

# 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](mailto:media@deewr.gov.au). For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 24 February 2010.

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – December 2009

### Between December 2008 and December 2009

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 27.3 per cent** overall from 528 271 to 672 424.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 27.6 per cent from 453 485 to 578 449.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased 25.7 per cent from 74 786 to 93 975.

The number of job seekers **increased 19.1 per cent** overall from 317 394 to 377 862.

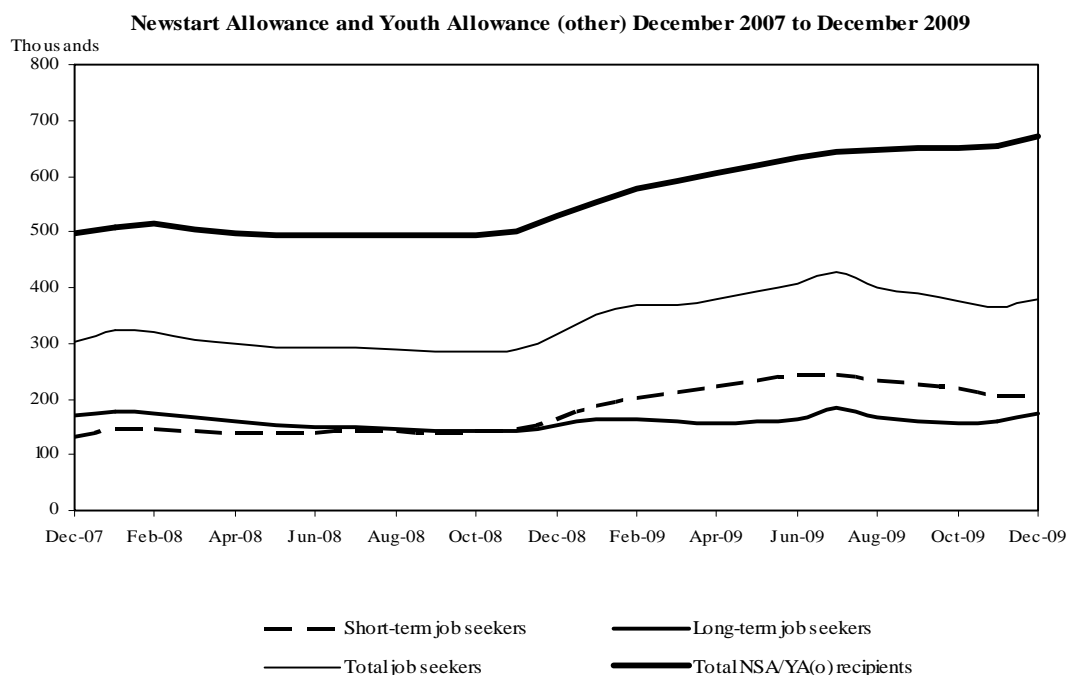
- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 22.5 per cent from 257 366 to 315 380.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers increased 4.1 per cent from 60 028 to 62 482.

Long-term job seekers increased 12.5 per cent from 154 285 to 173 506.

Short-term job seekers increased 25.3 per cent from 163 109 to 204 356.

NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes). This change does not affect overall recipient numbers.

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



**TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES**

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices			
February 1994	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..	..
December 2007	264,127	428,962	69,320	215,158	3,956	2,868	43,997	41,400
January 2008	266,199	437,918	69,709	206,509	3,746	2,518	43,434	41,297
February 2008	266,368	443,916	69,728	213,384	3,897	2,149	42,512	41,014
March 2008	263,759	438,786	65,889	227,301	4,094	1,797	41,528	40,729
April 2008	260,541	433,674	63,680	236,930	4,274	1,503	40,708	40,503
May 2008	257,363	429,363	63,395	245,421	4,419	1,166	39,804	40,124
June 2008	255,550	428,896	63,972	252,180	4,444	856	38,915	39,702
July 2008	254,723	429,989	65,514	248,493	4,402	586	38,109	39,321
August 2008	253,131	429,459	63,347	254,853	4,256	307	37,226	38,946
September 2008	251,987	429,426	62,832	258,973	4,018	47	36,411	38,640
October 2008	251,529	431,546	62,227	259,337	3,882	0	35,572	38,375
November 2008	251,170	437,270	64,053	247,471	3,683	0	34,733	38,142
December 2008	254,327	453,485	74,786	218,371	3,665	0	34,011	37,989
January 2009	258,403	475,183	76,613	208,624	3,506	0	33,234	37,753
February 2009	261,232	498,020	78,868	218,999	3,570	0	32,480	37,561
March 2009	262,162	514,265	78,259	238,274	3,707	0	31,802	37,364
April 2009	262,468	527,686	78,441	253,363	3,815	0	31,171	37,128
May 2009	264,337	540,729	79,787	264,591	3,873	0	30,423	36,847
June 2009	266,942	551,067	81,783	274,033	3,987	0	29,691	36,549
July 2009	270,978	559,577	84,064	272,840	4,051	0	29,218	36,442
August 2009	275,407	564,601	82,320	283,248	4,048	0	28,971	36,585
September 2009	280,138	567,815	82,612	287,783	4,073	0	28,665	36,360
October 2009	284,906	569,785	82,051	286,678	3,970	0	28,269	35,975
November 2009	291,114	570,291	83,725	273,497	3,874	0	28,039	36,007
December 2009	300,955	578,449	93,975	242,318	3,848	0	27,838	36,056
<i>Variation November 2009 - December 2009</i>								
Number	9,841	8,158	10,250	-31,179	-26	0	-201	49
Per cent	3.4	1.4	12.2	-11.4	-0.7	0.0	-0.7	0.1

## Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

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

	November 2009	December 2009			Variation November - December	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Percent
<b>Short-term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>279,177</b>	<b>182,075</b>	<b>95,419</b>	<b>277,494</b>	<b>-1,683</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
CPS recipients (a)	1,656	1,132	461	1,593	-63	-3.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	17,008	10,739	6,675	17,414	406	2.4
Received a payment	260,513	170,204	88,283	258,487	-2,026	-0.8
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,343	2,203	4,114	6,317	-26	-0.4
Other activities without job search (d)	41,059	24,874	14,596	39,470	-1,589	-3.9
Incapacitated (e)	20,982	12,846	8,806	21,652	670	3.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	16,347	9,727	6,801	16,528	181	1.1
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>175,782</b>	<b>120,554</b>	<b>53,966</b>	<b>174,520</b>	<b>-1,262</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>26,146</i>	<i>14,782</i>	<i>9,411</i>	<i>24,193</i>	<i>-1,953</i>	<i>-7.5</i>
<b>Long-term Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>291,114</b>	<b>173,062</b>	<b>127,893</b>	<b>300,955</b>	<b>9,841</b>	<b>3.4</b>
CPS recipients (a)	4,272	2,884	1,280	4,164	-108	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,904	5,230	5,272	10,502	598	6.0
Received a payment	276,938	164,948	121,341	286,289	9,351	3.4
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	19,535	8,253	11,760	20,013	478	2.4
Other activities without job search (d)	74,737	42,354	31,849	74,203	-534	-0.7
Incapacitated (e)	23,015	13,194	11,280	24,474	1,459	6.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	26,579	15,016	11,723	26,739	160	0.6
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>133,072</b>	<b>86,131</b>	<b>54,729</b>	<b>140,860</b>	<b>7,788</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>50,759</i>	<i>26,848</i>	<i>20,980</i>	<i>47,828</i>	<i>-2,931</i>	<i>-5.8</i>
<b>All Newstart Allowees</b>	<b>570,291</b>	<b>355,137</b>	<b>223,312</b>	<b>578,449</b>	<b>8,158</b>	<b>1.4</b>
CPS recipients (a)	5,928	4,016	1,741	5,757	-171	-2.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	26,912	15,969	11,947	27,916	1,004	3.7
Received a payment	537,451	335,152	209,624	544,776	7,325	1.4
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	25,878	10,456	15,874	26,330	452	1.7
Other activities without job search (d)	115,796	67,228	46,445	113,673	-2,123	-1.8
Incapacitated (e)	43,997	26,040	20,086	46,126	2,129	4.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	42,926	24,743	18,524	43,267	341	0.8
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>308,854</b>	<b>206,685</b>	<b>108,695</b>	<b>315,380</b>	<b>6,526</b>	<b>2.1</b>
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>76,905</i>	<i>41,630</i>	<i>30,391</i>	<i>72,021</i>	<i>-4,884</i>	<i>-6.4</i>

(a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

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

(c) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.

(d) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(f) Other allowees who are known not to have participation requirements.

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

(h) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

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

– From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report. Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity.

