

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BY DEPUTY R.G. LE HÉRISSEIER OF ST. SAVIOUR
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2009**

Question

“Is the Minister satisfied that the recently published figure of 1000 people unemployed in Jersey is accurate?

What is the occupational break down of that figure and how accurate are the figures in relation to young people?”

Answer

The Department publishes a monthly report identifying the number of people registered with the Department as Actively Seeking Work. The total for October 2009 is 997 and the report can be found on the gov.je website.

The report includes the following comment:

“It should be remembered that there is no statutory requirement for all unemployed residents of Jersey to register as actively seeking work with the Social Security Department. As such the data above is a useful indicator of the level of unemployment in the Island but it does not attempt to measure the actual rate of unemployment. This is undertaken on an annual basis through the Jersey Annual Social Survey.”

The International Labour Organisation’s unemployment rate as measured by Jersey Annual Social Survey in 2008 stood at 2.3 %. The figure for 2009 will be available at the end of December.

I am satisfied that the figure of 997 is an accurate statement of the number of individuals of all ages registered with the Department as actively seeking work but, as explained in the extract above, this figure does not attempt to measure the actual rate of unemployment in the Island as a whole.

The occupational breakdown of registered individuals is based on the classification of the individual’s last employer for contribution purposes. It should be noted that employers in each category will employ a wide range of workers. For example, employers in the “banking” category will have employees who work as administrators, facilities managers and HR officers as well as those who provide banking services directly.

Employer Category	Number
Retail, wholesale	117
Banking, insurance	128
Utilities	10
Agriculture and Fishing	18
Engineering	9
Motor trades	13
Tourism, leisure, catering	89
Misc professional (Legal, accountancy, IT, etc)	80
Misc trades (Glass, timber, printing, etc)	10
Misc services (Hairdressing, cleaning, etc)	97
Public sector (including temporary seasonal posts)	66
Educational services	7
Private domestic service	7
Medical services	38
Construction	139
Transport, communications	26
Self- employed	25

No previous contribution record - recently arrived in Island	2
No previous contribution record – aged under 24	95
No previous contribution record – Workwise client	21

At the end of October there were 74 trainees aged under 19 on the Advance to work (ATW) scheme who were registered as actively seeking work. These trainees are included in the table above, with the majority recorded under the “No previous contribution record– aged under 24” category.