

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JANUARY 2014

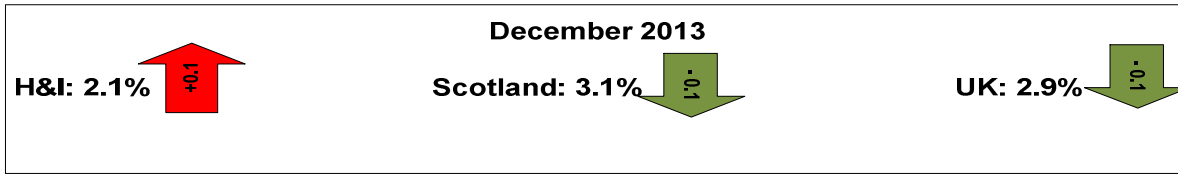
HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

The December 2013 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 22nd January 2014.

As illustrated by the chart below, the Highlands and Islands continues to have significantly lower unemployment than either Scotland or the UK - a trend which has been fairly constant since the recession.

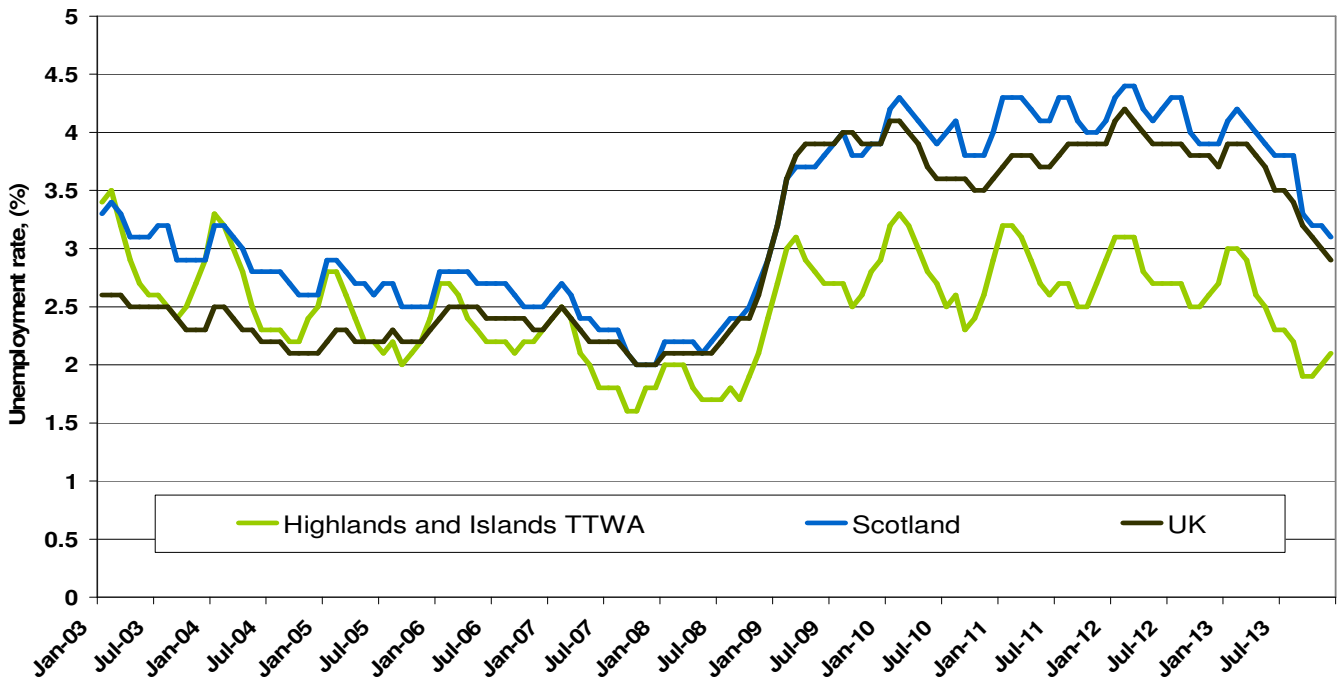


In December 2013, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.1%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**3.1%**) and the UK's (**2.9%**). The region's rate rose by 0.1% on the previous month and was lower than a year earlier (2.7% in December 2012).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in December 2013 were Wick and Dunoon & Bute, both with 3.9% and Campbeltown (3.8%). Six TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in November 2013 lower than 2.1% – Moray (1.8%), Inverness & Dingwall (1.7%), Badenoch and Mull & Islay (both with 1.4%), Orkney Islands (1.1%) and Shetland Islands (1.0%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in December 2013 was 5,981. Out of the total, some 2,235 were long term unemployed** and 1,240 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2003-2013)



* Based on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count figures, produced monthly by ONS.

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

**1 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 1 below illustrates the claimant count rates for each of the 18 TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands.

Table 1 – Unemployment by TTWA

Travel to Work Area	December 2013		November 2013		December 2012		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Wick	288	3.9	4.0	4.4	-6	-0.1	-35	-0.5		
Dunoon & Bute	500	3.9	4.0	5.3	-13	-0.1	-178	-1.4		
