

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.

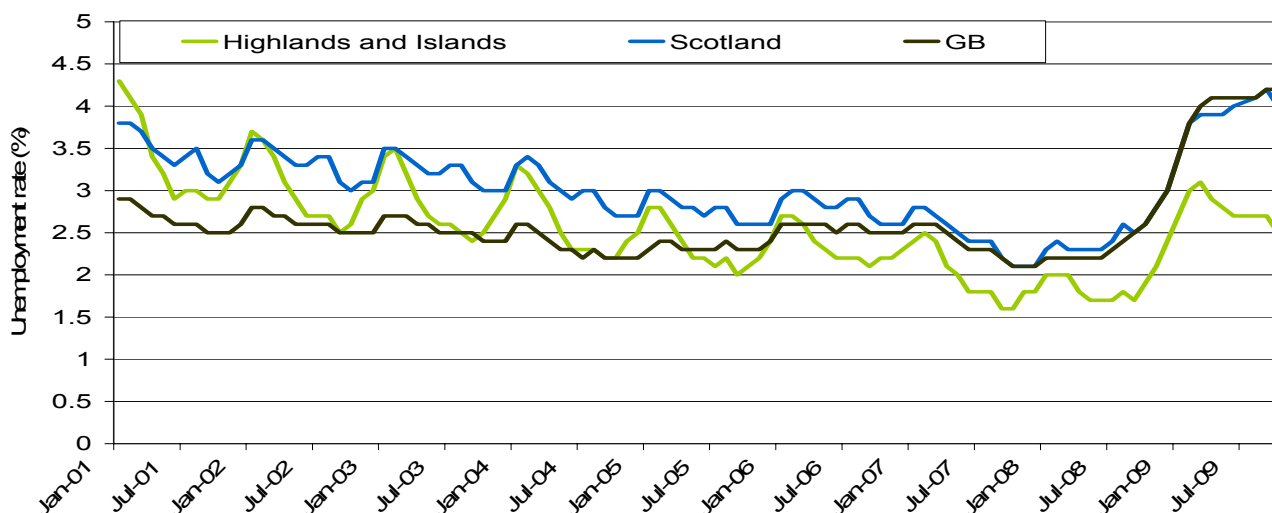
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at a more local level than the ILO unemployment rate statistics provided by ONS. Claimant Count statistics are available monthly at Area Office and Travel to work area level. This means we are able to identify, interpret and respond to changes in very local labour markets.

The September 2009 unemployment figures were released on 14th October 2009. Over the month, August to September 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain fell by 0.7% from 1,548,678 to 1,537,620 (11,058 claimants). This figure is 68.1% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 914,931, an increase of 622,689 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also fell over the month, falling by 4.3% from 135,384 to 129,569 claimants, a decrease of 5,815 claimants. This figure is 59.5% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 81,243, a decrease of 48,326 claimants.

As with GB and Scotland, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area fell during the month, falling by 6.7% (473 claimants) from 7,096 to 6,623 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,519 a decrease of 46.6% (2,104 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 September 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with August 2009 and September 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the September 2009 figure.

Area	September 2009	August 2009	September 2008
Dunoon & Bute	4.5	4.8	3.4
Wick	4.3	4.4	2.8
Invergordon	4.1	4.1	2.3
Campbeltown	3.8	4.0	3.1
Eilean Siar	3.3	3.4	2.0
Dornoch & Lairg	2.9	3.0	2.0
Inverness & Dingwall	2.6	2.8	1.6
Thurso	2.5	2.5	1.9
Lochgilphead	2.4	2.4	1.6
Moray	2.2	2.6	1.7
Oban	2.1	2.1	1.6
Skye & Lochalsh	2.0	2.1	1.9
Lochaber	2.0	1.9	1.2
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.8	1.8	1.5
Mull & Islay	1.6	1.6	1.2
Badenoch	1.4	1.6	1.1
Shetland Islands	1.4	1.5	0.8
Orkney Islands	0.9	1.0	0.9
HIE TTWAs	2.5	2.7	1.7
Highland	2.6	2.8	1.7
Scotland	4.0	4.2	2.5
Great Britain	4.2	4.2	2.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, August to September 2009, the claimant count rose in 1 TTWA, fell in 11 and was static in the remaining 6 – Invergordon, Thurso, Lochgilphead, Oban, Ullapool & Gairloch and Mull & Islay. Lochaber was the only TTWA to increase over the month, rising 0.1% from 1.9% to 2.0%. Moray had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.4% from 2.6% to 2.2%.

Over the year to September 2009, the claimant count rose in 17 TTWAs and was static in the remaining 1 – Orkney Islands. Invergordon TTWA had the greatest increase over the year, rising by 1.8% from 2.3% to 4.1%.

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 August 2009 and September 2009. A yearly comparison between September 2008 and September 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 (September 2009)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Aug 09 - Sept 09)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Sept 08 - Sept 09)
Shetland	186	-7.5	73.8
Inner Moray Firth	2,322	-6.2	66.1
Innse Gall	505	-5.3	65.0
Caithness and Sutherland	699	-2.5	43.8
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	450	2.3	37.2
Argyll and the Islands	1,194	-5.1	33.4
Moray	1,157	-14.5	29.6
Orkney	110	-6.0	3.8
HIE Area	6,623	-6.7	46.6
Highland	3,417	-4.5	56.9
Scotland	129,569	-4.3	59.5
Great Britain	1,537,620	-0.7	68.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, August to September 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell in 7 area offices, and rose in the remaining 1 – Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross which rose by 2.3%. Moray had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 14.5% from 1,354 to 1,157 claimants.

Over the year to September 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 73.8% from 107 to 186 claimants. Inner Moray Firth and Innse Gall also had substantial increases over the year, rising by 66.1% and 65.0% respectively.

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 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 (August 2009 to September 2009) and over the year (September 2008 to September 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	
	September 2009	(Aug 09 - Sept 09)
Inner Moray Firth	605	-1.6
Shetland	60	0.0
Innse Gall	215	-6.5
Moray	295	-7.8
Argyll and the Islands	440	-3.3
Caithness and Sutherland	235	-2.1
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	120	0.0
Orkney	30	0.0
HIE Area	2,000	-3.4
Highland	960	-1.5
Scotland	40,545	-0.6
Great Britain	507,970	2.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month August to September 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants fell in 5 area offices, and was static in the remaining 3 – Shetland, Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross and Orkney. Moray had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 7.8% from 320 to 295 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in all 8 area offices over the year to September 2009. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 168.9% from 225 to 605 claimants. Shetland and Innse Gall also rose significantly over the year, rising 140.0% and 104.8% respectively.

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

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