

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 the 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, responsibility for Newstart Allowance (NSA), Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)), Mature Age Allowance (MAA), Partner Allowance (PA) and Widow Allowance (WA) was transferred to DEWR and responsibility for Youth Allowance (full-time students) (YA(FTS)) was transferred to the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

This publication covers NSA and YA(o) in some detail and, to a lesser extent, MAA, PA, WA, YA(FTS) and YA (Australian Apprentices).

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

Tables 2 and 3 show the derivation of the NSA and YA(o) job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the 'Comparability of data' section of the *Explanatory Notes*). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers.

Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker 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 21 November 2007.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – September 2007

Between September 2006 and September 2007:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **decreased by 8.4%** overall from 543,326 to 497,753 and

- ◆ decreased 7.7% for NSA from 472,222 to 435,711 and
- ◆ decreased 12.7% for YA(o) from 71,104 to 62,042.

The number of job seekers **decreased by 16.4%** overall from 362,486 to 302,948 and

- ◆ decreased 16.9% for NSA recipients from 307,135 to 255,378 and
- ◆ decreased 14.1% for YA(o) recipients from 55,351 to 47,570.

Long-term job seekers decreased by 17.9% from 203,024 to 166,762.

Short-term job seekers decreased by 14.6% from 159,462 to 136,186.

For comparisons between DEWR unemployment labour market payment numbers and ABS labour force unemployment statistics, see Appendix.

**Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other)
September 2005 to September 2007**

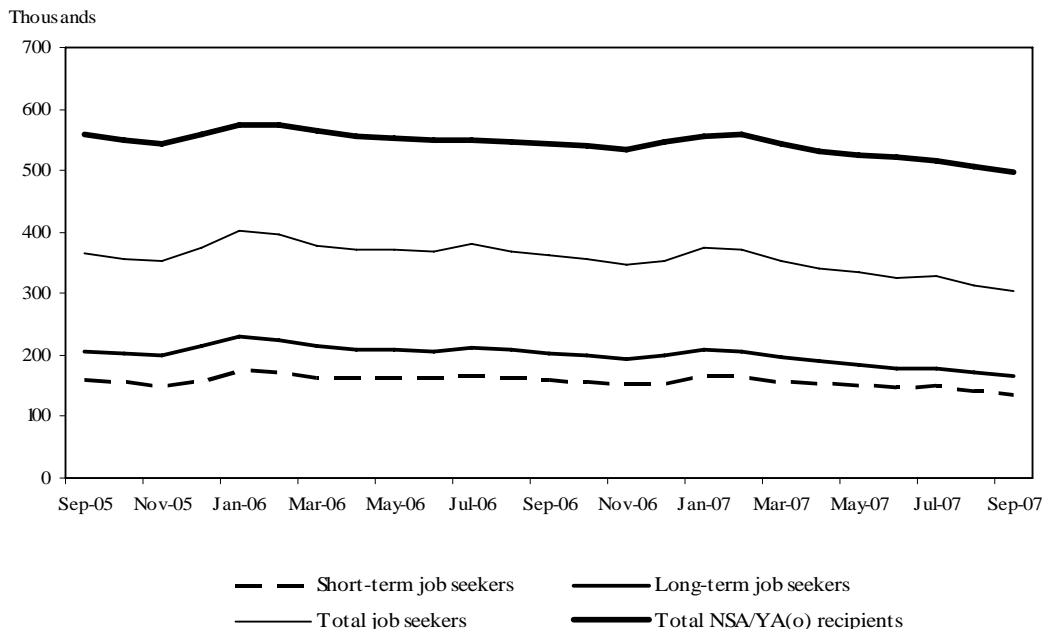


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Australian Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796
September 2005	289,974	482,072	76,272	288,479	2,285	18,697	69,624	45,158
October 2005	287,468	475,490	72,915	280,308	2,416	17,939	68,919	45,287
November 2005	286,345	470,557	73,576	274,547	2,471	17,335	68,420	45,538
December 2005	290,391	476,028	84,022	233,273	2,486	16,623	67,762	45,830
January 2006	294,100	487,251	85,628	223,059	2,478	15,869	66,905	45,849
February 2006	294,250	491,955	83,559	232,189	2,731	15,111	65,681	45,760
March 2006	291,020	484,784	78,913	250,079	2,994	14,271	64,282	45,622
April 2006	288,017	479,378	76,747	260,349	3,190	13,547	62,924	45,438
May 2006	285,853	475,830	75,533	266,392	3,181	12,836	61,863	45,212
June 2006	284,288	474,125	75,366	270,081	3,323	12,110	60,829	45,096
July 2006	285,152	474,477	76,173	264,863	3,376	11,379	59,401	44,639
August 2006	284,943	472,448	72,634	271,591	3,472	10,731	58,213	44,184
September 2006	285,218	472,222	71,104	276,235	3,643	10,049	56,965	43,705
October 2006	284,276	470,340	69,511	277,061	3,740	9,430	55,683	43,349
November 2006	282,694	466,631	68,721	267,042	3,683	8,892	54,611	43,112
December 2006	284,499	469,233	76,480	226,902	3,571	8,293	53,398	42,903
January 2007	286,614	478,033	77,358	216,869	3,487	7,745	52,205	42,530
February 2007	286,113	481,343	76,036	223,780	3,715	7,287	51,251	42,370
March 2007	281,937	473,278	71,619	239,502	4,087	6,751	50,058	42,032
April 2007	277,688	463,732	68,746	250,660	4,250	6,235	48,912	41,619
May 2007	274,568	458,297	67,973	256,805	4,341	5,790	47,896	41,245
June 2007	271,439	452,733	67,852	261,197	4,435	5,284	46,709	40,886
July 2007	269,816	448,833	67,617	256,808	4,416	4,796	45,917	40,735
August 2007	267,972	442,112	63,717	263,166	4,490	4,381	45,459	40,853
September 2007	266,180	435,711	62,042	265,669	4,509	3,981	45,058	41,019
<i>Variation August 2007 - September 2007</i>								
Number	-1,792	-6,401	-1,675	2,503	19	-400	-401	166
Per cent	-0.7	-1.4	-2.6	1.0	0.4	-9.1	-0.9	0.4

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

- 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 JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	August 2007	September			Variation August - September	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	174,140	109,614	59,917	169,531	-4,609	-2.6
CPS recipients (a)	3,032	2,133	862	2,995	-37	-1.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	10,187	5,696	4,258	9,954	-233	-2.3
Received a payment	160,921	101,785	54,797	156,582	-4,339	-2.7
Incapacitated (c)	16,766	10,025	6,623	16,648	-118	-0.7
Training	11,018	6,909	4,229	11,138	120	1.1
Self-employment development (d)	520	323	213	536	16	3.1
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	3,372	1,402	2,110	3,512	140	4.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	12,582	7,484	5,162	12,646	64	0.5
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	116,663	75,642	36,460	112,102	-4,561	-3.9
Long-term NSA Customers	267,972	161,283	104,897	266,180	-1,792	-0.7
CPS recipients (a)	7,651	5,166	2,468	7,634	-17	-0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	9,606	5,339	4,520	9,859	253	2.6
Received a payment	250,715	150,778	97,909	248,687	-2,028	-0.8
Incapacitated (c)	19,766	10,826	8,681	19,507	-259	-1.3
Training	48,404	30,559	18,637	49,196	792	1.6
Self-employment development (d)	258	149	89	238	-20	-7.8
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	10,623	6,283	4,845	11,128	505	4.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	24,962	15,362	9,980	25,342	380	1.5
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	146,702	87,599	55,677	143,276	-3,426	-2.3
All NSA Customers (h)	442,112	270,897	164,814	435,711	-6,401	-1.4
CPS recipients (a)	10,683	7,299	3,330	10,629	-54	-0.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	19,793	11,035	8,778	19,813	20	0.1
Received a payment	411,636	252,563	152,706	405,269	-6,367	-1.5
Incapacitated (c)	36,532	20,851	15,304	36,155	-377	-1.0
Training	59,422	37,468	22,866	60,334	912	1.5
Self-employment development (d)	778	472	302	774	-4	-0.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	13,995	7,685	6,955	14,640	645	4.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	37,544	22,846	15,142	37,988	444	1.2
All NSA job seekers (g)	263,365	163,241	92,137	255,378	-7,987	-3.0

(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 'Job seekers' 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 4 - 7.

(h) On 1 July 2006, the Australian Government introduced the Welfare to Work reforms. These reforms impact on the NSA population.

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 JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	August 2007	September			Variation August - September	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	31,614	16,570	14,276	30,846	-768	-2.4
CPS recipients (a)	1,446	908	506	1,414	-32	-2.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	659	300	338	638	-21	-3.2
Received a payment	29,509	15,362	13,432	28,794	-715	-2.4
Part-time study & work (c)	2	0	4	4	2	100.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	77	26	52	78	1	1.3
Incapacitated (e)	1,617	796	843	1,639	22	1.4
Training	1,325	827	515	1,342	17	1.3
Self-employment development (e)	10	4	7	11	1	10.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,708	693	943	1,636	-72	-4.2
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	24,770	13,016	11,068	24,084	-686	-2.8
Long-term YA (other) Customers	32,103	14,713	16,483	31,196	-907	-2.8
CPS recipients (a)	1,194	717	448	1,165	-29	-2.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	941	400	556	956	15	1.6
Received a payment	29,968	13,596	15,479	29,075	-893	-3.0
Part-time study & work (c)	1	0	3	3	2	200.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	56	25	37	62	6	10.7
Incapacitated (e)	1,224	456	772	1,228	4	0.3
Training	2,784	1,497	1,293	2,790	6	0.2
Self-employment development (e)	7	1	5	6	-1	-14.3
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,491	590	910	1,500	9	0.6
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	24,405	11,027	12,459	23,486	-919	-3.8
All YA (other) Customers (g)	63,717	31,283	30,759	62,042	-1,675	-2.6
CPS recipients (a)	2,640	1,625	954	2,579	-61	-2.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,600	700	894	1,594	-6	-0.4
Received a payment	59,477	28,958	28,911	57,869	-1,608	-2.7
Part-time study & work (c)	3	0	7	7	4	133.3
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	133	51	89	140	7	5.3
Incapacitated (e)	2,841	1,252	1,615	2,867	26	0.9
Training	4,109	2,324	1,808	4,132	23	0.6
Self-employment development (e)	17	5	12	17	0	0.0
Full-time voluntary work	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,199	1,283	1,853	3,136	-63	-2.0
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	49,175	24,043	23,527	47,570	-1,605	-3.3

