

## Summary

### On 31 December 2020

- on a **seasonally adjusted**<sup>1</sup> basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was 150<sup>2</sup> lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 520 higher compared with a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 1,400; this total is 180 lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 520 higher compared with a year earlier
- a greater number of females (760 individuals) than males (640 individuals) were registered as ASW
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 390; this total is 30 higher compared with the previous quarter and 150 higher compared with a year earlier
- of the 1,400 people registered as ASW, 410 individuals were engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 130 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.

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.

The internationally comparable unemployment rate is defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This measure includes both the registered unemployed and those not registered but still seeking work. The ILO unemployment rate for Jersey is measured through household surveys and the Census.

For comparability, throughout this report all figures do not include individuals registered as ASW who were also claiming the CRESS<sup>3</sup> 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.

---

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

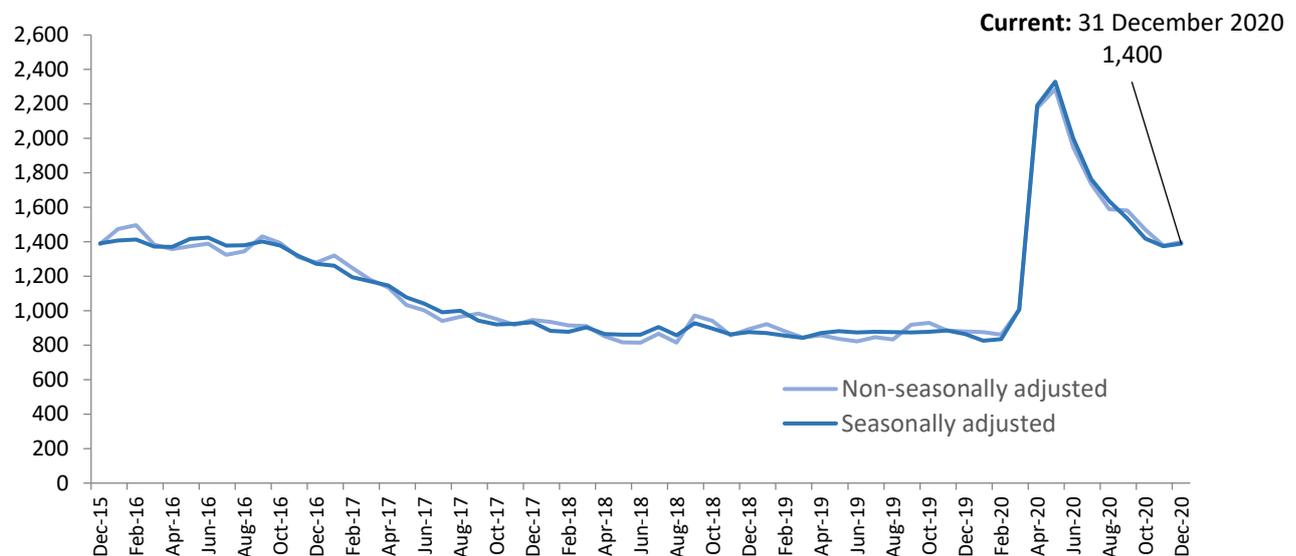
<sup>2</sup> ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

<sup>3</sup> 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 2020, there were 1,400 people registered as ASW. Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since December 2015 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in December 2020 was 180 lower than at the end of the previous quarter (September 2020) and 520 higher than twelve months earlier (December 2019).

Figure 1 - Total number of individuals registered as ASW, 31 December 2015 – 31 December 2020



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 2020 was:

- 180 lower than at the end of the previous quarter, 30 September 2020
- 520 higher than a year earlier, 31 December 2019

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 Customer and Local Services, can result in changes in the total number of people being considered as ASW in a particular month.

On 31 December 2020, 89% of individuals registered as ASW (corresponding to 1,240 people) were receiving Income Support<sup>3</sup>. Compared with December 2015, there has been a rise in the percentage of those registered as ASW who are claiming Income Support (rising from 82% in December 2015 to 89% in December 2020).

Table 1 – Number of registered ASW, receiving and not receiving Income Support, December 2015 – December 2020

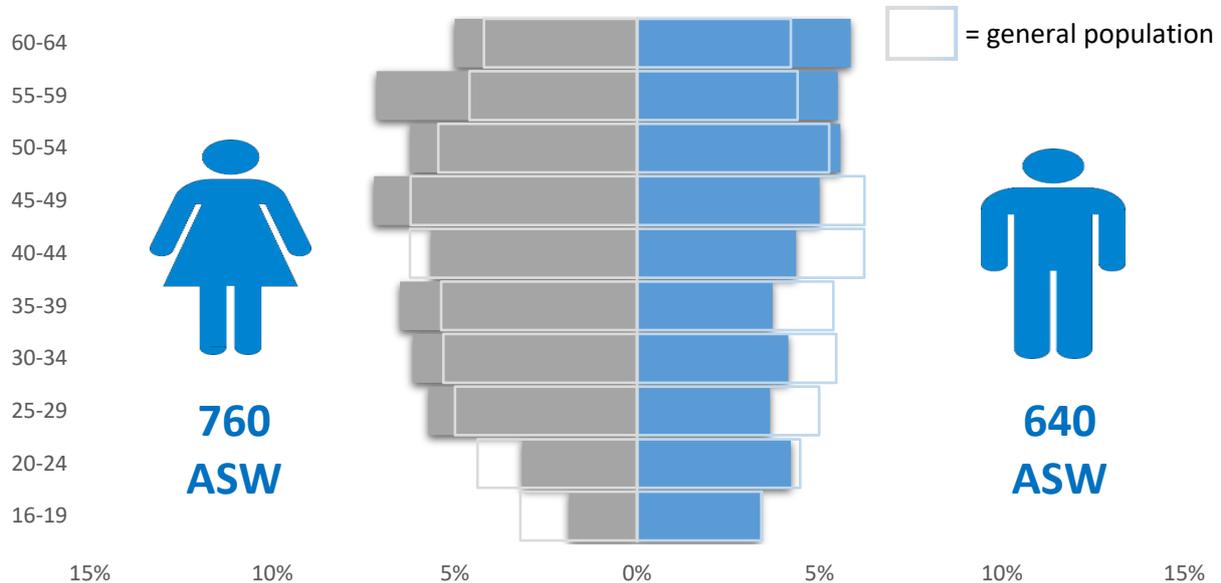
	Dec 2015	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020
<b>Individuals receiving Income Support</b>	1,140	1,040	840	800	810	1,240
<b>Individuals not receiving Income Support</b>	250	240	110	90	70	160
<b>Percentage of ASW receiving Income Support</b>	82%	81%	88%	90%	92%	89%

<sup>3</sup> 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 50% threshold) are not included.

## Registered ASW by age and sex

On 31 December 2020, more females (760 individuals) than male (640 individuals) were registered as ASW.

Figure 2 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population<sup>5</sup>, December 2020

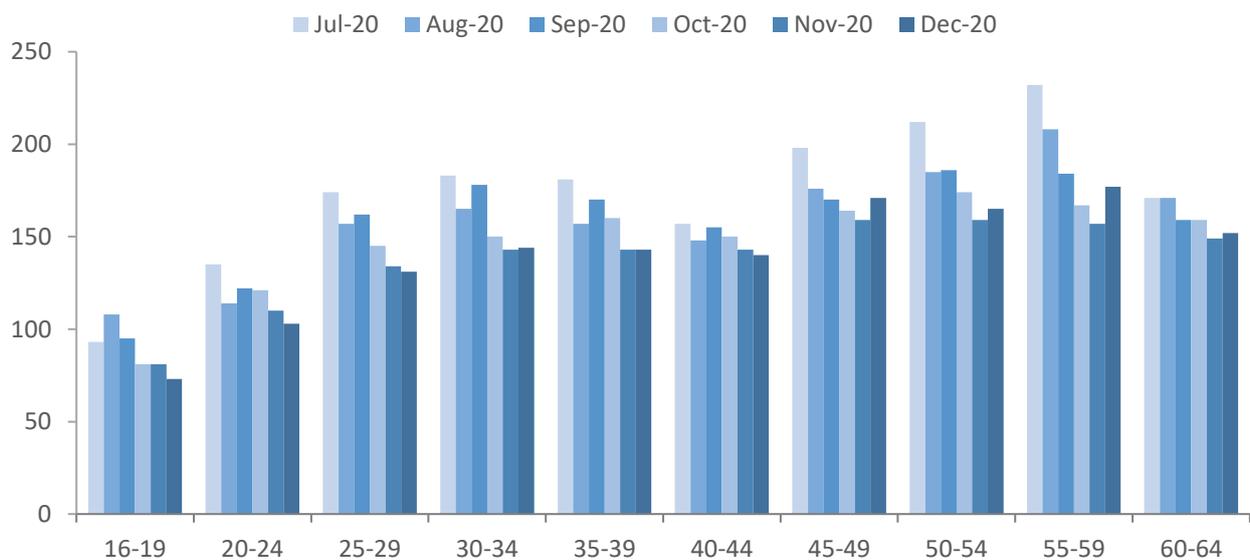


In respect of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- there were more females than males registered in all age groups 25-59 years
- there were more males than females registered in age groups 16-24 and 60-64 years
- the 35-39 age group had the largest difference by sex, with the number of females registered as ASW (90 individuals) being almost twice the number of males registered (50 individuals)

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from July 2020 to December 2020.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, July 2020 – December 2020



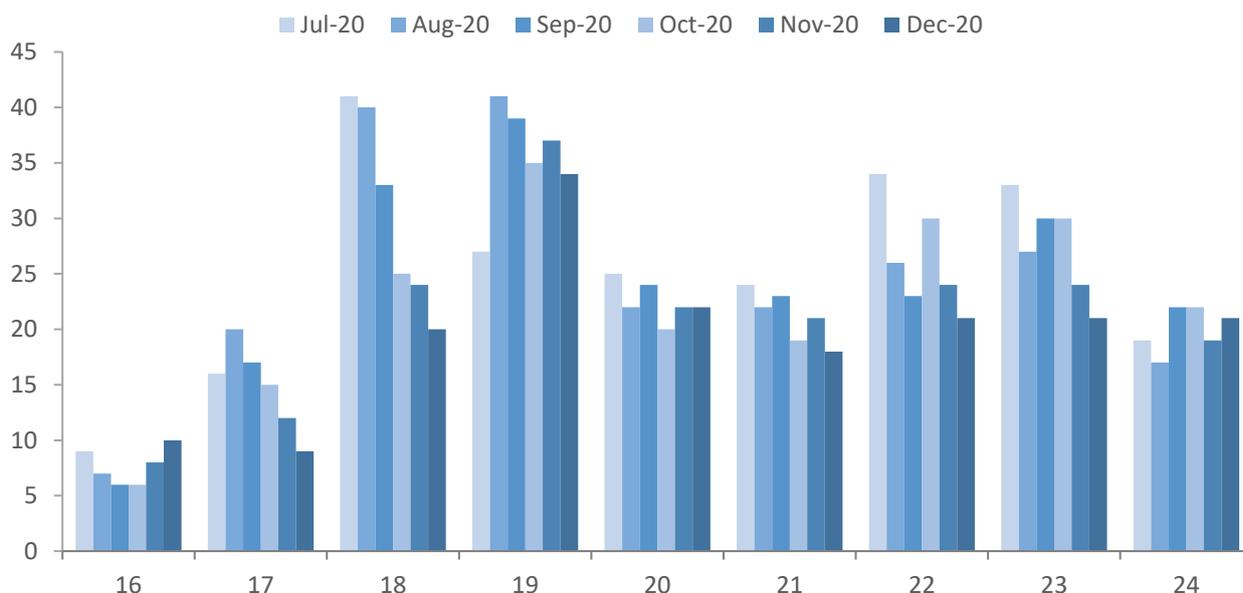
<sup>5</sup> Age and sex proportions at the 2011 Jersey census.

On 31 December 2020, 12% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (170 individuals); 5% were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (70 individuals).

The majority of age groups saw decreases of 20 individuals or more compared with the end of the previous quarter; the 30-34 age group saw the largest decrease, of around 30 individuals.

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 2020 to December 2020.

Figure 4 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, July 2020 – December 2020

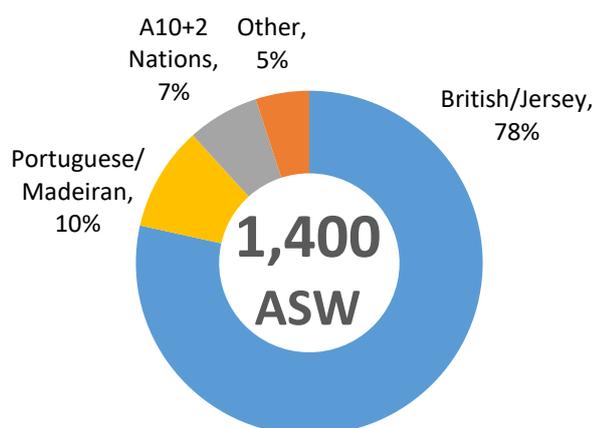


### Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 December 2020:

- there were 1,100 individuals of British / Jersey nationality<sup>5</sup> registered as ASW (78% of total); representing a decrease of 140 individuals compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 140 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (10% of total), a decrease of 20 individuals compared with the previous quarter
- there were 90 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)<sup>6</sup> nations registered as ASW (7% of total), a decrease of 20 individuals compared with the previous quarter

Figure 5 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, December 2020



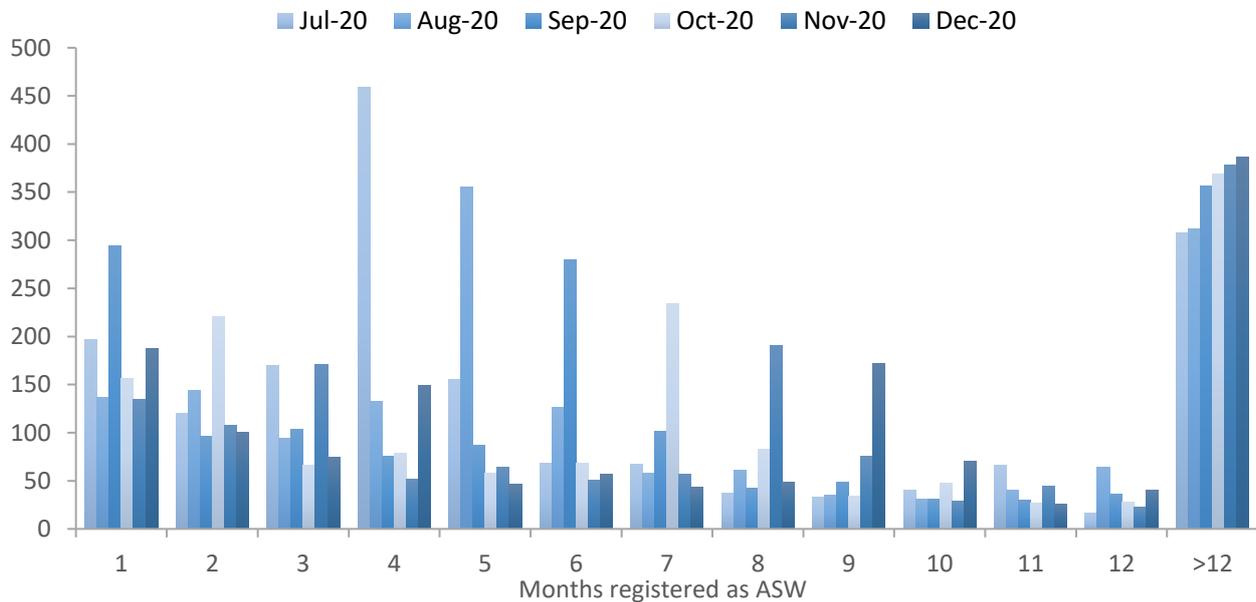
<sup>5</sup> Nationality recorded by Customer and Local Services, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

<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

Of the people registered as ASW on 31 December 2020, over one-quarter (26%) had been registered for three months or less - see Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), July 2020 – December 2020

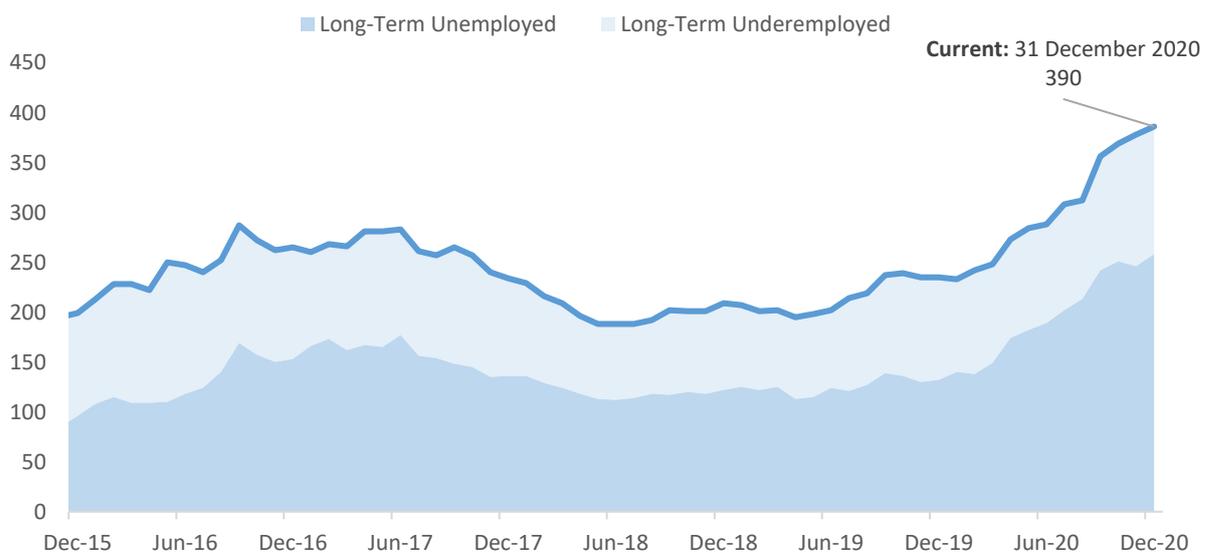


The number of new registrations in the fourth quarter of 2020 (480 people) was 150 lower than that recorded in the previous quarter and was 90 higher than recorded a year earlier (Q4 2019).

## Long-term Registered ASW

On 31 December 2020, there were 390 people registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for 28% of total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was 30 higher compared with the end of the previous quarter (September 2020) and was 150 higher than a year earlier (December 2019).

Figure 7 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, December 2015 – December 2020

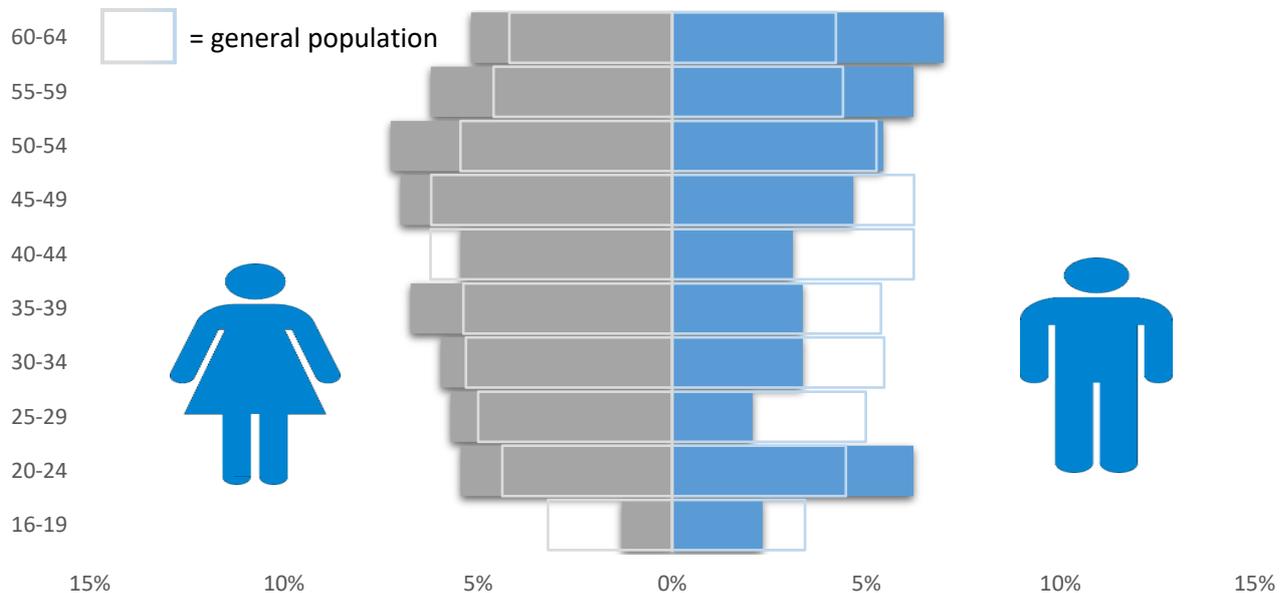


Of the 390 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 130 were engaged in some form of paid employment and therefore classified as underemployed<sup>7</sup>. Over seven-tenths (71%) of those registered as long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment were female.

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

Figure 8 shows the age and sex distribution of the long-term ASW in December 2020.

Figure 8 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population<sup>8</sup>, December 2020



### 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 December 2020, almost a quarter (24%) of individuals registered as ASW were claiming LTIA, corresponding to 330 individuals.

Of these 330 individuals, 60 were classified as underemployed meaning they were engaged in some form of paid employment; this number was 30 lower when compared with a year earlier (December 2019).

Table 2 – Number of registered ASW claiming LTIA, December 2019 – December 2020

	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20
<b>Total claiming LTIA</b>	270	260	250	260	380	400	380	380	360	350	330	320	330
<b>Percentage of total ASW</b>	31%	30%	29%	26%	17%	17%	19%	22%	23%	22%	22%	23%	24%
<b>Underemployed and claiming LTIA</b>	90	80	80	70	70	70	80	80	70	80	80	70	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 over nine out of ten people (92%) registered as ASW. On 31 December 2020:

- 19% were previously employed in ‘Miscellaneous professional & domestic services’
- 18% were previously employed in ‘Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales’
- 15% were previously employed in ‘Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business’
- 14% were previously employed in ‘Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs’

<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 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 December 2020)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving Income Support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 90 such individuals in December 2020)

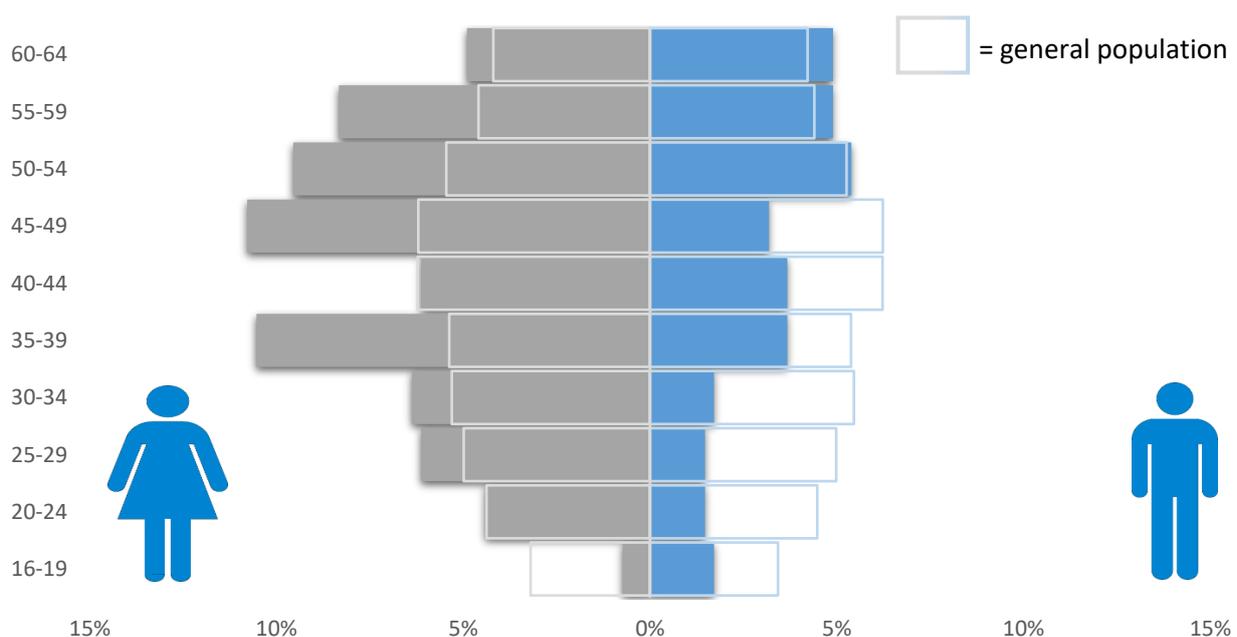
In December 2020, 29% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 3 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last thirteen months.

Table 3 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, December 2019 – December 2020

	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20
<b>Individuals</b>	310	290	290	270	390	430	440	440	420	470	460	440	410
<b>Percentage of total ASW</b>	35%	33%	34%	27%	18%	19%	23%	25%	26%	30%	31%	32%	29%

Figure 9 shows the age and sex distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in December 2020, over three-fifths (62%) were aged 40 or over and almost seven-tenths (68%) were female.

Figure 9 - Age and sex distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population<sup>10</sup>, December 2020



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

<sup>10</sup> 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*  
*13 January 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 <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.</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 2015 – December 2020<sup>1</sup>

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2015	Jan	790	700	1,490	1,400	2018	Jan	440	490	940	880
	(c) Feb	870	760	1,620	1,510		Feb	430	490	910	880
	Mar	820	740	1,560	1,540		Mar	410	500	910	900
	Apr	710	680	1,390	1,400		Apr	410	440	850	860
	(c) May	730	670	1,400	1,450		May	380	440	820	860
	Jun	730	720	1,450	1,490		Jun	390	430	820	860
	Jul	770	720	1,490	1,540		Jul	410	450	870	900
	Aug	710	690	1,400	1,440		Aug	380	440	820	860
	(c) Sep	720	840	1,560	1,560		Sep	390	580	970	930
	Oct	720	800	1,520	1,520		Oct	380	570	940	900
	Nov	710	780	1,490	1,490		Nov	360	500	860	860
	Dec	670	720	1,390	1,390		Dec	390	500	890	880
2016	Jan	730	740	1,470	1,410	2019	Jan	420	500	920	870
	Feb	750	750	1,500	1,410		Feb	400	480	880	850
	Mar	690	700	1,380	1,370		Mar	380	470	840	840
	Apr	630	720	1,360	1,370		Apr	390	470	860	870
	May	620	750	1,380	1,420		May	380	460	840	880
	Jun	660	730	1,390	1,420		Jun	360	460	820	870
	(c) Jul	630	690	1,330	1,380		Jul	370	480	850	880
	Aug	630	710	1,340	1,380		Aug	370	470	830	880
	Sep	670	760	1,430	1,400		Sep	350	570	920	870
	Oct	660	730	1,390	1,380		Oct	370	560	930	880
	Nov	640	670	1,310	1,320		Nov	360	520	890	890
	Dec	630	650	1,280	1,270		Dec	370	510	880	870
2017	Jan	640	680	1,320	1,260	2020	Jan	370	500	880	830
	Feb	600	650	1,250	1,190		Feb	360	500	860	840
	Mar	570	610	1,180	1,170		Mar	440	570	1,010	1,010
	Apr	540	590	1,140	1,150		Apr	1,090	1,090	2,180	2,190
	May	500	540	1,030	1,080		May	1,110	1,180	2,290	2,330
	Jun	490	510	1,000	1,040		Jun	920	1,030	1,950	2,000
	Jul	450	490	940	990		Jul	820	920	1,740	1,760
	Aug	440	530	970	1,000		Aug	760	830	1,590	1,640
	Sep	420	560	980	940		Sep	680	900	1,580	1,540
	Oct	430	520	950	920		Oct	640	830	1,470	1,420
	(c) Nov	440	480	920	920		Nov	610	760	1,380	1,380
	Dec	440	510	950	930		Dec	640	760	1,400	1,390

<sup>1</sup>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  
 Statistics Jersey | Registered Actively Seeking Work, Fourth Quarter - 2020 | 10