

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

DECEMBER 2017

HIE Research and Economics Team



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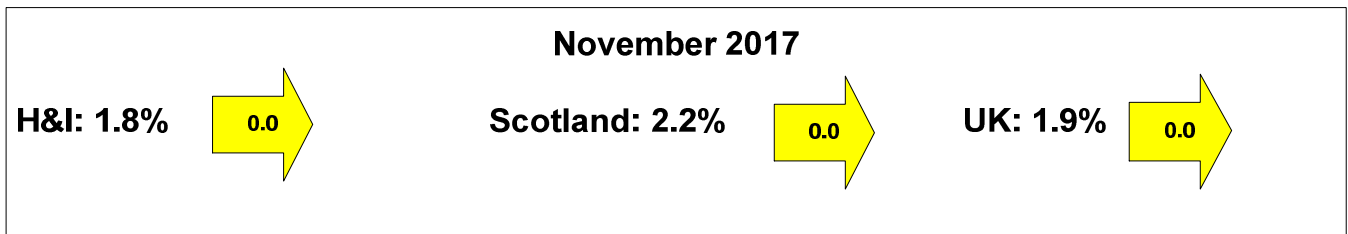
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit figures rather than job seekers allowance.

Since 1996, unemployment has been measured as a count of the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). However, the UK Government introduced a new benefit, Universal Credit, in May 2013 which has had a phased introduction across the country. The Claimant Count will now be a measure of all those in receipt of Universal Credit who are out of work, including income based JSA claimants. Contribution based JSA claimants will be measured separately.

JSA figures continue to be published, although they now form a subset of the new Claimant Count data, which the ONS believe to be the best measure of the number of people claiming unemployment related benefits.

The November 2017 claimant count figures were released on 13th December 2017.

As illustrated by the chart below, unemployment in the Highlands and Islands was lower than that for Scotland and the UK.

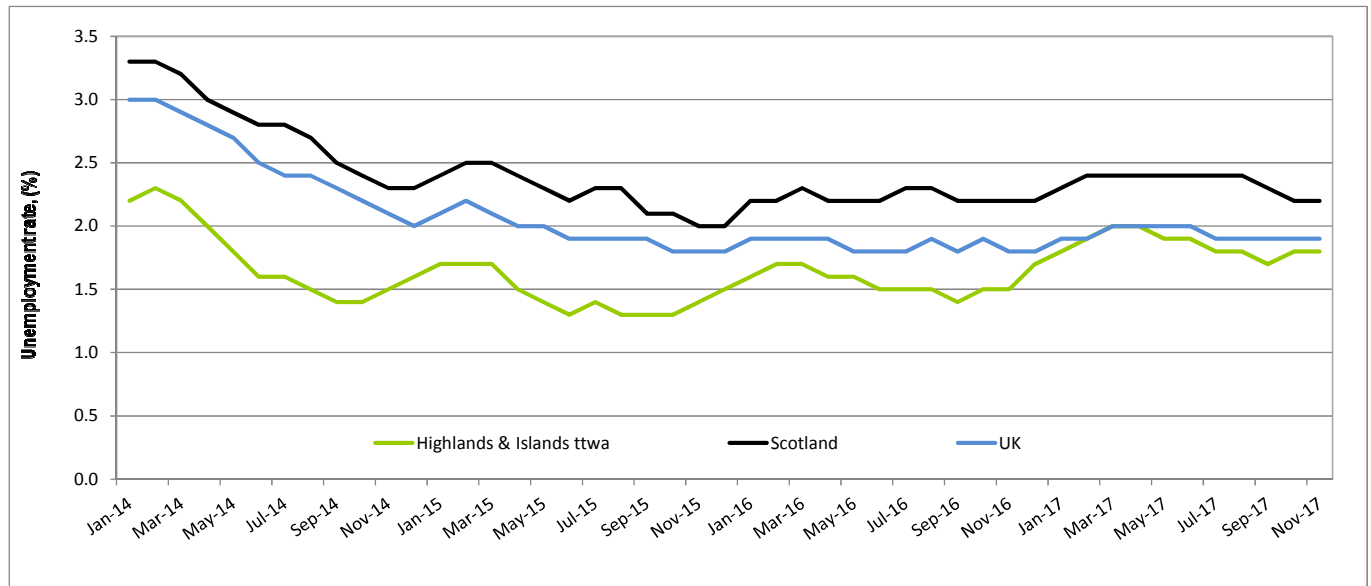


In November 2017, the average claimant count and universal credit unemployment rate for the 19 Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.8%**, which was below the rate for Scotland (**2.2%**) and that for the UK (**1.9%**). There was no change in the rate for the region compared to last month, but it was higher than that of a year earlier (1.5% in November 2016).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in November 2017 were Alness & Invergordon (3.5%); Dunoon & Rothesay and Wick (both 2.8%) and Inverness (2.4%). Eleven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in November 2017 lower than the Highlands and Islands average (1.8%) – Elgin and Eilean Siar (both 1.6%); Aviemore & Grantown on Spey (1.5%); Ullapool (1.3%); Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh and Fort William (both 1.2%); Oban and Portree (both 1.0%); Orkney Islands and Mull & Islay (both 0.8%) and Shetland Islands (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment related benefits in the HIE area in November 2017 was 5,300. Out of the total, 970 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2014-2017)



* Based on Claimant Count and Universal Credit and, produced monthly by ONS.

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

Table 1 below illustrates the claimant count and universal credit allowance rates for each of the 19 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 - Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	November 2017		October 2017	November 2016	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Alness & Invergordon	460	3.5	3.4	2.6	15	0.1	110	0.9
Dunoon & Rothesay	320	2.8	2.7	2.6	5	0.1	15	0.2
Wick	210	2.8	2.8	2.2	-5	0.0	40	0.6
Inverness	1,835	2.4	2.4	1.4	-10	0.0	775	1.0
Golpsie & Brora	110	2.0	2.0	1.9	0	0.0	5	0.1
Thurso	170	1.9	1.8	1.9	5	0.1	0	0.0
Campbeltown	80	1.8	2.0	2.0	-10	-0.2	-10	-0.2
Lochgilphead	100	1.8	1.6	1.4	10	0.2	20	0.4
Elgin	995	1.6	1.6	1.5	-5	0.0	50	0.1
Eilean Siar	265	1.6	1.6	1.9	0	0.0	-45	-0.3
Aviemore & Grantown on spey	130	1.5	1.5	1.1	5	0.0	40	0.4
Ullapool	55	1.3	1.1	1.1	5	0.2	5	0.2
Broadford & Kyle of Lochalsh	50	1.2	1.0	1.2	5	0.2	0	0.0
Fort William	155	1.2	1.2	1.2	5	0.0	0	0.0
Oban	105	1.0	1.0	1.2	0	0.0	-15	-0.2
Portree	50	1.0	0.8	1.0	10	0.2	5	0.0
Orkney Islands	110	0.8	0.8	0.9	5	0.0	-10	-0.1
Mull & Islay	35	0.8	0.5	0.7	15	0.3	5	0.1
Shetland	85	0.6	0.5	0.8	10	0.1	-30	-0.2
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,320	1.8	1.8	1.5	65	0.0	960	0.3
Scotland	77,535	2.2	2.2	2.2	105	0.0	1,840	0.0
United Kingdom	789,305	1.9	1.9	1.8	-4,130	0.0	31,980	0.1

Table 2 shows the total claimant count and universal credit unemployment, by number and rate over the month and year and youth unemployment by HIE area office.

Table 2 - Unemployment by Area Office - November 2017

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number
Inner Moray Firth	2,435	2.5	15	0.6	930	61.8	445
Caithness and Sutherland	510	2.2	5	1.0	50	10.9	80
Argyll and the Islands	680	1.7	25	3.8	-5	-0.7	125
Innse Gall	265	1.7	0	0.0	-45	-14.5	40
Moray	935	1.6	-5	-0.5	50	5.6	210
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	280	1.2	25	9.8	5	1.8	30
Orkney	110	0.8	5	4.8	-10	-8.3	20
Shetland	85	0.6	10	13.3	-30	-26.1	20

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