

# 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).**

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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), YA(Apprentices) 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 22 March 2006.

## STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS - January 2006

### Between January 2005 and January 2006:

Total Newstart Allowance (NSA) recipients and Youth Allowance (other) (YA(O)) recipients **decreased by 5.2%** overall from 604,032 to 572,879

- ◆ by 5.3% for NSA from 514,579 to 487,251 and
- ◆ 4.3% for YA(O) from 89,453 to 85,628.

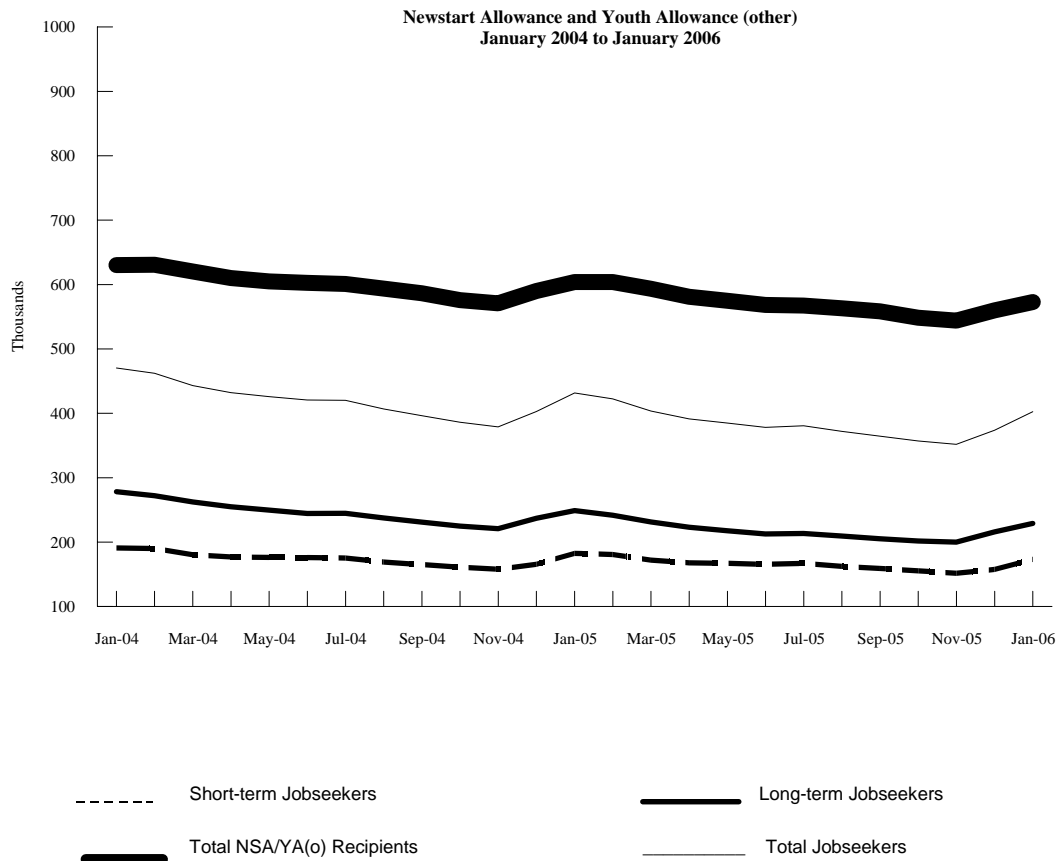
The number of jobseekers **decreased by 6.7%** overall from 431,651 to 402,732

- ◆ by 7.9% for NSA recipients from 357,182 to 332,614 and
- ◆ 5.8% for YA(O) recipients from 74,469 to 70,118.

Long-term jobseekers decreased by 7.9% from 248,933 to 229,230.

Short-term jobseekers decreased by 5.0% from 182,718 to 173,502.

Long-term recipients 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 - LABOUR MARKET PAYMENTS - TIME SERIES (a)**

	Newstart Allowance		Youth Allowance			Mature Age Allowance	Partner Allowance	Widow Allowance
	Long-term (b)	Total	Other	Full-time Students (c)	Apprentices (d)			
February 1994 (e)	472,785	977,796	..	..	..	..	..	..
January 2004	326,578	535,559	94,664	243,087	..	39,027	101,894	45,859
February 2004	326,028	539,098	91,562	255,944	..	37,835	99,912	45,892
March 2004	322,730	532,043	88,396	274,602	..	36,761	97,958	45,925
April 2004	318,836	524,504	85,607	286,058	..	35,507	95,817	45,840
May 2004	316,092	520,434	84,534	292,511	..	34,314	93,843	45,816
June 2004	313,883	517,895	84,841	296,560	..	33,310	92,058	45,781
July 2004	313,274	515,686	85,357	290,210	..	32,175	90,056	45,644
August 2004	311,282	511,799	81,939	297,594	..	31,046	88,133	45,544
September 2004	308,214	506,457	80,129	300,177	..	30,055	86,495	45,531
October 2004	304,351	499,388	76,376	294,394	..	28,921	84,565	45,438
November 2004	301,742	494,289	76,497	287,438	..	27,844	82,782	45,369
December 2004	306,022	502,350	87,732	245,322	..	26,820	81,078	45,282
January 2005	309,214	514,579	89,453	235,537	..	25,770	79,482	45,206
February 2005	307,987	516,730	87,258	245,621	..	24,864	78,040	45,173
March 2005	304,783	509,892	83,604	263,308	..	23,918	76,588	45,100
April 2005	299,698	500,391	80,661	274,240	..	22,935	75,014	45,009
May 2005	295,728	494,847	79,896	281,184	..	22,032	73,601	44,976
June 2005	291,977	488,910	79,564	284,926	0	21,144	72,331	44,864
July 2005	291,683	487,653	79,816	279,040	742	20,258	71,140	44,841
August 2005	291,607	485,823	77,459	285,864	1,655	19,462	70,365	45,009
September 2005	289,974	482,072	76,272	288,479	2,285	18,697	69,624	45,158
October 2005	287,468	475,490	72,915	280,308	2,416	17,939	68,919	45,287
November 2005	286,345	470,557	73,576	274,547	2,471	17,335	68,420	45,538
December 2005	290,391	476,028	84,022	233,273	2,486	16,623	67,762	45,830
January 2006	294,100	487,251	85,628	223,059	2,478	15,869	66,905	45,849
<i>Variation December 2005 - January 2006</i>								
Number	3,709	11,223	1,606	-10,214	-8	-754	-857	19
Per cent	1.3	2.4	1.9	-4.4	-0.3	-4.5	-1.3	0.0

