

Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is important for key economic information to be available in a timely manner, to inform decision makers, businesses and members of the public. Therefore, in the short term, Statistics Jersey will be producing this report on a weekly basis to provide statistics in the following areas:

- Registered Actively Seeking Work (ASW)
- Income Support
- Business Disruption Loan Guarantee Scheme
- Coronavirus Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme
- COVID Related Emergency Support Scheme (CRESS)
- Royal Court housing activity

Statistics Jersey aim to release this report every Friday at 10:00 but, as this is not a previously scheduled report, the time of release may be subject to change.

Summary

On 26 April 2020

- the total number of people registered as ASW was 1,930; this total is 290 higher than a week earlier and 1,180 higher than at the end of the comparable week a year earlier (28 April 2019)¹
- more females (980 individuals) than males (950 individuals) were registered as ASW
- over half (52%) of all individuals registered as ASW had been registered for less than one month
- ‘Construction and allied trades, mining and quarrying’ saw the largest increase (up 6 percentage points) in the proportion of individuals who were registered as ASW, compared to 31 March 2020
- there were 6,320 active Income Support claims, 170 higher than on 19 April 2020 and 690 higher than a year earlier (30 April 2019). This latest number of claims provided support for:
 - 8,090 adults
 - 3,340 children
- there were 280 active CRESS claims (for individuals having less than 5 years residency); this latest number was a 100 higher than a week earlier, on 19 April 2020. These claims provided support for:
 - 360 adults
 - 60 children
- a total of 780 businesses, covering 5,900 employees, had claimed funding under Phase 1 of the Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme; more than £1.7 million had been paid out under this Scheme

On 24 April 2020

- fewer than 10 loans had been approved under the Business Disruption Loan Guarantee Scheme; the total amount of loans approved was £399,000, of which £154,000 had been drawn down
- there were fewer than 10 properties transacted through the Royal Court which were eligible to be included in the Jersey House Price Index

¹ Numbers of individuals are rounded independently to the nearest 10 throughout this report; hence, categories may not sum to totals.

Registered Actively Seeking Work

Customer and Local Service (CLS) compiles data on people in Jersey who are registered as Actively Seeking Work (ASW). Statistics Jersey independently analyses this anonymised data and publishes a quarterly report. This new weekly report constitutes a summarised, more frequent version of the quarterly report.

It is important to note that unemployed Jersey residents are not required to register as ASW. There are, however, certain requirements for those in receipt of an Income Support claim. Changes to the Income Support criteria have an impact on the total numbers registered as ASW. The numbers presented constitute an informative set of indicators of the level of individuals registered as ASW in the Island at a given point in time. For more information on historical ASW statistics, and methodological information, see the latest quarterly report [here](#).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some individuals who are unemployed may not yet be registered as ASW:

- their Income Support application is still to be assessed by CLS
- they have recently been made unemployed and have not yet registered with CLS
- they do not know their current employment status: they may be unemployed; or they may still be in employment with their employer through the Coronavirus Government Payroll Co-Subsidy Scheme

On 26 April 2020, there were 1,930 people registered as Actively Seeking Work (ASW). The total number registered on this date was 290 higher than a week earlier (19 April 2020) and 1,180 higher than at the end of the comparable week a year earlier (28 April 2019) – see Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 – Number of registered ASW excluding CRESS claimants, CRESS claimants and Total Registered; 15 Mar 2020 – 26 Apr 2020

| | 15 Mar 2020 | 22 Mar 2020 | 29 Mar 2020 | 6 Apr 2020 | 12 Apr 2020 | 19 Apr 2020 | 26 Apr 2020 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Registered ASW excluding CRESS claimants | 850 | 890 | 960 | 1,100 | 1,220 | 1,640 | 1,930 |
| Registered ASW CRESS claimants | - | - | - | - | 100 | 190 | 300 |
| Total Registered | 850 | 890 | 960 | 1,100 | 1,320 | 1,830 | 2,230 |

Table 2 shows the total number of registered ASW for comparable weeks in 2019.

Table 2 – Number of registered ASW.; 10 Mar 2019 – 28 Apr 2019

| | 10 Mar 2019 | 17 Mar 2019 | 24 Mar 2019 | 31 Mar 2019 | 7 Apr 2019 | 14 Apr 2019 | 21 Apr 2019 | 28 Apr 2019 |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Number of Registered ASW | 880 | 870 | 850 | 850 | 860 | 860 | 860 | 850 |

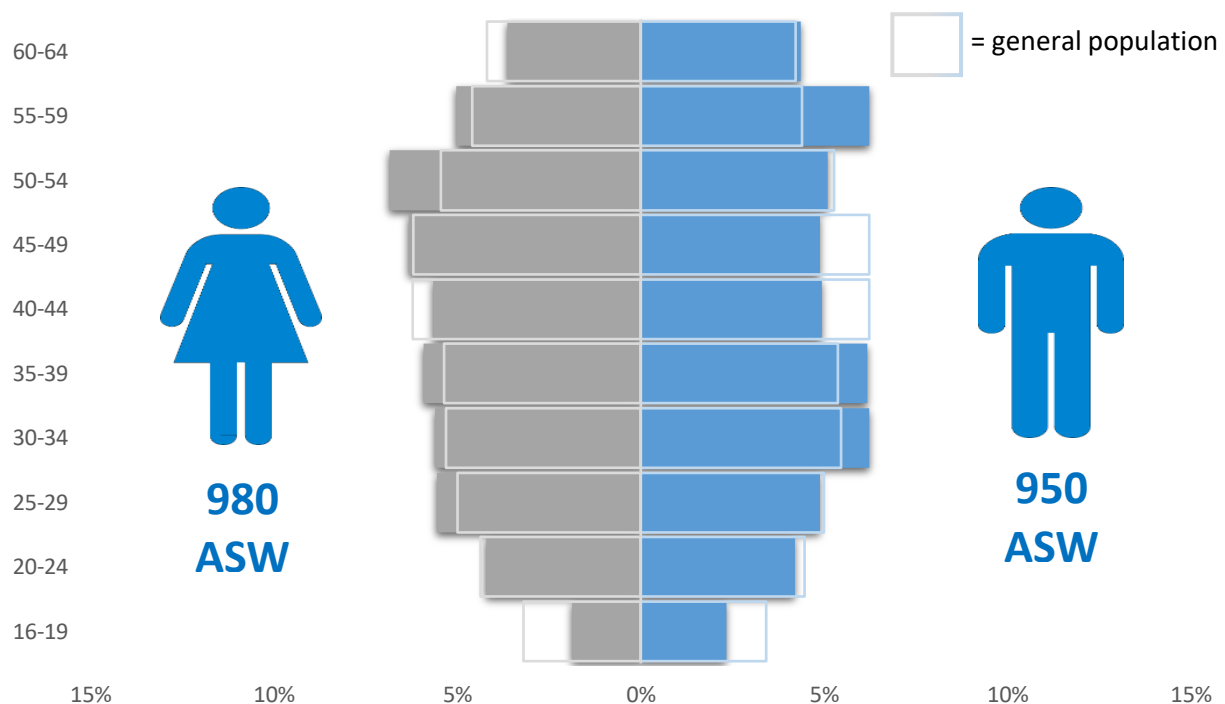
For comparability with the previous year (2019), Table 1 shows separately the number of individuals registered as ASW excluding CRESS claimants and the number of claimants of the new CRESS benefit. The latter applies to individuals who have been working in Jersey for less than 5 years, and therefore would not previously have been registered as ASW.

Registered ASW by age and sex

On 26 April 2020, more females (980 individuals) than males (950 individuals) were registered as ASW. In terms of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- there were more females than males registered in the 25-29 age group and all age groups 40-55
- there were more males than females registered in the following age groups; 16-19, 30-34, 55-64
- all other age groups had similar numbers of registered males and females.

Figure 1 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with proportions in the general population², 26 Apr 2020



On 26 April 2020, 12% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (240 individuals); 4% of the total were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (80 individuals).

Registered ASW duration

Of all individuals registered as ASW on 26 April 2020, two-thirds (66%) had been registered for three months or less. Over half (52%) of all individuals registered had been registered for less than one month, corresponding to 1,000 individuals.

In the week ending 26 April 2020, around 300 individuals were newly registered as actively seeking work. This was around 100 lower than that recorded during the previous week (week ending 19 April 2020) and was 130 higher than recorded during the whole of April a year earlier.

Industry

Individuals working in some industries of the economy, notably the Finance sector, often seek employment through private agencies and do not register as ASW with Customer and Local Services. Such industries will, therefore, tend to be under-reported in the ASW numbers.

The last industry of employment was recorded for around nine out of ten people (90%) registered as ASW. On 26 April 2020:

- 20% were previously employed in ‘Miscellaneous professional & domestic services’ an increase of 1 percentage point (pp) compared to 31 March 2020
- 16% were previously employed in ‘Hotel, restaurants, pubs and clubs’ an increase of 2 pp compared to 31 March 2020
- 14% were previously employed in ‘Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales’ a decrease of 5 pp compared to 31 March 2020
- 14% were previously employed in ‘Construction and allied trades, mining and quarrying’ an increase of 6 pp compared to 31 March 2020
- 12% were previously employed in ‘Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business’ a decrease of 4 pp to 31 March 2020

² Age and sex proportions as recorded by the 2011 Jersey Census.

Income Support

Income Support is a single, means-tested benefit available to individuals who have a low household income, pass the Income Support residence test and are working; looking for work or exempt from looking for work. This benefit provides financial support towards the costs of housing, living, health needs and child care. Since individuals claim on a household basis, multiple individuals may be supported by a single claim.

On 26 April 2020 there were 6,320 active Income Support claims. These claims supported 8,090 adults and 3,340 children. When compared with a week earlier (19 April 2020), the number of claims was 170 higher, the number of adults supported was 260 higher and the total number of children supported was 60 higher – see Table 3.

Table 3 – Active Income Support Claims, adults supported, children supported. 31 Jan 2020 – 26 Apr 2020

| | 31 Jan 2020 | 29 Feb 2020 | 31 Mar 2020 | 19 Apr 2020 | 26 Apr 2020 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Active Income Support Claims | 5,650 | 5,620 | 5,710 | 6,150 | 6,320 |
| Adults | 7,090 | 7,060 | 7,190 | 7,830 | 8,090 |
| Children | 3,130 | 3,130 | 3,160 | 3,280 | 3,340 |

When compared with a year earlier (30 April 2019), the latest number of claims was 690 higher, the number of adults supported was 1,020 higher and the total number of children supported was 200 higher – see Table 4.

Table 4 – Active Income Support Claims, Adults supported, Children supported. Jan 2019 – Apr 2019

| | 31 Jan 2019 | 28 Feb 2019 | 31 Mar 2019 | 30 Apr 2019 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Active Income Support Claims | 5,660 | 5,640 | 5,600 | 5,630 |
| Adults | 7,140 | 7,130 | 7,060 | 7,070 |
| Children | 3,100 | 3,120 | 3,110 | 3,140 |

Business Disruption Loan Guarantee Scheme

The Business Disruption Loan Guarantee Scheme provides government backed lending (loans provided by major banks that are guaranteed by government) to SMEs (small- and medium sized enterprises) which have been impacted by Covid-19 related measures. The key features of the Scheme can be found in the [Notes](#). Some applicants to the Scheme may have been eligible for loans outside of the government Scheme and as such will not appear in these figures.

For loans under this Scheme that have been completed **and reported** to Government by 24 April 2020:

- fewer than 10 loans had been approved by lenders in Jersey
- the total amount of loans approved was £399,000, of which £154,000 had been drawn down

Coronavirus Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme

The Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme consists of two Phases, each with different qualifying criteria. Those businesses meeting the qualifying criteria set by the Government receive payments towards employees' wages. More information on this Scheme can be found on gov.je

Only the first Phase of the Scheme was active as of 26 April 2020.

Table 5 shows the number of businesses and employees receiving assistance under this Scheme and the total amount paid. The week ending 12 April 2020 was the first week in which businesses could submit a claim to the Scheme; hence a large proportion of the total number of claims to date occurred in that week.

Table 5 – Coronavirus Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme Phase 1; 12 Apr 2020 – 26 Apr 2020

| | 12 Apr 2020 | 19 Apr 2020 | 26 Apr 2020 | Cumulative Total |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Total Business Claims | 610 | 80 | 90 | 780 |
| Total Employees Supported | 4,980 | 380 | 540 | 5,900 |
| Total Amount Paid | £1,458,580 | £103,140 | £148,470 | £1,710,180 |

COVID-Related Emergency Support Scheme

COVID Related Emergency Support Scheme (CRESS) is a newly introduced scheme to support people who have been working in Jersey for less than 5 years and who have lost their full-time employment income due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

CRESS provides weekly payments to cover basic costs; it does not offer any additional support with rent or mortgage costs. The CRESS scheme is conditional on the applicants being available to support any voluntary, Government or community work required during the current situation. They must also undertake relevant job-seeking activities and take up any paid employment that is available.

On 26 April 2020, there were 280 active CRESS claims. These claims supported 360 adults and 60 children – see Table 6.

Table 6 – Active CRESS Claims, adults supported, children supported; 12 Apr 2020 – 26 Apr 2020

| | 12 Apr 2020 | 19 Apr 2020 | 26 Apr 2020 |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Active CRESS Claims | 100 | 180 | 280 |
| Adults | 120 | 220 | 360 |
| Children | 20 | 30 | 60 |

Compared with a week earlier (19 April 2020) the latest number of claims was 100 higher, the number of adults supported was 140 higher and the total number of children supported was 30 higher.

Royal Court housing activity

Royal Court transactions represent essentially all of the residential house sales and around 30% of residential flat sales in Jersey.

Table 7 shows the turnover and total value of residential properties transacted each week in the Royal Court, applying two sets of definition of property: those included in the quarterly House Price Index (HPI); and an extended set which includes the following additional property types: 1-bedroom and 5- or more bedroom houses; 3- or more bedroom flats; bedsits; and designated first time buyer, age restricted and housing gateway properties. Comparable data for the similar time period in 2019 is shown in Table 8.

Table 7 – Royal Court Housing Activity 2020³

| Week | Date | HPI definitions | | Extended definition | |
|------|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | Turnover | Total Value | Turnover | Total Value |
| 9 | 28/02/2020 | 31 | 17,882,100 | 58 | 35,748,530 |
| 10 | 06/03/2020 | 23 | 14,212,000 | 31 | 18,228,000 |
| 11 | 13/03/2020 | 15 | 9,975,500 | 23 | 17,420,500 |
| 12 | 20/03/2020 | 23 | 14,471,500 | 31 | 20,234,500 |
| 13 | 27/03/2020 | 21 | 12,622,500 | 31 | 21,670,750 |
| 14 | 03/04/2020 | 20 | 11,611,500 | 24 | 14,361,500 |
| 15 | 17/04/2020 | 23 | 14,454,500 | 25 | 15,165,500 |
| 16 | 24/04/2020 | 7 | 3,966,010 | 10 | 5,556,010 |

Note: 10/04/2020 was Good Friday and as such there was no Royal Court sitting.

