

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

AUGUST 2017

HIE Research and Economics Team



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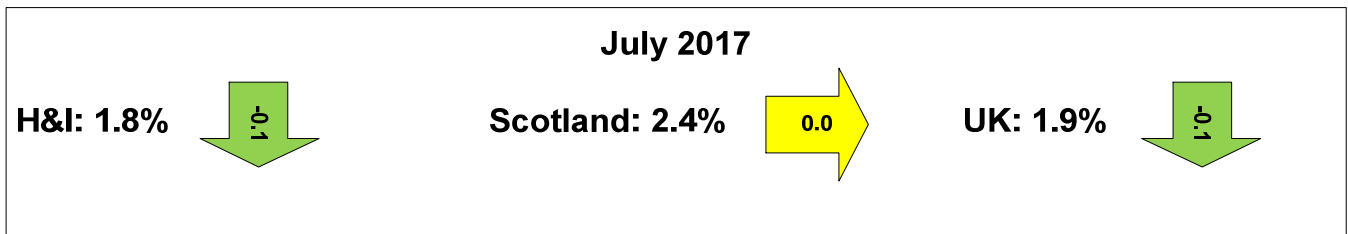
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 July 2017 claimant count figures were released on 16th August 2017.

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

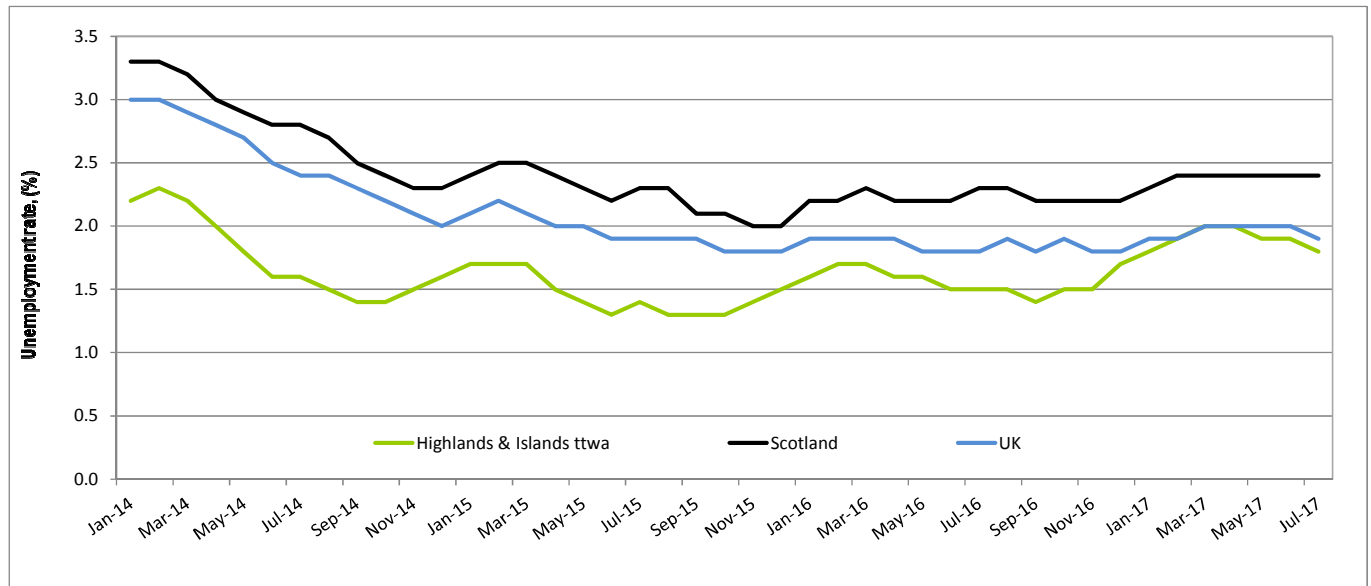


In July 2017, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.8%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.4%**) and the UK (**1.9%**). The rate for the region was lower than that of last month, but higher than that of a year earlier (1.5% in July 2016).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in July 2017 were Dunoon & Rothesay (2.9%); Alness & Invergordon (2.6%) and Inverness (2.5%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in July 2017 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.8%) – Thurso (1.7%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Lochgilphead (both 1.6%); Ullapool (1.4%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.2%); Oban (1.0%); Fort William, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands (all with 0.8%); Portree (0.7%) and Mull & Islay (0.5%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in July 2017 was 5,310. Out of the total, 1,005 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	July 2017		June 2017	July 2016	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	340	2.9	2.9	3.2	5	0.0	-30	-0.3
Alness & Invergordon	350	2.6	2.7	2.6	-5	-0.1	0	0.0
Inverness	1,860	2.5	2.5	1.3	5	0.0	885	1.2
Wick	180	2.4	2.4	2.1	0	0.0	20	0.3
Campbeltown	105	2.3	2.5	1.8	-10	-0.2	25	0.5
Golpsie & Brora	105	1.9	2.0	1.9	-5	-0.1	0	0.0
Eilean Siar	290	1.8	1.8	2.0	0	0.0	-25	-0.2
Elgin	1,130	1.8	1.8	1.6	0	0.0	85	0.2
Thurso	155	1.7	1.8	1.9	-5	-0.1	-10	-0.2
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	135	1.6	1.6	0.9	5	0.0	60	0.7
Lochgilphead	90	1.6	1.6	1.2	0	0.0	25	0.4
Ullapool	55	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	10	0.2
Oban	100	1.0	1.1	0.9	-10	-0.1	10	0.1
Fort William	110	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	0.0	-15	-0.2
Orkney Islands	110	0.8	0.9	0.8	-15	-0.1	0	0.0
Shetland	110	0.8	0.8	0.9	-5	0.0	-20	-0.1
Portree	35	0.7	0.8	0.9	0	-0.1	-10	-0.2
Mull & Islay	20	0.5	0.6	0.6	-5	-0.1	-5	-0.1
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,330	1.8	1.9	1.5	-50	-0.1	1,025	0.3
Scotland	83,040	2.4	2.4	2.3	865	0.0	3,060	0.1
United Kingdom	803,770	1.9	2.0	1.9	-5,220	-0.1	35,445	0.0

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 - July 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	5	0.2	950	67.6	400
Caithness and Sutherland	455	2.0	-10	-2.2	15	3.4	95
Moray	1,065	1.8	0	0.0	80	8.1	265
Innse Gall	290	1.8	0	0.0	-25	-7.9	40
Argyll and the Islands	700	1.8	-15	-2.1	20	2.9	140
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	225	0.9	-5	-2.2	0	0.0	20
Orkney	110	0.8	-15	-12.0	0	0.0	25
Shetland	110	0.8	-5	-4.3	-20	-15.4	20

Research and Economics
August 2017

Contact us at hieresearch@hient.co.uk

