

LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS

a monthly profile

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 24 June 2009.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – April 2009

Between April 2008 and April 2009:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 21.9%** overall from 497 354 to 606 127.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 21.7% from 433 674 to 527 686; and
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased 23.2% from 63 680 to 78 441.

The number of job seekers **increased 26.4%** overall from 299 841 to 379 142.

- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 26.6% from 250 161 to 316 652; and
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 25.8% from 49 680 to 62 490.

Long-term job seekers decreased 1.7% from 160 030 to 157 339.

Short-term job seekers increased 58.6% from 139 811 to 221 803.

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

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

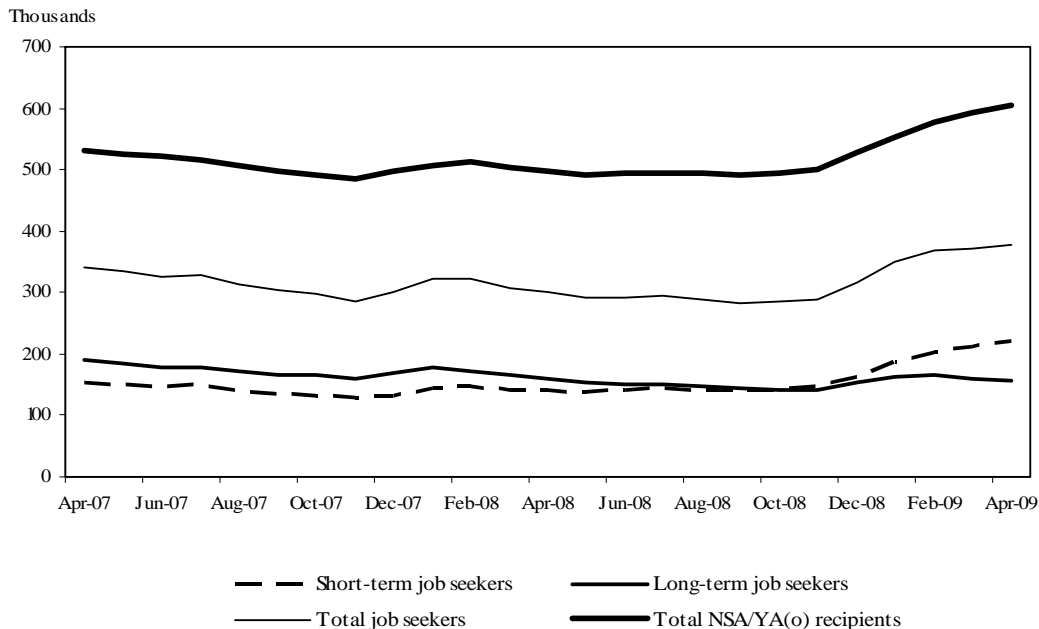


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Australian Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796
April 2007	277,688	463,732	68,746	250,660	4,250	6,235	48,912	41,619
May 2007	274,568	458,297	67,973	256,805	4,341	5,790	47,896	41,245
June 2007	271,439	452,733	67,852	261,197	4,435	5,284	46,709	40,886
July 2007	269,816	448,833	67,617	256,808	4,416	4,796	45,917	40,735
August 2007	267,972	442,112	63,717	263,166	4,490	4,381	45,459	40,853
September 2007	266,180	435,711	62,042	265,669	4,509	3,981	45,058	41,019
October 2007	264,434	429,811	59,920	264,829	4,350	3,619	44,695	41,156
November 2007	261,930	424,168	59,967	249,546	4,093	3,242	44,358	41,278
December 2007	264,127	428,962	69,320	215,158	3,956	2,868	43,997	41,400
January 2008	266,199	437,918	69,709	206,509	3,746	2,518	43,434	41,297
February 2008	266,368	443,916	69,728	213,384	3,897	2,149	42,512	41,014
March 2008	263,759	438,786	65,889	227,301	4,094	1,797	41,528	40,729
April 2008	260,541	433,674	63,680	236,930	4,274	1,503	40,708	40,503
May 2008	257,363	429,363	63,395	245,421	4,419	1,166	39,804	40,124
June 2008	255,550	428,896	63,972	252,180	4,444	856	38,915	39,702
July 2008	254,723	429,989	65,514	248,493	4,402	586	38,109	39,321
August 2008	253,131	429,459	63,347	254,853	4,256	307	37,226	38,946
September 2008	251,987	429,426	62,832	258,973	4,018	47	36,411	38,640
October 2008	251,529	431,546	62,227	259,337	3,882	0	35,572	38,375
November 2008	251,170	437,270	64,053	247,471	3,683	0	34,733	38,142
December 2008	254,327	453,485	74,786	218,371	3,665	0	34,011	37,989
January 2009	258,403	475,183	76,613	208,624	3,506	0	33,234	37,753
February 2009	261,232	498,020	78,868	218,999	3,570	0	32,480	37,561
March 2009	262,162	514,265	78,259	238,274	3,707	0	31,802	37,364
April 2009	262,468	527,686	78,441	253,363	3,815	0	31,171	37,128
<i>Variation March 2009 - April 2009</i>								
Number	306	13,421	182	15,089	108	0	-631	-236
Per cent	0.1	2.6	0.2	6.3	2.9	0.0	-2.0	-0.6

