

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

MAY 2014

HIE Research and Economics Team

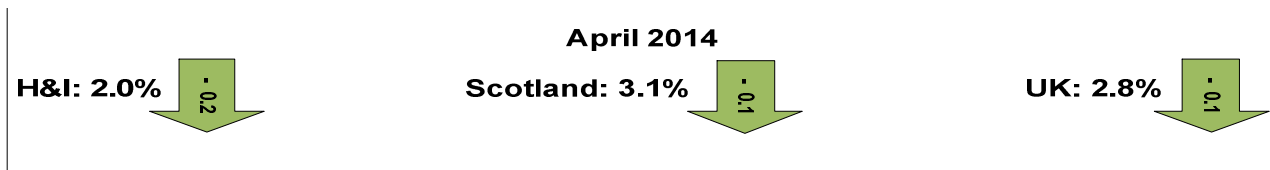


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The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. The Department for Work and Pensions introduced a new benefit, Universal Credit, in April 2013. At present Universal Credit benefit is not included in the Claimant Count figures. National Statistics (ONS) and DWP are working to include jobseeker Universal Credit claims in the Claimant Count as soon as possible.

The April 2014 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 14th May 2014.

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.

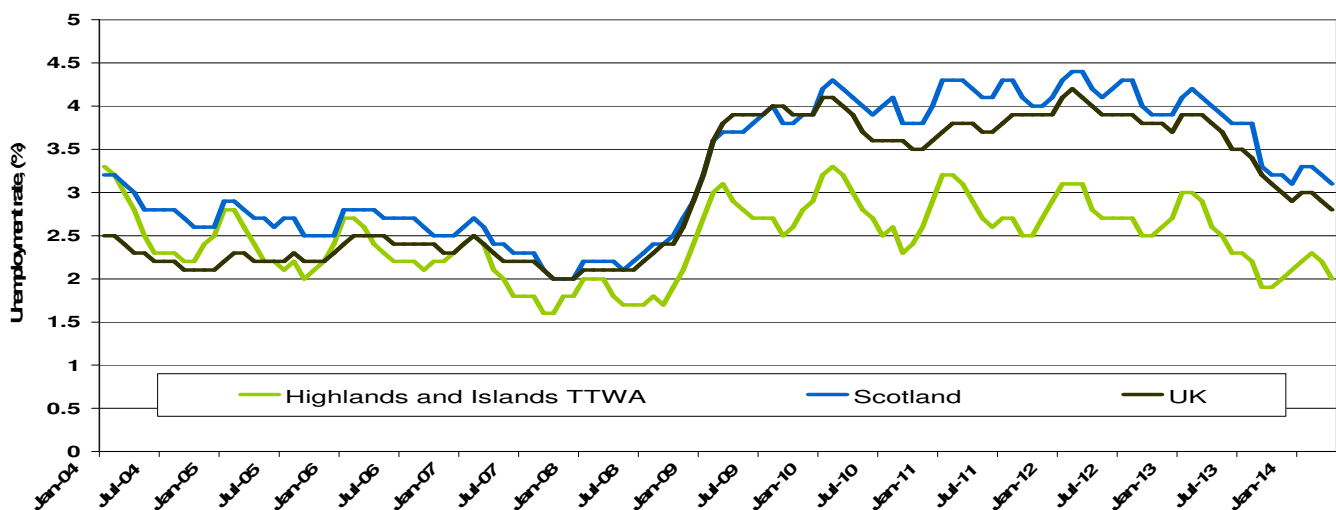


In April 2014, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.0%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**3.1%**) and the UK (**2.8%**). The region's rate fell by 0.2% on the previous month and was lower than a year earlier (2.6% in April 2013).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in April 2014 were Dunoon & Bute and Wick (both with 3.9%), Invergordon (3.6%) and Campbeltown (3.2%). Nine TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in April 2014 lower than 2.0% – Moray (1.9%), Lochaber and Oban (both with 1.8%), Inverness & Dingwall (1.4%), Ullapool and Gairloch (1.3%), and Mull & Islay, Badenoch, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands all with 1.0%.

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in April 2014 was 5,562. Out of the total, some 2,260 were long term unemployed** and 1,155 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2004-2014)



Based on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count figures, produced monthly by ONS.

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

** 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 claimant count rates for each of the 18 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 - Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	April 2014		March 2014	April 2013	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Bute	497	3.9	4.0	5.2	-21	-0.1	-170	-1.3
Wick	286	3.9	3.9	4.2	3	0.0	-19	-0.3
Invergordon	475	3.6	3.8	3.3	-24	-0.2	34	0.3
Campbeltown	153	3.2	3.7	3.8	-26	-0.5	-27	-0.6
Eilean Siar	456	2.8	3.0	3.0	-33	-0.2	-21	-0.2
Thurso	250	2.7	2.9	2.9	-20	-0.2	-18	-0.2
Dornoch & Lairg	127	2.2	2.7	2.3	-29	-0.5	-6	-0.1
Skye & Lochalsh	165	2.0	2.9	2.9	-70	-0.9	-75	-0.9
Lochgilphead	126	2.0	2.5	2.6	-32	-0.5	-38	-0.6
Moray	1,072	1.9	2.0	2.4	-39	-0.1	-285	-0.5
Lochaber	214	1.8	2.2	2.5	-56	-0.4	-86	-0.7
Oban	196	1.8	2.2	2.6	-38	-0.4	-82	-0.8
Inverness & Dingwall	1,018	1.4	1.6	2.4	-146	-0.2	-736	-1.0
Ullapool & Gairloch	66	1.3	1.8	2.1	-27	-0.5	-40	-0.8
Mull & Islay	50	1.0	1.3	1.5	-12	-0.3	-23	-0.5
Badenoch	77	1.0	1.2	1.9	-19	-0.2	-79	-0.9
Orkney Islands	126	1.0	1.2	1.4	-24	-0.2	-54	-0.4
Shetland Islands	147	1.0	1.0	1.6	4	0.0	-77	-0.6
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,501	2.0	2.2	2.6	-609	-0.2	-1,802	-0.6
Scotland	105,397	3.1	3.2	4.0	-5,325	-0.1	-32,642	-0.9
United Kingdom	1,142,340	2.8	2.9	3.8	-53,929	-0.1	-396,236	-1.0

Source: ONS

Table 2 shows the total claimant count 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
Caithness and Sutherland	687	2.9	-60	-8.0	-52	-7.0	340	160
Innse Gall	456	2.9	-33	-6.7	-21	-4.4	230	70
Argyll and the Islands	1,083	2.5	-139	-11.4	-340	-23.9	515	225
Moray	1,072	1.9	-39	-3.5	-285	-21.0	360	280
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	421	1.8	-139	-24.8	-192	-31.3	170	70
Inner Moray Firth	1,570	1.7	-189	-10.7	-781	-33.2	560	290
Orkney	126	1.0	-24	-16.0	-54	-30.0	45	30
Shetland	147	1.0	4	2.8	-77	-34.4	40	30

*Calculated rate, as a % of working age population

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