

Context

For figures comparing with the previous quarter, it is worth noting that historically there has been an increase in the number of ASW registrants during the month of September. A key factor in such a specific monthly increase is the requirement for any individual claiming Income Support (IS) *whose youngest child will reach either age four, five or twelve during the new academic year* to seek work or seek more hours of work. The seasonally adjusted figures within this report take this annual process into account.

Summary

On 31 December 2023

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as actively seeking work (ASW) was 90² higher than at the end of the previous quarter and 60 higher compared with a year earlier
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 720; this total is 20 higher than the end of the previous quarter and 50 higher compared with a year earlier
- a greater number of females (390 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 20 lower compared with a year earlier
- of the 720 people registered as ASW, 230 individuals were engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 80 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.

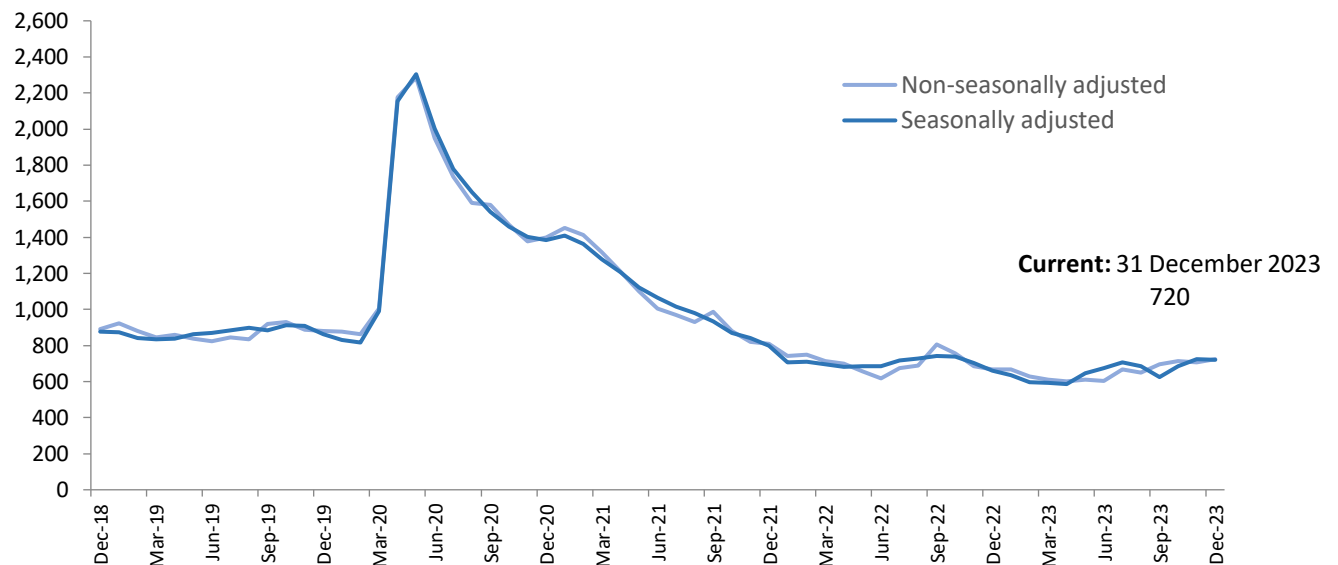
² ASW numbers presented in this report are rounded independently to the nearest 10.

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 December 2023, there were 720 people registered as ASW. Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since December 2018 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in December 2023 was 20 higher when compared with the end of the previous quarter (September 2023) and 50 higher than twelve months earlier (December 2022).

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, 31 December 2018 – 31 December 2023



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 December 2023 was:

- 90 higher than at the end of the previous quarter, 30 September 2023
- 60 higher than a year earlier, 31 December 2022

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 December 2023, 86% of individuals registered as ASW (corresponding to 620 people) were receiving Income Support⁵. Compared with December 2018, there has been a 4 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, December 2018 – December 2023

	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Dec 2023 ²
Individuals receiving Income Support	800	810	1,240	750	590	620
Individuals not receiving Income Support	90	70	160	60	70	110
Percentage of ASW receiving Income Support	90%	92%	89%	93%	88%	86%

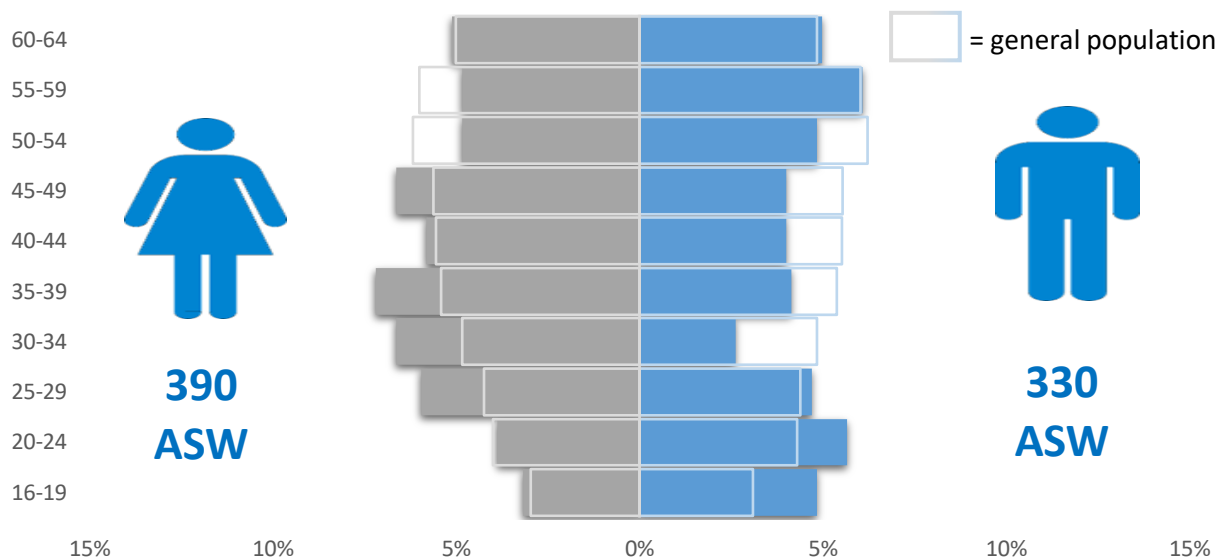
⁴ See [Appendix A](#) for details.

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 December 2023, more females (390 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, December 2023

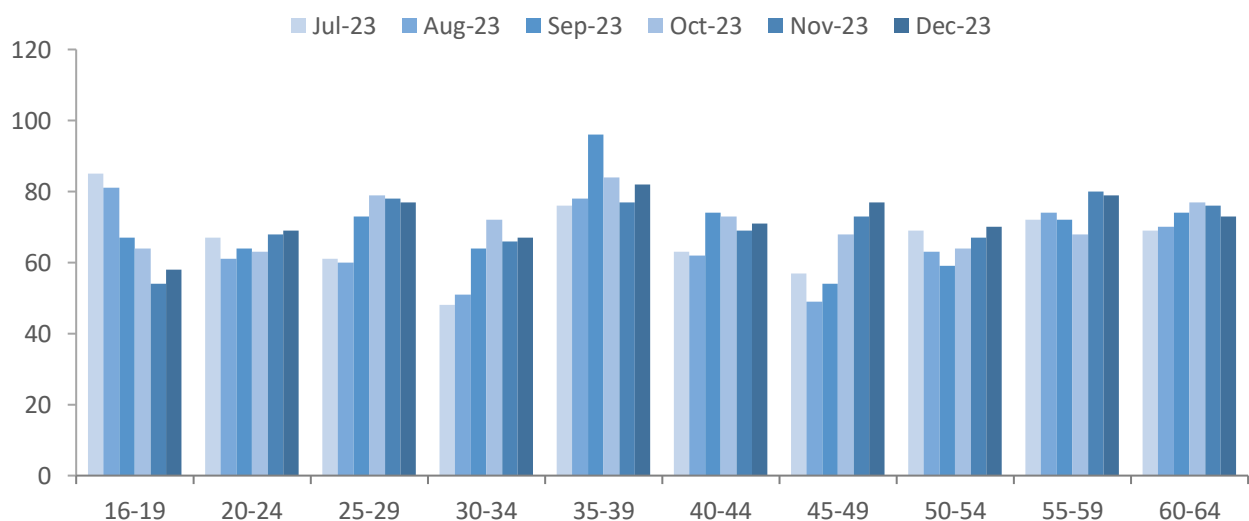


In respect of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- there were more females than males registered as ASW in all age groups 25-49 years and 60-64 years
- there were more males than females registered as ASW in age groups 16-24 and 55-59 years
- there were the same number of females and males registered as ASW in the 50-54 age group

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

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, July 2023 – December 2023⁷



⁶ Age and sex proportions at the 2021 Jersey census.

⁷ The increase in July 2023 of those 16-19 is seen due to individuals leaving full time education, primarily those who live in IS claiming households and so have to register as ASW if not in full time education or employment. Historically such people may be added in throughout July, August and September but this year they were all added in July, resulting in a sharp increase for this age group.

On 31 December 2023, 18% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (130 individuals); 8% were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (60 individuals). Both of these age groups are over-represented compared to the population, particularly males in these age groups.

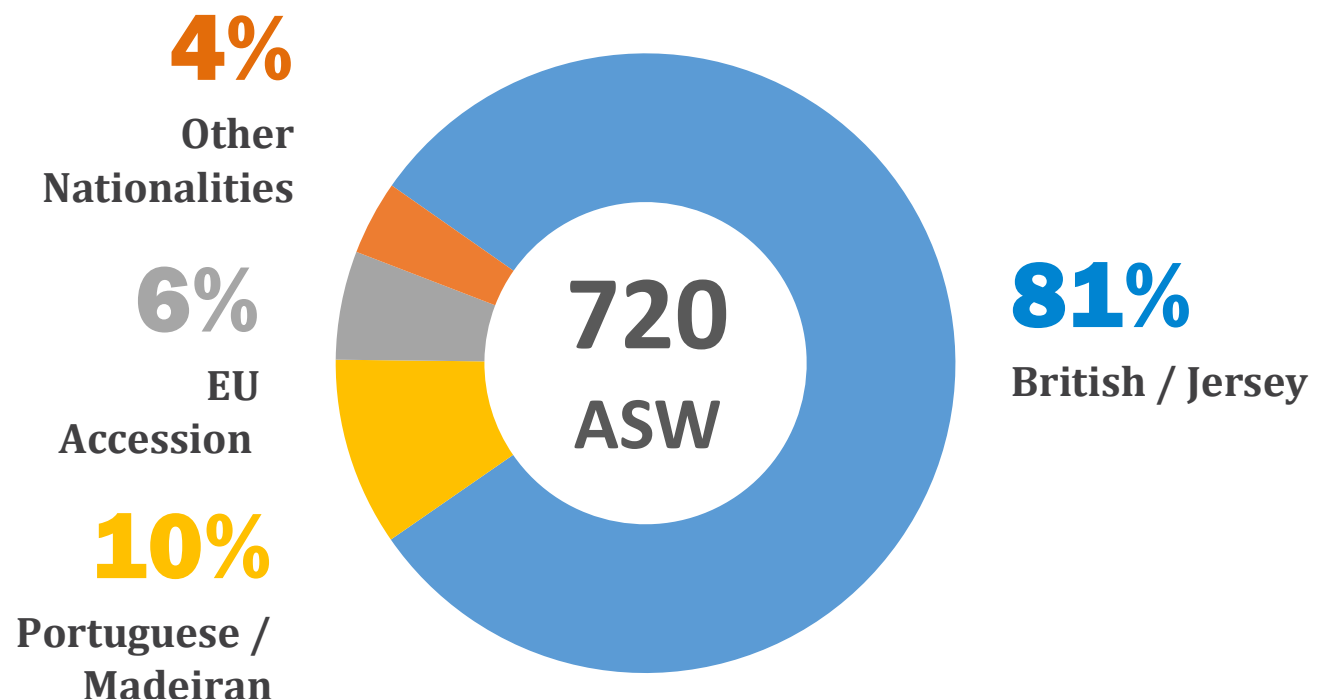
The 45-49 age group saw an increase of around 20 in the number of individuals registered compared with the end of the previous quarter, whereas the 20-24 and 50-59 age groups saw increases of around 10. The 16-19 and 35-39 age groups saw decreases of around 10 in the number of individuals registered compared with the end of the previous quarter. All other age groups were essentially unchanged.

Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 December 2023²:

- there were 580 individuals of British / Jersey nationality⁸ registered as ASW (81% of total); an increase of 10 compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 70 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (10% of total), an increase of 10 compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 40 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁹ nations registered as ASW (6% of total), a figure essentially unchanged from the previous quarter

Figure 4 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, December 2023



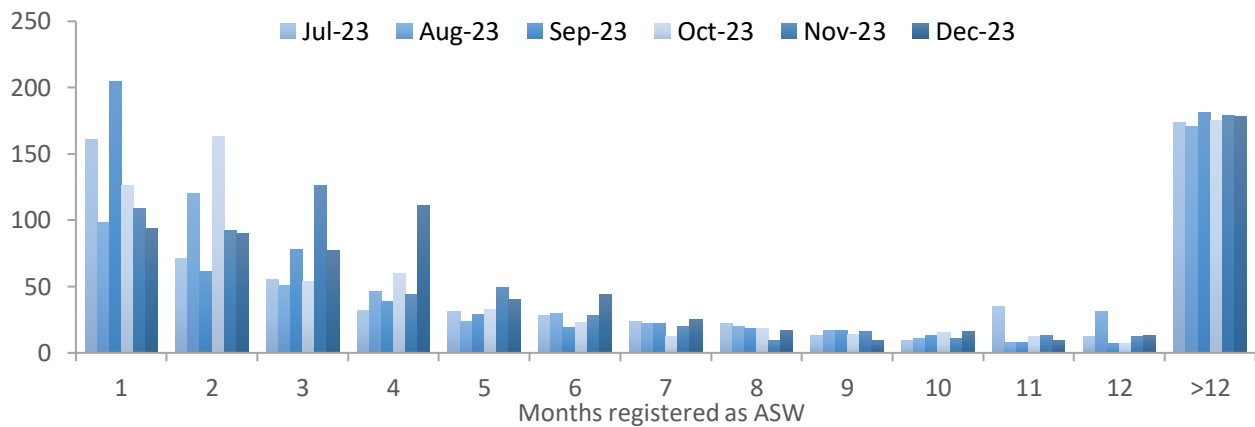
⁸ Nationality recorded by Customer and Local Services, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

⁹ 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 December 2023, over a third (36%) had been registered for three months or less; see Figure 5.

Figure 5 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), July 2023 – December 2023

