

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST DECEMBER 2019

HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

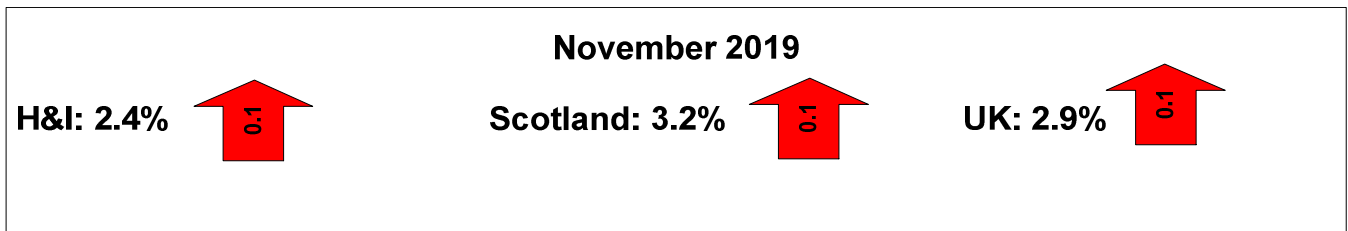
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 is now a measure of all those in receipt of Universal Credit who are out of work, including income based JSA claimants. Contribution based JSA claimants is 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 November 2019 claimant count figures were released on 17th December 2019.

As illustrated by the chart below, unemployment in the Highlands and Islands was lower than that for Scotland and the UK.

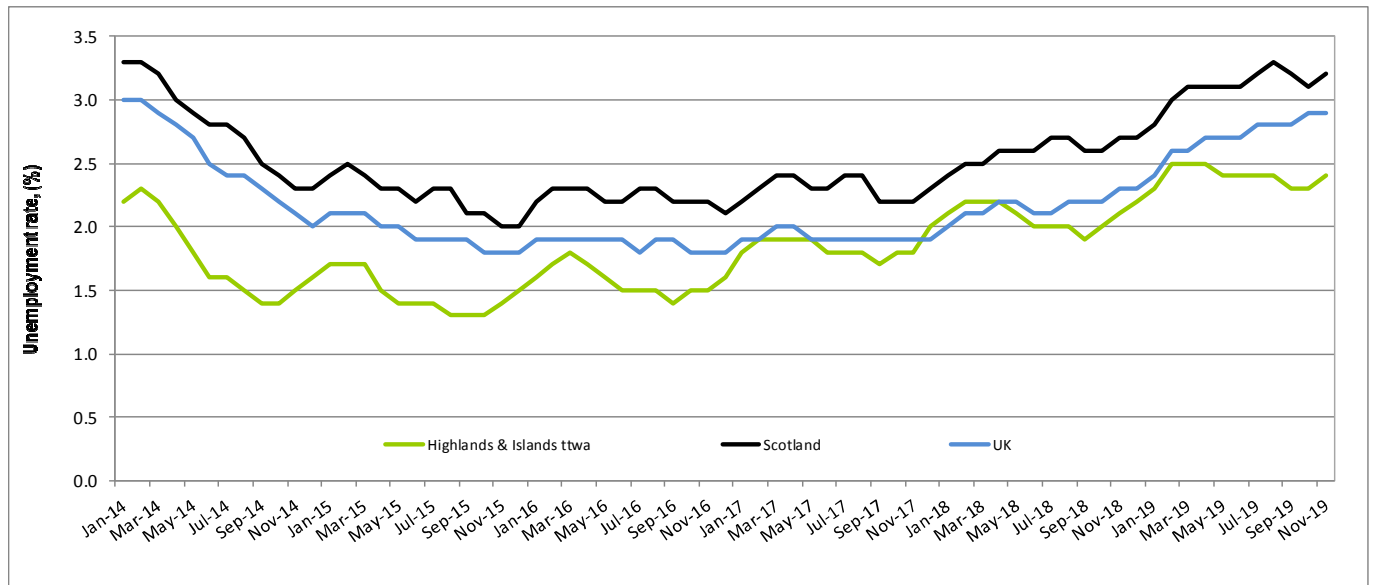


In November 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was 2.4%, which was below the rate for Scotland (3.2%) and the UK (2.9%). The rate for the Highlands and Islands was higher than that of the previous month (2.3% in October 2019), and was also higher than that of a year earlier (2.1% in November 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates were higher than the Scottish average in November 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay (4.2%); Wick (4.0%); Alness & Invergordon (3.9%) and Campbeltown (3.3%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in November 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.4%) – Oban and Eilean Siar (both 2.3%); Fort William (2.2%); Inverness (2.1%); Ullapool (1.9%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Shetland Islands (1.7%); Orkney (1.3%); Mull & Islay and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (both 1.2%) and Portree (1.0%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area during the month was 6,720. Out of the total, 1,140 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2019)



* 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	November 2019		October 2019	November 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	475	4.2	4.2	3.5	0	0.0	85	0.7
Wick	300	4.0	3.8	3.5	15	0.2	40	0.5
Aliness & Invergordon	510	3.9	3.8	3.9	15	0.1	0	0.0
Campbeltown	140	3.3	3.2	2.1	5	0.1	50	1.2
Thurso	265	3.0	3.1	3.1	-5	-0.1	0	-0.1
Golpsie & Brora	155	2.9	2.7	2.6	10	0.2	15	0.3
Elgin	1,565	2.5	2.5	2.1	30	0.0	265	0.4
Lochgilphead	130	2.4	2.6	1.8	-10	-0.2	35	0.6
Oban	235	2.3	1.9	1.3	40	0.4	105	1.0
Eilean Siar	365	2.3	2.2	1.7	25	0.1	105	0.6
Fort William	280	2.2	1.9	2.2	30	0.3	0	0.0
Inverness	1,575	2.1	2.0	2.2	45	0.1	-115	-0.1
Ullapool	80	1.9	1.6	1.7	15	0.3	10	0.2
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	70	1.7	1.7	1.8	0	0.0	-5	-0.1
Shetland Islands	245	1.7	1.6	0.9	15	0.1	120	0.8
Orkney Islands	180	1.3	1.3	0.8	0	0.0	70	0.5
Mull & Islay	50	1.2	1.0	1.1	5	0.2	5	0.1
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	105	1.2	1.0	1.3	15	0.2	-5	-0.1
Portree	45	1.0	0.8	1.3	5	0.2	-15	-0.3
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,765	2.4	2.3	2.1	255	0.1	760	0.3
Scotland	111,280	3.2	3.1	2.7	2,685	0.1	18,190	0.5
United Kingdom	1,209,260	2.9	2.8	2.3	25,365	0.1	263,630	0.6

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 – November 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	755	3.3	30	4.1	65	9.4	130
Argyll and the Islands	1,110	2.9	55	5.2	280	33.7	165
Moray	1,445	2.5	30	2.1	230	18.9	285
Innse Gall	365	2.3	25	7.4	105	40.4	45
Inner Moray Firth	2,195	2.2	75	3.5	-125	-5.4	375
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	425	1.8	40	10.4	-25	-5.6	60
Shetland	245	1.7	15	6.5	120	96.0	50
Orkney	180	1.3	0	0.0	70	63.6	30

Research and Economics
December 2019

Contact us at hieresearch@hient.co.uk

