

# Unemployment digest



## Summary

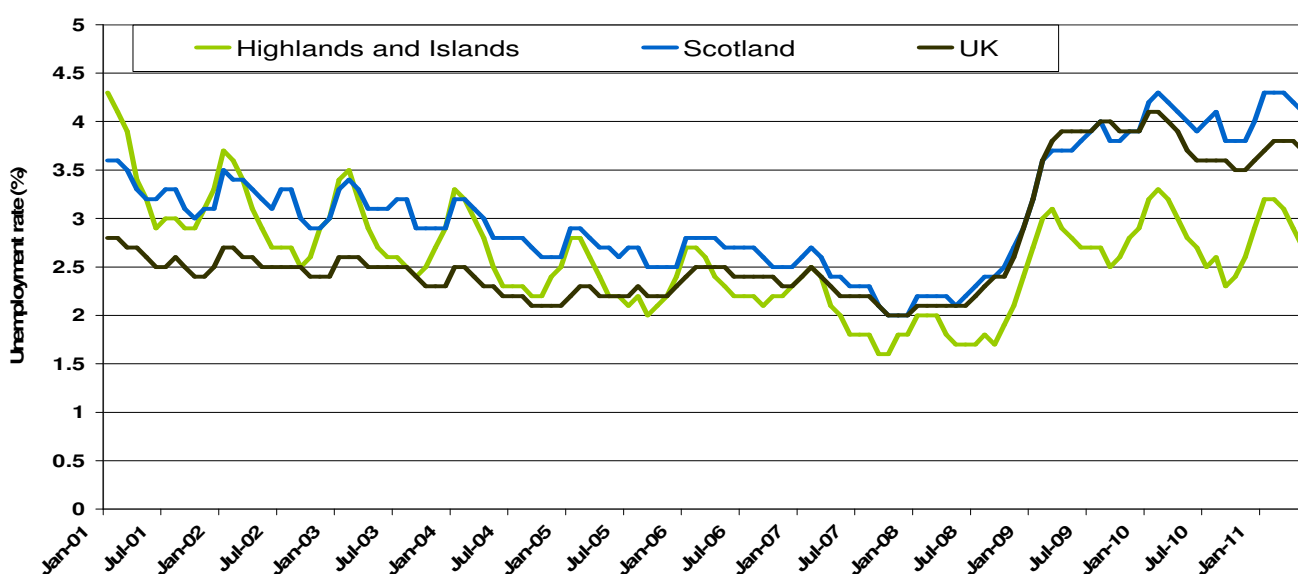
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 May 2011 unemployment figures were released on 15th June 2011. Over the month, April 2011 to May 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom fell by 1.0% from 1,520,806 to 1,504,913 (15,893 claimants). This figure is 0.2% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,502,155, an increase of 2,758 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also fell over the month, falling 1.6% from 142,377 to 140,107 claimants (2,270 claimants). This figure is 3.4% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 135,541, an increase of 4,566 claimants.

The unemployment rate for the Highlands and Islands also fell over the month, falling 6.9% (555 claimants) from 8,067 to 7,512 claimants. This figure is 1.8% (134 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 7,378.

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

Area	May 2011	April 2011	May 2010
Dunoon & Bute	4.8	5.0	4.2
Wick	4.6	4.8	4.6
Invergordon	4.1	4.1	4.2
Campbeltown	4.0	4.0	3.3
Thurso	3.4	3.7	3.2
Eilean Siar	3.0	3.0	3.1
Moray	2.7	2.9	2.6
Dornoch & Lairg	2.5	2.8	3.2
Inverness & Dingwall	2.5	2.8	2.6
Oban	2.3	2.6	2.3
Lochgilphead	2.3	2.5	2.1
Skye & Lochalsh	2.2	2.6	2.2
Lochaber	2.2	2.6	1.9
Mull & Islay	1.7	1.9	1.3
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.5	2.1	1.7
Orkney Islands	1.5	1.5	1.2
Shetland Islands	1.5	1.5	1.6
Badenoch	1.3	1.8	1.7
<b>HIE TTWAs</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Highland	2.7	3.0	2.8
Scotland	4.1	4.2	4.0
United Kingdom	3.7	3.8	3.7

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to May 2011, the claimant count fell in 13 TTWAs and was static in the remaining 5 – Invergordon, Campbeltown, Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands. Ullapool & Gairloch had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.6% from 2.1% to 1.5%.

Over the year to May 2011, the claimant count rose in 8, fell in 7 and was static in the remaining 3 TTWAs – Wick, Oban and Skye & Lochalsh. Campbeltown had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.7% from 3.3% to 4.0%. Dornoch & Lairg had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.7% from 3.2% to 2.5%.

## 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 April 2011 and May 2011. A yearly comparison between May 2010 and May 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 (May 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Apr 11 - May 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (May 10 - May 11)
Inner Moray Firth	2,445	-7.7	-4.0
Shetland	216	1.4	-4.0
Innse Gall	494	0.6	-3.3
Caithness and Sutherland	829	-7.0	-2.6
Moray	1,486	-6.4	4.6
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	493	-18.9	5.6
Argyll and the Islands	1,360	-5.6	13.0
Orkney	189	1.6	23.5
<b>HIE Area</b>	<b>7,512</b>	<b>-6.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Highland	3,767	-9.2	-2.5
Scotland	140,107	-1.6	3.4
United Kingdom	1,504,913	-1.0	0.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month April to May 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 3 and fell in the remaining 5 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 1.6% from 186 to 189 claimants. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 18.9% from 608 to 493 claimants.

Over the year to May 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 4, and fell in the remaining 4 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 23.5% from 153 to 189 claimants. Inner Moray Firth and Shetland shared the greatest decrease over the year, both falling by 4.0%.

### 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 May 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 (April 2011 to May 2011) and over the year (May 2010 to May 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	May 2011	% Change in number of LTU (Apr 11 - May 11)	% Change in number of LTU (May 10 - May 11)
Inner Moray Firth	660	0.8	-5.0
Innse Gall	210	7.7	-4.5
Orkney	45	12.5	0.0
Shetland	55	0.0	0.0
Caithness and Sutherland	325	1.6	1.6
Moray	425	6.3	9.0
Argyll and the Islands	555	4.7	14.4
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	175	2.9	29.6
<b>HIE Area</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>4.5</b>
Highland	1,160	1.8	1.3
Scotland	50,225	2.9	-0.3
United Kingdom	520,015	3.6	-12.6

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month April to May 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 7 area offices and was static in the remaining 1 – Shetland. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 12.5% from 40 to 45 claimants.

Over the year to May 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 4, fell in 2 and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Orkney and Shetland. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 29.6% from 135 to 175 claimants. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 5.0% from 695 to 660 claimants.

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