

# **Labour Market and Related Payments**

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## **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 2016**

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, **25 January 2017**

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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 22 February 2017.

## Statistical Highlights – December 2016

### Between December 2015 and December 2016

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 1.4 per cent** overall from 866 256 to 878 073.

- NSA recipients increased 1.6 per cent from 762 624 to 775 022.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 0.6 per cent from 103 632 to 103 051.

The number of job seekers **decreased 3.5 per cent** overall from 531 441 to 513 015.

- NSA job seekers decreased 2.2 per cent from 447 916 to 437 897.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 10.1 per cent from 83 525 to 75 118.

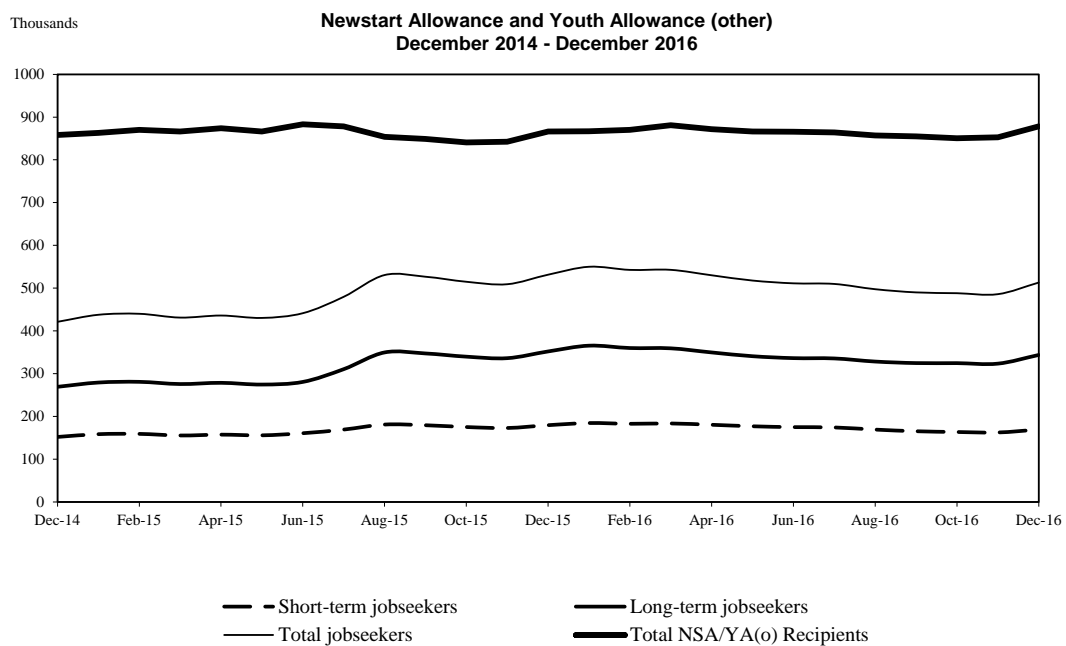
Long-term job seekers decreased 2.3 per cent from 351 946 to 343 710.

Short-term job seekers decreased 5.7 per cent from 179 495 to 169 305.

NOTE: On 1 July 2015, a new employment services model ‘jobactive’ was introduced. ‘jobactive’ replaced Job Services Australia and has a stronger focus on job search and finding and keeping employment. Job seeker numbers increased after the introduction, as more recipients have a job search requirement under the new model.

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 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
January 2015	532,903	754,340	108,657	173,161	5,502	6,756	23,604
February 2015	537,533	760,149	109,888	188,529	5,417	6,552	23,336
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363
April 2016	559,242	773,675	98,326	208,242	3,835	4,208	19,047
May 2016	555,867	768,503	98,016	230,821	4,194	4,104	18,739
June 2016	555,870	767,908	97,846	229,689	4,271	4,004	18,472
July 2016	555,399	765,756	98,389	210,161	4,152	3,863	18,067
August 2016	553,958	762,134	95,061	223,367	4,050	3,732	17,724
September 2016	554,177	760,972	93,693	222,127	4,014	3,590	17,437
October 2016	552,913	758,328	92,059	220,497	3,889	3,470	17,193
November 2016	555,286	760,719	92,182	196,018	3,658	3,386	16,994
December 2016	567,163	775,022	103,051	159,729	3,467	3,280	16,732
Variation November 2016 - December 2016							
Number	11,877	14,303	10,869	-36,289	-191	-106	-262
Per cent	2.1	1.9	11.8	-18.5	-5.2	-3.1	-1.5

