

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST NOVEMBER 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

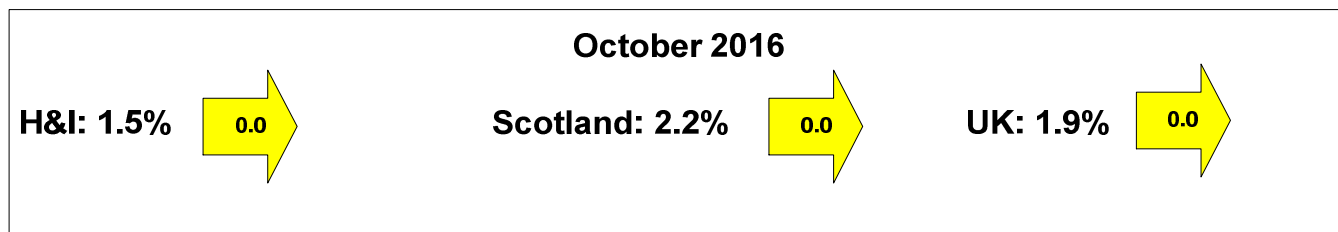
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 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 October 2016 claimant count figures were released on 16th November 2016.

As illustrated by the chart below, the Highlands and Islands continues to have lower unemployment than either Scotland or the UK - a trend which has been fairly constant since the recession.

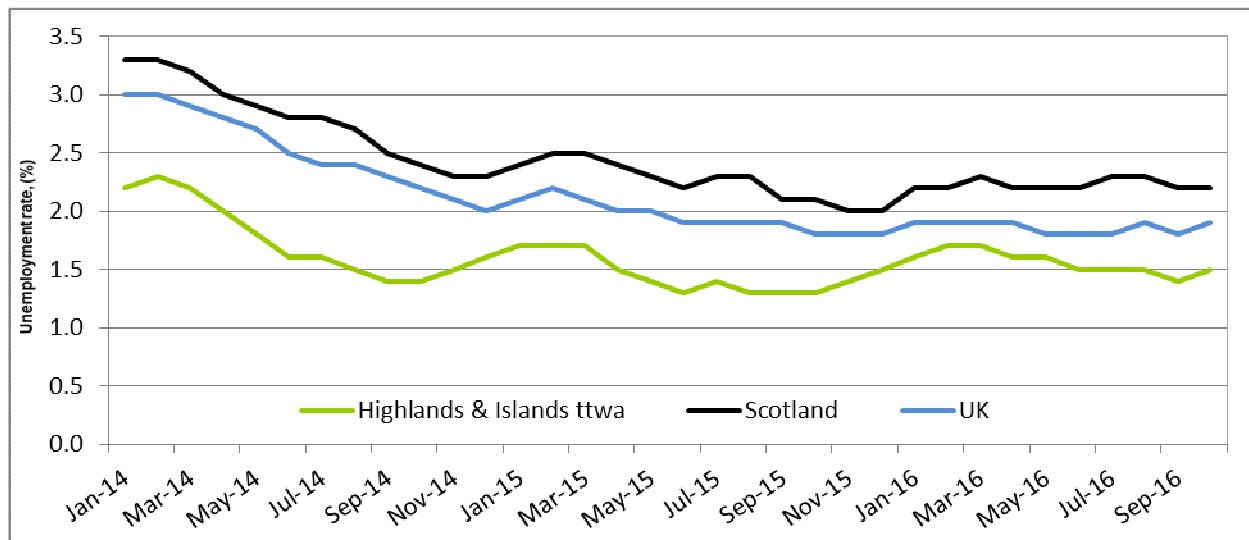


In October 2016, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.5%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.2%**) and the UK (**1.9%**). The region's rate was in-line with that of the previous month, but was higher than a year earlier (1.3% in October 2015).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in October 2016 were Dunoon & Rothesay (2.8%) and Alness & Invergordon (2.6%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in October 2016 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.5%) – Elgin (1.4%); Lochgilphead (1.2%); Oban (1.1%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh, Fort William and Aviemore and Grantown on Spey (all with 1.0%); Portree and Ullapool (both with 0.9%); Shetland and Orkney Islands (both with 0.8%) and Mull & Islay (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in October 2016 was 4,260. Out of the total, 890 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2016)



* 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 2016		September 2016		October 2015		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	325	2.8	3.0	2.7	-30	-0.2	10	0.1		
Alness & Invergordon	350	2.6	2.7	2.2	-10	-0.1	50	0.4		
Wick	170	2.2	2.2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Campbeltown	85	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	0.0	-5	-0.1		
Golpsie & Brora	100	1.8	1.8	1.5	5	0.0	20	0.3		
Eilean Siar	300	1.8	1.8	1.9	10	0.0	-5	-0.1		
Thurso	160	1.8	1.7	2.1	5	0.1	-25	-0.3		
Inverness	1,105	1.5	1.4	1.2	70	0.1	210	0.3		
Elgin	900	1.4	1.5	1.2	-30	-0.1	170	0.2		
Lochgilphead	70	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0.0	0	0.0		
Oban	110	1.1	1.1	0.9	0	0.0	20	0.2		
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	45	1.0	1.1	0.9	0	-0.1	5	0.1		
Fort William	135	1.0	0.9	0.9	20	0.1	15	0.1		
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	85	1.0	0.9	0.8	10	0.1	20	0.2		
Portree	40	0.9	0.9	0.7	0	0.0	5	0.2		
Ullapool	40	0.9	1.0	0.9	0	-0.1	5	0.0		
Shetland	115	0.8	0.9	0.6	-15	-0.1	20	0.2		
Orkney Islands	115	0.8	0.8	0.6	5	0.0	30	0.2		
Mull & Islay	30	0.6	0.6	0.6	5	0.0	0	0.0		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,280	1.5	1.5	1.3	45	0.0	545	0.2		
Scotland	76,275	2.2	2.2	2.1	-1,485	0.0	3,925	0.1		
United Kingdom	767,300	1.9	1.9	1.8	-2,560	0.0	10,715	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 - October 2016

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Innse Gall	300	1.9	10	3.4	-5	-1.6	45
Caithness and Sutherland	450	1.9	15	3.4	0	0.0	90
Argyll and the Islands	665	1.7	-25	-3.6	20	3.1	130
Inner Moray Firth	1,545	1.6	65	4.4	275	21.7	340
Moray	835	1.4	-35	-4.0	155	22.8	200
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	235	1.0	10	4.4	30	14.6	25
Orkney	115	0.9	5	4.5	30	35.3	25
Shetland	115	0.8	-15	-11.5	20	21.1	35

Research and Economics
November 2016

Contact us at hieresearch@hient.co.uk

