

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST SEPTEMBER 2019

HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

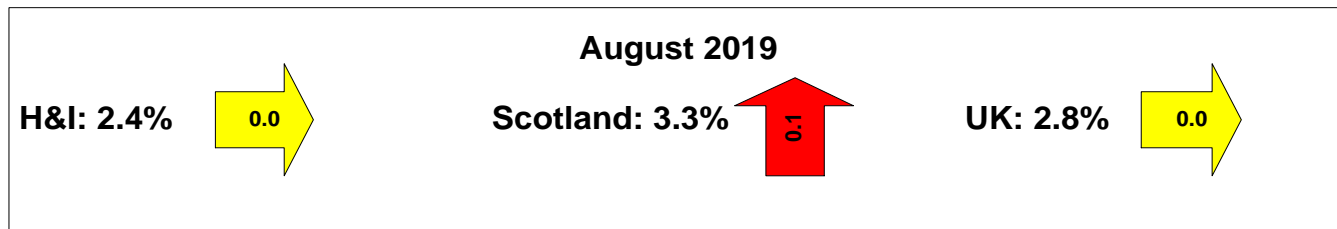
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 August 2019 claimant count figures were released on 11th September 2019.

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

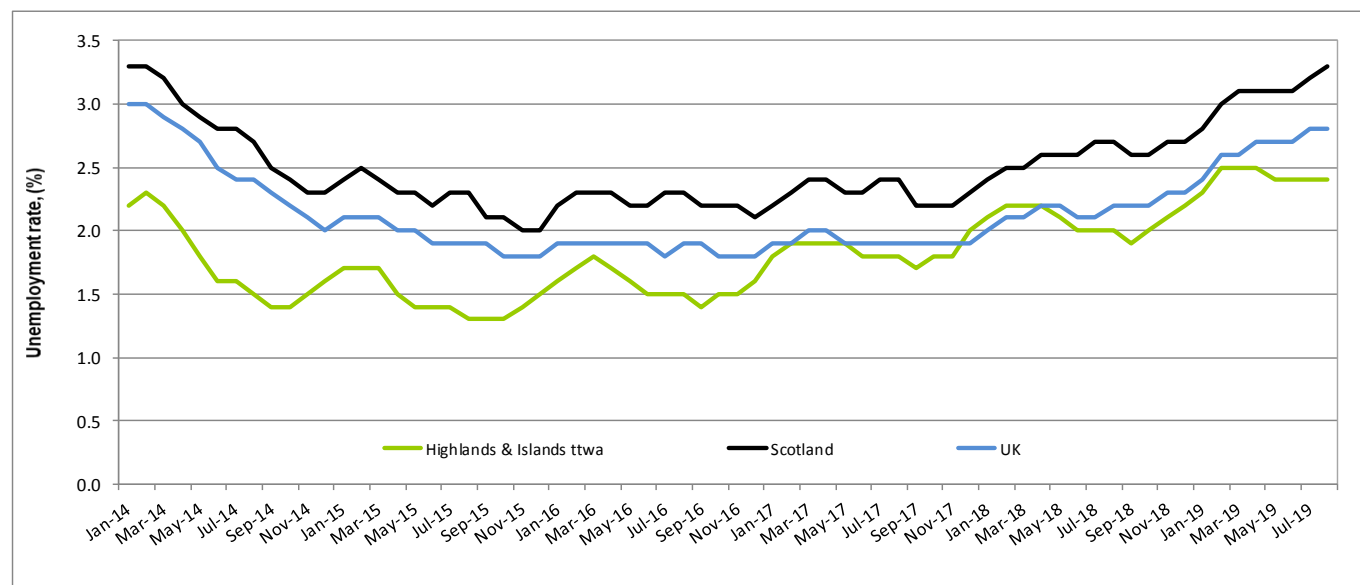


In August 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.4%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**3.3%**) and the UK (**2.8%**). The rate for the region was the same as that of last month (2.4% in July 2019) but higher than that of a year earlier (2.0% in August 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates were higher than the Scottish average in August 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay (4.5%); Wick (4.2%); Alness & Invergordon (3.9%) and Campbeltown (3.5%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in August 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.4%) – Inverness (2.2%); Eilean Siar (2.1%); Fort William (2.0%); Oban (1.9%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.7%); Shetland Islands (1.6%); Ullapool (1.5%); Orkney Islands, Mull & Islay and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (1.2%) and Portree (0.9%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area during the month was 6,795. Out of the total, 1,260 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 | August 2019 | | July 2019 | August 2018 | Monthly change | | Annual change | |
|------------------------------|-------------|------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------|---------------|------|
| | number | rate | rate | | number | rate | number | rate |
| Dunoon & Rothesay | 510 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.1 | 0 | 0.0 | 155 | 1.4 |
| Wick | 315 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 10 | 0.1 | 40 | 0.5 |
| Aness & Invergordon | 515 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 0 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.1 |
| Campbeltown | 150 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 2.1 | 5 | 0.1 | 60 | 1.4 |
| Thurso | 270 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 0 | 0.1 | 20 | 0.3 |
| Lochgilphead | 155 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 5 | 0.0 | 75 | 1.4 |
| Golpsie & Brora | 150 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 5 | 0.1 | 15 | 0.3 |
| Elgin | 1,645 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.9 | 20 | 0.0 | 470 | 0.7 |
| Inverness | 1,635 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.4 | -30 | 0.0 | -140 | -0.2 |
| Eilean Siar | 335 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 5 | 0.0 | 100 | 0.6 |
| Fort William | 260 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 5 | 0.0 | 15 | 0.1 |
| Oban | 195 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.9 | 0 | 0.0 | 105 | 1.0 |
| Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh | 75 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 5 | 0.0 | 10 | 0.2 |
| Shetland Islands | 225 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 30 | 0.2 | 90 | 0.7 |
| Ullapool | 60 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.1 | 5 | 0.1 |
| Orkney Islands | 165 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.6 | -5 | -0.1 | 85 | 0.6 |
| Mull & Islay | 50 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 0.5 | 0 | 0.1 | 30 | 0.7 |
| Aviemore & Grantown on spey | 100 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 0 | 0.0 | -20 | -0.2 |
| Portree | 40 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0 | 0.0 | -10 | -0.2 |
| Highlands and Islands TTWA | 6,850 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 55 | 0.0 | 1,120 | 0.4 |
| Scotland | 113,850 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 2,715 | 0.1 | 19,625 | 0.6 |
| United Kingdom | 1,177,115 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 31,425 | 0.0 | 270,320 | 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 – August 2019

| HIE Area Office | Total Unemployment | | Monthly change | | Annual change | | Youth Unemployment (18-24) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|------|---------------|-------|----------------------------|
| | number | rate* | number | % | number | % | number |
| Caithness and Sutherland | 760 | 3.4 | 20 | 2.7 | 75 | 10.9 | 145 |
| Argyll and the Islands | 1,140 | 3.0 | 15 | 1.3 | 440 | 62.9 | 185 |
| Moray | 1,510 | 2.6 | 15 | 1.0 | 400 | 36.0 | 325 |
| Inner Moray Firth | 2,260 | 2.3 | -30 | -1.3 | -145 | -6.0 | 420 |
| Innse Gall | 335 | 2.1 | 5 | 1.5 | 100 | 42.6 | 40 |
| Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross | 400 | 1.7 | 10 | 2.6 | 15 | 3.9 | 55 |
| Shetland | 225 | 1.6 | 30 | 15.4 | 90 | 66.7 | 45 |
| Orkney | 165 | 1.2 | -5 | -2.9 | 85 | 106.3 | 45 |

Research and Economics
September 2019

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