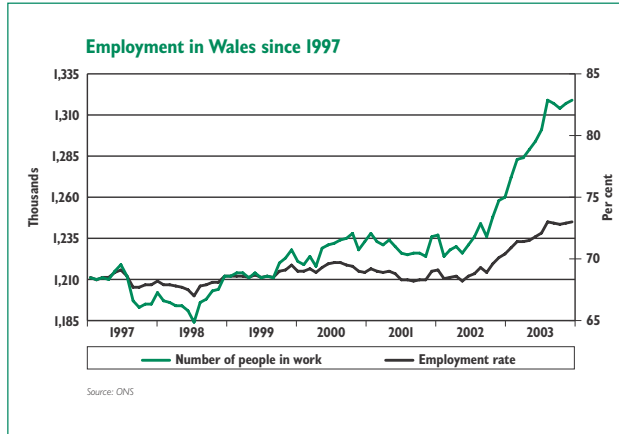


EMPLOYMENT IN WALES

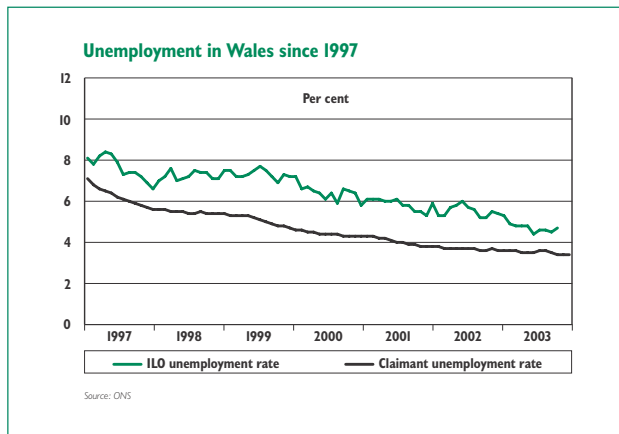
Employment in Wales since 1997

- Employment rate is 73.0 per cent – above the EU and OECD average
- Number of people in work up 108,000
- Increase in employment rate is greater than increase in overall UK rate



Unemployment in Wales since 1997

- ILO unemployment down two fifths
- Claimant unemployment down two fifths
- Youth unemployment down two fifths
- Long-term unemployment down three quarters



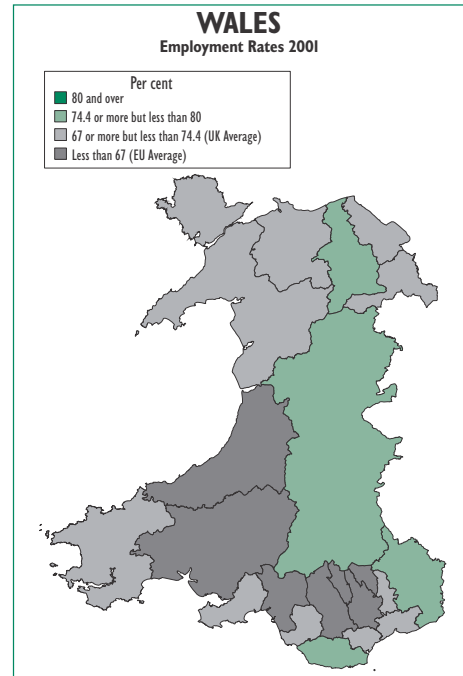
The New Deal

The New Deals have been successful in helping nearly 68,000 people into work including:

- 31,780 through New Deal for young people
- 9,180 through New Deal 25 plus
- 16,260 through New Deal for lone parents
- 7,290 through New Deal 50 plus
- 3,480 through New Deal for disabled people

Variations within Wales

- Two thirds of Welsh local authorities have resident employment rates above EU and OECD averages
- Authorities in the South Wales valleys like Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil have lower employment rates than other local authorities
- Some wards, in areas such as Newport, have relatively high employment rates and volumes of jobs together with relatively high numbers of benefit claimants
- Some local authorities with employment rates below the UK average are in Cardiff and Swansea where lack of jobs is not a problem
- Most areas with lower employment rates still have high numbers of vacancies



Work-focused help available within Wales

- Wales has six Action Teams helping jobless people in some of the most employment deprived areas find and remain in work, including Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil
- In West Wales, the New Deal 25 plus Repeat Spells Pilot is helping people with intermittent or erratic work histories to gain more secure employment
- Employment support for long-term unemployed people is available in Employment Zones in North West Wales, Powys and Eastern Valleys
- StepUP is offering guaranteed jobs to eligible young people in some Cardiff and Wrexham wards
- Lone parents and New Deal 25 plus participants in South East Wales are being offered help to improve their prospects of staying in and progressing in work through the Employment Retention and Advancement Demonstration Project (ERAD)
- In October 2003, the Incapacity Benefit 'Pathways to Work' Pilot was introduced in Bridgend, Rhondda, Cynon and Taff, which is piloting new ways to enable people on Incapacity Benefit to move into work
- Progress2Work has been rolled out throughout Wales, offering recovering drug misusers help to get into work
- The Jobcentre Plus Rapid Response Service has offered advice and guidance to nearly 900 employees facing redundancy at a South East Wales electronics company
- In April 2004 a 'Working Neighbourhoods' pilot begins in the Penderry Ward of Swansea Bay District to help residents access the jobs that can often be found within travelling distance of where they live

