



Australian Government
**Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

October 2004

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 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)) and Mature Age Allowance (MAA) was transferred to DEWR, FaCS retained Partner Allowance (PA) and Widow Allowance (WA) and responsibility for Youth Allowance (full-time students) (YA(FTS)) was transferred to 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) 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 24 December 2004.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - October 2004

Between October 2003 and October 2004:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) customers **decreased by 4.2%** overall from 600,983 to 575,764

{ by 4.0% for NSA from 520,317 to 499,388 and

{ 5.3% for YA(O) from 80,666 to 76,376.

The number of jobseekers **decreased by 9.6%** overall from 427,190 to 386,154

{ by 10.1% for NSA from 362,551 to 325,875 and

{ 6.7% for YA(O) customers from 64,639 to 60,279.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 10.7% from 252,009 to 224,985.

Short-term jobseekers decreased by 8.0% from 175,181 to 161,169.

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).

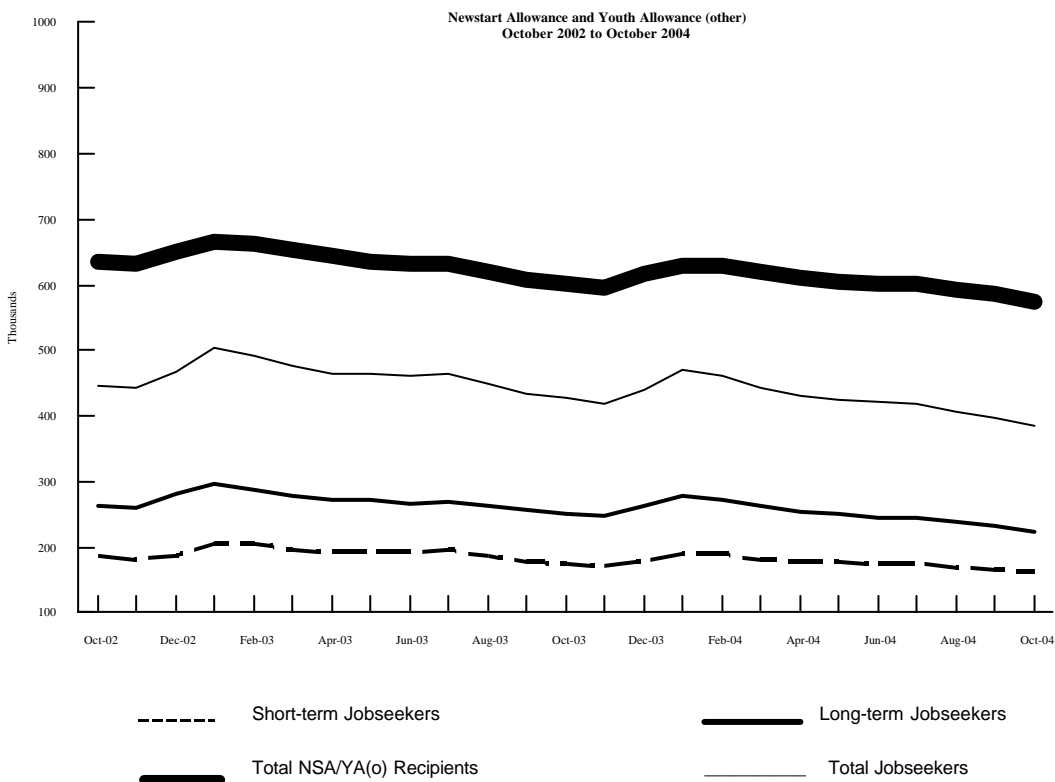


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance		Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Full-time Students (c)	Other			
February 1994 (d)	472,785	977,796
October 2002	335,004	551,899	309,343	83,560	40,102	103,735	42,298
November 2002	333,841	546,247	304,402	84,977	40,099	103,693	42,506
December 2002	339,563	552,637	262,659	96,808	40,131	103,743	42,680
January 2003	345,446	569,009	251,475	97,748	40,050	103,898	42,766
February 2003	343,677	570,613	260,961	93,043	40,282	104,054	42,938
March 2003	338,684	562,353	276,382	89,986	40,527	103,874	43,089
April 2003	333,806	554,505	289,342	89,501	40,682	103,787	43,206
May 2003	330,294	548,554	297,514	87,457	40,784	103,765	43,308
June 2003	327,544	545,685	304,491	87,574	41,372	104,080	43,550
July 2003	326,980	543,578	298,178	89,479	41,582	104,363	43,797
August 2003	324,559	535,399	305,220	85,340	41,882	105,173	44,188
September 2003	320,932	524,947	309,974	82,836	42,625	106,144	44,644
October 2003	318,997	520,317	306,946	80,666	42,140	105,973	45,014
November 2003	316,791	515,849	297,405	81,332	41,124	104,772	45,401
December 2003	321,781	523,107	256,770	92,671	40,117	103,495	45,760
January 2004	326,578	535,559	243,087	94,664	39,027	101,894	45,859
February 2004	326,028	539,098	255,944	91,562	37,835	99,912	45,892
March 2004	322,730	532,043	274,602	88,396	36,761	97,958	45,925
April 2004	318,836	524,504	286,058	85,607	35,507	95,817	45,840
May 2004	316,092	520,434	292,511	84,534	34,314	93,843	45,816
