

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

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

December 2017

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Contents

Introduction	2
Statistical Highlights	3
Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series.....	4
Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population.....	5
Table 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population.....	6
Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) Time Series	7
Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State	8
Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Gender	9
Table 7a-i –Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3).....	10
Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender ...	19
Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender	20
Explanatory Notes	21
Glossary	27
Appendix	30
Comparisons Between DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Numbers And ABS Labour Force Unemployment Statistics	30
Other recipient information	33

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 at media@dss.gov.au. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

Statistical Highlights – December 2017

Between December 2016 and December 2017

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 1.6 per cent** overall from 878 073 to 864 113.

- NSA recipients decreased 1.0 per cent from 775 022 to 766 998.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 5.8 per cent from 103 051 to 97 115.

The number of job seekers **decreased 2.7 per cent** overall from 513 015 to 499 389.

- NSA job seekers decreased 1.8 per cent from 437 897 to 429 797.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 7.4 per cent from 75 118 to 69 592.

Long-term job seekers increased 0.6 per cent from 343 710 to 345 642.

Short-term job seekers decreased 9.2 per cent from 169 305 to 153 747.

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

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

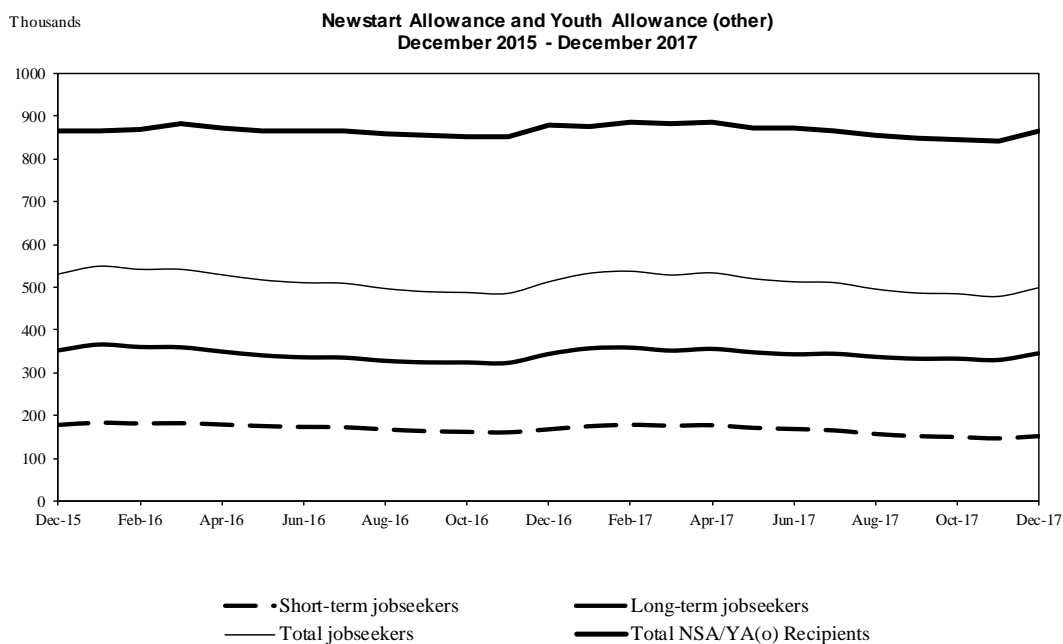


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363
April 2016	559,242	773,675	98,326	208,242	3,835	4,208	19,047
May 2016	555,867	768,503	98,016	230,821	4,194	4,104	18,739
June 2016	555,870	767,908	97,846	229,689	4,271	4,004	18,472
July 2016	555,399	765,756	98,389	210,161	4,152	3,863	18,067
August 2016	553,958	762,134	95,061	223,367	4,050	3,732	17,724
September 2016	554,177	760,972	93,693	222,127	4,014	3,590	17,437
October 2016	552,913	758,328	92,059	220,497	3,889	3,470	17,193
November 2016	555,286	760,719	92,182	196,018	3,658	3,386	16,994
December 2016	567,163	775,022	103,051	159,729	3,467	3,280	16,732
January 2017	564,484	774,122	99,888	157,268	3,273	3,193	16,524
February 2017	568,286	781,330	103,380	168,589	3,289	3,084	16,292
March 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
Variation November 2017 - December 2017							
Number	11,617	13,490	9,143	-35,020	-235	-11	81
Per cent	2.0	1.8	10.4	-18.8	-8.2	-0.4	0.6

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

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

	December 2017 Persons	December 2017 Males	December 2017 Females	November 2017	Variation November - December Number	Variation November - December per cent
Newstart Allowance						
Short Term Newstart Allowees	186,572	112,959	73,613	184,699	1,873	1.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	10,843	5,971	4,872	10,567	276	2.6
Received a payment	175,729	106,988	68,741	174,132	1,597	0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,618	1,728	4,890	6,614	4	0.1
Other activities without job search (c)	8,199	4,407	3,792	9,335	-1,136	-12.2
Incapacitated (d)	24,458	14,205	10,253	23,682	776	3.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,743	6,570	5,173	11,733	10	0.1
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	124,711	80,078	44,633	122,768	1,943	1.6
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	26,566	15,261	11,305	28,431	-1,865	-6.6
Long Term Newstart Allowees	580,426	274,374	306,052	568,809	11,617	2.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	23,580	10,135	13,445	23,357	223	1.0
Received a payment	556,846	264,239	292,607	545,452	11,394	2.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	67,449	16,526	50,923	66,980	469	0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	64,672	31,569	33,103	65,380	-708	-1.1
Incapacitated (d)	65,508	32,029	33,479	63,989	1,519	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	54,131	24,631	29,500	53,700	431	0.8
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	305,086	159,484	145,602	295,403	9,683	3.3
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	213,994	106,337	107,657	213,446	548	0.3
All Newstart Allowees	766,998	387,333	379,665	753,508	13,490	1.8
Did not receive a payment (a)	34,423	16,106	18,317	33,924	499	1.5
Received a payment	732,575	371,227	361,348	719,584	12,991	1.8
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	74,067	18,254	55,813	73,594	473	0.6
Other activities without job search (c)	72,871	35,976	36,895	74,715	-1,844	-2.5
Incapacitated (d)	89,966	46,234	43,732	87,671	2,295	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	65,874	31,201	34,673	65,433	441	0.7
All NSA job seekers (f)	429,797	239,562	190,235	418,171	11,626	2.8
All NSA training/education (g)	240,560	121,598	118,962	241,877	-1,317	-0.5

- (a) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.
- (b) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.
- (c) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.
- (d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.
- (e) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.
- (f) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.
- (g) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	December 2017 Persons	December 2017 Males	December 2017 Females	November 2017	Variation November - December Number	Variation November - December per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	41,863	22,221	19,642	38,564	3,299	8.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,176	538	638	1,173	3	0.3
Received a payment	40,687	21,683	19,004	37,391	3,296	8.8
Other activities without job search (b)	8,406	4,744	3,662	8,369	37	0.4
Incapacitated (c)	1,785	852	933	1,739	46	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,460	718	742	1,451	9	0.6
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	29,036	15,369	13,667	25,832	3,204	12.4
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	13,172	7,119	6,053	13,357	-185	-1.4
Long Term Youth Allowees	55,252	26,970	28,282	49,408	5,844	11.8
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,665	684	981	1,615	50	3.1
Received a payment	53,587	26,286	27,301	47,793	5,794	12.1
Other activities without job search (b)	7,849	4,015	3,834	7,950	-101	-1.3
Incapacitated (c)	2,821	1,231	1,590	2,711	110	4.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,361	1,028	1,333	2,318	43	1.9
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	40,556	20,012	20,544	34,814	5,742	16.5
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	23,816	11,723	12,093	23,141	675	2.9
All Youth Allowees	97,115	49,191	47,924	87,972	9,143	10.4
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,841	1,222	1,619	2,788	53	1.9
Received a payment	94,274	47,969	46,305	85,184	9,090	10.7
Other activities without job search (b)	16,255	8,759	7,496	16,319	-64	-0.4
Incapacitated (c)	4,606	2,083	2,523	4,450	156	3.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,821	1,746	2,075	3,769	52	1.4
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	69,592	35,381	34,211	60,646	8,946	14.8
All YA (other) training/education (f)	36,988	18,842	18,146	36,498	490	1.3

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

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

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
April 2016	180,450	349,643	530,093
May 2016	176,929	340,813	517,742
June 2016	174,937	336,308	511,245
July 2016	174,234	335,579	509,813
August 2016	169,184	328,317	497,501
September 2016	165,330	324,731	490,061
October 2016	163,550	324,613	488,163
November 2016	162,460	323,423	485,883
December 2016	169,305	343,710	513,015
January 2017	176,480	356,794	533,274
February 2017	179,788	358,438	538,226
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
Variation November 2017 - December 2017			
Number	5,147	15,425	20,572
Per cent	3.5	4.7	4.3

Notes:

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

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

State	November 2017	December 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	36,656	38,478	1,822	5.0
Victoria	32,579	33,609	1,030	3.2
Queensland	36,867	37,926	1,059	2.9
South Australia	11,208	11,655	447	4.0
Western Australia	22,109	22,449	340	1.5
Tasmania	3,962	4,121	159	4.0
Northern Territory	3,828	4,014	186	4.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,391	1,495	104	7.5
Australia	148,600	153,747	5,147	3.5
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	85,930	89,611	3,681	4.3
Victoria	69,023	72,340	3,317	4.8
Queensland	77,015	80,548	3,533	4.6
South Australia	28,770	30,058	1,288	4.5
Western Australia	45,710	48,001	2,291	5.0
Tasmania	11,368	11,837	469	4.1
Northern Territory	9,870	10,511	641	6.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,531	2,736	205	8.1
Australia	330,217	345,642	15,425	4.7
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	122,586	128,089	5,503	4.5
Victoria	101,602	105,949	4,347	4.3
Queensland	113,882	118,474	4,592	4.0
South Australia	39,978	41,713	1,735	4.3
Western Australia	67,819	70,450	2,631	3.9
Tasmania	15,330	15,958	628	4.1
Northern Territory	13,698	14,525	827	6.0
Australian Capital Territory	3,922	4,231	309	7.9
Australia	478,817	499,389	20,572	4.3

Notes:

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

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

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	1,810	1.9	607	0.3	2,417	0.9
18 - 20 years	11,117	11.6	12,867	7.2	23,984	8.7
21 - 24 years	13,654	14.3	24,880	13.9	38,534	14.0
25 - 29 years	14,438	15.1	24,487	13.6	38,925	14.2
30 - 39 years	21,563	22.6	40,213	22.4	61,776	22.5
40 - 49 years	16,359	17.1	36,034	20.1	52,393	19.1
50 - 59 years	11,296	11.8	26,858	15.0	38,154	13.9
60 years and over	5,210	5.5	13,549	7.5	18,759	6.8
Total	95,447	100.0	179,495	100.0	274,942	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,971	3.4	765	0.5	2,736	1.2
18 - 20 years	10,088	17.3	13,851	8.3	23,939	10.7
21 - 24 years	8,177	14.0	19,479	11.7	27,656	12.3
25 - 29 years	6,354	10.9	15,375	9.3	21,729	9.7
30 - 39 years	8,356	14.3	31,743	19.1	40,099	17.9
40 - 49 years	9,755	16.7	42,849	25.8	52,604	23.4
50 - 59 years	9,309	16.0	30,353	18.3	39,662	17.7
60 years and over	4,290	7.4	11,732	7.1	16,022	7.1
Total	58,300	100.0	166,147	100.0	224,447	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,781	2.5	1,372	0.4	5,153	1.0
18 - 20 years	21,205	13.8	26,718	7.7	47,923	9.6
21 - 24 years	21,831	14.2	44,359	12.8	66,190	13.3
25 - 29 years	20,792	13.5	39,862	11.5	60,654	12.1
30 - 39 years	29,919	19.5	71,956	20.8	101,875	20.4
40 - 49 years	26,114	17.0	78,883	22.8	104,997	21.0
50 - 59 years	20,605	13.4	57,211	16.6	77,816	15.6
60 years and over	9,500	6.2	25,281	7.3	34,781	7.0
Total	153,747	100.0	345,642	100.0	499,389	100.0

Notes:

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

Table 7a – Australian Capital Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3)

State by SA3	November 2017	December 2017	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,125	1,214	7.9%
Cotter - Namadgi	52	56	7.7%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	65	80	23.1%
Gungahlin	554	591	6.7%
North Canberra	625	665	6.4%
South Canberra	212	229	8.0%
Tuggeranong	782	846	8.2%
Weston Creek	196	221	12.8%
Woden	297	315	6.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7b – New South Wales Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Nov 2017	Dec 17	Var. %	State by SA3	Nov 2017	Dec 17	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,677	1,721	2.6%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,260	1,288	2.2%
Armidale	1,123	1,153	2.7%	Liverpool	2,021	2,168	7.3%
Auburn	1,300	1,316	1.2%	Lord Howe Island	<5	<5	n/a
Bankstown	2,923	3,049	4.3%	Lower Hunter	2,335	2,519	7.9%
Bathurst	905	947	4.6%	Lower Murray	368	395	7.3%
Baulkham Hills	544	575	5.7%	Maitland	1,663	1,744	4.9%
Blacktown	2,214	2,350	6.1%	Manly	162	170	4.9%
Blacktown - North	724	764	5.5%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	856	885	3.4%
Blue Mountains	898	927	3.2%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,065	3,226	5.3%
Blue Mountains - South	<5	<5	n/a	Moree - Narrabri	1,029	1,104	7.3%
Botany	566	586	3.5%	Mount Druitt	2,785	2,991	7.4%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,458	1,492	2.3%	Newcastle	3,892	4,104	5.4%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,621	1,725	6.4%	North Sydney - Mosman	340	324	-4.7%
Broken Hill and Far West	884	942	6.6%	Orange	1,195	1,243	4.0%
Camden	459	491	7.0%	Parramatta	1,596	1,676	5.0%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,130	3,242	3.6%	Pennant Hills - Epping	203	224	10.3%
Canada Bay	405	413	2.0%	Penrith	1,915	2,076	8.4%
Canterbury	2,305	2,311	0.3%	Pittwater	210	224	6.7%
Carlingford	716	761	6.3%	Port Macquarie	1,724	1,823	5.7%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	417	459	10.1%	Port Stephens	1,694	1,734	2.4%
Clarence Valley	1,381	1,433	3.8%	Queanbeyan	557	605	8.6%
Coffs Harbour	2,137	2,221	3.9%	Richmond - Windsor	551	588	6.7%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	597	637	6.7%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,287	2,381	4.1%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,667	1,773	6.4%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,775	2,851	2.7%
Dubbo	2,237	2,397	7.2%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	155	144	-7.1%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	113	106	-6.2%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	840	862	2.6%
Eastern Suburbs - North	616	638	3.6%	Shoalhaven	2,318	2,345	1.2%
Eastern Suburbs - South	1,049	1,101	5.0%	Snowy Mountains	400	409	2.3%
Fairfield	5,182	5,469	5.5%	South Coast	1,668	1,727	3.5%
Gosford	2,713	2,835	4.5%	Southern Highlands	330	331	0.3%
Goulburn - Yass	1,298	1,346	3.7%	St Marys	1,183	1,246	5.3%
Great Lakes	828	881	6.4%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,454	1,496	2.9%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	968	995	2.8%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	539	566	5.0%
Hawkesbury	171	166	-2.9%	Sydney Inner City	2,637	2,778	5.3%
Hornsby	458	483	5.5%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,559	2,641	3.2%
Hurstville	1,281	1,321	3.1%	Taree - Gloucester	1,815	1,915	5.5%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Tumut - Tumbarumba	298	313	5.0%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,519	1,574	3.6%	Tweed Valley	2,385	2,464	3.3%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,634	1,702	4.2%	Upper Hunter	785	805	2.5%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,378	1,435	4.1%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	897	924	3.0%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,237	1,266	2.3%	Wagga Wagga	1,899	1,958	3.1%
Ku-ring-gai	281	285	1.4%	Warringah	686	710	3.5%
Lachlan Valley	1,646	1,703	3.5%	Wollondilly	376	396	5.3%
Lake Macquarie - East	1,994	2,099	5.3%	Wollongong	2,042	2,179	6.7%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,555	1,610	3.5%	Wyong	3,649	3,817	4.6%
Leichhardt	474	486	2.5%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7c – Northern Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	November 2017	December 2017	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,480	3,637	4.5%
Barkly	869	925	6.4%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,689	2,862	6.4%
Darwin City	498	531	6.6%
Darwin Suburbs	1,139	1,223	7.4%
East Arnhem	1,662	1,792	7.8%
Katherine	2,077	2,206	6.2%
Litchfield	414	408	-1.4%
