

LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS

a monthly profile

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

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

This publication covers NSA and YA(o) in some detail, and to a lesser extent, MAA, PA, WA, YA(FTS) and YA (Australian Apprentices).

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 MAA, 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 Centrelink National Media Officer on (02) 6155 0067. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 19 November 2008.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – September 2008

Between September 2007 and September 2008:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased by 1.1%** overall from 497,753 to 492,258 and

- ◆ decreased 1.4% for NSA from 435,711 to 429,426 and
- ◆ increased 1.3% for YA(o) from 62,042 to 62,832.

The number of job seekers **decreased by 6.3%** overall from 302,948 to 283,804 and

- ◆ decreased 7.7% for NSA recipients from 255,378 to 235,796 and
- ◆ increased 0.9% for YA(o) recipients from 47,570 to 48,008.

Long-term job seekers decreased by 14.0% from 166,762 to 143,357.

Short-term job seekers increased by 3.1% from 136,186 to 140,447.

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

**Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other)
September 2006 to September 2008**

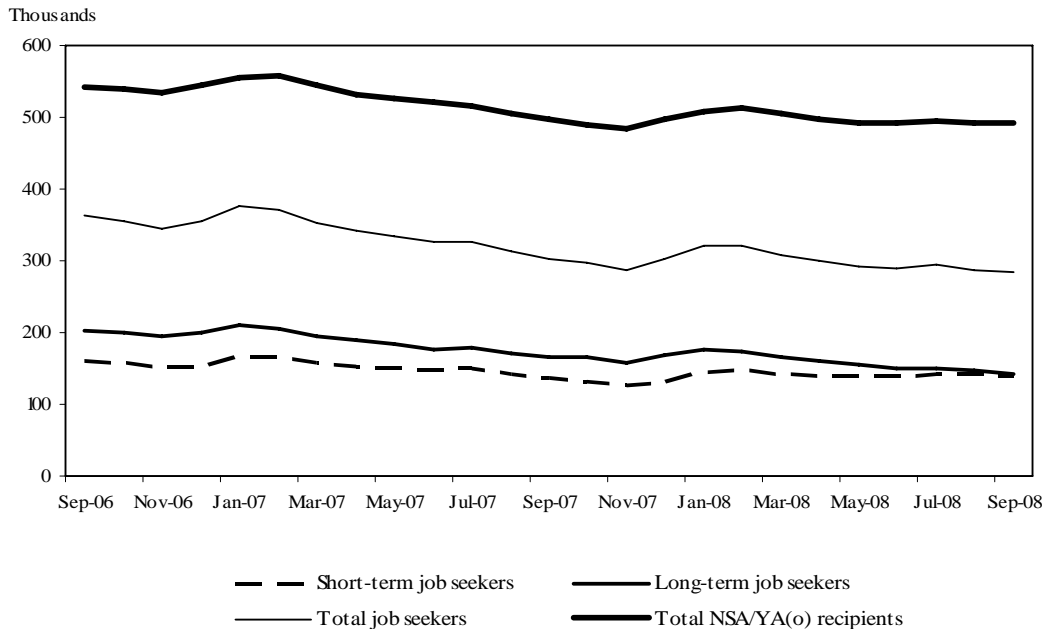


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Australian Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796
September 2006	285,218	472,222	71,104	276,235	3,643	10,049	56,965	43,705
October 2006	284,276	470,340	69,511	277,061	3,740	9,430	55,683	43,349
November 2006	282,694	466,631	68,721	267,042	3,683	8,892	54,611	43,112
December 2006	284,499	469,233	76,480	226,902	3,571	8,293	53,398	42,903
January 2007	286,614	478,033	77,358	216,869	3,487	7,745	52,205	42,530
February 2007	286,113	481,343	76,036	223,780	3,715	7,287	51,251	42,370
March 2007	281,937	473,278	71,619	239,502	4,087	6,751	50,058	42,032
April 2007	277,688	463,732	68,746	250,660	4,250	6,235	48,912	41,619
May 2007	274,568	458,297	67,973	256,805	4,341	5,790	47,896	41,245
June 2007	271,439	452,733	67,852	261,197	4,435	5,284	46,709	40,886
July 2007	269,816	448,833	67,617	256,808	4,416	4,796	45,917	40,735
August 2007	267,972	442,112	63,717	263,166	4,490	4,381	45,459	40,853
September 2007	266,180	435,711	62,042	265,669	4,509	3,981	45,058	41,019
October 2007	264,434	429,811	59,920	264,829	4,350	3,619	44,695	41,156
November 2007	261,930	424,168	59,967	249,546	4,093	3,242	44,358	41,278
December 2007	264,127	428,962	69,320	215,158	3,956	2,868	43,997	41,400
January 2008	266,199	437,918	69,709	206,509	3,746	2,518	43,434	41,297
February 2008	266,368	443,916	69,728	213,384	3,897	2,149	42,512	41,014
March 2008	263,759	438,786	65,889	227,301	4,094	1,797	41,528	40,729
April 2008	260,541	433,674	63,680	236,930	4,274	1,503	40,708	40,503
May 2008	257,363	429,363	63,395	245,421	4,419	1,166	39,804	40,124
June 2008	255,550	428,896	63,972	252,180	4,444	856	38,915	39,702
July 2008	254,723	429,989	65,514	248,493	4,402	586	38,109	39,321
August 2008	253,131	429,459	63,347	254,853	4,256	307	37,226	38,946
September 2008	251,987	429,426	62,832	258,973	4,018	47	36,411	38,640
<i>Variation August 2008 - September 2008</i>								
Number	-1,144	-33	-515	4,120	-238	-260	-815	-306
Per cent	-0.5	0.0	-0.8	1.6	-5.6	-84.7	-2.2	-0.8

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002 is in Table A (May 1998 - June 2000) and Table 1 (July 2000 - July 2002) of July 2002 publication.