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payments introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data 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) New Apprenticeships combine employment with structured training to provide a nationally recognised qualification. New Apprentices enter formal agreements known as either 'Training Agreements' or 'Contracts of Training' which set out the relationship between the employer and the New Apprentice and their respective rights and responsibilities.

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

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**

	Variation					
	December 2005	January			December - January	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
<b>Short-term NSA Recipients</b>	<b>185,637</b>	<b>130,782</b>	<b>62,189</b>	<b>192,971</b>	<b>7,334</b>	<b>4.0</b>
CPS recipients (a)	3,820	2,726	1,004	3,730	-90	-2.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,315	5,285	3,283	8,568	-3,747	-30.4
Received a payment	169,502	122,771	57,902	180,673	11,171	6.6
Incapacitated (c)	18,863	11,395	6,588	17,983	-880	-4.7
Training	8,110	4,362	2,028	6,390	-1,720	-21.2
Self-employment development (d)	445	194	111	305	-140	-31.5
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	2,709	1,169	1,476	2,645	-64	-2.4
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	11,942	7,025	4,615	11,640	-302	-2.5
<b>Short-term NSA Jobseekers (g)</b>	<b>127,433</b>	<b>98,626</b>	<b>43,084</b>	<b>141,710</b>	<b>14,277</b>	<b>11.2</b>
<b>Long-term NSA Recipients</b>	<b>290,391</b>	<b>186,654</b>	<b>107,626</b>	<b>294,280</b>	<b>3,889</b>	<b>1.3</b>
CPS recipients (a)	8,082	5,775	2,471	8,246	164	2.0
Did not receive a payment (b)	12,062	4,609	3,744	8,353	-3,709	-30.7
Received a payment	270,247	176,270	101,411	277,681	7,434	2.8
Incapacitated (c)	25,835	14,237	10,050	24,287	-1,548	-6.0
Training	33,626	19,531	11,306	30,837	-2,789	-8.3
Self-employment development (d)	211	120	46	166	-45	-21.3
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	10,493	6,145	4,401	10,546	53	0.5
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	21,212	12,445	8,496	20,941	-271	-1.3
<b>Long-term NSA Jobseekers (g)</b>	<b>178,870</b>	<b>123,792</b>	<b>67,112</b>	<b>190,904</b>	<b>12,034</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>All NSA Recipients</b>	<b>476,028</b>	<b>317,436</b>	<b>169,815</b>	<b>487,251</b>	<b>11,223</b>	<b>2.4</b>
CPS recipients (a)	11,902	8,501	3,475	11,976	74	0.6
Did not receive a payment (b)	24,377	9,894	7,027	16,921	-7,456	-30.6
Received a payment	439,749	299,041	159,313	458,354	18,605	4.2
Incapacitated (c)	44,698	25,632	16,638	42,270	-2,428	-5.4
Training	41,736	23,893	13,334	37,227	-4,509	-10.8
Self-employment development (d)	656	314	157	471	-185	-28.2
Voluntary/part-time work (e)	13,202	7,314	5,877	13,191	-11	-0.1
Other/temporary exemptions (f)	33,154	19,470	13,111	32,581	-573	-1.7
<b>All NSA Jobseekers (g)</b>	<b>306,303</b>	<b>222,418</b>	<b>110,196</b>	<b>332,614</b>	<b>26,311</b>	<b>8.6</b>

(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 recipients exempted from job search while they develop self-employment opportunities.

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

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

(g) Those recipients who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These recipients 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**

	December 2005	January			Variation December - January	
		Males	Females	Persons	Number	Per cent
<b>Short-term YA (other) Recipients</b>	<b>38,726</b>	<b>21,332</b>	<b>18,086</b>	<b>39,418</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>1.8</b>
CPS recipients (a)	2,271	1,381	848	2,229	-42	-1.8
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,094	348	459	807	-287	-26.2
Received a payment	35,361	19,603	16,779	36,382	1,021	2.9
Part-time study & work (c)	3	0	1	1	-2	-66.7
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	47	11	18	29	-18	-38.3
Incapacitated (e)	1,879	856	949	1,805	-74	-3.9
Training	1,209	609	352	961	-248	-20.5
Self-employment development (e)	9	3	2	5	-4	-44.4
Full-time voluntary work	2	1	0	1	-1	-50.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,816	831	957	1,788	-28	-1.5
<b>Short-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)</b>	<b>30,396</b>	<b>17,292</b>	<b>14,500</b>	<b>31,792</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Long-term YA (other) Recipients</b>	<b>45,296</b>	<b>21,963</b>	<b>24,247</b>	<b>46,210</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>2.0</b>
CPS recipients (a)	1,250	776	503	1,279	29	2.3
Did not receive a payment (b)	1,358	496	732	1,228	-130	-9.6
Received a payment	42,688	20,691	23,012	43,703	1,015	2.4
Part-time study & work (c)	6	1	1	2	-4	-66.7
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	67	19	23	42	-25	-37.3
Incapacitated (e)	1,630	577	990	1,567	-63	-3.9
Training	2,373	1,097	1,082	2,179	-194	-8.2
Self-employment development (e)	8	3	1	4	-4	-50.0
Full-time voluntary work	9	6	3	9	0	0.0
Other non-jobseekers (e)	1,584	620	954	1,574	-10	-0.6
<b>Long-term YA (other) Jobseekers (f)</b>	<b>37,011</b>	<b>18,368</b>	<b>19,958</b>	<b>38,326</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>All YA (other) Recipients</b>	<b>84,022</b>	<b>43,295</b>	<b>42,333</b>	<b>85,628</b>	<b>1,606</b>	<b>1.9</b>
CPS recipients (a)	3,521	2,157	1,351	3,508	-13	-0.4
Did not receive a payment (b)	2,452	844	1,191	2,035	-417	-17.0
Received a payment	78,049	40,294	39,791	80,085	2,036	2.6
Part-time study & work (c)	9	1	2	3	-6	-66.7
Part-time study & other YA activities (d)	114	30	41	71	-43	-37.7
Incapacitated (e)	3,509	1,433	1,939	3,372	-137	-3.9
Training	3,582	1,706	1,434	3,140	-442	-12.3
Self-employment development (e)	17	6	3	9	-8	-47.1
Full-time voluntary work	11	7	3	10	-1	-9.1
Other non-jobseekers (e)	3,400	1,451	1,911	3,362	-38	-1.1
<b>All YA (other) Jobseekers (f)</b>	<b>67,407</b>	<b>35,660</b>	<b>34,458</b>	<b>70,118</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>4.0</b>

(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 recipients 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 recipients 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 recipients combining these activities with part-time study are classified under part-time study and other activities.

(f) Those recipients who received a payment and generally are required to search for work. These recipients 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
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
April 2005	168,095	223,258	391,353
May 2005	167,200	217,727	384,927
June 2005	165,755	212,595	378,350
July 2005	167,154	213,585	380,739
August 2005	162,525	209,424	371,949
September 2005	159,378	205,254	364,632
October 2005	155,525	201,678	357,203
November 2005	151,863	200,077	351,940
December 2005	157,829	215,881	373,710
January 2006	173,502	229,230	402,732
<i>Variation December 2005 - January 2006</i>			
<i>Number</i>	15,673	13,349	29,022
<i>Per cent</i>	9.9	6.2	7.8

(a) This table presents data using the revised method of measuring the number of people receiving labour market payment introduced in July 2002. Revised historical data 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 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<b>SHORT-TERM JOBSEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	53,416	58,727	5,311	9.9
Victoria	37,340	40,998	3,658	9.8
Queensland	32,591	36,447	3,856	11.8
South Australia	12,794	14,241	1,447	11.3
Western Australia	13,593	14,567	974	7.2
Tasmania	4,771	4,950	179	3.8
Northern Territory	1,780	1,877	97	5.4
Australian Capital Territory	1,544	1,695	151	9.8
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>157,829</b>	<b>173,502</b>	<b>15,673</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>LONG-TERM JOBSEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	74,918	80,028	5,110	6.8
Victoria	53,928	57,407	3,479	6.5
Queensland	37,469	39,236	1,767	4.7
South Australia	18,734	20,154	1,420	7.6
Western Australia	15,757	16,797	1,040	6.6
Tasmania	9,683	9,963	280	2.9
Northern Territory	3,159	3,242	83	2.6
Australian Capital Territory	2,233	2,403	170	7.6
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>215,881</b>	<b>229,230</b>	<b>13,349</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>TOTAL JOBSEEKERS</b>				
New South Wales	128,334	138,755	10,421	8.1
Victoria	91,268	98,405	7,137	7.8
Queensland	70,060	75,683	5,623	8.0
South Australia	31,528	34,395	2,867	9.1
Western Australia	29,350	31,364	2,014	6.9
Tasmania	14,454	14,913	459	3.2
Northern Territory	4,939	5,119	180	3.6
Australian Capital Territory	3,777	4,098	321	8.5
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>373,710</b>	<b>402,732</b>	<b>29,022</b>	<b>7.8</b>

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 - JOBSEEKERS RECEIVING NEWSTART ALLOWANCE AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE (OTHER)  
BY AGE AND SEX (JANUARY 2006)**

