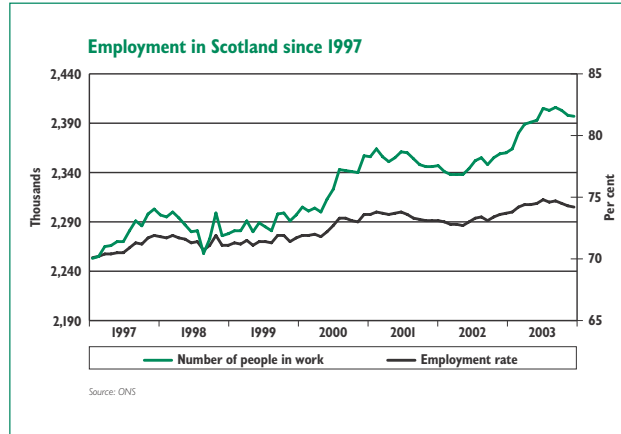


EMPLOYMENT IN SCOTLAND

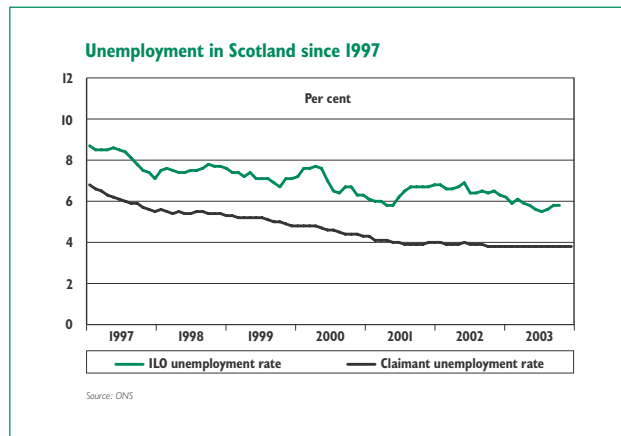
Employment in Scotland since 1997

- Employment rate is 74.2 per cent – above the EU and OECD average
- Number of people in work up 142,000
- Increase in employment rate is greater than increase in UK



Unemployment in Scotland since 1997

- ILO unemployment down 30 per cent
- Claimant unemployment down a third
- Youth unemployment down a third
- Long-term unemployment down two thirds



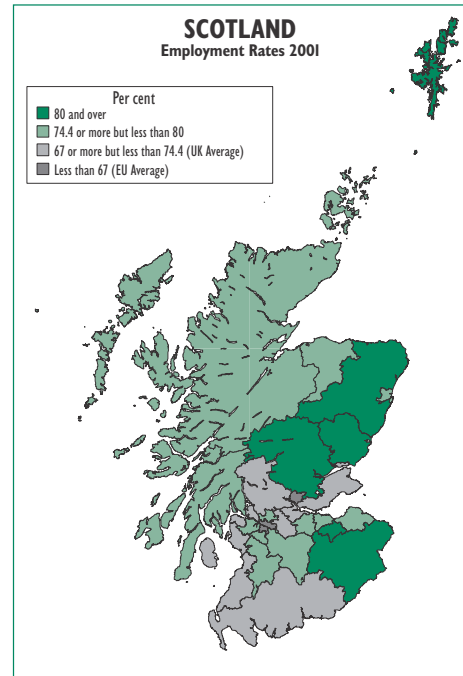
The New Deal

The New Deals have been successful in helping more than 113,000 people into work including:

- 54,630 through New Deal for young people
- 18,970 through New Deal 25 plus
- 25,000 through New Deal for lone parents
- 12,180 through New Deal 50 plus
- 2,570 through New Deal for disabled people

Variations within Scotland

- Over 90 per cent of Scottish local authorities have resident employment rates above the EU and OECD averages
- There are wide variations across Scotland from over 80 per cent in Aberdeenshire to 61 per cent in Glasgow
- Areas with lower employment rates still have high numbers of vacancies
- In certain Edinburgh wards, high employment rates and large numbers of jobs co-exist with high proportions of people on benefits
- Employment rates are particularly low for people from ethnic minorities and those without qualifications in major urban areas
- There are more jobs than people of working age in Glasgow



Work-focused help available within Scotland

- 27 Jobcentre Plus offices have rolled out across Scotland, with a further 20 being rolled out by March 2004
- In April 2004, a 'Working Neighbourhoods' pilot will begin in two areas of Glasgow, delivering intensive support in neighbourhoods with very high concentrations of worklessness
- All lone parents in Glasgow will have access to Discovery Weeks, which aim to encourage lone parents into the labour market; courses are scheduled to run from summer 2004
- Ambition Energy is being delivered in seven Scottish Districts; participants are guaranteed a job and will complete an SVQ in Gas Central Heating Installation
- Ambition Retail is being delivered in Glasgow; 63 people have been placed into work so far
- StepUP is offering guaranteed jobs to eligible young people in Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, and Tayside and nearly 70 people have started work
- The Incapacity Benefit 'Pathways to Work' pilot started in Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll and Bute in October and is piloting new ways to enable people on Incapacity Benefit to move into work
- Roll out of Progress2Work, which offers recovering drug misusers help to get into work, is complete across Scotland
- Scotland has nine Action Teams helping jobless people in some of the most employment deprived areas find and remain in work. In Highland and Western Isles, 362 people have been helped into work
- An Action Team covers ten wards in Edinburgh with a high percentage of economic inactivity. So far, 87 job entries have been achieved