

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

This publication can be found on the Department of Social Services website at [DSS - Labour Market and Related Payments Publication](http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp) (<http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>).

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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 22 October 2014.

Statistical Highlights – August 2014

Between August 2013 and August 2014

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 3.6 per cent** overall from 807 175 to 836 048.

- NSA recipients increased 4.7 per cent from 697 212 to 729 716.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 3.3 per cent from 109 963 to 106 332.

The number of job seekers **increased 2.3 per cent** overall from 393 998 to 402 971.

- NSA job seekers increased 2.3 per cent from 344 442 to 352 315.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 2.2 per cent from 49 556 to 50 656.

Long-term job seekers increased 8.6 per cent from 227 053 to 246 504.

Short-term job seekers decreased 6.3 per cent from 166 945 to 156 467.

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

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

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

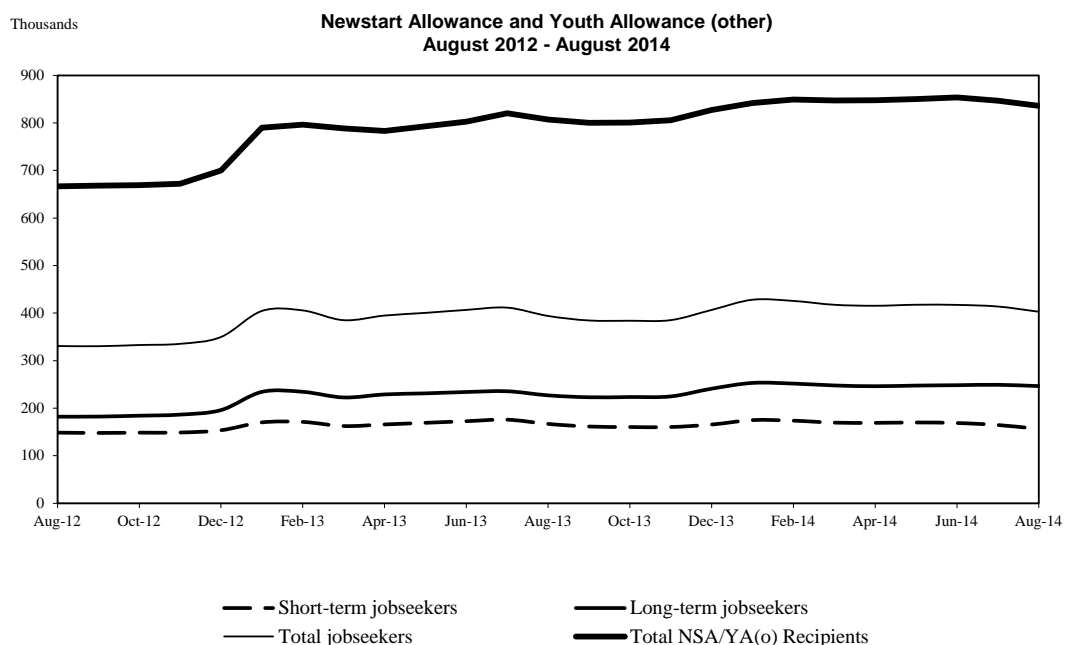


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
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
Variation July 2014 - August 2014							
Number	2398	-5101	-5433	8531	-147	-247	-337
Per cent	0.5	-0.7	-4.9	3.7	-2.1	-3.1	-1.3

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	August 2014 Persons	August 2014 Males	August 2014 Females	July 2014	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	231,423	143,988	87,435	238,922	-7,499	-3.1
CPS Recipients (a)	236	171	65	247	-11	-4.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,996	7,174	5,822	13,155	-159	-1.2
Received a payment	218,191	136,643	81,548	225,520	-7,329	-3.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,655	2,045	5,610	7,757	-102	-1.3
Other activities without job search (d)	38,565	22,720	15,845	39,048	-483	-1.2
Incapacitated (e)	24,173	13,951	10,222	24,352	-179	-0.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,092	7,416	5,676	13,351	-259	-1.9
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	134,706	90,511	44,195	141,012	-6,306	-4.5
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	37,354	20,947	16,407	35,439	1,915	5.4
Long Term Newstart Allowees	498,293	239,922	258,371	495,895	2,398	0.5
CPS Recipients (a)	1,782	1,193	589	1,828	-46	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	17,232	7,041	10,191	15,905	1,327	8.3
Received a payment	479,279	231,688	247,591	478,162	1,117	0.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	55,393	12,111	43,282	55,077	316	0.6
Other activities without job search (d)	122,167	56,474	65,693	120,838	1,329	1.1
Incapacitated (e)	44,257	21,531	22,726	43,388	869	2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	39,853	17,839	22,014	40,012	-159	-0.4
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	217,609	123,733	93,876	218,847	-1,238	-0.6
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	165,262	82,439	82,823	157,963	7,299	4.6
All Newstart Allowees	729,716	383,910	345,806	734,817	-5,101	-0.7
CPS Recipients (a)	2,018	1,364	654	2,075	-57	-2.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	30,228	14,215	16,013	29,060	1,168	4.0
Received a payment	697,470	368,331	329,139	703,682	-6,212	-0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	63,048	14,156	48,892	62,834	214	0.3
Other activities without job search (d)	160,732	79,194	81,538	159,886	846	0.5
Incapacitated (e)	68,430	35,482	32,948	67,740	690	1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	52,945	25,255	27,690	53,363	-418	-0.8
All NSA job seekers (g)	352,315	214,244	138,071	359,859	-7,544	-2.1
All NSA training/education (h)	202,616	103,386	99,230	193,402	9,214	4.8

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

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

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

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	August 2014 Persons	August 2014 Males	August 2014 Females	July 2014	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	45,742	25,647	20,095	48,800	-3,058	-6.3
CPS Recipients (a)	6	5	1	8	-2	-25.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,103	480	623	1,114	-11	-1.0
Received a payment	44,633	25,162	19,471	47,678	-3,045	-6.4
Other activities without job search (c)	19,095	11,347	7,748	20,062	-967	-4.8
Incapacitated (d)	2,052	1,040	1,012	2,094	-42	-2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,725	786	939	1,871	-146	-7.8
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	21,761	11,989	9,772	23,651	-1,890	-8.0
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	14,431	7,874	6,557	14,225	206	1.4
Long Term Youth Allowees	60,590	31,297	29,293	62,965	-2,375	-3.8
CPS Recipients (a)	19	16	3	25	-6	-24.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,598	663	935	1,628	-30	-1.8
Received a payment	58,973	30,618	28,355	61,312	-2,339	-3.8
Other activities without job search (c)	25,134	13,273	11,861	25,936	-802	-3.1
Incapacitated (d)	2,591	1,172	1,419	2,565	26	1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,353	966	1,387	2,438	-85	-3.5
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	28,895	15,207	13,688	30,373	-1,478	-4.9
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	26,303	13,287	13,016	25,973	330	1.3
All Youth Allowees	106,332	56,944	49,388	111,765	-5,433	-4.9
CPS Recipients (a)	25	21	4	33	-8	-24.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,701	1,143	1,558	2,742	-41	-1.5
Received a payment	103,606	55,780	47,826	108,990	-5,384	-4.9
Other activities without job search (c)	44,229	24,620	19,609	45,998	-1,769	-3.8
Incapacitated (d)	4,643	2,212	2,431	4,659	-16	-0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,078	1,752	2,326	4,309	-231	-5.4
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	50,656	27,196	23,460	54,024	-3,368	-6.2
All YA (other) training/education (g)	40,734	21,161	19,573	40,198	536	1.3

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

**Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
Time Series**

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,467	246,504	402,971
Variation July 2014 - August 2014			
Number	-8196	-2716	-10912
Per cent	-5.0	-1.1	-2.6

Notes:

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

Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State

State	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	47,131	44,129	-3,002	-6.4
Victoria	40,337	38,390	-1,947	-4.8
Queensland	40,757	39,083	-1,674	-4.1
South Australia	12,231	11,878	-353	-2.9
Western Australia	16,632	15,704	-928	-5.6
Tasmania	3,847	3,749	-98	-2.5
Northern Territory	2,048	1,973	-75	-3.7
Australian Capital Territory	1,677	1,557	-120	-7.2
Australia	164,663	156,467	-8,196	-5.0
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	77,095	75,960	-1,135	-1.5
Victoria	57,553	56,702	-851	-1.5
Queensland	55,766	55,475	-291	-0.5
South Australia	22,495	22,460	-35	-0.2
Western Australia	21,098	20,847	-251	-1.2
Tasmania	8,988	8,947	-41	-0.5
Northern Territory	4,130	4,034	-96	-2.3
Australian Capital Territory	2,092	2,076	-16	-0.8
Australia	249,220	246,504	-2,716	-1.1
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	124,226	120,089	-4,137	-3.3
Victoria	97,890	95,092	-2,798	-2.9
Queensland	96,523	94,558	-1,965	-2.0
South Australia	34,726	34,338	-388	-1.1
Western Australia	37,730	36,551	-1,179	-3.1
Tasmania	12,835	12,696	-139	-1.1
Northern Territory	6,178	6,007	-171	-2.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,769	3,633	-136	-3.6
Australia	413,883	402,971	-10,912	-2.6

Notes:

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

Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and 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
Males						
Less than 18 years	1,258	1.2	268	0.2	1,526	0.6
18 - 20 years	8,441	8.2	10,757	7.7	19,198	8.0
21 - 24 years	15,264	14.9	20,856	15.0	36,120	15.0
25 - 29 years	16,106	15.7	21,306	15.3	37,412	15.5
30 - 39 years	24,067	23.5	32,216	23.2	56,283	23.3
40 - 49 years	19,216	18.7	26,807	19.3	46,023	19.1
50 - 59 years	13,353	13.0	19,921	14.3	33,274	13.8
60 years and over	4,790	4.7	6,805	4.9	11,595	4.8
Total	102,495	100.0	138,936	100.0	241,431	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,227	2.3	339	0.3	1,566	1.0
18 - 20 years	7,098	13.2	9,904	9.2	17,002	10.5
21 - 24 years	8,319	15.4	13,955	13.0	22,274	13.8
25 - 29 years	6,524	12.1	10,845	10.1	17,369	10.8
30 - 39 years	8,592	15.9	21,046	19.6	29,638	18.3
40 - 49 years	10,404	19.3	28,586	26.6	38,990	24.1
50 - 59 years	9,085	16.8	18,845	17.5	27,930	17.3
60 years and over	2,723	5.0	4,048	3.8	6,771	4.2
Total	53,972	100.0	107,568	100.0	161,540	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	2,485	1.6	607	0.2	3,092	0.8
18 - 20 years	15,539	9.9	20,661	8.4	36,200	9.0
21 - 24 years	23,583	15.1	34,811	14.1	58,394	14.5
25 - 29 years	22,630	14.5	32,151	13.0	54,781	13.6
30 - 39 years	32,659	20.9	53,262	21.6	85,921	21.3
40 - 49 years	29,620	18.9	55,393	22.5	85,013	21.1
50 - 59 years	22,438	14.3	38,766	15.7	61,204	15.2
60 years and over	7,513	4.8	10,853	4.4	18,366	4.6
Total	156,467	100.0	246,504	100.0	402,971	100.0

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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
AS1 Community Team	28	29	%	%
Bankstown	3,643	3,464	-179	-4.9
Bondi Junction	1,161	1,135	-26	-2.2
Burwood	1,822	1,752	-70	-3.8
Cabramatta	2,614	2,536	-78	-3.0
Camden	774	707	-67	-8.7
Campbelltown	2,180	2,108	-72	-3.3
Campsie	2,527	2,487	-40	-1.6
Caringbah	941	861	-80	-8.5
Chatswood	1,316	1,256	-60	-4.6
Darlinghurst	1,535	1,523	-12	-0.8
Fairfield	2,886	2,815	-71	-2.5
Hornsby	1,082	1,029	-53	-4.9
Hurstville	1,642	1,556	-86	-5.2
Ingleburn	1,297	1,220	-77	-5.9
Leichhardt	1,283	1,195	-88	-6.9
Liverpool	3,779	3,664	-115	-3.0
Maroubra	1,580	1,508	-72	-4.6
Marrickville	1,439	1,365	-74	-5.1
Northern Beaches	1,366	1,268	-98	-7.2
Redfern	1,333	1,323	-10	-0.8
Rockdale	1,499	1,469	-30	-2.0
Ryde	1,227	1,178	-49	-4.0
Sutherland	905	834	-71	-7.8
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	39,859	38,282	-1,577	-4.0

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,035	992	-43	-4.2
Brunswick Heads	903	846	-57	-6.3
Byron Bay	322	302	-20	-6.2
Casino	646	632	-14	-2.2
Cessnock	872	858	-14	-1.6
Charlestown	2,033	1,977	-56	-2.8
Coffs Harbour	2,052	1,984	-68	-3.3
Comm Support Team	23	25	%	%
Ettalong	823	771	-52	-6.3
Forster	876	869	-7	-0.8
Gosford	1,750	1,679	-71	-4.1
Grafton	899	885	-14	-1.6
Kempsey	864	862	-2	-0.2
King Street	1,247	1,201	-46	-3.7
Kurri Kurri	518	516	-2	-0.4
Lakehaven	1,740	1,715	-25	-1.4
Lismore	1,658	1,607	-51	-3.1
Maitland	1,620	1,600	-20	-1.2
Mayfield	1,058	1,025	-33	-3.1
Murwillumbah	681	655	-26	-3.8
Muswellbrook	723	727	4	0.6
Nambucca Heads	734	715	-19	-2.6
Nelson Bay	549	530	-19	-3.5
Port Macquarie	1,780	1,725	-55	-3.1
Raymond Terrace	1,029	1,042	13	1.3
Singleton	392	378	-14	-3.6
Taree	1,626	1,591	-35	-2.2
The Entrance	1,282	1,269	-13	-1.0
Toronto	976	938	-38	-3.9
Tweed Heads	1,688	1,636	-52	-3.1
Wallsend	1,555	1,510	-45	-2.9
Woy Woy	601	573	-28	-4.7
Wyong	694	661	-33	-4.8
Yamba	418	416	-2	-0.5
Other (a)	2	3	%	%
Total	35,669	34,715	-954	-2.7

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	974	939	-35	-3.6
Auburn	2,342	2,211	-131	-5.6
Bathurst	769	766	-3	-0.4
Baulkham Hills	974	869	-105	-10.8
Blacktown	3,355	3,146	-209	-6.2
Bourke	354	335	-19	-5.4
Dubbo	1,877	1,806	-71	-3.8
Glen Innes	356	354	-2	-0.6
Gunnedah	447	462	15	3.4
Hawkesbury	982	938	-44	-4.5
Inverell	664	678	14	2.1
Katoomba	660	611	-49	-7.4
Lightning Ridge	181	173	-8	-4.4
Lithgow	715	693	-22	-3.1
Merrylands	2,330	2,208	-122	-5.2
Moree	431	435	4	0.9
Mt Druitt	2,501	2,365	-136	-5.4
Mudgee	596	593	-3	-0.5
Narrabri	361	362	1	0.3
Orange	911	903	-8	-0.9
Parkes	708	702	-6	-0.8
Parramatta	2,396	2,297	-99	-4.1
Penrith	2,002	1,927	-75	-3.7
Springwood	421	395	-26	-6.2
St Marys	1,595	1,539	-56	-3.5
Tamworth	1,843	1,842	-1	-0.1
Walgett	162	155	-7	-4.3
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	30,907	29,704	-1,203	-3.9

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	727	708	-19	-2.6
Bega	719	694	-25	-3.5
Belconnen	1,135	1,096	-39	-3.4
Bowral	445	425	-20	-4.5
Braddon	798	781	-17	-2.1
Cooma	401	370	-31	-7.7
Corrimal	1,120	1,077	-43	-3.8
Cowra	476	466	-10	-2.1
Dapto	1,208	1,145	-63	-5.2
Goulburn	757	767	10	1.3
Griffith	551	555	4	0.7
Gungahlin	396	389	-7	-1.8
Leeton	390	374	-16	-4.1
Narooma	257	259	2	0.8
Nowra	1,778	1,749	-29	-1.6
Queanbeyan	580	571	-9	-1.6
Shellharbour	1,448	1,391	-57	-3.9
Tuggeranong	909	859	-50	-5.5
Tumut	284	282	-2	-0.7
Ulladulla	471	471	0	0.0
Wagga	1,127	1,094	-33	-2.9
Woden	500	470	-30	-6.0
Wollongong	1,414	1,346	-68	-4.8
Yass	88	83	%	%
Young	553	538	-15	-2.7
Other (a)	4	7	%	%
Total	18,536	17,967	-569	-3.1

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,259	1,202	-57	-4.5
Albury	2,463	2,466	3	0.1
Box Hill	2,228	2,085	-143	-6.4
Broadmeadows	4,072	3,920	-152	-3.7
Darebin	2,782	2,697	-85	-3.1
Deniliquin	253	241	-12	-4.7
Echuca	532	553	21	3.9
Epping	2,909	2,876	-33	-1.1
Greensborough	1,743	1,681	-62	-3.6
Heidelberg	1,324	1,284	-40	-3.0
Moreland	2,806	2,638	-168	-6.0
Newmarket	1,616	1,570	-46	-2.8
Seymour	721	702	-19	-2.6
Shepparton	1,871	1,829	-42	-2.2
Sth Melbourne	1,077	1,050	-27	-2.5
Sunbury	950	946	-4	-0.4
Wangaratta	1,365	1,328	-37	-2.7
Windsor Vic	2,610	2,521	-89	-3.4
Yarra	2,257	2,185	-72	-3.2
Other (a)	9	9	%	%
Total	34,847	33,783	-1,064	-3.1

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,053	1,034	-19	-1.8
Belgrave	544	521	-23	-4.2
Boronia	1,265	1,220	-45	-3.6
Cheltenham	1,799	1,725	-74	-4.1
Cranbourne	1,886	1,840	-46	-2.4
Dandenong	2,857	2,743	-114	-4.0
Fountain Gate	2,489	2,417	-72	-2.9
Frankston	2,661	2,641	-20	-0.8
Glen Waverley	1,266	1,198	-68	-5.4
Hastings	604	597	-7	-1.2
Lilydale	1,437	1,416	-21	-1.5
Mornington	579	548	-31	-5.4
Morwell	2,381	2,350	-31	-1.3
Oakleigh	1,616	1,564	-52	-3.2
Pakenham	1,080	1,059	-21	-1.9
Ringwood	1,793	1,691	-102	-5.7
Rosebud	856	830	-26	-3.0
Rowville	737	703	-34	-4.6
Sale	739	725	-14	-1.9
Springvale	2,085	2,032	-53	-2.5
Warragul	678	667	-11	-1.6
Wonthaggi	972	915	-57	-5.9
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	31,377	30,436	-941	-3.0

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	204	205	1	0.5
Ballarat	3,028	2,991	-37	-1.2
Bendigo	2,561	2,507	-54	-2.1
Colac	651	616	-35	-5.4
Corio	1,730	1,704	-26	-1.5
Footscray	1,601	1,500	-101	-6.3
Geelong	3,467	3,381	-86	-2.5
Hamilton	412	392	-20	-4.9
Horsham	701	701	0	0.0
Maryborough	547	555	8	1.5
Melton	2,032	1,991	-41	-2.0
Mildura	1,873	1,853	-20	-1.1
Newport	1,136	1,091	-45	-4.0
Portland	367	347	-20	-5.4
Stawell	177	180	3	1.7
Sunshine	3,696	3,606	-90	-2.4
Swan Hill	695	690	-5	-0.7
Warrnambool	870	835	-35	-4.0
Watergardens	3,620	3,503	-117	-3.2
Werribee	4,428	4,333	-95	-2.1
Other (a)	2	1	%	%
Total	33,798	32,982	-816	-2.4

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	940	922	-18	-1.9
Ayr	429	419	-10	-2.3
Biloela	206	206	0	0.0
Bowen	451	434	-17	-3.8
Cairns Aplin	5,377	5,320	-57	-1.1
Charters Towers	468	449	-19	-4.1
Emerald	489	485	-4	-0.8
Gladstone	1,110	1,170	60	5.4
Indigenous Service Centre	759	783	24	3.2
Ingham	417	382	-35	-8.4
Innisfail	978	962	-16	-1.6
Longreach	160	147	-13	-8.1
Mackay	2,154	2,118	-36	-1.7
Mareeba	789	811	22	2.8
Mossman	512	494	-18	-3.5
Mt Isa	656	649	-7	-1.1
Normanton	52	53	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	139	133	-6	-4.3
Palm Island	73	75	%	%
Rockhampton	2,213	2,188	-25	-1.1
Thursday Is	63	59	%	%
Townsville	4,847	4,858	11	0.2
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	247	250	3	1.2
Whitsunday	659	649	-10	-1.5
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	434	432	-2	-0.5
Yeppoon	575	562	-13	-2.3
Other (a)	55	47	%	%
Total	25,252	25,057	-195	-0.8

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,355	3,269	-86	-2.6
Caboolture	3,483	3,447	-36	-1.0
Caloundra	1,517	1,448	-69	-4.5
Cherbourg	261	268	7	2.7
Chermside	1,358	1,333	-25	-1.8
Deception Bay	2,706	2,713	7	0.3
Fortitude Valley	1,326	1,268	-58	-4.4
Gympie	1,539	1,480	-59	-3.8
Hervey Bay	1,807	1,811	4	0.2
Kawana Waters	742	671	-71	-9.6
Kingaroy	808	791	-17	-2.1
Margate	63	40	%	%
Maroochydore	1,739	1,640	-99	-5.7
Maryborough	1,353	1,334	-19	-1.4
Mitchelton	1,625	1,512	-113	-7.0
Mt Gravatt	2,459	2,434	-25	-1.0
Nambour	1,190	1,146	-44	-3.7
Noosa	1,238	1,168	-70	-5.7
Nundah	1,599	1,574	-25	-1.6
South Brisbane	1,148	1,124	-24	-2.1
Stones Corner	2,137	2,081	-56	-2.6
Strathpine	2,052	1,930	-122	-5.9
Toowong	1,446	1,383	-63	-4.4
Other (a)	2	0	%	%
Total	36,953	35,865	-1,088	-2.9

- 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	664	655	-9	-1.4
Beenleigh	2,531	2,461	-70	-2.8
Biggera Waters	3,775	3,738	-37	-1.0
Browns Plains	2,238	2,183	-55	-2.5
Capalaba	933	901	-32	-3.4
Charleville	185	194	9	4.9
Cleveland	1,202	1,215	13	1.1
Dalby	535	569	34	6.4
Goodna	1,779	1,742	-37	-2.1
Goondiwindi	357	375	18	5.0
Inala	2,117	2,054	-63	-3.0
Ipswich	3,263	3,226	-37	-1.1
Nerang	3,870	3,750	-120	-3.1
Palm Beach	4,092	4,023	-69	-1.7
Roma	153	152	-1	-0.7
Southport	156	105	-51	-32.7
Stanthorpe	374	382	8	2.1
Toowoomba	2,102	2,172	70	3.3
Warwick	493	473	-20	-4.1
Woodridge	2,299	2,236	-63	-2.7
Wynnum	1,051	1,025	-26	-2.5
Other (a)	157	28	%	%
Total	34,326	33,659	-667	-1.9

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	915	934	19	2.1
Broken Hill	759	732	-27	-3.6
Ceduna	234	217	-17	-7.3
Cooper Pedy	115	113	-2	-1.7
Elizabeth	3,283	3,350	67	2.0
Enfield	1,837	1,803	-34	-1.9
Gawler	1,414	1,383	-31	-2.2
Glenelg	934	902	-32	-3.4
Kadina	748	777	29	3.9
Kilkenny	1,610	1,602	-8	-0.5
Marion	2,572	2,511	-61	-2.4
Modbury	2,171	2,158	-13	-0.6
Mt Barker	693	684	-9	-1.3
Mt Gambier	1,282	1,254	-28	-2.2
Murray Bridge	1,064	1,046	-18	-1.7
Noarlunga	3,061	3,001	-60	-2.0
Norwood	1,893	1,886	-7	-0.4
Port Adelaide	1,677	1,676	-1	-0.1
Port Augusta	794	781	-13	-1.6
Port Lincoln	637	606	-31	-4.9
Port Pirie	1,009	994	-15	-1.5
Salisbury	3,192	3,160	-32	-1.0
Torrens ville	1,742	1,695	-47	-2.7
Victor Harbor	780	766	-14	-1.8
Whyalla	906	895	-11	-1.2
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
Total	35,322	34,926	-396	-1.1

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,283	1,213	-70	-5.5
Armadale	1,616	1,605	-11	-0.7
Bunbury	2,337	2,295	-42	-1.8
Busselton	1,070	1,051	-19	-1.8
Cannington	2,167	2,088	-79	-3.6
Carnarvon	196	188	-8	-4.1
Esperance	390	387	-3	-0.8
Fremantle	1,505	1,531	26	1.7
Geraldton	1,563	1,519	-44	-2.8
Gosnells	1,586	1,536	-50	-3.2
Innaloo	1,388	1,341	-47	-3.4
Joondalup	2,273	2,137	-136	-6.0
Kalgoorlie	806	814	8	1.0
Karratha	435	388	-47	-10.8
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	81	70	%	%
Mandurah	1,917	1,839	-78	-4.1
Meekatharra	221	209	-12	-5.4
Midland	2,092	2,038	-54	-2.6
Mirrabooka	2,267	2,209	-58	-2.6
Morley	2,403	2,330	-73	-3.0
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	115	108	-7	-6.1
Northam	1,251	1,206	-45	-3.6
Rockingham	2,331	2,274	-57	-2.4
South Hedland	478	471	-7	-1.5
Spearwood	1,272	597	-675	-53.1
Success	99	678	%	%
Victoria Park	2,184	2,117	-67	-3.1
Warwick Grove	1,130	1,086	-44	-3.9
Other (a)	7	4	%	%
Total	36,463	35,329	-1,134	-3.1

- 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,052	1,046	-6	-0.6
Burnie	1,600	1,570	-30	-1.9
Devonport	1,446	1,442	-4	-0.3
Glenorchy	1,448	1,393	-55	-3.8
Hobart	1,536	1,536	0	0.0
Huonville	398	400	2	0.5
Launceston	4,055	3,994	-61	-1.5
Rosny Park	1,302	1,310	8	0.6
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
Total	12,837	12,692	-145	-1.1
North Australia				
Alice Springs	705	706	1	0.1
Angurugu RSC	97	110	%	%
Borrooloola	21	26	%	%
Broome	514	507	-7	-1.4
Casuarina	699	665	-34	-4.9
Central Aust RST	1,337	1,258	-79	-5.9
Darwin	409	377	-32	-7.8
Derby	161	149	-12	-7.5
Fitzroy Crossing	67	66	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	84	93	%	%
Halls Creek	206	160	-46	-22.3
Katherine	247	244	-3	-1.2
Kimberley RST	85	103	%	%
Kununurra	175	166	-9	-5.1
Maningrida	148	119	-29	-19.6
Nhulunbuy	20	<20	na	na
Palmerston	928	906	-22	-2.4
Tennant Creek	270	265	-5	-1.9
Tiwi Islands	125	122	-3	-2.4
Top End East	248	237	-11	-4.4
Top End Hub	36	31	%	%
Top End South	379	376	-3	-0.8
Top End West	383	391	8	2.1
Wadeye	226	234	8	3.5
Yuendumu RSC	37	34	%	%
Other (a)	13	na	na	na
Total	7,620	7,373	-247	-3.2

– 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	July 2014	August 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	2	3	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	162	196	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-47	2	%	%
Australia	413,883	402,971	-10,912	-2.6

(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 22 August 2014**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
Males			
Did not earn an income	86.3	82.4	84.0
Earned an income	13.7	17.6	16.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.4	2.1	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.7	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.9	1.7
Over \$316.00	8.4	10.2	9.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	101,450	138,852	240,302
Females			
Did not earn an income	75.3	70.2	71.9
Earned an income	24.7	29.8	28.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.6	2.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.1	3.4	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	2.7	2.6
Over \$316.00	16.3	20.2	18.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	53,105	107,257	160,362
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.5	77.1	79.2
Earned an income	17.5	22.9	20.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.3	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.4	3.0	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	11.1	14.6	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	154,555	246,109	400,664

Note:

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

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance.

Partner Allowance was introduced in October 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

- Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.

- Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

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

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

For More Information

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

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

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

Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes 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>). A statistical overview is published on an annual basis 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>).