

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

AUGUST 2018

HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

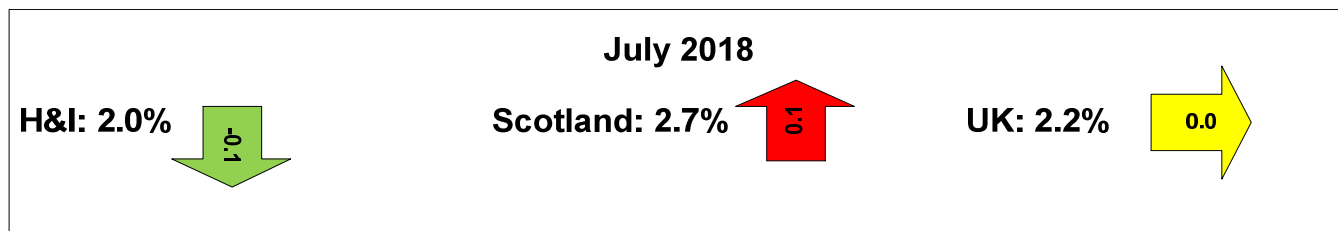
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 July 2018 claimant count figures were released on 14th August 2018.

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

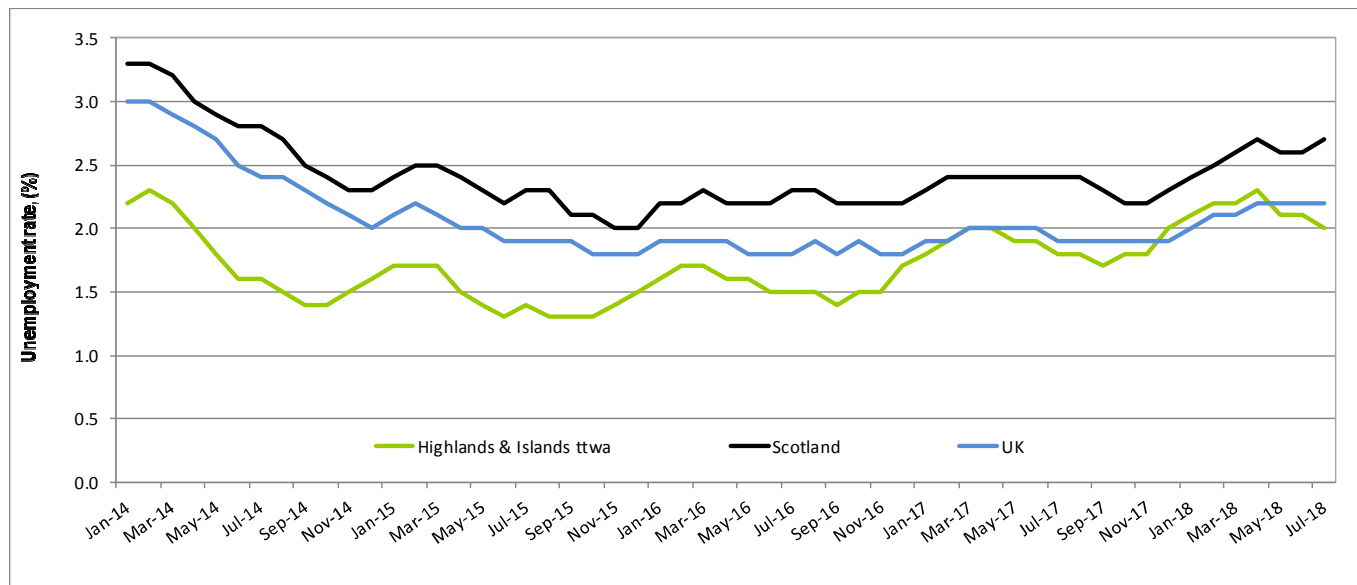


In July 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.0%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.7%**) and the UK (**2.2%**). The rate for the region was lower than that for last month (2.1% in June 2018) and of that of a year earlier (1.8% in July 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in July 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (4.0%); Wick (3.9%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.2%) and Thurso (2.8%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in July 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.0%) – Elgin (1.7%); Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh (1.6%); Lochgilphead, Ullapool, Eilean Siar and Aviemore and Grantown on Spey (all 1.4%); Portree (1.1%); Oban and Shetland Islands (both 0.9%); Mull & Islay (0.7%) and Orkney Islands (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in July 2018 was 5,905. 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 | July 2018 | | June 2018 | July 2017 | Monthly change | | Annual change | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|----------------|------|---------------|------|
| | number | rate | rate | rate | number | rate | number | rate |
| Aliness & Invergordon | 535 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 2.6 | 10 | 0.0 | 190 | 1.4 |
| Wick | 295 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 2.3 | 5 | 0.0 | 120 | 1.6 |
| Dunoon & Rothesay | 365 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 10 | 0.1 | 25 | 0.2 |
| Thurso | 255 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 5 | 0.0 | 95 | 1.0 |
| Golpsie & Brora | 140 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 1.9 | -5 | -0.1 | 35 | 0.7 |
| Inverness | 1,920 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.2 | -40 | 0.0 | 245 | 0.4 |
| Campbeltown | 90 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.3 | -5 | -0.2 | -10 | -0.3 |
| Fort William | 265 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 25 | 0.2 | 165 | 1.2 |
| Elgin | 1,090 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | -15 | 0.0 | -45 | -0.1 |
| Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh | 70 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0 | -0.1 | 20 | 0.4 |
| Lochgilphead | 75 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.7 | -10 | -0.2 | -15 | -0.3 |
| Ullapool | 60 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.2 | -5 | -0.1 | 10 | 0.2 |
| Eilean Siar | 230 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.8 | -5 | -0.1 | -60 | -0.4 |
| Aviemore & Grantown on spey | 120 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 | -10 | -0.1 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Portree | 55 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 0.6 | -10 | -0.3 | 25 | 0.5 |
| Oban | 95 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 5 | 0.0 | -5 | -0.1 |
| Shetland | 130 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 | 5 | 0.0 | 20 | 0.1 |
| Mull & Islay | 30 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.2 |
| Orkney Islands | 80 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.8 | -20 | -0.2 | -30 | -0.2 |
| Highlands and Islands TTWA | 5,890 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.8 | -70 | -0.1 | 785 | 0.2 |
| Scotland | 93,995 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 1,470 | 0.1 | 11,495 | 0.3 |
| United Kingdom | 903,955 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 1.9 | 1,850 | 0.0 | 107,470 | 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 – July 2018

| HIE Area Office | Total Unemployment | | Monthly change | | Annual change | | Youth Unemployment (18-24) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|
| | number | rate* | number | % | number | % | number |
| Caithness and Sutherland | 710 | 3.1 | -5 | -0.7 | 255 | 56.0 | 130 |
| Inner Moray Firth | 2,585 | 2.6 | -40 | -1.5 | 435 | 20.2 | 495 |
| Argyll and the Islands | 725 | 1.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 30 | 4.3 | 125 |
| Moray | 1,035 | 1.7 | -10 | -1.0 | -30 | -2.8 | 265 |
| Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross | 410 | 1.7 | 10 | 2.5 | 205 | 100.0 | 55 |
| Innse Gall | 230 | 1.4 | -5 | -2.1 | -60 | -20.7 | 35 |
| Shetland | 130 | 0.9 | 5 | 4.0 | 20 | 18.2 | 35 |
| Orkney | 80 | 0.6 | -20 | -20.0 | -30 | -27.3 | 20 |

Research and Economics
August 2018

Contact us at hieresearch@hient.co.uk

