected everywhere with the exception of Scotland.

Table 1: National Claimant Count Picture

	Sep 2020	Sep 2024	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Percentage Change		
					Sep20 - Sep25	Sep24- Sep25	Aug25- Sep25
UK	2,656,115	1,769,680	1,663,580	1,698,395	-36.1%	-4.0%	2.1%
East	210,400	134,290	127,530	130,190	-38.1%	-3.1%	2.1%
East Midlands	167,225	114,830	108,010	110,325	-34.0%	-3.9%	2.1%
London	478,165	352,455	350,690	360,770	-24.6%	2.4%	2.9%
North East	122,375	70,315	62,535	63,130	-48.4%	-10.2%	1.0%
North West	320,145	217,345	195,875	199,430	-37.7%	-8.2%	1.8%
N. Ireland	60,830	42,885	36,765	38,875	-36.1%	-9.4%	5.7%
Scotland	216,855	112,045	104,480	103,905	-52.1%	-7.3%	-0.6%
South East	298,050	185,465	178,670	183,165	-38.5%	-1.2%	2.5%
South West	175,205	99,575	94,145	96,485	-44.9%	-3.1%	2.5%
Wales	115,920	68,055	62,620	63,975	-44.8%	-6.0%	2.2%
West Midlands	267,400	211,830	199,615	203,145	-24.0%	-4.1%	1.8%
Yorks & Humb	223,540	160,600	142,645	145,005	-35.1%	-9.7%	1.7%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

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 September 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 (42.5%) being recorded in Glasgow City and the greatest percentage fall (68.8%) 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 22.7% in the Shetland Islands through to a fall of 1.8% in Falkirk.

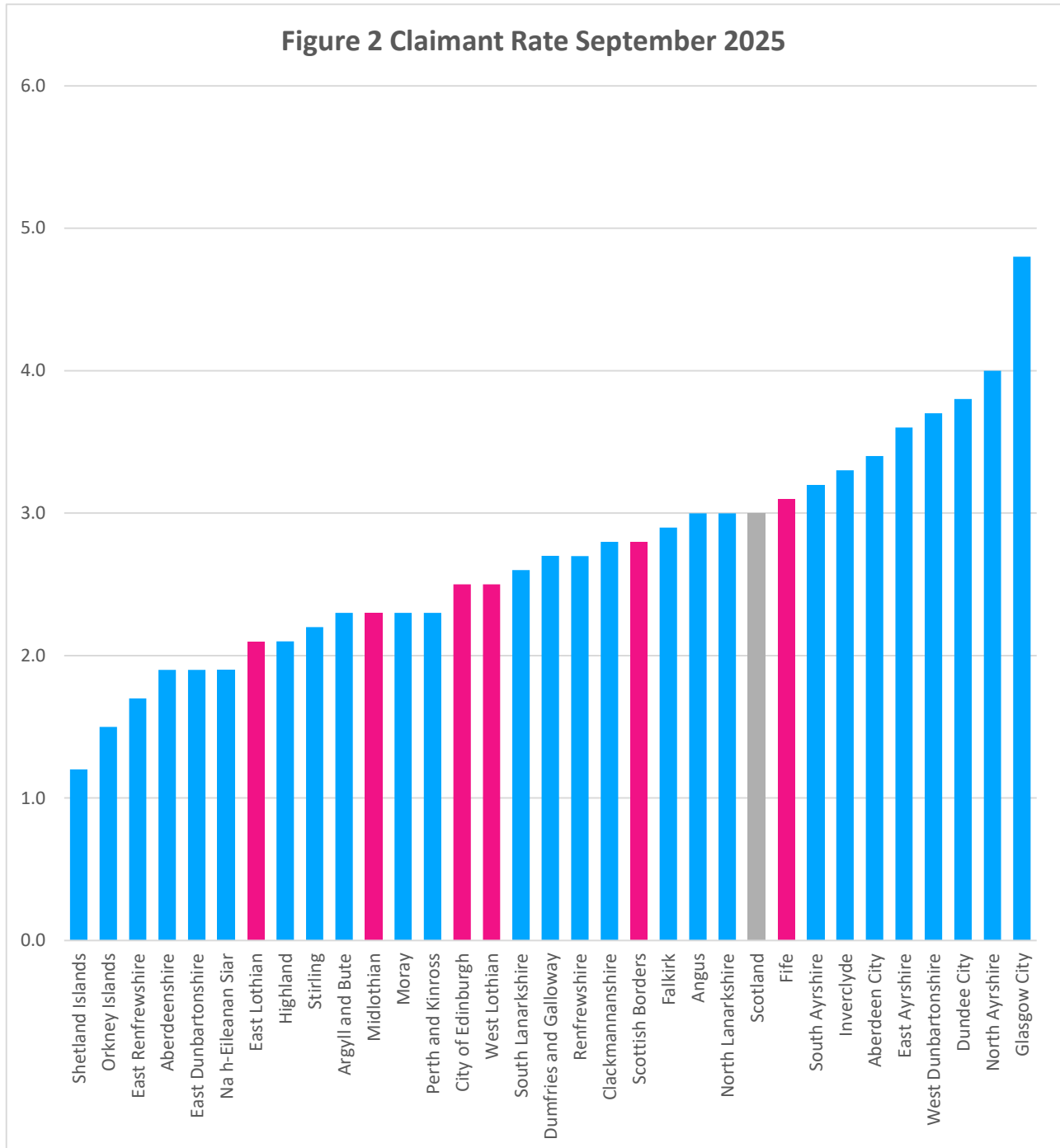
Table 2: Claimant Count - Scottish Local Authorities

