

Statistics Jersey: www.gov.je/statistics

Context:

Historically, there has been an increase in the number of ASW registrants during the month of September. A key factor in such a specific monthly increase is the requirement for any individual claiming Income Support *whose youngest child will reach either age four, five or twelve during the new academic year* being required to seek work or seek more hours of work. The seasonally adjusted figures within this report take this annual process into account.

Summary

On 30 September 2021

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was 70² lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 590 lower compared with a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 990; this total is 10 lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 590 lower compared with a year earlier
- a greater number of females (600 individuals) than males (390 individuals) were registered as ASW
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 410; this total is 40 lower when compared with the previous quarter and 50 higher compared with a year earlier
- of the 990 people registered as ASW, 360 individuals were engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 180 individuals who were classified as long-term ASW

Introduction

The Customer and Local Services department (CLS) compiles data on people registered as ASW in Jersey. Statistics Jersey independently analyses this anonymised data and publishes a quarterly report. A historical back series of statistics published can be found on the Jersey [opendata website](#).

It is important to note that unemployed Jersey residents are not required to register as ASW. However, those in receipt of an Income Support claim must be registered as ASW if they are required to be seeking work. Changes to the Income Support criteria, as well as certain administrative changes within CLS, can have an impact on the total numbers registered as ASW (see [Appendix A](#)). 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 as ASW figures.

The numbers presented in this report constitute an informative set of indicators showing the level of individuals registered as ASW in the Island at a given point in time.

For comparability, throughout this report all figures do not include individuals registered as ASW who were also claiming the CRESS³ benefit. The scheme was active from 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020 and required people to register as ASW in order to receive the benefit. Before and after this period there has been no such scheme for individuals with Registered residential status, who would not usually be required to register as ASW if they are unemployed and only do so optionally.

¹ 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, academic year. See [Notes](#) for details.

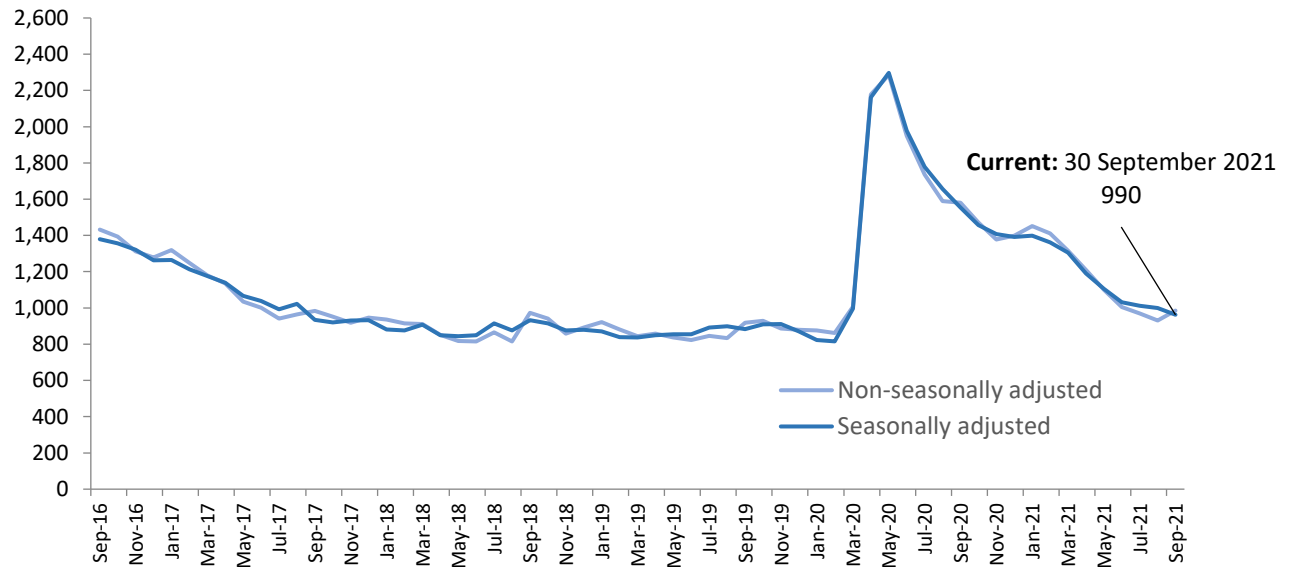
² ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