(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 4 - 7.

(g) On 1 July 2006, the Australian Government introduced the Welfare to Work reforms. These reforms impact on the YA(o) population.

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 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
TIME SERIES (a)

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
September 2005	159,378	205,254	364,632
October 2005	155,525	201,678	357,203
November 2005	151,863	200,077	351,940
December 2005	157,829	215,881	373,710
January 2006	173,502	229,230	402,732
February 2006	173,305	224,048	397,353
March 2006	164,016	214,293	378,309
April 2006	161,900	209,435	371,335
May 2006	162,182	207,935	370,117
June 2006	162,331	205,212	367,543
July 2006	165,898	213,281	379,179
August 2006	161,929	207,905	369,834
September 2006	159,462	203,024	362,486
October 2006	156,815	198,967	355,782
November 2006	152,125	193,719	345,844
December 2006	153,342	201,044	354,386
January 2007	165,924	209,395	375,319
February 2007	165,581	205,384	370,965
March 2007	157,827	195,351	353,178
April 2007	153,350	188,871	342,221
May 2007	151,083	183,234	334,317
June 2007	148,602	177,562	326,164
July 2007	149,043	178,467	327,510
August 2007	141,433	171,107	312,540
September 2007	136,186	166,762	302,948
<i>Variation August 2007 - September 2007</i>			
Number	-5,247	-4,345	-9,592
Per cent	-3.7	-2.5	-3.1

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

Notes:

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

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

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

<i>State</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	50,430	48,719	-1,711	-3.4
Victoria	33,710	32,129	-1,581	-4.7
Queensland	27,580	26,293	-1,287	-4.7
South Australia	12,229	11,855	-374	-3.1
Western Australia	10,460	10,225	-235	-2.2
Tasmania	4,263	4,184	-79	-1.9
Northern Territory	1,705	1,773	68	4.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,056	1,008	-48	-4.5
AUSTRALIA	141,433	136,186	-5,247	-3.7
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	63,734	62,526	-1,208	-1.9
Victoria	43,483	41,712	-1,771	-4.1
Queensland	25,999	25,283	-716	-2.8
South Australia	15,853	15,523	-330	-2.1
Western Australia	10,078	9,724	-354	-3.5
Tasmania	7,507	7,362	-145	-1.9
Northern Territory	3,183	3,414	231	7.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,270	1,218	-52	-4.1
AUSTRALIA	171,107	166,762	-4,345	-2.5
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	114,164	111,245	-2,919	-2.6
Victoria	77,193	73,841	-3,352	-4.3
Queensland	53,579	51,576	-2,003	-3.7
South Australia	28,082	27,378	-704	-2.5
Western Australia	20,538	19,949	-589	-2.9
Tasmania	11,770	11,546	-224	-1.9
Northern Territory	4,888	5,187	299	6.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,326	2,226	-100	-4.3
AUSTRALIA	312,540	302,948	-9,592	-3.1

Notes:

- 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 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT SEPTEMBER 2007**

Age	Short-term job seekers		Long-term job seekers		Total job seekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,278	4.8	2,063	2.1	6,341	3.4
18 - 20 years	8,738	9.9	8,963	9.1	17,701	9.5
21 - 24 years	14,510	16.4	11,581	11.7	26,091	13.9
25 - 29 years	14,158	16.0	12,043	12.2	26,201	14.0
30 - 39 years	21,240	24.0	21,204	21.5	42,444	22.7
40 - 49 years	13,712	15.5	17,890	18.1	31,602	16.9
50 - 59 years	8,637	9.7	15,857	16.1	24,494	13.1
60 years and over	3,385	3.8	9,026	9.2	12,411	6.6
Total	88,658	100.0	98,627	100.0	187,285	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,421	9.3	2,692	4.0	7,113	6.1
18 - 20 years	6,647	14.0	9,766	14.3	16,413	14.2
21 - 24 years	7,648	16.1	8,198	12.0	15,846	13.7
25 - 29 years	4,881	10.3	5,730	8.4	10,611	9.2
30 - 39 years	7,398	15.6	9,998	14.7	17,396	15.0
40 - 49 years	8,367	17.6	14,369	21.1	22,736	19.7
50 - 59 years	6,431	13.5	13,386	19.6	19,817	17.1
60 years and over	1,735	3.7	3,996	5.9	5,731	5.0
Total	47,528	100.0	68,135	100.0	115,663	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	8,699	6.4	4,755	2.9	13,454	4.4
18 - 20 years	15,385	11.3	18,729	11.2	34,114	11.3
21 - 24 years	22,158	16.3	19,779	11.9	41,937	13.8
25 - 29 years	19,039	14.0	17,773	10.7	36,812	12.2
30 - 39 years	28,638	21.0	31,202	18.7	59,840	19.8
40 - 49 years	22,079	16.2	32,259	19.3	54,338	17.9
50 - 59 years	15,068	11.1	29,243	17.5	44,311	14.6
60 years and over	5,120	3.8	13,022	7.8	18,142	6.0
Total	136,186	100.0	166,762	100.0	302,948	100.0

