

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 at <http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>

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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 26 March 2014.

Statistical Highlights – January 2014

Between January 2013 and January 2014

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients increased 6.6 per cent overall from 789 976 to 842 050.

NSA recipients increased 6.4 per cent from 682 873 to 726 740.

YA(o) recipients increased 7.7 per cent from 107 103 to 115 310.

The number of job seekers increased 5.8 per cent overall from 404 566 to 428 160.

NSA job seekers increased 4.5 per cent from 355 178 to 371 283.

YA(o) job seekers increased 15.2 per cent from 49 388 to 56 877.

Long-term job seekers increased 8.0 per cent from 234 387 to 253 178.

Short-term job seekers increased 2.8 per cent from 170 179 to 174 982.

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

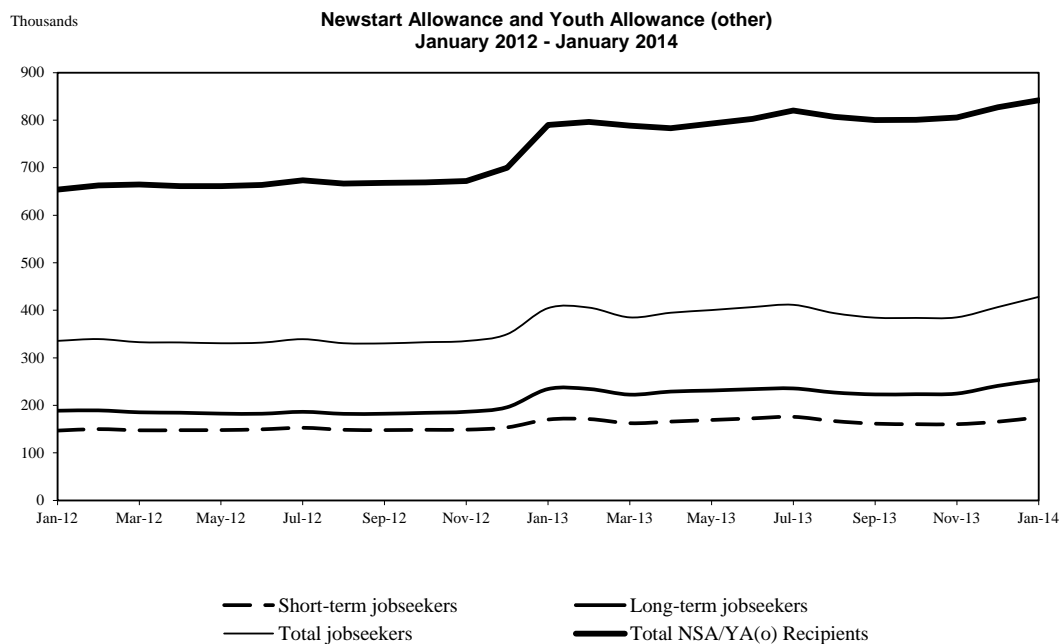


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
January 2012	346,578	566,287	87,617	241,565	4,110	16,129	30,564
February 2012	348,940	574,458	88,284	246,450	4,214	15,753	30,351
March 2012	351,092	578,219	86,583	262,183	4,495	15,279	30,029
April 2012	350,547	576,620	84,654	271,071	4,637	14,878	29,752
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
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
Variation December 2013 - January 2014							
Number	9,667	15,302	-291	-5,216	-138	-180	-117
Per cent	2.1	2.2	-0.3	-2.8	-2.2	-1.9	-0.4

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.
- 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).

TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	January 2014			December 2013	Variation December - January	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	248,997	155,589	93,408	243,362	5,635	2.3
CPS Recipients (a)	666	488	178	673	-7	-1.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	10,379	5,842	4,537	14,369	-3,990	-27.8
Received a payment	237,952	149,259	88,693	228,320	9,632	4.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,359	2,010	5,349	7,451	-92	-1.2
Other activities without job search (d)	39,641	23,924	15,717	36,624	3,017	8.2
Incapacitated (e)	24,587	14,139	10,448	26,213	-1,626	-6.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	14,250	7,979	6,271	14,747	-497	-3.4
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	152,115	101,207	50,908	143,285	8,830	6.2
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>28,521</i>	<i>16,613</i>	<i>11,908</i>	<i>30,804</i>	<i>-2,283</i>	<i>-7.4</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	477,743	229,054	248,689	468,076	9,667	2.1
CPS Recipients (a)	1,758	1,152	606	1,778	-20	-1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,673	4,792	7,881	17,333	-4,660	-26.9
Received a payment	463,312	223,110	240,202	448,965	14,347	3.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	52,355	11,221	41,134	52,842	-487	-0.9
Other activities without job search (d)	111,512	51,637	59,875	106,437	5,075	4.8
Incapacitated (e)	40,277	19,370	20,907	43,144	-2,867	-6.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	40,000	17,918	22,082	39,695	305	0.8
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	219,168	122,964	96,204	206,847	12,321	6.0
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>123,016</i>	<i>63,036</i>	<i>59,980</i>	<i>131,628</i>	<i>-8,612</i>	<i>-6.5</i>
All Newstart Allowees	726,740	384,643	342,097	711,438	15,302	2.2
CPS Recipients (a)	2,424	1,640	784	2,451	-27	-1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	23,052	10,634	12,418	31,702	-8,650	-27.3
Received a payment	701,264	372,369	328,895	677,285	23,979	3.5
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	59,714	13,231	46,483	60,293	-579	-1.0
Other activities without job search (d)	151,153	75,561	75,592	143,061	8,092	5.7
Incapacitated (e)	64,864	33,509	31,355	69,357	-4,493	-6.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	54,250	25,897	28,353	54,442	-192	-0.4
All NSA job seekers (g)	371,283	224,171	147,112	350,132	21,151	6.0
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>151,537</i>	<i>79,649</i>	<i>71,888</i>	<i>162,432</i>	<i>-10,895</i>	<i>-6.7</i>

(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.

– 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).

TABLE 3 - YOUTH ALLOWEES (OTHER) - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	January 2014			December 2013	Variation December - January	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	47,331	26,249	21,082	47,453	-122	-0.3
CPS Recipients (a)	29	25	4	26	3	11.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	854	373	481	1,120	-266	-23.8
Received a payment	46,448	25,851	20,597	46,307	141	0.3
Other activities without job search (c)	19,603	11,502	8,101	19,664	-61	-0.3
Incapacitated (d)	2,074	1,034	1,040	2,251	-177	-7.9
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,904	885	1,019	2,028	-124	-6.1
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	22,867	12,430	10,437	22,364	503	2.2
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>10,584</i>	<i>5,898</i>	<i>4,686</i>	<i>12,207</i>	<i>-1,623</i>	<i>-13.3</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	67,979	34,829	33,150	68,148	-169	-0.2
CPS Recipients (a)	30	23	7	33	-3	-9.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,393	562	831	1,662	-269	-16.2
Received a payment	66,556	34,244	32,312	66,453	103	0.2
Other activities without job search (c)	27,269	14,573	12,696	26,700	569	2.1
Incapacitated (d)	2,621	1,177	1,444	2,809	-188	-6.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,656	1,092	1,564	2,737	-81	-3.0
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	34,010	17,402	16,608	34,207	-197	-0.6
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>20,868</i>	<i>10,745</i>	<i>10,123</i>	<i>23,163</i>	<i>-2,295</i>	<i>-9.9</i>
All Youth Allowees	115,310	61,078	54,232	115,601	-291	-0.3
CPS Recipients (a)	59	48	11	59	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,247	935	1,312	2,782	-535	-19.2
Received a payment	113,004	60,095	52,909	112,760	244	0.2
Other activities without job search (c)	46,872	26,075	20,797	46,364	508	1.1
Incapacitated (d)	4,695	2,211	2,484	5,060	-365	-7.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,560	1,977	2,583	4,765	-205	-4.3
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	56,877	29,832	27,045	56,571	306	0.5
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>31,452</i>	<i>16,643</i>	<i>14,809</i>	<i>35,370</i>	<i>-3,918</i>	<i>-11.1</i>

(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.

– 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).

TABLE 4 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) TIME SERIES

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
January 2012	146,931	188,773	335,704
February 2012	150,028	189,447	339,475
March 2012	147,524	185,409	332,933
April 2012	147,809	184,581	332,390
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
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
Variation December 2013 - January 2014			
Number	9333	12124	21457
Per cent	5.6	5.0	5.3

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes).

TABLE 5 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY STATE

<i>State</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	48,448	50,722	2,274	4.7
Victoria	41,392	43,541	2,149	5.2
Queensland	39,562	42,625	3,063	7.7
South Australia	11,817	12,746	929	7.9
Western Australia	16,093	16,695	602	3.7
Tasmania	4,398	4,497	99	2.3
Northern Territory	2,307	2,359	52	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,624	1,789	165	10.2
AUSTRALIA	165,649	174,982	9,333	5.6
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	75,220	78,823	3,603	4.8
Victoria	56,496	59,339	2,843	5.0
Queensland	53,071	55,557	2,486	4.7
South Australia	21,534	22,923	1,389	6.5
Western Australia	19,443	20,477	1,034	5.3
Tasmania	9,117	9,410	293	3.2
Northern Territory	4,316	4,646	330	7.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,853	1,999	146	7.9
AUSTRALIA	241,054	253,178	12,124	5.0
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	123,668	129,545	5,877	4.8
Victoria	97,888	102,880	4,992	5.1
Queensland	92,633	98,182	5,549	6.0
South Australia	33,351	35,669	2,318	7.0
Western Australia	35,536	37,172	1,636	4.6
Tasmania	13,515	13,907	392	2.9
Northern Territory	6,623	7,005	382	5.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,477	3,788	311	8.9
AUSTRALIA	406,703	428,160	21,457	5.3

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, AS AT JANUARY 2014

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	1,958	1.7	358	0.3	2,316	0.9
18 - 20 years	7,978	7.0	12,861	9.2	20,839	8.2
21 - 24 years	16,895	14.9	21,538	15.3	38,433	15.1
25 - 29 years	18,776	16.5	21,891	15.6	40,667	16.0
30 - 39 years	27,511	24.2	32,206	22.9	59,717	23.5
40 - 49 years	21,186	18.6	26,264	18.7	47,450	18.7
50 - 59 years	14,192	12.5	18,664	13.3	32,856	12.9
60 years and over	5,133	4.5	6,579	4.7	11,712	4.6
Total	113,629	100.0	140,361	100.0	253,990	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	2,011	3.3	451	0.4	2,462	1.4
18 - 20 years	6,695	10.9	12,313	10.9	19,008	10.9
21 - 24 years	9,805	16.0	15,689	13.9	25,494	14.6
25 - 29 years	8,001	13.0	11,405	10.1	19,406	11.1
30 - 39 years	9,997	16.3	21,748	19.3	31,745	18.2
40 - 49 years	11,787	19.2	28,812	25.5	40,599	23.3
50 - 59 years	9,960	16.2	18,428	16.3	28,388	16.3
60 years and over	3,097	5.0	3,971	3.5	7,068	4.1
Total	61,353	100.0	112,817	100.0	174,170	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	3,969	2.3	809	0.3	4,778	1.1
18 - 20 years	14,673	8.4	25,174	9.9	39,847	9.3
21 - 24 years	26,700	15.3	37,227	14.7	63,927	14.9
25 - 29 years	26,777	15.3	33,296	13.2	60,073	14.0
30 - 39 years	37,508	21.4	53,954	21.3	91,462	21.4
40 - 49 years	32,973	18.8	55,076	21.8	88,049	20.6
50 - 59 years	24,152	13.8	37,092	14.7	61,244	14.3
60 years and over	8,230	4.7	10,550	4.2	18,780	4.4
Total	174,982	100.0	253,178	100.0	428,160	100.0

Notes:

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

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	26	23	%	%
Bankstown	3,626	3,704	78	2.2
Bondi Junction	1,183	1,278	95	8.0
Burwood	1,763	1,883	120	6.8
Campsie	2,484	2,597	113	4.5
Caringbah	937	974	37	3.9
Chatswood	1,301	1,391	90	6.9
Darlinghurst	1,628	1,696	68	4.2
Hornsby	1,165	1,207	42	3.6
Hurstville	1,649	1,712	63	3.8
Leichhardt	1,419	1,512	93	6.6
Maroubra	1,539	1,627	88	5.7
Marrickville	1,455	1,576	121	8.3
Northern Beaches	1,291	1,406	115	8.9
Redfern	1,361	1,416	55	4.0
Rockdale	1,517	1,606	89	5.9
Ryde	1,218	1,287	69	5.7
Sutherland	858	906	48	5.6
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	26,420	27,801	1,381	5.2
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	2,352	2,413	61	2.6
Baulkham Hills	1,016	1,083	67	6.6
Blacktown	3,178	3,345	167	5.3
Cabramatta	2,463	2,558	95	3.9
Camden	714	769	55	7.7
Campbelltown	2,153	2,258	105	4.9
Fairfield	2,986	3,032	46	1.5
Hawkesbury	938	1,009	71	7.6
Ingleburn	1,317	1,376	59	4.5
Katoomba	654	704	50	7.6
Lithgow	640	658	18	2.8
Liverpool	3,695	3,904	209	5.7
Merrylands	2,303	2,479	176	7.6
Mt Druitt	2,368	2,475	107	4.5
Parramatta	2,510	2,555	45	1.8
Penrith	1,954	2,089	135	6.9
Springwood	410	457	47	11.5
St Marys	1,574	1,624	50	3.2
Other (a)	1	0	%	%
Total	33,226	34,788	1,562	4.7

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Armidale	973	1,052	79	8.1
Ballina	1,047	1,080	33	3.2
Bourke	303	323	20	6.6
Brunswick Heads	914	972	58	6.3
Byron Bay	490	456	-34	-6.9
Casino	649	666	17	2.6
Coffs Harbour	2,077	2,168	91	4.4
Forster	839	848	9	1.1
Glen Innes	350	386	36	10.3
Grafton	867	941	74	8.5
Gunnedah	456	484	28	6.1
Inverell	671	673	2	0.3
Kempsey	888	936	48	5.4
Lightning Ridge	189	191	2	1.1
Lismore	1,695	1,797	102	6.0
Moree	481	516	35	7.3
Murwillumbah	732	754	22	3.0
Nambucca Heads	767	814	47	6.1
Narrabri	351	379	28	8.0
Port Macquarie	1,786	1,880	94	5.3
Tamworth	1,800	1,885	85	4.7
Taree	1,638	1,700	62	3.8
Tweed Heads	1,707	1,769	62	3.6
Walgett	228	220	-8	-3.5
Yamba	495	490	-5	-1.0
Other (a)	3	3	%	%
Total	22,396	23,383	987	4.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>MID NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bathurst	785	851	66	8.4
Cessnock	797	823	26	3.3
Charlestown	1,910	2,042	132	6.9
Comm Support Team	32	27	%	%
Dubbo	2,003	2,081	78	3.9
Ettalong	800	840	40	5.0
Gosford	1,770	1,886	116	6.6
King Street	1,247	1,344	97	7.8
Kurri Kurri	500	529	29	5.8
Lakehaven	1,751	1,818	67	3.8
Maitland	1,507	1,561	54	3.6
Mayfield	1,110	1,147	37	3.3
Mudgee	591	618	27	4.6
Muswellbrook	592	608	16	2.7
Nelson Bay	525	527	2	0.4
Orange	845	879	34	4.0
Parkes	740	790	50	6.8
Raymond Terrace	913	979	66	7.2
Singleton	337	358	21	6.2
The Entrance	1,275	1,322	47	3.7
Toronto	978	1,049	71	7.3
Wallsend	1,471	1,572	101	6.9
Woy Woy	566	575	9	1.6
Wyang	710	715	5	0.7
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	23,755	24,941	1,186	5.0

