

# Unemployment digest



## Summary

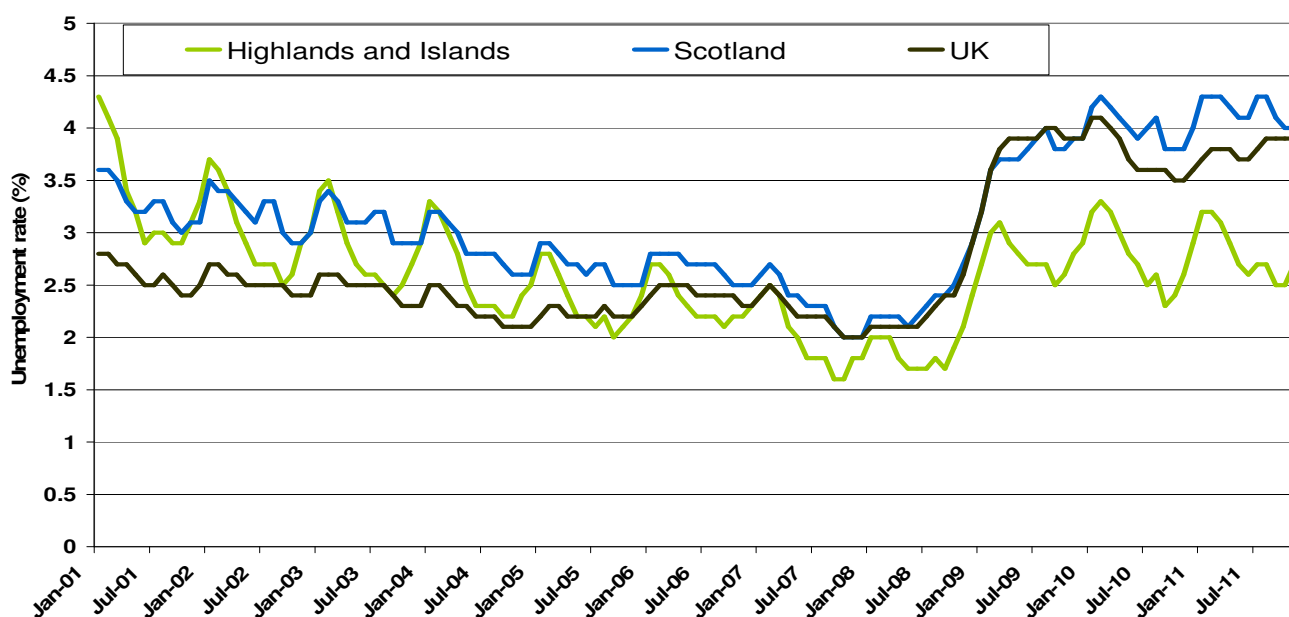
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 November 2011 unemployment figures were released on 14th December 2011. Over the month, October 2011 to November 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom fell by 0.2% from 1,562,501 to 1,558,756 (3,745 claimants). This figure is 10.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,413,265 an increase of 145,491 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose over the month, rising by 0.5% from 137,368 to 138,028 claimants (660 claimants). This figure is 5.1% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 131,271 an increase of 6,757 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Highlands and Islands also rose over the month, rising 8.2% (579 claimants) from 7,098 to 7,677 claimants. This figure is 5.3% (387 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 7,290.

**Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2011**



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS) – seasonally unadjusted  
 Note: Working age is defined as 16-64 for both men and women

## Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the Claimant Count rates for November 2011, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with October 2011 and November 2010 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the November 2011 figure.

Area	November 2011	October 2011	November 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.0	5.0	4.6
Wick	4.9	4.9	3.9
Campbeltown	4.9	4.8	3.6
Invergordon	3.7	3.5	4.1
Thurso	3.5	3.3	3.2
Eilean Siar	3.2	2.9	3.1
Skye & Lochalsh	3.0	2.3	3.1
Dornoch & Lairg	2.8	2.6	3.1
Oban	2.7	2.5	2.4
Lochaber	2.7	2.0	2.7
Inverness & Dingwall	2.5	2.3	2.5
Moray	2.4	2.3	2.1
Lochgilthead	2.3	2.2	2.2
Orkney Islands	2.0	1.8	1.5
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.0	1.3	2.1
Badenoch	1.8	1.5	1.7
Mull & Islay	1.6	1.3	1.8
Shetland Islands	1.4	1.3	1.5
<b>HIE TTWAs</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Highland	2.8	2.5	2.8
Scotland	4.0	4.0	3.8
United Kingdom	3.9	3.9	3.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to November 2011, the claimant count rose in 16 and was static in the remaining 2 TTWA's – Dunoon & Bute and Wick. Skye & Lochalsh, Lochaber and Ullapool & Gairloch all shared the greatest increase over the month, all rising by 0.7%.

Over the year to November 2011, the claimant count rose in 10, fell in 6 and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Lochaber and Inverness & Dingwall. Campbeltown had the greatest increase over the year, rising 1.3% from 3.6% to 4.9%. Invergordon had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.4% from 4.1% to 3.7%..

## 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 Enterprise Area Offices (AOs) between October 2011 and November 2011. A yearly comparison between November 2010 and November 2011 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 (November 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Oct 11 - Nov 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Nov 10 - Nov 11)
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	637	33.5	-2.3
Inner Moray Firth	2,373	8.6	-2.4
Shetland	191	6.7	-8.2
Western Isles	518	8.4	4.2
Caithness & Sutherland	879	4.0	10.0
Argyll & the Islands	1,488	4.1	12.7
Moray	1,343	5.7	12.9
Orkney	248	6.9	28.5
<b>HIE Area</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Highland	3,899	10.9	0.2
Scotland	138,028	0.5	5.1
United Kingdom	1,558,756	-0.2	10.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month October to November 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the month, rising 33.5% from 477 to 637 claimants.

Over the year to November 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 5, and fell in the remaining 3 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 28.5% from 193 to 248 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling by 8.2% from 208 to 191 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 November 2011 in each of the AOs. It also highlights the percentage change in the number of those claiming long-term unemployment benefit over the month (October 2011 to November 2011) and over the year (November 2010 to November 2011). 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	
	November 2011	(Oct 11 - Nov 11)
Shetland	45	0.0
Inner Moray Firth	655	2.3
Moray	435	-5.4
Caithness & Sutherland	360	1.4
Argyll & the Islands	570	0.9
Innse Gall	200	8.1
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	135	3.8
Orkney	70	16.7
<b>HIE Area</b>	<b>2,470</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Highland	1,150	1.8
Scotland	55,525	-0.2
United Kingdom	624,455	0.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month October to November 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 6, fell in 1 and was static in the remaining area office – Shetland. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 16.7% from 60 to 70 claimants. Moray was the only area office to decrease over the month, falling 5.4% from 460 to 435 claimants.

Over the year to November 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 7 and fell in the remaining area office. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 133.3% from 30 to 70 claimants. Shetland was the only area to have a decrease in long-term claimants, falling 10.0% from 50 to 45 claimants.

Heather Smith – Research Assistant  
 Kateryna McKinnon – Economist

[heather.smith@hient.co.uk](mailto:heather.smith@hient.co.uk)  
[kateryna.mckinnon@hient.co.uk](mailto:kateryna.mckinnon@hient.co.uk)

Tel: (01463) 244320  
 Tel: (01463) 244258

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

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