

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST SEPTEMBER 2014

HIE Research and Economics Team

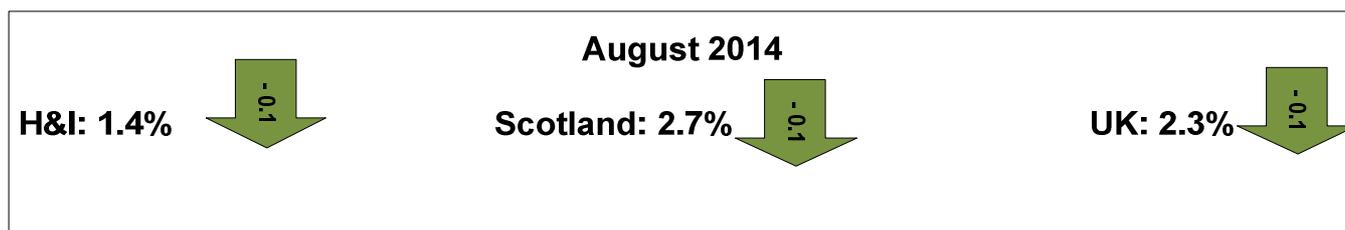


UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) introduced a new benefit, Universal Credit, in April 2013. At present Universal Credit benefit is not included in the Claimant Count figures. Office for National Statistics (ONS) and DWP are working to include jobseeker Universal Credit claims in the Claimant Count as soon as possible.

The August 2014 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 17th September 2014.

As illustrated by the chart below, the Highlands and Islands continues to have significantly lower unemployment than either Scotland or the UK - a trend which has been fairly constant since the recession.

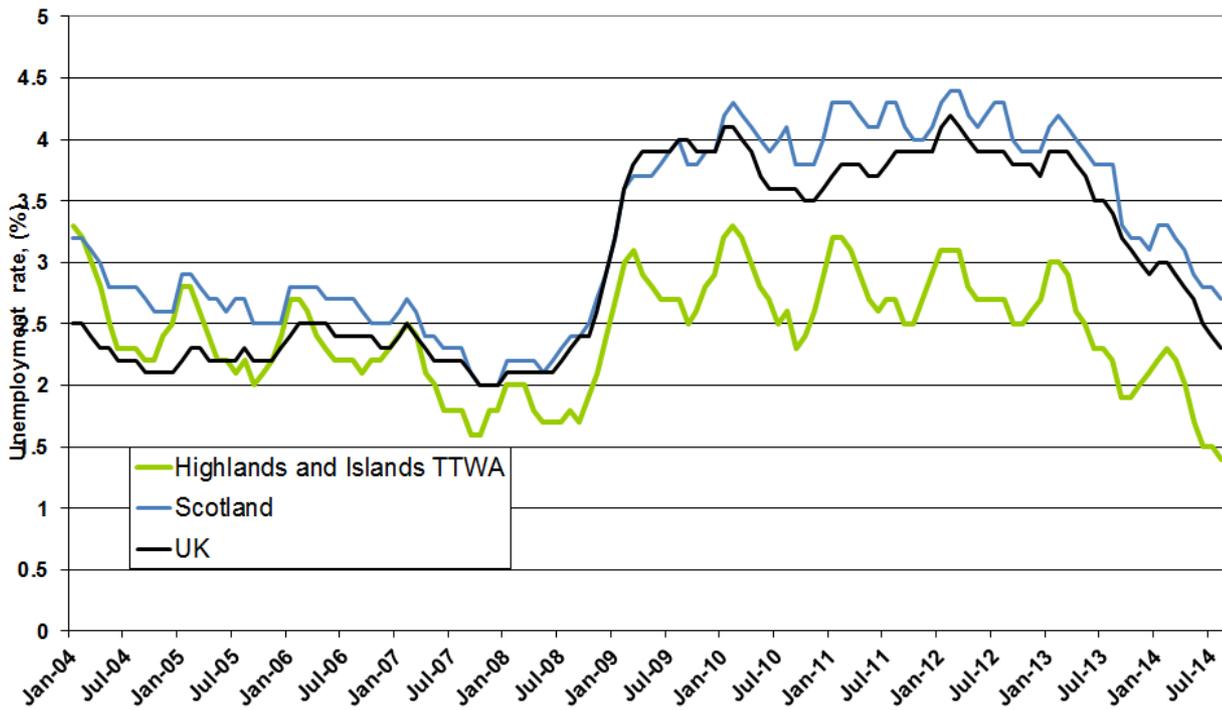


In August 2014, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.4%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.7%**) and the UK (**2.3%**). The region's rate was lower than both the previous month and a year earlier (2.1% in August 2013).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in August 2014 were Dunoon & Bute and Wick (both with 3.1%), and Campbeltown (3.0%). Nine TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in August 2014 lower than 1.4% – Oban (1.2%), Skye & Lochalsh (1.1%), Lochaber and Inverness and Dingwall (both 1.0%), Orkney Islands, Ullapool & Gairloch and Badenoch (all with 0.7%), Mull and Islay (0.6%), and Shetland Islands (0.5%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in August 2014 was 4,110. Out of the total, some 1,840 were long term unemployed** and 900 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2003-2014)



* Based on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count figures, produced monthly by ONS.

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

**1 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 1 below illustrates the claimant count rates for each of the 18 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 - Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	August 2014		July 2014	August 2013	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Bute	380	3.1	3.4	4.5	-34	-0.3	-174	-1.4
Wick	240	3.1	3.2	4.2	-5	-0.1	-80	-1.1
Campbeltown	135	3.0	3.2	3.7	-11	-0.2	-35	-0.7
Thurso	200	2.1	2.3	2.8	-18	-0.2	-68	-0.7
Eilean Siar	349	2.1	2.1	2.7	-12	0.0	-103	-0.6
Invergordon	280	2.0	2.3	2.5	-37	-0.3	-71	-0.5
Lochgilphead	101	1.7	1.6	2.3	8	0.1	-30	-0.6
Moray	879	1.5	1.6	2.0	-33	-0.1	-268	-0.5
Dornoch & Lairg	82	1.4	1.5	2.0	-1	-0.1	-29	-0.6
Oban	124	1.2	1.2	2.2	-5	0.0	-112	-1.0
Skye & Lochalsh	90	1.1	1.2	1.9	-8	-0.1	-65	-0.8
Lochaber	130	1.0	1.1	1.6	-6	-0.1	-70	-0.6
Inverness & Dingwall	771	1.0	1.1	1.9	-43	-0.1	-657	-0.9
Orkney Islands	94	0.7	0.8	1.0	-12	-0.1	-45	-0.3
Ullapool & Gairloch	38	0.7	0.7	1.2	0	0.0	-23	-0.5
Badenoch	64	0.7	0.7	1.2	3	0.0	-39	-0.5
Mull & Islay	28	0.6	0.7	1.5	-5	-0.1	-37	-0.9
Shetland Islands	76	0.5	0.6	1.0	-19	-0.1	-70	-0.5
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,061	1.4	1.5	2.1	-238	-0.1	-1,976	-0.7
Scotland	94,040	2.7	2.8	3.8	-2,931	-0.1	-36,115	-1.1
United Kingdom	961,149	2.3	2.4	3.4	-34,686	-0.1	-428,539	-1.1

Table 2 shows the total claimant count unemployment, by number and rate over the month and year, long-term unemployment (LTU) and youth unemployment by HIE area office.

Table 2 - Unemployment by Area Office

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		LTU	Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number	number
Caithness and Sutherland	536	2.3	-28	-5.0	-190	-26.2	295	125
Innse Gall	349	2.2	-12	-3.3	-103	-22.8	200	60
Argyll and the Islands	817	1.9	-39	-4.6	-394	-32.5	390	185
Moray	879	1.6	-33	-3.6	-268	-23.4	315	255
Inner Moray Firth	1,115	1.2	-77	-6.5	-767	-40.8	455	200
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	244	1.0	-10	-3.9	-145	-37.3	120	35
Orkney	94	0.7	-12	-11.3	-45	-32.4	40	20
Shetland	76	0.5	-19	-20.0	-70	-47.9	25	20

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