

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>).

January 2020

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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.

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Statistical Highlights – January 2020

Between January 2019 and January 2020

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 5.1 per cent** overall from 799 826 to 840 453.

- NSA recipients increased 5.5 per cent from 716 797 to 755 931.
- YA(o) recipients increased 1.8 per cent from 83 029 to 84 522.

The number of job seekers **decreased 3.2 per cent** overall from 466 430 to 451 587.

- NSA job seekers decreased 3.2 per cent from 410 438 to 397 345.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 3.1 per cent from 55 992 to 54 242.

Long-term job seekers decreased 5.5 per cent from 321 983 to 304 113.

Short-term job seekers increased 2.1 per cent from 144 447 to 147 474.

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

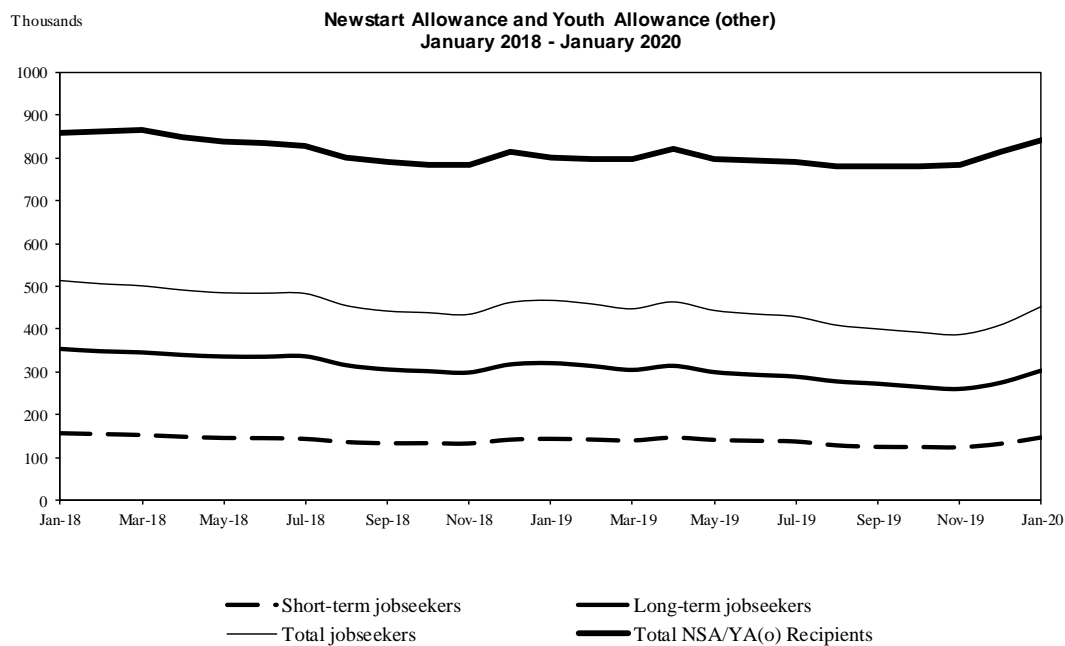


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
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
April 2019	555,127	733,872	86,068	173,440	2,170	1,170	8,675
May 2019	540,957	714,952	82,172	180,062	2,134	1,106	8,274
June 2019	539,686	712,184	81,981	184,710	2,240	1,048	7,858
July 2019	538,521	710,168	81,643	176,653	2,359	1,017	7,658
August 2019	536,659	702,411	77,856	187,123	2,276	1,006	7,553
September 2019	539,852	704,218	77,126	188,885	2,168	999	7,491
October 2019	538,354	704,235	75,127	188,730	2,137	991	7,463
November 2019	542,707	709,885	74,961	168,474	2,043	986	7,409
December 2019	560,307	733,969	81,849	139,191	1,971	979	7,356
January 2020	573,568	755,931	84,522	136,365	1,969	942	7,139
Variation December 2019 - January 2020							
Number	13,261	21,962	2,673	-2,826	-2	-37	-217
Per cent	2.4	3.0	3.3	-2.0	-0.1	-3.8	-2.9