## 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 2016 Persons	December 2016 Males	December 2016 Females	November 2016	Variation November - December Number	Variation November - December per cent
<b>Newstart Allowance</b>						
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>207,859</b>	<b>128,464</b>	<b>79,395</b>	<b>205,433</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	12,561	7,232	5,329	12,654	-93	-0.7
Received a payment	195,298	121,232	74,066	192,779	2,519	1.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	7,319	1,993	5,326	7,509	-190	-2.5
Other activities without job search (c)	10,671	5,864	4,807	11,034	-363	-3.3
Incapacitated (d)	25,828	14,984	10,844	26,437	-609	-2.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	13,975	7,956	6,019	13,605	370	2.7
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>137,505</b>	<b>90,435</b>	<b>47,070</b>	<b>134,194</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	32,116	18,581	13,535	33,250	-1,134	-3.4
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>567,163</b>	<b>272,577</b>	<b>294,586</b>	<b>555,286</b>	<b>11,877</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	22,387	9,827	12,560	22,507	-120	-0.5
Received a payment	544,776	262,750	282,026	532,779	11,997	2.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	72,145	16,882	55,263	72,709	-564	-0.8
Other activities without job search (c)	59,898	28,906	30,992	61,283	-1,385	-2.3
Incapacitated (d)	61,071	30,266	30,805	61,445	-374	-0.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	51,270	23,643	27,627	50,156	1,114	2.2
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>300,392</b>	<b>163,053</b>	<b>137,339</b>	<b>287,186</b>	<b>13,206</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	193,873	96,624	97,249	191,705	2,168	1.1
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>775,022</b>	<b>401,041</b>	<b>373,981</b>	<b>760,719</b>	<b>14,303</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	34,948	17,059	17,889	35,161	-213	-0.6
Received a payment	740,074	383,982	356,092	725,558	14,516	2.0
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	79,464	18,875	60,589	80,218	-754	-0.9
Other activities without job search (c)	70,569	34,770	35,799	72,317	-1,748	-2.4
Incapacitated (d)	86,899	45,250	41,649	87,882	-983	-1.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	65,245	31,599	33,646	63,761	1,484	2.3
<b>All NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>437,897</b>	<b>253,488</b>	<b>184,409</b>	<b>421,380</b>	<b>16,517</b>	<b>3.9</b>
All NSA training/education (g)	225,989	115,205	110,784	224,955	1,034	0.5

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (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 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population**

Youth Allowance (other)	December 2016 Persons	December 2016 Males	December 2016 Females	November 2016	Variation November - December Number	Variation November - December per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>44,652</b>	<b>24,109</b>	<b>20,543</b>	<b>41,031</b>	<b>3,621</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,238	596	642	1,251	-13	-1.0
Received a payment	43,414	23,513	19,901	39,780	3,634	9.1
Other activities without job search (b)	7,783	4,498	3,285	7,672	111	1.4
Incapacitated (c)	2,028	1,022	1,006	2,080	-52	-2.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,803	897	906	1,762	41	2.3
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>31,800</b>	<b>17,096</b>	<b>14,704</b>	<b>28,266</b>	<b>3,534</b>	<b>12.5</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	12,784	6,897	5,887	12,860	-76	-0.6
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>58,399</b>	<b>29,206</b>	<b>29,193</b>	<b>51,151</b>	<b>7,248</b>	<b>14.2</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,677	725	952	1,520	157	10.3
Received a payment	56,722	28,481	28,241	49,631	7,091	14.3
Other activities without job search (b)	8,002	4,267	3,735	8,065	-63	-0.8
Incapacitated (c)	2,964	1,311	1,653	2,955	9	0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,438	1,040	1,398	2,374	64	2.7
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>43,318</b>	<b>21,863</b>	<b>21,455</b>	<b>36,237</b>	<b>7,081</b>	<b>19.5</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	22,129	10,971	11,158	21,371	758	3.5
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>103,051</b>	<b>53,315</b>	<b>49,736</b>	<b>92,182</b>	<b>10,869</b>	<b>11.8</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,915	1,321	1,594	2,771	144	5.2
Received a payment	100,136	51,994	48,142	89,411	10,725	12.0
Other activities without job search (b)	15,785	8,765	7,020	15,737	48	0.3
Incapacitated (c)	4,992	2,333	2,659	5,035	-43	-0.9
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,241	1,937	2,304	4,136	105	2.5
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>75,118</b>	<b>38,959</b>	<b>36,159</b>	<b>64,503</b>	<b>10,615</b>	<b>16.5</b>
All YA (other) training/education (f)	34,913	17,868	17,045	34,231	682	2.0

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

(e) 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.

(f) 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**

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	<b>Total</b>
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
January 2015	158,486	279,232	437,718
February 2015	159,147	280,864	440,011
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
April 2016	180,450	349,643	530,093
May 2016	176,929	340,813	517,742
June 2016	174,937	336,308	511,245
July 2016	174,234	335,579	509,813
August 2016	169,184	328,317	497,501
September 2016	165,330	324,731	490,061
October 2016	163,550	324,613	488,163
November 2016	162,460	323,423	485,883
December 2016	169,305	343,710	513,015
Variation November 2016 - December 2016			
Number	6,845	20,287	27,132
Per cent	4.2	6.3	5.6

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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	39,413	41,072	1,659	4.2
Victoria	35,628	37,140	1,512	4.2
Queensland	41,291	43,027	1,736	4.2
South Australia	13,058	13,455	397	3.0
Western Australia	23,897	24,918	1,021	4.3
Tasmania	4,217	4,387	170	4.0
Northern Territory	3,541	3,831	290	8.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,415	1,475	60	4.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>162,460</b>	<b>169,305</b>	<b>6,845</b>	<b>4.2</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	87,714	93,217	5,503	6.3
Victoria	69,943	74,519	4,576	6.5
Queensland	74,254	78,959	4,705	6.3
South Australia	30,340	31,938	1,598	5.3
Western Australia	38,141	40,711	2,570	6.7
Tasmania	10,683	11,237	554	5.2
Northern Territory	9,580	10,192	612	6.4
Australian Capital Territory	2,768	2,937	169	6.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>323,423</b>	<b>343,710</b>	<b>20,287</b>	<b>6.3</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	127,127	134,289	7,162	5.6
Victoria	105,571	111,659	6,088	5.8
Queensland	115,545	121,986	6,441	5.6
South Australia	43,398	45,393	1,995	4.6
Western Australia	62,038	65,629	3,591	5.8
Tasmania	14,900	15,624	724	4.9
Northern Territory	13,121	14,023	902	6.9
Australian Capital Territory	4,183	4,412	229	5.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>485,883</b>	<b>513,015</b>	<b>27,132</b>	<b>5.6</b>

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
<b>Males</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,943	1.8	606	0.3	2,549	0.9
18 - 20 years	12,391	11.5	14,187	7.7	26,578	9.1
21 - 24 years	15,392	14.3	27,011	14.6	42,403	14.5
25 - 29 years	16,371	15.2	25,847	14.0	42,218	14.4
30 - 39 years	24,547	22.8	42,285	22.9	66,832	22.9
40 - 49 years	18,934	17.6	36,802	19.9	55,736	19.1
50 - 59 years	12,784	11.9	26,618	14.4	39,402	13.5
60 years and over	5,170	4.8	11,559	6.3	16,729	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,532</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>184,915</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>292,447</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,104	3.4	821	0.5	2,925	1.3
18 - 20 years	10,873	17.6	14,188	8.9	25,061	11.4
21 - 24 years	8,895	14.4	20,256	12.8	29,151	13.2
25 - 29 years	6,729	10.9	15,141	9.5	21,870	9.9
30 - 39 years	8,999	14.6	30,305	19.1	39,304	17.8
40 - 49 years	10,637	17.2	40,832	25.7	51,469	23.3
50 - 59 years	9,732	15.8	28,286	17.8	38,018	17.2
60 years and over	3,804	6.2	8,966	5.6	12,770	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,773</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>158,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>220,568</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	4,047	2.4	1,427	0.4	5,474	1.1
18 - 20 years	23,264	13.7	28,375	8.3	51,639	10.1
21 - 24 years	24,287	14.3	47,267	13.8	71,554	13.9
25 - 29 years	23,100	13.6	40,988	11.9	64,088	12.5
30 - 39 years	33,546	19.8	72,590	21.1	106,136	20.7
40 - 49 years	29,571	17.5	77,634	22.6	107,205	20.9
50 - 59 years	22,516	13.3	54,904	16.0	77,420	15.1
60 years and over	8,974	5.3	20,525	6.0	29,499	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,305</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>343,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>513,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,254	3,419	165	5.1
Bondi Junction	762	778	16	2.1
Burwood	1,419	1,516	97	6.8
Cabramatta	2,192	2,301	109	5.0
Camden	737	817	80	10.9
Campbelltown	2,167	2,307	140	6.5
Campsie	2,356	2,500	144	6.1
Caringbah	641	661	20	3.1
Chatswood	978	1,033	55	5.6
Darlinghurst	1,488	1,541	53	3.6
Fairfield	2,835	3,123	288	10.2
Hornsby	995	1,036	41	4.1
Hurstville	1,420	1,522	102	7.2
Ingleburn	1,135	1,214	79	7.0
Leichhardt	1,252	1,342	90	7.2
Liverpool	3,685	3,928	243	6.6
Maroubra	1,315	1,369	54	4.1
Marrickville	865	913	48	5.5
Northern Beaches	1,099	1,161	62	5.6
Redfern	1,564	1,659	95	6.1
Rockdale	1,251	1,321	70	5.6
Ryde	982	1,077	95	9.7
Sutherland	658	697	39	5.9
Other (a)	64	81	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,114</b>	<b>37,316</b>	<b>2,202</b>	<b>6.3</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,026	1,107	81	7.9
