

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST SEPTEMBER 2015

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HIE Research and Economics Team

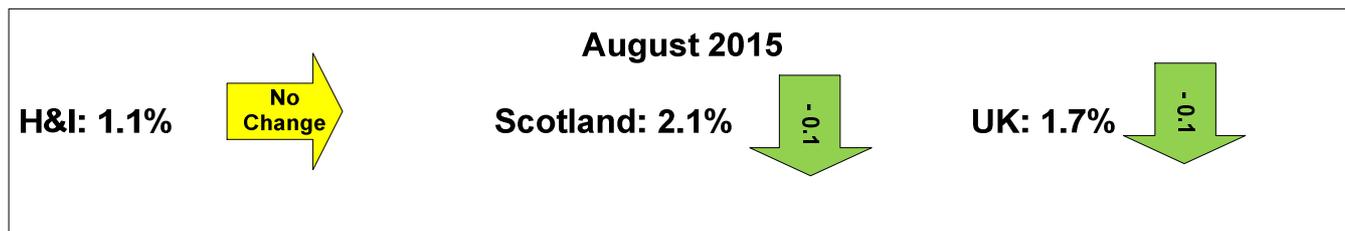


## UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

The Information contained in this report is based on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) figures. The JSA records the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices. This is not an official measure of unemployment, but is the only indicative statistic currently available for areas smaller than Local Authorities.

The August 2015 jobseekers allowance unemployment figures\* were released on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

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.

