



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

March 2015 – March 2016 Summary

Over the last 12 months unemployment in Aberdeenshire has increased by 768 from 1,251 to 2,019 claimants. In addition, the rate of job seekers has increased to 0.4% over the 12 month period, Aberdeen City (0.5%) aside, this accounts for the highest increase in the whole of Scotland. This is in contrast to the national context where the amount of job seekers has fallen by 0.6% in Scotland and 0.4% in the UK as a whole. Alongside Angus, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City were the only local authorities to experience an increase in claimants during this period. In turn, the largest decrease in rates occurred in Glasgow City (-1.4%), West Dunbartonshire (-1.3%) and North Lanarkshire (-1.2%).

Quarter 1 Summary

During the first quarter of 2016, from December to January, Aberdeenshire's unemployment rate (Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant count) rose by 0.3 point from 0.9 to 1.2 with the numbers of claimants increasing by 509 during this period.

In March 2016, Aberdeenshire had the joint seventh lowest unemployment rate of the 32 Scottish local authorities having previously been the third lowest in Scotland in Quarter 4 2015. The lowest rates were held by the Shetland and Orkney islands at 0.6%

each, followed by East Dunbartonshire at 0.9%. East Ayrshire and North Ayrshire had the highest rates with 3.2% and 3.0% respectively with Dundee City just behind at 2.9%.

The table below shows the mean average claimant count for Aberdeenshire during Quarter 1 (average over January, February and March) 2016. This has been compared to the mean average from Quarter 4 (September, October and December 2015).

	Average claimants Q1		Quarterly Change Q4 – Q1 2016		Annual Change Q1 2015- Q1 2016	
	No.	Rate %	No.	% Points	No.	% Points
Aberdeenshire	1,894	1.1	509	0.3	768	0.4
Scotland	63,115	1.8	3,355	0.2	-21,566	-0.6
United Kingdom	654,887	1.6	16,928	0.1	-179,783	-0.4

Table 1 - Claimant Count Unemployment, Q1 2016 Source: *Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)*

Unemployment Trends 2015 (unadjusted rates)

