



Renfrewshire
Council

Renfrewshire Economic Development Newsletter – February 2015

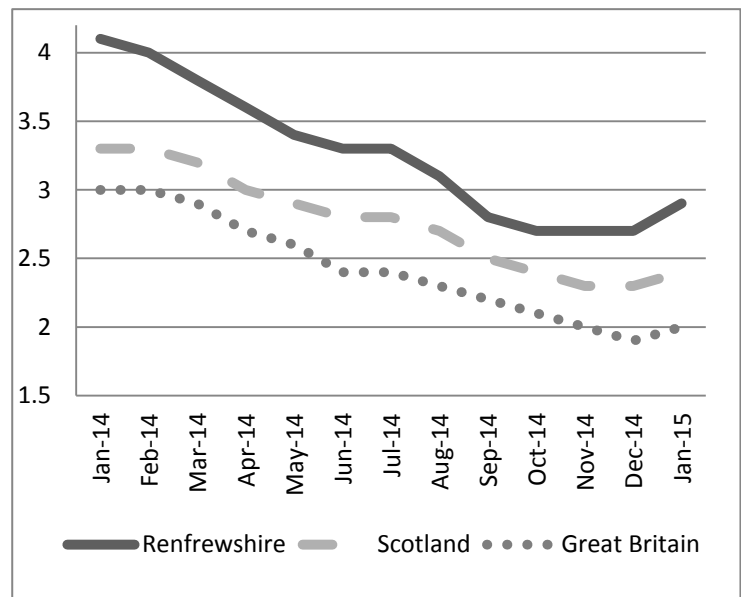
This Economic Development newsletter provides an overview of employment activity and economic development in Renfrewshire at the end of **January 2015**.

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.

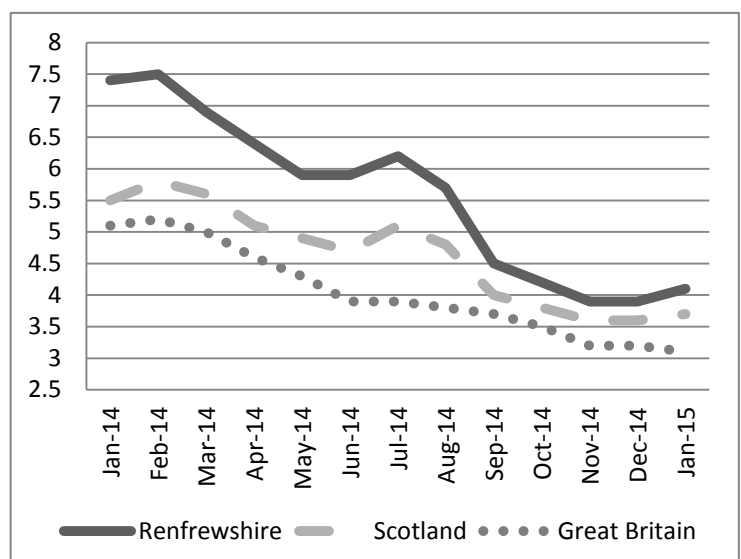
JSA Claimants All Ages (16-64)

- The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) rate for January 2015 is **2.9%**, with jobseekers totalling **3,240**.
- This month the rate has **increased** slightly with seasonal jobs coming to an end across Scotland.
- The rate this time last year was 4.1%.



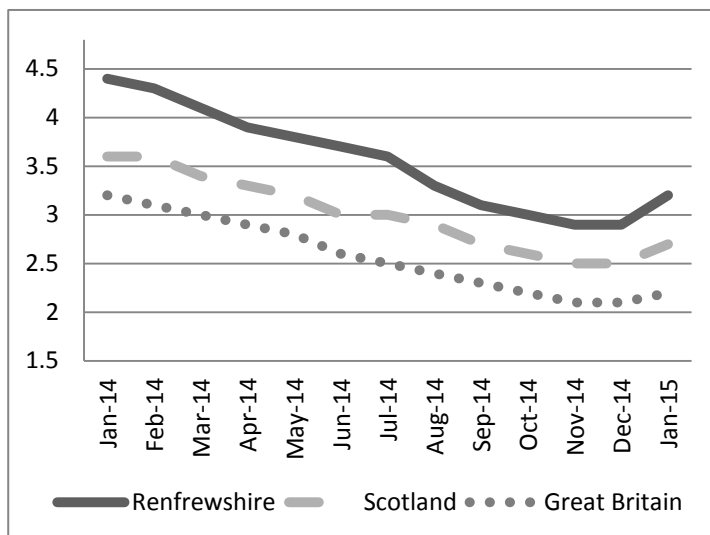
JSA Claimants Aged 18-24

- The Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) rate for January 2015 is **4.1%**, with **620** young people seeking work.
- This month the rate has increased by 0.2%. This is in line with the overall Scottish average increase.
- The rate was significantly higher this time last year at 7.4%.



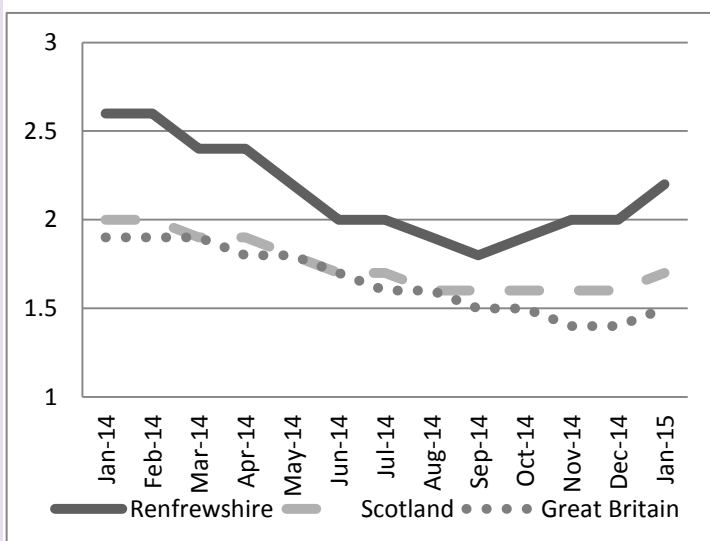
JSA Claimants Aged 25-49

- The 25-49 JSA rate for January 2015 is **3.2%**, with **1,835** people signed on.
- This month the rate has increased by 0.3%. This increase is higher than the average increase of 0.2% across Scotland.
- The rate was significantly higher this time last year at 4.4%.



JSA Claimants Aged 50+

- The 50+ JSA rate for January 2015 is **2.2%** with **780** people signed on.
- This month the 50+ JSA rate increased by 0.2% after a period of decline.
- The rate was higher this time last year at 2.6%.



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

An additional two members of staff, Cindy Robb and Artur Kraft, joined the Invest team in January. They will be involved in the management and promotion of the new business incubator hub in Paisley town Centre. The hub, at 27 High Street, is currently being fitted out with a view to being operational in April, with businesses moving in during June 2015.

Plans are progressing to turn Paisley's Russell Institute into a skills and employability hub. Renfrewshire Council has taken ownership of the A-listed building and Skills Development Scotland has confirmed their intention to relocate their service there in 2016, bringing around 80 new jobs into the town centre. The building will also accommodate relevant Invest in Renfrewshire staff to ensure employability service delivery across Renfrewshire is fully integrated.

Phase one of the former Arnotts site, comprising 31 apartments for shared equity or rent, is due for completion in the spring. Work on phase two is now underway, converting the distinctive listed frontage of the former store into 11 luxury apartments, with retail units on the ground floor.

The Tesco development at Linwood has now been open for six months, creating more than 200 jobs. 50 jobs were ring fenced for local, long term unemployed people and 28 are still employed.

The Scottish Government's Youth Enterprise Initiative (YEI) provides funding to support youth employment. Renfrewshire is currently preparing a bid for a share of the £46 million fund.

Invest in Renfrewshire Update – January 2015

INVEST IN EMPLOYMENT

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

- **594** new jobs have been created through the wage subsidy / Employer Recruitment Incentive programmes.
- **146** Graduate Internships have been created, **101** within the Council and **45** with local companies
- **46** people have started traineeships with the Council.
- **5636** unemployed people have registered and received support from the Invest in Renfrewshire employability service.
- **1876** additional people have been supported to move into wider employment opportunities.

INVEST IN COMMUNITIES

The Invest in Renfrewshire Social Economy Fund was launched in December 2014, with a budget of £100k.

- Outline enquiries have been received from more than 30 social enterprises.
- A small number of awards are expected to be made by the end of March 2015.

INVEST IN BUSINESS

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

- **480** have created new jobs and internships for young people
- **260** companies have been offered grants to pursue development, training, exhibition and ICT projects, amounting to combined funding of over **£1,203,602**.
- 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 28 months, since the start of the new **Business Gateway** contract:
 - **723** new companies have been established with Business Gateway support.
 - **330** businesses have demonstrated growth aspiration and been given a dedicated business adviser.
 - **200** start-up workshops and **110** business growth workshops have been delivered.