

# 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 at <http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>

**February 2014**

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## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 23 April 2014.

## Statistical Highlights – February 2014

### Between February 2013 and February 2014

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients increased 6.7 per cent overall from 796 158 to 849 224.

NSA recipients increased 6.7 per cent from 686 852 to 732 654.

YA(o) recipients increased 6.6 per cent from 109 306 to 116 570.

The number of job seekers increased 4.9 per cent overall from 405 688 to 425 617.

NSA job seekers increased 3.8 per cent from 354 811 to 368 165.

YA(o) job seekers increased 12.9 per cent from 50 877 to 57 452.

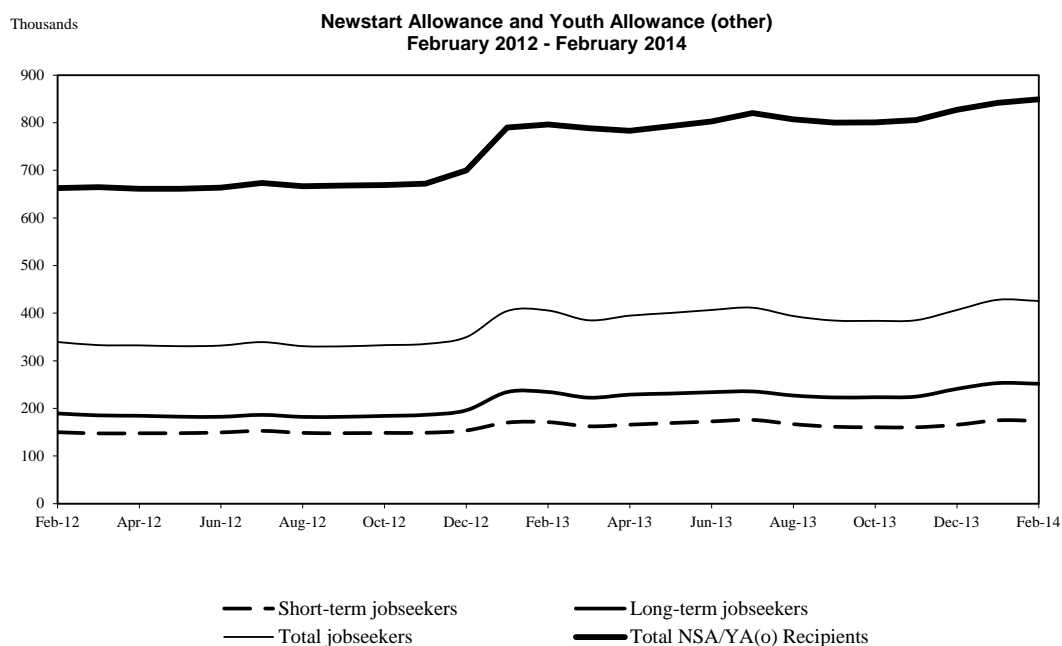
Long-term job seekers increased 7.4 per cent from 234 508 to 251 800.

Short-term job seekers increased 1.5 per cent from 171 180 to 173 817.

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

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

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



**TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES**

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..
February 2012	348,940	574,458	88,284	246,450	4,214	15,753	30,351
March 2012	351,092	578,219	86,583	262,183	4,495	15,279	30,029
April 2012	350,547	576,620	84,654	271,071	4,637	14,878	29,752
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
Variation January 2014 - February 2014							
Number	4,640	5,914	1,260	17,958	277	-248	-202
Per cent	1.0	0.8	1.1	10.0	4.5	-2.6	-0.8

## Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

**TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION**

	February 2014			January 2014	Variation January - February	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>250,271</b>	<b>155,767</b>	<b>94,504</b>	<b>248,997</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>0.5</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	651	475	176	666	-15	-2.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,356	7,609	5,747	10,379	2,977	28.7
Received a payment	236,264	147,683	88,581	237,952	-1,688	-0.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,313	1,973	5,340	7,359	-46	-0.6
Other activities without job search (d)	40,723	24,397	16,326	39,641	1,082	2.7
Incapacitated (e)	24,385	14,069	10,316	24,587	-202	-0.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,678	7,641	6,037	14,250	-572	-4.0
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>150,165</b>	<b>99,603</b>	<b>50,562</b>	<b>152,115</b>	<b>-1,950</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>33,323</i>	<i>19,066</i>	<i>14,257</i>	<i>28,521</i>	<i>4,802</i>	<i>16.8</i>
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>482,383</b>	<b>230,887</b>	<b>251,496</b>	<b>477,743</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>1.0</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	1,726	1,131	595	1,758	-32	-1.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	16,337	6,637	9,700	12,673	3,664	28.9
Received a payment	464,320	223,119	241,201	463,312	1,008	0.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	51,905	11,136	40,769	52,355	-450	-0.9
Other activities without job search (d)	114,467	52,407	62,060	111,512	2,955	2.6
Incapacitated (e)	40,088	19,381	20,707	40,277	-189	-0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	39,860	17,848	22,012	40,000	-140	-0.4
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>218,000</b>	<b>122,347</b>	<b>95,653</b>	<b>219,168</b>	<b>-1,168</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>138,554</i>	<i>69,738</i>	<i>68,816</i>	<i>123,016</i>	<i>15,538</i>	<i>12.6</i>
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>732,654</b>	<b>386,654</b>	<b>346,000</b>	<b>726,740</b>	<b>5,914</b>	<b>0.8</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	2,377	1,606	771	2,424	-47	-1.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	29,693	14,246	15,447	23,052	6,641	28.8
Received a payment	700,584	370,802	329,782	701,264	-680	-0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	59,218	13,109	46,109	59,714	-496	-0.8
Other activities without job search (d)	155,190	76,804	78,386	151,153	4,037	2.7
Incapacitated (e)	64,473	33,450	31,023	64,864	-391	-0.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	53,538	25,489	28,049	54,250	-712	-1.3
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>368,165</b>	<b>221,950</b>	<b>146,215</b>	<b>371,283</b>	<b>-3,118</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>171,877</i>	<i>88,804</i>	<i>83,073</i>	<i>151,537</i>	<i>20,340</i>	<i>13.4</i>

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

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

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

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

**TABLE 3 - YOUTH ALLOWEES (OTHER) - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION**

	February 2014			January 2014	Variation January - February	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>48,542</b>	<b>27,039</b>	<b>21,503</b>	<b>47,331</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>2.6</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	26	23	3	29	-3	-10.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	929	436	493	854	75	8.8
Received a payment	47,587	26,580	21,007	46,448	1,139	2.5
Other activities without job search (c)	20,143	11,835	8,308	19,603	540	2.8
Incapacitated (d)	1,978	1,023	955	2,074	-96	-4.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,814	827	987	1,904	-90	-4.7
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>23,652</b>	<b>12,895</b>	<b>10,757</b>	<b>22,867</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>12,656</i>	<i>6,982</i>	<i>5,674</i>	<i>10,584</i>	<i>2,072</i>	<i>19.6</i>
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>68,028</b>	<b>34,834</b>	<b>33,194</b>	<b>67,979</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0.1</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	27	21	6	30	-3	-10.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,469	605	864	1,393	76	5.5
Received a payment	66,532	34,208	32,324	66,556	-24	0.0
Other activities without job search (c)	27,598	14,666	12,932	27,269	329	1.2
Incapacitated (d)	2,530	1,154	1,376	2,621	-91	-3.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,604	1,058	1,546	2,656	-52	-2.0
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>17,330</b>	<b>16,470</b>	<b>34,010</b>	<b>-210</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>24,464</i>	<i>12,381</i>	<i>12,083</i>	<i>20,868</i>	<i>3,596</i>	<i>17.2</i>
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>116,570</b>	<b>61,873</b>	<b>54,697</b>	<b>115,310</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>1.1</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	53	44	9	59	-6	-10.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,398	1,041	1,357	2,247	151	6.7
Received a payment	114,119	60,788	53,331	113,004	1,115	1.0
Other activities without job search (c)	47,741	26,501	21,240	46,872	869	1.9
Incapacitated (d)	4,508	2,177	2,331	4,695	-187	-4.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,418	1,885	2,533	4,560	-142	-3.1
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>57,452</b>	<b>30,225</b>	<b>27,227</b>	<b>56,877</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>37,120</i>	<i>19,363</i>	<i>17,757</i>	<i>31,452</i>	<i>5,668</i>	<i>18.0</i>

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

**TABLE 4 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) TIME SERIES**

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
February 2012	150,028	189,447	339,475
March 2012	147,524	185,409	332,933
April 2012	147,809	184,581	332,390
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
Variation January 2014 - February 2014			
Number	-1165	-1378	-2543
Per cent	-0.7	-0.5	-0.6

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes).



**TABLE 5 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY STATE**

<i>State</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	50,722	49,877	-845	-1.7
Victoria	43,541	43,085	-456	-1.0
Queensland	42,625	43,084	459	1.1
South Australia	12,746	12,564	-182	-1.4
Western Australia	16,695	16,539	-156	-0.9
Tasmania	4,497	4,300	-197	-4.4
Northern Territory	2,359	2,520	161	6.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,789	1,843	54	3.0
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>174,982</b>	<b>173,817</b>	<b>-1,165</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	78,823	78,098	-725	-0.9
Victoria	59,339	59,209	-130	-0.2
Queensland	55,557	55,675	118	0.2
South Australia	22,923	22,556	-367	-1.6
Western Australia	20,477	20,428	-49	-0.2
Tasmania	9,410	9,196	-214	-2.3
Northern Territory	4,646	4,672	26	0.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,999	1,964	-35	-1.8
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>253,178</b>	<b>251,800</b>	<b>-1,378</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>TOTAL JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	129,545	127,975	-1,570	-1.2
Victoria	102,880	102,294	-586	-0.6
Queensland	98,182	98,759	577	0.6
South Australia	35,669	35,120	-549	-1.5
Western Australia	37,172	36,967	-205	-0.6
Tasmania	13,907	13,496	-411	-3.0
Northern Territory	7,005	7,192	187	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	3,788	3,807	19	0.5
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>428,160</b>	<b>425,617</b>	<b>-2,543</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

Notes:

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

**TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT FEBRUARY 2014**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
<b>MALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,223	2.0	340	0.2	2,563	1.0
18 - 20 years	8,175	7.3	12,819	9.2	20,994	8.3
21 - 24 years	16,791	14.9	21,401	15.3	38,192	15.1
25 - 29 years	18,419	16.4	21,727	15.6	40,146	15.9
30 - 39 years	26,901	23.9	31,901	22.8	58,802	23.3
40 - 49 years	20,886	18.6	26,219	18.8	47,105	18.7
50 - 59 years	14,057	12.5	18,713	13.4	32,770	13.0
60 years and over	5,043	4.5	6,557	4.7	11,600	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,495</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>139,677</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>252,172</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,171	3.5	431	0.4	2,602	1.5
18 - 20 years	6,893	11.2	12,288	11.0	19,181	11.1
21 - 24 years	9,790	16.0	15,428	13.8	25,218	14.5
25 - 29 years	7,957	13.0	11,204	10.0	19,161	11.0
30 - 39 years	9,928	16.2	21,602	19.3	31,530	18.2
40 - 49 years	11,730	19.1	28,744	25.6	40,474	23.3
50 - 59 years	9,826	16.0	18,416	16.4	28,242	16.3
60 years and over	3,027	4.9	4,010	3.6	7,037	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>112,123</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>173,445</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	4,394	2.5	771	0.3	5,165	1.2
18 - 20 years	15,068	8.7	25,107	10.0	40,175	9.4
21 - 24 years	26,581	15.3	36,829	14.6	63,410	14.9
25 - 29 years	26,376	15.2	32,931	13.1	59,307	13.9
30 - 39 years	36,829	21.2	53,503	21.2	90,332	21.2
40 - 49 years	32,616	18.8	54,963	21.8	87,579	20.6
50 - 59 years	23,883	13.7	37,129	14.7	61,012	14.3
60 years and over	8,070	4.6	10,567	4.2	18,637	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>173,817</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>251,800</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>425,617</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY</i></b>				
AS1 Community Team	23	21	%	%
Bankstown	3,704	3,720	16	0.4
Bondi Junction	1,278	1,332	54	4.2
Burwood	1,883	1,878	-5	-0.3
Campsie	2,597	2,523	-74	-2.8
Caringbah	974	981	7	0.7
Chatswood	1,391	1,398	7	0.5
Darlinghurst	1,696	1,734	38	2.2
Hornsby	1,207	1,195	-12	-1.0
Hurstville	1,712	1,686	-26	-1.5
Leichhardt	1,512	1,482	-30	-2.0
Maroubra	1,627	1,658	31	1.9
Marrickville	1,576	1,560	-16	-1.0
Northern Beaches	1,406	1,417	11	0.8
Redfern	1,416	1,423	7	0.5
Rockdale	1,606	1,611	5	0.3
Ryde	1,287	1,274	-13	-1.0
Sutherland	906	878	-28	-3.1
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,801</b>	<b>27,771</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b><i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Auburn	2,413	2,332	-81	-3.4
Baulkham Hills	1,083	1,062	-21	-1.9
Blacktown	3,345	3,321	-24	-0.7
Cabramatta	2,558	2,585	27	1.1
Camden	769	794	25	3.3
Campbelltown	2,258	2,220	-38	-1.7
Fairfield	3,032	2,938	-94	-3.1
Hawkesbury	1,009	1,015	6	0.6
Ingleburn	1,376	1,353	-23	-1.7
Katoomba	704	679	-25	-3.6
Lithgow	658	693	35	5.3
Liverpool	3,904	3,802	-102	-2.6
Merrylands	2,479	2,408	-71	-2.9
Mt Druitt	2,475	2,440	-35	-1.4
Parramatta	2,555	2,555	0	0.0
Penrith	2,089	2,092	3	0.1
Springwood	457	445	-12	-2.6
St Marys	1,624	1,591	-33	-2.0
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,788</b>	<b>34,326</b>	<b>-462</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Armidale	1,052	1,008	-44	-4.2
Ballina	1,080	1,095	15	1.4
Bourke	323	328	5	1.5
Brunswick Heads	972	988	16	1.6
Byron Bay	456	357	-99	-21.7
Casino	666	675	9	1.4
Coffs Harbour	2,168	2,101	-67	-3.1
Forster	848	841	-7	-0.8
Glen Innes	386	364	-22	-5.7
Grafton	941	891	-50	-5.3
Gunnedah	484	476	-8	-1.7
Inverell	673	652	-21	-3.1
Kempsey	936	916	-20	-2.1
Lightning Ridge	191	205	14	7.3
Lismore	1,797	1,737	-60	-3.3
Moree	516	497	-19	-3.7
Murwillumbah	754	705	-49	-6.5
Nambucca Heads	814	800	-14	-1.7
Narrabri	379	384	5	1.3
Port Macquarie	1,880	1,898	18	1.0
Tamworth	1,885	1,847	-38	-2.0
Taree	1,700	1,664	-36	-2.1
Tweed Heads	1,769	1,751	-18	-1.0
Walgett	220	178	-42	-19.1
Yamba	490	470	-20	-4.1
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,383</b>	<b>22,830</b>	<b>-553</b>	<b>-2.4</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>MID NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Bathurst	851	808	-43	-5.1
Cessnock	823	863	40	4.9
Charlestown	2,042	2,024	-18	-0.9
Comm Support Team	27	23	%	%
Dubbo	2,081	2,048	-33	-1.6
Ettalong	840	835	-5	-0.6
Gosford	1,886	1,837	-49	-2.6
King Street	1,344	1,302	-42	-3.1
Kurri Kurri	529	534	5	0.9
Lakehaven	1,818	1,783	-35	-1.9
Maitland	1,561	1,572	11	0.7
Mayfield	1,147	1,101	-46	-4.0
Mudgee	618	609	-9	-1.5
Muswellbrook	608	621	13	2.1
Nelson Bay	527	519	-8	-1.5
Orange	879	881	2	0.2
Parkes	790	756	-34	-4.3
Raymond Terrace	979	1,000	21	2.1
Singleton	358	357	-1	-0.3
The Entrance	1,322	1,371	49	3.7
Toronto	1,049	1,049	0	0.0
Wallsend	1,572	1,517	-55	-3.5
Woy Woy	575	574	-1	-0.2
Wyong	715	700	-15	-2.1
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,941</b>	<b>24,684</b>	<b>-257</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Batemans Bay	757	751	-6	-0.8
Bega	726	738	12	1.7
Belconnen	1,170	1,173	3	0.3
Bowral	517	501	-16	-3.1
Braddon	864	847	-17	-2.0
Cooma	357	363	6	1.7
Corrimal	1,235	1,217	-18	-1.5
Cowra	467	476	9	1.9
Dapto	1,237	1,184	-53	-4.3
Goulburn	718	749	31	4.3
Griffith	540	534	-6	-1.1
Gungahlin	362	355	-7	-1.9
Leeton	408	419	11	2.7
Narooma	306	291	-15	-4.9
Nowra	1,821	1,812	-9	-0.5
Queanbeyan	585	577	-8	-1.4
Shellharbour	1,484	1,452	-32	-2.2
Tuggeranong	800	845	45	5.6
Tumut	283	298	15	5.3
Ulladulla	508	497	-11	-2.2
Wagga	1,253	1,230	-23	-1.8
Woden	546	530	-16	-2.9
Wollongong	1,538	1,498	-40	-2.6
Yass	86	89	%	%
Young	583	557	-26	-4.5
Other (a)	1	5	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,152</b>	<b>18,988</b>	<b>-164</b>	<b>-0.9</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Airport West	1,304	1,310	6	0.5
Albury	2,640	2,546	-94	-3.6
Box Hill	2,452	2,403	-49	-2.0
Broadmeadows	4,129	4,081	-48	-1.2
Darebin	2,935	2,938	3	0.1
Deniliquin	269	258	-11	-4.1
Echuca	586	581	-5	-0.9
Epping	3,078	3,034	-44	-1.4
Greensborough	1,831	1,840	9	0.5
Heidelberg	1,424	1,419	-5	-0.4
Moreland	3,008	3,091	83	2.8
Newmarket	1,730	1,714	-16	-0.9
Seymour	772	777	5	0.6
Shepparton	2,247	2,133	-114	-5.1
Sth Melbourne	1,025	1,033	8	0.8
Sunbury	998	1,007	9	0.9
Wangaratta	1,375	1,365	-10	-0.7
Windsor Vic	2,797	2,826	29	1.0
Yarra	2,496	2,505	9	0.4
Other (a)	16	15	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,112</b>	<b>36,876</b>	<b>-236</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Bairnsdale	1,056	1,061	5	0.5
Belgrave	552	580	28	5.1
Boronia	1,285	1,284	-1	-0.1
Cheltenham	1,947	1,934	-13	-0.7
Cranbourne	1,876	1,888	12	0.6
Dandenong	3,165	3,075	-90	-2.8
Fountain Gate	2,523	2,436	-87	-3.4
Frankston	2,894	2,862	-32	-1.1
Glen Waverley	1,215	1,215	0	0.0
Hastings	713	678	-35	-4.9
Lilydale	1,487	1,518	31	2.1
Mornington	581	584	3	0.5
Morwell	2,725	2,736	11	0.4
Oakleigh	1,773	1,759	-14	-0.8
Pakenham	1,125	1,092	-33	-2.9
Ringwood	1,979	1,962	-17	-0.9
Rosebud	820	854	34	4.1
Rowville	722	730	8	1.1
Sale	809	792	-17	-2.1
Springvale	2,113	2,067	-46	-2.2
Warragul	762	743	-19	-2.5
Wonthaggi	956	950	-6	-0.6
Other (a)	1	0	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,079</b>	<b>32,800</b>	<b>-279</b>	<b>-0.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b>WEST VICTORIA</b>				
Ararat	253	234	-19	-7.5
Ballarat	3,211	3,168	-43	-1.3
Bendigo	2,841	2,811	-30	-1.1
Colac	647	651	4	0.6
Corio	1,826	1,842	16	0.9
Footscray	1,657	1,612	-45	-2.7
Geelong	3,630	3,647	17	0.5
Hamilton	401	434	33	8.2
Horsham	691	686	-5	-0.7
Maryborough	486	494	8	1.6
Melton	2,032	1,998	-34	-1.7
Mildura	1,864	1,843	-21	-1.1
Newport	1,124	1,160	36	3.2
Portland	423	424	1	0.2
Stawell	177	180	3	1.7
Sunshine	3,714	3,709	-5	-0.1
Swan Hill	746	733	-13	-1.7
Warrnambool	922	913	-9	-1.0
Watergardens	3,857	3,780	-77	-2.0
Werribee	4,401	4,478	77	1.7
Other (a)	4	5	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,907</b>	<b>34,802</b>	<b>-105</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Atherton	946	969	23	2.4
Ayr	432	462	30	6.9
Biloela	215	205	-10	-4.7
Bowen	478	511	33	6.9
Cairns Aplin	5,441	5,628	187	3.4
Charters Towers	451	448	-3	-0.7
Emerald	403	409	6	1.5
Gladstone	930	988	58	6.2
Indigenous Service Centre	1,060	1,013	-47	-4.4
Ingham	455	460	5	1.1
Innisfail	973	1,020	47	4.8
Longreach	161	167	6	3.7
Mackay	1,895	1,990	95	5.0
Mareeba	840	853	13	1.5
Mossman	659	683	24	3.6
Mt Isa	712	735	23	3.2
Normanton	74	74	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	127	142	15	11.8
Palm Island	57	61	%	%
Rockhampton	2,112	2,185	73	3.5
Thursday Is	89	64	%	%
Townsville	4,549	4,653	104	2.3
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	296	291	-5	-1.7
Whitsunday	634	648	14	2.2
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	461	453	-8	-1.7
Yeppoon	554	570	16	2.9
Other (a)	38	25	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,042</b>	<b>25,707</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>2.7</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>CENTRAL QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Bundaberg	3,321	3,352	31	0.9
Caboolture	3,754	3,719	-35	-0.9
Caloundra	1,627	1,593	-34	-2.1
Cherbourg	239	259	20	8.4
Chermside	1,376	1,370	-6	-0.4
Deception Bay	2,596	2,729	133	5.1
Fortitude Valley	1,435	1,435	0	0.0
Gympie	1,614	1,601	-13	-0.8
Hervey Bay	1,768	1,832	64	3.6
Kawana Waters	794	784	-10	-1.3
Kingaroy	820	814	-6	-0.7
Margate	69	69	%	%
Maroochydore	1,746	1,763	17	1.0
Maryborough	1,365	1,361	-4	-0.3
Mitchelton	1,751	1,725	-26	-1.5
Mt Gravatt	2,502	2,494	-8	-0.3
Nambour	1,198	1,214	16	1.3
Noosa	1,305	1,301	-4	-0.3
Nundah	1,682	1,686	4	0.2
South Brisbane	1,231	1,242	11	0.9
Stones Corner	2,145	2,130	-15	-0.7
Strathpine	2,078	2,132	54	2.6
Toowong	1,607	1,592	-15	-0.9
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,023</b>	<b>38,197</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>0.5</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Beaudesert	688	720	32	4.7
Beenleigh	2,524	2,466	-58	-2.3
Biggera Waters	3,668	3,797	129	3.5
Browns Plains	2,260	2,282	22	1.0
Capalaba	959	960	1	0.1
Charleville	193	197	4	2.1
Cleveland	1,145	1,150	5	0.4
Dalby	466	487	21	4.5
Goodna	1,841	1,844	3	0.2
Goondiwindi	348	346	-2	-0.6
Inala	2,085	2,096	11	0.5
Ipswich	3,335	3,286	-49	-1.5
Nerang	4,243	4,107	-136	-3.2
Palm Beach	4,504	4,362	-142	-3.2
Roma	125	126	1	0.8
Southport	59	70	%	%
Stanthorpe	416	398	-18	-4.3
Toowoomba	2,119	2,065	-54	-2.5
Warwick	544	520	-24	-4.4
Woodridge	2,456	2,425	-31	-1.3
Wynnum	1,067	1,077	10	0.9
Other (a)	201	196	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,246</b>	<b>34,977</b>	<b>-269</b>	<b>-0.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></b>				
Berri	938	879	-59	-6.3
Broken Hill	797	782	-15	-1.9
Ceduna	290	273	-17	-5.9
Cooper Pedy	161	151	-10	-6.2
Elizabeth	3,126	3,057	-69	-2.2
Enfield	1,779	1,751	-28	-1.6
Gawler	1,413	1,425	12	0.8
Glenelg	959	937	-22	-2.3
Kadina	802	789	-13	-1.6
Kilkenny	1,535	1,529	-6	-0.4
Marion	2,732	2,671	-61	-2.2
Modbury	2,301	2,256	-45	-2.0
Mt Barker	761	788	27	3.5
Mt Gambier	1,282	1,259	-23	-1.8
Murray Bridge	1,106	1,078	-28	-2.5
Noarlunga	3,297	3,217	-80	-2.4
Norwood	1,998	1,985	-13	-0.7
Port Adelaide	1,712	1,711	-1	-0.1
Port Augusta	842	826	-16	-1.9
Port Lincoln	639	670	31	4.9
Port Pirie	1,051	1,028	-23	-2.2
Salisbury	3,226	3,167	-59	-1.8
Torrens ville	1,802	1,818	16	0.9
Victor Harbor	760	763	3	0.4
Whyalla	897	871	-26	-2.9
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,206</b>	<b>35,681</b>	<b>-525</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>				
Albany	1,289	1,266	-23	-1.8
Armadale	1,615	1,601	-14	-0.9
Bunbury	2,313	2,269	-44	-1.9
Busselton	1,081	1,083	2	0.2
Cannington	2,210	2,160	-50	-2.3
Carnarvon	238	252	14	5.9
Esperance	356	374	18	5.1
Fremantle	1,508	1,556	48	3.2
Geraldton	1,521	1,514	-7	-0.5
Gosnells	1,444	1,478	34	2.4
Innaloo	1,442	1,401	-41	-2.8
Joondalup	2,156	2,110	-46	-2.1
Kalgoorlie	847	836	-11	-1.3
Karratha	492	472	-20	-4.1
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	124	104	-20	-16.1
Mandurah	1,870	1,877	7	0.4
Meekatharra	217	210	-7	-3.2
Midland	1,903	1,959	56	2.9
Mirrabooka	2,334	2,271	-63	-2.7
Morley	2,328	2,340	12	0.5
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	101	107	6	5.9
Northam	1,201	1,198	-3	-0.2
Rockingham	2,357	2,336	-21	-0.9
South Hedland	406	414	8	2.0
Spearwood	1,424	1,409	-15	-1.1
Victoria Park	2,075	2,033	-42	-2.0
Warwick Grove	1,084	1,110	26	2.4
Other (a)	14	13	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,950</b>	<b>35,753</b>	<b>-197</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b>TASMANIA</b>				
Bridgewater	1,153	1,120	-33	-2.9
Burnie	1,727	1,690	-37	-2.1
Devonport	1,676	1,606	-70	-4.2
Glenorchy	1,518	1,480	-38	-2.5
Hobart	1,630	1,618	-12	-0.7
Huonville	408	405	-3	-0.7
Launceston	4,381	4,188	-193	-4.4
Rosny Park	1,424	1,396	-28	-2.0
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,917</b>	<b>13,503</b>	<b>-414</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
<b>NORTH AUSTRALIA</b>				
Alice Springs	733	747	14	1.9
Angurugu RSC	105	112	7	6.7
Borroloola	22	<20	na	na
Broome	494	489	-5	-1.0
Casuarina	667	700	33	4.9
Central Aust RST	1,631	1,604	-27	-1.7
Darwin	410	450	40	9.8
Derby	138	145	7	5.1
Fitzroy Crossing	51	46	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	72	69	%	%
Halls Creek	186	183	-3	-1.6
Katherine	313	312	-1	-0.3
Kimberley RST	62	70	%	%
Kununurra	244	246	2	0.8
Maningrida	305	279	-26	-8.5
Palmerston	816	922	106	13.0
Tennant Creek	255	259	4	1.6
Tiwi Islands	201	190	-11	-5.5
Top End East	431	404	-27	-6.3
Top End Hub	60	52	%	%
Top End South	474	512	38	8.0
Top End West	465	486	21	4.5
Wadeye	282	287	5	1.8
Yuendumu RSC	65	60	%	%
Other (a)	43	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,525</b>	<b>8,675</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	January 2014	February 2014	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<b><i>OTHER</i></b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	8	14	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	86	82	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-6	-49	%	%
<b><i>AUSTRALIA</i></b>	<b>428,160</b>	<b>425,617</b>	<b>-2,543</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

(a) Job seekers who are not allocated to any of the reported offices.

Notes:

- Variations for Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.
- In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 20 for specific Service Centres are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".
- Area Support Office boundaries changed to Service Zones from July 2011. The July 2011 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.



**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 21 FEBRUARY 2014**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	87.5	83.7	85.4
Earned an income	12.5	16.3	14.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	2.0	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.8	2.6	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.3	1.8	1.6
Over \$316.00	7.5	9.1	8.4
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b>112,410</b>	<b>139,673</b>	<b>252,083</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	78.0	72.0	74.1
Earned an income	22.0	28.0	25.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.6	2.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.4	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.2	2.7	2.5
Over \$316.00	13.9	18.4	16.8
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b>61,128</b>	<b>111,813</b>	<b>172,941</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	84.2	78.5	80.8
Earned an income	15.8	21.5	19.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.3	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.2	2.9	2.6
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.6	2.2	2.0
Over \$316.00	9.8	13.2	11.8
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b>173,538</b>	<b>251,486</b>	<b>425,024</b>

Note:

- - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- - There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes)

## Explanatory Notes

### Introduction

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

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

### Scope

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

### Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

## **Payment History**

### **Youth Allowance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Newstart Allowance**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Job Search Allowance**

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

#### **Sickness Allowance**

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

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

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

#### **Partner Allowance**

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

From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance.

Partner Allowance was introduced in October 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

#### **Youth Training Allowance**

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

#### **Widow Allowance**

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

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

#### **Mature Age Allowance**

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

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

#### **Comparability of Data**

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

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

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

#### **Definition of Recipients**

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

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

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

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

#### **Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)**

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

#### **Introduction of Youth Allowance**

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

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

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

#### **Job seekers**

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

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

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

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

**Duration**

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

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

**Symbols**

n.a. not available  
.. not applicable

## **Glossary**

### **Activity test status**

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

### **Age**

Age in years at time of data collection.

### **Area Support Office**

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

### **Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)**

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

### **CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)**

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

### **Customer Service Centre**

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

### **Did not receive a payment**

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

### **Fortnightly earnings**

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

### **Incapacitated**

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

### **Job seeker**

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



**Long-term recipients**

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

**Newstart Allowance (NSA)**

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

**Partner Allowance (PA)**

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

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

**Service Centre**

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

**Service Zone**

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

**Short-term recipients**

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

**Widow Allowance (WA)**

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

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

**Youth Training Allowance (YTA)**

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

**Youth Allowance (YA)**

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

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

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

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

**Youth Allowance (other)**

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

**Zero paid**

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

## Appendix

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

#### Official statistics

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

#### ABS definition

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

#### DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

#### Differences

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

#### Duration

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

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

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

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

- Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.
- Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

#### **Seasonal adjustment**

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

#### **Classification**

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

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

#### **Employment**

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

#### **Timing**

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

#### **Treatment of partners**

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

#### **Pensioners**

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

**Non job seekers**

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

**Waiting periods**

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

**Survey**

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

## **For More Information**

### **Labour market information**

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

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

### **For enquiries email:**

IncomeSupportInformation@deewr.gov.au

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

Director  
Income Support Information  
Income Support Policy and Information Branch  
Income Support Group  
Department of Social Services  
PO Box 9880  
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

### **Other recipient information**

The Department of Social Services publishes the “Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview” on an annual basis and also collates statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers.