

Guernsey Unemployment Bulletin

Issue date 16th October 2020

The Guernsey Unemployment Bulletin provides headline information on unemployment in Guernsey using data sourced from Social Security.



States of Guernsey
Data and Analysis

1.1 Introduction

This fourth Unemployment Bulletin provides headline information on unemployment in Guernsey (including the islands of Guernsey, Herm, Jethou and Lihou). The bulletin has been produced using data from the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security to provide comprehensive and up to date information on unemployment trends.

The first three editions of this bulletin along with the latest Population, Employment and Earnings Bulletin, which contains information on numbers of employers, employees and self-employees and the earnings of employees at the end of March 2020, is available on www.gov.gg/population. The next edition of the Population, Employment and Earnings Bulletin is due to be published at the end of October 2020 and will include employment and earnings information up to the end of June 2020.

The figures presented in this bulletin are based on administrative data relating to Unemployment Benefit and Income Support claimants across the whole population.

1.2 Headlines

- There were 570 people registered as wholly unemployed* during the week ending 3rd October 2020 (1.8% of the workforce), 120 fewer people than during the week ending 5th September.
- A peak was seen in the number of wholly unemployed* at the end of May 2020 (1,631 people, 5.2% of the workforce). Since then, there has been a reduction of 1,061 people or 3.3 percentage points.
- The week ending 11th July saw the largest weekly decrease in the number of people wholly unemployed*, with 283 fewer people registered as unemployed compared to the end of the previous week.
- The number of wholly unemployed* people has been decreasing across all age groups, for both men and women, since the end of May 2020 (a decrease of 70% in unemployed men and a 58% reduction in unemployed women). The largest percentage decline was seen in the 30 to 39 age group for both men and women (a decrease of 77% and 66% since May 2020 respectively).
- There were fewer unemployed men in the 16 to 19, 20 to 29 and 30 to 39 age categories at the end of September 2020 than at the end of March 2020, the lowest levels seen since lockdown.
- As at 3rd October 2020, 25% of people claiming Unemployment Benefit had skills relating to administration and finance, 14% retail, 14% construction and trade and 11% catering and hospitality.

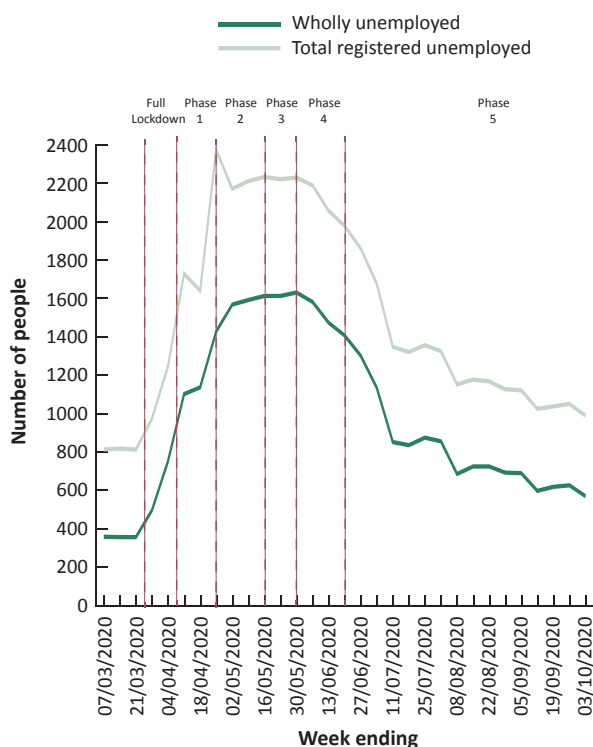
*The "wholly unemployed" figure used throughout this bulletin refers only to those that were registered as unemployed and did not do any work in the snapshot week. This includes anyone who has either found work/returned to work, but yet to receive a wage.

2.1 Unemployment - weekly snapshots

Table 2.1.1 Percentage of workforce registered as unemployed at weekly snapshots

	Wholly unemployed*	% of workforce	Total registered unemployed*	% of workforce
28/03/2020	497	1.6	974	3.1
04/04/2020	753	2.4	1,247	4.0
11/04/2020	1,102	3.5	1,729	5.5
18/04/2020	1,137	3.6	1,640	5.2
25/04/2020	1,428	4.5	2,374	7.5
02/05/2020	1,568	5.0	2,171	6.9
09/05/2020	1,592	5.1	2,211	7.0
16/05/2020	1,613	5.1	2,233	7.1
23/05/2020	1,613	5.1	2,221	7.1
30/05/2020	1,631	5.2	2,229	7.1
06/06/2020	1,582	5.0	2,189	7.0
13/06/2020	1,474	4.7	2,057	6.5
20/06/2020	1,407	4.5	1,977	6.3
27/06/2020	1,302	4.1	1,860	5.9
04/07/2020	1,135	3.6	1,677	5.3
11/07/2020	852	2.7	1,348	4.3
18/07/2020	836	2.7	1,321	4.2
25/07/2020	875	2.8	1,357	4.3
01/08/2020	856	2.7	1,325	4.2
08/08/2020	686	2.3	1,152	3.8
15/08/2020	725	2.4	1,178	3.9
22/08/2020	725	2.4	1,168	3.8
29/08/2020	693	2.3	1,127	3.7
05/09/2020	690	2.3	1,122	3.7
12/09/2020	598	1.9	1,025	3.3
19/09/2020	619	2.0	1,038	3.4
26/09/2020	627	2.0	1,051	3.4
03/10/2020	570	1.8	990	3.2

Figure 2.1.1 Number of people registered unemployed at weekly snapshots



The Bailiwick of Guernsey went into lockdown on 25th March 2020 in order to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Restrictions on all but essential business activities were imposed and all non-essential shops and community spaces were told to close. People were required to stay at home except for limited purposes and all gatherings of more than two people in public were prohibited.

Table 2.1.1 and Figure 2.1.1 show the number of people registered as unemployed at the end of each week between March and the first week of October 2020. It can be seen that the number of people unemployed rose sharply between the week ending 21st March and the week ending 25th April before stabilising in May and then steadily decreasing during phase 4 and 5 of the exit from lockdown, when more businesses were allowed to re-open.

Figure 2.1.1 shows that the number of people unemployed has continued to decrease gradually throughout August and September, although levels remain higher than pre-lockdown.

During the week ending 3rd October, 1.8% of the workforce (570 people) were wholly unemployed* compared to 2.3% during the week ending 5th September and 5.2% at the end of May (see **Table 2.1.1**).

A peak was seen in the number of wholly unemployed* at the end of May 2020 (1,631 people, 5.2% of the workforce). Since then, there has been a reduction of 1,061 people. The week ending 11th July saw the largest weekly decrease in the number of people wholly unemployed*, with 283 fewer people registered as unemployed compared to the end of the previous week. The week ending 8th August saw the second largest weekly decrease (170 people).

Information on the number of people unemployed broken down by age and gender can be found on **page 4**.

*See **pages 2 and 5** for more information on the difference between the "total registered unemployed" and "wholly unemployed".

2.2 Unemployment by age and gender

Section 2.2 shows the number of people wholly unemployed* during the snapshot week at the end of each month between March and September 2020, compared to the same time in 2019, broken down by age and gender.

The number of wholly unemployed* people during the snapshot week at the end of September 2020 was fewer across all age groups, for both men and women, than at the end of August with the exception of the number of unemployed females aged 60 to 65 which remained the same (see **Figure 2.2.1**). There were fewer unemployed men in the 16 to 19, 20 to 29 and 30 to 39 age categories at the end of September 2020 than at the end of March 2020, the lowest levels seen since lockdown. By contrast, the only age group with fewer unemployed women at the end of September 2020 than at the end of March 2020 was the 40 to 49 category.

The number of unemployed men is falling at a faster rate than the number of unemployed women. Since May 2020, there has been a 70% reduction in unemployed men (645 people) and a 58% reduction in unemployed women (416 people).

Proportionally, the 30 to 39 age group saw the largest decline in unemployment between May 2020 and September 2020 for both males and females (a decrease of 77% and 66% respectively). The 20 to 29 age group has consistently seen the highest number of unemployed men and women when compared to the other age categories. The number of unemployed males in this age group reduced by 72% (178 people) between May 2020 and September 2020, compared to a decrease of 54% (111 people) in the number of unemployed women aged between 20 and 29.

There were significantly fewer people unemployed at the end of each month between March and September in 2019 compared to the same time in 2020 (see **Figure 2.2.2**). Levels of unemployment were relatively stable across all seven months in 2019, for all age groups.

Figure 2.2.1 Unemployment by age and gender at the end of each month between March and September 2020

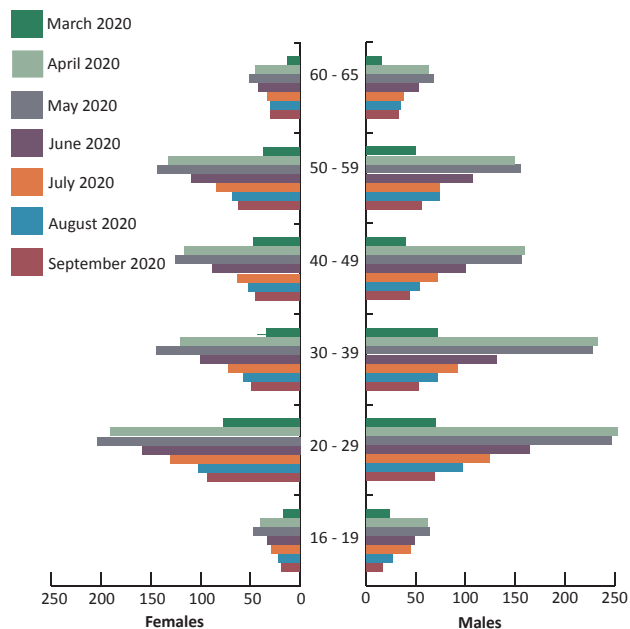
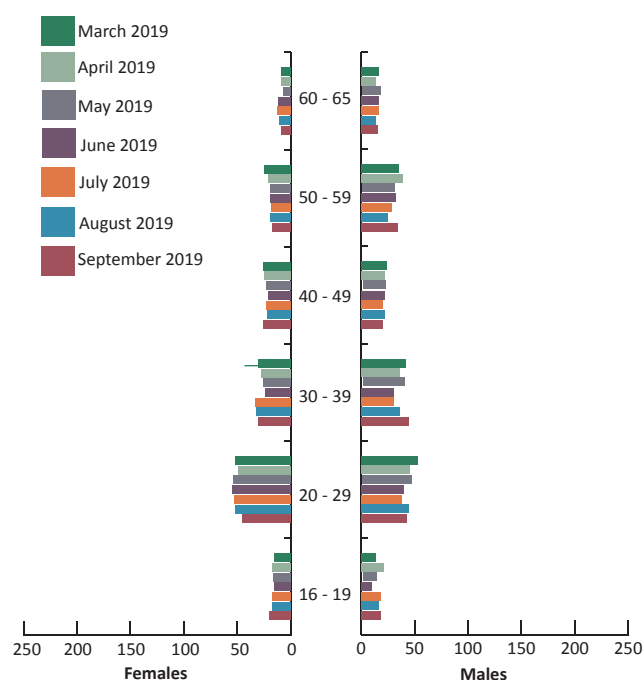


Figure 2.2.2 Unemployment by age and gender at the end of each month between March and September 2019



*See **pages 2 and 5** for more information on "wholly unemployed".

2.3 Unemployment trends

Table 2.3.1 Percentage of workforce registered as unemployed at end of Q3

	Wholly unemployed	% of workforce	Total registered unemployed*	% of workforce
Q3 1966			56	
Q3 1967			47	
Q3 1968			32	
Q3 1969			49	
Q3 1970			79	
Q3 1971			115	
Q3 1972			83	
Q3 1973			50	
Q3 1974			32	
Q3 1975			71	
Q3 1976			137	
Q3 1977			262	
Q3 1978			125	
Q3 1979			79	
Q3 1980			380	
Q3 1981			710	
Q3 1982			710	
Q3 1983			767	
Q3 1984			505	
Q3 1985			301	
Q3 1986			264	
Q3 1987			94	
Q3 1988			54	
Q3 1989			82	
Q3 1990			135	
Q3 1991			313	
Q3 1992			544	
Q3 1993			467	
Q3 1994			307	1.0
Q3 1995			245	0.8
Q3 1996			192	0.6
Q3 1997			165	0.5
Q3 1998			110	0.3
Q3 1999			108	0.3
Q3 2000			103	0.3
Q3 2001			79	0.3
Q3 2002			83	0.3
Q3 2003			81	0.3
Q3 2004			139	0.4
Q3 2005			181	0.6
Q3 2006			174	0.5
Q3 2007	181	0.6	219	0.8
Q3 2008	196	0.7	284	1.0
Q3 2009	324	1.1	440	1.5
Q3 2010	285	1.0	444	1.5
Q3 2011	282	1.0	443	1.5
Q3 2012	349	1.2	526	1.8
Q3 2013	375	1.3	581	2.0
Q3 2014	348	1.2	600	2.1
Q3 2015	386	1.3	635	2.1
Q3 2016	367	1.2	637	2.1
Q3 2017	276	0.9	552	1.8
Q3 2018	274	0.9	714	2.3
Q3 2019	321	1.0	769	2.5
Q3 2020	570	1.8	990	3.2

The total number of people registered as unemployed has been available since 1966*. This was the headline measure for unemployment until 2007 when a new measure, aligning with the definition used by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), was introduced. This figure, of “wholly unemployed”, includes only those that were registered as unemployed and did not do any work in the snapshot week and anyone who has either found work/ returned to work, but yet to receive a wage. It should be noted that the ILO measure is based on survey data (i.e. a sample of the population, who are asked to self-classify their employment status), whereas the information in this bulletin is based on administrative data relating to Unemployment Benefit and Income Support claimants across the whole population.

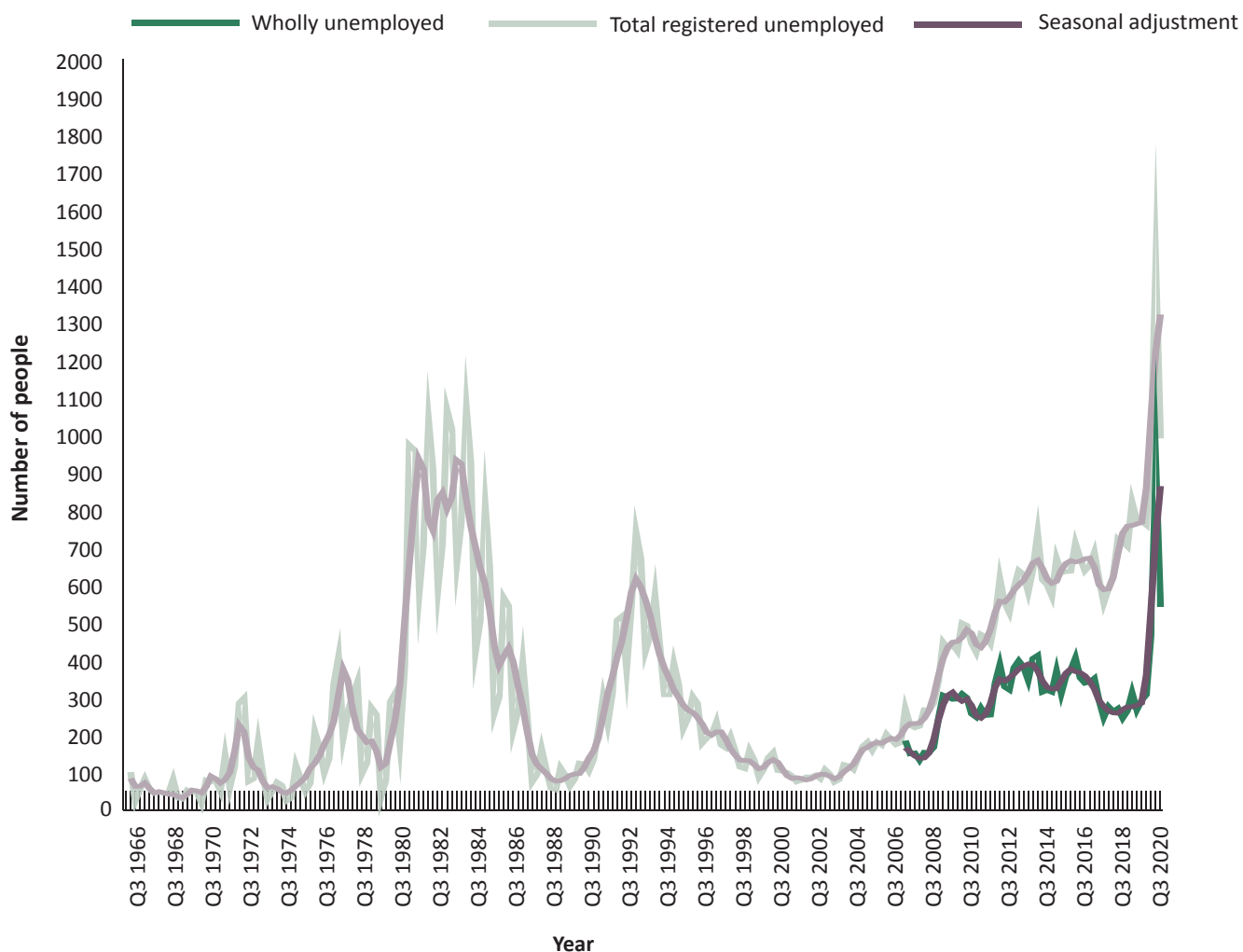
Table 2.3.1 displays historic unemployment figures for Quarter 3, from Q3 1966 to Q3 2020. The number of people unemployed peaked at the end of May 2020 and weekly unemployment figures between March 2020 and the beginning of October 2020 can be found on [page 3](#).

