



## Quarter 4 Summary

During the fourth quarter of 2016 the number of people claiming unemployment benefits in Aberdeenshire fell by 95 or -0.1 percentage points. Unemployment benefits include Job Seekers Allowance and Universal Credit where the claimant is required to seek and be available for work. The unemployment rate referred to here is based on this figure and the 2015 count of people resident in Aberdeenshire aged 16 – 64.

In December 2016, Aberdeenshire had the sixth lowest unemployment rate of the 32 Scottish local authorities. Its position overall had improved, as in September 2016 it had had the fourteenth lowest rate amongst local authorities in Scotland.

The Shetland Islands had the lowest unemployment rate of all authorities at 0.8% whilst East Dunbartonshire had the lowest rate for a mainland local authority, 1.1%. North Ayrshire, 3.9%, and West Dunbartonshire, 3.4%, had the highest claimant count rates in Scotland.

The table below shows the average claimant count for Aberdeenshire, Scotland and the United Kingdom, during Quarter 4 2016 (October, November and December 2016). This has been compared to the average claimant count for Quarter 3 2016 (July, August and September 2016) and Quarter 4 2015.

	Average claimants Q4		Quarterly Change Q3 – Q4 2016		Annual Change Q4 2015 - Q4 2016	
	No.	Rate %	No.	% Points	No.	% Points
Aberdeenshire	2,352	1.4	-170	-0.1	707	0.4
Scotland	75,858	2.2	-3,808	-0.1	4,373	0.2
United Kingdom	759,425	1.8	-12,100	-0.1	16,583	0.0

Table 1 - Claimant Count Unemployment, Q4 2016

Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

The Labour Market Bulletin provides summary information about the labour market in Aberdeenshire. Aberdeenshire is split into six administrative areas and this bulletin looks at employment figures for these areas as well as at council and Travel to Work Area (TTWA) level.

Detailed information about claimant counts can be found at [www.nomisweb.co.uk](http://www.nomisweb.co.uk)

## 2016 Summary

During 2016 the claimant count in Aberdeenshire increased by 305, or 14.8%, to 2,055. This rate of increase was the third highest experienced by a Scottish mainland local authority. East Lothian, Orkney and Aberdeen City experienced higher rates of increase, 35.1%, 28.6% and 24.5% respectively. Aberdeen City experienced the greatest increase in the number of claimants, with 675 more people claiming benefits at the end of the year than at the beginning.

Nationally the number of claimants showed a downward trend. Over the year the number of job seekers fell by 865 or 1.1% in Scotland and by 21,015 or 2.7% in the UK as a whole.

Unemployment Trends 16 (unadjusted rates)

