



The Labour Market Bulletin provides summary information about the labour market in Aberdeenshire and is published quarterly.

Aberdeenshire is split into six administrative areas and this bulletin looks at unemployment figures for these areas as well as at the local authority and the Travel To Work Area (TTWA) level.

More information can be found at [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

Over the fourth quarter of 2014 Aberdeenshire's unemployment rate (Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant count) remained at 0.6%. The number of claimants rose slightly from 919 in September 2014 to 960 in December 2014.

Over the last 12 months to December 2014 unemployment in Aberdeenshire has fallen by 468, from 1,428 claimants to 960.

During December 2014 Aberdeenshire had the second lowest unemployment rate of the 32 Scottish local authorities, after the Shetland Islands (0.5%). North Ayrshire and West Dunbartonshire have the highest unemployment rates, at 4.1% and 3.9% respectively.

## Local Trends

### Administrative Areas

The unemployment count and rate for each of Aberdeenshire's administrative areas has been tabled below.

While all regions are well below the national average there are some areas where the rate is considerably higher than others. Banff and Buchan and Buchan both had the highest unemployment rate of the administrative areas in December 2014 at 0.9%, representing a claimant count of 216 and 251 respectively. Formartine, Garioch and Kincardine and Mearns all had the lowest unemployment rate at 0.4%.

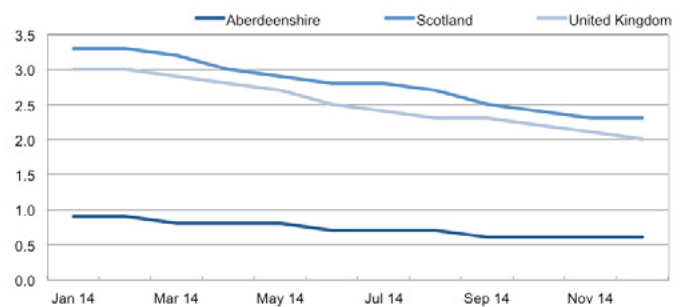
Banff and Buchan and Formartine both saw a 0.1% decrease in their claimant rates between Q3 and Q4, whereas Buchan and Garioch saw a 0.1% increase. Marr and Kincardine and Mearns rates remained consistent from September to December.

Table 1 - Claimant Count Unemployment Dec 2014

	Average Claimants Q4		Quarterly Change Q3-4	
	No.	Rate	No.	% Points
Aberdeenshire	933	0.6	-129	-0.1
Scotland	96,814	2.8	-11,098	-0.4
United Kingdom	1,031,265	2.5	-106,829	-0.2

Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Figure 1 - Unemployment Trends (Unadjusted Rates) Dec 2014, Aberdeenshire, Scotland and the UK



Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Table 2 - Area Claimant Counts and Rates, September and December 2014, Aberdeenshire

Admin Area	Sep 2014		Dec 2014		Quarterly Change	
	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	% Points
Banff & Buchan	222	1.0	216	0.9	-6	-0.1
Buchan	221	0.8	251	0.9	30	0.1
Formartine	131	0.5	128	0.4	-3	-0.1
Garioch	128	0.3	122	0.4	-6	0.1
Marr	111	0.5	113	0.5	2	0.0
Kincardine & Mearns	106	0.4	130	0.4	24	0.0

