

Request:

We are seeking documents that give us a better understanding in how much the Australian government (Treasury) spends per month and year on the basic unemployment benefit (the dole) and how many Australians receive the basic unemployment benefit (the dole). We are seeking under the FOI Act the annual and monthly figures as per the above mentioned for FY 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14 and 2012/13.

Newstart (NSA) & Youth Allowance other (YA(o))

Unemployment benefit recipients receive either NSA or YA(o). The following tables provide average monthly NSA and YA(o) recipient numbers and total base payments by month for the financial years requested.

2012/13 Financial Year

| Month & Year | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Newstart (NSA) ² | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Youth Allowance other (YA(o)) ² | Total Recipients NSA & YA(o) ² | Monthly ¹ Expenditure NSA \$,000 | Monthly ¹ Expenditure YA(o) \$,000 | Total ¹ Monthly Expenditure \$,000 |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Jul-12 | 559,533 | 84,977 | 644,510 | 563.548 | 63.437 | 626.985 |
| Aug-12 | 552,586 | 83,687 | 636,273 | 570.994 | 66.105 | 637.100 |
| Sep-12 | 552,072 | 85,312 | 637,384 | 500.027 | 59.716 | 559.743 |
| Oct-12 | 553,746 | 86,195 | 639,941 | 579.959 | 70.060 | 650.019 |
| Nov-12 | 552,029 | 88,801 | 640,830 | 547.052 | 68.251 | 615.303 |
| Dec-12 | 565,929 | 102,765 | 668,694 | 571.233 | 75.347 | 646.580 |
| Jan-13 | 657,058 | 105,233 | 762,291 | 648.590 | 82.950 | 731.540 |
| Feb-13 | 654,598 | 107,242 | 761,840 | 588.228 | 76.016 | 664.244 |
| Mar-13 | 645,888 | 104,034 | 749,922 | 634.096 | 79.848 | 713.944 |
| Apr-13 | 646,367 | 103,388 | 749,755 | 636.445 | 79.888 | 716.334 |
| May-13 | 653,145 | 105,494 | 758,639 | 688.258 | 87.599 | 775.857 |
| Jun-13 | 659,386 | 108,260 | 767,646 | 602.060 | 76.357 | 678.417 |
| Total Financial Year Expenditure 2012/2013 | | | | 7,130.492 | 885.575 | 8,016.067 |

2013/14 Financial Year

| Month & Year | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Newstart (NSA) ² | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Youth Allowance other (YA(o)) ² | Total Recipients NSA & YA(o) ² | Monthly ¹ Expenditure NSA \$,000 | Monthly ¹ Expenditure YA(o) \$,000 | Total ¹ Monthly Expenditure \$,000 |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Jul-13 | 673,303 | 113,688 | 786,991 | 705.415 | 87.508 | 792.923 |
| Aug-13 | 665,128 | 107,383 | 772,511 | 656.448 | 80.978 | 737.426 |
| Sep-13 | 661,197 | 103,994 | 765,191 | 634.679 | 77.250 | 711.929 |
| Oct-13 | 665,373 | 102,210 | 767,583 | 705.072 | 83.540 | 788.612 |
| Nov-13 | 668,269 | 101,189 | 769,458 | 640.351 | 74.946 | 715.296 |
| Dec-13 | 677,285 | 112,760 | 790,045 | 722.350 | 88.407 | 810.756 |
| Jan-14 | 701,264 | 113,004 | 814,268 | 731.904 | 92.061 | 823.965 |
| Feb-14 | 700,584 | 114,119 | 814,703 | 644.074 | 83.737 | 727.811 |
| Mar-14 | 697,608 | 110,823 | 808,431 | 669.526 | 84.541 | 754.067 |
| Apr-14 | 702,055 | 110,059 | 812,114 | 720.129 | 87.269 | 807.397 |
| May-14 | 706,790 | 109,564 | 816,354 | 715.696 | 87.179 | 802.875 |
| Jun-14 | 708,091 | 109,890 | 817,981 | 684.728 | 82.634 | 767.362 |
| Total Financial Year Expenditure 2013/2014 | | | | 8,230.371 | 1,010.046 | 9,240.417 |

