

Unemployment digest



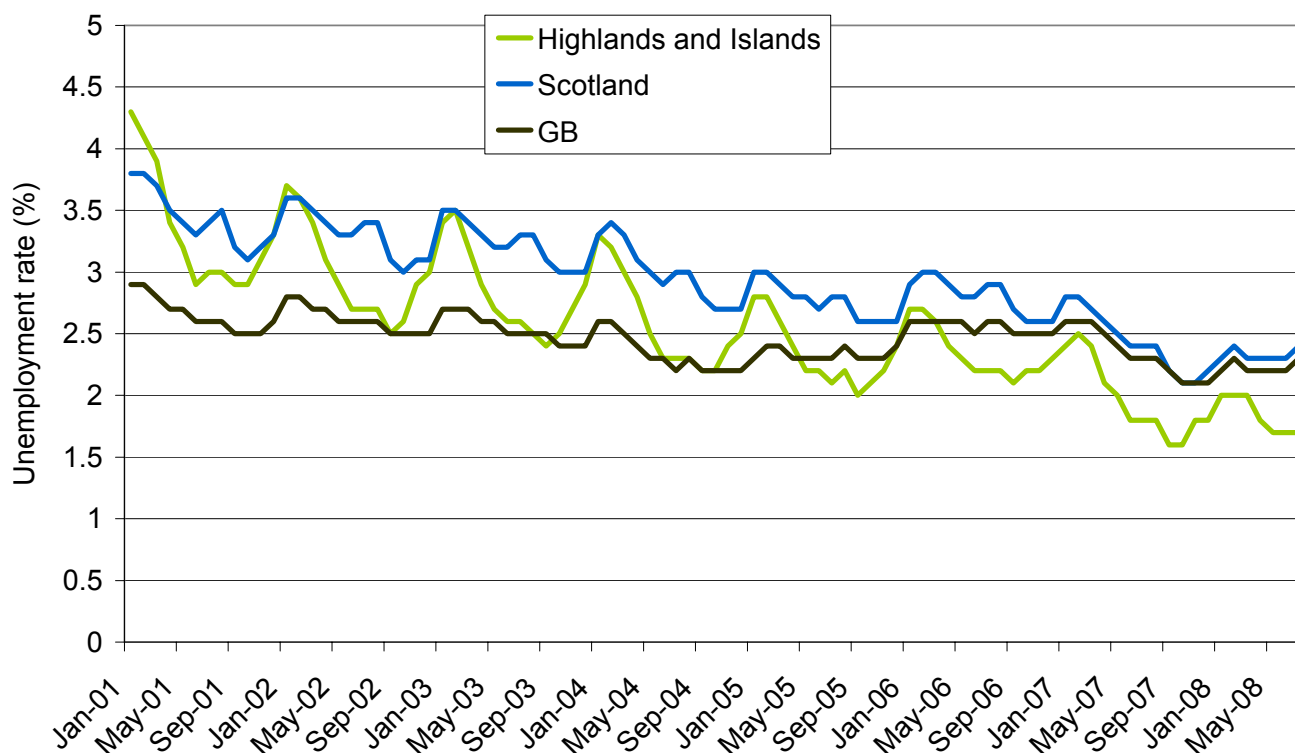
Summary

The July 2008 unemployment figures were released on 13th August 2008. During the month, June to July 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 4.2%, from 809,957 to 843,888 (33,931). This figure is higher than July 2007, where the number of claimants stood at 829,900, an increase of 1.7% (13,988 claimants).

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose during the month, rising 5.5% from 73,821 to 77,896 (4,075 claimants). This figure is higher than July last year, where the number of claimants stood at 76,955, an increase of 1.2% (941 claimants).

The HIE area also saw an increase in the amount of people claiming unemployment benefit during the month June to July 2008, rising 2.4% from 4,304 to 4,408 claimants (104 claimants). This figure is lower than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,741, a decrease of 7.0% (333 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 July 2008, using the 1998 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with June and July 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the July 2008 figure.