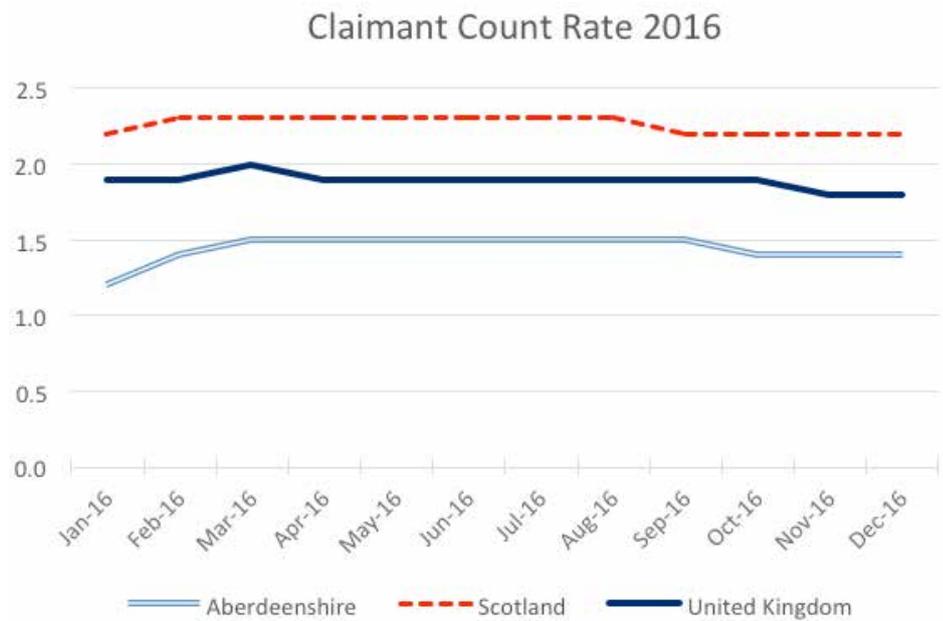


Figure 1 -  
Unemployment Trend (Unadjusted Rates) January 2016 - December 2016  
Aberdeenshire, Scotland and the UK  
Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

## Local Trends

Of Aberdeenshire's six administrative areas, only Formartine showed any increase in the number of claimants between September 2016 and December 2016, with five more people claiming benefit at the end of the period. There was no change in the number of claimants in Marr and the other four areas experienced a decline in numbers. The largest decrease was seen in Garioch and Kincardine & Mearns, where numbers fell by 40 people in both areas.

The small increase in the number of claimants in Formartine was not enough to produce a change in the unemployment rate in that area which remained steady at 1.3%. Similarly the rates in Banff & Buchan and Marr did not change. The greatest change in the rate was seen in Kincardine & Mearns where it declined from 1.5% to 1.3% over the three months.

The administrative area with the highest unemployment rate in December 2016 was Buchan at 1.9%. Marr had the lowest rate, at 1.1%.

Looking at individual wards, North Kincardine experienced the greatest decline in the number of claimants, with 40 fewer people claiming unemployment benefits in December than in September. Banff & District and East Garioch saw the largest increases over the same time, with the number of claimants rising by 15 in each area.

Considering the unemployment rate, Peterhead North and Rattray had the highest rate of 2.7% and Westhill and District had the lowest rate of 0.9% at December 2016.

Although there has been some improvement in claimant count numbers and rates in some places over Quarter 4, comparing December 2016 to December 2015 shows an increase in both numbers and rates in all wards and administrative areas. The greatest increase in numbers was seen in Garioch (135 people) and the smallest increase in Marr (70 people). The same pattern was seen with unemployment rates; Garioch's increased by 0.5 percentage points and Marr's (and Buchan's) by 0.3 percentage points.

These numbers represent quite large percentage increases in the number of claimants. In Garioch numbers increased by 47%. The smallest increase amongst administrative areas was seen in Banff & Buchan, and even here the increase reached 19%. Looking at individual wards, only Central Buchan had an increase in single figures (6%). East Garioch's increase reached 67% and Turriff & District, Inverurie & District, Mearns and Stonehaven & Lower Deeside all had increases of over 50%.

