

Unemployment digest



Summary

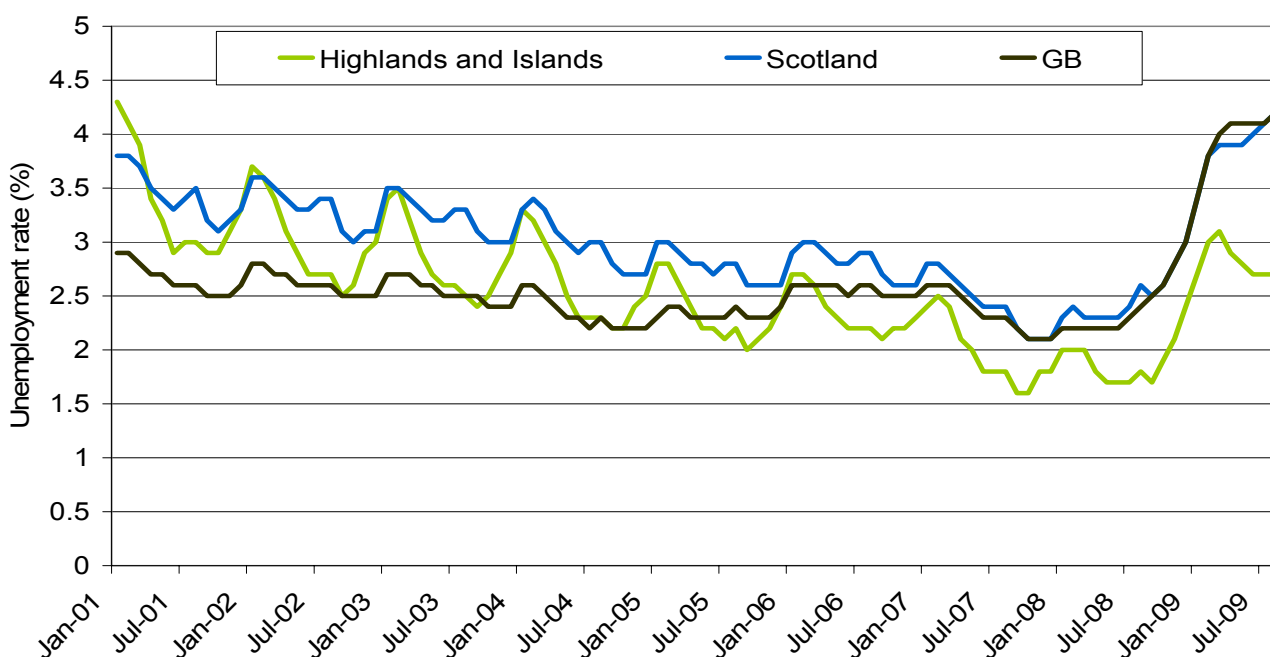
There has recently been a change made to Income Support for Lone Parents which will have some impact on the Jobseeker's Allowance Claimant Count figures. Since November 2008, lone parents with a youngest child aged 12 or over do not qualify for Income Support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent. 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 August 2009 unemployment figures were released on 16th September 2009. Over the month, July to August 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 1.8% from 1,521,709 to 1,548,678 (26,969 claimants). This figure is 73.1% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 894,678 an increase of 654,000 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose over the month, rising by 2.1% from 132,568 to 135,384 claimants, an increase of 2,816 claimants. This figure is 64.3% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 82,425, an increase of 52,959 claimants.

As with GB and Scotland, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area rose over the month, rising by 0.2% (11 claimants) from 7,085 to 7,096 claimants. This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,527, an increase of 56.7% (2,569 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 August 2009, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with July 2009 and August 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the August 2009 figure.

Area	August 2009	July 2009	August 2008
Dunoon & Bute	4.8	4.9	3.3
Wick	4.4	4.4	3.1
Invergordon	4.1	4.0	2.3
Campbeltown	4.0	4.0	3.3
Eilean Siar	3.4	3.4	2.0
Dornoch & Lairg	3.0	2.6	1.8
Inverness & Dingwall	2.8	2.8	1.5
Moray	2.6	2.6	1.8
Thurso	2.5	2.7	2.0
Lochgilphead	2.4	2.3	1.6
Oban	2.1	2.1	1.6
Skye & Lochalsh	2.1	1.9	1.6
Lochaber	1.9	2.0	1.2
Ullapool & Gairloch	1.8	1.6	1.3
Badenoch	1.6	1.9	1.0
Mull & Islay	1.6	1.5	1.2
Shetland Islands	1.5	1.5	0.8
Orkney Islands	1.0	1.0	0.8
HIE TTWAs	2.7	2.7	1.7
Highland	2.8	2.7	1.6
Scotland	4.2	4.1	2.6
Great Britain	4.2	4.1	2.4

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, July to August 2009, the claimant count rose in 6 TTWA's, fell in 4 and was static in the remaining 8 – Wick, Campbeltown, Eilean Siar, Inverness & Dingwall, Moray, Oban, Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands. Dornoch & Lairg had the greatest increase over the month, rising by 0.4% from 2.6% to 3.0%. Badenoch had the greatest decrease over the month, falling by 0.3% from 1.9% to 1.6%.

Over the year to August 2009, the claimant count rose in all 18 TTWAs. Invergordon TTWA had the greatest increase over the year, rising by 1.8% from 2.3% to 4.1%.

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 July 2009 and August 2009. A yearly comparison between August 2008 and August 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 (August 2009)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (July 09-August 09)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (August 08 - August 09)
Shetland	201	3.1	89.6
Inner Moray Firth	2,476	-0.5	84.1
Innse Gall	533	1.9	73.6
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	440	0.5	47.7
Argyll and the Islands	1,258	-0.6	41.2
Caithness and Sutherland	717	2.4	39.8
Moray	1,354	-0.1	39.2
Orkney	117	-1.7	24.5
HIE Area	7,096	0.2	56.7
Highland	3,633	0.2	68.5
Scotland	135,384	2.1	64.3
Great Britain	1,548,678	1.8	73.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, July to August 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 4 area offices, and fell in the remaining 4. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 3.1% from 195 to 201 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease, falling 1.7% from 119 to 117 claimants.

Over the year to August 2009, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 89.6% from 106 to 201 claimants. Inner Moray Firth and Innse Gall also had substantial increases over the year, rising by 84.1% and 73.6% respectively.

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 August 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 (July 2009 to August 2009) and over the year (August 2008 to August 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	
	August 2009	(July 09 - August 09)
Shetland	60	9.1
Inner Moray Firth	615	12.8
Innse Gall	230	12.2
Moray	320	0.0
Caithness and Sutherland	240	2.1
Argyll and the Islands	455	2.2
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	120	0.0
Orkney	30	50.0
HIE Area	2,010	6.4
Highland	975	8.3
Scotland	40,785	9.8
Great Britain	493,705	10.2

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month July to August 2009, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 6, and was static in the remaining 2 area offices – Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross and Moray. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 50.0% from 20 to 30 claimants.

The number of LTU claimants rose in all 8 area offices over the year to August 2009. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 200.0% from 20 to 60 claimants. Inner Moray Firth and Innse Gall also rose significantly over the year, rising 167.4% and 119.0% respectively.

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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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