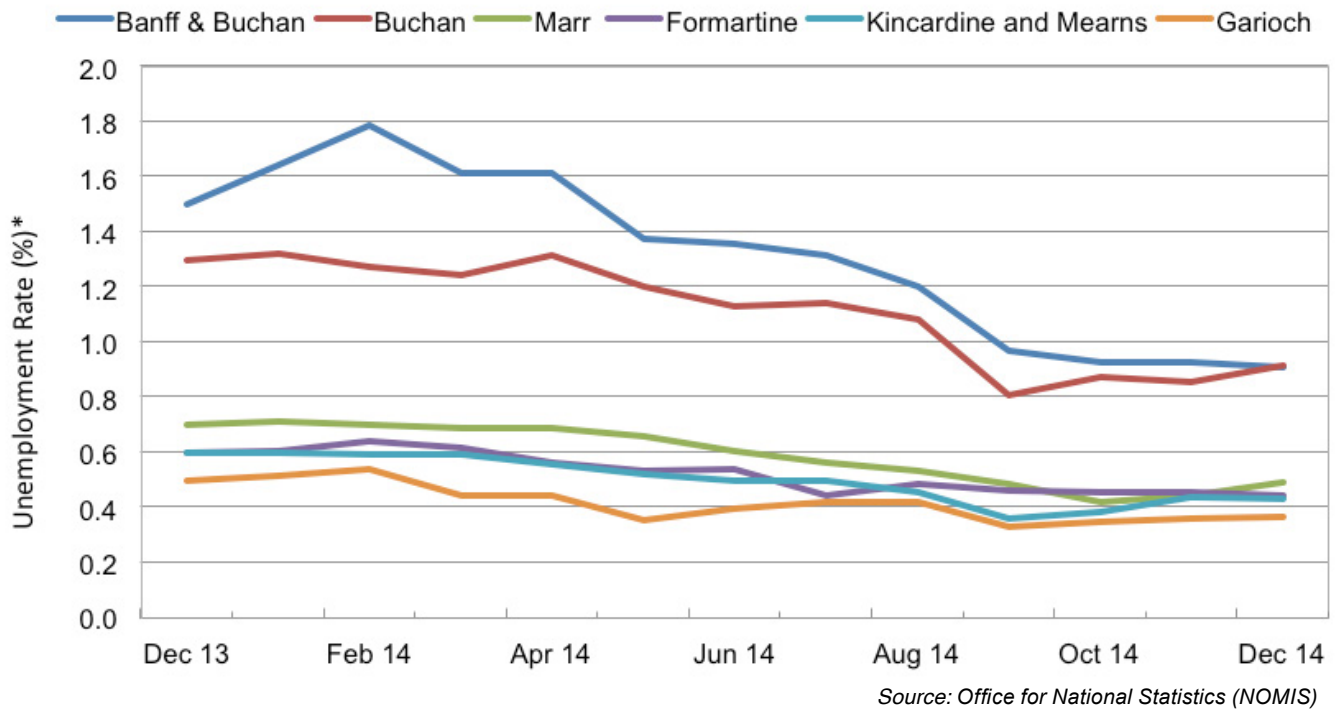
Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

\*Please note until August 2014 – Rates for Scottish multi-member wards from 2010 onwards are calculated using the mid-2010 resident population aged 16 - 64

From September 2014 - Rates for 2011 census frozen wards from 2012 onwards are calculated using the mid-2012 resident population aged 16-64 except in Northern Ireland where they are based on mid-2013 estimates.

## Unemployment Trends - Aberdeenshire Administrative Areas

Figure 3 - Claimant Rate by Area, December 2013 to December 2014, Aberdeenshire



### Travel to Work Areas

TTWA counts are also available from the Office of National Statistics. TTWAs are approximations of self-contained labour markets based on commuting to work patterns. There are four TTWAs covering Aberdeenshire, including the Aberdeen City TTWA which also covers Aberdeen.

Over the fourth quarter of 2014 to December, there was a small decrease in claimants' rates across the Aberdeen and Fraserburgh travel to work areas. Both Banff and Peterhead saw a small (0.1%) increase in claimant rate over this period.

Comparing December 2013 and December 2014, all TTWAs showed reductions in the number of people out of work. The Banff TTWA experienced the biggest decrease, at -0.5%.

Table 3 - TTWA Claimant Counts and Rates, September and December 2014, Aberdeenshire

	Dec 2013		Sep 2014		Dec 2014		Quarterly Change		Yearly Change	
	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %
Aberdeen	2,875	1.1	2,167	0.8	1,984	0.7	-183	-0.1	-891	-0.4
Banff	233	1.4	140	0.8	144	0.9	4	0.1	-89	-0.5
Fraserburgh	174	1.2	127	0.9	124	0.8	-3	-0.1	-50	-0.4
Peterhead	330	1.4	209	0.9	231	1.0	22	0.1	-99	-0.4

Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

## Average Hourly Wage - Travel to Work Areas

In 2014 on average men and women in the Aberdeen Travel to Work Area earned more per hour than both genders in the Fraserburgh, Banff and Peterhead areas. Women in the Fraserburgh area earned the least per hour at an average of £7.65 (£0.20 per hour less than the living wage for 2014).