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	746	757	11	1.5
Bega	711	726	15	2.1
Belconnen	1,035	1,170	135	13.0
Bowral	507	517	10	2.0
Braddon	815	864	49	6.0
Cooma	359	357	-2	-0.6
Corrimal	1,167	1,235	68	5.8
Cowra	443	467	24	5.4
Dapto	1,194	1,237	43	3.6
Goulburn	742	718	-24	-3.2
Griffith	513	540	27	5.3
Gungahlin	324	362	38	11.7
Leeton	381	408	27	7.1
Narooma	291	306	15	5.2
Nowra	1,745	1,821	76	4.4
Queanbeyan	544	585	41	7.5
Shellharbour	1,426	1,484	58	4.1
Tuggeranong	762	800	38	5.0
Tumut	277	283	6	2.2
Ulladulla	505	508	3	0.6
Wagga	1,164	1,253	89	7.6
Woden	507	546	39	7.7
Wollongong	1,494	1,538	44	2.9
Yass	83	86	%	%
Young	537	583	46	8.6
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	18,273	19,152	879	4.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	1,263	1,304	41	3.2
Albury	2,501	2,640	139	5.6
Box Hill	2,306	2,452	146	6.3
Broadmeadows	3,992	4,129	137	3.4
Darebin	2,745	2,935	190	6.9
Deniliquin	254	269	15	5.9
Echuca	551	586	35	6.4
Epping	2,899	3,078	179	6.2
Greensborough	1,750	1,831	81	4.6
Heidelberg	1,363	1,424	61	4.5
Moreland	2,807	3,008	201	7.2
Newmarket	1,623	1,730	107	6.6
Seymour	716	772	56	7.8
Shepparton	2,171	2,247	76	3.5
Sth Melbourne	979	1,025	46	4.7
Sunbury	954	998	44	4.6
Wangaratta	1,327	1,375	48	3.6
Windsor Vic	2,610	2,797	187	7.2
Yarra	2,351	2,496	145	6.2
Other (a)	8	16	%	%
Total	35,170	37,112	1,942	5.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	1,017	1,056	39	3.8
Belgrave	513	552	39	7.6
Boronia	1,179	1,285	106	9.0
Cheltenham	1,847	1,947	100	5.4
Cranbourne	1,752	1,876	124	7.1
Dandenong	2,941	3,165	224	7.6
Fountain Gate	2,393	2,523	130	5.4
Frankston	2,657	2,894	237	8.9
Glen Waverley	1,121	1,215	94	8.4
Hastings	679	713	34	5.0
Lilydale	1,397	1,487	90	6.4
Mornington	570	581	11	1.9
Morwell	2,611	2,725	114	4.4
Oakleigh	1,699	1,773	74	4.4
Pakenham	1,072	1,125	53	4.9
Ringwood	1,852	1,979	127	6.9
Rosebud	800	820	20	2.5
Rowville	667	722	55	8.2
Sale	778	809	31	4.0
Springvale	2,020	2,113	93	4.6
Warragul	727	762	35	4.8
Wonthaggi	931	956	25	2.7
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
Total	31,223	33,079	1,856	5.9

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	235	253	18	7.7
Ballarat	3,026	3,211	185	6.1
Bendigo	2,702	2,841	139	5.1
Colac	602	647	45	7.5
Corio	1,757	1,826	69	3.9
Footscray	1,577	1,657	80	5.1
Geelong	3,463	3,630	167	4.8
Hamilton	381	401	20	5.2
Horsham	696	691	-5	-0.7
Maryborough	466	486	20	4.3
Melton	1,950	2,032	82	4.2
Mildura	1,785	1,864	79	4.4
Newport	1,088	1,124	36	3.3
Portland	419	423	4	1.0
Stawell	173	177	4	2.3
Sunshine	3,675	3,714	39	1.1
Swan Hill	710	746	36	5.1
Warrnambool	917	922	5	0.5
Watergardens	3,731	3,857	126	3.4
Werribee	4,240	4,401	161	3.8
Other (a)	4	4	%	%
Total	33,597	34,907	1,310	3.9

