

# 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 2018**

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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 at [media@dss.gov.au](mailto:media@dss.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 9 January 2019.

# Statistical Highlights – October 2018

## Between October 2017 and October 2018

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 7.1 per cent** overall from 844 954 to 785 383.

- NSA recipients decreased 6.5 per cent from 754 939 to 705 658.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 11.4 per cent from 90 015 to 79 725.

The number of job seekers **decreased 9.8 per cent** overall from 485 050 to 437 733.

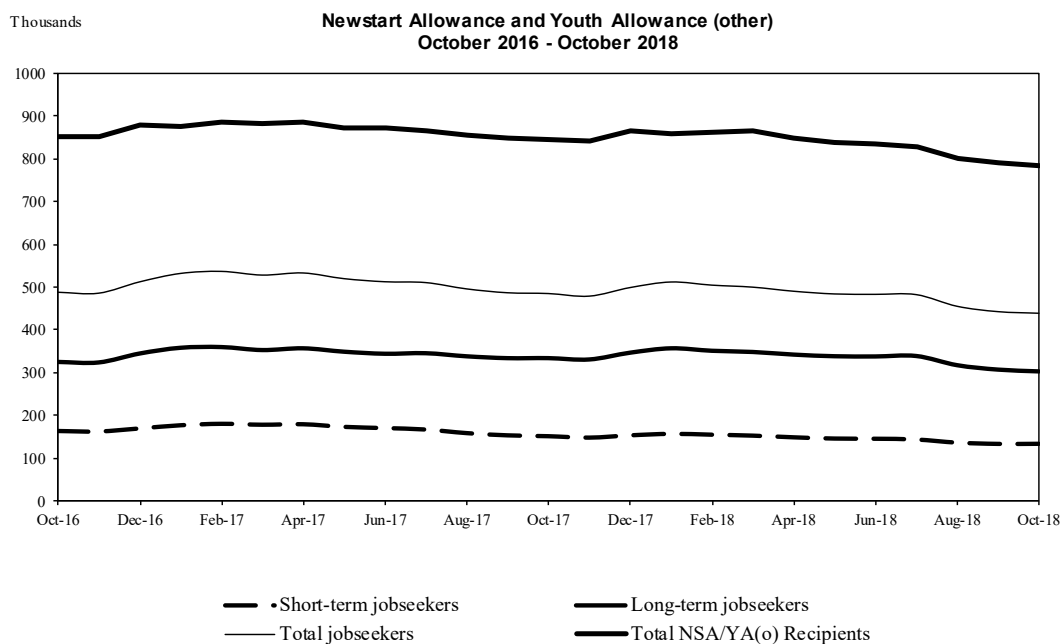
- NSA job seekers decreased 8.7 per cent from 423 123 to 386 129.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 16.7 per cent from 61 927 to 51 604.

Long-term job seekers decreased 9.1 per cent from 333 251 to 303 058.

Short-term job seekers decreased 11.3 per cent from 151 799 to 134 675.

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 2016	552,913	758,328	92,059	220,497	3,889	3,470	17,193
November 2016	555,286	760,719	92,182	196,018	3,658	3,386	16,994
December 2016	567,163	775,022	103,051	159,729	3,467	3,280	16,732
January 2017	564,484	774,122	99,888	157,268	3,273	3,193	16,524
February 2017	568,286	781,330	103,380	168,589	3,289	3,084	16,292
March 2017	567,955	780,655	102,013	191,358	3,392	2,919	15,912
April 2017	572,049	784,983	102,435	202,828	3,460	2,812	15,564
May 2017	566,057	772,231	99,654	212,264	3,529	2,727	15,228
June 2017	567,240	770,443	100,215	212,008	3,645	2,606	14,831
July 2017	567,504	765,878	99,104	201,625	3,529	2,523	14,616
August 2017	566,746	759,709	95,095	214,716	3,449	2,501	14,554
September 2017	568,343	757,454	92,465	214,389	3,327	2,482	14,572
October 2017	568,257	754,939	90,015	212,211	3,091	2,464	14,624
November 2017	568,809	753,508	87,972	186,446	2,872	2,456	14,722
December 2017	580,426	766,998	97,115	151,426	2,637	2,445	14,803
January 2018	577,076	763,677	93,958	148,321	2,425	2,422	14,778
February 2018	578,876	766,603	95,597	158,226	2,321	2,349	14,489
March 2018	581,699	769,155	94,627	175,407	2,240	2,218	13,891
April 2018	573,335	755,923	92,134	180,907	2,413	2,142	13,573
May 2018	568,160	747,327	90,193	189,067	2,555	2,071	13,209
June 2018	568,133	745,902	90,286	192,045	2,525	1,985	12,907
July 2018	562,918	738,325	89,479	185,267	2,563	1,909	12,554
August 2018	547,305	717,452	83,871	199,429	2,580	1,792	11,949
September 2018	541,747	709,935	81,465	201,869	2,590	1,680	11,447
October 2018	538,054	705,658	79,725	199,539	2,593	1,596	11,060
Variation September 2018 - October 2018							
Number	-3,693	-4,277	-1,740	-2,330	3	-84	-387
Per cent	-0.7	-0.6	-2.1	-1.2	0.1	-5.0	-3.4

## Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- 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 2018 Persons	October 2018 Males	October 2018 Females	September 2018	Variation September - October Number	Variation September - October per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>167,604</b>	<b>101,861</b>	<b>65,743</b>	<b>168,188</b>	<b>-584</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	8,087	4,233	3,854	8,502	-415	-4.9
Received a payment	159,517	97,628	61,889	159,686	-169	-0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	5,088	1,338	3,750	5,378	-290	-5.4
Other activities without job search (c)	7,603	4,212	3,391	7,562	41	0.5
Incapacitated (d)	22,699	13,079	9,620	23,124	-425	-1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	11,310	6,230	5,080	11,583	-273	-2.4
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>112,817</b>	<b>72,769</b>	<b>40,048</b>	<b>112,039</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	31,689	18,706	12,983	30,321	1,368	4.5
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>538,054</b>	<b>247,477</b>	<b>290,577</b>	<b>541,747</b>	<b>-3,693</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	19,074	7,425	11,649	20,926	-1,852	-8.9
Received a payment	518,980	240,052	278,928	520,821	-1,841	-0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	59,991	14,898	45,093	60,053	-62	-0.1
Other activities without job search (c)	66,466	32,170	34,296	66,100	366	0.6
Incapacitated (d)	65,606	31,498	34,108	65,625	-19	0.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	53,605	24,297	29,308	53,039	566	1.1
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>273,312</b>	<b>137,189</b>	<b>136,123</b>	<b>276,004</b>	<b>-2,692</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	223,921	110,443	113,478	220,985	2,936	1.3
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>705,658</b>	<b>349,338</b>	<b>356,320</b>	<b>709,935</b>	<b>-4,277</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	27,161	11,658	15,503	29,428	-2,267	-7.7
Received a payment	678,497	337,680	340,817	680,507	-2,010	-0.3
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	65,079	16,236	48,843	65,431	-352	-0.5
Other activities without job search (c)	74,069	36,382	37,687	73,662	407	0.6
Incapacitated (d)	88,305	44,577	43,728	88,749	-444	-0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	64,915	30,527	34,388	64,622	293	0.5
<b>All NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>386,129</b>	<b>209,958</b>	<b>176,171</b>	<b>388,043</b>	<b>-1,914</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
All NSA training/education (g)	255,610	129,149	126,461	251,306	4,304	1.7

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (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 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population**

Youth Allowance (other)	October 2018 Persons	October 2018 Males	October 2018 Females	September 2018	Variation September - October Number	Variation September - October per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>35,751</b>	<b>19,029</b>	<b>16,722</b>	<b>36,251</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,142	491	651	1,206	-64	-5.3
Received a payment	34,609	18,538	16,071	35,045	-436	-1.2
Other activities without job search (b)	9,533	5,318	4,215	9,400	133	1.4
Incapacitated (c)	1,790	881	909	1,786	4	0.2
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,428	664	764	1,422	6	0.4
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>21,858</b>	<b>11,675</b>	<b>10,183</b>	<b>22,437</b>	<b>-579</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	13,896	7,505	6,391	13,579	317	2.3
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>43,974</b>	<b>21,173</b>	<b>22,801</b>	<b>45,214</b>	<b>-1,240</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,503	576	927	1,512	-9	-0.6
Received a payment	42,471	20,597	21,874	43,702	-1,231	-2.8
Other activities without job search (b)	7,561	3,945	3,616	7,488	73	1.0
Incapacitated (c)	2,833	1,211	1,622	2,788	45	1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,331	924	1,407	2,314	17	0.7
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>29,746</b>	<b>14,517</b>	<b>15,229</b>	<b>31,112</b>	<b>-1,366</b>	<b>-4.4</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	22,539	11,039	11,500	22,631	-92	-0.4
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>79,725</b>	<b>40,202</b>	<b>39,523</b>	<b>81,465</b>	<b>-1,740</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,645	1,067	1,578	2,718	-73	-2.7
Received a payment	77,080	39,135	37,945	78,747	-1,667	-2.1
Other activities without job search (b)	17,094	9,263	7,831	16,888	206	1.2
Incapacitated (c)	4,623	2,092	2,531	4,574	49	1.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,759	1,588	2,171	3,736	23	0.6
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>51,604</b>	<b>26,192</b>	<b>25,412</b>	<b>53,549</b>	<b>-1,945</b>	<b>-3.6</b>
All YA (other) training/education (f)	36,435	18,544	17,891	36,210	225	0.6

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

(e) 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.

(f) 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 2016	163,550	324,613	488,163
November 2016	162,460	323,423	485,883
December 2016	169,305	343,710	513,015
January 2017	176,480	356,794	533,274
February 2017	179,788	358,438	538,226
March 2017	177,714	351,627	529,341
April 2017	178,802	355,618	534,420
May 2017	172,901	347,883	520,784
June 2017	170,140	343,210	513,350
July 2017	166,882	344,446	511,328
August 2017	158,795	337,406	496,201
September 2017	153,749	333,186	486,935
October 2017	151,799	333,251	485,050
November 2017	148,600	330,217	478,817
December 2017	153,747	345,642	499,389
January 2018	157,124	355,615	512,739
February 2018	155,208	349,999	505,207
March 2018	153,083	347,281	500,364
April 2018	149,276	341,290	490,566
May 2018	146,495	337,567	484,062
June 2018	146,049	337,064	483,113
July 2018	144,339	338,105	482,444
August 2018	137,262	317,179	454,441
September 2018	134,476	307,116	441,592
October 2018	134,675	303,058	437,733
Variation September 2018 - October 2018			
Number	199	-4,058	-3,859
Per cent	0.1	-1.3	-0.9

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 2018	October 2018	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	35,091	35,254	163	0.5
Victoria	28,374	28,372	-2	0.0
Queensland	33,678	33,945	267	0.8
South Australia	10,360	10,306	-54	-0.5
Western Australia	18,871	18,708	-163	-0.9
Tasmania	3,324	3,258	-66	-2.0
Northern Territory	3,480	3,527	47	1.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,298	1,305	7	0.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>134,476</b>	<b>134,675</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	79,775	78,858	-917	-1.1
Victoria	62,163	61,491	-672	-1.1
Queensland	70,918	69,677	-1,241	-1.7
South Australia	26,125	25,874	-251	-1.0
Western Australia	44,883	44,114	-769	-1.7
Tasmania	10,952	10,747	-205	-1.9
Northern Territory	9,884	9,932	48	0.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,416	2,365	-51	-2.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>307,116</b>	<b>303,058</b>	<b>-4,058</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	114,866	114,112	-754	-0.7
Victoria	90,537	89,863	-674	-0.7
Queensland	104,596	103,622	-974	-0.9
South Australia	36,485	36,180	-305	-0.8
Western Australia	63,754	62,822	-932	-1.5
Tasmania	14,276	14,005	-271	-1.9
Northern Territory	13,364	13,459	95	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	3,714	3,670	-44	-1.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>441,592</b>	<b>437,733</b>	<b>-3,859</b>	<b>-0.9</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 Gender**

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	1,298	1.5	486	0.3	1,784	0.8
18 - 20 years	8,437	10.0	9,487	6.3	17,924	7.6
21 - 24 years	11,530	13.7	19,202	12.7	30,732	13.0
25 - 29 years	12,923	15.3	19,765	13.0	32,688	13.8
30 - 39 years	19,734	23.4	33,203	21.9	52,937	22.4
40 - 49 years	14,795	17.5	31,271	20.6	46,066	19.5
50 - 59 years	10,818	12.8	24,961	16.5	35,779	15.2
60 years and over	4,910	5.8	13,332	8.8	18,242	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,445</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>151,707</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>236,152</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,349	2.7	651	0.4	2,000	1.0
18 - 20 years	7,594	15.1	10,535	7.0	18,129	9.0
21 - 24 years	6,774	13.5	15,037	9.9	21,811	10.8
25 - 29 years	5,600	11.1	12,909	8.5	18,509	9.2
30 - 39 years	7,636	15.2	29,166	19.3	36,802	18.3
40 - 49 years	8,632	17.2	40,598	26.8	49,230	24.4
50 - 59 years	8,661	17.2	29,771	19.7	38,432	19.1
60 years and over	3,984	7.9	12,684	8.4	16,668	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,230</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>151,351</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>201,581</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,647	2.0	1,137	0.4	3,784	0.9
18 - 20 years	16,031	11.9	20,022	6.6	36,053	8.2
21 - 24 years	18,304	13.6	34,239	11.3	52,543	12.0
25 - 29 years	18,523	13.8	32,674	10.8	51,197	11.7
30 - 39 years	27,370	20.3	62,369	20.6	89,739	20.5
40 - 49 years	23,427	17.4	71,869	23.7	95,296	21.8
50 - 59 years	19,479	14.5	54,732	18.1	74,211	17.0
60 years and over	8,894	6.6	26,016	8.6	34,910	8.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,675</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>303,058</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>437,733</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

**Table 7a – Australian Capital Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3)**

<b>State by SA3</b>	September 2018	October 2018	Variation %
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>			
Belconnen	1,121	1,112	-0.8%
Cotter - Namadgi	56	49	-12.5%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	65	68	4.6%
Gungahlin	523	535	2.3%
North Canberra	570	559	-1.9%
South Canberra	183	168	-8.2%
Tuggeranong	764	760	-0.5%
Weston Creek	164	170	3.7%
Woden	260	247	-5.0%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7b – New South Wales Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	Sep 2018	Oct 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Sep 2018	Oct 18	Var. %
<b>New South Wales</b>				<b>New South Wales continued</b>			
Albury	1,630	1,610	-1.2%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,122	1,100	-2.0%
Armidale	1,016	1,006	-1.0%	Liverpool	1,990	2,012	1.1%
Auburn	1,198	1,163	-2.9%	Lord Howe Island	<5	0	n/a
Bankstown	2,835	2,884	1.7%	Lower Hunter	2,234	2,200	-1.5%
Bathurst	880	867	-1.5%	Lower Murray	381	380	-0.3%
Baulkham Hills	512	509	-0.6%	Maitland	1,502	1,463	-2.6%
Blacktown	2,097	2,064	-1.6%	Manly	144	149	3.5%
Blacktown - North	715	699	-2.2%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	781	739	-5.4%
Blue Mountains	840	837	-0.4%	Merrylands - Guildford	2,860	2,864	0.1%
Blue Mountains - South	0	0	0.0%	Moree - Narrabri	999	979	-2.0%
Botany	476	457	-4.0%	Mount Druitt	2,618	2,625	0.3%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,408	1,422	1.0%	Newcastle	3,422	3,390	-0.9%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,646	1,664	1.1%	North Sydney - Mosman	321	315	-1.9%
Broken Hill and Far West	784	808	3.1%	Orange	1,071	1,029	-3.9%
Camden	462	443	-4.1%	Parramatta	1,453	1,462	0.6%
Campbelltown (NSW)	2,927	2,872	-1.9%	Pennant Hills - Epping	193	194	0.5%
Canada Bay	346	356	2.9%	Penrith	1,813	1,803	-0.6%
Canterbury	2,044	2,068	1.2%	Pittwater	199	191	-4.0%
Carlingford	666	667	0.2%	Port Macquarie	1,701	1,633	-4.0%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	386	391	1.3%	Port Stephens	1,546	1,521	-1.6%
Clarence Valley	1,314	1,331	1.3%	Queanbeyan	564	550	-2.5%
Coffs Harbour	2,208	2,195	-0.6%	Richmond - Windsor	498	506	1.6%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	538	543	0.9%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,084	2,136	2.5%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,617	1,622	0.3%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,340	2,357	0.7%
Dubbo	2,288	2,258	-1.3%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	143	147	2.8%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	114	111	-2.6%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	728	725	-0.4%
Eastern Suburbs - North	529	522	-1.3%	Shoalhaven	2,071	2,042	-1.4%
Eastern Suburbs - South	898	890	-0.9%	Snowy Mountains	338	351	3.8%
Fairfield	5,130	5,067	-1.2%	South Coast	1,568	1,594	1.7%
Gosford	2,631	2,601	-1.1%	Southern Highlands	348	349	0.3%
Goulburn - Yass	1,330	1,303	-2.0%	St Marys	1,039	1,047	0.8%
Great Lakes	793	770	-2.9%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,248	1,259	0.9%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	1,002	996	-0.6%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	493	481	-2.4%
Hawkesbury	181	182	0.6%	Sydney Inner City	2,325	2,363	1.6%
Hornsby	454	441	-2.9%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,396	2,342	-2.3%
Hurstville	1,217	1,198	-1.6%	Taree - Gloucester	1,705	1,639	-3.9%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	0	n/a	Tumut - Tumbarumba	323	318	-1.5%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,376	1,333	-3.1%	Tweed Valley	2,224	2,162	-2.8%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,659	1,644	-0.9%	Upper Hunter	705	723	2.6%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,249	1,221	-2.2%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	837	814	-2.7%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,059	1,093	3.2%	Wagga Wagga	1,907	1,881	-1.4%
Ku-ring-gai	241	240	-0.4%	Warringah	661	696	5.3%
Lachlan Valley	1,542	1,550	0.5%	Wollondilly	360	362	0.6%
Lake Macquarie - East	1,879	1,910	1.6%	Wollongong	1,840	1,818	-1.2%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,408	1,378	-2.1%	Wyong	3,702	3,668	-0.9%
Leichhardt	438	448	2.3%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7c – Northern Territory Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	September 2018	October 2018	Variation %
<b>Northern Territory</b>			
Alice Springs	3,653	3,663	0.3%
Barkly	812	829	2.1%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,585	2,549	-1.4%
Darwin City	512	508	-0.8%
Darwin Suburbs	1,113	1,134	1.9%
East Arnhem	1,580	1,613	2.1%
Katherine	2,112	2,123	0.5%
Litchfield	420	405	-3.6%
Palmerston	781	795	1.8%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7d – Queensland Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	Sep 2018	Oct 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Sep 2018	Oct 18	Var. %
<b>Queensland</b>				<b>Queensland continued</b>			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	371	384	3.5%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,560	1,542	-1.2%
Beaudesert	405	409	1.0%	Ipswich Inner	3,024	2,991	-1.1%
Beenleigh	1,308	1,261	-3.6%	Jimboomba	806	790	-2.0%
Bowen Basin - North	575	588	2.3%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	233	228	-2.1%
Bribie - Beachmere	692	694	0.3%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,266	1,247	-1.5%
Brisbane Inner	1,500	1,480	-1.3%	Mackay	2,558	2,498	-2.3%
Brisbane Inner - East	509	498	-2.2%	Maroochy	1,115	1,116	0.1%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,098	1,110	1.1%	Maryborough	1,701	1,690	-0.6%
Brisbane Inner - West	557	546	-2.0%	Mt Gravatt	899	895	-0.4%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	900	894	-0.7%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	402	404	0.5%
Browns Plains	2,164	2,159	-0.2%	Nambour - Pomona	1,372	1,341	-2.3%
Buderim	725	726	0.1%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,361	1,373	0.9%
Bundaberg	2,969	2,957	-0.4%	Nathan	652	644	-1.2%
Burnett	1,744	1,715	-1.7%	Nerang	1,245	1,221	-1.9%
Caboolture	2,211	2,220	0.4%	Noosa	537	523	-2.6%
Caboolture Hinterland	212	208	-1.9%	North Lakes	1,317	1,310	-0.5%
Cairns - North	844	846	0.2%	Nundah	621	612	-1.4%
Cairns - South	4,021	3,986	-0.9%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,072	2,000	-3.5%
Caloundra	1,370	1,323	-3.4%	Outback - North	1,455	1,443	-0.8%
Capalaba	934	946	1.3%	Outback - South	493	502	1.8%
Carindale	501	485	-3.2%	Port Douglas - Daintree	391	390	-0.3%
Centenary	243	231	-4.9%	Redcliffe	1,426	1,430	0.3%
Central Highlands (Qld)	689	673	-2.3%	Robina	705	683	-3.1%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,437	1,392	-3.1%	Rockhampton	3,674	3,597	-2.1%
Chermside	1,149	1,118	-2.7%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	966	968	0.2%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,175	1,177	0.2%	Sandgate	1,003	1,005	0.2%
Coolangatta	1,002	950	-5.2%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	421	403	-4.3%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,041	1,031	-1.0%	Southport	1,494	1,490	-0.3%
Darling Downs - East	848	847	-0.1%	Springfield - Redbank	2,044	2,024	-1.0%
Far North	2,685	2,721	1.3%	Springwood - Kingston	2,751	2,730	-0.8%
Forest Lake - Oxley	1,945	1,895	-2.6%	Strathpine	842	844	0.2%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,520	2,505	-0.6%	Sunnybank	776	755	-2.7%
Gold Coast - North	1,551	1,545	-0.4%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	969	968	-0.1%
Gold Coast Hinterland	280	281	0.4%	Surfers Paradise	750	761	1.5%
Granite Belt	878	896	2.1%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,479	1,489	0.7%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,486	1,487	0.1%	The Gap - Enoggera	567	548	-3.4%
Hervey Bay	1,881	1,855	-1.4%	Toowoomba	2,895	2,925	1.0%
Hills District	606	584	-3.6%	Toowoomba	2,895	2,925	1.0%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,208	1,179	-2.4%	Townsville	5,554	5,517	-0.7%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,606	1,577	-1.8%	Whitsunday	376	381	1.3%
				Wynnum - Manly	899	881	-2.0%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7e - South Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	September 2018	October 2018	Variation %
<b>South Australia</b>			
Adelaide City	427	426	-0.2%
Adelaide Hills	711	695	-2.3%
Barossa	565	569	0.7%
Burnside	278	268	-3.6%
Campbelltown (SA)	587	570	-2.9%
Charles Sturt	1,995	1,944	-2.6%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,202	2,223	1.0%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,020	1,002	-1.8%
Gawler - Two Wells	659	663	0.6%
Holdfast Bay	373	373	0.0%
Limestone Coast	1,412	1,424	0.8%
Lower North	558	565	1.3%
Marion	1,428	1,432	0.3%
Mid North	1,111	1,129	1.6%
Mitcham	544	539	-0.9%
Murray and Mallee	2,226	2,222	-0.2%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	396	407	2.8%
Onkaparinga	3,977	3,975	-0.1%
Outback - North and East	1,296	1,366	5.4%
Playford	3,917	3,862	-1.4%
Port Adelaide - East	1,521	1,485	-2.4%
Port Adelaide - West	1,574	1,560	-0.9%
Prospect - Walkerville	292	272	-6.8%
Salisbury	4,033	3,934	-2.5%
Tea Tree Gully	1,194	1,158	-3.0%
Unley	316	304	-3.8%
West Torrens	888	852	-4.1%
Yorke Peninsula	720	735	2.1%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7f - Tasmania Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	September 2018	October 2018	Variation %
<b>Tasmania</b>			
Brighton	727	699	-3.9%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,348	1,275	-5.4%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	331	310	-6.3%
Devonport	1,218	1,222	0.3%
Hobart - North East	1,053	1,013	-3.8%
Hobart - North West	2,067	2,021	-2.2%
Hobart - South and West	454	445	-2.0%
Hobart Inner	919	904	-1.6%
Huon - Bruny Island	498	476	-4.4%
Launceston	2,708	2,724	0.6%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	513	512	-0.2%
North East	1,338	1,333	-0.4%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	334	339	1.5%
South East Coast	184	171	-7.1%
West Coast	575	552	-4.0%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



**Table 7g – Victoria Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	Sep 2018	Oct 18	Var. %	State by SA3	Sep 2018	Oct 18	Var. %
<b>Victoria</b>				<b>Victoria continued</b>			
Ballarat	2,620	2,550	-2.7%	Manningham - East	131	128	-2.3%
Banyule	1,167	1,153	-1.2%	Manningham - West	606	606	0.0%
Barwon - West	204	191	-6.4%	Maribyrnong	1,758	1,723	-2.0%
Baw Baw	807	813	0.7%	Maroondah	1,141	1,147	0.5%
Bayside	527	532	0.9%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	763	738	-3.3%
Bendigo	2,481	2,406	-3.0%	Melbourne City	1,533	1,524	-0.6%
Boroondara	712	718	0.8%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	2,747	2,735	-0.4%
Brimbank	4,987	4,943	-0.9%	Mildura	1,634	1,643	0.6%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,282	1,273	-0.7%	Moira	639	664	3.9%
Campaspe	774	780	0.8%	Monash	1,162	1,142	-1.7%
Cardinia	1,189	1,174	-1.3%	Moreland - North	1,219	1,196	-1.9%
Casey - North	1,669	1,705	2.2%	Mornington Peninsula	1,698	1,693	-0.3%
Casey - South	2,439	2,450	0.5%	Murray River - Swan Hill	876	873	-0.3%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	532	511	-3.9%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	371	360	-3.0%
Dandenong	3,147	3,148	0.0%	Port Phillip	1,309	1,292	-1.3%
Darebin - North	1,754	1,705	-2.8%	Shepparton	1,595	1,604	0.6%
Darebin - South	639	627	-1.9%	Stonnington - East	196	188	-4.1%
Essendon	955	941	-1.5%	Stonnington - West	502	485	-3.4%
Frankston	2,208	2,180	-1.3%	Sunbury	516	504	-2.3%
Geelong	3,797	3,724	-1.9%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	831	824	-0.8%
Gippsland - East	1,461	1,452	-0.6%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,123	4,140	0.4%
Gippsland - South West	1,096	1,106	0.9%	Upper Goulburn Valley	950	947	-0.3%
Glen Eira	1,063	1,036	-2.5%	Wangaratta - Benalla	850	866	1.9%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	775	773	-0.3%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,591	1,578	-0.8%
Grampians	1,199	1,193	-0.5%	Wellington	1,073	1,086	1.2%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	818	792	-3.2%	Whitehorse - East	394	408	3.6%
Hobsons Bay	1,125	1,108	-1.5%	Whitehorse - West	699	715	2.3%
Keilor	588	582	-1.0%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,111	3,127	0.5%
Kingston	1,134	1,093	-3.6%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,483	1,472	-0.7%
Knox	1,559	1,560	0.1%	Wyndham	3,973	3,936	-0.9%
Latrobe Valley	2,844	2,881	1.3%	Yarra	1,379	1,343	-2.6%
Loddon - Elmore	284	279	-1.8%	Yarra Ranges	1,515	1,484	-2.0%
Macedon Ranges	234	227	-3.0%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7h - Western Australia Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	September 2018	October 2018	Variation %
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Albany	1,509	1,488	-1.4%
Armadale	2,730	2,673	-2.1%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,140	1,123	-1.5%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,082	2,054	-1.3%
Belmont - Victoria Park	1,952	1,929	-1.2%
Bunbury	3,052	2,985	-2.2%
Canning	1,917	1,871	-2.4%
Cockburn	2,282	2,263	-0.8%
Cottesloe - Claremont	407	396	-2.7%
Esperance	326	312	-4.3%
Fremantle	955	978	2.4%
Gascoyne	513	545	6.2%
Goldfields	1,469	1,464	-0.3%
Gosnells	3,540	3,474	-1.9%
Joondalup	2,232	2,219	-0.6%
Kalamunda	1,038	990	-4.6%
Kimberley	2,839	2,889	1.8%
Kwinana	1,565	1,514	-3.3%
Mandurah	3,344	3,222	-3.6%
Manjimup	667	649	-2.7%
Melville	1,102	1,082	-1.8%
Mid West	2,593	2,561	-1.2%
Mundaring	915	877	-4.2%
Perth City	2,000	1,962	-1.9%
Pilbara	1,626	1,628	0.1%
Rockingham	3,601	3,546	-1.5%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	462	444	-3.9%
South Perth	638	619	-3.0%
Stirling	4,481	4,435	-1.0%
Swan	3,668	3,635	-0.9%
Wanneroo	4,943	4,856	-1.8%
Wheat Belt - North	1,584	1,585	0.1%
Wheat Belt - South	485	476	-1.9%

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**Table 7i - Other Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By SA3**

State by SA3	September 2018	October 2018	Variation %
<b>Other</b>			
Christmas Island	13	11	-15.4%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	<5	<5	n/a
Jervis Bay	9	13	44.4%
Not recorded	440	396	-10.0%

Notes:

SA3 data is derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS 2011) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

**Note:** Individuals who live overseas, individuals who are without a valid home address and individuals who only have a postal address cannot be assigned to a locational boundary. These numbers may be represented as 'Not Recorded'. State/territory totals derived from SA3 data will not match state and territory totals reported elsewhere in this publication, due to different statistical geography methodologies.

Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.

In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 5 for specific Statistical Areas are reported as "<5" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".

**Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 19 October 2018**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	87	82.1	83.8
Earned an income	13	17.9	16.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1	1.4	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.4	3.3	3
\$254+	9.5	13.3	12
<b>Total males</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>72,690</b>	<b>136,730</b>	<b>209,420</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.2	68.7	70.4
Earned an income	23.8	31.3	29.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.6	1.5	1.5
\$104 - <\$254	3.7	4	3.9
\$254+	18.5	25.8	24.1
<b>Total females</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>39,977</b>	<b>135,830</b>	<b>175,807</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	83.1	75.4	77.7
Earned an income	16.9	24.6	22.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.2	1.4	1.4
\$104 - <\$254	2.9	3.6	3.4
\$254+	12.7	19.5	17.5
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>112,667</b>	<b>272,560</b>	<b>385,227</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 population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance 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.

**Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender, Fortnight Ending 19 October 2018**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term YA(o) job seekers %	Long-term YA(o) job seekers %	Total YA(o) job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	87.2	84	85.4
Earned an income	12.8	16	14.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.1	1.8	1.9
\$143 - <\$250	2.1	2.1	2.1
\$250+	8.6	12.1	10.6
<b>Total males</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>11,641</b>	<b>14,440</b>	<b>26,081</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	77.8	74.8	76
Earned an income	22.2	25.2	24
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.5	2.9	3.1
\$143 - <\$250	3.4	3.3	3.4
\$250+	15.3	18.9	17.5
<b>Total females</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>10,178</b>	<b>15,127</b>	<b>25,305</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	82.8	79.3	80.8
Earned an income	17.2	20.7	19.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.7	2.4	2.5
\$143 - <\$250	2.7	2.7	2.7
\$250+	11.7	15.6	14
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>21,819</b>	<b>29,567</b>	<b>51,386</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 population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive 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 Statistical Areas Level 3 reported in Table 7 are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

The earnings data in Table 8 (a and b) is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the 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.

From 1 January 2016, to receive Youth Allowance (other) young people without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification (Certificate III) will need to participate in :

- approved full-time study, or
- a combination of 25 hours a week of approved part-time study and part-time work , or
- other approved activities of 25\* hours per week, in addition to up to 20 job searches each month (noting that it is \* 15 hours a week for early school leavers with a partial capacity to work or who are principal carer parents and have part-time requirements)

until they attain Year 12 or equivalent, or a Certificate III, or turn 22 years of age.

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.

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 September 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**

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. 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. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

### **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)**

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

The CDEP program was administered by the Department of Social Services. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aimed to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there were two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assisted 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 focused 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. Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) ceased on 30 June 2015.

### **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 September 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. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

**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. Reporting by Service Centres and Service Zones was replaced in July 2017 with Statistical Areas Level 3.

**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.

### **Statistical Areas Level 3**

Statistical Areas Level 3 are derived using the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) of 2011, produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). For further details, see the ABS website: [ABS Statistical Geography](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN) <<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Geography?opendocument#from-banner=LN>>

### **Widow Allowance (WA)**

Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants from 1 July 2018. 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>). Historical data is available in a statistical overview available 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:**

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