

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 27 AUGUST 2002

UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE – JUNE 2002

Report by the Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on unemployment levels as at June 2002 for East Ayrshire and Scotland and also for East Ayrshire Wards and Local Committee Areas.

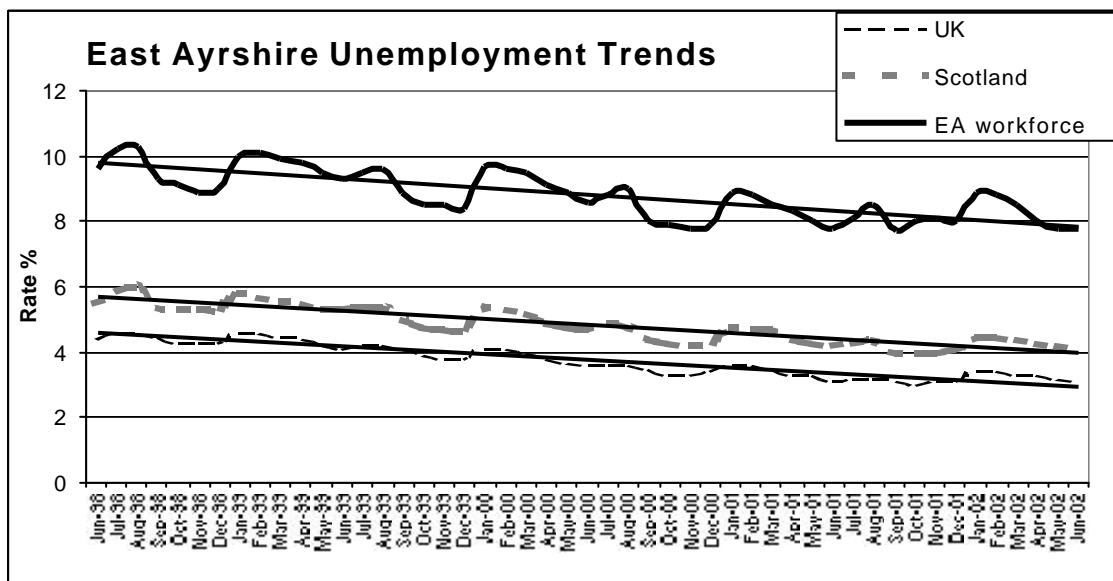
2. UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE

2.1 In June 2002, a total of 3,564 people were out of work in East Ayrshire Male claimants totalled 2,713 and female claimants totalled 851.

2.2 Unemployment in East Ayrshire June 2002 was 7.8%. This figure remains unchanged from June 2001.

3. UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

3.1 The following table shows unemployment trends in East Ayrshire using the workforce rate over the past three years. UK and Scottish rates are also shown.



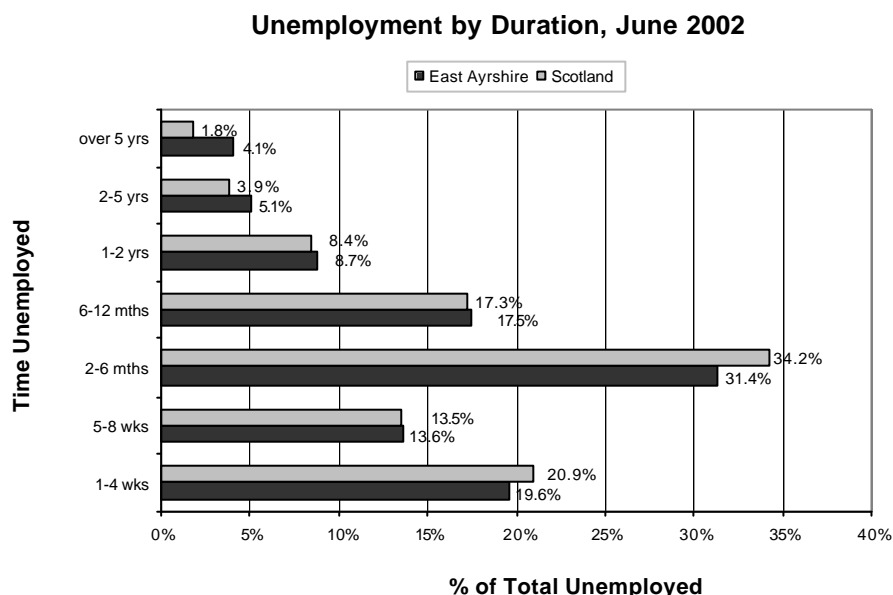
Source: ONS

4. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL WARD AND LOCAL COMMITTEE AREAS

4.1 The Office for National Statistics publishes claimant count figures for 1999 wards. The unemployment rates are calculated using an estimate of economically active persons from the 1998 Voluntary Population Survey. Unemployment rates at June 2002 for Wards and Local Committee Areas are appended to this report.

5. UNEMPLOYMENT BY DURATION

5.1 The following table shows claimant unemployment by duration in East Ayrshire compared with Scotland. As can be seen the largest proportion of people have been unemployed for 2-6 months. The duration split of East Ayrshire unemployment is similar to that of Scotland apart from the “over 5 years” category where there are twice as many long term unemployed in East Ayrshire than in Scotland.



Source: ONS / SLIMS

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The variations in the unemployment rate in different parts of the area reflects both the availability of jobs and the skills of the residents in each area. The Council is tackling the availability of jobs on an East Ayrshire-wide basis by promoting development opportunities and supporting local businesses. It is tackling skills gaps through support for the East Ayrshire Employment Initiative and a range of skills

training and social development initiatives focused on the longer term unemployed and on areas with the highest unemployment rates.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications for the Council.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications for the Council.

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 **It is recommended that the Committee note this report.**

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

8 AUGUST 2002
(EF/IMB)

List of Background Papers

Nil

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AGENDA