

# Unemployment digest



## Summary

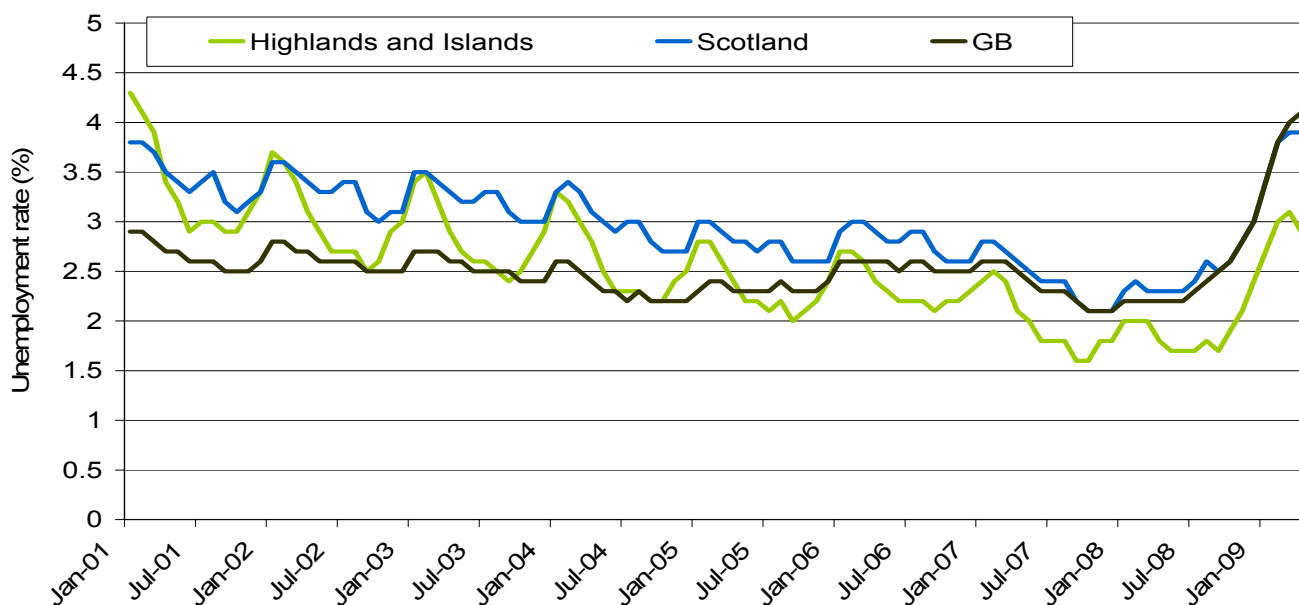
There has recently been a change made to Income Support for Lone Parents which will have some impact on the Jobseeker's Allowance Claimant Count figures. Since November 2008, lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over do not qualify for Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. It is anticipated that a number of them, while looking for paid work, will claim JSA. This is expected to have an impact on the level of people in the Claimant Count. It will not be possible to directly measure the impact on the Claimant Count. However, it is important to bear in mind that this change will have some impact on the claimant count figures reported below.

The May 2009 unemployment figures were released on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Over the month, April to May 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 0.4% from 1,510,759 to 1,516,921 claimants. This figure is 87.9 % higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 807,191 an increase of 709,730 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose over the month, rising by 0.2% from 126,826 to 127,095 claimants, an increase of 269 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 72,385, an increase of 75.6% (54,710 claimants).

The HIE area witnessed a decrease in the amount of people claiming unemployment benefit over the month, April to May 2009, falling by 3.9% (300 claimants) from 7,663 to 7,363 claimants. As with Great Britain and Scotland this figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,460, an increase of 65.1% (2,903 claimants).

**Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2009**



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

## Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the claimant count rates for May 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with April 2009 and May 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the May 2009 figure.

Area	May 2009	April 2009	May 2008
Dunoon & Bute	4.9	5.0	3.2
Wick	4.7	4.4	3.4
Invergordon	4.1	4.2	2.5
Campbeltown	4.1	4.2	3.0
Eilean Siar	3.6	4.0	2.1
Dornoch & Lairg	2.9	3.0	1.7
Inverness & Dingwall	2.9	2.9	1.3
Thurso	2.8	2.9	2.0
Moray	2.7	2.8	1.8
Skye & Lochalsh	2.4	2.9	1.9
Lochgilphead	2.4	2.3	1.5
Oban	2.2	2.4	1.6
Lochaber	2.1	2.5	1.3
Badenoch	1.8	1.8	0.9
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.7	2.1	1.3
Mull & Islay	1.7	2.1	1.2
Shetland Islands	1.5	1.4	0.9
Orkney Islands	1.3	1.4	0.8
HIE TTWAs	2.8	2.9	1.7
Highland	2.9	3.0	1.6
Scotland	3.9	3.9	2.2
Great Britain	4.1	4.1	2.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, April to May 2009, the claimant count fell in 13 TTWAs, rose in 3 and was static in the remaining 2 – Badenoch and Inverness & Dingwall. Wick had the highest increase over the month, rising by 0.3% from 4.4% to 4.7%. Skye & Lochalsh had the greatest decrease, falling by 0.5% from 2.9% to 2.4%.

Over the year to May 2009, the claimant count rose in all 18 TTWAs. Dunoon & Bute had the greatest increase over the year, rising 1.7% from 3.2% to 4.9%.

## 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 Area Offices (AOs) between April 2009 and May 2009. A yearly comparison between May 2008 and May 2009 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 2009)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Apr 09-May 09)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (May 08 - May 09)
Inner Moray Firth	2,537	-1.0	103.4
Shetland	202	6.9	77.2
Innse Gall	555	-9.3	72.4
Orkney	155	-5.5	70.3
Argyll and the Islands	1,276	-4.8	47.3
Moray	1,402	-3.7	46.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	479	-16.7	43.8
Caithness and Sutherland	757	-0.9	43.1
HIE Area	7,363	-3.9	65.1
Highland	3,773	-3.3	78.9
Scotland	127,095	0.2	75.6
Great Britain	1,516,921	0.4	87.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, April to May 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell in 7 of the area offices, and rose in the remaining 1. Shetland was the only area office to increase over the month, rising 6.9% from 189 to 202 claimants. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 16.7% from 575 to 479 claimants.

Over the year to May 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 103.4% from 1,247 to 2,537 claimants. There were also substantial increases in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Shetland, Innse Gall and Orkney, all rising by over 70%.

### 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 2009 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 2009 to May 2009) and over the year (May 2008 to May 2009). 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		
	May 2009	(Apr 09 - May 09)	% Change in number of LTU (May 08 - May 09)
Inner Moray Firth	475	11.8	120.9
Shetland	50	11.1	100.0
Moray	325	12.1	71.1
Argyll and the Islands	460	10.8	48.4
Innse Gall	165	10.0	43.5
Orkney	35	40.0	40.0
Caithness and Sutherland	240	9.1	26.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	125	0.0	19.0
HIE Area	1,875	10.6	59.6
Highland	835	8.4	62.1
Scotland	34,160	11.3	73.0
Great Britain	406,915	12.7	72.7

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month April to May 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 7 of the area offices, and remained static in the remaining 1 – Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 40.0% from 25 to 35 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in all 8 area offices over the year to May 2009. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 120.9% from 215 to 475 claimants. Shetland rose by 100.0% from 25 to 50 claimants.

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