

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>).

May 2019

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 31 July 2019.

Statistical Highlights – May 2019

Between May 2018 and May 2019

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 4.8 per cent** overall from 837 520 to 797 124.

- NSA recipients decreased 4.3 per cent from 747 327 to 714 952.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 8.9 per cent from 90 193 to 82 172.

The number of job seekers **decreased 8.5 per cent** overall from 484 062 to 443 016.

- NSA job seekers decreased 7.6 per cent from 422 104 to 389 926.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 14.3 per cent from 61 958 to 53 090.

Long-term job seekers decreased 10.9 per cent from 337 567 to 300 876.

Short-term job seekers decreased 3.0 per cent from 146 495 to 142 140.

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

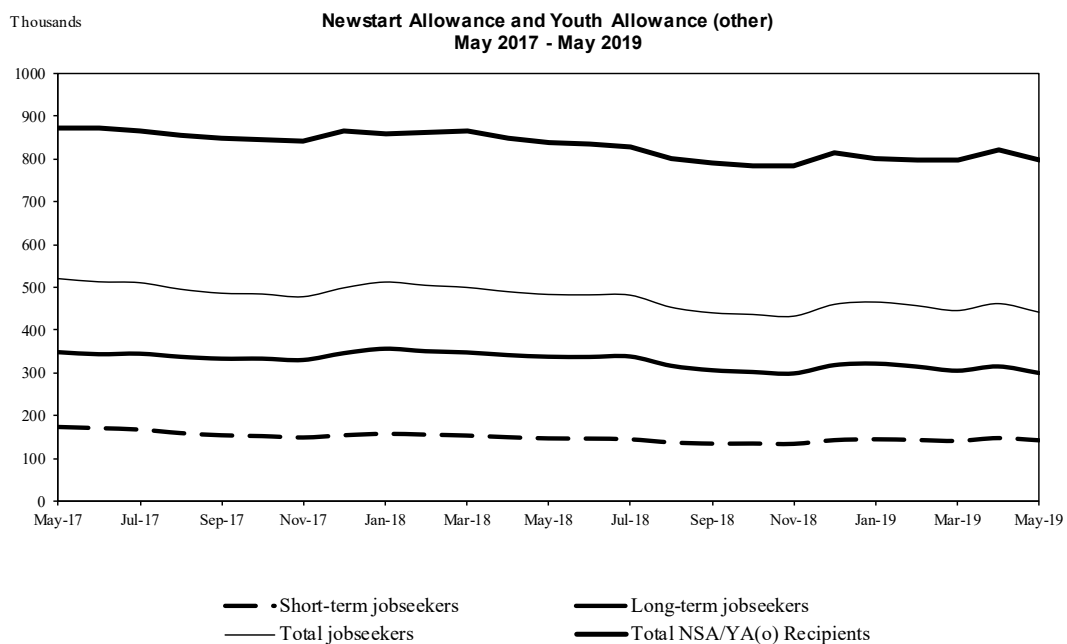


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
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
May 2019	540,957	714,952	82,172	180,062	2,134	1,106	8,274
Variation April 2019 - May 2019							
Number	-14,170	-18,920	-3,896	6,622	-36	-64	-401
Per cent	-2.6	-2.6	-4.5	3.8	-1.7	-5.5	-4.6

Notes:

