

Travel-to-Work Areas (TTWAs): 1998 Revision / June 1998

Introduction

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has just published the final version of the 1991 Census-based Travel-to-Work Areas for the UK. The Review of TTWAs took place over the past year. This factsheet summarises the main changes to the TTWAs within the HIE area. Network Staff should note that the Unemployment Digest will change to take account of these new areas in due course.

Background

In theory, a self contained labour market area is one in which all commuting occurs within the boundary of the area. In practice, it is not possible to divide the whole country into entirely separate labour market areas. Travel-to-Work Areas have been developed as approximations of self-contained labour markets.

The basic criteria used for defining a Travel-to-Work Area are self-containment of 75% (that is the number of people who both live and work in the area should be at least 75% of both the total number of people who work in the area and the total number of workers who live there) and a working population, as measured by the Census of Population data, of at least 3,500.

Commuting patterns change over time due to opening and closing of workplaces, the development of residential areas and changes to transport facilities. In view of such changes, TTWAs need to be reviewed. The current review is based on information collected on commuting patterns from the 1991 Census.

Main Changes

The new TTWAs are detailed on the attached map. The main changes affecting the HIE area are as follows:-

- The Western Isles has been split into two TTWAs - namely Lewis & Harris, and the Uists & Barra;
- A new Islay & Mull TTWA has been created - Mull, Coll and Tiree were part of the Oban TTWA, while Islay was previously with Mid-Argyll. This should be helpful in making a case for the islands, since this in effect becomes an Argyll Islands TTWA;
- Arran has been removed from the Dunoon & Bute TTWA, and put into the North Ayrshire TTWA, which is more logical given the ferry link with Ardrossan;
- The Forres TTWA has been merged with Elgin. The previous Forres TTWA is the only part of the HIE area with "Development Area" status under the current Assisted Areas designations. It is likely that the combined unemployment rate for Elgin & Forres will be closer to the national average than the Forres rate;
- A new Dufftown TTWA has been created which covers the Speyside and Glenlivet wards, and matches the HIE area boundary. Previously these wards had been in the Keith TTWA;

- Several of the TTWAs have had name changes, as opposed to boundary changes, such as Skye & Wester Ross which has become Skye & Ullapool.

Current unemployment in new TTWAs

There are now 20 TTWAs which are of relevance to the HIE area. These are listed below, along with the current number of unemployed people in the TTWAs, at April 1998.

Number of Unemployed, April 1998

TTWA98 Name	LEC Area	Male	Female	All
Shetland Isles	SE	352	137	489
Orkney Islands	OE	238	74	312
<i>Lewis and Harris</i>	<i>WIE</i>	<i>677</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>846</i>
<i>Uists and Barra</i>	<i>WIE</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>246</i>
Thurso	CASE	387	92	479
Wick	CASE	385	97	482
Sutherland	CASE	374	165	539
Dingwall	RACE	772	261	1,033
Skye and Ullapool	SALE & RACE	454	188	642
Inverness	INE	1,882	578	2,460
Lochaber	LLtd	308	151	459
<i>Elgin and Forres</i>	<i>MBSE</i>	<i>906</i>	<i>382</i>	<i>1,288</i>
Badenoch	MBSE	236	77	313
<i>Dufftown</i>	<i>MBSE</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>Oban</i>	<i>AIE</i>	<i>241</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>322</i>
<i>Lochgilphead</i>	<i>AIE</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>183</i>
Campbeltown	AIE	358	76	434
<i>Islay and Mull</i>	<i>AIE</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>251</i>
<i>Dunoon and Rothesay</i>	<i>AIE</i>	<i>499</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>661</i>
<i>North Ayrshire*</i>	<i>AIE</i>	<i>3,750</i>	<i>1,229</i>	<i>4,979</i>

Source: ONS (NOMIS)

Notes: *Only Arran and the Cumbraes within North Ayrshire relate to the HIE area, representing a small proportion of the overall unemployment in North Ayrshire.

Italics represent new /changed TTWAs