

LABOUR MARKET
AND
RELATED PAYMENTS
a monthly profile

December 2003

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	1
Statistical Highlights	2
Tables	
1. FaCS Labour Market Payments - Time Series	3
2. Newstart Allowees - Derivation of the Jobseeker Population	4
3. Youth Allowees (other) - Derivation of the Jobseeker Population	5
4. Jobseekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) - Time Series	6
5. Jobseekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by State	7
6. Jobseekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Age and Sex	8
7. Jobseekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre	9
8. Jobseekers receiving Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) by Fortnightly Earnings and Sex	23
Explanatory Notes	24
Glossary	30
Appendix	33
For More Information	35

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, 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 12 February 2004.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - December 2003

- { Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers totalled 523,107. Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) customers totalled 92,671.
- { Total jobseekers (in receipt of either NSA or YA(o)) totalled 440,118 - an overall increase of 21,555 from November 2003.
- { Long-term jobseekers totalled 263,768 - an overall increase of 16,073 from November 2003.
- { Short-term jobseekers totalled 176,350 - an overall increase of 5,482 from November 2003.

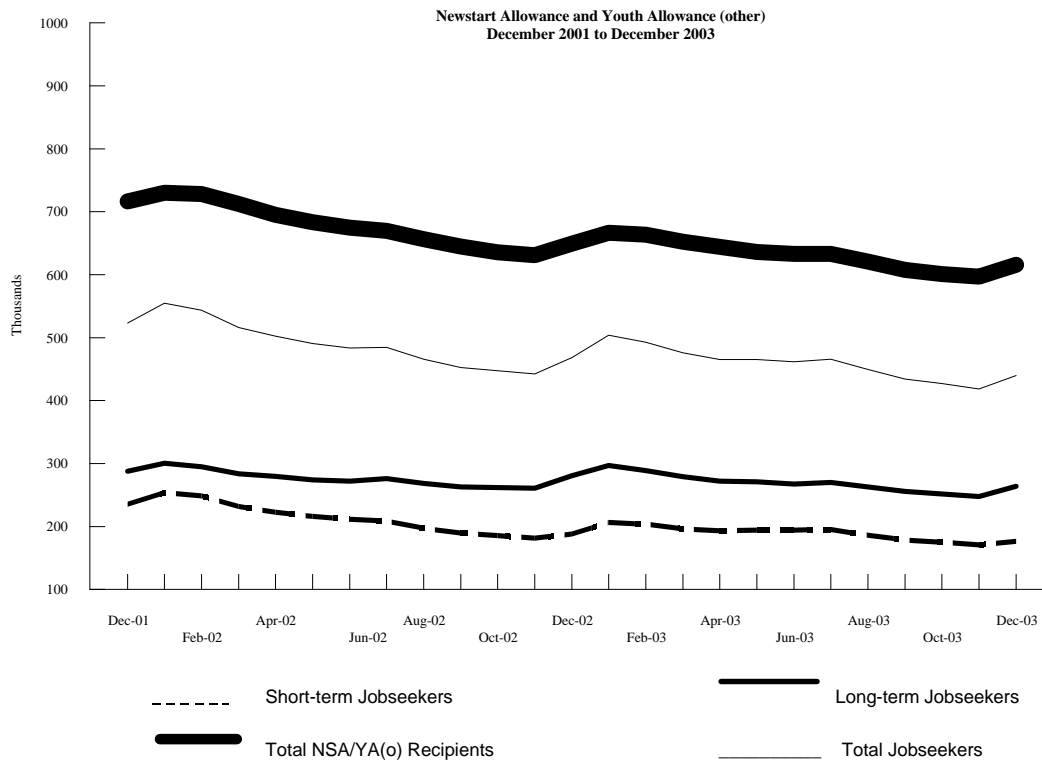


TABLE 1 - FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	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
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
December 2003	321,781	523,107	256,770	92,671	40,117	103,495	45,760
<i>Variation November 2003 - December 2003</i>							
Number	4,990	7,258	-40,635	11,339	-1,007	-1,277	359
Per cent	1.6	1.4	-13.7	13.9	-2.4	-1.2	0.8

(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

	Variation					
	November	December			November - December	
	2003	Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	199,058	139,244	62,082	201,326	2,268	1.1
CPS recipients (a)	2,266	1,695	563	2,258	-8	-0.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,045	9,109	4,470	13,579	534	4.1
Received a payment	183,747	128,440	57,049	185,489	1,742	0.9
Incapacitated (c)	21,606	14,151	7,704	21,855	249	1.2
Training	9,423	5,156	2,553	7,709	-1,714	-18.2
Self-employment development (d)	591	261	141	402	-189	-32.0
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	1,637	1,150	544	1,694	57	3.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	10,642	7,199	3,921	11,120	478	4.5
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	139,848	100,523	42,186	142,709	2,861	2.0
Long-term NSA Customers	316,791	215,874	105,907	321,781	4,990	1.6
CPS recipients (a)	7,232	5,246	2,067	7,313	81	1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,857	8,490	4,733	13,223	366	2.8
Received a payment	296,702	202,138	99,107	301,245	4,543	1.5
Incapacitated (c)	32,244	19,797	12,378	32,175	-69	-0.2
Training	28,779	16,588	9,370	25,958	-2,821	-9.8
Self-employment development (d)	292	132	71	203	-89	-30.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	3,811	2,598	1,375	3,973	162	4.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	17,817	11,359	6,695	18,054	237	1.3
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	213,759	151,664	69,218	220,882	7,123	3.3
All NSA Customers	515,849	355,118	167,989	523,107	7,258	1.4
CPS recipients (a)	9,498	6,941	2,630	9,571	73	0.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	25,902	17,599	9,203	26,802	900	3.5
Received a payment	480,449	330,578	156,156	486,734	6,285	1.3
Incapacitated (c)	53,850	33,948	20,082	54,030	180	0.3
Training	38,202	21,744	11,923	33,667	-4,535	-11.9
Self-employment development (d)	883	393	212	605	-278	-31.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	5,448	3,748	1,919	5,667	219	4.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	28,459	18,558	10,616	29,174	715	2.5
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	353,607	252,187	111,404	363,591	9,984	2.8

(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 JOBSEEKER POPULATION

	November 2003	December		Persons	Variation November - December	
		Males	Females		Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	38,995	22,323	19,205	41,528	2,533	6.5
CPS recipients (a)	1,140	717	446	1,163	23	2.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	992	494	517	1,011	19	1.9
Received a payment	36,863	21,112	18,242	39,354	2,491	6.8
Part-time study & work (c)	10	2	6	8	-2	-20.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	99	36	49	85	-14	-14.1
Incapacitated (e)	2,143	1,017	1,171	2,188	45	2.1
Training	1,457	818	471	1,289	-168	-11.5
Self-employment development (e)	12	7	4	11	-1	-8.3
Full-time voluntary work	15	6	10	16	1	6.7
Other non-jobseekers (e)	2,107	1,050	1,066	2,116	9	0.4
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	31,020	18,176	15,465	33,641	2,621	8.4
Long-term YA (other) Customers	42,337	25,104	26,039	51,143	8,806	20.8
CPS recipients (a)	1,023	646	378	1,024	1	0.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,164	519	660	1,179	15	1.3
Received a payment	40,150	23,939	25,001	48,940	8,790	21.9
Part-time study & work (c)	11	2	6	8	-3	-27.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	157	43	73	116	-41	-26.1
Incapacitated (e)	1,875	746	1,174	1,920	45	2.4
Training	2,386	1,139	1,045	2,184	-202	-8.5
Self-employment development (e)	6	1	3	4	-2	-33.3
Full-time voluntary work	31	16	18	34	3	9.7
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,748	790	998	1,788	40	2.3
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	33,936	21,202	21,684	42,886	8,950	26.4
All YA (other) Customers	81,332	47,427	45,244	92,671	11,339	13.9
CPS recipients (a)	2,163	1,363	824	2,187	24	1.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,156	1,013	1,177	2,190	34	1.6
Received a payment	77,013	45,051	43,243	88,294	11,281	14.6
Part-time study & work (c)	21	4	12	16	-5	-23.8
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	256	79	122	201	-55	-21.5
Incapacitated (e)	4,018	1,763	2,345	4,108	90	2.2
Training	3,843	1,957	1,516	3,473	-370	-9.6
Self-employment development (e)	18	8	7	15	-3	-16.7
Full-time voluntary work	46	22	28	50	4	8.7
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,855	1,840	2,064	3,904	49	1.3
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	64,956	39,378	37,149	76,527	11,571	17.8

(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
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
December 2003	176,350	263,768	440,118
<i>Variation November 2003 - December 2003</i>			
<i>Number</i>	5,482	16,073	21,555
<i>Per cent</i>	3.2	6.5	5.1

(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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	53,237	55,075	1,838	3.5
Victoria	41,241	42,055	814	2.0
Queensland	37,145	39,197	2,052	5.5
South Australia	13,165	13,497	332	2.5
Western Australia	17,625	17,848	223	1.3
Tasmania	5,039	5,107	68	1.3
Northern Territory	1,801	1,888	87	4.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,615	1,683	68	4.2
AUSTRALIA	170,868	176,350	5,482	3.2
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	80,056	84,911	4,855	6.1
Victoria	57,660	62,431	4,771	8.3
Queensland	49,101	52,813	3,712	7.6
South Australia	21,634	22,680	1,046	4.8
Western Australia	21,843	22,586	743	3.4
Tasmania	12,327	12,829	502	4.1
Northern Territory	2,790	3,008	218	7.8
Australian Capital Territory	2,284	2,510	226	9.9
AUSTRALIA	247,695	263,768	16,073	6.5
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	133,293	139,986	6,693	5.0
Victoria	98,901	104,486	5,585	5.6
Queensland	86,246	92,010	5,764	6.7
South Australia	34,799	36,177	1,378	4.0
Western Australia	39,468	40,434	966	2.4
Tasmania	17,366	17,936	570	3.3
Northern Territory	4,591	4,896	305	6.6
Australian Capital Territory	3,899	4,193	294	7.5
AUSTRALIA	418,563	440,118	21,555	5.1

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 - JOBSSEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX (DECEMBER 2003)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	5,277	4.4	4,124	2.4	9,401	3.2
18 - 20 years	12,898	10.9	16,943	9.8	29,841	10.2
21 - 24 years	21,910	18.5	24,463	14.2	46,373	15.9
25 - 29 years	19,603	16.5	24,451	14.1	44,054	15.1
30 - 39 years	27,506	23.2	39,124	22.6	66,630	22.9
40 - 49 years	16,185	13.6	32,825	19.0	49,010	16.8
50 - 59 years	11,466	9.7	28,693	16.6	40,159	13.8
60 years and over	3,854	3.2	2,245	1.3	6,099	2.1
TOTAL	118,699	100.0	172,868	100.0	291,567	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	5,224	9.1	4,582	5.0	9,806	6.6
18 - 20 years	10,241	17.8	16,921	18.6	27,162	18.3
21 - 24 years	12,424	21.6	16,063	17.7	28,487	19.2
25 - 29 years	7,695	13.3	9,626	10.6	17,321	11.7
30 - 39 years	7,376	12.8	12,342	13.6	19,718	13.3
40 - 49 years	7,397	12.8	19,091	21.0	26,488	17.8
50 - 59 years	6,357	11.0	11,812	13.0	18,169	12.2
60 years and over	937	1.6	463	0.5	1,400	0.9
TOTAL	57,651	100.0	90,900	100.0	148,551	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	10,501	6.0	8,706	3.3	19,207	4.4
18 - 20 years	23,139	13.1	33,864	12.8	57,003	13.0
21 - 24 years	34,334	19.5	40,526	15.4	74,860	17.0
25 - 29 years	27,298	15.5	34,077	12.9	61,375	13.9
30 - 39 years	34,882	19.8	51,466	19.5	86,348	19.6
40 - 49 years	23,582	13.4	51,916	19.7	75,498	17.2
50 - 59 years	17,823	10.1	40,505	15.4	58,328	13.3
60 years and over	4,791	2.7	2,708	1.0	7,499	1.7
TOTAL	176,350	100.0	263,768	100.0	440,118	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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,460	1,505	45	3.1
Chatswood	1,230	1,290	60	4.9
Darlinghurst	1,824	1,876	52	2.9
Darlinghurst YSU	35	37	2	%
Hornsby	890	994	104	11.7
Leichhardt	1,567	1,660	93	5.9
Maroubra	1,287	1,337	50	3.9
Marrickville	1,670	1,765	95	5.7
Northern Beaches	1,268	1,369	101	8.0
Sydney Central YSU	3	3	0	%
Other (a)	30	33	3	%
<i>Total</i>	11,264	11,869	605	5.4
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,503	1,632	129	8.6
Corrimal	1,365	1,443	78	5.7
Dapto	1,236	1,283	47	3.8
Hurstville	1,340	1,437	97	7.2
Nowra	1,901	2,002	101	5.3
Redfern	1,477	1,563	86	5.8
Rockdale	1,473	1,601	128	8.7
Shellharbour	1,821	1,874	53	2.9
Sutherland	22	26	4	%
Ulladulla	514	520	6	1.2
Wollongong	2,005	2,134	129	6.4
Other (a)	31	33	2	%
<i>Total</i>	14,688	15,548	860	5.9

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,262	1,382	120	9.5
Cessnock	921	974	53	5.8
Charlestown	2,895	3,043	148	5.1
Ettalong	976	1,017	41	4.2
Forster	867	884	17	2.0
Gosford*	1,977	2,058	81	4.1
Gosford NSS*	1	1	0	%
Gunnedah	511	522	11	2.2
Inverell	767	811	44	5.7
Kempsey	1,375	1,443	68	4.9
Kurri Kurri	650	636	-14	-2.2
Lakehaven	1,612	1,668	56	3.5
Maitland	1,897	1,963	66	3.5
Mayfield	1,420	1,431	11	0.8
Muswellbrook	684	709	25	3.7
Nambucca Heads	1,199	1,267	68	5.7
Nelson Bay	576	582	6	1.0
Newcastle	1,918	2,075	157	8.2
Port Macquarie	1,738	1,832	94	5.4
Raymond Terrace	1,115	1,131	16	1.4
Singleton	311	332	21	6.8
Tamworth	1,862	1,978	116	6.2
Taree	1,722	1,817	95	5.5
The Entrance	1,195	1,220	25	2.1
Toronto	1,301	1,390	89	6.8
Tuggerah	0	0	0	%
Wallsend	1,911	2,055	144	7.5
Wyong	652	662	10	1.5
Other (a)	30	36	6	%
<i>Total</i>	33,345	34,919	1,574	4.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

**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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	26	31	5	%
Bankstown	3,843	3,921	78	2.0
Cabramatta	2,133	2,181	48	2.3
Camden	400	374	-26	-6.5
Campbelltown	2,492	2,626	134	5.4
Campsie	1,999	2,068	69	3.5
Fairfield	4,068	4,294	226	5.6
Ingleburn	1,153	1,144	-9	-0.8
Lakemba	22	22	0	%
Liverpool	3,720	3,888	168	4.5
Revesby	11	16	5	%
Strathfield	1,546	1,672	126	8.2
Other (a)	5	5	0	%
<i>Total</i>	21,418	22,242	824	3.8
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,137	2,332	195	9.1
Baulkham Hills	568	628	60	10.6
Blacktown	2,892	3,039	147	5.1
Hawkesbury	700	746	46	6.6
Katoomba	649	710	61	9.4
Lithgow	694	753	59	8.5
Merrylands	1,607	1,658	51	3.2
Mt Druitt	2,287	2,403	116	5.1
Mudgee	763	742	-21	-2.8
Parramatta	2,022	2,128	106	5.2
Penrith	1,512	1,631	119	7.9
Ryde	963	1,053	90	9.3
Springwood	409	432	23	5.6
St Marys	1,459	1,567	108	7.4
Other (a)	6	7	1	%
<i>Total</i>	18,668	19,829	1,161	6.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,256	2,474	218	9.7
Batemans Bay	747	804	57	7.6
Bathurst	898	963	65	7.2
Bega	737	773	36	4.9
Belconnen	1,067	1,201	134	12.6
Bourke	463	480	17	3.7
Bowral	496	509	13	2.6
Braddon	1,141	1,218	77	6.7
Cooma	412	405	-7	-1.7
Cowra	453	474	21	4.6
Deniliquin	259	282	23	8.9
Dubbo	1,996	2,058	62	3.1
Goulburn	766	799	33	4.3
Griffith	619	656	37	6.0
Gungahlin	172	178	6	3.5
Lanyon	76	73	-3	%
Leeton	386	395	9	2.3
Narooma	419	447	28	6.7
Orange	1,095	1,161	66	6.0
Parkes	1,131	1,164	33	2.9
Queanbeyan	655	671	16	2.4
Tuggeranong	721	759	38	5.3
Tumut	374	375	1	0.3
Wagga	1,685	1,812	127	7.5
Woden	774	825	51	6.6
Yass	105	108	3	2.9
Young	486	491	5	1.0
Other (a)	7	6	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	20,396	21,561	1,165	5.7

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,894	1,952	58	3.1
Broadmeadows	3,571	3,847	276	7.7
Darebin	3,484	3,791	307	8.8
Echuca	675	683	8	1.2
Epping	2,340	2,458	118	5.0
Fitzroy	2,159	2,263	104	4.8
Greensborough	1,366	1,492	126	9.2
Heidelberg	1,043	1,103	60	5.8
Lilydale	1,584	1,666	82	5.2
Moreland	3,068	3,281	213	6.9
Newmarket	1,902	1,971	69	3.6
Richmond	1,207	1,282	75	6.2
Ringwood	1,930	2,058	128	6.6
Seymour	645	685	40	6.2
Shepparton	2,689	2,806	117	4.4
Sth Melbourne	944	980	36	3.8
Wangaratta	1,857	1,922	65	3.5
Windsor (VIC)	3,467	3,753	286	8.2
Other (a)	10	16	6	%
<i>Total</i>	35,835	38,009	2,174	6.1

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	965	983	18	1.9
Camberwell	1,105	1,197	92	8.3
Cheltenham	2,145	2,285	140	6.5
Cranbourne	1,088	1,182	94	8.6
Dandenong	2,742	2,922	180	6.6
Fountain Gate	1,882	2,049	167	8.9
Frankston	3,381	3,516	135	4.0
Glen Waverley	1,278	1,376	98	7.7
Knox	1,912	1,993	81	4.2
Leongatha	0	2	2	%
Mornington	549	576	27	4.9
Morwell	2,841	2,944	103	3.6
Oakleigh	1,961	2,153	192	9.8
Rosebud	970	1,005	35	3.6
Rowville	485	529	44	9.1
Sale	1,008	1,015	7	0.7
Springvale	2,565	2,707	142	5.5
Warragul	429	465	36	8.4
Wonthaggi	596	630	34	5.7
Other (a)	1	7	6	%
<i>Total</i>	27,903	29,536	1,633	5.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	283	307	24	8.5
Ballarat	3,282	3,521	239	7.3
Bendigo	3,443	3,708	265	7.7
Colac	534	565	31	5.8
Corio	1,936	2,056	120	6.2
Essendon (Airport West)	1,575	1,662	87	5.5
Footscray	2,222	2,356	134	6.0
Geelong	3,507	3,706	199	5.7
Hamilton	401	417	16	4.0
Horsham	794	798	4	0.5
Maryborough (VIC)	597	588	-9	-1.5
Melton	1,183	1,240	57	4.8
Mildura	1,914	1,974	60	3.1
Newport	1,362	1,380	18	1.3
Portland	595	586	-9	-1.5
Stawell	177	197	20	11.3
Sunbury	692	736	44	6.4
Sunshine	3,071	3,129	58	1.9
Swan Hill	883	873	-10	-1.1
Warrnambool	959	991	32	3.3
Watergardens	3,423	3,623	200	5.8
Werribee	2,244	2,376	132	5.9
Other (a)	18	21	3	%
<i>Total</i>	35,095	36,810	1,715	4.9

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	1,272	1,351	79	6.2
Bundaberg	3,203	3,433	230	7.2
Caboolture	2,783	2,953	170	6.1
Caloundra	1,469	1,586	117	8.0
Capalaba	871	928	57	6.5
Chermside	1,396	1,500	104	7.4
Cleveland	910	999	89	9.8
Fortitude Valley	1,947	2,098	151	7.8
Gympie	1,461	1,640	179	12.3
Hervey Bay	1,399	1,486	87	6.2
Kawana Waters	653	713	60	9.2
Kingaroy	804	843	39	4.9
Maroochydore	1,880	2,025	145	7.7
Maryborough	1,423	1,494	71	5.0
Mitchelton	1,416	1,513	97	6.9
Mt Gravatt	2,302	2,512	210	9.1
Nambour	1,333	1,442	109	8.2
Noosa	1,502	1,592	90	6.0
Nundah	1,453	1,485	32	2.2
Redcliffe	1,758	1,905	147	8.4
Stones Corner	2,260	2,426	166	7.3
Strathpine	1,258	1,314	56	4.5
Toowong	1,526	1,786	260	17.0
Wynnum	1,016	1,091	75	7.4
Other (a)	3	3	0	%
<i>Total</i>	37,298	40,118	2,820	7.6

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	745	812	67	9.0
Ayr	431	481	50	11.6
Biloela	227	247	20	8.8
Bowen	391	543	152	38.9
Cairns	1,589	1,774	185	11.6
Cairns YAC	572	631	59	10.3
Cairns (Remote)	769	792	23	3.0
Charters Towers	367	386	19	5.2
Earlville	679	602	-77	-11.3
Edmonton	407	411	4	1.0
Emerald	366	361	-5	-1.4
Gladstone	1,175	1,219	44	3.7
Greenfields	8	8	0	%
Ingham	264	347	83	31.4
Innisfail	762	825	63	8.3
Mackay	2,606	2,801	195	7.5
Mareeba	478	485	7	1.5
Mossman	267	272	5	1.9
Mt Isa	1,041	1,086	45	4.3
Normanton	240	257	17	7.1
Rockhampton	2,967	3,150	183	6.2
Smithfield	565	605	40	7.1
Thursday Is	212	231	19	9.0
Townsville City*	2,496	543	-1,953	-78.2
Townsville Employment Services*	1,430	3,658	2,228	155.8
Townsville FAO*	14	18	4	%
Townsville Retirement*	102	63	-39	-38.2
Townsville YSC	12	38	26	%
Whitsunday	457	497	40	8.8
Yeppoon	652	693	41	6.3
Other (a)	5	5	0	%
<i>Total</i>	22,296	23,841	1,545	6.9

Note: For footnotes see end of the table.

*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.

Unemployment customers are being transferred from Townsville Retirement to Townsville Employment Services.

Townsville City is now an access point only and customers are being transferred within the Townsville area to the appropriate CSC's.

**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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	1,044	1,080	36	3.4
Broken Hill	1,047	1,090	43	4.1
Ceduna	189	186	-3	-1.6
Cooper Pedy	147	153	6	4.1
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,317	1,364	47	3.6
Currie St (Adelaide) SAC	1	1	0	%
Edwardstown	2,296	2,500	204	8.9
Elizabeth	2,672	2,730	58	2.2
Enfield	1,735	1,805	70	4.0
Gawler	1,086	1,129	43	4.0
Glenelg	1,227	1,294	67	5.5
Kadina	662	630	-32	-4.8
Kilkenny	2,047	2,160	113	5.5
Modbury	2,145	2,191	46	2.1
Mt Barker	675	706	31	4.6
Mt Gambier	1,318	1,315	-3	-0.2
Murray Bridge	895	937	42	4.7
Noarlunga	2,956	3,036	80	2.7
Norwood	1,507	1,624	117	7.8
Parkside	854	910	56	6.6
Port Adelaide	1,664	1,775	111	6.7
Port Augusta	731	790	59	8.1
Port Lincoln	731	735	4	0.5
Port Pirie	1,122	1,134	12	1.1
Salisbury	2,706	2,780	74	2.7
Torrens ville	1,471	1,565	94	6.4
Victor Harbor	621	640	19	3.1
Whyalla	1,122	1,149	27	2.4
Other (a)	12	11	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	36,000	37,420	1,420	3.9

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,393	1,387	-6	-0.4
Armadale	1,368	1,369	1	0.1
Bunbury	2,784	2,818	34	1.2
Cannington	2,043	2,128	85	4.2
Carnarvon	349	362	13	3.7
Centrelink City*	13	9	-4	%
Christmas Island	28	22	-6	%
Cocos Island	41	37	-4	%
Collie	7	6	-1	%
Esperance	328	336	8	2.4
Fremantle	2,231	2,386	155	6.9
Geraldton	1,741	1,699	-42	-2.4
Gosnells	1,490	1,505	15	1.0
Innaloo	2,582	2,644	62	2.4
Joondalup	1,971	1,961	-10	-0.5
Kalgoorlie	794	815	21	2.6
Karratha	276	274	-2	-0.7
Kwinana*	96	100	4	4.2
Mandurah	1,803	1,778	-25	-1.4
Midland	2,391	2,370	-21	-0.9
Mirrabooka	2,576	2,632	56	2.2
Morley	3,201	3,346	145	4.5
Northam	584	587	3	0.5
Rockingham	2,218	2,242	24	1.1
South Hedland	378	370	-8	-2.1
Spearwood	1,518	1,572	54	3.6
Victoria Park	3,218	3,261	43	1.3
Warwick Grove	1,541	1,645	104	6.7
Other (a)	128	343	215	168.0
<i>Total</i>	39,091	40,004	913	2.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

*From 30 June 2003 processes at Centerlink City, formerly known as Milligan Street, became limited to forms lodgement and quick general enquiries only.

**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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	1,232	1,246	14	1.1
Burnie	2,039	2,095	56	2.7
Devonport	2,238	2,276	38	1.7
Glenorchy	2,023	2,054	31	1.5
Hobart	2,272	2,494	222	9.8
Huonville	681	682	1	0.1
Launceston	4,927	5,058	131	2.7
Mowbray	13	12	-1	%
Rosny Park	1,407	1,450	43	3.1
Sorell	606	624	18	3.0
St Helens	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	6	7	1	%
<i>Total</i>	17,444	17,998	554	3.2
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	412	420	8	1.9
Alice Springs (Remote)	257	283	26	10.1
Broome	342	349	7	2.0
Casuarina	1,093	1,190	97	8.9
Casuarina YSC	7	11	4	%
Derby	76	90	14	%
Katherine	391	395	4	1.0
Katherine (Remote)	75	78	3	%
Knuckey Street	659	688	29	4.4
Kununurra	145	165	20	13.8
Nhulunbuy	99	142	43	43.4
Palmerston	990	1,022	32	3.2
Tangentyere	395	386	-9	-2.3
Tennant Creek	117	129	12	10.3
Tennant Creek (Remote)	10	12	2	%
Other (a)	129	201	72	55.8
<i>Total</i>	5,197	5,561	364	7.0

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,243	1,320	77	6.2
Beaudesert	436	464	28	6.4
Beenleigh	1,851	1,953	102	5.5
Biggera Waters	1,932	1,967	35	1.8
Browns Plains	1,756	1,919	163	9.3
Brunswick Heads	833	868	35	4.2
Byron Bay	1,019	1,041	22	2.2
Casino	824	876	52	6.3
Charleville	183	206	23	12.6
Coffs Harbour	3,163	3,291	128	4.0
Dalby	826	901	75	9.1
Goodna	1,228	1,292	64	5.2
Goondiwindi	274	304	30	10.9
Grafton	1,857	1,961	104	5.6
Inala	1,552	1,609	57	3.7
Ipswich	2,418	2,579	161	6.7
Lightning Ridge	9	11	2	%
Lismore	2,427	2,556	129	5.3
Moree	685	707	22	3.2
Murwillumbah	771	824	53	6.9
Narrabri	435	458	23	5.3
Nerang	2,013	2,081	68	3.4
Palm Beach	2,742	2,836	94	3.4
Roma	158	182	24	15.2
Southport	3,034	3,215	181	6.0
Stanthorpe	22	18	-4	%
Toowoomba	2,871	3,166	295	10.3
Tweed Heads	1,890	1,958	68	3.6
Walgett	477	469	-8	-1.7
Warwick	1,124	1,183	59	5.2
Woodridge	2,534	2,581	47	1.9
Other (a)	22	26	4	%
<i>Total</i>	42,609	44,822	2,213	5.2

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>	November 2003	December 2003	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	2	3	1	%
Bendigo	1	1	0	%
Brisbane	0	2	2	%
Bunbury	1	0	-1	%
Cairns	0	0	0	%
Cardiff	1	3	2	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	0	1	1	%
Hobart	1	1	0	%
Illawarra	0	0	0	%
Indigenous	1	1	0	%
Latrobe	1	0	-1	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	0	0	%
Moreland	0	1	1	%
Perth	1	3	2	%
Port Augusta	0	1	1	%
Port Macquarie	3	2	-1	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	0	0	%
Townsville	1	3	2	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	1	1	%
<i>Total</i>	13	23	10	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	3	8	5	%
AUSTRALIA	418,563	440,118	21,555	5.1

(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 - JOBBEERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT TO 19 DECEMBER 2003**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	85.2	83.6	84.2
Earned an income	14.8	16.4	15.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.3	1.6	1.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.4	3.8	3.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.9	3.3	3.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.0	1.9
Over \$316.00	5.4	5.6	5.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>118,843</i>	<i>173,325</i>	<i>292,168</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.0	73.2	74.3
Earned an income	24.0	26.8	25.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	2.0	2.4	2.2
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.8	5.4	5.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.5	5.2	4.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.3	3.5	3.4
Over \$316.00	9.4	10.4	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>58,287</i>	<i>91,761</i>	<i>150,048</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.2	80.0	80.9
Earned an income	17.8	20.0	19.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.5	1.9	1.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.8	4.4	4.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.4	3.9	3.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.5	2.4
Over \$316.00	6.7	7.2	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>177,130</i>	<i>265,086</i>	<i>442,216</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 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 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 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 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 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.

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 and Widow Allowance.

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
Newstart Program Management and 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
and 2001 - produced annually.*