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Attendance Allowance

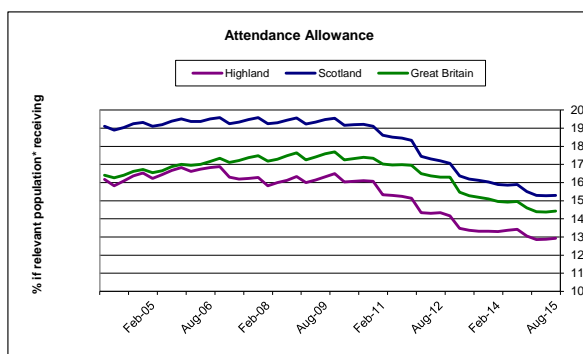
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Attendance Allowance is a tax free benefit that may be available to people aged 65 or over who need help with personal care because they are physically or mentally disabled. There is a lower and higher rate of payment which is dependent on the effect the disability has.

Information on Attendance Allowance Claimants is not available for small areas such as Wards.

Figure 1: Attendance Allowance Claimants

12.9% of people aged 65 and over in Highland receive Attendance Allowance which is lower than the rate for Scotland (15.3%) and the UK (14.4%).



Attendance Allowance Claimants by Local Authority

The highest rates are Glasgow (22.0%) and North Lanarkshire & West Dunbartonshire (each 21.6%) and the lowest in Aberdeenshire (9.2%) and Shetland (9.9%). In general, claim rates are beginning to stabilise in all local authorities following several years of decline, with Highland falling by 0.64% over the previous twelve months.

Local Authority	Claimants	% of population aged over 64 receiving Attendance Allowance	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	4,230	12.3	-2.98
Aberdeenshire	4,210	9.2	-2.32
Angus	3,200	12.5	-4.19
Argyll & Bute	3,120	14.8	-2.50
Clackmannanshire	1,130	12.1	1.80
Dumfries & Galloway	5,350	15.0	0.56
Dundee City	4,470	17.3	-3.66
East Ayrshire	4,140	17.8	-1.19
East Dunbartonshire	3,560	15.7	0.28
East Lothian	2,710	13.9	-1.81
East Renfrewshire	3,170	17.9	1.28
Edinburgh, City of	9,330	12.6	-3.62
Eilean Siar	1,110	17.2	-0.89
Falkirk	4,090	14.6	-1.21
Fife	8,930	12.6	-1.22
Glasgow City	18,500	22.1	-1.65
Highland	6,210	12.9	-0.64
Inverclyde	2,970	18.9	-0.34
Midlothian	2,030	13.0	-1.93
Moray	1,950	10.3	-2.01
North Ayrshire	4,710	16.5	-1.67
North Lanarkshire	11,230	20.5	-0.35
Orkney Islands	600	12.7	-1.64
Perthshire & Kinross	4,290	13.2	-0.69
Renfrewshire	5,650	17.8	0.53
Scottish Borders	2,880	10.9	-2.04
Shetland Islands	420	9.9	-8.70
South Ayrshire	4,420	16.8	-2.00
South Lanarkshire	10,300	17.9	-1.72
Stirling	2,170	12.9	-1.36
West Dunbartonshire	3,200	20.3	-5.33
West Lothian	3,780	13.9	-1.05
Scotland	148,060	15.3	-1.56
Great Britain	1,605,040	14.4	-1.11

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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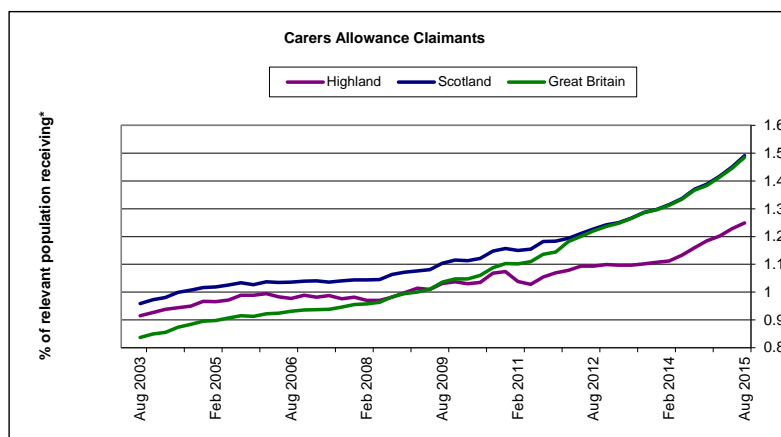
Carers Allowance

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DWP describe the Carer's Allowance (CA) as a benefit to help people who look after someone who is disabled. They do not have to be related to, or live with, the person that is cared for. CA may be available if a person is aged 16 or over and spends at least 35 hours a week caring for a person getting Attendance Allowance, or Disability Living Allowance (at the middle or highest rate for personal care), or Constant Attendance Allowance (at or above the normal maximum rate with an Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, or basic (full day) rate with a War Disablement Pension).

Information on Carers Allowance Claimants is not available for small areas such as Wards.

Figure 1: Carers Allowance Claimants



1.2% of people aged over 16 in Highland receive CA, which is slightly less than the Scotland and United Kingdom averages, each 1.5%. There has been a general trend of increasing numbers of people receiving CA over the last five years in Scotland and the United Kingdom and Highland is now following this trend.

