

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.

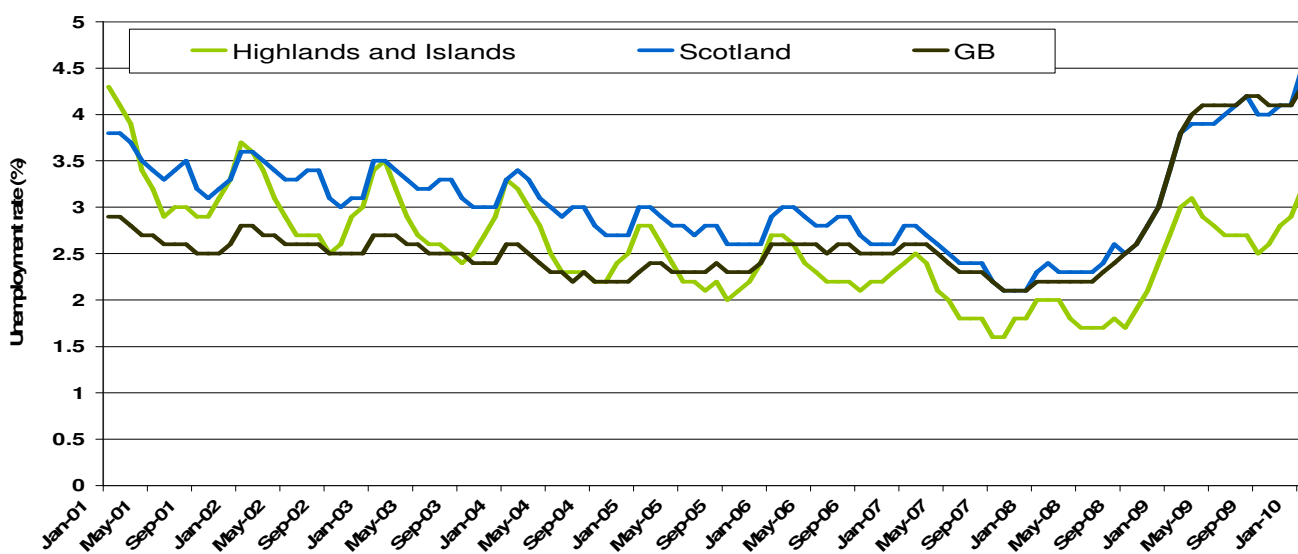
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at a more local level than the ILO unemployment rate statistics provided by ONS. Claimant Count statistics are available monthly at Area Office and Travel to Work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

The January 2010 unemployment figures were released on 17th February 2010. Over the month, December 2009 to January 2010, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 5.5% (83,934 claimants) from 1,513,921 to 1,597,855 claimants. This figure is 28.5% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,243,064, an increase of 354,791 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland rose by 8.3% over the month, from 133,738 to 144,870 claimants. This figure is 33.0% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 108,906, an increase of 35,964 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area rose by 8.5% during the month, from 7,791 to 8,455 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 7,140 an increase of 18.4% (1,315 claimants).

Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2010



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the Claimant Count rates for January 2010, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with December 2009 and January 2009 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the January 2010 figure.

Area	January 2010	December 2009	January 2009
Wick	5.2	4.9	4.0
Dunoon & Bute	5.1	4.8	4.6
Invergordon	4.6	4.5	3.7
Campbeltown	4.5	4.3	4.1
Dornoch & Lairg	3.9	3.8	3.1
Eilean Siar	3.9	3.7	3.8
Skye & Lochalsh	3.6	3.4	3.6
Thurso	3.4	3.2	2.8
Lochaber	3.2	3.0	2.6
Inverness & Dingwall	3.1	2.7	2.5
Moray	3.0	2.6	2.5
Oban	2.9	2.7	2.6
Lochgilphead	2.6	2.5	2.2
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.5	2.4	2.6
Mull & Islay	2.4	2.1	1.8
Badenoch	2.3	2.3	2.0
Orkney Islands	1.6	1.4	1.3
Shetland Islands	1.4	1.4	1.2
HIE TTWAs	3.2	2.9	2.7
Highland	3.4	3.1	2.7
Scotland	4.5	4.1	3.4
Great Britain	4.3	4.1	3.4

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, December 2009 to January 2010, the claimant count rose in 16 TTWAs, and was static in the remaining 2 – Badenoch and Shetland Islands. Inverness & Dingwall and Moray shared the greatest increase over the month, both rising by 0.4%.

Over the year to January 2010, the claimant count rose in 16 of the TTWA areas, fell in 1 and was static in the remaining 1 – Skye & Lochalsh. Wick had the greatest increase over the year, rising 1.2% from 4.0% to 5.2%. Ullapool & Gairloch was the only TTWA to decrease over the year, down 0.1% from 2.6% to 2.5%.

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 December 2009 and January 2010. A yearly comparison between January 2009 and January 2010 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	% change in number claiming	% change in number claiming
	Benefit (January 2010)	unemployment benefit (Dec 09 - Jan 10)	unemployment benefit (Jan 09 - Jan 10)
Orkney	193	14.2	26.1
Caithness and Sutherland	909	6.2	25.7
Inner Moray Firth	2,804	9.5	24.2
Moray	1,559	11.8	18.4
Shetland	185	1.6	15.6
Argyll and the Islands	1,465	7.8	13.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	735	5.3	11.5
Innse Gall	605	5.6	4.7
HIE Area	8,455	8.5	18.4
Highland	4,448	8.1	22.2
Scotland	144,870	8.3	33.0
Great Britain	1,597,855	5.5	28.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, December 2009 to January 2010, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 14.2% from 169 to 193 claimants. Moray also rose by over 10% over the month, rising 11.8% from 1,394 to 1,559 claimants.

Over the year to January 2010, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit also rose in all 8 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 26.1% from 153 to 193 claimants. Caithness & Sutherland also rose by over 25% during the year, rising from 723 to 909 (25.7%).

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 January 2010 in each of the AOs. It also highlights the percentage change in the number of those claiming long term unemployment benefit over the month (December 2009 to January 2010) and over the year (January 2009 to January 2010). 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	
	January 2010	(Dec 09 - Jan 10)
Inner Moray Firth	685	9.6
Innse Gall	220	4.8
Moray	355	10.9
Orkney	40	14.3
Shetland	60	9.1
Argyll and the Islands	480	5.5
Caithness and Sutherland	310	17.0
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	110	0.0
HIE Area	2,260	8.9
Highland	1,110	11.0
Scotland	46,535	9.5
Great Britain	554,415	6.8

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month December 2009 to January 2010, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 7 area offices, and was static in the remaining 1 – Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross. Caithness and Sutherland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 17.0% from 265 to 310 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in all 8 area offices over the year to January 2010. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 128.3% from 300 to 685 claimants. Innse Gall also had a substantial increase over the year, rising by 91.3% from 115 to 220 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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