

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 Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST). This publication covers NSA and YA in some detail and, to a lesser extent MAA, PA and WA.

Table 1 provides information on the total number of NSA and YA recipients. The YA population is broken down into YA(FTS), YA(Apprentices) and YA(O) categories. The total number 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 February 2006.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - December 2005

Between December 2004 and December 2005:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) customers **decreased by 5.1%** overall from 590,082 to 560,050

- ◆ by 4.2% for NSA from 502,350 to 476,028 and
- ◆ 4.2% for YA(O) from 87,732 to 84,022.

The number of jobseekers **decreased by 7.2%** overall from 402,805 to 373,710

- ◆ by 7.5% for NSA from 331,091 to 306,303 and
- ◆ 6.0% for YA(O) customers from 71,714 to 67,407.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 8.9% from 236,981 to 215,881.

Short-term jobseekers decreased by 4.8% from 165,824 to 157,829.

Long-term clients 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).

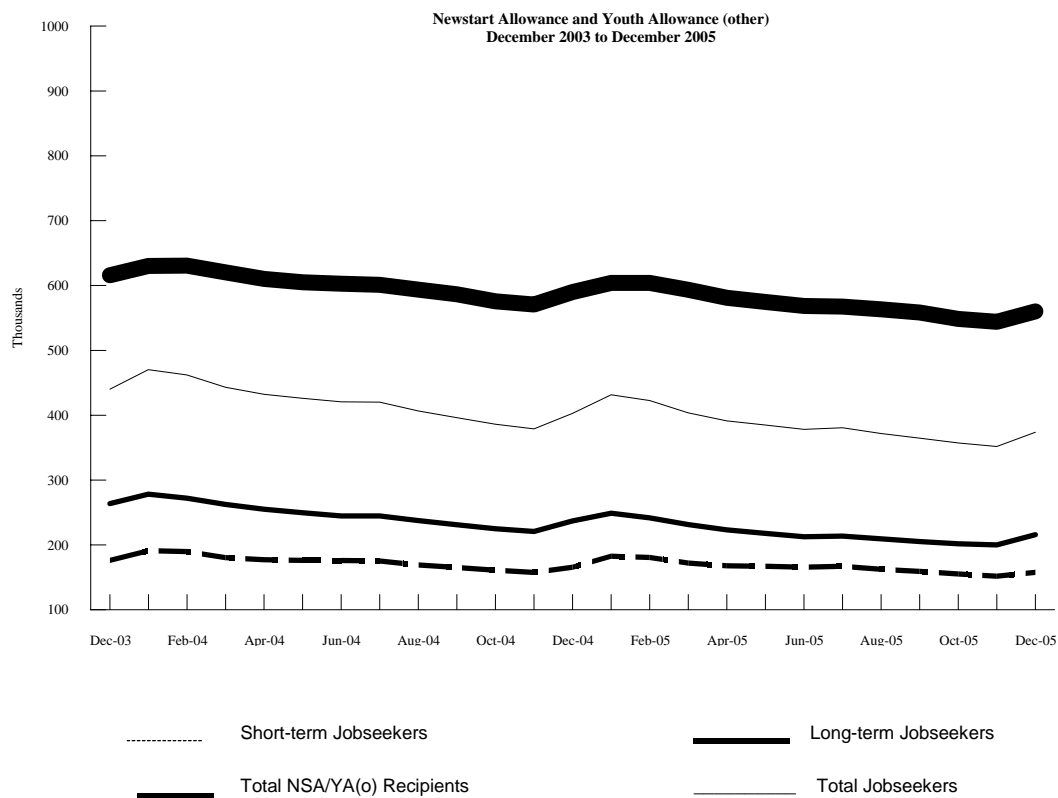


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796
December 2003	321,781	523,107	92,671	256,770	..	40,117	103,495	45,760
January 2004	326,578	535,559	94,664	243,087	..	39,027	101,894	45,859
February 2004	326,028	539,098	91,562	255,944	..	37,835	99,912	45,892
March 2004	322,730	532,043	88,396	274,602	..	36,761	97,958	45,925
April 2004	318,836	524,504	85,607	286,058	..	35,507	95,817	45,840
May 2004	316,092	520,434	84,534	292,511	..	34,314	93,843	45,816
June 2004	313,883	517,895	84,841	296,560	..	33,310	92,058	45,781
July 2004	313,274	515,686	85,357	290,210	..	32,175	90,056	45,644
August 2004	311,282	511,799	81,939	297,594	..	31,046	88,133	45,544
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
<i>Variation November 2005 - December 2005</i>								
Number	4,046	5,471	10,446	-41,274	15	-712	-658	292
Per cent	1.4	1.2	14.2	-15.0	0.6	-4.1	-1.0	0.6

