

Unemployment digest



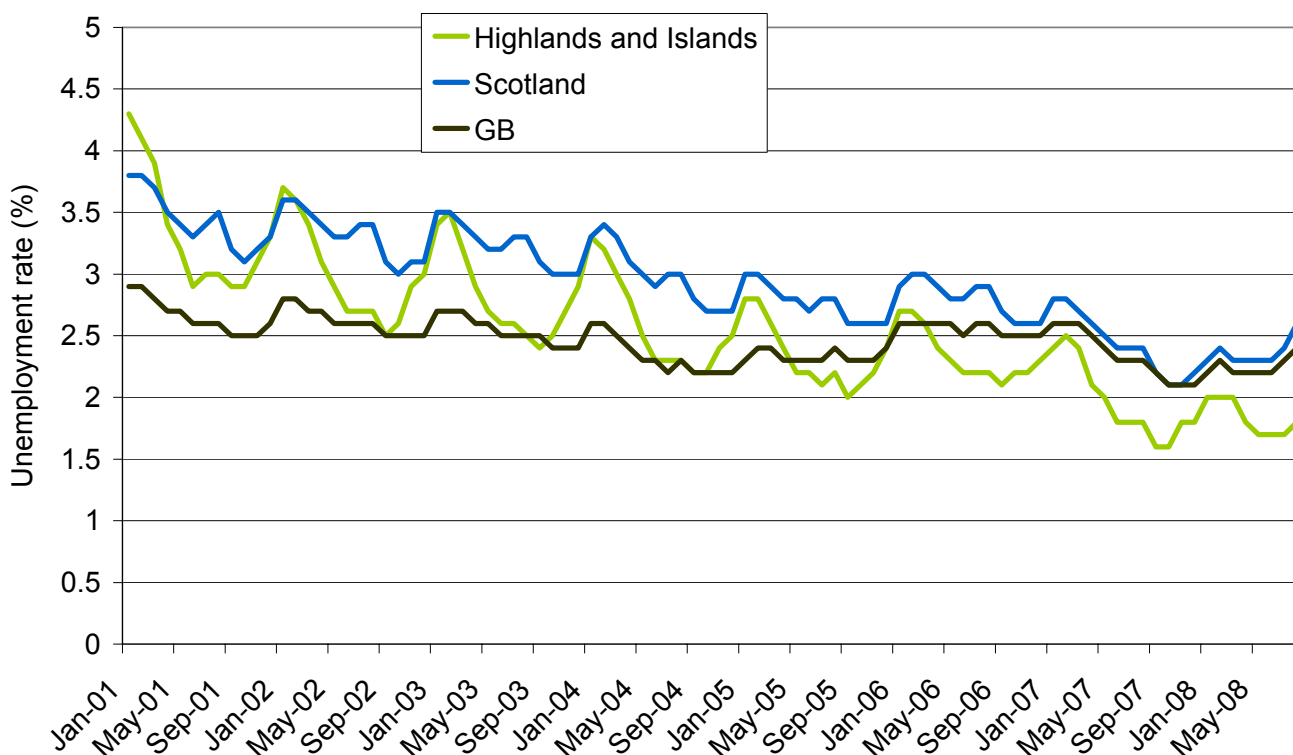
Summary

The August 2008 unemployment figures were released on 17th September 2008. During the month, July to August 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Great Britain rose by 6.0%, from 843,888 to 894,678 claimants (50,790). This figure is higher than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 832,294, an increase of 7.5% (62,384 claimants).

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland also rose during the month, rising 5.8% from 77,896 to 82,425 (4,529 claimants). This figure is higher than August last year, where the number of claimants stood at 77,269, an increase of 6.7% (5,156 claimants).

The HIE area also saw an increase in the amount of people claiming unemployment benefit during the month, rising 2.7% from 4,408 to 4,527 claimants (119 claimants). This figure is lower than the same period last year, where the total number of claimants stood at 4,585, a decrease of 1.3% (58 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 August 2008, using the 1998 TTWAs (Travel-To-Work-Areas). The claimant count rates are compared with July 2008 and August 2007 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the August 2008 figure.

