



Australian Government

**Department of Employment and
Workplace Relations**

Labour Market and Related Payments

a monthly profile

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

This publication was produced in the past by Family and Community Services (FaCS) and since October 2004 by DEWR

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

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INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistical information on a monthly basis for the various types of labour market payments delivered by Centrelink 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 Department of Education, Science and Training (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 27 May 2005.

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - March 2005

Between March 2004 and March 2005:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) customers and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) customers **decreased by 4.3%** overall from 620,439 to 593,496

{ by 4.2% for NSA from 532,043 to 509,892 and

{ 5.4% for YA(O) from 88,396 to 83,604.

The number of jobseekers **decreased by 8.9%** overall from 443,175 to 403,590

{ by 9.2% for NSA from 370,263 to 336,047 and

{ 7.4% for YA(O) customers from 72,912 to 67,543.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 11.9% from 262,525 to 231,336.

Short-term jobseekers decreased by 4.6% from 180,650 to 172,254.

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).

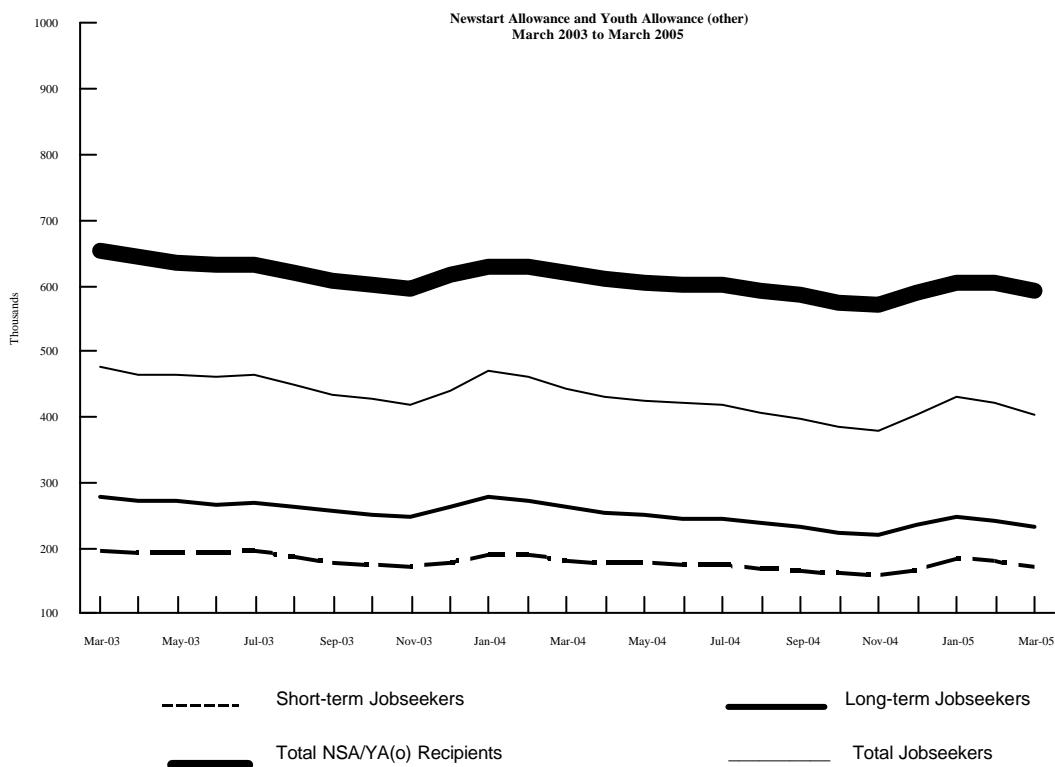


TABLE 1 - FaCS LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)

	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
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
February 2005	307,987	516,730	245,621	87,258	24,864	78,040	45,173
March 2005	304,783	509,892	263,308	83,604	23,918	76,588	45,100
<i>Variation February 2005 - March 2005</i>							
Number	-3,204	-6,838	17,687	-3,654	-946	-1,452	-73
Per cent	-1.0	-1.3	7.2	-4.2	-3.8	-1.9	-0.2

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments introduced by FaCS 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

	February 2005	March			Variation February - March	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term NSA Customers	208,743	138,094	67,015	205,109	-3,634	-1.7
CPS recipients (a)	2,791	2,210	729	2,939	148	5.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,943	8,480	5,227	13,707	1,764	14.8
Received a payment	194,009	127,404	61,059	188,463	-5,546	-2.9
Incapacitated (c)	21,117	12,927	7,772	20,699	-418	-2.0
Training	7,641	5,985	3,436	9,421	1,780	23.3
Self-employment development (d)	383	321	152	473	90	23.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	3,095	1,444	1,623	3,067	-28	-0.9
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	13,102	7,684	5,289	12,973	-129	-1.0
Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	148,671	99,043	42,787	141,830	-6,841	-4.6
Long-term NSA Customers	307,987	197,440	107,343	304,783	-3,204	-1.0
CPS recipients (a)	7,287	5,149	2,170	7,319	32	0.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	11,735	8,210	5,503	13,713	1,978	16.9
Received a payment	288,965	184,081	99,670	283,751	-5,214	-1.8
Incapacitated (c)	29,259	17,456	11,555	29,011	-248	-0.8
Training	28,957	19,673	11,772	31,445	2,488	8.6
Self-employment development (d)	187	137	96	233	46	24.6
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	7,911	5,109	3,090	8,199	288	3.6
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	20,642	12,359	8,287	20,646	4	0.0
Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)	202,009	129,347	64,870	194,217	-7,792	-3.9
All NSA Customers	516,730	335,534	174,358	509,892	-6,838	-1.3
CPS recipients (a)	10,078	7,359	2,899	10,258	180	1.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	23,678	16,690	10,730	27,420	3,742	15.8
Received a payment	482,974	311,485	160,729	472,214	-10,760	-2.2
Incapacitated (c)	50,376	30,383	19,327	49,710	-666	-1.3
Training	36,598	25,658	15,208	40,866	4,268	11.7
Self-employment development (d)	570	458	248	706	136	23.9
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	11,006	6,553	4,713	11,266	260	2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	33,744	20,043	13,576	33,619	-125	-0.4
All NSA Jobseekers (g)	350,680	228,390	107,657	336,047	-14,633	-4.2

(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

	February 2005	March			Variation February - March	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
Short-term YA (other) Customers	39,461	20,486	17,579	38,065	-1,396	-3.5
CPS recipients (a)	1,378	950	599	1,549	171	12.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	857	447	541	988	131	15.3
Received a payment	37,226	19,089	16,439	35,528	-1,698	-4.6
Part-time study & work (c)	2	0	2	2	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	35	23	27	50	15	42.9
Incapacitated (e)	1,977	921	1,044	1,965	-12	-0.6
Training	1,074	707	483	1,190	116	10.8
Self-employment development (e)	10	11	6	17	7	70.0
Full-time voluntary work	5	1	1	2	-3	-60.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,964	872	1,006	1,878	-86	-4.4
Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	32,159	16,554	13,870	30,424	-1,735	-5.4
Long-term YA (other) Customers	47,797	21,560	23,979	45,539	-2,258	-4.7
CPS recipients (a)	1,083	666	419	1,085	2	0.2
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,359	661	918	1,579	220	16.2
Received a payment	45,355	20,233	22,642	42,875	-2,480	-5.5
Part-time study & work (c)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	53	27	46	73	20	37.7
Incapacitated (e)	1,734	603	1,059	1,662	-72	-4.2
Training	2,165	1,200	1,157	2,357	192	8.9
Self-employment development (e)	6	4	3	7	1	16.7
Full-time voluntary work	17	3	11	14	-3	-17.6
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,652	732	911	1,643	-9	-0.5
Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	39,728	17,664	19,455	37,119	-2,609	-6.6
All YA (other) Customers	87,258	42,046	41,558	83,604	-3,654	-4.2
CPS recipients (a)	2,461	1,616	1,018	2,634	173	7.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,216	1,108	1,459	2,567	351	15.8
Received a payment	82,581	39,322	39,081	78,403	-4,178	-5.1
Part-time study & work (c)	2	0	2	2	0	0.0
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	88	50	73	123	35	39.8
Incapacitated (e)	3,711	1,524	2,103	3,627	-84	-2.3
Training	3,239	1,907	1,640	3,547	308	9.5
Self-employment development (e)	16	15	9	24	8	50.0
Full-time voluntary work	22	4	12	16	-6	-27.3
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,616	1,604	1,917	3,521	-95	-2.6
All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)	71,887	34,218	33,325	67,543	-4,344	-6.0

(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
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
February 2005	180,830	241,737	422,567
March 2005	172,254	231,336	403,590
<i>Variation February 2005 - March 2005</i>			
<i>Number</i>	-8,576	-10,401	-18,977
<i>Per cent</i>	-4.7	-4.3	-4.5

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payment introduced by FaCS 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>	February 2005	March 2005	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	57,995	55,549	-2,446	-4.2
Victoria	42,830	40,798	-2,032	-4.7
Queensland	40,037	38,605	-1,432	-3.6
South Australia	14,401	13,510	-891	-6.2
Western Australia	16,791	15,652	-1,139	-6.8
Tasmania	4,846	4,369	-477	-9.8
Northern Territory	2,049	2,003	-46	-2.2
Australian Capital Territory	1,881	1,768	-113	-6.0
AUSTRALIA	180,830	172,254	-8,576	-4.7
LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	80,484	77,181	-3,303	-4.1
Victoria	59,911	57,892	-2,019	-3.4
Queensland	44,165	42,065	-2,100	-4.8
South Australia	21,196	20,109	-1,087	-5.1
Western Australia	19,480	18,363	-1,117	-5.7
Tasmania	10,740	10,241	-499	-4.6
Northern Territory	3,298	3,144	-154	-4.7
Australian Capital Territory	2,463	2,341	-122	-5.0
AUSTRALIA	241,737	231,336	-10,401	-4.3
TOTAL JOBSEEKERS				
New South Wales	138,479	132,730	-5,749	-4.2
Victoria	102,741	98,690	-4,051	-3.9
Queensland	84,202	80,670	-3,532	-4.2
South Australia	35,597	33,619	-1,978	-5.6
Western Australia	36,271	34,015	-2,256	-6.2
Tasmania	15,586	14,610	-976	-6.3
Northern Territory	5,347	5,147	-200	-3.7
Australian Capital Territory	4,344	4,109	-235	-5.4
AUSTRALIA	422,567	403,590	-18,977	-4.5

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 (MARCH 2005)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
MALES						
Less than 18 years	4,744	4.1	3,212	2.2	7,956	3.0
18 - 20 years	11,800	10.2	14,442	9.8	26,242	10.0
21 - 24 years	21,501	18.6	20,259	13.8	41,760	15.9
25 - 29 years	19,299	16.7	20,358	13.8	39,657	15.1
30 - 39 years	27,330	23.6	32,455	22.1	59,785	22.8
40 - 49 years	16,182	14.0	27,299	18.6	43,481	16.6
50 - 59 years	11,052	9.6	22,918	15.6	33,970	12.9
60 years and over	3,688	3.2	6,070	4.1	9,758	3.7
TOTAL	115,596	100.0	147,013	100.0	262,609	100.0
FEMALES						
Less than 18 years	4,509	8.0	3,915	4.6	8,424	6.0
18 - 20 years	9,350	16.5	15,532	18.4	24,882	17.6
21 - 24 years	12,224	21.6	14,373	17.0	26,597	18.9
25 - 29 years	7,194	12.7	8,575	10.2	15,769	11.2
30 - 39 years	6,997	12.3	10,998	13.0	17,995	12.8
40 - 49 years	7,440	13.1	17,533	20.8	24,973	17.7
50 - 59 years	7,624	13.5	11,910	14.1	19,534	13.9
60 years and over	1,320	2.3	1,487	1.8	2,807	2.0
TOTAL	56,658	100.0	84,323	100.0	140,981	100.0
PERSONS						
Less than 18 years	9,253	5.4	7,127	3.1	16,380	4.1
18 - 20 years	21,150	12.3	29,974	13.0	51,124	12.7
21 - 24 years	33,725	19.6	34,632	15.0	68,357	16.9
25 - 29 years	26,493	15.4	28,933	12.5	55,426	13.7
30 - 39 years	34,327	19.9	43,453	18.8	77,780	19.3
40 - 49 years	23,622	13.7	44,832	19.4	68,454	17.0
50 - 59 years	18,676	10.8	34,828	15.1	53,504	13.3
60 years and over	5,008	2.9	7,557	3.3	12,565	3.1
TOTAL	172,254	100.0	231,336	100.0	403,590	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>	February 2005	March 2005	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,503	1,457	-46	-3.1
Chatswood	1,252	1,139	-113	-9.0
Darlinghurst	1,951	1,919	-32	-1.6
Darlinghurst CCU	30	31	1	%
Hornsby	1,013	970	-43	-4.2
Leichhardt	1,696	1,575	-121	-7.1
Maroubra	1,414	1,362	-52	-3.7
Marrickville	1,709	1,627	-82	-4.8
Northern Beaches	1,329	1,264	-65	-4.9
Sydney Central YSU	1	0	-1	%
Other (a)	31	23	-8	%
<i>Total</i>	11,929	11,367	-562	-4.7
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,512	1,436	-76	-5.0
Corrimal	1,514	1,424	-90	-5.9
Dapto	1,225	1,163	-62	-5.1
Hurstville	1,424	1,399	-25	-1.8
Nowra	2,088	2,023	-65	-3.1
Redfern	1,517	1,471	-46	-3.0
Rockdale	1,609	1,573	-36	-2.2
Shellharbour	1,668	1,605	-63	-3.8
Sutherland	32	31	-1	%
Ulladulla	551	530	-21	-3.8
Wollongong	2,088	1,956	-132	-6.3
Other (a)	57	57	0	%
<i>Total</i>	15,285	14,668	-617	-4.0

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>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,407	1,310	-97	-6.9
Cessnock	992	982	-10	-1.0
Charlestown	2,879	2,732	-147	-5.1
Ettalong	1,180	1,156	-24	-2.0
Forster	888	851	-37	-4.2
Gosford	2,020	1,958	-62	-3.1
Gunnedah	512	486	-26	-5.1
Inverell	734	692	-42	-5.7
Kempsey	1,402	1,312	-90	-6.4
Kurri Kurri	586	578	-8	-1.4
Lakehaven	1,900	1,830	-70	-3.7
Maitland	1,891	1,804	-87	-4.6
Mayfield	1,290	1,224	-66	-5.1
Muswellbrook	686	654	-32	-4.7
Nambucca Heads	1,206	1,137	-69	-5.7
Nelson Bay	593	565	-28	-4.7
Newcastle	2,012	1,912	-100	-5.0
Port Macquarie	1,887	1,844	-43	-2.3
Raymond Terrace	1,035	1,012	-23	-2.2
Singleton	349	329	-20	-5.7
Tamworth	1,970	1,870	-100	-5.1
Taree	1,866	1,802	-64	-3.4
The Entrance	1,201	1,191	-10	-0.8
Toronto	1,293	1,244	-49	-3.8
Tuggerah	0	0	0	%
Wallsend	1,976	1,886	-90	-4.6
Wyong	653	616	-37	-5.7
Other (a)	71	72	1	%
<i>Total</i>	34,479	33,049	-1,430	-4.1

**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>	February 2005	March 2005	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	19	20	1	%
Bankstown	3,903	3,825	-78	-2.0
Cabramatta	2,218	2,173	-45	-2.0
Camden	512	501	-11	-2.1
Campbelltown	2,618	2,484	-134	-5.1
Campsie	2,169	2,093	-76	-3.5
Fairfield	4,070	3,959	-111	-2.7
Ingleburn	1,140	1,084	-56	-4.9
Lakemba	20	20	0	%
Liverpool	4,178	3,987	-191	-4.6
Revesby	7	5	-2	%
Strathfield	1,618	1,557	-61	-3.8
Other (a)	5	5	0	%
<i>Total</i>	22,477	21,713	-764	-3.4
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,282	2,156	-126	-5.5
Baulkham Hills	730	702	-28	-3.8
Blacktown	3,119	3,040	-79	-2.5
Hawkesbury	857	834	-23	-2.7
Katoomba	754	689	-65	-8.6
Lithgow	757	725	-32	-4.2
Merrylands	1,859	1,821	-38	-2.0
Mt Druitt	2,556	2,440	-116	-4.5
Mudgee	757	732	-25	-3.3
Parramatta	2,140	2,058	-82	-3.8
Penrith	1,787	1,698	-89	-5.0
Ryde	1,231	1,149	-82	-6.7
Springwood	400	385	-15	-3.8
St Marys	1,775	1,713	-62	-3.5
Other (a)	19	22	3	%
<i>Total</i>	21,023	20,164	-859	-4.1

