

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

## MAY 2016

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HIE Research and Economics Team



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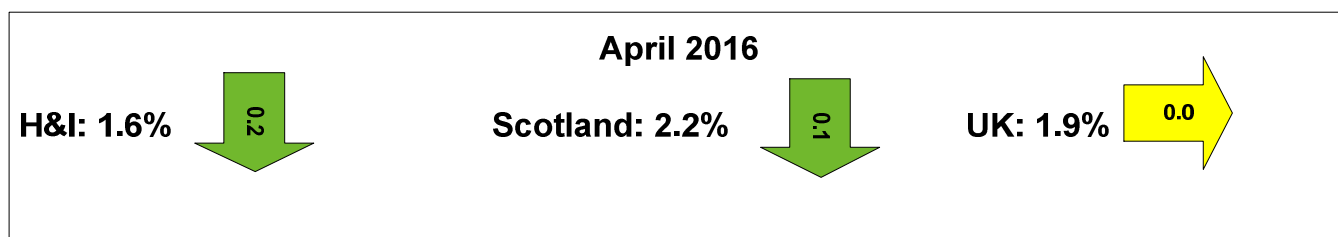
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 April 2016 claimant count figures were released on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

As illustrated by the chart below, the Highlands and Islands continues to have significantly lower unemployment than either Scotland or the UK - a trend which has been fairly constant since the recession.

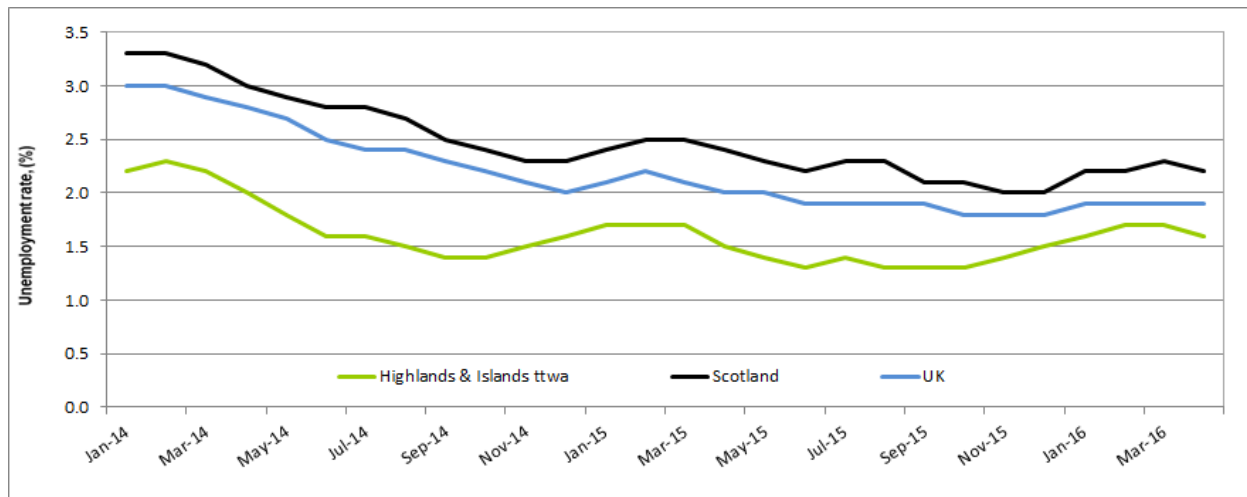


In April 2016, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.6%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.2%**) and the UK (**1.9%**). The region's rate was lower than the previous month but higher than a year earlier (1.5% in April 2015).

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

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area in April 2016 was 4,675. Out of the total, 925 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	April 2016		March 2016		April 2015		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Dunoon & Rothesay	380	3.2	3.5	2.8	-25	-0.3	50	0.4		
Alness & Invergordon	335	2.5	2.8	2.5	-35	-0.3	0	0.0		
Wick	190	2.4	2.6	2.6	-10	-0.2	-10	-0.2		
Eilean Siar	345	2.1	2.2	2.4	-15	-0.1	-40	-0.3		
Thurso	185	2.1	2.2	2.0	-10	-0.1	5	0.1		
Campbeltown	90	2.0	2.1	2.3	-5	-0.1	-15	-0.3		
Golpsie & Brora	95	1.7	2.0	1.7	-15	-0.3	5	0.0		
Elgin	1,090	1.7	1.8	1.4	-75	-0.1	195	0.3		
Inverness	1,140	1.5	1.5	1.4	-10	0.0	125	0.1		
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	50	1.2	1.7	1.6	-25	-0.5	-20	-0.4		
Fort William	160	1.2	1.7	1.2	-55	-0.5	5	0.0		
Ullapool	50	1.2	1.6	1.0	-20	-0.4	10	0.2		
Lochgilphead	70	1.2	1.5	1.6	-15	-0.3	-20	-0.4		
Portree	50	1.1	1.5	1.4	-20	-0.4	-15	-0.3		
Oban	95	1.0	1.3	1.3	-35	-0.3	-35	-0.3		
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	75	0.9	1.1	1.1	-15	-0.2	-20	-0.2		
Shetland	140	0.9	1.0	0.8	0	-0.1	25	0.1		
Orkney Islands	110	0.8	0.9	0.7	-5	-0.1	15	0.1		
Mull & Islay	25	0.6	0.8	0.8	-10	-0.2	-10	-0.2		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,675	1.6	1.8	1.5	-400	-0.2	250	0.1		
Scotland	76,520	2.2	2.3	2.4	-2,245	-0.1	-5,040	-0.2		
United Kingdom	770,330	1.9	1.9	2.0	-20,790	0.0	-58,685	-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

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Innse Gall	345	2.1	-15	-4.2	-40	-10.4	50
Caithness and Sutherland	490	2.1	-40	-7.5	5	1.0	90
Argyll and the Islands	720	1.8	-100	-12.2	-30	-4.0	125
Moray	1,030	1.7	-60	-5.5	180	21.2	235
Inner Moray Firth	1,555	1.6	-65	-4.0	105	7.2	320
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	285	1.2	-110	-27.8	-35	-10.9	35
Shetland	140	1.0	0	0.0	25	21.7	35
Orkney	110	0.8	-5	-4.3	15	15.8	35

Research and Economics  
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Contact us at [hieresearch@hient.co.uk](mailto:hieresearch@hient.co.uk)

