

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 23 May 2012.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – March 2012

Between March 2011 and March 2012

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 0.6 per cent** overall from 668 967 to 664 802.

- ◆ NSA recipients decreased 0.1 per cent from 578 856 to 578 219.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients decreased 3.9 per cent from 90 111 to 86 583.

The number of job seekers **increased 2.5 per cent** overall from 324 928 to 332 933.

- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 2.3 per cent from 289 543 to 296 062.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 4.2 per cent from 35 385 to 36 871.

Long-term job seekers increased 3.6 per cent from 179 041 to 185 409.

Short-term job seekers increased 1.1 per cent from 145 887 to 147 524.

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.

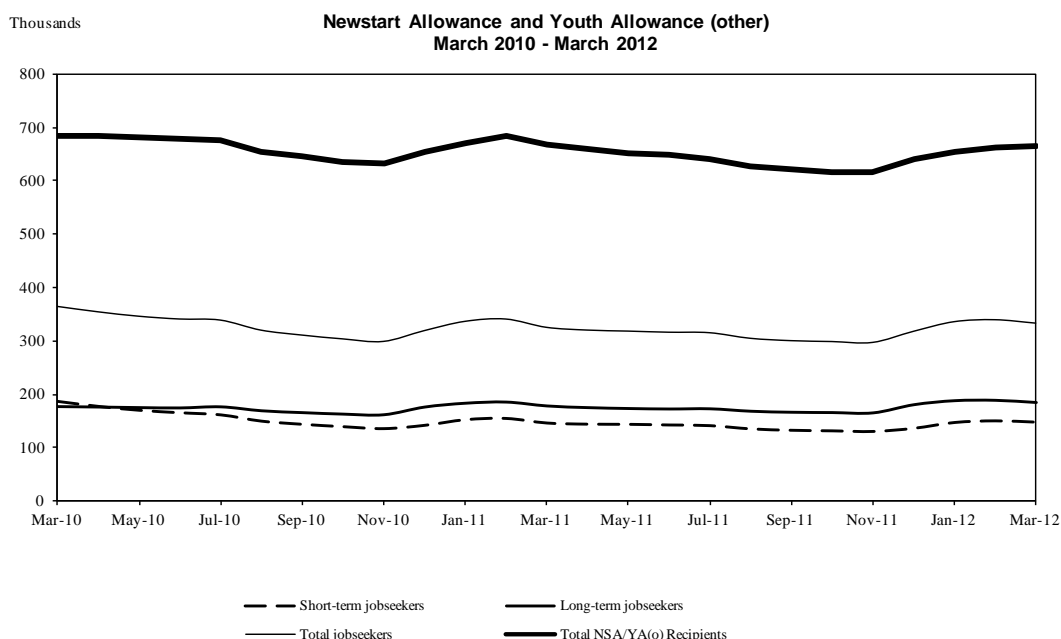


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long Term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices		
February 1994	472,785	977,796
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
March 2012	351,092	578,219	86,583	262,183	4,495	15,279	30,029
Variation February 2012 - March 2012							
Number	2,152	3,761	-1,701	15,733	281	-474	-322
Per cent	0.6	0.7	-1.9	6.4	6.7	-3.0	-1.1

