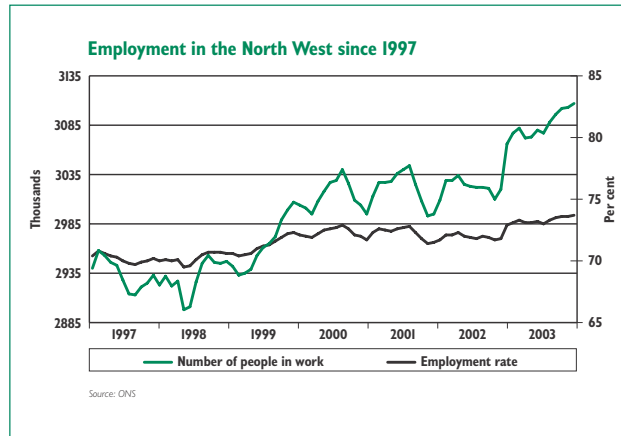


EMPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH WEST

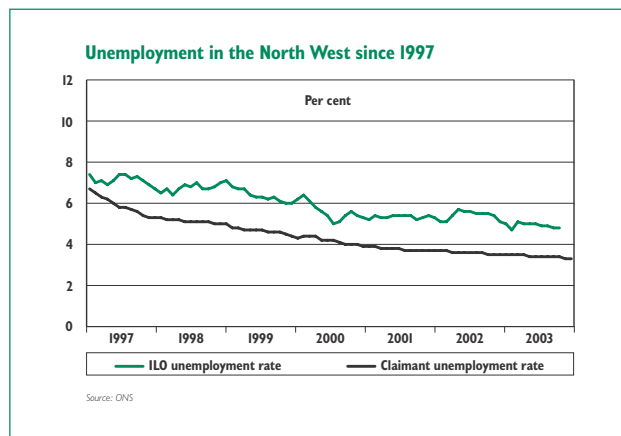
Employment in the North West since 1997

- Employment rate is 73.7 per cent – above the EU and OECD average
- Number of people in work up 154,000
- Increase in employment rate greater than increase in overall UK rate



Unemployment in the North West since 1997

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



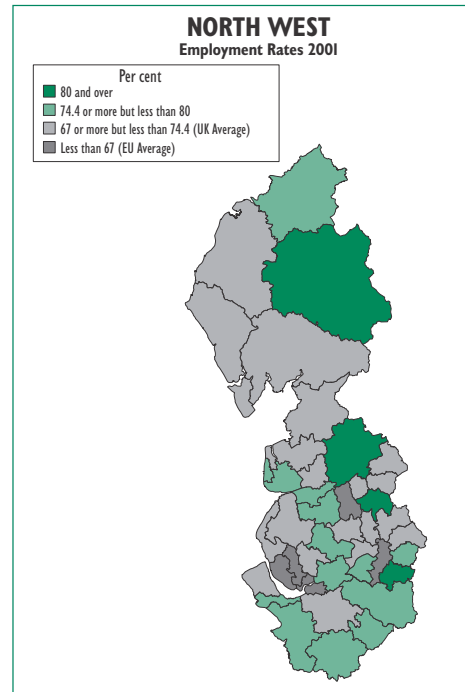
The New Deal

The New Deals have been successful in helping more than 138,000 people into work, including:

- 68,000 through New Deal for young people
- 21,000 through New Deal 25 plus
- 34,180 through New Deal for lone parents
- 12,710 through New Deal 50 plus
- 2,500 through New Deal for disabled people

Variations within the North West

- Employment is high in most areas
- There are wide variations within the region; from 80 per cent in Stockport and Macclesfield to 60 per cent in Manchester and Liverpool
- Most areas with lower employment rates still have high numbers of vacancies



Work-focused help available within the North West

- North West Action Teams are working with Greater Manchester Police to set up pre-recruitment training programmes for disadvantaged people, particularly ethnic minorities
- In Salford and Trafford, the Action Team has worked successfully with Arriva and the Trafford Centre to secure a free bus service to help people in the Little Hulton area of Salford access vacancies at the Trafford Centre
- Seven Progress2Work teams operate across the region providing employment support to former drug misusers
- Three StepUP Pilots are operating in Manchester, Oldham and Knowsley and Sefton Districts
- Nearly 400 people have entered work through the Ambition programmes in the North West, in jobs in the construction, IT and energy industries; areas covered include Manchester, Liverpool, Salford and Trafford, Wigan and Lancashire West
- Jobcentre Plus services will be implemented in 52 sites across the North West by Spring 2004
- In Cheshire and Warrington, Jobcentre Plus, in partnership with local authorities, the North West Development Agency and other partners, have set up a Redundancy Action Support team, offering advice and training to employers and employees
- Jobcentre Plus advisers in Greater Manchester are increasing their sector knowledge through successful partnership work with the Manchester Employer Coalition