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>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,353	2,275	-78	-3.3
Batemans Bay	769	781	12	1.6
Bathurst	965	879	-86	-8.9
Bega	722	704	-18	-2.5
Belconnen	1,334	1,266	-68	-5.1
Bourke	463	461	-2	-0.4
Bowral	497	475	-22	-4.4
Braddon	1,180	1,117	-63	-5.3
Cooma	357	331	-26	-7.3
Cowra	471	432	-39	-8.3
Deniliquin	318	295	-23	-7.2
Dubbo	1,962	1,879	-83	-4.2
Goulburn	719	702	-17	-2.4
Griffith	584	528	-56	-9.6
Gungahlin	122	107	-15	-12.3
Lanyon	50	51	1	%
Leeton	343	324	-19	-5.5
Narooma	394	380	-14	-3.6
Orange	1,088	1,041	-47	-4.3
Parkes	1,048	987	-61	-5.8
Queanbeyan	634	617	-17	-2.7
Tuggeranong	926	881	-45	-4.9
Tumut	338	321	-17	-5.0
Wagga	1,764	1,691	-73	-4.1
Woden	718	675	-43	-6.0
Yass	117	110	-7	-6.0
Young	487	458	-29	-6.0
Other (a)	18	19	1	%
<i>Total</i>	20,741	19,787	-954	-4.6

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>	February 2005	March 2005	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,997	2,040	43	2.2
Broadmeadows	3,793	3,654	-139	-3.7
Darebin	3,855	3,639	-216	-5.6
Echuca	583	527	-56	-9.6
Epping	2,377	2,321	-56	-2.4
Fitzroy	2,055	1,937	-118	-5.7
Greensborough	1,490	1,535	45	3.0
Heidelberg	1,147	899	-248	-21.6
Lilydale	1,583	1,539	-44	-2.8
Moreland	3,240	3,058	-182	-5.6
Newmarket	1,885	1,786	-99	-5.3
Richmond	1,123	1,049	-74	-6.6
Ringwood	2,022	1,924	-98	-4.8
Seymour	671	659	-12	-1.8
Shepparton	2,456	2,215	-241	-9.8
Sth Melbourne	1,048	1,010	-38	-3.6
Wangaratta	1,932	1,809	-123	-6.4
Windsor (VIC)	3,618	3,502	-116	-3.2
Other (a)	26	20	-6	%
<i>Total</i>	36,901	35,123	-1,778	-4.8

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>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	911	856	-55	-6.0
Belgrave*	621	605	-16	-2.6
Camberwell	1,275	1,210	-65	-5.1
Cheltenham	2,204	2,138	-66	-3.0
Cranbourne	1,325	1,304	-21	-1.6
Dandenong	2,854	2,776	-78	-2.7
Fountain Gate	2,276	2,228	-48	-2.1
Frankston	3,570	3,529	-41	-1.1
Glen Waverley	1,348	1,268	-80	-5.9
Leongatha	2	2	0	%
Mornington	595	587	-8	-1.3
Morwell	2,911	2,806	-105	-3.6
Oakleigh	2,057	1,993	-64	-3.1
Rosebud	1,035	1,029	-6	-0.6
Rowville	463	457	-6	-1.3
Sale	1,010	968	-42	-4.2
Springvale	2,559	2,521	-38	-1.5
Wantirna*	1,476	1,405	-71	-4.8
Warragul	477	461	-16	-3.4
Wonthaggi	622	623	1	0.2
Other (a)	8	8	0	%
<i>Total</i>	29,599	28,774	-825	-2.8

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**

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	334	315	-19	-5.7
Ballarat	3,410	3,178	-232	-6.8
Bendigo	3,586	3,413	-173	-4.8
Colac	521	513	-8	-1.5
Corio	1,947	1,873	-74	-3.8
Essendon (Airport West)	1,633	1,583	-50	-3.1
Footscray	2,104	2,015	-89	-4.2
Geelong	3,699	3,572	-127	-3.4
Hamilton	376	352	-24	-6.4
Horsham	852	828	-24	-2.8
Maryborough (VIC)	587	554	-33	-5.6
Melton	1,219	1,200	-19	-1.6
Mildura	1,868	1,775	-93	-5.0
Newport	1,283	1,240	-43	-3.4
Portland	544	522	-22	-4.0
Stawell	197	185	-12	-6.1
Sunbury	801	780	-21	-2.6
Sunshine	2,944	2,840	-104	-3.5
Swan Hill	929	869	-60	-6.5
Warrnambool	1,069	973	-96	-9.0
Watergardens	3,485	3,447	-38	-1.1
Werribee	2,530	2,498	-32	-1.3
Other (a)	16	16	0	%
<i>Total</i>	35,934	34,541	-1,393	-3.9

