

To: Economy and Jobs Policy Board

On: 22 March 2017

Report by: Director of Development and Housing Services

Heading: Labour Market Update at December 2016

1. Summary

- 1.1 This paper provides the Policy Board with the most recent labour market statistics for Renfrewshire (end of January 2017). Where the data is available a comparison is made with the Scottish and UK figures.
 - 1.2 It should be noted that the reporting of unemployment stats has been changed nationally to incorporate new experimental Universal Credit figures. The report now reports on "Claimant Count" unemployed (a combination of JSA and UC claimants) where previously (prior to May 2016) only JSA figures were available.
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2. Recommendations

Board members are asked to:

- (i) note the employment and claimant count figures for January 2017; and
 - (ii) note the change in reporting to new experimental statistics incorporating the Universal Credit figures.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The report provides the most recent employment and claimant count figures (published for end January 2017).
- 3.2 As previously reported, there have been changes to the claimant count on **nomis**, which is part of the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Now, Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit (UC) are measured together in one statistic: **the claimant count**.

- 3.3 The overall, long term goal of *nomis* is that **the claimant count** will be the **total number of JSA claimants + unemployed UC claimants**. These statistics are still experimental, but they allow for a comparison of Renfrewshire with Scotland and the UK.
- 3.4 For Renfrewshire, we currently have information on the following:
- **All Ages: 16+ (16-64)**
 - **Youth: 18-24**
 - **25-49**
 - **50+**
- 3.5 The claimant count is a measure of the number of people with live claims for the principal reason of being unemployed. Previously, Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) was the main unemployment benefit. Now, Universal Credit (UC) is a new benefit also incorporated. However, UC is not an unemployment benefit entirely, given that some UC claimants will be in work, while others are unemployed but not required to seek work.
- 3.6 The experimental statistics still include UC claimants who are not in-work, but are also not required to seek work – a group that skew the statistics for as long as they are counted.
- 3.7 These new experimental statistics that now combine JSA and UC stretch as far back as January 2013 when the first pilots were introduced. Although experimental, this new claimant count is now the new standard. By contrast, the previous norm of using purely JSA claimants is no longer the official claimant count and is being slowly phased out.
- 3.8 Board reports from May 2016 now report on the Claimant Count figures.
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4. Labour Market Statistics for the month of January 2017

- 4.1 Renfrewshire's employment rate continues to be above both the Scottish and UK average with 74.8% in employment compared to 72.8% (Scotland) and 73.9% (UK).
- 4.2 A further breakdown of the employment figures show that the female employment rate 74.2% is considerably higher than the Scottish (69.1%) and UK (69.0%) averages but the male figures are lower.
- 4.3 Renfrewshire is currently ranked 17th out of 32 local authorities for employment.
- 4.4 Renfrewshire's overall Claimant Count figure for January 2017 is 2.5% with 2,840 people claiming JSA and Universal Credit. This figure marginally increased, by 0.1% from the December count and is 0.1% lower than this time last year.

- 4.5 Renfrewshire's youth claimant count rate is currently reported as 3.6% with claimants totalling 535 for January 2017. This is the same rate as the previous month (December 2016) but is 0.2% higher than at this point last year (January 2016). Renfrewshire is currently ranked 19th out of the 32 local authorities.
- 4.6 Adult unemployment for Claimants aged 25 – 49 has increased over the past month by 0.2% and sits at 2.8% and with claimants totalling 1,570. The rate from this period last year was higher at 2.9% and 1,625 claimants.
- 4.7 The adult Claimant rates for those aged 50+ has marginally increased by 0.1% in the fourth quarter and is currently 2.0% with claimants totalling 725. The Claimant Count figures show that the rate for this group is the same as last year but with slightly less claimants.
- 4.8 The attached newsletter contains additional statistical information and graphs.
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Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning – Jobs and the Economy** - Labour market intelligence is vital to informing future policy and service delivery decision making across the Community Planning Partnership.
4. **Legal** – None
5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** -
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because it is for noting only.
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** - None

List of Background Papers

None

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14 March 2017

Renfrewshire Economic Development

Newsletter – January 2017



The Claimant Count

The claimant count is a measure of the number of people with live claims for the principal reason of being unemployed. Previously, Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) was the main unemployment benefit. Now, Universal Credit (UC) is included.

These new experimental statistics that now combine JSA and UC stretch back to January 2013 when Universal Credit started to roll out in pilot areas. Although experimental, this new claimant count is now the new standard. By contrast, the previous norm of using purely JSA claimants is no longer the official claimant count and is being slowly phased out.

Employment and unemployment (Oct 2015-Sep 2016)

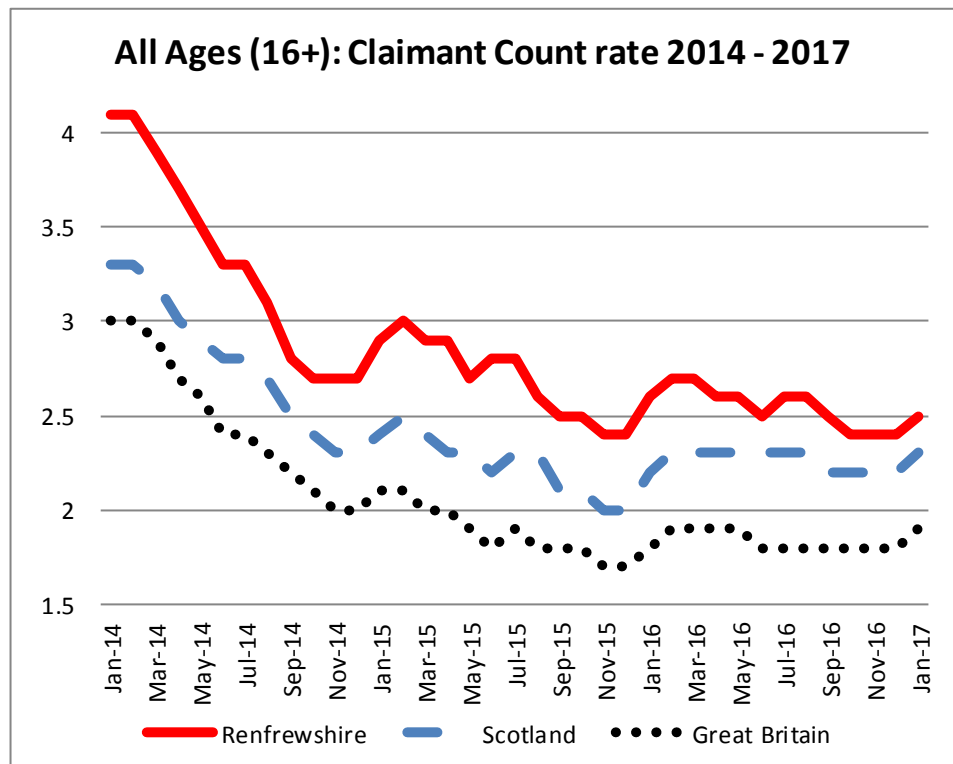
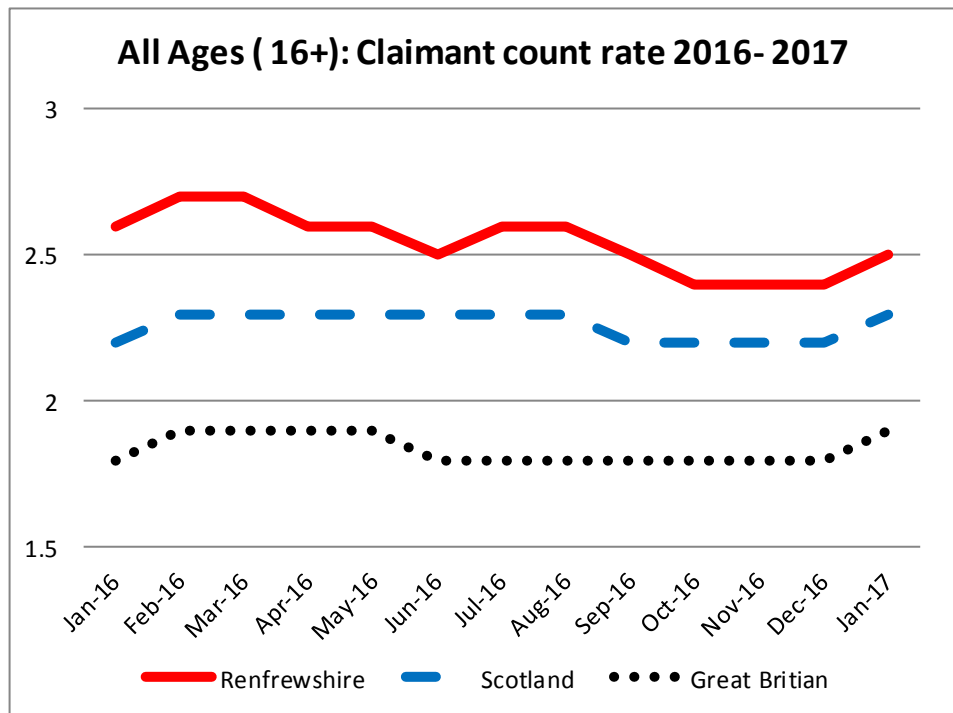
	Renfrewshire (Numbers)	Renfrewshire (%)	Scotland (%)	Great Britain (%)
All People				
Economically Active†	89,100	78.8	76.7	77.8
In Employment†	84,800	74.8	72.8	73.9
Employee‡	76,400	67.5	64.2	63.1
Self Employed‡	8,300	7.1	8.2	10.4
Unemployed (Model-Based)§	4,700	5.2	4.9	4.9
Males				
Economically Active†	44,800	80.4	81.2	83.1
In Employment†	42,200	75.5	76.7	78.8
Employee‡	36,200	65.0	65.2	64.4
Self Employed‡	5,800	10.2	11.1	14.0
Unemployed§	2,700	5.9	5.4	5.1
Females				
Economically Active†	44,300	77.2	72.4	72.6
In Employment†	42,600	74.2	69.1	69.0
Employee‡	40,200	70.0	63.2	61.7
Self Employed‡	2,500	4.2	5.4	6.9
Unemployed§	1,700	3.8	4.4	4.8

Source: ONS annual population survey

January 2017: Claimant Count Figures

Claimant Count: All Ages (16+)

- The claimant count rate for Renfrewshire for January 2017 was 2.5%, with claimants totalling 2,840.
- This month the rate has increased by 0.1%.
- The rate this time last year was 2.6%.

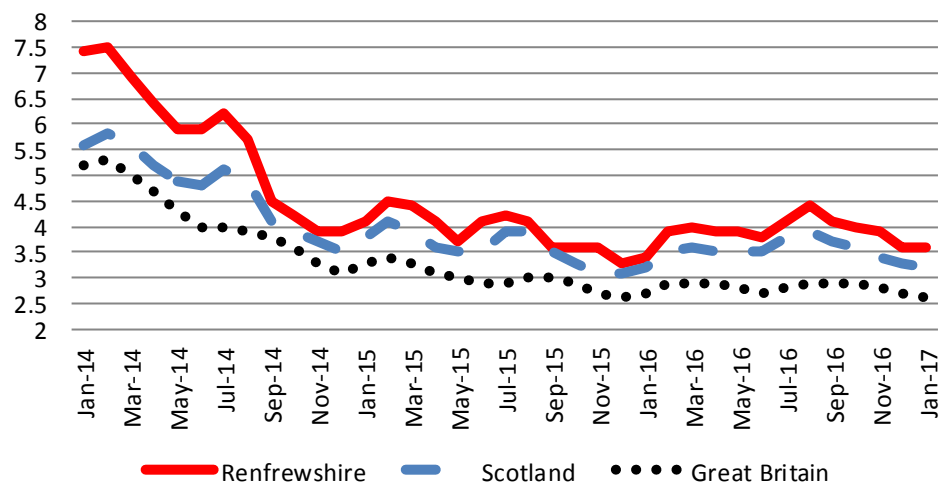


Claimant Count:

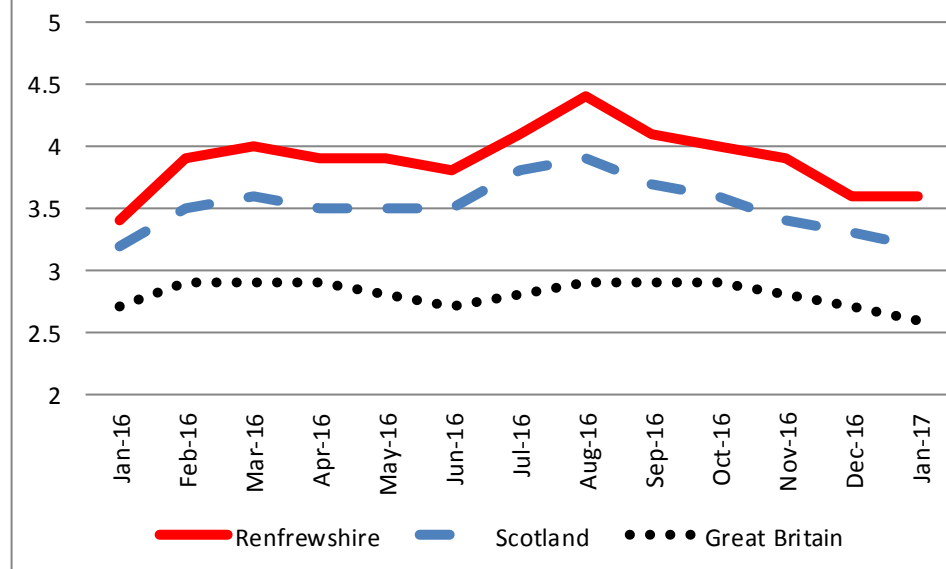
Youth (18-24)

- The claimant count rate for Renfrewshire for January 2017 was 3.6% with claimants totalling 535.
- This month the rate has remained the same.
- The rate this time last year was 3.4%

Youth (18-24): Claimant count rate 2014 -2017

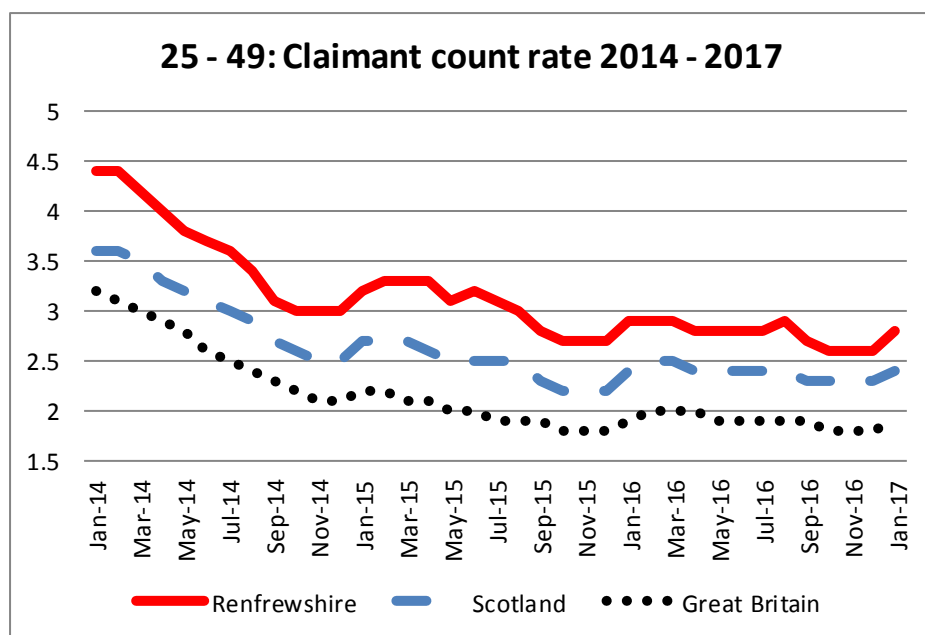
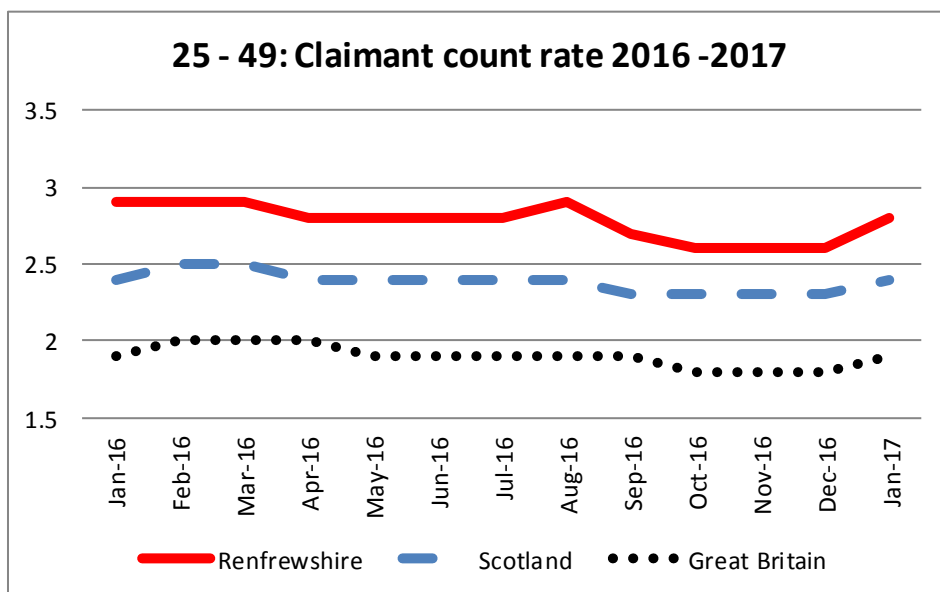


Youth (18-24): Claimant count rate 2016 - 2017



Claimant Count: 25-49

- The claimant count rate for Renfrewshire for January 2017 was 2.8% with claimants totalling 1,570.
- This month the rate has increased by 0.2%.
- The rate this time last year was 2.9%



Claimant Count: 50+

- The claimant count rate for Renfrewshire for January 2017 was 2.0 with claimants totalling 725.
- This month the rate has marginally increased, by 0.1%.
- The rate was the same this time last year at 2.0%

Source: ONS claimant count by sex and age

Note: % is number of claimants as a proportion of resident population of the same age

