

## Summary

On 30 September 2016:

- on a **seasonally adjusted**<sup>1</sup> basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was<sup>2</sup>:
  - 120 higher than the previous month
  - 110 higher than the average for the preceding three months
  - 130 lower than a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 1,430; this total is 90 higher than in the previous month and 130 lower than a year earlier
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 290; this total is 40 higher than the previous month and 90 higher than a year earlier
- there were 420 individuals registered as ASW but engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 120 individuals also classified as long-term ASW
- key factors behind the increase in the total number of people registered as ASW in the latest month, and also in the number of long-term ASW, were the changes in Income Support criteria relating to parents with young children (introduced in September 2015) and to Long term Incapacity Benefit (effective May 2016)

## Introduction

The Social Security Department compiles data on people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) in Jersey. The Statistics Unit independently analyses this anonymised data and publishes a monthly report.

It is important to note that unemployed Jersey residents are not required to register as ASW. There are however certain requirements for those in receipt of an income support claim. Changes to the income support criteria, as well as administrative decisions within Social Security, can have an impact on the total numbers registered as ASW (see [Appendix A](#) for more details). On a more historical basis, the introduction of Income Support in 2008 led to the inclusion of a greater number of individuals in the registered figures.

The numbers shown therefore constitute an informative set of indicators demonstrating the level of individuals registered as actively seeking work in the Island at a given point in time.

The internationally comparable unemployment rate is defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This includes both the registered unemployed and those not registered but still seeking work.

The ILO unemployment rate for Jersey is measured by the Annual Social Survey, the Household Spending and Income Survey and the Census. In recent years, the ILO unemployment rate for Jersey has been:

- 4.7% in March 2011, measured by the 2011 Jersey Census, corresponding to 2,570 people being unemployed and looking for work in March 2011
- 5.7% in June 2013, measured by the 2013 Jersey Annual Social Survey, corresponding to 3,200 people being unemployed and looking for work in June 2013
- 4% in the period of April 2014 to May 2015, measured by the 2014/2015 Household Spending and Income Survey, corresponding to 2,500 people being unemployed and looking for work

<sup>1</sup> Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique, which enables examination of the underlying behaviour in a series of data by removing variations associated with the time of year, e.g. Christmas, Easter, academic year. See [Notes](#) for more details.

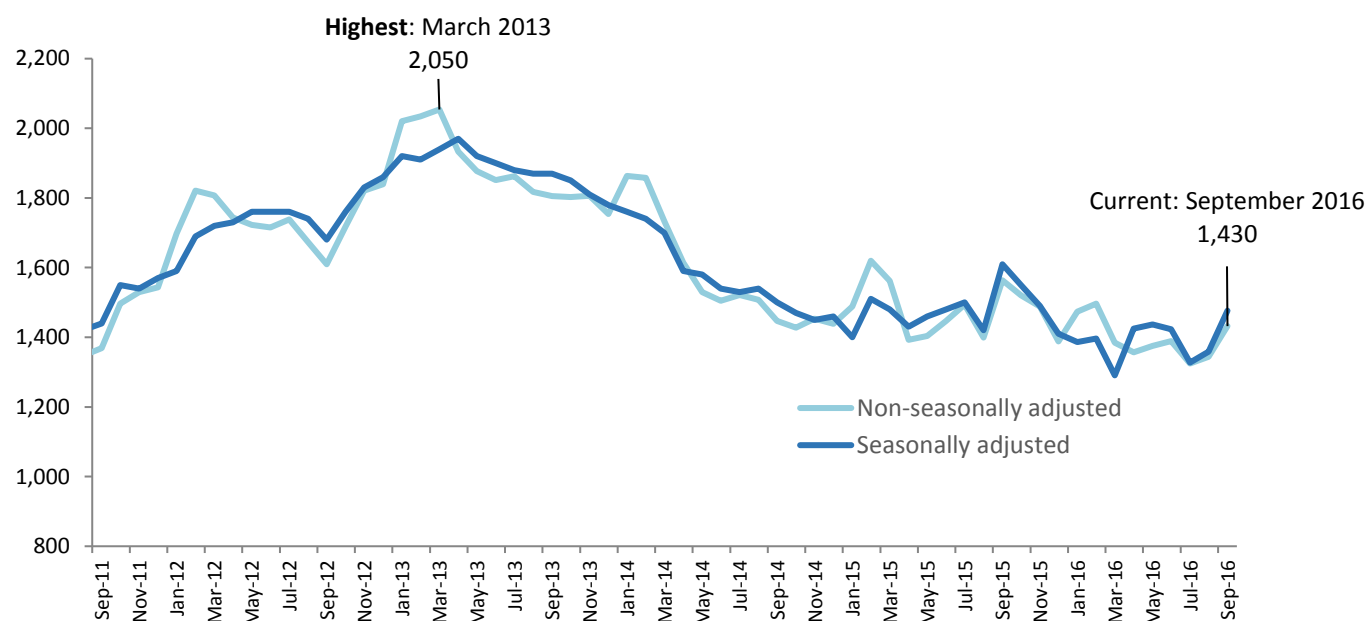
<sup>2</sup> ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

## Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 30 September 2016, 1,430 people were registered with the Social Security Department as actively seeking work (ASW). Over four-fifths (83%) of individuals registered as ASW on this date (corresponding to 1,180 people) were receiving Income Support<sup>3</sup>.

Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since September 2011 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in September 2016 was 90 higher than in the previous month and 130 lower than twelve months earlier (September 2015).

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, September 2011 – September 2016



The seasonally adjusted series of the total registered as ASW, in which seasonal and calendar effects are removed, is also shown on Figure 1. From this perspective, the total number of people registered as ASW in September 2016 was:

- 120 higher than the previous month, August 2016
- 110 higher than the mean for the preceding three-month period, June 2016 to August 2016
- 130 lower than a year earlier, September 2015

In respect of both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals, it should be noted, when making comparisons over time, that changes to the income support criteria, as well as certain administrative changes within Social Security, can result in changes in the total number of people being considered as ASW in a particular month.

Particularly relevant to the increases observed in both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals for September 2016 are:

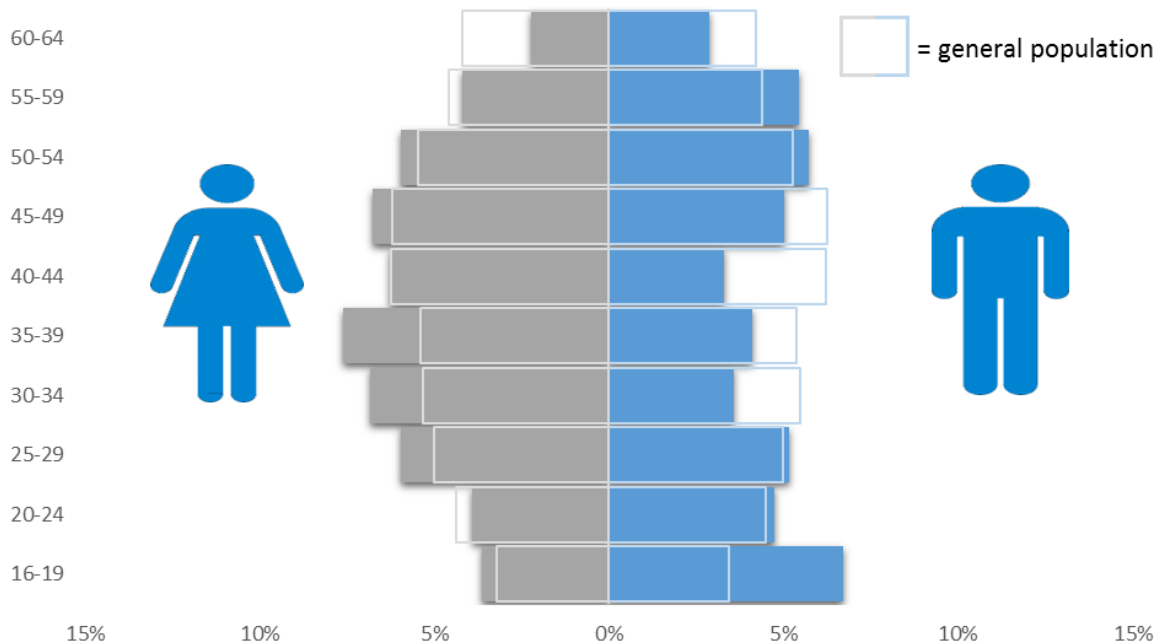
- the change in Income Support criteria (introduced in September 2015) relating to parents with young children of school or nursery age (see [Appendix A](#)); it is anticipated that these criteria will introduce an increase in the number of people registering as ASW around the start of each school year
- in May 2016 the threshold for the cumulative Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA) percentage rate was increased from 40% to 45%. Any individuals below this threshold, in receipt of an Income Support claim, are required to register as ASW. The number of additional individuals that have been registered as Actively Seeking Work as a result of this change is approximately 90 (see [Appendix A](#) for more details).

<sup>3</sup> The total number of adults receiving Income Support and not working will be greater than this figure, which represents the number of people receiving Income Support who were registered as ASW on 30 September 2016.

## Registered ASW by age and gender

On 30 September 2016, more people registered as ASW were female (760 individuals), than male (670 individuals).