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bankstown	3,462	3,449	-13	-0.4
Bondi Junction	969	970	1	0.1
Burwood	1,394	1,371	-23	-1.6
Campsie	2,299	2,220	-79	-3.4
Caringbah	939	892	-47	-5.0
Chatswood	784	711	-73	-9.3
Corrimal	1,101	1,067	-34	-3.1
Dapto	1,034	1,014	-20	-1.9
Darlinghurst	1,338	1,336	-2	-0.1
Darlinghurst CCU	27	22	-5	%
Haymarket	1	2	1	%
Hornsby	698	655	-43	-6.2
Hurstville	1,171	1,143	-28	-2.4
Lakemba	45	21	-24	%
Leichhardt	1,188	1,158	-30	-2.5
Maroubra	1,137	1,071	-66	-5.8
Marrickville	1,253	1,204	-49	-3.9
Northern Beaches	862	855	-7	-0.8
Participation Sydney East	9	6	-3	%
Redfern	1,146	1,177	31	2.7
Revesby	5	2	-3	%
Rockdale	1,177	1,121	-56	-4.8
Ryde	754	724	-30	-4.0
Shellharbour	1,322	1,244	-78	-5.9
Sutherland	426	418	-8	-1.9
Wollongong	1,379	1,300	-79	-5.7
Other (a)	18	18	0	%
Total	25,938	25,171	-767	-3.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	1,902	1,889	-13	-0.7
Baulkham Hills	532	502	-30	-5.6
Blacktown	2,620	2,523	-97	-3.7
Cabramatta	1,775	1,718	-57	-3.2
Camden	582	582	0	0.0
Campbelltown	2,260	2,219	-41	-1.8
Fairfield	2,918	2,847	-71	-2.4
Hawkesbury	783	756	-27	-3.4
Ingleburn	1,181	1,156	-25	-2.1
Katoomba	603	595	-8	-1.3
Liverpool	3,321	3,206	-115	-3.5
Merrylands	1,634	1,606	-28	-1.7
Mt Druitt	2,440	2,409	-31	-1.3
Parramatta	1,553	1,505	-48	-3.1
Penrith	1,566	1,516	-50	-3.2
Springwood	346	325	-21	-6.1
St Marys	1,545	1,517	-28	-1.8
Other (a)	31	28	-3	%
Total	27,592	26,899	-693	-2.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES				
Armidale	1,062	894	-168	-15.8
Cessnock	835	823	-12	-1.4
Charlestown	1,825	1,715	-110	-6.0
Ettalong	876	860	-16	-1.8
Glen Innes	107	251	144	134.6
Gosford	1,358	1,312	-46	-3.4
Gunnedah	427	422	-5	-1.2
Inverell	675	656	-19	-2.8
Kempsey	1,165	1,118	-47	-4.0
Kurri Kurri	518	489	-29	-5.6
Lakehaven	1,522	1,476	-46	-3.0
Maitland	1,551	1,490	-61	-3.9
Mayfield	1,080	1,026	-54	-5.0
Muswellbrook	511	487	-24	-4.7
Nambucca Heads	1,010	997	-13	-1.3
Nelson Bay	557	530	-27	-4.8
Newcastle	1,323	1,257	-66	-5.0
Port Macquarie	1,701	1,687	-14	-0.8
Raymond Terrace	953	933	-20	-2.1
Singleton	269	256	-13	-4.8
Tamworth	1,697	1,632	-65	-3.8
Taree	1,705	1,695	-10	-0.6
The Entrance	1,303	1,297	-6	-0.5
Toronto	988	933	-55	-5.6
Tuncurry (Forster)	876	854	-22	-2.5
Wallsend	1,557	1,490	-67	-4.3
Wyong	687	703	16	2.3
Other (a)	16	16	0	%
Total	28,154	27,299	-855	-3.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	911	883	-28	-3.1
Bathurst	958	951	-7	-0.7
Bega	762	733	-29	-3.8
Belconnen	699	674	-25	-3.6
Bowral	528	475	-53	-10.0
Braddon	683	658	-25	-3.7
Cooma	283	280	-3	-1.1
Cowra	468	451	-17	-3.6
Dubbo	1,921	1,900	-21	-1.1
Goulburn	722	698	-24	-3.3
Griffith	537	563	26	4.8
Gungahlin	66	61	-5	%
Lanyon	32	33	1	%
Leeton	337	344	7	2.1
Lithgow	663	642	-21	-3.2
Mudgee	681	713	32	4.7
Narooma	395	393	-2	-0.5
Nowra	2,050	2,019	-31	-1.5
Orange	1,039	1,000	-39	-3.8
Parkes	989	937	-52	-5.3
Queanbeyan	420	425	5	1.2
Tuggeranong	433	428	-5	-1.2
Tumut	324	326	2	0.6
Ulladulla	552	566	14	2.5
Wagga	1,662	1,619	-43	-2.6
Woden	382	349	-33	-8.6
Yass	115	108	-7	-6.1
Young	419	401	-18	-4.3
Other (a)	18	20	2	%
Total	19,049	18,650	-399	-2.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	965	908	-57	-5.9
