

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>).

November 2017

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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.

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Statistical Highlights – November 2017

Between November 2016 and November 2017

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 1.3 per cent** overall from 852 901 to 841 480.

- NSA recipients decreased 0.9 per cent from 760 719 to 753 508.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 4.6 per cent from 92 182 to 87 972.

The number of job seekers **decreased 1.5 per cent** overall from 485 883 to 478 817.

- NSA job seekers decreased 0.8 per cent from 421 380 to 418 171.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 6.0 per cent from 64 503 to 60 646.

Long-term job seekers increased 2.1 per cent from 323 423 to 330 217.

Short-term job seekers decreased 8.5 per cent from 162 460 to 148 600.

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

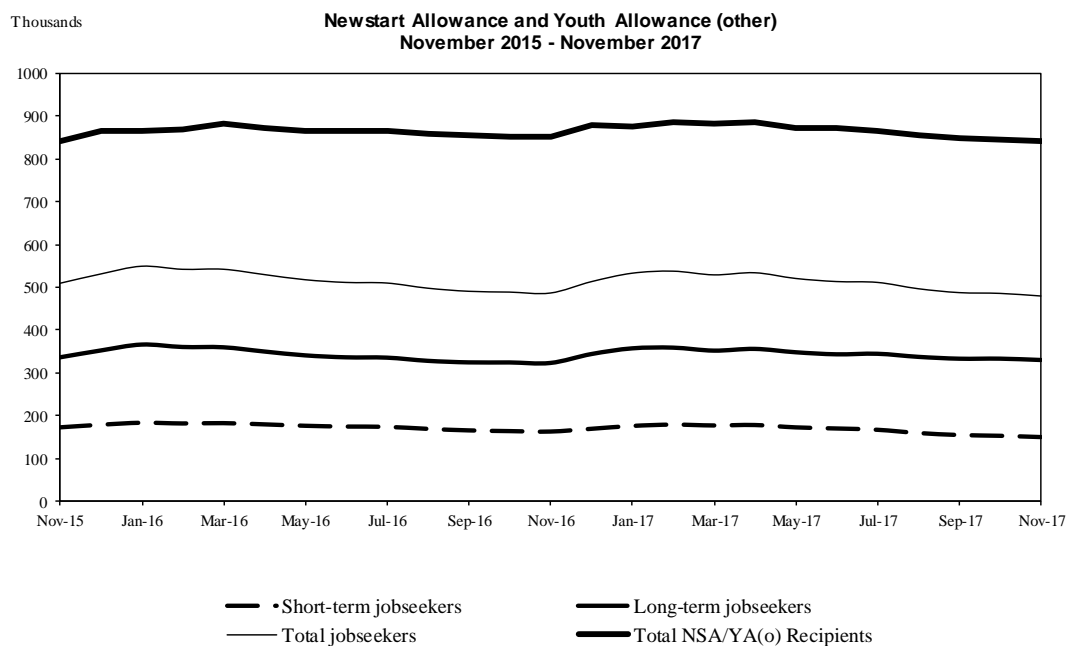


Table 1a - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
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
Variation October 2017 - November 2017							
Number	552	-1,431	-2,043	-25,765	-219	-8	98
Per cent	0.1	-0.2	-2.3	-12.1	-7.1	-0.3	0.7

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	November 2017 Persons	November 2017 Males	November 2017 Females	October 2017	Variation October - November Number	Variation October - November - per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	184,699	111,674	73,025	186,682	-1,983	-1.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	10,567	5,763	4,804	10,082	485	4.8
Received a payment	174,132	105,911	68,221	176,600	-2,468	-1.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,614	1,701	4,913	6,584	30	0.5
Other activities without job search (c)	9,335	4,957	4,378	9,650	-315	-3.3
Incapacitated (d)	23,682	13,745	9,937	23,608	74	0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,733	6,552	5,181	12,038	-305	-2.5
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	122,768	78,956	43,812	124,720	-1,952	-1.6
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	28,431	16,189	12,242	29,278	-847	-2.9
Long Term Newstart Allowees	568,809	267,756	301,053	568,257	552	0.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	23,357	9,831	13,526	21,303	2,054	9.6
Received a payment	545,452	257,925	287,527	546,954	-1,502	-0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	66,980	16,264	50,716	66,717	263	0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	65,380	31,621	33,759	64,856	524	0.8
Incapacitated (d)	63,989	31,523	32,466	63,694	295	0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	53,700	24,298	29,402	53,284	416	0.8
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	295,403	154,219	141,184	298,403	-3,000	-1.0
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	213,446	105,588	107,858	213,377	69	0.0
All Newstart Allowees	753,508	379,430	374,078	754,939	-1,431	-0.2
Did not receive a payment (a)	33,924	15,594	18,330	31,385	2,539	8.1
Received a payment	719,584	363,836	355,748	723,554	-3,970	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	73,594	17,965	55,629	73,301	293	0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	74,715	36,578	38,137	74,506	209	0.3
Incapacitated (d)	87,671	45,268	42,403	87,302	369	0.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	65,433	30,850	34,583	65,322	111	0.2
All NSA job seekers (f)	418,171	233,175	184,996	423,123	-4,952	-1.2
All NSA training/education (g)	241,877	121,777	120,100	242,655	-778	-0.3

- (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 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)	November 2017 Persons	November 2017 Males	November 2017 Females	October 2017	Variation October - November Number	Variation October - November per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	38,564	20,784	17,780	40,263	-1,699	-4.2
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,173	536	637	1,252	-79	-6.3
Received a payment	37,391	20,248	17,143	39,011	-1,620	-4.2
Other activities without job search (b)	8,369	4,736	3,633	8,715	-346	-4.0
Incapacitated (c)	1,739	814	925	1,745	-6	-0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,451	708	743	1,472	-21	-1.4
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	25,832	13,990	11,842	27,079	-1,247	-4.6
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	13,357	7,211	6,146	14,144	-787	-5.6
Long Term Youth Allowees	49,408	24,321	25,087	49,752	-344	-0.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,615	669	946	1,601	14	0.9
Received a payment	47,793	23,652	24,141	48,151	-358	-0.7
Other activities without job search (b)	7,950	4,070	3,880	8,215	-265	-3.2
Incapacitated (c)	2,711	1,180	1,531	2,765	-54	-2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,318	969	1,349	2,323	-5	-0.2
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	34,814	17,433	17,381	34,848	-34	-0.1
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	23,141	11,395	11,746	23,838	-697	-2.9
All Youth Allowees	87,972	45,105	42,867	90,015	-2,043	-2.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,788	1,205	1,583	2,853	-65	-2.3
Received a payment	85,184	43,900	41,284	87,162	-1,978	-2.3
Other activities without job search (b)	16,319	8,806	7,513	16,930	-611	-3.6
Incapacitated (c)	4,450	1,994	2,456	4,510	-60	-1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,769	1,677	2,092	3,795	-26	-0.7
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	60,646	31,423	29,223	61,927	-1,281	-2.1
All YA (other) training/education (f)	36,498	18,606	17,892	37,982	-1,484	-3.9

(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
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
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
Variation October 2017 - November 2017			
Number	-3,199	-3,034	-6,233
Per cent	-2.1	-0.9	-1.3

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	October 2017	November 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	37,389	36,656	-733	-2.0
Victoria	33,096	32,579	-517	-1.6
Queensland	37,746	36,867	-879	-2.3
South Australia	11,493	11,208	-285	-2.5
Western Australia	22,859	22,109	-750	-3.3
Tasmania	4,021	3,962	-59	-1.5
Northern Territory	3,742	3,828	86	2.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,453	1,391	-62	-4.3
Australia	151,799	148,600	-3,199	-2.1
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	86,971	85,930	-1,041	-1.2
Victoria	69,327	69,023	-304	-0.4
Queensland	77,882	77,015	-867	-1.1
South Australia	29,403	28,770	-633	-2.2
Western Australia	45,909	45,710	-199	-0.4
Tasmania	11,405	11,368	-37	-0.3
Northern Territory	9,798	9,870	72	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	2,556	2,531	-25	-1.0
Australia	333,251	330,217	-3,034	-0.9
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	124,360	122,586	-1,774	-1.4
Victoria	102,423	101,602	-821	-0.8
Queensland	115,628	113,882	-1,746	-1.5
South Australia	40,896	39,978	-918	-2.2
Western Australia	68,768	67,819	-949	-1.4
Tasmania	15,426	15,330	-96	-0.6
Northern Territory	13,540	13,698	158	1.2
Australian Capital Territory	4,009	3,922	-87	-2.2
Australia	485,050	478,817	-6,233	-1.3

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	1,505	1.6	475	0.3	1,980	0.7
18 - 20 years	10,207	11.0	11,306	6.6	21,513	8.1
21 - 24 years	13,156	14.2	23,182	13.5	36,338	13.7
25 - 29 years	14,049	15.1	23,240	13.5	37,289	14.1
30 - 39 years	21,060	22.7	38,436	22.4	59,496	22.5
40 - 49 years	16,239	17.5	35,064	20.4	51,303	19.4
50 - 59 years	11,466	12.3	26,628	15.5	38,094	14.4
60 years and over	5,263	5.7	13,324	7.8	18,587	7.0
Total	92,945	100.0	171,655	100.0	264,600	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,525	2.7	589	0.4	2,114	1.0
18 - 20 years	8,869	15.9	11,942	7.5	20,811	9.7
21 - 24 years	7,816	14.0	17,413	11.0	25,229	11.8
25 - 29 years	6,075	10.9	14,413	9.1	20,488	9.6
30 - 39 years	8,077	14.5	30,551	19.3	38,628	18.0
40 - 49 years	9,764	17.5	42,095	26.5	51,859	24.2
50 - 59 years	9,281	16.7	30,178	19.0	39,459	18.4
60 years and over	4,248	7.6	11,381	7.2	15,629	7.3
Total	55,655	100.0	158,562	100.0	214,217	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,030	2.0	1,064	0.3	4,094	0.9
18 - 20 years	19,076	12.8	23,248	7.0	42,324	8.8
21 - 24 years	20,972	14.1	40,595	12.3	61,567	12.9
25 - 29 years	20,124	13.5	37,653	11.4	57,777	12.1
30 - 39 years	29,137	19.6	68,987	20.9	98,124	20.5
40 - 49 years	26,003	17.5	77,159	23.4	103,162	21.5
50 - 59 years	20,747	14.0	56,806	17.2	77,553	16.2
60 years and over	9,511	6.4	24,705	7.5	34,216	7.1
Total	148,600	100.0	330,217	100.0	478,817	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	October 2017	November 2017	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,147	1,125	-1.9%
Cotter - Namadgi	50	52	4.0%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	70	65	-7.1%
Gungahlin	556	554	-0.4%
North Canberra	642	625	-2.6%
South Canberra	211	212	0.5%
Tuggeranong	811	782	-3.6%
Weston Creek	203	196	-3.4%
Woden	302	297	-1.7%

– 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	Oct 17	Nov 17	Var. %	State by SA3	Oct 17	Nov 17	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,713	1,677	-2.1%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,272	1,260	-0.9%
Armidale	1,132	1,123	-0.8%	Liverpool	2,025	2,021	-0.2%
Auburn	1,328	1,300	-2.1%	Lord Howe Island	<5	<5	n/a
Bankstown	2,930	2,923	-0.2%	Lower Hunter	2,376	2,335	-1.7%
Bathurst	924	905	-2.1%	Lower Murray	381	368	-3.4%
Baulkham Hills	543	544	0.2%	Maitland	1,672	1,663	-0.5%
Blacktown	2,258	2,214	-1.9%	Manly	164	162	-1.2%
Blacktown - North	758	724	-4.5%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	872	856	-1.8%
Blue Mountains	909	898	-1.2%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,063	3,065	0.1%
Blue Mountains - South	<5	<5	n/a	Moree - Narrabri	1,062	1,029	-3.1%
Botany	574	566	-1.4%	Mount Druitt	2,914	2,785	-4.4%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,463	1,458	-0.3%	Newcastle	3,954	3,892	-1.6%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,636	1,621	-0.9%	North Sydney - Mosman	344	340	-1.2%
Broken Hill and Far West	932	884	-5.2%	Orange	1,238	1,195	-3.5%
Camden	469	459	-2.1%	Parramatta	1,631	1,596	-2.1%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,174	3,130	-1.4%	Pennant Hills - Epping	211	203	-3.8%
Canada Bay	418	405	-3.1%	Penrith	1,969	1,915	-2.7%
Canterbury	2,320	2,305	-0.6%	Pittwater	189	210	11.1%
Carlingford	740	716	-3.2%	Port Macquarie	1,731	1,724	-0.4%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	426	417	-2.1%	Port Stephens	1,745	1,694	-2.9%
Clarence Valley	1,413	1,381	-2.3%	Queanbeyan	566	557	-1.6%
Coffs Harbour	2,186	2,137	-2.2%	Richmond - Windsor	558	551	-1.3%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	609	597	-2.0%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,321	2,287	-1.5%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,689	1,667	-1.3%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,845	2,775	-2.5%
Dubbo	2,217	2,237	0.9%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	150	155	3.3%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	113	113	0.0%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	846	840	-0.7%
Eastern Suburbs - North	601	616	2.5%	Shoalhaven	2,410	2,318	-3.8%
Eastern Suburbs - South	1,049	1,049	0.0%	Snowy Mountains	388	400	3.1%
Fairfield	5,229	5,182	-0.9%	South Coast	1,682	1,668	-0.8%
Gosford	2,770	2,713	-2.1%	Southern Highlands	343	330	-3.8%
Goulburn - Yass	1,309	1,298	-0.8%	St Marys	1,210	1,183	-2.2%
Great Lakes	829	828	-0.1%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,428	1,454	1.8%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	982	968	-1.4%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	550	539	-2.0%
Hawkesbury	182	171	-6.0%	Sydney Inner City	2,670	2,637	-1.2%
Hornsby	478	458	-4.2%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,555	2,559	0.2%
Hurstville	1,300	1,281	-1.5%	Taree - Gloucester	1,839	1,815	-1.3%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Tumut - Tumbarumba	295	298	1.0%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,529	1,519	-0.7%	Tweed Valley	2,422	2,385	-1.5%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,663	1,634	-1.7%	Upper Hunter	806	785	-2.6%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,383	1,378	-0.4%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	914	897	-1.9%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,263	1,237	-2.1%	Wagga Wagga	1,917	1,899	-0.9%
Ku-ring-gai	288	281	-2.4%	Warringah	704	686	-2.6%
Lachlan Valley	1,642	1,646	0.2%	Wollondilly	370	376	1.6%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,024	1,994	-1.5%	Wollongong	2,046	2,042	-0.2%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,581	1,555	-1.6%	Wyong	3,727	3,649	-2.1%
Leichhardt	479	474	-1.0%				

– 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	October 2017	November 2017	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,419	3,480	1.8%
Barkly	830	869	4.7%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,660	2,689	1.1%
Darwin City	488	498	2.0%
Darwin Suburbs	1,136	1,139	0.3%
East Arnhem	1,674	1,662	-0.7%
Katherine	2,062	2,077	0.7%
Litchfield	411	414	0.7%
Palmerston	724	741	2.3%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Oct 17	Nov 17	Var. %	State by SA3	Oct 17	Nov 17	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	464	445	-4.1%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,781	1,742	-2.2%
Beaudesert	441	429	-2.7%	Ipswich Inner	3,300	3,214	-2.6%
Beenleigh	1,356	1,357	0.1%	Jimboomba	830	801	-3.5%
Bowen Basin - North	679	680	0.1%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	278	271	-2.5%
Bribie - Beachmere	762	772	1.3%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,340	1,311	-2.2%
Brisbane Inner	1,628	1,618	-0.6%	Mackay	3,157	3,093	-2.0%
Brisbane Inner - East	553	563	1.8%	Maroochy	1,294	1,280	-1.1%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,133	1,151	1.6%	Maryborough	1,799	1,807	0.4%
Brisbane Inner - West	631	617	-2.2%	Mt Gravatt	1,057	1,064	0.7%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	1,134	1,104	-2.6%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	479	483	0.8%
Browns Plains	2,311	2,275	-1.6%	Nambour - Pomona	1,465	1,391	-5.1%
Buderim	853	854	0.1%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,462	1,452	-0.7%
Bundaberg	3,390	3,329	-1.8%	Nathan	757	770	1.7%
Burnett	1,821	1,805	-0.9%	Nerang	1,436	1,403	-2.3%
Caboolture	2,447	2,398	-2.0%	Noosa	638	619	-3.0%
Caboolture Hinterland	282	268	-5.0%	North Lakes	1,301	1,271	-2.3%
Cairns - North	954	942	-1.3%	Nundah	649	642	-1.1%
Cairns - South	4,572	4,487	-1.9%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,132	2,110	-1.0%
Caloundra	1,540	1,481	-3.8%	Outback - North	1,468	1,476	0.5%
Capalaba	1,110	1,071	-3.5%	Outback - South	524	535	2.1%
Carindale	558	571	2.3%	Port Douglas - Daintree	419	404	-3.6%
Centenary	279	271	-2.9%	Redcliffe	1,590	1,573	-1.1%
Central Highlands (Qld)	805	816	1.4%	Robina	801	778	-2.9%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,525	1,489	-2.4%	Rockhampton	4,118	4,057	-1.5%
Chermside	1,211	1,178	-2.7%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,104	1,088	-1.4%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,352	1,280	-5.3%	Sandgate	1,083	1,068	-1.4%
Coolangatta	1,092	1,071	-1.9%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	508	534	5.1%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,082	1,083	0.1%	Southport	1,711	1,694	-1.0%
Darling Downs - East	927	901	-2.8%	Springfield - Redbank	2,004	1,990	-0.7%
Far North	2,767	2,767	0.0%	Springwood - Kingston	3,179	3,114	-2.0%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,176	2,148	-1.3%	Strathpine	841	851	1.2%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,752	2,724	-1.0%	Sunnybank	931	910	-2.3%
Gold Coast - North	1,705	1,661	-2.6%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,105	1,087	-1.6%
Gold Coast Hinterland	319	305	-4.4%	Surfers Paradise	913	889	-2.6%
Granite Belt	937	898	-4.2%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,538	1,553	1.0%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,676	1,645	-1.8%	The Gap - Enoggera	697	661	-5.2%
Hervey Bay	2,071	2,015	-2.7%	Toowoomba	3,141	3,113	-0.9%
Hills District	688	671	-2.5%	Townsville	5,801	5,731	-1.2%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,389	1,374	-1.1%	Whitsunday	446	433	-2.9%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,572	1,542	-1.9%	Wynnum - Manly	1,092	1,108	1.5%

– 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	October 2017	November 2017	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	504	493	-2.2%
Adelaide Hills	739	743	0.5%
Barossa	599	593	-1.0%
Burnside	331	310	-6.3%
Campbelltown (SA)	654	657	0.5%
Charles Sturt	2,278	2,224	-2.4%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,219	2,224	0.2%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,106	1,101	-0.5%
Gawler - Two Wells	774	747	-3.5%
Holdfast Bay	424	397	-6.4%
Limestone Coast	1,521	1,483	-2.5%
Lower North	596	586	-1.7%
Marion	1,650	1,593	-3.5%
Mid North	1,119	1,101	-1.6%
Mitcham	643	639	-0.6%
Murray and Mallee	2,354	2,302	-2.2%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	491	499	1.6%
Onkaparinga	4,323	4,252	-1.6%
Outback - North and East	1,715	1,670	-2.6%
Playford	4,473	4,286	-4.2%
Port Adelaide - East	1,783	1,755	-1.6%
Port Adelaide - West	1,800	1,775	-1.4%
Prospect - Walkerville	387	378	-2.3%
Salisbury	4,652	4,439	-4.6%
Tea Tree Gully	1,429	1,376	-3.7%
Unley	369	360	-2.4%
West Torrens	1,071	1,078	0.7%
Yorke Peninsula	766	794	3.7%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	October 2017	November 2017	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	727	726	-0.1%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,451	1,420	-2.1%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	382	385	0.8%
Devonport	1,283	1,288	0.4%
Hobart - North East	1,144	1,138	-0.5%
Hobart - North West	2,186	2,202	0.7%
Hobart - South and West	531	523	-1.5%
Hobart Inner	1,073	1,063	-0.9%
Huon - Bruny Island	525	523	-0.4%
Launceston	2,991	2,971	-0.7%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	563	552	-2.0%
North East	1,315	1,299	-1.2%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	414	411	-0.7%
South East Coast	206	200	-2.9%
West Coast	548	544	-0.7%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Oct 17	Nov 17	Var. %	State by SA3	Oct 17	Nov 17	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	2,937	2,958	0.7%	Manningham - East	134	129	-3.7%
Banyule	1,377	1,375	-0.1%	Manningham - West	662	683	3.2%
Barwon - West	207	207	0.0%	Maribyrnong	2,159	2,125	-1.6%
Baw Baw	943	931	-1.3%	Maroondah	1,349	1,324	-1.9%
Bayside	620	598	-3.5%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	844	833	-1.3%
Bendigo	2,578	2,550	-1.1%	Melbourne City	1,773	1,810	2.1%
Boroondara	844	836	-0.9%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,278	3,204	-2.3%
Brimbank	5,851	5,824	-0.5%	Mildura	1,854	1,836	-1.0%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,559	1,577	1.2%	Moira	675	651	-3.6%
Campaspe	828	824	-0.5%	Monash	1,334	1,324	-0.7%
Cardinia	1,249	1,246	-0.2%	Moreland - North	1,394	1,388	-0.4%
Casey - North	1,892	1,849	-2.3%	Mornington Peninsula	1,968	1,930	-1.9%
Casey - South	2,626	2,576	-1.9%	Murray River - Swan Hill	861	869	0.9%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	569	588	3.3%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	449	440	-2.0%
Dandenong	3,791	3,717	-2.0%	Port Phillip	1,547	1,532	-1.0%
Darebin - North	2,009	1,996	-0.6%	Shepparton	1,623	1,629	0.4%
Darebin - South	805	812	0.9%	Stonnington - East	238	228	-4.2%
Essendon	1,107	1,113	0.5%	Stonnington - West	671	670	-0.1%
Frankston	2,636	2,598	-1.4%	Sunbury	587	586	-0.2%
Geelong	4,398	4,321	-1.8%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	855	880	2.9%
Gippsland - East	1,656	1,576	-4.8%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,697	4,732	0.7%
Gippsland - South West	1,234	1,238	0.3%	Upper Goulburn Valley	975	993	1.8%
Glen Eira	1,170	1,158	-1.0%	Wangaratta - Benalla	942	908	-3.6%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	777	785	1.0%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,552	1,559	0.5%
Grampians	1,249	1,226	-1.8%	Wellington	1,157	1,142	-1.3%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	911	926	1.6%	Whitehorse - East	484	479	-1.0%
Hobsons Bay	1,321	1,336	1.1%	Whitehorse - West	836	825	-1.3%
Keilor	682	674	-1.2%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,606	3,631	0.7%
Kingston	1,355	1,353	-0.1%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,495	1,490	-0.3%
Knox	1,747	1,708	-2.2%	Wyndham	4,173	4,099	-1.8%
Latrobe Valley	3,057	3,003	-1.8%	Yarra	1,609	1,561	-3.0%
Loddon - Elmore	284	293	3.2%	Yarra Ranges	1,695	1,690	-0.3%
Macedon Ranges	257	263	2.3%				

– 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	October 2017	November 2017	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,601	1,532	-4.3%
Armadale	2,904	2,866	-1.3%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,212	1,194	-1.5%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,239	2,215	-1.1%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,132	2,125	-0.3%
Bunbury	3,309	3,257	-1.6%
Canning	2,039	2,053	0.7%
Cockburn	2,506	2,470	-1.4%
Cottesloe - Claremont	430	434	0.9%
Esperance	364	337	-7.4%
Fremantle	1,005	981	-2.4%
Gascoyne	504	493	-2.2%
Goldfields	1,704	1,689	-0.9%
Gosnells	3,901	3,814	-2.2%
Joondalup	2,447	2,430	-0.7%
Kalamunda	1,109	1,096	-1.2%
Kimberley	3,050	3,011	-1.3%
Kwinana	1,602	1,528	-4.6%
Mandurah	3,484	3,422	-1.8%
Manjimup	711	697	-2.0%
Melville	1,259	1,268	0.7%
Mid West	2,773	2,728	-1.6%
Mundaring	978	976	-0.2%
Perth City	2,108	2,090	-0.9%
Pilbara	1,574	1,602	1.8%
Rockingham	3,762	3,694	-1.8%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	535	534	-0.2%
South Perth	742	741	-0.1%
Stirling	4,886	4,793	-1.9%
Swan	3,898	3,856	-1.1%
Wanneroo	5,343	5,270	-1.4%
Wheat Belt - North	1,726	1,723	-0.2%
Wheat Belt - South	569	558	-1.9%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	October 2017	November 2017	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	23	21	-8.7%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	6	6	0.0%
Jervis Bay	23	20	-13.0%
Not recorded	2,137	1,987	-7.0%

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 17 November 2017

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	84.6	81.1	82.3
Earned an income	15.4	18.9	17.7
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.4	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.9	3.5	3.3
\$254+	11.5	14	13.2
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	78,561	153,874	232,435
Females			
Did not earn an income	74.3	69.6	70.7
Earned an income	25.7	30.4	29.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.7	1.5	1.6
\$104 - <\$254	4.1	4.1	4.1
\$254+	20	24.7	23.6
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	43,602	140,773	184,375
Persons			
Did not earn an income	80.9	75.6	77.2
Earned an income	19.1	24.4	22.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.3	1.5	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	3.3	3.8	3.7
\$254+	14.5	19.1	17.8
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	122,163	294,647	416,810

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 17 November 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	85.3	82.4	83.7
Earned an income	14.7	17.6	16.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.1	1.9	2.0
\$143 - <\$250	2.2	2.2	2.2
\$250+	10.4	13.5	12.1
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	13,771	17,350	31,121
Females			
Did not earn an income	76.6	73.9	75
Earned an income	23.4	26.1	25
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.3	2.8	3.0
\$143 - <\$250	4.1	3.7	3.9
\$250+	16	19.6	18.1
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	11,751	17,258	29,009
Persons			
Did not earn an income	81.3	78.2	79.5
Earned an income	18.7	21.8	20.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.6	2.3	2.5
\$143 - <\$250	3.1	3.0	3.0
\$250+	13	16.5	15
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	25,522	34,608	60,130

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 August 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 August 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.

For enquiries email:

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