

LABOUR MARKET AND RELATED PAYMENTS a monthly profile

Note: The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) produces the official unemployment statistics. The figures contained in this publication are different from the ABS unemployment figures as the ABS and Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

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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 largely on behalf of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). After the Machinery of Government (MOG) changes, announced in October 2004, the responsibility for Newstart Allowance (NSA), Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)), Mature Age Allowance (MAA), Partner Allowance (PA) and Widow Allowance (WA) was transferred to DEWR and responsibility for Youth Allowance (full-time students) (YA(FTS)) was transferred to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). This publication covers NSA and YA(O) in some detail and, to a lesser extent, MAA, PA, WA, YA(FTS) and YA (Australian Apprentices).

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

Tables 2 and 3 show the derivation of the NSA and YA(O) 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 22 November 2006.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - September 2006

Between September 2005 and September 2006:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) recipients **decreased by 2.7%** overall from 558,344 to 543,326

- ◆ by 2.0% for NSA from 482,072 to 472,222 and
- ◆ 6.8% for YA(O) from 76,272 to 71,104.

The number of jobseekers **decreased by 0.6%** overall from 364,632 to 362,486 and

- ◆ increased by 0.7% for NSA recipients from 304,912 to 307,135 and
- ◆ decreased by 7.3% for YA(O) recipients from 59,720 to 55,351.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 1.1% from 205,254 to 203,024.

Short-term jobseekers increased by 0.1% from 159,378 to 159,462.

Long-term recipients have been on income support for 12 months or more and can be without payment for up to 25 weeks before being reclassified as short-term. This differs significantly from the ABS definition of long-term unemployment (see Appendix).

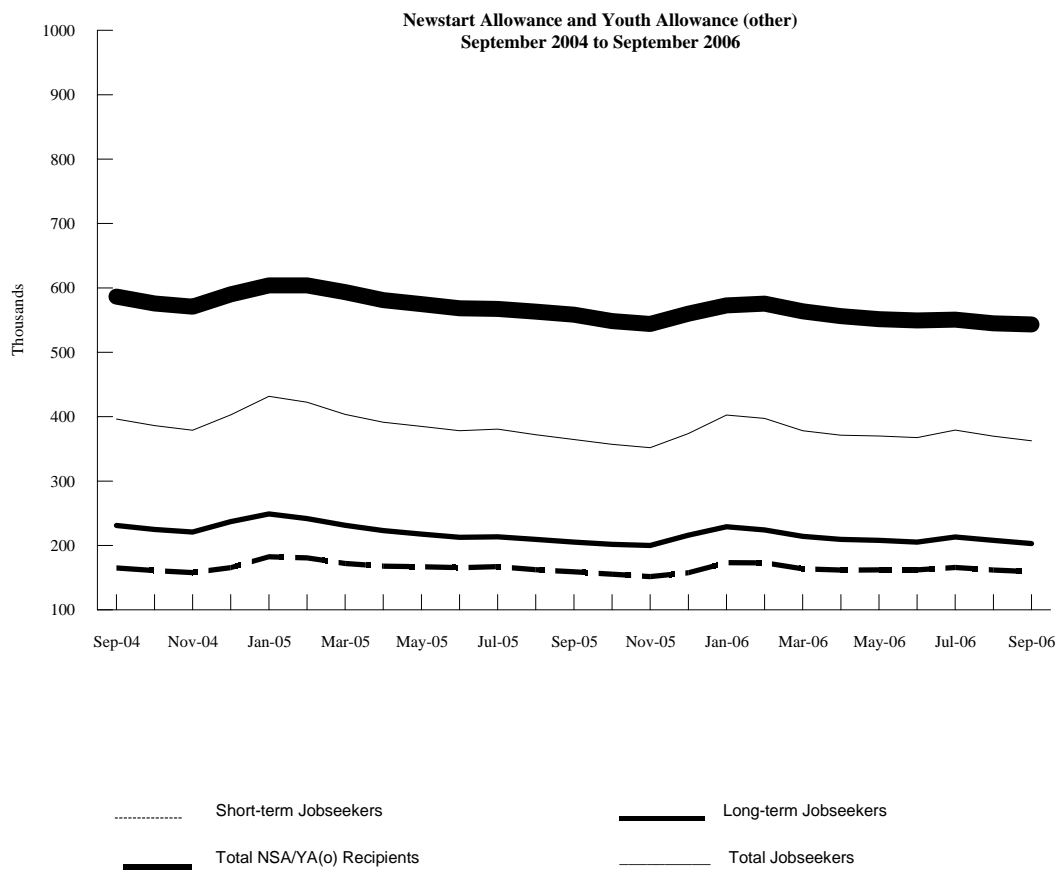


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Australian Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796
September 2004	308,214	506,457	80,129	300,177	..	30,055	86,495	45,531
October 2004	304,351	499,388	76,376	294,394	..	28,921	84,565	45,438
November 2004	301,742	494,289	76,497	287,438	..	27,844	82,782	45,369
December 2004	306,022	502,350	87,732	245,322	..	26,820	81,078	45,282
January 2005	309,214	514,579	89,453	235,537	..	25,770	79,482	45,206
February 2005	307,987	516,730	87,258	245,621	..	24,864	78,040	45,173
March 2005	304,783	509,892	83,604	263,308	..	23,918	76,588	45,100
April 2005	299,698	500,391	80,661	274,240	..	22,935	75,014	45,009
May 2005	295,728	494,847	79,896	281,184	..	22,032	73,601	44,976
June 2005	291,977	488,910	79,564	284,926	0	21,144	72,331	44,864
July 2005	291,683	487,653	79,816	279,040	742	20,258	71,140	44,841
August 2005	291,607	485,823	77,459	285,864	1,655	19,462	70,365	45,009
September 2005	289,974	482,072	76,272	288,479	2,285	18,697	69,624	45,158
October 2005	287,468	475,490	72,915	280,308	2,416	17,939	68,919	45,287
November 2005	286,345	470,557	73,576	274,547	2,471	17,335	68,420	45,538
December 2005	290,391	476,028	84,022	233,273	2,486	16,623	67,762	45,830
January 2006	294,100	487,251	85,628	223,059	2,478	15,869	66,905	45,849
February 2006	294,250	491,955	83,559	232,189	2,731	15,111	65,681	45,760
March 2006	291,020	484,784	78,913	250,079	2,994	14,271	64,282	45,622
April 2006	288,017	479,378	76,747	260,349	3,190	13,547	62,924	45,438
May 2006	285,853	475,830	75,533	266,392	3,181	12,836	61,863	45,212
June 2006	284,288	474,125	75,366	270,081	3,323	12,110	60,829	45,096
July 2006	285,152	474,477	76,173	264,863	3,376	11,379	59,401	44,639
August 2006	284,943	472,448	72,634	271,591	3,472	10,731	58,213	44,184
September 2006	285,218	472,222	71,104	276,235	3,643	10,049	56,965	43,705
<i>Variation August 2006 - September 2006</i>								
Number	275	-226	-1,530	4,644	171	-682	-1,248	-479
Per cent	0.1	0.0	-2.1	1.7	4.9	-6.4	-2.1	-1.1

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002 is in Table A (May 1998 - June 2000) and Table 1 (July 2000 - July 2002) of July 2002 publication

(b) Long-term Newstart allowees are persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more.

(c) The number of full time students does not include those who have traded in their entire Youth Allowance entitlement for a loan under the Student Financial Supplement Loan Scheme. The Government announced on 24 April 2003 that no further loans would be issued under this Scheme from 1 January 2004. For further details, refer to the Explanatory Notes at the back of this publication.

(d) Australian Apprenticeships combine employment with structured training to provide a nationally recognised qualification. Australian Apprentices enter formal agreements known as either 'Training Agreements' or 'Contracts of Training' which set out the relationship between the employer and the Australian Apprentice and their respective rights and responsibilities.

(e) February 1994 data has been included for comparison purposes due to the peak in the number of persons receiving JSA/NSA at this point in time.

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

	August 2006	September			Variation August - September	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	187,505	127,634	59,370	187,004	-501	-0.3
CPS recipients (a)	3,722	2,595	1,033	3,628	-94	-2.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,885	6,588	3,786	10,374	489	4.9
Received a payment	173,898	118,451	54,551	173,002	-896	-0.5
Incapacitated (c)	17,372	11,286	6,401	17,687	315	1.8
Training	8,756	5,984	3,117	9,101	345	3.9
Self-employment development (d)	502	395	194	589	87	17.3
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	2,024	923	1,155	2,078	54	2.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	11,142	6,856	4,553	11,409	267	2.4
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	134,102	93,007	39,131	132,138	-1,964	-1.5
Long-term NSA Customers	284,943	179,787	105,431	285,218	275	0.1
CPS recipients (a)	8,639	5,903	2,623	8,526	-113	-1.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	8,845	5,505	4,011	9,516	671	7.6
Received a payment	267,459	168,379	98,797	267,176	-283	-0.1
Incapacitated (c)	22,659	13,287	9,507	22,794	135	0.6
Training	37,565	25,010	14,765	39,775	2,210	5.9
Self-employment development (d)	251	194	96	290	39	15.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	9,690	5,481	4,102	9,583	-107	-1.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	18,580	11,830	7,907	19,737	1,157	6.2
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	178,714	112,577	62,420	174,997	-3,717	-2.1
All NSA Customers	472,448	307,421	164,801	472,222	-226	-0.0
CPS recipients (a)	12,361	8,498	3,656	12,154	-207	-1.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	18,730	12,093	7,797	19,890	1,160	6.2
Received a payment	441,357	286,830	153,348	440,178	-1,179	-0.3
Incapacitated (c)	40,031	24,573	15,908	40,481	450	1.1
Training (d)	46,321	30,994	17,882	48,876	2,555	5.5
Self-employment development (e)	753	589	290	879	126	16.7
Voluntary/part-time work (f)	11,714	6,404	5,257	11,661	-53	-0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (g)	29,722	18,686	12,460	31,146	1,424	4.8
All NSA Jobseekers (h)	312,816	205,584	101,551	307,135	-5,681	-1.8

(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) Includes customers in the Personal Support Programme (PSP), which helps people with multiple non-vocational barriers to employment and serves as a bridge between short-term crisis assistance and employment-related assistance.

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

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

(g) Includes other customers known not to have job search obligations. See 'Jobseekers' in Explanatory Notes.

(h) 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

	August 2006	September			Variation	
		Males	Females	Persons	August - September Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	35,323	18,974	15,814	34,788	-535	-1.5
CPS recipients (a)	2,096	1,229	721	1,950	-146	-7.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	706	369	405	774	68	9.6
Received a payment	32,521	17,376	14,688	32,064	-457	-1.4
Part-time study & work (c)	2	1	1	2	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	84	39	50	89	5	6.0
Incapacitated (e)	1,675	840	800	1,640	-35	-2.1
Training	1,211	765	466	1,231	20	1.7
Self-employment development (e)	6	3	4	7	1	16.7
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,716	766	1,005	1,771	55	3.2
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	27,827	14,962	12,362	27,324	-503	-1.8
Long-term YA (other) Customers	37,311	17,312	19,004	36,316	-995	-2.7
CPS recipients (a)	1,540	931	590	1,521	-19	-1.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	951	401	568	969	18	1.9
Received a payment	34,820	15,980	17,846	33,826	-994	-2.9
Part-time study & work (c)	6	2	3	5	-1	-16.7
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	64	26	42	68	4	6.3
Incapacitated (e)	1,455	553	906	1,459	4	0.3
Training	2,643	1,383	1,356	2,739	96	3.6
Self-employment development (e)	8	3	3	6	-2	-25.0
Full-time voluntary work	5	2	1	3	-2	-40.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,448	563	956	1,519	71	4.9
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	29,191	13,448	14,579	28,027	-1,164	-4.0
All YA (other) Customers	72,634	36,286	34,818	71,104	-1,530	-2.1
CPS recipients (a)	3,636	2,160	1,311	3,471	-165	-4.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,657	770	973	1,743	86	5.2
Received a payment	67,341	33,356	32,534	65,890	-1,451	-2.2
Part-time study & work (c)	8	3	4	7	-1	-12.5
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	148	65	92	157	9	6.1
Incapacitated (e)	3,130	1,393	1,706	3,099	-31	-1.0
Training (e)	3,854	2,148	1,822	3,970	116	3.0
Self-employment development (e)	14	6	7	13	-1	-7.1
Full-time voluntary work	5	2	1	3	-2	-40.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,164	1,329	1,961	3,290	126	4.0
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	57,018	28,410	26,941	55,351	-1,667	-2.9

(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
September 2004	165,156	231,221	396,377
October 2004	161,169	224,985	386,154
November 2004	157,970	220,919	378,889
December 2004	165,824	236,981	402,805
January 2005	182,718	248,933	431,651
February 2005	180,830	241,737	422,567
March 2005	172,254	231,336	403,590
April 2005	168,095	223,258	391,353
May 2005	167,200	217,727	384,927
June 2005	165,755	212,595	378,350
July 2005	167,154	213,585	380,739
August 2005	162,525	209,424	371,949
September 2005	159,378	205,254	364,632
October 2005	155,525	201,678	357,203
November 2005	151,863	200,077	351,940
December 2005	157,829	215,881	373,710
January 2006	173,502	229,230	402,732
February 2006	173,305	224,048	397,353
March 2006	164,016	214,293	378,309
April 2006	161,900	209,435	371,335
May 2006	162,182	207,935	370,117
June 2006	162,331	205,212	367,543
July 2006	165,898	213,281	379,179
August 2006	161,929	207,905	369,834
September 2006	159,462	203,024	362,486
<i>Variation August 2006 - September 2006</i>			
Number	-2,467	-4,881	-7,348
Per cent	-1.5	-2.3	-2.0

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payment introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002 is in Table B of July 2002 publication.

Notes:

- For information on short-term and long-term categories please refer to the Glossary.
- Most of the figures in this publication are averages and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals, and in the calculation of variations.

