

# 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>

**May 2009**

Embargoed

Until 11.30 am, 24 June 2009

*Annual Subscription - \$65.00*

# CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Introduction</b>	1
<b>Statistical Highlights</b>	2
<b>Tables</b>	
1. Labour Market Payments - Time Series	3
2. Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the job seeker population	4
3. Youth Allowees (other) - Derivation of the job seeker population	5
4. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) - Time Series	6
5. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by State	7
6. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Age and Sex	8
7. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre	9
8. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Fortnightly Earnings and Sex	23
<b>Explanatory Notes</b>	24
<b>Glossary</b>	30
<b>Appendix</b>	33
<b>For More Information</b>	36

## 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 DEEWR Media Team on (02) 6240 7300 or by email to [media@deewr.gov.au](mailto:media@deewr.gov.au). For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 22 July 2009.

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – May 2009

### Between May 2008 and May 2009

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 25.9%** overall from 492 758 to 620 516.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased % from 429 363 to 540 729 and
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased % from 63 395 to 79 787.

The number of job seekers **increased 33.6%** overall from 293 121 to 391 607.

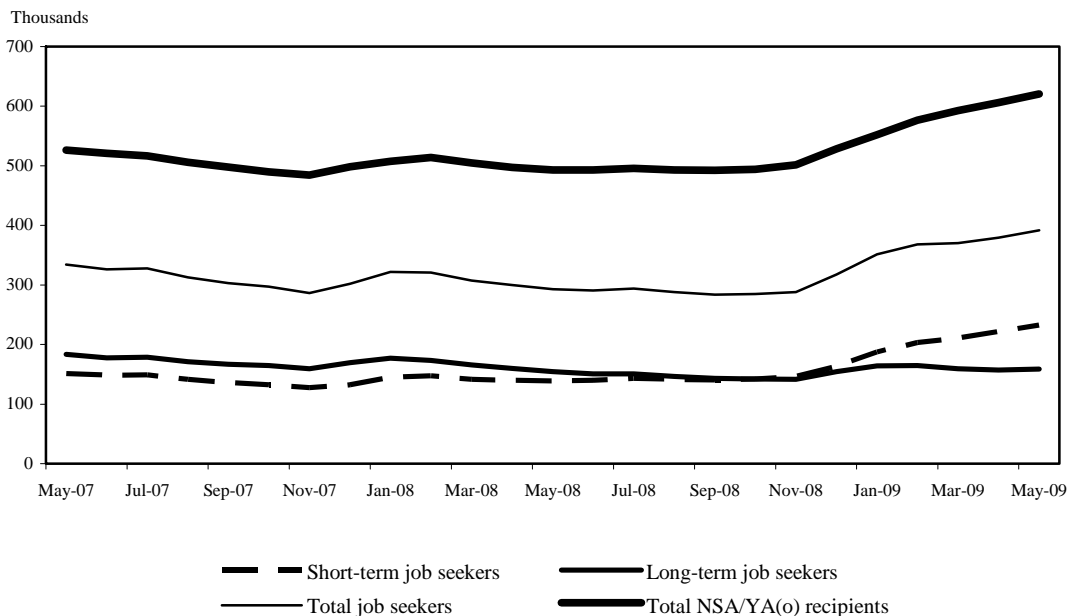
- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 34.3% from 243 914 to 327 648; and
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 30.0% from 49 207 to 63 959.

Long-term job seekers increased 3.0% from 154 313 to 158 978.

Short-term job seekers increased 67.6% from 138 808 to 232 629.

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

**Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other)  
May 2007 to May 2009**



**TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS (MONTHLY AVERAGE) - TIME SERIES**

	Newstart Allowance		Other	Youth Allowance		Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term	Total		Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices			
February 1994	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..	..
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
October 2008	251,529	431,546	62,227	259,337	3,882	0	35,572	38,375
November 2008	251,170	437,270	64,053	247,471	3,683	0	34,733	38,142
December 2008	254,327	453,485	74,786	218,371	3,665	0	34,011	37,989
January 2009	258,403	475,183	76,613	208,624	3,506	0	33,234	37,753
February 2009	261,232	498,020	78,868	218,999	3,570	0	32,480	37,561
March 2009	262,162	514,265	78,259	238,274	3,707	0	31,802	37,364
April 2009	262,468	527,686	78,441	253,363	3,815	0	31,171	37,128
May 2009	264,337	540,729	79,787	264,591	3,873	0	30,423	36,847
<i>Variation April 2009 - May 2009</i>								
Number	1,869	13,043	1,346	11,228	58	0	-748	-281
Per cent	0.7	2.5	1.7	4.4	2	0.0	-2.4	-0.8

**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 (MONTHLY AVERAGE) - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION**

	April 2009	May			Variation April - May	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
<b>Short-term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>265,218</b>	<b>184,413</b>	<b>91,979</b>	<b>276,392</b>	<b>11,174</b>	<b>4.2</b>
CPS recipients (a)	2,483	1,850	613	2,463	-20	-0.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,433	8,474	5,785	14,259	826	6.1
Received a payment	249,302	174,089	85,581	259,670	10,368	4.2
Incapacitated (c)	19,692	12,319	7,805	20,124	432	2.2
Training	16,273	10,846	6,028	16,874	601	3.7
Self-employment development (d)	714	471	328	799	85	11.9
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	5,828	2,169	3,966	6,135	307	5.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	19,325	11,323	7,733	19,056	-269	-1.4
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>187,470</b>	<b>136,961</b>	<b>59,721</b>	<b>196,682</b>	<b>9,212</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>Long-term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>262,468</b>	<b>151,203</b>	<b>113,134</b>	<b>264,337</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>0.7</b>
CPS recipients (a)	6,067	4,100	1,947	6,047	-20	-0.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	7,858	3,361	4,164	7,525	-333	-4.2
Received a payment	248,543	143,742	107,023	250,765	2,222	0.9
Incapacitated (c)	16,453	8,685	7,853	16,538	85	0.5
Training	55,265	33,551	22,012	55,563	298	0.5
Self-employment development (d)	193	114	81	195	2	1.0
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	17,296	7,961	9,625	17,586	290	1.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	30,154	17,120	12,797	29,917	-237	-0.8
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>129,182</b>	<b>76,311</b>	<b>54,655</b>	<b>130,966</b>	<b>1,784</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>527,686</b>	<b>335,616</b>	<b>205,113</b>	<b>540,729</b>	<b>13,043</b>	<b>2.5</b>
CPS recipients (a)	8,550	5,950	2,560	8,510	-40	-0.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	21,291	11,835	9,949	21,784	493	2.3
Received a payment	497,845	317,831	192,604	510,435	12,590	2.5
Incapacitated (c)	36,145	21,004	15,658	36,662	517	1.4
Training	71,538	44,397	28,040	72,437	899	1.3
Self-employment development (d)	907	585	409	994	87	9.6
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	23,124	10,130	13,591	23,721	597	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	49,479	28,443	20,530	48,973	-506	-1.0
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>316,652</b>	<b>213,272</b>	<b>114,376</b>	<b>327,648</b>	<b>10,996</b>	<b>3.5</b>

(a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons while participating in CDEP projects.

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

(c) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

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

(e) 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.

(f) Other allowees who are temporarily exempt from job search, for example because they live in an area severely affected by bushfires.

(g) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

Notes:

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

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

	April 2009	May			Variation April - May	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
<b>Short-term Youth Allowees (other)</b>	<b>42,077</b>	<b>24,769</b>	<b>18,962</b>	<b>43,731</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>3.9</b>
CPS recipients (a)	1,084	706	353	1,059	-25	-2.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	886	403	486	889	3	0.3
Received a payment	40,107	23,660	18,123	41,783	1,676	4.2
Part-time study & work (c)	6	1	4	5	-1	-16.7
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	82	34	44	78	-4	-4.9
Incapacitated (e)	1,712	888	876	1,764	52	3.0
Training	1,717	1,113	679	1,792	75	4.4
Self-employment development (f)	10	7	5	12	2	20.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers	2,247	1,025	1,160	2,185	-62	-2.8
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (g)</b>	<b>34,333</b>	<b>20,592</b>	<b>15,355</b>	<b>35,947</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Long-term Youth Allowees (other)</b>	<b>36,364</b>	<b>17,265</b>	<b>18,791</b>	<b>36,056</b>	<b>-308</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
CPS recipients (a)	790	491	283	774	-16	-2.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,172	400	633	1,033	-139	-11.9
Received a payment	34,402	16,374	17,875	34,249	-153	-0.4
Part-time study & work (c)	3	1	3	4	1	33.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	64	29	43	72	8	12.5
Incapacitated (e)	1,148	425	712	1,137	-11	-1.0
Training	3,284	1,759	1,560	3,319	35	1.1
Self-employment development (f)	10	4	3	7	-3	-30.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers	1,736	716	982	1,698	-38	-2.2
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (g)</b>	<b>28,157</b>	<b>13,440</b>	<b>14,572</b>	<b>28,012</b>	<b>-145</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>All Youth Allowees (other)</b>	<b>78,441</b>	<b>42,034</b>	<b>37,753</b>	<b>79,787</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1.7</b>
CPS recipients (a)	1,874	1,197	636	1,833	-41	-2.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,058	803	1,119	1,922	-136	-6.6
Received a payment	74,509	40,034	35,998	76,032	1,523	2.0
Part-time study & work (c)	9	2	7	9	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	146	63	87	150	4	2.7
Incapacitated (e)	2,860	1,313	1,588	2,901	41	1.4
Training	5,001	2,872	2,239	5,111	110	2.2
Self-employment development (f)	20	11	8	19	-1	-5.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers	3,983	1,741	2,142	3,883	-100	-2.5
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (g)</b>	<b>62,490</b>	<b>34,032</b>	<b>29,927</b>	<b>63,959</b>	<b>1,469</b>	<b>2.4</b>

- (a) Allowees eligible for Youth Allowance who received CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons while participating in CDEP projects.
- (b) Allowees who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as zero-paid.
- (c) Allowees who, by undertaking approved part-time study and work, have a full activity load and are not required to seek work.
- (d) Allowees who, by undertaking approved part-time study and other activities, have a full activity load and are not required to seek work.
- (e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.
- (f) Allowees exempted from job search while they develop self-employment opportunities.
- (g) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

**Notes:**

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

**TABLE 4 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)  
TIME SERIES (MONTHLY AVERAGE)**

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
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
October 2008	142,254	142,368	284,622
November 2008	146,670	141,488	288,158
December 2008	163,109	154,285	317,394
January 2009	186,990	164,229	351,219
February 2009	203,173	164,752	367,925
March 2009	210,786	159,449	370,235
April 2009	221,803	157,339	379,142
May 2009	232,629	158,978	391,607
<i>Variation April 2009 - May 2009</i>			
Number	10,826	1,639	12,465
Per cent	4.9	1.0	3.3

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers 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.

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

State	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	72,349	75,565	3,216	4.4
Victoria	49,084	51,785	2,701	5.5
Queensland	54,574	56,927	2,353	4.3
South Australia	15,573	16,081	508	3.3
Western Australia	20,010	21,814	1,804	9.0
Tasmania	5,326	5,566	240	4.5
Northern Territory	3,216	3,173	-43	-1.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,671	1,718	47	2.8
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>221,803</b>	<b>232,629</b>	<b>10,826</b>	<b>4.9</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	58,134	58,546	412	0.7
Victoria	35,880	36,195	315	0.9
Queensland	25,742	26,258	516	2.0
South Australia	14,908	15,088	180	1.2
Western Australia	10,519	10,805	286	2.7
Tasmania	5,725	5,723	-2	0.0
Northern Territory	5,099	5,017	-82	-1.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,332	1,346	14	1.1
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>157,339</b>	<b>158,978</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>TOTAL JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	130,483	134,111	3,628	2.8
Victoria	84,964	87,980	3,016	3.5
Queensland	80,316	83,185	2,869	3.6
South Australia	30,481	31,169	688	2.3
Western Australia	30,529	32,619	2,090	6.8
Tasmania	11,051	11,289	238	2.2
Northern Territory	8,315	8,190	-125	-1.5
Australian Capital Territory	3,003	3,064	61	2.0
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>379,142</b>	<b>391,607</b>	<b>12,465</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers 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.

**TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)  
BY AGE AND SEX (MONTHLY AVERAGE) MAY 2009**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>MALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	5,382	3.4	2,417	2.7	7,799	3.2
18 - 20 years	15,208	9.7	11,024	12.3	26,232	10.6
21 - 24 years	26,002	16.5	11,035	12.3	37,037	15.0
25 - 29 years	25,441	16.1	11,399	12.7	36,840	14.9
30 - 39 years	37,494	23.8	19,287	21.5	56,781	23.0
40 - 49 years	26,050	16.5	15,540	17.3	41,590	16.8
50 - 59 years	16,052	10.2	12,178	13.6	28,230	11.4
60 years and over	5,924	3.8	6,871	7.7	12,795	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>157,553</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>89,751</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>247,304</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	4,836	6.4	2,826	4.1	7,662	5.3
18 - 20 years	10,517	14.0	11,744	17.0	22,261	15.4
21 - 24 years	12,980	17.3	8,295	12.0	21,275	14.7
25 - 29 years	8,905	11.9	5,797	8.4	14,702	10.2
30 - 39 years	11,910	15.9	10,738	15.5	22,648	15.7
40 - 49 years	13,171	17.5	14,481	20.9	27,652	19.2
50 - 59 years	10,086	13.4	11,780	17.0	21,866	15.2
60 years and over	2,671	3.6	3,566	5.2	6,237	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,076</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>69,227</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>144,303</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	10,218	4.4	5,243	3.3	15,461	3.9
18 - 20 years	25,725	11.1	22,768	14.3	48,493	12.4
21 - 24 years	38,982	16.8	19,330	12.2	58,312	14.9
25 - 29 years	34,346	14.8	17,196	10.8	51,542	13.2
30 - 39 years	49,404	21.2	30,025	18.9	79,429	20.3
40 - 49 years	39,221	16.9	30,021	18.9	69,242	17.7
50 - 59 years	26,138	11.2	23,958	15.1	50,096	12.8
60 years and over	8,595	3.7	10,437	6.6	19,032	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>232,629</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>158,978</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>391,607</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers 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.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Bankstown	3,680	3,833	153	4.2
Bondi Junction	1,335	1,370	35	2.6
Burwood	1,837	1,900	63	3.4
Campsie	2,553	2,666	113	4.4
Caringbah	1,382	1,481	99	7.2
Chatswood	1,290	1,380	90	7.0
Corrimal	1,225	1,259	34	2.8
Dapto	1,373	1,413	40	2.9
Darlinghurst	1,721	1,800	79	4.6
Darlinghurst CCU	45	55	10	%
Haymarket	< 20	< 20	-1	%
Hornsby	1,048	1,103	55	5.2
Hurstville	1,485	1,595	110	7.4
Lakemba	24	26	2	%
Leichhardt	1,520	1,572	52	3.4
Maroubra	1,591	1,626	35	2.2
Marrickville	1,624	1,643	19	1.2
Northern Beaches	1,495	1,637	142	9.5
Participation Sydney East	< 20	< 20	-1	%
Redfern	1,277	1,325	48	3.8
Revesby	< 20	< 20	0	%
Rockdale	1,458	1,527	69	4.7
Ryde	1,110	1,189	79	7.1
Shellharbour	1,563	1,580	17	1.1
Sutherland	574	580	6	1.0
Wollongong	1,511	1,533	22	1.5
Customer Service Centre not coded	< 20	< 20	-2	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,750</b>	<b>34,118</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>4.2</b>

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</b>				
Auburn	2,284	2,338	54	2.4
Baulkham Hills	935	964	29	3.1
Blacktown	3,406	3,554	148	4.3
Cabramatta	2,155	2,241	86	4.0
Camden	775	808	33	4.3
Campbelltown	2,433	2,494	61	2.5
Fairfield	3,174	3,347	173	5.5
Hawkesbury	1,049	1,057	8	0.8
Ingleburn	1,534	1,514	-20	-1.3
Katoomba	781	802	21	2.7
Liverpool	4,034	4,236	202	5.0
Merrylands	2,016	2,058	42	2.1
Mt Druitt	3,129	3,222	93	3.0
Parramatta	2,124	2,238	114	5.4
Penrith	2,120	2,153	33	1.6
Springwood	426	450	24	5.6
St Marys	1,657	1,737	80	4.8
Customer Service Centre not coded	22	< 20	-4	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,054</b>	<b>35,231</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>3.5</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b><i>HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Armidale	865	870	5	0.6
Cessnock	878	889	11	1.3
Charlestown	2,066	2,106	40	1.9
Ettalong	1,189	1,096	-93	-7.8
Glen Innes	262	260	-2	-0.8
Gosford	1,855	1,929	74	4.0
Gunnedah	408	404	-4	-1.0
Inverell	701	724	23	3.3
Kempsey	1,071	1,092	21	2.0
Kurri Kurri	483	485	2	0.4
Lakehaven	1,926	1,941	15	0.8
Maitland	1,679	1,728	49	2.9
Mayfield	912	964	52	5.7
Muswellbrook	546	579	33	6.0
Nambucca Heads	865	850	-15	-1.7
Nelson Bay	564	586	22	3.9
Newcastle	1,293	1,318	25	1.9
Port Macquarie	1,678	1,715	37	2.2
Raymond Terrace	1,094	1,128	34	3.1
Singleton	290	299	9	3.1
Tamworth	1,759	1,801	42	2.4
Taree	1,808	1,802	-6	-0.3
The Entrance	1,425	1,470	45	3.2
Toronto	1,029	1,037	8	0.8
Tuncurry (Forster)	964	945	-19	-2.0
Wallsend	1,468	1,459	-9	-0.6
Wyong	795	841	46	5.8
Customer Service Centre not coded	77	217	140	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,950</b>	<b>30,535</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>2.0</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</b>				
Batemans Bay	958	963	5	0.5
Bathurst	975	993	18	1.8
Bega	748	759	11	1.5
Belconnen	919	938	19	2.1
Bowral	579	584	5	0.9
Braddon	793	806	13	1.6
Cooma	323	320	-3	-0.9
Cowra	480	487	7	1.5
Dubbo	2,042	2,054	12	0.6
Goulburn	764	790	26	3.4
Griffith	588	599	11	1.9
Gungahlin	70	73	3	%
Lanyon	32	27	-5	%
Leeton	347	362	15	4.3
Lithgow	607	595	-12	-2.0
Mudgee	690	687	-3	-0.4
Narooma	422	438	16	3.8
Nowra	2,212	2,224	12	0.5
Orange	1,092	1,144	52	4.8
Parkes	1,015	1,046	31	3.1
Queanbeyan	456	427	-29	-6.4
Tuggeranong	659	675	16	2.4
Tumut	270	271	1	0.4
Ulladulla	556	553	-3	-0.5
Wagga	1,460	1,452	-8	-0.5
Woden	502	533	31	6.2
Yass	110	119	9	8.2
Young	455	454	-1	-0.2
Customer Service Centre not coded	< 20	< 20	1	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,139</b>	<b>20,389</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>1.2</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i></b>				
Airport West	1,042	1,100	58	5.6
Albury	2,140	2,230	90	4.2
Box Hill	1,945	1,995	50	2.6
Broadmeadows	3,816	3,902	86	2.3
Camberwell	923	962	39	4.2
Darebin	2,998	3,066	68	2.3
Deniliquin	322	336	14	4.3
Echuca	528	534	6	1.1
Epping	1,909	2,007	98	5.1
Greensborough	22	< 20	-11	%
Heidelberg	1,608	1,751	143	8.9
Moreland	2,035	2,135	100	4.9
Newmarket	1,272	1,289	17	1.3
Seymour	391	438	47	12.0
Shepparton	1,962	1,955	-7	-0.4
South Melbourne	698	729	31	4.4
Sunbury	758	799	41	5.4
Wangaratta	1,381	1,401	20	1.4
Windsor	2,455	2,511	56	2.3
Yarra	1,758	1,761	3	0.2
Customer Service Centre not coded	< 20	< 20	-4	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,972</b>	<b>30,917</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>3.2</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i></b>				
Bairnsdale	769	771	2	0.3
Belgrave	452	481	29	6.4
Cheltenham	1,694	1,761	67	4.0
Cranbourne	1,415	1,518	103	7.3
Dandenong	2,722	2,775	53	1.9
Fountain Gate	2,022	2,097	75	3.7
Frankston	2,724	2,830	106	3.9
Glen Waverley	1,083	1,119	36	3.3
Hastings	514	560	46	8.9
Lilydale	1,207	1,315	108	8.9
Mornington	459	468	9	2.0
Morwell	1,755	2,016	261	14.9
Oakleigh	1,801	1,872	71	3.9
Pakenham	646	693	47	7.3
Ringwood	2,029	2,076	47	2.3
Rosebud	871	964	93	10.7
Rowville	432	448	16	3.7
Sale	694	711	17	2.4
Springvale	2,072	2,115	43	2.1
Wantirna	1,283	1,332	49	3.8
Warragul	534	558	24	4.5
Wonthaggi	583	632	49	8.4
Customer Service Centre not coded	< 20	< 20	1	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,765</b>	<b>29,117</b>	<b>1,352</b>	<b>4.9</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b>WEST VICTORIA</b>				
Ararat	234	247	13	5.6
Ballarat	2,776	2,817	41	1.5
Bendigo	2,635	2,634	-1	0.0
Bendigo Central	395	420	25	6.3
Colac	485	502	17	3.5
Corio	1,673	1,716	43	2.6
Footscray	1,487	1,505	18	1.2
Geelong	2,969	3,089	120	4.0
Hamilton	412	411	-1	-0.2
Horsham	589	571	-18	-3.1
Maryborough	460	456	-4	-0.9
Melton	1,364	1,469	105	7.7
Mildura	1,650	1,681	31	1.9
Newport	1,211	1,260	49	4.0
Portland	413	437	24	5.8
Stawell	192	206	14	7.3
Sunshine	2,616	2,694	78	3.0
Swan Hill	842	869	27	3.2
Warrnambool	824	824	0	0.0
Watergardens	3,211	3,293	82	2.6
Werribee	3,134	3,278	144	4.6
Customer Service Centre not coded	< 20	< 20	3	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,583</b>	<b>30,393</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>2.7</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b><i>CENTRAL &amp; NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Atherton	768	772	4	0.5
Ayr	502	476	-26	-5.2
Bamaga RASC (Nth Peninsula RASC)	30	31	1	%
Biloela	182	185	3	1.6
Bowen	455	429	-26	-5.7
Cairns Families	< 20	< 20	3	%
Cairns Jobseekers	4,325	4,524	199	4.6
Cairns Remote (Indigenous ISC)	730	760	30	4.1
Cairns Seniors & Carers	< 20	< 20	2	%
Charters Towers	371	382	11	3.0
Edmonton	< 20	< 20	0	%
Emerald	308	315	7	2.3
Gladstone	985	1,080	95	9.6
Greenfields	< 20	< 20	1	%
Ingham	375	369	-6	-1.6
Innisfail	761	769	8	1.1
Longreach	112	110	-2	-1.8
Mackay Jobseekers	1,629	1,612	-17	-1.0
Mackay Seniors & Carers	< 20	< 20	1	%
Mareeba	548	595	47	8.6
Mossman	555	554	-1	-0.2
Mt Isa	937	927	-10	-1.1
Normanton	165	143	-22	-13.3
Palm Island	323	335	12	3.7
Rockhampton Families	< 20	< 20	0	%
Rockhampton Jobseekers	2,002	2,045	43	2.1
Rockhampton Seniors & Carers	< 20	< 20	3	%
Smithfield	< 20	< 20	-1	%
Thursday Island	259	265	6	2.3
Townsville City	< 20	< 20	-3	%
Townsville Families	< 20	< 20	0	%
Townsville Jobseekers	3,644	3,554	-90	-2.5
Townsville Seniors & Carers	< 20	< 20	1	%
Western Cape RASC	267	267	0	0.0
Whitsunday	492	502	10	2.0
Yarrabah RASC	417	443	26	6.2
Yeppoon	450	472	22	4.9
Customer Service Centre not coded	72	61	-11	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,694</b>	<b>22,014</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>1.5</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH &amp; EAST QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Bundaberg	3,133	3,086	-47	-1.5
Caboolture	2,652	2,816	164	6.2
Caboolture FCC and SC&R	< 20	< 20	0	%
Caloundra	1,304	1,369	65	5.0
Cherbourg	108	174	66	61.1
Chermside	1,146	1,203	57	5.0
Fortitude Valley	1,201	1,216	15	1.2
Gympie	1,320	1,328	8	0.6
Hervey Bay	1,550	1,615	65	4.2
Kawana Waters	661	700	39	5.9
Kingaroy	765	691	-74	-9.7
Kippa-Ring	1,078	1,177	99	9.2
Maroochydore	1,659	1,733	74	4.5
Maryborough	1,214	1,217	3	0.2
Mitchelton	1,108	1,151	43	3.9
Nambour	1,088	1,103	15	1.4
Noosa	1,152	1,203	51	4.4
Nundah	1,162	1,227	65	5.6
Strathpine	1,367	1,438	71	5.2
Toowong	991	1,031	40	4.0
Customer Service Centre not coded	668	672	4	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,327</b>	<b>26,150</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>3.2</b>

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<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH &amp; WEST QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Beenleigh	2,153	2,326	173	8.0
Browns Plains	1,798	1,926	128	7.1
Capalaba	783	824	41	5.2
Charleville	209	208	-1	-0.5
Cleveland	919	944	25	2.7
Dalby	515	517	2	0.4
Goodna	1,352	1,421	69	5.1
Goondiwindi	290	284	-6	-2.1
Inala	1,652	1,746	94	5.7
Ipswich	2,362	2,478	116	4.9
Mt Gravatt	1,811	1,932	121	6.7
Roma	178	185	7	3.9
South Brisbane	865	942	77	8.9
Stanthorpe	333	368	35	10.5
Stones Corner	1,591	1,681	90	5.7
Toowoomba	2,262	2,353	91	4.0
Warwick	491	511	20	4.1
Woodridge	2,008	2,135	127	6.3
Wynnum	992	1,044	52	5.2
Customer Service Centre not coded	< 20	< 20	0	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,569</b>	<b>23,830</b>	<b>1,261</b>	<b>5.6</b>

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			Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></b>				
Berri	868	960	92	10.6
Broken Hill	827	834	7	0.8
Ceduna	284	276	-8	-2.8
Cooper Pedy	157	161	4	2.5
Currie Street	< 20	< 20	0	%
Elizabeth	2,576	2,629	53	2.1
Enfield	1,597	1,660	63	3.9
Gawler	1,157	1,209	52	4.5
Glenelg	879	887	8	0.9
Kadina	666	678	12	1.8
Kilkenny	1,638	1,669	31	1.9
Marion	2,093	2,144	51	2.4
Modbury	1,785	1,775	-10	-0.6
Mt Barker	671	685	14	2.1
Mt Gambier	1,242	1,300	58	4.7
Murray Bridge	885	884	-1	-0.1
Noarlunga	2,793	2,843	50	1.8
Norwood	1,820	1,881	61	3.4
Port Adelaide	1,489	1,548	59	4.0
Port Augusta	751	749	-2	-0.3
Port Lincoln	623	621	-2	-0.3
Port Pirie	920	938	18	2.0
Salisbury	2,598	2,642	44	1.7
Torrensville	1,506	1,501	-5	-0.3
Victor Harbor	659	692	33	5.0
Whyalla	747	757	10	1.3
Customer Service Centre not coded	31	20	-11	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,263</b>	<b>31,944</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>2.2</b>

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			Number	Per cent
<b>WEST AUSTRALIA</b>				
Albany	868	927	59	6.8
Armadale	1,145	1,277	132	11.5
Bunbury	1,787	1,770	-17	-1.0
Busselton	382	580	198	51.8
Cannington	1,732	1,917	185	10.7
Carnarvon	303	300	-3	-1.0
Cocos Islands	36	36	0	%
Collie	< 20	< 20	4	%
Community Team Perth	84	70	-14	%
Curtin on Campus SSC	< 20	< 20	-5	%
Esperance	320	325	5	1.6
Fremantle	1,360	1,472	112	8.2
Fremantle SACC	< 20	< 20	0	%
Fremantle SSC	< 20	< 20	0	%
Geraldton	1,218	1,272	54	4.4
Gosnells	1,188	1,238	50	4.2
Innaloo	1,417	1,472	55	3.9
Joondalup	1,777	1,966	189	10.6
Joondalup SACC	< 20	< 20	1	%
Joondalup SSC	< 20	< 20	0	%
Kalgoorlie	918	923	5	0.5
Karratha	327	334	7	2.1
Laverton RASC	64	64	0	%
Mandurah	1,496	1,641	145	9.7
Meekatharra RASC	159	161	2	1.3
Midland	2,255	2,437	182	8.1
Mirrabooka	1,804	1,904	100	5.5
Morley	1,885	1,979	94	5.0
Morley - Dewar Street	< 20	< 20	-1	%
Morley SSC	< 20	< 20	0	%
Newman RASC	205	214	9	4.4
Northam	552	569	17	3.1
Rockingham	1,884	2,067	183	9.7
South Hedland	415	441	26	6.3
Spearwood	1,104	1,231	127	11.5
Victoria Park	1,871	1,994	123	6.6
Warwick Grove	796	858	62	7.8
Customer Service Centre not coded	27	21	-6	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,396</b>	<b>31,476</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>7.1</b>

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			Number	Per cent
<b>TASMANIA</b>				
Bridgewater	617	632	15	2.4
Burnie	1,428	1,457	29	2.0
Devonport	1,324	1,350	26	2.0
Glenorchy	1,707	1,751	44	2.6
Hobart	1,234	1,260	26	2.1
Huonville	409	409	0	0.0
Launceston	2,937	2,992	55	1.9
Mowbray	< 20	< 20	-1	%
Rosny Park	934	949	15	1.6
Sorell	458	508	50	10.9
Customer Service Centre not coded	44	38	-6	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,093</b>	<b>11,346</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>NORTH AUSTRALIA</b>				
Alice Springs	2,543	2,555	12	0.5
Borrooloola RASC	38	36	-2	%
Broome	530	547	17	3.2
Casuarina	883	861	-22	-2.5
Derby	180	172	-8	-4.4
Fitzroy Crossing RASC	72	62	-10	%
Halls Creek RASC	214	211	-3	-1.4
Katherine	1,076	1,044	-32	-3.0
Knuckey Street	486	481	-5	-1.0
Kununurra	267	279	12	4.5
Maningrida	280	269	-11	-3.9
Nhulunbuy	613	600	-13	-2.1
Palmerston	912	891	-21	-2.3
Tangentyere	73	73	0	%
Tennant Creek	189	186	-3	-1.6
Tennant Creek Remote	67	66	-1	%
Tiwi Islands RASC	205	210	5	2.4
Top End Remote	698	689	-9	-1.3
Wadeye RASC	201	193	-8	-4.0
Yuendumu RASC	127	118	-9	-7.1
Customer Service Centre not coded	33	30	-3	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,687</b>	<b>9,573</b>	<b>-114</b>	<b>-1.2</b>

Notes:

- Variations for Customer Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Area Support Office boundaries changed from July 2007. The July 2007 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	April 2009	May 2009	Variation April - May	
			Number	Per cent
<b>PACIFIC CENTRAL</b>				
Ballina	1,082	1,100	18	1.7
Beaunesert	550	570	20	3.6
Biggera Waters	2,379	2,420	41	1.7
Bourke	536	516	-20	-3.7
Brunswick Heads	616	659	43	7.0
Byron Bay	649	642	-7	-1.1
Casino	637	624	-13	-2.0
Coffs Harbour	2,528	2,551	23	0.9
Grafton	1,553	1,552	-1	-0.1
Lightning Ridge	176	181	5	2.8
Lismore	1,701	1,703	2	0.1
Macleay	< 20	< 20	0	%
Moree	500	506	6	1.2
Murwillumbah	603	636	33	5.5
Narrabri	311	304	-7	-2.3
Nerang	2,435	2,624	189	7.8
Palm Beach	2,880	2,990	110	3.8
Robina SCR	< 20	< 20	-1	%
Southport	2,761	2,874	113	4.1
Tweed Heads	1,683	1,735	52	3.1
Walgett	255	263	8	3.1
Customer Service Centre not coded	29	30	1	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,873</b>	<b>24,488</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>OTHER</b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	64	60	-4	%
Not coded to an area	8	23	15	%
Rounding adjustment	-45	3	48	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>379,142</b>	<b>391,607</b>	<b>12,465</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Notes:

- Variations for Customer Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.
- Area Support Office boundaries changed from July 2007. The July 2007 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.
- Prior to the July 2007 publication, the rounding adjustment was included in the Fairfield Customer Service Centre.

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)  
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX - POINT IN TIME AT FORTNIGHT ENDING 22 MAY 2009**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	87.0	83.8	85.9
Earned an income	13.0	16.2	14.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01-\$142.00	1.8	2.2	1.9
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.2	2.7	2.4
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.6	1.9	1.7
Over \$316.00	6.8	8.6	7.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b>158,958</b>	<b>89,775</b>	<b>248,733</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	76.9	71.7	74.4
Earned an income	23.1	28.3	25.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.8	0.9	0.9
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.7	2.9	2.8
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.4	3.6	3.5
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.7	3.0	2.9
Over \$316.00	13.4	17.9	15.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b>75,306</b>	<b>69,062</b>	<b>144,368</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	83.8	78.5	81.6
Earned an income	16.2	21.5	18.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.1	2.5	2.3
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.6	3.1	2.8
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.0	2.4	2.1
Over \$316.00	8.9	12.7	10.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b>234,264</b>	<b>158,837</b>	<b>393,101</b>

Notes:

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

## 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>

*Youth Training Allowance*

Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

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 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 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 (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

### *Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)*

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

### *Introduction of Youth Allowance*

The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998. 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*

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 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.

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*

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.

*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

<b>Activity test status</b>	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.
<b>Age</b>	Age in years at time of data collection.
<b>Area Support Office</b>	A Centrelink office that supports a set of Customer Service Centres for a specified area. These are generally not confined to State boundaries.
<b>Community Development (CDEP)</b>	<p>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>
<b>Customer Service Centre</b>	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.
<b>Did not receive a payment</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'.
<b>Fortnightly earnings</b>	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
<b>Incapacitated</b>	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.
<b>Job seeker</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
<b>Job Search Allowance (JSA)</b>	Up to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service for up to 12 months. From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
<b>Long-term recipients</b>	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.

<b>Mature Age Allowance (MAA)</b>	<p>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 retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Mature Age Allowance was a payment for unemployed people aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) with little or no recent workforce experience. These people were not required to look for work to be eligible for the payment. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Newstart Allowance (NSA)</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Partner Allowance (PA)</b>	<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 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.</p>
<b>Short-term recipients</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>States</b>	<p>States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the recipient's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.</p>
<b>Widow Allowance (WA)</b>	<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>
<b>Youth Training Allowance (YTA)</b>	<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>
<b>Youth Allowance (YA)</b>	<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>

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.

**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 DEEWR UNEMPLOYMENT LABOUR MARKET PAYMENT NUMBERS AND ABS LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

<b>Official statistics</b>	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.
<b>ABS definition</b>	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.
<b>DEEWR Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics</b>	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.
<b>Differences</b>	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 <b>income support</b>. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time <b>unemployed</b> 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"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul>

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:  
REGULAR.REPORTING@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) 6204 2912.

### **Other recipient information**

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

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Statistics also collates statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which that Department administers.