Carers Allowance Claimants by Local Authority

Highland is ranked 16th out of the 32 Local Authorities for the percentage of people aged over 16 receiving CA with Glasgow (2.2%) and West Dunbartonshire & North Lanarkshire (both 2.0%) the highest and Shetland the lowest (0.6%). Highland had an increase of 8.1% over the last 12 months compared with a 9.3% increase in the Scotland average: during this period Fife had the biggest increase, Shetland had no change and no Councils had a decrease.

Local Authority	Claimants	% of population aged over 64 receiving Carers Allowance	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	1,300	0.7	8.33
Aberdeenshire	1,570	0.7	9.03
Angus	1,200	1.2	9.09
Argyll & Bute	910	1.2	7.06
Clackmannanshire	730	1.7	12.31
Dumfries & Galloway	2,100	1.7	8.25
Dundee City	2,190	1.8	10.61
East Ayrshire	2,000	2.0	8.70
East Dunbartonshire	890	1.0	9.88
East Lothian	1,000	1.2	8.70
East Renfrewshire	770	1.0	2.67
Edinburgh, City of	4,010	1.0	8.67
Eilean Siar	210	0.9	5.00
Falkirk	2,010	1.6	10.44
Fife	4,780	1.6	12.74
Glasgow City	11,200	2.2	8.84
Highland	2,410	1.2	8.07
Inverclyde	1,340	2.0	11.67
Midlothian	1,090	1.6	12.37
Moray	840	1.1	7.69
North Ayrshire	2,290	2.0	9.05
North Lanarkshire	5,610	2.0	8.93
Orkney Islands	180	1.0	0.00
Perthshire & Kinross	1,370	1.1	11.38
Renfrewshire	2,270	1.6	11.82
Scottish Borders	1,050	1.1	8.25
Shetland Islands	120	0.6	0.00
South Ayrshire	1,520	1.6	11.76
South Lanarkshire	4,690	1.8	10.35
Stirling	870	1.1	7.41

West Dunbartonshire	1,490	2.0	4.20
West Lothian	2,170	1.5	11.86
Scotland	66,140	1.5	9.34
Great Britain	757,330	1.5	9.49

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS Aug-15

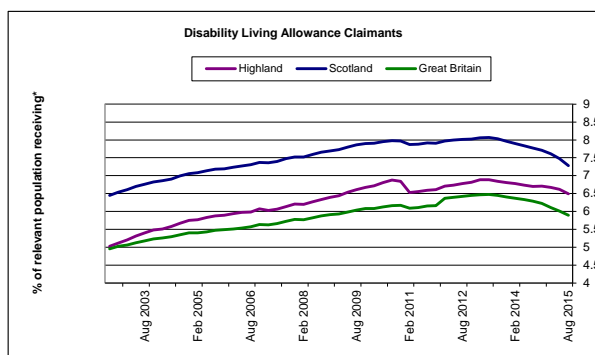
Disability Living Allowance

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DWP describe Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as a tax-free benefit for children and adults who need help with personal care or have walking difficulties because they are physically or mentally disabled. It may be available to people who have a physical or mental disability, or both, whose disability is severe enough for them to need help caring for themselves or who have walking difficulties, or both and who are under 65 when they claim.

As part of the reform of the welfare system, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was abolished and replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for people aged 16 to 64 on or after 8 April 2013. In the Highland Council area claims to Personal Independence Payment started on Monday 10th June 2013. From 28th October 2013, existing DLA claimants who report a change in circumstances, time limited claimants and claimants turning 16 will need to claim PIP. All other DLA claimants are expected to move to PIP between October 2015 and 2018. Statistics on PIP will be reported as soon as they are available, but in the interim users should be aware that the figures given here do not give a full picture of people in Highland who have a disability that affects their ability to lead an independent life.

Figure 1: DLA Claimants



6.5% of people aged under 65 in Highland receive DLA, lower than the Scotland average of 7.3% but above the the United Kingdom average of 5.9%. Trends in Highland over recent years have been similar to those in both Scotland and the United Kingdom with levels falling following a steady rise until 2012.

DLA Claimants by Ward

There is a wide variation in the number of people in each ward receiving DLA and wards containing deprived areas have over four times as many claimants as less deprived wards. The wards with the highest percentage of people receiving DLA are Inverness Central (10.1%), Cromarty Firth (8.9%) and East Sutherland and Edderton (8.4%), while the lowest are Black Isle (4.0%) and Inverness South (4.2%).

Ward No	Ward Name	All Disability Living Allowance Claimants	% of Population aged under 65 claiming Disability Living Allowance
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	280	6.6
2	Thurso	420	7.3
3	Wick	435	7.2
4	Landward Caithness	635	7.5
5	East Sutherland and Edderton	475	8.4
6	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	530	5.9
7	Cromarty Firth	890	8.9
8	Tain and Easter Ross	590	8.2
9	Dingwall and Seaforth	660	6.3
10	Black Isle	315	4.0
11	Eilean a' Cheò	505	6.2
12	Caol and Mallaig	420	6.4
13	Aird and Loch Ness	430	5.0
14	Inverness West	585	8.2
15	Inverness Central	1,160	10.1
16	Inverness Ness-Side	455	4.7
17	Inverness Millburn	355	5.1
18	Culloden and Ardersier	535	5.5
19	Naim	660	7.0
20	Inverness South	540	4.2
21	Badenoch and Strathspey	505	4.7
22	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	575	6.2

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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DLA Claimants by Local Authority

Highland is ranked 20th out of the 32 Local Authorities for the percentage of the population aged under 65 receiving DLA, with West Dunbartonshire (10.6%) and Inverclyde the highest (both 10.3%) and Shetland and Aberdeenshire the lowest (both 4.4%). All Local Authorities showed a decrease over the previous 12 months with Mid and West Lothian the biggest (both -11.4%). The decrease in Highland (-3.7%) was at the lower end of the scale and lower than that of Scotland (-6.4%).

Local Authority	Claimants	% of population aged over 64 receiving Disability Living Allowance	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	9,150	4.7	-5.6
Aberdeenshire	9,460	4.4	-4.5
Angus	6,100	6.7	-3.3
Argyll & Bute	4,590	6.9	-2.8
Clackmannanshire	3,450	8.2	-3.6
Dumfries & Galloway	8,970	7.9	-10.9
Dundee City	10,940	8.9	-4.3
East Ayrshire	8,430	8.5	-5.2
East Dunbartonshire	4,850	5.8	-4.9
East Lothian	4,720	5.7	-10.9
East Renfrewshire	4,090	5.5	-4.0
Edinburgh, City of	19,520	4.7	-12.7
Eilean Siar	1,300	6.2	-3.7
Falkirk	9,910	7.6	-3.9
Fife	21,330	7.2	-3.6
Glasgow City	52,790	10.2	-5.4
Highland	12,020	6.5	-3.7
Inverclyde	6,580	10.3	-2.9
Midlothian	5,060	7.2	-11.4
Moray	4,200	5.5	-3.0
North Ayrshire	9,760	9.0	-4.3
North Lanarkshire	24,440	8.6	-10.4
Orkney Islands	920	5.5	-2.1
Perthshire & Kinross	7,010	6.0	-2.8
Renfrewshire	12,340	8.7	-3.5
Scottish Borders	4,970	5.7	-10.9
Shetland Islands	830	4.4	-4.6
South Ayrshire	7,130	8.3	-4.3
South Lanarkshire	21,400	8.3	-7.7
Stirling	4,370	5.8	-4.4
West Dunbartonshire	7,630	10.3	-4.9
West Lothian	10,620	7.1	-11.4
Scotland	318,890	7.3	-6.4
Great Britain	3,044,570	5.9	-5.8

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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Incapacity Benefit/Employment and Support Allowance

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DWP describe Incapacity Benefit (IB) as a weekly payment for people who become incapable of work because of illness or disability while under State Pension age. There are many criteria that are assessed before someone can claim incapacity benefit relating to their ability to work and their previous working history.

From 27 October 2008 Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaces IB and Income Support (IS) paid on incapacity grounds for new customers. The principle of Employment and Support Allowance is that everyone should have the opportunity to work and that people with an illness or disability should get the support they need to engage in appropriate work, if they are able. For new customers, ESA will replace IB and IS paid on incapacity grounds. Existing IB or IS customers will initially continue to receive their existing benefits, so long as they satisfy the entitlement conditions. ESA offers personalised support and financial help if people are not working due to an illness or disability. It gives people access to a specially trained personal adviser and a wide range of further services. DWP describe Incapacity Benefit (IB) as a weekly payment for people who become incapable of work because of illness or disability while under State Pension age. There are many criteria that are assessed before someone can claim incapacity benefit relating to their ability to work and their previous working history.

Universal Credit is being implemented in Highland on a phased basis which has resulted in some claimants, who were previously eligible for Job Seekers Allowance, being placed on Universal Credit. The result of this is that the Job Seekers Allowance claimant count and other benefit claimant data is increasingly unreliable. [Further information and data on Universal Credit claimants in Highland is available here.](#)

Figure 1: IB/SDA Claimants

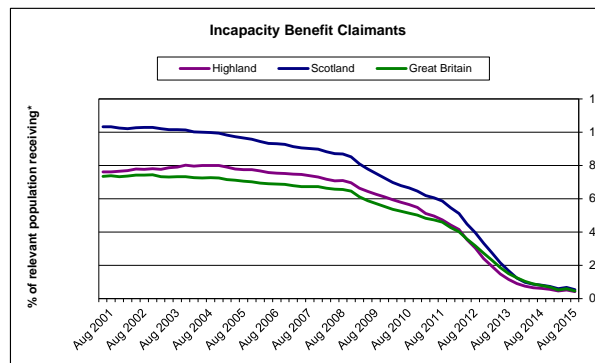
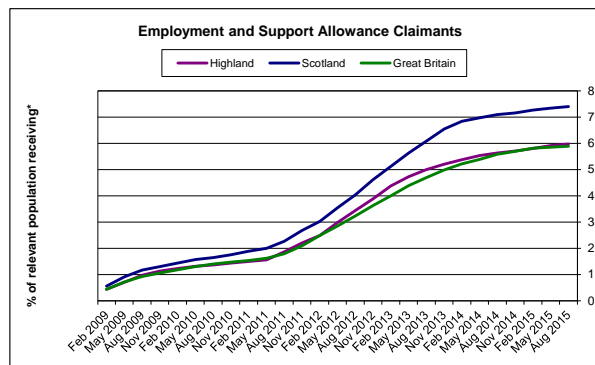


Figure 2: ESA Claimants



6.4% of working age people in Highland receive either IB/SDA or ESA, below the Scotland average of 8.0% and just below the United Kingdom average (6.5%). The number of claimants has been falling steadily across Scotland overall and the United Kingdom since 2003 but this decline was delayed in Highland, starting some two years later. This decline in IB/SDA became more rapid from the end of 2008 when ESA was introduced with an equivalent rise in the rates of ESA claimants across the same timescale.

