

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 30 March 2016.

Statistical Highlights – January 2016

Between January 2015 and January 2016

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 0.5 per cent** overall from 862 997 to 867 029.

- NSA recipients increased 1.7 per cent from 754 340 to 766 841.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 7.8 per cent from 108 657 to 100 188.

The number of job seekers **increased 25.6 per cent** overall from 437 718 to 549 981.

- NSA job seekers increased 22.5 per cent from 382 035 to 468 028.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 47.2 per cent from 55 683 to 81 953.

Long-term job seekers increased 30.9 per cent from 279 232 to 365 464.

Short-term job seekers increased 16.4 per cent from 158 486 to 184 517.

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

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

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

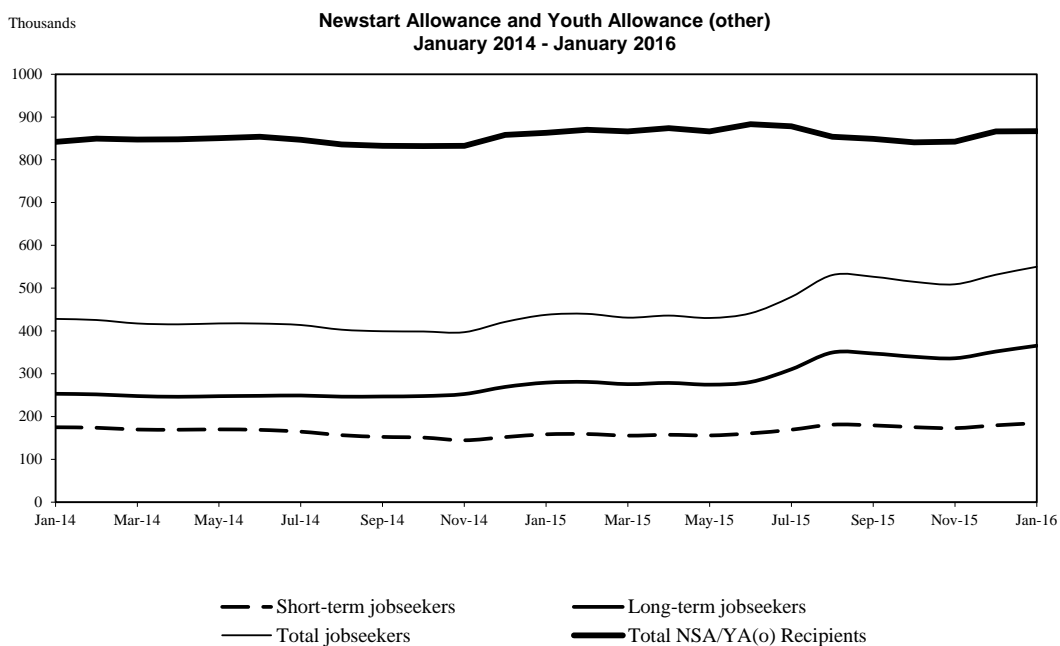


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
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
February 2015	537,533	760,149	109,888	188,529	5,417	6,552	23,336
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
Variation December 2015 - January 2016							
Number	2,804	4,217	-3,444	-5,371	-278	-165	-344
Per cent	0.5	0.6	-3.3	-3.2	-6.6	-3.4	-1.7

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 2016 Persons	January 2016 Males	January 2016 Females	December 2015	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Newstart Allowance						
Short Term Newstart Allowees	212,332	131,714	80,618	210,919	1,413	0.7
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,138	5,057	4,081	12,803	-3,665	-28.6
Received a payment	203,194	126,657	76,537	198,116	5,078	2.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,911	2,347	5,564	7,762	149	1.9
Other activities without job search (d)	8,938	4,813	4,125	9,687	-749	-7.7
Incapacitated (e)	22,217	12,804	9,413	23,660	-1,443	-6.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,314	6,978	5,336	12,397	-83	-0.7
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	151,814	99,715	52,099	144,610	7,204	5.0
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	27,158	15,333	11,825	27,867	-709	-2.5
Long Term Newstart Allowees	554,509	268,130	286,379	551,705	2,804	0.5
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	15,615	6,199	9,416	22,009	-6,394	-29.1
Received a payment	538,894	261,931	276,963	529,696	9,198	1.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	71,062	16,167	54,895	69,948	1,114	1.6
Other activities without job search (d)	56,468	27,670	28,798	58,123	-1,655	-2.8
Incapacitated (e)	46,162	22,758	23,404	50,264	-4,102	-8.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	48,988	22,655	26,333	48,055	933	1.9
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	316,214	172,681	143,533	303,306	12,908	4.3
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	153,331	75,272	78,059	152,158	1,173	0.8
All Newstart Allowees	766,841	399,844	366,997	762,624	4,217	0.6
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	24,753	11,256	13,497	34,812	-10,059	-28.9
Received a payment	742,088	388,588	353,500	727,812	14,276	2.0
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	78,973	18,514	60,459	77,710	1,263	1.6
Other activities without job search (d)	65,406	32,483	32,923	67,810	-2,404	-3.5
Incapacitated (e)	68,379	35,562	32,817	73,924	-5,545	-7.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	61,302	29,633	31,669	60,452	850	1.4
All NSA job seekers (g)	468,028	272,396	195,632	447,916	20,112	4.5
All NSA training/education (h)	180,489	90,605	89,884	180,025	464	0.3

(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 2016 Persons	January 2016 Males	January 2016 Females	December 2015	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	38,904	21,340	17,564	42,230	-3,326	-7.9
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	817	358	459	1,050	-233	-22.2
Received a payment	38,087	20,982	17,105	41,180	-3,093	-7.5
Other activities without job search (c)	2,153	1,266	887	2,690	-537	-20.0
Incapacitated (d)	1,745	885	860	2,034	-289	-14.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,486	678	808	1,571	-85	-5.4
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	32,703	18,153	14,550	34,885	-2,182	-6.3
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	9,435	5,149	4,286	10,351	-916	-8.8
Long Term Youth Allowees	61,284	31,102	30,182	61,402	-118	-0.2
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,518	617	901	1,657	-139	-8.4
Received a payment	59,766	30,485	29,281	59,745	21	0.0
Other activities without job search (c)	5,387	3,057	2,330	5,700	-313	-5.5
Incapacitated (d)	2,545	1,162	1,383	2,777	-232	-8.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,584	1,091	1,493	2,628	-44	-1.7
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	49,250	25,175	24,075	48,640	610	1.3
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	20,445	10,275	10,170	20,559	-114	-0.6
All Youth Allowees	100,188	52,442	47,746	103,632	-3,444	-3.3
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,335	975	1,360	2,707	-372	-13.7
Received a payment	97,853	51,467	46,386	100,925	-3,072	-3.0
Other activities without job search (c)	7,540	4,323	3,217	8,390	-850	-10.1
Incapacitated (d)	4,290	2,047	2,243	4,811	-521	-10.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,070	1,769	2,301	4,199	-129	-3.1
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	81,953	43,328	38,625	83,525	-1,572	-1.9
All YA (other) training/education (g)	29,880	15,424	14,456	30,910	-1,030	-3.3

(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 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	156,467	246,504	402,971
September 2014	152,447	246,892	399,339
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
February 2015	159,147	280,864	440,011
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
Variation December 2015 - January 2016			
Number	5,022	13,518	18,540
Per cent	2.8	3.8	3.5

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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	46,445	47,601	1,156	2.5
Victoria	40,744	41,563	819	2.0
Queensland	45,133	46,824	1,691	3.7
South Australia	15,170	15,622	452	3.0
Western Australia	21,866	22,761	895	4.1
Tasmania	4,460	4,427	-33	-0.7
Northern Territory	3,980	3,976	-4	-0.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,697	1,743	46	2.7
Australia	179,495	184,517	5,022	2.8
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	102,640	106,204	3,564	3.5
Victoria	78,433	81,636	3,203	4.1
Queensland	78,294	81,455	3,161	4.0
South Australia	32,876	34,476	1,600	4.9
Western Australia	35,251	36,660	1,409	4.0
Tasmania	11,597	11,888	291	2.5
Northern Territory	9,700	9,878	178	1.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,155	3,267	112	3.5
Australia	351,946	365,464	13,518	3.8
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	149,085	153,805	4,720	3.2
Victoria	119,177	123,199	4,022	3.4
Queensland	123,427	128,279	4,852	3.9
South Australia	48,046	50,098	2,052	4.3
Western Australia	57,117	59,421	2,304	4.0
Tasmania	16,057	16,315	258	1.6
Northern Territory	13,680	13,854	174	1.3
Australian Capital Territory	4,852	5,010	158	3.3
Australia	531,441	549,981	18,540	3.5

