

Context: COVID-19

The numbers presented in this report relate only to voluntarily registered persons and persons whose Income Support applications have been processed by Customer and Local Services (CLS) and who have been classed as Actively Seeking Work (ASW) up to 31st March 2020. These numbers do not show the full extent of unemployment in the Island, at that date or more recently. As people apply and are assessed by CLS, the ASW numbers will become more representative of the Island's unemployment situation. In order to provide more timely information, Statistics Jersey will be moving to monthly reporting of the ASW numbers.

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

- their 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

Summary

On 31 March 2020

- on a **seasonally adjusted**¹ basis, the total number of people registered as ASW was² 1,010; this total is 140 higher than at the end of the previous quarter and 170 higher than a year earlier (31 March 2019)
- the **non-seasonally adjusted** ASW total was 1,010; this total is 130 higher than at the end of the previous quarter and 170 higher compared to a year earlier
- the total number of **long-term ASW** (registered for more than twelve months) was 250; this total is 10 higher when compared to the previous quarter and 50 higher than a year earlier
- there were 270 individuals registered as ASW but engaged in some form of paid employment and classified as **underemployed**; this includes 100 individuals also classified as long-term ASW

Introduction

CLS compiles data on people registered as ASW in Jersey. Statistics Jersey independently analyses this anonymised data and publishes a 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, as well as administrative decisions within CLS, can have an impact on the total numbers registered as ASW (see [Appendix A](#) for more details). 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 figures.

The numbers shown therefore constitute an informative set of indicators demonstrating the level of individuals registered as ASW in the Island at a given point in time.

The internationally comparable unemployment rate is defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This includes both the registered unemployed and those not registered but still seeking work. The ILO unemployment rate for Jersey is measured by the Annual Social Survey, the Household Spending and Income Survey and the Census.

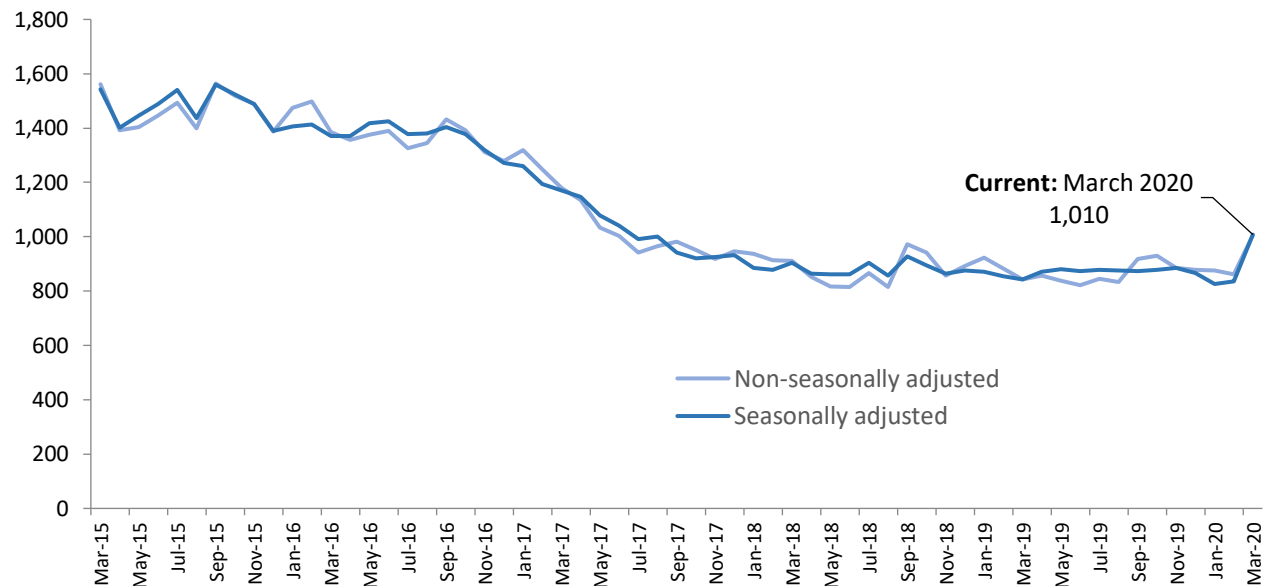
¹ Seasonal adjustment is a statistical technique, which enables examination of the underlying behaviour in a series of data by removing variations associated with the time of year, e.g. Christmas, academic year. See [Notes](#) for more details.

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

Registered Actively Seeking Work

On 31 March 2020, there were 1,010 people registered as Actively Seeking Work (ASW). Figure 1 shows the total number of people registered as ASW at the end of each month since March 2015 (a table of the monthly data is shown in [Appendix B](#)). The total number registered in March 2020 was 130 higher than at the end of the previous quarter (December 2019) and 170 higher than twelve months earlier (March 2019).

Figure 1 - Total number of individuals registered as ASW, March 2015 – March 2020



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 March 2020 was:

- 140 higher than at the end of the previous quarter, December 2019
- 170 higher than a year earlier, March 2019

In respect of both the seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted ASW totals, it should be noted, when making comparisons over time, that changes to the Income Support criteria, 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 in a particular month.

On 31 March 2020, 90% of individuals registered as ASW (corresponding to 910 people) were receiving Income Support³. Compared with March 2015, there has been a decrease in both the number of people registered as ASW who are receiving Income Support and the number of people who are registered as ASW and not receiving Income Support. This decrease has led to an increase in the proportion of people registered as ASW who are receiving Income Support (rising from 74% in March 2015).

Table 1 – Number of registered ASW, receiving and not receiving Income Support, March 2015 – March 2020

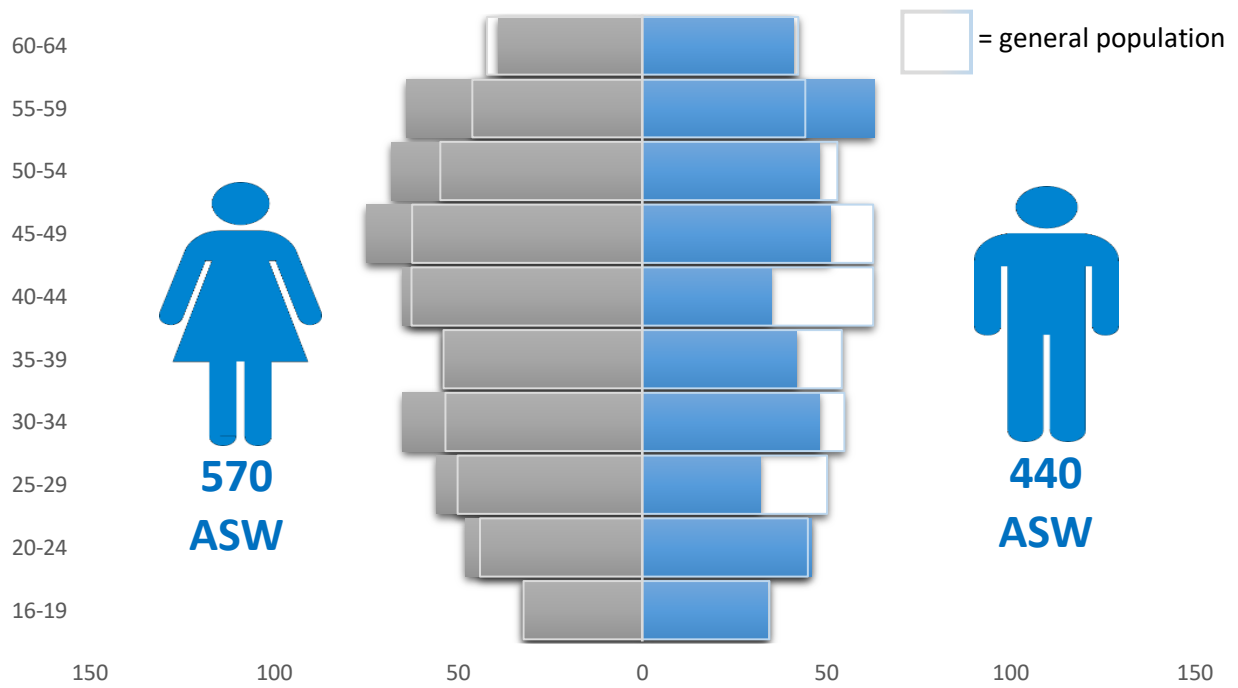
	Mar 2015	Mar 2016	Mar 2017	Mar 2018	Mar 2019	Mar 2020
Individuals receiving Income Support	1,150	1,060	960	790	760	910
Individuals not receiving Income Support	410	320	220	120	80	100
Percentage of ASW receiving Income Support	74%	77%	81%	87%	90%	90%

³ 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 50% threshold) are not included.

Registered ASW by age and sex

On 31 March 2020, more females (570 individuals) than male (440 individuals) were registered as ASW.

Figure 2 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁴, March 2020

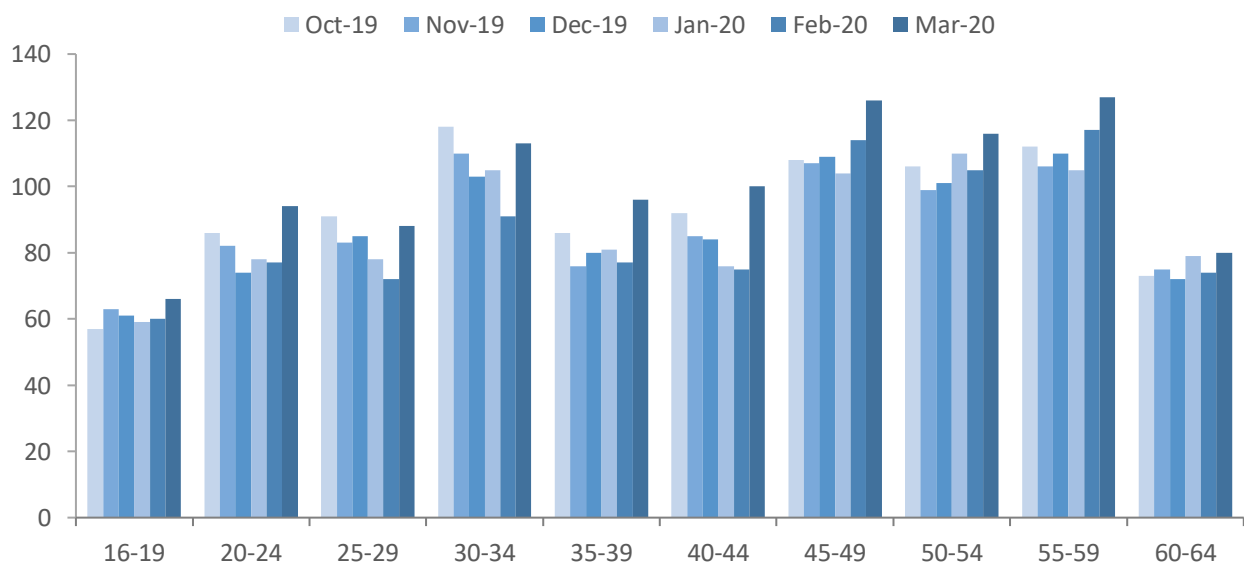


In respect of the breakdown of sex by age group:

- there were more females than males registered in all age groups between 25-54 years
- all other age groups had similar numbers of registered males and females.
- the 40-44 age group had the largest difference by sex, with the number of females registered as ASW (70 individuals) being almost twice the number of males registered (40 individuals)

Figure 3 shows the numbers registered as ASW by age of individuals in each of the last six months, from October 2019 to March 2020.

