

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

July 2014

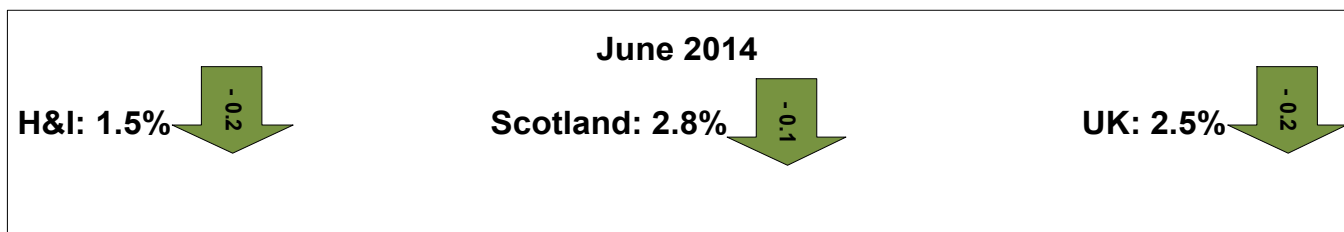


Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

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 June 2014 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 16th July 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.

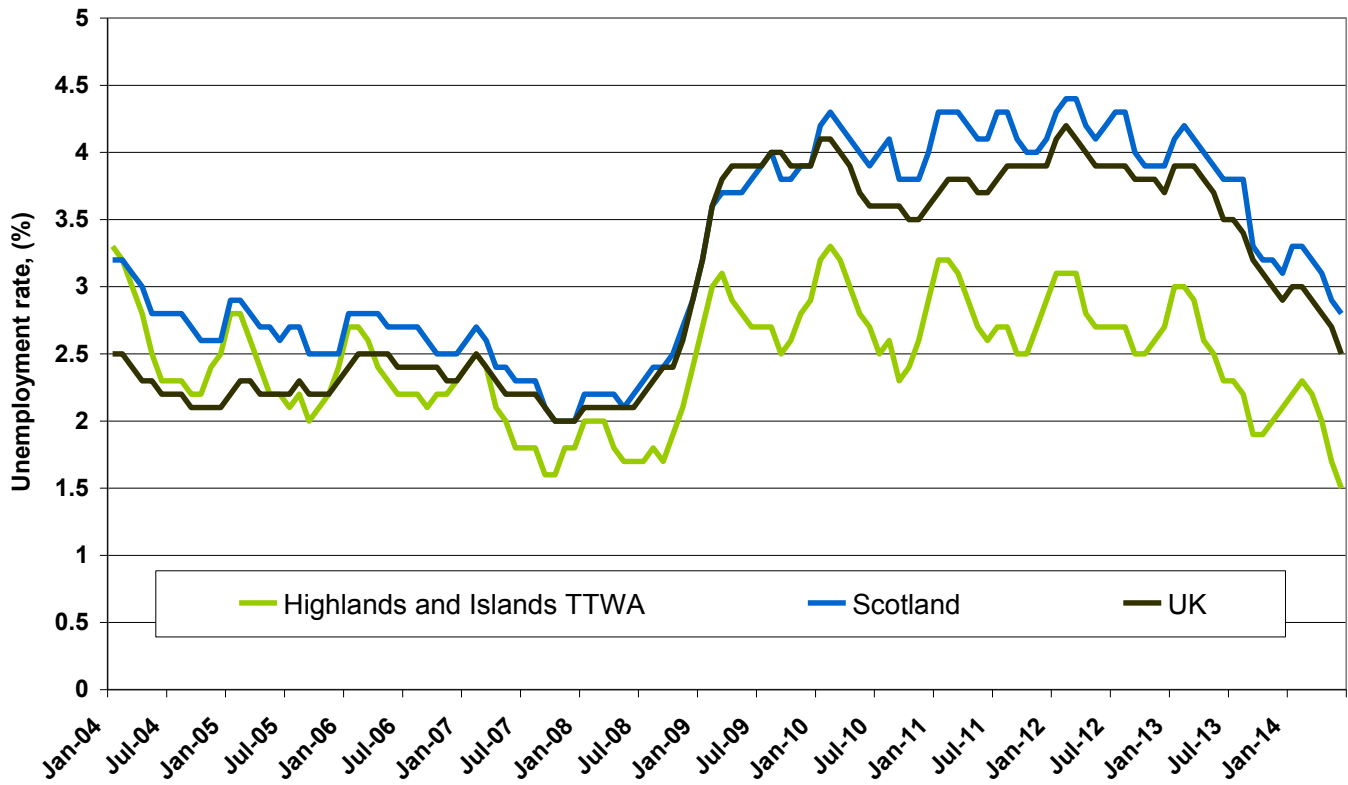


In June 2014, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.5%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.8%**) and the UK (**2.5%**). The region's rate fell by 0.2% on the previous month and was lower than a year earlier (2.3% in June 2013).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in June 2014 were Wick (3.4%), Dunoon & Bute (3.3%) and Campbeltown (2.9%). Nine TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in June 2014 lower than 1.5% – Skye & Lochalsh and Oban (both 1.3%), Lochaber (1.2%), Inverness & Dingwall (1.1%), Badenoch, Orkney Islands and Ullapool & Gairloch (each 0.8%), and Mull & Islay and Shetland Islands (both 0.7%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in June 2014 was 4,491. Out of the total, some 2,095 were long term unemployed** and 920 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	June 2014		May 2014	June 2013	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Wick	257	3.4	3.6	4.4	-18	-0.2	-83	-1.0
Dunoon & Bute	403	3.3	3.5	4.8	-26	-0.2	-180	-1.5