Brunswick Heads	855	918	63	7.4
Byron Bay	383	386	3	0.8
Casino	892	941	49	5.5
Cessnock	1,092	1,183	91	8.3
Charlestown	1,948	2,065	117	6.0
Coffs Harbour	2,208	2,337	129	5.8
Comm Support Team	78	91	%	%
Ettalong	742	786	44	5.9
Forster	875	901	26	3.0
Gosford	1,726	1,802	76	4.4
Grafton	1,007	1,056	49	4.9
Kempsey	1,008	1,072	64	6.3
King Street	1,392	1,503	111	8.0
Kurri Kurri	609	657	48	7.9
Lakehaven	1,852	1,967	115	6.2
Lismore	2,134	2,253	119	5.6
Maitland	2,127	2,209	82	3.9
Mayfield	1,087	1,196	109	10.0
Murwillumbah	778	827	49	6.3
Muswellbrook	827	875	48	5.8
Nambucca Heads	641	679	38	5.9
Nelson Bay	610	637	27	4.4
North New South Wales	22	21	%	%
Port Macquarie	1,814	1,928	114	6.3
Raymond Terrace	1,247	1,327	80	6.4
Singleton	500	531	31	6.2
Taree	1,922	2,033	111	5.8
The Entrance	1,276	1,391	115	9.0
Toronto	1,108	1,156	48	4.3
Tweed Heads	1,581	1,649	68	4.3
Wallsend	1,827	1,941	114	6.2
Woy Woy	500	529	29	5.8
Wyong	606	623	17	2.8
Yamba	397	409	12	3.0
Other (a)	69	61	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,766</b>	<b>41,047</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>5.9</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,143	1,163	20	1.7
Auburn	1,894	2,012	118	6.2
Bathurst	995	1,066	71	7.1
Baulkham Hills	903	991	88	9.7
Blacktown	3,225	3,463	238	7.4
Bourke	504	516	12	2.4
Dubbo	2,696	2,798	102	3.8
Glen Innes	421	411	-10	-2.4
Gunnedah	508	502	-6	-1.2
Hawkesbury	934	1,010	76	8.1
Inverell	776	814	38	4.9
Katoomba	639	673	34	5.3
Lightning Ridge	225	217	-8	-3.6
Lithgow	746	776	30	4.0
Merrylands	1,952	2,065	113	5.8
Moree	569	594	25	4.4
Mt Druitt	2,821	2,970	149	5.3
Mudgee	625	632	7	1.1
Narrabri	437	436	-1	-0.2
Orange	1,274	1,309	35	2.7
Parkes	985	1,001	16	1.6
Parramatta	2,046	2,151	105	5.1
Penrith	1,811	1,954	143	7.9
Springwood	298	309	11	3.7
St Marys	1,653	1,781	128	7.7
Tamworth	2,205	2,278	73	3.3
Walgett	333	334	1	0.3
Other (a)	21	21	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,639</b>	<b>34,247</b>	<b>1,608</b>	<b>4.9</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	697	744	47	6.7
Bega	683	690	7	1.0
Belconnen	1,125	1,211	86	7.6
Bowral	452	471	19	4.2
Braddon	983	1,030	47	4.8
Cooma	391	406	15	3.8
Corrimal	916	970	54	5.9
Cowra	510	544	34	6.7
Dapto	1,271	1,357	86	6.8
Goulburn	781	813	32	4.1
Griffith	804	838	34	4.2
Gungahlin	575	596	21	3.7
Leeton	475	493	18	3.8
Narooma	265	283	18	6.8
Nowra	1,977	2,079	102	5.2
Queanbeyan	616	652	36	5.8
Shellharbour	1,562	1,670	108	6.9
Tuggeranong	820	859	39	4.8
Tumut	389	399	10	2.6
Ulladulla	446	458	12	2.7
Wagga	1,782	1,855	73	4.1
Woden	606	654	48	7.9
Wollongong	1,494	1,651	157	10.5
Yass	131	127	-4	-3.1
Young	600	610	10	1.7
Other (a)	23	25	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,374</b>	<b>21,485</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>5.5</b>

- 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,276	1,378	102	8.0
Albury	3,203	3,299	96	3.0
Box Hill	2,003	2,080	77	3.8
Broadmeadows	4,844	5,261	417	8.6
Darebin	2,746	2,974	228	8.3
Deniliquin	354	358	4	1.1
Echuca	687	719	32	4.7
Epping	3,153	3,436	283	9.0
Greensborough	1,835	1,971	136	7.4
Heidelberg	1,283	1,421	138	10.8
Moreland	2,711	2,910	199	7.3
Newmarket	1,804	1,919	115	6.4
Seymour	779	821	42	5.4
Shepparton	2,472	2,562	90	3.6
Sth Melbourne	1,159	1,247	88	7.6
Sunbury	997	1,033	36	3.6
Wangaratta	1,653	1,713	60	3.6
WAP Processing	21	<20	na	na
Windsor Vic	2,308	2,440	132	5.7
Yarra	2,357	2,564	207	8.8
Other (a)	88	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,733</b>	<b>40,220</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>6.6</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,380	1,456	76	5.5
Belgrave	504	538	34	6.7
Boronia	1,206	1,306	100	8.3
Cheltenham	1,761	1,876	115	6.5
Cranbourne	2,148	2,307	159	7.4
Dandenong	2,744	2,846	102	3.7
Fountain Gate	2,235	2,324	89	4.0
Frankston	2,612	2,762	150	5.7
Glen Waverley	1,093	1,168	75	6.9
Hastings	673	686	13	1.9
Lilydale	1,465	1,518	53	3.6
Mornington	523	531	8	1.5
Morwell	3,576	3,744	168	4.7
Oakleigh	1,660	1,767	107	6.4
Pakenham	1,068	1,120	52	4.9
Ringwood	2,030	2,166	136	6.7
Rosebud	999	1,024	25	2.5
Rowville	542	581	39	7.2
Sale	1,159	1,233	74	6.4
Springvale	2,046	2,149	103	5.0
Warragul	852	904	52	6.1
Wonthaggi	869	915	46	5.3
Other (a)	52	56	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,197</b>	<b>34,977</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>5.4</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	283	287	4	1.4
Ballarat	3,707	3,932	225	6.1
Bendigo	3,497	3,738	241	6.9
Colac	595	607	12	2.0
Corio	1,959	2,079	120	6.1
Footscray	1,762	1,887	125	7.1
Geelong	3,242	3,416	174	5.4
Hamilton	425	444	19	4.5
Horsham	792	809	17	2.1
Maryborough	763	784	21	2.8
Melton	2,211	2,356	145	6.6
Mildura	2,197	2,278	81	3.7
Newport	1,116	1,129	13	1.2
Portland	394	410	16	4.1
Stawell	201	197	-4	-2.0
Sunshine	3,706	3,811	105	2.8
Swan Hill	859	871	12	1.4
Warrnambool	995	1,057	62	6.2
Watergardens	3,567	3,799	232	6.5
Werribee	4,679	4,882	203	4.3
Other (a)	63	68	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,013</b>	<b>38,841</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>4.9</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	873	925	52	6.0
Ayr	477	486	9	1.9
Biloela	345	355	10	2.9
Bowen	445	488	43	9.7
Cairns Aplin	5,658	5,865	207	3.7
Charters Towers	522	566	44	8.4
Emerald	592	614	22	3.7
Gladstone	2,168	2,303	135	6.2
Indigenous Service Centre	1,991	2,071	80	4.0
Ingham	360	387	27	7.5
Innisfail	1,034	1,072	38	3.7
Longreach	201	206	5	2.5
Mackay	3,380	3,529	149	4.4
Mareeba	996	1,038	42	4.2
Mossman	625	650	25	4.0
Mt Isa	998	1,059	61	6.1
Normanton	176	178	2	1.1
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	218	224	6	2.8
Palm Island	351	378	27	7.7
Rockhampton	3,366	3,511	145	4.3
Thursday Is	222	243	21	9.5
TSV Ross River Rd	5,947	6,267	320	5.4
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	502	541	39	7.8
Whitsunday	634	662	28	4.4
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	513	538	25	4.9
Yeppoon	860	909	49	5.7
Other (a)	360	342	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,814</b>	<b>35,407</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>4.7</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,811	4,053	242	6.4
Caboolture	4,114	4,362	248	6.0
Caloundra	1,751	1,845	94	5.4
Cherbourg	379	390	11	2.9
Chermside	1,418	1,504	86	6.1
Deception Bay	1,369	1,381	12	0.9
Fortitude Valley	1,804	1,942	138	7.6
Gympie	1,683	1,764	81	4.8
Hervey Bay	2,289	2,348	59	2.6
Kawana Waters	720	782	62	8.6
Kingaroy	906	959	53	5.8
Margate	1,441	1,533	92	6.4
Maroochydore	1,809	1,984	175	9.7
Maryborough	1,729	1,818	89	5.1
Mitchelton	1,797	1,889	92	5.1
Mt Gravatt	2,918	3,064	146	5.0
Nambour	1,320	1,400	80	6.1
Noosa	1,020	1,067	47	4.6
Nundah	1,995	2,092	97	4.9
South Brisbane	1,424	1,543	119	8.4
Stones Corner	2,088	2,243	155	7.4
Strathpine	2,235	2,355	120	5.4
Toowong	1,331	1,451	120	9.0
Other (a)	99	101	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,450</b>	<b>43,870</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>5.8</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	847	888	41	4.8
Beenleigh	3,244	3,467	223	6.9
Biggera Waters	3,166	3,390	224	7.1
Browns Plains	2,352	2,480	128	5.4
Capalaba	1,053	1,146	93	8.8
Charleville	314	327	13	4.1
Cleveland	1,353	1,440	87	6.4
Dalby	870	897	27	3.1
Goodna	2,295	2,423	128	5.6
Goondiwindi	403	408	5	1.2
Inala	2,770	3,003	233	8.4
Ipswich	4,387	4,617	230	5.2
Nerang	3,489	3,702	213	6.1
Palm Beach	3,581	3,768	187	5.2
Roma	260	263	3	1.2
South Queensland	38	34	%	%
Southport	601	701	100	16.6
Stanthorpe	520	535	15	2.9
Toowoomba	3,586	3,795	209	5.8
Warwick	566	598	32	5.7
Woodridge	3,064	3,253	189	6.2
Wynnum	1,159	1,211	52	4.5
Other (a)	39	38	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,957</b>	<b>42,384</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>6.1</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,210	1,247	37	3.1
Broken Hill	958	986	28	2.9
Ceduna	380	397	17	4.5
Cooper Pedy	247	255	8	3.2
Elizabeth	4,465	4,690	225	5.0
Enfield	2,025	2,192	167	8.2
Gawler	1,793	1,860	67	3.7
Glenelg	1,073	1,108	35	3.3
Kadina	912	910	-2	-0.2
Kilkenny	1,853	1,924	71	3.8
Marion	3,101	3,363	262	8.4
Modbury	2,495	2,628	133	5.3
Mt Barker	981	1,009	28	2.9
Mt Gambier	1,548	1,594	46	3.0
Murray Bridge	1,288	1,303	15	1.2
Noarlunga	3,931	4,103	172	4.4
Norwood	2,126	2,245	119	5.6
Port Adelaide	1,827	1,923	96	5.3
Port Augusta	1,058	1,099	41	3.9
Port Lincoln	701	726	25	3.6
Port Pirie	1,277	1,288	11	0.9
Salisbury	4,314	4,526	212	4.9
Torrens ville	2,112	2,193	81	3.8
Victor Harbor	911	939	28	3.1
Whyalla	1,262	1,322	60	4.8
Other (a)	25	29	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,873</b>	<b>45,859</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>4.5</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,547	1,640	93	6.0
Armadale	2,973	3,150	177	6.0
Bunbury	3,364	3,606	242	7.2
Busselton	1,599	1,653	54	3.4
Cannington	3,202	3,378	176	5.5
Carnarvon	494	540	46	9.3
Esperance	412	432	20	4.9
Fremantle	2,182	2,336	154	7.1
Geraldton	2,327	2,436	109	4.7
Gosnells	2,470	2,612	142	5.7
Innaloo	2,163	2,217	54	2.5
Joondalup	4,210	4,466	256	6.1
Kalgoorlie	1,048	1,101	53	5.1
Karratha	592	629	37	6.3
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	241	244	3	1.2
Mandurah	3,489	3,738	249	7.1
Meekatharra	346	348	2	0.6
Midland	3,755	3,907	152	4.0
Mirrabooka	3,850	4,044	194	5.0
Morley	3,623	3,801	178	4.9
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	332	353	21	6.3
Northam	1,607	1,680	73	4.5
Rockingham	4,121	4,380	259	6.3
South Hedland	693	757	64	9.2
Success	2,238	2,386	148	6.6
Victoria Park	3,807	4,014	207	5.4
Warwick Grove	1,841	1,967	126	6.8
Western Australia	50	53	%	%
Other (a)	129	138	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,705</b>	<b>62,006</b>	<b>3,301</b>	<b>5.6</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Bridgewater	1,151	1,199	48	4.2
Burnie	1,597	1,675	78	4.9
Devonport	1,610	1,651	41	2.5
Glenorchy	1,834	1,943	109	5.9
Hobart	1,792	1,887	95	5.3
Huonville	484	502	18	3.7
Launceston	4,628	4,869	241	5.2
Rosny Park	1,707	1,780	73	4.3
TAS Support Team	28	40	%	%
Other (a)	21	20	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,852</b>	<b>15,566</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>North Australia</b>				
Alice Springs	1,151	1,211	60	5.2
Angurugu RSC	188	215	27	14.4
Borroloola	233	234	1	0.4
Broome	828	893	65	7.9
Casuarina	1,176	1,237	61	5.2
Central Australia	2,716	2,926	210	7.7
Darwin	471	507	36	7.6
Derby	497	550	53	10.7
Fitzroy Crossing	310	302	-8	-2.6
Galiwinku RSC	374	380	6	1.6
Halls Creek	365	456	91	24.9
Hermannsburg RSC	114	139	25	21.9
Katherine	537	565	28	5.2
Kimberley Katherine	1,695	1,824	129	7.6
Kununurra	408	452	44	10.8
Maningrida	612	674	62	10.1
Nhulunbuy	184	184	0	0.0
Northern Region	1,851	1,927	76	4.1
Palmerston	1,396	1,503	107	7.7
Papunya RSC	73	78	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	91	93	%	%
Tangentyere	<20	20	na	na
Tennant Creek	302	357	55	18.2
Tiwi Islands	335	351	16	4.8
Wadeye	355	386	31	8.7
Yuendumu RSC	141	157	16	11.3
Other (a)	na	15	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,430</b>	<b>17,636</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>7.3</b>

