

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

## OCTOBER 2017

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HIE Research and Economics Team



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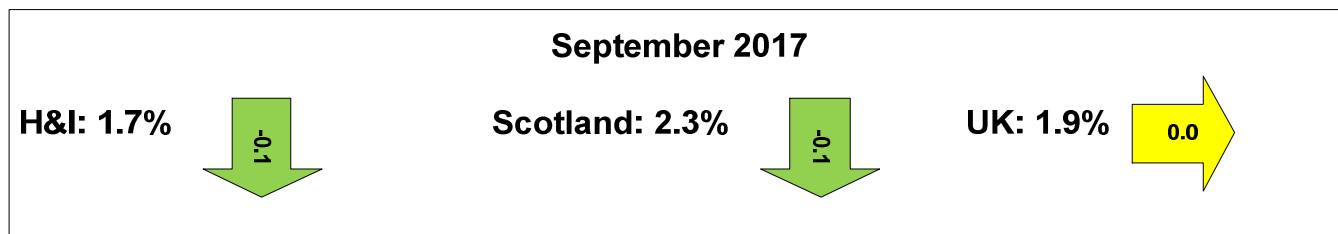
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

Since 1996, unemployment has been measured as a count of the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). However, the UK Government introduced a new benefit, Universal Credit, in May 2013 which has had a phased introduction across the country. The Claimant Count will now be a measure of all those in receipt of Universal Credit who are out of work, including income based JSA claimants. Contribution based JSA claimants will be measured separately.

JSA figures continue to be published, although they now form a subset of the new Claimant Count data, which the ONS believe to be the best measure of the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits.

The September 2017 claimant count figures were released on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

As illustrated by the chart below, unemployment in the Highlands and Islands was lower than that for Scotland but inline with that for the UK.

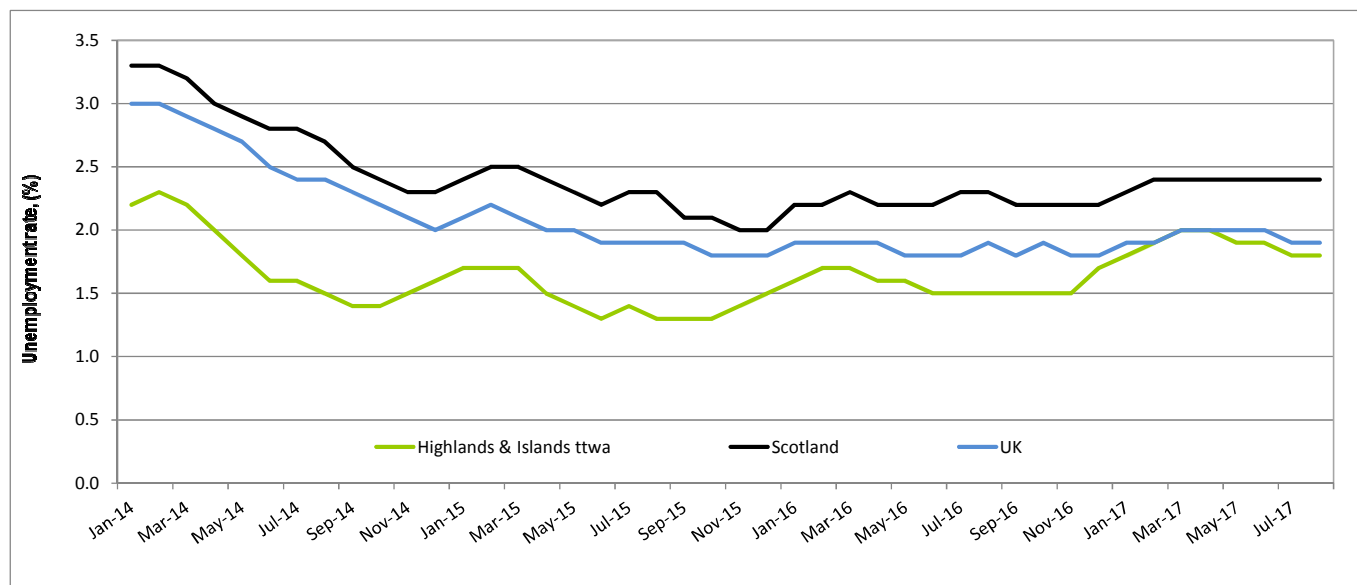


In September 2017, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.7%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.3%**) and that for the UK (**1.9%**). The rate for the region was lower than that of last month, but higher than that of a year earlier (1.5% in September 2016).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in September 2017 were Alness & Invergordon (3.0%); Dunoon & Rothesay (2.7%) and Wick (2.6%). Twelve TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in September 2017 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.7%) – Elgin and Eilean Siar (both 1.6%); Lochgilphead and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (both 1.5%); Ullapool (1.1%); Oban (1.0%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Fort William (both 0.9%); Orkney Islands and Portree (both 0.7%); Shetland Islands (0.6%) and Mull & Islay (0.4%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in September 2017 was 4,985. Out of the total, 935 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2017)



\* Based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit and, produced monthly by ONS.

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

Table 1 below illustrates the claimant count and universal credit allowance rates for each of the 19 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 - Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	September 2017		August 2017		September 2016		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Alness & Invergordon	405	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.7	25	0.1	45	0.3	
Dunoon & Rothesay	315	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.1	-20	-0.2	-40	-0.4	
Wick	195	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.2	15	0.2	25	0.4	
Inverness	1,710	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.4	-35	0.0	675	0.9	
Campbeltown	90	2.1	2.1	2.1	1.9	0	0.0	5	0.2	
Golpsie & Brora	105	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.8	-5	-0.1	10	0.1	
Thurso	165	1.8	2.0	2.0	1.7	-10	-0.2	10	0.1	
Elgin	1,030	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.5	-90	-0.2	100	0.1	
Eilean Siar	255	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	-20	-0.1	-35	-0.2	
Lochgilphead	85	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.3	-10	-0.2	15	0.2	
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	125	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.9	5	0.1	50	0.6	
Ullapool	45	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	-5	0.0	5	0.1	
Oban	100	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	-10	-0.1	-10	-0.1	
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	40	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	0	-0.1	-5	-0.2	
Fort William	120	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	-10	-0.1	5	0.0	
Orkney Islands	100	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	-10	-0.1	-10	-0.1	
Portree	35	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.9	0	0.0	-5	-0.2	
Shetland	80	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9	-15	0.0	-50	-0.3	
Mull & Islay	15	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	-5	-0.1	-10	-0.2	
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,010	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.5	-200	-0.1	765	0.2	
Scotland	78,695	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.2	-4,070	-0.1	935	0.1	
United Kingdom	795,470	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	-6,880	0.0	25,610	0.0	

Table 2 shows the total claimant count and universal credit unemployment, by number and rate over the month and year and youth unemployment by HIE area office.

Table 2 - Unemployment by Area Office - September 2017

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,245	2.3	-10	-0.4	765	51.7	395
Caithness and Sutherland	475	2.1	0	0.0	40	9.2	95
Argyll and the Islands	645	1.7	-50	-7.2	-45	-6.5	120
Moray	970	1.6	-85	-8.1	100	11.5	230
Innse Gall	255	1.6	-20	-7.3	-35	-12.1	35
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	215	0.9	-15	-6.5	-10	-4.4	25
Orkney	100	0.7	-10	-9.1	-10	-9.1	15
Shetland	80	0.5	-15	-15.8	-50	-38.5	20

Research and Economics  
October 2017

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