

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>).

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

All media inquiries should be directed to the DSS Media Team at media@dss.gov.au. 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 26 June 2019.

Statistical Highlights – April 2019

Between April 2018 and April 2019

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 3.3 per cent** overall from 848 057 to 819 940.

- NSA recipients decreased 2.9 per cent from 755 923 to 733 872.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 6.6 per cent from 92 134 to 86 068.

The number of job seekers **decreased 5.7 per cent** overall from 490 566 to 462 839.

- NSA job seekers decreased 4.9 per cent from 427 039 to 406 100.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 10.7 per cent from 63 527 to 56 739.

Long-term job seekers decreased 7.5 per cent from 341 290 to 315 600.

Short-term job seekers decreased 1.4 per cent from 149 276 to 147 239.

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

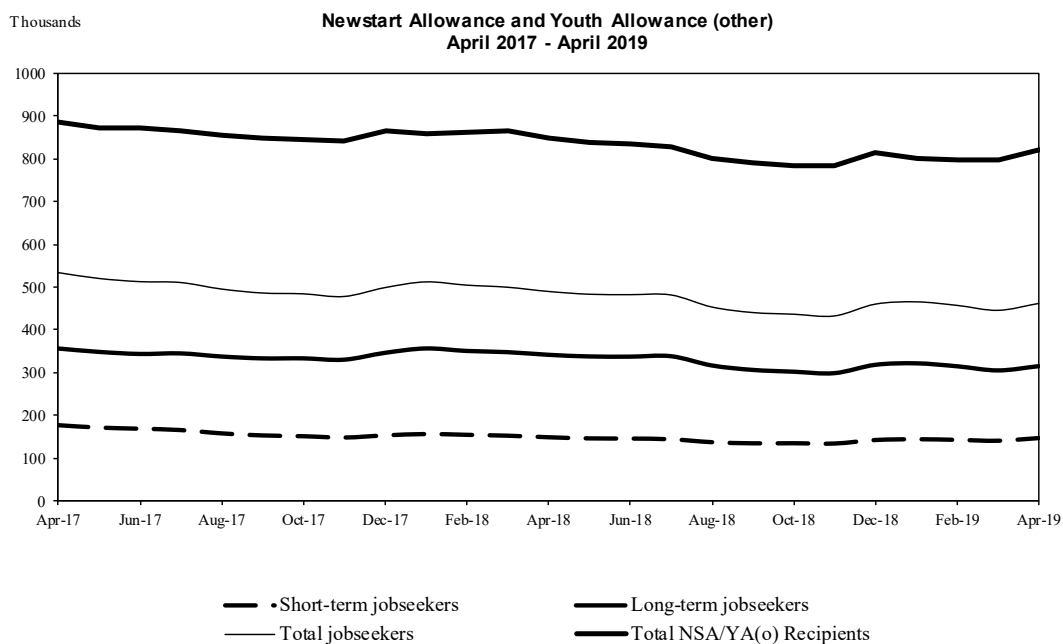


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
February 2018	578,876	766,603	95,597	158,226	2,321	2,349	14,489
March 2018	581,699	769,155	94,627	175,407	2,240	2,218	13,891
April 2018	573,335	755,923	92,134	180,907	2,413	2,142	13,573
May 2018	568,160	747,327	90,193	189,067	2,555	2,071	13,209
June 2018	568,133	745,902	90,286	192,045	2,525	1,985	12,907
July 2018	562,918	738,325	89,479	185,267	2,563	1,909	12,554
August 2018	547,305	717,452	83,871	199,429	2,580	1,792	11,949
September 2018	541,747	709,935	81,465	201,869	2,590	1,680	11,447
October 2018	538,054	705,658	79,725	199,539	2,593	1,596	11,060
November 2018	538,609	706,424	78,746	170,648	2,382	1,523	10,622
December 2018	554,688	728,095	86,292	138,308	2,288	1,435	10,220
January 2019	545,582	716,797	83,029	136,469	2,202	1,375	9,874
February 2019	544,407	715,560	83,533	146,445	2,182	1,317	9,527
March 2019	542,028	713,529	82,193	165,498	2,165	1,243	9,086
April 2019	555,127	733,872	86,068	173,440	2,170	1,170	8,675
Variation March 2019 - April 2019							
Number	13,099	20,343	3,875	7,942	5	-73	-411
Per cent	2.4	2.9	4.7	4.8	0.2	-5.9	-4.5

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	April 2019 Persons	April 2019 Males	April 2019 Females	March 2019	Variation March - April Number	Variation March - April per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	178,745	110,185	68,560	171,501	7,244	4.2
Did not receive a payment (a)	9,042	4,713	4,329	8,546	496	5.8
Received a payment	169,703	105,472	64,231	162,955	6,748	4.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	4,411	1,154	3,257	4,426	-15	-0.3
Other activities without job search (c)	8,555	4,817	3,738	8,394	161	1.9
Incapacitated (d)	21,196	12,238	8,958	20,136	1,060	5.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	12,132	6,513	5,619	11,579	553	4.8
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	123,409	80,750	42,659	118,420	4,989	4.2
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	39,319	23,669	15,650	37,267	2,052	5.5
Long Term Newstart Allowees	555,127	257,799	297,328	542,028	13,099	2.4
Did not receive a payment (a)	19,234	7,389	11,845	20,284	-1,050	-5.2
Received a payment	535,893	250,410	285,483	521,744	14,149	2.7
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	60,286	14,314	45,972	59,488	798	1.3
Other activities without job search (c)	71,453	34,745	36,708	69,655	1,798	2.6
Incapacitated (d)	62,306	29,945	32,361	60,008	2,298	3.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	59,157	27,197	31,960	58,204	953	1.6
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	282,691	144,209	138,482	274,389	8,302	3.0
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	245,930	122,483	123,447	238,128	7,802	3.3
All Newstart Allowees	733,872	367,984	365,888	713,529	20,343	2.9
Did not receive a payment (a)	28,276	12,102	16,174	28,830	-554	-1.9
Received a payment	705,596	355,882	349,714	684,699	20,897	3.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	64,697	15,468	49,229	63,914	783	1.2
Other activities without job search (c)	80,008	39,562	40,446	78,049	1,959	2.5
Incapacitated (d)	83,502	42,183	41,319	80,144	3,358	4.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	71,289	33,710	37,579	69,783	1,506	2.2
All NSA job seekers (f)	406,100	224,959	181,141	392,809	13,291	3.4
All NSA training/education (g)	285,249	146,152	139,097	275,395	9,854	3.6

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

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	April 2019 Persons	April 2019 Males	April 2019 Females	March 2019	Variation March - April Number	Variation March - April per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	37,521	20,210	17,311	35,390	2,131	6.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	975	422	553	832	143	17.2
Received a payment	36,546	19,788	16,758	34,558	1,988	5.8
Other activities without job search (b)	9,650	5,414	4,236	9,359	291	3.1
Incapacitated (c)	1,584	762	822	1,498	86	5.7
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,482	700	782	1,376	106	7.7
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	23,830	12,912	10,918	22,325	1,505	6.7
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	17,286	9,438	7,848	16,321	965	5.9
Long Term Youth Allowees	48,547	23,551	24,996	46,803	1,744	3.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,541	594	947	1,460	81	5.5
Received a payment	47,006	22,957	24,049	45,343	1,663	3.7
Other activities without job search (b)	8,628	4,513	4,115	8,414	214	2.5
Incapacitated (c)	2,872	1,211	1,661	2,794	78	2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,597	1,081	1,516	2,550	47	1.8
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	32,909	16,152	16,757	31,585	1,324	4.2
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	27,385	13,609	13,776	26,164	1,221	4.7
All Youth Allowees	86,068	43,761	42,307	82,193	3,875	4.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,516	1,016	1,500	2,292	224	9.8
Received a payment	83,552	42,745	40,807	79,901	3,651	4.6
Other activities without job search (b)	18,278	9,927	8,351	17,773	505	2.8
Incapacitated (c)	4,456	1,973	2,483	4,292	164	3.8
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,079	1,781	2,298	3,926	153	3.9
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	56,739	29,064	27,675	53,910	2,829	5.2
All YA (other) training/education (f)	44,671	23,047	21,624	42,485	2,186	5.1

(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
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
February 2018	155,208	349,999	505,207
March 2018	153,083	347,281	500,364
April 2018	149,276	341,290	490,566
May 2018	146,495	337,567	484,062
June 2018	146,049	337,064	483,113
July 2018	144,339	338,105	482,444
August 2018	137,262	317,179	454,441
September 2018	134,476	307,116	441,592
October 2018	134,675	303,058	437,733
November 2018	133,936	299,787	433,723
December 2018	142,492	318,641	461,133
January 2019	144,447	321,983	466,430
February 2019	142,867	315,349	458,216
March 2019	140,745	305,974	446,719
April 2019	147,239	315,600	462,839
Variation March 2019 - April 2019			
Number	6,494	9,626	16,120
Per cent	4.6	3.1	3.6

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	March 2019	April 2019	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	36,483	38,160	1,677	4.6
Victoria	29,293	30,343	1,050	3.6
Queensland	36,973	38,851	1,878	5.1
South Australia	10,405	10,884	479	4.6
Western Australia	19,061	19,976	915	4.8
Tasmania	3,284	3,332	48	1.5
Northern Territory	3,900	4,275	375	9.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,346	1,418	72	5.3
Australia	140,745	147,239	6,494	4.6
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	79,282	81,585	2,303	2.9
Victoria	61,931	63,184	1,253	2.0
Queensland	70,359	73,058	2,699	3.8
South Australia	25,636	26,504	868	3.4
Western Australia	45,301	46,799	1,498	3.3
Tasmania	10,616	10,840	224	2.1
Northern Territory	10,384	11,059	675	6.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,465	2,571	106	4.3
Australia	305,974	315,600	9,626	3.1
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	115,765	119,745	3,980	3.4
Victoria	91,224	93,527	2,303	2.5
Queensland	107,332	111,909	4,577	4.3
South Australia	36,041	37,388	1,347	3.7
Western Australia	64,362	66,775	2,413	3.7
Tasmania	13,900	14,172	272	2.0
Northern Territory	14,284	15,334	1,050	7.4
Australian Capital Territory	3,811	3,989	178	4.7
Australia	446,719	462,839	16,120	3.6

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	1,819	1.9	554	0.3	2,373	0.9
18 - 20 years	8,920	9.5	10,730	6.7	19,650	7.7
21 - 24 years	12,631	13.5	20,537	12.8	33,168	13.1
25 - 29 years	14,633	15.6	21,409	13.4	36,042	14.2
30 - 39 years	22,505	24.0	35,321	22.0	57,826	22.8
40 - 49 years	16,603	17.7	32,874	20.5	49,477	19.5
50 - 59 years	11,464	12.2	25,859	16.1	37,323	14.7
60 years and over	5,088	5.4	13,078	8.2	18,166	7.2
Total	93,663	100.0	160,362	100.0	254,025	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,945	3.6	744	0.5	2,689	1.3
18 - 20 years	7,603	14.2	11,785	7.6	19,388	9.3
21 - 24 years	7,452	13.9	15,890	10.2	23,342	11.2
25 - 29 years	6,046	11.3	13,806	8.9	19,852	9.5
30 - 39 years	8,316	15.5	29,934	19.3	38,250	18.3
40 - 49 years	9,276	17.3	40,033	25.8	49,309	23.6
50 - 59 years	8,783	16.4	30,036	19.3	38,819	18.6
60 years and over	4,155	7.8	13,010	8.4	17,165	8.2
Total	53,576	100.0	155,238	100.0	208,814	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,764	2.6	1,298	0.4	5,062	1.1
18 - 20 years	16,523	11.2	22,515	7.1	39,038	8.4
21 - 24 years	20,083	13.6	36,427	11.5	56,510	12.2
25 - 29 years	20,679	14.0	35,215	11.2	55,894	12.1
30 - 39 years	30,821	20.9	65,255	20.7	96,076	20.8
40 - 49 years	25,879	17.6	72,907	23.1	98,786	21.3
50 - 59 years	20,247	13.8	55,895	17.7	76,142	16.5
60 years and over	9,243	6.3	26,088	8.3	35,331	7.6
Total	147,239	100.0	315,600	100.0	462,839	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	March 2019	April 2019	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,120	1,140	1.8%
Canberra East	41	42	2.4%
Gungahlin	577	604	4.7%
Molonglo	45	49	8.9%
North Canberra	585	623	6.5%
South Canberra	207	218	5.3%
Tuggeranong	807	854	5.8%
Urriarra - Namadgi	<5	6	n/a
Weston Creek	186	196	5.4%
Woden Valley	238	252	5.9%