Figure 3 – Individuals registered as ASW by age, October 2019 – March 2020



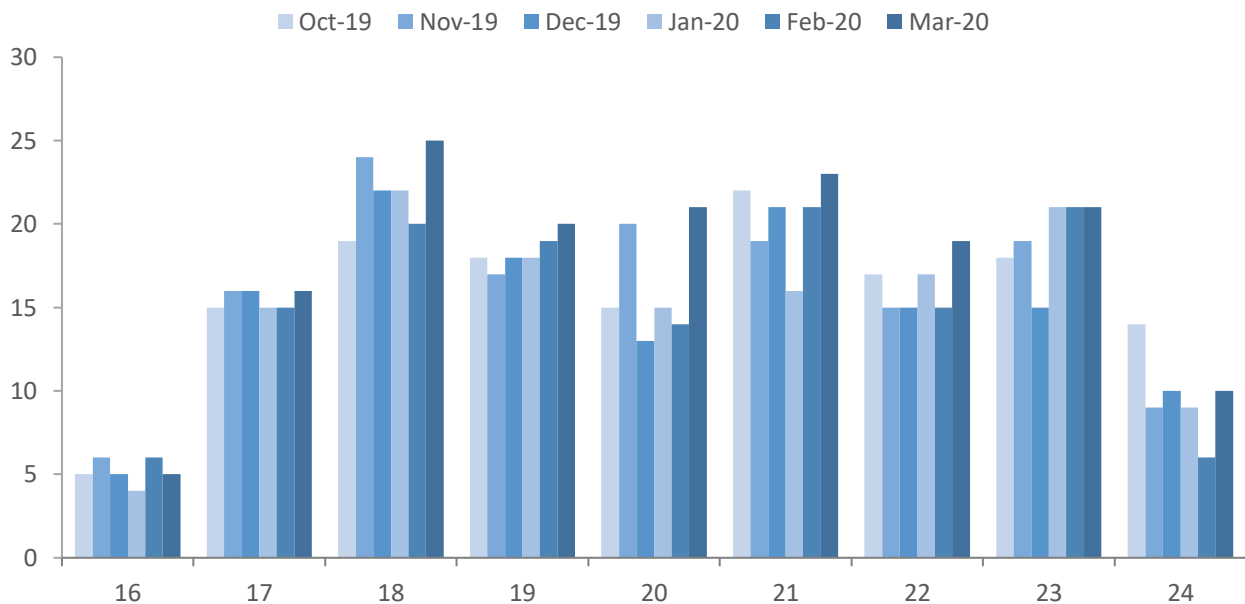
⁴ Age and sex proportions at the 2011 Jersey census.

On 31 March 2020, 16% of people registered as ASW were under 25 years of age (160 individuals); 7% of the total were teenagers, aged 16-19 years (70 individuals).

In the latest quarter, all age groups saw an increase in the number of individuals registered. The 20-24 age group saw the largest increase of around 20 individuals.

Figure 4 shows the age distribution for people below 25 years of age who were registered as ASW in the latest six months, from October 2019 to March 2020.

Figure 4 – Individuals under the age of 25 registered as ASW, October 2019 – March 2020

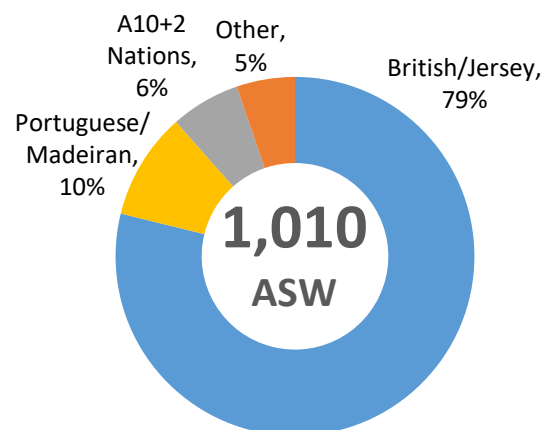


Registered ASW by nationality

On 31 March 2020:

- there were 790 individuals of British / Jersey nationality⁵ registered as ASW (79% of total); an increase of 90 individuals compared with the end of the previous quarter
- there were 100 individuals of Portuguese / Madeiran nationality registered as ASW (10% of total), essentially unchanged when compared with the previous quarter
- there were 60 individuals from the EU Accession (A10+A2)⁶ nations registered as ASW (6% of total), an increase of 10 individuals when compared with the previous quarter

