

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

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

March 2017

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, **26 April 2017**

Contents

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

Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 31 May 2017.

Statistical Highlights – March 2017

Between March 2016 and March 2017

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 0.2 per cent** overall from 881 060 to 882 668.

- NSA recipients decreased 0.1 per cent from 781 118 to 780 655.
- YA(o) recipients increased 2.1 per cent from 99 942 to 102 013.

The number of job seekers **decreased 2.5 per cent** overall from 542 787 to 529 341.

- NSA job seekers decreased 1.7 per cent from 463 032 to 455 119.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 6.9 per cent from 79 755 to 74 222.

Long-term job seekers decreased 2.1 per cent from 359 248 to 351 627.

Short-term job seekers decreased 3.2 per cent from 183 539 to 177 714.

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

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

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

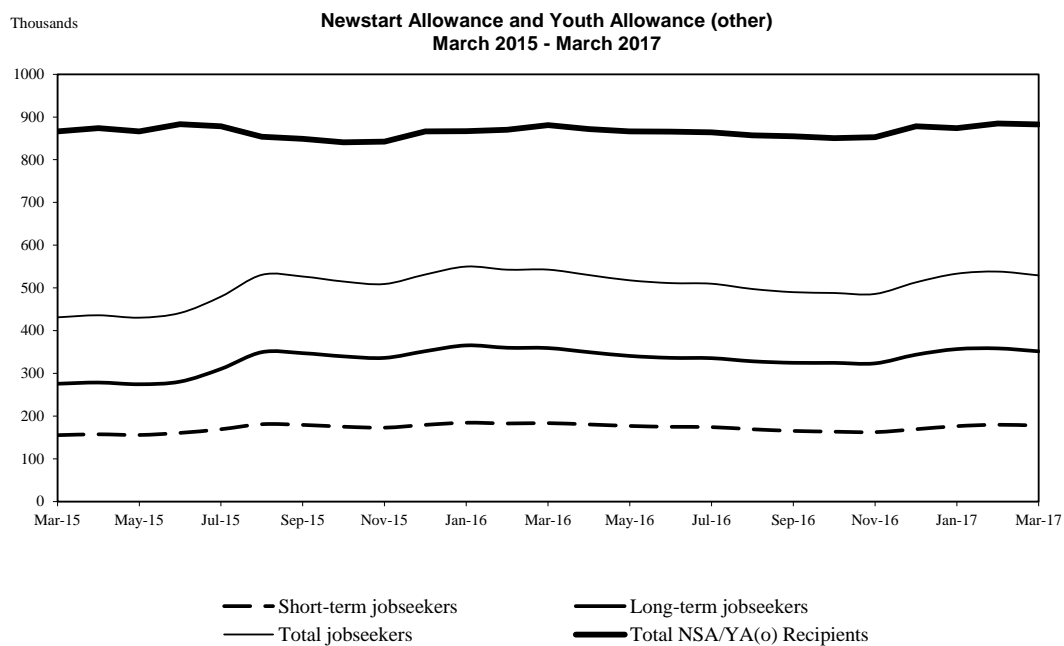


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363
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
Variation February 2017 - March 2017							
Number	-331	-675	-1,367	22,769	103	-165	-380
Per cent	-0.1	-0.1	-1.3	13.5	3.1	-5.4	-2.3

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

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

Newstart Allowance	March 2017 Persons	March 2017 Males	March 2017 Females	February 2017	Variation February - March Number	Variation February - March per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	212,700	130,452	82,248	213,044	-344	-0.2
Did not receive a payment (a)	12,593	7,033	5,560	10,945	1,648	15.1
Received a payment	200,107	123,419	76,688	202,099	-1,992	-1.0
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,518	1,766	4,752	6,695	-177	-2.6
Other activities without job search (c)	12,164	6,590	5,574	11,648	516	4.4
Incapacitated (d)	21,996	12,740	9,256	22,629	-633	-2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	13,604	7,656	5,948	13,457	147	1.1
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	145,825	94,667	51,158	147,670	-1,845	-1.2
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	32,788	18,610	14,178	32,239	549	1.7
Long Term Newstart Allowees	567,955	270,674	297,281	568,286	-331	-0.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	23,599	10,075	13,524	19,866	3,733	18.8
Received a payment	544,356	260,599	283,757	548,420	-4,064	-0.7
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	66,637	15,793	50,844	67,983	-1,346	-2.0
Other activities without job search (c)	60,753	29,009	31,744	59,121	1,632	2.8
Incapacitated (d)	54,336	26,964	27,372	54,515	-179	-0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	53,336	24,639	28,697	52,474	862	1.6
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	309,294	164,194	145,100	314,327	-5,033	-1.6
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	199,632	98,641	100,991	196,410	3,222	1.6
All Newstart Allowees	780,655	401,126	379,529	781,330	-675	-0.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	36,192	17,108	19,084	30,811	5,381	17.5
Received a payment	744,463	384,018	360,445	750,519	-6,056	-0.8
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	73,155	17,559	55,596	74,678	-1,523	-2.0
Other activities without job search (c)	72,917	35,599	37,318	70,769	2,148	3.0
Incapacitated (d)	76,332	39,704	36,628	77,144	-812	-1.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	66,940	32,295	34,645	65,931	1,009	1.5
All NSA job seekers (f)	455,119	258,861	196,258	461,997	-6,878	-1.5
All NSA training/education (g)	232,420	117,251	115,169	228,649	3,771	1.6

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

	March 2017 Persons	March 2017 Males	March 2017 Females	February 2017	Variation February - March Number	Variation February - March per cent
Youth Allowance (other)						
Short Term Youth Allowees	44,591	24,615	19,976	44,365	226	0.5
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,210	565	645	1,070	140	13.1
Received a payment	43,381	24,050	19,331	43,295	86	0.2
Other activities without job search (b)	8,125	4,704	3,421	7,766	359	4.6
Incapacitated (c)	1,620	823	797	1,684	-64	-3.8
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,747	878	869	1,727	20	1.2
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	31,889	17,645	14,244	32,118	-229	-0.7
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	13,072	7,126	5,946	12,466	606	4.9
Long Term Youth Allowees	57,422	28,692	28,730	59,015	-1,593	-2.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,730	755	975	1,698	32	1.9
Received a payment	55,692	27,937	27,755	57,317	-1,625	-2.8
Other activities without job search (b)	8,360	4,431	3,929	8,139	221	2.7
Incapacitated (c)	2,477	1,123	1,354	2,560	-83	-3.2
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,522	1,057	1,465	2,507	15	0.6
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	42,333	21,326	21,007	44,111	-1,778	-4.0
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	22,642	11,076	11,566	22,615	27	0.1
All Youth Allowees	102,013	53,307	48,706	103,380	-1,367	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,940	1,320	1,620	2,768	172	6.2
Received a payment	99,073	51,987	47,086	100,612	-1,539	-1.5
Other activities without job search (b)	16,485	9,135	7,350	15,905	580	3.6
Incapacitated (c)	4,097	1,946	2,151	4,244	-147	-3.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,269	1,935	2,334	4,234	35	0.8
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	74,222	38,971	35,251	76,229	-2,007	-2.6
All YA (other) training/education (f)	35,714	18,202	17,512	35,081	633	1.8

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

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

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
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
Variation February 2017 - March 2017			
Number	-2,074	-6,811	-8,885
Per cent	-1.2	-1.9	-1.7

Notes:

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

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

State	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	44,007	43,638	-369	-0.8
Victoria	39,282	38,768	-514	-1.3
Queensland	46,262	46,111	-151	-0.3
South Australia	14,049	13,551	-498	-3.5
Western Australia	25,968	25,562	-406	-1.6
Tasmania	4,401	4,245	-156	-3.5
Northern Territory	4,230	4,273	43	1.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,589	1,566	-23	-1.4
Australia	179,788	177,714	-2,074	-1.2
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	96,103	93,313	-2,790	-2.9
Victoria	78,414	76,373	-2,041	-2.6
Queensland	82,600	81,822	-778	-0.9
South Australia	33,358	32,452	-906	-2.7
Western Australia	43,348	43,478	130	0.3
Tasmania	11,533	11,277	-256	-2.2
Northern Territory	10,016	9,960	-56	-0.6
Australian Capital Territory	3,066	2,952	-114	-3.7
Australia	358,438	351,627	-6,811	-1.9
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	140,110	136,951	-3,159	-2.3
Victoria	117,696	115,141	-2,555	-2.2
Queensland	128,862	127,933	-929	-0.7
South Australia	47,407	46,003	-1,404	-3.0
Western Australia	69,316	69,040	-276	-0.4
Tasmania	15,934	15,522	-412	-2.6
Northern Territory	14,246	14,233	-13	-0.1
Australian Capital Territory	4,655	4,518	-137	-2.9
Australia	538,226	529,341	-8,885	-1.7

Notes:

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

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

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	2,570	2.3	549	0.3	3,119	1.0
18 - 20 years	12,242	10.9	14,326	7.7	26,568	8.9
21 - 24 years	15,935	14.2	26,185	14.1	42,120	14.1
25 - 29 years	16,958	15.1	25,427	13.7	42,385	14.2
30 - 39 years	25,344	22.6	41,655	22.5	66,999	22.5
40 - 49 years	19,757	17.6	37,145	20.0	56,902	19.1
50 - 59 years	13,944	12.4	27,771	15.0	41,715	14.0
60 years and over	5,562	5.0	12,463	6.7	18,025	6.1
Total	112,312	100.0	185,521	100.0	297,833	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	2,557	3.9	752	0.5	3,309	1.4
18 - 20 years	10,031	15.3	14,716	8.9	24,747	10.7
21 - 24 years	9,257	14.2	19,458	11.7	28,715	12.4
25 - 29 years	7,222	11.0	15,457	9.3	22,679	9.8
30 - 39 years	9,673	14.8	31,581	19.0	41,254	17.8
40 - 49 years	11,574	17.7	43,436	26.1	55,010	23.8
50 - 59 years	10,845	16.6	30,534	18.4	41,379	17.9
60 years and over	4,243	6.5	10,172	6.1	14,415	6.2
Total	65,402	100.0	166,106	100.0	231,508	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	5,127	2.9	1,301	0.4	6,428	1.2
18 - 20 years	22,273	12.5	29,042	8.3	51,315	9.7
21 - 24 years	25,192	14.2	45,643	13.0	70,835	13.4
25 - 29 years	24,180	13.6	40,884	11.6	65,064	12.3
30 - 39 years	35,017	19.7	73,236	20.8	108,253	20.5
40 - 49 years	31,331	17.6	80,581	22.9	111,912	21.1
50 - 59 years	24,789	13.9	58,305	16.6	83,094	15.7
60 years and over	9,805	5.5	22,635	6.4	32,440	6.1
Total	177,714	100.0	351,627	100.0	529,341	100.0

Notes:

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

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

Sydney Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,514	3,464	-50	-1.4
Bondi Junction	807	782	-25	-3.1
Burwood	1,597	1,578	-19	-1.2
Cabramatta	2,351	2,352	1	0.0
Camden	919	889	-30	-3.3
Campbelltown	2,443	2,395	-48	-2.0
Campsie	2,576	2,565	-11	-0.4
Caringbah	696	686	-10	-1.4
Chatswood	1,097	1,053	-44	-4.0
Darlinghurst	1,559	1,524	-35	-2.2
Fairfield	3,385	3,345	-40	-1.2
Hornsby	1,082	1,073	-9	-0.8
Hurstville	1,601	1,589	-12	-0.7
Ingleburn	1,264	1,289	25	2.0
Leichhardt	1,411	1,348	-63	-4.5
Liverpool	4,121	3,994	-127	-3.1
Maroubra	1,417	1,390	-27	-1.9
Marrickville	961	925	-36	-3.7
Northern Beaches	1,215	1,163	-52	-4.3
Redfern	1,745	1,704	-41	-2.3
Rockdale	1,423	1,387	-36	-2.5
Ryde	1,117	1,062	-55	-4.9
Sutherland	718	693	-25	-3.5
Other (a)	92	108	%	%
Total	39,111	38,358	-753	-1.9

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

North New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,198	1,156	-42	-3.5
Brunswick Heads	1,010	963	-47	-4.7
Byron Bay	383	384	1	0.3
Casino	954	956	2	0.2
Cessnock	1,216	1,174	-42	-3.5
Charlestown	2,176	2,101	-75	-3.4
Coffs Harbour	2,493	2,438	-55	-2.2
Comm Support Team	80	85	%	%
Ettalong	813	781	-32	-3.9
Forster	926	894	-32	-3.5
Gosford	1,953	1,904	-49	-2.5
Grafton	1,129	1,091	-38	-3.4
Kempsey	1,116	1,137	21	1.9
King Street	1,586	1,517	-69	-4.4
Kurri Kurri	716	691	-25	-3.5
Lakehaven	2,108	2,044	-64	-3.0
Lismore	2,426	2,333	-93	-3.8
Maitland	2,281	2,211	-70	-3.1
Mayfield	1,225	1,176	-49	-4.0
Murwillumbah	859	817	-42	-4.9
Muswellbrook	885	888	3	0.3
Nambucca Heads	718	700	-18	-2.5
Nelson Bay	647	626	-21	-3.2
North New South Wales	20	<20	na	na
Port Macquarie	2,105	2,069	-36	-1.7
Raymond Terrace	1,377	1,356	-21	-1.5
Singleton	525	523	-2	-0.4
Taree	2,101	2,085	-16	-0.8
The Entrance	1,424	1,405	-19	-1.3
Toronto	1,271	1,246	-25	-2.0
Tweed Heads	1,769	1,729	-40	-2.3
Wallsend	2,069	1,967	-102	-4.9
Woy Woy	539	549	10	1.9
Wyong	610	596	-14	-2.3
Yamba	450	440	-10	-2.2
Other (a)	75	na	na	na
Total	43,233	42,146	-1,087	-2.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,207	1,164	-43	-3.6
Auburn	2,053	1,942	-111	-5.4
Bathurst	1,109	1,069	-40	-3.6
Baulkham Hills	1,050	1,012	-38	-3.6
Blacktown	3,516	3,497	-19	-0.5
Bourke	500	473	-27	-5.4
Central New South Wales	34	32	%	%
Dubbo	2,888	2,787	-101	-3.5
Glen Innes	447	443	-4	-0.9
Gunnedah	517	504	-13	-2.5
Hawkesbury	1,015	935	-80	-7.9
Inverell	845	829	-16	-1.9
Katoomba	690	679	-11	-1.6
Lightning Ridge	235	235	0	0.0
Lithgow	789	774	-15	-1.9
Merrylands	2,109	2,069	-40	-1.9
Moree	579	562	-17	-2.9
Mt Druitt	3,002	2,994	-8	-0.3
Mudgee	664	644	-20	-3.0
Narrabri	439	432	-7	-1.6
Orange	1,337	1,282	-55	-4.1
Parkes	1,026	1,015	-11	-1.1
Parramatta	2,239	2,189	-50	-2.2
Penrith	2,039	2,000	-39	-1.9
Springwood	334	320	-14	-4.2
St Marys	1,814	1,795	-19	-1.0
Tamworth	2,314	2,279	-35	-1.5
Walgett	344	331	-13	-3.8
Other (a)	9	8	%	%
Total	35,144	34,295	-849	-2.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	769	802	33	4.3
Bega	708	719	11	1.6
Belconnen	1,269	1,196	-73	-5.8
Bowral	469	459	-10	-2.1
Braddon	1,078	1,060	-18	-1.7
Cooma	433	431	-2	-0.5
Corrimal	1,031	998	-33	-3.2
Cowra	575	566	-9	-1.6
Dapto	1,369	1,325	-44	-3.2
Goulburn	865	861	-4	-0.5
Griffith	856	812	-44	-5.1
Gungahlin	674	650	-24	-3.6
Leeton	508	492	-16	-3.1
Narooma	280	274	-6	-2.1
Nowra	2,179	2,123	-56	-2.6
Queanbeyan	669	638	-31	-4.6
Shellharbour	1,713	1,674	-39	-2.3
Southern New South Wales	<20	20	na	na
Tuggeranong	875	874	-1	-0.1
Tumut	417	418	1	0.2
Ulladulla	468	474	6	1.3
Wagga	1,902	1,834	-68	-3.6
Woden	709	682	-27	-3.8
Wollongong	1,735	1,708	-27	-1.6
Yass	151	148	-3	-2.0
Young	644	626	-18	-2.8
Other (a)	na	30	na	na
Total	22,382	21,894	-488	-2.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Northern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,471	1,465	-6	-0.4
Albury	3,474	3,394	-80	-2.3
Box Hill	2,200	2,124	-76	-3.5
Broadmeadows	5,629	5,578	-51	-0.9
Darebin	3,152	3,038	-114	-3.6
Deniliquin	387	396	9	2.3
Echuca	759	730	-29	-3.8
Epping	3,543	3,493	-50	-1.4
Greensborough	2,053	2,015	-38	-1.9
Heidelberg	1,494	1,438	-56	-3.7
Moreland	3,145	3,006	-139	-4.4
Newmarket	2,010	1,955	-55	-2.7
Seymour	834	811	-23	-2.8
Shepparton	2,684	2,587	-97	-3.6
Sth Melbourne	1,318	1,311	-7	-0.5
Sunbury	1,101	1,096	-5	-0.5
Wangaratta	1,782	1,712	-70	-3.9
Windsor Vic	2,643	2,573	-70	-2.6
Yarra	2,755	2,627	-128	-4.6
Other (a)	123	109	%	%
Total	42,557	41,458	-1,099	-2.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Eastern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,482	1,509	27	1.8
Belgrave	556	547	-9	-1.6
Boronia	1,410	1,343	-67	-4.8
Cheltenham	2,019	1,993	-26	-1.3
Cranbourne	2,410	2,315	-95	-3.9
Dandenong	3,001	2,877	-124	-4.1
Fountain Gate	2,422	2,371	-51	-2.1
Frankston	2,865	2,806	-59	-2.1
Glen Waverley	1,249	1,205	-44	-3.5
Hastings	698	691	-7	-1.0
Lilydale	1,599	1,522	-77	-4.8
Mornington	553	526	-27	-4.9
Morwell	3,888	3,785	-103	-2.6
Oakleigh	1,852	1,789	-63	-3.4
Pakenham	1,234	1,169	-65	-5.3
Ringwood	2,298	2,217	-81	-3.5
Rosebud	1,033	995	-38	-3.7
Rowville	606	632	26	4.3
Sale	1,342	1,337	-5	-0.4
Springvale	2,272	2,180	-92	-4.0
Warragul	939	952	13	1.4
Wonthaggi	947	946	-1	-0.1
Other (a)	55	43	%	%
Total	36,730	35,750	-980	-2.7

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

West Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	305	294	-11	-3.6
Ballarat	4,146	4,080	-66	-1.6
Bendigo	4,048	3,998	-50	-1.2
Colac	621	616	-5	-0.8
Corio	2,269	2,240	-29	-1.3
Footscray	1,952	1,924	-28	-1.4
Geelong	3,631	3,608	-23	-0.6
Hamilton	484	465	-19	-3.9
Horsham	829	816	-13	-1.6
Maryborough	807	806	-1	-0.1
Melton	2,429	2,430	1	0.0
Mildura	2,438	2,353	-85	-3.5
Newport	1,165	1,155	-10	-0.9
Portland	439	423	-16	-3.6
Stawell	211	205	-6	-2.8
Sunshine	3,923	3,937	14	0.4
Swan Hill	922	879	-43	-4.7
Warrnambool	1,156	1,107	-49	-4.2
Watergardens	3,885	3,816	-69	-1.8
Werribee	5,101	5,052	-49	-1.0
Other (a)	77	74	%	%
Total	40,838	40,278	-560	-1.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Northern Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	1,031	1,002	-29	-2.8
Ayr	588	600	12	2.0
Biloela	345	345	0	0.0
Bowen	576	550	-26	-4.5
Cairns Aplin	6,127	6,241	114	1.9
Charters Towers	585	571	-14	-2.4
Emerald	613	612	-1	-0.2
Gladstone	2,543	2,569	26	1.0
Indigenous Service Centre	2,092	2,086	-6	-0.3
Ingham	468	454	-14	-3.0
Innisfail	1,153	1,168	15	1.3
Longreach	213	213	0	0.0
Mackay	3,731	3,767	36	1.0
Mareeba	1,035	1,014	-21	-2.0
Mossman	699	697	-2	-0.3
Mt Isa	1,062	1,091	29	2.7
Normanton	221	202	-19	-8.6
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	224	216	-8	-3.6
Palm Island	348	346	-2	-0.6
Rockhampton	3,616	3,642	26	0.7
Thursday Is	265	267	2	0.8
Townsville Walker	<20	33	na	na
TSV Ross River Rd	6,516	6,389	-127	-1.9
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	573	562	-11	-1.9
Whitsunday	725	700	-25	-3.4
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	546	524	-22	-4.0
Yeppoon	975	961	-14	-1.4
Other (a)	na	328	na	na
Total	37,210	37,150	-60	-0.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	4,431	4,341	-90	-2.0
Caboolture	4,662	4,648	-14	-0.3
Caloundra	2,017	1,968	-49	-2.4
Cherbourg	368	387	19	5.2
Chermside	1,531	1,488	-43	-2.8
Deception Bay	1,475	1,454	-21	-1.4
Fortitude Valley	2,027	2,008	-19	-0.9
Gympie	1,916	1,898	-18	-0.9
Hervey Bay	2,427	2,397	-30	-1.2
Kawana Waters	855	835	-20	-2.3
Kingaroy	1,043	1,016	-27	-2.6
Margate	1,623	1,663	40	2.5
Maroochydore	2,098	2,066	-32	-1.5
Maryborough	1,941	1,924	-17	-0.9
Mitchelton	1,977	1,958	-19	-1.0
Mt Gravatt	3,162	3,130	-32	-1.0
Nambour	1,529	1,535	6	0.4
Noosa	1,132	1,123	-9	-0.8
Nundah	2,142	2,098	-44	-2.1
South Brisbane	1,690	1,641	-49	-2.9
Stones Corner	2,379	2,290	-89	-3.7
Strathpine	2,514	2,524	10	0.4
Toowong	1,520	1,463	-57	-3.8
Other (a)	98	102	%	%
Total	46,557	45,957	-600	-1.3

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

South Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	985	988	3	0.3
Beenleigh	3,715	3,749	34	0.9
Biggera Waters	3,650	3,580	-70	-1.9
Browns Plains	2,664	2,636	-28	-1.1
Capalaba	1,235	1,252	17	1.4
Charleville	335	341	6	1.8
Cleveland	1,514	1,507	-7	-0.5
Dalby	990	1,002	12	1.2
Goodna	2,472	2,485	13	0.5
Goondiwindi	436	426	-10	-2.3
Inala	3,078	3,042	-36	-1.2
Ipswich	4,926	4,933	7	0.1
Nerang	3,845	3,805	-40	-1.0
Palm Beach	3,959	3,860	-99	-2.5
Roma	292	285	-7	-2.4
South Queensland	36	42	%	%
Southport	785	817	32	4.1
Stanthorpe	550	539	-11	-2.0
Toowoomba	4,030	3,934	-96	-2.4
Warwick	644	651	7	1.1
Woodridge	3,376	3,347	-29	-0.9
Wynnum	1,248	1,226	-22	-1.8
Other (a)	35	36	%	%
Total	44,800	44,483	-317	-0.7

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

South Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,367	1,295	-72	-5.3
Broken Hill	1,067	1,018	-49	-4.6
Ceduna	367	378	11	3.0
Cooper Pedy	267	254	-13	-4.9
Elizabeth	4,863	4,699	-164	-3.4
Enfield	2,221	2,156	-65	-2.9
Gawler	1,967	1,937	-30	-1.5
Glenelg	1,072	972	-100	-9.3
Kadina	964	957	-7	-0.7
Kilkenny	1,958	1,929	-29	-1.5
Marion	3,537	3,413	-124	-3.5
Modbury	2,780	2,657	-123	-4.4
Mt Barker	1,089	1,027	-62	-5.7
Mt Gambier	1,687	1,662	-25	-1.5
Murray Bridge	1,352	1,310	-42	-3.1
Noarlunga	4,373	4,254	-119	-2.7
Norwood	2,356	2,312	-44	-1.9
Port Adelaide	2,047	1,936	-111	-5.4
Port Augusta	1,176	1,166	-10	-0.9
Port Lincoln	762	740	-22	-2.9
Port Pirie	1,368	1,325	-43	-3.1
Salisbury	4,722	4,624	-98	-2.1
South Australia	24	36	%	%
Torrensville	2,327	2,248	-79	-3.4
Victor Harbor	981	983	2	0.2
Whyalla	1,337	1,308	-29	-2.2
Other (a)	14	14	%	%
Total	48,045	46,610	-1,435	-3.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Western Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,756	1,737	-19	-1.1
Armadale	3,389	3,357	-32	-0.9
Bunbury	3,750	3,746	-4	-0.1
Busselton	1,801	1,782	-19	-1.1
Cannington	3,624	3,647	23	0.6
Carnarvon	538	524	-14	-2.6
Esperance	461	457	-4	-0.9
Fremantle	2,508	2,490	-18	-0.7
Geraldton	2,495	2,475	-20	-0.8
Gosnells	2,785	2,775	-10	-0.4
Innaloo	2,372	2,383	11	0.5
Joondalup	4,858	4,922	64	1.3
Kalgoorlie	1,073	1,099	26	2.4
Karratha	681	656	-25	-3.7
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	231	221	-10	-4.3
Mandurah	4,003	3,962	-41	-1.0
Meekatharra	355	337	-18	-5.1
Midland	4,149	4,134	-15	-0.4
Mirrabooka	4,283	4,297	14	0.3
Morley	3,953	3,944	-9	-0.2
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	339	313	-26	-7.7
Northam	1,776	1,745	-31	-1.7
Rockingham	4,695	4,691	-4	-0.1
South Hedland	731	679	-52	-7.1
Success	2,574	2,562	-12	-0.5
Victoria Park	4,208	4,088	-120	-2.9
Warwick Grove	2,127	2,184	57	2.7
Western Australia	48	43	%	%
Other (a)	128	125	%	%
Total	65,691	65,375	-316	-0.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Tasmania and North Australia Service Zones by Service Centre	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,229	1,188	-41	-3.3
Burnie	1,714	1,676	-38	-2.2
Devonport	1,634	1,557	-77	-4.7
Glenorchy	1,979	1,925	-54	-2.7
Hobart	1,949	1,824	-125	-6.4
Huonville	524	506	-18	-3.4
Launceston	4,966	4,929	-37	-0.7
Rosny Park	1,846	1,786	-60	-3.3
TAS Support Team	51	50	%	%
Other (a)	17	18	%	%
Total	15,909	15,459	-450	-2.8
North Australia				
Alice Springs	1,232	1,242	10	0.8
Angurugu RSC	198	203	5	2.5
Borroloola	235	231	-4	-1.7
Broome	997	1,023	26	2.6
Casuarina	1,314	1,345	31	2.4
Central Australia	2,832	2,768	-64	-2.3
Darwin	589	595	6	1.0
Derby	559	574	15	2.7
Fitzroy Crossing	322	315	-7	-2.2
Galiwinku RSC	400	390	-10	-2.5
Halls Creek	445	433	-12	-2.7
Hermannsburg RSC	136	131	-5	-3.7
Katherine	613	618	5	0.8
Kimberley Katherine	1,733	1,762	29	1.7
Kununurra	481	496	15	3.1
Maningrida	645	634	-11	-1.7
Nhulunbuy	175	176	1	0.6
Northern Region	1,942	1,931	-11	-0.6
Palmerston	1,619	1,652	33	2.0
Papunya RSC	76	79	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	84	89	%	%
Tangentyere	26	23	%	%
Tennant Creek	373	352	-21	-5.6
Tiwi Islands	351	340	-11	-3.1
Wadeye	403	402	-1	-0.2
Yuendumu RSC	153	140	-13	-8.5
Other (a)	11	14	%	%
Total	17,944	17,958	14	0.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Other Service Zone by Service Centre and Australian Total	February 2017	March 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	635	675	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,512	1,497	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-72	-2	%	%
Australia	538,226	529,341	-8,885	-1.7

(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 24 March 2017**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.7	82.2	83.5
Earned an income	14.3	17.8	16.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.2	1.6	1.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.3	2.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.4	1.8	1.6
Over \$316.00	9.3	11.6	10.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	111,647	183,567	295,214
Females			
Did not earn an income	76.2	71.0	72.5
Earned an income	23.8	29.0	27.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.0	2.0	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.7	2.9	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.2	2.4	2.4
Over \$316.00	16.2	21.1	19.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	65,026	164,453	229,479
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.2	76.9	78.7
Earned an income	17.8	23.1	21.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	1.8	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.2	2.5	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.7	2.1	2.0
Over \$316.00	11.8	16.1	14.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	176,673	348,020	524,693

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

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

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

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

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

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

For More Information

Other recipient information

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

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

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

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