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# The LABOUR Market

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## Overview of the labour market

Table 1 provides a summary of the most recent Scottish labour market statistics. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimate of the level of employment in the period October to December 1999 was 2,316 thousand, which was 16 thousand up on the same period of 1998. This represents a 0.4 per cent increase in employment as compared with the same quarter one year previous. Figure 1 plots the quarterly LFS employment data from the first quarter 1998 to the fourth quarter 1999. Note that LFS employment estimates in Scotland for the fourth quarter of 1999 reveal a decrease of around 5,000 from the previous quarter, however, the overall trend in employment remains positive. Given that the sampling variability in each case is plus or minus 1.5%, this implies that we can be 95% confident that the most recent estimate of employment lies within plus or minus 1.5% of 2,316 thousand. Recall that the LFS measure of total employment is more complete than the traditional Workforce Jobs series, though it does have other limitations beyond simple sampling variability. (We continue to report the Workforce Jobs data below, which are based on employer surveys, because these are thought to provide a more accurate account of the industrial distribution of employment.)

The International Labour Office (ILO) rate of unemployment in Scotland was 7.1% in the final quarter (October to December) of 1999. The comparable figure one year previous was 7.7%, indicating a fall of 0.6% over this period. (The ILO rates for men and women in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1999 were 8.1 and 5.9 per cent, respectively.) Figure 2 plots ILO unemployment levels in Scotland over the period January 1998 to December 1999. Over this short period we can see a clear downward trend in Scottish unemployment.

The traditional claimant-count-based measure of unemployment for January 2000 was 5.1%.

However, recall that the difference between the ILO and claimant-count definitions reflects the distinction between those who are actively seeking work, but are jobless, and those who are eligible for unemployment benefit payments. To get to the ILO definition from numbers of claimants the numbers of those eligible for benefit but not actively seeking work have to be subtracted. However, those ineligible for benefits but actively seeking work have to be added, and in recent years at least, this adjustment has been the greater.

The LFS definition of unemployment has the distinct advantage over the claimant count due to the fact that it is much less sensitive to changes in the regulations governing eligibility to unemployment benefits. Recall that there have been a number of revisions over the past two decades to those deemed eligible for unemployment benefit. In contrast, the ILO definition conforms to a widely accepted standard so that cross-country comparisons are more meaningful.

The percentage of the Scottish labour force that are economically active decreased by 0.2% in the final quarter of 1999 to 77.5 per cent. In total, there was 2,493 thousand economically active people in Scotland. This figure includes the sum of those who are in employment or who were actively seeking work during this period. In comparison with the same period one year previous this represents an increase of around 1,000.

Figure 3 plots quarterly data for the composition of the economically inactive in Scotland (those wanting and not wanting a job) over the period January 1998 to December 1999. In the final quarter of 1999, the total number of economically inactive people in Scotland was 706 thousand. The composition of this labour market group provides an indication of whether recent government policies on social exclusion are impacting in the labour market. As employment in Scotland increases, the total number of economically inactive persons is reduced. However, the composition of economically inactive, particularly the trend in those not wanting a job provides an indication of whether government policies are encouraging individuals back into the labour market. (This is a trend we will monitor in future series).

## Employment

The most recent employee jobs data are for September 1999 and these are reported in Tables 2 and 3. These figures indicate that total employee jobs remained stable at around 2,031 thousand in the year to September 1999. However, full-time male employees in employment have fallen by an

estimated 12,000 from the same period one year previous, with female full-time employment increasing by around 10,000. Male part-time employment in Scotland did however increase by around 11,000 with a fall of around 8,000 in the numbers of female part-time workers. The changes in the composition of employment, in terms of the actual levels, represent very modest adjustments (i.e. less than 2 per cent).

Over the year to September 1999 the largest sectoral employment gain was in the public sector with an increase of around 24 thousand. Other sub-sectors, which recorded employment gains over the year to September 1999, include Real estate (9,000), Hotels & rest. (9,000), Transport storage & communication (4,000) and Education (2,000). (Table 3 provides this information). Employment losses were recorded in Manufacturing (17,000), Wholesale, Retail (14,000), Construction (12,000), Financial intermediation (5,000) Health and social work (3,000).

### **Vacancies: stocks and flows**

Over the year to January 2000 Job Centre unfilled vacancies throughout Scotland fluctuated between 31.5 and 37.5 thousands on a seasonally adjusted basis (Table 4). Vacancies increased by 6 thousand in the year to January 2000 (19%), on a seasonally adjusted basis. Figure 4 plots the monthly stock and outflows of Job Vacancies in Scotland over the period April 1997 to January 2000. Recall that were the monthly gross outflows (vacancies being filled) are of the same order of magnitude to the outstanding stock of vacancies in each month, this indicates that employers on average do not find it difficult to fill posts because of a continuing slackness in the labour market. (Although employers may still find it difficult to recruit specific skills in particular locations). Note from Figure 4 that over the last few months the trend in the difference between the outstanding stock of vacancies and the gross outflows has continued to widen. For example, gross outflows in October 1999 were 24 thousand compared with a stock of vacancies of 35.6 thousand. In January 2000, gross outflows were 25.2 thousand compared with a stock of vacancies of 37.5 thousand. The continuing gap between outflows and the stock of existing vacancies, as indicated by Figure 4, suggests a tightening of the labour market in Scotland.

The implication for employers is that as the trend in employment continues to rise, recruitment becomes more difficult and they have to compete by offering higher wages, which stokes inflationary pressure within the economy. This then serves to reduce employment growth as employers find it more

expensive to take on workers. This is based on the theory that there is a rate of unemployment at which any subsequent lower rates will lead simply to higher inflation and no further employment gains. Recent commentators have suggested that the UK labour market could be approaching this level. Whether the Scottish labour market has reached (or is approaching) such a point is doubtful, but depends crucially on your definition of unemployment.

For instance, one method is to consider how close Scottish vacancies are with potential recruits. Thus it is estimated that for every vacancy advertised at Job Centres, there are two more advertised elsewhere, or not advertised at all. The January 2000 estimate for Job Centres vacancies was 37.5 thousand, which suggests that in total there are around 112 thousand unfilled vacancies in Scotland. With just over 123 thousand people claiming unemployment benefit in Scotland (Jan 2000), the potential gap between the number of people seeking work and the number of actual vacancies is of the order of magnitude of around 20,000. Moreover, note from Figure 5 the quite sharp narrowing in this differential, particularly over the last few months. However, recall that the claimant count provides a very narrow definition of the unemployed (see below), which underestimates the true number by around 2 per cent. The key point to stress here is that if employment continues to rise we would expect to see earnings growth rise, which may indicate that employment is reaching its upper level. If this is the case then government policies on encouraging people back into the labour market become crucially important if employment growth is to continue.

### **Unemployment – claimant count: stocks and flows**

Recent data on the seasonally adjusted unemployment stock, as measured by the claimant count, are presented in Table 5. The most recent data, of course, reflect the new rules governing eligibility to claim benefit which have been in place since 7 October 1996 when both unemployment benefit and unemployment-related income support were replaced by the Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Since this significantly reduces the period over which claimants are eligible for benefits, the effect is to reduce the number of registered unemployed, even in the absence of any change in underlying labour market conditions.

Over the year to January 2000 total claimant unemployment fell by about 12 thousand, from 135.8 thousand or by 9.1%. Male unemployment fell by 9.1 thousand over the year (8.7%), while

## **Quarterly Economic Commentary**

female unemployment fell by 3.3 thousand (10.5%).

Table 5 also presents recent flows into and out of the unemployment stock. In January 2000 inflows were, at 27.5 thousand, 2.5% lower than one year previous. Outflows were, at 28 thousand, 3.4% less than one year previously. If gross outflows were maintained at their October 1999 level unemployment stocks could turnover in less than 5 months.

In summary, the most recent labour market data for Scotland indicate that the Scottish labour market remains stable with continued employment and unemployment falling slightly.

TABLE 1 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SCOTTISH LABOUR MARKET

	1998/1999	Level (000s)	Rate (%)	Change on Year (level)	Sampling variability(000s)	Change on year (rate)	Sampling variability (%)	
Employment*	Jan-Mar	2,302	71.4	40	±57	1.5	±1.5	
	Apr-Jun	2,303	71.5	19	±57	1.1	±1.45	
	Jul-Sep	2,295	71.4	-19	±58	-0.1	±1.5	
	Oct-Dec	2,305	71.6	-17	±58	-0.4	±1.5	
	Jan-Mar	2,288	71.0	-14	±57	-0.4	±1.5	
	Apr-Jun	2,304	71.5	0	±57	-0.1	±1.5	
	Jul-Sep	2,321	72.2	36	±58	1.2	±1.5	
	Oct-Dec	2,316	71.9	16	±58	0.4	±1.5	
	ILO unemployment**	Jan-Mar	194	7.8	-22	±24	-0.9	±1.0
		Apr-Jun	188	7.6	-32	±25	-1.2	±1.0
Jul-Sep		192	7.7	-17	±24	-0.5	±0.9	
Oct-Dec		182	7.3	9	±22	0.4	±0.9	
Jan-Mar		187	7.6	-6	±24	-0.2	±0.9	
Apr-Jun		178	7.2	-7	±23	-0.3	±0.9	
Jul-Sep		175	7.0	-13	±23	-0.6	±0.9	
Oct-Dec		177	7.1	-15	±22	-0.6	±0.9	
Economically active*		Jan-Mar	2,496	77.5	18	±55	0.9	±1.4
		Apr-Jun	2,488	77.4	-13	±55	0.1	±1.4
	Jul-Sep	2,488	77.4	-35	±55	-0.6	±1.4	
	Oct-Dec	2,487	77.4	-9	±55	-0.1	±1.4	
	Jan-Mar	2,475	76.9	-21	±55	-0.6	±1.4	
	Apr-Jun	2,482	77.1	-7	±55	-0.9	±1.4	
	Jul-Sep	2,495	77.7	23	±57	0.8	±1.4	
	Oct-Dec	2,493	77.5	1	±57	0	±1.4	
	Economically inactive* of which:	Jan-Mar	708	22.5	-27	±55	-0.1	±1.4
		Apr-Jun	711	22.6	-3	±55	-0.6	±1.4
Jul-Sep		710	22.6	19	±55	0.1	±1.4	
Oct-Dec		711	22.6	1	±55	0.6	±1.4	
Jan-Mar		724	23.1	17	±55	-0.3	±1.4	
Apr-Jun		717	22.9	7	±55	-0.8	±1.4	
Jul-Sep		699	22.3	-26	±55	0	±1.4	
Oct-Dec		706	22.5	0	±56	0	±1.4	
Not wanting a job*		Jan-Mar	451		-46	±47		
		Apr-Jun	456		-13	±46		
	Jul-Sep	474		36	±47			
	Oct-Dec	497		42	±47			
	Jan-Mar	499		49	±47			
	Apr-Jun	484		37	±47			
Jul-Sep	485		-6	±48				
Oct-Dec			0	±49				

Wanting a job <sup>+</sup>	Jan-Mar	257		19	±35		
	Apr-Jun	255		10	±35		
	Jul-Sep	237		-16	±35		
	Oct-Dec	214		-41	±35		
	Jan-Mar	225		-32	±35		
	Apr-Jun	223		-28	±35		
	Jul-Sep	215		-22	±34		
	Oct-Dec	221		0	±34		
Claimant count (seasonally adjusted)	Apr 98	138.6	5.7	-24.8			
	July 98	137.4	5.6	-10.6			
	Oct 98	136.5	5.5	-5.7			
	Jan 99	135.3	5.5	-4.7			
	Apr 99	134.7	5.3				
	Jul 99	127.9		-9.6			
	Oct 99	125.8	5.2	-11		-0.5	
	Jan 00	123.4	5.1	-12.4		0.5	
Vacancies notified (seasonally adjusted)	Apr 98	23.3		-4.3			
	July 98	24.2		-2.3			
	Oct 98	24.8		-1.4			
	Jan 99	26.4		3.0			
	Apr 99	26.6		3.5			
	Jul 99	24.5		0.3			
	Oct 99	25.9		1.1			
	Jan 00	25.8		-0.7			

**Source:** ONS **Notes:** \* Levels are for those aged 16 and over, rates are for those of working age (16-59/64) \*\* Levels and rates are for those aged 16 and over. Rate is as a proportion of economically active <sup>+</sup> Levels and rates are for those of working age

TABLE 2 EMPLOYEE JOBS BY INDUSTRY

(SIC 1980) SIC 1992	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	Prod/Const (1-5) C-F	Production (1-4) C-E	Manuf. (2-4) D	Services (6-9) G-Q
	(All) Full-time	P/T	(All) Full-time	P/T					
Sep	1,043		943	404	1,986	594	464	405	1,362
Dec	1,043		949	416	1,992	589	462	403	1,376
1991	1,035		941	413	1,978	571	450	391	1,377
Jun	1,031	106	953	417	1,984	561	444	385	1,394
Sep	1,026 ~	103	954	414	1,984	567	444	385	1,394
Dec	1,037	85	976	427	2,013	560	435	377	1,425
1992	1,026	87	980	429	2,005	551	431	372	1,426
Jun	1,023	92	981	431	2,005	544	425	368	1,434
Sep	1,012	81	980	432	1,992	543	427	360	1,423
Dec	993	90	984 ~	442	1,976	529	416	359	1,421
1993	988	85	979	437	1,967	534	414	358	1,408
Jun	1000	91	992	445	1,991	531	417	364	1,433
Sep	1009	92	994	445	2,003	536	414	362	1,440
Dec	1001	95	996 ~	450	1,996	532	410	360	1,440
1994	893	88	525	431	1,937	472	347	305	1,430
Jun	899	92	535	436	1,962	482	353	313	1,443
Sep	899	95	538	435	1,967	483	355	316	1,447
Dec	888	95	528	434	1,945	479	357	316	1,431
1995	886	96	520	427 ~	1,928	466	352	312	1,427
Jun	887	95	525 ~	437	1,944	470	357	318	1,439
Sep	894	97	526	430	1,947	479	359	319	1,434
Dec	892	98	518	435	1,943	477	360	321	1,432
1996	879	94	514	428	1,915	468	355	316	1,413
Jun	884	87	545	459	1,974	468	320	316	1,468
Sep	893	88	545	462	1,988	474	353	318	1,473
Dec	847	120	521	500	1,988	459	355	314	1,498
1997	848 ~	117	532	475	1,972	454	353	310	1,488
Jun	(855)	(125)	(534)	(481)	(1,996)	(465)	(358)	(313)	(1,500)
Sep	(854) 873	(131) 106	(539) 548	(482) 459	(2,007) 1987	(462) 473	(357) 363	(311) 322	(1,510) 1479
Dec	(853) 873	(138) 114	(537) 545	(491) 473	(2,019) 2005	(466) 477	(355) 361	(309) 321	(1,518) 1494
1998	(851) 870	(135) 111	(542) 552	(492) 473	(2,020) 2007	(473) 483	(355) 360	(309) 320	(1,514) 1492
Jun	(858) 880	(133) 110	(544) 556	(491) 467	(2,026) 2013	(467) 478	(352) 358	(306) 317	(1,528) 1503
Sep	902	109	559	460	2,031	487	357	317	1,510
Dec	898	115	556	462	2,030	488	355	315	1,510
1999	892	111	547	461	2,011	473	346	306	1,505
Jun	887	113	552	463	2,015	467	342	303	1,514
Sep	890	120	569	452	2,031	460	343	300	1,536

Source:

ONS

Figures within ( ) reflect estimates prior to the Spring 1998 LFS indicates revision in series

TABLE 3 EMPLOYEE JOBS IN SCOTLAND BY INDUSTRY

SIC 1992	Agric. hunting forestry fishing	Mining & Quarrying	Manufac-turing	Elect, gas & water supply	Construct ion	Wh'salere tail trade & repairs	Hotels & rest.	Tr'port storage & comm.	Financial inter-mediation	Real Estate renting & bus. activities	Public admin. & defence: comp. Soc. Sec.	Educa-tion	Health & Social Work	Other comm, social & pers. activities
	A,B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O-Q
1994														
Mar	35	23	305	19	125	299	117	117	79	198	134	144	247	95
Jun	37	22	313	19	128	299	130	116	80	197	135	143	246	97
Sep	37	22	316	18	127	300	130	118	78	200	134	143	248	96
Dec	35	23	316	19	122	305	120	112	78	199	132	145	245	95
1995														
Mar	35	23	312	17	115	297	118	112	78	202	135	146	243	96
Jun	35	23	318	17	112	300	129	114	76	203	135	144	245	93
Sep	35	23	319	17	120	296	127	112	75	207	135	142	247	93
Dec	34	23	321	16	117	302	117	112	75	206	134	144	248	94
1996														
Mar	34	22	316	16	114	292	115	110	74	198	134	144	249	96
Jun	38	18	316	16	116	315	129	107	78	202	133	151	259	96
Sep	41	20	318	15	122	312	130	107	80	202	133	149	261	100
Dec	38	19	315	16	111	320	123	106	80	200	133	140	258	98
1997														
Mar	31	24	310	19	101	338	123	111	68	187	141	156	269	94
Jun	(31) 33	(27) 25	(313) 322	(19) 17	(107) 112	(352) 324	(123) 120	(110) 106	(71) 78	(184) 207	(141) 129	(155) 154	(271) 266	(93) 96
Sep	(35) 35	(28) 25	(311) 322	(19) 16	(105) 110	(353) 318	(129) 127	(111) 104	(71) 78	(185) 213	(141) 126	(153) 150	(272) 266	(95) 97
Dec	(34) 34	(26) 24	(309) 321	(19) 16	(112) 117	(361) 326	(125) 123	(111) 105	(71) 79	(188) 219	(141) 127	(154) 154	(272) 265	(95) 96
1998														
Mar	(32) 32	(27) 24	(309) 320	(19) 16	(118) 123	(354) 321	(125) 123	(111) 104	(75) 84	(187) 217	(141) 126	(155) 154	(272) 267	(96) 95
Jun	(31) 31	(28) 25	(306) 317	(19) 16	(115) 120	(356) 324	(126) 123	(114) 109	(75) 84	(188) 218	(141) 125	(159) 154	(273) 268	(97) 97
Sep	34	24	317	16	129	330	119	110	87	224	125	151	265	98
Dec	32	24	315	16	133	332	113	111	89	225	125	152	266	99
1999														
Mar	33	24	306	16	127	324	112	114	90	222	125	157	266	96
Jun	34	23	303	16	125	322	116	117	91	223	125	157	266	97
Sep	35	25	300	18	117	316	128	114	82	233	149	153	262	99

\* See notes to Table 1

Source: Department of Employment Gazette.

TABLE 4 JOB CENTRE VACANCIES

	Vacancies notified		Vacancies unfilled		Vacancy outflow		Of which: Vacancies filled by Jobcentres	
	Level	Change on month	Level	Change on month	Level	Change on month	Level	Change on month
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1997 May	26.5	-1.1	29.3	-0.3	26.9	-0.2	21.3	-2.2
June	26.1	-0.4	30.8	1.5	24.8	-2.1	19.6	-1.7
July	26.5	0.4	31.9	1.1	25.4	0.6	18.5	-1.1
August	25.8	-0.7	33.3	1.4	24.1	-1.3	16.9	-1.6
September	27.8	2.0	34.1	0.8	26.3	2.2	17.6	0.7
October	26.2	-1.6	35.3	1.2	25.6	-0.7	15.9	-1.7
November	25.1	-1.1	33.5	-1.8	26.2	0.6	15.0	-0.9
December	24.3	-0.8	32.5	-1.0	26.2	0.0	15.5	0.5
1998 January	23.4	-0.9	31.2	-1.3	24.9	-1.3	15.7	0.2
February	24.6	1.2	31.5	0.3	24.6	-0.3	14.9	-0.8
March	25.1	0.5	32.4	0.9	24.2	-0.4	15.3	0.4
April	23.1	-2.0	31.9	-0.5	23.6	-0.6	14.5	-0.8
May	22.9	-0.2	31.4	-0.5	23.4	-0.2	14.3	-0.1
June	24.2	1.3	30.8	-0.6	24.9	1.5	14.6	0.3
July	24.2	0.0	30.2	-0.6	24.9	0.0	14.7	0.1
August	24.0	-0.2	30.3	0.1	24.0	-0.9	14.3	-0.4
September	24.6	0.6	30.2	-0.1	24.4	0.4	15.1	0.8
October	24.8	0.2	30.6	0.4	24.9	0.5	15.9	0.8
November	24.2	-0.6	30.4	-0.2	24.1	-0.8	14.9	-1.0
December	25.0	0.8	31.0	0.6	24.7	0.6	15.6	0.7
1999 January	26.5	1.5	31.5	0.5	25.5	0.8	16.1	0.5
February	26.8	0.3	31.6	0.1	26.7	1.2	16.4	0.3
March	25.7	-1.1	31.3	-0.3	25.7	-1.0	15.4	-1.0
April	26.6	0.8	31.0	-0.3	26.8	1.1	17.0	1.6
May	24.0	-2.5	31.0	0.0	23.4	-3.4	14.6	-2.4
June	24.4	0.4	31.3	0.3	24.4	1.0	14.9	0.3
July	24.5	0.1	31.8	0.5	24.1	-0.3	15.1	0.2
August	24.6	0.1	32.1	0.3	24.7	0.6	15.5	0.4
September	26.0	1.4	33.1	1.0	24.8	0.1	16.2	0.7
October	25.9	-0.1	35.6	2.5	24.0	-0.8	16.0	-0.2
November	26.4	0.4	36.9	1	25.2	1.1	16.7	0.7
December	27.1	0.7	37.6	0.7	26.2	1.0	16.7	0
2000								
January	25.8	-1.3	37.5	-0.1	25.2	-1.0	16.3	-0.4
Change on year	-0.7		6		-0.9		0.2	
Change on year (%)	-2.6		19		-3.6		1.2	