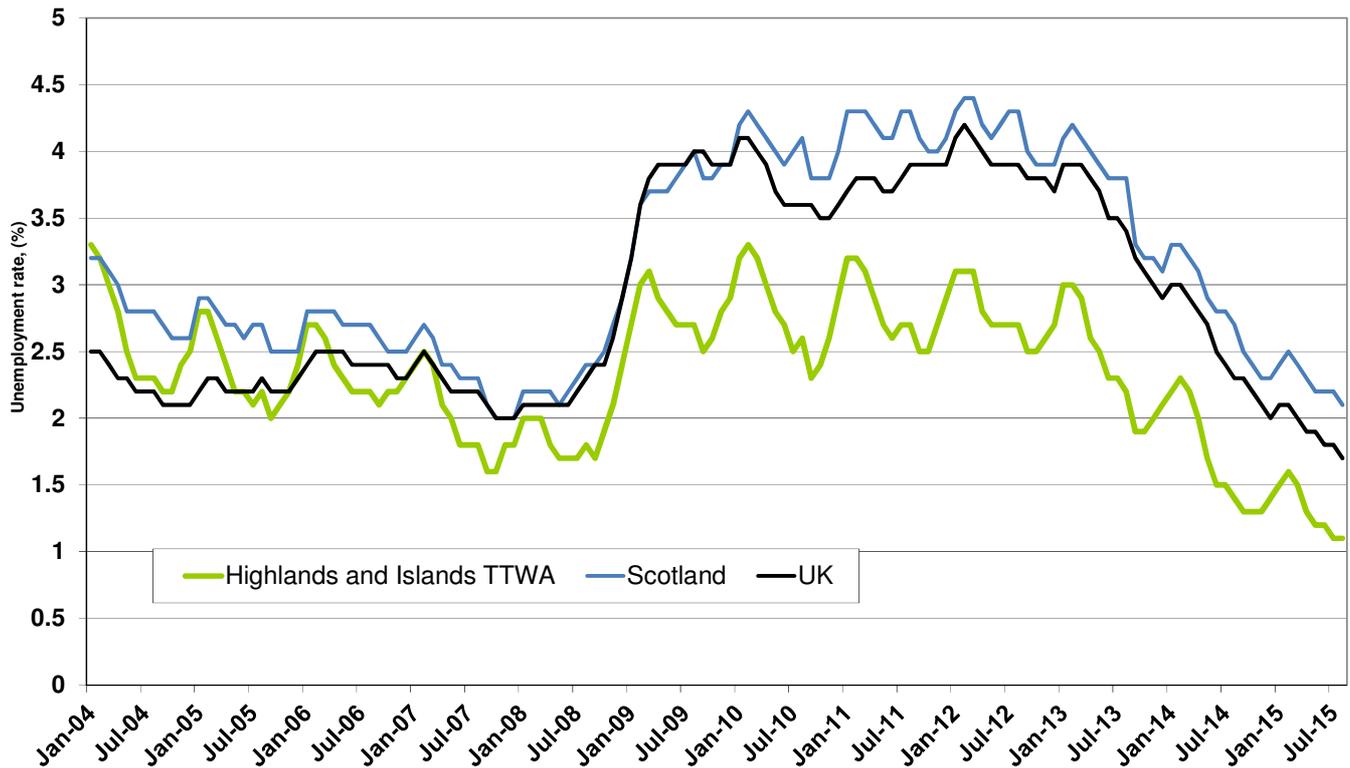


In August 2015, the average jobseekers allowance unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.1%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.1%**) and the UK (**1.7%**). There was no change in the region's rate over the month, however it is lower than that of a year earlier (1.4% in August 2014).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in August 2015 were Dunoon & Bute (2.6%) and Campbeltown (2.4%). Nine TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in August 2015 lower than 1.1% – Oban (0.9%); Skye & Lochalsh, Lochaber and Inverness & Dingwall (all with 0.7%); Ullapool & Gairloch and Mull & Islay (both with 0.6%); Badenoch (0.5%) and Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands (both with 0.4%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in August 2015 was 3,151. Out of the total, some 1,430 were long term unemployed\*\* and 545 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2004-2015)



\* Based on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) 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 jobseekers allowance rates for each of the 18 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 - Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	August 2015		July 2015	August 2014	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Bute	322	2.6	2.5	3.1	18	0.1	-58	-0.5
Campbeltown	109	2.4	2.3	3.0	4	0.1	-26	-0.6
Wick	156	2.0	2.0	3.1	1	0.0	-84	-1.1
Eilean Siar	293	1.7	1.8	2.1	-16	-0.1	-56	-0.4
Invergordon	241	1.7	1.8	2.0	-3	-0.1	-39	-0.3
Thurso	148	1.5	1.7	2.1	-20	-0.2	-52	-0.6
Lochgilphead	77	1.3	1.3	1.7	3	0.0	-24	-0.4
Moray	751	1.3	1.3	1.5	-33	0.0	-128	-0.2
Dornoch & Lairg	71	1.3	1.3	1.4	-2	0.0	-11	-0.1
Oban	98	0.9	1.0	1.2	-11	-0.1	-26	-0.3
Skye & Lochalsh	57	0.7	0.8	1.1	-5	-0.1	-33	-0.4
Lochaber	82	0.7	0.8	1.0	-13	-0.1	-48	-0.3
Inverness & Dingwall	498	0.7	0.7	1.0	-34	0.0	-273	-0.3
Ullapool & Gairloch	33	0.6	0.7	0.7	-2	-0.1	-5	-0.1
Mull & Islay	28	0.6	0.6	0.6	2	0.0	0	0.0
Badenoch	43	0.5	0.5	0.7	-3	0.0	-21	-0.2
Shetland Islands	56	0.4	0.5	0.5	-13	-0.1	-20	-0.1
Orkney Islands	50	0.4	0.4	0.7	-2	0.0	-44	-0.3
Highlands and Islands TTWA	3,113	1.1	1.1	1.4	-129	0.0	-948	-0.3
Scotland	72,803	2.1	2.2	2.7	-2,484	-0.1	-21,237	-0.6
United Kingdom	708,613	1.7	1.8	2.3	-15,367	-0.1	-252,536	-0.6

Table 2 shows the total jobseekers allowance 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
Innse Gall	293	1.8	-16	-5.2	-56	-16.0	185	40
Caithness and Sutherland	389	1.7	-22	-5.4	-147	-27.4	250	55
Argyll and the Islands	672	1.7	13	2.0	-145	-17.7	310	140
Moray	751	1.3	-33	-4.2	-128	-14.6	250	170
Inner Moray Firth	782	0.8	-40	-4.9	-333	-29.9	300	100
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	158	0.7	-19	-10.7	-86	-35.2	95	15
Shetland	56	0.4	-13	-18.8	-20	-26.3	15	15
Orkney	50	0.4	-2	-3.8	-44	-46.8	25	10

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**HIE**

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