

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

OCTOBER 2019

HIE Research and Economics Team



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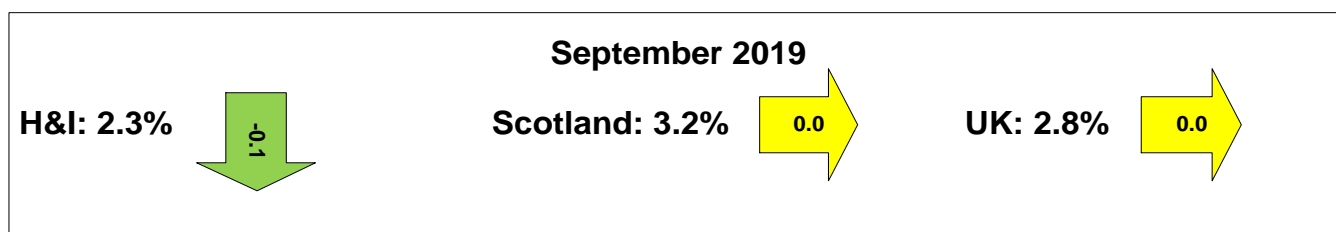
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

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 September 2019 claimant count figures were released on 15th October 2019.

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

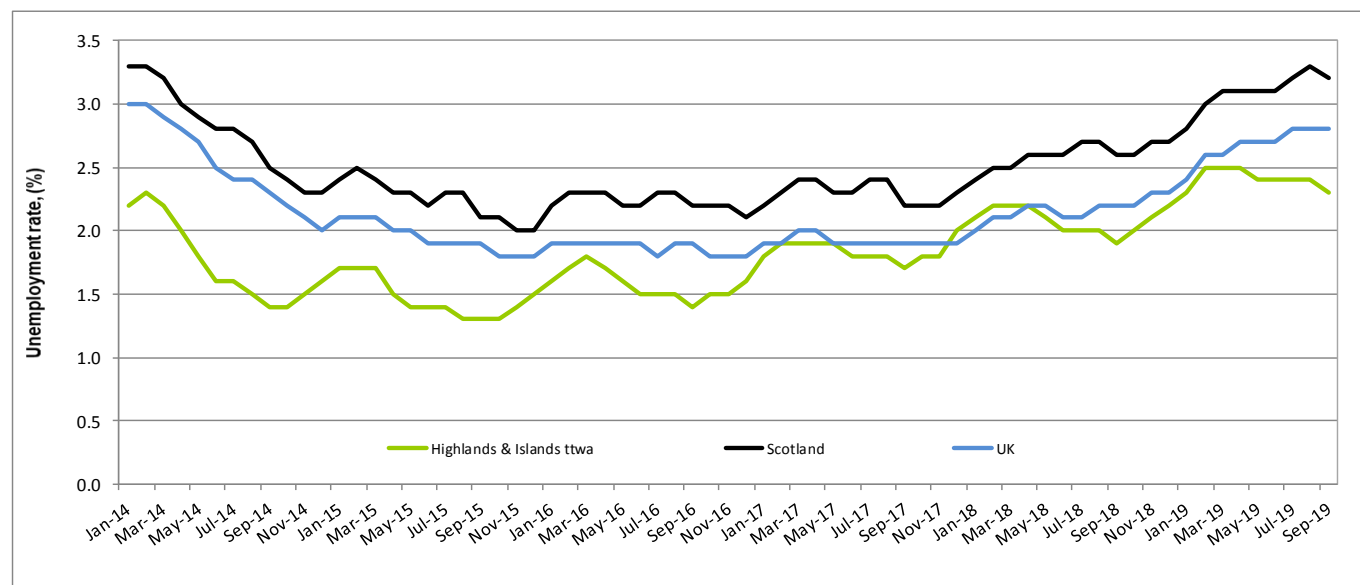


In September 2019, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.3%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**3.2%**) and the UK (**2.8%**). The rate for the region was lower than that of last month (2.4% in August 2019) but higher than that of a year earlier (1.9% in September 2018).

The TTWAs whose rates were higher than the Scottish average in September 2019 were Dunoon & Rothesay (4.3%); Wick (4.0%); Alness & Invergordon (3.7%) and Campbeltown (3.3%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in September 2019 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (2.3%) – Eilean Siar (2.2%); Inverness (2.1%); Fort William and Oban (both 1.9%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh (1.7%); Ullapool (1.6%); Shetland Islands (1.5%); Orkney Islands (1.3%); Mull & Islay and Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (both 1.1%) and Portree (1.0%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area during the month was 6,565. Out of the total, 1,210 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	September 2019		August 2019	September 2018	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate		number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Rothesay	490	4.3	4.4	3.0	-15	-0.1	155	1.3
Wick	300	4.0	4.2	3.7	-15	-0.2	20	0.3
AIness & Invergordon	490	3.7	3.9	4.0	-20	-0.2	-45	-0.3
Campbeltown	140	3.3	3.5	1.9	-10	-0.2	60	1.4
Thurso	270	3.1	3.0	2.7	5	0.1	25	0.4
Lochgilphead	150	2.8	2.8	1.6	0	0.0	65	1.2
Golpsie & Brora	150	2.8	2.8	2.5	0	0.0	15	0.3
Elgin	1,560	2.5	2.6	1.8	-65	-0.1	410	0.7
Eilean Siar	340	2.2	2.1	1.4	5	0.1	115	0.8
Inverness	1,575	2.1	2.1	2.2	-25	0.0	-105	-0.1
Fort William	245	1.9	2.0	1.9	-15	-0.1	5	0.0
Oban	190	1.9	1.9	0.9	-5	0.0	100	1.0
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	75	1.7	1.7	1.4	0	0.0	15	0.3
Ullapool	65	1.6	1.5	1.5	5	0.1	5	0.1
Shetland Islands	220	1.5	1.5	0.9	0	0.0	95	0.6
Orkney Islands	170	1.3	1.2	0.5	5	0.1	105	0.8
Mull & Islay	50	1.1	1.1	0.5	0	0.0	30	0.6
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	95	1.1	1.2	1.4	-5	-0.1	-25	-0.3
Portree	45	1.0	0.9	1.1	5	0.1	-5	-0.1
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,615	2.3	2.4	1.9	-155	-0.1	1,030	0.4
Scotland	110,185	3.2	3.2	2.6	-2,125	0.0	18,215	0.6
United Kingdom	1,176,950	2.8	2.8	2.2	13,005	0.0	259,390	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 – September 2019

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Caithness and Sutherland	745	3.3	-10	-1.3	60	8.8	135
Argyll and the Islands	1,095	2.9	-35	-3.1	425	63.4	175
Moray	1,430	2.4	-65	-4.3	350	32.4	300
Inner Moray Firth	2,170	2.2	-50	-2.3	-180	-7.7	405
Innse Gall	340	2.2	5	1.5	115	51.1	50
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	395	1.7	-5	-1.3	20	5.3	60
Shetland	220	1.5	0	0.0	95	76.0	45
Orkney	170	1.3	5	3.0	105	161.5	40

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