

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

## JULY 2019

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HIE Research and Economics Team



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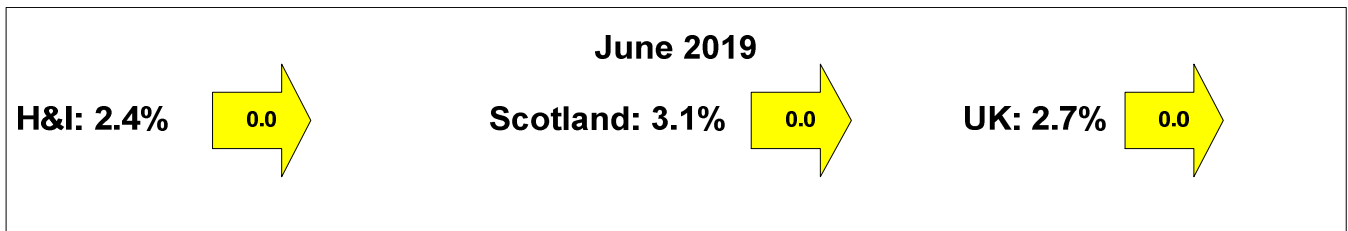
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 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 June 2019 claimant count figures were released on 16th July 2019.

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

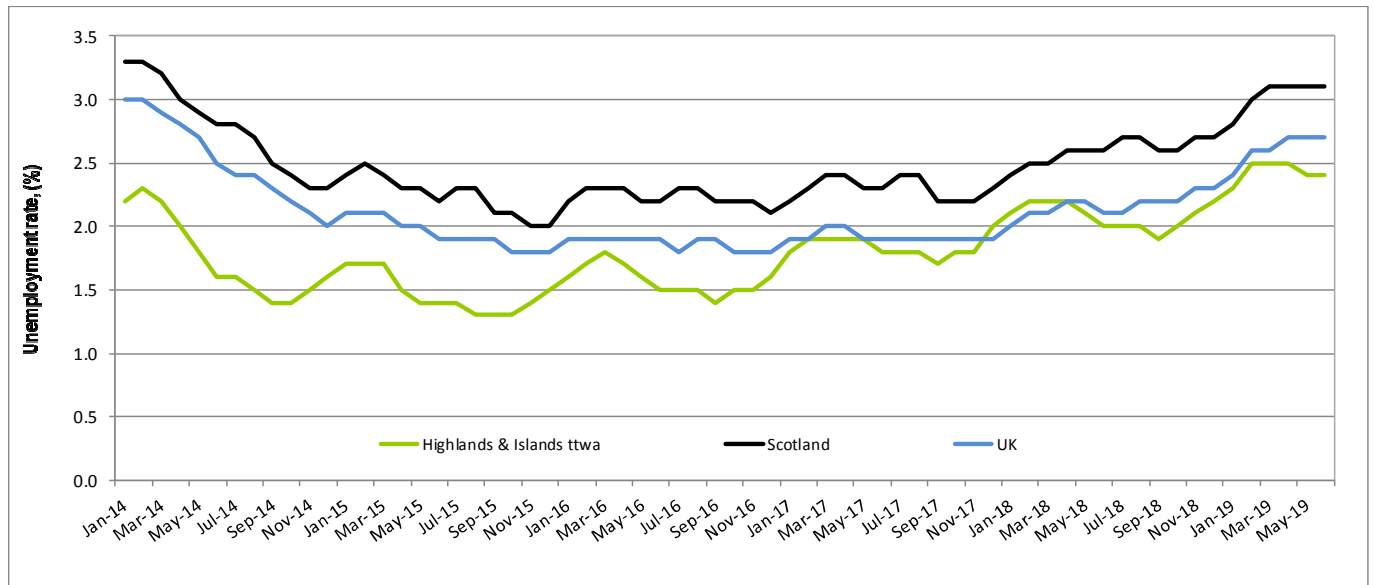


In June 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.4%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**3.1%**) and the UK (**2.7%**). The rate for the region was the same as that of last month (2.4% in May 2019) but higher than that of a year earlier (2.0% in June 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in June 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay (4.4%); Wick (4.2%); Alness & Invergordon (3.7%); Campbeltown (3.5%) and Thurso (3.2%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in June 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.4%) – Inverness (2.2%); Fort William (2.1%); Eilean Siar and Oban (both 2.0%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.6%); Ullapool (1.5%); Shetland Islands and Orkney Islands (both 1.4%); Mull & Islay and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (both 1.2%) and Portree (0.9%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in June 2019 was 6,770. Out of the total, 1,250 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	June 2019		May 2019	June 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	500	4.4	4.2	3.1	20	0.2	145	1.3
Wick	310	4.2	4.1	3.8	5	0.1	30	0.4
AIness & Invergordon	495	3.7	3.7	3.9	5	0.0	-15	-0.2
Campbeltown	150	3.5	3.4	2.2	5	0.1	55	1.3
Thurso	280	3.2	3.1	2.8	5	0.1	35	0.4
Lochgilphead	165	3.0	2.8	1.6	10	0.2	80	1.4
Golpsie & Brora	140	2.6	2.5	2.7	5	0.1	-5	-0.1
Elgin	1,590	2.5	2.5	1.7	-10	0.0	500	0.8
Inverness	1,690	2.2	2.3	2.4	-40	-0.1	-150	-0.2
Fort William	270	2.1	2.2	1.8	-15	-0.1	35	0.3
Eilean Siar	310	2.0	2.0	1.5	-5	0.0	80	0.5
Oban	200	2.0	2.0	0.9	0	0.0	110	1.1
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	65	1.6	2.0	1.5	-20	-0.4	0	0.1
Ullapool	60	1.5	1.6	1.5	-5	-0.1	0	0.0
Shetland Islands	205	1.4	1.4	0.9	5	0.0	80	0.5
Orkney Islands	190	1.4	1.3	0.7	20	0.1	90	0.7
Mull & Islay	50	1.2	1.4	0.6	-10	-0.2	25	0.6
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	100	1.2	1.4	1.4	-15	-0.2	-15	-0.2
Portree	45	0.9	1.1	1.3	-5	-0.2	-15	-0.4
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,815	2.4	2.4	2.0	-40	0.0	1,065	0.4
Scotland	109,280	3.1	3.1	2.6	2,255	0.0	18,425	0.5
United Kingdom	1,143,225	2.7	2.7	2.1	30,370	0.0	253,365	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 – June 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	760	3.3	20	2.7	70	10.1	140
Argyll and the Islands	1,130	2.9	10	0.9	415	58.0	180
Moray	1,480	2.5	-10	-0.7	450	43.7	325
Inner Moray Firth	2,295	2.3	-55	-2.3	-180	-7.3	420
Innse Gall	310	2.0	-5	-1.6	80	34.8	55
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	400	1.7	-45	-10.1	15	3.9	55
Shetland	205	1.4	5	2.5	80	64.0	35
Orkney	190	1.4	20	11.8	90	90.0	40

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