

Universal Credit

In November 2013 the Inverness Job Centre became the pilot in Scotland for Universal Credit (UC). This benefit is a single monthly payment that replaces 6 existing benefits:

- income based Job Seekers Allowance,
- income related Employment and Support Allowance,
- Income Support,
- Housing Benefit,
- Child Tax Credits and Working Tax Credits.

The Inverness Job Centre serves the postcode sectors shown red on the map below covering around half of the Highland population.

At the start of the programme UC was available only to claimants with simple living circumstances – typically young single people in rented accommodation – but in early 2015 the scheme was extended to more complex circumstances. It was also implemented at the Dingwall, Invergordon, Portree and Wick Job Centres together with other locations in Scotland. The table below shows the number of people in Highland claiming UC over the last 12 months: a more detailed breakdown of the figures is not available at the moment.

	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16
Total Claimants	701	790	847	940	987	1,153	1,196	1,250	1,267	1,288	1,428	1,306	1,363
Not in Employment	472	547	571	602	588	727	709	757	796	821	922	801	854
In Employment	207	221	253	320	378	396	462	469	471	467	505	506	517
Male	487	532	567	645	673	791	826	861	879	896	990	894	937
Female	197	236	256	276	290	332	344	368	383	391	432	417	428
Age 16 to 19	88	104	103	117	128	147	157	164	167	150	162	127	135
Age 20 to 24	196	212	223	240	245	299	312	331	342	338	373	323	335
Age 25 to 29	115	127	145	163	169	194	199	206	224	214	243	215	225
Age 30 to 34	75	87	85	98	108	116	122	123	130	131	143	128	138
Age 35 to 39	37	41	49	63	66	78	85	90	99	100	112	114	122
Age 40 to 44	37	45	45	52	62	73	74	80	83	82	93	94	93
Age 45 to 49	49	59	58	66	66	75	84	89	100	100	110	116	116
Age 50 to 54	38	45	52	59	63	65	67	75	78	87	99	102	96
Age 55 to 59	34	40	46	53	46	58	56	59	61	65	72	75	80
Age 60 to 64	10	10	11	15	13	13	12	14	15	14	14	14	16
Up to 3 months	194	247	292	327	314	367	320	326	276	297	360	350	385
3 to 6 months	154	177	154	183	255	280	322	298	350	309	319	252	274
More than 6 months	339	342	372	406	395	467	523	603	639	686	746	708	704
Job District & Office													
Dingwall	-	9	21	29	44	61	62	69	75	84	93	87	89
Fort William	-	5	6	9	17	24	27	35	42	48	71	76	81
Invergordon	-	23	34	54	62	85	107	126	136	143	158	147	149
Inverness	701	734	752	770	768	855	857	870	867	858	925	805	840
Portree	-	7	12	23	22	30	26	26	25	34	48	41	46
Wick	-	10	30	59	79	101	107	120	140	155	165	152	165

provisional

