

Summary

On 31 March 2016:

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was²:
 - 110 lower than the previous month
 - 110 lower than the average for the preceding three months
 - 190 lower than a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 1,380; this total is 120 lower than in the previous month and 180 lower than a year earlier
- both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted totals are the lowest recorded since 2011
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 230; this total is essentially unchanged compared with the previous month and 30 higher than a year earlier
- there were 350 individuals registered as ASW but engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 110 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 monthly 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.

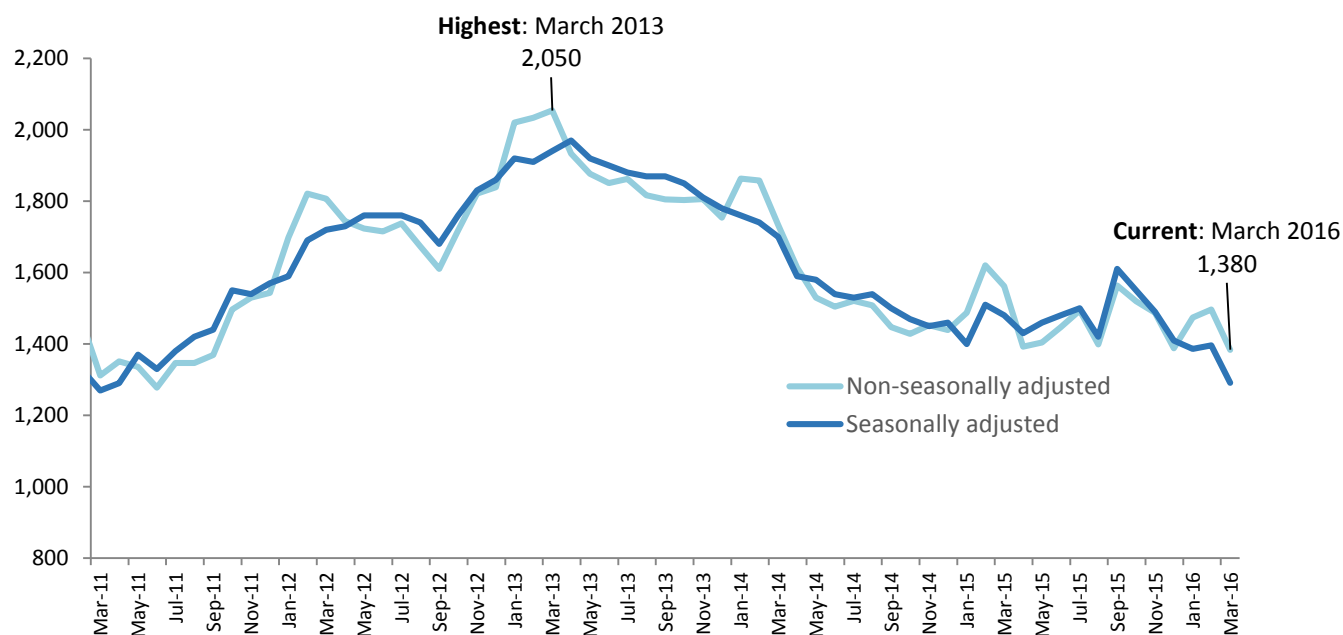
² ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 31 March 2016, 1,380 people were registered with the Social Security Department as actively seeking work (ASW). Three-quarters (77%) of individuals registered as ASW on this date (corresponding to 1,060 people) were receiving Income Support³.

Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since March 2011 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in March 2016 was 120 lower than in the previous month and 180 lower than twelve months earlier (March 2015). This is the lowest recorded monthly total since September 2011.

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, March 2011 – March 2016



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 March 2016 was:

- 110 lower than the previous month, February 2016
- 110 lower than the mean for the preceding three-month period, December 2015 to February 2016
- 190 lower than a year earlier, March 2015

On a seasonally adjusted basis, this month is the lowest recorded monthly total since April 2011.

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 (see [Appendix A](#) for more details).

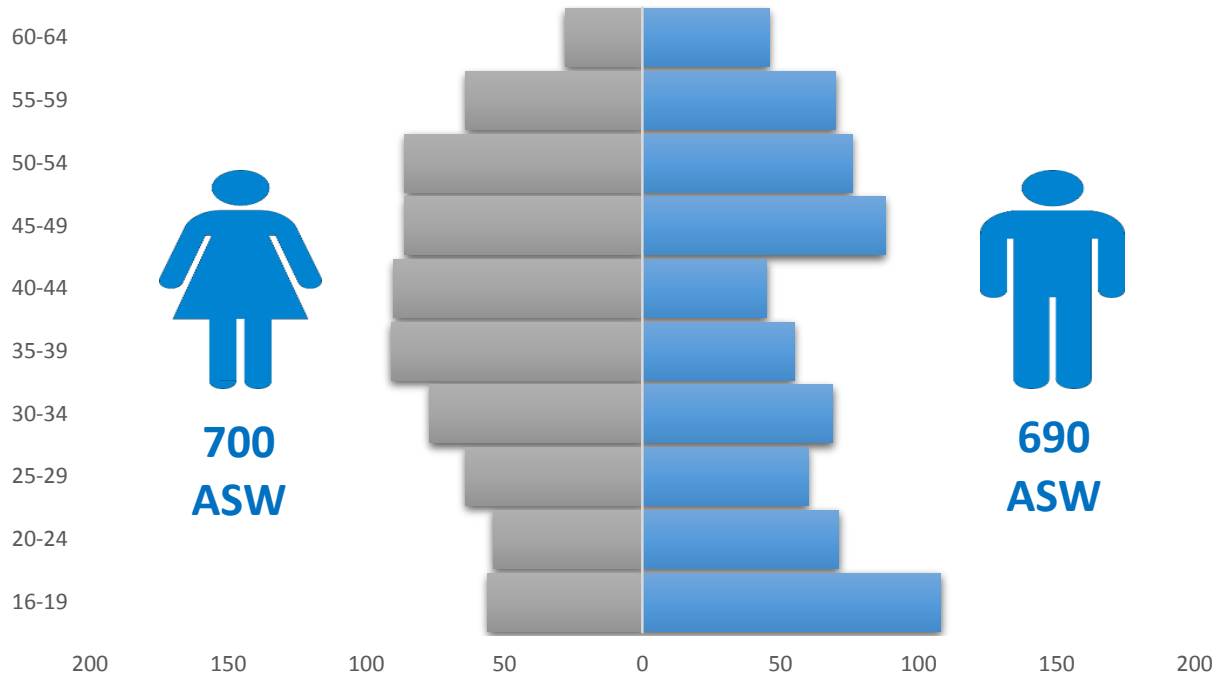
³ The total number of adults receiving Income Support and not working will be greater than this figure, which represents the number of people receiving Income Support who were registered as ASW on 31 March 2016.

Registered ASW by age and gender

On 31 March 2016, slightly more people registered as ASW were female (700 individuals), than male (690 individuals).

Figure 2 shows the numbers registered as ASW both by age group and gender for this most recent month.