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

	Variation					
	November	December			November - December	
	2005	Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	184,212	126,044	59,593	185,637	1,425	0.8
CPS recipients (a)	3,730	2,798	1,022	3,820	90	2.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,212	7,858	4,457	12,315	103	0.8
Received a payment	168,270	115,388	54,114	169,502	1,232	0.7
Incapacitated (c)	19,166	12,034	6,829	18,863	-303	-1.6
Training	10,104	5,364	2,746	8,110	-1,994	-19.7
Self-employment development (d)	578	284	161	445	-133	-23.0
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	2,803	1,178	1,531	2,709	-94	-3.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	11,873	7,225	4,717	11,942	69	0.6
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	123,746	89,303	38,130	127,433	3,687	3.0
Long-term NSA Customers	286,345	184,862	105,529	290,391	4,046	1.4
CPS recipients (a)	8,014	5,684	2,398	8,082	68	0.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,011	7,155	4,907	12,062	51	0.4
Received a payment	266,320	172,023	98,224	270,247	3,927	1.5
Incapacitated (c)	26,460	15,175	10,660	25,835	-625	-2.4
Training	37,179	21,052	12,574	33,626	-3,553	-9.6
Self-employment development (d)	266	147	64	211	-55	-20.7
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	10,231	6,142	4,351	10,493	262	2.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	20,875	12,617	8,595	21,212	337	1.6
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	171,309	116,890	61,980	178,870	7,561	4.4
All NSA Customers	470,557	310,906	165,122	476,028	5,471	1.2
CPS recipients (a)	11,744	8,482	3,420	11,902	158	1.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	24,223	15,013	9,364	24,377	154	0.6
Received a payment	434,590	287,411	152,338	439,749	5,159	1.2
Incapacitated (c)	45,626	27,209	17,489	44,698	-928	-2.0
Training	47,283	26,416	15,320	41,736	-5,547	-11.7
Self-employment development (d)	844	431	225	656	-188	-22.3
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	13,034	7,320	5,882	13,202	168	1.3
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	32,748	19,842	13,312	33,154	406	1.2
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	295,055	206,193	100,110	306,303	11,248	3.8

(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 JOBSSEEKER POPULATION

	Variation					
	November	December			November - December	
	2005	Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	36,446	20,902	17,824	38,726	2,280	6.3
CPS recipients (a)	2,190	1,417	854	2,271	81	3.7
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,018	539	555	1,094	76	7.5
Received a payment	33,238	18,946	16,415	35,361	2,123	6.4
Part-time study & work (c)	6	0	3	3	-3	-50.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	72	21	26	47	-25	-34.7
Incapacitated (e)	1,919	891	988	1,879	-40	-2.1
Training	1,365	746	463	1,209	-156	-11.4
Self-employment development (e)	8	7	2	9	1	12.5
Full-time voluntary work	3	1	1	2	-1	-33.3
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,748	875	941	1,816	68	3.9
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	28,117	16,405	13,991	30,396	2,279	8.1
Long-term YA (other) Customers	37,130	21,427	23,869	45,296	8,166	22.0
CPS recipients (a)	1,231	761	489	1,250	19	1.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,250	536	822	1,358	108	8.6
Received a payment	34,649	20,130	22,558	42,688	8,039	23.2
Part-time study & work (c)	10	2	4	6	-4	-40.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	95	29	38	67	-28	-29.5
Incapacitated (e)	1,628	573	1,057	1,630	2	0.1
Training	2,576	1,194	1,179	2,373	-203	-7.9
Self-employment development (e)	7	4	4	8	1	14.3
Full-time voluntary work	9	6	3	9	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,556	641	943	1,584	28	1.8
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	28,768	17,681	19,330	37,011	8,243	28.7
All YA (other) Customers	73,576	42,329	41,693	84,022	10,446	14.2
CPS recipients (a)	3,421	2,178	1,343	3,521	100	2.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,268	1,075	1,377	2,452	184	8.1
Received a payment	67,887	39,076	38,973	78,049	10,162	15.0
Part-time study & work (c)	16	2	7	9	-7	-43.8
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	167	50	64	114	-53	-31.7
Incapacitated (e)	3,547	1,464	2,045	3,509	-38	-1.1
Training	3,941	1,940	1,642	3,582	-359	-9.1
Self-employment development (e)	15	11	6	17	2	13.3
Full-time voluntary work	12	7	4	11	-1	-8.3
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,304	1,516	1,884	3,400	96	2.9
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	56,885	34,086	33,321	67,407	10,522	18.5

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

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

(c) Those customers undertaking approved part-time study and work who are considered to have a full activity load and are not required to seek work.

(d) Those customers undertaking approved part-time study and other activities who are considered to have a full activity load and are not required to seek work.

(e) These categories are defined in the same way as in Table 2, except that those customers combining these activities with part-time study are classified under part-time study and other activities.

(f) Those customers who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These customers form the basis of the population group in Tables 2 - 7.

Notes:

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

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

TABLE 4 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
TIME SERIES (a)

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
December 2003	176,350	263,768	440,118
January 2004	191,981	278,371	470,352
February 2004	189,985	272,224	462,209
March 2004	180,650	262,525	443,175
April 2004	177,247	255,059	432,306
May 2004	176,366	249,705	426,071
June 2004	176,087	244,647	420,734
July 2004	175,344	244,846	420,190
August 2004	169,186	237,526	406,712
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
<i>Variation November 2005 - December 2005</i>			
<i>Number</i>	5,966	15,804	21,770
<i>Per cent</i>	3.9	7.9	6.2

(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 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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	51,093	53,416	2,323	4.5
Victoria	36,034	37,340	1,306	3.6
Queensland	31,102	32,591	1,489	4.8
South Australia	12,389	12,794	405	3.3
Western Australia	13,523	13,593	70	0.5
Tasmania	4,560	4,771	211	4.6
Northern Territory	1,692	1,780	88	5.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,470	1,544	74	5.0
AUSTRALIA	151,863	157,829	5,966	3.9
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	69,607	74,918	5,311	7.6
Victoria	49,327	53,928	4,601	9.3
Queensland	34,373	37,469	3,096	9.0
South Australia	17,722	18,734	1,012	5.7
Western Australia	14,828	15,757	929	6.3
Tasmania	9,148	9,683	535	5.8
Northern Territory	2,999	3,159	160	5.3
Australian Capital Territory	2,073	2,233	160	7.7
AUSTRALIA	200,077	215,881	15,804	7.9
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	120,700	128,334	7,634	6.3
Victoria	85,361	91,268	5,907	6.9
Queensland	65,475	70,060	4,585	7.0
South Australia	30,111	31,528	1,417	4.7
Western Australia	28,351	29,350	999	3.5
Tasmania	13,708	14,454	746	5.4
Northern Territory	4,691	4,939	248	5.3
Australian Capital Territory	3,543	3,777	234	6.6
AUSTRALIA	351,940	373,710	21,770	6.2

