

LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS

a monthly profile

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

This publication can be found at <http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 25 June 2014.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – April 2014

Between April 2013 and April 2014

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 8.2 per cent** overall from 783 294 to 847 642.

NSA recipients increased 8.5 per cent from 677 527 to 734 866.

YA(o) recipients increased 6.6 per cent from 105 767 to 112 776.

The number of job seekers **increased 5.2 per cent** overall from 394 889 to 415 459.

NSA job seekers increased 4.4 per cent from 345 888 to 360 954.

YA(o) job seekers increased 11.2 per cent from 49 001 to 54 505.

Long-term job seekers increased 7.5 per cent from 229 031 to 246 262.

Short-term job seekers increased 2.0 per cent from 165 858 to 169 197.

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

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

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

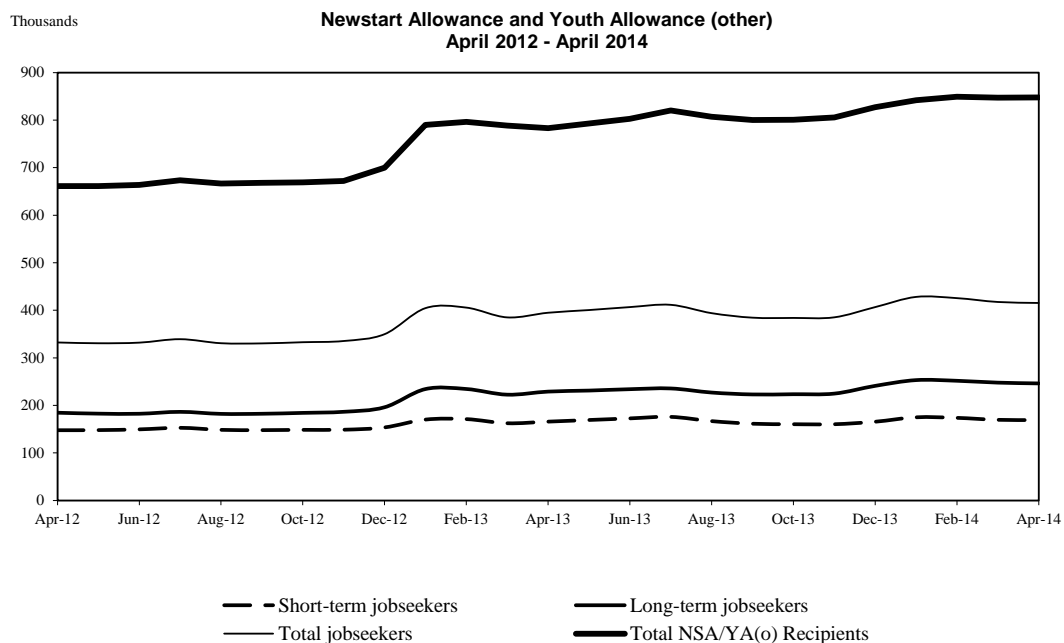


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
April 2012	350,547	576,620	84,654	271,071	4,637	14,878	29,752
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
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
Variation March 2014 - April 2014							
Number	1,829	1,265	-680	12,489	54	-233	-143
Per cent	0.4	0.2	-0.6	5.8	0.8	-2.6	-0.5

Notes:

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

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

	April 2014			March 2014	Variation March - April	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	247,968	154,024	93,944	248,532	-564	-0.2
CPS Recipients (a)	617	452	165	632	-15	-2.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,944	7,811	6,133	14,864	-920	-6.2
Received a payment	233,407	145,761	87,646	233,036	371	0.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,632	2,040	5,592	7,371	261	3.5
Other activities without job search (d)	40,653	24,341	16,312	41,067	-414	-1.0
Incapacitated (e)	25,626	14,728	10,898	24,640	986	4.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,541	7,530	6,011	13,271	270	2.0
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	145,955	97,122	48,833	146,687	-732	-0.5
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>36,070</i>	<i>20,389</i>	<i>15,681</i>	<i>35,704</i>	<i>366</i>	<i>1.0</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	486,898	233,393	253,505	485,069	1,829	0.4
CPS Recipients (a)	1,661	1,090	571	1,690	-29	-1.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	16,589	6,900	9,689	18,807	-2,218	-11.8
Received a payment	468,648	225,403	243,245	464,572	4,076	0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	53,087	11,429	41,658	51,920	1,167	2.2
Other activities without job search (d)	117,583	53,995	63,588	117,261	322	0.3
Incapacitated (e)	43,608	20,913	22,695	41,374	2,234	5.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	39,371	17,515	21,856	38,195	1,176	3.1
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	214,999	121,551	93,448	215,822	-823	-0.4
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>152,552</i>	<i>76,096</i>	<i>76,456</i>	<i>147,957</i>	<i>4,595</i>	<i>3.1</i>
All Newstart Allowees	734,866	387,417	347,449	733,601	1,265	0.2
CPS Recipients (a)	2,278	1,542	736	2,322	-44	-1.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	30,533	14,711	15,822	33,671	-3,138	-9.3
Received a payment	702,055	371,164	330,891	697,608	4,447	0.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	60,719	13,469	47,250	59,291	1,428	2.4
Other activities without job search (d)	158,236	78,336	79,900	158,328	-92	-0.1
Incapacitated (e)	69,234	35,641	33,593	66,014	3,220	4.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	52,912	25,045	27,867	51,466	1,446	2.8
All NSA job seekers (g)	360,954	218,673	142,281	362,509	-1,555	-0.4
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>188,622</i>	<i>96,485</i>	<i>92,137</i>	<i>183,661</i>	<i>4,961</i>	<i>2.7</i>

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

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

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

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	April 2014			March 2014	Variation March - April	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	48,274	27,127	21,147	47,719	555	1.2
CPS Recipients (a)	25	21	4	26	-1	-3.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,096	480	616	1,049	47	4.5
Received a payment	47,153	26,626	20,527	46,644	509	1.1
Other activities without job search (c)	19,920	11,857	8,063	19,808	112	0.6
Incapacitated (d)	2,147	1,095	1,052	2,031	116	5.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,844	873	971	1,845	-1	-0.1
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	23,242	12,801	10,441	22,960	282	1.2
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>13,759</i>	<i>7,672</i>	<i>6,087</i>	<i>13,476</i>	<i>283</i>	<i>2.1</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	64,502	33,295	31,207	65,737	-1,235	-1.9
CPS Recipients (a)	22	17	5	22	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,574	646	928	1,536	38	2.5
Received a payment	62,906	32,632	30,274	64,179	-1,273	-2.0
Other activities without job search (c)	26,509	14,151	12,358	27,143	-634	-2.3
Incapacitated (d)	2,661	1,185	1,476	2,540	121	4.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,473	1,036	1,437	2,442	31	1.3
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	31,263	16,260	15,003	32,054	-791	-2.5
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>26,438</i>	<i>13,390</i>	<i>13,048</i>	<i>26,000</i>	<i>438</i>	<i>1.7</i>
All Youth Allowees	112,776	60,422	52,354	113,456	-680	-0.6
CPS Recipients (a)	47	38	9	48	-1	-2.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,670	1,126	1,544	2,585	85	3.3
Received a payment	110,059	59,258	50,801	110,823	-764	-0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	46,429	26,008	20,421	46,951	-522	-1.1
Incapacitated (d)	4,808	2,280	2,528	4,571	237	5.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,317	1,909	2,408	4,287	30	0.7
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	54,505	29,061	25,444	55,014	-509	-0.9
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>40,197</i>	<i>21,062</i>	<i>19,135</i>	<i>39,476</i>	<i>721</i>	<i>1.8</i>

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

Notes:

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

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

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
April 2012	147,809	184,581	332,390
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
Variation March 2014 - April 2014			
Number	-450	-1614	-2064
Per cent	-0.3	-0.7	-0.5

Notes:

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

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

<i>State</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	48,264	48,184	-80	-0.2
Victoria	41,769	41,157	-612	-1.5
Queensland	42,871	43,163	292	0.7
South Australia	12,213	12,288	75	0.6
Western Australia	16,218	16,392	174	1.1
Tasmania	4,118	3,975	-143	-3.5
Northern Territory	2,442	2,309	-133	-5.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,745	1,726	-19	-1.1
AUSTRALIA	169,647	169,197	-450	-0.3
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	76,480	75,986	-494	-0.6
Victoria	58,479	57,466	-1,013	-1.7
Queensland	54,993	55,070	77	0.1
South Australia	22,160	21,975	-185	-0.8
Western Australia	20,199	20,257	58	0.3
Tasmania	8,965	8,840	-125	-1.4
Northern Territory	4,649	4,670	21	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	1,950	1,996	46	2.4
AUSTRALIA	247,876	246,262	-1,614	-0.7
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	124,744	124,170	-574	-0.5
Victoria	100,248	98,623	-1,625	-1.6
Queensland	97,864	98,233	369	0.4
South Australia	34,373	34,263	-110	-0.3
Western Australia	36,417	36,649	232	0.6
Tasmania	13,083	12,815	-268	-2.0
Northern Territory	7,091	6,979	-112	-1.6
Australian Capital Territory	3,695	3,722	27	0.7
AUSTRALIA	417,523	415,459	-2,064	-0.5

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 SEX, AS AT APRIL 2014

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	1,932	1.8	300	0.2	2,232	0.9
18 - 20 years	8,435	7.7	11,871	8.6	20,306	8.2
21 - 24 years	16,494	15.0	20,816	15.1	37,310	15.1
25 - 29 years	17,761	16.2	21,298	15.5	39,059	15.8
30 - 39 years	26,029	23.7	31,749	23.0	57,778	23.3
40 - 49 years	20,290	18.5	26,217	19.0	46,507	18.8
50 - 59 years	13,976	12.7	18,974	13.8	32,950	13.3
60 years and over	5,003	4.6	6,585	4.8	11,588	4.7
Total	109,920	100.0	137,810	100.0	247,730	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	1,829	3.1	392	0.4	2,221	1.3
18 - 20 years	7,027	11.9	11,152	10.3	18,179	10.8
21 - 24 years	9,388	15.8	14,302	13.2	23,690	14.1
25 - 29 years	7,447	12.6	10,851	10.0	18,298	10.9
30 - 39 years	9,609	16.2	21,203	19.6	30,812	18.4
40 - 49 years	11,295	19.1	28,299	26.1	39,594	23.6
50 - 59 years	9,776	16.5	18,300	16.9	28,076	16.7
60 years and over	2,906	4.9	3,953	3.6	6,859	4.1
Total	59,277	100.0	108,452	100.0	167,729	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	3,761	2.2	692	0.3	4,453	1.1
18 - 20 years	15,462	9.1	23,023	9.3	38,485	9.3
21 - 24 years	25,882	15.3	35,118	14.3	61,000	14.7
25 - 29 years	25,208	14.9	32,149	13.1	57,357	13.8
30 - 39 years	35,638	21.1	52,952	21.5	88,590	21.3
40 - 49 years	31,585	18.7	54,516	22.1	86,101	20.7
50 - 59 years	23,752	14.0	37,274	15.1	61,026	14.7
60 years and over	7,909	4.7	10,538	4.3	18,447	4.4
Total	169,197	100.0	246,262	100.0	415,459	100.0

Notes:

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

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	20	<20	na	na
Bankstown	3,653	3,577	-76	-2.1
Bondi Junction	1,309	1,254	-55	-4.2
Burwood	1,869	1,832	-37	-2.0
Campsie	2,548	2,538	-10	-0.4
Caringbah	949	938	-11	-1.2
Chatswood	1,340	1,350	10	0.7
Darlinghurst	1,692	1,626	-66	-3.9
Hornsby	1,197	1,161	-36	-3.0
Hurstville	1,647	1,622	-25	-1.5
Leichhardt	1,407	1,367	-40	-2.8
Maroubra	1,628	1,609	-19	-1.2
Marrickville	1,484	1,455	-29	-2.0
Northern Beaches	1,399	1,361	-38	-2.7
Redfern	1,364	1,316	-48	-3.5
Rockdale	1,617	1,572	-45	-2.8
Ryde	1,226	1,230	4	0.3
Sutherland	858	883	25	2.9
Other (a)	%	na	na	na
Total	27,207	26,709	-498	-1.8
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	2,262	2,230	-32	-1.4
Baulkham Hills	1,005	994	-11	-1.1
Blacktown	3,264	3,252	-12	-0.4
Cabramatta	2,587	2,617	30	1.2
Camden	759	754	-5	-0.7
Campbelltown	2,220	2,215	-5	-0.2
Fairfield	2,884	2,866	-18	-0.6
Hawkesbury	965	953	-12	-1.2
Ingleburn	1,312	1,331	19	1.4
Katoomba	647	651	4	0.6
Lithgow	695	697	2	0.3
Liverpool	3,654	3,693	39	1.1
Merrylands	2,337	2,356	19	0.8
Mt Druitt	2,398	2,448	50	2.1
Parramatta	2,525	2,503	-22	-0.9
Penrith	2,036	2,039	3	0.1
Springwood	446	439	-7	-1.6
St Marys	1,567	1,601	34	2.2
Other (a)	1	0	%	%
Total	33,564	33,639	75	0.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Armidale	968	962	-6	-0.6
Ballina	1,091	1,089	-2	-0.2
Bourke	353	358	5	1.4
Brunswick Heads	974	965	-9	-0.9
Byron Bay	321	328	7	2.2
Casino	670	679	9	1.3
Coffs Harbour	1,986	2,001	15	0.8
Forster	821	804	-17	-2.1
Glen Innes	361	355	-6	-1.7
Grafton	841	852	11	1.3
Gunnedah	463	452	-11	-2.4
Inverell	659	665	6	0.9
Kempsey	849	856	7	0.8
Lightning Ridge	199	195	-4	-2.0
Lismore	1,665	1,649	-16	-1.0
Moree	479	479	0	0.0
Murwillumbah	687	692	5	0.7
Nambucca Heads	762	752	-10	-1.3
Narrabri	369	378	9	2.4
Port Macquarie	1,807	1,825	18	1.0
Tamworth	1,822	1,810	-12	-0.7
Taree	1,648	1,656	8	0.5
Tweed Heads	1,744	1,731	-13	-0.7
Walgett	162	146	-16	-9.9
Yamba	441	433	-8	-1.8
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
Total	22,145	22,114	-31	-0.1

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>MID NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bathurst	750	735	-15	-2.0
Cessnock	847	831	-16	-1.9
Charlestown	1,957	1,980	23	1.2
Comm Support Team	21	23	%	%
Dubbo	1,961	1,907	-54	-2.8
Ettalong	831	847	16	1.9
Gosford	1,787	1,785	-2	-0.1
King Street	1,277	1,251	-26	-2.0
Kurri Kurri	516	504	-12	-2.3
Lakehaven	1,755	1,744	-11	-0.6
Maitland	1,544	1,574	30	1.9
Mayfield	1,045	1,041	-4	-0.4
Mudgee	585	582	-3	-0.5
Muswellbrook	635	670	35	5.5
Nelson Bay	518	548	30	5.8
Orange	884	890	6	0.7
Parkes	722	716	-6	-0.8
Raymond Terrace	937	958	21	2.2
Singleton	346	351	5	1.4
The Entrance	1,390	1,357	-33	-2.4
Toronto	1,007	966	-41	-4.1
Wallsend	1,477	1,496	19	1.3
Woy Woy	578	579	1	0.2
Wyong	711	702	-9	-1.3
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	24,081	24,037	-44	-0.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	753	756	3	0.4
Bega	718	726	8	1.1
Belconnen	1,135	1,136	1	0.1
Bowral	483	482	-1	-0.2
Braddon	784	785	1	0.1
Cooma	354	371	17	4.8
Corrimal	1,170	1,127	-43	-3.7
Cowra	462	463	1	0.2
Dapto	1,175	1,181	6	0.5
Goulburn	756	750	-6	-0.8
Griffith	504	498	-6	-1.2
Gungahlin	354	374	20	5.6
Leeton	392	397	5	1.3
Narooma	277	282	5	1.8
Nowra	1,780	1,798	18	1.0
Queanbeyan	551	587	36	6.5
Shellharbour	1,448	1,417	-31	-2.1
Tuggeranong	863	878	15	1.7
Tumut	287	284	-3	-1.0
Ulladulla	478	485	7	1.5
Wagga	1,141	1,136	-5	-0.4
Woden	500	486	-14	-2.8
Wollongong	1,404	1,389	-15	-1.1
Yass	86	83	%	%
Young	527	536	9	1.7
Other (a)	4	8	%	%
Total	18,386	18,415	29	0.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	1,342	1,329	-13	-1.0
Albury	2,467	2,450	-17	-0.7
Box Hill	2,347	2,271	-76	-3.2
Broadmeadows	4,024	3,968	-56	-1.4
Darebin	2,840	2,819	-21	-0.7
Deniliquin	237	227	-10	-4.2
Echuca	560	556	-4	-0.7
Epping	2,962	2,949	-13	-0.4
Greensborough	1,785	1,778	-7	-0.4
Heidelberg	1,363	1,331	-32	-2.3
Moreland	2,988	2,934	-54	-1.8
Newmarket	1,741	1,673	-68	-3.9
Seymour	764	785	21	2.7
Shepparton	1,987	1,934	-53	-2.7
Sth Melbourne	1,039	1,031	-8	-0.8
Sunbury	973	976	3	0.3
Wangaratta	1,359	1,319	-40	-2.9
Windsor Vic	2,781	2,708	-73	-2.6
Yarra	2,420	2,355	-65	-2.7
Other (a)	24	16	%	%
Total	36,003	35,409	-594	-1.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	1,019	1,035	16	1.6
Belgrave	564	554	-10	-1.8
Boronia	1,230	1,256	26	2.1
Cheltenham	1,917	1,864	-53	-2.8
Cranbourne	1,846	1,860	14	0.8
Dandenong	3,013	2,933	-80	-2.7
Fountain Gate	2,415	2,415	0	0.0
Frankston	2,792	2,752	-40	-1.4
Glen Waverley	1,176	1,206	30	2.6
Hastings	638	615	-23	-3.6
Lilydale	1,510	1,469	-41	-2.7
Mornington	584	569	-15	-2.6
Morwell	2,658	2,530	-128	-4.8
Oakleigh	1,737	1,699	-38	-2.2
Pakenham	1,010	1,012	2	0.2
Ringwood	1,932	1,855	-77	-4.0
Rosebud	853	870	17	2.0
Rowville	715	716	1	0.1
Sale	758	754	-4	-0.5
Springvale	2,042	2,033	-9	-0.4
Warragul	701	689	-12	-1.7
Wonthaggi	910	916	6	0.7
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	32,020	31,602	-418	-1.3

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	237	217	-20	-8.4
Ballarat	3,080	3,020	-60	-1.9
Bendigo	2,708	2,644	-64	-2.4
Colac	630	634	4	0.6
Corio	1,766	1,763	-3	-0.2
Footscray	1,585	1,551	-34	-2.1
Geelong	3,514	3,478	-36	-1.0
Hamilton	421	411	-10	-2.4
Horsham	692	695	3	0.4
Maryborough	514	499	-15	-2.9
Melton	2,037	1,986	-51	-2.5
Mildura	1,795	1,811	16	0.9
Newport	1,174	1,177	3	0.3
Portland	400	380	-20	-5.0
Stawell	172	178	6	3.5
Sunshine	3,739	3,713	-26	-0.7
Swan Hill	698	705	7	1.0
Warrnambool	893	861	-32	-3.6
Watergardens	3,726	3,602	-124	-3.3
Werribee	4,545	4,378	-167	-3.7
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
Total	34,329	33,705	-624	-1.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	974	1,009	35	3.6
Ayr	479	498	19	4.0
Biloela	207	212	5	2.4
Bowen	521	542	21	4.0
Cairns Aplin	5,600	5,693	93	1.7
Charters Towers	459	470	11	2.4
Emerald	438	452	14	3.2
Gladstone	1,046	1,077	31	3.0
Indigenous Service Centre	1,067	1,015	-52	-4.9
Ingham	477	473	-4	-0.8
Innisfail	1,010	1,023	13	1.3
Longreach	160	172	12	7.5
Mackay	2,075	2,123	48	2.3
Mareeba	888	816	-72	-8.1
Mossman	639	624	-15	-2.3
Mt Isa	785	780	-5	-0.6
Normanton	83	82	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	165	151	-14	-8.5
Palm Island	62	72	%	%
Rockhampton	2,211	2,265	54	2.4
Thursday Is	130	82	%	%
Townsville	4,753	4,835	82	1.7
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	274	243	-31	-11.3
Whitsunday	671	685	14	2.1
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	477	459	-18	-3.8
Yeppoon	569	573	4	0.7
Other (a)	31	30	%	%
Total	26,251	26,456	205	0.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	3,314	3,353	39	1.2
Caboolture	3,591	3,618	27	0.8
Caloundra	1,536	1,534	-2	-0.1
Cherbourg	256	253	-3	-1.2
Chermside	1,333	1,341	8	0.6
Deception Bay	2,781	2,760	-21	-0.8
Fortitude Valley	1,395	1,387	-8	-0.6
Gympie	1,563	1,548	-15	-1.0
Hervey Bay	1,822	1,836	14	0.8
Kawana Waters	752	753	1	0.1
Kingaroy	794	837	43	5.4
Margate	68	92	%	%
Maroochydore	1,713	1,759	46	2.7
Maryborough	1,366	1,369	3	0.2
Mitchelton	1,602	1,636	34	2.1
Mt Gravatt	2,462	2,464	2	0.1
Nambour	1,206	1,220	14	1.2
Noosa	1,245	1,237	-8	-0.6
Nundah	1,643	1,603	-40	-2.4
South Brisbane	1,185	1,140	-45	-3.8
Stones Corner	2,078	2,066	-12	-0.6
Strathpine	2,076	2,098	22	1.1
Toowong	1,499	1,468	-31	-2.1
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	37,280	37,372	92	0.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beaudesert	699	691	-8	-1.1
Beenleigh	2,460	2,488	28	1.1
Biggera Waters	3,721	3,701	-20	-0.5
Browns Plains	2,254	2,271	17	0.8
Capalaba	924	954	30	3.2
Charleville	199	205	6	3.0
Cleveland	1,138	1,132	-6	-0.5
Dalby	496	497	1	0.2
Goodna	1,810	1,819	9	0.5
Goondiwindi	353	351	-2	-0.6
Inala	2,099	2,103	4	0.2
Ipswich	3,281	3,326	45	1.4
Nerang	4,023	3,936	-87	-2.2
Palm Beach	4,243	4,171	-72	-1.7
Roma	137	140	3	2.2
Southport	97	138	%	%
Stanthorpe	382	374	-8	-2.1
Toowoomba	2,070	2,091	21	1.0
Warwick	511	519	8	1.6
Woodridge	2,383	2,408	25	1.0
Wynnum	1,033	1,045	12	1.2
Other (a)	173	178	%	%
Total	34,486	34,538	52	0.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	843	862	19	2.3
Broken Hill	754	743	-11	-1.5
Ceduna	272	268	-4	-1.5
Cooper Pedy	145	146	1	0.7
Elizabeth	3,016	3,103	87	2.9
Enfield	1,774	1,728	-46	-2.6
Gawler	1,400	1,401	1	0.1
Glenelg	903	923	20	2.2
Kadina	788	788	0	0.0
Kilkenny	1,530	1,517	-13	-0.8
Marion	2,619	2,571	-48	-1.8
Modbury	2,179	2,205	26	1.2
Mt Barker	769	752	-17	-2.2
Mt Gambier	1,262	1,236	-26	-2.1
Murray Bridge	1,060	1,054	-6	-0.6
Noarlunga	3,103	3,063	-40	-1.3
Norwood	1,921	1,867	-54	-2.8
Port Adelaide	1,682	1,655	-27	-1.6
Port Augusta	794	796	2	0.3
Port Lincoln	653	657	4	0.6
Port Pirie	992	995	3	0.3
Salisbury	3,121	3,124	3	0.1
Torrensville	1,792	1,791	-1	-0.1
Victor Harbor	749	758	9	1.2
Whyalla	843	843	0	0.0
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	34,964	34,846	-118	-0.3

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	1,240	1,245	5	0.4
Armadale	1,571	1,587	16	1.0
Bunbury	2,230	2,289	59	2.6
Busselton	1,043	1,038	-5	-0.5
Cannington	2,167	2,139	-28	-1.3
Carnarvon	260	274	14	5.4
Esperance	351	372	21	6.0
Fremantle	1,511	1,491	-20	-1.3
Geraldton	1,482	1,523	41	2.8
Gosnells	1,515	1,481	-34	-2.2
Innaloo	1,315	1,322	7	0.5
Joondalup	2,120	2,171	51	2.4
Kalgoorlie	818	828	10	1.2
Karratha	434	435	1	0.2
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	94	95	%	%
Mandurah	1,787	1,803	16	0.9
Meekatharra	215	220	5	2.3
Midland	1,973	1,988	15	0.8
Mirrabooka	2,245	2,243	-2	-0.1
Morley	2,309	2,311	2	0.1
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	91	76	%	%
Northam	1,191	1,201	10	0.8
Rockingham	2,274	2,289	15	0.7
South Hedland	431	391	-40	-9.3
Spearwood	1,411	1,443	32	2.3
Victoria Park	2,002	2,053	51	2.5
Warwick Grove	1,107	1,102	-5	-0.5
Other (a)	12	8	%	%
Total	35,199	35,418	219	0.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	1,099	1,115	16	1.5
Burnie	1,648	1,577	-71	-4.3
Devonport	1,552	1,468	-84	-5.4
Glenorchy	1,462	1,435	-27	-1.8
Hobart	1,544	1,532	-12	-0.8
Huonville	406	398	-8	-2.0
Launceston	4,019	3,975	-44	-1.1
Rosny Park	1,346	1,321	-25	-1.9
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	13,076	12,821	-255	-2.0
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	723	703	-20	-2.8
Angurugu RSC	122	121	-1	-0.8
Borroloola	<20	20	na	na
Broome	482	481	-1	-0.2
Casuarina	679	683	4	0.6
Central Aust RST	1,483	1,427	-56	-3.8
Darwin	433	413	-20	-4.6
Derby	144	129	-15	-10.4
Fitzroy Crossing	47	60	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	64	67	%	%
Halls Creek	181	215	34	18.8
Katherine	306	299	-7	-2.3
Kimberley RST	72	80	%	%
Kununurra	227	202	-25	-11.0
Maningrida	263	256	-7	-2.7
Nhulunbuy	<20	22	na	na
Palmerston	914	907	-7	-0.8
Tennant Creek	281	294	13	4.6
Tiwi Islands	192	154	-38	-19.8
Top End East	406	422	16	3.9
Top End Hub	48	45	%	%
Top End South	503	509	6	1.2
Top End West	522	507	-15	-2.9
Wadeye	275	276	1	0.4
Yuendumu RSC	44	39	%	%
Other (a)	17	15	%	%
Total	8,466	8,346	-120	-1.4

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2014	April 2014	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	14	17	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	91	61	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-39	-46	%	%
<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	417,523	415,459	-2,064	-0.5

(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 APRIL 2014

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.5	82.6	84.3
Earned an income	13.5	17.4	15.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.4	2.0	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.7	2.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.8	1.7
Over \$316.00	8.3	10.1	9.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	110,120	137,974	248,094
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.0	70.2	72.3
Earned an income	24.0	29.8	27.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.2	2.4	2.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	3.5	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	2.8	2.7
Over \$316.00	15.6	20.1	18.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	59,407	108,541	167,948
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.8	77.1	79.4
Earned an income	17.2	22.9	20.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.7	2.2	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.2	3.0	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	10.9	14.5	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	169,527	246,515	416,042

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

Symbols

- n.a. not available
- .. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

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

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

For More Information

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@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
PO Box 7576
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

Other recipient information

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