Over the past 10 years between 2005-14 the average hourly wage of women has increased by a higher rate than men in all four areas. The most significant increase over this period was for women in the Aberdeen TTWA where the average hourly wage has increased by 60.5%.

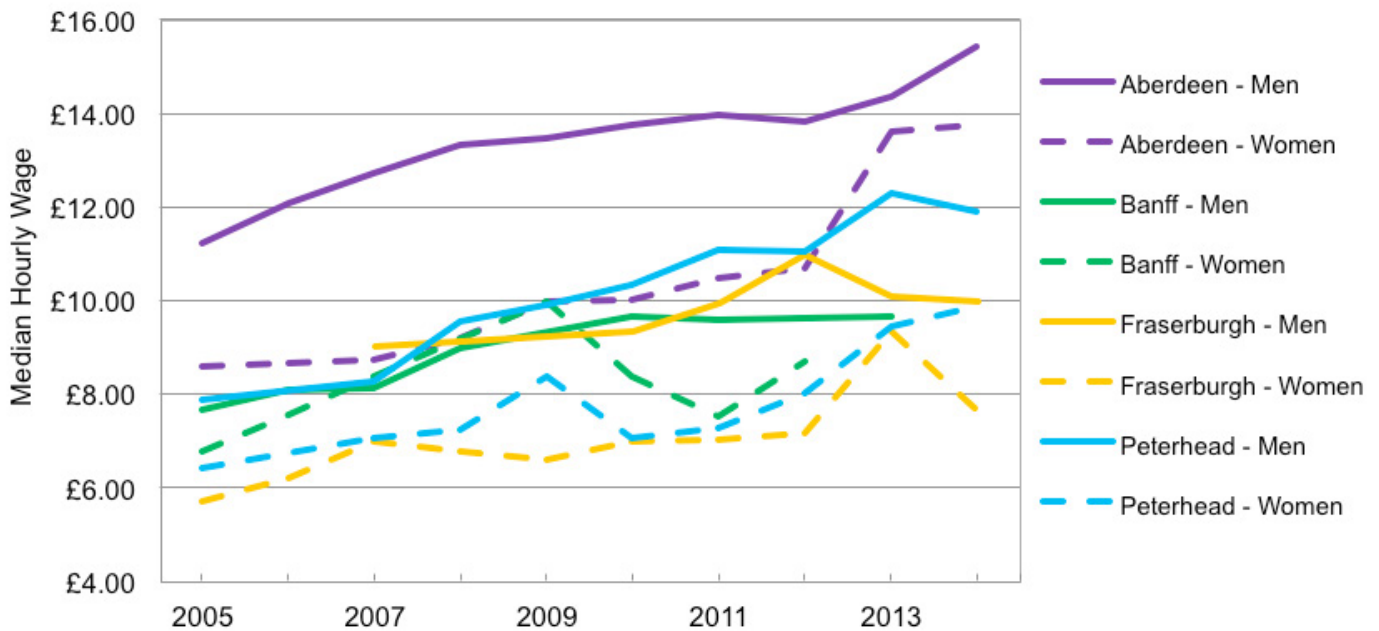
In 2000 the Aberdeen area had the widest wage gap between men and women in Scotland. This was in part due to the highly paid skilled oil and gas jobs

predominately occupied by men (Scottish Government Debate 08 June 2000). The high increase in women's pay in the Aberdeen area seen over the past 10 years could be an indication of a 'closing the gap' effect, with more women now entering these skilled professions.

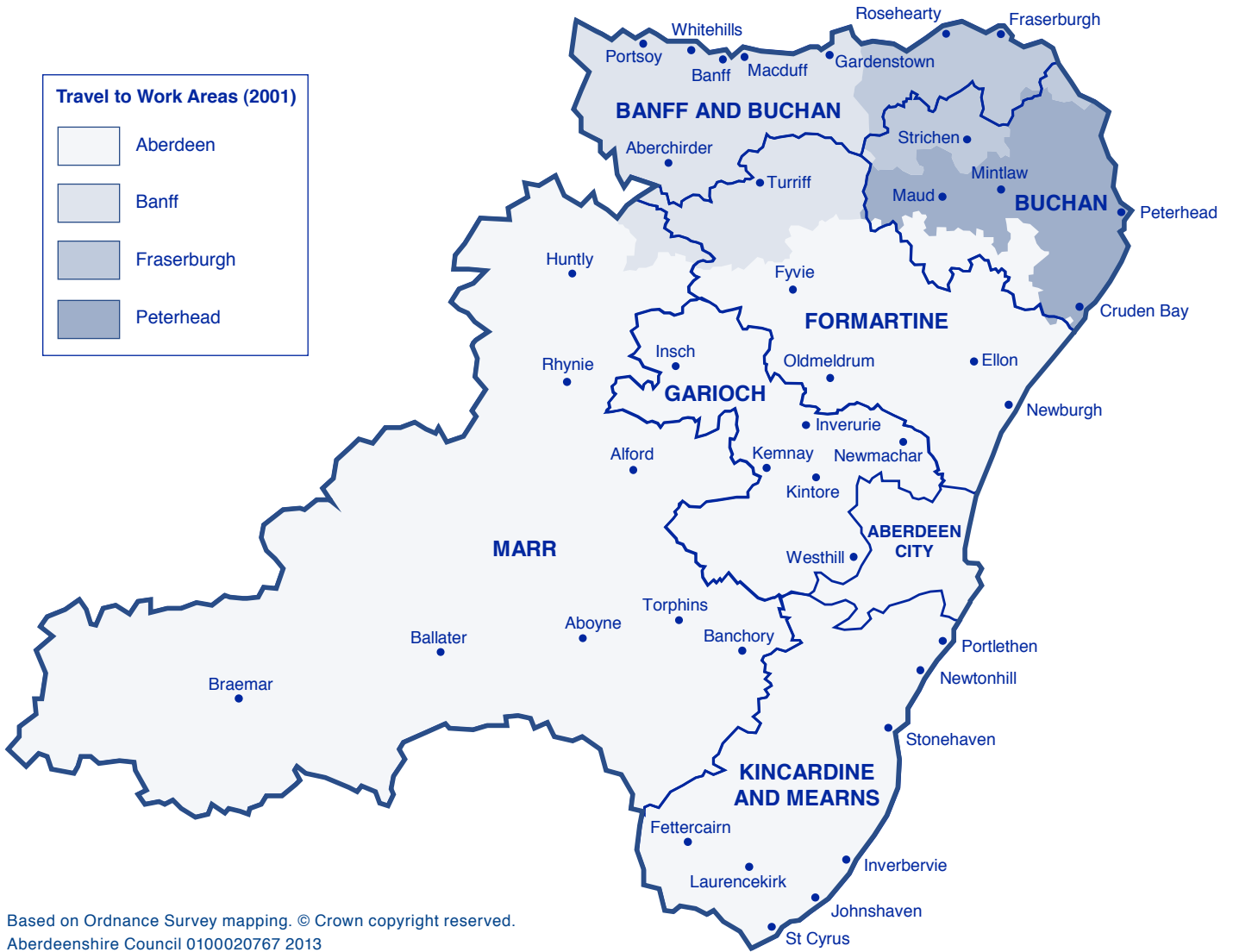
However the most recent figures also shows that within all 4 areas women still, on average, earn less per hour than their male counterparts. The difference is most significant in the Fraserburgh TTWA where in 2014 the median hourly wage for a woman was 23.4% less than a man. The gap is the lowest in the Aberdeen TTWA where women earned on average 10.9% less per hour.

Banff is the only area where, during the last 10 years, women have ever earned on average more per hour than their male counterparts, during 2007 (figures for 2008-9 for men in this area are incomplete).

Figure 2 – Median Hourly Wage, TTWA, 2004-14



## Aberdeenshire's Administrative and Travel to Work Areas



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