

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST NOVEMBER 2018

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HIE Research and Economics Team



## UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

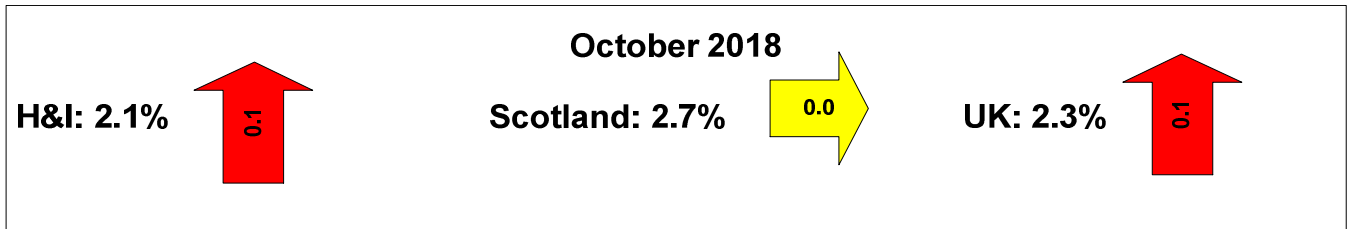
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 October 2018 claimant count figures were released on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

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

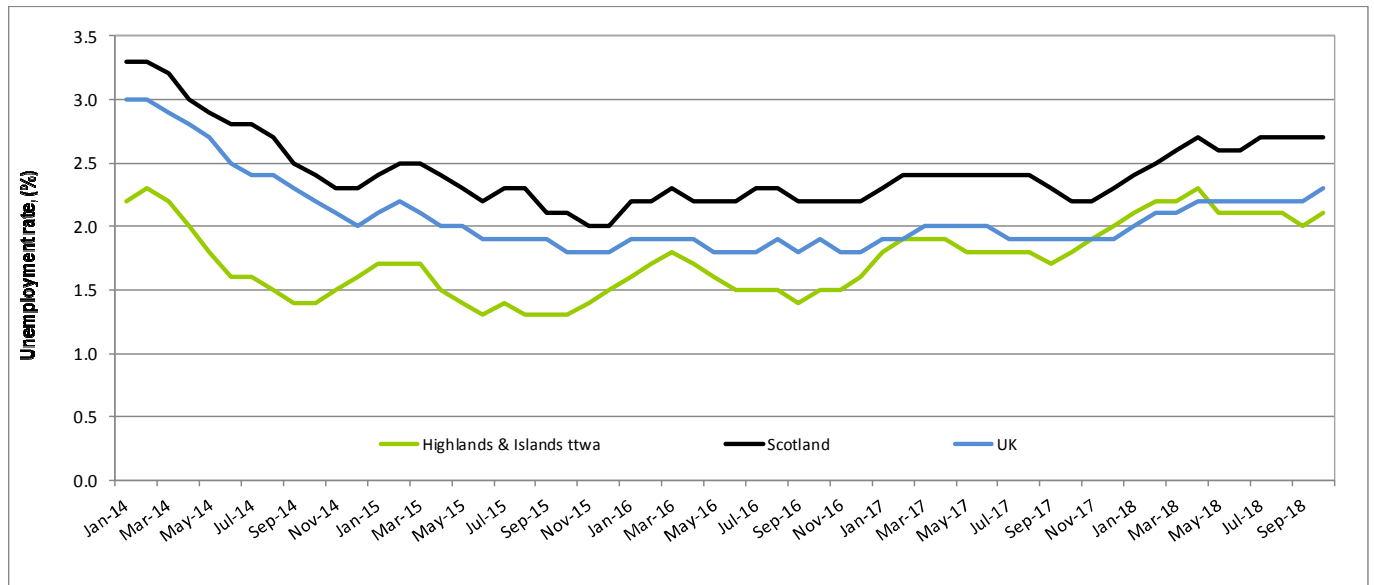


In October 2018, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.1%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.7%**) and the UK (**2.3%**). The rate for the region was higher than that of last month (2.0% in September 2018) and that of a year earlier (1.8% in October 2017).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in October 2018 were Alness & Invergordon (3.9%); Wick (3.6%); Dunoon & Rothesay (3.1%) and Thurso (2.9%). Thirteen TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in October 2018 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.1%) – Campbeltown (2.0%); Fort William and Elgin (both 1.9%); Ullapool, Lochgilphead and Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh (all 1.6%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Eilean Siar (both 1.5%); Portree (1.3%); Oban (0.9%); Shetland Islands and Mull & Islay (both 0.8%) and Orkney Islands (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in October 2018 was 5,920. Out of the total, 1,115 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	October 2018		September 2018	October 2017	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Aliness & Invergordon	520	3.9	4.1	3.3	-30	-0.2	80	0.6
Wick	275	3.6	3.9	2.9	-15	-0.3	60	0.7
Dunoon & Rothesay	355	3.1	3.0	2.7	15	0.1	40	0.4
Thurso	260	2.9	2.9	1.8	5	0.0	95	1.1
Inverness	1,875	2.5	2.4	2.5	35	0.1	20	0.0
Golpsie & Brora	130	2.4	2.6	1.9	-10	-0.2	25	0.5
Campbeltown	85	2.0	1.9	2.0	0	0.1	-5	0.0
Fort William	245	1.9	1.9	1.2	0	0.0	95	0.7
Elgin	1,225	1.9	1.8	1.6	60	0.1	225	0.3
Ullapool	65	1.6	1.6	1.1	0	0.0	20	0.5
Lochgilphead	90	1.6	1.6	1.6	5	0.0	0	0.0
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	70	1.6	1.5	1.1	5	0.1	25	0.5
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	125	1.5	1.6	1.5	-15	-0.1	0	0.0
Eilean Siar	240	1.5	1.4	1.7	15	0.1	-25	-0.2
Portree	60	1.3	1.2	0.8	5	0.1	25	0.5
Oban	95	0.9	0.9	1.0	5	0.0	-10	-0.1
Shetland	115	0.8	0.9	0.5	-10	-0.1	40	0.3
Mull & Islay	35	0.8	0.6	0.5	10	0.2	15	0.3
Orkney Islands	75	0.6	0.5	0.8	10	0.1	-35	-0.2
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,940	2.1	2.0	1.8	95	0.1	695	0.3
Scotland	94,320	2.7	2.7	2.2	75	0.0	16,890	0.5
United Kingdom	948,110	2.3	2.2	1.9	14,880	0.1	154,730	0.4

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 – October 2018

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	685	3.0	-30	-4.2	185	37.0	130
Inner Moray Firth	2,530	2.6	-5	-0.2	105	4.3	495
Moray	1,150	1.9	55	5.0	210	22.3	260
Argyll and the Islands	720	1.9	35	5.1	65	9.9	110
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	405	1.7	15	3.8	155	62.0	50
Innse Gall	240	1.5	15	6.7	-25	-9.4	35
Shetland	115	0.8	-10	-8.0	40	53.3	20
Orkney	75	0.6	10	15.4	-35	-31.8	15

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