Figure 5 – Individuals registered as ASW by nationality, March 2020



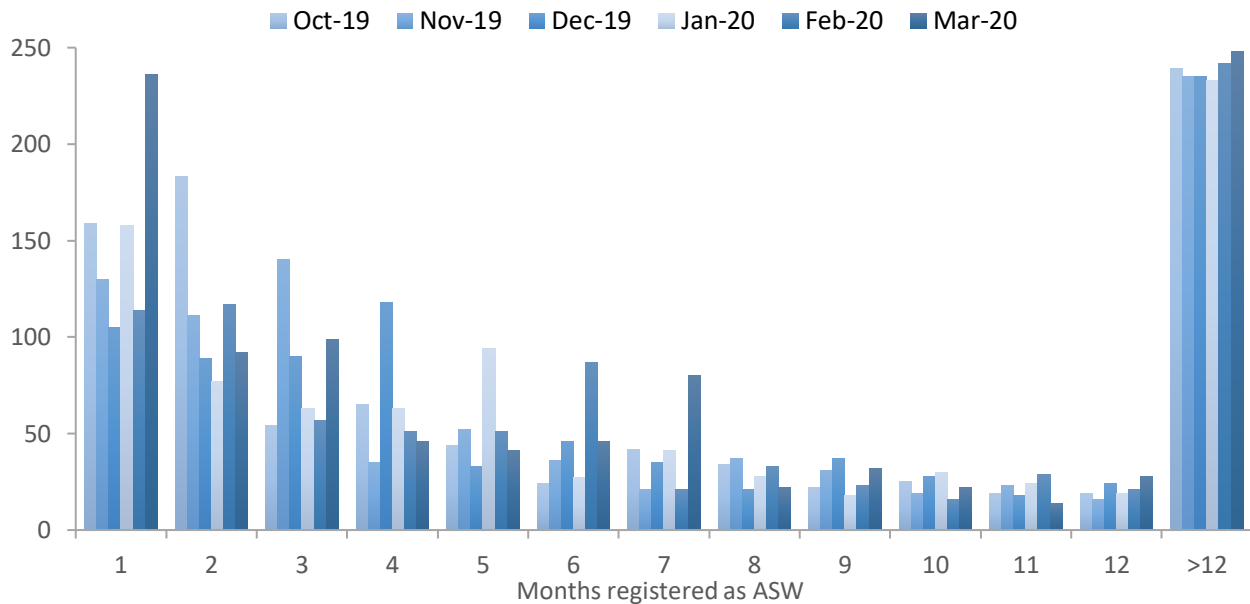
⁵ Nationality recorded by Customer and Local Services, for the purpose of registering as ASW, is self-reported.

⁶ The twelve countries which joined (“gained accession to”) the European Union in May 2004 (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and February 2007 (Bulgaria and Romania).

Registered ASW duration

Of all people registered as ASW on 31 March 2020, around two-fifths (42%) had been registered for three months or less - see Figure 6.

Figure 6 – Registered ASW by length of period registered (months), October 2019 – March 2020