– 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	Mar 2019	Apr 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Mar 2019	Apr 19	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,606	1,649	2.7%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,081	1,135	5.0%
Armidale	1,055	1,072	1.6%	Liverpool	2,066	2,135	3.3%
Auburn	1,192	1,202	0.8%	Lord Howe Island	0	0	0.0%
Bankstown	2,873	2,928	1.9%	Lower Hunter	2,163	2,277	5.3%
Bathurst	872	915	4.9%	Lower Murray	384	411	7.0%
Baulkham Hills	506	518	2.4%	Maitland	1,485	1,544	4.0%
Blacktown	2,140	2,271	6.1%	Manly	153	151	-1.3%
Blacktown - North	731	778	6.4%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	734	780	6.3%
Blue Mountains	881	903	2.5%	Merrylands - Guildford	2,867	2,911	1.5%
Blue Mountains - South	0	0	0.0%	Moree - Narrabri	1,014	1,105	9.0%
Botany	455	490	7.7%	Mount Druitt	2,715	2,901	6.9%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,439	1,485	3.2%	Newcastle	3,698	3,837	3.8%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,699	1,766	3.9%	North Sydney - Mosman	327	320	-2.1%
Broken Hill and Far West	846	855	1.1%	Orange	1,090	1,153	5.8%
Camden	494	514	4.0%	Parramatta	1,576	1,620	2.8%
Campbelltown (NSW)	2,908	3,095	6.4%	Pennant Hills - Epping	215	220	2.3%
Canada Bay	363	366	0.8%	Penrith	1,871	1,918	2.5%
Canterbury	2,054	2,104	2.4%	Pittwater	218	216	-0.9%
Carlingford	685	687	0.3%	Port Macquarie	1,720	1,761	2.4%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	402	413	2.7%	Port Stephens	1,480	1,551	4.8%
Clarence Valley	1,337	1,398	4.6%	Queanbeyan	524	560	6.9%
Coffs Harbour	2,084	2,165	3.9%	Richmond - Windsor	517	541	4.6%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	578	601	4.0%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	1,952	2,005	2.7%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,630	1,667	2.3%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,379	2,410	1.3%
Dubbo	2,229	2,330	4.5%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	137	135	-1.5%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	116	108	-6.9%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	774	757	-2.2%
Eastern Suburbs - North	573	561	-2.1%	Shoalhaven	2,021	2,092	3.5%
Eastern Suburbs - South	970	955	-1.5%	Snowy Mountains	341	364	6.7%
Fairfield	4,922	5,097	3.6%	South Coast	1,576	1,629	3.4%
Gosford	2,725	2,838	4.1%	Southern Highlands	385	389	1.0%
Goulburn - Mulwaree	622	645	3.7%	St Marys	1,093	1,160	6.1%
Great Lakes	778	816	4.9%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,337	1,354	1.3%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	931	987	6.0%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	488	494	1.2%
Hawkesbury	175	172	-1.7%	Sydney Inner City	2,298	2,459	7.0%
Hornsby	438	455	3.9%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,364	2,437	3.1%
Hurstville	1,168	1,198	2.6%	Taree - Gloucester	1,681	1,734	3.2%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	0	0	0.0%	Tumut - Tumbarumba	318	328	3.1%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,392	1,458	4.7%	Tweed Valley	2,135	2,137	0.1%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,662	1,736	4.5%	Upper Hunter	768	802	4.4%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,277	1,327	3.9%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	783	800	2.2%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,130	1,145	1.3%	Wagga Wagga	1,829	1,890	3.3%
Ku-ring-gai	258	270	4.7%	Warringah	728	737	1.2%
Lachlan Valley	1,650	1,681	1.9%	Wollondilly	356	365	2.5%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,003	2,099	4.8%	Wollongong	1,817	1,901	4.6%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,402	1,456	3.9%	Wyong	3,855	4,003	3.8%
Leichhardt	449	455	1.3%	Young - Yass	584	578	-1.0%

