

# LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS

a monthly profile

Note: The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces the official unemployment statistics. The figures contained in this publication are different from the ABS unemployment figures as the ABS and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

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

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## INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

This publication covers Newstart (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) in some detail, and to a lesser extent, Partner Allowance (PA), Widow Allowance (WA), Youth Allowance (Full Time Student)(YA(FTS)) and Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) (YA(a)).

Table 1 provides information on the total number of NSA and YA recipients. The YA population is broken down into YA(o), YA(FTS) and YA(Australian Apprentices) categories. The total numbers of PA and WA recipients are also provided in this table.

Tables 2 and 3 show the derivation of the NSA and YA(o) job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the ‘Comparability of data’ section of the Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers.

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker population.

When using time series figures, it is important to note that changes have occurred over time to the conditions of eligibility for different payments. Details of these changes are provided in the Explanatory Notes.

All media inquiries should be directed to the DEEWR Media Team on (02) 6240 7300 or by email to [media@deewr.gov.au](mailto:media@deewr.gov.au). For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 19 December 2012.

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – October 2012

### Between October 2011 and October 2012

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 8.4 per cent** overall from 617 001 to 669 041.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 7.4 per cent from 540 910 to 580 867.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased 15.9 per cent from 76 091 to 88 174.

The number of job seekers **increased 11.8 per cent** overall from 297 779 to 332 902.

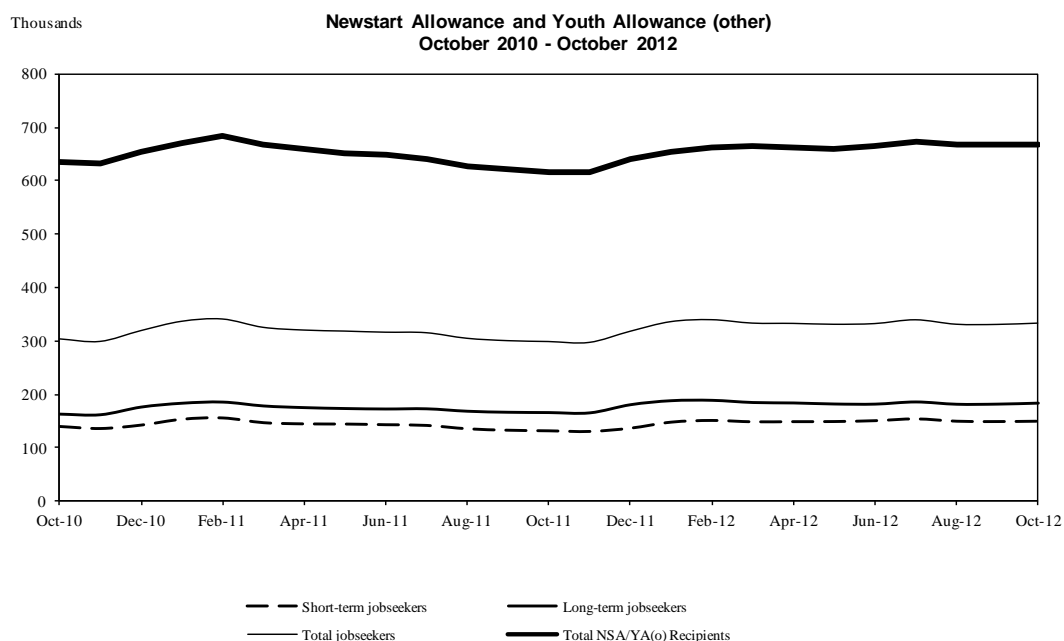
- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 10.1 per cent from 269 741 to 296 894.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 28.4 per cent from 28 038 to 36 008.

Long-term job seekers increased 10.5 per cent from 166 799 to 184 263.

Short-term job seekers increased 13.5 per cent from 130 980 to 148 639.

