

# LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS

a monthly profile

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

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

**May 2014**

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## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 23 July 2014.

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – May 2014

### Between May 2013 and May 2014

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 7.2 per cent** overall from 792 947 to 850 402.

NSA recipients increased 7.8 per cent from 684 973 to 738 128.

YA(o) recipients increased 4.0 per cent from 107 974 to 112 274.

The number of job seekers **increased 4.3 per cent** overall from 400 500 to 417 595.

NSA job seekers increased 3.8 per cent from 350 296 to 363 483.

YA(o) job seekers increased 7.8 per cent from 50 204 to 54 112.

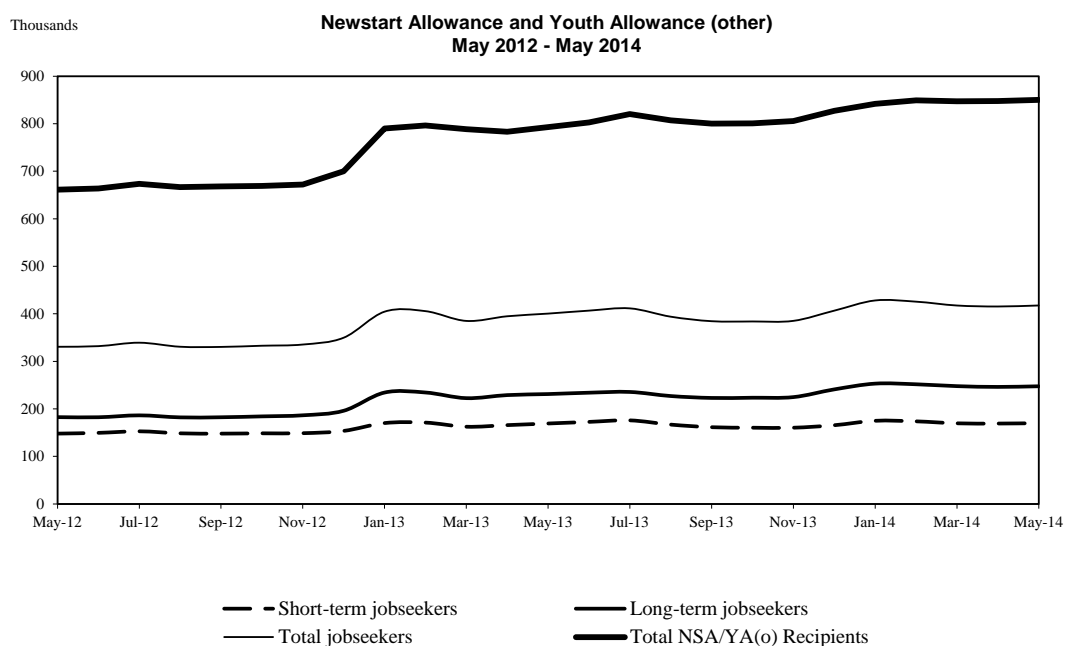
Long-term job seekers increased 7.1 per cent from 231 218 to 247 615.

Short-term job seekers increased 0.4 per cent from 169 282 to 169 980.

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

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

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



**TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES**

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
Variation April 2014 - May 2014							
Number	3,714	3,262	-502	9,740	154	-256	-319
Per cent	0.8	0.4	-0.4	4.3	2.3	-2.9	-1.2

