

Unemployment digest



Summary

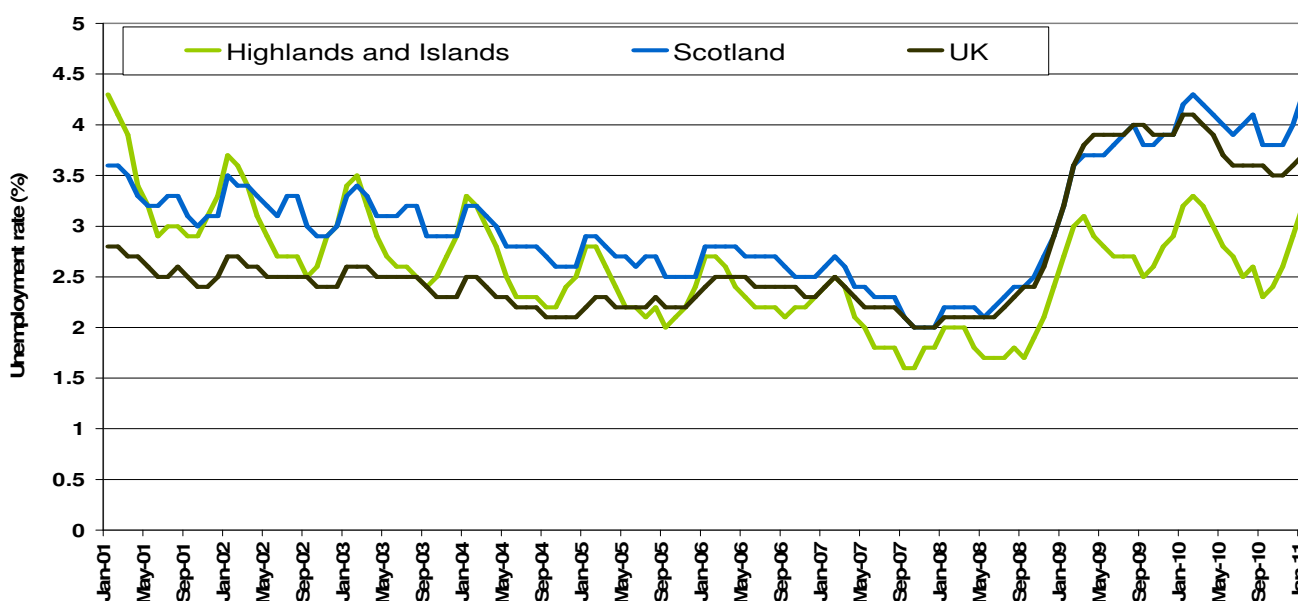
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continue to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 2011 unemployment figures were released on 16th February 2011. Over the month, December 2010 to January 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom rose by 5.6% from 1,425,192 to 1,505,068 (79,876 claimants). This figure is 9.0% lower than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,654,025, a decrease of 148,957 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose over the month December 2010 to January 2011, rising 7.3% from 136,200 to 146,161 claimants. This figure is 0.9% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 144,870, an increase of 1,291 claimants.

The unemployment rate for the Highlands and Islands also rose over the month, rising 9.5% (776 claimants) to 8,987 claimants. This figure is 6.3% (532 claimants) higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 8,455.

Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2011



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Note: Working age is defined as 16-64 for both men and women

Note: Previous reports refer to GB geography rather than UK.

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the Claimant Count rates for January 2011, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with December 2010 and January 2010 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the January 2011 figure.

Area	January 2011	December 2010	January 2010
Dunoon & Bute	5.2	4.9	4.8
Wick	4.8	4.2	5.0
Invergordon	4.4	4.3	4.3
Campbeltown	4.0	3.7	4.2
Skye & Lochalsh	3.8	3.6	3.4
Thurso	3.8	3.5	3.2
Dornoch & Lairg	3.6	3.2	3.6
Eilean Siar	3.5	3.3	3.7
Lochaber	3.4	3.2	3.0
Inverness & Dingwall	3.2	2.9	2.9
Oban	3.2	2.6	2.7
Moray	2.9	2.5	2.8
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.6	2.6	2.3
Lochgilphead	2.6	2.5	2.5
Mull & Islay	2.6	2.0	2.2
Badenoch	2.1	2.1	2.1
Orkney Islands	1.9	1.6	1.5
Shetland Islands	1.5	1.4	1.3
HIE TTWAs	3.2	2.9	3.0
Highland	3.4	3.2	3.2
Scotland	4.3	4.0	4.2
United Kingdom	3.7	3.6	4.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month December 2010 to January 2011, the claimant count rose in 16 and was static in the remaining 2 TTWAs – Ullapool & Gairloch and Badenoch. Wick, Oban and Mull & Islay shared the highest increase over the month, all rising by 0.6%.

Over the year to January 2011, the claimant count rose in 13, fell in 3 and was static in the remaining 2 TTWAs – Dornoch & Lairg and Badenoch. Thurso had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.6% from 3.2% to 3.8%. Wick, Campbeltown and Eilean Siar greatest decrease over the year, all falling 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 Enterprise Area Offices (AOs) between December 2010 and January 2011. A yearly comparison between January 2010 and December 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 benefit (January 2011)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Dec 10 - Jan 11)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Jan 10 - Jan 11)
Orkney	237	15.6	22.8
Shetland	217	9.0	17.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	818	5.3	11.3
Argyll and the Islands	1,589	11.6	8.5
Inner Moray Firth	2,972	6.3	6.0
Caithness and Sutherland	958	10.6	5.4
Moray	1,621	15.5	4.0
Innse Gall	575	6.5	-5.0
HIE Area	8,987	9.5	6.3
Highland	4,748	6.9	6.7
Scotland	146,161	7.3	0.9
United Kingdom	1,505,068	5.6	-9.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to January 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 15.6% from 205 to 237 claimants. Moray also rose by over 15%, rising 15.5% from 1,403 to 1,621 claimants.

Over the year to January 2011, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 7, and fell in the remaining 1 area office. Orkney had the greatest increase over the year, rising 22.8% from 193 to 237 claimants. Innse Gall was the only area office to decrease over the year, falling 5.0% from 605 to 575 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 January 2011 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 2010 to January 2011) and over the year (January 2010 to January 2011). The AOs are ranked by the right hand column, which contains the size of the annual percentage change in numbers of LTU.

Area Office	January 2011	% Change in number of LTU (Dec 10 - Jan 11)	% Change in number of LTU (Jan 10 - Jan 11)
Orkney	30	0.0	-25.0
Innse Gall	175	12.9	-20.5
Inner Moray Firth	560	4.7	-18.2
Caithness and Sutherland	305	7.0	-1.6
Argyll and the Islands	475	8.0	-1.0
Moray	355	2.9	0.0
Shetland	65	30.0	8.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	155	40.9	40.9
HIE Area	2,120	8.7	-6.2
Highland	1,015	9.1	-8.6
Scotland	46,650	8.1	0.2
United Kingdom	480,685	4.2	-18.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month December 2010 to January 2011, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 7 and was static in the remaining area office – Orkney. Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the month, rising 40.9% from 110 to 155 claimants.

Over the year to January 2011, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 2, fell in 5 and was static in the remaining area office – Moray. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 40.9% from 110 to 155 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 25.0% from 40 to 30 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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