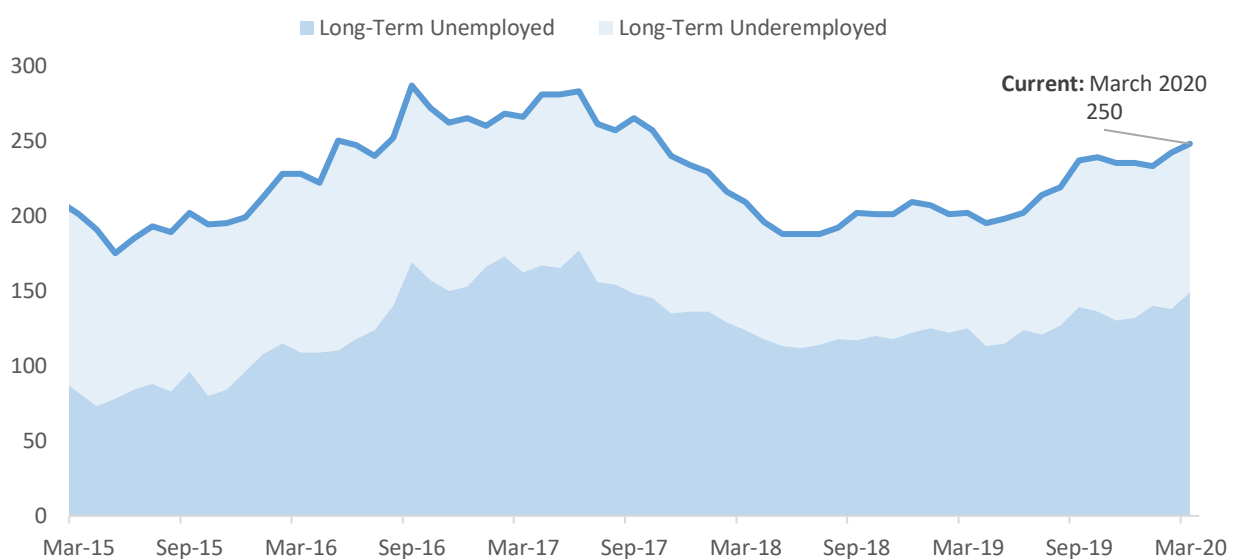


The number of new registrations in the first quarter of 2020 (510 people) was 120 higher than that recorded in the previous quarter and was 60 higher than recorded a year earlier (Q1 2019).

Long-term Registered ASW

On 31 March 2020, there were 250 people registered as ASW for more than twelve months, accounting for 25% of total ASW. The latest number of long-term ASW was 10 higher when compared with the end of the previous quarter (December 2019) and was 50 higher than a year earlier (March 2019).

Figure 7 – Long-term ASW underemployed and long-term ASW unemployed, March 2015 – March 2020

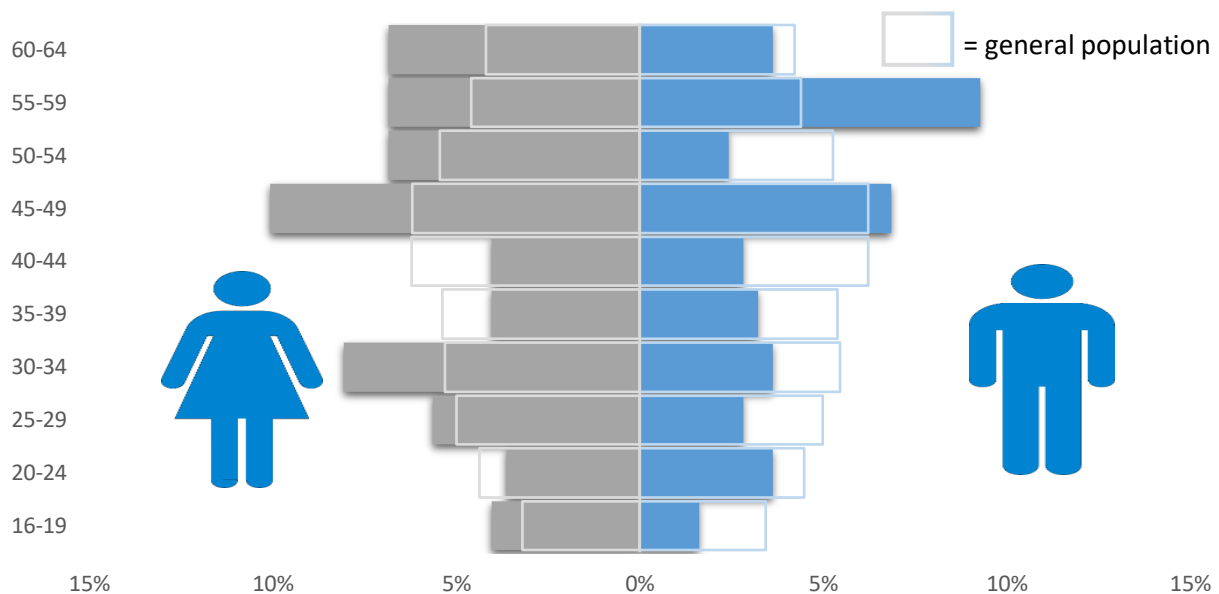


Of the 250 individuals registered as ASW for more than twelve months, 100 were engaged in some form of paid employment but classified as underemployed⁷. Around seven-tenths (69%) of those registered as long-term ASW but engaged in some form of paid employment were female.

