

# **Labour Market and Related Payments**

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## **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 Social Services (DSS) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

This publication can be found on the Department of Social Services website at [DSS - Labour Market and Related Payments Publication](http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp) (<http://www.dss.gov.au/lmrp>).

**October 2015**

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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 Social Services (DSS). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

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 DSS Media Team on (02) 6146 3242. 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 December 2015.

# Statistical Highlights – October 2015

## Between October 2014 and October 2015

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 1.0 per cent** overall from 832 263 to 840 750.

- NSA recipients increased 2.3 per cent from 729 549 to 746 317.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 8.1 per cent from 102 714 to 94 433.

The number of job seekers **increased 29.1 per cent** overall from 398 760 to 514 923.

- NSA job seekers increased 25.9 per cent from 350 396 to 441 240.
- YA(o) job seekers increased 52.4 per cent from 48 364 to 73 683.

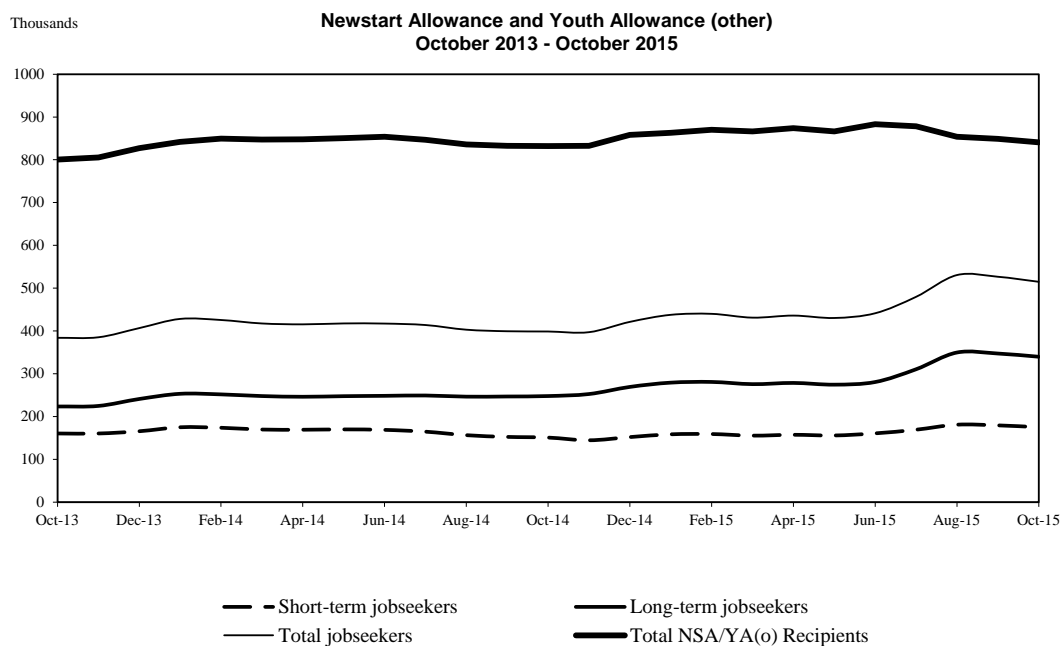
Long-term job seekers increased 37.1 per cent from 247 895 to 339 772.

Short-term job seekers increased 16.1 per cent from 150 865 to 175 151.

NOTE: On 1 July 2015, a new employment services model ‘jobactive’ was introduced. ‘jobactive’ replaced Job Services Australia and has a stronger focus on job search and finding and keeping employment. Job seeker numbers have increased, as more recipients have a job search requirement under the new model.

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

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



**Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series**

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..
October 2013	456,087	695,797	104,790	243,165	6,830	9,728	26,420
November 2013	460,205	701,640	103,758	220,015	6,374	9,697	26,674
December 2013	468,076	711,438	115,601	185,423	6,357	9,652	26,894
January 2014	477,743	726,740	115,310	180,207	6,219	9,472	26,777
February 2014	482,383	732,654	116,570	198,165	6,496	9,224	26,575
March 2014	485,069	733,601	113,456	216,363	6,682	9,002	26,423
April 2014	486,898	734,866	112,776	228,852	6,736	8,769	26,280
May 2014	490,612	738,128	112,274	238,592	6,890	8,513	25,961
June 2014	495,633	741,051	112,705	239,768	7,055	8,289	25,674
July 2014	495,895	734,817	111,765	227,625	6,909	8,065	25,317
August 2014	498,293	729,716	106,332	236,156	6,762	7,818	24,980
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
December 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
January 2015	532,903	754,340	108,657	173,161	5,502	6,756	23,604
February 2015	537,533	760,149	109,888	188,529	5,417	6,552	23,336
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
Variation September 2015 - October 2015							
Number	-1,294	-5,154	-3,260	-1,716	-227	-172	-329
Per cent	-0.2	-0.7	-3.3	-0.7	-4.4	-3.3	-1.6

## 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**

Newstart Allowance	October 2015 Persons	October 2015 Males	October 2015 Females	September 2015	Variation September - October Number	Variation September - October per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>208,838</b>	<b>130,463</b>	<b>78,375</b>	<b>212,698</b>	<b>-3,860</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,515	6,484	5,031	12,040	-525	-4.4
Received a payment	197,323	123,979	73,344	200,658	-3,335	-1.7
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	7,676	2,140	5,536	6,875	801	11.7
Other activities without job search (d)	11,299	6,095	5,204	12,005	-706	-5.9
Incapacitated (e)	22,555	13,148	9,407	22,430	125	0.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,075	6,821	5,254	12,386	-311	-2.5
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>143,718</b>	<b>95,775</b>	<b>47,943</b>	<b>146,962</b>	<b>-3,244</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (h)	28,792	16,035	12,757	28,104	688	2.4
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>537,479</b>	<b>259,364</b>	<b>278,115</b>	<b>538,773</b>	<b>-1,294</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	19,067	7,934	11,133	20,346	-1,279	-6.3
Received a payment	518,412	251,430	266,982	518,427	-15	0.0
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	65,805	14,389	51,416	59,657	6,148	10.3
Other activities without job search (d)	60,419	29,116	31,303	61,951	-1,532	-2.5
Incapacitated (e)	47,339	23,403	23,936	45,535	1,804	4.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	47,327	21,549	25,778	47,435	-108	-0.2
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>297,522</b>	<b>162,973</b>	<b>134,549</b>	<b>303,849</b>	<b>-6,327</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (h)	143,542	69,586	73,956	136,233	7,309	5.4
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>746,317</b>	<b>389,827</b>	<b>356,490</b>	<b>751,471</b>	<b>-5,154</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	30,582	14,418	16,164	32,386	-1,804	-5.6
Received a payment	715,735	375,409	340,326	719,085	-3,350	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	73,481	16,529	56,952	66,532	6,949	10.4
Other activities without job search (d)	71,718	35,211	36,507	73,956	-2,238	-3.0
Incapacitated (e)	69,894	36,551	33,343	67,965	1,929	2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	59,402	28,370	31,032	59,821	-419	-0.7
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>441,240</b>	<b>258,748</b>	<b>182,492</b>	<b>450,811</b>	<b>-9,571</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
All NSA training/education (h)	172,334	85,621	86,713	164,337	7,997	4.9

(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**

Youth Allowance (other)	October 2015 Persons	October 2015 Males	October 2015 Females	September 2015	Variation September - October Number	Variation September - October per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>39,231</b>	<b>21,863</b>	<b>17,368</b>	<b>40,881</b>	<b>-1,650</b>	<b>-4.0</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,025	447	578	1,032	-7	-0.7
Received a payment	38,206	21,416	16,790	39,849	-1,643	-4.1
Other activities without job search (c)	3,339	1,947	1,392	3,947	-608	-15.4
Incapacitated (d)	1,946	970	976	1,893	53	2.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,488	691	797	1,564	-76	-4.9
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>31,433</b>	<b>17,808</b>	<b>13,625</b>	<b>32,445</b>	<b>-1,012</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)	10,780	5,885	4,895	10,830	-50	-0.5
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>55,202</b>	<b>28,522</b>	<b>26,680</b>	<b>56,812</b>	<b>-1,610</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,516	578	938	1,473	43	2.9
Received a payment	53,686	27,944	25,742	55,339	-1,653	-3.0
Other activities without job search (c)	6,339	3,505	2,834	6,857	-518	-7.6
Incapacitated (d)	2,537	1,136	1,401	2,504	33	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,560	1,134	1,426	2,550	10	0.4
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>42,250</b>	<b>22,169</b>	<b>20,081</b>	<b>43,428</b>	<b>-1,178</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)	19,654	9,868	9,786	18,918	736	3.9
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>94,433</b>	<b>50,385</b>	<b>44,048</b>	<b>97,693</b>	<b>-3,260</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
CPS Recipients (a)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,541	1,025	1,516	2,505	36	1.4
Received a payment	91,892	49,360	42,532	95,188	-3,296	-3.5
Other activities without job search (c)	9,678	5,452	4,226	10,804	-1,126	-10.4
Incapacitated (d)	4,483	2,106	2,377	4,397	86	2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	4,048	1,825	2,223	4,114	-66	-1.6
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>73,683</b>	<b>39,977</b>	<b>33,706</b>	<b>75,873</b>	<b>-2,190</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
All YA (other) training/education (g)	30,434	15,753	14,681	29,748	686	2.3

(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**

<b>Month/Year</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	<b>Total</b>
October 2013	160,437	223,525	383,962
November 2013	160,424	224,812	385,236
December 2013	165,649	241,054	406,703
January 2014	174,982	253,178	428,160
February 2014	173,817	251,800	425,617
March 2014	169,647	247,876	417,523
April 2014	169,197	246,262	415,459
May 2014	169,980	247,615	417,595
June 2014	168,871	248,406	417,277
July 2014	164,663	249,220	413,883
August 2014	156,467	246,504	402,971
September 2014	152,447	246,892	399,339
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
January 2015	158,486	279,232	437,718
February 2015	159,147	280,864	440,011
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
Variation September 2015 - October 2015			
Number	-4,256	-7,505	-11,761
Per cent	-2.4	-2.2	-2.2

Notes:

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



**Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State**

State	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	47,359	45,725	-1,634	-3.5
Victoria	40,746	39,739	-1,007	-2.5
Queensland	45,540	44,304	-1,236	-2.7
South Australia	15,202	14,950	-252	-1.7
Western Australia	20,728	20,699	-29	-0.1
Tasmania	4,349	4,317	-32	-0.7
Northern Territory	3,775	3,752	-23	-0.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,708	1,665	-43	-2.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>179,407</b>	<b>175,151</b>	<b>-4,256</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	103,223	100,543	-2,680	-2.6
Victoria	77,075	75,141	-1,934	-2.5
Queensland	77,734	75,793	-1,941	-2.5
South Australia	32,091	31,583	-508	-1.6
Western Australia	33,579	33,325	-254	-0.8
Tasmania	11,315	11,162	-153	-1.4
Northern Territory	9,162	9,139	-23	-0.3
Australian Capital Territory	3,098	3,086	-12	-0.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>347,277</b>	<b>339,772</b>	<b>-7,505</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	150,582	146,268	-4,314	-2.9
Victoria	117,821	114,880	-2,941	-2.5
Queensland	123,274	120,097	-3,177	-2.6
South Australia	47,293	46,533	-760	-1.6
Western Australia	54,307	54,024	-283	-0.5
Tasmania	15,664	15,479	-185	-1.2
Northern Territory	12,937	12,891	-46	-0.4
Australian Capital Territory	4,806	4,751	-55	-1.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>526,684</b>	<b>514,923</b>	<b>-11,761</b>	<b>-2.2</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**

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
<b>Males</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,085	1.8	701	0.4	2,786	0.9
18 - 20 years	12,626	11.1	14,951	8.1	27,577	9.2
21 - 24 years	16,147	14.2	27,126	14.7	43,273	14.5
25 - 29 years	16,406	14.4	26,594	14.4	43,000	14.4
30 - 39 years	26,130	23.0	42,510	23.0	68,640	23.0
40 - 49 years	20,448	18.0	36,322	19.6	56,770	19.0
50 - 59 years	14,259	12.6	26,517	14.3	40,776	13.7
60 years and over	5,482	4.8	10,419	5.6	15,901	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,583</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>185,140</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>298,723</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,049	3.3	884	0.6	2,933	1.4
18 - 20 years	9,849	16.0	14,049	9.1	23,898	11.1
21 - 24 years	8,541	13.9	18,775	12.1	27,316	12.6
25 - 29 years	6,713	10.9	14,842	9.6	21,555	10.0
30 - 39 years	9,120	14.8	30,021	19.4	39,141	18.1
40 - 49 years	11,337	18.4	40,993	26.5	52,330	24.2
50 - 59 years	10,193	16.6	27,884	18.0	38,077	17.6
60 years and over	3,766	6.1	7,184	4.6	10,950	5.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,568</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>154,632</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>216,200</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	4,134	2.4	1,585	0.5	5,719	1.1
18 - 20 years	22,475	12.8	29,000	8.5	51,475	10.0
21 - 24 years	24,688	14.1	45,901	13.5	70,589	13.7
25 - 29 years	23,119	13.2	41,436	12.2	64,555	12.5
30 - 39 years	35,250	20.1	72,531	21.3	107,781	20.9
40 - 49 years	31,785	18.1	77,315	22.8	109,100	21.2
50 - 59 years	24,452	14.0	54,401	16.0	78,853	15.3
60 years and over	9,248	5.3	17,603	5.2	26,851	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,151</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>339,772</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>514,923</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

**Table 7a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Sydney Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	4,328	4,221	-107	-2.5
Bondi Junction	1,122	1,068	-54	-4.8
Burwood	1,983	1,870	-113	-5.7
Cabramatta	2,649	2,494	-155	-5.9
Camden	830	799	-31	-3.7
Campbelltown	2,753	2,639	-114	-4.1
Campsie	3,022	2,966	-56	-1.9
Caringbah	860	820	-40	-4.7
Chatswood	1,261	1,226	-35	-2.8
Darlinghurst	1,865	1,803	-62	-3.3
Fairfield	3,514	3,312	-202	-5.7
Hornsby	1,221	1,179	-42	-3.4
Hurstville	1,674	1,607	-67	-4.0
Ingleburn	1,500	1,430	-70	-4.7
Leichhardt	1,588	1,516	-72	-4.5
Liverpool	4,288	4,157	-131	-3.1
Maroubra	1,696	1,648	-48	-2.8
Marrickville	1,253	1,195	-58	-4.6
Northern Beaches	1,574	1,550	-24	-1.5
Redfern	1,895	1,862	-33	-1.7
Rockdale	1,782	1,702	-80	-4.5
Ryde	1,378	1,353	-25	-1.8
Sutherland	864	838	-26	-3.0
Other (a)	10	12	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,910</b>	<b>43,267</b>	<b>-1,643</b>	<b>-3.7</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7b - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

North New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,149	1,103	-46	-4.0
Brunswick Heads	1,189	1,130	-59	-5.0
Byron Bay	278	278	0	0.0
Casino	967	962	-5	-0.5
Cessnock	1,149	1,128	-21	-1.8
Charlestown	2,370	2,323	-47	-2.0
Coffs Harbour	2,518	2,485	-33	-1.3
Comm Support Team	51	48	%	%
Ettalong	907	895	-12	-1.3
Forster	1,063	1,027	-36	-3.4
Gosford	2,076	1,982	-94	-4.5
Grafton	1,159	1,130	-29	-2.5
Kempsey	1,029	1,022	-7	-0.7
King Street	1,532	1,495	-37	-2.4
Kurri Kurri	645	636	-9	-1.4
Lakehaven	2,221	2,152	-69	-3.1
Lismore	2,092	2,140	48	2.3
Maitland	2,148	2,107	-41	-1.9
Mayfield	1,259	1,260	1	0.1
Murwillumbah	848	808	-40	-4.7
Muswellbrook	884	871	-13	-1.5
Nambucca Heads	777	762	-15	-1.9
Nelson Bay	698	659	-39	-5.6
Port Macquarie	2,172	2,097	-75	-3.5
Raymond Terrace	1,380	1,362	-18	-1.3
Singleton	497	479	-18	-3.6
Taree	2,029	2,022	-7	-0.3
The Entrance	1,578	1,553	-25	-1.6
Toronto	1,121	1,109	-12	-1.1
Tweed Heads	1,902	1,824	-78	-4.1
Wallsend	1,935	1,934	-1	-0.1
Woy Woy	648	628	-20	-3.1
Wyong	799	780	-19	-2.4
Yamba	480	446	-34	-7.1
Other (a)	28	30	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,578</b>	<b>42,667</b>	<b>-911</b>	<b>-2.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7c - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,149	1,169	20	1.7
Auburn	2,497	2,447	-50	-2.0
Bathurst	1,023	1,006	-17	-1.7
Baulkham Hills	1,027	996	-31	-3.0
Blacktown	3,878	3,827	-51	-1.3
Bourke	565	545	-20	-3.5
Dubbo	2,795	2,789	-6	-0.2
Glen Innes	439	438	-1	-0.2
Gunnedah	523	514	-9	-1.7
Hawkesbury	1,101	1,059	-42	-3.8
Inverell	863	829	-34	-3.9
Katoomba	811	800	-11	-1.4
Lightning Ridge	241	231	-10	-4.1
Lithgow	836	817	-19	-2.3
Merrylands	2,565	2,476	-89	-3.5
Moree	617	610	-7	-1.1
Mt Druitt	3,103	3,101	-2	-0.1
Mudgee	755	752	-3	-0.4
Narrabri	459	472	13	2.8
Orange	1,355	1,296	-59	-4.4
Parkes	1,070	1,032	-38	-3.6
Parramatta	2,696	2,545	-151	-5.6
Penrith	2,265	2,175	-90	-4.0
Springwood	451	419	-32	-7.1
St Marys	2,034	1,931	-103	-5.1
Tamworth	2,351	2,253	-98	-4.2
Walgett	372	377	5	1.3
Other (a)	7	4	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,848</b>	<b>36,910</b>	<b>-938</b>	<b>-2.5</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7d - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	850	825	-25	-2.9
Bega	797	792	-5	-0.6
Belconnen	1,421	1,399	-22	-1.5
Bowral	527	500	-27	-5.1
Braddon	1,088	1,103	15	1.4
Cooma	394	377	-17	-4.3
Corrimal	1,202	1,157	-45	-3.7
Cowra	589	555	-34	-5.8
Dapto	1,400	1,356	-44	-3.1
Goulburn	929	906	-23	-2.5
Griffith	917	873	-44	-4.8
Gungahlin	614	580	-34	-5.5
Leeton	472	484	12	2.5
Narooma	291	273	-18	-6.2
Nowra	2,287	2,246	-41	-1.8
Queanbeyan	765	756	-9	-1.2
Shellharbour	1,842	1,747	-95	-5.2
Tuggeranong	997	983	-14	-1.4
Tumut	390	364	-26	-6.7
Ulladulla	604	576	-28	-4.6
Wagga	1,815	1,773	-42	-2.3
Woden	640	649	9	1.4
Wollongong	1,759	1,705	-54	-3.1
Yass	135	130	-5	-3.7
Young	705	685	-20	-2.8
Other (a)	16	13	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,446</b>	<b>22,807</b>	<b>-639</b>	<b>-2.7</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7e - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,465	1,444	-21	-1.4
Albury	3,540	3,417	-123	-3.5
Box Hill	2,362	2,338	-24	-1.0
Broadmeadows	5,122	4,971	-151	-2.9
Darebin	3,288	3,251	-37	-1.1
Deniliquin	350	336	-14	-4.0
Echuca	772	730	-42	-5.4
Epping	3,452	3,442	-10	-0.3
Greensborough	1,848	1,820	-28	-1.5
Heidelberg	1,544	1,497	-47	-3.0
Moreland	3,006	2,959	-47	-1.6
Newmarket	1,944	1,919	-25	-1.3
Seymour	989	958	-31	-3.1
Shepparton	2,386	2,347	-39	-1.6
Sth Melbourne	1,262	1,234	-28	-2.2
Sunbury	1,197	1,165	-32	-2.7
Wangaratta	1,638	1,645	7	0.4
Windsor Vic	2,815	2,739	-76	-2.7
Yarra	2,753	2,703	-50	-1.8
Other (a)	61	52	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,794</b>	<b>40,967</b>	<b>-827</b>	<b>-2.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7f - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Eastern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,406	1,372	-34	-2.4
Belgrave	618	574	-44	-7.1
Boronia	1,469	1,438	-31	-2.1
Cheltenham	1,963	1,919	-44	-2.2
Cranbourne	2,355	2,292	-63	-2.7
Dandenong	3,293	3,193	-100	-3.0
Fountain Gate	2,641	2,528	-113	-4.3
Frankston	3,345	3,229	-116	-3.5
Glen Waverley	1,284	1,257	-27	-2.1
Hastings	812	783	-29	-3.6
Lilydale	1,681	1,646	-35	-2.1
Mornington	674	639	-35	-5.2
Morwell	3,547	3,469	-78	-2.2
Oakleigh	1,941	1,892	-49	-2.5
Pakenham	1,203	1,200	-3	-0.2
Ringwood	2,183	2,185	2	0.1
Rosebud	1,040	1,011	-29	-2.8
Rowville	725	695	-30	-4.1
Sale	1,128	1,127	-1	-0.1
Springvale	2,407	2,255	-152	-6.3
Warragul	893	856	-37	-4.1
Wonthaggi	1,175	1,093	-82	-7.0
Other (a)	5	5	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,788</b>	<b>36,658</b>	<b>-1,130</b>	<b>-3.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



**Table 7g - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

West Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	324	335	11	3.4
Ballarat	3,762	3,698	-64	-1.7
Bendigo	3,704	3,651	-53	-1.4
Colac	670	640	-30	-4.5
Corio	2,202	2,160	-42	-1.9
Footscray	1,945	1,887	-58	-3.0
Geelong	3,730	3,698	-32	-0.9
Hamilton	444	421	-23	-5.2
Horsham	842	814	-28	-3.3
Maryborough	777	782	5	0.6
Melton	2,465	2,352	-113	-4.6
Mildura	2,324	2,262	-62	-2.7
Newport	1,389	1,331	-58	-4.2
Portland	442	442	0	0.0
Stawell	195	204	9	4.6
Sunshine	4,229	4,112	-117	-2.8
Swan Hill	888	900	12	1.4
Warrnambool	990	969	-21	-2.1
Watergardens	4,239	4,053	-186	-4.4
Werribee	5,415	5,173	-242	-4.5
West Victoria	21	<20	na	na
Other (a)	16	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,013</b>	<b>39,918</b>	<b>-1,095</b>	<b>-2.7</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7h - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Northern Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	988	955	-33	-3.3
Ayr	519	507	-12	-2.3
Biloela	295	285	-10	-3.4
Bowen	544	523	-21	-3.9
Cairns Aplin	6,025	5,779	-246	-4.1
Charters Towers	533	535	2	0.4
Emerald	664	641	-23	-3.5
Gladstone	1,697	1,735	38	2.2
Indigenous Service Centre	1,785	1,760	-25	-1.4
Ingham	438	425	-13	-3.0
Innisfail	1,139	1,060	-79	-6.9
Longreach	193	198	5	2.6
Mackay	3,262	3,200	-62	-1.9
Mareeba	949	955	6	0.6
Mossman	663	650	-13	-2.0
Mt Isa	1,027	1,031	4	0.4
Normanton	164	173	9	5.5
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	251	223	-28	-11.2
Palm Island	419	377	-42	-10.0
Rockhampton	3,121	3,138	17	0.5
Thursday Is	225	245	20	8.9
Townsville	6,313	6,206	-107	-1.7
Townsville Walker	20	<20	na	na
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	558	544	-14	-2.5
Whitsunday	737	720	-17	-2.3
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	538	515	-23	-4.3
Yeppoon	780	759	-21	-2.7
Other (a)	100	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,947</b>	<b>33,257</b>	<b>-690</b>	<b>-2.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7i - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Central Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	4,008	4,007	-1	0.0
Caboolture	4,524	4,396	-128	-2.8
Caloundra	1,854	1,828	-26	-1.4
Cherbourg	361	357	-4	-1.1
Chermside	1,598	1,570	-28	-1.8
Deception Bay	2,482	2,295	-187	-7.5
Fortitude Valley	1,678	1,656	-22	-1.3
Gympie	1,870	1,891	21	1.1
Hervey Bay	2,269	2,242	-27	-1.2
Kawana Waters	897	872	-25	-2.8
Kingaroy	1,011	1,009	-2	-0.2
Margate	718	840	122	17.0
Maroochydore	2,061	1,970	-91	-4.4
Maryborough	1,726	1,700	-26	-1.5
Mitchelton	1,870	1,845	-25	-1.3
Mt Gravatt	3,054	2,997	-57	-1.9
Nambour	1,388	1,347	-41	-3.0
Noosa	1,262	1,210	-52	-4.1
Nundah	1,859	1,838	-21	-1.1
South Brisbane	1,368	1,356	-12	-0.9
Stones Corner	2,319	2,244	-75	-3.2
Strathpine	2,593	2,585	-8	-0.3
Toowong	1,469	1,406	-63	-4.3
Other (a)	21	22	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,260</b>	<b>43,483</b>	<b>-777</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7j - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre**

South Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	860	855	-5	-0.6
Beenleigh	3,320	3,259	-61	-1.8
Biggera Waters	4,350	4,055	-295	-6.8
Browns Plains	2,790	2,664	-126	-4.5
Capalaba	1,063	1,042	-21	-2.0
Charleville	281	297	16	5.7
Cleveland	1,377	1,317	-60	-4.4
Dalby	886	872	-14	-1.6
Goodna	2,468	2,379	-89	-3.6
Goondiwindi	491	458	-33	-6.7
Inala	2,885	2,814	-71	-2.5
Ipswich	4,743	4,642	-101	-2.1
Nerang	4,303	4,048	-255	-5.9
Palm Beach	4,413	4,242	-171	-3.9
Roma	238	242	4	1.7
Southport	495	522	27	5.5
Stanthorpe	526	514	-12	-2.3
Toowoomba	3,763	3,583	-180	-4.8
Warwick	626	592	-34	-5.4
Woodridge	3,249	3,196	-53	-1.6
Wynnum	1,309	1,231	-78	-6.0
Other (a)	45	40	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,481</b>	<b>42,864</b>	<b>-1,617</b>	<b>-3.6</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7k - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

South Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,278	1,261	-17	-1.3
Broken Hill	1,024	1,038	14	1.4
Ceduna	439	394	-45	-10.3
Cooper Pedy	198	198	0	0.0
Elizabeth	4,706	4,678	-28	-0.6
Enfield	2,269	2,211	-58	-2.6
Gawler	1,885	1,870	-15	-0.8
Glenelg	1,129	1,097	-32	-2.8
Kadina	975	951	-24	-2.5
Kilkenny	2,100	2,086	-14	-0.7
Marion	3,500	3,425	-75	-2.1
Modbury	2,881	2,825	-56	-1.9
Mt Barker	992	955	-37	-3.7
Mt Gambier	1,670	1,595	-75	-4.5
Murray Bridge	1,382	1,299	-83	-6.0
Noarlunga	4,469	4,386	-83	-1.9
Norwood	2,299	2,281	-18	-0.8
Port Adelaide	2,217	2,180	-37	-1.7
Port Augusta	1,083	1,100	17	1.6
Port Lincoln	787	800	13	1.7
Port Pirie	1,324	1,290	-34	-2.6
Salisbury	4,602	4,592	-10	-0.2
Torrens ville	2,350	2,348	-2	-0.1
Victor Harbor	980	922	-58	-5.9
Whyalla	1,229	1,224	-5	-0.4
Other (a)	20	25	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,788</b>	<b>47,031</b>	<b>-757</b>	<b>-1.6</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 71 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Western Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,613	1,513	-100	-6.2
Armadale	2,489	2,498	9	0.4
Bunbury	2,980	2,953	-27	-0.9
Busselton	1,362	1,346	-16	-1.2
Cannington	2,839	2,864	25	0.9
Carnarvon	521	521	0	0.0
Esperance	452	422	-30	-6.6
Fremantle	2,248	2,222	-26	-1.2
Geraldton	2,137	2,089	-48	-2.2
Gosnells	2,350	2,335	-15	-0.6
Innaloo	1,811	1,778	-33	-1.8
Joondalup	3,032	3,071	39	1.3
Kalgoorlie	1,087	1,093	6	0.6
Karratha	600	559	-41	-6.8
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	249	257	8	3.2
Mandurah	2,793	2,767	-26	-0.9
Meekatharra	333	340	7	2.1
Midland	3,033	3,050	17	0.6
Mirrabooka	3,291	3,238	-53	-1.6
Morley	3,151	3,094	-57	-1.8
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	259	274	15	5.8
Northam	1,605	1,598	-7	-0.4
Rockingham	3,520	3,555	35	1.0
South Hedland	705	723	18	2.6
Success	1,804	1,732	-72	-4.0
Victoria Park	3,151	3,186	35	1.1
Warwick Grove	1,510	1,494	-16	-1.1
Other (a)	44	46	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,969</b>	<b>50,618</b>	<b>-351</b>	<b>-0.7</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7m - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Tasmania and North Australia Service Zones by Service Centre	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Bridgewater	1,235	1,216	-19	-1.5
Burnie	1,795	1,755	-40	-2.2
Devonport	1,816	1,798	-18	-1.0
Glenorchy	1,897	1,853	-44	-2.3
Hobart	1,823	1,776	-47	-2.6
Huonville	472	449	-23	-4.9
Launceston	4,681	4,707	26	0.6
Rosny Park	1,858	1,833	-25	-1.3
Other (a)	15	14	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,592</b>	<b>15,401</b>	<b>-191</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>North Australia</b>				
Alice Springs	1,036	1,021	-15	-1.4
Angurugu RSC	216	197	-19	-8.8
Borrooloola	257	245	-12	-4.7
Broome	866	875	9	1.0
Casuarina	1,201	1,158	-43	-3.6
Central Australia	2,781	2,811	30	1.1
Darwin	586	556	-30	-5.1
Derby	442	467	25	5.7
Fitzroy Crossing	298	328	30	10.1
Galiwinku RSC	318	298	-20	-6.3
Halls Creek	371	367	-4	-1.1
Hermannsburg RSC	35	43	%	%
Katherine	409	439	30	7.3
Kimberley Katherine	1,784	1,755	-29	-1.6
Kununurra	497	511	14	2.8
Maningrida	653	698	45	6.9
Nhulunbuy	217	202	-15	-6.9
Northern Region	1,796	1,802	6	0.3
Palmerston	1,317	1,303	-14	-1.1
Papunya RSC	22	22	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	41	46	%	%
Tennant Creek	360	362	2	0.6
Tiwi Islands	328	336	8	2.4
Wadeye	436	447	11	2.5
Yuendumu RSC	116	111	-5	-4.3
Other (a)	12	12	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,395</b>	<b>16,412</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7n - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
By Service Zone and Service Centre**

Other Service Zone by Service Centre and Australian Total	September 2015	October 2015	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Other</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	690	618	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	2,257	2,039	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-72	6	%	%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>526,684</b>	<b>514,923</b>	<b>-11,761</b>	<b>-2.2</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 23 October 2015**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.4	82.3	83.4
Earned an income	14.6	17.7	16.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.7	1.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.9	1.7
Over \$316.00	9.5	11.1	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>112,658</b>	<b>184,073</b>	<b>296,731</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.0	71.9	73.0
Earned an income	24.0	28.1	27.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.2	2.2	2.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.2	3.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.6	2.6
Over \$316.00	15.9	19.4	18.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>61,161</b>	<b>153,679</b>	<b>214,840</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	82.1	77.5	79.1
Earned an income	17.9	22.5	20.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	1.9	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.2	2.8	2.6
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.2	2.1
Over \$316.00	11.7	14.9	13.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>173,819</b>	<b>337,752</b>	<b>511,571</b>

Note:  
- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.  
- The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables. 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.

# Explanatory Notes

## Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DSS 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 Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

## Methodology

Data in this publication relate to the average number of people who are both eligible (e.g. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and entitled (e.g. 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.

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 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, e.g. 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 January 2013, grandfathering provisions ceased for Parenting Payment recipients who had been receiving payment prior to 1 July 2006 and had a youngest child aged 6+ years (partnered recipients) or 8+ years (single recipients). The change caused a large one-off increase in the number of Newstart Allowees, as previously grandfathered Parenting Payment recipients who were eligible transferred to 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;
- the eligibility for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) from July 2012;
- the cessation of grandfathered Parenting Payment provisions, which saw an increase in the number of Newstart recipients in January 2013; and
- the introduction of *jobactive*, an employment services model with a stronger focus on job search, which replaced Job Services Australia on 1 July 2015.

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 (e.g. 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**

Duration refers to duration on income support and includes time spent on other income support payments.

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 Social Services. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.

### **CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)**

The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.

### **Customer Service Centre**

Customer Service Centre was replaced by the term Service Centre in July 2011.

### **Did not receive a payment**

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

### **Fortnightly earnings**

Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.



**Incapacitated**

A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.

**Job seeker**

A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.

**Long-term recipients**

Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.

**Newstart Allowance (NSA)**

Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 22 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.

**Partner Allowance (PA)**

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

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.

**Service Centre**

A DHS Service Centre that provides DSS and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Service Centres are managed by Service Zones.

**Service Zone**

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.

**Short-term recipients**

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.

**Widow Allowance (WA)**

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

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.

**Youth Training Allowance (YTA)**

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.

**Youth Allowance (YA)**

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.

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, e.g. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.

To receive Youth Allowance young people under 22 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.

**Youth Allowance (other)**

Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.

**Zero paid**

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

## Appendix

### Comparisons Between DSS 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.

#### DSS 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 DSS labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.

#### Duration

Both DSS and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:

DSS measures duration of **income support**. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.

The ABS measures length of time **unemployed** using their unemployment definition.

DSS unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and still be classified as long-term income support recipients:

- 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 DSS recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DSS 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 DSS 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 aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

### **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:

- DSS 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 (e.g. sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).

**Non job seekers**

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.

**Waiting periods**

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.

**Survey**

The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the DSS statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).

**See also:** The Australian Bureau of Statistics release 6105.0 - Australian Labour Market Statistics, July 2014 – [The unemployed and recipients of Government unemployment benefits - differences explained](#)

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/6105.0Feature%20Article54July%202014?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=6105.0&issue=July%202014&num=&view=>  
>

## **For More Information**

### **Other recipient information**

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government's centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au) (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services>). A statistical overview is published on an annual basis on the Department's website, [DSS - Statistical Paper Series](http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series) (<http://www.dss.gov.au/about-the-department/publications-articles/research-publications/statistical-paper-series>).

### **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, Parenting Payment, Sickness Allowance, ABSTUDY and Widow Allowance.

### **For enquiries email:**

[IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au](mailto:IncomeSupportInformation@dss.gov.au)

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