

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

AUGUST 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team



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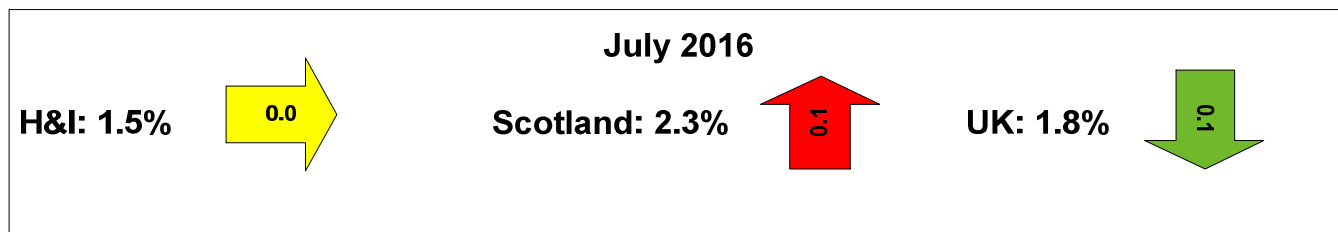
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 July 2016 claimant count figures were released on 17th August 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.

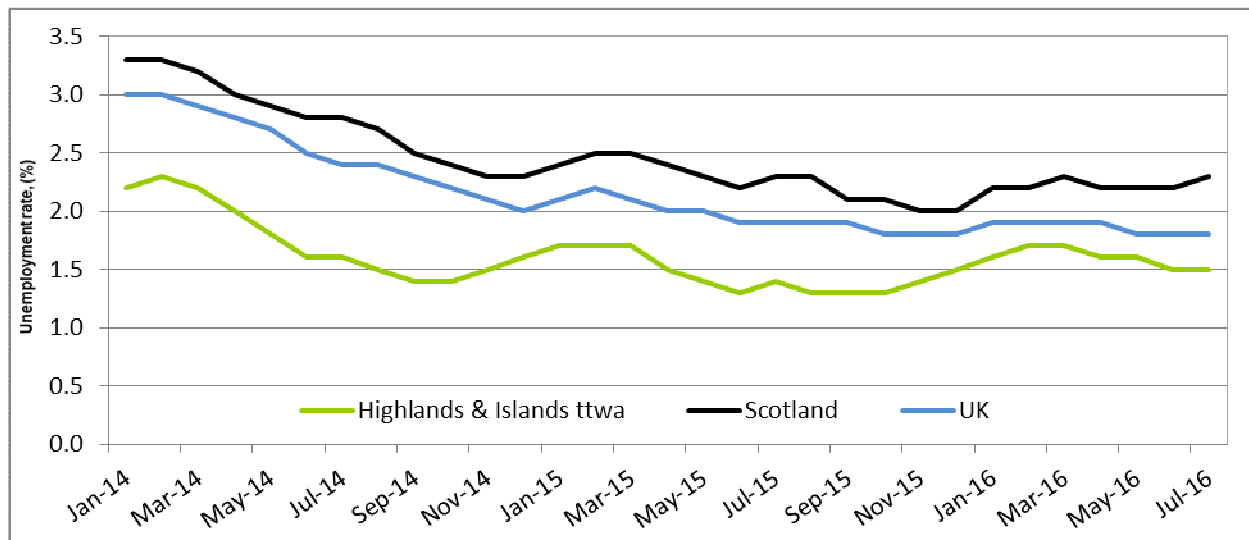


In July 2016, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.5%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.3%**) and the UK (**1.8%**). There was no change in the region's rate compared with the previous month, but it was higher than a year earlier (1.4% in July 2015).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in July 2016 were Dunoon & Rothesay (3.1%) and Alness & Invergordon (2.6%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in July 2016 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.5%) – Inverness and Lochgilphead (both 1.2%); Fort William (1.0%); Ullapool; Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh; Portree and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Oban (all with 0.9%); Shetland and Orkney Islands (both 0.8%) and Mull & Islay (0.5%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in July 2016 was 4,235. 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, 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	July 2016		June 2016		July 2015		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	365	3.1	3.2	2.6	-5	-0.1	60	0.5		
Aliness & Invergordon	350	2.6	2.6	2.3	0	0.0	45	0.3		
Wick	155	2.0	2.2	2.5	-15	-0.2	-35	-0.5		
Eilean Siar	315	1.9	1.9	2.0	0	0.0	-20	-0.1		
Golpsie & Brora	105	1.9	2.0	1.5	-5	-0.1	25	0.4		
Thurso	165	1.9	1.8	2.2	0	0.1	-35	-0.3		
Campbeltown	80	1.8	2.1	2.3	-15	-0.3	-25	-0.5		
Elgin	1,045	1.7	1.7	1.3	-25	0.0	210	0.4		
Inverness	925	1.2	1.4	1.3	-120	-0.2	-20	-0.1		
Lochgilhead	65	1.2	1.3	1.3	-5	-0.1	-10	-0.1		
Fort William	125	1.0	1.0	0.9	-10	0.0	10	0.1		
Ullapool	35	0.9	0.9	0.9	-5	0.0	0	0.0		
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	40	0.9	1.0	1.0	-5	-0.1	0	-0.1		
Portree	45	0.9	1.0	0.8	0	-0.1	10	0.1		
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	75	0.9	0.9	0.8	-5	0.0	5	0.1		
Oban	90	0.9	0.8	1.0	5	0.1	-15	-0.1		
Shetland	120	0.8	0.9	0.6	-10	-0.1	35	0.2		
Orkney Islands	110	0.8	0.8	0.5	5	0.0	45	0.3		
Mull & Islay	25	0.5	0.6	0.6	0	-0.1	0	-0.1		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,235	1.5	1.5	1.4	-215	0.0	285	0.1		
Scotland	79,325	2.3	2.2	2.3	1,360	0.1	-1,440	0.0		
United Kingdom	756,965	1.8	1.9	1.9	-4,890	-0.1	-27,810	-0.1		

N.B. The Claimant Count estimates are currently designated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as 'experimental statistics' as they are still being developed by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), therefore figures are likely to be subject to revision from month to month.

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 - July 2016

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Innse Gall	315	1.9	0	0.0	-20	-6.0	45
Caithness and Sutherland	440	1.9	-15	-3.3	-45	-9.3	85
Argyll and the Islands	680	1.7	-20	-2.9	15	2.3	130
Moray	985	1.7	-15	-1.5	200	25.5	250
Inner Moray Firth	1,355	1.4	-125	-8.4	30	2.3	285
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	225	0.9	-15	-6.3	15	7.1	25
Shetland	120	0.8	-10	-7.7	35	41.2	35
Orkney	110	0.8	5	4.8	25	29.4	35

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