

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

OCTOBER 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team



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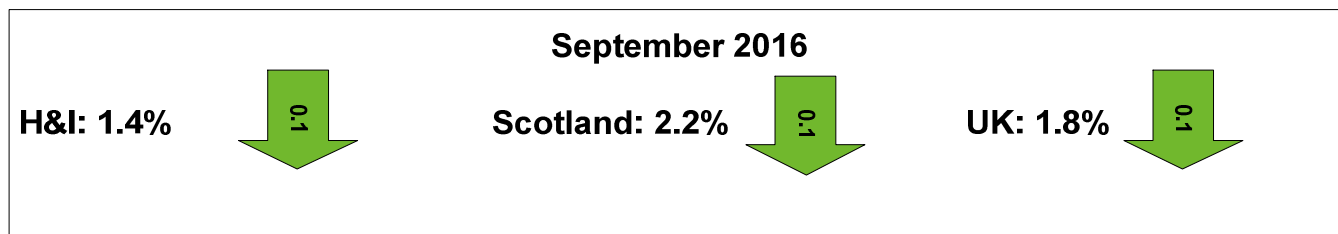
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 September 2016 claimant count figures were released on 19th October 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.

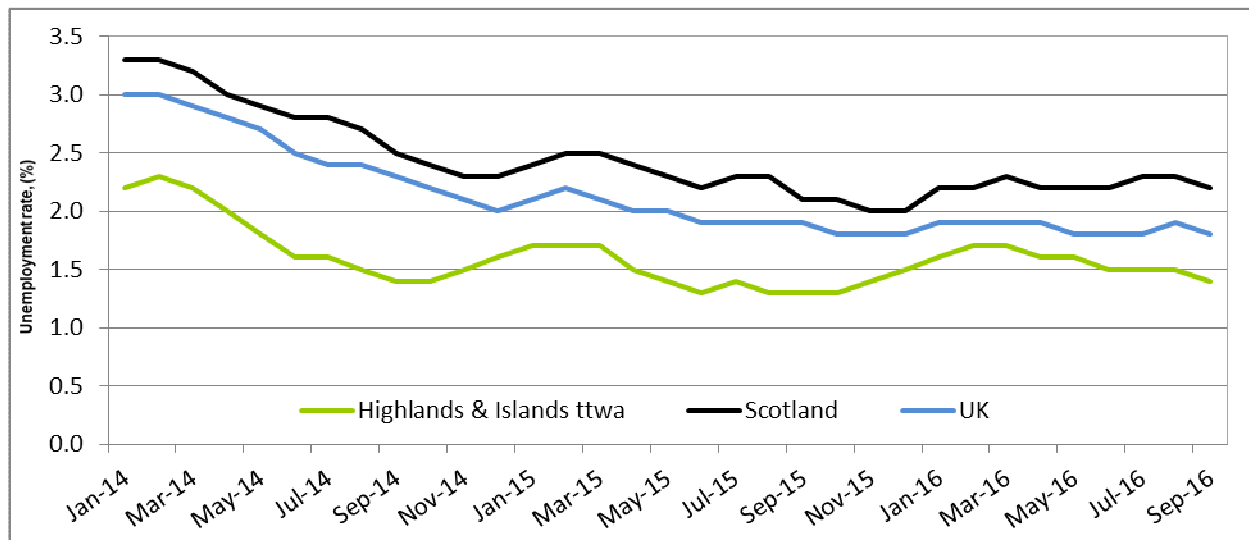


In September 2016, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.4%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.2%**) and the UK (**1.8%**). The region's rate was lower than that of the previous month, but was higher than a year earlier (1.3% in September 2015).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in September 2016 were Dunoon & Rothesay (3.0%) and Alness & Invergordon (2.7%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in September 2016 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.4%) – Lochgilphead (1.2%); Inverness and Oban (both with 1.1%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.0%); Fort William, Portree and Shetland Islands (all with 0.9%); Ullapool and Orkney Islands (both 0.8%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (0.7%) and Mull & Islay (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in September 2016 was 3,965. Out of the total, 820 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	September 2016		August 2016		September 2015		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	360	3.0	3.1	2.7	-10	-0.1	45	0.3	45	0.3
Alness & Invergordon	360	2.7	2.7	2.3	5	0.0	55	0.4	55	0.4
Wick	170	2.2	2.1	2.3	5	0.1	-5	-0.1	-5	-0.1
Eilean Siar	290	1.8	1.9	1.9	-20	-0.1	-15	-0.1	-15	-0.1
Campbeltown	85	1.8	1.9	2.1	0	-0.1	-10	-0.3	-10	-0.3
Thurso	155	1.7	1.9	1.9	-15	-0.2	-20	-0.2	-20	-0.2
Golpsie & Brora	95	1.7	1.8	1.3	-5	-0.1	20	0.4	20	0.4
Elgin	930	1.5	1.6	1.2	-70	-0.1	190	0.3	190	0.3
Lochgilphead	70	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	0.0	5	0.0	5	0.0
Inverness	815	1.1	1.2	1.2	-75	-0.1	-50	-0.1	-50	-0.1
Oban	110	1.1	1.0	0.8	10	0.1	25	0.3	25	0.3
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	45	1.0	0.9	0.9	-5	0.1	5	0.1	5	0.1
Fort William	115	0.9	1.0	0.9	-15	-0.1	5	0.0	5	0.0
Portree	40	0.9	0.9	0.6	-5	0.0	10	0.3	10	0.3
Shetland	125	0.9	0.9	0.6	-5	0.0	35	0.3	35	0.3
Ullapool	35	0.8	0.8	0.7	0	0.0	5	0.1	5	0.1
Orkney Islands	105	0.8	0.8	0.6	0	0.0	25	0.2	25	0.2
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	60	0.7	0.8	0.7	-10	-0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Mull & Islay	25	0.6	0.5	0.6	0	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
Highlands and Islands TTWA	3,990	1.4	1.5	1.3	-205	-0.1	325	0.1	325	0.1
Scotland	76,830	2.2	2.3	2.2	-3,790	-0.1	2,265	0.0	2,265	0.0
United Kingdom	754,085	1.8	1.9	1.9	-10,285	-0.1	-13,875	-0.1	-13,875	-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 - September 2016

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Innse Gall	290	1.8	-20	-6.5	-15	-4.9	40
Caithness and Sutherland	430	1.8	-20	-4.4	-5	-1.1	80
Argyll and the Islands	690	1.8	-5	-0.7	50	7.8	125
Moray	870	1.5	-70	-7.4	180	26.1	225
Inner Moray Firth	1,240	1.3	-85	-6.4	0	0.0	270
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	215	0.9	-10	-4.4	20	10.3	25
Shetland	125	0.9	-5	-3.8	35	38.9	30
Orkney	105	0.8	0	0.0	25	31.3	25

Research and Economics
October 2016

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