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

	March 2009	April			Variation March - April	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	252,103	175,975	89,243	265,218	13,115	5.2
CPS recipients (a)	2,459	1,855	628	2,483	24	1.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,265	7,938	5,495	13,433	1,168	9.5
Received a payment	237,379	166,182	83,120	249,302	11,923	5.0
Incapacitated (c)	18,576	12,006	7,686	19,692	1,116	6.0
Training	15,765	10,576	5,697	16,273	508	3.2
Self-employment development (d)	620	418	296	714	94	15.2
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	5,616	2,049	3,779	5,828	212	3.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	18,934	11,338	7,987	19,325	391	2.1
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	177,868	129,795	57,675	187,470	9,602	5.4
Long-term NSA Customers	262,162	150,085	112,383	262,468	306	0.1
CPS recipients (a)	6,125	4,111	1,956	6,067	-58	-0.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	8,271	3,587	4,271	7,858	-413	-5.0
Received a payment	247,766	142,387	106,156	248,543	777	0.3
Incapacitated (c)	16,083	8,642	7,811	16,453	370	2.3
Training	54,637	33,385	21,880	55,265	628	1.1
Self-employment development (d)	173	105	88	193	20	11.6
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	16,965	7,902	9,394	17,296	331	2.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	30,077	17,304	12,850	30,154	77	0.3
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	129,831	75,049	54,133	129,182	-649	-0.5
All NSA Customers	514,265	326,060	201,626	527,686	13,421	2.6
CPS recipients (a)	8,584	5,966	2,584	8,550	-34	-0.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	20,536	11,525	9,766	21,291	755	3.7
Received a payment	485,145	308,569	189,276	497,845	12,700	2.6
Incapacitated (c)	34,659	20,648	15,497	36,145	1,486	4.3
Training	70,402	43,961	27,577	71,538	1,136	1.6
Self-employment development (d)	793	523	384	907	114	14.4
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	22,581	9,951	13,173	23,124	543	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	49,011	28,642	20,837	49,479	468	1.0
All NSA job seekers (g)	307,699	204,844	111,808	316,652	8,953	2.9

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

	March 2009	April			Variation March - April	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	40,579	23,669	18,408	42,077	1,498	3.7
CPS recipients (a)	1,131	701	383	1,084	-47	-4.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	812	418	468	886	74	9.1
Received a payment	38,636	22,550	17,557	40,107	1,471	3.8
Part-time study & work (c)	7	3	3	6	-1	-14.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	70	37	45	82	12	17.1
Incapacitated (e)	1,676	834	878	1,712	36	2.1
Training	1,696	1,080	637	1,717	21	1.2
Self-employment development (e)	11	5	5	10	-1	-9.1
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	2,258	1,035	1,212	2,247	-11	-0.5
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	32,918	19,556	14,777	34,333	1,415	4.3
Long-term YA (other) Customers	37,680	17,353	19,011	36,364	-1,316	-3.5
CPS recipients (a)	804	507	283	790	-14	-1.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,082	445	727	1,172	90	8.3
Received a payment	35,794	16,401	18,001	34,402	-1,392	-3.9
Part-time study & work (c)	4	0	3	3	-1	-25.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	62	26	38	64	2	3.2
Incapacitated (e)	1,086	427	721	1,148	62	5.7
Training	3,284	1,755	1,529	3,284	0	0.0
Self-employment development (e)	7	3	7	10	3	42.9
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,733	743	993	1,736	3	0.2
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	29,618	13,447	14,710	28,157	-1,461	-4.9
All YA (other) Customers	78,259	41,022	37,419	78,441	182	0.2
CPS recipients (a)	1,935	1,208	666	1,874	-61	-3.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,894	863	1,195	2,058	164	8.7
Received a payment	74,430	38,951	35,558	74,509	79	0.1
Part-time study & work (c)	11	3	6	9	-2	-18.2
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	132	63	83	146	14	10.6
Incapacitated (e)	2,762	1,261	1,599	2,860	98	3.5
Training	4,980	2,835	2,166	5,001	21	0.4
Self-employment development (e)	18	8	12	20	2	11.1
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	3,991	1,778	2,205	3,983	-8	-0.2
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	62,536	33,003	29,487	62,490	-46	-0.1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
April 2007	153,350	188,871	342,221
May 2007	151,083	183,234	334,317
June 2007	148,602	177,562	326,164
July 2007	149,043	178,467	327,510
August 2007	141,433	171,107	312,540
September 2007	136,186	166,762	302,948
October 2007	132,332	164,716	297,048
November 2007	127,425	159,046	286,471
December 2007	132,454	169,573	302,027
January 2008	145,046	177,005	322,051
February 2008	147,610	173,316	320,926
March 2008	141,568	165,748	307,316
April 2008	139,811	160,030	299,841
May 2008	138,808	154,313	293,121
June 2008	140,066	150,517	290,583
July 2008	143,050	150,831	293,881
August 2008	141,458	146,533	287,991
September 2008	140,447	143,357	283,804
October 2008	142,254	142,368	284,622
November 2008	146,670	141,488	288,158
December 2008	163,109	154,285	317,394
January 2009	186,990	164,229	351,219
February 2009	203,173	164,752	367,925
March 2009	210,786	159,449	370,235
April 2009	221,803	157,339	379,142
<i>Variation March 2009 - April 2009</i>			
Number	11,017	-2,110	8,907
Per cent	5.2	-1.3	2.4

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

Notes:

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

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

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

<i>State</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	69,627	72,349	2,722	3.9
Victoria	46,562	49,084	2,522	5.4
Queensland	50,960	54,574	3,614	7.1
South Australia	15,318	15,573	255	1.7
Western Australia	18,450	20,010	1,560	8.5
Tasmania	5,094	5,326	232	4.6
Northern Territory	3,127	3,216	89	2.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,648	1,671	23	1.4
AUSTRALIA	210,786	221,803	11,017	5.2
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	59,205	58,134	-1,071	-1.8
Victoria	36,513	35,880	-633	-1.7
Queensland	25,629	25,742	113	0.4
South Australia	15,097	14,908	-189	-1.3
Western Australia	10,483	10,519	36	0.3
Tasmania	5,900	5,725	-175	-3.0
Northern Territory	5,290	5,099	-191	-3.6
Australian Capital Territory	1,332	1,332	0	0.0
AUSTRALIA	159,449	157,339	-2,110	-1.3
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	128,832	130,483	1,651	1.3
Victoria	83,075	84,964	1,889	2.3
Queensland	76,589	80,316	3,727	4.9
South Australia	30,415	30,481	66	0.2
Western Australia	28,933	30,529	1,596	5.5
Tasmania	10,994	11,051	57	0.5
Northern Territory	8,417	8,315	-102	-1.2
Australian Capital Territory	2,980	3,003	23	0.8
AUSTRALIA	370,235	379,142	8,907	2.4

Notes:

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

**TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT APRIL 2009**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	5,250	3.5	2,532	2.9	7,782	3.3
18 - 20 years	14,305	9.6	10,915	12.3	25,220	10.6
21 - 24 years	24,565	16.4	10,805	12.2	35,370	14.9
25 - 29 years	24,292	16.3	11,169	12.6	35,461	14.9
30 - 39 years	35,566	23.8	18,782	21.2	54,348	22.8
40 - 49 years	24,643	16.5	15,230	17.2	39,873	16.8
50 - 59 years	15,050	10.1	12,083	13.7	27,133	11.4
60 years and over	5,682	3.8	6,982	7.9	12,664	5.3
Total	149,353	100.0	88,498	100.0	237,851	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,708	6.5	2,951	4.3	7,659	5.4
18 - 20 years	10,067	13.9	11,758	17.1	21,825	15.4
21 - 24 years	12,518	17.3	8,361	12.1	20,879	14.8
25 - 29 years	8,632	11.9	5,748	8.3	14,380	10.2
30 - 39 years	11,550	15.9	10,581	15.4	22,131	15.7
40 - 49 years	12,699	17.5	14,223	20.7	26,922	19.1
50 - 59 years	9,703	13.4	11,617	16.9	21,320	15.1
60 years and over	2,573	3.6	3,602	5.2	6,175	4.4
Total	72,450	100.0	68,841	100.0	141,291	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,958	4.5	5,483	3.5	15,441	4.1
18 - 20 years	24,372	11.0	22,673	14.4	47,045	12.4
21 - 24 years	37,083	16.7	19,166	12.2	56,249	14.8
25 - 29 years	32,924	14.8	16,917	10.8	49,841	13.1
30 - 39 years	47,116	21.2	29,363	18.7	76,479	20.2
40 - 49 years	37,342	16.8	29,453	18.7	66,795	17.6
50 - 59 years	24,753	11.2	23,700	15.1	48,453	12.8
60 years and over	8,255	3.7	10,584	6.7	18,839	5.0
Total	221,803	100.0	157,339	100.0	379,142	100.0

