

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JANUARY 2016

HIE Research and Economics Team

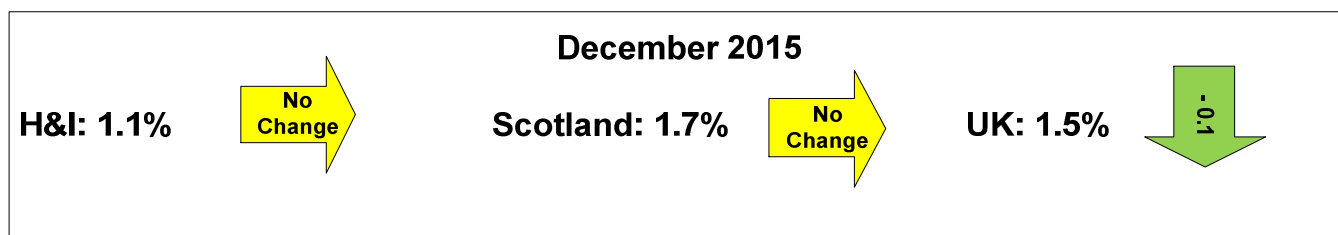


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The Information contained in this report is based on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) figures. The JSA records the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and National Insurance credits at Jobcentre Plus local offices.

The December 2015 jobseekers allowance unemployment figures* were released on 20th January 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.

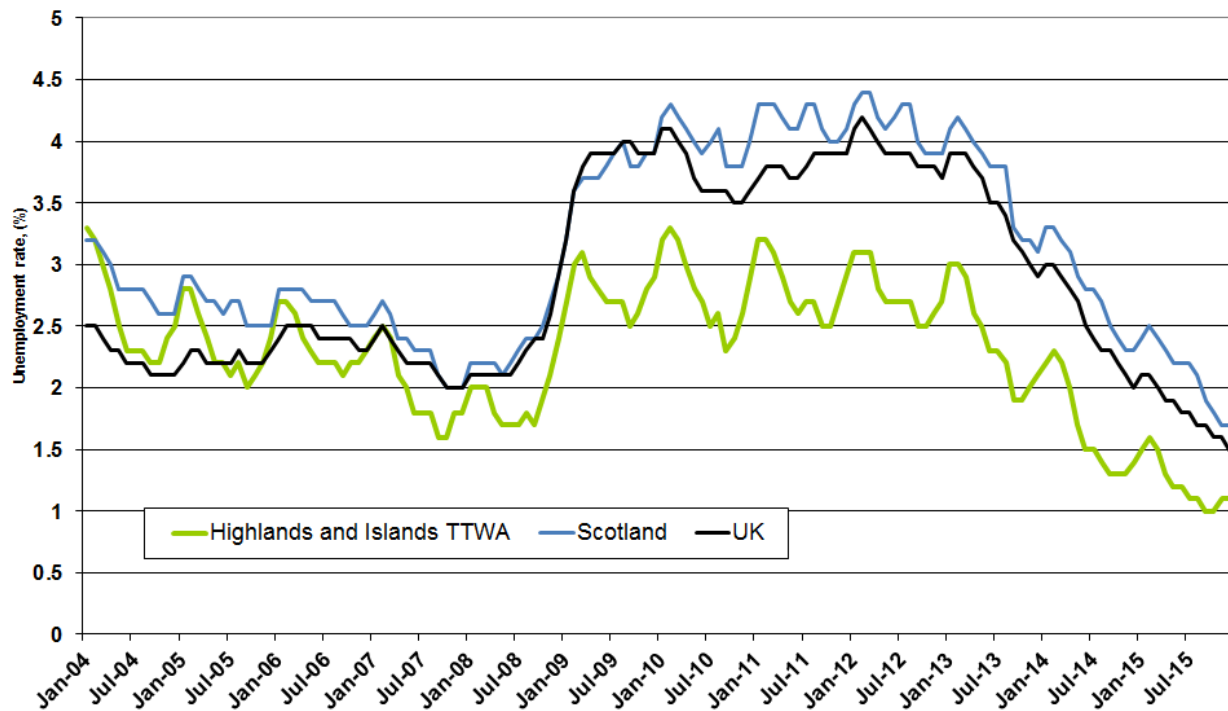


In December 2015, the average jobseekers allowance unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.1%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**1.7%**) and the UK (**1.5%**). There was no change in the region's rate compared to the previous month, however, it was lower than a year earlier (1.4% in December 2014).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in December 2015 were Dunoon & Bute (2.8%); Campbeltown (2.0%) and Invergordon (1.8%). Five TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in December 2015 lower than 1.1% – Inverness & Dingwall and Mull & Islay (both 0.7%); Badenoch and Shetland Islands (both 0.5%) and Orkney Islands (0.4%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in December 2015 was 3,287. Out of the total, some 1,310 were long term unemployed** and 495 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2004-2015)



* 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	December 2015		November 2015	December 2014	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Bute	348	2.8	2.7	2.7	19	0.1	20	0.1
Campbeltown	92	2.0	2.2	2.4	-6	-0.2	-18	-0.4
Invergordon	249	1.8	1.6	2.5	21	0.2	-100	-0.7
Wick	130	1.7	1.6	2.8	7	0.1	-86	-1.1
Thurso	159	1.6	1.7	2.0	-1	-0.1	-38	-0.4
Eilean Siar	272	1.6	1.6	2.1	-4	0.0	-78	-0.5
Lochgilphead	75	1.3	1.2	2.0	4	0.1	-40	-0.7
Moray	716	1.2	1.2	1.3	-1	0.0	-43	-0.1
Oban	127	1.2	1.1	1.5	7	0.1	-35	-0.3
Skye & Lochalsh	94	1.2	1.0	2.2	13	0.2	-84	-1.0
Dornoch & Lairg	64	1.1	1.1	2.0	-1	0.0	-48	-0.9
Ullapool & Gairloch	55	1.1	1.0	1.0	2	0.1	2	0.1
Lochaber	138	1.1	0.9	1.9	31	0.2	-99	-0.8
Inverness & Dingwall	523	0.7	0.7	0.9	23	0.0	-170	-0.2
Mull & Islay	32	0.7	0.6	1.0	6	0.1	-14	-0.3
Badenoch	47	0.5	0.6	0.7	-3	-0.1	-16	-0.2
Shetland Islands	75	0.5	0.4	0.5	11	0.1	0	0.0
Orkney Islands	52	0.4	0.4	0.8	0	0.0	-59	-0.4
Highlands and Islands TTWA	3,248	1.1	1.1	1.4	128	0.0	-906	-0.3
Scotland	59,532	1.7	1.7	2.3	-1,031	0.0	-20,231	-0.6
United Kingdom	630,138	1.5	1.6	2.0	-11,851	-0.1	-193,742	-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	713	1.8	33	4.9	-100	-12.3	310	140
Innse Gall	272	1.7	-4	-1.4	-78	-22.3	170	30
Caithness and Sutherland	377	1.6	8	2.2	-170	-31.1	215	45
Moray	716	1.2	-1	-0.1	-43	-5.7	230	135
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	263	1.1	43	19.5	-183	-41.0	80	30
Inner Moray Firth	819	0.8	41	5.3	-286	-25.9	270	90
Shetland	75	0.5	11	17.2	0	0.0	15	15
Orkney	52	0.4	0	0.0	-59	-53.2	20	10

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Contact us at hieresearch@hient.co.uk