IB/ESA Claimants by Ward

There is a wide variation in the number of people in each ward receiving IB or ESA and wards containing deprived areas have over six times as many claimants as less deprived wards. The wards with the highest percentage of people receiving either IB or ESA are Inverness Central (12.6%), Cromarty Firth (9.0%) and Wick (8.8%), while the lowest is Inverness South (3.2%).

Ward No	Ward Name	IB/SDA Claimants	ESA Claimants	% of working age population receiving IB/SDA or ESA
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	20	180	5.7
2	Thurso	20	330	7.6
3	Wick	15	400	8.8
4	Landward Caithness	30	455	7.3
5	East Sutherland and Edderton	30	280	6.9
6	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	30	365	5.6
7	Cromarty Firth	65	620	9.0
8	Tain and Easter Ross	30	390	7.6
9	Dingwall and Seaforth	30	480	6.3
10	Black Isle	20	200	3.6
11	Eilean a' Cheò	25	395	6.5
12	Caol and Mallaig	20	255	5.5
13	Aird and Loch Ness	20	275	4.4
14	Inverness West	35	445	8.2
15	Inverness Central	75	1,085	12.6
16	Inverness Ness-Side	20	355	5.0
17	Inverness Millburn	10	260	5.0
18	Culloden and Ardersier	20	405	5.5
19	Nairn	50	440	6.7
20	Inverness South	30	280	3.2
21	Badenoch and Strathspey	15	290	3.6
22	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	15	430	6.2

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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IB/ESA Claimants by Local Authority

Glasgow (12.2%) and Inverclyde (11.6%) have the highest claimant rates while Aberdeenshire (4.1%) and Shetland (4.6%) are lowest. The number of working age people in Highland claiming IB/SDA or ESA rose by 1.6% during the previous 12 months, higher than the average Scotland increase of 0.4%.

Local Authority	IB/SDA Claimants	ESA Claimants	% of working age population receiving IB or ESA	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	560	7,850	5.2	1.6
Aberdeenshire	530	6,320	4.1	1.6
Angus	370	4,160	6.3	0.9
Argyll & Bute	200	3,400	6.8	1.1
Clackmannanshire	140	2,910	9.3	4.8
Dumfries & Galloway	230	6,560	7.5	4.5
Dundee City	690	9,170	10.0	0.8
East Ayrshire	470	6,610	9.1	3.1
East Dunbartonshire	290	3,190	5.3	-3.1
East Lothian	320	3,630	6.2	0.0
East Renfrewshire	250	2,620	5.1	-3.0
Edinburgh, City of	1,670	18,790	6.0	1.0
Eilean Siar	50	930	6.0	-3.0
Falkirk	380	7,410	7.7	2.0
Fife	1,320	16,780	7.8	1.7
Glasgow City	3,070	48,040	12.2	-1.7
Highland	600	8,660	6.4	1.6
Inverclyde	410	5,520	11.6	-2.8
Midlothian	320	3,710	7.4	1.8
Moray	220	3,050	5.5	1.2
North Ayrshire	490	8,130	10.2	6.0
North Lanarkshire	1,430	20,110	9.8	-1.0
Orkney Islands	30	640	5.0	4.7
Perthshire & Kinross	340	4,940	5.7	2.3
Renfrewshire	710	9,400	9.0	-2.4
Scottish Borders	270	4,170	6.5	5.2
Shetland Islands	40	640	4.6	9.7
South Ayrshire	420	5,290	8.4	4.0
South Lanarkshire	1,300	16,400	8.7	-1.0
Stirling	240	3,410	6.2	1.7
West Dunbartonshire	430	5,830	10.7	-3.7
West Lothian	560	8,530	7.9	0.4
Scotland	18,340	256,810	7.9	0.4
Great Britain	184,340	2,349,130	6.4	0.1

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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Income Support

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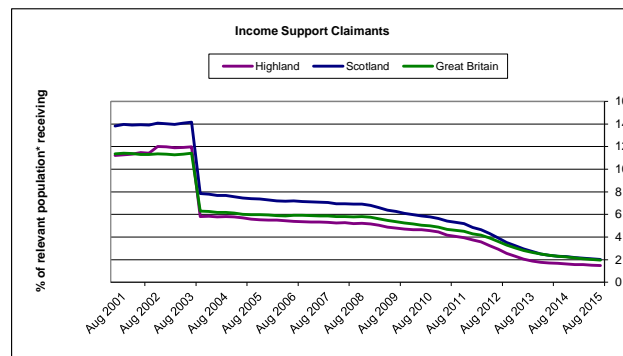
DWP describe Income Support (IS) as a benefit that may be available to people who can't be available for full-time work due to such reasons as sickness or disability or being a lone parent or carer, and don't have enough money to live on. Eligibility for IS is dependent on personal factors including health, family, savings and employment.

From 27 October 2008 Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) replaces Incapacity Benefit (IB) and IS paid on incapacity grounds for new customers. The principle of Employment and Support Allowance is that everyone should have the opportunity to work and that people with an illness or disability should get the support they need to engage in appropriate work, if they are able. For new customers, ESA will replace IB and IS paid on incapacity grounds. Existing IB or IS customers will initially continue to receive their existing benefits, so long as they satisfy the entitlement conditions. ESA offers personalised support and financial help if people are not working due to an illness or disability. It gives people access to a specially trained personal adviser and a wide range of further services. Statistics on ESA can be found on the Incapacity Benefits webpage. Changes were made to the way lone parents claim benefits which resulted in some moving off IS and onto Job Seekers Allowance during late 2008 and 2009.