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bankstown	3,571	3,680	109	3.1
Bondi Junction	1,312	1,335	23	1.8
Burwood	1,779	1,837	58	3.3
Campsie	2,593	2,553	-40	-1.5
Caringbah	1,320	1,382	62	4.7
Chatswood	1,207	1,290	83	6.9
Corrimal	1,267	1,225	-42	-3.3
Dapto	1,357	1,373	16	1.2
Darlinghurst	1,726	1,721	-5	-0.3
Darlinghurst CCU	44	45	1	%
Haymarket	2	2	0	%
Hornsby	1,005	1,048	43	4.3
Hurstville	1,468	1,485	17	1.2
Lakemba	24	24	0	%
Leichhardt	1,434	1,520	86	6.0
Maroubra	1,543	1,591	48	3.1
Marrickville	1,599	1,624	25	1.6
Northern Beaches	1,401	1,495	94	6.7
Participation Sydney East	2	2	0	%
Redfern	1,237	1,277	40	3.2
Revesby	10	13	3	%
Rockdale	1,435	1,458	23	1.6
Ryde	1,106	1,110	4	0.4
Shellharbour	1,561	1,563	2	0.1
Sutherland	567	574	7	1.2
Wollongong	1,519	1,511	-8	-0.5
Other (a)	9	12	3	%
Total	32,098	32,750	652	2.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	2,251	2,284	33	1.5
Baulkham Hills	914	935	21	2.3
Blacktown	3,303	3,406	103	3.1
Cabramatta	2,077	2,155	78	3.8
Camden	763	775	12	1.6
Campbelltown	2,333	2,433	100	4.3
Fairfield	3,140	3,174	34	1.1
Hawkesbury	1,013	1,049	36	3.6
Ingleburn	1,477	1,534	57	3.9
Katoomba	770	781	11	1.4
Liverpool	3,913	4,034	121	3.1
Merrylands	1,957	2,016	59	3.0
Mt Druitt	3,084	3,129	45	1.5
Parramatta	2,018	2,124	106	5.3
Penrith	2,077	2,120	43	2.1
Springwood	406	426	20	4.9
St Marys	1,650	1,657	7	0.4
Other (a)	21	22	1	%
Total	33,167	34,054	887	2.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES				
Armidale	898	865	-33	-3.7
Cessnock	892	878	-14	-1.6
Charlestown	2,076	2,066	-10	-0.5
Ettalong	1,151	1,189	38	3.3
Glen Innes	270	262	-8	-3.0
Gosford	1,811	1,855	44	2.4
Gunnedah	418	408	-10	-2.4
Inverell	708	701	-7	-1.0
Kempsey	1,064	1,071	7	0.7
Kurri Kurri	480	483	3	0.6
Lakehaven	1,904	1,926	22	1.2
Maitland	1,644	1,679	35	2.1
Mayfield	912	912	0	0.0
Muswellbrook	538	546	8	1.5
Nambucca Heads	888	865	-23	-2.6
Nelson Bay	564	564	0	0.0
Newcastle	1,326	1,293	-33	-2.5
Port Macquarie	1,674	1,678	4	0.2
Raymond Terrace	1,031	1,094	63	6.1
Singleton	285	290	5	1.8
Tamworth	1,778	1,759	-19	-1.1
Taree	1,817	1,808	-9	-0.5
The Entrance	1,420	1,425	5	0.4
Toronto	1,026	1,029	3	0.3
Tuncurry (Forster)	957	964	7	0.7
Wallsend	1,457	1,468	11	0.8
Wyong	779	795	16	2.1
Other (a)	42	77	35	%
Total	29,810	29,950	140	0.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	928	958	30	3.2
Bathurst	982	975	-7	-0.7
Bega	785	748	-37	-4.7
Belconnen	924	919	-5	-0.5
Bowral	561	579	18	3.2
Braddon	788	793	5	0.6
Cooma	327	323	-4	-1.2
Cowra	500	480	-20	-4.0
Dubbo	2,068	2,042	-26	-1.3
Goulburn	762	764	2	0.3
Griffith	573	588	15	2.6
Gungahlin	75	70	-5	%
Lanyon	34	32	-2	%
Leeton	363	347	-16	-4.4
Lithgow	600	607	7	1.2
Mudgee	704	690	-14	-2.0
Narooma	393	422	29	7.4
Nowra	2,231	2,212	-19	-0.9
Orange	1,110	1,092	-18	-1.6
Parkes	1,014	1,015	1	0.1
Queanbeyan	445	456	11	2.5
Tuggeranong	646	659	13	2.0
Tumut	278	270	-8	-2.9
Ulladulla	563	556	-7	-1.2
Wagga	1,518	1,460	-58	-3.8
Woden	479	502	23	4.8
Yass	113	110	-3	-2.7
Young	473	455	-18	-3.8
Other (a)	13	15	2	%
Total	20,250	20,139	-111	-0.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	1,055	1,042	-13	-1.2
Albury	2,174	2,140	-34	-1.6
Box Hill	1,908	1,945	37	1.9
Broadmeadows	3,833	3,816	-17	-0.4
Camberwell	925	923	-2	-0.2
Darebin	3,032	2,998	-34	-1.1
Deniliquin	319	322	3	0.9
Echuca	506	528	22	4.3
Epping	1,819	1,909	90	4.9
Greensborough	23	22	-1	%
Heidelberg	1,477	1,608	131	8.9
Moreland	2,081	2,035	-46	-2.2
Newmarket	1,272	1,272	0	0.0
Seymour	380	391	11	2.9
Shepparton	1,996	1,962	-34	-1.7
South Melbourne	646	698	52	8.0
Sunbury	764	758	-6	-0.8
Wangaratta	1,399	1,381	-18	-1.3
Windsor	2,350	2,455	105	4.5
Yarra	1,775	1,758	-17	-1.0
Other (a)	12	9	-3	%
Total	29,746	29,972	226	0.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	793	769	-24	-3.0
Belgrave	451	452	1	0.2
Cheltenham	1,636	1,694	58	3.5
Cranbourne	1,346	1,415	69	5.1
Dandenong	2,618	2,722	104	4.0
Fountain Gate	1,936	2,022	86	4.4
Frankston	2,616	2,724	108	4.1
Glen Waverley	1,047	1,083	36	3.4
Hastings	539	514	-25	-4.6
Lilydale	1,079	1,207	128	11.9
Mornington	448	459	11	2.5
Morwell	1,467	1,755	288	19.6
Oakleigh	1,780	1,801	21	1.2
Pakenham	619	646	27	4.4
Ringwood	1,903	2,029	126	6.6
Rosebud	742	871	129	17.4
Rowville	421	432	11	2.6
Sale	673	694	21	3.1
Springvale	2,005	2,072	67	3.3
Wantirna	1,276	1,283	7	0.5
Warragul	521	534	13	2.5
Wonthaggi	525	583	58	11.0
Other (a)	4	4	0	%
Total	26,445	27,765	1,320	5.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	224	234	10	4.5
Ballarat	2,749	2,776	27	1.0
Bendigo	2,580	2,635	55	2.1
Bendigo Central	381	395	14	3.7
Colac	494	485	-9	-1.8
Corio	1,672	1,673	1	0.1
Footscray	1,436	1,487	51	3.6
Geelong	2,941	2,969	28	1.0
Hamilton	416	412	-4	-1.0
Horsham	585	589	4	0.7
Maryborough	470	460	-10	-2.1
Melton	1,336	1,364	28	2.1
Mildura	1,663	1,650	-13	-0.8
Newport	1,134	1,211	77	6.8
Portland	411	413	2	0.5
Stawell	181	192	11	6.1
Sunshine	2,643	2,616	-27	-1.0
Swan Hill	881	842	-39	-4.4
Warrnambool	846	824	-22	-2.6
Watergardens	3,193	3,211	18	0.6
Werribee	3,031	3,134	103	3.4
Other (a)	13	11	-2	%
Total	29,280	29,583	303	1.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND				
Atherton	755	768	13	1.7
Ayr	499	502	3	0.6
Bamaga RASC (Nth Peninsula RASC)	29	30	1	%
Biloela	179	182	3	1.7
Bowen	483	455	-28	-5.8
Cairns Families	7	5	-2	%
Cairns Jobseekers	4,177	4,325	148	3.5
Cairns Remote (Indigenous ISC)	713	730	17	2.4
Cairns Seniors & Carers	7	4	-3	%
Charters Towers	363	371	8	2.2
Edmonton	0	0	0	%
Emerald	295	308	13	4.4
Gladstone	947	985	38	4.0
Greenfields	4	6	2	%
Ingham	354	375	21	5.9
Innisfail	749	761	12	1.6
Longreach	119	112	-7	-5.9
Mackay Jobseekers	1,586	1,629	43	2.7
Mackay Seniors & Carers	2	2	0	%
Mareeba	526	548	22	4.2
Mossman	534	555	21	3.9
Mt Isa	947	937	-10	-1.1
Normanton	166	165	-1	-0.6
Palm Island	322	323	1	0.3
Rockhampton Families	0	0	0	%
Rockhampton Jobseekers	1,980	2,002	22	1.1
Rockhampton Seniors & Carers	1	1	0	%
Smithfield	1	1	0	%
Thursday Island	264	259	-5	-1.9
Townsville City	3	6	3	%
Townsville Families	0	0	0	%
Townsville Jobseekers	3,646	3,644	-2	-0.1
Townsville Seniors & Carers	6	5	-1	%
Western Cape RASC	274	267	-7	-2.6
Whitsunday	495	492	-3	-0.6
Yarrabah RASC	393	417	24	6.1
Yeppoon	410	450	40	9.8
Other (a)	73	72	-1	%
Total	21,309	21,694	385	1.8

