

# **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>).

**June 2016**

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, **27 July 2016**

## Contents

Introduction.....	2
Statistical Highlights.....	3
Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series.....	4
Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation Of The Job Seeker Population.....	5
Table 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation Of The Job Seeker Population.....	6
Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) Time Series .....	7
Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State.....	8
Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance And Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Sex .....	9
Table 7 (Parts a to n) - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre .....	10
Table 8 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Sex.....	24
Explanatory Notes.....	25
Payment History.....	25
Glossary .....	31
Appendix.....	34
For More Information .....	37

## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 31 August 2016.

# Statistical Highlights – June 2016

## Between June 2015 and June 2016

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 2.0 per cent** overall from 883 237 to 865 754.

- NSA recipients decreased 0.8 per cent from 774 072 to 767 908.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 10.4 per cent from 109 165 to 97 846.

The number of job seekers **increased 15.8 per cent** overall from 441 371 to 511 245.

- NSA job seekers increased 13.7 per cent from 386 068 to 438 934.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 30.8 per cent from 55 303 to 72 311.

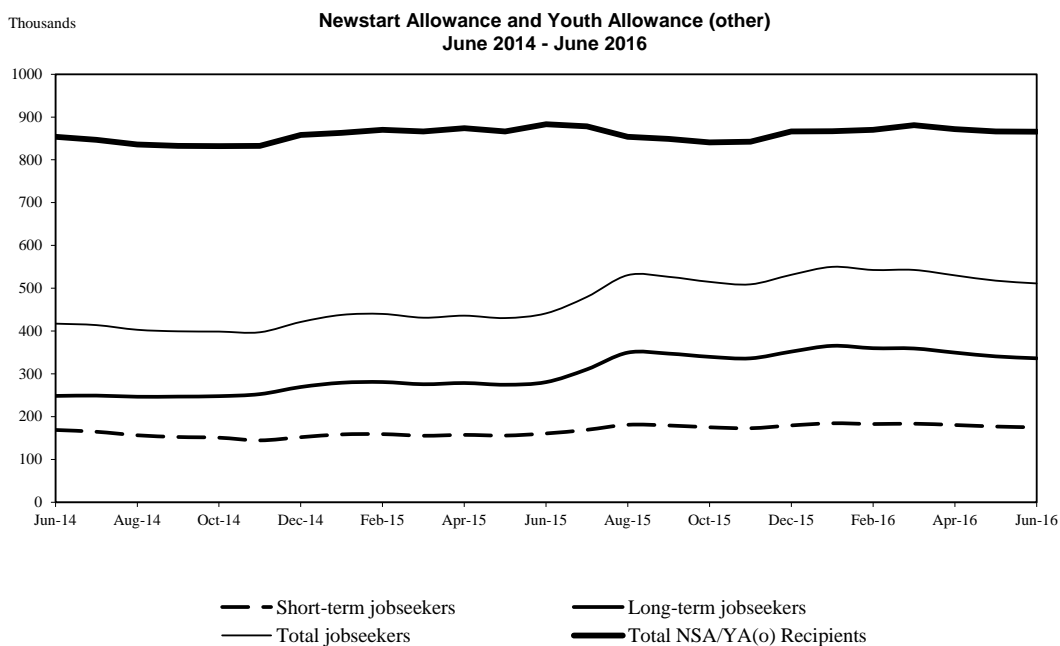
Long-term job seekers increased 19.8 per cent from 280 671 to 336 308.

Short-term job seekers increased 8.9 per cent from 160 700 to 174 937.

NOTE: On 1 July 2015, a new employment services model ‘jobactive’ was introduced. ‘jobactive’ replaced Job Services Australia and has a stronger focus on job search and finding and keeping employment. Job seeker numbers have increased, as more recipients have a job search requirement under the new model.

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	..	..	..	..	..
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
December 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
January 2015	532,903	754,340	108,657	173,161	5,502	6,756	23,604
February 2015	537,533	760,149	109,888	188,529	5,417	6,552	23,336
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363
April 2016	559,242	773,675	98,326	208,242	3,835	4,208	19,047
May 2016	555,867	768,503	98,016	230,821	4,194	4,104	18,739
June 2016	555,870	767,908	97,846	229,689	4,271	4,004	18,472
Variation May 2016 - June 2016							
Number	3	-595	-170	-1,132	77	-100	-267
Per cent	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	1.8	-2.4	-1.4

## Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

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

Newstart Allowance	June 2016 Persons	June 2016 Males	June 2016 Females	May 2016	Variation May - June Number	Variation May - June per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>212,038</b>	<b>131,285</b>	<b>80,753</b>	<b>212,636</b>	<b>-598</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	12,850	7,049	5,801	12,501	349	2.8
Received a payment	199,188	124,236	74,952	200,135	-947	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	7,722	2,208	5,514	7,671	51	0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	9,222	4,902	4,320	9,472	-250	-2.6
Incapacitated (d)	25,291	14,708	10,583	24,428	863	3.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	13,861	7,932	5,929	13,579	282	2.1
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>143,092</b>	<b>94,486</b>	<b>48,606</b>	<b>144,985</b>	<b>-1,893</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	30,536	17,249	13,287	30,210	326	1.1
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>555,870</b>	<b>267,219</b>	<b>288,651</b>	<b>555,867</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	21,779	8,885	12,894	21,029	750	3.6
Received a payment	534,091	258,334	275,757	534,838	-747	-0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	72,620	16,854	55,766	72,317	303	0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	61,213	29,479	31,734	60,909	304	0.5
Incapacitated (d)	54,930	27,322	27,608	53,029	1,901	3.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	49,486	22,606	26,880	49,553	-67	-0.1
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>295,842</b>	<b>162,073</b>	<b>133,769</b>	<b>299,030</b>	<b>-3,188</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	176,978	87,028	89,950	172,436	4,542	2.6
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>767,908</b>	<b>398,504</b>	<b>369,404</b>	<b>768,503</b>	<b>-595</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	34,629	15,934	18,695	33,530	1,099	3.3
Received a payment	733,279	382,570	350,709	734,973	-1,694	-0.2
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	80,342	19,062	61,280	79,988	354	0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	70,435	34,381	36,054	70,381	54	0.1
Incapacitated (d)	80,221	42,030	38,191	77,457	2,764	3.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	63,347	30,538	32,809	63,132	215	0.3
<b>All NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>438,934</b>	<b>256,559</b>	<b>182,375</b>	<b>444,015</b>	<b>-5,081</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
All NSA training/education (g)	207,514	104,277	103,237	202,646	4,868	2.4

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	June 2016 Persons	June 2016 Males	June 2016 Females	May 2016	Variation May - June Number	Variation May - June per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>42,122</b>	<b>23,150</b>	<b>18,972</b>	<b>41,259</b>	<b>863</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,192	514	678	1,160	32	2.8
Received a payment	40,930	22,636	18,294	40,099	831	2.1
Other activities without job search (b)	5,327	3,134	2,193	4,495	832	18.5
Incapacitated (c)	2,076	1,090	986	2,011	65	3.2
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,682	839	843	1,649	33	2.0
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>31,845</b>	<b>17,573</b>	<b>14,272</b>	<b>31,944</b>	<b>-99</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	11,434	6,204	5,230	10,678	756	7.1
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>55,724</b>	<b>28,446</b>	<b>27,278</b>	<b>56,757</b>	<b>-1,033</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,646	656	990	1,689	-43	-2.5
Received a payment	54,078	27,790	26,288	55,068	-990	-1.8
Other activities without job search (b)	8,093	4,372	3,721	7,817	276	3.5
Incapacitated (c)	2,998	1,327	1,671	2,926	72	2.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,521	1,068	1,453	2,542	-21	-0.8
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>40,466</b>	<b>21,023</b>	<b>19,443</b>	<b>41,783</b>	<b>-1,317</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	21,966	10,829	11,137	21,730	236	1.1
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>97,846</b>	<b>51,596</b>	<b>46,250</b>	<b>98,016</b>	<b>-170</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,838	1,170	1,668	2,849	-11	-0.4
Received a payment	95,008	50,426	44,582	95,167	-159	-0.2
Other activities without job search (b)	13,420	7,506	5,914	12,312	1,108	9.0
Incapacitated (c)	5,074	2,417	2,657	4,937	137	2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,203	1,907	2,296	4,191	12	0.3
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>72,311</b>	<b>38,596</b>	<b>33,715</b>	<b>73,727</b>	<b>-1,416</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
All YA (other) training/education (f)	33,400	17,033	16,367	32,408	992	3.1

(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**

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	<b>Total</b>
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,467	246,504	402,971
September 2014	152,447	246,892	399,339
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
January 2015	158,486	279,232	437,718
February 2015	159,147	280,864	440,011
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
April 2016	180,450	349,643	530,093
May 2016	176,929	340,813	517,742
June 2016	174,937	336,308	511,245
Variation May 2016 - June 2016			
Number	-1,992	-4,505	-6,497
Per cent	-1.1	-1.3	-1.3

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	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	43,686	43,164	-522	-1.2
Victoria	38,223	37,763	-460	-1.2
Queensland	47,596	46,490	-1,106	-2.3
South Australia	14,319	14,121	-198	-1.4
Western Australia	23,559	23,947	388	1.6
Tasmania	4,088	4,203	115	2.8
Northern Territory	3,817	3,670	-147	-3.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,641	1,579	-62	-3.8
<b>Australia</b>	<b>176,929</b>	<b>174,937</b>	<b>-1,992</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	95,808	93,933	-1,875	-2.0
Victoria	74,888	73,708	-1,180	-1.6
Queensland	78,006	76,914	-1,092	-1.4
South Australia	32,086	31,653	-433	-1.3
Western Australia	36,961	37,052	91	0.2
Tasmania	10,817	10,826	9	0.1
Northern Territory	9,365	9,390	25	0.3
Australian Capital Territory	2,882	2,832	-50	-1.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>340,813</b>	<b>336,308</b>	<b>-4,505</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	139,494	137,097	-2,397	-1.7
Victoria	113,111	111,471	-1,640	-1.4
Queensland	125,602	123,404	-2,198	-1.7
South Australia	46,405	45,774	-631	-1.4
Western Australia	60,520	60,999	479	0.8
Tasmania	14,905	15,029	124	0.8
Northern Territory	13,182	13,060	-122	-0.9
Australian Capital Territory	4,523	4,411	-112	-2.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>517,742</b>	<b>511,245</b>	<b>-6,497</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

Notes:

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

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

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
<b>Males</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,155	1.9	578	0.3	2,733	0.9
18 - 20 years	12,607	11.3	14,096	7.7	26,703	9.0
21 - 24 years	15,976	14.3	26,077	14.2	42,053	14.2
25 - 29 years	16,353	14.6	25,726	14.1	42,079	14.3
30 - 39 years	25,291	22.6	42,255	23.1	67,546	22.9
40 - 49 years	20,172	18.0	36,665	20.0	56,837	19.3
50 - 59 years	14,023	12.5	26,673	14.6	40,696	13.8
60 years and over	5,483	4.9	11,026	6.0	16,509	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,060</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>183,096</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>295,156</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,260	3.6	752	0.5	3,012	1.4
18 - 20 years	10,285	16.4	13,519	8.8	23,804	11.0
21 - 24 years	8,846	14.1	18,393	12.0	27,239	12.6
25 - 29 years	6,922	11.0	14,695	9.6	21,617	10.0
30 - 39 years	9,212	14.7	29,468	19.2	38,680	17.9
40 - 49 years	11,128	17.7	40,248	26.3	51,376	23.8
50 - 59 years	10,279	16.3	28,081	18.3	38,360	17.8
60 years and over	3,945	6.3	8,056	5.3	12,001	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,877</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>153,212</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>216,089</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	4,415	2.5	1,330	0.4	5,745	1.1
18 - 20 years	22,892	13.1	27,615	8.2	50,507	9.9
21 - 24 years	24,822	14.2	44,470	13.2	69,292	13.6
25 - 29 years	23,275	13.3	40,421	12.0	63,696	12.5
30 - 39 years	34,503	19.7	71,723	21.3	106,226	20.8
40 - 49 years	31,300	17.9	76,913	22.9	108,213	21.2
50 - 59 years	24,302	13.9	54,754	16.3	79,056	15.5
60 years and over	9,428	5.4	19,082	5.7	28,510	5.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>174,937</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>336,308</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>511,245</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

**Table 7a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Sydney Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,858	3,726	-132	-3.4
Bondi Junction	951	901	-50	-5.3
Burwood	1,660	1,605	-55	-3.3
Cabramatta	2,408	2,391	-17	-0.7
Camden	799	800	1	0.1
Campbelltown	2,413	2,349	-64	-2.7
Campsie	2,760	2,673	-87	-3.2
Caringbah	713	680	-33	-4.6
Chatswood	1,130	1,122	-8	-0.7
Darlinghurst	1,672	1,669	-3	-0.2
Fairfield	3,062	3,049	-13	-0.4
Hornsby	1,131	1,099	-32	-2.8
Hurstville	1,639	1,585	-54	-3.3
Ingleburn	1,263	1,261	-2	-0.2
Leichhardt	1,464	1,371	-93	-6.4
Liverpool	4,172	4,154	-18	-0.4
Maroubra	1,522	1,494	-28	-1.8
Marrickville	1,167	1,092	-75	-6.4
Northern Beaches	1,373	1,290	-83	-6.0
Redfern	1,781	1,720	-61	-3.4
Rockdale	1,552	1,478	-74	-4.8
Ryde	1,188	1,136	-52	-4.4
Sutherland	766	761	-5	-0.7
Other (a)	88	77	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,532</b>	<b>39,483</b>	<b>-1,049</b>	<b>-2.6</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7b - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

North New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,099	1,090	-9	-0.8
Brunswick Heads	958	928	-30	-3.1
Byron Bay	361	362	1	0.3
Casino	936	904	-32	-3.4
Cessnock	1,150	1,134	-16	-1.4
Charlestown	2,198	2,179	-19	-0.9
Coffs Harbour	2,315	2,288	-27	-1.2
Comm Support Team	65	66	%	%
Ettalong	831	844	13	1.6
Forster	964	951	-13	-1.3
Gosford	1,793	1,742	-51	-2.8
Grafton	1,077	1,038	-39	-3.6
Kempsey	1,021	1,031	10	1.0
King Street	1,448	1,433	-15	-1.0
Kurri Kurri	640	639	-1	-0.2
Lakehaven	1,976	1,944	-32	-1.6
Lismore	2,076	2,103	27	1.3
Maitland	2,164	2,186	22	1.0
Mayfield	1,172	1,172	0	0.0
Murwillumbah	840	833	-7	-0.8
Muswellbrook	850	831	-19	-2.2
Nambucca Heads	687	688	1	0.1
Nelson Bay	636	643	7	1.1
North New south Wales	28	26	%	%
Port Macquarie	1,873	1,862	-11	-0.6
Raymond Terrace	1,317	1,310	-7	-0.5
Singleton	491	489	-2	-0.4
Taree	1,949	1,958	9	0.5
The Entrance	1,326	1,316	-10	-0.8
Toronto	1,165	1,140	-25	-2.1
Tweed Heads	1,701	1,666	-35	-2.1
Wallsend	1,893	1,893	0	0.0
Woy Woy	582	556	-26	-4.5
Wyong	657	655	-2	-0.3
Yamba	462	440	-22	-4.8
Other (a)	60	56	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,761</b>	<b>40,396</b>	<b>-365</b>	<b>-0.9</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7c - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,156	1,145	-11	-1.0
Auburn	2,174	2,099	-75	-3.4
Bathurst	994	998	4	0.4
Baulkham Hills	999	974	-25	-2.5
Blacktown	3,697	3,684	-13	-0.4
Bourke	530	522	-8	-1.5
Central New South Wales	43	39	%	%
Dubbo	2,803	2,759	-44	-1.6
Glen Innes	456	458	2	0.4
Gunnedah	505	495	-10	-2.0
Hawkesbury	972	939	-33	-3.4
Inverell	815	801	-14	-1.7
Katoomba	783	749	-34	-4.3
Lightning Ridge	231	230	-1	-0.4
Lithgow	809	779	-30	-3.7
Merrylands	2,220	2,168	-52	-2.3
Moree	544	546	2	0.4
Mt Druitt	3,164	3,091	-73	-2.3
Mudgee	699	695	-4	-0.6
Narrabri	441	438	-3	-0.7
Orange	1,298	1,278	-20	-1.5
Parkes	1,002	1,012	10	1.0
Parramatta	2,351	2,311	-40	-1.7
Penrith	2,063	1,978	-85	-4.1
Springwood	380	373	-7	-1.8
St Marys	1,928	1,876	-52	-2.7
Tamworth	2,271	2,222	-49	-2.2
Walgett	346	342	-4	-1.2
Other (a)	14	12	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,688</b>	<b>35,013</b>	<b>-675</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7d - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	810	792	-18	-2.2
Bega	760	762	2	0.3
Belconnen	1,349	1,290	-59	-4.4
Bowral	473	456	-17	-3.6
Braddon	1,025	983	-42	-4.1
Cooma	397	406	9	2.3
Corrimal	1,091	1,076	-15	-1.4
Cowra	591	595	4	0.7
Dapto	1,343	1,328	-15	-1.1
Goulburn	831	855	24	2.9
Griffith	852	865	13	1.5
Gungahlin	581	589	8	1.4
Leeton	485	490	5	1.0
Narooma	272	288	16	5.9
Nowra	2,140	2,125	-15	-0.7
Queanbeyan	722	683	-39	-5.4
Shellharbour	1,721	1,684	-37	-2.1
Tuggeranong	899	880	-19	-2.1
Tumut	403	383	-20	-5.0
Ulladulla	480	485	5	1.0
Wagga	1,762	1,758	-4	-0.2
Woden	598	587	-11	-1.8
Wollongong	1,633	1,557	-76	-4.7
Yass	135	129	-6	-4.4
Young	656	652	-4	-0.6
Other (a)	29	30	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,038</b>	<b>21,728</b>	<b>-310</b>	<b>-1.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7e - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,344	1,322	-22	-1.6
Albury	3,263	3,178	-85	-2.6
Box Hill	2,251	2,178	-73	-3.2
Broadmeadows	5,094	5,034	-60	-1.2
Darebin	3,222	3,097	-125	-3.9
Deniliquin	347	348	1	0.3
Echuca	772	748	-24	-3.1
Epping	3,465	3,325	-140	-4.0
Greensborough	1,897	1,863	-34	-1.8
Heidelberg	1,408	1,384	-24	-1.7
Moreland	2,927	2,802	-125	-4.3
Newmarket	1,997	1,942	-55	-2.8
Seymour	832	839	7	0.8
Shepparton	2,280	2,301	21	0.9
Sth Melbourne	1,274	1,258	-16	-1.3
Sunbury	1,028	1,038	10	1.0
Wangaratta	1,646	1,659	13	0.8
Windsor Vic	2,702	2,661	-41	-1.5
Yarra	2,567	2,515	-52	-2.0
Other (a)	131	111	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,447</b>	<b>39,603</b>	<b>-844</b>	<b>-2.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7f - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Eastern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,384	1,380	-4	-0.3
Belgrave	552	534	-18	-3.3
Boronia	1,354	1,326	-28	-2.1
Cheltenham	1,999	1,960	-39	-2.0
Cranbourne	2,291	2,296	5	0.2
Dandenong	2,961	2,970	9	0.3
Fountain Gate	2,441	2,366	-75	-3.1
Frankston	2,956	2,924	-32	-1.1
Glen Waverley	1,210	1,194	-16	-1.3
Hastings	751	742	-9	-1.2
Lilydale	1,539	1,507	-32	-2.1
Mornington	581	561	-20	-3.4
Morwell	3,701	3,670	-31	-0.8
Oakleigh	1,882	1,840	-42	-2.2
Pakenham	1,126	1,131	5	0.4
Ringwood	2,148	2,081	-67	-3.1
Rosebud	1,018	1,052	34	3.3
Rowville	654	649	-5	-0.8
Sale	1,159	1,137	-22	-1.9
Springvale	2,156	2,131	-25	-1.2
Warragul	859	871	12	1.4
Wonthaggi	1,013	998	-15	-1.5
Other (a)	108	93	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,843</b>	<b>35,413</b>	<b>-430</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



**Table 7g - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

West Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	320	324	4	1.3
Ballarat	3,808	3,774	-34	-0.9
Bendigo	3,676	3,594	-82	-2.2
Colac	581	575	-6	-1.0
Corio	2,106	2,079	-27	-1.3
Footscray	1,912	1,863	-49	-2.6
Geelong	3,508	3,436	-72	-2.1
Hamilton	443	460	17	3.8
Horsham	839	845	6	0.7
Maryborough	795	772	-23	-2.9
Melton	2,247	2,276	29	1.3
Mildura	2,254	2,304	50	2.2
Newport	1,253	1,225	-28	-2.2
Portland	427	406	-21	-4.9
Stawell	218	207	-11	-5.0
Sunshine	3,797	3,828	31	0.8
Swan Hill	909	886	-23	-2.5
Warrnambool	1,004	1,004	0	0.0
Watergardens	3,799	3,740	-59	-1.6
Werribee	4,985	4,958	-27	-0.5
West Victoria	20	21	%	%
Other (a)	76	76	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,977</b>	<b>38,653</b>	<b>-324</b>	<b>-0.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7h - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	966	958	-8	-0.8
Ayr	588	564	-24	-4.1
Biloela	362	363	1	0.3
Bowen	583	557	-26	-4.5
Cairns Aplin	5,926	5,858	-68	-1.1
Charters Towers	583	555	-28	-4.8
Emerald	640	643	3	0.5
Gladstone	2,161	2,111	-50	-2.3
Indigenous Service Centre	1,797	1,824	27	1.5
Ingham	494	487	-7	-1.4
Innisfail	1,151	1,092	-59	-5.1
Longreach	213	207	-6	-2.8
Mackay	3,948	3,869	-79	-2.0
Mareeba	1,051	1,028	-23	-2.2
Mossman	662	646	-16	-2.4
Mt Isa	1,071	1,080	9	0.8
Normanton	170	193	23	13.5
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	178	165	-13	-7.3
Palm Island	352	360	8	2.3
Rockhampton	3,523	3,455	-68	-1.9
Thursday Is	198	203	5	2.5
TSV Ross River Rd	6,605	6,354	-251	-3.8
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	476	457	-19	-4.0
Whitsunday	774	764	-10	-1.3
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	547	545	-2	-0.4
Yeppoon	883	863	-20	-2.3
Other (a)	198	229	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,100</b>	<b>35,430</b>	<b>-670</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	4,321	4,245	-76	-1.8
Caboolture	4,577	4,468	-109	-2.4
Caloundra	1,913	1,833	-80	-4.2
Cherbourg	400	380	-20	-5.0
Chermside	1,536	1,485	-51	-3.3
Deception Bay	1,774	1,682	-92	-5.2
Fortitude Valley	1,852	1,818	-34	-1.8
Gympie	1,890	1,855	-35	-1.9
Hervey Bay	2,409	2,386	-23	-1.0
Kawana Waters	817	813	-4	-0.5
Kingaroy	1,002	995	-7	-0.7
Margate	1,446	1,447	1	0.1
Maroochydore	2,088	2,054	-34	-1.6
Maryborough	1,789	1,783	-6	-0.3
Mitchelton	1,997	1,949	-48	-2.4
Mt Gravatt	2,960	2,964	4	0.1
Nambour	1,475	1,427	-48	-3.3
Noosa	1,154	1,140	-14	-1.2
Nundah	2,074	2,062	-12	-0.6
South Brisbane	1,424	1,423	-1	-0.1
Stones Corner	2,270	2,271	1	0.0
Strathpine	2,565	2,512	-53	-2.1
Toowong	1,421	1,385	-36	-2.5
Other (a)	169	151	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,323</b>	<b>44,528</b>	<b>-795</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7j - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre**

South Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	911	913	2	0.2
Beenleigh	3,486	3,413	-73	-2.1
Biggera Waters	3,689	3,699	10	0.3
Browns Plains	2,611	2,582	-29	-1.1
Capalaba	1,123	1,120	-3	-0.3
Charleville	317	325	8	2.5
Cleveland	1,449	1,423	-26	-1.8
Dalby	972	968	-4	-0.4
Goodna	2,454	2,361	-93	-3.8
Goondiwindi	438	430	-8	-1.8
Inala	2,997	2,957	-40	-1.3
Ipswich	4,644	4,512	-132	-2.8
Nerang	3,885	3,807	-78	-2.0
Palm Beach	4,194	4,075	-119	-2.8
Roma	269	284	15	5.6
South Queensland	67	63	%	%
Southport	586	583	-3	-0.5
Stanthorpe	504	545	41	8.1
Toowoomba	3,987	3,905	-82	-2.1
Warwick	638	616	-22	-3.4
Woodridge	3,183	3,185	2	0.1
Wynnum	1,248	1,237	-11	-0.9
Other (a)	50	56	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,702</b>	<b>43,059</b>	<b>-643</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7k - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

South Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,237	1,219	-18	-1.5
Broken Hill	1,008	1,006	-2	-0.2
Ceduna	331	341	10	3.0
Cooper Pedy	227	220	-7	-3.1
Elizabeth	4,669	4,613	-56	-1.2
Enfield	2,138	2,151	13	0.6
Gawler	1,869	1,865	-4	-0.2
Glenelg	1,085	1,084	-1	-0.1
Kadina	961	950	-11	-1.1
Kilkenny	2,026	1,998	-28	-1.4
Marion	3,391	3,271	-120	-3.5
Modbury	2,751	2,695	-56	-2.0
Mt Barker	1,010	1,021	11	1.1
Mt Gambier	1,594	1,596	2	0.1
Murray Bridge	1,345	1,325	-20	-1.5
Noarlunga	4,280	4,198	-82	-1.9
Norwood	2,337	2,280	-57	-2.4
Port Adelaide	2,082	2,050	-32	-1.5
Port Augusta	1,103	1,113	10	0.9
Port Lincoln	730	719	-11	-1.5
Port Pirie	1,332	1,311	-21	-1.6
Salisbury	4,583	4,573	-10	-0.2
South Australia	27	23	%	%
Torrensvile	2,377	2,340	-37	-1.6
Victor Harbor	913	891	-22	-2.4
Whyalla	1,330	1,324	-6	-0.5
Other (a)	36	32	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,772</b>	<b>46,209</b>	<b>-563</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 71 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Western Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,537	1,523	-14	-0.9
Armadale	2,858	2,933	75	2.6
Bunbury	3,387	3,354	-33	-1.0
Busselton	1,508	1,534	26	1.7
Cannington	3,081	3,104	23	0.7
Carnarvon	573	557	-16	-2.8
Esperance	442	467	25	5.7
Fremantle	2,221	2,193	-28	-1.3
Geraldton	2,276	2,245	-31	-1.4
Gosnells	2,566	2,572	6	0.2
Innaloo	2,075	2,082	7	0.3
Joondalup	3,811	3,894	83	2.2
Kalgoorlie	1,169	1,198	29	2.5
Karratha	533	563	30	5.6
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	243	255	12	4.9
Mandurah	3,178	3,238	60	1.9
Meekatharra	320	324	4	1.3
Midland	3,613	3,599	-14	-0.4
Mirrabooka	3,651	3,645	-6	-0.2
Morley	3,399	3,455	56	1.6
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	304	324	20	6.6
Northam	1,717	1,735	18	1.0
Rockingham	3,947	4,001	54	1.4
South Hedland	695	678	-17	-2.4
Success	2,084	2,126	42	2.0
Victoria Park	3,796	3,805	9	0.2
Warwick Grove	1,679	1,696	17	1.0
Western Australia	35	39	%	%
Other (a)	172	162	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,870</b>	<b>57,301</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>0.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7m - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Tasmania and North Australia Service Zones by Service Centre	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Bridgewater	1,174	1,206	32	2.7
Burnie	1,675	1,697	22	1.3
Devonport	1,613	1,629	16	1.0
Glenorchy	1,832	1,836	4	0.2
Hobart	1,712	1,735	23	1.3
Huonville	470	473	3	0.6
Launceston	4,522	4,602	80	1.8
Rosny Park	1,766	1,728	-38	-2.2
Tasmania	34	32	%	%
Other (a)	48	43	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,846</b>	<b>14,981</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>North Australia</b>				
Alice Springs	1,077	1,107	30	2.8
Angurugu RSC	182	184	2	1.1
Borroloola	221	227	6	2.7
Broome	930	936	6	0.6
Casuarina	1,304	1,278	-26	-2.0
Central Australia	2,716	2,713	-3	-0.1
Darwin	542	531	-11	-2.0
Derby	539	532	-7	-1.3
Fitzroy Crossing	365	346	-19	-5.2
Galiwinku RSC	345	356	11	3.2
Halls Creek	388	399	11	2.8
Hermannsburg RSC	112	116	4	3.6
Katherine	444	436	-8	-1.8
Kimberley Katherine	1,653	1,659	6	0.4
Kununurra	418	457	39	9.3
Maningrida	639	582	-57	-8.9
Nhulunbuy	187	194	7	3.7
Northern Region	1,629	1,662	33	2.0
Palmerston	1,573	1,514	-59	-3.8
Papunya RSC	67	74	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	67	77	%	%
Tennant Creek	336	327	-9	-2.7
Tiwi Islands	327	342	15	4.6
Wadeye	395	387	-8	-2.0
Yuendumu RSC	156	144	-12	-7.7
Other (a)	21	21	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,633</b>	<b>16,601</b>	<b>-32</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7n - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Other Service Zone by Service Centre and Australian Total	May 2016	June 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Other</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	1,019	875	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	2,258	2,063	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-67	-91	%	%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>517,742</b>	<b>511,245</b>	<b>-6,497</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

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

Notes:

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



**Table 8 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
Fortnightly Earnings and Sex, Fortnight Ending 17 June 2016**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.2	82.9	83.8
Earned an income	14.8	17.1	16.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.8	1.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.3	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.8	1.7
Over \$316.00	9.5	10.6	10.2
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>111,669</b>	<b>182,707</b>	<b>294,376</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.0	72.9	73.8
Earned an income	24.0	27.1	26.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.2	2.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.0	3.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.5	2.5
Over \$316.00	15.8	18.7	17.8
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>62,586</b>	<b>152,822</b>	<b>215,408</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	81.9	78.4	79.6
Earned an income	18.1	21.6	20.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.0	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	2.6	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.1	2.0
Over \$316.00	11.8	14.3	13.4
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>174,255</b>	<b>335,529</b>	<b>509,784</b>

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

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

## Payment History

### Youth Allowance

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

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

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

### **Youth Training Allowance**

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

### **Widow Allowance**

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

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

### **Mature Age Allowance**

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

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

### **Comparability of Data**

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

- the method of counting recipients;
- the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient numbers;
- the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998;
- the way 'job seeker' is defined;
- the way duration is calculated;
- 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 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

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

**Service Centre**

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

**Service Zone**

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

**Short-term recipients**

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

**Widow Allowance (WA)**

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

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

**Youth Training Allowance (YTA)**

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

**Youth Allowance (YA)**

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

Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, 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:**

[IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au](mailto:IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au)

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

Director  
Income Support Information  
Social Security Performance and Analysis Branch  
Social Policy Group  
Department of Social Services  
GPO Box 9820  
Canberra, ACT, 2601