

Registered Actively Seeking Work March 2014

Statistics Unit: www.gov.je/statistics

Summary

On 31 March 2014:

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) in Jersey was²:
 - 60 lower than a month earlier, in February 2014;
 - 110 lower than the average for the preceding three months;
- the seasonally adjusted ASW total was the lowest for more than two years, since January 2012;
- the **non-seasonally adjusted ASW total** was 1,730; this latest total is 130 lower than in the previous month (February 2014) and the lowest total since October 2012;
- **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) accounted for a sixth of total ASW; the number of long-term ASW (300 individuals) was 10 lower than a month earlier (February 2014) and the lowest recorded since November 2012;
- 240 **teenagers aged 16-19 years** were registered as ASW, 40 lower than the previous month; 120 teenagers were on the Advance to Work scheme.

Introduction

Data on people registered as actively seeking work in Jersey is compiled and administered by the Social Security Department. The Statistics Unit independently analyses this anonymised data and publishes a monthly report.

When interpreting the numbers presented, it should be kept in mind that there is no legal requirement for all unemployed residents of Jersey to register as actively seeking work (ASW) with the Social Security Department. The numbers shown constitute an informative set of indicators of the level of individuals actively seeking work in the Island at a given point in time³.

The internationally comparable unemployment rate (as defined by the International Labour Organisation, ILO) includes people who are registered and also those who are not registered as unemployed and seeking work. The ILO unemployment rate for Jersey is measured through the Annual Social 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; this unemployment rate corresponded 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; this unemployment rate corresponded to 3,200 people being unemployed and looking for work in June 2013.

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, Easter, academic year.

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

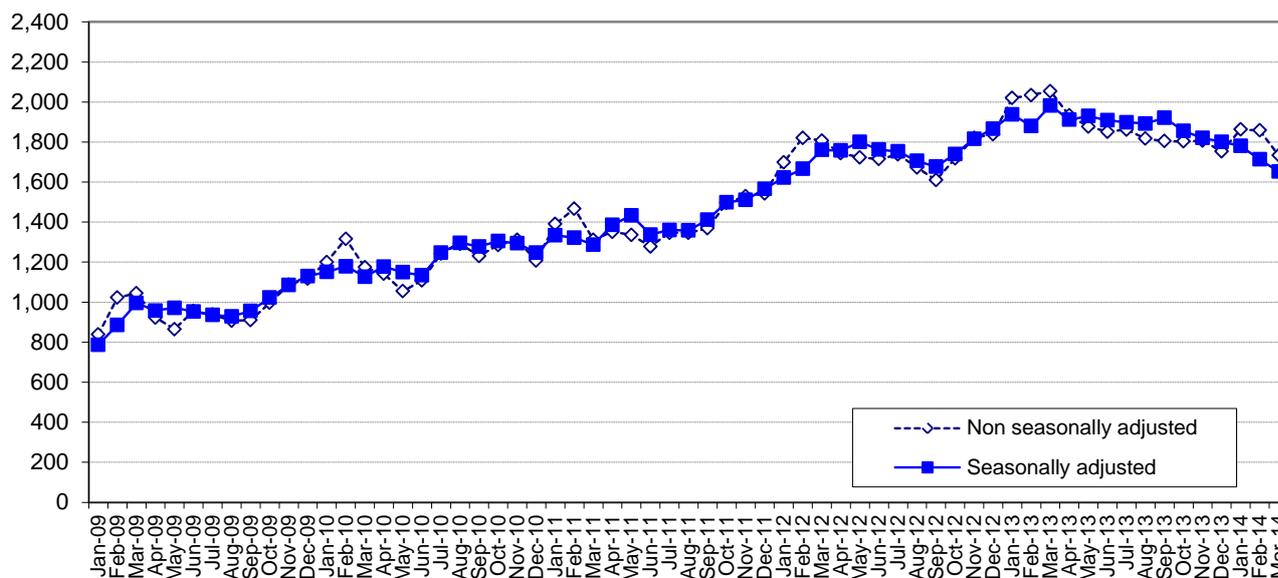
³ When placing the figures contained in this report in a historical context, it should be recognised that there have been significant changes in the criteria relating to registered ASW in Jersey in recent years. In particular, the introduction of Income Support in 2008 has led to a higher proportion of individuals who were actively seeking work being included in the registered figures.

Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 31 March 2014, 1,730 people were registered with the Social Security Department as actively seeking work (ASW). Around seven out of ten individuals registered as ASW on this date (corresponding to 1,270 people) were receiving Income Support⁴.

Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since January 2009 (monthly data are shown in Appendix Table A1). The total number registered in March 2014 was 130 lower than in the previous month (February 2014); 330 lower than a year earlier (March 2013); and the lowest total for 17 months, since October 2012.

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, Jan 2009 – Mar 2014



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 Jersey in March 2014 was:

- 60 lower than a month earlier, in February 2014;
- 110 lower than the mean for the preceding three-month period, December 2013 to February 2014.

The seasonally adjusted ASW total in March 2014 was the lowest for more than two years, since January 2012.

Registered ASW by age

On 31 March 2014, a quarter (26%) of people registered as ASW were under the age of 25 years; one in seven (14%) of the total were teenagers aged 16-19 years.

Figure 2 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last five months, from November 2013 to March 2014.

In the latest month most age categories recorded decreases in the number of people registered as ASW compared with the previous month; teenagers and those aged 20-24 years saw the largest decreases in the number of people registered as ASW (down by 40 and 30, respectively).

⁴ 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 31 March 2014.

Figure 2 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, Nov 2013 – Mar 2014

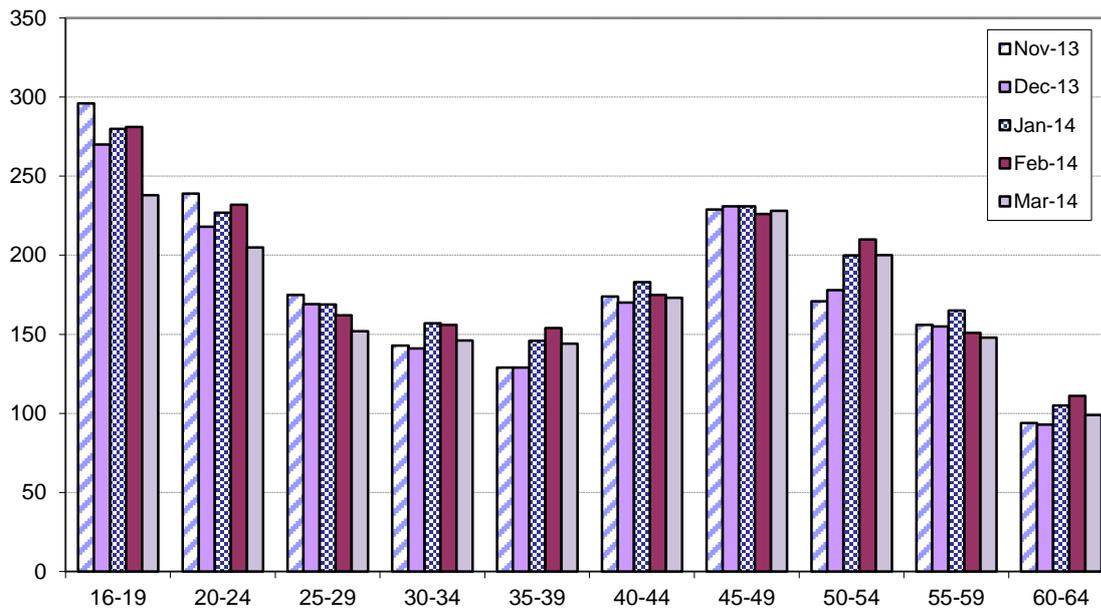
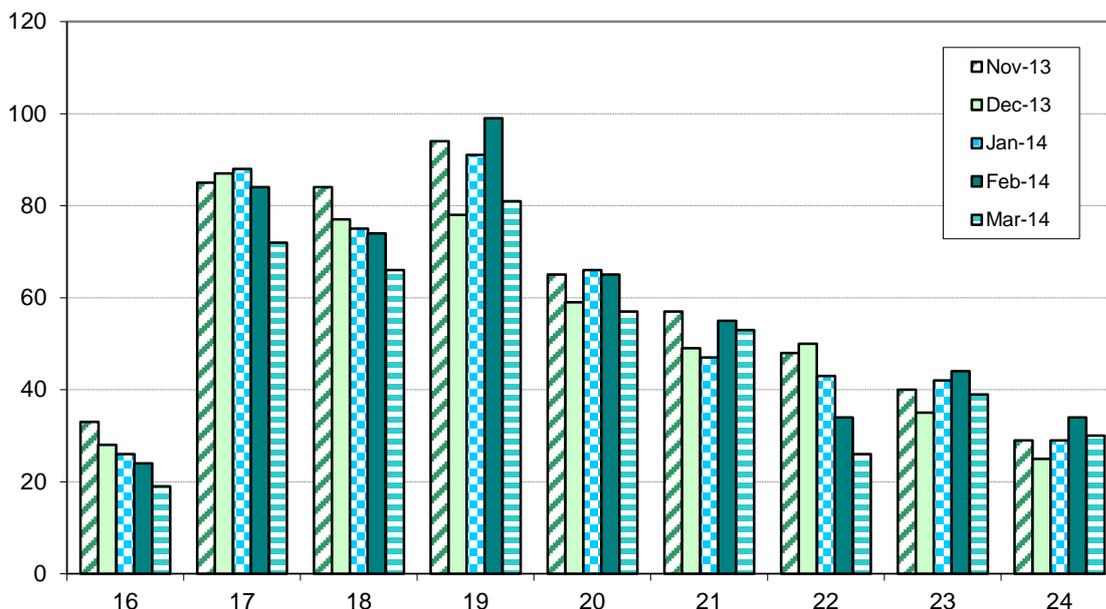


