

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 of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

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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 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

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 DEEWR Media Team on (02) 6240 7300 or by email to media@deewr.gov.au. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 27 March 2013.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – January 2013

Between January 2012 and January 2013

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 20.8 per cent** overall from 653 904 to 789 976.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 20.6 per cent from 566 287 to 682 873.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased 22.2 per cent from 87 617 to 107 103.

The number of job seekers **increased 20.5 per cent** overall from 335 704 to 404 566.

- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 18.9 per cent from 298 624 to 355 178.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 33.2 per cent from 37 080 to 49 388.

Long-term job seekers increased 24.2 per cent from 188 773 to 234 387.

Short-term job seekers increased 15.8 per cent from 146 931 to 170 179.

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

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

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

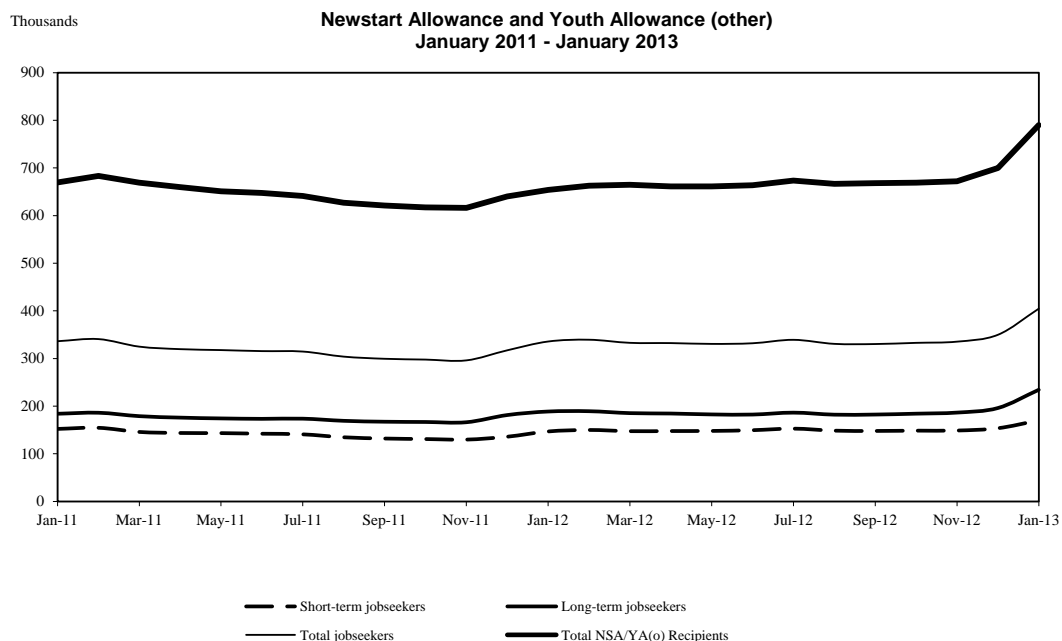


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
January 2011	349,806	576,745	92,976	257,713	4,208	19,922	31,646
February 2011	356,375	588,824	94,425	273,004	4,380	19,441	31,300
March 2011	352,479	578,856	90,111	293,377	4,650	18,932	30,959
April 2011	348,597	571,168	88,687	307,093	4,848	18,392	30,564
May 2011	345,226	564,805	86,230	315,670	4,859	17,850	30,184
June 2011	343,642	561,839	85,711	320,654	4,948	17,379	29,823
July 2011	341,388	556,349	84,917	315,490	4,772	17,036	29,621
August 2011	337,649	547,029	79,940	324,291	4,681	16,881	29,751
September 2011	336,056	542,845	78,096	329,360	4,671	16,751	29,868
October 2011	335,189	540,910	76,091	330,938	4,566	16,641	30,116
November 2011	334,884	540,527	75,664	311,741	4,352	16,544	30,328
December 2011	342,119	552,983	87,305	269,552	4,256	16,426	30,618
January 2012	346,578	566,287	87,617	241,565	4,110	16,129	30,564
February 2012	348,940	574,458	88,284	246,450	4,214	15,753	30,351
March 2012	351,092	578,219	86,583	262,183	4,495	15,279	30,029
April 2012	350,547	576,620	84,654	271,071	4,637	14,878	29,752
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
Variation December 2012 - January 2013							
Number	78,129	87,625	2,218	-6,050	-1	-299	-248
Per cent	21.4	14.7	2.1	-3.0	0.0	-2.5	-0.9

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.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).
- 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 and over (partnered recipients) or 8 years and over (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees.

TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	January 2013			December 2012	Variation December - January	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	239,941	153,176	86,765	230,445	9,496	4.1
CPS Recipients (a)	351	256	95	372	-21	-5.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,161	5,123	4,038	13,048	-3,887	-29.8
Received a payment	230,429	147,797	82,632	217,025	13,404	6.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,417	1,983	4,434	6,338	79	1.2
Other activities without job search (d)	34,233	21,297	12,936	34,136	97	0.3
Incapacitated (e)	23,589	13,599	9,990	25,071	-1,482	-5.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	14,681	8,433	6,248	14,660	21	0.1
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	151,509	102,485	49,024	136,820	14,689	10.7
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>23,420</i>	<i>14,178</i>	<i>9,242</i>	<i>22,058</i>	<i>1,362</i>	<i>6.2</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	442,932	205,084	237,848	364,803	78,129	21.4
CPS Recipients (a)	2,089	1,360	729	2,066	23	1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	14,214	4,226	9,988	13,833	381	2.8
Received a payment	426,629	199,498	227,131	348,904	77,725	22.3
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	54,771	11,031	43,740	29,439	25,332	86.0
Other activities without job search (d)	92,377	42,744	49,633	84,670	7,707	9.1
Incapacitated (e)	37,058	17,508	19,550	36,679	379	1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	38,754	16,859	21,895	31,936	6,818	21.3
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	203,669	111,356	92,313	166,180	37,489	22.6
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>91,816</i>	<i>45,660</i>	<i>46,156</i>	<i>76,536</i>	<i>15,280</i>	<i>20.0</i>
All Newstart Allowees	682,873	358,260	324,613	595,248	87,625	14.7
CPS Recipients (a)	2,440	1,616	824	2,438	2	0.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	23,375	9,349	14,026	26,881	-3,506	-13.0
Received a payment	657,058	347,295	309,763	565,929	91,129	16.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	61,188	13,014	48,174	35,777	25,411	71.0
Other activities without job search (d)	126,610	64,041	62,569	118,806	7,804	6.6
Incapacitated (e)	60,647	31,107	29,540	61,750	-1,103	-1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	53,435	25,292	28,143	46,596	6,839	14.7
All NSA job seekers (g)	355,178	213,841	141,337	303,000	52,178	17.2
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>115,236</i>	<i>59,838</i>	<i>55,398</i>	<i>98,594</i>	<i>16,642</i>	<i>16.9</i>

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

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

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

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

– 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 and over (partnered recipients) or 8 years and over (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees.

TABLE 3 - YOUTH ALLOWEES (OTHER) - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	January 2013			December 2012	Variation December - January	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	43,225	24,363	18,862	41,431	1,794	4.3
CPS Recipients (a)	30	21	9	30	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	675	306	369	809	-134	-16.6
Received a payment	42,520	24,036	18,484	40,592	1,928	4.7
Other activities without job search (c)	19,869	11,803	8,066	19,506	363	1.9
Incapacitated (d)	2,051	1,024	1,027	2,239	-188	-8.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,930	873	1,057	1,965	-35	-1.8
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	18,670	10,336	8,334	16,882	1,788	10.6
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>10,359</i>	<i>5,793</i>	<i>4,566</i>	<i>9,268</i>	<i>1,091</i>	<i>11.8</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	63,878	32,148	31,730	63,454	424	0.7
CPS Recipients (a)	64	44	20	64	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,101	436	665	1,217	-116	-9.5
Received a payment	62,713	31,668	31,045	62,173	540	0.9
Other activities without job search (c)	26,989	14,031	12,958	27,113	-124	-0.5
Incapacitated (d)	2,493	1,077	1,416	2,688	-195	-7.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,513	1,038	1,475	2,472	41	1.7
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	30,718	15,522	15,196	29,900	818	2.7
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>17,406</i>	<i>8,739</i>	<i>8,667</i>	<i>15,794</i>	<i>1,612</i>	<i>10.2</i>
All Youth Allowees	107,103	56,511	50,592	104,885	2,218	2.1
CPS Recipients (a)	94	65	29	94	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,776	742	1,034	2,026	-250	-12.3
Received a payment	105,233	55,704	49,529	102,765	2,468	2.4
Other activities without job search (c)	46,858	25,834	21,024	46,619	239	0.5
Incapacitated (d)	4,544	2,101	2,443	4,927	-383	-7.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,443	1,911	2,532	4,437	6	0.1
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	49,388	25,858	23,530	46,782	2,606	5.6
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>27,765</i>	<i>14,532</i>	<i>13,233</i>	<i>25,062</i>	<i>2,703</i>	<i>10.8</i>

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

TABLE 4 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) TIME SERIES

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
January 2011	152,223	184,087	336,310
February 2011	154,600	186,195	340,795
March 2011	145,887	179,041	324,928
April 2011	143,728	175,953	319,681
May 2011	143,422	174,297	317,719
June 2011	142,149	173,418	315,567
July 2011	140,875	173,761	314,636
August 2011	134,716	169,262	303,978
September 2011	132,079	167,384	299,463
October 2011	130,980	166,799	297,779
November 2011	129,846	166,266	296,112
December 2011	135,882	181,357	317,239
January 2012	146,931	188,773	335,704
February 2012	150,028	189,447	339,475
March 2012	147,524	185,409	332,933
April 2012	147,809	184,581	332,390
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
Variation December 2012 - January 2013			
Number	16477	38307	54784
Per cent	10.7	19.5	15.7

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes).
- 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 and over (partnered recipients) or 8 years and over (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees.

TABLE 5 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY STATE

<i>State</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	44,474	49,298	4,824	10.8
Victoria	37,823	41,744	3,921	10.4
Queensland	37,128	41,836	4,708	12.7
South Australia	12,003	13,234	1,231	10.3
Western Australia	13,876	15,070	1,194	8.6
Tasmania	4,497	4,731	234	5.2
Northern Territory	2,600	2,798	198	7.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,301	1,468	167	12.8
AUSTRALIA	153,702	170,179	16,477	10.7
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	61,459	74,794	13,335	21.7
Victoria	43,888	52,813	8,925	20.3
Queensland	43,801	51,620	7,819	17.9
South Australia	17,837	21,141	3,304	18.5
Western Australia	15,017	17,948	2,931	19.5
Tasmania	7,613	8,682	1,069	14.0
Northern Territory	5,112	5,744	632	12.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,353	1,645	292	21.6
AUSTRALIA	196,080	234,387	38,307	19.5
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	105,933	124,092	18,159	17.1
Victoria	81,711	94,557	12,846	15.7
Queensland	80,929	93,456	12,527	15.5
South Australia	29,840	34,375	4,535	15.2
Western Australia	28,893	33,018	4,125	14.3
Tasmania	12,110	13,413	1,303	10.8
Northern Territory	7,712	8,542	830	10.8
Australian Capital Territory	2,654	3,113	459	17.3
AUSTRALIA	349,782	404,566	54,784	15.7

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- 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 and over (partnered recipients) or 8 years and over (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees.

TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT JANUARY 2013

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	1,270	1.1	1,469	1.2	2,739	1.1
18 - 20 years	6,994	6.2	11,824	9.3	18,818	7.9
21 - 24 years	18,122	16.1	20,323	16.0	38,445	16.0
25 - 29 years	19,578	17.4	19,394	15.3	38,972	16.3
30 - 39 years	28,179	25.0	28,844	22.7	57,023	23.8
40 - 49 years	21,042	18.7	23,324	18.4	44,366	18.5
50 - 59 years	13,180	11.7	15,998	12.6	29,178	12.2
60 years and over	4,456	3.9	5,702	4.5	10,158	4.2
Total	112,821	100.0	126,878	100.0	239,699	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	1,281	2.2	1,505	1.4	2,786	1.7
18 - 20 years	5,547	9.7	11,484	10.7	17,031	10.3
21 - 24 years	10,327	18.0	14,787	13.8	25,114	15.2
25 - 29 years	7,863	13.7	10,607	9.9	18,470	11.2
30 - 39 years	9,765	17.0	21,606	20.1	31,371	19.0
40 - 49 years	11,153	19.4	28,104	26.1	39,257	23.8
50 - 59 years	9,057	15.8	16,305	15.2	25,362	15.4
60 years and over	2,365	4.1	3,111	2.9	5,476	3.3
Total	57,358	100.0	107,509	100.0	164,867	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	2,551	1.5	2,974	1.3	5,525	1.4
18 - 20 years	12,541	7.4	23,308	9.9	35,849	8.9
21 - 24 years	28,449	16.7	35,110	15.0	63,559	15.7
25 - 29 years	27,441	16.1	30,001	12.8	57,442	14.2
30 - 39 years	37,944	22.3	50,450	21.5	88,394	21.8
40 - 49 years	32,195	18.9	51,428	21.9	83,623	20.7
50 - 59 years	22,237	13.1	32,303	13.8	54,540	13.5
60 years and over	6,821	4.0	8,813	3.8	15,634	3.9
Total	170,179	100.0	234,387	100.0	404,566	100.0

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- 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 and over (partnered recipients) or 8 years and over (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	24	27	%	%
Bankstown	3,337	3,857	520	15.6
Bondi Junction	1,085	1,254	169	15.6
Burwood	1,614	1,886	272	16.9
Campsie	2,041	2,413	372	18.2
Caringbah	792	890	98	12.4
Chatswood	1,264	1,432	168	13.3
Darlinghurst	1,480	1,687	207	14.0
Hornsby	1,027	1,145	118	11.5
Hurstville	1,455	1,707	252	17.3
Leichhardt	1,288	1,466	178	13.8
Maroubra	1,392	1,644	252	18.1
Marrickville	1,422	1,625	203	14.3
Northern Beaches	1,195	1,366	171	14.3
Redfern	1,323	1,511	188	14.2
Rockdale	1,484	1,705	221	14.9
Ryde	1,098	1,295	197	17.9
Sutherland	778	917	139	17.9
Other (a)	9	4	%	%
Total	24,108	27,831	3,723	15.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	2,058	2,370	312	15.2
Bathurst	735	832	97	13.2
Blacktown	2,677	3,146	469	17.5
Bourke	386	437	51	13.2
Cabramatta	1,791	2,266	475	26.5
Camden	605	719	114	18.8
Campbelltown	1,855	2,149	294	15.8
Dubbo	1,735	2,017	282	16.3
Fairfield	2,290	2,787	497	21.7
Hawkesbury	801	1,001	200	25.0
Ingleburn	1,140	1,352	212	18.6
Katoomba	568	663	95	16.7
Lightning Ridge	174	196	22	12.6
Lithgow	527	600	73	13.9
Liverpool	2,894	3,513	619	21.4
Mt Druitt	2,163	2,614	451	20.9
Mudgee	476	527	51	10.7
Orange	685	811	126	18.4
Penrith	1,569	1,952	383	24.4
Springwood	359	416	57	15.9
St Marys	1,298	1,570	272	21.0
Walgett	216	234	18	8.3
Other (a)	5	6	%	%
Total	27,007	32,178	5,171	19.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>MID COAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Baulkham Hills	837	1,022	185	22.1
Cessnock	587	712	125	21.3
Charlestown	1,493	1,800	307	20.6
Comm Support Team	<20	24	na	na
Ettalong	636	728	92	14.5
Forster	700	768	68	9.7
Gosford	1,450	1,707	257	17.7
King Street	1,051	1,214	163	15.5
Kurri Kurri	360	439	79	21.9
Lakehaven	1,429	1,682	253	17.7
Maitland	1,050	1,234	184	17.5
Mayfield	1,007	1,148	141	14.0
Merrylands	1,858	2,199	341	18.4
Muswellbrook	365	444	79	21.6
Nelson Bay	444	497	53	11.9
Parramatta	2,050	2,438	388	18.9
Raymond Terrace	744	857	113	15.2
Singleton	194	253	59	30.4
Taree	1,386	1,595	209	15.1
The Entrance	1,198	1,357	159	13.3
Toronto	797	949	152	19.1
Wallsend	1,163	1,348	185	15.9
Woy Woy	467	553	86	18.4
Wyang	645	727	82	12.7
Other (a)	na	0	na	na
Total	21,930	25,695	3,765	17.2

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	582	646	64	11.0
Bega	606	712	106	17.5
Belconnen	831	976	145	17.4
Bowral	382	455	73	19.1
Canberra City	701	816	115	16.4
Cooma	281	323	42	14.9
Corrimal	1,070	1,232	162	15.1
Cowra	344	400	56	16.3
Dapto	993	1,203	210	21.1
Goulburn	600	674	74	12.3
Griffith	477	552	75	15.7
Gungahlin	229	276	47	20.5
Leeton	327	383	56	17.1
Narooma	268	273	5	1.9
Nowra	1,559	1,771	212	13.6
Parkes	666	815	149	22.4
Queanbeyan	393	443	50	12.7
Shellharbour	1,229	1,477	248	20.2
Tuggeranong	530	624	94	17.7
Tumut	238	294	56	23.5
Ulladulla	449	530	81	18.0
Wagga	1,166	1,346	180	15.4
Woden	334	394	60	18.0
Wollongong	1,279	1,442	163	12.7
Yass	92	106	%	%
Young	452	503	51	11.3
Other (a)	6	8	%	%
Total	16,084	18,674	2,590	16.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	1,035	1,148	113	10.9
Albury	2,180	2,503	323	14.8
Box Hill	2,107	2,371	264	12.5
Broadmeadows	3,295	3,780	485	14.7
Darebin	2,400	2,837	437	18.2
Deniliquin	208	233	25	12.0
Echuca	494	546	52	10.5
Epping	2,417	2,799	382	15.8
Greensborough	1,404	1,656	252	17.9
Heidelberg	1,238	1,431	193	15.6
Moreland	2,574	2,866	292	11.3
Newmarket	1,467	1,674	207	14.1
Seymour	630	723	93	14.8
Shepparton	1,897	2,171	274	14.4
Sth Melbourne	848	934	86	10.1
Sunbury	724	862	138	19.1
Wangaratta	1,361	1,537	176	12.9
Windsor Vic	2,164	2,453	289	13.4
Yarra	2,026	2,329	303	15.0
Other (a)	14	14	%	%
Total	30,483	34,867	4,384	14.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	810	893	83	10.2
Belgrave	389	477	88	22.6
Boronia	968	1,158	190	19.6
Cheltenham	1,565	1,732	167	10.7
Cranbourne	1,355	1,629	274	20.2
Dandenong	2,366	2,846	480	20.3
Fountain Gate	1,848	2,126	278	15.0
Frankston	2,193	2,641	448	20.4
Glen Waverley	939	1,098	159	16.9
Hastings	503	630	127	25.2
Lilydale	1,178	1,370	192	16.3
Mornington	461	533	72	15.6
Morwell	2,252	2,572	320	14.2
Oakleigh	1,476	1,685	209	14.2
Pakenham	862	969	107	12.4
Ringwood	1,549	1,821	272	17.6
Rosebud	613	700	87	14.2
Rowville	587	676	89	15.2
Sale	632	740	108	17.1
Springvale	1,537	1,931	394	25.6
Warragul	569	666	97	17.0
Wonthaggi	643	730	87	13.5
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	25,296	29,624	4,328	17.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	169	191	22	13.0
Bendigo Central	126	96	%	%
Ballarat	2,470	2,899	429	17.4
Bendigo	2,300	2,743	443	19.3
Colac	472	534	62	13.1
Corio	1,377	1,645	268	19.5
Footscray	1,299	1,484	185	14.2
Geelong	2,825	3,258	433	15.3
Hamilton	314	358	44	14.0
Horsham	583	694	111	19.0
Maryborough	377	447	70	18.6
Melton	1,491	1,754	263	17.6
Mildura	1,595	1,858	263	16.5
Newport	948	1,088	140	14.8
Portland	323	372	49	15.2
Stawell	160	179	19	11.9
Sunshine	3,137	3,598	461	14.7
Swan Hill	657	748	91	13.9
Warrnambool	774	894	120	15.5
Watergardens	2,884	3,306	422	14.6
Werribee	3,491	4,018	527	15.1
Other (a)	1	2	%	%
Total	27,773	32,166	4,393	15.8

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	735	862	127	17.3
Ayr	273	339	66	24.2
Biloela	187	222	35	18.7
Bowen	299	375	76	25.4
Cairns Aplin	4,483	5,129	646	14.4
Charters Towers	280	324	44	15.7
Emerald	270	322	52	19.3
Gladstone	668	745	77	11.5
Indigenous Service Centre	1,008	1,099	91	9.0
Ingham	284	355	71	25.0
Innisfail	786	942	156	19.8
Longreach	103	132	29	28.2
Mackay	1,194	1,466	272	22.8
Mareeba	655	710	55	8.4
Mossman	518	574	56	10.8
Mt Isa	700	758	58	8.3
Normanton	109	125	16	14.7
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	117	135	18	15.4
Palm Island	266	289	23	8.6
Rockhampton	1,559	1,869	310	19.9
Thursday Is	364	389	25	6.9
Townsville	3,325	3,970	645	19.4
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	368	415	47	12.8
Whitsunday	422	486	64	15.2
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	476	507	31	6.5
Yeppoon	401	464	63	15.7
Other (a)	39	46	%	%
Total	19,889	23,049	3,160	15.9

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SUNSHINE COAST</i>				
Bundaberg	2,943	3,470	527	17.9
Caboolture	2,864	3,386	522	18.2
Caloundra	1,370	1,612	242	17.7
Deception Bay	686	805	119	17.3
Gympie	1,264	1,485	221	17.5
Hervey Bay	1,571	1,836	265	16.9
Kawana Waters	685	799	114	16.6
Kippa-Ring	1,205	1,451	246	20.4
Maroochydore	1,396	1,674	278	19.9
Maryborough	1,099	1,286	187	17.0
Nambour	956	1,142	186	19.5
Noosa	1,228	1,372	144	11.7
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	17,267	20,318	3,051	17.7
<i>PACIFIC COAST</i>				
APC Community Team	24	28	%	%
Ballina	933	1,106	173	18.5
Biggera Waters	2,795	3,138	343	12.3
Brunswick Heads	678	790	112	16.5
Byron Bay	600	678	78	13.0
Casino	593	671	78	13.2
Coffs Harbour	1,928	2,293	365	18.9
Grafton	795	954	159	20.0
Kempsey	838	960	122	14.6
Lismore	1,506	1,788	282	18.7
Murwillumbah	620	728	108	17.4
Nambucca Heads	717	816	99	13.8
Nerang	2,668	3,090	422	15.8
Palm Beach	2,858	3,272	414	14.5
Port Macquarie	1,518	1,727	209	13.8
Southport	2,596	2,889	293	11.3
Tweed Heads	1,503	1,821	318	21.2
Yamba	395	482	87	22.0
Other (a)	3	3	%	%
Total	23,568	27,234	3,666	15.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Charleville	130	159	29	22.3
Cherbourg	240	276	36	15.0
Chermside	1,179	1,328	149	12.6
Dalby	379	418	39	10.3
Fortitude Valley	1,242	1,357	115	9.3
Goodna	1,552	1,766	214	13.8
Ipswich	2,911	3,376	465	16.0
Kingaroy	649	747	98	15.1
Mitchelton	1,355	1,583	228	16.8
Nundah	1,399	1,648	249	17.8
Roma	98	121	%	%
South Brisbane	1,005	1,156	151	15.0
Stones Corner	1,829	2,059	230	12.6
Strathpine	1,598	1,903	305	19.1
Toowong	1,357	1,516	159	11.7
Toowoomba	1,754	2,074	320	18.2
Other (a)	216	235	%	%
Total	18,893	21,722	2,829	15.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	859	1,009	150	17.5
Broken Hill	661	776	115	17.4
Ceduna	302	327	25	8.3
Cooper Pedy	167	186	19	11.4
Elizabeth	2,577	2,923	346	13.4
Enfield	1,453	1,695	242	16.7
Gawler	1,159	1,380	221	19.1
Glenelg	811	912	101	12.5
Kadina	613	725	112	18.3
Kilkenny	1,323	1,525	202	15.3
Marion	2,091	2,433	342	16.4
Modbury	1,946	2,215	269	13.8
Mt Barker	679	791	112	16.5
Mt Gambier	1,242	1,375	133	10.7
Murray Bridge	872	1,031	159	18.2
Noarlunga	2,617	3,069	452	17.3
Norwood	1,805	2,108	303	16.8
Port Adelaide	1,384	1,606	222	16.0
Port Augusta	663	761	98	14.8
Port Lincoln	529	610	81	15.3
Port Pirie	823	981	158	19.2
Salisbury	2,598	3,014	416	16.0
Torrens ville	1,483	1,677	194	13.1
Victor Harbor	694	748	54	7.8
Whyalla	763	876	113	14.8
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	30,114	34,753	4,639	15.4

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	942	1,100	158	16.8
Armadale	1,197	1,392	195	16.3
Bunbury	1,577	1,813	236	15.0
Busselton	846	962	116	13.7
Cannington	1,608	1,853	245	15.2
Carnarvon	274	311	37	13.5
Esperance	262	294	32	12.2
Fremantle	1,278	1,435	157	12.3
Geraldton	1,144	1,317	173	15.1
Gosnells	1,081	1,235	154	14.2
Innaloo	1,188	1,338	150	12.6
Joondalup	1,638	1,883	245	15.0
Kalgoorlie	612	698	86	14.1
Karratha	361	411	50	13.9
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	113	122	9	8.0
Mandurah	1,365	1,588	223	16.3
Meekatharra	233	253	20	8.6
Midland	1,476	1,709	233	15.8
Mirrabooka	1,853	2,146	293	15.8
Morley	1,708	1,960	252	14.8
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	157	159	2	1.3
Northam	854	968	114	13.3
Rockingham	1,733	2,013	280	16.2
South Hedland	336	373	37	11.0
Spearwood	1,010	1,181	171	16.9
Victoria Park	1,688	1,857	169	10.0
Warwick Grove	730	861	131	17.9
Other (a)	35	38	%	%
Total	27,299	31,270	3,971	14.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	1,006	1,127	121	12.0
Burnie	1,380	1,526	146	10.6
Devonport	1,481	1,625	144	9.7
Glenorchy	1,372	1,524	152	11.1
Hobart	1,356	1,528	172	12.7
Huonville	351	398	47	13.4
Launceston	3,853	4,259	406	10.5
Rosny Park	933	1,038	105	11.3
Sorell	398	393	-5	-1.3
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	12,130	13,418	1,288	10.6
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	524	593	69	13.2
Borroloola	82	93	%	%
Broome	507	571	64	12.6
Casuarina	570	650	80	14.0
Central Aust RST	2,150	2,317	167	7.8
Derby	214	226	12	5.6
Fitzroy Crossing	123	125	2	1.6
Halls Creek	249	275	26	10.4
Katherine	282	320	38	13.5
Knuckey Street	365	403	38	10.4
Kununurra	326	360	34	10.4
Maningrida	293	335	42	14.3
Nhulunbuy	95	97	%	%
Palmerston	644	773	129	20.0
Tangentyere	117	125	8	6.8
Tennant Creek	213	232	19	8.9
Tiwi Islands	175	201	26	14.9
Top End Hub	2,403	2,642	239	9.9
Wadeye	258	261	3	1.2
Yuendumu	75	85	%	%
Other (a)	26	26	%	%
Total	9,691	10,710	1,019	10.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	December 2012	January 2013	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>BORDER RANGES</i>				
Armidale	840	1,006	166	19.8
Beaudesert	517	581	64	12.4
Beenleigh	2,047	2,364	317	15.5
Browns Plains	1,853	2,068	215	11.6
Capalaba	816	935	119	14.6
Cleveland	903	1,027	124	13.7
Glen Innes	251	300	49	19.5
Goondiwindi	325	364	39	12.0
Gunnedah	357	422	65	18.2
Inala	1,751	1,983	232	13.2
Inverell	556	643	87	15.6
Moree	414	490	76	18.4
Mt Gravatt	2,127	2,448	321	15.1
Narrabri	263	320	57	21.7
Stanthorpe	383	431	48	12.5
Tamworth	1,564	1,810	246	15.7
Warwick	462	568	106	22.9
Woodridge	2,015	2,347	332	16.5
Wynnum	840	987	147	17.5
Other (a)	1	0	%	%
Total	18,285	21,094	2,809	15.4
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	5	5	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	3	1	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-43	-43	%	%
<i>AUSTRALIA</i>	349,782	404,566	54,784	15.7

(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.
- 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 and over (partnered recipients) or 8 years and over (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees.

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 18 JANUARY 2013**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	89.8	86.2	87.9
Earned an income	10.2	13.8	12.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.9	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.9	1.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.6	2.4	2.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.2	1.6	1.4
Over \$316.00	5.6	7.0	6.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	114,310	127,039	241,349
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	81.0	76.1	77.8
Earned an income	19.0	23.9	22.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.7	2.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	3.4	3.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.1	2.6	2.4
Over \$316.00	11.2	14.2	13.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	58,176	107,584	165,760
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	86.8	81.6	83.8
Earned an income	13.2	18.4	16.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.3	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.8	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.1	1.8
Over \$316.00	7.5	10.3	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	172,486	234,623	407,109

Note:
 - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
 - There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes)

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

On 1 January 2013, grandfathering provisions ceased for Parenting Payment recipients who had been receiving payment prior to 1 July 2006 and had a youngest child aged 6 years and

over (partnered recipients) or 8 years and over (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees, as previously grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients who were eligible transferred to Newstart Allowance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

known as ‘current’ recipients.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Before July 1998, job seekers excluded allowees who did not receive a payment, allowees who were incapacitated, and allowees who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to search for work were classified as job seekers,

including people undertaking full-time voluntary work, people on jury duty and pregnant women around the time of the birth of their child.

Duration

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Activity test status	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
Age	Age in years at time of data collection.
Area Support Office	The term Area Support Office was replaced by Service Zone in July 2011.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	The CDEP program is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.
CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)	The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.
Customer Service Centre	Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.
Did not receive a payment	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.
Fortnightly earnings	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
Incapacitated	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.
Job seeker	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
Long-term recipients	Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 22 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Partner Allowance (PA)	From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

	<p>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.</p>
Service Centre	<p>A Service Centre that provides FaHCSIA, DEEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones.</p>
Service Zone	<p>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.</p>
Short-term recipients	<p>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.</p>
Widow Allowance (WA)	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.</p> <p>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.</p>
Youth Training Allowance (YTA)	<p>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.</p>
Youth Allowance (YA)	<p>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.</p> <p>Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.</p> <p>To receive Youth Allowance young people under 22 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.</p>
Zero paid	<p>See 'Did not receive a payment'.</p>

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DEEWR 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.
DEEWR 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 DEEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEEWR and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEEWR measures duration of income support. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time unemployed using their unemployment definition.</p> <p>DEEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and still be classified as long-term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 DEEWR recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DEEWR 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 DEEWR labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.

Classification

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

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

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

<i>Non job seekers</i>	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.
<i>Waiting periods</i>	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.
<i>Survey</i>	The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the DEEWR statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:
IncomeSupportInformation@deewr.gov.au

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

Director
Income Support Information
Income Support Policy and Information Branch
Income Support Group
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9880
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

Other recipient information

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has publishes “Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview” on an annual basis.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Statistics also collates statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which that Department administers.