Age	Short-term Jobseekers		Long-term Jobseekers		Total Jobseekers	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
<b>MALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	5,724	4.9	3,955	2.8	9,679	3.8
18 - 20 years	11,567	10.0	14,411	10.1	25,978	10.1
21 - 24 years	20,707	17.9	18,663	13.1	39,370	15.3
25 - 29 years	18,749	16.2	18,518	13.0	37,267	14.4
30 - 39 years	27,375	23.6	30,575	21.5	57,950	22.5
40 - 49 years	16,720	14.4	25,527	18.0	42,247	16.4
50 - 59 years	10,996	9.5	22,470	15.8	33,466	13.0
60 years and over	4,080	3.5	8,042	5.7	12,122	4.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115,918</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>142,161</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>258,079</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
Less than 18 years	5,562	9.7	4,668	5.4	10,230	7.1
18 - 20 years	8,938	15.5	15,289	17.6	24,227	16.7
21 - 24 years	11,796	20.5	13,962	16.0	25,758	17.8
25 - 29 years	7,159	12.4	8,302	9.5	15,461	10.7
30 - 39 years	7,028	12.2	10,613	12.2	17,641	12.2
40 - 49 years	7,265	12.6	17,245	19.8	24,510	16.9
50 - 59 years	7,968	13.8	14,285	16.4	22,253	15.4
60 years and over	1,868	3.2	2,705	3.1	4,573	3.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,584</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>87,069</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>144,653</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
Less than 18 years	11,286	6.5	8,623	3.8	19,909	4.9
18 - 20 years	20,505	11.8	29,700	13.0	50,205	12.5
21 - 24 years	32,503	18.7	32,625	14.2	65,128	16.2
25 - 29 years	25,908	14.9	26,820	11.7	52,728	13.1
30 - 39 years	34,403	19.8	41,188	18.0	75,591	18.8
40 - 49 years	23,985	13.8	42,772	18.7	66,757	16.6
50 - 59 years	18,964	10.9	36,755	16.0	55,719	13.8
60 years and over	5,948	3.4	10,747	4.7	16,695	4.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173,502</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>229,230</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>402,732</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>EAST COAST (SYDNEY)</i>				
Bondi Junction	1,179	1,344	165	14.0
Chatswood	1,116	1,195	79	7.1
Darlinghurst	1,656	1,794	138	8.3
Darlinghurst YSU	31	36	5	%
Hornsby	810	886	76	9.4
Leichhardt	1,444	1,642	198	13.7
Maroubra	1,137	1,293	156	13.7
Marrickville	1,455	1,586	131	9.0
Northern Beaches	985	1,090	105	10.7
Sydney Central YSU	0	0	0	%
Other (a)	12	17	5	%
<i>Total</i>	9,825	10,883	1,058	10.8
<i>EAST COAST (WOLLONGONG)</i>				
Caringbah	1,421	1,558	137	9.6
Corrimal	1,356	1,466	110	8.1
Dapto	1,183	1,254	71	6.0
Hurstville	1,384	1,498	114	8.2
Nowra	2,065	2,181	116	5.6
Redfern	1,298	1,386	88	6.8
Rockdale	1,380	1,480	100	7.2
Shellharbour	1,602	1,697	95	5.9
Sutherland	35	40	5	%
Ulladulla	528	529	1	0.2
Wollongong	1,972	2,086	114	5.8
Other (a)	38	41	3	%
<i>Total</i>	14,262	15,216	954	6.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>HUNTER NSW</i>				
Armidale	1,274	1,352	78	6.1
Cessnock	908	965	57	6.3
Charlestown	2,565	2,764	199	7.8
Ettalong	1,088	1,188	100	9.2
Forster	851	878	27	3.2
Gosford*	1,823	1,962	139	7.6
Gunnedah	483	513	30	6.2
Inverell	722	746	24	3.3
Kempsey	1,324	1,389	65	4.9
Kurri Kurri	596	618	22	3.7
Lakehaven	1,688	1,811	123	7.3
Maitland	1,715	1,883	168	9.8
Mayfield	1,086	1,183	97	8.9
Muswellbrook	610	677	67	11.0
Nambucca Heads	1,167	1,262	95	8.1
Nelson Bay	552	557	5	0.9
Newcastle	1,700	1,882	182	10.7
Port Macquarie	1,902	2,039	137	7.2
Raymond Terrace	1,002	1,070	68	6.8
Singleton	338	369	31	9.2
Tamworth	1,845	1,959	114	6.2
Taree	1,766	1,871	105	5.9
The Entrance	1,077	1,181	104	9.7
Toronto	1,166	1,277	111	9.5
Wallsend	1,694	1,869	175	10.3
Wyong	642	692	50	7.8
Other (a)	66	65	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	31,650	34,022	2,372	7.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

**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 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH METROPOLITAN NSW</i>				
Ashfield	0	0	0	%
Bankstown	3,639	3,900	261	7.2
Burwood*	1,500	1,674	174	11.6
Cabramatta	2,138	2,297	159	7.4
Camden	482	532	50	10.4
Campbelltown	2,429	2,649	220	9.1
Campsie	2,131	2,306	175	8.2
Fairfield	3,780	4,121	341	9.0
Ingleburn	1,124	1,233	109	9.7
Lakemba	11	16	5	%
Liverpool	4,017	4,385	368	9.2
Revesby	8	6	-2	%
Strathfield	46	28	-18	%
Other (a)	2	3	1	%
<i>Total</i>	21,307	23,150	1,843	8.6
<i>WEST NSW</i>				
Auburn	2,292	2,587	295	12.9
Baulkham Hills	704	779	75	10.7
Blacktown	3,018	3,432	414	13.7
Hawkesbury	806	873	67	8.3
Katoomba	690	774	84	12.2
Lithgow	714	744	30	4.2
Merrylands	1,734	1,970	236	13.6
Mt Druitt	2,439	2,650	211	8.7
Mudgee	701	763	62	8.8
Parramatta	2,010	2,226	216	10.7
Penrith	1,568	1,733	165	10.5
Ryde	1,058	1,153	95	9.0
Springwood	359	416	57	15.9
St Marys	1,749	1,869	120	6.9
Other (a)	22	24	2	%
<i>Total</i>	19,864	21,993	2,129	10.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

\*Burwood CSC was opened on 24/10/05 and recipients previously serviced by Ashfield and Strathfield will be serviced in Burwood.

