

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

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

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 25 November 2015.

Statistical Highlights – September 2015

Between September 2014 and September 2015

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 2.0 per cent** overall from 832 521 to 849 164.

- NSA recipients increased 3.2 per cent from 728 126 to 751 471.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 6.4 per cent from 104 395 to 97 693.

The number of job seekers **increased 31.9 per cent** overall from 399 339 to 526 684.

- NSA job seekers increased 28.8 per cent from 349 958 to 450 811.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 53.6 per cent from 49 381 to 75 873.

Long-term job seekers increased 40.7 per cent from 246 892 to 347 277.

Short-term job seekers increased 17.7 per cent from 152 447 to 179 407.

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

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

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

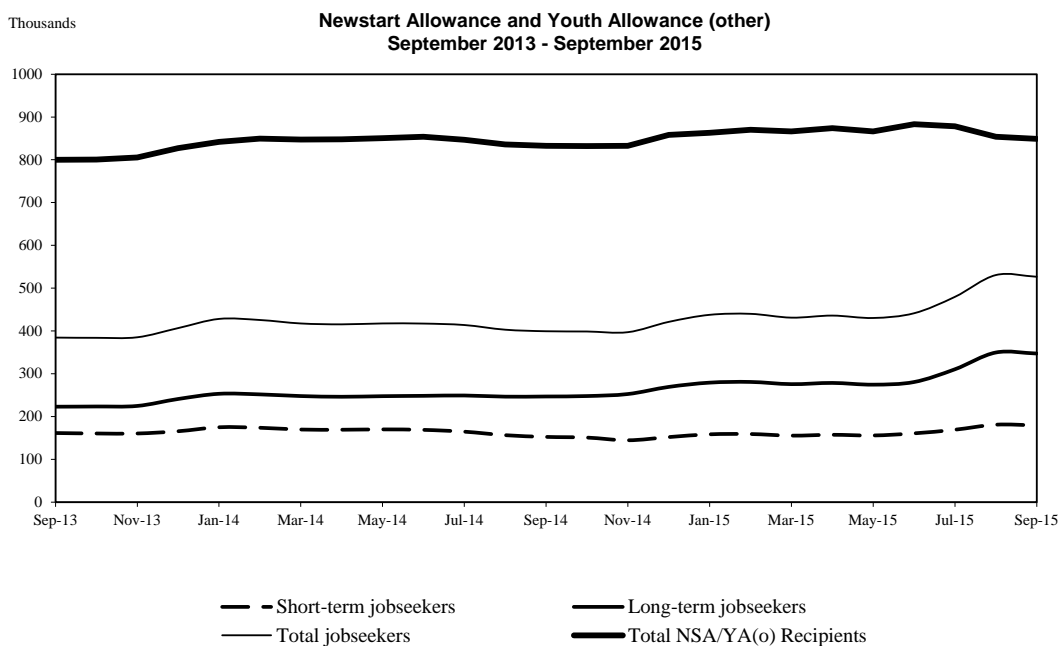


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
December 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
January 2015	532,903	754,340	108,657	173,161	5,502	6,756	23,604
February 2015	537,533	760,149	109,888	188,529	5,417	6,552	23,336
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
Variation August 2015 - September 2015							
Number	-131	-2,151	-2,347	1,832	-123	-148	-271
Per cent	0.0	-0.3	-2.3	0.8	-2.3	-2.7	-1.3

Notes:

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

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

Newstart Allowance	September 2015 Persons	September 2015 Males	September 2015 Females	August 2015	Variation August - September Number	Variation August - September per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	212,698	133,300	79,398	214,718	-2,020	-0.9
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,040	6,653	5,387	11,720	320	2.7
Received a payment	200,658	126,647	74,011	202,998	-2,340	-1.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,875	1,908	4,967	6,737	138	2.0
Other activities without job search (d)	12,005	6,507	5,498	13,768	-1,763	-12.8
Incapacitated (e)	22,430	13,144	9,286	21,669	761	3.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,386	6,997	5,389	12,535	-149	-1.2
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	146,962	98,091	48,871	148,289	-1,327	-0.9
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	28,104	15,564	12,540	27,115	989	3.6
Long Term Newstart Allowees	538,773	260,728	278,045	538,904	-131	0.0
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	20,346	8,147	12,199	19,686	660	3.4
Received a payment	518,427	252,581	265,846	519,218	-791	-0.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	59,657	13,065	46,592	58,161	1,496	2.6
Other activities without job search (d)	61,951	29,839	32,112	65,852	-3,901	-5.9
Incapacitated (e)	45,535	22,432	23,103	42,545	2,990	7.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	47,435	21,535	25,900	46,798	637	1.4
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	303,849	165,710	138,139	305,862	-2,013	-0.7
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	136,233	65,820	70,413	128,462	7,771	6.0
All Newstart Allowees	751,471	394,028	357,443	753,622	-2,151	-0.3
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	32,386	14,800	17,586	31,406	980	3.1
Received a payment	719,085	379,228	339,857	722,216	-3,131	-0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	66,532	14,973	51,559	64,898	1,634	2.5
Other activities without job search (d)	73,956	36,346	37,610	79,620	-5,664	-7.1
Incapacitated (e)	67,965	35,576	32,389	64,214	3,751	5.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	59,821	28,532	31,289	59,333	488	0.8
All NSA job seekers (g)	450,811	263,801	187,010	454,151	-3,340	-0.7
All NSA training/education (h)	164,337	81,384	82,953	155,577	8,760	5.6

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

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

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

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)	September 2015 Persons	September 2015 Males	September 2015 Females	August 2015	Variation August - September Number	Variation August - September per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	40,881	22,897	17,984	41,848	-967	-2.3
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,032	458	574	1,001	31	3.1
Received a payment	39,849	22,439	17,410	40,847	-998	-2.4
Other activities without job search (c)	3,947	2,311	1,636	4,852	-905	-18.7
Incapacitated (d)	1,893	949	944	1,794	99	5.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,564	733	831	1,512	52	3.4
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	32,445	18,446	13,999	32,689	-244	-0.7
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	10,830	5,939	4,891	10,290	540	5.2
Long Term Youth Allowees	56,812	29,436	27,376	58,192	-1,380	-2.4
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,473	568	905	1,541	-68	-4.4
Received a payment	55,339	28,868	26,471	56,651	-1,312	-2.3
Other activities without job search (c)	6,857	3,772	3,085	8,027	-1,170	-14.6
Incapacitated (d)	2,504	1,108	1,396	2,341	163	7.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,550	1,101	1,449	2,510	40	1.6
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	43,428	22,887	20,541	43,773	-345	-0.8
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	18,918	9,508	9,410	17,745	1,173	6.6
All Youth Allowees	97,693	52,333	45,360	100,040	-2,347	-2.3
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,505	1,026	1,479	2,542	-37	-1.5
Received a payment	95,188	51,307	43,881	97,498	-2,310	-2.4
Other activities without job search (c)	10,804	6,083	4,721	12,879	-2,075	-16.1
Incapacitated (d)	4,397	2,057	2,340	4,135	262	6.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,114	1,834	2,280	4,022	92	2.3
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	75,873	41,333	34,540	76,462	-589	-0.8
All YA (other) training/education (g)	29,748	15,447	14,301	28,035	1,713	6.1

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

Month/Year	Short-term	Long-term	Total
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,467	246,504	402,971
September 2014	152,447	246,892	399,339
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
January 2015	158,486	279,232	437,718
February 2015	159,147	280,864	440,011
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
Variation August 2015 - September 2015			
Number	-1,571	-2,358	-3,929
Per cent	-0.9	-0.7	-0.7

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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	48,430	47,359	-1,071	-2.2
Victoria	41,215	40,746	-469	-1.1
Queensland	46,001	45,540	-461	-1.0
South Australia	15,151	15,202	51	0.3
Western Australia	20,530	20,728	198	1.0
Tasmania	4,418	4,349	-69	-1.6
Northern Territory	3,503	3,775	272	7.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,730	1,708	-22	-1.3
Australia	180,978	179,407	-1,571	-0.9
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	104,874	103,223	-1,651	-1.6
Victoria	78,210	77,075	-1,135	-1.5
Queensland	77,984	77,734	-250	-0.3
South Australia	32,317	32,091	-226	-0.7
Western Australia	33,123	33,579	456	1.4
Tasmania	11,495	11,315	-180	-1.6
Northern Territory	8,461	9,162	701	8.3
Australian Capital Territory	3,171	3,098	-73	-2.3
Australia	349,635	347,277	-2,358	-0.7
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	153,304	150,582	-2,722	-1.8
Victoria	119,425	117,821	-1,604	-1.3
Queensland	123,985	123,274	-711	-0.6
South Australia	47,468	47,293	-175	-0.4
Western Australia	53,653	54,307	654	1.2
Tasmania	15,913	15,664	-249	-1.6
Northern Territory	11,964	12,937	973	8.1
Australian Capital Territory	4,901	4,806	-95	-1.9
Australia	530,613	526,684	-3,929	-0.7

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	2,190	1.9	740	0.4	2,930	1.0
18 - 20 years	13,052	11.2	15,520	8.2	28,572	9.4
21 - 24 years	16,774	14.4	27,702	14.7	44,476	14.6
25 - 29 years	17,000	14.6	27,206	14.4	44,206	14.5
30 - 39 years	26,731	22.9	43,211	22.9	69,942	22.9
40 - 49 years	20,873	17.9	36,740	19.5	57,613	18.9
50 - 59 years	14,451	12.4	26,991	14.3	41,442	13.6
60 years and over	5,467	4.7	10,487	5.6	15,954	5.2
Total	116,538	100.0	188,597	100.0	305,135	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	2,186	3.5	922	0.6	3,108	1.4
18 - 20 years	10,070	16.0	14,445	9.1	24,515	11.1
21 - 24 years	8,786	14.0	19,175	12.1	27,961	12.6
25 - 29 years	6,861	10.9	15,037	9.5	21,898	9.9
30 - 39 years	9,290	14.8	30,909	19.5	40,199	18.1
40 - 49 years	11,636	18.5	42,369	26.7	54,005	24.4
50 - 59 years	10,310	16.4	28,640	18.0	38,950	17.6
60 years and over	3,730	5.9	7,183	4.5	10,913	4.9
Total	62,869	100.0	158,680	100.0	221,549	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	4,376	2.4	1,662	0.5	6,038	1.1
18 - 20 years	23,122	12.9	29,965	8.6	53,087	10.1
21 - 24 years	25,560	14.2	46,877	13.5	72,437	13.8
25 - 29 years	23,861	13.3	42,243	12.2	66,104	12.6
30 - 39 years	36,021	20.1	74,120	21.3	110,141	20.9
40 - 49 years	32,509	18.1	79,109	22.8	111,618	21.2
50 - 59 years	24,761	13.8	55,631	16.0	80,392	15.3
60 years and over	9,197	5.1	17,670	5.1	26,867	5.1
Total	179,407	100.0	347,277	100.0	526,684	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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	4,428	4,328	-100	-2.3
Bondi Junction	1,163	1,122	-41	-3.5
Burwood	2,040	1,983	-57	-2.8
Cabramatta	2,705	2,649	-56	-2.1
Camden	862	830	-32	-3.7
Campbelltown	2,800	2,753	-47	-1.7
Campsie	3,046	3,022	-24	-0.8
Caringbah	932	860	-72	-7.7
Chatswood	1,298	1,261	-37	-2.9
Darlinghurst	1,863	1,865	2	0.1
Fairfield	3,623	3,514	-109	-3.0
Hornsby	1,254	1,221	-33	-2.6
Hurstville	1,765	1,674	-91	-5.2
Ingleburn	1,543	1,500	-43	-2.8
Leichhardt	1,605	1,588	-17	-1.1
Liverpool	4,460	4,288	-172	-3.9
Maroubra	1,709	1,696	-13	-0.8
Marrickville	1,313	1,253	-60	-4.6
Northern Beaches	1,607	1,574	-33	-2.1
Redfern	1,924	1,895	-29	-1.5
Rockdale	1,802	1,782	-20	-1.1
Ryde	1,425	1,378	-47	-3.3
Sutherland	940	864	-76	-8.1
Other (a)	13	10	%	%
Total	46,120	44,910	-1,210	-2.6

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,127	1,149	22	2.0
Brunswick Heads	1,195	1,189	-6	-0.5
Byron Bay	261	278	17	6.5
Casino	943	967	24	2.5
Cessnock	1,124	1,149	25	2.2
Charlestown	2,422	2,370	-52	-2.1
Coffs Harbour	2,567	2,518	-49	-1.9
Comm Support Team	54	51	%	%
Ettalong	917	907	-10	-1.1
Forster	1,086	1,063	-23	-2.1
Gosford	2,106	2,076	-30	-1.4
Grafton	1,167	1,159	-8	-0.7
Kempsey	1,033	1,029	-4	-0.4
King Street	1,529	1,532	3	0.2
Kurri Kurri	663	645	-18	-2.7
Lakehaven	2,216	2,221	5	0.2
Lismore	2,061	2,092	31	1.5
Maitland	2,145	2,148	3	0.1
Mayfield	1,315	1,259	-56	-4.3
Murwillumbah	854	848	-6	-0.7
Muswellbrook	919	884	-35	-3.8
Nambucca Heads	792	777	-15	-1.9
Nelson Bay	697	698	1	0.1
Port Macquarie	2,217	2,172	-45	-2.0
Raymond Terrace	1,374	1,380	6	0.4
Singleton	492	497	5	1.0
Taree	2,095	2,029	-66	-3.2
The Entrance	1,566	1,578	12	0.8
Toronto	1,183	1,121	-62	-5.2
Tweed Heads	1,936	1,902	-34	-1.8
Wallsend	1,994	1,935	-59	-3.0
Woy Woy	642	648	6	0.9
Wyong	811	799	-12	-1.5
Yamba	482	480	-2	-0.4
Other (a)	18	28	%	%
Total	44,003	43,578	-425	-1.0

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,145	1,149	4	0.3
Auburn	2,550	2,497	-53	-2.1
Bathurst	1,038	1,023	-15	-1.4
Baulkham Hills	1,063	1,027	-36	-3.4
Blacktown	3,942	3,878	-64	-1.6
Bourke	559	565	6	1.1
Dubbo	2,785	2,795	10	0.4
Glen Innes	446	439	-7	-1.6
Gunnedah	509	523	14	2.8
Hawkesbury	1,141	1,101	-40	-3.5
Inverell	885	863	-22	-2.5
Katoomba	844	811	-33	-3.9
Lightning Ridge	236	241	5	2.1
Lithgow	845	836	-9	-1.1
Merrylands	2,630	2,565	-65	-2.5
Moree	615	617	2	0.3
Mt Druitt	3,156	3,103	-53	-1.7
Mudgee	741	755	14	1.9
Narrabri	448	459	11	2.5
Orange	1,325	1,355	30	2.3
Parkes	1,048	1,070	22	2.1
Parramatta	2,783	2,696	-87	-3.1
Penrith	2,271	2,265	-6	-0.3
Springwood	452	451	-1	-0.2
St Marys	2,041	2,034	-7	-0.3
Tamworth	2,340	2,351	11	0.5
Walgett	357	372	15	4.2
Other (a)	8	7	%	%
Total	38,203	37,848	-355	-0.9

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	886	850	-36	-4.1
Bega	793	797	4	0.5
Belconnen	1,472	1,421	-51	-3.5
Bowral	517	527	10	1.9
Braddon	1,091	1,088	-3	-0.3
Cooma	414	394	-20	-4.8
Corrimal	1,255	1,202	-53	-4.2
Cowra	611	589	-22	-3.6
Dapto	1,412	1,400	-12	-0.8
Goulburn	973	929	-44	-4.5
Griffith	917	917	0	0.0
Gungahlin	602	614	12	2.0
Leeton	484	472	-12	-2.5
Narooma	315	291	-24	-7.6
Nowra	2,351	2,287	-64	-2.7
Queanbeyan	780	765	-15	-1.9
Shellharbour	1,892	1,842	-50	-2.6
Tuggeranong	1,026	997	-29	-2.8
Tumut	403	390	-13	-3.2
Ulladulla	609	604	-5	-0.8
Wagga	1,825	1,815	-10	-0.5
Woden	664	640	-24	-3.6
Wollongong	1,851	1,759	-92	-5.0
Yass	140	135	-5	-3.6
Young	728	705	-23	-3.2
Other (a)	17	16	%	%
Total	24,028	23,446	-582	-2.4

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,479	1,465	-14	-0.9
Albury	3,622	3,540	-82	-2.3
Box Hill	2,467	2,362	-105	-4.3
Broadmeadows	5,150	5,122	-28	-0.5
Darebin	3,379	3,288	-91	-2.7
Deniliquin	372	350	-22	-5.9
Echuca	791	772	-19	-2.4
Epping	3,506	3,452	-54	-1.5
Greensborough	1,850	1,848	-2	-0.1
Heidelberg	1,552	1,544	-8	-0.5
Moreland	3,040	3,006	-34	-1.1
Newmarket	1,961	1,944	-17	-0.9
Seymour	1,009	989	-20	-2.0
Shepparton	2,407	2,386	-21	-0.9
Sth Melbourne	1,284	1,262	-22	-1.7
Sunbury	1,198	1,197	-1	-0.1
Wangaratta	1,651	1,638	-13	-0.8
Windsor Vic	2,819	2,815	-4	-0.1
Yarra	2,773	2,753	-20	-0.7
Other (a)	64	61	%	%
Total	42,374	41,794	-580	-1.4

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,435	1,406	-29	-2.0
Belgrave	656	618	-38	-5.8
Boronia	1,510	1,469	-41	-2.7
Cheltenham	2,020	1,963	-57	-2.8
Cranbourne	2,388	2,355	-33	-1.4
Dandenong	3,367	3,293	-74	-2.2
Fountain Gate	2,717	2,641	-76	-2.8
Frankston	3,359	3,345	-14	-0.4
Glen Waverley	1,329	1,284	-45	-3.4
Hastings	819	812	-7	-0.9
Lilydale	1,744	1,681	-63	-3.6
Mornington	684	674	-10	-1.5
Morwell	3,510	3,547	37	1.1
Oakleigh	1,965	1,941	-24	-1.2
Pakenham	1,241	1,203	-38	-3.1
Ringwood	2,221	2,183	-38	-1.7
Rosebud	1,035	1,040	5	0.5
Rowville	737	725	-12	-1.6
Sale	1,119	1,128	9	0.8
Springvale	2,509	2,407	-102	-4.1
Warragul	888	893	5	0.6
Wonthaggi	1,190	1,175	-15	-1.3
Other (a)	5	5	%	%
Total	38,448	37,788	-660	-1.7

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	327	324	-3	-0.9
Ballarat	3,806	3,762	-44	-1.2
Bendigo	3,732	3,704	-28	-0.8
Colac	700	670	-30	-4.3
Corio	2,234	2,202	-32	-1.4
Footscray	1,954	1,945	-9	-0.5
Geelong	3,798	3,730	-68	-1.8
Hamilton	492	444	-48	-9.8
Horsham	849	842	-7	-0.8
Maryborough	773	777	4	0.5
Melton	2,469	2,465	-4	-0.2
Mildura	2,318	2,324	6	0.3
Newport	1,392	1,389	-3	-0.2
Portland	444	442	-2	-0.5
Stawell	188	195	7	3.7
Sunshine	4,289	4,229	-60	-1.4
Swan Hill	901	888	-13	-1.4
Warrnambool	992	990	-2	-0.2
Watergardens	4,298	4,239	-59	-1.4
Werribee	5,410	5,415	5	0.1
West Victoria	22	21	%	%
Other (a)	14	16	%	%
Total	41,402	41,013	-389	-0.9

- 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	1,012	988	-24	-2.4
Ayr	509	519	10	2.0
Biloela	279	295	16	5.7
Bowen	554	544	-10	-1.8
Cairns Aplin	6,096	6,025	-71	-1.2
Charters Towers	539	533	-6	-1.1
Emerald	654	664	10	1.5
Gladstone	1,714	1,697	-17	-1.0
Indigenous Service Centre	1,641	1,785	144	8.8
Ingham	453	438	-15	-3.3
Innisfail	1,163	1,139	-24	-2.1
Longreach	128	193	65	50.8
Mackay	3,260	3,262	2	0.1
Mareeba	977	949	-28	-2.9
Mossman	654	663	9	1.4
Mt Isa	1,054	1,027	-27	-2.6
Normanton	160	164	4	2.5
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	231	251	20	8.7
Palm Island	430	419	-11	-2.6
Rockhampton	3,150	3,121	-29	-0.9
Thursday Is	192	225	33	17.2
Townsville	6,348	6,313	-35	-0.6
Townsville Walker	<20	20	na	na
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	520	558	38	7.3
Whitsunday	766	737	-29	-3.8
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	524	538	14	2.7
Yeppoon	770	780	10	1.3
Other (a)	na	100	na	na
Total	33,890	33,947	57	0.2

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,995	4,008	13	0.3
Caboolture	4,564	4,524	-40	-0.9
Caloundra	1,919	1,854	-65	-3.4
Cherbourg	332	361	29	8.7
Chermside	1,609	1,598	-11	-0.7
Deception Bay	2,652	2,482	-170	-6.4
Fortitude Valley	1,643	1,678	35	2.1
Gympie	1,887	1,870	-17	-0.9
Hervey Bay	2,276	2,269	-7	-0.3
Kawana Waters	930	897	-33	-3.5
Kingaroy	999	1,011	12	1.2
Margate	613	718	105	17.1
Maroochydore	2,087	2,061	-26	-1.2
Maryborough	1,737	1,726	-11	-0.6
Mitchelton	1,927	1,870	-57	-3.0
Mt Gravatt	3,100	3,054	-46	-1.5
Nambour	1,431	1,388	-43	-3.0
Noosa	1,327	1,262	-65	-4.9
Nundah	1,896	1,859	-37	-2.0
South Brisbane	1,367	1,368	1	0.1
Stones Corner	2,406	2,319	-87	-3.6
Strathpine	2,647	2,593	-54	-2.0
Toowong	1,500	1,469	-31	-2.1
Other (a)	23	21	%	%
Total	44,867	44,260	-607	-1.4

- 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	872	860	-12	-1.4
Beenleigh	3,346	3,320	-26	-0.8
Biggera Waters	4,384	4,350	-34	-0.8
Browns Plains	2,823	2,790	-33	-1.2
Capalaba	1,102	1,063	-39	-3.5
Charleville	285	281	-4	-1.4
Cleveland	1,405	1,377	-28	-2.0
Dalby	901	886	-15	-1.7
Goodna	2,457	2,468	11	0.4
Goondiwindi	487	491	4	0.8
Inala	2,946	2,885	-61	-2.1
Ipswich	4,694	4,743	49	1.0
Nerang	4,318	4,303	-15	-0.3
Palm Beach	4,509	4,413	-96	-2.1
Roma	220	238	18	8.2
Southport	441	495	54	12.2
Stanthorpe	538	526	-12	-2.2
Toowoomba	3,730	3,763	33	0.9
Warwick	629	626	-3	-0.5
Woodridge	3,185	3,249	64	2.0
Wynnum	1,351	1,309	-42	-3.1
Other (a)	45	45	%	%
Total	44,668	44,481	-187	-0.4

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,262	1,278	16	1.3
Broken Hill	1,061	1,024	-37	-3.5
Ceduna	420	439	19	4.5
Cooper Pedy	196	198	2	1.0
Elizabeth	4,700	4,706	6	0.1
Enfield	2,371	2,269	-102	-4.3
Gawler	1,919	1,885	-34	-1.8
Glenelg	1,153	1,129	-24	-2.1
Kadina	974	975	1	0.1
Kilkenny	2,075	2,100	25	1.2
Marion	3,531	3,500	-31	-0.9
Modbury	2,887	2,881	-6	-0.2
Mt Barker	1,023	992	-31	-3.0
Mt Gambier	1,709	1,670	-39	-2.3
Murray Bridge	1,401	1,382	-19	-1.4
Noarlunga	4,445	4,469	24	0.5
Norwood	2,361	2,299	-62	-2.6
Port Adelaide	2,251	2,217	-34	-1.5
Port Augusta	1,021	1,083	62	6.1
Port Lincoln	763	787	24	3.1
Port Pirie	1,331	1,324	-7	-0.5
Salisbury	4,588	4,602	14	0.3
Torrens ville	2,350	2,350	0	0.0
Victor Harbor	986	980	-6	-0.6
Whyalla	1,215	1,229	14	1.2
Other (a)	20	20	%	%
Total	48,013	47,788	-225	-0.5

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,698	1,613	-85	-5.0
Armadale	2,493	2,489	-4	-0.2
Bunbury	2,987	2,980	-7	-0.2
Busselton	1,341	1,362	21	1.6
Cannington	2,789	2,839	50	1.8
Carnarvon	454	521	67	14.8
Esperance	460	452	-8	-1.7
Fremantle	2,326	2,248	-78	-3.4
Geraldton	2,133	2,137	4	0.2
Gosnells	2,369	2,350	-19	-0.8
Innaloo	1,778	1,811	33	1.9
Joondalup	3,027	3,032	5	0.2
Kalgoorlie	1,092	1,087	-5	-0.5
Karratha	596	600	4	0.7
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	202	249	47	23.3
Mandurah	2,763	2,793	30	1.1
Meekatharra	292	333	41	14.0
Midland	3,079	3,033	-46	-1.5
Mirrabooka	3,274	3,291	17	0.5
Morley	3,158	3,151	-7	-0.2
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	237	259	22	9.3
Northam	1,571	1,605	34	2.2
Rockingham	3,497	3,520	23	0.7
South Hedland	657	705	48	7.3
Success	1,818	1,804	-14	-0.8
Victoria Park	3,020	3,151	131	4.3
Warwick Grove	1,523	1,510	-13	-0.9
Western Australia	22	<20	na	na
Other (a)	29	na	na	na
Total	50,685	50,969	284	0.6

- 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,278	1,235	-43	-3.4
Burnie	1,809	1,795	-14	-0.8
Devonport	1,857	1,816	-41	-2.2
Glenorchy	1,979	1,897	-82	-4.1
Hobart	1,833	1,823	-10	-0.5
Huonville	474	472	-2	-0.4
Launceston	4,730	4,681	-49	-1.0
Rosny Park	1,870	1,858	-12	-0.6
Other (a)	13	15	%	%
Total	15,843	15,592	-251	-1.6
North Australia				
Alice Springs	992	1,036	44	4.4
Angurugu RSC	212	216	4	1.9
Borrooloola	243	257	14	5.8
Broome	855	866	11	1.3
Casuarina	1,139	1,201	62	5.4
Central Australia	2,536	2,781	245	9.7
Darwin	559	586	27	4.8
Derby	362	442	80	22.1
Fitzroy Crossing	235	298	63	26.8
Galiwinku RSC	283	318	35	12.4
Halls Creek	352	371	19	5.4
Hermannsburg RSC	31	35	%	%
Katherine	376	409	33	8.8
Kimberley Katherine	1,544	1,784	240	15.5
Kununurra	417	497	80	19.2
Maningrida	577	653	76	13.2
Nhulunbuy	197	217	20	10.2
Northern Region	1,686	1,796	110	6.5
Palmerston	1,276	1,317	41	3.2
Papunya RSC	20	22	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	36	41	%	%
Tennant Creek	313	360	47	15.0
Tiwi Islands	278	328	50	18.0
Wadeye	406	436	30	7.4
Yuendumu RSC	112	116	4	3.6
Other (a)	16	12	%	%
Total	15,053	16,395	1,342	8.9

– 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	August 2015	September 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	718	690	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	2,361	2,257	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-63	-72	%	%
Australia	530,613	526,684	-3,929	-0.7

(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.

**Table 8 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
Fortnightly Earnings and Sex, Fortnight Ending 18 September 2015**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	86.0	82.6	83.9
Earned an income	14.0	17.4	16.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.7	1.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.8	2.4	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.4	1.8	1.6
Over \$316.00	9.0	10.8	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	115,968	187,870	303,838
Females			
Did not earn an income	75.9	70.8	72.3
Earned an income	24.1	29.2	27.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.0	2.1	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	3.1	3.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.5	2.4
Over \$316.00	16.3	20.8	19.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	62,600	157,811	220,411
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.5	77.2	79.0
Earned an income	17.5	22.8	21.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	1.9	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.2	2.7	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.7	2.1	2.0
Over \$316.00	11.5	15.4	14.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	178,568	345,681	524,249

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 Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

number of Newstart Allowees, as previously grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients who were eligible transferred to Newstart Allowance.

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

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

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

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Youth Training Allowance

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

Widow Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

Introduction of Youth Allowance

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

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

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

Job seekers

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

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who

were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

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

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

Duration

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

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

Glossary

Activity test status

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

Age

Age in years at time of data collection.

Area Support Office

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

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

CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)

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

Customer Service Centre

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

Did not receive a payment

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

Fortnightly earnings

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

Incapacitated

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

Job seeker

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

Long-term recipients

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

Newstart Allowance (NSA)

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

Partner Allowance (PA)

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

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

Service Centre

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

Service Zone

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

Short-term recipients

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

Widow Allowance (WA)

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

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

Youth Training Allowance (YTA)

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

Youth Allowance (YA)

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance (other)

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

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

Appendix

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

Official statistics

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

ABS definition

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

DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

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

Differences

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

Duration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seasonal adjustment

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

Classification

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

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

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

Treatment of partners

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

Pensioners

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

Non job seekers

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

Waiting periods

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

Survey

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

For More Information

Labour market information

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

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

For enquiries email:

IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au

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

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

Other recipient information

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