

LABOUR MARKET
AND
RELATED PAYMENTS
a monthly profile

November 2003

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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 for the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). This publication covers Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance in some detail and, to a lesser extent, payments such as Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance.

Table 1 provides information on the total number of Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients. The Youth Allowance population is broken down into Youth Allowance (full-time students) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. The total number of Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance recipients are also provided in this table.

Tables 2 and 3 show the derivation of the Newstart and Youth Allowance (other) jobseeker populations (see the reference to Jobseekers in the 'Comparability of Data' section of the *Explanatory Notes*). These populations are added together to derive the total number of jobseekers.

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total jobseeker 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 15 January 2004.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - November 2003

- { Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers totalled 515,849. Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) customers totalled 81,332.
- { Total jobseekers (in receipt of either NSA or YA(o)) totalled 418,563 - an overall decrease of 8,627 from October 2003.
- { Long-term jobseekers totalled 247,695 - an overall decrease of 4,314 from October 2003.
- { Short-term jobseekers totalled 170,868 - an overall decrease of 4,313 from October 2003.

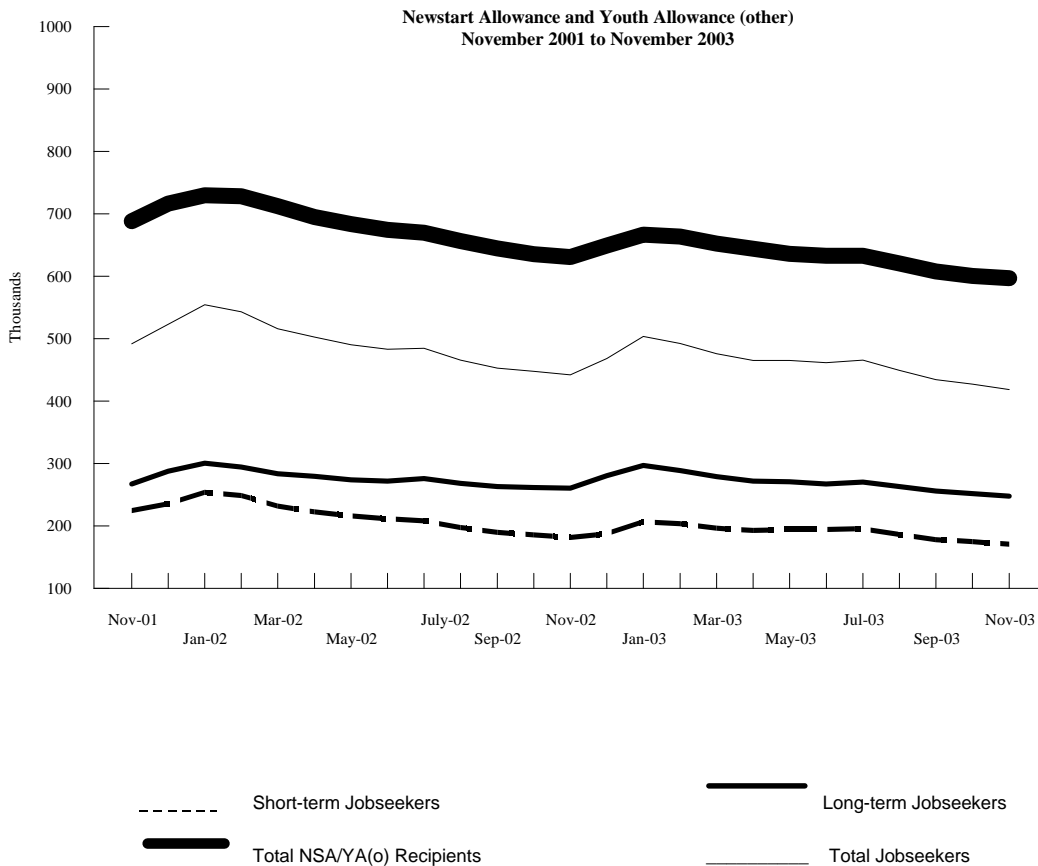


TABLE 1 - FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance		Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Full-time Students (c)	Other			
February 1994 (d)	472,785	977,796
November 2001	334,324	598,764	305,054	89,573	39,535	101,647	39,748
December 2001	342,478	612,927	260,410	103,821	39,668	103,057	40,367
January 2002	348,527	627,501	252,077	102,578	39,423	103,456	40,613
February 2002	350,066	630,229	263,280	98,214	39,358	103,840	40,871
March 2002	347,789	618,200	282,132	94,128	39,328	103,847	41,088
April 2002	344,184	603,047	301,047	92,084	39,563	103,739	41,242
May 2002	341,093	592,476	309,659	91,137	39,936	103,882	41,385
June 2002	339,457	583,773	313,112	91,056	40,157	103,860	41,576
July 2002	339,560	578,096	307,455	91,674	40,202	103,815	41,713
August 2002	338,152	568,697	315,171	87,822	40,236	103,814	41,907
September 2002	336,034	558,808	316,737	85,914	40,215	103,795	42,115
October 2002	335,004	551,899	309,343	83,560	40,102	103,735	42,298
November 2002	333,841	546,247	304,402	84,977	40,099	103,693	42,506
December 2002	339,563	552,637	262,659	96,808	40,131	103,743	42,680
January 2003	345,446	569,009	251,475	97,748	40,050	103,898	42,766
February 2003	343,677	570,613	260,961	93,043	40,282	104,054	42,938
March 2003	338,684	562,353	276,382	89,986	40,527	103,874	43,089
April 2003	333,806	554,505	289,342	89,501	40,682	103,787	43,206
May 2003	330,294	548,554	297,514	87,457	40,784	103,765	43,308
June 2003	327,544	545,685	304,491	87,574	41,372	104,080	43,550
July 2003	326,980	543,578	298,178	89,479	41,582	104,363	43,797
August 2003	324,559	535,399	305,220	85,340	41,882	105,173	44,188
September 2003	320,932	524,947	309,974	82,836	42,625	106,144	44,644
October 2003	318,997	520,317	306,946	80,666	42,140	105,973	45,014
November 2003	316,791	515,849	297,405	81,332	41,124	104,772	45,401
<i>Variation October 2003 - November 2003</i>							
Number	-2,206	-4,468	-9,541	666	-1,016	-1,201	387
Per cent	-0.7	-0.9	-3.1	0.8	-2.4	-1.1	0.9

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving FaCS labour market payments introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data back to May 1998 is in Table A, 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 will be issued under this Scheme from 1 January 2004. For further details, refer to the Explanatory Notes at the back of this publication.

(d) 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.

Note: 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 JOBSEEKER POPULATION

	October 2003	November			Variation	
		Males	Females	Persons	October - November Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	201,320	139,498	59,560	199,058	-2,262	-1.1
CPS recipients (a)	2,220	1,695	571	2,266	46	2.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,374	8,771	4,274	13,045	671	5.4
Received a payment	186,726	129,032	54,715	183,747	-2,979	-1.6
Incapacitated (c)	21,301	14,087	7,519	21,606	305	1.4
Training	9,175	6,121	3,302	9,423	248	2.7
Self-employment development (d)	533	401	190	591	58	10.9
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	1,638	1,149	488	1,637	-1	-0.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	10,165	7,014	3,628	10,642	477	4.7
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	143,914	100,260	39,588	139,848	-4,066	-2.8
Long-term NSA Customers	318,997	214,231	102,560	316,791	-2,206	-0.7
CPS recipients (a)	7,258	5,195	2,037	7,232	-26	-0.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,578	8,215	4,642	12,857	1,279	11.0
Received a payment	300,161	200,821	95,881	296,702	-3,459	-1.2
Incapacitated (c)	32,002	19,917	12,327	32,244	242	0.8
Training	27,700	18,123	10,656	28,779	1,079	3.9
Self-employment development (d)	310	192	100	292	-18	-5.8
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	3,700	2,469	1,342	3,811	111	3.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	17,812	11,249	6,568	17,817	5	0.0
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	218,637	148,871	64,888	213,759	-4,878	-2.2
All NSA Customers	520,317	353,729	162,120	515,849	-4,468	-0.9
CPS recipients (a)	9,478	6,890	2,608	9,498	20	0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	23,952	16,986	8,916	25,902	1,950	8.1
Received a payment	486,887	329,853	150,596	480,449	-6,438	-1.3
Incapacitated (c)	53,303	34,004	19,846	53,850	547	1.0
Training	36,875	24,244	13,958	38,202	1,327	3.6
Self-employment development (d)	843	593	290	883	40	4.7
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	5,338	3,618	1,830	5,448	110	2.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	27,977	18,263	10,196	28,459	482	1.7
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	362,551	249,131	104,476	353,607	-8,944	-2.5

(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 'Jobseekers' 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 2 - 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 JOBSITEKER POPULATION

	October 2003	November			Variation October - November	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	38,964	21,349	17,646	38,995	31	0.1
CPS recipients (a)	1,069	715	425	1,140	71	6.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	932	468	524	992	60	6.4
Received a payment	36,963	20,166	16,697	36,863	-100	-0.3
Part-time study & work (c)	5	2	8	10	5	100.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	100	40	59	99	-1	-1.0
Incapacitated (e)	2,100	1,019	1,124	2,143	43	2.0
Training	1,390	899	558	1,457	67	4.8
Self-employment development (e)	6	9	3	12	6	100.0
Full-time voluntary work	13	7	8	15	2	15.4
Other non-jobseekers (e)	2,082	1,032	1,075	2,107	25	1.2
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	31,267	17,158	13,862	31,020	-247	-0.8
Long-term YA (other) Customers	41,702	20,951	21,386	42,337	635	1.5
CPS recipients (a)	1,037	651	372	1,023	-14	-1.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,121	482	682	1,164	43	3.8
Received a payment	39,544	19,818	20,332	40,150	606	1.5
Part-time study & work (c)	12	3	8	11	-1	-8.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	159	53	104	157	-2	-1.3
Incapacitated (e)	1,841	711	1,164	1,875	34	1.8
Training	2,337	1,258	1,128	2,386	49	2.1
Self-employment development (e)	10	2	4	6	-4	-40.0
Full-time voluntary work	30	15	16	31	1	3.3
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,783	781	967	1,748	-35	-2.0
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	33,372	16,995	16,941	33,936	564	1.7
All YA (other) Customers	80,666	42,300	39,032	81,332	666	0.8
CPS recipients (a)	2,106	1,366	797	2,163	57	2.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,053	950	1,206	2,156	103	5.0
Received a payment	76,507	39,984	37,029	77,013	506	0.7
Part-time study & work (c)	17	5	16	21	4	23.5
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	259	93	163	256	-3	-1.2
Incapacitated (e)	3,941	1,730	2,288	4,018	77	2.0
Training	3,727	2,157	1,686	3,843	116	3.1
Self-employment development (e)	16	11	7	18	2	12.5
Full-time voluntary work	43	22	24	46	3	7.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,865	1,813	2,042	3,855	-10	-0.3
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	64,639	34,153	30,803	64,956	317	0.5

(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 2 - 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 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
TIME SERIES (a)

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
November 2001	224,871	267,418	492,289
December 2001	235,625	287,846	523,471
January 2002	253,959	300,637	554,596
February 2002	248,771	294,759	543,530
March 2002	232,180	284,066	516,246
April 2002	222,980	279,666	502,646
May 2002	216,269	274,302	490,571
June 2002	211,427	272,037	483,464
July 2002	208,536	276,198	484,734
August 2002	197,468	268,400	465,868
September 2002	189,762	263,085	452,847
October 2002	185,780	261,924	447,704
November 2002	181,762	260,685	442,447
December 2002	187,986	280,614	468,600
January 2003	206,675	297,166	503,841
February 2003	203,922	288,718	492,640
March 2003	196,529	279,421	475,950
April 2003	193,214	272,157	465,371
May 2003	194,400	271,109	465,509
June 2003	194,490	267,506	461,996
July 2003	195,487	270,316	465,803
August 2003	186,399	263,215	449,614
September 2003	178,316	256,054	434,370
October 2003	175,181	252,009	427,190
November 2003	170,868	247,695	418,563
<i>Variation October 2003 - November 2003</i>			
<i>Number</i>	-4,313	-4,314	-8,627
<i>Per cent</i>	-2.5	-1.7	-2.0

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving FaCS labour market payment introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data back to May 1998 is in Table B, 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 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY STATE**

<i>State</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	54,653	53,237	-1,416	-2.6
Victoria	42,275	41,241	-1,034	-2.4
Queensland	37,790	37,145	-645	-1.7
South Australia	13,532	13,165	-367	-2.7
Western Australia	18,193	17,625	-568	-3.1
Tasmania	5,233	5,039	-194	-3.7
Northern Territory	1,881	1,801	-80	-4.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,624	1,615	-9	-0.6
AUSTRALIA	175,181	170,868	-4,313	-2.5
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	81,641	80,056	-1,585	-1.9
Victoria	58,161	57,660	-501	-0.9
Queensland	50,070	49,101	-969	-1.9
South Australia	22,093	21,634	-459	-2.1
Western Australia	22,499	21,843	-656	-2.9
Tasmania	12,467	12,327	-140	-1.1
Northern Territory	2,745	2,790	45	1.6
Australian Capital Territory	2,333	2,284	-49	-2.1
AUSTRALIA	252,009	247,695	-4,314	-1.7
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	136,294	133,293	-3,001	-2.2
Victoria	100,436	98,901	-1,535	-1.5
Queensland	87,860	86,246	-1,614	-1.8
South Australia	35,625	34,799	-826	-2.3
Western Australia	40,692	39,468	-1,224	-3.0
Tasmania	17,700	17,366	-334	-1.9
Northern Territory	4,626	4,591	-35	-0.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,957	3,899	-58	-1.5
AUSTRALIA	427,190	418,563	-8,627	-2.0

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 6 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX (NOVEMBER 2003)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,726	4.0	2,808	1.7	7,534	2.7
18 - 20 years	12,431	10.6	14,152	8.5	26,583	9.4
21 - 24 years	21,597	18.4	22,774	13.7	44,371	15.7
25 - 29 years	19,565	16.7	23,791	14.3	43,356	15.3
30 - 39 years	27,495	23.4	38,770	23.4	66,265	23.4
40 - 49 years	16,324	13.9	32,749	19.7	49,073	17.3
50 - 59 years	11,627	9.9	28,868	17.4	40,495	14.3
60 years and over	3,652	3.1	1,954	1.2	5,606	2.0
TOTAL	117,417	100.0	165,866	100.0	283,283	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,562	8.5	3,092	3.8	7,654	5.7
18 - 20 years	9,300	17.4	13,812	16.9	23,112	17.1
21 - 24 years	11,403	21.3	13,726	16.8	25,129	18.6
25 - 29 years	7,152	13.4	8,883	10.9	16,035	11.9
30 - 39 years	7,096	13.3	11,790	14.4	18,886	14.0
40 - 49 years	7,157	13.4	18,554	22.7	25,711	19.0
50 - 59 years	5,962	11.2	11,584	14.2	17,546	13.0
60 years and over	819	1.5	388	0.5	1,207	0.9
TOTAL	53,451	100.0	81,829	100.0	135,280	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,288	5.4	5,900	2.4	15,188	3.6
18 - 20 years	21,731	12.7	27,964	11.3	49,695	11.9
21 - 24 years	33,000	19.3	36,500	14.7	69,500	16.6
25 - 29 years	26,717	15.6	32,674	13.2	59,391	14.2
30 - 39 years	34,591	20.2	50,560	20.4	85,151	20.3
40 - 49 years	23,481	13.7	51,303	20.7	74,784	17.9
50 - 59 years	17,589	10.3	40,452	16.3	58,041	13.9
60 years and over	4,471	2.6	2,342	0.9	6,813	1.6
TOTAL	170,868	100.0	247,695	100.0	418,563	100.0

