

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JUNE 2017

HIE Research and Economics Team



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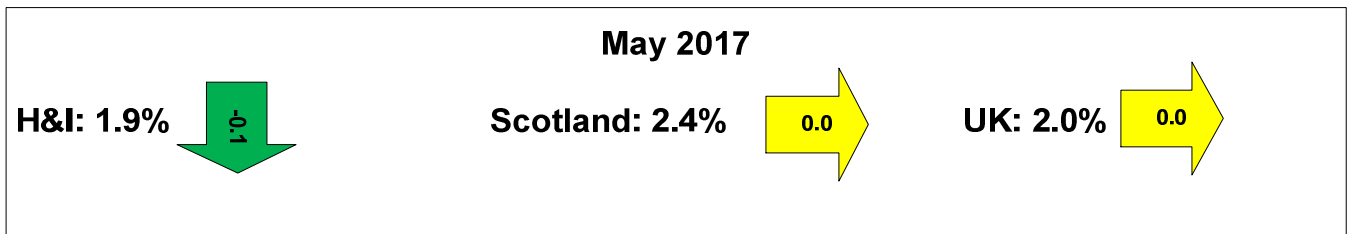
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 May 2017 claimant count figures were released on 14th June 2017.

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

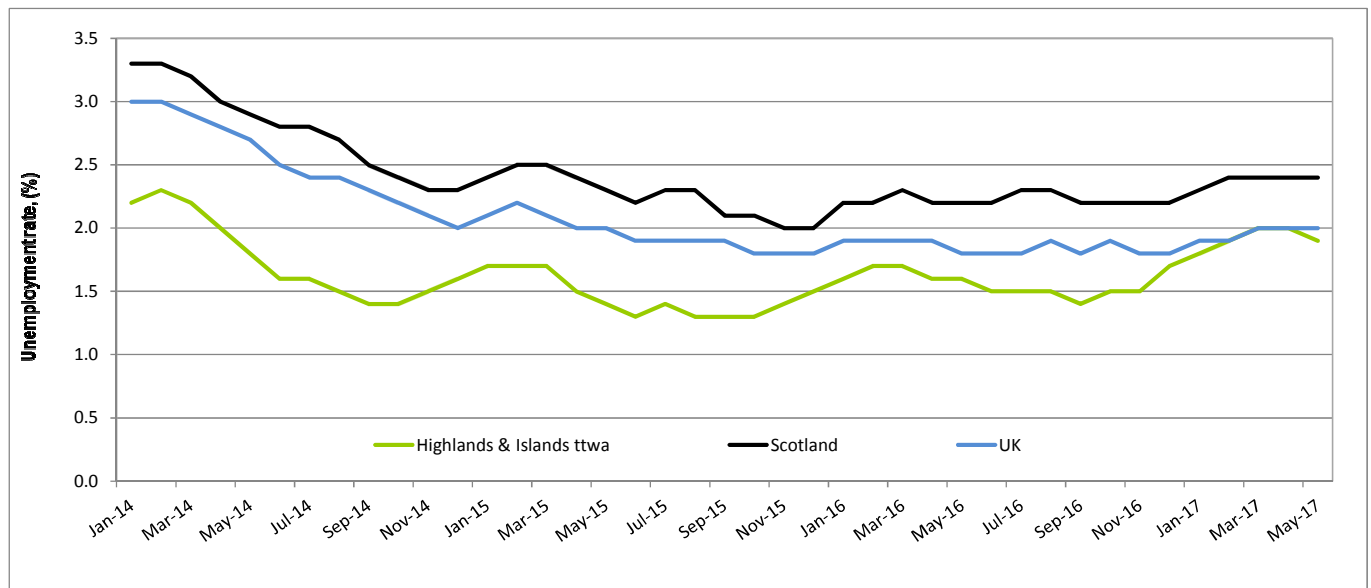


In May 2017, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.9%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.4%**) and the UK (**2.0%**). The rate for the region was lower than last month (2.0% in April 2017) but higher than that of a year earlier (1.6% in May 2016).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in May 2017 were Dunoon & Rothesay and Alness & Invergordon (both 2.9%) and Campbeltown (2.5%). Twelve TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in May 2017 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.9%) – Eilean Siar, Thurso and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (all with 1.8%); Lochgilphead (1.6%); Ullapool (1.5%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Oban (both with 1.2%); Orkney Islands (1.0%); Fort William (0.9%); Shetland (0.8%) and Portree and Mull & Islay (both with 0.7%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in May 2017 was 5,460. Out of the total, 1,030 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	May 2017		April 2017		May 2016		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	335	2.9	3.1	3.2	-15	-0.2	-35	-0.3		
Alness & Invergordon	380	2.9	3.0	2.7	-20	-0.1	25	0.2		
Campbeltown	115	2.5	2.4	2.1	10	0.1	20	0.4		
Wick	180	2.4	2.6	2.5	-15	-0.2	-5	-0.1		
Inverness	1,810	2.4	2.4	1.5	35	0.0	710	0.9		
Golpsie & Brora	120	2.2	2.3	1.9	-5	-0.1	20	0.3		
Elgin	1,185	1.9	2.0	1.8	-65	-0.1	60	0.1		
Eilean Siar	285	1.8	2.0	2.1	-35	-0.2	-55	-0.3		
Thurso	165	1.8	1.9	1.9	-10	-0.1	-10	-0.1		
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	150	1.8	1.7	1.0	0	0.1	70	0.8		
Lochgilphead	85	1.6	1.6	1.2	-5	0.0	15	0.4		
Ullapool	60	1.5	1.5	1.1	-5	0.0	10	0.4		
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	50	1.2	1.3	1.1	-5	-0.1	5	0.1		
Oban	120	1.2	1.2	0.9	-5	0.0	30	0.3		
Orkney Islands	130	1.0	1.1	0.8	-15	-0.1	30	0.2		
Fort William	120	0.9	1.1	1.1	-20	-0.2	-20	-0.2		
Shetland	125	0.8	1.0	0.9	-15	-0.2	-5	-0.1		
Portree	35	0.7	1.0	1.1	-10	-0.3	-15	-0.4		
Mull & Islay	30	0.7	0.6	0.6	5	0.1	5	0.1		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,480	1.9	2.0	1.6	-195	-0.1	855	0.3		
Scotland	82,640	2.4	2.4	2.3	-1,610	0.0	4,145	0.1		
United Kingdom	817,085	2.0	2.0	1.9	-10,360	0.0	33,840	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 - May 2017

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,350	2.4	20	0.9	810	52.6	395
Caithness and Sutherland	485	2.1	-25	-4.9	10	2.1	95
Moray	1,125	1.9	-65	-5.5	70	6.6	280
Innse Gall	285	1.8	-35	-10.9	-55	-16.2	35
Argyll and the Islands	725	1.8	-15	-2.0	20	2.8	145
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	235	1.0	-40	-14.5	-25	-9.6	25
Orkney	130	1.0	-15	-10.3	30	30.0	25
Shetland	125	0.9	-15	-10.7	-5	-3.8	30

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