Albury	2,158	2,065	-93	-4.3
Box Hill	1,517	1,480	-37	-2.4
Broadmeadows	3,219	3,110	-109	-3.4
Camberwell	825	770	-55	-6.7
Darebin	3,057	2,938	-119	-3.9
Deniliquin	303	301	-2	-0.7
Echuca	537	475	-62	-11.5
Epping	1,469	1,396	-73	-5.0
Greensborough	1,294	1,233	-61	-4.7
Heidelberg	36	31	-5	%
Moreland	1,898	1,832	-66	-3.5
Newmarket	1,304	1,222	-82	-6.3
Seymour	598	579	-19	-3.2
Shepparton	2,051	1,981	-70	-3.4
South Melbourne	595	577	-18	-3.0
Sunbury	670	638	-32	-4.8
Wangaratta	1,552	1,500	-52	-3.4
Windsor	2,112	1,980	-132	-6.3
Yarra	1,711	1,587	-124	-7.2
Other (a)	30	30	0	%
Total	27,901	26,633	-1,268	-4.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	879	853	-26	-3.0
Belgrave	406	375	-31	-7.6
Cheltenham	1,366	1,266	-100	-7.3
Cranbourne	1,039	978	-61	-5.9
Dandenong	2,351	2,259	-92	-3.9
Fountain Gate	1,610	1,531	-79	-4.9
Frankston	2,281	2,195	-86	-3.8
Glen Waverley	815	775	-40	-4.9
Hastings	528	504	-24	-4.5
Lilydale	1,438	1,347	-91	-6.3
Mornington	458	445	-13	-2.8
Morwell	2,183	2,118	-65	-3.0
Oakleigh	1,496	1,404	-92	-6.1
Pakenham	491	477	-14	-2.9
Ringwood	1,319	1,244	-75	-5.7
Rosebud	851	833	-18	-2.1
Rowville	348	320	-28	-8.0
Sale	756	729	-27	-3.6
Springvale	1,828	1,727	-101	-5.5
Wantirna	1,088	1,015	-73	-6.7
Warragul	470	462	-8	-1.7
Wonthaggi	567	507	-60	-10.6
Other (a)	12	14	2	%
Total	24,580	23,378	-1,202	-4.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	261	250	-11	-4.2
Ballarat	2,322	2,232	-90	-3.9
Bendigo	2,448	2,320	-128	-5.2
Bendigo Central	376	393	17	4.5
Colac	478	446	-32	-6.7
Corio	1,609	1,581	-28	-1.7
Footscray	1,416	1,338	-78	-5.5
Geelong	2,820	2,729	-91	-3.2
Hamilton	407	398	-9	-2.2
Horsham	674	643	-31	-4.6
Maryborough	459	439	-20	-4.4
Melton	1,031	1,012	-19	-1.8
Mildura	1,603	1,563	-40	-2.5
Newport	983	951	-32	-3.3
Portland	416	416	0	0.0
Stawell	192	188	-4	-2.1
Sunshine	2,642	2,525	-117	-4.4
Swan Hill	810	766	-44	-5.4
Warrnambool	887	835	-52	-5.9
Watergardens	3,017	2,914	-103	-3.4
Werribee	2,230	2,155	-75	-3.4
Other (a)	2	4	2	%
Total	27,083	26,098	-985	-3.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND				
Atherton	538	519	-19	-3.5
Ayr	291	257	-34	-11.7
Bamaga RASC (Nth Peninsula RASC)	26	30	4	%
Biloela	131	126	-5	-3.8
Bowen	295	259	-36	-12.2
Cairns Families	12	10	-2	%
Cairns Jobseekers	2,230	2,106	-124	-5.6
Cairns Remote (Indigenous ISC)	538	527	-11	-2.0
Cairns Seniors & Carers	2	2	0	%
Charters Towers	248	242	-6	-2.4
Edmonton	0	0	0	%
Emerald	219	222	3	1.4
Gladstone	743	705	-38	-5.1
Greenfields	4	4	0	%
Ingham	224	222	-2	-0.9
Innisfail	488	475	-13	-2.7
Longreach	77	82	5	%
Mackay Jobseekers	1,133	1,033	-100	-8.8
Mackay Seniors & Carers	3	1	-2	%
Mareeba	431	430	-1	-0.2
Mossman	287	278	-9	-3.1
Mt Isa	623	600	-23	-3.7
Normanton	119	129	10	8.4
Palm Island	266	261	-5	-1.9
Rockhampton Families	8	9	1	%
Rockhampton Jobseekers	1,549	1,481	-68	-4.4
Rockhampton Seniors & Carers	4	2	-2	%
Smithfield	1	0	-1	%
Thursday Island	157	165	8	5.1
Townsville City	2	4	2	%
Townsville Families	6	5	-1	%
Townsville Jobseekers	2,237	2,080	-157	-7.0
Townsville Seniors & Carers	2	2	0	%
Western Cape RASC	143	141	-2	-1.4
Whitsunday	294	261	-33	-11.2
Yarrabah RASC	291	292	1	0.3
Yeppoon	279	267	-12	-4.3
Other (a)	37	52	15	%
Total	13,938	13,281	-657	-4.7

