

WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

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ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 2nd JUNE 2009**

Question

“What is the occupational breakdown of persons currently registered as unemployed?”

Answer

The Department has recently upgraded the way in which records are kept of registered individuals. Under the previous system, the emphasis was on the management of the individual and information was recorded to facilitate this. Systems have now been enhanced so that individual information is still available for the job advisor to use, but information can now also be analysed across all individuals. These changes have only recently been introduced and it will be some time before this information is available consistently across all job seekers. At present, information is available on just over half of the current total of active clients.

In the meantime, a manual exercise was undertaken earlier this year to produce the following occupational breakdown.

Sector	%
Construction	21%
Retail	15%
Misc services (hairdressing etc)	14%
Hotels, restaurants	9%
Misc insurance,finance,business	8%
Misc prof/scientific	6%
Public admin	5%
Banking	4%
Transport/comms	4%
Miscellaneous	4%
Agriculture	3%
Garages	2%
Wholesale distribution	2%
Medical	1%
Private domestic	1%
Food/drink manufacture	1%

The table records information provided by jobseekers who have had recent, regular employment and who have registered with the Department between December 2008 and February 2009.

Social Security information will tend to over-represent the lower skilled occupations and under- represent the higher skilled occupations. For example, not all employment sectors will place vacancies on the Jobs in Jersey website, and the emphasis on the vacancies that are held is for the less skilled job categories. Most administrative and professional staff will use commercial agencies to identify job vacancies. Similarly, many professional employees who are made redundant will not register with Social Security as actively seeking work.