	Sep-20	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	% Change		
					Sep20 - Sep25	Sep24- Sep25	Aug25- Sep25
Aberdeen City	9,250	4,910	5,180	5,170	-44.1%	5.3%	-0.2%
Aberdeenshire	6,645	2,925	3,010	3,045	-54.2%	4.1%	1.2%
Angus	3,875	1,955	2,115	2,035	-47.5%	4.1%	-3.8%
Argyll and Bute	2,910	1,390	1,180	1,190	-59.1%	-14.4%	0.8%
Edinburgh	18,280	9,230	9,065	8,950	-51.0%	-3.0%	-1.3%
Clackmannanshire	2,165	1,085	940	895	-58.7%	-17.5%	-4.8%
Dumfries & Galloway	4,715	2,510	2,260	2,280	-51.6%	-9.2%	0.9%
Dundee City	7,350	4,180	3,940	3,775	-48.6%	-9.7%	-4.2%
East Ayrshire	6,025	2,890	2,690	2,700	-55.2%	-6.6%	0.4%
E.Dunbartonshire	2,840	1,320	1,160	1,175	-58.6%	-11.0%	1.3%
East Lothian	3,400	1,620	1,480	1,480	-56.5%	-8.6%	0.0%
East Renfrewshire	2,280	1,115	990	995	-56.4%	-10.8%	0.5%
Falkirk	5,995	2,985	2,910	2,930	-51.1%	-1.8%	0.7%
Fife	15,215	7,750	7,195	7,065	-53.6%	-8.8%	-1.8%
Glasgow City	37,455	23,245	21,500	21,525	-42.5%	-7.4%	0.1%
Highland	7,730	3,275	3,020	2,940	-62.0%	-10.2%	-2.6%
Inverclyde	3,130	1,710	1,565	1,585	-49.4%	-7.3%	1.3%
Midlothian	3,050	1,395	1,440	1,430	-53.1%	2.5%	-0.7%
Moray	2,850	1,290	1,310	1,300	-54.4%	0.8%	-0.8%
Na h-Eileanan Siar	795	260	285	285	-64.2%	9.6%	0.0%
North Ayrshire	6,990	3,650	3,195	3,180	-54.5%	-12.9%	-0.5%
North Lanarkshire	15,130	7,515	6,600	6,615	-56.3%	-12.0%	0.2%
Orkney Islands	405	255	200	200	-50.6%	-21.6%	0.0%
Perth and Kinross	4,435	2,140	2,045	2,080	-53.1%	-2.8%	1.7%
Renfrewshire	7,535	3,690	3,230	3,225	-57.2%	-12.6%	-0.2%
Scottish Borders	3,640	2,100	1,885	1,850	-49.2%	-11.9%	-1.9%
Shetland Islands	545	220	155	170	-68.8%	-22.7%	9.7%
South Ayrshire	4,820	2,355	2,090	2,060	-57.3%	-12.5%	-1.4%
South Lanarkshire	13,175	6,110	5,480	5,465	-58.5%	-10.6%	-0.3%
Stirling	2,895	1,440	1,305	1,310	-54.7%	-9.0%	0.4%
W.Dunbartonshire	4,660	2,310	2,055	2,070	-55.6%	-10.4%	0.7%
West Lothian	6,675	3,215	3,005	2,925	-56.2%	-9.0%	-2.7%
Scotland	216,855	112,045	104,480	103,905	-52.1%	-7.3%	-0.6%
City Region	50,260	25,310	24,070	23,700	-52.8%	-6.4%	-1.5%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

What we can also see in Table 2 is that for fourteen Local Authorities there was a month to month increase. This has ranged from a 0.1% increase in Glasgow City through to a 9.7% increase in the Shetland Islands. Sixteen Local Authorities have seen the claimant count fall over the last month and this has included West Lothian (-2.7%), Scottish Borders (-1.9%), Fife (-1.9%), Edinburgh (-1.3%) and Midlothian (-0.7%). The number of claimants hadn't changed in East Lothian.

Figure 2, below, looks at the claimant rate for all the Scottish Local Authorities as recorded in September 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 30/10/2025

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 September 2025 is lower than it was in 2020 and this is reflected in all six Local Authorities that make up the City region. The fall ranges from 49.2% in Scottish Borders through to 56.5% in East 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 between September 2024 and September 2025 by between 3.0% (Edinburgh) and 11.9% (Scottish Borders).

