

LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS

a monthly profile

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

All media inquiries should be directed to the Centrelink National Media Officer on (02) 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 26 March 2008.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – January 2008

Between January 2007 and January 2008:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased by 8.6%** overall from 555,391 to 507,627 and

- ◆ decreased 8.4% for NSA from 478,033 to 437,918 and
- ◆ decreased 9.9% for YA(o) from 77,358 to 69,709.

The number of job seekers **decreased by 14.2%** overall from 375,319 to 322,051 and

- ◆ decreased 15.2% for NSA recipients from 313,313 to 265,761 and
- ◆ decreased 9.2% for YA(o) recipients from 62,006 to 56,290.

Long-term job seekers decreased by 15.5% from 209,395 to 177,005.

Short-term job seekers decreased by 12.6% from 165,924 to 145,046.

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

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

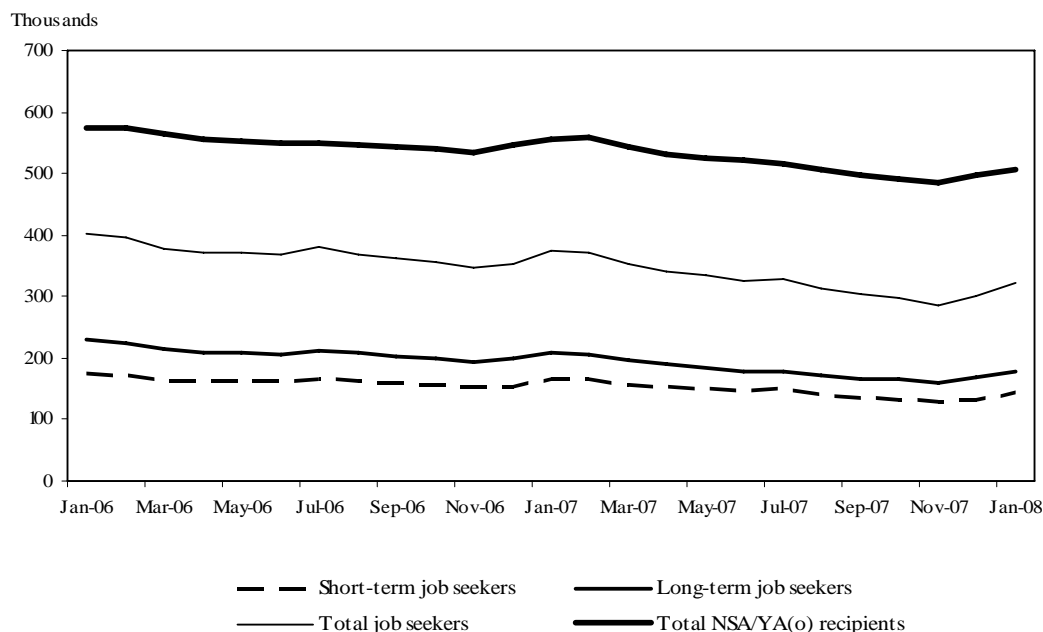


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Australian Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796
January 2006	294,100	487,251	85,628	223,059	2,478	15,869	66,905	45,849
February 2006	294,250	491,955	83,559	232,189	2,731	15,111	65,681	45,760
March 2006	291,020	484,784	78,913	250,079	2,994	14,271	64,282	45,622
April 2006	288,017	479,378	76,747	260,349	3,190	13,547	62,924	45,438
May 2006	285,853	475,830	75,533	266,392	3,181	12,836	61,863	45,212
June 2006	284,288	474,125	75,366	270,081	3,323	12,110	60,829	45,096
July 2006	285,152	474,477	76,173	264,863	3,376	11,379	59,401	44,639
August 2006	284,943	472,448	72,634	271,591	3,472	10,731	58,213	44,184
September 2006	285,218	472,222	71,104	276,235	3,643	10,049	56,965	43,705
October 2006	284,276	470,340	69,511	277,061	3,740	9,430	55,683	43,349
November 2006	282,694	466,631	68,721	267,042	3,683	8,892	54,611	43,112
December 2006	284,499	469,233	76,480	226,902	3,571	8,293	53,398	42,903
January 2007	286,614	478,033	77,358	216,869	3,487	7,745	52,205	42,530
February 2007	286,113	481,343	76,036	223,780	3,715	7,287	51,251	42,370
March 2007	281,937	473,278	71,619	239,502	4,087	6,751	50,058	42,032
April 2007	277,688	463,732	68,746	250,660	4,250	6,235	48,912	41,619
May 2007	274,568	458,297	67,973	256,805	4,341	5,790	47,896	41,245
June 2007	271,439	452,733	67,852	261,197	4,435	5,284	46,709	40,886
July 2007	269,816	448,833	67,617	256,808	4,416	4,796	45,917	40,735
August 2007	267,972	442,112	63,717	263,166	4,490	4,381	45,459	40,853
September 2007	266,180	435,711	62,042	265,669	4,509	3,981	45,058	41,019
October 2007	264,434	429,811	59,920	264,829	4,350	3,619	44,695	41,156
November 2007	261,930	424,168	59,967	249,546	4,093	3,242	44,358	41,278
December 2007	264,127	428,962	69,320	215,158	3,956	2,868	43,997	41,400
January 2008	266,199	437,918	69,709	206,509	3,746	2,518	43,434	41,297
<i>Variation December 2007 - January 2008</i>								
Number	2,072	8,956	389	-8,649	-210	-350	-563	-103
Per cent	0.8	2.1	0.6	-4.0	-5.3	-12.2	-1.3	-0.2

(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

	December 2007	January			Variation December - January	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	164,835	109,309	62,410	171,719	6,884	4.2
CPS recipients (a)	2,531	1,838	719	2,557	26	1.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,840	3,517	2,882	6,399	-3,441	-35.0
Received a payment	152,464	103,954	58,809	162,763	10,299	6.8
Incapacitated (c)	16,671	9,533	6,600	16,133	-538	-3.2
Training	10,926	6,845	3,476	10,321	-605	-5.5
Self-employment development (d)	379	124	93	217	-162	-42.7
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	3,883	1,386	2,486	3,872	-11	-0.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,047	7,479	5,600	13,079	32	0.2
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	107,558	78,587	40,554	119,141	11,583	10.8
Long-term NSA Customers	264,127	157,577	108,622	266,199	2,072	0.8
CPS recipients (a)	6,642	4,393	2,203	6,596	-46	-0.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	10,483	3,485	3,337	6,822	-3,661	-34.9
Received a payment	247,002	149,699	103,082	252,781	5,779	2.3
Incapacitated (c)	19,367	9,802	8,378	18,180	-1,187	-6.1
Training	51,194	31,306	18,980	50,286	-908	-1.8
Self-employment development (d)	190	72	42	114	-76	-40.0
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	12,468	6,691	5,994	12,685	217	1.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	24,568	14,945	9,951	24,896	328	1.3
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	139,215	86,883	59,737	146,620	7,405	5.3
All NSA Customers	428,962	266,886	171,032	437,918	8,956	2.1
CPS recipients (a)	9,173	6,231	2,922	9,153	-20	-0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	20,323	7,002	6,219	13,221	-7,102	-34.9
Received a payment	399,466	253,653	161,891	415,544	16,078	4.0
Incapacitated (c)	36,038	19,335	14,978	34,313	-1,725	-4.8
Training	62,120	38,151	22,456	60,607	-1,513	-2.4
Self-employment development (d)	569	196	135	331	-238	-41.8
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	16,351	8,077	8,480	16,557	206	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	37,615	22,424	15,551	37,975	360	1.0
All NSA job seekers (g)	246,773	165,470	100,291	265,761	18,988	7.7

(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.

- 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 JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	December 2007	January			Variation December - January	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	31,501	16,614	15,490	32,104	603	1.9
CPS recipients (a)	1,110	712	395	1,107	-3	-0.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	725	218	294	512	-213	-29.4
Received a payment	29,666	15,684	14,801	30,485	819	2.8
Part-time study & work (c)	3	1	5	6	3	100.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	64	23	29	52	-12	-18.8
Incapacitated (e)	1,806	779	906	1,685	-121	-6.7
Training	1,275	755	478	1,233	-42	-3.3
Self-employment development (e)	4	1	1	2	-2	-50.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,618	627	975	1,602	-16	-1.0
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	24,896	13,498	12,407	25,905	1,009	4.1
Long-term YA (other) Customers	37,819	17,769	19,836	37,605	-214	-0.6
CPS recipients (a)	950	561	364	925	-25	-2.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	998	352	554	906	-92	-9.2
Received a payment	35,871	16,856	18,918	35,774	-97	-0.3
Part-time study & work (c)	4	0	2	2	-2	-50.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	47	12	17	29	-18	-38.3
Incapacitated (e)	1,232	452	703	1,155	-77	-6.3
Training	2,857	1,544	1,338	2,882	25	0.9
Self-employment development (e)	4	3	1	4	0	0.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,369	463	854	1,317	-52	-3.8
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	30,358	14,382	16,003	30,385	27	0.1
All YA (other) Customers	69,320	34,383	35,326	69,709	389	0.6
CPS recipients (a)	2,060	1,273	759	2,032	-28	-1.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,723	570	848	1,418	-305	-17.7
Received a payment	65,537	32,540	33,719	66,259	722	1.1
Part-time study & work (c)	7	1	7	8	1	14.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	111	35	46	81	-30	-27.0
Incapacitated (e)	3,038	1,231	1,609	2,840	-198	-6.5
Training	4,132	2,299	1,816	4,115	-17	-0.4
Self-employment development (e)	8	4	2	6	-2	-25.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	2,987	1,090	1,829	2,919	-68	-2.3
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	55,254	27,880	28,410	56,290	1,036	1.9

(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
January 2006	173,502	229,230	402,732
February 2006	173,305	224,048	397,353
March 2006	164,016	214,293	378,309
April 2006	161,900	209,435	371,335
May 2006	162,182	207,935	370,117
June 2006	162,331	205,212	367,543
July 2006	165,898	213,281	379,179
August 2006	161,929	207,905	369,834
September 2006	159,462	203,024	362,486
October 2006	156,815	198,967	355,782
November 2006	152,125	193,719	345,844
December 2006	153,342	201,044	354,386
January 2007	165,924	209,395	375,319
February 2007	165,581	205,384	370,965
March 2007	157,827	195,351	353,178
April 2007	153,350	188,871	342,221
May 2007	151,083	183,234	334,317
June 2007	148,602	177,562	326,164
July 2007	149,043	178,467	327,510
August 2007	141,433	171,107	312,540
September 2007	136,186	166,762	302,948
October 2007	132,332	164,716	297,048
November 2007	127,425	159,046	286,471
December 2007	132,454	169,573	302,027
January 2008	145,046	177,005	322,051
<i>Variation December 2007 - January 2008</i>			
Number	12,592	7,432	20,024
Per cent	9.5	4.4	6.6

(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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	46,600	50,603	4,003	8.6
Victoria	31,101	34,025	2,924	9.4
Queensland	25,168	28,381	3,213	12.8
South Australia	11,544	12,703	1,159	10.0
Western Australia	10,066	10,885	819	8.1
Tasmania	3,996	4,192	196	4.9
Northern Territory	2,918	3,038	120	4.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,061	1,219	158	14.9
AUSTRALIA	132,454	145,046	12,592	9.5
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	61,819	64,972	3,153	5.1
Victoria	41,974	43,704	1,730	4.1
Queensland	24,756	25,812	1,056	4.3
South Australia	15,905	16,677	772	4.9
Western Australia	9,657	10,109	452	4.7
Tasmania	7,427	7,555	128	1.7
Northern Territory	6,834	6,886	52	0.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,201	1,290	89	7.4
AUSTRALIA	169,573	177,005	7,432	4.4
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	108,419	115,575	7,156	6.6
Victoria	73,075	77,729	4,654	6.4
Queensland	49,924	54,193	4,269	8.6
South Australia	27,449	29,380	1,931	7.0
Western Australia	19,723	20,994	1,271	6.4
Tasmania	11,423	11,747	324	2.8
Northern Territory	9,752	9,924	172	1.8
Australian Capital Territory	2,262	2,509	247	10.9
AUSTRALIA	302,027	322,051	20,024	6.6

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 JANUARY 2008**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,828	5.2	3,168	3.1	7,996	4.1
18 - 20 years	8,669	9.4	11,213	11.1	19,882	10.3
21 - 24 years	14,754	16.0	11,899	11.8	26,653	13.8
25 - 29 years	14,938	16.2	12,365	12.2	27,303	14.1
30 - 39 years	22,356	24.3	21,079	20.8	43,435	22.5
40 - 49 years	14,458	15.7	17,365	17.1	31,823	16.5
50 - 59 years	8,652	9.4	15,173	15.0	23,825	12.3
60 years and over	3,430	3.7	9,003	8.9	12,433	6.4
Total	92,085	100.0	101,265	100.0	193,350	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	5,089	9.6	3,842	5.1	8,931	6.9
18 - 20 years	7,319	13.8	12,161	16.1	19,480	15.1
21 - 24 years	8,561	16.2	9,583	12.7	18,144	14.1
25 - 29 years	5,928	11.2	6,422	8.5	12,350	9.6
30 - 39 years	8,251	15.6	10,788	14.2	19,039	14.8
40 - 49 years	9,059	17.1	15,061	19.9	24,120	18.7
50 - 59 years	6,845	12.9	13,496	17.8	20,341	15.8
60 years and over	1,909	3.6	4,387	5.8	6,296	4.9
Total	52,961	100.0	75,740	100.0	128,701	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,917	6.8	7,010	4.0	16,927	5.3
18 - 20 years	15,988	11.0	23,374	13.2	39,362	12.2
21 - 24 years	23,315	16.1	21,482	12.1	44,797	13.9
25 - 29 years	20,866	14.4	18,787	10.6	39,653	12.3
30 - 39 years	30,607	21.1	31,867	18.0	62,474	19.4
40 - 49 years	23,517	16.2	32,426	18.3	55,943	17.4
50 - 59 years	15,497	10.7	28,669	16.2	44,166	13.7
60 years and over	5,339	3.7	13,390	7.6	18,729	5.8
Total	145,046	100.0	177,005	100.0	322,051	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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bankstown	3,145	3,269	124	3.9
Bondi Junction	911	971	60	6.6
Burwood	1,314	1,410	96	7.3
Campsie	2,164	2,324	160	7.4
Caringbah	930	1,013	83	8.9
Chatswood	716	763	47	6.6
Corrimal	1,034	1,079	45	4.4
Dapto	1,016	1,045	29	2.9
Darlinghurst	1,268	1,340	72	5.7
Darlinghurst CCU	35	38	3	%
Haymarket	1	1	0	%
Hornsby	625	664	39	6.2
Hurstville	1,135	1,183	48	4.2
Lakemba	21	23	2	%
Leichhardt	1,121	1,212	91	8.1
Maroubra	1,079	1,123	44	4.1
Marrickville	1,238	1,315	77	6.2
Northern Beaches	869	959	90	10.4
Participation Sydney East	10	11	1	%
Redfern	1,216	1,243	27	2.2
Revesby	1	2	1	%
Rockdale	1,101	1,166	65	5.9
Ryde	711	728	17	2.4
Shellharbour	1,265	1,349	84	6.6
Sutherland	338	357	19	5.6
Wollongong	1,336	1,434	98	7.3
Other (a)	11	13	2	%
Total	24,611	26,035	1,424	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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,803	1,925	122	6.8
Baulkham Hills	525	580	55	10.5
Blacktown	2,444	2,670	226	9.2
Cabramatta	1,714	1,897	183	10.7
Camden	530	584	54	10.2
Campbelltown	1,920	2,057	137	7.1
Fairfield	2,668	2,829	161	6.0
Hawkesbury	750	804	54	7.2
Ingleburn	1,191	1,296	105	8.8
Katoomba	597	668	71	11.9
Liverpool	3,136	3,410	274	8.7
Merrylands	1,525	1,646	121	7.9
Mt Druitt	2,285	2,450	165	7.2
Parramatta	1,487	1,595	108	7.3
Penrith	1,460	1,611	151	10.3
Springwood	327	366	39	11.9
St Marys	1,437	1,498	61	4.2
Other (a)	25	28	3	%
Total	25,824	27,914	2,090	8.1

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES				
Armidale	940	1,006	66	7.0
Cessnock	810	859	49	6.0
Charlestown	1,719	1,877	158	9.2
Ettalong	794	848	54	6.8
Glen Innes	231	266	35	15.2
Gosford	1,362	1,490	128	9.4
Gunnedah	448	477	29	6.5
Inverell	673	727	54	8.0
Kempsey	1,110	1,188	78	7.0
Kurri Kurri	455	495	40	8.8
Lakehaven	1,364	1,443	79	5.8
Maitland	1,470	1,543	73	5.0
Mayfield	975	1,046	71	7.3
Muswellbrook	452	476	24	5.3
Nambucca Heads	975	1,037	62	6.4
Nelson Bay	485	486	1	0.2
Newcastle	1,295	1,417	122	9.4
Port Macquarie	1,644	1,740	96	5.8
Raymond Terrace	891	939	48	5.4
Singleton	253	285	32	12.6
Tamworth	1,684	1,776	92	5.5
Taree	1,661	1,823	162	9.8
The Entrance	1,175	1,221	46	3.9
Toronto	895	956	61	6.8
Tuncurry (Forster)	850	883	33	3.9
Wallsend	1,447	1,579	132	9.1
Wyong	631	691	60	9.5
Other (a)	18	24	6	%
Total	26,707	28,598	1,891	7.1

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	848	880	32	3.8
Bathurst	988	1,012	24	2.4
Bega	700	735	35	5.0
Belconnen	673	743	70	10.4
Bowral	475	532	57	12.0
Braddon	726	788	62	8.5
Cooma	273	274	1	0.4
Cowra	479	515	36	7.5
Dubbo	1,916	1,982	66	3.4
Goulburn	675	713	38	5.6
Griffith	579	601	22	3.8
Gungahlin	49	58	9	%
Lanyon	30	37	7	%
Leeton	341	359	18	5.3
Lithgow	628	676	48	7.6
Mudgee	750	750	0	0.0
Narooma	371	375	4	1.1
Nowra	1,959	2,052	93	4.7
Orange	972	1,027	55	5.7
Parkes	936	968	32	3.4
Queanbeyan	375	398	23	6.1
Tuggeranong	446	502	56	12.6
Tumut	314	319	5	1.6
Ulladulla	517	520	3	0.6
Wagga	1,566	1,650	84	5.4
Woden	333	385	52	15.6
Yass	119	126	7	5.9
Young	433	469	36	8.3
Other (a)	20	17	-3	%
Total	18,491	19,463	972	5.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	957	996	39	4.1
Albury	2,043	2,186	143	7.0
Box Hill	1,435	1,533	98	6.8
Broadmeadows	3,166	3,398	232	7.3
Camberwell	784	828	44	5.6
Darebin	2,998	3,192	194	6.5
Deniliquin	297	316	19	6.4
Echuca	503	517	14	2.8
Epping	1,442	1,554	112	7.8
Greensborough	1,297	1,390	93	7.2
Heidelberg	29	32	3	%
Moreland	1,824	1,984	160	8.8
Newmarket	1,189	1,266	77	6.5
Seymour	570	610	40	7.0
Shepparton	2,068	2,176	108	5.2
South Melbourne	569	593	24	4.2
Sunbury	648	679	31	4.8
Wangaratta	1,452	1,524	72	5.0
Windsor	1,926	2,128	202	10.5
Yarra	1,579	1,667	88	5.6
Other (a)	16	14	-2	%
Total	26,792	28,583	1,791	6.7

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	764	763	-1	-0.1
Belgrave	363	400	37	10.2
Cheltenham	1,227	1,342	115	9.4
Cranbourne	983	1,056	73	7.4
Dandenong	2,113	2,321	208	9.8
Fountain Gate	1,519	1,602	83	5.5
Frankston	2,004	2,184	180	9.0
Glen Waverley	772	829	57	7.4
Hastings	438	464	26	5.9
Lilydale	1,293	1,385	92	7.1
Mornington	422	457	35	8.3
Morwell	2,072	2,200	128	6.2
Oakleigh	1,360	1,402	42	3.1
Pakenham	468	495	27	5.8
Ringwood	1,270	1,404	134	10.6
Rosebud	790	807	17	2.2
Rowville	322	334	12	3.7
Sale	653	684	31	4.7
Springvale	1,644	1,796	152	9.2
Wantirna	999	1,062	63	6.3
Warragul	505	533	28	5.5
Wonthaggi	483	487	4	0.8
Other (a)	10	7	-3	%
Total	22,474	24,014	1,540	6.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	240	259	19	7.9
Ballarat	2,205	2,412	207	9.4
Bendigo	2,270	2,463	193	8.5
Bendigo Central	422	446	24	5.7
Colac	418	428	10	2.4
Corio	1,543	1,624	81	5.2
Footscray	1,364	1,450	86	6.3
Geelong	2,738	2,852	114	4.2
Hamilton	381	396	15	3.9
Horsham	580	625	45	7.8
Maryborough	452	467	15	3.3
Melton	1,067	1,145	78	7.3
Mildura	1,711	1,794	83	4.9
Newport	955	1,017	62	6.5
Portland	382	392	10	2.6
Stawell	206	209	3	1.5
Sunshine	2,391	2,480	89	3.7
Swan Hill	771	803	32	4.2
Warrnambool	803	817	14	1.7
Watergardens	2,923	3,039	116	4.0
Werribee	2,193	2,330	137	6.2
Other (a)	8	2	-6	%
Total	26,023	27,450	1,427	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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND				
Atherton	500	560	60	12.0
Ayr	269	328	59	21.9
Bamaga RASC (Nth Peninsula RASC)	40	41	1	%
Biloela	132	141	9	6.8
Bowen	322	386	64	19.9
Cairns Families	4	9	5	%
Cairns Jobseekers	2,156	2,326	170	7.9
Cairns Remote (Indigenous ISC)	560	569	9	1.6
Cairns Seniors & Carers	1	3	2	%
Charters Towers	239	256	17	7.1
Edmonton	1	2	1	%
Emerald	218	237	19	8.7
Gladstone	681	758	77	11.3
Greenfields	4	2	-2	%
Ingham	243	295	52	21.4
Innisfail	447	504	57	12.8
Longreach	103	101	-2	-1.9
Mackay Jobseekers	986	1,120	134	13.6
Mackay Seniors & Carers	2	4	2	%
Mareeba	449	460	11	2.4
Mossman	288	304	16	5.6
Mt Isa	652	685	33	5.1
Normanton	112	127	15	13.4
Palm Island	255	262	7	2.7
Rockhampton Families	9	11	2	%
Rockhampton Jobseekers	1,529	1,685	156	10.2
Rockhampton Seniors & Carers	4	3	-1	%
Smithfield	1	2	1	%
Thursday Island	191	188	-3	-1.6
Townsville City	3	5	2	%
Townsville Families	3	5	2	%
Townsville Jobseekers	1,960	2,244	284	14.5
Townsville Seniors & Carers	3	2	-1	%
Western Cape RASC	156	167	11	7.1
Whitsunday	235	255	20	8.5
Yarrabah RASC	286	303	17	5.9
Yeppoon	297	302	5	1.7
Other (a)	124	92	-32	%
Total	13,465	14,744	1,279	9.5

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & EAST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	2,405	2,616	211	8.8
Caboolture	1,532	1,696	164	10.7
Caboolture FCC and SC&R	0	0	0	%
Caloundra	758	798	40	5.3
Cherbourg	66	70	4	%
Chermside	703	769	66	9.4
Fortitude Valley	870	932	62	7.1
Gympie	1,071	1,169	98	9.2
Hervey Bay	1,031	1,113	82	8.0
Kawana Waters	330	345	15	4.5
Kingaroy	686	720	34	5.0
Kippa-Ring	961	1,060	99	10.3
Maroochydore	944	1,031	87	9.2
Maryborough	1,035	1,086	51	4.9
Mitchelton	631	721	90	14.3
Nambour	773	840	67	8.7
Noosa	664	706	42	6.3
Nundah	718	808	90	12.5
Strathpine	659	716	57	8.6
Toowong	619	658	39	6.3
Other (a)	17	19	2	%
Total	16,473	17,873	1,400	8.5

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & WEST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beenleigh	1,155	1,273	118	10.2
Browns Plains	1,008	1,088	80	7.9
Capalaba	473	507	34	7.2
Charleville	172	201	29	16.9
Cleveland	533	579	46	8.6
Dalby	495	521	26	5.3
Goodna	682	786	104	15.2
Goondiwindi	320	327	7	2.2
Inala	1,001	1,070	69	6.9
Ipswich	1,604	1,749	145	9.0
Mt Gravatt	1,114	1,226	112	10.1
Roma	150	177	27	18.0
South Brisbane	656	720	64	9.8
Stanthorpe	343	360	17	5.0
Stones Corner	1,020	1,118	98	9.6
Toowoomba	1,818	1,929	111	6.1
Warwick	413	440	27	6.5
Woodridge	1,322	1,425	103	7.8
Wynnum	548	587	39	7.1
Other (a)	17	15	-2	%
Total	14,844	16,098	1,254	8.4

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	931	988	57	6.1
Broken Hill	795	855	60	7.5
Ceduna	269	280	11	4.1
Coober Pedy	179	181	2	1.1
Currie Street	561	603	42	7.5
Elizabeth	2,409	2,581	172	7.1
Enfield	1,410	1,489	79	5.6
Gawler	1,134	1,181	47	4.1
Glenelg	757	819	62	8.2
Kadina	670	720	50	7.5
Kilkenny	1,555	1,659	104	6.7
Marion	1,629	1,814	185	11.4
Modbury	1,588	1,715	127	8.0
Mt Barker	509	542	33	6.5
Mt Gambier	1,181	1,237	56	4.7
Murray Bridge	778	828	50	6.4
Noarlunga	2,268	2,427	159	7.0
Norwood	1,290	1,400	110	8.5
Port Adelaide	1,442	1,533	91	6.3
Port Augusta	714	758	44	6.2
Port Lincoln	593	638	45	7.6
Port Pirie	922	1,001	79	8.6
Salisbury	2,181	2,346	165	7.6
Torrensville	1,253	1,330	77	6.1
Victor Harbor	559	566	7	1.3
Whyalla	739	798	59	8.0
Other (a)	53	55	2	%
Total	28,369	30,344	1,975	7.0

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST AUSTRALIA				
Albany	689	744	55	8.0
Armadale	666	726	60	9.0
Bunbury	1,229	1,273	44	3.6
Busselton	243	244	1	0.4
Cannington	967	1,090	123	12.7
Carnarvon	270	291	21	7.8
Cocos Islands	43	43	0	%
Collie	2	1	-1	%
Community Team Perth	73	74	1	%
Curtin on Campus SSC	48	27	-21	%
Esperance	246	254	8	3.3
Fremantle	951	1,042	91	9.6
Fremantle SACC	2	2	0	%
Fremantle SSC	32	14	-18	%
Geraldton	1,041	1,090	49	4.7
Gosnells	670	734	64	9.6
Innaloo	946	1,026	80	8.5
Joondalup	907	996	89	9.8
Joondalup SACC	2	2	0	%
Joondalup SSC	36	13	-23	%
Kalgoorlie	509	546	37	7.3
Karratha	256	253	-3	-1.2
Laverton RASC	59	58	-1	%
Mandurah	821	869	48	5.8
Meekatharra RASC	150	149	-1	-0.7
Midland	1,460	1,493	33	2.3
Mirrabooka	1,218	1,318	100	8.2
Morley	1,118	1,236	118	10.6
Morley - Dewar Street	4	5	1	%
Morley SSC	20	5	-15	%
Newman RASC	151	150	-1	-0.7
Northam	417	435	18	4.3
Rockingham	1,055	1,154	99	9.4
South Hedland	385	393	8	2.1
Spearwood	601	673	72	12.0
Victoria Park	1,111	1,175	64	5.8
Warwick Grove	488	540	52	10.7
Other (a)	52	46	-6	%
Total	18,938	20,184	1,246	6.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	592	604	12	2.0
Burnie	1,381	1,417	36	2.6
Devonport	1,569	1,558	-11	-0.7
Glenorchy	1,692	1,773	81	4.8
Hobart	1,255	1,313	58	4.6
Huonville	441	446	5	1.1
Launceston	3,047	3,178	131	4.3
Mowbray	4	9	5	%
Rosny Park	973	986	13	1.3
Sorell	483	485	2	0.4
Other (a)	59	60	1	%
Total	11,496	11,829	333	2.9
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	2,985	2,999	14	0.5
Borroloola RASC	41	38	-3	%
Broome	373	380	7	1.9
Casuarina	795	826	31	3.9
Derby	125	135	10	8.0
Fitzroy Crossing RASC	49	56	7	%
Halls Creek RASC	146	168	22	15.1
Katherine	1,422	1,458	36	2.5
Knuckey Street	451	485	34	7.5
Kununurra	214	219	5	2.3
Maningrida	408	401	-7	-1.7
Nhulunbuy	663	748	85	12.8
Palmerston	718	742	24	3.3
Tangentyere	151	152	1	0.7
Tennant Creek	141	153	12	8.5
Tennant Creek Remote	109	102	-7	-6.4
Tiwi Islands RASC	191	198	7	3.7
Top End Remote	1,129	1,098	-31	-2.7
Wadeye RASC	396	371	-25	-6.3
Yuendumu RASC	157	166	9	5.7
Other (a)	30	26	-4	%
Total	10,694	10,921	227	2.1