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

	March 2012			February 2012	Variation	
	Persons	Males	Females		February - March Number	Percent
Short Term Newstart Allowees	227,127	143,391	83,736	225,518	1,609	0.7
CPS Recipients (a)	403	290	113	359	44	12.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,075	7,160	5,915	11,202	1,873	16.7
Received a payment	213,649	135,941	77,708	213,957	-308	-0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	5,954	1,877	4,077	6,071	-117	-1.9
Other activities without job search (d)	36,677	22,911	13,766	35,095	1,582	4.5
Incapacitated (e)	22,990	13,360	9,630	22,655	335	1.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,791	7,848	5,943	13,842	-51	-0.4
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	134,237	89,945	44,292	136,294	-2,057	-1.5
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>28,728</i>	<i>16,809</i>	<i>11,919</i>	<i>26,142</i>	<i>2,586</i>	<i>9.9</i>
Long Term Newstart Allowees	351,092	191,291	159,801	348,940	2,152	0.6
CPS Recipients (a)	2,360	1,590	770	2,475	-115	-4.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	14,435	6,550	7,885	12,063	2,372	19.7
Received a payment	334,297	183,151	151,146	334,402	-105	0.0
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	26,809	9,398	17,411	26,784	25	0.1
Other activities without job search (d)	81,963	42,981	38,982	79,702	2,261	2.8
Incapacitated (e)	33,144	17,265	15,879	32,707	437	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	30,556	15,939	14,617	30,352	204	0.7
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	161,825	97,568	64,257	164,857	-3,032	-1.8
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>84,896</i>	<i>44,571</i>	<i>40,325</i>	<i>76,754</i>	<i>8,142</i>	<i>10.6</i>
All Newstart Allowees	578,219	334,682	243,537	574,458	3,761	0.7
CPS Recipients (a)	2,763	1,880	883	2,834	-71	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	27,510	13,710	13,800	23,265	4,245	18.2
Received a payment	547,946	319,092	228,854	548,359	-413	-0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	32,763	11,275	21,488	32,855	-92	-0.3
Other activities without job search (d)	118,640	65,892	52,748	114,797	3,843	3.3
Incapacitated (e)	56,134	30,625	25,509	55,362	772	1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	44,347	23,787	20,560	44,194	153	0.3
All NSA job seekers (g)	296,062	187,513	108,549	301,151	-5,089	-1.7
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>113,624</i>	<i>61,380</i>	<i>52,244</i>	<i>102,896</i>	<i>10,728</i>	<i>10.4</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

	March 2012			February 2012	Variation February - March	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
Short Term Youth Allowees	34,129	19,006	15,123	34,873	-744	-2.1
CPS Recipients (a)	35	22	13	35	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	641	315	326	560	81	14.5
Received a payment	33,453	18,669	14,784	34,278	-825	-2.4
Other activities without job search (c)	16,984	9,890	7,094	17,282	-298	-1.7
Incapacitated (d)	1,633	817	816	1,686	-53	-3.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,549	734	815	1,576	-27	-1.7
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	13,287	7,228	6,059	13,734	-447	-3.3
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>10,970</i>	<i>6,034</i>	<i>4,936</i>	<i>10,648</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>3.0</i>
Long Term Youth Allowees	52,454	26,170	26,284	53,411	-957	-1.8
CPS Recipients (a)	104	66	38	116	-12	-10.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,511	644	867	1,298	213	16.4
Received a payment	50,839	25,460	25,379	51,997	-1,158	-2.2
Other activities without job search (c)	23,181	12,060	11,121	23,433	-252	-1.1
Incapacitated (d)	2,104	918	1,186	2,075	29	1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,970	795	1,175	1,899	71	3.7
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	23,584	11,687	11,897	24,590	-1,006	-4.1
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>17,999</i>	<i>8,801</i>	<i>9,198</i>	<i>16,768</i>	<i>1,231</i>	<i>7.3</i>
All Youth Allowees	86,583	45,176	41,407	88,284	-1,701	-1.9
CPS Recipients (a)	139	88	51	151	-12	-7.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,152	959	1,193	1,858	294	15.8
Received a payment	84,292	44,129	40,163	86,275	-1,983	-2.3
Other activities without job search (c)	40,165	21,950	18,215	40,715	-550	-1.4
Incapacitated (d)	3,737	1,735	2,002	3,761	-24	-0.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	3,519	1,529	1,990	3,475	44	1.3
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	36,871	18,915	17,956	38,324	-1,453	-3.8
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>28,969</i>	<i>14,835</i>	<i>14,134</i>	<i>27,416</i>	<i>1,553</i>	<i>5.7</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
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
March 2012	147,524	185,409	332,933
Variation February 2012 - March 2012			
Number	-2504	-4038	-6542
Per cent	-1.7	-2.1	-1.9