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,460	1,460	0	0.0
Chatswood	1,283	1,230	-53	-4.1
Darlinghurst	1,825	1,824	-1	-0.1
Darlinghurst YSU	39	35	-4	%
Hornsby	923	890	-33	-3.6
Leichhardt	1,588	1,567	-21	-1.3
Maroubra	1,284	1,287	3	0.2
Marrickville	1,656	1,670	14	0.8
Northern Beaches	1,248	1,268	20	1.6
Sydney Central YSU	2	3	1	%
Other (a)	32	30	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	11,340	11,264	-76	-0.7
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,575	1,503	-72	-4.6
Corrimal	1,389	1,365	-24	-1.7
Dapto	1,225	1,236	11	0.9
Hurstville	1,376	1,340	-36	-2.6
Nowra	1,897	1,901	4	0.2
Redfern	1,500	1,477	-23	-1.5
Rockdale	1,520	1,473	-47	-3.1
Shellharbour	1,874	1,821	-53	-2.8
Sutherland	26	22	-4	%
Ulladulla	504	514	10	2.0
Wollongong	2,021	2,005	-16	-0.8
Wollongong SAC	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	34	31	-3	%
<i>Total</i>	14,941	14,688	-253	-1.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,264	1,262	-2	-0.2
Cessnock	954	921	-33	-3.5
Charlestown	2,945	2,895	-50	-1.7
Ettalong	984	976	-8	-0.8
Forster	893	867	-26	-2.9
Gosford*	1,996	1,977	-19	-1.0
Gosford NSS*	3	1	-2	%
Gunnedah	507	511	4	0.8
Inverell	775	767	-8	-1.0
Kempsey	1,386	1,375	-11	-0.8
Kurri Kurri	665	650	-15	-2.3
Lakehaven	1,647	1,612	-35	-2.1
Maitland	1,885	1,897	12	0.6
Mayfield	1,455	1,420	-35	-2.4
Muswellbrook	703	684	-19	-2.7
Nambucca Heads	1,199	1,199	0	0.0
Nelson Bay	601	576	-25	-4.2
Newcastle	1,970	1,918	-52	-2.6
Newcastle SAC	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	1,739	1,738	-1	-0.1
Raymond Terrace	1,144	1,115	-29	-2.5
Singleton	316	311	-5	-1.6
Tamworth	1,935	1,862	-73	-3.8
Taree	1,736	1,722	-14	-0.8
The Entrance	1,225	1,195	-30	-2.4
Toronto	1,330	1,301	-29	-2.2
Tuggerah	0	0	0	%
Wallsend	1,959	1,911	-48	-2.5
Wyong	694	652	-42	-6.1
Other (a)	37	30	-7	%
<i>Total</i>	33,947	33,345	-602	-1.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*12/05/2003 customers transferred from Gosford NSS to Gosford CSC.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	21	26	5	%
Bankstown	3,979	3,843	-136	-3.4
Cabramatta	2,257	2,133	-124	-5.5
Camden	403	400	-3	-0.7
Campbelltown	2,654	2,492	-162	-6.1
Campsie	2,055	1,999	-56	-2.7
Fairfield	4,084	4,068	-16	-0.4
Ingleburn	1,177	1,153	-24	-2.0
Lakemba	22	22	0	%
Liverpool	3,945	3,720	-225	-5.7
Liverpool YSU	0	0	0	%
Revesby	11	11	0	%
Strathfield	1,579	1,546	-33	-2.1
Other (a)	4	5	1	%
<i>Total</i>	22,191	21,418	-773	-3.5
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,221	2,137	-84	-3.8
Baulkham Hills	565	568	3	0.5
Blacktown	3,029	2,892	-137	-4.5
Hawkesbury	719	700	-19	-2.6
Katoomba	689	649	-40	-5.8
Lithgow	699	694	-5	-0.7
Merrylands	1,642	1,607	-35	-2.1
Mt Druitt	2,344	2,287	-57	-2.4
Mudgee	800	763	-37	-4.6
Parramatta	2,097	2,022	-75	-3.6
Penrith	1,585	1,512	-73	-4.6
Ryde	1,013	963	-50	-4.9
Springwood	409	409	0	0.0
St Marys	1,534	1,459	-75	-4.9
Western Sydney SAC	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	12	6	-6	%
<i>Total</i>	19,358	18,668	-690	-3.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,309	2,256	-53	-2.3
Batemans Bay	759	747	-12	-1.6
Bathurst	914	898	-16	-1.8
Bega	770	737	-33	-4.3
Belconnen	1,067	1,067	0	0.0
Bourke	480	463	-17	-3.5
Bowral	489	496	7	1.4
Braddon	1,145	1,141	-4	-0.3
Cooma	433	412	-21	-4.8
Cowra	464	453	-11	-2.4
Deniliquin	280	259	-21	-7.5
Dubbo	2,027	1,996	-31	-1.5
Goulburn	819	766	-53	-6.5
Griffith	633	619	-14	-2.2
Gungahlin	182	172	-10	-5.5
Lanyon	88	76	-12	%
Leeton	375	386	11	2.9
Narooma	415	419	4	1.0
Orange	1,120	1,095	-25	-2.2
Parkes	1,134	1,131	-3	-0.3
Queanbeyan	658	655	-3	-0.5
Tuggeranong	761	721	-40	-5.3
Tumut	372	374	2	0.5
Wagga	1,699	1,685	-14	-0.8
Woden	771	774	3	0.4
Yass	106	105	-1	-0.9
Young	466	486	20	4.3
Other (a)	6	7	1	%
<i>Total</i>	20,742	20,396	-346	-1.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,845	1,894	49	2.7
Broadmeadows	3,678	3,571	-107	-2.9
Darebin	3,559	3,484	-75	-2.1
Darebin Youth Unit	0	0	0	%
Echuca	712	675	-37	-5.2
Epping	2,365	2,340	-25	-1.1
Fitzroy	2,176	2,159	-17	-0.8
Greensborough	1,347	1,366	19	1.4
Heidelberg	1,077	1,043	-34	-3.2
Lilydale	1,680	1,584	-96	-5.7
Moreland	3,106	3,068	-38	-1.2
Moreland Youth Services	0	0	0	%
Newmarket	1,945	1,902	-43	-2.2
Richmond	1,235	1,207	-28	-2.3
Ringwood	1,969	1,930	-39	-2.0
Seymour	670	645	-25	-3.7
Shepparton	2,618	2,689	71	2.7
Sth Melbourne	978	944	-34	-3.5
Wangaratta	1,880	1,857	-23	-1.2
Windsor (VIC)	3,544	3,467	-77	-2.2
Other (a)	12	10	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	36,396	35,835	-561	-1.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	962	965	3	0.3
Camberwell	1,127	1,105	-22	-2.0
Cheltenham	2,157	2,145	-12	-0.6
Cranbourne*	1,092	1,088	-4	-0.4
Dandenong	2,827	2,742	-85	-3.0
Dandenong YSU	0	0	0	%
Fountain Gate	1,932	1,882	-50	-2.6
Frankston	3,400	3,381	-19	-0.6
Frankston YSU	0	0	0	%
Glen Waverley	1,314	1,278	-36	-2.7
Knox	1,958	1,912	-46	-2.3
Leongatha	1	0	-1	%
Mornington	551	549	-2	-0.4
Morwell	2,875	2,841	-34	-1.2
Oakleigh	1,992	1,961	-31	-1.6
Rosebud	999	970	-29	-2.9
Rowville	491	485	-6	-1.2
Sale	1,050	1,008	-42	-4.0
Springvale	2,660	2,565	-95	-3.6
Warragul	458	429	-29	-6.3
Wonthaggi*	600	596	-4	-0.7
Other (a)	2	1	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	28,448	27,903	-545	-1.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*As at 12/05/2003 Wonthaggi is operating as a CSC. Customers transferred from Cranbourne CSC.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	295	283	-12	-4.1
Ballarat	3,342	3,282	-60	-1.8
Bendigo	3,499	3,443	-56	-1.6
Bendigo SAC	0	0	0	%
Colac	538	534	-4	-0.7
Corio	1,928	1,936	8	0.4
Essendon (Airport West)	1,518	1,575	57	3.8
Footscray	2,239	2,222	-17	-0.8
Geelong	3,532	3,507	-25	-0.7
Hamilton	431	401	-30	-7.0
Horsham	798	794	-4	-0.5
Maryborough (VIC)	624	597	-27	-4.3
Melton	1,195	1,183	-12	-1.0
Mildura	1,955	1,914	-41	-2.1
Newport	1,355	1,362	7	0.5
Portland	591	595	4	0.7
Stawell	176	177	1	0.6
Sunbury	724	692	-32	-4.4
Sunshine	3,122	3,071	-51	-1.6
Swan Hill	926	883	-43	-4.6
Warrnambool	983	959	-24	-2.4
Watergardens	3,479	3,423	-56	-1.6
Werribee	2,271	2,244	-27	-1.2
Other (a)	18	18	0	%
<i>Total</i>	35,539	35,095	-444	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	1,353	1,272	-81	-6.0
Bundaberg	3,223	3,203	-20	-0.6
Caboolture	2,744	2,783	39	1.4
Caloundra	1,471	1,469	-2	-0.1
Capalaba	901	871	-30	-3.3
Chermside	1,357	1,396	39	2.9
Cleveland	870	910	40	4.6
Fortitude Valley	2,057	1,947	-110	-5.3
Gympie	1,500	1,461	-39	-2.6
Hervey Bay	1,406	1,399	-7	-0.5
Kawana Waters	653	653	0	0.0
Kingaroy	823	804	-19	-2.3
Maroochydore	1,877	1,880	3	0.2
Maryborough	1,427	1,423	-4	-0.3
Mitchelton	1,481	1,416	-65	-4.4
Mt Gravatt	2,339	2,302	-37	-1.6
Nambour	1,333	1,333	0	0.0
Noosa	1,576	1,502	-74	-4.7
Nundah	1,502	1,453	-49	-3.3
Redcliffe	1,861	1,758	-103	-5.5
Stones Corner	2,344	2,260	-84	-3.6
Strathpine	1,340	1,258	-82	-6.1
Toowong	1,526	1,526	0	0.0
Wynnum	1,033	1,016	-17	-1.6
Other (a)	1	3	2	%
<i>Total</i>	37,998	37,298	-700	-1.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH QUEENSLAND</i>				
Townsville Employment Services*	178	1,430	1,252	703.4
Atherton	779	745	-34	-4.4
Ayr	410	431	21	5.1
Biloela	220	227	7	3.2
Bowen	342	391	49	14.3
Cairns	1,501	1,589	88	5.9
Cairns (Remote)	757	769	12	1.6
Cairns YAC	612	572	-40	-6.5
Charters Towers	367	367	0	0.0
Earlville	789	679	-110	-13.9
Edmonton	414	407	-7	-1.7
Emerald	406	366	-40	-9.9
Gladstone	1,146	1,175	29	2.5
Greenfields	9	8	-1	%
Ingham	263	264	1	0.4
Innisfail	771	762	-9	-1.2
Mackay	2,586	2,606	20	0.8
Mareeba	479	478	-1	-0.2
Mossman	261	267	6	2.3
Mt Isa	1,018	1,041	23	2.3
Mulgrave Rd	0	0	0	%
Normanton	242	240	-2	-0.8
Rockhampton	2,927	2,967	40	1.4
Townsville FAO*	103	14	-89	-86.4
Smithfield	576	565	-11	-1.9
Thursday Is	196	212	16	8.2
Townsville City*	2,161	2,496	335	15.5
Townsville YSC	34	12	-22	%
Westcourt	0	0	0	%
Whitsunday	464	457	-7	-1.5
Townsville Retirement*	1,635	102	-1,533	-93.8
Yeppoon	645	652	7	1.1
Other (a)	6	5	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	22,297	22,296	-1	-0.0