Figure 2 – Age and gender distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population<sup>4</sup>, September 2016

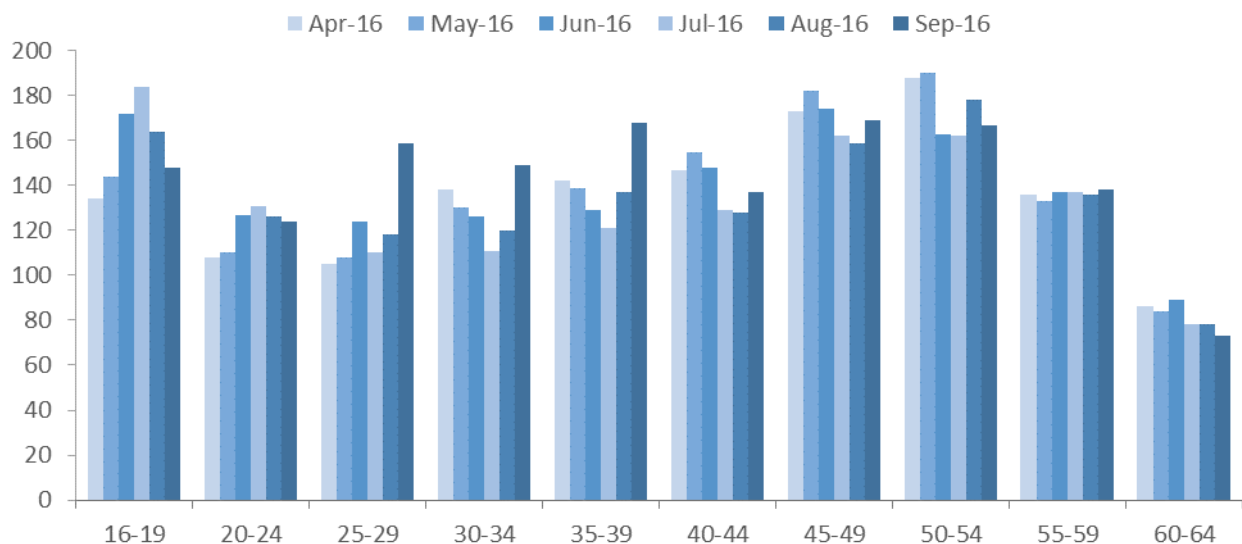


In respect of the breakdown of gender by age group:

- there were more males registered as ASW than females in both the youngest (16-24) and the oldest (55-64) age groups
- there were more females than males registered in all age groups ranging from ages 30 to 54
- the age groups with the largest proportional gender difference were the 35-39 and 40-44 age groups, where the number of females registered as ASW was almost double the number of males

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from April 2016 to September 2016.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, April 2016 – September 2016



<sup>4</sup> At the 2011 Jersey census

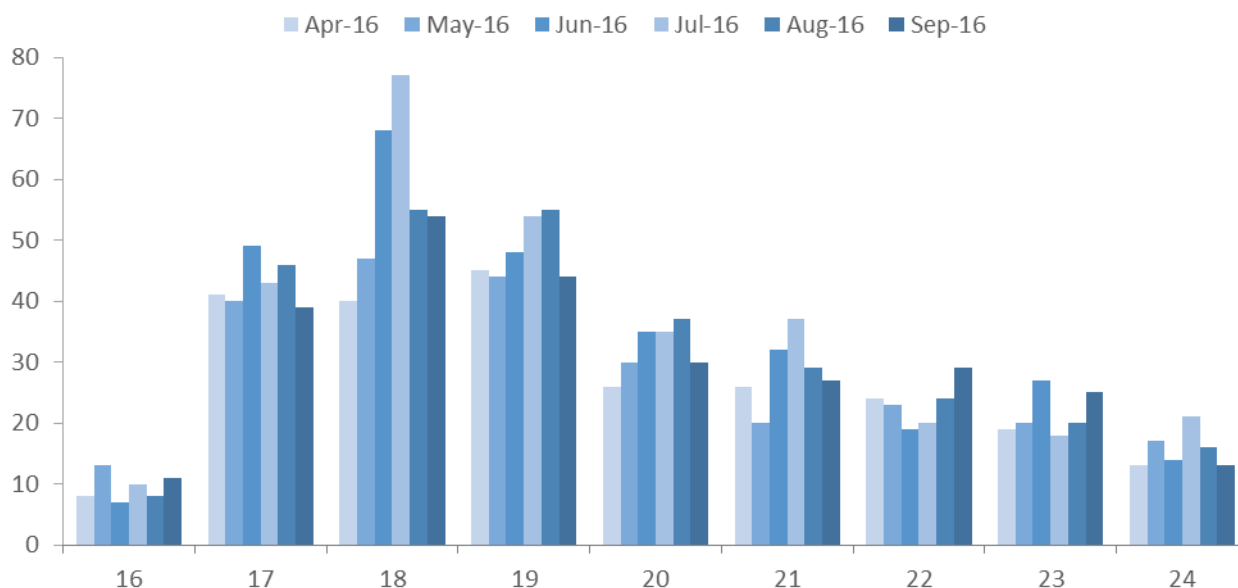
On 30 September 2016, almost a fifth (19%) of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (270 individuals); around one in ten (10%) of the total were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (150 individuals).

In the latest month the 25-29 age group recorded an increase of around 40 individuals, and the 30-34 and 35-39 age groups each recorded increases of around 30 individuals.

