

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

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

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Statistical Highlights – January 2015

Between January 2014 and January 2015

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 2.5 per cent** overall from 842 050 to 862 997.

- NSA recipients increased 3.8 per cent from 726 740 to 754 340.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 5.8 per cent from 115 310 to 108 657.

The number of job seekers **increased 2.2 per cent** overall from 428 160 to 437 718.

- NSA job seekers increased 2.9 per cent from 371 283 to 382 035.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 2.1 per cent from 56 877 to 55 683.

Long-term job seekers increased 10.3 per cent from 253 178 to 279 232.

Short-term job seekers decreased 9.4 per cent from 174 982 to 158 486.

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

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

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

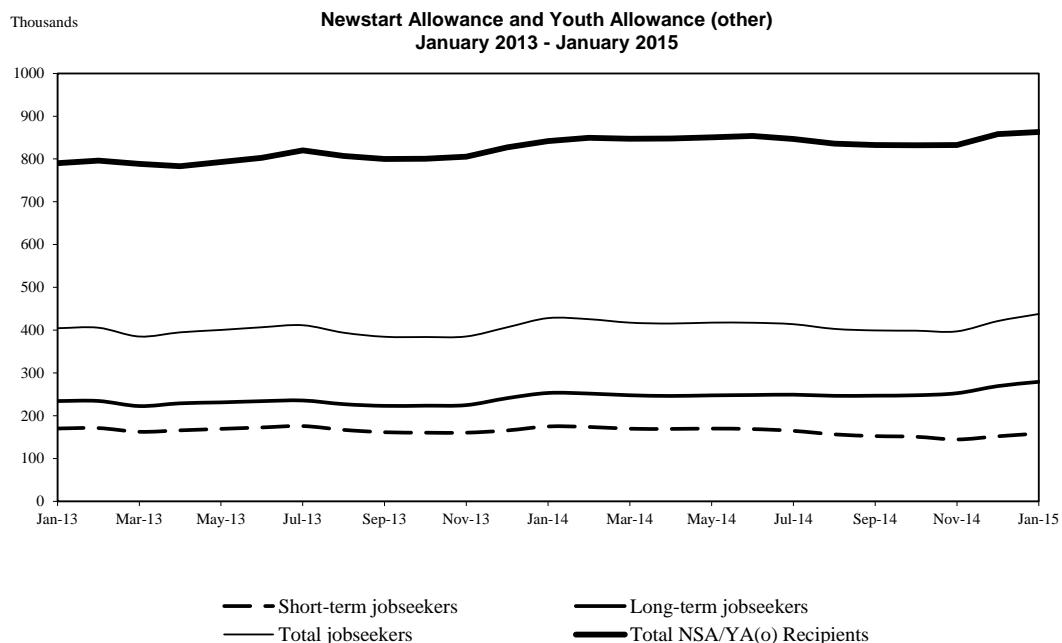


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
December 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
January 2015	532,903	754,340	108,657	173,161	5,502	6,756	23,604
Variation December 2014 - January 2015							
Number	5,585	8,046	-3,422	-9,572	-355	-211	-384
Per cent	1.1	1.1	-3.1	-5.2	-6.1	-3.0	-1.6

