

Summary

On 31 March 2024

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was 10² higher than at the end of the previous quarter and 100 higher compared with a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 700; this total is 20 lower than the end of the previous quarter and 90 higher compared with a year earlier
- a greater number of females (370 individuals) than males (330 individuals) were registered as ASW
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 180; this total is essentially unchanged from the previous quarter and 10 higher compared with a year earlier
- of the 700 people registered as ASW, 220 individuals were engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 70 individuals who were classified as long-term ASW

Introduction

The Customer and Local Services department (CLS) compiles data on people registered as Actively Seeking Work (ASW) in Jersey. Statistics Jersey independently analyses this anonymised data and publishes a quarterly report. A historical back series of statistics published can be found on the Jersey [opendata website](#).

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. As a result, 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.

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 details.

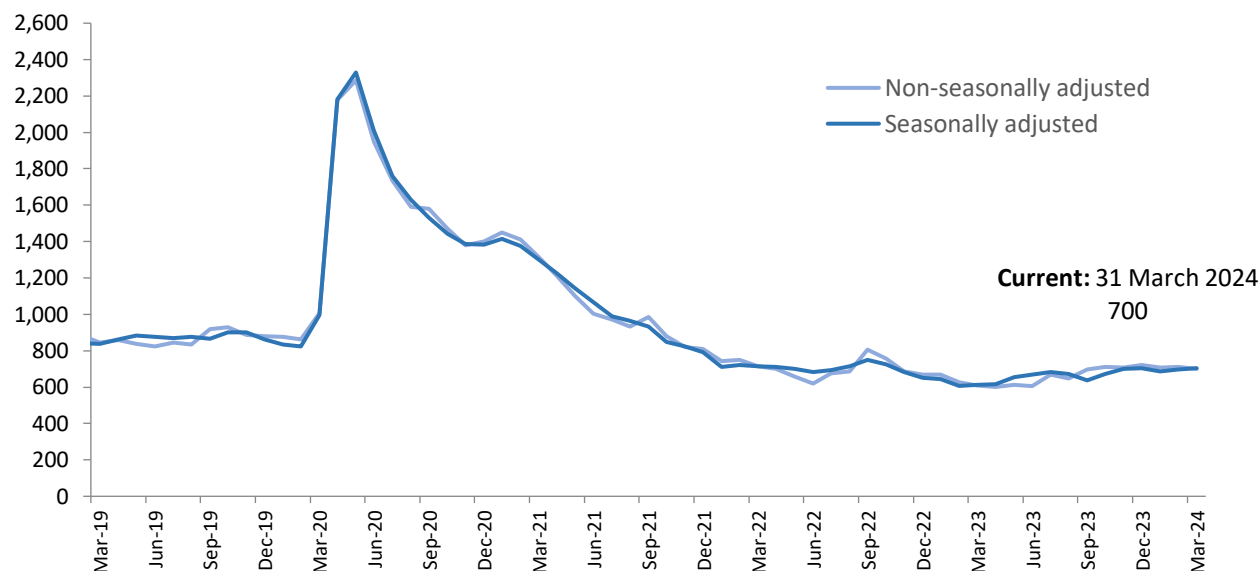
² ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

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 2024, there were 700 people registered as ASW. Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since March 2019 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in March 2024 was 20 lower when compared with the end of the previous quarter (December 2023) and 90 higher than twelve months earlier (March 2023).

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, 31 March 2019 – 31 March 2024



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 2024 was:

- 10 higher than at the end of the previous quarter, 31 December 2023
- 100 higher than a year earlier, 31 March 2023

When making comparisons over time, it should be noted that changes to Income Support criteria and administrative changes within Customer and Local Services can result in changes in the total number of people being considered as ASW⁴. This is the case for both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals.

On 31 March 2024, 87% of individuals registered as ASW (corresponding to 610 people) were receiving Income Support⁵. Compared with March 2019, there has been a 3 percentage point decrease in those registered as ASW who are claiming Income Support.

Table 1 – Number of registered ASW, receiving and not receiving Income Support, March 2019 – March 2024

	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Mar 2024
Individuals receiving Income Support	760	910	1,160	650	540	610
Individuals not receiving Income Support	90	100	150	70	70	90
Percentage of ASW receiving Income Support	90%	90%	88%	90%	89%	87%

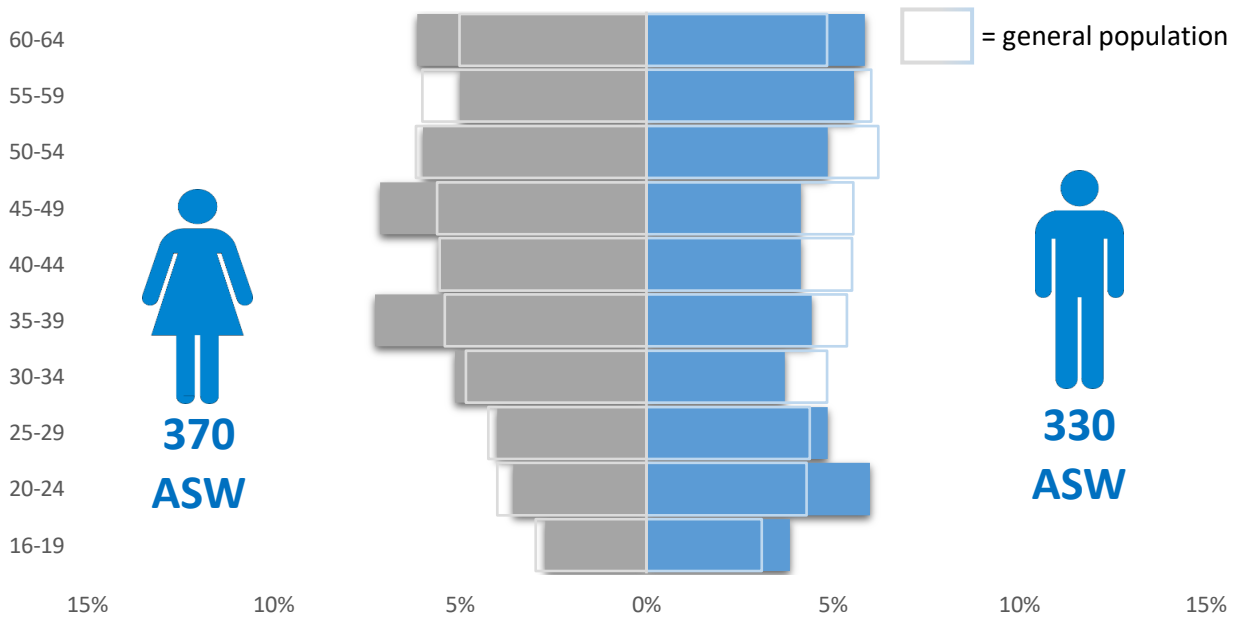
⁴ See [Appendix A](#) for details.

⁵ 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 current 50% threshold) are not included.

Registered ASW by age and sex

On 31 March 2024, more females (370 individuals) than male (330 individuals) were registered as ASW.

