

Unemployment digest



Summary

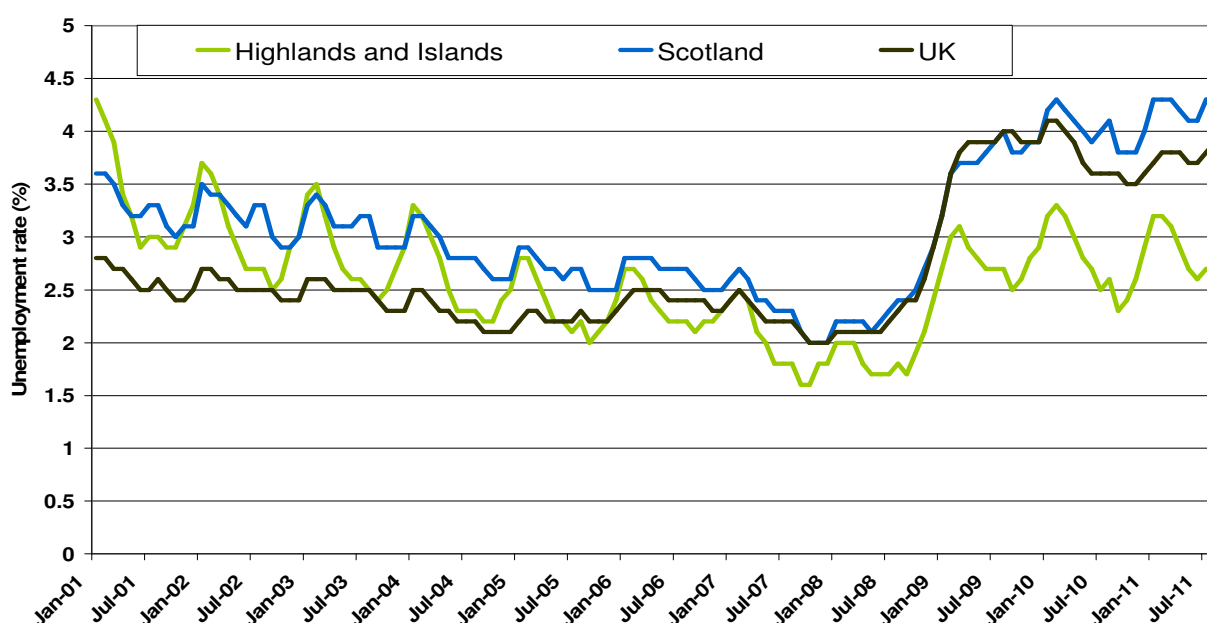
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 August 2011 unemployment figures were released on 14th September 2011. Over the month, July 2011 to August 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom rose by 2.3% from 1,541,793 to 1,576,835 (35,042 claimants). This figure is 8.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,456,023 an increase of 120,812 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose over the month, rising by 1.2% from 146,917 to 148,702 claimants (1,785 claimants). This figure is 7.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 138,588 - an increase of 10,114 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Highlands and Islands also rose slightly over the month, rising 0.2% (14 claimants) from 7,526 to 7,540 claimants. This figure is 5.3% (382 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 7,158.

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 August 2011, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with July 2011 and August 2010 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the August 2011 figure.

Area	August 2011	July 2011	August 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.2	5.2	4.7
Wick	4.8	4.8	4.5
Campbeltown	4.6	4.1	3.5
Invergordon	3.9	3.9	4.0
Thurso	3.7	3.6	3.2
Eilean Siar	3.0	2.9	3.2
Moray	2.7	2.7	2.5
Inverness & Dingwall	2.6	2.6	2.5
Dornoch & Lairg	2.4	2.6	2.8
Oban	2.4	2.4	2.1
Lochgilphead	2.3	2.3	2.1
Lochaber	2.2	2.0	1.8
Skye & Lochalsh	1.9	1.8	2.0
Orkney Islands	1.6	1.5	1.4
Badenoch	1.3	1.4	1.3
Mull & Islay	1.3	1.3	1.5
Shetland Islands	1.2	1.3	1.5
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.1	1.3	1.4
HIE TTWAs	2.7	2.7	2.6
Highland	2.7	2.7	2.6
Scotland	4.3	4.3	4.0
United Kingdom	3.9	3.8	3.6

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to August 2011, the claimant count rose in 6, fell in 4 and was static in the remaining 8 TTWA's. Campbeltown had the greatest increase over the month, rising 0.5% from 4.1% to 4.6%. Dornoch & Lairg and Ullapool & Gairloch shared the greatest decrease over the month, both falling 0.2%.

Over the year to August 2011, the claimant count rose in 10, fell in 7 and was static in the remaining TTWA – Badenoch. Dunoon & Bute and Thurso shared the greatest increase over the year, both rising 0.5%. Dornoch & Lairg had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.4% from 2.8% to 2.4%.

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 July 2011 and August 2011. A yearly comparison between August 2010 and August 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 (August 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Jul 11 - Aug 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Aug 10 - Aug 11)
Shetland	173	-3.9	-17.2
Western Isles	480	1.5	-6.3
Inner Moray Firth	2,444	-1.1	3.1
Caithness & Sutherland	859	-0.7	4.8
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	455	5.3	7.6
Moray	1,495	-1.1	9.0
Argyll & the Islands	1,430	2.1	11.9
Orkney	204	4.6	16.6
HIE Area	7,540	0.2	5.3
Highland	3,758	-0.2	4.0
Scotland	148,702	1.2	7.3
United Kingdom	1,576,835	2.3	8.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month July to August 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 4 and fell in the remaining 4 area offices. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the month, rising 5.3% from 432 to 455 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 3.9% from 180 to 173 claimants.

Over the year to August 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 6, and fell in the remaining 2 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 16.6% from 175 to 204 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling by 17.2% from 209 to 173 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 August 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 (July 2011 to August 2011) and over the year (August 2010 to August 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	August 2011	% Change in number of LTU (Jul 11 - Aug 11)	% Change in number of LTU (Aug 10 - Aug 11)
Shetland	35	0.0	-30.0
Innse Gall	195	2.6	0.0
Inner Moray Firth	675	3.1	6.3
Caithness & Sutherland	345	6.2	11.3
Argyll & the Islands	565	1.8	16.5
Moray	495	6.5	20.7
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	140	3.7	21.7
Orkney	55	0.0	37.5
HIE Area	2,505	3.7	11.8
Highland	1,160	4.0	9.4
Scotland	55,365	5.1	14.4
United Kingdom	587,150	5.9	8.8

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month July to August 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 6 and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Shetland and Orkney. Caithness & Sutherland and Moray had the greatest increases over the month, rising 6.2% and 6.5% respectively.

Over the year to August 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 6 area offices, fell in 1 – Shetland, and was static in the remaining one – Innse Gall. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 37.5% from 40 to 55 claimants. Shetland had a decrease of 30.0%, falling from 50 to 35 claimants.

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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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