

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

FEBRUARY 2018

HIE Research and Economics Team



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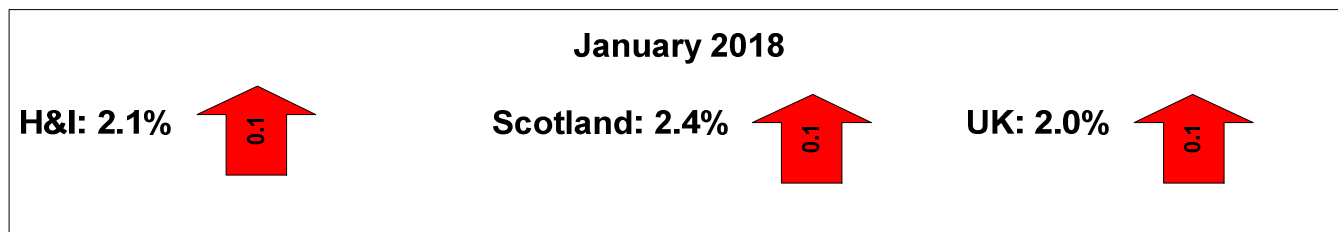
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 January 2018 claimant count figures were released on 21st February 2018.

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

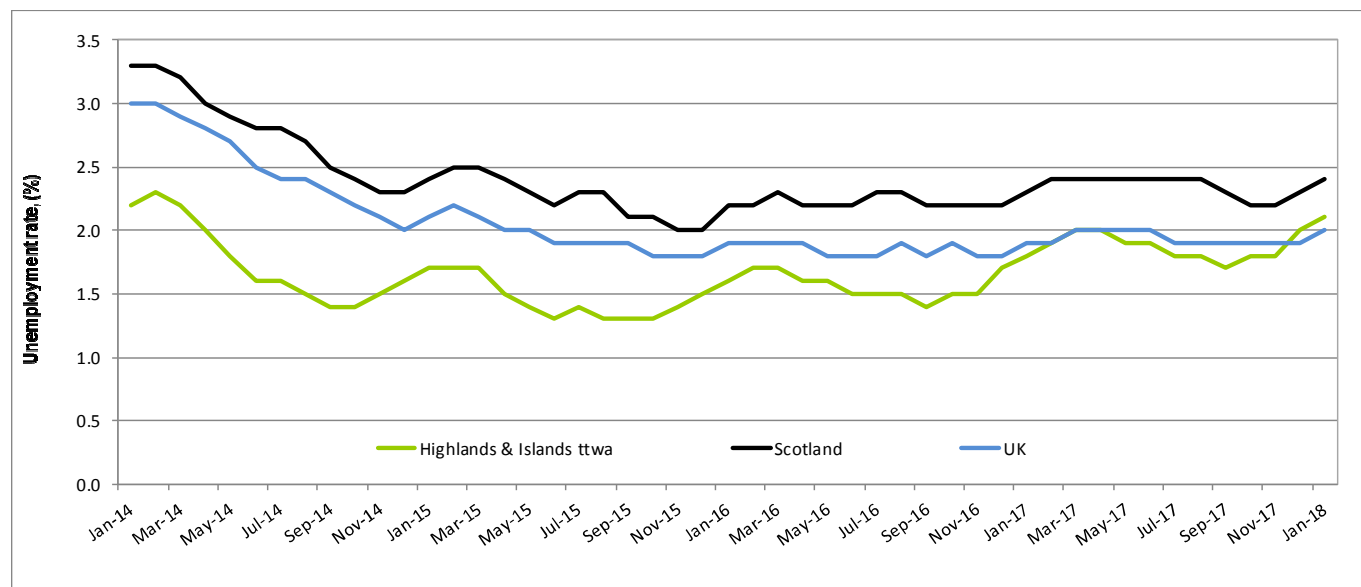


In January 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.1%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.4%**) but above that for the UK (**2.0%**). The rate was higher than that of last month (2.0%), and of that for a year earlier (1.8% in January 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in January 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (4.0%); Wick (3.2%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.0%) and Inverness and Golspie & Brora (both 2.6%). Thirteen TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in January 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.1%) – Campbeltown (2.0%); Lochgilphead and Elgin (both 1.9%); Ullapool and Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (both 1.8%); Eilean Siar (1.7%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Fort William (both 1.6%); Oban and Portree (both 1.3%); Mull & Islay and Orkney Islands (both 0.9%) and Shetland Islands (0.7%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in January 2018 was 6,020. Out of the total, 1,105 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	January 2018		December 2017	January 2017	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Aliness & Invergordon	525	4.0	3.8	3.2	15	0.2	95	0.8
Wick	240	3.2	2.8	2.4	25	0.4	55	0.8
Dunoon & Rothesay	340	3.0	2.9	2.7	5	0.1	30	0.3
Inverness	1,960	2.6	2.5	1.7	45	0.1	710	0.9
Golpsie & Brora	145	2.6	2.4	2.2	15	0.2	25	0.4
Thurso	215	2.4	2.3	2.1	10	0.1	20	0.3
Campbeltown	85	2.0	2.0	2.1	-5	0.0	-5	-0.1
Lochgilphead	100	1.9	1.8	1.7	0	0.1	10	0.2
Elgin	1,215	1.9	1.7	1.9	135	0.2	20	0.0
Ullapool	75	1.8	1.6	1.5	10	0.2	15	0.3
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	75	1.8	1.8	1.7	0	0.0	5	0.1
Eilean Siar	275	1.7	1.7	1.9	0	0.0	-30	-0.2
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	140	1.6	1.7	1.2	-5	-0.1	35	0.4
Fort William	210	1.6	1.4	1.6	25	0.2	10	0.0
Oban	135	1.3	1.2	1.5	10	0.1	-15	-0.2
Portree	60	1.3	1.2	1.0	5	0.1	10	0.3
Mull & Islay	40	0.9	0.9	0.9	5	0.0	5	0.0
Orkney Islands	120	0.9	0.8	1.0	5	0.1	-15	-0.1
Shetland	105	0.7	0.7	0.9	10	0.0	-30	-0.2
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,060	2.1	2.0	1.8	310	0.1	950	0.3
Scotland	82,915	2.4	2.3	2.2	2,985	0.1	4,570	0.2
United Kingdom	826,545	2.0	1.9	1.9	25,385	0.1	55,920	0.1

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 – January 2018

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,630	2.7	55	2.1	835	46.5	445
Caithness and Sutherland	630	2.7	55	9.6	110	21.2	115
Argyll and the Islands	740	1.9	15	2.1	5	0.7	135
Moray	1,140	1.9	125	12.3	15	1.3	280
Innse Gall	275	1.7	0	0.0	-30	-9.8	40
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	380	1.6	35	10.1	30	8.6	50
Orkney	120	0.9	5	4.3	-15	-11.1	20
Shetland	105	0.7	10	10.5	-30	-22.2	20

Research and Economics
February 2018

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