As shown in **Table 2.3.1**, there were 570 people registered as "wholly unemployed" at the end of Q3 2020, 249 more than at the same time a year earlier but 565 fewer than at the end of Q2 2020 (see **Figure 2.3.1** on [page 6](#)). 1.8% of the workforce were registered as wholly unemployed at the end of Q3 2020. This compares to 1.0% at the end of Q3 2019. The number of "total registered unemployed"* accounted for 3.2% of the workforce at the end of Q3 2020, 0.7 percentage points higher than at the same time the previous year.

*The definition of what comprises "total registered unemployed" has gradually expanded over time to include those on government training schemes for the unemployed, anybody in part-time or casual employment who is available to work additional hours and still eligible to claim job seekers' benefit to supplement their income, and those who are fully employed and eligible for Income Support (previously Supplementary Benefit) on top of their low earnings. Additionally, the introduction of the Income Support scheme in 2018 included a work requirement for all claimants of working age. These factors may partly account for the increasing trend in unemployment seen in **Table 2.3.1**

2.3 Unemployment trends

Figure 2.3.1 Number of people registered as unemployed



As historic unemployment figures are not available on a monthly basis, unemployment as at the end of each quarter is displayed in **Figure 2.3.1**. The number of people unemployed peaked at the end of May 2020 and weekly unemployment figures between March 2020 and the start of October 2020 can be found on [page 3](#).

Figure 2.3.1 shows that there was a dramatic decrease in the number of people registered as wholly unemployed between the end of Q2 2020 and the end of Q3 2020. This figure includes only those that were registered as unemployed and did not do any work in the snapshot week. There were 570 people wholly unemployed at the end of Q3 2020, a fall of nearly 50% (565 people) since the end of Q2 2020.

Data on the "total registered unemployed"* has been available since 1966. As shown in **Figure 2.3.1** and **Table 2.3.1** on [page 5](#), there was a total of 990 people registered as unemployed* at the end of Q3 2020. This figure is 41% lower than the peak in total registered unemployed*, recorded in Q2 2020 and 11% lower than the previous peak in unemployment seen at the end of Q4 1983. The trend in unemployment when adjusted to account for seasonal variation is also shown in **Figure 2.3.1**.

*The definition of what comprises "total registered unemployed" has gradually expanded over time to include those on government training schemes for the unemployed, anybody in part-time or casual employment who is available to work additional hours and still eligible to claim job seekers' benefit to supplement their income, and those who are fully employed and eligible for Income Support (previously Supplementary Benefit) on top of their low earnings. Additionally, the introduction of the Income Support scheme in 2018 included a work requirement for all claimants of working age. These factors may partly account for the increasing trend in unemployment seen in **Figure 2.3.1**.

3.1 Job vacancies - monthly snapshots

Figure 3.1.1 shows the number of positions advertised with the Job Centre by sector at the end of each month between March and September 2020. It can be seen that there was a sharp decrease in the number of positions advertised across all sectors between March and April.

