

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

APRIL 2019

HIE Research and Economics Team



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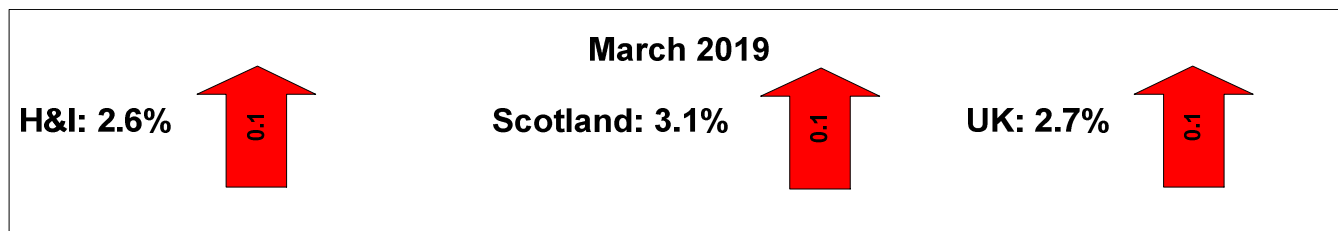
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 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.

The March 2019 claimant count figures were released on 16th April 2019.

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

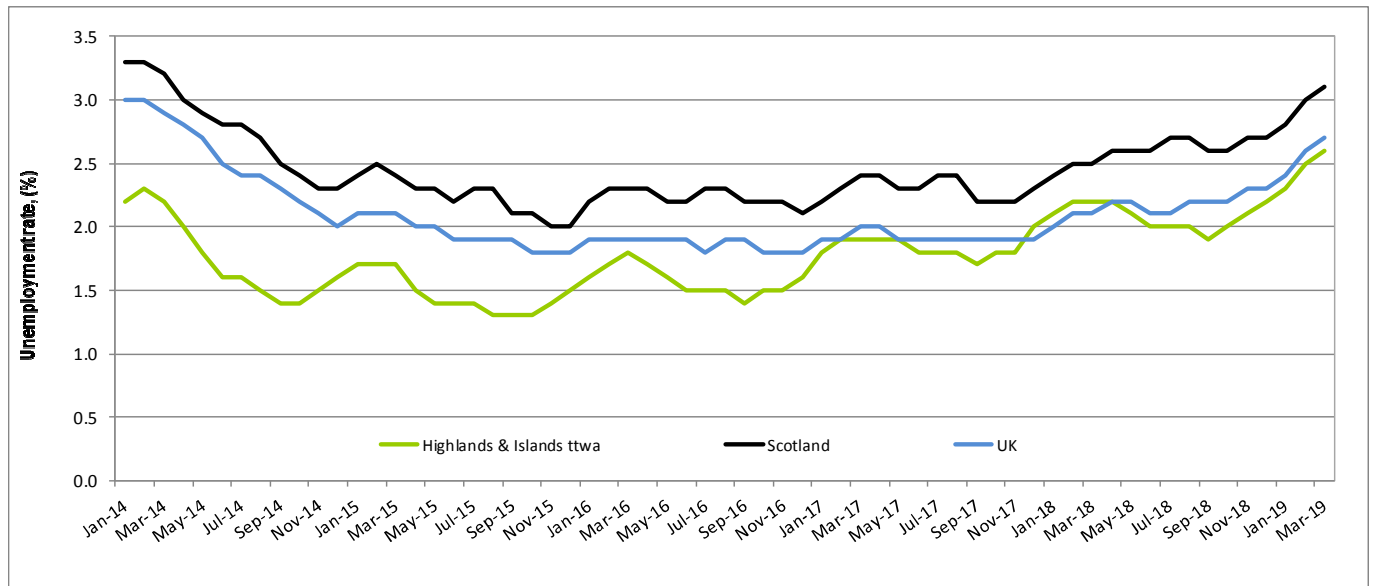


In March 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.6%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**3.1%**) and the UK (**2.7%**). The rate for the region was higher than that of last month (2.5% in February 2019) and that of a year earlier (2.2% in March 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in March 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay (4.3%); Wick (4.2%); Alness & Invergordon (4.0%); Thurso (3.4%) and Campbeltown (3.2%). Ten TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in March 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.6%) – Inverness (2.5%); Ullapool, Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Oban (all 2.3%); Eilean Siar (2.2%); Mull & Islay and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (both 1.6%); Orkney Islands (1.5%); Portree (1.4%) and Shetland Islands (1.3%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in March 2019 was 7,320. Out of the total, 1,390 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	March 2019		February 2019	March 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	490	4.3	4.2	3.2	15	0.1	130	1.1
Wick	315	4.2	4.1	3.5	10	0.1	50	0.7
Aliness & Invergordon	530	4.0	4.1	4.1	-15	-0.1	-20	-0.1
Thurso	300	3.4	3.4	2.6	-5	0.0	70	0.8
Campbeltown	135	3.2	2.8	2.0	15	0.4	50	1.2
Lochgilphead	160	2.9	2.7	1.8	10	0.2	65	1.1
Golpsie & Brora	150	2.8	2.8	2.7	0	0.0	5	0.1
Fort William	335	2.6	2.7	1.8	-10	-0.1	100	0.8
Elgin	1,635	2.6	2.5	2.0	35	0.1	355	0.6
Inverness	1,875	2.5	2.4	2.6	45	0.1	-120	-0.1
Ullapool	95	2.3	2.4	1.8	0	-0.1	25	0.5
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	100	2.3	2.2	1.8	10	0.1	25	0.5
Oban	230	2.3	2.0	1.3	25	0.3	100	1.0
Eilean Siar	345	2.2	2.1	1.9	10	0.1	50	0.3
Mull & Islay	70	1.6	1.7	0.9	0	-0.1	30	0.7
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	130	1.6	1.6	1.4	-5	0.0	10	0.2
Orkney Islands	200	1.5	1.4	0.9	15	0.1	75	0.6
Portree	65	1.4	1.6	1.3	-10	-0.2	5	0.1
Shetland	190	1.3	1.3	0.8	5	0.0	70	0.5
Highlands and Islands TTWA	7,345	2.6	2.5	2.2	145	0.1	1,065	0.4
Scotland	108,610	3.1	3.0	2.5	3,675	0.1	19,695	0.6
United Kingdom	1,100,990	2.7	2.6	2.1	38,560	0.1	217,125	0.6

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 – March 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	805	3.5	10	1.3	135	20.1	150
Argyll and the Islands	1,165	3.0	60	5.4	395	51.3	195
Inner Moray Firth	2,550	2.6	25	1.0	-120	-4.5	460
Moray	1,525	2.6	35	2.3	315	26.0	355
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	540	2.3	-15	-2.7	140	35.0	70
Innse Gall	345	2.2	10	3.0	50	16.9	65
Orkney	200	1.5	15	8.1	75	60.0	55
Shetland	190	1.3	5	2.7	70	58.3	40

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