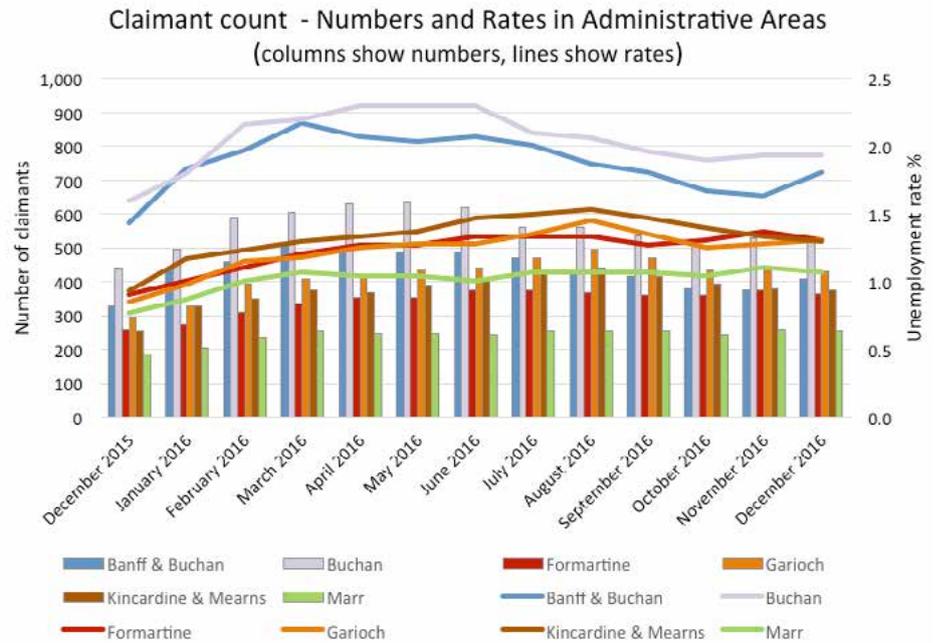


Figure 2 - Unemployment Trend (Unadjusted Rates) December 2015 - December 2016, Aberdeenshire, Scotland and the UK  
Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

## Travel to Work Areas

Travel to Work Area (TTWA) counts are also available. TTWAs use commuting-to-work patterns to define self-contained labour markets, where 75% of people both live and work in the area. Aberdeenshire contains four TTWAs, including Aberdeen TTWA which encompasses Aberdeen City.

Between December 2015 and December 2016 unemployment increased in all travel to work areas within Aberdeenshire. Turriff & Banff experienced the greatest increase of 90 people or 42%. Aberdeen's unemployment grew by 1,305 people or 38%, Fraserburgh by 15 people or 8% and Peterhead by 90 people or 23%. In Aberdeen and Fraserburgh unemployment peaked during the year, and the numbers of people unemployed has been decreasing in these areas since August and May respectively.

In December 2016 Peterhead had the highest unemployment rate, as it had had for all of 2016.

