

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 <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk>.

Aberdeenshire Unemployment

During the first quarter of 2009, Aberdeenshire's unemployment rate (Job Seekers Allowance claimant count) rose by 35.4%. This represents an increase in the number of claimants from 1,501 in December 2008 to 2,033 in March 2009. This is comparable with all other Scottish local authorities where claimant counts have also risen. From *Figure 2* we see that the unemployment rate rose to 1.4% over the quarter, which is still very low and the lowest rate in Scotland, along with Shetland and Orkney. Scotland's unemployment rate also rose over the period, to 3.9%. This is 0.1% below that of the UK.

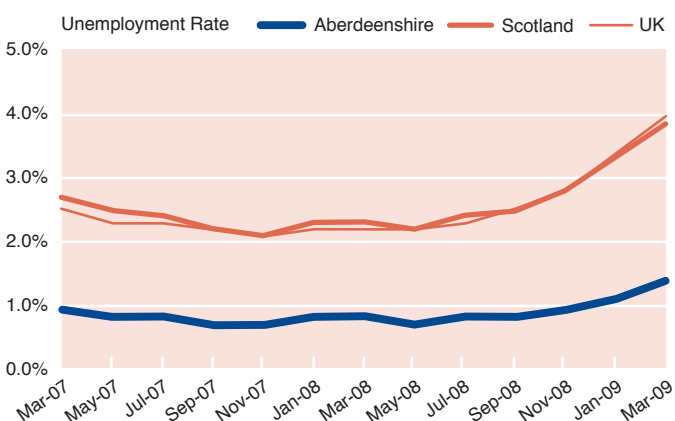
Over the 12 months to March 2009, unemployment in Aberdeenshire rose by 77.9% rising from 1,143 claimants to 2,033. The headline unemployment rate rose from 0.8% to 1.4%.

Figure 1 - Claimant Count Unemployment

Area	March 2009		Quarterly Change	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Aberdeenshire	2,033	1.4	532	35.4
Scotland	126,452	3.9	28,729	29.4
United Kingdom	1,523,482	4.0	370,154	32.1

Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Figure 2 - Unemployment Trend (Unadjusted Rates)

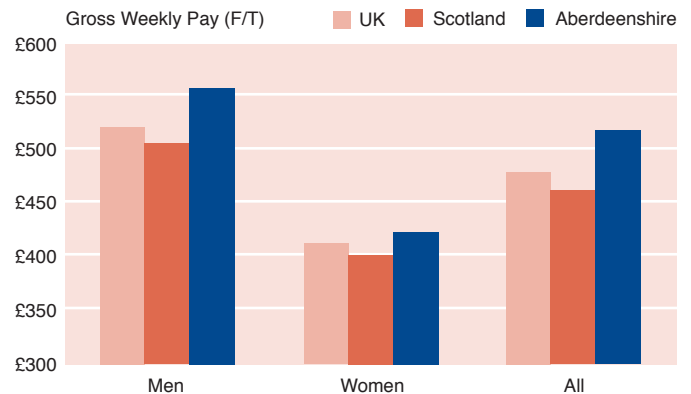


Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Wages and Earnings in Aberdeenshire

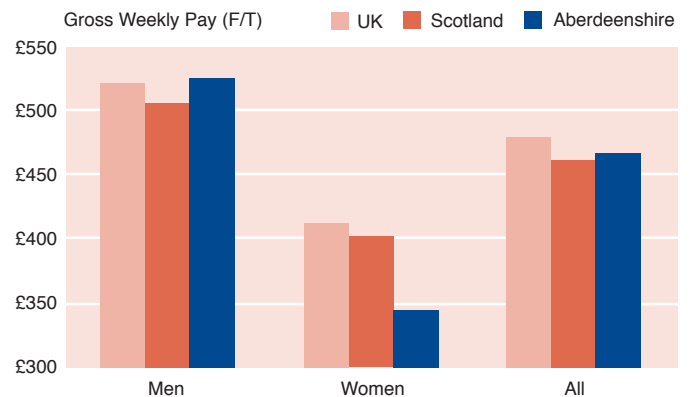
The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours paid for employees within industries, occupations and regions. The data for 2008 shows how earnings in Aberdeenshire compare to those in other local authority areas of Scotland.

Figure 3 - Residents



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2008

Figure 4 - Workplace Analysis



Source: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2008

According to these figures Aberdeenshire residents continue to be amongst the highest paid in Scotland, compared to the residents of other local authorities. The gross weekly pay of full time workers was third highest in Scotland and the fourth highest if pay excluding overtime was considered.

If the earnings of men and women are considered separately, then men's earnings across these categories were the fourth highest, whilst women's gross weekly pay and weekly pay excluding overtime were ninth (out of 32 local authorities).

Many Aberdeenshire residents do not work within Aberdeenshire. Earnings analysed according to workplaces in Aberdeenshire are not so high.

Considering the gross weekly pay of men working full time, Aberdeenshire ranks 7th. Gross weekly pay for women, however, is low in comparison to other local authority areas and here Aberdeenshire ranks 26th. When the pay of all full time workers is considered, Aberdeenshire ranks 9th.

When the gross weekly pay excluding overtime of full time workers in Aberdeenshire workplaces is compared with that of other local authorities, Aberdeenshire ranks 20th. The difference in ranking suggests that workers in Aberdeenshire are more reliant on overtime as part of their weekly gross pay than those in other areas.

Local Trends

Administrative Areas

Aberdeenshire has been divided into 6 administrative areas and the unemployment count and rate for each of these areas has been tabled below. From this we can see that the unemployment rates across the areas are relatively low and are comfortably below the Scottish and UK average rates of 3.9% and 4% respectively. However there are some areas where the rate is significantly higher than others. Banff and Buchan's rate of 2.6% is the highest rate of all the administrative areas. This is a 41.8% increase over the quarter and represents a claimant count of 550. Buchan has the second highest rate of 2.1% and 495 claimants. The lowest rate and count is in Garioch, with a rate of 0.8% representing 225 claimants.

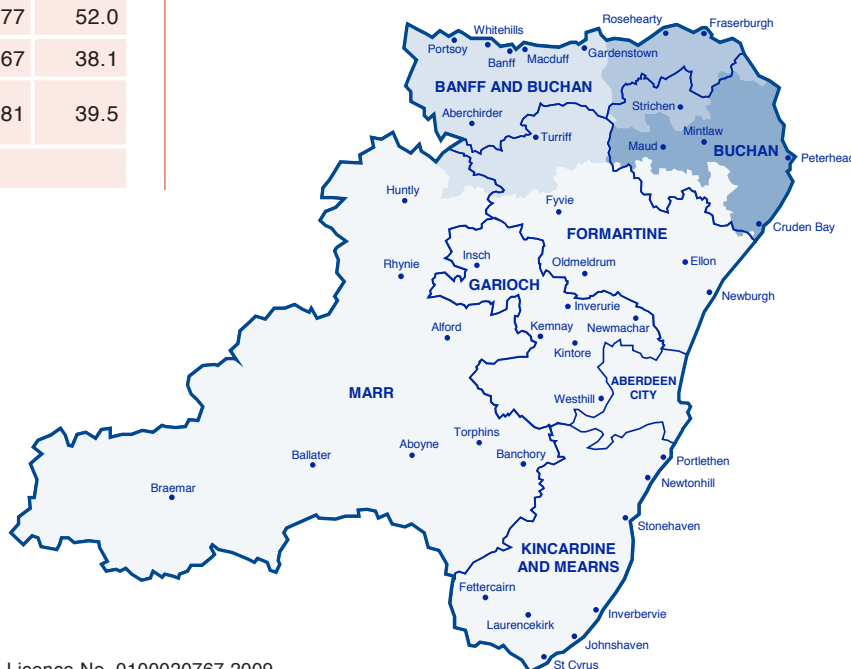
Figure 5 - Unemployment by Administrative Area

Admin Area	Dec 2008		Mar 2009		Quarterly Change	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Banff and Buchan	388	1.8	550	2.6	162	41.8
Buchan	421	1.8	495	2.1	74	17.6
Formartine	162	0.7	233	1.0	71	43.8
Garioch	148	0.6	225	0.8	77	52.0
Marr	176	0.9	243	1.2	67	38.1
Kincardine and Mearns	205	0.9	286	1.2	81	39.5

Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Figure 7 - Aberdeenshire's Administrative and Travel to Work Areas

Travel to Work Areas (2001)	
	Aberdeen
	Banff
	Fraserburgh
	Peterhead



Over the quarter, all of the administrative areas experienced a rise in the number of claimants. Garioch experienced the largest increase with the number of claimants rising from 148 in December 2008 to 225 in March 2009, an increase of 52%. This was followed by Formartine (43.8%) and Banff and Buchan (41.8%).

Travel to Work Areas

Travel to Work Area (TTWA) counts are also available from the Office for National Statistics. TTWAs are approximations of self-contained labour markets based on commuting to work patterns. There are four TTWAs covering Aberdeenshire, including Aberdeen City Travel to Work Area which also covers Aberdeen. Over the quarter to March 2009, all TTWAs in Aberdeenshire experienced an increase in claimants.

The Aberdeen TTWA experienced the greatest increase in the number of claimants (972), but the highest percentage rate increases were in the Banff TTWA where the unemployment rate increased by 42.7% and Fraserburgh TTWA where it increased by 40.9%. Peterhead TTWA experienced the slowest rate of growth and, for the first time in a year, does not have the highest unemployment rate amongst the four TTWAs. Over the year to March 2009 unemployment rose in all four of the TTWAs. The largest increase, of 82.7%, was in Fraserburgh and the smallest, of 49.5%, was in Peterhead.

Figure 6 - Unemployment by Travel to Work Area

Travel to Work Area	Dec 2008		Mar 2009		Quarterly Change	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Aberdeen	2,702	1.2	3,674	1.6	972	36.0
Banff	227	1.5	324	2.1	97	42.7
Fraserburgh	232	1.7	327	2.4	95	40.9
Peterhead	384	1.8	450	2.1	66	17.2

Source: Office for National Statistics (NOMIS)

Note: Aberdeen TTWA includes Aberdeen City