All other age groups recorded small changes (10 or less) in the number registered as ASW.

Figure 4 shows the age distribution for people below 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the latest six months, from April 2016 to September 2016. Of those people registered as ASW at the end of September 2016, 80 were on the Advance to Work scheme.

Figure 4 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, April 2016 – September 2016

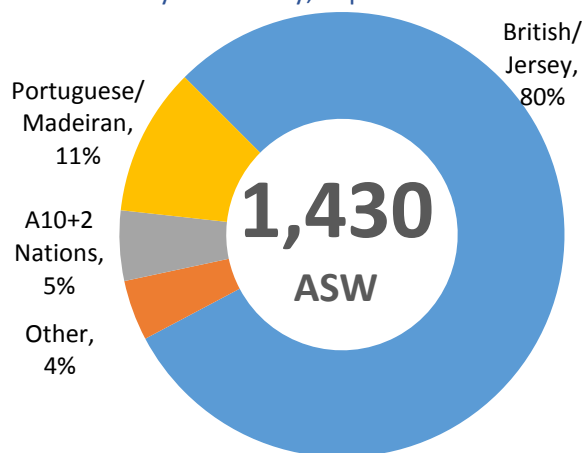


### Registered ASW by nationality

On 30 September 2016:

- four-fifths (80%) of people registered as ASW were of British / Jersey nationality<sup>5</sup>; the total was essentially unchanged compared with the previous month
- there were 150 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (11% of total), essentially unchanged compared with the previous month
- there were 70 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)<sup>6</sup> nations registered as ASW, an increase of 10 such individuals compared with the previous month

Figure 5 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, September 2016



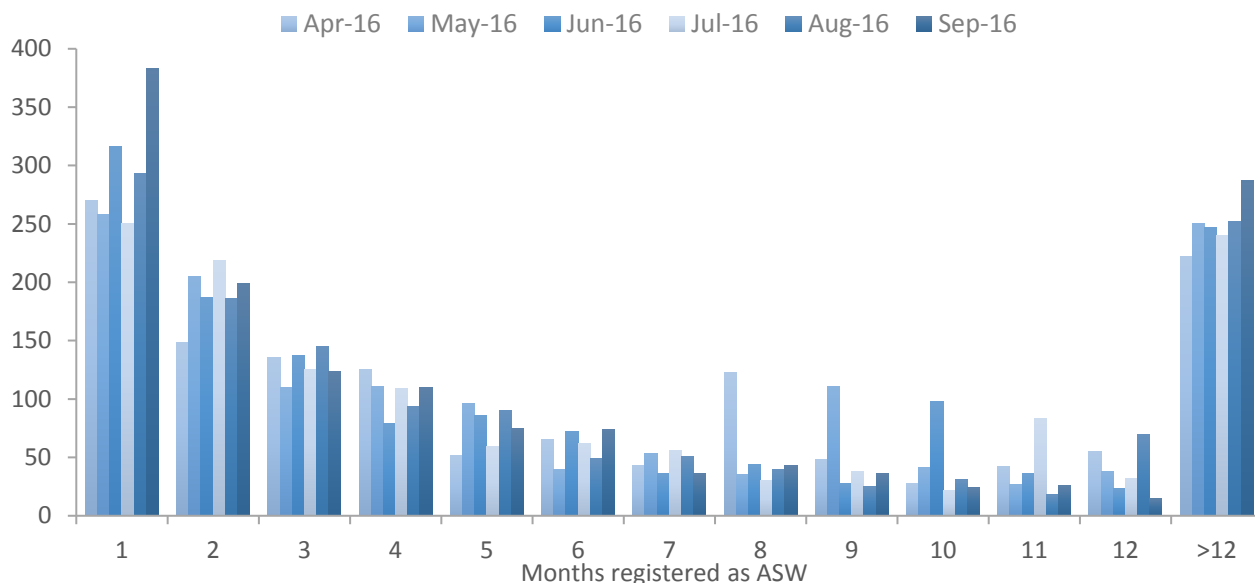
<sup>5</sup> Nationality recorded by the Social Security Department, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

<sup>6</sup> The twelve countries which joined (“gained accession to”) the European Union in May 2004 (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and February 2007 (Bulgaria and Romania).

## Registered ASW duration

Almost half (49%) of all people registered as ASW on 30 September 2016 had been registered for three months or less - see Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), April 2016 – September 2016



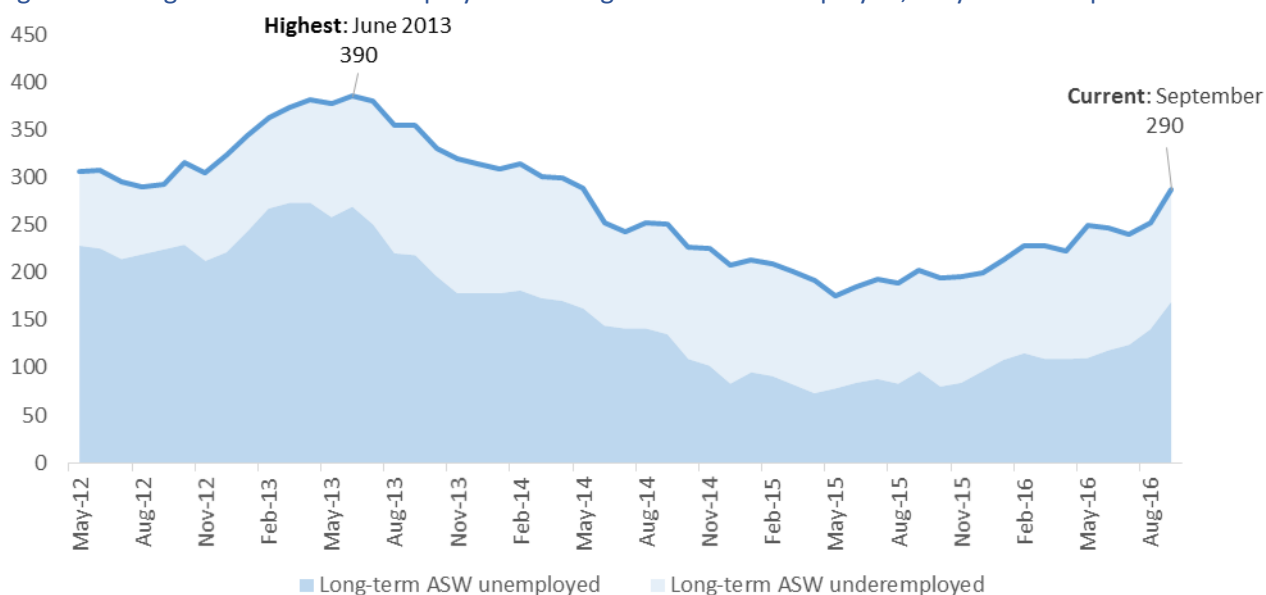
The number of new registrations in September 2016 (380 people) was 90 higher than that recorded in the previous month (August 2016) and 110 lower than a year earlier (September 2015).

## Long-term Registered ASW

On 30 September 2016, there were 290 people who had been registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for one in five (20%) of the total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was 40 higher than the previous month (August 2016) and 90 higher than twelve months earlier (September 2015).

It is worthy of comment that a key factor behind the increase in the number of long-term ASW in the latest month were the changes in Income Support criteria relating to parents with young children that came into effect in September 2015 (see [Appendix A](#) for more details).

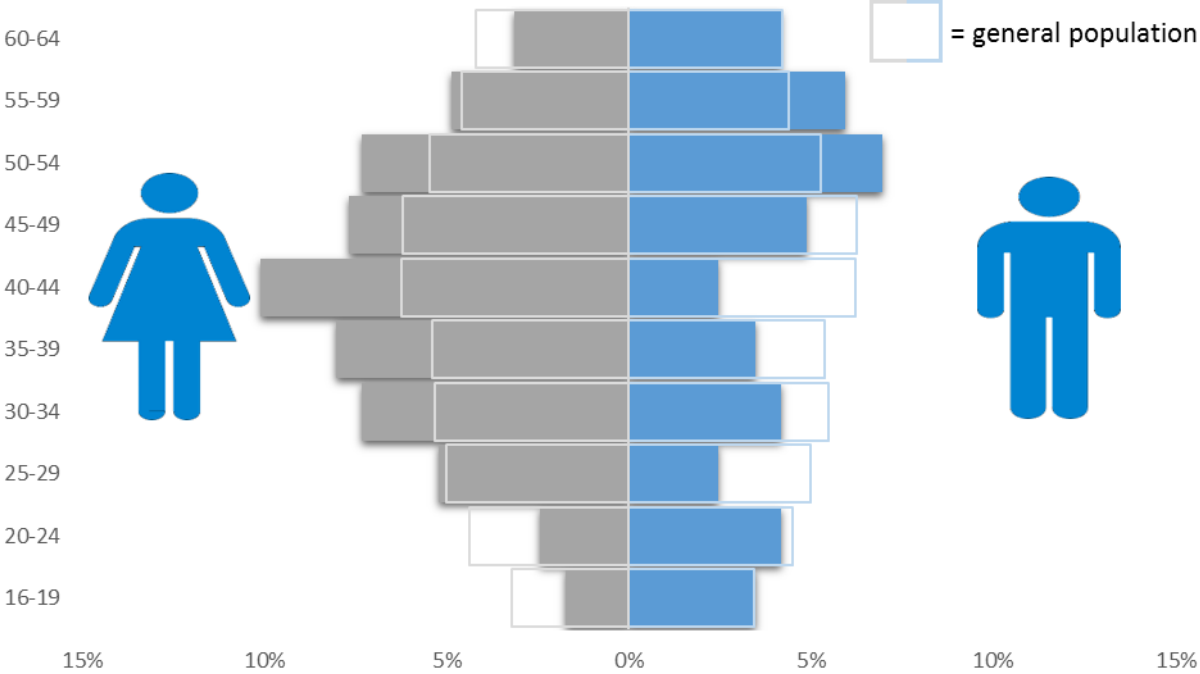
Figure 7 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, May 2012 – September 2016



Of the 290 individuals who were registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 120 were engaged in some form of paid employment but were classified as underemployed<sup>7</sup>.

