

JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance Recipients

Latest month: March 2021

Release date: 23 April 2021

Next release date: 13 May 2021

The JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance recipients monthly profile is a monthly report, covering the Income Support payments of JobSeeker Payment and Youth Allowance (other). It also includes data on Youth Allowance (student and apprentice), Sickness Allowance and Bereavement Allowance. It is delivered by the Department of Social Services.

From 20 March 2020, the JobSeeker Payment replaced the Newstart Allowance. Persons who would have previously claimed Bereavement Allowance, Sickness Allowance or Wife Pension now claim the JobSeeker Payment. The reclassification of these payments reflects a break in the time series for State-level data from March 2020.

Recent performance

The number of individuals receiving income support in Tasmania decreased by 3.1 per cent in March 2021 compared to the previous month. Nationally, the number of recipients decreased by 4.5 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

Compared to three months previously, all jurisdictions recorded a decrease in the number of income support recipients in March 2021. In percentage terms, Victoria recorded the largest decrease (down 17.9 per cent), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (down 14.1 per cent), and Western Australia (down 12.3 per cent) (Table 1).

The number of Tasmanian residents receiving income support accounted for 11.8 per cent of Tasmania's labour force in March 2021, compared to 9.3 per cent nationally (Table 2). Tasmania had the second highest rate of individuals receiving income support of all jurisdictions as a proportion of its labour force in this period, behind the Northern Territory.

Table 1: Number of benefit payment recipients by jurisdiction, March 2021, original data

<i>Original</i>	Number ('000s)	monthly change (%)	quarterly change (%)
NSW	386.9	-0.6	-8.1
Vic	305.2	-9.9	-17.9
Qld	297.7	-3.4	-10.5
SA	102.9	-3.7	-12.2
WA	136.1	-5.9	-12.3
Tas	32.9	-3.1	-10.7
NT	23.1	-1.6	-10.9
ACT	11.3	-5.1	-14.1
Aus	1 296.4	-4.5	-12.1

SOURCE: DATA.GOV.AU JOBSEEKER PAYMENT AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS - MONTHLY PROFILE TABLE 2

Table 2: Number of individuals receiving benefit payments as a proportion of the population and labour force by jurisdiction, March 2021, original data

<i>Original</i>	As a proportion of population (%)	As a proportion of labour force (%)
NSW	4.7	8.8
Vic	4.6	8.3
Qld	5.7	10.6
SA	5.8	11.3
WA	5.1	9.2
Tas	6.1	11.8
NT	9.4	16.7
ACT	2.6	4.6
Aus	5.0	9.3

SOURCE: DATA.GOV.AU JOBSEEKER PAYMENT AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS - MONTHLY PROFILE TABLE 2; LABOUR FORCE, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 12; AND NATIONAL, STATE AND TERRITORY POPULATION, ABS CAT NO 3101.0: TABLE 4

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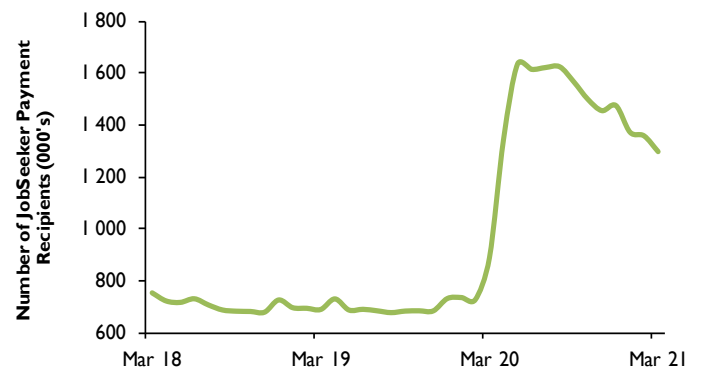
The number of Tasmanians receiving income support in March 2021 comprised around 6.1 per cent of the State's population, compared to 5.0 per cent nationally.

At a regional level, the number of income support recipients decreased in the three Tasmanian regions in March 2021 compared to the previous month. The Hobart and South East region decreased by 3.1 per cent, the Launceston and North East region by 3.5 per cent, and the West and North West region by 2.6 per cent.

Analysis

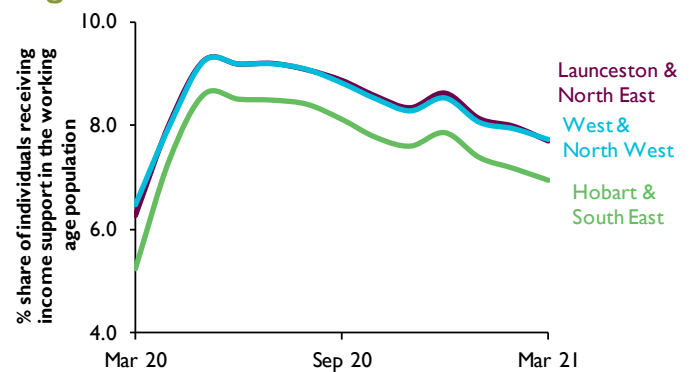
The data on JobSeeker and Youth Allowance payment recipients differ from the unemployment estimates from the ABS Labour Force Survey due to different definitions and enumeration methods. While the estimates are not directly comparable, the series generally tend to move together. Mutual obligation requirements were relaxed for individuals receiving the JobSeeker Payment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These mutual obligations were reinstated as a mandatory requirement from 28 September 2020.