Ashfield and Strathfield CSC's closed on 21/10/05.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH WEST NSW</i>				
Albury	2,314	2,447	133	5.7
Batemans Bay	868	900	32	3.7
Bathurst	909	977	68	7.5
Bega	786	820	34	4.3
Belconnen	1,183	1,262	79	6.7
Bourke	389	433	44	11.3
Bowral	504	546	42	8.3
Braddon	1,097	1,156	59	5.4
Cooma	351	354	3	0.9
Cowra	485	523	38	7.8
Deniliquin	254	296	42	16.5
Dubbo	1,932	2,059	127	6.6
Goulburn	734	788	54	7.4
Griffith	546	589	43	7.9
Gungahlin	94	110	16	%
Lanyon	53	57	4	%
Leeton	327	344	17	5.2
Narooma	376	398	22	5.9
Orange	1,065	1,120	55	5.2
Parkes	966	1,021	55	5.7
Queanbeyan	555	604	49	8.8
Tuggeranong	711	790	79	11.1
Tumut	316	353	37	11.7
Wagga	1,700	1,831	131	7.7
Woden	655	729	74	11.3
Yass	117	126	9	7.7
Young	397	432	35	8.8
Other (a)	25	26	1	%
<i>Total</i>	19,709	21,091	1,382	7.0

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>NORTH-CENTRAL VICTORIA</i>				
Box Hill	1,833	1,978	145	7.9
Broadmeadows	3,838	4,051	213	5.5
Darebin	3,659	4,013	354	9.7
Echuca	461	472	11	2.4
Epping	2,129	2,291	162	7.6
Greensborough	1,545	1,682	137	8.9
Heidelberg	24	30	6	%
Lilydale	1,404	1,525	121	8.6
Moreland	2,746	2,991	245	8.9
Newmarket	1,759	1,879	120	6.8
Ringwood	1,723	1,909	186	10.8
Seymour	606	644	38	6.3
Shepparton	2,316	2,389	73	3.2
Sth Melbourne	808	877	69	8.5
Wangaratta	1,675	1,758	83	5.0
Windsor (VIC)	3,060	3,364	304	9.9
Yarra*	2,630	2,848	218	8.3
Other (a)	25	27	2	%
<i>Total</i>	32,241	34,728	2,487	7.7

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

\* Yarra CSC was opened on 27/6/05. Recipients previously serviced by Fitzroy and Richmond CSC's have been transferred to Yarra CSC.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA</i>				
Bairnsdale	854	880	26	3.0
Belgrave*	538	588	50	9.3
Camberwell	956	1,077	121	12.7
Cheltenham	1,867	2,091	224	12.0
Cranbourne	1,184	1,309	125	10.6
Dandenong	2,551	2,915	364	14.3
Fountain Gate	2,017	2,317	300	14.9
Frankston	3,097	3,305	208	6.7
Glen Waverley	1,051	1,157	106	10.1
Leongatha	1	2	1	%
Mornington	485	549	64	13.2
Morwell	2,443	2,584	141	5.8
Oakleigh	1,826	2,051	225	12.3
Rosebud	863	895	32	3.7
Rowville	422	466	44	10.4
Sale	891	921	30	3.4
Springvale	2,317	2,547	230	9.9
Wantirna*	1,280	1,374	94	7.3
Warragul	429	482	53	12.4
Wonthaggi	603	613	10	1.7
Other (a)	8	13	5	%
<i>Total</i>	25,683	28,136	2,453	9.6

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>WEST VICTORIA</i>				
Ararat	321	359	38	11.8
Ballarat	3,098	3,349	251	8.1
B Central*	1,167	1,197	30	2.6
Bendigo	2,147	2,295	148	6.9
Colac	473	490	17	3.6
Corio	1,749	1,833	84	4.8
Essendon (Airport West)	1,237	1,331	94	7.6
Footscray	1,668	1,771	103	6.2
Geelong	3,467	3,588	121	3.5
Hamilton	382	406	24	6.3
Horsham	747	778	31	4.1
Maryborough (VIC)	531	579	48	9.0
Melton	1,103	1,187	84	7.6
Mildura	1,672	1,874	202	12.1
Newport	1,124	1,239	115	10.2
Portland	475	503	28	5.9
Stawell	193	226	33	17.1
Sunbury	713	775	62	8.7
Sunshine	2,940	3,192	252	8.6
Swan Hill	836	888	52	6.2
Warrnambool	967	1,007	40	4.1
Watergardens	3,636	3,783	147	4.0
Werribee	2,439	2,599	160	6.6
Other (a)	17	16	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	33,102	35,265	2,163	6.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

\*On 10/10/05 B Central was opened and recipients previously serviced by Bendigo will be serviced in B Central.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>BRISBANE</i>				
Annerley	876	975	99	11.3
Bundaberg	2,822	3,112	290	10.3
Caboolture	2,274	2,413	139	6.1
Caloundra	1,224	1,347	123	10.0
Capalaba	728	812	84	11.5
Chermside	882	979	97	11.0
Cleveland	763	830	67	8.8
Fortitude Valley	1,609	1,729	120	7.5
Gympie	1,255	1,339	84	6.7
Hervey Bay	1,225	1,288	63	5.1
Kawana Waters	585	614	29	5.0
Kingaroy	794	849	55	6.9
Maroochydore	1,683	1,794	111	6.6
Maryborough	1,238	1,307	69	5.6
Mitchelton	1,013	1,124	111	11.0
Mt Gravatt	1,810	1,992	182	10.1
Nambour	1,051	1,141	90	8.6
Noosa	1,142	1,191	49	4.3
Nundah	1,083	1,205	122	11.3
Redcliffe	1,527	1,700	173	11.3
Stones Corner	1,642	1,809	167	10.2
Strathpine	1,059	1,151	92	8.7
Toowong	1,059	1,194	135	12.7
Wynnum	791	838	47	5.9
Other (a)	4	3	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	30,139	32,736	2,597	8.6

