

Registered Actively Seeking Work December 2013

Statistics Unit: www.gov.je/statistics

Summary

On 31 December 2013:

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) in Jersey was²:
 - 20 lower than a month earlier, in November 2013;
 - 70 lower than the average for the preceding three months;
- the **non-seasonally adjusted ASW total** was 1,750; this latest monthly total is 60 lower than a month earlier (November 2013);
- both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals were the lowest recorded for more than a year, since October 2012;
- **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) accounted for 18% of total ASW; the number of long-term ASW (310 individuals) was the lowest for more than twelve months, since November 2012;
- 270 **teenagers aged 16-19 years** were registered as ASW, 30 fewer than in the previous month; 140 teenagers were on the Advance to Work scheme.

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 kept in mind that there is no legal requirement for all 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 of the level of individuals actively seeking work in the Island at a given point in time³.

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 through 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.

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.

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

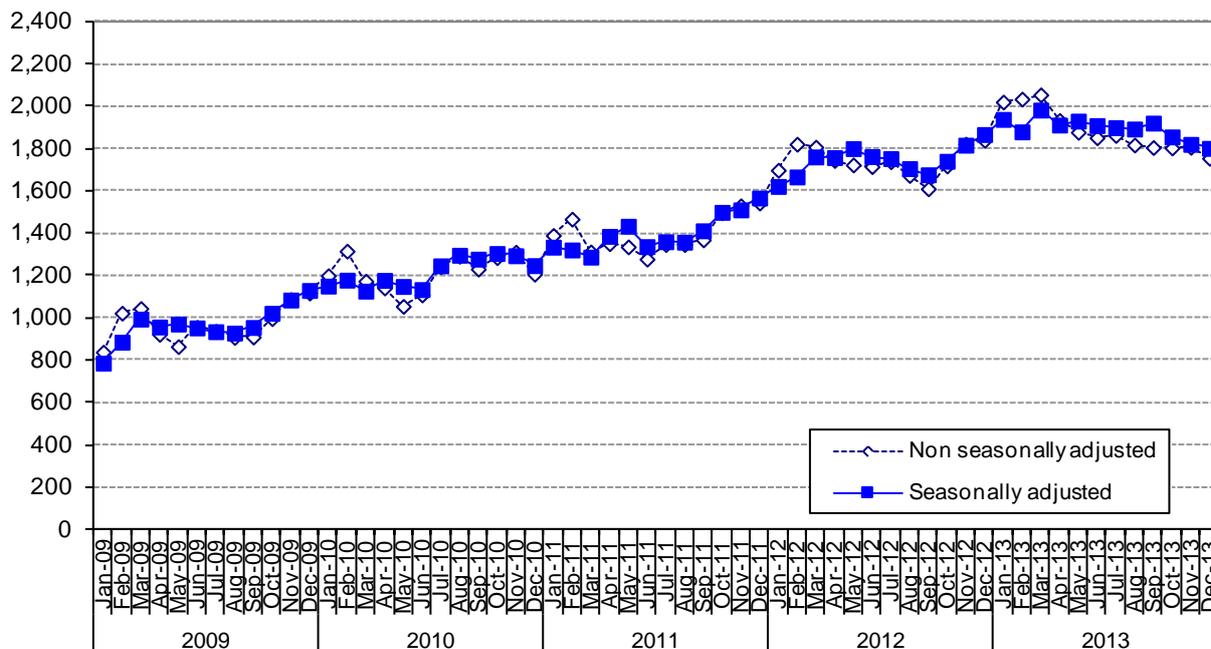
³ When placing the figures contained in this report in a historical context, it should be recognised that there have been significant changes in the criteria relating to registered ASW in Jersey in recent years. In particular, the introduction of Income Support in 2008 has led to a higher proportion of individuals who were actively seeking work being included in the registered figures.

Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 31 December 2013, 1,750 people were registered with the Social Security Department as actively seeking work (ASW). Almost three-quarters of those (1,290 individuals) registered as ASW on this date were receiving Income Support⁴.

Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since January 2009 (monthly data are shown in Appendix Table A1). The total number registered in December 2013 was 60 lower than a month earlier (November 2013) and 90 lower than a year earlier (December 2012).

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, Jan 2009 – Dec 2013



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 December 2013 was:

- 20 lower than a month earlier, in November 2013;
- 70 lower than the mean for the preceding three-month period, September to November 2013.

