

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 24 APRIL 2001

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE – MARCH 2001

#### Report by the Director of Development Services

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of recent changes to the calculation of unemployment rates and to provide an update on unemployment levels as at March 2001 for East Ayrshire and Scotland, and February 2001 for Wards and Local Committee Areas.

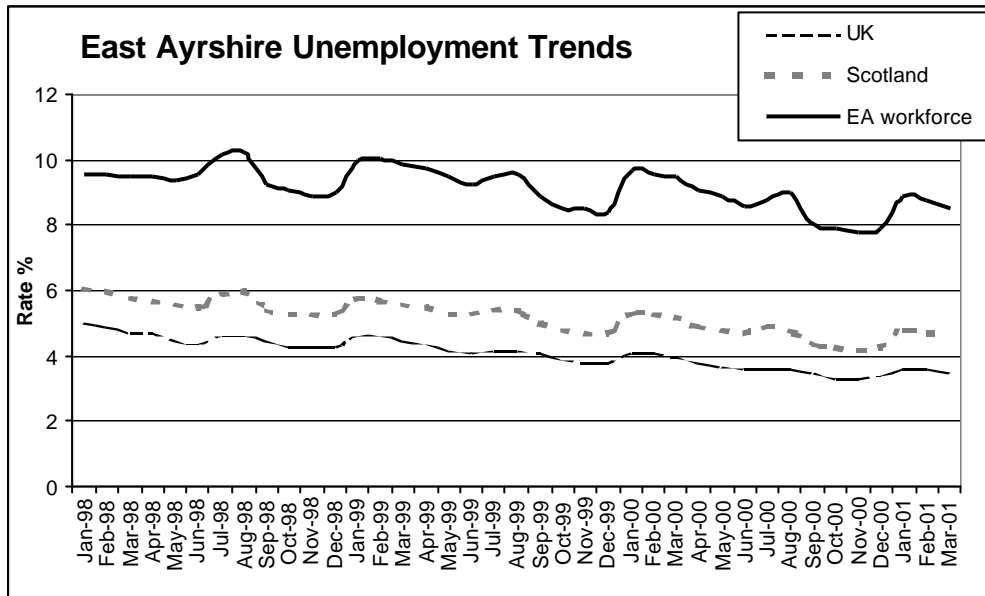
#### 2. UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 2.1 In March 2001, a total of 3,890 people were out of work in East Ayrshire. Male claimants totalled 2,925 and female claimants totalled 965.
- 2.2 Unemployment in East Ayrshire for the last year compared with Scotland is:

Month	East Ayrshire	Scotland
March 2001	8.5%	4.7%
November 2000	7.8%	4.2%
July 2000	8.8%	4.9%
March 2000	9.5%	5.2%

#### 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

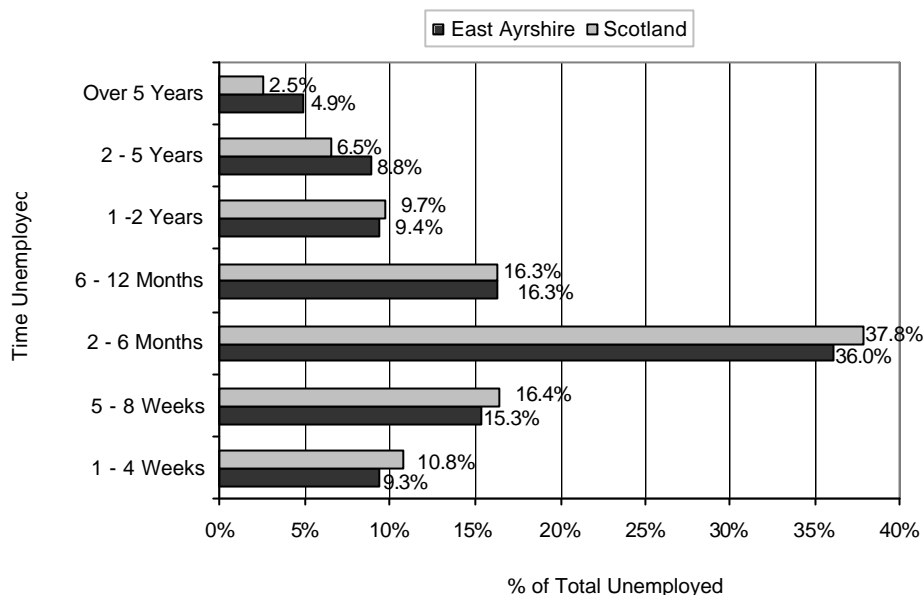
#### 4. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL WARD AND LOCAL COMMITTEE AREAS

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 February 2001 for Wards and Local Committee Areas are appended to this report.

#### 5. UNEMPLOYMENT BY DURATION

5.1 The following table shows claimant unemployed by duration in East Ayrshire compared with Scotland. As can be seen the largest proportion of claimants have been unemployed for 2 – 6 months. Unemployment by duration in East Ayrshire is similar to that of Scotland as a whole, however, there are almost twice as many people in East Ayrshire out of work for over 5 years compared with Scotland.

Unemployment by Duration, March 2001



Source: ONS / SLIMS

**6. CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS REPORTS – TECHNICAL ISSUES**

**6.1** Unemployment rates shown in this report for East Ayrshire as a whole are around 2% lower than shown in previous reports for the whole period from January 1998. This reflects new information on job numbers in East Ayrshire which has been used by the Office for National Statistics in compiling published rates – the rates are expressed as a percentage of the total workforce, the main component of which is job numbers. The source of data on job numbers previously used by the ONS has now been found to have substantially understated the number of jobs in East Ayrshire.

**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**

20 April 2001  
(ED/IMB)  
(FV-AN)

**List of Background Papers**

**Nil**

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**AGENDA**