Note: For footnotes see end of the table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & EAST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	3,136	3,133	-3	-0.1
Caboolture	2,456	2,652	196	8.0
Caboolture FCC and SC&R	0	0	0	%
Caloundra	1,216	1,304	88	7.2
Cherbourg	85	108	23	%
Chermside	1,096	1,146	50	4.6
Fortitude Valley	1,187	1,201	14	1.2
Gympie	1,284	1,320	36	2.8
Hervey Bay	1,537	1,550	13	0.8
Kawana Waters	591	661	70	11.8
Kingaroy	809	765	-44	-5.4
Kippa-Ring	1,051	1,078	27	2.6
Maroochydore	1,554	1,659	105	6.8
Maryborough	1,208	1,214	6	0.5
Mitchelton	1,052	1,108	56	5.3
Nambour	1,054	1,088	34	3.2
Noosa	1,046	1,152	106	10.1
Nundah	1,108	1,162	54	4.9
Strathpine	1,267	1,367	100	7.9
Toowong	898	991	93	10.4
Other (a)	623	668	45	7.2
Total	24,258	25,327	1,069	4.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & WEST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beenleigh	2,007	2,153	146	7.3
Browns Plains	1,681	1,798	117	7.0
Capalaba	770	783	13	1.7
Charleville	226	209	-17	-7.5
Cleveland	880	919	39	4.4
Dalby	487	515	28	5.7
Goodna	1,245	1,352	107	8.6
Goondiwindi	283	290	7	2.5
Inala	1,531	1,652	121	7.9
Ipswich	2,292	2,362	70	3.1
Mt Gravatt	1,693	1,811	118	7.0
Roma	166	178	12	7.2
South Brisbane	844	865	21	2.5
Stanthorpe	342	333	-9	-2.6
Stones Corner	1,495	1,591	96	6.4
Toowoomba	2,155	2,262	107	5.0
Warwick	496	491	-5	-1.0
Woodridge	1,870	2,008	138	7.4
Wynnum	913	992	79	8.7
Other (a)	10	5	-5	%
Total	21,386	22,569	1,183	5.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	870	868	-2	-0.2
Broken Hill	857	827	-30	-3.5
Ceduna	293	284	-9	-3.1
Coober Pedy	158	157	-1	-0.6
Currie Street	2	1	-1	%
Elizabeth	2,569	2,576	7	0.3
Enfield	1,574	1,597	23	1.5
Gawler	1,146	1,157	11	1.0
Glenelg	866	879	13	1.5
Kadina	656	666	10	1.5
Kilkenny	1,622	1,638	16	1.0
Marion	2,051	2,093	42	2.0
Modbury	1,791	1,785	-6	-0.3
Mt Barker	654	671	17	2.6
Mt Gambier	1,260	1,242	-18	-1.4
Murray Bridge	887	885	-2	-0.2
Noarlunga	2,788	2,793	5	0.2
Norwood	1,835	1,820	-15	-0.8
Port Adelaide	1,541	1,489	-52	-3.4
Port Augusta	769	751	-18	-2.3
Port Lincoln	630	623	-7	-1.1
Port Pirie	912	920	8	0.9
Salisbury	2,591	2,598	7	0.3
Torrensville	1,512	1,506	-6	-0.4
Victor Harbor	639	659	20	3.1
Whyalla	736	747	11	1.5
Other (a)	28	31	3	%
Total	31,237	31,263	26	0.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
WEST AUSTRALIA				
Albany	828	868	40	4.8
Armadale	1,070	1,145	75	7.0
Bunbury	1,705	1,787	82	4.8
Busselton	344	382	38	11.0
Cannington	1,607	1,732	125	7.8
Carnarvon	333	303	-30	-9.0
Cocos Islands	34	36	2	%
Collie	2	1	-1	%
Community Team Perth	101	84	-17	%
Curtin on Campus SSC	13	13	0	%
Esperance	308	320	12	3.9
Fremantle	1,285	1,360	75	5.8
Fremantle SACC	1	1	0	%
Fremantle SSC	0	0	0	%
Geraldton	1,227	1,218	-9	-0.7
Gosnells	1,126	1,188	62	5.5
Innaloo	1,338	1,417	79	5.9
Joondalup	1,677	1,777	100	6.0
Joondalup SACC	0	0	0	%
Joondalup SSC	0	0	0	%
Kalgoorlie	863	918	55	6.4
Karratha	307	327	20	6.5
Laverton RASC	63	64	1	%
Mandurah	1,387	1,496	109	7.9
Meekatharra RASC	166	159	-7	-4.2
Midland	2,105	2,255	150	7.1
Mirrabooka	1,701	1,804	103	6.1
Morley	1,778	1,885	107	6.0
Morley - Dewar Street	2	2	0	%
Morley SSC	0	0	0	%
Newman RASC	196	205	9	4.6
Northam	531	552	21	4.0
Rockingham	1,747	1,884	137	7.8
South Hedland	421	415	-6	-1.4
Spearwood	1,016	1,104	88	8.7
Victoria Park	1,734	1,871	137	7.9
Warwick Grove	739	796	57	7.7
Other (a)	25	27	2	%
Total	27,780	29,396	1,616	5.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation March - April	
			Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	618	617	-1	-0.2
Burnie	1,424	1,428	4	0.3
Devonport	1,315	1,324	9	0.7
Glenorchy	1,676	1,707	31	1.8
Hobart	1,225	1,234	9	0.7
Huonville	409	409	0	0.0
Launceston	2,969	2,937	-32	-1.1
Mowbray	1	1	0	%
Rosny Park	912	934	22	2.4
Sorell	453	458	5	1.1
Other (a)	49	44	-5	%
Total	11,051	11,093	42	0.4
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	2,537	2,543	6	0.2
Borroloola RASC	36	38	2	%
Broome	528	530	2	0.4
Casuarina	882	883	1	0.1
Derby	175	180	5	2.9
Fitzroy Crossing RASC	67	72	5	%
Halls Creek RASC	228	214	-14	-6.1
Katherine	1,135	1,076	-59	-5.2
Knuckey Street	464	486	22	4.7
Kununurra	278	267	-11	-4.0
Maningrida	301	280	-21	-7.0
Nhulunbuy	622	613	-9	-1.4
Palmerston	905	912	7	0.8
Tangentyere	76	73	-3	%
Tennant Creek	190	189	-1	-0.5
Tennant Creek Remote	66	67	1	%
Tiwi Islands RASC	218	205	-13	-6.0
Top End Remote	715	698	-17	-2.4
Wadeye RASC	230	201	-29	-12.6
Yuendumu RASC	123	127	4	3.3
Other (a)	31	33	2	%
Total	9,807	9,687	-120	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	March 2009	April 2009	Variation	
			March - April Number	Per cent
PACIFIC CENTRAL				
Ballina	1,085	1,082	-3	-0.3
Beaudesert	504	550	46	9.1
Biggera Waters	2,141	2,379	238	11.1
Bourke	527	536	9	1.7
Brunswick Heads	601	616	15	2.5
Byron Bay	628	649	21	3.3
Casino	626	637	11	1.8
Coffs Harbour	2,480	2,528	48	1.9
Grafton	1,560	1,553	-7	-0.4
Lightning Ridge	187	176	-11	-5.9
Lismore	1,682	1,701	19	1.1
Maclean	0	0	0	%
Moree	509	500	-9	-1.8
Murwillumbah	612	603	-9	-1.5
Narrabri	318	311	-7	-2.2
Nerang	2,136	2,435	299	14.0
Palm Beach	2,619	2,880	261	10.0
Robina SCR	7	9	2	%
Southport	2,511	2,761	250	10.0
Tweed Heads	1,564	1,683	119	7.6
Walgett	268	255	-13	-4.9
Other (a)	25	29	4	%
Total	22,590	23,873	1,283	5.7
OTHER				
Centrelink Call Centres (b)	61	64	3	%
Not coded to an area	6	8	2	%
Rounding adjustment (c)	-46	-45	1	%
AUSTRALIA	370,235	379,142	8,907	2.4

