

Unemployment digest



Summary

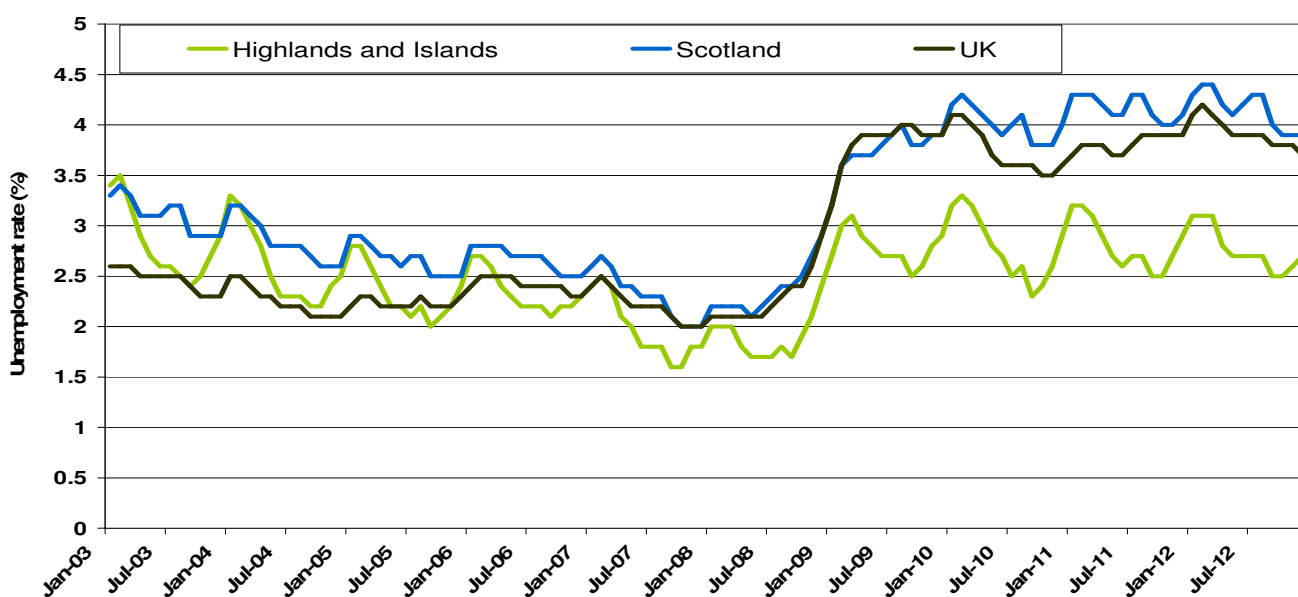
The Information contained in this report is based on Claimant Count figures. The Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) Claimant Count records the number of people claiming JSA and National Insurance (NI) credits at Job Centre Plus local offices. HIE continues to use the Claimant Count data as it is available at 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 December 2012 unemployment figures were released on 23rd January 2013. Over the month, November to December 2012, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the United Kingdom fell by 0.8% from 1,534,984 to 1,523,222 (11,762 claimants). This figure is 2.9% lower than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 1,568,849, which represents a decrease of 45,627 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland fell by 0.4%, over the month, from 134,095 to 133,503 claimants (592 claimants). This figure is 4.0% lower than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 139,134, representing a decrease of 5,631 claimants.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit in the Highlands and Islands rose over the month, rising by 4.3% (317 claimants), from 7,419 to 7,736. This figure is 4.6% lower than the same period last year, where the number of claimants stood at 8,113, representing a decrease of 377 claimants.

Figure 1 - TTWA Unemployment rates (%): 2001-2012



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 December 2012, using the 2001 TTWAs (Travel to Work Areas). The Claimant Count rates are compared with November 2012 and December 2011 to highlight the monthly and annual changes. The TTWAs are ranked in descending order by the December 2012 figure.

