

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).

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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 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. 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 February 2013.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – December 2012

Between December 2011 and December 2012

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 9.3 per cent** overall from 640 288 to 700 133.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 7.6 per cent from 552 983 to 595 248.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased 20.1 per cent from 87 305 to 104 885.

The number of job seekers **increased 10.3 per cent** overall from 317 239 to 349 782.

- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 8.1 per cent from 280 265 to 303 000.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 26.5 per cent from 36 974 to 46 782.

Long-term job seekers increased 8.1 per cent from 181 357 to 196 080.

Short-term job seekers increased 13.1 per cent from 135 882 to 153 702.

NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

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

Figure 1: Line Graph – Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) time series

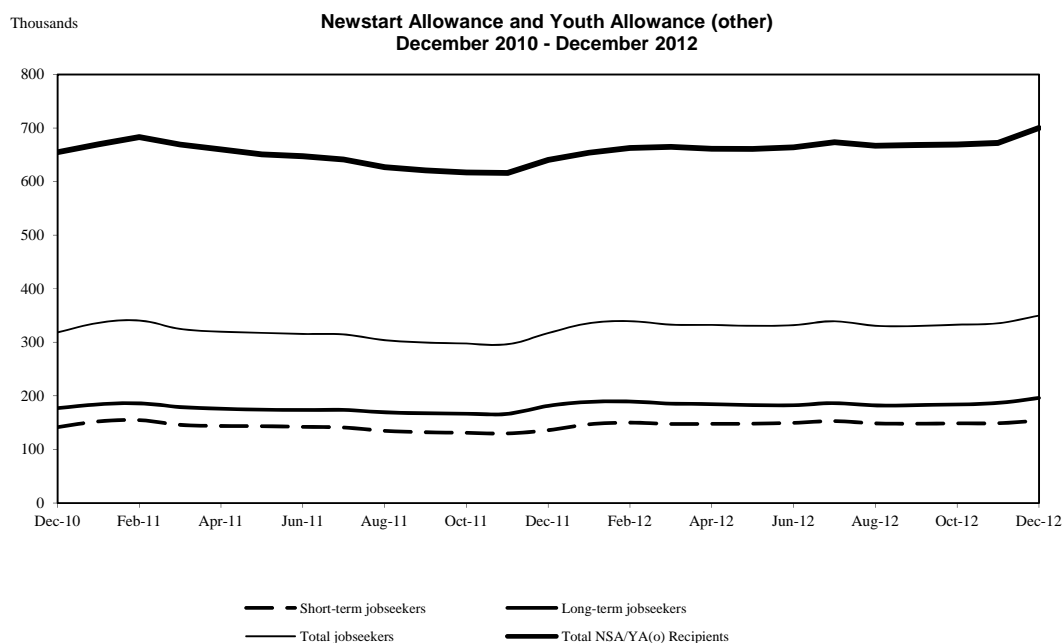


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
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
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
November 2012	356,010	581,309	90,753	241,435	5,332	12,297	28,058
December 2012	364,803	595,248	104,885	200,222	5,234	11,974	27,838
Variation November 2012 - December 2012							
Number	8,793	13,939	14,132	-41,213	-98	-323	-220
Per cent	2.5	2.4	15.6	-17.1	-1.8	-2.6	-0.8

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.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

