

Summary

On 31 December 2017:

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was²:
 - essentially unchanged compared with the end of the previous quarter
 - 330 lower than at the end of the corresponding quarter in 2016 (Q4 2016)
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 950; this total is 30 lower than the end of the previous quarter, 330 lower than a year earlier and the lowest published figure in over 8 years
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 230; this total is 40 lower than the previous quarter and 40 lower than a year earlier
- there were 310 individuals registered as ASW but engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 100 individuals also classified as long-term ASW

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 quarterly 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

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. See [Notes](#) for more details.

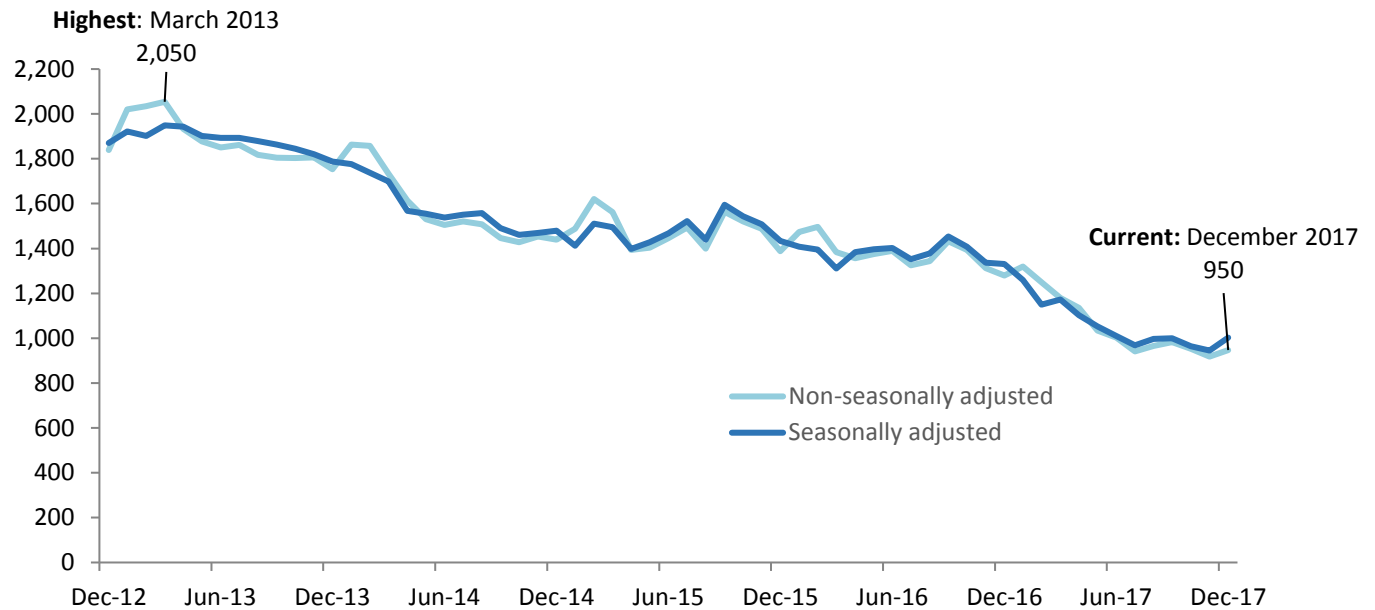
² ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 31 December 2017, there were 950 people registered as actively seeking work (ASW). 88% of individuals registered as ASW on this date (corresponding to 840 people) were receiving Income Support³.

Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since December 2012 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in December 2017 was 30 lower than at the end of the previous quarter (September 2017), 330 lower than twelve months earlier (December 2016) and the lowest published figure in over 8 years (since September 2009).

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, December 2012 – December 2017



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 December 2017 was:

- essentially unchanged when compared with the end of the previous quarter, September 2017
- 330 lower than a year earlier, December 2016

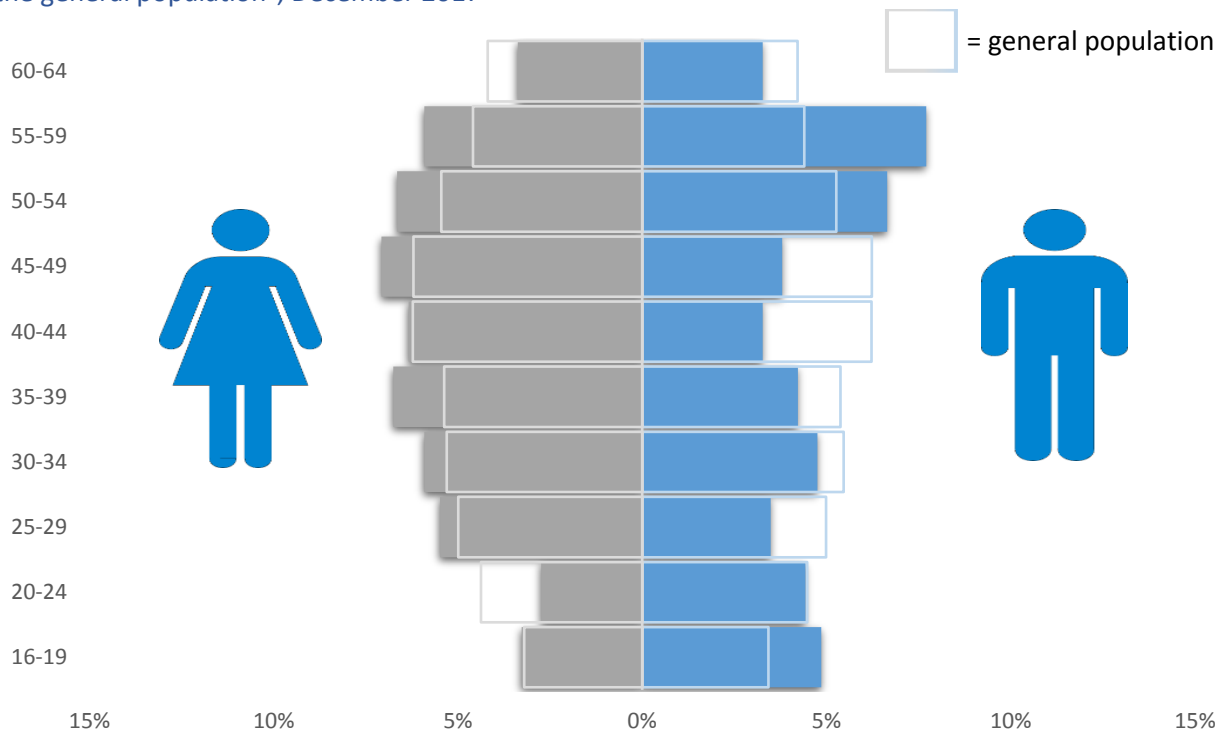
In respect of both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals, it should be noted, when making comparisons over time, that changes to the income support criteria, as well as certain administrative changes within Social Security, can result in changes in the total number of people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

³ 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 registered as ASW on 31 December 2017.

Registered ASW by age and gender

On 31 December 2017, more females (510 individuals), than male (440 individuals) were registered as ASW.

Figure 2 – Age and gender distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁴, December 2017

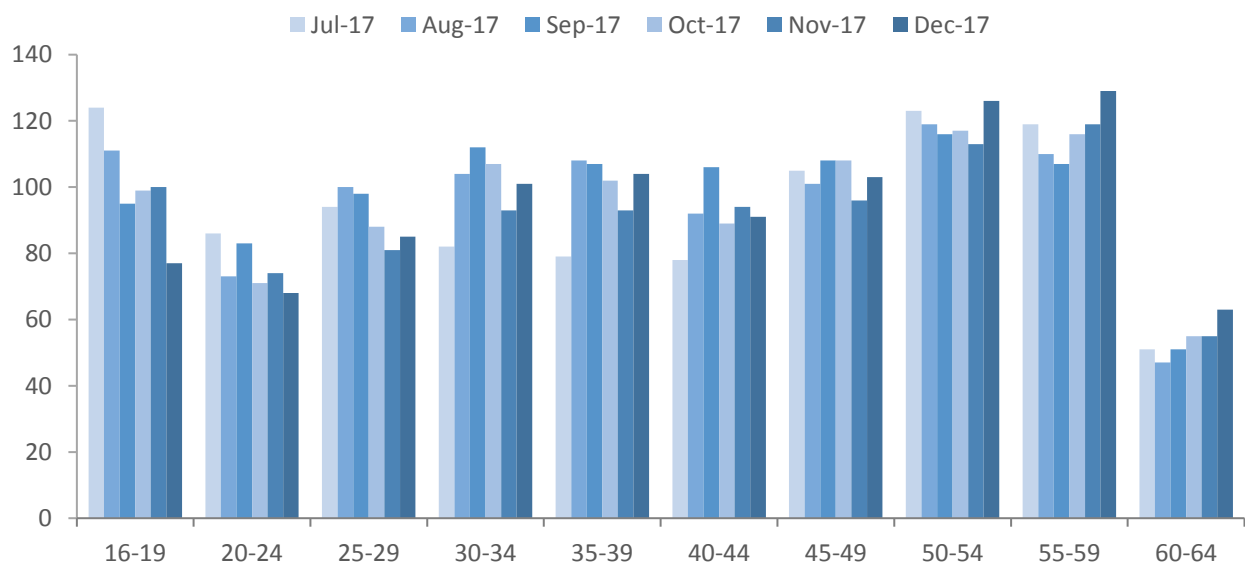


In respect of the breakdown of gender by age group:

- there were more males registered as ASW than females in the youngest (16-24) age groups
- there were more females than males registered in all age groups ranging from ages 25 to 49
- the 40-44 age group had the largest proportional gender difference, where the number of females registered as ASW (60 individuals) was double the number of males (30 individuals)

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from July 2017 to December 2017.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, July 2017 – December 2017



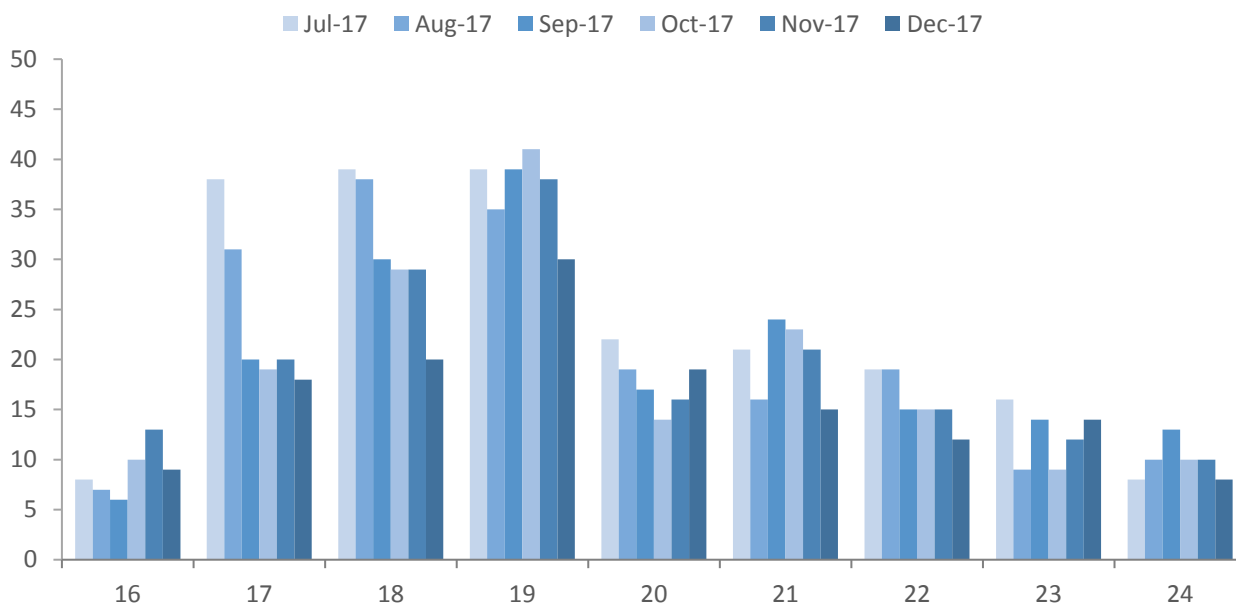
⁴ At the 2011 Jersey census

On 31 December 2017, 16% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (150 individuals); one in twelve (8%) of the total were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (80 individuals).

