

# **Labour Market and Related Payments**

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## **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 2019**

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, **03 May 2019**

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## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 29 May 2019.

# Statistical Highlights – March 2019

## Between March 2018 and March 2019

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 7.9 per cent** overall from 863 782 to 795 722.

- NSA recipients decreased 7.2 per cent from 769 155 to 713 529.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 13.1 per cent from 94 627 to 82 193.

The number of job seekers **decreased 10.7 per cent** overall from 500 364 to 446 719.

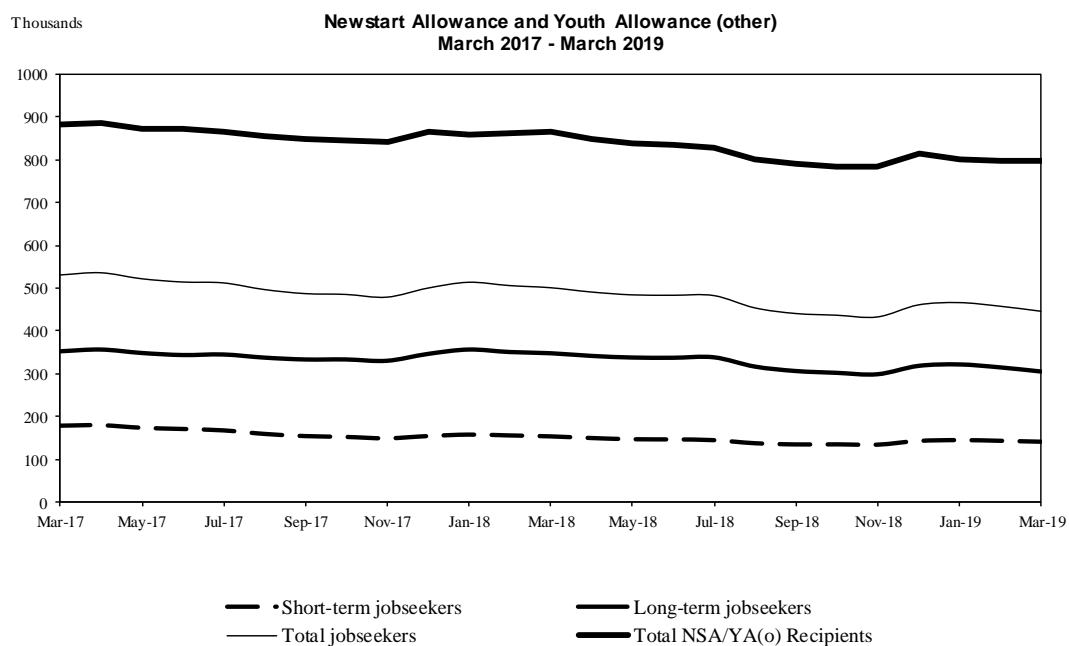
- NSA job seekers decreased 9.6 per cent from 434 545 to 392 809.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 18.1 per cent from 65 819 to 53 910.

Long-term job seekers decreased 11.9 per cent from 347 281 to 305 974.

Short-term job seekers decreased 8.1 per cent from 153 083 to 140 745.

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 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
February 2018	578,876	766,603	95,597	158,226	2,321	2,349	14,489
March 2018	581,699	769,155	94,627	175,407	2,240	2,218	13,891
April 2018	573,335	755,923	92,134	180,907	2,413	2,142	13,573
May 2018	568,160	747,327	90,193	189,067	2,555	2,071	13,209
June 2018	568,133	745,902	90,286	192,045	2,525	1,985	12,907
July 2018	562,918	738,325	89,479	185,267	2,563	1,909	12,554
August 2018	547,305	717,452	83,871	199,429	2,580	1,792	11,949
September 2018	541,747	709,935	81,465	201,869	2,590	1,680	11,447
October 2018	538,054	705,658	79,725	199,539	2,593	1,596	11,060
November 2018	538,609	706,424	78,746	170,648	2,382	1,523	10,622
December 2018	554,688	728,095	86,292	138,308	2,288	1,435	10,220
January 2019	545,582	716,797	83,029	136,469	2,202	1,375	9,874
February 2019	544,407	715,560	83,533	146,445	2,182	1,317	9,527
March 2019	542,028	713,529	82,193	165,498	2,165	1,243	9,086
Variation February 2019 - March 2019							
Number	-2,379	-2,031	-1,340	19,053	-17	-74	-441
Per cent	-0.4	-0.3	-1.6	13.0	-0.8	-5.6	-4.6

## Notes:

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

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

Newstart Allowance	March 2019 Persons	March 2019 Males	March 2019 Females	February 2019	Variation February - March Number	Variation February - March per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>171,501</b>	<b>104,782</b>	<b>66,719</b>	<b>171,153</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	8,546	4,469	4,077	7,189	1,357	18.9
Received a payment	162,955	100,313	62,642	163,964	-1,009	-0.6
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	4,426	1,171	3,255	4,477	-51	-1.1
Other activities without job search (c)	8,394	4,681	3,713	8,042	352	4.4
Incapacitated (d)	20,136	11,624	8,512	20,105	31	0.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,579	6,211	5,368	11,287	292	2.6
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>118,420</b>	<b>76,626</b>	<b>41,794</b>	<b>120,053</b>	<b>-1,633</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	37,267	22,241	15,026	35,951	1,316	3.7
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>542,028</b>	<b>249,180</b>	<b>292,848</b>	<b>544,407</b>	<b>-2,379</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	20,284	7,753	12,531	16,897	3,387	20.0
Received a payment	521,744	241,427	280,317	527,510	-5,766	-1.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	59,488	14,201	45,287	60,024	-536	-0.9
Other activities without job search (c)	69,655	33,768	35,887	68,349	1,306	1.9
Incapacitated (d)	60,008	29,011	30,997	58,531	1,477	2.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	58,204	26,649	31,555	58,107	97	0.2
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>274,389</b>	<b>137,798</b>	<b>136,591</b>	<b>282,499</b>	<b>-8,110</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	238,128	117,822	120,306	235,278	2,850	1.2
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>713,529</b>	<b>353,962</b>	<b>359,567</b>	<b>715,560</b>	<b>-2,031</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	28,830	12,222	16,608	24,086	4,744	19.7
Received a payment	684,699	341,740	342,959	691,474	-6,775	-1.0
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	63,914	15,372	48,542	64,501	-587	-0.9
Other activities without job search (c)	78,049	38,449	39,600	76,391	1,658	2.2
Incapacitated (d)	80,144	40,635	39,509	78,636	1,508	1.9
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	69,783	32,860	36,923	69,394	389	0.6
<b>All NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>392,809</b>	<b>214,424</b>	<b>178,385</b>	<b>402,552</b>	<b>-9,743</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
All NSA training/education (g)	275,395	140,063	135,332	271,229	4,166	1.5

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

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	March 2019 Persons	March 2019 Males	March 2019 Females	February 2019	Variation February - March Number	Variation February - March per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>35,390</b>	<b>18,923</b>	<b>16,467</b>	<b>35,663</b>	<b>-273</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	832	379	453	822	10	1.2
Received a payment	34,558	18,544	16,014	34,841	-283	-0.8
Other activities without job search (b)	9,359	5,225	4,134	9,231	128	1.4
Incapacitated (c)	1,498	721	777	1,455	43	3.0
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,376	657	719	1,341	35	2.6
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>22,325</b>	<b>11,941</b>	<b>10,384</b>	<b>22,814</b>	<b>-489</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	16,321	8,900	7,421	16,222	99	0.6
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>46,803</b>	<b>22,441</b>	<b>24,362</b>	<b>47,870</b>	<b>-1,067</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,460	578	882	1,469	-9	-0.6
Received a payment	45,343	21,863	23,480	46,401	-1,058	-2.3
Other activities without job search (b)	8,414	4,374	4,040	8,307	107	1.3
Incapacitated (c)	2,794	1,182	1,612	2,675	119	4.4
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,550	1,050	1,500	2,569	-19	-0.7
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>31,585</b>	<b>15,257</b>	<b>16,328</b>	<b>32,850</b>	<b>-1,265</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	26,164	12,885	13,279	26,178	-14	-0.1
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>82,193</b>	<b>41,364</b>	<b>40,829</b>	<b>83,533</b>	<b>-1,340</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,292	957	1,335	2,291	1	0.0
Received a payment	79,901	40,407	39,494	81,242	-1,341	-1.7
Other activities without job search (b)	17,773	9,599	8,174	17,538	235	1.3
Incapacitated (c)	4,292	1,903	2,389	4,130	162	3.9
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,926	1,707	2,219	3,910	16	0.4
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>53,910</b>	<b>27,198</b>	<b>26,712</b>	<b>55,664</b>	<b>-1,754</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
All YA (other) training/education (f)	42,485	21,785	20,700	42,400	85	0.2

(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**

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	<b>Total</b>
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
February 2018	155,208	349,999	505,207
March 2018	153,083	347,281	500,364
April 2018	149,276	341,290	490,566
May 2018	146,495	337,567	484,062
June 2018	146,049	337,064	483,113
July 2018	144,339	338,105	482,444
August 2018	137,262	317,179	454,441
September 2018	134,476	307,116	441,592
October 2018	134,675	303,058	437,733
November 2018	133,936	299,787	433,723
December 2018	142,492	318,641	461,133
January 2019	144,447	321,983	466,430
February 2019	142,867	315,349	458,216
March 2019	140,745	305,974	446,719
Variation February 2019 - March 2019			
Number	-2,122	-9,375	-11,497
Per cent	-1.5	-3.0	-2.5

Notes:

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



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

State	February 2019	March 2019	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	37,241	36,483	-758	-2.0
Victoria	30,055	29,293	-762	-2.5
Queensland	37,060	36,973	-87	-0.2
South Australia	10,697	10,405	-292	-2.7
Western Australia	19,251	19,061	-190	-1.0
Tasmania	3,385	3,284	-101	-3.0
Northern Territory	3,775	3,900	125	3.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,403	1,346	-57	-4.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>142,867</b>	<b>140,745</b>	<b>-2,122</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	81,999	79,282	-2,717	-3.3
Victoria	64,013	61,931	-2,082	-3.3
Queensland	72,949	70,359	-2,590	-3.6
South Australia	26,610	25,636	-974	-3.7
Western Australia	45,986	45,301	-685	-1.5
Tasmania	10,908	10,616	-292	-2.7
Northern Territory	10,338	10,384	46	0.4
Australian Capital Territory	2,546	2,465	-81	-3.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>315,349</b>	<b>305,974</b>	<b>-9,375</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	119,240	115,765	-3,475	-2.9
Victoria	94,068	91,224	-2,844	-3.0
Queensland	110,009	107,332	-2,677	-2.4
South Australia	37,307	36,041	-1,266	-3.4
Western Australia	65,237	64,362	-875	-1.3
Tasmania	14,293	13,900	-393	-2.7
Northern Territory	14,113	14,284	171	1.2
Australian Capital Territory	3,949	3,811	-138	-3.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>458,216</b>	<b>446,719</b>	<b>-11,497</b>	<b>-2.5</b>

Notes:

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

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

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
<b>Males</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,772	2.0	553	0.4	2,325	1.0
18 - 20 years	8,153	9.2	10,147	6.6	18,300	7.6
21 - 24 years	11,785	13.3	19,373	12.7	31,158	12.9
25 - 29 years	13,647	15.4	19,982	13.1	33,629	13.9
30 - 39 years	21,132	23.9	33,152	21.7	54,284	22.5
40 - 49 years	15,795	17.8	31,410	20.5	47,205	19.5
50 - 59 years	11,235	12.7	25,257	16.5	36,492	15.1
60 years and over	5,048	5.7	13,181	8.6	18,229	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,567</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>153,055</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>241,622</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,952	3.7	736	0.5	2,688	1.3
18 - 20 years	7,148	13.7	11,423	7.5	18,571	9.1
21 - 24 years	7,057	13.5	15,652	10.2	22,709	11.1
25 - 29 years	5,835	11.2	13,347	8.7	19,182	9.4
30 - 39 years	8,109	15.5	28,980	19.0	37,089	18.1
40 - 49 years	9,154	17.5	39,609	25.9	48,763	23.8
50 - 59 years	8,700	16.7	29,949	19.6	38,649	18.8
60 years and over	4,223	8.1	13,223	8.6	17,446	8.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,178</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>152,919</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>205,097</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	3,724	2.6	1,289	0.4	5,013	1.1
18 - 20 years	15,301	10.9	21,570	7.0	36,871	8.3
21 - 24 years	18,842	13.4	35,025	11.4	53,867	12.1
25 - 29 years	19,482	13.8	33,329	10.9	52,811	11.8
30 - 39 years	29,241	20.8	62,132	20.3	91,373	20.5
40 - 49 years	24,949	17.7	71,019	23.2	95,968	21.5
50 - 59 years	19,935	14.2	55,206	18.0	75,141	16.8
60 years and over	9,271	6.6	26,404	8.6	35,675	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>140,745</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>305,974</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>446,719</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

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

<b>State by SA3</b>	March 2019
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	
Belconnen	1,120
Canberra East	41
Gungahlin	577
Molonglo	45
North Canberra	585
South Canberra	207
Tuggeranong	807
Urriarra - Namadgi	<5
Weston Creek	186
Woden Valley	238

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Mar 19	State by SA3	Mar 19
<b>New South Wales</b>		<b>New South Wales continued</b>	
Albury	1,606	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,081
Armidale	1,055	Liverpool	2,066
Auburn	1,192	Lord Howe Island	0
Bankstown	2,873	Lower Hunter	2,163
Bathurst	872	Lower Murray	384
Baulkham Hills	506	Maitland	1,485
Blacktown	2,140	Manly	153
Blacktown - North	731	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	734
Blue Mountains	881	Merrylands - Guildford	2,867
Blue Mountains - South	0	Moree - Narrabri	1,014
Botany	455	Mount Druitt	2,715
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,439	Newcastle	3,698
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,699	North Sydney - Mosman	327
Broken Hill and Far West	846	Orange	1,090
Camden	494	Parramatta	1,576
Campbelltown (NSW)	2,908	Pennant Hills - Epping	215
Canada Bay	363	Penrith	1,871
Canterbury	2,054	Pittwater	218
Carlingford	685	Port Macquarie	1,720
Chatswood - Lane Cove	402	Port Stephens	1,480
Clarence Valley	1,337	Queanbeyan	524
Coffs Harbour	2,084	Richmond - Windsor	517
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	578	Richmond Valley - Coastal	1,952
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,630	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,379
Dubbo	2,229	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	137
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	116	Ryde - Hunters Hill	774
Eastern Suburbs - North	573	Shoalhaven	2,021
Eastern Suburbs - South	970	Snowy Mountains	341
Fairfield	4,922	South Coast	1,576
Gosford	2,725	Southern Highlands	385
Goulburn - Mulwaree	622	St Marys	1,093
Great Lakes	778	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,337
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	931	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	488
Hawkesbury	175	Sydney Inner City	2,298
Hornsby	438	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,364
Hurstville	1,168	Taree - Gloucester	1,681
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	0	Tumut - Tumbarumba	318
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,392	Tweed Valley	2,135
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,662	Upper Hunter	768
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,277	Upper Murray exc. Albury	783
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,130	Wagga Wagga	1,829
Ku-ring-gai	258	Warringah	728
Lachlan Valley	1,650	Wollondilly	356
Lake Macquarie - East	2,003	Wollongong	1,817
Lake Macquarie - West	1,402	Wyong	3,855
Leichhardt	449	Young - Yass	584

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.

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

<b>State by SA3</b>	March 2019
<b>Northern Territory</b>	
Alice Springs	3,591
Barkly	813
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,680
Darwin City	565
Darwin Suburbs	1,247
East Arnhem	1,714
Katherine	2,304
Litchfield	436
Palmerston	925

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Mar 19	State by SA3	Mar 19
<b>Queensland</b>		<b>Queensland continued</b>	
Bald Hills - Everton Park	397	Ipswich Inner	3,048
Beaudesert	396	Jimboomba	847
Beenleigh	1,288	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	252
Biloela	253	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,277
Bowen Basin - North	634	Mackay	2,722
Bribie - Beachmere	683	Maroochy	1,164
Brisbane Inner	1,575	Maryborough	1,710
Brisbane Inner - East	506	Mt Gravatt	935
Brisbane Inner - North	1,074	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	390
Brisbane Inner - West	542	Nambour	1,021
Broadbeach - Burleigh	872	Narangba - Burpengary	1,456
Browns Plains	2,253	Nathan	620
Buderim	754	Nerang	1,231
Bundaberg	3,162	Noosa	540
Burnett	1,863	Noosa Hinterland	386
Caboolture	2,301	North Lakes	1,356
Caboolture Hinterland	218	Nundah	598
Cairns - North	904	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,010
Cairns - South	4,071	Outback - North	1,576
Caloundra	1,407	Outback - South	525
Capalaba	988	Port Douglas - Daintree	420
Carindale	488	Redcliffe	1,397
Centenary	217	Robina	691
Central Highlands (Qld)	695	Rockhampton	3,786
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,558	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,007
Chermside	1,132	Sandgate	994
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,195	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	416
Coolangatta	929	Southport	1,466
Darling Downs - East	917	Springfield - Redbank	2,191
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,144	Springwood - Kingston	2,711
Far North	2,876	Strathpine	863
Forest Lake - Oxley	1,913	Sunnybank	719
Gladstone	2,450	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	997
Gold Coast - North	1,574	Surfers Paradise	761
Gold Coast Hinterland	297	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,560
Granite Belt	851	The Gap - Enoggera	579
Gympie - Cooloola	1,531	The Hills District	632
Hervey Bay	1,870	Toowoomba	3,061
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,215	Townsville	5,785
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,653	Whitsunday	399
Ipswich Hinterland	1,597	Wynnum - Manly	871

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	March 2019
<b>South Australia</b>	
Adelaide City	444
Adelaide Hills	711
Barossa	565
Burnside	254
Campbelltown (SA)	574
Charles Sturt	1,918
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,224
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	955
Gawler - Two Wells	624
Holdfast Bay	382
Limestone Coast	1,391
Lower North	569
Marion	1,485
Mid North	1,100
Mitcham	556
Murray and Mallee	2,271
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	395
Onkaparinga	4,008
Outback - North and East	1,569
Playford	3,843
Port Adelaide - East	1,418
Port Adelaide - West	1,605
Prospect - Walkerville	285
Salisbury	3,813
Tea Tree Gully	1,122
Unley	301
West Torrens	895
Yorke Peninsula	747

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	March 2019
<b>Tasmania</b>	
Brighton	701
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,303
Central Highlands (Tas.)	312
Devonport	1,160
Hobart - North East	1,057
Hobart - North West	2,000
Hobart - South and West	469
Hobart Inner	922
Huon - Bruny Island	490
Launceston	2,617
Meander Valley - West Tamar	514
North East	1,289
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	352
South East Coast	168
West Coast	532

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.



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

State by SA3	Mar 19	State by SA3	Mar 19
<b>Victoria</b>		<b>Victoria continued</b>	
Ballarat	2,556	Macedon Ranges	252
Banyule	1,288	Manningham - East	109
Barwon - West	183	Manningham - West	614
Baw Baw	789	Maribyrnong	1,760
Bayside	531	Maroondah	1,205
Bendigo	2,337	Maryborough - Pyrenees	751
Boroondara	746	Melbourne City	1,628
Brimbank	4,942	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	2,928
Brunswick - Coburg	1,311	Mildura	1,681
Campaspe	727	Moira	616
Cardinia	1,259	Monash	1,197
Casey - North	1,760	Moreland - North	1,243
Casey - South	2,606	Mornington Peninsula	1,636
Colac - Corangamite	638	Murray River - Swan Hill	838
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	517	Nillumbik - Kinglake	387
Dandenong	3,281	Port Phillip	1,318
Darebin - North	1,748	Shepparton	1,543
Darebin - South	673	Stonnington - East	218
Essendon	951	Stonnington - West	508
Frankston	2,306	Sunbury	556
Geelong	3,691	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	830
Gippsland - East	1,395	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,326
Gippsland - South West	1,064	Upper Goulburn Valley	994
Glen Eira	1,067	Wangaratta - Benalla	889
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	793	Warrnambool	910
Grampians	1,213	Wellington	1,087
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	781	Whitehorse - East	422
Hobsons Bay	1,182	Whitehorse - West	754
Keilor	602	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,142
Kingston	1,079	Wodonga - Alpine	1,457
Knox	1,485	Wyndham	3,873
Latrobe Valley	2,840	Yarra	1,420
Loddon - Elmore	295	Yarra Ranges	1,453

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	March 2019
<b>Western Australia</b>	
Albany	1,450
Armadale	2,810
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,124
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,176
Belmont - Victoria Park	1,975
Bunbury	2,957
Canning	1,871
Cockburn	2,336
Cottesloe - Claremont	410
East Pilbara	1,073
Esperance	300
Fremantle	1,092
Gascoyne	538
Goldfields	1,466
Gosnells	3,609
Joondalup	2,259
Kalamunda	1,032
Kimberley	3,175
Kwinana	1,553
Mandurah	3,182
Manjimup	617
Melville	1,105
Mid West	2,579
Mundaring	883
Perth City	1,974
Rockingham	3,546
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	463
South Perth	655
Stirling	4,508
Swan	3,824
Wanneroo	4,916
West Pilbara	700
Wheat Belt - North	1,615
Wheat Belt - South	487

Note: In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available. For further footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	March 2019
<b>Other</b>	
Christmas Island	16
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	20
Jervis Bay	10
Norfolk Island	17
Not recorded	417

Notes:  
 In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 to ASGS 2016. Data for prior periods reported against ASGS 2016 is not available.

SA3 data is derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2016) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.  
**Note:** Individuals who live overseas, individuals who are without a valid home address and individuals who only have a postal address cannot be assigned to a locational boundary. These numbers may be represented as 'Not Recorded'. State/territory totals derived from SA3 data will not match state and territory totals reported elsewhere in this publication, due to different statistical geography methodologies.

Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.

In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 5 for specific Statistical Areas are reported as "<5" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".

**Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 22 March 2019**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	87.6	83.3	84.9
Earned an income	12.4	16.7	15.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.3	1.2
\$104 - <\$254	2.3	3	2.7
\$254+	9.1	12.3	11.2
<b>Total males</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>76,339</b>	<b>137,203</b>	<b>213,542</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.7	70.3	71.8
Earned an income	23.3	29.7	28.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.5	1.5	1.5
\$104 - <\$254	3.6	3.9	3.8
\$254+	18.2	24.4	22.9
<b>Total females</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>41,699</b>	<b>135,680</b>	<b>177,379</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	83.8	76.8	78.9
Earned an income	16.2	23.2	21.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.2	1.4	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.8	3.4	3.2
\$254+	12.3	18.3	16.5
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>118,038</b>	<b>272,883</b>	<b>390,921</b>

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

**Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 22 March 2019**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term YA(o) job seekers %	Long-term YA(o) job seekers %	Total YA(o) job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	88.9	84.4	86.4
Earned an income	11.1	15.6	13.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.9	1.9	1.9
\$143 - <\$250	2	2.3	2.1
\$250+	7.2	11.5	9.6
<b>Total males</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>27,163</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	81.7	75.8	78.1
Earned an income	18.3	24.2	21.9
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.9	2.8	2.9
\$143 - <\$250	3.4	3.6	3.5
\$250+	12	17.7	15.5
<b>Total females</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>10,352</b>	<b>16,139</b>	<b>26,491</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.6	80	82.3
Earned an income	14.4	20	17.7
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.3	2.4	2.4
\$143 - <\$250	2.6	3.0	2.8
\$250+	9.5	14.7	12.5
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>22,333</b>	<b>31,321</b>	<b>53,654</b>

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

# Explanatory Notes

## Introduction

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

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

## Scope

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

## Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

## Payment History

### Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Newstart Allowance**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Job Search Allowance**

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

### **Sickness Allowance**

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

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

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

### **Partner Allowance**

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

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



### **Youth Training Allowance**

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

### **Widow Allowance**

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

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

### **Mature Age Allowance**

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

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

### **Comparability of Data**

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

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

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

### **Definition of Recipients**

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

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

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

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

### **Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)**

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

### **Introduction of Youth Allowance**

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

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

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

### **Job seekers**

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

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

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

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

### **Duration**

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

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

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

### **Symbols**

n.a. not available  
.. not applicable

## **Glossary**

### **Activity test status**

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

### **Age**

Age in years at time of data collection.

### **Area Support Office**

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

### **Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)**

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

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

### **CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)**

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

### **Customer Service Centre**

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

### **Did not receive a payment**

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

### **Fortnightly earnings**

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

**Incapacitated**

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

**Job seeker**

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

**Long-term recipients**

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

**Newstart Allowance (NSA)**

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

**Partner Allowance (PA)**

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

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

**Service Centre**

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

**Service Zone**

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

**Short-term recipients**

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

### **Statistical Areas Level 3**

Statistical Areas Level 3 are derived using the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from ASGS 2011 to ASGS 2016 in March 2019. For further details, see the ABS website: [ABS Statistical Geography](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN) <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN>>

### **Widow Allowance (WA)**

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

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

### **Youth Training Allowance (YTA)**

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

### **Youth Allowance (YA)**

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

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

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

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

### **Youth Allowance (other)**

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

### **Zero paid**

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

## Appendix

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

#### Official statistics

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

#### ABS definition

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

#### DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

#### Differences

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

#### Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Seasonal adjustment**

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

### **Classification**

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

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

### **Employment**

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

### **Timing**

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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



**Treatment of partners**

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

**Pensioners**

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

**Non job seekers**

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

**Waiting periods**

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

**Survey**

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

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

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

## **For More Information**

### **Other recipient information**

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

### **Labour market information**

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

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

### **For enquiries email:**

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