

Unemployment digest



Summary

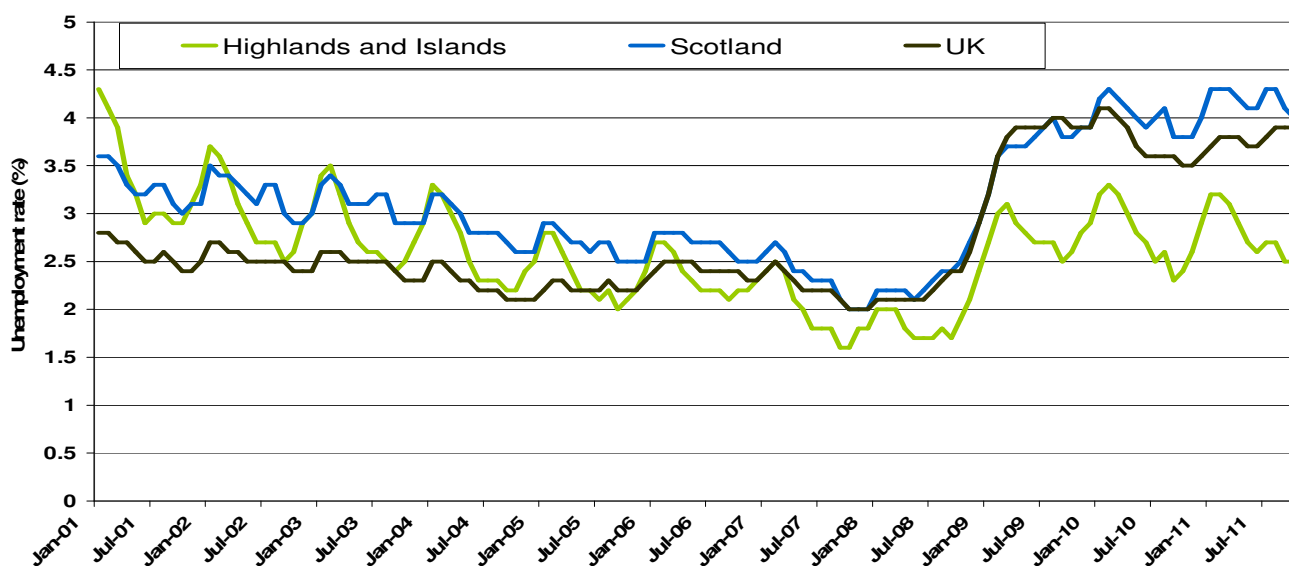
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 October 2011 unemployment figures were released on 16th November 2011. Over the month, September to October 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom fell by 1.0% (16,108 claimants) from 1,578,609 to 1,562,501 claimants. This figure is 10.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,416,785 an increase of 145,716 claimants. However, on a seasonally adjusted basis the number of claimants rose over the month by 5,300.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland fell over the month, falling by 1.9% from 140,010 to 137,368 claimants (2,642 claimants). This figure is 6.2% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 129,307 an increase of 8,061 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Highlands and Islands rose over the month, rising 0.4% (27 claimants) from 7,071 to 7,098 claimants. This figure is 5.3% (360 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 6,738.

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 October 2011, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with September 2011 and October 2010 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the October 2011 figure.

Area	October 2011	September 2011	October 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.0	5.0	4.4
Wick	4.9	5.0	4.0
Campbeltown	4.8	4.5	3.6
Invergordon	3.5	3.5	3.7
Thurso	3.3	3.4	3.1
Eilean Siar	2.9	2.9	2.9
Dornoch & Lairg	2.6	2.4	2.7
Oban	2.5	2.3	2.2
Moray	2.3	2.4	2.1
Inverness & Dingwall	2.3	2.3	2.3
Skye & Lochalsh	2.3	1.8	2.4
Lochgilphead	2.2	2.1	2.0
Lochaber	2.0	2.0	2.0
Orkney Islands	1.8	1.7	1.3
Badenoch	1.5	1.4	1.5
Mull & Islay	1.3	1.4	1.4
Shetland Islands	1.3	1.2	1.4
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.3	1.1	1.7
HIE TTWAs	2.5	2.5	2.4
Highland	2.5	2.5	2.5
Scotland	4.0	4.1	3.8
United Kingdom	3.9	3.9	3.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to October 2011, the claimant count rose in 9, fell in 4 and was static in the remaining 5 TTWA's – Dunoon & Bute, Invergordon, Eilean Siar, Inverness & Dingwall and Lochaber.

Skye & Lochalsh had the greatest increase over the month, rising 0.5% from 1.8% to 2.3%. All 4 TTWA's that decreased over the month fell by 0.1% - Wick, Thurso, Moray and Mull & Islay.

Over the year to October 2011, the claimant count rose in 8, fell in 6 and was static in the remaining 4 TTWA's – Eilean Siar, Inverness & Dingwall, Lochaber and Badenoch. Campbeltown had the highest increase over the year, rising 1.2% from 3.6% to 4.8%. Ullapool & Gairloch had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.4% from 1.7% to 1.3%.

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 September 2011 and October 2011. A yearly comparison between October 2010 and October 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 (October 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Sep 11 - Oct 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Oct 10 - Oct 11)
Shetland	179	4.1	-11.4
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	477	12.2	-4.2
Inner Moray Firth	2,186	-1.8	-2.8
Western Isles	478	0.2	2.6
Moray	1,271	-3.8	10.5
Caithness & Sutherland	845	-0.1	10.5
Argyll & the Islands	1,430	3.4	15.1
Orkney	232	5.5	40.6
HIE Area	7,098	0.4	5.3
Highland	3,508	0.3	-0.1
Scotland	137,368	-1.9	6.2
United Kingdom	1,562,501	-1.0	10.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month September to October 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 5 and fell in 3 area offices. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the highest increase over the month, rising 12.2% from 425 to 477 claimants. Moray had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 3.8% from 1,321 to 1,271 claimants.

Over the year to October 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 5, and fell in the remaining 3 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 40.6% from 165 to 232 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling by 11.4% from 202 to 179 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 October 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 (September 2011 to October 2011) and over the year (October 2010 to October 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	% Change in number of LTU	
	October 2011	(Sep 11 - Oct 11)
Shetland	45	12.5
Inner Moray Firth	640	-3.8
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	130	0.0
Innse Gall	185	-2.6
Argyll & the Islands	565	0.9
Caithness & Sutherland	355	1.4
Moray	460	-1.1
Orkney	60	9.1
HIE Area	2,440	-0.6
Highland	1,130	-1.3
Scotland	55,615	1.2
United Kingdom	623,825	2.6

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month September to October 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 4, fell in 3 and was static in the remaining area office – Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 12.5% from 40 to 45 claimants. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 3.8% from 665 to 640 claimants.

Over the year to October 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 7 and fell in the remaining area office. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 71.4% from 35 to 60 claimants. Shetland was the only area to have a decrease in long-term claimants, falling 10.0% from 50 to 45 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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