

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST DECEMBER 2014

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HIE Research and Economics Team



## UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

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 (DWP) introduced a new benefit, Universal Credit, in April 2013. At present Universal Credit benefit is not included in the Claimant Count figures. Office for National Statistics (ONS) and DWP are working to include jobseeker Universal Credit claims in the Claimant Count as soon as possible.

The November 2014 claimant count unemployment figures\* were released on 17th December 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.

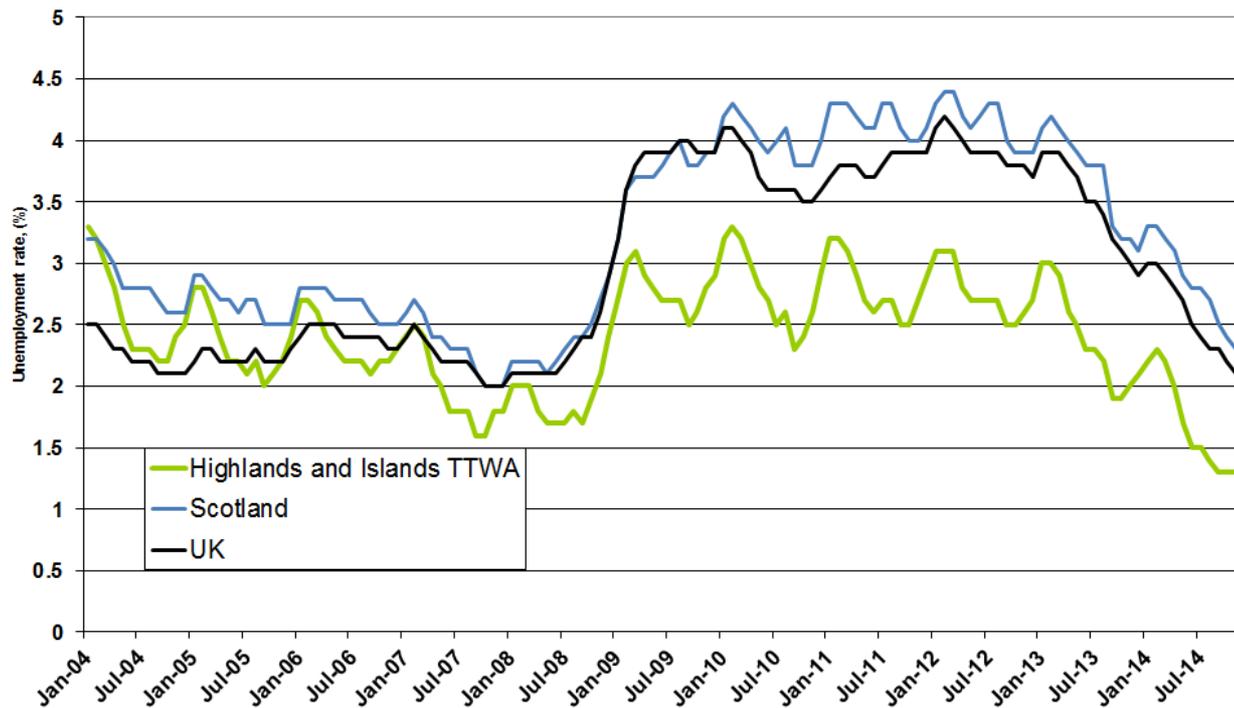


In November 2014, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.3%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.3%**) and the UK (**2.1%**). The region's rate was the same as the previous month and lower than a year earlier (2.0% in November 2013).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in November 2014 were Wick (2.7%); Dunoon & Bute and Campbeltown (both with 2.6%). Seven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in November 2014 lower than 1.3% – Moray (1.2%); Ullapool & Gairloch (1.0%); Inverness and Dingwall, Orkney Islands and Mull & Islay (all with 0.8%); Badenoch (0.7%) and Shetland Islands (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in November 2014 was 3,892. Out of the total, some 1,490 were long term unemployed\*\* and 750 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.

\*\*1 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	November 2014		October 2014		November 2013		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Wick	206	2.7	2.8	3.8	-6	-0.1	-88	-1.1		
Dunoon & Bute	324	2.6	2.6	4.2	8	0.0	-189	-1.6		
Campbeltown	119	2.6	2.5	4.0	5	0.1	-61	-1.4		
Eilean Siar	345	2.1	1.9	2.8	19	0.2	-121	-0.7		
Invergordon	282	2.0	1.8	2.2	31	0.2	-22	-0.2		
Thurso	189	2.0	1.8	2.6	18	0.2	-57	-0.6		
Skye & Lochalsh	159	2.0	1.3	2.8	56	0.7	-67	-0.8		
Lochgilphead	100	1.7	1.6	2.6	6	0.1	-50	-0.9		
Dornoch & Lairg	99	1.7	1.5	2.2	14	0.2	-25	-0.5		
Lochaber	190	1.5	1.0	2.1	62	0.5	-73	-0.6		
Oban	158	1.5	1.3	2.2	24	0.2	-77	-0.7		
Moray	694	1.2	1.3	1.6	-41	-0.1	-219	-0.4		
Ullapool & Gairloch	52	1.0	0.8	1.9	13	0.2	-45	-0.9		
Inverness & Dingwall	634	0.8	0.8	1.6	8	0.0	-608	-0.8		
Orkney Islands	102	0.8	0.8	1.1	-3	0.0	-47	-0.3		
Mull & Islay	36	0.8	0.7	1.4	6	0.1	-27	-0.6		
Badenoch	60	0.7	0.6	1.2	7	0.1	-47	-0.5		
Shetland Islands	86	0.6	0.6	0.9	3	0.0	-54	-0.3		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	3,835	1.3	1.3	2.0	230	0.0	-1,877	-0.7		
Scotland	80,548	2.3	2.4	3.1	-2,171	-0.1	-28,631	-0.8		
United Kingdom	848,085	2.1	2.2	3.0	-39,686	-0.1	-374,805	-0.9		

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	516	2.2	33	6.8	-184	-26.3	255	115
Innse Gall	345	2.2	19	5.8	-121	-26.0	180	50
Argyll and the Islands	794	1.8	57	7.7	-412	-34.2	335	175
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	379	1.6	124	48.6	-171	-31.1	105	60
Moray	694	1.3	-41	-5.6	-219	-24.0	240	165
Inner Moray Firth	976	1.0	46	4.9	-677	-41.0	330	140
Orkney	102	0.8	-3	-2.9	-47	-31.5	30	25
Shetland	86	0.6	3	3.6	-54	-38.6	15	20

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