

LABOUR MARKET
AND
RELATED PAYMENTS
a monthly profile

October 2003

Embargoed
Until 11.30 am, 6 November 2003

Annual Subscription - \$65.00

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INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by Centrelink for the Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS). This publication covers Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance in some detail and, to a lesser extent, payments such as Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance.

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

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

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total jobseeker population.

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 11 December 2003.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - October 2003

- { Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers totalled 520,317. Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) customers totalled 80,666.
- { Total jobseekers (in receipt of either NSA or YA(o)) totalled 427,190 - an overall decrease of 7,180 from September 2003.
- { Long-term jobseekers totalled 252,009 - an overall decrease of 4,045 from September 2003.
- { Short-term jobseekers totalled 175,181 - an overall decrease of 3,135 from September 2003.

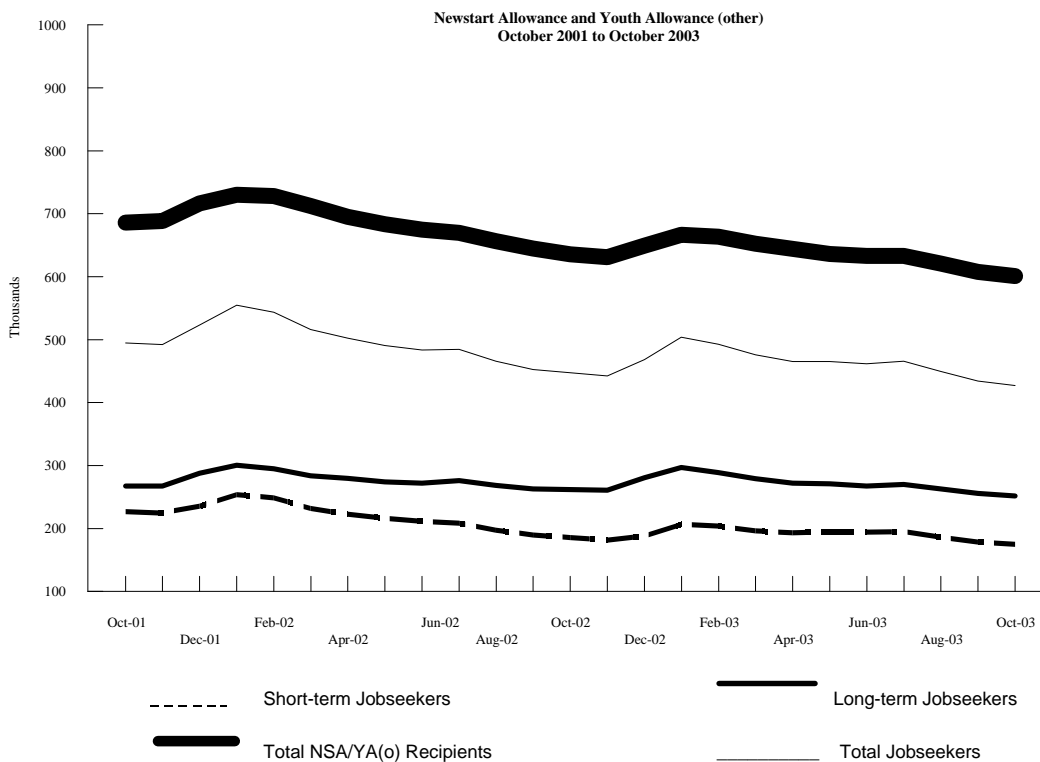


TABLE 1 - FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance		Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Full-time Students (c)	Other			
February 1994 (d)	472,785	977,796
October 2001	333,731	599,247	312,211	86,752	39,433	100,092	39,179
November 2001	334,324	598,764	305,054	89,573	39,535	101,647	39,748
December 2001	342,478	612,927	260,410	103,821	39,668	103,057	40,367
January 2002	348,527	627,501	252,077	102,578	39,423	103,456	40,613
February 2002	350,066	630,229	263,280	98,214	39,358	103,840	40,871
March 2002	347,789	618,200	282,132	94,128	39,328	103,847	41,088
April 2002	344,184	603,047	301,047	92,084	39,563	103,739	41,242
May 2002	341,093	592,476	309,659	91,137	39,936	103,882	41,385
June 2002	339,457	583,773	313,112	91,056	40,157	103,860	41,576
July 2002	339,560	578,096	307,455	91,674	40,202	103,815	41,713
August 2002	338,152	568,697	315,171	87,822	40,236	103,814	41,907
September 2002	336,034	558,808	316,737	85,914	40,215	103,795	42,115
October 2002	335,004	551,899	309,343	83,560	40,102	103,735	42,298
November 2002	333,841	546,247	304,402	84,977	40,099	103,693	42,506
December 2002	339,563	552,637	262,659	96,808	40,131	103,743	42,680
January 2003	345,446	569,009	251,475	97,748	40,050	103,898	42,766
February 2003	343,677	570,613	260,961	93,043	40,282	104,054	42,938
March 2003	338,684	562,353	276,382	89,986	40,527	103,874	43,089
April 2003	333,806	554,505	289,342	89,501	40,682	103,787	43,206
May 2003	330,294	548,554	297,514	87,457	40,784	103,765	43,308
June 2003	327,544	545,685	304,491	87,574	41,372	104,080	43,550
July 2003	326,980	543,578	298,178	89,479	41,582	104,363	43,797
August 2003	324,559	535,399	305,220	85,340	41,882	105,173	44,188
September 2003	320,932	524,947	309,974	82,836	42,625	106,144	44,644
October 2003	318,997	520,317	306,946	80,666	42,140	105,973	45,014
<i>Variation September 2003 - October 2003</i>							
Number	-1,935	-4,630	-3,028	-2,170	-485	-171	370
Per cent	-0.6	-0.9	-1.0	-2.6	-1.1	-0.2	0.8

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving FaCS labour market payments introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data back to May 1998 is in Table A, July 2002 publication.