Both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals were the lowest recorded for more than a year, since October 2012.

Registered ASW by age

On 31 December 2013, over a quarter (28%) of people registered as ASW were under the age of 25 years; around one in six (15%) 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 five months, from August 2013 to December 2013.

In the latest month, most age groups either remained essentially unchanged (with differences of less than 10) or, in the case of those aged between 16 and 24 years of age, decreases of between 20 and 30 compared with the previous month.

⁴ 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 December 2013.

Figure 2 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, Aug 2013 – Dec 2013

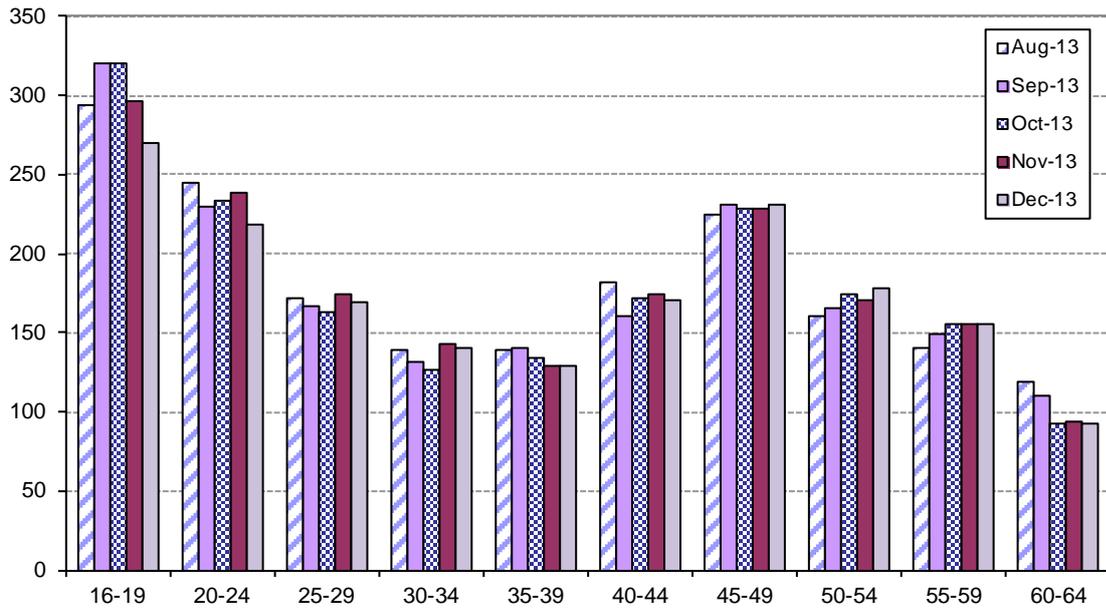
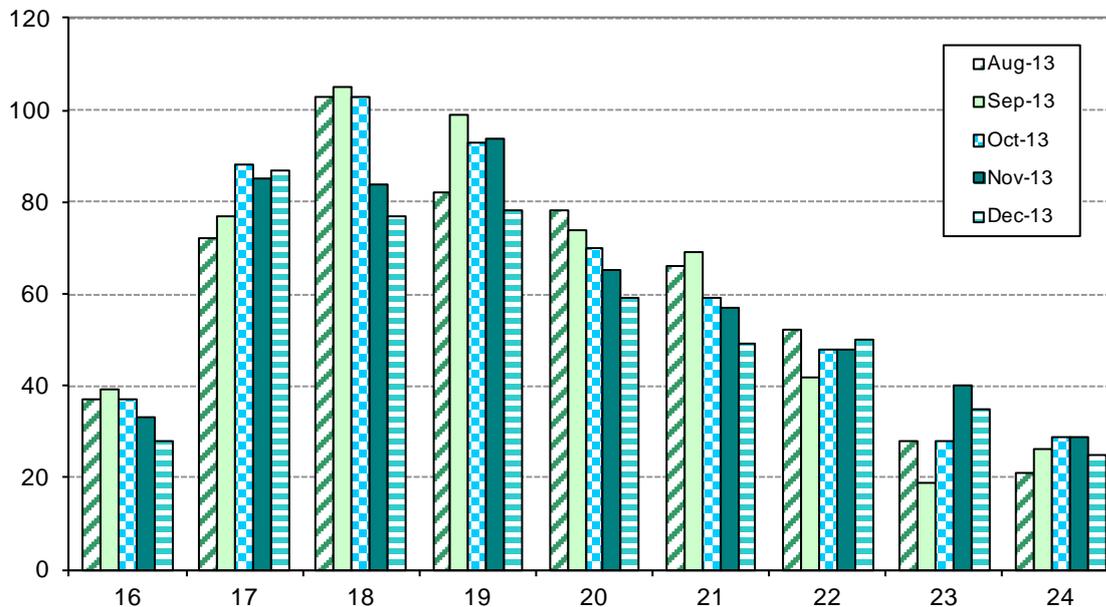


Figure 3 shows the age distribution for people under 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the latest five months, from August 2013 to December 2013. Of the 270 teenagers (aged 16-19 years) who were registered as ASW at the end of December 2013, 140 were on the Advance to Work scheme, 10 fewer than the previous month (November 2013).

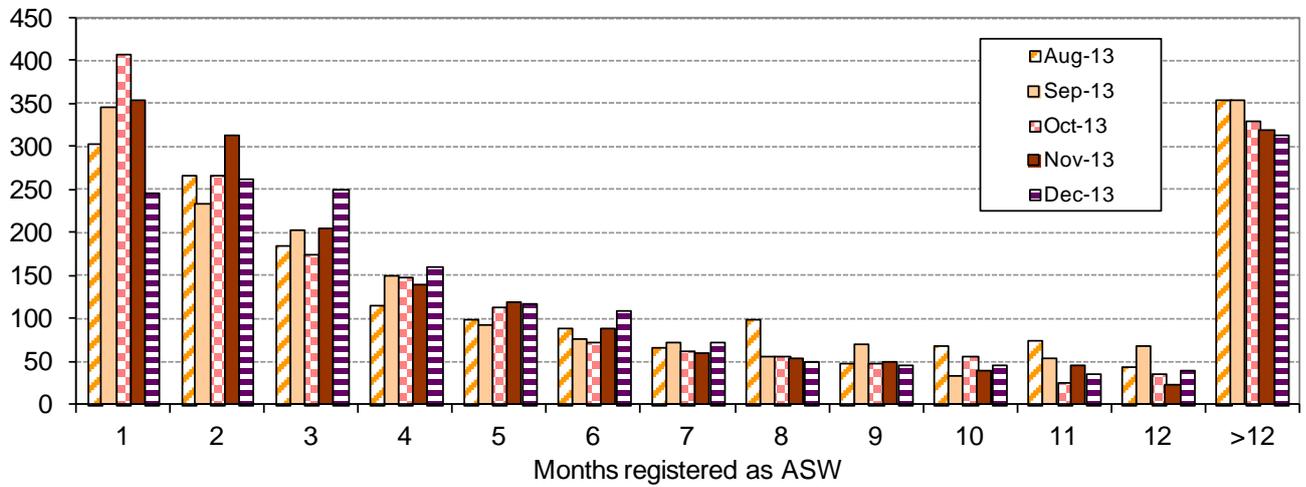
Figure 3 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, Aug 2013 – Dec 2013



Duration as ASW

Over two-fifths (43%) of all people registered as ASW on 31 December 2013 had been registered for three months or less – see Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), Aug 2013 – Dec 2013



250 people had registered as ASW in the latest month, some 110 fewer than in November 2013. The latest number of new registrants was 20 lower than in the corresponding month of the previous year, December 2012, and 40 more than in December 2011.

Long-term ASW

On 31 December 2013, there were 310 people who had been registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for 18% of total ASW.

The latest number of long-term ASW is the lowest recorded for more than twelve months, since November 2012 (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 – Long-term ASW, April 2009 – December 2013