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

	November 2009	December 2009			Variation November - December	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Percent
<b>Short-term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>44,621</b>	<b>25,989</b>	<b>20,793</b>	<b>46,782</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>4.8</b>
CPS recipients (a)	555	339	156	495	-60	-10.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,066	572	540	1,112	46	4.3
Received a payment	43,000	25,078	20,097	45,175	2,175	5.1
Other activities without job search (c)	8,310	6,294	4,878	11,172	2,862	34.4
Incapacitated (d)	1,842	947	1,052	1,999	157	8.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,866	1,000	1,168	2,168	302	16.2
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>30,982</b>	<b>16,837</b>	<b>12,999</b>	<b>29,836</b>	<b>-1,146</b>	<b>-3.7</b>
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>5,914</i>	<i>3,181</i>	<i>2,740</i>	<i>5,921</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>0.1</i>
<b>Long-term Youth Allowees</b>	<b>39,104</b>	<b>23,509</b>	<b>23,684</b>	<b>47,193</b>	<b>8,089</b>	<b>20.7</b>
CPS recipients (a)	486	298	176	474	-12	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,021	523	653	1,176	155	15.2
Received a payment	37,597	22,688	22,855	45,543	7,946	21.1
Other activities without job search (c)	8,395	4,931	4,863	9,794	1,399	16.7
Incapacitated (d)	1,437	671	886	1,557	120	8.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,422	616	930	1,546	124	8.7
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>26,343</b>	<b>16,470</b>	<b>16,176</b>	<b>32,646</b>	<b>6,303</b>	<b>23.9</b>
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>6,667</i>	<i>3,302</i>	<i>3,280</i>	<i>6,582</i>	<i>-85</i>	<i>-1.3</i>
<b>All YA Youth Allowees</b>	<b>83,725</b>	<b>49,498</b>	<b>44,477</b>	<b>93,975</b>	<b>10,250</b>	<b>12.2</b>
CPS recipients (a)	1,041	637	332	969	-72	-6.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,087	1,095	1,193	2,288	201	9.6
Received a payment	80,597	47,766	42,952	90,718	10,121	12.6
Other activities without job search (c)	16,705	11,225	9,741	20,966	4,261	25.5
Incapacitated (d)	3,279	1,618	1,938	3,556	277	8.4
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	3,288	1,616	2,098	3,714	426	13.0
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>57,325</b>	<b>33,307</b>	<b>29,175</b>	<b>62,482</b>	<b>5,157</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>12,581</i>	<i>6,483</i>	<i>6,020</i>	<i>12,503</i>	<i>-78</i>	<i>-0.6</i>

(a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

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

(c) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(e) Other allowees who are known not to have participation requirements.

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

(g) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

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

– From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report. Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity.

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

	<b>Short-term</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	<b>Total</b>
December 2007	132,454	169,573	302,027
January 2008	145,046	177,005	322,051
February 2008	147,610	173,316	320,926
March 2008	141,568	165,748	307,316
April 2008	139,811	160,030	299,841
May 2008	138,808	154,313	293,121
June 2008	140,066	150,517	290,583
July 2008	143,050	150,831	293,881
August 2008	141,458	146,533	287,991
September 2008	140,447	143,357	283,804
October 2008	142,254	142,368	284,622
November 2008	146,670	141,488	288,158
December 2008	163,109	154,285	317,394
January 2009	186,990	164,229	351,219
February 2009	203,173	164,752	367,925
March 2009	210,786	159,449	370,235
April 2009	221,803	157,339	379,142
May 2009	232,629	158,978	391,607
June 2009	242,074	163,434	405,508
July 2009	243,712	183,825	427,537
August 2009	233,763	165,809	399,572
September 2009	227,562	160,299	387,861
October 2009	217,943	158,014	375,957
November 2009	206,764	159,415	366,179
December 2009	204,356	173,506	377,862
<i>Variation November 2009 - December 2009</i>			
Number	-2,408	14,091	11,683
Per cent	-1.2	8.8	3.2

**NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes).**

Notes:

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

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

<i>State</i>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	66,167	65,197	-970	-1.5
Victoria	45,158	44,922	-236	-0.5
Queensland	50,695	50,734	39	0.1
South Australia	13,879	13,413	-466	-3.4
Western Australia	20,639	19,980	-659	-3.2
Tasmania	5,721	5,517	-204	-3.6
Northern Territory	2,912	2,968	56	1.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,593	1,625	32	2.0
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>206,764</b>	<b>204,356</b>	<b>-2,408</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	57,948	62,297	4,349	7.5
Victoria	35,734	39,747	4,013	11.2
Queensland	29,146	32,644	3,498	12.0
South Australia	13,543	14,473	930	6.9
Western Australia	11,425	12,125	700	6.1
Tasmania	6,204	6,683	479	7.7
Northern Territory	4,051	4,102	51	1.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,364	1,435	71	5.2
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>159,415</b>	<b>173,506</b>	<b>14,091</b>	<b>8.8</b>
<b>TOTAL JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	124,115	127,494	3,379	2.7
Victoria	80,892	84,669	3,777	4.7
Queensland	79,841	83,378	3,537	4.4
South Australia	27,422	27,886	464	1.7
Western Australia	32,064	32,105	41	0.1
Tasmania	11,925	12,200	275	2.3
Northern Territory	6,963	7,070	107	1.5
Australian Capital Territory	2,957	3,060	103	3.5
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>366,179</b>	<b>377,862</b>	<b>11,683</b>	<b>3.2</b>

Notes:

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

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

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
<b>MALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	3,786	2.8	3,101	3.0	6,887	2.9
18 - 20 years	13,050	9.5	13,368	13.0	26,418	11.0
21 - 24 years	24,336	17.7	14,813	14.4	39,149	16.3
25 - 29 years	22,581	16.4	14,604	14.2	37,185	15.5
30 - 39 years	32,578	23.7	22,848	22.3	55,426	23.1
40 - 49 years	22,284	16.2	17,124	16.7	39,408	16.4
50 - 59 years	13,937	10.1	11,788	11.5	25,725	10.7
60 years and over	4,840	3.5	4,957	4.8	9,797	4.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>137,392</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>102,603</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>239,995</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	3,585	5.4	3,191	4.5	6,776	4.9
18 - 20 years	9,414	14.1	12,984	18.3	22,398	16.2
21 - 24 years	12,671	18.9	10,258	14.5	22,929	16.6
25 - 29 years	8,261	12.3	6,759	9.5	15,020	10.9
30 - 39 years	10,574	15.8	11,408	16.1	21,982	15.9
40 - 49 years	11,509	17.2	13,930	19.6	25,439	18.5
50 - 59 years	8,735	13.0	9,901	14.0	18,636	13.5
60 years and over	2,215	3.3	2,472	3.5	4,687	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,964</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70,903</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>137,867</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	7,371	3.6	6,292	3.6	13,663	3.6
18 - 20 years	22,464	11.0	26,352	15.2	48,816	12.9
21 - 24 years	37,007	18.1	25,071	14.4	62,078	16.4
25 - 29 years	30,842	15.1	21,363	12.3	52,205	13.8
30 - 39 years	43,152	21.1	34,256	19.7	77,408	20.5
40 - 49 years	33,793	16.5	31,054	17.9	64,847	17.2
50 - 59 years	22,672	11.1	21,689	12.5	44,361	11.7
60 years and over	7,055	3.5	7,429	4.3	14,484	3.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>204,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>173,506</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>377,862</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes:

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

**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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Bankstown	3,801	3,889	88	2.3
Bondi Junction	1,402	1,423	21	1.5
Burwood	1,748	1,834	86	4.9
Campsie	2,284	2,299	15	0.7
Caringbah	1,139	1,167	28	2.5
Chatswood	1,235	1,216	-19	-1.5
Corrimal	1,250	1,264	14	1.1
Dapto	1,407	1,441	34	2.4
Darlinghurst	1,775	1,748	-27	-1.5
Darlinghurst CCU	66	67	%	%
Hornsby	1,153	1,202	49	4.2
Hurstville	1,618	1,670	52	3.2
Lakemba	29	31	%	%
Leichhardt	1,489	1,518	29	1.9
Maroubra	1,498	1,506	8	0.5
Marrickville	1,526	1,542	16	1.0
Northern Beaches	1,609	1,647	38	2.4
Redfern	1,392	1,428	36	2.6
Rockdale	1,549	1,578	29	1.9
Ryde	1,127	1,161	34	3.0
Shellharbour	1,684	1,724	40	2.4
Sutherland	754	809	55	7.3
Wollongong	1,418	1,447	29	2.0
Other (a)	22	25	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,975</b>	<b>33,636</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>2.0</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Auburn	2,096	2,144	48	2.3
Baulkham Hills	978	1,044	66	6.7
Blacktown	3,277	3,328	51	1.6
Cabramatta	2,136	2,135	-1	0.0
Camden	688	693	5	0.7
Campbelltown	2,290	2,391	101	4.4
Fairfield	3,127	3,156	29	0.9
Hawkesbury	955	963	8	0.8
Ingleburn	1,419	1,441	22	1.6
Katoomba	742	780	38	5.1
Liverpool	3,831	3,798	-33	-0.9
Merrylands	2,002	1,993	-9	-0.4
Mt Druitt	2,908	2,886	-22	-0.8
Parramatta	2,250	2,338	88	3.9
Penrith	1,823	1,837	14	0.8
Springwood	353	372	19	5.4
St Marys	1,657	1,617	-40	-2.4
Other (a)	15	14	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,547</b>	<b>32,930</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>1.2</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Armidale	837	933	96	11.5
Cessnock	748	743	-5	-0.7
Charlestown	1,988	2,094	106	5.3
Comm Support Team	50	50	%	%
Ettalong	771	774	3	0.4
Forster	911	932	21	2.3
Glen Innes	277	273	-4	-1.4
Gosford	1,694	1,763	69	4.1
Gunnedah	412	420	8	1.9
Inverell	668	716	48	7.2
Kempsey	943	959	16	1.7
King Street	1,245	1,432	187	15.0
Kurri Kurri	451	453	2	0.4
Lakehaven	1,658	1,669	11	0.7
Maitland	1,540	1,564	24	1.6
Mayfield	842	921	79	9.4
Muswellbrook	543	573	30	5.5
Nambucca Heads	718	782	64	8.9
Nelson Bay	517	526	9	1.7
Port Macquarie	1,583	1,710	127	8.0
Raymond Terrace	1,125	1,122	-3	-0.3
Singleton	286	292	6	2.1
Tamworth	1,604	1,653	49	3.1
Taree	1,684	1,694	10	0.6
The Entrance	1,348	1,393	45	3.3
Toronto	950	1,010	60	6.3
Wallsend	1,395	1,482	87	6.2
Woy Woy	487	480	-7	-1.4
Wyong	774	840	66	8.5
Other (a)	18	16	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,067</b>	<b>29,269</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>4.3</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Batemans Bay	731	742	11	1.5
Bathurst	850	913	63	7.4
Bega	652	694	42	6.4
Belconnen	887	915	28	3.2
Bowral	510	544	34	6.7
Braddon	807	821	14	1.7
Cooma	341	334	-7	-2.1
Cowra	485	505	20	4.1
Dubbo	1,999	2,036	37	1.9
Goulburn	560	585	25	4.5
Griffith	661	674	13	2.0
Gungahlin	104	123	19	18.3
Lanyon	28	33	%	%
Leeton	389	392	3	0.8
Lithgow	511	529	18	3.5
Mudgee	557	578	21	3.8
Narooma	348	348	0	0.0
Nowra	2,063	2,112	49	2.4
Orange	1,000	1,040	40	4.0
Parkes	930	967	37	4.0
Queanbeyan	399	407	8	2.0
Tuggeranong	658	661	3	0.5
Tumut	302	296	-6	-2.0
Ulladulla	484	493	9	1.9
Wagga	1,383	1,468	85	6.1
Woden	437	458	21	4.8
Yass	91	97	%	%
Young	444	460	16	3.6
Other (a)	13	20	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,624</b>	<b>19,245</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>3.3</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i></b>				
Airport West	1,051	1,144	93	8.8
Albury	2,142	2,240	98	4.6
Box Hill	1,815	1,867	52	2.9
Broadmeadows	3,452	3,632	180	5.2
Camberwell	819	866	47	5.7
Darebin	2,675	2,823	148	5.5
Deniliquin	309	312	3	1.0
Echuca	498	533	35	7.0
Epping	1,839	1,965	126	6.9
Heidelberg	1,648	1,764	116	7.0
Moreland	2,111	2,288	177	8.4
Newmarket	1,349	1,456	107	7.9
Seymour	566	600	34	6.0
Shepparton	1,980	2,119	139	7.0
Sth Melbourne	702	762	60	8.5
Sunbury	762	803	41	5.4
Wangaratta	1,288	1,350	62	4.8
Windsor Vic	2,197	2,322	125	5.7
Yarra	1,723	1,857	134	7.8
Other (a)	14	19	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,940</b>	<b>30,722</b>	<b>1,782</b>	<b>6.2</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i></b>				
Bairnsdale	772	783	11	1.4
Belgrave	477	497	20	4.2
Cheltenham	1,637	1,709	72	4.4
Cranbourne	1,311	1,390	79	6.0
Dandenong	2,327	2,426	99	4.3
Fountain Gate	1,904	1,969	65	3.4
Frankston	2,470	2,489	19	0.8
Glen Waverley	1,020	1,052	32	3.1
Hastings	523	561	38	7.3
Lilydale	1,290	1,347	57	4.4
Mornington	425	476	51	12.0
Morwell	2,213	2,297	84	3.8
Oakleigh	1,602	1,665	63	3.9
Pakenham	665	686	21	3.2
Ringwood	1,644	1,712	68	4.1
Rosebud	807	816	9	1.1
Rowville	445	471	26	5.8
Sale	740	775	35	4.7
Springvale	1,911	1,982	71	3.7
Wantirna	1,162	1,246	84	7.2
Warragul	518	523	5	1.0
Wonthaggi	540	557	17	3.1
Other (a)	10	13	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,413</b>	<b>27,442</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>3.9</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>WEST VICTORIA</b>				
Ararat	209	228	19	9.1
Bendigo Central	395	478	83	21.0
Ballarat	2,510	2,655	145	5.8
Bendigo	2,248	2,290	42	1.9
Colac	483	501	18	3.7
Corio	1,495	1,543	48	3.2
Footscray	1,343	1,411	68	5.1
Geelong	2,636	2,791	155	5.9
Hamilton	329	334	5	1.5
Horsham	578	565	-13	-2.2
Maryborough	420	422	2	0.5
Melton	1,380	1,425	45	3.3
Mildura	1,741	1,822	81	4.7
Newport	1,041	1,073	32	3.1
Portland	391	388	-3	-0.8
Stawell	180	187	7	3.9
Sunshine	2,606	2,757	151	5.8
Swan Hill	825	813	-12	-1.5
Warrnambool	730	767	37	5.1
Watergardens	3,081	3,122	41	1.3
Werribee	2,952	3,029	77	2.6
Other (a)	25	22	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,598</b>	<b>28,623</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>3.7</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>CENTRAL &amp; NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Atherton	789	765	-24	-3.0
Ayr	334	386	52	15.6
Biloela	159	170	11	6.9
Bowen	327	361	34	10.4
Cairns Ems	4,251	4,382	131	3.1
Charters Towers	364	360	-4	-1.1
Emerald	323	340	17	5.3
Gladstone	1,083	1,082	-1	-0.1
Indigenous Service Centre	810	816	6	0.7
Ingham	272	323	51	18.8
Innisfail	866	891	25	2.9
Longreach	87	95	%	%
Mackay Employment	1,405	1,491	86	6.1
Mareeba	644	613	-31	-4.8
Mossman	521	523	2	0.4
Mt Isa	749	771	22	2.9
Normanton	102	119	17	16.7
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	57	69	%	%
Palm Island	167	169	2	1.2
Rockhampton	1,993	2,013	20	1.0
Students Area CNQ	67	155	%	%
Thursday Is	253	267	14	5.5
Townsville	3,266	3,457	191	5.8
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	307	331	24	7.8
Whitsunday	446	472	26	5.8
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	508	476	-32	-6.3
Yeppoon	450	465	15	3.3
Other (a)	64	63	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,664</b>	<b>21,425</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>3.7</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH &amp; EAST QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Bundaberg	2,837	3,002	165	5.8
Caboolture	2,598	2,755	157	6.0
Caloundra	1,287	1,392	105	8.2
Cherbourg	238	238	0	0.0
Chermside	1,126	1,168	42	3.7
Deception Bay	643	657	14	2.2
Fortitude Valley	1,147	1,250	103	9.0
Gympie	1,139	1,222	83	7.3
Hervey Bay	1,605	1,700	95	5.9
Kawana Waters	587	629	42	7.2
Kingaroy	611	627	16	2.6
Kippa-ring	1,150	1,172	22	1.9
Maroochydore	1,623	1,695	72	4.4
Maryborough	1,154	1,228	74	6.4
Mitchelton	1,092	1,175	83	7.6
Nambour	1,073	1,140	67	6.2
Noosa	1,050	1,105	55	5.2
Nundah	1,197	1,236	39	3.3
Strathpine	1,455	1,461	6	0.4
Toowong	903	1,052	149	16.5
Other (a)	6	8	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,521</b>	<b>25,912</b>	<b>1,391</b>	<b>5.7</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH &amp; WEST QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Beenleigh	2,248	2,278	30	1.3
Browns Plains	1,827	1,885	58	3.2
Capalaba	797	822	25	3.1
Charleville	202	196	-6	-3.0
Cleveland	927	951	24	2.6
Dalby	483	499	16	3.3
Goodna	1,631	1,709	78	4.8
Goondiwindi	331	336	5	1.5
Inala	1,745	1,800	55	3.2
Ipswich	2,559	2,633	74	2.9
Mt Gravatt	2,007	2,168	161	8.0
Roma	150	140	-10	-6.7
South Brisbane	915	978	63	6.9
Stanthorpe	455	467	12	2.6
Stones Corner	1,637	1,781	144	8.8
Toowoomba	2,393	2,468	75	3.1
Warwick	455	472	17	3.7
Woodridge	2,062	2,124	62	3.0
Wynnum	968	999	31	3.2
Other (a)	9	14	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,801</b>	<b>24,720</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>3.9</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></b>				
Berri	858	870	12	1.4
Broken Hill	775	809	34	4.4
Ceduna	276	279	3	1.1
Cooper Pedy	163	179	16	9.8
Elizabeth	2,269	2,242	-27	-1.2
Enfield	1,397	1,435	38	2.7
Gawler	1,072	1,093	21	2.0
Glenelg	740	787	47	6.4
Kadina	595	593	-2	-0.3
Kilkenny	1,460	1,414	-46	-3.2
Marion	2,002	2,106	104	5.2
Modbury	1,535	1,579	44	2.9
Mt Barker	538	556	18	3.3
Mt Gambier	1,131	1,127	-4	-0.4
Murray Bridge	757	796	39	5.2
Noarlunga	2,362	2,366	4	0.2
Norwood	1,656	1,715	59	3.6
Port Adelaide	1,331	1,352	21	1.6
Port Augusta	692	706	14	2.0
Port Lincoln	561	562	1	0.2
Port Pirie	838	832	-6	-0.7
Salisbury	2,354	2,366	12	0.5
Torrens ville	1,289	1,387	98	7.6
Victor Harbor	601	610	9	1.5
Whyalla	800	817	17	2.1
Other (a)	28	26	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,080</b>	<b>28,604</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>1.9</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>WEST AUSTRALIA</b>				
Albany	909	918	9	1.0
Armadale	1,319	1,368	49	3.7
Bunbury	1,807	1,812	5	0.3
Busselton	675	644	-31	-4.6
Cannington	1,875	1,857	-18	-1.0
Carnarvon	269	286	17	6.3
Cocos Islands	25	<20	na	na
Community Team	53	45	%	%
Esperance	267	259	-8	-3.0
Fremantle	1,467	1,479	12	0.8
Geraldton	1,261	1,241	-20	-1.6
Gosnells	1,309	1,327	18	1.4
Innaloo	1,420	1,449	29	2.0
Joondalup	1,837	1,888	51	2.8
Kalgoorlie	821	793	-28	-3.4
Karratha	313	332	19	6.1
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	68	63	%	%
Mandurah	1,531	1,540	9	0.6
Meekatharra	172	163	-9	-5.2
Midland	2,274	2,127	-147	-6.5
Mirrabooka	1,927	1,994	67	3.5
Morley	1,928	1,881	-47	-2.4
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	130	122	-8	-6.2
Northam	553	579	26	4.7
Rockingham	2,014	1,954	-60	-3.0
South Hedland	405	410	5	1.2
Spearwood	1,244	1,255	11	0.9
Victoria Park	2,023	2,075	52	2.6
Warwick Grove	893	910	17	1.9
Other (a)	90	na	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,879</b>	<b>30,870</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>0.0</b>

– 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>TASMANIA</b>				
Bridgewater	776	800	24	3.1
Burnie	1,561	1,618	57	3.7
Devonport	1,557	1,566	9	0.6
Glenorchy	1,494	1,493	-1	-0.1
Hobart	1,274	1,334	60	4.7
Huonville	422	405	-17	-4.0
Launceston	3,326	3,476	150	4.5
Rosny Park	919	902	-17	-1.8
Sorell	538	531	-7	-1.3
Other (a)	38	51	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,905</b>	<b>12,176</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>NORTH AUSTRALIA</b>				
Alice Springs	1,680	542	-1,138	-67.7
Borrooloola	35	41	%	%
Broome	525	542	17	3.2
Casuarina	800	744	-56	-7.0
Central Australia RST	462	1,621	1,159	250.9
Derby	143	152	9	6.3
Fitzroy Crossing	55	56	%	%
Halls Creek	190	192	2	1.1
Katherine	812	391	-421	-51.8
Knuckey Street	408	424	16	3.9
Kununurra	290	315	25	8.6
Maningrida	239	242	3	1.3
Nhulunbuy	220	25	%	%
North Australia	446	<20	na	na
Palmerston	790	779	-11	-1.4
Tangentyere	51	68	%	%
Tennant Ck Remote	28	<20	na	na
Tennant Creek	193	176	-17	-8.8
Tiwi Islands	147	151	4	2.7
Top End Hub	445	1,657	1,212	272.4
Wadeye	199	207	8	4.0
Yuendumu	56	81	%	%
Other (a)	21	12	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,235</b>	<b>8,420</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>2.2</b>

