

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST SEPTEMBER 2018

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HIE Research and Economics Team



## UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

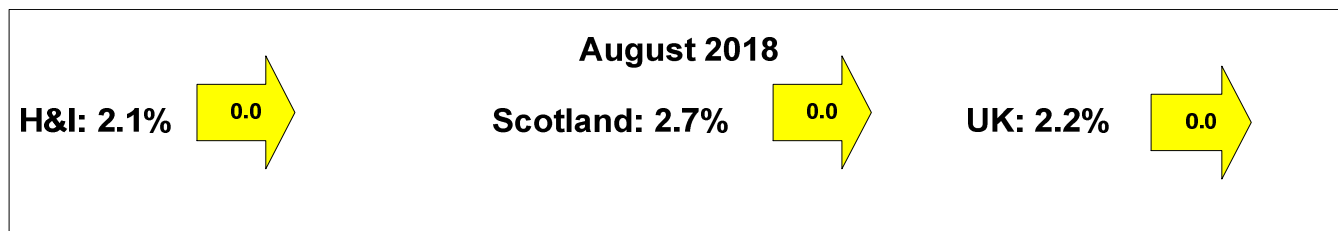
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 August 2018 claimant count figures were released on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

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

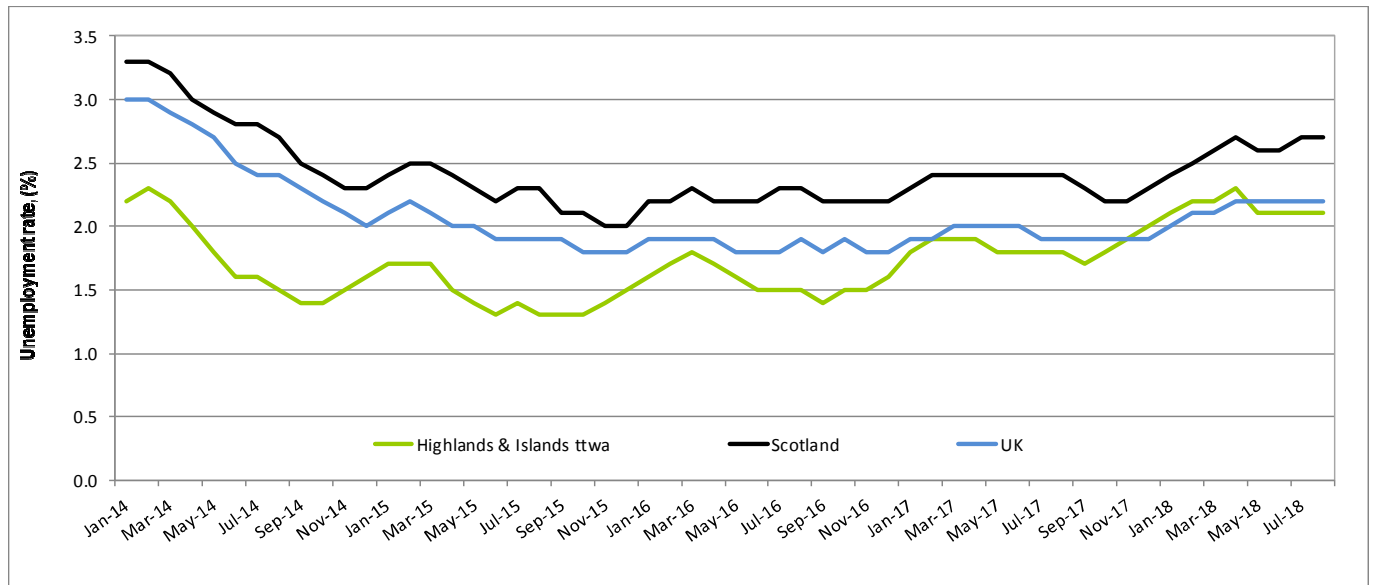


In August 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.1%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.7%**) and the UK (**2.2%**). The rate for the region was in-line with that of last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

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in August 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (3.9%); Wick (3.8%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.1%) and Thurso (2.9%). Thirteen TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in August 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.1%) – Campbeltown (2.0%); Fort William and Elgin (both 1.9%); Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh (1.6%); Ullapool, Eilean Siar and Aviemore and Grantown on Spey (all 1.5%); Lochgilphead (1.4%); Portree (1.1%); Oban and Shetland Islands (both 0.9%); Mull & Islay and Orkney Islands (both 0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in August 2018 was 5,950. Out of the total, 1,180 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	August 2018		July 2018	August 2017	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Aliness & Invergordon	520	3.9	4.0	2.9	-15	-0.1	140	1.0
Wick	280	3.8	3.9	2.4	-10	-0.1	105	1.4
Dunoon & Rothesay	355	3.1	3.1	2.9	-5	0.0	20	0.2
Thurso	260	2.9	2.8	1.9	5	0.1	85	1.0
Golpsie & Brora	145	2.6	2.6	1.9	5	0.0	40	0.7
Inverness	1,910	2.5	2.6	2.3	-20	-0.1	155	0.2
Campbeltown	90	2.0	2.1	2.1	0	-0.1	0	-0.1
Fort William	250	1.9	2.1	1.0	-15	-0.2	120	0.9
Elgin	1,180	1.9	1.7	1.8	70	0.2	60	0.1
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	65	1.6	1.5	1.0	0	0.1	25	0.6
Ullapool	60	1.5	1.4	1.2	0	0.1	10	0.3
Eilean Siar	235	1.5	1.4	1.7	5	0.1	-40	-0.2
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	130	1.5	1.5	1.4	5	0.0	10	0.1
Lochgilphead	80	1.4	1.4	1.8	0	0.0	-15	-0.4
Portree	50	1.1	1.1	0.7	0	0.0	20	0.4
Oban	90	0.9	0.9	1.1	-5	0.0	-20	-0.2
Shetland	135	0.9	0.9	0.7	5	0.0	40	0.2
Mull & Islay	25	0.6	0.7	0.5	-5	-0.1	5	0.1
Orkney Islands	80	0.6	0.6	0.8	-5	0.0	-30	-0.2
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,950	2.1	2.1	1.8	30	0.0	735	0.3
Scotland	95,765	2.7	2.7	2.4	1,390	0.0	13,000	0.3
United Kingdom	919,000	2.2	2.2	1.9	12,845	0.0	116,730	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 – August 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	0	0.0	240	51.1	130
Inner Moray Firth	2,570	2.6	-30	-1.2	305	13.5	500
Moray	1,115	1.9	65	6.2	60	5.7	295
Argyll and the Islands	710	1.8	-10	-1.4	15	2.2	115
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	395	1.7	-15	-3.7	170	75.6	55
Innse Gall	235	1.5	5	2.2	-40	-14.5	35
Shetland	135	0.9	5	3.8	40	42.1	35
Orkney	80	0.6	-5	-5.9	-30	-27.3	15

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