Note:

*As of November 2003 the above offices have changed names. Townsville Employment Services was previously known as Aitkenvale (Centrepoint), Townsville FAO was previously known as Ross River (Elizabeth St) and Townsville Retirement was previously known as Willows. Townsville City is now an access point only and customers will be transferred to the appropriate CSC's.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	1,028	1,044	16	1.6
Broken Hill	1,035	1,047	12	1.2
Ceduna	191	189	-2	-1.0
Cooper Pedy	153	147	-6	-3.9
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,330	1,317	-13	-1.0
Currie St (Adelaide) SAC	2	1	-1	%
Edwardstown	2,332	2,296	-36	-1.5
Elizabeth	2,719	2,672	-47	-1.7
Enfield	1,754	1,735	-19	-1.1
Gawler	1,178	1,086	-92	-7.8
Glenelg	1,253	1,227	-26	-2.1
Kadina	696	662	-34	-4.9
Kilkenny	2,064	2,047	-17	-0.8
Marden	0	0	0	%
Modbury	2,201	2,145	-56	-2.5
Mt Barker	725	675	-50	-6.9
Mt Gambier	1,357	1,318	-39	-2.9
Murray Bridge	908	895	-13	-1.4
Noarlunga	3,102	2,956	-146	-4.7
Norwood	1,560	1,507	-53	-3.4
Parkside	863	854	-9	-1.0
Port Adelaide	1,693	1,664	-29	-1.7
Port Augusta	694	731	37	5.3
Port Lincoln	728	731	3	0.4
Port Pirie	1,190	1,122	-68	-5.7
Salisbury	2,760	2,706	-54	-2.0
Torrens ville	1,516	1,471	-45	-3.0
Victor Harbor	662	621	-41	-6.2
Whyalla	1,134	1,122	-12	-1.1
Other (a)	10	12	2	%
<i>Total</i>	36,838	36,000	-838	-2.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,478	1,393	-85	-5.8
Armadale	1,406	1,368	-38	-2.7
Bunbury	2,876	2,784	-92	-3.2
Cannington	2,107	2,043	-64	-3.0
Carnarvon	363	349	-14	-3.9
Christmas Island	36	28	-8	%
Cocos Island	40	41	1	%
Collie	12	7	-5	%
Esperance	350	328	-22	-6.3
Fremantle	2,286	2,231	-55	-2.4
Geraldton	1,789	1,741	-48	-2.7
Gosnells	1,541	1,490	-51	-3.3
Innaloo	2,717	2,582	-135	-5.0
Joondalup	1,986	1,971	-15	-0.8
Kalgoorlie	816	794	-22	-2.7
Karratha	271	276	5	1.8
Kwinana*	123	96	-27	-22.0
Mandurah	1,870	1,803	-67	-3.6
Midland	2,499	2,391	-108	-4.3
Milligan Street (Centrelink City)*	18	13	-5	%
Mirrabooka	2,727	2,576	-151	-5.5
Morley	3,237	3,201	-36	-1.1
Northam	592	584	-8	-1.4
Rockingham	2,268	2,218	-50	-2.2
South Hedland	362	378	16	4.4
Spearwood	1,604	1,518	-86	-5.4
Victoria Park	3,227	3,218	-9	-0.3
Warwick Grove	1,567	1,541	-26	-1.7
Other (a)	115	128	13	11.3
<i>Total</i>	40,283	39,091	-1,192	-3.0

Note:

*As of 30 May 2003 Kwinana became a sub office of Rockingham.

*As of 30 June 2003 Milligan Street was replaced by Centrelink City, forms lodgement and quick general enquiries only. Subsequently, those CSC's in surrounding area show an increase during July 2003. The CSC's affected are Fremantle, Innaloo, Mirrabooka, Morley and Victoria Park.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	1,223	1,232	9	0.7
Burnie	2,109	2,039	-70	-3.3
Devonport	2,274	2,238	-36	-1.6
Glenorchy	2,115	2,023	-92	-4.3
Hobart	2,278	2,272	-6	-0.3
Hobart YSC	0	0	0	%
Huonville	690	681	-9	-1.3
Launceston	4,984	4,927	-57	-1.1
Mowbray	13	13	0	%
Queenstown	0	0	0	%
Rosny Park *	1,458	1,407	-51	-3.5
Sorell	632	606	-26	-4.1
St Helens	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	5	6	1	%
<i>Total</i>	17,781	17,444	-337	-1.9
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	430	412	-18	-4.2
Alice Springs (Remote)	209	257	48	23.0
Broome	363	342	-21	-5.8
Casuarina	1,127	1,093	-34	-3.0
Casuarina (Remote)	0	0	0	%
Casuarina YSC	9	7	-2	%
Derby	74	76	2	%
Katherine	397	391	-6	-1.5
Katherine (Remote)	76	75	-1	%
Knuckey Street	681	659	-22	-3.2
Kununurra	147	145	-2	-1.4
Nhulunbuy	77	99	22	%
Palmerston	1,021	990	-31	-3.0
Palmerston (Remote)	0	0	0	%
Tangentyere	401	395	-6	-1.5
Tennant Creek	125	117	-8	-6.4
Tennant Creek (Remote)	9	10	1	%
Other (a)	95	129	34	35.8
<i>Total</i>	5,241	5,197	-44	-0.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

* Rosny Park was formerly called Bellerive. It was renamed on 14/10/02

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,257	1,243	-14	-1.1
Beaudesert	460	436	-24	-5.2
Beenleigh	1,902	1,851	-51	-2.7
Biggera Waters	2,007	1,932	-75	-3.7
Browns Plains	1,816	1,756	-60	-3.3
Brunswick Heads	840	833	-7	-0.8
Byron Bay	1,023	1,019	-4	-0.4
Casino	816	824	8	1.0
Charleville	193	183	-10	-5.2
Coffs Harbour	3,190	3,163	-27	-0.8
Dalby	852	826	-26	-3.1
Goodna	1,268	1,228	-40	-3.2
Goondiwindi	303	274	-29	-9.6
Grafton	1,908	1,857	-51	-2.7
Inala	1,593	1,552	-41	-2.6
Ipswich	2,536	2,418	-118	-4.7
Lightning Ridge	8	9	1	%
Lismore	2,471	2,427	-44	-1.8
Moree	720	685	-35	-4.9
Murwillumbah	795	771	-24	-3.0
Narrabri	468	435	-33	-7.1
Nerang	2,096	2,013	-83	-4.0
Palm Beach	2,789	2,742	-47	-1.7
Roma	163	158	-5	-3.1
Southport	3,206	3,034	-172	-5.4
Stanthorpe	16	22	6	%
Toowoomba	2,944	2,871	-73	-2.5
Tweed Heads	1,908	1,890	-18	-0.9
Walgett	491	477	-14	-2.9
Warwick	1,155	1,124	-31	-2.7
Woodridge	2,628	2,534	-94	-3.6
Other (a)	18	22	4	%
<i>Total</i>	43,840	42,609	-1,231	-2.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2003	November 2003	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	1	2	1	%
Bendigo	0	1	1	%
Brisbane	0	0	0	%
Bunbury	0	1	1	%
Cairns	0	0	0	%
Cardiff	1	1	0	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	0	0	0	%
Hobart	0	1	1	%
Illawarra	0	0	0	%
Indigenous	0	1	1	%
Latrobe	0	1	1	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	0	0	%
Moreland	0	0	0	%
Perth	1	1	0	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	2	3	1	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	0	0	%
Townsville	0	1	1	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	5	13	8	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	5	3	-2	%
AUSTRALIA	427,190	418,563	-8,627	-2.0

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

% Monthly variations in percentage terms are not included where the Customer Service Centre has a population less than 100 in both of the reported months.

*Jobseekers receiving NSA / YA (o) in the Centrelink Call Centres were previously counted in various Area Offices.

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 8 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT TO 21 NOVEMBER 2003**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	85.5	83.8	84.5
Earned an income	14.5	16.2	15.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.3	1.7	1.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.3	3.7	3.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	3.3	3.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.0	1.9
Over \$316.00	5.2	5.5	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>116,560</i>	<i>165,226</i>	<i>281,786</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.1	73.7	74.7
Earned an income	23.9	26.3	25.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	2.0	2.3	2.2
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.9	5.2	5.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.4	4.9	4.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.1	3.3	3.2
Over \$316.00	9.5	10.5	10.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>53,647</i>	<i>81,976</i>	<i>135,623</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.6	80.5	81.3
Earned an income	17.4	19.5	18.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.5	1.9	1.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.8	4.2	4.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.3	3.8	3.6
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.2	2.5	2.4
Over \$316.00	6.5	7.1	6.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>170,207</i>	<i>247,202</i>	<i>417,409</i>

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on FaCS labour market and related payments administered 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.

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 jobseekers. 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) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance customers 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 jobseeker populations (see the reference to *Jobseekers* in the Comparability of Data section of these Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of jobseekers. Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total jobseeker population.

The earnings data in Table 8 is derived using a different methodology to that of the other tables in the publication. Table 8 is based on the combined population of jobseekers 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 replaces:

- 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 customers 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 apply 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 is 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. It also had a downward effect on total jobseeker 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 (see *Youth Allowance*).

From 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment – Newstart Allowance – which was payable to eligible customers 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 CES for 12 months or more.

Job Search Allowance

From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. All Job Search Allowance customers were transferred to Newstart Allowance.

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.

Sickness Allowance

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

Under current arrangements, these customers remain on their existing payments but are exempt from the activity test for the duration of their medical certificates. People who become unemployed because of illness, and those who suffer a potential loss of income due to sickness, are paid Newstart Allowance because they are unemployed.

Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) has now been replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see *Youth Allowance*).

Partner Allowance

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

From 1 July 1995 Partner Allowance has only been granted to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Other dependent partners have to qualify for an income support payment in their own right, such as Newstart Allowance.

Partner Allowance was introduced in 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.

Youth Training Allowance

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

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

Widow Allowance

Widow Allowance, introduced in 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 off 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 12 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 12 months or more and who were eligible for Newstart Allowance. The introduction of Mature Age Allowance has had a downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from April 1994.

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 customers; the inclusion of some CDEP customers in the total customer numbers; the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998; the way 'jobseeker' is defined; and the way duration is calculated. People using this data to construct time series should note the following comments.

Definition of Customer

From July 2002, 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 customers who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment have a determination status of 'current'. The new method therefore counts these 'current' customers.

The old method of counting customers was specified to include all paid customers – those who received a payment within a given fortnight. As compiled, however, this count excluded, from mid 1998, customers 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 back to May 1998 can be found in the July 2002 publication.

From July 2003 a more sustainable methodology was introduced for this revised customer count. Due to limitations in available data sources in 2002, the revised customer count had to be derived through a complicated process. This more sustainable methodology resulted in slight differences from the customer 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 customers to those who are normally 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 Jobseekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) Jobseekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the jobseeker total. The problem, however, of the exclusion of some customers through the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test still remains.

Jobseekers

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

The total number of jobseekers (comparable to pre-July 1998 estimates) is calculated by adding together the number of jobseekers 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 customer spends on income support – short-term customers are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term customers are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a customer was registered as unemployed – short-term customers were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term customers 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 off 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) customer has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test customers 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.
Centrelink Youth Service Centre	A Centrelink Youth Service Centre consists of specialised staff who provide young people with improved access to Government services and income support. This is done by offering a mainstream FaCS service, as well as specialist case management to help access educational, labour market, job search, housing, health and general welfare assistance; and by providing a regular FaCS visiting service to youth via hostels, refuges and voluntary agencies.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	<p>The CDEP scheme is a program funded by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). The scheme enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community councils and other approved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to offer work to community members in activities that assist individuals in acquiring skills which benefit the community, develop business enterprises and/or lead to unsubsidised employment. The scheme also aims to develop management and business skills in an environment conducive to the principles of self-determination.</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 FaCS and other payments and related information and services to customers. 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.
Jobseekers	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 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 Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term customers can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed off 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 off 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 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 Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term customers 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 customer's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.
Widow Allowance (WA)	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.
Youth Training Allowance (YTA)	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.
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 21 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)	Youth Allowance customers who are not full-time students.
Zero-Paid	See 'Did Not Receive a Payment'.

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENT NUMBERS AND ABS 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.
FaCS 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 and FaCS labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Seasonal Adjustment</i>	The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The FaCS statistics are not seasonally adjusted.
<i>Classification</i>	<p>The ABS classifies a person as unemployed if he or she is aged 15 years and over, was not employed during the week before the interview, has actively looked for full-time or part-time work and is available to start work.</p> <p>The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment between the ages of 15 years and 64 years in the case of men (excluding recipients of Mature Age Allowance) and 15 to 62 years in the case of women (excluding recipients of Mature Age, Partner, and Widow Allowances).</p>
<i>Employment</i>	Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients may be employed part-time, but within an income test limit; the ABS classifies a person as "employed" if, among other things, he or she has worked for one hour or more during the survey period.

<i>Timing</i>	<p>The timing of collections of the series are different:</p> <p>FaCS 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<i>Treatment of Partners</i>	<p>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.</p>
<i>Pensioners</i>	<p>The ABS series includes persons being paid a pension but looking for work (eg sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).</p>
<i>Non-jobseekers</i>	<p>The overall Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series includes persons who are not undertaking 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 or permanent exemption from jobsearch.</p>
<i>Waiting Periods</i>	<p>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.</p>
<i>Survey</i>	<p>The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the FaCS statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour Market Information

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

In addition to Newstart and Youth Allowances, statistics are also available on Partner Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Sickness Allowance, Special Benefit, Widow Allowance, Exceptional Circumstances Relief and Farm Help.

For further information please contact the Centrelink Knowledge Desk on (02) 6244 7270.

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

Director
Labour Market Research and Macro-Policy Section
Department of Family and Community Services
CW3
PO Box 7788
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6244 7978.

Other Customer Information

Statistics are also available relating to other customers, including customer numbers and characteristics for the various FaCS Pension and Family Payments.

For further information please contact the Centrelink Knowledge Desk on (02) 6244 7270.

Other Statistical Outputs:

The following statistical output is available on request:

*Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
Customers - A Statistical Overview, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 &
2000*
- produced annually.