

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST NOVEMBER 2019

---

HIE Research and Economics Team



## UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

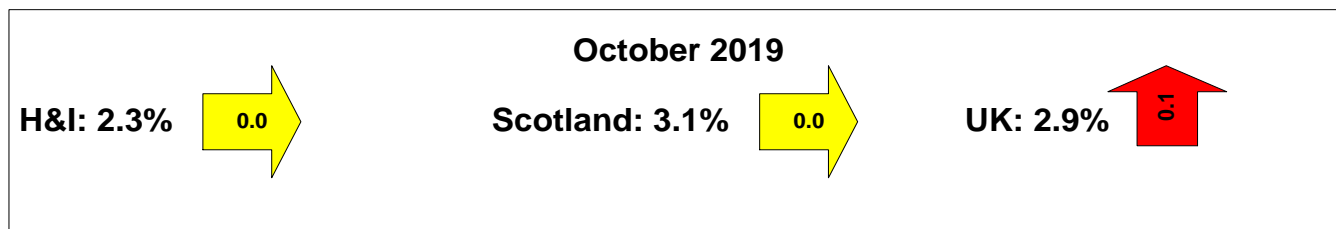
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 is now a measure of all those in receipt of Universal Credit who are out of work, including income based JSA claimants. Contribution based JSA claimants is 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 October 2019 claimant count figures were released on 12th November 2019.

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

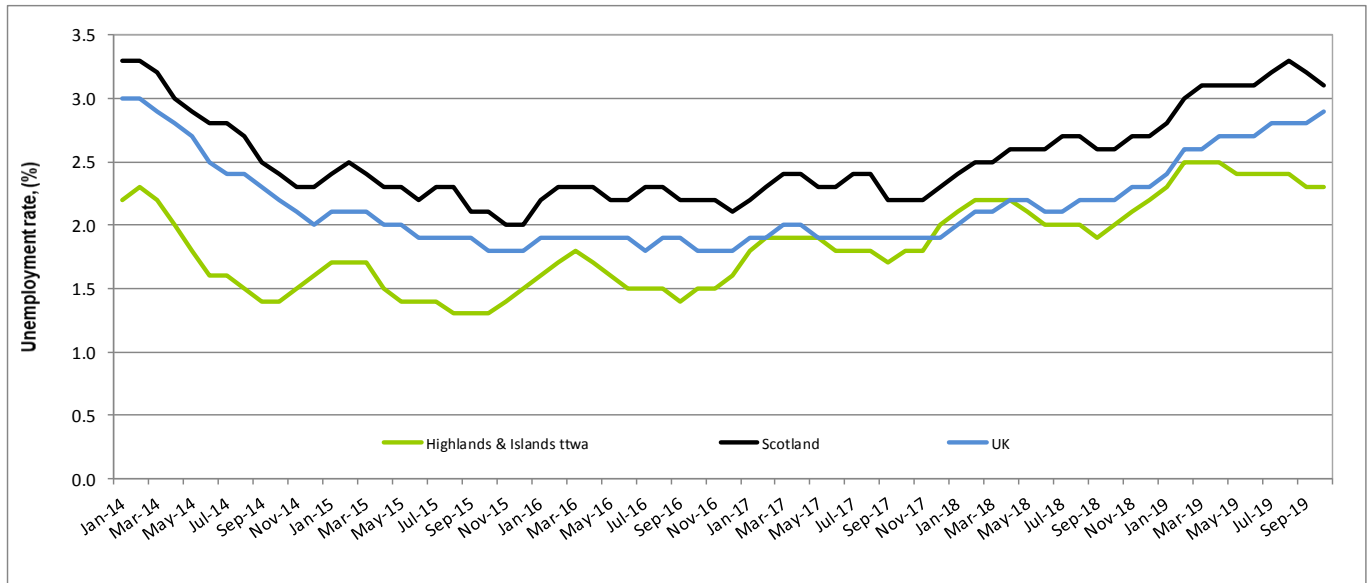


In October 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was 2.3%, which was below the rate for Scotland (3.1%) and the UK (2.9%). The was no change in the rate for the region over the month (2.3% in September 2019), however, it is higher than that of a year earlier (2.0% in October 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates were higher than the Scottish average in October 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay (4.3%); Wick (3.9%); Alness & Invergordon (3.7%) and Campbeltown (3.2%). Ten TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in October 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.3%) – Inverness, Fort William and Oban (all 2.0%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.7%); Ullapool and Shetland Islands (both 1.6%); Orkney Islands (1.4%); Mull & Islay and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (both 1.1%) and Portree (0.8%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area during the month was 6,515. Out of the total, 1,145 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2019)



\* 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	October 2019		September 2019	October 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	485	4.3	4.3	3.1	0	0.0	130	1.2
Wick	295	3.9	3.9	3.5	5	0.0	35	0.4
Alness & Invergordon	495	3.7	3.7	3.8	10	0.0	-10	-0.1
Campbeltown	135	3.2	3.2	2.0	0	0.0	50	1.2
Thurso	270	3.1	3.0	2.7	5	0.1	25	0.4
Golpsie & Brora	150	2.8	2.8	2.3	0	0.0	25	0.5
Lochgilphead	145	2.7	2.8	1.6	-5	-0.1	55	1.1
Elgin	1,550	2.5	2.4	1.9	25	0.1	325	0.6
Eilean Siar	345	2.2	2.1	1.5	5	0.1	105	0.7
Inverness	1,515	2.0	2.0	2.3	-15	0.0	-210	-0.3
Fort William	255	2.0	1.9	1.8	15	0.1	20	0.2
Oban	200	2.0	1.8	0.9	20	0.2	105	1.1
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	70	1.7	1.8	1.6	-5	-0.1	5	0.1
Ullapool	65	1.6	1.6	1.5	0	0.0	5	0.1
Shetland Islands	235	1.6	1.5	0.8	25	0.1	115	0.8
Orkney Islands	185	1.4	1.3	0.6	15	0.1	110	0.8
Mull & Islay	45	1.1	1.1	0.8	0	0.0	10	0.3
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	90	1.1	1.1	1.3	-5	0.0	-20	-0.2
Portree	40	0.8	0.9	1.1	0	-0.1	-15	-0.3
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,565	2.3	2.3	2.0	75	0.0	865	0.3
Scotland	109,515	3.1	3.1	2.6	825	0.0	17,675	0.5
United Kingdom	1,194,310	2.9	2.8	2.2	29,570	0.1	263,170	0.7

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 – October 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	745	3.3	10	1.4	95	14.6	130
Argyll and the Islands	1,085	2.8	15	1.4	365	50.7	160
Moray	1,425	2.4	25	1.8	280	24.5	290
Inner Moray Firth	2,105	2.2	-15	-0.7	-245	-10.4	375
Innse Gall	345	2.2	5	1.5	105	43.8	40
Shetland	235	1.7	25	11.9	115	95.8	50
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	390	1.6	5	1.3	5	1.3	60
Orkney	185	1.4	15	8.8	110	146.7	40

Research and Economics  
November 2019

Contact us at [hieresearch@hient.co.uk](mailto:hieresearch@hient.co.uk)