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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	44,662	43,669	-993	-2.2
Victoria	35,661	35,097	-564	-1.6
Queensland	36,829	37,005	176	0.5
South Australia	11,989	11,483	-506	-4.2
Western Australia	13,104	12,691	-413	-3.2
Tasmania	4,140	3,982	-158	-3.8
Northern Territory	2,365	2,392	27	1.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,278	1,205	-73	-5.7
AUSTRALIA	150,028	147,524	-2,504	-1.7
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	60,911	59,219	-1,692	-2.8
Victoria	41,598	40,768	-830	-2.0
Queensland	42,378	41,916	-462	-1.1
South Australia	17,102	16,588	-514	-3.0
Western Australia	14,425	14,057	-368	-2.6
Tasmania	6,897	6,781	-116	-1.7
Northern Territory	4,824	4,860	36	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	1,312	1,220	-92	-7.0
AUSTRALIA	189,447	185,409	-4,038	-2.1
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	105,573	102,888	-2,685	-2.5
Victoria	77,259	75,865	-1,394	-1.8
Queensland	79,207	78,921	-286	-0.4
South Australia	29,091	28,071	-1,020	-3.5
Western Australia	27,529	26,748	-781	-2.8
Tasmania	11,037	10,763	-274	-2.5
Northern Territory	7,189	7,252	63	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	2,590	2,425	-165	-6.4
AUSTRALIA	339,475	332,933	-6,542	-1.9

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 MARCH 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	1,283	1.3	1,507	1.4	2,790	1.4
18 - 20 years	5,944	6.1	10,179	9.3	16,123	7.8
21 - 24 years	17,701	18.2	17,770	16.3	35,471	17.2
25 - 29 years	16,494	17.0	16,575	15.2	33,069	16.0
30 - 39 years	23,651	24.3	24,911	22.8	48,562	23.5
40 - 49 years	17,303	17.8	19,809	18.1	37,112	18.0
50 - 59 years	11,060	11.4	13,482	12.3	24,542	11.9
60 years and over	3,735	3.8	5,024	4.6	8,759	4.2
Total	97,171	100.0	109,257	100.0	206,428	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	1,122	2.2	1,778	2.3	2,900	2.3
18 - 20 years	4,937	9.8	10,117	13.3	15,054	11.9
21 - 24 years	9,985	19.8	12,265	16.1	22,250	17.6
25 - 29 years	6,469	12.8	7,885	10.4	14,354	11.3
30 - 39 years	8,284	16.5	12,917	17.0	21,201	16.8
40 - 49 years	9,857	19.6	16,668	21.9	26,525	21.0
50 - 59 years	7,565	15.0	11,874	15.6	19,439	15.4
60 years and over	2,134	4.2	2,648	3.5	4,782	3.8
Total	50,353	100.0	76,152	100.0	126,505	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	2,405	1.6	3,285	1.8	5,690	1.7
18 - 20 years	10,881	7.4	20,296	10.9	31,177	9.4
21 - 24 years	27,686	18.8	30,035	16.2	57,721	17.3
25 - 29 years	22,963	15.6	24,460	13.2	47,423	14.2
30 - 39 years	31,935	21.6	37,828	20.4	69,763	21.0
40 - 49 years	27,160	18.4	36,477	19.7	63,637	19.1
50 - 59 years	18,625	12.6	25,356	13.7	43,981	13.2
60 years and over	5,869	4.0	7,672	4.1	13,541	4.1
Total	147,524	100.0	185,409	100.0	332,933	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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY</i>				
AS1 Community Team	31	33	%	%
Bankstown	3,086	3,047	-39	-1.3
Bondi Junction	1,149	1,095	-54	-4.7
Burwood	1,620	1,608	-12	-0.7
Campsie	1,920	1,926	6	0.3
Caringbah	833	827	-6	-0.7
Chatswood	1,244	1,270	26	2.1
Darlinghurst	1,378	1,374	-4	-0.3
Hornsby	1,021	934	-87	-8.5
Hurstville	1,623	1,555	-68	-4.2
Lakemba	30	28	%	%
Leichhardt	1,360	1,252	-108	-7.9
Maroubra	1,342	1,366	24	1.8
Marrickville	1,505	1,415	-90	-6.0
Northern Beaches	1,297	1,271	-26	-2.0
Redfern	1,290	1,267	-23	-1.8
Rockdale	1,342	1,285	-57	-4.2
Ryde	1,048	1,034	-14	-1.3
Sutherland	705	714	9	1.3
Other (a)	12	11	%	%
Total	23,836	23,312	-524	-2.2

