

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JANUARY 2019

HIE Research and Economics Team



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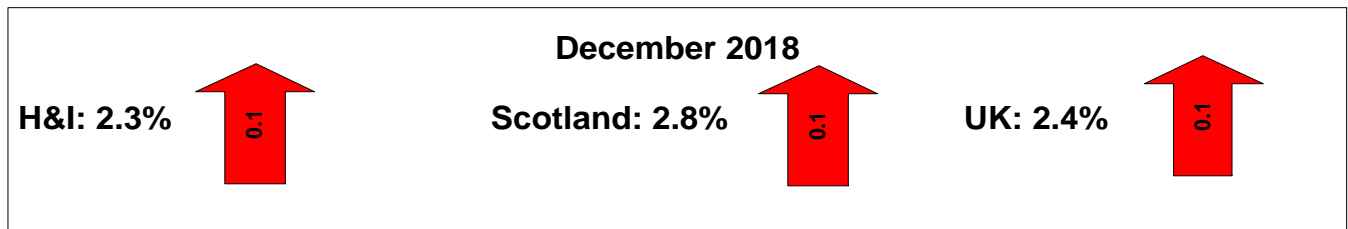
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 will now be a measure of all those in receipt of Universal Credit who are out of work, including income based JSA claimants. Contribution based JSA claimants will be 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.

The December 2018 claimant count figures were released on 22nd January 2019.

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

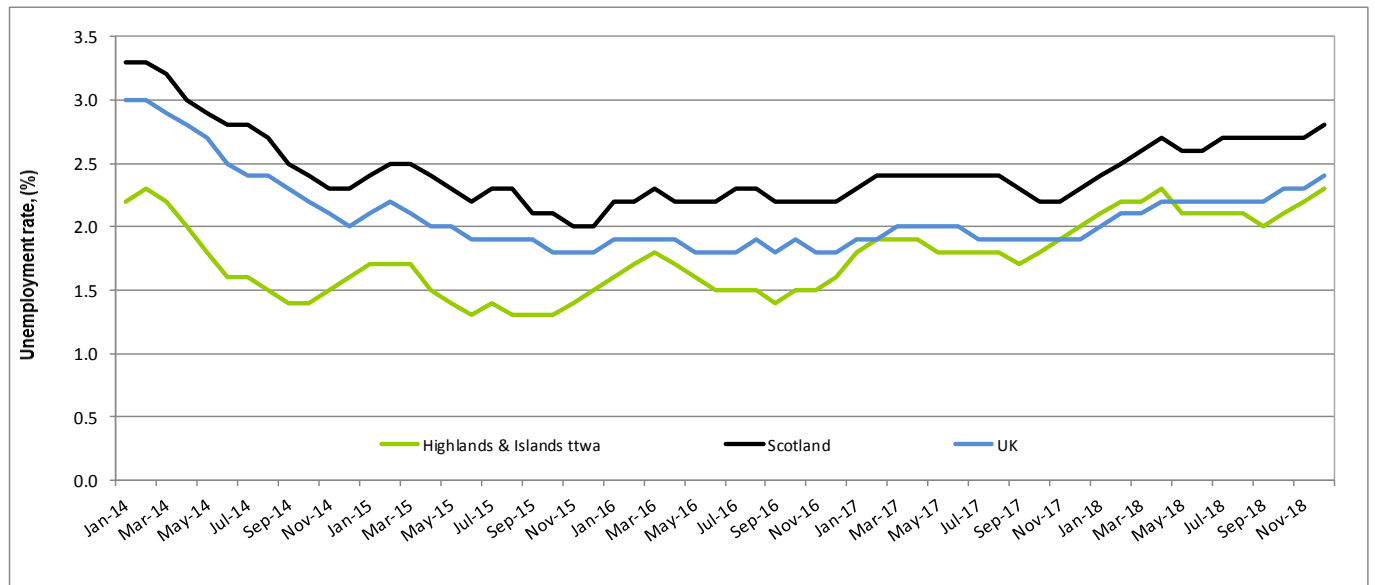


In December 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.3%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.8%**) and the UK (**2.4%**). The rate for the region was higher than that of last month (2.2% in November 2018) and that of a year earlier (2.0% in December 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in December 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (4.0%); Wick (3.9%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.5%) and Thurso (3.4%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in December 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.3%) – Elgin (2.2%); Lochgilphead and Ullapool (both 2.1%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.9%); Eilean Siar (1.8%); Oban (1.7%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Portree (both 1.4%); Mull & Islay (1.2%); Shetland Islands (1.1%) and Orkney Islands (1.0%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in December 2018 was 6,555. Out of the total, 1,215 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2018)



* 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	December 2018		November 2018	December 2017	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
AIness & Invergordon	535	4.0	4.0	3.8	5	0.0	30	0.2
Wick	290	3.9	3.6	3.0	20	0.3	70	0.9
Dunoon & Rothesay	400	3.5	3.5	2.9	5	0.0	70	0.6
Thurso	300	3.4	3.2	2.2	20	0.2	100	1.2
Golpsie & Brora	145	2.7	2.7	2.4	0	0.0	15	0.3
Campbeltown	110	2.5	2.1	2.1	20	0.4	20	0.4
Inverness	1,840	2.4	2.4	2.5	-5	0.0	-80	-0.1
Fort William	300	2.3	2.2	1.4	15	0.1	115	0.9
Elgin	1,385	2.2	2.1	1.7	60	0.1	300	0.5
Lochgilphead	115	2.1	1.8	1.9	20	0.3	15	0.2
Ullapool	85	2.1	1.8	1.6	15	0.3	20	0.5
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	80	1.9	1.9	1.7	0	0.0	5	0.2
Eilean Siar	285	1.8	1.6	1.7	25	0.2	10	0.1
Oban	175	1.7	1.3	1.2	40	0.4	50	0.5
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	120	1.4	1.5	1.7	-5	-0.1	-25	-0.3
Portree	65	1.4	1.3	1.2	5	0.1	10	0.2
Mull & Islay	50	1.2	1.2	0.9	0	0.0	15	0.3
Shetland	150	1.1	0.9	0.7	25	0.2	55	0.4
Orkney Islands	140	1.0	0.8	0.9	30	0.2	25	0.1
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,560	2.3	2.2	2.0	285	0.1	810	0.3
Scotland	97,460	2.8	2.7	2.3	1,475	0.1	17,535	0.5
United Kingdom	985,510	2.4	2.3	1.9	19,510	0.1	184,440	0.5

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 – December 2018

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	765	3.3	45	6.3	185	31.9	135
Inner Moray Firth	2,500	2.6	-10	-0.4	-75	-2.9	475
Argyll and the Islands	925	2.4	85	10.1	200	27.6	145
Moray	1,300	2.2	60	4.8	280	27.5	305
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	490	2.1	25	5.4	150	44.1	60
Innse Gall	285	1.8	25	9.6	10	3.6	35
Shetland	150	1.0	25	20.0	55	57.9	25
Orkney	140	1.0	30	27.3	25	21.7	35

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