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT ENDING 17 APRIL 2009**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.6	82.9	85.2
Earned an income	13.4	17.1	14.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01-\$142.00	1.8	2.2	2.0
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.1	2.7	2.3
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.6	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	7.3	9.5	8.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>149,644</i>	<i>88,528</i>	<i>238,172</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.7	70.9	73.9
Earned an income	23.3	29.1	26.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.8	0.9	0.9
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.6	2.8	2.7
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.3	3.7	3.5
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.6	3.1	2.9
Over \$316.00	13.9	18.6	16.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>72,490</i>	<i>68,973</i>	<i>141,463</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	83.4	77.6	81.0
Earned an income	16.6	22.4	19.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.1	2.5	2.2
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.5	3.1	2.8
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.0	2.5	2.2
Over \$316.00	9.4	13.5	11.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>222,134</i>	<i>157,501</i>	<i>379,635</i>

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

From 1 July 1998, Newstart Allowance for 16-20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance. Young people aged 18 to 20 years old who were on Newstart or Sickness Allowance at the date of announcement of Youth Allowance and when Youth Allowance commenced on 1 July 1998, were able to remain on Newstart Allowance.

From 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment - Newstart Allowance - which was payable to eligible recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see Job Search Allowance).

Prior to 20 September 1996, Newstart Allowance was payable to eligible persons over 18 years who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) for 12 months or more.

