

# Registered Actively Seeking Work February 2015

Statistics Unit: [www.gov.je/statistics](http://www.gov.je/statistics)



## Summary

On 28 February 2015:

- on a **seasonally adjusted**<sup>1</sup> basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was<sup>2</sup>:
  - 70 higher than the previous month (January 2015);
  - 20 lower than the average (mean) for the preceding three months;
- the **non-seasonally adjusted ASW total** was 1,620; this total is 130 higher than the previous month (January 2015) and 240 lower than twelve months earlier (February 2014);
- the increase in both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals compared with the previous month (January 2015) was predominantly due to a change in the Income Support criterion relating to Long-Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA);
- **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) accounted for around one in eight (13%) of total ASW, remaining at the lowest level seen for more than three and a half years (April 2011);
- 210 teenagers (aged 16-19 years) were registered as ASW, a similar number to the previous month (January 2015) and 70 fewer than twelve months earlier (February 2014).

## 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 noted that there is no legal requirement for 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 demonstrating the level of individuals actively seeking work in the Island at a given point in time.

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 by 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;
- 4.6% in June 2014, measured by the 2014 Jersey Annual Social Survey; this unemployment rate corresponded to 2,800 people being unemployed and looking for work in June 2014.

<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, Easter, academic year.

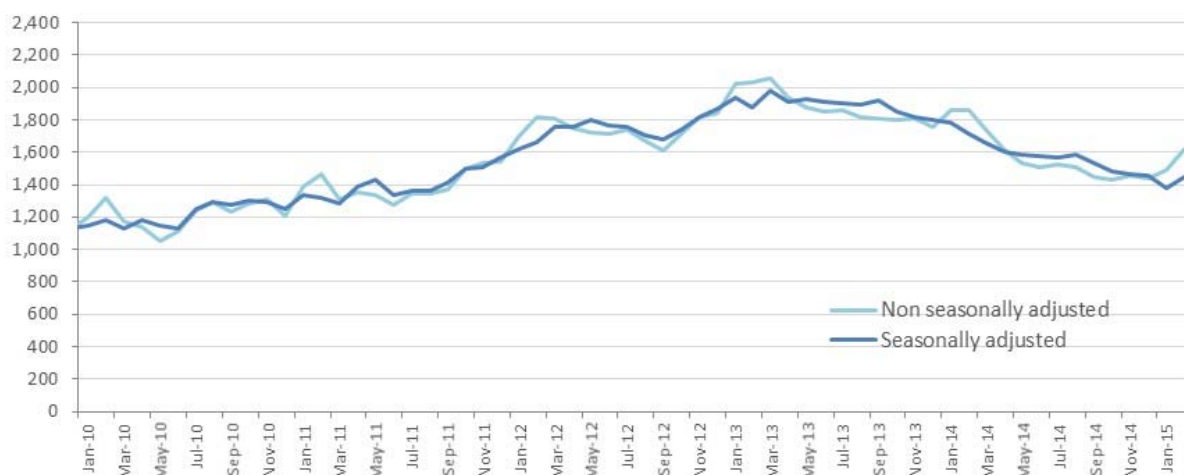
<sup>2</sup> ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

## Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 28 February 2015, 1,620 people were registered with the Social Security Department as actively seeking work (ASW). Nearly three-quarters (74%) of individuals registered as ASW on this date (corresponding to 1,200 people) were receiving Income Support<sup>3</sup>.

Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since January 2010 (monthly data are shown in the Appendix). The total number registered in February 2015 was 130 higher than in the previous month (January 2015) and 240 lower than twelve months earlier (February 2014).

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, Jan 2010 – Feb 2015



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 February 2015 was:

- 70 higher than a month earlier, January 2015;
- 20 higher than the mean for the preceding three-month period, November 2014 to January 2015;
- 260 lower than a year earlier, February 2014.

The increase in both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals in February 2015 compared with the previous month (January 2015) was predominantly due to a change in the Income Support criterion relating to Long-Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA)<sup>4</sup>.

## Registered ASW by age

On 28 February 2015, almost a quarter (23%) of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (380 individuals); around one in eight (13%) 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 six months, from September 2014 to February 2015.

In the latest month, most age groups recorded increases of around 20 to 30 individuals in the number of people registered as ASW compared with the previous month (January 2015). In contrast, two age groups (16-19 and 30-34 years) recorded monthly decreases of around 10 individuals, whilst the 35-39 years age group was relatively unchanged in the number of people registered as ASW.

