

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

JUNE 2014

HIE Research and Economics Team



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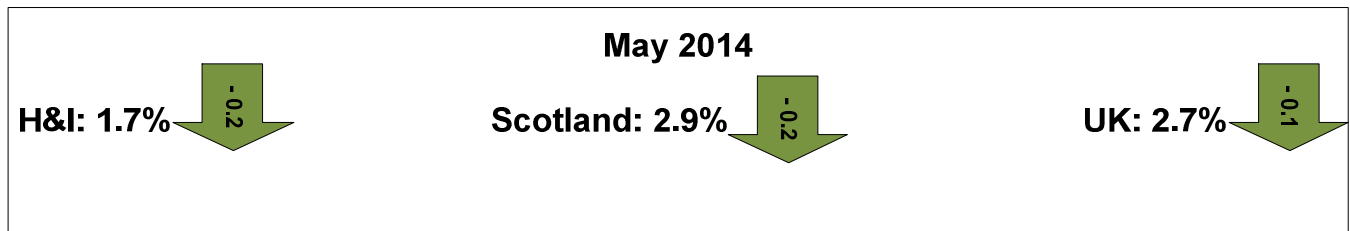
June 2014

The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Claimant Count measures the number of people claiming benefits principally for the reason of being unemployed. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) introduced a new benefit, Universal Credit, in April 2013. At present Universal Credit benefit is not included in the Claimant Count figures. Office for National Statistics (ONS) and DWP are working to include jobseeker Universal Credit claims in the Claimant Count as soon as possible.

The rates for April 2014 and May 2013 vary slightly from those included in previous unemployment digests. This is due to the introduction of revised workplace-based denominators which have been updated using new 2013 estimates.

The May 2014 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 11th June 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.

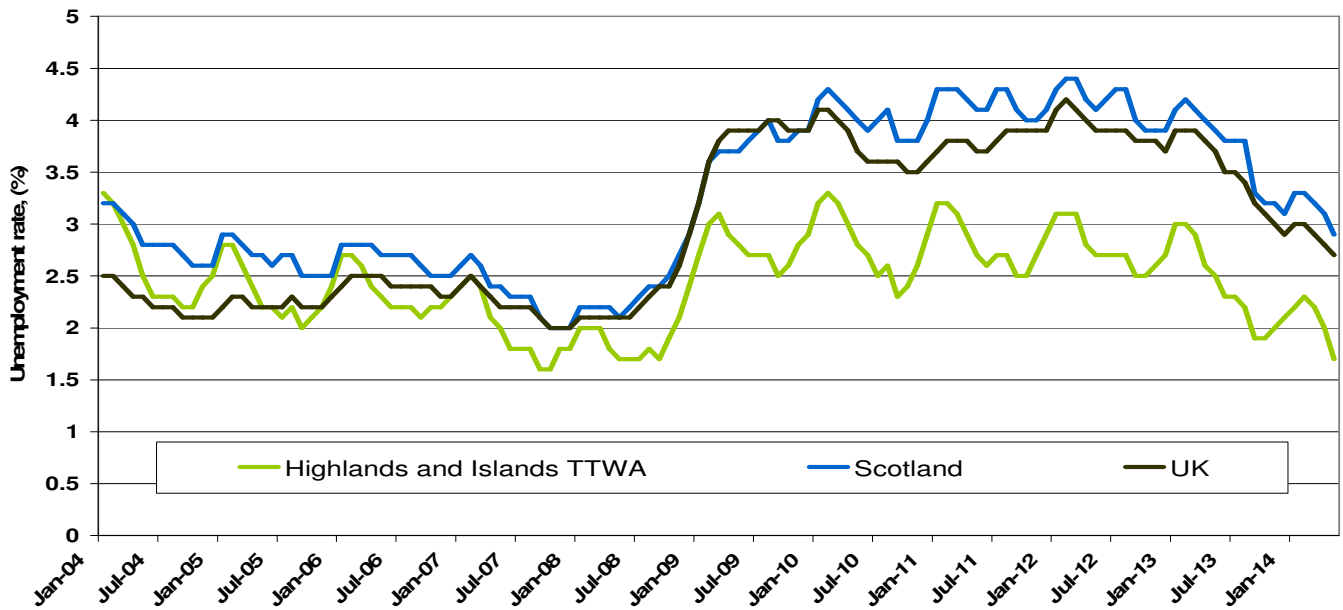


In May 2014, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.7%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.9%**) and the UK (**2.7%**). The region's rate fell by 0.2% on the previous month and was lower than a year earlier (2.4% in May 2013).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in May 2014 were Wick (3.6%), Dunoon & Bute (3.5%), Invergordon (3.2%) and Campbeltown (3.1%). Nine TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in May 2014 lower than 1.7% – Skye & Lochalsh (1.6%), Oban (1.5%), Inverness & Dingwall and Lochaber (both 1.3%), Ullapool & Gairloch (1.0%), Badenoch and Mull & Islay (both 0.9%) and Orkney and Shetland (both 0.8%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in May 2014 was 5,013. Out of the total, some 2,205 were long term unemployed** and 1,015 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2004-2014)



* 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	May 2014		April 2014		May 2013		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Wick	275	3.6	3.7	4.3	-11	-0.1	-50	-0.7		
Dunoon & Bute	429	3.5	4.1	5.1	-68	-0.6	-193	-1.6		
Invergordon	447	3.2	3.4	3.1	-28	-0.2	16	0.1		
Campbeltown	140	3.1	3.4	3.7	-13	-0.3	-30	-0.6		
Eilean Siar	403	2.4	2.7	2.7	-53	-0.3	-59	-0.3		
Thurso	234	2.4	2.6	2.9	-16	-0.2	-45	-0.5		
Dornoch & Lairg	113	2.0	2.2	2.1	-14	-0.2	-7	-0.1		
Lochgilphead	105	1.8	2.2	2.7	-21	-0.4	-51	-0.9		
Moray	999	1.7	1.8	2.2	-73	-0.1	-286	-0.5		
Skye & Lochalsh	129	1.6	2.0	2.7	-36	-0.4	-87	-1.1		
Oban	163	1.5	1.8	2.5	-33	-0.3	-108	-1.0		
Lochaber	164	1.3	1.7	2.0	-50	-0.4	-83	-0.7		
Inverness & Dingwall	959	1.3	1.3	2.2	-59	0.0	-682	-0.9		
Ullapool & Gairloch	53	1.0	1.3	1.8	-13	-0.3	-38	-0.8		
Mull & Islay	41	0.9	1.1	1.5	-9	-0.2	-24	-0.6		
Badenoch	77	0.9	0.9	1.6	0	0.0	-61	-0.7		
Orkney Islands	105	0.8	0.9	1.3	-21	-0.1	-68	-0.5		
Shetland Islands	124	0.8	1.0	1.3	-23	-0.2	-70	-0.5		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,960	1.7	1.9	2.4	-541	-0.2	-1,926	-0.7		
Scotland	101,107	2.9	3.1	3.9	-4,290	-0.2	-33,303	-1.0		
United Kingdom	1,089,976	2.7	2.8	3.7	-52,364	-0.1	-405,782	-1.0		

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	642	2.7	-45	-6.6	-111	-14.7	335	145
Innse Gall	403	2.5	-53	-11.6	-59	-12.8	235	55
Argyll and the Islands	931	2.2	-152	-14.0	-404	-30.3	480	170
Moray	999	1.8	-73	-6.8	-286	-22.3	355	260
Inner Moray Firth	1,483	1.6	-87	-5.5	-727	-32.9	550	285
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	326	1.4	-95	-22.6	-199	-37.9	170	45
Shetland	124	0.9	-23	-15.6	-70	-36.1	35	30
Orkney	105	0.8	-21	-16.7	-68	-39.3	45	25

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