³ The COVID-19 Related Emergency Support Scheme (CRESS) was an emergency scheme to support people with Registered residential status who had been working in Jersey for less than five years and who have lost their full-time employment income because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 30 September 2021, there were 990 people registered as ASW. Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since September 2016 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in September 2021 was 10 lower than at the end of the previous quarter (June 2021) and 590 lower than twelve months earlier (September 2020).

Figure 1 - Total number of individuals registered as ASW, 30 September 2016 – 30 September 2021



The seasonally adjusted series of the total registered as ASW, in which seasonal and calendar effects are removed, is also shown in Figure 1. From this perspective, the total number of people registered as ASW on 30 September 2021 was:

- 70 lower than at the end of the previous quarter, 30 June 2021
- 590 lower than a year earlier, 30 September 2020

When making comparisons over time, it should be noted that changes to Income Support criteria and administrative changes within Customer and Local Services can result in changes in the total number of people being considered as ASW. This is the case for both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals.

On 30 September 2021, 92% of individuals registered as ASW (corresponding to 910 people) were receiving Income Support⁴. Compared with September 2016, there has been a rise in the percentage of those registered as ASW who are claiming Income Support (rising from 83% in September 2016 to 92% in September 2021).

Table 1 – Number of registered ASW, receiving and not receiving Income Support, September 2016 – September 2021

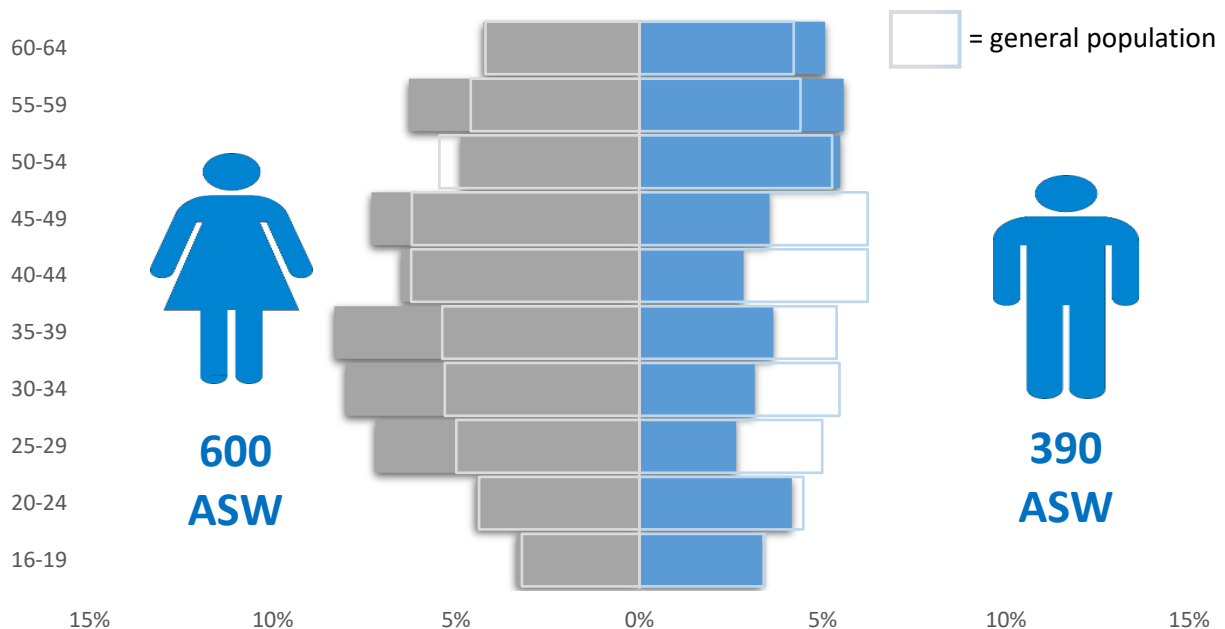
	Sep 2016	Sep 2017	Sep 2018	Sep 2019	Sep 2020	Sep 2021
Individuals receiving Income Support	1,180	830	840	850	1,430	910
Individuals not receiving Income Support	250	150	140	80	150	80
Percentage of ASW receiving Income Support	83%	85%	87%	91%	91%	92%

