



Australian Government

**Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

January 2005

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)), Mature Age Allowance (MAA), Partner Allowance (PA) and Widow Allowance (WA) was transferred to DEWR and responsibility for Youth Allowance (full-time students) (YA(FTS)) was transferred to 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 24 March 2005.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - January 2005

Between January 2004 and January 2005:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) customers **decreased by 4.2%** overall from 630,223 to 604,032

{ by 3.9% for NSA from 535,559 to 514,579 and

{ 5.5% for YA(O) from 94,664 to 89,453.

The number of jobseekers **decreased by 8.2%** overall from 470,352 to 431,651

{ by 8.5% for NSA from 390,261 to 357,182 and

{ 6.6% for YA(O) customers from 79,731 to 74,469.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 10.6% from 278,371 to 248,933.

Short-term jobseekers decreased by 4.8% from 191,981 to 182,718.

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).

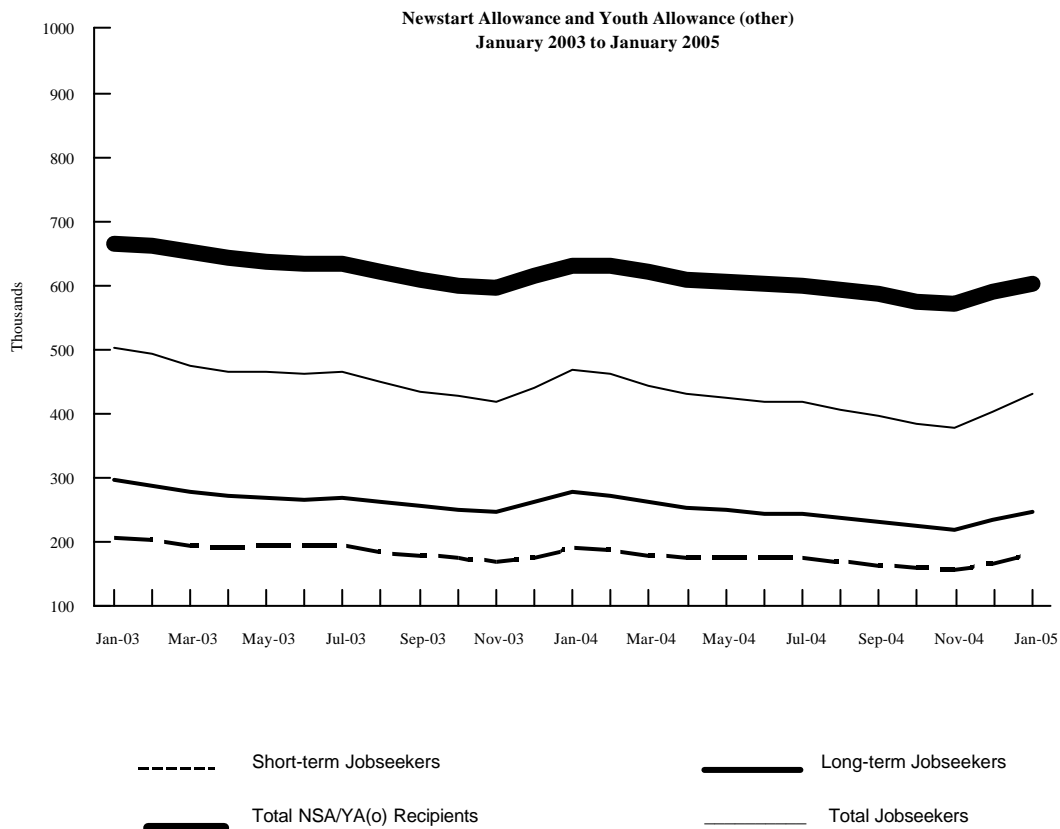


TABLE 1 - FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	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
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
December 2004	306,022	502,350	245,322	87,732	26,820	81,078	45,282
January 2005	309,214	514,579	235,537	89,453	25,770	79,482	45,206
<i>Variation December 2004 - January 2005</i>							
Number	3,192	12,229	-9,785	1,721	-1,050	-1,596	-76
Per cent	1.0	2.4	-4.0	2.0	-3.9	-2.0	-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