Figure 2 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁶, March 2024

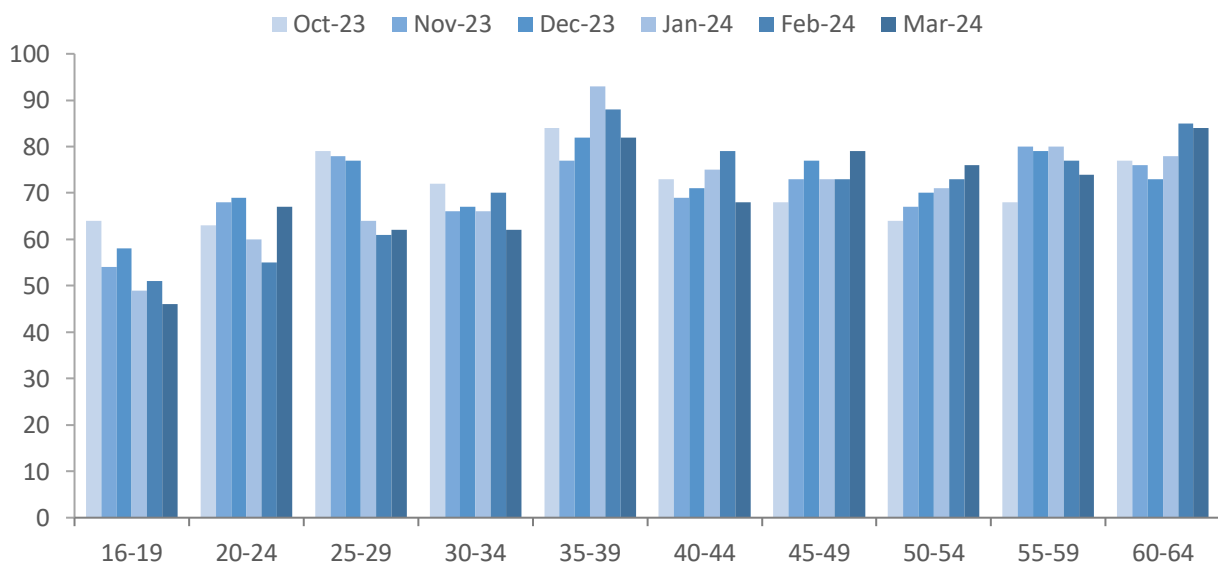


In respect of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- there were more females than males registered as ASW in all age groups 30-54
- there were more males than females registered as ASW in all age groups 16-24
- there were the same number of females and males registered as ASW in the 25-29 and 55-64 age groups

Figure 3 shows the number of individuals registered as ASW by age in each of the last six months, from October 2023 to March 2024.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, October 2023 – March 2024



⁶ Age and sex proportions at the 2021 Jersey census.

On 31 March 2024, 16% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (110 individuals); 7% were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (50 individuals).

The 60-64 age group saw an increase of around 10 in the number of individuals registered compared with the end of the previous quarter, meaning it is over-represented compared to the population for both females and males. The 50-54 age group also increased by around 10.

The 16-19, 30-34, and 55-59 age groups saw decreases of around 10, with the 25-59 age group seeing a decrease of around 20. All other age groups were essentially unchanged.

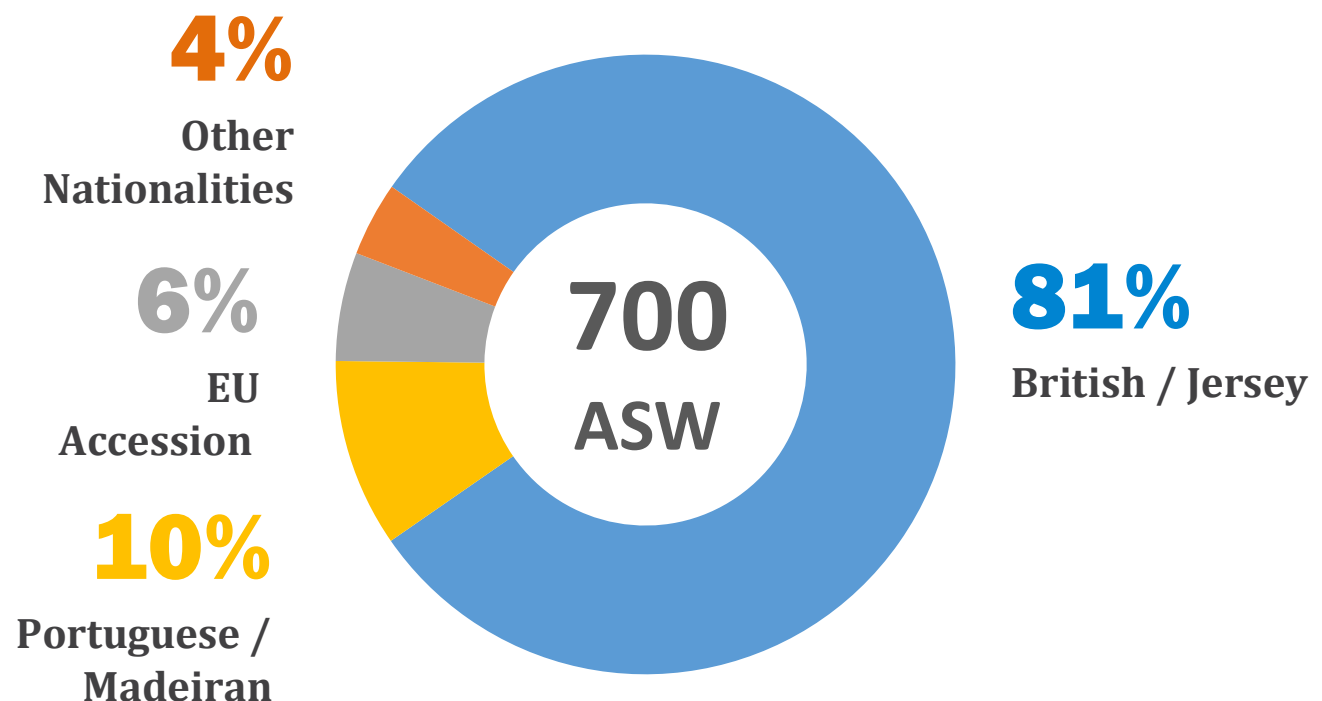
Overall, there is an over representation of females aged between 30-49 registered as ASW than the general population would suggest, whereas for males this is seen in the 16-29 age groups.

Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 March 2024:

- there were 560 individuals of British / Jersey nationality⁷ registered as ASW (81% of total); a decrease of 20 compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 70 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (10% of total), a figure essentially unchanged from the previous quarter
- there were 40 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁸ nations registered as ASW (6% of total), a figure essentially unchanged from the previous quarter

Figure 4 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, March 2024



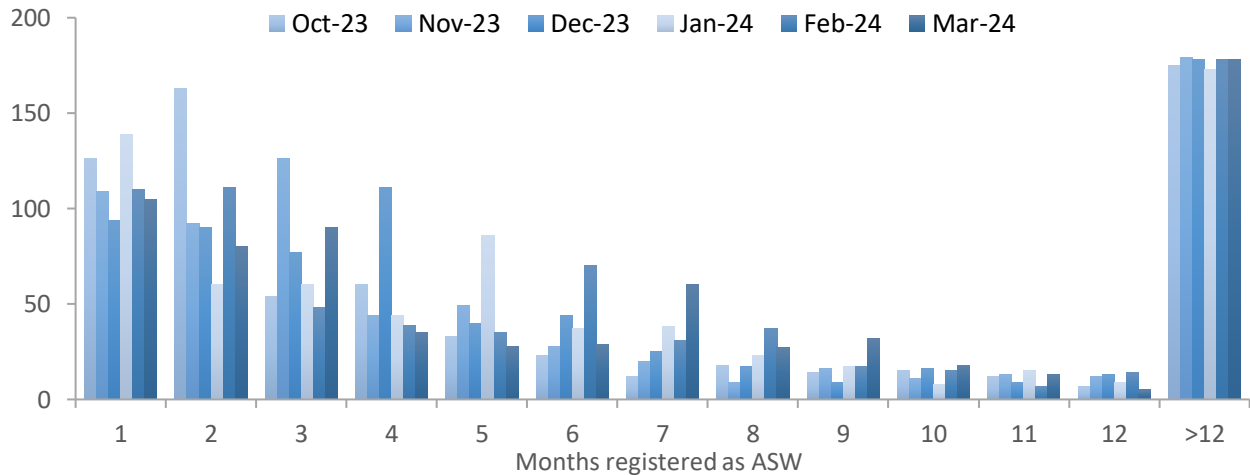
⁷ Nationality recorded by Customer and Local Services, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

⁸ The 12 countries which joined ("gained accession to") the European Union in May 2004 (Cyprus, Czechia, 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 2024, nearly two-fifths (39%) had been registered for three months or less; see Figure 5.

Figure 5 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), October 2023 – March 2024

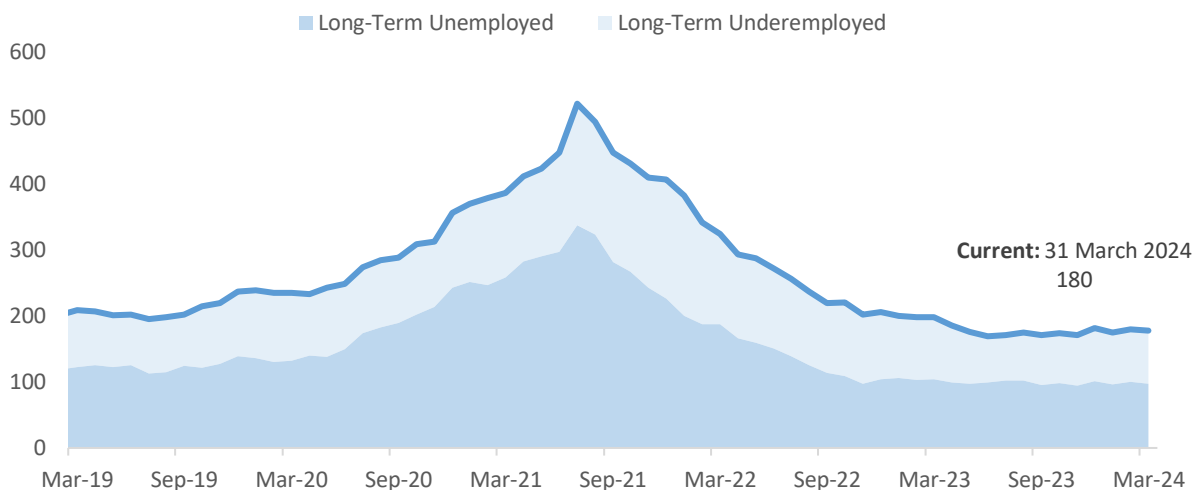


The number of new registrations⁹ in the first quarter of 2024 (350 people) was 20 higher than that recorded in the previous quarter and was 50 higher than recorded a year earlier (Q1 2023).

Long-term registered ASW

On 31 March 2024, there were 180 people registered as ASW for more than 12 months, accounting for 25% of total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was essentially unchanged when compared with the end of the previous quarter (December 2023) and was 10 higher than a year earlier (March 2023).

Figure 6 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, March 2019 – March 2024



Of the 180 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 70 were engaged in some form of paid employment and therefore classified as underemployed¹⁰. Just over two-thirds (64%) of those registered as long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment were female; see Table 2.

⁹ An individual is classed as a new registration when they have had a longer than 28-day break in seeking employment.

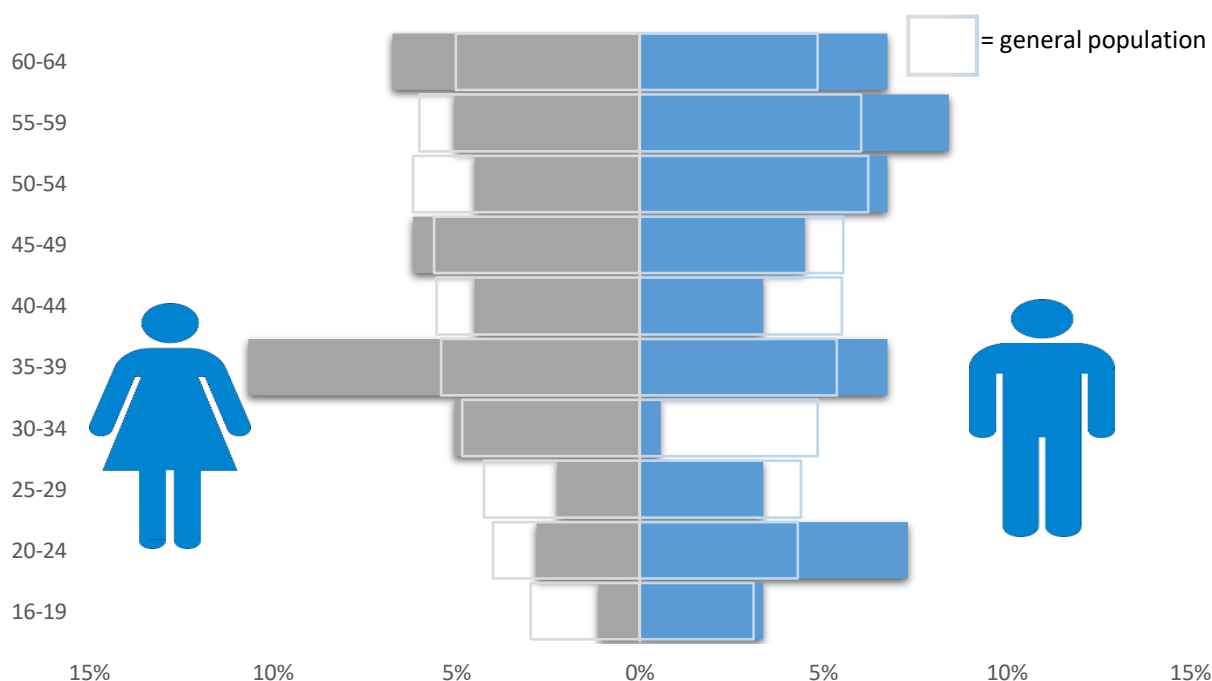
¹⁰ See [ASW registered underemployment](#) – page 7 of this report.

Table 2 – Proportion of those registered long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment, proportion that were female; March 2019 – March 2024

	Mar 2019	Mar 2020	Mar 2021	Mar 2022	Mar 2023	Mar 2024
Long-term ASW Underemployed	60	70	110	80	40	50
Proportion female	71%	69%	72%	65%	59%	64%

Figure 7 shows the age and sex distribution of the long-term ASW in March 2024.

Figure 7 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population¹¹, March 2024



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 2024, just over a quarter (26%) of individuals registered as ASW were claiming LTIA, corresponding to 180 individuals. This proportion was one percentage point higher compared with a year earlier (March 2023), which was an annual increase of 30 individuals.

Of these 180 individuals, 60 were classified as underemployed meaning they were engaged in some form of paid employment (see [underemployment section](#)); this was an increase of 10 individuals compared with a year earlier (March 2023).

¹¹ As recorded by the 2021 Jersey Census.

Table 3 – Number of registered ASW claiming LTIA, March 2023 – March 2024

	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24
Total claiming LTIA	150	150	160	170	160	160	160	150	170	170	170	170	180
Percentage of total ASW	25%	25%	26%	28%	24%	25%	23%	21%	24%	24%	24%	24%	26%
Underemployed and claiming LTIA	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	60	50	60

Industry

With the introduction of the new Combined Employer Return (CER), and a wider programme of changes to Government of Jersey technical infrastructure, Customer and Local Services (CLS) have needed to make changes to the actively seeking work (ASW) dataset which is received by Statistics Jersey. While the majority of information required for this report has been maintained, certain data relating to prior employment is currently not available. Alternative methods to source this data in future are being considered.

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 underemployment¹²:

- *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 fewer than 10 such individuals in March 2024)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving Income Support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 40 such individuals in March 2024)

In March 2024, 31% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 4 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last thirteen months.

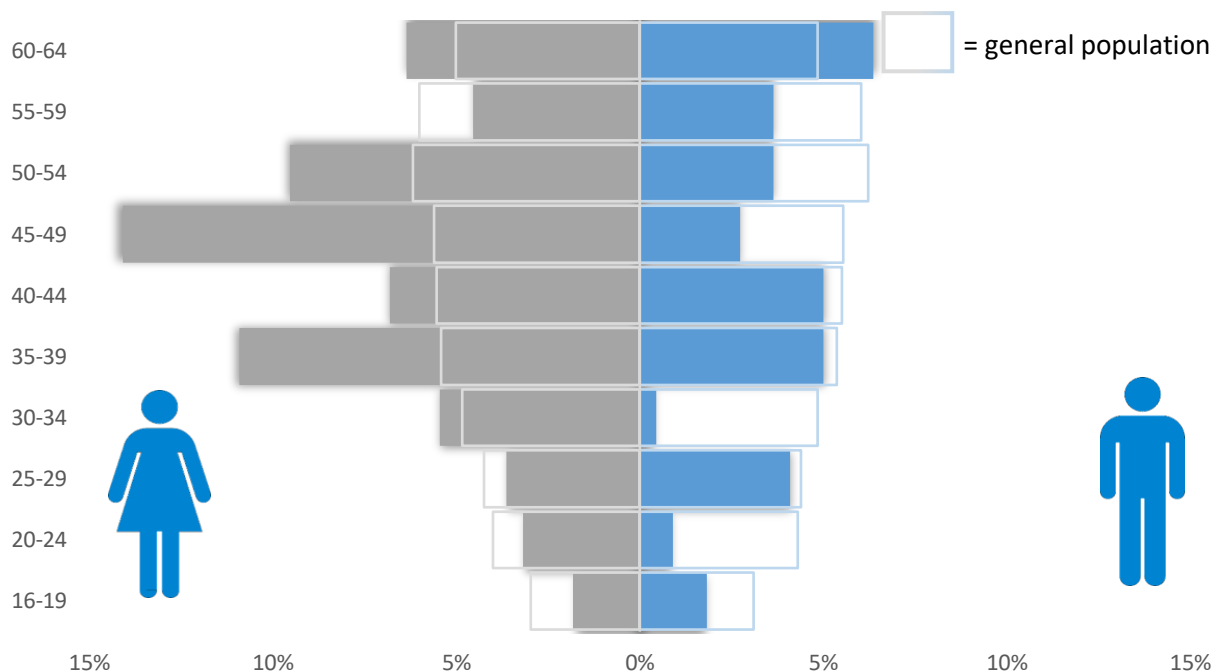
Table 4 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, December 2022 – December 2023

	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 24	Mar 24
Individuals	210	210	200	200	210	210	250	230	220	230	230	210	220
Percentage of total ASW	34%	35%	33%	33%	31%	32%	36%	32%	31%	32%	32%	30%	31%

¹² International Labour Organisation: *Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations*.

Figure 8 shows the age and sex distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in March 2024, over three-quarters (79%) were aged 35 or over and two-thirds (66%) were female.

Figure 8 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population¹³, March 2024



For females registered as ASW underemployed, 71% were aged 30-54; for males this proportion was 50%.

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 comparisons, 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.

¹³ As recorded by the 2021 Jersey Census.

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 five 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 five 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 four 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 2019 – March 2024¹⁴

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2019	Jan	420	500	920	880	2022	Jan	320	420	740	710
	Feb	400	480	880	840		Feb	320	430	750	720
	Mar	380	470	840	840		Mar	310	400	720	710
	Apr	390	470	860	860		Apr	310	390	700	710
	May	380	460	840	880		May	290	370	660	700
	Jun	360	460	820	870		Jun	270	350	620	680
	Jul	370	480	850	870		Jul	290	380	680	690
	Aug	370	470	830	880		Aug	300	390	690	710
	Sep	350	570	920	870		Sep	320	490	810	750
	Oct	370	560	930	900		Oct	310	450	760	720
	Nov	360	520	890	900		Nov	290	400	690	680
	Dec	370	510	880	860		Dec	280	390	670	650
2020	Jan	370	500	880	830	2023	Jan	280	390	670	640
	Feb	360	500	860	820		Feb	270	360	630	610
	Mar	440	570	1,010	1,000		Mar	280	330	610	610
	Apr	1,090	1,090	2,180	2,180		Apr	270	330	600	620
	May	1,110	1,180	2,290	2,330		May	280	330	610	650
	Jun	920	1,030	1,950	2,010		Jun	280	330	610	670
	Jul	820	920	1,740	1,760		Jul	300	370	670	680
	Aug	760	830	1,590	1,630		Aug	300	350	650	670
	Sep	680	900	1,580	1,530		Sep	280	420	700	640
	Oct	640	830	1,470	1,440		Oct	300	410	710	670
	Nov	610	760	1,380	1,390		Nov	320	390	710	700
	Dec	640	760	1,400	1,380		Dec	330	390	720	700
2021	Jan	660	790	1,450	1,420	2024	Jan	330	380	710	690
	Feb	630	780	1,410	1,380		Feb	340	370	710	700
	Mar	590	730	1,320	1,300		Mar	330	370	700	710
	Apr	540	670	1,210	1,230						
	May	490	610	1,100	1,140						
	Jun	450	560	1,000	1,070						
	Jul	430	540	970	990						
	Aug	410	520	930	970						
	Sep	390	600	990	930						
	Oct	350	530	880	850						
	Nov	350	470	820	820						
	Dec	350	460	810	790						

¹⁴ Numbers are rounded independently to the nearest 10; hence, components may not sum to totals.