

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

Note: The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces the official unemployment statistics. The figures contained in this publication are different from the ABS unemployment figures as the ABS and the Department Social Services (DSS) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

This publication can be found on the Department of Social Services website at [DSS - Labour Market and Related Payments Publication](http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp) (<http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>).

December 2014

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Introduction

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of the Department of Social Services (DSS). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

This publication covers Newstart (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) in some detail, and to a lesser extent, Partner Allowance (PA), Widow Allowance (WA), Youth Allowance (Full Time Student)(YA(FTS)) and Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) (YA(a)).

Table 1 provides information on the total number of NSA and YA recipients. The YA population is broken down into YA(o), YA(FTS) and YA(Australian Apprentices) categories. The total numbers of PA and WA recipients are also provided in this table.

Tables 2 and 3 show the derivation of the NSA and YA(o) job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the 'Comparability of data' section of the Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers.

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

When using time series figures, it is important to note that changes have occurred over time to the conditions of eligibility for different payments. Details of these changes are provided in the Explanatory Notes.

All media inquiries should be directed to the DSS Media Team on (02) 6146 3242. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 25 February 2015.

Statistical Highlights – December 2014

Between December 2013 and December 2014

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 3.8 per cent** overall from 827 039 to 858 373.

- NSA recipients increased 4.9 per cent from 711 438 to 746 294.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 3.0 per cent from 115 601 to 112 079.

The number of job seekers **increased 3.6 per cent** overall from 406 703 to 421 245.

- NSA job seekers increased 4.1 per cent from 350 132 to 364 345.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 0.6 per cent from 56 571 to 56 900.

Long-term job seekers increased 11.7 per cent from 241 054 to 269 253.

Short-term job seekers decreased 8.2 per cent from 165 649 to 151 992.

NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

For comparisons between DSS unemployment labour market payment numbers and ABS labour force unemployment statistics, see Appendix.

Figure 1: Line Graph – Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) time series

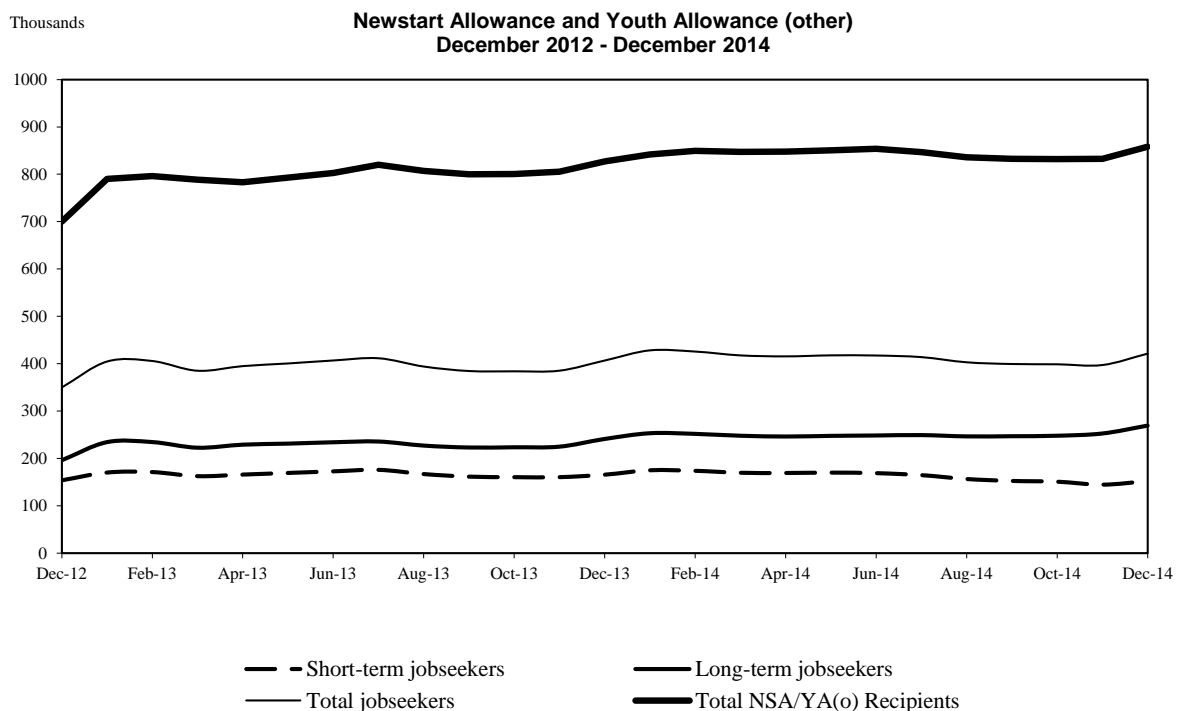


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
December 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
Variation November 2014 - December 2014							
Number	10,555	15,168	10,674	-28,665	-131	-190	-192
Per cent	2.0	2.1	10.5	-13.6	-2.2	-2.7	-0.8

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population

	December 2014 Persons	December 2014 Males	December 2014 Females	November 2014	Variation November - December Number	Variation November - December per cent
Newstart Allowance						
Short Term Newstart Allowees	218,976	136,402	82,574	214,363	4,613	2.2
CPS Recipients (a)	80	67	13	148	-68	-45.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,219	7,617	5,602	13,101	118	0.9
Received a payment	205,677	128,718	76,959	201,114	4,563	2.3
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,429	2,028	5,401	7,387	42	0.6
Other activities without job search (d)	31,767	18,756	13,011	32,729	-962	-2.9
Incapacitated (e)	24,167	14,005	10,162	23,851	316	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,672	7,295	5,377	12,456	216	1.7
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	129,642	86,634	43,008	124,691	4,951	4.0
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	30,132	17,261	12,871	33,366	-3,234	-9.7
Long Term Newstart Allowees	527,318	255,085	272,233	516,763	10,555	2.0
CPS Recipients (a)	1,499	992	507	1,503	-4	-0.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	20,566	8,924	11,642	20,377	189	0.9
Received a payment	505,253	245,169	260,084	494,883	10,370	2.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	58,048	12,725	45,323	57,327	721	1.3
Other activities without job search (d)	123,881	57,729	66,152	125,383	-1,502	-1.2
Incapacitated (e)	46,148	22,533	23,615	46,091	57	0.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	42,473	19,047	23,426	42,073	400	1.0
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	234,703	133,135	101,568	224,009	10,694	4.8
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	163,272	81,996	81,276	172,756	-9,484	-5.5
All Newstart Allowees	746,294	391,487	354,807	731,126	15,168	2.1
CPS Recipients (a)	1,579	1,059	520	1,651	-72	-4.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	33,785	16,541	17,244	33,478	307	0.9
Received a payment	710,930	373,887	337,043	695,997	14,933	2.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	65,477	14,753	50,724	64,714	763	1.2
Other activities without job search (d)	155,648	76,485	79,163	158,112	-2,464	-1.6
Incapacitated (e)	70,315	36,538	33,777	69,942	373	0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	55,145	26,342	28,803	54,529	616	1.1
All NSA job seekers (g)	364,345	219,769	144,576	348,700	15,645	4.5
All NSA training/education (h)	193,404	99,257	94,147	206,122	-12,718	-6.2

(a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

(b) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

(c) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.

(d) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(f) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.

(g) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(h) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

- Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

Table 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population

Youth Allowance (other)	December 2014 Persons	December 2014 Males	December 2014 Females	November 2014	Variation November - December Number	Variation November - December per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	44,646	24,670	19,976	41,585	3,061	7.4
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	3	-3	-100.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,157	541	616	1,189	-32	-2.7
Received a payment	43,489	24,129	19,360	40,393	3,096	7.7
Other activities without job search (c)	17,338	10,205	7,133	16,893	445	2.6
Incapacitated (d)	2,073	1,052	1,021	2,031	42	2.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,728	810	918	1,611	117	7.3
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	22,350	12,062	10,288	19,858	2,492	12.5
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	11,726	6,478	5,248	12,556	-830	-6.6
Long Term Youth Allowees	67,433	34,465	32,968	59,820	7,613	12.7
CPS Recipients (a)	10	9	1	9	1	11.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,063	924	1,139	1,916	147	7.7
Received a payment	65,360	33,532	31,828	57,895	7,465	12.9
Other activities without job search (c)	25,417	13,467	11,950	24,141	1,276	5.3
Incapacitated (d)	2,826	1,280	1,546	2,743	83	3.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,567	1,040	1,527	2,404	163	6.8
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	34,550	17,745	16,805	28,607	5,943	20.8
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	23,933	12,111	11,822	24,808	-875	-3.5
All Youth Allowees	112,079	59,135	52,944	101,405	10,674	10.5
CPS Recipients (a)	10	9	1	12	-2	-16.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	3,220	1,465	1,755	3,105	115	3.7
Received a payment	108,849	57,661	51,188	98,288	10,561	10.7
Other activities without job search (c)	42,755	23,672	19,083	41,034	1,721	4.2
Incapacitated (d)	4,899	2,332	2,567	4,774	125	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,295	1,850	2,445	4,015	280	7.0
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	56,900	29,807	27,093	48,465	8,435	17.4
All YA (other) training/education (g)	35,659	18,589	17,070	37,364	-1,705	-4.6

(a) Allowees eligible for YA (other) who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

(b) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

(c) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(e) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.

(f) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(g) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

- Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

**Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
Time Series**

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,466	246,504	402,970
September 2014	152,280	246,818	399,098
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
Variation November 2014 - December 2014			
Number	7,443	16,637	24,080
Per cent	5.1	6.6	6.1

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State

State	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	40,634	43,078	2,444	6.0
Victoria	35,000	36,485	1,485	4.2
Queensland	36,799	38,622	1,823	5.0
South Australia	11,185	11,723	538	4.8
Western Australia	14,060	14,876	816	5.8
Tasmania	3,517	3,720	203	5.8
Northern Territory	1,927	1,952	25	1.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,427	1,536	109	7.6
Australia	144,549	151,992	7,443	5.1
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	77,530	83,081	5,551	7.2
Victoria	57,922	62,084	4,162	7.2
Queensland	57,499	60,988	3,489	6.1
South Australia	22,824	24,201	1,377	6.0
Western Australia	21,552	22,844	1,292	6.0
Tasmania	9,097	9,602	505	5.6
Northern Territory	4,032	4,145	113	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	2,160	2,308	148	6.9
Australia	252,616	269,253	16,637	6.6
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	118,164	126,159	7,995	6.8
Victoria	92,922	98,569	5,647	6.1
Queensland	94,298	99,610	5,312	5.6
South Australia	34,009	35,924	1,915	5.6
Western Australia	35,612	37,720	2,108	5.9
Tasmania	12,614	13,322	708	5.6
Northern Territory	5,959	6,097	138	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	3,587	3,844	257	7.2
Australia	397,165	421,245	24,080	6.1

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Sex

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	1,148	1.2	357	0.2	1,505	0.6
18 - 20 years	8,690	8.8	12,177	8.1	20,867	8.4
21 - 24 years	14,584	14.8	23,599	15.6	38,183	15.3
25 - 29 years	15,649	15.9	23,239	15.4	38,888	15.6
30 - 39 years	23,512	23.8	34,593	22.9	58,105	23.3
40 - 49 years	18,048	18.3	28,595	19.0	46,643	18.7
50 - 59 years	12,486	12.7	20,930	13.9	33,416	13.4
60 years and over	4,580	4.6	7,389	4.9	11,969	4.8
Total	98,697	100.0	150,879	100.0	249,576	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,245	2.3	461	0.4	1,706	1.0
18 - 20 years	7,619	14.3	11,742	9.9	19,361	11.3
21 - 24 years	8,403	15.8	17,007	14.4	25,410	14.8
25 - 29 years	6,506	12.2	12,190	10.3	18,696	10.9
30 - 39 years	8,235	15.5	22,569	19.1	30,804	17.9
40 - 49 years	9,832	18.4	29,911	25.3	39,743	23.2
50 - 59 years	8,636	16.2	20,122	17.0	28,758	16.8
60 years and over	2,819	5.3	4,372	3.7	7,191	4.2
Total	53,295	100.0	118,374	100.0	171,669	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	2,393	1.6	818	0.3	3,211	0.8
18 - 20 years	16,309	10.7	23,919	8.9	40,228	9.5
21 - 24 years	22,987	15.1	40,606	15.1	63,593	15.1
25 - 29 years	22,155	14.6	35,429	13.2	57,584	13.7
30 - 39 years	31,747	20.9	57,162	21.2	88,909	21.1
40 - 49 years	27,880	18.3	58,506	21.7	86,386	20.5
50 - 59 years	21,122	13.9	41,052	15.2	62,174	14.8
60 years and over	7,399	4.9	11,761	4.4	19,160	4.5
Total	151,992	100.0	269,253	100.0	421,245	100.0

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

**Table 7a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Sydney Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,369	3,523	154	4.6
Bondi Junction	1,105	1,173	68	6.2
Burwood	1,619	1,705	86	5.3
Cabramatta	2,508	2,626	118	4.7
Camden	652	728	76	11.7
Campbelltown	2,027	2,164	137	6.8
Campsie	2,367	2,496	129	5.4
Caringbah	819	875	56	6.8
Chatswood	1,175	1,226	51	4.3
Darlinghurst	1,457	1,573	116	8.0
Fairfield	2,863	3,057	194	6.8
Hornsby	945	1,042	97	10.3
Hurstville	1,483	1,556	73	4.9
Ingleburn	1,141	1,226	85	7.4
Leichhardt	1,229	1,358	129	10.5
Liverpool	3,564	3,821	257	7.2
Maroubra	1,396	1,471	75	5.4
Marrickville	1,339	1,459	120	9.0
Northern Beaches	1,238	1,306	68	5.5
Redfern	1,303	1,392	89	6.8
Rockdale	1,428	1,500	72	5.0
Ryde	1,082	1,169	87	8.0
Sutherland	771	869	98	12.7
Other (a)	6	4	%	%
Total	36,886	39,319	2,433	6.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7b - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

North New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	942	1,003	61	6.5
Brunswick Heads	958	1,044	86	9.0
Byron Bay	245	245	0	0.0
Casino	644	686	42	6.5
Cessnock	901	948	47	5.2
Charlestown	1,959	2,106	147	7.5
Coffs Harbour	1,942	2,066	124	6.4
Comm Support Team	24	31	%	%
Ettalong	749	793	44	5.9
Forster	855	892	37	4.3
Gosford	1,711	1,851	140	8.2
Grafton	862	935	73	8.5
Kempsey	852	904	52	6.1
King Street	1,171	1,303	132	11.3
Kurri Kurri	543	581	38	7.0
Lakehaven	1,700	1,782	82	4.8
Lismore	1,625	1,750	125	7.7
Maitland	1,673	1,775	102	6.1
Mayfield	1,020	1,126	106	10.4
Murwillumbah	670	710	40	6.0
Muswellbrook	760	796	36	4.7
Nambucca Heads	704	739	35	5.0
Nelson Bay	512	537	25	4.9
Port Macquarie	1,776	1,891	115	6.5
Raymond Terrace	1,009	1,058	49	4.9
Singleton	381	407	26	6.8
Taree	1,561	1,629	68	4.4
The Entrance	1,259	1,328	69	5.5
Toronto	889	972	83	9.3
Tweed Heads	1,601	1,690	89	5.6
Wallsend	1,575	1,702	127	8.1
Woy Woy	559	563	4	0.7
Wyong	626	670	44	7.0
Yamba	409	438	29	7.1
Other (a)	12	15	%	%
Total	34,679	36,966	2,287	6.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7c - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
AS1 Community Team	26	21	%	%
Armidale	998	1,054	56	5.6
Auburn	2,114	2,291	177	8.4
Bathurst	770	851	81	10.5
Baulkham Hills	856	932	76	8.9
Blacktown	3,049	3,297	248	8.1
Bourke	307	335	28	9.1
Dubbo	1,765	1,859	94	5.3
Glen Innes	333	332	-1	-0.3
Gunnedah	450	463	13	2.9
Hawkesbury	813	916	103	12.7
Inverell	704	752	48	6.8
Katoomba	606	687	81	13.4
Lightning Ridge	183	183	0	0.0
Lithgow	689	710	21	3.0
Merrylands	2,134	2,278	144	6.7
Moree	468	496	28	6.0
Mt Druitt	2,183	2,383	200	9.2
Mudgee	572	631	59	10.3
Narrabri	401	417	16	4.0
Orange	900	961	61	6.8
Parkes	705	759	54	7.7
Parramatta	2,207	2,315	108	4.9
Penrith	1,840	1,950	110	6.0
Springwood	381	414	33	8.7
St Marys	1,575	1,684	109	6.9
Tamworth	1,871	1,922	51	2.7
Walgett	146	157	11	7.5
Other (a)	6	4	%	%
Total	29,052	31,054	2,002	6.9

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7d - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	678	692	14	2.1
Bega	684	704	20	2.9
Belconnen	1,132	1,236	104	9.2
Bowral	439	469	30	6.8
Braddon	749	804	55	7.3
Cooma	368	386	18	4.9
Corrimal	1,061	1,164	103	9.7
Cowra	437	474	37	8.5
Dapto	1,074	1,176	102	9.5
Goulburn	795	807	12	1.5
Griffith	575	638	63	11.0
Gungahlin	405	450	45	11.1
Leeton	397	425	28	7.1
Narooma	273	289	16	5.9
Nowra	1,683	1,755	72	4.3
Queanbeyan	545	567	22	4.0
Shellharbour	1,383	1,523	140	10.1
Tuggeranong	813	847	34	4.2
Tumut	271	281	10	3.7
Ulladulla	463	502	39	8.4
Wagga	1,070	1,152	82	7.7
Woden	453	483	30	6.6
Wollongong	1,367	1,521	154	11.3
Yass	81	90	%	%
Young	525	562	37	7.0
Other (a)	14	11	%	%
Total	17,735	19,008	1,273	7.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7e - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,169	1,204	35	3.0
Albury	2,460	2,628	168	6.8
Box Hill	2,083	2,197	114	5.5
Broadmeadows	3,769	3,936	167	4.4
Darebin	2,677	2,956	279	10.4
Deniliquin	247	262	15	6.1
Echuca	549	575	26	4.7
Epping	2,855	3,034	179	6.3
Greensborough	1,634	1,767	133	8.1
Heidelberg	1,330	1,438	108	8.1
Moreland	2,615	2,911	296	11.3
Newmarket	1,614	1,783	169	10.5
Seymour	726	764	38	5.2
Shepparton	1,832	1,948	116	6.3
Sth Melbourne	1,075	1,120	45	4.2
Sunbury	912	963	51	5.6
Wangaratta	1,247	1,312	65	5.2
Windsor Vic	2,458	2,638	180	7.3
Yarra	2,085	2,300	215	10.3
Other (a)	27	31	%	%
Total	33,364	35,767	2,403	7.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7f - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