⁴ The total number of adults receiving Income Support and not working will be greater than this figure, as individuals that are claiming Income Support but exempt from registering as ASW (such as individuals claiming LTIA that are above the current 50% threshold) are not included.

Registered ASW by age and sex

On 30 September 2021, more females (600 individuals) than male (390 individuals) were registered as ASW.

Figure 2 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁵, September 2021

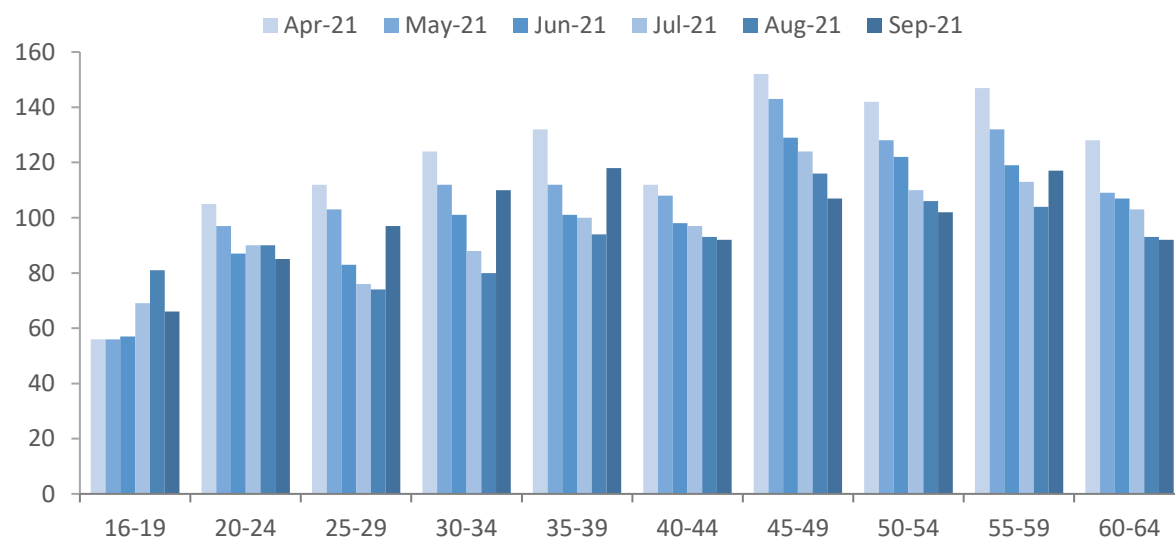


In respect of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- there were more females than males registered in all age groups 20-49 years and in the 55-59 age group
- there were more males than females registered in age groups 50-54 and 60-64 years
- the 25-29 age group had the largest difference by sex, with the number of females registered as ASW (70 individuals) being over double the number of males registered (30 individuals)

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from April 2021 to September 2021.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, April 2021 – September 2021



