

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>

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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, Research, Science and Tertiary Education (DIIRSTE). 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 25 April 2012.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – February 2012

Between February 2011 and February 2012

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 3.0 per cent** overall from 683 249 to 662 742.

- ◆ NSA recipients decreased 2.4 per cent from 588 824 to 574 458.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients decreased 6.5 per cent from 94 425 to 88 284.

The number of job seekers **decreased 0.4 per cent** overall from 340 795 to 339 475.

- ◆ NSA job seekers decreased 0.7 per cent from 303 133 to 301 151.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 1.8 per cent from 37 662 to 38 324.

Long-term job seekers increased 1.7 per cent from 186 195 to 189 447.

Short-term job seekers decreased 3.0 per cent from 154 600 to 150 028.

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.

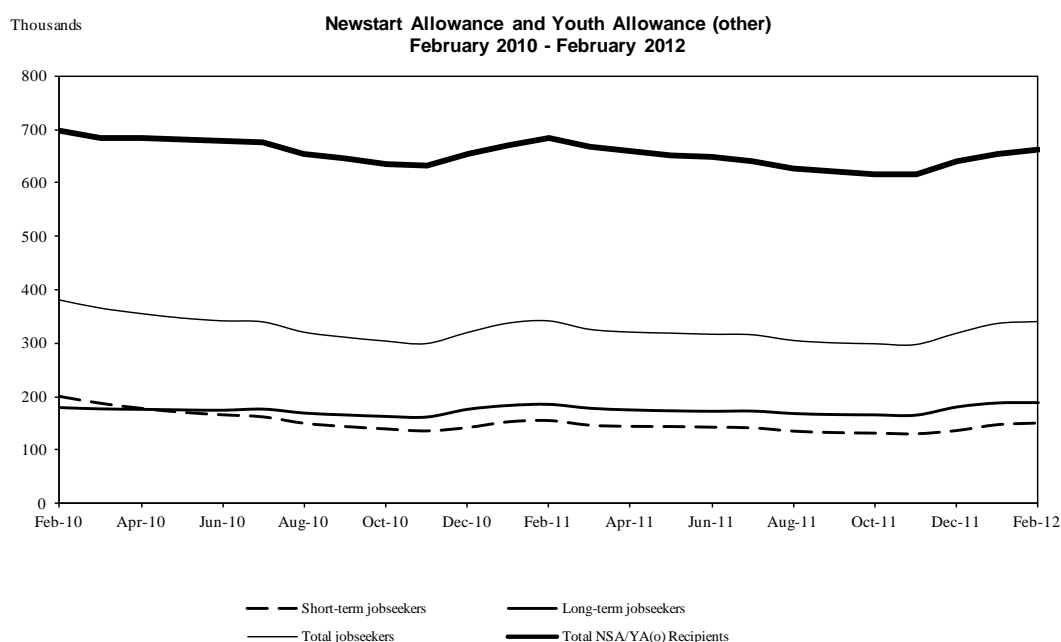


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
February 2010	321,705	602,383	94,539	243,429	4,083	26,789	35,608
March 2010	328,594	599,971	90,459	260,757	4,291	26,212	35,349
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
Variation January 2012 - February 2012							
Number	2,362	8,171	667	4,885	104	-376	-213
Per cent	0.7	1.4	0.8	2.0	2.5	-2.3	-0.7

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

	February 2012			January 2012	Variation	
	Persons	Males	Females		January - February Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	225,518	141,654	83,864	219,709	5,809	2.6
CPS Recipients (a)	359	260	99	361	-2	-0.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,202	6,176	5,026	8,692	2,510	28.9
Received a payment	213,957	135,218	78,739	210,656	3,301	1.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,071	1,890	4,181	6,171	-100	-1.6
Other activities without job search (d)	35,095	21,863	13,232	34,218	877	2.6
Incapacitated (e)	22,655	13,083	9,572	22,751	-96	-0.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,842	7,973	5,869	13,954	-112	-0.8
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	136,294	90,409	45,885	133,562	2,732	2.0
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>26,142</i>	<i>15,527</i>	<i>10,615</i>	<i>21,442</i>	<i>4,700</i>	<i>21.9</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	348,940	190,218	158,722	346,578	2,362	0.7
CPS Recipients (a)	2,475	1,670	805	2,546	-71	-2.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,063	5,573	6,490	9,706	2,357	24.3
Received a payment	334,402	182,975	151,427	334,326	76	0.0
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	26,784	9,381	17,403	26,692	92	0.3
Other activities without job search (d)	79,702	42,079	37,623	79,581	121	0.2
Incapacitated (e)	32,707	17,081	15,626	32,973	-266	-0.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	30,352	15,809	14,543	30,018	334	1.1
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	164,857	98,625	66,232	165,062	-205	-0.1
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>76,754</i>	<i>40,910</i>	<i>35,844</i>	<i>67,013</i>	<i>9,741</i>	<i>14.5</i>
All Newstart Allowees	574,458	331,872	242,586	566,287	8,171	1.4
CPS Recipients (a)	2,834	1,930	904	2,907	-73	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	23,265	11,749	11,516	18,398	4,867	26.5
Received a payment	548,359	318,193	230,166	544,982	3,377	0.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	32,855	11,271	21,584	32,863	-8	0.0
Other activities without job search (d)	114,797	63,942	50,855	113,799	998	0.9
Incapacitated (e)	55,362	30,164	25,198	55,724	-362	-0.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	44,194	23,782	20,412	43,972	222	0.5
All NSA job seekers (g)	301,151	189,034	112,117	298,624	2,527	0.8
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>102,896</i>	<i>56,437</i>	<i>46,459</i>	<i>88,455</i>	<i>14,441</i>	<i>16.3</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

	February 2012			January 2012	Variation January - February	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	34,873	19,027	15,846	34,723	150	0.4
CPS Recipients (a)	35	21	14	36	-1	-2.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	560	269	291	558	2	0.4
Received a payment	34,278	18,737	15,541	34,129	149	0.4
Other activities without job search (c)	17,282	9,914	7,368	17,406	-124	-0.7
Incapacitated (d)	1,686	837	849	1,724	-38	-2.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,576	730	846	1,630	-54	-3.3
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	13,734	7,256	6,478	13,369	365	2.7
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>10,648</i>	<i>5,811</i>	<i>4,837</i>	<i>8,796</i>	<i>1,852</i>	<i>21.1</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	53,411	26,575	26,836	52,894	517	1.0
CPS Recipients (a)	116	73	43	123	-7	-5.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,298	558	740	1,256	42	3.3
Received a payment	51,997	25,944	26,053	51,515	482	0.9
Other activities without job search (c)	23,433	12,179	11,254	23,815	-382	-1.6
Incapacitated (d)	2,075	879	1,196	2,086	-11	-0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,899	770	1,129	1,903	-4	-0.2
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	24,590	12,116	12,474	23,711	879	3.7
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>16,768</i>	<i>8,252</i>	<i>8,516</i>	<i>13,814</i>	<i>2,954</i>	<i>21.4</i>
All Youth Allowees	88,284	45,602	42,682	87,617	667	0.8
CPS Recipients (a)	151	94	57	159	-8	-5.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,858	827	1,031	1,814	44	2.4
Received a payment	86,275	44,681	41,594	85,644	631	0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	40,715	22,093	18,622	41,221	-506	-1.2
Incapacitated (d)	3,761	1,716	2,045	3,810	-49	-1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	3,475	1,500	1,975	3,533	-58	-1.6
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	38,324	19,372	18,952	37,080	1,244	3.4
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>27,416</i>	<i>14,063</i>	<i>13,353</i>	<i>22,610</i>	<i>4,806</i>	<i>21.3</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
February 2010	199,949	180,232	380,181
March 2010	187,083	177,855	364,938
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
Variation January 2012 - February 2012			
Number	3097	674	3771
Per cent	2.1	0.4	1.1

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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	43,904	44,662	758	1.7
Victoria	34,817	35,661	844	2.4
Queensland	35,641	36,829	1,188	3.3
South Australia	11,934	11,989	55	0.5
Western Australia	12,983	13,104	121	0.9
Tasmania	4,087	4,140	53	1.3
Northern Territory	2,301	2,365	64	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,264	1,278	14	1.1
AUSTRALIA	146,931	150,028	3,097	2.1
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	60,910	60,911	1	0.0
Victoria	41,358	41,598	240	0.6
Queensland	42,050	42,378	328	0.8
South Australia	17,002	17,102	100	0.6
Western Australia	14,489	14,425	-64	-0.4
Tasmania	6,854	6,897	43	0.6
Northern Territory	4,793	4,824	31	0.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,317	1,312	-5	-0.4
AUSTRALIA	188,773	189,447	674	0.4
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	104,814	105,573	759	0.7
Victoria	76,175	77,259	1,084	1.4
Queensland	77,691	79,207	1,516	2.0
South Australia	28,936	29,091	155	0.5
Western Australia	27,472	27,529	57	0.2
Tasmania	10,941	11,037	96	0.9
Northern Territory	7,094	7,189	95	1.3
Australian Capital Territory	2,581	2,590	9	0.3
AUSTRALIA	335,704	339,475	3,771	1.1

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 FEBRUARY 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	1,294	1.3	1,786	1.6	3,080	1.5
18 - 20 years	5,962	6.1	10,328	9.3	16,290	7.8
21 - 24 years	17,778	18.2	18,087	16.3	35,865	17.2
25 - 29 years	16,636	17.0	16,798	15.2	33,434	16.0
30 - 39 years	23,878	24.4	25,098	22.7	48,976	23.5
40 - 49 years	17,333	17.7	19,990	18.1	37,323	17.9
50 - 59 years	11,052	11.3	13,556	12.2	24,608	11.8
60 years and over	3,734	3.8	5,097	4.6	8,831	4.2
Total	97,667	100.0	110,740	100.0	208,407	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	1,215	2.3	1,953	2.5	3,168	2.4
18 - 20 years	5,262	10.0	10,520	13.4	15,782	12.0
21 - 24 years	10,446	19.9	13,099	16.6	23,545	18.0
25 - 29 years	6,890	13.2	8,246	10.5	15,136	11.5
30 - 39 years	8,537	16.3	13,202	16.8	21,739	16.6
40 - 49 years	10,021	19.1	16,864	21.4	26,885	20.5
50 - 59 years	7,820	14.9	12,143	15.4	19,963	15.2
60 years and over	2,170	4.1	2,680	3.4	4,850	3.7
Total	52,361	100.0	78,707	100.0	131,068	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	2,509	1.7	3,739	2.0	6,248	1.8
18 - 20 years	11,224	7.5	20,848	11.0	32,072	9.4
21 - 24 years	28,224	18.8	31,186	16.5	59,410	17.5
25 - 29 years	23,526	15.7	25,044	13.2	48,570	14.3
30 - 39 years	32,415	21.6	38,300	20.2	70,715	20.8
40 - 49 years	27,354	18.2	36,854	19.5	64,208	18.9
50 - 59 years	18,872	12.6	25,699	13.6	44,571	13.1
60 years and over	5,904	3.9	7,777	4.1	13,681	4.0
Total	150,028	100.0	189,447	100.0	339,475	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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	37	31	%	%
Bankstown	3,165	3,086	-79	-2.5
Bondi Junction	1,096	1,149	53	4.8
Burwood	1,587	1,620	33	2.1
Campsie	1,860	1,920	60	3.2
Caringbah	782	833	51	6.5
Chatswood	1,245	1,244	-1	-0.1
Darlinghurst	1,348	1,378	30	2.2
Hornsby	1,015	1,021	6	0.6
Hurstville	1,603	1,623	20	1.2
Lakemba	37	30	%	%
Leichhardt	1,374	1,360	-14	-1.0
Maroubra	1,288	1,342	54	4.2
Marrickville	1,447	1,505	58	4.0
Northern Beaches	1,251	1,297	46	3.7
Redfern	1,281	1,290	9	0.7
Rockdale	1,336	1,342	6	0.4
Ryde	1,039	1,048	9	0.9
Sutherland	702	705	3	0.4
Other (a)	16	12	%	%
Total	23,509	23,836	327	1.4

- 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,833	1,846	13	0.7
Bathurst	768	752	-16	-2.1
Blacktown	2,550	2,609	59	2.3
Bourke	398	411	13	3.3
Cabramatta	1,904	1,956	52	2.7
Camden	631	637	6	1.0
Campbelltown	1,886	1,881	-5	-0.3
Dubbo	1,731	1,770	39	2.3
Fairfield	2,452	2,453	1	0.0
Hawkesbury	750	773	23	3.1
Ingleburn	1,200	1,169	-31	-2.6
Katoomba	547	535	-12	-2.2
Lightning Ridge	158	166	8	5.1
Lithgow	483	494	11	2.3
Liverpool	2,765	2,819	54	2.0
Mt Druitt	2,312	2,347	35	1.5
Mudgee	443	451	8	1.8
Orange	677	695	18	2.7
Penrith	1,534	1,595	61	4.0
Springwood	347	347	0	0.0
St Marys	1,344	1,311	-33	-2.5
Walgett	243	223	-20	-8.2
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	26,957	27,241	284	1.1

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>MID COAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Baulkham Hills	898	903	5	0.6
Cessnock	597	599	2	0.3
Charlestown	1,516	1,572	56	3.7
Comm Support Team	30	30	%	%
Ettalong	570	588	18	3.2
Forster	705	723	18	2.6
Gosford	1,367	1,398	31	2.3
King Street	1,081	1,017	-64	-5.9
Kurri Kurri	358	362	4	1.1
Lakehaven	1,453	1,452	-1	-0.1
Maitland	1,028	1,043	15	1.5
Mayfield	860	887	27	3.1
Merrylands	1,781	1,759	-22	-1.2
Muswellbrook	417	427	10	2.4
Nelson Bay	414	428	14	3.4
Parramatta	1,954	2,013	59	3.0
Raymond Terrace	782	754	-28	-3.6
Singleton	199	204	5	2.5
Taree	1,392	1,372	-20	-1.4
The Entrance	1,125	1,159	34	3.0
Toronto	760	757	-3	-0.4
Wallsend	1,060	1,015	-45	-4.2
Woy Woy	454	477	23	5.1
Wyong	589	610	21	3.6
Other (a)	2	3	%	%
Total	21,392	21,552	160	0.7

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	532	541	9	1.7
Bega	584	584	0	0.0
Belconnen	725	756	31	4.3
Bowral	393	393	0	0.0
Braddon	691	699	8	1.2
Cooma	290	288	-2	-0.7
Corrimal	963	941	-22	-2.3
Cowra	376	365	-11	-2.9
Dapto	1,041	1,033	-8	-0.8
Goulburn	523	548	25	4.8
Griffith	443	442	-1	-0.2
Gungahlin	235	222	-13	-5.5
Leeton	279	295	16	5.7
Narooma	249	250	1	0.4
Nowra	1,599	1,546	-53	-3.3
Parkes	669	669	0	0.0
Queanbeyan	373	366	-7	-1.9
Shellharbour	1,300	1,271	-29	-2.2
Tuggeranong	514	512	-2	-0.4
Tumut	261	260	-1	-0.4
Ulladulla	421	448	27	6.4
Wagga	1,124	1,141	17	1.5
Woden	365	349	-16	-4.4
Wollongong	1,262	1,259	-3	-0.2
Yass	85	87	%	%
Young	487	478	-9	-1.8
Other (a)	23	23	%	%
Total	15,807	15,766	-41	-0.3