TABLE 5 CLAIMANT COUNT*						
People	Claimant Count (seasonally adjusted)	Rate (%)	Inflows (standardised)	Outflows (standardised)	Claimant Count (unadjusted)	Rate (%)
	Level	2	Level	Level	Level	6
1997 October	147.1	6.0	28.8	30.7	142.1	5.8
November	143.4	5.8	28.9	31.3	138.7	5.6
December	139.3	5.7	29.9	32.9	139.0	5.7
1998 January	141.0	5.7	29.8	28.4	152.2	6.2
February	140.2	5.7	30.1	30.7	149.5	6.1
March	139.5	5.7	29.4	30.0	144.5	5.9
April	139.4	5.7	28.1	29.3	143.4	5.8
May	139.9	5.7	29.1	28.0	139.7	5.7
June	139.7	5.7	28.7	28.9	138.0	5.6
July	137.5	5.6	26.6	29.0	148.7	6.0
August	136.4	5.5	28.6	29.6	149.0	6.1
September	135.9	5.5	27.7	29.7	135.4	5.5
October	136.8	5.6	28.4	27.0	132.1	5.4
November	136.3	5.5	29.1	28.6	132.1	5.4
December	134.7	5.5	28.8	30.7	132.3	5.4
1999 January	135.3	5.5	28.0	29.0	133.0	5.4
February	136.5	5.6	28.9	28.6	145.4	6.0
March	137.3	5.6	30.2	28.9	142.8	5.9
April	134.7	5.5	28.2	30.9	139.0	5.7
May	134.5	5.5	30.2	30.2	134.7	5.5
June	133.6	5.5	29.4	30.0	133.7	5.5
July	127.9	5.3	27.3	34.4	138.7	5.7
August	126.4	5.2	30	31.9	137.3	5.6
September	126.9	5.2	29	28.3	126.4	5.2
October	125.8	5.2	28.2	28.4	121.1	5.0
November	124.7	5.1	28.6	29.4	120.0	4.9
December	123.3	5.1	28.2	29.7	119.8	4.9
2000 January	123.4	5.1	27.5	28.0	134.0	5.5
Change on month	0.1	0	-0.7	-1.7	14.1	0.6
Change %	0.1		-2.5	-5.7	11.8	
Change on year	-12.4	-0.5	-0.7	-1.0	-12.5	-0.5
Change %	-9.1		-2.5	-3.4	-8.6	

## Quarterly Economic Commentary

Men	1997 October	114.1	8.6	20.5	22.4	110.3	8.3
	November	111.4	8.4	20.8	22.8	108.0	8.1
	December	107.7	8.1	21.4	24.0	108.8	8.2
	1998 January	109.4	8.2	21.6	20.3	118.8	9.0
	February	108.5	8.2	21.6	22.2	115.9	8.7
	March	107.9	8.1	21.1	21.7	112.0	8.4
	April	107.9	8.1	20.0	21.1	110.8	8.4
	May	108.1	8.2	20.8	20.1	108.6	8.2
	June	107.5	8.1	20.1	20.7	106.4	8.0
	July	105.8	8.0	18.2	20.4	109.8	8.3
	August	105.2	7.9	19.9	20.5	109.7	8.3
	September	104.9	7.9	19.5	20.2	103.5	7.8
	October	105.3	7.9	20.0	19.5	101.6	7.7
	November	104.9	7.9	20.6	20.4	102.2	7.7
	December	103.4	7.8	20.4	22.1	103.3	7.7
	1999 January	103.9	7.8	19.8	20.7	113.3	7.8
	February	105.1	8.1	20.6	20.3	112.0	8.6
	March	105.9	8.1	21.8	20.5	110.4	8.5
	April	103.9	8.0	20.3	22.2	107.1	8.2
	May	104.1	8.0	21.7	21.5	104.8	8.0
	June	103.8	8.0	21.2	21.4	103.7	8.0
	July	101.3	7.8	20.2	23.1	105.1	8.1
	August	99.7	7.7	21.6	23.2	103.7	8.0
	September	98.8	7.6	20.9	21.9	97.1	7.5
	October	97.5	7.5	20.2	21.0	93.6	7.2
	November	96.3	7.4	20.6	21.5	93.0	7.1
	December	95.1	7.3	20.2	21.6	93.5	7.2
	2000 January	95.3	7.3	20.0	20.4	104.1	8.0
	Change on mnth	0.2	0	-0.2	-1.2	10.6	0.8
	Change %	0.2		-1.0	-5.6	11.3	
	Change on year	-9.1	-0.7	0	-0.2	-9.2	-0.7
	Change %	-8.7		0	-1.0	-8.1	

Quarterly Economic Commentary

<b>Women</b>	1997 October	33.0	2.9	8.3	8.3	31.8	2.8
	November	32.0	2.8	8.1	8.5	30.7	2.7
	December	31.6	2.8	8.5	8.9	30.2	2.7
	1998 January	31.6	2.8	8.2	8.1	33.4	2.9
	February	31.7	2.8	8.5	8.5	33.6	3.0
	March	31.6	2.8	8.3	8.3	32.5	2.9
	April	31.5	2.8	8.1	8.2	32.7	2.9
	May	31.8	2.8	8.3	7.9	31.1	2.7
	June	32.2	2.8	8.6	8.2	31.6	2.8
	July	31.7	2.8	8.4	8.6	39.0	3.4
	August	31.2	2.8	8.7	9.1	39.3	3.5
	September	31.0	2.7	8.2	9.5	31.9	2.8
	October	31.5	2.8	8.4	7.5	30.5	2.7
	November	31.4	2.8	8.5	8.2	30.2	2.7
	December	31.3	2.8	8.4	8.6	29.7	2.6
	1999 January	31.4	2.8	8.2	8.3	33.2	2.9
	February	31.4	2.8	8.3	8.3	33.4	3.0
	March	31.4	2.8	8.4	8.4	32.5	2.9
	April	30.8	2.7	8.1	8.7	31.9	2.8
	May	30.4	2.7	8.5	8.7	29.9	2.6
	June	29.8	2.6	8.2	0.6	30.1	2.7
	July	26.6	2.4	7.1	11.3	33.5	3.0
	August	26.7	2.4	8.4	8.7	33.7	3.0
	September	28.1	2.5	8.1	6.4	29.2	2.6
	October	28.3	2.5	8.0	7.4	27.5	2.4
	November	28.4	2.5	8.0	7.9	27.0	2.4
	December	28.2	2.5	8.0	8.1	26.4	2.3
	2000 January	28.1	2.5	7.5	7.6	29.9	2.6
	Change on mnth	-0.1	0	-0.5	-0.5	3.5	0.3
	Change %	-0.4		-6.3	-6.2	13.4	
Change on year	-3.3	-0.3	-0.7	-0.8	-3.3	-0.3	
Change %	-10.5		-8.5	-9.5	-10.0		

Source: Benefits Agency administrative system

Note: \* Count of claimants of unemployment-related benefit  
Denominator = employee jobs + self-employment jobs + Government-supported trainees + HM Forces + claimants of unemployment-related benefits

**Figure 1 - LFS Employment in Scotland for those aged 16 and over.**

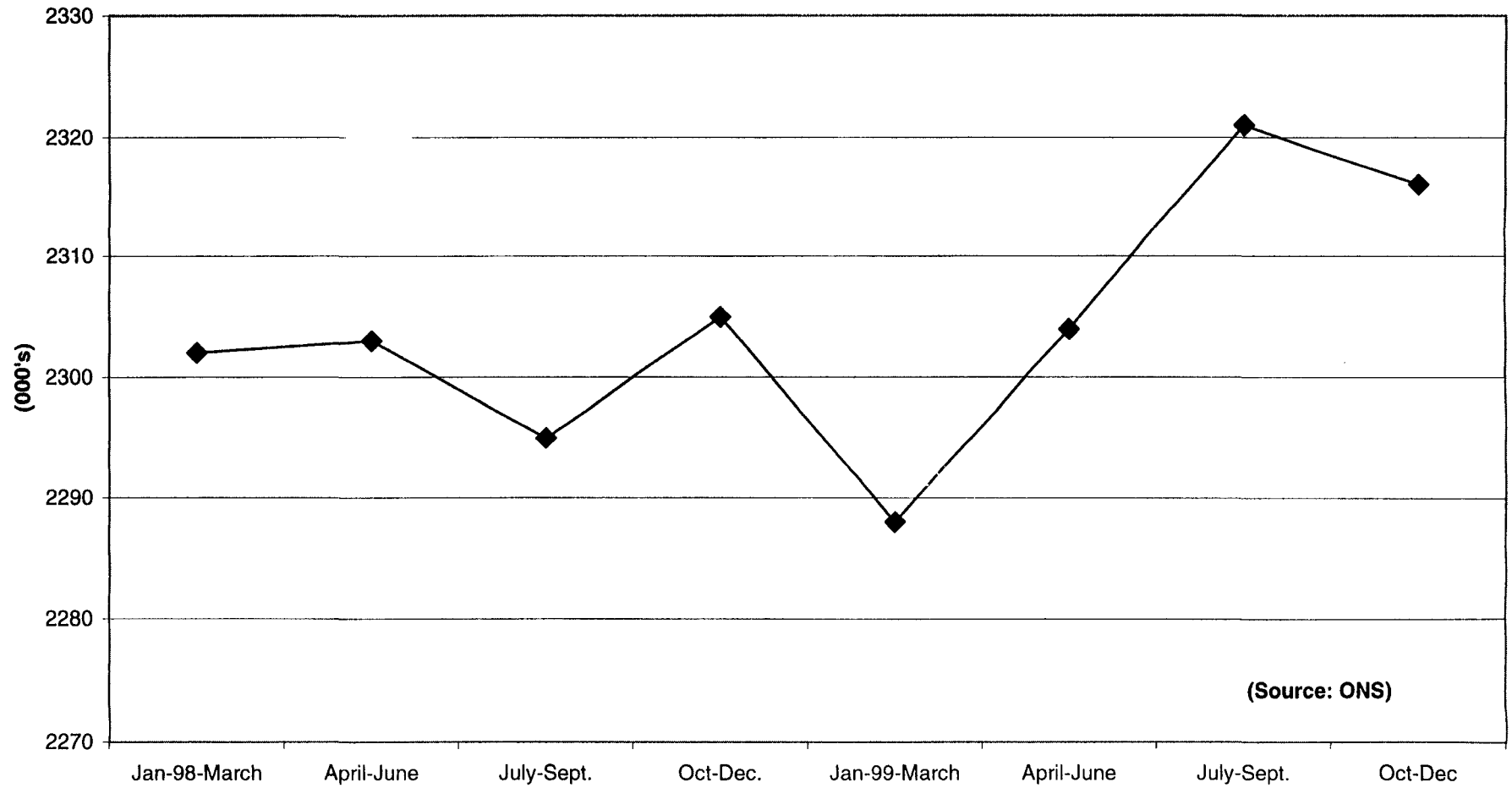
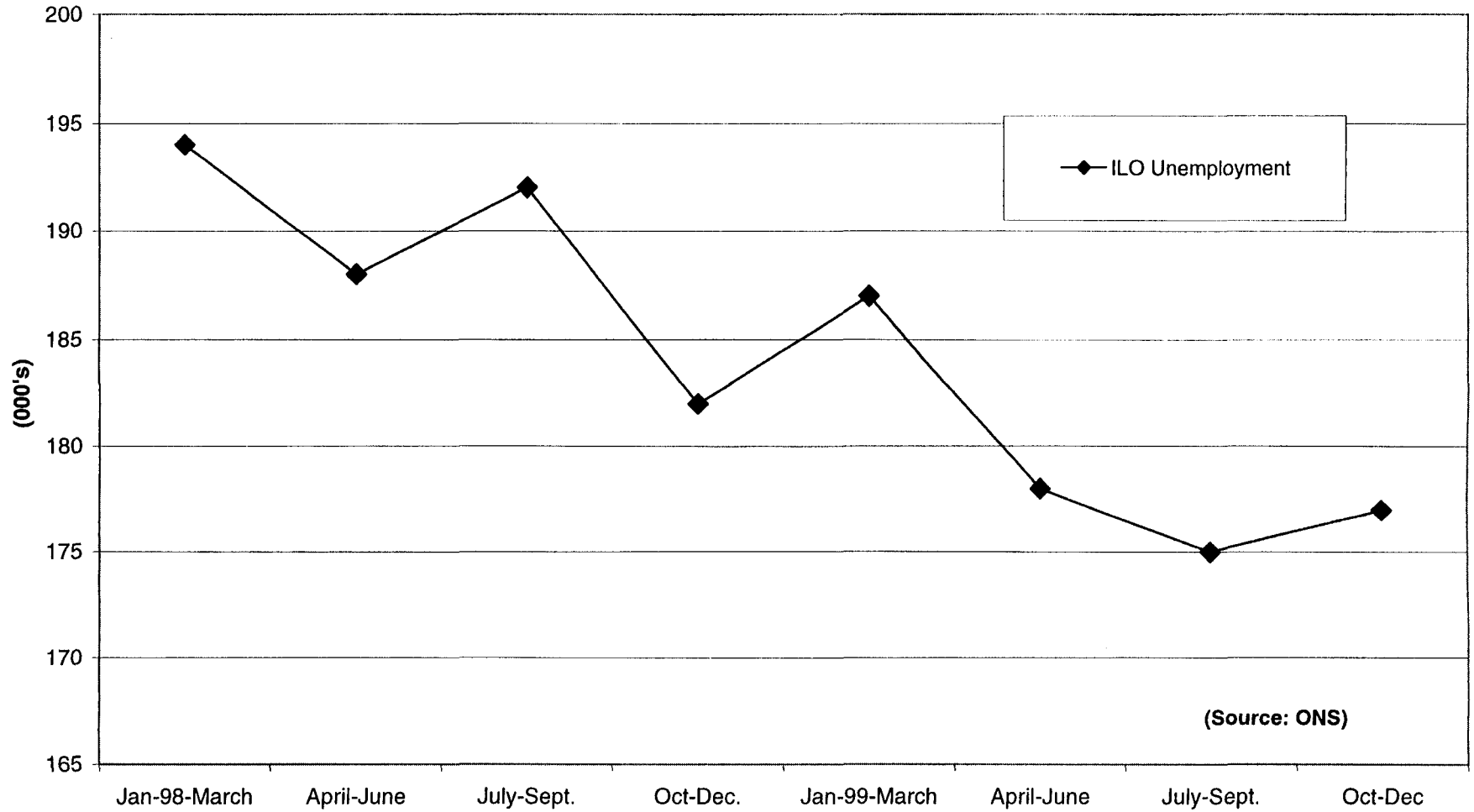
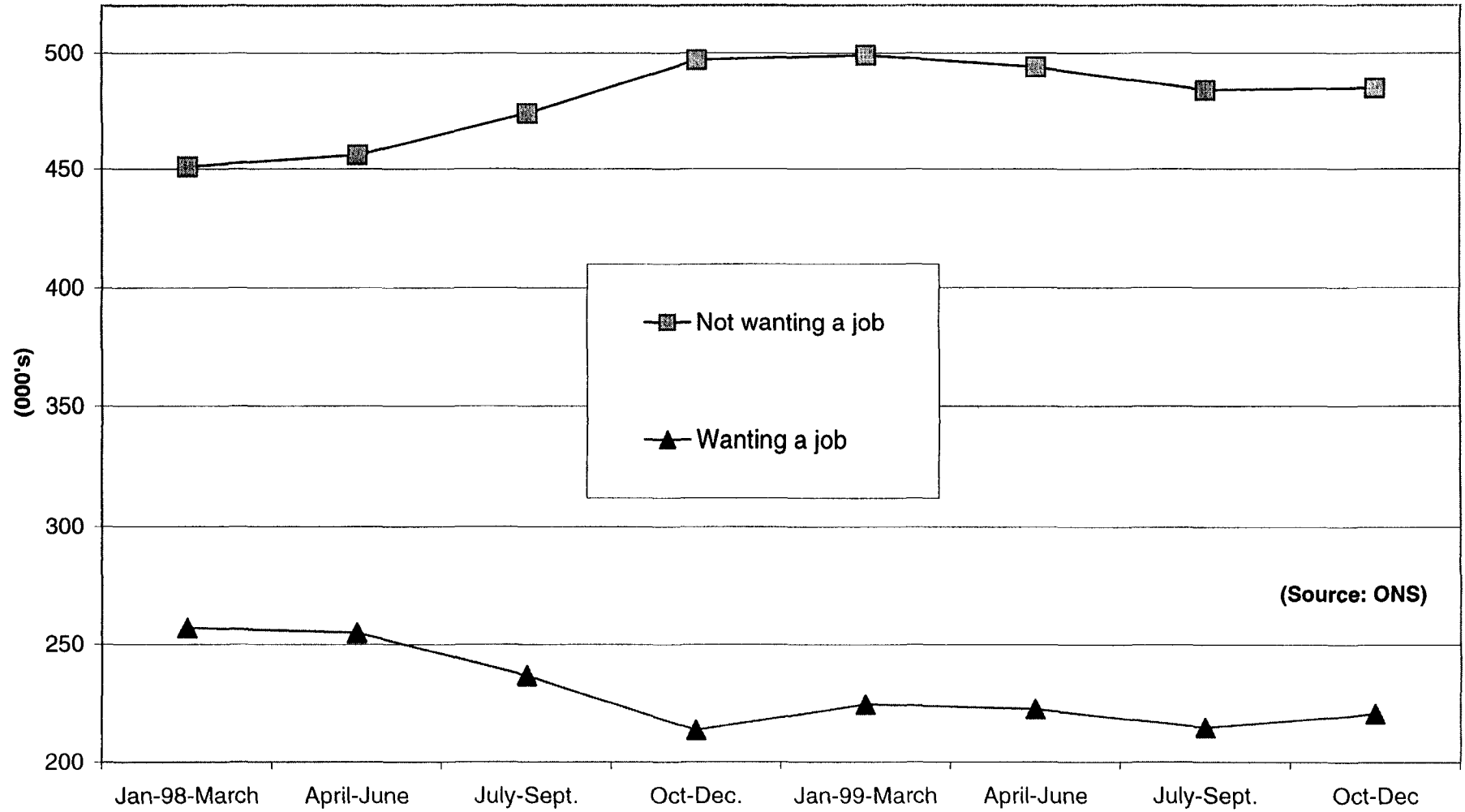