Universal Credit is being implemented in Highland on a phased basis which has resulted in some claimants, who were previously eligible for Job Seekers Allowance, being placed on Universal Credit. The result of this is that the Job Seekers Allowance claimant count and other benefit claimant data is increasingly unreliable.

[Further information and data on Universal Credit claimants in Highland is available.](#)

Figure 1: IS Claimants



1.5% of working age people in Highland receive Income Support (IS), lower than both the Scotland and UK averages (2.2% and 2.1% respectively). The gentle decline since 2004 in the percentage of people receiving IS in Highland matches similar declines in both Scotland and the United Kingdom.

Income Support Claimants by Ward

There is a wide variation in the number of people in each ward receiving IS and wards containing deprived areas have nearly 9 times as many claimants as less deprived wards. The wards with the highest percentage of people receiving IS are Inverness Central (3.1%), Cromarty Firth (2.7%) and Wick (2.6%) while the lowest is Aird and Loch Ness (0.4%). Most wards have a lower percentage of people receiving IS than the Scotland average.

Ward No	Ward Name	All Income Support Claimants	% of Population aged 16 to 59 claiming IS
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	35	1.2
2	Thurso	90	2.2
3	Wick	110	2.6
4	Landward Caithness	70	1.2
5	East Sutherland and Edderton	45	1.2
6	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	70	1.1
7	Cromarty Firth	185	2.7
8	Tain and Easter Ross	110	2.3
9	Dingwall and Seaforth	115	1.6
10	Black Isle	35	0.7
11	Eilean a' Cheò	50	0.9
12	Caol and Mallaig	65	1.5
13	Aird and Loch Ness	25	0.4
14	Inverness West	75	1.4
15	Inverness Central	260	3.1
16	Inverness Ness-Side	85	1.2
17	Inverness Millburn	60	1.2
18	Culloden and Ardersier	70	1.0
19	Nairn	90	1.4
20	Inverness South	70	0.8
21	Badenoch and Strathspey	50	0.7
22	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	75	1.2

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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Income Support Claimants by Local Authority

West Dunbartonshire (3.2%) and Glasgow (3.0%) have the highest claimant rate while Shetland (0.6%) and Orkney (both 0.6%) are the lowest with Highland being towards the lower end of the range. The number of people claiming IS fell in all Authorities over the previous 12 months, with the drop of -10.4% in Highland being about the middle of the range.

Local Authority	Claimants	% of population aged over 64 receiving Income Support	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	1,600	1.1	-19.2
Aberdeenshire	1,180	0.8	-17.5
Angus	1,030	1.6	-7.2
Argyll & Bute	670	1.4	-6.9
Clackmannanshire	740	2.5	-9.8
Dumfries & Galloway	1,370	1.7	-8.7
Dundee City	2,390	2.6	-11.8
East Ayrshire	1,930	2.8	-9.4
East Dunbartonshire	720	1.2	-14.3
East Lothian	1,020	1.8	-8.9
East Renfrewshire	600	1.2	-16.7
Edinburgh, City of	4,500	1.4	-13.3
Eilean Siar	130	0.9	-7.1
Falkirk	1,690	1.8	-12.9
Fife	4,800	2.3	-8.6
Glasgow City	11,740	3.0	-11.3
Highland	1,900	1.5	-10.4
Inverclyde	1,370	3.0	-10.5
Midlothian	1,130	2.3	-8.9
Moray	680	1.3	-9.3
North Ayrshire	2,280	3.0	-10.9
North Lanarkshire	5,430	2.7	-12.0
Orkney Islands	70	0.6	0.0
Perthshire & Kinross	1,040	1.3	-12.6
Renfrewshire	2,410	2.4	-10.7
Scottish Borders	870	1.4	-9.4
Shetland Islands	80	0.6	-20.0
South Ayrshire	1,340	2.2	-13.5
South Lanarkshire	4,240	2.3	-11.9
Stirling	750	1.4	-18.5
West Dunbartonshire	1,700	3.2	-11.0
West Lothian	2,130	2.0	-10.1
Scotland	63,540	2.0	-11.5
Great Britain	716,180	2.0	-12.1

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

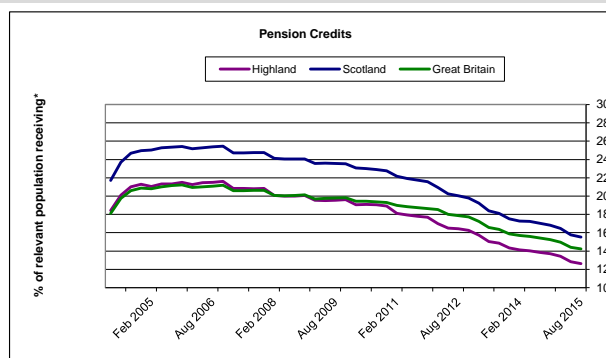
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Pension Credits

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DWP describe Pension Credit (PC) as available to people aged 60 or over on a low income and made up of two elements - the 'Guarantee Credit' element and the 'Savings Credit' element (which may be payable from age 65). The Guarantee Credit element guarantees everyone aged 60 and over a minimum weekly income. The Savings Credit element rewards people aged over 65 for saving for their retirement.