Eastern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,022	1,069	47	4.6
Belgrave	509	533	24	4.7
Boronia	1,131	1,182	51	4.5
Cheltenham	1,654	1,751	97	5.9
Cranbourne	1,752	1,860	108	6.2
Dandenong	2,563	2,665	102	4.0
Fountain Gate	2,305	2,449	144	6.2
Frankston	2,518	2,667	149	5.9
Glen Waverley	1,072	1,108	36	3.4
Hastings	578	603	25	4.3
Lilydale	1,321	1,355	34	2.6
Mornington	526	571	45	8.6
Morwell	2,338	2,526	188	8.0
Oakleigh	1,574	1,713	139	8.8
Pakenham	975	1,012	37	3.8
Ringwood	1,659	1,760	101	6.1
Rosebud	752	793	41	5.5
Rowville	687	724	37	5.4
Sale	736	783	47	6.4
Springvale	1,901	1,970	69	3.6
Warragul	652	698	46	7.1
Wonthaggi	910	938	28	3.1
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
Total	29,138	30,732	1,594	5.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7g - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

West Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	198	211	13	6.6
Ballarat	2,951	3,147	196	6.6
Bendigo	2,399	2,570	171	7.1
Colac	580	606	26	4.5
Corio	1,783	1,878	95	5.3
Footscray	1,500	1,602	102	6.8
Geelong	3,207	3,416	209	6.5
Hamilton	377	383	6	1.6
Horsham	701	730	29	4.1
Maryborough	526	537	11	2.1
Melton	1,973	2,038	65	3.3
Mildura	1,929	2,050	121	6.3
Newport	1,039	1,111	72	6.9
Portland	358	370	12	3.4
Stawell	174	174	0	0.0
Sunshine	3,562	3,703	141	4.0
Swan Hill	674	705	31	4.6
Warrnambool	741	791	50	6.7
Watergardens	3,503	3,650	147	4.2
Werribee	4,194	4,462	268	6.4
Other (a)	21	21	%	%
Total	32,390	34,155	1,765	5.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7h - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	896	910	14	1.6
Ayr	399	422	23	5.8
Biloela	218	241	23	10.6
Bowen	443	502	59	13.3
Cairns Aplin	5,208	5,460	252	4.8
Charters Towers	422	433	11	2.6
Emerald	490	519	29	5.9
Gladstone	1,201	1,272	71	5.9
Indigenous Service Centre	858	838	-20	-2.3
Ingham	361	397	36	10.0
Innisfail	969	1,027	58	6.0
Longreach	146	158	12	8.2
Mackay	2,342	2,469	127	5.4
Mareeba	796	833	37	4.6
Mossman	465	504	39	8.4
Mt Isa	616	674	58	9.4
Normanton	45	50	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	104	117	13	12.5
Palm Island	84	78	%	%
Rockhampton	2,349	2,488	139	5.9
Thursday Is	61	67	%	%
Townsville	5,018	5,228	210	4.2
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	254	253	-1	-0.4
Whitsunday	636	695	59	9.3
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	452	492	40	8.8
Yeppoon	629	653	24	3.8
Other (a)	75	79	%	%
Total	25,537	26,859	1,322	5.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7i - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

Central Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,440	3,589	149	4.3
Caboolture	3,499	3,665	166	4.7
Caloundra	1,488	1,582	94	6.3
Cherbourg	285	316	31	10.9
Chermside	1,288	1,330	42	3.3
Deception Bay	2,480	2,611	131	5.3
Fortitude Valley	1,274	1,394	120	9.4
Gympie	1,449	1,519	70	4.8
Hervey Bay	1,799	1,908	109	6.1
Kawana Waters	673	732	59	8.8
Kingaroy	783	854	71	9.1
Margate	123	160	37	30.1
Maroochydore	1,572	1,711	139	8.8
Maryborough	1,328	1,404	76	5.7
Mitchelton	1,499	1,622	123	8.2
Mt Gravatt	2,361	2,524	163	6.9
Nambour	1,092	1,163	71	6.5
Noosa	1,092	1,098	6	0.5
Nundah	1,569	1,689	120	7.6
South Brisbane	1,177	1,259	82	7.0
Stones Corner	2,076	2,186	110	5.3
Strathpine	1,942	2,034	92	4.7
Toowong	1,356	1,501	145	10.7
Other (a)	7	7	%	%
Total	35,652	37,858	2,206	6.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7j - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

South Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	648	665	17	2.6
Beenleigh	2,397	2,527	130	5.4
Biggera Waters	3,616	3,771	155	4.3
Browns Plains	2,098	2,183	85	4.1
Capalaba	880	936	56	6.4
Charleville	208	224	16	7.7
Cleveland	1,148	1,253	105	9.1
Dalby	581	617	36	6.2
Goodna	1,703	1,757	54	3.2
Goondiwindi	374	423	49	13.1
Inala	2,021	2,138	117	5.8
Ipswich	3,179	3,284	105	3.3
Nerang	3,512	3,690	178	5.1
Palm Beach	3,820	3,976	156	4.1
Roma	145	153	8	5.5
Southport	199	258	59	29.6
Stanthorpe	374	408	34	9.1
Toowoomba	2,265	2,391	126	5.6
Warwick	483	508	25	5.2
Woodridge	2,234	2,355	121	5.4
Wynnum	979	1,057	78	8.0
Other (a)	21	24	%	%
Total	32,885	34,598	1,713	5.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7k - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

South Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	896	944	48	5.4
Broken Hill	749	811	62	8.3
Ceduna	223	229	6	2.7
Cooper Pedy	119	121	2	1.7
Elizabeth	3,384	3,542	158	4.7
Enfield	1,802	1,912	110	6.1
Gawler	1,362	1,445	83	6.1
Glenelg	869	910	41	4.7
Kadina	756	782	26	3.4
Kilkenny	1,607	1,666	59	3.7
Marion	2,436	2,646	210	8.6
Modbury	2,107	2,295	188	8.9
Mt Barker	705	748	43	6.1
Mt Gambier	1,216	1,302	86	7.1
Murray Bridge	1,023	1,036	13	1.3
Noarlunga	2,940	3,121	181	6.2
Norwood	1,822	1,993	171	9.4
Port Adelaide	1,689	1,794	105	6.2
Port Augusta	795	830	35	4.4
Port Lincoln	589	611	22	3.7
Port Pirie	973	1,020	47	4.8
Salisbury	3,201	3,320	119	3.7
Torrens ville	1,689	1,762	73	4.3
Victor Harbor	731	748	17	2.3
Whyalla	880	937	57	6.5
Other (a)	10	15	%	%
Total	34,573	36,540	1,967	5.7

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 71 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

Western Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,174	1,251	77	6.6
Armadale	1,507	1,596	89	5.9
Bunbury	2,231	2,379	148	6.6
Busselton	988	1,021	33	3.3
Cannington	1,954	2,130	176	9.0
Carnarvon	199	229	30	15.1
Esperance	331	336	5	1.5
Fremantle	1,685	1,764	79	4.7
Geraldton	1,479	1,570	91	6.2
Gosnells	1,492	1,583	91	6.1
Innaloo	1,298	1,431	133	10.2
Joondalup	2,013	2,187	174	8.6
Kalgoorlie	780	803	23	2.9
Karratha	355	359	4	1.1
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	43	50	%	%
Mandurah	1,772	1,865	93	5.2
Meekatharra	209	203	-6	-2.9
Midland	2,082	2,158	76	3.7
Mirrabooka	2,278	2,393	115	5.0
Morley	2,174	2,293	119	5.5
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	120	125	5	4.2
Northam	1,156	1,181	25	2.2
Rockingham	2,158	2,305	147	6.8
South Hedland	507	534	27	5.3
Success	1,212	1,278	66	5.4
Victoria Park	2,030	2,210	180	8.9
Warwick Grove	1,084	1,141	57	5.3
Other (a)	18	26	%	%
Total	34,329	36,401	2,072	6.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7m - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Tasmania and North Australia Service Zones by Service Centre	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,021	1,053	32	3.1
Burnie	1,510	1,626	116	7.7
Devonport	1,503	1,546	43	2.9
Glenorchy	1,453	1,544	91	6.3
Hobart	1,493	1,599	106	7.1
Huonville	402	405	3	0.7
Launceston	3,890	4,112	222	5.7
Rosny Park	1,284	1,375	91	7.1
Other (a)	6	5	%	%
Total	12,562	13,265	703	5.6
North Australia				
Alice Springs	675	712	37	5.5
Angurugu RSC	136	132	-4	-2.9
Borrooloola	23	26	%	%
Broome	513	541	28	5.5
Casuarina	753	767	14	1.9
Central Australia	1,108	1,110	2	0.2
Darwin	406	427	21	5.2
Derby	139	100	-39	-28.1
Fitzroy Crossing	62	65	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	116	119	3	2.6
Halls Creek	185	200	15	8.1
Katherine	262	267	5	1.9
Kimberley RST	98	107	%	%
Kununurra	165	175	10	6.1
Maningrida	130	106	-24	-18.5
Nhulunbuy	21	22	%	%
Palmerston	921	979	58	6.3
Tennant Creek	242	242	0	0.0
Tiwi Islands	110	105	-5	-4.5
Top End East	248	249	1	0.4
Top End South	304	279	-25	-8.2
Top End West	387	407	20	5.2
Wadeye	219	251	32	14.6
Yuendumu RSC	27	30	%	%
Other (a)	39	40	%	%
Total	7,289	7,458	169	2.3

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7n - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Other Service Zone by Service Centre and Australian Total	November 2014	December 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	157	176	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	998	1,155	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-61	-66	%	%
Australia	397,165	421,245	24,080	6.1

(a) Job seekers who are not allocated to any of the reported offices.

Notes:

- Variations for Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.
- In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 20 for specific Service Centres are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".
- Area Support Office boundaries changed to Service Zones from July 2011. The July 2011 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.

**Table 8 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
Fortnightly Earnings and Sex, Fortnight Ending 19 December 2014**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.7	82.2	83.6
Earned an income	14.3	17.8	16.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.9	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.6	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.4	1.9	1.7
Over \$316.00	9.1	10.7	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	99,446	152,313	251,759
Females			
Did not earn an income	75.6	71.3	72.7
Earned an income	24.4	28.7	27.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	0.8	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.2	2.4	2.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.3	3.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.7	2.6
Over \$316.00	16.0	19.4	18.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	53,720	119,714	173,434
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.1	77.4	79.1
Earned an income	17.9	22.6	20.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.1	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	2.9	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	11.5	14.5	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	153,166	272,027	425,193

Note:
 - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
 - Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables. Table 8 is based on the combined population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DSS labour market and related payments delivered by DHS. These Explanatory Notes provide details of the scope and methodology of the publication, as well as the policy changes which have affected the data since the publication was introduced in December 1995 by the then Department of Social Security.

Prior to December 1995, this publication was titled the *Monthly Job Search and Newstart Allowance Statistics*.

Scope

The primary focus of the publication is to provide information on unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance, with a particular focus on the total number of job seekers. The numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

Data in this publication relate to the average number of people who are both eligible (eg. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and entitled (eg. meet income and assets criteria) to receive a payment calculated over a reference month. Averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.

Due to a technical fault, the November 2010 figures are based on an average of data collected on the first and last Friday of the month, while the December 2010 figures are based on an average of data collected on the last three Fridays of the month, rather than an average of each Friday in the reference month.

Table 1 provides information on the total number of unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance. The Youth Allowance population is split into Youth Allowance (full-time students), Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also provided.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of the Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) populations and show the derivation of the respective job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the Comparability of Data section of these Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers. Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the combined population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Payment History

Youth Allowance

The maximum age for Youth Allowance (other) was increased for new claimants from 20 to 21 years of age from 1 July 2012 and the income free area was increased to \$143.

To receive Youth Allowance young people without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

The above earn or learn arrangements were phased in, applying from 1 July 2009 to all new recipients of Youth Allowance and from 1 July 2010 for all job seekers in receipt of Youth Allowance prior to 1 July 2009.

From 1 July 1998 Youth Allowance was introduced to provide income support to young people, including students, those looking for work, and those who are sick. Youth allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. The Youth Allowance replaced:

- AUSTUDY for 16-24 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Youth Training Allowance for 16-17 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Sickness Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds); and
- More-than-minimum rate Family Payment for secondary students aged 16-18 not getting AUSTUDY.

Youth Allowance recipients are subject to the parental means test. Under previous arrangements, unemployed people aged 18 to 20 were not subject to the parental means test, unlike 18 to 20 year old students.

Special provisions applied for 18 to 20 year olds who were already on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance, and who remained on payment when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998. This group were able to remain on their existing payment and retain their existing benefits.

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998 and total job seeker numbers due to the parental means test.

Newstart Allowance

On 1 January 2013, grandfathering provisions ceased for Parenting Payment recipients who had been receiving payment prior to 1 July 2006 and had a youngest child aged 6+ years (partnered recipients) or 8+ years (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the

number of Newstart Allowees, as previously grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients who were eligible transferred to Newstart Allowance.

On 1 July 2012, the qualification age for Newstart Allowance was increased for new claimants from 21 to 22 years of age.

From 1 July 1998, Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance. Young people aged 18 to 20 years old who were on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance and when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998, were able to remain on Newstart Allowance.

From 20 October 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment - Newstart Allowance - which was payable to eligible recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see Job Search Allowance).

Prior to 20 October 1996, Newstart Allowance was payable to eligible persons over 18 years who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) for 12 months or more.

Job Search Allowance

From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance (see *Newstart Allowance*). All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.

Sickness Allowance

From 17 March 1996, persons in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who became temporarily incapacitated no longer transferred to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. This change had the effect of increasing total Newstart Allowance/Youth Training Allowance figures but did not affect job seeker figures as those recipients who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training job seeker populations.

Under current arrangements, these recipients remain on their existing payments but are exempt from the activity test for the duration of their medical certificates. People who become unemployed because of illness, and those who suffer a potential loss of income due to sickness, are paid Newstart Allowance because they are unemployed.

Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Partner Allowance

From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance. Partner Allowance was introduced in October 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

Youth Training Allowance

Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Widow Allowance

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

Widow Allowance, introduced on 1 January 1995, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years (50 prior to 20 March 1997), if they meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status and recent work experience.

Mature Age Allowance

From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008 .

Mature Age Allowance was introduced on 24 March 1994, and was paid to long-term unemployed persons aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who had been receiving income support for 9 months or more and who were eligible for Newstart Allowance. The introduction of Mature Age Allowance had a downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from April 1994 until October 2003.

Comparability of Data

There have been significant changes to the data presented in this publication due to a number of events. The main changes are:

- the method of counting recipients;
- the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient numbers;
- the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998;
- the way 'job seeker' is defined;
- the way duration is calculated; and
- the eligibility for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) from July 2012.
- the cessation of grandfathered Parenting Payment provisions, which saw an increase in the number of Newstart recipients in January 2013.

People using this data to construct time series should note the following comments.

