

Agenda item
9(7)

PORTFOLIO:

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

**COUNCILLOR
FIRTH**

1. During the period 21 February 2003 to 11 April 2003 as Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Prosperity, I have attended the following:-

28.02.03	Cumbria Branch of the LGA. Kendal
30.03.03	Executive
04.03.03	Management Briefing at Tullie House Council
06.03.03	Joint Management Team Presentation by the North West Development Agency regarding the North West Tourism Strategy
07.03.03	Presentation to Council by the Post Office
10.03.03	Economic and Community Development Services Officers' Briefing Employment Panel
13.03.03	Development Advisory Group
20.03.03	Joint Management Team Officers' Briefing – Executive Employment Panel
27.03.03	CPA Meeting Property Services Officer's Briefing
30.03.03	Employment Panel
31.03.03	Employment Pane

Monthly Unemployment Briefing – February 2003

The February 2003 unemployment and claimant count figures were released by the Office for National Statistics today.

It is important when comparing local and national trends not to use figures from different sources. The unemployment rate now quoted by ONS nationally includes claimants and non-claimants who are looking for work. However, these figures are not available for local areas like Cumbria. Similarly, the figures quoted nationally for the claimant count are seasonally adjusted but are not produced for local areas. As there are often significant variations in trends between seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted figures, the two should not be compared.

To prevent misleading comparisons, only non-seasonally adjusted claimant count data should be used to compare local and national trends and these are the data used in this report.

UK Claimant Count

The number of people out of work and claiming unemployment benefit across the UK rose by 14,793 to 1,012,828. The workforce-based claimant count rate is unchanged at 3.4% of the workforce, and the residence-based rate is also unchanged at 2.8% of the working age population. These figures are **not seasonally adjusted** and may differ from those that appear in the national press (see note above). (The seasonally adjusted UK residence based claimant count is 935,300, a rise of 2,600 from last month. The rate is unchanged at 2.6%.)

County Claimant Count

The number of people out of work and claiming unemployment benefit in Cumbria rose by 2 to 7,270. The male claimant count for Cumbria was unchanged and the female claimant count rose by 2. The number of claimants fell in Allerdale, Copeland, Eden and South Lakeland, but rose in Barrow and Carlisle.

Workforce-Based Claimant Rate

The workforce-based claimant count expresses the number of claimants in an area as a percentage of the potential workforce in that area (workforce = employees + unemployed).

Cumbria workforce claimant count rate – unchanged at 3.1% which is 0.3% below the UK rate.

Male workforce claimant count rate – unchanged at 4.4% which is 0.3% below the UK rate.

Female workforce claimant count rate – unchanged at 1.6% which is 0.2% below the UK rate.

Residence-Based Claimant Rate

The residence-based claimant count expresses the number of claimants in an area as a percentage of the working age population resident in that area.

Cumbria residence claimant count rate – unchanged at 2.5% which is 0.3% below the UK rate.

Male residence claimant count rate - unchanged at 3.6% which is 0.5% below the UK rate.

Female residence claimant count rate – unchanged at 1.3% which is 0.1% below the UK rate.

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Cumbria County Council Cumbria Inward Investment Agency Cumbria Learning & Skills Council Allerdale BC Barrow BC Carlisle CC
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WORKFORCE-BASED CLAIMANT COUNT RATES

The workforce-based claimant count expresses the number of claimants in an area as a percentage of the workforce in that area (workforce = employees + unemployed).

Table 1: County/Region/Country

AREA	Male		Female		All Persons		All Persons Monthly Change	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cumbria	5500	4.4	1770	1.6	7270	3.1	2	0.0
North West	96798	5.4	27736	1.8	124534	3.8	325	0.0
United Kingdom	763912	4.7	248916	1.8	1012828	3.4	14,793	0.0
Great Britain	736540	4.6	241112	1.8	977652	3.3	15,115	0.1

Table 2: Local Authority Districts

DISTRICT	Male		Female		All Persons		All Persons Monthly Change	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Allerdale	1262	6.3	415	2.3	1677	4.4	-39	-0.1
Barrow in Furness	1055	9.8	276	2.2	1331	5.8	8	0.0
Carlisle	1215	4.1	431	1.6	1646	2.9	71	0.1
Copeland	1274	5.9	361	2.4	1635	4.5	-3	0.0
Eden	195	1.4	79	0.7	274	1.1	-20	-0.1
South Lakeland	499	1.8	208	0.8	707	1.3	-15	0.0

Table 3: Travel to Work Areas

TTWA	Male		Female		All Persons		All Persons Monthly Change	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Appleby	38	1.2	20	0.9	58	1.1	-7	-0.1
Barrow in Furness	1257	7.6	355	2.1	1612	4.8	20	0.1
Carlisle	1338	4.2	473	1.7	1811	3.0	71	0.1
Kendal	212	1.3	87	0.6	299	1.0	-19	-0.1
Keswick	29	1.3	14	0.5	43	0.9	-11	-0.2
Penrith	133	1.3	56	0.7	189	1.0	-7	0.0
Whitehaven	1217	5.8	346	2.4	1563	4.4	-9	0.0
Windermere	79	1.4	41	0.6	120	1.0	-5	0.0
Workington	1168	7.3	374	2.7	1542	5.2	-23	-0.1

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RESIDENCE-BASED CLAIMANT COUNT RATES

The residence-based claimant count expresses the number of claimants in an area as a percentage of the working age population in that area. These figures are not yet available for Travel to Work Areas.

Table 4: County/Region/Country

AREA	Male		Female		All Persons		All Persons Monthly Change	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Cumbria	5,500	3.6	1,770	1.3	7,270	2.5	2	0.0
North West	96,798	4.6	27,736	1.4	124,534	3.0	325	0.0
United Kingdom	763,912	4.1	248,916	1.4	1,012,828	2.8	14,793	0.0
Great Britain	736,540	4.1	241,112	1.4	977,652	2.8	15,115	0.1

Table 5: Local Authority Districts

DISTRICT	Male		Female		All Persons		All Persons Monthly Change	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Allerdale	1,262	4.3	415	1.6	1,677	3.0	-39	-0.1
Barrow in Furness	1,055	4.7	276	1.3	1,331	3.1	8	0.0
Carlisle	1,215	3.9	431	1.5	1,646	2.7	71	0.1
Copeland	1,274	5.7	361	1.8	1,635	3.9	-3	0.0
Eden	195	1.2	79	0.6	274	0.9	-20	-0.1
South Lakeland	499	1.6	208	0.7	707	1.2	-15	0.0

For further information, please contact:

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	Unemployment by Ward –Feb 2003						Jan 2003	Monthly Change
	Unemployment Totals			Unemployment Rates				
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
CARLISLE								
Arthuret	27	12	39	3.1	2.0	2.7	37	2
Belah	40	23	63	2.0	1.5	1.8	64	-1
Belle Vue	68	25	93	4.3	2.0	3.3	101	-8
Botcherby	132	50	182	9.1	4.2	6.9	176	6
Brampton	45	20	65	4.3	2.7	3.6	69	-4
Burgh	10	7	17	1.5	1.4	1.5	20	-3
Currock	87	42	129	5.3	3.2	4.4	122	7
Dalston	14	10	24	2.2	2.2	2.2	23	1
Denton Holme	93	32	125	5.8	2.4	4.3	110	15
Great Corby & Geltsdale	7	2	9	1.3	0.5	1.0	8	1
Harraby	72	17	89	4.3	1.3	2.9	79	10
Hayton	8	6	14	1.2	1.3	1.3	12	2
Irthing	13	3	16	2.1	0.8	1.5	16	0
Lyne	11	3	14	1.5	0.7	1.2	13	1
Morton	70	26	96	6.4	2.9	4.8	89	7
St Aidans	112	25	137	6.6	1.8	4.4	126	11
St Cuthbert Without	8	2	10	1.5	0.5	1.1	15	-5
Stanwix Rural	23	13	36	1.6	1.3	1.5	34	2
Stanwix Urban	90	24	114	5.9	2.0	4.2	103	11
Trinity	104	21	125	6.9	1.7	4.6	121	4
Upperby	105	32	137	7.4	2.9	5.5	126	11
Wetheral	16	8	24	1.5	1.0	1.3	20	4
Yewdale	60	28	88	2.8	1.6	2.2	91	-3

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