

# **Labour Market and Related Payments**

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## **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>).

**August 2016**

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## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 02 November 2016.

# Statistical Highlights – August 2016

## Between August 2015 and August 2016

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 0.4 per cent** overall from 853 662 to 857 195.

- NSA recipients increased 1.1 per cent from 753 622 to 762 134.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 5.0 per cent from 100 040 to 95 061.

The number of job seekers **decreased 6.2 per cent** overall from 530 613 to 497 501.

- NSA job seekers decreased 5.5 per cent from 454 151 to 429 368.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 10.9 per cent from 76 462 to 68 133.

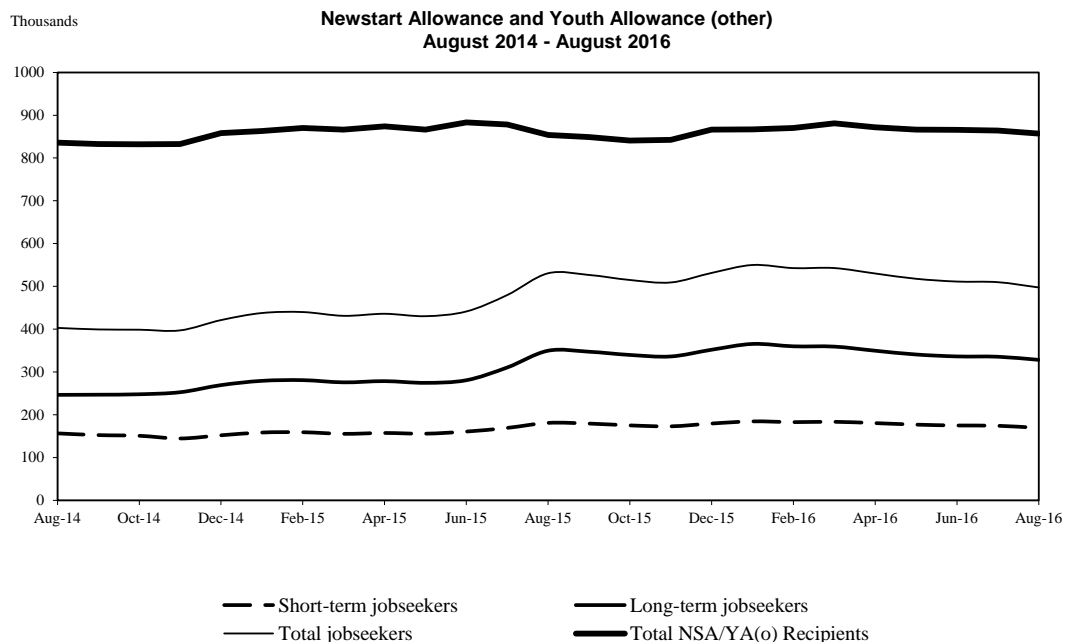
Long-term job seekers decreased 6.1 per cent from 349 635 to 328 317.

Short-term job seekers decreased 6.5 per cent from 180 978 to 169 184.

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	..	..	..	..	..
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
July 2016	555,399	765,756	98,389	210,161	4,152	3,863	18,067
August 2016	553,958	762,134	95,061	223,367	4,050	3,732	17,724
Variation July 2016 - August 2016							
Number	-1,441	-3,622	-3,328	13,206	-102	-131	-343
Per cent	-0.3	-0.5	-3.4	6.3	-2.5	-3.4	-1.9

## 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 2016 Persons	August 2016 Males	August 2016 Females	July 2016	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>208,176</b>	<b>129,190</b>	<b>78,986</b>	<b>210,357</b>	<b>-2,181</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	11,855	6,665	5,190	12,212	-357	-2.9
Received a payment	196,321	122,525	73,796	198,145	-1,824	-0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	7,687	2,156	5,531	7,739	-52	-0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	9,923	5,295	4,628	9,003	920	10.2
Incapacitated (d)	26,081	15,173	10,908	25,679	402	1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	13,423	7,667	5,756	13,428	-5	0.0
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>139,207</b>	<b>92,234</b>	<b>46,973</b>	<b>142,296</b>	<b>-3,089</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	32,311	18,383	13,928	30,964	1,347	4.4
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>553,958</b>	<b>266,027</b>	<b>287,931</b>	<b>555,399</b>	<b>-1,441</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	20,698	8,391	12,307	20,102	596	3.0
Received a payment	533,260	257,636	275,624	535,297	-2,037	-0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	73,422	17,105	56,317	73,542	-120	-0.2
Other activities without job search (c)	62,051	30,054	31,997	60,518	1,533	2.5
Incapacitated (d)	58,674	29,213	29,461	56,902	1,772	3.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	48,952	22,365	26,587	49,125	-173	-0.4
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>290,161</b>	<b>158,899</b>	<b>131,262</b>	<b>295,210</b>	<b>-5,049</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	183,527	90,549	92,978	179,597	3,930	2.2
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>762,134</b>	<b>395,217</b>	<b>366,917</b>	<b>765,756</b>	<b>-3,622</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	32,553	15,056	17,497	32,314	239	0.7
Received a payment	729,581	380,161	349,420	733,442	-3,861	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	81,109	19,261	61,848	81,281	-172	-0.2
Other activities without job search (c)	71,974	35,349	36,625	69,521	2,453	3.5
Incapacitated (d)	84,755	44,386	40,369	82,581	2,174	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	62,375	30,032	32,343	62,553	-178	-0.3
<b>All NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>429,368</b>	<b>251,133</b>	<b>178,235</b>	<b>437,506</b>	<b>-8,138</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
All NSA training/education (g)	215,838	108,932	106,906	210,561	5,277	2.5

(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)	August 2016 Persons	August 2016 Males	August 2016 Females	July 2016	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>41,689</b>	<b>23,082</b>	<b>18,607</b>	<b>42,953</b>	<b>-1,264</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,175	552	623	1,189	-14	-1.2
Received a payment	40,514	22,530	17,984	41,764	-1,250	-3.0
Other activities without job search (b)	6,690	3,919	2,771	5,979	711	11.9
Incapacitated (c)	2,196	1,099	1,097	2,188	8	0.4
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,651	813	838	1,659	-8	-0.5
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>29,977</b>	<b>16,699</b>	<b>13,278</b>	<b>31,938</b>	<b>-1,961</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	12,618	6,827	5,791	12,045	573	4.8
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>53,372</b>	<b>27,240</b>	<b>26,132</b>	<b>55,436</b>	<b>-2,064</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,482	607	875	1,539	-57	-3.7
Received a payment	51,890	26,633	25,257	53,897	-2,007	-3.7
Other activities without job search (b)	8,240	4,441	3,799	8,025	215	2.7
Incapacitated (c)	3,056	1,386	1,670	3,031	25	0.8
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,438	1,040	1,398	2,472	-34	-1.4
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>38,156</b>	<b>19,766</b>	<b>18,390</b>	<b>40,369</b>	<b>-2,213</b>	<b>-5.5</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	22,066	10,919	11,147	22,048	18	0.1
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>95,061</b>	<b>50,322</b>	<b>44,739</b>	<b>98,389</b>	<b>-3,328</b>	<b>-3.4</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,657	1,159	1,498	2,728	-71	-2.6
Received a payment	92,404	49,163	43,241	95,661	-3,257	-3.4
Other activities without job search (b)	14,930	8,360	6,570	14,004	926	6.6
Incapacitated (c)	5,252	2,485	2,767	5,219	33	0.6
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,089	1,853	2,236	4,131	-42	-1.0
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>68,133</b>	<b>36,465</b>	<b>31,668</b>	<b>72,307</b>	<b>-4,174</b>	<b>-5.8</b>
All YA (other) training/education (f)	34,684	17,746	16,938	34,093	591	1.7

(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>
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
July 2016	174,234	335,579	509,813
August 2016	169,184	328,317	497,501
Variation July 2016 - August 2016			
Number	-5,050	-7,262	-12,312
Per cent	-2.9	-2.2	-2.4

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 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	42,788	41,169	-1,619	-3.8
Victoria	37,623	36,464	-1,159	-3.1
Queensland	45,887	44,188	-1,699	-3.7
South Australia	14,104	13,771	-333	-2.4
Western Australia	24,442	24,312	-130	-0.5
Tasmania	4,305	4,339	34	0.8
Northern Territory	3,513	3,422	-91	-2.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,572	1,519	-53	-3.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>174,234</b>	<b>169,184</b>	<b>-5,050</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	93,429	90,716	-2,713	-2.9
Victoria	73,621	71,038	-2,583	-3.5
Queensland	76,423	75,101	-1,322	-1.7
South Australia	31,703	31,191	-512	-1.6
Western Australia	37,233	37,356	123	0.3
Tasmania	10,856	10,848	-8	-0.1
Northern Territory	9,429	9,220	-209	-2.2
Australian Capital Territory	2,885	2,847	-38	-1.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>335,579</b>	<b>328,317</b>	<b>-7,262</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	136,217	131,885	-4,332	-3.2
Victoria	111,244	107,502	-3,742	-3.4
Queensland	122,310	119,289	-3,021	-2.5
South Australia	45,807	44,962	-845	-1.8
Western Australia	61,675	61,668	-7	0.0
Tasmania	15,161	15,187	26	0.2
Northern Territory	12,942	12,642	-300	-2.3
Australian Capital Territory	4,457	4,366	-91	-2.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>509,813</b>	<b>497,501</b>	<b>-12,312</b>	<b>-2.4</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	1,811	1.7	533	0.3	2,344	0.8
18 - 20 years	12,162	11.2	13,040	7.3	25,202	8.8
21 - 24 years	15,465	14.2	25,392	14.2	40,857	14.2
25 - 29 years	15,894	14.6	25,044	14.0	40,938	14.2
30 - 39 years	24,666	22.6	41,285	23.1	65,951	22.9
40 - 49 years	19,767	18.1	36,028	20.2	55,795	19.4
50 - 59 years	13,735	12.6	26,194	14.7	39,929	13.9
60 years and over	5,437	5.0	11,149	6.2	16,586	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>108,937</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>178,665</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>287,602</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,870	3.1	702	0.5	2,572	1.2
18 - 20 years	9,762	16.2	12,649	8.5	22,411	10.7
21 - 24 years	8,540	14.2	17,898	12.0	26,438	12.6
25 - 29 years	6,441	10.7	14,315	9.6	20,756	9.9
30 - 39 years	8,951	14.9	29,042	19.4	37,993	18.1
40 - 49 years	10,808	17.9	39,326	26.3	50,134	23.9
50 - 59 years	10,101	16.8	27,561	18.4	37,662	17.9
60 years and over	3,774	6.3	8,159	5.5	11,933	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,247</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>149,652</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>209,899</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	3,681	2.2	1,235	0.4	4,916	1.0
18 - 20 years	21,924	13.0	25,689	7.8	47,613	9.6
21 - 24 years	24,005	14.2	43,290	13.2	67,295	13.5
25 - 29 years	22,335	13.2	39,359	12.0	61,694	12.4
30 - 39 years	33,617	19.9	70,327	21.4	103,944	20.9
40 - 49 years	30,575	18.1	75,354	23.0	105,929	21.3
50 - 59 years	23,836	14.1	53,755	16.4	77,591	15.6
60 years and over	9,211	5.4	19,308	5.9	28,519	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>169,184</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>328,317</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>497,501</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,695	3,492	-203	-5.5
Bondi Junction	873	806	-67	-7.7
Burwood	1,620	1,559	-61	-3.8
Cabramatta	2,414	2,282	-132	-5.5
Camden	784	783	-1	-0.1
Campbelltown	2,348	2,263	-85	-3.6
Campsie	2,660	2,560	-100	-3.8
Caringbah	699	684	-15	-2.1
Chatswood	1,098	1,034	-64	-5.8
Darlinghurst	1,630	1,600	-30	-1.8
Fairfield	3,058	2,962	-96	-3.1
Hornsby	1,092	1,036	-56	-5.1
Hurstville	1,578	1,517	-61	-3.9
Ingleburn	1,263	1,249	-14	-1.1
Leichhardt	1,364	1,358	-6	-0.4
Liverpool	4,087	3,855	-232	-5.7
Maroubra	1,444	1,367	-77	-5.3
Marrickville	1,004	983	-21	-2.1
Northern Beaches	1,278	1,215	-63	-4.9
Redfern	1,682	1,639	-43	-2.6
Rockdale	1,425	1,358	-67	-4.7
Ryde	1,105	1,072	-33	-3.0
Sutherland	769	737	-32	-4.2
Other (a)	72	59	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,042</b>	<b>37,470</b>	<b>-1,572</b>	<b>-4.0</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,097	1,072	-25	-2.3
Brunswick Heads	895	875	-20	-2.2
Byron Bay	372	379	7	1.9
Casino	906	873	-33	-3.6
Cessnock	1,129	1,126	-3	-0.3
Charlestown	2,161	2,027	-134	-6.2
Coffs Harbour	2,283	2,226	-57	-2.5
Comm Support Team	64	76	%	%
Ettalong	866	831	-35	-4.0
Forster	924	889	-35	-3.8
Gosford	1,800	1,779	-21	-1.2
Grafton	1,050	1,004	-46	-4.4
Kempsey	1,037	1,011	-26	-2.5
King Street	1,431	1,403	-28	-2.0
Kurri Kurri	628	625	-3	-0.5
Lakehaven	1,944	1,870	-74	-3.8
Lismore	2,088	2,038	-50	-2.4
Maitland	2,176	2,145	-31	-1.4
Mayfield	1,160	1,123	-37	-3.2
Murwillumbah	798	781	-17	-2.1
Muswellbrook	838	843	5	0.6
Nambucca Heads	669	644	-25	-3.7
Nelson Bay	671	671	0	0.0
North New south Wales	21	<20	na	na
Port Macquarie	1,892	1,831	-61	-3.2
Raymond Terrace	1,298	1,241	-57	-4.4
Singleton	492	485	-7	-1.4
Taree	1,979	1,950	-29	-1.5
The Entrance	1,346	1,315	-31	-2.3
Toronto	1,148	1,129	-19	-1.7
Tweed Heads	1,685	1,619	-66	-3.9
Wallsend	1,907	1,889	-18	-0.9
Woy Woy	549	541	-8	-1.5
Wyong	652	640	-12	-1.8
Yamba	429	408	-21	-4.9
Other (a)	63	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,448</b>	<b>39,443</b>	<b>-1,005</b>	<b>-2.5</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,161	1,120	-41	-3.5
Auburn	2,096	1,944	-152	-7.3
Bathurst	1,000	1,019	19	1.9
Baulkham Hills	985	919	-66	-6.7
Blacktown	3,598	3,448	-150	-4.2
Bourke	515	503	-12	-2.3
Central New South Wales	33	26	%	%
Dubbo	2,729	2,728	-1	0.0
Glen Innes	458	442	-16	-3.5
Gunnedah	497	495	-2	-0.4
Hawkesbury	914	898	-16	-1.8
Inverell	827	815	-12	-1.5
Katoomba	747	718	-29	-3.9
Lightning Ridge	235	236	1	0.4
Lithgow	770	780	10	1.3
Merrylands	2,163	2,030	-133	-6.1
Moree	577	579	2	0.3
Mt Druitt	3,092	2,977	-115	-3.7
Mudgee	674	658	-16	-2.4
Narrabri	444	436	-8	-1.8
Orange	1,298	1,285	-13	-1.0
Parkes	1,028	1,023	-5	-0.5
Parramatta	2,263	2,206	-57	-2.5
Penrith	1,959	1,883	-76	-3.9
Springwood	356	329	-27	-7.6
St Marys	1,825	1,755	-70	-3.8
Tamworth	2,251	2,196	-55	-2.4
Walgett	346	351	5	1.4
Other (a)	6	7	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,847</b>	<b>33,806</b>	<b>-1,041</b>	<b>-3.0</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	772	768	-4	-0.5
Bega	757	718	-39	-5.2
Belconnen	1,276	1,231	-45	-3.5
Bowral	468	462	-6	-1.3
Braddon	1,026	1,000	-26	-2.5
Cooma	406	386	-20	-4.9
Corrimal	1,053	996	-57	-5.4
Cowra	575	552	-23	-4.0
Dapto	1,322	1,284	-38	-2.9
Goulburn	832	809	-23	-2.8
Griffith	863	812	-51	-5.9
Gungahlin	594	583	-11	-1.9
Leeton	476	479	3	0.6
Narooma	269	277	8	3.0
Nowra	2,125	2,111	-14	-0.7
Queanbeyan	680	664	-16	-2.4
Shellharbour	1,634	1,591	-43	-2.6
Tuggeranong	895	868	-27	-3.0
Tumut	384	378	-6	-1.6
Ulladulla	486	476	-10	-2.1
Wagga	1,789	1,779	-10	-0.6
Woden	594	611	17	2.9
Wollongong	1,533	1,474	-59	-3.8
Yass	139	142	3	2.2
Young	648	625	-23	-3.5
Other (a)	28	26	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,624</b>	<b>21,102</b>	<b>-522</b>	<b>-2.4</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,306	1,282	-24	-1.8
Albury	3,203	3,162	-41	-1.3
Box Hill	2,181	1,995	-186	-8.5
Broadmeadows	5,089	4,774	-315	-6.2
Darebin	3,021	2,847	-174	-5.8
Deniliquin	353	342	-11	-3.1
Echuca	757	722	-35	-4.6
Epping	3,322	3,183	-139	-4.2
Greensborough	1,871	1,858	-13	-0.7
Heidelberg	1,362	1,283	-79	-5.8
Moreland	2,763	2,684	-79	-2.9
Newmarket	1,913	1,846	-67	-3.5
Seymour	840	815	-25	-3.0
Shepparton	2,407	2,371	-36	-1.5
Sth Melbourne	1,219	1,171	-48	-3.9
Sunbury	1,027	1,019	-8	-0.8
Wangaratta	1,681	1,638	-43	-2.6
Windsor Vic	2,547	2,372	-175	-6.9
Yarra	2,486	2,416	-70	-2.8
Other (a)	104	92	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,452</b>	<b>37,872</b>	<b>-1,580</b>	<b>-4.0</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,393	1,359	-34	-2.4
Belgrave	540	504	-36	-6.7
Boronia	1,307	1,284	-23	-1.8
Cheltenham	1,907	1,847	-60	-3.1
Cranbourne	2,280	2,182	-98	-4.3
Dandenong	2,996	2,889	-107	-3.6
Fountain Gate	2,438	2,269	-169	-6.9
Frankston	2,920	2,805	-115	-3.9
Glen Waverley	1,184	1,100	-84	-7.1
Hastings	735	716	-19	-2.6
Lilydale	1,518	1,476	-42	-2.8
Mornington	561	561	0	0.0
Morwell	3,682	3,713	31	0.8
Oakleigh	1,842	1,750	-92	-5.0
Pakenham	1,132	1,075	-57	-5.0
Ringwood	2,106	2,036	-70	-3.3
Rosebud	1,049	1,014	-35	-3.3
Rowville	625	601	-24	-3.8
Sale	1,185	1,207	22	1.9
Springvale	2,134	2,075	-59	-2.8
Warragul	877	858	-19	-2.2
Wonthaggi	966	903	-63	-6.5
Other (a)	84	69	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,461</b>	<b>34,293</b>	<b>-1,168</b>	<b>-3.3</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	307	310	3	1.0
Ballarat	3,796	3,744	-52	-1.4
Bendigo	3,556	3,507	-49	-1.4
Colac	600	608	8	1.3
Corio	2,126	2,062	-64	-3.0
Footscray	1,853	1,764	-89	-4.8
Geelong	3,421	3,316	-105	-3.1
Hamilton	467	469	2	0.4
Horsham	863	871	8	0.9
Maryborough	771	771	0	0.0
Melton	2,266	2,208	-58	-2.6
Mildura	2,266	2,195	-71	-3.1
Newport	1,215	1,155	-60	-4.9
Portland	412	407	-5	-1.2
Stawell	216	211	-5	-2.3
Sunshine	3,808	3,722	-86	-2.3
Swan Hill	896	888	-8	-0.9
Warrnambool	1,018	985	-33	-3.2
Watergardens	3,722	3,628	-94	-2.5
Werribee	4,927	4,726	-201	-4.1
West Victoria	<20	20	na	na
Other (a)	na	40	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,577</b>	<b>37,607</b>	<b>-970</b>	<b>-2.5</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	929	924	-5	-0.5
Ayr	545	520	-25	-4.6
Biloela	349	340	-9	-2.6
Bowen	521	484	-37	-7.1
Cairns Aplin	5,771	5,664	-107	-1.9
Charters Towers	528	537	9	1.7
Emerald	633	619	-14	-2.2
Gladstone	2,136	2,129	-7	-0.3
Indigenous Service Centre	1,821	1,875	54	3.0
Ingham	462	405	-57	-12.3
Innisfail	1,078	1,061	-17	-1.6
Longreach	203	206	3	1.5
Mackay	3,785	3,634	-151	-4.0
Mareeba	1,007	987	-20	-2.0
Mossman	608	585	-23	-3.8
Mt Isa	1,051	1,004	-47	-4.5
Normanton	202	198	-4	-2.0
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	166	193	27	16.3
Palm Island	363	354	-9	-2.5
Rockhampton	3,429	3,412	-17	-0.5
Thursday Is	199	211	12	6.0
Townsville Walker	22	<20	na	na
TSV Ross River Rd	6,200	6,160	-40	-0.6
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	454	467	13	2.9
Whitsunday	725	704	-21	-2.9
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	554	538	-16	-2.9
Yeppoon	878	884	6	0.7
Other (a)	354	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,973</b>	<b>34,483</b>	<b>-490</b>	<b>-1.4</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	4,097	3,921	-176	-4.3
Caboolture	4,412	4,300	-112	-2.5
Caloundra	1,857	1,776	-81	-4.4
Cherbourg	373	375	2	0.5
Chermside	1,479	1,473	-6	-0.4
Deception Bay	1,628	1,574	-54	-3.3
Fortitude Valley	1,855	1,835	-20	-1.1
Gympie	1,878	1,795	-83	-4.4
Hervey Bay	2,398	2,316	-82	-3.4
Kawana Waters	817	792	-25	-3.1
Kingaroy	999	978	-21	-2.1
Margate	1,433	1,433	0	0.0
Maroochydore	1,970	1,872	-98	-5.0
Maryborough	1,795	1,781	-14	-0.8
Mitchelton	1,977	1,887	-90	-4.6
Mt Gravatt	2,971	2,931	-40	-1.3
Nambour	1,416	1,336	-80	-5.6
Noosa	1,156	1,120	-36	-3.1
Nundah	2,074	2,020	-54	-2.6
South Brisbane	1,445	1,426	-19	-1.3
Stones Corner	2,306	2,274	-32	-1.4
Strathpine	2,474	2,439	-35	-1.4
Toowong	1,413	1,335	-78	-5.5
Other (a)	135	113	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,358</b>	<b>43,102</b>	<b>-1,256</b>	<b>-2.8</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	886	875	-11	-1.2
Beenleigh	3,408	3,327	-81	-2.4
Biggera Waters	3,597	3,432	-165	-4.6
Browns Plains	2,572	2,484	-88	-3.4
Capalaba	1,126	1,064	-62	-5.5
Charleville	317	314	-3	-0.9
Cleveland	1,390	1,365	-25	-1.8
Dalby	969	914	-55	-5.7
Goodna	2,343	2,331	-12	-0.5
Goondiwindi	426	429	3	0.7
Inala	2,961	2,905	-56	-1.9
Ipswich	4,455	4,376	-79	-1.8
Nerang	3,751	3,628	-123	-3.3
Palm Beach	3,993	3,834	-159	-4.0
Roma	276	267	-9	-3.3
South Queensland	60	49	%	%
Southport	592	582	-10	-1.7
Stanthorpe	566	538	-28	-4.9
Toowoomba	3,876	3,718	-158	-4.1
Warwick	618	596	-22	-3.6
Woodridge	3,146	3,082	-64	-2.0
Wynnum	1,204	1,163	-41	-3.4
Other (a)	53	48	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,585</b>	<b>41,321</b>	<b>-1,264</b>	<b>-3.0</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,229	1,204	-25	-2.0
Broken Hill	990	985	-5	-0.5
Ceduna	346	356	10	2.9
Cooper Pedy	230	242	12	5.2
Elizabeth	4,584	4,593	9	0.2
Enfield	2,159	2,111	-48	-2.2
Gawler	1,854	1,827	-27	-1.5
Glenelg	1,124	1,118	-6	-0.5
Kadina	930	939	9	1.0
Kilkenny	1,956	1,947	-9	-0.5
Marion	3,273	3,219	-54	-1.6
Modbury	2,717	2,620	-97	-3.6
Mt Barker	1,008	998	-10	-1.0
Mt Gambier	1,581	1,555	-26	-1.6
Murray Bridge	1,359	1,321	-38	-2.8
Noarlunga	4,186	4,049	-137	-3.3
Norwood	2,292	2,235	-57	-2.5
Port Adelaide	2,037	1,968	-69	-3.4
Port Augusta	1,123	1,109	-14	-1.2
Port Lincoln	716	717	1	0.1
Port Pirie	1,293	1,293	0	0.0
Salisbury	4,583	4,485	-98	-2.1
South Australia	21	<20	na	na
Torrensvile	2,373	2,265	-108	-4.6
Victor Harbor	919	918	-1	-0.1
Whyalla	1,338	1,330	-8	-0.6
Other (a)	21	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,242</b>	<b>45,439</b>	<b>-803</b>	<b>-1.7</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,542	1,572	30	1.9
Armadale	2,935	2,955	20	0.7
Bunbury	3,414	3,450	36	1.1
Busselton	1,592	1,577	-15	-0.9
Cannington	3,178	3,203	25	0.8
Carnarvon	523	506	-17	-3.3
Esperance	441	440	-1	-0.2
Fremantle	2,203	2,253	50	2.3
Geraldton	2,308	2,275	-33	-1.4
Gosnells	2,594	2,560	-34	-1.3
Innaloo	2,166	2,169	3	0.1
Joondalup	3,998	4,020	22	0.6
Kalgoorlie	1,171	1,126	-45	-3.8
Karratha	562	562	0	0.0
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	246	252	6	2.4
Mandurah	3,318	3,314	-4	-0.1
Meekatharra	320	335	15	4.7
Midland	3,666	3,677	11	0.3
Mirrabooka	3,726	3,771	45	1.2
Morley	3,494	3,568	74	2.1
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	321	318	-3	-0.9
Northam	1,728	1,701	-27	-1.6
Rockingham	4,162	4,089	-73	-1.8
South Hedland	642	637	-5	-0.8
Success	2,129	2,156	27	1.3
Victoria Park	3,850	3,852	2	0.1
Warwick Grove	1,725	1,743	18	1.0
Western Australia	36	31	%	%
Other (a)	162	158	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,152</b>	<b>58,270</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>0.2</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Bridgewater	1,161	1,180	19	1.6
Burnie	1,699	1,670	-29	-1.7
Devonport	1,641	1,639	-2	-0.1
Glenorchy	1,880	1,876	-4	-0.2
Hobart	1,780	1,814	34	1.9
Huonville	490	488	-2	-0.4
Launceston	4,632	4,654	22	0.5
Rosny Park	1,745	1,762	17	1.0
TAS Support Team	20	21	%	%
Tasmania	23	<20	na	na
Other (a)	23	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,094</b>	<b>15,143</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>North Australia</b>				
Alice Springs	1,090	1,095	5	0.5
Angurugu RSC	176	181	5	2.8
Borrooloola	216	216	0	0.0
Broome	902	880	-22	-2.4
Casuarina	1,282	1,247	-35	-2.7
Central Australia	2,716	2,612	-104	-3.8
Darwin	521	488	-33	-6.3
Derby	521	529	8	1.5
Fitzroy Crossing	330	320	-10	-3.0
Galiwinku RSC	343	334	-9	-2.6
Halls Creek	402	382	-20	-5.0
Hermannsburg RSC	124	109	-15	-12.1
Katherine	435	447	12	2.8
Kimberley Katherine	1,604	1,537	-67	-4.2
Kununurra	418	374	-44	-10.5
Maningrida	598	599	1	0.2
Nhulunbuy	195	196	1	0.5
Northern Region	1,643	1,645	2	0.1
Palmerston	1,470	1,426	-44	-3.0
Papunya RSC	69	75	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	83	74	%	%
Tennant Creek	301	272	-29	-9.6
Tiwi Islands	339	320	-19	-5.6
Wadeye	420	375	-45	-10.7
Yuendumu RSC	147	139	-8	-5.4
Other (a)	19	26	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,364</b>	<b>15,898</b>	<b>-466</b>	<b>-2.8</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	July 2016	August 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Other</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	772	715	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,820	1,610	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	2	-73	%	%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>509,813</b>	<b>497,501</b>	<b>-12,312</b>	<b>-2.4</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 19 August 2016**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.0	82.6	83.5
Earned an income	15.0	17.4	16.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.7	1.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.7	1.7
Over \$316.00	9.8	11.1	10.6
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>108,363</b>	<b>177,693</b>	<b>286,056</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	74.9	72.4	73.1
Earned an income	25.1	27.6	26.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.1	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.0	3.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.6	2.5
Over \$316.00	17.0	19.2	18.6
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>59,936</b>	<b>148,814</b>	<b>208,750</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	81.4	77.9	79.1
Earned an income	18.6	22.1	20.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	1.9	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	12.3	14.8	13.9
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>168,299</b>	<b>326,507</b>	<b>494,806</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:**

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