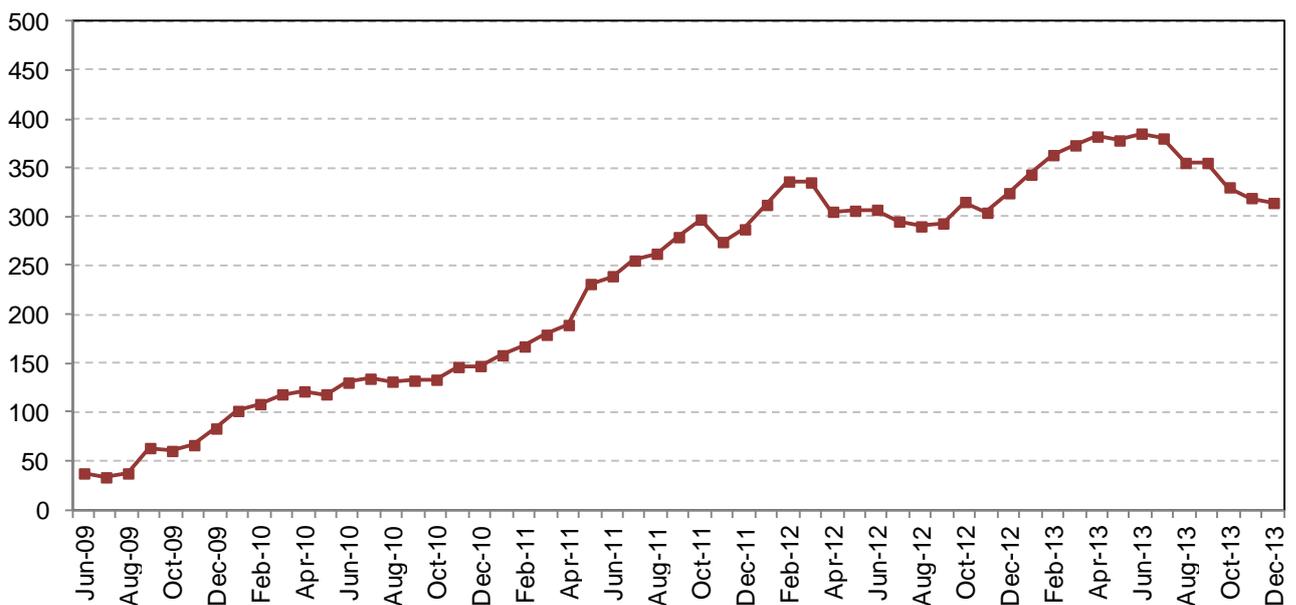
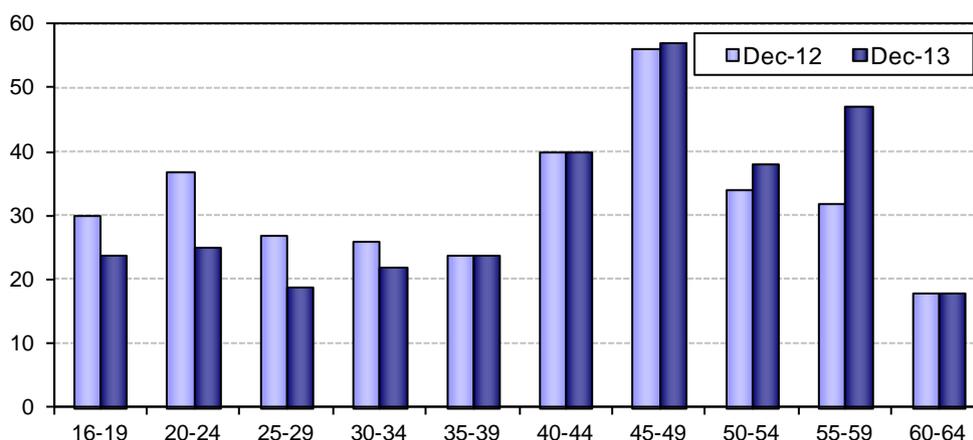


Figure 6 shows the age distribution of the long-term ASW in December 2013.