Figure 1: PC Claimants



Despite incomes in Highland being less than the Scotland average the number of people of pensionable age in Highland receiving PC is lower, 12.8%, than the Scotland average of 15.8% and the United Kingdom average of 14.4%.

Pension Credit Claimants by Ward

There is a wide variation in the number of people in each ward receiving PC with some wards having over four times as many claimants as others. The wards with the highest percentage of people receiving PC are Inverness Central (21.2%), Cromarty Firth (19.1%) and Wick (17.0%) while the lowest is Inverness Ness-Side (7.0%).

Ward No	Ward Name	All Pension Credits Claimants	% of Population aged over 60 claiming PC
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	280	13.5
2	Thurso	235	11.1
3	Wick	325	17.0
4	Landward Caithness	365	10.7
5	East Sutherland and Edderton	395	13.5
6	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	425	11.0
7	Cromarty Firth	605	19.1
8	Tain and Easter Ross	440	15.8
9	Dingwall and Seaforth	520	14.7
10	Black Isle	250	7.8
11	Eilean a' Cheò	430	13.2
12	Caol and Mallaig	360	15.8
13	Aird and Loch Ness	325	9.9
14	Inverness West	320	14.3
15	Inverness Central	695	21.2
16	Inverness Ness-Side	205	7.0
17	Inverness Millburn	175	8.6
18	Culloden and Ardersier	235	8.8
19	Nairn	440	11.7
20	Inverness South	210	8.4
21	Badenoch and Strathspey	455	11.5
22	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	430	13.9

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

Aug 2015

Pension Credit Claimants by Local Authority

Glasgow has the highest rate (29.6%) and East Dunbartonshire the lowest (8.5%). All Authorities saw a decrease in the number of people receiving PC over the previous 12 months.

Local Authority	Claimants	% of Population aged over 60 claiming PC	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	5,330	11.6	-11.0
Aberdeenshire	5,730	9.2	-11.6
Angus	4,130	12.3	-10.2
Argyll & Bute	3,540	12.9	-9.2
Clackmannanshire	1,760	14.0	-8.8
Dumfries & Galloway	6,650	14.3	-7.4
Dundee City	6,710	20.1	-9.1
East Ayrshire	5,630	18.2	-8.5
East Dunbartonshire	2,500	8.5	-8.8
East Lothian	3,090	12.1	-10.7
East Renfrewshire	2,210	9.6	-8.3
Edinburgh, City of	12,090	12.4	-9.2
Eilean Siar	1,680	19.9	-8.7
Falkirk	5,550	14.9	-8.7
Fife	11,760	12.6	-9.3
Glasgow City	32,900	29.6	-7.6
Highland	8,120	12.6	-8.7
Inverclyde	4,140	20.0	-9.0
Midlothian	2,540	12.1	-9.3
Moray	2,970	11.9	-10.8
North Ayrshire	6,660	17.8	-8.0
North Lanarkshire	15,550	21.0	-8.7
Orkney Islands	680	11.0	-8.1
Perthshire & Kinross	4,630	10.9	-9.4
Renfrewshire	7,020	16.7	-8.4
Scottish Borders	4,090	11.9	-10.1
Shetland Islands	570	10.0	-13.6
South Ayrshire	4,750	13.9	-8.1
South Lanarkshire	13,360	17.3	-8.9
Stirling	2,540	11.4	-8.3
West Dunbartonshire	4,710	22.2	-8.9
West Lothian	5,690	15.4	-9.1
Scotland	199,290	15.5	-8.8
Great Britain	2,068,560	14.2	-7.8

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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Unemployed Claimant Count (Claiming Universal Credit or Job Seekers Allowance)

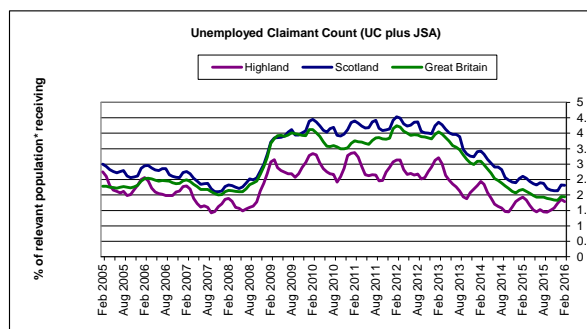
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Prior to November 2013 Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was the main benefit in Highland for people of working age who are out of work. DWP state that JSA may be available if a person is out of work or working less than 16 hours a week on average. To be eligible you must be capable of working, available for work, actively seeking work and below state pension age. JSA may be payable as contribution based, if you have paid or been credited with class 1 National Insurance (NI) contributions in the relevant tax years, or income based, which is based on income and savings if you have not paid enough National Insurance contributions (NICs) and you're on a low income. Changes were made to the way lone parents claim benefits which resulted in some moving off Income Support (IS) and onto JSA during late 2008 and 2009.

Universal Credit is being implemented in Highland on a phased basis starting in November 2013 which has resulted in many claimants, who were previously eligible for Job Seekers Allowance, being placed on Universal Credit. The result of this was that the Job Seekers Allowance claimant count and other benefit claimant data became increasingly unreliable and in November 2015 a new measure of unemployment has been published: a claimant count that is the total of UC and JSA claimants. Information is available at a local level by age and gender, but no duration (at the moment).

The UC plus JSA claimant count is not an official measure of unemployment but it is the only measure available for small areas, and at timescales more frequent than quarterly. [Further information and data on Universal Credit claimants in Highland is available here.](#)

Figure 1: JSA Claimants



1.5% of working age unemployed people in Highland claim UC or JSA, lower than the averages for Scotland and the United Kingdom (2.2% and 1.9% respectively). Unemployment in Highland is highly seasonal and was above the Scotland and United Kingdom average around the millennium but has fallen steadily since then until beginning to rise in late 2008. Unemployment in Highland was less affected by the credit crunch than Scotland and Great Britain, but the gap has narrowed over the last two years.

Unemployed Claimant Count by Ward

There is a wide variation in the number of unemployed people in each ward claiming UC or JSA and wards containing deprived areas have over three times as many claimants as less deprived wards. The wards with the highest percentage of people claiming benefits are Inverness Central (3.6%), Cromarty Firth (3.0%), Wick (3.0%) and Thurso (2.7%) while the lowest are Inverness South (0.8%), Inverness Millburn (1.1%) and Badenoch & Strathspey (1.1%). The seasonality of employment in Highland makes interpretation over short periods difficult, but recent figures suggest a trend of rising unemployment across Highland, particularly in Caithness and East Ross.

Ward No	Ward Name	number of people claiming out of work benefits	% of working age population claiming out of work benefits
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	70	2.1
2	Thurso	120	2.7
3	Wick	135	3.0
4	Landward Caithness	120	1.9
5	East Sutherland and Edderton	75	1.7
6	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	105	1.5
7	Cromarty Firth	220	3.0
8	Tain and Easter Ross	125	2.4
9	Dingwall and Seaforth	110	1.4
10	Black Isle	70	1.2
11	Eilean a' Cheò	95	1.5
12	Caol and Mallaig	65	1.3
13	Aird and Loch Ness	75	1.2
14	Inverness West	90	1.6
15	Inverness Central	320	3.6
16	Inverness Ness-Side	130	1.8
17	Inverness Millburn	55	1.1
18	Culloden and Ardersier	100	1.3
19	Nairn	105	1.5
20	Inverness South	70	0.8
21	Badenoch and Strathspey	90	1.1
22	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	155	2.2

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS Feb 2016

Unemployed Claimant Count by Local Authority

The highest rates are in North Ayrshire (4.3%) and West Dunbartonshire (3.9%) and the lowest in Orkney (0.8%) and Shetland (0.9%). Highland saw a decrease of -7% in the number of claimants over the previous 12 months, less than the decrease for Scotland overall. The significant increase in Aberdeen City & Shire and Shetland reflects the impact of the downturn in the oil industry.

Local Authority	number of people claiming out of work benefits	% of working age population claiming out of work benefits	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	2,925	1.9	58.1
Aberdeenshire	2,285	1.4	88.1
Angus	1,400	2.0	7.3
Argyll & Bute	955	1.9	-11.2
Clackmannanshire	870	2.8	-16.7
Dumfries & Galloway	1,595	1.8	-16.7
Dundee City	3,190	3.3	-12.5
East Ayrshire	2,640	3.5	-12.0
East Dunbartonshire	730	1.2	-21.5
East Lothian	1,020	1.7	-19.4
East Renfrewshire	650	1.2	-18.2
Edinburgh, City of	5,210	1.6	-20.5
Eilean Siar	360	2.3	-6.5
Falkirk	2,190	2.2	-20.4
Fife	5,830	2.6	-9.9
Glasgow City	13,230	3.3	-16.5
Highland	2,500	1.8	-7.2
Inverclyde	1,475	3.0	-15.5
Midlothian	900	1.7	-13.9
Moray	965	1.7	3.2
North Ayrshire	3,515	4.3	-5.3
North Lanarkshire	6,080	2.9	-15.7
Orkney Islands	100	0.8	-4.8
Perthshire & Kinross	1,140	1.3	-7.7
Renfrewshire	2,930	2.7	-12.4
Scottish Borders	1,295	2.0	2.0
Shetland Islands	125	0.9	31.6
South Ayrshire	1,710	2.6	-16.8
South Lanarkshire	4,415	2.3	-21.7
Stirling	960	1.7	-14.3
West Dunbartonshire	2,185	3.9	-11.4
West Lothian	1,945	1.8	-19.1
Scotland	77,335	2.3	-11.2
Great Britain	744,515	1.9	-11.2

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS

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Youth Unemployment (Claiming Universal Credit or Job Seekers Allowance)

