

Unemployment digest



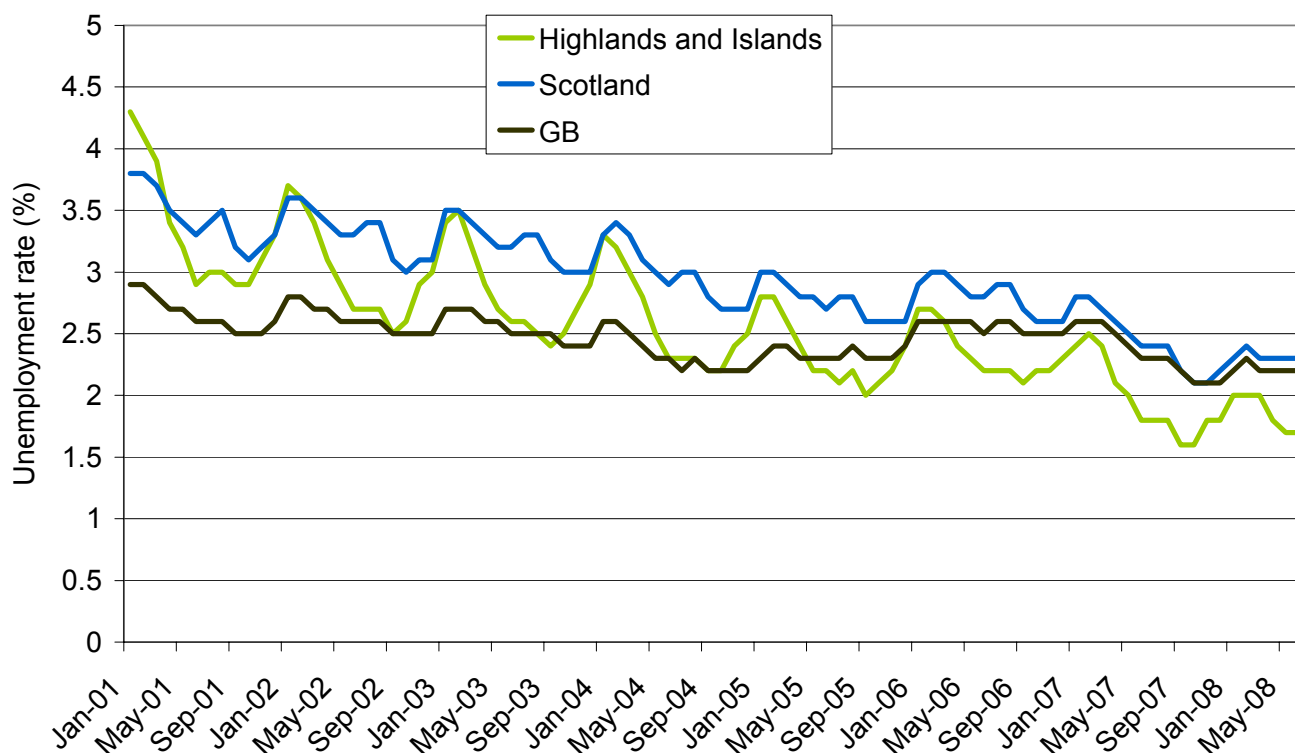
Summary

The June 2008 unemployment figures were released on 16th July 2008. During the month, May to June 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 0.3%, from 807,191 to 809,957 (2,766). This figure is lower than June 2007, where the number of claimants stood at 831,957, a decrease of 2.6% (24,766 claimants).

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose during the month, rising 2.0% from 72,385 to 73,821 (1,436 claimants). This figure is lower than June last year, where the number of claimants stood at 76,393, a decrease of 3.4% (4,008 claimants).

The HIE area saw a decrease in the amount of people claiming unemployment benefit during the month May to June 2008, falling 3.5% from 4,460 to 4,304 claimants (156 claimants). This figure is lower than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,758, a decrease of 9.5% (298 claimants).

TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2008



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the claimant count rates for June 2008, using the 1998 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with May and June 2008 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the June 2008 figure.

Area	June 2008	May 2008	June 2007
Wick	3.2	3.4	3.2
Dunoon and Rothesay	3.2	3.2	3.0
Campbeltown	2.8	2.8	2.8
Lewis and Harris	2.2	2.1	2.6
Keith and Buckie	2.0	2.0	2.3
Uists and Barra	1.9	1.9	2.2
Dingwall	1.9	2.0	1.9
Thurso	1.8	1.9	2.2
Sutherland	1.7	1.8	2.4
Elgin and Forres	1.7	1.8	2.1
Lochgilphead	1.6	1.6	1.7
Skye and Ullapool	1.5	1.7	1.8
Oban	1.4	1.6	1.9
Inverness	1.4	1.4	1.4
Argyll Islands	1.2	1.2	1.3
Dufftown	1.2	1.4	1.3
Lochaber	1.1	1.3	1.3
Badenoch	0.9	1.0	1.0
Orkney Islands	0.8	0.8	0.9
Shetland Isles	0.7	0.8	1.1
HIE TTWAs	1.7	1.7	1.8
Highland	1.5	1.6	1.6
Scotland	2.3	2.3	2.4
Great Britain	2.2	2.2	2.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, May to June 2008, the claimant count rose in 1 TTWA, fell in 11, and was static in the remaining 8 – Dunoon & Rothesay, Campbeltown, Uists & Barra, Keith & Buckie, Lochgilphead, Argyll Islands, Inverness and Orkney Islands. Lewis & Harris was the only area to increase over the month, rising 0.1% from 2.1% to 2.2%. The greatest decrease of 0.2% was shared by Wick, Skye & Ullapool, Oban, Lochaber and Dufftown.

Over the year to June 2008, the claimant count rose in 1, fell in 15, and was static in the remaining 4 TTWAs – Wick, Campbeltown, Dingwall and Inverness. Dunoon & Rothesay was the only area to increase, rising 0.2% from 3.0% to 3.2%. Sutherland had the greatest decrease over the year, down 0.7% from 2.4% to 1.7%.

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 May and June 2008. A yearly comparison between June 2007 and June 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 (June 2008)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (May 08-June 08)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (June 07 - June 08)
Shetland	100	-12.3	-33.3
Lochaber	126	-17.1	-17.1
Moray	926	-3.3	-14.9
Caithness and Sutherland	499	-5.7	-13.8
Innse Gall	334	3.7	-13.5
Skye and Wester Ross	168	-7.2	-13.4
Orkney	91	0.0	-12.5
Inverness and East Highland	1,209	-3.0	-2.2
Argyll and the Islands	851	-1.7	-2.1
HIE Area	4,304	-3.5	-9.5
Highland	2,002	-5.1	-7.4
Scotland	73,821	2.0	-3.4
Great Britain	809,957	0.3	-2.6

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, May to June 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 1, fell in 7 and was static in the remaining area office - Orkney. Innse Gall was the only area office to increase over the month, rising 3.7% from 322 to 334 claimants. Lochaber had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 17.1% from 152 to 126 claimants.

Over the year to June 2008, all 9 AOs experienced a decrease in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, down 33.3% from 150 to 100 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 June 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 (May to June 2008) and over the year (June 2007 to June 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	June 2008	% Change in number of LTU (May 08 - June 08)	% Change in number of LTU (June 07 - June 08)
Shetland	20	-20.0	-60.0
Lochaber	15	-25.0	-50.0
Orkney	25	0.0	-37.5
Caithness and Sutherland	170	-10.5	-30.6
Innse Gall	115	0.0	-30.3
Moray	200	5.3	-29.8
Inverness and East Highland	205	-4.7	-26.8
Skye and Wester Ross	75	-11.8	-16.7
Argyll and the Islands	315	3.3	-8.7
HIE Area	1,140	-2.6	-25.5
Highland	465	-9.7	-28.5
Scotland	19,450	-1.5	-22.7
Great Britain	232,925	-1.2	-20.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 2, fell in 5 and was static in the remaining 2 AOs – Orkney and Innse Gall. Moray had the greatest increase over the month, rising 5.3% from 190 to 200 claimants. Lochaber had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 25.0% from 20 to 15 claimants.

Over the year to June 2008, all 9 AOs experienced a decrease in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit for over 6 months. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, down 60.0% from 50 to 20 claimants.

Heather Smith – Research Assistant
 Kateryna McKinnon – Economist

heather.smith@hient.co.uk
kateryna.mckinnon@hient.co.uk

Tel: (01463) 244320
 Tel: (01463) 244258

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

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