

Unemployment digest



Summary

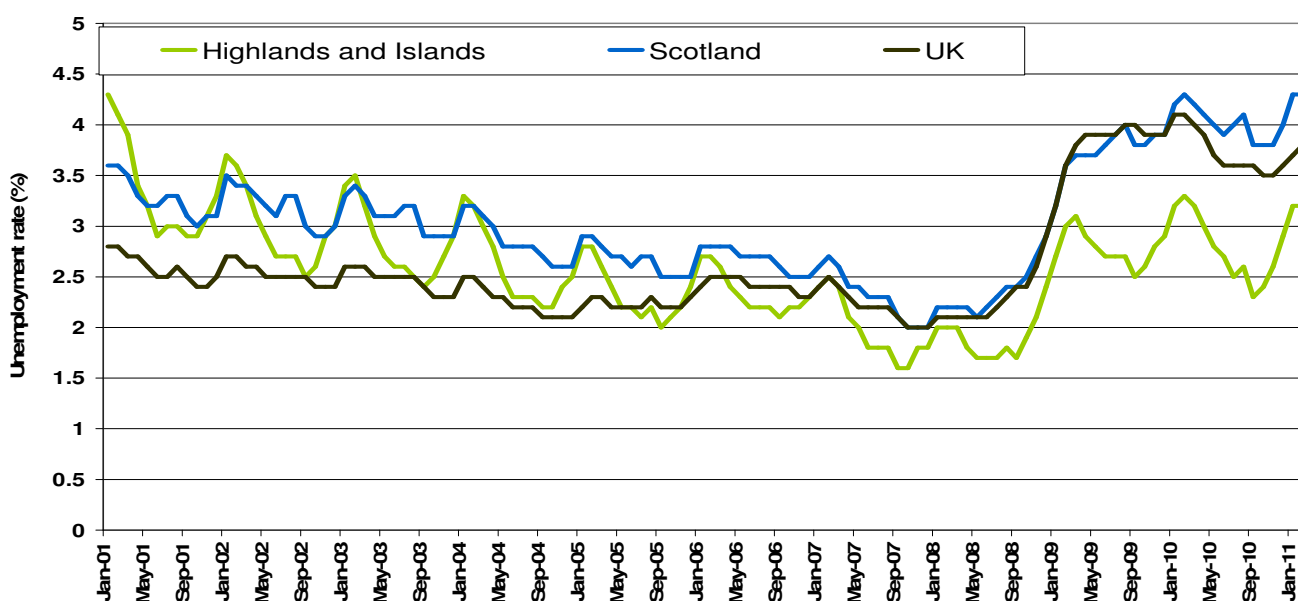
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at a more local level than the ILO unemployment rate statistics provided by ONS. Claimant Count statistics are available monthly at Area Office and Travel to Work area level. This means we are able to identify, interpret and respond to changes in very local labour markets.

The February 2011 unemployment figures were released on 16th March 2011. Over the month, January 2011 to February 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom rose by 2.2% from 1,505,068 to 1,538,187 (33,119 claimants). This figure is 7.2% lower than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,657,041, a decrease of 118,854 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose over the month January 2011 to February 2011, rising 1.3% from 146,161 to 148,031 claimants. This figure is 0.8% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 146,910, an increase of 1,121 claimants.

The unemployment rate for the Highlands and Islands also rose over the month, rising 1.4% (130 claimants) to 9,117 claimants. This figure is 5.0% (433 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 8,684.

Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2011



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Note: Working age is defined as 16-64 for both men and women

Note: Previous reports refer to GB geography rather than UK.

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the Claimant Count rates for February 2011, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with January 2011 and February 2010 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the February 2011 figure.

