

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

OCTOBER 2018

HIE Research and Economics Team



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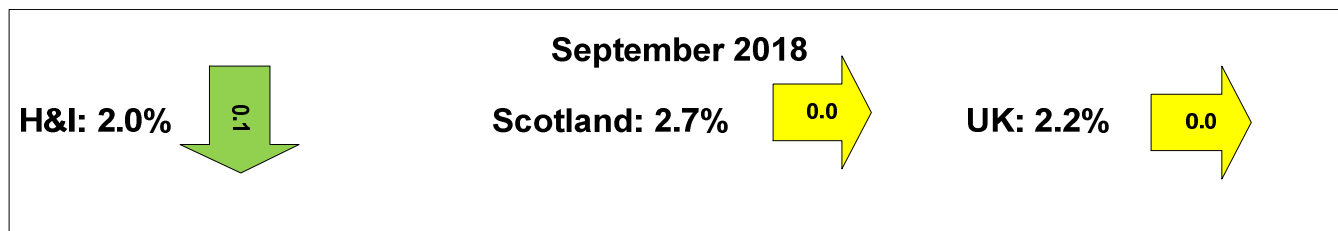
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 September 2018 claimant count figures were released on 16th October 2018.

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

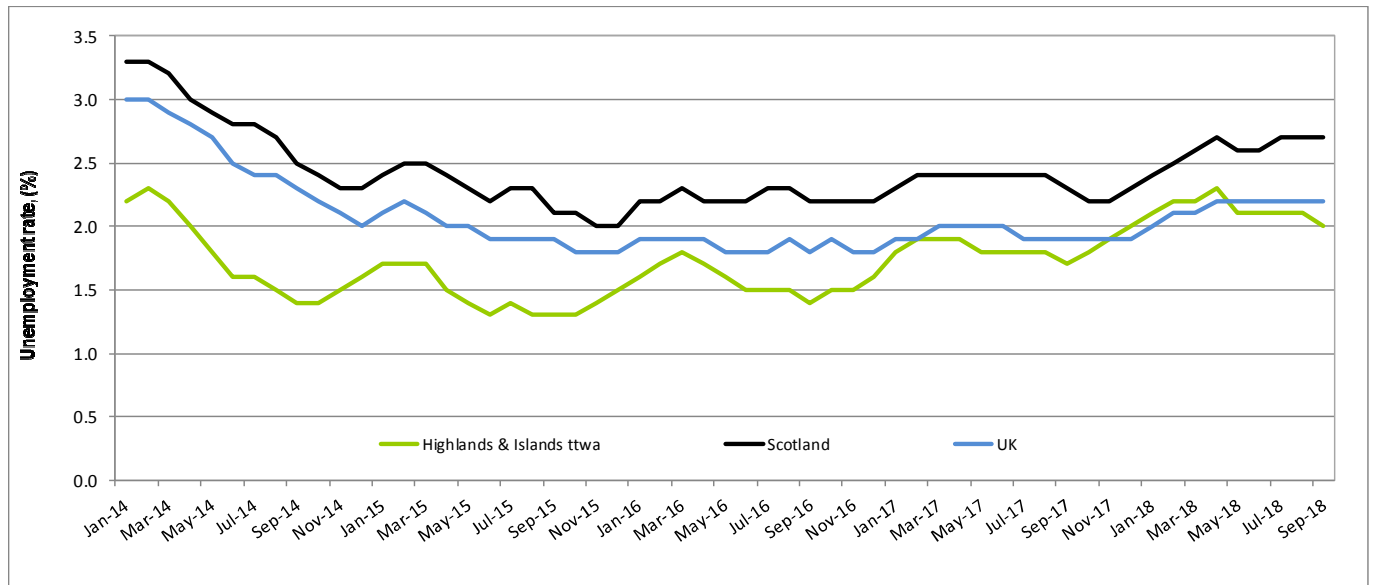


In September 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.0%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.7%**) and the UK (**2.2%**). The rate for the region was lower than that of last month (2.1% in August 2018) but higher than that of a year earlier (1.7% in September 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in September 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (4.0%); Wick (3.9%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.0%) and Thurso (2.9%). Thirteen TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in September 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.0%) – Fort William (1.9%); Campbeltown and Elgin (both 1.8%); Ullapool, Lochgilphead and Aviemore and Grantown on Spey (1.6%); Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh (1.5%); Eilean Siar (1.4%); Portree (1.1%); Oban and Shetland Islands (both 0.9%); Orkney Islands and Mull & Islay (both 0.5%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in September 2018 was 5,845. Out of the total, 1,100 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	September 2018		August 2018		September 2017		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Aliness & Invergordon	530	4.0	4.0	3.0	5	0.0	125	1.0		
Wick	290	3.9	3.7	2.6	10	0.2	95	1.3		
Dunoon & Rothesay	340	3.0	3.1	2.8	-15	-0.1	20	0.2		
Thurso	255	2.9	2.9	1.8	-10	0.0	95	1.1		
Golpsie & Brora	140	2.6	2.6	1.8	0	0.0	40	0.8		
Inverness	1,860	2.5	2.6	2.3	-60	-0.1	120	0.2		
Fort William	245	1.9	1.9	0.9	-5	0.0	130	1.0		
Campbeltown	80	1.8	2.1	2.1	-10	-0.3	-10	-0.3		
Elgin	1,160	1.8	1.9	1.6	-30	-0.1	125	0.2		
Ullapool	65	1.6	1.5	0.9	5	0.1	25	0.7		
Lochgilphead	90	1.6	1.4	1.6	10	0.2	5	0.0		
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	135	1.6	1.5	1.4	5	0.1	15	0.2		
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	65	1.5	1.6	1.0	0	-0.1	20	0.5		
Eilean Siar	225	1.4	1.5	1.6	-10	-0.1	-30	-0.2		
Portree	55	1.1	1.2	0.8	0	-0.1	15	0.3		
Oban	95	0.9	0.9	1.0	5	0.0	-5	-0.1		
Shetland	125	0.9	0.9	0.6	-10	0.0	45	0.3		
Orkney Islands	70	0.5	0.6	0.7	-10	-0.1	-30	-0.2		
Mull & Islay	25	0.5	0.6	0.4	0	-0.1	10	0.1		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,850	2.0	2.1	1.7	-125	-0.1	810	0.3		
Scotland	94,255	2.7	2.7	2.3	-1,490	0.0	15,500	0.4		
United Kingdom	931,050	2.2	2.2	1.9	10,760	0.0	135,585	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 – September 2018

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	715	3.1	5	0.7	245	52.1	135
Inner Moray Firth	2,535	2.6	-50	-1.9	265	11.7	490
Moray	1,090	1.8	-35	-3.1	115	11.8	250
Argyll and the Islands	690	1.8	-15	-2.1	40	6.2	105
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	395	1.7	0	0.0	180	83.7	55
Innse Gall	225	1.4	-10	-4.3	-30	-11.8	30
Shetland	125	0.9	-10	-7.4	45	56.3	25
Orkney	70	0.5	-10	-12.5	-30	-30.0	10

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