

# 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) 6155 0067. 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 25 February 2009.

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – December 2008

### Between December 2007 and December 2008:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased by 6.0%** overall from 498,282 to 528,271 and

- ◆ increased 5.7% for NSA from 428,962 to 453,485 and
- ◆ increased 7.9% for YA(o) from 69,320 to 74,786.

The number of job seekers **increased by 5.1%** overall from 302,027 to 317,394 and

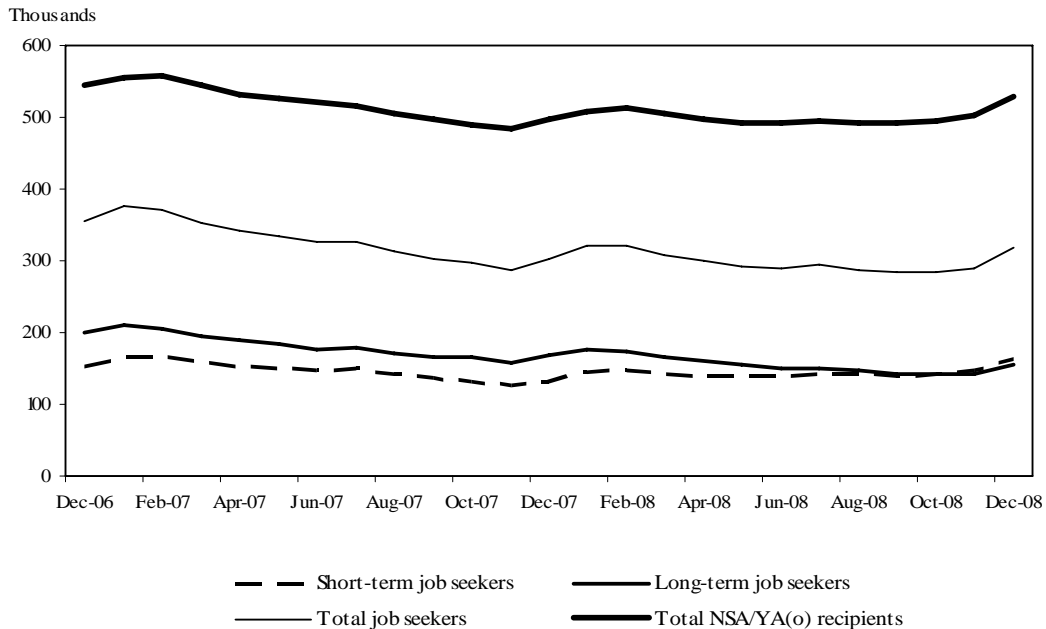
- ◆ increased 4.3% for NSA recipients from 246,773 to 257,366 and
- ◆ increased 8.6% for YA(o) recipients from 55,254 to 60,028.

Long-term job seekers decreased by 9.0% from 169,573 to 154,285.

Short-term job seekers increased by 23.1% from 132,454 to 163,109.

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

**Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other)  
December 2006 to December 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	..	..	..	..	..	..
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
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
<i>Variation November 2008 - December 2008</i>								
Number	3,157	16,215	10,733	-29,100	-18	0	-722	-153
Per cent	1.3	3.7	16.8	-11.8	-0.5	0.0	-2.1	-0.4

(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**

	November 2008	December			Variation November - December	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
<b>Short-term NSA Customers</b>	<b>186,100</b>	<b>128,345</b>	<b>70,813</b>	<b>199,158</b>	<b>13,058</b>	<b>7.0</b>
CPS recipients (a)	2,507	1,857	627	2,484	-23	-0.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,929	4,895	3,614	8,509	-1,420	-14.3
Received a payment	173,664	121,593	66,572	188,165	14,501	8.4
Incapacitated (c)	17,519	10,990	7,357	18,347	828	4.7
Training	14,870	9,464	4,986	14,450	-420	-2.8
Self-employment development (d)	601	294	194	488	-113	-18.8
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	5,243	1,794	3,746	5,540	297	5.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	15,113	9,117	6,794	15,911	798	5.3
<b>Short-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>120,318</b>	<b>89,934</b>	<b>43,495</b>	<b>133,429</b>	<b>13,111</b>	<b>10.9</b>
<b>Long-term NSA Customers</b>	<b>251,170</b>	<b>145,991</b>	<b>108,336</b>	<b>254,327</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>1.3</b>
CPS recipients (a)	6,263	4,191	2,012	6,203	-60	-1.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,010	3,593	3,718	7,311	-1,699	-18.9
Received a payment	235,897	138,207	102,606	240,813	4,916	2.1
Incapacitated (c)	17,286	9,281	8,111	17,392	106	0.6
Training	55,929	33,071	21,651	54,722	-1,207	-2.2
Self-employment development (d)	187	84	55	139	-48	-25.7
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	17,021	8,117	9,191	17,308	287	1.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	26,801	15,782	11,533	27,315	514	1.9
<b>Long-term NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>118,673</b>	<b>71,872</b>	<b>52,065</b>	<b>123,937</b>	<b>5,264</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>All NSA Customers</b>	<b>437,270</b>	<b>274,336</b>	<b>179,149</b>	<b>453,485</b>	<b>16,215</b>	<b>3.7</b>
CPS recipients (a)	8,770	6,048	2,639	8,687	-83	-0.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	18,939	8,488	7,332	15,820	-3,119	-16.5
Received a payment	409,561	259,800	169,178	428,978	19,417	4.7
Incapacitated (c)	34,805	20,271	15,468	35,739	934	2.7
Training	70,799	42,535	26,637	69,172	-1,627	-2.3
Self-employment development (d)	788	378	249	627	-161	-20.4
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	22,264	9,911	12,937	22,848	584	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	41,914	24,899	18,327	43,226	1,312	3.1
<b>All NSA job seekers (g)</b>	<b>238,991</b>	<b>161,806</b>	<b>95,560</b>	<b>257,366</b>	<b>18,375</b>	<b>7.7</b>

(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**

	November 2008	December			Variation November - December	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
<b>Short-term YA (other) Customers</b>	<b>33,680</b>	<b>19,712</b>	<b>17,273</b>	<b>36,985</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>9.8</b>
CPS recipients (a)	1,171	770	448	1,218	47	4.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	750	262	311	573	-177	-23.6
Received a payment	31,759	18,680	16,514	35,194	3,435	10.8
Part-time study & work (c)	3	1	2	3	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	84	35	47	82	-2	-2.4
Incapacitated (e)	1,714	840	949	1,789	75	4.4
Training	1,687	1,035	664	1,699	12	0.7
Self-employment development (e)	11	3	2	5	-6	-54.5
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,908	829	1,107	1,936	28	1.5
<b>Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>26,352</b>	<b>15,937</b>	<b>13,743</b>	<b>29,680</b>	<b>3,328</b>	<b>12.6</b>
<b>Long-term YA (other) Customers</b>	<b>30,373</b>	<b>17,954</b>	<b>19,847</b>	<b>37,801</b>	<b>7,428</b>	<b>24.5</b>
CPS recipients (a)	820	536	276	812	-8	-1.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	880	265	362	627	-253	-28.8
Received a payment	28,673	17,153	19,209	36,362	7,689	26.8
Part-time study & work (c)	4	0	2	2	-2	-50.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	67	26	28	54	-13	-19.4
Incapacitated (e)	1,125	468	756	1,224	99	8.8
Training	3,303	1,769	1,552	3,321	18	0.5
Self-employment development (e)	4	1	2	3	-1	-25.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,355	550	860	1,410	55	4.1
<b>Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>22,815</b>	<b>14,339</b>	<b>16,009</b>	<b>30,348</b>	<b>7,533</b>	<b>33.0</b>
<b>All YA (other) Customers</b>	<b>64,053</b>	<b>37,666</b>	<b>37,120</b>	<b>74,786</b>	<b>10,733</b>	<b>16.8</b>
CPS recipients (a)	1,991	1,306	724	2,030	39	2.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,630	527	673	1,200	-430	-26.4
Received a payment	60,432	35,833	35,723	71,556	11,124	18.4
Part-time study & work (c)	7	1	4	5	-2	-28.6
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	151	61	75	136	-15	-9.9
Incapacitated (e)	2,839	1,308	1,705	3,013	174	6.1
Training	4,990	2,804	2,216	5,020	30	0.6
Self-employment development (e)	15	4	4	8	-7	-46.7
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	3,263	1,379	1,967	3,346	83	2.5
<b>All YA (other) job seekers (f)</b>	<b>49,167</b>	<b>30,276</b>	<b>29,752</b>	<b>60,028</b>	<b>10,861</b>	<b>22.1</b>

(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
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
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
<i>Variation November 2008 - December 2008</i>			
Number	16,439	12,797	29,236
Per cent	11.2	9.0	10.1

(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>	November 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	50,968	56,107	5,139	10.1
Victoria	33,691	37,346	3,655	10.8
Queensland	30,008	34,760	4,752	15.8
South Australia	11,612	12,680	1,068	9.2
Western Australia	12,133	13,361	1,228	10.1
Tasmania	4,299	4,681	382	8.9
Northern Territory	2,733	2,783	50	1.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,226	1,391	165	13.5
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>146,670</b>	<b>163,109</b>	<b>16,439</b>	<b>11.2</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	52,794	56,789	3,995	7.6
Victoria	32,806	36,482	3,676	11.2
Queensland	21,002	23,680	2,678	12.8
South Australia	13,505	14,703	1,198	8.9
Western Australia	8,946	9,558	612	6.8
Tasmania	5,705	6,180	475	8.3
Northern Territory	5,642	5,665	23	0.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,088	1,228	140	12.9
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>141,488</b>	<b>154,285</b>	<b>12,797</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>TOTAL JOB SEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	103,762	112,896	9,134	8.8
Victoria	66,497	73,828	7,331	11.0
Queensland	51,010	58,440	7,430	14.6
South Australia	25,117	27,383	2,266	9.0
Western Australia	21,079	22,919	1,840	8.7
Tasmania	10,004	10,861	857	8.6
Northern Territory	8,375	8,448	73	0.9
Australian Capital Territory	2,314	2,619	305	13.2
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>288,158</b>	<b>317,394</b>	<b>29,236</b>	<b>10.1</b>

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 DECEMBER 2008**

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	5,145	4.9	3,319	3.8	8,464	4.4
18 - 20 years	10,791	10.2	11,019	12.8	21,810	11.4
21 - 24 years	16,632	15.7	10,081	11.7	26,713	13.9
25 - 29 years	16,986	16.0	10,344	12.0	27,330	14.2
30 - 39 years	25,282	23.9	17,869	20.7	43,151	22.5
40 - 49 years	16,793	15.9	14,502	16.8	31,295	16.3
50 - 59 years	10,123	9.6	11,921	13.8	22,044	11.5
60 years and over	4,120	3.9	7,157	8.3	11,277	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,872</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>86,212</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>192,084</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	5,272	9.2	3,923	5.8	9,195	7.3
18 - 20 years	8,471	14.8	12,086	17.8	20,557	16.4
21 - 24 years	9,395	16.4	8,032	11.8	17,427	13.9
25 - 29 years	6,313	11.0	5,475	8.0	11,788	9.4
30 - 39 years	8,837	15.4	10,005	14.7	18,842	15.0
40 - 49 years	9,598	16.8	13,619	20.0	23,217	18.5
50 - 59 years	7,340	12.8	11,386	16.7	18,726	14.9
60 years and over	2,011	3.5	3,547	5.2	5,558	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,237</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>68,073</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>125,310</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	10,417	6.4	7,242	4.7	17,659	5.6
18 - 20 years	19,262	11.8	23,105	15.0	42,367	13.3
21 - 24 years	26,027	16.0	18,113	11.7	44,140	13.9
25 - 29 years	23,299	14.3	15,819	10.3	39,118	12.3
30 - 39 years	34,119	20.9	27,874	18.1	61,993	19.5
40 - 49 years	26,391	16.2	28,121	18.2	54,512	17.2
50 - 59 years	17,463	10.7	23,307	15.1	40,770	12.8
60 years and over	6,131	3.8	10,704	6.9	16,835	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>163,109</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>154,285</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>317,394</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Bankstown	2,854	3,084	230	8.1
Bondi Junction	916	1,040	124	13.5
Burwood	1,332	1,451	119	8.9
Campsie	2,125	2,276	151	7.1
Caringbah	946	1,073	127	13.4
Chatswood	675	834	159	23.6
Corrimal	961	1,050	89	9.3
Dapto	1,081	1,212	131	12.1
Darlinghurst	1,308	1,382	74	5.7
Darlinghurst CCU	34	39	5	%
Haymarket	1	1	0	%
Hornsby	683	803	120	17.6
Hurstville	1,100	1,258	158	14.4
Lakemba	20	22	2	%
Leichhardt	1,011	1,150	139	13.7
Maroubra	1,119	1,255	136	12.2
Marrickville	1,171	1,272	101	8.6
Northern Beaches	908	1,035	127	14.0
Participation Sydney East	5	4	-1	%
Redfern	1,039	1,088	49	4.7
Revesby	9	13	4	%
Rockdale	1,080	1,217	137	12.7
Ryde	718	843	125	17.4
Shellharbour	1,261	1,367	106	8.4
Sutherland	344	385	41	11.9
Wollongong	1,327	1,432	105	7.9
Other (a)	10	15	5	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,038</b>	<b>26,601</b>	<b>2,563</b>	<b>10.7</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Auburn	1,824	1,971	147	8.1
Baulkham Hills	571	676	105	18.4
Blacktown	2,505	2,707	202	8.1
Cabramatta	1,728	1,860	132	7.6
Camden	565	623	58	10.3
Campbelltown	1,797	1,946	149	8.3
Fairfield	2,501	2,702	201	8.0
Hawkesbury	785	861	76	9.7
Ingleburn	1,140	1,246	106	9.3
Katoomba	632	701	69	10.9
Liverpool	3,080	3,290	210	6.8
Merrylands	1,524	1,704	180	11.8
Mt Druitt	2,458	2,608	150	6.1
Parramatta	1,520	1,728	208	13.7
Penrith	1,614	1,751	137	8.5
Springwood	297	330	33	11.1
St Marys	1,294	1,394	100	7.7
Other (a)	19	16	-3	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,854</b>	<b>28,114</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>8.7</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES</b>				
Armidale	769	862	93	12.1
Cessnock	777	829	52	6.7
Charlestown	1,681	1,825	144	8.6
Ettalong	834	919	85	10.2
Glen Innes	226	233	7	3.1
Gosford	1,474	1,645	171	11.6
Gunnedah	394	397	3	0.8
Inverell	613	653	40	6.5
Kempsey	866	954	88	10.2
Kurri Kurri	408	431	23	5.6
Lakehaven	1,536	1,681	145	9.4
Maitland	1,377	1,486	109	7.9
Mayfield	845	925	80	9.5
Muswellbrook	419	474	55	13.1
Nambucca Heads	771	828	57	7.4
Nelson Bay	442	492	50	11.3
Newcastle	1,101	1,227	126	11.4
Port Macquarie	1,403	1,541	138	9.8
Raymond Terrace	841	943	102	12.1
Singleton	253	281	28	11.1
Tamworth	1,535	1,659	124	8.1
Taree	1,636	1,751	115	7.0
The Entrance	1,154	1,231	77	6.7
Toronto	816	900	84	10.3
Tuncurry (Forster)	821	853	32	3.9
Wallsend	1,248	1,365	117	9.4
Wyong	705	733	28	4.0
Other (a)	35	34	-1	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,980</b>	<b>27,152</b>	<b>2,172</b>	<b>8.7</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i></b>				