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 (DECEMBER 2005)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	5,391	5.1	3,883	2.9	9,274	3.9
18 - 20 years	11,013	10.4	13,797	10.3	24,810	10.3
21 - 24 years	19,035	18.0	17,355	12.9	36,390	15.1
25 - 29 years	17,128	16.2	17,494	13.0	34,622	14.4
30 - 39 years	24,737	23.4	29,044	21.6	53,781	22.4
40 - 49 years	14,735	13.9	24,212	18.0	38,947	16.2
50 - 59 years	9,945	9.4	21,316	15.8	31,261	13.0
60 years and over	3,723	3.5	7,470	5.6	11,193	4.7
TOTAL	105,707	100.0	134,571	100.0	240,278	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	5,318	10.2	4,548	5.6	9,866	7.4
18 - 20 years	8,673	16.6	14,782	18.2	23,455	17.6
21 - 24 years	10,549	20.2	12,503	15.4	23,052	17.3
25 - 29 years	6,187	11.9	7,560	9.3	13,747	10.3
30 - 39 years	6,176	11.8	10,025	12.3	16,201	12.1
40 - 49 years	6,496	12.5	16,291	20.0	22,787	17.1
50 - 59 years	7,104	13.6	13,174	16.2	20,278	15.2
60 years and over	1,619	3.1	2,427	3.0	4,046	3.0
TOTAL	52,122	100.0	81,310	100.0	133,432	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	10,709	6.8	8,431	3.9	19,140	5.1
18 - 20 years	19,686	12.5	28,579	13.2	48,265	12.9
21 - 24 years	29,584	18.7	29,858	13.8	59,442	15.9
25 - 29 years	23,315	14.8	25,054	11.6	48,369	12.9
30 - 39 years	30,913	19.6	39,069	18.1	69,982	18.7
40 - 49 years	21,231	13.5	40,503	18.8	61,734	16.5
50 - 59 years	17,049	10.8	34,490	16.0	51,539	13.8
60 years and over	5,342	3.4	9,897	4.6	15,239	4.1
TOTAL	157,829	100.0	215,881	100.0	373,710	100.0

**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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,083	1,179	96	8.9
Chatswood	1,043	1,116	73	7.0
Darlinghurst	1,561	1,656	95	6.1
Darlinghurst YSU	25	31	6	%
Hornsby	720	810	90	12.5
Leichhardt	1,317	1,444	127	9.6
Maroubra	1,015	1,137	122	12.0
Marrickville	1,351	1,455	104	7.7
Northern Beaches	914	985	71	7.8
Sydney Central YSU	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	16	12	-4	%
<i>Total</i>	9,045	9,825	780	8.6
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,301	1,421	120	9.2
Corrimal	1,266	1,356	90	7.1
Dapto	1,100	1,183	83	7.5
Hurstville	1,248	1,384	136	10.9
Nowra	1,939	2,065	126	6.5
Redfern	1,278	1,298	20	1.6
Rockdale	1,305	1,380	75	5.7
Shellharbour	1,514	1,602	88	5.8
Sutherland	32	35	3	%
Ulladulla	501	528	27	5.4
Wollongong	1,851	1,972	121	6.5
Other (a)	42	38	-4	%
<i>Total</i>	13,377	14,262	885	6.6

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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,159	1,274	115	9.9
Cessnock	869	908	39	4.5
Charlestown	2,443	2,565	122	5.0
Ettalong	1,044	1,088	44	4.2
Forster	824	851	27	3.3
Gosford*	1,746	1,823	77	4.4
Gunnedah	488	483	-5	-1.0
Inverell	675	722	47	7.0
Kempsey	1,246	1,324	78	6.3
Kurri Kurri	558	596	38	6.8
Lakehaven	1,630	1,688	58	3.6
Maitland	1,638	1,715	77	4.7
Mayfield	1,048	1,086	38	3.6
Muswellbrook	579	610	31	5.4
Nambucca Heads	1,120	1,167	47	4.2
Nelson Bay	567	552	-15	-2.6
Newcastle	1,589	1,700	111	7.0
Port Macquarie	1,788	1,902	114	6.4
Raymond Terrace	959	1,002	43	4.5
Singleton	322	338	16	5.0
Tamworth	1,731	1,845	114	6.6
Taree	1,670	1,766	96	5.7
The Entrance	1,057	1,077	20	1.9
Toronto	1,140	1,166	26	2.3
Wallsend	1,592	1,694	102	6.4
Wyong	598	642	44	7.4
Other (a)	64	66	2	%
<i>Total</i>	30,144	31,650	1,506	5.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	November 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	2	0	-2	%
Bankstown	3,399	3,639	240	7.1
Burwood*	1,402	1,500	98	7.0
Cabramatta	2,052	2,138	86	4.2
Camden	433	482	49	11.3
Campbelltown	2,239	2,429	190	8.5
Campsie	2,008	2,131	123	6.1
Fairfield	3,462	3,780	318	9.2
Ingleburn	1,082	1,124	42	3.9
Lakemba	14	11	-3	%
Liverpool	3,805	4,017	212	5.6
Revesby	3	8	5	%
Strathfield	79	46	-33	%
Other (a)	4	2	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	19,984	21,307	1,323	6.6
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,053	2,292	239	11.6
Baulkham Hills	641	704	63	9.8
Blacktown	2,769	3,018	249	9.0
Hawkesbury	770	806	36	4.7
Katoomba	647	690	43	6.6
Lithgow	673	714	41	6.1
Merrylands	1,587	1,734	147	9.3
Mt Druitt	2,307	2,439	132	5.7
Mudgee	664	701	37	5.6
Parramatta	1,828	2,010	182	10.0
Penrith	1,473	1,568	95	6.4
Ryde	974	1,058	84	8.6
Springwood	334	359	25	7.5
St Marys	1,606	1,749	143	8.9
Other (a)	19	22	3	%
<i>Total</i>	18,345	19,864	1,519	8.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*Burwood CSC was opened on 24/10/05 and customer previously serviced by Ashfield and Strathfield will be serviced in Burwood.

Ashfield and Strathfield CSC's closed on 21/10/05.

**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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,152	2,314	162	7.5
Batemans Bay	816	868	52	6.4
Bathurst	821	909	88	10.7
Bega	762	786	24	3.1
Belconnen	1,138	1,183	45	4.0
Bourke	385	389	4	1.0
Bowral	480	504	24	5.0
Braddon	998	1,097	99	9.9
Cooma	330	351	21	6.4
Cowra	457	485	28	6.1
Deniliquin	249	254	5	2.0
Dubbo	1,835	1,932	97	5.3
Goulburn	692	734	42	6.1
Griffith	541	546	5	0.9
Gungahlin	75	94	19	%
Lanyon	55	53	-2	%
Leeton	329	327	-2	-0.6
Narooma	362	376	14	3.9
Orange	1,021	1,065	44	4.3
Parkes	951	966	15	1.6
Queanbeyan	541	555	14	2.6
Tuggeranong	693	711	18	2.6
Tumut	305	316	11	3.6
Wagga	1,622	1,700	78	4.8
Woden	578	655	77	13.3
Yass	107	117	10	9.3
Young	375	397	22	5.9
Other (a)	26	25	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	18,696	19,709	1,013	5.4

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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,711	1,833	122	7.1
Broadmeadows	3,432	3,838	406	11.8
Darebin	3,382	3,659	277	8.2
Echuca	447	461	14	3.1
Epping	1,969	2,129	160	8.1
Fitzroy	1	0	-1	%
Greensborough	1,418	1,545	127	9.0
Heidelberg	24	24	0	%
Lilydale	1,359	1,404	45	3.3
Moreland	2,483	2,746	263	10.6
Newmarket	1,604	1,759	155	9.7
Richmond	0	0	0	%
Ringwood	1,634	1,723	89	5.4
Seymour	579	606	27	4.7
Shepparton	2,205	2,316	111	5.0
Sth Melbourne	766	808	42	5.5
Wangaratta	1,599	1,675	76	4.8
Windsor (VIC)	2,902	3,060	158	5.4
Yarra*	2,498	2,630	132	5.3
Other (a)	24	25	1	%
<i>Total</i>	30,037	32,241	2,204	7.3

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

* Yarra CSC was opened on 27/6/05. Customers previously serviced by Fitzroy and Richmond CSC's have been transferred to Yarra 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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	832	854	22	2.6
Belgrave*	496	538	42	8.5
Camberwell	893	956	63	7.1
Cheltenham	1,693	1,867	174	10.3
Cranbourne	1,132	1,184	52	4.6
Dandenong	2,450	2,551	101	4.1
Fountain Gate	1,865	2,017	152	8.2
Frankston	2,959	3,097	138	4.7
Glen Waverley	958	1,051	93	9.7
Leongatha	2	1	-1	%
Mornington	455	485	30	6.6
Morwell	2,356	2,443	87	3.7
Oakleigh	1,711	1,826	115	6.7
Rosebud	833	863	30	3.6
Rowville	377	422	45	11.9
Sale	841	891	50	5.9
Springvale	2,136	2,317	181	8.5
Wantirna*	1,191	1,280	89	7.5
Warragul	380	429	49	12.9
Wonthaggi	570	603	33	5.8
Other (a)	8	8	0	%
<i>Total</i>	24,138	25,683	1,545	6.4