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

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

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

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

TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOBSSEEKER POPULATION

	September 2003	October			Variation September - October	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	204,015	142,506	58,814	201,320	-2,695	-1.3
CPS recipients (a)	2,128	1,665	555	2,220	92	4.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,491	8,347	4,027	12,374	-117	-0.9
Received a payment	189,396	132,494	54,232	186,726	-2,670	-1.4
Incapacitated (c)	21,505	13,968	7,333	21,301	-204	-0.9
Training	9,412	5,886	3,289	9,175	-237	-2.5
Self-employment development (d)	365	374	159	533	168	46.0
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	1,654	1,169	469	1,638	-16	-1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	10,300	6,861	3,304	10,165	-135	-1.3
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	146,160	104,236	39,678	143,914	-2,246	-1.5
Long-term NSA Customers	320,932	216,420	102,577	318,997	-1,935	-0.6
CPS recipients (a)	7,240	5,241	2,017	7,258	18	0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,786	7,372	4,206	11,578	-208	-1.8
Received a payment	301,906	203,807	96,354	300,161	-1,745	-0.6
Incapacitated (c)	32,014	19,889	12,113	32,002	-12	-0.0
Training	26,445	17,508	10,192	27,700	1,255	4.7
Self-employment development (d)	262	215	95	310	48	18.3
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	3,708	2,402	1,298	3,700	-8	-0.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	17,988	11,224	6,588	17,812	-176	-1.0
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	221,489	152,569	66,068	218,637	-2,852	-1.3
All NSA Customers	524,947	358,926	161,391	520,317	-4,630	-0.9
CPS recipients (a)	9,368	6,906	2,572	9,478	110	1.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	24,277	15,719	8,233	23,952	-325	-1.3
Received a payment	491,302	336,301	150,586	486,887	-4,415	-0.9
Incapacitated (c)	53,519	33,857	19,446	53,303	-216	-0.4
Training	35,857	23,394	13,481	36,875	1,018	2.8
Self-employment development (d)	627	589	254	843	216	34.4
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	5,362	3,571	1,767	5,338	-24	-0.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	28,288	18,085	9,892	27,977	-311	-1.1
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	367,649	256,805	105,746	362,551	-5,098	-1.4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	September 2003	October			Variation September - October	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	39,889	21,512	17,452	38,964	-925	-2.3
CPS recipients (a)	1,010	678	391	1,069	59	5.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	945	447	485	932	-13	-1.4
Received a payment	37,934	20,387	16,576	36,963	-971	-2.6
Part-time study & work (c)	4	0	5	5	1	25.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	108	39	61	100	-8	-7.4
Incapacitated (e)	2,113	1,018	1,082	2,100	-13	-0.6
Training	1,436	855	535	1,390	-46	-3.2
Self-employment development (e)	5	4	2	6	1	20.0
Full-time voluntary work	10	6	7	13	3	30.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	2,102	986	1,096	2,082	-20	-1.0
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	32,156	17,479	13,788	31,267	-889	-2.8
Long-term YA (other) Customers	42,947	20,744	20,958	41,702	-1,245	-2.9
CPS recipients (a)	1,042	661	376	1,037	-5	-0.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,180	464	657	1,121	-59	-5.0
Received a payment	40,725	19,619	19,925	39,544	-1,181	-2.9
Part-time study & work (c)	8	2	10	12	4	50.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	160	61	98	159	-1	-0.6
Incapacitated (e)	1,878	702	1,139	1,841	-37	-2.0
Training	2,315	1,219	1,118	2,337	22	1.0
Self-employment development (e)	8	6	4	10	2	25.0
Full-time voluntary work	26	16	14	30	4	15.4
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,765	797	986	1,783	18	1.0
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	34,565	16,816	16,556	33,372	-1,193	-3.5
All YA (other) Customers	82,836	42,256	38,410	80,666	-2,170	-2.6
CPS recipients (a)	2,052	1,339	767	2,106	54	2.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,125	911	1,142	2,053	-72	-3.4
Received a payment	78,659	40,006	36,501	76,507	-2,152	-2.7
Part-time study & work (c)	12	2	15	17	5	41.7
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	268	100	159	259	-9	-3.4
Incapacitated (e)	3,991	1,720	2,221	3,941	-50	-1.3
Training	3,751	2,074	1,653	3,727	-24	-0.6
Self-employment development (e)	13	10	6	16	3	23.1
Full-time voluntary work	36	22	21	43	7	19.4
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,867	1,783	2,082	3,865	-2	-0.1
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	66,721	34,295	30,344	64,639	-2,082	-3.1

