

# Unemployment Digest



## Summary

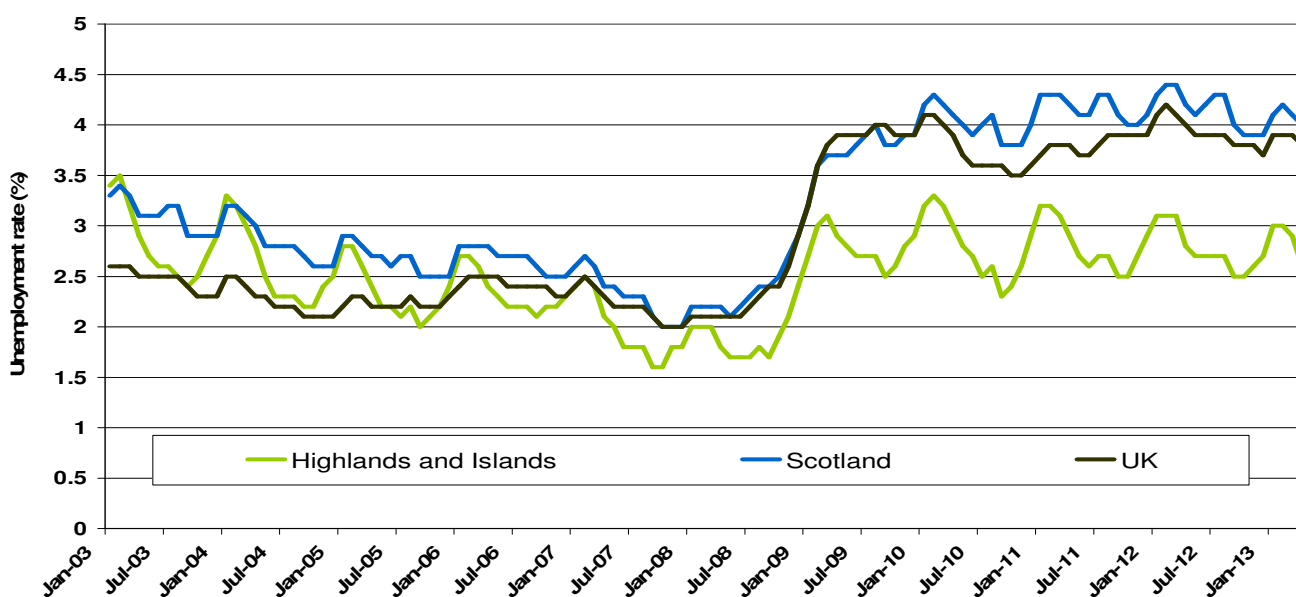
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continues to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at a more local level than the ILO unemployment rate statistics provided by ONS. Claimant Count statistics are available monthly at Area Office and Travel to Work Area level. This means we are able to identify, interpret and respond to changes in very local labour markets.

The April 2013 unemployment figures were released on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Over the month, March to April 2013, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom decreased by 2.9% from 1,584,468 to 1,538,576 (-45,892 claimants). This figure is 4.8% lower than the same period last year, when the number of claimants stood at 1,616,849, which represents a decrease of 78,273 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland decreased by 3.4% over the month, from 142,965 to 138,039 claimants (-4,926 claimants). This figure is 4.4% lower than the same period last year, when the number of claimants stood at 144,345, representing a decrease of 6,306 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Highlands and Islands fell by 9.3% (-755 claimants) over the month, from 8,119 to 7,364 claimants. This figure is 6.5% lower than the same period last year, when the number of claimants stood at 7,876, which represents a decrease of 512 claimants.

**Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2003-2013**



Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS) – seasonally unadjusted  
 Note: Working age is defined as 16-64 for both men and women

## Table 1 – Unemployment rates by TTWA

Table 1 below illustrates the Claimant Count rates for April 2013, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with March 2013 and April 2012 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the April 2013 figure.

Area	April 2013	March 2013	April 2012
Dunoon & Bute	5.2	5.5	5.4
Wick	4.2	4.5	4.8
Campbeltown	3.8	3.8	4.7
Invergordon	3.3	3.9	3.6
Eilean Siar	3.0	3.1	3.4
Skye & Lochalsh	2.9	3.6	2.8
Thurso	2.9	3.1	3.5
Oban	2.6	2.9	2.5
Lochgilphead	2.6	2.7	2.2
Lochaber	2.5	3.3	2.9
Inverness & Dingwall	2.4	2.6	2.6
Moray	2.4	2.6	2.6
Dornoch & Lairg	2.3	2.7	2.5
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.1	2.8	1.9
Badenoch	1.9	2.4	1.7
Shetland Islands	1.6	1.6	1.6
Mull & Islay	1.5	1.9	1.3
Orkney Islands	1.4	1.5	1.6
<b>HIE TTWAs</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Highland	2.6	3.0	2.8
Scotland	4.0	4.1	4.2
United Kingdom	3.8	3.9	4.0

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to April 2013, the claimant count fell in 16 and remained static in 2 – Campbeltown and Shetland Islands. Lochaber had the greatest decrease over the month, falling by 0.8% from 3.3% to 2.5%.

Over the year to April 2013, the claimant count rose in 6, fell in 11 and was stable in TTWA – Shetland Islands. Lochgilphead had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.4% from 2.2% to 2.6%. Campbeltown had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 0.9% from 4.7% to 3.8%.

**Table 2 – Number of unemployed by Area Office**

Table 2 below traces changes in the numbers (not rates) of unemployed people claiming benefits in the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Area Offices (AOs) between March 2013 and April 2013. A yearly comparison between April 2012 and April 2013 is also provided. The AOs are ranked in descending order by the size of the annual change in the number of unemployed, displayed in the right hand column.

Area Office	Number claiming unemployment benefit	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit
	(April 2013)	(Mar 13 - Apr 13)	(Apr 12 - Apr 13)
Shetland	224	-2.6	-0.4
Argyll & the Islands	1,423	-8.5	-3.3
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	613	-22.7	-4.4
Moray	1,357	-4.5	-5.6
Inner Moray Firth	2,351	-10.1	-6.0
Orkney	180	-3.7	-12.2
Innse Gall	477	-4.8	-12.3
Caithness & Sutherland	739	-9.4	-13.1
<b>HIE Area</b>	<b>7,364</b>	<b>-9.3</b>	<b>-6.5</b>
Highland	3,703	-12.4	-7.3
Scotland	138,039	-3.4	-4.4
United Kingdom	1,538,576	-2.9	-4.8

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to April 2013, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell in all 8 area offices. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest decrease over the year falling 22.7% from 793 to 613 claimants.

Over the year to April 2013, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit also fell in all 8 area offices. Caithness & Sutherland had the greatest decrease, falling 13.1% from 850 to 739 claimants. Innse Gall and Orkney also had decreases of over 10% compared to the same period last year, falling 12.3% and 12.2% respectively.

### Table 3 – Long-term unemployment by Area Office

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 3 below shows the number of people who were long-term unemployed in April 2013 by Area Office. It also highlights the percentage change in the number of those claiming long-term unemployment benefit over the month (March 2013 to April 2013) and over the year (April 2012 to April 2013). The AOs are ranked by the annual percentage change in numbers of LTU.

Area Office	April 2013 number	% Change in number of LTU (Mar 13 - Apr 13)	% Change in number of LTU (Apr 12 - Apr 13)
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	230	-4.2	12.2
Inner Moray Firth	905	2.8	10.4
Shetland	75	15.4	0.0
Argyll & the Islands	710	5.2	-2.7
Caithness & Sutherland	395	2.6	-4.8
Moray	490	3.2	-4.9
Innse Gall	235	4.4	-9.6
Orkney	65	0.0	-18.8
<b>HIE Area</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Highland	1,535	2.0	6.6
Scotland	63,435	1.3	-3.4
United Kingdom	722,340	2.0	-2.5

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to April 2013, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 6, fell in 1 and remained static in 1 area office – Orkney. Shetland had the greatest increase over the month, rising 15.4% from 65 to 75 claimants. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross was the only area to decrease over the month, falling 4.2% from 240 to 230 claimants.

Over the year to April 2013, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 2, fell in 5, and was static in the remaining area office – Shetland. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 12.2% from 205 to 230 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 18.8% from 80 to 65 claimants.

Heather Smith – Research Officer

[heather.smith@hient.co.uk](mailto:heather.smith@hient.co.uk)

Tel: (01463) 244320

Kateryna McKinnon – Economist

[kateryna.mckinnon@hient.co.uk](mailto:kateryna.mckinnon@hient.co.uk)

Tel: (01463) 244258

Further economic information and previous factsheets can be accessed on the HIE Website: <http://www.hie.co.uk>

© Please acknowledge Highlands and Islands Enterprise when using any information contained in this report.