Figure 6 – Long-term ASW by age, Dec 2012 and Dec 2013

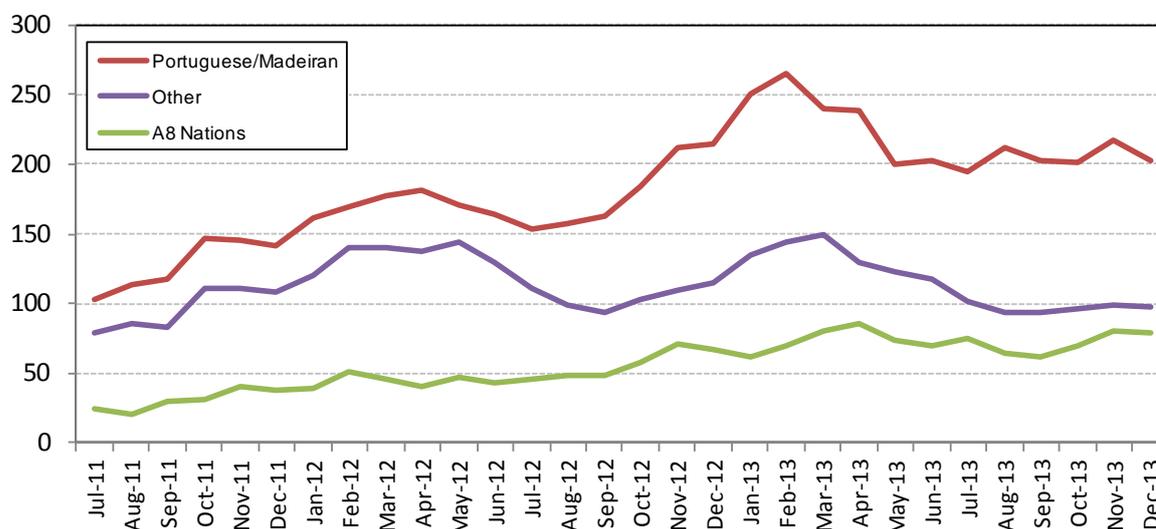


In December 2013 there were 50 people under 25 years of age who had been registered as ASW for more than a year, accounting for a sixth (16%) of the total long-term ASW. Over the last year, since December 2012, there has been a decrease in the number of long-term unemployed under 35 years of age; in contrast, the number of long-term unemployed aged between 35 and 49 years has remained essentially unchanged whilst the number aged over 50 years has increased.

Registered ASW by Nationality

On 31 December 2013, almost four-fifths (78%) of all people registered as ASW were of British/Jersey nationality⁵. The number of individuals registered as ASW for nationalities other than British/Jersey over the last two years is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, Jul 2011 – Dec 2013



In December 2013 there were 200 individuals of Portuguese/Madeiran nationality registered as ASW, 20 fewer than the number in the previous month and also twelve months earlier (December 2012).

There were 80 individuals from the EU Accession (A8)⁶ nations who were registered as ASW in December 2013, a similar number as in the previous month.

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

⁶ 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 in December 2013:

- almost one in five were previously employed in 'Miscellaneous professional and domestic services' (19%) or in 'Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales' (18%);
- around one in eight (12%) were previously employed in 'Construction and allied trades';
- around one in seven (14%) were previously employed in 'Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs'.

Notes

The numbers of people registered as ASW include people who are on the Advance to Work, Advance Plus and Workwise 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 actively seeking work.

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. They are:

- Advance to Work – for jobseekers aged 16 – 19 years;
- Advance Plus – for jobseekers with an industry-specific interest aged 20 – 65 years;
- Workwise – for jobseekers with special employment needs;
- Work Zone – for all registered jobseekers.

In addition to the development and expansion of these schemes, Back to Work is responsible for:

- the Employment Grant;
- a dedicated Employer Engagement team;
- the Long Term Unemployment Programme;
- industry and employer specific initiatives.

A new eight week initiative ('JobsFest') was also launched by Back to Work in October 2013. JobsFest included an Employer Incentive which enabled employers to hire locally qualified jobseekers who had not worked during 2013, at no financial cost to their business. This incentive concluded on 30 November 2013.

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.

*Statistics Unit
28 January 2014*

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 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. Hence, the ASW total figure includes individuals who are working less than the 35 hours per week required under the terms of Income support; such individuals will simultaneously be working and actively seeking work, and are classified as underemployed under the ILO definition of *time related underemployment*.

In December 2013, a fifth (21%) of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; that is, they were working less than 35 hours per week and were actively seeking more work. The numbers of such individuals in each month from December 2012 to December 2013 are shown in Table A1.

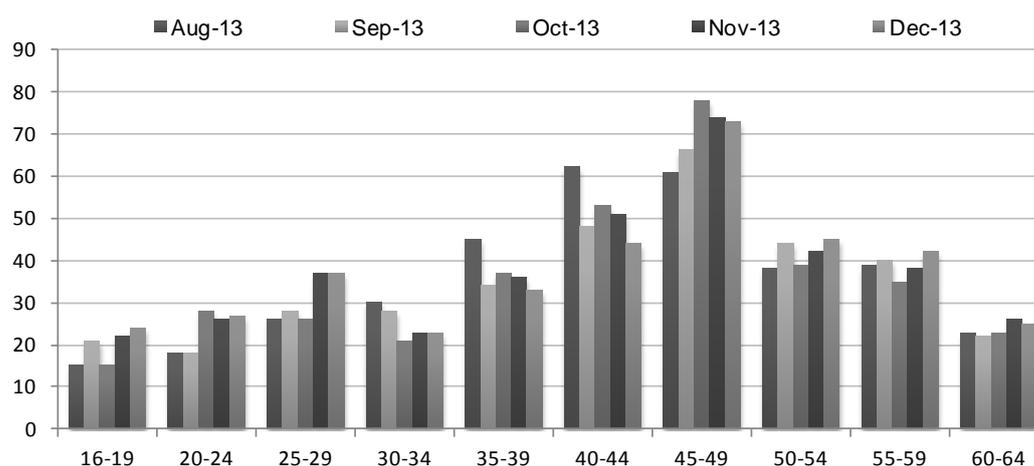
Table A1 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, Dec 2012 – Dec 2013

	Dec 12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	May-13	Jun-13	Jul-13	Aug-13	Sept-13	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13
Number of underemployed	320	320	300	290	290	320	320	350	360	350	360	380	370
Percentage of total ASW	17%	16%	15%	14%	15%	17%	17%	19%	20%	19%	20%	21%	21%

In December 2013, more than a quarter of people registered as ASW underemployed were engaged on zero-hours contracts. Excluding people on zero-hours contracts, the mean number of contracted hours for those recorded as underemployed was 18 hours per week.

Figure A1 shows the age distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; one in eight were below the age of 25, whilst three-fifths were over the age of 40.

Figure A1 - Age distribution of ASW registered underemployed, Jul 2013 – Dec 2013



Of those people who were registered as ASW underemployed in December 2013:

- two-thirds (67%) were female;
- over a third (36%) had been actively seeking work for more than a year;
- almost nine out of ten (88%) were claiming Income Support.

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

Appendix

Number of individuals registered as ASW, Jan 2009 – Dec 2013⁸

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2009	Jan	570	270	840	790
	Feb	700	320	1,020	890
	Mar	720	330	1,050	1,000
	Apr	620	300	920	960
	May	560	300	870	970
	Jun	630	330	960	950
	Jul	620	320	940	940
	Aug	580	320	910	930
	Sep	580	330	910	960
	Oct	650	350	1,000	1,020
	Nov	700	390	1,090	1,090
	Dec	700	420	1,120	1,130
2010	Jan	770	440	1,200	1,150
	Feb	810	510	1,320	1,180
	Mar	720	450	1,170	1,130
	Apr	710	430	1,140	1,180
	May	670	390	1,060	1,150
	Jun	690	420	1,110	1,130
	Jul	760	490	1,240	1,250
	Aug	810	490	1,290	1,300
	Sep	770	460	1,230	1,280
	Oct	840	450	1,290	1,300
	Nov	870	440	1,310	1,290
	Dec	800	410	1,210	1,250
2011	Jan	910	480	1,390	1,330
	Feb	960	510	1,470	1,320
	Mar	850	460	1,310	1,290
	Apr	870	490	1,350	1,390
	May	820	520	1,340	1,430
	Jun	780	500	1,280	1,340

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
	Jul	800	550	1,350	1,360
	Aug	820	530	1,350	1,360
	Sep	850	520	1,370	1,410
	Oct	920	570	1,500	1,500
	Nov	960	580	1,530	1,510
	Dec	960	580	1,540	1,570
	2012	Jan	1,050	650	1,700
Feb		1,130	690	1,820	1,670
Mar		1,100	700	1,810	1,760
Apr		1,060	680	1,740	1,760
May		1,040	680	1,720	1,800
Jun		1,020	700	1,720	1,760
Jul		1,020	720	1,740	1,750
Aug		1,020	650	1,670	1,710
Sep		970	650	1,610	1,680
Oct		1,020	700	1,720	1,740
Nov		1,090	730	1,820	1,820
Dec		1,100	740	1,840	1,870
2013	Jan	1,210	810	2,020	1,940
	Feb	1,210	820	2,030	1,880
	Mar	1,230	820	2,050	1,980
	Apr	1,140	800	1,930	1,910
	May	1,080	800	1,880	1,930
	Jun	1,040	810	1,850	1,910
	Jul	1,030	840	1,860	1,900
	Aug	990	820	1,820	1,890
	Sept	1,000	800	1,810	1,920
	Oct	1,040	770	1,800	1,860
	Nov	1,060	750	1,810	1,820
	Dec	1,030	720	1,750	1,800

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