

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>

July 2008

Embargoed
Until 11.30 am, 20 August 2008

Annual Subscription - \$65.00

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1
Statistical Highlights	2
Tables	
1. Labour Market Payments - Time Series	3
2. Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the job seeker population	4
3. Youth Allowees (other) - Derivation of the job seeker population	5
4. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) - Time Series	6
5. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by State	7
6. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Age and Sex	8
7. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre	9
8. Job seekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Fortnightly Earnings and Sex	23
Explanatory Notes	24
Glossary	30
Appendix	33
For More Information	36

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

All media inquiries should be directed to the Centrelink National Media Officer on (02) 6284 6442. For more general inquiries regarding further statistical information please refer to the last page of this publication for other contact details.

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 24 September 2008.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – July 2008

Between July 2007 and July 2008:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased by 4.1%** overall from 516,450 to 495,503 and

- ◆ decreased 4.2% for NSA from 448,833 to 429,989 and
- ◆ decreased 3.1% for YA(o) from 67,617 to 65,514.

The number of job seekers **decreased by 10.3%** overall from 327,510 to 293,881 and

- ◆ decreased 11.6% for NSA recipients from 274,616 to 242,663 and
- ◆ decreased 3.2% for YA(o) recipients from 52,894 to 51,218.

Long-term job seekers decreased by 15.5% from 178,467 to 150,831.

Short-term job seekers decreased by 4.0% from 149,043 to 143,050.

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

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

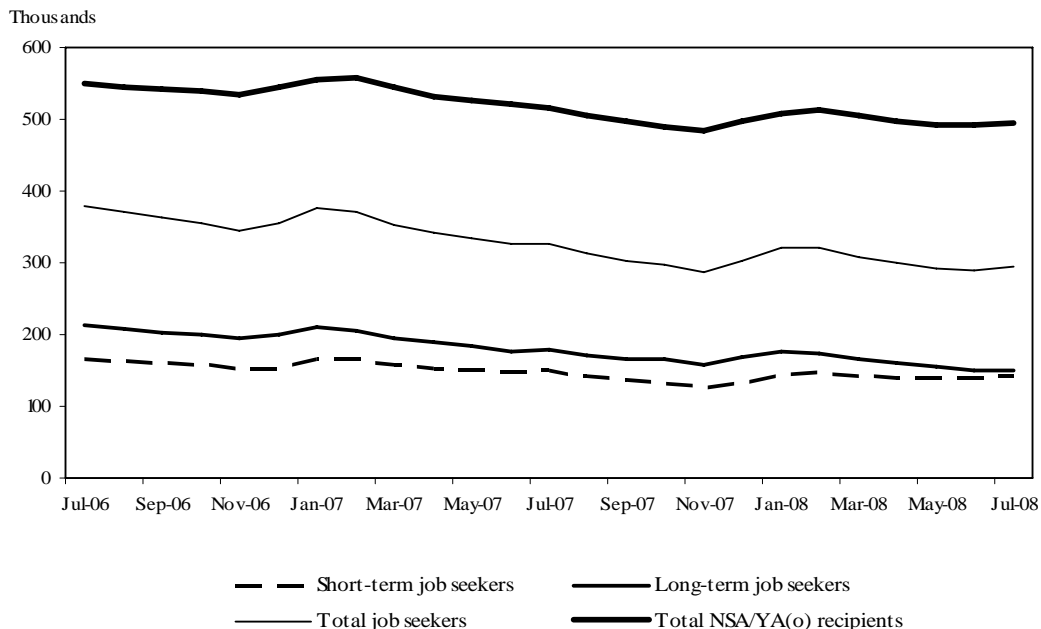


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	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
July 2006	285,152	474,477	76,173	264,863	3,376	11,379	59,401	44,639
August 2006	284,943	472,448	72,634	271,591	3,472	10,731	58,213	44,184
September 2006	285,218	472,222	71,104	276,235	3,643	10,049	56,965	43,705
October 2006	284,276	470,340	69,511	277,061	3,740	9,430	55,683	43,349
November 2006	282,694	466,631	68,721	267,042	3,683	8,892	54,611	43,112
December 2006	284,499	469,233	76,480	226,902	3,571	8,293	53,398	42,903
January 2007	286,614	478,033	77,358	216,869	3,487	7,745	52,205	42,530
February 2007	286,113	481,343	76,036	223,780	3,715	7,287	51,251	42,370
March 2007	281,937	473,278	71,619	239,502	4,087	6,751	50,058	42,032
April 2007	277,688	463,732	68,746	250,660	4,250	6,235	48,912	41,619
May 2007	274,568	458,297	67,973	256,805	4,341	5,790	47,896	41,245
June 2007	271,439	452,733	67,852	261,197	4,435	5,284	46,709	40,886
July 2007	269,816	448,833	67,617	256,808	4,416	4,796	45,917	40,735
August 2007	267,972	442,112	63,717	263,166	4,490	4,381	45,459	40,853
September 2007	266,180	435,711	62,042	265,669	4,509	3,981	45,058	41,019
October 2007	264,434	429,811	59,920	264,829	4,350	3,619	44,695	41,156
November 2007	261,930	424,168	59,967	249,546	4,093	3,242	44,358	41,278
December 2007	264,127	428,962	69,320	215,158	3,956	2,868	43,997	41,400
January 2008	266,199	437,918	69,709	206,509	3,746	2,518	43,434	41,297
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
<i>Variation June 2008 - July 2008</i>								
Number	-827	1,093	1,542	-3,687	-42	-270	-806	-381
Per cent	-0.3	0.3	2.4	-1.5	-0.9	-31.5	-2.1	-1.0

(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

	June 2008	July			Variation June - July	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	173,346	112,149	63,117	175,266	1,920	1.1
CPS recipients (a)	2,518	1,854	601	2,455	-63	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,321	5,047	4,050	9,097	-224	-2.4
Received a payment	161,507	105,248	58,466	163,714	2,207	1.4
Incapacitated (c)	16,057	9,496	6,629	16,125	68	0.4
Training	13,032	8,245	4,457	12,702	-330	-2.5
Self-employment development (d)	258	210	115	325	67	26.0
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	4,582	1,508	3,182	4,690	108	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,533	7,967	5,722	13,689	156	1.2
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	114,045	77,822	38,361	116,183	2,138	1.9
Long-term NSA Customers	255,550	148,420	106,303	254,723	-827	-0.3
CPS recipients (a)	6,644	4,423	2,148	6,571	-73	-1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	8,984	4,185	4,078	8,263	-721	-8.0
Received a payment	239,922	139,812	100,077	239,889	-33	0.0
Incapacitated (c)	17,369	9,278	8,030	17,308	-61	-0.4
Training	54,904	33,306	21,288	54,594	-310	-0.6
Self-employment development (d)	88	52	46	98	10	11.4
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	15,143	7,706	7,806	15,512	369	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	25,594	15,177	10,720	25,897	303	1.2
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	126,824	74,293	52,187	126,480	-344	-0.3
All NSA Customers	428,896	260,569	169,420	429,989	1,093	0.3
CPS recipients (a)	9,162	6,277	2,749	9,026	-136	-1.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	18,305	9,232	8,128	17,360	-945	-5.2
Received a payment	401,429	245,060	158,543	403,603	2,174	0.5
Incapacitated (c)	33,426	18,774	14,659	33,433	7	0.0
Training	67,936	41,551	25,745	67,296	-640	-0.9
Self-employment development (d)	346	262	161	423	77	22.3
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	19,725	9,214	10,988	20,202	477	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	39,127	23,144	16,442	39,586	459	1.2
All NSA job seekers (g)	240,869	152,115	90,548	242,663	1,794	0.7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	June 2008	July			Variation June - July	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	32,728	17,761	15,932	33,693	965	2.9
CPS recipients (a)	1,200	742	407	1,149	-51	-4.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	663	344	383	727	64	9.7
Received a payment	30,865	16,675	15,142	31,817	952	3.1
Part-time study & work (c)	3	1	2	3	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	69	20	48	68	-1	-1.4
Incapacitated (e)	1,678	790	863	1,653	-25	-1.5
Training	1,422	916	567	1,483	61	4.3
Self-employment development (e)	6	3	3	6	0	0.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,666	726	1,011	1,737	71	4.3
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	26,021	14,219	12,648	26,867	846	3.3
Long-term YA (other) Customers	31,244	14,849	16,972	31,821	577	1.8
CPS recipients (a)	922	572	337	909	-13	-1.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	979	376	531	907	-72	-7.4
Received a payment	29,343	13,901	16,104	30,005	662	2.3
Part-time study & work (c)	3	1	2	3	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	66	33	29	62	-4	-6.1
Incapacitated (e)	1,130	420	702	1,122	-8	-0.7
Training	3,139	1,671	1,465	3,136	-3	-0.1
Self-employment development (e)	2	2	3	5	3	150.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	1,310	486	840	1,326	16	1.2
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	23,693	11,288	13,063	24,351	658	2.8
All YA (other) Customers	63,972	32,610	32,904	65,514	1,542	2.4
CPS recipients (a)	2,122	1,314	744	2,058	-64	-3.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,642	720	914	1,634	-8	-0.5
Received a payment	60,208	30,576	31,246	61,822	1,614	2.7
Part-time study & work (c)	6	2	4	6	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	135	53	77	130	-5	-3.7
Incapacitated (e)	2,808	1,210	1,565	2,775	-33	-1.2
Training	4,561	2,587	2,032	4,619	58	1.3
Self-employment development (e)	8	5	6	11	3	37.5
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-job seekers (e)	2,976	1,212	1,851	3,063	87	2.9
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	49,714	25,507	25,711	51,218	1,504	3.0

