

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 Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

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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 largely on behalf of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). After the Machinery of Government (MOG) changes announced in October 2004 the responsibility for Newstart Allowance (NSA), Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)), Mature Age Allowance (MAA), Partner Allowance (PA) and Widow Allowance (WA) was transferred to DEWR and responsibility for Youth Allowance (full-time students) (YA(FTS)) was transferred to Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). This publication covers NSA and YA in some detail and, to a lesser extent MAA, PA and WA.

Table 1 provides information on the total number of NSA and YA recipients. The YA population is broken down into YA(FTS), YA(Apprentices) and YA(O) categories. The total number 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) jobseeker populations (see the reference to Jobseekers in the 'Comparability of Data' section of the *Explanatory Notes*). These populations are added together to derive the total number of jobseekers.

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total jobseeker 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) 6284 6442. 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 23 November 2005.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - September 2005

Between September 2004 and September 2005:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) customers **decreased by 4.8%** overall from 586,586 to 558,344

- ◆ by 4.8% for NSA from 506,457 to 482,072 and
- ◆ 4.8% for YA(O) from 80,129 to 76,272.

The number of jobseekers **decreased by 8.0%** overall from 396,377 to 364,632

- ◆ by 8.3% for NSA from 332,577 to 304,912 and
- ◆ 6.4% for YA(O) customers from 63,800 to 59,720.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 11.2% from 231,221 to 205,254.

Short-term jobseekers decreased by 3.5% from 165,156 to 159,378.

Long-term clients have been on income support for 12 months or more and can be without payment for up to 25 weeks before being reclassified as short-term. This differs significantly from the ABS definition of long-term unemployment (see Appendix).

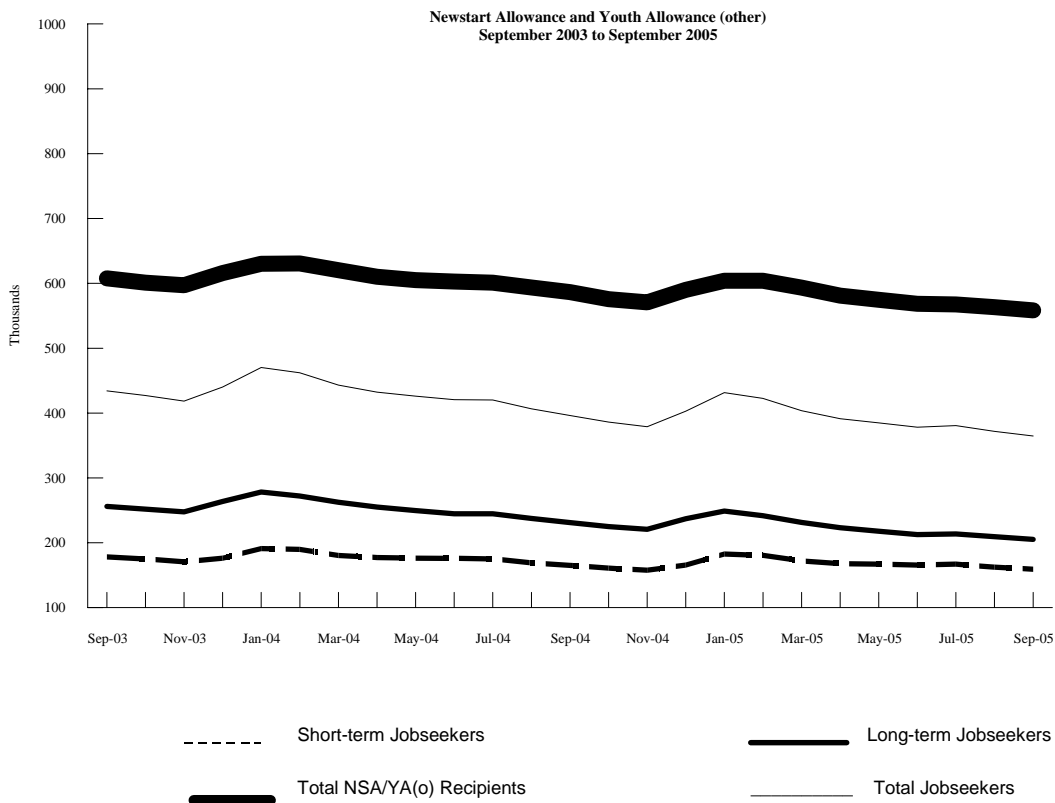


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796	
September 2003	320,932	524,947	82,836	309,974	..	42,625	106,144	44,644
October 2003	318,997	520,317	80,666	306,946	..	42,140	105,973	45,014
November 2003	316,791	515,849	81,332	297,405	..	41,124	104,772	45,401
December 2003	321,781	523,107	92,671	256,770	..	40,117	103,495	45,760
January 2004	326,578	535,559	94,664	243,087	..	39,027	101,894	45,859
February 2004	326,028	539,098	91,562	255,944	..	37,835	99,912	45,892
March 2004	322,730	532,043	88,396	274,602	..	36,761	97,958	45,925
April 2004	318,836	524,504	85,607	286,058	..	35,507	95,817	45,840
May 2004	316,092	520,434	84,534	292,511	..	34,314	93,843	45,816
June 2004	313,883	517,895	84,841	296,560	..	33,310	92,058	45,781
July 2004	313,274	515,686	85,357	290,210	..	32,175	90,056	45,644
August 2004	311,282	511,799	81,939	297,594	..	31,046	88,133	45,544
September 2004	308,214	506,457	80,129	300,177	..	30,055	86,495	45,531
October 2004	304,351	499,388	76,376	294,394	..	28,921	84,565	45,438
November 2004	301,742	494,289	76,497	287,438	..	27,844	82,782	45,369
December 2004	306,022	502,350	87,732	245,322	..	26,820	81,078	45,282
January 2005	309,214	514,579	89,453	235,537	..	25,770	79,482	45,206
February 2005	307,987	516,730	87,258	245,621	..	24,864	78,040	45,173
March 2005	304,783	509,892	83,604	263,308	..	23,918	76,588	45,100
April 2005	299,698	500,391	80,661	274,240	..	22,935	75,014	45,009
May 2005	295,728	494,847	79,896	281,184	..	22,032	73,601	44,976
June 2005	291,977	488,910	79,564	284,926	0	21,144	72,331	44,864
July 2005	291,683	487,653	79,816	279,040	742	20,258	71,140	44,841
August 2005	291,607	485,823	77,459	285,864	1,655	19,462	70,365	45,009
September 2005	289,974	482,072	76,272	288,479	2,285	18,697	69,624	45,158
<i>Variation August 2005 - September 2005</i>								
Number	-1,633	-3,751	-1,187	2,615	630	-765	-741	149
Per cent	-0.6	-0.8	-1.5	0.9	38.1	-3.9	-1.1	0.3

(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 back to May 1998 is in Table A, 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 will be issued under this Scheme from 1 January 2004. For further details, refer to the Explanatory Notes at the back of this publication.

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

Note: 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 JOBSEEKER POPULATION

	August 2005	September			Variation August - September	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	194,216	131,248	60,849	192,097	-2,119	-1.1
CPS recipients (a)	3,313	2,514	940	3,454	141	4.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,682	7,413	4,552	11,965	283	2.4
Received a payment	179,221	121,321	55,357	176,678	-2,543	-1.4
Incapacitated (c)	19,865	12,782	7,228	20,010	145	0.7
Training	10,393	6,723	3,880	10,603	210	2.0
Self-employment development (d)	561	403	211	614	53	9.4
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	2,996	1,322	1,672	2,994	-2	-0.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,021	7,719	4,934	12,653	-368	-2.8
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	132,385	92,372	37,432	129,804	-2,581	-1.9
Long-term NSA Customers	291,607	186,590	103,383	289,973	-1,634	-0.6
CPS recipients (a)	7,612	5,490	2,306	7,796	184	2.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,417	6,754	4,825	11,579	162	1.4
Received a payment	272,578	174,346	96,252	270,598	-1,980	-0.7
Incapacitated (c)	27,644	16,536	11,205	27,741	97	0.4
Training	36,161	22,793	14,074	36,867	706	2.0
Self-employment development (d)	261	189	95	284	23	8.8
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	9,448	5,803	3,895	9,698	250	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	20,784	12,439	8,461	20,900	116	0.6
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	178,280	116,586	58,522	175,108	-3,172	-1.8
All NSA Customers	485,823	317,838	164,232	482,070	-3,753	-0.8
CPS recipients (a)	10,925	8,004	3,246	11,250	325	3.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	23,099	14,167	9,377	23,544	445	1.9
Received a payment	451,799	295,667	151,609	447,276	-4,523	-1.0
Incapacitated (c)	47,509	29,318	18,433	47,751	242	0.5
Training (d)	46,554	29,516	17,954	47,470	916	2.0
Self-employment development (e)	822	592	306	898	76	9.2
Voluntary/part-time work (f)	12,444	7,125	5,567	12,692	248	2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (g)	33,805	20,158	13,395	33,553	-252	-0.7
All NSA Jobseekers (h)	310,665	208,958	95,954	304,912	-5,753	-1.9

(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) Includes customers in the Personal Support Programme (PSP), which helps people with multiple non-vocational barriers to employment and serves as a bridge between short-term crisis assistance and employment-related assistance.

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

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

(g) Includes other customers known not to have job search obligations. See 'Jobseekers' in Explanatory Notes.

(h) 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 2 - 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 3 - YOUTH ALLOWEES (OTHER) - DERIVATION OF THE JOBSEEKER POPULATION

	August 2005	September			Variation	
		Males	Females	Persons	August - September Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	38,149	20,687	17,178	37,865	-284	-0.7
CPS recipients (a)	1,816	1,229	730	1,959	143	7.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	937	464	521	985	48	5.1
Received a payment	35,396	18,994	15,927	34,921	-475	-1.3
Part-time study & work (c)	3	1	5	6	3	100.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	62	18	42	60	-2	-3.2
Incapacitated (e)	1,968	1,021	983	2,004	36	1.8
Training	1,393	851	592	1,443	50	3.6
Self-employment development (e)	7	4	3	7	0	0.0
Full-time voluntary work	4	1	2	3	-1	-25.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,819	865	959	1,824	5	0.3
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	30,140	16,233	13,341	29,574	-566	-1.9
Long-term YA (other) Customers	39,310	18,098	20,309	38,407	-903	-2.3
CPS recipients (a)	1,096	700	434	1,134	38	3.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,188	489	731	1,220	32	2.7
Received a payment	37,026	16,909	19,144	36,053	-973	-2.6
Part-time study & work (c)	4	1	5	6	2	50.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	92	32	55	87	-5	-5.4
Incapacitated (e)	1,617	642	999	1,641	24	1.5
Training	2,581	1,279	1,299	2,578	-3	-0.1
Self-employment development (e)	7	1	5	6	-1	-14.3
Full-time voluntary work	12	5	6	11	-1	-8.3
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,569	652	926	1,578	9	0.6
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	31,144	14,297	15,849	30,146	-998	-3.2
All YA (other) Customers	77,459	38,785	37,487	76,272	-1,187	-1.5
CPS recipients (a)	2,912	1,929	1,164	3,093	181	6.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,125	953	1,252	2,205	80	3.8
Received a payment	72,422	35,903	35,071	70,974	-1,448	-2.0
Part-time study & work (c)	7	2	10	12	5	71.4
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	154	50	97	147	-7	-4.5
Incapacitated (e)	3,585	1,663	1,982	3,645	60	1.7
Training (e)	3,974	2,130	1,891	4,021	47	1.2
Self-employment development (e)	14	5	8	13	-1	-7.1
Full-time voluntary work	16	6	8	14	-2	-12.5
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,388	1,517	1,885	3,402	14	0.4
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	61,284	30,530	29,190	59,720	-1,564	-2.6

(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 2 - 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 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
TIME SERIES (a)

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
September 2003	178,316	256,054	434,370
October 2003	175,181	252,009	427,190
November 2003	170,868	247,695	418,563
December 2003	176,350	263,768	440,118
January 2004	191,981	278,371	470,352
February 2004	189,985	272,224	462,209
March 2004	180,650	262,525	443,175
April 2004	177,247	255,059	432,306
May 2004	176,366	249,705	426,071
June 2004	176,087	244,647	420,734
July 2004	175,344	244,846	420,190
August 2004	169,186	237,526	406,712
September 2004	165,156	231,221	396,377
October 2004	161,169	224,985	386,154
November 2004	157,970	220,919	378,889
December 2004	165,824	236,981	402,805
January 2005	182,718	248,933	431,651
February 2005	180,830	241,737	422,567
March 2005	172,254	231,336	403,590
April 2005	168,095	223,258	391,353
May 2005	167,200	217,727	384,927
June 2005	165,755	212,595	378,350
July 2005	167,154	213,585	380,739
August 2005	162,525	209,424	371,949
September 2005	159,378	205,254	364,632
<i>Variation August 2005 - September 2005</i>			
<i>Number</i>	-3,147	-4,170	-7,317
<i>Per cent</i>	-1.9	-2.0	-2.0

(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 back to May 1998 is in Table B, 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 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY STATE**

<i>State</i>	August 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	54,118	53,157	-961	-1.8
Victoria	38,499	37,870	-629	-1.6
Queensland	34,533	33,172	-1,361	-3.9
South Australia	12,993	12,843	-150	-1.2
Western Australia	14,391	14,291	-100	-0.7
Tasmania	4,581	4,692	111	2.4
Northern Territory	1,793	1,774	-19	-1.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,617	1,579	-38	-2.4
AUSTRALIA	162,525	159,378	-3,147	-1.9
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	71,862	70,663	-1,199	-1.7
Victoria	51,413	50,228	-1,185	-2.3
Queensland	36,733	35,836	-897	-2.4
South Australia	18,482	18,205	-277	-1.5
Western Australia	16,120	15,670	-450	-2.8
Tasmania	9,544	9,442	-102	-1.1
Northern Territory	3,081	3,062	-19	-0.6
Australian Capital Territory	2,189	2,148	-41	-1.9
AUSTRALIA	209,424	205,254	-4,170	-2.0
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	125,980	123,820	-2,160	-1.7
Victoria	89,912	88,098	-1,814	-2.0
Queensland	71,266	69,008	-2,258	-3.2
South Australia	31,475	31,048	-427	-1.4
Western Australia	30,511	29,961	-550	-1.8
Tasmania	14,125	14,134	9	0.1
Northern Territory	4,874	4,836	-38	-0.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,806	3,727	-79	-2.1
AUSTRALIA	371,949	364,632	-7,317	-2.0

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 6 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX (SEPTEMBER 2005)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,866	4.5	2,476	1.9	7,342	3.1
18 - 20 years	11,368	10.5	11,820	9.0	23,188	9.7
21 - 24 years	19,852	18.3	16,984	13.0	36,836	15.4
25 - 29 years	17,596	16.2	17,733	13.5	35,329	14.8
30 - 39 years	25,516	23.5	29,110	22.2	54,626	22.8
40 - 49 years	15,343	14.1	24,501	18.7	39,844	16.6
50 - 59 years	10,422	9.6	21,407	16.4	31,829	13.3
60 years and over	3,643	3.4	6,852	5.2	10,495	4.4
TOTAL	108,606	100.0	130,883	100.0	239,489	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,774	9.4	3,040	4.1	7,814	6.2
18 - 20 years	8,568	16.9	12,809	17.2	21,377	17.1
21 - 24 years	10,304	20.3	11,318	15.2	21,622	17.3
25 - 29 years	5,869	11.6	7,126	9.6	12,995	10.4
30 - 39 years	6,141	12.1	9,765	13.1	15,906	12.7
40 - 49 years	6,667	13.1	16,128	21.7	22,795	18.2
50 - 59 years	7,030	13.8	12,246	16.5	19,276	15.4
60 years and over	1,419	2.8	1,939	2.6	3,358	2.7
TOTAL	50,772	100.0	74,371	100.0	125,143	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,640	6.0	5,516	2.7	15,156	4.2
18 - 20 years	19,936	12.5	24,629	12.0	44,565	12.2
21 - 24 years	30,156	18.9	28,302	13.8	58,458	16.0
25 - 29 years	23,465	14.7	24,859	12.1	48,324	13.3
30 - 39 years	31,657	19.9	38,875	18.9	70,532	19.3
40 - 49 years	22,010	13.8	40,629	19.8	62,639	17.2
50 - 59 years	17,452	11.0	33,653	16.4	51,105	14.0
60 years and over	5,062	3.2	8,791	4.3	13,853	3.8
TOTAL	159,378	100.0	205,254	100.0	364,632	100.0

**TABLE 7 - JOBSSEKERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,183	1,160	-23	-1.9
Chatswood	1,071	1,051	-20	-1.9
Darlinghurst	1,612	1,596	-16	-1.0
Darlinghurst YSU	30	30	0	%
Hornsby	848	769	-79	-9.3
Leichhardt	1,393	1,372	-21	-1.5
Maroubra	1,149	1,123	-26	-2.3
Marrickville	1,410	1,374	-36	-2.6
Northern Beaches	966	932	-34	-3.5
Sydney Central YSU	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	17	16	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	9,679	9,423	-256	-2.6
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,351	1,332	-19	-1.4
Corrimal	1,300	1,271	-29	-2.2
Dapto	1,166	1,137	-29	-2.5
Hurstville	1,339	1,300	-39	-2.9
Nowra	2,005	1,956	-49	-2.4
Redfern	1,324	1,312	-12	-0.9
Rockdale	1,379	1,296	-83	-6.0
Shellharbour	1,584	1,561	-23	-1.5
Sutherland	31	36	5	%
Ulladulla	515	518	3	0.6
Wollongong	1,865	1,858	-7	-0.4
Other (a)	31	34	3	%
<i>Total</i>	13,890	13,611	-279	-2.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEEKERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,230	1,190	-40	-3.3
Cessnock	909	896	-13	-1.4
Charlestown	2,496	2,465	-31	-1.2
Ettalong	1,076	1,070	-6	-0.6
Forster	860	837	-23	-2.7
Gosford	1,814	1,779	-35	-1.9
Gunnedah	488	492	4	0.8
Inverell	683	678	-5	-0.7
Kempsey	1,263	1,248	-15	-1.2
Kurri Kurri	569	573	4	0.7
Lakehaven	1,740	1,661	-79	-4.5
Maitland	1,666	1,670	4	0.2
Mayfield	1,082	1,090	8	0.7
Muswellbrook	637	606	-31	-4.9
Nambucca Heads	1,086	1,081	-5	-0.5
Nelson Bay	618	598	-20	-3.2
Newcastle	1,645	1,587	-58	-3.5
Port Macquarie	1,881	1,830	-51	-2.7
Raymond Terrace	988	994	6	0.6
Singleton	327	325	-2	-0.6
Tamworth	1,765	1,730	-35	-2.0
Taree	1,737	1,727	-10	-0.6
The Entrance	1,166	1,128	-38	-3.3
Toronto	1,172	1,161	-11	-0.9
Wallsend	1,671	1,627	-44	-2.6
Wyong	624	627	3	0.5
Other (a)	68	68	0	%
<i>Total</i>	31,261	30,738	-523	-1.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	20	21	1	%
Bankstown	3,644	3,551	-93	-2.6
Cabramatta	2,103	2,085	-18	-0.9
Camden	458	458	0	0.0
Campbelltown	2,414	2,358	-56	-2.3
Campsie	2,071	2,075	4	0.2
Fairfield	3,697	3,690	-7	-0.2
Ingleburn	1,141	1,127	-14	-1.2
Lakemba	12	9	-3	%
Liverpool	3,912	3,889	-23	-0.6
Revesby	2	4	2	%
Strathfield	1,565	1,527	-38	-2.4
Other (a)	7	7	0	%
<i>Total</i>	21,046	20,801	-245	-1.2
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,083	2,067	-16	-0.8
Baulkham Hills	693	655	-38	-5.5
Blacktown	2,937	2,894	-43	-1.5
Hawkesbury	852	851	-1	-0.1
Katoomba	631	618	-13	-2.1
Lithgow	695	684	-11	-1.6
Merrylands	1,683	1,648	-35	-2.1
Mt Druitt	2,398	2,356	-42	-1.8
Mudgee	659	681	22	3.3
Parramatta	1,927	1,898	-29	-1.5
Penrith	1,606	1,552	-54	-3.4
Ryde	1,022	985	-37	-3.6
Springwood	375	335	-40	-10.7
St Marys	1,701	1,657	-44	-2.6
Other (a)	14	14	0	%
<i>Total</i>	19,276	18,895	-381	-2.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEEKERS 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	September	Variation	
	2005	2005	August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,226	2,196	-30	-1.3
Batemans Bay	847	834	-13	-1.5
Bathurst	788	821	33	4.2
Bega	758	763	5	0.7
Belconnen	1,230	1,216	-14	-1.1
Bourke	411	380	-31	-7.5
Bowral	475	477	2	0.4
Braddon	1,072	1,049	-23	-2.1
Cooma	345	325	-20	-5.8
Cowra	448	446	-2	-0.4
Deniliquin	297	296	-1	-0.3
Dubbo	1,869	1,872	3	0.2
Goulburn	764	739	-25	-3.3
Griffith	547	544	-3	-0.5
Gungahlin	86	81	-5	%
Lanyon	55	52	-3	%
Leeton	357	357	0	0.0
Narooma	364	369	5	1.4
Orange	1,057	1,024	-33	-3.1
Parkes	962	964	2	0.2
Queanbeyan	571	546	-25	-4.4
Tuggeranong	751	724	-27	-3.6
Tumut	332	329	-3	-0.9
Wagga	1,728	1,701	-27	-1.6
Woden	592	583	-9	-1.5
Yass	94	102	8	8.5
Young	435	394	-41	-9.4
Other (a)	20	20	0	%
<i>Total</i>	19,481	19,204	-277	-1.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEERS 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	September	Variation	
	2005	2005	August - September Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,786	1,790	4	0.2
Broadmeadows	3,296	3,295	-1	-0.0
Darebin	3,504	3,493	-11	-0.3
Echuca	476	480	4	0.8
Epping	2,088	2,032	-56	-2.7
Fitzroy*	15	4	-11	%
Greensborough	1,480	1,469	-11	-0.7
Heidelberg	47	33	-14	%
Lilydale	1,389	1,408	19	1.4
Moreland	2,527	2,493	-34	-1.3
Newmarket	1,675	1,668	-7	-0.4
Richmond*	8	0	-8	%
Ringwood	1,790	1,708	-82	-4.6
Seymour	607	608	1	0.2
Shepparton	2,253	2,204	-49	-2.2
Sth Melbourne	858	820	-38	-4.4
Wangaratta	1,711	1,686	-25	-1.5
Windsor (VIC)	3,003	2,948	-55	-1.8
Yarra*	2,572	2,453	-119	-4.6
Other (a)	23	22	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	31,108	30,614	-494	-1.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

* Yarra CSC was opened on 27/6/05. Customers previously serviced by Fitzroy and Richmond CSC's have been transferred to Yarra CSC.

**TABLE 7 - JOBSEEKERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	862	884	22	2.6
Belgrave*	542	521	-21	-3.9
Camberwell	949	926	-23	-2.4
Cheltenham	1,876	1,779	-97	-5.2
Cranbourne	1,288	1,238	-50	-3.9
Dandenong	2,682	2,524	-158	-5.9
Fountain Gate	2,000	1,967	-33	-1.7
Frankston	3,214	3,118	-96	-3.0
Glen Waverley	1,085	1,036	-49	-4.5
Leongatha	1	1	0	%
Mornington	552	519	-33	-6.0
Morwell	2,551	2,450	-101	-4.0
Oakleigh	1,873	1,787	-86	-4.6
Rosebud	917	887	-30	-3.3
Rowville	423	373	-50	-11.8
Sale	868	853	-15	-1.7
Springvale	2,270	2,245	-25	-1.1
Wantirna*	1,277	1,226	-51	-4.0
Warragul	440	442	2	0.5
Wonthaggi	575	572	-3	-0.5
Other (a)	8	7	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	26,253	25,355	-898	-3.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

* Belgrave and Wantirna CSCs were previously included under Knox. Knox no longer exists and has been removed from list.

Belgrave and Wantirna CSCs are shown independently.

**TABLE 7 - JOBSSEKERS 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	September	Variation	
	2005	2005	August - September Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	292	279	-13	-4.5
Ballarat	2,896	2,878	-18	-0.6
Bendigo	3,179	3,124	-55	-1.7
Colac	489	460	-29	-5.9
Corio	1,786	1,737	-49	-2.7
Essendon (Airport West)	1,400	1,331	-69	-4.9
Footscray	1,668	1,614	-54	-3.2
Geelong	3,349	3,342	-7	-0.2
Hamilton	403	386	-17	-4.2
Horsham	787	781	-6	-0.8
Maryborough (VIC)	515	553	38	7.4
Melton	1,116	1,092	-24	-2.2
Mildura	1,612	1,589	-23	-1.4
Newport	1,097	1,101	4	0.4
Portland	495	505	10	2.0
Stawell	175	176	1	0.6
Sunbury	667	655	-12	-1.8
Sunshine	2,603	2,657	54	2.1
Swan Hill	820	833	13	1.6
Warrnambool	912	902	-10	-1.1
Watgardens	3,550	3,511	-39	-1.1
Werribee	2,460	2,398	-62	-2.5
Other (a)	15	17	2	%
<i>Total</i>	32,286	31,921	-365	-1.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	803	766	-37	-4.6
Bundaberg	2,802	2,743	-59	-2.1
Caboolture	2,210	2,073	-137	-6.2
Caloundra	1,325	1,217	-108	-8.2
Capalaba	684	648	-36	-5.3
Chermside	942	894	-48	-5.1
Cleveland	797	764	-33	-4.1
Fortitude Valley	1,582	1,507	-75	-4.7
Gympie	1,170	1,142	-28	-2.4
Hervey Bay	1,209	1,174	-35	-2.9
Kawana Waters	604	578	-26	-4.3
Kingaroy	639	636	-3	-0.5
Maroochydore	1,676	1,611	-65	-3.9
Maryborough	1,177	1,176	-1	-0.1
Mitchelton	967	957	-10	-1.0
Mt Gravatt	1,843	1,855	12	0.7
Nambour	1,093	1,042	-51	-4.7
Noosa	1,275	1,211	-64	-5.0
Nundah	1,158	1,101	-57	-4.9
Redcliffe	1,638	1,565	-73	-4.5
Stones Corner	1,620	1,599	-21	-1.3
Strathpine	1,063	1,039	-24	-2.3
Toowong	1,055	1,013	-42	-4.0
Wynnum	824	815	-9	-1.1
Other (a)	5	4	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	30,161	29,130	-1,031	-3.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	830	768	-62	-7.5
Ayr	389	355	-34	-8.7
Biloela	180	178	-2	-1.1
Bowen	428	387	-41	-9.6
Cairns EMS (3)	3,193	3,052	-141	-4.4
Cairns FAO (3)	30	31	1	%
Cairns Ret (3)	9	6	-3	%
Charters Towers	330	324	-6	-1.8
Edmonton	67	46	-21	%
Emerald	396	376	-20	-5.1
Gladstone	996	961	-35	-3.5
Greenfields	8	6	-2	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	283	292	9	3.2
Ingham	277	262	-15	-5.4
Innisfail	776	733	-43	-5.5
Longreach (4)	93	82	-11	%
Mackay	2,007	1,891	-116	-5.8
Mareeba	425	420	-5	-1.2
Mossman	311	272	-39	-12.5
Mt Isa	902	876	-26	-2.9
Normanton	162	160	-2	-1.2
Palm Island (2)	280	285	5	1.8
Rockhampton	2,274	2,181	-93	-4.1
Smithfield	60	61	1	%
Thursday Is	143	146	3	2.1
Townsville City (1)	27	26	-1	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	3,067	3,052	-15	-0.5
Townsville FAO (1)	10	9	-1	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	1	2	1	%
Whitsunday	398	375	-23	-5.8
Yarrabah RASC (2)	117	112	-5	-4.3
Yeppoon	459	433	-26	-5.7
Other (a)	223	219	-4	-1.8
<i>Total</i>	19,151	18,379	-772	-4.0

Note: For footnotes see end of the table.

1. As of November 2003 the above offices have changed names. Townsville Employment Services was previously known as Aitkenvale (Centrepoint), Townsville FAO was previously known as Ross River (Elizabeth St) and Townsville Retirement was previously known as Willows. Townsville FAO was previously known as Ross River (Elizabeth St) and Townsville Retirement was previously known as Willows.

Unemployment customers are being transferred from Townsville Retirement to Townsville Employment Services. Townsville City is now an access point only and customers are being transferred within the Townsville area to the appropriate CSC's.

2. As of 29 March 2004 Cairns YAC is now known as Yarrabah RASC, Cairns Remote is now known as Indigenous ISC and Townsville YSC, is now known as Palm Island. Customers are being transferred from these sites to better service the needs of Indigenous and rural customers.

3. As of 28 May 2004, Cairns is now known as Cairns EMS, Earville is now known as Cairns FAO and Cairns Grafton St is now known as Cairns Ret.

4. Longreach CSC was opened on 25/2/05. Customers previously serviced by Rockhampton will be serviced in Longreach.

**TABLE 7 - JOBSEEKERS 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	September	Variation	
	2005	2005	August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	880	882	2	0.2
Broken Hill	947	932	-15	-1.6
Ceduna	181	179	-2	-1.1
Cooper Pedy	127	127	0	0.0
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,110	1,090	-20	-1.8
Edwardstown	2,352	2,311	-41	-1.7
Elizabeth	2,379	2,400	21	0.9
Enfield	1,513	1,450	-63	-4.2
Gawler	1,074	1,083	9	0.8
Glenelg	940	893	-47	-5.0
Kadina	665	648	-17	-2.6
Kilkenny	1,757	1,724	-33	-1.9
Modbury	1,854	1,828	-26	-1.4
Mt Barker	644	642	-2	-0.3
Mt Gambier	1,358	1,359	1	0.1
Murray Bridge	824	789	-35	-4.2
Noarlunga	2,830	2,793	-37	-1.3
Norwood	1,616	1,570	-46	-2.8
Parkside	4	0	-4	%
Port Adelaide	1,606	1,569	-37	-2.3
Port Augusta	672	645	-27	-4.0
Port Lincoln	629	651	22	3.5
Port Pirie	1,101	1,088	-13	-1.2
Salisbury	2,404	2,398	-6	-0.2
Torrensville	1,487	1,436	-51	-3.4
Victor Harbor	615	623	8	1.3
Whyalla	962	974	12	1.2
Other (a)	17	18	1	%
<i>Total</i>	32,548	32,102	-446	-1.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,144	1,111	-33	-2.9
Armadale	1,014	1,000	-14	-1.4
Bunbury	1,632	1,693	61	3.7
Busselton*	335	296	-39	-11.6
Cannington	1,696	1,620	-76	-4.5
Carnarvon	203	210	7	3.4
Centrelink City*	0	1	1	%
Christmas Island	23	21	-2	%
Cocos Island	36	37	1	%
Collie	3	5	2	%
Esperance	296	286	-10	-3.4
Fremantle	1,557	1,514	-43	-2.8
Geraldton	1,451	1,469	18	1.2
Gosnells	1,048	1,051	3	0.3
Innaloo	1,840	1,792	-48	-2.6
Joondalup	1,415	1,349	-66	-4.7
Kalgoorlie	653	640	-13	-2.0
Karratha	269	265	-4	-1.5
Mandurah	1,391	1,420	29	2.1
Midland	1,916	1,882	-34	-1.8
Mirrabooka	2,033	1,985	-48	-2.4
Morley	2,444	2,368	-76	-3.1
Northam	522	537	15	2.9
Rockingham*	1,860	1,852	-8	-0.4
South Hedland	280	273	-7	-2.5
Spearwood	1,148	1,108	-40	-3.5
Victoria Park	2,387	2,342	-45	-1.9
Warwick Grove	1,005	958	-47	-4.7
Other (a)	393	349	-44	-11.2
<i>Total</i>	29,994	29,434	-560	-1.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*As of 30 May 2003 Kwinana became a sub office of Rockingham.

*From 30 June 2003 processes at Centerlink City, formerly known as Milligan Street, became limited to forms lodgement and quick general enquiries only.

*On 14 February 2005 Busselton was established as a full time office. Customers previously serviced by Bunbury will be serviced in Busselton.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEEKERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	706	703	-3	-0.4
Burnie	1,794	1,822	28	1.6
Devonport	1,855	1,901	46	2.5
Glenorchy	1,787	1,754	-33	-1.8
Hobart	1,849	1,858	9	0.5
Huonville	576	592	16	2.8
Launceston	3,973	3,910	-63	-1.6
Mowbray	19	22	3	%
Rosny Park	1,108	1,113	5	0.5
Sorell	535	516	-19	-3.6
Other (a)	17	15	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	14,219	14,206	-13	-0.1
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	448	591	143	31.9
Alice Springs (Remote)	366	226	-140	-38.3
Broome	283	272	-11	-3.9
Casuarina	1,050	1,022	-28	-2.7
Casuarina YSC	1	2	1	%
Derby	89	100	11	12.4
Katherine	620	645	25	4.0
Knuckey Street	640	631	-9	-1.4
Kununurra	157	158	1	0.6
Nhulunbuy	174	173	-1	-0.6
Palmerston	881	858	-23	-2.6
Tangentyere	181	169	-12	-6.6
Tennant Creek	145	144	-1	-0.7
Tennant Creek (Remote)	51	46	-5	%
Other (a)	499	480	-19	-3.8
<i>Total</i>	5,585	5,517	-68	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEERS 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 2005	September 2005	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,140	1,103	-37	-3.2
Beaudesert	444	404	-40	-9.0
Beenleigh	1,588	1,538	-50	-3.1
Biggera Waters	1,707	1,674	-33	-1.9
Browns Plains	1,394	1,368	-26	-1.9
Brunswick Heads	696	703	7	1.0
Byron Bay	788	762	-26	-3.3
Casino	715	710	-5	-0.7
Charleville	144	149	5	3.5
Coffs Harbour	2,930	2,902	-28	-1.0
Dalby	638	638	0	0.0
Goodna	1,084	1,092	8	0.7
Goondiwindi	295	295	0	0.0
Grafton	1,622	1,615	-7	-0.4
Inala	1,312	1,284	-28	-2.1
Ipswich	2,057	2,037	-20	-1.0
Lightning Ridge	9	8	-1	%
Lismore	2,139	2,071	-68	-3.2
Moree	516	518	2	0.4
Murwillumbah	686	644	-42	-6.1
Narrabri	359	382	23	6.4
Nerang	1,646	1,587	-59	-3.6
Palm Beach	2,082	2,067	-15	-0.7
Roma	165	152	-13	-7.9
Southport	2,541	2,452	-89	-3.5
Stanthorpe	30	39	9	%
Toowoomba	2,362	2,296	-66	-2.8
Tweed Heads	1,579	1,514	-65	-4.1
Walgett	396	397	1	0.3
Warwick	943	903	-40	-4.2
Woodridge	1,932	1,930	-2	-0.1
Other (a)	20	17	-3	%
<i>Total</i>	35,959	35,251	-708	-2.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEERS 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	September	Variation	
	2005	2005	August - September Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	2	2	0	%
Bendigo	1	2	1	%
Brisbane	1	1	0	%
Bunbury	0	1	1	%
Cairns	0	1	1	%
Cardiff	0	0	0	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	0	0	0	%
Hobart	0	0	0	%
Illawarra	2	2	0	%
Latrobe	2	1	-1	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	0	0	%
Moreland	0	0	0	%
Newcastle	1	1	0	%
Perth	1	1	0	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	2	2	0	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	0	0	%
Townsville	2	3	1	%
Tweed Heads	0	0	0	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	14	17	3	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	38	34	-4	%
AUSTRALIA	371,949	364,632	-7,317	-2.0

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

% Monthly variations in percentage terms are not included where the Customer Service Centre has a population less than 100 in both of the reported months.

*Jobseekers receiving NSA / YA (o) in the Centrelink Call Centres were previously counted in various Area Offices.

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 8 - JOBBEERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT TO 23 SEPTEMBER 2005**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	84.9	82.1	83.4
Earned an income	15.1	17.9	16.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.9	1.2	1.1
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.0	3.4	3.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.5	3.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	6.4	7.3	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>108,373</i>	<i>130,509</i>	<i>238,882</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.0	72.5	73.9
Earned an income	24.0	27.5	26.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.5	1.8	1.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.2	4.6	4.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.2	5.1	4.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.3	3.6	3.5
Over \$316.00	10.8	12.4	11.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>50,653</i>	<i>74,190</i>	<i>124,843</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.1	78.7	80.2
Earned an income	17.9	21.3	19.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.1	1.4	1.3
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.4	3.9	3.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.2	4.1	3.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.8	2.6
Over \$316.00	7.8	9.2	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>159,026</i>	<i>204,699</i>	<i>363,725</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 DEWR labour market and related payments administered 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 (which became FaCS in October 1998).

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 jobseekers. 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 (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 jobseeker populations (see the reference to *Jobseekers* in the Comparability of Data section of these Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of jobseekers. Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total jobseeker population.

The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology to that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the combined population of jobseekers 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 customers 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 jobseeker 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 customers 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 customers 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 Jobseeker figures as those customers who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training Jobseeker populations.</p> <p>Under current arrangements, these customers 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) has now been replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see <i>Youth Allowance</i>).</p>
<i>Partner Allowance</i>	<p>20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed off 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 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 <i>Youth Allowance</i>).</p> <p>From 1 January 1995, eligible persons aged under 18 years who were new entrants to the job search pool were paid Youth</p>

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 in 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 off 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 customers; the inclusion of some CDEP customers in the total customer numbers; the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998; the way 'jobseeker' is defined; and the way duration is calculated. People using this data to construct time series should note the following comments.

Definition of Customer

From July 2002, 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 customers who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment have a determination status of 'current'. The new method therefore counts these 'current' customers.

The old method of counting customers was specified to include all paid customers – those who received a payment within a given fortnight. As compiled, however, this count excluded, from mid 1998, customers 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 back to May 1998 can be found in the July 2002 publication.

From July 2003 FaCS introduced a more sustainable methodology for this revised customer count. Due to limitations in available data sources in 2002, the revised customer count had to be derived through a complicated process. This more sustainable methodology resulted in slight differences from the customer 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 customers to those who are normally 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 jobseekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) jobseekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the jobseeker total. The problem, however, of the exclusion of some customers through the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test still remains.

Jobseekers Prior to July 1998, the jobseeker category was defined by excluding all Newstart Allowees who did not receive a payment, customers 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 jobseekers, 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 jobseekers has been placed on a sounder conceptual basis. It is now derived for Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) customers by

excluding all people who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, their parent's, 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 jobseekers although they may not always be undertaking job search. These people negotiate their activity agreement with their Job Network member.

The total number of jobseekers (comparable to pre-July 1998 estimates) is calculated by adding together the number of jobseekers 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 customer spends on income support – short-term customers are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term customers are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a customer was registered as unemployed – short-term customers were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term customers 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 off 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) customer has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test customers 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.
Centrelink Youth Service Centre	A Centrelink Youth Service Centre consists of specialised staff who provide young people with improved access to Government services and income support. This is done by offering a mainstream service, as well as specialist case management to help access educational, labour market, job search, housing, health and general welfare assistance; and by providing a regular FaCS visiting service to youth via hostels, refuges and voluntary agencies.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	<p>The CDEP scheme is a program funded currently by DEWR and in the past by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). The scheme enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community councils and other approved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to offer work to community members in activities that assist individuals in acquiring skills which benefit the community, develop business enterprises and/or lead to unsubsidised employment. The scheme also aims to develop management and business skills in an environment conducive to the principles of self-determination.</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 FaCS, DEWR and other payments and related information and services to customers. 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.

Jobseekers	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 Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term customers can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed off 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 off 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 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 Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term customers 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 customer's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.

Widow Allowance (WA)	Widow Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Youth Training Allowance (YTA)	From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Youth Allowance (YA)	<p>Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 21 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.</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)	Youth Allowance customers who are not full-time students.
Zero-Paid	See 'Did Not Receive a Payment'.

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DEWR 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.
DEWR 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 DEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEWR and the ABS classify long term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEWR 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>DEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment for up to 25 weeks but still be classified 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 DEWR recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DEWR 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 DEWR 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 62 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:

DEWR 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 interview survey of occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.5% of the total Australian population. These persons are interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained is based on the week before the interview takes place.

<i>Treatment of Partners</i>	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.
<i>Pensioners</i>	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-jobseekers</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 DEWR 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 further information please contact the Business Information Help Desk on (02) 6244 7270.

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

Director
Unemployment and Mature Age Payments Programme Management Section
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9879
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3312.

Other Customer Information

Statistics relating to other customers are also available, including customer numbers and characteristics for the various FaCS pensions, benefits and family payments.

For further information please contact the Business Information Help Desk on (02) 6244 7270.

Other Statistical Outputs:

The following statistical output is available on request:

*Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
Customers - A Statistical Overview, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001.*