Area	February 2011	January 2011	February 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.2	5.2	4.7
Wick	4.7	4.8	5.2
Campbeltown	4.4	4.0	4.0
Invergordon	4.0	4.4	4.2
Skye & Lochalsh	3.8	3.8	3.5
Thurso	3.8	3.8	3.4
Dornoch & Lairg	3.6	3.6	3.6
Lochaber	3.6	3.4	2.9
Eilean Siar	3.4	3.5	3.9
Inverness & Dingwall	3.2	3.2	3.0
Oban	3.1	3.2	2.9
Moray	3.0	2.9	3.0
Lochgilphead	2.8	2.6	2.4
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.7	2.6	2.6
Mull & Islay	2.5	2.6	2.2
Badenoch	2.3	2.1	2.1
Orkney Islands	1.9	1.9	1.5
Shetland Islands	1.7	1.5	1.4
HIE TTWAs	3.2	3.2	3.1
Highland	3.4	3.4	3.2
Scotland	4.3	4.3	4.3
United Kingdom	3.8	3.7	4.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month January 2011 to February 2011, the claimant count rose in 7, fell in 5 and was static in the remaining 6 TTWAs – Dunoon & Bute, Skye & Lochalsh, Thurso, Dornoch & Lairg, Inverness & Dingwall and Orkney Islands. Campbeltown had the highest increase over the month, rising 0.4% from 4.0% to 4.4%. Invergordon had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.4% from 4.4% to 4.0%.

Over the year to February 2011, the claimant count rose in 13, fell in 3 and was static in the remaining 2 TTWAs – Dornoch & Lairg and Moray. Lochaber had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.7% from 2.9% to 3.6%. Wick and Eilean Siar shared the greatest decrease over the year, both falling by 0.5%.

Table 2 – Number of unemployed by Area Office

Table 2 below traces changes in the numbers (not rates) of unemployed people claiming benefits in the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Area Offices (AOs) between January 2011 and February 2011. A yearly comparison between February 2010 and February 2011 is also provided. The AOs are ranked in descending order by the size of the annual change in the number of unemployed, displayed in the right hand column.

Area Office	Number claiming unemployment benefit (February 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Jan 11 - Feb 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Feb 10 - Feb 11)
Orkney	245	3.4	26.9
Shetland	233	7.4	15.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	838	2.4	15.0
Argyll and the Islands	1,622	2.1	11.9
Inner Moray Firth	3,002	1.0	4.6
Caithness and Sutherland	950	-0.8	1.5
Moray	1,668	2.9	-0.6
Innse Gall	559	-2.8	-10.8
HIE Area	9,117	1.4	5.0
Highland	4,790	0.9	5.6
Scotland	148,031	1.3	0.8
United Kingdom	1,538,187	2.2	-7.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to February 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 6 area offices, and fell in the remaining 2. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 7.4% from 217 to 233 claimants. Innse Gall had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 2.8% from 575 to 559 claimants.

Over the year to February 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 6, and fell in the remaining 2 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 26.9% from 193 to 245 claimants. Innse Gall had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 10.8% from 627 to 559 claimants.

Table 3 – Long-term unemployment by Area Office

For the purpose of this analysis, long-term unemployment (LTU) is defined as 'all those who have been unemployed and claiming benefit for over 6 months'. Table 3 below shows the number of people who are long-term unemployed in February 2011 in each of the AOs. It also highlights the percentage change in the number of those claiming long-term unemployment benefit over the month (January 2011 to February 2011) and over the year (February 2010 to February 2011). The AOs are ranked by the right hand column, which contains the size of the annual percentage change in numbers of LTU.

Area Office	February 2011	% Change in number of LTU (Jan 11 - Feb 11)	% Change in number of LTU (Feb 10 - Feb 11)
Orkney	30	0.0	-25.0
Innse Gall	175	0.0	-18.6
Inner Moray Firth	580	3.6	-16.5
Caithness and Sutherland	290	-4.9	-3.3
Moray	360	1.4	-1.4
Argyll and the Islands	485	2.1	3.2
Shetland	60	-7.7	9.1
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	155	0.0	34.8
HIE Area	2,135	0.7	-5.3
Highland	1,025	1.0	-7.7
Scotland	47,115	1.0	-1.1
United Kingdom	481,375	0.1	-17.7

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month January 2011 to February 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 3, fell in 2 and was static in the remaining 3 area offices – Innse Gall, Orkney and Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the month, rising 3.6% from 560 to 580 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 7.7% from 65 to 60 claimants.

Over the year to February 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 3, and fell in the remaining 5 area offices. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 34.8% from 115 to 155 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 25.0% from 40 to 30 claimants.

Heather Smith – Research Assistant

heather.smith@hient.co.uk

Tel: (01463) 244320

Kateryna McKinnon – Economist

kateryna.mckinnon@hient.co.uk

Tel: (01463) 244258

Further economic information and previous factsheets can be accessed on the HIE Website: <http://www.hie.co.uk>

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