Figure 3 shows the age distribution for people under 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the latest five months, from November 2013 to March 2014.

Of the 240 teenagers (aged 16-19 years) registered as ASW at the end of March 2014, 120 were on the Advance to Work scheme, 40 fewer than at the end of the previous month (February 2014).

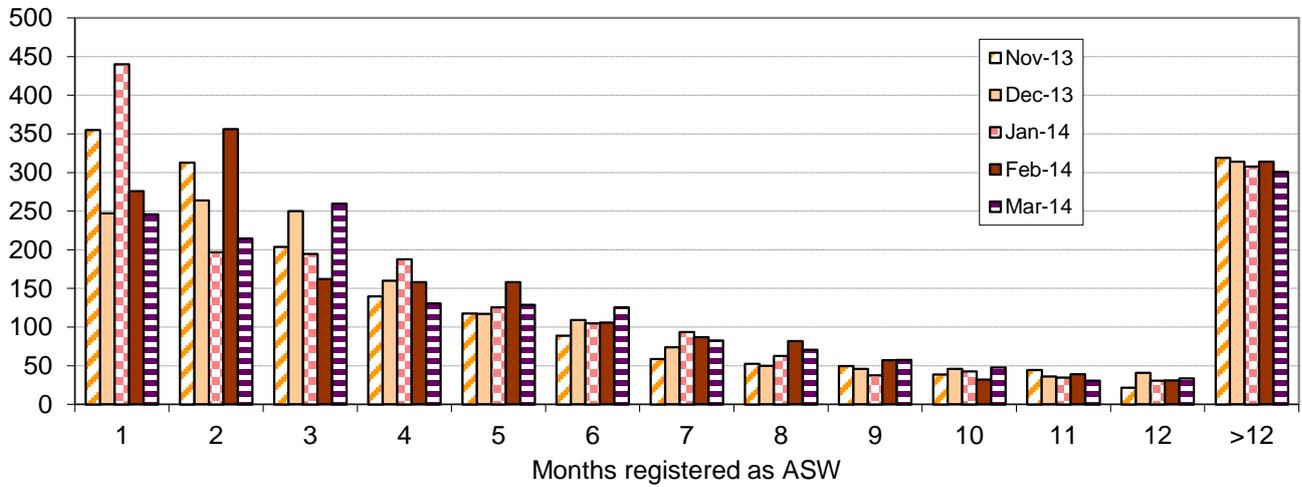
Figure 3 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, Nov 2013 – Mar 2014



