

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>).

January 2018

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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 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 – January 2018

Between January 2017 and January 2018

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 1.9 per cent** overall from 874 010 to 857 635.

- NSA recipients decreased 1.3 per cent from 774 122 to 763 677.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 5.9 per cent from 99 888 to 93 958.

The number of job seekers **decreased 3.9 per cent** overall from 533 274 to 512 739.

- NSA job seekers decreased 3.2 per cent from 459 997 to 445 316.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 8.0 per cent from 73 277 to 67 423.

Long-term job seekers decreased 0.3 per cent from 356 794 to 355 615.

Short-term job seekers decreased 11.0 per cent from 176 480 to 157 124.

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

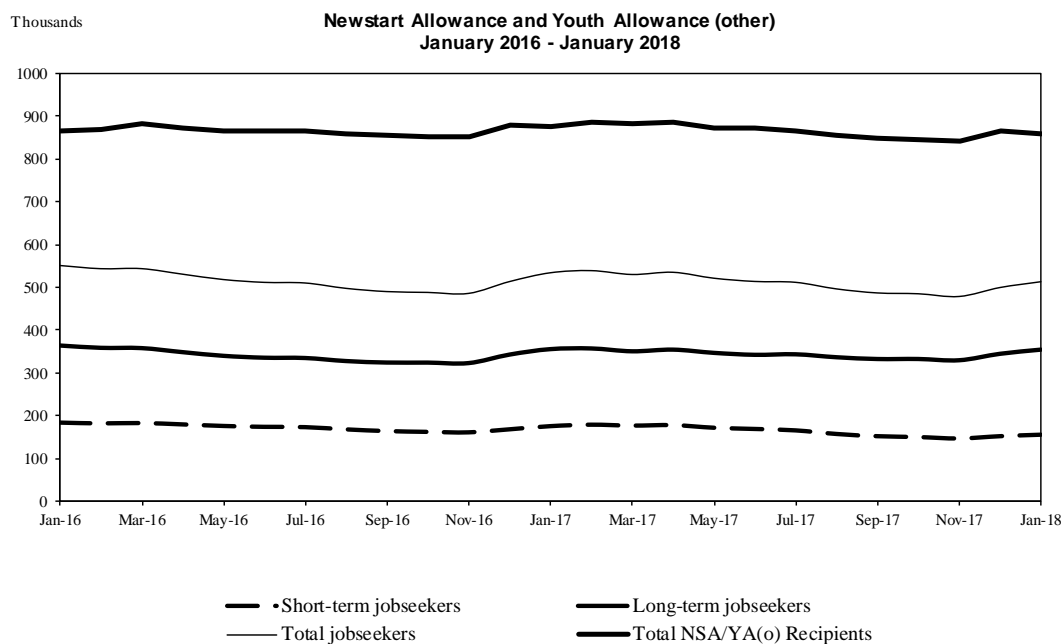


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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 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
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
Variation December 2017 - January 2018							
Number	-3,350	-3,321	-3,157	-3,105	-212	-23	-25
Per cent	-0.6	-0.4	-3.3	-2.1	-8.0	-0.9	-0.2

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

Newstart Allowance	January 2018 Persons	January 2018 Males	January 2018 Females	December 2017	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	186,601	112,559	74,042	186,572	29	0.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	7,801	4,042	3,759	10,843	-3,042	-28.1
Received a payment	178,800	108,517	70,283	175,729	3,071	1.7
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,536	1,716	4,820	6,618	-82	-1.2
Other activities without job search (c)	7,571	4,126	3,445	8,199	-628	-7.7
Incapacitated (d)	23,240	13,470	9,770	24,458	-1,218	-5.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,326	6,292	5,034	11,743	-417	-3.6
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	130,127	82,913	47,214	124,711	5,416	4.3
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	25,582	14,708	10,874	26,566	-984	-3.7
Long Term Newstart Allowees	577,076	271,673	305,403	580,426	-3,350	-0.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	16,717	6,656	10,061	23,580	-6,863	-29.1
Received a payment	560,359	265,017	295,342	556,846	3,513	0.6
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	67,116	16,471	50,645	67,449	-333	-0.5
Other activities without job search (c)	63,324	31,166	32,158	64,672	-1,348	-2.1
Incapacitated (d)	60,750	29,528	31,222	65,508	-4,758	-7.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	53,980	24,662	29,318	54,131	-151	-0.3
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	315,189	163,190	151,999	305,086	10,103	3.3
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	211,497	104,928	106,569	213,994	-2,497	-1.2
All Newstart Allowees	763,677	384,232	379,445	766,998	-3,321	-0.4
Did not receive a payment (a)	24,518	10,698	13,820	34,423	-9,905	-28.8
Received a payment	739,159	373,534	365,625	732,575	6,584	0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	73,652	18,187	55,465	74,067	-415	-0.6
Other activities without job search (c)	70,895	35,292	35,603	72,871	-1,976	-2.7
Incapacitated (d)	83,990	42,998	40,992	89,966	-5,976	-6.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	65,306	30,954	34,352	65,874	-568	-0.9
All NSA job seekers (f)	445,316	246,103	199,213	429,797	15,519	3.6
All NSA training/education (g)	237,079	119,636	117,443	240,560	-3,481	-1.4

- (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)	January 2018 Persons	January 2018 Males	January 2018 Females	December 2017	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	39,403	20,880	18,523	41,863	-2,460	-5.9
Did not receive a payment (a)	988	422	566	1,176	-188	-16.0
Received a payment	38,415	20,458	17,957	40,687	-2,272	-5.6
Other activities without job search (b)	8,460	4,741	3,719	8,406	54	0.6
Incapacitated (c)	1,573	768	805	1,785	-212	-11.9
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,385	668	717	1,460	-75	-5.1
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	26,997	14,281	12,716	29,036	-2,039	-7.0
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	12,076	6,508	5,568	13,172	-1,096	-8.3
Long Term Youth Allowees	54,555	26,535	28,020	55,252	-697	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,559	620	939	1,665	-106	-6.4
Received a payment	52,996	25,915	27,081	53,587	-591	-1.1
Other activities without job search (b)	7,738	4,010	3,728	7,849	-111	-1.4
Incapacitated (c)	2,564	1,126	1,438	2,821	-257	-9.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,268	972	1,296	2,361	-93	-3.9
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	40,426	19,807	20,619	40,556	-130	-0.3
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	23,901	11,781	12,120	23,816	85	0.4
All Youth Allowees	93,958	47,415	46,543	97,115	-3,157	-3.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,547	1,042	1,505	2,841	-294	-10.3
Received a payment	91,411	46,373	45,038	94,274	-2,863	-3.0
Other activities without job search (b)	16,198	8,751	7,447	16,255	-57	-0.4
Incapacitated (c)	4,137	1,894	2,243	4,606	-469	-10.2
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,653	1,640	2,013	3,821	-168	-4.4
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	67,423	34,088	33,335	69,592	-2,169	-3.1
All YA (other) training/education (f)	35,977	18,289	17,688	36,988	-1,011	-2.7

(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
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
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
Variation December 2017 - January 2018			
Number	3,377	9,973	13,350
Per cent	2.2	2.9	2.7

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 2017	January 2018	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	38,478	39,691	1,213	3.2
Victoria	33,609	34,369	760	2.3
Queensland	37,926	39,001	1,075	2.8
South Australia	11,655	11,918	263	2.3
Western Australia	22,449	22,541	92	0.4
Tasmania	4,121	4,079	-42	-1.0
Northern Territory	4,014	3,975	-39	-1.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,495	1,550	55	3.7
Australia	153,747	157,124	3,377	2.2
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	89,611	91,769	2,158	2.4
Victoria	72,340	74,770	2,430	3.4
Queensland	80,548	82,938	2,390	3.0
South Australia	30,058	31,020	962	3.2
Western Australia	48,001	49,519	1,518	3.2
Tasmania	11,837	12,207	370	3.1
Northern Territory	10,511	10,524	13	0.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,736	2,868	132	4.8
Australia	345,642	355,615	9,973	2.9
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	128,089	131,460	3,371	2.6
Victoria	105,949	109,139	3,190	3.0
Queensland	118,474	121,939	3,465	2.9
South Australia	41,713	42,938	1,225	2.9
Western Australia	70,450	72,060	1,610	2.3
Tasmania	15,958	16,286	328	2.1
Northern Territory	14,525	14,499	-26	-0.2
Australian Capital Territory	4,231	4,418	187	4.4
Australia	499,389	512,739	13,350	2.7

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	2,060	2.1	587	0.3	2,647	0.9
18 - 20 years	9,865	10.1	13,192	7.2	23,057	8.2
21 - 24 years	13,666	14.1	24,536	13.4	38,202	13.6
25 - 29 years	14,755	15.2	24,746	13.5	39,501	14.1
30 - 39 years	22,081	22.7	40,547	22.2	62,628	22.4
40 - 49 years	17,044	17.5	36,930	20.2	53,974	19.3
50 - 59 years	12,098	12.4	28,020	15.3	40,118	14.3
60 years and over	5,626	5.8	14,440	7.9	20,066	7.2
Total	97,195	100.0	182,998	100.0	280,193	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	2,193	3.7	752	0.4	2,945	1.3
18 - 20 years	8,969	15.0	14,280	8.3	23,249	10.0
21 - 24 years	8,280	13.8	19,805	11.5	28,085	12.1
25 - 29 years	6,643	11.1	15,743	9.1	22,386	9.6
30 - 39 years	8,798	14.7	32,606	18.9	41,404	17.8
40 - 49 years	10,332	17.2	44,748	25.9	55,080	23.7
50 - 59 years	10,043	16.8	31,961	18.5	42,004	18.1
60 years and over	4,671	7.8	12,722	7.4	17,393	7.5
Total	59,929	100.0	172,617	100.0	232,546	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	4,253	2.7	1,339	0.4	5,592	1.1
18 - 20 years	18,834	12.0	27,472	7.7	46,306	9.0
21 - 24 years	21,946	14.0	44,341	12.5	66,287	12.9
25 - 29 years	21,398	13.6	40,489	11.4	61,887	12.1
30 - 39 years	30,879	19.7	73,153	20.6	104,032	20.3
40 - 49 years	27,376	17.4	81,678	23.0	109,054	21.3
50 - 59 years	22,141	14.1	59,981	16.9	82,122	16.0
60 years and over	10,297	6.6	27,162	7.6	37,459	7.3
Total	157,124	100.0	355,615	100.0	512,739	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	December 2017	January 2018	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,214	1,265	4.2%
Cotter - Namadgi	56	60	7.1%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	80	83	3.8%
Gungahlin	591	618	4.6%
North Canberra	665	669	0.6%
South Canberra	229	240	4.8%
Tuggeranong	846	910	7.6%
Weston Creek	221	227	2.7%
Woden	315	329	4.4%

– 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	Dec 2017	Jan 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2017	Jan 18	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,721	1,777	3.3%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,288	1,296	0.6%
Armidale	1,153	1,192	3.4%	Liverpool	2,168	2,264	4.4%
Auburn	1,316	1,325	0.7%	Lord Howe Island	<5	<5	n/a
Bankstown	3,049	3,089	1.3%	Lower Hunter	2,519	2,596	3.1%
Bathurst	947	991	4.6%	Lower Murray	395	406	2.8%
Baulkham Hills	575	617	7.3%	Maitland	1,744	1,744	0.0%
Blacktown	2,350	2,392	1.8%	Manly	170	170	0.0%
Blacktown - North	764	782	2.4%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	885	923	4.3%
Blue Mountains	927	986	6.4%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,226	3,337	3.4%
Blue Mountains - South	<5	<5	n/a	Moree - Narrabri	1,104	1,106	0.2%
Botany	586	574	-2.0%	Mount Druitt	2,991	3,048	1.9%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,492	1,528	2.4%	Newcastle	4,104	4,230	3.1%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,725	1,722	-0.2%	North Sydney - Mosman	324	334	3.1%
Broken Hill and Far West	942	944	0.2%	Orange	1,243	1,225	-1.4%
Camden	491	516	5.1%	Parramatta	1,676	1,723	2.8%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,242	3,274	1.0%	Pennant Hills - Epping	224	221	-1.3%
Canada Bay	413	451	9.2%	Penrith	2,076	2,137	2.9%
Canterbury	2,311	2,325	0.6%	Pittwater	224	216	-3.6%
Carlingford	761	765	0.5%	Port Macquarie	1,823	1,929	5.8%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	459	477	3.9%	Port Stephens	1,734	1,733	-0.1%
Clarence Valley	1,433	1,454	1.5%	Queanbeyan	605	637	5.3%
Coffs Harbour	2,221	2,321	4.5%	Richmond - Windsor	588	583	-0.9%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	637	656	3.0%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,381	2,488	4.5%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,773	1,849	4.3%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,851	2,954	3.6%
Dubbo	2,397	2,475	3.3%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	144	158	9.7%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	106	111	4.7%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	862	869	0.8%
Eastern Suburbs - North	638	651	2.0%	Shoalhaven	2,345	2,410	2.8%
Eastern Suburbs - South	1,101	1,110	0.8%	Snowy Mountains	409	423	3.4%
Fairfield	5,469	5,794	5.9%	South Coast	1,727	1,762	2.0%
Gosford	2,835	2,965	4.6%	Southern Highlands	331	353	6.6%
Goulburn - Yass	1,346	1,374	2.1%	St Marys	1,246	1,286	3.2%
Great Lakes	881	892	1.2%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,496	1,506	0.7%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	995	1,046	5.1%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	566	595	5.1%
Hawkesbury	166	189	13.9%	Sydney Inner City	2,778	2,799	0.8%
Hornsby	483	494	2.3%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,641	2,706	2.5%
Hurstville	1,321	1,372	3.9%	Taree - Gloucester	1,915	1,918	0.2%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Tumut - Tumbarumba	313	308	-1.6%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,574	1,626	3.3%	Tweed Valley	2,464	2,527	2.6%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,702	1,765	3.7%	Upper Hunter	805	814	1.1%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,435	1,474	2.7%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	924	964	4.3%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,266	1,287	1.7%	Wagga Wagga	1,958	1,995	1.9%
Ku-ring-gai	285	297	4.2%	Warringah	710	718	1.1%
Lachlan Valley	1,703	1,735	1.9%	Wollondilly	396	426	7.6%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,099	2,193	4.5%	Wollongong	2,179	2,209	1.4%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,610	1,635	1.6%	Wyong	3,817	3,927	2.9%
Leichhardt	486	503	3.5%				

– 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	December 2017	January 2018	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,637	3,604	-0.9%
Barkly	925	903	-2.4%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,862	2,846	-0.6%
Darwin City	531	519	-2.3%
Darwin Suburbs	1,223	1,220	-0.2%
East Arnhem	1,792	1,760	-1.8%
Katherine	2,206	2,313	4.9%
Litchfield	408	425	4.2%
Palmerston	797	774	-2.9%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2017	Jan 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2017	Jan 18	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	456	475	4.2%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,761	1,782	1.2%
Beaudesert	434	458	5.5%	Ipswich Inner	3,378	3,484	3.1%
Beenleigh	1,434	1,514	5.6%	Jimboomba	858	897	4.5%
Bowen Basin - North	672	730	8.6%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	301	326	8.3%
Bribie - Beachmere	795	822	3.4%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,351	1,422	5.3%
Brisbane Inner	1,733	1,763	1.7%	Mackay	3,161	3,245	2.7%
Brisbane Inner - East	577	601	4.2%	Maroochy	1,324	1,388	4.8%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,239	1,289	4.0%	Maryborough	1,864	1,865	0.1%
Brisbane Inner - West	656	675	2.9%	Mt Gravatt	1,118	1,114	-0.4%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	1,130	1,139	0.8%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	498	506	1.6%
Browns Plains	2,338	2,410	3.1%	Nambour - Pomona	1,459	1,536	5.3%
Buderim	930	952	2.4%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,571	1,584	0.8%
Bundaberg	3,458	3,598	4.0%	Nathan	790	809	2.4%
Burnett	1,862	1,923	3.3%	Nerang	1,470	1,523	3.6%
Caboolture	2,518	2,614	3.8%	Noosa	622	633	1.8%
Caboolture Hinterland	271	278	2.6%	North Lakes	1,343	1,406	4.7%
Cairns - North	980	986	0.6%	Nundah	682	693	1.6%
Cairns - South	4,616	4,634	0.4%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,272	2,327	2.4%
Caloundra	1,553	1,659	6.8%	Outback - North	1,546	1,577	2.0%
Capalaba	1,127	1,181	4.8%	Outback - South	549	571	4.0%
Carindale	589	628	6.6%	Port Douglas - Daintree	431	456	5.8%
Centenary	298	318	6.7%	Redcliffe	1,620	1,671	3.1%
Central Highlands (Qld)	833	830	-0.4%	Robina	818	840	2.7%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,574	1,638	4.1%	Rockhampton	4,170	4,232	1.5%
Chermside	1,220	1,267	3.9%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,153	1,175	1.9%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,350	1,432	6.1%	Sandgate	1,093	1,158	5.9%
Coolangatta	1,080	1,110	2.8%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	583	575	-1.4%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,083	1,121	3.5%	Southport	1,785	1,767	-1.0%
Darling Downs - East	915	961	5.0%	Springfield - Redbank	2,086	2,179	4.5%
Far North	2,828	2,889	2.2%	Springwood - Kingston	3,270	3,362	2.8%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,227	2,281	2.4%	Strathpine	920	970	5.4%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,821	2,910	3.2%	Sunnybank	945	964	2.0%
Gold Coast - North	1,701	1,739	2.2%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,144	1,192	4.2%
Gold Coast Hinterland	320	336	5.0%	Surfers Paradise	904	919	1.7%
Granite Belt	926	967	4.4%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,595	1,627	2.0%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,709	1,730	1.2%	The Gap - Enoggera	661	679	2.7%
Hervey Bay	2,112	2,174	2.9%	Toowoomba	3,193	3,303	3.4%
Hills District	698	735	5.3%	Townsville	6,018	6,144	2.1%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,485	1,541	3.8%	Whitsunday	425	450	5.9%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,626	1,690	3.9%	Wynnum - Manly	1,114	1,150	3.2%

