

Unemployment digest



Summary

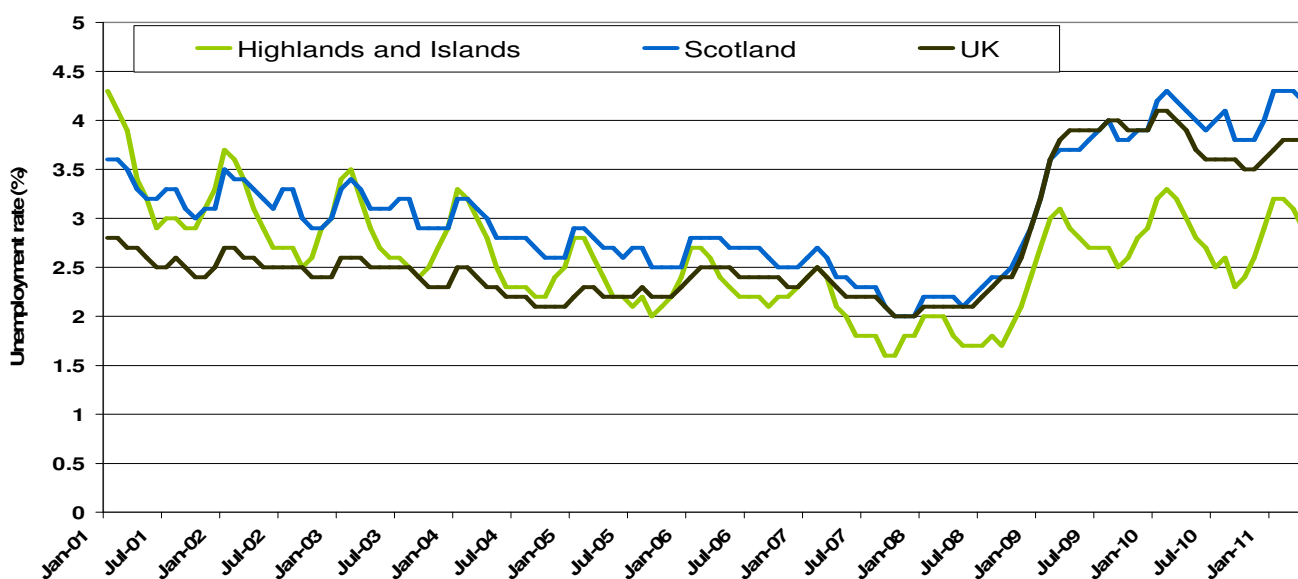
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 April 2011 unemployment figures were released on 18th May 2011. Over the month, March 2011 to April 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom fell by 0.4% from 1,526,946 to 1,520,806 (6,140 claimants). This figure is 3.0% lower than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,568,128, a decrease of 47,322 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also fell over the month March 2011 to April 2011, falling 2.2% from 145,581 to 142,377 claimants. This figure is 1.5% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 140,210, an increase of 2,167 claimants.

The unemployment rate for the Highlands and Islands also fell over the month, falling 8.3% (731 claimants) to 8,067 claimants. This figure is 1.7% (137 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 7,930.

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



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Note: Working age is defined as 16-64 for both men and women

Note: Previous reports refer to GB geography rather than UK.

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

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

Area	April 2011	March 2011	April 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.0	5.1	4.6
Wick	4.8	4.7	4.8
Invergordon	4.1	4.0	4.1
Campbeltown	4.0	4.5	3.7
Thurso	3.7	3.9	3.3
Eilean Siar	3.0	3.3	3.5
Moray	2.9	3.0	2.8
Dornoch & Lairg	2.8	3.7	3.3
Inverness & Dingwall	2.8	3.0	2.8
Skye & Lochalsh	2.6	3.7	2.8
Lochaber	2.6	3.2	2.1
Oban	2.6	3.0	2.4
Lochgilphead	2.5	2.6	2.2
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.1	2.6	2.0
Mull & Islay	1.9	2.2	1.6
Badenoch	1.8	2.0	1.7
Orkney Islands	1.5	1.8	1.4
Shetland Islands	1.5	1.7	1.4
HIE TTWAs	2.9	3.1	2.8
Highland	3.0	3.3	2.9
Scotland	4.2	4.3	4.1
United Kingdom	3.8	3.8	3.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month March 2011 to April 2011, the claimant count rose in 2 and fell in 16 TTWAs. Wick and Invergordon shared the 0.1% increase over the month. Skye & Lochalsh had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 1.1% from 3.7% to 2.6%.

Over the year to April 2011, the claimant count rose in 12, fell in 3 and was static in the remaining 3 TTWAs – Wick, Invergordon and Inverness & Dingwall. Lochaber had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.5% from 2.1% to 2.6%. Eilean Siar and Dornoch & Lairg shared the greatest decrease over the year, both falling 0.5%.

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 March 2011 and April 2011. A yearly comparison between April 2010 and April 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 (April 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Mar 11 - Apr 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Apr 10 - Apr 11)
Innse Gall	491	-7.9	-12.5
Inner Moray Firth	2,650	-6.3	-1.6
Caithness and Sutherland	891	-8.8	1.4
Moray	1,588	-4.2	2.5
Orkney	186	-19.1	5.1
Shetland	213	-12.7	6.5
Argyll and the Islands	1,440	-7.6	9.2
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	608	-21.0	10.1
HIE Area	8,067	-8.3	1.7
Highland	4,149	-9.3	0.6
Scotland	142,377	-2.2	1.5
United Kingdom	1,520,806	-0.4	-3.0

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to April 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell in all 8 area offices. Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 21.0% from 770 to 608 claimants. Orkney also had a large decrease over the month, falling 19.1% from 230 to 186 claimants.

Over the year to April 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 6, and fell in the remaining 2 area offices. Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 10.1% from 552 to 608 claimants. Innse Gall had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 12.5% from 561 to 491 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 April 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 (March 2011 to April 2011) and over the year (April 2010 to April 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	April 2011	% Change in number of LTU (Mar 11 - Apr 11)	% Change in number of LTU (Apr 10 - Apr 11)
Innse Gall	195	8.3	-13.3
Inner Moray Firth	655	9.2	-3.0
Caithness and Sutherland	320	3.2	-3.0
Orkney	40	0.0	0.0
Shetland	55	0.0	0.0
Moray	400	8.1	5.3
Argyll and the Islands	530	5.0	9.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	170	-2.9	30.8
HIE Area	2,365	5.8	1.9
Highland	1,140	5.6	0.4
Scotland	48,815	2.6	-2.2
United Kingdom	501,935	2.9	-16.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month March to April 2011, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 5, fell in 1 and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Orkney and Shetland. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the month, rising 9.2% from 600 to 655 claimants. Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross was the only area office to witness a decrease over the month, falling 2.9% from 175 to 170 claimants.

Over the year to April 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 3, fell in another 3 and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Orkney and Shetland. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 30.8% from 130 to 170 claimants. Innse Gall had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 13.3% from 225 to 195 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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