Duration as ASW

More than two-fifths (42%) of all people registered as ASW on 31 March 2014 had been registered for three months or less – see Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), Nov 2013 – Mar 2014



250 people had registered as ASW in the latest month, 30 fewer than in February 2014. The latest number of new registrants was 100 fewer than in the corresponding month of the previous year, March 2013, and 10 fewer than in March 2012.

Long-term ASW

On 31 March 2014, there were 300 people who had been registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for a sixth (17%) of total ASW.

The latest number of long-term ASW was 10 lower than a month earlier (February 2014) and the lowest number recorded for more than twelve months, since November 2012 (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 – Long-term ASW, September 2009 – March 2014

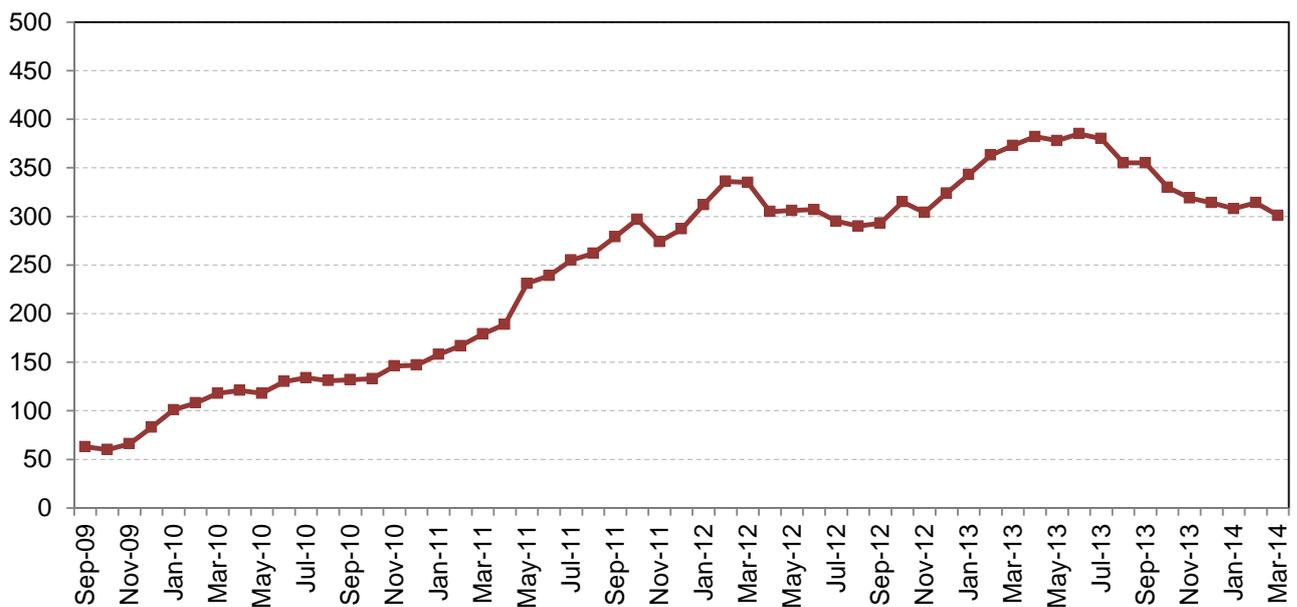
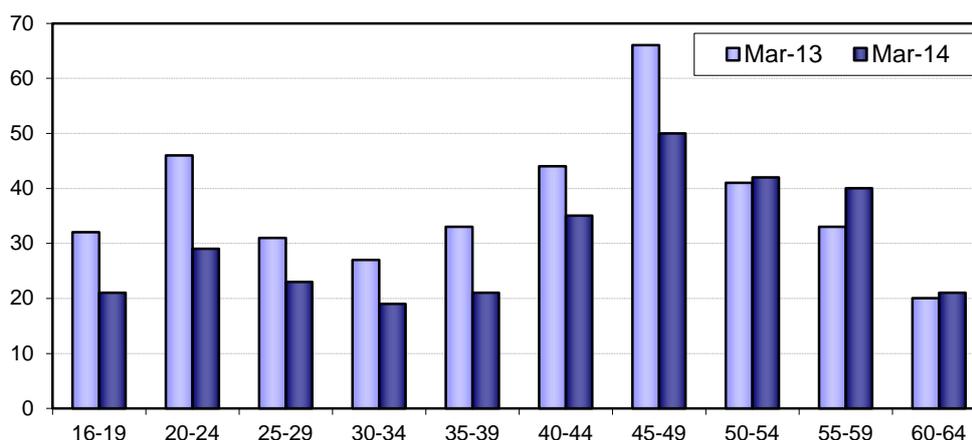