Area	December 2012	November 2012	December 2011
Dunoon & Bute	5.3	5.2	5.3
Wick	4.4	4.3	4.8
Invergordon	4.0	3.9	3.8
Skye & Lochalsh	3.6	3.0	3.4
Campbeltown	3.5	3.7	5.4
Thurso	3.3	3.2	3.7
Lochaber	3.1	2.8	3.2
Eilean Siar	2.9	2.8	3.3
Oban	2.9	2.6	2.8
Ullapool & Gairloch	2.8	2.3	2.4
Dornoch & Lairg	2.7	2.6	3.1
Lochgilphead	2.7	2.6	2.5
Inverness & Dingwall	2.5	2.4	2.5
Moray	2.3	2.2	2.6
Badenoch	2.2	2.1	1.9
Mull & Islay	1.8	1.5	2.0
Shetland Islands	1.5	1.5	1.3
Orkney Islands	1.4	1.3	2.1
HIE TTWAs	2.7	2.6	2.9
Highland	2.9	2.8	2.9
Scotland	3.9	3.9	4.0
United Kingdom	3.7	3.8	3.8

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month to December 2012, the claimant count rose in 16, fell in 1 and was static in the remaining TTWA – Shetland Islands. Skye & Lochalsh had the greatest increase over the month, rising 0.6% from 3.0% to 3.6%. Campbeltown was the only TTWA to decrease over the month, falling 0.2% from 3.7% to 3.5%.

Over the year to December 2012, the claimant count rose in 7, fell in 9 and was static in the remaining 2 TTWA's – Dunoon & Bute and Inverness & Dingwall. Ullapool & Gairloch had the greatest increase over the year, rising 0.4% from 2.4% to 2.8%. Campbeltown had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 1.9% from 5.4% to 3.5%.

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 November 2012 and December 2012. A yearly comparison between December 2011 and December 2012 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 (December 2012)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Nov 12 - Dec 12)	% change in number claiming unemployment benefit (Dec 11 - Dec 12)
Shetland	215	-0.9	15.6
Inner Moray Firth	2,522	3.2	2.9
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	768	14.3	2.1
Argyll & the Islands	1,497	3.9	-6.4
Caithness & Sutherland	823	3.4	-9.6
Moray	1,274	3.2	-10.6
Innse Gall	461	3.8	-13.2
Orkney	176	2.9	-32.3
HIE Area	7,736	4.3	-4.6
Highland	4,113	5.2	0.0
Scotland	133,503	-0.4	-4.0
United Kingdom	1,523,222	-0.8	-2.9

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month November 2012 to December 2012, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 7, and fell in the remaining area office. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the month, rising 14.3% from 672 to 768 claimants. Shetland was the only area office to decrease over the month, falling 0.9% from 217 to 215 claimants.

Over the year to December 2012, the number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose in 3, and fell in 5 area offices. Shetland had the greatest increase over the year, rising 15.6% from 186 to 215 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the year, falling by 32.3% from 260 to 176 claimants.

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 are long-term unemployed in December 2012 in each of the AOs. It also highlights the percentage change in the number of those claiming long-term unemployment benefit over the month (November 2012 to December 2012) and over the year (December 2011 to December 2012). The AOs are ranked by the right hand column, which contains the size of the annual percentage change in numbers of LTU.

Area Office	% Change in number of LTU	
	December 2012	(Nov 12 - Dec 12)
Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross	195	0.0
Inner Moray Firth	800	0.6
Shetland	55	-8.3
Innse Gall	220	2.3
Moray	450	-2.2
Argyll & the Islands	615	3.4
Caithness & Sutherland	370	1.4
Orkney	65	0.0
HIE Area	2,770	0.7
Highland	1,365	0.7
Scotland	58,555	-0.6
United Kingdom	661,125	-1.1

Source: Claimant Count (NOMIS)

Over the month November 2012 to December 2012, the number of long-term unemployment benefit claimants rose in 4, fell in 2 and was static in the remaining 2 – Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross and Orkney. Argyll & the Islands had the greatest increase over the year, rising 3.4% from 595 to 615 claimants. Shetland had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 8.3% from 60 to 55 claimants.

Over the year to December 2012, the number of people claiming long-term unemployment benefit rose in 5, fell in 2 and was static in the remaining area office – Argyll & the Islands. Lochaber, Skye & Wester Ross had the greatest increase over the year, rising 39.3% from 140 to 195 claimants. Orkney had the greatest decrease over the year, falling 13.3% from 75 to 65 claimants.

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

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