



Australian Government

**Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

November 2004

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 DEWR use different definitions to identify the unemployed and different methods of counting (see the Appendix for more information).

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INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by Centrelink largely on behalf of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). After the Machinery of Government (MOG) changes announced in October 2004 the responsibility for Newstart Allowance (NSA), Youth Allowance (other) (YA(o)) and Mature Age Allowance (MAA) was transferred to DEWR, FaCS retained Partner Allowance (PA) and Widow Allowance (WA) and responsibility for Youth Allowance (full-time students) (YA(FTS)) was transferred to DEST. This publication covers NSA and YA in some detail and, to a lesser extent MAA, PA and WA.

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

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

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

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

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

The next issue of this publication is scheduled for release on 28 January 2005.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - November 2004

Between November 2003 and November 2004:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) customers **decreased by 4.4%** overall from 597,181 to 570,786

{ by 4.2% for NSA from 515,849 to 494,289 and

{ 5.9% for YA(O) from 81,332 to 76,497.

The number of jobseekers **decreased by 9.5%** overall from 418,563 to 378,889

{ by 9.9% for NSA from 353,607 to 318,571 and

{ 7.1% for YA(O) customers from 64,956 to 60,318.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 10.8% from 247,695 to 220,919.

Short-term jobseekers decreased by 7.5% from 170,868 to 157,970.

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

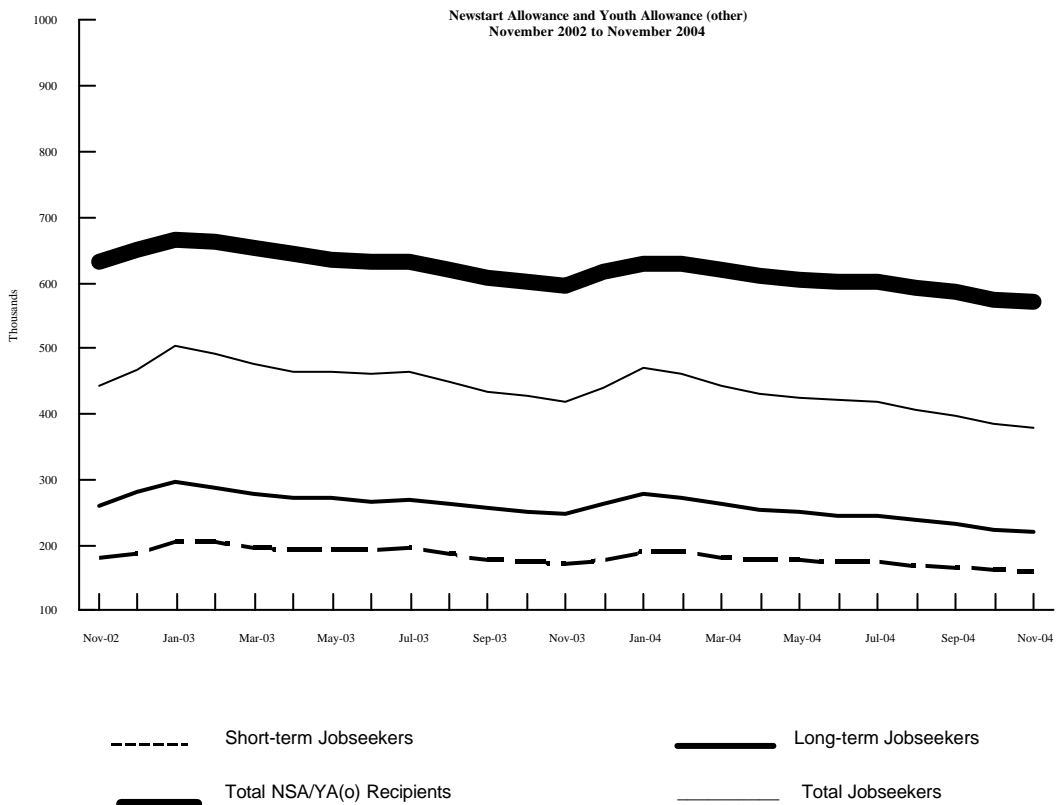


TABLE 1 - FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance		Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Full-time Students (c)	Other			
February 1994 (d)	472,785	977,796
November 2002	333,841	546,247	304,402	84,977	40,099	103,693	42,506
December 2002	339,563	552,637	262,659	96,808	40,131	103,743	42,680
January 2003	345,446	569,009	251,475	97,748	40,050	103,898	42,766
February 2003	343,677	570,613	260,961	93,043	40,282	104,054	42,938
March 2003	338,684	562,353	276,382	89,986	40,527	103,874	43,089
April 2003	333,806	554,505	289,342	89,501	40,682	103,787	43,206
May 2003	330,294	548,554	297,514	87,457	40,784	103,765	43,308
June 2003	327,544	545,685	304,491	87,574	41,372	104,080	43,550
July 2003	326,980	543,578	298,178	89,479	41,582	104,363	43,797
August 2003	324,559	535,399	305,220	85,340	41,882	105,173	44,188
September 2003	320,932	524,947	309,974	82,836	42,625	106,144	44,644
October 2003	318,997	520,317	306,946	80,666	42,140	105,973	45,014
November 2003	316,791	515,849	297,405	81,332	41,124	104,772	45,401
December 2003	321,781	523,107	256,770	92,671	40,117	103,495	45,760
January 2004	326,578	535,559	243,087	94,664	39,027	101,894	45,859
February 2004	326,028	539,098	255,944	91,562	37,835	99,912	45,892
March 2004	322,730	532,043	274,602	88,396	36,761	97,958	45,925
April 2004	318,836	524,504	286,058	85,607	35,507	95,817	45,840
May 2004	316,092	520,434	292,511	84,534	34,314	93,843	45,816
June 2004	313,883	517,895	296,560	84,841	33,310	92,058	45,781
July 2004	313,274	515,686	290,210	85,357	32,175	90,056	45,644
August 2004	311,282	511,799	297,594	81,939	31,046	88,133	45,544
September 2004	308,214	506,457	300,177	80,129	30,055	86,495	45,531
October 2004	304,351	499,388	294,394	76,376	28,921	84,565	45,438
November 2004	301,742	494,289	287,438	76,497	27,844	82,782	45,369
<i>Variation October 2004 - November 2004</i>							
Number	-2,609	-5,099	-6,956	121	-1,077	-1,783	-69
Per cent	-0.9	-1.0	-2.4	0.2	-3.7	-2.1	-0.2

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE 2 - NEWSTART ALLOWEES - DERIVATION OF THE JOBSEEKER POPULATION

	October 2004	November			Variation	
		Males	Females	Persons	October - November Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	195,037	130,395	62,152	192,547	-2,490	-1.3
CPS recipients (a)	2,599	1,979	681	2,660	61	2.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,306	7,992	4,615	12,607	301	2.4
Received a payment	180,132	120,424	56,856	177,280	-2,852	-1.6
Incapacitated (c)	21,436	13,542	7,930	21,472	36	0.2
Training	9,707	5,987	3,569	9,556	-151	-1.6
Self-employment development (d)	603	376	170	546	-57	-9.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	2,918	1,488	1,608	3,096	178	6.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,442	8,052	5,471	13,523	81	0.6
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	132,026	90,979	38,108	129,087	-2,939	-2.2
Long-term NSA Customers	304,351	198,715	103,027	301,742	-2,609	-0.9
CPS recipients (a)	7,203	5,090	2,084	7,174	-29	-0.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,140	8,085	5,108	13,193	1,053	8.7
Received a payment	285,008	185,540	95,835	281,375	-3,633	-1.3
Incapacitated (c)	30,870	18,630	12,096	30,726	-144	-0.5
Training	33,613	20,920	12,891	33,811	198	0.6
Self-employment development (d)	265	145	100	245	-20	-7.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	6,725	4,483	2,563	7,046	321	4.8
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	19,686	12,325	7,738	20,063	377	1.9
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	193,849	129,037	60,447	189,484	-4,365	-2.3
All NSA Customers	499,388	329,110	165,179	494,289	-5,099	-1.0
CPS recipients (a)	9,802	7,069	2,765	9,834	32	0.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	24,446	16,077	9,723	25,800	1,354	5.5
Received a payment	465,140	305,964	152,691	458,655	-6,485	-1.4
Incapacitated (c)	52,306	32,172	20,026	52,198	-108	-0.2
Training	43,320	26,907	16,460	43,367	47	0.1
Self-employment development (d)	868	521	270	791	-77	-8.9
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	9,643	5,971	4,171	10,142	499	5.2
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	33,128	20,377	13,209	33,586	458	1.4
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	325,875	220,016	98,555	318,571	-7,304	-2.2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	October 2004	November			Variation	
		Males	Females	Persons	October - November Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	36,894	19,623	17,057	36,680	-214	-0.6
CPS recipients (a)	1,086	631	460	1,091	5	0.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	968	483	529	1,012	44	4.5
Received a payment	34,840	18,509	16,068	34,577	-263	-0.8
Part-time study & work (c)	5	2	2	4	-1	-20.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	80	34	46	80	0	0.0
Incapacitated (e)	2,153	1,012	1,090	2,102	-51	-2.4
Training	1,332	822	572	1,394	62	4.7
Self-employment development (e)	11	7	6	13	2	18.2
Full-time voluntary work	11	4	4	8	-3	-27.3
Other non-jobseekers (e)	2,105	1,037	1,056	2,093	-12	-0.6
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	29,143	15,591	13,292	28,883	-260	-0.9
Long-term YA (other) Customers	39,482	19,110	20,707	39,817	335	0.8
CPS recipients (a)	1,064	668	387	1,055	-9	-0.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,247	545	758	1,303	56	4.5
Received a payment	37,171	17,897	19,562	37,459	288	0.8
Part-time study & work (c)	8	1	10	11	3	37.5
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	123	47	77	124	1	0.8
Incapacitated (e)	1,782	666	1,123	1,789	7	0.4
Training	2,422	1,211	1,205	2,416	-6	-0.2
Self-employment development (e)	9	4	6	10	1	11.1
Full-time voluntary work	19	5	14	19	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,672	744	911	1,655	-17	-1.0
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	31,136	15,219	16,216	31,435	299	1.0
All YA (other) Customers	76,376	38,733	37,764	76,497	121	0.2
CPS recipients (a)	2,150	1,299	847	2,146	-4	-0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,215	1,028	1,287	2,315	100	4.5
Received a payment	72,011	36,406	35,630	72,036	25	0.0
Part-time study & work (c)	13	3	12	15	2	15.4
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	203	81	123	204	1	0.5
Incapacitated (e)	3,935	1,678	2,213	3,891	-44	-1.1
Training	3,754	2,033	1,777	3,810	56	1.5
Self-employment development (e)	20	11	12	23	3	15.0
Full-time voluntary work	30	9	18	27	-3	-10.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,777	1,781	1,967	3,748	-29	-0.8
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	60,279	30,810	29,508	60,318	39	0.1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notes:

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

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

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

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
November 2002	181,762	260,685	442,447
December 2002	187,986	280,614	468,600
January 2003	206,675	297,166	503,841
February 2003	203,922	288,718	492,640
March 2003	196,529	279,421	475,950
April 2003	193,214	272,157	465,371
May 2003	194,400	271,109	465,509
June 2003	194,490	267,506	461,996
July 2003	195,487	270,316	465,803
August 2003	186,399	263,215	449,614
September 2003	178,316	256,054	434,370
October 2003	175,181	252,009	427,190
November 2003	170,868	247,695	418,563
December 2003	176,350	263,768	440,118
January 2004	191,981	278,371	470,352
February 2004	189,985	272,224	462,209
March 2004	180,650	262,525	443,175
April 2004	177,247	255,059	432,306
May 2004	176,366	249,705	426,071
June 2004	176,087	244,647	420,734
July 2004	175,344	244,846	420,190
August 2004	169,186	237,526	406,712
September 2004	165,156	231,221	396,377
October 2004	161,169	224,985	386,154
November 2004	157,970	220,919	378,889
<i>Variation October 2004 - November 2004</i>			
<i>Number</i>	-3,199	-4,066	-7,265
<i>Per cent</i>	-2.0	-1.8	-1.9

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

Notes:

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

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

<i>State</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	51,887	50,998	-889	-1.7
Victoria	39,343	38,575	-768	-2.0
Queensland	33,354	32,938	-416	-1.2
South Australia	12,576	12,366	-210	-1.7
Western Australia	15,922	15,238	-684	-4.3
Tasmania	4,616	4,470	-146	-3.2
Northern Territory	1,769	1,717	-52	-2.9
Australian Capital Territory	1,702	1,668	-34	-2.0
AUSTRALIA	161,169	157,970	-3,199	-2.0
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	73,975	72,762	-1,213	-1.6
Victoria	54,679	54,005	-674	-1.2
Queensland	41,324	40,465	-859	-2.1
South Australia	19,891	19,347	-544	-2.7
Western Australia	18,761	18,207	-554	-3.0
Tasmania	10,615	10,487	-128	-1.2
Northern Territory	3,516	3,472	-44	-1.3
Australian Capital Territory	2,224	2,174	-50	-2.2
AUSTRALIA	224,985	220,919	-4,066	-1.8
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	125,862	123,760	-2,102	-1.7
Victoria	94,022	92,580	-1,442	-1.5
Queensland	74,678	73,403	-1,275	-1.7
South Australia	32,467	31,713	-754	-2.3
Western Australia	34,683	33,445	-1,238	-3.6
Tasmania	15,231	14,957	-274	-1.8
Northern Territory	5,285	5,189	-96	-1.8
Australian Capital Territory	3,926	3,842	-84	-2.1
AUSTRALIA	386,154	378,889	-7,265	-1.9

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums

of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 6 - JOBBEERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX (NOVEMBER 2004)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,530	4.3	2,664	1.8	7,194	2.9
18 - 20 years	11,060	10.4	12,543	8.7	23,603	9.4
21 - 24 years	19,651	18.4	19,574	13.6	39,225	15.6
25 - 29 years	17,647	16.6	20,114	13.9	37,761	15.1
30 - 39 years	25,227	23.7	32,892	22.8	58,119	23.2
40 - 49 years	14,613	13.7	27,804	19.3	42,417	16.9
50 - 59 years	10,320	9.7	23,454	16.3	33,774	13.5
60 years and over	3,523	3.3	5,211	3.6	8,734	3.5
TOTAL	106,571	100.0	144,256	100.0	250,827	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,670	9.1	3,098	4.0	7,768	6.1
18 - 20 years	8,623	16.8	13,099	17.1	21,722	17.0
21 - 24 years	10,590	20.6	12,621	16.5	23,211	18.1
25 - 29 years	6,316	12.3	8,064	10.5	14,380	11.2
30 - 39 years	6,341	12.3	10,648	13.9	16,989	13.3
40 - 49 years	6,731	13.1	17,016	22.2	23,747	18.5
50 - 59 years	6,912	13.4	11,058	14.4	17,970	14.0
60 years and over	1,216	2.4	1,059	1.4	2,275	1.8
TOTAL	51,399	100.0	76,663	100.0	128,062	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,200	5.8	5,762	2.6	14,962	3.9
18 - 20 years	19,683	12.5	25,642	11.6	45,325	12.0
21 - 24 years	30,241	19.1	32,195	14.6	62,436	16.5
25 - 29 years	23,963	15.2	28,178	12.8	52,141	13.8
30 - 39 years	31,568	20.0	43,540	19.7	75,108	19.8
40 - 49 years	21,344	13.5	44,820	20.3	66,164	17.5
50 - 59 years	17,232	10.9	34,512	15.6	51,744	13.7
60 years and over	4,739	3.0	6,270	2.8	11,009	2.9
TOTAL	157,970	100.0	220,919	100.0	378,889	100.0

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,257	1,226	-31	-2.5
Chatswood	1,132	1,073	-59	-5.2
Darlinghurst	1,680	1,664	-16	-1.0
Darlinghurst YSU	20	20	0	%
Hornsby	868	853	-15	-1.7
Leichhardt	1,428	1,390	-38	-2.7
Maroubra	1,153	1,150	-3	-0.3
Marrickville	1,452	1,451	-1	-0.1
Northern Beaches	1,158	1,140	-18	-1.6
Sydney Central YSU	1	1	0	%
Other (a)	40	28	-12	%
<i>Total</i>	10,189	9,996	-193	-1.9
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,391	1,318	-73	-5.2
Corrimal	1,341	1,319	-22	-1.6
Dapto	1,116	1,124	8	0.7
Hurstville	1,256	1,209	-47	-3.7
Nowra	1,923	1,904	-19	-1.0
Redfern	1,343	1,334	-9	-0.7
Rockdale	1,465	1,438	-27	-1.8
Shellharbour	1,574	1,509	-65	-4.1
Sutherland	35	27	-8	%
Ulladulla	528	516	-12	-2.3
Wollongong	1,880	1,916	36	1.9
Other (a)	16	23	7	%
<i>Total</i>	13,868	13,637	-231	-1.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,177	1,203	26	2.2
Cessnock	879	856	-23	-2.6
Charlestown	2,767	2,716	-51	-1.8
Ettalong	1,089	1,073	-16	-1.5
Forster	863	839	-24	-2.8
Gosford*	1,884	1,852	-32	-1.7
Gosford NSS*	0	0	0	%
Gunnedah	449	445	-4	-0.9
Inverell	659	650	-9	-1.4
Kempsey	1,298	1,296	-2	-0.2
Kurri Kurri	556	563	7	1.3
Lakehaven	1,684	1,673	-11	-0.7
Maitland	1,761	1,698	-63	-3.6
Mayfield	1,268	1,225	-43	-3.4
Muswellbrook	616	604	-12	-1.9
Nambucca Heads	1,141	1,144	3	0.3
Nelson Bay	584	598	14	2.4
Newcastle	1,846	1,821	-25	-1.4
Port Macquarie	1,693	1,658	-35	-2.1
Raymond Terrace	977	987	10	1.0
Singleton	317	308	-9	-2.8
Tamworth	1,822	1,789	-33	-1.8
Taree	1,774	1,757	-17	-1.0
The Entrance	1,091	1,083	-8	-0.7
Toronto	1,169	1,167	-2	-0.2
Tuggerah	0	0	0	%
Wallsend	1,865	1,824	-41	-2.2
Wyong	593	592	-1	-0.2
Other (a)	47	60	13	%
<i>Total</i>	31,869	31,481	-388	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	14	15	1	%
Bankstown	3,547	3,494	-53	-1.5
Cabramatta	2,104	2,039	-65	-3.1
Camden	374	382	8	2.1
Campbelltown	2,313	2,307	-6	-0.3
Campsie	1,797	1,779	-18	-1.0
Fairfield	3,815	3,631	-184	-4.8
Ingleburn	1,031	997	-34	-3.3
Lakemba	16	16	0	%
Liverpool	3,651	3,603	-48	-1.3
Revesby	4	4	0	%
Strathfield	1,384	1,341	-43	-3.1
Other (a)	3	5	2	%
<i>Total</i>	20,053	19,613	-440	-2.2
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	1,958	1,898	-60	-3.1
Baulkham Hills	571	561	-10	-1.8
Blacktown	2,842	2,775	-67	-2.4
Hawkesbury	817	800	-17	-2.1
Katoomba	655	649	-6	-0.9
Lithgow	709	702	-7	-1.0
Merrylands	1,631	1,664	33	2.0
Mt Druitt	2,270	2,196	-74	-3.3
Mudgee	712	697	-15	-2.1
Parramatta	1,908	1,860	-48	-2.5
Penrith	1,510	1,491	-19	-1.3
Ryde	1,012	989	-23	-2.3
Springwood	338	336	-2	-0.6
St Marys	1,564	1,559	-5	-0.3
Other (a)	12	20	8	%
<i>Total</i>	18,509	18,197	-312	-1.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,120	2,094	-26	-1.2
Batemans Bay	706	718	12	1.7
Bathurst	885	852	-33	-3.7
Bega	757	748	-9	-1.2
Belconnen	1,249	1,241	-8	-0.6
Bourke	448	465	17	3.8
Bowral	443	424	-19	-4.3
Braddon	1,023	1,009	-14	-1.4
Cooma	346	358	12	3.5
Cowra	475	453	-22	-4.6
Deniliquin	325	297	-28	-8.6
Dubbo	1,850	1,817	-33	-1.8
Goulburn	676	672	-4	-0.6
Griffith	570	562	-8	-1.4
Gungahlin	120	109	-11	-9.2
Lanyon	55	51	-4	%
Leeton	335	337	2	0.6
Narooma	389	382	-7	-1.8
Orange	1,041	1,003	-38	-3.7
Parkes	961	958	-3	-0.3
Queanbeyan	610	576	-34	-5.6
Tuggeranong	816	796	-20	-2.5
Tumut	308	312	4	1.3
Wagga	1,671	1,610	-61	-3.7
Woden	684	648	-36	-5.3
Yass	101	93	-8	-7.9
Young	418	452	34	8.1
Other (a)	7	11	4	%
<i>Total</i>	19,389	19,048	-341	-1.8

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,748	1,737	-11	-0.6
Broadmeadows	3,577	3,531	-46	-1.3
Darebin	3,390	3,392	2	0.1
Echuca	585	575	-10	-1.7
Epping	2,193	2,117	-76	-3.5
Fitzroy	1,797	1,738	-59	-3.3
Greensborough	1,309	1,266	-43	-3.3
Heidelberg	1,030	995	-35	-3.4
Lilydale	1,399	1,390	-9	-0.6
Moreland	3,035	2,975	-60	-2.0
Newmarket	1,716	1,723	7	0.4
Richmond	1,003	999	-4	-0.4
Ringwood	1,765	1,723	-42	-2.4
Seymour	657	649	-8	-1.2
Shepparton	2,479	2,407	-72	-2.9
Sth Melbourne	1,024	990	-34	-3.3
Wangaratta	1,766	1,714	-52	-2.9
Windsor (VIC)	3,264	3,173	-91	-2.8
Other (a)	37	39	2	%
<i>Total</i>	33,774	33,133	-641	-1.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	933	907	-26	-2.8
Belgrave*	553	516	-37	-6.7
Camberwell	1,058	1,049	-9	-0.9
Cheltenham	2,031	2,001	-30	-1.5
Cranbourne	1,159	1,158	-1	-0.1
Dandenong	2,495	2,486	-9	-0.4
Fountain Gate	1,916	1,896	-20	-1.0
Frankston	3,188	3,133	-55	-1.7
Glen Waverley	1,239	1,263	24	1.9
Leongatha	2	3	1	%
Mornington	607	599	-8	-1.3
Morwell	2,702	2,665	-37	-1.4
Oakleigh	2,000	1,928	-72	-3.6
Rosebud	988	981	-7	-0.7
Rowville	439	439	0	0.0
Sale	957	953	-4	-0.4
Springvale	2,455	2,399	-56	-2.3
Wantirna*	1,313	1,275	-38	-2.9
Warragul	418	402	-16	-3.8
Wonthaggi	608	593	-15	-2.5
Other (a)	9	6	-3	%
<i>Total</i>	27,070	26,652	-418	-1.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Belgrave and Wantirna CSCs are shown independently.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	299	285	-14	-4.7
Ballarat	2,993	2,950	-43	-1.4
Bendigo	3,284	3,252	-32	-1.0
Colac	494	502	8	1.6
Corio	1,840	1,809	-31	-1.7
Essendon (Airport West)	1,451	1,463	12	0.8
Footscray	1,926	1,867	-59	-3.1
Geelong	3,381	3,356	-25	-0.7
Hamilton	362	354	-8	-2.2
Horsham	708	718	10	1.4
Maryborough (VIC)	565	568	3	0.5
Melton	1,114	1,107	-7	-0.6
Mildura	1,736	1,692	-44	-2.5
Newport	1,165	1,156	-9	-0.8
Portland	520	511	-9	-1.7
Stawell	148	157	9	6.1
Sunbury	705	688	-17	-2.4
Sunshine	2,904	2,867	-37	-1.3
Swan Hill	796	757	-39	-4.9
Warrnambool	955	959	4	0.4
Watergardens	3,378	3,304	-74	-2.2
Werribee	2,293	2,294	1	0.0
Other (a)	13	20	7	%
<i>Total</i>	33,030	32,636	-394	-1.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	964	899	-65	-6.7
Bundaberg	2,745	2,708	-37	-1.3
Caboolture	2,278	2,313	35	1.5
Caloundra	1,247	1,257	10	0.8
Capalaba	750	755	5	0.7
Chermside	1,061	994	-67	-6.3
Cleveland	768	760	-8	-1.0
Fortitude Valley	1,777	1,729	-48	-2.7
Gympie	1,230	1,228	-2	-0.2
Hervey Bay	1,219	1,246	27	2.2
Kawana Waters	561	528	-33	-5.9
Kingaroy	686	678	-8	-1.2
Maroochydore	1,643	1,599	-44	-2.7
Maryborough	1,291	1,299	8	0.6
Mitchelton	1,055	984	-71	-6.7
Mt Gravatt	1,848	1,749	-99	-5.4
Nambour	1,132	1,128	-4	-0.4
Noosa	1,338	1,279	-59	-4.4
Nundah	1,181	1,124	-57	-4.8
Redcliffe	1,557	1,522	-35	-2.2
Stones Corner	1,820	1,787	-33	-1.8
Strathpine	1,018	1,046	28	2.8
Toowong	1,287	1,242	-45	-3.5
Wynnum	959	883	-76	-7.9
Other (a)	0	1	1	%
<i>Total</i>	31,415	30,738	-677	-2.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	774	806	32	4.1
Ayr	382	368	-14	-3.7
Biloela	204	210	6	2.9
Bowen	419	439	20	4.8
Cairns EMS (3)	3,043	3,028	-15	-0.5
Cairns FAO (3)	115	97	-18	-15.7
Cairns Ret (3)	6	7	1	%
Charters Towers	347	337	-10	-2.9
Edmonton	138	139	1	0.7
Emerald	429	414	-15	-3.5
Gladstone	1,059	1,080	21	2.0
Greenfields	4	2	-2	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	451	449	-2	-0.4
Ingham	249	259	10	4.0
Innisfail	733	753	20	2.7
Mackay	2,266	2,311	45	2.0
Mareeba	474	453	-21	-4.4
Mossman	212	203	-9	-4.2
Mt Isa	902	909	7	0.8
Normanton	186	198	12	6.5
Palm Island (2)	255	268	13	5.1
Rockhampton	2,598	2,629	31	1.2
Smithfield	348	362	14	4.0
Thursday Is	244	258	14	5.7
Townsville City (1)	50	49	-1	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	3,246	3,136	-110	-3.4
Townsville FAO (1)	11	11	0	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	5	6	1	%
Whitsunday	469	458	-11	-2.3
Yarrabah RASC (2)	106	119	13	12.3
Yeppoon	533	538	5	0.9
Other (a)	177	185	8	4.5
<i>Total</i>	20,435	20,481	46	0.2

