

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

APRIL 2018

HIE Research and Economics Team



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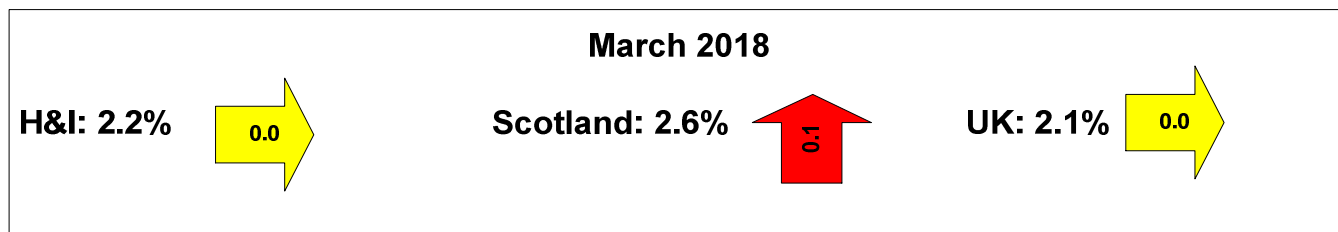
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 March 2018 claimant count figures were released on 18th April 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.

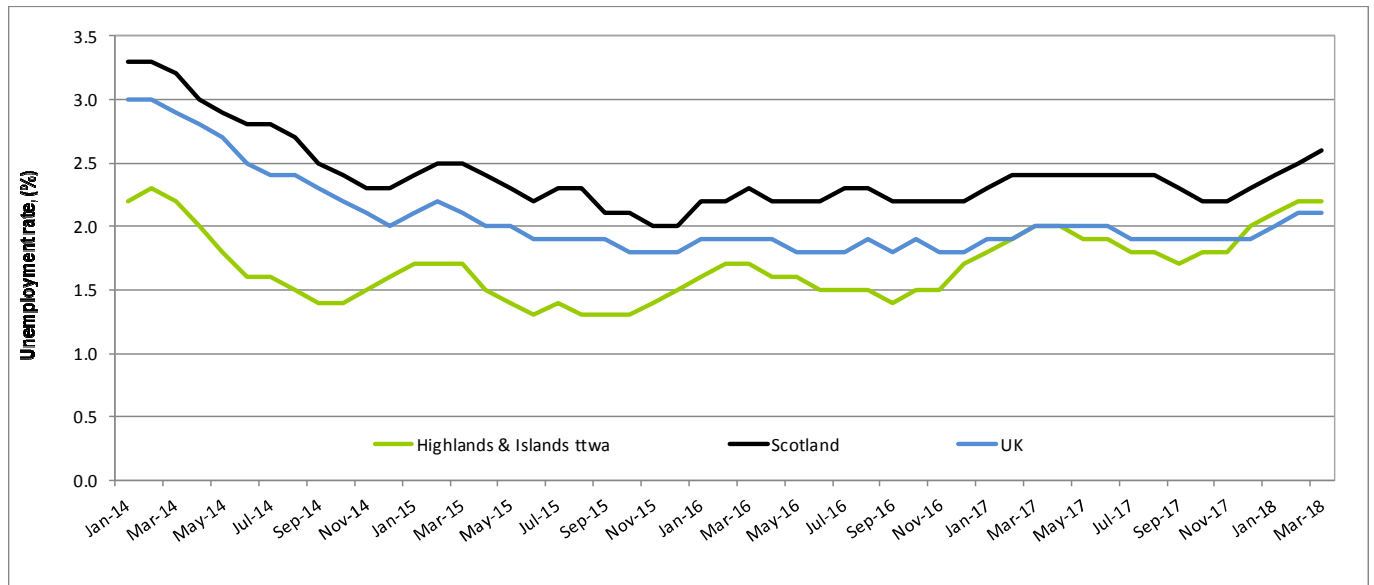


In March 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.2%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.6%**) but above that for the UK (**2.1%**). The rate was in line with that of last month, but higher than that for a year earlier (1.9% in March 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in March 2018 were Ainess & Invergordon (4.1%); Wick and Dunoon & Rothesay (both 3.2%); Inverness (2.8%) and Golspie & Brora and Thurso (both 2.7%). Thirteen TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in March 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.2%) – Campbeltown and Elgin (both 2.0%); Eilean Siar and Fort William (both 1.9%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.8%); Lochgilphead and Ullapool (both 1.7%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (1.5%); Portree (1.4%); Oban (1.3%); Mull & Islay (1.0%); Orkney Islands (0.9%) and Shetland Islands (0.8%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in March 2018 was 6,385. 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	March 2018		February 2018	March 2017	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Aliness & Invergordon	545	4.1	4.3	3.1	-25	-0.2	135	1.0
Wick	240	3.2	3.0	2.7	10	0.2	35	0.5
Dunoon & Rothesay	365	3.2	3.1	3.1	10	0.1	5	0.1
Inverness	2,095	2.8	2.8	1.9	-20	0.0	645	0.9
Golpsie & Brora	145	2.7	2.8	2.4	-5	-0.1	15	0.3
Thurso	240	2.7	2.5	2.1	10	0.2	50	0.6
Campbeltown	90	2.0	2.1	2.2	-5	-0.1	-5	-0.2
Elgin	1,280	2.0	2.0	2.1	-15	0.0	-75	-0.1
Eilean Siar	300	1.9	1.9	2.1	0	0.0	-45	-0.2
Fort William	245	1.9	1.9	1.4	-5	0.0	60	0.5
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	75	1.8	2.0	1.6	-5	-0.2	5	0.2
Lochgilphead	95	1.7	2.0	1.7	-15	-0.3	0	0.0
Ullapool	70	1.7	1.7	1.6	0	0.0	5	0.1
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	130	1.5	1.7	1.3	-15	-0.2	15	0.2
Portree	65	1.4	1.5	1.3	-5	-0.1	5	0.1
Oban	130	1.3	1.3	1.3	-5	0.0	-5	0.0
Mull & Islay	40	1.0	1.0	0.7	0	0.0	10	0.3
Orkney Islands	125	0.9	1.0	1.1	-5	-0.1	-20	-0.2
Shetland	120	0.8	0.8	1.0	10	0.0	-25	-0.2
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,395	2.2	2.2	1.9	-80	0.0	820	0.3
Scotland	89,675	2.6	2.5	2.4	1,930	0.1	5,915	0.2
United Kingdom	890,525	2.1	2.1	2.0	16,095	0.0	73,205	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 – March 2018

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,780	2.8	-60	-2.1	790	39.7	505
Caithness and Sutherland	660	2.8	20	3.1	115	21.1	120
Argyll and the Islands	775	2.0	-5	-0.6	15	2.0	155
Moray	1,210	2.0	-15	-1.2	-70	-5.5	315
Innse Gall	300	1.9	0	0.0	-45	-13.0	40
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	415	1.7	-15	-3.5	70	20.3	50
Orkney	125	0.9	-5	-3.8	-20	-13.8	25
Shetland	120	0.8	10	9.1	-25	-17.2	25

Research and Economics
April 2018

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