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

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

Newstart Allowance	May 2019 Persons	May 2019 Males	May 2019 Females	April 2019	Variation April - May Number	Variation April - May per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	173,995	107,036	66,959	178,745	-4,750	-2.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	8,114	4,122	3,992	9,042	-928	-10.3
Received a payment	165,881	102,914	62,967	169,703	-3,822	-2.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	4,343	1,136	3,207	4,411	-68	-1.5
Other activities without job search (c)	8,865	4,951	3,914	8,555	310	3.6
Incapacitated (d)	20,934	12,055	8,879	21,196	-262	-1.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	12,462	6,757	5,705	12,132	330	2.7
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	119,277	78,015	41,262	123,409	-4,132	-3.3
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	39,300	23,573	15,727	39,319	-19	0.0
Long Term Newstart Allowees	540,957	249,361	291,596	555,127	-14,170	-2.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	17,590	6,457	11,133	19,234	-1,644	-8.5
Received a payment	523,367	242,904	280,463	535,893	-12,526	-2.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	60,466	14,347	46,119	60,286	180	0.3
Other activities without job search (c)	71,853	34,851	37,002	71,453	400	0.6
Incapacitated (d)	61,155	29,260	31,895	62,306	-1,151	-1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	59,244	27,236	32,008	59,157	87	0.1
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	270,649	137,210	133,439	282,691	-12,042	-4.3
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	242,235	120,146	122,089	245,930	-3,695	-1.5
All Newstart Allowees	714,952	356,397	358,555	733,872	-18,920	-2.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	25,704	10,579	15,125	28,276	-2,572	-9.1
Received a payment	689,248	345,818	343,430	705,596	-16,348	-2.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	64,809	15,483	49,326	64,697	112	0.2
Other activities without job search (c)	80,718	39,802	40,916	80,008	710	0.9
Incapacitated (d)	82,089	41,315	40,774	83,502	-1,413	-1.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	71,706	33,993	37,713	71,289	417	0.6
All NSA job seekers (f)	389,926	215,225	174,701	406,100	-16,174	-4.0
All NSA training/education (g)	281,535	143,719	137,816	285,249	-3,714	-1.3

- (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)	May 2019 Persons	May 2019 Males	May 2019 Females	April 2019	Variation April - May Number	Variation April - May per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	36,586	19,629	16,957	37,521	-935	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (a)	935	408	527	975	-40	-4.1
Received a payment	35,651	19,221	16,430	36,546	-895	-2.4
Other activities without job search (b)	9,733	5,485	4,248	9,650	83	0.9
Incapacitated (c)	1,563	742	821	1,584	-21	-1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,492	714	778	1,482	10	0.7
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	22,863	12,280	10,583	23,830	-967	-4.1
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	17,298	9,457	7,841	17,286	12	0.1
Long Term Youth Allowees	45,586	21,972	23,614	48,547	-2,961	-6.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,448	551	897	1,541	-93	-6.0
Received a payment	44,138	21,421	22,717	47,006	-2,868	-6.1
Other activities without job search (b)	8,569	4,491	4,078	8,628	-59	-0.7
Incapacitated (c)	2,784	1,183	1,601	2,872	-88	-3.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,558	1,063	1,495	2,597	-39	-1.5
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	30,227	14,684	15,543	32,909	-2,682	-8.1
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	26,285	12,933	13,352	27,385	-1,100	-4.0
All Youth Allowees	82,172	41,601	40,571	86,068	-3,896	-4.5
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,383	959	1,424	2,516	-133	-5.3
Received a payment	79,789	40,642	39,147	83,552	-3,763	-4.5
Other activities without job search (b)	18,302	9,976	8,326	18,278	24	0.1
Incapacitated (c)	4,347	1,925	2,422	4,456	-109	-2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,050	1,777	2,273	4,079	-29	-0.7
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	53,090	26,964	26,126	56,739	-3,649	-6.4
All YA (other) training/education (f)	43,583	22,390	21,193	44,671	-1,088	-2.4

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

(b) Allowees who are 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
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
May 2019	142,140	300,876	443,016
Variation April 2019 - May 2019			
Number	-5,099	-14,724	-19,823
Per cent	-3.5	-4.7	-4.3

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	April 2019	May 2019	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	38,160	36,780	-1,380	-3.6
Victoria	30,343	29,190	-1,153	-3.8
Queensland	38,851	37,717	-1,134	-2.9
South Australia	10,884	10,340	-544	-5.0
Western Australia	19,976	19,422	-554	-2.8
Tasmania	3,332	3,269	-63	-1.9
Northern Territory	4,275	4,095	-180	-4.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,418	1,327	-91	-6.4
Australia	147,239	142,140	-5,099	-3.5
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	81,585	78,008	-3,577	-4.4
Victoria	63,184	59,747	-3,437	-5.4
Queensland	73,058	69,814	-3,244	-4.4
South Australia	26,504	25,416	-1,088	-4.1
Western Australia	46,799	44,422	-2,377	-5.1
Tasmania	10,840	10,331	-509	-4.7
Northern Territory	11,059	10,725	-334	-3.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,571	2,413	-158	-6.1
Australia	315,600	300,876	-14,724	-4.7
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	119,745	114,788	-4,957	-4.1
Victoria	93,527	88,937	-4,590	-4.9
Queensland	111,909	107,531	-4,378	-3.9
South Australia	37,388	35,756	-1,632	-4.4
Western Australia	66,775	63,844	-2,931	-4.4
Tasmania	14,172	13,600	-572	-4.0
Northern Territory	15,334	14,820	-514	-3.4
Australian Capital Territory	3,989	3,740	-249	-6.2
Australia	462,839	443,016	-19,823	-4.3

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	1,606	1.8	479	0.3	2,085	0.9
18 - 20 years	8,569	9.5	9,776	6.4	18,345	7.6
21 - 24 years	12,071	13.4	18,909	12.4	30,980	12.8
25 - 29 years	13,986	15.5	19,929	13.1	33,915	14.0
30 - 39 years	21,734	24.1	33,179	21.8	54,913	22.7
40 - 49 years	16,126	17.9	31,528	20.8	47,654	19.7
50 - 59 years	11,201	12.4	25,215	16.6	36,416	15.0
60 years and over	5,001	5.5	12,880	8.5	17,881	7.4
Total	90,294	100.0	151,895	100.0	242,189	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,717	3.3	687	0.5	2,404	1.2
18 - 20 years	7,520	14.5	10,914	7.3	18,434	9.2
21 - 24 years	7,141	13.8	14,874	10.0	22,015	11.0
25 - 29 years	5,793	11.2	13,112	8.8	18,905	9.4
30 - 39 years	8,009	15.4	28,555	19.2	36,564	18.2
40 - 49 years	9,049	17.5	38,664	26.0	47,713	23.8
50 - 59 years	8,509	16.4	29,378	19.7	37,887	18.9
60 years and over	4,108	7.9	12,797	8.6	16,905	8.4
Total	51,846	100.0	148,981	100.0	200,827	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,323	2.3	1,166	0.4	4,489	1.0
18 - 20 years	16,089	11.3	20,690	6.9	36,779	8.3
21 - 24 years	19,212	13.5	33,783	11.2	52,995	12.0
25 - 29 years	19,779	13.9	33,041	11.0	52,820	11.9
30 - 39 years	29,743	20.9	61,734	20.5	91,477	20.6
40 - 49 years	25,175	17.7	70,192	23.3	95,367	21.5
50 - 59 years	19,710	13.9	54,593	18.1	74,303	16.8
60 years and over	9,109	6.4	25,677	8.5	34,786	7.9
Total	142,140	100.0	300,876	100.0	443,016	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	April 2019	May 2019	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,140	1,065	-6.6%
Canberra East	42	41	-2.4%
Gungahlin	604	568	-6.0%
Molonglo	49	42	-14.3%
North Canberra	623	578	-7.2%
South Canberra	218	209	-4.1%
Tuggeranong	854	797	-6.7%
Urriarra - Namadgi	6	<5	n/a
Weston Creek	196	175	-10.7%
Woden Valley	252	246	-2.4%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Apr 2019	May 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Apr 2019	May 19	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,649	1,617	-1.9%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,135	1,101	-3.0%
Armidale	1,072	1,035	-3.5%	Liverpool	2,135	2,050	-4.0%
Auburn	1,202	1,144	-4.8%	Lord Howe Island	0	0	0.0%
Bankstown	2,928	2,816	-3.8%	Lower Hunter	2,277	2,200	-3.4%
Bathurst	915	886	-3.2%	Lower Murray	411	391	-4.9%
Baulkham Hills	518	525	1.4%	Maitland	1,544	1,479	-4.2%
Blacktown	2,271	2,118	-6.7%	Manly	151	138	-8.6%
Blacktown - North	778	750	-3.6%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	780	754	-3.3%
Blue Mountains	903	885	-2.0%	Merrylands - Guildford	2,911	2,790	-4.2%
Blue Mountains - South	0	0	0.0%	Moree - Narrabri	1,105	1,052	-4.8%
Botany	490	466	-4.9%	Mount Druitt	2,901	2,786	-4.0%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,485	1,453	-2.2%	Newcastle	3,837	3,661	-4.6%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,766	1,723	-2.4%	North Sydney - Mosman	320	309	-3.4%
Broken Hill and Far West	855	830	-2.9%	Orange	1,153	1,093	-5.2%
Camden	514	489	-4.9%	Parramatta	1,620	1,496	-7.7%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,095	2,904	-6.2%	Pennant Hills - Epping	220	208	-5.5%
Canada Bay	366	364	-0.5%	Penrith	1,918	1,870	-2.5%
Canterbury	2,104	2,025	-3.8%	Pittwater	216	201	-6.9%
Carlingford	687	671	-2.3%	Port Macquarie	1,761	1,684	-4.4%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	413	404	-2.2%	Port Stephens	1,551	1,480	-4.6%
Clarence Valley	1,398	1,344	-3.9%	Queanbeyan	560	518	-7.5%
Coffs Harbour	2,165	2,080	-3.9%	Richmond - Windsor	541	536	-0.9%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	601	549	-8.7%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,005	1,880	-6.2%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,667	1,586	-4.9%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,410	2,297	-4.7%
Dubbo	2,330	2,258	-3.1%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	135	132	-2.2%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	108	99	-8.3%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	757	725	-4.2%
Eastern Suburbs - North	561	547	-2.5%	Shoalhaven	2,092	1,995	-4.6%
Eastern Suburbs - South	955	911	-4.6%	Snowy Mountains	364	375	3.0%
Fairfield	5,097	4,918	-3.5%	South Coast	1,629	1,542	-5.3%
Gosford	2,838	2,723	-4.1%	Southern Highlands	389	354	-9.0%
Goulburn - Mulwaree	645	647	0.3%	St Marys	1,160	1,124	-3.1%
Great Lakes	816	787	-3.6%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,354	1,291	-4.7%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	987	943	-4.5%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	494	466	-5.7%
Hawkesbury	172	165	-4.1%	Sydney Inner City	2,459	2,326	-5.4%
Hornsby	455	443	-2.6%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,437	2,312	-5.1%
Hurstville	1,198	1,124	-6.2%	Taree - Gloucester	1,734	1,657	-4.4%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	0	0	0.0%	Tumut - Tumbarumba	328	317	-3.4%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,458	1,419	-2.7%	Tweed Valley	2,137	2,038	-4.6%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,736	1,651	-4.9%	Upper Hunter	802	767	-4.4%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,327	1,312	-1.1%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	800	789	-1.4%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,145	1,085	-5.2%	Wagga Wagga	1,890	1,880	-0.5%
Ku-ring-gai	270	258	-4.4%	Warringham	737	690	-6.4%
Lachlan Valley	1,681	1,644	-2.2%	Wollondilly	365	342	-6.3%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,099	2,057	-2.0%	Wollongong	1,901	1,803	-5.2%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,456	1,388	-4.7%	Wyong	4,003	3,767	-5.9%
Leichhardt	455	426	-6.4%	Young - Yass	578	542	-6.2%

– 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	April 2019	May 2019	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,867	3,728	-3.6%
Barkly	820	862	5.1%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,849	2,748	-3.5%
Darwin City	648	572	-11.7%
Darwin Suburbs	1,379	1,324	-4.0%
East Arnhem	1,816	1,756	-3.3%
Katherine	2,473	2,403	-2.8%
Litchfield	442	445	0.7%
Palmerston	1,032	972	-5.8%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	Apr 2019	May 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Apr 2019	May 19	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	409	390	-4.6%	Ipswich Inner	3,237	3,141	-3.0%
Beaudesert	419	416	-0.7%	Jimboomba	884	873	-1.2%
Beenleigh	1,356	1,326	-2.2%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	266	254	-4.5%
Biloela	256	254	-0.8%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,370	1,322	-3.5%
Bowen Basin - North	639	616	-3.6%	Mackay	2,872	2,747	-4.4%
Bribie - Beachmere	730	715	-2.1%	Maroochy	1,194	1,137	-4.8%
Brisbane Inner	1,664	1,567	-5.8%	Maryborough	1,752	1,698	-3.1%
Brisbane Inner - East	532	530	-0.4%	Mt Gravatt	967	924	-4.4%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,105	1,076	-2.6%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	407	397	-2.5%
Brisbane Inner - West	563	541	-3.9%	Nambour	1,029	945	-8.2%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	919	884	-3.8%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,505	1,437	-4.5%
Browns Plains	2,388	2,281	-4.5%	Nathan	645	626	-2.9%
Buderim	769	746	-3.0%	Nerang	1,253	1,236	-1.4%
Bundaberg	3,226	3,064	-5.0%	Noosa	566	556	-1.8%
Burnett	1,959	1,918	-2.1%	Noosa Hinterland	386	374	-3.1%
Caboolture	2,481	2,407	-3.0%	North Lakes	1,399	1,354	-3.2%
Caboolture Hinterland	229	217	-5.2%	Nundah	610	573	-6.1%
Cairns - North	958	894	-6.7%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,052	1,980	-3.5%
Cairns - South	4,340	4,094	-5.7%	Outback - North	1,677	1,571	-6.3%
Caloundra	1,440	1,416	-1.7%	Outback - South	518	514	-0.8%
Capalaba	998	968	-3.0%	Port Douglas - Daintree	451	411	-8.9%
Carindale	500	487	-2.6%	Redcliffe	1,489	1,427	-4.2%
Centenary	227	222	-2.2%	Robina	685	651	-5.0%
Central Highlands (Qld)	741	705	-4.9%	Rockhampton	3,901	3,749	-3.9%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,645	1,577	-4.1%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,055	1,002	-5.0%
Chermside	1,186	1,150	-3.0%	Sandgate	1,031	1,014	-1.6%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,294	1,233	-4.7%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	409	377	-7.8%
Coolangatta	1,003	972	-3.1%	Southport	1,524	1,479	-3.0%
Darling Downs - East	933	914	-2.0%	Springfield - Redbank	2,339	2,200	-5.9%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,183	1,123	-5.1%	Springwood - Kingston	2,891	2,725	-5.7%
Far North	3,018	2,925	-3.1%	Strathpine	915	912	-0.3%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,027	1,937	-4.4%	Sunnybank	749	754	0.7%
Gladstone	2,561	2,396	-6.4%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,025	1,004	-2.0%
Gold Coast - North	1,638	1,623	-0.9%	Surfers Paradise	787	756	-3.9%
Gold Coast Hinterland	310	312	0.6%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,638	1,558	-4.9%
Granite Belt	909	872	-4.1%	The Gap - Enoggera	601	576	-4.2%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,583	1,532	-3.2%	The Hills District	651	636	-2.3%
Hervey Bay	1,915	1,830	-4.4%	Toowoomba	3,194	3,085	-3.4%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,268	1,223	-3.5%	Townsville	5,971	5,701	-4.5%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,722	1,655	-3.9%	Whitsunday	405	405	0.0%
Ipswich Hinterland	1,617	1,549	-4.2%	Wynnum - Manly	901	861	-4.4%

– 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	April 2019	May 2019	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	476	455	-4.4%
Adelaide Hills	717	686	-4.3%
Barossa	571	562	-1.6%
Burnside	268	258	-3.7%
Campbelltown (SA)	588	570	-3.1%
Charles Sturt	2,034	1,918	-5.7%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,270	2,203	-3.0%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	945	924	-2.2%
Gawler - Two Wells	666	619	-7.1%
Holdfast Bay	391	367	-6.1%
Limestone Coast	1,409	1,355	-3.8%
Lower North	579	570	-1.6%
Marion	1,562	1,481	-5.2%
Mid North	1,147	1,119	-2.4%
Mitcham	560	538	-3.9%
Murray and Mallee	2,341	2,290	-2.2%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	422	387	-8.3%
Onkaparinga	4,134	4,014	-2.9%
Outback - North and East	1,681	1,636	-2.7%
Playford	4,051	3,799	-6.2%
Port Adelaide - East	1,486	1,384	-6.9%
Port Adelaide - West	1,683	1,601	-4.9%
Prospect - Walkerville	301	282	-6.3%
Salisbury	3,985	3,750	-5.9%
Tea Tree Gully	1,145	1,086	-5.2%
Unley	307	286	-6.8%
West Torrens	911	854	-6.3%
Yorke Peninsula	764	756	-1.0%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	April 2019	May 2019	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	715	687	-3.9%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,361	1,265	-7.1%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	315	300	-4.8%
Devonport	1,160	1,140	-1.7%
Hobart - North East	1,108	1,055	-4.8%
Hobart - North West	2,048	1,925	-6.0%
Hobart - South and West	473	448	-5.3%
Hobart Inner	958	920	-4.0%
Huon - Bruny Island	494	494	0.0%
Launceston	2,639	2,536	-3.9%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	527	510	-3.2%
North East	1,314	1,263	-3.9%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	350	342	-2.3%
South East Coast	167	171	2.4%
West Coast	527	532	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	Apr 2019	May 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Apr 2019	May 19	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	2,610	2,510	-3.8%	Macedon Ranges	256	221	-13.7%
Banyule	1,292	1,257	-2.7%	Manningham - East	111	106	-4.5%
Barwon - West	196	184	-6.1%	Manningham - West	603	556	-7.8%
Baw Baw	807	778	-3.6%	Maribyrnong	1,808	1,719	-4.9%
Bayside	544	474	-12.9%	Maroondah	1,214	1,162	-4.3%
Bendigo	2,429	2,297	-5.4%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	764	738	-3.4%
Boroondara	758	721	-4.9%	Melbourne City	1,641	1,504	-8.3%
Brimbank	5,064	4,866	-3.9%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,012	2,916	-3.2%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,290	1,199	-7.1%	Mildura	1,751	1,690	-3.5%
Campaspe	741	712	-3.9%	Moirra	613	575	-6.2%
Cardinia	1,290	1,221	-5.3%	Monash	1,196	1,166	-2.5%
Casey - North	1,829	1,755	-4.0%	Moreland - North	1,292	1,202	-7.0%
Casey - South	2,685	2,563	-4.5%	Mornington Peninsula	1,680	1,631	-2.9%
Colac - Corangamite	655	636	-2.9%	Murray River - Swan Hill	853	837	-1.9%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	525	501	-4.6%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	401	391	-2.5%
Dandenong	3,349	3,142	-6.2%	Port Phillip	1,381	1,239	-10.3%
Darebin - North	1,812	1,689	-6.8%	Shepparton	1,626	1,549	-4.7%
Darebin - South	672	598	-11.0%	Stonnington - East	229	221	-3.5%
Essendon	986	931	-5.6%	Stonnington - West	523	463	-11.5%
Frankston	2,382	2,254	-5.4%	Sunbury	571	542	-5.1%
Geelong	3,833	3,706	-3.3%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	821	785	-4.4%
Gippsland - East	1,410	1,358	-3.7%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,422	4,139	-6.4%
Gippsland - South West	1,089	1,037	-4.8%	Upper Goulburn Valley	1,015	965	-4.9%
Glen Eira	1,080	1,009	-6.6%	Wangaratta - Benalla	902	879	-2.5%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	815	788	-3.3%	Warrnambool	934	915	-2.0%
Grampians	1,239	1,201	-3.1%	Wellington	1,099	1,041	-5.3%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	809	771	-4.7%	Whitehorse - East	418	399	-4.5%
Hobsons Bay	1,231	1,143	-7.1%	Whitehorse - West	767	716	-6.6%
Keilor	607	577	-4.9%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,276	3,097	-5.5%
Kingston	1,101	1,050	-4.6%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,474	1,460	-0.9%
Knox	1,532	1,487	-2.9%	Wyndham	4,028	3,868	-4.0%
Latrobe Valley	2,933	2,719	-7.3%	Yarra	1,431	1,341	-6.3%
Loddon - Elmore	296	285	-3.7%	Yarra Ranges	1,514	1,480	-2.2%

– 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	April 2019	May 2019	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,531	1,433	-6.4%
Armadale	2,995	2,906	-3.0%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,157	1,130	-2.3%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,262	2,136	-5.6%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,056	1,979	-3.7%
Bunbury	3,093	2,944	-4.8%
Canning	1,953	1,877	-3.9%
Cockburn	2,464	2,353	-4.5%
Cottesloe - Claremont	420	401	-4.5%
East Pilbara	1,110	1,069	-3.7%
Esperance	312	308	-1.3%
Fremantle	1,118	1,073	-4.0%
Gascoyne	559	565	1.1%
Goldfields	1,536	1,505	-2.0%
Gosnells	3,782	3,646	-3.6%
Joondalup	2,321	2,209	-4.8%
Kalamunda	1,056	1,013	-4.1%
Kimberley	3,343	3,253	-2.7%
Kwinana	1,600	1,505	-5.9%
Mandurah	3,352	3,229	-3.7%
Manjimup	609	587	-3.6%
Melville	1,134	1,100	-3.0%
Mid West	2,675	2,544	-4.9%
Mundaring	899	840	-6.6%
Perth City	1,986	1,881	-5.3%
Rockingham	3,669	3,471	-5.4%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	473	465	-1.7%
South Perth	664	615	-7.4%
Stirling	4,641	4,369	-5.9%
Swan	3,964	3,761	-5.1%
Wanneroo	5,057	4,793	-5.2%
West Pilbara	724	685	-5.4%
Wheat Belt - North	1,658	1,618	-2.4%
Wheat Belt - South	530	510	-3.8%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	April 2019	May 2019	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	16	18	12.5%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	21	22	4.8%
Jervis Bay	11	12	9.1%
Norfolk Island	16	14	-12.5%
Not recorded	64	196	206.3%

Notes:

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

Note: Individuals who live overseas, individuals who are without a valid home address and individuals who only have a postal address cannot be assigned to a locational boundary. These numbers may be represented as 'Not Recorded'. State/territory totals derived from SA3 data will not match state and territory totals reported elsewhere in this publication, due to different statistical geography methodologies.

Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.

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

Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 24 May 2019

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	87.4	83.9	85.2
Earned an income	12.6	16.1	14.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	0.9	1.3	1.1
\$104 - <\$254	2.4	3	2.8
\$254+	9.2	11.8	10.9
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	76,756	135,309	212,065
Females			
Did not earn an income	76.1	70.8	72.1
Earned an income	23.9	29.2	27.9
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.4	1.4	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	3.6	3.9	3.8
\$254+	18.8	23.8	22.7
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	40,487	131,371	171,858
Persons			
Did not earn an income	83.5	77.5	79.3
Earned an income	16.5	22.5	20.7
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.3	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.8	3.4	3.3
\$254+	12.5	17.8	16.2
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	117,243	266,680	383,923

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

Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 24 May 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	88.7	84.7	86.5
Earned an income	11.3	15.3	13.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.9	1.8	1.9
\$143 - <\$250	2.2	2.3	2.3
\$250+	7.2	11.2	9.4
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	12,293	14,595	26,888
Females			
Did not earn an income	81	76	78
Earned an income	19	24	22
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.9	2.6	2.7
\$143 - <\$250	3.3	3.6	3.5
\$250+	12.8	17.8	15.8
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	10,533	15,349	25,882
Persons			
Did not earn an income	85.2	80.2	82.4
Earned an income	14.8	19.8	17.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.4	2.2	2.3
\$143 - <\$250	2.7	3.0	2.9
\$250+	9.8	14.6	12.5
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	22,826	29,944	52,770

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.

For enquiries email:

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