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

Figure 8 shows the age and sex distribution of the long-term ASW in March 2020.

Figure 8 – Age and sex distribution of individuals registered as long-term ASW compared with the proportions in the general population⁸, March 2020



Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA)

Long Term Incapacity Allowance (LTIA) is a Social Security contributory benefit which helps individuals that have long-term ill-health or an injury. Individuals claiming LTIA that are below the 50% threshold (see [Appendix A](#)) are required to register as Actively Seeking Work. On 31 March 2020, around a quarter (26%) of individuals registered as ASW were claiming LTIA, corresponding to 260 individuals.

Of these 260 individuals, 70 were classified as underemployed meaning they were engaged in some form of paid employment, which was essentially unchanged when compared to a year earlier (March 2019).

Table 2 – Number of registered ASW claiming LTIA, March 2019 – March 2020

	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
Total claiming LTIA	270	290	270	270	260	260	280	280	260	270	260	250	260
Percentage of total ASW	32%	34%	32%	33%	31%	31%	30%	30%	29%	31%	30%	29%	26%
Underemployed and claiming LTIA	70	80	80	80	80	80	90	90	90	90	80	80	70

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 Customer and Local Services. Such industries will therefore tend to be under-represented in the ASW numbers.

The last industry of employment was recorded for over nine out of ten people (92%) registered as ASW. On 31 March 2020:

- 19% were previously employed in ‘Miscellaneous professional & domestic services’
- 19% were previously employed in ‘Retail and Wholesale, Motor repairs and sales’
- 16% were previously employed in ‘Banking, Miscellaneous Insurance, Finance and Business’
- 14% were previously employed in ‘Hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs’

⁸ As recorded by the 2011 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 underemployment⁹:

- *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. 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 20 such individuals in March 2020)
- certain self-employed individuals who are receiving Income Support and are still required to pursue additional employment (there were 30 such individuals in March 2020)

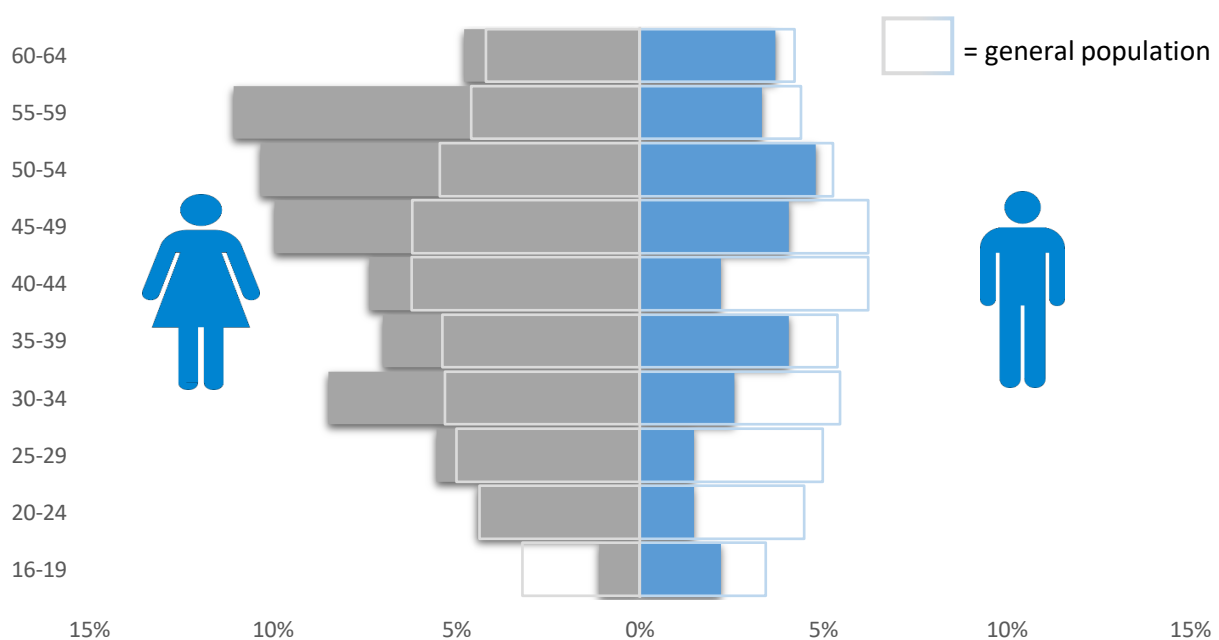
In March 2020, 27% of all people registered as ASW were underemployed; Table 3 shows the numbers of such individuals in each of the last twelve months.