Area	July 2008	June 2008	July 2007
Dunoon and Rothesay	3.4	3.2	3.1
Wick	3.3	3.2	3.2
Campbeltown	2.9	2.8	2.7
Lewis and Harris	2.1	2.2	2.5
Thurso	1.9	1.8	2.1
Uists and Barra	1.9	1.9	2.2
Keith and Buckie	1.9	2.0	2.1
Dingwall	1.9	1.9	2.0
Sutherland	1.8	1.7	2.3
Elgin and Forres	1.8	1.7	1.9
Skye and Ullapool	1.7	1.5	1.9
Lochgilphead	1.7	1.6	1.9
Oban	1.6	1.4	1.9
Inverness	1.5	1.4	1.5
Dufftown	1.3	1.2	1.1
Argyll Islands	1.2	1.2	1.5
Lochaber	1.1	1.1	1.3
Badenoch	0.9	0.9	1.1
Orkney Islands	0.8	0.8	1.0
Shetland Isles	0.7	0.7	1.0
HIE TTWAs	1.7	1.7	1.8
Highland	1.6	1.5	1.7
Scotland	2.4	2.3	2.4
Great Britain	2.3	2.2	2.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, June to July 2008, the claimant count rose in 11 TTWAs, fell in 2, and was static in the remaining 7 – Uists & Barra, Dingwall, Argyll Islands, Badenoch, Lochaber, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands. Dunoon & Rothesay, Skye & Ullapool and Oban all shared the highest increase over the month, all rising by 0.2%. Lewis & Harris and Keith & Buckie were the only TTWAs to decrease over the month, both falling by 0.1% to 2.1% and 1.9% respectively.

Over the year to July 2008, the claimant count rose in 4, fell in 15, and was static in the remaining 1 TTWA – Inverness. Dunoon & Rothesay had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.3% from 3.1% to 3.4%. Sutherland had the greatest decrease over the year, down 0.5% from 2.3% to 1.8%.

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 June and July 2008. A yearly comparison between July 2007 and July 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 (July 2008)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (June 08-July 08)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (July 07 - July 08)
Shetland	99	-1.0	-27.7
Orkney	88	-3.3	-20.7
Innse Gall	311	-6.9	-15.9
Lochaber	129	2.4	-12.2
Skye and Wester Ross	181	7.7	-10.4
Caithness and Sutherland	512	2.6	-9.5
Moray	936	1.1	-8.3
Inverness and East Highland	1,261	4.3	-2.9
Argyll and the Islands	891	4.7	0.2
HIE Area	4,408	2.4	-7.0
Highland	2,083	4.0	-5.9
Scotland	77,896	5.5	1.2
Great Britain	843,888	4.2	1.7

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, June to July 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 6 and fell in 3 area offices. Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the month, rising 7.7% from 168 to 181 claimants. Innse Gall had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 6.9% from 334 to 311 claimants.

Over the year to July 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 1 and fell in 8 area offices. Argyll and the Islands was the only area office to increase over the year, rising by 0.2% from 889 to 891 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 27.7% from 137 to 99 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 July 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 (June to July 2008) and over the year (July 2007 to July 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	
	July 2008	(June 08 - July 08)
Shetland	20	0.0
Lochaber	15	0.0
Orkney	20	-20.0
Caithness and Sutherland	160	-5.9
Innse Gall	100	-13.0
Moray	195	-2.5
Inverness and East Highland	185	-9.8
Skye and Wester Ross	70	-6.7
Argyll and the Islands	305	-3.2
HIE Area	1,070	-6.1
Highland	435	-6.5
Scotland	19,150	-1.5
Great Britain	228,380	-2.0

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants fell in 7 and was static in the remaining 2 AOs – Shetland and Lochaber. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 20.0% from 25 to 20 claimants.

Over the year to July 2008, all 9 AOs experienced a decrease in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit for over 6 months. Shetland and Lochaber shared the greatest decrease over the year, both decreasing by 50% to 20 and 15 claimants respectively.

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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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