

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST DECEMBER 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

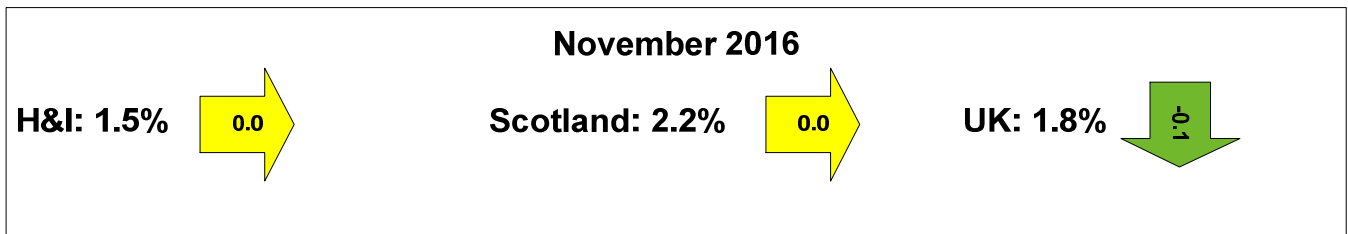
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 November 2016 claimant count figures were released on 14th December 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.

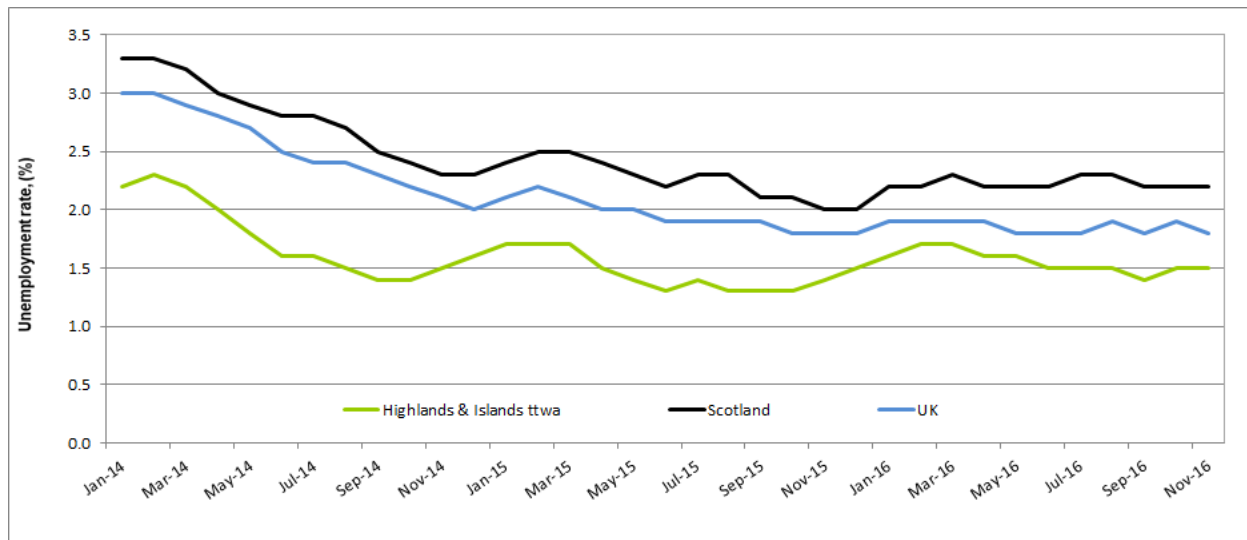


In November 2016, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.5%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.2%**) and the UK (**1.8%**). The region's rate was inline with that of the previous month, but was higher than a year earlier (1.4% in November 2015).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in November 2016 were Alness & Invergordon (2.7%) and Dunoon & Rothesay (2.6%). Ten TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in November 2016 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.5%) – Lochgilphead (1.4%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.3%); Oban, Fort William and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (all with 1.2%); Ullapool (1.1%); Portree (1.0%); Orkney Islands (0.9%); Shetland (0.8%) and Mull & Islay (0.7%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in November 2016 was 4,420. 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	November 2016		October 2016		November 2015		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Alness & Invergordon	355	2.7	2.6	2.3	5	0.1	45	0.4		
Dunoon & Rothesay	300	2.6	2.8	2.9	-25	-0.2	-30	-0.3		
Wick	165	2.2	2.3	2.1	-10	-0.1	5	0.1		
Campbeltown	90	2.0	1.9	2.2	5	0.1	-10	-0.2		
Golpsie & Brora	110	2.0	1.8	1.4	15	0.2	30	0.6		
Eilean Siar	305	1.9	1.9	2.0	5	0.0	-15	-0.1		
Thurso	165	1.9	1.8	2.1	0	0.1	-25	-0.2		
Inverness	1,140	1.5	1.5	1.2	20	0.0	240	0.3		
Elgin	940	1.5	1.4	1.2	40	0.1	165	0.3		
Lochgilphed	80	1.4	1.3	1.3	10	0.1	10	0.1		
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	55	1.3	1.0	1.4	15	0.3	-5	-0.1		
Oban	120	1.2	1.1	1.1	15	0.1	5	0.1		
Fort William	155	1.2	1.0	1.1	25	0.2	10	0.1		
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	100	1.2	1.0	0.9	10	0.2	25	0.3		
Ullapool	50	1.1	0.9	1.4	15	0.2	-10	-0.3		
Portree	45	1.0	0.9	1.0	5	0.1	-5	0.0		
Orkney Islands	115	0.9	0.9	0.6	0	0.0	35	0.3		
Shetland	115	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	0.0	10	0.1		
Mull & Islay	30	0.7	0.7	0.6	0	0.0	5	0.1		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,080	1.5	1.5	1.4	150	0.0	485	0.1		
Scotland	75,750	2.2	2.2	2.0	-495	0.0	4,815	0.2		
United Kingdom	759,050	1.8	1.9	1.8	-7,180	-0.1	21,055	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 - November 2016

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	460	2.0	10	2.2	10	2.2	85
Innse Gall	305	1.9	5	1.7	-15	-4.7	50
Argyll and the Islands	675	1.7	10	1.5	-25	-3.6	140
Inner Moray Firth	1,595	1.6	30	1.9	305	23.6	320
Moray	880	1.5	40	4.8	160	22.2	205
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	275	1.1	45	19.6	-5	-1.8	30
Orkney	115	0.9	0	0.0	35	43.8	30
Shetland	115	0.8	0	0.0	10	9.5	30

Research and Economics
December 2016

Contact us at hieresearch@hient.co.uk