– 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 2016	December 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Other</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	573	616	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,455	1,538	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-62	0	%	%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>485,883</b>	<b>513,015</b>	<b>27,132</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(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 23 December 2016**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	87.9	86.8	87.2
Earned an income	12.1	13.2	12.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.4	0.5	0.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.1	1.3	1.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.5	1.7	1.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.1	1.4	1.3
Over \$316.00	7.9	8.3	8.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>112,723</b>	<b>193,532</b>	<b>306,255</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	80.8	79.9	80.1
Earned an income	19.2	20.1	19.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.7	1.7	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.4	2.3	2.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	1.9	1.9
Over \$316.00	12.5	13.7	13.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>64,079</b>	<b>164,385</b>	<b>228,464</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.4	83.6	84.2
Earned an income	14.6	16.4	15.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.4	1.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.0	1.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.4	1.6	1.5
Over \$316.00	9.6	10.8	10.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>176,802</b>	<b>357,917</b>	<b>534,719</b>

Note:  
 - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.  
 - The earnings data in 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 Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

## Methodology

Data in this publication relate to the average number of people who are both eligible (e.g. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and entitled (e.g. 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.

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 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.

From 1 January 2016, to receive Youth Allowance (other) young people without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification (Certificate III) will need to participate in :

- approved full-time study, or
- a combination of 25 hours a week of approved part-time study and part-time work , or
- other approved activities of 25\* hours per week, in addition to up to 20 job searches each month (noting that it is \* 15 hours a week for early school leavers with a partial capacity to work or who are principal carer parents and have part-time requirements)

until they attain Year 12 or equivalent, or a Certificate III, or turn 22 years of age.

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, e.g. 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.

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;
- 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; and
- the introduction of *jobactive*, an employment services model with a stronger focus on job search, which replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.

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 (e.g. 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. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

### **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**

Duration refers to duration on income support and includes time spent on other income support payments.

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)**

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

The CDEP program was administered by the Department of Social Services. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aimed to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there were two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assisted 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 focused 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. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

### **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 DHS 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, e.g. 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 aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

### **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 (e.g. 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).

**See also:** The Australian Bureau of Statistics release “6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2014 – [The unemployed and recipients of Government unemployment benefits - differences explained](#)”

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6105.0Feature%20Article54July%202014?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6105.0&issue=July%202014&num=&view=>  
>

## **For More Information**

### **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) (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services>). Historical data is available in a statistical overview available 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>>).

### **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:**

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