

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST SEPTEMBER 2017

HIE Research and Economics Team



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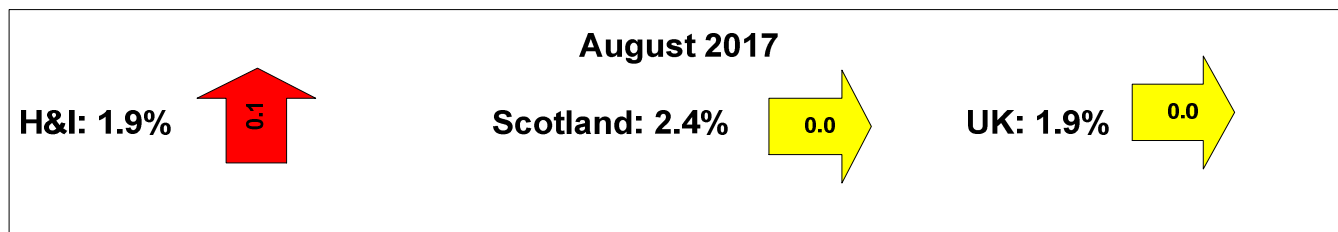
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 August 2017 claimant count figures were released on 13th September 2017.

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

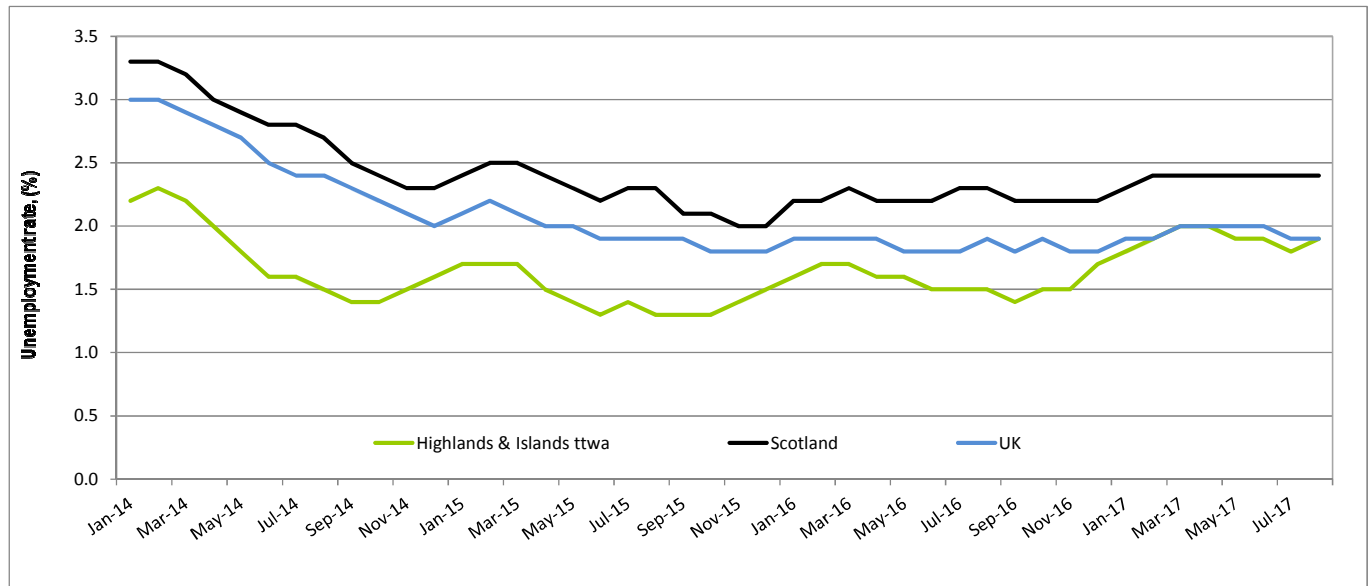


In August 2017, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.9%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.4%**) and inline with that for the UK (**1.9%**). The rate for the region was higher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

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in August 2017 were Dunoon & Rothesay and Alness & Invergordon (both 2.9%) and Inverness (2.5%). Twelve TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in August 2017 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.9%) – Elgin (1.8%); Lochgilphead and Eilean Siar (1.7%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (1.6%); Ullapool (1.2%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh, Oban and Fort William (all with 1.0%); Orkney Islands (0.8%); Portree (0.7%); Shetland Islands (0.6%) and Mull & Islay (0.5%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in August 2017 was 5,345. 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	August 2017		July 2017	August 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
Aliness & Invergordon	380	2.9	2.6	2.7	30	0.3	25	0.2
Inverness	1,875	2.5	2.5	1.3	15	0.0	865	1.2
Wick	180	2.4	2.3	2.2	5	0.1	15	0.2
Campbeltown	90	2.1	2.3	1.9	-10	-0.2	5	0.2
Golpsie & Brora	110	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	0.0	10	0.1
Thurso	175	2.0	1.8	1.9	15	0.2	5	0.1
Elgin	1,120	1.8	1.8	1.6	-15	0.0	120	0.2
Lochgilphead	95	1.7	1.6	1.2	5	0.1	25	0.5
Eilean Siar	275	1.7	1.8	1.9	-15	-0.1	-35	-0.2
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	135	1.6	1.6	0.9	0	0.0	60	0.7
Ullapool	50	1.2	1.3	0.9	-5	-0.1	15	0.3
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	45	1.0	1.2	1.0	-5	-0.2	5	0.0
Oban	105	1.0	1.0	1.0	5	0.0	5	0.0
Fort William	135	1.0	0.8	1.0	25	0.2	5	0.0
Orkney Islands	110	0.8	0.8	0.8	0	0.0	5	0.0
Portree	35	0.7	0.7	0.9	5	0.0	-10	-0.2
Shetland	95	0.6	0.8	0.9	-15	-0.2	-35	-0.3
Mull & Islay	25	0.5	0.5	0.5	5	0.0	0	0.0
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,370	1.9	1.8	1.5	40	0.1	1,050	0.4
Scotland	82,945	2.4	2.4	2.3	-290	0.0	1,685	0.1
United Kingdom	806,495	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,470	0.0	30,105	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 - August 2017

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,400	2.5	40	1.7	950	65.5	410
Caithness and Sutherland	480	2.1	15	3.2	30	6.7	100
Moray	1,055	1.8	-15	-1.4	115	12.2	255
Argyll and the Islands	690	1.8	-5	-0.7	-5	-0.7	140
Innse Gall	275	1.7	-15	-5.2	-35	-11.3	35
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	240	1.0	25	11.6	10	4.3	25
Orkney	110	0.8	0	0.0	5	4.8	20
Shetland	95	0.7	-15	-13.6	-35	-26.9	20

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