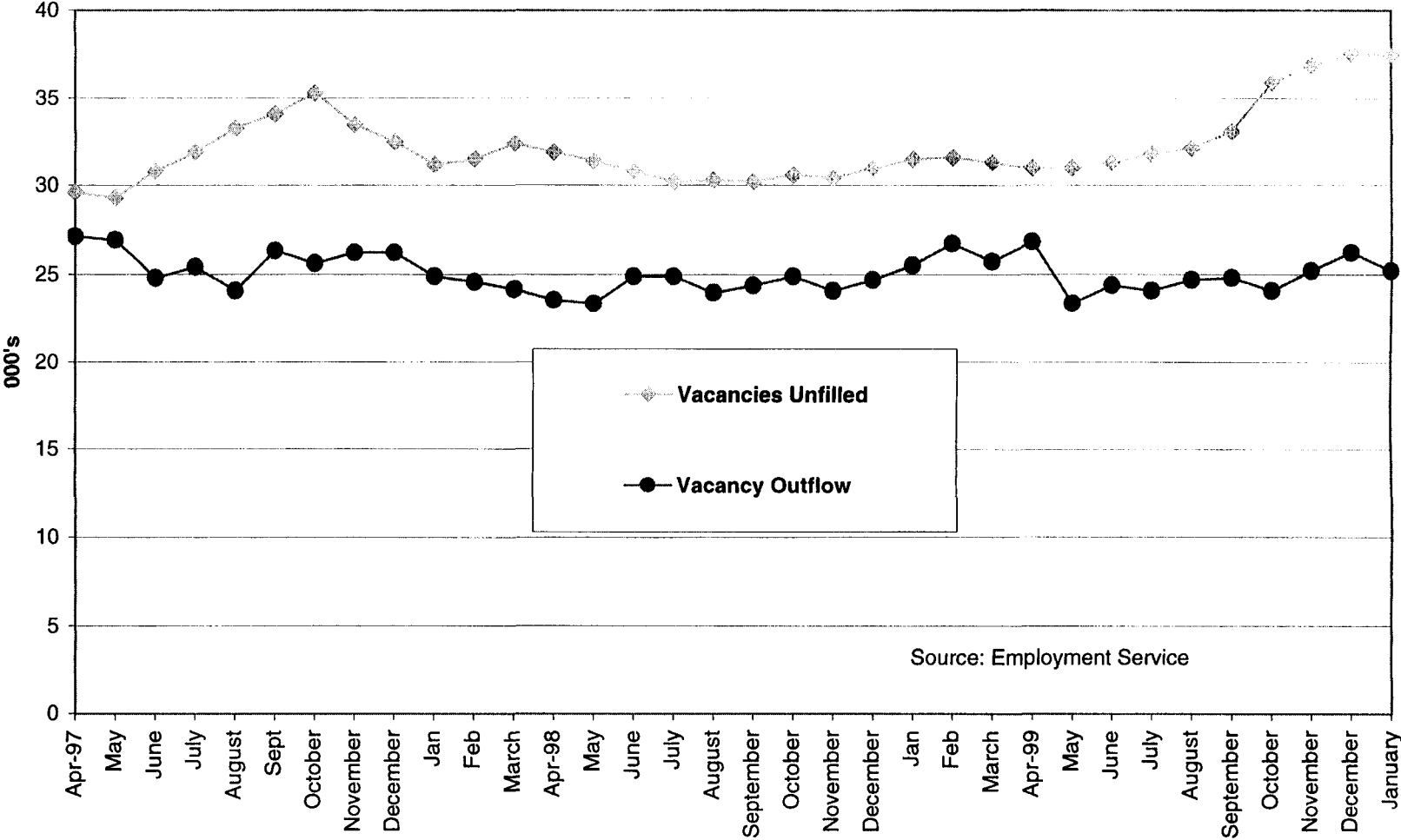
Figure 2 - ILO Unemployment in Scotland for those aged 16 and over.



**Figure 3 - Composition of the economically inactive in Scotland over the period January 1998 to September 1999.**



**Figure 4 - Monthly stock and outflows of Job Vacancies in Scotland for the period April 1997 to July 1999**



Source: Employment Service

**Figure 5 - Comparisons of Scottish Unemployment (Claimant Count) against the estimated level of Scottish vacancies\*.**