Figure 8 shows the age and gender distribution of the long-term ASW in September 2016.

Figure 8 – Age and gender distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population<sup>8</sup>, September 2016



### Industry

Individuals working in some industries of the economy, notably in the Finance sector, often seek employment through private agencies and do not register with the Social Security Department. Such industries will therefore tend to be under-represented in the ASW numbers.

The last industry of employment was recorded for around nine out of ten people registered as ASW. On 30 September 2016:

- almost a quarter (22%) were previously employed in ‘Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales’
- more than a sixth (18%) were previously employed in ‘Miscellaneous professional & domestic services’
- a sixth (16%) were previously employed in ‘Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business’

<sup>7</sup> See [ASW registered underemployment](#) – page 7 of this report

<sup>8</sup> As recorded by the 2011 Jersey Census.

## Registered ASW underemployment

Individuals who are working fewer hours than they would like or who would like to change their current working situation are classified as underemployed. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) provides two definitions of underemployment<sup>9</sup>:

- *time-related underemployed*, which is due to insufficient hours of work
- *inadequate employment situations*, which are due to other limitations in the labour market, which limit the capacities and well-being of workers

In Jersey, individuals who are in receipt of Income Support are required to work at least 35 hours per week, unless exempt from full-time work. Those who do not meet this requirement must register as Actively Seeking Work. The total ASW figure therefore includes individuals who are working less than the 35 hours per week required under the terms of Income Support.

The number of ASW underemployed also includes:

- individuals who are on the Foundations programme and engaged in paid work of 32 hours per week (there were 50 such individuals in September 2016)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving income support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 50 such individuals in September 2016)

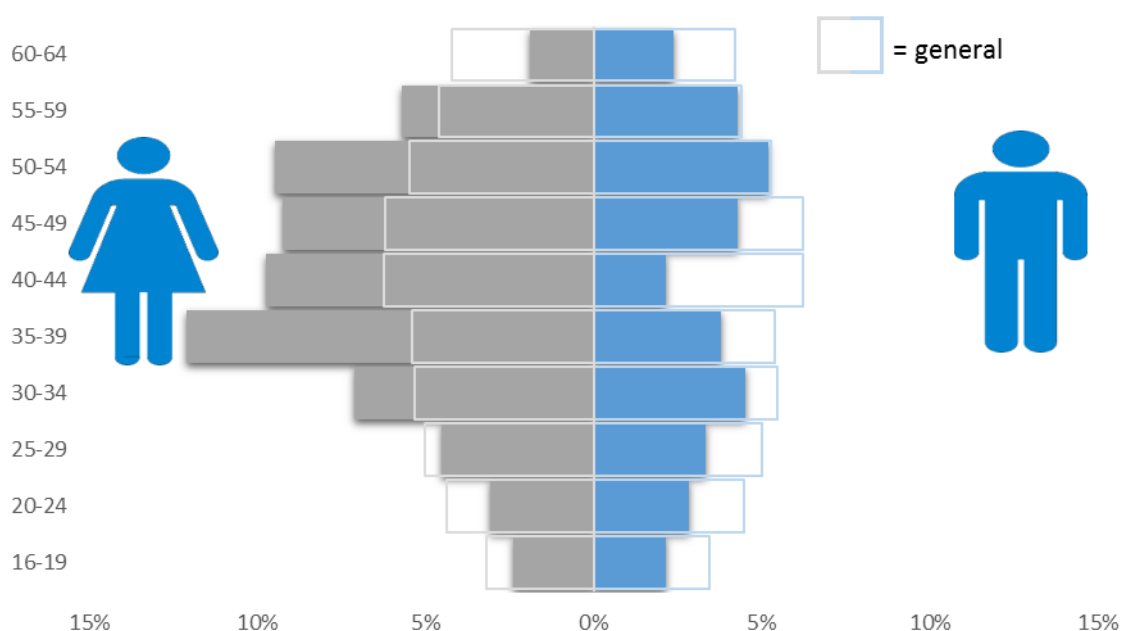
In September 2016, 29% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; the numbers of such individuals in each of the last twelve months are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, September 2015 – September 2016

	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16
<b>Individuals</b>	460	460	460	410	400	430	420	460	520	480	420	430	420
<b>Percentage of total ASW</b>	29%	30%	31%	30%	27%	29%	30%	34%	38%	35%	32%	32%	29%

Figure 9 shows the age and gender distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; over half (54%) were aged 40 years or over and almost two-thirds (65%) were female.