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

State	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	57,522	57,117	-405	-0.7
Victoria	39,391	39,353	-38	-0.1
Queensland	31,995	30,566	-1,429	-4.5
South Australia	13,378	13,241	-137	-1.0
Western Australia	11,909	11,549	-360	-3.0
Tasmania	4,716	4,719	3	0.1
Northern Territory	1,650	1,610	-40	-2.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,368	1,307	-61	-4.5
AUSTRALIA	161,929	159,462	-2,467	-1.5
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	75,106	73,629	-1,477	-2.0
Victoria	51,724	50,822	-902	-1.7
Queensland	34,417	33,132	-1,285	-3.7
South Australia	18,760	18,439	-321	-1.7
Western Australia	13,767	13,134	-633	-4.6
Tasmania	9,122	8,933	-189	-2.1
Northern Territory	2,870	2,872	2	0.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,139	2,063	-76	-3.6
AUSTRALIA	207,905	203,024	-4,881	-2.3
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	132,628	130,746	-1,882	-1.4
Victoria	91,115	90,175	-940	-1.0
Queensland	66,412	63,698	-2,714	-4.1
South Australia	32,138	31,680	-458	-1.4
Western Australia	25,676	24,683	-993	-3.9
Tasmania	13,838	13,652	-186	-1.3
Northern Territory	4,520	4,482	-38	-0.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,507	3,370	-137	-3.9
AUSTRALIA	369,834	362,486	-7,348	-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 (SEPTEMBER 2006)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,464	4.1	2,448	1.9	6,912	3.0
18 - 20 years	10,498	9.7	10,999	8.7	21,497	9.2
21 - 24 years	18,600	17.2	15,529	12.3	34,129	14.6
25 - 29 years	17,291	16.0	16,014	12.7	33,305	14.2
30 - 39 years	25,554	23.7	27,141	21.5	52,695	22.5
40 - 49 years	16,076	14.9	22,978	18.2	39,054	16.7
50 - 59 years	11,139	10.3	21,267	16.9	32,406	13.8
60 years and over	4,347	4.0	9,650	7.7	13,997	6.0
TOTAL	107,969	100.0	126,026	100.0	233,995	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,548	8.8	2,849	3.7	7,397	5.8
18 - 20 years	7,814	15.2	11,728	15.2	19,542	15.2
21 - 24 years	9,347	18.2	10,364	13.5	19,711	15.3
25 - 29 years	5,764	11.2	6,857	8.9	12,621	9.8
30 - 39 years	6,691	13.0	9,877	12.8	16,568	12.9
40 - 49 years	7,521	14.6	15,924	20.7	23,445	18.2
50 - 59 years	7,865	15.3	15,515	20.1	23,380	18.2
60 years and over	1,943	3.8	3,884	5.0	5,827	4.5
TOTAL	51,493	100.0	76,998	100.0	128,491	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,012	5.7	5,297	2.6	14,309	3.9
18 - 20 years	18,312	11.5	22,727	11.2	41,039	11.3
21 - 24 years	27,947	17.5	25,893	12.8	53,840	14.9
25 - 29 years	23,055	14.5	22,871	11.3	45,926	12.7
30 - 39 years	32,245	20.2	37,018	18.2	69,263	19.1
40 - 49 years	23,597	14.8	38,902	19.2	62,499	17.2
50 - 59 years	19,004	11.9	36,782	18.1	55,786	15.4
60 years and over	6,290	3.9	13,534	6.7	19,824	5.5
TOTAL	159,462	100.0	203,024	100.0	362,486	100.0

**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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,262	1,228	-34	-2.7
Chatswood	1,036	1,027	-9	-0.9
Darlinghurst	1,646	1,662	16	1.0
Darlinghurst YSU	56	62	6	%
Hornsby	831	817	-14	-1.7
Leichhardt	1,465	1,376	-89	-6.1
Maroubra	1,254	1,230	-24	-1.9
Marrickville	1,479	1,391	-88	-5.9
Northern Beaches	1,030	978	-52	-5.0
Sydney Central YSU	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	11	9	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	10,070	9,780	-290	-2.9
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,440	1,475	35	2.4
Corrimal	1,462	1,448	-14	-1.0
Dapto	1,222	1,207	-15	-1.2
Hurstville	1,484	1,475	-9	-0.6
Nowra	2,266	2,276	10	0.4
Redfern	1,397	1,375	-22	-1.6
Rockdale	1,544	1,552	8	0.5
Shellharbour	1,572	1,556	-16	-1.0
Sutherland	99	101	2	2.0
Ulladulla	608	591	-17	-2.8
Wollongong	1,926	1,899	-27	-1.4
Other (a)	35	38	3	%
<i>Total</i>	15,055	14,993	-62	-0.4

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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,248	1,209	-39	-3.1
Cessnock	916	928	12	1.3
Charlestown	2,587	2,486	-101	-3.9
Ettalong	1,202	1,181	-21	-1.7
Forster	963	946	-17	-1.8
Gosford*	1,947	1,909	-38	-2.0
Gunnedah	457	468	11	2.4
Inverell	742	731	-11	-1.5
Kempsey	1,347	1,308	-39	-2.9
Kurri Kurri	619	604	-15	-2.4
Lakehaven	1,902	1,843	-59	-3.1
Maitland	1,730	1,732	2	0.1
Mayfield	1,217	1,179	-38	-3.1
Muswellbrook	581	548	-33	-5.7
Nambucca Heads	1,164	1,141	-23	-2.0
Nelson Bay	597	578	-19	-3.2
Newcastle	1,666	1,597	-69	-4.1
Port Macquarie	1,890	1,862	-28	-1.5
Raymond Terrace	1,065	1,012	-53	-5.0
Singleton	289	273	-16	-5.5
Tamworth	1,840	1,834	-6	-0.3
Taree	1,834	1,846	12	0.7
The Entrance	1,227	1,243	16	1.3
Toronto	1,245	1,213	-32	-2.6
Wallsend	1,715	1,678	-37	-2.2
Wyong	686	686	0	0.0
Other (a)	99	86	-13	%
<i>Total</i>	32,775	32,121	-654	-2.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*On 12 May 2003 recipients 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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	0	0	0	%
Bankstown	4,158	4,083	-75	-1.8
Burwood*	1,722	1,648	-74	-4.3
Cabramatta	2,203	2,151	-52	-2.4
Camden	567	573	6	1.1
Campbelltown	2,546	2,493	-53	-2.1
Campsie	2,384	2,349	-35	-1.5
Fairfield	3,734	3,759	25	0.7
Ingleburn	1,312	1,247	-65	-5.0
Lakemba	14	7	-7	%
Liverpool	4,148	4,068	-80	-1.9
Revesby	5	3	-2	%
Strathfield	1	1	0	%
Other (a)	8	11	3	%
<i>Total</i>	22,802	22,393	-409	-1.8
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,455	2,368	-87	-3.5
Baulkham Hills	720	675	-45	-6.3
Blacktown	3,166	3,121	-45	-1.4
Hawkesbury	874	846	-28	-3.2
Katoomba	686	691	5	0.7
Lithgow	730	709	-21	-2.9
Merrylands	1,909	1,890	-19	-1.0
Mt Druitt	2,665	2,625	-40	-1.5
Mudgee	688	704	16	2.3
Parramatta	2,049	1,994	-55	-2.7
Penrith	1,819	1,766	-53	-2.9
Ryde	1,003	974	-29	-2.9
Springwood	386	391	5	1.3
St Marys	1,832	1,806	-26	-1.4
Other (a)	23	23	0	%
<i>Total</i>	21,005	20,583	-422	-2.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*Burwood CSC was opened on 24 October 2005 and recipients previously serviced by Ashfield and Strathfield will be serviced in Burwood.

Ashfield and Strathfield CSCs closed on 21 October 2005.

**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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,185	2,241	56	2.6
Batemans Bay	964	939	-25	-2.6
Bathurst	921	924	3	0.3
Bega	766	781	15	2.0
Belconnen	1,114	1,060	-54	-4.8
Bourke	446	456	10	2.2
Bowral	537	558	21	3.9
Braddon	976	936	-40	-4.1
Cooma	317	320	3	0.9
Cowra	449	537	88	19.6
Deniliquin	273	268	-5	-1.8
Dubbo	1,926	1,926	0	0.0
Goulburn	742	763	21	2.8
Griffith	538	544	6	1.1
Gungahlin	101	96	-5	-5.0
Lanyon	42	39	-3	%
Leeton	311	315	4	1.3
Narooma	410	415	5	1.2
Orange	1,100	1,090	-10	-0.9
Parkes	937	912	-25	-2.7
Queanbeyan	480	497	17	3.5
Tuggeranong	681	651	-30	-4.4
Tumut	363	360	-3	-0.8
Wagga	1,725	1,737	12	0.7
Woden	572	557	-15	-2.6
Yass	111	104	-7	-6.3
Young	430	418	-12	-2.8
Other (a)	25	22	-3	%
<i>Total</i>	19,442	19,466	24	0.1

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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,710	1,724	14	0.8
Broadmeadows	3,669	3,650	-19	-0.5
Darebin	3,726	3,666	-60	-1.6
Echuca	491	482	-9	-1.8
Epping	2,002	1,998	-4	-0.2
Greensborough	1,565	1,538	-27	-1.7
Heidelberg	28	28	0	%
Lilydale	1,449	1,452	3	0.2
Moreland	2,489	2,494	5	0.2
Newmarket	1,699	1,679	-20	-1.2
Ringwood	1,750	1,706	-44	-2.5
Seymour	606	611	5	0.8
Shepparton	2,312	2,294	-18	-0.8
Sth Melbourne	743	731	-12	-1.6
Wangaratta	1,650	1,668	18	1.1
Windsor (VIC)	2,972	2,871	-101	-3.4
Yarra*	2,479	2,475	-4	-0.2
Other (a)	29	29	0	%
<i>Total</i>	31,369	31,096	-273	-0.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

* Yarra CSC was opened on 27 June 2005. Recipients previously serviced by Fitzroy and Richmond CSCs have been transferred to Yarra 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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	978	970	-8	-0.8
Belgrave*	520	508	-12	-2.3
Camberwell	1,010	977	-33	-3.3
Cheltenham	1,944	1,919	-25	-1.3
Cranbourne	1,236	1,203	-33	-2.7
Dandenong	2,660	2,644	-16	-0.6
Fountain Gate	2,267	2,254	-13	-0.6
Frankston	3,215	3,075	-140	-4.4
Glen Waverley	1,014	987	-27	-2.7
Leongatha	0	0	0	%
Mornington	498	488	-10	-2.0
Morwell	2,408	2,337	-71	-2.9
Oakleigh	1,811	1,803	-8	-0.4
Rosebud	948	926	-22	-2.3
Rowville	400	385	-15	-3.8
Sale	844	826	-18	-2.1
Springvale	2,452	2,430	-22	-0.9
Wantirna*	1,252	1,261	9	0.7
Warragul	496	496	0	0.0
Wonthaggi	680	672	-8	-1.2
Other (a)	18	20	2	%
<i>Total</i>	26,651	26,181	-470	-1.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

* Belgrave and Wantirna CSCs were previously included under Knox. Knox no longer exists and has been removed from list.

Belgrave and Wantirna CSCs are shown independently.

**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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	328	332	4	1.2
Ballarat	2,863	2,826	-37	-1.3
B Central*	957	942	-15	-1.6
Bendigo	2,266	2,307	41	1.8
Colac	465	461	-4	-0.9
Corio	1,998	2,000	2	0.1
Essendon (Airport West)	1,261	1,220	-41	-3.3
Footscray	1,639	1,636	-3	-0.2
Geelong	3,150	3,150	0	0.0
Hamilton	389	388	-1	-0.3
Horsham	732	735	3	0.4
Maryborough (VIC)	562	540	-22	-3.9
Melton	1,167	1,121	-46	-3.9
Mildura	1,713	1,670	-43	-2.5
Newport	1,202	1,192	-10	-0.8
Portland	512	504	-8	-1.6
Stawell	207	209	2	1.0
Sunbury	747	741	-6	-0.8
Sunshine	3,027	3,042	15	0.5
Swan Hill	880	866	-14	-1.6
Warrnambool	895	850	-45	-5.0
Watergardens	3,522	3,468	-54	-1.5
Werribee	2,481	2,519	38	1.5
Other (a)	27	25	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	32,990	32,744	-246	-0.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*On 10 October 2005 B Central was opened and recipients previously serviced by Bendigo will be serviced in B Central.

**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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	832	808	-24	-2.9
Bundaberg	2,564	2,624	60	2.3
Caboolture	2,050	1,944	-106	-5.2
Caloundra	1,206	1,152	-54	-4.5
Capalaba	683	632	-51	-7.5
Chermside	854	800	-54	-6.3
Cleveland	760	733	-27	-3.6
Fortitude Valley	1,431	1,372	-59	-4.1
Gympie	1,167	1,167	0	0.0
Hervey Bay	1,156	1,120	-36	-3.1
Kawana Waters	543	526	-17	-3.1
Kingaroy	755	737	-18	-2.4
Maroochydore	1,547	1,450	-97	-6.3
Maryborough	1,167	1,144	-23	-2.0
Mitchelton	970	934	-36	-3.7
Mt Gravatt	1,829	1,787	-42	-2.3
Nambour	988	942	-46	-4.7
Noosa	1,110	1,075	-35	-3.2
Nundah	1,075	1,045	-30	-2.8
Redcliffe	1,526	1,505	-21	-1.4
Stones Corner	1,454	1,393	-61	-4.2
Strathpine	983	949	-34	-3.5
Toowong	852	801	-51	-6.0
Wynnum	780	761	-19	-2.4
Other (a)	11	9	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	28,293	27,410	-883	-3.1

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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	673	647	-26	-3.9
Ayr	351	318	-33	-9.4
Biloela	135	139	4	3.0
Bowen	392	347	-45	-11.5
Cairns EMS (3)	2,720	2,610	-110	-4.0
Cairns FAO (3)	7	7	0	%
Cairns Ret (3)	1	0	-1	%
Charters Towers	287	292	5	1.7
Edmonton	2	1	-1	%
Emerald	285	277	-8	-2.8
Gladstone	815	805	-10	-1.2
Greenfields	2	4	2	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	450	465	15	3.3
Ingham	246	234	-12	-4.9
Innisfail	707	593	-114	-16.1
Longreach (4)	92	90	-2	%
Mackay	1,457	1,379	-78	-5.4
Mareeba	453	423	-30	-6.6
Mossman	300	290	-10	-3.3
Mt Isa	740	730	-10	-1.4
Normanton	111	110	-1	-0.9
Palm Island (2)	258	251	-7	-2.7
Rockhampton	1,943	1,877	-66	-3.4
Smithfield	22	7	-15	%
Thursday Is	178	166	-12	-6.7
Townsville City (1)	5	7	2	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	2,980	2,791	-189	-6.3
Townsville FAO (1)	7	13	6	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	2	1	-1	%
Whitsunday	357	308	-49	-13.7
Yarrabah RASC (2)	124	134	10	8.1
Yeppoon	382	371	-11	-2.9
Other (a)	209	189	-20	-9.6
<i>Total</i>	16,693	15,876	-817	-4.9

Note: For footnotes see end of the table.

(1). 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 recipients are being transferred from Townsville Retirement to Townsville Employment Services. Townsville City is now an access point only and recipients are being transferred within the Townsville area to the appropriate CSCs.

(2). As of 29 March 2004 Cairns YAC is now known as Yarrabah RASC, Cairns Remote is now known as Indigenous ISC and Townsville YSC, is now known as Palm Island. Recipients are being transferred from these sites to better service the needs of indigenous and rural recipients.

(3). As of 28 May 2004, Cairns is now known as Cairns EMS, Earville is now known as Cairns FAO and Cairns Grafton St is now known as Cairns Ret.

(4). Longreach CSC was opened on 25 February 2005. Recipients previously serviced by Rockhampton will be serviced in Longreach.

**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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	912	916	4	0.4
Broken Hill	917	905	-12	-1.3
Ceduna	181	197	16	8.8
Cooper Pedy	129	130	1	0.8
Currie St (Adelaide)	648	633	-15	-2.3
Edwardstown	2,377	2,294	-83	-3.5
Elizabeth	2,526	2,547	21	0.8
Enfield	1,576	1,608	32	2.0
Gawler	1,152	1,154	2	0.2
Glenelg	965	893	-72	-7.5
Kadina	712	721	9	1.3
Kilkenny	1,813	1,800	-13	-0.7
Modbury	2,004	1,981	-23	-1.1
Mt Barker	711	700	-11	-1.5
Mt Gambier	1,422	1,411	-11	-0.8
Murray Bridge	860	853	-7	-0.8
Noarlunga	2,904	2,878	-26	-0.9
Norwood	1,783	1,695	-88	-4.9
Parkside	0	0	0	%
Port Adelaide	1,676	1,619	-57	-3.4
Port Augusta	705	677	-28	-4.0
Port Lincoln	591	590	-1	-0.2
Port Pirie	1,040	1,065	25	2.4
Salisbury	2,425	2,402	-23	-0.9
Torrens ville	1,491	1,422	-69	-4.6
Victor Harbor	682	662	-20	-2.9
Whyalla	928	886	-42	-4.5
Other (a)	52	50	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	33,182	32,689	-493	-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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	945	911	-34	-3.6
Armadale	869	827	-42	-4.8
Bunbury	1,542	1,534	-8	-0.5
Busselton (3)	317	311	-6	-1.9
Cannington	1,348	1,280	-68	-5.0
Carnarvon	185	193	8	4.3
Centrelink City (2)	0	0	0	%
Christmas Island	14	14	0	%
Cocos Island	36	39	3	%
Collie	6	6	0	%
Esperance	278	275	-3	-1.1
Fremantle	1,276	1,231	-45	-3.5
Geraldton	1,425	1,419	-6	-0.4
Gosnells	923	890	-33	-3.6
Innaloo	1,492	1,430	-62	-4.2
Joondalup	1,144	1,073	-71	-6.2
Kalgoorlie	587	546	-41	-7.0
Karratha	253	257	4	1.6
Mandurah	1,177	1,145	-32	-2.7
Midland	1,618	1,537	-81	-5.0
Mirrabooka	1,642	1,595	-47	-2.9
Morley	1,839	1,729	-110	-6.0
Northam	561	527	-34	-6.1
Rockingham (1)	1,484	1,383	-101	-6.8
South Hedland	338	355	17	5.0
Spearwood	932	894	-38	-4.1
Victoria Park	1,945	1,860	-85	-4.4
Warwick Grove	730	688	-42	-5.8
Other (a)	339	299	-40	-11.8
<i>Total</i>	25,245	24,248	-997	-3.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

(1). As of 30 May 2003 Kwinana became a sub office of Rockingham.

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

(3). On 14 February 2005 Busselton was established as a full-time office. Recipients previously serviced by Bunbury will be serviced in Busselton.

**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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	588	573	-15	-2.6
Burnie	1,685	1,646	-39	-2.3
Devonport	2,039	2,043	4	0.2
Glenorchy	1,970	1,895	-75	-3.8
Hobart	1,635	1,563	-72	-4.4
Huonville	576	545	-31	-5.4
Launceston	3,699	3,618	-81	-2.2
Mowbray	13	15	2	%
Rosny Park	1,123	1,077	-46	-4.1
Sorell	564	538	-26	-4.6
Other (a)	25	215	190	760.0
<i>Total</i>	13,917	13,728	-189	-1.4
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	780	789	9	1.2
Alice Springs (Remote)*	0	0	0	%
Broome	301	308	7	2.3
Casuarina	962	952	-10	-1.0
SSC Nth Australia (1)	3	1	-2	%
Derby	84	81	-3	%
Katherine	559	565	6	1.1
Knuckey Street	627	607	-20	-3.2
Kununurra	140	138	-2	-1.4
Nhulunbuy	81	92	11	%
Palmerston	817	782	-35	-4.3
Tangentyere	288	299	11	3.8
Tennant Creek	185	166	-19	-10.3
Tennant Creek (Remote)	11	13	2	%
Other (a)	295	329	34	11.5
<i>Total</i>	5,133	5,122	-11	-0.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

* In October 2005, region codes were transferred from Alice Springs (Remote) CSC to Alice Springs CSC.

(1) On 1 July 2006, Casuarina YSC became SSC (Student Services Centre) Nth Australia.

**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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,165	1,157	-8	-0.7
Beaudesert	374	357	-17	-4.5
Beenleigh	1,616	1,540	-76	-4.7
Biggera Waters	1,606	1,533	-73	-4.5
Browns Plains	1,407	1,376	-31	-2.2
Brunswick Heads	603	584	-19	-3.2
Byron Bay	709	698	-11	-1.6
Casino	695	673	-22	-3.2
Charleville	141	142	1	0.7
Coffs Harbour	2,991	2,956	-35	-1.2
Dalby	572	541	-31	-5.4
Goodna	1,087	1,042	-45	-4.1
Goondiwindi	312	314	2	0.6
Grafton	1,669	1,691	22	1.3
Inala	1,340	1,237	-103	-7.7
Ipswich	2,119	1,994	-125	-5.9
Lightning Ridge	5	3	-2	%
Lismore	2,050	2,043	-7	-0.3
Moree	537	551	14	2.6
Murwillumbah	617	595	-22	-3.6
Narrabri	362	367	5	1.4
Nerang	1,740	1,690	-50	-2.9
Palm Beach	1,945	1,891	-54	-2.8
Roma	135	125	-10	-7.4
Southport	2,272	2,116	-156	-6.9
Stanthorpe	379	348	-31	-8.2
Toowoomba	2,193	2,100	-93	-4.2
Tweed Heads	1,560	1,521	-39	-2.5
Walgett	411	413	2	0.5
Warwick	514	500	-14	-2.7
Woodridge	2,007	1,876	-131	-6.5
Other (a)	29	32	3	%
<i>Total</i>	35,162	34,006	-1,156	-3.3

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>	August 2006	September 2006	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	0	1	1	%
Bendigo	0	2	2	%
Brisbane	1	2	1	%
Bunbury	0	0	0	%
Cairns	0	1	1	%
Cardiff	0	0	0	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	0	0	0	%
Hobart	0	0	0	%
Illawarra	1	1	0	%
Latrobe	3	2	-1	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	1	1	0	%
Moorabbin	1	0	-1	%
Moreland	0	0	0	%
Newcastle	1	1	0	%
Perth	1	0	-1	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	6	4	-2	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	0	0	%
Townsville	2	4	2	%
Tweed Heads	0	1	1	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	17	20	3	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	33	30	-3	%
AUSTRALIA	369,834	362,486	-7,348	-2.0

(a) Recipients 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 ENDING 22 SEPTEMBER 2006**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	84.0	81.2	82.5
Earned an income	16.0	18.8	17.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.7	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.5	3.1	2.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.4	3.1
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.0	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	8.0	8.9	8.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>107,367</i>	<i>125,307</i>	<i>232,674</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	74.7	70.9	72.4
Earned an income	25.3	29.1	27.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.1	1.5	1.3
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.6	4.1	3.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.3	4.7	4.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.2	3.6	3.4
Over \$316.00	13.2	15.2	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>51,410</i>	<i>76,744</i>	<i>128,154</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	81.0	77.3	78.9
Earned an income	19.0	22.7	21.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.2	1.0
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.9	3.5	3.2
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.2	3.9	3.6
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.8	2.6
Over \$316.00	9.7	11.3	10.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>158,777</i>	<i>202,051</i>	<i>360,828</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 DEWR 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 by the then Department of Social Security (which became FaCS in October 1998).

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), Youth Allowance (Australian Apprentices) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also provided.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of the Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) populations and show the derivation of the respective 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 recipients are subject to the parental means test. Under previous arrangements, unemployed people aged 18 to 20 were not subject to the parental means test, unlike 18 to 20 year old students.

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

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998 and total 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 recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see *Job Search Allowance*).

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

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

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

Definition of Recipient

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

status of 'current'. The new method therefore counts these 'current' recipients.

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

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

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

*Community Development
Employment Projects
(CDEP)*

From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new recipients to those 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 recipients 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, recipients who were incapacitated, and those receiving a payment who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to engage in job search were classified as 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) recipients by excluding all people who did not receive a payment due to their own and/or their partner's income, or where applicable, parental income, and all those known not to be required to search for work. People receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements are classified as 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 recipient spends on income support – short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

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

Closure of Mature Age and Partner Allowances

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Activity Test Status	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
Age	Age in years at time of data collection.
Area Support Office	A Centrelink office that supports a set of Customer Service Centres for a specified area. These are generally not confined to State boundaries.
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 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 currently by DEWR and in the past 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 FaCSIA, DEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Customer Service Centres are managed by Area Support Offices.
Did Not Receive a Payment	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero-paid'.
Eligibility and Payment Status	Refer to the Methodology entry in the Explanatory Notes.
Fortnightly Earnings	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
Incapacitated	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.

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 CES eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Long-term Recipients	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Mature Age Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</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 to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Short-term Recipients	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.
States	States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the recipient's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.

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

APPENDIX

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

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

Employment Entry Payment and the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

Seasonal Adjustment

The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The DEWR labour market payment numbers data are not seasonally adjusted.

Classification

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

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

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

DEWR reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.

ABS numbers are based on a sample interview survey of occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.5% of the total Australian population. These persons are interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained is based on the week before the interview takes place.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour Market Information

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

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

For publication distribution enquiries email :
MI.WORKINGAGE.PAYMENTS@centrelink.gov.au

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

Director
Working Age Payments Performance and Monitoring Section
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9879
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3328.

Other Recipient Information

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

Other Statistical Outputs:

The following statistical output is available on request:

Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA)
Income Support Customers - A Statistical Overview, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.