

Unemployment digest



Summary

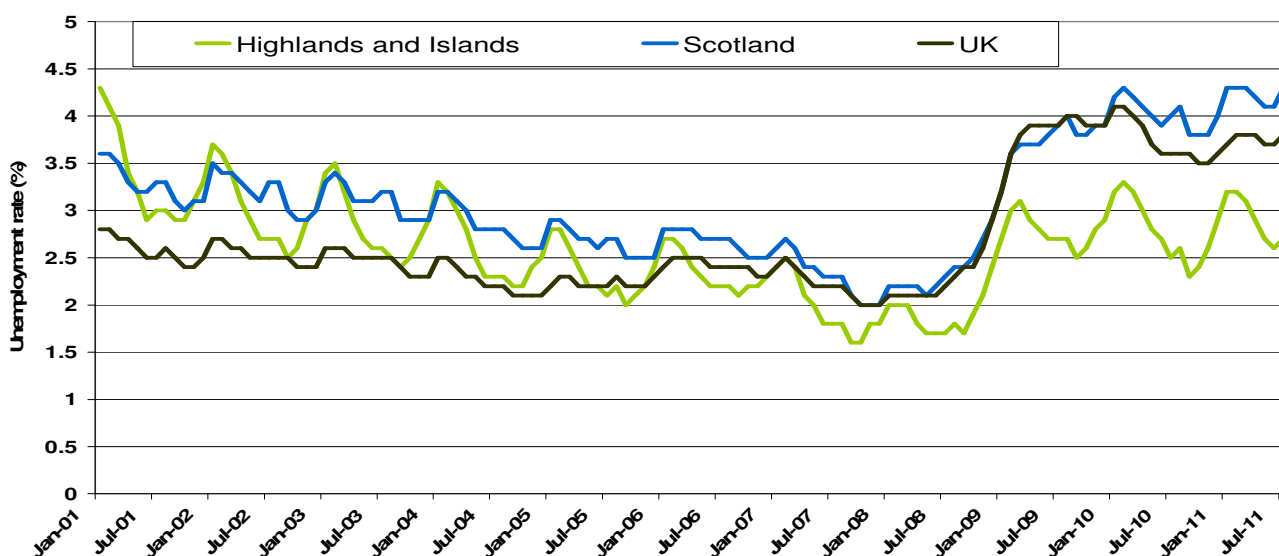
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 July 2011 unemployment figures were released on 17th August 2011. Over the month, June 2011 to July 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom rose by 3.3% from 1,493,077 to 1,541,793 (48,716 claimants). This figure is 7.0% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,441,035, an increase of 100,758 claimants. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the number of claimants rose by 2.4%, 37,100 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose over the month, rising by 4.5% from 140,557 to 146,917 claimants (6,360 claimants). This figure is 7.2% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 137,108, an increase of 9,809 claimants. On a seasonally adjusted basis the number of claimants rose by 1.8%, 2,600 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Highlands and Islands also rose over the month, rising 2.1% (155 claimants) from 7,371 to 7,526 claimants. This figure is 5.6% (396 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 7,130.

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



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS) – seasonally unadjusted
 Note: Working age is defined as 16-64 for both men and women

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

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

Area	July 2011	June 2011	July 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.2	4.9	4.5
Wick	4.8	4.7	4.6
Campbeltown	4.1	4.1	3.7
Invergordon	3.9	4.0	4.2
Thurso	3.6	3.6	3.1
Eilean Siar	2.9	2.8	2.9
Moray	2.7	2.6	2.5
Inverness & Dingwall	2.6	2.6	2.5
Dornoch & Lairg	2.6	2.5	3.0
Oban	2.4	2.2	2.0
Lochgilphead	2.3	2.3	2.1
Lochaber	2.0	2.0	1.7
Skye & Lochalsh	1.8	2.0	2.0
Orkney Islands	1.5	1.4	1.5
Badenoch	1.4	1.2	1.4
Mull & Islay	1.3	1.5	1.5
Shetland Islands	1.3	1.4	1.5
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.3	1.3	1.4
HIE TTWAs	2.7	2.6	2.5
Highland	2.7	2.6	2.6
Scotland	4.3	4.1	4.0
United Kingdom	3.8	3.7	3.6

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to July 2011, the claimant count rose in 8, fell in 4 and was static in the remaining 6 TTWA's – Campbeltown, Thurso, Inverness & Dingwall, Lochgilphead, Lochaber and Ullapool & Gairloch. Dunoon & Bute had the greatest increase over the month, rising 0.3% from 4.9% to 5.2%. Skye & Lochalsh and Mull & Islay shared the greatest decrease over the month, both falling 0.2%.

Over the year to July 2011, the claimant count rose in 9, fell in 6 and was static in the remaining 3 TTWA's – Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands and Badenoch. Dunoon & Bute had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.7% from 4.5% to 5.2%. Dornoch & Lairg had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.4% from 3.0% to 2.6%.

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 June 2011 and July 2011. A yearly comparison between July 2010 and July 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 (July 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Jun 11 - Jul 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Jul 10 - Jul 11)
Shetland	180	-5.8	-12.6
Innse Gall	473	3.3	-1.0
Inner Moray Firth	2,470	1.4	2.4
Caithness and Sutherland	865	2.9	4.6
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	432	-4.6	4.9
Orkney	195	6.6	6.0
Moray	1,511	4.5	10.2
Argyll and the Islands	1,400	2.8	13.0
HIE Area	7,526	2.1	5.6
Highland	3,767	1.0	3.1
Scotland	146,917	4.5	7.2
United Kingdom	1,541,793	3.3	7.0

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month June to July 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 month, rising 6.6% from 183 to 195 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 5.8% from 191 to 180 claimants.

Over the year to July 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 6, and fell in the remaining 2 area offices. Argyll & the Islands had the greatest increase over the year, rising 13.0% from 1,239 to 1,400 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling by 12.6% from 206 to 180 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 July 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 (June 2011 to July 2011) and over the year (July 2010 to July 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	July 2011	% Change in number of LTU (Jun 11 - Jul 11)	% Change in number of LTU (Jul 10 - Jul 11)
Shetland	35	-12.5	-30.0
Innse Gall	190	-5.0	-2.6
Inner Moray Firth	655	-3.0	4.0
Caithness and Sutherland	325	0.0	12.1
Moray	465	3.3	17.7
Argyll and the Islands	555	1.8	20.7
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	135	-15.6	22.7
Orkney	55	37.5	37.5
HIE Area	2,380	-0.8	11.3
Highland	1,115	-3.9	8.3
Scotland	52,670	3.7	10.6
United Kingdom	554,375	4.9	1.4

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month June to July 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 3, fell in 4 and was static in the remaining area office – Caithness and Sutherland. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 37.5% from 40 to 55 claimants. Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 15.6% from 160 to 135 claimants.

Over the year to July 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 6, and fell in the remaining 2 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 37.5% from 40 to 55 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 30.0% from 50 to 35 claimants.

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

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