Definition of Recipients

From July 2002, the number of people receiving labour market and related payments reports recipients who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment. These recipients are otherwise known as 'current' recipients.

Revised historical data (using this methodology) from May 1998 to June 2002 is in the July 2002 publication.

Due to improved data sources, data from July 2003 has slight differences from the recipient numbers used in previous editions.

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a 'one-off' payment were excluded. One-off payments can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new recipients to those eligible for payments reported in this publication.

Introduction of Youth Allowance

The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998, other than the inclusion of Sickness Allowees in the Youth Allowance (other) population.

There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance job seekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the job seeker total.

A pre and post July 1998 comparison will reflect the exclusion of some 18 to 20 year old unemployed people due to the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test (see the *Youth Allowance* section under Payment History).

Job seekers

From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report.

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who

were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

From July 1998, the definition of job seekers excludes all people who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, parental income, and those known not to be required to search for work.

Before July 1998, job seekers excluded allowees who did not receive a payment, allowees who were incapacitated, and allowees who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to search for work were classified as job seekers, including people undertaking full-time voluntary work, people on jury duty and pregnant women around the time of the birth of their child.

Duration

Since May 1998, duration has been defined according to the time a recipient spends on income support - short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a recipient was registered as unemployed - short-term recipients were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term recipients were people who were registered for 12 months or more.

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

The term Area Support Office was replaced by Service Zone in July 2011.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

The CDEP program is administered by the Department of Social Services. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.

Customer Service Centre

Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.

Did not receive a payment

Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.

Fortnightly earnings

Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.

Incapacitated

A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.

Job seeker

A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.

Long-term recipients

Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 22 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Partner Allowance (PA)

From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

Partner Allowance was for dependent partners of pensioners and allowees. Partners had to be born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Partner Allowance had no job search requirement. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Service Centre

A Service Centre that provides DSS and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones.

Service Zone

A set of Service Centres, grouped together for operational purposes on a geographic basis. Service Zones replaced Areas and Area Support Offices in July 2011.

Short-term recipients

Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.

Widow Allowance (WA)

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

Widow Allowance, a non-activity tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Youth Allowance (YA)

Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 21 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.

To receive Youth Allowance young people under 22 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

Youth Allowance (other)

Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

Comparisons Between DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Numbers And ABS Labour Force Unemployment Statistics

Official statistics

Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Organization which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.

ABS definition

The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.

Differences

Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DSS labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.

Duration

Both DSS and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:

DSS measures duration of **income support**. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.

The ABS measures length of time **unemployed** using their unemployment definition.

DSS unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and still be classified as long-term income support recipients:

- Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.

- Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

For the ABS statistics, any hours of work for a period as short as two weeks count as a break from unemployment and so are enough to reset a person's unemployment duration.

The difference between these two concepts, together with the fact that DSS recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DSS as long-term recipients when they would be classified as short-term unemployed under the ABS definition.

Seasonal adjustment

The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The DSS labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.

Classification

The ABS classifies a person as unemployed if he or she is aged 15 years and over, was not employed during the week before the interview, has actively looked for full-time or part-time work and is available to start work. From February 2004, people who had not actively looked for work because they were waiting to start a job within four weeks are also classified as unemployed.

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment between the ages of 15 years and 64 years in the case of men and 15 to 63 years in the case of women.

Employment

Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients may be employed part-time, but within an income test limit; the ABS classifies a person as "employed" if, among other things, he or she has worked for one hour or more during the survey period.

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

- DSS reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.
- ABS numbers are based on a sample survey which interviews occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.33% of the total Australian population. These persons are generally interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of each month and the information obtained relates to the week before the interview takes place.

Treatment of partners

The ABS series includes unemployed persons whose spouse is working, irrespective of income, whereas Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients are subject to an income and assets test for themselves and their spouse.

Pensioners

The ABS series includes persons being paid a pension but looking for work (eg. sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).

Non job seekers

The overall Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series includes persons who are not required to undertake jobsearch. These persons are separately identified in Tables 2 and 3, and have then been excluded in subsequent tables. These people may be undertaking training, the development of self-employment opportunities, full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work which excludes them from jobsearch obligations. They may also be incapacitated or have another temporary exemption from jobsearch.

Waiting periods

The ABS series includes persons who are serving a waiting period before being granted Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other), or whose allowance was deferred.

Survey

The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the DSS statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

For More Information

Labour market information

Other statistics on recipients of labour market related payments are available on request.

In addition to Newstart and Youth Allowances, statistics are also available on Partner Allowance, Parenting Payment, Sickness Allowance, ABSTUDY and Widow Allowance.

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

Written correspondence concerning this publication or statistics on labour market related payments should be addressed to:

Director
Income Support Information
Social Security Performance and Analysis Branch
Social Policy Group
Department of Social Services
PO Box 7576
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government's centralised data publishing site, data.gov.au (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/departments-of-social-services>). A statistical overview is published on an annual basis on the Department's website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (<http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series>).