– 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	March 2019	April 2019	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,591	3,867	7.7%
Barkly	813	820	0.9%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,680	2,849	6.3%
Darwin City	565	648	14.7%
Darwin Suburbs	1,247	1,379	10.6%
East Arnhem	1,714	1,816	6.0%
Katherine	2,304	2,473	7.3%
Litchfield	436	442	1.4%
Palmerston	925	1032	11.6%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Mar 2019	Apr 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Mar 2019	Apr 19	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	397	409	3.0%	Ipswich Inner	3,048	3,237	6.2%
Beaudesert	396	419	5.8%	Jimboomba	847	884	4.4%
Beenleigh	1,288	1,356	5.3%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	252	266	5.6%
Biloela	253	256	1.2%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,277	1,370	7.3%
Bowen Basin - North	634	639	0.8%	Mackay	2,722	2,872	5.5%
Bribie - Beachmere	683	730	6.9%	Maroochy	1,164	1,194	2.6%
Brisbane Inner	1,575	1,664	5.7%	Maryborough	1,710	1,752	2.5%
Brisbane Inner - East	506	532	5.1%	Mt Gravatt	935	967	3.4%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,074	1,105	2.9%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	390	407	4.4%
Brisbane Inner - West	542	563	3.9%	Nambour	1,021	1,029	0.8%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	872	919	5.4%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,456	1,505	3.4%
Browns Plains	2,253	2,388	6.0%	Nathan	620	645	4.0%
Buderim	754	769	2.0%	Nerang	1,231	1,253	1.8%
Bundaberg	3,162	3,226	2.0%	Noosa	540	566	4.8%
Burnett	1,863	1,959	5.2%	Noosa Hinterland	386	386	0.0%
Caboolture	2,301	2,481	7.8%	North Lakes	1,356	1,399	3.2%
Caboolture Hinterland	218	229	5.0%	Nundah	598	610	2.0%
Cairns - North	904	958	6.0%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,010	2,052	2.1%
Cairns - South	4,071	4,340	6.6%	Outback - North	1,576	1,677	6.4%
Caloundra	1,407	1,440	2.3%	Outback - South	525	518	-1.3%
Capalaba	988	998	1.0%	Port Douglas - Daintree	420	451	7.4%
Carindale	488	500	2.5%	Redcliffe	1,397	1,489	6.6%
Centenary	217	227	4.6%	Robina	691	685	-0.9%
Central Highlands (Qld)	695	741	6.6%	Rockhampton	3,786	3,901	3.0%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,558	1,645	5.6%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,007	1,055	4.8%
Chermside	1,132	1,186	4.8%	Sandgate	994	1,031	3.7%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,195	1,294	8.3%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	416	409	-1.7%
Coolangatta	929	1,003	8.0%	Southport	1,466	1,524	4.0%
Darling Downs - East	917	933	1.7%	Springfield - Redbank	2,191	2,339	6.8%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,144	1,183	3.4%	Springwood - Kingston	2,711	2,891	6.6%
Far North	2,876	3,018	4.9%	Strathpine	863	915	6.0%
Forest Lake - Oxley	1,913	2,027	6.0%	Sunnybank	719	749	4.2%
Gladstone	2,450	2,561	4.5%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	997	1,025	2.8%
Gold Coast - North	1,574	1,638	4.1%	Surfers Paradise	761	787	3.4%
Gold Coast Hinterland	297	310	4.4%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,560	1,638	5.0%
Granite Belt	851	909	6.8%	The Gap - Enoggera	579	601	3.8%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,531	1,583	3.4%	The Hills District	632	651	3.0%
Hervey Bay	1,870	1,915	2.4%	Toowoomba	3,061	3,194	4.3%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,215	1,268	4.4%	Townsville	5,785	5,971	3.2%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,653	1,722	4.2%	Whitsunday	399	405	1.5%
Ipswich Hinterland	1,597	1,617	1.3%	Wynnum - Manly	871	901	3.4%

– 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	March 2019	April 2019	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	444	476	7.2%
Adelaide Hills	711	717	0.8%
Barossa	565	571	1.1%
Burnside	254	268	5.5%
Campbelltown (SA)	574	588	2.4%
Charles Sturt	1,918	2,034	6.0%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,224	2,270	2.1%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	955	945	-1.0%
Gawler - Two Wells	624	666	6.7%
Holdfast Bay	382	391	2.4%
Limestone Coast	1,391	1,409	1.3%
Lower North	569	579	1.8%
Marion	1,485	1,562	5.2%
Mid North	1,100	1,147	4.3%
Mitcham	556	560	0.7%
Murray and Mallee	2,271	2,341	3.1%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	395	422	6.8%
Onkaparinga	4,008	4,134	3.1%
Outback - North and East	1,569	1,681	7.1%
Playford	3,843	4,051	5.4%
Port Adelaide - East	1,418	1,486	4.8%
Port Adelaide - West	1,605	1,683	4.9%
Prospect - Walkerville	285	301	5.6%
Salisbury	3,813	3,985	4.5%
Tea Tree Gully	1,122	1,145	2.0%
Unley	301	307	2.0%
West Torrens	895	911	1.8%
Yorke Peninsula	747	764	2.3%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	March 2019	April 2019	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	701	715	2.0%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,303	1,361	4.5%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	312	315	1.0%
Devonport	1,160	1,160	0.0%
Hobart - North East	1,057	1,108	4.8%
Hobart - North West	2,000	2,048	2.4%
Hobart - South and West	469	473	0.9%
Hobart Inner	922	958	3.9%
Huon - Bruny Island	490	494	0.8%
Launceston	2,617	2,639	0.8%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	514	527	2.5%
North East	1,289	1,314	1.9%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	352	350	-0.6%
South East Coast	168	167	-0.6%
West Coast	532	527	-0.9%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Mar 2019	Apr 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Mar 2019	Apr 19	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	2,556	2,610	2.1%	Macedon Ranges	252	256	1.6%
Banyule	1,288	1,292	0.3%	Manningham - East	109	111	1.8%
Barwon - West	183	196	7.1%	Manningham - West	614	603	-1.8%
Baw Baw	789	807	2.3%	Maribyrnong	1,760	1,808	2.7%
Bayside	531	544	2.4%	Maroondah	1,205	1,214	0.7%
Bendigo	2,337	2,429	3.9%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	751	764	1.7%
Boroondara	746	758	1.6%	Melbourne City	1,628	1,641	0.8%
Brimbank	4,942	5,064	2.5%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	2,928	3,012	2.9%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,311	1,290	-1.6%	Mildura	1,681	1,751	4.2%
Campaspe	727	741	1.9%	Moirah	616	613	-0.5%
Cardinia	1,259	1,290	2.5%	Monash	1,197	1,196	-0.1%
Casey - North	1,760	1,829	3.9%	Moreland - North	1,243	1,292	3.9%
Casey - South	2,606	2,685	3.0%	Mornington Peninsula	1,636	1,680	2.7%
Colac - Corangamite	638	655	2.7%	Murray River - Swan Hill	838	853	1.8%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	517	525	1.5%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	387	401	3.6%
Dandenong	3,281	3,349	2.1%	Port Phillip	1,318	1,381	4.8%
Darebin - North	1,748	1,812	3.7%	Shepparton	1,543	1,626	5.4%
Darebin - South	673	672	-0.1%	Stonnington - East	218	229	5.0%
Essendon	951	986	3.7%	Stonnington - West	508	523	3.0%
Frankston	2,306	2,382	3.3%	Sunbury	556	571	2.7%
Geelong	3,691	3,833	3.8%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	830	821	-1.1%
Gippsland - East	1,395	1,410	1.1%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,326	4,422	2.2%
Gippsland - South West	1,064	1,089	2.3%	Upper Goulburn Valley	994	1,015	2.1%
Glen Eira	1,067	1,080	1.2%	Wangaratta - Benalla	889	902	1.5%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	793	815	2.8%	Warrnambool	910	934	2.6%
Grampians	1,213	1,239	2.1%	Wellington	1,087	1,099	1.1%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	781	809	3.6%	Whitehorse - East	422	418	-0.9%
Hobsons Bay	1,182	1,231	4.1%	Whitehorse - West	754	767	1.7%
Keilor	602	607	0.8%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,142	3,276	4.3%
Kingston	1,079	1,101	2.0%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,457	1,474	1.2%
Knox	1,485	1,532	3.2%	Wyndham	3,873	4,028	4.0%
Latrobe Valley	2,840	2,933	3.3%	Yarra	1,420	1,431	0.8%
Loddon - Elmore	295	296	0.3%	Yarra Ranges	1,453	1,514	4.2%

– 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	March 2019	April 2019	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,450	1,531	5.6%
Armadale	2,810	2,995	6.6%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,124	1,157	2.9%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,176	2,262	4.0%
Belmont - Victoria Park	1,975	2,056	4.1%
Bunbury	2,957	3,093	4.6%
Canning	1,871	1,953	4.4%
Cockburn	2,336	2,464	5.5%
Cottesloe - Claremont	410	420	2.4%
East Pilbara	1,073	1,110	3.4%
Esperance	300	312	4.0%
Fremantle	1,092	1,118	2.4%
Gascoyne	538	559	3.9%
Goldfields	1,466	1,536	4.8%
Gosnells	3,609	3,782	4.8%
Joondalup	2,259	2,321	2.7%
Kalamunda	1,032	1,056	2.3%
Kimberley	3,175	3,343	5.3%
Kwinana	1,553	1,600	3.0%
Mandurah	3,182	3,352	5.3%
Manjimup	617	609	-1.3%
Melville	1,105	1,134	2.6%
Mid West	2,579	2,675	3.7%
Mundaring	883	899	1.8%
Perth City	1,974	1,986	0.6%
Rockingham	3,546	3,669	3.5%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	463	473	2.2%
South Perth	655	664	1.4%
Stirling	4,508	4,641	3.0%
Swan	3,824	3,964	3.7%
Wanneroo	4,916	5,057	2.9%
West Pilbara	700	724	3.4%
Wheat Belt - North	1,615	1,658	2.7%
Wheat Belt - South	487	530	8.8%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	March 2019	April 2019	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	16	16	0.0%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	20	21	5.0%
Jervis Bay	10	11	10.0%
Norfolk Island	17	16	-5.9%
Not recorded	417	64	-84.7%

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 19 April 2019

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	88.2	85.7	86.6
Earned an income	11.8	14.3	13.4
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	0.9	1.2	1.1
\$104 - <\$254	2.1	2.7	2.4
\$254+	8.8	10.5	9.9
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	85,007	151,036	236,043
Females			
Did not earn an income	78.8	75.2	76
Earned an income	21.2	24.8	24
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.4	1.3	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	3.1	3.3	3.3
\$254+	16.7	20.2	19.4
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	44,064	142,355	186,419
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85	80.6	81.9
Earned an income	15	19.4	18.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.2	1.2
\$104 - <\$254	2.4	3.0	2.8
\$254+	11.5	15.2	14.1
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	129,071	293,391	422,462

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 19 April 2019

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	89.5	85.5	87.3
Earned an income	10.5	14.5	12.7
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.7	1.6	1.6
\$143 - <\$250	2	2.2	2.1
\$250+	6.8	10.6	8.9
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	13,722	17,276	30,998
Females			
Did not earn an income	82.8	78.5	80.2
Earned an income	17.2	21.5	19.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.6	2.4	2.5
\$143 - <\$250	3.2	3	3.1
\$250+	11.4	16.1	14.3
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	11,419	17,643	29,062
Persons			
Did not earn an income	86.4	82	83.8
Earned an income	13.6	18	16.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.1	2	2
\$143 - <\$250	2.6	2.6	2.6
\$250+	8.9	13.4	11.5
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	25,141	34,919	60,060

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

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Statistical Areas Level 3

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

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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