

# 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 of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

This publication can be found at <http://www.deewr.gov.au/lmrp>

**April 2012**

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, 23 May 2012

Annual Subscription - \$65.00

# CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Statistical Highlights	2
Tables	
1. Labour Market Payments - Time Series	3
2. Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the job seeker population	4
3. Youth Allowees (other) - Derivation of the job seeker population	5
4. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) - Time Series	6
5. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by State	7
6. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Age and Sex	8
7. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Service Zone and Service Centre	9
8. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Fortnightly Earnings and Sex	23
Explanatory Notes	24
Glossary	30
Appendix	33
For More Information	36

## 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 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

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 DEEWR Media Team on (02) 6240 7300 or by email to [media@deewr.gov.au](mailto:media@deewr.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 20 June 2012.

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – April 2012

### Between April 2011 and April 2012

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 0.2 per cent** overall from 659 855 to 661 274.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 1.0 per cent from 571 168 to 576 620.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients decreased 4.5 per cent from 88 687 to 84 654.

The number of job seekers **increased 4.0 per cent** overall from 319 681 to 332 390.

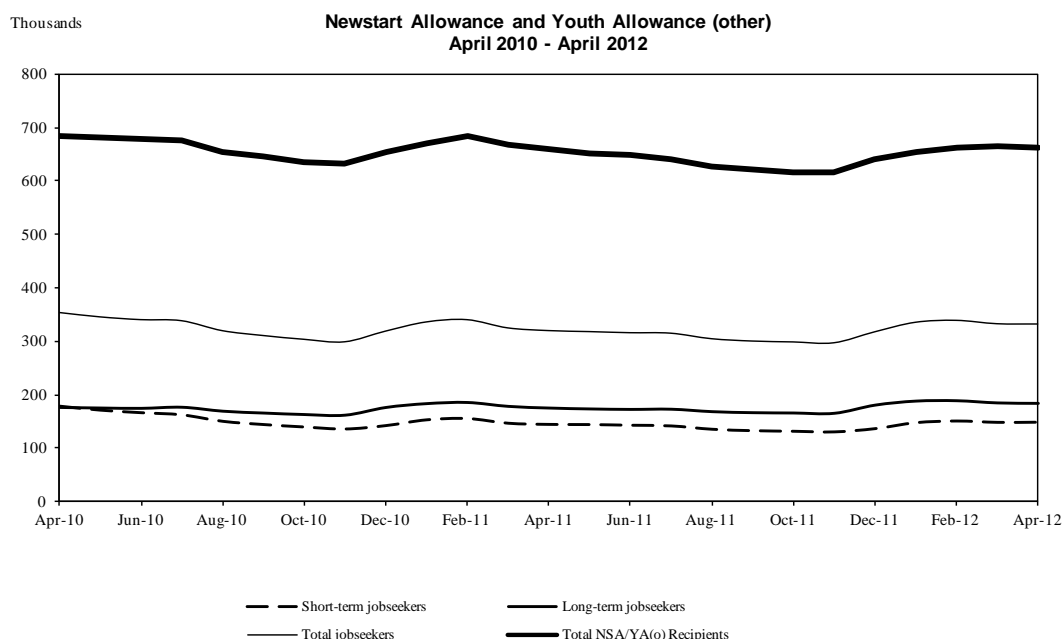
- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 3.9 per cent from 285 044 to 296 261.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 4.3 per cent from 34 637 to 36 129.

Long-term job seekers increased 4.9 per cent from 175 953 to 184 581.

Short-term job seekers increased 2.8 per cent from 143 728 to 147 809.

NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes). This change does not affect overall recipient numbers.

For comparisons between DEEWR unemployment labour market payment numbers and ABS labour force unemployment statistics, see Appendix.



**TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES**

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..
April 2010	334,244	595,458	88,211	272,564	4,548	25,608	34,995
May 2010	338,932	593,200	87,568	283,681	4,581	24,959	34,681
June 2010	341,602	589,799	87,935	292,300	4,517	24,362	34,331
July 2010	344,840	587,103	88,473	292,238	4,513	23,677	33,997
August 2010	341,360	572,201	82,142	305,856	4,558	23,004	33,687
September 2010	339,783	564,443	80,407	311,048	4,594	22,429	33,358
October 2010	338,191	557,352	78,965	313,211	4,479	21,758	32,917
November 2010	337,056	551,840	79,935	299,007	4,315	21,096	32,482
December 2010	344,362	563,027	91,757	262,407	4,387	20,437	32,021
January 2011	349,806	576,745	92,976	257,713	4,208	19,922	31,646
February 2011	356,375	588,824	94,425	273,004	4,380	19,441	31,300
March 2011	352,479	578,856	90,111	293,377	4,650	18,932	30,959
April 2011	348,597	571,168	88,687	307,093	4,848	18,392	30,564
May 2011	345,226	564,805	86,230	315,670	4,859	17,850	30,184
June 2011	343,642	561,839	85,711	320,654	4,948	17,379	29,823
July 2011	341,388	556,349	84,917	315,490	4,772	17,036	29,621
August 2011	337,649	547,029	79,940	324,291	4,681	16,881	29,751
September 2011	336,056	542,845	78,096	329,360	4,671	16,751	29,868
October 2011	335,189	540,910	76,091	330,938	4,566	16,641	30,116
November 2011	334,884	540,527	75,664	311,741	4,352	16,544	30,328
December 2011	342,119	552,983	87,305	269,552	4,256	16,426	30,618
January 2012	346,578	566,287	87,617	241,565	4,110	16,129	30,564
February 2012	348,940	574,458	88,284	246,450	4,214	15,753	30,351
March 2012	351,092	578,219	86,583	262,183	4,495	15,279	30,029
April 2012	350,547	576,620	84,654	271,071	4,637	14,878	29,752
Variation March 2012 - April 2012							
Number	-545	-1,599	-1,929	8,888	142	-401	-277
Per cent	-0.2	-0.3	-2.2	3.4	3.2	-2.6	-0.9

## Notes:

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

**TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION**

	April 2012			March 2012	Variation March - April	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>226,073</b>	<b>143,157</b>	<b>82,916</b>	<b>227,127</b>	<b>-1,054</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	400	282	118	403	-3	-0.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,137	6,694	5,443	13,075	-938	-7.2
Received a payment	213,536	136,181	77,355	213,649	-113	-0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,018	1,904	4,114	5,954	64	1.1
Other activities without job search (d)	36,366	22,723	13,643	36,677	-311	-0.8
Incapacitated (e)	23,352	13,508	9,844	22,990	362	1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,480	7,645	5,835	13,791	-311	-2.3
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>134,320</b>	<b>90,401</b>	<b>43,919</b>	<b>134,237</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>28,643</i>	<i>16,747</i>	<i>11,896</i>	<i>28,728</i>	<i>-85</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>350,547</b>	<b>190,816</b>	<b>159,731</b>	<b>351,092</b>	<b>-545</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	2,318	1,563	755	2,360	-42	-1.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,809	5,785	7,024	14,435	-1,626	-11.3
Received a payment	335,420	183,468	151,952	334,297	1,123	0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	27,173	9,490	17,683	26,809	364	1.4
Other activities without job search (d)	82,276	42,972	39,304	81,963	313	0.4
Incapacitated (e)	33,684	17,497	16,187	33,144	540	1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	30,346	15,739	14,607	30,556	-210	-0.7
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>161,941</b>	<b>97,770</b>	<b>64,171</b>	<b>161,825</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>86,761</i>	<i>45,413</i>	<i>41,348</i>	<i>84,896</i>	<i>1,865</i>	<i>2.2</i>
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>576,620</b>	<b>333,973</b>	<b>242,647</b>	<b>578,219</b>	<b>-1,599</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	2,718	1,845	873	2,763	-45	-1.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	24,946	12,479	12,467	27,510	-2,564	-9.3
Received a payment	548,956	319,649	229,307	547,946	1,010	0.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	33,191	11,394	21,797	32,763	428	1.3
Other activities without job search (d)	118,642	65,695	52,947	118,640	2	0.0
Incapacitated (e)	57,036	31,005	26,031	56,134	902	1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	43,826	23,384	20,442	44,347	-521	-1.2
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>296,261</b>	<b>188,171</b>	<b>108,090</b>	<b>296,062</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>115,404</i>	<i>62,160</i>	<i>53,244</i>	<i>113,624</i>	<i>1,780</i>	<i>1.6</i>

- (a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.  
(b) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.  
(c) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.  
(d) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.  
(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.  
(f) Includes allowees who are known not to have participation requirements and allowees participating in Disability Management Services.  
(g) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.  
(h) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

**Notes:**

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

**TABLE 3 - YOUTH ALLOWEES (OTHER) - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION**

	April 2012			March 2012	Variation March - April	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>33,917</b>	<b>18,911</b>	<b>15,006</b>	<b>34,129</b>	<b>-212</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	29	19	10	35	-6	-17.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	675	306	369	641	34	5.3
Received a payment	33,213	18,586	14,627	33,453	-240	-0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	16,550	9,645	6,905	16,984	-434	-2.6
Incapacitated (d)	1,679	858	821	1,633	46	2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,495	714	781	1,549	-54	-3.5
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>13,489</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>6,120</b>	<b>13,287</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>10,751</i>	<i>5,888</i>	<i>4,863</i>	<i>10,970</i>	<i>-219</i>	<i>-2.0</i>
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>50,737</b>	<b>25,253</b>	<b>25,484</b>	<b>52,454</b>	<b>-1,717</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	95	63	32	104	-9	-8.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,518	631	887	1,511	7	0.5
Received a payment	49,124	24,559	24,565	50,839	-1,715	-3.4
Other activities without job search (c)	22,420	11,632	10,788	23,181	-761	-3.3
Incapacitated (d)	2,132	916	1,216	2,104	28	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,932	767	1,165	1,970	-38	-1.9
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>22,640</b>	<b>11,244</b>	<b>11,396</b>	<b>23,584</b>	<b>-944</b>	<b>-4.0</b>
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>17,774</i>	<i>8,670</i>	<i>9,104</i>	<i>17,999</i>	<i>-225</i>	<i>-1.3</i>
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>84,654</b>	<b>44,164</b>	<b>40,490</b>	<b>86,583</b>	<b>-1,929</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	124	82	42	139	-15	-10.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,193	937	1,256	2,152	41	1.9
Received a payment	82,337	43,145	39,192	84,292	-1,955	-2.3
Other activities without job search (c)	38,970	21,277	17,693	40,165	-1,195	-3.0
Incapacitated (d)	3,811	1,774	2,037	3,737	74	2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	3,427	1,481	1,946	3,519	-92	-2.6
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>36,129</b>	<b>18,613</b>	<b>17,516</b>	<b>36,871</b>	<b>-742</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>28,525</i>	<i>14,558</i>	<i>13,967</i>	<i>28,969</i>	<i>-444</i>	<i>-1.5</i>

(a) Allowees eligible for YA (other) who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

(b) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.

(c) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

(f) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(g) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

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

**TABLE 4 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE  
(OTHER) TIME SERIES**

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
April 2010	177,575	177,023	354,598
May 2010	170,170	176,003	346,173
June 2010	165,461	175,364	340,825
July 2010	161,411	177,388	338,799
August 2010	149,451	170,111	319,562
September 2010	143,471	166,697	310,168
October 2010	138,927	163,953	302,880
November 2010	135,199	162,796	297,995
December 2010	141,518	176,994	318,512
January 2011	152,223	184,087	336,310
February 2011	154,600	186,195	340,795
March 2011	145,887	179,041	324,928
April 2011	143,728	175,953	319,681
May 2011	143,422	174,297	317,719
June 2011	142,149	173,418	315,567
July 2011	140,875	173,761	314,636
August 2011	134,716	169,262	303,978
September 2011	132,079	167,384	299,463
October 2011	130,980	166,799	297,779
November 2011	129,846	166,266	296,112
December 2011	135,882	181,357	317,239
January 2012	146,931	188,773	335,704
February 2012	150,028	189,447	339,475
March 2012	147,524	185,409	332,933
April 2012	147,809	184,581	332,390
Variation March 2012 - April 2012			
Number	285	-828	-543
Per cent	0.2	-0.4	-0.2

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes).



**TABLE 5 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY STATE**

<i>State</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	43,669	43,859	190	0.4
Victoria	35,097	35,420	323	0.9
Queensland	37,005	37,022	17	0.0
South Australia	11,483	11,647	164	1.4
Western Australia	12,691	12,419	-272	-2.1
Tasmania	3,982	3,855	-127	-3.2
Northern Territory	2,392	2,396	4	0.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,205	1,190	-15	-1.2
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>147,524</b>	<b>147,809</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	59,219	58,796	-423	-0.7
Victoria	40,768	40,516	-252	-0.6
Queensland	41,916	41,928	12	0.0
South Australia	16,588	16,601	13	0.1
Western Australia	14,057	13,887	-170	-1.2
Tasmania	6,781	6,729	-52	-0.8
Northern Territory	4,860	4,965	105	2.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,220	1,159	-61	-5.0
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>185,409</b>	<b>184,581</b>	<b>-828</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
<b>TOTAL JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	102,888	102,655	-233	-0.2
Victoria	75,865	75,936	71	0.1
Queensland	78,921	78,950	29	0.0
South Australia	28,071	28,248	177	0.6
Western Australia	26,748	26,306	-442	-1.7
Tasmania	10,763	10,584	-179	-1.7
Northern Territory	7,252	7,361	109	1.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,425	2,349	-76	-3.1
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>332,933</b>	<b>332,390</b>	<b>-543</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

Notes:

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

**TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT APRIL 2012**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
<b>MALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,241	1.3	1,282	1.2	2,523	1.2
18 - 20 years	6,127	6.3	9,962	9.1	16,089	7.8
21 - 24 years	17,855	18.3	17,636	16.2	35,491	17.2
25 - 29 years	16,382	16.8	16,501	15.1	32,883	15.9
30 - 39 years	23,660	24.2	24,869	22.8	48,529	23.5
40 - 49 years	17,401	17.8	19,917	18.3	37,318	18.0
50 - 59 years	11,280	11.5	13,733	12.6	25,013	12.1
60 years and over	3,825	3.9	5,115	4.7	8,940	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,771</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>109,015</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>206,786</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,122	2.2	1,480	2.0	2,602	2.1
18 - 20 years	4,998	10.0	9,915	13.1	14,913	11.9
21 - 24 years	9,895	19.8	11,931	15.8	21,826	17.4
25 - 29 years	6,313	12.6	7,799	10.3	14,112	11.2
30 - 39 years	8,145	16.3	12,952	17.1	21,097	16.8
40 - 49 years	9,789	19.6	16,765	22.2	26,554	21.1
50 - 59 years	7,620	15.2	12,052	15.9	19,672	15.7
60 years and over	2,156	4.3	2,672	3.5	4,828	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,038</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>75,566</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>125,604</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,363	1.6	2,762	1.5	5,125	1.5
18 - 20 years	11,125	7.5	19,877	10.8	31,002	9.3
21 - 24 years	27,750	18.8	29,567	16.0	57,317	17.2
25 - 29 years	22,695	15.4	24,300	13.2	46,995	14.1
30 - 39 years	31,805	21.5	37,821	20.5	69,626	20.9
40 - 49 years	27,190	18.4	36,682	19.9	63,872	19.2
50 - 59 years	18,900	12.8	25,785	14.0	44,685	13.4
60 years and over	5,981	4.0	7,787	4.2	13,768	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,809</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>184,581</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>332,390</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY</i></b>				
AS1 Community Team	33	33	%	%
Bankstown	3,047	3,055	8	0.3
Bondi Junction	1,095	1,042	-53	-4.8
Burwood	1,608	1,578	-30	-1.9
Campsie	1,926	1,915	-11	-0.6
Caringbah	827	823	-4	-0.5
Chatswood	1,270	1,271	1	0.1
Darlinghurst	1,374	1,345	-29	-2.1
Hornsby	934	950	16	1.7
Hurstville	1,555	1,516	-39	-2.5
Lakemba	28	20	%	%
Leichhardt	1,252	1,208	-44	-3.5
Maroubra	1,366	1,372	6	0.4
Marrickville	1,415	1,363	-52	-3.7
Northern Beaches	1,271	1,269	-2	-0.2
Redfern	1,267	1,277	10	0.8
Rockdale	1,285	1,302	17	1.3
Ryde	1,034	1,012	-22	-2.1
Sutherland	714	741	27	3.8
Other (a)	11	12	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,312</b>	<b>23,104</b>	<b>-208</b>	<b>-0.9</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Auburn	1,866	1,946	80	4.3
Bathurst	673	663	-10	-1.5
Blacktown	2,597	2,615	18	0.7
Bourke	405	407	2	0.5
Cabramatta	1,997	1,995	-2	-0.1
Camden	628	620	-8	-1.3
Campbelltown	1,843	1,857	14	0.8
Dubbo	1,678	1,666	-12	-0.7
Fairfield	2,475	2,414	-61	-2.5
Hawkesbury	783	780	-3	-0.4
Ingleburn	1,157	1,175	18	1.6
Katoomba	498	502	4	0.8
Lightning Ridge	175	170	-5	-2.9
Lithgow	502	476	-26	-5.2
Liverpool	2,774	2,826	52	1.9
Mt Druitt	2,316	2,315	-1	0.0
Mudgee	467	466	-1	-0.2
Orange	701	702	1	0.1
Penrith	1,555	1,518	-37	-2.4
Springwood	332	345	13	3.9
St Marys	1,285	1,280	-5	-0.4
Walgett	234	218	-16	-6.8
Other (a)	3	4	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,944</b>	<b>26,960</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>MID COAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Baulkham Hills	849	823	-26	-3.1
Cessnock	579	593	14	2.4
Charlestown	1,506	1,519	13	0.9
Comm Support Team	30	30	%	%
Ettalong	595	590	-5	-0.8
Forster	686	679	-7	-1.0
Gosford	1,309	1,341	32	2.4
King Street	957	966	9	0.9
Kurri Kurri	350	346	-4	-1.1
Lakehaven	1,416	1,401	-15	-1.1
Maitland	969	970	1	0.1
Mayfield	813	812	-1	-0.1
Merrylands	1,720	1,698	-22	-1.3
Muswellbrook	434	411	-23	-5.3
Nelson Bay	412	410	-2	-0.5
Parramatta	2,084	2,107	23	1.1
Raymond Terrace	710	726	16	2.3
Singleton	201	204	3	1.5
Taree	1,290	1,272	-18	-1.4
The Entrance	1,127	1,123	-4	-0.4
Toronto	713	743	30	4.2
Wallsend	968	1,000	32	3.3
Woy Woy	458	474	16	3.5
Wyong	602	593	-9	-1.5
Other (a)	4	2	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,782</b>	<b>20,833</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Batemans Bay	562	567	5	0.9
Bega	595	595	0	0.0
Belconnen	724	704	-20	-2.8
Bowral	381	386	5	1.3
Braddon	649	604	-45	-6.9
Cooma	266	253	-13	-4.9
Corrimal	905	886	-19	-2.1
Cowra	353	358	5	1.4
Dapto	990	980	-10	-1.0
Goulburn	555	564	9	1.6
Griffith	439	432	-7	-1.6
Gungahlin	203	207	4	2.0
Leeton	312	322	10	3.2
Narooma	252	237	-15	-6.0
Nowra	1,529	1,548	19	1.2
Parkes	663	650	-13	-2.0
Queanbeyan	355	364	9	2.5
Shellharbour	1,237	1,225	-12	-1.0
Tuggeranong	478	468	-10	-2.1
Tumut	267	251	-16	-6.0
Ulladulla	450	421	-29	-6.4
Wagga	1,097	1,100	3	0.3
Woden	331	330	-1	-0.3
Wollongong	1,140	1,158	18	1.6
Yass	85	77	%	%
Young	463	444	-19	-4.1
Other (a)	19	24	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>15,155</b>	<b>-145</b>	<b>-0.9</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Airport West	926	933	7	0.8
Albury	2,012	2,055	43	2.1
Box Hill	1,856	1,857	1	0.1
Broadmeadows	3,141	3,086	-55	-1.8
Darebin	2,270	2,189	-81	-3.6
Deniliquin	163	157	-6	-3.7
Echuca	460	442	-18	-3.9
Epping	2,098	2,125	27	1.3
Greensborough	1,187	1,187	0	0.0
Heidelberg	1,098	1,108	10	0.9
Moreland	2,300	2,290	-10	-0.4
Newmarket	1,383	1,365	-18	-1.3
Seymour	568	572	4	0.7
Shepparton	1,726	1,713	-13	-0.8
Sth Melbourne	794	801	7	0.9
Sunbury	764	773	9	1.2
Wangaratta	1,283	1,276	-7	-0.5
Windsor Vic	1,972	1,943	-29	-1.5
Yarra	1,925	1,912	-13	-0.7
Other (a)	17	14	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,943</b>	<b>27,798</b>	<b>-145</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Bairnsdale	726	726	0	0.0
Belgrave	406	390	-16	-3.9
Boronia	966	998	32	3.3
Cheltenham	1,461	1,477	16	1.1
Cranbourne	1,382	1,349	-33	-2.4
Dandenong	2,206	2,270	64	2.9
Fountain Gate	1,755	1,715	-40	-2.3
Frankston	2,136	2,194	58	2.7
Glen Waverley	992	965	-27	-2.7
Hastings	493	529	36	7.3
Lilydale	1,131	1,104	-27	-2.4
Mornington	396	413	17	4.3
Morwell	2,171	2,181	10	0.5
Oakleigh	1,305	1,321	16	1.2
Pakenham	728	735	7	1.0
Ringwood	1,366	1,376	10	0.7
Rosebud	595	585	-10	-1.7
Rowville	559	555	-4	-0.7
Sale	681	657	-24	-3.5
Springvale	1,463	1,522	59	4.0
Warragul	552	546	-6	-1.1
Wonthaggi	533	540	7	1.3
Other (a)	2	2	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,005</b>	<b>24,150</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>0.6</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b>WEST VICTORIA</b>				
Ararat	158	153	-5	-3.2
Bendigo Central	213	197	-16	-7.5
Ballarat	2,308	2,290	-18	-0.8
Bendigo	2,095	2,122	27	1.3
Colac	449	459	10	2.2
Corio	1,318	1,330	12	0.9
Footscray	1,159	1,144	-15	-1.3
Geelong	2,577	2,557	-20	-0.8
Hamilton	288	282	-6	-2.1
Horsham	576	580	4	0.7
Maryborough	383	357	-26	-6.8
Melton	1,307	1,308	1	0.1
Mildura	1,538	1,545	7	0.5
Newport	954	967	13	1.4
Portland	293	276	-17	-5.8
Stawell	147	154	7	4.8
Sunshine	2,771	2,804	33	1.2
Swan Hill	664	642	-22	-3.3
Warrnambool	714	719	5	0.7
Watergardens	2,545	2,598	53	2.1
Werribee	3,113	3,185	72	2.3
Other (a)	3	4	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,573</b>	<b>25,673</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Atherton	765	766	1	0.1
Ayr	374	383	9	2.4
Biloela	148	157	9	6.1
Bowen	343	359	16	4.7
Cairns Aplin	4,314	4,178	-136	-3.2
Charters Towers	320	330	10	3.1
Emerald	249	238	-11	-4.4
Gladstone	682	655	-27	-4.0
Indigenous Service Centre	1,000	999	-1	-0.1
Ingham	320	332	12	3.8
Innisfail	746	758	12	1.6
Longreach	97	90	%	%
Mackay	1,092	1,120	28	2.6
Mareeba	627	634	7	1.1
Mossman	528	521	-7	-1.3
Mt Isa	667	657	-10	-1.5
Normanton	112	117	5	4.5
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	107	114	7	6.5
Palm Island	249	268	19	7.6
Rockhampton	1,713	1,711	-2	-0.1
Thursday Is	293	319	26	8.9
Townsville	3,305	3,376	71	2.1
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	376	394	18	4.8
Whitsunday	494	504	10	2.0
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	449	467	18	4.0
Yeppoon	378	384	6	1.6
Other (a)	36	26	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,784</b>	<b>19,857</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>SUNSHINE COAST</i></b>				
Bundaberg	3,050	3,064	14	0.5
Caboolture	2,885	2,896	11	0.4
Caloundra	1,389	1,387	-2	-0.1
Deception Bay	675	658	-17	-2.5
Gympie	1,285	1,295	10	0.8
Hervey Bay	1,683	1,675	-8	-0.5
Kawana Waters	649	654	5	0.8
Kippa-Ring	1,201	1,230	29	2.4
Maroochydore	1,553	1,527	-26	-1.7
Maryborough	1,140	1,118	-22	-1.9
Nambour	970	960	-10	-1.0
Noosa	1,327	1,314	-13	-1.0
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,807</b>	<b>17,778</b>	<b>-29</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b><i>PACIFIC COAST</i></b>				
APC Community Team	28	26	%	%
Ballina	874	895	21	2.4
Biggera Waters	2,634	2,657	23	0.9
Brunswick Heads	649	665	16	2.5
Byron Bay	596	606	10	1.7
Casino	572	579	7	1.2
Coffs Harbour	2,042	2,014	-28	-1.4
Grafton	782	797	15	1.9
Kempsey	771	805	34	4.4
Lismore	1,455	1,433	-22	-1.5
Murwillumbah	578	572	-6	-1.0
Nambucca Heads	697	694	-3	-0.4
Nerang	2,604	2,602	-2	-0.1
Palm Beach	2,838	2,872	34	1.2
Port Macquarie	1,553	1,491	-62	-4.0
Southport	2,516	2,486	-30	-1.2
Tweed Heads	1,507	1,501	-6	-0.4
Yamba	389	379	-10	-2.6
Other (a)	2	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,087</b>	<b>23,075</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-0.1</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Charleville	140	144	4	2.9
Cherbourg	232	230	-2	-0.9
Chermside	1,062	1,074	12	1.1
Dalby	406	391	-15	-3.7
Fortitude Valley	1,153	1,130	-23	-2.0
Goodna	1,438	1,415	-23	-1.6
Ipswich	2,569	2,594	25	1.0
Kingaroy	669	644	-25	-3.7
Mitchelton	1,206	1,209	3	0.2
Nundah	1,218	1,264	46	3.8
Roma	110	108	-2	-1.8
South Brisbane	875	880	5	0.6
Stones Corner	1,733	1,676	-57	-3.3
Strathpine	1,588	1,601	13	0.8
Toowong	1,066	1,015	-51	-4.8
Toowoomba	1,793	1,807	14	0.8
Other (a)	215	213	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,473</b>	<b>17,395</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></b>				
Berri	787	819	32	4.1
Broken Hill	656	640	-16	-2.4
Ceduna	242	250	8	3.3
Cooper Pedy	149	145	-4	-2.7
Elizabeth	2,317	2,349	32	1.4
Enfield	1,325	1,335	10	0.8
Gawler	1,081	1,106	25	2.3
Glenelg	810	830	20	2.5
Kadina	580	596	16	2.8
Kilkenny	1,343	1,355	12	0.9
Marion	2,073	2,065	-8	-0.4
Modbury	1,776	1,808	32	1.8
Mt Barker	653	676	23	3.5
Mt Gambier	1,155	1,168	13	1.1
Murray Bridge	851	845	-6	-0.7
Noarlunga	2,632	2,638	6	0.2
Norwood	1,594	1,604	10	0.6
Port Adelaide	1,304	1,268	-36	-2.8
Port Augusta	578	600	22	3.8
Port Lincoln	498	507	9	1.8
Port Pirie	765	766	1	0.1
Salisbury	2,459	2,421	-38	-1.5
Torrensville	1,424	1,402	-22	-1.5
Victor Harbor	639	637	-2	-0.3
Whyalla	722	727	5	0.7
Other (a)	2	2	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,415</b>	<b>28,559</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>0.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>				
Albany	918	924	6	0.7
Armadale	1,100	1,038	-62	-5.6
Bunbury	1,401	1,362	-39	-2.8
Busselton	703	725	22	3.1
Cannington	1,465	1,383	-82	-5.6
Carnarvon	322	325	3	0.9
Esperance	233	229	-4	-1.7
Fremantle	1,114	1,114	0	0.0
Geraldton	1,076	1,053	-23	-2.1
Gosnells	946	918	-28	-3.0
Innaloo	1,100	1,051	-49	-4.5
Joondalup	1,420	1,403	-17	-1.2
Kalgoorlie	586	581	-5	-0.9
Karratha	344	333	-11	-3.2
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	94	103	%	%
Mandurah	1,300	1,265	-35	-2.7
Meekatharra	176	170	-6	-3.4
Midland	1,396	1,352	-44	-3.2
Mirrabooka	1,886	1,852	-34	-1.8
Morley	1,695	1,681	-14	-0.8
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	141	139	-2	-1.4
Northam	830	834	4	0.5
Rockingham	1,562	1,585	23	1.5
South Hedland	328	319	-9	-2.7
Spearwood	964	931	-33	-3.4
Victoria Park	1,521	1,485	-36	-2.4
Warwick Grove	728	726	-2	-0.3
Other (a)	23	27	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,372</b>	<b>24,908</b>	<b>-464</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b>TASMANIA</b>				
Bridgewater	893	916	23	2.6
Burnie	1,223	1,189	-34	-2.8
Devonport	1,232	1,196	-36	-2.9
Glenorchy	1,256	1,245	-11	-0.9
Hobart	1,202	1,172	-30	-2.5
Huonville	340	352	12	3.5
Launceston	3,437	3,374	-63	-1.8
Rosny Park	787	759	-28	-3.6
Sorell	404	393	-11	-2.7
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,775</b>	<b>10,597</b>	<b>-178</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
<b>NORTH AUSTRALIA</b>				
Alice Springs	472	485	13	2.8
Borroloola	59	60	%	%
Broome	454	460	6	1.3
Casuarina	567	567	0	0.0
Central Aust RST	1,840	1,884	44	2.4
Derby	203	196	-7	-3.4
Fitzroy Crossing	100	108	8	8.0
Halls Creek	227	231	4	1.8
Katherine	327	293	-34	-10.4
Knuckey Street	345	351	6	1.7
Kununurra	297	297	0	0.0
Maningrida	232	242	10	4.3
Nhulunbuy	83	92	%	%
Palmerston	631	636	5	0.8
Tangentyere	152	158	6	3.9
Tennant Creek	172	179	7	4.1
Tiwi Islands	206	210	4	1.9
Top End Hub	2,227	2,283	56	2.5
Wadeye	242	248	6	2.5
Yuendumu	88	83	%	%
Other (a)	25	28	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,949</b>	<b>9,091</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1.6</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER) BY SERVICE ZONE AND SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	March 2012	April 2012	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<b><i>BORDER RANGES</i></b>				
Armidale	728	740	12	1.6
Beaudesert	535	527	-8	-1.5
Beenleigh	1,892	1,877	-15	-0.8
Browns Plains	1,887	1,849	-38	-2.0
Capalaba	702	736	34	4.8
Cleveland	885	888	3	0.3
Glen Innes	259	243	-16	-6.2
Goondiwindi	320	324	4	1.3
Gunnedah	340	343	3	0.9
Inala	1,561	1,523	-38	-2.4
Inverell	530	541	11	2.1
Moree	457	442	-15	-3.3
Mt Gravatt	2,012	2,063	51	2.5
Narrabri	271	273	2	0.7
Stanthorpe	367	345	-22	-6.0
Tamworth	1,511	1,526	15	1.0
Warwick	428	441	13	3.0
Woodridge	1,902	1,956	54	2.8
Wynnum	814	851	37	4.5
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,402</b>	<b>17,489</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b><i>OTHER</i></b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	4	6	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	3	3	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	3	-41	%	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>332,933</b>	<b>332,390</b>	<b>-543</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

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

Notes:

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



**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)  
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 20 APRIL 2012**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	86.6	82.9	84.7
Earned an income	13.4	17.1	15.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	2.2	1.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.1	2.8	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.4	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	7.8	9.3	8.6
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>97,847</b>	<b>109,050</b>	<b>206,897</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.9	72.2	74.1
Earned an income	23.1	27.8	25.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.1	1.0
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.4	3.1	2.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.3	3.8	3.6
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	3.0	2.8
Over \$316.00	14.2	16.9	15.8
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>50,240</b>	<b>75,549</b>	<b>125,789</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	83.3	78.5	80.7
Earned an income	16.7	21.5	19.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.8	2.5	2.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.5	3.2	2.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.4	2.1
Over \$316.00	10.0	12.4	11.3
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>148,087</b>	<b>184,599</b>	<b>332,686</b>

Note:

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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DEEWR and DIISRTE labour market and related payments delivered by DHS. These Explanatory Notes provide details of the scope and methodology of the publication, as well as the policy changes which have affected the data since the publication was introduced in December 1995 by the then Department of Social Security.

Prior to December 1995, this publication was titled the *Monthly Job Search and Newstart Allowance Statistics*.

### Scope

The primary focus of the publication is to provide information on unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance, with a particular focus on the total number of job seekers. The numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

### Methodology

Data in this publication relate to the average number of people who are both eligible (eg. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and entitled (eg. meet income and assets criteria) to receive a payment calculated over a reference month. Averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.

Due to a technical fault, the November 2010 figures are based on an average of data collected on the first and last Friday of the month, while the December 2010 figures are based on an average of data collected on the last three Fridays of the month, rather than an average of each Friday in the reference month.

Table 1 provides information on the total number of unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance. The Youth Allowance population is split into Youth Allowance (full-time students), Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also provided.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of the Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) populations and show the derivation of the respective job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the Comparability of Data section of these Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers. Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the combined population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

## **Payment History**

### *Youth Allowance*

To receive Youth Allowance young people under 21 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.

The above arrangements were phased in, applying from 1 July 2009 to all new recipients of Youth Allowance and from 1 July 2010 for all job seekers in receipt of Youth Allowance prior to 1 July 2009.

From 1 July 1998 Youth Allowance was introduced to provide income support to young people, including students, those looking for work, and those who are sick. Youth allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. The Youth Allowance replaced:

- AUSTUDY for 16-24 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Youth Training Allowance for 16-17 year olds (and certain 15 year olds);
- Sickness Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds); and
- More-than-minimum rate Family Payment for secondary students aged 16-18 not getting AUSTUDY.

Youth Allowance recipients are subject to the parental means test. Under previous arrangements, unemployed people aged 18 to 20 were not subject to the parental means test, unlike 18 to 20 year old students.

Special provisions applied for 18 to 20 year olds who were already on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance, and who remained on payment when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998. This group were able to remain on their existing payment and retain their existing benefits.

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998 and total job seeker numbers due to the parental means test.

### *Newstart Allowance*

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; and
- the way duration is calculated.

People using this data to construct time series should note the following comments.

*Definition of Recipients* From July 2002, the number of people receiving labour market and related payments reports recipients who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment. These recipients are otherwise known as 'current' recipients.

Revised historical data (using this methodology) from May 1998 to June 2002 is in the July 2002 publication.

Due to improved data sources, data from July 2003 has slight differences from the recipient numbers used in previous editions.

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a 'one-off' payment were excluded. One-off payments can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

*Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)* From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This

added a number of new recipients to those eligible for payments reported in this publication.

*Introduction of Youth Allowance*

The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998, other than the inclusion of Sickness Allowees in the Youth Allowance (other) population.

There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance job seekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the job seeker total.

A pre and post July 1998 comparison will reflect the exclusion of some 18 to 20 year old unemployed people due to the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test (see the *Youth Allowance* section under Payment History).

*Job seekers*

From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report.

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

From July 1998, the definition of job seekers excludes all people who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, parental income, and those known not to be required to search for work.

Before July 1998, job seekers excluded allowees who did not receive a payment, allowees who were incapacitated, and allowees who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to search for work were classified as job seekers, including people undertaking full-time voluntary work, people on jury duty and pregnant women around the time of the birth of their child.

*Duration*

Since May 1998, duration has been defined according to the time a recipient spends on income support - short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a recipient was registered as unemployed - short-term recipients were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term recipients were people who were registered for 12 months or more.

**Symbols**

n.a. not available  
.. not applicable

## GLOSSARY

<b>Activity test status</b>	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.
<b>Age</b>	Age in years at time of data collection.
<b>Area Support Office</b>	The term Area Support Office was replaced by Service Zone in July 2011.
<b>Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)</b>	The CDEP program is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.
<b>CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)</b>	The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.
<b>Customer Service Centre</b>	Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.
<b>Did not receive a payment</b>	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'.
<b>Fortnightly earnings</b>	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
<b>Incapacitated</b>	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.
<b>Job seeker</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
<b>Long-term recipients</b>	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.
<b>Newstart Allowance (NSA)</b>	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
<b>Partner Allowance (PA)</b>	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.

	<p>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.</p>
<b>Service Centre</b>	<p>A Service Centre that provides FaHCSIA, DEEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones.</p>
<b>Service Zone</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Short-term recipients</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Widow Allowance (WA)</b>	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Youth Training Allowance (YTA)</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Youth Allowance (YA)</b>	<p>Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 20 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p> <p>Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.</p> <p>To receive Youth Allowance young people under 21 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participate in education and training full-time; or</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Allowance (other)</b>	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.</p>
<b>Zero paid</b>	<p>See 'Did not receive a payment'.</p>



## APPENDIX

### COMPARISONS BETWEEN DEEWR UNEMPLOYMENT LABOUR MARKET PAYMENT NUMBERS AND ABS LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

<b>Official statistics</b>	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.
<b>ABS definition</b>	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.
<b>DEEWR Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics</b>	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.
<b>Differences</b>	Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DEEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEEWR and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEEWR measures duration of <b>income support</b>. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time <b>unemployed</b> using their unemployment definition.</p> <p>DEEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and still be classified as long-term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>

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 DEEWR recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DEEWR 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 DEEWR labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.

*Classification*

The ABS classifies a person as unemployed if he or she is aged 15 years and over, was not employed during the week before the interview, has actively looked for full-time or part-time work and is available to start work. From February 2004, people who had not actively looked for work because they were waiting to start a job within four weeks are also classified as unemployed.

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment between the ages of 15 years and 64 years in the case of men and 15 to 63 years in the case of women.

*Employment*

Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients may be employed part-time, but within an income test limit; the ABS classifies a person as "employed" if, among other things, he or she has worked for one hour or more during the survey period.

*Timing*

The timing of collections of the series are different:

- DEEWR reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.
- ABS numbers are based on a sample survey which interviews occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.33% of the total Australian population. These persons are generally interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Sunday between the 5th and 11th of each month and the information obtained relates to the week before the interview takes place.

*Treatment of partners*

The ABS series includes unemployed persons whose spouse is working, irrespective of income, whereas Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients are subject to an income and assets test for themselves and their spouse.

*Pensioners*

The ABS series includes persons being paid a pension but looking for work (eg. sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).

<i>Non job seekers</i>	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.
<i>Waiting periods</i>	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.
<i>Survey</i>	The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the DEEWR statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **Labour market information**

Other statistics on recipients of labour market related payments are available on request.

In addition to Newstart and Youth Allowances, statistics are also available on Partner Allowance, Mature Age Allowance and Widow Allowance.

For publication distribution enquiries email:  
IncomeSupportInformation@deewr.gov.au

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

Director  
Income Support Information  
Income Support Policy and Information Branch  
Income Support Group  
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
PO Box 9880  
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

### **Other recipient information**

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has publishes “Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview” on an annual basis.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Statistics also collates statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which that Department administers.