Batemans Bay	852	885	33	3.9
Bathurst	873	951	78	8.9
Bega	673	738	65	9.7
Belconnen	645	771	126	19.5
Bowral	420	478	58	13.8
Braddon	693	761	68	9.8
Cooma	288	323	35	12.2
Cowra	433	466	33	7.6
Dubbo	1,867	1,947	80	4.3
Goulburn	670	708	38	5.7
Griffith	534	563	29	5.4
Gungahlin	68	72	4	%
Lanyon	36	40	4	%
Leeton	331	354	23	6.9
Lithgow	522	530	8	1.5
Mudgee	640	694	54	8.4
Narooma	379	389	10	2.6
Nowra	1,940	2,058	118	6.1
Orange	933	1,033	100	10.7
Parkes	851	904	53	6.2
Queanbeyan	382	421	39	10.2
Tuggeranong	512	571	59	11.5
Tumut	258	275	17	6.6
Ulladulla	507	540	33	6.5
Wagga	1,342	1,444	102	7.6
Woden	353	385	32	9.1
Yass	87	99	12	%
Young	401	448	47	11.7
Other (a)	17	17	0	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,507</b>	<b>18,865</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>7.8</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i></b>				
Airport West	783	871	88	11.2
Albury	1,895	2,052	157	8.3
Box Hill	1,356	1,521	165	12.2
Broadmeadows	2,993	3,364	371	12.4
Camberwell	646	756	110	17.0
Darebin	2,510	2,722	212	8.4
Deniliquin	282	298	16	5.7
Echuca	434	466	32	7.4
Epping	1,397	1,620	223	16.0
Greensborough	46	33	-13	%
Heidelberg	1,127	1,303	176	15.6
Moreland	1,477	1,685	208	14.1
Newmarket	957	1,061	104	10.9
Seymour	534	561	27	5.1
Shepparton	1,844	2,011	167	9.1
South Melbourne	496	538	42	8.5
Sunbury	570	657	87	15.3
Wangaratta	1,351	1,470	119	8.8
Windsor	1,720	1,880	160	9.3
Yarra	1,308	1,492	184	14.1
Other (a)	18	15	-3	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,744</b>	<b>26,376</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>11.1</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i></b>				
Bairnsdale	708	770	62	8.8
Belgrave	311	363	52	16.7
Cheltenham	1,193	1,312	119	10.0
Cranbourne	919	1,038	119	12.9
Dandenong	2,033	2,206	173	8.5
Fountain Gate	1,407	1,589	182	12.9
Frankston	1,949	2,168	219	11.2
Glen Waverley	686	804	118	17.2
Hastings	405	438	33	8.1
Lilydale	1,138	1,284	146	12.8
Mornington	344	389	45	13.1
Morwell	2,055	2,250	195	9.5
Oakleigh	1,203	1,374	171	14.2
Pakenham	424	471	47	11.1
Ringwood	1,275	1,454	179	14.0
Rosebud	814	853	39	4.8
Rowville	321	359	38	11.8
Sale	649	727	78	12.0
Springvale	1,466	1,647	181	12.3
Wantirna	851	969	118	13.9
Warragul	491	532	41	8.4
Wonthaggi	418	461	43	10.3
Other (a)	9	6	-3	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,069</b>	<b>23,464</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>11.4</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>WEST VICTORIA</b>				
Ararat	199	224	25	12.6
Ballarat	2,246	2,477	231	10.3
Bendigo	2,123	2,319	196	9.2
Bendigo Central	366	416	50	13.7
Colac	414	436	22	5.3
Corio	1,338	1,466	128	9.6
Footscray	1,107	1,223	116	10.5
Geelong	2,449	2,732	283	11.6
Hamilton	343	389	46	13.4
Horsham	494	539	45	9.1
Maryborough	360	392	32	8.9
Melton	981	1,113	132	13.5
Mildura	1,543	1,670	127	8.2
Newport	846	939	93	11.0
Portland	296	335	39	13.2
Stawell	170	165	-5	-2.9
Sunshine	2,168	2,387	219	10.1
Swan Hill	764	807	43	5.6
Warrnambool	745	846	101	13.6
Watergardens	2,488	2,766	278	11.2
Werribee	2,268	2,510	242	10.7
Other (a)	6	10	4	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,714</b>	<b>26,161</b>	<b>2,447</b>	<b>10.3</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>CENTRAL &amp; NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Atherton	578	648	70	12.1
Ayr	283	323	40	14.1
Bamaga RASC (Nth Peninsula RASC)	27	29	2	%
Biloela	135	141	6	4.4
Bowen	259	322	63	24.3
Cairns Families	4	7	3	%
Cairns Jobseekers	2,856	3,103	247	8.6
Cairns Remote (Indigenous ISC)	563	590	27	4.8
Cairns Seniors & Carers	3	5	2	%
Charters Towers	233	267	34	14.6
Edmonton	0	0	0	%
Emerald	216	235	19	8.8
Gladstone	653	731	78	11.9
Greenfields	1	3	2	%
Ingham	206	244	38	18.4
Innisfail	474	539	65	13.7
Longreach	72	79	7	%
Mackay Jobseekers	907	1,052	145	16.0
Mackay Seniors & Carers	2	2	0	%
Mareeba	420	442	22	5.2
Mossman	319	375	56	17.6
Mt Isa	695	728	33	4.7
Normanton	129	144	15	11.6
Palm Island	305	322	17	5.6
Rockhampton Families	0	0	0	%
Rockhampton Jobseekers	1,506	1,661	155	10.3
Rockhampton Seniors & Carers	2	1	-1	%
Smithfield	0	0	0	%
Thursday Island	247	255	8	3.2
Townsville City	2	1	-1	%
Townsville Families	0	0	0	%
Townsville Jobseekers	2,115	2,445	330	15.6
Townsville Seniors & Carers	4	6	2	%
Western Cape RASC	225	249	24	10.7
Whitsunday	235	258	23	9.8
Yarrabah RASC	320	344	24	7.5
Yeppoon	261	293	32	12.3
Other (a)	55	114	59	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,312</b>	<b>15,958</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>11.5</b>

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>	November 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH &amp; EAST QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Bundaberg	2,304	2,502	198	8.6
Caboolture	1,550	1,837	287	18.5
Caboolture FCC and SC&R	0	0	0	%
Caloundra	720	866	146	20.3
Cherbourg	101	95	-6	%
Chermside	694	783	89	12.8
Fortitude Valley	820	921	101	12.3
Gympie	940	1,073	133	14.1
Hervey Bay	1,110	1,274	164	14.8
Kawana Waters	351	432	81	23.1
Kingaroy	576	645	69	12.0
Kippa-Ring	698	796	98	14.0
Maroochydore	995	1,178	183	18.4
Maryborough	953	1,063	110	11.5
Mitchelton	663	783	120	18.1
Nambour	697	825	128	18.4
Noosa	635	737	102	16.1
Nundah	691	803	112	16.2
Strathpine	757	960	203	26.8
Toowong	510	676	166	32.5
Other (a)	352	427	75	21.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,117</b>	<b>18,676</b>	<b>2,559</b>	<b>15.9</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH &amp; WEST QUEENSLAND</i></b>				
Beenleigh	1,382	1,567	185	13.4
Browns Plains	1,115	1,299	184	16.5
Capalaba	461	564	103	22.3
Charleville	170	191	21	12.4
Cleveland	583	680	97	16.6
Dalby	410	432	22	5.4
Goodna	790	913	123	15.6
Goondiwindi	261	287	26	10.0
Inala	959	1,111	152	15.8
Ipswich	1,618	1,870	252	15.6
Mt Gravatt	1,063	1,259	196	18.4
Roma	122	130	8	6.6
South Brisbane	609	683	74	12.2
Stanthorpe	339	353	14	4.1
Stones Corner	947	1,132	185	19.5
Toowoomba	1,652	1,886	234	14.2
Warwick	391	423	32	8.2
Woodridge	1,252	1,397	145	11.6
Wynnum	601	699	98	16.3
Other (a)	18	14	-4	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,743</b>	<b>16,890</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>14.6</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i></b>				
Berri	833	884	51	6.1
Broken Hill	788	837	49	6.2
Ceduna	240	266	26	10.8
Coober Pedy	146	149	3	2.1
Currie Street	448	210	-238	-53.1
Elizabeth	2,207	2,374	167	7.6
Enfield	1,284	1,438	154	12.0
Gawler	869	974	105	12.1
Glenelg	645	747	102	15.8
Kadina	547	596	49	9.0
Kilkenny	1,407	1,535	128	9.1
Marion	1,517	1,768	251	16.5
Modbury	1,410	1,550	140	9.9
Mt Barker	498	541	43	8.6
Mt Gambier	1,068	1,166	98	9.2
Murray Bridge	732	800	68	9.3
Noarlunga	2,280	2,477	197	8.6
Norwood	1,253	1,516	263	21.0
Port Adelaide	1,296	1,388	92	7.1
Port Augusta	669	699	30	4.5
Port Lincoln	598	637	39	6.5
Port Pirie	760	811	51	6.7
Salisbury	2,123	2,247	124	5.8
Torrensvile	1,049	1,303	254	24.2
Victor Harbor	519	560	41	7.9
Whyalla	633	659	26	4.1
Other (a)	35	37	2	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,854</b>	<b>28,169</b>	<b>2,315</b>	<b>9.0</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>WEST AUSTRALIA</b>				
Albany	734	774	40	5.4
Armadale	689	760	71	10.3
Bunbury	1,281	1,418	137	10.7
Busselton	228	256	28	12.3
Cannington	1,075	1,209	134	12.5
Carnarvon	275	286	11	4.0
Cocos Islands	41	40	-1	%
Collie	2	2	0	%
Community Team Perth	91	99	8	%
Curtin on Campus SSC	11	34	23	%
Esperance	238	242	4	1.7
Fremantle	944	1,044	100	10.6
Fremantle SACC	3	3	0	%
Fremantle SSC	0	0	0	%
Geraldton	1,053	1,071	18	1.7
Gosnells	735	796	61	8.3
Innaloo	900	977	77	8.6