Figure 6 shows the age distribution of the long-term ASW in March 2014.

Figure 6 – Long-term ASW by age, Mar 2013 and Mar 2014

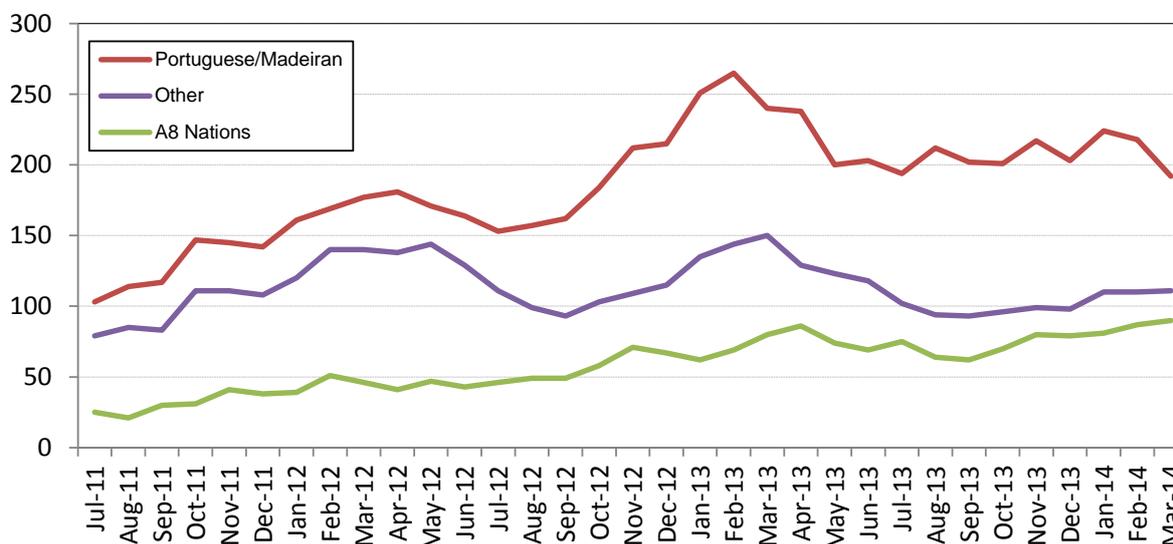


In March 2014 there were 50 people under 25 years of age who had been registered as ASW for more than a year, accounting for a sixth (17%) of the total long-term ASW. Over the last year, since March 2013, there has been a decrease in the number of long-term ASW under 50 years of age; in contrast, the number aged 50 years or over has increased.