- 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	910	903	-7	-0.8
Albury	2,128	2,113	-15	-0.7
Box Hill	1,836	1,891	55	3.0
Broadmeadows	3,218	3,233	15	0.5
Darebin	2,290	2,353	63	2.8
Deniliquin	159	161	2	1.3
Echuca	433	460	27	6.2
Epping	2,022	2,034	12	0.6
Greensborough	1,102	1,144	42	3.8
Heidelberg	1,095	1,103	8	0.7
Moreland	2,381	2,447	66	2.8
Newmarket	1,384	1,407	23	1.7
Seymour	550	587	37	6.7
Shepparton	1,818	1,784	-34	-1.9
Sth Melbourne	732	767	35	4.8
Sunbury	724	749	25	3.5
Wangaratta	1,240	1,253	13	1.0
Windsor Vic	1,920	2,010	90	4.7
Yarra	1,954	1,984	30	1.5
Other (a)	24	17	%	%
Total	27,920	28,400	480	1.7

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	718	735	17	2.4
Belgrave	383	406	23	6.0
Boronia	965	983	18	1.9
Cheltenham	1,478	1,506	28	1.9
Cranbourne	1,317	1,387	70	5.3
Dandenong	2,196	2,186	-10	-0.5
Fountain Gate	1,725	1,755	30	1.7
Frankston	2,183	2,213	30	1.4
Glen Waverley	998	1,000	2	0.2
Hastings	474	499	25	5.3
Lilydale	1,070	1,114	44	4.1
Mornington	371	403	32	8.6
Morwell	2,189	2,209	20	0.9
Oakleigh	1,384	1,395	11	0.8
Pakenham	733	742	9	1.2
Ringwood	1,408	1,395	-13	-0.9
Rosebud	560	567	7	1.3
Rowville	547	556	9	1.6
Sale	694	703	9	1.3
Springvale	1,511	1,506	-5	-0.3
Warragul	537	542	5	0.9
Wonthaggi	527	546	19	3.6
Other (a)	3	3	%	%
Total	23,971	24,351	380	1.6

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	157	158	1	0.6
Bendigo Central	222	229	7	3.2
Ballarat	2,442	2,452	10	0.4
Bendigo	2,117	2,142	25	1.2
Colac	446	451	5	1.1
Corio	1,317	1,335	18	1.4
Footscray	1,148	1,166	18	1.6
Geelong	2,653	2,727	74	2.8
Hamilton	296	294	-2	-0.7
Horsham	580	589	9	1.6
Maryborough	391	386	-5	-1.3
Melton	1,342	1,329	-13	-1.0
Mildura	1,588	1,570	-18	-1.1
Newport	924	975	51	5.5
Portland	322	318	-4	-1.2
Stawell	160	160	0	0.0
Sunshine	2,866	2,850	-16	-0.6
Swan Hill	674	676	2	0.3
Warrnambool	724	730	6	0.8
Watergardens	2,511	2,541	30	1.2
Werribee	3,122	3,129	7	0.2
Other (a)	4	3	%	%
Total	26,006	26,210	204	0.8

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	678	714	36	5.3
Ayr	294	340	46	15.6
Biloela	147	148	1	0.7
Bowen	299	323	24	8.0
Cairns Aplin	3,978	4,179	201	5.1
Charters Towers	304	312	8	2.6
Emerald	241	250	9	3.7
Gladstone	653	705	52	8.0
Indigenous Service Centre	901	948	47	5.2
Ingham	284	313	29	10.2
Innisfail	699	706	7	1.0
Longreach	96	100	%	%
Mackay	1,047	1,095	48	4.6
Mareeba	595	608	13	2.2
Mossman	506	527	21	4.2
Mt Isa	621	633	12	1.9
Normanton	109	111	2	1.8
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	103	107	4	3.9
Palm Island	250	241	-9	-3.6
Rockhampton	1,734	1,773	39	2.2
Thursday Is	262	276	14	5.3
Townsville	3,108	3,234	126	4.1
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	349	375	26	7.4
Whitsunday	448	475	27	6.0
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	426	431	5	1.2
Yeppoon	369	357	-12	-3.3
Other (a)	43	29	%	%
Total	18,544	19,310	766	4.1

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>SUNSHINE COAST</i>				
Bundaberg	3,084	3,066	-18	-0.6
Caboolture	2,968	2,951	-17	-0.6
Caloundra	1,383	1,428	45	3.3
Deception Bay	636	655	19	3.0
Gympie	1,281	1,284	3	0.2
Hervey Bay	1,659	1,706	47	2.8
Kawana Waters	668	682	14	2.1
Kippa-Ring	1,155	1,212	57	4.9
Maroochydore	1,584	1,640	56	3.5
Maryborough	1,150	1,159	9	0.8
Nambour	1,051	990	-61	-5.8
Noosa	1,260	1,288	28	2.2
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	17,879	18,061	182	1.0
<i>PACIFIC COAST</i>				
APC Community Team	25	33	%	%
Ballina	882	882	0	0.0
Biggera Waters	2,577	2,596	19	0.7
Brunswick Heads	652	667	15	2.3
Byron Bay	650	634	-16	-2.5
Casino	582	584	2	0.3
Coffs Harbour	2,115	2,132	17	0.8
Grafton	849	857	8	0.9
Kempsey	784	789	5	0.6
Lismore	1,544	1,536	-8	-0.5
Murwillumbah	578	576	-2	-0.3
Nambucca Heads	733	739	6	0.8
Nerang	2,505	2,600	95	3.8
Palm Beach	2,894	2,861	-33	-1.1
Port Macquarie	1,574	1,604	30	1.9
Southport	2,591	2,581	-10	-0.4
Tweed Heads	1,547	1,563	16	1.0
Yamba	417	433	16	3.8
Other (a)	2	3	%	%
Total	23,501	23,670	169	0.7

- 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Charleville	150	154	4	2.7
Cherbourg	222	225	3	1.4
Chermside	1,010	1,016	6	0.6
Dalby	431	415	-16	-3.7
Fortitude Valley	1,156	1,191	35	3.0
Goodna	1,372	1,410	38	2.8
Ipswich	2,629	2,617	-12	-0.5
Kingaroy	655	658	3	0.5
Mitchelton	1,211	1,232	21	1.7
Nundah	1,252	1,248	-4	-0.3
Roma	109	121	12	11.0
South Brisbane	890	909	19	2.1
Stones Corner	1,741	1,752	11	0.6
Strathpine	1,450	1,556	106	7.3
Toowong	1,099	1,113	14	1.3
Toowoomba	1,849	1,828	-21	-1.1
Other (a)	224	214	%	%
Total	17,450	17,659	209	1.2

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	847	836	-11	-1.3
Broken Hill	665	671	6	0.9
Ceduna	251	247	-4	-1.6
Cooper Pedy	147	152	5	3.4
Elizabeth	2,381	2,385	4	0.2
Enfield	1,419	1,355	-64	-4.5
Gawler	1,090	1,119	29	2.7
Glenelg	827	836	9	1.1
Kadina	558	581	23	4.1
Kilkenny	1,412	1,399	-13	-0.9
Marion	2,196	2,212	16	0.7
Modbury	1,831	1,878	47	2.6
Mt Barker	670	670	0	0.0
Mt Gambier	1,172	1,157	-15	-1.3
Murray Bridge	840	859	19	2.3
Noarlunga	2,693	2,770	77	2.9
Norwood	1,695	1,698	3	0.2
Port Adelaide	1,328	1,336	8	0.6
Port Augusta	576	604	28	4.9
Port Lincoln	513	512	-1	-0.2
Port Pirie	763	777	14	1.8
Salisbury	2,519	2,512	-7	-0.3
Torrens ville	1,516	1,533	17	1.1
Victor Harbor	640	648	8	1.3
Whyalla	772	759	-13	-1.7
Other (a)	2	2	%	%
Total	29,323	29,508	185	0.6

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	960	968	8	0.8
Armadale	1,156	1,154	-2	-0.2
Bunbury	1,537	1,476	-61	-4.0
Busselton	615	692	77	12.5
Cannington	1,537	1,486	-51	-3.3
Carnarvon	309	324	15	4.9
Esperance	247	244	-3	-1.2
Fremantle	1,207	1,191	-16	-1.3
Geraldton	1,089	1,087	-2	-0.2
Gosnells	1,012	995	-17	-1.7
Innaloo	1,166	1,170	4	0.3
Joondalup	1,556	1,538	-18	-1.2
Kalgoorlie	581	561	-20	-3.4
Karratha	341	340	-1	-0.3
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	88	86	%	%
Mandurah	1,290	1,328	38	2.9
Meekatharra	201	191	-10	-5.0
Midland	1,346	1,404	58	4.3
Mirrabooka	1,924	1,921	-3	-0.2
Morley	1,760	1,761	1	0.1
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	176	166	-10	-5.7
Northam	784	818	34	4.3
Rockingham	1,587	1,615	28	1.8
South Hedland	297	326	29	9.8
Spearwood	997	995	-2	-0.2
Victoria Park	1,567	1,551	-16	-1.0
Warwick Grove	761	742	-19	-2.5
Other (a)	38	26	%	%
Total	26,129	26,156	27	0.1

– 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	868	865	-3	-0.3
Burnie	1,226	1,237	11	0.9
Devonport	1,350	1,316	-34	-2.5
Glenorchy	1,257	1,270	13	1.0
Hobart	1,239	1,272	33	2.7
Huonville	328	323	-5	-1.5
Launceston	3,465	3,544	79	2.3
Rosny Park	810	826	16	2.0
Sorell	401	400	-1	-0.2
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	10,945	11,054	109	1.0
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	454	455	1	0.2
Borroloola	55	55	%	%
Broome	433	456	23	5.3
Casuarina	544	557	13	2.4
Central Aust RST	1,852	1,805	-47	-2.5
Derby	205	204	-1	-0.5
Fitzroy Crossing	100	95	%	%
Halls Creek	227	226	-1	-0.4
Katherine	312	324	12	3.8
Knuckey Street	339	353	14	4.1
Kununurra	300	302	2	0.7
Maningrida	213	216	3	1.4
Nhulunbuy	78	76	%	%
Palmerston	589	588	-1	-0.2
Tangentyere	141	153	12	8.5
Tennant Creek	161	179	18	11.2
Tiwi Islands	196	201	5	2.6
Top End Hub	2,207	2,242	35	1.6
Wadeye	235	242	7	3.0
Yuendumu	94	98	%	%
Other (a)	24	22	%	%
Total	8,759	8,849	90	1.0

- 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>	January 2012	February 2012	Variation	
			January - February Number	Per cent
<i>BORDER RANGES</i>				
Armidale	807	775	-32	-4.0
Beaudesert	521	540	19	3.6
Beenleigh	1,876	1,973	97	5.2
Browns Plains	1,939	1,966	27	1.4
Capalaba	711	729	18	2.5
Cleveland	862	890	28	3.2
Glen Innes	249	262	13	5.2
Goondiwindi	319	324	5	1.6
Gunnedah	368	373	5	1.4
Inala	1,579	1,579	0	0.0
Inverell	603	595	-8	-1.3
Moree	482	501	19	3.9
Mt Gravatt	1,996	2,050	54	2.7
Narrabri	273	269	-4	-1.5
Stanthorpe	347	362	15	4.3
Tamworth	1,564	1,553	-11	-0.7
Warwick	430	430	0	0.0
Woodridge	1,928	1,913	-15	-0.8
Wynnum	782	802	20	2.6
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	17,637	17,887	250	1.4
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	2	3	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	6	5	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-33	-43	%	%
AUSTRALIA	335,704	339,475	3,771	1.1

(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 17 FEBRUARY 2012**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.8	83.3	84.9
Earned an income	13.2	16.7	15.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.3	1.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.1	2.8	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	7.5	8.9	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	97,762	110,882	208,644
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	77.3	72.9	74.6
Earned an income	22.7	27.1	25.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.9	1.0	1.0
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.4	3.1	2.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.3	3.9	3.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.6	3.0	2.8
Over \$316.00	13.5	16.1	15.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	52,197	78,523	130,720
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	83.5	78.9	80.9
Earned an income	16.5	21.1	19.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.9	2.6	2.3
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.5	3.2	2.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	9.6	11.9	10.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	149,959	189,405	339,364

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 DIIRSTE 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

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 21 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 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"> • 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:

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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.