

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

## JULY 2017

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HIE Research and Economics Team



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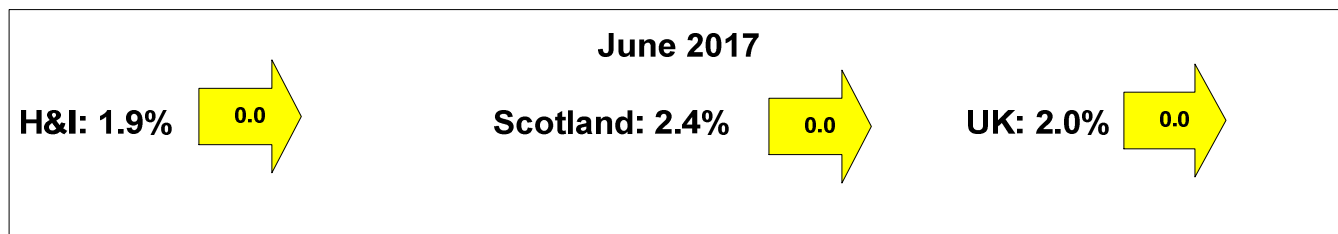
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 June 2017 claimant count figures were released on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

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

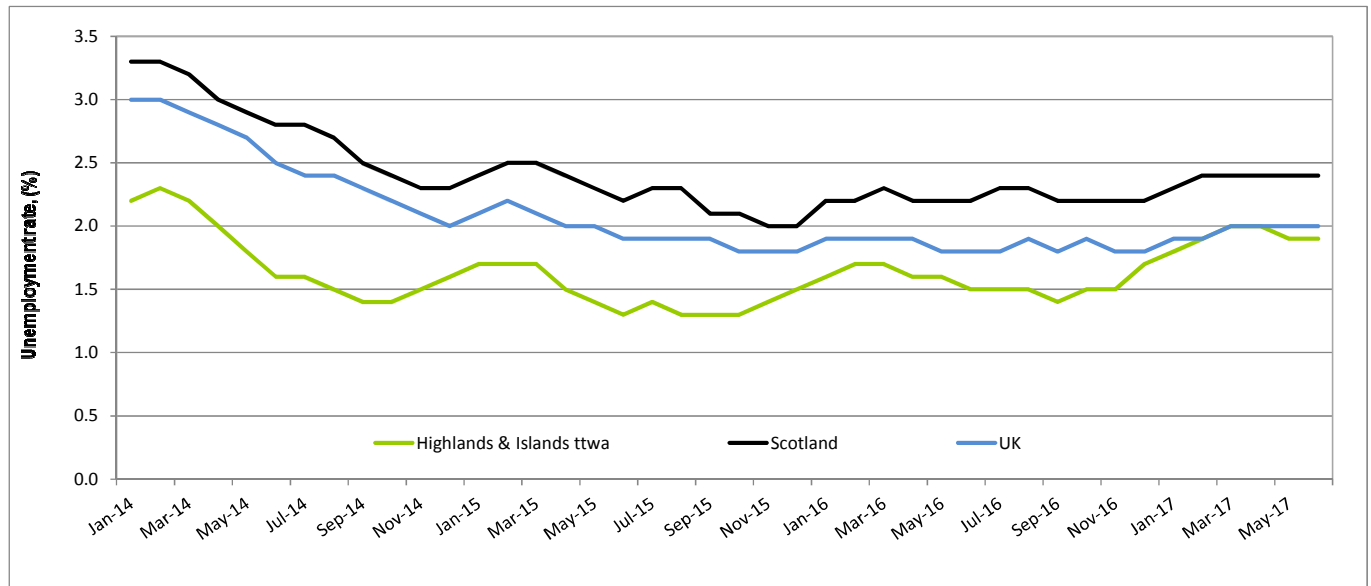


In June 2017, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.9%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.4%**) and the UK (**2.0%**). There was no change in the rate for the region compared to last month, but it was higher than that of a year earlier (1.5% in June 2016).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in June 2017 were Dunoon & Rothesay (2.9%); Alness & Invergordon (2.7%) and Campbeltown and Inverness (both with 2.5%). Thirteen TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in June 2017 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.9%) – Eilean Siar and Elgin (both with 1.8%); Thurso (1.7%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Lochgilphead (both 1.6%); Ullapool (1.4%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.2%); Oban (1.1%); Fort William and Orkney Islands (both 0.9%); Shetland (0.8%); Portree (0.7%) and Mull & Islay (0.5%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in June 2017 was 5,355. Out of the total, 985 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	June 2017		May 2017	June 2016	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	335	2.9	2.9	3.2	-5	0.0	-35	-0.3
Alness & Invergordon	355	2.7	2.8	2.6	-20	-0.1	5	0.1
Campbeltown	110	2.5	2.5	2.1	0	0.0	15	0.4
Inverness	1,855	2.5	2.4	1.4	40	0.1	805	1.1
Wick	180	2.4	2.4	2.2	0	0.0	10	0.2
Golpsie & Brora	110	2.0	2.3	2.0	-15	-0.3	0	0.0
Eilean Siar	285	1.8	1.8	1.9	0	0.0	-30	-0.1
Elgin	1,125	1.8	1.9	1.7	-60	-0.1	55	0.1
Thurso	155	1.7	1.8	1.8	-5	-0.1	-10	-0.1
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	135	1.6	1.8	0.9	-15	-0.2	55	0.7
Lochgilphead	90	1.6	1.5	1.3	5	0.1	20	0.3
Ullapool	60	1.4	1.5	0.9	-5	-0.1	20	0.5
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	50	1.2	1.2	1.0	0	0.0	5	0.2
Oban	115	1.1	1.2	0.8	-5	-0.1	30	0.3
Fort William	110	0.9	0.9	1.0	-10	0.0	-25	-0.1
Orkney Islands	125	0.9	1.0	0.8	-5	-0.1	20	0.1
Shetland	115	0.8	0.9	0.9	-10	-0.1	-15	-0.1
Portree	35	0.7	0.7	1.0	0	0.0	-10	-0.3
Mull & Islay	25	0.5	0.6	0.6	0	-0.1	0	-0.1
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,370	1.9	1.9	1.5	-110	0.0	915	0.4
Scotland	81,840	2.4	2.4	2.3	-945	0.0	3,545	0.1
United Kingdom	806,990	2.0	2.0	1.9	-11,220	0.0	38,795	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 - June 2017

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,355	2.4	0	0.0	870	58.6	395
Caithness and Sutherland	460	2.0	-25	-5.2	5	1.1	90
Moray	1,065	1.8	-60	-5.3	65	6.5	245
Innse Gall	285	1.8	0	0.0	-30	-9.5	40
Argyll and the Islands	720	1.8	-5	-0.7	20	2.9	140
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	230	1.0	-10	-4.2	-10	-4.2	25
Orkney	125	0.9	-5	-3.8	20	19.0	25
Shetland	115	0.8	-10	-8.0	-15	-11.5	25

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