

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.

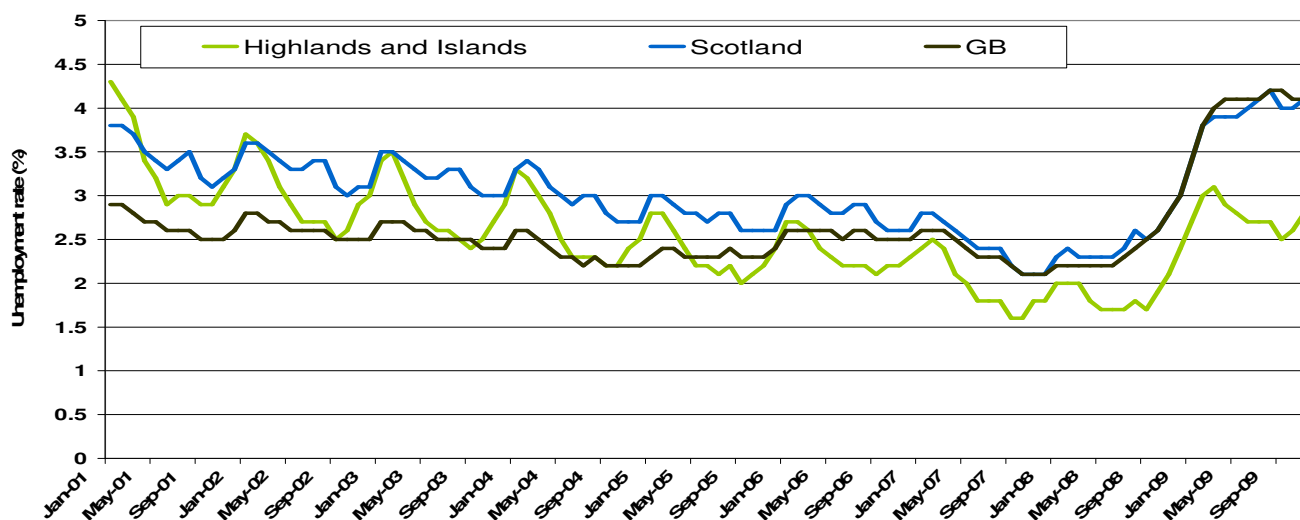
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at a more local level than the ILO unemployment rate statistics provided by ONS. Claimant Count statistics are available monthly at Area Office and Travel to work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

The November 2009 unemployment figures were released on 16th December 2009. Over the month, October to November 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain fell by 0.8% from 1,529,821 to 1,516,907 (12,914 claimants). This figure is 48.4% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,022,481, an increase of 494,426 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose over the month, from 129,510 to 131,872 claimants (1.8%). This figure is 45.7% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 90,488, an increase of 41,384 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area rose during the month, from 6,838 to 7,424 claimants (8.6%). This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 5,589 an increase of 32.8% (1,835 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 November 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with October 2009 and November 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the November 2009 figure.

| Area | November 2009 | October 2009 | November 2008 |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Wick | 4.9 | 4.7 | 3.4 |
| Dunoon & Bute | 4.7 | 4.4 | 3.7 |
| Campbeltown | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| Invergordon | 4.1 | 4.1 | 2.8 |
| Eilean Siar | 3.7 | 3.6 | 2.6 |
| Dornoch & Lairg | 3.5 | 3.3 | 2.4 |
| Thurso | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.3 |
| Skye & Lochalsh | 2.9 | 2.3 | 3.1 |
| Inverness & Dingwall | 2.7 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| Lochaber | 2.7 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Lochgilphead | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.9 |
| Moray | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.9 |
| Oban | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| Ullapool & Gairloch | 2.2 | 1.8 | 2.4 |
| Badenoch | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| Mull & Islay | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 |
| Shetland Islands | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Orkney Islands | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| HIE TTWAs | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.1 |
| Highland | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.2 |
| Scotland | 4.1 | 4.0 | 2.8 |
| Great Britain | 4.1 | 4.1 | 2.8 |

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, October to November 2009, the claimant count rose in 16 TTWAs, and was static in the remaining 2 – Invergordon and Shetland Islands. The greatest increase of 0.6% was shared by Skye & Lochalsh and Lochaber with 2.9% and 2.7% respectively.

Over the year to November 2009, the claimant count rose in 16 of the TTWA area, and fell in the remaining 2 TTWAs. Wick had the greatest increase over the year, rising by 1.5 percentage points from 3.4% to 4.9%. Skye & Lochalsh and Ullapool & Gairloch both fell over the year by 0.2%.

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 October 2009 and November 2009. A yearly comparison between November 2008 and November 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 (November 2009) | % change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Oct 09 - Nov 09) | % change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Nov 08 - Nov 09) |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Inner Moray Firth | 2,473 | 3.8 | 43.5 |
| Innse Gall | 564 | 2.9 | 40.0 |
| Caithness and Sutherland | 825 | 7.1 | 35.0 |
| Moray | 1,314 | 13.1 | 34.2 |
| Shetland | 192 | 1.1 | 25.5 |
| Argyll and the Islands | 1,298 | 9.6 | 22.0 |
| Orkney | 146 | 19.7 | 18.7 |
| Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross | 612 | 27.5 | 14.8 |
| HIE Area | 7,424 | 8.6 | 32.8 |
| Highland | 3,910 | 7.7 | 36.4 |
| Scotland | 131,872 | 1.8 | 45.7 |
| Great Britain | 1,516,907 | -0.8 | 48.4 |

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, October to November 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the month, rising 27.5% from 480 to 612 claimants.

Over the year to November 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 43.5% from 1,723 to 2,473 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 November 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 (October 2009 to November 2009) and over the year (November 2008 to November 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 | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| | November 2009 | (Oct 09 - Nov 09) |
| Inner Moray Firth | 630 | 2.4 |
| Innse Gall | 200 | -2.4 |
| Shetland | 55 | 0.0 |
| Moray | 315 | 6.8 |
| Orkney | 35 | 16.7 |
| Argyll and the Islands | 435 | 0.0 |
| Caithness and Sutherland | 265 | 10.4 |
| Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross | 100 | -20.0 |
| HIE Area | 2,035 | 1.8 |
| Highland | 990 | 1.5 |
| Scotland | 41,545 | 1.2 |
| Great Britain | 513,480 | 0.0 |

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month October to November 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 4, fell in 2, and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Shetland and Argyll & the Islands. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 16.7% from 30 to 35 claimants. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 20.0% from 125 to 100 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in 7 of the 8 area offices over the year to November 2009. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 152.0% from 250 to 630 claimants. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross was static with 100 long term 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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