

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

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| To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE | | Subject: UNEMPLOYMENT MONITORING . |
| From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE | | |
| Date: 24 October 1996 | Ref: ACM | |

1. Purpose of Report

To advise the Committee of the present unemployment position in North Lanarkshire together with the unemployment trends which have occurred since the Council was established in April. It is intended to provide future monitoring reports to Committee on a quarterly basis

2. Background

At its meeting on 12 September 1996, the Committee agreed that the Chief Executive's department should provide quarterly unemployment information, and this is the first such report.

The unemployment figures in this report have been extracted from information available from Employment Services and the University of Essex. This information is provided on a monthly and quarterly basis as follows:-

- ◆ Monthly data is provided on the unemployment totals broken down by sex; and on the Government's (*official*) unemployment rates. Quarterly data provides a more detailed breakdown of unemployment giving information on age and duration of unemployment. The figures are issued in January, April, July and October of each year.

The age/duration information allows us to look more closely at the characteristics of unemployment in the area and to more effectively target intervention in the labour market.

All of the data in this report is drawn from official Government statistics calculated from only those registered for unemployment benefit, excluding anyone who is not registered.

The report provides information on:

- overall numbers unemployed and unemployment rates for each month from April to August (Sections 3 to 5 below); and
- detailed information on the characteristics of the unemployed, age structure and duration of the unemployed (Sections 6 to 8 below).

3. Unemployment in August 1996

In August there were 14,336 people registered unemployed in North Lanarkshire, 75% (10,691) were Male and 25% (3,645) Female. The official North Lanarkshire unemployment rate was given as 12% which is considerably higher than the Scottish figure of 8.5%.

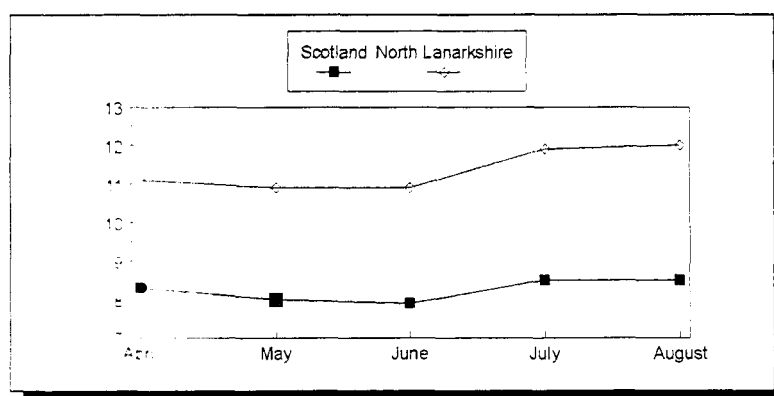
In relation to the 32 Unitary Authorities in Scotland, North Lanarkshire was the sixth highest in terms of the rate of unemployment and the fourth highest in terms of the total number of unemployed (See Table 3: "Claimant Unemployment by Local Authorities August 1996").

4. Unemployment Change from April to August 1996.

Over the five month period, since the establishment of North Lanarkshire Council, the number of registered unemployed has risen from 13,271 to 14,336, an increase of 1065, or 8%.

In April the official unemployment rate for North Lanarkshire was 11.1% rising to 12% in August. Over the same period the Scottish unemployment rate rose from 8.3 % to 8.5%. (See Figure 1). Thus North Lanarkshire's unemployment rate is consistently above the Scottish average and rising at a slightly higher rate.

Figure 1: Unemployment Rates April to August 1996.



5. Unemployment Changes by Gender.

In April male unemployment stood at 10,532 and by August the number had increased by 159 to 10,691, an increase of 1.5%. Female unemployment over the same period has increased substantially from 2,739 to 3,645, a rise of 906 or 33% (See Table 1 below). This is largely due to seasonal factors.

**Table 1: Claimant Unemployed for North Lanarkshire
April to August 1996.**

| SEX | MONTHS | | | | | CHANGE APR-AUG |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | |
| MALE | 10,532 | 10,385 | 10,365 | 10,662 | 10,691 | +159 (+1.5%) |
| FEMALE | 2,739 | 2,636 | 2,724 | 3,587 | 3,645 | +906 (+33%) |
| TOTAL | 13,271 | 13,021 | 13,089 | 14,249 | 14,336 | +1,065 (+8%) |

6. Unemployment by Age and Duration July 1996

In July 28% of those unemployed in North Lanarkshire were aged between 25 and 35 and a further 34% were aged under 25 (See Table 2). These figures highlight the significant levels of Youth unemployment in the area.

Over 28% of those unemployed in North Lanarkshire in July had been so for more than a year and 7% had been unemployed for more than 5 years.

Table 2: Unemployment by Age and Duration in July 1996

| WEEKS | AGE BANDS | | | | | | | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| | 16 - 19 | 20 - 24 | 25 - 34 | 35 - 44 | 45 - 54 | 55 - 59 | 60+ | |
| 1 - 4 | 472 | 663 | 626 | 491 | 379 | 88 | 8 | 2,727 |
| 5 - 8 | 201 | 396 | 357 | 206 | 155 | 44 | 8 | 1,367 |
| 9 - 26 | 532 | 868 | 957 | 579 | 407 | 155 | 36 | 3,597 |
| 27 - 52 | 284 | 646 | 753 | 415 | 313 | 96 | 23 | 2,530 |
| 53 - 104 | 115 | 376 | 572 | 281 | 214 | 73 | 4 | 1,635 |
| 105 - 156 | 7 | 99 | 202 | 153 | 112 | 47 | 1 | 621 |
| 157 - 208 | 0 | 64 | 129 | 91 | 65 | 44 | 1 | 394 |
| 209 - 260 | 0 | 51 | 107 | 87 | 82 | 26 | 0 | 353 |
| 260+ | 0 | 29 | 269 | 265 | 269 | 190 | 3 | 1,025 |
| TOTAL | 1,611 | 3,192 | 3,972 | 2,568 | 2,059 | 763 | 84 | 14,249 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 53+ | 122 | 619 | 1,279 | 877 | 742 | 380 | 9 | 4,028 |

Source: Employment Services

7. Unemployment Changes by Age between April and July 1996.

Between the April and July quarters the largest increase in unemployment has occurred amongst 20-24 year olds with an increase of 14% , 390 individuals. There has also been a significant increase amongst 16-19 year olds with an increase of nearly 200. Two age bands, the 55-59 and the 60+, have experienced a decline in the level of unemployment of 3% and 8% respectively.

8. Unemployment Changes by Duration between April and July 1996.

Over the period the largest increase in unemployment has occurred in the 1-4 week duration with an increase of 52% (+ 928). The number of people unemployed for over a year has fallen by 1.5% (-61) and those unemployed for longer than 5 years has also fallen by 3% (-29).

9. Recommendation.

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.


 Chief Executive

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Table 3: Claimant Unemployment by Local Authority August 1996.

| AREA | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | RATE |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| East Ayrshire | 4,615 | 1,551 | 6,166 | 13.6 |
| Western Isles | 1,274 | 386 | 1,660 | 13.5 |
| East Renfrewshire | 1,597 | 784 | 2,381 | 13.4 |
| North Ayrshire | 4,822 | 1,767 | 6,589 | 12.5 |
| West Dunbartonshire | 4,036 | 1,151 | 5,187 | 12.4 |
| North Lanarkshire | 10,691 | 3,645 | 14,336 | 12 |
| Angus | 2,881 | 1,348 | 4,229 | 11.4 |
| Clackmannanshire | 1,523 | 531 | 2,054 | 11.2 |
| Fife | 10,886 | 4,343 | 15,229 | 11 |
| South Lanarkshire | 8,538 | 3,002 | 11,540 | 10.8 |
| East Dunbartonshire | 2,234 | 1,033 | 3,267 | 10.6 |
| Falkirk | 4,151 | 1,419 | 5,570 | 9.6 |
| City of Dundee | 6,471 | 2,162 | 8,633 | 9.5 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 4,165 | 1,738 | 5,903 | 9.4 |
| City of Glasgow | 27,574 | 8,341 | 35,915 | 9.2 |
| Argyll & Bute | 2,464 | 976 | 3,440 | 9 |
| Highland | 6,682 | 2,039 | 8,721 | 9 |
| South Ayrshire | 3,438 | 1,450 | 4,888 | 9 |
| Midlothian | 1,638 | 487 | 2,125 | 8.7 |
| East Lothian | 1,719 | 552 | 2,271 | 8.5 |
| Renfrewshire | 5,522 | 1,997 | 7,519 | 8.2 |
| West Lothian | 3,708 | 1,281 | 4,989 | 8.1 |
| Inverclyde | 2,569 | 796 | 3,365 | 8.1 |
| Moray | 1,923 | 843 | 2,766 | 7.7 |
| Stirling | 2,087 | 810 | 2,897 | 7.3 |
| Perthshire & Kinross | 2,625 | 1,030 | 3,655 | 6.5 |
| City of Edinburgh | 12,558 | 4,285 | 16,843 | 5.7 |
| The Scottish Borders | 1,734 | 736 | 2,470 | 5.5 |
| Aberdeenshire | 3,061 | 1,429 | 4,490 | 5.5 |
| Orkney Islands | 278 | 113 | 391 | 4.5 |
| Shetland Islands | 360 | 128 | 488 | 4.1 |
| City of Aberdeen | 4,682 | 1,716 | 6,398 | 3.3 |