In the latest quarter, all age groups, in Figure 3, ranging between 16-49 recorded small decreases of between 10 and 20 individuals registered as ASW compared to the previous quarter. In contrast, the older age groups ranging between 50-64 recorded small increases of between 10 and 20 individuals 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 July 2017 to December 2017. Of those people registered as ASW at the end of December 2017, 50 were on the Advance to Work scheme.

Figure 4 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, July 2017 – December 2017

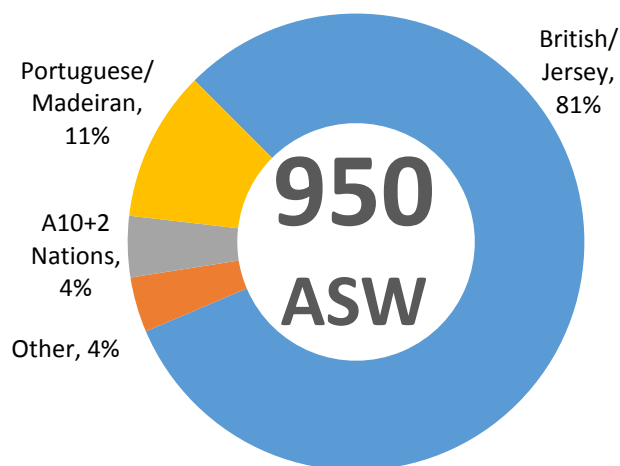


Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 December 2017:

- 81% of people registered as ASW were of British / Jersey nationality⁵; a decrease of 10 individuals compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 100 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (11% of total), a decrease of 10 individuals compared with the previous quarter
- there were 40 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁶ nations registered as ASW, a decrease of 20 individuals compared with the previous quarter

Figure 5 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, December 2017



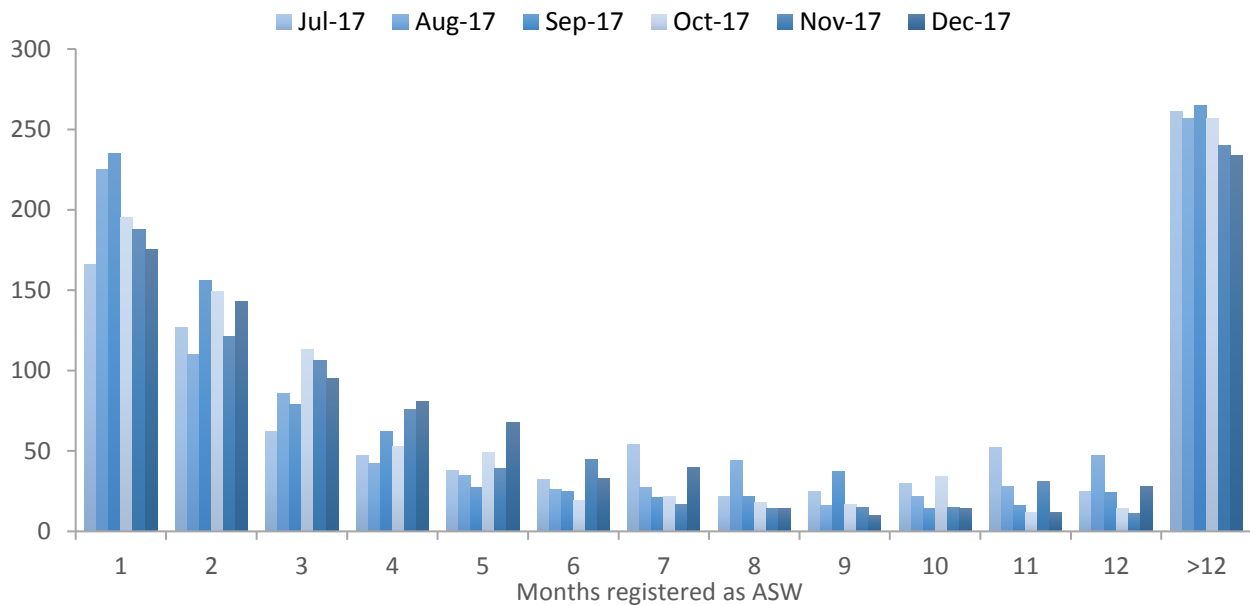
⁵ Nationality recorded by the Social Security Department, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

⁶ 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 all people registered as ASW on 31 December 2017, 44% had been registered for three months or less - see Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), July 2017 – December 2017

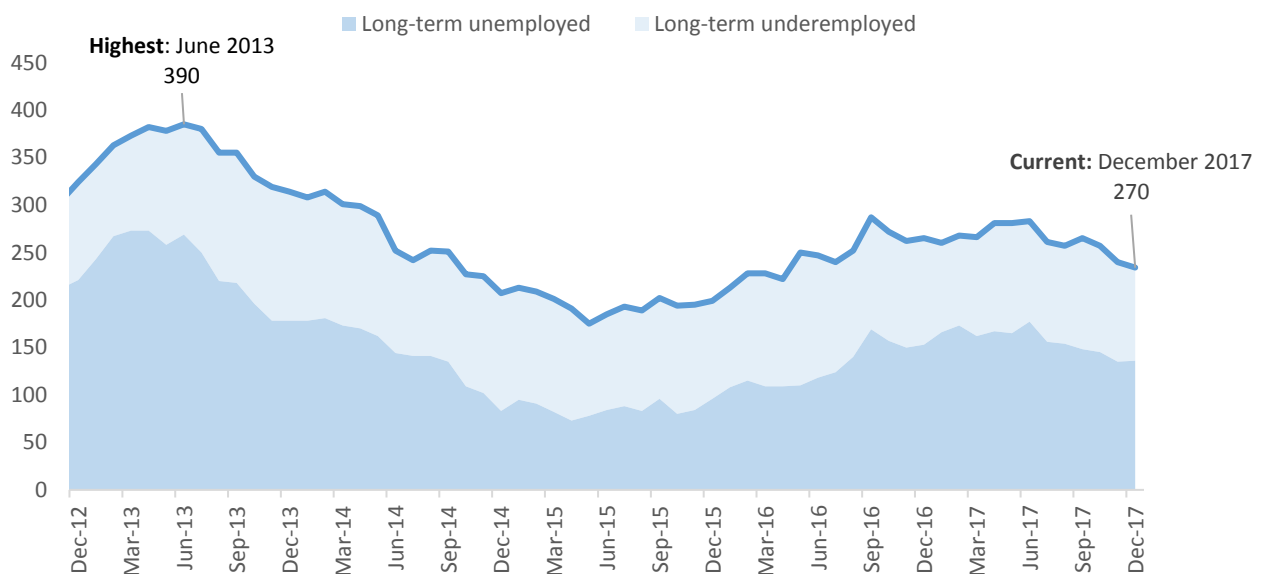


The number of new registrations in the fourth quarter of 2017 (560 people) was 70 lower than that recorded in the previous quarter and 10 lower than a year earlier (Q4 2016).

Long-term Registered ASW

On 31 December 2017, there were 230 people registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for 24% of total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was 40 lower than the end of the previous quarter (September 2017) and 40 lower than a year earlier (December 2016).

Figure 7 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, December 2012 – December 2017

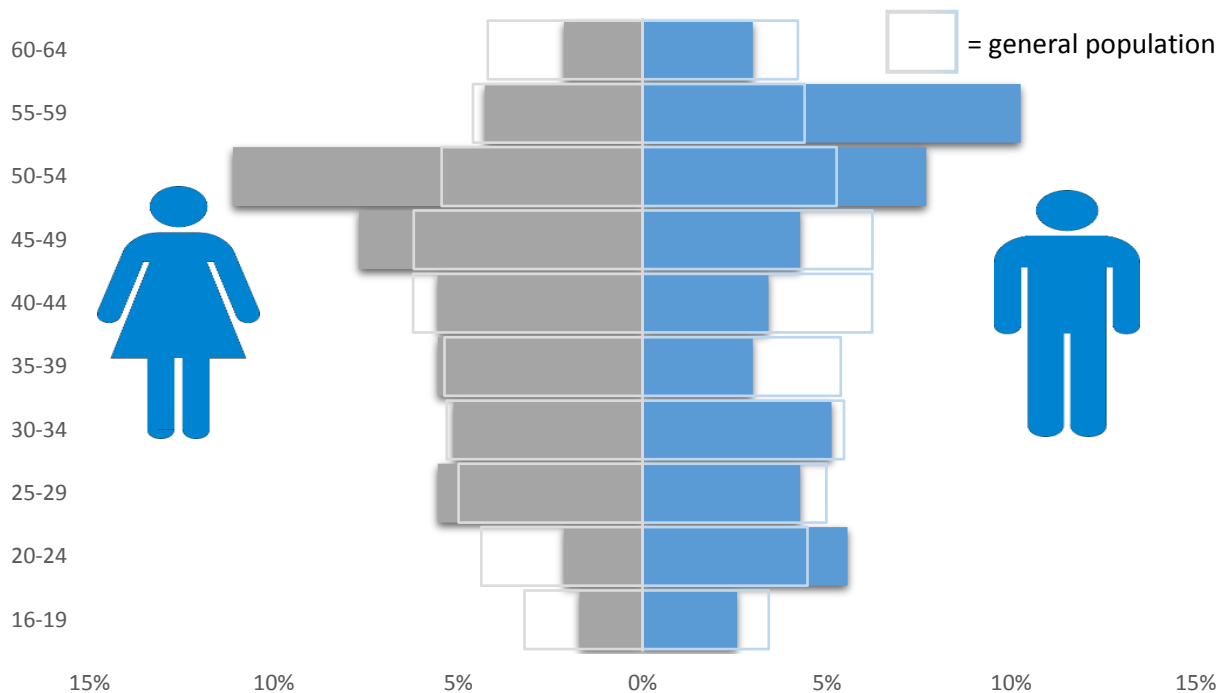


Of the 230 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 100 were engaged in some form of paid employment but classified as underemployed⁷. Three-fifths (59%) of those registered as long-term ASW but engaged in some form of paid employment were female.

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

Figure 8 shows the age and gender distribution of the long-term ASW in December 2017.

Figure 8 – Age and gender distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁸, December 2017



Over half (51%) of those registered as ASW for more than twelve months were female, and the number of females registered as long-term ASW were greater than males in all but the youngest (16-24) and oldest (55-64) age groups.

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 31 December 2017:

- a fifth (20%) were previously employed in 'Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales'
- a fifth (20%) were previously employed in 'Miscellaneous professional & domestic services'
- a sixth (16%) were previously employed in 'Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business'

⁸ 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 underemployment⁹:

- *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 20 such individuals in December 2017)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving income support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 40 such individuals in December 2017)

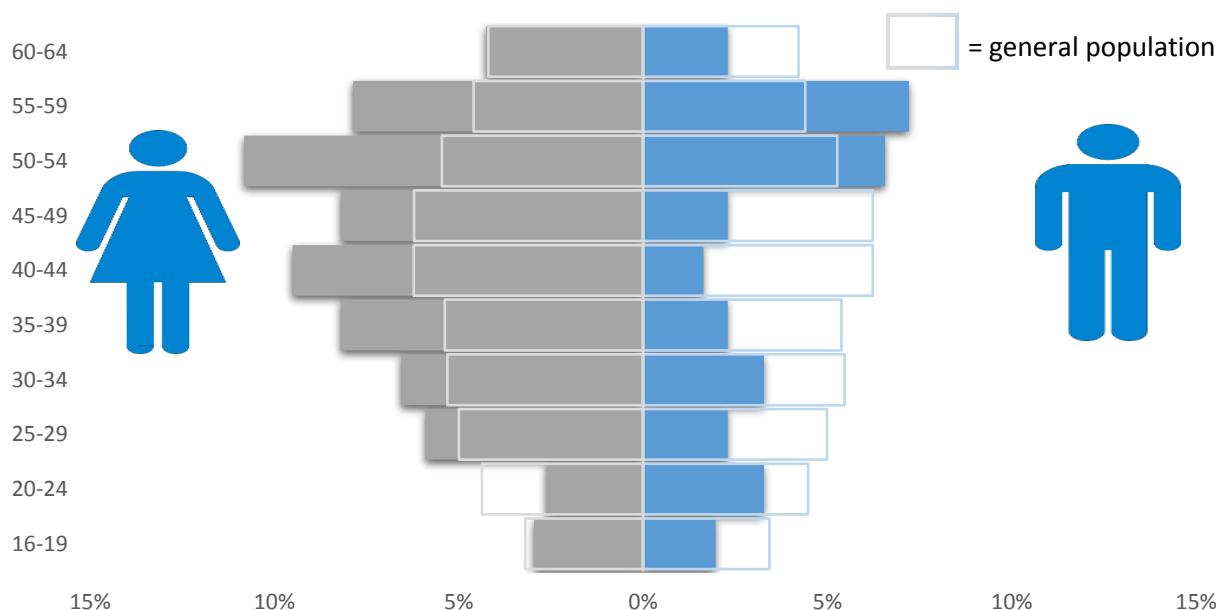
In December 2017, a third (33%) of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 1 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last twelve months.

Table 1 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, December 2016 – December 2017

	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17
Individuals	370	340	330	320	330	300	280	280	290	310	290	280	310
Percentage of total ASW	29%	26%	27%	27%	29%	29%	28%	30%	30%	32%	31%	30%	33%

Figure 9 shows the age and gender distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in December 2017 over three-fifths (61%) were aged 40 years or over and two-thirds (67%) were female.

Figure 9 - Age and gender distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population¹⁰, December 2017



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

¹⁰ 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 31 December 2017 there were 100 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 January 2018

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
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 2012 – December 2017¹¹

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2012	Jan	1,050	650	1,700	1,590	2015	Jan	790	700	1,490	1,410
	Feb	1,130	690	1,820	1,680		(c) Feb	870	760	1,620	1,510
	Mar	1,100	700	1,810	1,730		Mar	820	740	1,560	1,490
	Apr	1,060	680	1,740	1,720		Apr	710	680	1,390	1,400
	May	1,040	680	1,720	1,740		(c) May	730	670	1,400	1,430
	Jun	1,020	700	1,720	1,760		Jun	730	720	1,450	1,470
	Jul	1,020	720	1,740	1,770		Jul	770	720	1,490	1,520
	Aug	1,020	650	1,670	1,750		Aug	710	690	1,400	1,440
	Sep	970	650	1,610	1,680		(c) Sep	720	840	1,560	1,590
	Oct	1,020	700	1,720	1,770		Oct	720	800	1,520	1,540
	Nov	1,090	730	1,820	1,840		Nov	710	780	1,490	1,510
	Dec	1,100	740	1,840	1,870		Dec	670	720	1,390	1,430
2013	Jan	1,210	810	2,020	1,920	2016	Jan	730	740	1,470	1,410
	Feb	1,210	820	2,030	1,900		Feb	750	750	1,500	1,400
	Mar	1,230	820	2,050	1,950		Mar	690	700	1,380	1,310
	Apr	1,140	800	1,930	1,940		Apr	630	720	1,360	1,380
	May	1,080	800	1,880	1,900		May	620	750	1,380	1,400
	Jun	1,040	810	1,850	1,890		Jun	660	730	1,390	1,400
	Jul	1,030	840	1,860	1,890		(c) Jul	630	690	1,330	1,350
	Aug	990	820	1,820	1,880		Aug	630	710	1,340	1,380
	Sept	1,000	800	1,810	1,860		Sep	670	760	1,430	1,450
	Oct	1,040	770	1,800	1,850		Oct	660	730	1,390	1,410
	Nov	1,060	750	1,810	1,820		Nov	640	670	1,310	1,340
	Dec	1,030	720	1,750	1,790		Dec	630	650	1,280	1,330
2014	Jan	1,090	770	1,860	1,780	2017	Jan	640	680	1,320	1,260
	Feb	1,080	780	1,860	1,740		Feb	600	650	1,250	1,150
	Mar	980	760	1,730	1,700		Mar	570	610	1,180	1,170
	(c) Apr	900	720	1,610	1,570		Apr	540	590	1,140	1,100
	May	840	700	1,530	1,560		May	500	540	1,030	1,050
	Jun	790	710	1,510	1,540		Jun	490	510	1,000	1,010
	Jul	780	740	1,520	1,550		Jul	450	490	940	970
	Aug	780	720	1,510	1,560		Aug	440	530	970	1,000
	Sep	750	700	1,450	1,490		Sep	420	560	980	1,000
	Oct	760	670	1,430	1,460		Oct	430	520	950	960
	Nov	780	680	1,450	1,470		(c) Nov	440	480	920	950
	Dec	760	680	1,440	1,480		Dec	440	510	950	1,000

¹¹Numbers 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