

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). 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 21 March 2012.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – January 2012

Between January 2011 and January 2012

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 2.4 per cent** overall from 669 721 to 653 904.

- ◆ NSA recipients decreased 1.8 per cent from 576 745 to 566 287.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients decreased 5.8 per cent from 92 976 to 87 617.

The number of job seekers **decreased 0.2 per cent** overall from 336 310 to 335 704.

- ◆ NSA job seekers decreased 0.4 per cent from 299 953 to 298 624.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 2.0 per cent from 36 357 to 37 080.

Long-term job seekers increased 2.5 per cent from 184 087 to 188 773.

Short-term job seekers decreased 3.5 per cent from 152 223 to 146 931.

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.

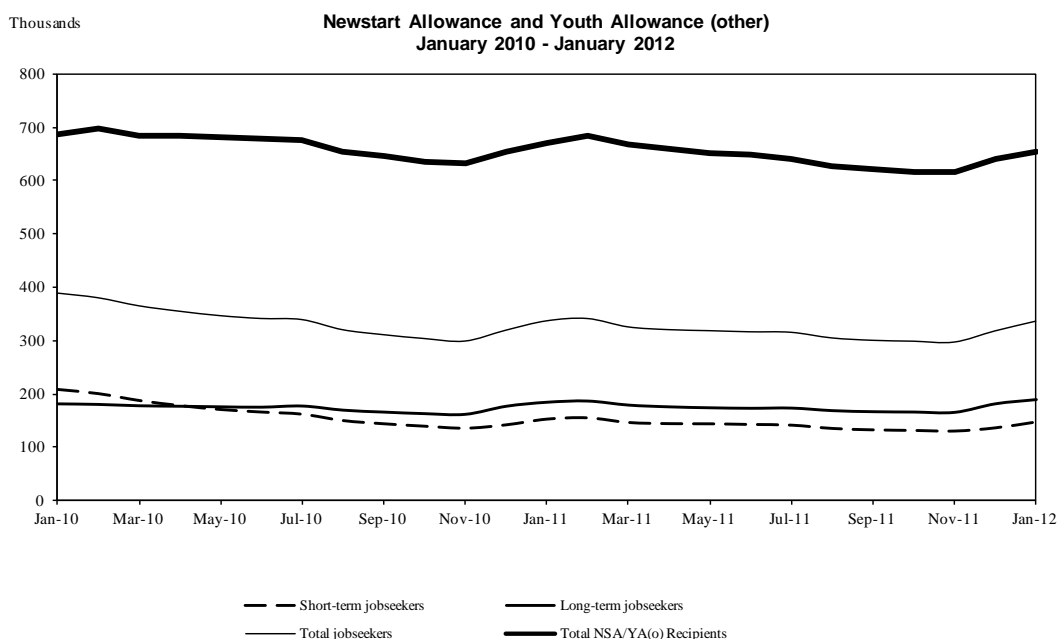


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
January 2010	311,843	592,737	94,499	231,392	3,822	27,428	35,933
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
Variation December 2011 - January 2012							
Number	4,459	13,304	312	-27,987	-146	-297	-54
Per cent	1.3	2.4	0.4	-10.4	-3.4	-1.8	-0.2