Note: For footnotes see end of the table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & EAST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	2,514	2,445	-69	-2.7
Caboolture	1,614	1,546	-68	-4.2
Caboolture FCC and SC&R	0	0	0	%
Caloundra	908	872	-36	-4.0
Cherbourg	20	22	2	%
Chermside	803	749	-54	-6.7
Fortitude Valley	942	910	-32	-3.4
Gympie	1,052	1,005	-47	-4.5
Hervey Bay	1,050	1,054	4	0.4
Kawana Waters	408	383	-25	-6.1
Kingaroy	755	719	-36	-4.8
Kippa-Ring	1,147	1,084	-63	-5.5
Maroochydore	1,126	1,058	-68	-6.0
Maryborough	1,076	1,075	-1	-0.1
Mitchelton	642	598	-44	-6.9
Nambour	812	784	-28	-3.4
Noosa	834	775	-59	-7.1
Nundah	890	830	-60	-6.7
Strathpine	754	744	-10	-1.3
Toowong	593	591	-2	-0.3
Other (a)	21	20	-1	%
Total	17,961	17,264	-697	-3.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & WEST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beenleigh	1,313	1,246	-67	-5.1
Browns Plains	1,136	1,087	-49	-4.3
Capalaba	520	502	-18	-3.5
Charleville	162	158	-4	-2.5
Cleveland	567	544	-23	-4.1
Dalby	472	449	-23	-4.9
Goodna	780	736	-44	-5.6
Goondiwindi	294	307	13	4.4
Inala	1,045	1,026	-19	-1.8
Ipswich	1,706	1,672	-34	-2.0
Mt Gravatt	1,289	1,212	-77	-6.0
Roma	137	145	8	5.8
South Brisbane	687	672	-15	-2.2
Stanthorpe	372	360	-12	-3.2
Stones Corner	1,100	1,082	-18	-1.6
Toowoomba	1,901	1,836	-65	-3.4
Warwick	429	424	-5	-1.2
Woodridge	1,496	1,454	-42	-2.8
Wynnum	605	583	-22	-3.6
Other (a)	12	13	1	%
Total	16,023	15,508	-515	-3.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	883	865	-18	-2.0
Broken Hill	857	825	-32	-3.7
Ceduna	237	239	2	0.8
Coober Pedy	144	141	-3	-2.1
Currie Street	656	601	-55	-8.4
Elizabeth	2,503	2,464	-39	-1.6
Enfield	1,442	1,420	-22	-1.5
Gawler	1,114	1,099	-15	-1.3
Glenelg	689	677	-12	-1.7
Kadina	742	698	-44	-5.9
Kilkenny	1,611	1,577	-34	-2.1
Marion	1,620	1,537	-83	-5.1
Modbury	1,681	1,576	-105	-6.2
Mt Barker	527	508	-19	-3.6
Mt Gambier	1,282	1,238	-44	-3.4
Murray Bridge	774	772	-2	-0.3
Noarlunga	2,343	2,354	11	0.5
Norwood	1,291	1,260	-31	-2.4
Port Adelaide	1,427	1,418	-9	-0.6
Port Augusta	689	686	-3	-0.4
Port Lincoln	583	561	-22	-3.8
Port Pirie	1,011	961	-50	-4.9
Salisbury	2,245	2,189	-56	-2.5
Torrensville	1,298	1,269	-29	-2.2
Victor Harbor	598	585	-13	-2.2
Whyalla	739	724	-15	-2.0
Other (a)	54	64	10	%
Total	29,040	28,308	-732	-2.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
WEST AUSTRALIA				
Albany	798	753	-45	-5.6
Armadale	693	685	-8	-1.2
Bunbury	1,350	1,280	-70	-5.2
Busselton	240	240	0	0.0
Cannington	1,015	985	-30	-3.0
Carnarvon	214	224	10	4.7
Cocos Islands	44	44	0	%
Collie	5	5	0	%
Community Team Perth	72	68	-4	%
Curtin on Campus SSC	14	7	-7	%
Esperance	279	272	-7	-2.5
