

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JULY 2018

HIE Research and Economics Team



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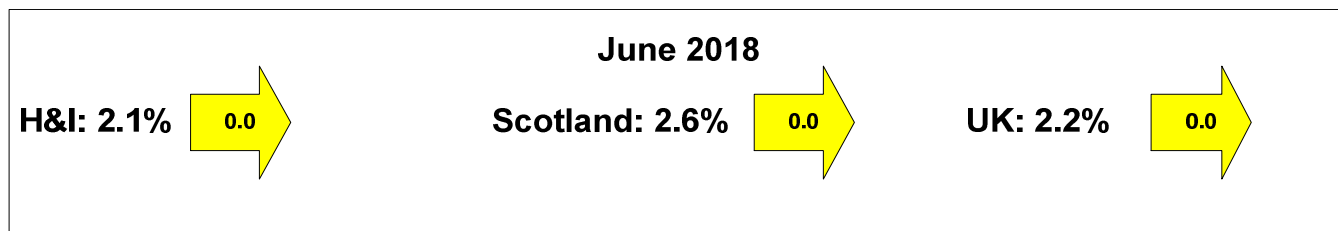
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 June 2018 claimant count figures were released on 17th July 2018.

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

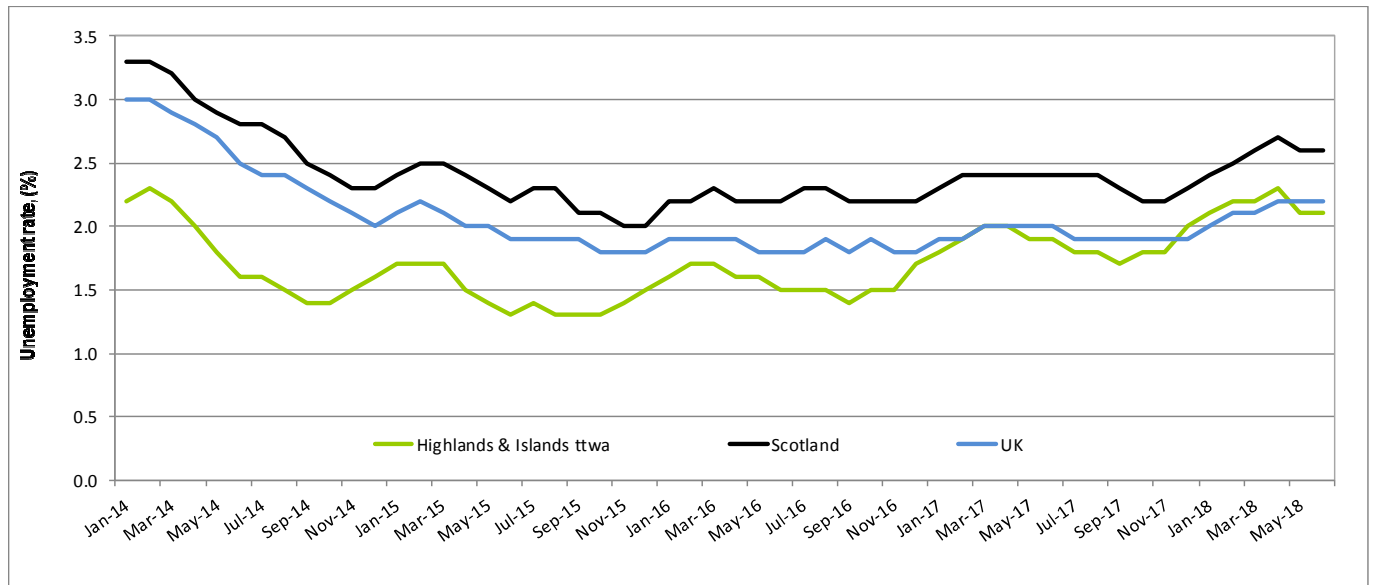


In June 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.1%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.6%**) and the UK (**2.2%**). There was no change in the rate for the region compared to last month, but is higher than that of a year earlier (1.8% in June 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in June 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (3.9%); Wick (3.8%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.1%); Thurso (2.8%) and Golspie & Brora (2.7%). Twelve TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in June 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.1%) – Fort William (1.8%); Elgin and Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh (both 1.7%); Lochgilphead (1.6%); Ullapool (1.5%); Eilean Siar and Grantown on Spey (both 1.4%); Portree (1.3%); Oban (0.9%); Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands (both 0.8%) and Mull & Islay (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in June 2018 was 5,915. Out of the total, 1,120 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 | June 2018 | | May 2018 | June 2017 | Monthly change | | Annual change | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|----------------|------|---------------|------|
| | number | rate | rate | rate | number | rate | number | rate |
| Aliness & Invergordon | 520 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 2.7 | -25 | -0.2 | 165 | 1.2 |
| Wick | 280 | 3.8 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 0 | 0.1 | 100 | 1.4 |
| Dunoon & Rothesay | 355 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.9 | -5 | 0.0 | 20 | 0.2 |
| Thurso | 245 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.1 | 90 | 1.1 |
| Golpsie & Brora | 145 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 5 | 0.1 | 35 | 0.7 |
| Inverness | 1,965 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.2 | -100 | -0.1 | 275 | 0.4 |
| Campbeltown | 95 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.6 | 5 | 0.1 | -20 | -0.4 |
| Fort William | 240 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 10 | 0.0 | 135 | 1.0 |
| Elgin | 1,095 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 | -40 | -0.1 | -35 | -0.1 |
| Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh | 70 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 25 | 0.6 |
| Lochgilphead | 85 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | -5 | -0.1 |
| Ullapool | 65 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.3 | -10 | -0.3 | 10 | 0.2 |
| Eilean Siar | 230 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.8 | -30 | -0.2 | -60 | -0.4 |
| Aviemore & Grantown on spey | 120 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | -5 | 0.0 |
| Portree | 60 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.7 | -5 | 0.0 | 25 | 0.6 |
| Oban | 95 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.1 | -10 | -0.1 | -15 | -0.2 |
| Shetland | 120 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 0.0 |
| Orkney Islands | 100 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.9 | -5 | 0.0 | -25 | -0.1 |
| Mull & Islay | 25 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.6 | -5 | -0.1 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Highlands and Islands TTWA | 5,915 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.8 | -220 | 0.0 | 730 | 0.3 |
| Scotland | 91,980 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 710 | 0.0 | 10,460 | 0.3 |
| United Kingdom | 899,955 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 1.9 | -7,420 | 0.0 | 98,965 | 0.3 |

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 – June 2018

| HIE Area Office | Total Unemployment | | Monthly change | | Annual change | | Youth Unemployment (18-24) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|
| | number | rate* | number | % | number | % | number |
| Caithness and Sutherland | 700 | 3.0 | 5 | 0.7 | 240 | 52.2 | 130 |
| Inner Moray Firth | 2,615 | 2.7 | -130 | -4.7 | 440 | 20.2 | 480 |
| Argyll and the Islands | 720 | 1.9 | -15 | -2.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 120 |
| Moray | 1,030 | 1.7 | -35 | -3.3 | -35 | -3.3 | 255 |
| Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross | 400 | 1.7 | 0 | 0.0 | 185 | 86.0 | 55 |
| Innse Gall | 230 | 1.4 | -30 | -11.5 | -60 | -20.7 | 35 |
| Shetland | 120 | 0.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 5 | 4.3 | 25 |
| Orkney | 100 | 0.7 | -5 | -4.8 | -25 | -20.0 | 20 |

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