Palmerston	741	797	7.6%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7d – Queensland Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Nov 2017	Dec 17	Var. %	State by SA3	Nov 2017	Dec 17	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	445	456	2.5%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,742	1,761	1.1%
Beaudesert	429	434	1.2%	Ipswich Inner	3,214	3,378	5.1%
Beenleigh	1,357	1,434	5.7%	Jimboomba	801	858	7.1%
Bowen Basin - North	680	672	-1.2%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	271	301	11.1%
Bribie - Beachmere	772	795	3.0%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,311	1,351	3.1%
Brisbane Inner	1,618	1,733	7.1%	Mackay	3,093	3,161	2.2%
Brisbane Inner - East	563	577	2.5%	Maroochy	1,280	1,324	3.4%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,151	1,239	7.6%	Maryborough	1,807	1,864	3.2%
Brisbane Inner - West	617	656	6.3%	Mt Gravatt	1,064	1,118	5.1%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	1,104	1,130	2.4%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	483	498	3.1%
Browns Plains	2,275	2,338	2.8%	Nambour - Pomona	1,391	1,459	4.9%
Buderim	854	930	8.9%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,452	1,571	8.2%
Bundaberg	3,329	3,458	3.9%	Nathan	770	790	2.6%
Burnett	1,805	1,862	3.2%	Nerang	1,403	1,470	4.8%
Caboolture	2,398	2,518	5.0%	Noosa	619	622	0.5%
Caboolture Hinterland	268	271	1.1%	North Lakes	1,271	1,343	5.7%
Cairns - North	942	980	4.0%	Nundah	642	682	6.2%
Cairns - South	4,487	4,616	2.9%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,110	2,272	7.7%
Caloundra	1,481	1,553	4.9%	Outback - North	1,476	1,546	4.7%
Capalaba	1,071	1,127	5.2%	Outback - South	535	549	2.6%
Carindale	571	589	3.2%	Port Douglas - Daintree	404	431	6.7%
Centenary	271	298	10.0%	Redcliffe	1,573	1,620	3.0%
Central Highlands (Qld)	816	833	2.1%	Robina	778	818	5.1%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,489	1,574	5.7%	Rockhampton	4,057	4,170	2.8%
Chermside	1,178	1,220	3.6%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,088	1,153	6.0%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,280	1,350	5.5%	Sandgate	1,068	1,093	2.3%
Coolangatta	1,071	1,080	0.8%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	534	583	9.2%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,083	1,083	0.0%	Southport	1,694	1,785	5.4%
Darling Downs - East	901	915	1.6%	Springfield - Redbank	1,990	2,086	4.8%
Far North	2,767	2,828	2.2%	Springwood - Kingston	3,114	3,270	5.0%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,148	2,227	3.7%	Strathpine	851	920	8.1%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,724	2,821	3.6%	Sunnybank	910	945	3.8%
Gold Coast - North	1,661	1,701	2.4%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,087	1,144	5.2%
Gold Coast Hinterland	305	320	4.9%	Surfers Paradise	889	904	1.7%
Granite Belt	898	926	3.1%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,553	1,595	2.7%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,645	1,709	3.9%	The Gap - Enoggera	661	661	0.0%
Hervey Bay	2,015	2,112	4.8%	Toowoomba	3,113	3,193	2.6%
Hills District	671	698	4.0%	Townsville	5,731	6,018	5.0%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,374	1,485	8.1%	Whitsunday	433	425	-1.8%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,542	1,626	5.4%	Wynnum - Manly	1,108	1,114	0.5%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7e - South Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	November 2017	December 2017	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	493	511	3.7%
Adelaide Hills	743	792	6.6%
Barossa	593	590	-0.5%
Burnside	310	319	2.9%
Campbelltown (SA)	657	693	5.5%
Charles Sturt	2,224	2,352	5.8%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,224	2,335	5.0%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,101	1,106	0.5%
Gawler - Two Wells	747	794	6.3%
Holdfast Bay	397	407	2.5%
Limestone Coast	1,483	1,537	3.6%
Lower North	586	596	1.7%
Marion	1,593	1,677	5.3%
Mid North	1,101	1,153	4.7%
Mitcham	639	664	3.9%
Murray and Mallee	2,302	2,390	3.8%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	499	508	1.8%
Onkaparinga	4,252	4,399	3.5%
Outback - North and East	1,670	1,729	3.5%
Playford	4,286	4,557	6.3%
Port Adelaide - East	1,755	1,830	4.3%
Port Adelaide - West	1,775	1,881	6.0%
Prospect - Walkerville	378	374	-1.1%
Salisbury	4,439	4,635	4.4%
Tea Tree Gully	1,376	1,451	5.5%
Unley	360	383	6.4%
West Torrens	1,078	1,121	4.0%
Yorke Peninsula	794	810	2.0%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7f - Tasmania Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	November 2017	December 2017	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	726	752	3.6%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,420	1,493	5.1%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	385	373	-3.1%