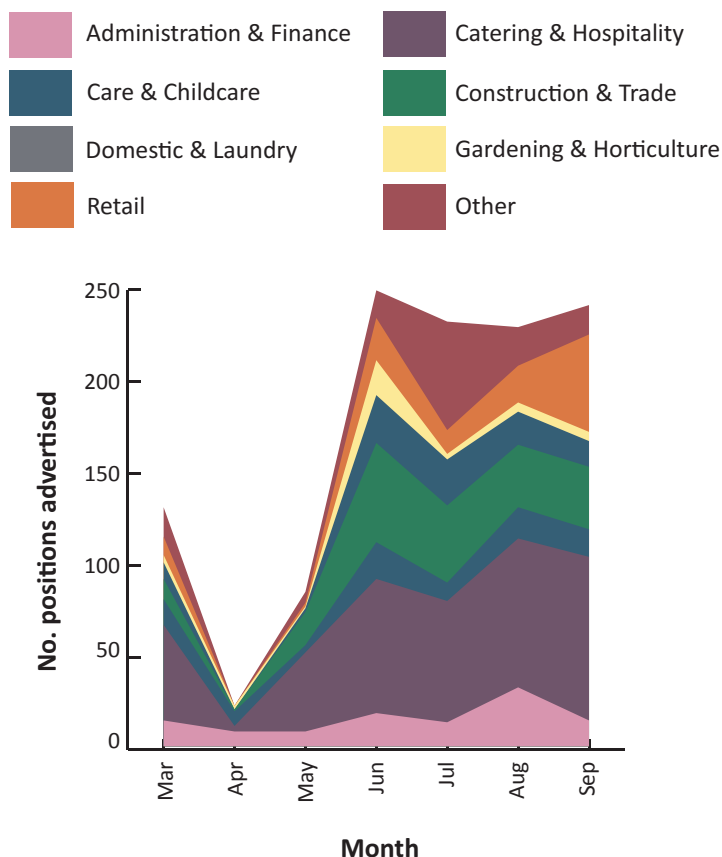
Between April and June, all sectors saw an increase in the number of positions advertised, largely returning to the levels seen before lockdown. The catering & hospitality sector saw the largest increase in positions between April and June (an increase of 70) followed by construction & trade, domestic & laundry and retail (increases of 53, 26 and 23 positions respectively between April and June). The number of construction & trade positions advertised in June (54 positions) was greater than before lockdown, when there were 28 and 34 positions advertised in January and February respectively.

There was a decrease in the number of positions advertised between June and July across all sectors, with the exception of the "other" category, due to the high number of people who secured work during that time. The "other" category includes roles within driving/delivery, engineering, mechanical, IT and beauty therapy.

There was little change in the number of positions advertised across all sectors between August and September, with the exception of the retail sector (an increase of 33 positions) and the administration and finance sector (a decrease of 18 positions).

See [page 9](#) for more information on the function of the Job Centre.

Figure 3.1.1 Number of positions advertised with the Job Centre at the end of each month between March and September 2020 by sector



3.2 Job vacancy trends

Figure 3.2.1 Number of positions advertised with the Job Centre and in the Guernsey Press each quarter

