

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

## JUNE 2018

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HIE Research and Economics Team



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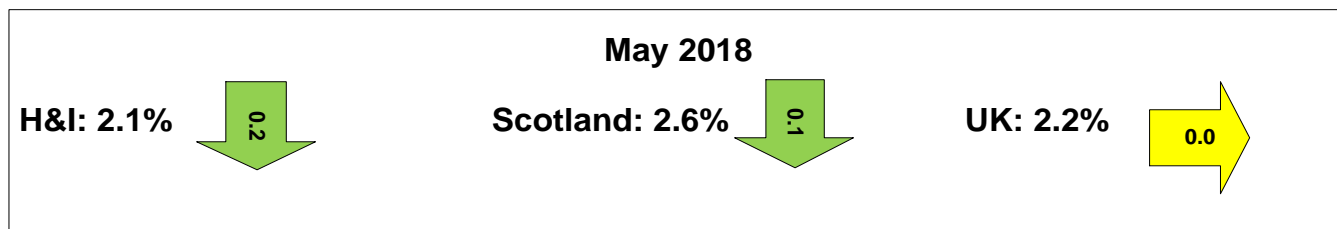
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 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 May 2018 claimant count figures were released on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

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

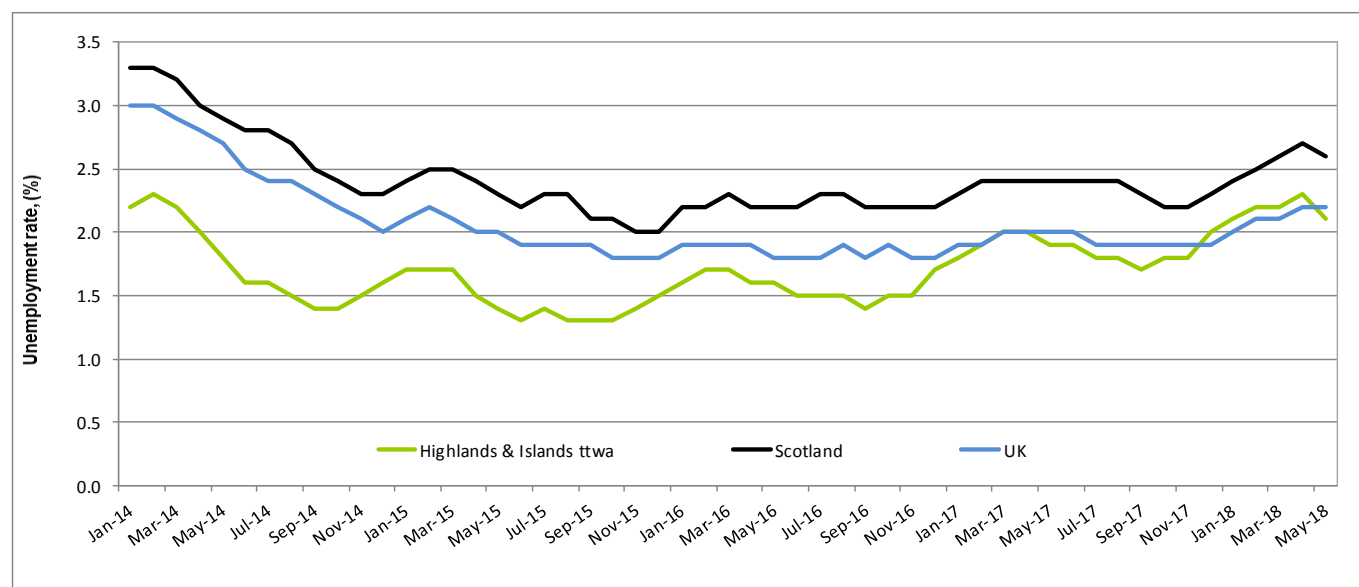


In May 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.1%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.6%**) and the UK (**2.2%**). The regions rate was lower than that of the previous month (2.3%), but higher than that of a year earlier (1.8% in May 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in May 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (4.1%); Wick (3.7%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.2%); Thurso (2.8%) and Inverness (2.7%). Twelve TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in May 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.1%) – Fort William and Elgin (both 1.8%); Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh, Ullapool and Eilean Siar (all 1.7%); Lochgilphead (1.6%); Portree (1.4%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (1.3%); Oban (1.0%); Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands (both 0.8%) and Mull & Islay (0.7%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in May 2018 was 6,110. Out of the total, 1,160 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	May 2018		April 2018	May 2017	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Aliness & Invergordon	540	4.1	4.3	2.9	-35	-0.2	160	1.2
Wick	275	3.7	3.8	2.4	-10	-0.1	95	1.3
Dunoon & Rothesay	360	3.2	3.2	3.0	-5	0.0	20	0.2
Thurso	250	2.8	2.8	1.7	5	0.0	95	1.1
Inverness	2,060	2.7	3.0	2.2	-205	-0.3	390	0.5
Golpsie & Brora	140	2.6	2.9	2.2	-15	-0.3	20	0.4
Campbeltown	90	2.1	2.1	2.6	-5	0.0	-20	-0.5
Fort William	235	1.8	2.0	0.9	-20	-0.2	120	0.9
Elgin	1,135	1.8	1.9	1.9	-85	-0.1	-50	-0.1
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	70	1.7	1.9	1.2	-10	-0.2	20	0.5
Eilean Siar	265	1.7	1.7	1.8	-15	0.0	-20	-0.1
Ullapool	70	1.7	1.6	1.4	5	0.1	10	0.3
Lochgilphead	85	1.6	1.6	1.6	-5	0.0	0	0.0
Portree	65	1.4	1.5	0.7	-5	-0.1	30	0.7
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	115	1.3	1.7	1.6	-35	-0.4	-20	-0.3
Oban	100	1.0	1.1	1.2	-10	-0.1	-20	-0.2
Shetland	125	0.8	0.9	0.9	-5	-0.1	0	-0.1
Orkney Islands	105	0.8	0.8	1.0	-5	0.0	-25	-0.2
Mull & Islay	30	0.7	1.0	0.6	-10	-0.3	5	0.1
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,115	2.1	2.3	1.8	-460	-0.2	800	0.3
Scotland	90,800	2.6	2.7	2.4	-2,415	-0.1	8,615	0.2
United Kingdom	904,310	2.2	2.2	2.0	-22,375	0.0	92,865	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 – May 2018

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	690	3.0	-25	-3.5	215	45.3	120
Inner Moray Firth	2,725	2.8	-270	-9.0	530	24.1	490
Argyll and the Islands	730	1.9	-30	-3.9	5	0.7	135
Moray	1,065	1.8	-85	-7.4	-60	-5.3	270
Innse Gall	265	1.7	-15	-5.4	-20	-7.0	40
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	405	1.7	-20	-4.7	175	76.1	50
Shetland	125	0.9	-5	-3.8	0	0.0	30
Orkney	105	0.8	-5	-4.5	-25	-19.2	25

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Contact us at [hieresearch@hient.co.uk](mailto:hieresearch@hient.co.uk)

[www.hie.co.uk](http://www.hie.co.uk)



Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean