

Unemployment digest



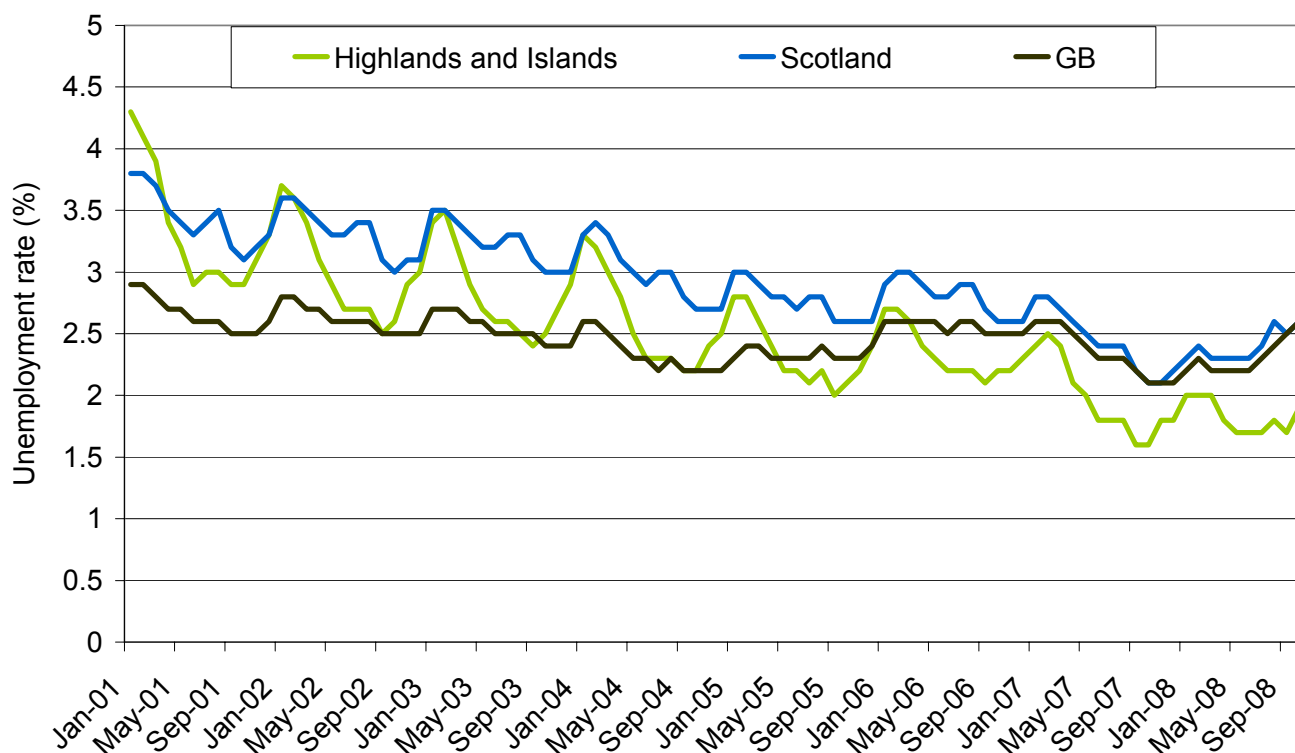
Summary

The October 2008 unemployment figures were released on 12th November 2008. During the month, September to October 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 2.7%, from 914,931 to 939,900 claimants (24,969). This figure is 20.8% higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 778,057 an increase of 161,843 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose by 2.7% during the month, rising from 81,243 to 83,420 (2,177 claimants). This figure is higher than October last year, where the number of claimants stood at 68,683, an increase of 21.5% (14,737 claimants).

The HIE area also saw an increase in the amount of people claiming unemployment benefit during the month, rising 6.1% from 4,519 to 4,795 claimants (276 claimants). This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,210, an increase of 13.9% (585 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 October 2008, using the 1998 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with September 2008 and October 2007 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the October 2008 figure.

Area	October 2008	September 2008	October 2007
Dunoon and Rothesay	3.4	3.3	2.9
Campbeltown	3.0	2.8	2.2
Wick	2.8	2.8	3.0
Lewis and Harris	2.2	2.0	2.2
Sutherland	2.1	2.0	2.0
Dingwall	2.1	1.9	1.6
Skye and Ullapool	2.1	1.7	1.9
Uists and Barra	2.0	2.1	1.9
Thurso	2.0	1.8	1.9
Oban	1.9	1.7	1.7
Inverness	1.8	1.7	1.3
Elgin and Forres	1.7	1.7	1.7
Lochgilphead	1.7	1.7	1.5
Keith and Buckie	1.6	1.6	1.8
Badenoch	1.5	1.2	1.2
Dufftown	1.3	1.4	0.9
Argyll Islands	1.3	1.2	1.3
Lochaber	1.3	1.2	1.2
Shetland Isles	1.0	0.8	0.7
Orkney Islands	0.9	0.9	1.0
HIE TTWAs	1.9	1.7	1.6
Highland	1.8	1.7	1.5
Scotland	2.6	2.5	2.1
Great Britain	2.6	2.5	2.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, September to October 2008, the claimant count rose in 13 TTWAs, fell in 2, and was static in the remaining 5 – Wick, Keith & Buckie, Elgin & Forres, Lochgilphead and Orkney Islands. Skye & Ullapool had the greatest increase over the month, rising 0.4% from 1.7% to 2.1%. Uists & Barra and Dufftown were the only TTWAs to decrease over the month, both falling by 0.1%.

Over the year to October 2008, the claimant count rose in 14, fell in 3, and was static in the remaining 3 TTWAs – Lewis & Harris, Elgin & Forres and Argyll Islands. Campbeltown had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.8% from 2.2% to 3.0%. Wick and Keith & Buckie shared the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.2%.

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 September and October 2008. A yearly comparison between October 2007 and October 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 (Oct 2008)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Sep 08-Oct 08)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Oct 07 - Oct 08)
Orkney	107	0.9	-7.0
Moray	871	-2.5	-2.1
Innse Gall	330	7.8	-1.5
Caithness and Sutherland	522	7.4	3.0
Skye and Wester Ross & Lochaber	376	14.6	11.2
Argyll and the Islands	945	5.6	17.1
Inner Moray Firth	1,502	7.4	34.1
Shetland	142	32.7	44.9
HIE Area	4,795	6.1	13.9
Highland	2,400	8.5	22.1
Scotland	83,420	2.7	21.5
Great Britain	939,900	2.7	20.8

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, September to October 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 7, and fell in the remaining 1 area offices. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 32.7% from 107 to 142 claimants. Moray was the only area to decrease over the month, falling 2.5% from 893 to 871 claimants.

Over the year to October 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 5 and fell in the remaining 3 area offices. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 44.9% from 98 to 142 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 7.0% from 115 to 107 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 October 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 (September to October 2008) and over the year (October 2007 to October 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	
	October 2008	(Sep 08 - Oct 08)
Moray	170	0.0
Innse Gall	100	-4.8
Orkney	20	-20.0
Caithness and Sutherland	170	3.0
Argyll and the Islands	280	-5.1
Shetland	25	0.0
Skye and Wester Ross and Lochaber	90	5.9
Inner Moray Firth	235	4.4
HIE Area	1,090	-0.5
Highland	500	5.3
Scotland	20,005	0.5
Great Britain	234,385	-0.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 3, fell in 3 and was static in the remaining 2 AOs – Shetland and Moray. Skye, Wester Ross and Lochaber had the greatest increase over the month, rising 5.9% from 85 to 90 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 20.0% from 25 to 20 claimants.

Over the year to October 2008, there was an increase in 2, a decrease in 5 area offices, with the remaining area office static – Shetland. Inner Moray Firth had the greatest increase over the year, rising 6.8% from 220 to 235 claimants. Moray had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 29.2% from 240 to 170 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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