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

	January 2012			December 2011	Variation December - January	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	219,709	137,801	81,908	210,864	8,845	4.2
CPS Recipients (a)	361	261	100	375	-14	-3.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	8,692	4,712	3,980	12,324	-3,632	-29.5
Received a payment	210,656	132,828	77,828	198,165	12,491	6.3
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,171	1,896	4,275	6,045	126	2.1
Other activities without job search (d)	34,218	21,464	12,754	31,801	2,417	7.6
Incapacitated (e)	22,751	13,066	9,685	23,605	-854	-3.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,954	8,036	5,918	14,043	-89	-0.6
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	133,562	88,366	45,196	122,671	10,891	8.9
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>21,442</i>	<i>12,929</i>	<i>8,513</i>	<i>23,868</i>	<i>-2,426</i>	<i>-10.2</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	346,578	189,586	156,992	342,119	4,459	1.3
CPS Recipients (a)	2,546	1,717	829	2,594	-48	-1.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,706	4,353	5,353	13,763	-4,057	-29.5
Received a payment	334,326	183,516	150,810	325,762	8,564	2.6
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	26,692	9,443	17,249	26,657	35	0.1
Other activities without job search (d)	79,581	42,398	37,183	77,331	2,250	2.9
Incapacitated (e)	32,973	17,123	15,850	34,718	-1,745	-5.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	30,018	15,691	14,327	29,462	556	1.9
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	165,062	98,861	66,201	157,594	7,468	4.7
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>67,013</i>	<i>36,595</i>	<i>30,418</i>	<i>75,619</i>	<i>-8,606</i>	<i>-11.4</i>
All Newstart Allowees	566,287	327,387	238,900	552,983	13,304	2.4
CPS Recipients (a)	2,907	1,978	929	2,969	-62	-2.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	18,398	9,065	9,333	26,087	-7,689	-29.5
Received a payment	544,982	316,344	228,638	523,927	21,055	4.0
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	32,863	11,339	21,524	32,702	161	0.5
Other activities without job search (d)	113,799	63,862	49,937	109,132	4,667	4.3
Incapacitated (e)	55,724	30,189	25,535	58,323	-2,599	-4.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	43,972	23,727	20,245	43,505	467	1.1
All NSA job seekers (g)	298,624	187,227	111,397	280,265	18,359	6.6
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>88,455</i>	<i>49,524</i>	<i>38,931</i>	<i>99,487</i>	<i>-11,032</i>	<i>-11.1</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.

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

	January 2012			December 2011	Variation December - January	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	34,723	18,930	15,793	34,584	139	0.4
CPS Recipients (a)	36	19	17	40	-4	-10.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	558	255	303	761	-203	-26.7
Received a payment	34,129	18,656	15,473	33,783	346	1.0
Other activities without job search (c)	17,406	9,990	7,416	17,048	358	2.1
Incapacitated (d)	1,724	865	859	1,836	-112	-6.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,630	763	867	1,688	-58	-3.4
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	13,369	7,038	6,331	13,211	158	1.2
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>8,796</i>	<i>4,873</i>	<i>3,923</i>	<i>9,604</i>	<i>-808</i>	<i>-8.4</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	52,894	26,478	26,416	52,721	173	0.3
CPS Recipients (a)	123	78	45	131	-8	-6.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,256	495	761	1,390	-134	-9.6
Received a payment	51,515	25,905	25,610	51,200	315	0.6
Other activities without job search (c)	23,815	12,452	11,363	23,311	504	2.2
Incapacitated (d)	2,086	913	1,173	2,188	-102	-4.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,903	743	1,160	1,938	-35	-1.8
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	23,711	11,797	11,914	23,763	-52	-0.2
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>13,814</i>	<i>6,978</i>	<i>6,836</i>	<i>15,190</i>	<i>-1,376</i>	<i>-9.1</i>
All Youth Allowees	87,617	45,408	42,209	87,305	312	0.4
CPS Recipients (a)	159	97	62	171	-12	-7.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,814	750	1,064	2,151	-337	-15.7
Received a payment	85,644	44,561	41,083	84,983	661	0.8
Other activities without job search (c)	41,221	22,442	18,779	40,359	862	2.1
Incapacitated (d)	3,810	1,778	2,032	4,024	-214	-5.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	3,533	1,506	2,027	3,626	-93	-2.6
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	37,080	18,835	18,245	36,974	106	0.3
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>22,610</i>	<i>11,851</i>	<i>10,759</i>	<i>24,794</i>	<i>-2,184</i>	<i>-8.8</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
January 2010	207,825	181,212	389,037
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
Variation December 2011 - January 2012			
Number	11,049	7,416	18,465
Per cent	8.1	4.1	5.8

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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	40,645	43,904	3,259	8.0
Victoria	31,771	34,817	3,046	9.6
Queensland	32,757	35,641	2,884	8.8
South Australia	11,072	11,934	862	7.8
Western Australia	12,210	12,983	773	6.3
Tasmania	3,988	4,087	99	2.5
Northern Territory	2,257	2,301	44	1.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,182	1,264	82	6.9
AUSTRALIA	135,882	146,931	11,049	8.1
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	58,443	60,910	2,467	4.2
Victoria	39,608	41,358	1,750	4.4
Queensland	40,669	42,050	1,381	3.4
South Australia	16,114	17,002	888	5.5
Western Australia	13,808	14,489	681	4.9
Tasmania	6,781	6,854	73	1.1
Northern Territory	4,729	4,793	64	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,205	1,317	112	9.3
AUSTRALIA	181,357	188,773	7,416	4.1
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	99,088	104,814	5,726	5.8
Victoria	71,379	76,175	4,796	6.7
Queensland	73,426	77,691	4,265	5.8
South Australia	27,186	28,936	1,750	6.4
Western Australia	26,018	27,472	1,454	5.6
Tasmania	10,769	10,941	172	1.6
Northern Territory	6,986	7,094	108	1.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,387	2,581	194	8.1
AUSTRALIA	317,239	335,704	18,465	5.8

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 JANUARY 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	1,313	1.4	1,845	1.7	3,158	1.5
18 - 20 years	5,725	6.0	9,952	9.0	15,677	7.6
21 - 24 years	17,174	18.0	18,061	16.3	35,235	17.1
25 - 29 years	16,092	16.9	16,860	15.2	32,952	16.0
30 - 39 years	23,376	24.5	25,230	22.8	48,606	23.6
40 - 49 years	17,040	17.9	20,040	18.1	37,080	18.0
50 - 59 years	10,918	11.4	13,539	12.2	24,457	11.9
60 years and over	3,768	3.9	5,132	4.6	8,900	4.3
Total	95,406	100.0	110,659	100.0	206,065	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	1,208	2.3	1,907	2.4	3,115	2.4
18 - 20 years	5,123	9.9	10,008	12.8	15,131	11.7
21 - 24 years	10,076	19.6	13,285	17.0	23,361	18.0
25 - 29 years	6,781	13.2	8,339	10.7	15,120	11.7
30 - 39 years	8,458	16.4	13,155	16.8	21,613	16.7
40 - 49 years	9,915	19.2	16,691	21.4	26,606	20.5
50 - 59 years	7,805	15.1	12,058	15.4	19,863	15.3
60 years and over	2,159	4.2	2,671	3.4	4,830	3.7
Total	51,525	100.0	78,114	100.0	129,639	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	2,521	1.7	3,752	2.0	6,273	1.9
18 - 20 years	10,848	7.4	19,960	10.6	30,808	9.2
21 - 24 years	27,250	18.5	31,346	16.6	58,596	17.5
25 - 29 years	22,873	15.6	25,199	13.3	48,072	14.3
30 - 39 years	31,834	21.7	38,385	20.3	70,219	20.9
40 - 49 years	26,955	18.3	36,731	19.5	63,686	19.0
50 - 59 years	18,723	12.7	25,597	13.6	44,320	13.2
60 years and over	5,927	4.0	7,803	4.1	13,730	4.1
Total	146,931	100.0	188,773	100.0	335,704	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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	34	37	%	%
Bankstown	3,039	3,165	126	4.1
Bondi Junction	997	1,096	99	9.9
Burwood	1,493	1,587	94	6.3
Campsie	1,785	1,860	75	4.2
Caringbah	717	782	65	9.1
Chatswood	1,157	1,245	88	7.6
Darlinghurst	1,273	1,348	75	5.9
Hornsby	902	1,015	113	12.5
Hurstville	1,536	1,603	67	4.4
Lakemba	31	37	%	%
Leichhardt	1,211	1,374	163	13.5
Maroubra	1,247	1,288	41	3.3
Marrickville	1,379	1,447	68	4.9
Northern Beaches	1,147	1,251	104	9.1
Redfern	1,197	1,281	84	7.0
Revesby	21	<20	na	na
Rockdale	1,240	1,336	96	7.7
Ryde	985	1,039	54	5.5
Sutherland	660	702	42	6.4
Other (a)	11	na	na	na
Total	22,062	23,509	1,447	6.6