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

	January 2015 Persons	January 2015 Males	January 2015 Females	December 2014	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Newstart Allowance						
Short Term Newstart Allowees	221,437	137,916	83,521	218,976	2,461	1.1
CPS Recipients (a)	64	55	9	80	-16	-20.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,059	4,970	4,089	13,219	-4,160	-31.5
Received a payment	212,314	132,891	79,423	205,677	6,637	3.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,299	2,033	5,266	7,429	-130	-1.7
Other activities without job search (d)	33,482	19,984	13,498	31,767	1,715	5.4
Incapacitated (e)	22,248	12,852	9,396	24,167	-1,919	-7.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,585	7,130	5,455	12,672	-87	-0.7
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	136,700	90,892	45,808	129,642	7,058	5.4
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	27,721	15,993	11,728	30,132	-2,411	-8.0
Long Term Newstart Allowees	532,903	257,790	275,113	527,318	5,585	1.1
CPS Recipients (a)	1,472	979	493	1,499	-27	-1.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	14,500	5,846	8,654	20,566	-6,066	-29.5
Received a payment	516,931	250,965	265,966	505,253	11,678	2.3
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	58,641	12,892	45,749	58,048	593	1.0
Other activities without job search (d)	127,692	59,543	68,149	123,881	3,811	3.1
Incapacitated (e)	41,569	20,230	21,339	46,148	-4,579	-9.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	43,694	19,689	24,005	42,473	1,221	2.9
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	245,335	138,611	106,724	234,703	10,632	4.5
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	152,130	77,046	75,084	163,272	-11,142	-6.8
All Newstart Allowees	754,340	395,706	358,634	746,294	8,046	1.1
CPS Recipients (a)	1,536	1,034	502	1,579	-43	-2.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	23,559	10,816	12,743	33,785	-10,226	-30.3
Received a payment	729,245	383,856	345,389	710,930	18,315	2.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	65,940	14,925	51,015	65,477	463	0.7
Other activities without job search (d)	161,174	79,527	81,647	155,648	5,526	3.6
Incapacitated (e)	63,817	33,082	30,735	70,315	-6,498	-9.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	56,279	26,819	29,460	55,145	1,134	2.1
All NSA job seekers (g)	382,035	229,503	152,532	364,345	17,690	4.9
All NSA training/education (h)	179,851	93,039	86,812	193,404	-13,553	-7.0

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

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

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

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	January 2015 Persons	January 2015 Males	January 2015 Females	December 2014	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	42,829	23,679	19,150	44,646	-1,817	-4.1
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	905	414	491	1,157	-252	-21.8
Received a payment	41,924	23,265	18,659	43,489	-1,565	-3.6
Other activities without job search (c)	16,659	9,804	6,855	17,338	-679	-3.9
Incapacitated (d)	1,837	912	925	2,073	-236	-11.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,642	768	874	1,728	-86	-5.0
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	21,786	11,781	10,005	22,350	-564	-2.5
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	9,844	5,441	4,403	11,726	-1,882	-16.0
Long Term Youth Allowees	65,828	33,670	32,158	67,433	-1,605	-2.4
CPS Recipients (a)	8	7	1	10	-2	-20.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,645	700	945	2,063	-418	-20.3
Received a payment	64,175	32,963	31,212	65,360	-1,185	-1.8
Other activities without job search (c)	25,185	13,329	11,856	25,417	-232	-0.9
Incapacitated (d)	2,537	1,130	1,407	2,826	-289	-10.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,556	1,070	1,486	2,567	-11	-0.4
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	33,897	17,434	16,463	34,550	-653	-1.9
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	21,339	10,797	10,542	23,933	-2,594	-10.8
All Youth Allowees	108,657	57,349	51,308	112,079	-3,422	-3.1
CPS Recipients (a)	8	7	1	10	-2	-20.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,550	1,114	1,436	3,220	-670	-20.8
Received a payment	106,099	56,228	49,871	108,849	-2,750	-2.5
Other activities without job search (c)	41,844	23,133	18,711	42,755	-911	-2.1
Incapacitated (d)	4,374	2,042	2,332	4,899	-525	-10.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,198	1,838	2,360	4,295	-97	-2.3
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	55,683	29,215	26,468	56,900	-1,217	-2.1
All YA (other) training/education (g)	31,183	16,238	14,945	35,659	-4,476	-12.6

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,466	246,504	402,970
September 2014	152,280	246,818	399,098
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
January 2015	158,486	279,232	437,718
Variation December 2014 - January 2015			
Number	6494	9979	16473
Per cent	4.3	3.7	3.9

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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	43,078	44,660	1,582	3.7
Victoria	36,485	37,684	1,199	3.3
Queensland	38,622	40,966	2,344	6.1
South Australia	11,723	12,488	765	6.5
Western Australia	14,876	15,342	466	3.1
Tasmania	3,720	3,753	33	0.9
Northern Territory	1,952	2,035	83	4.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,536	1,558	22	1.4
Australia	151,992	158,486	6,494	4.3
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	83,081	86,166	3,085	3.7
Victoria	62,084	64,468	2,384	3.8
Queensland	60,988	63,127	2,139	3.5
South Australia	24,201	25,233	1,032	4.3
Western Australia	22,844	23,827	983	4.3
Tasmania	9,602	9,802	200	2.1
Northern Territory	4,145	4,209	64	1.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,308	2,400	92	4.0
Australia	269,253	279,232	9,979	3.7
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	126,159	130,826	4,667	3.7
Victoria	98,569	102,152	3,583	3.6
Queensland	99,610	104,093	4,483	4.5
South Australia	35,924	37,721	1,797	5.0
Western Australia	37,720	39,169	1,449	3.8
Tasmania	13,322	13,555	233	1.7
Northern Territory	6,097	6,244	147	2.4
Australian Capital Territory	3,844	3,958	114	3.0
Australia	421,245	437,718	16,473	3.9

Notes:

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

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

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	1,519	1.5	335	0.2	1,854	0.7
18 - 20 years	8,125	7.9	12,158	7.8	20,283	7.8
21 - 24 years	14,772	14.4	23,992	15.4	38,764	15.0
25 - 29 years	16,155	15.7	24,033	15.4	40,188	15.5
30 - 39 years	24,650	24.0	35,859	23.0	60,509	23.4
40 - 49 years	19,189	18.7	29,841	19.1	49,030	19.0
50 - 59 years	13,379	13.0	22,027	14.1	35,406	13.7
60 years and over	4,883	4.8	7,799	5.0	12,682	4.9
Total	102,672	100.0	156,044	100.0	258,716	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,647	3.0	444	0.4	2,091	1.2
18 - 20 years	6,975	12.5	11,797	9.6	18,772	10.5
21 - 24 years	8,603	15.4	17,464	14.2	26,067	14.6
25 - 29 years	6,957	12.5	12,923	10.5	19,880	11.1
30 - 39 years	8,788	15.7	23,445	19.0	32,233	18.0
40 - 49 years	10,466	18.8	31,160	25.3	41,626	23.3
50 - 59 years	9,332	16.7	21,305	17.3	30,637	17.1
60 years and over	3,046	5.5	4,650	3.8	7,696	4.3
Total	55,814	100.0	123,188	100.0	179,002	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,166	2.0	779	0.3	3,945	0.9
18 - 20 years	15,100	9.5	23,955	8.6	39,055	8.9
21 - 24 years	23,375	14.7	41,456	14.8	64,831	14.8
25 - 29 years	23,112	14.6	36,956	13.2	60,068	13.7
30 - 39 years	33,438	21.1	59,304	21.2	92,742	21.2
40 - 49 years	29,655	18.7	61,001	21.8	90,656	20.7
50 - 59 years	22,711	14.3	43,332	15.5	66,043	15.1
60 years and over	7,929	5.0	12,449	4.5	20,378	4.7
Total	158,486	100.0	279,232	100.0	437,718	100.0

Notes:

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

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

Sydney Service Zone by Service Centre	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,523	3,540	17	0.5
Bondi Junction	1,173	1,227	54	4.6
Burwood	1,705	1,771	66	3.9
Cabramatta	2,626	2,671	45	1.7
Camden	728	792	64	8.8
Campbelltown	2,164	2,201	37	1.7
Campsie	2,496	2,551	55	2.2
Caringbah	875	892	17	1.9
Chatswood	1,226	1,226	0	0.0
Darlinghurst	1,573	1,623	50	3.2
Fairfield	3,057	3,086	29	0.9
Hornsby	1,042	1,095	53	5.1
Hurstville	1,556	1,592	36	2.3
Ingleburn	1,226	1,268	42	3.4
Leichhardt	1,358	1,419	61	4.5
Liverpool	3,821	3,953	132	3.5
Maroubra	1,471	1,519	48	3.3
Marrickville	1,459	1,510	51	3.5
Northern Beaches	1,306	1,337	31	2.4
Redfern	1,392	1,448	56	4.0
Rockdale	1,500	1,609	109	7.3
Ryde	1,169	1,220	51	4.4
Sutherland	869	887	18	2.1
Other (a)	8	6	%	%
Total	39,323	40,443	1,120	2.8

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,003	1,056	53	5.3
Brunswick Heads	1,044	1,135	91	8.7
Byron Bay	245	243	-2	-0.8
Casino	686	701	15	2.2
Cessnock	948	993	45	4.7
Charlestown	2,106	2,210	104	4.9
Coffs Harbour	2,066	2,141	75	3.6
Comm Support Team	31	31	%	%
Ettalong	793	824	31	3.9
Forster	892	917	25	2.8
Gosford	1,851	1,919	68	3.7
Grafton	935	1,019	84	9.0
Kempsey	904	931	27	3.0
King Street	1,303	1,357	54	4.1
Kurri Kurri	581	600	19	3.3
Lakehaven	1,782	1,902	120	6.7
Lismore	1,750	1,861	111	6.3
Maitland	1,775	1,930	155	8.7
Mayfield	1,126	1,180	54	4.8
Murwillumbah	710	745	35	4.9
Muswellbrook	796	826	30	3.8
Nambucca Heads	739	757	18	2.4
Nelson Bay	537	544	7	1.3
Port Macquarie	1,891	1,924	33	1.7
Raymond Terrace	1,058	1,108	50	4.7
Singleton	407	435	28	6.9
Taree	1,629	1,682	53	3.3
The Entrance	1,328	1,348	20	1.5
Toronto	972	1,033	61	6.3
Tweed Heads	1,690	1,761	71	4.2
Wallsend	1,702	1,799	97	5.7
Woy Woy	563	582	19	3.4
Wyong	670	714	44	6.6
Yamba	438	457	19	4.3
Other (a)	15	16	%	%
Total	36,966	38,681	1,715	4.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
AS1 Community Team	21	<20	na	na
Armidale	1,054	1,082	28	2.7
Auburn	2,291	2,343	52	2.3
Bathurst	851	872	21	2.5
Baulkham Hills	932	996	64	6.9
Blacktown	3,297	3,424	127	3.9
Bourke	335	355	20	6.0
Dubbo	1,859	1,914	55	3.0
Glen Innes	332	348	16	4.8
Gunnedah	463	496	33	7.1
Hawkesbury	916	953	37	4.0
Inverell	752	787	35	4.7
Katoomba	687	732	45	6.6
Lightning Ridge	183	194	11	6.0
Lithgow	710	714	4	0.6
Merrylands	2,278	2,321	43	1.9
Moree	496	538	42	8.5
Mt Druitt	2,383	2,488	105	4.4
Mudgee	631	663	32	5.1
Narrabri	417	425	8	1.9
Orange	961	1,023	62	6.5
Parkes	759	795	36	4.7
Parramatta	2,315	2,351	36	1.6
Penrith	1,950	2,001	51	2.6
Springwood	414	442	28	6.8
St Marys	1,684	1,767	83	4.9
Tamworth	1,922	2,000	78	4.1
Walgett	157	153	-4	-2.5
Other (a)	0	na	na	na
Total	31,050	32,196	1,146	3.7

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	692	689	-3	-0.4
Bega	704	698	-6	-0.9
Belconnen	1,236	1,278	42	3.4
Bowral	469	515	46	9.8
Braddon	804	831	27	3.4
Cooma	386	393	7	1.8
Corrimal	1,164	1,228	64	5.5
Cowra	474	488	14	3.0
Dapto	1,176	1,226	50	4.3
Goulburn	807	829	22	2.7
Griffith	638	668	30	4.7
Gungahlin	450	474	24	5.3
Leeton	425	435	10	2.4
Narooma	289	278	-11	-3.8
Nowra	1,755	1,808	53	3.0
Queanbeyan	567	597	30	5.3
Shellharbour	1,523	1,609	86	5.6
Tuggeranong	847	866	19	2.2
Tumut	281	290	9	3.2
Ulladulla	502	501	-1	-0.2
Wagga	1,152	1,212	60	5.2
Woden	483	487	4	0.8
Wollongong	1,521	1,593	72	4.7
Yass	90	100	%	%
Young	562	591	29	5.2
Other (a)	11	7	%	%
Total	19,008	19,691	683	3.6

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,204	1,294	90	7.5
Albury	2,628	2,760	132	5.0
Box Hill	2,197	2,227	30	1.4
Broadmeadows	3,936	4,006	70	1.8
Darebin	2,956	3,113	157	5.3
Deniliquin	262	268	6	2.3
Echuca	575	611	36	6.3
Epping	3,034	3,149	115	3.8
Greensborough	1,767	1,816	49	2.8
Heidelberg	1,438	1,487	49	3.4
Moreland	2,911	3,130	219	7.5
Newmarket	1,783	1,866	83	4.7
Seymour	764	801	37	4.8
Shepparton	1,948	2,041	93	4.8
Sth Melbourne	1,120	1,183	63	5.6
Sunbury	963	983	20	2.1
Wangaratta	1,312	1,349	37	2.8
Windsor Vic	2,638	2,764	126	4.8
Yarra	2,300	2,406	106	4.6
Other (a)	31	25	%	%
Total	35,767	37,279	1,512	4.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Eastern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,069	1,064	-5	-0.5
Belgrave	533	568	35	6.6
Boronia	1,182	1,224	42	3.6
Cheltenham	1,751	1,832	81	4.6
Cranbourne	1,860	1,947	87	4.7
Dandenong	2,665	2,776	111	4.2
Fountain Gate	2,449	2,453	4	0.2
Frankston	2,667	2,706	39	1.5
Glen Waverley	1,108	1,156	48	4.3
Hastings	603	625	22	3.6
Lilydale	1,355	1,396	41	3.0
Mornington	571	576	5	0.9
Morwell	2,526	2,599	73	2.9
Oakleigh	1,713	1,785	72	4.2
Pakenham	1,012	1,042	30	3.0
Ringwood	1,760	1,825	65	3.7
Rosebud	793	795	2	0.3
Rowville	724	714	-10	-1.4
Sale	783	806	23	2.9
Springvale	1,970	2,025	55	2.8
Warragul	698	735	37	5.3
Wonthaggi	938	952	14	1.5
Other (a)	2	1	%	%
Total	30,732	31,602	870	2.8

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	211	229	18	8.5
Ballarat	3,147	3,312	165	5.2
Bendigo	2,570	2,725	155	6.0
Colac	606	631	25	4.1
Corio	1,878	1,957	79	4.2
Footscray	1,602	1,670	68	4.2
Geelong	3,416	3,521	105	3.1
Hamilton	383	397	14	3.7
Horsham	730	739	9	1.2
Maryborough	537	553	16	3.0
Melton	2,038	2,164	126	6.2
Mildura	2,050	2,143	93	4.5
Newport	1,111	1,174	63	5.7
Portland	370	388	18	4.9
Stawell	174	184	10	5.7
Sunshine	3,703	3,783	80	2.2
Swan Hill	705	734	29	4.1
Warrnambool	791	820	29	3.7
Watergardens	3,650	3,664	14	0.4
Werribee	4,462	4,609	147	3.3
Other (a)	21	14	%	%
Total	34,155	35,411	1,256	3.7

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	910	959	49	5.4
Ayr	422	477	55	13.0
Biloela	241	250	9	3.7
Bowen	502	556	54	10.8
Cairns Aplin	5,460	5,632	172	3.2
Charters Towers	433	466	33	7.6
Emerald	519	553	34	6.6
Gladstone	1,272	1,312	40	3.1
Indigenous Service Centre	838	839	1	0.1
Ingham	397	431	34	8.6
Innisfail	1,027	1,117	90	8.8
Longreach	158	154	-4	-2.5
Mackay	2,469	2,637	168	6.8
Mareeba	833	872	39	4.7
Mossman	504	524	20	4.0
Mt Isa	674	715	41	6.1
Normanton	50	56	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	117	137	20	17.1
Palm Island	78	88	%	%
Rockhampton	2,488	2,598	110	4.4
Thursday Is	67	77	%	%
Townsville	5,228	5,457	229	4.4
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	253	226	-27	-10.7
Whitsunday	695	737	42	6.0
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	492	488	-4	-0.8
Yeppoon	653	692	39	6.0
Other (a)	79	75	%	%
Total	26,859	28,125	1,266	4.7

- 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,589	3,802	213	5.9
Caboolture	3,665	3,824	159	4.3
Caloundra	1,582	1,699	117	7.4
Cherbourg	316	304	-12	-3.8
Chermside	1,330	1,398	68	5.1
Deception Bay	2,611	2,716	105	4.0
Fortitude Valley	1,394	1,447	53	3.8
Gympie	1,519	1,620	101	6.6
Hervey Bay	1,908	2,000	92	4.8
Kawana Waters	732	778	46	6.3
Kingaroy	854	878	24	2.8
Margate	160	183	23	14.4
Maroochydore	1,711	1,768	57	3.3
Maryborough	1,404	1,496	92	6.6
Mitchelton	1,622	1,667	45	2.8
Mt Gravatt	2,524	2,603	79	3.1
Nambour	1,163	1,222	59	5.1
Noosa	1,098	1,156	58	5.3
Nundah	1,689	1,749	60	3.6
South Brisbane	1,259	1,288	29	2.3
Stones Corner	2,186	2,252	66	3.0
Strathpine	2,034	2,117	83	4.1
Toowong	1,501	1,542	41	2.7
Other (a)	7	10	%	%
Total	37,858	39,519	1,661	4.4

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	665	716	51	7.7
Beenleigh	2,527	2,661	134	5.3
Biggera Waters	3,771	3,976	205	5.4
Browns Plains	2,183	2,256	73	3.3
Capalaba	936	964	28	3.0
Charleville	224	250	26	11.6
Cleveland	1,253	1,298	45	3.6
Dalby	617	662	45	7.3
Goodna	1,757	1,780	23	1.3
Goondiwindi	423	422	-1	-0.2
Inala	2,138	2,245	107	5.0
Ipswich	3,284	3,441	157	4.8
Nerang	3,690	3,822	132	3.6
Palm Beach	3,976	4,178	202	5.1
Roma	153	158	5	3.3
Southport	258	138	-120	-46.5
Stanthorpe	408	439	31	7.6
Toowoomba	2,391	2,570	179	7.5
Warwick	508	544	36	7.1
Woodridge	2,355	2,446	91	3.9
Wynnum	1,057	1,103	46	4.4
Other (a)	24	22	%	%
Total	34,598	36,091	1,493	4.3

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	944	1,013	69	7.3
Broken Hill	811	852	41	5.1
Ceduna	229	235	6	2.6
Cooper Pedy	121	129	8	6.6
Elizabeth	3,542	3,726	184	5.2
Enfield	1,912	1,973	61	3.2
Gawler	1,445	1,542	97	6.7
Glenelg	910	967	57	6.3
Kadina	782	823	41	5.2
Kilkenny	1,666	1,708	42	2.5
Marion	2,646	2,785	139	5.3
Modbury	2,295	2,416	121	5.3
Mt Barker	748	779	31	4.1
Mt Gambier	1,302	1,356	54	4.1
Murray Bridge	1,036	1,095	59	5.7
Noarlunga	3,121	3,332	211	6.8
Norwood	1,993	2,111	118	5.9
Port Adelaide	1,794	1,850	56	3.1
Port Augusta	830	847	17	2.0
Port Lincoln	611	644	33	5.4
Port Pirie	1,020	1,123	103	10.1
Salisbury	3,320	3,451	131	3.9
Torrens ville	1,762	1,858	96	5.4
Victor Harbor	748	771	23	3.1
Whyalla	937	956	19	2.0
Other (a)	15	18	%	%
Total	36,540	38,360	1,820	5.0

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,251	1,292	41	3.3
Armadale	1,596	1,643	47	2.9
Bunbury	2,379	2,422	43	1.8
Busselton	1,021	1,085	64	6.3
Cannington	2,130	2,152	22	1.0
Carnarvon	229	236	7	3.1
Esperance	336	341	5	1.5
Fremantle	1,764	1,819	55	3.1
Geraldton	1,570	1,674	104	6.6
Gosnells	1,583	1,676	93	5.9
Innaloo	1,431	1,468	37	2.6
Joondalup	2,187	2,322	135	6.2
Kalgoorlie	803	834	31	3.9
Karratha	359	369	10	2.8
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	50	57	%	%
Mandurah	1,865	1,955	90	4.8
Meekatharra	203	219	16	7.9
Midland	2,158	2,233	75	3.5
Mirrabooka	2,393	2,486	93	3.9
Morley	2,293	2,379	86	3.8
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	125	124	-1	-0.8
Northam	1,181	1,213	32	2.7
Rockingham	2,305	2,457	152	6.6
South Hedland	534	546	12	2.2
Success	1,278	1,328	50	3.9
Victoria Park	2,210	2,291	81	3.7
Warwick Grove	1,141	1,191	50	4.4
Other (a)	26	25	%	%
Total	36,401	37,837	1,436	3.9

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,053	1,075	22	2.1
Burnie	1,626	1,659	33	2.0
Devonport	1,546	1,576	30	1.9
Glenorchy	1,544	1,550	6	0.4
Hobart	1,599	1,644	45	2.8
Huonville	405	412	7	1.7
Launceston	4,112	4,172	60	1.5
Rosny Park	1,375	1,400	25	1.8
Other (a)	5	8	%	%
Total	13,265	13,496	231	1.7
North Australia				
Alice Springs	712	727	15	2.1
Angurugu RSC	132	115	-17	-12.9
Borroloola	26	29	%	%
Broome	541	547	6	1.1
Casuarina	767	762	-5	-0.7
Central Australia	1,110	1,191	81	7.3
Darwin	427	426	-1	-0.2
Derby	100	113	13	13.0
Fitzroy Crossing	65	75	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	119	115	-4	-3.4
Halls Creek	200	193	-7	-3.5
Katherine	267	269	2	0.7
Kimberley Katherine	..	210	na	na
Kimberley RST	107	46	%	%
Kununurra	175	183	8	4.6
Maningrida	106	106	0	0.0
Nhulunbuy	22	<20	na	na
Northern Region	..	451	na	na
Palmerston	979	1,030	51	5.2
Tennant Creek	242	266	24	9.9
Tiwi Islands	105	119	14	13.3
Top End East	249	89	%	%
Top End South	279	113	-166	-59.5
Top End West	407	141	-266	-65.4
Wadeye	251	258	7	2.8
Yuendumu RSC	30	33	%	%
Other (a)	39	na	na	na
Total	7,457	7,660	203	2.7

– 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	December 2014	January 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	176	150	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,156	1,176	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-66	1	%	%
Australia	421,245	437,718	16,473	3.9

(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 January 2015**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	88.0	84.9	86.2
Earned an income	12.0	15.1	13.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.2	1.8	1.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.7	2.3	2.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.3	1.7	1.5
Over \$316.00	7.3	8.5	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	103,721	156,250	259,971
Females			
Did not earn an income	79.5	75.5	76.7
Earned an income	20.5	24.5	23.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.3	2.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.7	3.0	2.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.1	2.4	2.3
Over \$316.00	12.9	16.0	15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	56,637	123,861	180,498
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.0	80.8	82.3
Earned an income	15.0	19.2	17.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	2.0	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.1	2.6	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	9.3	11.8	10.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	160,358	280,111	440,469

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 Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

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

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

For More Information

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

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

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

Other recipient information

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