

Summary

On 31 March 2021

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was 80² lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 310 higher compared with a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 1,320; this total is 80 lower than at the end of the previous quarter and 310 higher compared with a year earlier
- a greater number of females (730 individuals) than males (590 individuals) were registered as ASW
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 450; this total is 60 higher compared with the previous quarter and 200 higher compared with a year earlier
- of the 1,320 people registered as ASW, 400 individuals were engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 150 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 CRESS³ 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.

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

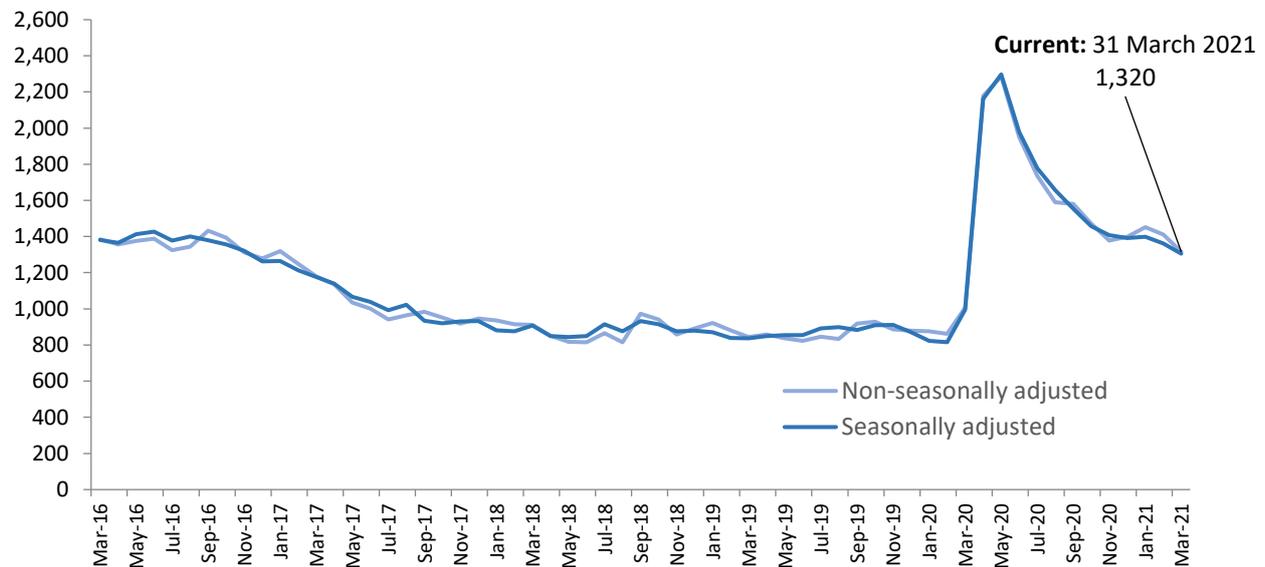
² ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

³ 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 March 2021, there were 1,320 people registered as ASW. Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since March 2016 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in March 2021 was 80 lower than at the end of the previous quarter (December 2020) and 310 higher than twelve months earlier (March 2020).

Figure 1 - Total number of individuals registered as ASW, 31 March 2016 – 31 March 2021



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 March 2021 was:

- 80 lower than at the end of the previous quarter, 31 December 2020
- 310 higher than a year earlier, 31 March 2020

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 March 2021, 88% of individuals registered as ASW (corresponding to 1,160 people) were receiving Income Support³. Compared with March 2016, there has been a rise in the percentage of those registered as ASW who are claiming Income Support (rising from 77% in March 2016 to 88% in March 2021).

Table 1 – Number of registered ASW, receiving and not receiving Income Support, March 2016 – March 2021

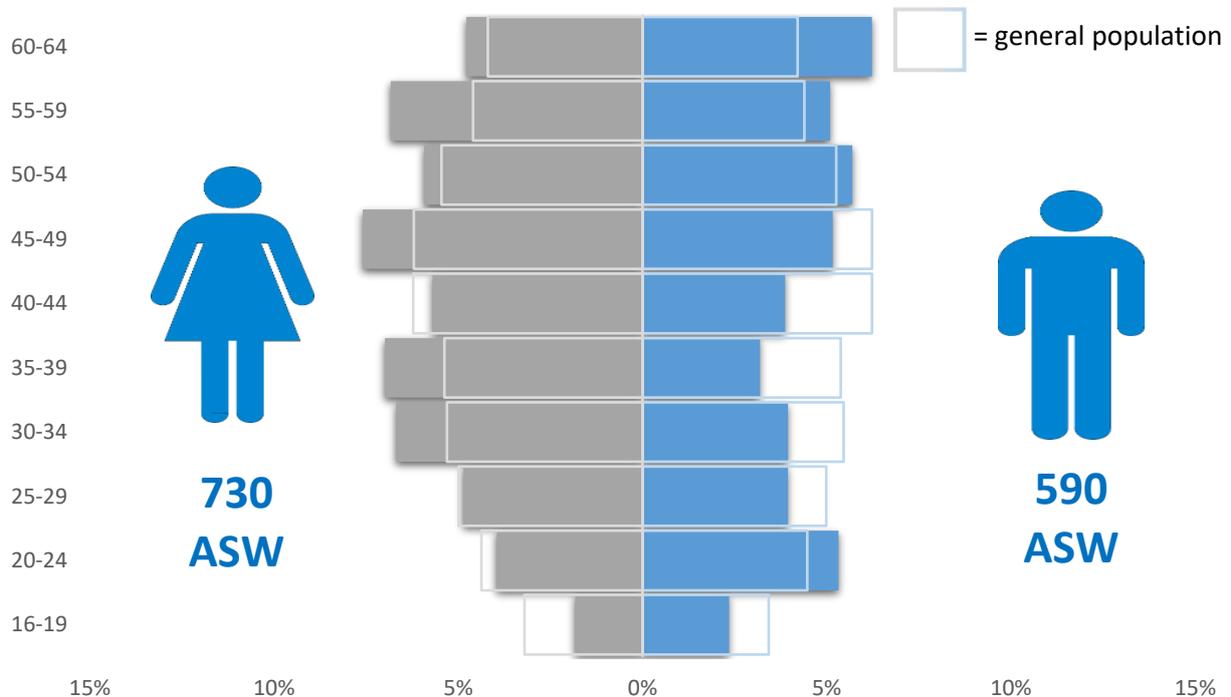
	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021
Individuals receiving Income Support	1,060	960	790	760	910	1,160
Individuals not receiving Income Support	320	220	120	80	100	160
Percentage of ASW receiving Income Support	77%	81%	87%	90%	90%	88%

³ 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 March 2021, more females (730 individuals) than male (590 individuals) were registered as ASW.

Figure 2 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁵, March 2021

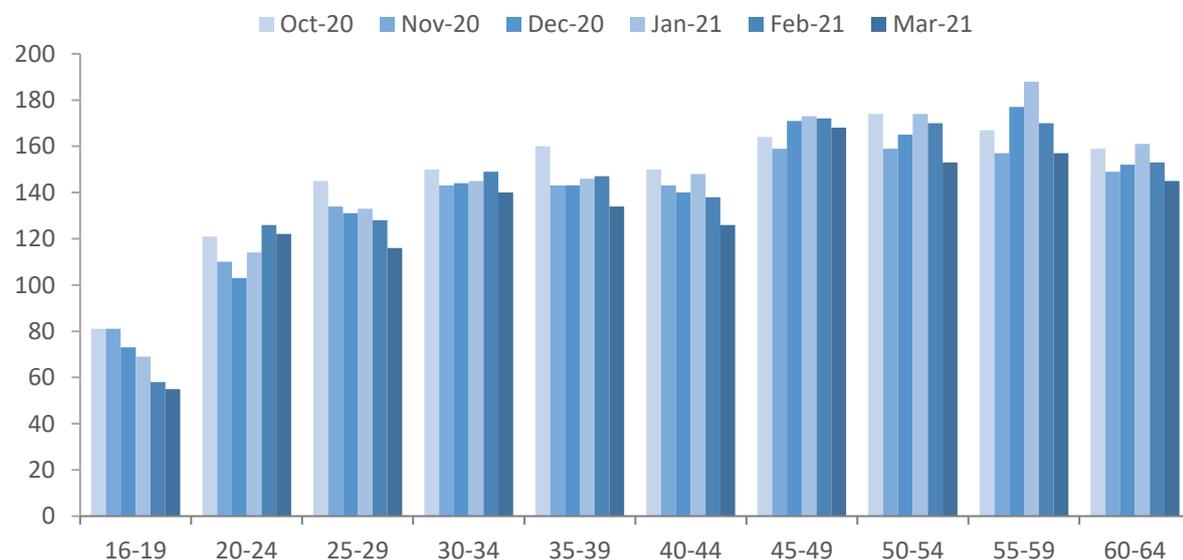


In respect of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- 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 over twice the number of males registered (40 individuals)

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from October 2020 to March 2021.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, October 2020 – March 2021



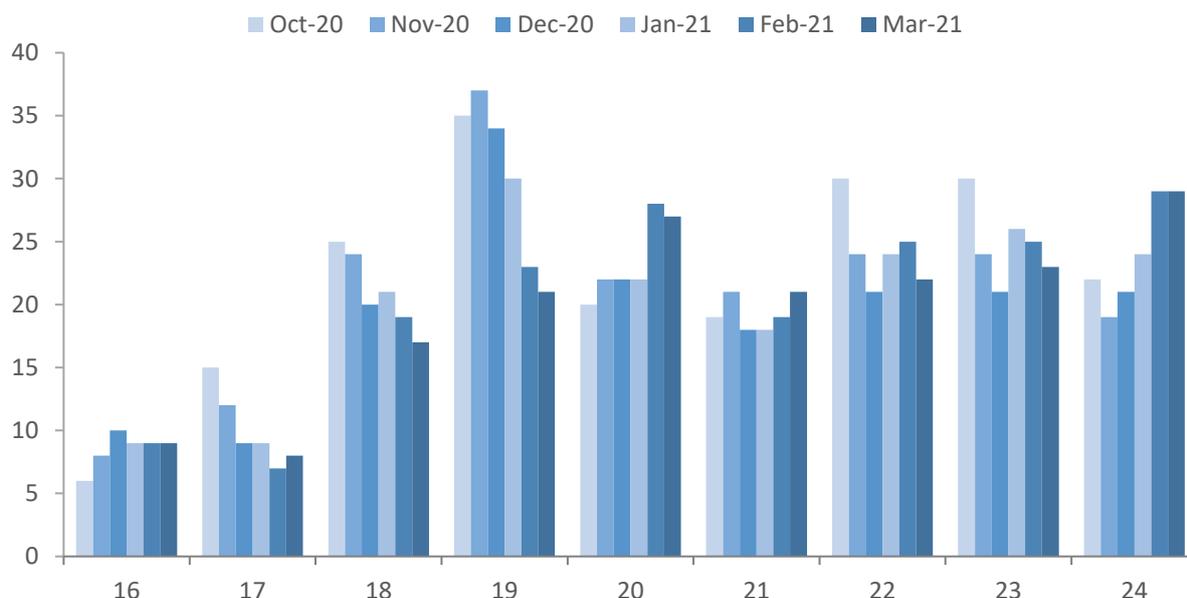
⁵ Age and sex proportions at the 2011 Jersey census.

On 31 March 2021, 14% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (180 individuals); 5% were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (60 individuals).

The majority of age groups saw decreases compared with the end of the previous quarter; the 55-59 age group saw the largest decrease, of around 20 individuals. The only age group to see an increase in the number of registered ASW individuals, compared with the previous quarter, was the 20-24 age group, which saw an increase of around 20 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 October 2020 to March 2021.

Figure 4 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, October 2020 – March 2021

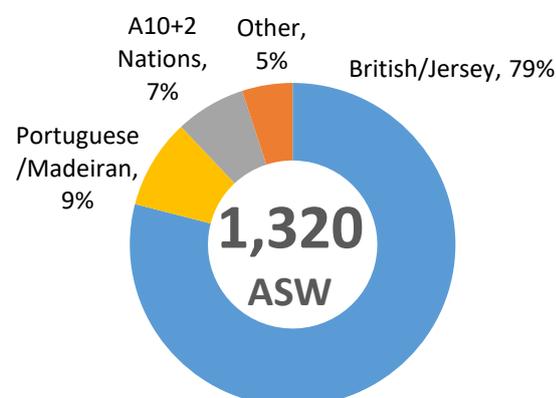


Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 March 2021:

- there were 1,040 individuals of British / Jersey nationality⁵ registered as ASW (79% of total); representing a decrease of 60 individuals compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 120 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (9% of total), a decrease of 20 individuals compared with the previous quarter
- there were 90 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁶ nations registered as ASW (7% of total), essentially unchanged compared with the previous quarter

Figure 5 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, March 2021



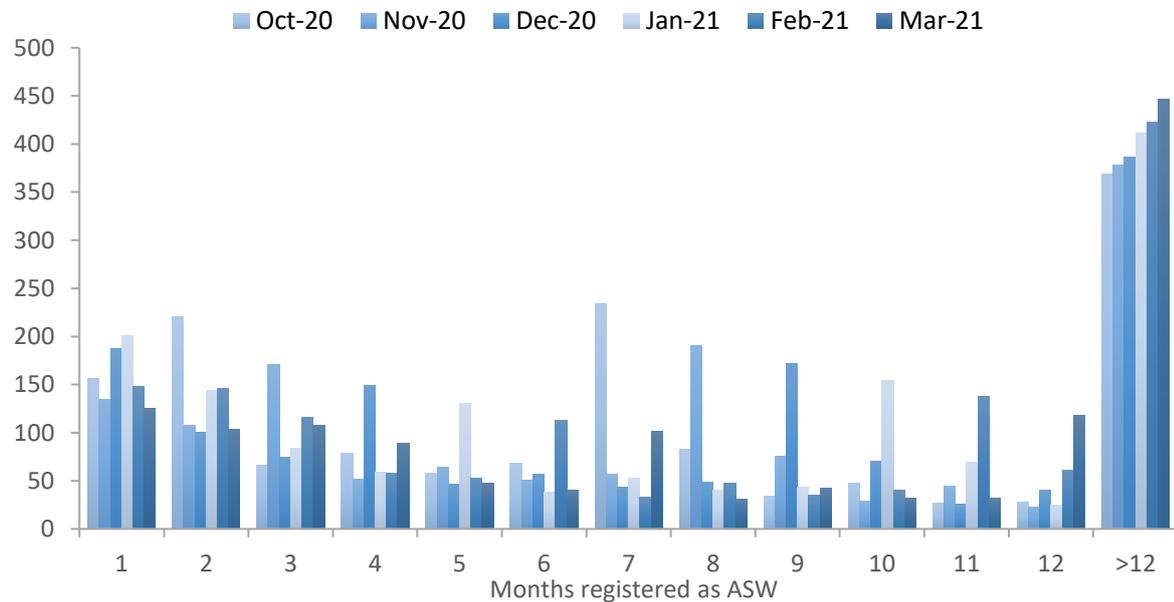
⁵ Nationality recorded by Customer and Local Services, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

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 the people registered as ASW on 31 March 2021, 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), October 2020 – March 2021

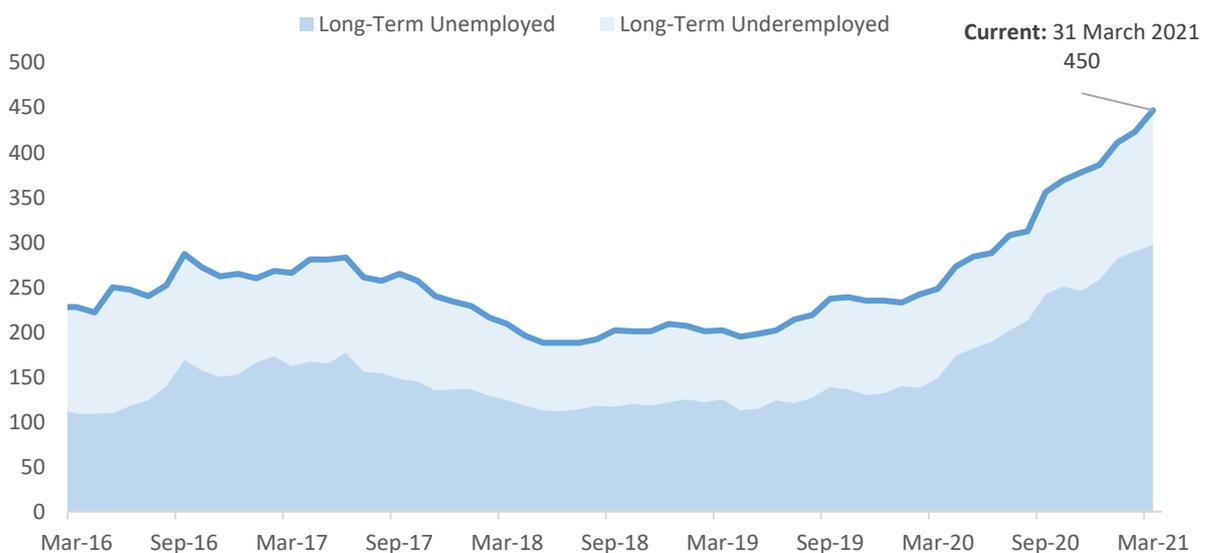


The number of new registrations in the first quarter of 2021 (470 people) was 10 lower than that recorded in the previous quarter and was 40 lower than recorded a year earlier (Q1 2020).

Long-term Registered ASW

On 31 March 2021, there were 450 people registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for 34% of total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was 60 higher compared with the end of the previous quarter (December 2020) and was 200 higher than a year earlier (March 2020).

Figure 7 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, March 2016 – March 2021

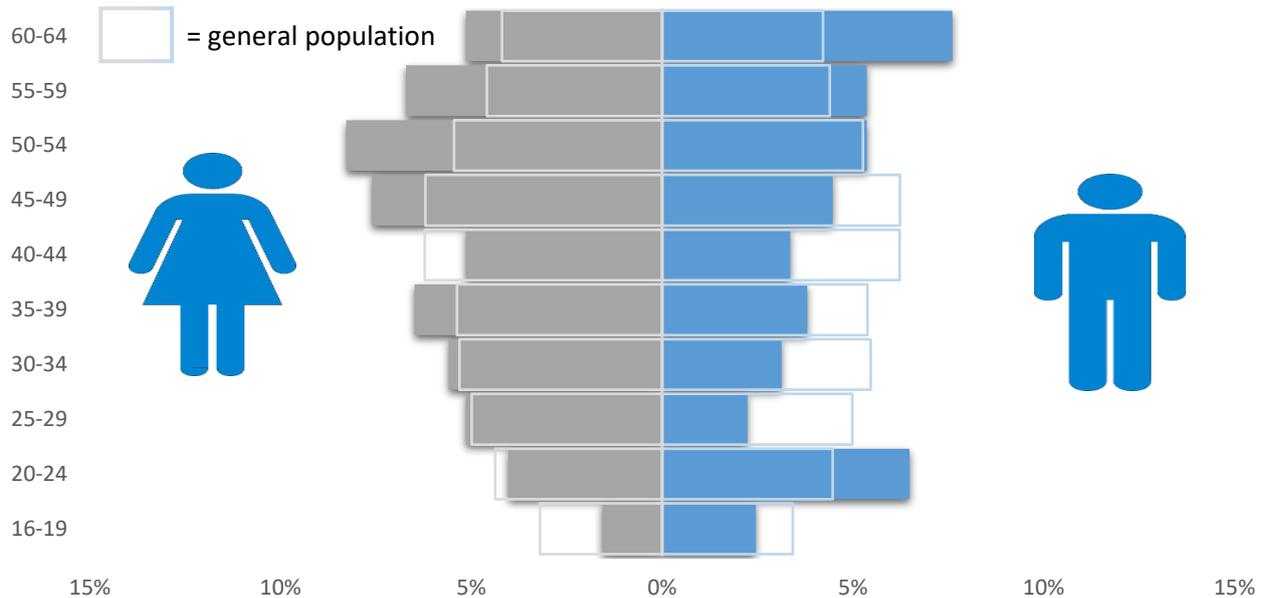


Of the 450 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 150 were engaged in some form of paid employment and therefore classified as underemployed⁷. Over seven-tenths (72%) of those registered as long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment were female.

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

Figure 8 shows the age and sex distribution of the long-term ASW in March 2021.

Figure 8 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁸, March 2021



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 March 2021, almost a quarter (23%) of individuals registered as ASW were claiming LTIA, corresponding to 310 individuals.

Of these 310 individuals, 60 were classified as underemployed meaning they were engaged in some form of paid employment; this number was 10 lower when compared with a year earlier (March 2020).

Table 2 – Number of registered ASW claiming LTIA, March 2020 – March 2021

	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Total claiming LTIA	260	380	400	380	380	360	350	330	320	330	340	330	310
Percentage of total ASW	26%	17%	17%	19%	22%	23%	22%	22%	23%	24%	23%	23%	23%
Underemployed and claiming LTIA	70	70	70	80	80	70	80	80	70	60	60	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 March 2021:

- 19% were previously employed in ‘Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales’
- 18% were previously employed in ‘Miscellaneous professional & domestic services’
- 16% were previously employed in ‘Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business’
- 13% were previously employed in ‘Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs’

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 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 March 2021)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving Income Support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 90 such individuals in March 2021)

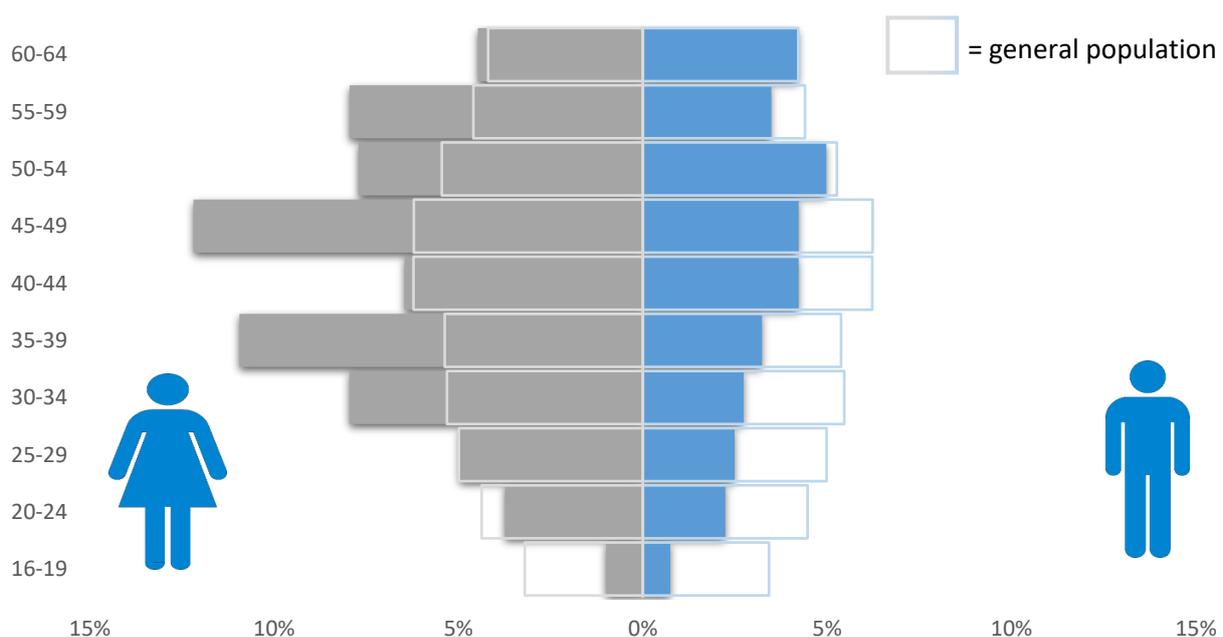
In March 2021, 30% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 3 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last thirteen months.

Table 3 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, March 2020 – March 2021

	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
Individuals	270	390	430	440	440	420	470	460	440	410	420	410	400
Percentage of total ASW	27%	18%	19%	23%	25%	26%	30%	31%	32%	29%	29%	29%	30%

Figure 9 shows the age and sex distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in March 2021, around three-fifths (60%) were aged 40 or over and almost seven-tenths (67%) were female.

Figure 9 - Age and sex distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population¹⁰, March 2021



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

¹⁰ 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
9 April 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 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 2016 – March 2021¹

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total ^R			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total ^R
2016	Jan	730	740	1,470	1,420	2019	Jan	420	500	920	870
	Feb	750	750	1,500	1,460		Feb	400	480	880	840
	Mar	690	700	1,380	1,380		Mar	380	470	840	840
	Apr	630	720	1,360	1,360		Apr	390	470	860	850
	May	620	750	1,380	1,410		May	380	460	840	860
	Jun	660	730	1,390	1,430		Jun	360	460	820	850
	Jul	630	690	1,330	1,380		Jul	370	480	850	890
	Aug	630	710	1,340	1,400		Aug	370	470	830	900
	Sep	670	760	1,430	1,380		Sep	350	570	920	880
	Oct	660	730	1,390	1,360		Oct	370	560	930	910
	Nov	640	670	1,310	1,320		Nov	360	520	890	910
	Dec	630	650	1,280	1,260		Dec	370	510	880	870
2017	Jan	640	680	1,320	1,260	2020	Jan	370	500	880	820
	Feb	600	650	1,250	1,210		Feb	360	500	860	820
	Mar	570	610	1,180	1,180		Mar	440	570	1,010	1,000
	Apr	540	590	1,140	1,140		Apr	1,090	1,090	2,180	2,160
	May	500	540	1,030	1,070		May	1,110	1,180	2,290	2,300
	Jun	490	510	1,000	1,040		Jun	920	1,030	1,950	1,980
	Jul	450	490	940	990		Jul	820	920	1,740	1,780
	Aug	440	530	970	1,020		Aug	760	830	1,590	1,660
	Sep	420	560	980	930		Sep	680	900	1,580	1,550
	Oct	430	520	950	920		Oct	640	830	1,470	1,460
	Nov	440	480	920	930		Nov	610	760	1,380	1,410
	Dec	440	510	950	930		Dec	640	760	1,400	1,390
2018	Jan	440	490	940	880	2021	Jan	660	790	1,450	1,400
	Feb	430	490	910	880		Feb	630	780	1,410	1,360
	Mar	410	500	910	910		Mar	590	730	1,320	1,310
	Apr	410	440	850	850						
	May	380	440	820	840						
	Jun	390	430	820	850						
	Jul	410	450	870	910						
	Aug	380	440	820	880						
	Sep	390	580	970	930						
	Oct	380	570	940	910						
	Nov	360	500	860	880						
	Dec	390	500	890	880						

¹ Numbers are rounded independently to the nearest 10; hence, components may not sum to totals.

^R Revised

^(c) Change in ASW Recording / Income Support Criteria - see [Appendix A](#) for more details