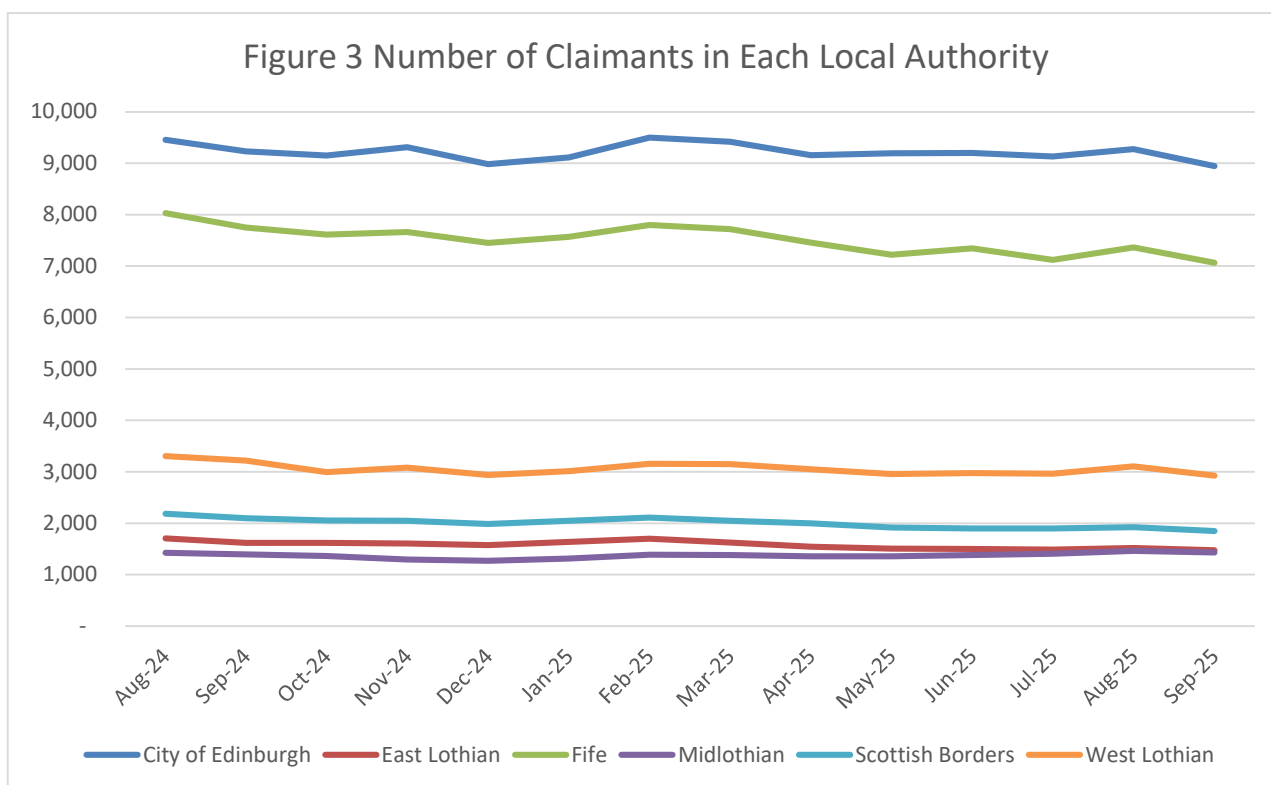
Table 3: Claimant Count – City Region Local Authorities

	Sep 2020	Sep 2024	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Claimant Rate Sep 25	Percentage Change		
						Sep20 - Sep25	Sep24- Sep25	Aug25- Sep25
Edinburgh	18,280	9,230	9,065	8,950	2.5	-51.0%	-3.0%	-1.3%
East Lothian	3,400	1,620	1,480	1,480	2.1	-56.5%	-8.6%	0.0%
Fife	15,215	7,750	7,195	7,065	3.1	-53.6%	-8.8%	-1.8%
Midlothian	3,050	1,395	1,440	1,430	2.3	-53.1%	2.5%	-0.7%
Scottish Borders	3,640	2,100	1,885	1,850	2.8	-49.2%	-11.9%	-1.9%
West Lothian	6,675	3,215	3,005	2,925	2.5	-56.2%	-9.0%	-2.7%
City Region	50,260	25,310	24,070	23,700	0.0	-52.8%	-6.4%	-1.5%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

Between August and September all Local Authorities have recorded a month-to-month fall. This has ranged from 0.7% in Midlothian through to a 2.7% fall in West Lothian. East Lothian was the exception where the claimant count recorded in September was the same as recorded in August.

Figure 3 below looks at the month to month change over the last twelve months in the actual number of claimants in the six Local Authorities that make up the city region.



Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

What we can see in the figure above is that the claimant count has been essentially static over the last twelve months and this is the case in all six Local Authorities. What we can also see is that

Edinburgh and Fife, the two Local Authorities with the largest populations, unsurprisingly are responsible for the largest numbers of claimants in the City Region.

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 12 months, one has seen an increase, and the other has recorded no change. Across the region the number of male claimants in September 2025 was 370 fewer than in 2024.

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

Male Claimants	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	% Change	
				Sep24-Sep25	Aug25-Sep25
Edinburgh	5,220	5,320	5,220	0.0%	-1.9%
East Lothian	860	795	790	-8.1%	-0.6%
Fife	4,375	4,225	4,160	-4.9%	-1.5%
Midlothian	750	810	790	5.3%	-2.5%
Scottish Borders	1,145	1,050	1,045	-8.7%	-0.5%
West Lothian	1,755	1,745	1,730	-1.4%	-0.9%
City Region	14,105	13,945	13,735	-2.6%	-1.5%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

Comparing the September 2025 statistics to those of August 2025 we can see that every Local Authority has seen a fall in the number of male claimants. This culminated in the region as a whole recording a 1.5% decrease between August and September. This is based on 210 fewer male claimants than in August. The largest percentage month to month decrease was in Midlothian where the male claimant count fell by 2.5% from 810 to 790.