Registered ASW by Nationality

On 31 March 2014, more than three-quarters (77%) of all people registered as ASW were of British/Jersey nationality⁵. The number of individuals registered as ASW for nationalities other than British/Jersey since mid-2011 is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, Jul 2011 – Mar 2014



On 31 March 2014 there were:

- 190 individuals of Portuguese/Madeiran nationality registered as ASW, 30 fewer than in the previous month (February 2014) and 50 fewer than in the corresponding month of 2013;
- 90 individuals from the EU Accession (A8)⁶ nations were registered as ASW, a similar number as in the previous month (February 2014) and 10 more than in the corresponding month of 2013.

⁵ Nationality recorded by the Social Security Department for the purpose of registering as ASW is self-reported.

⁶ The eight countries which joined (“gained accession to”) the European Union in May 2004 were: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

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 in March 2014:

- one in five (20%) were previously employed in 'Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales';
- about one in six (16%) were previously employed in 'Miscellaneous professional and domestic services';
- almost one in six (15%) were previously employed in 'Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs';
- around one in ten (9%) were previously employed in 'Construction and allied trades'.

Notes

The numbers of people registered as ASW include people who are on the Advance to Work, Advance Plus and Workwise 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 (see Annex); such individuals will simultaneously be working and actively seeking work.

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. They are:

- Advance to Work – for jobseekers aged 16 – 19 years;
- Advance Plus – for jobseekers with an industry-specific interest aged 20 – 65 years;
- Workwise – for jobseekers with special employment needs;
- Work Zone – for all registered jobseekers.

In addition to the development and expansion of these schemes, Back to Work is responsible for:

- the Employment Grant;
- a dedicated Employer Engagement team;
- the Long Term Unemployment Programme;
- 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.

ASW registered 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 underemployment⁷:

- *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. Hence, the ASW total figure includes individuals who are working less than the 35 hours per week required under the terms of Income support; such individuals will simultaneously be working and actively seeking work, and are classified as underemployed under the ILO definition of *time related underemployment*.

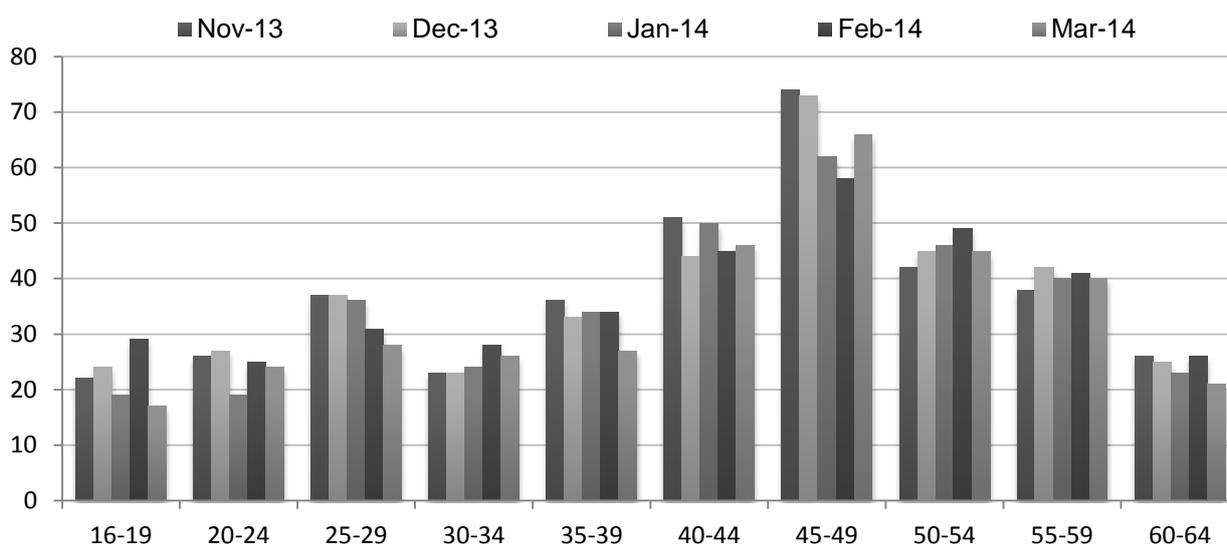
In March 2014, a fifth (20%) of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; that is, they were working less than 35 hours per week and were actively seeking more work. The numbers of such individuals in each month from March 2013 to March 2014 are shown in Table A1.

