

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>).

June 2015

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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 19 August 2015.

Statistical Highlights – June 2015

Between June 2014 and June 2015

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 3.5 per cent** overall from 853 756 to 883 237.

- NSA recipients increased 4.5 per cent from 741 051 to 774 072.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 3.1 per cent from 112 705 to 109 165.

The number of job seekers **increased 5.8 per cent** overall from 417 277 to 441 371.

- NSA job seekers increased 6.3 per cent from 363 203 to 386 068.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 2.3 per cent from 54 074 to 55 303.

Long-term job seekers increased 13.0 per cent from 248 406 to 280 671.

Short-term job seekers decreased 4.8 per cent from 168 871 to 160 700.

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

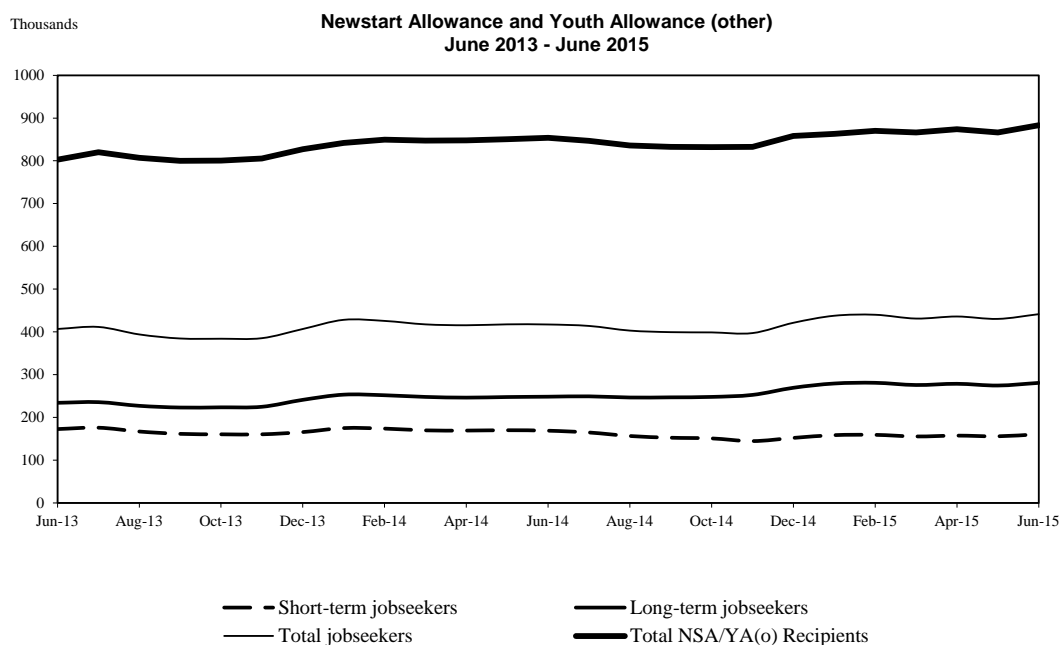


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
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
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
Variation May 2015 - June 2015							
Number	8,872	13,144	3,607	1,619	-34	-181	-316
Per cent	1.6	1.7	3.4	0.7	-0.6	-3.0	-1.4

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.
- June 2015 data is influenced by the transition to 'jobactive', the new employment services model implemented on 1 July 2015. These short term transitional arrangements impacted on the level of suspensions that were able to be actioned during the June reporting period..

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

Newstart Allowance	June 2015 Persons	June 2015 Males	June 2015 Females	May 2015	Variation May - June Number	Variation May - June per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	224,961	140,975	83,986	220,689	4,272	1.9
CPS Recipients (a)	63	48	15	83	-20	-24.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,058	7,184	5,874	12,549	509	4.1
Received a payment	211,840	133,743	78,097	208,057	3,783	1.8
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,937	1,889	5,048	7,106	-169	-2.4
Other activities without job search (d)	32,197	19,157	13,040	31,955	242	0.8
Incapacitated (e)	22,419	13,220	9,199	22,690	-271	-1.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,966	7,290	5,676	12,788	178	1.4
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	137,321	92,187	45,134	133,518	3,803	2.8
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	30,087	16,874	13,213	31,749	-1,662	-5.2
Long Term Newstart Allowees	549,111	266,840	282,271	540,239	8,872	1.6
CPS Recipients (a)	406	263	143	975	-569	-58.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	21,074	8,522	12,552	20,408	666	3.3
Received a payment	527,631	258,055	269,576	518,856	8,775	1.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	58,787	12,990	45,797	59,084	-297	-0.5
Other activities without job search (d)	133,784	62,253	71,531	129,518	4,266	3.3
Incapacitated (e)	41,082	20,134	20,948	41,963	-881	-2.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	45,231	20,609	24,622	45,144	87	0.2
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	248,747	142,069	106,678	243,147	5,600	2.3
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	172,515	85,615	86,900	173,201	-686	-0.4
All Newstart Allowees	774,072	407,815	366,257	760,928	13,144	1.7
CPS Recipients (a)	469	311	158	1,058	-589	-55.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	34,132	15,706	18,426	32,957	1,175	3.6
Received a payment	739,471	391,798	347,673	726,913	12,558	1.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	65,724	14,879	50,845	66,190	-466	-0.7
Other activities without job search (d)	165,981	81,410	84,571	161,473	4,508	2.8
Incapacitated (e)	63,501	33,354	30,147	64,653	-1,152	-1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	58,197	27,899	30,298	57,932	265	0.5
All NSA job seekers (g)	386,068	234,256	151,812	376,665	9,403	2.5
All NSA training/education (h)	202,602	102,489	100,113	204,950	-2,348	-1.1

(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)	June 2015 Persons	June 2015 Males	June 2015 Females	May 2015	Variation May - June Number	Variation May - June per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	45,323	25,430	19,893	43,292	2,031	4.7
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,162	506	656	1,121	41	3.7
Received a payment	44,161	24,924	19,237	42,171	1,990	4.7
Other activities without job search (c)	17,269	10,291	6,978	16,457	812	4.9
Incapacitated (d)	1,906	988	918	1,879	27	1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,607	737	870	1,567	40	2.6
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	23,379	12,908	10,471	22,268	1,111	5.0
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	11,400	6,288	5,112	11,517	-117	-1.0
Long Term Youth Allowees	63,842	33,215	30,627	62,266	1,576	2.5
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,917	774	1,143	1,914	3	0.2
Received a payment	61,925	32,441	29,484	60,352	1,573	2.6
Other activities without job search (c)	25,124	13,450	11,674	23,911	1,213	5.1
Incapacitated (d)	2,393	1,060	1,333	2,484	-91	-3.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,484	1,042	1,442	2,562	-78	-3.0
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	31,924	16,889	15,035	31,395	529	1.7
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	24,478	12,332	12,146	24,408	70	0.3
All Youth Allowees	109,165	58,645	50,520	105,558	3,607	3.4
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	3,079	1,280	1,799	3,035	44	1.4
Received a payment	106,086	57,365	48,721	102,523	3,563	3.5
Other activities without job search (c)	42,393	23,741	18,652	40,368	2,025	5.0
Incapacitated (d)	4,299	2,048	2,251	4,363	-64	-1.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,091	1,779	2,312	4,129	-38	-0.9
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	55,303	29,797	25,506	53,663	1,640	3.1
All YA (other) training/education (g)	35,878	18,620	17,258	35,925	-47	-0.1

(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
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
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
Variation May 2015 - June 2015			
Number	4,914	6,129	11,043
Per cent	3.2	2.2	2.6

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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	42,772	43,582	810	1.9
Victoria	36,276	37,458	1,182	3.3
Queensland	41,430	42,687	1,257	3.0
South Australia	12,283	12,839	556	4.5
Western Australia	16,167	17,091	924	5.7
Tasmania	3,408	3,511	103	3.0
Northern Territory	2,022	2,076	54	2.7
Australian Capital Territory	1,428	1,456	28	2.0
Australia	155,786	160,700	4,914	3.2
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	83,889	85,208	1,319	1.6
Victoria	62,814	63,941	1,127	1.8
Queensland	63,210	65,261	2,051	3.2
South Australia	24,828	25,408	580	2.3
Western Australia	23,994	24,821	827	3.4
Tasmania	9,388	9,526	138	1.5
Northern Territory	4,028	4,063	35	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	2,391	2,443	52	2.2
Australia	274,542	280,671	6,129	2.2
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	126,661	128,790	2,129	1.7
Victoria	99,090	101,399	2,309	2.3
Queensland	104,640	107,948	3,308	3.2
South Australia	37,111	38,247	1,136	3.1
Western Australia	40,161	41,912	1,751	4.4
Tasmania	12,796	13,037	241	1.9
Northern Territory	6,050	6,139	89	1.5
Australian Capital Territory	3,819	3,899	80	2.1
Australia	430,328	441,371	11,043	2.6

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	1,317	1.3	277	0.2	1,594	0.6
18 - 20 years	9,229	8.8	11,603	7.3	20,832	7.9
21 - 24 years	15,689	14.9	23,776	15.0	39,465	14.9
25 - 29 years	16,715	15.9	24,623	15.5	41,338	15.7
30 - 39 years	25,044	23.8	37,033	23.3	62,077	23.5
40 - 49 years	19,116	18.2	30,770	19.4	49,886	18.9
50 - 59 years	13,279	12.6	22,778	14.3	36,057	13.7
60 years and over	4,708	4.5	8,098	5.1	12,806	4.8
Total	105,097	100.0	158,958	100.0	264,055	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,301	2.3	359	0.3	1,660	0.9
18 - 20 years	7,744	13.9	10,683	8.8	18,427	10.4
21 - 24 years	8,586	15.4	15,898	13.1	24,484	13.8
25 - 29 years	6,787	12.2	12,622	10.4	19,409	10.9
30 - 39 years	8,606	15.5	23,901	19.6	32,507	18.3
40 - 49 years	10,457	18.8	31,777	26.1	42,234	23.8
50 - 59 years	9,151	16.5	21,675	17.8	30,826	17.4
60 years and over	2,971	5.3	4,798	3.9	7,769	4.4
Total	55,603	100.0	121,713	100.0	177,316	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	2,618	1.6	636	0.2	3,254	0.7
18 - 20 years	16,973	10.6	22,286	7.9	39,259	8.9
21 - 24 years	24,275	15.1	39,674	14.1	63,949	14.5
25 - 29 years	23,502	14.6	37,245	13.3	60,747	13.8
30 - 39 years	33,650	20.9	60,934	21.7	94,584	21.4
40 - 49 years	29,573	18.4	62,547	22.3	92,120	20.9
50 - 59 years	22,430	14.0	44,453	15.8	66,883	15.2
60 years and over	7,679	4.8	12,896	4.6	20,575	4.7
Total	160,700	100.0	280,671	100.0	441,371	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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,422	3,444	22	0.6
Bondi Junction	1,205	1,123	-82	-6.8
Burwood	1,706	1,727	21	1.2
Cabramatta	2,547	2,533	-14	-0.5
Camden	716	731	15	2.1
Campbelltown	2,134	2,200	66	3.1
Campsie	2,537	2,596	59	2.3
Caringbah	835	863	28	3.4
Chatswood	1,150	1,092	-58	-5.0
Darlinghurst	1,560	1,546	-14	-0.9
Fairfield	2,953	3,037	84	2.8
Hornsby	1,021	1,041	20	2.0
Hurstville	1,514	1,563	49	3.2
Ingleburn	1,240	1,268	28	2.3
Leichhardt	1,325	1,354	29	2.2
Liverpool	3,766	3,862	96	2.5
Maroubra	1,444	1,460	16	1.1
Marrickville	1,185	1,156	-29	-2.4
Northern Beaches	1,272	1,292	20	1.6
Redfern	1,602	1,597	-5	-0.3
Rockdale	1,608	1,615	7	0.4
Ryde	1,224	1,232	8	0.7
Sutherland	845	842	-3	-0.4
Other (a)	6	9	%	%
Total	38,817	39,183	366	0.9

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	992	1,003	11	1.1
Brunswick Heads	1,111	1,103	-8	-0.7
Byron Bay	249	240	-9	-3.6
Casino	703	727	24	3.4
Cessnock	978	984	6	0.6
Charlestown	2,108	2,070	-38	-1.8
Coffs Harbour	2,101	2,151	50	2.4
Comm Support Team	38	35	%	%
Ettalong	761	773	12	1.6
Forster	944	961	17	1.8
Gosford	1,809	1,781	-28	-1.5
Grafton	985	990	5	0.5
Kempsey	939	978	39	4.2
King Street	1,223	1,258	35	2.9
Kurri Kurri	593	578	-15	-2.5
Lakehaven	1,886	1,886	0	0.0
Lismore	1,707	1,720	13	0.8
Maitland	1,832	1,791	-41	-2.2
Mayfield	1,160	1,148	-12	-1.0
Murwillumbah	708	735	27	3.8
Muswellbrook	848	836	-12	-1.4
Nambucca Heads	746	759	13	1.7
Nelson Bay	562	583	21	3.7
Port Macquarie	1,865	1,920	55	2.9
Raymond Terrace	1,133	1,130	-3	-0.3
Singleton	445	437	-8	-1.8
Taree	1,669	1,670	1	0.1
The Entrance	1,270	1,295	25	2.0
Toronto	1,005	993	-12	-1.2
Tweed Heads	1,626	1,643	17	1.0
Wallsend	1,747	1,738	-9	-0.5
Woy Woy	531	528	-3	-0.6
Wyong	685	704	19	2.8
Yamba	430	429	-1	-0.2
Other (a)	12	10	%	%
Total	37,401	37,587	186	0.5

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,016	1,061	45	4.4
Auburn	2,232	2,260	28	1.3
Bathurst	814	823	9	1.1
Baulkham Hills	961	965	4	0.4
Blacktown	3,357	3,464	107	3.2
Bourke	343	344	1	0.3
Dubbo	1,931	1,980	49	2.5
Glen Innes	367	383	16	4.4
Gunnedah	465	475	10	2.2
Hawkesbury	977	993	16	1.6
Inverell	749	772	23	3.1
Katoomba	666	685	19	2.9
Lightning Ridge	194	196	2	1.0
Lithgow	712	734	22	3.1
Merrylands	2,154	2,195	41	1.9
Moree	514	498	-16	-3.1
Mt Druitt	2,502	2,584	82	3.3
Mudgee	655	679	24	3.7
Narrabri	389	394	5	1.3
Orange	936	974	38	4.1
Parkes	796	811	15	1.9
Parramatta	2,323	2,377	54	2.3
Penrith	1,969	1,977	8	0.4
Springwood	377	366	-11	-2.9
St Marys	1,804	1,837	33	1.8
Tamworth	2,018	2,057	39	1.9
Walgett	153	163	10	6.5
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	31,375	32,048	673	2.1

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	702	709	7	1.0
Bega	724	723	-1	-0.1
Belconnen	1,222	1,217	-5	-0.4
Bowral	437	444	7	1.6
Braddon	789	817	28	3.5
Cooma	380	409	29	7.6
Corrimal	1,156	1,159	3	0.3
Cowra	463	472	9	1.9
Dapto	1,145	1,165	20	1.7
Goulburn	827	877	50	6.0
Griffith	596	604	8	1.3
Gungahlin	457	476	19	4.2
Leeton	394	396	2	0.5
Narooma	275	263	-12	-4.4
Nowra	1,739	1,774	35	2.0
Queanbeyan	627	632	5	0.8
Shellharbour	1,549	1,583	34	2.2
Tuggeranong	840	855	15	1.8
Tumut	265	275	10	3.8
Ulladulla	470	481	11	2.3
Wagga	1,105	1,140	35	3.2
Woden	486	513	27	5.6
Wollongong	1,445	1,505	60	4.2
Yass	113	114	1	0.9
Young	591	626	35	5.9
Other (a)	6	8	%	%
Total	18,803	19,237	434	2.3

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,278	1,288	10	0.8
Albury	2,690	2,733	43	1.6
Box Hill	2,108	2,091	-17	-0.8
Broadmeadows	3,970	4,003	33	0.8
Darebin	2,955	2,989	34	1.2
Deniliquin	267	278	11	4.1
Echuca	553	576	23	4.2
Epping	3,003	3,122	119	4.0
Greensborough	1,694	1,721	27	1.6
Heidelberg	1,423	1,379	-44	-3.1
Moreland	2,909	2,886	-23	-0.8
Newmarket	1,795	1,828	33	1.8
Seymour	836	863	27	3.2
Shepparton	1,834	1,898	64	3.5
Sth Melbourne	1,140	1,130	-10	-0.9
Sunbury	980	986	6	0.6
Wangaratta	1,348	1,386	38	2.8
Windsor Vic	2,591	2,640	49	1.9
Yarra	2,498	2,490	-8	-0.3
Other (a)	34	35	%	%
Total	35,906	36,322	416	1.2

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,083	1,121	38	3.5
Belgrave	516	541	25	4.8
Boronia	1,221	1,258	37	3.0
Cheltenham	1,753	1,812	59	3.4
Cranbourne	1,945	2,005	60	3.1
Dandenong	2,575	2,653	78	3.0
Fountain Gate	2,296	2,406	110	4.8
Frankston	2,640	2,748	108	4.1
Glen Waverley	1,179	1,177	-2	-0.2
Hastings	621	677	56	9.0
Lilydale	1,348	1,433	85	6.3
Mornington	561	601	40	7.1
Morwell	2,571	2,741	170	6.6
Oakleigh	1,668	1,696	28	1.7
Pakenham	1,043	1,103	60	5.8
Ringwood	1,735	1,800	65	3.7
Rosebud	804	863	59	7.3
Rowville	666	671	5	0.8
Sale	792	787	-5	-0.6
Springvale	1,964	2,027	63	3.2
Warragul	729	772	43	5.9
Wonthaggi	966	1,002	36	3.7
Other (a)	1	2	%	%
Total	30,677	31,896	1,219	4.0

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	219	234	15	6.8
Ballarat	3,127	3,196	69	2.2
Bendigo	2,650	2,706	56	2.1
Colac	630	635	5	0.8
Corio	1,894	1,950	56	3.0
Footscray	1,688	1,723	35	2.1
Geelong	3,310	3,354	44	1.3
Hamilton	419	414	-5	-1.2
Horsham	675	696	21	3.1
Maryborough	550	561	11	2.0
Melton	2,126	2,237	111	5.2
Mildura	2,082	2,153	71	3.4
Newport	1,130	1,172	42	3.7
Portland	344	356	12	3.5
Stawell	163	166	3	1.8
Sunshine	3,693	3,746	53	1.4
Swan Hill	732	755	23	3.1
Warrnambool	764	800	36	4.7
Watergardens	3,666	3,668	2	0.1
Werribee	4,661	4,715	54	1.2
Other (a)	21	22	%	%
Total	34,544	35,259	715	2.1

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	941	953	12	1.3
Ayr	520	517	-3	-0.6
Biloela	271	270	-1	-0.4
Bowen	567	562	-5	-0.9
Cairns Aplin	5,607	5,828	221	3.9
Charters Towers	497	493	-4	-0.8
Emerald	568	594	26	4.6
Gladstone	1,564	1,640	76	4.9
Indigenous Service Centre	687	640	-47	-6.8
Ingham	479	488	9	1.9
Innisfail	1,154	1,189	35	3.0
Longreach	114	93	%	%
Mackay	2,912	2,994	82	2.8
Mareeba	836	839	3	0.4
Mossman	518	532	14	2.7
Mt Isa	800	872	72	9.0
Normanton	56	61	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	97	83	%	%
Palm Island	107	96	%	%
Rockhampton	2,686	2,833	147	5.5
Thursday Is	70	65	%	%
Townsville	5,651	5,857	206	3.6
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	158	178	20	12.7
Whitsunday	763	795	32	4.2
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	496	517	21	4.2
Yeppoon	644	674	30	4.7
Other (a)	74	78	%	%
Total	28,837	29,741	904	3.1

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,857	3,883	26	0.7
Caboolture	3,876	4,042	166	4.3
Caloundra	1,720	1,770	50	2.9
Cherbourg	296	313	17	5.7
Chermside	1,352	1,396	44	3.3
Deception Bay	2,646	2,611	-35	-1.3
Fortitude Valley	1,422	1,455	33	2.3
Gympie	1,668	1,721	53	3.2
Hervey Bay	2,035	2,075	40	2.0
Kawana Waters	756	809	53	7.0
Kingaroy	834	857	23	2.8
Margate	170	270	100	58.8
Maroochydore	1,717	1,776	59	3.4
Maryborough	1,498	1,512	14	0.9
Mitchelton	1,628	1,696	68	4.2
Mt Gravatt	2,496	2,548	52	2.1
Nambour	1,203	1,276	73	6.1
Noosa	1,181	1,218	37	3.1
Nundah	1,708	1,770	62	3.6
South Brisbane	1,152	1,183	31	2.7
Stones Corner	2,189	2,153	-36	-1.6
Strathpine	2,290	2,388	98	4.3
Toowong	1,412	1,395	-17	-1.2
Other (a)	6	6	%	%
Total	39,112	40,123	1,011	2.6

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	732	753	21	2.9
Beenleigh	2,675	2,770	95	3.6
Biggera Waters	3,809	3,963	154	4.0
Browns Plains	2,262	2,354	92	4.1
Capalaba	971	975	4	0.4
Charleville	189	189	0	0.0
Cleveland	1,267	1,251	-16	-1.3
Dalby	754	807	53	7.0
Goodna	1,820	1,955	135	7.4
Goondiwindi	415	420	5	1.2
Inala	2,271	2,386	115	5.1
Ipswich	3,469	3,633	164	4.7
Nerang	3,741	3,865	124	3.3
Palm Beach	3,963	4,105	142	3.6
Roma	176	180	4	2.3
Southport	193	271	78	40.4
Stanthorpe	414	432	18	4.3
Toowoomba	2,825	2,967	142	5.0
Warwick	562	573	11	2.0
Woodridge	2,515	2,618	103	4.1
Wynnum	1,143	1,176	33	2.9
Other (a)	21	22	%	%
Total	36,187	37,665	1,478	4.1

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	983	1,008	25	2.5
Broken Hill	770	812	42	5.5
Ceduna	240	240	0	0.0
Cooper Pedy	127	131	4	3.1
Elizabeth	3,710	3,851	141	3.8
Enfield	1,861	1,926	65	3.5
Gawler	1,565	1,616	51	3.3
Glenelg	962	972	10	1.0
Kadina	818	823	5	0.6
Kilkenny	1,604	1,628	24	1.5
Marion	2,710	2,733	23	0.8
Modbury	2,351	2,450	99	4.2
Mt Barker	782	796	14	1.8
Mt Gambier	1,251	1,312	61	4.9
Murray Bridge	1,103	1,154	51	4.6
Noarlunga	3,270	3,428	158	4.8
Norwood	1,978	2,024	46	2.3
Port Adelaide	1,837	1,875	38	2.1
Port Augusta	901	918	17	1.9
Port Lincoln	590	620	30	5.1
Port Pirie	1,114	1,136	22	2.0
Salisbury	3,490	3,663	173	5.0
Torrens ville	1,809	1,864	55	3.0
Victor Harbor	821	828	7	0.9
Whyalla	979	1,003	24	2.5
Other (a)	8	10	%	%
Total	37,634	38,821	1,187	3.2

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,300	1,400	100	7.7
Armadale	1,850	1,991	141	7.6
Bunbury	2,480	2,647	167	6.7
Busselton	1,164	1,207	43	3.7
Cannington	2,209	2,289	80	3.6
Carnarvon	254	264	10	3.9
Esperance	323	331	8	2.5
Fremantle	1,874	1,950	76	4.1
Geraldton	1,649	1,728	79	4.8
Gosnells	1,839	1,918	79	4.3
Innaloo	1,502	1,528	26	1.7
Joondalup	2,510	2,621	111	4.4
Kalgoorlie	818	813	-5	-0.6
Karratha	239	230	-9	-3.8
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	53	60	%	%
Mandurah	2,054	2,169	115	5.6
Meekatharra	150	165	15	10.0
Midland	2,489	2,583	94	3.8
Mirrabooka	2,488	2,601	113	4.5
Morley	2,514	2,679	165	6.6
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	96	87	%	%
Northam	1,232	1,273	41	3.3
Rockingham	2,505	2,650	145	5.8
South Hedland	356	318	-38	-10.7
Success	1,386	1,446	60	4.3
Victoria Park	2,320	2,451	131	5.6
Warwick Grove	1,280	1,319	39	3.0
Other (a)	21	23	%	%
Total	38,955	40,741	1,786	4.6

- 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Tasmania				
Bridgewater	1,044	1,029	-15	-1.4
Burnie	1,532	1,549	17	1.1
Devonport	1,488	1,544	56	3.8
Glenorchy	1,478	1,524	46	3.1
Hobart	1,493	1,517	24	1.6
Huonville	367	387	20	5.4
Launceston	3,991	4,060	69	1.7
Rosny Park	1,349	1,388	39	2.9
Other (a)	3	5	%	%
Total	12,745	13,003	258	2.0
North Australia				
Alice Springs	776	784	8	1.0
Angurugu RSC	84	82	%	%
Broome	529	534	5	0.9
Casuarina	874	936	62	7.1
Central Australia	904	846	-58	-6.4
Darwin	466	492	26	5.6
Derby	83	80	%	%
Fitzroy Crossing	50	47	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	104	110	6	5.8
Halls Creek	163	157	-6	-3.7
Katherine	213	169	-44	-20.7
Kimberley Katherine	296	287	-9	-3.0
Kununurra	174	160	-14	-8.0
Maningrida	193	220	27	14.0
Nhulunbuy	27	27	%	%
Northern Region	593	639	46	7.8
Palmerston	1,096	1,076	-20	-1.8
Tennant Creek	227	214	-13	-5.7
Tiwi Islands	119	120	1	0.8
Wadeye	300	293	-7	-2.3
Other (a)	53	60	%	%
Total	7,324	7,333	9	0.1

– 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	May 2015	June 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Other				
Centrelink Call Centres	424	524	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,587	1,943	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	0	-55	%	%
Australia	430,328	441,371	11,043	2.6

(a) Job seekers who are not allocated to any of the reported offices.

Notes:

- Variations for Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.
- In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 20 for specific Service Centres are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".
- Area Support Office boundaries changed to Service Zones from July 2011. The July 2011 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.

**Table 8 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)
Fortnightly Earnings and Sex, Fortnight Ending 19 June 2015**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.8	82.9	84.1
Earned an income	14.2	17.1	15.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.9	1.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.5	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.4	1.8	1.7
Over \$316.00	9.1	10.1	9.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	104,892	159,108	264,000
Females			
Did not earn an income	75.1	70.9	72.2
Earned an income	24.9	29.1	27.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.2	2.4	2.4
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.1	3.4	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.7	2.6
Over \$316.00	16.5	19.8	18.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	55,344	121,498	176,842
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.1	77.7	79.3
Earned an income	17.9	22.3	20.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.1	1.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	2.9	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.2	2.0
Over \$316.00	11.7	14.3	13.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)	160,236	280,606	440,842

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/department-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>).