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	January 2020 Persons	January 2020 Males	January 2020 Females	December 2019	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	182,363	115,059	67,304	173,662	8,701	5.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	6,377	3,384	2,993	8,638	-2,261	-26.2
Received a payment	175,986	111,675	64,311	165,024	10,962	6.6
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	5,801	1,601	4,200	5,667	134	2.4
Other activities without job search (c)	10,546	6,087	4,459	10,583	-37	-0.3
Incapacitated (d)	22,067	12,890	9,177	24,052	-1,985	-8.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	12,849	7,347	5,502	13,508	-659	-4.9
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	124,723	83,750	40,973	111,214	13,509	12.1
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	44,675	27,820	16,855	43,730	945	2.2
Long Term Newstart Allowees	573,568	271,041	302,527	560,307	13,261	2.4
Did not receive a payment (a)	13,933	5,151	8,782	19,553	-5,620	-28.7
Received a payment	559,635	265,890	293,745	540,754	18,881	3.5
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	74,549	18,414	56,135	73,718	831	1.1
Other activities without job search (c)	82,120	40,775	41,345	82,092	28	0.0
Incapacitated (d)	63,741	30,373	33,368	72,406	-8,665	-12.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	66,603	31,605	34,998	65,529	1,074	1.6
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	272,622	144,723	127,899	247,009	25,613	10.4
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	267,860	136,674	131,186	261,347	6,513	2.5
All Newstart Allowees	755,931	386,100	369,831	733,969	21,962	3.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	20,310	8,535	11,775	28,191	-7,881	-28.0
Received a payment	735,621	377,565	358,056	705,778	29,843	4.2
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	80,350	20,015	60,335	79,385	965	1.2
Other activities without job search (c)	92,666	46,862	45,804	92,675	-9	0.0
Incapacitated (d)	85,808	43,263	42,545	96,458	-10,650	-11.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	79,452	38,952	40,500	79,037	415	0.5
All NSA job seekers (f)	397,345	228,473	168,872	358,223	39,122	10.9
All NSA training/education (g)	312,535	164,494	148,041	305,077	7,458	2.4

- (a) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.
- (b) Allowees who are 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)	January 2020 Persons	January 2020 Males	January 2020 Females	December 2019	Variation December - January Number	Variation December - January per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	36,732	19,966	16,766	36,693	39	0.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	833	345	488	1,085	-252	-23.2
Received a payment	35,899	19,621	16,278	35,608	291	0.8
Other activities without job search (b)	10,246	5,776	4,470	10,302	-56	-0.5
Incapacitated (c)	1,480	707	773	1,765	-285	-16.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,422	680	742	1,588	-166	-10.5
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	22,751	12,458	10,293	21,953	798	3.6
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	18,130	10,052	8,078	18,441	-311	-1.7
Long Term Youth Allowees	47,790	23,361	24,429	45,156	2,634	5.8
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,295	479	816	1,501	-206	-13.7
Received a payment	46,495	22,882	23,613	43,655	2,840	6.5
Other activities without job search (b)	9,632	4,978	4,654	9,294	338	3.6
Incapacitated (c)	2,555	1,098	1,457	3,065	-510	-16.6
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,817	1,177	1,640	2,848	-31	-1.1
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	31,491	15,629	15,862	28,448	3,043	10.7
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	28,299	14,130	14,169	26,638	1,661	6.2
All Youth Allowees	84,522	43,327	41,195	81,849	2,673	3.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,128	824	1,304	2,586	-458	-17.7
Received a payment	82,394	42,503	39,891	79,263	3,131	4.0
Other activities without job search (b)	19,878	10,754	9,124	19,596	282	1.4
Incapacitated (c)	4,035	1,805	2,230	4,830	-795	-16.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,239	1,857	2,382	4,436	-197	-4.4
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	54,242	28,087	26,155	50,401	3,841	7.6
All YA (other) training/education (f)	46,429	24,182	22,247	45,079	1,350	3.0

(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
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
April 2019	147,239	315,600	462,839
May 2019	142,140	300,876	443,016
June 2019	140,017	294,597	434,614
July 2019	138,445	290,060	428,505
August 2019	129,718	278,845	408,563
September 2019	126,312	273,452	399,764
October 2019	126,111	266,134	392,245
November 2019	125,424	261,105	386,529
December 2019	133,167	275,457	408,624
January 2020	147,474	304,113	451,587
Variation December 2019 - January 2020			
Number	14,307	28,656	42,963
Per cent	10.7	10.4	10.5

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	December 2019	January 2020	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	35,460	39,675	4,215	11.9
Victoria	27,396	30,494	3,098	11.3
Queensland	34,191	38,054	3,863	11.3
South Australia	9,976	11,105	1,129	11.3
Western Australia	17,408	18,922	1,514	8.7
Tasmania	3,386	3,595	209	6.2
Northern Territory	4,176	4,309	133	3.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,174	1,320	146	12.4
Australia	133,167	147,474	14,307	10.7
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	71,729	79,204	7,475	10.4
Victoria	51,463	57,280	5,817	11.3
Queensland	64,615	71,609	6,994	10.8
South Australia	23,303	26,212	2,909	12.5
Western Australia	41,457	45,657	4,200	10.1
Tasmania	9,149	9,823	674	7.4
Northern Territory	11,594	11,925	331	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	2,147	2,403	256	11.9
Australia	275,457	304,113	28,656	10.4
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	107,189	118,879	11,690	10.9
Victoria	78,859	87,774	8,915	11.3
Queensland	98,806	109,663	10,857	11.0
South Australia	33,279	37,317	4,038	12.1
Western Australia	58,865	64,579	5,714	9.7
Tasmania	12,535	13,418	883	7.0
Northern Territory	15,770	16,234	464	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	3,321	3,723	402	12.1
Australia	408,624	451,587	42,963	10.5

Notes:

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

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

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	1,557	1.6	482	0.3	2,039	0.8
18 - 20 years	8,708	9.1	10,336	6.4	19,044	7.4
21 - 24 years	12,804	13.3	20,835	13.0	33,639	13.1
25 - 29 years	15,289	15.9	22,659	14.1	37,948	14.8
30 - 39 years	23,378	24.3	36,444	22.7	59,822	23.3
40 - 49 years	17,474	18.2	32,609	20.3	50,083	19.5
50 - 59 years	11,577	12.0	24,450	15.2	36,027	14.0
60 years and over	5,420	5.6	12,537	7.8	17,957	7.0
Total	96,207	100.0	160,352	100.0	256,559	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,652	3.2	654	0.5	2,306	1.2
18 - 20 years	7,337	14.3	10,799	7.5	18,136	9.3
21 - 24 years	7,385	14.4	16,161	11.2	23,546	12.1
25 - 29 years	6,015	11.7	14,063	9.8	20,078	10.3
30 - 39 years	8,064	15.7	28,519	19.8	36,583	18.8
40 - 49 years	8,509	16.6	35,110	24.4	43,619	22.4
50 - 59 years	8,151	15.9	26,070	18.1	34,221	17.5
60 years and over	4,154	8.1	12,385	8.6	16,539	8.5
Total	51,267	100.0	143,761	100.0	195,028	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,209	2.2	1,136	0.4	4,345	1.0
18 - 20 years	16,045	10.9	21,135	6.9	37,180	8.2
21 - 24 years	20,189	13.7	36,996	12.2	57,185	12.7
25 - 29 years	21,304	14.4	36,722	12.1	58,026	12.8
30 - 39 years	31,442	21.3	64,963	21.4	96,405	21.3
40 - 49 years	25,983	17.6	67,719	22.3	93,702	20.7
50 - 59 years	19,728	13.4	50,520	16.6	70,248	15.6
60 years and over	9,574	6.5	24,922	8.2	34,496	7.6
Total	147,474	100.0	304,113	100.0	451,587	100.0

Notes:

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

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

State by SA3	December 2019	January 2020	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	933	1,049	12.4%
Canberra East	42	42	0.0%
Gungahlin	485	547	12.8%
Molonglo	48	54	12.5%
North Canberra	549	624	13.7%
South Canberra	176	193	9.7%
Tuggeranong	709	790	11.4%
Urriarra - Namadgi	<5	<5	n/a
Weston Creek	161	179	11.2%
Woden Valley	201	228	13.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2019	Jan 20	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2019	Jan 20	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,460	1,619	10.9%	Lithgow - Mudgee	999	1,122	12.3%
Armidale	1,042	1,142	9.6%	Liverpool	1,948	2,183	12.1%
Auburn	1,099	1,175	6.9%	Lord Howe Island	0	0	0.0%
Bankstown	2,491	2,754	10.6%	Lower Hunter	2,061	2,228	8.1%
Bathurst	796	876	10.1%	Lower Murray	364	393	8.0%
Baulkham Hills	521	572	9.8%	Maitland	1,442	1,592	10.4%
Blacktown	2,025	2,257	11.5%	Manly	141	158	12.1%
Blacktown - North	715	834	16.6%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	698	791	13.3%
Blue Mountains	804	920	14.4%	Merrylands - Guildford	2,625	2,919	11.2%
Blue Mountains - South	0	0	0.0%	Moree - Narrabri	1,041	1,106	6.2%
Botany	395	428	8.4%	Mount Druitt	2,680	3,026	12.9%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,413	1,451	2.7%	Newcastle	3,534	3,895	10.2%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,619	1,782	10.1%	North Sydney - Mosman	308	338	9.7%
Broken Hill and Far West	790	836	5.8%	Orange	1,075	1,178	9.6%
Camden	424	477	12.5%	Parramatta	1,393	1,527	9.6%
Campbelltown (NSW)	2,762	3,113	12.7%	Pennant Hills - Epping	191	199	4.2%
Canada Bay	322	371	15.2%	Penrith	1,853	2,148	15.9%
Canterbury	1,735	1,888	8.8%	Pittwater	165	187	13.3%
Carlingford	588	659	12.1%	Port Macquarie	1,587	1,764	11.2%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	313	362	15.7%	Port Stephens	1,390	1,506	8.3%
Clarence Valley	1,293	1,449	12.1%	Queanbeyan	486	557	14.6%
Coffs Harbour	1,902	2,121	11.5%	Richmond - Windsor	496	577	16.3%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	480	591	23.1%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	1,738	1,943	11.8%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,431	1,599	11.7%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,117	2,350	11.0%
Dubbo	2,291	2,426	5.9%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	127	156	22.8%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	92	104	13.0%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	727	777	6.9%
Eastern Suburbs - North	483	545	12.8%	Shoalhaven	1,817	2,072	14.0%
Eastern Suburbs - South	789	871	10.4%	Snowy Mountains	334	364	9.0%
Fairfield	4,534	4,917	8.4%	South Coast	1,359	1,576	16.0%
Gosford	2,607	2,925	12.2%	Southern Highlands	310	360	16.1%
Goulburn - Mulwaree	596	663	11.2%	St Marys	1,026	1,189	15.9%
Great Lakes	755	812	7.5%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,211	1,305	7.8%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	912	962	5.5%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	401	476	18.7%
Hawkesbury	157	176	12.1%	Sydney Inner City	2,165	2,417	11.6%
Hornsby	442	463	4.8%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,343	2,566	9.5%
Hurstville	967	1,047	8.3%	Taree - Gloucester	1,623	1,782	9.8%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Tumut - Tumbarumba	332	351	5.7%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,377	1,496	8.6%	Tweed Valley	1,773	2,010	13.4%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,478	1,650	11.6%	Upper Hunter	719	779	8.3%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,168	1,336	14.4%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	740	789	6.6%
Kogarah - Rockdale	946	1,086	14.8%	Wagga Wagga	1,770	1,934	9.3%
Ku-ring-gai	233	269	15.5%	Warringah	653	743	13.8%
Lachlan Valley	1,528	1,620	6.0%	Wollondilly	323	362	12.1%
Lake Macquarie - East	1,897	2,126	12.1%	Wollongong	1,695	1,955	15.3%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,285	1,468	14.2%	Wyong	3,457	3,872	12.0%
Leichhardt	367	417	13.6%	Young - Yass	516	570	10.5%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2019	January 2020	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,962	4,029	1.7%
Barkly	966	962	-0.4%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,925	2,935	0.3%
Darwin City	624	681	9.1%
Darwin Suburbs	1,332	1,459	9.5%
East Arnhem	2,001	2,077	3.8%
Katherine	2,540	2,539	0.0%
Litchfield	444	466	5.0%
Palmerston	967	1077	11.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2019	Jan 20	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2019	Jan 20	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	314	356	13.4%	Ipswich Inner	2,953	3,256	10.3%
Beaudesert	371	411	10.8%	Jimboomba	833	925	11.0%
Beenleigh	1,248	1,417	13.5%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	217	246	13.4%
Biloela	246	268	8.9%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,284	1,446	12.6%
Bowen Basin - North	525	587	11.8%	Mackay	2,318	2,570	10.9%
Bribie - Beachmere	637	707	11.0%	Maroochy	950	1,055	11.1%
Brisbane Inner	1,505	1,678	11.5%	Maryborough	1,562	1,730	10.8%
Brisbane Inner - East	483	538	11.4%	Mt Gravatt	836	943	12.8%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,028	1,129	9.8%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	315	358	13.7%
Brisbane Inner - West	530	572	7.9%	Nambour	900	1,019	13.2%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	808	914	13.1%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,362	1,545	13.4%
Browns Plains	2,097	2,392	14.1%	Nathan	588	657	11.7%
Buderim	633	721	13.9%	Nerang	1,086	1,207	11.1%
Bundaberg	2,803	3,124	11.5%	Noosa	447	504	12.8%
Burnett	1,795	1,938	8.0%	Noosa Hinterland	326	376	15.3%
Caboolture	2,172	2,449	12.8%	North Lakes	1,237	1,394	12.7%
Caboolture Hinterland	206	228	10.7%	Nundah	537	611	13.8%
Cairns - North	780	853	9.4%	Ormeau - Oxenford	1,852	2,144	15.8%
Cairns - South	3,943	4,404	11.7%	Outback - North	1,541	1,649	7.0%
Caloundra	1,222	1,356	11.0%	Outback - South	536	553	3.2%
Capalaba	896	1,000	11.6%	Port Douglas - Daintree	379	414	9.2%
Carindale	423	490	15.8%	Redcliffe	1,288	1,448	12.4%
Centenary	214	256	19.6%	Robina	578	687	18.9%
Central Highlands (Qld)	672	727	8.2%	Rockhampton	3,421	3,710	8.4%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,502	1,667	11.0%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	887	984	10.9%
Chermside	1,016	1,150	13.2%	Sandgate	951	1,047	10.1%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,107	1,240	12.0%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	383	440	14.9%
Coolangatta	794	902	13.6%	Southport	1,335	1,526	14.3%
Darling Downs - East	873	942	7.9%	Springfield - Redbank	2,048	2,279	11.3%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,034	1,160	12.2%	Springwood - Kingston	2,526	2,827	11.9%
Far North	2,985	3,024	1.3%	Strathpine	890	1,004	12.8%
Forest Lake - Oxley	1,801	1,982	10.0%	Sunnybank	681	758	11.3%
Gladstone	2,186	2,346	7.3%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	840	972	15.7%
Gold Coast - North	1,387	1,600	15.4%	Surfers Paradise	711	790	11.1%
Gold Coast Hinterland	271	299	10.3%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,380	1,529	10.8%
Granite Belt	820	926	12.9%	The Gap - Enoggera	487	528	8.4%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,295	1,439	11.1%	The Hills District	571	626	9.6%
Hervey Bay	1,622	1,773	9.3%	Toowoomba	2,869	3,268	13.9%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,194	1,333	11.6%	Townsville	5,268	5,704	8.3%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,594	1,719	7.8%	Whitsunday	382	421	10.2%
Ipswich Hinterland	1,406	1,573	11.9%	Wynnum - Manly	791	891	12.6%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2019	January 2020	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	448	534	19.2%
Adelaide Hills	667	751	12.6%
Barossa	485	540	11.3%
Burnside	245	266	8.6%
Campbelltown (SA)	504	577	14.5%
Charles Sturt	1,745	2,032	16.4%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,188	2,357	7.7%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	850	930	9.4%
Gawler - Two Wells	602	667	10.8%
Holdfast Bay	310	364	17.4%
Limestone Coast	1,191	1,312	10.2%
Lower North	521	562	7.9%
Marion	1,341	1,554	15.9%
Mid North	1,005	1,103	9.8%
Mitcham	477	537	12.6%
Murray and Mallee	2,146	2,360	10.0%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	334	375	12.3%
Onkaparinga	3,642	4,101	12.6%
Outback - North and East	1,685	1,758	4.3%
Playford	3,679	4,210	14.4%
Port Adelaide - East	1,239	1,444	16.5%
Port Adelaide - West	1,471	1,691	15.0%
Prospect - Walkerville	225	266	18.2%
Salisbury	3,634	4,049	11.4%
Tea Tree Gully	942	1,099	16.7%
Unley	262	282	7.6%
West Torrens	794	901	13.5%
Yorke Peninsula	648	705	8.8%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2019	January 2020	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	645	701	8.7%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,240	1,326	6.9%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	291	304	4.5%
Devonport	1,069	1,138	6.5%
Hobart - North East	946	1,055	11.5%
Hobart - North West	1,752	1,881	7.4%
Hobart - South and West	425	457	7.5%
Hobart Inner	863	916	6.1%
Huon - Bruny Island	468	505	7.9%
Launceston	2,365	2,507	6.0%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	423	465	9.9%
North East	1,094	1,163	6.3%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	305	323	5.9%
South East Coast	150	155	3.3%
West Coast	493	518	5.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Dec 2019	Jan 20	Var. %	State by SA3	Dec 2019	Jan 20	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	2,191	2,463	12.4%	Macedon Ranges	213	223	4.7%
Banyule	1,081	1,185	9.6%	Manningham - East	82	90	9.8%
Barwon - West	158	164	3.8%	Manningham - West	534	591	10.7%
Baw Baw	683	778	13.9%	Maribyrnong	1,520	1,662	9.3%
Bayside	430	495	15.1%	Maroondah	1,026	1,173	14.3%
Bendigo	2,089	2,333	11.7%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	691	757	9.6%
Boroondara	560	631	12.7%	Melbourne City	1,343	1,499	11.6%
Brimbank	4,218	4,597	9.0%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	2,674	3,002	12.3%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,124	1,244	10.7%	Mildura	1,523	1,705	12.0%
Campaspe	621	678	9.2%	Moirah	563	599	6.4%
Cardinia	1,021	1,199	17.4%	Monash	1,000	1,135	13.5%
Casey - North	1,473	1,704	15.7%	Moreland - North	1,052	1,153	9.6%
Casey - South	2,296	2,604	13.4%	Mornington Peninsula	1,389	1,570	13.0%
Colac - Corangamite	568	614	8.1%	Murray River - Swan Hill	808	857	6.1%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	414	466	12.6%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	325	367	12.9%
Dandenong	2,650	2,987	12.7%	Port Phillip	1,184	1,336	12.8%
Darebin - North	1,496	1,670	11.6%	Shepparton	1,473	1,623	10.2%
Darebin - South	543	607	11.8%	Stonnington - East	181	186	2.8%
Essendon	763	851	11.5%	Stonnington - West	395	459	16.2%
Frankston	1,955	2,229	14.0%	Sunbury	489	561	14.7%
Geelong	3,235	3,562	10.1%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	654	726	11.0%
Gippsland - East	1,211	1,314	8.5%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	3,773	4,239	12.4%
Gippsland - South West	930	1,016	9.2%	Upper Goulburn Valley	850	906	6.6%
Glen Eira	874	998	14.2%	Wangaratta - Benalla	813	917	12.8%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	695	756	8.8%	Warrnambool	823	877	6.6%
Grampians	1,142	1,241	8.7%	Wellington	915	1,009	10.3%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	614	659	7.3%	Whitehorse - East	338	375	10.9%
Hobsons Bay	1,004	1,097	9.3%	Whitehorse - West	612	676	10.5%
Keilor	483	537	11.2%	Whittlesea - Wallan	2,765	3,087	11.6%
Kingston	930	1,063	14.3%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,342	1,460	8.8%
Knox	1,225	1,387	13.2%	Wyndham	3,437	3,799	10.5%
Latrobe Valley	2,629	2,896	10.2%	Yarra	1,283	1,447	12.8%
Loddon - Elmore	244	262	7.4%	Yarra Ranges	1,270	1,430	12.6%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2019	January 2020	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,426	1,574	10.4%
Armadale	2,577	2,872	11.4%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	988	1,063	7.6%
Bayswater - Bassendean	1,908	2,118	11.0%
Belmont - Victoria Park	1,872	2,105	12.4%
Bunbury	2,645	2,983	12.8%
Canning	1,702	1,889	11.0%
Cockburn	2,038	2,257	10.7%
Cottesloe - Claremont	406	428	5.4%
East Pilbara	1,033	1,063	2.9%
Esperance	346	373	7.8%
Fremantle	997	1,111	11.4%
Gascoyne	591	610	3.2%
Goldfields	1,519	1,615	6.3%
Gosnells	3,381	3,749	10.9%
Joondalup	1,869	2,040	9.1%
Kalamunda	935	1,036	10.8%
Kimberley	3,442	3,626	5.3%
Kwinana	1,361	1,503	10.4%
Mandurah	2,869	3,197	11.4%
Manjimup	479	508	6.1%
Melville	1,008	1,112	10.3%
Mid West	2,531	2,727	7.7%
Mundaring	794	877	10.5%
Perth City	1,805	1,996	10.6%
Rockingham	3,092	3,411	10.3%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	423	462	9.2%
South Perth	613	679	10.8%
Stirling	3,871	4,268	10.3%
Swan	3,472	3,824	10.1%
Wanneroo	4,178	4,579	9.6%
West Pilbara	610	657	7.7%
Wheat Belt - North	1,526	1,668	9.3%
Wheat Belt - South	511	549	7.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	December 2019	January 2020	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	16	14	-12.5%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	22	20	-9.1%
Jervis Bay	11	12	9.1%
Norfolk Island	12	16	33.3%
Not recorded	118	158	33.9%

Notes:

Statistical Area Level 3 data is derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2016) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from ASGS 2011 to ASGS 2016.

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 24 January 2020

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	90	88.4	89
Earned an income	10	11.6	11
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	0.9	1.2	1.1
\$104 - <\$254	1.9	2.6	2.4
\$254+	7.1	7.9	7.6
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	85,035	143,514	228,549
Females			
Did not earn an income	81.9	80.1	80.5
Earned an income	18.1	19.9	19.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.3	1.5	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	3.2	3.6	3.5
\$254+	13.5	14.9	14.5
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	41,817	127,641	169,458
Persons			
Did not earn an income	87.4	84.5	85.4
Earned an income	12.6	15.5	14.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.3	1.2
\$104 - <\$254	2.4	3.1	2.8
\$254+	9.2	11.2	10.5
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	126,852	271,155	398,007

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 24 January 2020

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term YA(o) job seekers %	Long-term YA(o) job seekers %	Total YA(o) job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	90.2	87.6	88.8
Earned an income	9.8	12.4	11.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.6	1.6	1.6
\$143 - <\$250	1.7	1.9	1.8
\$250+	6.5	8.9	7.8
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	12,480	15,556	28,036
Females			
Did not earn an income	82.7	78.9	80.4
Earned an income	17.3	21.1	19.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3	2.6	2.8
\$143 - <\$250	3.1	3	3
\$250+	11.3	15.4	13.8
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	10,308	15,823	26,131
Persons			
Did not earn an income	86.8	83.2	84.7
Earned an income	13.2	16.8	15.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.2	2.1	2.2
\$143 - <\$250	2.3	2.5	2.4
\$250+	8.7	12.2	10.7
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	22,788	31,379	54,167

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) 2016.

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>>

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.

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