

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

## MAY 2019

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HIE Research and Economics Team



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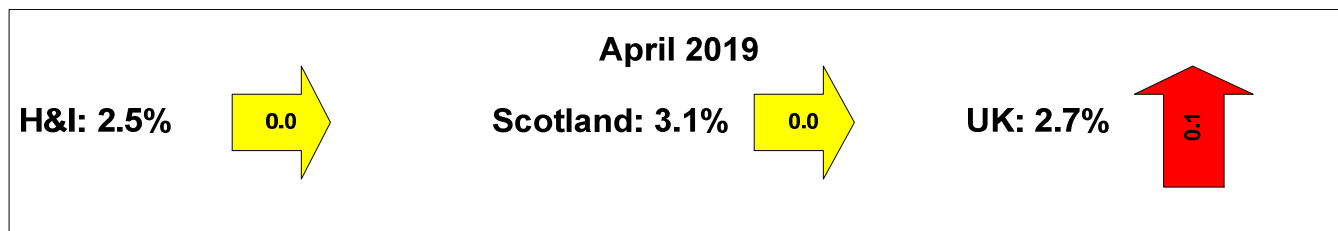
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 April 2019 claimant count figures were released on 14th May 2019.

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

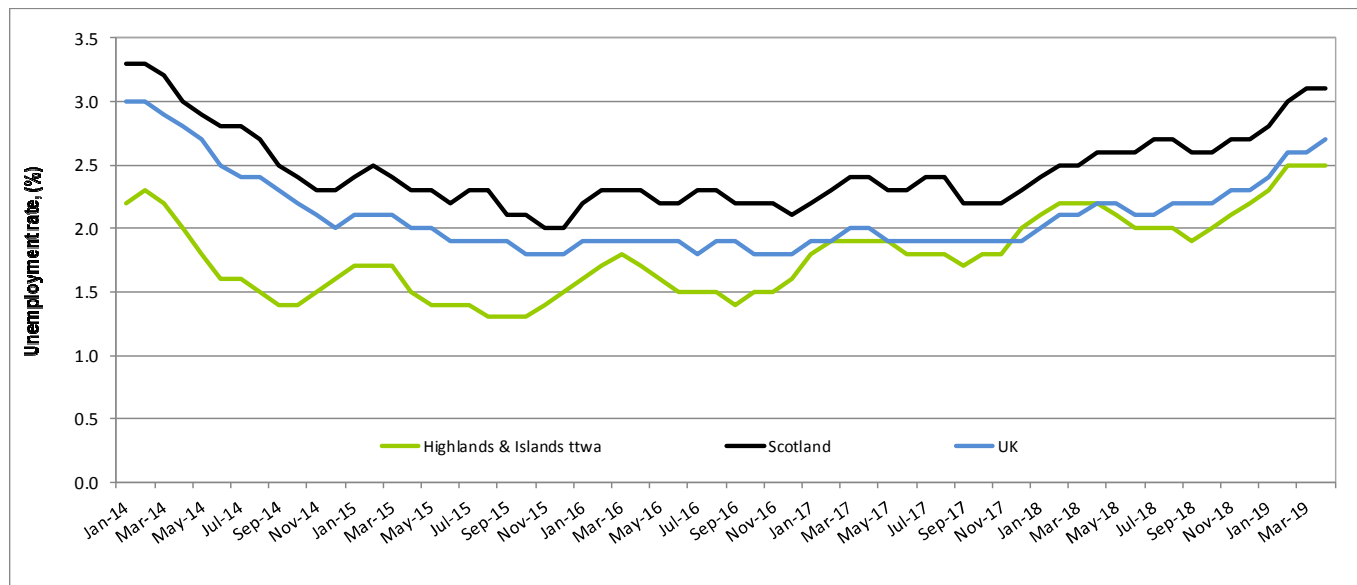


In April 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.5%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**3.1%**) and the UK (**2.7%**). The rate for the region was in-line with that of last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

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in April 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay and Wick (both with 4.3%); Alness & Invergordon (3.9%); Thurso (3.3%) and Campbeltown (3.2%). Ten TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in April 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.5%) – Inverness (2.4%); Oban (2.3%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (2.2%); Eilean Siar (2.1%); Ullapool (2.0%); Mull & Islay and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (both 1.6%); Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands (both 1.4%) and Portree (1.3%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in April 2019 was 7,180. Out of the total, 1,375 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	April 2019		March 2019	April 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	490	4.3	4.3	3.2	0	0.0	130	1.1
Wick	325	4.3	4.2	3.8	10	0.1	40	0.5
Aliness & Invergordon	515	3.9	4.0	4.4	-5	-0.1	-65	-0.5
Thurso	295	3.3	3.4	2.8	0	-0.1	50	0.5
Campbeltown	135	3.2	3.2	2.2	0	0.0	40	1.0
Lochgilphead	155	2.9	2.9	1.6	-5	0.0	65	1.3
Golpsie & Brora	150	2.8	2.8	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Fort William	330	2.6	2.6	2.0	0	0.0	75	0.6
Elgin	1,625	2.6	2.6	1.9	-10	0.0	410	0.7
Inverness	1,785	2.4	2.4	2.9	-55	0.0	-370	-0.5
Oban	230	2.3	2.2	1.1	5	0.1	120	1.2
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	90	2.2	2.3	1.8	-5	-0.1	15	0.4
Eilean Siar	330	2.1	2.2	1.8	-20	-0.1	50	0.3
Ullapool	80	2.0	2.3	1.7	-15	-0.3	10	0.3
Mull & Islay	70	1.6	1.6	0.9	5	0.0	30	0.7
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	135	1.6	1.5	1.7	5	0.1	-5	-0.1
Orkney Islands	195	1.4	1.4	0.8	0	0.0	85	0.6
Shetland Islands	205	1.4	1.3	0.9	15	0.1	75	0.5
Portree	60	1.3	1.3	1.4	0	0.0	-5	-0.1
Highlands and Islands TTWA	7,200	2.5	2.5	2.2	-85	0.0	755	0.3
Scotland	108,840	3.1	3.1	2.6	1,080	0.0	16,730	0.5
United Kingdom	1,115,050	2.7	2.6	2.2	23,245	0.1	198,305	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 – April 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	795	3.5	-5	-0.6	85	12.0	140
Argyll and the Islands	1,165	3.0	15	1.3	410	54.3	180
Moray	1,520	2.6	-10	-0.7	375	32.8	365
Inner Moray Firth	2,450	2.5	-55	-2.2	-435	-15.1	455
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	520	2.2	-15	-2.8	100	23.8	70
Innse Gall	330	2.1	-20	-5.7	50	17.9	60
Orkney	195	1.5	0	0.0	85	77.3	60
Shetland	205	1.4	15	7.9	75	57.7	45

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