

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

MAY 2018

HIE Research and Economics Team



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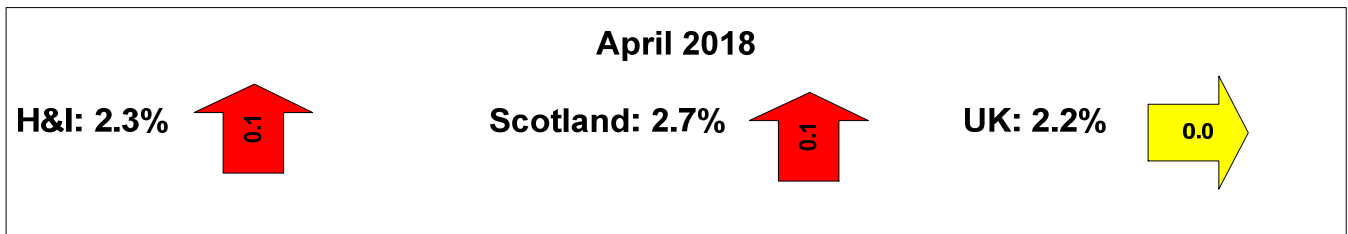
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 April 2018 claimant count figures were released on 15th May 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.

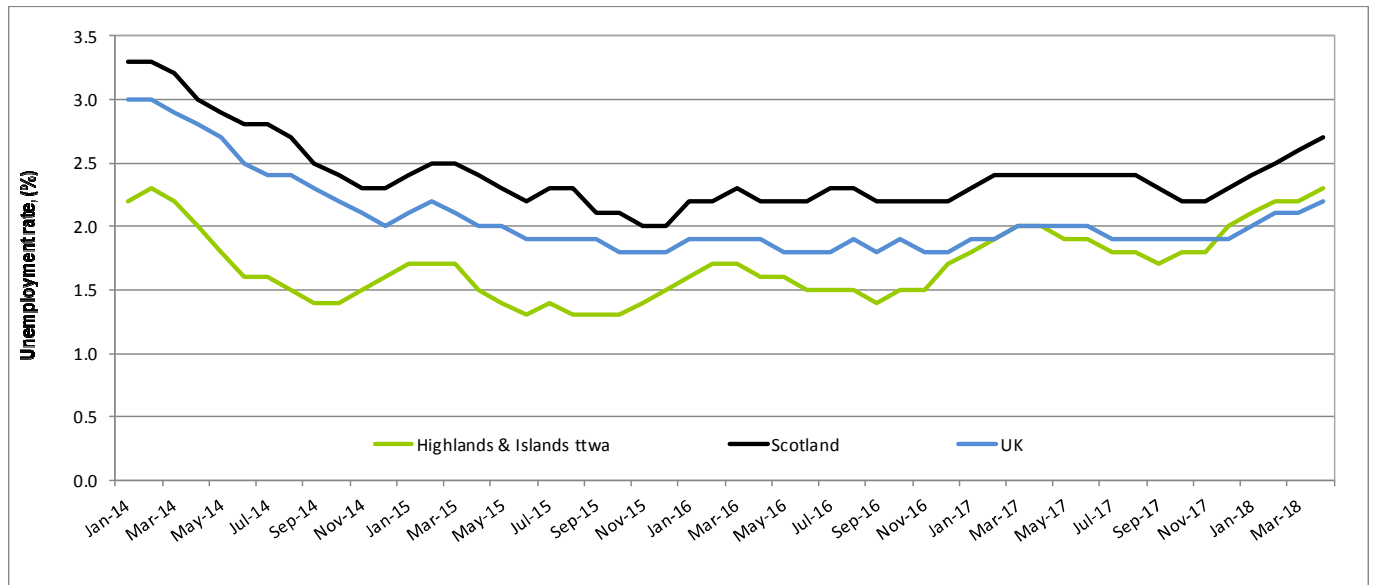


In April 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.3%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.7%**) but above that for the UK (**2.2%**). The regions rate was higher than that of the previous month (2.2%), and a year earlier (1.9% in April 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in April 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (4.3%); Wick (3.8%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.2%); Inverness (3.0%) and Golspie & Brora (2.9%). Thirteen TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in April 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.3%) – Campbeltown (2.1%); Fort William (2.0%); Elgin and Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh (1.9%); Eilean Siar (1.8%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (1.7%); Lochgilphead and Ullapool (both 1.6%); Portree (1.5%); Oban (1.1%); Mull & Islay (1.0%); Shetland Islands (0.9%) and Orkney Islands (0.8%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in April 2018 was 6,555. Out of the total, 1,235 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	April 2018		March 2018	April 2017	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Aliness & Invergordon	570	4.3	4.2	3.0	15	0.1	170	1.3
Wick	285	3.8	3.6	2.6	15	0.2	95	1.2
Dunoon & Rothesay	365	3.2	3.2	3.1	0	0.0	10	0.1
Inverness	2,260	3.0	2.8	2.2	160	0.2	625	0.8
Golpsie & Brora	155	2.9	2.6	2.3	10	0.3	30	0.6
Thurso	245	2.7	2.6	1.9	15	0.1	75	0.8
Campbeltown	95	2.1	2.0	2.4	10	0.1	-10	-0.3
Fort William	255	2.0	1.8	1.1	15	0.2	115	0.9
Elgin	1,220	1.9	2.0	2.0	-65	-0.1	-30	-0.1
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	75	1.9	1.8	1.3	0	0.1	25	0.6
Eilean Siar	280	1.8	1.9	2.0	-20	-0.1	-40	-0.2
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	145	1.7	1.5	1.6	20	0.2	10	0.1
Lochgilphead	90	1.6	1.8	1.6	-5	-0.2	0	0.0
Ullapool	65	1.6	1.7	1.5	-5	-0.1	5	0.1
Portree	70	1.5	1.4	1.0	5	0.1	25	0.5
Oban	110	1.1	1.3	1.2	-20	-0.2	-15	-0.1
Mull & Islay	40	1.0	1.0	0.6	0	0.0	15	0.4
Shetland	130	0.9	0.8	1.0	10	0.1	-10	-0.1
Orkney Islands	110	0.8	1.0	1.1	-15	-0.2	-35	-0.3
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,565	2.3	2.2	1.9	145	0.1	1,060	0.4
Scotland	93,005	2.7	2.6	2.4	2,965	0.1	9,370	0.3
United Kingdom	925,450	2.2	2.2	2.0	31,890	0.0	103,985	0.2

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 2018

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,985	3.1	195	7.0	805	36.9	515
Caithness and Sutherland	715	3.1	40	5.9	210	41.6	130
Argyll and the Islands	760	2.0	-10	-1.3	20	2.7	145
Moray	1,150	1.9	-65	-5.3	-35	-3.0	295
Innse Gall	280	1.8	-20	-6.7	-40	-12.5	40
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	425	1.8	15	3.7	160	60.4	50
Shetland	130	0.9	10	8.3	-10	-7.1	35
Orkney	110	0.8	-15	-12.0	-35	-24.1	25

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