Chart 1: Number of JobSeeker Payment Recipients (000's), Australia



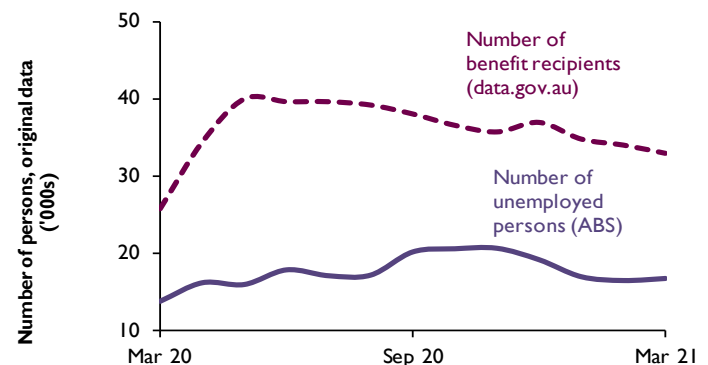
SOURCE: DATA.GOV.AU JOBSEEKER PAYMENT AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS - MONTHLY PROFILE TABLE 2

Chart 2: Share of the working age population receiving benefit payments by region, original data



Note: July 2017 break in series due to reclassification of regional reporting.
SOURCE: DATA.GOV.AU JOBSEEKER PAYMENT AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS - MONTHLY PROFILE TABLE 4 AND LABOUR FORCE DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0.55.001, TABLE 16

Chart 3: Number of income support payments and level of unemployment, Tasmania, original data



SOURCE: DATA.GOV.AU JOBSEEKER PAYMENT AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS - MONTHLY PROFILE TABLE 2 AND LABOUR FORCE, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 12

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Table 3: Number of JobSeeker and Youth Allowance payment recipients, Tasmania, original data

	Mar 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21
NUMBER OF JOBSEEKER AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE PAYMENT RECIPIENTS				
Total*	25 803	34 721	33 954	32 898
Hobart & South East	12 074	17 167	16 692	16 178
Brighton	1 245	1 589	1 543	1 496
Central Highlands (Tas.)	1 124	1 517	1 490	1 455
Hobart - North East	1 924	2 750	2 710	2 601
Hobart - North West	3 369	4 477	4 338	4 248
Hobart - South and West	872	1 354	1 303	1 262
Hobart Inner	1 516	2 438	2 332	2 219
Huon - Bruny Island	1 032	1 512	1 494	1 434
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	675	1 027	990	964
South East Coast	317	503	492	499
Launceston and North East	7 674	9 967	9 789	9 448
Launceston	4 843	6 176	6 073	5 827
Meander Valley - West Tamar	1 042	1 438	1 431	1 398
North East	1 789	2 353	2 285	2 223
West and North West	6 052	7 578	7 463	7 268
Burnie - Ulverstone	2 736	3 373	3 315	3 187
Devonport	2 374	3 015	2 967	2 913
West Coast	942	1 190	1 181	1 168
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH				
Total	NA	-5.8	-2.2	-3.1
Hobart & South East	NA	-6.0	-2.8	-3.1
Brighton	NA	-5.6	-2.9	-3.0
Central Highlands (Tas.)	NA	-5.2	-1.8	-2.3
Hobart - North East	NA	-5.8	-1.5	-4.0
Hobart - North West	NA	-5.1	-3.1	-2.1
Hobart - South and West	NA	-6.9	-3.8	-3.1
Hobart Inner	NA	-8.6	-4.3	-4.8
Huon - Bruny Island	NA	-3.8	-1.2	-4.0
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	NA	-4.6	-3.6	-2.6
South East Coast	NA	-11.8	-2.2	1.4
Launceston and North East	NA	-5.6	-1.8	-3.5
Launceston	NA	-6.4	-1.7	-4.1
Meander Valley - West Tamar	NA	-6.2	-0.5	-2.3
North East	NA	-3.2	-2.9	-2.7
West and North West	NA	-5.5	-1.5	-2.6
Burnie - Ulverstone	NA	-4.4	-1.7	-3.9
Devonport	NA	-6.6	-1.6	-1.8
West Coast	NA	-5.9	-0.8	-1.1

* - The breakdown of job seekers by region may not add to totals due to rounding

Note: March 2020 break in series due to reclassification of Newstart Allowance, Bereavement Allowance and Sickness Allowance, among others, to the JobSeeker Payment.

SOURCE: DATA.GOV.AU JOBSEEKER PAYMENT AND YOUTH ALLOWANCE RECIPIENTS - MONTHLY PROFILE TABLE 4

Data in this release have been sourced from the Department of Social Services and are available on the data.gov.au website.

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