

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

FEBRUARY 2014

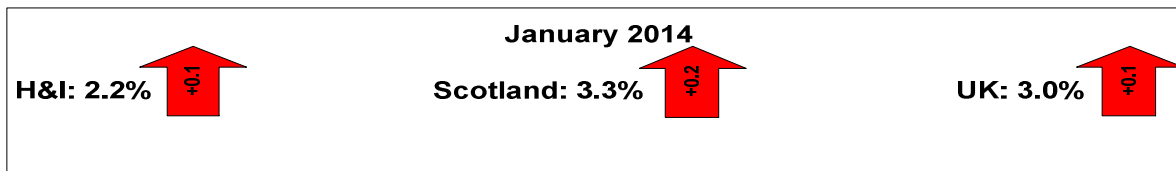
HIE Research and Economics Team



UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

The January 2014 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 19th February 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.

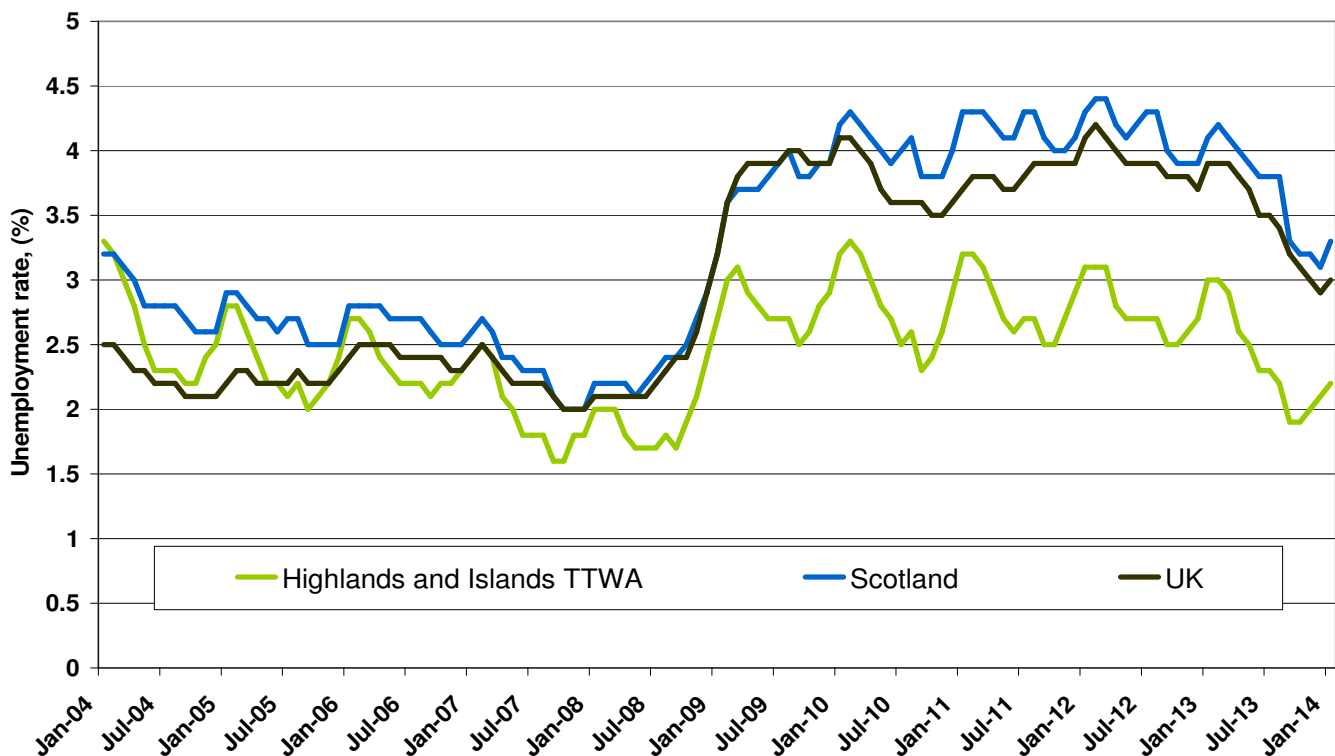


In January 2014, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.2%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**3.3%**) and the UK's (**3.0%**). The region's rate rose by 0.1% on the previous month and was lower than a year earlier (3.0% in January 2013).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in January 2014 were Dunoon & Bute (4.0%), Campbeltown (3.9%) and Wick (3.8%). Seven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in January 2014 lower than 2.2% – Ullapool & Gairloch (2.1%), Moray (2.0%), Inverness & Dingwall (1.8%), Mull & Islay (1.5%), Badenoch (1.3%), Orkney (1.1%) and Shetland Islands (0.9%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in January 2014 was 6,274. Out of the total, some 2,285 were long term unemployed** and 1,310 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2003-2014)



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

^ As defined by Scottish datazones.

** 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	January 2014		December 2013	January 2013	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Bute	511	4.0	3.9	5.6	11	0.1	-212	-1.6
Campbeltown	187	3.9	3.8	3.7	3	0.1	9	0.2
Wick	281	3.8	3.9	4.2	-7	-0.1	-30	-0.4
Thurso	288	3.1	3.1	3.3	-2	0.0	-15	-0.2
Skye & Lochalsh	249	3.0	3.0	3.7	6	0.0	-52	-0.7
Eilean Siar	482	3.0	2.9	3.1	9	0.1	-24	-0.1
Invergordon	398	3.0	2.7	4.2	44	0.3	-151	-1.2
Dornoch & Lairg	157	2.8	2.6	2.9	11	0.2	-6	-0.1
Lochgilphead	158	2.5	2.6	3.0	-2	-0.1	-26	-0.5
Lochaber	295	2.4	2.3	3.4	10	0.1	-114	-1.0
Oban	252	2.3	2.2	3.1	11	0.1	-86	-0.8
Ullapool & Gairloch	109	2.1	2.2	2.6	-2	-0.1	-21	-0.5
Moray	1,116	2.0	1.8	2.6	140	0.2	-314	-0.6
Inverness & Dingwall	1,260	1.8	1.7	2.8	53	0.1	-770	-1.0
Mull & Islay	73	1.5	1.4	2.1	6	0.1	-29	-0.6
Badenoch	105	1.3	1.4	2.4	-5	-0.1	-91	-1.1
Orkney Islands	143	1.1	1.1	1.4	9	0.0	-31	-0.3
Shetland Islands	136	0.9	1.0	1.5	-3	-0.1	-77	-0.6
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,200	2.2	2.1	3.0	292	0.1	-2,040	-0.8
Scotland	113,708	3.3	3.1	4.1	5,424	0.2	-28,264	-0.8
United Kingdom	1,242,912	3.0	2.9	3.9	41,400	0.1	-338,926	-0.9

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	%	number	number
Caithness and Sutherland	768	3.3	-2	-0.3	-52	-6.3	360	150
Innse Gall	482	3.0	9	1.9	-24	-4.7	220	75
Argyll and the Islands	1,255	2.9	30	2.4	-356	-22.1	520	290
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	611	2.5	18	3.0	-186	-23.3	175	100
Moray	1,116	2.0	140	14.3	-314	-22.0	350	285
Inner Moray Firth	1,763	1.9	92	5.5	-1,012	-36.5	585	340
Orkney	143	1.1	9	6.7	-31	-17.8	40	35
Shetland	136	0.9	-3	-2.2	-77	-36.2	35	35

*Calculated rate, as a % of working age population

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