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>	November 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	279	321	42	15.1
Ballarat	2,840	3,098	258	9.1
B Central*	1,024	1,167	143	14.0
Bendigo	2,049	2,147	98	4.8
Colac	442	473	31	7.0
Corio	1,708	1,749	41	2.4
Essendon (Airport West)	1,223	1,237	14	1.1
Footscray	1,561	1,668	107	6.9
Geelong	3,253	3,467	214	6.6
Hamilton	347	382	35	10.1
Horsham	756	747	-9	-1.2
Maryborough (VIC)	539	531	-8	-1.5
Melton	1,018	1,103	85	8.3
Mildura	1,583	1,672	89	5.6
Newport	1,047	1,124	77	7.4
Portland	464	475	11	2.4
Stawell	175	193	18	10.3
Sunbury	654	713	59	9.0
Sunshine	2,665	2,940	275	10.3
Swan Hill	812	836	24	3.0
Warrnambool	865	967	102	11.8
Watergardens	3,346	3,636	290	8.7
Werribee	2,299	2,439	140	6.1
Other (a)	18	17	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	30,967	33,102	2,135	6.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*On 10/10/05 B Central was opened and customers previously serviced by Bendigo will be serviced in B Central.

**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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	779	876	97	12.5
Bundaberg	2,629	2,822	193	7.3
Caboolture	2,105	2,274	169	8.0
Caloundra	1,166	1,224	58	5.0
Capalaba	645	728	83	12.9
Chermside	798	882	84	10.5
Cleveland	703	763	60	8.5
Fortitude Valley	1,444	1,609	165	11.4
Gympie	1,139	1,255	116	10.2
Hervey Bay	1,167	1,225	58	5.0
Kawana Waters	540	585	45	8.3
Kingaroy	693	794	101	14.6
Maroochydore	1,560	1,683	123	7.9
Maryborough	1,194	1,238	44	3.7
Mitchelton	889	1,013	124	13.9
Mt Gravatt	1,663	1,810	147	8.8
Nambour	986	1,051	65	6.6
Noosa	1,084	1,142	58	5.4
Nundah	948	1,083	135	14.2
Redcliffe	1,452	1,527	75	5.2
Stones Corner	1,529	1,642	113	7.4
Strathpine	989	1,059	70	7.1
Toowong	920	1,059	139	15.1
Wynnum	766	791	25	3.3
Other (a)	5	4	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	27,793	30,139	2,346	8.4

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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	775	792	17	2.2
Ayr	342	366	24	7.0
Biloela	168	183	15	8.9
Bowen	391	508	117	29.9
Cairns EMS (3)	2,825	2,933	108	3.8
Cairns FAO (3)	12	5	-7	%
Cairns Ret (3)	2	0	-2	%
Charters Towers	320	333	13	4.1
Edmonton	2	2	0	%
Emerald	361	363	2	0.6
Gladstone	884	932	48	5.4
Greenfields	3	1	-2	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	302	307	5	1.7
Ingham	233	249	16	6.9
Innisfail	697	722	25	3.6
Longreach (4)	91	94	3	%
Mackay	1,712	1,832	120	7.0
Mareeba	393	405	12	3.1
Mossman	254	293	39	15.4
Mt Isa	868	891	23	2.6
Normanton	170	181	11	6.5
Palm Island (2)	292	281	-11	-3.8
Rockhampton	2,108	2,203	95	4.5
Smithfield	47	59	12	%
Thursday Is	168	185	17	10.1
Townsville City (1)	16	12	-4	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	2,917	3,217	300	10.3
Townsville FAO (1)	10	6	-4	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	3	1	-2	%
Whitsunday	355	370	15	4.2
Yarrabah RASC (2)	118	123	5	4.2
Yeppoon	428	434	6	1.4
Other (a)	202	188	-14	-6.9
<i>Total</i>	17,469	18,471	1,002	5.7

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 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.
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. Customers are being transferred from these sites to better service the needs of Indigenous and rural customers.
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 25/2/05. Customers previously serviced by Rockhampton will be serviced in Longreach.

**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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	878	930	52	5.9
Broken Hill	920	970	50	5.4
Ceduna	178	177	-1	-0.6
Cooper Pedy	121	126	5	4.1
Currie St (Adelaide)	862	798	-64	-7.4
Edwardstown	2,268	2,482	214	9.4
Elizabeth	2,359	2,420	61	2.6
Enfield	1,470	1,557	87	5.9
Gawler	1,056	1,076	20	1.9
Glenelg	831	898	67	8.1
Kadina	604	590	-14	-2.3
Kilkenny	1,686	1,758	72	4.3
Modbury	1,728	1,849	121	7.0
Mt Barker	644	713	69	10.7
Mt Gambier	1,354	1,381	27	2.0
Murray Bridge	791	829	38	4.8
Noarlunga	2,617	2,748	131	5.0
Norwood	1,627	1,798	171	10.5
Parkside	0	0	0	%
Port Adelaide	1,584	1,671	87	5.5
Port Augusta	674	700	26	3.9
Port Lincoln	668	667	-1	-0.1
Port Pirie	1,002	1,016	14	1.4
Salisbury	2,327	2,392	65	2.8
Torrensville	1,379	1,521	142	10.3
Victor Harbor	578	577	-1	-0.2
Whyalla	936	958	22	2.4
Other (a)	25	22	-3	%
<i>Total</i>	31,167	32,624	1,457	4.7

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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	987	1,017	30	3.0
Armadale	978	987	9	0.9
Bunbury	1,628	1,667	39	2.4
Busselton*	301	318	17	5.6
Cannington	1,492	1,557	65	4.4
Carnarvon	219	240	21	9.6
Centrelink City*	2	2	0	%
Christmas Island	19	21	2	%
Cocos Island	45	43	-2	%
Collie	6	3	-3	%
Esperance	281	284	3	1.1
Fremantle	1,379	1,434	55	4.0
Geraldton	1,473	1,427	-46	-3.1
Gosnells	1,023	1,049	26	2.5
Innaloo	1,733	1,764	31	1.8
Joondalup	1,315	1,289	-26	-2.0
Kalgoorlie	626	615	-11	-1.8
Karratha	263	261	-2	-0.8
Mandurah	1,371	1,368	-3	-0.2
Midland	1,736	1,809	73	4.2
Mirrabooka	1,804	1,954	150	8.3
Morley	2,189	2,260	71	3.2
Northam	535	553	18	3.4
Rockingham*	1,635	1,678	43	2.6
South Hedland	286	303	17	5.9
Spearwood	1,033	1,044	11	1.1
Victoria Park	2,224	2,329	105	4.7
Warwick Grove	894	957	63	7.0
Other (a)	337	592	255	75.7
<i>Total</i>	27,814	28,825	1,011	3.6

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.

*On 14 February 2005 Busselton was established as a full time office. Customers previously serviced by Bunbury will be serviced in Busselton.

**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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	678	696	18	2.7
Burnie	1,749	1,810	61	3.5
Devonport	1,827	1,910	83	4.5
Glenorchy	1,686	1,752	66	3.9
Hobart	1,780	1,946	166	9.3
Huonville	580	631	51	8.8
Launceston	3,902	4,109	207	5.3
Mowbray	16	14	-2	%
Rosny Park	1,059	1,141	82	7.7
Sorell	477	498	21	4.4
Other (a)	18	23	5	%
<i>Total</i>	13,772	14,530	758	5.5
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	736	790	54	7.3
Alice Springs (Remote)*	35	35	0	%
Broome	274	265	-9	-3.3
Casuarina	1,002	1,105	103	10.3
Casuarina YSC	1	1	0	%
Derby	111	111	0	0.0
Katherine	645	692	47	7.3
Knuckey Street	593	612	19	3.2
Kununurra	142	142	0	0.0
Nhulunbuy	158	155	-3	-1.9
Palmerston	823	854	31	3.8
Tangentyere	165	173	8	4.8
Tennant Creek	149	150	1	0.7
Tennant Creek (Remote)	69	71	2	%
Other (a)	470	458	-12	-2.6
<i>Total</i>	5,373	5,614	241	4.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

