

# 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>).

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## Contents

Important Changes to this Publication .....	2
Introduction .....	3
Statistical Highlights – October 2017.....	4
Table 1 - Labour Market Payments - Time Series.....	5
Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population.....	6
Table 3 - Youth Allowees (Other) - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population.....	7
Table 4 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) Time Series .....	8
Table 5 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By State.....	9
Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Gender .....	10
Table 7a-i – Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3).....	11
Table 8a - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance Fortnightly Earnings and Gender ...	20
Table 8b - Job Seekers Receiving Youth Allowance (Other) Fortnightly Earnings and Gender .....	21
Explanatory Notes .....	22
Payment History .....	22
Glossary.....	28
Comparisons Between DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Numbers And ABS Labour Force Unemployment Statistics .....	31
Other recipient information .....	34

## **Important Changes to this Publication**

From August 2017, the Labour Market and Related Payments (LMRP) publication has been revised. In this revised LMRP publication, the geography reported has changed and the earnings table has been expanded. Changes are outlined below:

Tables 7 (a to i) Centrelink Service Centres have been replaced by Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3), derived using the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Table 8 (a and b) has been broken down into Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers, to allow for the reporting of different earnings thresholds.

## 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.

# Statistical Highlights – October 2017

## Between October 2016 and October 2017

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased 0.6 per cent** overall from 850 387 to 844 954.

- NSA recipients decreased 0.4 per cent from 758 328 to 754 939.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 2.2 per cent from 92 059 to 90 015.

The number of job seekers **decreased 0.6 per cent** overall from 488 163 to 485 050.

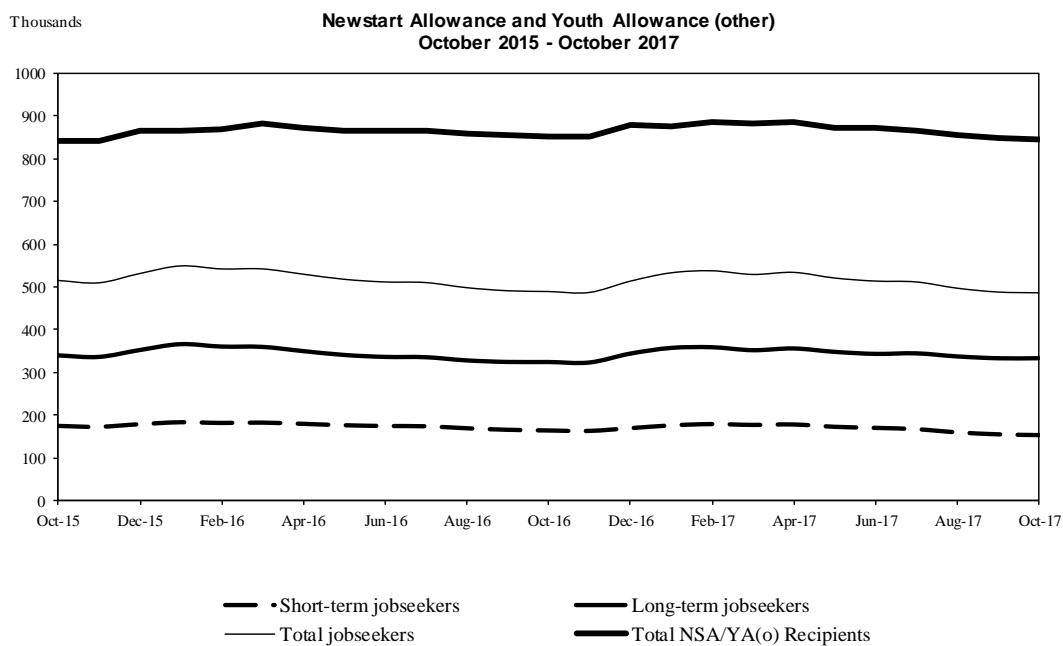
- NSA job seekers decreased 0.2 per cent from 423 931 to 423 123.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 3.6 per cent from 64 232 to 61 927.

Long-term job seekers increased 2.7 per cent from 324 613 to 333 251.

Short-term job seekers decreased 7.2 per cent from 163 550 to 151 799.

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 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868	
November 2015	540,412	748,450	93,687	205,857	4,527	4,947	20,600	
December 2015	551,705	762,624	103,632	167,101	4,216	4,804	20,319	
January 2016	554,509	766,841	100,188	161,730	3,938	4,639	19,975	
February 2016	557,411	769,913	100,265	173,005	3,950	4,477	19,670	
March 2016	564,903	781,118	99,942	188,688	3,881	4,343	19,363	
April 2016	559,242	773,675	98,326	208,242	3,835	4,208	19,047	
May 2016	555,867	768,503	98,016	230,821	4,194	4,104	18,739	
June 2016	555,870	767,908	97,846	229,689	4,271	4,004	18,472	
July 2016	555,399	765,756	98,389	210,161	4,152	3,863	18,067	
August 2016	553,958	762,134	95,061	223,367	4,050	3,732	17,724	
September 2016	554,177	760,972	93,693	222,127	4,014	3,590	17,437	
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	
Variation September 2017 - October 2017								
Number	-86	-2,515	-2,450	-2,178	-236	-18	52	
Per cent	0.0	-0.3	-2.6	-1.0	-7.1	-0.7	0.4	

## 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 2017 Persons	October 2017 Males	October 2017 Females	September 2017	Variation September - October Number	Variation September - October per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>186,682</b>	<b>113,143</b>	<b>73,539</b>	<b>189,111</b>	<b>-2,429</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	10,082	5,466	4,616	10,926	-844	-7.7
Received a payment	176,600	107,677	68,923	178,185	-1,585	-0.9
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	6,584	1,680	4,904	6,485	99	1.5
Other activities without job search (c)	9,650	5,113	4,537	10,278	-628	-6.1
Incapacitated (d)	23,608	13,630	9,978	23,761	-153	-0.6
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	12,038	6,700	5,338	11,975	63	0.5
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>124,720</b>	<b>80,554</b>	<b>44,166</b>	<b>125,686</b>	<b>-966</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	29,278	16,600	12,678	30,161	-883	-2.9
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>568,257</b>	<b>268,264</b>	<b>299,993</b>	<b>568,343</b>	<b>-86</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	21,303	9,133	12,170	23,379	-2,076	-8.9
Received a payment	546,954	259,131	287,823	544,964	1,990	0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	66,717	16,206	50,511	65,734	983	1.5
Other activities without job search (c)	64,856	31,306	33,550	64,496	360	0.6
Incapacitated (d)	63,694	31,424	32,270	64,404	-710	-1.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	53,284	24,202	29,082	53,121	163	0.3
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>298,403</b>	<b>155,993</b>	<b>142,410</b>	<b>297,209</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	213,377	105,572	107,805	211,753	1,624	0.8
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>754,939</b>	<b>381,407</b>	<b>373,532</b>	<b>757,454</b>	<b>-2,515</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	31,385	14,599	16,786	34,305	-2,920	-8.5
Received a payment	723,554	366,808	356,746	723,149	405	0.1
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	73,301	17,886	55,415	72,219	1,082	1.5
Other activities without job search (c)	74,506	36,419	38,087	74,774	-268	-0.4
Incapacitated (d)	87,302	45,054	42,248	88,165	-863	-1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	65,322	30,902	34,420	65,096	226	0.3
<b>All NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>423,123</b>	<b>236,547</b>	<b>186,576</b>	<b>422,895</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>0.1</b>
All NSA training/education (g)	242,655	122,172	120,483	241,914	741	0.3

- (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 2017 Persons	October 2017 Males	October 2017 Females	September 2017	Variation September - October Number	Variation September - October per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>40,263</b>	<b>21,870</b>	<b>18,393</b>	<b>41,327</b>	<b>-1,064</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,252	520	732	1,282	-30	-2.3
Received a payment	39,011	21,350	17,661	40,045	-1,034	-2.6
Other activities without job search (b)	8,715	4,935	3,780	8,661	54	0.6
Incapacitated (c)	1,745	842	903	1,831	-86	-4.7
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,472	736	736	1,490	-18	-1.2
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>27,079</b>	<b>14,837</b>	<b>12,242</b>	<b>28,063</b>	<b>-984</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	14,144	7,670	6,474	14,368	-224	-1.6
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>49,752</b>	<b>24,807</b>	<b>24,945</b>	<b>51,138</b>	<b>-1,386</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,601	682	919	1,639	-38	-2.3
Received a payment	48,151	24,125	24,026	49,499	-1,348	-2.7
Other activities without job search (b)	8,215	4,248	3,967	8,357	-142	-1.7
Incapacitated (c)	2,765	1,209	1,556	2,812	-47	-1.7
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,323	968	1,355	2,353	-30	-1.3
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>34,848</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>17,148</b>	<b>35,977</b>	<b>-1,129</b>	<b>-3.1</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	23,838	11,780	12,058	24,221	-383	-1.6
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>90,015</b>	<b>46,677</b>	<b>43,338</b>	<b>92,465</b>	<b>-2,450</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,853	1,202	1,651	2,921	-68	-2.3
Received a payment	87,162	45,475	41,687	89,544	-2,382	-2.7
Other activities without job search (b)	16,930	9,183	7,747	17,018	-88	-0.5
Incapacitated (c)	4,510	2,051	2,459	4,643	-133	-2.9
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	3,795	1,704	2,091	3,843	-48	-1.2
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>61,927</b>	<b>32,537</b>	<b>29,390</b>	<b>64,040</b>	<b>-2,113</b>	<b>-3.3</b>
All YA (other) training/education (f)	37,982	19,450	18,532	38,589	-607	-1.6

(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 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
November 2015	172,922	336,218	509,140
December 2015	179,495	351,946	531,441
January 2016	184,517	365,464	549,981
February 2016	182,731	359,943	542,674
March 2016	183,539	359,248	542,787
April 2016	180,450	349,643	530,093
May 2016	176,929	340,813	517,742
June 2016	174,937	336,308	511,245
July 2016	174,234	335,579	509,813
August 2016	169,184	328,317	497,501
September 2016	165,330	324,731	490,061
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
Variation September 2017 - October 2017			
Number	-1,950	65	-1,885
Per cent	-1.3	0.0	-0.4

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 2017	October 2017	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	37,788	37,389	-399	-1.1
Victoria	33,539	33,096	-443	-1.3
Queensland	38,411	37,746	-665	-1.7
South Australia	11,553	11,493	-60	-0.5
Western Australia	23,296	22,859	-437	-1.9
Tasmania	3,982	4,021	39	1.0
Northern Territory	3,727	3,742	15	0.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,453	1,453	0	0.0
<b>Australia</b>	<b>153,749</b>	<b>151,799</b>	<b>-1,950</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	86,913	86,971	58	0.1
Victoria	69,773	69,327	-446	-0.6
Queensland	78,113	77,882	-231	-0.3
South Australia	29,552	29,403	-149	-0.5
Western Australia	45,270	45,909	639	1.4
Tasmania	11,294	11,405	111	1.0
Northern Territory	9,733	9,798	65	0.7
Australian Capital Territory	2,538	2,556	18	0.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>333,186</b>	<b>333,251</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	124,701	124,360	-341	-0.3
Victoria	103,312	102,423	-889	-0.9
Queensland	116,524	115,628	-896	-0.8
South Australia	41,105	40,896	-209	-0.5
Western Australia	68,566	68,768	202	0.3
Tasmania	15,276	15,426	150	1.0
Northern Territory	13,460	13,540	80	0.6
Australian Capital Territory	3,991	4,009	18	0.5
<b>Australia</b>	<b>486,935</b>	<b>485,050</b>	<b>-1,885</b>	<b>-0.4</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	1,514	1.6	467	0.3	1,981	0.7
18 - 20 years	10,871	11.4	11,572	6.7	22,443	8.3
21 - 24 years	13,526	14.2	23,538	13.6	37,064	13.8
25 - 29 years	14,266	15.0	23,495	13.5	37,761	14.0
30 - 39 years	21,539	22.6	38,888	22.4	60,427	22.5
40 - 49 years	16,563	17.4	35,492	20.4	52,055	19.3
50 - 59 years	11,854	12.4	27,104	15.6	38,958	14.5
60 years and over	5,259	5.5	13,139	7.6	18,398	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,392</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>173,695</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>269,087</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,463	2.6	593	0.4	2,056	1.0
18 - 20 years	9,255	16.4	11,944	7.5	21,199	9.8
21 - 24 years	7,827	13.9	17,169	10.8	24,996	11.6
25 - 29 years	6,094	10.8	14,553	9.1	20,647	9.6
30 - 39 years	8,119	14.4	30,943	19.4	39,062	18.1
40 - 49 years	9,977	17.7	42,801	26.8	52,778	24.4
50 - 59 years	9,472	16.8	30,362	19.0	39,834	18.4
60 years and over	4,200	7.4	11,191	7.0	15,391	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,407</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>159,556</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>215,963</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	2,977	2.0	1,060	0.3	4,037	0.8
18 - 20 years	20,126	13.3	23,516	7.1	43,642	9.0
21 - 24 years	21,353	14.1	40,707	12.2	62,060	12.8
25 - 29 years	20,360	13.4	38,048	11.4	58,408	12.0
30 - 39 years	29,658	19.5	69,831	21.0	99,489	20.5
40 - 49 years	26,540	17.5	78,293	23.5	104,833	21.6
50 - 59 years	21,326	14.0	57,466	17.2	78,792	16.2
60 years and over	9,459	6.2	24,330	7.3	33,789	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>151,799</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>333,251</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>485,050</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)**

State by SA3	September 2017	October 2017	Variation %
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>			
Belconnen	1,165	1,147	-1.5%
Cotter - Namadgi	46	50	8.7%
Fyshwick - Pialligo - Hume	71	70	-1.4%
Gungahlin	564	556	-1.4%
North Canberra	629	642	2.1%
South Canberra	209	211	1.0%
Tuggeranong	798	811	1.6%
Weston Creek	192	203	5.7%
Woden	296	302	2.0%

– 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 2017	Oct 017	Var %	State by SA3	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Var %
<b>New South Wales</b>				<b>New South Wales continued</b>			
Albury	1,722	1,713	-0.5%	Lithgow - Mudgee	1,303	1,272	-2.4%
Armidale	1,109	1,132	2.1%	Liverpool	2,040	2,025	-0.7%
Auburn	1,327	1,328	0.1%	Lord Howe Island	<5	<5	n/a
Bankstown	2,917	2,930	0.4%	Lower Hunter	2,433	2,376	-2.3%
Bathurst	932	924	-0.9%	Lower Murray	375	381	1.6%
Baulkham Hills	555	543	-2.2%	Maitland	1,707	1,672	-2.1%
Blacktown	2,299	2,258	-1.8%	Manly	168	164	-2.4%
Blacktown - North	780	758	-2.8%	Marrickville - Sydenham - Petersham	854	872	2.1%
Blue Mountains	909	909	0.0%	Merrylands - Guildford	3,027	3,063	1.2%
Blue Mountains - South	<5	<5	n/a	Moree - Narrabri	1,050	1,062	1.1%
Botany	572	574	0.3%	Mount Druitt	2,997	2,914	-2.8%
Bourke - Cobar - Coonamble	1,463	1,463	0.0%	Newcastle	3,928	3,954	0.7%
Bringelly - Green Valley	1,627	1,636	0.6%	North Sydney - Mosman	338	344	1.8%
Broken Hill and Far West	934	932	-0.2%	Orange	1,221	1,238	1.4%
Camden	464	469	1.1%	Parramatta	1,668	1,631	-2.2%
Campbelltown (NSW)	3,212	3,174	-1.2%	Pennant Hills - Epping	215	211	-1.9%
Canada Bay	428	418	-2.3%	Penrith	2,030	1,969	-3.0%
Canterbury	2,326	2,320	-0.3%	Pittwater	194	189	-2.6%
Carlingford	759	740	-2.5%	Port Macquarie	1,774	1,731	-2.4%
Chatswood - Lane Cove	426	426	0.0%	Port Stephens	1,758	1,745	-0.7%
Clarence Valley	1,382	1,413	2.2%	Queanbeyan	566	566	0.0%
Coffs Harbour	2,213	2,186	-1.2%	Richmond - Windsor	571	558	-2.3%
Cronulla - Miranda - Caringbah	585	609	4.1%	Richmond Valley - Coastal	2,299	2,321	1.0%
Dapto - Port Kembla	1,665	1,689	1.4%	Richmond Valley - Hinterland	2,841	2,845	0.1%
Dubbo	2,197	2,217	0.9%	Rouse Hill - McGraths Hill	156	150	-3.8%
Dural - Wisemans Ferry	107	113	5.6%	Ryde - Hunters Hill	858	846	-1.4%
Eastern Suburbs - North	600	601	0.2%	Shoalhaven	2,387	2,410	1.0%
Eastern Suburbs - South	1,068	1,049	-1.8%	Snowy Mountains	379	388	2.4%
Fairfield	5,191	5,229	0.7%	South Coast	1,658	1,682	1.4%
Gosford	2,805	2,770	-1.2%	Southern Highlands	344	343	-0.3%
Goulburn - Yass	1,305	1,309	0.3%	St Marys	1,211	1,210	-0.1%
Great Lakes	835	829	-0.7%	Strathfield - Burwood - Ashfield	1,453	1,428	-1.7%
Griffith - Murrumbidgee (West)	975	982	0.7%	Sutherland - Menai - Heathcote	523	550	5.2%
Hawkesbury	185	182	-1.6%	Sydney Inner City	2,664	2,670	0.2%
Hornsby	491	478	-2.6%	Tamworth - Gunnedah	2,543	2,555	0.5%
Hurstville	1,319	1,300	-1.4%	Taree - Gloucester	1,842	1,839	-0.2%
Illawarra Catchment Reserve	<5	<5	n/a	Tumut - Tumbarumba	300	295	-1.7%
Inverell - Tenterfield	1,539	1,529	-0.6%	Tweed Valley	2,358	2,422	2.7%
Kempsey - Nambucca	1,638	1,663	1.5%	Upper Hunter	828	806	-2.7%
Kiama - Shellharbour	1,403	1,383	-1.4%	Upper Murray exc. Albury	939	914	-2.7%
Kogarah - Rockdale	1,270	1,263	-0.6%	Wagga Wagga	1,895	1,917	1.2%
Ku-ring-gai	294	288	-2.0%	Warringah	709	704	-0.7%
Lachlan Valley	1,660	1,642	-1.1%	Wollondilly	384	370	-3.6%
Lake Macquarie - East	2,057	2,024	-1.6%	Wollongong	1,971	2,046	3.8%
Lake Macquarie - West	1,573	1,581	0.5%	Wyong	3,778	3,727	-1.3%
Leichhardt	482	479	-0.6%				

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<b>State by SA3</b>	September 2017	October 2017	Variation %
<b>Northern Territory</b>			
Alice Springs	3,376	3,419	1.3%
Barkly	806	830	3.0%
Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem	2,602	2,660	2.2%
Darwin City	511	488	-4.5%
Darwin Suburbs	1,141	1,136	-0.4%
East Arnhem	1,716	1,674	-2.4%
Katherine	2,006	2,062	2.8%
Litchfield	417	411	-1.4%
Palmerston	732	724	-1.1%

– 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 2017	Oct 2017	Var %	State by SA3	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Var. %
<b>Queensland</b>				<b>Queensland continued</b>			
Bald Hills - Everton Park	459	464	1.1%	Ipswich Hinterland	1,763	1,781	1.0%
Beaudesert	460	441	-4.1%	Ipswich Inner	3,284	3,300	0.5%
Beenleigh	1,390	1,356	-2.4%	Jimboomba	866	830	-4.2%
Bowen Basin - North	704	679	-3.6%	Kenmore - Brookfield - Moggill	280	278	-0.7%
Bribie - Beachmere	765	762	-0.4%	Loganlea - Carbrook	1,384	1,340	-3.2%
Brisbane Inner	1,624	1,628	0.2%	Mackay	3,209	3,157	-1.6%
Brisbane Inner - East	555	553	-0.4%	Maroochy	1,285	1,294	0.7%
Brisbane Inner - North	1,160	1,133	-2.3%	Maryborough	1,808	1,799	-0.5%
Brisbane Inner - West	639	631	-1.3%	Mt Gravatt	1,043	1,057	1.3%
Broadbeach - Burleigh	1,162	1,134	-2.4%	Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	483	479	-0.8%
Browns Plains	2,328	2,311	-0.7%	Nambour - Pomona	1,456	1,465	0.6%
Buderim	836	853	2.0%	Narangba - Burpengary	1,474	1,462	-0.8%
Bundaberg	3,422	3,390	-0.9%	Nathan	756	757	0.1%
Burnett	1,812	1,821	0.5%	Nerang	1,455	1,436	-1.3%
Caboolture	2,463	2,447	-0.6%	Noosa	630	638	1.3%
Caboolture Hinterland	282	282	0.0%	North Lakes	1,279	1,301	1.7%
Cairns - North	963	954	-0.9%	Nundah	658	649	-1.4%
Cairns - South	4,656	4,572	-1.8%	Ormeau - Oxenford	2,131	2,132	0.0%
Caloundra	1,548	1,540	-0.5%	Outback - North	1,508	1,468	-2.7%
Capalaba	1,132	1,110	-1.9%	Outback - South	534	524	-1.9%
Carindale	545	558	2.4%	Port Douglas - Daintree	436	419	-3.9%
Centenary	279	279	0.0%	Redcliffe	1,599	1,590	-0.6%
Central Highlands (Qld)	812	805	-0.9%	Robina	809	801	-1.0%
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham	1,586	1,525	-3.8%	Rockhampton	4,105	4,118	0.3%
Chermside	1,217	1,211	-0.5%	Rocklea - Acacia Ridge	1,094	1,104	0.9%
Cleveland - Stradbroke	1,352	1,352	0.0%	Sandgate	1,061	1,083	2.1%
Coolangatta	1,102	1,092	-0.9%	Sherwood - Indooroopilly	489	508	3.9%
Darling Downs (West) - Maranoa	1,105	1,082	-2.1%	Southport	1,714	1,711	-0.2%
Darling Downs - East	925	927	0.2%	Springfield - Redbank	2,025	2,004	-1.0%
Far North	2,755	2,767	0.4%	Springwood - Kingston	3,143	3,179	1.1%
Forest Lake - Oxley	2,168	2,176	0.4%	Strathpine	863	841	-2.5%
Gladstone - Biloela	2,775	2,752	-0.8%	Sunnybank	924	931	0.8%
Gold Coast - North	1,705	1,705	0.0%	Sunshine Coast Hinterland	1,115	1,105	-0.9%
Gold Coast Hinterland	311	319	2.6%	Surfers Paradise	933	913	-2.1%
Granite Belt	964	937	-2.8%	Tablelands (East) - Kuranda	1,575	1,538	-2.3%
Gympie - Cooloola	1,698	1,676	-1.3%	The Gap - Enoggera	698	697	-0.1%
Hervey Bay	2,059	2,071	0.6%	Toowoomba	3,217	3,141	-2.4%
Hills District	708	688	-2.8%	Townsville	5,913	5,801	-1.9%
Holland Park - Yeronga	1,389	1,389	0.0%	Whitsunday	466	446	-4.3%
Innisfail - Cassowary Coast	1,551	1,572	1.4%	Wynnum - Manly	1,129	1,092	-3.3%

– 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 2017	October 2017	Variation %
<b>South Australia</b>			
Adelaide City	511	504	-1.4%
Adelaide Hills	754	739	-2.0%
Barossa	619	599	-3.2%
Burnside	341	331	-2.9%
Campbelltown (SA)	646	654	1.2%
Charles Sturt	2,318	2,278	-1.7%
Eyre Peninsula and South West	2,230	2,219	-0.5%
Fleurieu - Kangaroo Island	1,083	1,106	2.1%
Gawler - Two Wells	778	774	-0.5%
Holdfast Bay	417	424	1.7%
Limestone Coast	1,568	1,521	-3.0%
Lower North	584	596	2.1%
Marion	1,662	1,650	-0.7%
Mid North	1,107	1,119	1.1%
Mitcham	678	643	-5.2%
Murray and Mallee	2,387	2,354	-1.4%
Norwood - Payneham - St Peters	471	491	4.2%
Onkaparinga	4,292	4,323	0.7%
Outback - North and East	1,720	1,715	-0.3%
Playford	4,484	4,473	-0.2%
Port Adelaide - East	1,805	1,783	-1.2%
Port Adelaide - West	1,876	1,800	-4.1%
Prospect - Walkerville	384	387	0.8%
Salisbury	4,635	4,652	0.4%
Tea Tree Gully	1,423	1,429	0.4%
Unley	371	369	-0.5%
West Torrens	1,081	1,071	-0.9%
Yorke Peninsula	754	766	1.6%

– 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 2017	October 2017	Variation %
<b>Tasmania</b>			
Brighton	716	727	1.5%
Burnie - Ulverstone	1,449	1,451	0.1%
Central Highlands (Tas.)	365	382	4.7%
Devonport	1,278	1,283	0.4%
Hobart - North East	1,147	1,144	-0.3%
Hobart - North West	2,183	2,186	0.1%
Hobart - South and West	526	531	1.0%
Hobart Inner	1,061	1,073	1.1%
Huon - Bruny Island	521	525	0.8%
Launceston	2,886	2,991	3.6%
Meander Valley - West Tamar	587	563	-4.1%
North East	1,289	1,315	2.0%
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	410	414	1.0%
South East Coast	217	206	-5.1%
West Coast	560	548	-2.1%

– 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 2017	Oct 2017	Var %	State by SA3	Sep 2017	Oct 2017	Var %
<b>Victoria</b>				<b>Victoria continued</b>			
Ballarat	2,940	2,937	-0.1%	Manningham - East	133	134	0.8%
Banyule	1,410	1,377	-2.3%	Manningham - West	664	662	-0.3%
Barwon - West	220	207	-5.9%	Maribyrnong	2,188	2,159	-1.3%
Baw Baw	902	943	4.5%	Maroondah	1,374	1,349	-1.8%
Bayside	630	620	-1.6%	Maryborough - Pyrenees	884	844	-4.5%
Bendigo	2,625	2,578	-1.8%	Melbourne City	1,795	1,773	-1.2%
Boroondara	828	844	1.9%	Melton - Bacchus Marsh	3,272	3,278	0.2%
Brimbank	5,783	5,851	1.2%	Mildura	1,802	1,854	2.9%
Brunswick - Coburg	1,586	1,559	-1.7%	Moira	681	675	-0.9%
Campaspe	858	828	-3.5%	Monash	1,334	1,334	0.0%
Cardinia	1,249	1,249	0.0%	Moreland - North	1,408	1,394	-1.0%
Casey - North	1,918	1,892	-1.4%	Mornington Peninsula	1,969	1,968	-0.1%
Casey - South	2,673	2,626	-1.8%	Murray River - Swan Hill	836	861	3.0%
Creswick - Daylesford - Ballan	588	569	-3.2%	Nillumbik - Kinglake	452	449	-0.7%
Dandenong	3,873	3,791	-2.1%	Port Phillip	1,552	1,547	-0.3%
Darebin - North	2,066	2,009	-2.8%	Shepparton	1,682	1,623	-3.5%
Darebin - South	806	805	-0.1%	Stonnington - East	249	238	-4.4%
Essendon	1,097	1,107	0.9%	Stonnington - West	682	671	-1.6%
Frankston	2,737	2,636	-3.7%	Sunbury	582	587	0.9%
Geelong	4,419	4,398	-0.5%	Surf Coast - Bellarine Peninsula	863	855	-0.9%
Gippsland - East	1,687	1,656	-1.8%	Tullamarine - Broadmeadows	4,690	4,697	0.1%
Gippsland - South West	1,283	1,234	-3.8%	Upper Goulburn Valley	958	975	1.8%
Glen Eira	1,215	1,170	-3.7%	Wangaratta - Benalla	918	942	2.6%
Glenelg - Southern Grampians	777	777	0.0%	Warrnambool - Otway Ranges	1,588	1,552	-2.3%
Grampians	1,268	1,249	-1.5%	Wellington	1,175	1,157	-1.5%
Heathcote - Castlemaine - Kyneton	882	911	3.3%	Whitehorse - East	480	484	0.8%
Hobsons Bay	1,353	1,321	-2.4%	Whitehorse - West	853	836	-2.0%
Keilor	691	682	-1.3%	Whittlesea - Wallan	3,647	3,606	-1.1%
Kingston	1,362	1,355	-0.5%	Wodonga - Alpine	1,495	1,495	0.0%
Knox	1,749	1,747	-0.1%	Wyndham	4,217	4,173	-1.0%
Latrobe Valley	3,087	3,057	-1.0%	Yarra	1,652	1,609	-2.6%
Loddon - Elmore	290	284	-2.1%	Yarra Ranges	1,685	1,695	0.6%
Macedon Ranges	247	257	4.0%				

– 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 2017	October 2017	Variation %
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Albany	1,588	1,601	0.8%
Armadale	2,949	2,904	-1.5%
Augusta - Margaret River - Busselton	1,221	1,212	-0.7%
Bayswater - Bassendean	2,224	2,239	0.7%
Belmont - Victoria Park	2,114	2,132	0.9%
Bunbury	3,325	3,309	-0.5%
Canning	2,023	2,039	0.8%
Cockburn	2,485	2,506	0.8%
Cottesloe - Claremont	432	430	-0.5%
Esperance	372	364	-2.2%
Fremantle	1,040	1,005	-3.4%
Gascoyne	478	504	5.4%
Goldfields	1,655	1,704	3.0%
Gosnells	3,933	3,901	-0.8%
Joondalup	2,451	2,447	-0.2%
Kalamunda	1,097	1,109	1.1%
Kimberley	3,023	3,050	0.9%
Kwinana	1,600	1,602	0.1%
Mandurah	3,547	3,484	-1.8%
Manjimup	682	711	4.3%
Melville	1,280	1,259	-1.6%
Mid West	2,765	2,773	0.3%
Mundaring	969	978	0.9%
Perth City	2,099	2,108	0.4%
Pilbara	1,508	1,574	4.4%
Rockingham	3,724	3,762	1.0%
Serpentine - Jarrahdale	530	535	0.9%
South Perth	717	742	3.5%
Stirling	4,873	4,886	0.3%
Swan	3,889	3,898	0.2%
Wanneroo	5,274	5,343	1.3%
Wheat Belt - North	1,745	1,726	-1.1%
Wheat Belt - South	573	569	-0.7%

– 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 2017	October 2017	Variation %
<b>Other</b>			
Christmas Island	19	23	21.1%
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	8	6	-25.0%
Jervis Bay	21	23	9.5%
Not recorded	2,289	2,137	-6.6%

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 20 October 2017**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term NSA job seekers %	Long-term NSA job seekers %	Total NSA job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	84.8	81.2	82.4
Earned an income	15.2	18.8	17.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.1	1.4	1.3
\$104 - <\$254	2.9	3.5	3.3
\$254+	11.3	13.9	13
<b>Total males</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>80,435</b>	<b>156,234</b>	<b>236,669</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	74.4	69.7	70.8
Earned an income	25.6	30.3	29.2
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.6	1.6	1.6
\$104 - <\$254	4.2	4.2	4.2
\$254+	19.8	24.4	23.3
<b>Total females</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>44,126</b>	<b>142,541</b>	<b>186,667</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	81.1	75.7	77.3
Earned an income	18.9	24.3	22.7
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$104	1.3	1.5	1.5
\$104 - <\$254	3.3	3.9	3.7
\$254+	14.3	18.9	17.6
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA</b>	<b>124,561</b>	<b>298,775</b>	<b>423,336</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 20 October 2017**

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	84.8	82.2	83.4
Earned an income	15.2	17.8	16.6
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.2	1.9	2.0
\$143 - <\$250	2.5	2.2	2.4
\$250+	10.4	13.6	12.2
<b>Total males</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>14,833</b>	<b>17,672</b>	<b>32,505</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	75.5	74.1	74.7
Earned an income	24.5	25.9	25.3
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	3.5	2.9	3.2
\$143 - <\$250	4.3	3.8	4
\$250+	16.7	19.2	18.1
<b>Total females</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>12,193</b>	<b>17,114</b>	<b>29,307</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	80.6	78.2	79.3
Earned an income	19.4	21.8	20.7
Amount earned			
>\$0 - <\$143	2.8	2.4	2.6
\$143 - <\$250	3.4	3.0	3.2
\$250+	13.2	16.4	15
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100
<b>Job seekers receiving YA (other)</b>	<b>27,026</b>	<b>34,786</b>	<b>61,812</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 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. 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 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. 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)**

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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