

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 22 April 2015.

Statistical Highlights – February 2015

Between February 2014 and February 2015

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 2.5 per cent** overall from 849 224 to 870 037.

- NSA recipients increased 3.8 per cent from 732 654 to 760 149.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 5.7 per cent from 116 570 to 109 888.

The number of job seekers **increased 3.4 per cent** overall from 425 617 to 440 011.

- NSA job seekers increased 4.0 per cent from 368 165 to 382 931.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 0.6 per cent from 57 452 to 57 080.

Long-term job seekers increased 11.5 per cent from 251 800 to 280 864.

Short-term job seekers decreased 8.4 per cent from 173 817 to 159 147.

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

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

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

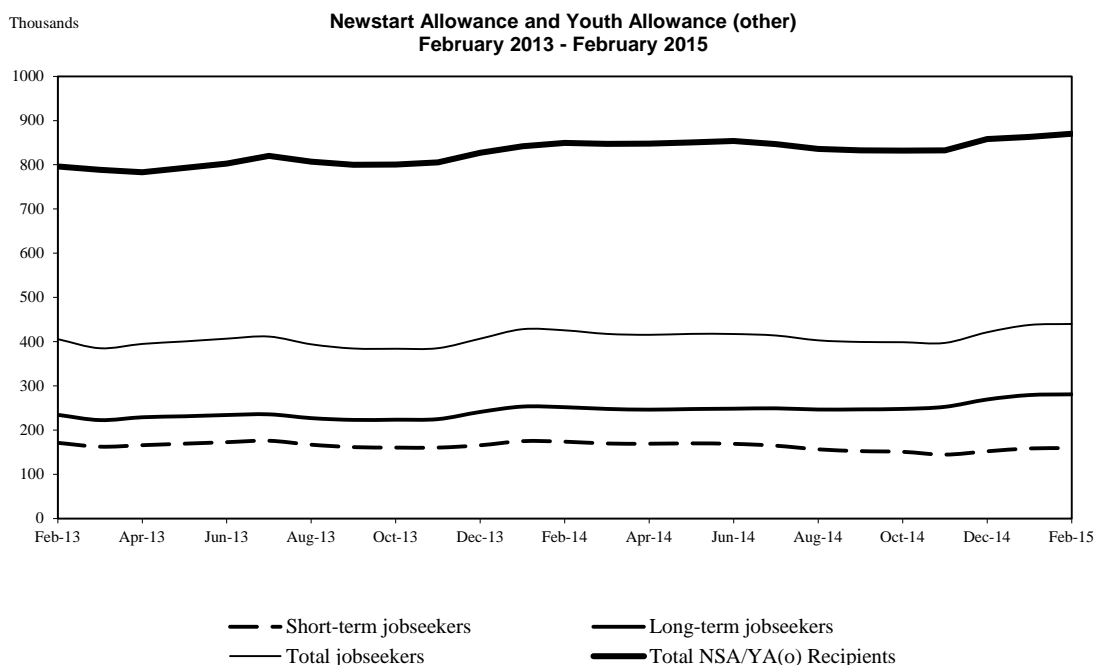


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
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
Variation January 2015 - February 2015							
Number	4,630	5,809	1,231	15,368	-85	-204	-268
Per cent	0.9	0.8	1.1	8.9	-1.5	-3.0	-1.1

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

	February 2015 Persons	February 2015 Males	February 2015 Females	January 2015	Variation January - February Number	Variation January - February per cent
Newstart Allowance						
Short Term Newstart Allowees	222,616	138,297	84,319	221,437	1,179	0.5
CPS Recipients (a)	55	46	9	64	-9	-14.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,372	6,381	4,991	9,059	2,313	25.5
Received a payment	211,189	131,870	79,319	212,314	-1,125	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,221	1,988	5,233	7,299	-78	-1.1
Other activities without job search (d)	33,095	19,547	13,548	33,482	-387	-1.2
Incapacitated (e)	21,892	12,681	9,211	22,248	-356	-1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,360	6,999	5,361	12,585	-225	-1.8
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	136,621	90,655	45,966	136,700	-79	-0.1
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	30,761	17,640	13,121	27,721	3,040	11.0
Long Term Newstart Allowees	537,533	259,213	278,320	532,903	4,630	0.9
CPS Recipients (a)	1,374	910	464	1,472	-98	-6.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	18,637	7,878	10,759	14,500	4,137	28.5
Received a payment	517,522	250,425	267,097	516,931	591	0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	59,052	12,897	46,155	58,641	411	0.7
Other activities without job search (d)	127,623	59,057	68,566	127,692	-69	-0.1
Incapacitated (e)	40,648	19,846	20,802	41,569	-921	-2.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	43,889	19,781	24,108	43,694	195	0.4
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	246,310	138,844	107,466	245,335	975	0.4
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	165,214	82,581	82,633	152,130	13,084	8.6
All Newstart Allowees	760,149	397,510	362,639	754,340	5,809	0.8
CPS Recipients (a)	1,429	956	473	1,536	-107	-7.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	30,009	14,259	15,750	23,559	6,450	27.4
Received a payment	728,711	382,295	346,416	729,245	-534	-0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	66,273	14,885	51,388	65,940	333	0.5
Other activities without job search (d)	160,718	78,604	82,114	161,174	-456	-0.3
Incapacitated (e)	62,540	32,527	30,013	63,817	-1,277	-2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	56,249	26,780	29,469	56,279	-30	-0.1
All NSA job seekers (g)	382,931	229,499	153,432	382,035	896	0.2
All NSA training/education (h)	195,975	100,221	95,754	179,851	16,124	9.0

(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)	February 2015 Persons	February 2015 Males	February 2015 Females	January 2015	Variation January - February Number	Variation January - February per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	43,479	24,192	19,287	42,829	650	1.5
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	921	429	492	905	16	1.8
Received a payment	42,558	23,763	18,795	41,924	634	1.5
Other activities without job search (c)	16,686	9,810	6,876	16,659	27	0.2
Incapacitated (d)	1,778	912	866	1,837	-59	-3.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,568	749	819	1,642	-74	-4.5
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	22,526	12,292	10,234	21,786	740	3.4
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	10,955	6,032	4,923	9,844	1,111	11.3
Long Term Youth Allowees	66,409	34,017	32,392	65,828	581	0.9
CPS Recipients (a)	4	4	0	8	-4	-50.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,779	767	1,012	1,645	134	8.1
Received a payment	64,626	33,246	31,380	64,175	451	0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	25,017	13,250	11,767	25,185	-168	-0.7
Incapacitated (d)	2,454	1,099	1,355	2,537	-83	-3.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,601	1,088	1,513	2,556	45	1.8
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	34,554	17,809	16,745	33,897	657	1.9
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	23,925	12,044	11,881	21,339	2,586	12.1
All Youth Allowees	109,888	58,209	51,679	108,657	1,231	1.1
CPS Recipients (a)	4	4	0	8	-4	-50.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,700	1,196	1,504	2,550	150	5.9
Received a payment	107,184	57,009	50,175	106,099	1,085	1.0
Other activities without job search (c)	41,703	23,060	18,643	41,844	-141	-0.3
Incapacitated (d)	4,232	2,011	2,221	4,374	-142	-3.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,169	1,837	2,332	4,198	-29	-0.7
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	57,080	30,101	26,979	55,683	1,397	2.5
All YA (other) training/education (g)	34,880	18,076	16,804	31,183	3,697	11.9

(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
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,467	246,504	402,971
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
Variation January 2015 - February 2015			
Number	661	1632	2293
Per cent	0.4	0.6	0.5

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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	44,660	44,344	-316	-0.7
Victoria	37,684	37,575	-109	-0.3
Queensland	40,966	42,112	1,146	2.8
South Australia	12,488	12,617	129	1.0
Western Australia	15,342	15,301	-41	-0.3
Tasmania	3,753	3,589	-164	-4.4
Northern Territory	2,035	2,069	34	1.7
Australian Capital Territory	1,558	1,540	-18	-1.2
Australia	158,486	159,147	661	0.4
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	86,166	86,381	215	0.2
Victoria	64,468	64,824	356	0.6
Queensland	63,127	63,922	795	1.3
South Australia	25,233	25,462	229	0.9
Western Australia	23,827	23,975	148	0.6
Tasmania	9,802	9,705	-97	-1.0
Northern Territory	4,209	4,161	-48	-1.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,400	2,434	34	1.4
Australia	279,232	280,864	1,632	0.6
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	130,826	130,725	-101	-0.1
Victoria	102,152	102,399	247	0.2
Queensland	104,093	106,034	1,941	1.9
South Australia	37,721	38,079	358	0.9
Western Australia	39,169	39,276	107	0.3
Tasmania	13,555	13,294	-261	-1.9
Northern Territory	6,244	6,230	-14	-0.2
Australian Capital Territory	3,958	3,974	16	0.4
Australia	437,718	440,011	2,293	0.5

Notes:

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

Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Sex

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	1,774	1.7	345	0.2	2,119	0.8
18 - 20 years	8,377	8.1	12,522	8.0	20,899	8.1
21 - 24 years	14,850	14.4	23,872	15.2	38,722	14.9
25 - 29 years	16,161	15.7	23,955	15.3	40,116	15.5
30 - 39 years	24,365	23.7	35,726	22.8	60,091	23.1
40 - 49 years	19,141	18.6	30,022	19.2	49,163	18.9
50 - 59 years	13,383	13.0	22,324	14.3	35,707	13.8
60 years and over	4,896	4.8	7,888	5.0	12,784	4.9
Total	102,947	100.0	156,654	100.0	259,601	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,852	3.3	435	0.4	2,287	1.3
18 - 20 years	7,070	12.6	12,101	9.7	19,171	10.6
21 - 24 years	8,610	15.3	17,372	14.0	25,982	14.4
25 - 29 years	6,994	12.4	12,878	10.4	19,872	11.0
30 - 39 years	8,792	15.6	23,587	19.0	32,379	17.9
40 - 49 years	10,540	18.8	31,525	25.4	42,065	23.3
50 - 59 years	9,317	16.6	21,608	17.4	30,925	17.1
60 years and over	3,025	5.4	4,704	3.8	7,729	4.3
Total	56,200	100.0	124,210	100.0	180,410	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,626	2.3	780	0.3	4,406	1.0
18 - 20 years	15,447	9.7	24,623	8.8	40,070	9.1
21 - 24 years	23,460	14.7	41,244	14.7	64,704	14.7
25 - 29 years	23,155	14.5	36,833	13.1	59,988	13.6
30 - 39 years	33,157	20.8	59,313	21.1	92,470	21.0
40 - 49 years	29,681	18.7	61,547	21.9	91,228	20.7
50 - 59 years	22,700	14.3	43,932	15.6	66,632	15.1
60 years and over	7,921	5.0	12,592	4.5	20,513	4.7
Total	159,147	100.0	280,864	100.0	440,011	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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,540	3,536	-4	-0.1
Bondi Junction	1,227	1,258	31	2.5
Burwood	1,771	1,722	-49	-2.8
Cabramatta	2,671	2,638	-33	-1.2
Camden	792	812	20	2.5
Campbelltown	2,201	2,220	19	0.9
Campsie	2,551	2,569	18	0.7
Caringbah	892	876	-16	-1.8
Chatswood	1,226	1,244	18	1.5
Darlinghurst	1,623	1,641	18	1.1
Fairfield	3,086	3,008	-78	-2.5
Hornsby	1,095	1,133	38	3.5
Hurstville	1,592	1,575	-17	-1.1
Ingleburn	1,268	1,250	-18	-1.4
Leichhardt	1,419	1,426	7	0.5
Liverpool	3,953	3,810	-143	-3.6
Maroubra	1,519	1,486	-33	-2.2
Marrickville	1,510	1,492	-18	-1.2
Northern Beaches	1,337	1,332	-5	-0.4
Redfern	1,448	1,448	0	0.0
Rockdale	1,609	1,643	34	2.1
Ryde	1,220	1,254	34	2.8
Sutherland	887	876	-11	-1.2
Other (a)	6	7	%	%
Total	40,443	40,256	-187	-0.5

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,056	1,038	-18	-1.7
Brunswick Heads	1,135	1,139	4	0.4
Byron Bay	243	261	18	7.4
Casino	701	703	2	0.3
Cessnock	993	992	-1	-0.1
Charlestown	2,210	2,177	-33	-1.5
Coffs Harbour	2,141	2,180	39	1.8
Comm Support Team	31	32	%	%
Ettalong	824	829	5	0.6
Forster	917	918	1	0.1
Gosford	1,919	1,929	10	0.5
Grafton	1,019	1,015	-4	-0.4
Kempsey	931	930	-1	-0.1
King Street	1,357	1,318	-39	-2.9
Kurri Kurri	600	610	10	1.7
Lakehaven	1,902	1,903	1	0.1
Lismore	1,861	1,841	-20	-1.1
Maitland	1,930	1,935	5	0.3
Mayfield	1,180	1,191	11	0.9
Murwillumbah	745	753	8	1.1
Muswellbrook	826	854	28	3.4
Nambucca Heads	757	780	23	3.0
Nelson Bay	544	556	12	2.2
Port Macquarie	1,924	1,894	-30	-1.6
Raymond Terrace	1,108	1,127	19	1.7
Singleton	435	455	20	4.6
Taree	1,682	1,698	16	1.0
The Entrance	1,348	1,357	9	0.7
Toronto	1,033	1,036	3	0.3
Tweed Heads	1,761	1,687	-74	-4.2
Wallsend	1,799	1,761	-38	-2.1
Woy Woy	582	571	-11	-1.9
Wyong	714	724	10	1.4
Yamba	457	455	-2	-0.4
Other (a)	16	17	%	%
Total	38,681	38,666	-15	0.0

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,082	1,075	-7	-0.6
Auburn	2,343	2,352	9	0.4
Bathurst	872	876	4	0.5
Baulkham Hills	996	1,007	11	1.1
Blacktown	3,424	3,411	-13	-0.4
Bourke	355	351	-4	-1.1
Dubbo	1,914	1,942	28	1.5
Glen Innes	348	357	9	2.6
Gunnedah	496	493	-3	-0.6
Hawkesbury	953	999	46	4.8
Inverell	787	783	-4	-0.5
Katoomba	732	719	-13	-1.8
Lightning Ridge	194	205	11	5.7
Lithgow	714	714	0	0.0
Merrylands	2,321	2,339	18	0.8
Moree	538	533	-5	-0.9
Mt Druitt	2,488	2,559	71	2.9
Mudgee	663	641	-22	-3.3
Narrabri	425	431	6	1.4
Orange	1,023	1,018	-5	-0.5
Parkes	795	787	-8	-1.0
Parramatta	2,351	2,419	68	2.9
Penrith	2,001	2,006	5	0.2
Springwood	442	425	-17	-3.8
St Marys	1,767	1,799	32	1.8
Tamworth	2,000	2,039	39	2.0
Walgett	153	151	-2	-1.3
Other (a)	19	22	%	%
Total	32,196	32,453	257	0.8

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	689	689	0	0.0
Bega	698	699	1	0.1
Belconnen	1,278	1,290	12	0.9
Bowral	515	494	-21	-4.1
Braddon	831	823	-8	-1.0
Cooma	393	380	-13	-3.3
Corrimal	1,228	1,218	-10	-0.8
Cowra	488	466	-22	-4.5
Dapto	1,226	1,210	-16	-1.3
Goulburn	829	845	16	1.9
Griffith	668	612	-56	-8.4
Gungahlin	474	477	3	0.6
Leeton	435	427	-8	-1.8
Narooma	278	283	5	1.8
Nowra	1,808	1,819	11	0.6
Queanbeyan	597	592	-5	-0.8
Shellharbour	1,609	1,599	-10	-0.6
Tuggeranong	866	873	7	0.8
Tumut	290	292	2	0.7
Ulladulla	501	496	-5	-1.0
Wagga	1,212	1,228	16	1.3
Woden	487	510	23	4.7
Wollongong	1,593	1,590	-3	-0.2
Yass	100	105	5	5.0
Young	591	588	-3	-0.5
Other (a)	7	10	%	%
Total	19,691	19,615	-76	-0.4

- 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,294	1,288	-6	-0.5
Albury	2,760	2,742	-18	-0.7
Box Hill	2,227	2,274	47	2.1
Broadmeadows	4,006	3,979	-27	-0.7
Darebin	3,113	3,156	43	1.4
Deniliquin	268	269	1	0.4
Echuca	611	595	-16	-2.6
Epping	3,149	3,143	-6	-0.2
Greensborough	1,816	1,811	-5	-0.3
Heidelberg	1,487	1,483	-4	-0.3
Moreland	3,130	3,165	35	1.1
Newmarket	1,866	1,876	10	0.5
Seymour	801	810	9	1.1
Shepparton	2,041	1,958	-83	-4.1
Sth Melbourne	1,183	1,178	-5	-0.4
Sunbury	983	1,015	32	3.3
Wangaratta	1,349	1,365	16	1.2
Windsor Vic	2,764	2,734	-30	-1.1
Yarra	2,406	2,485	79	3.3
Other (a)	25	26	%	%
Total	37,279	37,352	73	0.2

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,064	1,060	-4	-0.4
Belgrave	568	588	20	3.5
Boronia	1,224	1,265	41	3.3
Cheltenham	1,832	1,851	19	1.0
Cranbourne	1,947	1,967	20	1.0
Dandenong	2,776	2,790	14	0.5
Fountain Gate	2,453	2,431	-22	-0.9
Frankston	2,706	2,691	-15	-0.6
Glen Waverley	1,156	1,179	23	2.0
Hastings	625	621	-4	-0.6
Lilydale	1,396	1,379	-17	-1.2
Mornington	576	574	-2	-0.3
Morwell	2,599	2,592	-7	-0.3
Oakleigh	1,785	1,816	31	1.7
Pakenham	1,042	1,024	-18	-1.7
Ringwood	1,825	1,806	-19	-1.0
Rosebud	795	824	29	3.6
Rowville	714	722	8	1.1
Sale	806	805	-1	-0.1
Springvale	2,025	1,992	-33	-1.6
Warragul	735	746	11	1.5
Wonthaggi	952	957	5	0.5
Other (a)	1	2	%	%
Total	31,602	31,682	80	0.3

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	229	225	-4	-1.7
Ballarat	3,312	3,345	33	1.0
Bendigo	2,725	2,751	26	1.0
Colac	631	646	15	2.4
Corio	1,957	1,958	1	0.1
Footscray	1,670	1,658	-12	-0.7
Geelong	3,521	3,446	-75	-2.1
Hamilton	397	424	27	6.8
Horsham	739	723	-16	-2.2
Maryborough	553	577	24	4.3
Melton	2,164	2,145	-19	-0.9
Mildura	2,143	2,052	-91	-4.2
Newport	1,174	1,188	14	1.2
Portland	388	386	-2	-0.5
Stawell	184	193	9	4.9
Sunshine	3,783	3,743	-40	-1.1
Swan Hill	734	763	29	4.0
Warrnambool	820	821	1	0.1
Watergardens	3,664	3,709	45	1.2
Werribee	4,609	4,677	68	1.5
Other (a)	14	21	%	%
Total	35,411	35,451	40	0.1

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	959	984	25	2.6
Ayr	477	499	22	4.6
Biloela	250	271	21	8.4
Bowen	556	584	28	5.0
Cairns Aplin	5,632	5,754	122	2.2
Charters Towers	466	500	34	7.3
Emerald	553	571	18	3.3
Gladstone	1,312	1,422	110	8.4
Indigenous Service Centre	839	744	-95	-11.3
Ingham	431	454	23	5.3
Innisfail	1,117	1,142	25	2.2
Longreach	154	158	4	2.6
Mackay	2,637	2,757	120	4.6
Mareeba	872	880	8	0.9
Mossman	524	540	16	3.1
Mt Isa	715	737	22	3.1
Normanton	56	56	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	137	122	-15	-10.9
Palm Island	88	87	%	%
Rockhampton	2,598	2,762	164	6.3
Thursday Is	77	67	%	%
Townsville	5,457	5,537	80	1.5
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	226	195	-31	-13.7
Whitsunday	737	757	20	2.7
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	488	484	-4	-0.8
Yeppoon	692	698	6	0.9
Other (a)	75	86	%	%
Total	28,125	28,848	723	2.6

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,802	3,895	93	2.4
Caboolture	3,824	3,930	106	2.8
Caloundra	1,699	1,737	38	2.2
Cherbourg	304	307	3	1.0
Chermside	1,398	1,422	24	1.7
Deception Bay	2,716	2,651	-65	-2.4
Fortitude Valley	1,447	1,464	17	1.2
Gympie	1,620	1,642	22	1.4
Hervey Bay	2,000	2,047	47	2.4
Kawana Waters	778	789	11	1.4
Kingaroy	878	870	-8	-0.9
Margate	183	242	59	32.2
Maroochydore	1,768	1,833	65	3.7
Maryborough	1,496	1,518	22	1.5
Mitchelton	1,667	1,686	19	1.1
Mt Gravatt	2,603	2,582	-21	-0.8
Nambour	1,222	1,230	8	0.7
Noosa	1,156	1,190	34	2.9
Nundah	1,749	1,788	39	2.2
South Brisbane	1,288	1,275	-13	-1.0
Stones Corner	2,252	2,232	-20	-0.9
Strathpine	2,117	2,197	80	3.8
Toowong	1,542	1,560	18	1.2
Other (a)	10	10	%	%
Total	39,519	40,097	578	1.5

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	716	730	14	2.0
Beenleigh	2,661	2,736	75	2.8
Biggera Waters	3,976	4,084	108	2.7
Browns Plains	2,256	2,322	66	2.9
Capalaba	964	960	-4	-0.4
Charleville	250	231	-19	-7.6
Cleveland	1,298	1,318	20	1.5
Dalby	662	698	36	5.4
Goodna	1,780	1,814	34	1.9
Goondiwindi	422	423	1	0.2
Inala	2,245	2,248	3	0.1
Ipswich	3,441	3,505	64	1.9
Nerang	3,822	3,852	30	0.8
Palm Beach	4,178	4,222	44	1.1
Roma	158	166	8	5.1
Southport	138	112	-26	-18.8
Stanthorpe	439	435	-4	-0.9
Toowoomba	2,570	2,651	81	3.2
Warwick	544	552	8	1.5
Woodridge	2,446	2,508	62	2.5
Wynnum	1,103	1,140	37	3.4
Other (a)	22	22	%	%
Total	36,091	36,729	638	1.8

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,013	997	-16	-1.6
Broken Hill	852	859	7	0.8
Ceduna	235	240	5	2.1
Cooper Pedy	129	133	4	3.1
Elizabeth	3,726	3,790	64	1.7
Enfield	1,973	2,002	29	1.5
Gawler	1,542	1,524	-18	-1.2
Glenelg	967	969	2	0.2
Kadina	823	807	-16	-1.9
Kilkenny	1,708	1,683	-25	-1.5
Marion	2,785	2,822	37	1.3
Modbury	2,416	2,482	66	2.7
Mt Barker	779	793	14	1.8
Mt Gambier	1,356	1,313	-43	-3.2
Murray Bridge	1,095	1,088	-7	-0.6
Noarlunga	3,332	3,405	73	2.2
Norwood	2,111	2,088	-23	-1.1
Port Adelaide	1,850	1,884	34	1.8
Port Augusta	847	867	20	2.4
Port Lincoln	644	632	-12	-1.9
Port Pirie	1,123	1,124	1	0.1
Salisbury	3,451	3,539	88	2.5
Torrens ville	1,858	1,873	15	0.8
Victor Harbor	771	812	41	5.3
Whyalla	956	991	35	3.7
Other (a)	18	15	%	%
Total	38,360	38,732	372	1.0

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,292	1,311	19	1.5
Armadale	1,643	1,679	36	2.2
Bunbury	2,422	2,397	-25	-1.0
Busselton	1,085	1,113	28	2.6
Cannington	2,152	2,130	-22	-1.0
Carnarvon	236	221	-15	-6.4
Esperance	341	319	-22	-6.5
Fremantle	1,819	1,814	-5	-0.3
Geraldton	1,674	1,626	-48	-2.9
Gosnells	1,676	1,693	17	1.0
Innaloo	1,468	1,515	47	3.2
Joondalup	2,322	2,337	15	0.6
Kalgoorlie	834	823	-11	-1.3
Karratha	369	386	17	4.6
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	57	51	%	%
Mandurah	1,955	1,980	25	1.3
Meekatharra	219	192	-27	-12.3
Midland	2,233	2,292	59	2.6
Mirrabooka	2,486	2,510	24	1.0
Morley	2,379	2,457	78	3.3
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	124	127	3	2.4
Northam	1,213	1,214	1	0.1
Rockingham	2,457	2,433	-24	-1.0
South Hedland	546	539	-7	-1.3
Success	1,328	1,333	5	0.4
Victoria Park	2,291	2,272	-19	-0.8
Warwick Grove	1,191	1,185	-6	-0.5
Other (a)	25	23	%	%
Total	37,837	37,972	135	0.4

- 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,075	1,065	-10	-0.9
Burnie	1,659	1,637	-22	-1.3
Devonport	1,576	1,537	-39	-2.5
Glenorchy	1,550	1,487	-63	-4.1
Hobart	1,644	1,605	-39	-2.4
Huonville	412	394	-18	-4.4
Launceston	4,172	4,136	-36	-0.9
Rosny Park	1,400	1,383	-17	-1.2
Other (a)	8	7	%	%
Total	13,496	13,251	-245	-1.8
North Australia				
Alice Springs	727	723	-4	-0.6
Angurugu RSC	115	112	-3	-2.6
Borrooloola	29	26	%	%
Broome	547	546	-1	-0.2
Casuarina	762	828	66	8.7
Central Australia	1,191	1,079	-112	-9.4
Darwin	426	425	-1	-0.2
Derby	113	92	%	%
Fitzroy Crossing	75	84	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	115	119	4	3.5
Halls Creek	193	183	-10	-5.2
Katherine	269	271	2	0.7
Kimberley Katherine	210	315	105	50.0
Kununurra	183	170	-13	-7.1
Maningrida	106	157	51	48.1
Nhulunbuy	<20	24	na	na
Northern Australia	46	<20	na	na
Northern Region	451	647	196	43.5
Palmerston	1,030	1,064	34	3.3
Tennant Creek	266	262	-4	-1.5
Tiwi Islands	119	120	1	0.8
Top End East	89	<20	na	na
Top End South	113	..	na	na
Top End West	141	<20	na	na
Wadeye	258	270	12	4.7
Yuendumu RSC	33	25	%	%
Other (a)	na	36	na	na
Total	7,660	7,583	-77	-1.0

– 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	January 2015	February 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	150	160	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,176	1,239	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	1	-75	%	%
Australia	437,718	440,011	2,293	0.5

(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 20 February 2015**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.9	82.2	83.7
Earned an income	14.1	17.8	16.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	2.0	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.6	2.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.9	1.7
Over \$316.00	8.9	10.5	9.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	103,197	157,288	260,485
Females			
Did not earn an income	76.3	70.7	72.5
Earned an income	23.7	29.3	27.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.2	2.6	2.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.1	3.5	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.7	2.6
Over \$316.00	15.4	19.6	18.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	56,216	124,315	180,531
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.5	77.1	79.1
Earned an income	17.5	22.9	20.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.7	2.3	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	3.0	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.7	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	11.2	14.5	13.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	159,413	281,603	441,016

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/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>).