Note: For footnotes see end of the table.

1. As of November 2003 the above offices have changed names. Townsville Employment Services was previously known as Aitkenvale (Centrepoint), Townsville FAO was previously known as Ross River (Elizabeth St) and Townsville Retirement was previously known as Willows. Townsville FAO was previously known as Ross River (Elizabeth St) and Townsville Retirement was previously known as Willows.

Unemployment customers are being transferred from Townsville Retirement to Townsville Employment Services. Townsville City is now an access point only and customers are being transferred within the Townsville area to the appropriate CSC's.

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

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

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	948	938	-10	-1.1
Broken Hill	962	929	-33	-3.4
Ceduna	184	176	-8	-4.3
Cooper Pedy	172	169	-3	-1.7
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,076	1,049	-27	-2.5
Currie St (Adelaide) SAC	0	0	0	%
Edwardstown	2,338	2,293	-45	-1.9
Elizabeth	2,477	2,421	-56	-2.3
Enfield	1,600	1,550	-50	-3.1
Gawler	1,066	1,035	-31	-2.9
Glenelg	984	971	-13	-1.3
Kadina	628	592	-36	-5.7
Kilkenny	1,856	1,837	-19	-1.0
Modbury	1,824	1,797	-27	-1.5
Mt Barker	606	596	-10	-1.7
Mt Gambier	1,333	1,305	-28	-2.1
Murray Bridge	846	834	-12	-1.4
Noarlunga	2,762	2,708	-54	-2.0
Norwood	1,466	1,407	-59	-4.0
Parkside	615	597	-18	-2.9
Port Adelaide	1,676	1,612	-64	-3.8
Port Augusta	712	706	-6	-0.8
Port Lincoln	691	677	-14	-2.0
Port Pirie	1,091	1,067	-24	-2.2
Salisbury	2,552	2,487	-65	-2.5
Torrens ville	1,539	1,475	-64	-4.2
Victor Harbor	598	562	-36	-6.0
Whyalla	993	1,007	14	1.4
Other (a)	15	16	1	%
<i>Total</i>	33,610	32,813	-797	-2.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,229	1,162	-67	-5.5
Armadale	1,216	1,112	-104	-8.6
Bunbury	2,290	2,183	-107	-4.7
Cannington	1,816	1,768	-48	-2.6
Carnarvon	257	258	1	0.4
Centrelink City*	0	1	1	%
Christmas Island	34	32	-2	%
Cocos Island	32	40	8	%
Collie	0	0	0	%
Esperance	335	320	-15	-4.5
Fremantle	1,901	1,841	-60	-3.2
Geraldton	1,712	1,669	-43	-2.5
Gosnells	1,189	1,136	-53	-4.5
Innaloo	2,199	2,099	-100	-4.5
Joondalup	1,770	1,687	-83	-4.7
Kalgoorlie	711	681	-30	-4.2
Karratha	278	267	-11	-4.0
Kwinana*	6	5	-1	%
Mandurah	1,560	1,536	-24	-1.5
Midland	2,110	2,063	-47	-2.2
Mirrabooka	2,260	2,131	-129	-5.7
Morley	2,701	2,591	-110	-4.1
Northam	536	536	0	0.0
Rockingham	2,032	1,955	-77	-3.8
South Hedland	292	314	22	7.5
Spearwood	1,356	1,322	-34	-2.5
Victoria Park	2,679	2,676	-3	-0.1
Warwick Grove	1,259	1,152	-107	-8.5
Other (a)	392	396	4	1.0
<i>Total</i>	34,152	32,933	-1,219	-3.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

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

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	911	879	-32	-3.5
Burnie	1,829	1,792	-37	-2.0
Devonport	2,040	1,939	-101	-5.0
Glenorchy	1,811	1,804	-7	-0.4
Hobart	2,066	2,072	6	0.3
Huonville	589	592	3	0.5
Launceston	4,209	4,151	-58	-1.4
Mowbray	10	8	-2	%
Rosny Park	1,232	1,199	-33	-2.7
Sorell	578	586	8	1.4
Other (a)	15	13	-2	%
<i>Total</i>	15,290	15,035	-255	-1.7
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	437	448	11	2.5
Alice Springs (Remote)	489	482	-7	-1.4
Broome	296	285	-11	-3.7
Casuarina	1,054	1,034	-20	-1.9
Casuarina YSC	1	1	0	%
Derby	79	85	6	%
Katherine	405	588	183	45.2
Katherine (Remote)	188	51	-137	-72.9
Knuckey Street	688	642	-46	-6.7
Kununurra	155	156	1	0.6
Nhulunbuy	199	223	24	12.1
Palmerston	906	859	-47	-5.2
Tangentyere	284	287	3	1.1
Tennant Creek	150	144	-6	-4.0
Tennant Creek (Remote)	85	101	16	18.8
Other (a)	539	458	-81	-15.0
<i>Total</i>	5,955	5,844	-111	-1.9

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,169	1,167	-2	-0.2
Beaudesert	379	376	-3	-0.8
Beenleigh	1,657	1,648	-9	-0.5
Biggera Waters	1,679	1,664	-15	-0.9
Browns Plains	1,476	1,431	-45	-3.0
Brunswick Heads	755	759	4	0.5
Byron Bay	984	978	-6	-0.6
Casino	777	738	-39	-5.0
Charleville	165	162	-3	-1.8
Coffs Harbour	2,901	2,811	-90	-3.1
Dalby	703	674	-29	-4.1
Goodna	1,085	1,026	-59	-5.4
Goondiwindi	307	293	-14	-4.6
Grafton	1,708	1,701	-7	-0.4
Inala	1,344	1,306	-38	-2.8
Ipswich	2,116	2,103	-13	-0.6
Lightning Ridge	14	14	0	%
Lismore	2,214	2,215	1	0.0
Moree	610	564	-46	-7.5
Murwillumbah	753	717	-36	-4.8
Narrabri	417	389	-28	-6.7
Nerang	1,623	1,571	-52	-3.2
Palm Beach	2,232	2,205	-27	-1.2
Roma	146	152	6	4.1
Southport	2,686	2,577	-109	-4.1
Stanthorpe	3	1	-2	%
Toowoomba	2,504	2,390	-114	-4.6
Tweed Heads	1,623	1,571	-52	-3.2
Walgett	429	417	-12	-2.8
Warwick	1,043	1,024	-19	-1.8
Woodridge	2,006	1,969	-37	-1.8
Other (a)	26	28	2	%
<i>Total</i>	37,534	36,641	-893	-2.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	October 2004	November 2004	Variation	
			October - November Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	3	1	-2	%
Bendigo	1	1	0	%
Brisbane	0	0	0	%
Bunbury	0	0	0	%
Cairns	0	0	0	%
Cardiff	2	0	-2	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	1	1	%
Gosford	0	0	0	%
Hobart	0	0	0	%
Illawarra	0	0	0	%
Indigenous	0	0	0	%
Latrobe	1	0	-1	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	0	0	%
Moreland	0	0	0	%
Newcastle	0	3	3	%
Perth	1	0	-1	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	1	1	0	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	1	1	%
Townsville	0	1	1	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	9	9	0	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	3	2	-1	%
AUSTRALIA	386,154	378,889	-7,265	-1.9

