

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>).

July 2017

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.

Statistical Highlights – July 2017

Between July 2016 and July 2017

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 0.1 per cent** overall from 864 145 to 864 982.

- NSA recipients increased from 765 756 to 765 878.
- YA(o) recipients increased 0.7 per cent from 98 389 to 99 104.

The number of job seekers **increased 0.3 per cent** overall from 509 813 to 511 328.

- NSA job seekers increased 0.7 per cent from 437 506 to 440 531.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 2.1 per cent from 72 307 to 70 797.

Long-term job seekers increased 2.6 per cent from 335 579 to 344 446.

Short-term job seekers decreased 4.2 per cent from 174 234 to 166 882.

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 increased after the introduction, 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

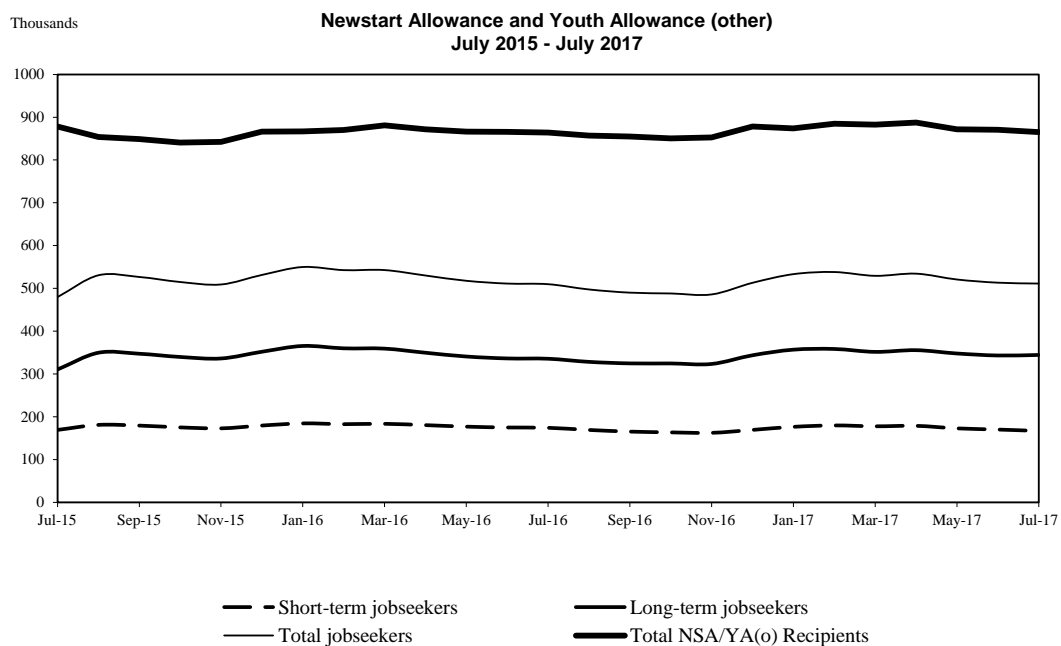


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
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
September 2016	554,177	760,972	93,693	222,127	4,014	3,590	17,437
October 2016	552,913	758,328	92,059	220,497	3,889	3,470	17,193
November 2016	555,286	760,719	92,182	196,018	3,658	3,386	16,994
December 2016	567,163	775,022	103,051	159,729	3,467	3,280	16,732
January 2017	564,484	774,122	99,888	157,268	3,273	3,193	16,524
February 2017	568,286	781,330	103,380	168,589	3,289	3,084	16,292
March 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
Variation June 2017 - July 2017							
Number	264	-4,565	-1,111	-10,383	-116	-83	-215
Per cent	0.0	-0.6	-1.1	-4.9	-3.2	-3.2	-1.4

Notes:

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

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

Newstart Allowance	July 2017 Persons	July 2017 Males	July 2017 Females	June 2017	Variation June - July Number	Variation June - July per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	198,374	120,880	77,494	203,203	-4,829	-2.4
Did not receive a payment (a)	11,167	6,126	5,041	11,757	-590	-5.0
Received a payment	187,207	114,754	72,453	191,446	-4,239	-2.2
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,463	1,687	4,776	6,437	26	0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	10,922	5,949	4,973	11,872	-950	-8.0
Incapacitated (d)	22,652	13,051	9,601	22,540	112	0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	12,111	6,750	5,361	12,651	-540	-4.3
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	135,059	87,317	47,742	137,946	-2,887	-2.1
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	31,422	17,912	13,510	32,523	-1,101	-3.4
Long Term Newstart Allowees	567,504	269,294	298,210	567,240	264	0.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	21,416	9,199	12,217	23,392	-1,976	-8.4
Received a payment	546,088	260,095	285,993	543,848	2,240	0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	66,063	15,824	50,239	65,600	463	0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	61,458	29,740	31,718	62,348	-890	-1.4
Incapacitated (d)	59,942	29,645	30,297	58,963	979	1.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	53,153	24,287	28,866	52,845	308	0.6
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	305,472	160,599	144,873	304,092	1,380	0.5
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	207,640	102,624	105,016	206,079	1,561	0.8
All Newstart Allowees	765,878	390,174	375,704	770,443	-4,565	-0.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	32,583	15,325	17,258	35,149	-2,566	-7.3
Received a payment	733,295	374,849	358,446	735,294	-1,999	-0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	72,526	17,511	55,015	72,037	489	0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	72,380	35,689	36,691	74,220	-1,840	-2.5
Incapacitated (d)	82,594	42,696	39,898	81,503	1,091	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	65,264	31,037	34,227	65,496	-232	-0.4
All NSA job seekers (f)	440,531	247,916	192,615	442,038	-1,507	-0.3
All NSA training/education (g)	239,062	120,536	118,526	238,602	460	0.2

(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)	July 2017 Persons	July 2017 Males	July 2017 Females	June 2017	Variation June - July Number	Variation June - July per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	44,960	24,403	20,557	45,542	-582	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,359	610	749	1,363	-4	-0.3
Received a payment	43,601	23,793	19,808	44,179	-578	-1.3
Other activities without job search (b)	8,365	4,778	3,587	8,472	-107	-1.3
Incapacitated (c)	1,794	877	917	1,832	-38	-2.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,619	793	826	1,681	-62	-3.7
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	31,823	17,345	14,478	32,194	-371	-1.2
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	14,610	7,947	6,663	14,365	245	1.7
Long Term Youth Allowees	54,144	26,964	27,180	54,673	-529	-1.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,755	726	1,029	1,877	-122	-6.5
Received a payment	52,389	26,238	26,151	52,796	-407	-0.8
Other activities without job search (b)	8,336	4,357	3,979	8,480	-144	-1.7
Incapacitated (c)	2,673	1,214	1,459	2,715	-42	-1.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,406	1,015	1,391	2,483	-77	-3.1
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	38,974	19,652	19,322	39,118	-144	-0.4
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	24,382	12,081	12,301	24,440	-58	-0.2
All Youth Allowees	99,104	51,367	47,737	100,215	-1,111	-1.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	3,114	1,336	1,778	3,240	-126	-3.9
Received a payment	95,990	50,031	45,959	96,975	-985	-1.0
Other activities without job search (b)	16,701	9,135	7,566	16,952	-251	-1.5
Incapacitated (c)	4,467	2,091	2,376	4,547	-80	-1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,025	1,808	2,217	4,164	-139	-3.3
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	70,797	36,997	33,800	71,312	-515	-0.7
All YA (other) training/education (f)	38,992	20,028	18,964	38,805	187	0.5

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

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
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
September 2016	165,330	324,731	490,061
October 2016	163,550	324,613	488,163
November 2016	162,460	323,423	485,883
December 2016	169,305	343,710	513,015
January 2017	176,480	356,794	533,274
February 2017	179,788	358,438	538,226
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
Variation June 2017 - July 2017			
Number	-3,258	1,236	-2,022
Per cent	-1.9	0.4	-0.4

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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	42,284	41,710	-574	-1.4
Victoria	36,674	35,998	-676	-1.8
Queensland	43,893	42,376	-1,517	-3.5
South Australia	12,510	12,331	-179	-1.4
Western Australia	24,980	24,819	-161	-0.6
Tasmania	4,130	4,109	-21	-0.5
Northern Territory	4,130	4,010	-120	-2.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,539	1,529	-10	-0.6
Australia	170,140	166,882	-3,258	-1.9
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	90,284	90,788	504	0.6
Victoria	72,840	72,914	74	0.1
Queensland	80,369	80,460	91	0.1
South Australia	31,226	30,928	-298	-1.0
Western Australia	44,651	45,466	815	1.8
Tasmania	11,280	11,356	76	0.7
Northern Territory	9,799	9,804	5	0.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,761	2,730	-31	-1.1
Australia	343,210	344,446	1,236	0.4
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	132,568	132,498	-70	-0.1
Victoria	109,514	108,912	-602	-0.5
Queensland	124,262	122,836	-1,426	-1.1
South Australia	43,736	43,259	-477	-1.1
Western Australia	69,631	70,285	654	0.9
Tasmania	15,410	15,465	55	0.4
Northern Territory	13,929	13,814	-115	-0.8
Australian Capital Territory	4,300	4,259	-41	-1.0
Australia	513,350	511,328	-2,022	-0.4

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	1,983	1.9	472	0.3	2,455	0.9
18 - 20 years	12,603	12.0	12,998	7.2	25,601	9.0
21 - 24 years	14,958	14.3	24,932	13.8	39,890	14.0
25 - 29 years	15,502	14.8	24,505	13.6	40,007	14.0
30 - 39 years	23,493	22.4	40,352	22.4	63,845	22.4
40 - 49 years	18,138	17.3	36,700	20.4	54,838	19.2
50 - 59 years	12,764	12.2	27,711	15.4	40,475	14.2
60 years and over	5,221	5.0	12,582	7.0	17,803	6.2
Total	104,662	100.0	180,252	100.0	284,914	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,904	3.1	639	0.4	2,543	1.1
18 - 20 years	10,907	17.5	13,524	8.2	24,431	10.8
21 - 24 years	8,624	13.9	18,364	11.2	26,988	11.9
25 - 29 years	6,722	10.8	15,102	9.2	21,824	9.6
30 - 39 years	8,921	14.3	31,497	19.2	40,418	17.9
40 - 49 years	10,746	17.3	43,716	26.6	54,462	24.1
50 - 59 years	10,232	16.4	30,945	18.8	41,177	18.2
60 years and over	4,164	6.7	10,407	6.3	14,571	6.4
Total	62,220	100.0	164,194	100.0	226,414	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,887	2.3	1,111	0.3	4,998	1.0
18 - 20 years	23,510	14.1	26,522	7.7	50,032	9.8
21 - 24 years	23,582	14.1	43,296	12.6	66,878	13.1
25 - 29 years	22,224	13.3	39,607	11.5	61,831	12.1
30 - 39 years	32,414	19.4	71,849	20.9	104,263	20.4
40 - 49 years	28,884	17.3	80,416	23.3	109,300	21.4
50 - 59 years	22,996	13.8	58,656	17.0	81,652	16.0
60 years and over	9,385	5.6	22,989	6.7	32,374	6.3
Total	166,882	100.0	344,446	100.0	511,328	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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,379	3,467	88	2.6
Bondi Junction	736	726	-10	-1.4
Burwood	1,522	1,568	46	3.0
Cabramatta	2,384	2,435	51	2.1
Camden	835	855	20	2.4
Campbelltown	2,397	2,376	-21	-0.9
Campsie	2,536	2,590	54	2.1
Caringbah	627	622	-5	-0.8
Chatswood	1,004	1,024	20	2.0
Darlinghurst	1,449	1,464	15	1.0
Fairfield	3,362	3,556	194	5.8
Hornsby	1,085	1,111	26	2.4
Hurstville	1,565	1,573	8	0.5
Ingleburn	1,252	1,247	-5	-0.4
Leichhardt	1,318	1,327	9	0.7
Liverpool	3,899	3,978	79	2.0
Maroubra	1,260	1,291	31	2.5
Marrickville	899	886	-13	-1.4
Northern Beaches	1,157	1,173	16	1.4
Redfern	1,620	1,611	-9	-0.6
Rockdale	1,319	1,341	22	1.7
Ryde	1,043	1,078	35	3.4
Sutherland	683	669	-14	-2.0
Other (a)	104	87	%	%
Total	37,435	38,055	620	1.7

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,112	1,117	5	0.4
Brunswick Heads	969	938	-31	-3.2
Byron Bay	378	372	-6	-1.6
Casino	903	923	20	2.2
Cessnock	1,134	1,102	-32	-2.8
Charlestown	1,987	2,018	31	1.6
Coffs Harbour	2,329	2,324	-5	-0.2
Comm Support Team	72	62	%	%
Ettalong	753	756	3	0.4
Forster	827	828	1	0.1
Gosford	1,791	1,787	-4	-0.2
Grafton	1,014	1,012	-2	-0.2
Kempsey	1,070	1,077	7	0.7
King Street	1,401	1,413	12	0.9
Kurri Kurri	655	645	-10	-1.5
Lakehaven	2,029	2,052	23	1.1
Lismore	2,188	2,158	-30	-1.4
Maitland	2,097	2,110	13	0.6
Mayfield	1,109	1,107	-2	-0.2
Murwillumbah	795	810	15	1.9
Muswellbrook	817	819	2	0.2
Nambucca Heads	697	684	-13	-1.9
Nelson Bay	647	631	-16	-2.5
Port Macquarie	1,956	1,944	-12	-0.6
Raymond Terrace	1,286	1,303	17	1.3
Singleton	491	476	-15	-3.1
Taree	1,993	1,951	-42	-2.1
The Entrance	1,392	1,400	8	0.6
Toronto	1,168	1,146	-22	-1.9
Tweed Heads	1,723	1,702	-21	-1.2
Wallsend	1,818	1,821	3	0.2
Woy Woy	516	499	-17	-3.3
Wyong	620	597	-23	-3.7
Yamba	412	379	-33	-8.0
Other (a)	88	84	%	%
Total	40,237	40,047	-190	-0.5

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,157	1,174	17	1.5
Auburn	1,887	1,899	12	0.6
Bathurst	1,038	1,009	-29	-2.8
Baulkham Hills	931	914	-17	-1.8
Blacktown	3,426	3,453	27	0.8
Bourke	474	478	4	0.8
Central New South Wales	36	37	%	%
Dubbo	2,608	2,617	9	0.3
Glen Innes	460	464	4	0.9
Gunnedah	484	470	-14	-2.9
Hawkesbury	911	955	44	4.8
Inverell	816	825	9	1.1
Katoomba	619	624	5	0.8
Lightning Ridge	231	233	2	0.9
Lithgow	756	745	-11	-1.5
Merrylands	1,941	1,918	-23	-1.2
Moree	554	559	5	0.9
Mt Druitt	2,955	2,893	-62	-2.1
Mudgee	625	627	2	0.3
Narrabri	408	418	10	2.5
Orange	1,296	1,276	-20	-1.5
Parkes	1,017	1,015	-2	-0.2
Parramatta	2,114	2,163	49	2.3
Penrith	1,985	1,944	-41	-2.1
Springwood	344	339	-5	-1.5
St Marys	1,799	1,773	-26	-1.4
Tamworth	2,207	2,232	25	1.1
Walgett	323	315	-8	-2.5
Other (a)	19	18	%	%
Total	33,421	33,387	-34	-0.1

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	776	762	-14	-1.8
Bega	703	668	-35	-5.0
Belconnen	1,173	1,168	-5	-0.4
Bowral	419	382	-37	-8.8
Braddon	994	953	-41	-4.1
Cooma	434	424	-10	-2.3
Corrimal	924	909	-15	-1.6
Cowra	542	536	-6	-1.1
Dapto	1,291	1,251	-40	-3.1
Goulburn	850	800	-50	-5.9
Griffith	803	797	-6	-0.7
Gungahlin	626	604	-22	-3.5
Leeton	471	459	-12	-2.5
Narooma	263	270	7	2.7
Nowra	2,038	2,032	-6	-0.3
Queanbeyan	587	595	8	1.4
Shellharbour	1,630	1,619	-11	-0.7
Southern New South Wales	37	36	%	%
Tuggeranong	825	814	-11	-1.3
Tumut	397	406	9	2.3
Ulladulla	494	474	-20	-4.0
Wagga	1,821	1,738	-83	-4.6
Woden	648	656	8	1.2
Wollongong	1,664	1,615	-49	-2.9
Yass	159	156	-3	-1.9
Young	598	585	-13	-2.2
Other (a)	33	39	%	%
Total	21,200	20,748	-452	-2.1

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,420	1,418	-2	-0.1
Albury	3,294	3,263	-31	-0.9
Box Hill	1,898	1,884	-14	-0.7
Broadmeadows	5,307	5,397	90	1.7
Darebin	2,793	2,745	-48	-1.7
Deniliquin	395	395	0	0.0
Echuca	728	731	3	0.4
Epping	3,216	3,218	2	0.1
Greensborough	1,883	1,821	-62	-3.3
Heidelberg	1,319	1,292	-27	-2.0
Moreland	2,666	2,633	-33	-1.2
Newmarket	1,797	1,847	50	2.8
Seymour	761	763	2	0.3
Shepparton	2,665	2,701	36	1.4
Sth Melbourne	1,293	1,297	4	0.3
Sunbury	1,028	1,016	-12	-1.2
Wangaratta	1,647	1,646	-1	-0.1
Windsor Vic	2,354	2,348	-6	-0.3
Yarra	2,367	2,375	8	0.3
Other (a)	92	89	%	%
Total	38,923	38,879	-44	-0.1

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,514	1,498	-16	-1.1
Belgrave	502	501	-1	-0.2
Boronia	1,297	1,270	-27	-2.1
Cheltenham	1,930	1,937	7	0.4
Cranbourne	2,219	2,226	7	0.3
Dandenong	2,810	2,827	17	0.6
Fountain Gate	2,331	2,344	13	0.6
Frankston	2,678	2,629	-49	-1.8
Glen Waverley	1,137	1,118	-19	-1.7
Hastings	667	656	-11	-1.6
Lilydale	1,390	1,404	14	1.0
Mornington	518	497	-21	-4.1
Morwell	3,589	3,560	-29	-0.8
Oakleigh	1,661	1,643	-18	-1.1
Pakenham	1,141	1,118	-23	-2.0
Ringwood	2,067	2,017	-50	-2.4
Rosebud	961	969	8	0.8
Rowville	586	565	-21	-3.6
Sale	1,283	1,313	30	2.3
Springvale	2,053	1,984	-69	-3.4
Warragul	898	885	-13	-1.4
Wonthaggi	948	925	-23	-2.4
Other (a)	37	33	%	%
Total	34,217	33,919	-298	-0.9

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	306	293	-13	-4.2
Ballarat	3,907	3,824	-83	-2.1
Bendigo	3,826	3,787	-39	-1.0
Colac	570	563	-7	-1.2
Corio	2,086	2,105	19	0.9
Footscray	1,803	1,734	-69	-3.8
Geelong	3,435	3,437	2	0.1
Hamilton	418	421	3	0.7
Horsham	824	801	-23	-2.8
Maryborough	759	721	-38	-5.0
Melton	2,344	2,333	-11	-0.5
Mildura	2,233	2,190	-43	-1.9
Newport	1,040	1,014	-26	-2.5
Portland	382	380	-2	-0.5
Stawell	200	201	1	0.5
Sunshine	3,783	3,827	44	1.2
Swan Hill	849	868	19	2.2
Warrnambool	1,036	1,072	36	3.5
Watergardens	3,797	3,753	-44	-1.2
Werribee	4,931	4,960	29	0.6
Other (a)	72	92	%	%
Total	38,601	38,376	-225	-0.6

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	929	908	-21	-2.3
Ayr	559	509	-50	-8.9
Biloela	353	362	9	2.5
Bowen	502	487	-15	-3.0
Cairns Aplin	5,955	5,860	-95	-1.6
Charters Towers	559	535	-24	-4.3
Emerald	631	602	-29	-4.6
Gladstone	2,435	2,389	-46	-1.9
Indigenous Service Centre	2,016	1,914	-102	-5.1
Ingham	429	386	-43	-10.0
Innisfail	1,128	1,116	-12	-1.1
Longreach	197	187	-10	-5.1
Mackay	3,447	3,369	-78	-2.3
Mareeba	1,100	1,082	-18	-1.6
Mossman	683	678	-5	-0.7
Mt Isa	1,030	970	-60	-5.8
Normanton	205	201	-4	-2.0
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	207	187	-20	-9.7
Palm Island	354	367	13	3.7
Rockhampton	3,549	3,451	-98	-2.8
Thursday Is	257	257	0	0.0
Townsville Walker	38	41	%	%
TSV Ross River Rd	6,098	5,952	-146	-2.4
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	529	509	-20	-3.8
Whitsunday	701	697	-4	-0.6
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	458	443	-15	-3.3
Yeppoon	926	886	-40	-4.3
Other (a)	328	323	%	%
Total	35,603	34,668	-935	-2.6

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	4,194	4,037	-157	-3.7
Caboolture	4,496	4,499	3	0.1
Caloundra	1,860	1,811	-49	-2.6
Cherbourg	352	342	-10	-2.8
Chermside	1,416	1,392	-24	-1.7
Deception Bay	1,340	1,353	13	1.0
Fortitude Valley	1,963	1,941	-22	-1.1
Gympie	1,812	1,823	11	0.6
Hervey Bay	2,347	2,348	1	0.0
Kawana Waters	844	867	23	2.7
Kingaroy	946	926	-20	-2.1
Margate	1,719	1,722	3	0.2
Maroochydore	1,964	1,972	8	0.4
Maryborough	1,846	1,863	17	0.9
Mitchelton	1,923	1,887	-36	-1.9
Mt Gravatt	3,016	2,985	-31	-1.0
Nambour	1,441	1,449	8	0.6
Noosa	1,010	998	-12	-1.2
Nundah	2,058	2,016	-42	-2.0
South Brisbane	1,544	1,550	6	0.4
Stones Corner	2,133	2,107	-26	-1.2
Strathpine	2,500	2,428	-72	-2.9
Toowong	1,368	1,347	-21	-1.5
Other (a)	106	101	%	%
Total	44,198	43,764	-434	-1.0

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	986	975	-11	-1.1
Beenleigh	3,705	3,705	0	0.0
Biggera Waters	3,511	3,485	-26	-0.7
Browns Plains	2,610	2,611	1	0.0
Capalaba	1,261	1,220	-41	-3.3
Charleville	310	298	-12	-3.9
Cleveland	1,451	1,449	-2	-0.1
Dalby	959	998	39	4.1
Goodna	2,508	2,510	2	0.1
Goondiwindi	421	421	0	0.0
Inala	3,009	3,007	-2	-0.1
Ipswich	4,951	4,939	-12	-0.2
Nerang	3,807	3,739	-68	-1.8
Palm Beach	3,791	3,740	-51	-1.3
Roma	251	256	5	2.0
South Queensland	54	53	%	%
Southport	868	869	1	0.1
Stanthorpe	503	519	16	3.2
Toowoomba	3,864	3,875	11	0.3
Warwick	624	628	4	0.6
Woodridge	3,292	3,370	78	2.4
Wynnum	1,199	1,194	-5	-0.4
Other (a)	30	32	%	%
Total	43,965	43,893	-72	-0.2

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,217	1,216	-1	-0.1
Broken Hill	979	974	-5	-0.5
Ceduna	368	378	10	2.7
Cooper Pedy	245	228	-17	-6.9
Elizabeth	4,463	4,417	-46	-1.0
Enfield	2,071	2,029	-42	-2.0
Gawler	1,869	1,842	-27	-1.4
Glenelg	931	930	-1	-0.1
Kadina	917	905	-12	-1.3
Kilkenny	1,799	1,802	3	0.2
Marion	3,164	3,140	-24	-0.8
Modbury	2,500	2,391	-109	-4.4
Mt Barker	930	925	-5	-0.5
Mt Gambier	1,644	1,620	-24	-1.5
Murray Bridge	1,234	1,224	-10	-0.8
Noarlunga	4,018	4,012	-6	-0.1
Norwood	2,059	2,024	-35	-1.7
Port Adelaide	1,929	1,885	-44	-2.3
Port Augusta	1,120	1,154	34	3.0
Port Lincoln	668	682	14	2.1
Port Pirie	1,311	1,317	6	0.5
Salisbury	4,496	4,423	-73	-1.6
South Australia	34	30	%	%
Torrensvile	2,081	2,033	-48	-2.3
Victor Harbor	941	935	-6	-0.6
Whyalla	1,275	1,242	-33	-2.6
Other (a)	16	17	%	%
Total	44,279	43,775	-504	-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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,730	1,738	8	0.5
Armadale	3,564	3,543	-21	-0.6
Bunbury	3,887	3,935	48	1.2
Busselton	1,796	1,790	-6	-0.3
Cannington	3,606	3,677	71	2.0
Carnarvon	509	470	-39	-7.7
Esperance	431	441	10	2.3
Fremantle	2,519	2,526	7	0.3
Geraldton	2,440	2,465	25	1.0
Gosnells	2,861	2,911	50	1.7
Innaloo	2,349	2,394	45	1.9
Joondalup	5,009	5,060	51	1.0
Kalgoorlie	1,085	1,078	-7	-0.6
Karratha	588	576	-12	-2.0
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	220	219	-1	-0.5
Mandurah	4,139	4,204	65	1.6
Meekatharra	331	334	3	0.9
Midland	4,237	4,256	19	0.4
Mirrabooka	4,252	4,327	75	1.8
Morley	3,893	3,980	87	2.2
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	311	319	8	2.6
Northam	1,700	1,716	16	0.9
Rockingham	4,900	5,016	116	2.4
South Hedland	663	652	-11	-1.7
Success	2,624	2,683	59	2.2
Victoria Park	4,112	4,147	35	0.9
Warwick Grove	2,196	2,213	17	0.8
Western Australia	42	47	%	%
Other (a)	125	114	%	%
Total	66,119	66,831	712	1.1

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,200	1,202	2	0.2
Burnie	1,655	1,687	32	1.9
Devonport	1,567	1,579	12	0.8
Glenorchy	1,962	1,987	25	1.3
Hobart	1,749	1,769	20	1.1
Huonville	477	478	1	0.2
Launceston	4,847	4,815	-32	-0.7
Rosny Park	1,769	1,761	-8	-0.5
TAS Support Team	64	63	%	%
Other (a)	14	16	%	%
Total	15,304	15,357	53	0.3
North Australia				
Alice Springs	1,277	1,140	-137	-10.7
Angurugu RSC	194	187	-7	-3.6
Borrooloola	211	207	-4	-1.9
Broome	1,000	999	-1	-0.1
Casuarina	1,301	1,300	-1	-0.1
Central Australia	2,749	2,920	171	6.2
Darwin	558	568	10	1.8
Derby	532	491	-41	-7.7
Fitzroy Crossing	284	271	-13	-4.6
Galiwinku RSC	382	388	6	1.6
Halls Creek	404	411	7	1.7
Hermannsburg RSC	132	150	18	13.6
Katherine	637	631	-6	-0.9
Kimberley Katherine	1,641	1,559	-82	-5.0
Kununurra	474	445	-29	-6.1
Maningrida	631	616	-15	-2.4
Nhulunbuy	189	187	-2	-1.1
Northern Region	1,792	1,824	32	1.8
Palmerston	1,626	1,607	-19	-1.2
Papunya RSC	90	88	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	98	93	%	%
Tennant Creek	372	358	-14	-3.8
Tiwi Islands	332	349	17	5.1
Wadeye	386	395	9	2.3
Yuendumu RSC	138	130	-8	-5.8
Other (a)	32	35	%	%
Total	17,462	17,349	-113	-0.6

– 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	June 2017	July 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	848	821	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,527	1,537	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	11	-78	%	%
Australia	513,350	511,328	-2,022	-0.4

(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 21 July 2017**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.6	82.3	83.5
Earned an income	14.4	17.7	16.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.6	1.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.7	2.2	2.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.3	1.8	1.6
Over \$316.00	9.6	11.6	10.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	103,947	179,783	283,730
Females			
Did not earn an income	75.8	71.6	72.8
Earned an income	24.2	28.4	27.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.0	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	2.8	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.2	2.4	2.3
Over \$316.00	16.2	20.6	19.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	61,766	163,833	225,599
Persons			
Did not earn an income	81.9	77.2	78.7
Earned an income	18.1	22.8	21.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	1.8	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.2	2.5	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.7	2.1	1.9
Over \$316.00	12.1	15.9	14.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	165,713	343,616	509,329

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

Explanatory Notes

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

See also: The Australian Bureau of Statistics release “6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2014 – [The unemployed and recipients of Government unemployment benefits - differences explained](#)”

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6105.0Feature%20Article54July%202014?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6105.0&issue=July%202014&num=&view=>
>

For More Information

Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government's centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au) (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services>). Historical data is available in a statistical overview available on the Department's website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (<<http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series>>).

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

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

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