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

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



**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	..	..	..	..	..
October 2010	338,191	557,352	78,965	313,211	4,479	21,758	32,917
November 2010	337,056	551,840	79,935	299,007	4,315	21,096	32,482
December 2010	344,362	563,027	91,757	262,407	4,387	20,437	32,021
January 2011	349,806	576,745	92,976	257,713	4,208	19,922	31,646
February 2011	356,375	588,824	94,425	273,004	4,380	19,441	31,300
March 2011	352,479	578,856	90,111	293,377	4,650	18,932	30,959
April 2011	348,597	571,168	88,687	307,093	4,848	18,392	30,564
May 2011	345,226	564,805	86,230	315,670	4,859	17,850	30,184
June 2011	343,642	561,839	85,711	320,654	4,948	17,379	29,823
July 2011	341,388	556,349	84,917	315,490	4,772	17,036	29,621
August 2011	337,649	547,029	79,940	324,291	4,681	16,881	29,751
September 2011	336,056	542,845	78,096	329,360	4,671	16,751	29,868
October 2011	335,189	540,910	76,091	330,938	4,566	16,641	30,116
November 2011	334,884	540,527	75,664	311,741	4,352	16,544	30,328
December 2011	342,119	552,983	87,305	269,552	4,256	16,426	30,618
January 2012	346,578	566,287	87,617	241,565	4,110	16,129	30,564
February 2012	348,940	574,458	88,284	246,450	4,214	15,753	30,351
March 2012	351,092	578,219	86,583	262,183	4,495	15,279	30,029
April 2012	350,547	576,620	84,654	271,071	4,637	14,878	29,752
May 2012	350,294	577,483	83,553	273,335	4,786	14,519	29,565
June 2012	351,477	580,807	82,955	270,959	4,900	14,137	29,342
July 2012	354,823	586,745	86,889	262,157	5,012	13,742	29,031
August 2012	352,855	581,305	85,525	268,867	5,156	13,368	28,791
September 2012	353,622	580,857	87,215	267,488	5,385	12,977	28,516
October 2012	354,955	580,867	88,174	263,263	5,497	12,659	28,284
Variation September 2012 - October 2012							
Number	1,333	10	959	-4,225	112	-318	-232
Per cent	0.4	0.0	1.1	-1.6	2.1	-2.5	-0.8

## Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.
- There is a break in the series between June and July 2012. From July 2012 allowee data is not wholly comparable with previously published data, due to changes in eligibility for Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) (see Explanatory Notes).

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

	October 2012			September 2012	Variation September - October	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>225,912</b>	<b>145,031</b>	<b>80,881</b>	<b>227,235</b>	<b>-1,323</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	422	311	111	429	-7	-1.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,023	6,760	5,263	12,538	-515	-4.1
Received a payment	213,467	137,960	75,507	214,268	-801	-0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,403	2,029	4,374	6,383	20	0.3
Other activities without job search (d)	33,943	20,841	13,102	34,763	-820	-2.4
Incapacitated (e)	24,922	14,594	10,328	25,257	-335	-1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	14,371	8,475	5,896	14,414	-43	-0.3
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>133,828</b>	<b>92,021</b>	<b>41,807</b>	<b>133,451</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>29,987</i>	<i>17,617</i>	<i>12,370</i>	<i>30,174</i>	<i>-187</i>	<i>-0.6</i>
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>354,955</b>	<b>192,327</b>	<b>162,628</b>	<b>353,622</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>0.4</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	2,107	1,404	703	2,125	-18	-0.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,569	5,621	6,948	13,693	-1,124	-8.2
Received a payment	340,279	185,302	154,977	337,804	2,475	0.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	28,962	9,931	19,031	28,379	583	2.1
Other activities without job search (d)	80,812	41,668	39,144	80,732	80	0.1
Incapacitated (e)	36,248	18,715	17,533	36,326	-78	-0.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	31,191	15,829	15,362	30,960	231	0.7
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>163,066</b>	<b>99,159</b>	<b>63,907</b>	<b>161,407</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>97,122</i>	<i>51,494</i>	<i>45,628</i>	<i>95,467</i>	<i>1,655</i>	<i>1.7</i>
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>580,867</b>	<b>337,358</b>	<b>243,509</b>	<b>580,857</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.0</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	2,529	1,715	814	2,554	-25	-1.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	24,592	12,381	12,211	26,231	-1,639	-6.2
Received a payment	553,746	323,262	230,484	552,072	1,674	0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	35,365	11,960	23,405	34,762	603	1.7
Other activities without job search (d)	114,755	62,509	52,246	115,495	-740	-0.6
Incapacitated (e)	61,170	33,309	27,861	61,583	-413	-0.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	45,562	24,304	21,258	45,374	188	0.4
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>296,894</b>	<b>191,180</b>	<b>105,714</b>	<b>294,858</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>127,109</i>	<i>69,111</i>	<i>57,998</i>	<i>125,641</i>	<i>1,468</i>	<i>1.2</i>

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

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

(c) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.