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

**TABLE 7 - JOBBEEKERS 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 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRAL &amp; NORTHERN QUEENSLAND</i>				
Atherton	792	826	34	4.3
Ayr	366	432	66	18.0
Biloela	183	181	-2	-1.1
Bowen	508	563	55	10.8
Cairns EMS (3)	2,933	2,952	19	0.6
Cairns FAO (3)	5	7	2	%
Cairns Ret (3)	0	0	0	%
Charters Towers	333	346	13	3.9
Edmonton	2	3	1	%
Emerald	363	357	-6	-1.7
Gladstone	932	979	47	5.0
Greenfields	1	1	0	%
Indigenous ISC (2)	307	316	9	2.9
Ingham	249	349	100	40.2
Innisfail	722	817	95	13.2
Longreach (4)	94	382	288	%
Mackay	1,832	2,032	200	10.9
Mareeba	405	498	93	23.0
Mossman	293	298	5	1.7
Mt Isa	891	944	53	5.9
Normanton	181	191	10	5.5
Palm Island (2)	281	284	3	1.1
Rockhampton	2,203	2,330	127	5.8
Smithfield	59	89	30	%
Thursday Is	185	209	24	13.0
Townsville City (1)	12	12	0	%
Townsville Employment Services (1)	3,217	3,270	53	1.6
Townsville FAO (1)	6	7	1	%
Townsville Retirement (1)	1	3	2	%
Whitsunday	370	383	13	3.5
Yarrabah RASC (2)	123	132	9	7.3
Yeppoon	434	474	40	9.2
Other (a)	188	197	9	4.8
<i>Total</i>	18,471	19,864	1,393	7.5

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.

Unemployment recipients are being transferred from Townsville Retirement to Townsville Employment Services. Townsville City is now an access point only and recipients 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. Recipients are being transferred from these sites to better service the needs of Indigenous and rural recipients.

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. Recipients previously serviced by Rockhampton will be serviced in Longreach.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Berri	930	1,024	94	10.1
Broken Hill	970	1,039	69	7.1
Ceduna	177	197	20	11.3
Cooper Pedy	126	126	0	0.0
Currie St (Adelaide)	798	763	-35	-4.4
Edwardstown	2,482	2,787	305	12.3
Elizabeth	2,420	2,604	184	7.6
Enfield	1,557	1,717	160	10.3
Gawler	1,076	1,205	129	12.0
Glenelg	898	993	95	10.6
Kadina	590	621	31	5.3
Kilkenny	1,758	1,921	163	9.3
Modbury	1,849	2,083	234	12.7
Mt Barker	713	821	108	15.1
Mt Gambier	1,381	1,456	75	5.4
Murray Bridge	829	869	40	4.8
Noarlunga	2,748	2,974	226	8.2
Norwood	1,798	2,015	217	12.1
Parkside	0	0	0	%
Port Adelaide	1,671	1,819	148	8.9
Port Augusta	700	717	17	2.4
Port Lincoln	667	697	30	4.5
Port Pirie	1,016	1,098	82	8.1
Salisbury	2,392	2,671	279	11.7
Torrens ville	1,521	1,714	193	12.7
Victor Harbor	577	608	31	5.4
Whyalla	958	1,004	46	4.8
Other (a)	22	31	9	%
<i>Total</i>	32,624	35,574	2,950	9.0

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 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</i>				
Albany	1,017	1,079	62	6.1
Armadale	987	1,026	39	4.0
Bunbury	1,667	1,773	106	6.4
Busselton*	318	337	19	6.0
Cannington	1,557	1,670	113	7.3
Carnarvon	240	255	15	6.3
Centrelink City*	2	3	1	%
Christmas Island	21	18	-3	%
Cocos Island	43	47	4	%
Collie	3	4	1	%
Esperance	284	305	21	7.4
Fremantle	1,434	1,581	147	10.3
Geraldton	1,427	1,441	14	1.0
Gosnells	1,049	1,175	126	12.0
Innaloo	1,764	1,917	153	8.7
Joondalup	1,289	1,410	121	9.4
Kalgoorlie	615	646	31	5.0
Karratha	261	271	10	3.8
Mandurah	1,368	1,390	22	1.6
Midland	1,809	1,957	148	8.2
Mirrabooka	1,954	2,159	205	10.5
Morley	2,260	2,464	204	9.0
Northam	553	597	44	8.0
Rockingham*	1,678	1,806	128	7.6
South Hedland	303	312	9	3.0
Spearwood	1,044	1,157	113	10.8
Victoria Park	2,329	2,509	180	7.7
Warwick Grove	957	1,073	116	12.1
Other (a)	592	461	-131	-22.1
<i>Total</i>	28,825	30,843	2,018	7.0

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. Recipients previously serviced by Bunbury will be serviced in Busselton.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>TASMANIA</i>				
Bridgewater	696	705	9	1.3
Burnie	1,810	1,838	28	1.5
Devonport	1,910	1,938	28	1.5
Glenorchy	1,752	1,861	109	6.2
Hobart	1,946	2,032	86	4.4
Huonville	631	639	8	1.3
Launceston	4,109	4,236	127	3.1
Mowbray	14	19	5	%
Rosny Park	1,141	1,195	54	4.7
Sorell	498	522	24	4.8
Other (a)	23	22	-1	%
<i>Total</i>	14,530	15,007	477	3.3
<i>NORTH AUSTRALIA</i>				
Alice Springs	790	829	39	4.9
Alice Springs (Remote)*	35	31	-4	%
Broome	265	271	6	2.3
Casuarina	1,105	1,172	67	6.1
Casuarina YSC	1	0	-1	%
Derby	111	113	2	1.8
Katherine	692	707	15	2.2
Knuckey Street	612	644	32	5.2
Kununurra	142	141	-1	-0.7
Nhulunbuy	155	153	-2	-1.3
Palmerston	854	892	38	4.4
Tangentyere	173	186	13	7.5
Tennant Creek	150	163	13	8.7
Tennant Creek (Remote)	71	72	1	%
Other (a)	458	437	-21	-4.6
<i>Total</i>	5,614	5,811	197	3.5