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

% Monthly variations in percentage terms are not included where the Customer Service Centre has a population less than 100 in both of the reported months.

*Jobseekers receiving NSA / YA (o) in the Centrelink Call Centres were previously counted in various Area Offices.

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums

of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 8 - JOBBEERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT TO 19 NOVEMBER 2004**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	83.9	81.0	82.3
Earned an income	16.1	19.0	17.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.0	1.3	1.2
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.2	3.8	3.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.0	3.8	3.5
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.0	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	6.7	7.7	7.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	106,184	143,583	249,767
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	74.9	71.6	72.9
Earned an income	25.1	28.4	27.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.7	1.9	1.8
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.6	5.0	4.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.7	5.2	5.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.3	3.7	3.5
Over \$316.00	10.8	12.5	11.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	51,369	76,579	127,948
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	81.0	77.8	79.1
Earned an income	19.0	22.2	20.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.2	1.5	1.4
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.7	4.2	4.0
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.6	4.3	4.0
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.5	2.9	2.7
Over \$316.00	8.0	9.4	8.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	157,553	220,162	377,715

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides monthly statistical information on DEWR labour market and related payments administered by Centrelink. These Explanatory Notes provide details of the scope and methodology of the publication, as well as the policy changes which have affected the data since the publication was introduced in December 1995 by the then Department of Social Security (which became FaCS in October 1998).

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

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

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

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

Payment History

Youth Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

Newstart Allowance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Partner Allowance was introduced in September 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.

Youth Training Allowance

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

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

Widow Allowance

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

Mature Age Allowance

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

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

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

Comparability of Data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jobseekers

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

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

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

Duration

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

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

Closure of Mature Age and Partner allowances

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

Symbols

n.a. not available
.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

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

Jobseekers	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in jobsearch. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
Job Search Allowance (JSA)	Up to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to CES eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Long-term Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term customers can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
Mature Age Allowance (MAA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance was closed off to new claimants. People on Mature Age Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain ‘current’, that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Mature Age Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to unemployed people aged 60 years and over (but below Age Pension age) with little or no recent workforce experience who meet certain requirements for previous receipt of income support. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Newstart Allowance (NSA)	Newstart Allowance is payable to eligible unemployed persons aged 21 years and over (but below Age Pension age) who satisfy the activity test. See Explanatory Notes for history.
Newstart Common Platform System (NCP)	The Newstart Common Platform System (NCP) was introduced in May 1998. The NCP administers all labour market and related payments. This includes primary payments such as Newstart Allowance, Youth Allowance, Mature Age Allowance, Widow Allowance and Partner Allowance. Other payments on the NCP include Special Benefit, Sickness Allowance, Exceptional Circumstances Relief, Farm Help and Austudy.
Partner Allowance (PA)	<p>From 20 September 2003, Partner Allowance was closed off to new claimants. People on Partner Allowance before this date can remain on the allowance while they remain ‘current’, that is retain eligibility and entitlement for the allowance.</p> <p>Partner Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to persons who are dependent partners of pensioners and allowees who were born before 1 July 1955, have no dependent children and have little or no recent workforce experience. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
Short-term Customers	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term customers can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.

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

APPENDIX

COMPARISONS BETWEEN 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 customers can have breaks without payment for up to 25 weeks but still be classified long term income support customers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Customers 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 customers 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 customers 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 customers are able to have ongoing part-time work (see 'employment' below) mean that many unemployed customers remain classified by DEWR as long-term customers when they would be classified as short-term unemployed under the ABS definition.

Seasonal Adjustment

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

Classification

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

The Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) series generally count people who are eligible for and entitled to receive a payment between the ages of 15 years and 64 years in the case of men and 15 to 62 years in the case of women.

Employment

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

Timing

The timing of collections of the series are different:

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

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Labour Market Information

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

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

For further information please contact the Business Information Help Desk on (02) 6244 7270.

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

Director
Newstart and Working Credit Section
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
CW3
PO Box 7788
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2610

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6244 7978.

Other Customer Information

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

For further information please contact the Business Information Help Desk on (02) 6244 7270.

Other Statistical Outputs:

The following statistical output is available on request:

*Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
Customers - A Statistical Overview, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
and 2001.*