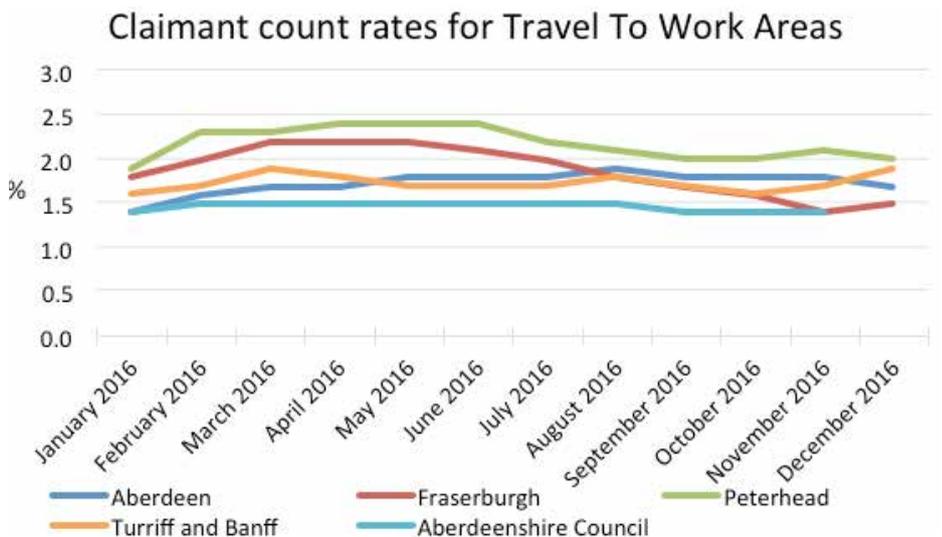
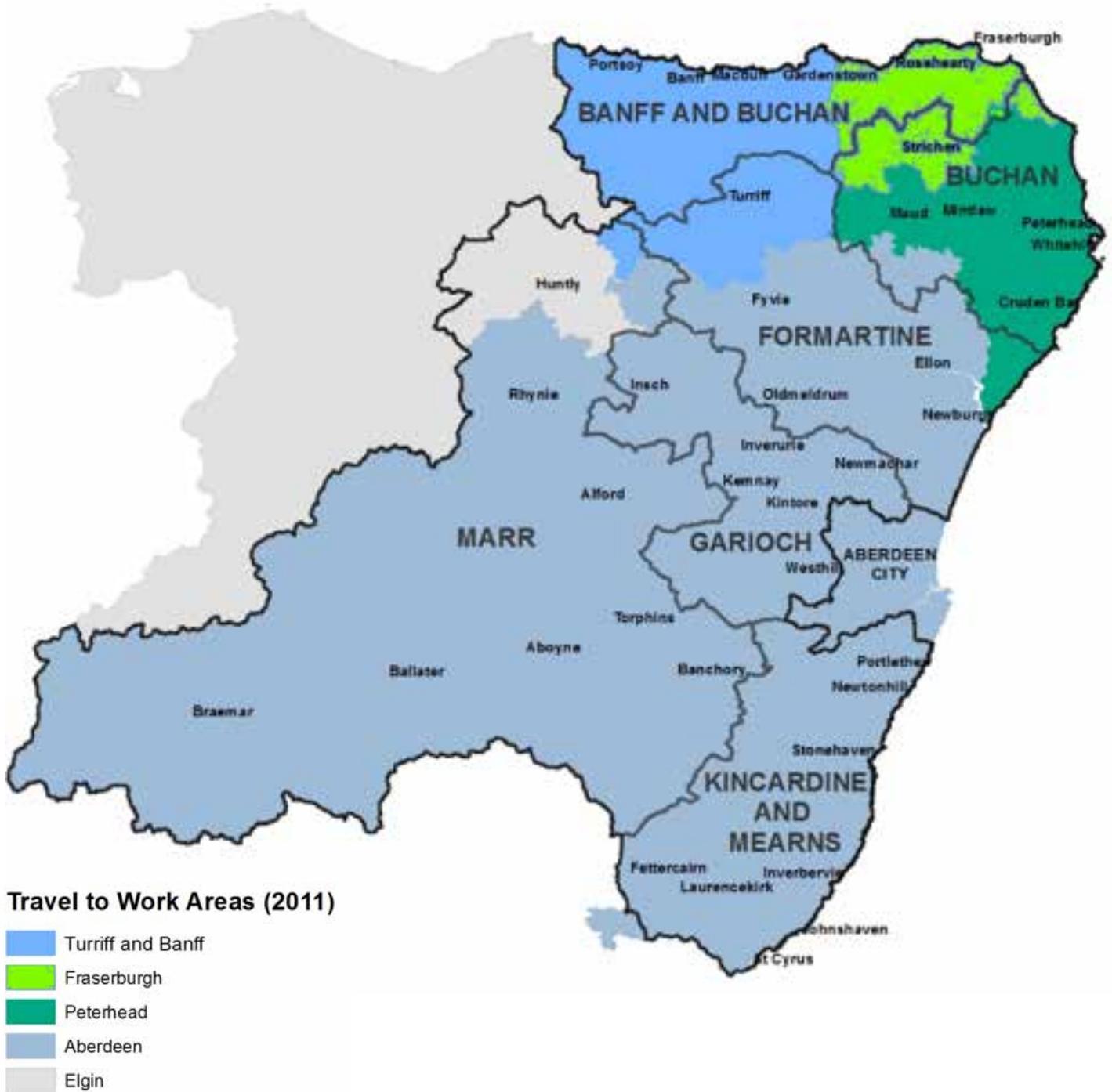


Figure 3 – Trend in Unemployment Rates in Aberdeenshire Travel to Work Areas  
Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

# Aberdeenshire's Administrative and Travel to Work Areas



Based on Ordnance Survey mapping. © Crown copyright reserved.  
 Aberdeenshire Council 0100020767 2016