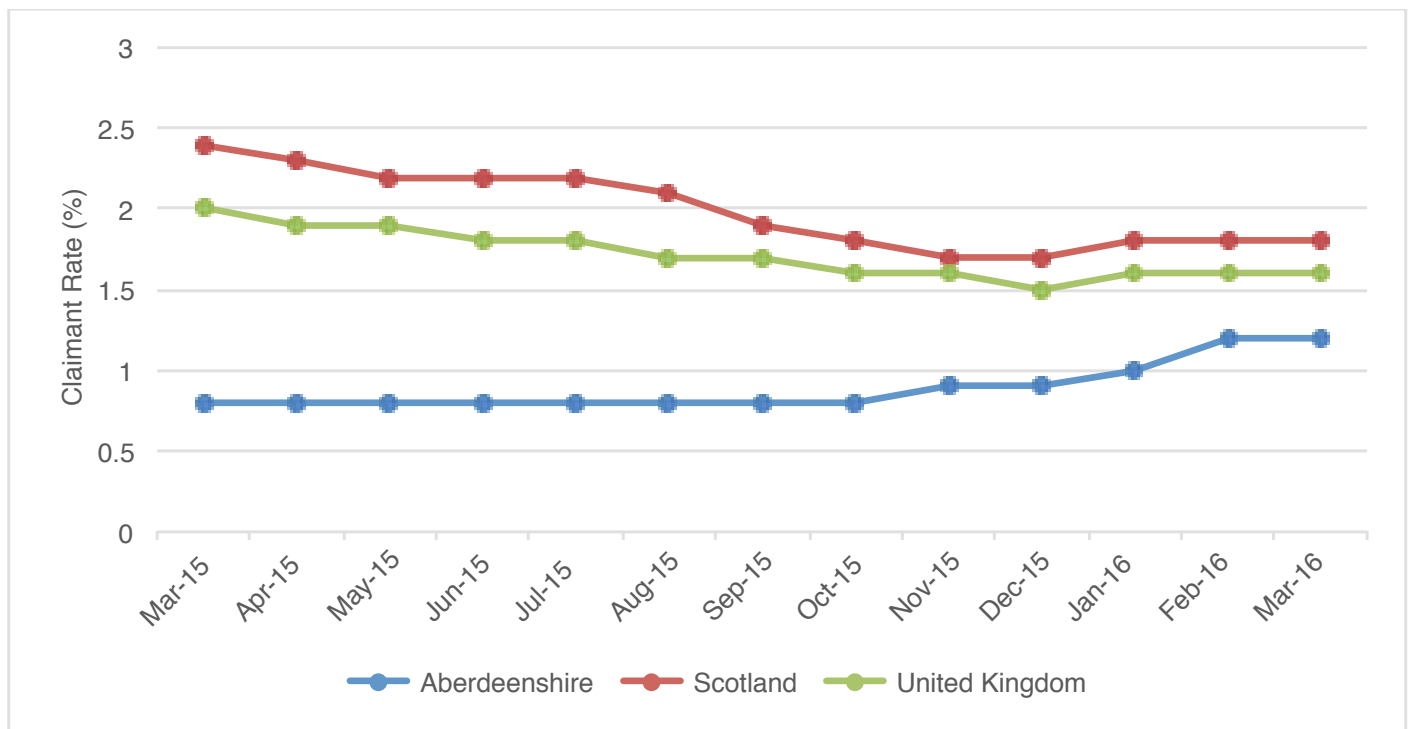


Figure 1 - Unemployment Trend (Unadjusted Rates) March 2015 - March 2016 Aberdeenshire, Scotland and the UK
Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Local Trends

Administrative Area

All six administrative areas in Aberdeenshire experienced increased claimant counts between Quarter 4 2015 and Quarter 1 2016. The highest level was experienced in Banff and Buchan where the claimant count increased by 0.6%, whilst the rate in Buchan increased by 0.4%, with both areas holding claimant rates of 1.6% in March 2016. Additionally, Garioch; and Kincardine and Mearns rates increased

by 0.3%, Marr by 0.2%, and Formartine's rate increased by 0.1% during the first quarter. However, the last 12 months produces some more varied results with Kincardine and Mearns; Garioch; and Formartine experiencing greater increases in claimants since March 2015 when compared to Quarter 1 of 2016.

Admin Area	Mar 2015		Dec 2015		Mar 2016		Quarterly Change		Annual Change	
	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate%	No.	Rate%	No.	% points	No.	% points
Banff and Buchan	292	1.3	240	1.0	372	1.6	132	0.6	80	0.3
Buchan	310	1.1	318	1.2	435	1.6	117	0.4	125	0.5
Formartine	147	0.5	239	0.9	294	1.0	55	0.1	147	0.5
Garioch	175	0.5	289	0.8	361	1.1	72	0.3	186	0.6
Kincardine and Mearns	179	0.6	253	0.9	337	1.2	84	0.3	158	0.6
Marr	148	0.6	171	0.7	220	0.9	49	0.2	72	0.3

Table 2 - Area claimant counts and rates September 2015 and December 2015, Aberdeenshire
Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Unemployment Trends - Aberdeenshire Administrative Areas

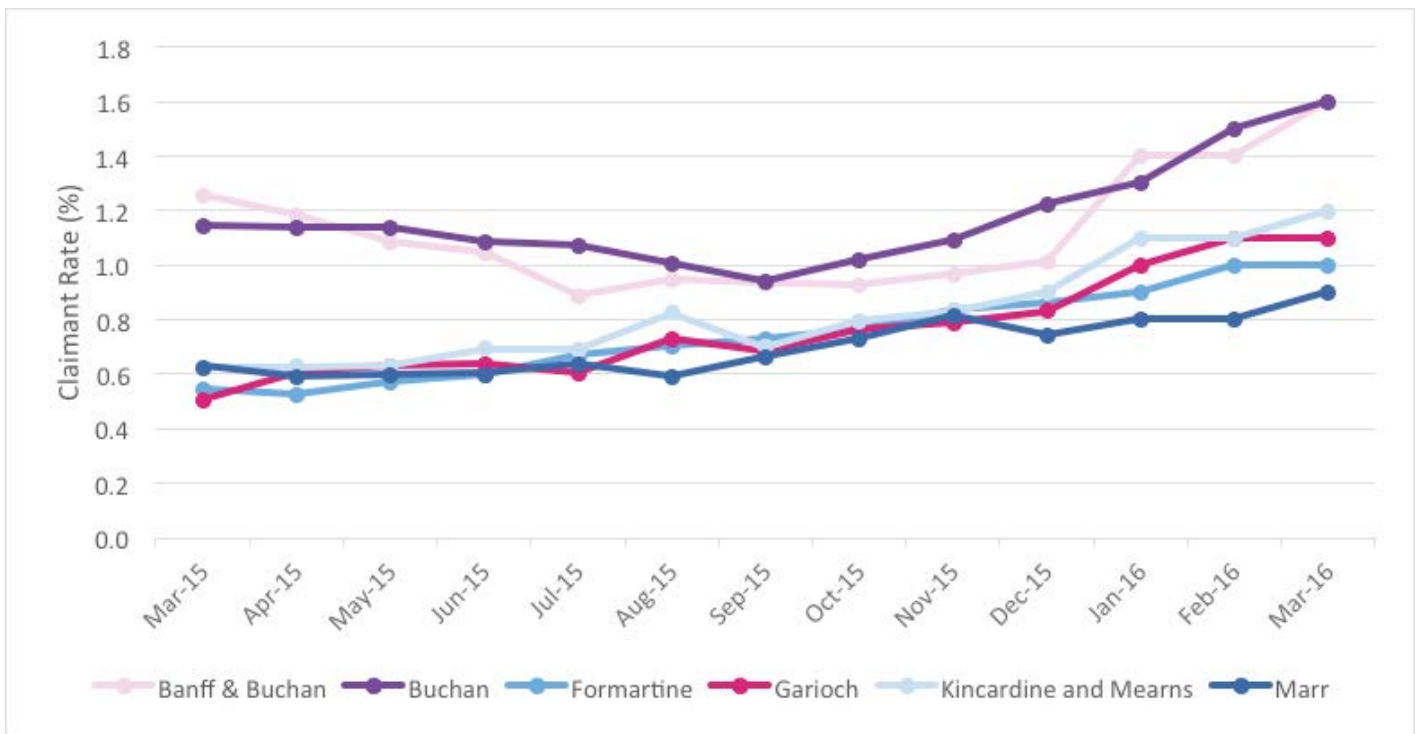


Figure 2 – Claimant Rate by Area March 2015 – March 2016, Aberdeenshire
 Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Travel to Work Areas

Travel to Work Area (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. Aberdeenshire contains four TTWAs including Aberdeen TTWA which encompasses Aberdeen City.

Over the first quarter of 2016, the Fraserburgh TTWA saw the largest increase in claimant rate from 1.2% to 1.5%. The Aberdeen TTWA also experienced an increase in rate, of 0.2% resulting in a rate of 1.4% at the end of the year, also, rates increased by 0.4% in both Peterhead and Turriff and Banff TTWAs.

Between March 2015 and March 2016 both Aberdeen and Peterhead's TTWAs underwent the highest increases at 0.5% each with Peterhead's TTWA possessing the higher rate in March 2016 at 1.7%. While over the year as a whole Turriff and Banff; and Fraserburgh experienced marginally more modest increases of 0.4% and 0.3% respectively, with both TTWAs still holding a higher rate than Aberdeen TTWA.

	March 2015		December 2015		March 2016		Yearly Change		Quarterly Change	
	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %	No.	Rate %
Aberdeen	2,503	0.9	3,302	1.2	3,893	1.4	1,390	0.5	591	0.2
Turriff & Banff	186	1.1	178	1.1	247	1.5	61	0.4	69	0.4
Fraserburgh	170	1.2	124	0.9	217	1.5	47	0.3	93	0.6
Peterhead	289	1.2	299	1.3	406	1.7	117	0.5	107	0.4

Table 3 - TTWA claimant counts and rates March 2015, December 2015 and March 2016 Aberdeenshire TTWAs
 Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Aberdeenshire's Administrative and Travel to Work Areas

