

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 5 SEPTEMBER 2000

UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE – JUNE 2000

Report by the Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on unemployment levels as at June 2000 for East Ayrshire and Scotland, and April 2000 for Wards and Local Committee Areas.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE

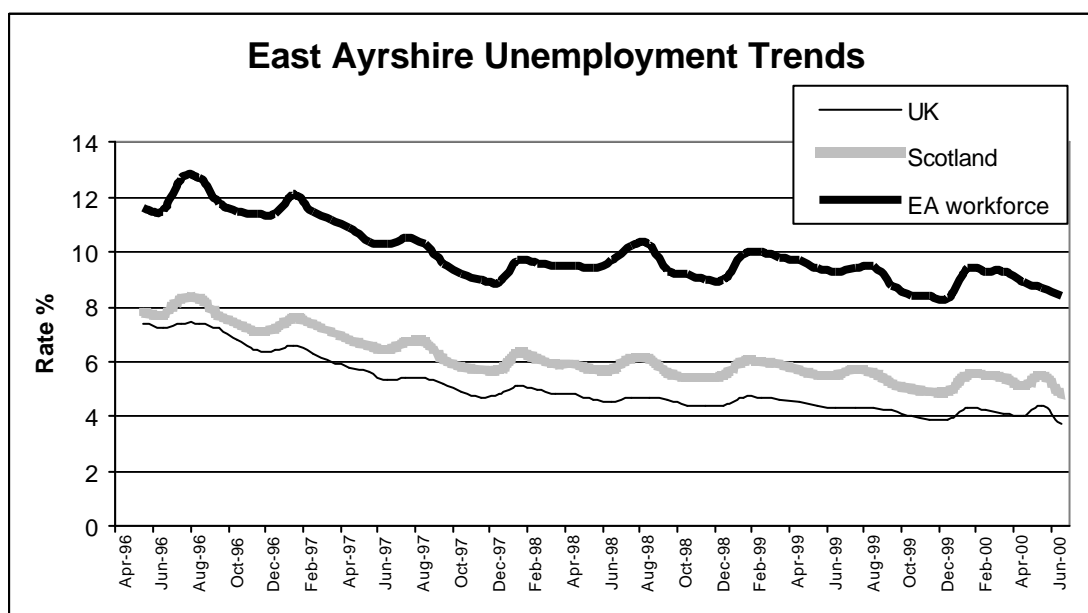
2.1 Using the workforce unemployment rate, in June 2000, a total of 3,931 people were out of work in East Ayrshire. Male claimants totalled 2,992 and female claimants totalled 939.

2.2 Unemployment in East Ayrshire for the last year compared with Scotland is :

Month	East Ayrshire	Scotland
June 2000	8.4%	4.8%
February 2000	9.3%	5.5%
September 1999	8.8%	5.2%
June 1999	9.3%	5.5%

3. UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

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



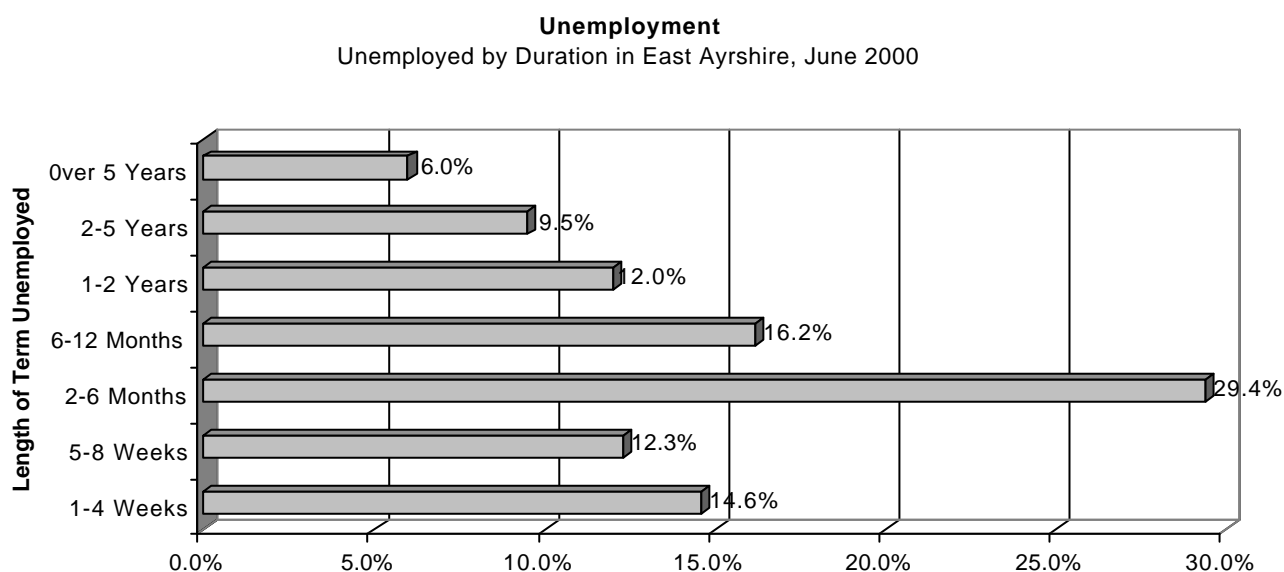
Source: ONS

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

4.1 The Office for National Statistics now publish claimant count figures for the new 1999 wards. The unemployment rates are calculated using an estimate of economically active persons from the 1998 Voluntary Population Survey. Using this method of calculation, the overall rate for East Ayrshire would be 7.6% which is lower than 8.9%; the official rate for April 2000 published by the ONS. The rates for wards and local committee areas therefore cannot be directly compared to those of East Ayrshire, Scotland and the UK as both are calculated using different methods. Unemployment rates for Wards and Local Committee Areas are appended to this report.

5. DURATION UNEMPLOYMENT

5.1 The table below shows duration of claimant unemployed in East Ayrshire. The most up to date figures available are from June 2000. As can be seen most claimants have been unemployed for between 2 and 6 months. The difference is because residents of East Ayrshire working elsewhere are included in the ward figures for the "economically active" to which unemployment is related, but not in the Department of Employment's figures for East Ayrshire as a whole.



Source: ONS / SLIMS

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee note this report.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

11 August 2000 (ED/ IMB)
(FV/AN)

List of Background Papers

Nil

For further information on the content of this report, please contact Emma Daly, Policy and Projects Section (01563) 576756

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AGENDA