

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

AUGUST 2014

HIE Research and Economics Team

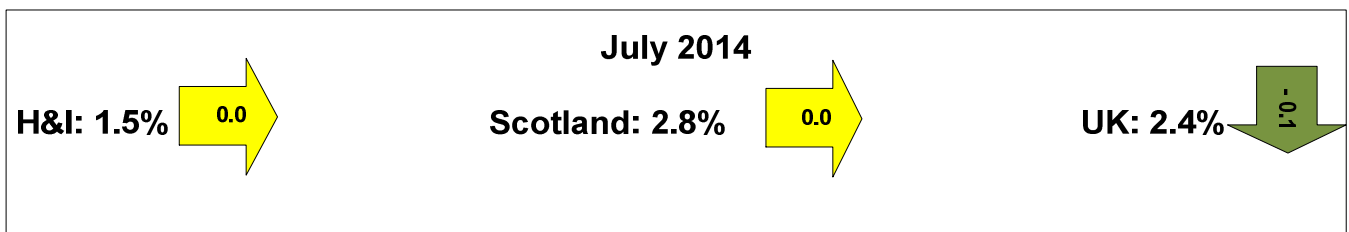


UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

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 July 2014 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 13th August 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.

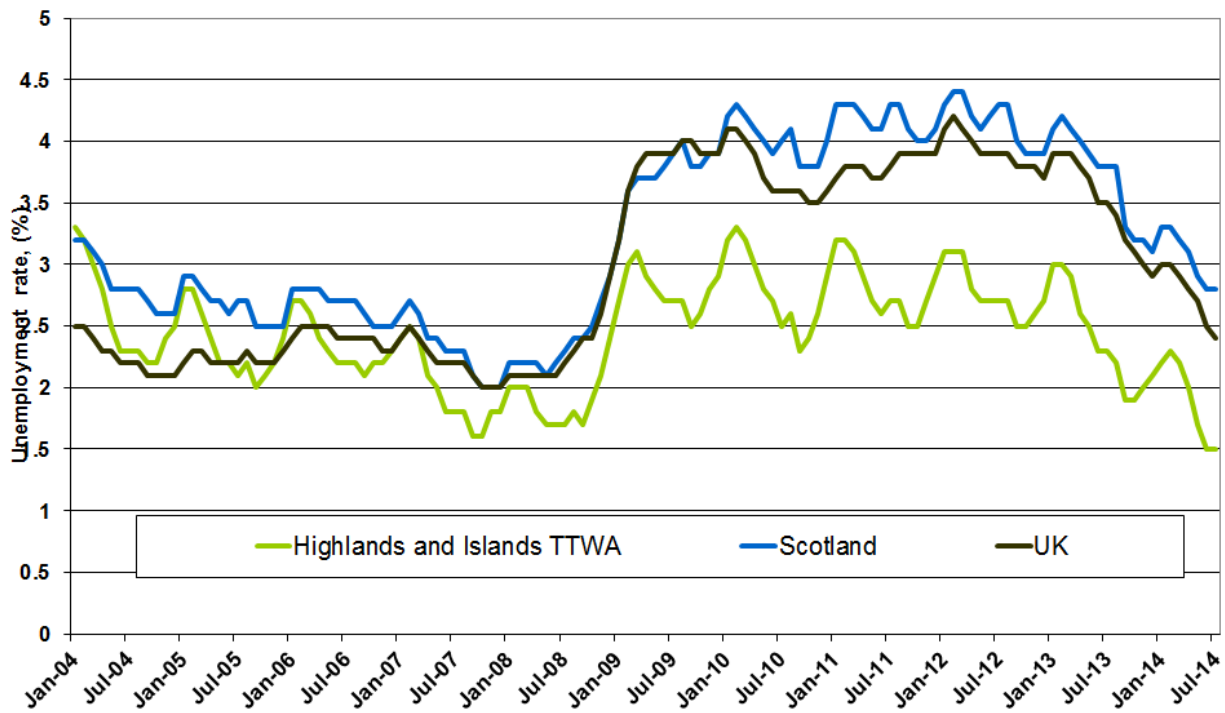


In July 2014, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **1.5%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**2.8%**) and the UK (**2.4%**). The region's rate was static on the previous month and was lower than a year earlier (2.2% in July 2013).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in July 2014 were Dunoon & Bute (3.4%), and Wick and Campbeltown (both with 3.2%). Nine TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in July 2014 lower than 1.5% – Skye & Lochalsh and Oban (both 1.2%), Lochaber and Inverness & Dingwall (1.1%), Orkney Islands (0.8%), Ullapool & Gairloch, Badenoch and Mull & Islay (all with 0.7%) and Shetland Islands (0.6%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area^ in July 2014 was 4,340. Out of the total, some 2,000 were long term unemployed** and 965 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.

**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	July 2014		June 2014	June 2013	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Dunoon & Bute	414	3.4	3.3	4.6	11	0.1	-154	-1.2
Wick	245	3.2	3.4	4.4	-12	-0.2	-89	-1.2
Campbeltown	146	3.2	2.9	3.8	13	0.3	-28	-0.6
Invergordon	317	2.3	2.6	3.0	-40	-0.3	-103	-0.7
Thurso	218	2.3	2.2	2.9	4	0.1	-66	-0.6
Eilean Siar	361	2.1	2.2	2.7	-3	-0.1	-100	-0.6
Lochgilthead	93	1.6	1.5	2.3	5	0.1	-43	-0.7
Moray	912	1.6	1.6	2.1	-20	0.0	-308	-0.5
Dornoch & Lairg	83	1.5	1.5	1.9	-4	0.0	-27	-0.4
Skye & Lochalsh	98	1.2	1.3	2.1	-7	-0.1	-71	-0.9
Oban	129	1.2	1.3	2.2	-11	-0.1	-108	-1.0
Lochaber	136	1.1	1.2	1.7	-17	-0.1	-81	-0.6
Inverness & Dingwall	814	1.1	1.1	2.0	-46	0.0	-671	-0.9
Orkney Islands	106	0.8	0.8	1.0	-1	0.0	-29	-0.2
Ullapool & Gairloch	38	0.7	0.8	1.3	-3	-0.1	-31	-0.6
Badenoch	61	0.7	0.8	1.1	-9	-0.1	-34	-0.4
Mull & Islay	33	0.7	0.7	1.5	0	0.0	-33	-0.8
Shetland Islands	95	0.6	0.7	1.1	-8	-0.1	-66	-0.5
Highlands and Islands TTWA	4,299	1.5	1.5	2.2	-148	0.0	-2,042	-0.7
Scotland	96,971	2.8	2.8	3.8	-104	0.0	-35,745	-1.0
United Kingdom	995,835	2.4	2.5	3.5	-24,455	-0.1	-422,839	-1.1

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	564	2.4	-12	-2.1	-188	-25.0	315	145
Innse Gall	361	2.3	-3	-0.8	-100	-21.7	215	55
Argyll and the Islands	856	2.0	15	1.8	-382	-30.9	415	195
Moray	912	1.7	-20	-2.1	-308	-25.2	330	260
Inner Moray Firth	1,192	1.3	-95	-7.4	-808	-40.4	515	230
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	254	1.1	-27	-9.6	-177	-41.1	140	30
Orkney	106	0.8	-1	-0.9	-29	-21.5	40	30
Shetland	95	0.7	-8	-7.8	-66	-41.0	30	20

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