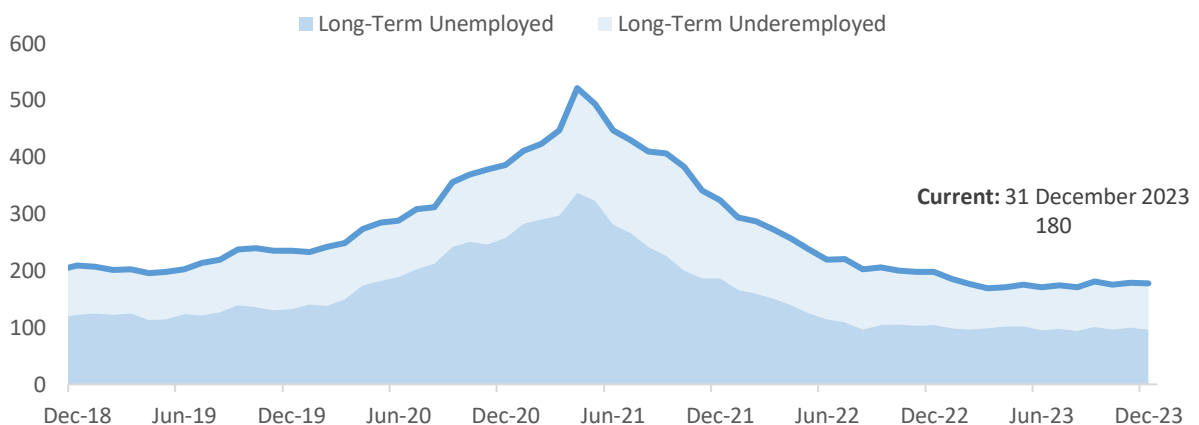


The number of new registrations¹⁰ in the fourth quarter of 2023 (330 people) was 130 lower than that recorded in the previous quarter but was 50 higher than recorded a year earlier (Q4 2022).

Long-term Registered ASW

On 31 December 2023, 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 (September 2023) and was 20 lower than a year earlier (December 2022).

Figure 6 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, December 2018 – December 2023



Of the 180 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 80 were engaged in some form of paid employment and therefore classified as underemployed¹¹. Over half (54%) of those registered as long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment were female; see Table 2.

Table 2 – Proportion of those registered long-term ASW and engaged in some form of paid employment, proportion that were female; December 2018 – December 2023

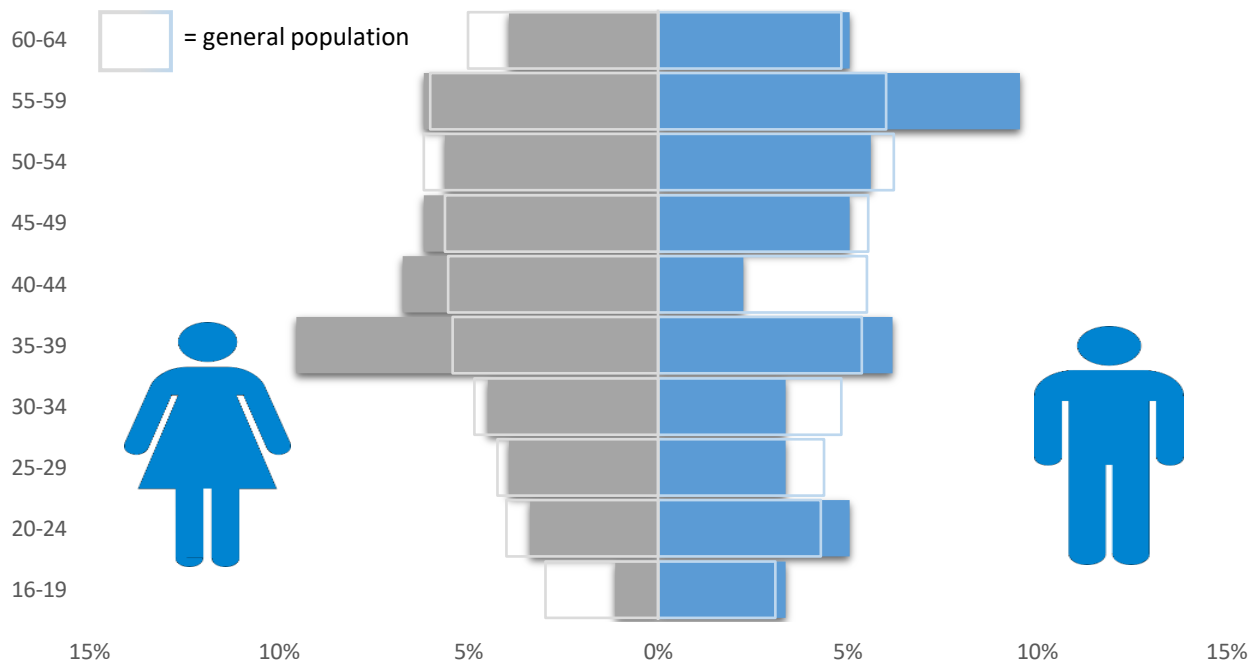
	Dec 2018	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Dec 2023
Long-term ASW Underemployed	90	100	130	140	90	80
Proportion female	68%	74%	71%	69%	64%	54%