Area	August 2008	July 2008	August 2007
Dunoon and Rothesay	3.3	3.4	2.9
Wick	3.1	3.3	3.3
Campbeltown	2.9	2.9	2.6
Lewis and Harris	2.0	2.1	2.4
Uists and Barra	2.0	1.9	2.3
Sutherland	1.9	1.8	2.3
Thurso	1.9	1.9	2.1
Elgin and Forres	1.9	1.8	1.9
Dingwall	1.9	1.9	1.7
Keith and Buckie	1.8	1.9	1.9
Lochgilphead	1.8	1.7	1.8
Oban	1.7	1.6	1.7
Inverness	1.6	1.5	1.5
Skye and Ullapool	1.5	1.7	1.7
Dufftown	1.5	1.3	1.2
Argyll Islands	1.2	1.2	1.3
Lochaber	1.2	1.1	1.2
Badenoch	1.1	0.9	1.1
Orkney Islands	0.8	0.8	0.9
Shetland Isles	0.8	0.7	1.0
HIE TTWAs	1.8	1.7	1.8
Highland	1.6	1.6	1.6
Scotland	2.6	2.4	2.4
Great Britain	2.4	2.3	2.3

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, July to August 2008, the claimant count rose in 10 TTWAs, fell in 5, and was static in the remaining 5 – Campbeltown, Thurso, Dingwall, Argyll Islands and Orkney Islands. Badenoch and Dufftown shared the highest increase over the month, both rising by 0.2%. Wick and Skye & Ullapool shared the greatest decrease over the month, both falling by 0.2% to 3.1% and 1.5% respectively.

Over the year to August 2008, the claimant count rose in 5, fell in 10, and was static in the remaining 5 TTWAs – Elgin & Forres, Oban, Lochgilphead, Badenoch and Lochaber. Dunoon & Rothesay had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.4% from 2.9% to 3.3%. Lewis & Harris and Sutherland shared the greatest decrease over the year, both falling by 0.4% to 2.0% and 1.9% respectively.

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 July and August 2008. A yearly comparison between August 2007 and August 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 (Aug 2008)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Jul 08-Aug 08)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Aug 07 - Aug 08)
Shetland	106	7.1	-22.1
Innse Gall	307	-1.3	-16.1
Skye and Wester Ross	164	-9.4	-13.7
Orkney	94	6.8	-13.0
Caithness and Sutherland	513	0.2	-10.5
Lochaber	134	3.9	-5.6
Moray	973	4.0	-1.0
Argyll and the Islands	891	0.0	5.7
Inverness and East Highland	1,345	6.7	8.1
HIE Area	4,527	2.7	-1.3
Highland	2,156	3.5	0.3
Scotland	82,425	5.8	6.7
Great Britain	894,678	6.0	7.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month, July to August 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 6, fell in 2 and was static in the remaining 1 area office – Argyll and the Islands. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 7.1% from 99 to 106 claimants. Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the month, falling 9.4% from 181 to 164 claimants.

Over the year to August 2008, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 2 and fell in 7 area offices. Inverness & East Highland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 8.1% from 1,244 to 1,345 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 22.1% from 136 to 106 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 August 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 (July to August 2008) and over the year (August 2007 to August 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	
	August 2008	(Jul 08 - Aug 08)
Shetland	20	0.0
Lochaber	15	0.0
Caithness and Sutherland	165	3.1
Innse Gall	105	5.0
Moray	190	-2.6
Orkney	25	25.0
Inverness and East Highland	230	24.3
Argyll and the Islands	315	3.3
Skye and Wester Ross	75	7.1
HIE Area	1,140	6.5
Highland	490	12.6
Scotland	20,170	5.3
Great Britain	235,365	3.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

During the month, the number of long term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 6, fell in 1 and was static in the remaining 2 AOs – Shetland and Lochaber. Orkney had the greatest increase over the month, rising 25.0% from 20 to 25 claimants. Moray was the only AO to decrease over the month, falling 2.6% from 195 to 190 claimants.

Over the year to August 2008, there was a decrease in 8 AOs with the remaining AO static – Skye & Wester Ross. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 50.0% from 40 to 20 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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