Fremantle	974	951	-23	-2.4
Fremantle SACC	2	3	1	%
Fremantle SSC	42	22	-20	%
Geraldton	1,311	1,228	-83	-6.3
Gosnells	720	705	-15	-2.1
Innaloo	1,002	981	-21	-2.1
Joondalup	952	890	-62	-6.5
Joondalup SACC	3	3	0	%
Joondalup SSC	27	22	-5	%
Kalgoorlie	563	563	0	0.0
Karratha	266	248	-18	-6.8
Laverton RASC	58	58	0	%
Mandurah	949	899	-50	-5.3
Meekatharra RASC	71	145	74	%
Midland	1,428	1,403	-25	-1.8
Mirrabooka	1,255	1,215	-40	-3.2
Morley	1,083	1,069	-14	-1.3
Morley - Dewar Street	1	2	1	%
Morley SSC	23	12	-11	%
Newman RASC	119	120	1	0.8
Northam	463	441	-22	-4.8
Rockingham	1,116	1,077	-39	-3.5
South Hedland	366	367	1	0.3
Spearwood	683	667	-16	-2.3
Victoria Park	1,166	1,138	-28	-2.4
Warwick Grove	518	489	-29	-5.6
Other (a)	43	46	3	%
Total	19,928	19,327	-601	-3.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	579	584	5	0.9
Burnie	1,521	1,476	-45	-3.0
Devonport	1,685	1,668	-17	-1.0
Glenorchy	1,835	1,754	-81	-4.4
Hobart	1,189	1,174	-15	-1.3
Huonville	469	453	-16	-3.4
Launceston	3,072	3,028	-44	-1.4
Mowbray	9	3	-6	%
Rosny Park	940	924	-16	-1.7
Sorell	486	489	3	0.6
Other (a)	54	50	-4	%
Total	11,839	11,603	-236	-2.0
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	1,185	1,316	131	11.1
Borroloola RASC	33	36	3	%
Broome	378	374	-4	-1.1
Casuarina	771	747	-24	-3.1
Derby	94	93	-1	%
Fitzroy Crossing RASC	17	13	-4	%
Halls Creek RASC	93	99	6	%
Katherine	563	631	68	12.1
Knuckey Street	493	491	-2	-0.4
Kununurra	139	155	16	11.5
Maningrida	70	49	-21	%
Nhulunbuy	190	184	-6	-3.2
Palmerston	730	710	-20	-2.7
Tangentyere	143	128	-15	-10.5
Tennant Creek	132	125	-7	-5.3
Tennant Creek Remote	45	37	-8	%
Tiwi Islands RASC	165	166	1	0.6
Top End Remote	268	302	34	12.7
Wadeye RASC	58	221	163	%
Yuendumu RASC	36	41	5	%
Other (a)	17	19	2	%
Total	5,620	5,937	317	5.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	August 2007	September 2007	Variation	
			August - September Number	Per cent
PACIFIC CENTRAL				
Ballina	932	940	8	0.9
Beaudesert	313	322	9	2.9
Biggera Waters	1,251	1,210	-41	-3.3
Bourke	434	448	14	3.2
Brunswick Heads	507	505	-2	-0.4
Byron Bay	539	536	-3	-0.6
Casino	559	580	21	3.8
Coffs Harbour	2,591	2,514	-77	-3.0
Grafton	1,522	1,507	-15	-1.0
Lightning Ridge	185	189	4	2.2
Lismore	1,702	1,663	-39	-2.3
Maclean	0	0	0	%
Moree	494	489	-5	-1.0
Murwillumbah	518	512	-6	-1.2
Narrabri	413	411	-2	-0.5
Nerang	1,188	1,179	-9	-0.8
Palm Beach	1,552	1,514	-38	-2.4
Robina SCR	1	3	2	%
Southport	1,684	1,632	-52	-3.1
Tweed Heads	1,223	1,205	-18	-1.5
Walgett	218	220	2	0.9
Other (a)	37	40	3	%
Total	17,863	17,619	-244	-1.4
OTHER				
Centrelink Call Centres (b)	19	21	2	%
Not coded to an area	14	10	-4	%
Rounding adjustment (c)	-2	-58	-56	%
AUSTRALIA	312,540	302,948	-9,592	-3.1