Table 8 – Royal Court Housing Activity 2019

| Week | Date | HPI Definitions | | Extended definition | |
|------|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | | Turnover | Total Value | Turnover | Total Value |
| 9 | 01/03/2019 | 23 | 13,796,500 | 29 | 16,159,500 |
| 10 | 08/03/2019 | 14 | 7,211,500 | 19 | 9,635,597 |
| 11 | 15/03/2019 | 15 | 9,225,000 | 17 | 11,874,000 |
| 12 | 22/03/2019 | 23 | 14,613,000 | 27 | 18,898,000 |
| 13 | 29/03/2019 | 29 | 22,080,500 | 31 | 22,960,500 |
| 14 | 05/04/2019 | 21 | 9,396,000 | 25 | 12,441,000 |
| 15 | 12/04/2019 | 49 | 28,035,500 | 54 | 31,401,500 |
| 16 | 26/04/2019 | 38 | 20,505,000 | 49 | 27,767,000 |

Note: 19/04/2019 was Good Friday and as such there was no Royal Court sitting.

Since the numbers presented in Tables 7 and 8 are broken down on a weekly basis, individual figures can be affected by specific new developments and also by seasonal effects such as Good Friday. Caution is advised, therefore, when making weekly comparisons.

³ Values provided in this section are unrounded.

Notes

1. Data Sources

Customer and Local Services (CLS) are the principal data source for the following sections: Registered Actively Seeking Work (ASW), Income Support, Coronavirus Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme, COVID-Related Emergency Support Scheme.

The Public Registry online “PRIDE” database is the principal data source for Royal Court housing activity. This data is supplemented by information on the type and size of each property sourced from estate agent advertisement brochures and planning documents, as well as information provided by the Island’s Parishes and Customer and Local Services.

Treasury and Exchequer are the principal data source for the Business Disruption Loan Guarantee Scheme.

2. Registered Actively Seeking Work

The number of people registered as ASW includes all people who are registered with Back to Work. The ASW total will also include individuals who are working fewer than the 35 hours per week required under the terms of Income Support; such individuals will simultaneously be working and registered as Actively Seeking Work.

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 in recent years. 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.

People who are registered as Actively Seeking Work receive the support of Back to Work, including targeted support specifically for young people aged 16-24 years, those who are long term unemployed or those who have other barriers to employment. There is also industry-specific support as well for those who are closer to employment.

In addition to the above, some individuals registered as ASW will be assisted by the Jersey Employment Trust (JET), a registered charity whose role is to assist people with a disability to prepare, find and maintain employment.

As well as the development and expansion of the above schemes, Back to Work is responsible for:

- the Employment Incentive
- a dedicated Back to Work Recruitment team
- industry and employer specific initiatives

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.

All figures presented in this report, are based on the non-seasonally adjusted measures.

3. Key features of the Business Disruption Loan Guarantee Scheme

- the Government of Jersey underwrites 80% of lending under the Scheme up to the value of £50 million.
- credit is only extended to businesses which are considered viable were it not for Covid-19 related disruption, in line with a prescribed questionnaire and the bank’s own judgement.
- applications for finance must be to support a business’s working capital and will not involve extensions to existing facilities, re-financing or asset financing.
- the Scheme is open to businesses with turnover less than £10 million. Credit extended under the Scheme will be between £5,000 and £500,000 per business. The term of any credit facility under the Scheme must be no more than 6 years, with a maximum of 3 years for overdrafts.

- If the lending is below £250,000 it can be unsecured. If the lending is above £250,000, the bank will establish a lack, or absence, of sufficient security prior to an applicant using the Scheme.
- currently businesses in the following sectors are not eligible to be supported by the Scheme:
 - a. financial services, legal and professional services businesses
 - b. real estate
 - c. property development
 - d. construction
 - e. public sector and state owned entities
 - f. utilities
 - g. agriculture and fishing
- the maximum interest rate a bank can charge under the Scheme is 4.5% above the Bank of England base rate (currently 0.1%).

Statistics Jersey

1 May 2020