

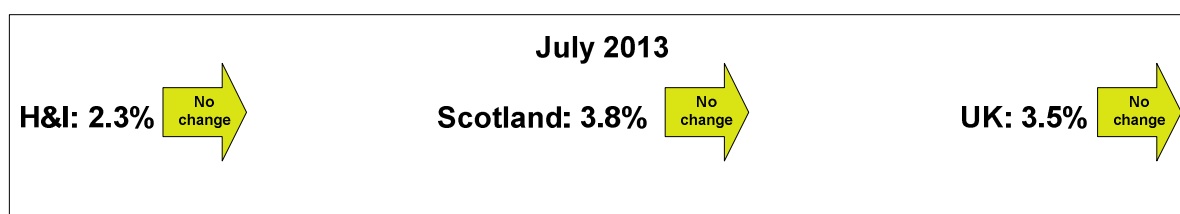


Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Unemployment Digest

The July 2013 claimant count unemployment figures* were released on 14th August 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.

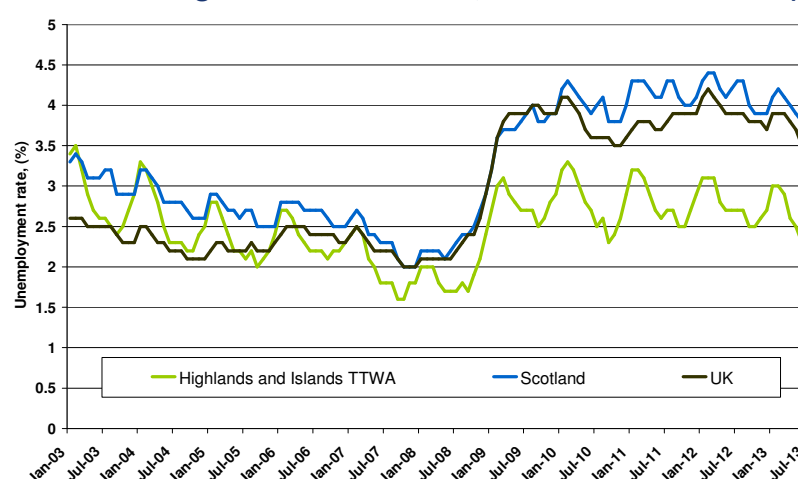


In July 2013, the average claimant count unemployment rate for the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) that comprise the Highlands and Islands was **2.3%**, which was below the rates for both Scotland (**3.8%**) and the UK's (**3.5%**). The region's rate had remained unchanged from June 2013 and was 15% lower than a year earlier (2.7% in June 2012).

The TTWAs whose rates exceeded the Scottish average in July 2013 were Wick (4.6%) and Dunoon & Bute (4.4%). Seven TTWAs in the Highlands and Islands had rates in June 2013 lower than 2% – Dornoch & Lairg (1.9%), Lochaber (1.8%), Ullapool and Gairloch (1.4%), Mull & Islay (1.3%), Badenoch (1.2%), and Shetland and Orkney Islands (both 1.1%).

The total number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the HIE area† in June 2013 was 6,398. Out of the total, some 2,875 were long-term unemployed‡ (45%) and 1,550 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	July 2013		June 2013	July 2012	Monthly change		Annual change	
	number	rate	rate	rate	number	rate	number	rate
Wick	334	4.6	4.6	4.3	-6	0.0	17	0.3
Dunoon & Bute	568	4.4	4.5	5.5	-15	-0.1	-146	-1.1
Campbeltown	174	3.6	3.5	4.1	6	0.1	-21	-0.5
Invergordon	420	3.2	3.4	4.1	-25	-0.2	-116	-0.9
Thurso	284	3.1	3.0	3.1	4	0.1	-3	0.0
Eilean Siar	461	2.9	2.7	3.4	23	0.2	-93	-0.5
Lochgilphead	136	2.2	2.3	2.0	-8	-0.1	14	0.2
Moray	1,220	2.2	2.3	2.5	-35	-0.1	-197	-0.3
Oban	237	2.2	2.3	2.3	-14	-0.1	-14	-0.1
Inverness & Dingwall	1,485	2.1	2.2	2.6	-69	-0.1	-361	-0.5
Skye & Lochalsh	169	2.1	2.3	2.0	-20	-0.2	8	0.1
Dornoch & Lairg	110	1.9	2.0	2.4	-3	-0.1	-29	-0.5
Lochaber	217	1.8	1.8	2.3	0	0.0	-60	-0.5
Ullapool & Gairloch	69	1.4	1.3	1.4	3	0.1	0	0.0
Mull & Islay	66	1.3	1.4	1.1	-3	-0.1	10	0.2
Badenoch	95	1.2	1.4	1.5	-14	-0.2	-23	-0.3
Orkney Islands	135	1.1	1.1	1.5	-4	0.0	-50	-0.4
Shetland Islands	161	1.1	1.1	1.6	1	0.0	-70	-0.5
Highlands and Islands TTWA	6,341	2.3	2.3	2.7	-179	0.0	-1,134	-0.4
Scotland	132,716	3.8	3.8	4.2	147	0.0	-13,309	-0.4
United Kingdom	1,418,674	3.5	3.5	3.8	-21,108	0.0	-153,998	-0.3

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
Argyll and the Islands	1,238	2.9	-26	-2.1	-151	-10.9	665	285
Caithness and Sutherland	752	3.2	-3	-0.4	-14	-1.8	375	190
Inner Moray Firth	2,000	2.1	-108	-5.1	-500	-20.0	850	480
Innse Gall	461	2.9	23	5.3	-93	-16.8	215	90
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	431	1.8	-19	-4.2	-53	-11.0	195	70
Moray	1,220	2.2	-35	-2.8	-197	-13.9	455	345
Orkney	135	1.1	-4	-2.9	-50	-27.0	55	45
Shetland	161	1.1	1	0.6	-70	-30.3	65	45

*Calculated rate, as a % of working age population

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