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>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	1,007	935	-72	-7.1
Bundaberg	3,266	3,219	-47	-1.4
Caboolture	2,605	2,485	-120	-4.6
Caloundra	1,430	1,417	-13	-0.9
Capalaba	817	772	-45	-5.5
Chermside	1,094	1,034	-60	-5.5
Cleveland	868	826	-42	-4.8
Fortitude Valley	1,993	1,856	-137	-6.9
Gympie	1,387	1,318	-69	-5.0
Hervey Bay	1,362	1,302	-60	-4.4
Kawana Waters	623	613	-10	-1.6
Kingaroy	859	831	-28	-3.3
Maroochydore	1,762	1,729	-33	-1.9
Maryborough	1,433	1,373	-60	-4.2
Mitchelton	1,225	1,142	-83	-6.8
Mt Gravatt	2,173	2,049	-124	-5.7
Nambour	1,253	1,206	-47	-3.8
Noosa	1,372	1,325	-47	-3.4
Nundah	1,377	1,308	-69	-5.0
Redcliffe	1,878	1,774	-104	-5.5
Stones Corner	1,949	1,807	-142	-7.3
Strathpine	1,185	1,152	-33	-2.8
Toowong	1,482	1,358	-124	-8.4
Wynnum	969	917	-52	-5.4
Other (a)	0	1	1	%
<i>Total</i>	35,369	33,749	-1,620	-4.6

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>	February 2005	March 2005	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL & NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	907	914	7	0.8
Ayr	628	599	-29	-4.6
Biloela	226	219	-7	-3.1
Bowen	673	620	-53	-7.9
Cairns EMS (3)	3,363	3,317	-46	-1.4
Cairns FAO (3)	42	41	-1	%
Cairns Ret (3)	6	6	0	%
Charters Towers	388	376	-12	-3.1
Edmonton	186	152	-34	-18.3
Emerald	429	396	-33	-7.7
Gladstone	1,236	1,173	-63	-5.1
Greenfields	3	4	1	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	311	322	11	3.5
Ingham	430	426	-4	-0.9
Innisfail	978	946	-32	-3.3
Longreach (4)	106	97	-9	%
Mackay	2,785	2,639	-146	-5.2
Mareeba	475	468	-7	-1.5
Mossman	406	401	-5	-1.2
Mt Isa	1,058	1,051	-7	-0.7
Normanton	214	204	-10	-4.7
Palm Island (2)	284	283	-1	-0.4
Rockhampton	2,832	2,683	-149	-5.3
Smithfield	470	453	-17	-3.6
Thursday Is	260	240	-20	-7.7
Townsville City (1)	45	42	-3	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	3,932	3,765	-167	-4.2
Townsville FAO (1)	9	11	2	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	3	4	1	%
Whitsunday	580	557	-23	-4.0
Yarrabah RASC (2)	127	126	-1	-0.8
Yeppoon	607	570	-37	-6.1
Other (a)	218	210	-8	-3.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>24,217</i>	<i>23,315</i>	<i>-902</i>	<i>-3.7</i>

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.

4. Longreach CSC was opened on 25/2/05. Customers previously serviced by Rockhampton will be serviced in Longreach.

**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>	February 2005	March 2005	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	1,018	946	-72	-7.1
Broken Hill	1,032	969	-63	-6.1
Ceduna	195	188	-7	-3.6
Cooper Pedy	149	148	-1	-0.7
Currie St (Adelaide)	1,229	1,184	-45	-3.7
Edwardstown	2,764	2,730	-34	-1.2
Elizabeth	2,621	2,464	-157	-6.0
Enfield	1,760	1,662	-98	-5.6
Gawler	1,211	1,147	-64	-5.3
Glenelg	1,153	1,069	-84	-7.3
Kadina	660	635	-25	-3.8
Kilkenny	1,998	1,893	-105	-5.3
Modbury	2,092	1,961	-131	-6.3
Mt Barker	722	696	-26	-3.6
Mt Gambier	1,445	1,365	-80	-5.5
Murray Bridge	913	878	-35	-3.8
Noarlunga	2,953	2,833	-120	-4.1
Norwood	1,749	1,763	14	0.8
Parkside*	562	117	-445	-79.2
Port Adelaide	1,790	1,731	-59	-3.3
Port Augusta	761	721	-40	-5.3
Port Lincoln	728	665	-63	-8.7
Port Pirie	1,116	1,089	-27	-2.4
Salisbury	2,718	2,587	-131	-4.8
Torrens ville	1,759	1,641	-118	-6.7
Victor Harbor	590	562	-28	-4.7
Whyalla	1,079	1,054	-25	-2.3
Other (a)	14	20	6	%
<i>Total</i>	36,781	34,718	-2,063	-5.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

*As of 18 Feb 2005 Parkside CSC closed and its customers have been distributed to Currie St, Marion, Mt Barker and Norwood.

**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>	February 2005	March 2005	Variation	
			February - March Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,254	1,150	-104	-8.3
Armadale	1,189	1,101	-88	-7.4
Bunbury#	2,201	611	-1,590	-72.2
Busselton#	171	1,622	1,451	848.5
Cannington	1,897	1,796	-101	-5.3
Carnarvon	311	306	-5	-1.6
Centrelink City+	2	1	-1	%
Christmas Island	20	18	-2	%
Cocos Island	34	35	1	%
Collie	0	0	0	%
Esperance	343	334	-9	-2.6
Fremantle	2,109	1,929	-180	-8.5
Geraldton	1,593	1,513	-80	-5.0
Gosnells	1,167	1,097	-70	-6.0
Innaloo	2,284	2,122	-162	-7.1
Joondalup	1,789	1,584	-205	-11.5
Kalgoorlie	691	706	15	2.2
Karratha	293	280	-13	-4.4
Kwinana*	1	1	0	%
Mandurah	1,578	1,512	-66	-4.2
Midland	2,156	2,097	-59	-2.7
Mirrabooka	2,354	2,219	-135	-5.7
Morley	2,932	2,785	-147	-5.0
Northam	629	575	-54	-8.6
Rockingham	2,137	2,035	-102	-4.8
South Hedland	311	312	1	0.3
Spearwood	1,385	1,275	-110	-7.9
Victoria Park	2,954	2,744	-210	-7.1
Warwick Grove	1,272	1,139	-133	-10.5
Other (a)	679	562	-117	-17.2
<i>Total</i>	35,736	33,461	-2,275	-6.4

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.

#On 14 February 2005 Busselton was established as a full time office. Customers previously serviced by Bunbury will be serviced in Busselton.

**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>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	878	820	-58	-6.6
Burnie	1,799	1,712	-87	-4.8
Devonport	1,907	1,743	-164	-8.6
Glenorchy	2,424	2,015	-409	-16.9
Hobart	1,849	1,972	123	6.7
Huonville	585	551	-34	-5.8
Launceston	4,340	4,057	-283	-6.5
Mowbray	11	12	1	%
Rosny Park	1,277	1,245	-32	-2.5
Sorell	576	546	-30	-5.2
Other (a)	8	9	1	%
<i>Total</i>	15,654	14,682	-972	-6.2
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	473	464	-9	-1.9
Alice Springs (Remote)	372	360	-12	-3.2
Broome	284	276	-8	-2.8
Casuarina	1,214	1,139	-75	-6.2
Casuarina YSC	1	0	-1	%
Derby	113	116	3	2.7
Katherine	642	642	0	0.0
Knuckey Street	709	706	-3	-0.4
Kununurra	179	168	-11	-6.1
Nhulunbuy	240	205	-35	-14.6
Palmerston	988	961	-27	-2.7
Tangentyere	221	212	-9	-4.1
Tennant Creek	158	140	-18	-11.4
Tennant Creek (Remote)	79	67	-12	%
Other (a)	361	384	23	6.4
<i>Total</i>	6,034	5,840	-194	-3.2