Table A1 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, Mar 2013 – Mar 2014

	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sept-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14
Number of underemployed	290	290	320	320	350	360	350	360	380	370	350	370	340
Percentage of total ASW	14%	15%	17%	17%	19%	20%	19%	20%	21%	21%	19%	20%	20%

Figure A1 shows the age distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; one in eight were below the age of 25, whilst almost two-thirds were over the age of 40.

Figure A1 - Age distribution of ASW registered underemployed, Nov 2013 – Mar 2014



Of those people who were registered as ASW underemployed in March 2014:

- almost two-thirds (65%) were female;
- almost two-fifths (38%) had been actively seeking work for more than a year;
- almost nine out of ten (87%) were claiming Income Support.

⁷ International Labour Organisation: *Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations*.

Appendix

Number of individuals registered as ASW, Feb 2009 – Mar 2014⁸

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2009	Feb	700	320	1,020	890
	Mar	720	330	1,050	1,000
	Apr	620	300	920	960
	May	560	300	870	970
	Jun	630	330	960	950
	Jul	620	320	940	940
	Aug	580	320	910	930
	Sep	580	330	910	960
	Oct	650	350	1,000	1,020
	Nov	700	390	1,090	1,090
	Dec	700	420	1,120	1,130
	2010	Jan	770	440	1,200
Feb		810	510	1,320	1,180
Mar		720	450	1,170	1,130
Apr		710	430	1,140	1,180
May		670	390	1,060	1,150
Jun		690	420	1,110	1,130
Jul		760	490	1,240	1,250
Aug		810	490	1,290	1,300
Sep		770	460	1,230	1,280
Oct		840	450	1,290	1,300
Nov		870	440	1,310	1,290
Dec		800	410	1,210	1,250
2011	Jan	910	480	1,390	1,330
	Feb	960	510	1,470	1,320
	Mar	850	460	1,310	1,290
	Apr	870	490	1,350	1,390
	May	820	520	1,340	1,430
	Jun	780	500	1,280	1,340
	Jul	800	550	1,350	1,360
	Aug	820	530	1,350	1,360

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
	Sep	850	520	1,370	1,410
	Oct	920	570	1,500	1,500
	Nov	960	580	1,530	1,510
	Dec	960	580	1,540	1,570
2012	Jan	1,050	650	1,700	1,620
	Feb	1,130	690	1,820	1,670
	Mar	1,100	700	1,810	1,760
	Apr	1,060	680	1,740	1,760
	May	1,040	680	1,720	1,800
	Jun	1,020	700	1,720	1,760
	Jul	1,020	720	1,740	1,750
	Aug	1,020	650	1,670	1,710
	Sep	970	650	1,610	1,680
	Oct	1,020	700	1,720	1,740
	Nov	1,090	730	1,820	1,820
	Dec	1,100	740	1,840	1,870
2013	Jan	1,210	810	2,020	1,940
	Feb	1,210	820	2,030	1,880
	Mar	1,230	820	2,050	1,980
	Apr	1,140	800	1,930	1,910
	May	1,080	800	1,880	1,930
	Jun	1,040	810	1,850	1,910
	Jul	1,030	840	1,860	1,900
	Aug	990	820	1,820	1,890
	Sept	1,000	800	1,810	1,920
	Oct	1,040	770	1,800	1,860
	Nov	1,060	750	1,810	1,820
	Dec	1,030	720	1,750	1,800
2014	Jan	1,090	770	1,860	1,780
	Feb	1,080	780	1,860	1,710
	Mar	980	760	1,730	1,650

⁸ Numbers are rounded independently to the nearest 10; hence components may not sum to totals.