(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
October 2001	227,103	267,616	494,719
November 2001	224,871	267,418	492,289
December 2001	235,625	287,846	523,471
January 2002	253,959	300,637	554,596
February 2002	248,771	294,759	543,530
March 2002	232,180	284,066	516,246
April 2002	222,980	279,666	502,646
May 2002	216,269	274,302	490,571
June 2002	211,427	272,037	483,464
July 2002	208,536	276,198	484,734
August 2002	197,468	268,400	465,868
September 2002	189,762	263,085	452,847
October 2002	185,780	261,924	447,704
November 2002	181,762	260,685	442,447
December 2002	187,986	280,614	468,600
January 2003	206,675	297,166	503,841
February 2003	203,922	288,718	492,640
March 2003	196,529	279,421	475,950
April 2003	193,214	272,157	465,371
May 2003	194,400	271,109	465,509
June 2003	194,490	267,506	461,996
July 2003	195,487	270,316	465,803
August 2003	186,399	263,215	449,614
September 2003	178,316	256,054	434,370
October 2003	175,181	252,009	427,190
<i>Variation September 2003 - October 2003</i>			
<i>Number</i>	-3,135	-4,045	-7,180
<i>Per cent</i>	-1.8	-1.6	-1.7

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

Notes:

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

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

State	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	55,700	54,653	-1,047	-1.9
Victoria	42,765	42,275	-490	-1.1
Queensland	39,156	37,790	-1,366	-3.5
South Australia	13,548	13,532	-16	-0.1
Western Australia	18,341	18,193	-148	-0.8
Tasmania	5,240	5,233	-7	-0.1
Northern Territory	1,916	1,881	-35	-1.8
Australian Capital Territory	1,650	1,624	-26	-1.6
AUSTRALIA	178,316	175,181	-3,135	-1.8
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	82,871	81,641	-1,230	-1.5
Victoria	58,707	58,161	-546	-0.9
Queensland	51,456	50,070	-1,386	-2.7
South Australia	22,328	22,093	-235	-1.1
Western Australia	22,951	22,499	-452	-2.0
Tasmania	12,621	12,467	-154	-1.2
Northern Territory	2,748	2,745	-3	-0.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,372	2,333	-39	-1.6
AUSTRALIA	256,054	252,009	-4,045	-1.6
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	138,571	136,294	-2,277	-1.6
Victoria	101,472	100,436	-1,036	-1.0
Queensland	90,612	87,860	-2,752	-3.0
South Australia	35,876	35,625	-251	-0.7
Western Australia	41,292	40,692	-600	-1.5
Tasmania	17,861	17,700	-161	-0.9
Northern Territory	4,664	4,626	-38	-0.8
Australian Capital Territory	4,022	3,957	-65	-1.6
AUSTRALIA	434,370	427,190	-7,180	-1.7

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 (OCTOBER 2003)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,652	3.8	2,492	1.5	7,144	2.5
18 - 20 years	12,828	10.5	14,298	8.4	27,126	9.3
21 - 24 years	22,424	18.4	23,330	13.8	45,754	15.7
25 - 29 years	20,259	16.6	24,357	14.4	44,616	15.3
30 - 39 years	28,797	23.7	39,969	23.6	68,766	23.6
40 - 49 years	17,241	14.2	33,695	19.9	50,936	17.5
50 - 59 years	12,037	9.9	29,489	17.4	41,526	14.3
60 years and over	3,479	2.9	1,756	1.0	5,235	1.8
TOTAL	121,717	100.0	169,386	100.0	291,103	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,452	8.3	2,778	3.4	7,230	5.3
18 - 20 years	9,335	17.5	13,767	16.7	23,102	17.0
21 - 24 years	11,452	21.4	13,832	16.7	25,284	18.6
25 - 29 years	7,208	13.5	9,090	11.0	16,298	12.0
30 - 39 years	7,141	13.4	12,047	14.6	19,188	14.1
40 - 49 years	7,412	13.9	19,047	23.1	26,459	19.4
50 - 59 years	5,772	10.8	11,728	14.2	17,500	12.9
60 years and over	692	1.3	334	0.4	1,026	0.8
TOTAL	53,464	100.0	82,623	100.0	136,087	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,104	5.2	5,270	2.1	14,374	3.4
18 - 20 years	22,163	12.7	28,065	11.1	50,228	11.8
21 - 24 years	33,876	19.3	37,162	14.7	71,038	16.6
25 - 29 years	27,467	15.7	33,447	13.3	60,914	14.3
30 - 39 years	35,938	20.5	52,016	20.6	87,954	20.6
40 - 49 years	24,653	14.1	52,742	20.9	77,395	18.1
50 - 59 years	17,809	10.2	41,217	16.4	59,026	13.8
60 years and over	4,171	2.4	2,090	0.8	6,261	1.5
TOTAL	175,181	100.0	252,009	100.0	427,190	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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,493	1,460	-33	-2.2
Chatswood	1,326	1,283	-43	-3.2
Darlinghurst	1,790	1,825	35	2.0
Darlinghurst YSU	36	39	3	%
Hornsby	952	923	-29	-3.0
Leichhardt	1,623	1,588	-35	-2.2
Maroubra	1,257	1,284	27	2.1
Marrickville	1,690	1,656	-34	-2.0
Northern Beaches	1,260	1,248	-12	-1.0
Sydney Central YSU	3	2	-1	%
Other (a)	29	32	3	%
<i>Total</i>	11,459	11,340	-119	-1.0
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,614	1,575	-39	-2.4
Corrimal	1,405	1,389	-16	-1.1
Dapto	1,269	1,225	-44	-3.5
Hurstville	1,385	1,376	-9	-0.6
Nowra	1,939	1,897	-42	-2.2
Redfern	1,497	1,500	3	0.2
Rockdale	1,543	1,520	-23	-1.5
Shellharbour	1,894	1,874	-20	-1.1
Sutherland	29	26	-3	%
Ulladulla	503	504	1	0.2
Wollongong	2,059	2,021	-38	-1.8
Wollongong SAC	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	34	34	0	%
<i>Total</i>	15,171	14,941	-230	-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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,264	1,264	0	0.0
Cessnock	984	954	-30	-3.0
Charlestown	3,029	2,945	-84	-2.8
Ettalong	1,040	984	-56	-5.4
Forster	911	893	-18	-2.0
Gosford*	2,031	1,996	-35	-1.7
Gosford NSS*	4	3	-1	%
Gunnedah	511	507	-4	-0.8
Inverell	779	775	-4	-0.5
Kempsey	1,393	1,386	-7	-0.5
Kurri Kurri	692	665	-27	-3.9
Lakehaven	1,695	1,647	-48	-2.8
Maitland	1,885	1,885	0	0.0
Mayfield	1,496	1,455	-41	-2.7
Muswellbrook	684	703	19	2.8
Nambucca Heads	1,214	1,199	-15	-1.2
Nelson Bay	610	601	-9	-1.5
Newcastle	2,026	1,970	-56	-2.8
Newcastle SAC	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	1,820	1,739	-81	-4.5
Raymond Terrace	1,167	1,144	-23	-2.0
Singleton	330	316	-14	-4.2
Tamworth	1,989	1,935	-54	-2.7
Taree	1,794	1,736	-58	-3.2
The Entrance	1,231	1,225	-6	-0.5
Toronto	1,351	1,330	-21	-1.6
Tuggerah	0	0	0	%
Wallsend	2,027	1,959	-68	-3.4
Wyong	708	694	-14	-2.0
Other (a)	40	37	-3	%
<i>Total</i>	34,705	33,947	-758	-2.2

