

# **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>).

**September 2016**

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## Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

All media inquiries should be directed to the DSS Media Team on (02) 6146 3242. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 30 November 2016.

# Statistical Highlights – September 2016

## Between September 2015 and September 2016

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 0.6 per cent** overall from 849 164 to 854 665.

- NSA recipients increased 1.3 per cent from 751 471 to 760 972.
- YA(o) recipients decreased 4.1 per cent from 97 693 to 93 693.

The number of job seekers **decreased 7.0 per cent** overall from 526 684 to 490 061.

- NSA job seekers decreased 5.9 per cent from 450 811 to 424 080.
- YA(o) job seekers decreased 13.0 per cent from 75 873 to 65 981.

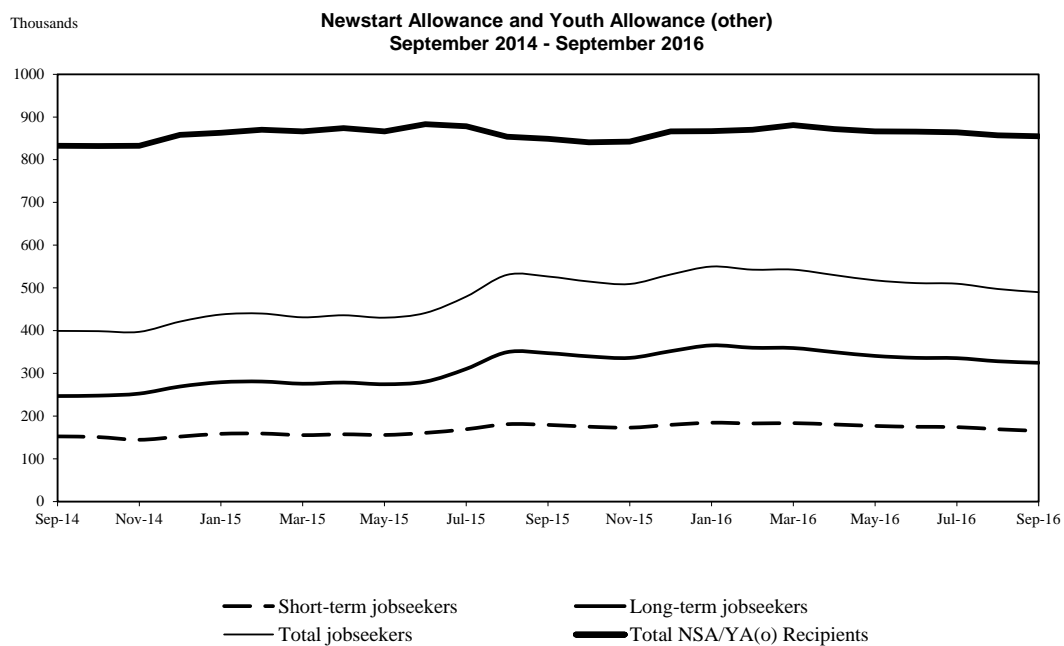
Long-term job seekers decreased 6.5 per cent from 347 277 to 324 731.

Short-term job seekers decreased 7.8 per cent from 179 407 to 165 330.

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

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

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



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

Month/Year	Newstart Allowance Long Term	Newstart Allowance Total	Youth Allowance (Other)	Youth Allowance (Full-time Student)	Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentice)	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
February 1994	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..
September 2014	502,196	728,126	104,395	238,785	6,714	7,589	24,711
October 2014	505,815	729,549	102,714	236,622	6,460	7,373	24,404
November 2014	516,763	731,126	101,405	211,398	5,988	7,157	24,180
December 2014	527,318	746,294	112,079	182,733	5,857	6,967	23,988
January 2015	532,903	754,340	108,657	173,161	5,502	6,756	23,604
February 2015	537,533	760,149	109,888	188,529	5,417	6,552	23,336
March 2015	538,587	759,924	106,436	210,765	5,599	6,356	23,058
April 2015	543,245	765,988	107,978	219,279	5,701	6,149	22,794
May 2015	540,239	760,928	105,558	230,469	5,710	5,971	22,467
June 2015	549,111	774,072	109,165	232,088	5,676	5,790	22,151
July 2015	547,590	769,902	108,437	216,773	5,447	5,612	21,768
August 2015	538,904	753,622	100,040	232,201	5,320	5,440	21,468
September 2015	538,773	751,471	97,693	234,033	5,197	5,292	21,197
October 2015	537,479	746,317	94,433	232,317	4,970	5,120	20,868
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
Variation August 2016 - September 2016							
Number	219	-1,162	-1,368	-1,240	-36	-142	-287
Per cent	0.0	-0.2	-1.4	-0.6	-0.9	-3.8	-1.6

## Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

**Table 2 - Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the Job Seeker Population**

Newstart Allowance	September 2016 Persons	September 2016 Males	September 2016 Females	August 2016	Variation August - September Number	Variation August - September per cent
<b>Short Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>206,795</b>	<b>128,393</b>	<b>78,402</b>	<b>208,176</b>	<b>-1,381</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	12,466	6,979	5,487	11,855	611	5.2
Received a payment	194,329	121,414	72,915	196,321	-1,992	-1.0
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	7,647	2,157	5,490	7,687	-40	-0.5
Other activities without job search (c)	10,016	5,388	4,628	9,923	93	0.9
Incapacitated (d)	26,367	15,297	11,070	26,081	286	1.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	13,822	7,848	5,974	13,423	399	3.0
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>136,477</b>	<b>90,724</b>	<b>45,753</b>	<b>139,207</b>	<b>-2,730</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
Short-term NSA training/education (g)	32,624	18,680	13,944	32,311	313	1.0
<b>Long Term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>554,177</b>	<b>266,253</b>	<b>287,924</b>	<b>553,958</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	21,896	8,882	13,014	20,698	1,198	5.8
Received a payment	532,281	257,371	274,910	533,260	-979	-0.2
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	73,229	17,181	56,048	73,422	-193	-0.3
Other activities without job search (c)	62,472	30,279	32,193	62,051	421	0.7
Incapacitated (d)	59,890	29,930	29,960	58,674	1,216	2.1
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	49,087	22,453	26,634	48,952	135	0.3
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>287,603</b>	<b>157,528</b>	<b>130,075</b>	<b>290,161</b>	<b>-2,558</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
Long-term NSA training/education (g)	186,502	92,367	94,135	183,527	2,975	1.6
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>760,972</b>	<b>394,646</b>	<b>366,326</b>	<b>762,134</b>	<b>-1,162</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	34,362	15,861	18,501	32,553	1,809	5.6
Received a payment	726,610	378,785	347,825	729,581	-2,971	-0.4
Voluntary/part-time work (b)	80,876	19,338	61,538	81,109	-233	-0.3
Other activities without job search (c)	72,488	35,667	36,821	71,974	514	0.7
Incapacitated (d)	86,257	45,227	41,030	84,755	1,502	1.8
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	62,909	30,301	32,608	62,375	534	0.9
<b>All NSA job seekers (f)</b>	<b>424,080</b>	<b>248,252</b>	<b>175,828</b>	<b>429,368</b>	<b>-5,288</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
All NSA training/education (g)	219,126	111,047	108,079	215,838	3,288	1.5

(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)	September 2016 Persons	September 2016 Males	September 2016 Females	August 2016	Variation August - September Number	Variation August - September per cent
<b>Short Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>41,307</b>	<b>22,869</b>	<b>18,438</b>	<b>41,689</b>	<b>-382</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,265	608	657	1,175	90	7.7
Received a payment	40,042	22,261	17,781	40,514	-472	-1.2
Other activities without job search (b)	7,196	4,201	2,995	6,690	506	7.6
Incapacitated (c)	2,195	1,086	1,109	2,196	-1	0.0
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	1,798	870	928	1,651	147	8.9
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>28,853</b>	<b>16,104</b>	<b>12,749</b>	<b>29,977</b>	<b>-1,124</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
Short-term YA (other) training/education (f)	13,042	7,079	5,963	12,618	424	3.4
<b>Long Term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>52,386</b>	<b>26,742</b>	<b>25,644</b>	<b>53,372</b>	<b>-986</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	1,560	635	925	1,482	78	5.3
Received a payment	50,826	26,107	24,719	51,890	-1,064	-2.1
Other activities without job search (b)	8,227	4,414	3,813	8,240	-13	-0.2
Incapacitated (c)	3,053	1,360	1,693	3,056	-3	-0.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	2,418	1,027	1,391	2,438	-20	-0.8
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>37,128</b>	<b>19,306</b>	<b>17,822</b>	<b>38,156</b>	<b>-1,028</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
Long-term YA (other) training/education (f)	22,025	10,938	11,087	22,066	-41	-0.2
<b>All Youth Allowees</b>	<b>93,693</b>	<b>49,611</b>	<b>44,082</b>	<b>95,061</b>	<b>-1,368</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Did not receive a payment (a)	2,825	1,243	1,582	2,657	168	6.3
Received a payment	90,868	48,368	42,500	92,404	-1,536	-1.7
Other activities without job search (b)	15,423	8,615	6,808	14,930	493	3.3
Incapacitated (c)	5,248	2,446	2,802	5,252	-4	-0.1
Other/temporary exemptions (d)	4,216	1,897	2,319	4,089	127	3.1
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (e)</b>	<b>65,981</b>	<b>35,410</b>	<b>30,571</b>	<b>68,133</b>	<b>-2,152</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
All YA (other) training/education (f)	35,067	18,017	17,050	34,684	383	1.1

(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>
September 2014	152,447	246,892	399,339
October 2014	150,865	247,895	398,760
November 2014	144,549	252,616	397,165
December 2014	151,992	269,253	421,245
January 2015	158,486	279,232	437,718
February 2015	159,147	280,864	440,011
March 2015	155,412	275,725	431,137
April 2015	157,385	278,562	435,947
May 2015	155,786	274,542	430,328
June 2015	160,700	280,671	441,371
July 2015	169,236	310,466	479,702
August 2015	180,978	349,635	530,613
September 2015	179,407	347,277	526,684
October 2015	175,151	339,772	514,923
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
Variation August 2016 - September 2016			
Number	-3,854	-3,586	-7,440
Per cent	-2.3	-1.1	-1.5

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	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per cent
<b>Short-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	41,169	40,182	-987	-2.4
Victoria	36,464	35,725	-739	-2.0
Queensland	44,188	43,078	-1,110	-2.5
South Australia	13,771	13,508	-263	-1.9
Western Australia	24,312	23,747	-565	-2.3
Tasmania	4,339	4,195	-144	-3.3
Northern Territory	3,422	3,442	20	0.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,519	1,453	-66	-4.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>169,184</b>	<b>165,330</b>	<b>-3,854</b>	<b>-2.3</b>
<b>Long-Term Job Seekers</b>				
New South Wales	90,716	88,992	-1,724	-1.9
Victoria	71,038	70,031	-1,007	-1.4
Queensland	75,101	74,502	-599	-0.8
South Australia	31,191	30,850	-341	-1.1
Western Australia	37,356	37,560	204	0.5
Tasmania	10,848	10,603	-245	-2.3
Northern Territory	9,220	9,423	203	2.2
Australian Capital Territory	2,847	2,770	-77	-2.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>328,317</b>	<b>324,731</b>	<b>-3,586</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Total Job seekers</b>				
New South Wales	131,885	129,174	-2,711	-2.1
Victoria	107,502	105,756	-1,746	-1.6
Queensland	119,289	117,580	-1,709	-1.4
South Australia	44,962	44,358	-604	-1.3
Western Australia	61,668	61,307	-361	-0.6
Tasmania	15,187	14,798	-389	-2.6
Northern Territory	12,642	12,865	223	1.8
Australian Capital Territory	4,366	4,223	-143	-3.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>497,501</b>	<b>490,061</b>	<b>-7,440</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

Notes:

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

**Table 6 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other) By Age and Sex**

Age	Short-term job seekers Number	Short-term job seekers Per Cent	Long-term job seekers Numbers	Long-term job seekers Per Cent	Total job seekers Number	Total job seekers Per Cent
<b>Males</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,746	1.6	526	0.3	2,272	0.8
18 - 20 years	11,716	11.0	12,690	7.2	24,406	8.6
21 - 24 years	15,183	14.2	25,087	14.2	40,270	14.2
25 - 29 years	15,810	14.8	24,662	13.9	40,472	14.3
30 - 39 years	24,374	22.8	40,773	23.1	65,147	23.0
40 - 49 years	19,232	18.0	35,872	20.3	55,104	19.4
50 - 59 years	13,403	12.5	26,036	14.7	39,439	13.9
60 years and over	5,363	5.0	11,188	6.3	16,551	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,827</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>176,834</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>283,661</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Females</b>						
Less than 18 years	1,737	3.0	672	0.5	2,409	1.2
18 - 20 years	9,421	16.1	12,251	8.3	21,672	10.5
21 - 24 years	8,372	14.3	17,545	11.9	25,917	12.6
25 - 29 years	6,201	10.6	14,195	9.6	20,396	9.9
30 - 39 years	8,690	14.9	28,794	19.5	37,484	18.2
40 - 49 years	10,561	18.1	38,908	26.3	49,469	24.0
50 - 59 years	9,773	16.7	27,266	18.4	37,039	17.9
60 years and over	3,748	6.4	8,266	5.6	12,014	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,503</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>147,897</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>206,400</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Persons</b>						
Less than 18 years	3,483	2.1	1,198	0.4	4,681	1.0
18 - 20 years	21,137	12.8	24,941	7.7	46,078	9.4
21 - 24 years	23,555	14.2	42,632	13.1	66,187	13.5
25 - 29 years	22,011	13.3	38,857	12.0	60,868	12.4
30 - 39 years	33,064	20.0	69,567	21.4	102,631	20.9
40 - 49 years	29,793	18.0	74,780	23.0	104,573	21.3
50 - 59 years	23,176	14.0	53,302	16.4	76,478	15.6
60 years and over	9,111	5.5	19,454	6.0	28,565	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,330</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>324,731</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>490,061</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

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

Sydney Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bankstown	3,492	3,361	-131	-3.8
Bondi Junction	806	790	-16	-2.0
Burwood	1,559	1,494	-65	-4.2
Cabramatta	2,282	2,251	-31	-1.4
Camden	783	759	-24	-3.1
Campbelltown	2,263	2,230	-33	-1.5
Campsie	2,560	2,453	-107	-4.2
Caringbah	684	660	-24	-3.5
Chatswood	1,034	984	-50	-4.8
Darlinghurst	1,600	1,542	-58	-3.6
Fairfield	2,962	2,848	-114	-3.8
Hornsby	1,036	999	-37	-3.6
Hurstville	1,517	1,452	-65	-4.3
Ingleburn	1,249	1,192	-57	-4.6
Leichhardt	1,358	1,303	-55	-4.1
Liverpool	3,855	3,759	-96	-2.5
Maroubra	1,367	1,328	-39	-2.9
Marrickville	983	944	-39	-4.0
Northern Beaches	1,215	1,166	-49	-4.0
Redfern	1,639	1,599	-40	-2.4
Rockdale	1,358	1,296	-62	-4.6
Ryde	1,072	1,051	-21	-2.0
Sutherland	737	709	-28	-3.8
Other (a)	59	47	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,470</b>	<b>36,217</b>	<b>-1,253</b>	<b>-3.3</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

North New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ballina	1,072	1,045	-27	-2.5
Brunswick Heads	875	864	-11	-1.3
Byron Bay	379	375	-4	-1.1
Casino	873	875	2	0.2
Cessnock	1,126	1,118	-8	-0.7
Charlestown	2,027	1,982	-45	-2.2
Coffs Harbour	2,226	2,178	-48	-2.2
Comm Support Team	76	86	%	%
Ettalong	831	781	-50	-6.0
Forster	889	872	-17	-1.9
Gosford	1,779	1,710	-69	-3.9
Grafton	1,004	992	-12	-1.2
Kempsey	1,011	1,009	-2	-0.2
King Street	1,403	1,400	-3	-0.2
Kurri Kurri	625	618	-7	-1.1
Lakehaven	1,870	1,880	10	0.5
Lismore	2,038	2,055	17	0.8
Maitland	2,145	2,127	-18	-0.8
Mayfield	1,123	1,104	-19	-1.7
Murwillumbah	781	757	-24	-3.1
Muswellbrook	843	830	-13	-1.5
Nambucca Heads	644	624	-20	-3.1
Nelson Bay	671	654	-17	-2.5
Port Macquarie	1,831	1,811	-20	-1.1
Raymond Terrace	1,241	1,242	1	0.1
Singleton	485	501	16	3.3
Taree	1,950	1,920	-30	-1.5
The Entrance	1,315	1,275	-40	-3.0
Toronto	1,129	1,118	-11	-1.0
Tweed Heads	1,619	1,588	-31	-1.9
Wallsend	1,889	1,877	-12	-0.6
Woy Woy	541	525	-16	-3.0
Wyong	640	654	14	2.2
Yamba	408	399	-9	-2.2
Other (a)	84	74	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,443</b>	<b>38,920</b>	<b>-523</b>	<b>-1.3</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Armidale	1,120	1,118	-2	-0.2
Auburn	1,944	1,920	-24	-1.2
Bathurst	1,019	999	-20	-2.0
Baulkham Hills	919	867	-52	-5.7
Blacktown	3,448	3,345	-103	-3.0
Bourke	503	509	6	1.2
Central New South Wales	26	<20	na	na
Dubbo	2,728	2,710	-18	-0.7
Glen Innes	442	434	-8	-1.8
Gunnedah	495	495	0	0.0
Hawkesbury	898	884	-14	-1.6
Inverell	815	803	-12	-1.5
Katoomba	718	684	-34	-4.7
Lightning Ridge	236	228	-8	-3.4
Lithgow	780	775	-5	-0.6
Merrylands	2,030	1,988	-42	-2.1
Moree	579	580	1	0.2
Mt Druitt	2,977	2,889	-88	-3.0
Mudgee	658	651	-7	-1.1
Narrabri	436	426	-10	-2.3
Orange	1,285	1,291	6	0.5
Parkes	1,023	1,009	-14	-1.4
Parramatta	2,206	2,117	-89	-4.0
Penrith	1,883	1,838	-45	-2.4
Springwood	329	313	-16	-4.9
St Marys	1,755	1,739	-16	-0.9
Tamworth	2,196	2,176	-20	-0.9
Walgett	351	346	-5	-1.4
Other (a)	7	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,806</b>	<b>33,156</b>	<b>-650</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Southern New South Wales Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Batemans Bay	768	736	-32	-4.2
Bega	718	700	-18	-2.5
Belconnen	1,231	1,171	-60	-4.9
Bowral	462	438	-24	-5.2
Braddon	1,000	965	-35	-3.5
Cooma	386	379	-7	-1.8
Corrimal	996	973	-23	-2.3
Cowra	552	537	-15	-2.7
Dapto	1,284	1,288	4	0.3
Goulburn	809	786	-23	-2.8
Griffith	812	794	-18	-2.2
Gungahlin	583	579	-4	-0.7
Leeton	479	473	-6	-1.3
Narooma	277	255	-22	-7.9
Nowra	2,111	2,053	-58	-2.7
Queanbeyan	664	647	-17	-2.6
Shellharbour	1,591	1,571	-20	-1.3
Tuggeranong	868	843	-25	-2.9
Tumut	378	367	-11	-2.9
Ulladulla	476	466	-10	-2.1
Wagga	1,779	1,802	23	1.3
Woden	611	596	-15	-2.5
Wollongong	1,474	1,492	18	1.2
Yass	142	139	-3	-2.1
Young	625	613	-12	-1.9
Other (a)	26	30	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,102</b>	<b>20,693</b>	<b>-409</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

- Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Northern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Airport West	1,282	1,277	-5	-0.4
Albury	3,162	3,151	-11	-0.3
Box Hill	1,995	1,911	-84	-4.2
Broadmeadows	4,774	4,662	-112	-2.3
Darebin	2,847	2,738	-109	-3.8
Deniliquin	342	350	8	2.3
Echuca	722	686	-36	-5.0
Epping	3,183	3,143	-40	-1.3
Greensborough	1,858	1,753	-105	-5.7
Heidelberg	1,283	1,264	-19	-1.5
Moreland	2,684	2,654	-30	-1.1
Newmarket	1,846	1,820	-26	-1.4
Seymour	815	785	-30	-3.7
Shepparton	2,371	2,385	14	0.6
Sth Melbourne	1,171	1,132	-39	-3.3
Sunbury	1,019	1,007	-12	-1.2
Wangaratta	1,638	1,639	1	0.1
Windsor Vic	2,372	2,307	-65	-2.7
Yarra	2,416	2,372	-44	-1.8
Other (a)	92	92	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,872</b>	<b>37,128</b>	<b>-744</b>	<b>-2.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Eastern Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bairnsdale	1,359	1,363	4	0.3
Belgrave	504	493	-11	-2.2
Boronia	1,284	1,240	-44	-3.4
Cheltenham	1,847	1,848	1	0.1
Cranbourne	2,182	2,131	-51	-2.3
Dandenong	2,889	2,787	-102	-3.5
Fountain Gate	2,269	2,216	-53	-2.3
Frankston	2,805	2,735	-70	-2.5
Glen Waverley	1,100	1,093	-7	-0.6
Hastings	716	687	-29	-4.1
Lilydale	1,476	1,436	-40	-2.7
Mornington	561	560	-1	-0.2
Morwell	3,713	3,690	-23	-0.6
Oakleigh	1,750	1,734	-16	-0.9
Pakenham	1,075	1,038	-37	-3.4
Ringwood	2,036	2,017	-19	-0.9
Rosebud	1,014	984	-30	-3.0
Rowville	601	580	-21	-3.5
Sale	1,207	1,190	-17	-1.4
Springvale	2,075	2,040	-35	-1.7
Warragul	858	859	1	0.1
Wonthaggi	903	886	-17	-1.9
Other (a)	69	64	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,293</b>	<b>33,671</b>	<b>-622</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.



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

West Victoria Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Ararat	310	299	-11	-3.5
Ballarat	3,744	3,721	-23	-0.6
Bendigo	3,507	3,517	10	0.3
Colac	608	608	0	0.0
Corio	2,062	1,977	-85	-4.1
Footscray	1,764	1,755	-9	-0.5
Geelong	3,316	3,296	-20	-0.6
Hamilton	469	443	-26	-5.5
Horsham	871	864	-7	-0.8
Maryborough	771	752	-19	-2.5
Melton	2,208	2,225	17	0.8
Mildura	2,195	2,172	-23	-1.0
Newport	1,155	1,131	-24	-2.1
Portland	407	393	-14	-3.4
Stawell	211	210	-1	-0.5
Sunshine	3,722	3,692	-30	-0.8
Swan Hill	888	865	-23	-2.6
Warrnambool	985	1,020	35	3.6
Watergardens	3,628	3,605	-23	-0.6
Werribee	4,726	4,627	-99	-2.1
West Victoria	20	<20	na	na
Other (a)	40	na	na	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,607</b>	<b>37,228</b>	<b>-379</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Northern Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Atherton	924	880	-44	-4.8
Ayr	520	480	-40	-7.7
Biloela	340	337	-3	-0.9
Bowen	484	456	-28	-5.8
Cairns Aplin	5,664	5,619	-45	-0.8
Charters Towers	537	523	-14	-2.6
Emerald	619	606	-13	-2.1
Gladstone	2,129	2,133	4	0.2
Indigenous Service Centre	1,875	1,920	45	2.4
Ingham	405	364	-41	-10.1
Innisfail	1,061	1,047	-14	-1.3
Longreach	206	216	10	4.9
Mackay	3,634	3,477	-157	-4.3
Mareeba	987	984	-3	-0.3
Mossman	585	617	32	5.5
Mt Isa	1,004	1,003	-1	-0.1
Normanton	198	175	-23	-11.6
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	193	202	9	4.7
Palm Island	354	362	8	2.3
Rockhampton	3,412	3,446	34	1.0
Thursday Is	211	217	6	2.8
TSV Ross River Rd	6,160	6,106	-54	-0.9
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	467	491	24	5.1
Whitsunday	704	676	-28	-4.0
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	538	543	5	0.9
Yeppoon	884	870	-14	-1.6
Other (a)	388	369	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,483</b>	<b>34,119</b>	<b>-364</b>	<b>-1.1</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Central Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Bundaberg	3,921	3,847	-74	-1.9
Caboolture	4,300	4,179	-121	-2.8
Caloundra	1,776	1,763	-13	-0.7
Cherbourg	375	357	-18	-4.8
Chermside	1,473	1,450	-23	-1.6
Deception Bay	1,574	1,471	-103	-6.5
Fortitude Valley	1,835	1,823	-12	-0.7
Gympie	1,795	1,764	-31	-1.7
Hervey Bay	2,316	2,329	13	0.6
Kawana Waters	792	782	-10	-1.3
Kingaroy	978	951	-27	-2.8
Margate	1,433	1,448	15	1.0
Maroochydore	1,872	1,818	-54	-2.9
Maryborough	1,781	1,738	-43	-2.4
Mitchelton	1,887	1,819	-68	-3.6
Mt Gravatt	2,931	2,938	7	0.2
Nambour	1,336	1,289	-47	-3.5
Noosa	1,120	1,056	-64	-5.7
Nundah	2,020	2,018	-2	-0.1
South Brisbane	1,426	1,439	13	0.9
Stones Corner	2,274	2,209	-65	-2.9
Strathpine	2,439	2,351	-88	-3.6
Toowong	1,335	1,319	-16	-1.2
Other (a)	113	99	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,102</b>	<b>42,257</b>	<b>-845</b>	<b>-2.0</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

South Queensland Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Beaudesert	875	854	-21	-2.4
Beenleigh	3,327	3,274	-53	-1.6
Biggera Waters	3,432	3,356	-76	-2.2
Browns Plains	2,484	2,429	-55	-2.2
Capalaba	1,064	1,061	-3	-0.3
Charleville	314	302	-12	-3.8
Cleveland	1,365	1,345	-20	-1.5
Dalby	914	868	-46	-5.0
Goodna	2,331	2,352	21	0.9
Goondiwindi	429	424	-5	-1.2
Inala	2,905	2,871	-34	-1.2
Ipswich	4,376	4,394	18	0.4
Nerang	3,628	3,614	-14	-0.4
Palm Beach	3,834	3,789	-45	-1.2
Roma	267	267	0	0.0
South Queensland	49	48	%	%
Southport	582	595	13	2.2
Stanthorpe	538	520	-18	-3.3
Toowoomba	3,718	3,631	-87	-2.3
Warwick	596	561	-35	-5.9
Woodridge	3,082	3,073	-9	-0.3
Wynnum	1,163	1,144	-19	-1.6
Other (a)	48	50	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,321</b>	<b>40,822</b>	<b>-499</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

South Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Berri	1,204	1,182	-22	-1.8
Broken Hill	985	975	-10	-1.0
Ceduna	356	386	30	8.4
Cooper Pedy	242	235	-7	-2.9
Elizabeth	4,593	4,571	-22	-0.5
Enfield	2,111	2,085	-26	-1.2
Gawler	1,827	1,771	-56	-3.1
Glenelg	1,118	1,107	-11	-1.0
Kadina	939	914	-25	-2.7
Kilkenny	1,947	1,921	-26	-1.3
Marion	3,219	3,137	-82	-2.5
Modbury	2,620	2,568	-52	-2.0
Mt Barker	998	984	-14	-1.4
Mt Gambier	1,555	1,591	36	2.3
Murray Bridge	1,321	1,289	-32	-2.4
Noarlunga	4,049	4,026	-23	-0.6
Norwood	2,235	2,180	-55	-2.5
Port Adelaide	1,968	1,901	-67	-3.4
Port Augusta	1,109	1,100	-9	-0.8
Port Lincoln	717	716	-1	-0.1
Port Pirie	1,293	1,285	-8	-0.6
Salisbury	4,485	4,395	-90	-2.0
Torrens ville	2,265	2,219	-46	-2.0
Victor Harbor	918	931	13	1.4
Whyalla	1,330	1,309	-21	-1.6
Other (a)	35	30	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,439</b>	<b>44,808</b>	<b>-631</b>	<b>-1.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Western Australia Service Zone by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
Albany	1,572	1,569	-3	-0.2
Armadale	2,955	2,928	-27	-0.9
Bunbury	3,450	3,350	-100	-2.9
Busselton	1,577	1,582	5	0.3
Cannington	3,203	3,198	-5	-0.2
Carnarvon	506	478	-28	-5.5
Esperance	440	420	-20	-4.5
Fremantle	2,253	2,219	-34	-1.5
Geraldton	2,275	2,324	49	2.2
Gosnells	2,560	2,481	-79	-3.1
Innaloo	2,169	2,137	-32	-1.5
Joondalup	4,020	4,004	-16	-0.4
Kalgoorlie	1,126	1,131	5	0.4
Karratha	562	584	22	3.9
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	252	241	-11	-4.4
Mandurah	3,314	3,366	52	1.6
Meekatharra	335	347	12	3.6
Midland	3,677	3,676	-1	0.0
Mirrabooka	3,771	3,825	54	1.4
Morley	3,568	3,553	-15	-0.4
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	318	341	23	7.2
Northam	1,701	1,654	-47	-2.8
Rockingham	4,089	4,047	-42	-1.0
South Hedland	637	663	26	4.1
Success	2,156	2,136	-20	-0.9
Victoria Park	3,852	3,816	-36	-0.9
Warwick Grove	1,743	1,762	19	1.1
Western Australia	31	27	%	%
Other (a)	158	155	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,270</b>	<b>58,014</b>	<b>-256</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Tasmania and North Australia Service Zones by Service Centre	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Tasmania</b>				
Bridgewater	1,180	1,135	-45	-3.8
Burnie	1,670	1,606	-64	-3.8
Devonport	1,639	1,595	-44	-2.7
Glenorchy	1,876	1,840	-36	-1.9
Hobart	1,814	1,781	-33	-1.8
Huonville	488	459	-29	-5.9
Launceston	4,654	4,564	-90	-1.9
Rosny Park	1,762	1,735	-27	-1.5
TAS Support Team	21	20	%	%
Other (a)	39	22	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,143</b>	<b>14,757</b>	<b>-386</b>	<b>-2.5</b>
<b>North Australia</b>				
Alice Springs	1,095	1,119	24	2.2
Angurugu RSC	181	184	3	1.7
Borroloola	216	227	11	5.1
Broome	880	844	-36	-4.1
Casuarina	1,247	1,225	-22	-1.8
Central Australia	2,612	2,619	7	0.3
Darwin	488	483	-5	-1.0
Derby	529	515	-14	-2.6
Fitzroy Crossing	320	306	-14	-4.4
Galiwinku RSC	334	321	-13	-3.9
Halls Creek	382	381	-1	-0.3
Hermannsburg RSC	109	113	4	3.7
Katherine	447	485	38	8.5
Kimberley Katherine	1,537	1,570	33	2.1
Kununurra	374	384	10	2.7
Maningrida	599	623	24	4.0
Nhulunbuy	196	202	6	3.1
Northern Region	1,645	1,707	62	3.8
Palmerston	1,426	1,407	-19	-1.3
Papunya RSC	75	84	%	%
Santa Teresa RSC	74	74	%	%
Tennant Creek	272	288	16	5.9
Tiwi Islands	320	327	7	2.2
Wadeye	375	420	45	12.0
Yuendumu RSC	139	147	8	5.8
Other (a)	26	28	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,898</b>	<b>16,083</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>1.2</b>

– Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Other Service Zone by Service Centre and Australian Total	August 2016	September 2016	Variation Number	Variation Per Cent
<b>Other</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	715	653	%	%
Not Coded To A Zone	1,610	1,527	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-73	8	%	%
<b>Australia</b>	<b>497,501</b>	<b>490,061</b>	<b>-7,440</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

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

Notes:

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



**Table 8 - Job Seekers Receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (Other)  
Fortnightly Earnings and Sex, Fortnight Ending 23 September 2016**

Fortnightly Earnings	Short-term job seekers %	Long-term job seekers %	Total job seekers %
<b>Males</b>			
Did not earn an income	84.7	82.2	83.1
Earned an income	15.3	17.8	16.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.6	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.3	1.7	1.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.0	2.4	2.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.8	1.7
Over \$316.00	10.0	11.3	10.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>106,215</b>	<b>176,143</b>	<b>282,358</b>
<b>Females</b>			
Did not earn an income	74.6	71.9	72.7
Earned an income	25.4	28.1	27.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	0.7	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.2	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.0	3.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	2.6	2.6
Over \$316.00	17.2	19.6	18.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>58,164</b>	<b>147,177</b>	<b>205,341</b>
<b>Persons</b>			
Did not earn an income	81.1	77.5	78.7
Earned an income	18.9	22.5	21.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	1.9	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	2.7	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.2	2.1
Over \$316.00	12.6	15.1	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</b>	<b>164,379</b>	<b>323,320</b>	<b>487,699</b>

Note:  
 - Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.  
 - The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology from that of the other tables. Table 8 is based on the combined population of job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. The data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

# Explanatory Notes

## Introduction

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

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

## Scope

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

## Methodology

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

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

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

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

## Payment History

### Youth Allowance

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

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.

**Service Zone**

A set of Service Centres, grouped together for operational purposes on a geographic basis. Service Zones replaced Areas and Area Support Offices in July 2011.

**Short-term recipients**

Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.

**Widow Allowance (WA)**

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

Widow Allowance, a non-activity tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.

**Youth Training Allowance (YTA)**

From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.

**Youth Allowance (YA)**

Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 21 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, e.g. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.

To receive Youth Allowance young people under 22 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

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

**Youth Allowance (other)**

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

**Zero paid**

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

## Appendix

### Comparisons Between DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Numbers And ABS Labour Force Unemployment Statistics

#### Official statistics

Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Organization which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.

#### ABS definition

The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.

#### DSS Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics

The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.

#### Differences

Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DSS labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.

#### Duration

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

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

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

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

- Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.

- Long-term recipients can have 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

### **Seasonal adjustment**

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

### **Classification**

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

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment aged over 15 years and under Age Pension age.

### **Employment**

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

### **Timing**

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

**Treatment of partners**

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

**Pensioners**

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

**Non job seekers**

The overall Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series includes persons who are not required to undertake jobsearch. These persons are separately identified in Tables 2 and 3, and have then been excluded in subsequent tables. These people may be undertaking training, the development of self-employment opportunities, full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work which excludes them from jobsearch obligations. They may also be incapacitated or have another temporary exemption from jobsearch.

**Waiting periods**

The ABS series includes persons who are serving a waiting period before being granted Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other), or whose allowance was deferred.

**Survey**

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

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

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

## **For More Information**

### **Other recipient information**

The Department of Social Services publishes statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which the Department administers, on a quarterly basis on the Australian Government's centralised data publishing site, [data.gov.au](http://www.data.gov.au) (<http://www.data.gov.au/organization/about/department-of-social-services>). 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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