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

Females	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	% Change	
				Sep24-Sep25	Aug25-Sep25
Edinburgh	4,010	3,745	3,730	-7.0%	-0.4%
East Lothian	760	685	690	-9.2%	0.7%
Fife	3,375	2,970	2,905	-13.9%	-2.2%
Midlothian	645	635	640	-0.8%	0.8%
Scottish Borders	960	835	805	-16.1%	-3.6%
West Lothian	1,460	1,260	1,195	-18.2%	-5.2%
City Region	11,210	10,130	9,965	-11.1%	-1.6%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

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 (1,245 fewer female claimants). This is a decrease of 11.1% year on year. West Lothian saw the largest fall and Midlothian had a fall that meant the number of female claimants was pretty much the same as one year ago.

Between August and September 2025, we can see that four of the six Local Authorities saw the number of female claimants fall and this ranged from a 0.4% fall in Edinburgh through to a 5.2% fall

in West Lothian. East Lothian and Midlothian saw the number of female claimants increase very slightly between August and September.

Age Profile

16-24 Year Olds

In September 2025 there were 4,490 claimants aged between 16-24 years of age in the City Region. This is 1.6% lower than a month ago and 5.8% higher than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 245 more 16-24 year olds claiming than a year ago and 75 fewer 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
Sep-20	3,045	685	3,265	680	840	1,520	10,035
Sep-24	1,200	270	1,535	265	370	605	4,245
Aug-25	1,380	280	1,580	305	355	665	4,565
Sep-25	1,375	290	1,550	310	340	625	4,490
% Change							
Sep24-Sep25	14.6%	7.4%	1.0%	17.0%	-8.1%	3.3%	5.8%
Aug25-Sep25	-0.4%	3.6%	-1.9%	1.6%	-4.2%	-6.0%	-1.6%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

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 8.1% (Scottish Borders). The remaining Local Authorities saw the claimant count for 16-24 year olds increase by between 17% (Midlothian) and 1.0% Fife. Over the last month all but two Local Authorities have seen the claimant count fall. The two that didn't were East Lothian and Midlothian where an increase in the number of 16-24 year olds claiming was recorded.

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 three years, the last year and the last month. What we can see is that over the last three years the number of young claimants has increased by 10% for both males and females. Over the last year it has increased by 6% for males and 5% for females. Over the last month it has fallen by 2% for males and 1% for females.

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
Sep 2022- Sep 2025	Male	28%	3%	5%	6%	8%	-1%	10%	8%
	Female	12%	47%	12%	35%	-7%	-10%	10%	7%
Sep 2024- Sep 2025	Male	16%	3%	2%	13%	-5%	1%	6%	7%
	Female	11%	14%	0%	23%	-13%	7%	5%	6%
Aug 2024- Sep 2025	Male	-3%	0%	-2%	-5%	2%	-5%	-2%	-2%
	Female	3%	9%	-2%	13%	-13%	-6%	-1%	-2%
Claimants Sep 2025	Male	865	165	945	175	210	395	2,755	12,830
	Female	505	125	605	135	130	230	1,730	7,555

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

25-49 Year Olds

In September 2025 there were 14,065 claimants aged between 25-49 in the City Region. This is 1.7% lower than a month ago and 7.6% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 1,165 fewer 25-49 year olds claiming than a year ago, and 245 less 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
Sep-20	11,370	1,890	8,450	1,725	1,835	3,710	28,980
Sep-24	5,865	955	4,460	870	1,125	1,955	15,230
Aug-25	5,695	875	4,060	880	1,045	1,755	14,310
Sep-25	5,650	880	3,970	850	1,010	1,705	14,065
% Change							
Sep24-Sep25	-3.7%	-7.9%	-11.0%	-2.3%	-10.2%	-12.8%	-7.6%
Aug25-Sep25	-0.8%	0.6%	-2.2%	-3.4%	-3.3%	-2.8%	-1.7%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

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 2.3% in Midlothian through to a fall of 12.8% West Lothian. We can also see that five of the six Local Authorities in the Region have fewer claimants in this age group than a month ago. This ranges from 3.4% less in Midlothian through to 0.8% less in Edinburgh. East Lothian was the only Local Authority that recorded a month on month increase, albeit a very small increase.

Now looking at the age profile but split by gender what we can see is that over the last three years the number of 25-49 year old claimants has increased by 6% for females whilst over the same period the number of 25-49 year old males has fallen by 10%. Over the last year it has changed so the number of female claimants has fallen by 13% whilst the number of male claimants has fallen by 3%. This has continued over the last month where the number of female claimants has fallen by 2% and the number of male claimants has fallen 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
Sep 2022- Sep 2025	Male	-3%	-13%	-17%	0%	-10%	-14%	-10%	-10%
	Female	16%	16%	-5%	27%	2%	-8%	6%	4%
Sep 2024- Sep 2025	Male	0%	-6%	-6%	3%	-7%	-4%	-3%	-4%
	Female	-8%	-9%	-17%	-8%	-14%	-23%	-13%	-15%
Aug 2024- Sep 2025	Male	-1%	-1%	-2%	-3%	-1%	0%	-1%	0%
	Female	0%	2%	-2%	-2%	-6%	-6%	-2%	-2%
Claimants Sep 2025	Male	3,175	445	2,255	455	540	985	7,855	35,180
	Female	2,475	435	1,715	395	470	720	6,210	25,990

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

50 Year Olds and Over

In September 2025 there were 5,150 claimants over 50 years of age in the City Region. This is 1% lower than a month ago and 11.9% lower than a year ago. In numerical terms the City Region has 695 fewer people over the age of 50 claiming than a year ago and 50 less 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
Sep-20	3,865	1,980	3,495	645	965	1,445	12,395
Sep-24	2,170	395	1,760	260	605	655	5,845
Aug-25	1,990	325	1,555	260	485	585	5,200
Sep-25	1,930	310	1,545	270	500	595	5,150
% Change							
Sep24-Sep25	-11.1%	-21.5%	-12.2%	3.8%	-17.4%	-9.2%	-11.9%
Aug25-Sep25	-3.0%	-4.6%	-0.6%	3.8%	3.1%	1.7%	-1.0%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

Looking at the different Local Authorities we can see that one Local Authority (Midlothian) has seen the number of claimants 50 or over increase by 3.8% over the last twelve months. Every other Local Authority has seen the claimant count fall by between 9.2% (West Lothian) and 21.5% (East Lothian). In the last month we can see that three Local Authorities recorded an increase and three recorded a fall.

What we can see in Table 11 below is that over the last three years the number of claimants aged 50 or over has fallen by 6% for females whilst over the same period the number of males has fallen by 9%. Over the last year it has changed so the number of female claimants has fallen by 17% whilst the number of male claimants has fallen by 8%. Over the last month the number of female claimants over the age of 50 has fallen by 1% and the number of male claimants has fallen by 1% as well.

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

50+ Year Olds		Edinburgh	East Lothian	Fife	Midlothian	Scottish Borders	West Lothian	City Region	Scotland
Sep 2022-Sep 2025	Male	-7%	-3%	-14%	-9%	-8%	-5%	-9%	-18%
	Female	-1%	-4%	-13%	5%	-15%	2%	-6%	-7%
Sep 2024-Sep 2025	Male	-10%	-20%	-9%	3%	-12%	4%	-8%	-11%
	Female	-13%	-24%	-18%	5%	-23%	-22%	-17%	-17%
Aug 2024-Sep 2025	Male	-3%	0%	0%	3%	0%	3%	-1%	0%
	Female	-4%	-10%	-2%	5%	8%	2%	-1%	1%
Claimants Sep 2025	Male	1,180	180	960	160	300	355	3,135	13,420
	Female	750	130	585	110	200	245	2,020	8,930

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

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 August and September 2025. Overall, there were 8,950 claimants in Edinburgh in September 2025, and this is 3% lower than last year and also 1.3% lower than August 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 August 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 September was Forth, which also had the highest claimant rate in the city at 3.9%.

Table 12 Edinburgh Claimant Count by Ward September 2025

Wards	Sep 2025	Rate	Sep24 to Sep25	Aug25 to Sep25	Proportion of Claimants September 2025				
					Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Almond	675	3.0	5.5%	2.3%	54.8%	45.2%	16.3%	62.2%	22.2%
City Centre	620	2.3	-8.8%	-1.6%	71.0%	29.0%	16.1%	61.3%	23.4%
Colinton/ Fairmilehead	305	2.0	8.9%	0.0%	47.5%	52.5%	19.7%	57.4%	23.0%
Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	175	1.2	12.9%	2.9%	60.0%	40.0%	11.4%	62.9%	22.9%
Craightinny/ Duddingston	660	3.2	8.2%	-0.8%	59.1%	40.9%	13.6%	65.9%	20.5%
Drum Brae/Gyle	315	2.1	-3.1%	-3.1%	60.3%	39.7%	15.9%	61.9%	22.2%
Forth	850	3.9	-1.2%	-2.9%	54.7%	45.3%	15.3%	64.1%	20.0%
Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	285	1.6	-13.6%	-1.7%	56.1%	43.9%	15.8%	61.4%	22.8%
Inverleith	300	1.3	-9.1%	-1.6%	56.7%	43.3%	11.7%	65.0%	25.0%
Leith	655	3.5	-4.4%	-0.8%	60.3%	40.5%	13.7%	68.7%	17.6%
Leith Walk	575	2.0	-9.4%	-4.2%	60.9%	39.1%	15.7%	62.6%	21.7%
Liberton/ Gilmerton	720	3.1	-9.4%	-3.4%	56.3%	43.8%	16.7%	63.2%	20.8%
Morningside	220	1.0	7.3%	2.3%	52.3%	45.5%	13.6%	59.1%	27.3%
Pentland Hills	740	3.5	-3.9%	-1.3%	57.4%	42.6%	16.9%	62.2%	20.9%
Portobello/ Craigmillar	775	3.7	-7.2%	0.0%	55.5%	44.5%	13.5%	66.5%	19.4%
Sighthill/ Gorgie	760	3.0	4.8%	-0.7%	62.5%	36.8%	17.1%	62.5%	20.4%
Southside/ Newington	315	1.1	-13.7%	-4.5%	58.7%	41.3%	15.9%	57.1%	28.6%
Column Total	8,950	2.4	-3.0%	-1.3%	58.3%	41.7%	15.4%	63.1%	21.6%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

The table also indicates that eleven wards had a claimant count lower in September 2025 than a year ago, in Southside and Newington the claimant count was 13.7% lower in September 2025 than it was in September 2024. In the six remaining wards the claimant count is higher than a year ago. This ranges from 12.9% higher in Corstorphine/Murrayfield to 4.8% higher in Sighthill and Gorgie 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 September to that recorded in August we can see that apart from three wards that saw an increase and two that recorded no change, all the Edinburgh wards recorded a month-to-month fall. Leith Walk recorded the largest percentage fall (4.2% fall between August and September) and Corstorphine/ Murrayfield recorded the largest percentage increase between August and September (2.9%).

Overall, in Edinburgh in September 2025, 58.3% of claimants were male and 15.4% are aged 16-24. The City Centre ward records that 71% of the claimants are male. In Southside/Newington 28.6% of claimants in July were over 50 years of age, the highest proportion in the city and in Colinton/Farmilehead 19.7% 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 August and September 2025. Overall, there were 1,480 claimants in East Lothian in September 2025, and this is 8.6% lower than a year ago and the same as recorded last month.

Table 13 East Lothian Claimant Count by Ward September 2025

Wards	Sep 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants September 2025				
			Sep24 to Sep25	Aug25 to Sep25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Dunbar and East Linton	190	2.1	2.7%	8.6%	52.6%	47.4%	18.4%	57.9%	23.7%
Haddington and Lammermuir	225	1.9	-10.0%	-2.2%	51.1%	46.7%	24.4%	55.6%	17.8%
Musselburgh	365	3.0	-13.1%	0.0%	54.8%	45.2%	16.4%	61.6%	21.9%
North Berwick Coastal	135	1.7	35.0%	8.0%	51.9%	48.1%	11.1%	70.4%	14.8%
Preston, Seton and Gosford	220	2.0	-13.7%	-8.3%	56.8%	43.2%	22.7%	56.8%	20.5%
Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry	350	2.4	-14.6%	1.4%	51.4%	48.6%	20.0%	57.1%	21.4%
East Lothian	1,480	2.2	-8.6%	0.0%	53.4%	46.6%	19.6%	59.5%	20.9%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months two of the six wards have seen the claimant count increase and the remaining four have seen it fall. This has resulted in quite a range being recorded with the greatest percentage increase being 35% increase in North Berwick Coastal through to a 14.6% 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. The claimant rate ranges from 1.7% of 16-64 year olds claiming in North Berwick Coastal through to 3% in Musselburgh.

Across the county 53.4% of claimants are male and this varies from 51.1% to 56.8%. Haddington and Lammermuir is the ward with the highest proportion of 16-24 year old claimants (24.4%) and

Dunbar and East Linton is the ward with the highest proportion (23.7%) of people aged over 50 years of age.

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 August and September 2025. Overall, there were 7,065 claimants in Fife in September 2025, and this is 8.8% lower than a year ago and 1.8% lower than last month.

Table 14 Fife Claimant Count by Ward September 2025

Wards	Sep 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants September 2025				
			Sep24 to Sep25	Aug25 to Sep25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	575	5.2	-18.4%	-4.2%	60.9%	39.1%	24.3%	53.0%	22.6%
Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	290	3.2	-10.8%	-4.9%	60.3%	39.7%	19.0%	56.9%	24.1%
Cowdenbeath	495	3.6	-4.8%	2.1%	56.6%	42.4%	25.3%	53.5%	21.2%
Cupar	175	2.1	-12.5%	0.0%	62.9%	37.1%	22.9%	51.4%	25.7%
Dunfermline Central	295	2.5	-9.2%	-1.7%	61.0%	40.7%	18.6%	62.7%	18.6%
Dunfermline North	265	2.5	-18.5%	-3.6%	60.4%	39.6%	24.5%	58.5%	17.0%
Dunfermline South	365	2.4	-5.2%	1.4%	58.9%	41.1%	21.9%	57.5%	19.2%
East Neuk and Landward	155	2.2	-13.9%	-3.1%	58.1%	38.7%	12.9%	58.1%	25.8%
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	340	3.6	-2.9%	0.0%	60.3%	38.2%	29.4%	48.5%	20.6%
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	295	2.6	-9.2%	-6.3%	59.3%	42.4%	27.1%	54.2%	18.6%
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	295	3.1	-14.5%	-3.3%	50.8%	50.8%	23.7%	54.2%	22.0%
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	175	2.2	-7.9%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	14.3%	51.4%	31.4%
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	210	2.0	-10.6%	-2.3%	54.8%	42.9%	19.0%	52.4%	26.2%
Kirkcaldy Central	535	6.3	-8.5%	-0.9%	58.9%	42.1%	18.7%	57.9%	23.4%
Kirkcaldy East	540	5.8	-6.1%	-1.8%	62.0%	38.0%	20.4%	60.2%	18.5%
Kirkcaldy North	315	3.3	-11.3%	-3.1%	58.7%	42.9%	20.6%	61.9%	19.0%
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	375	3.2	-5.1%	-1.3%	61.3%	38.7%	22.7%	49.3%	28.0%
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	525	4.5	-6.3%	-0.9%	60.0%	40.0%	23.8%	57.1%	19.0%
Rosyth	265	2.6	0.0%	1.9%	50.9%	49.1%	18.9%	56.6%	24.5%
St Andrews	100	0.7	0.0%	-9.1%	60.0%	40.0%	25.0%	55.0%	25.0%
Tay Bridgehead	225	2.3	-6.3%	0.0%	57.8%	42.2%	17.8%	64.4%	20.0%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	255	2.6	-3.8%	-1.9%	56.9%	43.1%	23.5%	62.7%	13.7%
Fife	7,065	3.0	-8.8%	-1.8%	58.9%	41.1%	21.9%	56.2%	21.9%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

From the table we can see that over the last 12 months two wards have not seen any change in the claimant count and every other ward has seen it fall. Between August and September 2025 three wards recorded an increase, four saw no change and fifteen saw the claimant count fall. The fall ranged from 9.1% in St Andrews through to 0.9% in Kirkcaldy Central and Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty.

