

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>).

March 2016

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, **27 April 2016**

Contents

Introduction.....	2
Statistical Highlights.....	3
Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series.....	4
Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation Of The Job Seeker Population.....	5
Table 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation Of The Job Seeker Population.....	6
Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) Time Series	7
Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State.....	8
Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance And Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Sex	9
Table 7 (Parts a to n) - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre	10
Table 8 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Sex.....	24
Explanatory Notes.....	25
Payment History.....	25
Glossary	31
Appendix.....	34
For More Information	37

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 25 May 2016.

Statistical Highlights – March 2016

Between March 2015 and March 2016

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 1.7 per cent** overall from 866 360 to 881 060.

- NSA recipients increased 2.8 per cent from 759 924 to 781 118.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 6.1 per cent from 106 436 to 99 942.

The number of job seekers **increased 25.9 per cent** overall from 431 137 to 542 787.

- NSA job seekers increased 22.9 per cent from 376 783 to 463 032.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 46.7 per cent from 54 354 to 79 755.

Long-term job seekers increased 30.3 per cent from 275 725 to 359 248.

Short-term job seekers increased 18.1 per cent from 155 412 to 183 539.

NOTE: On 1 July 2015, a new employment services model ‘jobactive’ was introduced. ‘jobactive’ replaced Job Services Australia and has a stronger focus on job search and finding and keeping employment. Job seeker numbers have increased, as more recipients have a job search requirement under the new model.

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

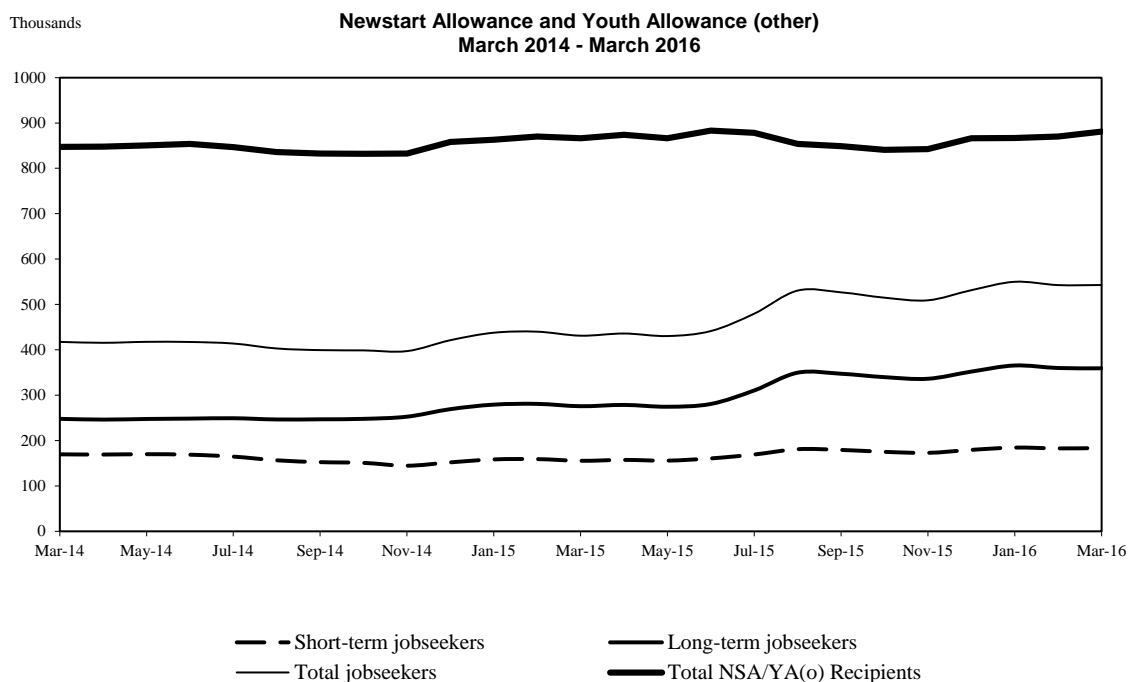


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
December 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
January 2015	532,903	754,340	108,657	173,161	5,502	6,756	23,604
February 2015	537,533	760,149	109,888	188,529	5,417	6,552	23,336
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363
Variation February 2016 - March 2016							
Number	7,492	11,205	-323	15,683	-69	-134	-307
Per cent	1.3	1.5	-0.3	9.1	-1.7	-3.0	-1.6

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.

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

Newstart Allowance	March 2016 Persons	March 2016 Males	March 2016 Females	February 2016	Variation February - March Number	Variation February - March per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	216,215	133,949	82,266	212,502	3,713	1.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	12,701	7,204	5,497	10,884	1,817	16.7
Received a payment	203,514	126,745	76,769	201,618	1,896	0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	7,443	2,147	5,296	7,518	-75	-1.0
Other activities without job search (c)	9,562	5,082	4,480	9,386	176	1.9
Incapacitated (d)	22,723	13,223	9,500	22,282	441	2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	12,807	7,276	5,531	12,516	291	2.3
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	150,979	99,017	51,962	149,916	1,063	0.7
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	30,312	17,102	13,210	28,760	1,552	5.4
Long Term Newstart Allowees	564,903	272,474	292,429	557,411	7,492	1.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	23,275	9,725	13,550	19,342	3,933	20.3
Received a payment	541,628	262,749	278,879	538,069	3,559	0.7
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	70,620	16,096	54,524	71,078	-458	-0.6
Other activities without job search (c)	59,805	28,861	30,944	58,171	1,634	2.8
Incapacitated (d)	48,637	24,116	24,521	47,425	1,212	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	50,513	23,247	27,266	50,009	504	1.0
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	312,053	170,429	141,624	311,386	667	0.2
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	167,671	81,927	85,744	160,172	7,499	4.7
All Newstart Allowees	781,118	406,423	374,695	769,913	11,205	1.5
Did not receive a payment (a)	35,976	16,929	19,047	30,226	5,750	19.0
Received a payment	745,142	389,494	355,648	739,687	5,455	0.7
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	78,063	18,243	59,820	78,596	-533	-0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	69,367	33,943	35,424	67,557	1,810	2.7
Incapacitated (d)	71,360	37,339	34,021	69,707	1,653	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	63,320	30,523	32,797	62,525	795	1.3
All NSA job seekers (f)	463,032	269,446	193,586	461,302	1,730	0.4
All NSA training/education (g)	197,983	99,029	98,954	188,932	9,051	4.8

(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 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)	March 2016 Persons	March 2016 Males	March 2016 Females	February 2016	Variation February - March Number	Variation February - March per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	39,486	21,978	17,508	39,097	389	1.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	999	469	530	871	128	14.7
Received a payment	38,487	21,509	16,978	38,226	261	0.7
Other activities without job search (b)	2,437	1,410	1,027	2,083	354	17.0
Incapacitated (c)	1,851	927	924	1,723	128	7.4
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,639	784	855	1,605	34	2.1
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	32,560	18,388	14,172	32,815	-255	-0.8
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	9,724	5,320	4,404	9,475	249	2.6
Long Term Youth Allowees	60,456	30,943	29,513	61,168	-712	-1.2
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,683	700	983	1,653	30	1.8
Received a payment	58,773	30,243	28,530	59,515	-742	-1.2
Other activities without job search (b)	6,188	3,444	2,744	5,572	616	11.1
Incapacitated (c)	2,757	1,250	1,507	2,685	72	2.7
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,633	1,131	1,502	2,701	-68	-2.5
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	47,195	24,418	22,777	48,557	-1,362	-2.8
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	21,728	10,838	10,890	21,242	486	2.3
All Youth Allowees	99,942	52,921	47,021	100,265	-323	-0.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,682	1,169	1,513	2,524	158	6.3
Received a payment	97,260	51,752	45,508	97,741	-481	-0.5
Other activities without job search (b)	8,625	4,854	3,771	7,655	970	12.7
Incapacitated (c)	4,608	2,177	2,431	4,408	200	4.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,272	1,915	2,357	4,306	-34	-0.8
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	79,755	42,806	36,949	81,372	-1,617	-2.0
All YA (other) training/education (f)	31,452	16,158	15,294	30,717	735	2.4

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

(b) Allowees who are 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
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,467	246,504	402,971
September 2014	152,447	246,892	399,339
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
January 2015	158,486	279,232	437,718
February 2015	159,147	280,864	440,011
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
Variation February 2016 - March 2016			
Number	808	-695	113
Per cent	0.4	-0.2	0.0

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	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	46,284	46,033	-251	-0.5
Victoria	40,817	40,298	-519	-1.3
Queensland	47,262	48,605	1,343	2.8
South Australia	15,441	15,222	-219	-1.4
Western Australia	22,876	23,222	346	1.5
Tasmania	4,330	4,285	-45	-1.0
Northern Territory	3,987	4,108	121	3.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,734	1,766	32	1.8
Australia	182,731	183,539	808	0.4
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	103,826	102,337	-1,489	-1.4
Victoria	80,665	80,429	-236	-0.3
Queensland	80,612	80,981	369	0.5
South Australia	33,958	33,671	-287	-0.8
Western Australia	36,578	37,532	954	2.6
Tasmania	11,514	11,201	-313	-2.7
Northern Territory	9,570	9,872	302	3.2
Australian Capital Territory	3,220	3,225	5	0.2
Australia	359,943	359,248	-695	-0.2
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	150,110	148,370	-1,740	-1.2
Victoria	121,482	120,727	-755	-0.6
Queensland	127,874	129,586	1,712	1.3
South Australia	49,399	48,893	-506	-1.0
Western Australia	59,454	60,754	1,300	2.2
Tasmania	15,844	15,486	-358	-2.3
Northern Territory	13,557	13,980	423	3.1
Australian Capital Territory	4,954	4,991	37	0.7
Australia	542,674	542,787	113	0.0

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

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	2,886	2.5	740	0.4	3,626	1.2
18 - 20 years	12,544	10.7	16,685	8.6	29,229	9.4
21 - 24 years	16,552	14.1	28,830	14.8	45,382	14.5
25 - 29 years	17,277	14.7	27,990	14.4	45,267	14.5
30 - 39 years	26,684	22.7	44,465	22.8	71,149	22.8
40 - 49 years	21,120	18.0	37,934	19.5	59,054	18.9
50 - 59 years	14,551	12.4	27,263	14.0	41,814	13.4
60 years and over	5,792	4.9	10,941	5.6	16,733	5.4
Total	117,406	100.0	194,848	100.0	312,254	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	2,901	4.4	964	0.6	3,865	1.7
18 - 20 years	9,573	14.5	16,072	9.8	25,645	11.1
21 - 24 years	9,321	14.1	20,894	12.7	30,215	13.1
25 - 29 years	7,472	11.3	16,037	9.8	23,509	10.2
30 - 39 years	9,878	14.9	31,178	19.0	41,056	17.8
40 - 49 years	11,803	17.8	42,161	25.6	53,964	23.4
50 - 59 years	11,003	16.6	29,018	17.7	40,021	17.4
60 years and over	4,182	6.3	8,076	4.9	12,258	5.3
Total	66,133	100.0	164,400	100.0	230,533	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	5,787	3.2	1,704	0.5	7,491	1.4
18 - 20 years	22,117	12.1	32,757	9.1	54,874	10.1
21 - 24 years	25,873	14.1	49,724	13.8	75,597	13.9
25 - 29 years	24,749	13.5	44,027	12.3	68,776	12.7
30 - 39 years	36,562	19.9	75,643	21.1	112,205	20.7
40 - 49 years	32,923	17.9	80,095	22.3	113,018	20.8
50 - 59 years	25,554	13.9	56,281	15.7	81,835	15.1
60 years and over	9,974	5.4	19,017	5.3	28,991	5.3
Total	183,539	100.0	359,248	100.0	542,787	100.0

Notes:

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

**Table 7a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Sydney Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	4,225	4,165	-60	-1.4
Bondi Junction	1,089	1,101	12	1.1
Burwood	1,854	1,825	-29	-1.6
Cabramatta	2,362	2,411	49	2.1
Camden	864	858	-6	-0.7
Campbelltown	2,572	2,596	24	0.9
Campsie	3,000	2,965	-35	-1.2
Caringbah	863	835	-28	-3.2
Chatswood	1,221	1,197	-24	-2.0
Darlinghurst	1,821	1,828	7	0.4
Fairfield	3,323	3,314	-9	-0.3
Hornsby	1,260	1,254	-6	-0.5
Hurstville	1,787	1,735	-52	-2.9
Ingleburn	1,435	1,382	-53	-3.7
Leichhardt	1,614	1,573	-41	-2.5
Liverpool	4,412	4,350	-62	-1.4
Maroubra	1,659	1,643	-16	-1.0
Marrickville	1,241	1,253	12	1.0
Northern Beaches	1,537	1,486	-51	-3.3
Redfern	1,915	1,901	-14	-0.7
Rockdale	1,780	1,688	-92	-5.2
Ryde	1,346	1,299	-47	-3.5
Sutherland	904	897	-7	-0.8
Sydney	20	<20	na	na
Other (a)	12	na	na	na
Total	44,116	43,587	-529	-1.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7b - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

North New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,180	1,166	-14	-1.2
Brunswick Heads	1,093	1,068	-25	-2.3
Byron Bay	361	380	19	5.3
Casino	1,022	1,000	-22	-2.2
Cessnock	1,197	1,210	13	1.1
Charlestown	2,415	2,386	-29	-1.2
Coffs Harbour	2,476	2,445	-31	-1.3
Comm Support Team	57	48	%	%
Ettalong	868	868	0	0.0
Forster	1,024	1,004	-20	-2.0
Gosford	2,013	2,000	-13	-0.6
Grafton	1,158	1,146	-12	-1.0
Kempsey	1,108	1,080	-28	-2.5
King Street	1,565	1,560	-5	-0.3
Kurri Kurri	684	689	5	0.7
Lakehaven	2,153	2,150	-3	-0.1
Lismore	2,277	2,283	6	0.3
Maitland	2,255	2,258	3	0.1
Mayfield	1,281	1,257	-24	-1.9
Murwillumbah	878	864	-14	-1.6
Muswellbrook	897	898	1	0.1
Nambucca Heads	732	723	-9	-1.2
Nelson Bay	642	645	3	0.5
Port Macquarie	2,095	2,027	-68	-3.2
Raymond Terrace	1,360	1,326	-34	-2.5
Singleton	508	492	-16	-3.1
Taree	2,061	2,019	-42	-2.0
The Entrance	1,507	1,448	-59	-3.9
Toronto	1,209	1,193	-16	-1.3
Tweed Heads	1,816	1,781	-35	-1.9
Wallsend	2,034	2,014	-20	-1.0
Woy Woy	645	643	-2	-0.3
Wyong	713	691	-22	-3.1
Yamba	493	503	10	2.0
Other (a)	32	43	%	%
Total	43,809	43,308	-501	-1.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7c - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,223	1,199	-24	-2.0
Auburn	2,480	2,428	-52	-2.1
Bathurst	1,102	1,070	-32	-2.9
Baulkham Hills	1,094	1,085	-9	-0.8
Blacktown	3,986	4,047	61	1.5
Bourke	547	541	-6	-1.1
Dubbo	2,980	2,875	-105	-3.5
Glen Innes	468	470	2	0.4
Gunnedah	561	563	2	0.4
Hawkesbury	1,047	1,048	1	0.1
Inverell	859	851	-8	-0.9
Katoomba	859	827	-32	-3.7
Lightning Ridge	239	244	5	2.1
Lithgow	828	816	-12	-1.4
Merrylands	2,467	2,439	-28	-1.1
Moree	633	610	-23	-3.6
Mt Druitt	3,336	3,365	29	0.9
Mudgee	753	725	-28	-3.7
Narrabri	483	464	-19	-3.9
Orange	1,368	1,364	-4	-0.3
Parkes	1,086	1,068	-18	-1.7
Parramatta	2,574	2,524	-50	-1.9
Penrith	2,241	2,222	-19	-0.8
Springwood	431	422	-9	-2.1
St Marys	2,001	1,996	-5	-0.2
Tamworth	2,380	2,337	-43	-1.8
Walgett	338	349	11	3.3
Other (a)	4	4	%	%
Total	38,368	37,953	-415	-1.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7d - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	827	842	15	1.8
Bega	805	803	-2	-0.2
Belconnen	1,471	1,469	-2	-0.1
Bowral	481	465	-16	-3.3
Braddon	1,172	1,167	-5	-0.4
Cooma	392	403	11	2.8
Corrimal	1,227	1,184	-43	-3.5
Cowra	579	589	10	1.7
Dapto	1,457	1,429	-28	-1.9
Goulburn	864	896	32	3.7
Griffith	896	884	-12	-1.3
Gungahlin	600	604	4	0.7
Leeton	512	498	-14	-2.7
Narooma	284	289	5	1.8
Nowra	2,271	2,269	-2	-0.1
Queanbeyan	783	775	-8	-1.0
Shellharbour	1,838	1,816	-22	-1.2
Tuggeranong	1,017	1,025	8	0.8
Tumut	399	412	13	3.3
Ulladulla	519	516	-3	-0.6
Wagga	1,840	1,845	5	0.3
Woden	648	658	10	1.5
Wollongong	1,800	1,727	-73	-4.1
Yass	130	136	6	4.6
Young	722	715	-7	-1.0
Other (a)	17	22	%	%
Total	23,551	23,438	-113	-0.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7e - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,492	1,499	7	0.5
Albury	3,559	3,460	-99	-2.8
Box Hill	2,505	2,506	1	0.0
Broadmeadows	5,426	5,437	11	0.2
Darebin	3,627	3,584	-43	-1.2
Deniliquin	363	359	-4	-1.1
Echuca	813	789	-24	-3.0
Epping	3,710	3,692	-18	-0.5
Greensborough	2,031	2,046	15	0.7
Heidelberg	1,551	1,524	-27	-1.7
Moreland	3,425	3,336	-89	-2.6
Newmarket	2,071	2,076	5	0.2
Seymour	955	890	-65	-6.8
Shepparton	2,454	2,380	-74	-3.0
Sth Melbourne	1,401	1,403	2	0.1
Sunbury	1,160	1,105	-55	-4.7
Wangaratta	1,767	1,770	3	0.2
Windsor Vic	2,892	2,882	-10	-0.3
Yarra	2,933	2,880	-53	-1.8
Other (a)	59	53	%	%
Total	44,194	43,671	-523	-1.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7f - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

Eastern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,426	1,437	11	0.8
Belgrave	610	627	17	2.8
Boronia	1,522	1,483	-39	-2.6
Cheltenham	2,098	2,116	18	0.9
Cranbourne	2,391	2,425	34	1.4
Dandenong	3,224	3,195	-29	-0.9
Fountain Gate	2,688	2,686	-2	-0.1
Frankston	3,237	3,226	-11	-0.3
Glen Waverley	1,346	1,339	-7	-0.5
Hastings	801	812	11	1.4
Lilydale	1,664	1,640	-24	-1.4
Mornington	642	641	-1	-0.2
Morwell	3,767	3,795	28	0.7
Oakleigh	2,036	2,057	21	1.0
Pakenham	1,241	1,231	-10	-0.8
Ringwood	2,343	2,272	-71	-3.0
Rosebud	1,048	1,055	7	0.7
Rowville	734	715	-19	-2.6
Sale	1,144	1,152	8	0.7
Springvale	2,313	2,315	2	0.1
Warragul	896	913	17	1.9
Wonthaggi	1,082	1,060	-22	-2.0
Other (a)	9	10	%	%
Total	38,262	38,202	-60	-0.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7g - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

West Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	346	343	-3	-0.9
Ballarat	4,141	4,087	-54	-1.3
Bendigo	4,028	3,989	-39	-1.0
Colac	637	639	2	0.3
Corio	2,282	2,255	-27	-1.2
Footscray	1,960	2,047	87	4.4
Geelong	3,876	3,776	-100	-2.6
Hamilton	495	500	5	1.0
Horsham	900	905	5	0.6
Maryborough	811	809	-2	-0.2
Melton	2,338	2,344	6	0.3
Mildura	2,351	2,300	-51	-2.2
Newport	1,373	1,334	-39	-2.8
Portland	473	458	-15	-3.2
Stawell	226	220	-6	-2.7
Sunshine	4,032	4,027	-5	-0.1
Swan Hill	941	940	-1	-0.1
Warrnambool	1,087	1,078	-9	-0.8
Watergardens	4,074	4,057	-17	-0.4
Werribee	5,290	5,254	-36	-0.7
Other (a)	37	48	%	%
Total	41,698	41,410	-288	-0.7

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7h - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	967	1,017	50	5.2
Ayr	618	637	19	3.1
Biloela	336	349	13	3.9
Bowen	626	630	4	0.6
Cairns Aplin	5,991	6,106	115	1.9
Charters Towers	564	586	22	3.9
Emerald	653	642	-11	-1.7
Gladstone	1,969	2,134	165	8.4
Indigenous Service Centre	1,903	1,946	43	2.3
Ingham	460	487	27	5.9
Innisfail	1,112	1,163	51	4.6
Longreach	218	221	3	1.4
Mackay	3,819	3,931	112	2.9
Mareeba	986	1,035	49	5.0
Mossman	679	678	-1	-0.1
Mt Isa	1,060	1,104	44	4.2
Normanton	195	194	-1	-0.5
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	246	223	-23	-9.3
Palm Island	391	405	14	3.6
Rockhampton	3,454	3,582	128	3.7
Thursday Is	237	212	-25	-10.5
Townsville Walker	41	36	%	%
TSV Ross River Rd	6,577	6,728	151	2.3
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	522	507	-15	-2.9
Whitsunday	802	798	-4	-0.5
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	511	542	31	6.1
Yeppoon	843	874	31	3.7
Other (a)	150	171	%	%
Total	35,930	36,938	1,008	2.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7i - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

Central Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	4,390	4,450	60	1.4
Caboolture	4,705	4,724	19	0.4
Caloundra	1,966	1,958	-8	-0.4
Cherbourg	376	378	2	0.5
Chermside	1,637	1,625	-12	-0.7
Deception Bay	1,951	1,913	-38	-1.9
Fortitude Valley	1,963	1,948	-15	-0.8
Gympie	2,014	1,990	-24	-1.2
Hervey Bay	2,412	2,426	14	0.6
Kawana Waters	897	870	-27	-3.0
Kingaroy	1,037	1,051	14	1.4
Margate	1,234	1,363	129	10.5
Maroochydore	2,126	2,168	42	2.0
Maryborough	1,902	1,897	-5	-0.3
Mitchelton	2,013	2,047	34	1.7
Mt Gravatt	3,104	3,073	-31	-1.0
Nambour	1,504	1,512	8	0.5
Noosa	1,171	1,197	26	2.2
Nundah	2,079	2,144	65	3.1
South Brisbane	1,565	1,535	-30	-1.9
Stones Corner	2,405	2,378	-27	-1.1
Strathpine	2,675	2,688	13	0.5
Toowong	1,579	1,546	-33	-2.1
Other (a)	23	32	%	%
Total	46,728	46,913	185	0.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7j - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

South Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	956	949	-7	-0.7
Beenleigh	3,512	3,587	75	2.1
Biggera Waters	3,961	3,979	18	0.5
Browns Plains	2,728	2,707	-21	-0.8
Capalaba	1,105	1,143	38	3.4
Charleville	330	330	0	0.0
Cleveland	1,411	1,457	46	3.3
Dalby	976	974	-2	-0.2
Goodna	2,505	2,563	58	2.3
Goondiwindi	456	464	8	1.8
Inala	2,970	3,036	66	2.2
Ipswich	4,795	4,832	37	0.8
Nerang	4,234	4,239	5	0.1
Palm Beach	4,408	4,456	48	1.1
Roma	261	254	-7	-2.7
South Queensland	21	<20	na	na
Southport	580	596	16	2.8
Stanthorpe	531	522	-9	-1.7
Toowoomba	3,945	4,027	82	2.1
Warwick	660	679	19	2.9
Woodridge	3,284	3,336	52	1.6
Wynnum	1,345	1,349	4	0.3
Other (a)	23	na	na	na
Total	44,997	45,530	533	1.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7k - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

South Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,269	1,238	-31	-2.4
Broken Hill	1,120	1,077	-43	-3.8
Ceduna	399	394	-5	-1.3
Cooper Pedy	201	226	25	12.4
Elizabeth	4,938	4,896	-42	-0.9
Enfield	2,322	2,271	-51	-2.2
Gawler	1,943	1,888	-55	-2.8
Glenelg	1,233	1,207	-26	-2.1
Kadina	998	985	-13	-1.3
Kilkenny	2,207	2,204	-3	-0.1
Marion	3,769	3,662	-107	-2.8
Modbury	2,991	2,937	-54	-1.8
Mt Barker	1,088	1,074	-14	-1.3
Mt Gambier	1,652	1,639	-13	-0.8
Murray Bridge	1,354	1,393	39	2.9
Noarlunga	4,583	4,508	-75	-1.6
Norwood	2,576	2,508	-68	-2.6
Port Adelaide	2,333	2,316	-17	-0.7
Port Augusta	1,198	1,204	6	0.5
Port Lincoln	779	787	8	1.0
Port Pirie	1,339	1,330	-9	-0.7
Salisbury	4,915	4,879	-36	-0.7
Torrens ville	2,537	2,498	-39	-1.5
Victor Harbor	946	954	8	0.8
Whyalla	1,292	1,326	34	2.6
Other (a)	30	26	%	%
Total	50,012	49,427	-585	-1.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 71 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre

Western Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,533	1,521	-12	-0.8
Armadale	2,778	2,852	74	2.7
Bunbury	3,229	3,409	180	5.6
Busselton	1,525	1,533	8	0.5
Cannington	3,125	3,139	14	0.4
Carnarvon	569	582	13	2.3
Esperance	423	462	39	9.2
Fremantle	2,400	2,358	-42	-1.8
Geraldton	2,316	2,355	39	1.7
Gosnells	2,509	2,530	21	0.8
Innaloo	2,020	2,099	79	3.9
Joondalup	3,534	3,679	145	4.1
Kalgoorlie	1,177	1,226	49	4.2
Karratha	540	564	24	4.4
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	267	287	20	7.5
Mandurah	3,105	3,184	79	2.5
Meekatharra	336	341	5	1.5
Midland	3,451	3,545	94	2.7
Mirrabooka	3,568	3,597	29	0.8
Morley	3,375	3,502	127	3.8
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	283	300	17	6.0
Northam	1,720	1,738	18	1.0
Rockingham	3,936	3,960	24	0.6
South Hedland	699	724	25	3.6
Success	1,946	2,036	90	4.6
Victoria Park	3,673	3,741	68	1.9
Warwick Grove	1,706	1,699	-7	-0.4
Western Australia	26	24	%	%
Other (a)	58	62	%	%
Total	55,827	57,049	1,222	2.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7m - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Tasmania and North Australia Service Zones by Service Centre	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,217	1,216	-1	-0.1
Burnie	1,767	1,735	-32	-1.8
Devonport	1,732	1,644	-88	-5.1
Glenorchy	1,964	1,929	-35	-1.8
Hobart	1,903	1,828	-75	-3.9
Huonville	490	484	-6	-1.2
Launceston	4,837	4,731	-106	-2.2
Rosny Park	1,782	1,808	26	1.5
Other (a)	25	26	%	%
Total	15,717	15,401	-316	-2.0
North Australia				
Alice Springs	1,067	1,129	62	5.8
Angurugu RSC	217	220	3	1.4
Borrooloola	243	235	-8	-3.3
Broome	986	1,013	27	2.7
Casuarina	1,329	1,365	36	2.7
Central Australia	2,870	3,039	169	5.9
Darwin	533	584	51	9.6
Derby	544	561	17	3.1
Fitzroy Crossing	366	368	2	0.5
Galiwinku RSC	320	336	16	5.0
Halls Creek	385	403	18	4.7
Hermannsburg RSC	75	84	%	%
Katherine	486	496	10	2.1
Kimberley Katherine	1,761	1,765	4	0.2
Kununurra	452	471	19	4.2
Maningrida	722	747	25	3.5
Nhulunbuy	189	185	-4	-2.1
Northern Region	1,801	1,812	11	0.6
Palmerston	1,572	1,642	70	4.5
Papunya RSC	33	44	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	63	61	%	%
Tennant Creek	361	364	3	0.8
Tiwi Islands	323	327	4	1.2
Wadeye	404	408	4	1.0
Yuendumu RSC	143	161	18	12.6
Other (a)	22	26	%	%
Total	17,267	17,846	579	3.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7n - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Other Service Zone by Service Centre and Australian Total	February 2016	March 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	571	579	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,704	1,586	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-77	-51	%	%
Australia	542,674	542,787	113	0.0

(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 18 March 2016**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.5	82.6	83.7
Earned an income	14.5	17.4	16.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.7	1.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.3	2.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.9	1.7
Over \$316.00	9.4	10.9	10.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	114,820	190,653	305,473
Females			
Did not earn an income	76.4	72.5	73.7
Earned an income	23.6	27.5	26.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.2	2.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	3.1	3.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.6	2.5
Over \$316.00	15.5	18.9	17.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	65,084	161,784	226,868
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.2	78.0	79.4
Earned an income	17.8	22.0	20.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	1.9	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	2.6	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.7	2.2	2.1
Over \$316.00	11.6	14.6	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	179,904	352,437	532,341

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 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.

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 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

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, 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:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

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

Director
Income Support Information
Social Security Performance and Analysis Branch
Social Policy Group
Department of Social Services
GPO Box 9820
Canberra, ACT, 2601