(b) Long-term Newstart allowees are persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more.

(c) The number of full time students does not include those who have traded in their entire Youth Allowance entitlement for a loan under the Student Financial Supplement Loan Scheme. The Government announced on 24 April 2003 that no further loans would be issued under this Scheme from 1 January 2004. For further details, refer to the Explanatory Notes at the back of this publication.

(d) Australian Apprenticeships combine employment with structured training to provide a nationally recognised qualification. Australian Apprentices enter formal agreements known as either 'Training Agreements' or 'Contracts of Training' which set out the relationship between the employer and the Australian Apprentice and their respective rights and responsibilities.

(e) February 1994 data has been included for comparison purposes due to the peak in the number of persons receiving JSA/NSA at this point in time.

Notes:

- Most of the figures in this publication are averages and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals, and in the calculation of variations.

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

	August 2008	September			Variation August - September	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	176,328	114,324	63,115	177,439	1,111	0.6
CPS recipients (a)	2,513	1,867	621	2,488	-25	-1.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,122	5,275	4,188	9,463	341	3.7
Received a payment	164,693	107,182	58,306	165,488	795	0.5
Incapacitated (c)	16,329	9,834	6,661	16,495	166	1.0
Training	13,499	9,206	5,184	14,390	891	6.6
Self-employment development (d)	493	330	222	552	59	12.0
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	4,828	1,588	3,307	4,895	67	1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	14,012	8,373	6,024	14,397	385	2.7
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	115,532	77,851	36,908	114,759	-773	-0.7
Long-term NSA Customers	253,131	146,069	105,918	251,987	-1,144	-0.5
CPS recipients (a)	6,455	4,285	2,078	6,363	-92	-1.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	8,588	4,252	4,584	8,836	248	2.9
Received a payment	238,088	137,532	99,256	236,788	-1,300	-0.5
Incapacitated (c)	17,314	9,230	8,055	17,285	-29	-0.2
Training	54,912	33,650	21,918	55,568	656	1.2
Self-employment development (d)	161	110	81	191	30	18.6
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	15,998	7,988	8,404	16,392	394	2.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	26,074	15,264	11,051	26,315	241	0.9
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	123,629	71,290	49,747	121,037	-2,592	-2.1
All NSA Customers	429,459	260,393	169,033	429,426	-33	0.0
CPS recipients (a)	8,968	6,152	2,699	8,851	-117	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	17,710	9,527	8,772	18,299	589	3.3
Received a payment	402,781	244,714	157,562	402,276	-505	-0.1
Incapacitated (c)	33,643	19,064	14,716	33,780	137	0.4
Training	68,411	42,856	27,102	69,958	1,547	2.3
Self-employment development (d)	654	440	303	743	89	13.6
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	20,826	9,576	11,711	21,287	461	2.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	40,086	23,637	17,075	40,712	626	1.6
All NSA job seekers (g)	239,161	149,141	86,655	235,796	-3,365	-1.4

(a) Persons with NSA eligibility who received CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons while participating in CDEP Projects.

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

(c) Activity code "incapacitated" relates to NSA recipients who have become temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(d) Those customers exempted from job search while they develop self-employment opportunities.

(e) Those customers undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or combinations of voluntary and part-time work who are not required to seek work.

(f) Includes other customers known not to have job search obligations. See 'Job seekers' in Explanatory Notes.

(g) Those customers who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These customers form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

Notes:

- For information on short-term and long-term categories please refer to the Glossary.

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

	August 2008	September			Variation August - September	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	32,924	17,593	15,372	32,965	41	0.1
CPS recipients (a)	1,186	774	414	1,188	2	0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	675	323	389	712	37	5.5
Received a payment	31,063	16,496	14,569	31,065	2	0.0
Part-time study & work (c)	3	2	2	4	1	33.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	71	34	44	78	7	9.9
Incapacitated (e)	1,650	776	837	1,613	-37	-2.2
Training	1,554	976	709	1,685	131	8.4
Self-employment development (e)	11	6	4	10	-1	-9.1
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,848	855	1,132	1,987	139	7.5
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	25,926	13,847	11,841	25,688	-238	-0.9
Long-term YA (other) Customers	30,423	14,010	15,857	29,867	-556	-1.8
CPS recipients (a)	905	567	308	875	-30	-3.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	840	352	471	823	-17	-2.0
Received a payment	28,678	13,091	15,078	28,169	-509	-1.8
Part-time study & work (c)	2	1	3	4	2	100.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	61	33	31	64	3	4.9
Incapacitated (e)	1,143	432	702	1,134	-9	-0.8
Training	3,213	1,734	1,568	3,302	89	2.8
Self-employment development (e)	8	2	5	7	-1	-12.5
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,347	508	830	1,338	-9	-0.7
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	22,904	10,381	11,939	22,320	-584	-2.5
All YA (other) Customers	63,347	31,603	31,229	62,832	-515	-0.8
CPS recipients (a)	2,091	1,341	722	2,063	-28	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,515	675	860	1,535	20	1.3
Received a payment	59,741	29,587	29,647	59,234	-507	-0.8
Part-time study & work (c)	5	3	5	8	3	60.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	132	67	75	142	10	7.6
Incapacitated (e)	2,793	1,208	1,539	2,747	-46	-1.6
Training	4,767	2,710	2,277	4,987	220	4.6
Self-employment development (e)	19	8	9	17	-2	-10.5
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	3,195	1,363	1,962	3,325	130	4.1
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	48,830	24,228	23,780	48,008	-822	-1.7

(a) Persons with YA eligibility who received CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons while participating in CDEP projects.

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

(c) Those customers undertaking approved part-time study and work who are considered to have a full activity load and are not required to seek work.

(d) Those customers undertaking approved part-time study and other activities who are considered to have a full activity load and are not required to seek work.

(e) These categories are defined in the same way as in Table 2, except that those customers combining these activities with part-time study are classified under part-time study and other activities.

(f) Those customers who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These customers form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

Notes:

- For information on short-term and long-term categories please refer to the Glossary.

- Most of the figures in this publication are averages and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals, and in the calculation of variations.

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

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
September 2006	159,462	203,024	362,486
October 2006	156,815	198,967	355,782
November 2006	152,125	193,719	345,844
December 2006	153,342	201,044	354,386
January 2007	165,924	209,395	375,319
February 2007	165,581	205,384	370,965
March 2007	157,827	195,351	353,178
April 2007	153,350	188,871	342,221
May 2007	151,083	183,234	334,317
June 2007	148,602	177,562	326,164
July 2007	149,043	178,467	327,510
August 2007	141,433	171,107	312,540
September 2007	136,186	166,762	302,948
October 2007	132,332	164,716	297,048
November 2007	127,425	159,046	286,471
December 2007	132,454	169,573	302,027
January 2008	145,046	177,005	322,051
February 2008	147,610	173,316	320,926
March 2008	141,568	165,748	307,316
April 2008	139,811	160,030	299,841
May 2008	138,808	154,313	293,121
June 2008	140,066	150,517	290,583
July 2008	143,050	150,831	293,881
August 2008	141,458	146,533	287,991
September 2008	140,447	143,357	283,804
<i>Variation August 2008 - September 2008</i>			
Number	-1,011	-3,176	-4,187
Per cent	-0.7	-2.2	-1.5

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payment introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002 is in Table B of July 2002 publication.

Notes:

- For information on short-term and long-term categories please refer to the Glossary.

- Most of the figures in this publication are averages and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals, and in the calculation of variations.

**TABLE 5 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY STATE**

<i>State</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	49,639	49,119	-520	-1.0
Victoria	32,300	32,422	122	0.4
Queensland	28,269	27,940	-329	-1.2
South Australia	11,508	11,346	-162	-1.4
Western Australia	11,500	11,463	-37	-0.3
Tasmania	4,024	4,068	44	1.1
Northern Territory	3,031	2,900	-131	-4.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,187	1,189	2	0.2
AUSTRALIA	141,458	140,447	-1,011	-0.7
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	54,770	53,532	-1,238	-2.3
Victoria	34,364	33,472	-892	-2.6
Queensland	21,492	21,011	-481	-2.2
South Australia	13,891	13,588	-303	-2.2
Western Australia	9,005	8,955	-50	-0.6
Tasmania	5,942	5,882	-60	-1.0
Northern Territory	5,986	5,806	-180	-3.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,083	1,111	28	2.6
AUSTRALIA	146,533	143,357	-3,176	-2.2
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	104,409	102,651	-1,758	-1.7
Victoria	66,664	65,894	-770	-1.2
Queensland	49,761	48,951	-810	-1.6
South Australia	25,399	24,934	-465	-1.8
Western Australia	20,505	20,418	-87	-0.4
Tasmania	9,966	9,950	-16	-0.2
Northern Territory	9,017	8,706	-311	-3.4
Australian Capital Territory	2,270	2,300	30	1.3
AUSTRALIA	287,991	283,804	-4,187	-1.5

Notes:

- Most of the figures in this publication are averages and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals, and in the calculation of variations.

**TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT SEPTEMBER 2008**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,430	4.8	2,039	2.5	6,469	3.7
18 - 20 years	9,418	10.3	8,342	10.2	17,760	10.2
21 - 24 years	14,667	16.0	9,647	11.8	24,314	14.0
25 - 29 years	14,782	16.1	10,031	12.3	24,813	14.3
30 - 39 years	22,103	24.1	17,574	21.5	39,677	22.9
40 - 49 years	14,345	15.6	14,611	17.9	28,956	16.7
50 - 59 years	8,651	9.4	12,074	14.8	20,725	12.0
60 years and over	3,303	3.6	7,354	9.0	10,657	6.1
Total	91,699	100.0	81,672	100.0	173,371	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,569	9.4	2,630	4.3	7,199	6.5
18 - 20 years	7,271	14.9	9,309	15.1	16,580	15.0
21 - 24 years	7,812	16.0	7,163	11.6	14,975	13.6
25 - 29 years	5,120	10.5	5,076	8.2	10,196	9.2
30 - 39 years	7,631	15.7	9,550	15.5	17,181	15.6
40 - 49 years	8,276	17.0	13,253	21.5	21,529	19.5
50 - 59 years	6,301	12.9	11,163	18.1	17,464	15.8
60 years and over	1,768	3.6	3,541	5.7	5,309	4.8
Total	48,748	100.0	61,685	100.0	110,433	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	8,999	6.4	4,669	3.3	13,668	4.8
18 - 20 years	16,689	11.9	17,651	12.3	34,340	12.1
21 - 24 years	22,479	16.0	16,810	11.7	39,289	13.8
25 - 29 years	19,902	14.2	15,107	10.5	35,009	12.3
30 - 39 years	29,734	21.2	27,124	18.9	56,858	20.0
40 - 49 years	22,621	16.1	27,864	19.4	50,485	17.8
50 - 59 years	14,952	10.6	23,237	16.2	38,189	13.5
60 years and over	5,071	3.6	10,895	7.6	15,966	5.6
Total	140,447	100.0	143,357	100.0	283,804	100.0

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bankstown	2,847	2,712	-135	-4.7
Bondi Junction	870	870	0	0.0
Burwood	1,262	1,268	6	0.5
Campsie	1,973	2,030	57	2.9
Caringbah	971	947	-24	-2.5
Chatswood	644	609	-35	-5.4
Corrimal	980	949	-31	-3.2
Dapto	1,041	1,043	2	0.2
Darlinghurst	1,220	1,231	11	0.9
Darlinghurst CCU	29	30	1	%
Haymarket	1	1	0	%
Hornsby	589	607	18	3.1
Hurstville	1,064	1,038	-26	-2.4
Lakemba	26	24	-2	%
Leichhardt	1,014	989	-25	-2.5
Maroubra	1,098	1,096	-2	-0.2
Marrickville	1,228	1,202	-26	-2.1
Northern Beaches	875	836	-39	-4.5
Participation Sydney East	8	8	0	%
Redfern	993	999	6	0.6
Revesby	3	5	2	%
Rockdale	1,032	1,007	-25	-2.4
Ryde	684	649	-35	-5.1
Shellharbour	1,307	1,278	-29	-2.2
Sutherland	349	336	-13	-3.7
Wollongong	1,250	1,238	-12	-1.0
Other (a)	11	10	-1	%
Total	23,369	23,012	-357	-1.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,755	1,743	-12	-0.7
Baulkham Hills	518	502	-16	-3.1
Blacktown	2,496	2,512	16	0.6
Cabramatta	1,760	1,678	-82	-4.7
Camden	551	568	17	3.1
Campbelltown	1,862	1,850	-12	-0.6
Fairfield	2,611	2,523	-88	-3.4
Hawkesbury	752	725	-27	-3.6
Ingleburn	1,201	1,200	-1	-0.1
Katoomba	614	614	0	0.0
Liverpool	3,035	2,999	-36	-1.2
Merrylands	1,475	1,456	-19	-1.3
Mt Druitt	2,521	2,501	-20	-0.8
Parramatta	1,453	1,421	-32	-2.2
Penrith	1,569	1,563	-6	-0.4
Springwood	294	292	-2	-0.7
St Marys	1,288	1,286	-2	-0.2
Other (a)	26	26	0	%
Total	25,781	25,459	-322	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES				
Armidale	841	809	-32	-3.8
Cessnock	787	789	2	0.3
Charlestown	1,735	1,668	-67	-3.9
Ettalong	858	836	-22	-2.6
Glen Innes	230	237	7	3.0
Gosford	1,407	1,416	9	0.6
Gunnedah	419	403	-16	-3.8
Inverell	621	617	-4	-0.6
Kempsey	961	905	-56	-5.8
Kurri Kurri	404	392	-12	-3.0
Lakehaven	1,454	1,443	-11	-0.8
Maitland	1,404	1,389	-15	-1.1
Mayfield	922	901	-21	-2.3
Muswellbrook	421	397	-24	-5.7
Nambucca Heads	791	800	9	1.1
Nelson Bay	512	477	-35	-6.8
Newcastle	1,118	1,115	-3	-0.3
Port Macquarie	1,438	1,376	-62	-4.3
Raymond Terrace	861	835	-26	-3.0
Singleton	266	257	-9	-3.4
Tamworth	1,565	1,539	-26	-1.7
Taree	1,631	1,595	-36	-2.2
The Entrance	1,218	1,188	-30	-2.5
Toronto	835	828	-7	-0.8
Tuncurry (Forster)	873	849	-24	-2.7
Wallsend	1,323	1,244	-79	-6.0
Wyong	722	720	-2	-0.3
Other (a)	29	32	3	%
Total	25,646	25,057	-589	-2.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	829	819	-10	-1.2
Bathurst	892	891	-1	-0.1
Bega	688	675	-13	-1.9
Belconnen	672	685	13	1.9
Bowral	434	424	-10	-2.3
Braddon	665	685	20	3.0
Cooma	267	255	-12	-4.5
Cowra	473	460	-13	-2.7
Dubbo	1,921	1,929	8	0.4
Goulburn	737	720	-17	-2.3
Griffith	524	514	-10	-1.9
Gungahlin	100	80	-20	%
Lanyon	32	32	0	%
Leeton	341	325	-16	-4.7
Lithgow	529	526	-3	-0.6
Mudgee	611	613	2	0.3
Narooma	354	354	0	0.0
Nowra	1,926	1,929	3	0.2
Orange	1,030	1,015	-15	-1.5
Parkes	901	894	-7	-0.8
Queanbeyan	396	406	10	2.5
Tuggeranong	481	475	-6	-1.2
Tumut	263	259	-4	-1.5
Ulladulla	538	533	-5	-0.9
Wagga	1,409	1,407	-2	-0.1
Woden	315	336	21	6.7
Yass	98	100	2	%
Young	413	395	-18	-4.4
Other (a)	15	17	2	%
Total	17,854	17,753	-101	-0.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	776	742	-34	-4.4
Albury	1,917	1,880	-37	-1.9
Box Hill	1,373	1,358	-15	-1.1
Broadmeadows	2,915	2,899	-16	-0.5
Camberwell	605	617	12	2.0
Darebin	2,613	2,592	-21	-0.8
Deniliquin	276	293	17	6.2
Echuca	419	413	-6	-1.4
Epping	1,357	1,374	17	1.3
Greensborough	1,174	454	-720	-61.3
Heidelberg	14	690	676	%
Moreland	1,495	1,474	-21	-1.4
Newmarket	1,013	949	-64	-6.3
Seymour	523	524	1	0.2
Shepparton	1,859	1,853	-6	-0.3
South Melbourne	490	503	13	2.7
Sunbury	556	552	-4	-0.7
Wangaratta	1,402	1,369	-33	-2.4
Windsor	1,784	1,736	-48	-2.7
Yarra	1,359	1,321	-38	-2.8
Other (a)	17	19	2	%
Total	23,937	23,612	-325	-1.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	710	719	9	1.3
Belgrave	333	345	12	3.6
Cheltenham	1,133	1,112	-21	-1.9
Cranbourne	949	917	-32	-3.4
Dandenong	1,980	1,978	-2	-0.1
Fountain Gate	1,372	1,341	-31	-2.3
Frankston	1,958	1,950	-8	-0.4
Glen Waverley	652	632	-20	-3.1
Hastings	435	423	-12	-2.8
Lilydale	1,168	1,154	-14	-1.2
Mornington	353	342	-11	-3.1
Morwell	2,062	2,061	-1	0.0
Oakleigh	1,170	1,155	-15	-1.3
Pakenham	450	457	7	1.6
Ringwood	1,183	1,214	31	2.6
Rosebud	794	801	7	0.9
Rowville	296	292	-4	-1.4
Sale	655	636	-19	-2.9
Springvale	1,490	1,482	-8	-0.5
Wantirna	869	834	-35	-4.0
Warragul	527	522	-5	-0.9
Wonthaggi	465	459	-6	-1.3
Other (a)	10	8	-2	%
Total	21,014	20,834	-180	-0.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	215	202	-13	-6.0
Ballarat	2,114	2,159	45	2.1
Bendigo	2,107	2,085	-22	-1.0
Bendigo Central	350	349	-1	-0.3
Colac	429	418	-11	-2.6
Corio	1,446	1,411	-35	-2.4
Footscray	1,142	1,119	-23	-2.0
Geelong	2,410	2,408	-2	-0.1
Hamilton	378	367	-11	-2.9
Horsham	522	489	-33	-6.3
Maryborough	376	375	-1	-0.3
Melton	988	960	-28	-2.8
Mildura	1,540	1,519	-21	-1.4
Newport	825	819	-6	-0.7
Portland	310	308	-2	-0.6
Stawell	187	187	0	0.0
Sunshine	2,212	2,140	-72	-3.3
Swan Hill	754	758	4	0.5
Warrnambool	751	737	-14	-1.9
Watergardens	2,506	2,442	-64	-2.6
Werribee	2,249	2,262	13	0.6
Other (a)	9	9	0	%
Total	23,820	23,523	-297	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND				
Atherton	552	544	-8	-1.4
Ayr	282	275	-7	-2.5
Bamaga RASC (Nth Peninsula RASC)	27	28	1	%
Biloela	121	123	2	1.7
Bowen	247	237	-10	-4.0
Cairns Families	6	6	0	%
Cairns Jobseekers	2,643	2,672	29	1.1
Cairns Remote (Indigenous ISC)	528	525	-3	-0.6
Cairns Seniors & Carers	4	4	0	%
Charters Towers	221	214	-7	-3.2
Edmonton	0	0	0	%
Emerald	229	223	-6	-2.6
Gladstone	641	622	-19	-3.0
Greenfields	0	1	1	%
Ingham	208	198	-10	-4.8
Innisfail	458	455	-3	-0.7
Longreach	83	74	-9	%
Mackay Jobseekers	921	887	-34	-3.7
Mackay Seniors & Carers	1	1	0	%
Mareeba	453	429	-24	-5.3
Mossman	326	323	-3	-0.9
Mt Isa	675	670	-5	-0.7
Normanton	129	120	-9	-7.0
Palm Island	286	296	10	3.5
Rockhampton Families	0	0	0	%
Rockhampton Jobseekers	1,538	1,478	-60	-3.9
Rockhampton Seniors & Carers	0	0	0	%
Smithfield	2	0	-2	%
Thursday Island	220	233	13	5.9
Townsville City	1	4	3	%
Townsville Families	0	0	0	%
Townsville Jobseekers	2,083	2,044	-39	-1.9
Townsville Seniors & Carers	3	5	2	%
Western Cape RASC	190	201	11	5.8
Whitsunday	277	259	-18	-6.5
Yarrabah RASC	299	281	-18	-6.0
Yeppoon	274	277	3	1.1
Other (a)	41	32	-9	%
Total	13,969	13,741	-228	-1.6

Note: For footnotes see end of the table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & EAST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	2,319	2,277	-42	-1.8
Caboolture	1,514	1,440	-74	-4.9
Caboolture FCC and SC&R	0	0	0	%
Caloundra	716	678	-38	-5.3
Cherbourg	73	79	6	%
Chermside	679	647	-32	-4.7
Fortitude Valley	793	775	-18	-2.3
Gympie	950	927	-23	-2.4
Hervey Bay	1,080	1,075	-5	-0.5
Kawana Waters	342	329	-13	-3.8
Kingaroy	569	560	-9	-1.6
Kippa-Ring	955	711	-244	-25.5
Maroochydore	948	938	-10	-1.1
Maryborough	925	905	-20	-2.2
Mitchelton	641	627	-14	-2.2
Nambour	650	624	-26	-4.0
Noosa	636	645	9	1.4
Nundah	647	654	7	1.1
Strathpine	737	700	-37	-5.0
Toowong	528	525	-3	-0.6
Other (a)	23	259	236	%
Total	15,725	15,375	-350	-2.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & WEST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beenleigh	1,280	1,281	1	0.1
Browns Plains	1,036	1,037	1	0.1
Capalaba	399	399	0	0.0
Charleville	144	161	17	11.8
Cleveland	575	571	-4	-0.7
Dalby	441	413	-28	-6.3
Goodna	797	771	-26	-3.3
Goondiwindi	282	283	1	0.4
Inala	943	955	12	1.3
Ipswich	1,648	1,643	-5	-0.3
Mt Gravatt	1,041	1,039	-2	-0.2
Roma	116	124	8	6.9
South Brisbane	556	580	24	4.3
Stanthorpe	393	364	-29	-7.4
Stones Corner	987	951	-36	-3.6
Toowoomba	1,723	1,665	-58	-3.4
Warwick	384	383	-1	-0.3
Woodridge	1,297	1,246	-51	-3.9
Wynnum	554	561	7	1.3
Other (a)	17	27	10	%
Total	14,613	14,454	-159	-1.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	800	806	6	0.8
Broken Hill	751	759	8	1.1
Ceduna	248	250	2	0.8
Coober Pedy	158	140	-18	-11.4
Currie Street	466	453	-13	-2.8
Elizabeth	2,212	2,134	-78	-3.5
Enfield	1,268	1,275	7	0.6
Gawler	919	918	-1	-0.1
Glenelg	684	654	-30	-4.4
Kadina	580	575	-5	-0.9
Kilkenny	1,454	1,427	-27	-1.9
Marion	1,518	1,487	-31	-2.0
Modbury	1,387	1,343	-44	-3.2
Mt Barker	491	482	-9	-1.8
Mt Gambier	1,132	1,099	-33	-2.9
Murray Bridge	759	752	-7	-0.9
Noarlunga	2,284	2,266	-18	-0.8
Norwood	1,222	1,212	-10	-0.8
Port Adelaide	1,294	1,253	-41	-3.2
Port Augusta	662	684	22	3.3
Port Lincoln	540	548	8	1.5
Port Pirie	811	783	-28	-3.5
Salisbury	2,103	2,081	-22	-1.0
Torrensville	1,054	974	-80	-7.6
Victor Harbor	539	538	-1	-0.2
Whyalla	690	672	-18	-2.6
Other (a)	41	40	-1	%
Total	26,067	25,605	-462	-1.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
WEST AUSTRALIA				
Albany	781	767	-14	-1.8
Armadale	721	705	-16	-2.2
Bunbury	1,270	1,271	1	0.1
Busselton	221	203	-18	-8.1
Cannington	1,002	1,002	0	0.0
Carnarvon	289	280	-9	-3.1
Cocos Islands	42	43	1	%
Collie	2	4	2	%
Community Team Perth	108	104	-4	-3.7
Curtin on Campus SSC	12	8	-4	%
Esperance	234	228	-6	-2.6
Fremantle	867	888	21	2.4
Fremantle SACC	2	1	-1	%
Fremantle SSC	0	0	0	%
Geraldton	1,135	1,079	-56	-4.9
Gosnells	759	751	-8	-1.1
Innaloo	895	880	-15	-1.7
Joondalup	993	1,011	18	1.8
Joondalup SACC	1	2	1	%
Joondalup SSC	2	1	-1	%
Kalgoorlie	562	557	-5	-0.9
Karratha	243	244	1	0.4
Laverton RASC	60	59	-1	%
Mandurah	912	918	6	0.7
Meekatharra RASC	164	188	24	14.6
Midland	1,467	1,478	11	0.7
Mirrabooka	1,204	1,199	-5	-0.4
Morley	1,212	1,220	8	0.7
Morley - Dewar Street	1	1	0	%
Morley SSC	0	0	0	%
Newman RASC	181	187	6	3.3
Northam	373	401	28	7.5
Rockingham	1,146	1,116	-30	-2.6
South Hedland	404	403	-1	-0.2
Spearwood	660	626	-34	-5.2
Victoria Park	1,156	1,203	47	4.1
Warwick Grove	474	462	-12	-2.5
Other (a)	35	34	-1	%
Total	19,590	19,524	-66	-0.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	594	594	0	0.0
Burnie	1,137	1,140	3	0.3
Devonport	1,268	1,310	42	3.3
Glenorchy	1,526	1,494	-32	-2.1
Hobart	1,110	1,121	11	1.0
Huonville	377	380	3	0.8
Launceston	2,760	2,710	-50	-1.8
Mowbray	5	7	2	%
Rosny Park	806	814	8	1.0
Sorell	398	400	2	0.5
Other (a)	53	57	4	%
Total	10,034	10,027	-7	-0.1
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	2,805	2,709	-96	-3.4
Borroloola RASC	49	41	-8	%
Broome	438	433	-5	-1.1
Casuarina	753	751	-2	-0.3
Derby	133	138	5	3.8
Fitzroy Crossing RASC	50	46	-4	%
Halls Creek RASC	208	201	-7	-3.4
Katherine	1,376	1,346	-30	-2.2
Knuckey Street	425	398	-27	-6.4
Kununurra	211	205	-6	-2.8
Maningrida	357	353	-4	-1.1
Nhulunbuy	730	715	-15	-2.1
Palmerston	690	641	-49	-7.1
Tangentyere	100	86	-14	%
Tennant Creek	182	181	-1	-0.5
Tennant Creek Remote	84	83	-1	%
Tiwi Islands RASC	220	217	-3	-1.4
Top End Remote	748	730	-18	-2.4
Wadeye RASC	469	419	-50	-10.7
Yuendumu RASC	133	137	4	3.0
Other (a)	41	39	-2	%
Total	10,202	9,869	-333	-3.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE
(OTHER) BY AREA SUPPORT OFFICE AND CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2008	September 2008	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	835	830	-5	-0.6
Beaudesert	279	298	19	6.8
Biggera Waters	1,170	1,151	-19	-1.6
Bourke	451	467	16	3.5
Brunswick Heads	500	473	-27	-5.4
Byron Bay	480	470	-10	-2.1
Casino	507	498	-9	-1.8
Coffs Harbour	2,076	1,992	-84	-4.0
Grafton	1,383	1,328	-55	-4.0
Lightning Ridge	186	183	-3	-1.6
Lismore	1,418	1,383	-35	-2.5
Maclean	0	0	0	%
Moree	490	472	-18	-3.7
Murwillumbah	469	447	-22	-4.7
Narrabri	335	342	7	2.1
Nerang	1,185	1,142	-43	-3.6
Palm Beach	1,523	1,499	-24	-1.6
Robina SCR	8	5	-3	%
Southport	1,612	1,592	-20	-1.2
Tweed Heads	1,113	1,068	-45	-4.0
Walgett	247	252	5	2.0
Other (a)	43	38	-5	%
Total	16,310	15,930	-380	-2.3
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres (b)	56	83	27	%
Not coded to an area	7	7	0	%
Rounding adjustment (c)	-3	-61	-58	%
AUSTRALIA	287,991	283,804	-4,187	-1.5

(a) Recipients not coded to a Customer Service Centre.

(b) Job seekers receiving NSA / YA (o) in Centrelink Call Centres which are not counted in the various Area Offices.

(c) Prior to the July 2007 publication, the rounding adjustment was included in the Fairfield CSC.

Notes:

- Where the Customer Service Centre has a population less than 100 in either of the reported months, the monthly percentage variation has been suppressed and replaced with the percentage symbol '%'. .

- Most of the figures in this publication are averages and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals, and in the calculation of variations.

- From July 2007, new Area Support Office boundaries came into effect. A concordance between the new and old Area structures is provided in Table A in the July 2007 edition of this publication.

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT ENDING 19 SEPTEMBER 2008**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	85.6	81.8	83.8
Earned an income	14.4	18.2	16.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.0	2.5	2.2
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.4	2.8	2.6
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.9	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	7.6	9.8	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>91,710</i>	<i>81,622</i>	<i>173,332</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.0	70.4	72.9
Earned an income	24.0	29.6	27.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.9	1.0	1.0
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.9	3.2	3.1
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.6	4.0	3.8
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.8	3.3	3.1
Over \$316.00	13.8	18.1	16.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>48,709</i>	<i>61,615</i>	<i>110,324</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.2	76.9	79.6
Earned an income	17.8	23.1	20.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.7	0.9	0.8
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.3	2.8	2.6
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.8	3.3	3.1
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.2	2.7	2.5
Over \$316.00	9.7	13.4	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>140,419</i>	<i>143,237</i>	<i>283,656</i>

(a) Total figures in this table are different from Tables 2 to 7 because of different methodologies applied. Tables 2 to 7 are based on averages of weekly figures while this table is based on point in time data. See Explanatory Notes for further information.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DEEWR labour market and related payments delivered by Centrelink. 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 number of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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 September 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 September 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.

<i>Job Search Allowance</i>	<p>From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.</p> <p>Prior to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. It was also payable to eligible persons who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and under 18 years of age at 31 December 1994. Persons aged 15 to 18 years who were not receiving Job Search Allowance prior to 1 January 1995 commenced on Youth Training Allowance.</p>
<i>Sickness Allowance</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p>
<i>Partner Allowance</i>	<p>From 20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Partner Allowance was introduced in September 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.</p>
<i>Youth Training Allowance</i>	<p>Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see Youth Allowance).</p> <p>From 1 January 1995, eligible persons aged under 18 years who were new entrants to the job search pool were paid Youth Training Allowance. (People who were in receipt of Job Search</p>

Allowance and aged under 18 years at 31 December 1994 continued to be paid Job Search Allowance. From 20 September 1996, those young persons still being paid Job Search Allowance were transferred to Newstart Allowance.)

Widow Allowance 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. This has had a slight downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from January 1995.

Mature Age Allowance From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Mature Age 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 1996, the qualification conditions for Mature Age Allowance changed for new claimants. The requirement for 12 months prior receipt of income support was reduced to 9 months for people transferring from Newstart Allowance and removed entirely for people transferring from non-activity tested payments. The requirement to have been registered as unemployed for 9 months was replaced with a requirement to have no recent workforce experience. Reporting of these new claimants commenced from September 1996.

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 September 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; and
- the way duration is calculated.

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

Definition of Recipient From July 2002, the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS) introduced a new method to more accurately measure the number of people receiving labour market and related payments. For those receiving labour market and related payments, their eligibility and entitlement status is administered by a payment system called Newstart Common Platform System. Within this system recipients who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment have a determination status of 'current'.

The new method therefore counts these 'current' recipients.

The old method of counting recipients was specified to include all paid recipients - those who received a payment within a given fortnight. As compiled, however, this count excluded, from mid 1998, recipients who received a 'one-off' payment. These can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

The time series in Tables 1 and 4 reflect the revised method, as does the remainder of the publication. Revised historical data for these time series from May 1998 to June 2002 can be found in the July 2002 publication.

From July 2003 FaCS introduced a more sustainable methodology for this revised recipient count. Due to limitations in available data sources in 2002, the revised recipient count had to be derived through a complicated process. This more sustainable methodology resulted in slight differences from the recipient numbers used in previous editions.

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

*Introduction of
Youth Allowance* The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998. There are two main problems in comparing these two series. The first is 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). The second is 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. The problem, however, of the exclusion of some recipients through the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test still remains.

Job seekers Prior to July 1998, the job seeker category was defined by excluding all Newstart Allowees who did not receive a payment, recipients who were incapacitated, and those receiving a payment who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to engage in job search 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.

From July 1998, the definition of job seekers has been placed on a sounder conceptual basis. It is now derived for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients by excluding all people who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, parental income, and all those known not to be required to search for work. People receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements are classified as job seekers although they may not always be undertaking job search. These people negotiate their activity agreement with their Job Network member.

The total number of job seekers (comparable to pre-July 1998 estimates) is calculated by adding together the number of job seekers in receipt of Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) - see the Explanatory Notes on Youth Allowance.

Duration

Following system changes in 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.

Closure of Mature Age and Partner Allowances

From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance and Partner Allowance were closed to new claimants. People on these allowances before this date can remain on that allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance. The majority of people who would previously have claimed these payments will now claim Newstart Allowance.

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	A Centrelink office that supports a set of Customer Service Centres for a specified area. These are generally not confined to State boundaries.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	<p>The CDEP programme is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) from December 2007 and was previously administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). CDEP provides unemployed Indigenous people with activities designed to meet community needs and which develop participants' skills and improve their employability in order to assist them to move to employment outside the CDEP organisation. These activities can also lead to the development of business enterprises.</p> <p>The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.</p>
Customer Service Centre	A Customer Service Centre set within a particular region that provides FaHCSIA, DEEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Customer Service Centres are managed by Area Support Offices.
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'.
Eligibility and payment status	Refer to the Methodology entry in the Explanatory Notes.
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 seekers	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in jobsearch. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.

Job Search Allowance (JSA)	Up to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to CES eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Long-term recipients	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance 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.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Mature Age Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance. Mature Age Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to unemployed people aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) with little or no recent workforce experience who meet certain requirements for previous receipt of income support. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Newstart Common Platform System (NCP)	The Newstart Common Platform System (NCP) was introduced in May 1998. The NCP administers all labour market and related payments. This includes primary payments such as Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance. Other payments on the NCP include Special Benefit, Sickness Allowance, Exceptional Circumstances Relief, Farm Help and Austudy.
Partner Allowance (PA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable 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. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
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.
States	States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the recipient's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.

Widow Allowance (WA)	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance was closed to new claimants, unless the woman was born on or before 1 July 1955.</p> <p>Widow Allowance, a non-activity tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Youth Training Allowance (YTA)	<p>From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Youth Allowance (YA)	<p>Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 20 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p> <p>Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.</p>
Youth Allowance (other)	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.</p>
Zero paid	<p>See 'Did not receive a payment'.</p>

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DEEWR 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 Office 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.
DEEWR 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 DEEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEEWR and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEEWR measures duration of income support. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time unemployed using their unemployment definition.</p> <p>DEEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment for up to 25 weeks but still be classified as long-term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 another 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and still keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the Employment Entry Payment and 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 DEEWR recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DEEWR as long-term recipients when they would be classified as short-term unemployed under the ABS definition.

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

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

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

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

Timing The timing of collections of the series are different:

- DEEWR reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.
- ABS numbers are based on a sample survey which interviews occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.27% of the total Australian population. These persons are generally interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained relates to the week before the interview takes place.

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour market information

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

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

For publication distribution enquiries email:
MI.WORKINGAGE.PAYMENTS@centrelink.gov.au

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

Director
Income Support Information Section
Working Age Payment Programs Branch
Income Support and Stakeholder Group
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9879
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3328.

Other recipient information

Statistics relating to other recipients are also available, including recipient numbers and characteristics for the various FaHCSIA pensions, benefits and family payments.

Other statistical outputs

The following statistical outputs are available on request:

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)
Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview
1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.