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,752	1,833	81	4.6
Bathurst	754	768	14	1.9
Blacktown	2,403	2,550	147	6.1
Bourke	406	398	-8	-2.0
Cabramatta	1,788	1,904	116	6.5
Camden	568	631	63	11.1
Campbelltown	1,785	1,886	101	5.7
Dubbo	1,650	1,731	81	4.9
Fairfield	2,248	2,452	204	9.1
Hawkesbury	693	750	57	8.2
Ingleburn	1,089	1,200	111	10.2
Katoomba	516	547	31	6.0
Lightning Ridge	149	158	9	6.0
Lithgow	465	483	18	3.9
Liverpool	2,608	2,765	157	6.0
Mt Druitt	2,161	2,312	151	7.0
Mudgee	419	443	24	5.7
Orange	660	677	17	2.6
Penrith	1,415	1,534	119	8.4
Springwood	317	347	30	9.5
St Marys	1,266	1,344	78	6.2
Walgett	236	243	7	3.0
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
Total	25,348	26,957	1,609	6.3

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>MID COAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Baulkham Hills	853	898	45	5.3
Cessnock	562	597	35	6.2
Charlestown	1,394	1,516	122	8.8
Comm Support Team	28	30	%	%
Ettalong	540	570	30	5.6
Forster	678	705	27	4.0
Gosford	1,268	1,367	99	7.8
King Street	1,030	1,081	51	5.0
Kurri Kurri	341	358	17	5.0
Lakehaven	1,360	1,453	93	6.8
Maitland	994	1,028	34	3.4
Mayfield	796	860	64	8.0
Merrylands	1,731	1,781	50	2.9
Muswellbrook	374	417	43	11.5
Nelson Bay	416	414	-2	-0.5
Parramatta	1,846	1,954	108	5.9
Raymond Terrace	724	782	58	8.0
Singleton	192	199	7	3.6
Taree	1,341	1,392	51	3.8
The Entrance	1,067	1,125	58	5.4
Toronto	665	760	95	14.3
Wallsend	976	1,060	84	8.6
Woy Woy	424	454	30	7.1
Wyong	573	589	16	2.8
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
Total	20,176	21,392	1,216	6.0

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	528	532	4	0.8
Bega	568	584	16	2.8
Belconnen	682	725	43	6.3
Bowral	361	393	32	8.9
Braddon	656	691	35	5.3
Cooma	283	290	7	2.5
Corrimal	884	963	79	8.9
Cowra	334	376	42	12.6
Dapto	1,005	1,041	36	3.6
Goulburn	509	523	14	2.8
Griffith	422	443	21	5.0
Gungahlin	197	235	38	19.3
Leeton	251	279	28	11.2
Narooma	240	249	9	3.8
Nowra	1,557	1,599	42	2.7
Parkes	625	669	44	7.0
Queanbeyan	358	373	15	4.2
Shellharbour	1,200	1,300	100	8.3
Tuggeranong	465	514	49	10.5
Tumut	259	261	2	0.8
Ulladulla	428	421	-7	-1.6
Wagga	1,049	1,124	75	7.1
Woden	338	365	27	8.0
Wollongong	1,214	1,262	48	4.0
Yass	80	85	%	%
Young	472	487	15	3.2
Other (a)	22	23	%	%
Total	14,987	15,807	820	5.5

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	819	910	91	11.1
Albury	2,023	2,128	105	5.2
Box Hill	1,676	1,836	160	9.5
Broadmeadows	2,989	3,218	229	7.7
Darebin	2,129	2,290	161	7.6
Deniliquin	155	159	4	2.6
Echuca	408	433	25	6.1
Epping	1,907	2,022	115	6.0
Greensborough	1,018	1,102	84	8.3
Heidelberg	1,043	1,095	52	5.0
Moreland	2,191	2,381	190	8.7
Newmarket	1,323	1,384	61	4.6
Seymour	521	550	29	5.6
Shepparton	1,720	1,818	98	5.7
Sth Melbourne	682	732	50	7.3
Sunbury	696	724	28	4.0
Wangaratta	1,178	1,240	62	5.3
Windsor Vic	1,747	1,920	173	9.9
Yarra	1,786	1,954	168	9.4
Other (a)	27	24	%	%
Total	26,038	27,920	1,882	7.2

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	726	718	-8	-1.1
Belgrave	343	383	40	11.7
Boronia	873	965	92	10.5
Cheltenham	1,366	1,478	112	8.2
Cranbourne	1,193	1,317	124	10.4
Dandenong	1,964	2,196	232	11.8
Fountain Gate	1,582	1,725	143	9.0
Frankston	1,960	2,183	223	11.4
Glen Waverley	958	998	40	4.2
Hastings	454	474	20	4.4
Lilydale	995	1,070	75	7.5
Mornington	351	371	20	5.7
Morwell	2,092	2,189	97	4.6
Oakleigh	1,284	1,384	100	7.8
Pakenham	665	733	68	10.2
Ringwood	1,246	1,408	162	13.0
Rosebud	578	560	-18	-3.1
Rowville	496	547	51	10.3
Sale	676	694	18	2.7
Springvale	1,403	1,511	108	7.7
Warragul	510	537	27	5.3
Wonthaggi	502	527	25	5.0
Other (a)	3	3	%	%
Total	22,220	23,971	1,751	7.9

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	140	157	17	12.1
Bendigo Central	214	222	8	3.7
Ballarat	2,265	2,442	177	7.8
Bendigo	2,016	2,117	101	5.0
Colac	441	446	5	1.1
Corio	1,236	1,317	81	6.6
Footscray	1,126	1,148	22	2.0
Geelong	2,531	2,653	122	4.8
Hamilton	294	296	2	0.7
Horsham	554	580	26	4.7
Maryborough	387	391	4	1.0
Melton	1,264	1,342	78	6.2
Mildura	1,512	1,588	76	5.0
Newport	882	924	42	4.8
Portland	297	322	25	8.4
Stawell	166	160	-6	-3.6
Sunshine	2,771	2,866	95	3.4
Swan Hill	628	674	46	7.3
Warrnambool	695	724	29	4.2
Watergardens	2,418	2,511	93	3.8
Werribee	2,949	3,122	173	5.9
Other (a)	4	4	%	%
Total	24,790	26,006	1,216	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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	665	678	13	2.0
Ayr	260	294	34	13.1
Biloela	141	147	6	4.3
Bowen	261	299	38	14.6
Cairns Aplin	3,906	3,978	72	1.8
Charters Towers	297	304	7	2.4
Emerald	218	241	23	10.6
Gladstone	618	653	35	5.7
Indigenous Service Centre	867	901	34	3.9
Ingham	261	284	23	8.8
Innisfail	673	699	26	3.9
Longreach	92	96	%	%
Mackay	973	1,047	74	7.6
Mareeba	595	595	0	0.0
Mossman	491	506	15	3.1
Mt Isa	617	621	4	0.6
Normanton	102	109	7	6.9
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	104	103	-1	-1.0
Palm Island	243	250	7	2.9
Rockhampton	1,614	1,734	120	7.4
Thursday Is	248	262	14	5.6
Townsville	2,938	3,108	170	5.8
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	325	349	24	7.4
Whitsunday	394	448	54	13.7
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	435	426	-9	-2.1
Yeppoon	356	369	13	3.7
Other (a)	43	43	%	%
Total	17,737	18,544	807	4.5