(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
July 2006	165,898	213,281	379,179
August 2006	161,929	207,905	369,834
September 2006	159,462	203,024	362,486
October 2006	156,815	198,967	355,782
November 2006	152,125	193,719	345,844
December 2006	153,342	201,044	354,386
January 2007	165,924	209,395	375,319
February 2007	165,581	205,384	370,965
March 2007	157,827	195,351	353,178
April 2007	153,350	188,871	342,221
May 2007	151,083	183,234	334,317
June 2007	148,602	177,562	326,164
July 2007	149,043	178,467	327,510
August 2007	141,433	171,107	312,540
September 2007	136,186	166,762	302,948
October 2007	132,332	164,716	297,048
November 2007	127,425	159,046	286,471
December 2007	132,454	169,573	302,027
January 2008	145,046	177,005	322,051
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
<i>Variation June 2008 - July 2008</i>			
Number	2,984	314	3,298
Per cent	2.1	0.2	1.1

(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>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation	
			June - July Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	49,367	50,473	1,106	2.2
Victoria	31,721	32,433	712	2.2
Queensland	28,091	28,543	452	1.6
South Australia	11,477	11,638	161	1.4
Western Australia	11,260	11,681	421	3.7
Tasmania	3,849	3,972	123	3.2
Northern Territory	3,169	3,115	-54	-1.7
Australian Capital Territory	1,132	1,195	63	5.6
AUSTRALIA	140,066	143,050	2,984	2.1
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	55,756	56,163	407	0.7
Victoria	36,054	35,805	-249	-0.7
Queensland	22,041	22,094	53	0.2
South Australia	14,168	14,188	20	0.1
Western Australia	8,869	9,137	268	3.0
Tasmania	6,195	6,135	-60	-1.0
Northern Territory	6,364	6,224	-140	-2.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,070	1,085	15	1.4
AUSTRALIA	150,517	150,831	314	0.2
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	105,123	106,636	1,513	1.4
Victoria	67,775	68,238	463	0.7
Queensland	50,132	50,637	505	1.0
South Australia	25,645	25,826	181	0.7
Western Australia	20,129	20,818	689	3.4
Tasmania	10,044	10,107	63	0.6
Northern Territory	9,533	9,339	-194	-2.0
Australian Capital Territory	2,202	2,280	78	3.5
AUSTRALIA	290,583	293,881	3,298	1.1

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 JULY 2008**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,541	4.9	2,159	2.5	6,700	3.8
18 - 20 years	9,675	10.5	9,127	10.7	18,802	10.6
21 - 24 years	14,966	16.3	9,879	11.5	24,845	14.0
25 - 29 years	14,760	16.0	10,397	12.1	25,157	14.2
30 - 39 years	22,124	24.0	18,216	21.3	40,340	22.7
40 - 49 years	14,181	15.4	15,091	17.6	29,272	16.5
50 - 59 years	8,563	9.3	12,853	15.0	21,416	12.1
60 years and over	3,231	3.5	7,861	9.2	11,092	6.2
Total	92,041	100.0	85,583	100.0	177,624	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,802	9.4	2,751	4.2	7,553	6.5
18 - 20 years	7,843	15.4	10,310	15.8	18,153	15.6
21 - 24 years	8,154	16.0	7,454	11.4	15,608	13.4
25 - 29 years	5,270	10.3	5,276	8.1	10,546	9.1
30 - 39 years	7,886	15.5	10,007	15.3	17,893	15.4
40 - 49 years	8,723	17.1	13,827	21.2	22,550	19.4
50 - 59 years	6,529	12.8	11,785	18.1	18,314	15.8
60 years and over	1,802	3.5	3,838	5.9	5,640	4.9
Total	51,009	100.0	65,248	100.0	116,257	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,343	6.5	4,910	3.3	14,253	4.8
18 - 20 years	17,518	12.2	19,437	12.9	36,955	12.6
21 - 24 years	23,120	16.2	17,333	11.5	40,453	13.8
25 - 29 years	20,030	14.0	15,673	10.4	35,703	12.1
30 - 39 years	30,010	21.0	28,223	18.7	58,233	19.8
40 - 49 years	22,904	16.0	28,918	19.2	51,822	17.6
50 - 59 years	15,092	10.6	24,638	16.3	39,730	13.5
60 years and over	5,033	3.5	11,699	7.8	16,732	5.7
Total	143,050	100.0	150,831	100.0	293,881	100.0

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bankstown	2,930	3,003	73	2.5
Bondi Junction	864	852	-12	-1.4
Burwood	1,274	1,279	5	0.4
Campsie	2,054	2,056	2	0.1
Caringbah	998	991	-7	-0.7
Chatswood	701	683	-18	-2.6
Corrimal	931	955	24	2.6
Dapto	1,025	1,036	11	1.1
Darlinghurst	1,254	1,243	-11	-0.9
Darlinghurst CCU	33	32	-1	%
Haymarket	0	0	0	%
Hornsby	579	599	20	3.5
Hurstville	1,111	1,090	-21	-1.9
Lakemba	23	24	1	%
Leichhardt	1,015	1,002	-13	-1.3
Maroubra	1,076	1,086	10	0.9
Marrickville	1,222	1,247	25	2.0
Northern Beaches	863	872	9	1.0
Participation Sydney East	12	10	-2	%
Redfern	1,017	1,040	23	2.3
Revesby	4	5	1	%
Rockdale	1,059	1,045	-14	-1.3
Ryde	671	689	18	2.7
Shellharbour	1,264	1,292	28	2.2
Sutherland	356	360	4	1.1
Wollongong	1,236	1,242	6	0.5
Other (a)	8	11	3	%
Total	23,580	23,744	164	0.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,709	1,776	67	3.9
Baulkham Hills	522	559	37	7.1
Blacktown	2,460	2,529	69	2.8
Cabramatta	1,726	1,799	73	4.2
Camden	553	548	-5	-0.9
Campbelltown	1,893	1,922	29	1.5
Fairfield	2,629	2,738	109	4.1
Hawkesbury	750	789	39	5.2
Ingleburn	1,165	1,207	42	3.6
Katoomba	642	646	4	0.6
Liverpool	3,017	3,094	77	2.6
Merrylands	1,458	1,535	77	5.3
Mt Druitt	2,487	2,562	75	3.0
Parramatta	1,456	1,475	19	1.3
Penrith	1,545	1,594	49	3.2
Springwood	314	317	3	1.0
St Marys	1,331	1,342	11	0.8
Other (a)	27	23	-4	%
Total	25,684	26,455	771	3.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES				
Armidale	850	868	18	2.1
Cessnock	792	792	0	0.0
Charlestown	1,738	1,786	48	2.8
Ettalong	923	916	-7	-0.8
Glen Innes	232	221	-11	-4.7
Gosford	1,417	1,477	60	4.2
Gunnedah	417	424	7	1.7
Inverell	649	664	15	2.3
Kempsey	1,012	994	-18	-1.8
Kurri Kurri	424	421	-3	-0.7
Lakehaven	1,462	1,490	28	1.9
Maitland	1,415	1,434	19	1.3
Mayfield	941	950	9	1.0
Muswellbrook	420	423	3	0.7
Nambucca Heads	852	828	-24	-2.8
Nelson Bay	521	540	19	3.6
Newcastle	1,135	1,135	0	0.0
Port Macquarie	1,581	1,527	-54	-3.4
Raymond Terrace	891	891	0	0.0
Singleton	252	265	13	5.2
Tamworth	1,556	1,584	28	1.8
Taree	1,627	1,669	42	2.6
The Entrance	1,207	1,228	21	1.7
Toronto	845	846	1	0.1
Tuncurry (Forster)	840	896	56	6.7
Wallsend	1,401	1,397	-4	-0.3
Wyong	688	709	21	3.1
Other (a)	24	27	3	%
Total	26,112	26,402	290	1.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	836	839	3	0.4
Bathurst	896	910	14	1.6
Bega	709	706	-3	-0.4
Belconnen	642	668	26	4.0
Bowral	457	463	6	1.3
Braddon	655	658	3	0.5
Cooma	298	321	23	7.7
Cowra	483	483	0	0.0
Dubbo	1,911	1,935	24	1.3
Goulburn	731	729	-2	-0.3
Griffith	544	544	0	0.0
Gungahlin	73	76	3	%
Lanyon	26	30	4	%
Leeton	341	350	9	2.6
Lithgow	559	571	12	2.1
Mudgee	658	633	-25	-3.8
Narooma	371	357	-14	-3.8
Nowra	1,925	1,907	-18	-0.9
Orange	1,003	1,022	19	1.9
Parkes	914	907	-7	-0.8
Queanbeyan	362	382	20	5.5
Tuggeranong	440	482	42	9.5
Tumut	290	274	-16	-5.5
Ulladulla	554	558	4	0.7
Wagga	1,362	1,397	35	2.6
Woden	346	337	-9	-2.6
Yass	89	95	6	%
Young	427	435	8	1.9
Other (a)	17	16	-1	%
Total	17,919	18,085	166	0.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	828	812	-16	-1.9
Albury	1,942	1,989	47	2.4
Box Hill	1,474	1,451	-23	-1.6
Broadmeadows	2,991	3,026	35	1.2
Camberwell	673	656	-17	-2.5
Darebin	2,771	2,753	-18	-0.6
Deniliquin	277	277	0	0.0
Echuca	459	454	-5	-1.1
Epping	1,398	1,368	-30	-2.1
Greensborough	1,277	1,271	-6	-0.5
Heidelberg	18	15	-3	%
Moreland	1,576	1,590	14	0.9
Newmarket	1,104	1,082	-22	-2.0
Seymour	527	523	-4	-0.8
Shepparton	1,836	1,819	-17	-0.9
South Melbourne	549	537	-12	-2.2
Sunbury	560	564	4	0.7
Wangaratta	1,396	1,405	9	0.6
Windsor	1,844	1,799	-45	-2.4
Yarra	1,364	1,384	20	1.5
Other (a)	21	23	2	%
Total	24,885	24,798	-87	-0.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation	
			June - July Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	697	716	19	2.7
Belgrave	320	331	11	3.4
Cheltenham	1,144	1,160	16	1.4
Cranbourne	1,003	1,019	16	1.6
Dandenong	2,013	2,048	35	1.7
Fountain Gate	1,417	1,443	26	1.8
Frankston	1,935	1,952	17	0.9
Glen Waverley	729	699	-30	-4.1
Hastings	443	438	-5	-1.1
Lilydale	1,204	1,209	5	0.4
Mornington	361	364	3	0.8
Morwell	1,917	2,039	122	6.4
Oakleigh	1,169	1,193	24	2.1
Pakenham	438	445	7	1.6
Ringwood	1,112	1,159	47	4.2
Rosebud	821	820	-1	-0.1
Rowville	334	317	-17	-5.1
Sale	632	666	34	5.4
Springvale	1,502	1,525	23	1.5
Wantirna	926	910	-16	-1.7
Warragul	500	516	16	3.2
Wonthaggi	449	462	13	2.9
Other (a)	8	10	2	%
Total	21,074	21,441	367	1.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	217	217	0	0.0
Ballarat	2,133	2,147	14	0.7
Bendigo	2,090	2,152	62	3.0
Bendigo Central	343	359	16	4.7
Colac	404	419	15	3.7
Corio	1,461	1,433	-28	-1.9
Footscray	1,197	1,205	8	0.7
Geelong	2,415	2,430	15	0.6
Hamilton	371	379	8	2.2
Horsham	533	527	-6	-1.1
Maryborough	404	394	-10	-2.5
Melton	1,058	1,034	-24	-2.3
Mildura	1,638	1,565	-73	-4.5
Newport	849	850	1	0.1
Portland	317	327	10	3.2
Stawell	170	179	9	5.3
Sunshine	2,233	2,259	26	1.2
Swan Hill	740	744	4	0.5
Warrnambool	726	745	19	2.6
Watergardens	2,503	2,538	35	1.4
Werribee	2,138	2,251	113	5.3
Other (a)	14	23	9	%
Total	23,954	24,177	223	0.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND				
Atherton	519	534	15	2.9
Ayr	314	276	-38	-12.1
Bamaga RASC (Nth Peninsula RASC)	31	30	-1	%
Biloela	117	120	3	2.6
Bowen	290	266	-24	-8.3
Cairns Families	10	9	-1	%
Cairns Jobseekers	2,681	2,671	-10	-0.4
Cairns Remote (Indigenous ISC)	532	535	3	0.6
Cairns Seniors & Carers	5	5	0	%
Charters Towers	217	221	4	1.8
Edmonton	0	0	0	%
Emerald	226	232	6	2.7
Gladstone	705	676	-29	-4.1
Greenfields	6	2	-4	%
Ingham	267	232	-35	-13.1
Innisfail	482	469	-13	-2.7
Longreach	79	87	8	%
Mackay Jobseekers	1,018	966	-52	-5.1
Mackay Seniors & Carers	2	1	-1	%
Mareeba	453	456	3	0.7
Mossman	337	346	9	2.7
Mt Isa	664	675	11	1.7
Normanton	144	139	-5	-3.5
Palm Island	282	280	-2	-0.7
Rockhampton Families	1	0	-1	%
Rockhampton Jobseekers	1,493	1,512	19	1.3
Rockhampton Seniors & Carers	2	1	-1	%
Smithfield	0	0	0	%
Thursday Island	234	232	-2	-0.9
Townsville City	3	0	-3	%
Townsville Families	7	0	-7	%
Townsville Jobseekers	2,069	2,142	73	3.5
Townsville Seniors & Carers	5	6	1	%
Western Cape RASC	184	188	4	2.2
Whitsunday	297	283	-14	-4.7
Yarrabah RASC	293	294	1	0.3
Yeppoon	269	266	-3	-1.1
Other (a)	43	33	-10	%
Total	14,281	14,185	-96	-0.7

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>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & EAST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	2,414	2,389	-25	-1.0
Caboolture	1,482	1,480	-2	-0.1
Caboolture FCC and SC&R	0	0	0	%
Caloundra	742	763	21	2.8
Cherbourg	76	75	-1	%
Chermside	672	730	58	8.6
Fortitude Valley	804	822	18	2.2
Gympie	1,001	974	-27	-2.7
Hervey Bay	1,081	1,091	10	0.9
Kawana Waters	337	337	0	0.0
Kingaroy	620	598	-22	-3.5
Kippa-Ring	924	971	47	5.1
Maroochydore	1,003	1,013	10	1.0
Maryborough	960	952	-8	-0.8
Mitchelton	635	673	38	6.0
Nambour	668	683	15	2.2
Noosa	622	647	25	4.0
Nundah	636	649	13	2.0
Strathpine	669	726	57	8.5
Toowong	502	502	0	0.0
Other (a)	18	21	3	%
Total	15,866	16,096	230	1.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & WEST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beenleigh	1,195	1,275	80	6.7
Browns Plains	1,015	1,049	34	3.3
Capalaba	428	421	-7	-1.6
Charleville	164	153	-11	-6.7
Cleveland	558	570	12	2.2
Dalby	479	457	-22	-4.6
Goodna	779	809	30	3.9
Goondiwindi	268	266	-2	-0.7
Inala	925	939	14	1.5
Ipswich	1,612	1,644	32	2.0
Mt Gravatt	1,064	1,072	8	0.8
Roma	114	112	-2	-1.8
South Brisbane	560	575	15	2.7
Stanthorpe	343	383	40	11.7
Stones Corner	994	1,016	22	2.2
Toowoomba	1,767	1,780	13	0.7
Warwick	387	399	12	3.1
Woodridge	1,337	1,339	2	0.1
Wynnum	533	546	13	2.4
Other (a)	19	17	-2	%
Total	14,541	14,822	281	1.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation	
			June - July Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	863	798	-65	-7.5
Broken Hill	749	746	-3	-0.4
Ceduna	252	248	-4	-1.6
Coober Pedy	161	158	-3	-1.9
Currie Street	471	462	-9	-1.9
Elizabeth	2,273	2,300	27	1.2
Enfield	1,248	1,287	39	3.1
Gawler	955	935	-20	-2.1
Glenelg	676	689	13	1.9
Kadina	611	607	-4	-0.7
Kilkenny	1,538	1,500	-38	-2.5
Marion	1,530	1,546	16	1.0
Modbury	1,403	1,419	16	1.1
Mt Barker	473	500	27	5.7
Mt Gambier	1,111	1,131	20	1.8
Murray Bridge	721	756	35	4.9
Noarlunga	2,287	2,334	47	2.1
Norwood	1,175	1,205	30	2.6
Port Adelaide	1,318	1,336	18	1.4
Port Augusta	682	665	-17	-2.5
Port Lincoln	491	535	44	9.0
Port Pirie	846	831	-15	-1.8
Salisbury	2,155	2,161	6	0.3
Torrensville	1,090	1,100	10	0.9
Victor Harbor	516	528	12	2.3
Whyalla	690	695	5	0.7
Other (a)	36	36	0	%
Total	26,321	26,508	187	0.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation	
			June - July Number	Per cent
WEST AUSTRALIA				
Albany	745	789	44	5.9
Armadale	693	728	35	5.1
Bunbury	1,229	1,291	62	5.0
Busselton	244	241	-3	-1.2
Cannington	975	1,005	30	3.1
Carnarvon	289	289	0	0.0
Cocos Islands	47	44	-3	%
Collie	1	2	1	%
Community Team Perth	104	106	2	1.9
Curtin on Campus SSC	9	15	6	%
Esperance	216	231	15	6.9
Fremantle	901	932	31	3.4
Fremantle SACC	3	2	-1	%
Fremantle SSC	0	0	0	%
Geraldton	1,103	1,127	24	2.2
Gosnells	745	776	31	4.2
Innaloo	893	943	50	5.6
Joondalup	970	1,011	41	4.2
Joondalup SACC	1	0	-1	%
Joondalup SSC	0	1	1	%
Kalgoorlie	543	545	2	0.4
Karratha	256	249	-7	-2.7
Laverton RASC	56	61	5	%
Mandurah	867	888	21	2.4
Meekatharra RASC	131	155	24	18.3
Midland	1,475	1,499	24	1.6
Mirrabooka	1,163	1,256	93	8.0
Morley	1,183	1,239	56	4.7
Morley - Dewar Street	2	2	0	%
Morley SSC	0	0	0	%
Newman RASC	171	179	8	4.7
Northam	366	382	16	4.4
Rockingham	1,120	1,151	31	2.8
South Hedland	410	412	2	0.5
Spearwood	669	699	30	4.5
Victoria Park	1,130	1,183	53	4.7
Warwick Grove	482	495	13	2.7
Other (a)	40	35	-5	%
Total	19,232	19,963	731	3.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	593	599	6	1.0
Burnie	1,136	1,147	11	1.0
Devonport	1,223	1,251	28	2.3
Glenorchy	1,590	1,560	-30	-1.9
Hobart	1,074	1,108	34	3.2
Huonville	411	401	-10	-2.4
Launceston	2,817	2,823	6	0.2
Mowbray	5	4	-1	%
Rosny Park	820	827	7	0.9
Sorell	402	409	7	1.7
Other (a)	42	47	5	%
Total	10,113	10,176	63	0.6
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	2,909	2,866	-43	-1.5
Borroloola RASC	37	38	1	%
Broome	420	412	-8	-1.9
Casuarina	785	775	-10	-1.3
Derby	128	120	-8	-6.3
Fitzroy Crossing RASC	55	53	-2	%
Halls Creek RASC	208	197	-11	-5.3
Katherine	1,478	1,443	-35	-2.4
Knuckey Street	484	447	-37	-7.6
Kununurra	220	205	-15	-6.8
Maningrida	349	366	17	4.9
Nhulunbuy	759	751	-8	-1.1
Palmerston	736	724	-12	-1.6
Tangentyere	104	108	4	3.8
Tennant Creek	176	180	4	2.3
Tennant Creek Remote	91	89	-2	%
Tiwi Islands RASC	206	221	15	7.3
Top End Remote	913	826	-87	-9.5
Wadeye RASC	434	455	21	4.8
Yuendumu RASC	140	124	-16	-11.4
Other (a)	50	48	-2	%
Total	10,682	10,448	-234	-2.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	June 2008	July 2008	Variation June - July	
			Number	Per cent
PACIFIC CENTRAL				
Ballina	825	841	16	1.9
Beaudesert	296	287	-9	-3.0
Biggera Waters	1,159	1,166	7	0.6
Bourke	427	450	23	5.4
Brunswick Heads	505	514	9	1.8
Byron Bay	453	479	26	5.7
Casino	513	509	-4	-0.8
Coffs Harbour	2,149	2,152	3	0.1
Grafton	1,408	1,445	37	2.6
Lightning Ridge	181	176	-5	-2.8
Lismore	1,470	1,464	-6	-0.4
Maclean	0	0	0	%
Moree	463	474	11	2.4
Murwillumbah	482	495	13	2.7
Narrabri	325	328	3	0.9
Nerang	1,150	1,159	9	0.8
Palm Beach	1,503	1,569	66	4.4
Robina SCR	4	4	0	%
Southport	1,626	1,645	19	1.2
Tweed Heads	1,140	1,161	21	1.8
Walgett	231	235	4	1.7
Other (a)	35	38	3	%
Total	16,345	16,591	246	1.5
OTHER				
Centrelink Call Centres (b)	36	40	4	%
Not coded to an area	11	10	-1	%
Rounding adjustment (c)	-53	-60	-7	%
AUSTRALIA	290,583	293,881	3,298	1.1

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT ENDING 18 JULY 2008**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.1	81.9	84.1
Earned an income	13.9	18.1	15.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.5	0.8	0.7
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.0	2.5	2.3
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.3	2.9	2.6
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.7	2.3	2.0
Over \$316.00	7.3	9.5	8.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	92,596	85,893	178,489
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.6	71.3	73.6
Earned an income	23.4	28.7	26.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.9	1.1	1.0
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.9	3.3	3.1
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.8	4.0	3.9
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.8	3.2	3.0
Over \$316.00	13.1	17.2	15.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	51,363	65,663	117,026
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.7	77.3	79.9
Earned an income	17.3	22.7	20.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.7	1.0	0.8
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.3	2.8	2.6
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.8	3.4	3.1
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.1	2.7	2.4
Over \$316.00	9.4	12.8	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	143,959	151,556	295,515

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

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

The new method therefore counts these 'current' recipients.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

Closure of Mature Age and Partner Allowances

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

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

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

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

APPENDIX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Timing The timing of collections of the series are different:

- DEEWR reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.
- ABS numbers are based on a sample interview survey of occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.5% of the total Australian population. These persons are interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained is based on the week before the interview takes place.

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:
MI.WORKINGAGE.PAYMENTS@centrelink.gov.au

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

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

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3328.

Other recipient information

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

Other statistical outputs

The following statistical outputs are available on request:

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