Table 3 – Number of ASW registered underemployed, March 2019 – March 2020

	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20
Individuals	260	270	260	260	260	260	290	280	300	310	290	290	270
Percentage of total ASW	31%	31%	31%	32%	31%	31%	32%	30%	34%	35%	33%	34%	27%

Figure 9 shows the age and sex distribution of people registered as ASW underemployed; in March 2020, 62% were aged 40 years or over and around seven-tenths (70%) were female.

Figure 9 - Age and sex distribution of individuals registered ASW underemployed compared with the proportions in the general population¹⁰, March 2020



⁹ International Labour Organisation: *Resolution concerning the measurement of underemployment and inadequate employment situations.*

¹⁰ As recorded by the 2011 Jersey Census.

Notes

Context

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. On 31 March 2020 there were 120 such individuals being assisted by JET, which includes both unemployed individuals and those that are classified as underemployed.

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.

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 the entire historic series will potentially be revised. These revisions are welcome as they 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.

Statistics Jersey
8 April 2020

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 5 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 5 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 4 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 2015 – March 2020¹

		Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total ^R			Male	Female	Total	Seasonally adjusted total ^R
2015	Jan	790	700	1,490	1,400	2018	Jan	440	490	940	880
	(c) Feb	870	760	1,620	1,510		Feb	430	490	910	880
	Mar	820	740	1,560	1,540		Mar	410	500	910	900
	Apr	710	680	1,390	1,400		Apr	410	440	850	860
	(c) May	730	670	1,400	1,450		May	380	440	820	860
	Jun	730	720	1,450	1,490		Jun	390	430	820	860
	Jul	770	720	1,490	1,540		Jul	410	450	870	900
	Aug	710	690	1,400	1,440		Aug	380	440	820	860
	(c) Sep	720	840	1,560	1,560		Sep	390	580	970	930
	Oct	720	800	1,520	1,520		Oct	380	570	940	900
	Nov	710	780	1,490	1,490		Nov	360	500	860	860
	Dec	670	720	1,390	1,390		Dec	390	500	890	880
2016	Jan	730	740	1,470	1,410	2019	Jan	420	500	920	870
	Feb	750	750	1,500	1,410		Feb	400	480	880	850
	Mar	690	700	1,380	1,370		Mar	380	470	840	840
	Apr	630	720	1,360	1,370		Apr	390	470	860	870
	May	620	750	1,380	1,420		May	380	460	840	880
	Jun	660	730	1,390	1,420		Jun	360	460	820	870
	(c) Jul	630	690	1,330	1,380		Jul	370	480	850	880
	Aug	630	710	1,340	1,380		Aug	370	470	830	880
	Sep	670	760	1,430	1,400		Sep	350	570	920	870
	Oct	660	730	1,390	1,380		Oct	370	560	930	880
	Nov	640	670	1,310	1,320		Nov	360	520	890	890
	Dec	630	650	1,280	1,270		Dec	370	510	880	870
2017	Jan	640	680	1,320	1,260	2020	Jan	370	500	880	830
	Feb	600	650	1,250	1,190		Feb	360	500	860	840
	Mar	570	610	1,180	1,170		Mar	440	570	1,010	1,010
	Apr	540	590	1,140	1,150						
	May	500	540	1,030	1,080						
	Jun	490	510	1,000	1,040						
	Jul	450	490	940	990						
	Aug	440	530	970	1,000						
	Sep	420	560	980	940						
	Oct	430	520	950	920						
	(c) Nov	440	480	920	920						
	Dec	440	510	950	930						

¹Numbers are rounded independently to the nearest 10; hence, components may not sum to totals.

(c) Change in ASW Recording / Income Support Criteria - see [Appendix A](#) for more details

^R Revised