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SUNSHINE COAST</i>				
Bundaberg	2,939	3,084	145	4.9
Caboolture	2,710	2,968	258	9.5
Caloundra	1,324	1,383	59	4.5
Deception Bay	604	636	32	5.3
Gympie	1,222	1,281	59	4.8
Hervey Bay	1,585	1,659	74	4.7
Kawana Waters	616	668	52	8.4
Kippa-Ring	1,120	1,155	35	3.1
Maroochydore	1,475	1,584	109	7.4
Maryborough	1,101	1,150	49	4.5
Nambour	974	1,051	77	7.9
Noosa	1,180	1,260	80	6.8
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	16,850	17,879	1,029	6.1
<i>PACIFIC COAST</i>				
APC Community Team	29	25	%	%
Ballina	834	882	48	5.8
Biggera Waters	2,438	2,577	139	5.7
Brunswick Heads	601	652	51	8.5
Byron Bay	624	650	26	4.2
Casino	553	582	29	5.2
Coffs Harbour	2,032	2,115	83	4.1
Grafton	761	849	88	11.6
Kempsey	751	784	33	4.4
Lismore	1,442	1,544	102	7.1
Murwillumbah	560	578	18	3.2
Nambucca Heads	703	733	30	4.3
Nerang	2,344	2,505	161	6.9
Palm Beach	2,667	2,894	227	8.5
Port Macquarie	1,504	1,574	70	4.7
Southport	2,517	2,591	74	2.9
Tweed Heads	1,481	1,547	66	4.5
Yamba	402	417	15	3.7
Other (a)	1	2	%	%
Total	22,244	23,501	1,257	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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Charleville	136	150	14	10.3
Cherbourg	206	222	16	7.8
Chermside	945	1,010	65	6.9
Dalby	413	431	18	4.4
Fortitude Valley	1,017	1,156	139	13.7
Goodna	1,326	1,372	46	3.5
Ipswich	2,509	2,629	120	4.8
Kingaroy	611	655	44	7.2
Mitchelton	1,124	1,211	87	7.7
Nundah	1,161	1,252	91	7.8
Roma	113	109	-4	-3.5
South Brisbane	849	890	41	4.8
Stones Corner	1,583	1,741	158	10.0
Strathpine	1,383	1,450	67	4.8
Toowong	1,026	1,099	73	7.1
Toowoomba	1,753	1,849	96	5.5
Other (a)	219	224	%	%
Total	16,374	17,450	1,076	6.6

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	769	847	78	10.1
Broken Hill	661	665	4	0.6
Ceduna	247	251	4	1.6
Cooper Pedy	151	147	-4	-2.6
Elizabeth	2,309	2,381	72	3.1
Enfield	1,323	1,419	96	7.3
Gawler	1,032	1,090	58	5.6
Glenelg	755	827	72	9.5
Kadina	522	558	36	6.9
Kilkenny	1,336	1,412	76	5.7
Marion	2,028	2,196	168	8.3
Modbury	1,653	1,831	178	10.8
Mt Barker	606	670	64	10.6
Mt Gambier	1,141	1,172	31	2.7
Murray Bridge	807	840	33	4.1
Noarlunga	2,520	2,693	173	6.9
Norwood	1,583	1,695	112	7.1
Port Adelaide	1,248	1,328	80	6.4
Port Augusta	548	576	28	5.1
Port Lincoln	470	513	43	9.1
Port Pirie	693	763	70	10.1
Salisbury	2,371	2,519	148	6.2
Torrens ville	1,404	1,516	112	8.0
Victor Harbor	618	640	22	3.6
Whyalla	741	772	31	4.2
Other (a)	4	2	%	%
Total	27,540	29,323	1,783	6.5

– 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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	877	960	83	9.5
Armadale	1,062	1,156	94	8.9
Bunbury	1,432	1,537	105	7.3
Busselton	558	615	57	10.2
Cannington	1,434	1,537	103	7.2
Carnarvon	312	309	-3	-1.0
Esperance	238	247	9	3.8
Fremantle	1,140	1,207	67	5.9
Geraldton	1,075	1,089	14	1.3
Gosnells	988	1,012	24	2.4
Innaloo	1,076	1,166	90	8.4
Joondalup	1,436	1,556	120	8.4
Kalgoorlie	560	581	21	3.8
Karratha	320	341	21	6.6
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	98	88	%	%
Mandurah	1,245	1,290	45	3.6
Meekatharra	192	201	9	4.7
Midland	1,275	1,346	71	5.6
Mirrabooka	1,818	1,924	106	5.8
Morley	1,641	1,760	119	7.3
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	173	176	3	1.7
Northam	779	784	5	0.6
Rockingham	1,466	1,587	121	8.3
South Hedland	295	297	2	0.7
Spearwood	943	997	54	5.7
Victoria Park	1,505	1,567	62	4.1
Warwick Grove	708	761	53	7.5
Other (a)	36	38	%	%
Total	24,682	26,129	1,447	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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	868	868	0	0.0
Burnie	1,220	1,226	6	0.5
Devonport	1,303	1,350	47	3.6
Glenorchy	1,261	1,257	-4	-0.3
Hobart	1,198	1,239	41	3.4
Huonville	334	328	-6	-1.8
Launceston	3,377	3,465	88	2.6
Rosny Park	785	810	25	3.2
Sorell	415	401	-14	-3.4
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	10,762	10,945	183	1.7
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	458	454	-4	-0.9
Borroloola	55	55	%	%
Broome	430	433	3	0.7
Casuarina	502	544	42	8.4
Central Aust RST	1,876	1,852	-24	-1.3
Derby	195	205	10	5.1
Fitzroy Crossing	114	100	-14	-12.3
Halls Creek	221	227	6	2.7
Katherine	319	312	-7	-2.2
Knuckey Street	333	339	6	1.8
Kununurra	279	300	21	7.5
Maningrida	214	213	-1	-0.5
Nhulunbuy	84	78	%	%
Palmerston	576	589	13	2.3
Tangentyere	140	141	1	0.7
Tennant Creek	160	161	1	0.6
Tiwi Islands	174	196	22	12.6
Top End Hub	2,179	2,207	28	1.3
Wadeye	240	235	-5	-2.1
Yuendumu	86	94	%	%
Other (a)	26	24	%	%
Total	8,661	8,759	98	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>	December 2011	January 2012	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>BORDER RANGES</i>				
Armidale	762	807	45	5.9
Beaudesert	485	521	36	7.4
Beenleigh	1,781	1,876	95	5.3
Browns Plains	1,847	1,939	92	5.0
Capalaba	658	711	53	8.1
Cleveland	791	862	71	9.0
Glen Innes	229	249	20	8.7
Goondiwindi	326	319	-7	-2.1
Gunnedah	356	368	12	3.4
Inala	1,455	1,579	124	8.5
Inverell	590	603	13	2.2
Moree	465	482	17	3.7
Mt Gravatt	1,890	1,996	106	5.6
Narrabri	260	273	13	5.0
Stanthorpe	336	347	11	3.3
Tamworth	1,528	1,564	36	2.4
Warwick	401	430	29	7.2
Woodridge	1,844	1,928	84	4.6
Wynnum	758	782	24	3.2
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	16,763	17,637	874	5.2
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	2	2	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	6	6	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-3	-33	%	%
AUSTRALIA	317,239	335,704	18,465	5.8

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

Notes:

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

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

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	88.6	85.4	86.9
Earned an income	11.4	14.6	13.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	2.1	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.5	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.3	1.8	1.6
Over \$316.00	6.1	7.4	6.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	96,104	110,233	206,337
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	80.0	75.9	77.5
Earned an income	20.0	24.1	22.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.1	1.0
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.2	2.8	2.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.8	3.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.7	2.5
Over \$316.00	11.7	13.8	12.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	52,068	78,193	130,261
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	85.6	81.4	83.3
Earned an income	14.4	18.6	16.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.7	2.4	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	3.0	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.7	2.2	2.0
Over \$316.00	8.1	10.1	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	148,172	188,426	336,598

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 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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PO Box 9880
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Other recipient information

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has published:
Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview
1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

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.