

# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST DECEMBER 2013

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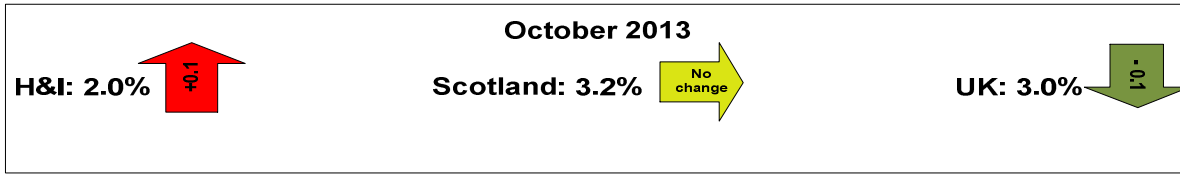
HIE Research and Economics Team



# UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

The November 2013 claimant count unemployment figures<sup>1</sup> were released on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

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.

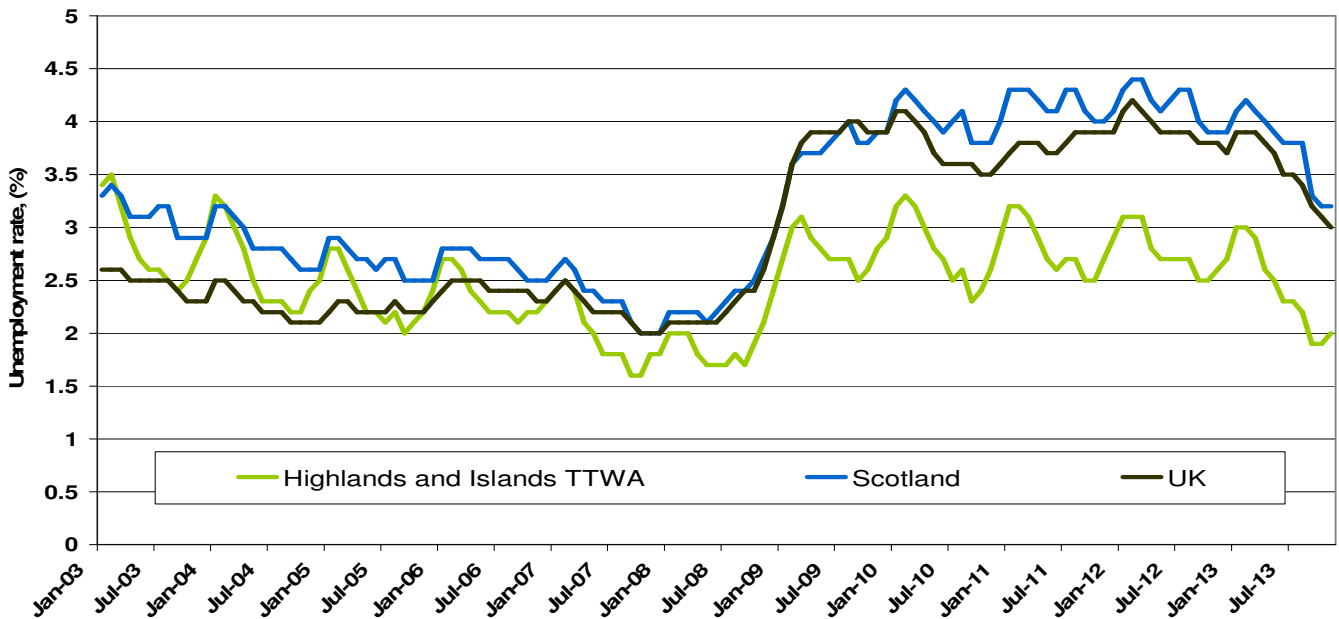


In December 2013, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.0%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**3.2%**) and the UK's (**3.0%**). The region's rate rose by 0.1% on the previous month and was lower than a year earlier (2.6% in November 2012).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in November 2013 were Dunoon & Bute and Wick (both 4.0%), and Campbeltown (3.8%). Seven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in November 2013 lower than 2% – Ullapool & Gairloch (1.9%), Inverness & Dingwall (1.7%), Moray (1.6%), Badenoch and Mull & Islay (both with 1.3%), Orkney Islands (1.2%) and Shetland Islands (1.0%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area<sup>^</sup> in November 2013 was 5,777. Out of the total, some 2,240 were long term unemployed\*\* and 1,210 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.

<sup>^</sup> As defined by Scottish datazones.

\*\*<sup>1</sup> 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	October 2013		September 2013		October 2012		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	
Wick	294	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.3	3	0.0	-18	-0.3	
Dunoon & Bute	513	4.0	3.8	3.8	5.2	28	0.2	-157	-1.2	
Campbeltown	180	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.7	-2	0.0	2	0.1	
Eilean Siar	466	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.8	37	0.2	22	0.1	
Skye & Lochalsh	226	2.8	2.0	2.0	3.0	60	0.8	-21	-0.2	
Thurso	246	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.2	9	0.1	-52	-0.5	
Lochgilhead	150	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.6	9	0.1	-10	-0.2	
Invergordon	304	2.3	2.2	2.2	3.9	13	0.1	-214	-1.6	
Lochaber	263	2.2	1.6	1.6	2.8	68	0.6	-80	-0.6	
Dornoch & Lairg	124	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.6	11	0.2	-25	-0.4	
Oban	235	2.2	1.9	1.9	2.6	25	0.3	-49	-0.4	
Ullapool & Gairloch	97	1.9	1.5	1.5	2.3	22	0.4	-22	-0.4	
Inverness & Dingwall	1,242	1.7	1.6	1.6	2.4	69	0.1	-513	-0.7	
Moray	913	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.2	-2	0.0	-322	-0.6	
Badenoch	107	1.3	1.2	1.2	2.1	8	0.1	-63	-0.8	
Mull & Islay	63	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.5	8	0.2	-10	-0.2	
Orkney Islands	149	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	4	0.1	-22	-0.1	
Shetland Islands	146	1.0	0.8	0.8	1.5	30	0.2	-77	-0.5	
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,712	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.6	400	0.1	-1,631	-0.6	
Scotland	109,179	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.9	-2,393	0.0	-24,916	-0.7	
United Kingdom	1,222,890	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.8	-45,861	-0.1	-312,094	-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	%	number	number
Caithness and Sutherland	700	3.0	29	4.3	-96	-12.1	340	155
Innse Gall	466	2.9	37	8.6	22	5.0	205	75
Argyll and the Islands	1,206	2.8	84	7.5	-235	-16.3	515	250
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	550	2.3	144	35.5	-122	-18.2	165	90
Inner Moray Firth	1,653	1.8	90	5.8	-790	-32.3	610	335
Moray	913	1.7	-2	-0.2	-322	-26.1	330	230
Orkney	149	1.2	4	2.8	-22	-12.9	40	45
Shetland	140	1.0	30	27.3	-77	-35.5	35	30

\*Calculated rate, as a % of working age population

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