

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

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

August 2017

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, 11 October 2017

Contents

Introduction	2
Statistical Highlights	4
Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series.....	5
Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population.....	6
Table 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population.....	7
Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) Time Series	8
Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State	9
Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Gender	10
Table 7a-i –Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3).....	11
Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender ...	20
Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender	21
Explanatory Notes	22
Glossary	28
Appendix	31
Comparisons Between DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Numbers And ABS Labour Force Unemployment Statistics	31
Other recipient information	34

Important Changes to this Publication

From August 2017, the Labour Market and Related Payments (LMRP) publication has been revised. In this revised LMRP publication, the geography reported has changed and the earnings table has been expanded. Changes are outlined below:

Tables 7 (a to i) Centrelink Service Centres have been replaced by Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3), derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Table 8 (a and b) has been broken down into Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers, to allow for the reporting of different earnings thresholds.

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.

Statistical Highlights – August 2017

Between August 2016 and August 2017

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 0.3 per cent** overall from 857 195 to 854 804.

- NSA recipients decreased 0.3 per cent from 762 134 to 759 709.
- YA(o) recipients increased 0.0 per cent from 95 061 to 95 095.

The number of job seekers **decreased 0.3 per cent** overall from 497 501 to 496 201.

- NSA job seekers increased 0.0 per cent from 429 368 to 429 526.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 2.1 per cent from 68 133 to 66 675.

Long-term job seekers increased 2.8 per cent from 328 317 to 337 406.

Short-term job seekers decreased 6.1 per cent from 169 184 to 158 795.

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

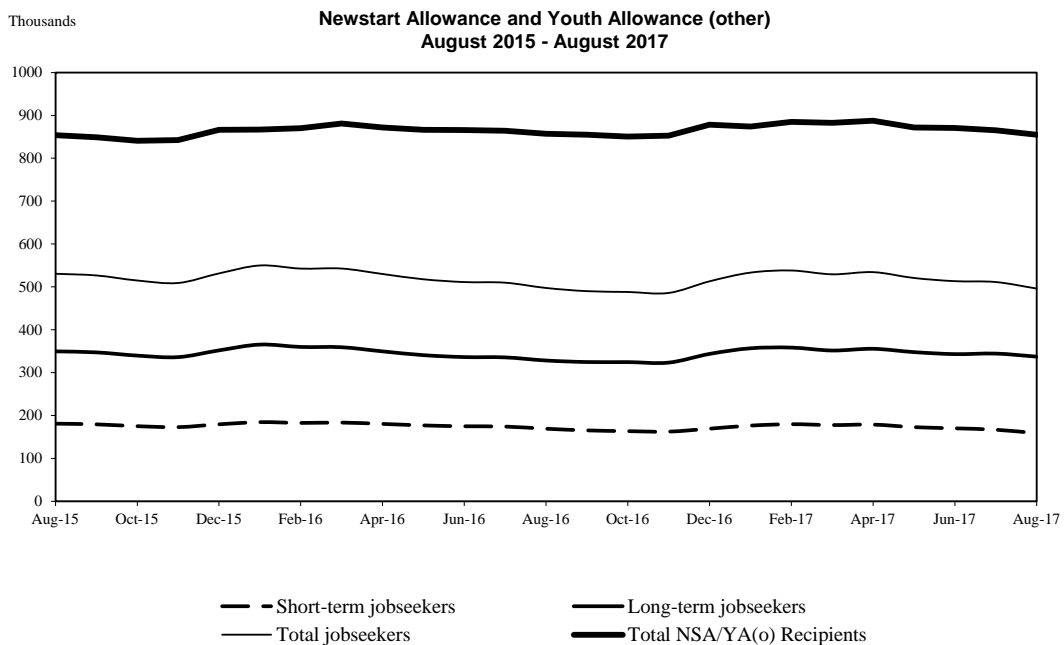


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363
April 2016	559,242	773,675	98,326	208,242	3,835	4,208	19,047
May 2016	555,867	768,503	98,016	230,821	4,194	4,104	18,739
June 2016	555,870	767,908	97,846	229,689	4,271	4,004	18,472
July 2016	555,399	765,756	98,389	210,161	4,152	3,863	18,067
August 2016	553,958	762,134	95,061	223,367	4,050	3,732	17,724
September 2016	554,177	760,972	93,693	222,127	4,014	3,590	17,437
October 2016	552,913	758,328	92,059	220,497	3,889	3,470	17,193
November 2016	555,286	760,719	92,182	196,018	3,658	3,386	16,994
December 2016	567,163	775,022	103,051	159,729	3,467	3,280	16,732
January 2017	564,484	774,122	99,888	157,268	3,273	3,193	16,524
February 2017	568,286	781,330	103,380	168,589	3,289	3,084	16,292
March 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
Variation July 2017 - August 2017							
Number	-758	-6,169	-4,009	13,091	-80	-22	-62
Per cent	-0.1	-0.8	-4.0	6.5	-2.3	-0.9	-0.4

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	August 2017 Persons	August 2017 Males	August 2017 Females	July 2017	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	192,963	117,385	75,578	198,374	-5,411	-2.7
Did not receive a payment (a)	11,150	5,964	5,186	11,167	-17	-0.2
Received a payment	181,813	111,421	70,392	187,207	-5,394	-2.9
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,417	1,679	4,738	6,463	-46	-0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	11,018	5,954	5,064	10,922	96	0.9
Incapacitated (d)	23,047	13,286	9,761	22,652	395	1.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	12,106	6,747	5,359	12,111	-5	0.0
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	129,225	83,755	45,470	135,059	-5,834	-4.3
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	31,068	17,699	13,369	31,422	-354	-1.1
Long Term Newstart Allowees	566,746	268,299	298,447	567,504	-758	-0.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	22,582	9,421	13,161	21,416	1,166	5.4
Received a payment	544,164	258,878	285,286	546,088	-1,924	-0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	65,707	15,781	49,926	66,063	-356	-0.5
Other activities without job search (c)	63,350	30,577	32,773	61,458	1,892	3.1
Incapacitated (d)	61,693	30,360	31,333	59,942	1,751	2.9
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	53,113	24,192	28,921	53,153	-40	-0.1
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	300,301	157,968	142,333	305,472	-5,171	-1.7
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	209,749	103,613	106,136	207,640	2,109	1.0
All Newstart Allowees	759,709	385,684	374,025	765,878	-6,169	-0.8
Did not receive a payment (a)	33,732	15,385	18,347	32,583	1,149	3.5
Received a payment	725,977	370,299	355,678	733,295	-7,318	-1.0
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	72,124	17,460	54,664	72,526	-402	-0.6
Other activities without job search (c)	74,368	36,531	37,837	72,380	1,988	2.7
Incapacitated (d)	84,740	43,646	41,094	82,594	2,146	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	65,219	30,939	34,280	65,264	-45	-0.1
All NSA job seekers (f)	429,526	241,723	187,803	440,531	-11,005	-2.5
All NSA training/education (g)	240,817	121,312	119,505	239,062	1,755	0.7

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (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 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population

Youth Allowance (other)	August 2017 Persons	August 2017 Males	August 2017 Females	July 2017	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	42,757	23,278	19,479	44,960	-2,203	-4.9
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,317	587	730	1,359	-42	-3.1
Received a payment	41,440	22,691	18,749	43,601	-2,161	-5.0
Other activities without job search (b)	8,550	4,903	3,647	8,365	185	2.2
Incapacitated (c)	1,786	878	908	1,794	-8	-0.4
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,534	760	774	1,619	-85	-5.3
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	29,570	16,150	13,420	31,823	-2,253	-7.1
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	14,604	7,937	6,667	14,610	-6	0.0
Long Term Youth Allowees	52,338	26,153	26,185	54,144	-1,806	-3.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,697	728	969	1,755	-58	-3.3
Received a payment	50,641	25,425	25,216	52,389	-1,748	-3.3
Other activities without job search (b)	8,405	4,366	4,039	8,336	69	0.8
Incapacitated (c)	2,714	1,211	1,503	2,673	41	1.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,417	996	1,421	2,406	11	0.5
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	37,105	18,852	18,253	38,974	-1,869	-4.8
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	24,351	12,085	12,266	24,382	-31	-0.1
All Youth Allowees	95,095	49,431	45,664	99,104	-4,009	-4.0
Did not receive a payment (a)	3,014	1,315	1,699	3,114	-100	-3.2
Received a payment	92,081	48,116	43,965	95,990	-3,909	-4.1
Other activities without job search (b)	16,955	9,269	7,686	16,701	254	1.5
Incapacitated (c)	4,500	2,089	2,411	4,467	33	0.7
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,951	1,756	2,195	4,025	-74	-1.8
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	66,675	35,002	31,673	70,797	-4,122	-5.8
All YA (other) training/education (f)	38,955	20,022	18,933	38,992	-37	-0.1

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

(e) 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.

(f) 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
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
April 2016	180,450	349,643	530,093
May 2016	176,929	340,813	517,742
June 2016	174,937	336,308	511,245
July 2016	174,234	335,579	509,813
August 2016	169,184	328,317	497,501
September 2016	165,330	324,731	490,061
October 2016	163,550	324,613	488,163
November 2016	162,460	323,423	485,883
December 2016	169,305	343,710	513,015
January 2017	176,480	356,794	533,274
February 2017	179,788	358,438	538,226
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
Variation July 2017 - August 2017			
Number	-8,087	-7,040	-15,127
Per cent	-4.8	-2.0	-3.0

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	July 2017	August 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	41,710	39,295	-2,415	-5.8
Victoria	35,998	34,458	-1,540	-4.3
Queensland	42,376	39,893	-2,483	-5.9
South Australia	12,331	11,786	-545	-4.4
Western Australia	24,819	24,061	-758	-3.1
Tasmania	4,109	3,989	-120	-2.9
Northern Territory	4,010	3,848	-162	-4.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,529	1,465	-64	-4.2
Australia	166,882	158,795	-8,087	-4.8
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	90,788	88,360	-2,428	-2.7
Victoria	72,914	70,806	-2,108	-2.9
Queensland	80,460	79,057	-1,403	-1.7
South Australia	30,928	30,187	-741	-2.4
Western Australia	45,466	45,328	-138	-0.3
Tasmania	11,356	11,260	-96	-0.8
Northern Territory	9,804	9,767	-37	-0.4
Australian Capital Territory	2,730	2,641	-89	-3.3
Australia	344,446	337,406	-7,040	-2.0
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	132,498	127,655	-4,843	-3.7
Victoria	108,912	105,264	-3,648	-3.3
Queensland	122,836	118,950	-3,886	-3.2
South Australia	43,259	41,973	-1,286	-3.0
Western Australia	70,285	69,389	-896	-1.3
Tasmania	15,465	15,249	-216	-1.4
Northern Territory	13,814	13,615	-199	-1.4
Australian Capital Territory	4,259	4,106	-153	-3.6
Australia	511,328	496,201	-15,127	-3.0

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 Gender

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
Males						
Less than 18 years	1,766	1.8	465	0.3	2,231	0.8
18 - 20 years	11,787	11.8	12,422	7.0	24,209	8.7
21 - 24 years	14,237	14.3	24,240	13.7	38,477	13.9
25 - 29 years	14,727	14.7	23,953	13.5	38,680	14.0
30 - 39 years	22,394	22.4	39,735	22.5	62,129	22.5
40 - 49 years	17,449	17.5	36,107	20.4	53,556	19.4
50 - 59 years	12,320	12.3	27,265	15.4	39,585	14.3
60 years and over	5,225	5.2	12,633	7.1	17,858	6.5
Total	99,905	100.0	176,820	100.0	276,725	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,671	2.8	629	0.4	2,300	1.0
18 - 20 years	10,168	17.3	12,737	7.9	22,905	10.4
21 - 24 years	8,102	13.8	17,806	11.1	25,908	11.8
25 - 29 years	6,313	10.7	14,719	9.2	21,032	9.6
30 - 39 years	8,425	14.3	30,947	19.3	39,372	17.9
40 - 49 years	10,314	17.5	42,834	26.7	53,148	24.2
50 - 59 years	9,814	16.7	30,411	18.9	40,225	18.3
60 years and over	4,083	6.9	10,503	6.5	14,586	6.6
Total	58,890	100.0	160,586	100.0	219,476	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	3,437	2.2	1,094	0.3	4,531	0.9
18 - 20 years	21,955	13.8	25,159	7.5	47,114	9.5
21 - 24 years	22,339	14.1	42,046	12.5	64,385	13.0
25 - 29 years	21,040	13.2	38,672	11.5	59,712	12.0
30 - 39 years	30,819	19.4	70,682	20.9	101,501	20.5
40 - 49 years	27,763	17.5	78,941	23.4	106,704	21.5
50 - 59 years	22,134	13.9	57,676	17.1	79,810	16.1
60 years and over	9,308	5.9	23,136	6.9	32,444	6.5
Total	158,795	100.0	337,406	100.0	496,201	100.0

Notes:

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

Table 7a – Australian Capital Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3)

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,229	1,191	-3.1%
Cotter - Namadgi	52	53	1.9%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	70	74	5.7%
Gungahlin	616	591	-4.1%
North Canberra	691	655	-5.2%
South Canberra	226	208	-8.0%
Tuggeranong	834	830	-0.5%
Weston Creek	210	194	-7.6%
Woden	310	291	-6.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7b – New South Wales Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %	State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,775	1,720	-3.1%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,373	1,373	0.0%
Armidale	1,161	1,151	-0.9%	Liverpool	2,152	2,049	-4.8%
Auburn	1,433	1,357	-5.3%	Lord Howe Island	<5	<5	n/a
Bankstown	3,152	2,980	-5.5%	Lower Hunter	2,533	2,476	-2.3%
Bathurst	967	958	-0.9%	Lower Murray	385	376	-2.3%
Baulkham Hills	611	573	-6.2%	Maitland	1,753	1,725	-1.6%
Blacktown	2,543	2,373	-6.7%	Manly	166	167	0.6%
Blacktown - North	794	768	-3.3%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	929	908	-2.3%
Blue Mountains	953	951	-0.2%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,210	3,077	-4.1%
Botany	603	565	-6.3%	Moree - Narrabri	1,074	1,046	-2.6%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,478	1,455	-1.6%	Mount Druitt	3,222	3,098	-3.8%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,782	1,642	-7.9%	Newcastle	4,181	4,043	-3.3%
Broken Hill and Far West	957	962	0.5%	North Sydney - Mosman	355	343	-3.4%
Camden	490	471	-3.9%	Orange	1,266	1,244	-1.7%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,438	3,310	-3.7%	Parramatta	1,780	1,727	-3.0%
Canada Bay	477	448	-6.1%	Pennant Hills - Epping	244	218	-10.7%
Canterbury	2,594	2,434	-6.2%	Penrith	2,170	2,067	-4.7%
Carlingford	785	745	-5.1%	Pittwater	215	215	0.0%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	469	451	-3.8%	Port Macquarie	1,918	1,844	-3.9%
Clarence Valley	1,463	1,391	-4.9%	Port Stephens	1,834	1,802	-1.7%
Coffs Harbour	2,333	2,261	-3.1%	Queanbeyan	633	589	-7.0%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	620	582	-6.1%	Richmond - Windsor	614	576	-6.2%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,783	1,735	-2.7%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,383	2,266	-4.9%
Dubbo	2,230	2,191	-1.7%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,973	2,902	-2.4%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	117	110	-6.0%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	163	164	0.6%
Eastern Suburbs - North	642	607	-5.5%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	941	892	-5.2%
Eastern Suburbs - South	1,121	1,090	-2.8%	Shoalhaven	2,469	2,434	-1.4%
Fairfield	5,619	5,296	-5.7%	Snowy Mountains	419	397	-5.3%
Gosford	3,023	2,930	-3.1%	South Coast	1,671	1,670	-0.1%
Goulburn - Yass	1,319	1,314	-0.4%	Southern Highlands	362	359	-0.8%
Great Lakes	892	881	-1.2%	St Marys	1,318	1,241	-5.8%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	1,019	979	-3.9%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,604	1,527	-4.8%
Hawkesbury	195	187	-4.1%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	597	559	-6.4%
Hornsby	551	515	-6.5%	Sydney Inner City	2,848	2,763	-3.0%
Hurstville	1,443	1,373	-4.9%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,626	2,570	-2.1%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Taree - Gloucester	1,974	1,885	-4.5%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,592	1,559	-2.1%	Tumut - Tumbarumba	328	312	-4.9%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,713	1,675	-2.2%	Tweed Valley	2,522	2,411	-4.4%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,551	1,476	-4.8%	Upper Hunter	870	853	-2.0%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,418	1,351	-4.7%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	965	966	0.1%
Ku-ring-gai	331	308	-6.9%	Wagga Wagga	1,975	1,929	-2.3%
Lachlan Valley	1,702	1,660	-2.5%	Warringah	795	727	-8.6%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,132	2,074	-2.7%	Wollondilly	400	385	-3.8%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,621	1,590	-1.9%	Wollongong	2,093	1,990	-4.9%
Leichhardt	529	494	-6.6%	Wyong	4,053	3,928	-3.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7c – Northern Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,319	3,366	1.4%
Barkly	810	813	0.4%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,690	2,637	-2.0%
Darwin City	527	517	-1.9%
Darwin Suburbs	1,277	1,212	-5.1%
East Arnhem	1,716	1,705	-0.6%
Katherine	2,021	1,978	-2.1%
Litchfield	463	438	-5.4%
Palmerston	781	767	-1.8%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7d – Queensland Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %	State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	476	449	-5.7%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,879	1,794	-4.5%
Beaudesert	471	457	-3.0%	Ipswich Inner	3,434	3,296	-4.0%
Beenleigh	1,469	1,424	-3.1%	Jimboomba	901	876	-2.8%
Bowen Basin - North	779	726	-6.8%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	307	294	-4.2%
Bribie - Beachmere	853	815	-4.5%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,449	1,397	-3.6%
Brisbane Inner	1,721	1,652	-4.0%	Mackay	3,442	3,327	-3.3%
Brisbane Inner - East	601	574	-4.5%	Maroochy	1,336	1,299	-2.8%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,316	1,235	-6.2%	Maryborough	1,907	1,858	-2.6%
Brisbane Inner - West	658	654	-0.6%	Mt Gravatt	1,106	1,060	-4.2%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	1,241	1,194	-3.8%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	488	481	-1.4%
Browns Plains	2,474	2,377	-3.9%	Nambour - Pomona	1,542	1,472	-4.5%
Buderim	932	879	-5.7%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,528	1,520	-0.5%
Bundaberg	3,528	3,444	-2.4%	Nathan	816	777	-4.8%
Burnett	1,800	1,821	1.2%	Nerang	1,549	1,479	-4.5%
Caboolture	2,596	2,525	-2.7%	Noosa	656	643	-2.0%
Caboolture Hinterland	290	291	0.3%	North Lakes	1,393	1,310	-6.0%
Cairns - North	1,044	993	-4.9%	Nundah	744	690	-7.3%
Cairns - South	4,862	4,731	-2.7%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,343	2,242	-4.3%
Caloundra	1,652	1,572	-4.8%	Outback - North	1,570	1,525	-2.9%
Capalaba	1,230	1,178	-4.2%	Outback - South	535	537	0.4%
Carindale	606	570	-5.9%	Port Douglas - Daintree	460	451	-2.0%
Centenary	301	295	-2.0%	Redcliffe	1,701	1,645	-3.3%
Central Highlands (Qld)	802	823	2.6%	Robina	877	817	-6.8%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,666	1,615	-3.1%	Rockhampton	4,266	4,200	-1.5%
Chermside	1,277	1,230	-3.7%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,150	1,113	-3.2%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,450	1,379	-4.9%	Sandgate	1,167	1,084	-7.1%
Coolangatta	1,165	1,148	-1.5%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	502	477	-5.0%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,158	1,159	0.1%	Southport	1,789	1,736	-3.0%
Darling Downs - East	973	945	-2.9%	Springfield - Redbank	2,157	2,088	-3.2%
Far North	2,801	2,775	-0.9%	Springwood - Kingston	3,289	3,220	-2.1%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,213	2,134	-3.6%	Strathpine	917	893	-2.6%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,899	2,875	-0.8%	Sunnybank	944	912	-3.4%
Gold Coast - North	1,788	1,735	-3.0%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,216	1,149	-5.5%
Gold Coast Hinterland	354	326	-7.9%	Surfers Paradise	984	943	-4.2%
Granite Belt	967	949	-1.9%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,688	1,637	-3.0%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,745	1,723	-1.3%	The Gap - Enoggera	698	694	-0.6%
Hervey Bay	2,157	2,091	-3.1%	Toowoomba	3,365	3,267	-2.9%
Hills District	727	679	-6.6%	Townsville	6,177	6,027	-2.4%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,494	1,413	-5.4%	Whitsunday	538	509	-5.4%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,646	1,630	-1.0%	Wynnum - Manly	1,170	1,133	-3.2%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7e - South Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	516	503	-2.5%
Adelaide Hills	822	783	-4.7%
Barossa	639	628	-1.7%
Burnside	349	337	-3.4%
Campbelltown (SA)	708	653	-7.8%
Charles Sturt	2,441	2,340	-4.1%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,293	2,242	-2.2%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,150	1,135	-1.3%
Gawler - Two Wells	812	796	-2.0%
Holdfast Bay	438	432	-1.4%
Limestone Coast	1,621	1,579	-2.6%
Lower North	585	580	-0.9%
Marion	1,836	1,754	-4.5%
Mid North	1,141	1,117	-2.1%
Mitcham	745	715	-4.0%
Murray and Mallee	2,441	2,449	0.3%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	512	491	-4.1%
Onkaparinga	4,546	4,441	-2.3%
Outback - North and East	1,759	1,718	-2.3%
Playford	4,671	4,539	-2.8%
Port Adelaide - East	1,938	1,856	-4.2%
Port Adelaide - West	2,003	1,921	-4.1%
Prospect - Walkerville	413	381	-7.7%
Salisbury	4,904	4,696	-4.2%
Tea Tree Gully	1,554	1,513	-2.6%
Unley	393	373	-5.1%
West Torrens	1,155	1,131	-2.1%
Yorke Peninsula	753	754	0.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7f - Tasmania Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	726	712	-1.9%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,454	1,436	-1.2%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	357	360	0.8%
Devonport	1,237	1,248	0.9%
Hobart - North East	1,175	1,170	-0.4%
Hobart - North West	2,204	2,194	-0.5%
Hobart - South and West	538	529	-1.7%
Hobart Inner	1,087	1,052	-3.2%
Huon - Bruny Island	526	529	0.6%
Launceston	2,884	2,842	-1.5%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	607	602	-0.8%
North East	1,347	1,294	-3.9%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	445	426	-4.3%
South East Coast	214	216	0.9%
West Coast	569	556	-2.3%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7g – Victoria Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %	State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	3,038	2,948	-3.0%	Manningham - East	154	141	-8.4%
Banyule	1,529	1,460	-4.5%	Manningham - West	701	684	-2.4%
Barwon - West	225	220	-2.2%	Maribyrnong	2,271	2,222	-2.2%
Baw Baw	938	934	-0.4%	Maroondah	1,459	1,404	-3.8%
Bayside	622	619	-0.5%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	898	885	-1.4%
Bendigo	2,649	2,596	-2.0%	Melbourne City	1,889	1,839	-2.6%
Boroondara	904	856	-5.3%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,394	3,308	-2.5%
Brimbank	6,147	5,936	-3.4%	Mildura	1,925	1,851	-3.8%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,753	1,631	-7.0%	Moira	698	682	-2.3%
Campaspe	889	873	-1.8%	Monash	1,451	1,373	-5.4%
Cardinia	1,321	1,296	-1.9%	Moreland - North	1,500	1,435	-4.3%
Casey - North	2,100	1,983	-5.6%	Mornington Peninsula	2,043	1,987	-2.7%
Casey - South	2,937	2,761	-6.0%	Murray River - Swan Hill	878	852	-3.0%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	607	597	-1.6%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	451	444	-1.6%
Dandenong	4,081	3,971	-2.7%	Port Phillip	1,720	1,606	-6.6%
Darebin - North	2,148	2,067	-3.8%	Shepparton	1,774	1,704	-3.9%
Darebin - South	881	821	-6.8%	Stonnington - East	259	265	2.3%
Essendon	1,170	1,138	-2.7%	Stonnington - West	740	701	-5.3%
Frankston	2,817	2,792	-0.9%	Sunbury	634	615	-3.0%
Geelong	4,544	4,453	-2.0%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	888	867	-2.4%
Gippsland - East	1,691	1,695	0.2%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	5,188	4,844	-6.6%
Gippsland - South West	1,276	1,263	-1.0%	Upper Goulburn Valley	1,012	966	-4.5%
Glen Eira	1,289	1,241	-3.7%	Wangaratta - Benalla	950	937	-1.4%
Glenelg - Southern	784	782	-0.3%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,648	1,599	-3.0%
Grampians	1,301	1,286	-1.2%	Wellington	1,194	1,174	-1.7%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	950	920	-3.2%	Whitehorse - East	507	489	-3.6%
Hobsons Bay	1,435	1,395	-2.8%	Whitehorse - West	872	863	-1.0%
Keilor	751	719	-4.3%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,866	3,767	-2.6%
Kingston	1,399	1,350	-3.5%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,529	1,501	-1.8%
Knox	1,910	1,832	-4.1%	Wyndham	4,505	4,301	-4.5%
Latrobe Valley	3,169	3,080	-2.8%	Yarra	1,782	1,694	-4.9%
Loddon - Elmore	312	302	-3.2%	Yarra Ranges	1,789	1,723	-3.7%
Macedon Ranges	253	243	-4.0%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7h - Western Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,615	1,582	-2.0%
Armadale	3,053	3,004	-1.6%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,253	1,244	-0.7%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,247	2,257	0.4%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,133	2,109	-1.1%
Bunbury	3,467	3,417	-1.4%
Canning	2,084	2,057	-1.3%
Cockburn	2,592	2,551	-1.6%
Cottesloe - Claremont	451	451	0.0%
Esperance	370	368	-0.5%
Fremantle	1,091	1,071	-1.8%
Gascoyne	482	487	1.0%
Goldfields	1,698	1,696	-0.1%
Gosnells	4,033	3,969	-1.6%
Joondalup	2,559	2,507	-2.0%
Kalamunda	1,158	1,135	-2.0%
Kimberley	3,026	3,048	0.7%
Kwinana	1,678	1,653	-1.5%
Mandurah	3,681	3,596	-2.3%
Manjimup	709	687	-3.1%
Melville	1,327	1,317	-0.8%
Mid West	2,723	2,738	0.6%
Mundaring	996	970	-2.6%
Perth City	2,127	2,093	-1.6%
Pilbara	1,530	1,497	-2.2%
Rockingham	3,834	3,758	-2.0%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	535	531	-0.7%
South Perth	719	707	-1.7%
Stirling	4,966	4,861	-2.1%
Swan	3,974	3,955	-0.5%
Wanneroo	5,325	5,293	-0.6%
Wheat Belt - North	1,789	1,768	-1.2%
Wheat Belt - South	607	591	-2.6%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

Table 7i - Other Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3

State by SA3	Jul 2017	Aug 2017	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	13	17	30.8%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	9	10	11.1%
Jervis Bay	23	20	-13.0%
Not recorded	2,767	2,461	-11.1%

Notes:

SA3 data is derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2011) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Note: Individuals who live overseas, individuals who are without a valid home address and individuals who only have a postal address cannot be assigned to a locational boundary. These numbers may be represented as 'Not Recorded'. State/territory totals derived from SA3 data will not match state and territory totals reported elsewhere in this publication, due to different statistical geography methodologies.

Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.

In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 5 for specific Statistical Areas are reported as "<5" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".

Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 25 August 2017

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	85.4	82.0	83.1
Earned an income	14.6	18.0	16.9
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.4	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.7	3.5	3.2
\$254+	10.8	13.1	12.3
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	83,320	157,398	240,718
Females			
Did not earn an income	75.1	70.3	71.5
Earned an income	24.9	29.7	28.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.6	1.6	1.6
\$104 - <\$254	3.9	4.1	4.1
\$254+	19.3	23.9	22.8
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	45,019	141,738	186,757
Persons			
Did not earn an income	81.8	76.5	78.1
Earned an income	18.2	23.5	21.9
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.3	1.5	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	3.1	3.8	3.6
\$254+	13.8	18.2	16.9
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	128,339	299,136	427,475

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 population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance 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.

Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 25 August 2017

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term YA(o) job seekers %	Long-term YA(o) job seekers %	Total YA(o) job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	86.2	83.3	84.7
Earned an income	13.8	16.7	15.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.9	2.0	2.0
\$143 - <\$250	2.5	2.4	2.4
\$250+	9.4	12.3	10.9
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	16,114	18,809	34,923
Females			
Did not earn an income	77	74.9	75.8
Earned an income	23	25.1	24.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.5	2.6	3.0
\$143 - <\$250	3.9	3.6	3.7
\$250+	15.7	18.9	17.5
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	13,335	18,164	31,499
Persons			
Did not earn an income	82.1	79.2	80.5
Earned an income	17.9	20.8	19.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.6	2.3	2.4
\$143 - <\$250	3.1	3.0	3.0
\$250+	12.2	15.5	14.1
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	29,449	36,973	66,422

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 population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive 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 Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

Data in this publication relate to the average number of people who are both eligible (e.g. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and entitled (e.g. 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.

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 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 Statistical Areas Level 3 reported in Table 7 are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

The earnings data in Table 8 (a and b) is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the 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.

From 1 January 2016, to receive Youth Allowance (other) young people without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification (Certificate III) will need to participate in :

- approved full-time study, or
- a combination of 25 hours a week of approved part-time study and part-time work , or
- other approved activities of 25* hours per week, in addition to up to 20 job searches each month (noting that it is * 15 hours a week for early school leavers with a partial capacity to work or who are principal carer parents and have part-time requirements)

until they attain Year 12 or equivalent, or a Certificate III, or turn 22 years of age.

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, e.g. 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.

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;
- 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; and
- the introduction of *jobactive*, an employment services model with a stronger focus on job search, which replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.

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 (e.g. 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. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

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

Duration refers to duration on income support and includes time spent on other income support payments.

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)

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

The CDEP program was administered by the Department of Social Services. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aimed to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there were two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assisted 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 focused 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. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

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 DHS Service Centre that provides DSS and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

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. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

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.

Statistical Areas Level 3

Statistical Areas Level 3 are derived using the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) of 2011, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). For further details, see the ABS website: [ABS Statistical Geography](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN) <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN>>

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, e.g. 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 aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

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 (e.g. 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).

See also: The Australian Bureau of Statistics release “6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2014 – [The unemployed and recipients of Government unemployment benefits - differences explained](#)”

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6105.0Feature%20Article54July%202014?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6105.0&issue=July%202014&num=&view=>
>

For More Information

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>). Historical data is available in a statistical overview available 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>>).

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