Newstart Allowance (NSA) June 2015

About NSA

Newstart Allowance is the primary income support payment for unemployed people aged 22 years or over but less than Age Pension age. Unless exempt from mutual obligation requirements, recipients must look for work or undertake other activities to improve their employment prospects (such as study or training).

Quick Facts

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>660,073</td>
<td>705,814</td>
<td>748,719</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>318,038</td>
<td>342,776</td>
<td>342,776</td>
<td>331,284</td>
<td>522,826</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>224,082</td>
<td>221,974</td>
<td>224,082</td>
<td>221,974</td>
<td>224,082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earnings</td>
<td>Nil Earnings</td>
<td>Earnings</td>
<td>Nil Earnings</td>
<td>Earnings</td>
<td>Nil Earnings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>522,826</td>
<td>556,683</td>
<td>574,635</td>
<td>594,702</td>
<td>608,481</td>
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<td>Part-time</td>
<td>123,449</td>
<td>144,136</td>
<td>159,820</td>
<td>172,706</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Carer</td>
<td>110,792</td>
<td>116,847</td>
<td>121,130</td>
<td>129,664</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NSA by Age Group

At June 2015, 22.4% of NSA recipients were aged under 30 years, while 30.5% were aged 30 and over, with the majority of recipients aged between 30 and 49 years, making up 47.2% of the total population.

The proportion of recipients reporting earnings has remained relatively stable over time. 20.6% of NSA recipients had earnings as at June 2015, slightly down from 21.1% at June 2014.

At June 2015, 77% of NSA recipients were single, the proportion has remained stable over time.

The indigenous proportion of the total NSA population has remained fairly stable over time. At June 2015 the indigenous proportion was 9.4%. Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as Indigenous.

NSA by Gender

There are slightly more males than females on NSA, with 53.2% male and 46.8% female.

At June 2015, 73.1% of recipients were classified as long-term, the proportion has increased from 68.8% at June 2014. Duration refers to duration on income support and may not reflect duration on current payment type.

Comparing June 2014 to June 2015, the majority of recipients moving onto NSA did not transfer from another income support payment. The largest numbers of recipients transferring from another payment came from Parenting Payment Single (6.9%) and Youth Allowance (other) (4.6%).

NSA by Relationship Status

Expenditure on NSA makes up 0.6% of Gross Domestic Product (ABS National Accounts).

Comparing June 2014 to June 2015, the majority of recipients who left NSA did not transfer to another income support payment. The largest number of recipients transferred to another payment type.

NSA by Remoteness Area

The indigenous proportion of the total NSA population has remained fairly stable over time. At June 2015 the indigenous proportion was 9.4%. Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as Indigenous.

NSA by Duration on Income Support

The majority of NSA recipients reside in major cities (63%). A further 32.8% live in regional areas (outer and inner), while the remaining recipients are in remote or very remote locations. This does not reflect the general working age population, which has a higher proportion of the population living in major cities (71%) and a lower proportion living in regional areas (27%) (ABS Census 2011).

At June 2015, 52.5% of recipients had job search as their main activity. A further 22.5% were undertaking other approved activities to improve their employment prospects (may include education/training, language, literacy and numeracy skills) and 16.3% had a temporary incapacity or other exemption (due to circumstances such as homelessness, late stage pregnancy, major personal crisis, temporary caring responsibilities).

NSA by State

The highest proportion of recipients were located in New South Wales at 30% followed by Victoria at 24.1% and 22% in Queensland.

At June 2015, 6.3% of recipients were classified as Partial Capacity, had Earnings Nil or Other Rate. This does not reflect the general working age population, regional areas (outer and inner), while the remaining recipients are in remote or very remote locations. This does not reflect the general working age population, which has a higher proportion of the population living in major cities (71%) and a lower proportion living in regional areas (27%) (ABS Census 2011).
Data Descriptions

**Newstart Allowance:** Newstart Allowance is the major payment for unemployed people aged from 22 years but less than Age Pension age. Recipients must satisfy the activity test by seeking work or participating in an activity designed to improve their employment prospects.

**Recipient Numbers:** Recipients of Newstart Allowance who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid) on the Centrelink payment system and are not in receipt of CDEP Participation Supplement or a zero rate of payment.

**Note:** Recipient numbers are point-in-time as at the end of the month, using the definition above, these numbers differ from the data in the Labour Market and Related Payments publication, which are averaged over the month.

**Report Details:** Payment trends and profiles report - June 2015 - Produced by the Department of Social Services

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**Source:** Department of Human Services Administrative data (DSS Extracts)

**Data Date:** Data as at the 26th of June 2015.

**Australian National Accounts:** National Income, Expenditure and Product: Table 34 Time Series Spreadsheets (cat. no. 5206.0).

**Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2011:** Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011 Census of Population and Housing, Table Builder, RA by AGESP - Age in Five Year Groups

**Glossary:**

**Activity:** The main activity undertaken by a recipient with participation requirements.

**Age Group:** The age group of the recipient.

**CDEP:** CDEP refers to Community Development Employment Projects Scheme. This Scheme and payment of the CDEP Participation Supplement ceased on 30 June 2015.

**Circumstances after NSA:** This data compares two points in time, one year apart. 'Not Receiving Income Support' describes those who were in receipt of NSA at the first point in time, who were not receiving an income support payment at the second point in time. This data does not take into account Family Tax Benefit.

**Circumstances before NSA:** This data compares two points in time, one year apart. 'Not Receiving Income Support' describes those who were not in receipt of an income support payment at the first point in time, who were receiving NSA at the second point in time. This data does not take into account Family Tax Benefit.

**Earnings:** Earnings refers to employment earnings reported in the last fortnight of the reported period.

**Expenditure:** Expenditure amount, as reported in the Department’s Annual Report. % of GDP is the expenditure on the payment as a percentage of Australia’s Gross Domestic Product (ABS data - see data source above).

**Indigenous:** Indigenous recipients include only those who have voluntarily identified as indigenous. This data may therefore represent an undercount.

**Partial Capacity to Work:** Activity tested recipients who have been assessed in the last two years as having a capacity to work of under 30 hours per week, due to an ongoing physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment.

**Principal carer:** Recipients who have principal caring responsibilities for a dependent child(ren).

**Remoteness Area:** Remoteness Areas are based on the recipient's geo-coded address against the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011.

**Rate:** The rate of the recipients payment ("other" include those recipients who, as at the data date, were yet to be paid).

**Relationship Status:** Partnered includes recipients who are married, de facto or registered.

**State:** The State or Territory recorded in the recipient's address.