

Unemployment digest



Summary

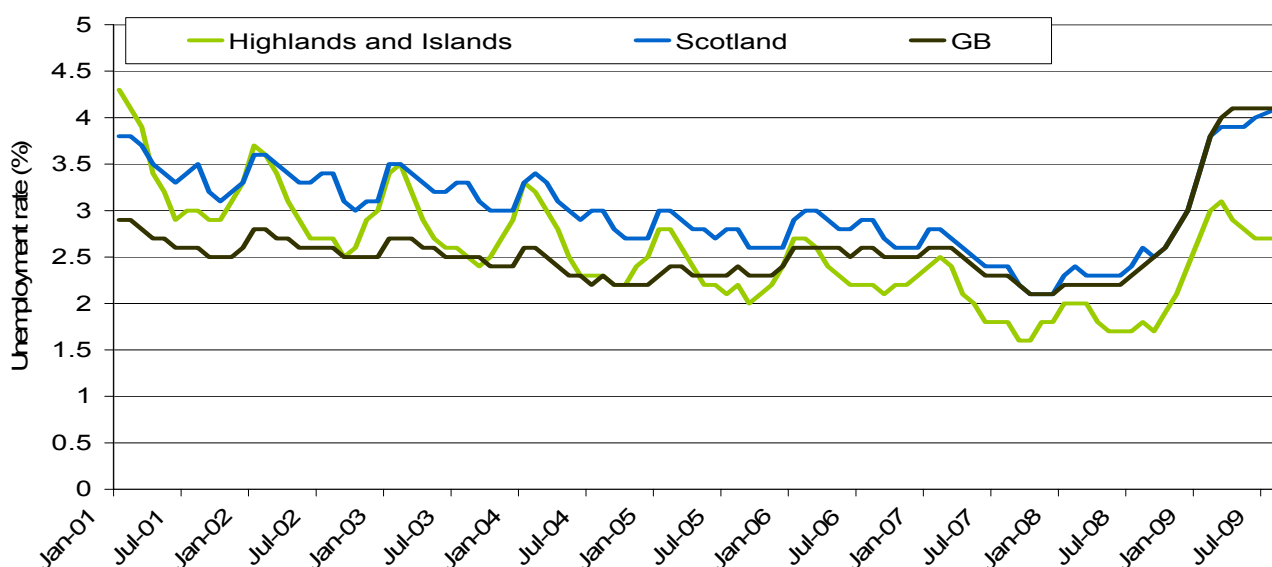
There has recently been a change made to Income Support for Lone Parents which will have some impact on the Jobseeker's Allowance Claimant Count figures. Since November 2008, lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over do not qualify for Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. 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 July 2009 unemployment figures were released on 12th August 2009. Over the month, June to July 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 1.2% from 1,504,117 to 1,521,709 (17,592 claimants). This figure is 80.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 843,888 an increase of 677,821 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose over the month, rising by 3.1% from 128,565 to 132,568 claimants, an increase of 4,003 claimants. This figure is 70.2% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 77,896, an increase of 54,672 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area decreased over the month, falling by 1.6% (114 claimants) from 7,199 to 7,085 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,408, an increase of 60.7% (2,677 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 July 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with June 2009 and July 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the July 2009 figure.

| Area | July 2009 | June 2009 | July 2008 |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dunoon & Bute | 4.9 | 4.8 | 3.4 |
| Wick | 4.4 | 4.6 | 3.3 |
| Campbeltown | 4.0 | 4.3 | 3.3 |
| Invergordon | 4.0 | 4.1 | 2.3 |
| Eilean Siar | 3.4 | 3.4 | 2.0 |
| Inverness & Dingwall | 2.8 | 2.8 | 1.4 |
| Thurso | 2.7 | 2.8 | 1.9 |
| Dornoch & Lairg | 2.6 | 2.8 | 1.7 |
| Moray | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.8 |
| Lochgilphead | 2.3 | 2.2 | 1.5 |
| Oban | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.5 |
| Lochaber | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.1 |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| Badenoch | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.8 |
| Ullapool & Gairloch | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| Mull & Islay | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.2 |
| Shetland Islands | 1.5 | 1.4 | 0.7 |
| Orkney Islands | 1.0 | 1.1 | 0.7 |
| HIE TTWAs | 2.7 | 2.7 | 1.7 |
| Highland | 2.7 | 2.8 | 1.6 |
| Scotland | 4.1 | 4.0 | 2.4 |
| Great Britain | 4.1 | 4.1 | 2.3 |

