

# Unemployment digest



## Summary

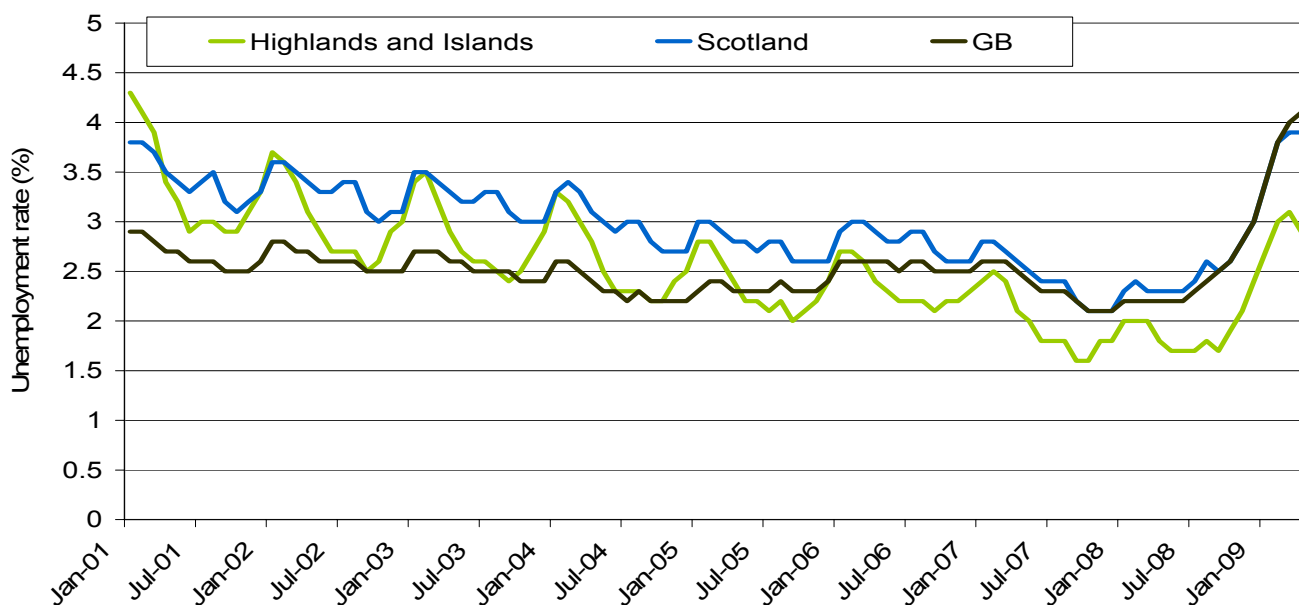
There has recently been a change made to Income Support for Lone Parents which will have some impact on the Jobseeker's Allowance Claimant Count figures. Since November 2008, lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over do not qualify for Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. 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 April 2009 unemployment figures were released on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Over the month, March to April 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 2.2% from 1,478,196 to 1,510,759 claimants. This figure is 86.4% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 810,417 an increase of 700,342 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose over the month, rising by 0.3% (374 claimants) from 126,452 to 126,826 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 73,628, an increase of 72.3% (53,198 claimants).

The HIE area witnessed a decrease in the amount of people claiming unemployment benefit over the month, March to April 2009, falling by 6.2% (507 claimants) from 8,170 to 7,663 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,644, an increase of 65.0% (3,019 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 April 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with March 2009 and April 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the April 2009 figure.

Area	April 2009	March 2009	April 2008
Dunoon & Bute	5.0	5.1	3.2
Wick	4.4	4.6	3.2
Invergordon	4.2	4.4	2.5
Campbeltown	4.2	4.2	3.2
Eilean Siar	4.0	4.3	2.3
Dornoch & Lairg	3.0	3.0	2.0
Skye & Lochalsh	2.9	3.7	2.4
Thurso	2.9	3.2	1.9
Inverness & Dingwall	2.9	3.0	1.3
Moray	2.8	2.8	1.8
Lochaber	2.5	3.1	1.4
Oban	2.4	2.5	1.5
Lochgilphead	2.3	2.5	1.7
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.1	2.6	1.6
Mull & Islay	2.1	2.3	1.5
Badenoch	1.8	2.3	0.9
Orkney Islands	1.4	1.5	0.9
Shetland Islands	1.4	1.4	1.0
HIE TTWAs	2.9	3.1	1.8
Highland	3.0	3.2	1.6
Scotland	3.9	3.9	2.3
Great Britain	4.1	4.0	2.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, March to April 2009, the claimant count fell in 14 TTWAs and was static in the remaining 4 – Campbeltown, Dornoch & Lairg, Moray and Shetland Islands. Skye & Lochalsh has the greatest decrease over the month, falling 0.8% from 3.7% to 2.9%.

Over the year to April 2009, the claimant count rose in all 18 TTWAs. Dunoon & Bute had the greatest increase over the year, rising 1.8% from 3.2% to 5.0%.

## 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 March 2009 and April 2009. A yearly comparison between April 2008 and April 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 (Apr 2009)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Mar 09-Apr 09)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Apr 08 - Apr 09)
Inner Moray Firth	2,562	-5.9	106.9
Innse Gall	612	-7.0	72.9
Orkney	164	-5.2	57.7
Moray	1,456	-3.3	49.5
Argyll and the Islands	1,341	-4.5	47.4
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	575	-19.8	46.7
Caithness and Sutherland	764	-4.1	43.3
Shetland	189	-1.0	36.0
HIE Area	7,663	-6.2	65.0
Highland	3,901	-8.0	80.4
Scotland	126,826	0.3	72.3
Great Britain	1,510,759	2.2	86.4

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, March to April 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell in all 8 area offices. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 19.8% from 717 to 575 claimants.

Over the year to April 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 106.9% from 1,238 to 2,562 claimants. The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Innse Gall and Orkney also rose by more than 50.0% over the year.

### 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 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 (March 2009 to April 2009) and over the year (April 2008 to April 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	April 2009	% Change in number of LTU (Mar 09 - Apr 09)	% Change in number of LTU (Apr 08 - Apr 09)
Inner Moray Firth	425	13.3	93.2
Shetland	45	12.5	80.0
Moray	290	9.4	56.8
Argyll and the Islands	415	7.8	36.1
Innse Gall	150	7.1	30.4
Caithness and Sutherland	220	7.3	22.2
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	125	-3.8	19.0
Orkney	25	-16.7	-16.7
HIE Area	1,695	8.0	45.5
Highland	770	7.7	52.5
Scotland	30,705	8.6	57.1
Great Britain	361,195	9.6	54.0

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month March to April 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 6 and fell in 2 area offices. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the month, rising 13.3% from 375 to 425 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 16.7% from 30 to 25 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in 7 and fell in the remaining 1 area offices over the year to April 2009. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 93.2% from 220 to 425 claimants. Orkney was the only area office to decrease over the year, falling 16.7% from 30 to 25 claimants.

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