

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

## JUNE 2019

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HIE Research and Economics Team



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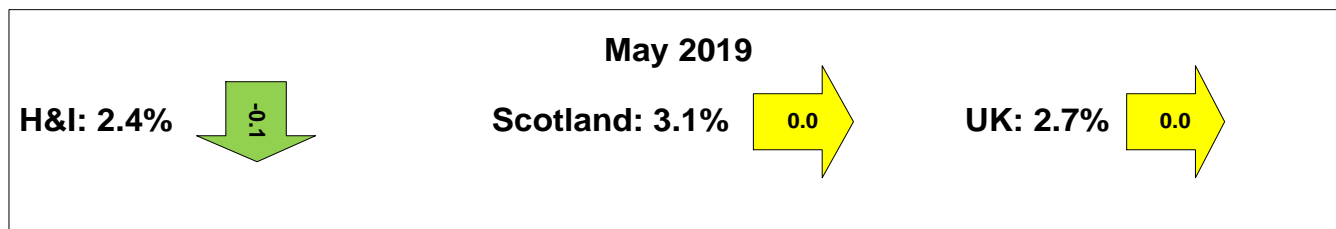
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 May 2019 claimant count figures were released on 11th June 2019.

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

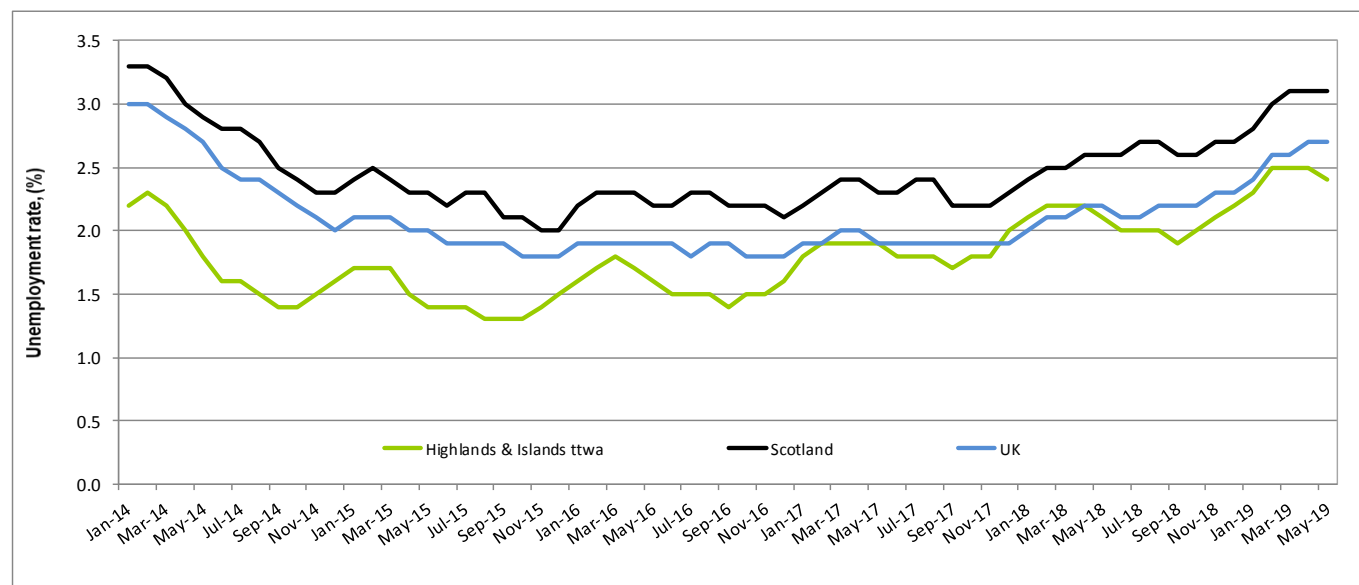


In May 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.4%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**3.1%**) and the UK (**2.7%**). The rate for the region was lower than that of last month (2.5% in April 2019) but higher than that of a year earlier (2.1% in May 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in May 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay (4.2%); Wick (4.1%); Alness & Invergordon (3.7%) and Campbeltown (3.4%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in May 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.4%) – Fort William and Inverness (both 2.3%); Oban, Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Eilean Siar (all 2.0%); Ullapool (1.7%); Mull & Islay, Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Shetland Islands (all 1.4%); Orkney Islands (1.2%) and Portree (1.1%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in May 2019 was 6,885. Out of the total, 1,295 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	May 2019		April 2019	May 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	480	4.2	4.2	3.1	-5	0.0	125	1.1
Wick	305	4.1	4.3	3.8	-20	-0.2	25	0.3
Aliness & Invergordon	485	3.7	3.9	4.1	-30	-0.2	-55	-0.4
Campbeltown	145	3.4	3.2	2.1	10	0.2	55	1.3
Thurso	275	3.1	3.3	2.8	-15	-0.2	30	0.3
Lochgilphead	155	2.9	2.8	1.6	0	0.1	70	1.3
Golpsie & Brora	135	2.6	2.7	2.6	-10	-0.1	-5	0.0
Elgin	1,615	2.6	2.6	1.8	0	0.0	485	0.8
Fort William	295	2.3	2.5	1.8	-25	-0.2	65	0.5
Inverness	1,750	2.3	2.3	2.6	-20	0.0	-220	-0.3
Oban	205	2.0	2.2	1.0	-20	-0.2	100	1.0
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	85	2.0	2.1	1.6	-5	-0.1	20	0.4
Eilean Siar	315	2.0	2.1	1.6	-15	-0.1	55	0.4
Ullapool	70	1.7	1.9	1.8	-5	-0.2	-5	-0.1
Mull & Islay	60	1.4	1.6	0.7	-10	-0.2	30	0.7
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	120	1.4	1.6	1.3	-15	-0.2	10	0.1
Shetland Islands	200	1.4	1.4	0.8	-5	0.0	80	0.6
Orkney Islands	165	1.2	1.4	0.8	-25	-0.2	65	0.4
Portree	50	1.1	1.3	1.3	-10	-0.2	-10	-0.2
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,915	2.4	2.5	2.1	-220	-0.1	920	0.3
Scotland	108,000	3.1	3.1	2.6	-35	0.0	18,095	0.5
United Kingdom	1,120,935	2.7	2.7	2.2	14,325	0.0	224,510	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 – May 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	745	3.3	-45	-5.7	55	8.0	135
Argyll and the Islands	1,135	2.9	-20	-1.7	410	56.6	175
Moray	1,500	2.5	-10	-0.7	440	41.5	355
Inner Moray Firth	2,370	2.4	-65	-2.7	-265	-10.1	430
Innse Gall	315	2.0	-15	-4.5	55	21.2	55
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	455	1.9	-45	-9.0	60	15.2	65
Shetland	200	1.4	-5	-2.4	80	66.7	40
Orkney	165	1.2	-25	-13.2	65	65.0	40

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