

Unemployment digest



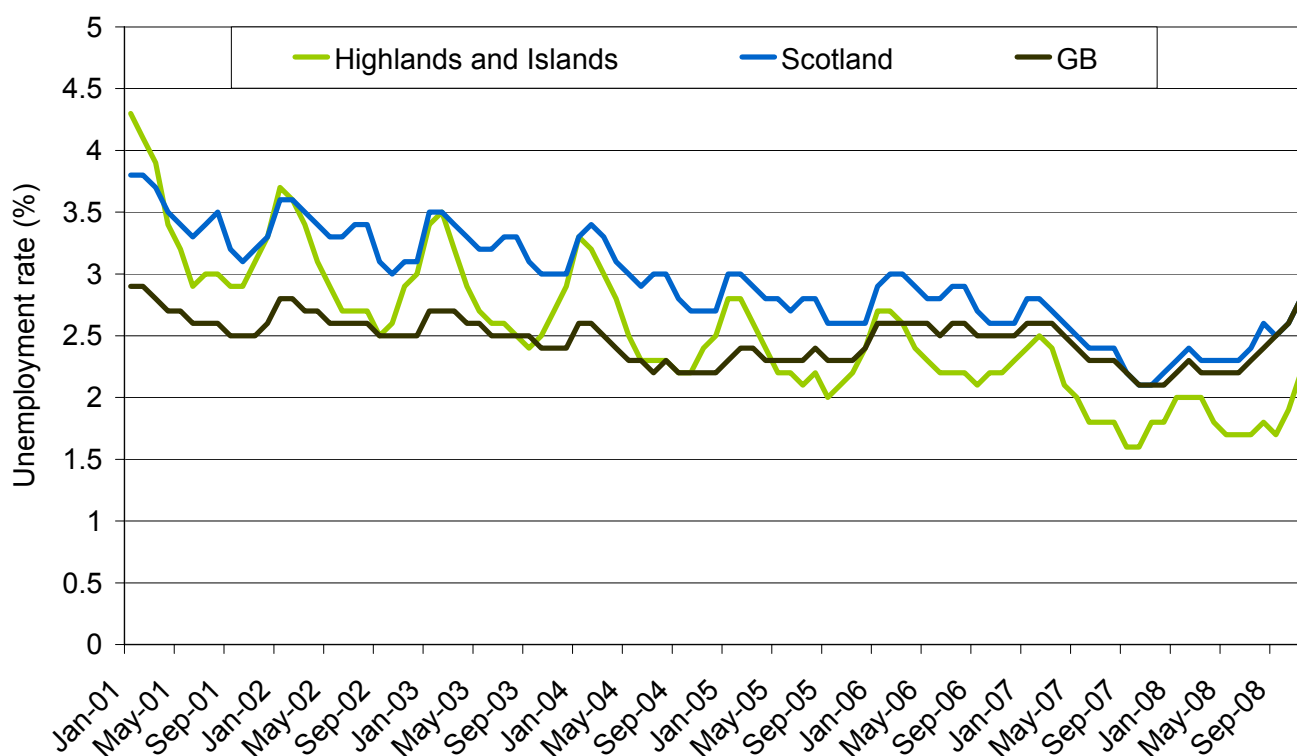
Summary

The November 2008 unemployment figures were released on 17th December 2008. During the month, October to November 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 8.8%, from 939,900 to 1,022,481 claimants (82,581). This figure is 33.9% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 763,346 an increase of 259,135 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose during the month, rising 8.5% from 83,420 to 90,488 (7,068 claimants). This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 68,538, an increase of 32.0% (21,950 claimants).

The HIE area also saw an increase in the amount of people claiming unemployment benefit over the month, October to November 2008, rising 16.6% from 4,795 to 5,589 claimants (794 claimants). This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,579, an increase of 22.1% (1,010 claimants).

Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2008



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the claimant count rates for November 2008, using the **2004** TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with October 2008 and November 2007 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the November 2008 figure. **N.B Rates are now available for the 2004 TTWA's therefore they have replaced the 1998 TTWA's.**

Area	November 2008	October 2008	November 2007
Campbeltown	3.8	3.4	2.6
Dunoon & Bute	3.7	3.4	3.0
Wick	3.4	2.9	3.1
Skye & Lochalsh	3.1	2.3	2.6
Invergordon	2.8	2.4	2.3
Eilean Siar	2.6	2.1	2.4
Dornoch & Lairg	2.4	2.0	2.3
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.4	1.7	2.4
Thurso	2.3	2.1	1.9
Lochaber	2.0	1.3	1.4
Oban	2.0	1.8	1.7
Inverness & Dingwall	1.9	1.7	1.2
Lochgilphead	1.9	1.6	1.7
Moray	1.9	1.6	1.7
Badenoch	1.7	1.4	1.4
Mull & Islay	1.5	1.3	1.8
Orkney Islands	1.0	0.9	1.1
Shetland Islands	1.1	1.1	0.9
HIE TTWAs	2.1	1.8	1.7
Highland	2.2	1.8	1.6
Scotland	2.8	2.6	2.1
Great Britain	2.8	2.6	2.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, October to November 2008, the claimant count rose in 17 TTWAs, and was static in the remaining 1 – Shetland Islands. Skye & Lochalsh had the greatest increase over the month, rising by 0.8% from 2.3% to 3.1% (60 claimants).

Over the year to November 2008, the claimant count rose in 15, fell in 2, and was static in the remaining 1 TTWAs – Ullapool & Gairloch. Campbeltown had the greatest increase over the year, rising 1.2% from 2.6% to 3.8%. Mull & Islay had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.3%.

Table 2 – Number of unemployed by Area Office

Table 2 below traces changes in the numbers (not rates) of unemployed people claiming benefits in the Highlands and Islands Area Offices (AOs) between October and November 2008. A yearly comparison between November 2007 and November 2008 is also provided. The AOs are ranked in descending order by the size of the annual change in the number of unemployed, displayed in the right hand column.

Area Office	Number claiming unemployment benefit (Nov 2008)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Oct 08-Nov 08)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Nov 07 - Nov 08)
Inner Moray Firth	1,723	14.7	45.0
Shetland	153	7.7	34.2
Argyll and the Islands	1,064	12.6	20.9
Skye and Wester Ross & Lochaber	533	41.8	20.9
Caithness and Sutherland	611	17.0	13.1
Moray	979	12.4	7.8
Innse Gall	403	22.1	7.2
Orkney	123	15.0	-6.8
HIE Area	5,589	16.6	22.1
Highland	2,867	19.5	32.2
Scotland	90,488	8.5	32.0
Great Britain	1,022,481	8.8	33.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, October to November 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in all 8 area offices. Skye, Wester Ross & Lochaber had the greatest increase over the month, rising 41.8% from 376 to 533 claimants.

Over the year to November 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 7 and fell in the remaining 1 area offices - Orkney. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 45.0% from 1,188 to 1,723 claimants. Orkney decreased by 6.8% over the year, falling from 132 to 123 claimants.

Table 3 – Long-term unemployment by Area Office

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 3 below shows the number of people who are long term unemployed in November 2008 in each of the AOs. It also highlights the percentage change in the number of those claiming long term unemployment benefit over the month (October to November 2008) and over the year (November 2007 to November 2008). The AOs are ranked by the right hand column, which contains the size of the annual percentage change in numbers of LTU.

Area Office	% Change in number of LTU		
	November 2008	(Oct 08 - Nov 08)	(Nov 07 - Nov 08)
Shetland	30	20.0	50.0
Inner Moray Firth	250	6.4	16.3
Skye and Wester Ross and Lochaber	100	5.3	5.3
Orkney	20	0.0	0.0
Argyll and the Islands	270	-5.3	-8.5
Innse Gall	100	0.0	-13.0
Caithness and Sutherland	175	2.9	-14.6
Moray	175	2.9	-18.6
HIE Area	1,120	1.8	-5.1
Highland	520	4.0	1.0
Scotland	20,205	1.0	2.8
Great Britain	238,785	1.9	1.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 5, fell in 1 and was static in the remaining 2 AOs – Orkney and Innse Gall. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 20.0% from 25 to 30 claimants. Argyll & the Islands was the only area office to decrease over the month, falling 5.3% from 285 to 270 claimants.

Over the year to November 2008, there was an increase in 3, a decrease in 4 area offices, with the remaining area office static – Orkney. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 50.0% from 20 to 30 claimants. Moray had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 18.6% from 215 to 175 claimants.

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Further economic information and previous factsheets can be accessed on the HIE Website: <http://www.hie.co.uk>

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