

Unemployment digest



Summary

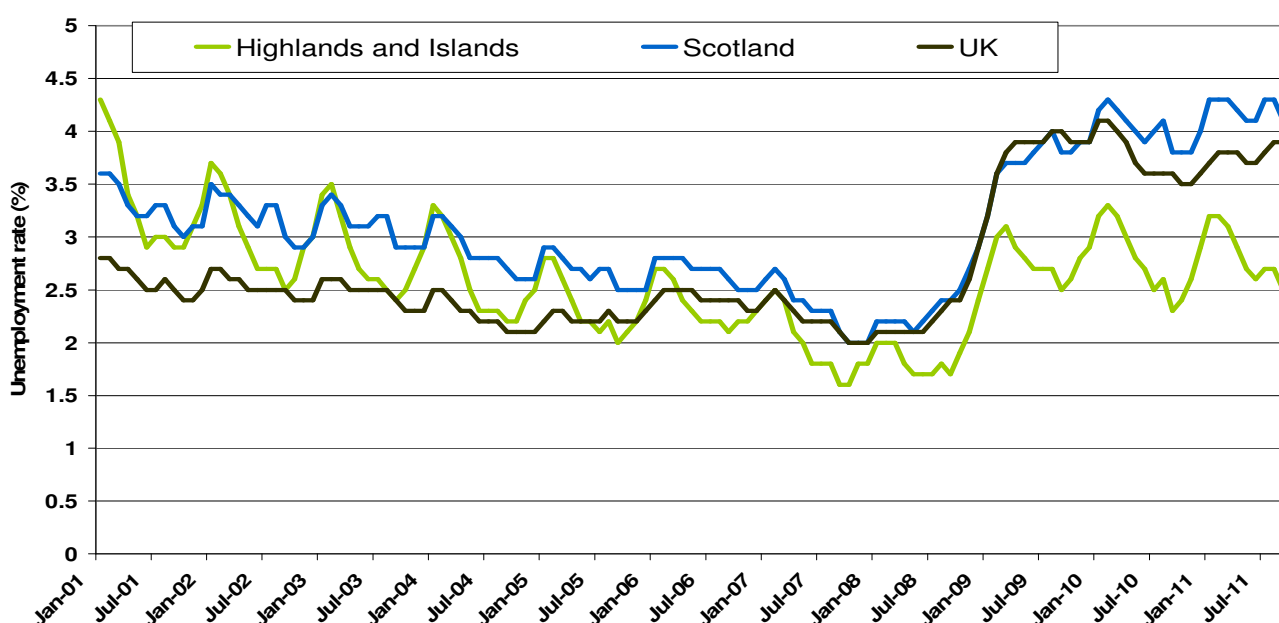
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 September 2011 unemployment figures were released on 12th October 2011. Over the month, August 2011 to September 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom rose by 0.1% from 1,576,835 to 1,578,609 (1,774 claimants). This figure is 9.7% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,439,601 an increase of 139,008 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland fell over the month, falling by 5.8% from 148,702 to 140,010 claimants (8,692 claimants). This figure is 7.7% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 129,964 an increase of 10,046 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Highlands and Islands fell over the month, falling 6.2% (469 claimants) from 7,540 to 7,071 claimants. This figure is 9.4% (610 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 6,461.

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

Area	September 2011	August 2011	September 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.0	5.2	4.4
Wick	5.0	4.8	3.9
Campbeltown	4.5	4.6	3.3
Invergordon	3.5	3.9	3.7
Thurso	3.4	3.7	2.9
Eilean Siar	2.9	3.0	2.7
Moray	2.4	2.7	2.2
Dornoch & Lairg	2.4	2.4	2.6
Inverness & Dingwall	2.3	2.6	2.1
Oban	2.3	2.4	2.0
Lochgilphead	2.1	2.3	2.0
Lochaber	2.0	2.2	1.9
Skye & Lochalsh	1.8	1.9	2.1
Orkney Islands	1.7	1.6	1.3
Badenoch	1.4	1.3	1.3
Mull & Islay	1.4	1.3	1.1
Shetland Islands	1.2	1.2	1.3
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.1	1.1	1.4
HIE TTWAs	2.5	2.7	2.3
Highland	2.5	2.7	2.3
Scotland	4.1	4.3	3.8
United Kingdom	3.9	3.9	3.6

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to September 2011, the claimant count rose in 4, fell in 11 and was static in the remaining 3 TTWA's – Dornoch & Lairg, Shetland Islands and Ullapool & Gairloch. Wick had the greatest increase over the month, rising 0.2% from 4.8% to 5.0%. Invergordon had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.4% from 3.9% to 3.5%.

Over the year to September 2011, the claimant count rose in 13 and fell in the remaining 5 area offices. Campbeltown had the greatest increase over the year, rising 1.2% from 3.3% to 4.5%. Skye & Lochalsh and Ullapool & Gairloch shared the greatest decrease over the year, both falling 0.3%.

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 August 2011 and September 2011. A yearly comparison between September 2010 and September 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 (September 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Aug 11 - Sep 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Sep 10 - Sep 11)
Shetland	172	-0.6	-6.0
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	425	-6.6	-3.6
Inner Moray Firth	2,227	-8.9	5.9
Moray	1,321	-11.6	9.5
Western Isles	477	-0.6	10.2
Argyll & the Islands	1,383	-3.3	15.2
Caithness & Sutherland	846	-1.5	15.7
Orkney	220	7.8	35.0
HIE Area	7,071	-6.2	9.4
Highland	3,498	-6.9	6.8
Scotland	140,010	-5.8	7.7
United Kingdom	1,578,609	0.1	9.7

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month August to September 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 1 and fell in 7 area offices. Orkney was the only area office to increase over the month, rising 7.8% from 204 to 220 claimants. Moray had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 11.6% from 1,495 to 1,321 claimants.

Over the year to September 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 35.0% from 163 to 220 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling by 6.0% from 183 to 172 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 September 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 (August 2011 to September 2011) and over the year (September 2010 to September 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		
	September 2011	(Aug 11 - Sep 11)	% Change in number of LTU (Sep 10 - Sep 11)
Shetland	40	14.3	-27.3
Inner Moray Firth	665	-1.5	10.8
Innse Gall	190	-2.6	11.8
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	130	-7.1	13.0
Argyll & the Islands	560	-0.9	15.5
Caithness & Sutherland	350	1.4	20.7
Moray	465	-6.1	25.7
Orkney	55	0.0	37.5
HIE Area	2,455	-2.0	15.5
Highland	1,145	-1.3	13.9
Scotland	54,980	-0.7	20.1
United Kingdom	608,120	3.6	16.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month August to September 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 2, fell in 5 and was static in the remaining area office – Orkney. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 14.3% from 35 to 40 claimants. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 7.1% from 140 to 130 claimants.

Over the year to September 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 37.5% from 40 to 55 claimants. Shetland was the only area to have a decrease in long-term claimants, falling 27.3% from 55 to 40 claimants.

Heather Smith – Research Assistant
 Kateryna McKinnon – Economist

heather.smith@hient.co.uk
kateryna.mckinnon@hient.co.uk

Tel: (01463) 244320
 Tel: (01463) 244258

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

© Please acknowledge Highlands and Islands Enterprise when using any information contained in this report.