

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

FEBRUARY 2019

HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

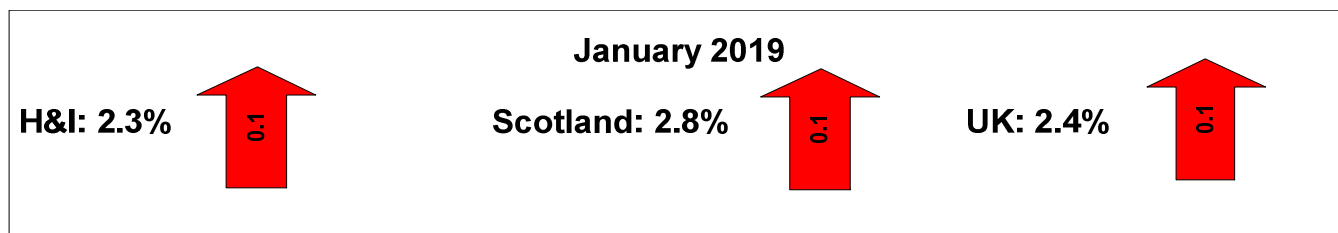
Since 1996, unemployment has been measured as a count of the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). However, the UK Government introduced a new benefit, Universal Credit, in May 2013 which has had a phased introduction across the country. The Claimant Count is now a measure of all those in receipt of Universal Credit who are out of work, including income based JSA claimants. Contribution based JSA claimants is measured separately.

JSA figures continue to be published, although they now form a subset of the new Claimant Count data, which the ONS believe to be the best measure of the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits.

Please note due to changes in the methodology used for identifying appropriate cases for inclusion, DWP have revised the Universal Credit element of the Claimant Count estimates from January 2016 onwards, therefore the figures in this month's report will vary from previous reports.

The January 2019 claimant count figures were released on 19th February 2019.

As illustrated by the chart below, unemployment in the Highlands and Islands was lower than that for Scotland and the UK.