<i>Job Search Allowance</i>	<p>From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.</p> <p>Prior to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. It was also payable to eligible persons who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and under 18 years of age at 31 December 1994. Persons aged 15 to 18 years who were not receiving Job Search Allowance prior to 1 January 1995 commenced on Youth Training Allowance.</p>
<i>Sickness Allowance</i>	<p>From 17 March 1996, persons in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who became temporarily incapacitated no longer transferred to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. This change had the effect of increasing total Newstart Allowance/Youth Training Allowance figures but did not affect job seeker figures as those recipients who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training job seeker populations.</p> <p>Under current arrangements, these recipients remain on their existing payments but are exempt from the activity test for the duration of their medical certificates. People who become unemployed because of illness, and those who suffer a potential loss of income due to sickness, are paid Newstart Allowance because they are unemployed.</p> <p>Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) was replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see Youth Allowance).</p>
<i>Partner Allowance</i>	<p>From 20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance was introduced in September 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.</p>
<i>Youth Training Allowance</i>	<p>Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see Youth Allowance).</p> <p>From 1 January 1995, eligible persons aged under 18 years who were new entrants to the job search pool were paid Youth Training Allowance. (People who were in receipt of Job Search</p>

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

Widow Allowance Widow Allowance, introduced on 1 January 1995, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years (50 prior to 20 March 1997), if they meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status and recent work experience. This has had a slight downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from January 1995.

Mature Age Allowance From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Mature Age Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.

From 1 July 1996, the qualification conditions for Mature Age Allowance changed for new claimants. The requirement for 12 months prior receipt of income support was reduced to 9 months for people transferring from Newstart Allowance and removed entirely for people transferring from non-activity tested payments. The requirement to have been registered as unemployed for 9 months was replaced with a requirement to have no recent workforce experience. Reporting of these new claimants commenced from September 1996.

Mature Age Allowance was introduced on 24 March 1994, and was paid to long-term unemployed persons aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who had been receiving income support for 9 months or more and who were eligible for Newstart Allowance. The introduction of Mature Age Allowance had a downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from April 1994 until September 2003.

Comparability of Data

There have been significant changes to the data presented in this publication due to a number of events. The main changes are:

- the method of counting recipients;
- the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient numbers;
- the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998;
- the way 'job seeker' is defined; and
- the way duration is calculated.

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

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

The new method therefore counts these 'current' recipients.

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

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

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

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

*Introduction of
Youth Allowance* The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998. There are two main problems in comparing these two series. The first is the exclusion of some 18 to 20 year old unemployed people due to the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test (see the Youth Allowance section under Payment History). The second is the inclusion of Sickness Allowees in the Youth Allowance (other) population.

There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance job seekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the job seeker total. The problem, however, of the exclusion of some recipients through the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test still remains.

Job seekers Prior to July 1998, the job seeker category was defined by excluding all Newstart Allowees who did not receive a payment, recipients who were incapacitated, and those receiving a payment who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to engage in job search were classified as job seekers, including people undertaking full-time voluntary work, people on jury duty and pregnant women around the time of the birth of their child.

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

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

Duration

Following system changes in May 1998, duration has been defined according to the time a recipient spends on income support - short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a recipient was registered as unemployed - short-term recipients were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term recipients were people who were registered for 12 months or more.

Closure of Mature Age and Partner Allowances

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
 .. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Activity test status	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
Age	Age in years at time of data collection.
Area Support Office	A Centrelink office that supports a set of Customer Service Centres for a specified area. These are generally not confined to State boundaries.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	<p>The CDEP programme is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) from December 2007 and was previously administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). CDEP provides unemployed Indigenous people with activities designed to meet community needs and which develop participants' skills and improve their employability in order to assist them to move to employment outside the CDEP organisation. These activities can also lead to the development of business enterprises.</p> <p>The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.</p>
Customer Service Centre	A Customer Service Centre set within a particular region that provides FaHCSIA, DEEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Customer Service Centres are managed by Area Support Offices.
Did not receive a payment	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.
Eligibility and payment status	Refer to the Methodology entry in the Explanatory Notes.
Fortnightly earnings	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
Incapacitated	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.
Job seekers	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in jobsearch. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.

Job Search Allowance (JSA)	Up to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to CES eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Long-term recipients	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Mature Age Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance. Mature Age Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to unemployed people aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) with little or no recent workforce experience who meet certain requirements for previous receipt of income support. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Newstart Common Platform System (NCP)	The Newstart Common Platform System (NCP) was introduced in May 1998. The NCP administers all labour market and related payments. This includes primary payments such as Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance. Other payments on the NCP include Special Benefit, Sickness Allowance, Exceptional Circumstances Relief, Farm Help and Austudy.
Partner Allowance (PA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Short-term recipients	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.
States	States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the recipient's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.

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

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DEEWR UNEMPLOYMENT LABOUR MARKET PAYMENT NUMBERS AND ABS LABOUR FORCE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Official statistics	Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Office which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.
ABS definition	The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.
DEEWR Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics	The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.
Differences	Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DEEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEEWR and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEEWR measures duration of income support. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time unemployed using their unemployment definition.</p> <p>DEEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment for up to 25 weeks but still be classified as long-term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.• Long-term recipients can have another 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and still keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the Employment Entry Payment and the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Timing The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour market information

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

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

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

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Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

Other recipient information

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

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