-- 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>	November 2009	December 2009	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i></b>				
APC Community Team	40	36	%	%
Ballina	913	936	23	2.5
Beaudesert	553	599	46	8.3
Biggera Waters	2,450	2,487	37	1.5
Bourke	476	478	2	0.4
Brunswick Heads	590	615	25	4.2
Byron Bay	583	599	16	2.7
Casino	614	623	9	1.5
Coffs Harbour	2,194	2,219	25	1.1
Grafton	1,345	1,376	31	2.3
Lightning Ridge	179	192	13	7.3
Lismore	1,592	1,716	124	7.8
Moree	516	564	48	9.3
Murwillumbah	592	637	45	7.6
Narrabri	296	320	24	8.1
Nerang	2,453	2,566	113	4.6
Palm Beach	2,788	2,919	131	4.7
Southport	2,809	2,906	97	3.5
Tweed Heads	1,737	1,861	124	7.1
Walgett	227	234	7	3.1
Other (a)	22	19	%	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,969</b>	<b>23,902</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>4.1</b>
<b><i>OTHER</i></b>				
Centrelink Call Centres	3	3	%	%
Not Coded To An Area	8	5	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-50	-42	%	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>366,179</b>	<b>377,862</b>	<b>11,683</b>	<b>3.2</b>

(a) Job seekers who are not allocated to any of the reported offices.

Notes:

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

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)  
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 18 DECEMBER 2009**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.5	84.2	85.0
Earned an income	14.5	15.8	15.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.8	2.1	1.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	2.7	2.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.7	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	8.1	8.2	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>137,215</b>	<b>103,527</b>	<b>240,742</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	75.9	73.7	74.8
Earned an income	24.1	26.3	25.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.8	3.0	2.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.6	3.8	3.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.8	3.0	2.9
Over \$316.00	14.1	15.4	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>67,350</b>	<b>71,827</b>	<b>139,177</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	82.4	79.9	81.2
Earned an income	17.6	20.1	18.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.1	2.5	2.3
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.7	3.2	2.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.1	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	10.1	11.2	10.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<b>204,565</b>	<b>175,354</b>	<b>379,919</b>

Notes:

## 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 numbers 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. 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 2009 young people under 21 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

Job seekers already in receipt of Youth Allowance before 1 July 2009 who do not have Year 12 or an equivalent qualification will transition to the new requirements between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010.

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

*Job Search Allowance*

From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance (see *Newstart Allowance*). All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.

Prior to 20 October 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. It was also payable to eligible persons who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and under 18 years of age at 31 December 1994. Persons aged 15 to 18 years who were not receiving Job Search Allowance prior to 1 January 1995 commenced on Youth Training Allowance.

*Sickness Allowance*

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

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.

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*).

*Partner Allowance*

From 20 October 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.

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.

Partner Allowance was introduced in October 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

*Youth Training Allowance*

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

From 1 January 1995, eligible persons aged under 18 years who were new entrants to the job search pool were paid Youth Training Allowance. (People who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 years at 31 December 1994 continued to be paid Job Search Allowance. From 20 October 1996, those young persons still being paid Job Search Allowance were transferred to Newstart Allowance.)

*Widow Allowance*

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

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.

*Mature Age Allowance*

From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008 .

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 October 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 October 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 Recipients* From July 2002, the number of people receiving labour market and related payments reports recipients who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment. These recipients are otherwise known as ‘current’ recipients.

Revised historical data (using this methodology) from May 1998 to June 2002 is in the July 2002 publication.

Due to improved data sources, data from July 2003 has slight differences from the recipient numbers used in previous editions.

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a ‘one-off’ payment were excluded. One-off payments can occur, for instance, when a normal payment is interrupted (eg. payment is cancelled and then restored within that pay period) and a portion of the normal payment is paid.

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

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

A pre and post July 1998 comparison will reflect 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).

*Job seekers* From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report.

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

From July 1998, the definition of job seekers excludes all people

who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, parental income, and all those known not to be required to search for work.

Before July 1998, job seekers excluded allowees who did not receive a payment, allowees who were incapacitated, and allowees who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to search for work were classified as job seekers, including people undertaking full-time voluntary work, people on jury duty and pregnant women around the time of the birth of their child.

*Duration*

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

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

*Closure of Mature Age and Partner Allowances*

From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance and Partner Allowance were closed to new claimants. and payments of Mature Age Allowance ceased in October 2008. People on these allowances before 20 October 2003 can remain on that allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance. The majority of people who would previously have claimed these payments will now claim Newstart Allowance.

**Symbols**

n.a. not available  
.. not applicable

## GLOSSARY

<b>Activity test status</b>	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
<b>Age</b>	Age in years at time of data collection.
<b>Area Support Office</b>	A Centrelink office that supports a set of Customer Service Centres for a specified area. These are generally not confined to State boundaries.
<b>Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)</b>	The CDEP program is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.
<b>CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)</b>	The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.
<b>Customer Service Centre</b>	A Customer Service Centre set within a particular region that provides FaHCSIA, DEEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Customer Service Centres are managed by Area Support Offices.
<b>Did not receive a payment</b>	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero paid'.
<b>Fortnightly earnings</b>	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
<b>Incapacitated</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.
<b>Job seeker</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
<b>Job Search Allowance (JSA)</b>	Up to 20 October 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service for up to 12 months. From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.

<b>Long-term recipients</b>	Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
<b>Mature Age Allowance (MAA)</b>	<p>From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008.</p> <p>Mature Age Allowance was a payment for unemployed people aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) with little or no recent workforce experience. These people were not required to look for work to be eligible for the payment. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Newstart Allowance (NSA)</b>	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.
<b>Partner Allowance (PA)</b>	<p>From 20 October 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance was for dependent partners of pensioners and allowees. Partners had to be born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Partner Allowance had no job search requirement. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Short-term recipients</b>	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.
<b>Widow Allowance (WA)</b>	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.</p> <p>Widow Allowance, a non-activity tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Youth Training Allowance (YTA)</b>	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.
<b>Youth Allowance (YA)</b>	<p>Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 20 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p> <p>Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young</p>

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.

From 1 July 2009 young people under 21 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

Job seekers already in receipt of Youth Allowance before 1 July 2009 who do not have Year 12 or an equivalent qualification will transition to the new requirements between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010.

**Youth Allowance (other)**

Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.

**Zero paid**

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

## APPENDIX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Timing* The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

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

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

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

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **Labour market information**

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

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

For publication distribution enquiries email:  
workingagepaymentsdatarequests@deewr.gov.au

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

Director  
Income Support Information Section  
Working Age Payment Programs Branch  
Income Support and Stakeholder Group  
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations  
PO Box 9879  
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

### **Other recipient information**

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

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