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

(b) Job seekers receiving NSA / YA (o) in Centrelink Call Centres which are not counted in the various Area Offices.

(c) Prior to this publication, the rounding adjustment was included in the Fairfield CSC.

Notes:

- Where the Customer Service Centre has a population less than 100 in either of the reported months, the monthly percentage variation has been suppressed and replaced with the percentage symbol '%'. .

- 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.

- From July 2007, new Area Support Office boundaries came into effect. A concordance between the new and old Area structures is provided in Table A in the July 2007 edition of this publication.

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT ENDING 21 SEPTEMBER 2007**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	84.2	80.8	82.4
Earned an income	15.8	19.2	17.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.7	0.9	0.8
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.3	2.9	2.6
\$142.01-\$236.00	2.6	3.2	2.9
\$236.01-\$316.00	1.9	2.2	2.1
Over \$316.00	8.3	10.0	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	88,342	98,245	186,587
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	73.5	70.5	71.8
Earned an income	26.5	29.5	28.2
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	1.1	1.2	1.1
\$62.01-\$142.00	3.2	3.3	3.2
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.9	4.2	4.1
\$236.01-\$316.00	3.1	3.5	3.3
Over \$316.00	15.2	17.3	16.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	47,363	68,044	115,407
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	80.5	76.6	78.4
Earned an income	19.5	23.4	21.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01-\$62.00	0.8	1.0	0.9
\$62.01-\$142.00	2.6	3.0	2.8
\$142.01-\$236.00	3.0	3.6	3.4
\$236.01-\$316.00	2.3	2.8	2.6
Over \$316.00	10.7	13.0	12.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	135,705	166,289	301,994

(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 job seekers. The number of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also reported.

Methodology

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

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

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of the Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) populations and show the derivation of the respective job seeker populations (see the reference to job seekers in the Comparability of Data section of these Explanatory Notes). These populations are added together to derive the total number of job seekers. Tables 4 to 8 provide information on the total job seeker 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 job seekers who are eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) at the end of the second last week in the month. Thus, the data obtained from this table will not be directly comparable with those calculated using monthly averages in other tables.

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998 and total job seeker numbers due to the parental means test.

Newstart Allowance

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

From 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance and Newstart Allowance were combined into one payment - Newstart Allowance - which was payable to eligible recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see Job Search Allowance).

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

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

Allowance and aged under 18 years at 31 December 1994 continued to be paid Job Search Allowance. From 20 September 1996, those young persons still being paid Job Search Allowance were transferred to Newstart Allowance.)

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

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

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Introduction of
Youth Allowance* The sum of the number of Newstart Allowees and Youth Training Allowees prior to July 1998 is broadly comparable with the sum of Newstart Allowees and Youth Allowees (other) after July 1998. There are two main problems in comparing these two series. The first is the exclusion of some 18 to 20 year old unemployed people due to the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test (see the Youth Allowance section under Payment History). The second is the inclusion of Sickness Allowees in the Youth Allowance (other) population.

There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance job seekers prior to July 1998 and total Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) job seekers after July 1998. This is because the Sickness Allowance group is excluded from the job seeker total. The problem, however, of the exclusion of some recipients through the application of the Youth Allowance parental means test still remains.

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

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

Duration

Following system changes in May 1998, duration has been defined according to the time a recipient spends on income support - short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

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

Closure of Mature Age and Partner Allowances

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
 .. not applicable

GLOSSARY

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

Job seekers	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in jobsearch. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
Job Search Allowance (JSA)	Up to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to CES eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Long-term recipients	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Mature Age Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance. 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.
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Newstart Common Platform System (NCP)	The Newstart Common Platform System (NCP) was introduced in May 1998. The NCP administers all labour market and related payments. This includes primary payments such as Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance. Other payments on the NCP include Special Benefit, Sickness Allowance, Exceptional Circumstances Relief, Farm Help and Austudy.
Partner Allowance (PA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain 'current', that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees and who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Short-term recipients	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.
States	States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the recipient's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.

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

APPENDIX

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

Official statistics	Official unemployment statistics are released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS uses definitions recommended by the International Labour Office which have been accepted internationally as the most appropriate for the compilation of official statistics of unemployment.
ABS definition	The ABS unemployment statistics measure the number of persons who, for a particular reference period, did not undertake any paid work, were actively looking for work and were available to start work.
DEWR Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics	The labour market payment statistics give the number of persons who are both eligible and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other). The criteria for receipt of these payments do not match those the ABS uses to determine whether a person is classed as unemployed or employed for statistical purposes.
Differences	Care should be taken when comparing the ABS labour force and DEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEWR and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEWR measures duration of income support. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time unemployed using their unemployment definition.</p> <p>DEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment for up to 25 weeks but still be classified as long-term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.• Long-term recipients can have another 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and still keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as the Employment Entry Payment and the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Timing The timing of collections of the series are different:

- DEWR reports monthly average numbers of people both eligible for and entitled to receive Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other). These monthly averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.
- ABS numbers are based on a sample interview survey of occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.5% of the total Australian population. These persons are interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained is based on the week before the interview takes place.

Treatment of partners 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.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour market information

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

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

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

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

Director
Income Support Information Section
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9879
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3328.

Other recipient information

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

Other statistical outputs

The following statistical outputs are available on request:

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