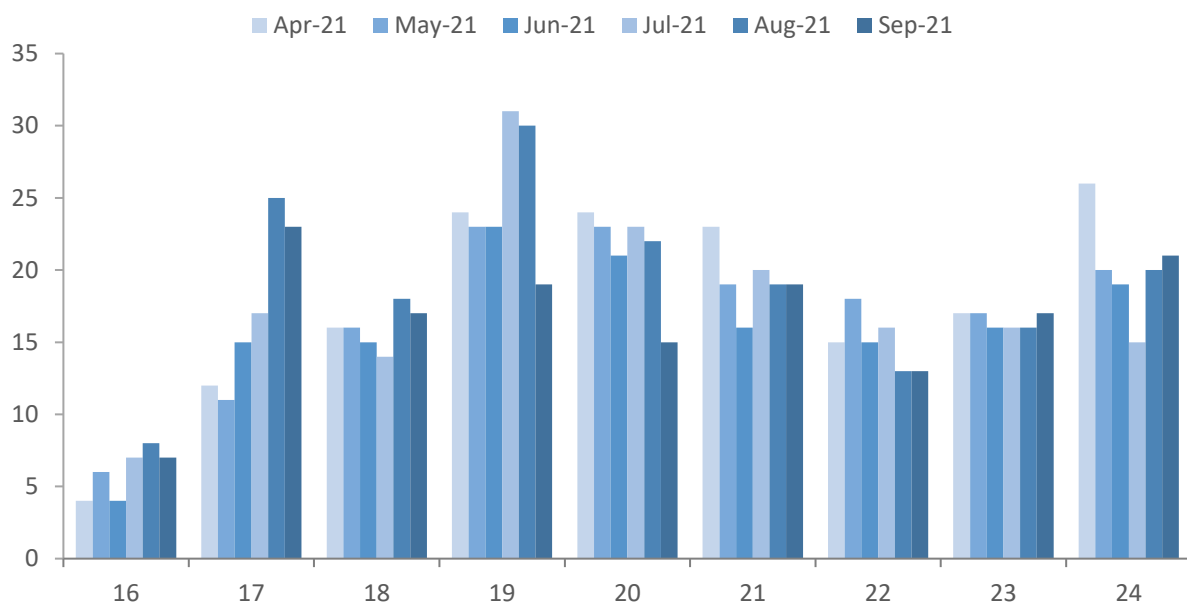
⁵ Age and sex proportions at the 2011 Jersey census.

On 30 September 2021, 15% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (150 individuals); 7% were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (70 individuals).

Age groups under 40 were either essentially unchanged or saw increases in the number of individuals registered decreases compared with the end of the previous quarter. Age groups 40 and over were either essentially unchanged or saw decreases in the number of individuals registered compared with the end of the previous quarter. The largest change was for the 45-49 age group, which saw an increase of around 20.

Figure 4 shows the age distribution for people below 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the last six months, from April 2021 to September 2021.

Figure 4 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, April 2021 – September 2021

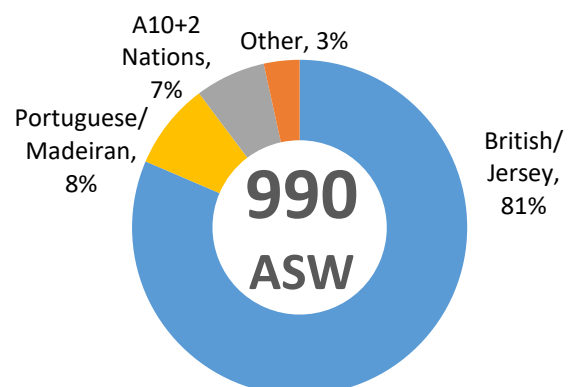


Registered ASW by nationality

On 30 September 2021:

- there were 800 individuals of British / Jersey nationality⁶ registered as ASW (81% of total); representing a decrease of 20 individuals compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 80 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (8% of total), an increase of 10 individuals compared with the previous quarter
- there were 70 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁷ nations registered as ASW (7% of total), essentially unchanged compared with the previous quarter

Figure 5 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, September 2021



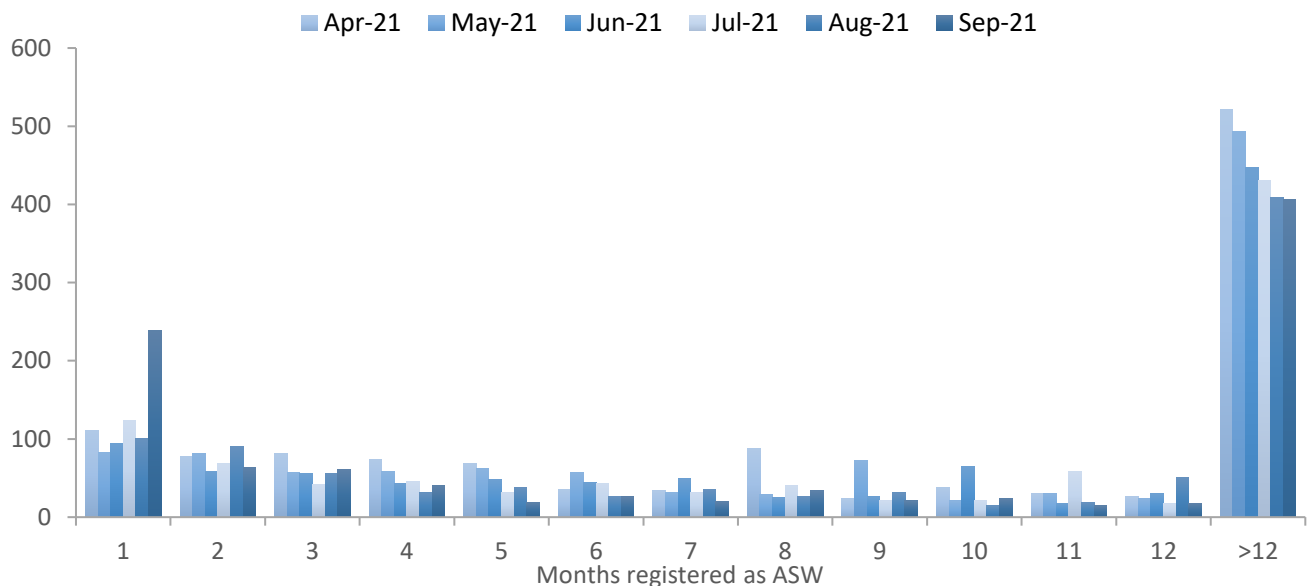
⁶ Nationality recorded by Customer and Local Services, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

⁷ 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

Of the people registered as ASW on 30 September 2021, nearly two-fifths (37%) had been registered for three months or less - see Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), April 2021 – September 2021

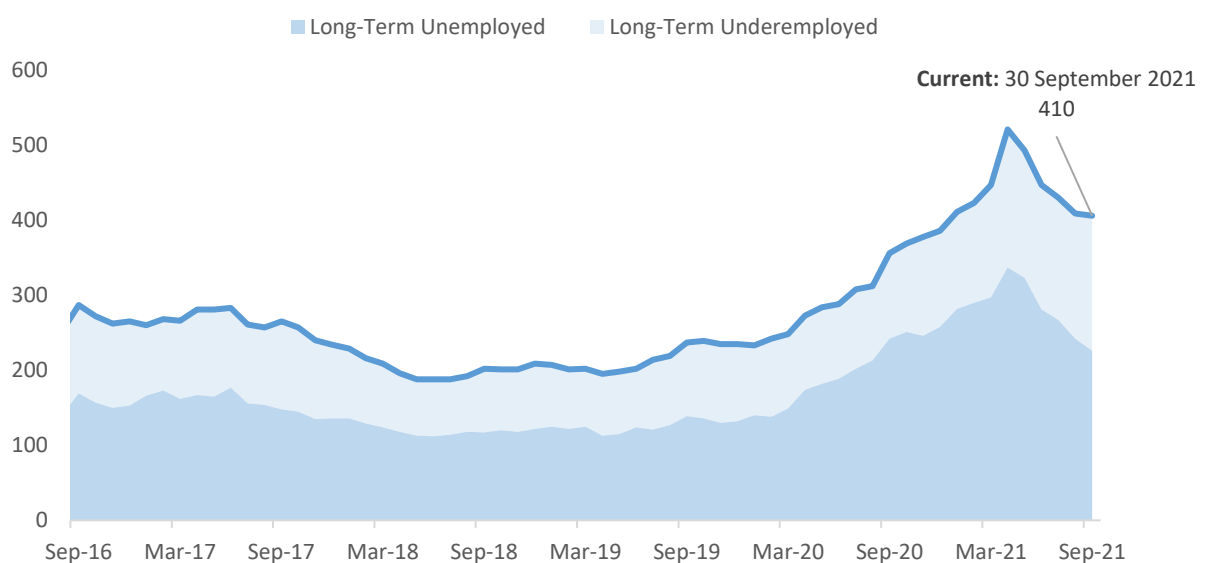


The number of new registrations in the third quarter of 2021 (460 people) was 170 higher than that recorded in the previous quarter and was 170 lower than recorded a year earlier (Q3 2020).

Long-term Registered ASW

On 30 September 2021, there were 410 people registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for 41% of total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was 40 lower compared with the end of the previous quarter (June 2021) and was 50 higher than a year earlier (September 2020).

Figure 7 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, September 2016 – September 2021

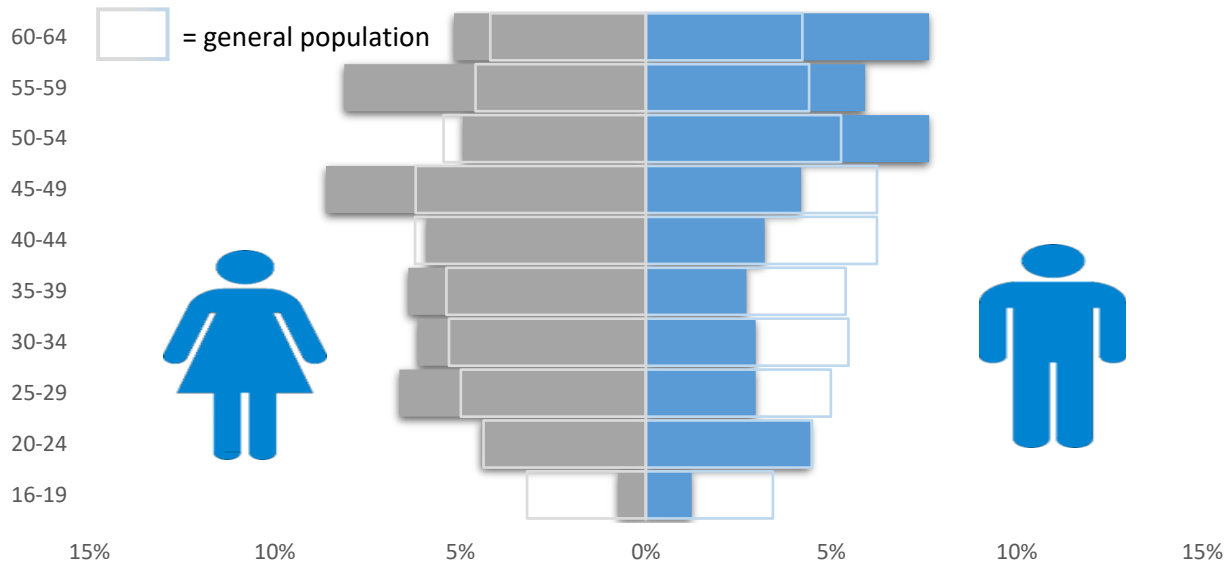


Of the 410 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 180 were engaged in some form of paid employment and therefore classified as underemployed⁸. Around seven-tenths (69%) of those registered as long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment were female.

⁸ See [ASW registered underemployment](#) – page 7 of this report.

Figure 8 shows the age and sex distribution of the long-term ASW in September 2021.

Figure 8 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁹, September 2021



Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA)

Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA) is a Social Security contributory benefit for individuals who have long-term ill-health or an injury. Individuals claiming LTIA who are below the 50% threshold (see [Appendix A](#)) are required to register as Actively Seeking Work. On 30 September 2021, around a quarter (23%) of individuals registered as ASW were claiming LTIA, corresponding to 230 individuals.

Of these 230 individuals, 60 were classified as underemployed meaning they were engaged in some form of paid employment; this number was 20 lower when compared with a year earlier (September 2020).

Table 2 – Number of registered ASW claiming LTIA, September 2020 – June 2021

	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Total claiming LTIA	350	330	320	330	340	330	310	300	270	250	250	230	230
Percentage of total ASW	22%	22%	23%	24%	23%	23%	23%	25%	25%	25%	26%	25%	23%
Underemployed and claiming LTIA	80	80	70	60	60	70	60	60	60	60	60	60	60

Industry

Individuals working in some industries of the economy, notably in the Finance sector, are more likely to seek employment through private agencies and not to register as ASW with Customer and Local Services. Such industries will therefore tend to be under-represented in the ASW numbers.

The last industry of employment was recorded for almost nine out of ten people (89%) registered as ASW. For those with a recorded last industry of employment, on 30 September 2021:

- 20% were previously employed in ‘Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales’
- 20% were previously employed in ‘Miscellaneous professional & domestic services’
- 14% were previously employed in ‘Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business’
- 11% were previously employed in ‘Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs’

⁹ 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 underemployment¹⁰:

- *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 generally 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 10 such individuals in September 2021)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving Income Support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 70 such individuals in September 2021)

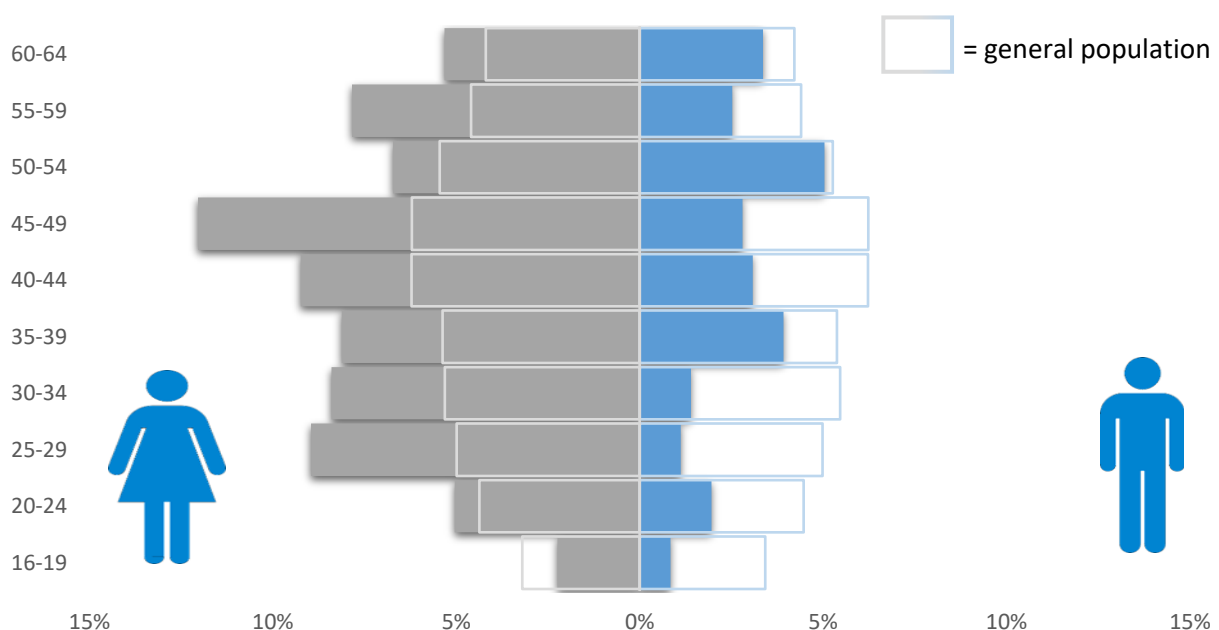
In September 2021, 36% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 3 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last thirteen months.

Table 3 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, September 2020 – September 2021

	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Individuals	470	460	440	410	420	410	400	390	350	340	330	340	360
Percentage of total ASW	30%	31%	32%	29%	29%	29%	30%	32%	32%	34%	34%	37%	36%

Figure 9 shows the age and sex distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in September 2021, around three-fifths (58%) were aged 40 or over and almost three-quarters (74%) were female.

Figure 9 - Age and sex distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population¹¹, September 2021



¹⁰ International Labour Organisation: *Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations*.

¹¹ As recorded by the 2011 Jersey Census.

Notes

The number of people registered as ASW includes all people who are registered with the Back to Work team in Customer and Local Services.

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 over time. 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. Other changes to the criteria which are important to note when interpreting changes in the ASW figures, are detailed in [Appendix A](#).

Information about the Back to Work team and the services they provide can be found [here](#).

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 ASW 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 parts of the historic seasonally adjusted series may be revised. These revisions 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 Jersey
6 October 2021

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 Customer and Local Services, 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 Customer and Local Services 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
October 2017 to December 2017	The threshold for the cumulative Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA) percentage rate was increased from 45% to 50%. Any individuals below this threshold, in receipt of an Income Support claim, are required to register as ASW.	+ 25 registered ASW
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.	+ 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 80 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 140 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.</p>
May 2015	Change of classification for certain self-employed individuals who are seeking further employment. This administrative change involved the reclassification of 70 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 90 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 20 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 2016 – September 2021¹

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2016	Jan	730	740	1,470	1,420	2019	Jan	420	500	920	870
	Feb	750	750	1,500	1,460		Feb	400	480	880	840
	Mar	690	700	1,380	1,380		Mar	380	470	840	840
	Apr	630	720	1,360	1,360		Apr	390	470	860	850
	May	620	750	1,380	1,410		May	380	460	840	860
	Jun	660	730	1,390	1,430		Jun	360	460	820	850
	Jul	630	690	1,330	1,380		Jul	370	480	850	890
	Aug	630	710	1,340	1,400		Aug	370	470	830	900
	Sep	670	760	1,430	1,380		Sep	350	570	920	880
	Oct	660	730	1,390	1,360		Oct	370	560	930	910
	Nov	640	670	1,310	1,320		Nov	360	520	890	910
	Dec	630	650	1,280	1,260		Dec	370	510	880	870
2017	Jan	640	680	1,320	1,260	2020	Jan	370	500	880	820
	Feb	600	650	1,250	1,210		Feb	360	500	860	820
	Mar	570	610	1,180	1,180		Mar	440	570	1,010	1,000
	Apr	540	590	1,140	1,140		Apr	1,090	1,090	2,180	2,160
	May	500	540	1,030	1,070		May	1,110	1,180	2,290	2,300
	Jun	490	510	1,000	1,040		Jun	920	1,030	1,950	1,980
	Jul	450	490	940	990		Jul	820	920	1,740	1,780
	Aug	440	530	970	1,020		Aug	760	830	1,590	1,660
	Sep	420	560	980	930		Sep	680	900	1,580	1,550
	Oct	430	520	950	920		Oct	640	830	1,470	1,460
	Nov	440	480	920	930		Nov	610	760	1,380	1,410
	Dec	440	510	950	930		Dec	640	760	1,400	1,390
2018	Jan	440	490	940	880	2021	Jan	660	790	1,450	1,400
	Feb	430	490	910	880		Feb	630	780	1,410	1,360
	Mar	410	500	910	910		Mar	590	730	1,320	1,310
	Apr	410	440	850	850		Apr	540	670	1,210	1,190
	May	380	440	820	840		May	490	610	1,100	1,110
	Jun	390	430	820	850		Jun	450	560	1,000	1,030
	Jul	410	450	870	910		Jul	430	540	970	1,010
	Aug	380	440	820	880		Aug	410	520	930	1,000
	Sep	390	580	970	930		Sep	390	600	990	960
	Oct	380	570	940	910						
	Nov	360	500	860	880						
	Dec	390	500	890	880						

¹ Numbers are rounded independently to the nearest 10; hence, components may not sum to totals.

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