Devonport	1,288	1,338	3.9%
Hobart - North East	1,138	1,215	6.8%
Hobart - North West	2,202	2,283	3.7%
Hobart - South and West	523	541	3.4%
Hobart Inner	1,063	1,147	7.9%
Huon - Bruny Island	523	542	3.6%
Launceston	2,971	3,084	3.8%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	552	555	0.5%
North East	1,299	1,345	3.5%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	411	428	4.1%
South East Coast	200	205	2.5%
West Coast	544	574	5.5%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7g – Victoria Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Nov 2017	Dec 17	Var. %	State by SA3	Nov 2017	Dec 17	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	2,958	3,058	3.4%	Manningham - East	129	138	7.0%
Banyule	1,375	1,455	5.8%	Manningham - West	683	700	2.5%
Barwon - West	207	211	1.9%	Maribyrnong	2,125	2,247	5.7%
Baw Baw	931	978	5.0%	Maroondah	1,324	1,388	4.8%
Bayside	598	625	4.5%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	833	840	0.8%
Bendigo	2,550	2,703	6.0%	Melbourne City	1,810	1,854	2.4%
Boroondara	836	892	6.7%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,204	3,305	3.2%
Brimbank	5,824	6,051	3.9%	Mildura	1,836	1,891	3.0%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,577	1,717	8.9%	Moira	651	664	2.0%
Campaspe	824	845	2.5%	Monash	1,324	1,395	5.4%
Cardinia	1,246	1,302	4.5%	Moreland - North	1,388	1,401	0.9%
Casey - North	1,849	1,983	7.2%	Mornington Peninsula	1,930	1,987	3.0%
Casey - South	2,576	2,748	6.7%	Murray River - Swan Hill	869	904	4.0%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	588	605	2.9%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	440	470	6.8%
Dandenong	3,717	3,807	2.4%	Port Phillip	1,532	1,592	3.9%
Darebin - North	1,996	2,126	6.5%	Shepparton	1,629	1,777	9.1%
Darebin - South	812	868	6.9%	Stonnington - East	228	242	6.1%
Essendon	1,113	1,133	1.8%	Stonnington - West	670	691	3.1%
Frankston	2,598	2,735	5.3%	Sunbury	586	604	3.1%
Geelong	4,321	4,417	2.2%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	880	896	1.8%
Gippsland - East	1,576	1,620	2.8%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,732	4,943	4.5%
Gippsland - South West	1,238	1,280	3.4%	Upper Goulburn Valley	993	1,031	3.8%
Glen Eira	1,158	1,204	4.0%	Wangaratta - Benalla	908	944	4.0%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	785	831	5.9%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,559	1,629	4.5%
Grampians	1,226	1,252	2.1%	Wellington	1,142	1,173	2.7%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	926	965	4.2%	Whitehorse - East	479	494	3.1%
Hobsons Bay	1,336	1,377	3.1%	Whitehorse - West	825	851	3.2%
Keilor	674	685	1.6%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,631	3,853	6.1%
Kingston	1,353	1,375	1.6%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,490	1,541	3.4%
Knox	1,708	1,817	6.4%	Wyndham	4,099	4,326	5.5%
Latrobe Valley	3,003	3,116	3.8%	Yarra	1,561	1,682	7.8%
Loddon - Elmore	293	303	3.4%	Yarra Ranges	1,690	1,796	6.3%
Macedon Ranges	263	253	-3.8%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7h - Western Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	November 2017	December 2017	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,532	1,584	3.4%
Armadale	2,866	3,023	5.5%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,194	1,204	0.8%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,215	2,279	2.9%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,125	2,242	5.5%
Bunbury	3,257	3,427	5.2%
Canning	2,053	2,146	4.5%
Cockburn	2,470	2,507	1.5%
Cottesloe - Claremont	434	462	6.5%
Esperance	337	340	0.9%
Fremantle	981	1,050	7.0%
Gascoyne	493	505	2.4%
Goldfields	1,689	1,798	6.5%
Gosnells	3,814	3,968	4.0%
Joondalup	2,430	2,520	3.7%
Kalamunda	1,096	1,104	0.7%
Kimberley	3,011	3,239	7.6%
Kwinana	1,528	1,591	4.1%
Mandurah	3,422	3,563	4.1%
Manjimup	697	704	1.0%
Melville	1,268	1,291	1.8%
Mid West	2,728	2,834	3.9%
Mundaring	976	1,020	4.5%
Perth City	2,090	2,194	5.0%
Pilbara	1,602	1,607	0.3%
Rockingham	3,694	3,848	4.2%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	534	538	0.7%
South Perth	741	794	7.2%
Stirling	4,793	5,034	5.0%
Swan	3,856	3,938	2.1%
Wanneroo	5,270	5,472	3.8%
Wheat Belt - North	1,723	1,742	1.1%
Wheat Belt - South	558	577	3.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7i - Other Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	November 2017	December 2017	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	21	15	-28.6%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	6	5	-16.7%
Jervis Bay	20	19	-5.0%
Not recorded	1,987	1,972	-0.8%

Notes:

SA3 data is derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2011) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Note: Individuals who live overseas, individuals who are without a valid home address and individuals who only have a postal address cannot be assigned to a locational boundary. These numbers may be represented as 'Not Recorded'. State/territory totals derived from SA3 data will not match state and territory totals reported elsewhere in this publication, due to different statistical geography methodologies.

Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.

In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 5 for specific Statistical Areas are reported as "<5" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".

Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 22 December 2017

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	88.2	86.3	86.9
Earned an income	11.8	13.7	13.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	0.9	1.2	1.1
\$104 - <\$254	2.3	2.6	2.5
\$254+	8.7	9.9	9.5
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	83,778	166,190	249,968
Females			
Did not earn an income	80.5	78.8	79.2
Earned an income	19.5	21.2	20.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.5	1.3	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	3.3	3.2	3.2
\$254+	14.7	16.8	16.3
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	46,037	149,859	195,896
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.5	82.7	83.5
Earned an income	14.5	17.3	16.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.3	1.2
\$104 - <\$254	2.6	2.9	2.8
\$254+	10.8	13.2	12.5
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	129,815	316,049	445,864

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 population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance 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.

Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 22 December 2017

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term YA(o) job seekers %	Long-term YA(o) job seekers %	Total YA(o) job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	88.3	85.9	86.9
Earned an income	11.7	14.1	13.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.6	1.5	1.6
\$143 - <\$250	1.9	1.7	1.8
\$250+	8.2	10.8	9.7
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	16,212	21,126	37,338
Females			
Did not earn an income	81.9	79.6	80.5
Earned an income	18.1	20.4	19.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.4	2.2	2.3
\$143 - <\$250	3.3	2.8	3
\$250+	12.4	15.4	14.2
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	14,348	21,536	35,884
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.3	82.7	83.8
Earned an income	14.7	17.3	16.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2	1.8	1.9
\$143 - <\$250	2.6	2.3	2.4
\$250+	10.2	13.2	11.9
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	30,560	42,662	73,222

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 population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive 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 Statistical Areas Level 3 reported in Table 7 are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

From 1 July 1998, Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance. Young people aged 18 to 20 years old who were on Newstart or

Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance and when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998, were able to remain on Newstart Allowance.

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

- the method of counting recipients;
- the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient numbers;
- the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998;
- the way 'job seeker' is defined;
- the way duration is calculated;
- the eligibility for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) from July 2012;
- the cessation of grandfathered Parenting Payment provisions, which saw an increase in the number of Newstart recipients in January 2013; and
- the introduction of *jobactive*, an employment services model with a stronger focus on job search, which replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new recipients to those eligible for payments reported in this publication. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

A DHS Service Centre that provides DSS and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

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. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

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.

Statistical Areas Level 3

Statistical Areas Level 3 are derived using the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) of 2011, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). For further details, see the ABS website: [ABS Statistical Geography](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN) <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN>>

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.

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