

Registered Unemployment February 2012

Statistics Unit: www.gov.je/statistics



Summary

On 29 February 2012:

- on a **seasonally adjusted** basis¹, the total number of people registered as unemployed and actively seeking work (ASW) in Jersey was²:
 - 50 higher than a month earlier, in January 2012;
 - 100 higher than the average for the preceding three months;
 - the highest level recorded to date³;
- the non-seasonally adjusted ASW total was 1,820; this latest monthly total is:
 - 120 higher than a month earlier, in January 2012;
 - 350 higher than that of a year earlier, in February 2011;
 - 500 higher than that of two years earlier, in February 2010;
- **long-term unemployment** (registered for more than 52 weeks) has doubled during the last twelve months and now accounts for almost one in five of total ASW;
- 280 **teenagers aged 16-19 years** were registered as ASW, the same as a month earlier; of these, 120 were on the Advance to Work scheme.

Introduction

Data on people registered as unemployed and 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 and characteristics of unemployment in the Island at the specified point in time.

The internationally comparable unemployment rate (as defined by the International Labour Organisation, ILO) is measured for Jersey through the Annual Social Survey or the Census. The ILO unemployment rate on 27 March 2011, measured by the 2011 Census, was 4.7%; this rate corresponds to 2,570 people being unemployed at that point in time.

The numbers of people registered as unemployed and actively seeking work include people who are on the Advance to Work, Advance Plus and Workwise schemes (see Note 1).

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.

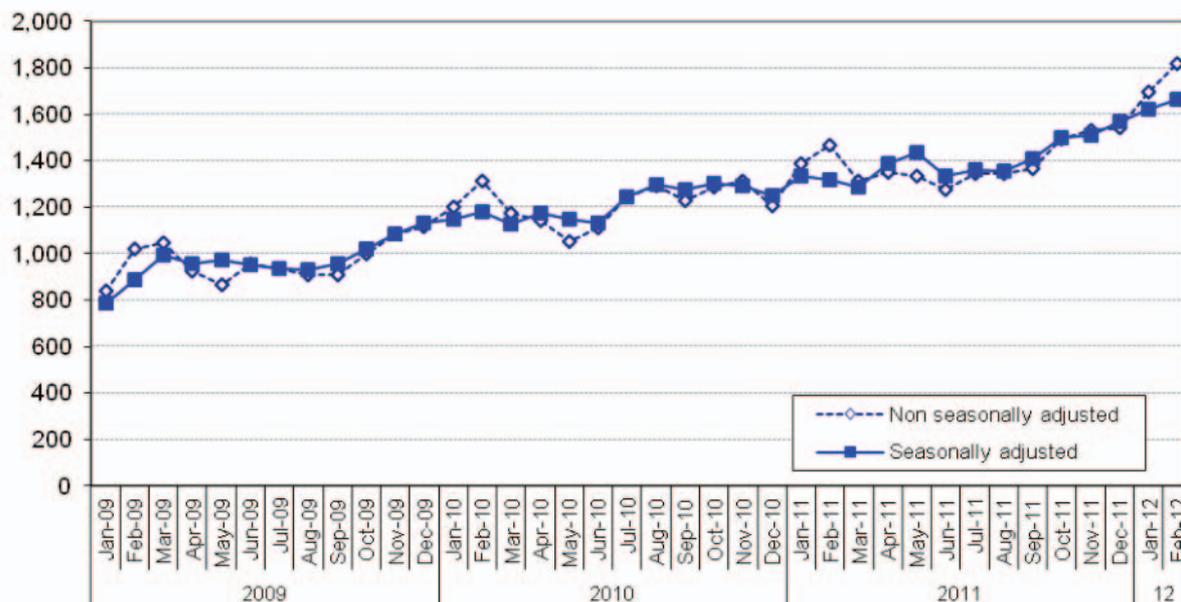
³ When placing the figures contained in this report in a historical context, it should be recognised that there have been significant changes in the criteria relating to registered unemployment in Jersey in recent years. In particular, the introduction of Income Support in 2008 has led to a higher proportion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

Registered Unemployed people Actively Seeking Work

On 29 February 2012, 1,820 people were registered with the Social Security Department as unemployed and actively seeking work (ASW). Seven out of ten people (71%) registered as ASW on this date (1,300 individuals) 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 February 2012 was: 120 higher than a month earlier; 350 higher than a year earlier, in February 2011, and 500 higher than two years earlier, in February 2010.

Figure 1 – Total number of individuals registered as ASW, Jan 2009 – Feb 2012



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 February 2012 was:

- 50 higher than a month earlier, in January 2012;
- 100 higher than the mean for the preceding three-month period, November 2011 to January 2012;
- the highest level recorded to date.