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 58.9% of claimants in September were male and this ranged from 62.9% in Cupar through to 50.8% in Glenrothes West and Kinglassie. With 29.4% 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 31.4% 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 August and September 2025. Overall, we can see that Midlothian had 1,430 claimants in September 2025 and has seen the claimant number increase by 2.5% year on year but it has fallen over the last month with a 0.7% fall recorded between August and September 2025.

Looking at the wards it is apparent that over the course of the year one ward (Midlothian South) saw the claimant count fall and the others, except Midlothian West which stayed the same, all recorded an increase in the claimant count. Between August and September two wards recorded no change in the claimant count, three recorded a fall and one recorded an increase.

Table 15 Midlothian Claimant Count by Ward September 2025

Wards	Sep 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants September 2025				
			Sep24 to Sep25	Aug25 to Sep25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Bonnyrigg	220	1.9	7.3%	-4.3%	54.5%	45.5%	18.2%	65.9%	15.9%
Dalkeith	275	3.0	5.8%	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	23.6%	60.0%	16.4%
Midlothian East	270	2.7	8.0%	0.0%	50.0%	48.1%	22.2%	59.3%	18.5%
Midlothian South	205	2.3	-10.9%	-4.7%	53.7%	48.8%	24.4%	58.5%	19.5%
Midlothian West	245	2.5	0.0%	8.9%	51.0%	49.0%	16.3%	59.2%	24.5%
Penicuik	215	2.6	7.5%	-4.4%	62.8%	37.2%	25.6%	53.5%	20.9%
Midlothian	1,430	2.5	2.5%	-0.7%	55.2%	44.8%	21.7%	59.4%	18.9%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

We can see that overall, in Midlothian 55.2% of claimants are male, 21.7% are aged 16-24 and 18.9% are 50 or over. Looking at the wards themselves we can see that Penicuik had the highest proportion of male claimants (62.8%) and Midlothian West the highest proportion of female claimants (49%). In terms of the age profile 25.6% of claimants in Penicuik were 16-24 years of age in September 2025. We can also see that 24.5% of claimants in Midlothian West were over the age of 50.

West Lothian

The situation in West Lothian is looked at in Table 16 below. Overall, there were 2,925 claimants in West Lothian in September 2025, and this is 9% lower than a year ago and 2.7% lower than last month.

We can see that eight of the nine West Lothian wards have seen a fall in the claimant count over the last twelve months, and six recorded a fall between August and September. The two wards that have the highest claimant rates are Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley and Whitburn and Blackburn while Linlithgow has the lowest.

Table 16 West Lothian Claimant Count by Ward September 2025

Wards	Sep 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants September 2025				
			Sep24 to Sep25	Aug25 to Sep25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
Armadale & Blackridge	255	2.6	-10.5%	-3.8%	64.7%	37.3%	29.4%	56.9%	15.7%
Bathgate	420	2.7	-4.5%	0.0%	60.7%	39.3%	25.0%	54.8%	20.2%
Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh	300	2.4	-10.4%	-4.8%	56.7%	43.3%	21.7%	56.7%	21.7%
East Livingston & E. Calder	335	2.3	-6.9%	-4.3%	53.7%	46.3%	16.4%	58.2%	25.4%
Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley	340	3.3	-10.5%	-1.4%	64.7%	35.3%	20.6%	64.7%	14.7%
Linlithgow	120	1.2	-7.7%	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%	12.5%	54.2%	29.2%
Livingston North	280	1.9	-20.0%	-5.1%	57.1%	42.9%	17.9%	60.7%	21.4%
Livingston South	420	2.7	6.3%	0.0%	54.8%	45.2%	20.2%	57.1%	22.6%
Whitburn & Blackburn	455	3.3	-14.2%	-2.2%	61.5%	39.6%	23.1%	58.2%	18.7%
West Lothian	2,925	2.5	-9.0%	-2.7%	59.1%	40.9%	21.4%	58.3%	20.3%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

Overall, we can see that 59.1% of claimants in West Lothian are male whilst in Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley and Armadale and Blackridge 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 29.4% are 16-24 years of age. Whilst 20.3% of claimants in West Lothian are 50 years of age or over this is a lot higher in Linlithgow where 29.2% 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 August and September 2025. From this table we can see that there were 1,850 people claiming in September which is 11.9% lower than last year and 1.9% lower than last month.