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,314	1,256	-58	-4.4
Beaudesert	438	420	-18	-4.1
Beenleigh	1,801	1,774	-27	-1.5
Biggera Waters	1,872	1,823	-49	-2.6
Browns Plains	1,611	1,556	-55	-3.4
Brunswick Heads	808	754	-54	-6.7
Byron Bay	992	930	-62	-6.3
Casino	816	759	-57	-7.0
Charleville	173	161	-12	-6.9
Coffs Harbour	3,016	2,910	-106	-3.5
Dalby	734	693	-41	-5.6
Goodna	1,202	1,140	-62	-5.2
Goondiwindi	353	337	-16	-4.5
Grafton	1,808	1,740	-68	-3.8
Inala	1,454	1,357	-97	-6.7
Ipswich	2,389	2,271	-118	-4.9
Lightning Ridge	10	10	0	%
Lismore	2,505	2,368	-137	-5.5
Moree	619	563	-56	-9.0
Murwillumbah	803	746	-57	-7.1
Narrabri	416	382	-34	-8.2
Nerang	1,704	1,644	-60	-3.5
Palm Beach	2,356	2,271	-85	-3.6
Roma	184	176	-8	-4.3
Southport	2,808	2,730	-78	-2.8
Stanthorpe	1	1	0	%
Toowoomba	2,767	2,590	-177	-6.4
Tweed Heads	1,727	1,691	-36	-2.1
Walgett	430	399	-31	-7.2
Warwick	1,109	1,040	-69	-6.2
Woodridge	2,139	2,100	-39	-1.8
Other (a)	26	22	-4	%
<i>Total</i>	40,385	38,614	-1,771	-4.4

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	February	March	Variation	
	2005	2005	February - March Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	2	3	1	%
Bendigo	0	0	0	%
Brisbane	2	0	-2	%
Bunbury	0	0	0	%
Cairns	1	1	0	%
Cardiff	0	0	0	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	0	1	1	%
Hobart	0	0	0	%
Illawarra	1	0	-1	%
Indigenous	0	0	0	%
Latrobe	0	2	2	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	1	2	1	%
Moorabbin	1	0	-1	%
Moreland	0	0	0	%
Newcastle	1	2	1	%
Perth	4	4	0	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	2	1	-1	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	0	0	%
Townsville	3	1	-2	%
Tweed Heads	1	4	3	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	1	0	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	20	21	1	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	3	4	1	%
AUSTRALIA	422,567	403,590	-18,977	-4.5

(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 18 MARCH 2005**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
MALES			
Did not earn an income	85.1	81.5	83.1
Earned an income	14.9	18.5	16.9
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.9	1.3	1.1
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.0	3.6	3.3
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.7	3.3
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.3	2.1
Over \$316.00	6.3	7.6	7.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>114,855</i>	<i>146,319</i>	<i>261,174</i>
FEMALES			
Did not earn an income	76.5	72.2	73.9
Earned an income	23.5	27.8	26.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.4	1.9	1.7
\$62.01 - \$142.00	4.3	4.8	4.6
\$142.01 - \$236.00	4.4	5.2	4.9
\$236.01 - \$316.00	3.1	3.6	3.4
Over \$316.00	10.3	12.3	11.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>56,185</i>	<i>83,854</i>	<i>140,039</i>
PERSONS			
Did not earn an income	82.3	78.1	79.9
Earned an income	17.7	21.9	20.1
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.1	1.5	1.3
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.4	4.0	3.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.3	4.2	3.8
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.3	2.8	2.6
Over \$316.00	7.6	9.3	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i>	<i>171,040</i>	<i>230,173</i>	<i>401,213</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 9 months was replaced with a requirement to have no recent workforce experience. Reporting of these new claimants commenced from September 1996.

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

Comparability of Data

There have been significant changes to the data presented in this publication due to a number of events. The main changes are: the method of counting 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 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 recipients can have breaks without payment for up to 25 weeks but still be classified long term income support recipients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recipients who do not receive a payment due to their earnings can have up to 12 weeks without a payment before they are automatically cancelled. This reduces disincentives to accept short-term work.- Long-term recipients can have another 13 weeks off payment after payment is cancelled and still keep their long-term status if they return to income support. This means they keep access to

assistance such as the Employment Entry Payment and the higher payment rate for recipients over 60.

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

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

Seasonal Adjustment

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

Classification

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

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