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

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	October 2012			September 2012	Variation September - October	
	Persons	Males	Females		Number	Percent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>37,688</b>	<b>21,467</b>	<b>16,221</b>	<b>37,078</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>1.6</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	29	18	11	26	3	11.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	721	339	382	675	46	6.8
Received a payment	36,938	21,110	15,828	36,377	561	1.5
Other activities without job search (c)	18,251	10,843	7,408	18,063	188	1.0
Incapacitated (d)	2,015	1,020	995	1,962	53	2.7
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,861	959	902	1,814	47	2.6
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>14,811</b>	<b>8,288</b>	<b>6,523</b>	<b>14,538</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>1.9</b>
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>12,271</i>	<i>6,851</i>	<i>5,420</i>	<i>11,899</i>	<i>372</i>	<i>3.1</i>
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>50,486</b>	<b>25,444</b>	<b>25,042</b>	<b>50,137</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>0.7</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	65	45	20	67	-2	-3.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,164	486	678	1,135	29	2.6
Received a payment	49,257	24,913	24,344	48,935	322	0.7
Other activities without job search (c)	23,405	12,234	11,171	23,308	97	0.4
Incapacitated (d)	2,481	1,068	1,413	2,476	5	0.2
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,174	912	1,262	2,141	33	1.5
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>21,197</b>	<b>10,699</b>	<b>10,498</b>	<b>21,010</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>19,884</i>	<i>9,792</i>	<i>10,092</i>	<i>19,533</i>	<i>351</i>	<i>1.8</i>
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>88,174</b>	<b>46,911</b>	<b>41,263</b>	<b>87,215</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1.1</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	94	63	31	93	1	1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,885	825	1,060	1,810	75	4.1
Received a payment	86,195	46,023	40,172	85,312	883	1.0
Other activities without job search (c)	41,656	23,077	18,579	41,371	285	0.7
Incapacitated (d)	4,496	2,088	2,408	4,438	58	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,035	1,871	2,164	3,955	80	2.0
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>36,008</b>	<b>18,987</b>	<b>17,021</b>	<b>35,548</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>32,155</i>	<i>16,643</i>	<i>15,512</i>	<i>31,432</i>	<i>723</i>	<i>2.3</i>

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

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

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

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	<b>Short-term</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	<b>Total</b>
October 2010	138,927	163,953	302,880
November 2010	135,199	162,796	297,995
December 2010	141,518	176,994	318,512
January 2011	152,223	184,087	336,310
February 2011	154,600	186,195	340,795
March 2011	145,887	179,041	324,928
April 2011	143,728	175,953	319,681
May 2011	143,422	174,297	317,719
June 2011	142,149	173,418	315,567
July 2011	140,875	173,761	314,636
August 2011	134,716	169,262	303,978
September 2011	132,079	167,384	299,463
October 2011	130,980	166,799	297,779
November 2011	129,846	166,266	296,112
December 2011	135,882	181,357	317,239
January 2012	146,931	188,773	335,704
February 2012	150,028	189,447	339,475
March 2012	147,524	185,409	332,933
April 2012	147,809	184,581	332,390
May 2012	148,032	182,654	330,686
June 2012	149,587	182,435	332,022
July 2012	152,845	186,422	339,267
August 2012	148,597	182,177	330,774
September 2012	147,989	182,417	330,406
October 2012	148,639	184,263	332,902
Variation September 2012 - October 2012			
Number	650	1846	2496
Per cent	0.4	1.0	0.8

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>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	42,844	42,801	-43	-0.1
Victoria	36,720	36,991	271	0.7
Queensland	35,561	35,591	30	0.1
South Australia	11,896	12,003	107	0.9
Western Australia	12,768	13,026	258	2.0
Tasmania	4,501	4,477	-24	-0.5
Northern Territory	2,491	2,547	56	2.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,206	1,203	-3	-0.2
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>147,989</b>	<b>148,639</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	57,372	57,964	592	1.0
Victoria	39,856	40,135	279	0.7
Queensland	41,098	41,426	328	0.8
South Australia	16,779	16,958	179	1.1
Western Australia	14,093	14,253	160	1.1
Tasmania	7,003	7,133	130	1.9
Northern Territory	5,009	5,113	104	2.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,206	1,281	75	6.2
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>182,417</b>	<b>184,263</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>TOTAL JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	100,216	100,765	549	0.5
Victoria	76,576	77,126	550	0.7
Queensland	76,659	77,017	358	0.5
South Australia	28,675	28,961	286	1.0
Western Australia	26,861	27,279	418	1.6
Tasmania	11,504	11,610	106	0.9
Northern Territory	7,500	7,660	160	2.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,412	2,484	72	3.0
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>330,406</b>	<b>332,902</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>0.8</b>

Notes:

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

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

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
<b>MALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	893	0.9	618	0.6	1,511	0.7
18 - 20 years	6,127	6.1	9,034	8.2	15,161	7.2
21 - 24 years	17,020	17.0	17,560	16.0	34,580	16.5
25 - 29 years	17,209	17.2	17,015	15.5	34,224	16.3
30 - 39 years	24,957	24.9	25,444	23.2	50,401	24.0
40 - 49 years	18,285	18.2	20,692	18.8	38,977	18.5
50 - 59 years	11,833	11.8	14,330	13.0	26,163	12.4
60 years and over	3,987	4.0	5,167	4.7	9,154	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,311</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>109,860</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>210,171</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	809	1.7	734	1.0	1,543	1.3
18 - 20 years	4,813	10.0	8,842	11.9	13,655	11.1
21 - 24 years	8,703	18.0	11,454	15.4	20,157	16.4
25 - 29 years	6,320	13.1	7,790	10.5	14,110	11.5
30 - 39 years	8,149	16.9	13,059	17.6	21,208	17.3
40 - 49 years	9,650	20.0	17,153	23.1	26,803	21.8
50 - 59 years	7,828	16.2	12,582	16.9	20,410	16.6
60 years and over	2,056	4.3	2,789	3.7	4,845	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,328</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>74,403</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>122,731</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,702	1.1	1,352	0.7	3,054	0.9
18 - 20 years	10,940	7.4	17,876	9.7	28,816	8.7
21 - 24 years	25,723	17.3	29,014	15.7	54,737	16.4
25 - 29 years	23,529	15.8	24,805	13.5	48,334	14.5
30 - 39 years	33,106	22.3	38,503	20.9	71,609	21.5
40 - 49 years	27,935	18.8	37,845	20.5	65,780	19.8
50 - 59 years	19,661	13.2	26,912	14.6	46,573	14.0
60 years and over	6,043	4.1	7,956	4.3	13,999	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,639</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>184,263</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>332,902</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY</i></b>				
AS1 Community Team	21	<20	na	na
Bankstown	3,213	3,228	15	0.5
Bondi Junction	968	1,032	64	6.6
Burwood	1,522	1,516	-6	-0.4
Campsie	1,953	1,970	17	0.9
Caringbah	745	763	18	2.4
Chatswood	1,178	1,158	-20	-1.7
Darlinghurst	1,304	1,359	55	4.2
Hornsby	963	970	7	0.7
Hurstville	1,413	1,437	24	1.7
Lakemba	20	21	%	%
Leichhardt	1,102	1,127	25	2.3
Maroubra	1,265	1,302	37	2.9
Marrickville	1,279	1,295	16	1.3
Northern Beaches	1,125	1,118	-7	-0.6
Redfern	1,248	1,283	35	2.8
Rockdale	1,330	1,366	36	2.7
Ryde	997	1,011	14	1.4
Sutherland	729	749	20	2.7
Other (a)	15	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,390</b>	<b>22,735</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>1.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>CENTRAL NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Auburn	1,902	1,896	-6	-0.3
Bathurst	690	699	9	1.3
Blacktown	2,649	2,594	-55	-2.1
Bourke	421	417	-4	-1.0
Cabramatta	1,907	1,889	-18	-0.9
Camden	550	558	8	1.5
Campbelltown	1,796	1,760	-36	-2.0
Dubbo	1,630	1,623	-7	-0.4
Fairfield	2,285	2,265	-20	-0.9
Hawkesbury	730	743	13	1.8
Ingleburn	1,132	1,140	8	0.7
Katoomba	475	493	18	3.8
Lightning Ridge	178	181	3	1.7
Lithgow	462	456	-6	-1.3
Liverpool	2,778	2,740	-38	-1.4
Mt Druitt	2,185	2,174	-11	-0.5
Mudgee	414	434	20	4.8
Orange	654	649	-5	-0.8
Penrith	1,451	1,486	35	2.4
Springwood	326	329	3	0.9
St Marys	1,281	1,243	-38	-3.0
Walgett	222	218	-4	-1.8
Other (a)	4	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,122</b>	<b>25,993</b>	<b>-129</b>	<b>-0.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>MID COAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Baulkham Hills	766	783	17	2.2
