

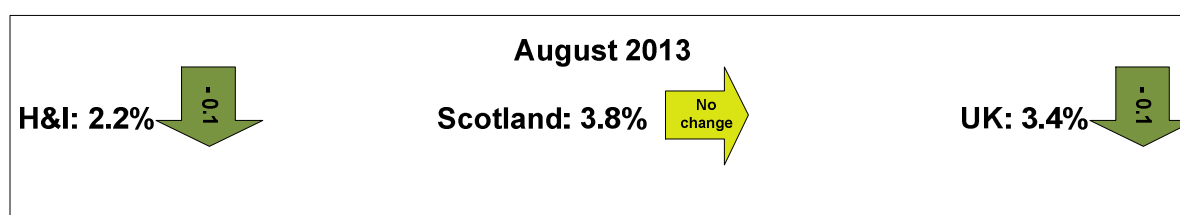


Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Unemployment Digest

The August 2013 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 11th September 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.

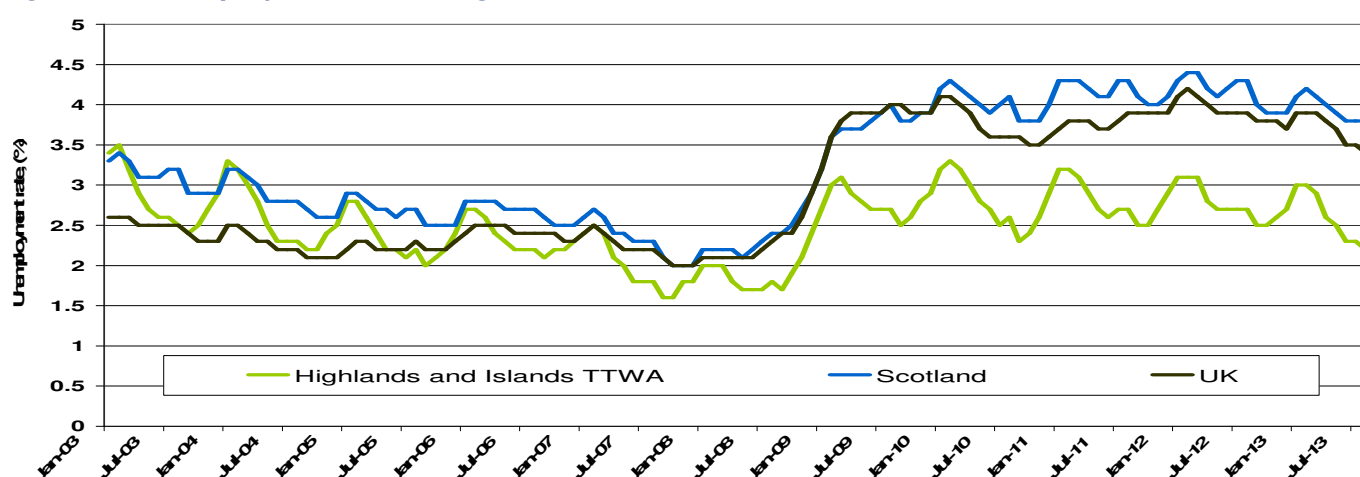


In August 2013, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.2%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**3.8%**) and the UK's (**3.4%**). The region's rate decreased from the previous month by 0.1% and was 18% lower than a year earlier (2.7% in August 2012).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in August 2013 were Wick (4.4%), and Dunoon & Bute (4.3%). Seven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in August 2013 lower than 2% – Skye & Lochalsh (1.9%), Dornoch & Lairg (1.9%), Lochaber (1.6%), Mull & Islay (1.3%), Badenoch (1.3%), Ullapool & Gairloch (1.2%), Orkney Islands (1.1%) and Shetland Islands (1.0%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area[†] in August 2013 was 6,037. Out of the total, some 2,780 were long-term unemployed[‡] (46%) and 1,445 were claimants aged 18-24.

Figure 1 - Unemployment in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland and the UK (2003-2013)



Source: ONS

* 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	August 2013		July 2013		August 2012		Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Wick	320	4.4	4.6	4.3	-14	-0.2	8	0.1		
Dunoon & Bute	554	4.3	4.4	5.4	-14	-0.1	-143	-1.1		
Campbeltown	170	3.5	3.6	4.0	-4	-0.1	-21	-0.5		
Thurso	268	2.9	3.1	3.0	-16	-0.2	-5	-0.1		
Eilean Siar	452	2.8	2.9	3.3	-9	-0.1	-73	-0.5		
Invergordon	351	2.7	3.2	4.2	-69	-0.5	-205	-1.5		
Oban	236	2.2	2.2	2.4	-1	0.0	-18	-0.2		
Lochgilphead	131	2.1	2.2	2.0	-5	-0.1	4	0.1		
Moray	1,147	2.1	2.2	2.5	-73	-0.1	-251	-0.4		
Inverness & Dingwall	1,428	2.0	2.1	2.6	-57	-0.1	-436	-0.6		
Skye & Lochalsh	155	1.9	2.1	2.0	-14	-0.2	-10	-0.1		
Dornoch & Lairg	111	1.9	1.9	2.5	1	0.0	-34	-0.6		
Lochaber	200	1.6	1.8	2.3	-17	-0.2	-76	-0.7		
Mull & Islay	65	1.3	1.3	1.1	-1	0.0	9	0.2		
Badenoch	103	1.3	1.2	1.5	8	0.1	-21	-0.2		
Ullapool & Gairloch	61	1.2	1.4	1.4	-8	-0.2	-12	-0.2		
Orkney Islands	139	1.1	1.1	1.4	4	0.0	-44	-0.3		
Shetland Islands	146	1.0	1.1	1.5	-16	-0.1	-70	-0.5		
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,037	2.2	2.3	2.7	-304	-0.1	-1,397	-0.5		
Scotland	130,155	3.8	3.8	4.2	-2,561	0.0	-16,087	-0.4		
United Kingdom	1,389,688	3.4	3.5	3.8	-28,986	-0.1	-180,238	-0.4		

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 number	Youth Unemployment (18-24) number
	number	rate*	number	%	number	%		
Argyll and the Islands	1,211	2.8	-27	-2.2	-170	-12.3	650	260
Caithness and Sutherland	726	3.1	-26	-3.5	-30	-4.0	375	195
Inner Moray Firth	1,882	2.0	-118	-5.9	-662	-26.0	800	435
Innse Gall	452	2.8	-9	-2.0	-73	-13.9	215	85
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	389	1.6	-42	-9.7	-99	-20.3	180	60
Moray	1,147	2.1	-73	-6.0	-251	-18.0	440	325
Orkney	139	1.1	4	3.0	-44	-24.0	55	50
Shetland	146	1.0	-15	-9.3	-69	-32.1	60	35

*Calculated rate, as a % of working age population

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August 2013