Figure 9 - Age and gender distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population<sup>10</sup>, September 2016



<sup>9</sup> International Labour Organisation: *Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations*.

<sup>10</sup> At the 2011 Jersey census

## Notes

### Context

The number of people registered as ASW includes people who are on the Advance to Work, Advance Plus and Work Right schemes. The ASW total will also include individuals who are working fewer than the 35 hours per week required under the terms of Income Support; such individuals will simultaneously be working and registered as actively seeking work.

When placing the figures contained in this report in a longer-term historical context it should be recognised that there have been significant changes in the criteria relating to registered ASW in Jersey in recent years. In particular, the introduction of Income Support in 2008 led to greater numbers of individuals who were actively seeking work being included in the registered figures.

People who are registered as actively seeking work receive the support of one of the government employment schemes, which come under the administration of Back to Work:

- Advance to Work – for jobseekers aged 16 - 24 years
- Advance Plus – for jobseekers aged 20 - 65 years with an industry-specific interest
- Work Right – for jobseekers with barriers to employment or who have been registered as ASW for 52 weeks or longer
- Work Zone – for registered jobseekers who are closer to employment
- Ready for Work – for newly registered jobseekers or jobseekers without a dedicated advisor

In addition to the above, some individuals registered as ASW will be assisted by the Jersey Employment Trust (JET), a registered charity whose role is to assist people with a disability to prepare, find and maintain employment. On 30 September 2016 there were 120 such individuals being assisted by JET.

As well as the development and expansion of the above schemes, Back to Work is responsible for:

- the Employment Incentive
- a dedicated Back To Work Recruitment Team
- industry and employer specific initiatives

The aim of Back to Work is to increase access to job opportunities for locally qualified people who are registered as actively seeking work by supporting jobseekers and building a partnership with employers to provide sustainable job opportunities.

### Seasonal Adjustment

The Jersey employment market exhibits a number of seasonal effects that can affect the total number of people registered as actively seeking work. In order to enable meaningful month-on-month comparison, the actively seeking work totals are seasonally adjusted using the Eurostat Demetra software package.

Seasonal adjustment is based on ongoing estimation of seasonal trends and as such is subject to revision. In order to ensure a reasonably stable series of data for the user, the seasonal model is revised once a year, in January, at which point the entire historic series will potentially be revised. These revisions are welcome as they derive from an expanded set of data and lead to better estimates of the seasonal pattern. Throughout the calendar year the most recent model will be utilised and therefore the monthly figures will not be subject to revision.

All other figures presented in this report, are based on the non-seasonally adjusted measures, unless otherwise stated.

*Statistics Unit*  
*11 October 2016*



## Appendix A

### Changes in ASW Recording / Income Support Criteria

Whilst there is no legal requirement for unemployed residents of Jersey to register as actively seeking work with the Social Security Department, there are certain requirements to register for those in receipt of income support payments. Changes to these requirements as well as certain administrative changes within Social Security can result in changes in the total number of people being considered as ASW. The most recent such changes are as follows:

Date of Change	Description	Approximate Impact
May 2016 to September 2016	The threshold for the cumulative Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA) percentage rate was increased from 40% to 45%. Any individuals below this threshold, in receipt of an Income Support claim, are required to register as ASW. This change was implemented gradually over a period of 5 months as individuals that fell within this revised criteria were assessed and then subsequently registered as ASW.	+ 90 registered ASW
September 2015	<p>Change in the Income Support criterion relating to parents with young children of school or nursery age. Prior to 1 September 2015 parents on income support, who were responsible for a child, had no job seeking requirements until the child turned 5 years of age, and therefore were not required to be registered as Actively Seeking Work.</p> <p>From 1 September 2015 parents where the youngest child on their income support claim is turning 5 years of age in the current academic year are now classified as jobseekers and are required to seek 25 hours of work per week – this resulted in approximately <b>80</b> additional individuals registered as ASW.</p> <p>In addition, parents where the youngest child on their income support claim is turning 4 years of age in the current academic year are also now classified as jobseekers and are required to seek 15 hours of work per week – this resulted in approximately <b>140</b> additional individuals registered as ASW.</p>	<p>+ 220 registered ASW</p> <p>In addition, it is anticipated that this change of criteria will result in an additional seasonal impact on the reported ASW numbers at the beginning of each subsequent school year as all parents that fall into this revised criteria will be required to register as ASW on that date (while in the past this would be spread throughout the school year).</p>
May 2015	Change of classification for certain self-employed individuals who are seeking further employment. This administrative change involved the reclassification of <b>70</b> such individuals who are now recorded as ASW.	+ 70 registered ASW
February 2015	The threshold for the cumulative Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA) percentage rate was increased from 35% to 40%. As any individuals below this threshold, in receipt of an Income Support claim, are required to register as ASW, the raising of the LTIA threshold resulted in an additional <b>90</b> individuals being registered as ASW at the end of February 2015 compared with the previous month.	+ 90 registered ASW
April 2014	April 2014 – Prior to this point, the end-of-month ASW figures published by the Statistics Unit were based on data compiled by the Social Security Department on (or around) the 15th of the following month. From the April 2014 report onwards the end-of-month figures published are based on data compiled on (or around) the 1st of the following month. Moving the data compilation date forward by two weeks introduced a small upward systematic shift (of approximately <b>20</b> individuals) in the number of people classified as ASW at each end-of-month.	+ 20 registered ASW

