

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 Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

This publication can be found at <http://www.workplace.gov.au/lmrp>

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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 on behalf of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). This publication was produced previously by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

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 DEEWR Media Team on (02) 6240 7300 or by email to media@deewr.gov.au. 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 24 March 2010.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS – January 2010

Between January 2009 and January 2010

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) recipients **increased 24.5 per cent** overall from 551 796 to 687 236.

- ◆ NSA recipients increased 24.7 per cent from 475 183 to 592 737.
- ◆ YA(o) recipients increased 23.3 per cent from 76 613 to 94 499.

The number of job seekers **increased 10.8 per cent** overall from 351 219 to 389 037.

- ◆ NSA job seekers increased 16.1 per cent from 288 470 to 334 813.
- ◆ YA(o) job seekers decreased 13.6 per cent from 62 749 to 54 224.

Long-term job seekers increased 10.3 per cent from 164 229 to 181 212.

Short-term job seekers increased 11.1 per cent from 186 990 to 207 825.

NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes). This change does not affect overall recipient numbers.

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

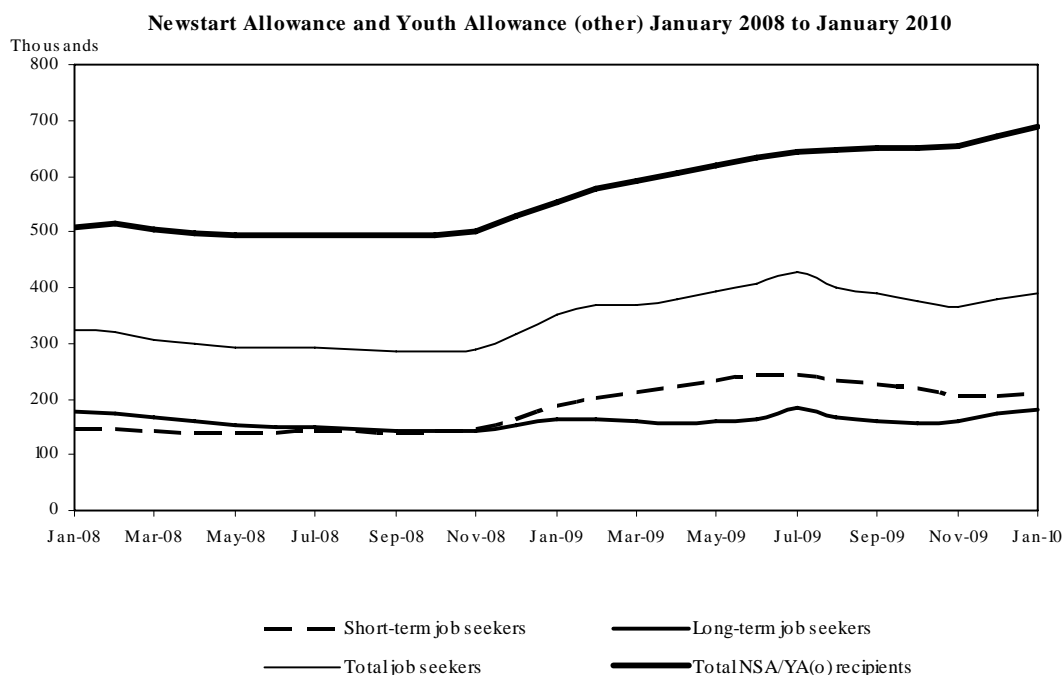


TABLE 1 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term	Total	Other	Full-time Students	Australian Apprentices			
February 1994	472,785	977,796
January 2008	266,199	437,918	69,709	206,509	3,746	2,518	43,434	41,297
February 2008	266,368	443,916	69,728	213,384	3,897	2,149	42,512	41,014
March 2008	263,759	438,786	65,889	227,301	4,094	1,797	41,528	40,729
April 2008	260,541	433,674	63,680	236,930	4,274	1,503	40,708	40,503
May 2008	257,363	429,363	63,395	245,421	4,419	1,166	39,804	40,124
June 2008	255,550	428,896	63,972	252,180	4,444	856	38,915	39,702
July 2008	254,723	429,989	65,514	248,493	4,402	586	38,109	39,321
August 2008	253,131	429,459	63,347	254,853	4,256	307	37,226	38,946
September 2008	251,987	429,426	62,832	258,973	4,018	47	36,411	38,640
October 2008	251,529	431,546	62,227	259,337	3,882	0	35,572	38,375
November 2008	251,170	437,270	64,053	247,471	3,683	0	34,733	38,142
December 2008	254,327	453,485	74,786	218,371	3,665	0	34,011	37,989
January 2009	258,403	475,183	76,613	208,624	3,506	0	33,234	37,753
February 2009	261,232	498,020	78,868	218,999	3,570	0	32,480	37,561
March 2009	262,162	514,265	78,259	238,274	3,707	0	31,802	37,364
April 2009	262,468	527,686	78,441	253,363	3,815	0	31,171	37,128
May 2009	264,337	540,729	79,787	264,591	3,873	0	30,423	36,847
June 2009	266,942	551,067	81,783	274,033	3,987	0	29,691	36,549
July 2009	270,978	559,577	84,064	272,840	4,051	0	29,218	36,442
August 2009	275,407	564,601	82,320	283,248	4,048	0	28,971	36,585
September 2009	280,138	567,815	82,612	287,783	4,073	0	28,665	36,360
October 2009	284,906	569,785	82,051	286,678	3,970	0	28,269	35,975
November 2009	291,114	570,291	83,725	273,497	3,874	0	28,039	36,007
December 2009	300,955	578,449	93,975	242,318	3,848	0	27,838	36,056
January 2010	311,843	592,737	94,499	231,392	3,822	0	27,428	35,933
<i>Variation December 2009 - January 2010</i>								
Number	10,888	14,288	524	-10,926	-26	0	-410	-123
Per cent	3.6	2.5	0.6	-4.5	-0.7	0.0	-1.5	-0.3

Notes:

- Long-term Allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.
- The method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments was revised in July 2002. The July 2002 publication includes revised historical data from May 1998 to June 2002.
- February 1994 data is included as it represents a peak in the number of recipients.

TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOB SEEKER POPULATION

	December 2009	January 2010			Variation December - January	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Percent
Short-term Newstart Allowees	277,494	182,816	98,078	280,894	3,400	1.2
CPS recipients (a)	1,593	1,086	449	1,535	-58	-3.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	17,414	6,984	4,899	11,883	-5,531	-31.8
Received a payment	258,487	174,746	92,730	267,476	8,989	3.5
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	6,317	2,105	4,061	6,166	-151	-2.4
Other activities without job search (d)	39,470	25,586	15,053	40,639	1,169	3.0
Incapacitated (e)	21,652	12,294	8,571	20,865	-787	-3.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	16,528	9,412	6,692	16,104	-424	-2.6
Short-term NSA job seekers (g)	174,520	125,349	58,353	183,702	9,182	5.3
<i>Short-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>24,193</i>	<i>13,113</i>	<i>8,244</i>	<i>21,357</i>	<i>-2,836</i>	<i>-11.7</i>
Long-term Newstart Allowees	300,955	179,585	132,258	311,843	10,888	3.6
CPS recipients (a)	4,164	2,809	1,254	4,063	-101	-2.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	10,502	3,566	3,985	7,551	-2,951	-28.1
Received a payment	286,289	173,210	127,019	300,229	13,940	4.9
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	20,013	8,170	11,768	19,938	-75	-0.4
Other activities without job search (d)	74,203	44,768	33,567	78,335	4,132	5.6
Incapacitated (e)	24,474	13,045	11,263	24,308	-166	-0.7
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	26,739	14,901	11,636	26,537	-202	-0.8
Long-term NSA job seekers (g)	140,860	92,326	58,785	151,111	10,251	7.3
<i>Long-term NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>47,828</i>	<i>24,641</i>	<i>18,494</i>	<i>43,135</i>	<i>-4,693</i>	<i>-9.8</i>
All Newstart Allowees	578,449	362,401	230,336	592,737	14,288	2.5
CPS recipients (a)	5,757	3,895	1,703	5,598	-159	-2.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	27,916	10,550	8,884	19,434	-8,482	-30.4
Received a payment	544,776	347,956	219,749	567,705	22,929	4.2
Voluntary/part-time work (c)	26,330	10,275	15,829	26,104	-226	-0.9
Other activities without job search (d)	113,673	70,354	48,620	118,974	5,301	4.7
Incapacitated (e)	46,126	25,339	19,834	45,173	-953	-2.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	43,267	24,313	18,328	42,641	-626	-1.4
All NSA job seekers (g)	315,380	217,675	117,138	334,813	19,433	6.2
<i>All NSA training/education (h)</i>	<i>72,021</i>	<i>37,754</i>	<i>26,738</i>	<i>64,492</i>	<i>-7,529</i>	<i>-10.5</i>

(a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

(b) Allowees 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) Allowees who are not required to seek work because they are undertaking approved full-time voluntary work or a combination of voluntary and part-time work.

(d) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(e) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(f) Other allowees who are known not to have participation requirements.

(g) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(h) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

– Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

– From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report. Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity.

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

	December 2009	January 2010			Variation December - January	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Percent
Short-term Youth Allowees	46,782	25,574	20,811	46,385	-397	-0.8
CPS recipients (a)	495	308	148	456	-39	-7.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,112	352	445	797	-315	-28.3
Received a payment	45,175	24,914	20,218	45,132	-43	-0.1
Other activities without job search (c)	11,172	9,681	7,284	16,965	5,793	51.9
Incapacitated (d)	1,999	869	990	1,859	-140	-7.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	2,168	997	1,188	2,185	17	0.8
Short-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	29,836	13,367	10,756	24,123	-5,713	-19.1
<i>Short-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>5,921</i>	<i>2,887</i>	<i>2,448</i>	<i>5,335</i>	<i>-586</i>	<i>-9.9</i>
Long-term Youth Allowees	47,193	24,088	24,026	48,114	921	2.0
CPS recipients (a)	474	284	167	451	-23	-4.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,176	447	644	1,091	-85	-7.2
Received a payment	45,543	23,357	23,215	46,572	1,029	2.3
Other activities without job search (c)	9,794	6,785	6,610	13,395	3,601	36.8
Incapacitated (d)	1,557	670	902	1,572	15	1.0
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	1,546	597	907	1,504	-42	-2.7
Long-term YA (other) job seekers (f)	32,646	15,305	14,796	30,101	-2,545	-7.8
<i>Long-term YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>6,582</i>	<i>3,011</i>	<i>2,892</i>	<i>5,903</i>	<i>-679</i>	<i>-10.3</i>
All YA Youth Allowees	93,975	49,662	44,837	94,499	524	0.6
CPS recipients (a)	969	592	315	907	-62	-6.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,288	799	1,089	1,888	-400	-17.5
Received a payment	90,718	48,271	43,433	91,704	986	1.1
Other activities without job search (c)	20,966	16,466	13,894	30,360	9,394	44.8
Incapacitated (d)	3,556	1,539	1,892	3,431	-125	-3.5
Other/temporary exemptions (e)	3,714	1,594	2,095	3,689	-25	-0.7
All YA (other) job seekers (f)	62,482	28,672	25,552	54,224	-8,258	-13.2
<i>All YA (other) training/education (g)</i>	<i>12,503</i>	<i>5,898</i>	<i>5,340</i>	<i>11,238</i>	<i>-1,265</i>	<i>-10.1</i>

(a) Allowees eligible for NSA who received the CDEP Participant Supplement or add ons.

(b) Allowees 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) Allowees who are undertaking one or more other activities (which may include training or education) but not job search. This includes allowees undertaking self-employment development.

(d) Allowees who are temporarily ill or incapacitated.

(e) Other allowees who are known not to have participation requirements.

(f) Allowees who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These allowees are classified as job seekers and form the basis of the population group in Tables 4 - 7.

(g) All allowees who are undertaking training or education which may be in conjunction with job search and/or other activities. This category is a subset of all allowees who received a payment.

Notes:

– Long-term allowees have received income support for 12 months or more.

– From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report. Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity.

**TABLE 4 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
TIME SERIES**

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
January 2008	145,046	177,005	322,051
February 2008	147,610	173,316	320,926
March 2008	141,568	165,748	307,316
April 2008	139,811	160,030	299,841
May 2008	138,808	154,313	293,121
June 2008	140,066	150,517	290,583
July 2008	143,050	150,831	293,881
August 2008	141,458	146,533	287,991
September 2008	140,447	143,357	283,804
October 2008	142,254	142,368	284,622
November 2008	146,670	141,488	288,158
December 2008	163,109	154,285	317,394
January 2009	186,990	164,229	351,219
February 2009	203,173	164,752	367,925
March 2009	210,786	159,449	370,235
April 2009	221,803	157,339	379,142
May 2009	232,629	158,978	391,607
June 2009	242,074	163,434	405,508
July 2009	243,712	183,825	427,537
August 2009	233,763	165,809	399,572
September 2009	227,562	160,299	387,861
October 2009	217,943	158,014	375,957
November 2009	206,764	159,415	366,179
December 2009	204,356	173,506	377,862
January 2010	207,825	181,212	389,037
<i>Variation December 2009 - January 2010</i>			
Number	3,469	7,706	11,175
Per cent	1.7	4.4	3.0

NOTE: There is a break in the series between June and July 2009. Post July 2009 job seeker data is not wholly comparable with previously published data (see Explanatory Notes).

Notes:

- Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

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

<i>State</i>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	65,197	65,681	484	0.7
Victoria	44,922	46,133	1,211	2.7
Queensland	50,734	52,270	1,536	3.0
South Australia	13,413	13,763	350	2.6
Western Australia	19,980	20,043	63	0.3
Tasmania	5,517	5,429	-88	-1.6
Northern Territory	2,968	2,846	-122	-4.1
Australian Capital Territory	1,625	1,660	35	2.2
AUSTRALIA	204,356	207,825	3,469	1.7
LONG-TERM JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	62,297	65,233	2,936	4.7
Victoria	39,747	41,423	1,676	4.2
Queensland	32,644	34,290	1,646	5.0
South Australia	14,473	15,019	546	3.8
Western Australia	12,125	12,948	823	6.8
Tasmania	6,683	6,700	17	0.3
Northern Territory	4,102	4,061	-41	-1.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,435	1,538	103	7.2
AUSTRALIA	173,506	181,212	7,706	4.4
TOTAL JOB SEEKERS				
New South Wales	127,494	130,914	3,420	2.7
Victoria	84,669	87,556	2,887	3.4
Queensland	83,378	86,560	3,182	3.8
South Australia	27,886	28,782	896	3.2
Western Australia	32,105	32,991	886	2.8
Tasmania	12,200	12,129	-71	-0.6
Northern Territory	7,070	6,907	-163	-2.3
Australian Capital Territory	3,060	3,198	138	4.5
AUSTRALIA	377,862	389,037	11,175	3.0

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

**TABLE 6 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX, AS AT JANUARY 2010**

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	2,683	1.9	2,493	2.3	5,176	2.1
18 - 20 years	10,683	7.7	12,812	11.9	23,495	9.5
21 - 24 years	25,099	18.1	16,113	15.0	41,212	16.7
25 - 29 years	23,313	16.8	15,712	14.6	39,025	15.8
30 - 39 years	33,900	24.4	24,412	22.7	58,312	23.7
40 - 49 years	23,461	16.9	18,298	17.0	41,759	17.0
50 - 59 years	14,542	10.5	12,512	11.6	27,054	11.0
60 years and over	5,035	3.6	5,279	4.9	10,314	4.2
Total	138,716	100.0	107,631	100.0	246,347	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	2,593	3.8	2,560	3.5	5,153	3.6
18 - 20 years	8,164	11.8	12,234	16.6	20,398	14.3
21 - 24 years	13,667	19.8	11,343	15.4	25,010	17.5
25 - 29 years	8,973	13.0	7,333	10.0	16,306	11.4
30 - 39 years	11,383	16.5	12,038	16.4	23,421	16.4
40 - 49 years	12,499	18.1	14,794	20.1	27,293	19.1
50 - 59 years	9,437	13.7	10,590	14.4	20,027	14.0
60 years and over	2,393	3.5	2,689	3.7	5,082	3.6
Total	69,109	100.0	73,581	100.0	142,690	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	5,276	2.5	5,053	2.8	10,329	2.7
18 - 20 years	18,847	9.1	25,046	13.8	43,893	11.3
21 - 24 years	38,766	18.7	27,456	15.2	66,222	17.0
25 - 29 years	32,286	15.5	23,045	12.7	55,331	14.2
30 - 39 years	45,283	21.8	36,450	20.1	81,733	21.0
40 - 49 years	35,960	17.3	33,092	18.3	69,052	17.7
50 - 59 years	23,979	11.5	23,102	12.7	47,081	12.1
60 years and over	7,428	3.6	7,968	4.4	15,396	4.0
Total	207,825	100.0	181,212	100.0	389,037	100.0

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

**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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY EAST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Bankstown	3,889	4,010	121	3.1
Bondi Junction	1,423	1,448	25	1.8
Burwood	1,834	1,974	140	7.6
Campsie	2,299	2,376	77	3.3
Caringbah	1,167	1,148	-19	-1.6
Chatswood	1,216	1,284	68	5.6
Corrimal	1,264	1,248	-16	-1.3
Dapto	1,441	1,473	32	2.2
Darlinghurst	1,748	1,779	31	1.8
Darlinghurst CCU	67	68	%	%
Hornsby	1,202	1,250	48	4.0
Hurstville	1,670	1,762	92	5.5
Lakemba	31	35	%	%
Leichhardt	1,518	1,574	56	3.7
Maroubra	1,506	1,540	34	2.3
Marrickville	1,542	1,632	90	5.8
Northern Beaches	1,647	1,681	34	2.1
Redfern	1,428	1,475	47	3.3
Rockdale	1,578	1,610	32	2.0
Ryde	1,161	1,222	61	5.3
Shellharbour	1,724	1,704	-20	-1.2
Sutherland	809	853	44	5.4
Wollongong	1,447	1,541	94	6.5
Other (a)	25	20	%	%
Total	33,636	34,707	1,071	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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SYDNEY WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Auburn	2,144	2,204	60	2.8
Baulkham Hills	1,044	1,071	27	2.6
Blacktown	3,328	3,476	148	4.4
Cabramatta	2,135	2,160	25	1.2
Camden	693	713	20	2.9
Campbelltown	2,391	2,408	17	0.7
Fairfield	3,156	3,239	83	2.6
Hawkesbury	963	981	18	1.9
Ingleburn	1,441	1,472	31	2.2
Katoomba	780	825	45	5.8
Liverpool	3,798	3,824	26	0.7
Merrylands	1,993	2,049	56	2.8
Mt Druitt	2,886	2,883	-3	-0.1
Parramatta	2,338	2,401	63	2.7
Penrith	1,837	1,866	29	1.6
Springwood	372	430	58	15.6
St Marys	1,617	1,609	-8	-0.5
Other (a)	14	12	%	%
Total	32,930	33,623	693	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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Armidale	933	965	32	3.4
Cessnock	743	763	20	2.7
Charlestown	2,094	2,196	102	4.9
Comm Support Team	50	44	%	%
Ettalong	774	773	-1	-0.1
Forster	932	932	0	0.0
Glen Innes	273	281	8	2.9
Gosford	1,763	1,811	48	2.7
Gunnedah	420	450	30	7.1
Inverell	716	717	1	0.1
Kempsey	959	990	31	3.2
King Street	1,432	1,535	103	7.2
Kurri Kurri	453	444	-9	-2.0
Lakehaven	1,669	1,709	40	2.4
Maitland	1,564	1,590	26	1.7
Mayfield	921	984	63	6.8
Muswellbrook	573	583	10	1.7
Nambucca Heads	782	806	24	3.1
Nelson Bay	526	521	-5	-1.0
Port Macquarie	1,710	1,817	107	6.3
Raymond Terrace	1,122	1,140	18	1.6
Singleton	292	302	10	3.4
Tamworth	1,653	1,732	79	4.8
Taree	1,694	1,705	11	0.6
The Entrance	1,393	1,382	-11	-0.8
Toronto	1,010	1,042	32	3.2
Wallsend	1,482	1,499	17	1.1
Woy Woy	480	500	20	4.2
Wyong	840	891	51	6.1
Other (a)	16	15	%	%
Total	29,269	30,119	850	2.9

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NEW SOUTH WALES</i>				
Batemans Bay	742	741	-1	-0.1
Bathurst	913	972	59	6.5
Bega	694	696	2	0.3
Belconnen	915	976	61	6.7
Bowral	544	584	40	7.4
Braddon	821	824	3	0.4
Cooma	334	327	-7	-2.1
Cowra	505	496	-9	-1.8
Dubbo	2,036	2,111	75	3.7
Goulburn	585	608	23	3.9
Griffith	674	691	17	2.5
Gungahlin	123	149	26	21.1
Lanyon	33	38	%	%
Leeton	392	389	-3	-0.8
Lithgow	529	563	34	6.4
Mudgee	578	586	8	1.4
Narooma	348	346	-2	-0.6
Nowra	2,112	2,143	31	1.5
Orange	1,040	1,040	0	0.0
Parkes	967	984	17	1.8
Queanbeyan	407	437	30	7.4
Tuggeranong	661	698	37	5.6
Tumut	296	309	13	4.4
Ulladulla	493	494	1	0.2
Wagga	1,468	1,545	77	5.2
Woden	458	480	22	4.8
Yass	97	107	%	%
Young	460	483	23	5.0
Other (a)	20	19	%	%
Total	19,245	19,836	591	3.1

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Airport West	1,144	1,190	46	4.0
Albury	2,240	2,255	15	0.7
Box Hill	1,867	1,938	71	3.8
Broadmeadows	3,632	3,756	124	3.4
Camberwell	866	932	66	7.6
Darebin	2,823	2,945	122	4.3
Deniliquin	312	317	5	1.6
Echuca	533	528	-5	-0.9
Epping	1,965	2,015	50	2.5
Heidelberg	1,764	1,875	111	6.3
Moreland	2,288	2,448	160	7.0
Newmarket	1,456	1,531	75	5.2
Seymour	600	623	23	3.8
Shepparton	2,119	2,180	61	2.9
Sth Melbourne	762	800	38	5.0
Sunbury	803	858	55	6.8
Wangaratta	1,350	1,341	-9	-0.7
Windsor Vic	2,322	2,477	155	6.7
Yarra	1,857	2,018	161	8.7
Other (a)	19	24	%	%
Total	30,722	32,051	1,329	4.3

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	783	784	1	0.1
Belgrave	497	524	27	5.4
Cheltenham	1,709	1,783	74	4.3
Cranbourne	1,390	1,449	59	4.2
Dandenong	2,426	2,579	153	6.3
Fountain Gate	1,969	2,048	79	4.0
Frankston	2,489	2,534	45	1.8
Glen Waverley	1,052	1,139	87	8.3
Hastings	561	589	28	5.0
Lilydale	1,347	1,383	36	2.7
Mornington	476	501	25	5.3
Morwell	2,297	2,383	86	3.7
Oakleigh	1,665	1,730	65	3.9
Pakenham	686	718	32	4.7
Ringwood	1,712	1,850	138	8.1
Rosebud	816	787	-29	-3.6
Rowville	471	487	16	3.4
Sale	775	790	15	1.9
Springvale	1,982	2,061	79	4.0
Wantirna	1,246	1,301	55	4.4
Warragul	523	542	19	3.6
Wonthaggi	557	543	-14	-2.5
Other (a)	13	6	%	%
Total	27,442	28,511	1,069	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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	228	230	2	0.9
Bendigo Central	478	426	-52	-10.9
Ballarat	2,655	2,723	68	2.6
Bendigo	2,290	2,451	161	7.0
Colac	501	488	-13	-2.6
Corio	1,543	1,555	12	0.8
Footscray	1,411	1,431	20	1.4
Geelong	2,791	2,803	12	0.4
Hamilton	334	356	22	6.6
Horsham	565	593	28	5.0
Maryborough	422	429	7	1.7
Melton	1,425	1,472	47	3.3
Mildura	1,822	1,852	30	1.6
Newport	1,073	1,090	17	1.6
Portland	388	400	12	3.1
Stawell	187	193	6	3.2
Sunshine	2,757	2,791	34	1.2
Swan Hill	813	808	-5	-0.6
Warrnambool	767	742	-25	-3.3
Watergardens	3,122	3,143	21	0.7
Werribee	3,029	3,120	91	3.0
Other (a)	22	20	%	%
Total	28,623	29,116	493	1.7

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	765	770	5	0.7
Ayr	386	439	53	13.7
Biloela	170	164	-6	-3.5
Bowen	361	400	39	10.8
Cairns Ems	4,382	4,480	98	2.2
Charters Towers	360	365	5	1.4
Emerald	340	329	-11	-3.2
Gladstone	1,082	1,095	13	1.2
Indigenous Service Centre	816	799	-17	-2.1
Ingham	323	372	49	15.2
Innisfail	891	903	12	1.3
Longreach	95	104	%	%
Mackay Employment	1,491	1,555	64	4.3
Mareeba	613	599	-14	-2.3
Mossman	523	535	12	2.3
Mt Isa	771	788	17	2.2
Normanton	119	134	15	12.6
Nth Peninsula Remote Area Service Centre	69	74	%	%
Palm Island	169	169	0	0.0
Rockhampton	2,013	2,068	55	2.7
Students Area CNQ	155	107	-48	-31.0
Thursday Is	267	272	5	1.9
Townsville	3,457	3,695	238	6.9
Western Cape Remote Area Service Centre	331	335	4	1.2
Whitsunday	472	481	9	1.9
Yarrabah Remote Area Service Centre	476	491	15	3.2
Yeppoon	465	480	15	3.2
Other (a)	63	60	%	%
Total	21,425	22,063	638	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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & EAST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Bundaberg	3,002	3,105	103	3.4
Caboolture	2,755	2,859	104	3.8
Caloundra	1,392	1,465	73	5.2
Cherbourg	238	220	-18	-7.6
Chermside	1,168	1,189	21	1.8
Deception Bay	657	692	35	5.3
Fortitude Valley	1,250	1,352	102	8.2
Gympie	1,222	1,275	53	4.3
Hervey Bay	1,700	1,750	50	2.9
Kawana Waters	629	655	26	4.1
Kingaroy	627	643	16	2.6
Kippa-ring	1,172	1,186	14	1.2
Maroochydore	1,695	1,788	93	5.5
Maryborough	1,228	1,274	46	3.7
Mitchelton	1,175	1,209	34	2.9
Nambour	1,140	1,191	51	4.5
Noosa	1,105	1,135	30	2.7
Nundah	1,236	1,296	60	4.9
Strathpine	1,461	1,540	79	5.4
Toowong	1,052	1,127	75	7.1
Other (a)	8	7	%	%
Total	25,912	26,958	1,046	4.0

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH & WEST QUEENSLAND</i>				
Beenleigh	2,278	2,386	108	4.7
Browns Plains	1,885	1,936	51	2.7
Capalaba	822	858	36	4.4
Charleville	196	220	24	12.2
Cleveland	951	965	14	1.5
Dalby	499	528	29	5.8
Goodna	1,709	1,741	32	1.9
Goondiwindi	336	351	15	4.5
Inala	1,800	1,847	47	2.6
Ipswich	2,633	2,740	107	4.1
Mt Gravatt	2,168	2,251	83	3.8
Roma	140	147	7	5.0
South Brisbane	978	1,049	71	7.3
Stanthorpe	467	453	-14	-3.0
Stones Corner	1,781	1,852	71	4.0
Toowoomba	2,468	2,461	-7	-0.3
Warwick	472	485	13	2.8
Woodridge	2,124	2,185	61	2.9
Wynnum	999	1,018	19	1.9
Other (a)	14	38	%	%
Total	24,720	25,511	791	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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	870	915	45	5.2
Broken Hill	809	820	11	1.4
Ceduna	279	279	0	0.0
Cooper Pedy	179	172	-7	-3.9
Elizabeth	2,242	2,240	-2	-0.1
Enfield	1,435	1,447	12	0.8
Gawler	1,093	1,138	45	4.1
Glenelg	787	813	26	3.3
Kadina	593	608	15	2.5
Kilkenny	1,414	1,451	37	2.6
Marion	2,106	2,207	101	4.8
Modbury	1,579	1,614	35	2.2
Mt Barker	556	587	31	5.6
Mt Gambier	1,127	1,121	-6	-0.5
Murray Bridge	796	836	40	5.0
Noarlunga	2,366	2,524	158	6.7
Norwood	1,715	1,867	152	8.9
Port Adelaide	1,352	1,371	19	1.4
Port Augusta	706	715	9	1.3
Port Lincoln	562	597	35	6.2
Port Pirie	832	877	45	5.4
Salisbury	2,366	2,334	-32	-1.4
Torrensville	1,387	1,473	86	6.2
Victor Harbor	610	635	25	4.1
Whyalla	817	820	3	0.4
Other (a)	26	27	%	%
Total	28,604	29,488	884	3.1

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST AUSTRALIA				
Albany	918	947	29	3.2
Armadale	1,368	1,400	32	2.3
Bunbury	1,812	1,930	118	6.5
Busselton	644	619	-25	-3.9
Cannington	1,857	1,932	75	4.0
Carnarvon	286	292	6	2.1
Cocos Islands	<20	22	na	na
Community Team	45	46	%	%
Esperance	259	254	-5	-1.9
Fremantle	1,479	1,517	38	2.6
Geraldton	1,241	1,286	45	3.6
Gosnells	1,327	1,347	20	1.5
Innaloo	1,449	1,508	59	4.1
Joondalup	1,888	2,064	176	9.3
Kalgoorlie	793	752	-41	-5.2
Karratha	332	325	-7	-2.1
Laverton Remote Area Service Centre	63	59	%	%
Mandurah	1,540	1,617	77	5.0
Meekatharra	163	151	-12	-7.4
Midland	2,127	1,996	-131	-6.2
Mirrabooka	1,994	2,087	93	4.7
Morley	1,881	1,956	75	4.0
Newman Remote Area Service Centre	122	118	-4	-3.3
Northam	579	711	132	22.8
Rockingham	1,954	1,991	37	1.9
South Hedland	410	417	7	1.7
Spearwood	1,255	1,285	30	2.4
Victoria Park	2,075	2,102	27	1.3
Warwick Grove	910	960	50	5.5
Other (a)	na	67	%	%
Total	30,870	31,758	888	2.9

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	800	838	38	4.8
Burnie	1,618	1,594	-24	-1.5
Devonport	1,566	1,579	13	0.8
Glenorchy	1,493	1,457	-36	-2.4
Hobart	1,334	1,364	30	2.2
Huonville	405	395	-10	-2.5
Launceston	3,476	3,429	-47	-1.4
Rosny Park	902	906	4	0.4
Sorell	531	514	-17	-3.2
Other (a)	51	31	%	%
Total	12,176	12,107	-69	-0.6
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	542	569	27	5.0
Borrooloola	41	39	%	%
Broome	542	540	-2	-0.4
Casuarina	744	747	3	0.4
Central Australia RST	1,621	1,527	-94	-5.8
Derby	152	172	20	13.2
Fitzroy Crossing	56	50	%	%
Halls Creek	192	170	-22	-11.5
Katherine	391	385	-6	-1.5
Knuckey Street	424	405	-19	-4.5
Kununurra	315	304	-11	-3.5
Maningrida	242	220	-22	-9.1
Nhulunbuy	25	25	%	%
Palmerston	779	752	-27	-3.5
Tangentyere	68	64	%	%
Tennant Creek	176	182	6	3.4
Tiwi Islands	151	151	0	0.0
Top End Hub	1,657	1,637	-20	-1.2
Wadeye	207	194	-13	-6.3
Yuendumu	81	83	%	%
Other (a)	14	10	%	%
Total	8,420	8,226	-194	-2.3

– 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>	December 2009	January 2010	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
APC Community Team	36	32	%	%
Ballina	936	959	23	2.5
Beaudesert	599	633	34	5.7
Biggera Waters	2,487	2,679	192	7.7
Bourke	478	478	0	0.0
Brunswick Heads	615	644	29	4.7
Byron Bay	599	580	-19	-3.2
Casino	623	648	25	4.0
Coffs Harbour	2,219	2,278	59	2.7
Grafton	1,376	1,391	15	1.1
Lightning Ridge	192	197	5	2.6
Lismore	1,716	1,784	68	4.0
Moree	564	563	-1	-0.2
Murwillumbah	637	655	18	2.8
Narrabri	320	369	49	15.3
Nerang	2,566	2,754	188	7.3
Palm Beach	2,919	3,150	231	7.9
Southport	2,906	3,002	96	3.3
Tweed Heads	1,861	1,898	37	2.0
Walgett	234	235	1	0.4
Other (a)	19	17	%	%
Total	23,902	24,946	1,044	4.4
<i>OTHER</i>				
Centrelink Call Centres	3	3	%	%
Not Coded To An Area	5	6	%	%
Rounding Adjustment	-42	8	%	%
AUSTRALIA	377,862	389,037	11,175	3.0

(a) Job seekers who are not allocated to any of the reported offices.

Notes:

- Variations for Customer Service Centres with small populations (less than 100) are displayed as % and not reported.
- Data in this table are rounded monthly averages.
- In order to protect individuals' privacy, populations less than 20 for specific Customer Service Centres are reported as "<20" and other data that would allow these populations to be derived are reported as not available "na".
- Area Support Office boundaries changed from July 2007. The July 2007 edition of this publication includes a description of the changes.
- The rounding adjustment was included prior to the July 2007 publication, in the Fairfield Customer Service Centre.

**TABLE 8 - JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX, FORTNIGHT ENDING 22 JANUARY 2010**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term job seekers	Long-term job seekers	Total job seekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	88.0	86.9	87.5
Earned an income	12.0	13.1	12.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.5	0.7	0.6
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.6	2.0	1.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.1	2.5	2.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	1.6	1.5
Over \$316.00	6.2	6.4	6.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>138,856</i>	<i>107,910</i>	<i>246,766</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	79.6	76.8	78.2
Earned an income	20.4	23.2	21.8
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.0	0.9
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.5	2.8	2.7
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.3	3.6	3.4
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.4	2.7	2.5
Over \$316.00	11.4	13.1	12.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>69,256</i>	<i>73,241</i>	<i>142,497</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	85.2	82.8	84.1
Earned an income	14.8	17.2	15.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.6	0.8	0.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	1.9	2.3	2.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.5	2.9	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.8	2.1	1.9
Over \$316.00	7.9	9.1	8.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Job seekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>208,112</i>	<i>181,151</i>	<i>389,263</i>

Notes:

– Long-term job seekers have received income support for 12 months or more.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DEEWR labour market and related payments delivered 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.

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 numbers 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 from 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. 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 2009 young people under 21 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

Job seekers already in receipt of Youth Allowance before 1 July 2009 who do not have Year 12 or an equivalent qualification will transition to the new requirements between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010.

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 October 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 October 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.

Job Search Allowance From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance (see *Newstart Allowance*). All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.

Prior to 20 October 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 job seeker figures as those recipients who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training job seeker populations.

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.

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

Partner Allowance From 20 October 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.

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.

Partner Allowance was introduced in October 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 October 1996, those young persons still being paid Job Search Allowance were transferred to Newstart Allowance.)

Widow Allowance

From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women born on or before 1 July 1955.

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.

Mature Age Allowance

From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008 .

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 October 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 October 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 Recipients From July 2002, the number of people receiving labour market and related payments reports recipients who are both eligible and entitled to receive a payment. These recipients are otherwise known as 'current' recipients.

Revised historical data (using this methodology) from May 1998 to June 2002 is in the July 2002 publication.

Due to improved data sources, data from July 2003 has slight differences from the recipient numbers used in previous editions.

Before July 2002, all recipients who received a payment within a given fortnight were counted. From mid 1998, recipients who received a 'one-off' payment were excluded. One-off payments 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.

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 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, other than 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.

A pre and post July 1998 comparison will reflect 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).

Job seekers From July 2009, all recipients with job search requirements are classified as job seekers in this report.

Prior to 1 July 2009, some people with another activity (such as training) in addition to job search were classified according to that other activity and not as job seekers. Other people who were receiving Intensive Support Customised Assistance under Job Network arrangements were classified as job seekers although they may not always have been undertaking job search.

From July 1998, the definition of job seekers excludes 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.

Before July 1998, job seekers excluded allowees who did not receive a payment, allowees who were incapacitated, and allowees who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to search for work 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.

Duration

Since 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 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance and Partner Allowance were closed to new claimants. and payments of Mature Age Allowance ceased in October 2008. People on these allowances before 20 October 2003 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.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)	The CDEP program is administered by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. Reforms to CDEP were introduced from 1 July 2009. Operating mainly in remote areas, the CDEP program aims to help unemployed Indigenous Australians to find and keep jobs. Under the CDEP program, there are two main ways ('streams') that CDEP providers assist Indigenous Australians: Work Readiness Services help individuals to develop their skills, improve their chances of getting a job, and move to work outside of the CDEP program; and Community Development focuses on supporting and developing Indigenous communities and organisations.
CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS)	The CDEP Participant Supplement (CPS) is payable to eligible CDEP participants. It can be paid fortnightly or as a 12 weekly payment.
Customer Service Centre	A Customer Service Centre set within a particular region that provides FaHCSIA, DEEWR 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'.
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 seeker	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in job search. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
Job Search Allowance (JSA)	Up to 20 October 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the Commonwealth Employment Service for up to 12 months. From 20 October 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.

Long-term recipients	Persons who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	<p>From 20 October 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed to new claimants. The payment ceased by October 2008.</p> <p>Mature Age Allowance was a payment for unemployed people aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) with little or no recent workforce experience. These people were not required to look for work to be eligible for the payment. 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.
Partner Allowance (PA)	<p>From 20 October 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 was for dependent partners of pensioners and allowees. Partners had to be born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. Partner Allowance had no job search requirement. 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.
Widow Allowance (WA)	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance new grants may only be made to women 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)	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 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</p>

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.

From 1 July 2009 young people under 21 years of age without a Year 12 or equivalent qualification will usually need to:

- participate in education and training full-time; or
- participate full-time (that is, for at least 25 hours a week) in part-time study or training, in combination with other approved activities, until they attain Year 12 or an equivalent Certificate Level II or above qualification.

Job seekers already in receipt of Youth Allowance before 1 July 2009 who do not have Year 12 or an equivalent qualification will transition to the new requirements between 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2010.

Youth Allowance (other)

Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students or full-time Australian Apprentices.

Zero paid

See 'Did not receive a payment'.

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN DEEWR 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.
DEEWR 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 DEEWR labour market payment data. There are a number of reasons why the two series cannot be directly compared.
<i>Duration</i>	<p>Both DEEWR and the ABS classify long-term duration as over 12 months, but use substantially different definitions of duration:</p> <p>DEEWR 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>DEEWR unemployed recipients can have breaks without payment and 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 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to assistance such as 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 DEEWR recipients are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed recipients remain classified by DEEWR 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 DEEWR 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:

- DEEWR 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 survey which interviews occupants of selected dwellings covering around 0.27% of the total Australian population. These persons are generally interviewed during the two weeks beginning the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month and the information obtained relates to 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 DEEWR 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:
workingagepaymentsdatarequests@deewr.gov.au

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

Director
Income Support Information Section
Working Age Payment Programs Branch
Income Support and Stakeholder Group
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
PO Box 9879
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6204 2912.

Other recipient information

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has published:
Income Support Customers: a Statistical Overview
1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Statistics also collates statistics about the various pensions, benefits and family payments which that Department administers.