

# **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>).

**November 2014**

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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 28 January 2015.

# Statistical Highlights – November 2014

## Between November 2013 and November 2014

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 3.4 per cent** overall from 805 398 to 832 531.

- NSA recipients increased 4.2 per cent from 701 640 to 731 126.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 2.3 per cent from 103 758 to 101 405.

The number of job seekers **increased 3.1 per cent** overall from 385 236 to 397 165.

- NSA job seekers increased 3.0 per cent from 338 660 to 348 700.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 4.1 per cent from 46 576 to 48 465.

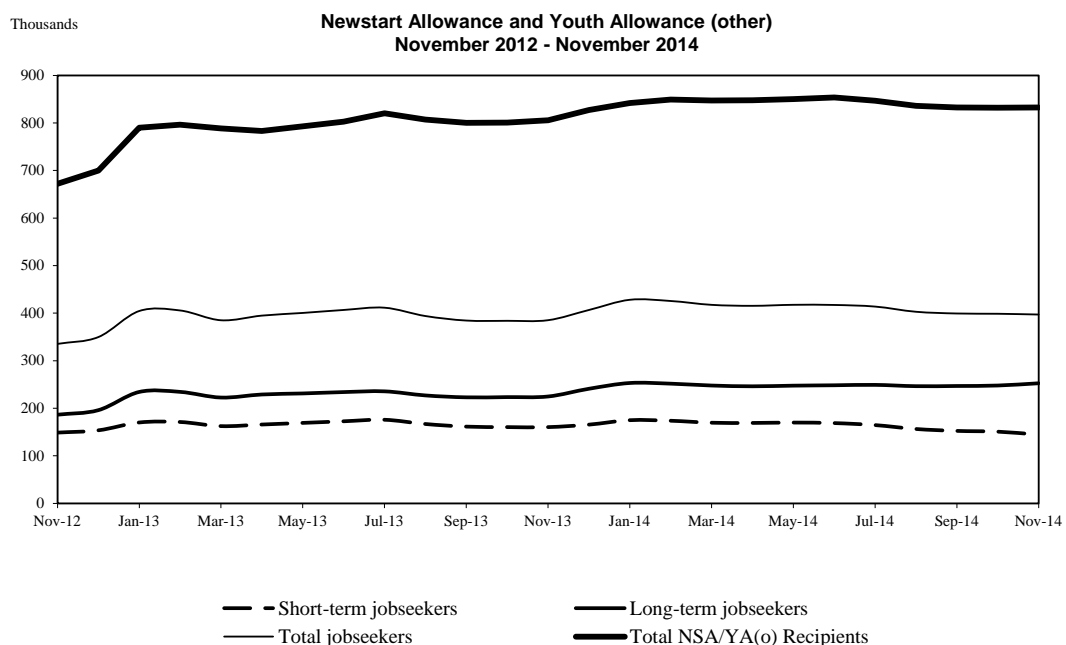
Long-term job seekers increased 12.4 per cent from 224 812 to 252 616.

Short-term job seekers decreased 9.9 per cent from 160 424 to 144 549.

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	..	..	..	..	..
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
January 2013	442,932	682,873	107,103	194,172	5,233	11,675	27,590
February 2013	444,457	686,852	109,306	207,266	5,540	11,361	27,329
March 2013	443,932	682,120	106,244	225,583	6,086	11,009	27,006
April 2013	439,863	677,527	105,767	236,305	6,349	10,700	26,660
May 2013	443,320	684,973	107,974	244,878	6,373	10,393	26,397
June 2013	447,172	691,771	110,830	246,009	6,428	10,091	26,057
July 2013	454,506	704,005	116,328	234,497	6,667	9,929	25,925
August 2013	453,446	697,212	109,963	241,992	6,825	9,841	26,043
September 2013	453,405	693,589	106,540	245,298	6,891	9,790	26,285
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
Variation October 2014 - November 2014							
Number	10,948	1,577	-1,309	-25,224	-472	-216	-224
Per cent	2.2	0.2	-1.3	-10.7	-7.3	-2.9	-0.9

## Notes:

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

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

Newstart Allowance	November 2014 Persons	November 2014 Males	November 2014 Females	October 2014	Variation October - November Number	Variation October - November per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>214,363</b>	<b>133,550</b>	<b>80,813</b>	<b>223,734</b>	<b>-9,371</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	148	111	37	197	-49	-24.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,101	7,531	5,570	12,277	824	6.7
Received a payment	201,114	125,908	75,206	211,260	-10,146	-4.8
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,387	2,018	5,369	7,720	-333	-4.3
Other activities without job search (d)	32,729	19,229	13,500	36,199	-3,470	-9.6
Incapacitated (e)	23,851	13,856	9,995	24,042	-191	-0.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,456	7,127	5,329	13,005	-549	-4.2
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>124,691</b>	<b>83,678</b>	<b>41,013</b>	<b>130,294</b>	<b>-5,603</b>	<b>-4.3</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	33,366	18,914	14,452	36,519	-3,153	-8.6
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>516,763</b>	<b>249,092</b>	<b>267,671</b>	<b>505,815</b>	<b>10,948</b>	<b>2.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	1,503	994	509	1,594	-91	-5.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	20,377	8,744	11,633	16,569	3,808	23.0
Received a payment	494,883	239,354	255,529	487,652	7,231	1.5
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	57,327	12,571	44,756	56,557	770	1.4
Other activities without job search (d)	125,383	58,023	67,360	125,438	-55	0.0
Incapacitated (e)	46,091	22,533	23,558	44,907	1,184	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	42,073	18,855	23,218	40,648	1,425	3.5
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>224,009</b>	<b>127,372</b>	<b>96,637</b>	<b>220,102</b>	<b>3,907</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	172,756	85,759	86,997	170,251	2,505	1.5
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>731,126</b>	<b>382,642</b>	<b>348,484</b>	<b>729,549</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>0.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	1,651	1,105	546	1,791	-140	-7.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	33,478	16,275	17,203	28,846	4,632	16.1
Received a payment	695,997	365,262	330,735	698,912	-2,915	-0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	64,714	14,589	50,125	64,277	437	0.7
Other activities without job search (d)	158,112	77,252	80,860	161,637	-3,525	-2.2
Incapacitated (e)	69,942	36,389	33,553	68,949	993	1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	54,529	25,982	28,547	53,653	876	1.6
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>348,700</b>	<b>211,050</b>	<b>137,650</b>	<b>350,396</b>	<b>-1,696</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
All NSA training/education (h)	206,122	104,673	101,449	206,770	-648	-0.3

(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)	November 2014 Persons	November 2014 Males	November 2014 Females	October 2014	Variation October - November Number	Variation October - November per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>41,585</b>	<b>23,033</b>	<b>18,552</b>	<b>43,891</b>	<b>-2,306</b>	<b>-5.3</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	3	2	1	6	-3	-50.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,189	580	609	1,102	87	7.9
Received a payment	40,393	22,451	17,942	42,783	-2,390	-5.6
Other activities without job search (c)	16,893	9,955	6,938	18,456	-1,563	-8.5
Incapacitated (d)	2,031	1,034	997	2,100	-69	-3.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,611	723	888	1,656	-45	-2.7
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>19,858</b>	<b>10,739</b>	<b>9,119</b>	<b>20,571</b>	<b>-713</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	12,556	6,843	5,713	14,003	-1,447	-10.3
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>59,820</b>	<b>30,917</b>	<b>28,903</b>	<b>58,823</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>1.7</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	9	9	0	11	-2	-18.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,916	836	1,080	1,719	197	11.5
Received a payment	57,895	30,072	27,823	57,093	802	1.4
Other activities without job search (c)	24,141	12,861	11,280	24,432	-291	-1.2
Incapacitated (d)	2,743	1,245	1,498	2,571	172	6.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,404	995	1,409	2,297	107	4.7
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>28,607</b>	<b>14,971</b>	<b>13,636</b>	<b>27,793</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	24,808	12,524	12,284	25,383	-575	-2.3
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>101,405</b>	<b>53,950</b>	<b>47,455</b>	<b>102,714</b>	<b>-1,309</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	12	11	1	17	-5	-29.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	3,105	1,416	1,689	2,821	284	10.1
Received a payment	98,288	52,523	45,765	99,876	-1,588	-1.6
Other activities without job search (c)	41,034	22,816	18,218	42,888	-1,854	-4.3
Incapacitated (d)	4,774	2,279	2,495	4,671	103	2.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,015	1,718	2,297	3,953	62	1.6
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>48,465</b>	<b>25,710</b>	<b>22,755</b>	<b>48,364</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0.2</b>
All YA (other) training/education (g)	37,364	19,367	17,997	39,386	-2,022	-5.1

(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
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
January 2013	170,179	234,387	404,566
February 2013	171,180	234,508	405,688
March 2013	162,494	222,611	385,105
April 2013	165,858	229,031	394,889
May 2013	169,282	231,218	400,500
June 2013	172,666	234,093	406,759
July 2013	175,870	235,643	411,513
August 2013	166,945	227,053	393,998
September 2013	161,475	223,046	384,521
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,467	246,504	402,971
September 2014	152,447	246,892	399,339
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
Variation October 2014 - November 2014			
Number	-6316	4721	-1595
Per cent	-4.2	1.9	-0.4

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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	42,295	40,634	-1,661	-3.9
Victoria	36,542	35,000	-1,542	-4.2
Queensland	38,209	36,799	-1,410	-3.7
South Australia	11,795	11,185	-610	-5.2
Western Australia	14,827	14,060	-767	-5.2
Tasmania	3,652	3,517	-135	-3.7
Northern Territory	2,009	1,927	-82	-4.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,536	1,427	-109	-7.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>150,865</b>	<b>144,549</b>	<b>-6,316</b>	<b>-4.2</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	76,352	77,530	1,178	1.5
Victoria	56,594	57,922	1,328	2.3
Queensland	56,077	57,499	1,422	2.5
South Australia	22,718	22,824	106	0.5
Western Australia	21,084	21,552	468	2.2
Tasmania	8,916	9,097	181	2.0
Northern Territory	4,041	4,032	-9	-0.2
Australian Capital Territory	2,113	2,160	47	2.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>247,895</b>	<b>252,616</b>	<b>4,721</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	118,647	118,164	-483	-0.4
Victoria	93,136	92,922	-214	-0.2
Queensland	94,286	94,298	12	0.0
South Australia	34,513	34,009	-504	-1.5
Western Australia	35,911	35,612	-299	-0.8
Tasmania	12,568	12,614	46	0.4
Northern Territory	6,050	5,959	-91	-1.5
Australian Capital Territory	3,649	3,587	-62	-1.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>398,760</b>	<b>397,165</b>	<b>-1,595</b>	<b>-0.4</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	921	1.0	295	0.2	1,216	0.5
18 - 20 years	7,755	8.2	10,242	7.2	17,997	7.6
21 - 24 years	13,842	14.7	21,480	15.1	35,322	14.9
25 - 29 years	15,021	15.9	21,875	15.4	36,896	15.6
30 - 39 years	22,625	24.0	33,117	23.3	55,742	23.5
40 - 49 years	17,583	18.6	27,661	19.4	45,244	19.1
50 - 59 years	12,241	13.0	20,462	14.4	32,703	13.8
60 years and over	4,431	4.7	7,213	5.1	11,644	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,419</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>142,345</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>236,764</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	996	2.0	364	0.3	1,360	0.8
18 - 20 years	6,847	13.7	9,629	8.7	16,476	10.3
21 - 24 years	7,763	15.5	14,463	13.1	22,226	13.9
25 - 29 years	6,059	12.1	11,247	10.2	17,306	10.8
30 - 39 years	7,839	15.6	21,650	19.6	29,489	18.4
40 - 49 years	9,539	19.0	29,228	26.5	38,767	24.2
50 - 59 years	8,414	16.8	19,445	17.6	27,859	17.4
60 years and over	2,673	5.3	4,245	3.8	6,918	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,130</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>110,271</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>160,401</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,917	1.3	659	0.3	2,576	0.6
18 - 20 years	14,602	10.1	19,871	7.9	34,473	8.7
21 - 24 years	21,605	14.9	35,943	14.2	57,548	14.5
25 - 29 years	21,080	14.6	33,122	13.1	54,202	13.6
30 - 39 years	30,464	21.1	54,767	21.7	85,231	21.5
40 - 49 years	27,122	18.8	56,889	22.5	84,011	21.2
50 - 59 years	20,655	14.3	39,907	15.8	60,562	15.2
60 years and over	7,104	4.9	11,458	4.5	18,562	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,549</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>252,616</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>397,165</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
AS1 Community Team	33	26	%	%
Bankstown	3,390	3,369	-21	-0.6
Bondi Junction	1,133	1,105	-28	-2.5
Burwood	1,663	1,619	-44	-2.6
Cabramatta	2,486	2,508	22	0.9
Camden	659	652	-7	-1.1
Campbelltown	2,098	2,027	-71	-3.4
Campsie	2,376	2,367	-9	-0.4
Caringbah	840	819	-21	-2.5
Chatswood	1,189	1,175	-14	-1.2
Darlinghurst	1,486	1,457	-29	-2.0
Fairfield	2,861	2,863	2	0.1
Hornsby	967	945	-22	-2.3
Hurstville	1,529	1,483	-46	-3.0
Ingleburn	1,162	1,141	-21	-1.8
Leichhardt	1,175	1,229	54	4.6
Liverpool	3,610	3,564	-46	-1.3
Maroubra	1,457	1,396	-61	-4.2
Marrickville	1,319	1,339	20	1.5
Northern Beaches	1,234	1,238	4	0.3
Redfern	1,321	1,303	-18	-1.4
Rockdale	1,435	1,428	-7	-0.5
Ryde	1,083	1,082	-1	-0.1
Sutherland	772	771	-1	-0.1
Other (a)	1	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,279</b>	<b>36,912</b>	<b>-367</b>	<b>-1.0</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	962	942	-20	-2.1
Brunswick Heads	913	958	45	4.9
Byron Bay	252	245	-7	-2.8
Casino	638	644	6	0.9
Cessnock	900	901	1	0.1
Charlestown	1,989	1,959	-30	-1.5
Coffs Harbour	1,935	1,942	7	0.4
Comm Support Team	22	24	%	%
Ettalong	746	749	3	0.4
Forster	870	855	-15	-1.7
Gosford	1,681	1,711	30	1.8
Grafton	889	862	-27	-3.0
Kempsey	841	852	11	1.3
King Street	1,187	1,171	-16	-1.3
Kurri Kurri	545	543	-2	-0.4
Lakehaven	1,717	1,700	-17	-1.0
Lismore	1,585	1,625	40	2.5
Maitland	1,706	1,673	-33	-1.9
Mayfield	1,022	1,020	-2	-0.2
Murwillumbah	663	670	7	1.1
Muswellbrook	767	760	-7	-0.9
Nambucca Heads	709	704	-5	-0.7
Nelson Bay	495	512	17	3.4
Port Macquarie	1,779	1,776	-3	-0.2
Raymond Terrace	1,034	1,009	-25	-2.4
Singleton	387	381	-6	-1.6
Taree	1,571	1,561	-10	-0.6
The Entrance	1,248	1,259	11	0.9
Toronto	918	889	-29	-3.2
Tweed Heads	1,618	1,601	-17	-1.1
Wallsend	1,538	1,575	37	2.4
Woy Woy	569	559	-10	-1.8
Wyong	644	626	-18	-2.8
Yamba	405	409	4	1.0
Other (a)	2	12	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,747</b>	<b>34,679</b>	<b>-68</b>	<b>-0.2</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	961	998	37	3.9
Auburn	2,091	2,114	23	1.1
Bathurst	743	770	27	3.6
Baulkham Hills	855	856	1	0.1
Blacktown	3,116	3,049	-67	-2.2
Bourke	326	307	-19	-5.8
Dubbo	1,781	1,765	-16	-0.9
Glen Innes	344	333	-11	-3.2
Gunnedah	468	450	-18	-3.8
Hawkesbury	857	813	-44	-5.1
Inverell	680	704	24	3.5
Katoomba	600	606	6	1.0
Lightning Ridge	181	183	2	1.1
Lithgow	709	689	-20	-2.8
Merrylands	2,140	2,134	-6	-0.3
Moree	483	468	-15	-3.1
Mt Druitt	2,248	2,183	-65	-2.9
Mudgee	595	572	-23	-3.9
Narrabri	402	401	-1	-0.2
Orange	900	900	0	0.0
Parkes	698	705	7	1.0
Parramatta	2,281	2,207	-74	-3.2
Penrith	1,863	1,840	-23	-1.2
Springwood	370	381	11	3.0
St Marys	1,539	1,575	36	2.3
Tamworth	1,870	1,871	1	0.1
Walgett	146	146	0	0.0
Other (a)	1	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,248</b>	<b>29,026</b>	<b>-222</b>	<b>-0.8</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	694	678	-16	-2.3
Bega	688	684	-4	-0.6
Belconnen	1,134	1,132	-2	-0.2
Bowral	444	439	-5	-1.1
Braddon	791	749	-42	-5.3
Cooma	373	368	-5	-1.3
Corrimal	1,068	1,061	-7	-0.7
Cowra	451	437	-14	-3.1
Dapto	1,104	1,074	-30	-2.7
Goulburn	798	795	-3	-0.4
Griffith	578	575	-3	-0.5
Gungahlin	404	405	1	0.2
Leeton	389	397	8	2.1
Narooma	268	273	5	1.9
Nowra	1,706	1,683	-23	-1.3
Queanbeyan	542	545	3	0.6
Shellharbour	1,395	1,383	-12	-0.9
Tuggeranong	820	813	-7	-0.9
Tumut	279	271	-8	-2.9
Ulladulla	459	463	4	0.9
Wagga	1,054	1,070	16	1.5
Woden	458	453	-5	-1.1
Wollongong	1,358	1,367	9	0.7
Yass	77	81	%	%
Young	532	525	-7	-1.3
Other (a)	8	14	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,872</b>	<b>17,735</b>	<b>-137</b>	<b>-0.8</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,162	1,169	7	0.6
Albury	2,438	2,460	22	0.9
Box Hill	2,075	2,083	8	0.4
Broadmeadows	3,880	3,769	-111	-2.9
Darebin	2,653	2,677	24	0.9
Deniliquin	249	247	-2	-0.8
Echuca	555	549	-6	-1.1
Epping	2,851	2,855	4	0.1
Greensborough	1,641	1,634	-7	-0.4
Heidelberg	1,274	1,330	56	4.4
Moreland	2,622	2,615	-7	-0.3
Newmarket	1,603	1,614	11	0.7
Seymour	709	726	17	2.4
Shepparton	1,861	1,832	-29	-1.6
Sth Melbourne	1,069	1,075	6	0.6
Sunbury	931	912	-19	-2.0
Wangaratta	1,260	1,247	-13	-1.0
Windsor Vic	2,437	2,458	21	0.9
Yarra	2,069	2,085	16	0.8
Other (a)	15	27	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,354</b>	<b>33,364</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.0</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,036	1,022	-14	-1.4
Belgrave	508	509	1	0.2
Boronia	1,149	1,131	-18	-1.6
Cheltenham	1,649	1,654	5	0.3
Cranbourne	1,790	1,752	-38	-2.1
Dandenong	2,645	2,563	-82	-3.1
Fountain Gate	2,335	2,305	-30	-1.3
Frankston	2,536	2,518	-18	-0.7
Glen Waverley	1,098	1,072	-26	-2.4
Hastings	581	578	-3	-0.5
Lilydale	1,374	1,321	-53	-3.9
Mornington	531	526	-5	-0.9
Morwell	2,285	2,338	53	2.3
Oakleigh	1,544	1,574	30	1.9
Pakenham	994	975	-19	-1.9
Ringwood	1,660	1,659	-1	-0.1
Rosebud	783	752	-31	-4.0
Rowville	678	687	9	1.3
Sale	728	736	8	1.1
Springvale	1,906	1,901	-5	-0.3
Warragul	642	652	10	1.6
Wonthaggi	902	910	8	0.9
Other (a)	0	3	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,354</b>	<b>29,138</b>	<b>-216</b>	<b>-0.7</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	196	198	2	1.0
Ballarat	2,991	2,951	-40	-1.3
Bendigo	2,439	2,399	-40	-1.6
Colac	570	580	10	1.8
Corio	1,739	1,783	44	2.5
Footscray	1,495	1,500	5	0.3
Geelong	3,227	3,207	-20	-0.6
Hamilton	386	377	-9	-2.3
Horsham	694	701	7	1.0
Maryborough	509	526	17	3.3
Melton	1,965	1,973	8	0.4
Mildura	1,929	1,929	0	0.0
Newport	1,048	1,039	-9	-0.9
Portland	362	358	-4	-1.1
Stawell	176	174	-2	-1.1
Sunshine	3,611	3,562	-49	-1.4
Swan Hill	665	674	9	1.4
Warrnambool	752	741	-11	-1.5
Watergardens	3,566	3,503	-63	-1.8
Werribee	4,185	4,194	9	0.2
Other (a)	0	21	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,505</b>	<b>32,390</b>	<b>-115</b>	<b>-0.4</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	910	896	-14	-1.5
Ayr	403	399	-4	-1.0
Biloela	219	218	-1	-0.5
Bowen	422	443	21	5.0
Cairns Aplin	5,238	5,208	-30	-0.6
Charters Towers	436	422	-14	-3.2
Emerald	469	490	21	4.5
Gladstone	1,197	1,201	4	0.3
Indigenous Service Centre	833	858	25	3.0
Ingham	362	361	-1	-0.3
Innisfail	951	969	18	1.9
Longreach	147	146	-1	-0.7
Mackay	2,249	2,342	93	4.1
Mareeba	821	796	-25	-3.0
Mossman	478	465	-13	-2.7
Mt Isa	625	616	-9	-1.4
Normanton	63	45	%	%
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	125	104	-21	-16.8
Palm Island	86	84	%	%
Rockhampton	2,334	2,349	15	0.6
Thursday Is	67	61	%	%
Townsville	4,989	5,018	29	0.6
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	246	254	8	3.3
Whitsunday	642	636	-6	-0.9
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	453	452	-1	-0.2
Yeppoon	611	629	18	2.9
Other (a)	35	75	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,411</b>	<b>25,537</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>0.5</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,422	3,440	18	0.5
Caboolture	3,452	3,499	47	1.4
Caloundra	1,497	1,488	-9	-0.6
Cherbourg	282	285	3	1.1
Chermside	1,290	1,288	-2	-0.2
Deception Bay	2,648	2,480	-168	-6.3
Fortitude Valley	1,235	1,274	39	3.2
Gympie	1,479	1,449	-30	-2.0
Hervey Bay	1,839	1,799	-40	-2.2
Kawana Waters	679	673	-6	-0.9
Kingaroy	788	783	-5	-0.6
Margate	52	123	%	%
Maroochydore	1,583	1,572	-11	-0.7
Maryborough	1,342	1,328	-14	-1.0
Mitchelton	1,470	1,499	29	2.0
Mt Gravatt	2,359	2,361	2	0.1
Nambour	1,103	1,092	-11	-1.0
Noosa	1,132	1,092	-40	-3.5
Nundah	1,572	1,569	-3	-0.2
South Brisbane	1,142	1,177	35	3.1
Stones Corner	2,077	2,076	-1	0.0
Strathpine	1,912	1,942	30	1.6
Toowong	1,327	1,356	29	2.2
Other (a)	1	7	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,683</b>	<b>35,652</b>	<b>-31</b>	<b>-0.1</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	670	648	-22	-3.3
Beenleigh	2,406	2,397	-9	-0.4
Biggera Waters	3,707	3,616	-91	-2.5
Browns Plains	2,132	2,098	-34	-1.6
Capalaba	891	880	-11	-1.2
Charleville	215	208	-7	-3.3
Cleveland	1,177	1,148	-29	-2.5
Dalby	564	581	17	3.0
Goodna	1,715	1,703	-12	-0.7
Goondiwindi	378	374	-4	-1.1
Inala	2,001	2,021	20	1.0
Ipswich	3,182	3,179	-3	-0.1
Nerang	3,660	3,512	-148	-4.0
Palm Beach	3,919	3,820	-99	-2.5
Roma	145	145	0	0.0
Southport	147	199	52	35.4
Stanthorpe	375	374	-1	-0.3
Toowoomba	2,248	2,265	17	0.8
Warwick	469	483	14	3.0
Woodridge	2,239	2,234	-5	-0.2
Wynnum	1,010	979	-31	-3.1
Other (a)	1	21	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,251</b>	<b>32,885</b>	<b>-366</b>	<b>-1.1</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	937	896	-41	-4.4
Broken Hill	744	749	5	0.7
Ceduna	210	223	13	6.2
Cooper Pedy	118	119	1	0.8
Elizabeth	3,419	3,384	-35	-1.0
Enfield	1,825	1,802	-23	-1.3
Gawler	1,384	1,362	-22	-1.6
Glenelg	894	869	-25	-2.8
Kadina	772	756	-16	-2.1
Kilkenny	1,642	1,607	-35	-2.1
Marion	2,540	2,436	-104	-4.1
Modbury	2,145	2,107	-38	-1.8
Mt Barker	710	705	-5	-0.7
Mt Gambier	1,247	1,216	-31	-2.5
Murray Bridge	1,037	1,023	-14	-1.4
Noarlunga	2,989	2,940	-49	-1.6
Norwood	1,857	1,822	-35	-1.9
Port Adelaide	1,687	1,689	2	0.1
Port Augusta	794	795	1	0.1
Port Lincoln	606	589	-17	-2.8
Port Pirie	994	973	-21	-2.1
Salisbury	3,214	3,201	-13	-0.4
Torrens ville	1,731	1,689	-42	-2.4
Victor Harbor	742	731	-11	-1.5
Whyalla	904	880	-24	-2.7
Other (a)	0	10	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,142</b>	<b>34,573</b>	<b>-569</b>	<b>-1.6</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,190	1,174	-16	-1.3
Armadale	1,532	1,507	-25	-1.6
Bunbury	2,292	2,231	-61	-2.7
Busselton	1,013	988	-25	-2.5
Cannington	2,026	1,954	-72	-3.6
Carnarvon	195	199	4	2.1
Esperance	370	331	-39	-10.5
Fremantle	1,629	1,685	56	3.4
Geraldton	1,509	1,479	-30	-2.0
Gosnells	1,488	1,492	4	0.3
Innaloo	1,297	1,298	1	0.1
Joondalup	2,038	2,013	-25	-1.2
Kalgoorlie	791	780	-11	-1.4
Karratha	384	355	-29	-7.6
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	54	43	%	%
Mandurah	1,807	1,772	-35	-1.9
Meekatharra	217	209	-8	-3.7
Midland	2,060	2,082	22	1.1
Mirrabooka	2,273	2,278	5	0.2
Morley	2,217	2,174	-43	-1.9
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	111	120	9	8.1
Northam	1,158	1,156	-2	-0.2
Rockingham	2,193	2,158	-35	-1.6
South Hedland	480	507	27	5.6
Success	1,220	1,212	-8	-0.7
Victoria Park	1,995	2,030	35	1.8
Warwick Grove	1,066	1,084	18	1.7
Other (a)	6	18	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,611</b>	<b>34,329</b>	<b>-282</b>	<b>-0.8</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Bridgewater	1,033	1,021	-12	-1.2
Burnie	1,524	1,510	-14	-0.9
Devonport	1,478	1,503	25	1.7
Glenorchy	1,428	1,453	25	1.8
Hobart	1,500	1,493	-7	-0.5
Huonville	400	402	2	0.5
Launceston	3,884	3,890	6	0.2
Rosny Park	1,295	1,284	-11	-0.8
Other (a)	1	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,543</b>	<b>12,562</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>North Australia</b>				
Alice Springs	683	675	-8	-1.2
Angurugu RSC	136	136	0	0.0
Borrooloola	<20	23	na	na
Broome	530	513	-17	-3.2
Casuarina	725	753	28	3.9
Central Australia	1,176	1,108	-68	-5.8
Darwin	383	406	23	6.0
Derby	149	139	-10	-6.7
Fitzroy Crossing	65	62	%	%
Galiwinku RSC	112	116	4	3.6
Halls Creek	179	185	6	3.4
Katherine	267	262	-5	-1.9
Kimberley RST	109	98	%	%
Kununurra	192	165	-27	-14.1
Maningrida	112	130	18	16.1
Nhulunbuy	<20	21	na	na
Palmerston	949	921	-28	-3.0
Tennant Creek	246	242	-4	-1.6
Tiwi Islands	109	110	1	0.9
Top End East	253	248	-5	-2.0
Top End South	349	304	-45	-12.9
Top End West	379	387	8	2.1
Wadeye	239	219	-20	-8.4
Yuendumu RSC	29	27	%	%
Other (a)	27	39	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,434</b>	<b>7,289</b>	<b>-145</b>	<b>-2.0</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	October 2014	November 2014	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Other</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	3	157	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	320	998	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	3	-61	%	%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>398,760</b>	<b>397,165</b>	<b>-1,595</b>	<b>-0.4</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 21 November 2014**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	84.2	80.7	82.1
Earned an income	15.8	19.3	17.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	2.1	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.7	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.1	1.9
Over \$316.00	10.2	11.7	11.1
<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>94,260</b>	<b>142,602</b>	<b>236,862</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	73.6	68.9	70.4
Earned an income	26.4	31.1	29.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.9	0.9	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.3	2.6	2.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.2	3.3	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	2.8	2.7
Over \$316.00	17.5	21.5	20.2
<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>50,159</b>	<b>110,604</b>	<b>160,763</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	80.5	75.6	77.4
Earned an income	19.5	24.4	22.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.8	2.3	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.5	3.0	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	12.7	15.9	14.8
<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>144,419</b>	<b>253,206</b>	<b>397,625</b>

Note:

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

## 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>).