¹⁰ An individual is classed as a new registration when they have had a longer than 28-day break in seeking employment.

¹¹ See [ASW registered underemployment](#) – page 7 of this report.

Figure 7 shows the age and sex distribution of the long-term ASW in December 2023.

Figure 7 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population¹², December 2023



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 December 2023, around a quarter (24%) of individuals registered as ASW were claiming LTIA, corresponding to 170 individuals. This proportion was essentially unchanged compared with a year earlier (December 2022) when it was also 24% of individuals; this corresponds to an annual increase of 10 individuals.

Of these 170 individuals, 50 were classified as underemployed meaning they were engaged in some form of paid employment (see [underemployment section](#)); this number was essentially unchanged compared with a year earlier (December 2022).

Table 3 – Number of registered ASW claiming LTIA, December 2022 – December 2023

	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
Total claiming LTIA	160	170	160	150	150	160	170	160	160	160	150	170	170
Percentage of total ASW	24%	25%	25%	25%	25%	26%	28%	24%	25%	23%	21%	24%	24%
Underemployed and claiming LTIA	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

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.

¹² As recorded by the 2021 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 underemployment¹³:

- *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 December 2023)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving Income Support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 40 such individuals in December 2023)

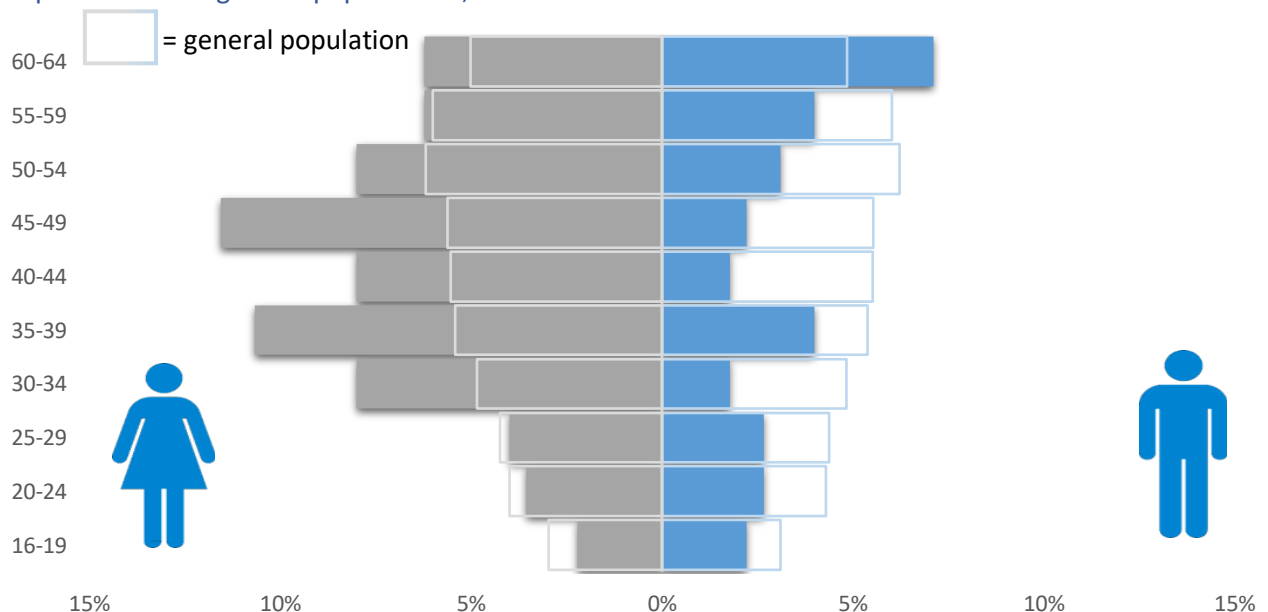
In December 2023, 32% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 4 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last thirteen months.