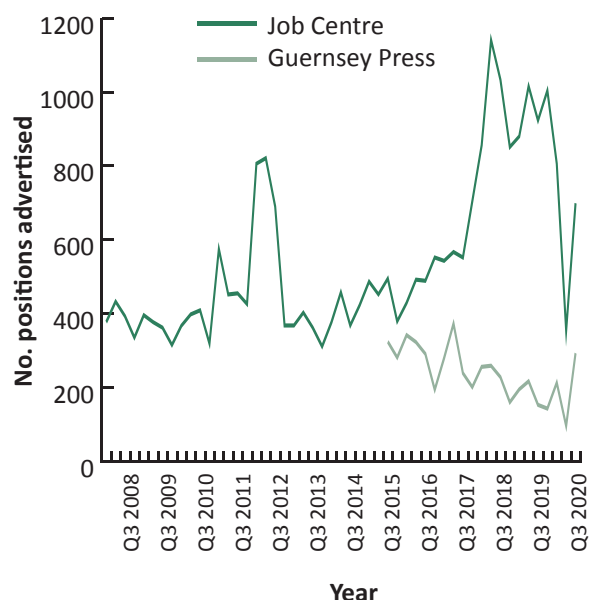
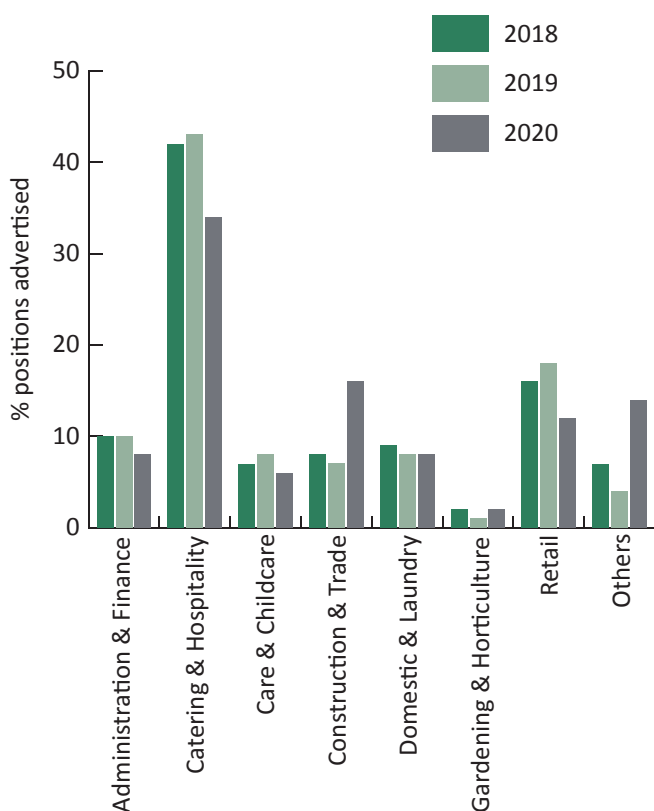


Figure 3.2.1 shows the number of positions advertised with the Guernsey Job Centre and, from September 2015, the Guernsey Press each quarter. Although this is not a complete representation of the total number of vacancies in the Island, it does provide an indication of the strength of the employment market.

There were 699 positions advertised with the Job Centre during Q3 2020, compared to 354 during Q2 2020 and 923 during Q3 2019. The number of vacancies advertised in the Guernsey Press (paper only, excluding online advertising) during Q3 2020 totalled 293, 197 more than the previous quarter and 140 more than at the same time the previous year. It should be noted that the Guernsey Press ran a special offer on advertisements during July and August 2020.

Figure 3.2.2 Type of positions advertised with the Job Centre during Q3



There were 231, 228 and 240 positions advertised at the Job Centre in July, August and September 2020 respectively. Of these, 34% were in catering and hospitality, 16% in construction and trade, 14% in other sectors (which includes roles within driving/delivery, engineering, mechanical, IT and beauty therapy) and 12% in retail (see Figure 3.2.2).

Figure 3.2.2 shows the type of positions advertised with the Job Centre during Q3 in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Construction & trade and the "other" category saw the largest rise in advertised positions when compared to 2018 and 2019, whilst the catering & hospitality and retail sectors have seen the largest decrease.

See page 9 for more information on the function of the Job Centre.

As at 3rd October, 25% of people claiming Unemployment Benefit had skills relating to administration and finance, 14% had experience in retail, 14% construction & trade and 11% reported having skills in catering & hospitality.

3.3 Job Centre function

The Job Centre offers support for working age people; to help them improve their chances of starting work or increasing their hours of work. Job Centre clients are either supported by an Employment Advisor, Work Rehabilitation Officer or Case Worker (if with other agencies). Job Centre Advisors assist people in returning to mainstream employment by helping them prepare CVs, cover letters and to develop an action plan. Support is also available to people who have been away from the work place for some time.

The Job Centre continually seeks new training and work rehabilitation initiatives in order to meet the ever increasingly diverse requirements of both the job market and its customers. There are a range of schemes available to help individuals develop their skills and experience to help them find work. These include placement opportunities such as the Kickstart and Work2Benefit schemes and a range of free training courses designed to teach skills that are valuable to local employers. The Job Centre also offers a free vacancy and job matching service to local employers and hosts regular Job Fairs to give job seekers and employers the opportunity to connect.

4.1 Contact details

You may also be interested in other publications from States of Guernsey Data and Analysis Services, which are all available online at www.gov.gg/data. Please contact us for further information.

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For more information
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