

Context:

For figures comparing with the previous quarter, it is worth noting that 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 31 December 2022**

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was 130² lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 140 lower compared with a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 670; this total is 140 lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 140 lower compared with a year earlier
- a greater number of females (390 individuals) than males (280 individuals) were registered as ASW
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 200; this total is 10 lower when compared with the previous quarter and 120 lower compared with a year earlier
- of the 670 people registered as ASW, 250 individuals were engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 90 individuals who were classified as long-term ASW

Introduction

The Customer and Local Services department (CLS) compiles data on people registered as Actively Seeking Work (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.

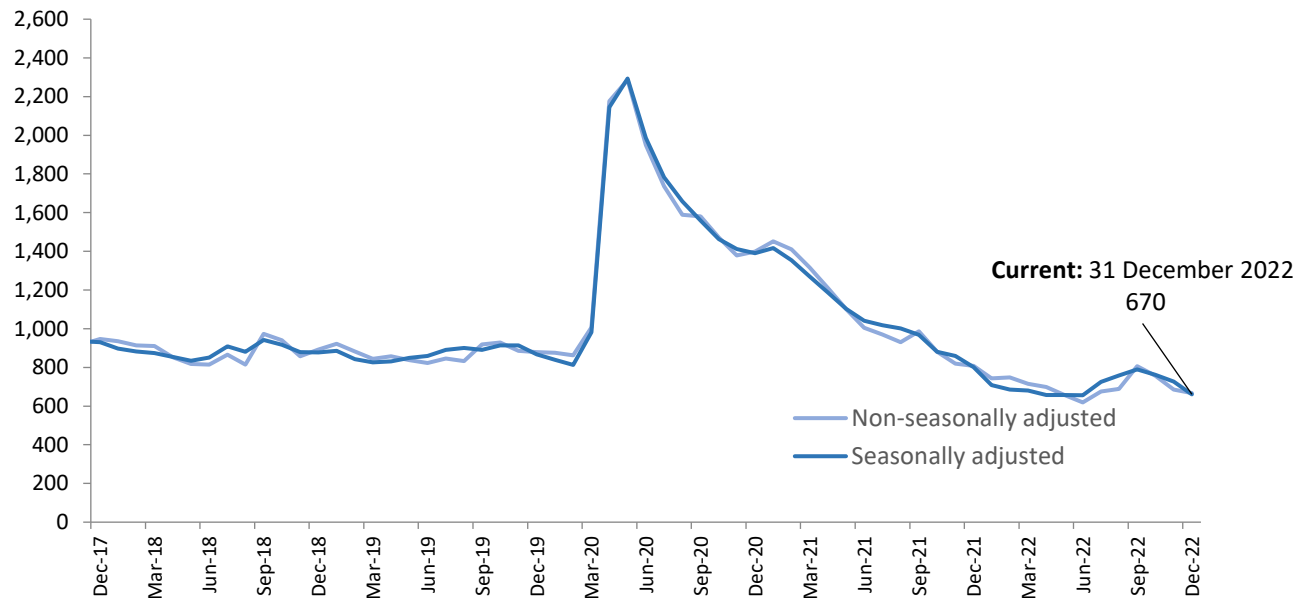
² ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

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 31 December 2022, there were 670 people registered as ASW. Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since December 2017 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in December 2022 was 140 lower than at the end of the previous quarter (September 2022) and 140 lower than twelve months earlier (December 2021).

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, 31 December 2017 – 31 December 2022



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 31 December 2022 was:

- 130 lower than at the end of the previous quarter, 30 September 2022
- 140 lower than a year earlier, 31 December 2021

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 ASW⁴. This is the case for both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals.

On 31 December 2022, 88% of individuals registered as ASW (corresponding to 590 people) were receiving Income Support⁵. Compared with December 2017, there has been no change in the percentage of those registered as ASW who are claiming Income Support.

