

Unemployment digest



Summary

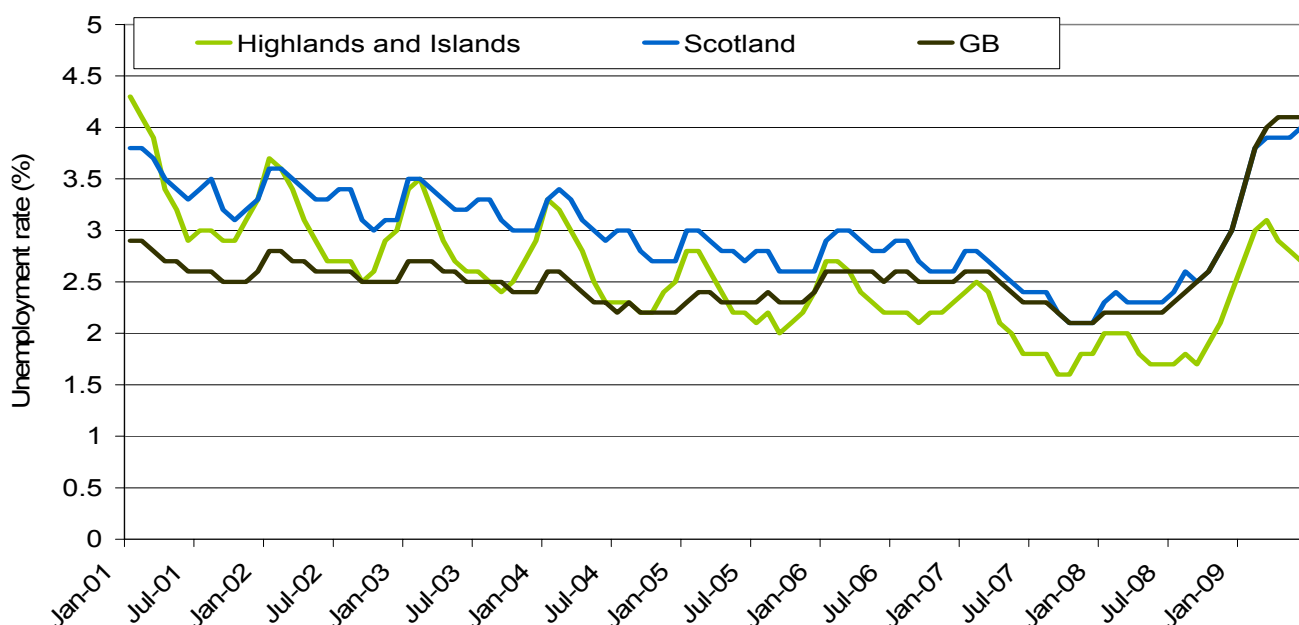
There has recently been a change made to Income Support for Lone Parents which will have some impact on the Jobseeker's Allowance Claimant Count figures. Since November 2008, lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over do not qualify for Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. 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 June 2009 unemployment figures were released on 15th July 2009. Over the month, May to June 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain fell by 0.8% from 1,516,921 to 1,504,117 (12,804 claimants). This figure is 85.7% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 809,957 an increase of 694,160 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose over the month, rising by 1.2% from 127,095 to 128,565 claimants, an increase of 1,470 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 73,821, an increase of 74.2% (54,744 claimants).

As with Great Britain, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area decreased over the month, May to June 2009, falling by 2.2% (164 claimants) from 7,363 to 7,199 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,304, an increase of 67.3% (2,895 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 June 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with May 2009 and June 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the June 2009 figure.

Area	June 2009	May 2009	June 2008
Dunoon & Bute	4.8	4.9	3.2
Wick	4.6	4.7	3.2
Campbeltown	4.3	4.1	3.2
Invergordon	4.1	4.1	2.3
Eilean Siar	3.4	3.6	2.2
Dornoch & Lairg	2.8	2.9	1.7
Inverness & Dingwall	2.8	2.9	1.3
Thurso	2.8	2.8	1.9
Moray	2.6	2.7	1.8
Lochgilphead	2.2	2.4	1.5
Oban	2.1	2.2	1.4
Lochaber	2.1	2.1	1.1
Skye & Lochalsh	2.0	2.4	1.8
Badenoch	1.9	1.8	0.9
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.6	1.7	1.1
Mull & Islay	1.5	1.7	1.2
Shetland Islands	1.4	1.5	0.7
Orkney Islands	1.1	1.3	0.8
HIE TTWAs	2.7	2.8	1.6
Highland	2.8	2.9	1.5
Scotland	4.0	3.9	2.3
Great Britain	4.1	4.1	2.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, May to June 2009, the claimant count fell in 13 TTWAs, rose in 2 and was static in the remaining 3 – Invergordon, Lochaber and Thurso. Campbeltown had the greatest increase over the month, rising 0.2% from 4.1% to 4.3%. Skye & Lochalsh had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.4% from 2.4% to 2.0%.

Over the year to May 2009, the claimant count rose in all 18 TTWAs. Invergordon had the greatest increase over the year, rising 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 May 2009 and June 2009. A yearly comparison between June 2008 and June 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 (June 2009)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (May 09-June 09)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (June 08 - June 09)
Inner Moray Firth	2,516	-0.8	108.1
Shetland	191	-5.4	91.0
Innse Gall	532	-4.1	59.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	454	-5.2	54.4
Moray	1,379	-1.6	48.9
Orkney	135	-12.9	48.4
Argyll and the Islands	1,256	-1.6	47.6
Caithness and Sutherland	736	-2.8	47.5
HIE Area	7,199	-2.2	67.3
Highland	3,706	-1.8	85.1
Scotland	128,565	1.2	74.2
Great Britain	1,504,117	-0.8	85.7

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, May to June 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell in all 8 area offices. Orkney had the greatest decrease, falling 12.9% from 155 to 135 claimants.

Over the year to June 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 108.1% from 1,209 to 2,516 claimants. Shetland also had a substantial increase over the year, rising by 91.0% from 100 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 June 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 (May 2009 to June 2009) and over the year (June 2008 to June 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	
	June 2009	(May 09 - June 09)
Shetland	55	10.0
Inner Moray Firth	520	9.5
Moray	320	-1.5
Innse Gall	180	9.1
Argyll and the Islands	465	1.1
Caithness and Sutherland	230	-4.2
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	120	-4.0
Orkney	25	-28.6
HIE Area	1,915	2.1
Highland	870	4.2
Scotland	36,430	6.6
Great Britain	436,095	7.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month May to June 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 4, and fell in 4 of the area offices. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 10% from 50 to 55 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease, falling 28.6%, from 35 to 25 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in 7 area offices over the year to June 2009, and was static in the remaining 1 – Orkney. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 175.0% from 20 to 55 claimants. Inner Moray firth also rose significantly, rising 153.7% from 205 to 520 claimants.

Heather Smith – Research Assistant
 Kateryna McKinnon – Economist

heather.smith@hient.co.uk
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>

© Please acknowledge Highlands and Islands Enterprise when using any information contained in this report.