Cessnock	574	582	8	1.4
Charlestown	1,357	1,356	-1	-0.1
Comm Support Team	<20	20	na	na
Ettalong	555	589	34	6.1
Forster	690	680	-10	-1.4
Gosford	1,343	1,367	24	1.8
King Street	956	956	0	0.0
Kurri Kurri	333	348	15	4.5
Lakehaven	1,361	1,358	-3	-0.2
Maitland	936	995	59	6.3
Mayfield	912	921	9	1.0
Merrylands	1,791	1,780	-11	-0.6
Muswellbrook	380	380	0	0.0
Nelson Bay	428	415	-13	-3.0
Parramatta	1,988	1,973	-15	-0.8
Raymond Terrace	698	697	-1	-0.1
Singleton	179	185	6	3.4
Taree	1,309	1,309	0	0.0
The Entrance	1,154	1,123	-31	-2.7
Toronto	684	681	-3	-0.4
Wallsend	957	1,018	61	6.4
Woy Woy	449	462	13	2.9
Wyong	619	608	-11	-1.8
Other (a)	na	0	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,439</b>	<b>20,586</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>0.7</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Batemans Bay	599	579	-20	-3.3
Bega	585	587	2	0.3
Belconnen	752	784	32	4.3
Bowral	371	381	10	2.7
Canberra City	642	652	10	1.6
Cooma	264	273	9	3.4
Corrimal	935	956	21	2.2
Cowra	330	335	5	1.5
Dapto	950	963	13	1.4
Goulburn	593	587	-6	-1.0
Griffith	457	464	7	1.5
Gungahlin	206	211	5	2.4
Leeton	325	313	-12	-3.7
Narooma	255	277	22	8.6
Nowra	1,545	1,545	0	0.0
Parkes	625	644	19	3.0
Queanbeyan	375	367	-8	-2.1
Shellharbour	1,166	1,167	1	0.1
Tuggeranong	480	500	20	4.2
Tumut	238	238	0	0.0
Ulladulla	424	430	6	1.4
Wagga	1,080	1,098	18	1.7
Woden	305	311	6	2.0
Wollongong	1,147	1,178	31	2.7
Yass	77	83	%	%
Young	452	463	11	2.4
Other (a)	4	6	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,182</b>	<b>15,392</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Airport West	950	921	-29	-3.1
Albury	2,086	2,060	-26	-1.2
Box Hill	1,864	1,861	-3	-0.2
Broadmeadows	3,164	3,186	22	0.7
Darebin	2,166	2,157	-9	-0.4
Deniliquin	182	186	4	2.2
Echuca	467	479	12	2.6
Epping	2,271	2,230	-41	-1.8
Greensborough	1,273	1,315	42	3.3
Heidelberg	1,118	1,119	1	0.1
Moreland	2,295	2,336	41	1.8
Newmarket	1,379	1,405	26	1.9
Seymour	601	574	-27	-4.5
Shepparton	1,804	1,802	-2	-0.1
Sth Melbourne	778	808	30	3.9
Sunbury	706	696	-10	-1.4
Wangaratta	1,344	1,370	26	1.9
Windsor Vic	1,914	1,954	40	2.1
Yarra	1,842	1,870	28	1.5
Other (a)	10	14	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,214</b>	<b>28,343</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>0.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>EASTERN VICTORIA</i></b>				
Bairnsdale	776	820	44	5.7
Belgrave	374	393	19	5.1
Boronia	919	938	19	2.1
Cheltenham	1,414	1,425	11	0.8
Cranbourne	1,291	1,312	21	1.6
Dandenong	2,218	2,270	52	2.3
Fountain Gate	1,770	1,737	-33	-1.9
Frankston	2,211	2,139	-72	-3.3
Glen Waverley	915	922	7	0.8
Hastings	563	568	5	0.9
Lilydale	1,080	1,089	9	0.8
Mornington	449	466	17	3.8
Morwell	2,186	2,172	-14	-0.6
Oakleigh	1,305	1,323	18	1.4
Pakenham	782	827	45	5.8
Ringwood	1,384	1,390	6	0.4
Rosebud	643	669	26	4.0
Rowville	558	576	18	3.2
Sale	637	639	2	0.3
Springvale	1,492	1,488	-4	-0.3
Warragul	575	587	12	2.1
Wonthaggi	613	632	19	3.1
Other (a)	0	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,155</b>	<b>24,383</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>0.9</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b>WEST VICTORIA</b>				
Ararat	185	174	-11	-5.9
Bendigo Central	176	147	-29	-16.5
Ballarat	2,277	2,328	51	2.2
Bendigo	1,951	2,000	49	2.5
Colac	488	476	-12	-2.5
Corio	1,347	1,315	-32	-2.4
Footscray	1,117	1,163	46	4.1
Geelong	2,651	2,674	23	0.9
Hamilton	308	305	-3	-1.0
Horsham	606	592	-14	-2.3
Maryborough	383	376	-7	-1.8
Melton	1,392	1,415	23	1.7
Mildura	1,494	1,508	14	0.9
Newport	907	908	1	0.1
Portland	271	286	15	5.5
Stawell	152	160	8	5.3
Sunshine	2,878	2,907	29	1.0
Swan Hill	667	644	-23	-3.4
Warrnambool	741	723	-18	-2.4
Watergardens	2,731	2,778	47	1.7
Werribee	3,264	3,270	6	0.2
Other (a)	3	2	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,989</b>	<b>26,151</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>0.6</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Atherton	709	708	-1	-0.1
Ayr	281	266	-15	-5.3
Biloela	154	149	-5	-3.2
Bowen	268	271	3	1.1
Cairns Aplin	4,304	4,246	-58	-1.3
Charters Towers	281	278	-3	-1.1
Emerald	254	254	0	0.0
Gladstone	637	632	-5	-0.8
Indigenous Service Centre	1,030	1,012	-18	-1.7
Ingham	249	237	-12	-4.8
Innisfail	745	735	-10	-1.3
Longreach	99	98	%	%
Mackay	1,062	1,080	18	1.7
Mareeba	610	628	18	3.0
Mossman	474	484	10	2.1
Mt Isa	663	718	55	8.3
Normanton	113	115	2	1.8
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	113	119	6	5.3
Palm Island	272	272	0	0.0
Rockhampton	1,580	1,560	-20	-1.3
Thursday Is	338	336	-2	-0.6
Townsville	3,192	3,225	33	1.0
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	370	366	-4	-1.1
Whitsunday	462	447	-15	-3.2
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	484	478	-6	-1.2
Yeppoon	359	344	-15	-4.2
Other (a)	30	41	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,133</b>	<b>19,099</b>	<b>-34</b>	<b>-0.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>SUNSHINE COAST</i></b>				
Bundaberg	2,857	2,864	7	0.2
Caboolture	2,800	2,775	-25	-0.9
Caloundra	1,324	1,298	-26	-2.0
Deception Bay	604	626	22	3.6
Gympie	1,179	1,176	-3	-0.3
Hervey Bay	1,528	1,531	3	0.2
Kawana Waters	656	644	-12	-1.8
Kippa-Ring	1,198	1,175	-23	-1.9
Maroochydore	1,357	1,342	-15	-1.1
Maryborough	1,076	1,072	-4	-0.4
Nambour	900	925	25	2.8
Noosa	1,218	1,230	12	1.0
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,697</b>	<b>16,658</b>	<b>-39</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b><i>PACIFIC COAST</i></b>				
APC Community Team	24	<20	na	na
Ballina	923	933	10	1.1
Biggera Waters	2,579	2,646	67	2.6
Brunswick Heads	629	633	4	0.6
Byron Bay	562	567	5	0.9
Casino	539	548	9	1.7
Coffs Harbour	1,869	1,879	10	0.5
Grafton	773	752	-21	-2.7
Kempsey	817	825	8	1.0
Lismore	1,374	1,384	10	0.7
Murwillumbah	534	540	6	1.1
Nambucca Heads	697	701	4	0.6
Nerang	2,438	2,474	36	1.5
Palm Beach	2,824	2,840	16	0.6
Port Macquarie	1,479	1,441	-38	-2.6
Southport	2,568	2,587	19	0.7
Tweed Heads	1,471	1,492	21	1.4
Yamba	360	365	5	1.4
Other (a)	2	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,462</b>	<b>22,627</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>0.7</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Charleville	117	116	-1	-0.9
Cherbourg	233	237	4	1.7
Chermside	1,158	1,142	-16	-1.4
Dalby	355	351	-4	-1.1
Fortitude Valley	1,096	1,143	47	4.3
Goodna	1,485	1,489	4	0.3
Ipswich	2,640	2,758	118	4.5
Kingaroy	601	602	1	0.2
Mitchelton	1,294	1,291	-3	-0.2
Nundah	1,289	1,297	8	0.6
Roma	98	98	%	%
South Brisbane	870	875	5	0.6
Stones Corner	1,724	1,738	14	0.8
Strathpine	1,473	1,471	-2	-0.1
Toowong	1,101	1,107	6	0.5
Toowoomba	1,633	1,629	-4	-0.2
Other (a)	221	221	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,388</b>	<b>17,565</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></b>				
Berri	824	828	4	0.5
Broken Hill	643	654	11	1.7
Ceduna	287	299	12	4.2
Cooper Pedy	160	172	12	7.5
Elizabeth	2,400	2,436	36	1.5
Enfield	1,388	1,422	34	2.4
Gawler	1,083	1,107	24	2.2
Glenelg	784	806	22	2.8
Kadina	620	614	-6	-1.0
Kilkenny	1,291	1,311	20	1.5
Marion	1,973	2,001	28	1.4
Modbury	1,859	1,847	-12	-0.6
Mt Barker	665	660	-5	-0.8
Mt Gambier	1,270	1,268	-2	-0.2
Murray Bridge	892	881	-11	-1.2
Noarlunga	2,559	2,538	-21	-0.8
Norwood	1,662	1,685	23	1.4
Port Adelaide	1,307	1,323	16	1.2
Port Augusta	614	650	36	5.9
Port Lincoln	514	502	-12	-2.3
Port Pirie	807	826	19	2.4
Salisbury	2,506	2,541	35	1.4
Torrens ville	1,408	1,427	19	1.3
Victor Harbor	709	722	13	1.8
Whyalla	742	735	-7	-0.9
Other (a)	0	0	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,967</b>	<b>29,255</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>1.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>				
Albany	910	933	23	2.5
Armadale	1,113	1,146	33	3.0
Bunbury	1,528	1,555	27	1.8
Busselton	813	826	13	1.6
Cannington	1,455	1,479	24	1.6
Carnarvon	278	289	11	4.0
Cocos Islands	20	<20	na	na
Esperance	251	255	4	1.6
Fremantle	1,090	1,135	45	4.1
Geraldton	1,117	1,131	14	1.3
Gosnells	1,017	1,029	12	1.2
Innaloo	1,079	1,072	-7	-0.6
Joondalup	1,461	1,475	14	1.0
Kalgoorlie	613	602	-11	-1.8
Karratha	402	408	6	1.5
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	114	115	1	0.9
Mandurah	1,255	1,253	-2	-0.2
Meekatharra	216	218	2	0.9
Midland	1,369	1,424	55	4.0
Mirrabooka	1,714	1,751	37	2.2
Morley	1,547	1,547	0	0.0
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	126	137	11	8.7
Northam	835	830	-5	-0.6
Rockingham	1,547	1,572	25	1.6
South Hedland	324	320	-4	-1.2
Spearwood	959	972	13	1.4
Victoria Park	1,579	1,606	27	1.7
Warwick Grove	653	654	1	0.2
Other (a)	14	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,399</b>	<b>25,766</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>1.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b>TASMANIA</b>				
Bridgewater	1,016	1,026	10	1.0
Burnie	1,324	1,304	-20	-1.5
Devonport	1,383	1,385	2	0.1
Glenorchy	1,276	1,320	44	3.4
Hobart	1,242	1,214	-28	-2.3
Huonville	344	345	1	0.3
Launceston	3,683	3,743	60	1.6
Rosny Park	863	898	35	4.1
Sorell	386	388	2	0.5
Other (a)	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,517</b>	<b>11,623</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>NORTH AUSTRALIA</b>				
Alice Springs	448	487	39	8.7
Borroloola	67	68	%	%
Broome	488	503	15	3.1
Casuarina	591	585	-6	-1.0
Central Aust RST	2,068	2,125	57	2.8
Derby	206	216	10	4.9
Fitzroy Crossing	106	106	0	0.0
Halls Creek	227	233	6	2.6
Katherine	295	300	5	1.7
Knuckey Street	324	356	32	9.9
Kununurra	288	283	-5	-1.7
Maningrida	274	285	11	4.0
Nhulunbuy	91	99	%	%
Palmerston	677	650	-27	-4.0
Tangentyere	131	121	-10	-7.6
Tennant Creek	193	205	12	6.2
Tiwi Islands	187	187	0	0.0
Top End Hub	2,297	2,375	78	3.4
Wadeye	273	261	-12	-4.4
Yuendumu	66	75	%	%
Other (a)	21	22	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,318</b>	<b>9,542</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>2.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Service Zone and Service Centre</i>	September 2012	October 2012	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<b><i>BORDER RANGES</i></b>				
Armidale	738	759	21	2.8
Beautesert	483	485	2	0.4
Beenleigh	1,839	1,890	51	2.8
Browns Plains	1,785	1,798	13	0.7
Capalaba	756	730	-26	-3.4
Cleveland	810	805	-5	-0.6
Glen Innes	241	250	9	3.7
Goondiwindi	345	338	-7	-2.0
Gunnedah	347	350	3	0.9
Inala	1,609	1,645	36	2.2
Inverell	516	523	7	1.4
Moree	395	382	-13	-3.3
Mt Gravatt	1,931	1,971	40	2.1
Narrabri	240	247	7	2.9
Stanthorpe	375	354	-21	-5.6
Tamworth	1,467	1,479	12	0.8
Warwick	438	436	-2	-0.5
Woodridge	1,954	1,999	45	2.3
Wynnum	805	788	-17	-2.1
Other (a)	1	1	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,075</b>	<b>17,230</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b><i>OTHER</i></b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	3	3	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	4	1	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-48	-50	%	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>330,406</b>	<b>332,902</b>	<b>2,496</b>	<b>0.8</b>

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

Notes:

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



**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)  
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 19 OCTOBER 2012**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	86.6	82.8	84.6
Earned an income	13.4	17.2	15.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.9	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.5	2.1	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.1	2.8	2.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.6	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	7.8	9.5	8.7
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>100,266</b>	<b>110,012</b>	<b>210,278</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.3	71.9	73.6
Earned an income	23.7	28.1	26.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.3	2.9	2.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.1	3.8	3.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	3.0	2.8
Over \$316.00	15.0	17.5	16.5
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>48,382</b>	<b>74,516</b>	<b>122,898</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	83.2	78.4	80.5
Earned an income	16.8	21.6	19.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.9	0.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.8	2.4	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.4	3.2	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.4	2.1
Over \$316.00	10.1	12.7	11.6
<b>Total</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>148,648</b>	<b>184,528</b>	<b>333,176</b>

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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

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

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

### Scope

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

### Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

## **Payment History**

### *Youth Allowance*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Newstart Allowance*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Youth Training Allowance*

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

*Widow Allowance*

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

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

*Mature Age Allowance*

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

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

**Comparability of Data**

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

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

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

*Definition of Recipients*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Symbols**

n.a. not available  
.. not applicable

## GLOSSARY

<b>Activity test status</b>	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
<b>Age</b>	Age in years at time of data collection.
<b>Area Support Office</b>	The term Area Support Office was replaced by Service Zone in July 2011.
<b>Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)</b>	The CDEP program is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.
<b>CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)</b>	The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.
<b>Customer Service Centre</b>	Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.
<b>Did not receive a payment</b>	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.
<b>Fortnightly earnings</b>	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
<b>Incapacitated</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.
<b>Job seeker</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
<b>Long-term recipients</b>	Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
<b>Newstart Allowance (NSA)</b>	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 22 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
<b>Partner Allowance (PA)</b>	From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.



	<p>Partner Allowance was for dependent partners of pensioners and allowees. Partners had to be born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Partner Allowance had no job search requirement. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Service Centre</b>	<p>A Service Centre that provides FaHCSIA, DEEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones.</p>
<b>Service Zone</b>	<p>A set of Service Centres, grouped together for operational purposes on a geographic basis. Service Zones replaced Areas and Area Support Offices in July 2011.</p>
<b>Short-term recipients</b>	<p>Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.</p>
<b>Widow Allowance (WA)</b>	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.</p> <p>Widow Allowance, a non-activity tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Youth Training Allowance (YTA)</b>	<p>From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Youth Allowance (YA)</b>	<p>Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 21 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p> <p>Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.</p> <p>To receive Youth Allowance young people under 22 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participate in education and training full-time; or</li> <li>• participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Allowance (other)</b>	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.</p>
<b>Zero paid</b>	<p>See 'Did not receive a payment'.</p>

## APPENDIX

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

<b>Official statistics</b>	Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Organization which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.
<b>ABS definition</b>	The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.
<b>DEEWR Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics</b>	The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.
<b>Differences</b>	Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DEEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEEWR and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEEWR measures duration of <b>income support</b>. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time <b>unemployed</b> using their unemployment definition.</p> <p>DEEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and still be classified as long-term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.</li><li>• Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.</li></ul>

For the ABS statistics, any hours of work for a period as short as two weeks count as a break from unemployment and so are enough to reset a person's unemployment duration.

The difference between these two concepts, together with the fact that DEEWR recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DEEWR as long-term recipients when they would be classified as short-term unemployed under the ABS definition.

*Seasonal adjustment*

The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The DEEWR labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.

*Classification*

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

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

*Employment*

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

*Timing*

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

*Treatment of partners*

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

*Pensioners*

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

<i>Non job seekers</i>	The overall Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series includes persons who are not required to undertake jobsearch. These persons are separately identified in Tables 2 and 3, and have then been excluded in subsequent tables. These people may be undertaking training, the development of self-employment opportunities, full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work which excludes them from jobsearch obligations. They may also be incapacitated or have another temporary exemption from jobsearch.
<i>Waiting periods</i>	The ABS series includes persons who are serving a waiting period before being granted Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other), or whose allowance was deferred.
<i>Survey</i>	The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the DEEWR statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **Labour market information**

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

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

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

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

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

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

### **Other recipient information**

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

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