Campbeltown	133	2.9	3.1	3.7	-7	-0.2	-35	-0.8
Invergordon	357	2.6	3.2	3.2	-90	-0.6	-88	-0.6
Eilean Siar	364	2.2	2.4	2.6	-39	-0.2	-74	-0.4
Thurso	214	2.2	2.4	2.9	-20	-0.2	-66	-0.7
Moray	932	1.6	1.7	2.2	-67	-0.1	-323	-0.6
Dornoch & Lairg	87	1.5	2.0	2.0	-26	-0.5	-26	-0.5
Lochgilphead	88	1.5	1.8	2.5	-17	-0.3	-56	-1.0
Skye & Lochalsh	105	1.3	1.6	2.3	-24	-0.3	-84	-1.0
Oban	140	1.3	1.5	2.4	-23	-0.2	-111	-1.1
Lochaber	153	1.2	1.3	1.7	-11	-0.1	-64	-0.5
Inverness & Dingwall	860	1.1	1.3	2.1	-99	-0.2	-694	-1.0
Ullapool & Gairloch	41	0.8	1.0	1.3	-12	-0.2	-25	-0.5
Badenoch	70	0.8	0.9	1.3	-7	-0.1	-39	-0.5
Orkney Islands	107	0.8	0.8	1.0	2	0.0	-32	-0.2
Mull & Islay	33	0.7	0.9	1.5	-8	-0.2	-36	-0.8
Shetland Islands	103	0.7	0.8	1.1	-21	-0.1	-57	-0.4
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,447	1.5	1.7	2.3	-513	-0.2	-2,073	-0.8
Scotland	97,075	2.8	2.9	3.8	-4,032	-0.1	-35,494	-1.0
United Kingdom	1,020,290	2.5	2.7	3.5	-69,686	-0.2	-419,492	-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	576	2.5	-66	-10.3	-179	-23.7	325	135
Innse Gall	364	2.3	-39	-9.7	-74	-16.9	220	50
Argyll and the Islands	841	2.0	-90	-9.7	-423	-33.5	440	155
Moray	932	1.7	-67	-6.7	-323	-25.7	350	245
Inner Moray Firth	1,287	1.4	-196	-13.2	-821	-38.9	535	250
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	281	1.2	-45	-13.8	-169	-37.6	155	35
Orkney	107	0.8	2	1.9	-32	-23.0	40	30
Shetland	103	0.7	-21	-16.9	-57	-35.6	30	20

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