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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	25	21	-4	%
Bankstown	4,040	3,979	-61	-1.5
Cabramatta	2,337	2,257	-80	-3.4
Camden	390	403	13	3.3
Campbelltown	2,736	2,654	-82	-3.0
Campsie	2,086	2,055	-31	-1.5
Fairfield	4,067	4,084	17	0.4
Ingleburn	1,194	1,177	-17	-1.4
Lakemba	20	22	2	%
Liverpool	3,994	3,945	-49	-1.2
Liverpool YSU	0	0	0	%
Revesby	10	11	1	%
Strathfield	1,638	1,579	-59	-3.6
Other (a)	3	4	1	%
<i>Total</i>	22,540	22,191	-349	-1.5
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,196	2,221	25	1.1
Baulkham Hills	597	565	-32	-5.4
Blacktown	3,059	3,029	-30	-1.0
Hawkesbury	751	719	-32	-4.3
Katoomba	682	689	7	1.0
Lithgow	697	699	2	0.3
Merrylands	1,635	1,642	7	0.4
Mt Druitt	2,415	2,344	-71	-2.9
Mudgee	705	800	95	13.5
Parramatta	2,050	2,097	47	2.3
Penrith	1,672	1,585	-87	-5.2
Ryde	1,062	1,013	-49	-4.6
Springwood	417	409	-8	-1.9
St Marys	1,623	1,534	-89	-5.5
Western Sydney SAC	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	11	12	1	%
<i>Total</i>	19,572	19,358	-214	-1.1

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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,354	2,309	-45	-1.9
Batemans Bay	790	759	-31	-3.9
Bathurst	911	914	3	0.3
Bega	777	770	-7	-0.9
Belconnen	1,095	1,067	-28	-2.6
Bourke	479	480	1	0.2
Bowral	510	489	-21	-4.1
Braddon	1,152	1,145	-7	-0.6
Cooma	451	433	-18	-4.0
Cowra	455	464	9	2.0
Deniliquin	325	280	-45	-13.8
Dubbo	2,054	2,027	-27	-1.3
Goulburn	891	819	-72	-8.1
Griffith	645	633	-12	-1.9
Gungahlin	177	182	5	2.8
Lanyon	89	88	-1	%
Leeton	376	375	-1	-0.3
Narooma	409	415	6	1.5
Orange	1,157	1,120	-37	-3.2
Parkes	1,150	1,134	-16	-1.4
Queanbeyan	672	658	-14	-2.1
Tuggeranong	768	761	-7	-0.9
Tumut	383	372	-11	-2.9
Wagga	1,749	1,699	-50	-2.9
Woden	785	771	-14	-1.8
Yass	115	106	-9	-7.8
Young	467	466	-1	-0.2
Other (a)	6	6	0	%
<i>Total</i>	21,192	20,742	-450	-2.1

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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,831	1,845	14	0.8
Broadmeadows	3,717	3,678	-39	-1.0
Darebin	3,633	3,559	-74	-2.0
Darebin Youth Unit	0	0	0	%
Echuca	731	712	-19	-2.6
Epping	2,382	2,365	-17	-0.7
Fitzroy	2,204	2,176	-28	-1.3
Greensborough	1,344	1,347	3	0.2
Heidelberg	1,088	1,077	-11	-1.0
Lilydale	1,714	1,680	-34	-2.0
Moreland	3,106	3,106	0	0.0
Moreland Youth Services	0	0	0	%
Newmarket	1,959	1,945	-14	-0.7
Richmond	1,248	1,235	-13	-1.0
Ringwood	1,993	1,969	-24	-1.2
Seymour	692	670	-22	-3.2
Shepparton	2,639	2,618	-21	-0.8
Sth Melbourne	974	978	4	0.4
Wangaratta	1,895	1,880	-15	-0.8
Windsor (VIC)	3,642	3,544	-98	-2.7
Other (a)	17	12	-5	%
<i>Total</i>	36,809	36,396	-413	-1.1

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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	958	962	4	0.4
Camberwell	1,154	1,127	-27	-2.3
Cheltenham	2,136	2,157	21	1.0
Cranbourne*	1,069	1,092	23	2.2
Dandenong	2,837	2,827	-10	-0.4
Dandenong YSU	0	0	0	%
Fountain Gate	1,923	1,932	9	0.5
Frankston	3,473	3,400	-73	-2.1
Frankston YSU	0	0	0	%
Glen Waverley	1,334	1,314	-20	-1.5
Knox	2,002	1,958	-44	-2.2
Leongatha	1	1	0	%
Mornington	552	551	-1	-0.2
Morwell	2,859	2,875	16	0.6
Oakleigh	2,072	1,992	-80	-3.9
Rosebud	1,031	999	-32	-3.1
Rowville	518	491	-27	-5.2
Sale	1,067	1,050	-17	-1.6
Springvale	2,663	2,660	-3	-0.1
Warragul	489	458	-31	-6.3
Wonthaggi*	613	600	-13	-2.1
Other (a)	3	2	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	28,754	28,448	-306	-1.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

**TABLE 7 - 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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	297	295	-2	-0.7
Ballarat	3,412	3,342	-70	-2.1
Bendigo	3,543	3,499	-44	-1.2
Bendigo SAC	0	0	0	%
Colac	540	538	-2	-0.4
Corio	1,944	1,928	-16	-0.8
Essendon (Airport West)	1,562	1,518	-44	-2.8
Footscray	2,247	2,239	-8	-0.4
Geelong	3,625	3,532	-93	-2.6
Hamilton	426	431	5	1.2
Horsham	824	798	-26	-3.2
Maryborough (VIC)	623	624	1	0.2
Melton	1,159	1,195	36	3.1
Mildura	1,935	1,955	20	1.0
Newport	1,345	1,355	10	0.7
Portland	590	591	1	0.2
Stawell	169	176	7	4.1
Sunbury	714	724	10	1.4
Sunshine	3,091	3,122	31	1.0
Swan Hill	971	926	-45	-4.6
Warrnambool	1,005	983	-22	-2.2
Watergardens	3,484	3,479	-5	-0.1
Werribee	2,313	2,271	-42	-1.8
Other (a)	20	18	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	35,839	35,539	-300	-0.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	1,380	1,353	-27	-2.0
Bundaberg	3,260	3,223	-37	-1.1
Caboolture	2,832	2,744	-88	-3.1
Caloundra	1,538	1,471	-67	-4.4
Capalaba	977	901	-76	-7.8
Chermside	1,448	1,357	-91	-6.3
Cleveland	888	870	-18	-2.0
Fortitude Valley	2,133	2,057	-76	-3.6
Gympie	1,551	1,500	-51	-3.3
Hervey Bay	1,441	1,406	-35	-2.4
Kawana Waters	691	653	-38	-5.5
Kingaroy	830	823	-7	-0.8
Maroochydore	1,951	1,877	-74	-3.8
Maryborough	1,486	1,427	-59	-4.0
Mitchelton	1,539	1,481	-58	-3.8
Mt Gravatt	2,405	2,339	-66	-2.7
Nambour	1,378	1,333	-45	-3.3
Noosa	1,640	1,576	-64	-3.9
Nundah	1,552	1,502	-50	-3.2
Redcliffe	1,991	1,861	-130	-6.5
Stones Corner	2,394	2,344	-50	-2.1
Strathpine	1,407	1,340	-67	-4.8
Toowong	1,578	1,526	-52	-3.3
Wynnum	1,053	1,033	-20	-1.9
Other (a)	2	1	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	39,345	37,998	-1,347	-3.4

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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH QUEENSLAND</i>				
Aitkenvale (Centrepoint)	138	178	40	29.0
Atherton	794	779	-15	-1.9
Ayr	412	410	-2	-0.5
Biloela	224	220	-4	-1.8
Bowen	368	342	-26	-7.1
Cairns	1,442	1,501	59	4.1
Cairns (Remote)	759	757	-2	-0.3
Cairns YAC	638	612	-26	-4.1
Charters Towers	358	367	9	2.5
Earlville	915	789	-126	-13.8
Edmonton	398	414	16	4.0
Emerald	426	406	-20	-4.7
Gladstone	1,171	1,146	-25	-2.1
Greenfields	8	9	1	%
Ingham	255	263	8	3.1
Innisfail	795	771	-24	-3.0
Mackay	2,639	2,586	-53	-2.0
Mareeba	472	479	7	1.5
Mossman	266	261	-5	-1.9
Mt Isa	1,020	1,018	-2	-0.2
Mulgrave Rd	0	0	0	%
Normanton	243	242	-1	-0.4
Rockhampton	2,922	2,927	5	0.2
Ross River (Elizabeth St)	92	103	11	12.0
Smithfield	593	576	-17	-2.9
Thursday Is	200	196	-4	-2.0
Townsville	2,175	2,161	-14	-0.6
Townsville YSC	40	34	-6	%
Westcourt	0	0	0	%
Whitsunday	460	464	4	0.9
Willows	1,722	1,635	-87	-5.1
Yeppoon	669	645	-24	-3.6
Other (a)	9	6	-3	%
<i>Total</i>	22,623	22,297	-326	-1.4