– 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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,846	1,866	20	1.1
Bathurst	752	673	-79	-10.5
Blacktown	2,609	2,597	-12	-0.5
Bourke	411	405	-6	-1.5
Cabramatta	1,956	1,997	41	2.1
Camden	637	628	-9	-1.4
Campbelltown	1,881	1,843	-38	-2.0
Dubbo	1,770	1,678	-92	-5.2
Fairfield	2,453	2,475	22	0.9
Hawkesbury	773	783	10	1.3
Ingleburn	1,169	1,157	-12	-1.0
Katoomba	535	498	-37	-6.9
Lightning Ridge	166	175	9	5.4
Lithgow	494	502	8	1.6
Liverpool	2,819	2,774	-45	-1.6
Mt Druitt	2,347	2,316	-31	-1.3
Mudgee	451	467	16	3.5
Orange	695	701	6	0.9
Penrith	1,595	1,555	-40	-2.5
Springwood	347	332	-15	-4.3
St Marys	1,311	1,285	-26	-2.0
Walgett	223	234	11	4.9
Other (a)	1	3	%	%
Total	27,241	26,944	-297	-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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>MID COAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Baulkham Hills	903	849	-54	-6.0
Cessnock	599	579	-20	-3.3
Charlestown	1,572	1,506	-66	-4.2
Comm Support Team	30	30	%	%
Ettalong	588	595	7	1.2
Forster	723	686	-37	-5.1
Gosford	1,398	1,309	-89	-6.4
King Street	1,017	957	-60	-5.9
Kurri Kurri	362	350	-12	-3.3
Lakehaven	1,452	1,416	-36	-2.5
Maitland	1,043	969	-74	-7.1
Mayfield	887	813	-74	-8.3
Merrylands	1,759	1,720	-39	-2.2
Muswellbrook	427	434	7	1.6
Nelson Bay	428	412	-16	-3.7
Parramatta	2,013	2,084	71	3.5
Raymond Terrace	754	710	-44	-5.8
Singleton	204	201	-3	-1.5
Taree	1,372	1,290	-82	-6.0
The Entrance	1,159	1,127	-32	-2.8
Toronto	757	713	-44	-5.8
Wallsend	1,015	968	-47	-4.6
Woy Woy	477	458	-19	-4.0
Wyong	610	602	-8	-1.3
Other (a)	3	4	%	%
Total	21,552	20,782	-770	-3.6

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	541	562	21	3.9
Bega	584	595	11	1.9
Belconnen	756	724	-32	-4.2
Bowral	393	381	-12	-3.1
Braddon	699	649	-50	-7.2
Cooma	288	266	-22	-7.6
Corrimal	941	905	-36	-3.8
Cowra	365	353	-12	-3.3
Dapto	1,033	990	-43	-4.2
Goulburn	548	555	7	1.3
Griffith	442	439	-3	-0.7
Gungahlin	222	203	-19	-8.6
Leeton	295	312	17	5.8
Narooma	250	252	2	0.8
Nowra	1,546	1,529	-17	-1.1
Parkes	669	663	-6	-0.9
Queanbeyan	366	355	-11	-3.0
Shellharbour	1,271	1,237	-34	-2.7
Tuggeranong	512	478	-34	-6.6
Tumut	260	267	7	2.7
Ulladulla	448	450	2	0.4
Wagga	1,141	1,097	-44	-3.9
Woden	349	331	-18	-5.2
Wollongong	1,259	1,140	-119	-9.5
Yass	87	85	%	%
Young	478	463	-15	-3.1
Other (a)	23	19	%	%
Total	15,766	15,300	-466	-3.0

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	903	926	23	2.5
Albury	2,113	2,012	-101	-4.8
Box Hill	1,891	1,856	-35	-1.9
Broadmeadows	3,233	3,141	-92	-2.8
Darebin	2,353	2,270	-83	-3.5
Deniliquin	161	163	2	1.2
Echuca	460	460	0	0.0
Epping	2,034	2,098	64	3.1
Greensborough	1,144	1,187	43	3.8
Heidelberg	1,103	1,098	-5	-0.5
Moreland	2,447	2,300	-147	-6.0
Newmarket	1,407	1,383	-24	-1.7
Seymour	587	568	-19	-3.2
Shepparton	1,784	1,726	-58	-3.3
Sth Melbourne	767	794	27	3.5
Sunbury	749	764	15	2.0
Wangaratta	1,253	1,283	30	2.4
Windsor Vic	2,010	1,972	-38	-1.9
Yarra	1,984	1,925	-59	-3.0
Other (a)	17	17	%	%
Total	28,400	27,943	-457	-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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	735	726	-9	-1.2
Belgrave	406	406	0	0.0
Boronia	983	966	-17	-1.7
Cheltenham	1,506	1,461	-45	-3.0
Cranbourne	1,387	1,382	-5	-0.4
Dandenong	2,186	2,206	20	0.9
Fountain Gate	1,755	1,755	0	0.0
Frankston	2,213	2,136	-77	-3.5
Glen Waverley	1,000	992	-8	-0.8
Hastings	499	493	-6	-1.2
Lilydale	1,114	1,131	17	1.5
Mornington	403	396	-7	-1.7
Morwell	2,209	2,171	-38	-1.7
Oakleigh	1,395	1,305	-90	-6.5
Pakenham	742	728	-14	-1.9
Ringwood	1,395	1,366	-29	-2.1
Rosebud	567	595	28	4.9
Rowville	556	559	3	0.5
Sale	703	681	-22	-3.1
Springvale	1,506	1,463	-43	-2.9
Warragul	542	552	10	1.8
Wonthaggi	546	533	-13	-2.4
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
Total	24,351	24,005	-346	-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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	158	158	0	0.0
Bendigo Central	229	213	-16	-7.0
Ballarat	2,452	2,308	-144	-5.9
Bendigo	2,142	2,095	-47	-2.2
Colac	451	449	-2	-0.4
Corio	1,335	1,318	-17	-1.3
Footscray	1,166	1,159	-7	-0.6
Geelong	2,727	2,577	-150	-5.5
Hamilton	294	288	-6	-2.0
Horsham	589	576	-13	-2.2
Maryborough	386	383	-3	-0.8
Melton	1,329	1,307	-22	-1.7
Mildura	1,570	1,538	-32	-2.0
Newport	975	954	-21	-2.2
Portland	318	293	-25	-7.9
Stawell	160	147	-13	-8.1
Sunshine	2,850	2,771	-79	-2.8
Swan Hill	676	664	-12	-1.8
Warrnambool	730	714	-16	-2.2
Watergardens	2,541	2,545	4	0.2
Werribee	3,129	3,113	-16	-0.5
Other (a)	3	3	%	%
Total	26,210	25,573	-637	-2.4

– 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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	714	765	51	7.1
Ayr	340	374	34	10.0
Biloela	148	148	0	0.0
Bowen	323	343	20	6.2
Cairns Aplin	4,179	4,314	135	3.2
Charters Towers	312	320	8	2.6
Emerald	250	249	-1	-0.4
Gladstone	705	682	-23	-3.3
Indigenous Service Centre	948	1,000	52	5.5
Ingham	313	320	7	2.2
Innisfail	706	746	40	5.7
Longreach	100	97	%	%
Mackay	1,095	1,092	-3	-0.3
Mareeba	608	627	19	3.1
Mossman	527	528	1	0.2
Mt Isa	633	667	34	5.4
Normanton	111	112	1	0.9
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	107	107	0	0.0
Palm Island	241	249	8	3.3
Rockhampton	1,773	1,713	-60	-3.4
Thursday Is	276	293	17	6.2
Townsville	3,234	3,305	71	2.2
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	375	376	1	0.3
Whitsunday	475	494	19	4.0
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	431	449	18	4.2
Yeppoon	357	378	21	5.9
Other (a)	29	36	%	%
Total	19,310	19,784	474	2.5

– 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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SUNSHINE COAST</i>				
Bundaberg	3,066	3,050	-16	-0.5
Caboolture	2,951	2,885	-66	-2.2
Caloundra	1,428	1,389	-39	-2.7
Deception Bay	655	675	20	3.1
Gympie	1,284	1,285	1	0.1
Hervey Bay	1,706	1,683	-23	-1.3
Kawana Waters	682	649	-33	-4.8
Kippa-Ring	1,212	1,201	-11	-0.9
Maroochydore	1,640	1,553	-87	-5.3
Maryborough	1,159	1,140	-19	-1.6
Nambour	990	970	-20	-2.0
Noosa	1,288	1,327	39	3.0
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
Total	18,061	17,807	-254	-1.4
<i>PACIFIC COAST</i>				
APC Community Team	33	28	%	%
Ballina	882	874	-8	-0.9
Biggera Waters	2,596	2,634	38	1.5
Brunswick Heads	667	649	-18	-2.7
Byron Bay	634	596	-38	-6.0
Casino	584	572	-12	-2.1
Coffs Harbour	2,132	2,042	-90	-4.2
Grafton	857	782	-75	-8.8
Kempsey	789	771	-18	-2.3
Lismore	1,536	1,455	-81	-5.3
Murwillumbah	576	578	2	0.3
Nambucca Heads	739	697	-42	-5.7
Nerang	2,600	2,604	4	0.2
Palm Beach	2,861	2,838	-23	-0.8
Port Macquarie	1,604	1,553	-51	-3.2
Southport	2,581	2,516	-65	-2.5
Tweed Heads	1,563	1,507	-56	-3.6
Yamba	433	389	-44	-10.2
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
Total	23,670	23,087	-583	-2.5

– 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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Charleville	154	140	-14	-9.1
Cherbourg	225	232	7	3.1
Chermside	1,016	1,062	46	4.5
Dalby	415	406	-9	-2.2
Fortitude Valley	1,191	1,153	-38	-3.2
Goodna	1,410	1,438	28	2.0
Ipswich	2,617	2,569	-48	-1.8
Kingaroy	658	669	11	1.7
Mitchelton	1,232	1,206	-26	-2.1
Nundah	1,248	1,218	-30	-2.4
Roma	121	110	-11	-9.1
South Brisbane	909	875	-34	-3.7
Stones Corner	1,752	1,733	-19	-1.1
Strathpine	1,556	1,588	32	2.1
Toowong	1,113	1,066	-47	-4.2
Toowoomba	1,828	1,793	-35	-1.9
Other (a)	214	215	%	%
Total	17,659	17,473	-186	-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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	836	787	-49	-5.9
Broken Hill	671	656	-15	-2.2
Ceduna	247	242	-5	-2.0
Cooper Pedy	152	149	-3	-2.0
Elizabeth	2,385	2,317	-68	-2.9
Enfield	1,355	1,325	-30	-2.2
Gawler	1,119	1,081	-38	-3.4
Glenelg	836	810	-26	-3.1
Kadina	581	580	-1	-0.2
Kilkenny	1,399	1,343	-56	-4.0
Marion	2,212	2,073	-139	-6.3
Modbury	1,878	1,776	-102	-5.4
Mt Barker	670	653	-17	-2.5
Mt Gambier	1,157	1,155	-2	-0.2
Murray Bridge	859	851	-8	-0.9
Noarlunga	2,770	2,632	-138	-5.0
Norwood	1,698	1,594	-104	-6.1
Port Adelaide	1,336	1,304	-32	-2.4
Port Augusta	604	578	-26	-4.3
Port Lincoln	512	498	-14	-2.7
Port Pirie	777	765	-12	-1.5
Salisbury	2,512	2,459	-53	-2.1
Torrens ville	1,533	1,424	-109	-7.1
Victor Harbor	648	639	-9	-1.4
Whyalla	759	722	-37	-4.9
Other (a)	2	2	%	%
Total	29,508	28,415	-1,093	-3.7

– 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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	968	918	-50	-5.2
Armadale	1,154	1,100	-54	-4.7
Bunbury	1,476	1,401	-75	-5.1
Busselton	692	703	11	1.6
Cannington	1,486	1,465	-21	-1.4
Carnarvon	324	322	-2	-0.6
Esperance	244	233	-11	-4.5
Fremantle	1,191	1,114	-77	-6.5
Geraldton	1,087	1,076	-11	-1.0
Gosnells	995	946	-49	-4.9
Innaloo	1,170	1,100	-70	-6.0
Joondalup	1,538	1,420	-118	-7.7
Kalgoorlie	561	586	25	4.5
Karratha	340	344	4	1.2
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	86	94	%	%
Mandurah	1,328	1,300	-28	-2.1
Meekatharra	191	176	-15	-7.9
Midland	1,404	1,396	-8	-0.6
Mirrabooka	1,921	1,886	-35	-1.8
Morley	1,761	1,695	-66	-3.7
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	166	141	-25	-15.1
Northam	818	830	12	1.5
Rockingham	1,615	1,562	-53	-3.3
South Hedland	326	328	2	0.6
Spearwood	995	964	-31	-3.1
Victoria Park	1,551	1,521	-30	-1.9
Warwick Grove	742	728	-14	-1.9
Other (a)	26	23	%	%
Total	26,156	25,372	-784	-3.0

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	865	893	28	3.2
Burnie	1,237	1,223	-14	-1.1
Devonport	1,316	1,232	-84	-6.4
Glenorchy	1,270	1,256	-14	-1.1
Hobart	1,272	1,202	-70	-5.5
Huonville	323	340	17	5.3
Launceston	3,544	3,437	-107	-3.0
Rosny Park	826	787	-39	-4.7
Sorell	400	404	4	1.0
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	11,054	10,775	-279	-2.5
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	455	472	17	3.7
Borroloola	55	59	%	%
Broome	456	454	-2	-0.4
Casuarina	557	567	10	1.8
Central Aust RST	1,805	1,840	35	1.9
Derby	204	203	-1	-0.5
Fitzroy Crossing	95	100	%	%
Halls Creek	226	227	1	0.4
Katherine	324	327	3	0.9
Knuckey Street	353	345	-8	-2.3
Kununurra	302	297	-5	-1.7
Maningrida	216	232	16	7.4
Nhulunbuy	76	83	%	%
Palmerston	588	631	43	7.3
Tangentyere	153	152	-1	-0.7
Tennant Creek	179	172	-7	-3.9
Tiwi Islands	201	206	5	2.5
Top End Hub	2,242	2,227	-15	-0.7
Wadeye	242	242	0	0.0
Yuendumu	98	88	%	%
Other (a)	22	25	%	%
Total	8,849	8,949	100	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>	February 2012	March 2012	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>BORDER RANGES</i>				
Armidale	775	728	-47	-6.1
Beaudesert	540	535	-5	-0.9
Beenleigh	1,973	1,892	-81	-4.1
Browns Plains	1,966	1,887	-79	-4.0
Capalaba	729	702	-27	-3.7
Cleveland	890	885	-5	-0.6
Glen Innes	262	259	-3	-1.1
Goondiwindi	324	320	-4	-1.2
Gunnedah	373	340	-33	-8.8
Inala	1,579	1,561	-18	-1.1
Inverell	595	530	-65	-10.9
Moree	501	457	-44	-8.8
Mt Gravatt	2,050	2,012	-38	-1.9
Narrabri	269	271	2	0.7
Stanthorpe	362	367	5	1.4
Tamworth	1,553	1,511	-42	-2.7
Warwick	430	428	-2	-0.5
Woodridge	1,913	1,902	-11	-0.6
Wynnum	802	814	12	1.5
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
Total	17,887	17,402	-485	-2.7
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	3	4	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	5	3	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-43	3	%	%
AUSTRALIA	339,475	332,933	-6,542	-1.9

(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 23 MARCH 2012**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.5	82.7	84.5
Earned an income	13.5	17.3	15.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	2.2	1.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.7	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.1	1.8
Over \$316.00	8.0	9.4	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	97,296	109,300	206,596
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.6	72.1	73.9
Earned an income	23.4	27.9	26.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	0.9	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.4	2.9	2.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.1	3.8	3.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.6	3.1	2.9
Over \$316.00	14.4	17.2	16.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	50,055	75,993	126,048
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	83.1	78.3	80.5
Earned an income	16.9	21.7	19.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.9	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.8	2.5	2.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.4	3.2	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.5	2.2
Over \$316.00	10.2	12.6	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	147,351	185,293	332,644

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:

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

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

Other recipient information

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has 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.