Joondalup	1,061	1,149	88	8.3
Joondalup SACC	1	2	1	%
Joondalup SSC	1	2	1	%
Kalgoorlie	621	681	60	9.7
Karratha	261	275	14	5.4
Laverton RASC	53	53	0	%
Mandurah	931	1,023	92	9.9
Meekatharra RASC	209	190	-19	-9.1
Midland	1,547	1,671	124	8.0
Mirrabooka	1,291	1,418	127	9.8
Morley	1,287	1,422	135	10.5
Morley - Dewar Street	2	1	-1	%
Morley SSC	0	1	1	%
Newman RASC	180	186	6	3.3
Northam	429	445	16	3.7
Rockingham	1,155	1,286	131	11.3
South Hedland	390	402	12	3.1
Spearwood	656	741	85	13.0
Victoria Park	1,226	1,339	113	9.2
Warwick Grove	483	561	78	16.1
Other (a)	28	29	1	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,112</b>	<b>21,888</b>	<b>1,776</b>	<b>8.8</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b>TASMANIA</b>				
Bridgewater	600	612	12	2.0
Burnie	1,125	1,240	115	10.2
Devonport	1,338	1,434	96	7.2
Glenorchy	1,522	1,635	113	7.4
Hobart	1,121	1,198	77	6.9
Huonville	373	381	8	2.1
Launceston	2,710	2,989	279	10.3
Mowbray	13	7	-6	%
Rosny Park	820	907	87	10.6
Sorell	413	464	51	12.3
Other (a)	47	61	14	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,082</b>	<b>10,928</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>8.4</b>
<b>NORTH AUSTRALIA</b>				
Alice Springs	2,519	2,518	-1	0.0
Borroloola RASC	42	40	-2	%
Broome	452	469	17	3.8
Casuarina	742	790	48	6.5
Derby	158	167	9	5.7
Fitzroy Crossing RASC	50	59	9	%
Halls Creek RASC	203	212	9	4.4
Katherine	1,280	1,261	-19	-1.5
Knuckey Street	371	382	11	3.0
Kununurra	227	253	26	11.5
Maningrida	352	357	5	1.4
Nhulunbuy	682	681	-1	-0.1
Palmerston	684	710	26	3.8
Tangentyere	83	80	-3	%
Tennant Creek	195	197	2	1.0
Tennant Creek Remote	79	82	3	%
Tiwi Islands RASC	230	226	-4	-1.7
Top End Remote	757	764	7	0.9
Wadeye RASC	308	304	-4	-1.3
Yuendumu RASC	132	138	6	4.5
Other (a)	41	35	-6	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,587</b>	<b>9,725</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>1.4</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 2008	December 2008	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<b><i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i></b>				
Ballina	895	975	80	8.9
Beaudesert	326	383	57	17.5
Biggera Waters	1,290	1,563	273	21.2
Bourke	460	484	24	5.2
Brunswick Heads	464	539	75	16.2
Byron Bay	481	509	28	5.8
Casino	512	541	29	5.7
Coffs Harbour	2,042	2,203	161	7.9
Grafton	1,299	1,406	107	8.2
Lightning Ridge	184	181	-3	-1.6
Lismore	1,372	1,557	185	13.5
Maclean	0	0	0	%
Moree	446	470	24	5.4
Murwillumbah	450	524	74	16.4
Narrabri	320	340	20	6.3
Nerang	1,239	1,507	268	21.6
Palm Beach	1,590	1,843	253	15.9
Robina SCR	6	7	1	%
Southport	1,638	1,905	267	16.3
Tweed Heads	1,100	1,187	87	7.9
Walgett	275	266	-9	-3.3
Other (a)	41	35	-6	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,430</b>	<b>18,425</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>12.1</b>
<b><i>OTHER</i></b>				
Centrelink Call Centres (b)	65	63	-2	%
Not coded to an area	4	4	0	%
Rounding adjustment (c)	-54	-65	-11	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>288,158</b>	<b>317,394</b>	<b>29,236</b>	<b>10.1</b>

(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 19 DECEMBER 2008**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	84.7	80.8	83.0
Earned an income	15.3	19.2	17.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.6	0.7	0.6
\$62.01-\$142.00	1.9	2.4	2.1
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.4	3.0	2.6
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.7	2.2	1.9
Over \$316.00	8.7	10.9	9.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b><i>107,787</i></b>	<b><i>86,850</i></b>	<b><i>194,637</i></b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	75.2	69.3	72.0
Earned an income	24.8	30.7	28.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.9	1.1	1.0
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.9	3.2	3.1
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.6	4.0	3.8
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.9	3.3	3.1
Over \$316.00	14.5	19.2	17.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b><i>58,354</i></b>	<b><i>68,914</i></b>	<b><i>127,268</i></b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	81.4	75.7	78.6
Earned an income	18.6	24.3	21.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.7	0.9	0.8
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.3	2.7	2.5
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.8	3.4	3.1
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.1	2.7	2.4
Over \$316.00	10.8	14.5	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b><i>166,141</i></b>	<b><i>155,764</i></b>	<b><i>321,905</i></b>

(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

<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>	<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>
<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>Eligibility and payment status</b>	Refer to the Methodology entry in the Explanatory Notes.
<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 seekers</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in jobsearch. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.

<b>Job Search Allowance (JSA)</b>	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.
<b>Long-term recipients</b>	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.
<b>Mature Age Allowance (MAA)</b>	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.
<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>Newstart Common Platform System (NCP)</b>	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.
<b>Partner Allowance (PA)</b>	<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>
<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>States</b>	States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the recipient's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.

<b>Widow Allowance (WA)</b>	<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>
<b>Youth Training Allowance (YTA)</b>	<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>
<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 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>
<b>Youth Allowance (other)</b>	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.</p>
<b>Zero paid</b>	<p>See 'Did not receive a payment'.</p>

## 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 for up to 25 weeks but 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 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.</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:  
REGULAR.REPORTING@centrelink.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) 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.