– 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	December 2017	January 2018	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	511	520	1.8%
Adelaide Hills	792	830	4.8%
Barossa	590	620	5.1%
Burnside	319	341	6.9%
Campbelltown (SA)	693	732	5.6%
Charles Sturt	2,352	2,420	2.9%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,335	2,413	3.3%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,106	1,099	-0.6%
Gawler - Two Wells	794	828	4.3%
Holdfast Bay	407	442	8.6%
Limestone Coast	1,537	1,606	4.5%
Lower North	596	632	6.0%
Marion	1,677	1,764	5.2%
Mid North	1,153	1,189	3.1%
Mitcham	664	708	6.6%
Murray and Mallee	2,390	2,458	2.8%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	508	526	3.5%
Onkaparinga	4,399	4,514	2.6%
Outback - North and East	1,729	1,742	0.8%
Playford	4,557	4,656	2.2%
Port Adelaide - East	1,830	1,829	-0.1%
Port Adelaide - West	1,881	1,928	2.5%
Prospect - Walkerville	374	384	2.7%
Salisbury	4,635	4,799	3.5%
Tea Tree Gully	1,451	1,484	2.3%
Unley	383	399	4.2%
West Torrens	1,121	1,148	2.4%
Yorke Peninsula	810	827	2.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2017	January 2018	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	752	770	2.4%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,493	1,519	1.7%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	373	378	1.3%
Devonport	1,338	1,371	2.5%
Hobart - North East	1,215	1,240	2.1%
Hobart - North West	2,283	2,322	1.7%
Hobart - South and West	541	575	6.3%
Hobart Inner	1,147	1,165	1.6%
Huon - Bruny Island	542	573	5.7%
Launceston	3,084	3,092	0.3%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	555	587	5.8%
North East	1,345	1,378	2.5%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	428	434	1.4%
South East Coast	205	201	-2.0%
West Coast	574	600	4.5%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2017	Jan 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2017	Jan 18	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	3,058	3,184	4.1%	Manningham - East	138	136	-1.4%
Banyule	1,455	1,490	2.4%	Manningham - West	700	722	3.1%
Barwon - West	211	228	8.1%	Maribyrnong	2,247	2,286	1.7%
Baw Baw	978	992	1.4%	Maroondah	1,388	1,465	5.5%
Bayside	625	632	1.1%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	840	887	5.6%
Bendigo	2,703	2,783	3.0%	Melbourne City	1,854	1,879	1.3%
Boroondara	892	913	2.4%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,305	3,393	2.7%
Brimbank	6,051	6,080	0.5%	Mildura	1,891	1,967	4.0%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,717	1,798	4.7%	Moira	664	677	2.0%
Campaspe	845	881	4.3%	Monash	1,395	1,465	5.0%
Cardinia	1,302	1,391	6.8%	Moreland - North	1,401	1,473	5.1%
Casey - North	1,983	2,077	4.7%	Mornington Peninsula	1,987	2,022	1.8%
Casey - South	2,748	2,918	6.2%	Murray River - Swan Hill	904	918	1.5%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	605	622	2.8%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	470	470	0.0%
Dandenong	3,807	3,974	4.4%	Port Phillip	1,592	1,615	1.4%
Darebin - North	2,126	2,170	2.1%	Shepparton	1,777	1,803	1.5%
Darebin - South	868	882	1.6%	Stonnington - East	242	238	-1.7%
Essendon	1,133	1,167	3.0%	Stonnington - West	691	672	-2.7%
Frankston	2,735	2,849	4.2%	Sunbury	604	621	2.8%
Geelong	4,417	4,625	4.7%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	896	940	4.9%
Gippsland - East	1,620	1,638	1.1%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,943	5,106	3.3%
Gippsland - South West	1,280	1,278	-0.2%	Upper Goulburn Valley	1,031	1,061	2.9%
Glen Eira	1,204	1,239	2.9%	Wangaratta - Benalla	944	977	3.5%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	831	852	2.5%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,629	1,646	1.0%
Grampians	1,252	1,263	0.9%	Wellington	1,173	1,177	0.3%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	965	998	3.4%	Whitehorse - East	494	501	1.4%
Hobsons Bay	1,377	1,390	0.9%	Whitehorse - West	851	874	2.7%
Keilor	685	731	6.7%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,853	3,961	2.8%
Kingston	1,375	1,404	2.1%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,541	1,584	2.8%
Knox	1,817	1,880	3.5%	Wyndham	4,326	4,495	3.9%
Latrobe Valley	3,116	3,246	4.2%	Yarra	1,682	1,730	2.9%
Loddon - Elmore	303	329	8.6%	Yarra Ranges	1,796	1,865	3.8%
Macedon Ranges	253	256	1.2%				