Figure 2 – Individuals registered as ASW by age and gender, March 2016

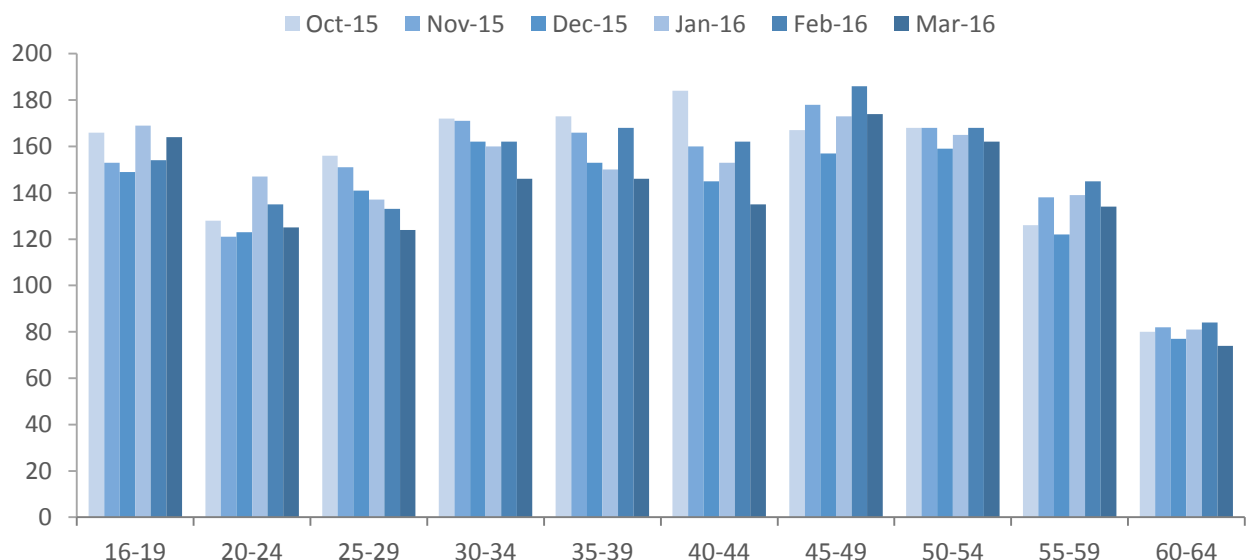


In respect of the breakdown of gender by age group:

- there were more males registered as ASW than females in both the youngest (16-24) and the oldest (55-64) age groups
- there were more females than males registered in all age groups ranging from ages 25 to 54
- the age group with the largest proportional gender difference was the 40-44 age group, where the number of females registered as ASW (90 individuals) was almost double the number of males (50 individuals)

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from October 2015 to March 2016.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, October 2015 – March 2016



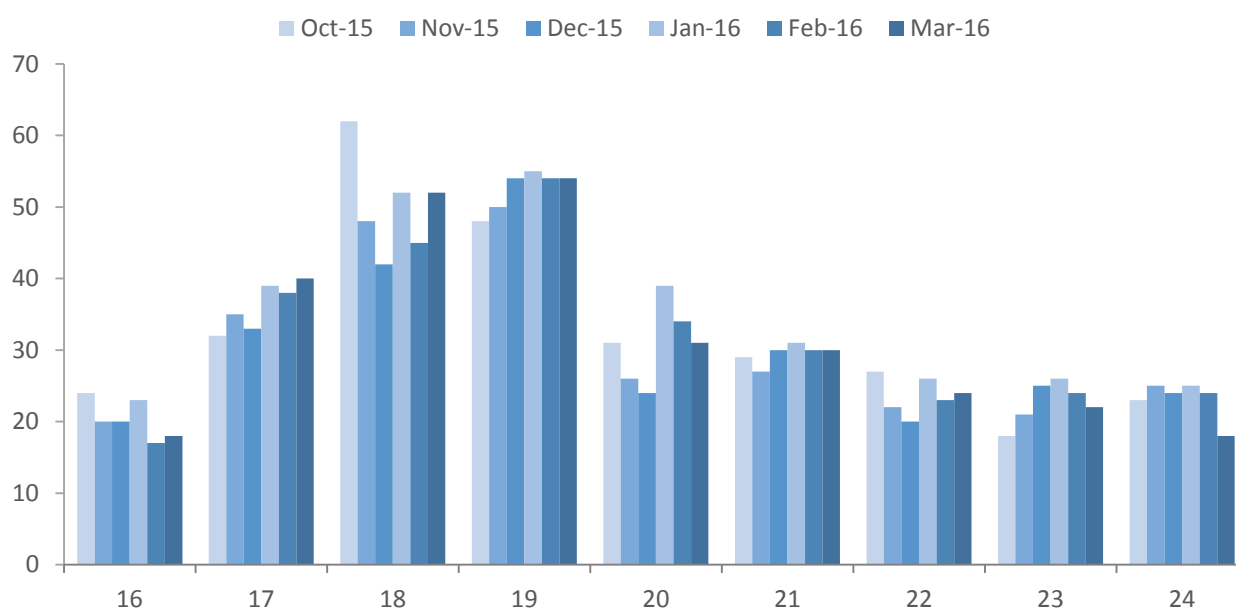
On 31 March 2016, over a fifth (21%) of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (290 individuals); around one in eight (12%) of the total were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (160 individuals).

In the latest month:

- the 40-44 age group saw the largest decrease in the total number of people registered as ASW, 30 lower than both the previous month and a year earlier
- teenagers (16-19 years) were the only age group to record an increase in the total number registered, increasing by around 10 individuals compared with the previous month
- all other age groups recorded decreases of between 10 and 20 individuals compared to the previous month

Figure 4 shows the age distribution for people below 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the latest six months, from October 2015 to March 2016. Of those people registered as ASW at the end of March 2016, 90 were on the Advance to Work scheme.

Figure 4 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, October 2015 - March 2016

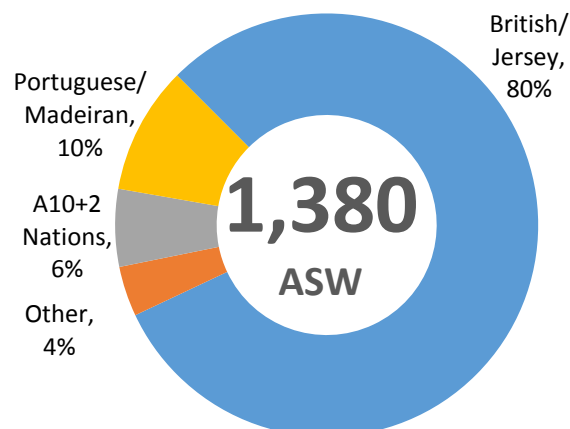


Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 March 2016:

- four-fifths (80%) of people registered as ASW were of British / Jersey nationality⁴; there was a decrease of 60 such individuals compared with the previous month
- there were 140 individuals of Portuguese/Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (10% of total), a decrease of 30 compared with the previous month
- there were 80 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁵ nations registered as ASW, a decrease of 20 compared with the previous month

Figure 5 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, March 2016



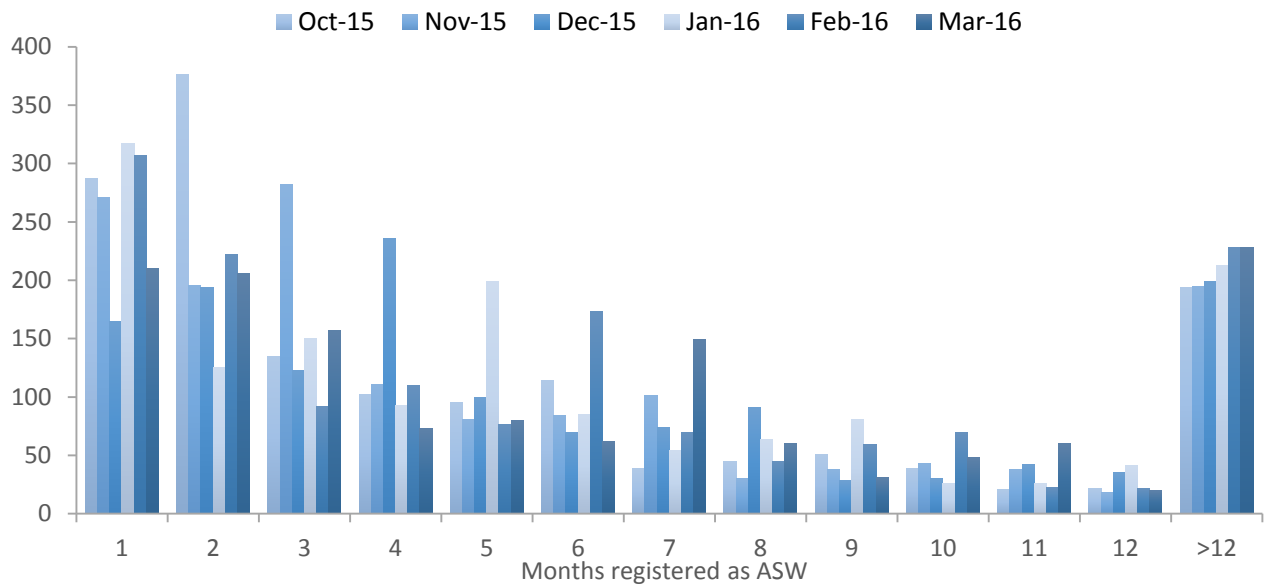
⁴ Nationality recorded by the Social Security Department, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

⁵ 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

Around two-fifths (41%) of all people registered as ASW on 31 March 2016 had been registered for three months or less - see Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), October 2015 - March 2016

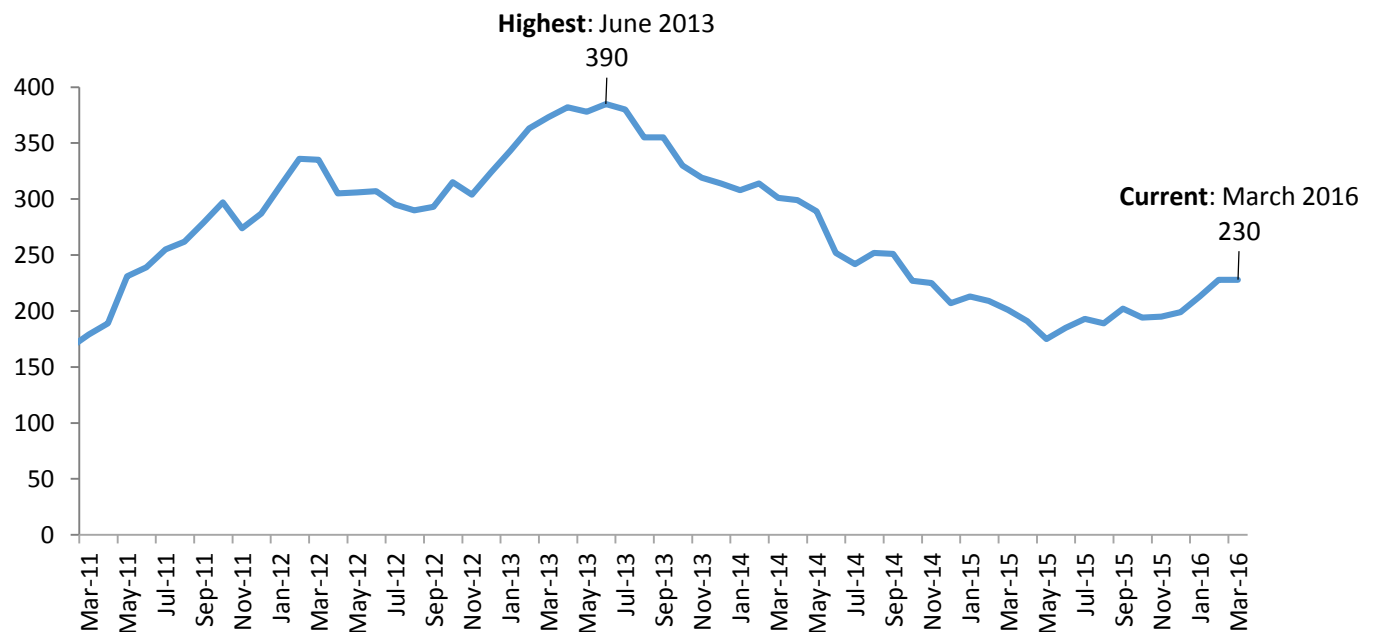


The number of new registrations in March 2016 (210 people) was 100 less than that recorded in the previous month (February 2016) and 80 less than a year earlier (March 2015).

Long-term Registered ASW

On 31 March 2016, there were 230 people who had been registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for around one in six (17%) of the total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was essentially unchanged compared with the previous month (February 2016) and 30 higher than twelve months earlier (March 2015).

Figure 7 – Long-term ASW, March 2011 – March 2016

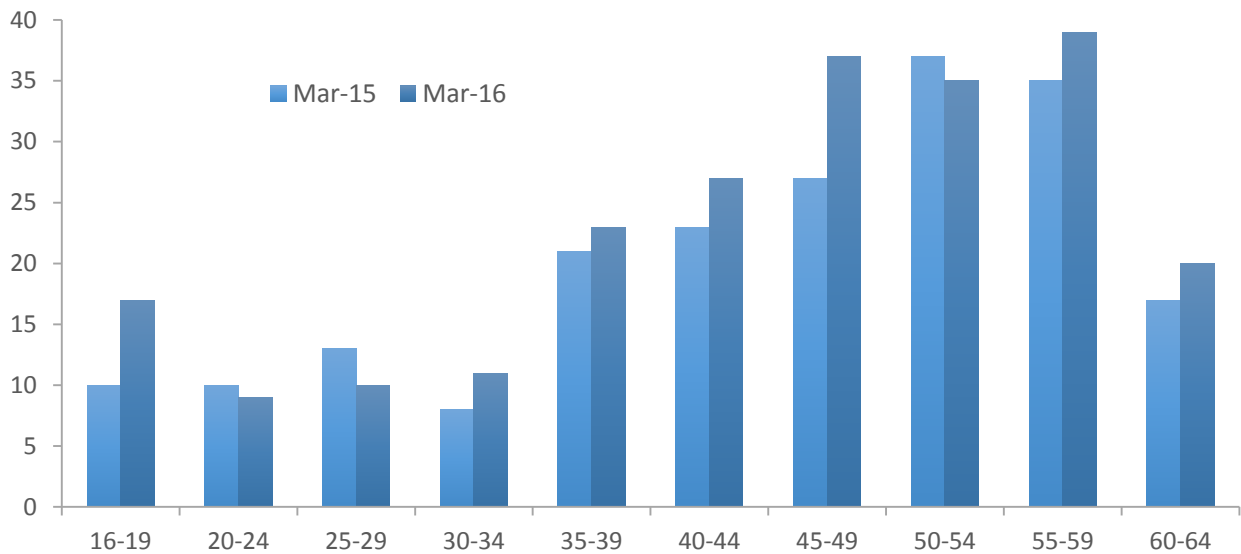


Of the 230 individuals that were registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 110 were engaged in some form of paid employment but were classified as underemployed⁶.

⁶ See [ASW registered underemployment](#) – page 7 of this report

Figure 8 shows the age distribution of the long-term ASW in March 2015 and March 2016.

Figure 8 – Long-term ASW by age, March 2015 and March 2016



The 16-19 and 45-49 age groups both recorded around 10 additional individuals compared with twelve months earlier. All other age groups were essentially unchanged (changes of less than 10 individuals compared with twelve months earlier).

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 March 2016:

- almost a quarter (23%) were previously employed in 'Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales'
- a sixth (17%) were previously employed in 'Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business'
- a sixth (16%) were previously employed in 'Miscellaneous professional & domestic services'
- 13% were previously employed in 'Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs'

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 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. 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. In March 2016 there were 40 such individuals. Both sets of individuals will simultaneously be working and actively seeking work. They are classified as underemployed under the ILO definition of time related underemployment.

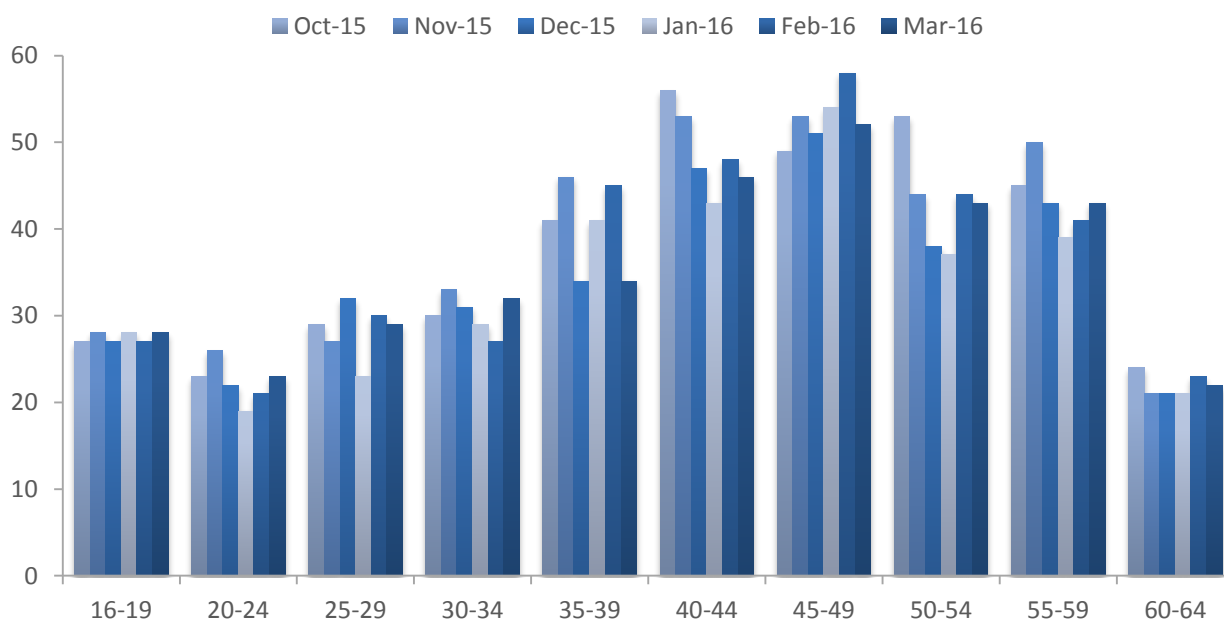
In March 2016, a quarter (25%) of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; the numbers of such individuals in each of the last twelve months are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, March 2015 – March 2016

	Mar 15	Apr 15	May 15	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16
Individuals	420	410	390	410	420	380	380	380	380	350	330	360	350
Percentage of total ASW	27%	29%	28%	28%	28%	27%	24%	25%	26%	25%	22%	24%	25%

Figure 9 shows the age distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; almost three-fifths (59%) were aged 40 years or over.

Figure 9 - Age distribution of ASW registered underemployed, October 2015 – March 2016



Of those people who were registered as ASW underemployed in March 2015: almost two-thirds (65%) were female, a third (32%) had been actively seeking work for more than a year and 88% were claiming Income Support.

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

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 March 2016 there were 90 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
8 April 2016*

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
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>	+ 220 registered ASW
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 2011 – March 2016⁸

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2011	Jan	910	480	1,390	1,280	2014	Dec	1,030	720	1,750	1,780
	Feb	960	510	1,470	1,330		Jan	1,090	770	1,860	1,760
	Mar	850	460	1,310	1,270		Feb	1,080	780	1,860	1,740
	Apr	870	490	1,350	1,290		Mar	980	760	1,730	1,700
	May	820	520	1,340	1,370		^(c) Apr	900	720	1,610	1,590
	Jun	780	500	1,280	1,330		May	840	700	1,530	1,580
	Jul	800	550	1,350	1,380		Jun	790	710	1,510	1,540
	Aug	820	530	1,350	1,420		Jul	780	740	1,520	1,530
	Sep	850	520	1,370	1,440		Aug	780	720	1,510	1,540
	Oct	920	570	1,500	1,550		Sep	750	700	1,450	1,500
	Nov	960	580	1,530	1,540		Oct	760	670	1,430	1,470
	Dec	960	580	1,540	1,570		Nov	780	680	1,450	1,450
2012	Jan	1,050	650	1,700	1,590	Dec	760	680	1,440	1,460	
	Feb	1,130	690	1,820	1,690	2015	Jan	790	700	1,490	1,400
	Mar	1,100	700	1,810	1,720		^(c) Feb	870	760	1,620	1,510
	Apr	1,060	680	1,740	1,730		Mar	820	740	1,560	1,480
	May	1,040	680	1,720	1,760		Apr	710	680	1,390	1,430
	Jun	1,020	700	1,720	1,760		^(c) May	730	670	1,400	1,460
	Jul	1,020	720	1,740	1,760		Jun	730	720	1,450	1,480
	Aug	1,020	650	1,670	1,740		Jul	770	720	1,490	1,500
	Sep	970	650	1,610	1,680		Aug	710	690	1,400	1,420
	Oct	1,020	700	1,720	1,760		^(c) Sep	720	840	1,560	1,610
	Nov	1,090	730	1,820	1,830		Oct	720	800	1,520	1,550
	Dec	1,100	740	1,840	1,860		Nov	710	780	1,490	1,490
2013	Jan	1,210	810	2,020	1,920		Dec	670	720	1,390	1,410
	Feb	1,210	820	2,030	1,910	2016	Jan	730	740	1,470	1,390
	Mar	1,230	820	2,050	1,940		Feb	750	750	1,500	1,400
	Apr	1,140	800	1,930	1,970		Mar	690	700	1,380	1,290
	May	1,080	800	1,880	1,920						
	Jun	1,040	810	1,850	1,900						
	Jul	1,030	840	1,860	1,880						
	Aug	990	820	1,820	1,870						
	Sept	1,000	800	1,810	1,870						
	Oct	1,040	770	1,800	1,850						
	Nov	1,060	750	1,810	1,810						

⁸ 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