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	2,681	2.3	787	0.4	3,468	1.1
18 - 20 years	12,411	10.5	17,021	8.6	29,432	9.3
21 - 24 years	16,618	14.1	29,301	14.8	45,919	14.5
25 - 29 years	17,224	14.6	28,522	14.4	45,746	14.5
30 - 39 years	27,066	23.0	45,093	22.8	72,159	22.9
40 - 49 years	21,364	18.1	38,501	19.5	59,865	19.0
50 - 59 years	14,792	12.5	27,729	14.0	42,521	13.5
60 years and over	5,712	4.8	10,903	5.5	16,615	5.3
Total	117,868	100.0	197,857	100.0	315,725	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	2,823	4.2	1,022	0.6	3,845	1.6
18 - 20 years	9,886	14.8	16,757	10.0	26,643	11.4
21 - 24 years	9,354	14.0	21,867	13.0	31,221	13.3
25 - 29 years	7,539	11.3	16,389	9.8	23,928	10.2
30 - 39 years	9,905	14.9	31,591	18.8	41,496	17.7
40 - 49 years	12,005	18.0	42,567	25.4	54,572	23.3
50 - 59 years	10,970	16.5	29,472	17.6	40,442	17.3
60 years and over	4,167	6.3	7,942	4.7	12,109	5.2
Total	66,649	100.0	167,607	100.0	234,256	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	5,504	3.0	1,809	0.5	7,313	1.3
18 - 20 years	22,297	12.1	33,778	9.2	56,075	10.2
21 - 24 years	25,972	14.1	51,168	14.0	77,140	14.0
25 - 29 years	24,763	13.4	44,911	12.3	69,674	12.7
30 - 39 years	36,971	20.0	76,684	21.0	113,655	20.7
40 - 49 years	33,369	18.1	81,068	22.2	114,437	20.8
50 - 59 years	25,762	14.0	57,201	15.7	82,963	15.1
60 years and over	9,879	5.4	18,845	5.2	28,724	5.2
Total	184,517	100.0	365,464	100.0	549,981	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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	4,262	4,329	67	1.6
Bondi Junction	1,082	1,118	36	3.3
Burwood	1,831	1,878	47	2.6
Cabramatta	2,437	2,453	16	0.7
Camden	863	898	35	4.1
Campbelltown	2,629	2,677	48	1.8
Campsie	3,022	3,050	28	0.9
Caringbah	876	895	19	2.2
Chatswood	1,190	1,243	53	4.5
Darlinghurst	1,827	1,859	32	1.8
Fairfield	3,399	3,470	71	2.1
Hornsby	1,264	1,309	45	3.6
Hurstville	1,683	1,770	87	5.2
Ingleburn	1,449	1,483	34	2.3
Leichhardt	1,546	1,608	62	4.0
Liverpool	4,324	4,504	180	4.2
Maroubra	1,682	1,702	20	1.2
Marrickville	1,218	1,258	40	3.3
Northern Beaches	1,484	1,533	49	3.3
Redfern	1,875	1,977	102	5.4
Rockdale	1,782	1,837	55	3.1
Ryde	1,316	1,369	53	4.0
Sutherland	855	918	63	7.4
Other (a)	21	24	%	%
Total	43,917	45,162	1,245	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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,157	1,200	43	3.7
Brunswick Heads	1,129	1,145	16	1.4
Byron Bay	352	359	7	2.0
Casino	978	1,027	49	5.0
Cessnock	1,163	1,207	44	3.8
Charlestown	2,437	2,467	30	1.2
Coffs Harbour	2,478	2,591	113	4.6
Comm Support Team	58	62	%	%
Ettalong	854	896	42	4.9
Forster	1,041	1,036	-5	-0.5
Gosford	1,946	2,017	71	3.6
Grafton	1,123	1,195	72	6.4
Kempsey	1,054	1,105	51	4.8
King Street	1,540	1,604	64	4.2
Kurri Kurri	664	703	39	5.9
Lakehaven	2,118	2,184	66	3.1
Lismore	2,221	2,317	96	4.3
Maitland	2,234	2,302	68	3.0
Mayfield	1,284	1,291	7	0.5
Murwillumbah	824	875	51	6.2
Muswellbrook	885	913	28	3.2
Nambucca Heads	737	770	33	4.5
Nelson Bay	651	651	0	0.0
Port Macquarie	2,070	2,142	72	3.5
Raymond Terrace	1,339	1,360	21	1.6
Singleton	494	519	25	5.1
Taree	2,086	2,151	65	3.1
The Entrance	1,571	1,580	9	0.6
Toronto	1,184	1,252	68	5.7
Tweed Heads	1,846	1,873	27	1.5
Wallsend	2,076	2,116	40	1.9
Woy Woy	643	670	27	4.2
Wyong	759	757	-2	-0.3
Yamba	452	487	35	7.7
Other (a)	27	19	%	%
Total	43,475	44,843	1,368	3.1

