



Renfrewshire
Council

Renfrewshire Economic Development Newsletter – April 2015

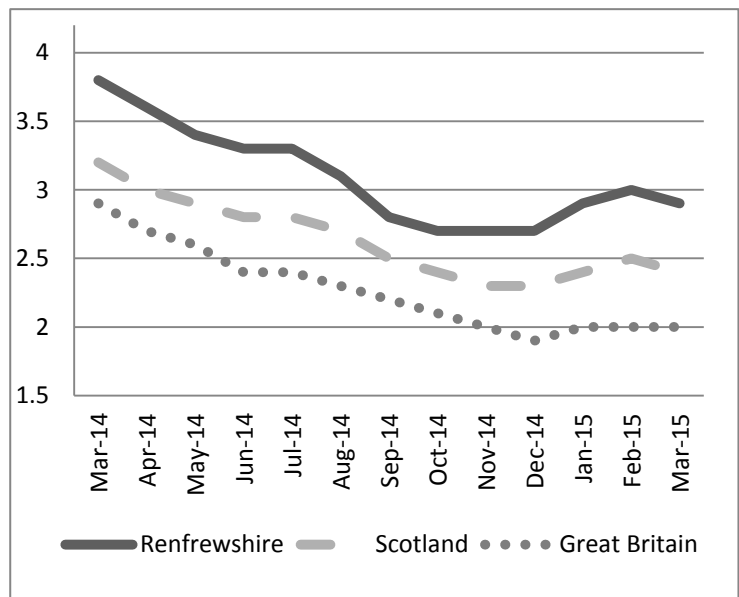
This Economic Development newsletter provides an overview of employment activity and economic development in Renfrewshire at the end of **March 2015**.

The latest statistics from NOMIS illustrate the Renfrewshire labour market position and show how Renfrewshire fares in comparison to Scotland and to the UK.

The newsletter includes a summary of the progress made to date by the council's Invest in Renfrewshire programme and Business Gateway programme as well as information on wider economic development activity.

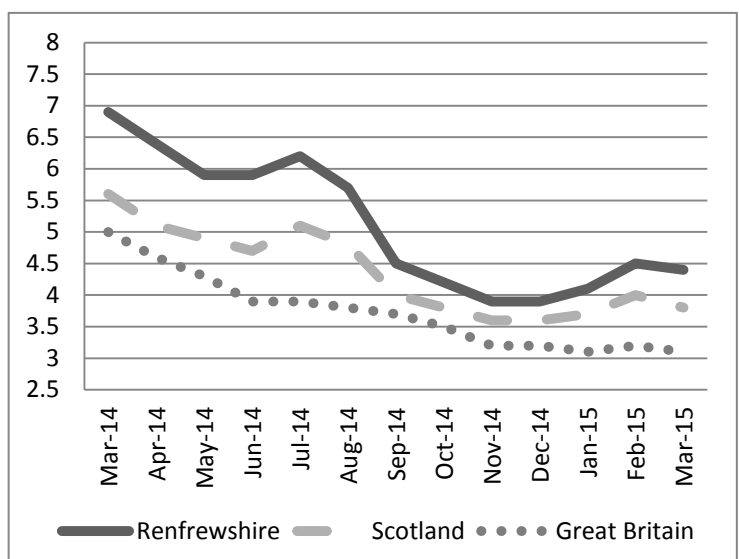
JSA Claimants All Ages (16-64)

- The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) rate for March 2015 is **2.9%**, with jobseekers totalling **3,275**.
- This month the rate has **decreased by 0.1%** in line with the overall Scottish trend.
- The rate this time last year was 3.8%.



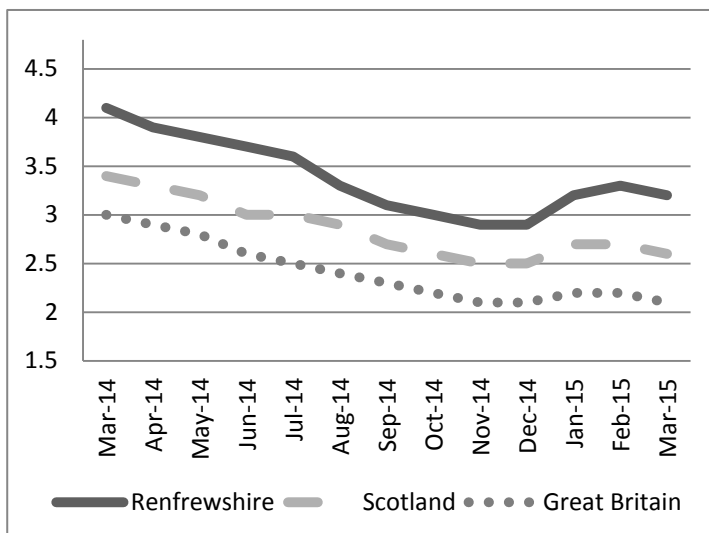
JSA Claimants Aged 18-24

- The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) rate for March 2015 is **4.4%**, with **660** young people seeking work.
- This month the rate has decreased by 0.1%.
- The rate was significantly higher this time last year at 6.9%.



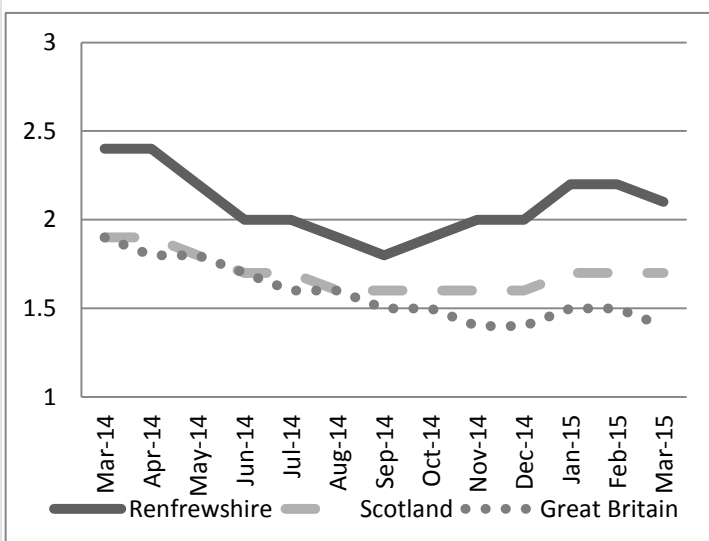
JSA Claimants Aged 25-49

- The 25-49 JSA rate for March 2015 is **3.2%**, with **1,860** people signed on.
- This month the rate has decreased by 0.1%. This is in line with the average trend across Scotland.
- The rate was significantly higher this time last year at 4.1%.



JSA Claimants Aged 50+

- The 50+ JSA rate for March 2015 is **2.1%** with **745** people signed on.
- This month the 50+ JSA rate decreased by 0.1% whilst the Scottish average remained static.
- The rate was higher this time last year at 2.4%.



Source: ONS claimant count - age duration with proportions
 Note: % is number of persons claiming JSA as a proportion of resident population of the same age.

Local Economic Development Update

The second year of the **Invest in Renfrewshire Celebrating Success Awards** was launched during March offering the opportunity to nominate a trainee, employee or employer who has built a better future by Investing their time, effort, skills and resources in Renfrewshire.

The award categories this year are :

Category 1: Preparing for Work

- Top Intern Award
- Best Trainee Award
- CV Builder Award

Category 2: Achieving In Work

- Most Promising New Employee Award
- Most Promising New Entrepreneur Award

Category 3: Progressing In Work

- Progression in Work Award
- Renfrewshire Apprentice of the Year Award

Category 4: Special Achievement Award

- Achiever of the Year Award

Nominations close on Friday 22nd May and the award ceremony will be held in the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew, on the evening of Wednesday 17 June.

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The annual **Invest in Renfrewshire Partnership Conference** will be held on Thursday 18 June 2015 at the Normandy Hotel. All local employability partners are invited to attend and more information is available on the Invest in Renfrewshire website.

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Invest in Renfrewshire's new initiative "**Project Search**" held a successful and well attended information evening on 23rd April at the Tweedie Hall. The project offers young people with a learning disability the opportunity to gain real work experience and qualifications with the support of a job mentor. The programme is now open for applications, 12 places are available and will commence in August.

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The **InCube** competition for new business talent launched in March with 15 supported places available at Renfrewshire's new Creative Retail Incubator in Paisley High Street. There has been significant interest in the project and applications are flowing in. Winners will be announced at the Invest in Renfrewshire Awards Ceremony on 17th June and InCube formally opens on 24th June.

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The first of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal Employability Initiatives commence in summer 2015. Invest in Renfrewshire will provide employability support to 450 unemployed people claiming Employment Support Allowance over the next 3 years. The "Working Matters" programme will provide a new range of services to those with health related barriers to work.

Invest in Renfrewshire Update – March 2015

INVEST IN EMPLOYMENT

Since the launch of Invest in Renfrewshire in June 2012: -

- **649** new jobs have been created through the wage subsidy / Employer Recruitment Incentive programmes.
- **162** Graduate Internships have been created, **110** within the Council and **52** with local companies.
- **46** people have started traineeships with the Council.
- **5757** unemployed people have registered and received support from the Invest in Renfrewshire employability service.
- **1934** additional people have been supported to move into wider employment opportunities.

INVEST IN COMMUNITIES

The Invest in Renfrewshire Social Economy Fund launched in December 2014, with a budget of £100k has now:

- Received outline enquiries from **39** companies.
- Approved the first awards with **5** Social Enterprises receiving grant support of **£20,782**.

INVEST IN BUSINESS

771 local companies have signed up to the Invest in Renfrewshire initiative of which:

- **501** have created new jobs and internships for young people
- **271** companies have been offered grants to pursue development, training, exhibition and ICT projects, amounting to combined funding of over **£1,251,223**.
- Funding of **£76,600** has been provided through the micro loan fund.
- The Retail Improvement Scheme has approved **119** formal applications totalling grant support of **£700,000**.
- In the last 30 months, since the start of the new Business Gateway contract:
 - **776** new companies have been established with Business Gateway support.
 - **346** businesses have demonstrated growth aspiration and been given a dedicated business adviser.
 - **243** start-up workshops and **124** business growth workshops have been delivered.