

UNEMPLOYMENT DIGEST

OCTOBER 2013

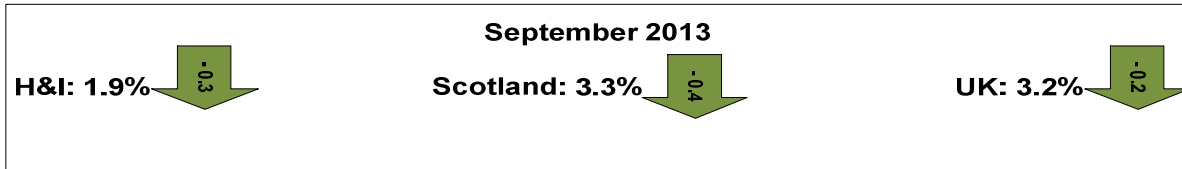
HIE Research and Economics Team



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The September 2013 claimant count unemployment figures were released on 16th October 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.

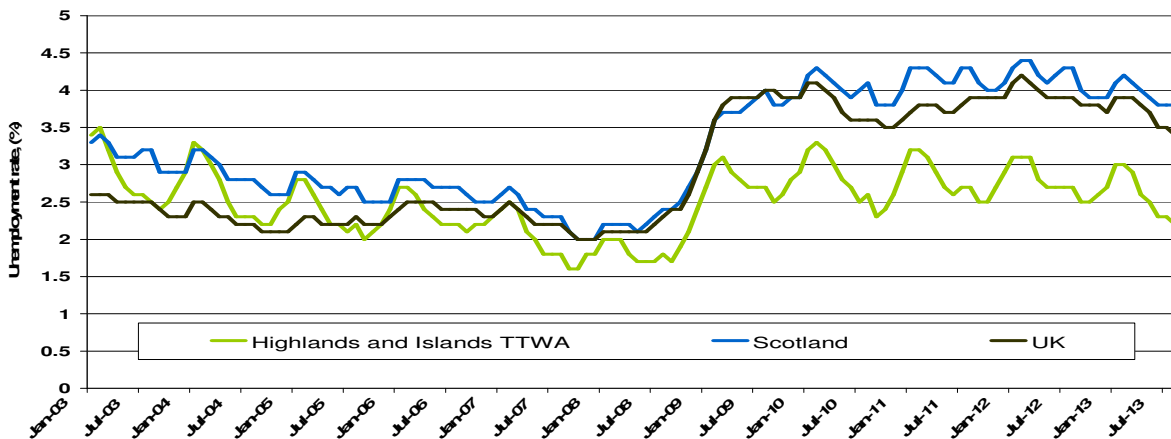


In September 2013, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was 1.9%, which was below the rates for both Scotland (3.3%) and the UK's (3.2%). The region's rate decreased from 2.2% in the previous month and was 21% lower than a year earlier (2.4% in September 2012).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in September 2013 were Wick (4.1%), Dunoon & Bute (3.7%) and Campbeltown (3.5%). Nine TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in September 2013 lower than 2% – Skye & Lochalsh (1.8%), Moray and Inverness & Dingwall (both 1.7%), Lochaber (1.6%), Ullapool & Gairloch (1.2%), Badenoch and Orkney Islands (both 1.1%), Mull & Islay (1.0%), and Shetland Islands (0.8%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area[^] in September 2013 was 5,440. Out of the total, some 2,480 were long term unemployed^{**} and 1,175 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.

[^] 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	September 2013		August 2013	September 2012	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Wick	301	4.1	4.4	4.1	-19	-0.3	4	0.0
Dunoon & Bute	481	3.7	4.3	4.9	-73	-0.6	-154	-1.2
Campbeltown	166	3.5	3.5	3.6	-4	0.0	-6	-0.1
Thurso	240	2.6	2.9	2.8	-28	-0.3	-22	-0.2
Eilean Siar	411	2.6	2.8	2.9	-41	-0.2	-58	-0.3
Invergordon	339	2.6	2.7	4.3	-12	-0.1	-225	-1.7
Oban	213	2.0	2.2	2.3	-23	-0.2	-31	-0.3
Lochgilhead	137	2.2	2.1	2.1	6	0.1	6	0.1
Moray	948	1.7	2.1	2.2	-199	-0.4	-282	-0.5
Inverness & Dingwall	1,241	1.7	2.0	2.4	-187	-0.3	-455	-0.7
Skye & Lochalsh	151	1.8	1.9	2.0	-4	-0.1	-9	-0.2
Dornoch & Lairg	114	2.0	1.9	2.3	3	0.1	-18	-0.3
Lochaber	196	1.6	1.6	2.2	-4	0.0	-75	-0.6
Mull & Islay	51	1.0	1.3	1.1	-14	-0.3	-6	-0.1
Badenoch	91	1.1	1.3	1.3	-12	-0.2	-16	-0.2
Ullapool & Gairloch	59	1.2	1.2	1.5	-2	0.0	-18	-0.3
Orkney Islands	143	1.1	1.1	1.2	4	0.0	-14	-0.1
Shetland Islands	146	0.8	1.0	1.2	-26	-0.2	-53	-0.4
Highlands and Islands TTWA	5,402	1.9	2.2	2.4	-635	-0.3	-1,432	-0.5
Scotland	116,202	3.3	3.7	3.9	-13,953	-0.4	-19,534	-0.6
United Kingdom	1,324,725	3.2	3.4	3.8	-64,963	-0.2	-228,260	-0.6

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 September 2013		Monthly change		Annual change		LTU	Youth Unemployment (18-24)
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%	number	number
Argyll and the Islands	1,086	2.5	-125	-10.3	-211	-16.3	560	220
Caithness and Sutherland	680	2.9	-46	-6.3	-39	-5.4	360	165
Inner Moray Firth	1,671	1.8	-211	-11.2	-696	-29.4	710	375
Innse Gall	411	2.6	-41	-9.1	-58	-12.4	200	70
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	381	1.6	-8	-2.1	-99	-20.6	165	55
Moray	948	1.7	-199	-17.3	-282	-22.9	390	220
Orkney	143	1.1	4	2.9	-14	-8.9	45	40
Shetland	120	0.8	-26	-17.8	-53	-30.6	50	25

*Calculated rate, as a % of working age population

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