

Unemployment digest



Summary

A change was made in November 2008 to Income Support for Lone Parents which will have some impact on the Jobseeker's Allowance Claimant Count figures. 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.

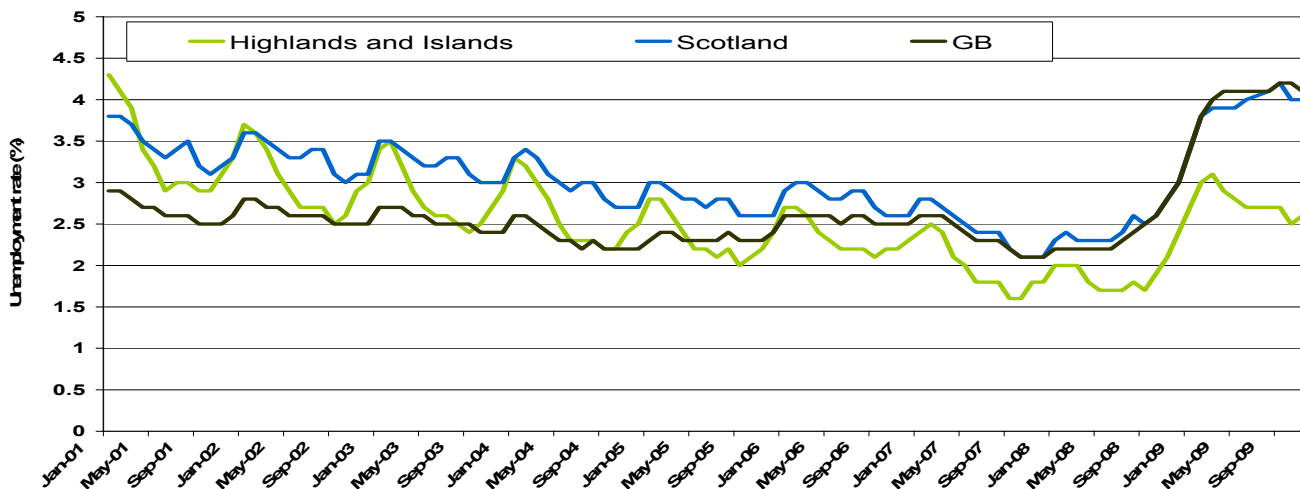
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at a more local level than the ILO unemployment rate statistics provided by ONS. Claimant Count statistics are available monthly at Area Office and Travel to work area level. This means we are able to identify, interpret and respond to changes in very local labour markets.

The October 2009 unemployment figures were released on 11th November 2009. Over the month, September to October 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain fell by 0.5% from 1,537,620 to 1,529,821 (7,799 claimants). This figure is 62.8% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 939,900, an increase of 589,921 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland remained fairly static, falling by 59 claimants over the month, down from 129,569 claimants in September to 129,510 in October. This figure is 55.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 83,420, a decrease of 46,090 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area rose during the month, rising by 3.2% from 6,623 to 6,838 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,795 an increase of 42.6% (2,043 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 October 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with September 2009 and October 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the October 2009 figure.

Area	October 2009	September 2009	October 2008
Wick	4.7	4.3	2.9
Dunoon & Bute	4.4	4.5	3.4
Invergordon	4.1	4.1	2.4
Campbeltown	3.8	3.9	3.4
Eilean Siar	3.6	3.3	2.1
Dornoch & Lairg	3.3	2.9	2.1
Thurso	2.8	2.5	2.1
Inverness & Dingwall	2.6	2.5	1.6
Lochgilphead	2.3	2.4	1.6
Skye & Lochalsh	2.3	2.0	2.3
Moray	2.2	2.2	1.7
Oban	2.1	2.1	1.8
Lochaber	2.1	2.0	1.3
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.8	1.9	1.7
Badenoch	1.8	1.4	1.4
Mull & Islay	1.7	1.6	1.3
Shetland Islands	1.4	1.4	1.1
Orkney Islands	1.0	0.9	0.9
HIE TTWAs	2.6	2.5	1.8
Highland	2.7	2.6	1.8
Scotland	4.0	4.0	2.6
Great Britain	4.1	4.2	2.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, September to October 2009, the claimant count rose in 10 TTWAs, fell in 4 and was static in the remaining 4 – Invergordon, Moray, Oban and Shetland Isles. The greatest increase of 0.4% was shared by Badenoch, Dornoch & Lairg and Wick. All 4 TTWAs that saw a decrease over the month, decreased by 0.1% - Campbeltown, Dunoon & Bute, Lochgilphead and Ullapool & Gairloch.

Over the year to October 2009, the claimant count rose in 16 of the TTWA area, and remained static in the remaining 1 – Skye & Lochalsh. Wick had the greatest increase over the year, rising by 1.8 percentage points from 2.9% to 4.7%.

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 Area Offices (AOs) between September 2009 and October 2009. A yearly comparison between October 2008 and October 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 (October 2009)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Sep 09 - Oct 09)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Oct 08 - Oct 09)
Innse Gall	548	8.5	66.1
Inner Moray Firth	2,382	2.6	58.6
Caithness and Sutherland	770	10.2	47.5
Shetland	190	2.2	33.8
Moray	1,162	0.4	33.4
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	480	6.7	27.7
Argyll and the Islands	1,184	-0.8	25.3
Orkney	122	10.9	14.0
HIE Area	6,838	3.2	42.6
Highland	3,632	4.6	51.3
Scotland	129,510	0.0	55.3
Great Britain	1,529,821	-0.5	62.8

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, September to October 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 7 area offices and fell in the remaining 1 – Argyll & the Islands which fell by 0.8%. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 10.9% from 110 to 122 claimants.

Over the year to October 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Innse Gall had the greatest increase over the year, rising 66.1% from 330 to 548 claimants. Inner Moray Firth also rose by over 50% over the year (58.6%).

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 October 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 (September 2009 to October 2009) and over the year (October 2008 to October 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	
	October 2009	(Sep 09 - Oct 09)
Inner Moray Firth	615	1.7
Shetland	55	-8.3
Innse Gall	205	-4.7
Moray	295	0.0
Argyll and the Islands	435	-1.1
Orkney	30	0.0
Caithness and Sutherland	240	2.1
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	125	4.2
HIE Area	2,000	0.0
Highland	975	1.6
Scotland	41,070	1.3
Great Britain	513,380	1.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month September to October 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants fell in 3, rose in 3, and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Moray and Orkney. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the month, rising 4.2% from 120 to 125 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 8.3% from 60 to 55 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in all 8 area offices over the year to October 2009. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 161.7% from 235 to 615 claimants. Shetland and Innse Gall also rose significantly over the year, rising 120.0% and 105.0% respectively.

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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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