

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>).

February 2018

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, **04 April 2018**

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 02 May 2018.

Statistical Highlights – February 2018

Between February 2017 and February 2018

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 2.5 per cent** overall from 884 710 to 862 200.

- NSA recipients decreased 1.9 per cent from 781 330 to 766 603.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 7.5 per cent from 103 380 to 95 597.

The number of job seekers **decreased 6.1 per cent** overall from 538 226 to 505 207.

- NSA job seekers decreased 5.3 per cent from 461 997 to 437 729.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 11.5 per cent from 76 229 to 67 478.

Long-term job seekers decreased 2.4 per cent from 358 438 to 349 999.

Short-term job seekers decreased 13.7 per cent from 179 788 to 155 208.

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

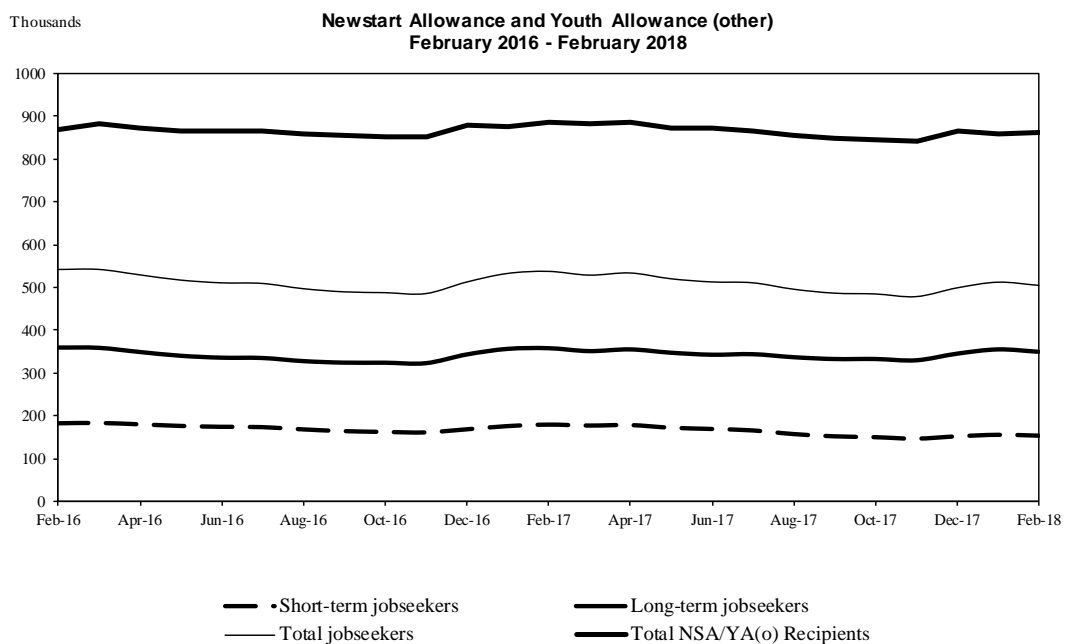


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363
April 2016	559,242	773,675	98,326	208,242	3,835	4,208	19,047
May 2016	555,867	768,503	98,016	230,821	4,194	4,104	18,739
June 2016	555,870	767,908	97,846	229,689	4,271	4,004	18,472
July 2016	555,399	765,756	98,389	210,161	4,152	3,863	18,067
August 2016	553,958	762,134	95,061	223,367	4,050	3,732	17,724
September 2016	554,177	760,972	93,693	222,127	4,014	3,590	17,437
October 2016	552,913	758,328	92,059	220,497	3,889	3,470	17,193
November 2016	555,286	760,719	92,182	196,018	3,658	3,386	16,994
December 2016	567,163	775,022	103,051	159,729	3,467	3,280	16,732
January 2017	564,484	774,122	99,888	157,268	3,273	3,193	16,524
February 2017	568,286	781,330	103,380	168,589	3,289	3,084	16,292
March 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
February 2018	578,876	766,603	95,597	158,226	2,321	2,349	14,489
Variation January 2018 - February 2018							
Number	1,800	2,926	1,639	9,905	-104	-73	-289
Per cent	0.3	0.4	1.7	6.7	-4.3	-3.0	-2.0

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	February 2018 Persons	February 2018 Males	February 2018 Females	January 2018	Variation January - February Number	Variation January - February per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	187,727	112,968	74,759	186,601	1,126	0.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	9,408	4,957	4,451	7,801	1,607	20.6
Received a payment	178,319	108,011	70,308	178,800	-481	-0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,430	1,673	4,757	6,536	-106	-1.6
Other activities without job search (c)	8,162	4,371	3,791	7,571	591	7.8
Incapacitated (d)	23,558	13,672	9,886	23,240	318	1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,710	6,509	5,201	11,326	384	3.4
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	128,459	81,786	46,673	130,127	-1,668	-1.3
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	26,582	15,254	11,328	25,582	1,000	3.9
Long Term Newstart Allowees	578,876	271,440	307,436	577,076	1,800	0.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	20,450	8,690	11,760	16,717	3,733	22.3
Received a payment	558,426	262,750	295,676	560,359	-1,933	-0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	66,785	16,280	50,505	67,116	-331	-0.5
Other activities without job search (c)	65,343	31,861	33,482	63,324	2,019	3.2
Incapacitated (d)	62,494	30,433	32,061	60,750	1,744	2.9
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	54,534	24,913	29,621	53,980	554	1.0
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	309,270	159,263	150,007	315,189	-5,919	-1.9
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	214,165	105,768	108,397	211,497	2,668	1.3
All Newstart Allowees	766,603	384,408	382,195	763,677	2,926	0.4
Did not receive a payment (a)	29,858	13,647	16,211	24,518	5,340	21.8
Received a payment	736,745	370,761	365,984	739,159	-2,414	-0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	73,215	17,953	55,262	73,652	-437	-0.6
Other activities without job search (c)	73,505	36,232	37,273	70,895	2,610	3.7
Incapacitated (d)	86,052	44,105	41,947	83,990	2,062	2.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	66,244	31,422	34,822	65,306	938	1.4
All NSA job seekers (f)	437,729	241,049	196,680	445,316	-7,587	-1.7
All NSA training/education (g)	240,747	121,022	119,725	237,079	3,668	1.5

- (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)	February 2018 Persons	February 2018 Males	February 2018 Females	January 2018	Variation January - February Number	Variation January - February per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	39,933	21,210	18,723	39,403	530	1.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,044	450	594	988	56	5.7
Received a payment	38,889	20,760	18,129	38,415	474	1.2
Other activities without job search (b)	8,978	5,005	3,973	8,460	518	6.1
Incapacitated (c)	1,638	826	812	1,573	65	4.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,524	743	781	1,385	139	10.0
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	26,749	14,186	12,563	26,997	-248	-0.9
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	12,511	6,737	5,774	12,076	435	3.6
Long Term Youth Allowees	55,664	27,006	28,658	54,555	1,109	2.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,727	711	1,016	1,559	168	10.8
Received a payment	53,937	26,295	27,642	52,996	941	1.8
Other activities without job search (b)	8,043	4,186	3,857	7,738	305	3.9
Incapacitated (c)	2,677	1,191	1,486	2,564	113	4.4
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,488	1,055	1,433	2,268	220	9.7
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	40,729	19,863	20,866	40,426	303	0.7
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	25,303	12,425	12,878	23,901	1,402	5.9
All Youth Allowees	95,597	48,216	47,381	93,958	1,639	1.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,771	1,161	1,610	2,547	224	8.8
Received a payment	92,826	47,055	45,771	91,411	1,415	1.5
Other activities without job search (b)	17,021	9,191	7,830	16,198	823	5.1
Incapacitated (c)	4,315	2,017	2,298	4,137	178	4.3
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,012	1,798	2,214	3,653	359	9.8
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	67,478	34,049	33,429	67,423	55	0.1
All YA (other) training/education (f)	37,814	19,162	18,652	35,977	1,837	5.1

(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
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
April 2016	180,450	349,643	530,093
May 2016	176,929	340,813	517,742
June 2016	174,937	336,308	511,245
July 2016	174,234	335,579	509,813
August 2016	169,184	328,317	497,501
September 2016	165,330	324,731	490,061
October 2016	163,550	324,613	488,163
November 2016	162,460	323,423	485,883
December 2016	169,305	343,710	513,015
January 2017	176,480	356,794	533,274
February 2017	179,788	358,438	538,226
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
February 2018	155,208	349,999	505,207
Variation January 2018 - February 2018			
Number	-1,916	-5,616	-7,532
Per cent	-1.2	-1.6	-1.5

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	January 2018	February 2018	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	39,691	39,272	-419	-1.1
Victoria	34,369	33,673	-696	-2.0
Queensland	39,001	38,996	-5	0.0
South Australia	11,918	11,666	-252	-2.1
Western Australia	22,541	22,123	-418	-1.9
Tasmania	4,079	4,029	-50	-1.2
Northern Territory	3,975	3,910	-65	-1.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,550	1,539	-11	-0.7
Australia	157,124	155,208	-1,916	-1.2
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	91,769	90,248	-1,521	-1.7
Victoria	74,770	73,328	-1,442	-1.9
Queensland	82,938	81,613	-1,325	-1.6
South Australia	31,020	30,113	-907	-2.9
Western Australia	49,519	49,585	66	0.1
Tasmania	12,207	12,116	-91	-0.7
Northern Territory	10,524	10,198	-326	-3.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,868	2,798	-70	-2.4
Australia	355,615	349,999	-5,616	-1.6
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	131,460	129,520	-1,940	-1.5
Victoria	109,139	107,001	-2,138	-2.0
Queensland	121,939	120,609	-1,330	-1.1
South Australia	42,938	41,779	-1,159	-2.7
Western Australia	72,060	71,708	-352	-0.5
Tasmania	16,286	16,145	-141	-0.9
Northern Territory	14,499	14,108	-391	-2.7
Australian Capital Territory	4,418	4,337	-81	-1.8
Australia	512,739	505,207	-7,532	-1.5

Notes:

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

Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Gender

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	2,188	2.3	573	0.3	2,761	1.0
18 - 20 years	9,741	10.1	13,404	7.5	23,145	8.4
21 - 24 years	13,335	13.9	24,166	13.5	37,501	13.6
25 - 29 years	14,639	15.3	24,038	13.4	38,677	14.1
30 - 39 years	21,811	22.7	39,277	21.9	61,088	22.2
40 - 49 years	16,782	17.5	35,995	20.1	52,777	19.2
50 - 59 years	11,919	12.4	27,409	15.3	39,328	14.3
60 years and over	5,557	5.8	14,265	8.0	19,822	7.2
Total	95,972	100.0	179,127	100.0	275,099	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	2,330	3.9	755	0.4	3,085	1.3
18 - 20 years	8,772	14.8	14,636	8.6	23,408	10.2
21 - 24 years	8,219	13.9	19,480	11.4	27,699	12.0
25 - 29 years	6,750	11.4	15,437	9.0	22,187	9.6
30 - 39 years	8,562	14.5	32,070	18.8	40,632	17.7
40 - 49 years	10,091	17.0	44,409	26.0	54,500	23.7
50 - 59 years	9,910	16.7	31,406	18.4	41,316	18.0
60 years and over	4,602	7.8	12,679	7.4	17,281	7.5
Total	59,236	100.0	170,872	100.0	230,108	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	4,518	2.9	1,328	0.4	5,846	1.2
18 - 20 years	18,513	11.9	28,040	8.0	46,553	9.2
21 - 24 years	21,554	13.9	43,646	12.5	65,200	12.9
25 - 29 years	21,389	13.8	39,475	11.3	60,864	12.0
30 - 39 years	30,373	19.6	71,347	20.4	101,720	20.1
40 - 49 years	26,873	17.3	80,404	23.0	107,277	21.2
50 - 59 years	21,829	14.1	58,815	16.8	80,644	16.0
60 years and over	10,159	6.5	26,944	7.7	37,103	7.3
Total	155,208	100.0	349,999	100.0	505,207	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	January 2018	February 2018	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,265	1,253	-0.9%
Cotter - Namadgi	60	63	5.0%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	83	76	-8.4%
Gungahlin	618	612	-1.0%
North Canberra	669	676	1.0%
South Canberra	240	234	-2.5%
Tuggeranong	910	885	-2.7%
Weston Creek	227	218	-4.0%
Woden	329	305	-7.3%

– 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	Jan 2018	Feb 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Jan 2018	Feb 18	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,777	1,754	-1.3%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,296	1,327	2.4%
Armidale	1,192	1,212	1.7%	Liverpool	2,264	2,175	-3.9%
Auburn	1,325	1,285	-3.0%	Lord Howe Island	<5	<5	n/a
Bankstown	3,089	3,045	-1.4%	Lower Hunter	2,596	2,586	-0.4%
Bathurst	991	980	-1.1%	Lower Murray	406	398	-2.0%
Baulkham Hills	617	612	-0.8%	Maitland	1,744	1,699	-2.6%
Blacktown	2,392	2,363	-1.2%	Manly	170	163	-4.1%
Blacktown - North	782	795	1.7%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	923	939	1.7%
Blue Mountains	986	983	-0.3%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,337	3,315	-0.7%
Blue Mountains - South	<5	<5	n/a	Moree - Narrabri	1,106	1,105	-0.1%
Botany	574	566	-1.4%	Mount Druitt	3,048	2,896	-5.0%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,528	1,521	-0.5%	Newcastle	4,230	4,169	-1.4%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,722	1,700	-1.3%	North Sydney - Mosman	334	331	-0.9%
Broken Hill and Far West	944	930	-1.5%	Orange	1,225	1,204	-1.7%
Camden	516	501	-2.9%	Parramatta	1,723	1,719	-0.2%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,274	3,231	-1.3%	Pennant Hills - Epping	221	228	3.2%
Canada Bay	451	457	1.3%	Penrith	2,137	2,078	-2.8%
Canterbury	2,325	2,327	0.1%	Pittwater	216	204	-5.6%
Carlingford	765	734	-4.1%	Port Macquarie	1,929	1,945	0.8%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	477	469	-1.7%	Port Stephens	1,733	1,702	-1.8%
Clarence Valley	1,454	1,425	-2.0%	Queanbeyan	637	620	-2.7%
Coffs Harbour	2,321	2,362	1.8%	Richmond - Windsor	583	582	-0.2%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	656	635	-3.2%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,488	2,427	-2.5%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,849	1,772	-4.2%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,954	2,881	-2.5%
Dubbo	2,475	2,493	0.7%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	158	158	0.0%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	111	111	0.0%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	869	822	-5.4%
Eastern Suburbs - North	651	625	-4.0%	Shoalhaven	2,410	2,353	-2.4%
Eastern Suburbs - South	1,110	1,071	-3.5%	Snowy Mountains	423	412	-2.6%
Fairfield	5,794	5,435	-6.2%	South Coast	1,762	1,767	0.3%
Gosford	2,965	2,879	-2.9%	Southern Highlands	353	339	-4.0%
Goulburn - Yass	1,374	1,344	-2.2%	St Marys	1,286	1,270	-1.2%
Great Lakes	892	881	-1.2%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,506	1,534	1.9%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	1,046	1,012	-3.3%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	595	600	0.8%
Hawkesbury	189	189	0.0%	Sydney Inner City	2,799	2,726	-2.6%
Hornsby	494	502	1.6%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,706	2,688	-0.7%
Hurstville	1,372	1,391	1.4%	Taree - Gloucester	1,918	1,937	1.0%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Tumut - Tumbarumba	308	318	3.2%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,626	1,640	0.9%	Tweed Valley	2,527	2,467	-2.4%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,765	1,755	-0.6%	Upper Hunter	814	808	-0.7%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,474	1,444	-2.0%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	964	962	-0.2%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,287	1,288	0.1%	Wagga Wagga	1,995	2,011	0.8%
Ku-ring-gai	297	293	-1.3%	Warringah	718	734	2.2%
Lachlan Valley	1,735	1,713	-1.3%	Wollondilly	426	426	0.0%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,193	2,173	-0.9%	Wollongong	2,209	2,170	-1.8%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,635	1,610	-1.5%	Wyong	3,927	3,902	-0.6%
Leichhardt	503	504	0.2%				

– 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	January 2018	February 2018	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,604	3,463	-3.9%
Barkly	903	889	-1.6%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,846	2,847	0.0%
Darwin City	519	562	8.3%
Darwin Suburbs	1,220	1,214	-0.5%
East Arnhem	1,760	1,719	-2.3%
Katherine	2,313	2,095	-9.4%
Litchfield	425	430	1.2%
Palmerston	774	792	2.3%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Jan 2018	Feb 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Jan 2018	Feb 18	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	475	474	-0.2%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,782	1,781	-0.1%
Beaudesert	458	443	-3.3%	Ipswich Inner	3,484	3,379	-3.0%
Beenleigh	1,514	1,445	-4.6%	Jimboomba	897	884	-1.4%
Bowen Basin - North	730	725	-0.7%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	326	297	-8.9%
Bribie - Beachmere	822	786	-4.4%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,422	1,418	-0.3%
Brisbane Inner	1,763	1,717	-2.6%	Mackay	3,245	3,222	-0.7%
Brisbane Inner - East	601	601	0.0%	Maroochy	1,388	1,356	-2.3%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,289	1,288	-0.1%	Maryborough	1,865	1,833	-1.7%
Brisbane Inner - West	675	685	1.5%	Mt Gravatt	1,114	1,089	-2.2%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	1,139	1,097	-3.7%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	506	499	-1.4%
Browns Plains	2,410	2,403	-0.3%	Nambour - Pomona	1,536	1,491	-2.9%
Buderim	952	942	-1.1%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,584	1,550	-2.1%
Bundaberg	3,598	3,584	-0.4%	Nathan	809	778	-3.8%
Burnett	1,923	1,937	0.7%	Nerang	1,523	1,520	-0.2%
Caboolture	2,614	2,559	-2.1%	Noosa	633	629	-0.6%
Caboolture Hinterland	278	266	-4.3%	North Lakes	1,406	1,424	1.3%
Cairns - North	986	997	1.1%	Nundah	693	690	-0.4%
Cairns - South	4,634	4,620	-0.3%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,327	2,294	-1.4%
Caloundra	1,659	1,632	-1.6%	Outback - North	1,577	1,592	1.0%
Capalaba	1,181	1,132	-4.1%	Outback - South	571	553	-3.2%
Carindale	628	620	-1.3%	Port Douglas - Daintree	456	481	5.5%
Centenary	318	314	-1.3%	Redcliffe	1,671	1,669	-0.1%
Central Highlands (Qld)	830	822	-1.0%	Robina	840	815	-3.0%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,638	1,672	2.1%	Rockhampton	4,232	4,211	-0.5%
Chermside	1,267	1,288	1.7%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,175	1,164	-0.9%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,432	1,412	-1.4%	Sandgate	1,158	1,155	-0.3%
Coolangatta	1,110	1,106	-0.4%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	575	527	-8.3%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,121	1,141	1.8%	Southport	1,767	1,693	-4.2%
Darling Downs - East	961	976	1.6%	Springfield - Redbank	2,179	2,177	-0.1%
Far North	2,889	2,950	2.1%	Springwood - Kingston	3,362	3,254	-3.2%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,281	2,225	-2.5%	Strathpine	970	968	-0.2%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,910	2,890	-0.7%	Sunnybank	964	929	-3.6%
Gold Coast - North	1,739	1,704	-2.0%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,192	1,175	-1.4%
Gold Coast Hinterland	336	323	-3.9%	Surfers Paradise	919	895	-2.6%
Granite Belt	967	948	-2.0%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,627	1,640	0.8%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,730	1,687	-2.5%	The Gap - Enoggera	679	676	-0.4%
Hervey Bay	2,174	2,132	-1.9%	Toowoomba	3,303	3,220	-2.5%
Hills District	735	720	-2.0%	Townsville	6,144	6,247	1.7%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,541	1,493	-3.1%	Whitsunday	450	450	0.0%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,690	1,716	1.5%	Wynnum - Manly	1,150	1,128	-1.9%

– 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	January 2018	February 2018	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	520	503	-3.3%
Adelaide Hills	830	804	-3.1%
Barossa	620	615	-0.8%
Burnside	341	330	-3.2%
Campbelltown (SA)	732	723	-1.2%
Charles Sturt	2,420	2,309	-4.6%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,413	2,365	-2.0%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,099	1,077	-2.0%
Gawler - Two Wells	828	802	-3.1%
Holdfast Bay	442	435	-1.6%
Limestone Coast	1,606	1,564	-2.6%
Lower North	632	604	-4.4%
Marion	1,764	1,716	-2.7%
Mid North	1,189	1,187	-0.2%
Mitcham	708	697	-1.6%
Murray and Mallee	2,458	2,436	-0.9%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	526	499	-5.1%
Onkaparinga	4,514	4,357	-3.5%
Outback - North and East	1,742	1,671	-4.1%
Playford	4,656	4,599	-1.2%
Port Adelaide - East	1,829	1,771	-3.2%
Port Adelaide - West	1,928	1,818	-5.7%
Prospect - Walkerville	384	391	1.8%
Salisbury	4,799	4,674	-2.6%
Tea Tree Gully	1,484	1,407	-5.2%
Unley	399	368	-7.8%
West Torrens	1,148	1,147	-0.1%
Yorke Peninsula	827	807	-2.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	January 2018	February 2018	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	770	795	3.2%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,519	1,503	-1.1%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	378	370	-2.1%
Devonport	1,371	1,335	-2.6%
Hobart - North East	1,240	1,251	0.9%
Hobart - North West	2,322	2,274	-2.1%
Hobart - South and West	575	565	-1.7%
Hobart Inner	1,165	1,134	-2.7%
Huon - Bruny Island	573	592	3.3%
Launceston	3,092	3,084	-0.3%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	587	612	4.3%
North East	1,378	1,376	-0.1%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	434	425	-2.1%
South East Coast	201	185	-8.0%
West Coast	600	587	-2.2%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Jan 2018	Feb 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Jan 2018	Feb 18	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	3,184	3,194	0.3%	Manningham - East	136	141	3.7%
Banyule	1,490	1,454	-2.4%	Manningham - West	722	718	-0.6%
Barwon - West	228	241	5.7%	Maribyrnong	2,286	2,221	-2.8%
Baw Baw	992	980	-1.2%	Maroondah	1,465	1,400	-4.4%
Bayside	632	642	1.6%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	887	864	-2.6%
Bendigo	2,783	2,759	-0.9%	Melbourne City	1,879	1,836	-2.3%
Boroondara	913	895	-2.0%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,393	3,286	-3.2%
Brimbank	6,080	5,923	-2.6%	Mildura	1,967	1,914	-2.7%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,798	1,790	-0.4%	Moira	677	676	-0.1%
Campaspe	881	859	-2.5%	Monash	1,465	1,453	-0.8%
Cardinia	1,391	1,333	-4.2%	Moreland - North	1,473	1,462	-0.7%
Casey - North	2,077	2,006	-3.4%	Mornington Peninsula	2,022	1,977	-2.2%
Casey - South	2,918	2,822	-3.3%	Murray River - Swan Hill	918	918	0.0%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	622	609	-2.1%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	470	479	1.9%
Dandenong	3,974	3,760	-5.4%	Port Phillip	1,615	1,605	-0.6%
Darebin - North	2,170	2,109	-2.8%	Shepparton	1,803	1,775	-1.6%
Darebin - South	882	864	-2.0%	Stonnington - East	238	236	-0.8%
Essendon	1,167	1,143	-2.1%	Stonnington - West	672	662	-1.5%
Frankston	2,849	2,800	-1.7%	Sunbury	621	617	-0.6%
Geelong	4,625	4,569	-1.2%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	940	933	-0.7%
Gippsland - East	1,638	1,635	-0.2%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	5,106	4,874	-4.5%
Gippsland - South West	1,278	1,228	-3.9%	Upper Goulburn Valley	1,061	1,053	-0.8%
Glen Eira	1,239	1,254	1.2%	Wangaratta - Benalla	977	965	-1.2%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	852	866	1.6%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,646	1,607	-2.4%
Grampians	1,263	1,278	1.2%	Wellington	1,177	1,183	0.5%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	998	978	-2.0%	Whitehorse - East	501	494	-1.4%
Hobsons Bay	1,390	1,357	-2.4%	Whitehorse - West	874	845	-3.3%
Keilor	731	699	-4.4%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,961	3,909	-1.3%
Kingston	1,404	1,421	1.2%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,584	1,553	-2.0%
Knox	1,880	1,808	-3.8%	Wyndham	4,495	4,385	-2.4%
Latrobe Valley	3,246	3,222	-0.7%	Yarra	1,730	1,721	-0.5%
Loddon - Elmore	329	321	-2.4%	Yarra Ranges	1,865	1,825	-2.1%
Macedon Ranges	256	248	-3.1%				

– 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	January 2018	February 2018	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,593	1,555	-2.4%
Armadale	3,052	3,060	0.3%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,234	1,218	-1.3%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,304	2,264	-1.7%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,317	2,299	-0.8%
Bunbury	3,539	3,472	-1.9%
Canning	2,149	2,164	0.7%
Cockburn	2,612	2,589	-0.9%
Cottesloe - Claremont	461	487	5.6%
Esperance	342	348	1.8%
Fremantle	1,092	1,134	3.8%
Gascoyne	504	480	-4.8%
Goldfields	1,782	1,740	-2.4%
Gosnells	4,065	4,048	-0.4%
Joondalup	2,610	2,594	-0.6%
Kalamunda	1,126	1,126	0.0%
Kimberley	3,240	3,127	-3.5%
Kwinana	1,672	1,664	-0.5%
Mandurah	3,669	3,707	1.0%
Manjimup	742	718	-3.2%
Melville	1,304	1,300	-0.3%
Mid West	2,904	2,959	1.9%
Mundaring	1,062	1,028	-3.2%
Perth City	2,294	2,287	-0.3%
Pilbara	1,622	1,667	2.8%
Rockingham	4,038	4,063	0.6%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	548	529	-3.5%
South Perth	787	776	-1.4%
Stirling	5,169	5,176	0.1%
Swan	4,013	3,979	-0.8%
Wanneroo	5,588	5,600	0.2%
Wheat Belt - North	1,754	1,730	-1.4%
Wheat Belt - South	564	545	-3.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	January 2018	February 2018	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	14	17	21.4%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<5	<5	n/a
Jervis Bay	20	19	-5.0%
Not recorded	1,884	1,645	-12.7%

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 16 February 2018

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.7	81.8	83.2
Earned an income	14.3	18.2	16.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.4	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.7	3.5	3.2
\$254+	10.5	13.3	12.3
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	81,497	158,313	239,810
Females			
Did not earn an income	75.7	70.2	71.5
Earned an income	24.3	29.8	28.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.7	1.7	1.7
\$104 - <\$254	4	4.3	4.2
\$254+	18.7	23.8	22.6
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	46,547	149,164	195,711
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.1	76.2	77.9
Earned an income	17.9	23.8	22.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.3	1.5	1.5
\$104 - <\$254	3.2	3.9	3.7
\$254+	13.5	18.4	17
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	128,044	307,477	435,521

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 16 February 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	87.6	83.3	85.1
Earned an income	12.4	16.7	14.9
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2	2.2	2.1
\$143 - <\$250	2.1	2.4	2.3
\$250+	8.2	12.1	10.5
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	14,175	19,849	34,024
Females			
Did not earn an income	80.1	74.6	76.7
Earned an income	19.9	25.4	23.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.3	3.1	3.2
\$143 - <\$250	3.5	3.7	3.7
\$250+	13	18.6	16.5
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	12,572	20,778	33,350
Persons			
Did not earn an income	84.1	78.8	80.9
Earned an income	15.9	21.2	19.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.7	2.6	2.6
\$143 - <\$250	2.8	3.1	3.0
\$250+	10.5	15.4	13.5
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	26,747	40,627	67,374

Note:
- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables. Table 8 is based on the population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

The Statistical Areas Level 3 reported in Table 7 are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Statistical Areas Level 3

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

- Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.

- Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

See also: The Australian Bureau of Statistics release “6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2014 – [The unemployed and recipients of Government unemployment benefits - differences explained](#)”

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6105.0Feature%20Article54July%202014?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6105.0&issue=July%202014&num=&view=>
>

For More Information

Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government's centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au) (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services>). Historical data is available in a statistical overview available on the Department's website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (<<http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series>>).

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

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