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

	December 2012			November 2012	Variation November - December	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	230,445	147,157	83,288	225,299	5,146	2.3
CPS Recipients (a)	372	277	95	396	-24	-6.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,048	7,583	5,465	12,912	136	1.1
Received a payment	217,025	139,297	77,728	211,991	5,034	2.4
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,338	2,000	4,338	6,321	17	0.3
Other activities without job search (d)	34,136	21,282	12,854	32,923	1,213	3.7
Incapacitated (e)	25,071	14,582	10,489	24,943	128	0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	14,660	8,515	6,145	14,269	391	2.7
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	136,820	92,918	43,902	133,535	3,285	2.5
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>22,058</i>	<i>13,238</i>	<i>8,820</i>	<i>29,600</i>	<i>-7,542</i>	<i>-25.5</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	364,803	197,448	167,355	356,010	8,793	2.5
CPS Recipients (a)	2,066	1,374	692	2,092	-26	-1.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,833	6,347	7,486	13,880	-47	-0.3
Received a payment	348,904	189,727	159,177	340,038	8,866	2.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	29,439	10,083	19,356	29,169	270	0.9
Other activities without job search (d)	84,670	44,436	40,234	79,597	5,073	6.4
Incapacitated (e)	36,679	18,825	17,854	36,540	139	0.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	31,936	16,096	15,840	31,257	679	2.2
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	166,180	100,287	65,893	163,475	2,705	1.7
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>76,536</i>	<i>41,364</i>	<i>35,172</i>	<i>98,590</i>	<i>-22,054</i>	<i>-22.4</i>
All Newstart Allowees	595,248	344,605	250,643	581,309	13,939	2.4
CPS Recipients (a)	2,438	1,651	787	2,488	-50	-2.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	26,881	13,930	12,951	26,792	89	0.3
Received a payment	565,929	329,024	236,905	552,029	13,900	2.5
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	35,777	12,083	23,694	35,490	287	0.8
Other activities without job search (d)	118,806	65,718	53,088	112,520	6,286	5.6
Incapacitated (e)	61,750	33,407	28,343	61,483	267	0.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	46,596	24,611	21,985	45,526	1,070	2.4
All NSA job seekers (g)	303,000	193,205	109,795	297,010	5,990	2.0
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>98,594</i>	<i>54,602</i>	<i>43,992</i>	<i>128,190</i>	<i>-29,596</i>	<i>-23.1</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.

– There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

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

	December 2012			November 2012	Variation November - December	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	41,431	23,239	18,192	38,296	3,135	8.2
CPS Recipients (a)	30	20	10	26	4	15.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	809	397	412	729	80	11.0
Received a payment	40,592	22,822	17,770	37,541	3,051	8.1
Other activities without job search (c)	19,506	11,547	7,959	18,280	1,226	6.7
Incapacitated (d)	2,239	1,137	1,102	2,091	148	7.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,965	917	1,048	1,821	144	7.9
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	16,882	9,221	7,661	15,349	1,533	10.0
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>9,268</i>	<i>5,163</i>	<i>4,105</i>	<i>12,362</i>	<i>-3,094</i>	<i>-25.0</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	63,454	31,788	31,666	52,457	10,997	21.0
CPS Recipients (a)	64	45	19	64	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,217	530	687	1,133	84	7.4
Received a payment	62,173	31,213	30,960	51,260	10,913	21.3
Other activities without job search (c)	27,113	14,003	13,110	23,386	3,727	15.9
Incapacitated (d)	2,688	1,165	1,523	2,551	137	5.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,472	1,020	1,452	2,255	217	9.6
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	29,900	15,025	14,875	23,068	6,832	29.6
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>15,794</i>	<i>7,881</i>	<i>7,913</i>	<i>20,133</i>	<i>-4,339</i>	<i>-21.6</i>
All Youth Allowees	104,885	55,027	49,858	90,753	14,132	15.6
CPS Recipients (a)	94	65	29	90	4	4.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,026	927	1,099	1,862	164	8.8
Received a payment	102,765	54,035	48,730	88,801	13,964	15.7
Other activities without job search (c)	46,619	25,550	21,069	41,666	4,953	11.9
Incapacitated (d)	4,927	2,302	2,625	4,642	285	6.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,437	1,937	2,500	4,076	361	8.9
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	46,782	24,246	22,536	38,417	8,365	21.8
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>25,062</i>	<i>13,044</i>	<i>12,018</i>	<i>32,495</i>	<i>-7,433</i>	<i>-22.9</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.

– There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

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

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
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
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
November 2012	148,884	186,543	335,427
December 2012	153,702	196,080	349,782
Variation November 2012 - December 2012			
Number	4818	9537	14355
Per cent	3.2	5.1	4.3

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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	42,946	44,474	1,528	3.6
Victoria	36,805	37,823	1,018	2.8
Queensland	35,782	37,128	1,346	3.8
South Australia	11,842	12,003	161	1.4
Western Australia	13,239	13,876	637	4.8
Tasmania	4,426	4,497	71	1.6
Northern Territory	2,603	2,600	-3	-0.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,241	1,301	60	4.8
AUSTRALIA	148,884	153,702	4,818	3.2
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	58,814	61,459	2,645	4.5
Victoria	40,931	43,888	2,957	7.2
Queensland	41,929	43,801	1,872	4.5
South Australia	16,914	17,837	923	5.5
Western Australia	14,300	15,017	717	5.0
Tasmania	7,197	7,613	416	5.8
Northern Territory	5,156	5,112	-44	-0.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,302	1,353	51	3.9
AUSTRALIA	186,543	196,080	9,537	5.1
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	101,760	105,933	4,173	4.1
Victoria	77,736	81,711	3,975	5.1
Queensland	77,711	80,929	3,218	4.1
South Australia	28,756	29,840	1,084	3.8
Western Australia	27,539	28,893	1,354	4.9
Tasmania	11,623	12,110	487	4.2
Northern Territory	7,759	7,712	-47	-0.6
Australian Capital Territory	2,543	2,654	111	4.4
AUSTRALIA	335,427	349,782	14,355	4.3

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 DECEMBER 2012

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	1,080	1.1	1,655	1.4	2,735	1.3
18 - 20 years	6,379	6.2	11,342	9.8	17,721	8.1
21 - 24 years	16,751	16.4	18,504	16.0	35,255	16.2
25 - 29 years	17,796	17.4	17,540	15.2	35,336	16.3
30 - 39 years	25,567	25.0	25,982	22.5	51,549	23.7
40 - 49 years	18,716	18.3	20,770	18.0	39,486	18.2
50 - 59 years	11,862	11.6	14,348	12.4	26,210	12.1
60 years and over	3,988	3.9	5,171	4.5	9,159	4.2
Total	102,139	100.0	115,312	100.0	217,451	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	1,070	2.1	1,605	2.0	2,675	2.0
18 - 20 years	5,221	10.1	11,129	13.8	16,350	12.4
21 - 24 years	9,522	18.5	13,387	16.6	22,909	17.3
25 - 29 years	6,962	13.5	8,521	10.5	15,483	11.7
30 - 39 years	8,794	17.1	13,428	16.6	22,222	16.8
40 - 49 years	9,891	19.2	17,306	21.4	27,197	20.6
50 - 59 years	8,032	15.6	12,634	15.6	20,666	15.6
60 years and over	2,071	4.0	2,758	3.4	4,829	3.6
Total	51,563	100.0	80,768	100.0	132,331	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	2,150	1.4	3,260	1.7	5,410	1.5
18 - 20 years	11,600	7.5	22,471	11.5	34,071	9.7
21 - 24 years	26,273	17.1	31,891	16.3	58,164	16.6
25 - 29 years	24,758	16.1	26,061	13.3	50,819	14.5
30 - 39 years	34,361	22.4	39,410	20.1	73,771	21.1
40 - 49 years	28,607	18.6	38,076	19.4	66,683	19.1
50 - 59 years	19,894	12.9	26,982	13.8	46,876	13.4
60 years and over	6,059	3.9	7,929	4.0	13,988	4.0
Total	153,702	100.0	196,080	100.0	349,782	100.0

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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	22	24	%	%
Bankstown	3,266	3,337	71	2.2
Bondi Junction	1,058	1,085	27	2.6
Burwood	1,555	1,614	59	3.8
Campsie	2,014	2,041	27	1.3
Caringbah	758	792	34	4.5
Chatswood	1,182	1,264	82	6.9
Darlinghurst	1,421	1,480	59	4.2
Hornsby	985	1,027	42	4.3
Hurstville	1,426	1,455	29	2.0
Lakemba	20	<20	na	na
Leichhardt	1,219	1,288	69	5.7
Maroubra	1,306	1,392	86	6.6
Marrickville	1,301	1,422	121	9.3
Northern Beaches	1,150	1,195	45	3.9
Redfern	1,289	1,323	34	2.6
Rockdale	1,384	1,484	100	7.2
Ryde	1,046	1,098	52	5.0
Sutherland	734	778	44	6.0
Other (a)	6	na	na	na
Total	23,142	24,108	966	4.2

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,914	2,058	144	7.5
Bathurst	706	735	29	4.1
Blacktown	2,579	2,677	98	3.8
Bourke	402	386	-16	-4.0
Cabramatta	1,852	1,791	-61	-3.3
Camden	561	605	44	7.8
Campbelltown	1,791	1,855	64	3.6
Dubbo	1,667	1,735	68	4.1
Fairfield	2,264	2,290	26	1.1
Hawkesbury	745	801	56	7.5
Ingleburn	1,116	1,140	24	2.2
Katoomba	521	568	47	9.0
Lightning Ridge	176	174	-2	-1.1
Lithgow	505	527	22	4.4
Liverpool	2,722	2,894	172	6.3
Mt Druitt	2,137	2,163	26	1.2
Mudgee	466	476	10	2.1
Orange	651	685	34	5.2
Penrith	1,514	1,569	55	3.6
Springwood	334	359	25	7.5
St Marys	1,251	1,298	47	3.8
Walgett	224	216	-8	-3.6
Other (a)	5	5	%	%
Total	26,103	27,007	904	3.5

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>MID COAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Baulkham Hills	782	837	55	7.0
Cessnock	569	587	18	3.2
Charlestown	1,383	1,493	110	8.0
Comm Support Team	26	<20	na	na
Ettalong	606	636	30	5.0
Forster	673	700	27	4.0
Gosford	1,387	1,450	63	4.5
King Street	961	1,051	90	9.4
Kurri Kurri	358	360	2	0.6
Lakehaven	1,341	1,429	88	6.6
Maitland	1,005	1,050	45	4.5
Mayfield	928	1,007	79	8.5
Merrylands	1,812	1,858	46	2.5
Muswellbrook	370	365	-5	-1.4
Nelson Bay	416	444	28	6.7
Parramatta	1,984	2,050	66	3.3
Raymond Terrace	715	744	29	4.1
Singleton	191	194	3	1.6
Taree	1,322	1,386	64	4.8
The Entrance	1,129	1,198	69	6.1
Toronto	694	797	103	14.8
Wallsend	1,051	1,163	112	10.7
Woy Woy	452	467	15	3.3
Wyong	596	645	49	8.2
Other (a)	0	na	na	na
Total	20,751	21,930	1,179	5.7

- 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	565	582	17	3.0
Bega	585	606	21	3.6
Belconnen	808	831	23	2.8
Bowral	365	382	17	4.7
Canberra City	674	701	27	4.0
Cooma	286	281	-5	-1.7
Corrimal	1,000	1,070	70	7.0
Cowra	334	344	10	3.0
Dapto	976	993	17	1.7
Goulburn	614	600	-14	-2.3
Griffith	452	477	25	5.5
Gungahlin	214	229	15	7.0
Leeton	319	327	8	2.5
Narooma	273	268	-5	-1.8
Nowra	1,555	1,559	4	0.3
Parkes	660	666	6	0.9
Queanbeyan	378	393	15	4.0
Shellharbour	1,154	1,229	75	6.5
Tuggeranong	501	530	29	5.8
Tumut	229	238	9	3.9
Ulladulla	443	449	6	1.4
Wagga	1,102	1,166	64	5.8
Woden	316	334	18	5.7
Wollongong	1,200	1,279	79	6.6
Yass	88	92	%	%
Young	464	452	-12	-2.6
Other (a)	6	6	%	%
Total	15,561	16,084	523	3.4

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	947	1,035	88	9.3
Albury	2,073	2,180	107	5.2
Box Hill	1,927	2,107	180	9.3
Broadmeadows	3,206	3,295	89	2.8
Darebin	2,195	2,400	205	9.3
Deniliquin	204	208	4	2.0
Echuca	489	494	5	1.0
Epping	2,227	2,417	190	8.5
Greensborough	1,342	1,404	62	4.6
Heidelberg	1,142	1,238	96	8.4
Moreland	2,411	2,574	163	6.8
Newmarket	1,367	1,467	100	7.3
Seymour	599	630	31	5.2
Shepparton	1,880	1,897	17	0.9
Sth Melbourne	845	848	3	0.4
Sunbury	673	724	51	7.6
Wangaratta	1,336	1,361	25	1.9
Windsor Vic	2,036	2,164	128	6.3
Yarra	1,896	2,026	130	6.9
Other (a)	15	14	%	%
Total	28,810	30,483	1,673	5.8

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	775	810	35	4.5
Belgrave	373	389	16	4.3
Boronia	924	968	44	4.8
Cheltenham	1,407	1,565	158	11.2
Cranbourne	1,282	1,355	73	5.7
Dandenong	2,261	2,366	105	4.6
Fountain Gate	1,742	1,848	106	6.1
Frankston	2,130	2,193	63	3.0
Glen Waverley	893	939	46	5.2
Hastings	514	503	-11	-2.1
Lilydale	1,121	1,178	57	5.1
Mornington	455	461	6	1.3
Morwell	2,214	2,252	38	1.7
Oakleigh	1,340	1,476	136	10.1
Pakenham	797	862	65	8.2
Ringwood	1,452	1,549	97	6.7
Rosebud	632	613	-19	-3.0
Rowville	562	587	25	4.4
Sale	620	632	12	1.9
Springvale	1,490	1,537	47	3.2
Warragul	549	569	20	3.6
Wonthaggi	629	643	14	2.2
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	24,163	25,296	1,133	4.7

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	171	169	-2	-1.2
Bendigo Central	120	126	6	5.0
Ballarat	2,321	2,470	149	6.4
Bendigo	2,074	2,300	226	10.9
Colac	461	472	11	2.4
Corio	1,320	1,377	57	4.3
Footscray	1,203	1,299	96	8.0
Geelong	2,732	2,825	93	3.4
Hamilton	292	314	22	7.5
Horsham	591	583	-8	-1.4
Maryborough	385	377	-8	-2.1
Melton	1,461	1,491	30	2.1
Mildura	1,524	1,595	71	4.7
Newport	922	948	26	2.8
Portland	313	323	10	3.2
Stawell	163	160	-3	-1.8
Sunshine	3,002	3,137	135	4.5
Swan Hill	658	657	-1	-0.2
Warrnambool	712	774	62	8.7
Watergardens	2,764	2,884	120	4.3
Werribee	3,355	3,491	136	4.1
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	26,545	27,773	1,228	4.6

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	715	735	20	2.8
Ayr	268	273	5	1.9
Biloela	178	187	9	5.1
Bowen	272	299	27	9.9
Cairns Aplin	4,360	4,483	123	2.8
Charters Towers	277	280	3	1.1
Emerald	266	270	4	1.5
Gladstone	640	668	28	4.4
Indigenous Service Centre	998	1,008	10	1.0
Ingham	251	284	33	13.1
Innisfail	743	786	43	5.8
Longreach	104	103	-1	-1.0
Mackay	1,111	1,194	83	7.5
Mareeba	632	655	23	3.6
Mossman	483	518	35	7.2
Mt Isa	708	700	-8	-1.1
Normanton	116	109	-7	-6.0
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	127	117	-10	-7.9
Palm Island	261	266	5	1.9
Rockhampton	1,542	1,559	17	1.1
Thursday Is	339	364	25	7.4
Townsville	3,202	3,325	123	3.8
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	367	368	1	0.3
Whitsunday	442	422	-20	-4.5
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	492	476	-16	-3.3
Yeppoon	361	401	40	11.1
Other (a)	47	39	%	%
Total	19,302	19,889	587	3.0

- 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SUNSHINE COAST</i>				
Bundaberg	2,887	2,943	56	1.9
Caboolture	2,763	2,864	101	3.7
Caloundra	1,308	1,370	62	4.7
Deception Bay	667	686	19	2.8
Gympie	1,221	1,264	43	3.5
Hervey Bay	1,557	1,571	14	0.9
Kawana Waters	654	685	31	4.7
Kippa-Ring	1,137	1,205	68	6.0
Maroochydore	1,339	1,396	57	4.3
Maryborough	1,101	1,099	-2	-0.2
Nambour	919	956	37	4.0
Noosa	1,220	1,228	8	0.7
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	16,773	17,267	494	2.9
<i>PACIFIC COAST</i>				
APC Community Team	23	24	%	%
Ballina	909	933	24	2.6
Biggera Waters	2,696	2,795	99	3.7
Brunswick Heads	636	678	42	6.6
Byron Bay	593	600	7	1.2
Casino	577	593	16	2.8
Coffs Harbour	1,898	1,928	30	1.6
Grafton	740	795	55	7.4
Kempsey	824	838	14	1.7
Lismore	1,391	1,506	115	8.3
Murwillumbah	559	620	61	10.9
Nambucca Heads	704	717	13	1.8
Nerang	2,501	2,668	167	6.7
Palm Beach	2,782	2,858	76	2.7
Port Macquarie	1,470	1,518	48	3.3
Southport	2,565	2,596	31	1.2
Tweed Heads	1,478	1,503	25	1.7
Yamba	366	395	29	7.9
Other (a)	3	3	%	%
Total	22,715	23,568	853	3.8

- 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Charleville	128	130	2	1.6
Cherbourg	224	240	16	7.1
Chermside	1,144	1,179	35	3.1
Dalby	359	379	20	5.6
Fortitude Valley	1,161	1,242	81	7.0
Goodna	1,514	1,552	38	2.5
Ipswich	2,807	2,911	104	3.7
Kingaroy	611	649	38	6.2
Mitchelton	1,286	1,355	69	5.4
Nundah	1,341	1,399	58	4.3
Roma	93	98	%	%
South Brisbane	902	1,005	103	11.4
Stones Corner	1,724	1,829	105	6.1
Strathpine	1,510	1,598	88	5.8
Toowong	1,161	1,357	196	16.9
Toowoomba	1,663	1,754	91	5.5
Other (a)	215	216	%	%
Total	17,843	18,893	1,050	5.9

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	834	859	25	3.0
Broken Hill	678	661	-17	-2.5
Ceduna	293	302	9	3.1
Cooper Pedy	172	167	-5	-2.9
Elizabeth	2,443	2,577	134	5.5
Enfield	1,410	1,453	43	3.0
Gawler	1,089	1,159	70	6.4
Glenelg	770	811	41	5.3
Kadina	611	613	2	0.3
Kilkenny	1,315	1,323	8	0.6
Marion	1,974	2,091	117	5.9
Modbury	1,865	1,946	81	4.3
Mt Barker	627	679	52	8.3
Mt Gambier	1,245	1,242	-3	-0.2
Murray Bridge	882	872	-10	-1.1
Noarlunga	2,517	2,617	100	4.0
Norwood	1,669	1,805	136	8.1
Port Adelaide	1,346	1,384	38	2.8
Port Augusta	678	663	-15	-2.2
Port Lincoln	506	529	23	4.5
Port Pirie	809	823	14	1.7
Salisbury	2,505	2,598	93	3.7
Torrensville	1,383	1,483	100	7.2
Victor Harbor	701	694	-7	-1.0
Whyalla	754	763	9	1.2
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	29,076	30,114	1,038	3.6

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	894	942	48	5.4
Armadale	1,153	1,197	44	3.8
Bunbury	1,533	1,577	44	2.9
Busselton	812	846	34	4.2
Cannington	1,513	1,608	95	6.3
Carnarvon	288	274	-14	-4.9
Esperance	259	262	3	1.2
Fremantle	1,185	1,278	93	7.8
Geraldton	1,128	1,144	16	1.4
Gosnells	1,055	1,081	26	2.5
Innaloo	1,090	1,188	98	9.0
Joondalup	1,548	1,638	90	5.8
Kalgoorlie	612	612	0	0.0
Karratha	392	361	-31	-7.9
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	115	113	-2	-1.7
Mandurah	1,280	1,365	85	6.6
Meekatharra	229	233	4	1.7
Midland	1,399	1,476	77	5.5
Mirrabooka	1,746	1,853	107	6.1
Morley	1,576	1,708	132	8.4
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	149	157	8	5.4
Northam	834	854	20	2.4
Rockingham	1,602	1,733	131	8.2
South Hedland	330	336	6	1.8
Spearwood	964	1,010	46	4.8
Victoria Park	1,630	1,688	58	3.6
Warwick Grove	666	730	64	9.6
Other (a)	38	35	%	%
Total	26,020	27,299	1,279	4.9

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	1,018	1,006	-12	-1.2
Burnie	1,310	1,380	70	5.3
Devonport	1,395	1,481	86	6.2
Glenorchy	1,295	1,372	77	5.9
Hobart	1,254	1,356	102	8.1
Huonville	342	351	9	2.6
Launceston	3,763	3,853	90	2.4
Rosny Park	877	933	56	6.4
Sorell	383	398	15	3.9
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	11,637	12,130	493	4.2
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	520	524	4	0.8
Borroloola	83	82	%	%
Broome	497	507	10	2.0
Casuarina	583	570	-13	-2.2
Central Aust RST	2,146	2,150	4	0.2
Derby	212	214	2	0.9
Fitzroy Crossing	118	123	5	4.2
Halls Creek	239	249	10	4.2
Katherine	302	282	-20	-6.6
Knuckey Street	355	365	10	2.8
Kununurra	281	326	45	16.0
Maningrida	281	293	12	4.3
Nhulunbuy	96	95	%	%
Palmerston	634	644	10	1.6
Tangentyere	117	117	0	0.0
Tennant Creek	211	213	2	0.9
Tiwi Islands	187	175	-12	-6.4
Top End Hub	2,411	2,403	-8	-0.3
Wadeye	262	258	-4	-1.5
Yuendumu	80	75	%	%
Other (a)	26	26	%	%
Total	9,641	9,691	50	0.5

– 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>	November 2012	December 2012	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>BORDER RANGES</i>				
Armidale	784	840	56	7.1
Beaudesert	502	517	15	3.0
Beenleigh	1,909	2,047	138	7.2
Browns Plains	1,796	1,853	57	3.2
Capalaba	723	816	93	12.9
Cleveland	820	903	83	10.1
Glen Innes	255	251	-4	-1.6
Goondiwindi	320	325	5	1.6
Gunnedah	352	357	5	1.4
Inala	1,659	1,751	92	5.5
Inverell	542	556	14	2.6
Moree	381	414	33	8.7
Mt Gravatt	1,985	2,127	142	7.2
Narrabri	247	263	16	6.5
Stanthorpe	352	383	31	8.8
Tamworth	1,478	1,564	86	5.8
Warwick	445	462	17	3.8
Woodridge	1,994	2,015	21	1.1
Wynnum	800	840	40	5.0
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	17,345	18,285	940	5.4
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	4	5	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	2	3	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-6	-43	%	%
AUSTRALIA	335,427	349,782	14,355	4.3

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

Notes:

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

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 21 DECEMBER 2012**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.7	82.8	84.6
Earned an income	13.3	17.2	15.4
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	2.0	2.8	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.6	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	7.7	9.3	8.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	106,418	122,588	229,006
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.4	71.8	73.6
Earned an income	23.6	28.2	26.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.4	3.0	2.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.2	3.9	3.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.6	3.1	2.9
Over \$316.00	14.6	17.1	16.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	53,607	86,125	139,732
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	83.2	78.3	80.4
Earned an income	16.8	21.7	19.6
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	2.4	3.3	2.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	10.0	12.5	11.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	160,025	208,713	368,738

Note:
- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes)

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

The maximum age for Youth Allowance (other) was increased for new claimants from 20 to 21 years of age from 1 July 2012 and the income free area was increased to \$143.

To receive Youth Allowance young people without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

On 1 July 2012, the qualification age for Newstart Allowance was increased for new claimants from 21 to 22 years of age.

From 1 July 1998, Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance. Young people aged 18 to 20 years old who were on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance and when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998, were able to remain on Newstart Allowance.

From 20 October 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment - Newstart Allowance - which was payable to eligible recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see Job Search Allowance).

Prior to 20 October 1996, Newstart Allowance was payable to eligible persons over 18 years who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) for 12 months or more.

Job Search Allowance From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance (see *Newstart Allowance*). All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.

Sickness Allowance From 17 March 1996, persons in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who became temporarily incapacitated no longer transferred to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. This change had the effect of increasing total Newstart Allowance/Youth Training Allowance figures but did not affect job seeker figures as those recipients who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training job seeker populations.

Under current arrangements, these recipients remain on their existing payments but are exempt from the activity test for the duration of their medical certificates. People who become unemployed because of illness, and those who suffer a potential loss of income due to sickness, are paid Newstart Allowance because they are unemployed.

Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Partner Allowance From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance.

Partner Allowance was introduced in October 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

Youth Training Allowance

Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Widow Allowance

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

Widow Allowance, introduced on 1 January 1995, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years (50 prior to 20 March 1997), if they meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status and recent work experience.

Mature Age Allowance

From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008 .

Mature Age Allowance was introduced on 24 March 1994, and was paid to long-term unemployed persons aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who had been receiving income support for 9 months or more and who were eligible for Newstart Allowance. The introduction of Mature Age Allowance had a downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from April 1994 until October 2003.

Comparability of Data

There have been significant changes to the data presented in this publication due to a number of events. The main changes are:

- the method of counting recipients;
- the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient numbers;
- the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998;
- the way ‘job seeker’ is defined;
- the way duration is calculated; and
- the eligibility for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) from July 2012.

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

Definition of Recipients

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

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

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

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a ‘one-off’ payment were excluded. One-off payments

can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new recipients to those eligible for payments reported in this publication.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a

recipient was registered as unemployed - short-term recipients were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term recipients were people who were registered for 12 months or more.

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Activity test status	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
Age	Age in years at time of data collection.
Area Support Office	The term Area Support Office was replaced by Service Zone in July 2011.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	The CDEP program is administered by the Department of 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.
CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)	The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.
Customer Service Centre	Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.
Did not receive a payment	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.
Fortnightly earnings	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
Incapacitated	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.
Job seeker	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
Long-term recipients	Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 22 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Partner Allowance (PA)	From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

	<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>
Service Centre	<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>
Service Zone	<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>
Short-term recipients	<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>
Widow Allowance (WA)	<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>
Youth Training Allowance (YTA)	<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>
Youth Allowance (YA)	<p>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.</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 22 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.</p>
Zero paid	<p>See 'Did not receive a payment'.</p>

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DEEWR 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.
DEEWR 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 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 income support. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time unemployed 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">• 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 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
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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.