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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	1,001	1,028	27	2.7
Broken Hill	1,024	1,035	11	1.1
Ceduna	199	191	-8	-4.0
Cooper Pedy	161	153	-8	-5.0
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,365	1,330	-35	-2.6
Currie St (Adelaide) SAC	3	2	-1	%
Edwardstown	2,384	2,332	-52	-2.2
Elizabeth	2,791	2,719	-72	-2.6
Enfield	1,753	1,754	1	0.1
Gawler	1,140	1,178	38	3.3
Glenelg	1,244	1,253	9	0.7
Kadina	720	696	-24	-3.3
Kilkenny	2,129	2,064	-65	-3.1
Marden	0	0	0	%
Modbury	2,180	2,201	21	1.0
Mt Barker	705	725	20	2.8
Mt Gambier	1,335	1,357	22	1.6
Murray Bridge	959	908	-51	-5.3
Noarlunga	3,144	3,102	-42	-1.3
Norwood	1,590	1,560	-30	-1.9
Parkside	886	863	-23	-2.6
Port Adelaide	1,751	1,693	-58	-3.3
Port Augusta	677	694	17	2.5
Port Lincoln	731	728	-3	-0.4
Port Pirie	1,184	1,190	6	0.5
Salisbury	2,765	2,760	-5	-0.2
Torrensville	1,538	1,516	-22	-1.4
Victor Harbor	634	662	28	4.4
Whyalla	1,106	1,134	28	2.5
Other (a)	9	10	1	%
<i>Total</i>	37,108	36,838	-270	-0.7

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>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,534	1,478	-56	-3.7
Armadale	1,427	1,406	-21	-1.5
Bunbury	2,932	2,876	-56	-1.9
Cannington	2,119	2,107	-12	-0.6
Carnarvon	352	363	11	3.1
Christmas Island	37	36	-1	%
Cocos Island	39	40	1	%
Collie	12	12	0	%
Esperance	371	350	-21	-5.7
Fremantle	2,311	2,286	-25	-1.1
Geraldton	1,804	1,789	-15	-0.8
Gosnells	1,607	1,541	-66	-4.1
Innaloo	2,783	2,717	-66	-2.4
Joondalup	2,074	1,986	-88	-4.2
Kalgoorlie	815	816	1	0.1
Karratha	261	271	10	3.8
Kwinana*	131	123	-8	-6.1
Mandurah	1,878	1,870	-8	-0.4
Midland	2,585	2,499	-86	-3.3
Milligan Street (Centrelink City)*	21	18	-3	%
Mirrabooka	2,742	2,727	-15	-0.5
Morley	3,275	3,237	-38	-1.2
Northam	612	592	-20	-3.3
Rockingham	2,295	2,268	-27	-1.2
South Hedland	369	362	-7	-1.9
Spearwood	1,597	1,604	7	0.4
Victoria Park	3,187	3,227	40	1.3
Warwick Grove	1,590	1,567	-23	-1.4
Other (a)	115	115	0	0.0
<i>Total</i>	40,875	40,283	-592	-1.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

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

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	1,216	1,223	7	0.6
Burnie	2,137	2,109	-28	-1.3
Devonport	2,289	2,274	-15	-0.7
Glenorchy	2,166	2,115	-51	-2.4
Hobart	2,254	2,278	24	1.1
Hobart YSC	0	0	0	%
Huonville	688	690	2	0.3
Launceston	4,991	4,984	-7	-0.1
Mowbray	19	13	-6	%
Queenstown	0	0	0	%
Rosny Park *	1,524	1,458	-66	-4.3
Sorell	649	632	-17	-2.6
St Helens	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	5	5	0	%
<i>Total</i>	17,938	17,781	-157	-0.9
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	434	430	-4	-0.9
Alice Springs (Remote)	202	209	7	3.5
Broome	350	363	13	3.7
Casuarina	1,157	1,127	-30	-2.6
Casuarina (Remote)	0	0	0	%
Casuarina YSC	8	9	1	%
Derby	70	74	4	%
Katherine	405	397	-8	-2.0
Katherine (Remote)	79	76	-3	%
Knuckey Street	709	681	-28	-3.9
Kununurra	142	147	5	3.5
Nhulunbuy	67	77	10	%
Palmerston	1,016	1,021	5	0.5
Palmerston (Remote)	0	0	0	%
Tangentyere	402	401	-1	-0.2
Tennant Creek	116	125	9	7.8
Tennant Creek (Remote)	9	9	0	%
Other (a)	102	95	-7	-6.9
<i>Total</i>	5,268	5,241	-27	-0.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,267	1,257	-10	-0.8
Beaudesert	476	460	-16	-3.4
Beenleigh	1,958	1,902	-56	-2.9
Biggera Waters	2,128	2,007	-121	-5.7
Browns Plains	1,913	1,816	-97	-5.1
Brunswick Heads	835	840	5	0.6
Byron Bay	1,032	1,023	-9	-0.9
Casino	820	816	-4	-0.5
Charleville	197	193	-4	-2.0
Coffs Harbour	3,240	3,190	-50	-1.5
Dalby	855	852	-3	-0.4
Goodna	1,332	1,268	-64	-4.8
Goondiwindi	311	303	-8	-2.6
Grafton	1,923	1,908	-15	-0.8
Inala	1,620	1,593	-27	-1.7
Ipswich	2,662	2,536	-126	-4.7
Lightning Ridge	10	8	-2	%
Lismore	2,501	2,471	-30	-1.2
Moree	718	720	2	0.3
Murwillumbah	817	795	-22	-2.7
Narrabri	483	468	-15	-3.1
Nerang	2,158	2,096	-62	-2.9
Palm Beach	2,928	2,789	-139	-4.7
Roma	164	163	-1	-0.6
Southport	3,378	3,206	-172	-5.1
Stanthorpe	16	16	0	%
Toowoomba	3,032	2,944	-88	-2.9
Tweed Heads	1,987	1,908	-79	-4.0
Walgett	502	491	-11	-2.2
Warwick	1,163	1,155	-8	-0.7
Woodridge	2,718	2,628	-90	-3.3
Other (a)	15	18	3	%
<i>Total</i>	45,159	43,840	-1,319	-2.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	September 2003	October 2003	Variation	
			September - October Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Call Centre Ben Vic	1	0	-1	%
Call Centre Adel	2	1	-1	%
Call Centre Bbury	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Bris	1	0	-1	%
Call Centre Cairns	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Cdiff	2	1	-1	%
Call Centre Gosford	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Hobart	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Coffs	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Glng	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Illwra	1	0	-1	%
Call Centre Lpool	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Ltrobe	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Mbin	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Mrland	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Perth	0	1	1	%
Call Centre Ptaug	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Ptmac	1	2	1	%
Call Centre Sydney	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Twba	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Wend	0	0	0	%
Call Centre Wrlla	0	0	0	%
Call Townsville	1	0	-1	%
Indigenous Call	0	0	0	%
Maryborough Call	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	9	5	-4	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	4	5	1	%
AUSTRALIA	434,370	427,190	-7,180	-1.7

(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 24 OCTOBER 2003**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	86.5	84.7	85.5
Earned an income	13.5	15.3	14.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.3	1.7	1.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.2	3.7	3.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.7	3.1	2.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.6	1.9	1.8
Over \$316.00	4.7	5.0	4.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	120,184	167,459	287,643
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	77.3	74.6	75.7
Earned an income	22.7	25.4	24.3
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.6	5.1	4.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.3	4.8	4.6
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.0	3.2	3.2
Over \$316.00	8.8	9.9	9.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	53,326	81,820	135,146
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	83.7	81.4	82.3
Earned an income	16.3	18.6	17.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.5	1.9	1.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.6	4.1	3.9
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.2	3.7	3.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.1	2.3	2.2
Over \$316.00	6.0	6.6	6.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	173,510	249,279	422,789

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998. It also had a downward effect on total jobseeker numbers due to the parental means test.

Newstart Allowance

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

From 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment – Newstart Allowance – which was payable to eligible customers aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job

Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see *Job Search Allowance*).

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

Job Search Allowance

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

Prior to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. It was also payable to eligible persons who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and under 18 years of age at 31 December 1994. Persons aged 15 to 18 years who were not receiving Job Search Allowance prior to 1 January 1995 commenced on Youth Training Allowance.

Sickness Allowance

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

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

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

Partner Allowance

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

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

Partner Allowance was introduced in September 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance,

Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

Youth Training Allowance

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

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

Widow Allowance

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

Mature Age Allowance was introduced on 24 March 1994, and was paid to long-term unemployed persons aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who had been receiving income support for 12 months or more and who were eligible for Newstart Allowance. The introduction of Mature Age Allowance has had a downwards effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from April 1994.

Comparability of Data

There have been significant changes to the data presented in this publication due to a number of events. The main changes are: the method of counting customers; the inclusion of some CDEP customers in the total customer numbers; the introduction of Youth Allowance in July 1998; the way 'jobseeker' is defined; and the way duration is calculated. People using this data to construct time series should note the following comments.

Definition of Customer

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

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

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

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

Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)

From 20 March 2000, eligible participants in CDEP started receiving CDEP participant supplement and other add-ons, such as rent assistance, as part of income support payments. This added a number of new customers to those who are normally eligible for payments reported in this publication.

Introduction of Youth Allowance

The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998. There are two main problems in comparing these two series. The first is the exclusion of some 18 to 20 year old unemployed people due to the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test (see the *Youth Allowance* section under Payment History). The second is the inclusion of Sickness Allowees in the Youth Allowance (other) population. There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance Jobseekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) Jobseekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the jobseeker total. The problem, however, of the exclusion of some customers through the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test still remains.

Jobseekers

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

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

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

Duration

Following system changes in May 1998, duration has been defined according to the time a customer spends on income support – short-term customers are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term customers are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more. Prior to 1998, duration was defined according to the time a customer was registered as unemployed – short-term customers were people who were registered as unemployed for up to 12 months and long-term customers were people who were registered for 12 months or more.