Campbeltown	184	3.8	3.8	3.5	4	0.0	17	0.3		
Thurso	290	3.1	2.7	3.3	44	0.4	-11	-0.2		
Skye & Lochalsh	243	3.0	2.8	3.6	17	0.2	-50	-0.6		
Eilean Siar	473	2.9	2.9	2.9	7	0.0	12	0.0		
Invergordon	354	2.7	2.3	4.0	50	0.4	-174	-1.3		
Dornoch & Lairg	146	2.6	2.2	2.7	22	0.4	-7	-0.1		
Lochgilphead	160	2.6	2.4	2.7	10	0.2	-8	-0.1		
Lochaber	285	2.3	2.2	3.1	22	0.1	-93	-0.8		
Oban	241	2.2	2.2	2.9	6	0.0	-69	-0.7		
Ullapool & Gairloch	111	2.2	1.9	2.8	14	0.3	-32	-0.6		
Moray	976	1.8	1.6	2.3	63	0.2	-298	-0.5		
Inverness & Dingwall	1,207	1.7	1.7	2.5	-35	0.0	-608	-0.8		
Badenoch	110	1.4	1.3	2.2	3	0.1	-69	-0.8		
Mull & Islay	67	1.4	1.3	1.8	4	0.1	-21	-0.4		
Orkney Islands	134	1.1	1.2	1.4	-15	-0.1	-42	-0.3		
Shetland Islands	139	1.0	1.0	1.5	-1	0.0	-76	-0.5		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,908	2.1	2.0	2.7	196	0.1	-1,742	-0.6		
Scotland	108,284	3.1	3.2	3.9	-895	-0.1	-25,219	-0.8		
United Kingdom	1,201,512	2.9	3.0	3.7	-21,378	-0.1	-321,710	-0.8		

Source: ONS

Table 2 shows the total claimant count unemployment, by number and rate over the month and year, long-term unemployment (LTU) and youth unemployment by HIE area office.

Table 2 – Unemployment by Area Office

HIE Area Office	Total Unemployment		Monthly change		Annual change		LTU	Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%		
Caithness and Sutherland	770	3.3	70	10.0	-53	-6.4	360	165
Innse Gall	473	3.0	7	1.5	12	2.6	205	70
Argyll and the Islands	1,225	2.9	19	1.6	-272	-18.2	510	265
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	593	2.5	43	7.8	-175	-22.8	165	105
Inner Moray Firth	1,671	1.8	18	1.1	-851	-33.7	590	315
Moray	976	1.8	63	6.9	-298	-23.4	335	255
Orkney	134	1.1	-15	-10.1	-42	-23.9	40	35
Shetland	139	1.0	-1	-0.7	-76	-35.3	30	30

*Calculated rate, as a % of working age population

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January 2013

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