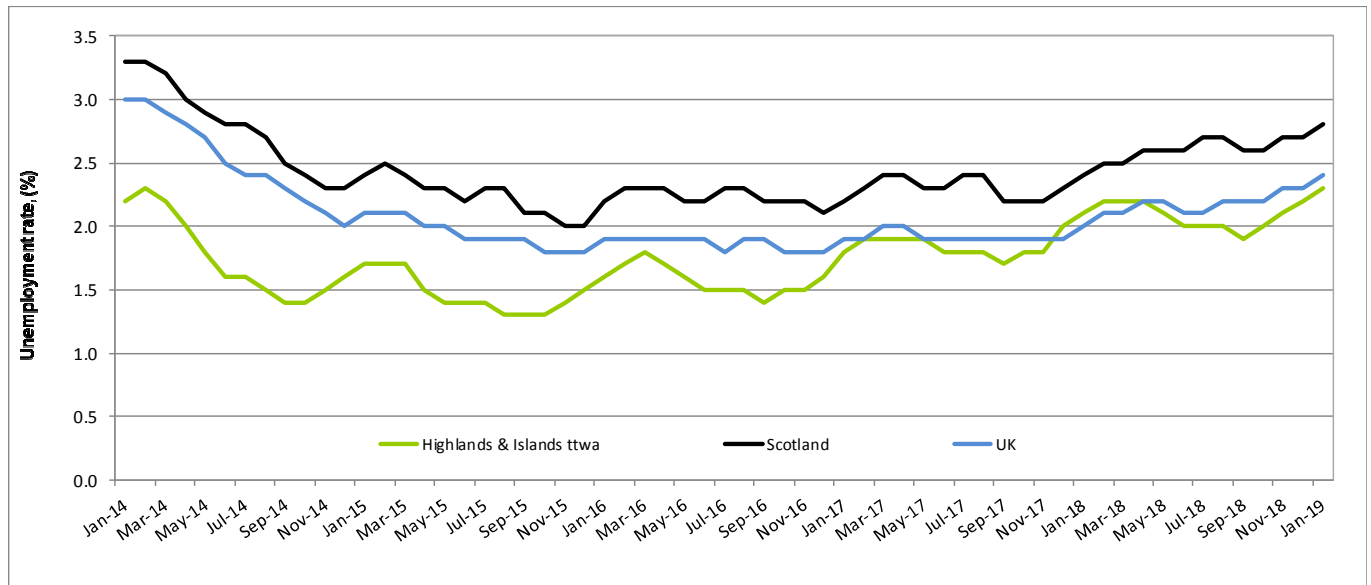


In January 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.3%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.8%**) and the UK (**2.4%**). The rate for the region was higher than that of last month (2.2% in December 2018) and that of a year earlier (2.1% in January 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in January 2019 were Alness & Invergordon, Wick and Dunoon & Rothesay (all 3.9%) and Thurso (3.2%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in January 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.3%) – Inverness, Lochgilphead and Ullapool (all 2.2%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (2.0%); Eilean Siar and Oban (both 1.9%); Mull & Islay (1.5%); Aviemore & Grantown (1.4%); Portree (1.3%); Orkney Islands (1.2%) and Shetland Islands (1.1%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in January 2019 was 6,625. Out of the total, 1,195 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2019)



* Based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit and, produced monthly by ONS.

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

Table 1 below illustrates the claimant count and universal credit allowance rates for each of the 19 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 - Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	January 2019		December 2018	January 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Aliness & Invergordon	515	3.9	4.0	3.9	-10	-0.1	-5	0.0
Wick	295	3.9	3.7	3.2	20	0.2	55	0.7
Dunoon & Rothesay	445	3.9	3.6	3.0	40	0.3	105	0.9
Thurso	280	3.2	3.2	2.4	-5	0.0	70	0.8
Golpsie & Brora	150	2.8	2.7	2.7	5	0.1	5	0.1
Campbeltown	115	2.7	2.5	2.0	10	0.2	30	0.7
Fort William	325	2.5	2.3	1.6	25	0.2	120	0.9
Elgin	1,475	2.3	2.2	1.9	105	0.1	260	0.4
Inverness	1,690	2.2	2.2	2.5	35	0.0	-190	-0.3
Lochgilphead	120	2.2	2.1	1.9	5	0.1	15	0.3
Ullapool	90	2.2	2.0	1.7	5	0.2	20	0.5
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	80	2.0	1.8	1.7	5	0.2	10	0.3
Eilean Siar	295	1.9	1.8	1.7	5	0.1	20	0.2
Oban	195	1.9	1.7	1.3	25	0.2	60	0.6
Mull & Islay	60	1.5	1.1	0.9	10	0.4	25	0.6
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	115	1.4	1.2	1.5	10	0.2	-15	-0.1
Portree	60	1.3	1.3	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
Orkney Islands	155	1.2	1.0	0.9	20	0.2	35	0.3
Shetland	160	1.1	1.0	0.7	10	0.1	55	0.4
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,630	2.3	2.2	2.1	335	0.1	685	0.2
Scotland	99,555	2.8	2.7	2.4	4,560	0.1	17,235	0.4
United Kingdom	1,009,065	2.4	2.3	2.0	41,845	0.1	187,755	0.4

Table 2 shows the total claimant count and universal credit unemployment, by number and rate over the month and year and youth unemployment by HIE area office.

Table 2 – Unemployment by Area Office – January 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	765	3.3	25	3.4	135	21.4	140
Argyll and the Islands	1,020	2.6	100	10.9	275	36.9	155
Inner Moray Firth	2,330	2.4	40	1.7	-205	-8.1	410
Moray	1,390	2.3	100	7.8	250	21.9	325
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	510	2.1	30	6.3	145	39.7	55
Innse Gall	295	1.9	5	1.7	20	7.3	40
Orkney	155	1.2	20	14.8	35	29.2	40
Shetland	160	1.1	10	6.7	55	52.4	30

Research and Economics
February 2019

Contact us at hieresearch@hient.co.uk