We can see that all bar one ward recorded a fall in the claimant count between September 2024 and September 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 26.2% in East Berwickshire to a fall of 'only' 3.7% 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, six wards saw the claimant count fall between August and September, for two 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 September 2025

Wards	Sep 2025	Rate	% Change		Proportion of Claimants September 2025				
			Sep24 to Sep25	Aug25 to Sep25	Male	Female	Aged 16-24	Aged 25-49	Aged 50+
East Berwickshire	155	2.6	-26.2%	6.9%	45.2%	51.6%	19.4%	51.6%	29.0%
Galashiels and District	315	3.2	-6.0%	-3.1%	61.9%	38.1%	19.0%	58.7%	22.2%
Hawick and Denholm	205	3.9	-14.6%	-2.4%	63.4%	39.0%	19.5%	56.1%	24.4%
Hawick and Hermitage	185	3.7	-14.0%	8.8%	67.6%	32.4%	24.3%	51.4%	21.6%
Jedburgh and District	155	3.0	-8.8%	0.0%	51.6%	48.4%	22.6%	51.6%	25.8%
Kelso and District	145	2.6	-9.4%	-6.5%	51.7%	48.3%	13.8%	55.2%	31.0%
Leaderdale & Melrose	145	2.2	0.0%	7.4%	55.2%	44.8%	20.7%	55.2%	20.7%
Mid Berwickshire	145	2.4	-19.4%	-6.5%	51.7%	48.3%	10.3%	48.3%	37.9%
Selkirkshire	155	2.8	-11.4%	0.0%	58.1%	45.2%	19.4%	58.1%	22.6%
Tweeddale East	130	2.1	-3.7%	-7.1%	50.0%	50.0%	11.5%	53.8%	34.6%
Tweeddale West	120	1.9	-14.3%	-11.1%	58.3%	41.7%	8.3%	54.2%	37.5%
Scottish Borders	1,850	2.7	-11.9%	-1.9%	56.5%	43.5%	18.4%	54.6%	27.0%

Source: NOMIS 30/10/2025

The data in Table 14 also indicates that across Scottish Borders in September 56.5% of claimants were male, 18.4% were 16-24 years of age and 27% were over 50 years of age. In Hawick and Hermitage 67.6% of claimants were males, in East Berwickshire 51.6% were females. In terms of age cohorts 24.3% of claimants in Hawick and Hermitage were 16-24 years of age and in Mid Berwickshire 37.9% 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.

Table 18 looks at the number in each of the three categories by Local Authority and how it has changed over the last twelve months. We can see that the number of people in work and claiming in the city region was pretty much the same as it was in August 2024. Two Local Authorities (Fife and Scottish Borders) saw the number in work and claiming fall between August 2024 and August 2025, West Lothian saw no real change and the remaining three Local Authorities saw the in work claimant count increase.

Table 18 Universal Credit Claimants in City Region

		Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
East Lothian	Not in employment	6,320	6,340	6,406	6,438	6,561	6,726	6,841	6,906	6,990	7,107	7,232	7,333	7,506
	In employment	3,769	3,809	3,808	3,896	3,846	3,711	3,766	3,786	3,822	3,811	3,842	3,821	3,814
	Total	10,085	10,154	10,218	10,330	10,402	10,442	10,609	10,697	10,809	10,918	11,072	11,154	11,321
Midlothian	Not in employment	5,879	5,890	5,988	6,014	6,102	6,308	6,496	6,510	6,634	6,801	6,921	7,126	7,254
	In employment	3,564	3,658	3,654	3,747	3,734	3,567	3,545	3,647	3,663	3,652	3,705	3,620	3,676
	Total	9,449	9,549	9,636	9,766	9,839	9,873	10,037	10,157	10,297	10,457	10,625	10,752	10,930
Scottish Borders	Not in employment	6,310	6,373	6,475	6,540	6,670	6,848	7,050	7,168	7,334	7,446	7,582	7,774	7,892
	In employment	4,034	4,100	4,049	4,113	4,104	3,980	4,020	4,020	4,043	4,010	4,062	4,009	3,992
	Total	10,343	10,474	10,521	10,654	10,777	10,834	11,069	11,188	11,375	11,455	11,647	11,781	11,887
West Lothian	Not in employment	12,468	12,493	12,915	13,012	13,240	13,746	14,038	14,369	14,685	15,226	15,411	15,977	16,168
	In employment	7,065	7,354	7,124	7,352	7,362	6,944	6,995	7,018	7,009	6,785	7,107	6,893	7,068
	Total	19,535	19,839	20,033	20,363	20,605	20,691	21,032	21,387	21,696	22,011	22,517	22,867	23,237
Fife	Not in employment	27,283	27,424	27,845	28,015	28,601	29,361	29,946	30,420	30,914	31,712	32,210	32,903	33,469
	In employment	14,424	14,647	14,443	14,786	14,580	14,071	14,169	14,149	14,215	13,885	14,229	14,059	14,186
	Total	41,708	42,069	42,284	42,800	43,183	43,429	44,111	44,569	45,126	45,595	46,440	46,963	47,658
Edinburgh	Not in employment	24,575	24,903	25,589	25,792	26,139	27,041	27,962	28,547	29,490	30,415	31,399	32,636	33,246
	In employment	15,265	15,445	15,156	15,606	15,688	15,110	15,071	15,194	15,193	15,163	15,437	15,126	15,430
	Total	39,845	40,346	40,745	41,395	41,832	42,148	43,031	43,736	44,681	45,578	46,836	47,759	48,680
City Region	Not in employment	82,835	83,426	85,214	85,812	87,317	90,033	92,325	93,921	96,042	98,699	100,759	103,749	105,541
	In employment	48,126	49,006	48,225	49,503	49,310	47,379	47,558	47,813	47,943	47,305	48,378	47,528	48,166
	Total	130,959	132,433	133,442	135,310	136,630	137,417	139,885	141,739	143,988	146,007	149,131	151,275	153,706

Source: StatXplore 30/10/2025

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