Closure of Mature Age and Partner allowances

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Activity Test Status	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) customer has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test customers must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
Age	Age in years at time of data collection.
Area Support Office	A Centrelink office that supports a set of Customer Service Centres for a specified area. These are generally not confined to State boundaries.
Centrelink Youth Service Centre	A Centrelink Youth Service Centre consists of specialised staff who provide young people with improved access to Government services and income support. This is done by offering a mainstream FaCS service, as well as specialist case management to help access educational, labour market, job search, housing, health and general welfare assistance; and by providing a regular FaCS visiting service to youth via hostels, refuges and voluntary agencies.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	<p>The CDEP scheme is a program funded by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC). The scheme enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community councils and other approved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to offer work to community members in activities that assist individuals in acquiring skills which benefit the community, develop business enterprises and/or lead to unsubsidised employment. The scheme also aims to develop management and business skills in an environment conducive to the principles of self-determination.</p> <p>The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.</p>
Customer Service Centre	A Customer Service Centre set within a particular region that provides FaCS and other payments and related information and services to customers. Customer Service Centres are managed by Area Support Offices.
Did Not Receive a Payment	Persons who did not receive a payment due to their own income and/or that of their partner, or parents, where applicable. This group is often referred to as 'zero-paid'.
Eligibility and Payment Status	Refer to the Methodology entry in the Explanatory Notes.
Fortnightly Earnings	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.

Incapacitated	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who has an activity test status indicating they are temporarily ill or incapacitated. Refer to the entry for Sickness Allowance in the Explanatory Notes.
Jobseekers	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in jobsearch. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
Job Search Allowance (JSA)	Up to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Long-term Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term customers can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed off to new claimants. People on Mature Age Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain ‘current’, that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Mature Age Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to unemployed people aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) with little or no recent workforce experience who meet certain requirements for previous receipt of income support. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Newstart Common Platform System (NCP)	The Newstart Common Platform System (NCP) was introduced in May 1998. The NCP administers all labour market and related payments. This includes primary payments such as Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance. Other payments on the NCP include Special Benefit, Sickness Allowance, Exceptional Circumstances Relief, Farm Help and Austudy.
Partner Allowance (PA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed off to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain ‘current’, that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>

Short-term Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term customers can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.
States	States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the customer's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.
Widow Allowance (WA)	Widow Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Youth Training Allowance (YTA)	From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Youth Allowance (YA)	<p>Youth Allowance is payable to eligible full-time students aged 16 to 25 years, and to eligible unemployed persons aged 16 to 21 years who satisfy the activity test. Note, there are certain exceptions for some 15 and 25 year olds. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p> <p>Youth Allowees may be undertaking full-time study, full-time job search or a combination of approved activities. Some young people will be exempt from the activity test because of their personal circumstances, eg. illness, homelessness or major personal crisis. See the Explanatory Notes for more information.</p>
Youth Allowance (other)	Youth Allowance customers who are not full-time students.
Zero-Paid	See 'Did Not Receive a Payment'.

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENT NUMBERS AND ABS UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

Official Statistics	Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Office which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.
ABS Definition	The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.
FaCS Labour Market Payment Statistics	The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.
Differences	Care should be taken when comparing the ABS and FaCS labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Seasonal Adjustment</i>	The ABS produces a seasonally adjusted series. The FaCS statistics are not seasonally adjusted.
<i>Classification</i>	<p>The ABS classifies a person as unemployed if he or she is aged 15 years and over, was not employed during the week before the interview, has actively looked for full-time or part-time work and is available to start work.</p> <p>The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment between the ages of 15 years and 64 years in the case of men (excluding recipients of Mature Age Allowance) and 15 to 62 years in the case of women (excluding recipients of Mature Age, Partner, and Widow Allowances).</p>
<i>Employment</i>	Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients may be employed part-time, but within an income test limit; the ABS classifies a person as "employed" if, among other things, he or she has worked for one hour or more during the survey period.

<i>Timing</i>	<p>The timing of collections of the series are different:</p> <p>FaCS reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.</p> <p>ABS numbers are based on a sample interview survey of occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.5% of the total Australian population. These persons are interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained is based on the week before the interview takes place.</p>
<i>Treatment of Partners</i>	<p>The ABS series includes unemployed persons whose spouse is working, irrespective of income, whereas Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) recipients are subject to an income and assets test for themselves and their spouse.</p>
<i>Pensioners</i>	<p>The ABS series includes persons being paid a pension but looking for work (eg sole parents in receipt of Parenting Payments looking for work).</p>
<i>Non-jobseekers</i>	<p>The overall Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series includes persons who are not undertaking jobsearch. These persons are separately identified in Tables 2 and 3, and have then been excluded in subsequent tables. These people may be undertaking training, the development of self-employment opportunities, full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work which excludes them from jobsearch obligations. They may also be incapacitated or have another temporary or permanent exemption from jobsearch.</p>
<i>Waiting Periods</i>	<p>The ABS series includes persons who are serving a waiting period before being granted Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other), or whose allowance was deferred.</p>
<i>Survey</i>	<p>The ABS figures are derived from a Labour Force Survey which is a sample survey, whereas the FaCS statistics are a complete count of those both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other).</p>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour Market Information

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

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

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

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

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

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6244 7978.

Other Customer Information

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

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

Other Statistical Outputs:

The following statistical output is available on request:

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