June 2004	313,883	517,895	296,560	84,841	33,310	92,058	45,781
July 2004	313,274	515,686	290,210	85,357	32,175	90,056	45,644
August 2004	311,282	511,799	297,594	81,939	31,046	88,133	45,544
September 2004	308,214	506,457	300,177	80,129	30,055	86,495	45,531
October 2004	304,351	499,388	294,394	76,376	28,921	84,565	45,438
<i>Variation September 2004 - October 2004</i>							
Number	-3,863	-7,069	-5,783	-3,753	-1,134	-1,930	-93
Per cent	-1.3	-1.4	-1.9	-4.7	-3.8	-2.2	-0.2

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments introduced by FaCS 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) 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

	September 2004	October			Variation September - October	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	198,243	132,509	62,528	195,037	-3,206	-1.6
CPS recipients (a)	2,538	1,942	657	2,599	61	2.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,592	7,727	4,579	12,306	-286	-2.3
Received a payment	183,113	122,840	57,292	180,132	-2,981	-1.6
Incapacitated (c)	21,668	13,511	7,925	21,436	-232	-1.1
Training	10,024	6,028	3,679	9,707	-317	-3.2
Self-employment development (d)	619	397	206	603	-16	-2.6
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	2,781	1,409	1,509	2,918	137	4.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,504	8,000	5,442	13,442	-62	-0.5
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	134,517	93,495	38,531	132,026	-2,491	-1.9
Long-term NSA Customers	308,214	201,249	103,102	304,351	-3,863	-1.3
CPS recipients (a)	7,295	5,120	2,083	7,203	-92	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,571	7,388	4,752	12,140	-431	-3.4
Received a payment	288,348	188,741	96,267	285,008	-3,340	-1.2
Incapacitated (c)	30,958	18,861	12,009	30,870	-88	-0.3
Training	33,267	20,805	12,808	33,613	346	1.0
Self-employment development (d)	277	169	96	265	-12	-4.3
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	6,327	4,320	2,405	6,725	398	6.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	19,459	12,123	7,563	19,686	227	1.2
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	198,060	132,463	61,386	193,849	-4,211	-2.1
All NSA Customers	506,457	333,758	165,630	499,388	-7,069	-1.4
CPS recipients (a)	9,833	7,062	2,740	9,802	-31	-0.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	25,163	15,115	9,331	24,446	-717	-2.8
Received a payment	471,461	311,581	153,559	465,140	-6,321	-1.3
Incapacitated (c)	52,626	32,372	19,934	52,306	-320	-0.6
Training	43,291	26,833	16,487	43,320	29	0.1
Self-employment development (d)	896	566	302	868	-28	-3.1
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	9,108	5,729	3,914	9,643	535	5.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	32,963	20,123	13,005	33,128	165	0.5
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	332,577	225,958	99,917	325,875	-6,702	-2.0

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	September 2004	October			Variation September - October	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	38,511	19,759	17,135	36,894	-1,617	-4.2
CPS recipients (a)	1,098	624	462	1,086	-12	-1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,009	415	553	968	-41	-4.1
Received a payment	36,404	18,720	16,120	34,840	-1,564	-4.3
Part-time study & work (c)	4	4	1	5	1	25.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	85	30	50	80	-5	-5.9
Incapacitated (e)	2,190	1,040	1,113	2,153	-37	-1.7
Training	1,373	789	543	1,332	-41	-3.0
Self-employment development (e)	15	6	5	11	-4	-26.7
Full-time voluntary work	10	5	6	11	1	10.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	2,088	1,040	1,065	2,105	17	0.8
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	30,639	15,806	13,337	29,143	-1,496	-4.9
Long-term YA (other) Customers	41,618	18,971	20,511	39,482	-2,136	-5.1
CPS recipients (a)	1,066	673	391	1,064	-2	-0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,277	504	743	1,247	-30	-2.3
Received a payment	39,275	17,794	19,377	37,171	-2,104	-5.4
Part-time study & work (c)	8	0	8	8	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	124	45	78	123	-1	-0.8
Incapacitated (e)	1,792	673	1,109	1,782	-10	-0.6
Training	2,439	1,220	1,202	2,422	-17	-0.7
Self-employment development (e)	12	3	6	9	-3	-25.0
Full-time voluntary work	18	5	14	19	1	5.6
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,721	741	931	1,672	-49	-2.8
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	33,161	15,107	16,029	31,136	-2,025	-6.1
All YA (other) Customers	80,129	38,730	37,646	76,376	-3,753	-4.7
CPS recipients (a)	2,164	1,297	853	2,150	-14	-0.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,286	919	1,296	2,215	-71	-3.1
Received a payment	75,679	36,514	35,497	72,011	-3,668	-4.8
Part-time study & work (c)	12	4	9	13	1	8.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	209	75	128	203	-6	-2.9
Incapacitated (e)	3,982	1,713	2,222	3,935	-47	-1.2
Training	3,812	2,009	1,745	3,754	-58	-1.5
Self-employment development (e)	27	9	11	20	-7	-25.9
Full-time voluntary work	28	10	20	30	2	7.1
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,809	1,781	1,996	3,777	-32	-0.8
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	63,800	30,913	29,366	60,279	-3,521	-5.5

(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
October 2002	185,780	261,924	447,704
November 2002	181,762	260,685	442,447
December 2002	187,986	280,614	468,600
January 2003	206,675	297,166	503,841
February 2003	203,922	288,718	492,640
March 2003	196,529	279,421	475,950
April 2003	193,214	272,157	465,371
May 2003	194,400	271,109	465,509
June 2003	194,490	267,506	461,996
July 2003	195,487	270,316	465,803
August 2003	186,399	263,215	449,614
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
<i>Variation September 2004 - October 2004</i>			
<i>Number</i>	-3,987	-6,236	-10,223
<i>Per cent</i>	-2.4	-2.7	-2.6

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payment introduced by FaCS 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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	52,728	51,887	-841	-1.6
Victoria	40,414	39,343	-1,071	-2.7
Queensland	34,337	33,354	-983	-2.9
South Australia	12,609	12,576	-33	-0.3
Western Australia	16,779	15,922	-857	-5.1
Tasmania	4,769	4,616	-153	-3.2
Northern Territory	1,845	1,769	-76	-4.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,675	1,702	27	1.6
AUSTRALIA	165,156	161,169	-3,987	-2.4
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	75,679	73,975	-1,704	-2.3
Victoria	56,246	54,679	-1,567	-2.8
Queensland	43,014	41,324	-1,690	-3.9
South Australia	20,257	19,891	-366	-1.8
Western Australia	19,428	18,761	-667	-3.4
Tasmania	10,807	10,615	-192	-1.8
Northern Territory	3,540	3,516	-24	-0.7
Australian Capital Territory	2,250	2,224	-26	-1.2
AUSTRALIA	231,221	224,985	-6,236	-2.7
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	128,407	125,862	-2,545	-2.0
Victoria	96,660	94,022	-2,638	-2.7
Queensland	77,351	74,678	-2,673	-3.5
South Australia	32,866	32,467	-399	-1.2
Western Australia	36,207	34,683	-1,524	-4.2
Tasmania	15,576	15,231	-345	-2.2
Northern Territory	5,385	5,285	-100	-1.9
Australian Capital Territory	3,925	3,926	1	0.0
AUSTRALIA	396,377	386,154	-10,223	-2.6

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 - JOBBEERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX (OCTOBER 2004)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,476	4.1	2,458	1.7	6,934	2.7
18 - 20 years	11,330	10.4	12,642	8.6	23,972	9.3
21 - 24 years	20,242	18.5	20,150	13.7	40,392	15.7
25 - 29 years	18,026	16.5	20,668	14.0	38,694	15.1
30 - 39 years	25,872	23.7	33,829	22.9	59,701	23.2
40 - 49 years	15,111	13.8	28,569	19.4	43,680	17.0
50 - 59 years	10,590	9.7	24,149	16.4	34,739	13.5
60 years and over	3,654	3.3	5,104	3.5	8,758	3.4
TOTAL	109,301	100.0	147,569	100.0	256,870	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,534	8.7	2,823	3.6	7,357	5.7
18 - 20 years	8,803	17.0	13,199	17.0	22,002	17.0
21 - 24 years	10,717	20.7	12,839	16.6	23,556	18.2
25 - 29 years	6,328	12.2	8,160	10.5	14,488	11.2
30 - 39 years	6,382	12.3	10,832	14.0	17,214	13.3
40 - 49 years	6,811	13.1	17,362	22.4	24,173	18.7
50 - 59 years	7,072	13.6	11,185	14.4	18,257	14.1
60 years and over	1,221	2.4	1,016	1.3	2,237	1.7
TOTAL	51,868	100.0	77,416	100.0	129,284	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,010	5.6	5,281	2.3	14,291	3.7
18 - 20 years	20,133	12.5	25,841	11.5	45,974	11.9
21 - 24 years	30,959	19.2	32,989	14.7	63,948	16.6
25 - 29 years	24,354	15.1	28,828	12.8	53,182	13.8
30 - 39 years	32,254	20.0	44,661	19.9	76,915	19.9
40 - 49 years	21,922	13.6	45,931	20.4	67,853	17.6
50 - 59 years	17,662	11.0	35,334	15.7	52,996	13.7
60 years and over	4,875	3.0	6,120	2.7	10,995	2.8
TOTAL	161,169	100.0	224,985	100.0	386,154	100.0

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,284	1,257	-27	-2.1
Chatswood	1,185	1,132	-53	-4.5
Darlinghurst	1,739	1,680	-59	-3.4
Darlinghurst YSU	17	20	3	%
Hornsby	900	868	-32	-3.6
Leichhardt	1,499	1,428	-71	-4.7
Maroubra	1,176	1,153	-23	-2.0
Marrickville	1,515	1,452	-63	-4.2
Northern Beaches	1,219	1,158	-61	-5.0
Sydney Central YSU	2	1	-1	%
Other (a)	46	40	-6	%
<i>Total</i>	10,582	10,189	-393	-3.7
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,412	1,391	-21	-1.5
Corrimal	1,367	1,341	-26	-1.9
Dapto	1,161	1,116	-45	-3.9
Hurstville	1,278	1,256	-22	-1.7
Nowra	1,946	1,923	-23	-1.2
Redfern	1,396	1,343	-53	-3.8
Rockdale	1,439	1,465	26	1.8
Shellharbour	1,671	1,574	-97	-5.8
Sutherland	39	35	-4	%
Ulladulla	539	528	-11	-2.0
Wollongong	1,882	1,880	-2	-0.1
Other (a)	24	16	-8	%
<i>Total</i>	14,154	13,868	-286	-2.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,192	1,177	-15	-1.3
Cessnock	883	879	-4	-0.5
Charlestown	2,838	2,767	-71	-2.5
Ettalong	1,089	1,089	0	0.0
Forster	878	863	-15	-1.7
Gosford*	1,954	1,884	-70	-3.6
Gosford NSS*	0	0	0	%
Gunnedah	454	449	-5	-1.1
Inverell	650	659	9	1.4
Kempsey	1,305	1,298	-7	-0.5
Kurri Kurri	564	556	-8	-1.4
Lakehaven	1,703	1,684	-19	-1.1
Maitland	1,767	1,761	-6	-0.3
Mayfield	1,283	1,268	-15	-1.2
Muswellbrook	640	616	-24	-3.8
Nambucca Heads	1,163	1,141	-22	-1.9
Nelson Bay	592	584	-8	-1.4
Newcastle	1,895	1,846	-49	-2.6
Port Macquarie	1,732	1,693	-39	-2.3
Raymond Terrace	977	977	0	0.0
Singleton	318	317	-1	-0.3
Tamworth	1,812	1,822	10	0.6
Taree	1,771	1,774	3	0.2
The Entrance	1,134	1,091	-43	-3.8
Toronto	1,199	1,169	-30	-2.5
Tuggerah	0	0	0	%
Wallsend	1,874	1,865	-9	-0.5
Wyong	601	593	-8	-1.3
Other (a)	49	47	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	32,317	31,869	-448	-1.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*12/05/2003 customers transferred from Gosford NSS to Gosford CSC.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	19	14	-5	%
Bankstown	3,603	3,547	-56	-1.6
Cabramatta	2,159	2,104	-55	-2.5
Camden	372	374	2	0.5
Campbelltown	2,383	2,313	-70	-2.9
Campsie	1,843	1,797	-46	-2.5
Fairfield	3,852	3,815	-37	-1.0
Ingleburn	1,015	1,031	16	1.6
Lakemba	14	16	2	%
Liverpool	3,715	3,651	-64	-1.7
Revesby	4	4	0	%
Strathfield	1,430	1,384	-46	-3.2
Other (a)	5	3	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	20,414	20,053	-361	-1.8
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,002	1,958	-44	-2.2
Baulkham Hills	579	571	-8	-1.4
Blacktown	2,861	2,842	-19	-0.7
Hawkesbury	822	817	-5	-0.6
Katoomba	643	655	12	1.9
Lithgow	740	709	-31	-4.2
Merrylands	1,663	1,631	-32	-1.9
Mt Druitt	2,285	2,270	-15	-0.7
Mudgee	690	712	22	3.2
Parramatta	1,948	1,908	-40	-2.1
Penrith	1,570	1,510	-60	-3.8
Ryde	1,012	1,012	0	0.0
Springwood	372	338	-34	-9.1
St Marys	1,573	1,564	-9	-0.6
Other (a)	13	12	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	18,773	18,509	-264	-1.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,180	2,120	-60	-2.8
Batemans Bay	728	706	-22	-3.0
Bathurst	922	885	-37	-4.0
Bega	760	757	-3	-0.4
Belconnen	1,224	1,249	25	2.0
Bourke	442	448	6	1.4
Bowral	447	443	-4	-0.9
Braddon	1,044	1,023	-21	-2.0
Cooma	338	346	8	2.4
Cowra	473	475	2	0.4
Deniliquin	344	325	-19	-5.5
Dubbo	1,892	1,850	-42	-2.2
Goulburn	735	676	-59	-8.0
Griffith	572	570	-2	-0.3
Gungahlin	135	120	-15	-11.1
Lanyon	58	55	-3	%
Leeton	343	335	-8	-2.3
Narooma	410	389	-21	-5.1
Orange	1,048	1,041	-7	-0.7
Parkes	1,010	961	-49	-4.9
Queanbeyan	619	610	-9	-1.5
Tuggeranong	807	816	9	1.1
Tumut	325	308	-17	-5.2
Wagga	1,715	1,671	-44	-2.6
Woden	684	684	0	0.0
Yass	108	101	-7	-6.5
Young	431	418	-13	-3.0
Other (a)	5	7	2	%
<i>Total</i>	19,799	19,389	-410	-2.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,775	1,748	-27	-1.5
Broadmeadows	3,633	3,577	-56	-1.5
Darebin	3,471	3,390	-81	-2.3
Echuca	611	585	-26	-4.3
Epping	2,249	2,193	-56	-2.5
Fitzroy	1,843	1,797	-46	-2.5
Greensborough	1,350	1,309	-41	-3.0
Heidelberg	1,027	1,030	3	0.3
Lilydale	1,446	1,399	-47	-3.3
Moreland	3,090	3,035	-55	-1.8
Newmarket	1,820	1,716	-104	-5.7
Richmond	1,026	1,003	-23	-2.2
Ringwood	1,837	1,765	-72	-3.9
Seymour	657	657	0	0.0
Shepparton	2,566	2,479	-87	-3.4
Sth Melbourne	1,033	1,024	-9	-0.9
Wangaratta	1,805	1,766	-39	-2.2
Windsor (VIC)	3,371	3,264	-107	-3.2
Other (a)	35	37	2	%
<i>Total</i>	34,645	33,774	-871	-2.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	959	933	-26	-2.7
Belgrave*	566	553	-13	-2.3
Camberwell	1,068	1,058	-10	-0.9
Cheltenham	2,096	2,031	-65	-3.1
Cranbourne	1,205	1,159	-46	-3.8
Dandenong	2,577	2,495	-82	-3.2
Fountain Gate	1,973	1,916	-57	-2.9
Frankston	3,296	3,188	-108	-3.3
Glen Waverley	1,248	1,239	-9	-0.7
Leongatha	2	2	0	%
Mornington	618	607	-11	-1.8
Morwell	2,804	2,702	-102	-3.6
Oakleigh	2,068	2,000	-68	-3.3
Rosebud	1,027	988	-39	-3.8
Rowville	469	439	-30	-6.4
Sale	1,018	957	-61	-6.0
Springvale	2,551	2,455	-96	-3.8
Wantirna*	1,373	1,313	-60	-4.4
Warragul	442	418	-24	-5.4
Wonthaggi	624	608	-16	-2.6
Other (a)	15	9	-6	%
<i>Total</i>	27,999	27,070	-929	-3.3