Table 1 – Number of registered ASW, receiving and not receiving Income Support, December 2017 – December 2022

	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Dec 2021	Dec 2022
Individuals receiving Income Support	840	800	810	1,240	750	590
Individuals not receiving Income Support	110	90	70	160	60	70
Percentage of ASW receiving Income Support	88%	90%	92%	89%	93%	88%

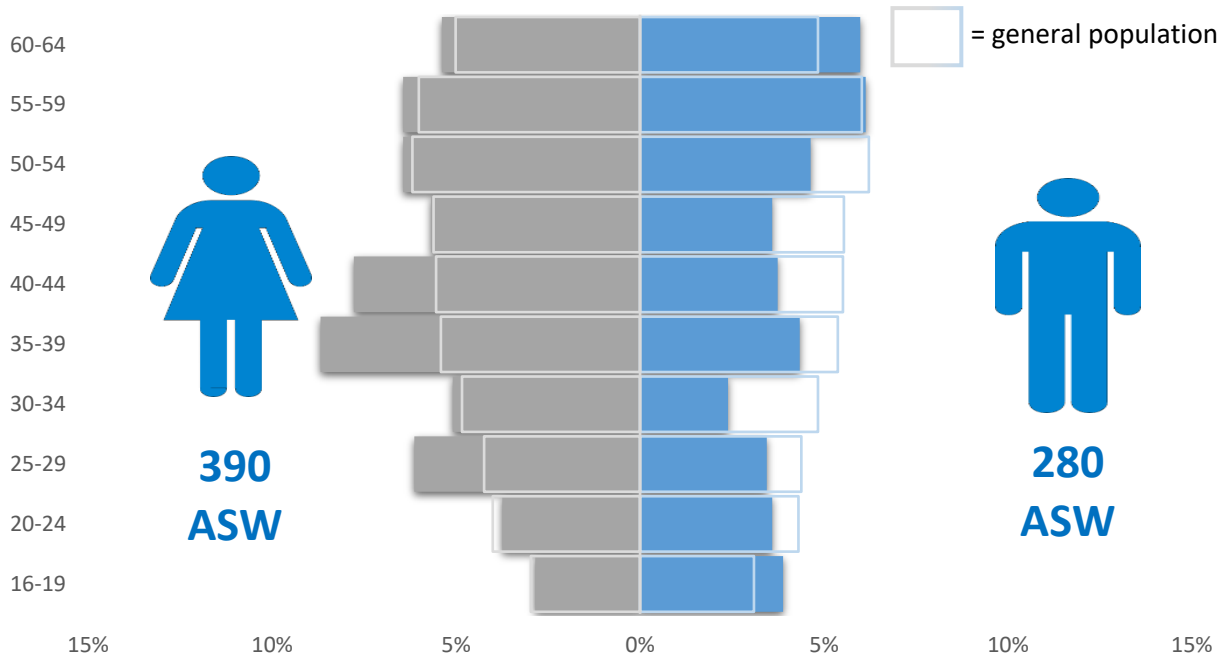
⁴ See [Appendix A](#) for details.

⁵ 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 31 December 2022, more females (390 individuals) than male (280 individuals) were registered as ASW.