2014/15 Financial Year

| Month & Year | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Newstart (NSA) ² | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Youth Allowance other (YA(o)) ² | Total Recipients NSA & YA(o) ² | Monthly ¹ Expenditure NSA \$,000 | Monthly ¹ Expenditure YA(o) \$,000 | Total ¹ Monthly Expenditure \$,000 |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Jul-14 | 703,682 | 108,990 | 812,672 | 759.240 | 88.647 | 847.887 |
| Aug-14 | 697,470 | 103,606 | 801,076 | 675.233 | 77.117 | 752.350 |
| Sep-14 | 695,948 | 101,693 | 797,641 | 713.788 | 79.917 | 793.705 |
| Oct-14 | 698,912 | 99,876 | 798,788 | 752.328 | 82.084 | 834.412 |
| Nov-14 | 695,997 | 98,288 | 794,285 | 650.727 | 70.927 | 721.653 |
| Dec-14 | 710,930 | 108,849 | 819,779 | 808.350 | 90.691 | 899.042 |
| Jan-15 | 729,245 | 106,099 | 835,344 | 737.694 | 84.068 | 821.761 |
| Feb-15 | 728,711 | 107,184 | 835,895 | 691.246 | 82.029 | 773.274 |
| Mar-15 | 723,357 | 103,535 | 826,892 | 787.837 | 90.029 | 877.866 |
| Apr-15 | 732,104 | 104,875 | 836,979 | 735.170 | 84.233 | 819.403 |
| May-15 | 726,913 | 102,523 | 829,436 | 721.710 | 80.921 | 802.631 |
| Jun-15 | 739,471 | 106,086 | 845,557 | 770.228 | 85.639 | 855.867 |
| Total Financial Year Expenditure 2014/2015 | | | | 8,803.550 | 996.301 | 9,799.851 |

2015/16 Financial Year

| Month & Year | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Newstart (NSA) ² | Unemployment Benefit Recipients Youth Allowance other (YA(o)) ² | Total Recipients NSA & YA(o) ² | Monthly ¹ Expenditure NSA \$,000 | Monthly ¹ Expenditure YA(o) \$,000 | Total ¹ Monthly Expenditure \$,000 |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| Jul-15 | 738,751 | 105,590 | 844,341 | 802.081 | 86.861 | 888.941 |
| Aug-15 | 722,216 | 97,498 | 819,714 | 725.112 | 76.082 | 801.193 |
| Sep-15 | 719,085 | 95,188 | 814,273 | 766.022 | 79.602 | 845.624 |
| Oct-15 | 715,735 | 91,892 | 807,627 | 757.632 | 74.085 | 831.718 |
| Nov-15 | 714,642 | 91,086 | 805,728 | 722.938 | 72.679 | 795.617 |
| Dec-15 | 727,812 | 100,925 | 828,737 | 845.054 | 86.840 | 931.894 |
| Jan-16 | 742,088 | 97,853 | 839,941 | 739.184 | 77.371 | 816.555 |
| Feb-16 | 739,687 | 97,741 | 837,428 | 753.702 | 81.579 | 835.281 |
| Mar-16 | 745,142 | 97,260 | 842,402 | 824.458 | 86.341 | 910.799 |
| Apr-16 | 740,349 | 95,552 | 835,901 | 749.980 | 78.166 | 828.146 |
| May-16 | 734,973 | 95,167 | 830,140 | 789.636 | 82.602 | 872.237 |
| Jun-16 | 733,279 | 95,008 | 828,287 | 773.976 | 79.803 | 853.779 |
| Total Financial Year Expenditure 2015/2016 | | | | 9,249.774 | 962.011 | 10,211.785 |

¹ Base Cash Payments by month (\$m)

¹ Source Department of Human Services General Ledger

² Newstart Allowance is the primary income support payment for unemployed people aged from 22 years but less than Age Pension age who are seeking or preparing for paid employment. Youth Allowance (other) is the primary income support payment for young people aged 16 to 21 years who are seeking or preparing for paid employment.

² Recipients of Newstart and Youth Allowance Other who are determined to be current (i.e. entitled to be paid), data extracted from the Labour Market & Related Payments Publication.

² Newstart and Youth Allowance monthly figures are based on the average number of recipients who are both eligible (e.g. meet 'unemployed' qualification) and to receive a payment calculated over a reference month. Averages are calculated using figures collected for each Friday throughout the reference month.