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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	293	299	6	2.0
Ballarat	3,110	2,993	-117	-3.8
Bendigo	3,414	3,284	-130	-3.8
Colac	516	494	-22	-4.3
Corio	1,856	1,840	-16	-0.9
Essendon (Airport West)	1,466	1,451	-15	-1.0
Footscray	1,988	1,926	-62	-3.1
Geelong	3,436	3,381	-55	-1.6
Hamilton	369	362	-7	-1.9
Horsham	741	708	-33	-4.5
Maryborough (VIC)	550	565	15	2.7
Melton	1,175	1,114	-61	-5.2
Mildura	1,757	1,736	-21	-1.2
Newport	1,177	1,165	-12	-1.0
Portland	512	520	8	1.6
Stawell	157	148	-9	-5.7
Sunbury	738	705	-33	-4.5
Sunshine	2,982	2,904	-78	-2.6
Swan Hill	837	796	-41	-4.9
Warrnambool	984	955	-29	-2.9
Watergardens	3,439	3,378	-61	-1.8
Werribee	2,376	2,293	-83	-3.5
Other (a)	13	13	0	%
<i>Total</i>	33,886	33,030	-856	-2.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	1,008	964	-44	-4.4
Bundaberg	2,745	2,745	0	0.0
Caboolture	2,348	2,278	-70	-3.0
Caloundra	1,275	1,247	-28	-2.2
Capalaba	808	750	-58	-7.2
Chermside	1,121	1,061	-60	-5.4
Cleveland	796	768	-28	-3.5
Fortitude Valley	1,820	1,777	-43	-2.4
Gympie	1,264	1,230	-34	-2.7
Hervey Bay	1,237	1,219	-18	-1.5
Kawana Waters	589	561	-28	-4.8
Kingaroy	686	686	0	0.0
Maroochydore	1,688	1,643	-45	-2.7
Maryborough	1,312	1,291	-21	-1.6
Mitchelton	1,121	1,055	-66	-5.9
Mt Gravatt	1,902	1,848	-54	-2.8
Nambour	1,186	1,132	-54	-4.6
Noosa	1,412	1,338	-74	-5.2
Nundah	1,276	1,181	-95	-7.4
Redcliffe	1,624	1,557	-67	-4.1
Stones Corner	1,935	1,820	-115	-5.9
Strathpine	1,085	1,018	-67	-6.2
Toowong	1,362	1,287	-75	-5.5
Wynnum	1,005	959	-46	-4.6
Other (a)	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	32,605	31,415	-1,190	-3.6

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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	811	774	-37	-4.6
Ayr	392	382	-10	-2.6
Biloela	220	204	-16	-7.3
Bowen	446	419	-27	-6.1
Cairns EMS (3)	3,088	3,043	-45	-1.5
Cairns FAO (3)	123	115	-8	-6.5
Cairns Ret (3)	5	6	1	%
Charters Towers	363	347	-16	-4.4
Edmonton	114	138	24	21.1
Emerald	405	429	24	5.9
Gladstone	1,072	1,059	-13	-1.2
Greenfields	5	4	-1	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	483	451	-32	-6.6
Ingham	253	249	-4	-1.6
Innisfail	767	733	-34	-4.4
Mackay	2,312	2,266	-46	-2.0
Mareeba	477	474	-3	-0.6
Mossman	229	212	-17	-7.4
Mt Isa	921	902	-19	-2.1
Normanton	189	186	-3	-1.6
Palm Island (2)	252	255	3	1.2
Rockhampton	2,760	2,598	-162	-5.9
Smithfield	324	348	24	7.4
Thursday Is	258	244	-14	-5.4
Townsville City (1)	55	50	-5	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	3,334	3,246	-88	-2.6
Townsville FAO (1)	15	11	-4	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	7	5	-2	%
Whitsunday	481	469	-12	-2.5
Yarrabah RASC (2)	99	106	7	7.1
Yeppoon	549	533	-16	-2.9
Other (a)	163	177	14	%
<i>Total</i>	20,972	20,435	-537	-2.6

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.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	956	948	-8	-0.8
Broken Hill	971	962	-9	-0.9
Ceduna	190	184	-6	-3.2
Cooper Pedy	172	172	0	0.0
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,062	1,076	14	1.3
Currie St (Adelaide) SAC	0	0	0	%
Edwardstown	2,350	2,338	-12	-0.5
Elizabeth	2,525	2,477	-48	-1.9
Enfield	1,661	1,600	-61	-3.7
Gawler	1,030	1,066	36	3.5
Glenelg	1,020	984	-36	-3.5
Kadina	650	628	-22	-3.4
Kilkenny	1,900	1,856	-44	-2.3
Modbury	1,901	1,824	-77	-4.1
Mt Barker	631	606	-25	-4.0
Mt Gambier	1,294	1,333	39	3.0
Murray Bridge	857	846	-11	-1.3
Noarlunga	2,818	2,762	-56	-2.0
Norwood	1,467	1,466	-1	-0.1
Parkside	627	615	-12	-1.9
Port Adelaide	1,687	1,676	-11	-0.7
Port Augusta	716	712	-4	-0.6
Port Lincoln	665	691	26	3.9
Port Pirie	1,096	1,091	-5	-0.5
Salisbury	2,614	2,552	-62	-2.4
Torrens ville	1,581	1,539	-42	-2.7
Victor Harbor	589	598	9	1.5
Whyalla	967	993	26	2.7
Other (a)	22	15	-7	%
<i>Total</i>	34,019	33,610	-409	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,323	1,229	-94	-7.1
Armadale	1,276	1,216	-60	-4.7
Bunbury	2,371	2,290	-81	-3.4
Cannington	1,896	1,816	-80	-4.2
Carnarvon	263	257	-6	-2.3
Centrelink City*	1	0	-1	%
Christmas Island	29	34	5	%
Cocos Island	32	32	0	%
Collie	1	0	-1	%
Esperance	355	335	-20	-5.6
Fremantle	2,025	1,901	-124	-6.1
Geraldton	1,699	1,712	13	0.8
Gosnells	1,287	1,189	-98	-7.6
Innaloo	2,321	2,199	-122	-5.3
Joondalup	1,829	1,770	-59	-3.2
Kalgoorlie	706	711	5	0.7
Karratha	289	278	-11	-3.8
Kwinana*	12	6	-6	%
Mandurah	1,650	1,560	-90	-5.5
Midland	2,167	2,110	-57	-2.6
Mirrabooka	2,291	2,260	-31	-1.4
Morley	2,816	2,701	-115	-4.1
Northam	558	536	-22	-3.9
Rockingham	2,158	2,032	-126	-5.8
South Hedland	307	292	-15	-4.9
Spearwood	1,433	1,356	-77	-5.4
Victoria Park	2,788	2,679	-109	-3.9
Warwick Grove	1,334	1,259	-75	-5.6
Other (a)	468	392	-76	-16.2
<i>Total</i>	35,685	34,152	-1,533	-4.3

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.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	927	911	-16	-1.7
Burnie	1,870	1,829	-41	-2.2
Devonport	2,084	2,040	-44	-2.1
Glenorchy	1,889	1,811	-78	-4.1
Hobart	2,146	2,066	-80	-3.7
Huonville	597	589	-8	-1.3
Launceston	4,261	4,209	-52	-1.2
Mowbray	15	10	-5	%
Rosny Park	1,257	1,232	-25	-2.0
Sorell	597	578	-19	-3.2
Other (a)	14	15	1	%
<i>Total</i>	15,657	15,290	-367	-2.3
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	428	437	9	2.1
Alice Springs (Remote)	470	489	19	4.0
Broome	314	296	-18	-5.7
Casuarina	1,119	1,054	-65	-5.8
Casuarina YSC	1	1	0	%
Derby	79	79	0	%
Katherine	382	405	23	6.0
Katherine (Remote)	155	188	33	21.3
Knuckey Street	712	688	-24	-3.4
Kununurra	157	155	-2	-1.3
Nhulunbuy	187	199	12	6.4
Palmerston	948	906	-42	-4.4
Tangentyere	305	284	-21	-6.9
Tennant Creek	165	150	-15	-9.1
Tennant Creek (Remote)	64	85	21	%
Other (a)	601	539	-62	-10.3
<i>Total</i>	6,087	5,955	-132	-2.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,163	1,169	6	0.5
Beaudesert	414	379	-35	-8.5
Beenleigh	1,721	1,657	-64	-3.7
Biggera Waters	1,770	1,679	-91	-5.1
Browns Plains	1,543	1,476	-67	-4.3
Brunswick Heads	783	755	-28	-3.6
Byron Bay	990	984	-6	-0.6
Casino	803	777	-26	-3.2
Charleville	161	165	4	2.5
Coffs Harbour	2,997	2,901	-96	-3.2
Dalby	751	703	-48	-6.4
Goodna	1,100	1,085	-15	-1.4
Goondiwindi	309	307	-2	-0.6
Grafton	1,734	1,708	-26	-1.5
Inala	1,402	1,344	-58	-4.1
Ipswich	2,195	2,116	-79	-3.6
Lightning Ridge	14	14	0	%
Lismore	2,228	2,214	-14	-0.6
Moree	624	610	-14	-2.2
Murwillumbah	769	753	-16	-2.1
Narrabri	436	417	-19	-4.4
Nerang	1,724	1,623	-101	-5.9
Palm Beach	2,263	2,232	-31	-1.4
Roma	140	146	6	4.3
Southport	2,823	2,686	-137	-4.9
Stanthorpe	4	3	-1	%
Toowoomba	2,607	2,504	-103	-4.0
Tweed Heads	1,695	1,623	-72	-4.2
Walgett	436	429	-7	-1.6
Warwick	1,059	1,043	-16	-1.5
Woodridge	2,095	2,006	-89	-4.2
Other (a)	20	26	6	%
<i>Total</i>	38,773	37,534	-1,239	-3.2

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>	September 2004	October 2004	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	1	3	2	%
Bendigo	1	1	0	%
Brisbane	0	0	0	%
Bunbury	0	0	0	%
Cairns	0	0	0	%
Cardiff	1	2	1	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	1	0	-1	%
Hobart	0	0	0	%
Illawarra	0	0	0	%
Indigenous	0	0	0	%
Latrobe	1	1	0	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	0	0	%
Moreland	0	0	0	%
Perth	1	1	0	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	1	1	0	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	0	0	%
Townsville	0	0	0	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	7	9	2	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	4	3	-1	%
AUSTRALIA	396,377	386,154	-10,223	-3

(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.

**TABLE 8 - JOBBEERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT TO 22 OCTOBER 2004**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	84.4	81.5	82.7
Earned an income	15.6	18.5	17.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.0	1.4	1.3
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.2	3.8	3.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.6	3.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.1	2.5	2.3
Over \$316.00	6.4	7.2	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	108,716	146,533	255,249
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	75.3	71.8	73.2
Earned an income	24.7	28.2	26.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.7	2.0	1.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.5	5.0	4.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.6	5.3	5.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.4	3.7	3.6
Over \$316.00	10.4	12.2	11.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	51,489	76,812	128,301
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	81.5	78.1	79.5
Earned an income	18.5	21.9	20.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.2	1.6	1.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.6	4.2	3.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.5	4.2	3.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	2.9	2.7
Over \$316.00	7.7	8.9	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	160,205	223,345	383,550

(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) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance customers 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.

Job Search Allowance 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.

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.

Sickness Allowance From 17 March 1996, persons in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who became temporarily incapacitated no longer transferred to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. This change had the effect of increasing total Newstart Allowance/Youth Training Allowance figures but did not affect Jobseeker figures as those customers who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training Jobseeker populations.

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.

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 *Youth Allowance*).

Partner Allowance 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.

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.

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.

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 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 12 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 was introduced 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: DEWR measures duration of income support. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment. The ABS measures length of time unemployed using their unemployment definition. DEWR unemployed customers can have breaks without payment for up to 25 weeks but still be classified long term income support customers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Customers 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 customers 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 customers over 60. <p>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.</p> <p>The difference between these two concepts, together with the fact that DEWR customers are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed customers remain classified by DEWR as long-term customers when they would be classified as short-term unemployed under the ABS definition.</p>

<i>Seasonal Adjustment</i>	The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The DEWR labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.
<i>Classification</i>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<i>Employment</i>	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.
<i>Timing</i>	<p>The timing of collections of the series are different:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<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.

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

Survey The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the 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
Newstart and Working Credit Section
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
CW3
PO Box 7788
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6244 7978.

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.*