Figure 2 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁶, December 2022

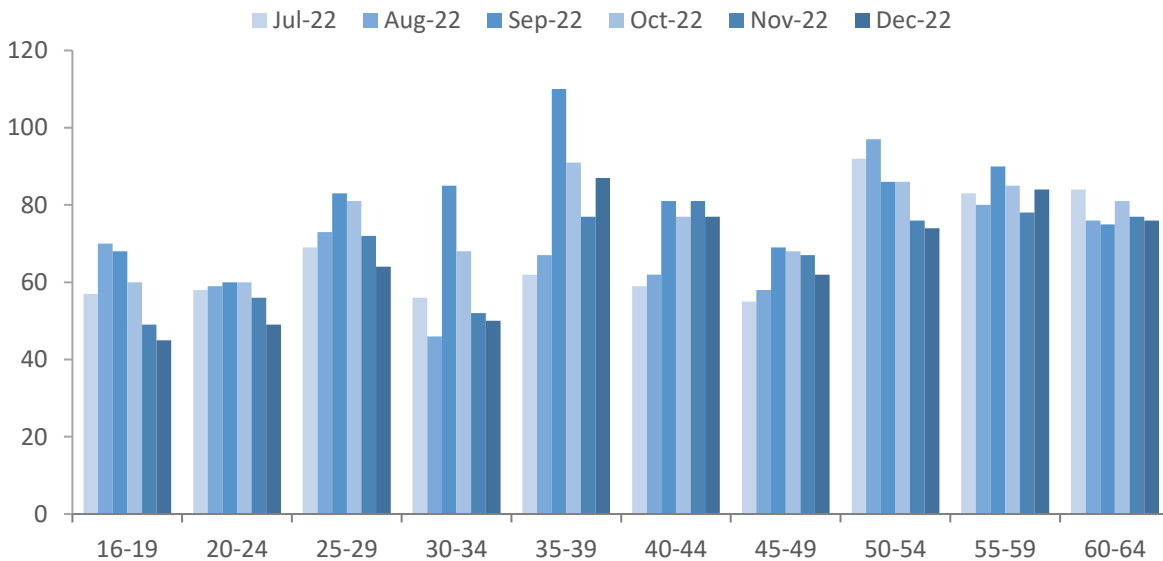


In respect of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- there were more females than males registered in all age groups 20-59 years
- there were more males than females registered in age groups 16-19 and 60-64 years

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from July 2022 to December 2022.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, July 2022 – December 2022



⁶ Age and sex proportions at the 2021 Jersey census.

On 31 December 2022, 13% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (90 individuals); 7% were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (50 individuals).

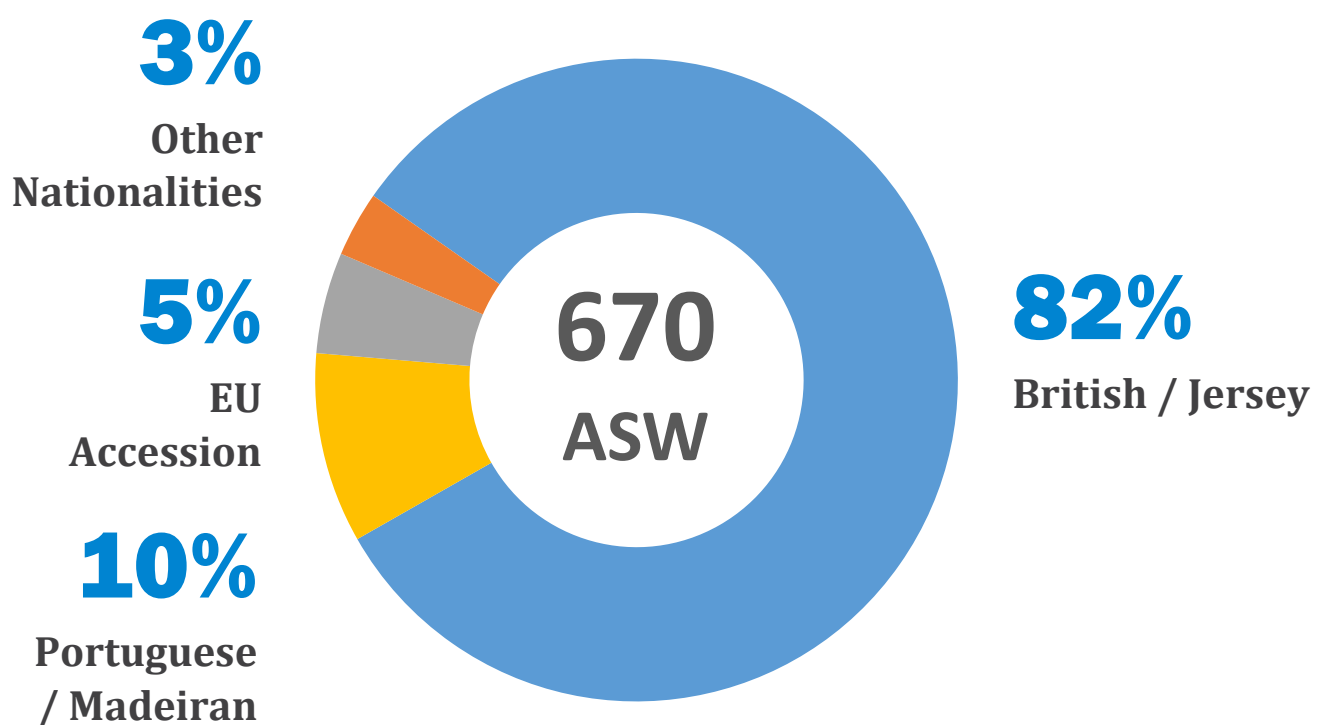
The majority of age groups saw decreases of around 20 or higher in the number of individuals registered compared with the end of the previous quarter. Other than the 60-64 age group which was essentially unchanged. The largest quarterly change was seen for the 30-34 group, which saw a decrease of around 40.

Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 December 2022:

- there were 550 individuals of British / Jersey nationality⁷ registered as ASW (82% of total); representing a decrease of 110 individuals compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 60 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (10% of total), representing a decrease of 20 individuals compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 30 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁸ nations registered as ASW (5% of total), a decrease of 20 individuals compared with the previous quarter

Figure 4 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, December 2022



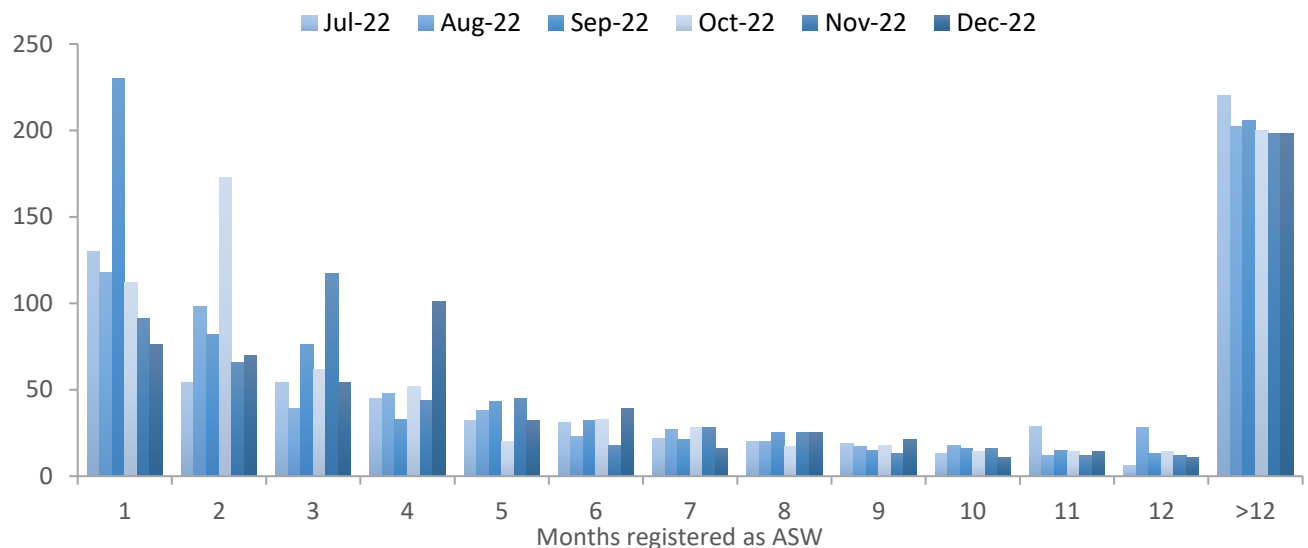
⁷ Nationality recorded by Customer and Local Services, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

⁸ 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 31 December 2022, around three-tenths (30%) had been registered for three months or less; see Figure 5.

Figure 5 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), July 2022 – December 2022

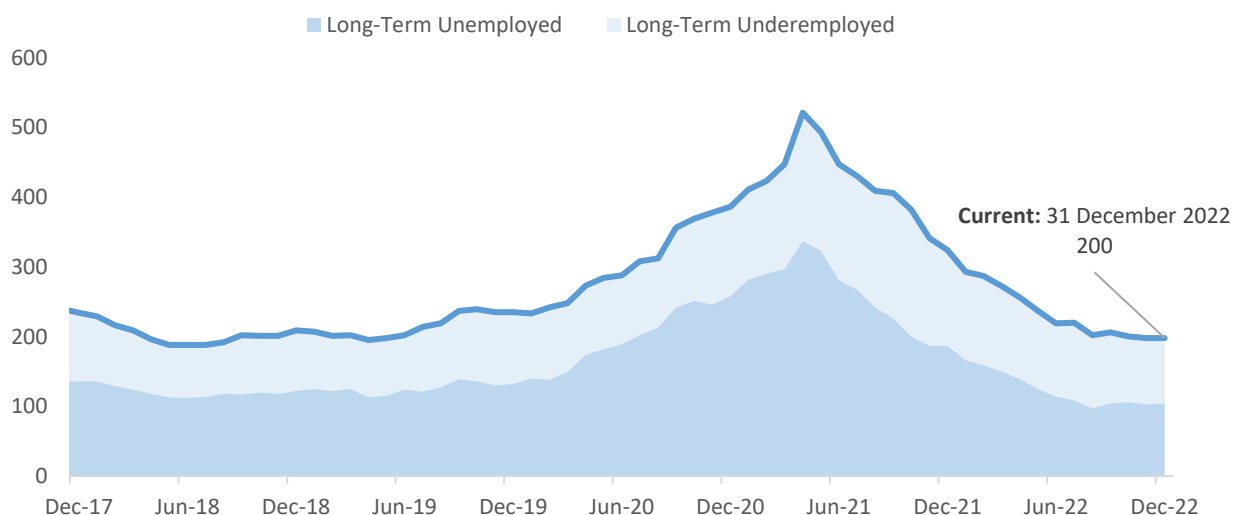


The number of new registrations⁹ in the fourth quarter of 2022 (280 people) was 200 lower than that recorded in the previous quarter and was 60 lower than recorded a year earlier (Q4 2021).

Long-term Registered ASW

On 31 December 2022, there were 200 people registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for 30% of total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was 10 lower compared with the end of the previous quarter (September 2022) and was 120 lower than a year earlier (December 2021).

Figure 6 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, December 2017 – December 2022



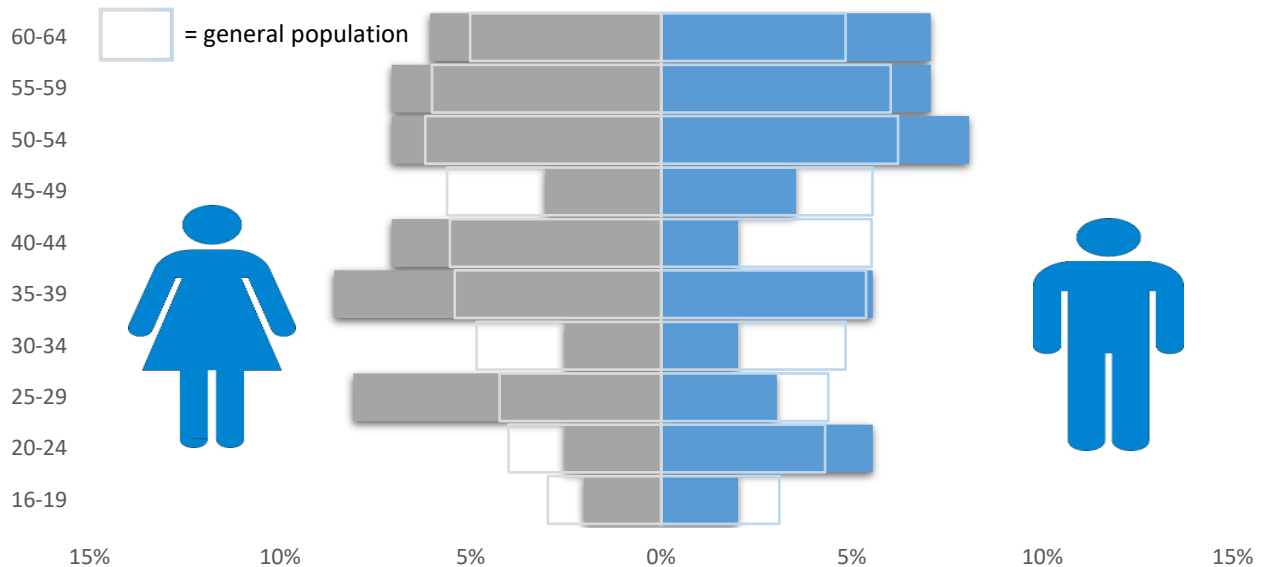
Of the 200 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 90 were engaged in some form of paid employment and therefore classified as underemployed¹⁰. Around two-thirds (64%) of those registered as long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment were female.

⁹ An individual is classed as a new registration when they have had a longer than 28 day break in seeking employment

¹⁰ See [ASW registered underemployment](#) – page 7 of this report.

Figure 7 shows the age and sex distribution of the long-term ASW in December 2022.

Figure 7 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population¹¹, December 2022



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 31 September 2022, around a quarter (24%) of individuals registered as ASW were claiming LTIA, corresponding to 160 individuals.

Of these 160 individuals, 50 were classified as underemployed meaning they were engaged in some form of paid employment; this number was essentially unchanged when compared with a year earlier (December 2021).

Table 2 – Number of registered ASW claiming LTIA, December 2021 – December 2022

	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Total claiming LTIA	200	190	190	200	200	180	180	190	190	190	190	170	160
Percentage of total ASW	25%	26%	25%	28%	29%	27%	29%	28%	28%	23%	25%	25%	24%
Underemployed and claiming LTIA	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

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 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 nine out of ten people (90%) registered as ASW. For those with a recorded last industry of employment, on 31 December 2022:

- 19% were previously employed in ‘Miscellaneous professional and domestic services’
- 17% were previously employed in ‘Banking, miscellaneous insurance, finance and business’
- 16% were previously employed in ‘Retail and wholesale, motor repairs and sales’
- 14% were previously employed in ‘Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs’

¹¹ As recorded by the 2021 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 underemployment¹²:

- *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 20 such individuals in December 2022)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving Income Support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 50 such individuals in December 2022)

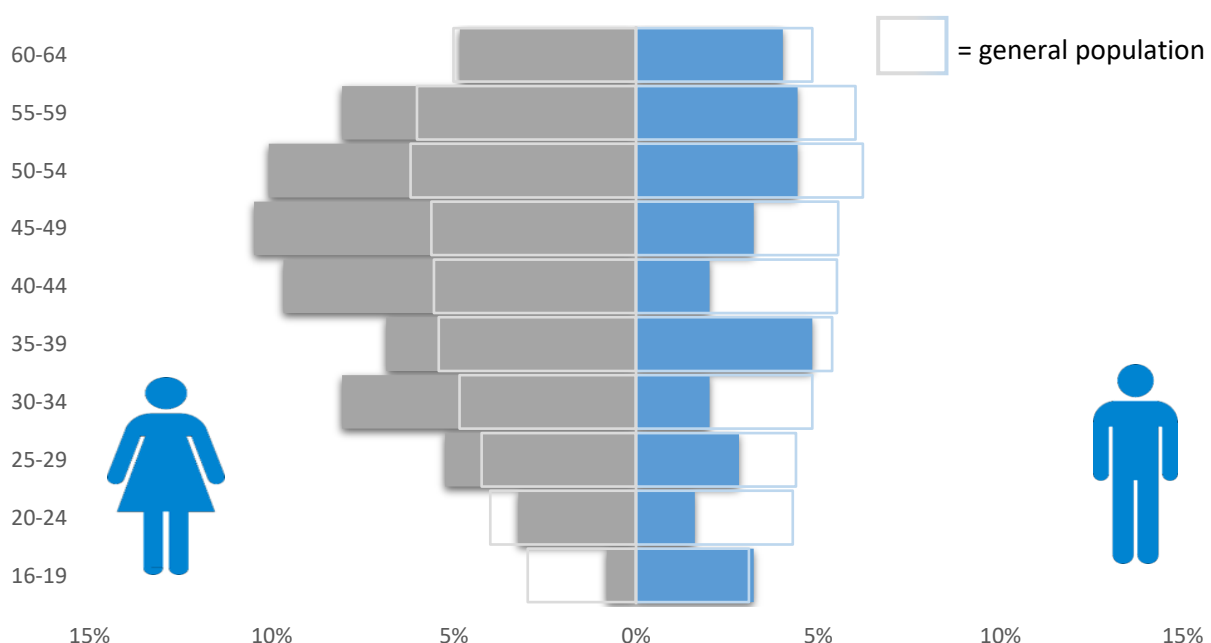
In December 2022, 37% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 3 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last thirteen months.

Table 3 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, December 2021 – December 2022

	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22
Individuals	290	270	260	250	240	240	220	240	240	270	260	250	250
Percentage of total ASW	36%	36%	35%	35%	34%	36%	35%	35%	35%	33%	34%	36%	37%

Figure 8 shows the age and sex distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in December 2022, around six-tenths (61%) were aged 40 or over and around two-thirds (67%) were female.

Figure 8 - Age and sex distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population¹³, December 2022



¹² International Labour Organisation: *Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations*.

¹³ As recorded by the 2021 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
13 January 2023

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 2017 – December 2022¹

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2017	Jan	640	680	1,320	1,280	2020	Jan	370	500	880	840
	Feb	600	650	1,250	1,220		Feb	360	500	860	810
	Mar	570	610	1,180	1,170		Mar	440	570	1,010	980
	Apr	540	590	1,140	1,110		Apr	1,090	1,090	2,180	2,140
	May	500	540	1,030	1,050		May	1,110	1,180	2,290	2,290
	Jun	490	510	1,000	1,040		Jun	920	1,030	1,950	1,990
	Jul	450	490	940	980		Jul	820	920	1,740	1,780
	Aug	440	530	970	1,030		Aug	760	830	1,590	1,660
	Sep	420	560	980	950		Sep	680	900	1,580	1,560
	Oct	430	520	950	920		Oct	640	830	1,470	1,460
	Nov	440	480	920	940		Nov	610	760	1,380	1,410
	Dec	440	510	950	930		Dec	640	760	1,400	1,390
2018	Jan	440	490	940	900	2021	Jan	660	790	1,450	1,420
	Feb	430	490	910	880		Feb	630	780	1,410	1,350
	Mar	410	500	910	870		Mar	590	730	1,320	1,270
	Apr	410	440	850	850		Apr	540	670	1,210	1,190
	May	380	440	820	830		May	490	610	1,100	1,100
	Jun	390	430	820	850		Jun	450	560	1,000	1,040
	Jul	410	450	870	910		Jul	430	540	970	1,020
	Aug	380	440	820	880		Aug	410	520	930	1,000
	Sep	390	580	970	940		Sep	390	600	990	970
	Oct	380	570	940	920		Oct	350	530	880	880
	Nov	360	500	860	880		Nov	350	470	820	860
	Dec	390	500	890	880		Dec	350	460	810	800
2019	Jan	420	500	920	890	2022	Jan	320	420	740	710
	Feb	400	480	880	840		Feb	320	430	750	690
	Mar	380	470	840	830		Mar	310	400	720	680
	Apr	390	470	860	830		Apr	310	390	700	660
	May	380	460	840	850		May	290	370	660	660
	Jun	360	460	820	860		Jun	270	350	620	660
	Jul	370	480	850	890		Jul	290	380	680	730
	Aug	370	470	830	900		Aug	300	390	690	760
	Sep	350	570	920	890		Sep	320	490	810	790
	Oct	370	560	930	910		Oct	310	450	760	760
	Nov	360	520	890	910		Nov	290	400	690	730
	Dec	370	510	880	870		Dec	280	390	670	660

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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