

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JULY 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team



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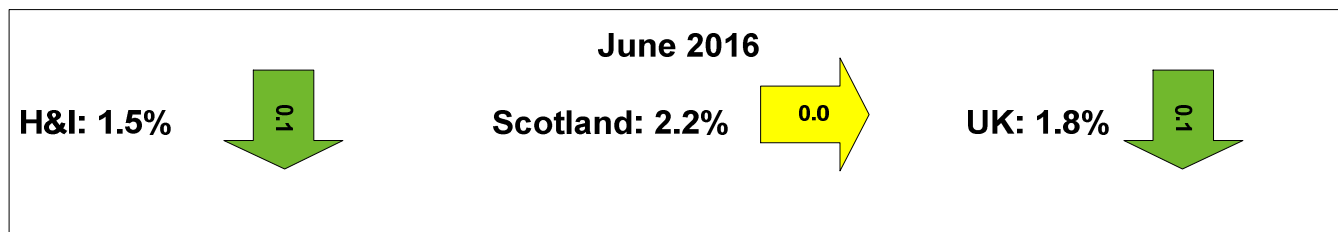
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 June 2016 claimant count figures were released on 20th July 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.

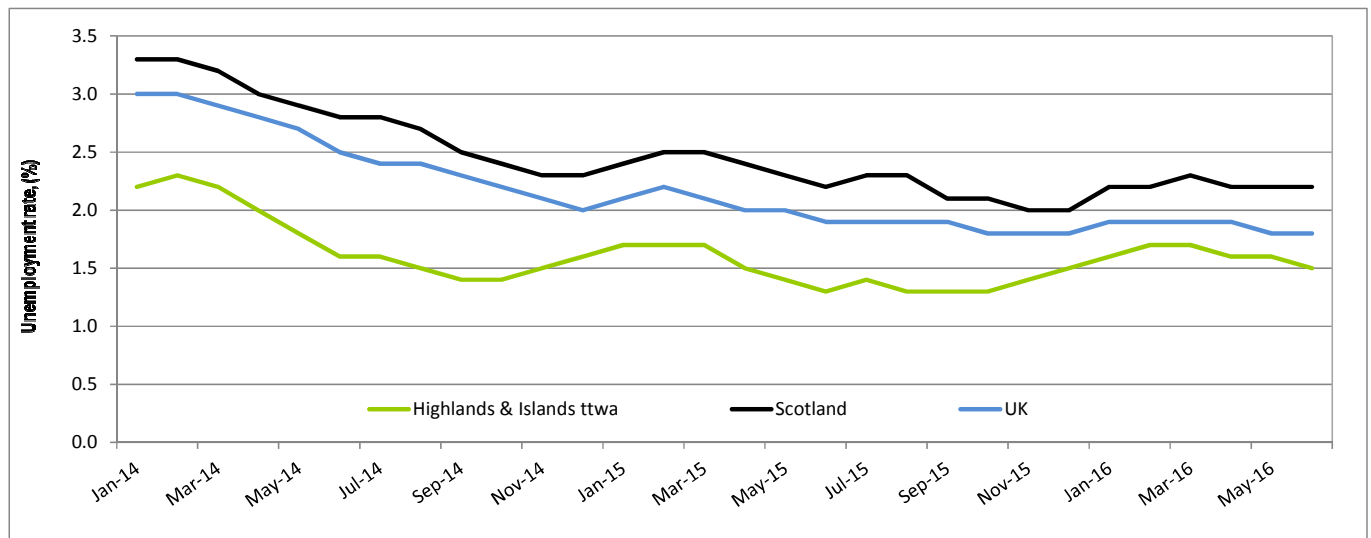


In June 2016, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.5%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.2%**) and the UK (**1.8%**). The region's rate was lower than that of the previous month, but was higher than a year earlier (1.3% in June 2015).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in June 2016 were Dunoon & Rothesay (3.1%) and Alness & Invergordon (2.5%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in June 2016 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.5%) – Inverness (1.4%); Lochgilphead (1.2%); Ullapool; Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Fort William (all with 1.0%); Portree; Aviemore & Grantown on Spey and Shetland (all with 0.9%); Oban (0.8%); Orkney (0.7%) and Mull & Islay (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in June 2016 was 4,370. Out of the total, 785 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	June 2016		May 2016		June 2015		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate		
Dunoon & Rothesay	365	3.1	3.1	2.4	-5	0.0	80	0.7		
Alness & Invergordon	340	2.5	2.5	2.1	0	0.0	55	0.4		
Wick	170	2.2	2.4	2.5	-15	-0.2	-25	-0.3		
Campbeltown	90	2.0	2.1	2.3	-5	-0.1	-15	-0.3		
Eilean Siar	305	1.9	2.1	2.1	-30	-0.2	-45	-0.2		
Golpsie & Brora	105	1.9	1.8	1.5	5	0.1	25	0.4		
Thurso	160	1.8	1.9	2.1	-10	-0.1	-25	-0.3		
Elgin	1,020	1.6	1.7	1.3	-60	-0.1	170	0.3		
Inverness	1,060	1.4	1.5	1.2	-85	-0.1	175	0.2		
Lochgilphead	70	1.2	1.2	1.4	5	0.0	-10	-0.2		
Ullapool	40	1.0	1.2	0.9	-10	-0.2	5	0.1		
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	45	1.0	1.1	1.1	-5	-0.1	0	-0.1		
Fort William	135	1.0	1.0	0.9	0	0.0	20	0.1		
Portree	45	0.9	1.1	0.9	-5	-0.2	5	0.0		
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	80	0.9	0.9	0.8	5	0.0	10	0.1		
Shetland	130	0.9	0.9	0.6	0	0.0	40	0.3		
Oban	85	0.8	0.8	1.0	0	0.0	-15	-0.2		
Orkney Islands	100	0.7	0.8	0.4	0	-0.1	45	0.3		
Mull & Islay	25	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	0.0	-5	-0.1		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,370	1.5	1.6	1.3	-215	-0.1	490	0.2		
Scotland	75,265	2.2	2.2	2.2	-1,045	0.0	-2,330	0.0		
United Kingdom	742,065	1.8	1.9	1.9	-23,665	-0.1	-36,215	-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 - May 2016

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Innse Gall	305	1.9	-30	-9.0	-45	-12.9	35
Caithness and Sutherland	445	1.9	-20	-4.3	-30	-6.3	75
Argyll and the Islands	685	1.7	-5	-0.7	30	4.6	105
Moray	955	1.6	-55	-5.4	160	20.1	200
Inner Moray Firth	1,485	1.5	-85	-5.4	240	19.3	290
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	240	1.0	-20	-7.7	20	9.1	25
Shetland	130	0.9	0	0.0	40	44.4	30
Orkney	100	0.7	0	0.0	45	81.8	25

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