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, June to July 2009, the claimant count rose in 3 TTWA's, fell in 8 and was static in the remaining 7 – Eilean Siar, Inverness & Dingwall, Moray, Oban, Badenoch, Ullapool & Gairloch and Mull & Islay. The three TTWA's that increase over the month all rose by 0.1% - Dunoon & Bute, Lochgilphead and Shetland Islands. Campbeltown had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.3% from 4.3% to 4.0%.

Over the year to July 2009, the claimant count rose in 17 of the TTWAs and was static in the remaining 1 – Skye & Lochalsh. Invergordon had the greatest increase over the year, rising 1.7% from 2.3% to 4.0%.

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 June 2009 and July 2009. A yearly comparison between July 2008 and July 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 (July 2009) | % change in number claiming unemployment benefit (June 09-July 09) | % change in number claiming unemployment benefit (July 08 - July 09) |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Inner Moray Firth | 2,488 | -1.1 | 97.3 |
| Shetland | 195 | 2.1 | 97.0 |
| Innse Gall | 523 | -1.7 | 68.2 |
| Moray | 1,356 | -1.7 | 44.9 |
| Argyll and the Islands | 1,266 | 0.8 | 42.1 |
| Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross | 438 | -3.5 | 41.3 |
| Caithness and Sutherland | 700 | -4.9 | 36.7 |
| Orkney | 119 | -11.9 | 35.2 |
| HIE Area | 7,085 | -1.6 | 60.7 |
| Highland | 3,626 | -2.2 | 74.1 |
| Scotland | 132,568 | 3.1 | 70.2 |
| Great Britain | 1,521,709 | 1.2 | 80.3 |

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, June to July 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 2 areas offices, and fell in the remaining 6. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 2.1% from 191 to 195 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease, falling 11.9% from 135 to 119 claimants.

Over the year to July 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 97.3% from 1,261 to 2,488 claimants. Shetland also had a substantial increase over the year, rising by 97.0% from 99 to 195 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 July 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 (June 2009 to July 2009) and over the year (July 2008 to July 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 | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | July 2009 | (June 09 - July 09) |
| Inner Moray Firth | 545 | 4.8 |
| Shetland | 55 | 0.0 |
| Innse Gall | 205 | 13.9 |
| Moray | 320 | 0.0 |
| Caithness and Sutherland | 235 | 2.2 |
| Argyll and the Islands | 445 | -4.3 |
| Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross | 120 | 0.0 |
| Orkney | 20 | -20.0 |
| HIE Area | 1,945 | 1.6 |
| Highland | 900 | 3.4 |
| Scotland | 37,145 | 2.0 |
| Great Britain | 447,830 | 2.7 |

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month June to July 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 3, fell in 2 and was static in the remaining 3 area offices – Shetland, Moray and Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross. Innse Gall had the greatest increase over the month, rising 13.9% from 180 to 205 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease, falling 20.0%, from 25 to 20 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in 7 area offices over the year to July 2009, and was static in the remaining 1 – Orkney. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 194.6% from 185 to 545 claimants. Shetland and Innse Gall also rose significantly over the year, rising 175.0% and 105.0% respectively.

Heather Smith – Research Assistant
 Claire McDonald – Senior Economist

heather.smith@hient.co.uk
claire.mcdonald@hient.co.uk

Tel: (01463) 244320
 Tel: (01463) 244228

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.