In October 2005, region codes were transferred from Alice Springs (Remote) CSC to Alice Springs 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>	November 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,135	1,244	109	9.6
Beaudesert	412	406	-6	-1.5
Beenleigh	1,443	1,588	145	10.0
Biggera Waters	1,439	1,476	37	2.6
Browns Plains	1,316	1,396	80	6.1
Brunswick Heads	656	653	-3	-0.5
Byron Bay	742	773	31	4.2
Casino	702	735	33	4.7
Charleville	148	155	7	4.7
Coffs Harbour	2,838	3,003	165	5.8
Dalby	609	637	28	4.6
Goodna	1,015	1,082	67	6.6
Goondiwindi	307	316	9	2.9
Grafton	1,643	1,724	81	4.9
Inala	1,203	1,318	115	9.6
Ipswich	1,969	2,057	88	4.5
Lightning Ridge	6	5	-1	%
Lismore	2,075	2,279	204	9.8
Moree	549	562	13	2.4
Murwillumbah	626	665	39	6.2
Narrabri	366	363	-3	-0.8
Nerang	1,471	1,574	103	7.0
Palm Beach	1,936	2,025	89	4.6
Roma	147	174	27	18.4
Southport	2,308	2,432	124	5.4
Stanthorpe	321	356	35	10.9
Toowoomba	2,226	2,419	193	8.7
Tweed Heads	1,439	1,515	76	5.3
Walgett	390	411	21	5.4
Warwick	551	562	11	2.0
Woodridge	1,764	1,880	116	6.6
Other (a)	21	20	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	33,773	35,805	2,032	6.0

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 2005	December 2005	Variation	
			November - December Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	1	2	1	%
Bendigo	2	1	-1	%
Brisbane	0	1	1	%
Bunbury	0	0	0	%
Cairns	1	0	-1	%
Cardiff	0	0	0	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	0	0	0	%
Hobart	0	0	0	%
Illawarra	1	0	-1	%
Latrobe	0	1	1	%
Liverpool	1	0	-1	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	0	0	%
Moreland	0	1	1	%
Newcastle	1	1	0	%
Perth	0	2	2	%
Port Augusta	1	0	-1	%
Port Macquarie	1	3	2	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	1	0	-1	%
Townsville	1	1	0	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	11	13	2	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	35	46	11	%
AUSTRALIA	351,940	373,710	21,770	6.2

(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 23 DECEMBER 2005**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	84.5	81.3	82.7
Earned an income	15.5	18.7	17.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.9	1.2	1.1
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.8	3.3	3.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.6	3.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.0	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	7.1	8.2	7.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>109,090</i>	<i>138,715</i>	<i>247,805</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	75.9	72.1	73.6
Earned an income	24.1	27.9	26.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.5	1.7	1.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.1	4.4	4.3
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.4	4.9	4.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.1	3.7	3.5
Over \$316.00	11.1	13.1	12.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>54,219</i>	<i>85,092</i>	<i>139,311</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	81.7	77.8	79.4
Earned an income	18.3	22.2	20.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.1	1.4	1.3
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.2	3.8	3.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.3	4.1	3.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.9	2.6
Over \$316.00	8.4	10.1	9.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>163,309</i>	<i>223,807</i>	<i>387,116</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 (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 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 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 customers 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 customers who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training Jobseeker populations.</p> <p>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.</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>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>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.</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 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 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 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 FaCS introduced a more sustainable methodology 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 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 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 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 FaCS, DEWR 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 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 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)	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance was closed off 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 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)	<p>Youth Allowance customers who are not full-time students.</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 62 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 further information please contact the Business Information Help Desk on (02) 6244 7270.

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

Director
Unemployment and Mature Age Payments Programme Management
Section
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9879
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3312.

Other Customer Information

Statistics relating to other customers are also available, including customer numbers and characteristics for the various FaCS pensions, benefits and family payments.

For further information please contact the Business Information Help 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.*