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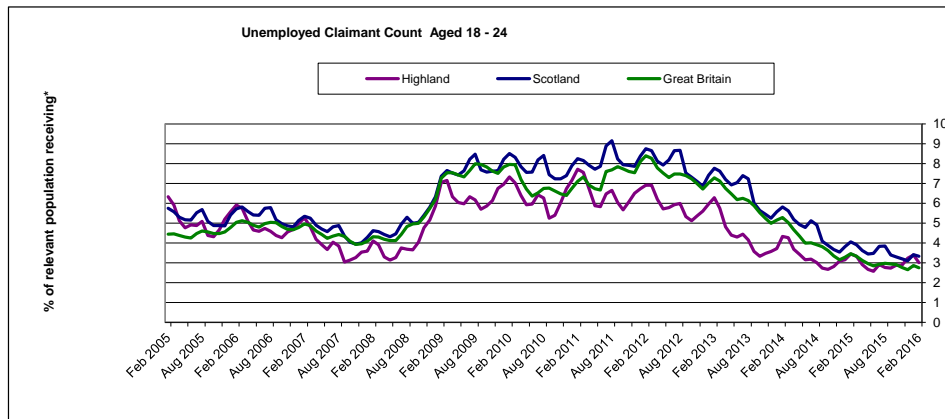
Prior to November 2013 Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was the main benefit in Highland for people of working age who are out of work. DWP state that JSA may be available if a person is out of work or working less than 16 hours a week on average. To be eligible you must be capable of working, available for work, actively seeking work and below state pension age. JSA may be payable as contribution based, if you have paid or been credited with class 1 National Insurance (NI) contributions in the relevant tax years, or income based, which is based on income and savings if you have not paid enough National Insurance contributions (NICs) and you're on a low income. Changes were made to the way lone parents claim benefits which resulted in some moving off Income Support (IS) and onto JSA during late 2008 and 2009.

Universal Credit is being implemented in Highland on a phased basis starting in November 2013 which has resulted in many claimants, who were previously eligible for Job Seekers Allowance, being placed on Universal Credit. The result of this was that the Job Seekers Allowance claimant count and other benefit claimant data became increasingly unreliable and in November 2015 a new measure of unemployment has been published: a claimant count that is the total of UC and JSA claimants. Information is available at a local level by age and gender, but no duration (at the moment).

The UC plus JSA claimant count is not an official measure of unemployment but it is the only measure available for small areas, and at timescales more frequent than quarterly.

[Further information and data on Universal Credit claimants in Highland is available here.](#)

Figure 1: JSA Claimants aged 18-24



The number of young people receiving JSA who are aged under 25 (ie aged 24 and below) generally follows the national pattern with 3.4% of young people in Highland receiving the benefit compared with 3.4% for Scotland and the United Kingdom (2.9%).

Youth Unemployment by Ward

There is a significant variation in the number of unemployed young people across Highland. The highest rates are in Inverness Central (5.7%), Cromarty Firth (5.1%) and Thurso (4.9%). The lowest rates are Aird & Loch Ness (0.8%), Inverness Millburn (1.4%) and North west and Central Sutherland.

Ward No	Ward Name	young people aged 18 to 24 claiming out of work benefits	% of population aged 18-24 claiming out of work benefits
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	5	1.6
2	Thurso	30	4.9
3	Wick	30	4.4
4	Landward Caithness	30	4.8
5	East Sutherland and Edderton	10	2.1
6	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	20	2.9
7	Cromarty Firth	50	5.1
8	Tain and Easter Ross	30	4.5
9	Dingwall and Seaforth	25	2.6
10	Black Isle	20	3.1
11	Eilean a' Cheò	15	2.3
12	Caol and Mallaig	10	1.8
13	Aird and Loch Ness	5	0.8
14	Inverness West	15	2.1
15	Inverness Central	70	5.7
16	Inverness Ness-Side	25	2.8
17	Inverness Millburn	10	1.4
18	Culloden and Ardersier	30	3.0
19	Naim	20	2.4
20	Inverness South	20	2.0
21	Badenoch and Strathspey	20	2.1
22	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	20	2.5

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS Feb 2016

Youth Unemployment Claimants by Local Authority

The percentage of young people in Highland aged under 25 who claim unemployment benefits (3.0%) is slightly lower than the Scotland average (3.3%) with a range from 7.2% in North Ayrshire to 1.4% in Aberdeen City, and showed a fall of -13% over the previous 12 months. Most local Authorities showed a decrease over this time but with increases in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Shetland and Orkney suggesting that downturn in the oil industry might be a factor.

Local Authority	young people aged 18 to 24 claiming out of work benefits	% of population aged 18-24 claiming out of work benefits	% change in claims on the previous 12 months
Aberdeen City	405	1.4	22.7
Aberdeenshire	430	2.2	45.8
Angus	365	4.1	5.8
Argyll & Bute	185	2.7	-21.3
Clackmannanshire	230	5.6	-19.3
Dumfries & Galloway	400	3.6	-14.9
Dundee City	730	3.6	-12.6
East Ayrshire	600	5.8	-19.5
East Dunbartonshire	150	1.7	-37.5
East Lothian	240	2.9	-25.0
East Renfrewshire	120	1.6	-35.1
Edinburgh, City of	950	1.6	-25.2
Eilean Siar	55	3.2	0.0
Falkirk	505	4.0	-20.5
Fife	1,340	4.0	-21.4
Glasgow City	2,660	3.7	-18.5
Highland	500	3.0	-13.0
Inverclyde	305	4.4	-30.7
Midlothian	210	3.0	-25.0
Moray	225	3.0	-15.1
North Ayrshire	805	7.2	-10.6
North Lanarkshire	1,415	4.8	-22.7
Orkney Islands	30	1.8	20.0
Perthshire & Kinross	260	2.3	-16.1
Renfrewshire	545	3.6	-19.9
Scottish Borders	325	4.1	0.0
Shetland Islands	40	2.2	60.0
South Ayrshire	375	4.4	-17.6
South Lanarkshire	980	3.8	-27.9
Stirling	240	2.3	-17.2
West Dunbartonshire	480	6.0	-13.5
West Lothian	470	3.2	-28.2
Scotland	16,575	3.3	-17.9
Great Britain	157,370	2.8	-20.5

Source: Department for Work and Pensions data from NOMIS Feb 2016