## Notes:

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

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

	May 2014			April 2014	Variation April - May	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>247,516</b>	<b>153,818</b>	<b>93,698</b>	<b>247,968</b>	<b>-452</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	569	417	152	617	-48	-7.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,198	7,296	5,902	13,944	-746	-5.3
Received a payment	233,749	146,105	87,644	233,407	342	0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,640	2,058	5,582	7,632	8	0.1
Other activities without job search (d)	40,922	24,344	16,578	40,653	269	0.7
Incapacitated (e)	25,141	14,390	10,751	25,626	-485	-1.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,416	7,505	5,911	13,541	-125	-0.9
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>146,630</b>	<b>97,808</b>	<b>48,822</b>	<b>145,955</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>36,933</i>	<i>20,785</i>	<i>16,148</i>	<i>36,070</i>	<i>863</i>	<i>2.4</i>
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>490,612</b>	<b>235,595</b>	<b>255,017</b>	<b>486,898</b>	<b>3,714</b>	<b>0.8</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	1,664	1,096	568	1,661	3	0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	15,907	6,473	9,434	16,589	-682	-4.1
Received a payment	473,041	228,026	245,015	468,648	4,393	0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	53,464	11,575	41,889	53,087	377	0.7
Other activities without job search (d)	119,993	55,276	64,717	117,583	2,410	2.0
Incapacitated (e)	43,003	20,656	22,347	43,608	-605	-1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	39,728	17,699	22,029	39,371	357	0.9
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>216,853</b>	<b>122,820</b>	<b>94,033</b>	<b>214,999</b>	<b>1,854</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>157,532</i>	<i>78,632</i>	<i>78,900</i>	<i>152,552</i>	<i>4,980</i>	<i>3.3</i>
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>738,128</b>	<b>389,413</b>	<b>348,715</b>	<b>734,866</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>0.4</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	2,233	1,513	720	2,278	-45	-2.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	29,105	13,769	15,336	30,533	-1,428	-4.7
Received a payment	706,790	374,131	332,659	702,055	4,735	0.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	61,104	13,633	47,471	60,719	385	0.6
Other activities without job search (d)	160,915	79,620	81,295	158,236	2,679	1.7
Incapacitated (e)	68,144	35,046	33,098	69,234	-1,090	-1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	53,144	25,204	27,940	52,912	232	0.4
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>363,483</b>	<b>220,628</b>	<b>142,855</b>	<b>360,954</b>	<b>2,529</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>194,465</i>	<i>99,417</i>	<i>95,048</i>	<i>188,622</i>	<i>5,843</i>	<i>3.1</i>

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

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

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

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	May 2014			April 2014	Variation April - May	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>48,460</b>	<b>27,312</b>	<b>21,148</b>	<b>48,274</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>0.4</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	21	17	4	25	-4	-16.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,109	496	613	1,096	13	1.2
Received a payment	47,330	26,799	20,531	47,153	177	0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	20,055	11,971	8,084	19,920	135	0.7
Incapacitated (d)	2,164	1,107	1,057	2,147	17	0.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,761	821	940	1,844	-83	-4.5
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>23,350</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>23,242</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>14,114</i>	<i>7,839</i>	<i>6,275</i>	<i>13,759</i>	<i>355</i>	<i>2.6</i>
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>63,814</b>	<b>33,052</b>	<b>30,762</b>	<b>64,502</b>	<b>-688</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	21	16	5	22	-1	-4.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,559	648	911	1,574	-15	-1.0
Received a payment	62,234	32,388	29,846	62,906	-672	-1.1
Other activities without job search (c)	26,444	14,077	12,367	26,509	-65	-0.2
Incapacitated (d)	2,592	1,138	1,454	2,661	-69	-2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,436	1,013	1,423	2,473	-37	-1.5
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>30,762</b>	<b>16,160</b>	<b>14,602</b>	<b>31,263</b>	<b>-501</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>26,861</i>	<i>13,678</i>	<i>13,183</i>	<i>26,438</i>	<i>423</i>	<i>1.6</i>
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>112,274</b>	<b>60,364</b>	<b>51,910</b>	<b>112,776</b>	<b>-502</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	42	33	9	47	-5	-10.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,668	1,144	1,524	2,670	-2	-0.1
Received a payment	109,564	59,187	50,377	110,059	-495	-0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	46,499	26,048	20,451	46,429	70	0.2
Incapacitated (d)	4,756	2,245	2,511	4,808	-52	-1.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,197	1,834	2,363	4,317	-120	-2.8
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>54,112</b>	<b>29,060</b>	<b>25,052</b>	<b>54,505</b>	<b>-393</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>40,975</i>	<i>21,517</i>	<i>19,458</i>	<i>40,197</i>	<i>778</i>	<i>1.9</i>

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
Variation April 2014 - May 2014			
Number	783	1353	2136
Per cent	0.5	0.5	0.5

## Notes:

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



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

<i>State</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	48,184	48,386	202	0.4
Victoria	41,157	41,353	196	0.5
Queensland	43,163	43,001	-162	-0.4
South Australia	12,288	12,606	318	2.6
Western Australia	16,392	16,673	281	1.7
Tasmania	3,975	3,974	-1	0.0
Northern Territory	2,309	2,245	-64	-2.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,726	1,736	10	0.6
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>169,197</b>	<b>169,980</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	75,986	76,182	196	0.3
Victoria	57,466	57,676	210	0.4
Queensland	55,070	55,226	156	0.3
South Australia	21,975	22,261	286	1.3
Western Australia	20,257	20,742	485	2.4
Tasmania	8,840	8,942	102	1.2
Northern Territory	4,670	4,540	-130	-2.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,996	2,041	45	2.3
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>246,262</b>	<b>247,615</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>TOTAL JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	124,170	124,568	398	0.3
Victoria	98,623	99,029	406	0.4
Queensland	98,233	98,227	-6	0.0
South Australia	34,263	34,867	604	1.8
Western Australia	36,649	37,415	766	2.1
Tasmania	12,815	12,916	101	0.8
Northern Territory	6,979	6,785	-194	-2.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,722	3,777	55	1.5
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>415,459</b>	<b>417,595</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>0.5</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 SEX, AS AT MAY 2014**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
<b>MALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,742	1.6	310	0.2	2,052	0.8
18 - 20 years	8,667	7.8	11,709	8.4	20,376	8.2
21 - 24 years	16,804	15.2	20,880	15.0	37,684	15.1
25 - 29 years	17,797	16.1	21,427	15.4	39,224	15.7
30 - 39 years	26,165	23.6	32,142	23.1	58,307	23.4
40 - 49 years	20,304	18.3	26,481	19.1	46,785	18.7
50 - 59 years	14,144	12.8	19,307	13.9	33,451	13.4
60 years and over	5,079	4.6	6,719	4.8	11,798	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,702</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>138,975</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>249,677</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,670	2.8	380	0.3	2,050	1.2
18 - 20 years	7,220	12.2	10,786	9.9	18,006	10.7
21 - 24 years	9,383	15.8	14,162	13.0	23,545	14.0
25 - 29 years	7,456	12.6	10,869	10.0	18,325	10.9
30 - 39 years	9,579	16.2	21,319	19.6	30,898	18.4
40 - 49 years	11,287	19.0	28,554	26.3	39,841	23.7
50 - 59 years	9,802	16.5	18,586	17.1	28,388	16.9
60 years and over	2,881	4.9	3,984	3.7	6,865	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>108,640</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>167,918</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	3,412	2.0	690	0.3	4,102	1.0
18 - 20 years	15,887	9.3	22,495	9.1	38,382	9.2
21 - 24 years	26,187	15.4	35,042	14.2	61,229	14.7
25 - 29 years	25,253	14.9	32,296	13.0	57,549	13.8
30 - 39 years	35,744	21.0	53,461	21.6	89,205	21.4
40 - 49 years	31,591	18.6	55,035	22.2	86,626	20.7
50 - 59 years	23,946	14.1	37,893	15.3	61,839	14.8
60 years and over	7,960	4.7	10,703	4.3	18,663	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,980</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>247,615</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>417,595</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY</i></b>				
AS1 Community Team	<20	21	na	na
Bankstown	3,577	3,593	16	0.4
Bondi Junction	1,254	1,247	-7	-0.6
Burwood	1,832	1,809	-23	-1.3
Campsie	2,538	2,549	11	0.4
Caringbah	938	940	2	0.2
Chatswood	1,350	1,343	-7	-0.5
Darlinghurst	1,626	1,637	11	0.7
Hornsby	1,161	1,144	-17	-1.5
Hurstville	1,622	1,623	1	0.1
Leichhardt	1,367	1,375	8	0.6
Maroubra	1,609	1,614	5	0.3
Marrickville	1,455	1,436	-19	-1.3
Northern Beaches	1,361	1,378	17	1.2
Redfern	1,316	1,318	2	0.2
Rockdale	1,572	1,529	-43	-2.7
Ryde	1,230	1,232	2	0.2
Sutherland	883	890	7	0.8
Other (a)	na	%	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,709</b>	<b>26,678</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b><i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Auburn	2,230	2,243	13	0.6
Baulkham Hills	994	1,025	31	3.1
Blacktown	3,252	3,359	107	3.3
Cabramatta	2,617	2,611	-6	-0.2
Camden	754	760	6	0.8
Campbelltown	2,215	2,216	1	0.0
Fairfield	2,866	2,845	-21	-0.7
Hawkesbury	953	961	8	0.8
Ingleburn	1,331	1,331	0	0.0
Katoomba	651	663	12	1.8
Lithgow	697	703	6	0.9
Liverpool	3,693	3,764	71	1.9
Merrylands	2,356	2,417	61	2.6
Mt Druitt	2,448	2,528	80	3.3
Parramatta	2,503	2,449	-54	-2.2
Penrith	2,039	2,068	29	1.4
Springwood	439	427	-12	-2.7
St Marys	1,601	1,632	31	1.9
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,639</b>	<b>34,003</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>1.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Armidale	962	963	1	0.1
Ballina	1,089	1,067	-22	-2.0
Bourke	358	371	13	3.6
Brunswick Heads	965	960	-5	-0.5
Byron Bay	328	310	-18	-5.5
Casino	679	658	-21	-3.1
Coffs Harbour	2,001	2,071	70	3.5
Forster	804	839	35	4.4
Glen Innes	355	359	4	1.1
Grafton	852	847	-5	-0.6
Gunnedah	452	460	8	1.8
Inverell	665	687	22	3.3
Kempsey	856	855	-1	-0.1
Lightning Ridge	195	193	-2	-1.0
Lismore	1,649	1,654	5	0.3
Moree	479	469	-10	-2.1
Murwillumbah	692	683	-9	-1.3
Nambucca Heads	752	746	-6	-0.8
Narrabri	378	348	-30	-7.9
Port Macquarie	1,825	1,769	-56	-3.1
Tamworth	1,810	1,828	18	1.0
Taree	1,656	1,650	-6	-0.4
Tweed Heads	1,731	1,672	-59	-3.4
Walgett	146	154	8	5.5
Yamba	433	436	3	0.7
Other (a)	2	2	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,114</b>	<b>22,051</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>MID NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Bathurst	735	752	17	2.3
Cessnock	831	853	22	2.6
Charlestown	1,980	2,002	22	1.1
Comm Support Team	23	22	%	%
Dubbo	1,907	1,854	-53	-2.8
Ettalong	847	844	-3	-0.4
Gosford	1,785	1,771	-14	-0.8
King Street	1,251	1,245	-6	-0.5
Kurri Kurri	504	524	20	4.0
Lakehaven	1,744	1,755	11	0.6
Maitland	1,574	1,593	19	1.2
Mayfield	1,041	1,044	3	0.3
Mudgee	582	578	-4	-0.7
Muswellbrook	670	680	10	1.5
Nelson Bay	548	540	-8	-1.5
Orange	890	903	13	1.5
Parkes	716	708	-8	-1.1
Raymond Terrace	958	989	31	3.2
Singleton	351	361	10	2.8
The Entrance	1,357	1,321	-36	-2.7
Toronto	966	989	23	2.4
Wallsend	1,496	1,531	35	2.3
Woy Woy	579	580	1	0.2
Wyong	702	726	24	3.4
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,037</b>	<b>24,165</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>0.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Batemans Bay	756	755	-1	-0.1
Bega	726	719	-7	-1.0
Belconnen	1,136	1,156	20	1.8
Bowral	482	471	-11	-2.3
Braddon	785	793	8	1.0
Cooma	371	383	12	3.2
Corrimal	1,127	1,157	30	2.7
Cowra	463	487	24	5.2
Dapto	1,181	1,180	-1	-0.1
Goulburn	750	730	-20	-2.7
Griffith	498	515	17	3.4
Gungahlin	374	376	2	0.5
Leeton	397	405	8	2.0
Narooma	282	264	-18	-6.4
Nowra	1,798	1,795	-3	-0.2
Queanbeyan	587	576	-11	-1.9
Shellharbour	1,417	1,408	-9	-0.6
Tuggeranong	878	895	17	1.9
Tumut	284	281	-3	-1.1
Ulladulla	485	495	10	2.1
Wagga	1,136	1,102	-34	-3.0
Woden	486	496	10	2.1
Wollongong	1,389	1,380	-9	-0.6
Yass	83	90	%	%
Young	536	542	6	1.1
Other (a)	8	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,415</b>	<b>18,457</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>0.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Airport West	1,329	1,326	-3	-0.2
Albury	2,450	2,464	14	0.6
Box Hill	2,271	2,290	19	0.8
Broadmeadows	3,968	4,028	60	1.5
Darebin	2,819	2,858	39	1.4
Deniliquin	227	222	-5	-2.2
Echuca	556	567	11	2.0
Epping	2,949	2,967	18	0.6
Greensborough	1,778	1,757	-21	-1.2
Heidelberg	1,331	1,342	11	0.8
Moreland	2,934	2,933	-1	0.0
Newmarket	1,673	1,629	-44	-2.6
Seymour	785	777	-8	-1.0
Shepparton	1,934	1,949	15	0.8
Sth Melbourne	1,031	1,074	43	4.2
Sunbury	976	974	-2	-0.2
Wangaratta	1,319	1,350	31	2.4
Windsor Vic	2,708	2,715	7	0.3
Yarra	2,355	2,380	25	1.1
Other (a)	16	16	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,409</b>	<b>35,618</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>0.6</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Bairnsdale	1,035	1,051	16	1.5
Belgrave	554	540	-14	-2.5
Boronia	1,256	1,258	2	0.2
Cheltenham	1,864	1,830	-34	-1.8
Cranbourne	1,860	1,870	10	0.5
Dandenong	2,933	2,893	-40	-1.4
Fountain Gate	2,415	2,443	28	1.2
Frankston	2,752	2,717	-35	-1.3
Glen Waverley	1,206	1,243	37	3.1
Hastings	615	621	6	1.0
Lilydale	1,469	1,505	36	2.5
Mornington	569	581	12	2.1
Morwell	2,530	2,487	-43	-1.7
Oakleigh	1,699	1,656	-43	-2.5
Pakenham	1,012	1,049	37	3.7
Ringwood	1,855	1,828	-27	-1.5
Rosebud	870	895	25	2.9
Rowville	716	752	36	5.0
Sale	754	746	-8	-1.1
Springvale	2,033	2,073	40	2.0
Warragul	689	688	-1	-0.1
Wonthaggi	916	965	49	5.3
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,602</b>	<b>31,691</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0.3</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b>WEST VICTORIA</b>				
Ararat	217	201	-16	-7.4
Ballarat	3,020	3,051	31	1.0
Bendigo	2,644	2,617	-27	-1.0
Colac	634	645	11	1.7
Corio	1,763	1,766	3	0.2
Footscray	1,551	1,569	18	1.2
Geelong	3,478	3,513	35	1.0
Hamilton	411	424	13	3.2
Horsham	695	692	-3	-0.4
Maryborough	499	507	8	1.6
Melton	1,986	2,005	19	1.0
Mildura	1,811	1,843	32	1.8
Newport	1,177	1,169	-8	-0.7
Portland	380	370	-10	-2.6
Stawell	178	184	6	3.4
Sunshine	3,713	3,738	25	0.7
Swan Hill	705	690	-15	-2.1
Warrnambool	861	848	-13	-1.5
Watergardens	3,602	3,553	-49	-1.4
Werribee	4,378	4,388	10	0.2
Other (a)	2	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,705</b>	<b>33,774</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>0.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Atherton	1,009	969	-40	-4.0
Ayr	498	495	-3	-0.6
Biloela	212	202	-10	-4.7
Bowen	542	517	-25	-4.6
Cairns Aplin	5,693	5,636	-57	-1.0
Charters Towers	470	451	-19	-4.0
Emerald	452	454	2	0.4
Gladstone	1,077	1,077	0	0.0
Indigenous Service Centre	1,015	922	-93	-9.2
Ingham	473	461	-12	-2.5
Innisfail	1,023	1,021	-2	-0.2
Longreach	172	174	2	1.2
Mackay	2,123	2,150	27	1.3
Mareeba	816	790	-26	-3.2
Mossman	624	600	-24	-3.8
Mt Isa	780	737	-43	-5.5
Normanton	82	66	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	151	147	-4	-2.6
Palm Island	72	80	%	%
Rockhampton	2,265	2,208	-57	-2.5
Thursday Is	82	80	%	%
Townsville	4,835	4,913	78	1.6
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	243	241	-2	-0.8
Whitsunday	685	687	2	0.3
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	459	438	-21	-4.6
Yeppoon	573	581	8	1.4
Other (a)	30	39	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,456</b>	<b>26,136</b>	<b>-320</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>CENTRAL QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Bundaberg	3,353	3,354	1	0.0
Caboolture	3,618	3,604	-14	-0.4
Caloundra	1,534	1,524	-10	-0.7
Cherbourg	253	262	9	3.6
Chermside	1,341	1,362	21	1.6
Deception Bay	2,760	2,847	87	3.2
Fortitude Valley	1,387	1,366	-21	-1.5
Gympie	1,548	1,576	28	1.8
Hervey Bay	1,836	1,845	9	0.5
Kawana Waters	753	760	7	0.9
Kingaroy	837	819	-18	-2.2
Margate	92	64	%	%
Maroochydoore	1,759	1,758	-1	-0.1
Maryborough	1,369	1,373	4	0.3
Mitchelton	1,636	1,604	-32	-2.0
Mt Gravatt	2,464	2,470	6	0.2
Nambour	1,220	1,215	-5	-0.4
Noosa	1,237	1,257	20	1.6
Nundah	1,603	1,595	-8	-0.5
South Brisbane	1,140	1,132	-8	-0.7
Stones Corner	2,066	2,093	27	1.3
Strathpine	2,098	2,108	10	0.5
Toowong	1,468	1,462	-6	-0.4
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,372</b>	<b>37,451</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>0.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Beaudesert	691	683	-8	-1.2
Beenleigh	2,488	2,521	33	1.3
Biggera Waters	3,701	3,756	55	1.5
Browns Plains	2,271	2,269	-2	-0.1
Capalaba	954	966	12	1.3
Charleville	205	187	-18	-8.8
Cleveland	1,132	1,145	13	1.1
Dalby	497	517	20	4.0
Goodna	1,819	1,825	6	0.3
Goondiwindi	351	336	-15	-4.3
Inala	2,103	2,135	32	1.5
Ipswich	3,326	3,331	5	0.2
Nerang	3,936	3,965	29	0.7
Palm Beach	4,171	4,144	-27	-0.6
Roma	140	144	4	2.9
Southport	138	154	16	11.6
Stanthorpe	374	373	-1	-0.3
Toowoomba	2,091	2,096	5	0.2
Warwick	519	515	-4	-0.8
Woodridge	2,408	2,394	-14	-0.6
Wynnum	1,045	1,070	25	2.4
Other (a)	178	191	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,538</b>	<b>34,717</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>0.5</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></b>				
Berri	862	914	52	6.0
Broken Hill	743	752	9	1.2
Ceduna	268	260	-8	-3.0
Cooper Pedy	146	140	-6	-4.1
Elizabeth	3,103	3,220	117	3.8
Enfield	1,728	1,755	27	1.6
Gawler	1,401	1,437	36	2.6
Glenelg	923	943	20	2.2
Kadina	788	797	9	1.1
Kilkenny	1,517	1,555	38	2.5
Marion	2,571	2,575	4	0.2
Modbury	2,205	2,235	30	1.4
Mt Barker	752	746	-6	-0.8
Mt Gambier	1,236	1,255	19	1.5
Murray Bridge	1,054	1,061	7	0.7
Noarlunga	3,063	3,128	65	2.1
Norwood	1,867	1,887	20	1.1
Port Adelaide	1,655	1,696	41	2.5
Port Augusta	796	819	23	2.9
Port Lincoln	657	647	-10	-1.5
Port Pirie	995	1,008	13	1.3
Salisbury	3,124	3,216	92	2.9
Torrens ville	1,791	1,782	-9	-0.5
Victor Harbor	758	777	19	2.5
Whyalla	843	864	21	2.5
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,846</b>	<b>35,469</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>1.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>				
Albany	1,245	1,264	19	1.5
Armadale	1,587	1,605	18	1.1
Bunbury	2,289	2,335	46	2.0
Busselton	1,038	1,067	29	2.8
Cannington	2,139	2,172	33	1.5
Carnarvon	274	263	-11	-4.0
Esperance	372	386	14	3.8
Fremantle	1,491	1,520	29	1.9
Geraldton	1,523	1,540	17	1.1
Gosnells	1,481	1,485	4	0.3
Innaloo	1,322	1,388	66	5.0
Joondalup	2,171	2,266	95	4.4
Kalgoorlie	828	835	7	0.8
Karratha	435	447	12	2.8
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	95	104	%	%
Mandurah	1,803	1,847	44	2.4
Meekatharra	220	220	0	0.0
Midland	1,988	2,066	78	3.9
Mirrabooka	2,243	2,238	-5	-0.2
Morley	2,311	2,384	73	3.2
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	76	83	%	%
Northam	1,201	1,229	28	2.3
Rockingham	2,289	2,296	7	0.3
South Hedland	391	398	7	1.8
Spearwood	1,443	1,461	18	1.2
Victoria Park	2,053	2,122	69	3.4
Warwick Grove	1,102	1,146	44	4.0
Other (a)	8	7	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,418</b>	<b>36,174</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>2.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b>TASMANIA</b>				
Bridgewater	1,115	1,115	0	0.0
Burnie	1,577	1,598	21	1.3
Devonport	1,468	1,462	-6	-0.4
Glenorchy	1,435	1,449	14	1.0
Hobart	1,532	1,560	28	1.8
Huonville	398	404	6	1.5
Launceston	3,975	3,982	7	0.2
Rosny Park	1,321	1,341	20	1.5
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,821</b>	<b>12,911</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>NORTH AUSTRALIA</b>				
Alice Springs	703	705	2	0.3
Angurugu RSC	121	124	3	2.5
Borrooloola	20	21	%	%
Broome	481	467	-14	-2.9
Casuarina	683	682	-1	-0.1
Central Aust RST	1,427	1,371	-56	-3.9
Darwin	413	435	22	5.3
Derby	129	128	-1	-0.8
Fitzroy Crossing	60	76	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	67	66	%	%
Halls Creek	215	240	25	11.6
Katherine	299	294	-5	-1.7
Kimberley RST	80	69	%	%
Kununurra	202	197	-5	-2.5
Maningrida	256	236	-20	-7.8
Nhulunbuy	22	23	%	%
Palmerston	907	925	18	2.0
Tennant Creek	294	279	-15	-5.1
Tiwi Islands	154	134	-20	-13.0
Top End East	422	396	-26	-6.2
Top End Hub	45	39	%	%
Top End South	509	446	-63	-12.4
Top End West	507	485	-22	-4.3
Wadeye	276	282	6	2.2
Yuendumu RSC	39	39	%	%
Other (a)	15	14	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,346</b>	<b>8,173</b>	<b>-173</b>	<b>-2.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	April 2014	May 2014	Variation	
			April - May Number	Per cent
<b><i>OTHER</i></b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	17	16	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	61	113	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-46	-2	%	%
<b><i>AUSTRALIA</i></b>	<b>415,459</b>	<b>417,595</b>	<b>2,136</b>	<b>0.5</b>

(a) Job seekers who are not allocated to any of the reported offices.

Notes:

- Variations for Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.
- In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 20 for specific Service Centres are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".
- Area Support Office boundaries changed to Service Zones from July 2011. The July 2011 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.



**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 23 MAY 2014**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	86.6	82.6	84.4
Earned an income	13.4	17.4	15.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.4	2.1	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.8	2.7	2.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.0	1.7
Over \$316.00	8.1	9.9	9.1
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>110,813</b>	<b>138,916</b>	<b>249,729</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.0	70.4	72.3
Earned an income	24.0	29.6	27.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	0.9	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.3	2.4	2.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	3.4	3.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.7	2.6
Over \$316.00	15.6	20.1	18.5
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>58,986</b>	<b>108,366</b>	<b>167,352</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	82.9	77.3	79.6
Earned an income	17.1	22.7	20.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.7	2.2	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.2	3.0	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	10.7	14.4	12.9
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>169,799</b>	<b>247,282</b>	<b>417,081</b>

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

# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Introduction

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

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

## Scope

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

## Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

## Payment History

### Youth Allowance

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

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

- participate in education and training full-time; or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Newstart Allowance**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Job Search Allowance**

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

#### **Sickness Allowance**

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

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

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

#### **Partner Allowance**

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

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

#### **Youth Training Allowance**

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

### **Widow Allowance**

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

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

### **Mature Age Allowance**

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

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

### **Comparability of Data**

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

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

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

### **Definition of Recipients**

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

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

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

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a 'one-off' payment were excluded. One-off payments

can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

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

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

#### **Introduction of Youth Allowance**

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

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

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

#### **Job seekers**

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

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

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

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

**Duration**

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

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

**Symbols**

n.a. not available  
.. not applicable

## Glossary

### **Activity test status**

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

### **Age**

Age in years at time of data collection.

### **Area Support Office**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Customer Service Centre**

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

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

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

### **Fortnightly earnings**

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

### **Incapacitated**

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

### **Job seeker**

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



**Long-term recipients**

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

**Newstart Allowance (NSA)**

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

**Partner Allowance (PA)**

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

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

**Service Centre**

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

**Service Zone**

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

**Short-term recipients**

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

**Widow Allowance (WA)**

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

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

**Youth Training Allowance (YTA)**

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

**Youth Allowance (YA)**

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

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

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

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

**Youth Allowance (other)**

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

**Zero paid**

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

## Appendix

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

#### Official statistics

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

#### ABS definition

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

#### DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

#### Differences

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

#### Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Seasonal adjustment**

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

#### **Classification**

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

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

#### **Employment**

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

#### **Timing**

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

#### **Treatment of partners**

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

#### **Pensioners**

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

**Non job seekers**

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

**Waiting periods**

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

**Survey**

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

## **For More Information**

### **Labour market information**

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

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

### **For enquiries email:**

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

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

Director  
Income Support Information  
Social Security Performance and Analysis Branch  
Social Policy Group  
Department of Social Services  
PO Box 7576  
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610

### **Other recipient information**

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