<sup>3</sup> 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 28 February 2015.

<sup>4</sup> On 23 February 2015 the threshold for the cumulative LTIA percentage rate was increased from 35% to 40%; members of an Income Support claim below the threshold are required to seek employment. Raising the LTIA threshold resulted in an additional 90 individuals being registered as ASW at the end of February 2015 compared with the previous month.

Figure 2 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, Sep 2014 – Feb 2015

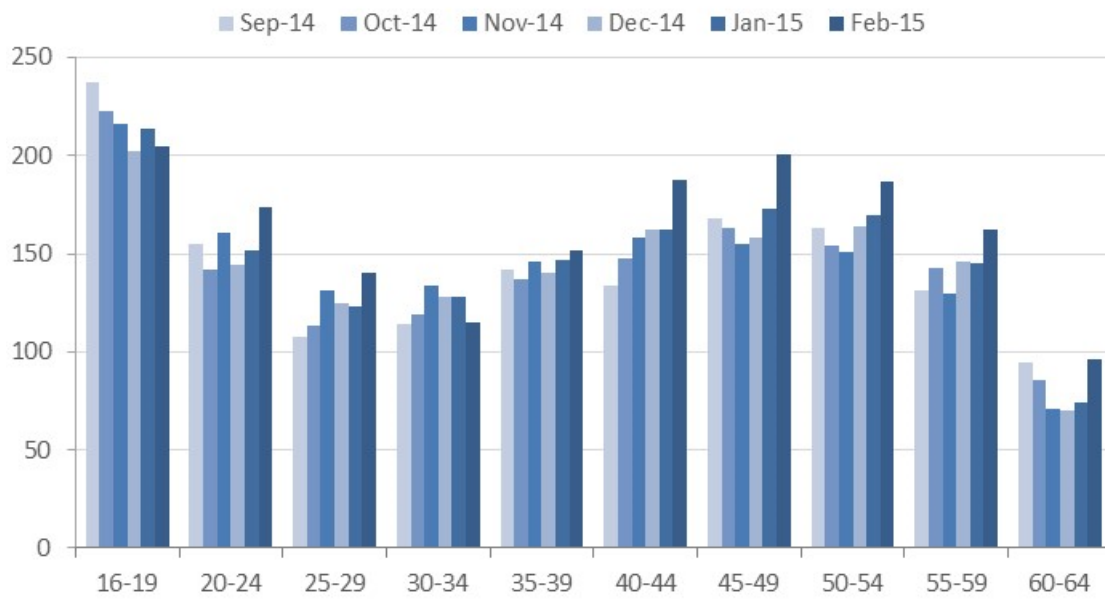
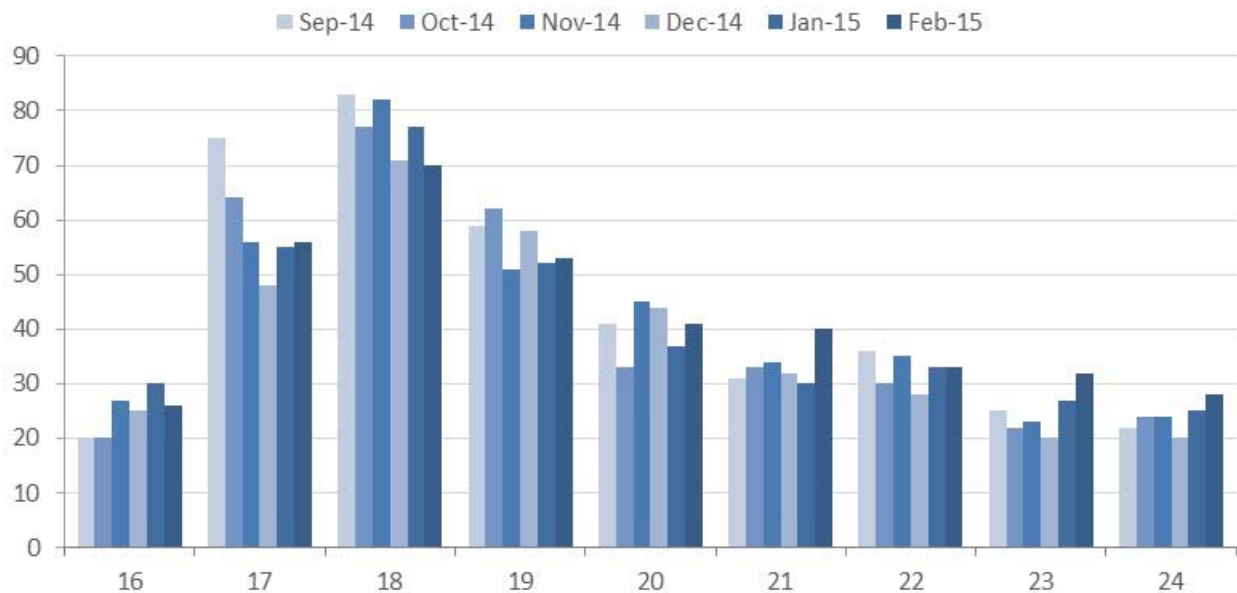


Figure 3 shows the age distribution for people below 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the latest six months, from September 2014 to February 2015.

210 teenagers (aged 16-19 years) were registered as ASW at the end of February 2015, a similar number to the previous month (January 2015) and 70 fewer than twelve months earlier (February 2014).

Of those teenagers registered as ASW at the end of February 2015, 130 were on the Advance to Work scheme.

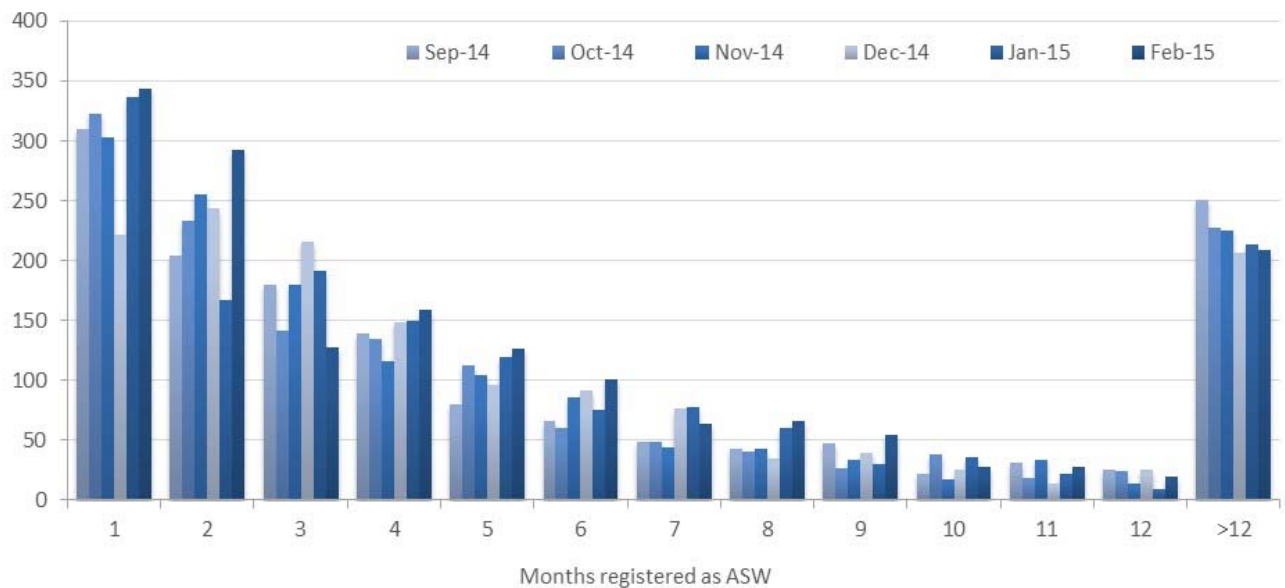
Figure 3 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, Sep 2014 – Feb 2015



## ASW duration

Almost half (47%) of all people registered as ASW on 28 February 2015 had been registered for three months or fewer – see Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), Sep 2014 – Feb 2015



The number of new registrations in February 2015 (340 people) was at a similar level to that recorded in the previous month (January 2015).

## Long-term ASW

On 28 February 2015, there were 210 people who had been registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for around one in eight (13%) of the total ASW.

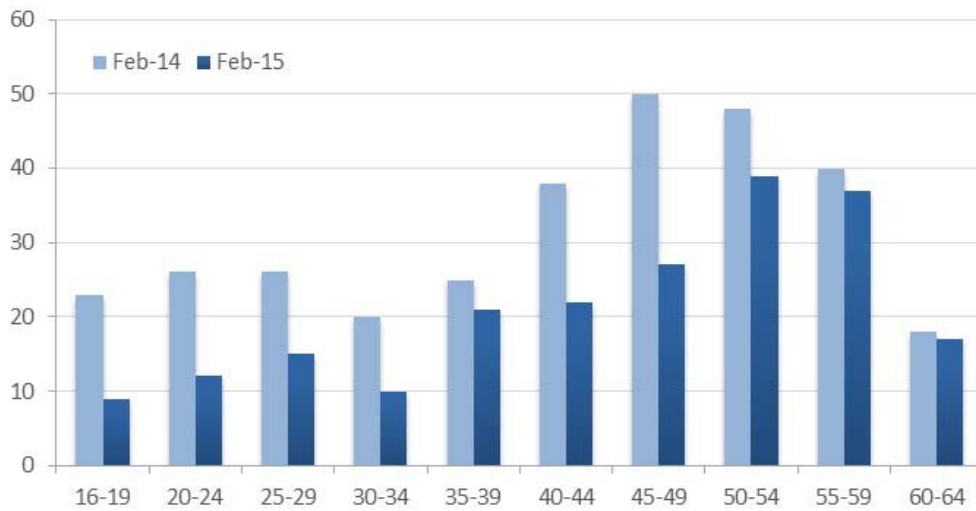
The latest number of long-term ASW was at the same level as in each of the previous two months, remaining at the lowest level recorded for more than three and a half years, since April 2011 - see Figure 5.

Figure 5 – Long-term ASW, Jan 2010 – Feb 2015



Figure 6 shows the age distribution of the long-term ASW in February 2014 and February 2015. All age groups have seen falls in the number of long-term ASW during the past twelve months.

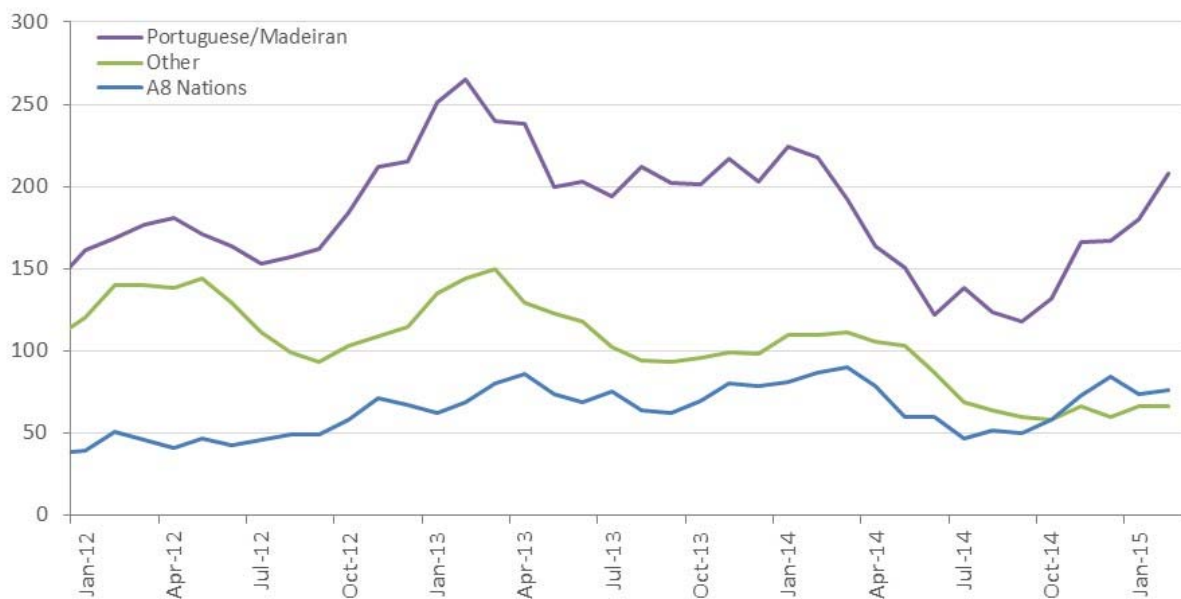
Figure 6 – Long-term ASW by age, Feb 2014 and Feb 2015



### Registered ASW by Nationality

On 28 February 2015, almost four-fifths (78%) of people registered as ASW were of British/Jersey nationality<sup>5</sup>, corresponding to an increase of 100 such individuals compared with the previous month.

Figure 7 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, Jan 2012 – Feb 2015



On 28 February 2015 there were:

- 210 individuals of Portuguese/Madeiran nationality registered as ASW, 30 more than the previous month (January 2015) and 10 fewer than in the corresponding month of 2014;
- 80 individuals from the EU Accession (A8)<sup>6</sup> nations were registered as ASW, a similar number to the previous month (January 2015) and to that in the corresponding month of 2014.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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 on 28 February 2015:

- a fifth (20%) were previously employed in 'Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales';
- almost a sixth (16%) were previously employed in 'Miscellaneous professional & domestic services';
- 15% were previously employed in 'Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs';
- 14% were previously employed in 'Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business.

## Notes

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 (see Annex); 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 - 19 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 development and expansion of these schemes, Back to Work is responsible for:

- the Employment Grant, Hospitality Incentive and Youth Incentive;
- a dedicated Employer Engagement 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.

## 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 underemployment<sup>7</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 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. The number of ASW registered underemployed also includes individuals who are on the Foundations programme and engaged in paid work of 30 hours per week; in February 2015 there were 40 such individuals. Both sets of employed individuals will simultaneously be working and actively seeking work, and are classified as underemployed under the ILO definition of *time related underemployment*.

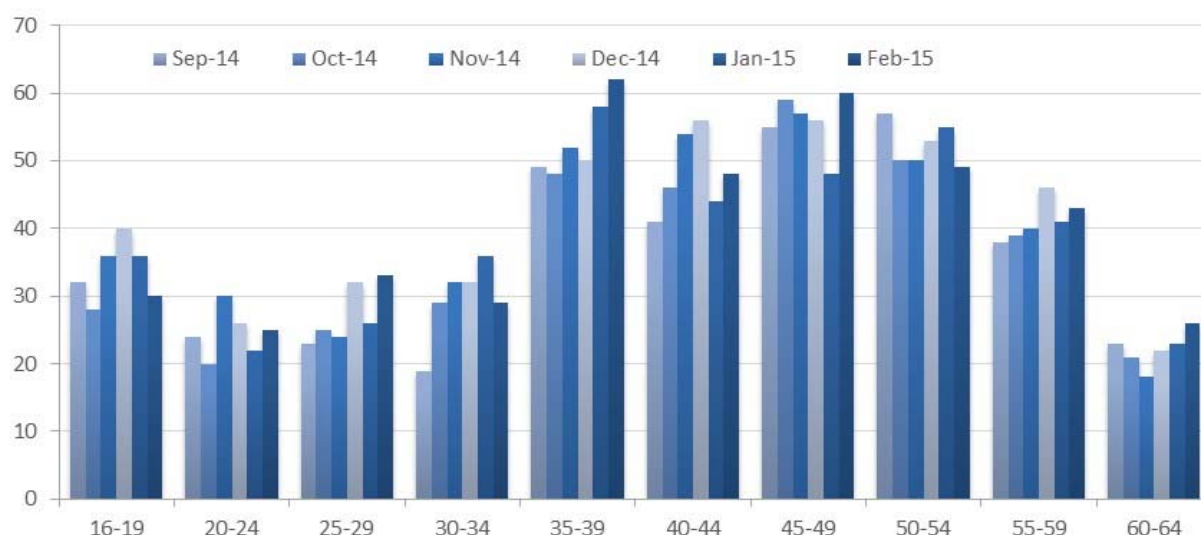
In February 2015, a quarter (25%) of all people registered as ASW were underemployed, meaning that they were working less than 35 hours per week and were actively seeking more work. The numbers of such individuals in each of the last twelve months are shown in Table A1.

Table A1 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, Feb 2014 – Feb 2015

	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14	May-14	Jun-14	Jul-14	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15
<b>Individuals</b>	370	340	370	380	350	360	360	360	370	390	410	390	410
<b>Percentage of total ASW</b>	20%	20%	23%	25%	23%	24%	24%	25%	26%	27%	28%	26%	25%

Figure A1 shows the age distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; more than two-fifths (43%) were aged 45 years or over.

Figure A1 - Age distribution of ASW registered underemployed, Sep 2014 – Feb 2015



Of those people who were registered as ASW underemployed in February 2015: three-fifths (60%) were female; almost a third (30%) had been actively seeking work for more than a year; and almost nine out of ten (86%) were claiming Income Support.

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

## Appendix

Number of individuals registered as ASW, Jan 2010 – Feb 2015<sup>8</sup>

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
<b>2010</b>	<b>Jan</b>	770	440	1,200	1,150
	<b>Feb</b>	810	510	1,320	1,180
	<b>Mar</b>	720	450	1,170	1,130
	<b>Apr</b>	710	430	1,140	1,180
	<b>May</b>	670	390	1,060	1,150
	<b>Jun</b>	690	420	1,110	1,130
	<b>Jul</b>	760	490	1,240	1,250
	<b>Aug</b>	810	490	1,290	1,300
	<b>Sep</b>	770	460	1,230	1,280
	<b>Oct</b>	840	450	1,290	1,300
	<b>Nov</b>	870	440	1,310	1,290
	<b>Dec</b>	800	410	1,210	1,250
<b>2011</b>	<b>Jan</b>	910	480	1,390	1,330
	<b>Feb</b>	960	510	1,470	1,320
	<b>Mar</b>	850	460	1,310	1,290
	<b>Apr</b>	870	490	1,350	1,390
	<b>May</b>	820	520	1,340	1,430
	<b>Jun</b>	780	500	1,280	1,340
	<b>Jul</b>	800	550	1,350	1,360
	<b>Aug</b>	820	530	1,350	1,360
	<b>Sep</b>	850	520	1,370	1,410
	<b>Oct</b>	920	570	1,500	1,500
	<b>Nov</b>	960	580	1,530	1,510
	<b>Dec</b>	960	580	1,540	1,570
<b>2012</b>	<b>Jan</b>	1,050	650	1,700	1,620
	<b>Feb</b>	1,130	690	1,820	1,670
	<b>Mar</b>	1,100	700	1,810	1,760
	<b>Apr</b>	1,060	680	1,740	1,760
	<b>May</b>	1,040	680	1,720	1,800
	<b>Jun</b>	1,020	700	1,720	1,760
	<b>Jul</b>	1,020	720	1,740	1,750

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
<b>2012</b>	<b>Aug</b>	1,020	650	1,670	1,710
	<b>Sep</b>	970	650	1,610	1,680
	<b>Oct</b>	1,020	700	1,720	1,740
	<b>Nov</b>	1,090	730	1,820	1,820
	<b>Dec</b>	1,100	740	1,840	1,870
	<b>2013</b>	<b>Jan</b>	1,210	810	2,020
<b>Feb</b>		1,210	820	2,030	1,880
<b>Mar</b>		1,230	820	2,050	1,980
<b>Apr</b>		1,140	800	1,930	1,910
<b>May</b>		1,080	800	1,880	1,930
<b>Jun</b>		1,040	810	1,850	1,910
<b>Jul</b>		1,030	840	1,860	1,900
<b>Aug</b>		990	820	1,820	1,890
<b>Sept</b>		1,000	800	1,810	1,920
<b>Oct</b>		1,040	770	1,800	1,860
<b>Nov</b>		1,060	750	1,810	1,820
<b>Dec</b>		1,030	720	1,750	1,800
<b>2014</b>	<b>Jan</b>	1,090	770	1,860	1,780
	<b>Feb</b>	1,080	780	1,860	1,710
	<b>Mar</b>	980	760	1,730	1,650
	<b>Apr</b>	900	720	1,610	1,600
	<b>May</b>	840	700	1,530	1,590
	<b>Jun</b>	790	710	1,510	1,580
	<b>Jul</b>	780	740	1,520	1,570
	<b>Aug</b>	780	720	1,510	1,580
	<b>Sep</b>	750	700	1,450	1,540
	<b>Oct</b>	760	670	1,430	1,480
	<b>Nov</b>	780	680	1,450	1,460
	<b>Dec</b>	760	680	1,440	1,460
<b>2015</b>	<b>Jan</b>	790	700	1,490	1,380
	<b>Feb</b>	870	760	1,620	1,450

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