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,209	1,260	51	4.2
Auburn	2,497	2,531	34	1.4
Bathurst	1,047	1,116	69	6.6
Baulkham Hills	1,019	1,071	52	5.1
Blacktown	3,958	4,087	129	3.3
Bourke	525	561	36	6.9
Dubbo	2,860	2,970	110	3.8
Glen Innes	430	459	29	6.7
Gunnedah	514	560	46	8.9
Hawkesbury	1,064	1,069	5	0.5
Inverell	830	899	69	8.3
Katoomba	825	888	63	7.6
Lightning Ridge	244	244	0	0.0
Lithgow	823	839	16	1.9
Merrylands	2,548	2,581	33	1.3
Moree	623	666	43	6.9
Mt Druitt	3,333	3,428	95	2.9
Mudgee	758	764	6	0.8
Narrabri	450	488	38	8.4
Orange	1,363	1,376	13	1.0
Parkes	1,069	1,122	53	5.0
Parramatta	2,598	2,621	23	0.9
Penrith	2,239	2,348	109	4.9
Springwood	406	446	40	9.9
St Marys	2,013	2,078	65	3.2
Tamworth	2,275	2,431	156	6.9
Walgett	362	356	-6	-1.7
Other (a)	4	4	%	%
Total	37,886	39,263	1,377	3.6

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	804	815	11	1.4
Bega	797	812	15	1.9
Belconnen	1,430	1,478	48	3.4
Bowral	465	495	30	6.5
Braddon	1,147	1,178	31	2.7
Cooma	380	389	9	2.4
Corrimal	1,230	1,268	38	3.1
Cowra	568	591	23	4.0
Dapto	1,428	1,504	76	5.3
Goulburn	902	912	10	1.1
Griffith	919	932	13	1.4
Gungahlin	598	621	23	3.8
Leeton	507	523	16	3.2
Narooma	289	286	-3	-1.0
Nowra	2,341	2,312	-29	-1.2
Queanbeyan	752	798	46	6.1
Shellharbour	1,786	1,860	74	4.1
Tuggeranong	1,012	1,040	28	2.8
Tumut	373	395	22	5.9
Ulladulla	535	538	3	0.6
Wagga	1,828	1,890	62	3.4
Woden	643	657	14	2.2
Wollongong	1,850	1,919	69	3.7
Yass	127	128	1	0.8
Young	701	721	20	2.9
Other (a)	13	15	%	%
Total	23,425	24,077	652	2.8

- 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,473	1,522	49	3.3
Albury	3,474	3,598	124	3.6
Box Hill	2,424	2,545	121	5.0
Broadmeadows	5,357	5,564	207	3.9
Darebin	3,516	3,660	144	4.1
Deniliquin	329	349	20	6.1
Echuca	759	822	63	8.3
Epping	3,667	3,762	95	2.6
Greensborough	1,973	2,042	69	3.5
Heidelberg	1,526	1,591	65	4.3
Moreland	3,260	3,351	91	2.8
Newmarket	2,075	2,162	87	4.2
Seymour	931	978	47	5.0
Shepparton	2,448	2,549	101	4.1
Sth Melbourne	1,315	1,350	35	2.7
Sunbury	1,166	1,197	31	2.7
Wangaratta	1,683	1,766	83	4.9
Windsor Vic	2,793	2,915	122	4.4
Yarra	2,808	2,925	117	4.2
Other (a)	66	68	%	%
Total	43,043	44,716	1,673	3.9

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,392	1,395	3	0.2
Belgrave	599	610	11	1.8
Boronia	1,471	1,525	54	3.7
Cheltenham	1,977	2,066	89	4.5
Cranbourne	2,376	2,478	102	4.3
Dandenong	3,207	3,320	113	3.5
Fountain Gate	2,695	2,786	91	3.4
Frankston	3,221	3,326	105	3.3
Glen Waverley	1,328	1,373	45	3.4
Hastings	780	814	34	4.4
Lilydale	1,623	1,686	63	3.9
Mornington	641	660	19	3.0
Morwell	3,611	3,725	114	3.2
Oakleigh	2,008	2,062	54	2.7
Pakenham	1,199	1,261	62	5.2
Ringwood	2,280	2,364	84	3.7
Rosebud	1,009	1,019	10	1.0
Rowville	699	739	40	5.7
Sale	1,143	1,183	40	3.5
Springvale	2,297	2,407	110	4.8
Warragul	875	901	26	3.0
Wonthaggi	1,077	1,070	-7	-0.6
Other (a)	5	5	%	%
Total	37,513	38,775	1,262	3.4

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	345	353	8	2.3
Ballarat	3,939	4,064	125	3.2
Bendigo	3,817	4,044	227	5.9
Colac	672	677	5	0.7
Corio	2,255	2,310	55	2.4
Footscray	1,948	1,987	39	2.0
Geelong	3,865	3,958	93	2.4
Hamilton	452	490	38	8.4
Horsham	856	889	33	3.9
Maryborough	788	812	24	3.0
Melton	2,398	2,440	42	1.8
Mildura	2,321	2,444	123	5.3
Newport	1,334	1,392	58	4.3
Portland	459	488	29	6.3
Stawell	212	223	11	5.2
Sunshine	4,112	4,107	-5	-0.1
Swan Hill	921	961	40	4.3
Warrnambool	1,059	1,092	33	3.1
Watergardens	4,251	4,267	16	0.4
Werribee	5,212	5,410	198	3.8
Other (a)	30	35	%	%
Total	41,246	42,443	1,197	2.9

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	978	999	21	2.1
Ayr	527	576	49	9.3
Biloela	297	320	23	7.7
Bowen	577	646	69	12.0
Cairns Aplin	5,821	6,004	183	3.1
Charters Towers	532	543	11	2.1
Emerald	661	662	1	0.2
Gladstone	1,791	1,924	133	7.4
Indigenous Service Centre	1,896	1,955	59	3.1
Ingham	430	456	26	6.0
Innisfail	1,066	1,111	45	4.2
Longreach	209	214	5	2.4
Mackay	3,409	3,659	250	7.3
Mareeba	983	984	1	0.1
Mossman	648	666	18	2.8
Mt Isa	1,043	1,028	-15	-1.4
Normanton	200	209	9	4.5
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	236	228	-8	-3.4
Palm Island	433	424	-9	-2.1
Rockhampton	3,217	3,357	140	4.4
Thursday Is	250	248	-2	-0.8
Townsville Walker	<20	26	na	na
TSV Ross River Rd	6,392	6,511	119	1.9
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	594	565	-29	-4.9
Whitsunday	746	771	25	3.4
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	543	544	1	0.2
Yeppoon	778	818	40	5.1
Other (a)	na	139	na	na
Total	34,404	35,587	1,183	3.4

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	4,118	4,323	205	5.0
Caboolture	4,530	4,753	223	4.9
Caloundra	1,906	1,980	74	3.9
Cherbourg	362	363	1	0.3
Chermside	1,597	1,654	57	3.6
Deception Bay	2,097	2,066	-31	-1.5
Fortitude Valley	1,851	1,967	116	6.3
Gympie	1,928	2,010	82	4.3
Hervey Bay	2,295	2,408	113	4.9
Kawana Waters	880	906	26	3.0
Kingaroy	983	1,035	52	5.3
Margate	1,084	1,171	87	8.0
Maroochydore	2,050	2,142	92	4.5
Maryborough	1,774	1,884	110	6.2
Mitchelton	1,906	1,987	81	4.2
Mt Gravatt	3,076	3,194	118	3.8
Nambour	1,404	1,494	90	6.4
Noosa	1,181	1,213	32	2.7
Nundah	1,889	2,009	120	6.4
South Brisbane	1,433	1,532	99	6.9
Stones Corner	2,351	2,445	94	4.0
Strathpine	2,565	2,681	116	4.5
Toowong	1,513	1,587	74	4.9
Other (a)	21	23	%	%
Total	44,794	46,827	2,033	4.5

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	858	930	72	8.4
Beenleigh	3,375	3,526	151	4.5
Biggera Waters	3,984	4,120	136	3.4
Browns Plains	2,683	2,754	71	2.6
Capalaba	1,072	1,118	46	4.3
Charleville	314	334	20	6.4
Cleveland	1,346	1,420	74	5.5
Dalby	914	949	35	3.8
Goodna	2,415	2,498	83	3.4
Goondiwindi	448	465	17	3.8
Inala	2,942	3,013	71	2.4
Ipswich	4,735	4,897	162	3.4
Nerang	4,083	4,306	223	5.5
Palm Beach	4,268	4,493	225	5.3
Roma	232	257	25	10.8
South Queensland	27	25	%	%
Southport	572	592	20	3.5
Stanthorpe	520	533	13	2.5
Toowoomba	3,747	3,904	157	4.2
Warwick	617	678	61	9.9
Woodridge	3,304	3,354	50	1.5
Wynnum	1,290	1,348	58	4.5
Other (a)	29	26	%	%
Total	43,775	45,540	1,765	4.0

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,262	1,314	52	4.1
Broken Hill	1,093	1,129	36	3.3
Ceduna	387	413	26	6.7
Cooper Pedy	208	215	7	3.4
Elizabeth	4,878	5,047	169	3.5
Enfield	2,314	2,393	79	3.4
Gawler	1,864	1,959	95	5.1
Glenelg	1,168	1,264	96	8.2
Kadina	940	989	49	5.2
Kilkenny	2,176	2,228	52	2.4
Marion	3,579	3,798	219	6.1
Modbury	2,843	2,996	153	5.4
Mt Barker	1,030	1,106	76	7.4
Mt Gambier	1,610	1,642	32	2.0
Murray Bridge	1,342	1,359	17	1.3
Noarlunga	4,534	4,688	154	3.4
Norwood	2,410	2,559	149	6.2
Port Adelaide	2,274	2,396	122	5.4
Port Augusta	1,124	1,171	47	4.2
Port Lincoln	773	813	40	5.2
Port Pirie	1,284	1,356	72	5.6
Salisbury	4,854	5,026	172	3.5
Torrens ville	2,416	2,536	120	5.0
Victor Harbor	966	989	23	2.4
Whyalla	1,226	1,289	63	5.1
Other (a)	29	33	%	%
Total	48,584	50,708	2,124	4.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Western Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	December 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,556	1,589	33	2.1
Armadale	2,623	2,746	123	4.7
Bunbury	3,080	3,225	145	4.7
Busselton	1,448	1,533	85	5.9
Cannington	3,056	3,163	107	3.5
Carnarvon	524	565	41	7.8
Esperance	406	409	3	0.7
Fremantle	2,304	2,410	106	4.6
Geraldton	2,267	2,374	107	4.7
Gosnells	2,467	2,557	90	3.6
Innaloo	1,917	2,000	83	4.3
Joondalup	3,317	3,490	173	5.2
Kalgoorlie	1,191	1,226	35	2.9
Karratha	572	539	-33	-5.8
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	282	264	-18	-6.4
Mandurah	2,968	3,113	145	4.9
Meekatharra	369	359	-10	-2.7
Midland	3,213	3,424	211	6.6
Mirrabooka	3,444	3,565	121	3.5
Morley	3,178	3,355	177	5.6
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	275	282	7	2.5
Northam	1,630	1,684	54	3.3
Rockingham	3,762	3,942	180	4.8
South Hedland	694	669	-25	-3.6
Success	1,789	1,906	117	6.5
Victoria Park	3,423	3,606	183	5.3
Warwick Grove	1,597	1,645	48	3.0
Western Australia	23	<20	na	na
Other (a)	50	na	na	na
Total	53,425	55,710	2,285	4.3

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,250	1,256	6	0.5
Burnie	1,838	1,861	23	1.3
Devonport	1,869	1,859	-10	-0.5
Glenorchy	1,874	1,946	72	3.8
Hobart	1,857	1,925	68	3.7
Huonville	460	502	42	9.1
Launceston	4,948	4,991	43	0.9
Rosny Park	1,823	1,830	7	0.4
Other (a)	21	23	%	%
Total	15,940	16,193	253	1.6
North Australia				
Alice Springs	1,052	1,100	48	4.6
Angurugu RSC	213	219	6	2.8
Borroloola	250	236	-14	-5.6
Broome	921	935	14	1.5
Casuarina	1,211	1,271	60	5.0
Central Australia	3,034	3,064	30	1.0
Darwin	516	502	-14	-2.7
Derby	540	586	46	8.5
Fitzroy Crossing	370	375	5	1.4
Galiwinku RSC	339	321	-18	-5.3
Halls Creek	417	429	12	2.9
Hermannsburg RSC	72	79	%	%
Katherine	481	489	8	1.7
Kimberley Katherine	1,817	1,821	4	0.2
Kununurra	531	491	-40	-7.5
Maningrida	783	759	-24	-3.1
Nhulunbuy	209	196	-13	-6.2
Northern Region	1,932	1,869	-63	-3.3
Palmerston	1,412	1,508	96	6.8
Papunya RSC	31	31	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	62	63	%	%
Tennant Creek	372	393	21	5.6
Tiwi Islands	333	342	9	2.7
Wadeye	440	441	1	0.2
Yuendumu RSC	109	113	4	3.7
Other (a)	15	21	%	%
Total	17,462	17,654	192	1.1

– 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 2015	January 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	660	625	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,973	1,860	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-81	-2	%	%
Australia	531,441	549,981	18,540	3.5

(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 22 January 2016**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	88.2	85.6	86.6
Earned an income	11.8	14.4	13.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.2	1.6	1.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.7	2.1	1.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.2	1.6	1.4
Over \$316.00	7.2	8.4	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	117,175	195,580	312,755
Females			
Did not earn an income	80.3	77.7	78.4
Earned an income	19.7	22.3	21.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	0.7	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.9	2.1	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.5	2.8	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.1	2.2	2.2
Over \$316.00	12.4	14.5	13.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	66,503	166,660	233,163
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.3	82.0	83.1
Earned an income	14.7	18.0	16.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	1.8	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.4	2.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.9	1.8
Over \$316.00	9.1	11.2	10.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	183,678	362,240	545,918

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

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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, e.g. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. The Youth Allowance replaced:

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

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;
- the eligibility for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) from July 2012;
- the cessation of grandfathered Parenting Payment provisions, which saw an increase in the number of Newstart recipients in January 2013; and
- the introduction of *jobactive*, an employment services model with a stronger focus on job search, which replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

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

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

Duration

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

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

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

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

For More Information

Other recipient information

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

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

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