

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 2019

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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 at media@dss.gov.au. 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 30 October 2019.

Statistical Highlights – August 2019

Between August 2018 and August 2019

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 2.6 per cent** overall from 801 323 to 780 267.

- NSA recipients decreased 2.1 per cent from 717 452 to 702 411.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 7.2 per cent from 83 871 to 77 856.

The number of job seekers **decreased 10.1 per cent** overall from 454 441 to 408 563.

- NSA job seekers decreased 9.4 per cent from 397 879 to 360 466.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 15.0 per cent from 56 562 to 48 097.

Long-term job seekers decreased 12.1 per cent from 317 179 to 278 845.

Short-term job seekers decreased 5.5 per cent from 137 262 to 129 718.

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

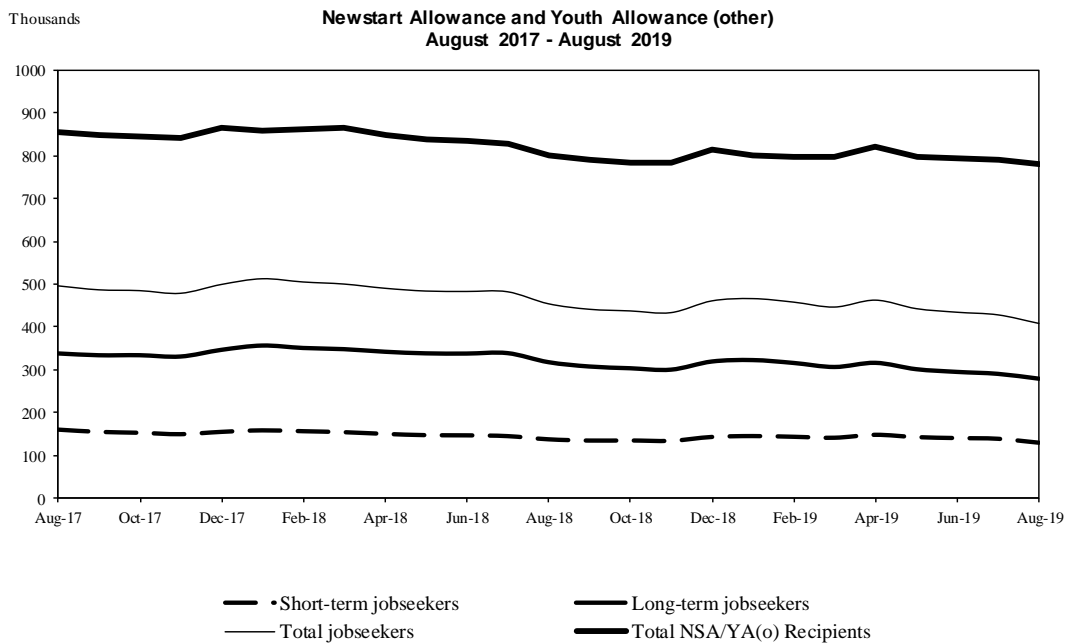


Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series

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 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
February 2018	578,876	766,603	95,597	158,226	2,321	2,349	14,489
March 2018	581,699	769,155	94,627	175,407	2,240	2,218	13,891
April 2018	573,335	755,923	92,134	180,907	2,413	2,142	13,573
May 2018	568,160	747,327	90,193	189,067	2,555	2,071	13,209
June 2018	568,133	745,902	90,286	192,045	2,525	1,985	12,907
July 2018	562,918	738,325	89,479	185,267	2,563	1,909	12,554
August 2018	547,305	717,452	83,871	199,429	2,580	1,792	11,949
September 2018	541,747	709,935	81,465	201,869	2,590	1,680	11,447
October 2018	538,054	705,658	79,725	199,539	2,593	1,596	11,060
November 2018	538,609	706,424	78,746	170,648	2,382	1,523	10,622
December 2018	554,688	728,095	86,292	138,308	2,288	1,435	10,220
January 2019	545,582	716,797	83,029	136,469	2,202	1,375	9,874
February 2019	544,407	715,560	83,533	146,445	2,182	1,317	9,527
March 2019	542,028	713,529	82,193	165,498	2,165	1,243	9,086
April 2019	555,127	733,872	86,068	173,440	2,170	1,170	8,675
May 2019	540,957	714,952	82,172	180,062	2,134	1,106	8,274
June 2019	539,686	712,184	81,981	184,710	2,240	1,048	7,858
July 2019	538,521	710,168	81,643	176,653	2,359	1,017	7,658
August 2019	536,659	702,411	77,856	187,123	2,276	1,006	7,553
Variation July 2019 - August 2019							
Number	-1,862	-7,757	-3,787	10,470	-83	-11	-105
Per cent	-0.3	-1.1	-4.6	5.9	-3.5	-1.1	-1.4

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- 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 2019 Persons	August 2019 Males	August 2019 Females	July 2019	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	165,752	102,821	62,931	171,647	-5,895	-3.4
Did not receive a payment (a)	7,771	4,033	3,738	8,217	-446	-5.4
Received a payment	157,981	98,788	59,193	163,430	-5,449	-3.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	4,702	1,166	3,536	4,533	169	3.7
Other activities without job search (c)	9,971	5,698	4,273	9,282	689	7.4
Incapacitated (d)	21,271	12,590	8,681	20,997	274	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	13,214	7,396	5,818	13,161	53	0.4
Short-term NSA job seekers (f)	108,823	71,938	36,885	115,457	-6,634	-5.7
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	41,832	25,528	16,304	41,002	830	2.0
Long Term Newstart Allowees	536,659	248,187	288,472	538,521	-1,862	-0.3
Did not receive a payment (a)	18,453	6,778	11,675	17,709	744	4.2
Received a payment	518,206	241,409	276,797	520,812	-2,606	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	63,896	15,219	48,677	62,637	1,259	2.0
Other activities without job search (c)	75,429	36,690	38,739	73,088	2,341	3.2
Incapacitated (d)	64,807	31,428	33,379	63,058	1,749	2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	62,431	28,776	33,655	61,100	1,331	2.2
Long-term NSA job seekers (f)	251,643	129,296	122,347	260,929	-9,286	-3.6
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	249,311	124,454	124,857	246,025	3,286	1.3
All Newstart Allowees	702,411	351,008	351,403	710,168	-7,757	-1.1
Did not receive a payment (a)	26,224	10,811	15,413	25,926	298	1.1
Received a payment	676,187	340,197	335,990	684,242	-8,055	-1.2
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	68,598	16,385	52,213	67,170	1,428	2.1
Other activities without job search (c)	85,400	42,388	43,012	82,370	3,030	3.7
Incapacitated (d)	86,078	44,018	42,060	84,055	2,023	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	75,645	36,172	39,473	74,261	1,384	1.9
All NSA job seekers (f)	360,466	201,234	159,232	376,386	-15,920	-4.2
All NSA training/education (g)	291,143	149,982	141,161	287,027	4,116	1.4

- (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 2019 Persons	August 2019 Males	August 2019 Females	July 2019	Variation July - August Number	Variation July - August per cent
Short Term Youth Allowees	35,038	18,904	16,134	37,099	-2,061	-5.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	936	414	522	996	-60	-6.0
Received a payment	34,102	18,490	15,612	36,103	-2,001	-5.5
Other activities without job search (b)	10,093	5,658	4,435	9,955	138	1.4
Incapacitated (c)	1,553	705	848	1,576	-23	-1.5
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,561	782	779	1,584	-23	-1.5
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	20,895	11,345	9,550	22,988	-2,093	-9.1
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	18,279	10,065	8,214	18,311	-32	-0.2
Long Term Youth Allowees	42,818	20,837	21,981	44,544	-1,726	-3.9
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,418	563	855	1,401	17	1.2
Received a payment	41,400	20,274	21,126	43,143	-1,743	-4.0
Other activities without job search (b)	8,643	4,480	4,163	8,558	85	1.0
Incapacitated (c)	2,843	1,224	1,619	2,806	37	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,712	1,109	1,603	2,648	64	2.4
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)	27,202	13,461	13,741	29,131	-1,929	-6.6
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	25,828	12,682	13,146	26,265	-437	-1.7
All Youth Allowees	77,856	39,741	38,115	81,643	-3,787	-4.6
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,354	977	1,377	2,397	-43	-1.8
Received a payment	75,502	38,764	36,738	79,246	-3,744	-4.7
Other activities without job search (b)	18,736	10,138	8,598	18,513	223	1.2
Incapacitated (c)	4,396	1,929	2,467	4,382	14	0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,273	1,891	2,382	4,232	41	1.0
All YA (other) job seekers (e)	48,097	24,806	23,291	52,119	-4,022	-7.7
All YA (other) training/education (f)	44,107	22,747	21,360	44,576	-469	-1.1

(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 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
February 2018	155,208	349,999	505,207
March 2018	153,083	347,281	500,364
April 2018	149,276	341,290	490,566
May 2018	146,495	337,567	484,062
June 2018	146,049	337,064	483,113
July 2018	144,339	338,105	482,444
August 2018	137,262	317,179	454,441
September 2018	134,476	307,116	441,592
October 2018	134,675	303,058	437,733
November 2018	133,936	299,787	433,723
December 2018	142,492	318,641	461,133
January 2019	144,447	321,983	466,430
February 2019	142,867	315,349	458,216
March 2019	140,745	305,974	446,719
April 2019	147,239	315,600	462,839
May 2019	142,140	300,876	443,016
June 2019	140,017	294,597	434,614
July 2019	138,445	290,060	428,505
August 2019	129,718	278,845	408,563
Variation July 2019 - August 2019			
Number	-8,727	-11,215	-19,942
Per cent	-6.3	-3.9	-4.7

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 2019	August 2019	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
Short-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	35,932	33,748	-2,184	-6.1
Victoria	28,324	26,425	-1,899	-6.7
Queensland	36,333	33,990	-2,343	-6.4
South Australia	10,128	9,586	-542	-5.4
Western Australia	19,098	17,809	-1,289	-6.7
Tasmania	3,270	3,171	-99	-3.0
Northern Territory	4,092	3,798	-294	-7.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,268	1,191	-77	-6.1
Australia	138,445	129,718	-8,727	-6.3
Long-Term Job Seekers				
New South Wales	75,905	72,875	-3,030	-4.0
Victoria	56,757	53,996	-2,761	-4.9
Queensland	67,222	64,727	-2,495	-3.7
South Australia	24,310	23,375	-935	-3.8
Western Australia	42,970	41,605	-1,365	-3.2
Tasmania	9,811	9,480	-331	-3.4
Northern Territory	10,783	10,590	-193	-1.8
Australian Capital Territory	2,302	2,197	-105	-4.6
Australia	290,060	278,845	-11,215	-3.9
Total Job seekers				
New South Wales	111,837	106,623	-5,214	-4.7
Victoria	85,081	80,421	-4,660	-5.5
Queensland	103,555	98,717	-4,838	-4.7
South Australia	34,438	32,961	-1,477	-4.3
Western Australia	62,068	59,414	-2,654	-4.3
Tasmania	13,081	12,651	-430	-3.3
Northern Territory	14,875	14,388	-487	-3.3
Australian Capital Territory	3,570	3,388	-182	-5.1
Australia	428,505	408,563	-19,942	-4.7

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	1,235	1.5	426	0.3	1,661	0.7
18 - 20 years	8,190	9.8	8,863	6.2	17,053	7.5
21 - 24 years	11,031	13.2	17,867	12.5	28,898	12.8
25 - 29 years	12,780	15.3	19,035	13.3	31,815	14.1
30 - 39 years	19,905	23.9	31,291	21.9	51,196	22.6
40 - 49 years	15,200	18.3	29,637	20.8	44,837	19.8
50 - 59 years	10,338	12.4	23,586	16.5	33,924	15.0
60 years and over	4,603	5.5	12,051	8.4	16,654	7.4
Total	83,282	100.0	142,756	100.0	226,038	100.0
Females						
Less than 18 years	1,303	2.8	611	0.4	1,914	1.0
18 - 20 years	6,998	15.1	9,479	7.0	16,477	9.0
21 - 24 years	6,389	13.8	13,702	10.1	20,091	11.0
25 - 29 years	5,104	11.0	12,230	9.0	17,334	9.5
30 - 39 years	7,134	15.4	26,469	19.4	33,603	18.4
40 - 49 years	8,030	17.3	34,993	25.7	43,023	23.6
50 - 59 years	7,791	16.8	26,762	19.7	34,553	18.9
60 years and over	3,687	7.9	11,843	8.7	15,530	8.5
Total	46,436	100.0	136,089	100.0	182,525	100.0
Persons						
Less than 18 years	2,538	2.0	1,037	0.4	3,575	0.9
18 - 20 years	15,188	11.7	18,342	6.6	33,530	8.2
21 - 24 years	17,420	13.4	31,569	11.3	48,989	12.0
25 - 29 years	17,884	13.8	31,265	11.2	49,149	12.0
30 - 39 years	27,039	20.8	57,760	20.7	84,799	20.8
40 - 49 years	23,230	17.9	64,630	23.2	87,860	21.5
50 - 59 years	18,129	14.0	50,348	18.1	68,477	16.8
60 years and over	8,290	6.4	23,894	8.6	32,184	7.9
Total	129,718	100.0	278,845	100.0	408,563	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	July 2019	August 2019	Variation %
Australian Capital Territory			
Belconnen	1,008	953	-5.5%
Canberra East	37	33	-10.8%
Gungahlin	530	506	-4.5%
Molonglo	44	37	-15.9%
North Canberra	573	557	-2.8%
South Canberra	195	177	-9.2%
Tuggeranong	768	740	-3.6%
Urriarra - Namadgi	<5	<5	n/a
Weston Creek	169	155	-8.3%
Woden Valley	234	216	-7.7%

– 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 2019	Aug 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Jul 2019	Aug 19	Var. %
New South Wales				New South Wales continued			
Albury	1,546	1,479	-4.3%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,066	1,039	-2.5%
Armidale	1,051	1,011	-3.8%	Liverpool	2,015	1,883	-6.6%
Auburn	1,141	1,084	-5.0%	Lord Howe Island	0	0	0.0%
Bankstown	2,768	2,624	-5.2%	Lower Hunter	2,136	2,009	-5.9%
Bathurst	839	800	-4.6%	Lower Murray	361	352	-2.5%
Baulkham Hills	499	470	-5.8%	Maitland	1,454	1,407	-3.2%
Blacktown	2,022	1,947	-3.7%	Manly	135	129	-4.4%
Blacktown - North	762	714	-6.3%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	737	685	-7.1%
Blue Mountains	861	810	-5.9%	Merrylands - Guildford	2,751	2,616	-4.9%
Blue Mountains - South	0	0	0.0%	Moree - Narrabri	1,006	983	-2.3%
Botany	430	394	-8.4%	Mount Druitt	2,761	2,590	-6.2%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,419	1,392	-1.9%	Newcastle	3,533	3,411	-3.5%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,696	1,595	-6.0%	North Sydney - Mosman	298	282	-5.4%
Broken Hill and Far West	792	784	-1.0%	Orange	1,078	1,043	-3.2%
Camden	461	440	-4.6%	Parramatta	1,468	1,393	-5.1%
Campbelltown (NSW)	2,869	2,732	-4.8%	Pennant Hills - Epping	185	175	-5.4%
Canada Bay	358	319	-10.9%	Penrith	1,897	1,785	-5.9%
Canterbury	1,943	1,870	-3.8%	Pittwater	188	176	-6.4%
Carlingford	652	616	-5.5%	Port Macquarie	1,640	1,582	-3.5%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	381	357	-6.3%	Port Stephens	1,435	1,355	-5.6%
Clarence Valley	1,326	1,257	-5.2%	Queanbeyan	491	492	0.2%
Coffs Harbour	2,026	1,919	-5.3%	Richmond - Windsor	516	483	-6.4%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	528	506	-4.2%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	1,834	1,686	-8.1%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,545	1,473	-4.7%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,209	2,096	-5.1%
Dubbo	2,245	2,186	-2.6%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	129	118	-8.5%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	97	98	1.0%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	710	670	-5.6%
Eastern Suburbs - North	519	492	-5.2%	Shoalhaven	1,960	1,869	-4.6%
Eastern Suburbs - South	861	802	-6.9%	Snowy Mountains	347	320	-7.8%
Fairfield	4,833	4,612	-4.6%	South Coast	1,501	1,425	-5.1%
Gosford	2,694	2,580	-4.2%	Southern Highlands	321	301	-6.2%
Goulburn - Mulwaree	667	642	-3.7%	St Marys	1,095	1,029	-6.0%
Great Lakes	782	759	-2.9%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,275	1,215	-4.7%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	887	856	-3.5%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	459	444	-3.3%
Hawkesbury	168	167	-0.6%	Sydney Inner City	2,172	2,053	-5.5%
Hornsby	436	422	-3.2%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,315	2,257	-2.5%
Hurstville	1,098	1,036	-5.6%	Taree - Gloucester	1,634	1,608	-1.6%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	0	0	0.0%	Tumut - Tumbarumba	318	313	-1.6%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,393	1,348	-3.2%	Tweed Valley	1,927	1,752	-9.1%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,586	1,524	-3.9%	Upper Hunter	783	732	-6.5%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,285	1,205	-6.2%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	778	772	-0.8%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,014	951	-6.2%	Wagga Wagga	1,863	1,838	-1.3%
Ku-ring-gai	241	231	-4.1%	Warringah	649	615	-5.2%
Lachlan Valley	1,602	1,535	-4.2%	Wollondilly	329	316	-4.0%
Lake Macquarie - East	1,976	1,866	-5.6%	Wollongong	1,731	1,644	-5.0%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,377	1,313	-4.6%	Wyong	3,682	3,494	-5.1%
Leichhardt	385	367	-4.7%	Young - Yass	516	507	-1.7%

– 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	July 2019	August 2019	Variation %
Northern Territory			
Alice Springs	3,754	3,652	-2.7%
Barkly	927	857	-7.6%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,746	2,676	-2.5%
Darwin City	553	551	-0.4%
Darwin Suburbs	1,249	1,266	1.4%
East Arnhem	1,784	1,737	-2.6%
Katherine	2,494	2,336	-6.3%
Litchfield	437	420	-3.9%
Palmerston	924	889	-3.8%

– 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 2019	Aug 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Jul 2019	Aug 19	Var. %
Queensland				Queensland continued			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	358	332	-7.3%	Ipswich Inner	3,098	2,975	-4.0%
Beaudesert	395	384	-2.8%	Jimboomba	823	811	-1.5%
Beenleigh	1,301	1,250	-3.9%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	247	216	-12.6%
Biloela	242	242	0.0%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,300	1,237	-4.8%
Bowen Basin - North	573	521	-9.1%	Mackay	2,608	2,443	-6.3%
Bribie - Beachmere	684	649	-5.1%	Maroochy	1,071	979	-8.6%
Brisbane Inner	1,513	1,484	-1.9%	Maryborough	1,655	1,575	-4.8%
Brisbane Inner - East	514	491	-4.5%	Mt Gravatt	870	809	-7.0%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,026	1,000	-2.5%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	380	370	-2.6%
Brisbane Inner - West	516	488	-5.4%	Nambour	935	884	-5.5%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	880	858	-2.5%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,442	1,362	-5.5%
Browns Plains	2,238	2,141	-4.3%	Nathan	610	569	-6.7%
Buderim	715	680	-4.9%	Nerang	1,222	1,131	-7.4%
Bundaberg	2,878	2,722	-5.4%	Noosa	531	492	-7.3%
Burnett	1,822	1,782	-2.2%	Noosa Hinterland	371	335	-9.7%
Caboolture	2,302	2,169	-5.8%	North Lakes	1,281	1,224	-4.4%
Caboolture Hinterland	214	209	-2.3%	Nundah	549	531	-3.3%
Cairns - North	810	778	-4.0%	Ormeau - Oxenford	1,933	1,816	-6.1%
Cairns - South	3,931	3,800	-3.3%	Outback - North	1,462	1,427	-2.4%
Caloundra	1,348	1,274	-5.5%	Outback - South	511	504	-1.4%
Capalaba	970	916	-5.6%	Port Douglas - Daintree	383	370	-3.4%
Carindale	459	420	-8.5%	Redcliffe	1,380	1,311	-5.0%
Centenary	219	208	-5.0%	Robina	641	589	-8.1%
Central Highlands (Qld)	667	664	-0.4%	Rockhampton	3,580	3,450	-3.6%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,545	1,474	-4.6%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	935	899	-3.9%
Chermside	1,092	1,043	-4.5%	Sandgate	994	942	-5.2%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,188	1,118	-5.9%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	375	342	-8.8%
Coolangatta	878	807	-8.1%	Southport	1,407	1,322	-6.0%
Darling Downs - East	903	888	-1.7%	Springfield - Redbank	2,135	2,044	-4.3%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,050	1,025	-2.4%	Springwood - Kingston	2,703	2,535	-6.2%
Far North	2,895	2,801	-3.2%	Strathpine	872	860	-1.4%
Forest Lake - Oxley	1,955	1,827	-6.5%	Sunnybank	745	686	-7.9%
Gladstone	2,290	2,193	-4.2%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	977	897	-8.2%
Gold Coast - North	1,521	1,447	-4.9%	Surfers Paradise	753	724	-3.9%
Gold Coast Hinterland	295	264	-10.5%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,422	1,354	-4.8%
Granite Belt	820	815	-0.6%	The Gap - Enoggera	552	551	-0.2%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,436	1,347	-6.2%	The Hills District	603	583	-3.3%
Hervey Bay	1,738	1,646	-5.3%	Toowoomba	2,998	2,853	-4.8%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,185	1,139	-3.9%	Townsville	5,516	5,222	-5.3%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,561	1,540	-1.3%	Whitsunday	422	398	-5.7%
Ipswich Hinterland	1,477	1,437	-2.7%	Wynnum - Manly	824	786	-4.6%

– 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	July 2019	August 2019	Variation %
South Australia			
Adelaide City	410	400	-2.4%
Adelaide Hills	667	634	-4.9%
Barossa	547	528	-3.5%
Burnside	253	225	-11.1%
Campbelltown (SA)	529	496	-6.2%
Charles Sturt	1,811	1,715	-5.3%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,179	2,124	-2.5%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	917	877	-4.4%
Gawler - Two Wells	618	591	-4.4%
Holdfast Bay	366	352	-3.8%
Limestone Coast	1,269	1,199	-5.5%
Lower North	558	546	-2.2%
Marion	1,410	1,335	-5.3%
Mid North	1,119	1,086	-2.9%
Mitcham	517	468	-9.5%
Murray and Mallee	2,211	2,136	-3.4%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	365	340	-6.8%
Onkaparinga	3,764	3,636	-3.4%
Outback - North and East	1,605	1,563	-2.6%
Playford	3,735	3,580	-4.1%
Port Adelaide - East	1,294	1,246	-3.7%
Port Adelaide - West	1,542	1,460	-5.3%
Prospect - Walkerville	256	232	-9.4%
Salisbury	3,702	3,532	-4.6%
Tea Tree Gully	1,026	970	-5.5%
Unley	265	242	-8.7%
West Torrens	768	743	-3.3%
Yorke Peninsula	737	713	-3.3%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	July 2019	August 2019	Variation %
Tasmania			
Brighton	660	661	0.2%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,240	1,221	-1.5%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	310	290	-6.5%
Devonport	1,119	1,077	-3.8%
Hobart - North East	1,015	979	-3.5%
Hobart - North West	1,848	1,771	-4.2%
Hobart - South and West	427	415	-2.8%
Hobart Inner	841	811	-3.6%
Huon - Bruny Island	468	460	-1.7%
Launceston	2,421	2,310	-4.6%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	481	475	-1.2%
North East	1,208	1,175	-2.7%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	311	311	0.0%
South East Coast	165	155	-6.1%
West Coast	553	532	-3.8%

– 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 2019	Aug 19	Var. %	State by SA3	Jul 2019	Aug 19	Var. %
Victoria				Victoria continued			
Ballarat	2,391	2,275	-4.9%	Macedon Ranges	213	184	-13.6%
Banyule	1,169	1,106	-5.4%	Manningham - East	96	93	-3.1%
Barwon - West	180	167	-7.2%	Manningham - West	514	491	-4.5%
Baw Baw	758	720	-5.0%	Maribyrnong	1,659	1,569	-5.4%
Bayside	456	456	0.0%	Maroondah	1,147	1,058	-7.8%
Bendigo	2,230	2,136	-4.2%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	710	685	-3.5%
Boroondara	651	597	-8.3%	Melbourne City	1,375	1,305	-5.1%
Brimbank	4,662	4,423	-5.1%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	2,795	2,654	-5.0%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,124	1,057	-6.0%	Mildura	1,584	1,534	-3.2%
Campaspe	678	666	-1.8%	Moira	579	545	-5.9%
Cardinia	1,172	1,071	-8.6%	Monash	1,086	1,026	-5.5%
Casey - North	1,694	1,603	-5.4%	Moreland - North	1,121	1,066	-4.9%
Casey - South	2,545	2,347	-7.8%	Mornington Peninsula	1,534	1,440	-6.1%
Colac - Corangamite	637	621	-2.5%	Murray River - Swan Hill	801	789	-1.5%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	468	438	-6.4%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	361	343	-5.0%
Dandenong	2,938	2,794	-4.9%	Port Phillip	1,152	1,130	-1.9%
Darebin - North	1,582	1,454	-8.1%	Shepparton	1,506	1,409	-6.4%
Darebin - South	557	514	-7.7%	Stonnington - East	199	193	-3.0%
Essendon	836	789	-5.6%	Stonnington - West	409	383	-6.4%
Frankston	2,104	1,977	-6.0%	Sunbury	510	489	-4.1%
Geelong	3,560	3,354	-5.8%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	763	698	-8.5%
Gippsland - East	1,319	1,296	-1.7%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	3,985	3,692	-7.4%
Gippsland - South West	1,025	963	-6.0%	Upper Goulburn Valley	938	846	-9.8%
Glen Eira	978	920	-5.9%	Wangaratta - Benalla	866	824	-4.8%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	779	726	-6.8%	Warrnambool	913	852	-6.7%
Grampians	1,212	1,177	-2.9%	Wellington	1,007	966	-4.1%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	714	668	-6.4%	Whitehorse - East	375	339	-9.6%
Hobsons Bay	1,107	1,049	-5.2%	Whitehorse - West	678	639	-5.8%
Keilor	543	510	-6.1%	Whittlesea - Wallan	2,933	2,772	-5.5%
Kingston	1,007	939	-6.8%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,414	1,347	-4.7%
Knox	1,388	1,283	-7.6%	Wyndham	3,750	3,513	-6.3%
Latrobe Valley	2,675	2,602	-2.7%	Yarra	1,296	1,258	-2.9%
Loddon - Elmore	279	267	-4.3%	Yarra Ranges	1,408	1,308	-7.1%

– 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	July 2019	August 2019	Variation %
Western Australia			
Albany	1,486	1,420	-4.4%
Armadale	2,846	2,711	-4.7%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,076	1,014	-5.8%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,061	1,963	-4.8%
Belmont - Victoria Park	1,927	1,838	-4.6%
Bunbury	2,874	2,752	-4.2%
Canning	1,788	1,711	-4.3%
Cockburn	2,189	2,072	-5.3%
Cottesloe - Claremont	397	393	-1.0%
East Pilbara	1,019	1,006	-1.3%
Esperance	330	304	-7.9%
Fremantle	1,049	998	-4.9%
Gascoyne	549	563	2.6%
Goldfields	1,487	1,425	-4.2%
Gosnells	3,568	3,434	-3.8%
Joondalup	2,090	1,996	-4.5%
Kalamunda	1,006	978	-2.8%
Kimberley	3,153	3,113	-1.3%
Kwinana	1,454	1,351	-7.1%
Mandurah	3,171	2,960	-6.7%
Manjimup	532	514	-3.4%
Melville	1,093	1,034	-5.4%
Mid West	2,475	2,430	-1.8%
Mundaring	823	829	0.7%
Perth City	1,856	1,787	-3.7%
Rockingham	3,401	3,214	-5.5%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	466	438	-6.0%
South Perth	596	578	-3.0%
Stirling	4,281	4,061	-5.1%
Swan	3,703	3,540	-4.4%
Wanneroo	4,596	4,304	-6.4%
West Pilbara	586	584	-0.3%
Wheat Belt - North	1,579	1,538	-2.6%
Wheat Belt - South	504	498	-1.2%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

State by SA3	July 2019	August 2019	Variation %
Other			
Christmas Island	16	15	-6.3%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	22	22	0.0%
Jervis Bay	15	14	-6.7%
Norfolk Island	13	11	-15.4%
Not recorded	127	162	27.6%

Notes:

Statistical Area Level 3 data is derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2016) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In March 2019, Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from ASGS 2011 to ASGS 2016.

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 23 August 2019

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
Males			
Did not earn an income	87.8	84.8	85.9
Earned an income	12.2	15.2	14.1
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.2	1.1
\$104 - <\$254	2.3	2.8	2.7
\$254+	8.8	11.1	10.3
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	70,252	127,904	198,156
Females			
Did not earn an income	76.9	72.8	73.7
Earned an income	23.1	27.2	26.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.4	1.4	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	3.6	3.8	3.8
\$254+	18.1	22	21.1
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	35,764	120,760	156,524
Persons			
Did not earn an income	84.1	79	80.5
Earned an income	15.9	21	19.5
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.3	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.8	3.3	3.1
\$254+	12	16.4	15.1
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving NSA	106,016	248,664	354,680

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 23 August 2019

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	88.2	85.5	86.7
Earned an income	11.8	14.5	13.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	1.9	1.7	1.8
\$143 - <\$250	2	2.1	2
\$250+	7.9	10.7	9.4
Total males	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	11,036	13,295	24,331
Females			
Did not earn an income	79.1	76.1	77.3
Earned an income	20.9	23.9	22.7
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3	2.6	2.8
\$143 - <\$250	3.7	3.4	3.5
\$250+	14.2	18	16.4
Total females	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	9,210	13,553	22,763
Persons			
Did not earn an income	84	80.8	82.2
Earned an income	16	19.2	17.8
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.4	2.1	2.3
\$143 - <\$250	2.8	2.7	2.7
\$250+	10.8	14.4	12.8
Total	100	100	100
Job seekers receiving YA (other)	20,246	26,848	47,094

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) 2016.

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 September 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

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. 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 September 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) produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Statistical Area Level 3 boundaries were updated from ASGS 2011 to ASGS 2016 in March 2019. For further details, see the ABS website: ABS Statistical Geography <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN>>

Widow Allowance (WA)

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. 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:

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