

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JUNE 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team



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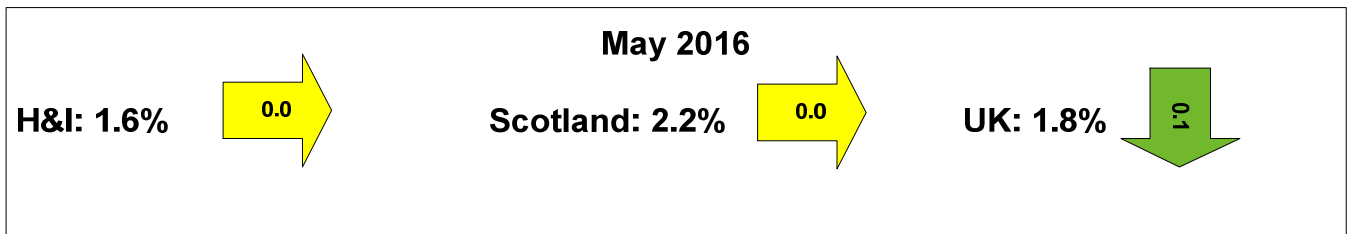
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 May 2016 claimant count figures were released on 15th June 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.

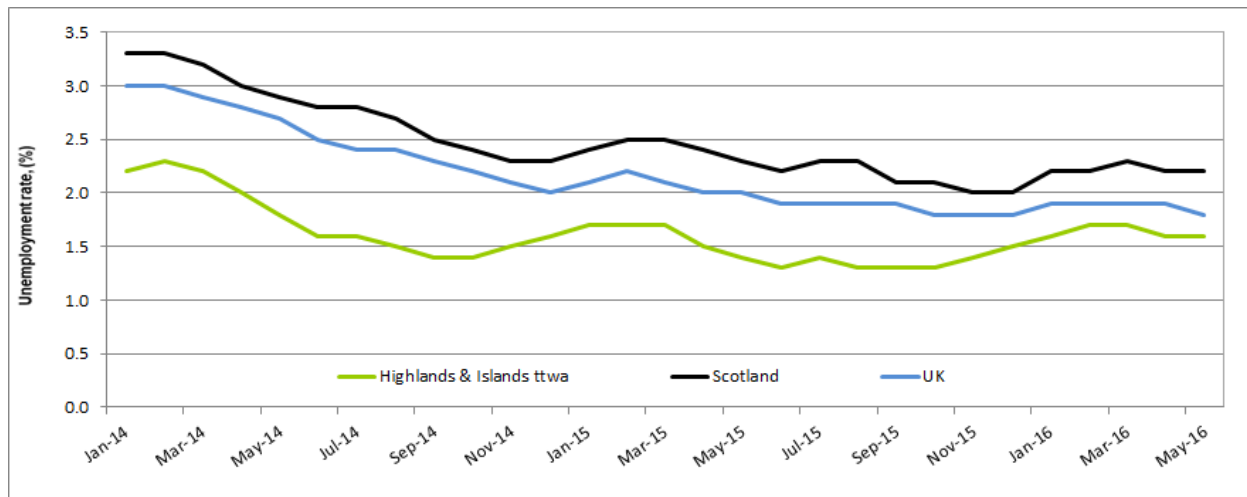


In May 2016, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.6%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.2%**) and the UK (**1.8%**). The region's rate was on par with that of the previous month, but was higher than a year earlier (1.4% in May 2015).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in May 2016 were Dunoon & Rothesay (3.2%); Alness & Invergordon (2.5%) and Wick (2.4%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in May 2016 lower than 1.6% – Inverness (1.5%); Ullapool and Lochgilphead (both with 1.2%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Fort William (both with 1.1%); Portree (1.0%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (0.9%); Oban and Shetland Islands (both with 0.8%); Orkney (0.7%) and Mull & Islay (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in May 2016 was 4,525. Out of the total, 875 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	May 2016		April 2016		May 2015		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Dunoon & Rothesay	370	3.2	3.2	3.2	2.5	-10	0.0	75	0.7	
Alness & Invergordon	335	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.1	-5	0.0	45	0.4	
Wick	190	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	-0.1	-5	-0.1	
Campbeltown	95	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.3	5	0.1	-10	-0.2	
Eilean Siar	330	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.2	-20	-0.1	-20	-0.2	
Thurso	165	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.0	-25	-0.2	-20	-0.1	
Golpsie & Brora	95	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	0	0.0	10	0.2	
Elgin	1,075	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.3	-20	0.0	255	0.4	
Inverness	1,105	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.3	-45	0.0	160	0.2	
Ullapool	50	1.2	1.3	1.3	0.9	-5	-0.1	15	0.3	
Lochgilphead	65	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	-5	0.0	-15	-0.2	
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	50	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	0	-0.1	-5	-0.1	
Fort William	135	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.0	-25	-0.2	10	0.1	
Portree	50	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	-0.1	0	-0.1	
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	75	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	-5	0.0	-5	0.0	
Oban	85	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	-15	-0.2	-25	-0.3	
Shetland	125	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.6	-15	-0.2	40	0.2	
Orkney Islands	100	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.5	-10	-0.1	30	0.2	
Mull & Islay	30	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	5	0.0	-5	-0.2	
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,525	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.4	-195	0.0	530	0.2	
Scotland	75,375	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	-1,810	0.0	-3,720	-0.1	
United Kingdom	756,240	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	-20,075	-0.1	-46,125	-0.2	

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	330	2.0	-20	-5.7	-20	-5.7	45
Caithness and Sutherland	465	2.0	-30	-6.1	-10	-2.1	80
Argyll and the Islands	695	1.7	-30	-4.1	15	2.2	120
Moray	1,010	1.7	-20	-1.9	235	30.3	230
Inner Moray Firth	1,520	1.6	-60	-3.8	200	15.2	315
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	260	1.1	-30	-10.3	15	6.1	25
Shetland	125	0.9	-15	-10.7	40	47.1	25
Orkney	100	0.7	-10	-9.1	30	42.9	35

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