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>	December 2007	January 2008	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	886	941	55	6.2
Beaudesert	288	310	22	7.6
Biggera Waters	1,057	1,152	95	9.0
Bourke	450	461	11	2.4
Brunswick Heads	493	530	37	7.5
Byron Bay	466	501	35	7.5
Casino	557	605	48	8.6
Coffs Harbour	2,362	2,521	159	6.7
Grafton	1,469	1,577	108	7.4
Lightning Ridge	172	178	6	3.5
Lismore	1,678	1,835	157	9.4
Maclean	0	0	0	%
Moree	505	547	42	8.3
Murwillumbah	484	521	37	7.6
Narrabri	411	421	10	2.4
Nerang	1,125	1,183	58	5.2
Palm Beach	1,452	1,557	105	7.2
Robina SCR	4	3	-1	%
Southport	1,576	1,662	86	5.5
Tweed Heads	1,109	1,202	93	8.4
Walgett	261	272	11	4.2
Other (a)	25	22	-3	%
Total	16,830	18,001	1,171	7.0
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres (b)	33	35	2	%
Not coded to an area	16	17	1	%
Rounding adjustment (c)	-53	-52	1	%
AUSTRALIA	302,027	322,051	20,024	6.6

(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 18 JANUARY 2008**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	87.7	84.2	85.9
Earned an income	12.3	15.8	14.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.7	0.9	0.8
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.0	2.6	2.3
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.2	2.8	2.5
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.6	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	5.9	7.4	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	93,340	101,092	194,432
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	79.0	74.5	76.4
Earned an income	21.0	25.5	23.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	1.0	1.3	1.2
\$62.01-\$142.00	3.1	3.4	3.3
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.4	4.0	3.7
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.5	3.0	2.8
Over \$316.00	11.0	13.7	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	53,625	75,441	129,066
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	84.6	80.1	82.1
Earned an income	15.4	19.9	17.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.8	1.1	0.9
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.4	3.0	2.7
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.6	3.3	3.0
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	7.7	10.1	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	146,965	176,533	323,498

(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.

<i>Seasonal adjustment</i>	The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The DEEWR 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 63 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 interview survey of occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.5% of the total Australian population. These persons are interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained is based on the week before the interview takes place.
<i>Treatment of partners</i>	The ABS series includes unemployed persons whose spouse is working, irrespective of income, whereas Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients are subject to an income and assets test for themselves and their spouse.
<i>Pensioners</i>	The ABS series includes persons being paid a pension but looking for work (eg. sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour market information

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

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

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

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

Director
Income Support Information Section
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9879
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3328.

Other recipient information

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

Other statistical outputs

The following statistical outputs are available on request:

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