– 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	December 2017	January 2018	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,584	1,593	0.6%
Armadale	3,023	3,052	1.0%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,204	1,234	2.5%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,279	2,304	1.1%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,242	2,317	3.3%
Bunbury	3,427	3,539	3.3%
Canning	2,146	2,149	0.1%
Cockburn	2,507	2,612	4.2%
Cottesloe - Claremont	462	461	-0.2%
Esperance	340	342	0.6%
Fremantle	1,050	1,092	4.0%
Gascoyne	505	504	-0.2%
Goldfields	1,798	1,782	-0.9%
Gosnells	3,968	4,065	2.4%
Joondalup	2,520	2,610	3.6%
Kalamunda	1,104	1,126	2.0%
Kimberley	3,239	3,240	0.0%
Kwinana	1,591	1,672	5.1%
Mandurah	3,563	3,669	3.0%
Manjimup	704	742	5.4%
Melville	1,291	1,304	1.0%
Mid West	2,834	2,904	2.5%
Mundaring	1,020	1,062	4.1%
Perth City	2,194	2,294	4.6%
Pilbara	1,607	1,622	0.9%
Rockingham	3,848	4,038	4.9%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	538	548	1.9%
South Perth	794	787	-0.9%
Stirling	5,034	5,169	2.7%
Swan	3,938	4,013	1.9%
Wanneroo	5,472	5,588	2.1%
Wheat Belt - North	1,742	1,754	0.7%
Wheat Belt - South	577	564	-2.3%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2017	January 2018	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	15	14	-6.7%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	5	<5	n/a
Jervis Bay	19	20	5.3%
Not recorded	1,972	1,884	-4.5%

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 26 January 2018

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	87.8	84.3	85.5
Earned an income	12.2	15.7	14.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.4	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.6	3.3	3
\$254+	8.6	11.1	10.2
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	82,681	161,346	244,027
Females			
Did not earn an income	78.5	73.7	74.8
Earned an income	21.5	26.3	25.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.6	1.7	1.7
\$104 - <\$254	3.9	4.2	4.2
\$254+	16	20.4	19.3
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	47,258	150,914	198,172
Persons			
Did not earn an income	84.4	79.2	80.7
Earned an income	15.6	20.8	19.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.2	1.5	1.5
\$104 - <\$254	3.1	3.7	3.5
\$254+	11.3	15.6	14.3
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	129,939	312,260	442,199

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 26 January 2018

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	89.1	85	86.7
Earned an income	10.9	15	13.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.7	2.1	1.9
\$143 - <\$250	2	2.2	2.1
\$250+	7.2	10.8	9.3
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	14,113	19,639	33,752
Females			
Did not earn an income	80.6	75.9	77.7
Earned an income	19.4	24.1	22.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.3	2.9	3.1
\$143 - <\$250	3.7	3.8	3.7
\$250+	12.4	17.4	15.5
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	12,564	20,465	33,029
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.1	80.3	82.2
Earned an income	14.9	19.7	17.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.5	2.5	2.5
\$143 - <\$250	2.8	3.0	2.9
\$250+	9.6	14.2	12.4
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	26,677	40,104	66,781

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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