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

In October 2005, region codes were transferred from Alice Springs (Remote) CSC to Alice Springs CSC.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>PACIFIC CENTRAL</i>				
Ballina	1,244	1,301	57	4.6
Beaudesert	406	424	18	4.4
Beenleigh	1,588	1,724	136	8.6
Biggera Waters	1,476	1,554	78	5.3
Browns Plains	1,396	1,474	78	5.6
Brunswick Heads	653	687	34	5.2
Byron Bay	773	811	38	4.9
Casino	735	805	70	9.5
Charleville	155	170	15	9.7
Coffs Harbour	3,003	3,188	185	6.2
Dalby	637	651	14	2.2
Goodna	1,082	1,174	92	8.5
Goondiwindi	316	328	12	3.8
Grafton	1,724	1,852	128	7.4
Inala	1,318	1,427	109	8.3
Ipswich	2,057	2,300	243	11.8
Lightning Ridge	5	5	0	%
Lismore	2,279	2,504	225	9.9
Moree	562	584	22	3.9
Murwillumbah	665	704	39	5.9
Narrabri	363	392	29	8.0
Nerang	1,574	1,735	161	10.2
Palm Beach	2,025	2,151	126	6.2
Roma	174	198	24	13.8
Southport	2,432	2,554	122	5.0
Stanthorpe	356	396	40	11.2
Toowoomba	2,419	2,641	222	9.2
Tweed Heads	1,515	1,571	56	3.7
Walgett	411	433	22	5.4
Warwick	562	587	25	4.4
Woodridge	1,880	1,999	119	6.3
Other (a)	20	21	1	%
<i>Total</i>	35,805	38,345	2,540	7.1

Note: For footnotes see end of table.

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

<i>Area Support Office and Customer Service Centre</i>	December 2005	January 2006	Variation	
			December - January Number	Per cent
<i>CENTRELINK CALL CENTRES*</i>				
Adelaide	2	3	1	%
Bendigo	1	1	0	%
Brisbane	1	1	0	%
Bunbury	0	0	0	%
Cairns	0	0	0	%
Cardiff	0	0	0	%
Coffs Harbour	0	0	0	%
Geelong	0	0	0	%
Gosford	0	0	0	%
Hobart	0	1	1	%
Illawarra	0	1	1	%
Latrobe	1	1	0	%
Liverpool	0	0	0	%
Maryborough	0	0	0	%
Moorabbin	0	0	0	%
Moreland	1	1	0	%
Newcastle	1	3	2	%
Perth	2	2	0	%
Port Augusta	0	0	0	%
Port Macquarie	3	3	0	%
Sydney	0	0	0	%
Toowoomba	0	1	1	%
Townsville	1	1	0	%
Tweed Heads	1	1	0	%
Warilla	0	0	0	%
Wendouree	0	0	0	%
<i>Total</i>	14	20	6	%
NOT CODED TO AN AREA	45	48	3	%
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>373,710</b>	<b>402,732</b>	<b>29,022</b>	<b>7.8</b>

(a) Recipients 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 20 JANUARY 2006**

<i>Fortnightly Earnings</i>	Short-term Jobseekers	Long-term Jobseekers	Total Jobseekers
<b>MALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	88.0	85.0	86.4
Earned an income	12.0	15.0	13.6
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.8	1.2	1.0
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.5	3.1	2.8
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.3	3.1	2.7
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.5	2.0	1.8
Over \$316.00	4.9	5.6	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b><i>117,391</i></b>	<b><i>142,297</i></b>	<b><i>259,688</i></b>
<b>FEMALES</b>			
Did not earn an income	80.6	76.7	78.3
Earned an income	19.4	23.3	21.7
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	1.2	1.7	1.5
\$62.01 - \$142.00	3.6	4.4	4.1
\$142.01 - \$236.00	3.7	4.4	4.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	2.6	3.1	2.9
Over \$316.00	8.2	9.8	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b><i>58,205</i></b>	<b><i>86,961</i></b>	<b><i>145,166</i></b>
<b>PERSONS</b>			
Did not earn an income	85.5	81.9	83.5
Earned an income	14.5	18.1	16.5
Amount earned			
\$0.01 - \$62.00	0.9	1.4	1.2
\$62.01 - \$142.00	2.9	3.6	3.3
\$142.01 - \$236.00	2.8	3.6	3.2
\$236.01 - \$316.00	1.9	2.4	2.2
Over \$316.00	6.0	7.2	6.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b><i>Jobseekers receiving NSA and YA (other)</i></b>	<b><i>175,596</i></b>	<b><i>229,258</i></b>	<b><i>404,854</i></b>

(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), Youth Allowance (apprentices) and Youth Allowance (other) categories. Numbers of people on Mature Age Allowance, Partner Allowance and Widow Allowance are also provided.

Tables 2 and 3 provide a summary of the Newstart Allowance and Youth Allowance (other) populations and show the derivation of the respective 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 recipients are subject to the parental means test. Under previous arrangements, unemployed people aged 18 to 20 were not subject to the parental means test, unlike 18 to 20 year old students.

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

Youth Allowance had a significant downward effect on Newstart Allowance numbers from July 1998 and total 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 recipients aged 18 years and over and to some people who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and aged under 18 at 31 December 1994 (see *Job Search Allowance*).

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

<i>Job Search Allowance</i>	<p>From 20 September 1996, the payment was combined with Newstart Allowance to form one payment called Newstart Allowance. All Job Search Allowance recipients were transferred to Newstart Allowance.</p> <p>Prior to 20 September 1996, Job Search Allowance was payable to eligible persons who had been registered as unemployed with the CES for up to 12 months. It was also payable to eligible persons who were in receipt of Job Search Allowance and under 18 years of age at 31 December 1994. Persons aged 15 to 18 years who were not receiving Job Search Allowance prior to 1 January 1995 commenced on Youth Training Allowance.</p>
<i>Sickness Allowance</i>	<p>From 17 March 1996, persons in receipt of Newstart Allowance or Youth Training Allowance who became temporarily incapacitated no longer transferred to Sickness Allowance after 13 weeks. This change had the effect of increasing total Newstart Allowance/Youth Training Allowance figures but did not affect Jobseeker figures as those recipients who were incapacitated were excluded from the Newstart and Youth Training Jobseeker populations.</p> <p>Under current arrangements, these recipients remain on their existing payments but are exempt from the activity test for the duration of their medical certificates. People who become unemployed because of illness, and those who suffer a potential loss of income due to sickness, are paid Newstart Allowance because they are unemployed.</p> <p>Sickness Allowance for 16 to 20 year olds (and certain 15 year olds) has now been replaced by Youth Allowance, which was introduced on 1 July 1998 (see <i>Youth Allowance</i>).</p>
<i>Partner Allowance</i>	<p>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>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.</p> <p>Partner Allowance was introduced in September 1994, and was paid to partners of persons receiving Job Search Allowance, Newstart Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Special Benefit if certain eligibility criteria were satisfied.</p>
<i>Youth Training Allowance</i>	<p>Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance on 1 July 1998 (see <i>Youth Allowance</i>).</p> <p>From 1 January 1995, eligible persons aged under 18 years who were new entrants to the job search pool were paid Youth</p>

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 recipients; the inclusion of some CDEP recipients in the total recipient 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 Recipient*

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

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

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

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

*Community Development  
Employment Projects  
(CDEP)*

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

*Introduction of  
Youth Allowance*

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

There is greater comparability between total Newstart Allowance and Youth Training Allowance 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 recipients 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, recipients who were incapacitated, and those receiving a payment who were undertaking training. Some people who were not required to engage in job search were classified as 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) recipients 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 recipient spends on income support – short-term recipients are those who have been on income support for up to 12 months and long-term recipients are those who have been on income support for 12 months or more.

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

*Closure of Mature Age and Partner Allowances*

From 20 September 2003, Mature Age Allowance and Partner Allowance were closed 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

<b>Activity Test Status</b>	The activity that a Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) recipient has agreed to undertake in order to meet the activity test. To satisfy the activity test recipients must be actively seeking and willing to take up work or undertaking activities to improve their employment prospects.
<b>Age</b>	Age in years at time of data collection.
<b>Area Support Office</b>	A Centrelink office that supports a set of Customer Service Centres for a specified area. These are generally not confined to State boundaries.
<b>Centrelink Youth Service Centre</b>	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.
<b>Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP)</b>	<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>
<b>Customer Service Centre</b>	A Customer Service Centre set within a particular region that provides FaCS, DEWR and other payments and related information and services to recipients. Customer Service Centres are managed by Area Support Offices.
<b>Did Not Receive a Payment</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'.
<b>Eligibility and Payment Status</b>	Refer to the Methodology entry in the Explanatory Notes.
<b>Fortnightly Earnings</b>	Amount of income earned, derived, or received by a person for the person's own use or benefit in the previous fortnight.
<b>Incapacitated</b>	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.

<b>Jobseekers</b>	A person on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance (other) who would usually be engaged in jobsearch. See Explanatory Notes for definition and history.
<b>Job Search Allowance (JSA)</b>	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.
<b>Long-term Recipients</b>	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for 12 months or more. Duration of long-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 13 weeks.
<b>Mature Age Allowance (MAA)</b>	<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>
<b>Newstart Allowance (NSA)</b>	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.
<b>Newstart Common Platform System (NCP)</b>	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.
<b>Partner Allowance (PA)</b>	<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>
<b>Short-term Recipients</b>	Persons on Newstart Allowance or Youth Allowance who have been receiving income support for less than 12 months. Duration of short-term recipients can be reset to zero if they exited from payments for more than 6 weeks.
<b>States</b>	States and Territories of Australia derived from the postcode of the recipient's residence as held on the Centrelink payment system.

<b>Widow Allowance (WA)</b>	<p>From 1 July 2005 Widow Allowance was closed off to new claimants, unless the woman was born on or before 1 July 1955.</p> <p>Widow Allowance, a non-activity-tested payment, is payable to females aged 50 years or over who have become widowed, divorced or separated since turning 40 years if they have little or no recent work experience and meet a number of other criteria relating to current marital status. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Youth Training Allowance (YTA)</b>	<p>From 1 January 1995 eligible persons aged under 18 years who were registered as unemployed with the CES were paid Youth Training Allowance. From 1 July 1998, Youth Training Allowance was replaced by Youth Allowance. See Explanatory Notes for history.</p>
<b>Youth Allowance (YA)</b>	<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>
<b>Youth Allowance (other)</b>	<p>Youth Allowance recipients who are not full-time students.</p>
<b>Zero-Paid</b>	<p>See 'Did Not Receive a Payment'.</p>

## APPENDIX

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

<b>Official Statistics</b>	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.
<b>ABS Definition</b>	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.
<b>DEWR Unemployment Labour Market Payment Statistics</b>	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.
<b>Differences</b>	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 <b>income support</b>. This includes not just time on unemployment benefits but time on any income support payment.</p> <p>The ABS measures length of time <b>unemployed</b> 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"><li>- 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.</li><li>- 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</li></ul>

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  
Unemployment and Mature Age Payments Programme Management  
Section  
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations  
PO Box 9879  
Canberra Mail Centre ACT 2601

or forwarded via facsimile to (02) 6275 3312.

### **Other Recipient Information**

Statistics relating to other recipients are also available, including recipient 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.*