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	902	946	44	4.9
Ayr	383	432	49	12.8
Biloela	196	215	19	9.7
Bowen	436	478	42	9.6
Cairns Aplin	5,088	5,441	353	6.9
Charters Towers	419	451	32	7.6
Emerald	378	403	25	6.6
Gladstone	878	930	52	5.9
Indigenous Service Centre	1,033	1,060	27	2.6
Ingham	414	455	41	9.9
Innisfail	895	973	78	8.7
Longreach	142	161	19	13.4
Mackay	1,763	1,895	132	7.5
Mareeba	800	840	40	5.0
Mossman	612	659	47	7.7
Mt Isa	704	712	8	1.1
Normanton	71	74	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	117	127	10	8.5
Palm Island	52	57	%	%
Rockhampton	2,023	2,112	89	4.4
Thursday Is	139	89	%	%
Townsville	4,256	4,549	293	6.9
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	315	296	-19	-6.0
Whitsunday	600	634	34	5.7
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	451	461	10	2.2
Yeppoon	489	554	65	13.3
Other (a)	40	38	%	%
Total	23,596	25,042	1,446	6.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	3,183	3,321	138	4.3
Caboolture	3,547	3,754	207	5.8
Caloundra	1,540	1,627	87	5.6
Cherbourg	225	239	14	6.2
Chermside	1,307	1,376	69	5.3
Deception Bay	2,270	2,596	326	14.4
Fortitude Valley	1,331	1,435	104	7.8
Gympie	1,507	1,614	107	7.1
Hervey Bay	1,732	1,768	36	2.1
Kawana Waters	764	794	30	3.9
Kingaroy	788	820	32	4.1
Margate	153	69	%	%
Maroochydore	1,636	1,746	110	6.7
Maryborough	1,310	1,365	55	4.2
Mitchelton	1,584	1,751	167	10.5
Mt Gravatt	2,418	2,502	84	3.5
Nambour	1,118	1,198	80	7.2
Noosa	1,257	1,305	48	3.8
Nundah	1,595	1,682	87	5.5
South Brisbane	1,180	1,231	51	4.3
Stones Corner	2,014	2,145	131	6.5
Strathpine	1,981	2,078	97	4.9
Toowong	1,509	1,607	98	6.5
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	35,949	38,023	2,074	5.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beaudesert	644	688	44	6.8
Beenleigh	2,372	2,524	152	6.4
Biggera Waters	3,425	3,668	243	7.1
Browns Plains	2,125	2,260	135	6.4
Capalaba	890	959	69	7.8
Charleville	174	193	19	10.9
Cleveland	1,062	1,145	83	7.8
Dalby	424	466	42	9.9
Goodna	1,728	1,841	113	6.5
Goondiwindi	341	348	7	2.1
Inala	2,016	2,085	69	3.4
Ipswich	3,215	3,335	120	3.7
Nerang	4,022	4,243	221	5.5
Palm Beach	4,307	4,504	197	4.6
Roma	121	125	4	3.3
Southport	36	59	%	%
Stanthorpe	404	416	12	3.0
Toowoomba	1,958	2,119	161	8.2
Warwick	493	544	51	10.3
Woodridge	2,314	2,456	142	6.1
Wynnum	991	1,067	76	7.7
Other (a)	200	201	%	%
Total	33,262	35,246	1,984	6.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	877	938	61	7.0
Broken Hill	747	797	50	6.7
Ceduna	263	290	27	10.3
Cooper Pedy	153	161	8	5.2
Elizabeth	2,963	3,126	163	5.5
Enfield	1,702	1,779	77	4.5
Gawler	1,300	1,413	113	8.7
Glenelg	873	959	86	9.9
Kadina	757	802	45	5.9
Kilkenny	1,456	1,535	79	5.4
Marion	2,485	2,732	247	9.9
Modbury	2,149	2,301	152	7.1
Mt Barker	705	761	56	7.9
Mt Gambier	1,242	1,282	40	3.2
Murray Bridge	1,044	1,106	62	5.9
Noarlunga	3,020	3,297	277	9.2
Norwood	1,880	1,998	118	6.3
Port Adelaide	1,567	1,712	145	9.3
Port Augusta	811	842	31	3.8
Port Lincoln	595	639	44	7.4
Port Pirie	949	1,051	102	10.7
Salisbury	3,068	3,226	158	5.1
Torrens ville	1,669	1,802	133	8.0
Victor Harbor	748	760	12	1.6
Whyalla	836	897	61	7.3
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	33,859	36,206	2,347	6.9

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	1,216	1,289	73	6.0
Armadale	1,579	1,615	36	2.3
Bunbury	2,180	2,313	133	6.1
Busselton	1,007	1,081	74	7.3
Cannington	2,176	2,210	34	1.6
Carnarvon	253	238	-15	-5.9
Esperance	346	356	10	2.9
Fremantle	1,424	1,508	84	5.9
Geraldton	1,442	1,521	79	5.5
Gosnells	1,390	1,444	54	3.9
Innaloo	1,360	1,442	82	6.0
Joondalup	2,040	2,156	116	5.7
Kalgoorlie	815	847	32	3.9
Karratha	511	492	-19	-3.7
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	133	124	-9	-6.8
Mandurah	1,768	1,870	102	5.8
Meekatharra	211	217	6	2.8
Midland	1,806	1,903	97	5.4
Mirrabooka	2,219	2,334	115	5.2
Morley	2,248	2,328	80	3.6
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	100	101	1	1.0
Northam	1,147	1,201	54	4.7
Rockingham	2,278	2,357	79	3.5
South Hedland	417	406	-11	-2.6
Spearwood	1,353	1,424	71	5.2
Victoria Park	2,004	2,075	71	3.5
Warwick Grove	981	1,084	103	10.5
Other (a)	15	14	%	%
Total	34,419	35,950	1,531	4.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	1,132	1,153	21	1.9
Burnie	1,678	1,727	49	2.9
Devonport	1,633	1,676	43	2.6
Glenorchy	1,476	1,518	42	2.8
Hobart	1,579	1,630	51	3.2
Huonville	375	408	33	8.8
Launceston	4,264	4,381	117	2.7
Rosny Park	1,372	1,424	52	3.8
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	13,509	13,917	408	3.0
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	647	733	86	13.3
Angurugu RSC	122	105	-17	-13.9
Borroloola	32	22	%	%
Broome	455	494	39	8.6
Casuarina	664	667	3	0.5
Central Aust RST	1,494	1,631	137	9.2
Darwin	391	410	19	4.9
Derby	136	138	2	1.5
Fitzroy Crossing	48	51	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	67	72	%	%
Halls Creek	166	186	20	12.0
Katherine	300	313	13	4.3
Kimberley RST	55	62	%	%
Kununurra	229	244	15	6.6
Maningrida	287	305	18	6.3
Palmerston	783	816	33	4.2
Tennant Creek	246	255	9	3.7
Tiwi Islands	165	201	36	21.8
Top End East	394	431	37	9.4
Top End Hub	76	60	%	%
Top End South	448	474	26	5.8
Top End West	426	465	39	9.2
Wadeye	280	282	2	0.7
Yuendumu RSC	64	65	%	%
Other (a)	43	43	%	%
Total	8,018	8,525	507	6.3

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2013	January 2014	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	12	8	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	60	86	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-41	-6	%	%
<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	406,703	428,160	21,457	5.3

(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 24 JANUARY 2014**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	88.8	85.3	86.9
Earned an income	11.2	14.7	13.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	2.0	1.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.7	2.4	2.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.2	1.7	1.5
Over \$316.00	6.5	7.8	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	114,542	140,579	255,121
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	79.9	74.5	76.4
Earned an income	20.1	25.5	23.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.2	2.6	2.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.7	3.3	3.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.2	2.5	2.4
Over \$316.00	12.3	16.2	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	62,295	113,467	175,762
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	85.6	80.5	82.6
Earned an income	14.4	19.5	17.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.2	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.1	2.8	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.1	1.9
Over \$316.00	8.5	11.5	10.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	176,837	254,046	430,883

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

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 Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. 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@deewr.gov.au

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

Director
Income Support Information
Income Support Policy and Information Branch
Income Support Group
Department of Social Services
PO Box 9880
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes the “Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview” on an annual basis and also collates statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers.