

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

FEBRUARY 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team

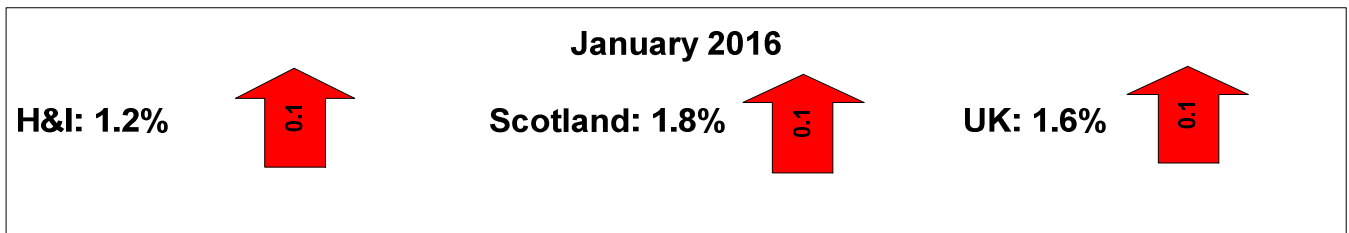


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The Information contained in this report is based on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) figures. The JSA records the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices.

The January 2016 jobseekers allowance unemployment figures* were released on 17th February 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.