	December 2004	January			Variation	
		Males	Females	Persons	December - January Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	196,328	137,999	67,366	205,365	9,037	4.6
CPS recipients (a)	2,809	2,057	709	2,766	-43	-1.5
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,830	5,597	3,498	9,095	-3,735	-29.1
Received a payment	180,689	130,345	63,159	193,504	12,815	7.1
Incapacitated (c)	21,789	13,270	7,954	21,224	-565	-2.6
Training	7,506	4,065	2,026	6,091	-1,415	-18.9
Self-employment development (d)	418	207	102	309	-109	-26.1
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	3,165	1,506	1,614	3,120	-45	-1.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,675	7,941	5,493	13,434	-241	-1.8
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	134,136	103,356	45,970	149,326	15,190	11.3
Long-term NSA Customers	306,022	200,949	108,265	309,214	3,192	1.0
CPS recipients (a)	7,295	5,164	2,161	7,325	30	0.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	13,065	5,284	3,847	9,131	-3,934	-30.1
Received a payment	285,662	190,501	102,257	292,758	7,096	2.5
Incapacitated (c)	30,849	17,815	11,747	29,562	-1,287	-4.2
Training	29,734	17,262	9,797	27,059	-2,675	-9.0
Self-employment development (d)	199	88	59	147	-52	-26.1
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	7,438	4,834	2,820	7,654	216	2.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	20,487	12,412	8,068	20,480	-7	-0.0
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	196,955	138,090	69,766	207,856	10,901	5.5
All NSA Customers	502,350	338,948	175,631	514,579	12,229	2.4
CPS recipients (a)	10,104	7,221	2,870	10,091	-13	-0.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	25,895	10,881	7,345	18,226	-7,669	-29.6
Received a payment	466,351	320,846	165,416	486,262	19,911	4.3
Incapacitated (c)	52,638	31,085	19,701	50,786	-1,852	-3.5
Training	37,240	21,327	11,823	33,150	-4,090	-11.0
Self-employment development (d)	617	295	161	456	-161	-26.1
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	10,603	6,340	4,434	10,774	171	1.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	34,162	20,353	13,561	33,914	-248	-0.7
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	331,091	241,446	115,736	357,182	26,091	7.9

(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

	Variation					
	December 2004	January			December - January	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	39,479	21,582	19,042	40,624	1,145	2.9
CPS recipients (a)	1,219	789	542	1,331	112	9.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,025	303	439	742	-283	-27.6
Received a payment	37,235	20,490	18,061	38,551	1,316	3.5
Part-time study & work (c)	2	1	0	1	-1	-50.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	55	14	18	32	-23	-41.8
Incapacitated (e)	2,156	1,007	1,060	2,067	-89	-4.1
Training	1,141	582	370	952	-189	-16.6
Self-employment development (e)	11	6	3	9	-2	-18.2
Full-time voluntary work	5	5	1	6	1	20.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	2,177	997	1,095	2,092	-85	-3.9
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	31,688	17,878	15,514	33,392	1,704	5.4
Long-term YA (other) Customers	48,253	23,493	25,336	48,829	576	1.2
CPS recipients (a)	1,079	672	408	1,080	1	0.1
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,366	481	706	1,187	-179	-13.1
Received a payment	45,808	22,340	24,222	46,562	754	1.6
Part-time study & work (c)	5	0	1	1	-4	-80.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	78	17	29	46	-32	-41.0
Incapacitated (e)	1,811	612	1,140	1,752	-59	-3.3
Training	2,181	1,039	966	2,005	-176	-8.1
Self-employment development (e)	6	2	2	4	-2	-33.3
Full-time voluntary work	15	4	10	14	-1	-6.7
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,686	741	922	1,663	-23	-1.4
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	40,026	19,925	21,152	41,077	1,051	2.6
All YA (other) Customers	87,732	45,075	44,378	89,453	1,721	2.0
CPS recipients (a)	2,298	1,461	950	2,411	113	4.9
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,391	784	1,145	1,929	-462	-19.3
Received a payment	83,043	42,830	42,283	85,113	2,070	2.5
Part-time study & work (c)	7	1	1	2	-5	-71.4
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	133	31	47	78	-55	-41.4
Incapacitated (e)	3,967	1,619	2,200	3,819	-148	-3.7
Training	3,322	1,621	1,336	2,957	-365	-11.0
Self-employment development (e)	17	8	5	13	-4	-23.5
Full-time voluntary work	20	9	11	20	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,863	1,738	2,017	3,755	-108	-2.8
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	71,714	37,803	36,666	74,469	2,755	3.8

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

	Short-term	Long-term	Total
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
December 2004	165,824	236,981	402,805
January 2005	182,718	248,933	431,651
<i>Variation December 2004 - January 2005</i>			
<i>Number</i>	16,894	11,952	28,846
<i>Per cent</i>	9.2	4.8	6.7

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

Notes:

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

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

<i>State</i>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	53,773	58,849	5,076	9.4
Victoria	40,039	43,562	3,523	8.8
Queensland	35,357	39,657	4,300	12.2
South Australia	12,956	14,695	1,739	13.4
Western Australia	15,465	17,121	1,656	10.7
Tasmania	4,653	4,973	320	6.9
Northern Territory	1,851	2,004	153	8.3
Australian Capital Territory	1,730	1,857	127	7.3
AUSTRALIA	165,824	182,718	16,894	10.2
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	78,140	82,572	4,432	5.7
Victoria	58,490	61,496	3,006	5.1
Queensland	43,822	45,537	1,715	3.9
South Australia	20,611	21,846	1,235	6.0
Western Australia	19,081	20,355	1,274	6.7
Tasmania	10,938	11,191	253	2.3
Northern Territory	3,550	3,441	-109	-3.1
Australian Capital Territory	2,349	2,495	146	6.2
AUSTRALIA	236,981	248,933	11,952	5.0
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	131,913	141,421	9,508	7.2
Victoria	98,529	105,058	6,529	6.6
Queensland	79,179	85,194	6,015	7.6
South Australia	33,567	36,541	2,974	8.9
Western Australia	34,546	37,476	2,930	8.5
Tasmania	15,591	16,164	573	3.7
Northern Territory	5,401	5,445	44	0.8
Australian Capital Territory	4,079	4,352	273	6.7
AUSTRALIA	402,805	431,651	28,846	7.2

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 6 - JOBBEERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY AGE AND SEX (JANUARY 2005)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	5,538	4.6	4,073	2.6	9,611	3.4
18 - 20 years	12,339	10.2	15,835	10.0	28,174	10.1
21 - 24 years	21,974	18.1	22,090	14.0	44,064	15.8
25 - 29 years	20,079	16.6	21,850	13.8	41,929	15.0
30 - 39 years	28,871	23.8	34,796	22.0	63,667	22.8
40 - 49 years	17,018	14.0	29,222	18.5	46,240	16.6
50 - 59 years	11,522	9.5	24,215	15.3	35,737	12.8
60 years and over	3,892	3.2	5,933	3.8	9,825	3.5
TOTAL	121,233	100.0	158,014	100.0	279,247	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	5,529	9.0	4,700	5.2	10,229	6.7
18 - 20 years	9,982	16.2	16,437	18.1	26,419	17.3
21 - 24 years	13,019	21.2	16,132	17.7	29,151	19.1
25 - 29 years	7,915	12.9	9,575	10.5	17,490	11.5
30 - 39 years	7,672	12.5	11,840	13.0	19,512	12.8
40 - 49 years	8,015	13.0	18,534	20.4	26,549	17.4
50 - 59 years	7,979	13.0	12,350	13.6	20,329	13.3
60 years and over	1,374	2.2	1,351	1.5	2,725	1.8
TOTAL	61,485	100.0	90,919	100.0	152,404	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	11,067	6.1	8,773	3.5	19,840	4.6
18 - 20 years	22,321	12.2	32,272	13.0	54,593	12.6
21 - 24 years	34,993	19.2	38,222	15.4	73,215	17.0
25 - 29 years	27,994	15.3	31,425	12.6	59,419	13.8
30 - 39 years	36,543	20.0	46,636	18.7	83,179	19.3
40 - 49 years	25,033	13.7	47,756	19.2	72,789	16.9
50 - 59 years	19,501	10.7	36,565	14.7	56,066	13.0
60 years and over	5,266	2.9	7,284	2.9	12,550	2.9
TOTAL	182,718	100.0	248,933	100.0	431,651	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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,303	1,462	159	12.2
Chatswood	1,195	1,274	79	6.6
Darlinghurst	1,720	1,892	172	10.0
Darlinghurst YSU	16	22	6	%
Hornsby	936	998	62	6.6
Leichhardt	1,506	1,682	176	11.7
Maroubra	1,256	1,366	110	8.8
Marrickville	1,591	1,721	130	8.2
Northern Beaches	1,219	1,294	75	6.2
Sydney Central YSU	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	31	42	11	%
<i>Total</i>	10,773	11,753	980	9.1
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,459	1,583	124	8.5
Corrimal	1,428	1,539	111	7.8
Dapto	1,187	1,256	69	5.8
Hurstville	1,299	1,425	126	9.7
Nowra	1,968	2,098	130	6.6
Redfern	1,399	1,515	116	8.3
Rockdale	1,561	1,645	84	5.4
Shellharbour	1,578	1,689	111	7.0
Sutherland	30	32	2	%
Ulladulla	527	541	14	2.7
Wollongong	2,059	2,167	108	5.2
Other (a)	32	41	9	%
<i>Total</i>	14,527	15,531	1,004	6.9

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,366	1,475	109	8.0
Cessnock	928	1,008	80	8.6
Charlestown	2,797	2,938	141	5.0
Ettalong	1,107	1,176	69	6.2
Forster	888	932	44	5.0
Gosford	1,968	2,086	118	6.0
Gunnedah	495	535	40	8.1
Inverell	701	760	59	8.4
Kempsey	1,371	1,437	66	4.8
Kurri Kurri	595	618	23	3.9
Lakehaven	1,770	1,880	110	6.2
Maitland	1,776	1,917	141	7.9
Mayfield	1,264	1,320	56	4.4
Muswellbrook	643	707	64	10.0
Nambucca Heads	1,186	1,235	49	4.1
Nelson Bay	616	613	-3	-0.5
Newcastle	1,957	2,094	137	7.0
Port Macquarie	1,785	1,902	117	6.6
Raymond Terrace	1,024	1,078	54	5.3
Singleton	349	364	15	4.3
Tamworth	1,884	2,048	164	8.7
Taree	1,797	1,893	96	5.3
The Entrance	1,140	1,208	68	6.0
Toronto	1,260	1,311	51	4.0
Tuggerah	0	0	0	%
Wallsend	1,908	2,052	144	7.5
Wyong	630	679	49	7.8
Other (a)	68	75	7	%
Total	33273	35,341	2,068	6.2

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW				
Ashfield	18	21	3	%
Bankstown	3,663	3,952	289	7.9
Cabramatta	2,169	2,313	144	6.6
Camden	437	501	64	14.6
Campbelltown	2,515	2,647	132	5.2
Campsie	1,942	2,130	188	9.7
Fairfield	3,984	4,236	252	6.3
Ingleburn	1,066	1,145	79	7.4
Lakemba	17	20	3	%
Liverpool	3,873	4,224	351	9.1
Revesby	7	9	2	%
Strathfield	1,484	1,612	128	8.6
<i>Other (a)</i>	5	7	2	%
Total	21,180	22,817	1,637	7.7
WEST NSW				
Auburn	2,082	2,332	250	12.0
Baulkham Hills	648	724	76	11.7
Blacktown	2,971	3,244	273	9.2
Hawkesbury	826	927	101	12.2
Katoomba	714	774	60	8.4
Lithgow	758	795	37	4.9
Merrylands	1,779	1,970	191	10.7
Mt Druitt	2,327	2,576	249	10.7
Mudgee	696	763	67	9.6
Parramatta	2,029	2,242	213	10.5
Penrith	1,632	1,795	163	10.0
Ryde	1,104	1,228	124	11.2
Springwood	360	412	52	14.4
St Marys	1,632	1,805	173	10.6
<i>Other (a)</i>	20	22	2	%
Total	19,578	21,609	2,031	10.4

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
SOUTH WEST NSW				
Albury	2,255	2,402	147	6.5
Batemans Bay	728	757	29	4.0
Bathurst	944	1,012	68	7.2
Bega	770	775	5	0.6
Belconnen	1,330	1,374	44	3.3
Bourke	482	482	0	0.0
Bowral	471	519	48	10.2
Braddon	1,092	1,190	98	9.0
Cooma	380	390	10	2.6
Cowra	457	493	36	7.9
Deniliquin	324	341	17	5.2
Dubbo	1,939	2,025	86	4.4
Goulburn	696	742	46	6.6
Griffith	584	613	29	5.0
Gungahlin	116	118	2	1.7
Lanyon	46	49	3	%
Leeton	355	365	10	2.8
Narooma	409	403	-6	-1.5
Orange	1,056	1,137	81	7.7
Parkes	1,024	1,094	70	6.8
Queanbeyan	613	661	48	7.8
Tuggeranong	842	905	63	7.5
Tumut	328	357	29	8.8
Wagga	1,781	1,858	77	4.3
Woden	675	724	49	7.3
Yass	106	117	11	10.4
Young	484	518	34	7.0
<i>Other (a)</i>	13	14	1	%
Total	20,300	21,435	1,135	5.6

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA				
Box Hill	1,885	2,001	116	6.2
Broadmeadows	3,723	3,916	193	5.2
Darebin	3,644	3,881	237	6.5
Echuca	592	613	21	3.5
Epping	2,274	2,404	130	5.7
Fitzroy	1,885	2,038	153	8.1
Greensborough	1,411	1,480	69	4.9
Heidelberg	1,102	1,178	76	6.9
Lilydale	1,502	1,616	114	7.6
Moreland	3,187	3,339	152	4.8
Newmarket	1,840	1,952	112	6.1
Richmond	1,074	1,141	67	6.2
Ringwood	1,843	2,042	199	10.8
Seymour	653	714	61	9.3
Shepparton	2,513	2,622	109	4.3
Sth Melbourne	1,026	1,097	71	6.9
Wangaratta	1,831	1,924	93	5.1
Windsor (VIC)	3,362	3,621	259	7.7
<i>Other (a)</i>	30	34	4	%
Total	35377	37,613	2,236	6.3

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA				
Bairnsdale	915	943	28	3.1
Belgrave*	567	605	38	6.7
Camberwell	1,185	1,279	94	7.9
Cheltenham	2,118	2,273	155	7.3
Cranbourne	1,238	1,377	139	11.2
Dandenong	2,642	2,969	327	12.4
Fountain Gate	2,063	2,256	193	9.4
Frankston	3,334	3,630	296	8.9
Glen Waverley	1,312	1,380	68	5.2
Leongatha	3	3	0	%
Mornington	608	633	25	4.1
Morwell	2,821	2,988	167	5.9
Oakleigh	2,050	2,153	103	5.0
Rosebud	1,011	1,049	38	3.8
Rowville	468	491	23	4.9
Sale	991	1,042	51	5.1
Springvale	2,532	2,642	110	4.3
Wantirna*	1,350	1,510	160	11.9
Warragul	437	493	56	12.8
Wonthaggi	611	629	18	2.9
<i>Other (a)</i>	5	5	0	%
<i>Total</i>	28261	30,350	2,089	7.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

Belgrave and Wantirna CSCs are shown independently.

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

Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WEST VICTORIA				
Ararat	308	340	32	10.4
Ballarat	3,281	3,525	244	7.4
Bendigo	3,451	3,679	228	6.6
Colac	524	545	21	4.0
Corio	1,877	1,990	113	6.0
Essendon (Airport West)	1,508	1,649	141	9.4
Footscray	2,045	2,148	103	5.0
Geelong	3,595	3,774	179	5.0
Hamilton	377	394	17	4.5
Horsham	773	849	76	9.8
Maryborough (VIC)	582	611	29	5.0
Melton	1,174	1,215	41	3.5
Mildura	1,817	1,944	127	7.0
Newport	1,198	1,282	84	7.0
Portland	516	546	30	5.8
Stawell	190	198	8	4.2
Sunbury	728	793	65	8.9
Sunshine	2,947	3,042	95	3.2
Swan Hill	800	895	95	11.9
Warrnambool	1,024	1,111	87	8.5
Watgardens	3,481	3,648	167	4.8
Werribee	2,437	2,572	135	5.5
<i>Other (a)</i>	19	19	0	%
Total	34,652	36,769	2117	6.1

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
BRISBANE				
Annerley	993	1,080	87	8.8
Bundaberg	2,952	3,252	300	10.2
Caboolture	2,518	2,705	187	7.4
Caloundra	1,348	1,427	79	5.9
Capalaba	812	827	15	1.8
Chermside	1,061	1,145	84	7.9
Cleveland	839	885	46	5.5
Fortitude Valley	1,804	1,960	156	8.6
Gympie	1,330	1,401	71	5.3
Hervey Bay	1,375	1,439	64	4.7
Kawana Waters	587	641	54	9.2
Kingaroy	800	882	82	10.3
Maroochydore	1,698	1,771	73	4.3
Maryborough	1,399	1,493	94	6.7
Mitchelton	1,132	1,237	105	9.3
Mt Gravatt	1,967	2,192	225	11.4
Nambour	1,213	1,317	104	8.6
Noosa	1,335	1,400	65	4.9
Nundah	1,264	1,417	153	12.1
Redcliffe	1,680	1,883	203	12.1
Stones Corner	1,906	2,128	222	11.6
Strathpine	1,141	1,189	48	4.2
Toowong	1,493	1,565	72	4.8
Wynnum	935	984	49	5.2
<i>Other (a)</i>	1	1	0	%
Total	33583	36,221	2,638	7.9

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND				
Atherton	858	881	23	2.7
Ayr	440	582	142	32.3
Biloela	220	239	19	8.6
Bowen	548	687	139	25.4
Cairns EMS (3)	3,129	3,321	192	6
Cairns FAO (3)	59	46	-13	-22.0
Cairns Ret (3)	6	6	0	%
Charters Towers	370	391	21	5.7
Edmonton	144	176	32	22.2
Emerald	452	498	46	10
Gladstone	1,158	1,240	82	7.1
Greenfields	2	2	0	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	403	320	-83	-20.6
Ingham	334	416	82	24.6
Innisfail	847	933	86	10.2
Mackay	2,565	2,822	257	10.0
Mareeba	451	454	3	0.7
Mossman	264	388	124	47.0
Mt Isa	975	1,042	67	6.9
Normanton	208	223	15	7.2
Palm Island (2)	276	288	12	4.3
Rockhampton	2,740	2,922	182	6.6
Smithfield	410	453	43	10.5
Thursday Is	265	278	13	4.9
Townsville City (1)	44	43	-1	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	3,359	3,747	388	11.6
Townsville FAO (1)	11	11	0	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	5	4	-1	%
Whitsunday	518	575	57	11.0
Yarrabah RASC (2)	124	126	2	1.6
Yeppoon	572	596	24	4.2
<i>Other (a)</i>	196	209	13	6.6
Total	21953	23,919	1966	9.0

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 Pal

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 - 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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
SOUTH AUSTRALIA				
Berri	997	1,021	24	2.4
Broken Hill	966	1,050	84	8.7
Ceduna	181	204	23	12.7
Cooper Pedy	161	164	3	1.9
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,165	1,231	66	5.7
Currie St (Adelaide) SAC	0	0	0	%
Edwardstown	2,499	2,775	276	11.0
Elizabeth	2,475	2,687	212	8.6
Enfield	1,648	1,801	153	9.3
Gawler	1,106	1,210	104	9.4
Glenelg	1,065	1,185	120	11.3
Kadina	587	659	72	12.3
Kilkenny	1,929	2,100	171	8.9
Modbury	1,923	2,125	202	10.5
Mt Barker	659	734	75	11.4
Mt Gambier	1,332	1,448	116	8.7
Murray Bridge	883	927	44	5.0
Noarlunga	2,849	3,053	204	7.2
Norwood	1,515	1,692	177	11.7
Parkside	663	744	81	12.2
Port Adelaide	1,733	1,868	135	7.8
Port Augusta	718	765	47	6.5
Port Lincoln	706	763	57	8.1
Port Pirie	1,091	1,162	71	6.5
Salisbury	2,596	2,833	237	9.1
Torrensville	1,605	1,830	225	14.0
Victor Harbor	567	603	36	6.3
Whyalla	1,050	1,113	63	6.0
<i>Other (a)</i>	17	17	0	%
Total	34686	37,764	3078	8.9

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Albany	1,183	1,333	150	12.7
Armadale	1,102	1,214	112	10.2
Bunbury	2,203	2,453	250	11.3
Cannington	1,847	1,987	140	7.6
Carnarvon	256	272	16	6.3
Centrelink City*	1	2	1	%
Christmas Island	21	21	0	%
Cocos Island	43	38	-5	%
Collie	0	2	2	%
Esperance	331	357	26	7.9
Fremantle	1,966	2,156	190	9.7
Geraldton	1,579	1,628	49	3.1
Gosnells	1,150	1,253	103	9.0
Innaloo	2,192	2,380	188	8.6
Joondalup	1,756	1,881	125	7.1
Kalgoorlie	678	692	14	2.1
Karratha	279	291	12	4.3
Kwinana*	4	3	-1	%
Mandurah	1,554	1,628	74	4.8
Midland	2,055	2,227	172	8.4
Mirrabooka	2,200	2,484	284	12.9
Morley	2,728	3,059	331	12.1
Northam	558	639	81	14.5
Rockingham	1,967	2,169	202	10.3
South Hedland	300	306	6	2.0
Spearwood	1,324	1,403	79	6.0
Victoria Park	2,809	3,068	259	9.2
Warwick Grove	1,227	1,339	112	9.1
<i>Other (a)</i>	750	716	-34	-4.5
Total	34063	37,001	2938	8.6

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 - 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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
TASMANIA				
Bridgewater	895	924	29	3.2
Burnie	1,835	1,884	49	2.7
Devonport	1,966	2,057	91	4.6
Glenorchy	1,932	1,988	56	2.9
Hobart	2,294	2,401	107	4.7
Huonville	601	615	14	2.3
Launceston	4,287	4,479	192	4.5
Mowbray	11	13	2	%
Rosny Park	1,240	1,280	40	3.2
Sorell	595	601	6	1.0
<i>Other (a)</i>	12	13	1	%
Total	15,668	16,255	587	3.7
NORTH AUSTRALIA				
Alice Springs	451	480	29	6.4
Alice Springs (Remote)	465	386	-79	-17.0
Broome	254	267	13	5
Casuarina	1,111	1,200	89	8
Casuarina YSC	1	1	0	%
Derby	97	103	6	%
Katherine	705	697	-8	-1.1
Katherine (Remote)	0	0	0	%
Knuckey Street	694	720	26	3.7
Kununurra	169	185	16	9.5
Nhulunbuy	243	243	0	0
Palmerston	921	977	56	6.1
Tangentyere	264	231	-33	-12.5
Tennant Creek	152	151	-1	-0.7
Tennant Creek (Remote)	100	90	-10	-10.0
<i>Other (a)</i>	418	367	-51	-12.2
Total	6,045	6,098	53	0.9

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**

Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
PACIFIC CENTRAL				
Ballina	1,248	1,323	75	6.0
Beaudesert	418	455	37	8.9
Beenleigh	1,754	1,843	89	5.1
Biggera Waters	1,750	1,870	120	6.9
Browns Plains	1,515	1,619	104	6.9
Brunswick Heads	798	822	24	3.0
Byron Bay	1,004	1,017	13	1.3
Casino	775	835	60	7.7
Charleville	171	179	8	4.7
Coffs Harbour	2,936	3,059	123	4.2
Dalby	722	752	30	4.2
Goodna	1,127	1,251	124	11.0
Goondiwindi	319	353	34	10.7
Grafton	1,784	1,871	87	4.9
Inala	1,392	1,487	95	6.8
Ipswich	2,234	2,453	219	9.8
Lightning Ridge	12	10	-2	%
Lismore	2,372	2,537	165	7.0
Moree	597	644	47	7.9
Murwillumbah	763	820	57	7.5
Narrabri	417	446	29	7.0
Nerang	1,650	1,693	43	2.6
Palm Beach	2,292	2,423	131	5.7
Roma	173	186	13	7.5
Southport	2,730	2,833	103	3.8
Stanthorpe	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	2,631	2,810	179	6.8
Tweed Heads	1,670	1,774	104	6.2
Walgett	430	444	14	3.3
Warwick	1,064	1,146	82	8
Woodridge	2,099	2,177	78	3.7
<i>Other (a)</i>	27	27	0	%
<i>Total</i>	38874	41,159	2,285	5.9

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>	December 2004	January 2005	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*				
Adelaide	1	2	1	%
Bendigo	0	0	0	%
Brisbane	0	0	0	%
Bunbury	0	0	0	%
Cairns	0	0	0	%
Cardiff	0	0	0	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	1	1	%
Gosford	0	0	0	%
Hobart	0	1	1	%
Illawarra	0	1	1	%
Indigenous	0	0	0	%
Latrobe	1	0	-1	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	1	1	%
Moreland	0	0	0	%
Perth	1	3	2	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	2	2	0	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	1	0	-1	%
Townsville	3	2	-1	%
Tweed Heads	0	1	1	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
Total	9	14	5	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	3	2	-1	%
AUSTRALIA	402,805	431,651	28,846	7.2

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

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

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

Note: The majority of figures in this publication are averages, and have been rounded. As a result, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals. The discrepancies may also affect the calculation of the variations in Table 2, 3, 5 and 7.

**TABLE 8 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)
BY FORTNIGHTLY EARNINGS (%) AND SEX (a), FORTNIGHT TO 21 JANUARY 2005**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	87.6	84.7	85.9
Earned an income	12.4	15.3	14.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.0	1.3	1.1
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.8	3.4	3.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.4	3.2	2.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.6	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	4.7	5.5	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>122,724</i>	<i>158,193</i>	<i>280,917</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	80.2	75.9	77.6
Earned an income	19.8	24.1	22.4
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.5	1.9	1.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.0	4.8	4.5
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.7	4.7	4.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.8	3.0	2.9
Over \$316.00	7.8	9.7	8.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>62,129</i>	<i>90,764</i>	<i>152,893</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	85.1	81.5	83.0
Earned an income	14.9	18.5	17.0
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.1	1.5	1.3
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.2	3.9	3.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.7	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.0	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	5.8	7.0	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>184,853</i>	<i>248,957</i>	<i>433,810</i>

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

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

Scope

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

Methodology

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

Table 1 provides information on the total number of unemployed people on Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance. The Youth Allowance population is split into Youth Allowance (full-time students) 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.*