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

	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
Individuals	250	230	230	210	210	200	200	210	210	250	230	220	230
Percentage of total ASW	37%	34%	37%	34%	35%	33%	33%	31%	32%	36%	32%	31%	32%

Figure 8 shows the age and sex distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in December 2023, almost three-quarters (73%) were aged 35 or over and two-thirds (68%) were female.

Figure 8 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population¹⁴, December 2023



For females registered as ASW underemployed, 68% were aged 30-54; for males this proportion was 41%².

¹³ International Labour Organisation: *Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations*.

¹⁴ As recorded by the 2021 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.

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 2018 – December 2023¹⁵

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total
2018	Jan	440	490	940	880	2021	Jan	660	790	1,450	1,410
	Feb	430	490	910	870		Feb	630	780	1,410	1,360
	Mar	410	500	910	870		Mar	590	730	1,320	1,280
	Apr	410	440	850	870		Apr	540	670	1,210	1,210
	May	380	440	820	850		May	490	610	1,100	1,120
	Jun	390	430	820	860		Jun	450	560	1,000	1,060
	Jul	410	450	870	910		Jul	430	540	970	1,010
	Aug	380	440	820	880		Aug	410	520	930	980
	Sep	390	580	970	940		Sep	390	600	990	940
	Oct	380	570	940	910		Oct	350	530	880	870
	Nov	360	500	860	880		Nov	350	470	820	840
	Dec	390	500	890	880		Dec	350	460	810	800
2019	Jan	420	500	920	870	2022	Jan	320	420	740	710
	Feb	400	480	880	840		Feb	320	430	750	710
	Mar	380	470	840	830		Mar	310	400	720	700
	Apr	390	470	860	840		Apr	310	390	700	680
	May	380	460	840	860		May	290	370	660	690
	Jun	360	460	820	870		Jun	270	350	620	690
	Jul	370	480	850	890		Jul	290	380	680	720
	Aug	370	470	830	900		Aug	300	390	690	730
	Sep	350	570	920	880		Sep	320	490	810	740
	Oct	370	560	930	910		Oct	310	450	760	740
	Nov	360	520	890	910		Nov	290	400	690	700
	Dec	370	510	880	860		Dec	280	390	670	660
2020	Jan	370	500	880	830	2023	Jan	280	390	670	640
	Feb	360	500	860	820		Feb	270	360	630	600
	Mar	440	570	1,010	990		Mar	280	330	610	590
	Apr	1,090	1,090	2,180	2,160		Apr	270	330	600	590
	May	1,110	1,180	2,290	2,300		May	280	330	610	650
	Jun	920	1,030	1,950	2,000		Jun	280	330	610	670
	Jul	820	920	1,740	1,780		Jul	300	370	670	710
	Aug	760	830	1,590	1,650		Aug	300	350	650	680
	Sep	680	900	1,580	1,540		Sep	280	420	700	630
	Oct	640	830	1,470	1,460		Oct	300	410	710	690
	Nov	610	760	1,380	1,400		Nov	320	390	710	720
	Dec	640	760	1,400	1,390		Dec	330	390	720	720

¹⁵ Numbers are rounded independently to the nearest 10; hence, components may not sum to totals.