

# Labour Market and Related Payments

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## 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>).

**May 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 22 July 2015.

# Statistical Highlights – May 2015

## Between May 2014 and May 2015

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 1.9 per cent** overall from 850 402 to 866 486.

- NSA recipients increased 3.1 per cent from 738 128 to 760 928.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 6.0 per cent from 112 274 to 105 558.

The number of job seekers **increased 3.0 per cent** overall from 417 595 to 430 328.

- NSA job seekers increased 3.6 per cent from 363 483 to 376 665.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 0.8 per cent from 54 112 to 53 663.

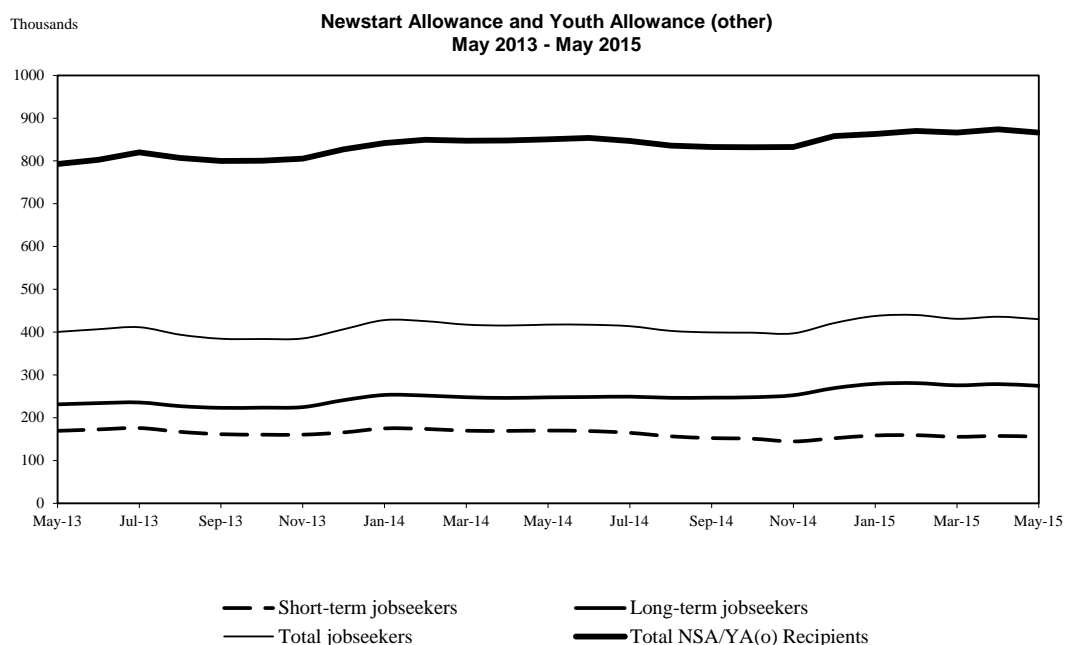
Long-term job seekers increased 10.9 per cent from 247 615 to 274 542.

Short-term job seekers decreased 8.4 per cent from 169 980 to 155 786.

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	..	..	..	..	..
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
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
Variation April 2015 - May 2015							
Number	-3,006	-5,060	-2,420	11,190	9	-178	-327
Per cent	-0.6	-0.7	-2.2	5.1	0.2	-2.9	-1.4

## Notes:

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

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

Newstart Allowance	May 2015 Persons	May 2015 Males	May 2015 Females	April 2015	Variation April - May Number	Variation April - May per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>220,689</b>	<b>137,339</b>	<b>83,350</b>	<b>222,743</b>	<b>-2,054</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	83	60	23	39	44	112.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,549	6,908	5,641	12,542	7	0.1
Received a payment	208,057	130,371	77,686	210,162	-2,105	-1.0
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,106	1,959	5,147	7,089	17	0.2
Other activities without job search (d)	31,955	18,843	13,112	32,858	-903	-2.7
Incapacitated (e)	22,690	13,293	9,397	22,470	220	1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,788	7,166	5,622	12,691	97	0.8
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>133,518</b>	<b>89,110</b>	<b>44,408</b>	<b>135,054</b>	<b>-1,536</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	31,749	17,889	13,860	31,887	-138	-0.4
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>540,239</b>	<b>260,762</b>	<b>279,477</b>	<b>543,245</b>	<b>-3,006</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	975	644	331	1,241	-266	-21.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	20,408	8,355	12,053	20,062	346	1.7
Received a payment	518,856	251,763	267,093	521,942	-3,086	-0.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	59,084	13,026	46,058	59,041	43	0.1
Other activities without job search (d)	129,518	59,892	69,626	130,079	-561	-0.4
Incapacitated (e)	41,963	20,487	21,476	41,960	3	0.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	45,144	20,510	24,634	44,879	265	0.6
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>243,147</b>	<b>137,848</b>	<b>105,299</b>	<b>245,983</b>	<b>-2,836</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	173,201	85,845	87,356	173,072	129	0.1
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>760,928</b>	<b>398,101</b>	<b>362,827</b>	<b>765,988</b>	<b>-5,060</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	1,058	704	354	1,280	-222	-17.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	32,957	15,263	17,694	32,604	353	1.1
Received a payment	726,913	382,134	344,779	732,104	-5,191	-0.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	66,190	14,985	51,205	66,130	60	0.1
Other activities without job search (d)	161,473	78,735	82,738	162,937	-1,464	-0.9
Incapacitated (e)	64,653	33,780	30,873	64,430	223	0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	57,932	27,676	30,256	57,570	362	0.6
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>376,665</b>	<b>226,958</b>	<b>149,707</b>	<b>381,037</b>	<b>-4,372</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
All NSA training/education (h)	204,950	103,734	101,216	204,959	-9	0.0

(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)	May 2015 Persons	May 2015 Males	May 2015 Females	April 2015	Variation April - May Number	Variation April - May per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>43,292</b>	<b>24,141</b>	<b>19,151</b>	<b>43,586</b>	<b>-294</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,121	489	632	1,144	-23	-2.0
Received a payment	42,171	23,652	18,519	42,442	-271	-0.6
Other activities without job search (c)	16,457	9,709	6,748	16,667	-210	-1.3
Incapacitated (d)	1,879	1,001	878	1,860	19	1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,567	735	832	1,584	-17	-1.1
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>22,268</b>	<b>12,207</b>	<b>10,061</b>	<b>22,331</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	11,517	6,310	5,207	11,532	-15	-0.1
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>62,266</b>	<b>32,187</b>	<b>30,079</b>	<b>64,392</b>	<b>-2,126</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	1	-1	-100.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,914	768	1,146	1,958	-44	-2.2
Received a payment	60,352	31,419	28,933	62,433	-2,081	-3.3
Other activities without job search (c)	23,911	12,782	11,129	24,824	-913	-3.7
Incapacitated (d)	2,484	1,109	1,375	2,482	2	0.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,562	1,079	1,483	2,548	14	0.5
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>31,395</b>	<b>16,449</b>	<b>14,946</b>	<b>32,579</b>	<b>-1,184</b>	<b>-3.6</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	24,408	12,240	12,168	25,046	-638	-2.5
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>105,558</b>	<b>56,328</b>	<b>49,230</b>	<b>107,978</b>	<b>-2,420</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	1	-1	-100.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	3,035	1,257	1,778	3,102	-67	-2.2
Received a payment	102,523	55,071	47,452	104,875	-2,352	-2.2
Other activities without job search (c)	40,368	22,491	17,877	41,491	-1,123	-2.7
Incapacitated (d)	4,363	2,110	2,253	4,342	21	0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,129	1,814	2,315	4,132	-3	-0.1
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>53,663</b>	<b>28,656</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>54,910</b>	<b>-1,247</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
All YA (other) training/education (g)	35,925	18,550	17,375	36,578	-653	-1.8

(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**

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
Variation April 2015 - May 2015			
Number	-1599	-4020	-5619
Per cent	-1.0	-1.4	-1.3

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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	43,116	42,772	-344	-0.8
Victoria	36,559	36,276	-283	-0.8
Queensland	42,485	41,430	-1,055	-2.5
South Australia	12,327	12,283	-44	-0.4
Western Australia	15,939	16,167	228	1.4
Tasmania	3,389	3,408	19	0.6
Northern Territory	2,100	2,022	-78	-3.7
Australian Capital Territory	1,470	1,428	-42	-2.9
<b>Australia</b>	<b>157,385</b>	<b>155,786</b>	<b>-1,599</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	84,928	83,889	-1,039	-1.2
Victoria	63,963	62,814	-1,149	-1.8
Queensland	64,133	63,210	-923	-1.4
South Australia	25,135	24,828	-307	-1.2
Western Australia	24,213	23,994	-219	-0.9
Tasmania	9,542	9,388	-154	-1.6
Northern Territory	4,239	4,028	-211	-5.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,409	2,391	-18	-0.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>278,562</b>	<b>274,542</b>	<b>-4,020</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	128,044	126,661	-1,383	-1.1
Victoria	100,522	99,090	-1,432	-1.4
Queensland	106,618	104,640	-1,978	-1.9
South Australia	37,462	37,111	-351	-0.9
Western Australia	40,152	40,161	9	0.0
Tasmania	12,931	12,796	-135	-1.0
Northern Territory	6,339	6,050	-289	-4.6
Australian Capital Territory	3,879	3,819	-60	-1.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>435,947</b>	<b>430,328</b>	<b>-5,619</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

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
<b>Males</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,404	1.4	270	0.2	1,674	0.7
18 - 20 years	8,633	8.5	11,340	7.3	19,973	7.8
21 - 24 years	14,825	14.6	23,000	14.9	37,825	14.8
25 - 29 years	15,797	15.6	23,524	15.2	39,321	15.4
30 - 39 years	24,060	23.7	35,653	23.1	59,713	23.4
40 - 49 years	18,721	18.5	30,024	19.5	48,745	19.1
50 - 59 years	13,195	13.0	22,446	14.5	35,641	13.9
60 years and over	4,683	4.6	8,041	5.2	12,724	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>101,318</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>154,298</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>255,616</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,409	2.6	370	0.3	1,779	1.0
18 - 20 years	7,287	13.4	10,670	8.9	17,957	10.3
21 - 24 years	8,334	15.3	15,796	13.1	24,130	13.8
25 - 29 years	6,588	12.1	12,362	10.3	18,950	10.8
30 - 39 years	8,496	15.6	23,485	19.5	31,981	18.3
40 - 49 years	10,352	19.0	31,335	26.1	41,687	23.9
50 - 59 years	9,066	16.6	21,491	17.9	30,557	17.5
60 years and over	2,936	5.4	4,735	3.9	7,671	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,468</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>120,244</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>174,712</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,813	1.8	640	0.2	3,453	0.8
18 - 20 years	15,920	10.2	22,010	8.0	37,930	8.8
21 - 24 years	23,159	14.9	38,796	14.1	61,955	14.4
25 - 29 years	22,385	14.4	35,886	13.1	58,271	13.5
30 - 39 years	32,556	20.9	59,138	21.5	91,694	21.3
40 - 49 years	29,073	18.7	61,359	22.3	90,432	21.0
50 - 59 years	22,261	14.3	43,937	16.0	66,198	15.4
60 years and over	7,619	4.9	12,776	4.7	20,395	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>155,786</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>274,542</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>430,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,519	3,422	-97	-2.8
Bondi Junction	1,238	1,205	-33	-2.7
Burwood	1,698	1,706	8	0.5
Cabramatta	2,573	2,547	-26	-1.0
Camden	725	716	-9	-1.2
Campbelltown	2,177	2,134	-43	-2.0
Campsie	2,538	2,537	-1	0.0
Caringbah	865	835	-30	-3.5
Chatswood	1,221	1,150	-71	-5.8
Darlinghurst	1,604	1,560	-44	-2.7
Fairfield	3,004	2,953	-51	-1.7
Hornsby	1,026	1,021	-5	-0.5
Hurstville	1,536	1,514	-22	-1.4
Ingleburn	1,249	1,240	-9	-0.7
Leichhardt	1,365	1,325	-40	-2.9
Liverpool	3,765	3,766	1	0.0
Maroubra	1,490	1,444	-46	-3.1
Marrickville	1,225	1,185	-40	-3.3
Northern Beaches	1,296	1,272	-24	-1.9
Redfern	1,635	1,602	-33	-2.0
Rockdale	1,621	1,608	-13	-0.8
Ryde	1,221	1,224	3	0.2
Sutherland	834	845	11	1.3
Other (a)	6	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,431</b>	<b>38,817</b>	<b>-614</b>	<b>-1.6</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,005	992	-13	-1.3
Brunswick Heads	1,065	1,111	46	4.3
Byron Bay	272	249	-23	-8.5
Casino	715	703	-12	-1.7
Cessnock	1,023	978	-45	-4.4
Charlestown	2,102	2,108	6	0.3
Coffs Harbour	2,112	2,101	-11	-0.5
Comm Support Team	31	38	%	%
Ettalong	768	761	-7	-0.9
Forster	915	944	29	3.2
Gosford	1,863	1,809	-54	-2.9
Grafton	968	985	17	1.8
Kempsey	930	939	9	1.0
King Street	1,244	1,223	-21	-1.7
Kurri Kurri	618	593	-25	-4.0
Lakehaven	1,941	1,886	-55	-2.8
Lismore	1,756	1,707	-49	-2.8
Maitland	1,848	1,832	-16	-0.9
Mayfield	1,181	1,160	-21	-1.8
Murwillumbah	722	708	-14	-1.9
Muswellbrook	877	848	-29	-3.3
Nambucca Heads	757	746	-11	-1.5
Nelson Bay	540	562	22	4.1
Port Macquarie	1,868	1,865	-3	-0.2
Raymond Terrace	1,189	1,133	-56	-4.7
Singleton	449	445	-4	-0.9
Taree	1,663	1,669	6	0.4
The Entrance	1,326	1,270	-56	-4.2
Toronto	1,040	1,005	-35	-3.4
Tweed Heads	1,612	1,626	14	0.9
Wallsend	1,743	1,747	4	0.2
Woy Woy	567	531	-36	-6.3
Wyong	709	685	-24	-3.4
Yamba	441	430	-11	-2.5
Other (a)	17	12	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,877</b>	<b>37,401</b>	<b>-476</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,019	1,016	-3	-0.3
Auburn	2,285	2,232	-53	-2.3
Bathurst	846	814	-32	-3.8
Baulkham Hills	1,012	961	-51	-5.0
Blacktown	3,395	3,357	-38	-1.1
Bourke	364	343	-21	-5.8
Dubbo	1,940	1,931	-9	-0.5
Glen Innes	369	367	-2	-0.5
Gunnedah	465	465	0	0.0
Hawkesbury	993	977	-16	-1.6
Inverell	741	749	8	1.1
Katoomba	696	666	-30	-4.3
Lightning Ridge	202	194	-8	-4.0
Lithgow	711	712	1	0.1
Merrylands	2,217	2,154	-63	-2.8
Moree	550	514	-36	-6.5
Mt Druitt	2,587	2,502	-85	-3.3
Mudgee	649	655	6	0.9
Narrabri	425	389	-36	-8.5
Orange	953	936	-17	-1.8
Parkes	797	796	-1	-0.1
Parramatta	2,363	2,323	-40	-1.7
Penrith	1,979	1,969	-10	-0.5
Springwood	390	377	-13	-3.3
St Marys	1,846	1,804	-42	-2.3
Tamworth	2,029	2,018	-11	-0.5
Walgett	145	153	8	5.5
Other (a)	3	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,971</b>	<b>31,375</b>	<b>-596</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	687	702	15	2.2
Bega	705	724	19	2.7
Belconnen	1,217	1,222	5	0.4
Bowral	454	437	-17	-3.7
Braddon	811	789	-22	-2.7
Cooma	373	380	7	1.9
Corrimal	1,157	1,156	-1	-0.1
Cowra	461	463	2	0.4
Dapto	1,171	1,145	-26	-2.2
Goulburn	829	827	-2	-0.2
Griffith	583	596	13	2.2
Gungahlin	477	457	-20	-4.2
Leeton	395	394	-1	-0.3
Narooma	276	275	-1	-0.4
Nowra	1,803	1,739	-64	-3.5
Queanbeyan	629	627	-2	-0.3
Shellharbour	1,581	1,549	-32	-2.0
Tuggeranong	874	840	-34	-3.9
Tumut	279	265	-14	-5.0
Ulladulla	476	470	-6	-1.3
Wagga	1,173	1,105	-68	-5.8
Woden	477	486	9	1.9
Wollongong	1,481	1,445	-36	-2.4
Yass	109	113	4	3.7
Young	583	591	8	1.4
Other (a)	8	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,069</b>	<b>18,803</b>	<b>-266</b>	<b>-1.4</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,290	1,278	-12	-0.9
Albury	2,779	2,690	-89	-3.2
Box Hill	2,199	2,108	-91	-4.1
Broadmeadows	4,057	3,970	-87	-2.1
Darebin	3,058	2,955	-103	-3.4
Deniliquin	280	267	-13	-4.6
Echuca	578	553	-25	-4.3
Epping	3,063	3,003	-60	-2.0
Greensborough	1,746	1,694	-52	-3.0
Heidelberg	1,470	1,423	-47	-3.2
Moreland	2,982	2,909	-73	-2.4
Newmarket	1,859	1,795	-64	-3.4
Seymour	808	836	28	3.5
Shepparton	1,860	1,834	-26	-1.4
Sth Melbourne	1,155	1,140	-15	-1.3
Sunbury	981	980	-1	-0.1
Wangaratta	1,351	1,348	-3	-0.2
Windsor Vic	2,632	2,591	-41	-1.6
Yarra	2,514	2,498	-16	-0.6
Other (a)	29	34	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,691</b>	<b>35,906</b>	<b>-785</b>	<b>-2.1</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,081	1,083	2	0.2
Belgrave	551	516	-35	-6.4
Boronia	1,254	1,221	-33	-2.6
Cheltenham	1,793	1,753	-40	-2.2
Cranbourne	1,943	1,945	2	0.1
Dandenong	2,608	2,575	-33	-1.3
Fountain Gate	2,357	2,296	-61	-2.6
Frankston	2,641	2,640	-1	0.0
Glen Waverley	1,208	1,179	-29	-2.4
Hastings	612	621	9	1.5
Lilydale	1,341	1,348	7	0.5
Mornington	562	561	-1	-0.2
Morwell	2,590	2,571	-19	-0.7
Oakleigh	1,736	1,668	-68	-3.9
Pakenham	1,046	1,043	-3	-0.3
Ringwood	1,753	1,735	-18	-1.0
Rosebud	798	804	6	0.8
Rowville	703	666	-37	-5.3
Sale	809	792	-17	-2.1
Springvale	1,969	1,964	-5	-0.3
Warragul	710	729	19	2.7
Wonthaggi	933	966	33	3.5
Other (a)	2	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>30,677</b>	<b>-323</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	218	219	1	0.5
Ballarat	3,183	3,127	-56	-1.8
Bendigo	2,728	2,650	-78	-2.9
Colac	638	630	-8	-1.3
Corio	1,945	1,894	-51	-2.6
Footscray	1,682	1,688	6	0.4
Geelong	3,360	3,310	-50	-1.5
Hamilton	415	419	4	1.0
Horsham	699	675	-24	-3.4
Maryborough	557	550	-7	-1.3
Melton	2,137	2,126	-11	-0.5
Mildura	2,051	2,082	31	1.5
Newport	1,152	1,130	-22	-1.9
Portland	357	344	-13	-3.6
Stawell	167	163	-4	-2.4
Sunshine	3,751	3,693	-58	-1.5
Swan Hill	735	732	-3	-0.4
Warrnambool	749	764	15	2.0
Watergardens	3,704	3,666	-38	-1.0
Werribee	4,671	4,661	-10	-0.2
Other (a)	20	21	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,919</b>	<b>34,544</b>	<b>-375</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	992	941	-51	-5.1
Ayr	529	520	-9	-1.7
Biloela	270	271	1	0.4
Bowen	588	567	-21	-3.6
Cairns Aplin	5,776	5,607	-169	-2.9
Charters Towers	502	497	-5	-1.0
Emerald	565	568	3	0.5
Gladstone	1,553	1,564	11	0.7
Indigenous Service Centre	691	687	-4	-0.6
Ingham	473	479	6	1.3
Innisfail	1,159	1,154	-5	-0.4
Longreach	136	114	-22	-16.2
Mackay	2,951	2,912	-39	-1.3
Mareeba	863	836	-27	-3.1
Mossman	528	518	-10	-1.9
Mt Isa	789	800	11	1.4
Normanton	59	56	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	116	97	%	%
Palm Island	107	107	0	0.0
Rockhampton	2,704	2,686	-18	-0.7
Thursday Is	77	70	%	%
Townsville	5,772	5,651	-121	-2.1
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	165	158	-7	-4.2
Whitsunday	777	763	-14	-1.8
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	531	496	-35	-6.6
Yeppoon	654	644	-10	-1.5
Other (a)	76	74	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,403</b>	<b>28,837</b>	<b>-566</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,945	3,857	-88	-2.2
Caboolture	3,960	3,876	-84	-2.1
Caloundra	1,746	1,720	-26	-1.5
Cherbourg	302	296	-6	-2.0
Chermside	1,409	1,352	-57	-4.0
Deception Bay	2,738	2,646	-92	-3.4
Fortitude Valley	1,442	1,422	-20	-1.4
Gympie	1,651	1,668	17	1.0
Hervey Bay	2,054	2,035	-19	-0.9
Kawana Waters	783	756	-27	-3.4
Kingaroy	856	834	-22	-2.6
Margate	117	170	53	45.3
Maroochydore	1,747	1,717	-30	-1.7
Maryborough	1,547	1,498	-49	-3.2
Mitchelton	1,639	1,628	-11	-0.7
Mt Gravatt	2,517	2,496	-21	-0.8
Nambour	1,205	1,203	-2	-0.2
Noosa	1,196	1,181	-15	-1.3
Nundah	1,741	1,708	-33	-1.9
South Brisbane	1,221	1,152	-69	-5.7
Stones Corner	2,217	2,189	-28	-1.3
Strathpine	2,295	2,290	-5	-0.2
Toowong	1,438	1,412	-26	-1.8
Other (a)	5	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,771</b>	<b>39,112</b>	<b>-659</b>	<b>-1.7</b>

- 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	752	732	-20	-2.7
Beenleigh	2,741	2,675	-66	-2.4
Biggera Waters	3,941	3,809	-132	-3.3
Browns Plains	2,316	2,262	-54	-2.3
Capalaba	999	971	-28	-2.8
Charleville	213	189	-24	-11.3
Cleveland	1,318	1,267	-51	-3.9
Dalby	747	754	7	0.9
Goodna	1,828	1,820	-8	-0.4
Goondiwindi	438	415	-23	-5.3
Inala	2,290	2,271	-19	-0.8
Ipswich	3,547	3,469	-78	-2.2
Nerang	3,858	3,741	-117	-3.0
Palm Beach	4,125	3,963	-162	-3.9
Roma	190	176	-14	-7.4
Southport	155	193	38	24.5
Stanthorpe	414	414	0	0.0
Toowoomba	2,809	2,825	16	0.6
Warwick	568	562	-6	-1.1
Woodridge	2,565	2,515	-50	-1.9
Wynnum	1,170	1,143	-27	-2.3
Other (a)	23	21	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,007</b>	<b>36,187</b>	<b>-820</b>	<b>-2.2</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	943	983	40	4.2
Broken Hill	790	770	-20	-2.5
Ceduna	257	240	-17	-6.6
Cooper Pedy	126	127	1	0.8
Elizabeth	3,705	3,710	5	0.1
Enfield	1,903	1,861	-42	-2.2
Gawler	1,565	1,565	0	0.0
Glenelg	958	962	4	0.4
Kadina	821	818	-3	-0.4
Kilkenny	1,648	1,604	-44	-2.7
Marion	2,763	2,710	-53	-1.9
Modbury	2,419	2,351	-68	-2.8
Mt Barker	787	782	-5	-0.6
Mt Gambier	1,227	1,251	24	2.0
Murray Bridge	1,101	1,103	2	0.2
Noarlunga	3,316	3,270	-46	-1.4
Norwood	1,983	1,978	-5	-0.3
Port Adelaide	1,907	1,837	-70	-3.7
Port Augusta	896	901	5	0.6
Port Lincoln	616	590	-26	-4.2
Port Pirie	1,120	1,114	-6	-0.5
Salisbury	3,514	3,490	-24	-0.7
Torrensville	1,868	1,809	-59	-3.2
Victor Harbor	796	821	25	3.1
Whyalla	982	979	-3	-0.3
Other (a)	8	8	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,019</b>	<b>37,634</b>	<b>-385</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,321	1,300	-21	-1.6
Armadale	1,827	1,850	23	1.3
Bunbury	2,466	2,480	14	0.6
Busselton	1,111	1,164	53	4.8
Cannington	2,208	2,209	1	0.0
Carnarvon	235	254	19	8.1
Esperance	333	323	-10	-3.0
Fremantle	1,854	1,874	20	1.1
Geraldton	1,666	1,649	-17	-1.0
Gosnells	1,787	1,839	52	2.9
Innaloo	1,497	1,502	5	0.3
Joondalup	2,454	2,510	56	2.3
Kalgoorlie	868	818	-50	-5.8
Karratha	330	239	-91	-27.6
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	46	53	%	%
Mandurah	2,042	2,054	12	0.6
Meekatharra	150	150	0	0.0
Midland	2,433	2,489	56	2.3
Mirrabooka	2,498	2,488	-10	-0.4
Morley	2,511	2,514	3	0.1
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	123	96	%	%
Northam	1,224	1,232	8	0.7
Rockingham	2,509	2,505	-4	-0.2
South Hedland	425	356	-69	-16.2
Success	1,366	1,386	20	1.5
Victoria Park	2,302	2,320	18	0.8
Warwick Grove	1,284	1,280	-4	-0.3
Other (a)	21	21	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,891</b>	<b>38,955</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0.2</b>

- 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Bridgewater	1,054	1,044	-10	-0.9
Burnie	1,562	1,532	-30	-1.9
Devonport	1,474	1,488	14	0.9
Glenorchy	1,496	1,478	-18	-1.2
Hobart	1,553	1,493	-60	-3.9
Huonville	397	367	-30	-7.6
Launceston	3,990	3,991	1	0.0
Rosny Park	1,364	1,349	-15	-1.1
Other (a)	10	3	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>12,745</b>	<b>-155</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>North Australia</b>				
Alice Springs	798	776	-22	-2.8
Angurugu RSC	96	84	%	%
Borrooloola	20	<20	na	na
Broome	519	529	10	1.9
Casuarina	873	874	1	0.1
Central Australia	1,024	904	-120	-11.7
Darwin	481	466	-15	-3.1
Derby	86	83	%	%
Fitzroy Crossing	52	50	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	117	104	-13	-11.1
Halls Creek	184	163	-21	-11.4
Katherine	245	213	-32	-13.1
Kimberley Katherine	296	296	0	0.0
Kununurra	184	174	-10	-5.4
Maningrida	204	193	-11	-5.4
Nhulunbuy	24	27	%	%
Northern Region	622	593	-29	-4.7
Palmerston	1,123	1,096	-27	-2.4
Tennant Creek	221	227	6	2.7
Tiwi Islands	136	119	-17	-12.5
Wadeye	290	300	10	3.4
Yuendumu RSC	22	<20	na	na
Other (a)	25	20	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,642</b>	<b>7,324</b>	<b>-318</b>	<b>-4.2</b>

– 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	April 2015	May 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Other</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	197	424	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,216	1,587	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-57	0	%	%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>435,947</b>	<b>430,328</b>	<b>-5,619</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

(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 22 May 2015**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.6	82.3	83.6
Earned an income	14.4	17.7	16.4
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	1.8
Over \$316.00	9.1	10.6	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>101,293</b>	<b>154,370</b>	<b>255,663</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	75.3	70.4	71.9
Earned an income	24.7	29.6	28.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.4	2.3
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.4	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.8	2.7
Over \$316.00	16.5	20.3	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>54,174</b>	<b>119,983</b>	<b>174,157</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	82.0	77.1	78.9
Earned an income	18.0	22.9	21.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.2	2.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	2.9	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	11.7	14.8	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>155,467</b>	<b>274,353</b>	<b>429,820</b>

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](mailto:IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au)

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

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

### Other recipient information

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government's centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au) (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/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>).