

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE: 20 MAY 2003

UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE – MARCH 2003

Report by the Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

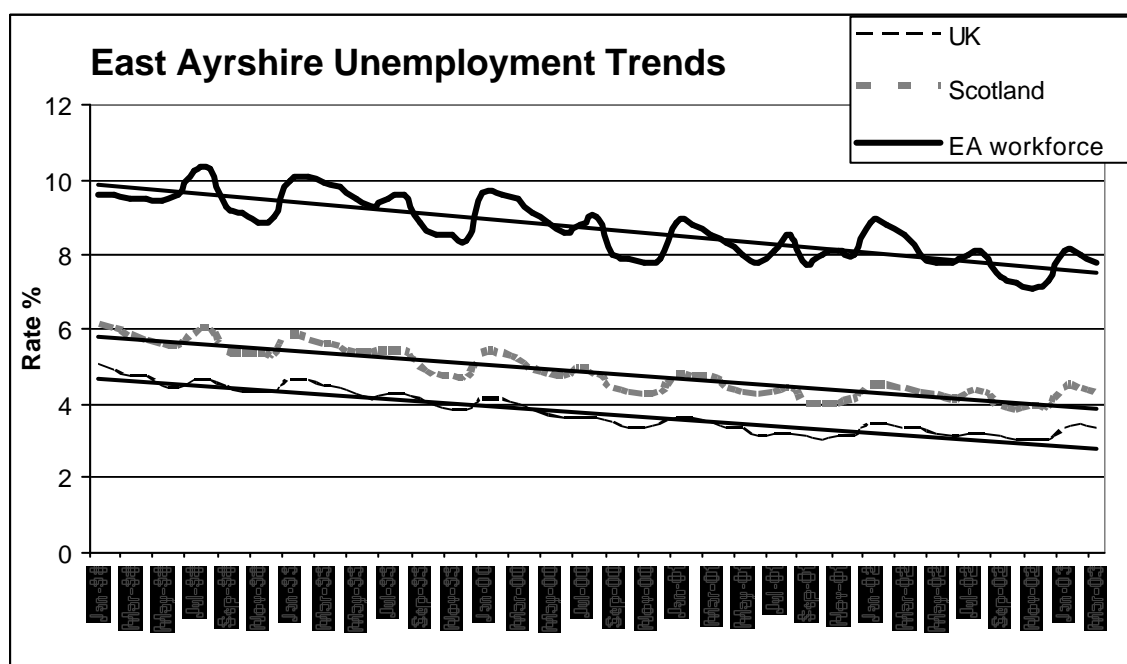
- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on unemployment levels as at March 2003 for East Ayrshire and Scotland, and for East Ayrshire Wards and Local Committee Areas.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 2.1 In March 2003, a total of 3,580 people were out of work in East Ayrshire. Male claimants totalled 2,689 and female claimants totalled 891.
- 2.2 Unemployment in East Ayrshire in March 2003 was 7.8%. Unemployment has fallen since March 2002 by 0.7%.

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

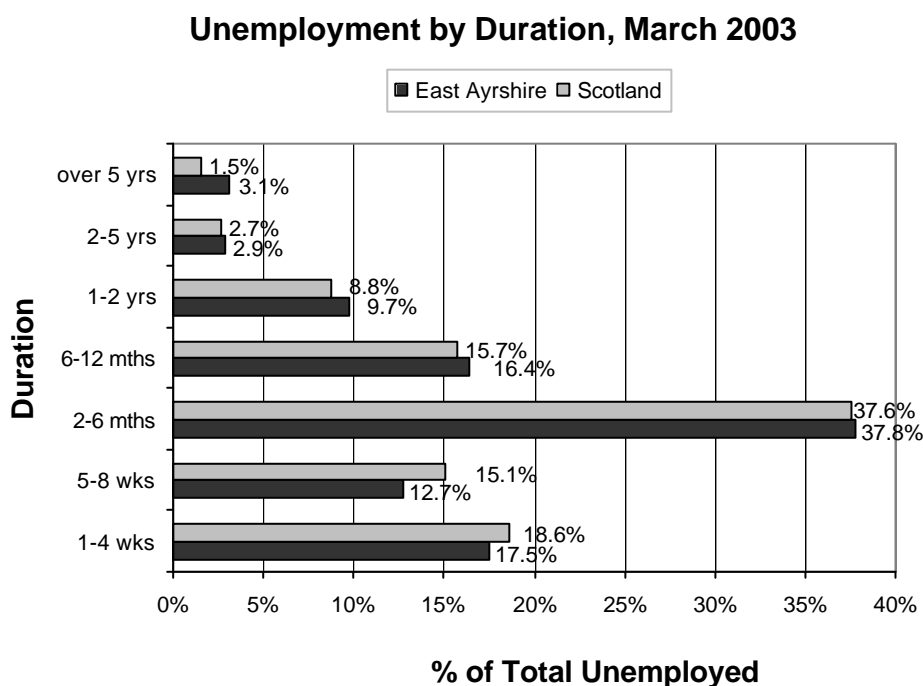
4. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL WARD AND LOCAL COMMITTEE AREAS

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.

4.2 Unemployment rates at March 2003 for Wards and Local Committee Areas are appended to this report. The total for Ayrshire differs from the rate reported at para 2.2. This is because the small area rates are calculated on the basis of resident economically active population, whereas the “headline” rates used in para 2.2 are calculated by reference to the workforce (which excludes those working outside East Ayrshire).

5. UNEMPLOYMENT BY DURATION

5.1 The following table shows claimant unemployment by duration in East Ayrshire compared with Scotland. As can be seen those unemployed for between 2 and 6 months account for the largest proportion of unemployment. The profile of unemployment by duration in East Ayrshire is broadly similar to that of Scotland, although there is a slightly higher proportion of long term unemployed in East Ayrshire.



Source: ONS / SLIMS

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications for the Council.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications for the Council.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is recommended that the Committee note this report.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

30 April 2003

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

For further information on the content of this report, please contact Alasdair
Laurenson, Policy and Projects Section (01563) 576757.

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish