

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

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

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 3 April 2019.

Statistical Highlights – January 2019

Between January 2018 and January 2019

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 6.7 per cent** overall from 857 635 to 799 826.

- NSA recipients decreased 6.1 per cent from 763 677 to 716 797.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 11.6 per cent from 93 958 to 83 029.

The number of job seekers **decreased 9.0 per cent** overall from 512 739 to 466 430.

- NSA job seekers decreased 7.8 per cent from 445 316 to 410 438.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 17.0 per cent from 67 423 to 55 992.

Long-term job seekers decreased 9.5 per cent from 355 615 to 321 983.

Short-term job seekers decreased 8.1 per cent from 157 124 to 144 447.

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

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

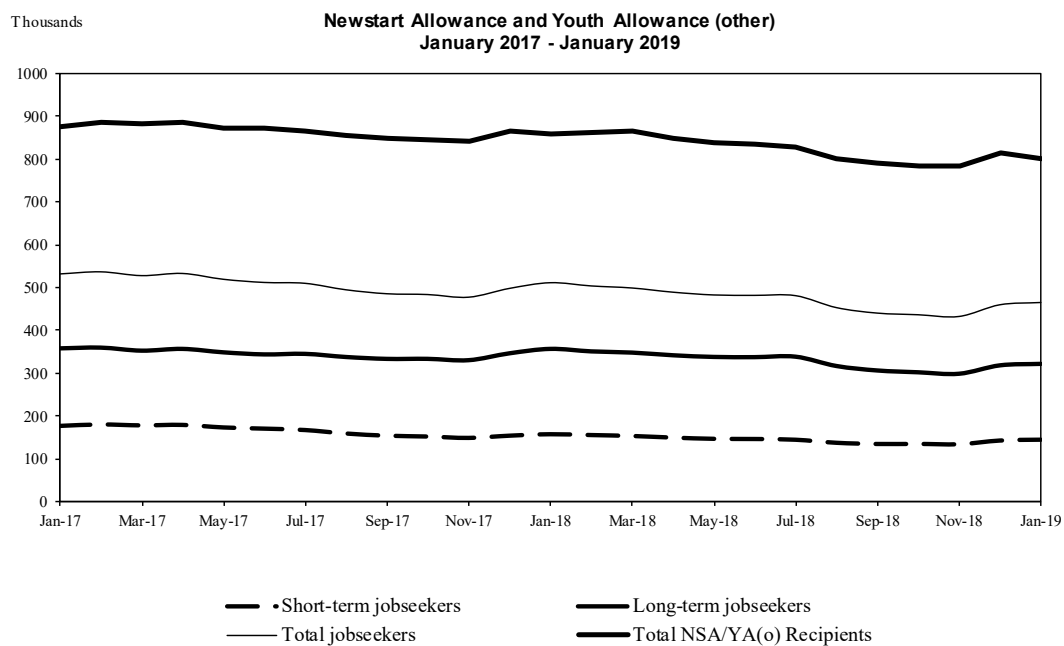


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
January 2017	564,484	774,122	99,888	157,268	3,273	3,193	16,524
February 2017	568,286	781,330	103,380	168,589	3,289	3,084	16,292
March 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
February 2018	578,876	766,603	95,597	158,226	2,321	2,349	14,489
March 2018	581,699	769,155	94,627	175,407	2,240	2,218	13,891
April 2018	573,335	755,923	92,134	180,907	2,413	2,142	13,573
May 2018	568,160	747,327	90,193	189,067	2,555	2,071	13,209
June 2018	568,133	745,902	90,286	192,045	2,525	1,985	12,907
July 2018	562,918	738,325	89,479	185,267	2,563	1,909	12,554
August 2018	547,305	717,452	83,871	199,429	2,580	1,792	11,949
September 2018	541,747	709,935	81,465	201,869	2,590	1,680	11,447
October 2018	538,054	705,658	79,725	199,539	2,593	1,596	11,060
November 2018	538,609	706,424	78,746	170,648	2,382	1,523	10,622
December 2018	554,688	728,095	86,292	138,308	2,288	1,435	10,220
January 2019	545,582	716,797	83,029	136,469	2,202	1,375	9,874
Variation December 2018 - January 2019							
Number	-9,106	-11,298	-3,263	-1,839	-86	-60	-346
Per cent	-1.6	-1.6	-3.8	-1.3	-3.8	-4.2	-3.4

Notes:

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

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

Newstart Allowance	January 2019 Persons	January 2019 Males	January 2019 Females	December 2018	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	171,215	104,811	66,404	173,407	-2,192	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	5,993	3,035	2,958	8,858	-2,865	-32.3
Received a payment	165,222	101,776	63,446	164,549	673	0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	4,710	1,239	3,471	4,814	-104	-2.2
Other activities without job search (c)	7,431	4,147	3,284	7,742	-311	-4.0
Incapacitated (d)	20,538	11,745	8,793	22,286	-1,748	-7.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,010	5,977	5,033	11,391	-381	-3.3
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	121,533	78,668	42,865	118,316	3,217	2.7
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	34,191	20,430	13,761	34,228	-37	-0.1
Long Term Newstart Allowees	545,582	251,836	293,746	554,688	-9,106	-1.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	14,397	5,286	9,111	20,607	-6,210	-30.1
Received a payment	531,185	246,550	284,635	534,081	-2,896	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	59,849	14,481	45,368	60,408	-559	-0.9
Other activities without job search (c)	66,860	32,770	34,090	67,664	-804	-1.2
Incapacitated (d)	58,573	28,080	30,493	64,671	-6,098	-9.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	56,998	26,189	30,809	56,358	640	1.1
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	288,905	145,030	143,875	284,980	3,925	1.4
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	231,839	115,287	116,552	233,486	-1,647	-0.7
All Newstart Allowees	716,797	356,647	360,150	728,095	-11,298	-1.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	20,390	8,321	12,069	29,465	-9,075	-30.8
Received a payment	696,407	348,326	348,081	698,630	-2,223	-0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	64,559	15,720	48,839	65,222	-663	-1.0
Other activities without job search (c)	74,291	36,917	37,374	75,406	-1,115	-1.5
Incapacitated (d)	79,111	39,825	39,286	86,957	-7,846	-9.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	68,008	32,166	35,842	67,749	259	0.4
All NSA job seekers (f)	410,438	223,698	186,740	403,296	7,142	1.8
All NSA training/education (g)	266,030	135,717	130,313	267,714	-1,684	-0.6

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

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	January 2019 Persons	January 2019 Males	January 2019 Females	December 2018	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	35,809	18,944	16,865	38,026	-2,217	-5.8
Did not receive a payment (a)	865	384	481	1,195	-330	-27.6
Received a payment	34,944	18,560	16,384	36,831	-1,887	-5.1
Other activities without job search (b)	9,218	5,098	4,120	9,429	-211	-2.2
Incapacitated (c)	1,500	709	791	1,742	-242	-13.9
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,312	600	712	1,484	-172	-11.6
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	22,914	12,153	10,761	24,176	-1,262	-5.2
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	16,009	8,715	7,294	14,116	1,893	13.4
Long Term Youth Allowees	47,220	22,501	24,719	48,266	-1,046	-2.2
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,360	518	842	1,613	-253	-15.7
Received a payment	45,860	21,983	23,877	46,653	-793	-1.7
Other activities without job search (b)	7,896	4,084	3,812	7,739	157	2.0
Incapacitated (c)	2,501	1,070	1,431	2,817	-316	-11.2
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,385	992	1,393	2,436	-51	-2.1
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	33,078	15,837	17,241	33,661	-583	-1.7
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	24,865	12,198	12,667	23,789	1,076	4.5
All Youth Allowees	83,029	41,445	41,584	86,292	-3,263	-3.8
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,225	902	1,323	2,808	-583	-20.8
Received a payment	80,804	40,543	40,261	83,484	-2,680	-3.2
Other activities without job search (b)	17,114	9,182	7,932	17,168	-54	-0.3
Incapacitated (c)	4,001	1,779	2,222	4,559	-558	-12.2
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,697	1,592	2,105	3,920	-223	-5.7
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	55,992	27,990	28,002	57,837	-1,845	-3.2
All YA (other) training/education (f)	40,874	20,913	19,961	37,905	2,969	7.8

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

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

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
January 2017	176,480	356,794	533,274
February 2017	179,788	358,438	538,226
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
February 2018	155,208	349,999	505,207
March 2018	153,083	347,281	500,364
April 2018	149,276	341,290	490,566
May 2018	146,495	337,567	484,062
June 2018	146,049	337,064	483,113
July 2018	144,339	338,105	482,444
August 2018	137,262	317,179	454,441
September 2018	134,476	307,116	441,592
October 2018	134,675	303,058	437,733
November 2018	133,936	299,787	433,723
December 2018	142,492	318,641	461,133
January 2019	144,447	321,983	466,430
Variation December 2018 - January 2019			
Number	1,955	3,342	5,297
Per cent	1.4	1.0	1.1

Notes:

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

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

State	December 2018	January 2019	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	37,384	37,813	429	1.1
Victoria	29,986	30,555	569	1.9
Queensland	36,104	36,840	736	2.0
South Australia	10,832	10,959	127	1.2
Western Australia	19,596	19,677	81	0.4
Tasmania	3,430	3,451	21	0.6
Northern Territory	3,772	3,714	-58	-1.5
Australian Capital Territory	1,388	1,438	50	3.6
Australia	142,492	144,447	1,955	1.4
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	82,572	83,349	777	0.9
Victoria	64,603	65,840	1,237	1.9
Queensland	73,229	73,936	707	1.0
South Australia	27,143	27,548	405	1.5
Western Australia	46,813	47,036	223	0.5
Tasmania	11,072	11,172	100	0.9
Northern Territory	10,690	10,526	-164	-1.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,519	2,576	57	2.3
Australia	318,641	321,983	3,342	1.0
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	119,956	121,162	1,206	1.0
Victoria	94,589	96,395	1,806	1.9
Queensland	109,333	110,776	1,443	1.3
South Australia	37,975	38,507	532	1.4
Western Australia	66,409	66,713	304	0.5
Tasmania	14,502	14,623	121	0.8
Northern Territory	14,462	14,240	-222	-1.5
Australian Capital Territory	3,907	4,014	107	2.7
Australia	461,133	466,430	5,297	1.1

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	1,605	1.8	568	0.4	2,173	0.9
18 - 20 years	8,505	9.4	10,316	6.4	18,821	7.5
21 - 24 years	12,211	13.4	20,709	12.9	32,920	13.1
25 - 29 years	13,934	15.3	21,192	13.2	35,126	14.0
30 - 39 years	21,699	23.9	35,119	21.8	56,818	22.6
40 - 49 years	16,183	17.8	32,950	20.5	49,133	19.5
50 - 59 years	11,523	12.7	26,291	16.3	37,814	15.0
60 years and over	5,160	5.7	13,723	8.5	18,883	7.5
Total	90,820	100.0	160,868	100.0	251,688	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,812	3.4	776	0.5	2,588	1.2
18 - 20 years	7,625	14.2	11,845	7.4	19,470	9.1
21 - 24 years	7,237	13.5	16,986	10.5	24,223	11.3
25 - 29 years	6,094	11.4	14,031	8.7	20,125	9.4
30 - 39 years	8,307	15.5	30,696	19.1	39,003	18.2
40 - 49 years	9,131	17.0	41,732	25.9	50,863	23.7
50 - 59 years	9,118	17.0	31,314	19.4	40,432	18.8
60 years and over	4,303	8.0	13,735	8.5	18,038	8.4
Total	53,627	100.0	161,115	100.0	214,742	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,417	2.4	1,344	0.4	4,761	1.0
18 - 20 years	16,130	11.2	22,161	6.9	38,291	8.2
21 - 24 years	19,448	13.5	37,695	11.7	57,143	12.3
25 - 29 years	20,028	13.9	35,223	10.9	55,251	11.8
30 - 39 years	30,006	20.8	65,815	20.4	95,821	20.5
40 - 49 years	25,314	17.5	74,682	23.2	99,996	21.4
50 - 59 years	20,641	14.3	57,605	17.9	78,246	16.8
60 years and over	9,463	6.6	27,458	8.5	36,921	7.9
Total	144,447	100.0	321,983	100.0	466,430	100.0

Notes:

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

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

State by SA3	December 2018	January 2019	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,125	1,150	2.2%
Cotter - Namadgi	67	80	19.4%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	77	76	-1.3%
Gungahlin	562	595	5.9%
North Canberra	652	647	-0.8%
South Canberra	186	173	-7.0%
Tuggeranong	811	848	4.6%
Weston Creek	191	186	-2.6%
Woden	245	261	6.5%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,665	1,702	2.2%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,160	1,175	1.3%
Armidale	1,071	1,109	3.5%	Liverpool	2,167	2,228	2.8%
Auburn	1,219	1,222	0.2%	Lord Howe Island	0	0	0.0%
Bankstown	3,027	3,073	1.5%	Lower Hunter	2,291	2,284	-0.3%
Bathurst	939	956	1.8%	Lower Murray	404	415	2.7%
Baulkham Hills	505	533	5.5%	Maitland	1,547	1,567	1.3%
Blacktown	2,193	2,214	1.0%	Manly	158	157	-0.6%
Blacktown - North	750	775	3.3%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	783	784	0.1%
Blue Mountains	873	912	4.5%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,050	3,089	1.3%
Blue Mountains - South	0	0	0.0%	Moree - Narrabri	1,050	1,023	-2.6%
Botany	475	468	-1.5%	Mount Druitt	2,803	2,835	1.1%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,462	1,457	-0.3%	Newcastle	3,750	3,849	2.6%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,738	1,736	-0.1%	North Sydney - Mosman	330	332	0.6%
Broken Hill and Far West	857	870	1.5%	Orange	1,064	1,079	1.4%
Camden	469	485	3.4%	Parramatta	1,616	1,638	1.4%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,016	3,056	1.3%	Pennant Hills - Epping	219	222	1.4%
Canada Bay	380	387	1.8%	Penrith	1,955	1,985	1.5%
Canterbury	2,096	2,115	0.9%	Pittwater	213	218	2.3%
Carlingford	711	722	1.5%	Port Macquarie	1,696	1,741	2.7%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	404	413	2.2%	Port Stephens	1,579	1,547	-2.0%
Clarence Valley	1,376	1,401	1.8%	Queanbeyan	547	549	0.4%
Coffs Harbour	2,222	2,245	1.0%	Richmond - Windsor	521	532	2.1%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	589	604	2.5%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,087	2,104	0.8%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,720	1,724	0.2%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,469	2,522	2.1%
Dubbo	2,414	2,378	-1.5%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	159	152	-4.4%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	105	118	12.4%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	738	769	4.2%
Eastern Suburbs - North	544	569	4.6%	Shoalhaven	2,058	2,058	0.0%
Eastern Suburbs - South	978	1,004	2.7%	Snowy Mountains	360	382	6.1%
Fairfield	5,249	5,352	2.0%	South Coast	1,644	1,615	-1.8%
Gosford	2,797	2,827	1.1%	Southern Highlands	375	382	1.9%
Goulburn - Yass	1,264	1,266	0.2%	St Marys	1,116	1,126	0.9%
Great Lakes	824	796	-3.4%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,341	1,375	2.5%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	1,007	972	-3.5%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	501	528	5.4%
Hawkesbury	195	178	-8.7%	Sydney Inner City	2,483	2,455	-1.1%
Hornsby	450	449	-0.2%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,459	2,468	0.4%
Hurstville	1,195	1,214	1.6%	Taree - Gloucester	1,691	1,713	1.3%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	0	0	0.0%	Tumut - Tumbarumba	334	318	-4.8%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,401	1,431	2.1%	Tweed Valley	2,184	2,208	1.1%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,759	1,730	-1.6%	Upper Hunter	764	759	-0.7%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,311	1,361	3.8%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	835	841	0.7%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,174	1,177	0.3%	Wagga Wagga	1,980	1,954	-1.3%
Ku-ring-gai	259	265	2.3%	Warringah	735	748	1.8%
Lachlan Valley	1,658	1,684	1.6%	Wollondilly	370	358	-3.2%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,045	2,060	0.7%	Wollongong	2,017	2,038	1.0%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,437	1,490	3.7%	Wyong	3,883	3,917	0.9%
Leichhardt	511	496	-2.9%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2018	January 2019	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,770	3,617	-4.1%
Barkly	869	860	-1.0%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,753	2,647	-3.9%
Darwin City	571	566	-0.9%
Darwin Suburbs	1,304	1,288	-1.2%
East Arnhem	1,727	1,709	-1.0%
Katherine	2,268	2,257	-0.5%
Litchfield	423	438	3.5%
Palmerston	893	897	0.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	412	423	2.7%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,590	1,645	3.5%
Beaudesert	436	443	1.6%	Ipswich Inner	3,156	3,168	0.4%
Beenleigh	1,325	1,324	-0.1%	Jimboomba	858	880	2.6%
Bowen Basin - North	629	671	6.7%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	245	239	-2.4%
Bribie - Beachmere	697	712	2.2%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,334	1,348	1.0%
Brisbane Inner	1,601	1,623	1.4%	Mackay	2,699	2,735	1.3%
Brisbane Inner - East	510	520	2.0%	Maroochy	1,202	1,208	0.5%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,174	1,199	2.1%	Maryborough	1,730	1,749	1.1%
Brisbane Inner - West	570	603	5.8%	Mt Gravatt	933	985	5.6%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	889	907	2.0%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	402	417	3.7%
Browns Plains	2,266	2,279	0.6%	Nambour - Pomona	1,387	1,442	4.0%
Buderim	794	813	2.4%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,429	1,486	4.0%
Bundaberg	3,155	3,222	2.1%	Nathan	668	660	-1.2%
Burnett	1,828	1,858	1.6%	Nerang	1,263	1,275	1.0%
Caboolture	2,350	2,405	2.3%	Noosa	552	552	0.0%
Caboolture Hinterland	217	218	0.5%	North Lakes	1,337	1,392	4.1%
Cairns - North	886	896	1.1%	Nundah	637	651	2.2%
Cairns - South	4,227	4,150	-1.8%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,098	2,127	1.4%
Caloundra	1,363	1,415	3.8%	Outback - North	1,568	1,509	-3.8%
Capalaba	988	1,025	3.7%	Outback - South	530	535	0.9%
Carindale	507	511	0.8%	Port Douglas - Daintree	401	405	1.0%
Centenary	233	237	1.7%	Redcliffe	1,457	1,476	1.3%
Central Highlands (Qld)	726	730	0.6%	Robina	701	689	-1.7%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,533	1,556	1.5%	Rockhampton	3,833	3,820	-0.3%
Chermside	1,155	1,193	3.3%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,017	1,044	2.7%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,216	1,248	2.6%	Sandgate	1,034	1,078	4.3%
Coolangatta	960	986	2.7%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	447	465	4.0%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,123	1,166	3.8%	Southport	1,557	1,537	-1.3%
Darling Downs - East	930	962	3.4%	Springfield - Redbank	2,204	2,239	1.6%
Far North	2,922	2,899	-0.8%	Springwood - Kingston	2,877	2,893	0.6%
Forest Lake - Oxley	1,976	2,031	2.8%	Strathpine	853	897	5.2%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,719	2,781	2.3%	Sunnybank	776	791	1.9%
Gold Coast - North	1,586	1,681	6.0%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	991	1,037	4.6%
Gold Coast Hinterland	279	291	4.3%	Surfers Paradise	768	762	-0.8%
Granite Belt	901	886	-1.7%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,563	1,554	-0.6%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,592	1,610	1.1%	The Gap - Enoggera	590	586	-0.7%
Hervey Bay	1,890	1,929	2.1%	Toowoomba	3,113	3,151	1.2%
Hills District	640	659	3.0%	Townsville	6,017	5,962	-0.9%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,275	1,302	2.1%	Whitsunday	409	401	-2.0%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,685	1,706	1.2%	Wynnum - Manly	873	871	-0.2%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2018	January 2019	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	463	461	-0.4%
Adelaide Hills	724	751	3.7%
Barossa	570	597	4.7%
Burnside	282	272	-3.5%
Campbelltown (SA)	582	589	1.2%
Charles Sturt	2,074	2,092	0.9%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,286	2,319	1.4%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,010	989	-2.1%
Gawler - Two Wells	693	697	0.6%
Holdfast Bay	413	424	2.7%
Limestone Coast	1,476	1,464	-0.8%
Lower North	578	596	3.1%
Marion	1,527	1,584	3.7%
Mid North	1,123	1,156	2.9%
Mitcham	626	644	2.9%
Murray and Mallee	2,301	2,346	2.0%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	439	446	1.6%
Onkaparinga	4,194	4,279	2.0%
Outback - North and East	1,520	1,591	4.7%
Playford	4,077	4,141	1.6%
Port Adelaide - East	1,543	1,552	0.6%
Port Adelaide - West	1,696	1,733	2.2%
Prospect - Walkerville	310	310	0.0%
Salisbury	4,144	4,209	1.6%
Tea Tree Gully	1,184	1,189	0.4%
Unley	332	335	0.9%
West Torrens	911	940	3.2%
Yorke Peninsula	726	733	1.0%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2018	January 2019	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	752	734	-2.4%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,345	1,354	0.7%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	309	311	0.6%
Devonport	1,243	1,254	0.9%
Hobart - North East	1,105	1,114	0.8%
Hobart - North West	2,049	2,076	1.3%
Hobart - South and West	475	480	1.1%
Hobart Inner	952	948	-0.4%
Huon - Bruny Island	498	518	4.0%
Launceston	2,830	2,845	0.5%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	517	535	3.5%
North East	1,326	1,347	1.6%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	360	353	-1.9%
South East Coast	171	173	1.2%
West Coast	553	567	2.5%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2018	Jan 2019	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	2,655	2,776	4.6%	Manningham - East	137	141	2.9%
Banyule	1,285	1,334	3.8%	Manningham - West	641	645	0.6%
Barwon - West	197	200	1.5%	Maribyrnong	1,866	1,870	0.2%
Baw Baw	863	869	0.7%	Maroondah	1,198	1,265	5.6%
Bayside	543	547	0.7%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	775	790	1.9%
Bendigo	2,507	2,544	1.5%	Melbourne City	1,658	1,665	0.4%
Boroondara	754	772	2.4%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	2,952	3,046	3.2%
Brimbank	5,174	5,239	1.3%	Mildura	1,781	1,825	2.5%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,346	1,378	2.4%	Moira	643	662	3.0%
Campaspe	797	810	1.6%	Monash	1,240	1,290	4.0%
Cardinia	1,260	1,299	3.1%	Moreland - North	1,287	1,299	0.9%
Casey - North	1,789	1,845	3.1%	Mornington Peninsula	1,789	1,752	-2.1%
Casey - South	2,565	2,678	4.4%	Murray River - Swan Hill	880	903	2.6%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	507	519	2.4%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	397	427	7.6%
Dandenong	3,327	3,444	3.5%	Port Phillip	1,373	1,405	2.3%
Darebin - North	1,823	1,858	1.9%	Shepparton	1,723	1,728	0.3%
Darebin - South	688	706	2.6%	Stonnington - East	223	219	-1.8%
Essendon	999	1,015	1.6%	Stonnington - West	519	541	4.2%
Frankston	2,355	2,409	2.3%	Sunbury	531	548	3.2%
Geelong	3,854	3,937	2.2%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	831	829	-0.2%
Gippsland - East	1,483	1,489	0.4%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,473	4,567	2.1%
Gippsland - South West	1,127	1,133	0.5%	Upper Goulburn Valley	996	1,018	2.2%
Glen Eira	1,122	1,144	2.0%	Wangaratta - Benalla	899	943	4.9%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	811	862	6.3%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,605	1,643	2.4%
Grampians	1,231	1,245	1.1%	Wellington	1,148	1,138	-0.9%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	811	819	1.0%	Whitehorse - East	449	455	1.3%
Hobsons Bay	1,233	1,244	0.9%	Whitehorse - West	769	782	1.7%
Keilor	622	634	1.9%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,258	3,317	1.8%
Kingston	1,157	1,178	1.8%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,501	1,515	0.9%
Knox	1,563	1,598	2.2%	Wyndham	4,059	4,066	0.2%
Latrobe Valley	2,972	2,951	-0.7%	Yarra	1,428	1,462	2.4%
Loddon - Elmore	303	305	0.7%	Yarra Ranges	1,528	1,584	3.7%
Macedon Ranges	251	268	6.8%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2018	January 2019	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,593	1,553	-2.5%
Armadale	2,863	2,881	0.6%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,154	1,137	-1.5%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,234	2,287	2.4%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,061	2,044	-0.8%
Bunbury	3,165	3,176	0.3%
Canning	1,936	1,981	2.3%
Cockburn	2,366	2,391	1.1%
Cottesloe - Claremont	408	418	2.5%
Esperance	303	298	-1.7%
Fremantle	1,108	1,134	2.3%
Gascoyne	547	543	-0.7%
Goldfields	1,650	1,597	-3.2%
Gosnells	3,705	3,728	0.6%
Joondalup	2,332	2,345	0.6%
Kalamunda	1,028	1,057	2.8%
Kimberley	3,201	3,184	-0.5%
Kwinana	1,631	1,622	-0.6%
Mandurah	3,364	3,370	0.2%
Manjimup	656	658	0.3%
Melville	1,130	1,152	1.9%
Mid West	2,727	2,765	1.4%
Mundaring	922	906	-1.7%
Perth City	2,041	2,092	2.5%
Pilbara	1,723	1,730	0.4%
Rockingham	3,672	3,699	0.7%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	472	481	1.9%
South Perth	639	663	3.8%
Stirling	4,622	4,667	1.0%
Swan	3,858	3,878	0.5%
Wanneroo	5,010	4,999	-0.2%
Wheat Belt - North	1,686	1,708	1.3%
Wheat Belt - South	522	521	-0.2%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2018	January 2019	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	10	9	-10.0%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<5	13	n/a
Jervis Bay	15	13	-13.3%
Not recorded	378	231	-38.9%

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 18 January 2018

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	89.5	85.4	86.8
Earned an income	10.5	14.6	13.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.3	1.2
\$104 - <\$254	2.2	3	2.7
\$254+	7.4	10.3	9.3
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	77,762	142,496	220,258
Females			
Did not earn an income	79.4	73.6	75
Earned an income	20.6	26.4	25
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.5	1.6	1.6
\$104 - <\$254	3.7	4	3.9
\$254+	15.4	20.8	19.5
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	42,650	141,935	184,585
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.9	79.5	81.4
Earned an income	14.1	20.5	18.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.5	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	2.7	3.5	3.3
\$254+	10.2	15.5	13.9
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	120,412	284,431	404,843

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 18 January 2018

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term YA(o) job seekers %	Long-term YA(o) job seekers %	Total YA(o) job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	89.3	85.6	87.2
Earned an income	10.7	14.4	12.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.8	1.8	1.8
\$143 - <\$250	2	2.1	2
\$250+	6.9	10.4	8.9
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	11,894	15,475	27,369
Females			
Did not earn an income	81.8	76.3	78.4
Earned an income	18.2	23.7	21.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.4	3.2	3.3
\$143 - <\$250	3.2	3.5	3.4
\$250+	11.6	16.9	14.9
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	10,570	17,133	27,703
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.8	80.8	82.8
Earned an income	14.2	19.2	17.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.5	2.6	2.6
\$143 - <\$250	2.6	2.8	2.7
\$250+	9.1	13.8	11.9
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	22,464	32,608	55,072

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 September 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

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. 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 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

A set of Service Centres, grouped together for operational purposes on a geographic basis. Service Zones replaced Areas and Area Support Offices in July 2011. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

Short-term recipients

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

Statistical Areas Level 3

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. 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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