Registered ASW by age

On 29 February 2012, almost a third (30%) of all people registered as ASW were under the age of 25, with nearly a sixth (15%) of the total being teenagers aged 16-19 years.

Figure 2 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals for the last five months, from October 2011 to February 2012. Except for teenagers, all age categories saw an increase in the numbers registered as unemployed in the latest month, recording the highest numbers to date.

In contrast, the number of teenagers registered as unemployed remained at a similar level to that seen in January 2012, and was below the level (of more than 300 individuals) recorded each month between July 2010 and March 2011.

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 29 February 2012.

Figure 2 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, Oct 2011 – Feb 2012

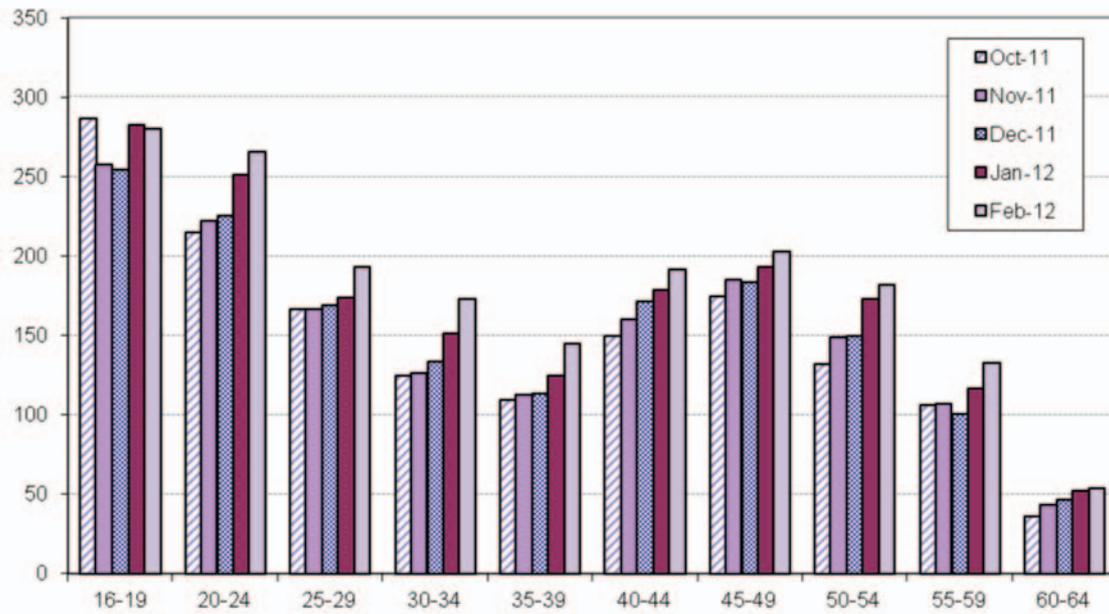
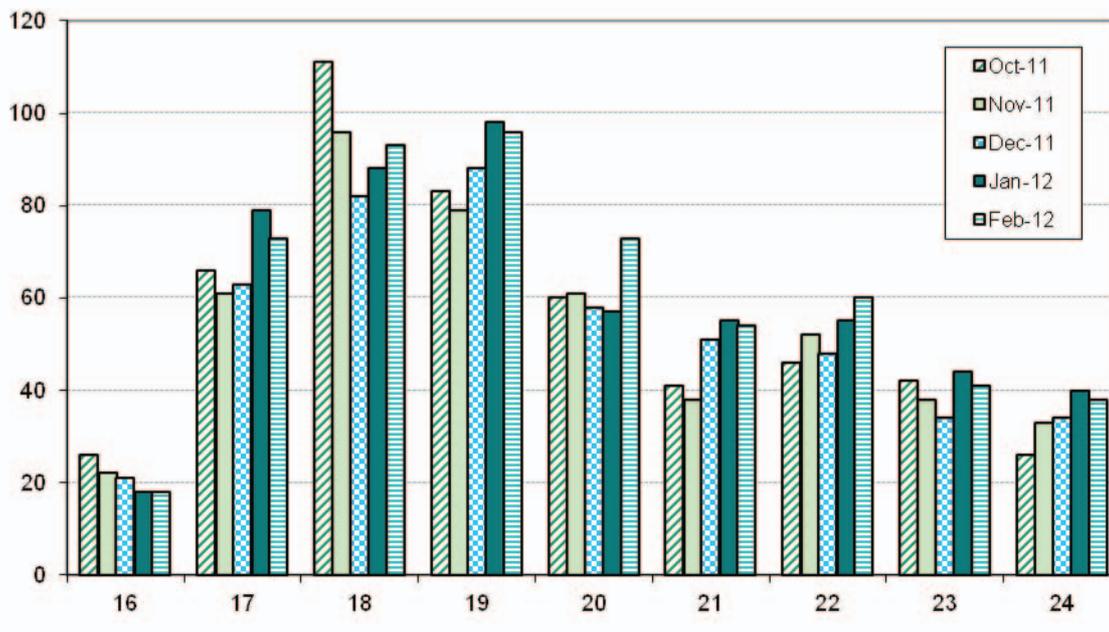


Figure 3 shows the age distribution for people under 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the latest five months, from October 2011 to February 2012. As in previous recent months, the greatest numbers of people registered as ASW at the end of February 2012 was for ages 17-20 years⁵.

Of the 280 teenagers (aged 16-19 years) who were registered as ASW at the end of February 2012, 120 were on the Advance to Work scheme.

Figure 3 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, Oct 2011 – Feb 2012

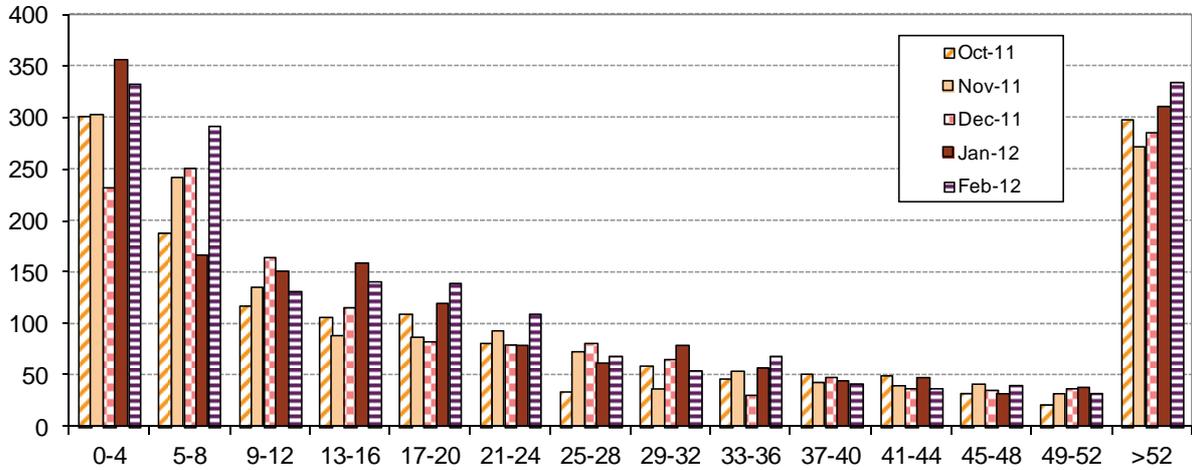


⁵ It should be acknowledged that a change to the Income Support criteria in September 2011 meant that individuals aged 16-18 who do not live in an Income Support household no longer receive the adult component of Income Support in their own right and as a result are not required to register as ASW.

Duration as ASW

Two-fifths (41%) of all people registered as ASW on 29 February 2012 had been registered for fewer than 13 weeks (approximately three months)⁶ – see Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (weeks), Oct 2011 – Feb 2012



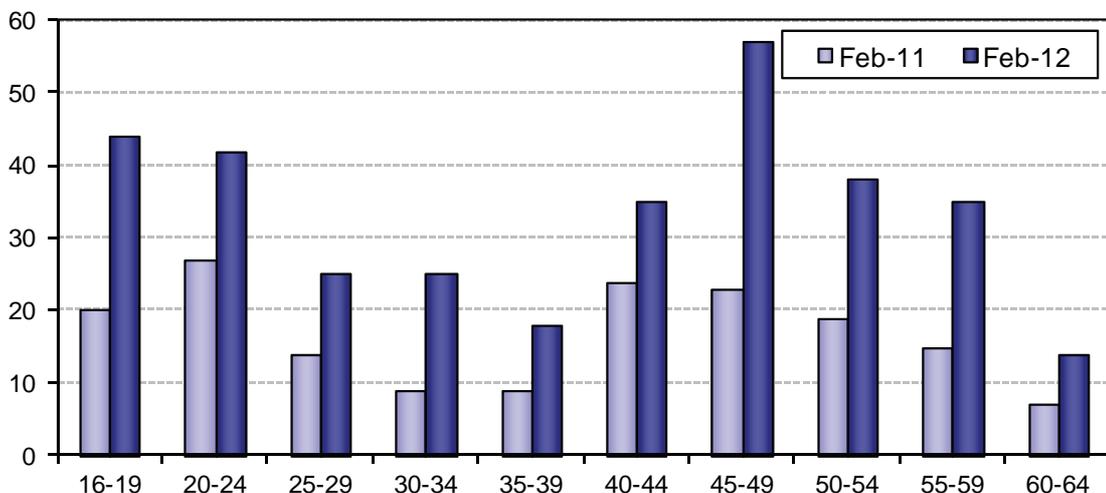
330 people had registered as ASW in the latest four week period, 30 fewer than in the four-week period up to 31 January 2012. The latest number of new registrants is about 100 greater than in the corresponding four-week periods of the previous two years, in February 2010 and February 2011.

Long-term unemployment

On 29 February 2012, there were 330 people who had been registered as unemployed and ASW for more than 52 weeks. This number of long-term unemployed people is the highest recorded to date, the number having doubled during the last twelve months and accounting for 18% of the latest ASW total.

Figure 5 shows the age distribution of the long-term unemployed in February 2012 and twelve months earlier, in February 2011.

Figure 5 – Long-term unemployed by age, February 2011 and February 2012



⁶ In May 2011 a change in the algorithm used to calculate the duration of unemployment was introduced: the duration of unemployment henceforth includes all periods of unemployment with less than a 4 week gap.

People under 25 years of age accounted for almost a third of the total number of long-term unemployed in both February 2011 and February 2012; people aged 40 or above accounted for more than half of the total number of long-term unemployed at these points in time.

The number of people aged under 25 in long-term unemployment increased by 40 during the twelve months to February 2012; the number of people aged 40 or above in long-term unemployment increased by 90 during the same period.

Occupation and Industry

Individuals working in some occupations and industries of the economy, notably in the Finance sector, often seek employment through private agencies instead of registering with the Social Security Department. Such occupations and industries will, therefore, be under-represented in the ASW numbers. Nevertheless, the change over time for all recorded occupations and industries will be informative.

The last industry of employment was recorded for almost nine out of ten people registered as ASW in February 2012:

- almost one in five were previously employed in 'Miscellaneous professional and domestic services' (19%) or in 'Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales' (18%);
- a further sixth (17%) were previously employed in 'Construction and allied trades'.

From an occupation⁷ perspective:

- more than one in three (34%) had previously worked in 'Elementary Occupations';
- around one in seven had previously worked in 'Skilled Trades' (15%), 'Administrative and Secretarial' (14%) or 'Sales and Customer Service' (14%) occupations.

⁷ Standard Occupational Classification SOC2000; see Note 2.

Notes

- 1.** The Advance to Work scheme provides 16 to 19 year olds who have left school or college with a relevant work placement and training. Advance Plus provides over 19 year olds with a relevant work placement and training.

Workwise comprises of a team of advisors in the Social Security Department who help people with special employment needs, or having particular employment barriers, to prepare for and seek suitable work. Since October 2010, a system enabling more complete counting of individuals on Workwise placements has been implemented.

2. Standard Occupational Classification (SOC 2000):

Example occupations within each category:

Managers and Senior Officials

managers and senior offices in public and private sectors.

Professional

science professionals, civil engineers, pharmacists, veterinarians, teachers, lawyers, judges, chartered accountants, architects, social workers, librarians, clergy.

Associate Professional and Technical

science technicians, engineering technicians, nurses, dental technicians, physiotherapists, youth workers, police officers (sergeant and below), artists, actors, graphic designers, journalists, sport coaches, air traffic controllers.

Administrative and Secretarial

office clerks, secretaries, personal assistants, receptionists, book-keepers, telephonists.

Skilled Trades

farmers, gardeners, fishermen, mechanics, electricians, telecommunication engineer, computer engineer, bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters, plasterers, tailors, printers, butchers, bakers, chefs.

Personal Service

nursing auxiliaries and assistants, care assistants, home carers, animal care, leisure and travel assistants, travel agents, hairdressers, nursery nurses, childminders, education assistants, housekeepers.

Sales and Customer Service

sales assistants, retail cashiers, call centre agents, check out operators, customer care occupations, telephone sales person.

Process, Plant and Machine Operatives

plant and machine operatives, fork-lift truck drivers, taxi cab drivers, chauffeurs, bus drivers, van drivers, construction operatives.

Elementary Occupations

farm workers, labourer, packers, postal workers, messengers, couriers, hotel porters, kitchen and catering assistants, waiters, bar staff, domestic cleaners, security guards.

Appendix

Table A1: Number of individuals registered as ASW, Jan 2009 – Feb 2012⁸

		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
	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	1050	650	1,700	1,620
	Feb	1130	690	1,820	1,670

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