

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

MAY 2017

HIE Research and Economics Team



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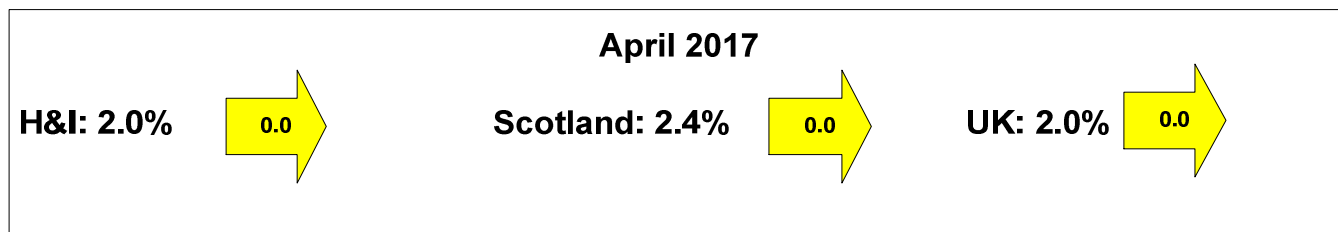
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 April 2017 claimant count figures were released on 17th May 2017.

As illustrated by the chart below, the Highlands and Islands continues to have lower unemployment than Scotland, but is in line with that for the UK.

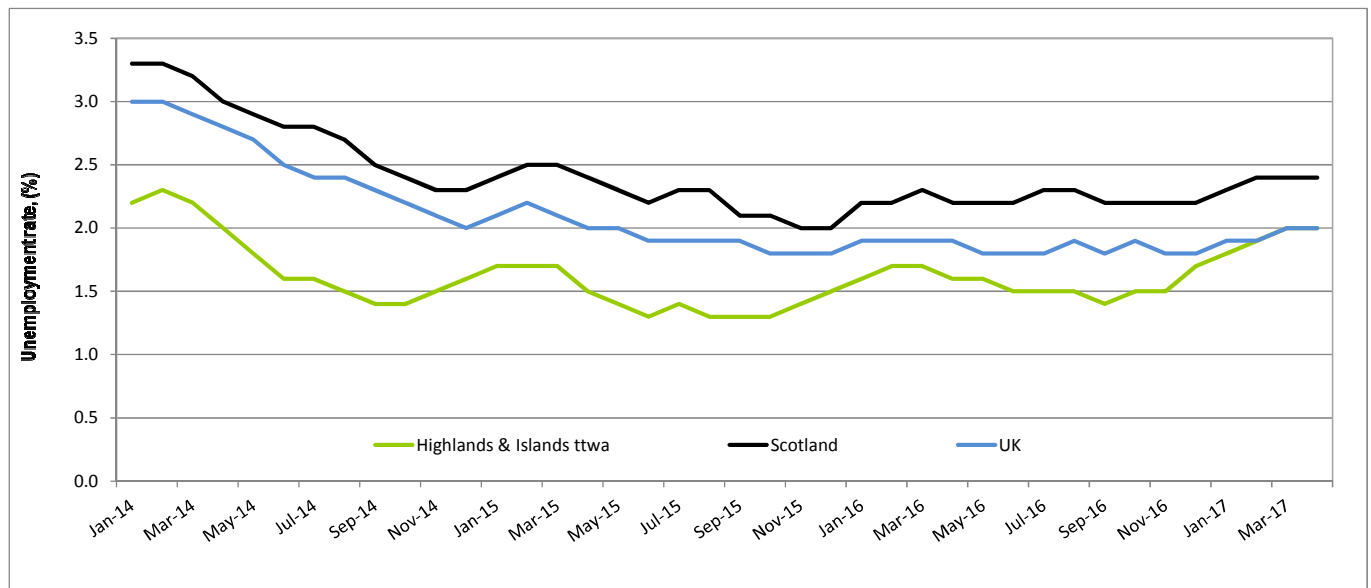


In April 2017, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.0%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.4%**) but in-line with that for the UK. There was no change in the rate for the region compared to last month, however, it is higher than that of a year earlier (1.7% in April 2016).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in April 2017 were Dunoon & Rothesay (3.1%); Alness & Invergordon (3.0%) and Wick (2.6%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in April 2017 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.0%) – Thurso (1.9%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (1.7%); Lochgilphead and Ullapool (both with 1.6%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.3%); Oban (1.2%); Fort William and Orkney Islands (both 1.1%); Portree (1.0%); Shetland (0.9%) and Mull & Islay (0.7%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in April 2017 was 5,645. Out of the total, 1,105 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2017)



* 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	April 2017		March 2017		April 2016		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Dunoon & Rothesay	355	3.1	3.1	3.1	350	3.3	-5	0.0	-25	-0.2
Alness & Invergordon	395	3.0	3.1	3.1	380	2.7	-15	-0.1	35	0.3
Wick	195	2.6	2.7	2.7	205	2.5	-10	-0.1	5	0.1
Golpsie & Brora	130	2.4	2.4	2.4	130	1.9	0	0.0	30	0.5
Campbeltown	105	2.4	2.1	2.1	115	2.1	10	0.3	15	0.3
Inverness	1,745	2.3	2.2	2.2	1,630	1.5	115	0.1	610	0.8
Eilean Siar	325	2.0	2.1	2.1	345	2.2	-20	-0.1	-35	-0.2
Elgin	1,265	2.0	2.1	2.1	1,355	1.8	-90	-0.1	130	0.2
Thurso	175	1.9	2.1	2.1	190	2.2	-15	-0.2	-20	-0.3
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	145	1.7	1.6	1.6	135	1.0	10	0.1	60	0.7
Lochgilphead	90	1.6	1.7	1.7	95	1.3	-5	-0.1	20	0.3
Ullapool	65	1.6	1.7	1.7	80	1.2	-5	-0.1	15	0.4
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	55	1.3	1.6	1.6	70	1.3	-15	-0.3	0	0.0
Oban	120	1.2	1.3	1.3	135	1.0	-15	-0.1	20	0.2
Fort William	145	1.1	1.4	1.4	175	1.3	-40	-0.3	-20	-0.2
Orkney Islands	145	1.1	1.1	1.1	155	0.9	0	0.0	30	0.2
Portree	45	1.0	1.2	1.2	60	1.2	-15	-0.2	-10	-0.2
Shetland	135	0.9	1.0	1.0	145	1.0	-10	-0.1	-15	-0.1
Mull & Islay	30	0.7	0.7	0.7	30	0.6	0	0.0	5	0.1
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,665	2.0	2.0	2.0	5,540	1.7	-125	0.0	850	0.3
Scotland	84,205	2.4	2.4	2.4	84,925	2.3	-120	0.0	4,740	0.1
United Kingdom	827,525	2.0	2.0	2.0	832,385	1.9	4,860	0.0	33,890	0.1

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 - April 2017

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,300	2.4	110	5.0	715	45.1	390
Caithness and Sutherland	515	2.2	-30	-5.5	10	2.0	105
Moray	1,200	2.0	-80	-6.3	135	12.7	310
Innse Gall	325	2.0	-20	-5.8	-35	-9.7	45
Argyll and the Islands	740	1.9	-20	-2.6	10	1.4	155
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	285	1.2	-65	-18.6	-20	-6.6	35
Orkney	145	1.1	0	0.0	30	26.1	30
Shetland	135	0.9	-10	-6.9	-15	-10.0	35

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