## Appendix B

Number of individuals registered as ASW, January 2011 – September 2016<sup>11</sup>

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
<b>2011</b>	<b>Jan</b>	910	480	1,390	1,280	<b>2014</b>	<b>Dec</b>	1,030	720	1,750	1,780
	<b>Feb</b>	960	510	1,470	1,330		<b>Jan</b>	1,090	770	1,860	1,760
	<b>Mar</b>	850	460	1,310	1,270		<b>Feb</b>	1,080	780	1,860	1,740
	<b>Apr</b>	870	490	1,350	1,290		<b>Mar</b>	980	760	1,730	1,700
	<b>May</b>	820	520	1,340	1,370		<sup>(c)</sup> <b>Apr</b>	900	720	1,610	1,590
	<b>Jun</b>	790	500	1,300	1,350		<b>May</b>	840	700	1,530	1,580
	<b>Jul</b>	800	550	1,350	1,380		<b>Jun</b>	790	710	1,510	1,540
	<b>Aug</b>	820	530	1,350	1,420		<b>Jul</b>	780	740	1,520	1,530
	<b>Sep</b>	850	520	1,370	1,440		<b>Aug</b>	780	720	1,510	1,540
	<b>Oct</b>	920	570	1,500	1,550		<b>Sep</b>	750	700	1,450	1,500
	<b>Nov</b>	960	580	1,530	1,540		<b>Oct</b>	760	670	1,430	1,470
	<b>Dec</b>	960	580	1,540	1,570		<b>Nov</b>	780	680	1,450	1,450
<b>2012</b>	<b>Jan</b>	1,050	650	1,700	1,590	<b>Dec</b>	760	680	1,440	1,460	
	<b>Feb</b>	1,130	690	1,820	1,690	<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan</b>	790	700	1,490	1,400
	<b>Mar</b>	1,100	700	1,810	1,720	<sup>(c)</sup> <b>Feb</b>	870	760	1,620	1,510	
	<b>Apr</b>	1,060	680	1,740	1,730	<b>Mar</b>	820	740	1,560	1,480	
	<b>May</b>	1,040	680	1,720	1,760	<b>Apr</b>	710	680	1,390	1,430	
	<b>Jun</b>	1,020	700	1,720	1,760	<sup>(c)</sup> <b>May</b>	730	670	1,400	1,460	
	<b>Jul</b>	1,020	720	1,740	1,760	<b>Jun</b>	730	720	1,450	1,480	
	<b>Aug</b>	1,020	650	1,670	1,740	<b>Jul</b>	770	720	1,490	1,500	
	<b>Sep</b>	970	650	1,610	1,680	<b>Aug</b>	710	690	1,400	1,420	
	<b>Oct</b>	1,020	700	1,720	1,760	<sup>(c)</sup> <b>Sep</b>	720	840	1,560	1,610	
	<b>Nov</b>	1,090	730	1,820	1,830	<b>Oct</b>	720	800	1,520	1,550	
	<b>Dec</b>	1,100	740	1,840	1,860	<b>Nov</b>	710	780	1,490	1,490	
<b>2013</b>	<b>Jan</b>	1,210	810	2,020	1,920	<b>Dec</b>	670	720	1,390	1,410	
	<b>Feb</b>	1,210	820	2,030	1,910	<b>2016</b>	<b>Jan</b>	730	740	1,470	1,390
	<b>Mar</b>	1,230	820	2,050	1,940	<b>Feb</b>	750	750	1,500	1,400	
	<b>Apr</b>	1,140	800	1,930	1,970	<b>Mar</b>	690	700	1,380	1,290	
	<b>May</b>	1,080	800	1,880	1,920	<b>Apr</b>	630	720	1,360	1,430	
	<b>Jun</b>	1,040	810	1,850	1,900	<b>May</b>	620	750	1,380	1,440	
	<b>Jul</b>	1,030	840	1,860	1,880	<b>Jun</b>	660	730	1,390	1,420	
	<b>Aug</b>	990	820	1,820	1,870	<b>Jul</b>	630	690	1,330	1,330	
	<b>Sept</b>	1,000	800	1,810	1,870	<b>Aug</b>	630	710	1,340	1,360	
	<b>Oct</b>	1,040	770	1,800	1,850	<b>Sep</b>	670	760	1,430	1,480	
	<b>Nov</b>	1,060	750	1,810	1,810						

<sup>11</sup> Numbers are rounded independently to the nearest 10; hence, components may not sum to totals.

<sup>(c)</sup> Change in ASW Recording / Income Support Criteria - see [Appendix A](#) for more details