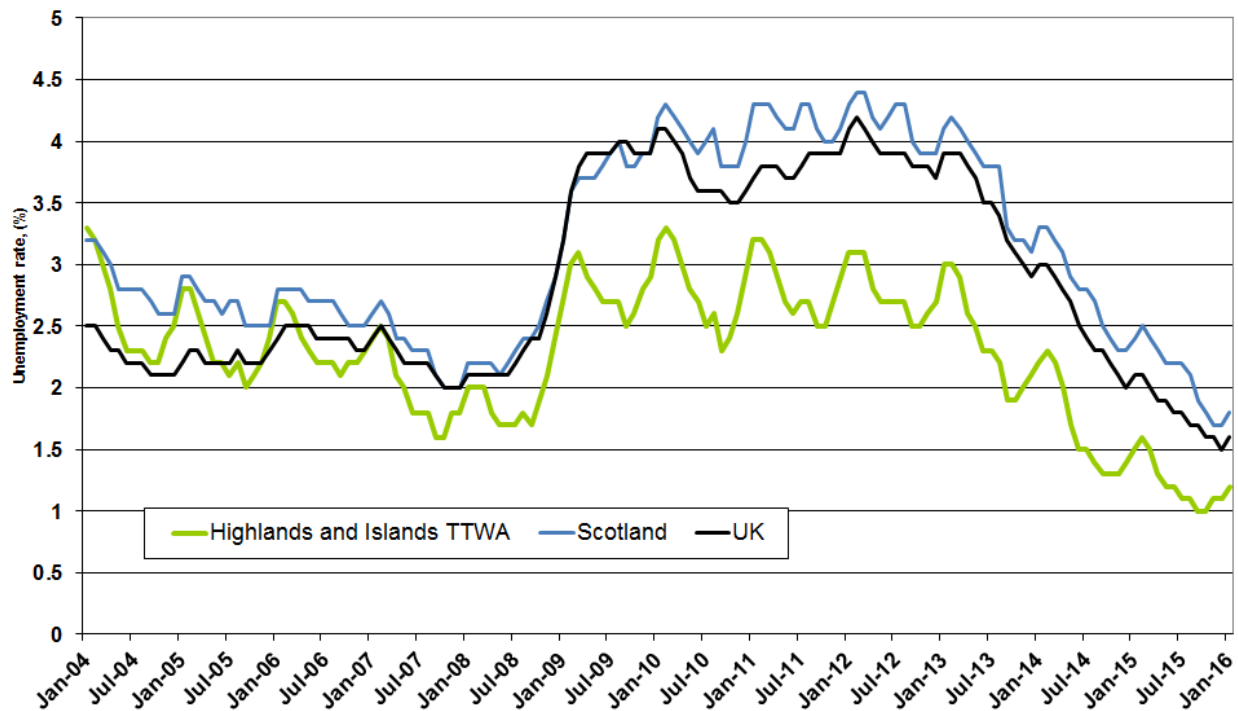


In January 2016, the average jobseekers allowance unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.2%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**1.8%**) and the UK (**1.6%**). The region's rate was higher than that of the previous month with an increase of 0.1% but was lower than a year earlier (1.5% in January 2015).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in January 2016 were Dunoon & Bute (3.1%) and Campbeltown (2.2%). Six TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in January 2016 lower than 1.2% – Ullapool & Gairloch (1.0%); Inverness & Dingwall (0.8%); Mull & Islay (0.7%); Badenoch (0.6%); and Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands (both 0.5%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area[^] in January 2016 was 3,594. Out of the total, some 1,365 were long term unemployed** and 540 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2004-2016)



* Based on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) figures, produced monthly by ONS.

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

**1 For the purpose of this analysis, long-term unemployment (LTU) is defined as 'all those who have been unemployed and claiming benefit for over 6 months'.

Table 1 below illustrates the jobseekers allowance rates for each of the 18 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 - Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	January 2016		December 2015	January 2015	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Bute	376	3.1	2.8	2.7	28	0.3	49	0.4
Campbeltown	99	2.2	2.0	2.6	7	0.2	-19	-0.4
Invergordon	253	1.8	1.8	2.7	4	0.0	-124	-0.9
Wick	141	1.8	1.7	2.8	11	0.1	-76	-1.0
Thurso	160	1.7	1.6	2.1	1	0.1	-39	-0.4
Eilean Siar	285	1.7	1.6	2.2	13	0.1	-93	-0.5
Lochgilphead	81	1.4	1.3	2.0	6	0.1	-33	-0.6
Moray	827	1.4	1.2	1.5	111	0.2	-38	-0.1
Oban	145	1.4	1.2	1.8	18	0.2	-42	-0.4
Dornoch & Lairg	77	1.4	1.1	2.0	13	0.3	-34	-0.6
Skye & Lochalsh	100	1.2	1.2	2.3	6	0.0	-87	-1.1
Lochaber	156	1.2	1.1	2.0	18	0.1	-89	-0.8
Ullapool & Gairloch	52	1.0	1.1	1.0	-3	-0.1	-1	0.0
Inverness & Dingwall	579	0.8	0.7	1.0	56	0.1	-157	-0.2
Mull & Islay	31	0.7	0.7	1.0	-1	0.0	-14	-0.3
Badenoch	55	0.6	0.5	0.8	8	0.1	-10	-0.2
Shetland Islands	71	0.5	0.5	0.6	-4	0.0	-20	-0.1
Orkney Islands	65	0.5	0.4	0.9	13	0.1	-50	-0.4
Highlands and Islands TTWA	3,553	1.2	1.1	1.5	305	0.1	-877	-0.3
Scotland	62,915	1.8	1.7	2.4	3,383	0.1	-21,389	-0.6
United Kingdom	656,620	1.6	1.5	2.1	26,482	0.1	-196,314	-0.5

Table 2 shows the total jobseekers allowance unemployment, by number and rate over the month and year, long-term unemployment (LTU) and youth unemployment by HIE area office.

Table 2 - Unemployment by Area Office

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		LTU	Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number	number
Argyll and the Islands	773	1.9	60	8.4	-85	-9.9	320	155
Innse Gall	285	1.7	13	4.8	-93	-24.6	180	25
Caithness and Sutherland	400	1.7	23	6.1	-147	-26.9	215	50
Moray	827	1.4	111	15.5	-38	-4.4	245	150
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	286	1.2	23	8.7	-179	-38.5	85	30
Inner Moray Firth	887	0.9	68	8.3	-291	-24.7	285	105
Shetland	71	0.5	-4	-5.3	-20	-22.0	10	15
Orkney	65	0.5	13	25.0	-50	-43.5	25	10

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